

National Drought Management Authority
WEST POKOT COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR JUNE 2019



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



JUNE EW PHASE

Drought Status: ALERT



Maandalizi ya mapema

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- Adequate rainfall was received across livelihoods zones in all dekads of June. The temporal and spatial distribution was good. Generally, the County remained cold and wet.
- The vegetation condition recorded moderate vegetation deficit band, with an improving trend across livelihoods as depicted by the increase in the Vegetation Condition Index.
- All Sub-counties recorded moderate vegetation deficit except in Pokot Central where severe vegetation deficit band was noted. Forage condition was good.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

- Livestock body condition is fair with an improving trend across the County, as distance to water sources decreased significantly.
- The terms of trade were favourable within the month, with an improving trend.
- Milk production and consumption at household level was good and stable.
- Most of the households fell within the Acceptable Food Consumption Score, where the Coping Strategy Index decreased.
- Malnutrition status dropped, as the proportion of children 'at risk' of malnutrition remained within the normal range.

Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification

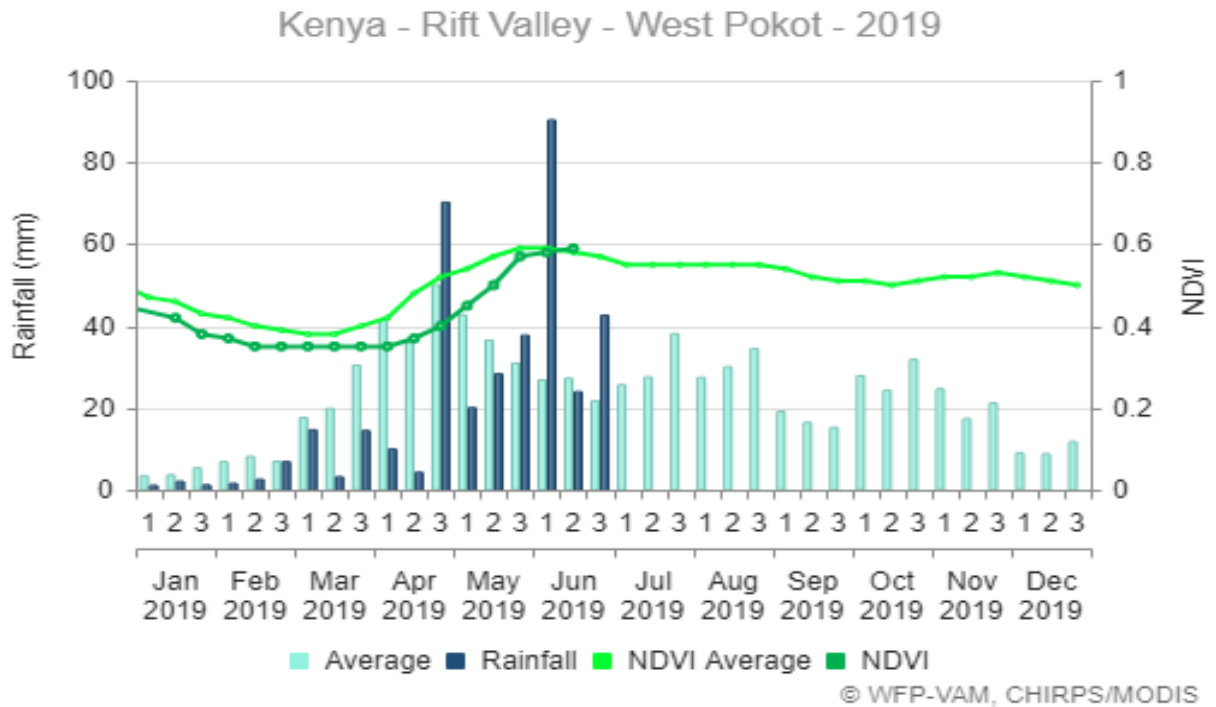
LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TREND
AGRO PASTORAL	ALERT	IMPROVING
PASTORAL	ALERT	IMPROVING
COUNTY	ALERT	IMPROVING
Biophysical Indicators		
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal range
VCI-3month (County)	23	>35
VCI-3month (Pokot Central)	15	>35
Forage Condition	Fair	Good
Production Indicators		
Production Indicators	Value	Normal range
Livestock Body Condition	Fair	Normal
Milk Production	1.4Litres	>1.2 Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Usual	Normal
Livestock deaths (attributed to drought)	No deaths	Nodeaths
Access Indicators		
Access Indicators	Value	Normal range
Terms of Trade (ToT)	55	>71
Milk Consumption	1.1 Litres	>1.2 Litres
Return distance to water sources (household)	2.5 km	0.0-2.6 km
Cost of water at source (Ksh. /20 litres)	Kshs 5	<Kshs 5
Utilization Indicators		
Utilization Indicators	Value	Normal range
Nutrition status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	5.7	0.0-9.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	2.5	0.0-14.5
Food Consumption Score	40	>35

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains harvests ▪ Short dry spell ▪ Increased HH Food Stock ▪ Land preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planting/Weeding ▪ Long rains ▪ High Calving Rate ▪ Milk Yields Increase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long rains harvests ▪ A long dry spell ▪ Land preparation ▪ Increased HH Food Stock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains ▪ Planting/weeding ▪ (Irish potatoes, Cabbages and Onions) 								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- The County received good precipitation in all the dekads. The intensity was higher in highlands than lowlands.
- The rainfall situation is normal for such time of the year.



Source: VAM-World Food Programme

- The dekadal rainfall increased from 28.3 mm to 90.3 mm and 38 mm to 46.2 mm in the first and last dekads respectively, with the amounts being above normal.

1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- The spatial and temporal rainfall distribution was good across the livelihoods, especially in the highlands. The rainfall intensity was also good in all livelihood zones.
- The County remained cold and wet during the month.

