

**National Drought Management Authority**  
**WEST POKOT COUNTY**  
**DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR JULY 2020**

**JULY EW PHASE**

Drought Status: **NORMAL**



Shughuli za kawaida

**Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification**

**Biophysical Indicators**

- The County received sufficient rainfall across livelihood zones in July. The temporal and spatial distribution was good.
- The vegetation cover index recorded was above normal range, with a downward trend across the livelihoods as depicted by drop in the Vegetation Condition Index. All Sub-counties recorded above normal vegetation conditions. Forage condition is good.

**Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)**

- The livestock body condition remained good with stable trend across the County. Distance to water sources decreased.
- Milk production and consumption at household level is stable and is above the long term average.
- The terms of trade is favourable with an improving trend.
- Majority of the households fell within the Acceptable Food Consumption Score as the Coping Strategy Index dropped.

**Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification**

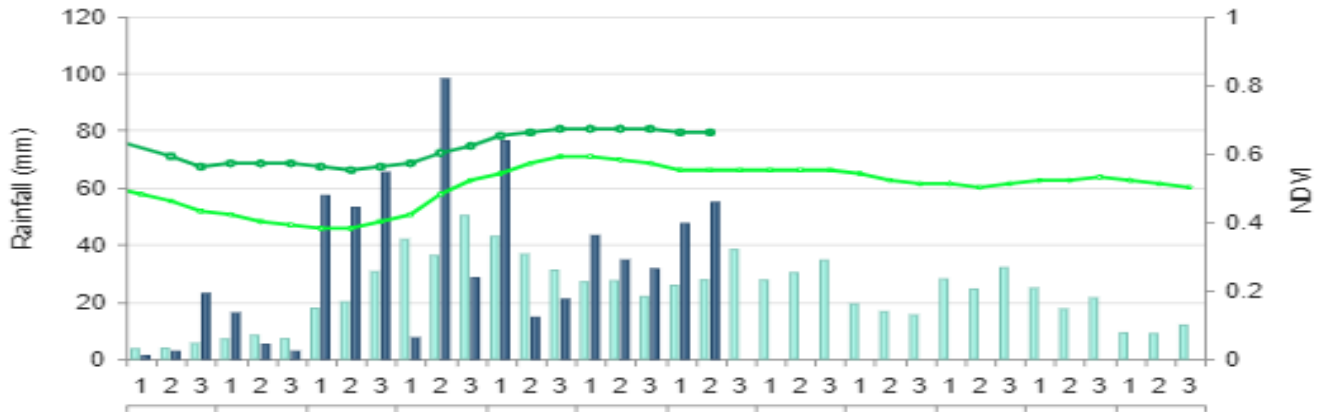
LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TREND
AGRO PASTORAL	<b>NORMAL</b>	STABLE
PASTORAL	<b>NORMAL</b>	STABLE
<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>NORMAL</b>	<b>STABLE</b>
<b>Biophysical Indicators</b>		
VCI-3month (County)	84	>35
VCI-3month (Pokot South)	77	>35
Forage Condition	Good	Good
<b>Production Indicators</b>		
Livestock Body Condition	Good	Normal
Milk Production	1.9	>1.6 Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Usual	Normal
Livestock deaths (attributed to drought)	No deaths	No deaths
<b>Access Indicators</b>		
Terms of Trade (ToT)	100	>76
Milk Consumption	1.5	>1.2 Litres
Return distance to water sources (household)	1.7 km	0.0-2.6km
Cost of water at source (Ksh. /20 litres)	Kshs 5	<Kshs 5
<b>Utilization Indicators</b>		
Nutrition status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	-	0.0-9.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	1.5	0.0-14.5
Food Consumption Score	51	>35

# 1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

## 1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- Sufficient rainfall was received during the month. The intensity was good in both the lowlands and highlands.
- The rainfall situation is above normal for such time of the year.

Kenya - Rift Valley - West Pokot - 2020



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short rains harvests</li> <li>• Short dry spell</li> <li>• Increased HH Food Stock</li> <li>• Land preparation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planting/Weeding</li> <li>• Long rains</li> <li>• High Calving Rate</li> <li>• Milk Yields Increase</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long rains harvests</li> <li>• A long dry spell</li> <li>• Land preparation</li> <li>• Increased HH Food Stock</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short rains</li> <li>• Planting/weeding</li> <li>• (Irish potatoes, Cabbages and Onions)</li> </ul>
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- The dekad amounts were above normal.

## 1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- There was good spatial and temporal rainfall distribution across the livelihoods.