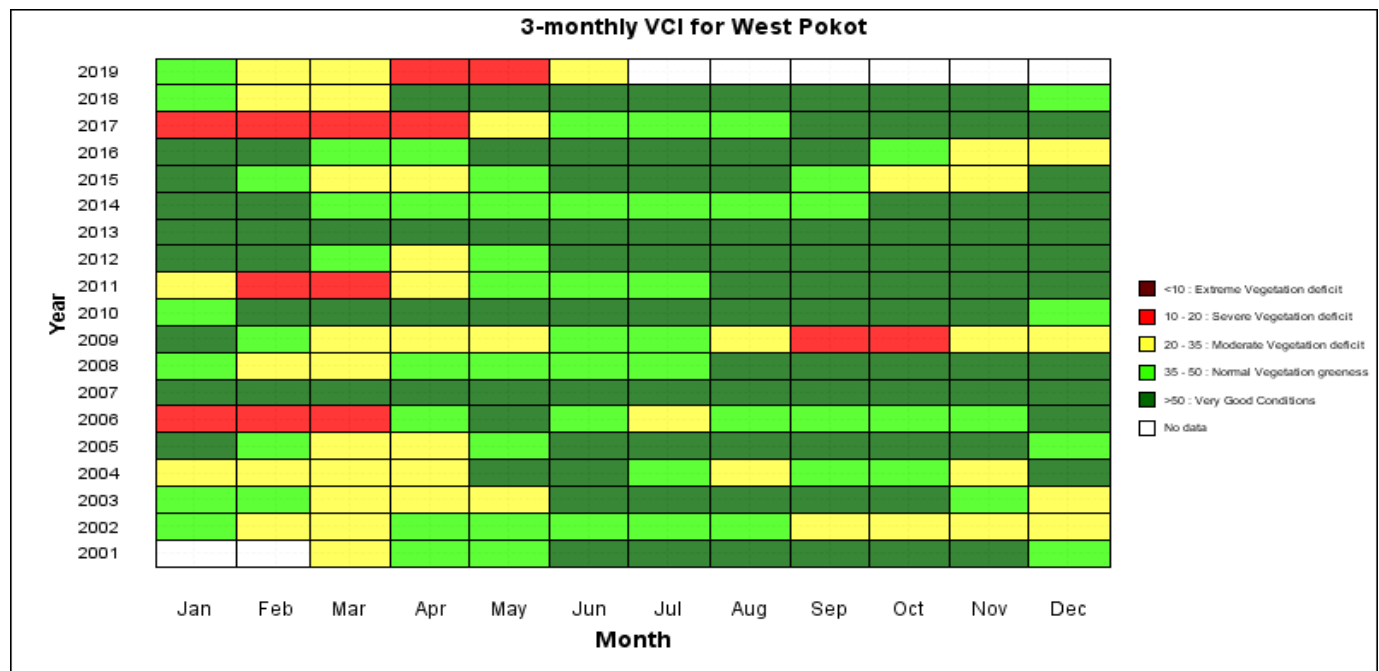
1.3 OTHER EVENTS

- No notable event was reported within the month.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)



Source: Boku University

- In June, the VCI (VCI-3 month), which shows the vegetation status of the County was 22, an increase from 18 recorded in May. The current VCI represents a moderate vegetation deficit condition.
- The VCI trend is improving across livelihoods. All Sub-counties reported moderate vegetation deficit except Pokot Central. The increase in VCI was from 19.2 to 26.2, 16.7 to 22.9 and 13 to 24.5 in Pokot North, Pokot South and Pokot Central Sub-counties respectively. On the contrary, Pokot West Sub-county recorded a VCI decrease from 23 to 14.8. The general upward trend in the VCI is credited to significant regeneration of vegetation cover due to adequate rainfall received within the month.

2.1.2 Pasture

- The proportion of sampled community which reported that pasture was fair increased from 30 percent in May to 50 percent in June.
- Pasture situation is fair across livelihood zones and communities stated that the condition was normal for such time of the year. The trend is improving in comparison to that of May; the situation is owed to adequate rains during the month.
- Pasture is anticipated to rejuvenate with the enhanced rains.

- There is no significant variation in terms of pasture quality and quantity between livelihood zones.

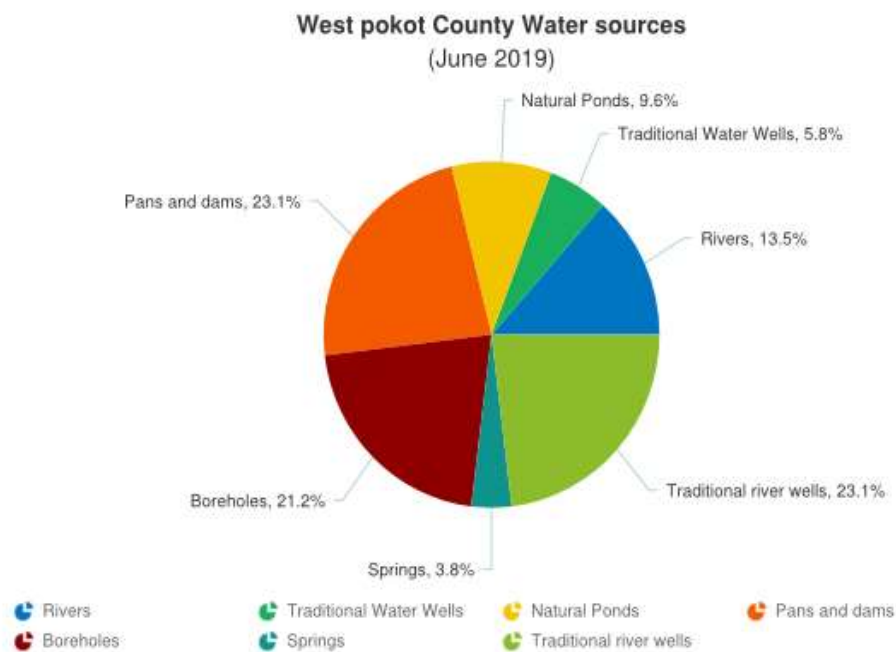
2.1.3 Browse

- The proportion of the sampled community which reported that the browse situation was good is 95 percent, an increase compared to the one reported in May.
- The browse situation is good across the livelihood zones, and is normal for such period of the year. The quality of the browse condition is good in comparison to that of May and is attributed to sufficient rainfall.
- The quantity of browse is good across the livelihood zones and there was no significant variation between the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones.
- The current conflict along Pokot/Marakwet/Turkana borders hampers access to forage.

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

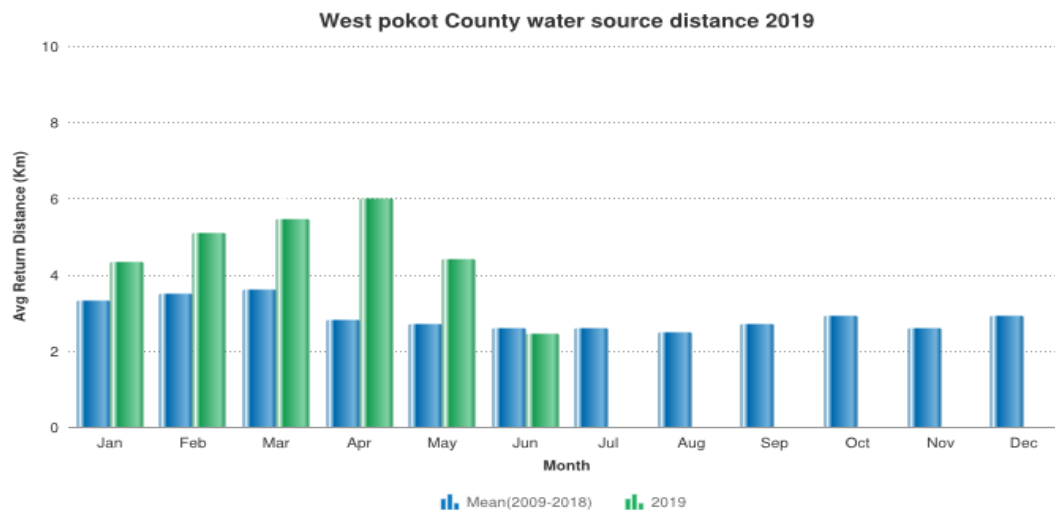
2.2.1 Sources

- In June, the proportion of sampled population using main water sources for both households and livestock is 23.1 for both pans/dams and traditional river wells, 21.2 for boreholes and 13.5 for rivers. Other water sources in use include natural ponds at 9.6 percent.
- There was sufficient water recharge to all water sources in comparison to May, due to adequate rainfall during the month.
- The current main sources in use are the normal ones where households draw water during such time of the year.



2.2.2 Household Access and Utilization

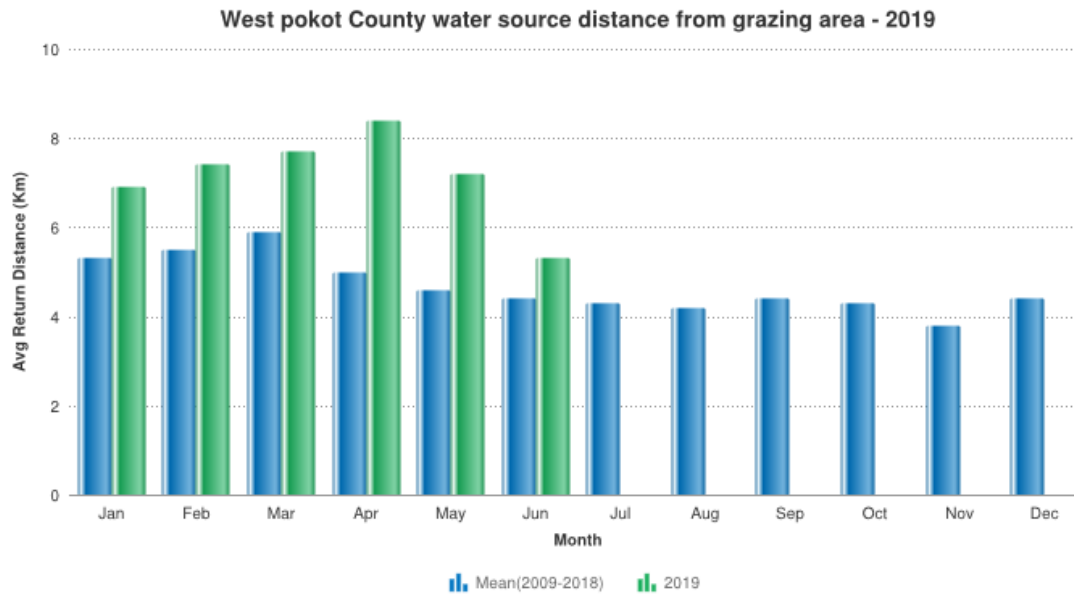
- The return distance to water source from the household was 2.5 km, a decrease from 4.4 km recorded in May. The current distance is 4 percent above the Long Term Average (LTA) distance.
- Pastoral livelihood zones reported longer trekking distance to water source than the agro-pastoral livelihood zones. Both pastoral and agro-pastoral zones recorded wet conditions. The decreasing trend in distance is due to adequate recharge to water sources in June.



- The pastoral livelihood zones reported more waiting time at water source than the agro-pastoral zones.
- The average household water consumption per person per day is at 8-11 litres in the pastoral zones while that in the agro-pastoral zones was 10-12 litres.
- In June, the cost of accessing water at the source was still free in the rural areas and different in urban centres where a 20 litre Jerrican cost remained within normal ranges for the period.

2.2.3 Livestock Access

- During the month, the livestock return trekking distance from grazing areas to water sources was 5.3 km, representing a drop from 7.2 km indicated in May. In comparison to the normal trekking distance of 4.4 km, the current trekking distance falls above the normal range by 36 percent.
- The pastoral livelihood zone recorded longer trekking time from grazing areas to water as compared to the agro-pastoral livelihood zones.



- The drop in livestock trekking distance to water is credited to sufficient rainfall within the pastoral zones eliciting significant recharge of the water sources.
- Frequency of watering in cattle and shoats is at 7 times in a week while for camel remained at 5-6 times in a week.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

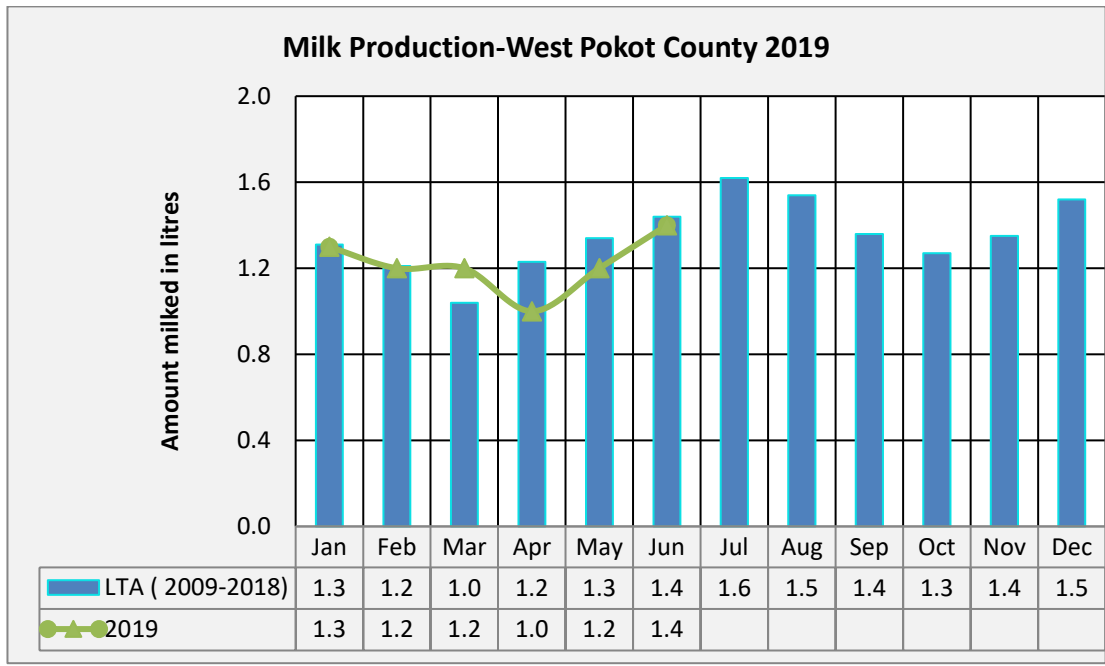
- The body condition for all livestock species is fair in both pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones, an improvement from that reported in the previous month.
- The livestock body condition is projected to improve across the livelihood zones, with the ongoing adequate rainfall in the County.
- The body condition is below normal for all livestock species in comparison to a similar period during a normal year. The trend is however upward as a result of good forage rejuvenation.
- There was no significant variation in livestock body condition between the two livelihood zones.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Kasei and Kapchok wards reported cases of CCPP disease.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- The County recorded production of 1.4 litres of milk per household per day on average, the amount having increased as compared to that of May.
- Cattle produced most milk than other livestock species.
- The current household milk production is 14 percent below the LTA for the month.
- The household improved milk production is attributed to significant forage access within the traditional grazing areas.



3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

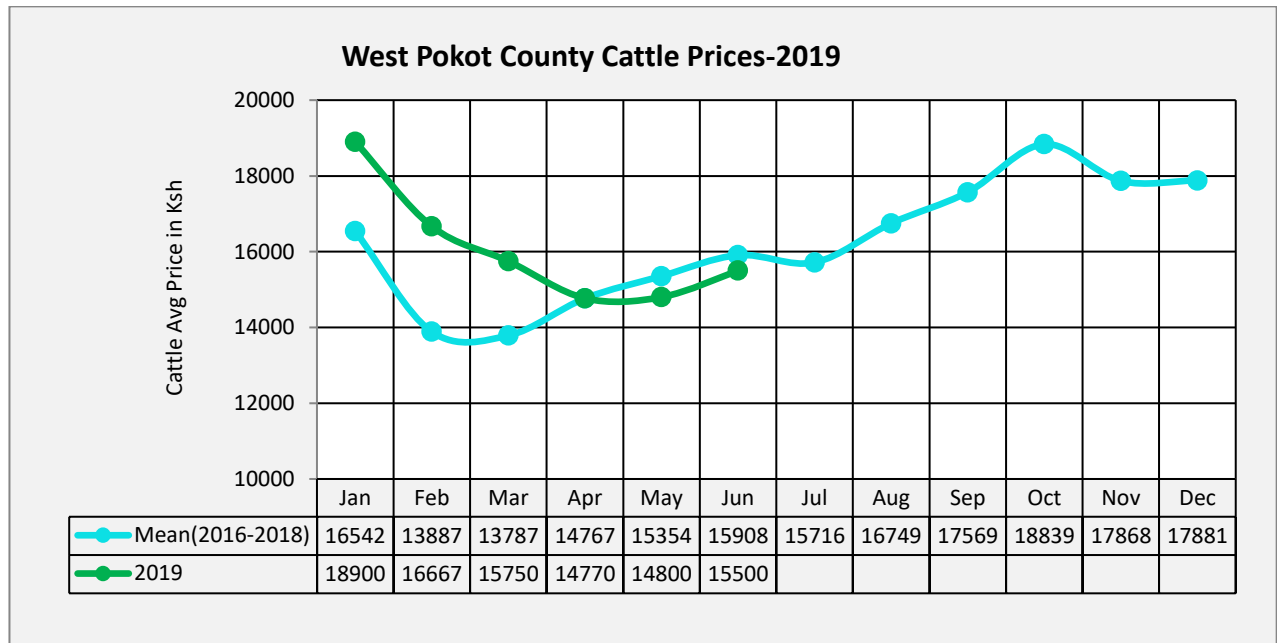
- The County’s main crops include maize, beans, potatoes and bulb onions. Most of the farmers are weeding their farms.
- Horticultural production and supply to major markets including Sigor, Ortum and Lomut is at normal levels compared to the seasonal performance.
- The cultivation of bulb onions in highlands is ongoing. These are supplied to Ortum and Sigor markets for distribution to other centres within and outside the County.
- The level of farming has increased especially along the production zones of Sebit and Wakorr.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle prices

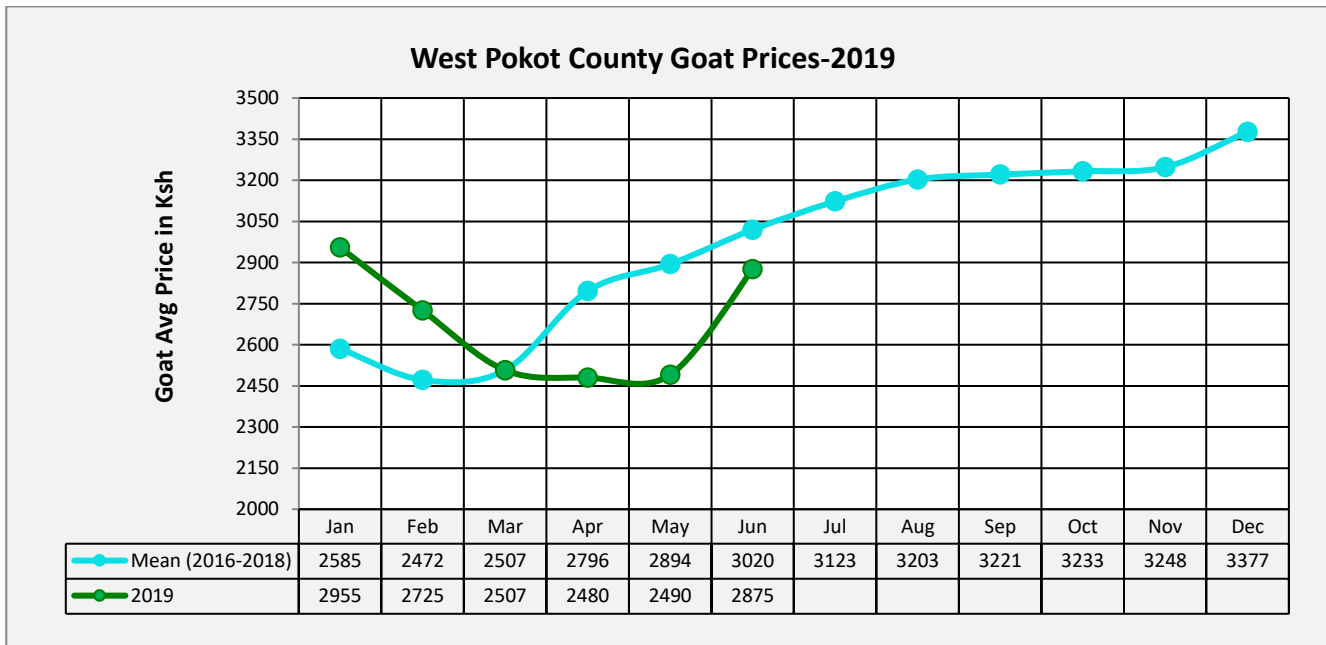
- The medium sized 4-year bull was sold at an average price of Kshs 15,500 in June, representing an increase in price as compared to Kshs 14,800 recorded in May.



- The price increase for cattle is as a result of the adequate forage condition, along with enhanced recharge of water sources for livestock.
- The current cattle price is 14 percent below the long term average of the similar period.

4.1.2 Goat Prices

- The County reported an average price of Kshs 2,875 for a 2-year old medium size goat across the livelihood zones in June. The goat price increased from Kshs 2,490 recorded in May.

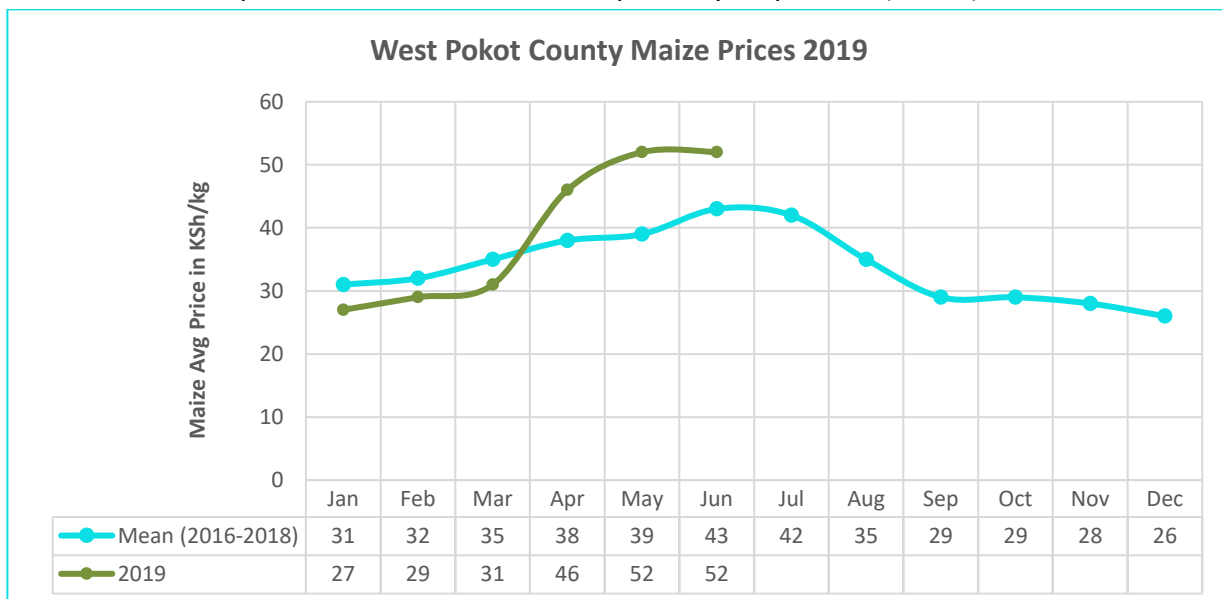


- The increase in price is attributed to enhanced body condition along with better forage availability and substantial recharge of water points in June.
- The current price of goat is however 13 percent below long term average for the month.

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

- Maize was sold at Kshs 52 per Kg, the price is stable as compared to the one recorded in May.
- The current price remains above the LTA price, by 17 percent (Ksh43) this month.

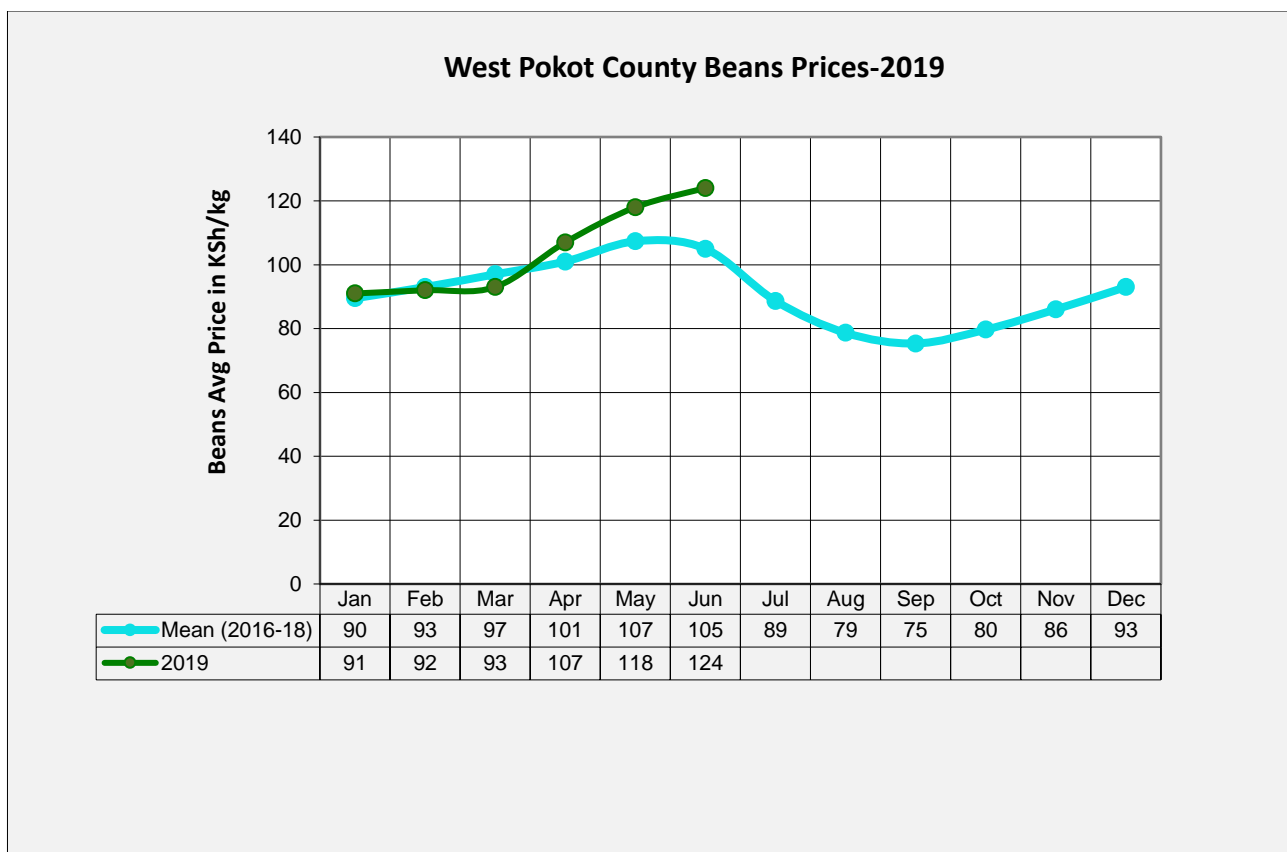


- The stability in price is attributed to the improved supply of maize by traders coupled with stable external supply of maize from outside the county.

- Majority of the households relied more on local market purchase to replenish their maize stocks. Maize price is expected to drop owing to good rains and increasing livestock prices.

4.2.2 Beans

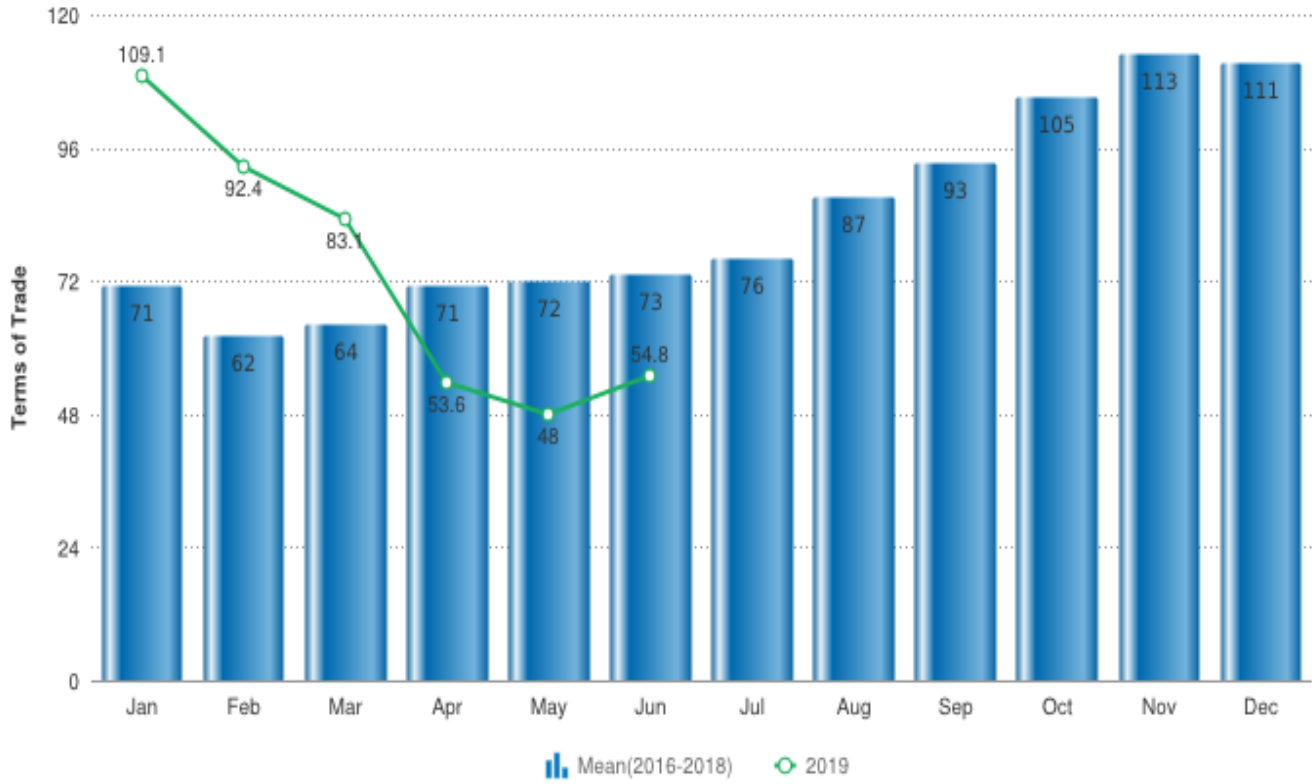
- In June, beans traded at Kshs 124 per kg, illustrating a price increase as compared to that recorded in May.
- The increase in price is attributed to inconsistent external supplies.
- There was no significant variation in price across the two livelihood zones since they both relied on the same external sources for supply.
- The current market price of beans is above the LTA price (Ksh.105) for such time of the year by 15 percent.



4.3 LIVESTOCK PRICE RATIO/ TERMS OF TRADE (TOT)

- The Terms of Trade (TOT) was at 55, an increase from 48 recorded in May. The increase implies that pastoralists would acquire more maize for the sale of a goat currently than they did in the previous month.
- The rise in ToT is credited to increasing goat prices, coupled with stable maize prices.
- The TOT variation is expected over the next three months as the price of goat is likely to increase with the ongoing rainfall along with dropping maize prices during the period.

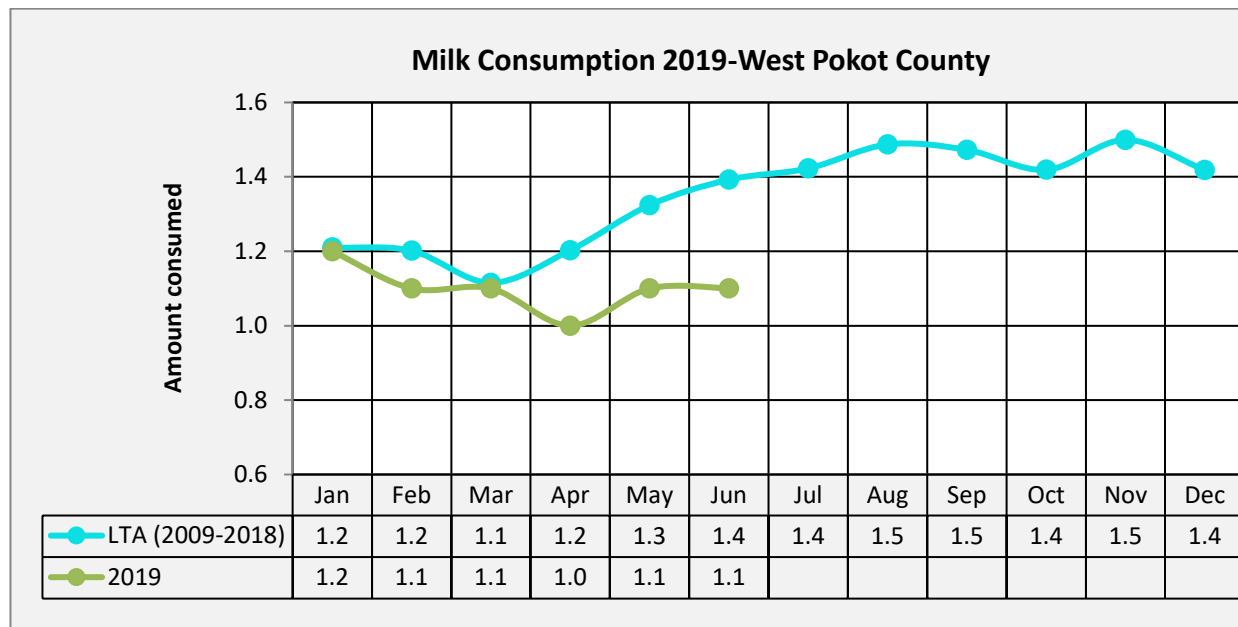
Terms of Trade - West pokot County



5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- Households across livelihood zones consumed 1.1 litres of milk on average in June, which was same as the one recorded in May.



- The stability in milk consumption is attributed to the improved milk production linked to significant forage rejuvenation. Milk access was fair within the month.
- The amount of milk consumed is below the LTA for the same period of the year.

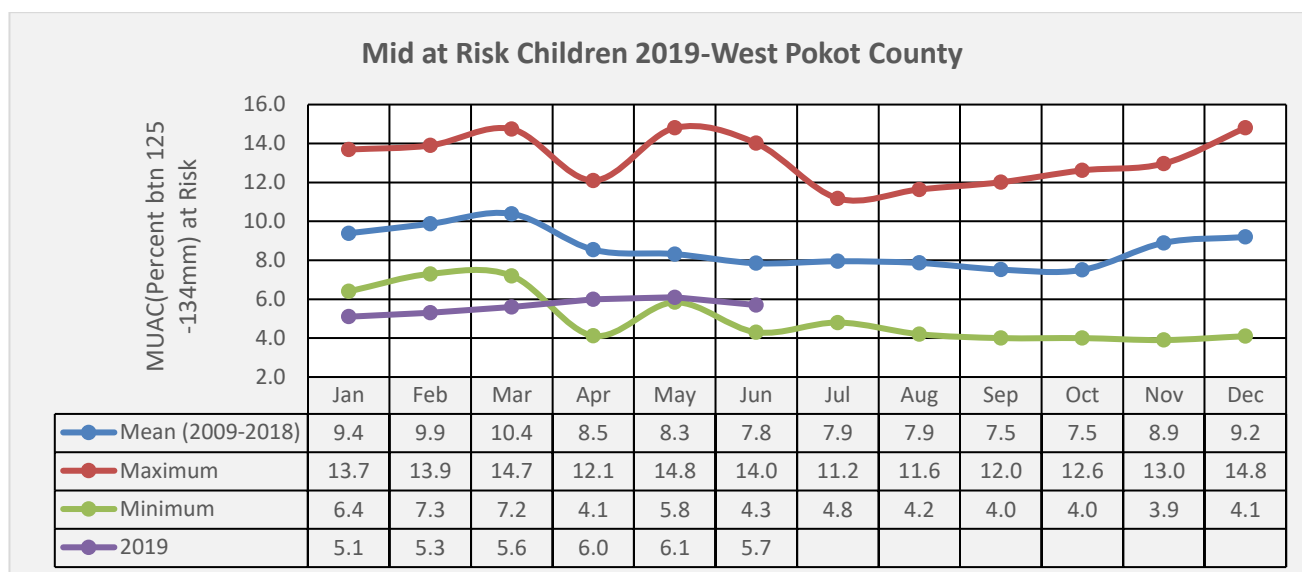
5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

- The households' proportions of 77%, 12% and 11% were recorded of having Food Consumption Score (FCS) within Acceptable, Borderline and Poor categories respectively. The score increased for the acceptable category, while both the borderline and poor categories decreased in comparison to the previous month. The FCS is generally, acceptable in June.
- The mean FCS for the two livelihood zones increased to 40 in June; compared to May.
- There was significant variation between the two livelihood zones, with for instance 97% of households in the agro-pastoral zone being categorized as having acceptable FCS compared to 63% households under the same category in the pastoral livelihood zone. There is more food sources diversity in agro-pastoral livelihood zones as compared to pastoral livelihoods.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of 46 and 55 percent of girls and boys under 5 years respectively were sampled in June, where children rated as being 'at risk' of malnutrition were at 5.7 percent, a decrease from 6.1 recorded in May.
- The current proportion of children rated as being 'at risk' of malnutrition lies below the LTA value by 7.8 percent for the such period of the year.



- The decreasing malnutrition status among the under-fives is attributed to significant milk consumption and access, including other essential health and nutrition commodities. These were the main drivers for the improved trend in number of children 'at risk' of malnutrition.

5.3.2 Health

- Malaria was the commonly reported ailment in the County among the sampled children include.

5.4 COPING STRATEGY

5.4.1 Coping Strategy Index (CSI)

- The County CSI was at 2.5 in June; having dropped from the 4.5 recorded in May. The decrease shows that households employed fewer strategies to cope, which could be linked to steady food commodity availability and dynamic prices in the markets.
- The pastoral recorded 3.1 while agro-pastoral livelihood zones recorded 1.9 CSI value.
- The commonly employed consumption coping strategies by a few of the households included reliance on less preferred/less expensive foods.

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 NON-FOOD

- RPLRP project conducted livestock vaccination in Pokot North.
- The County government carried out boreholes repairs across the County.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 INSECURITY/CONFLICT/HUMAN DISPLACEMENT

- Cattle theft incidences were reported along the West Pokot/Elgeyo Marakwet border, creating tension and fear of insecurity from retaliation.

7.2 MIGRATION

- Normal migrations were reported in the County.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- The rains are expected to continue for the next one month, thus the distance to water sources for both human and livestock is expected to decrease.
- As the forage conditions are anticipated to be restored due to the ongoing rains, the livestock productivity is expected to recover, resulting to likely enhanced livestock body condition hence higher livestock prices and access to food owing to the improved purchasing power.
- Maize prices are projected to decline while that of goat anticipated to stabilize. As such, the terms of trade are likely to be favourable over this period.
- Milk availability is projected to improve with the regeneration of pastoral resources that support livestock production as rains are expected to stimulate pasture and water. Malnutrition cases are likely to drop within the period, as children would access more milk.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. WATER SECTOR

- Capacity build the community on water harvesting and storage techniques.
- Provide water treatment chemicals to check on the waterborne cases.

2. LIVESTOCK SECTOR

- Support pasture development across the County

3. PEACE AND SECURITY

- Support peace building community projects at borders to bring both sides to work together, especially peace projects at conflict hotspots.

4. HEALTH AND NUTRITION SECTOR

- Conduct health preventive and promotion campaigns while providing health education on sanitation and proper utilization of water treatment chemicals so as to minimize the risk of water borne diseases outbreak.