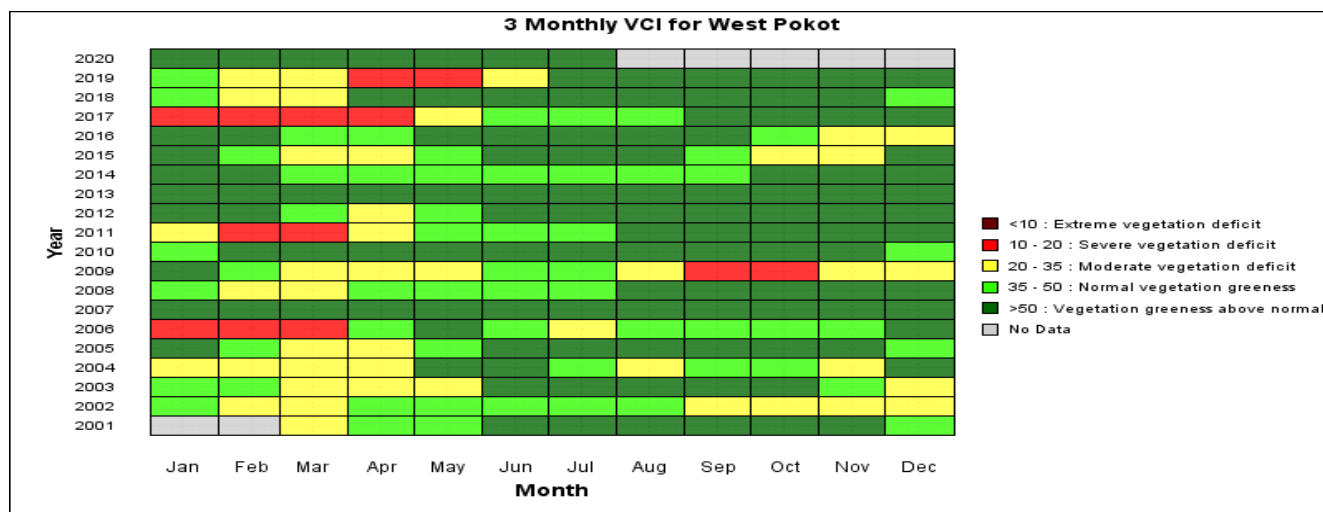
## 1.3 OTHER EVENTS

- The County multi-agency team is undertaking resettlement of landslides victims who were displaced in Chesegon along Elgeyo Marakwet border.

## 2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

### 2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

#### 2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)



Source: Boku University

- The VCI (VCI-3month) which shows the vegetation status of the County slightly increased to 84 from 36 recorded in the previous month. The current VCI portrays above normal vegetation condition.
- The VCI is on a stable trend across all livelihood zones. All sub-counties recorded above normal vegetation conditions. The stability in VCI is from 81 to 84, 79 to 77, 87 to 88 and 86 to 87 in Pokot North, Pokot South, Pokot West and Pokot Central Sub-counties respectively. The steady trend in VCI is linked to improved rejuvenation of vegetation cover along with adequate modest rainfall within the month.

#### 2.1.2 Pasture

- The proportion of sampled community members which recorded that the pasture was good and remained at 100 percent in July.
- The communities reported that pasture situation was good in all livelihood zones. The condition was normal for such time of the year. The trend is still stable in comparison to that of June linked to good rains.
- The pasture condition is anticipated to improve further owing to good rains received.
- There is no significant variation in terms of pasture quality and quantity between livelihood zones.

### **2.1.3 Browse**

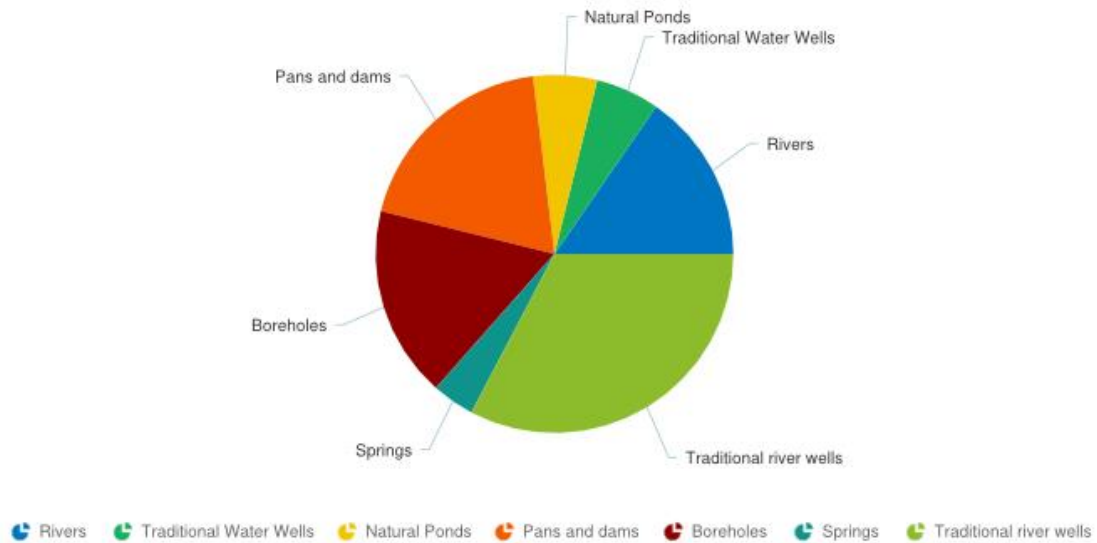
- In July, the proportion of sampled community members which reported that browse condition was good at 100 percent; similar to that reported in June.
- The browse condition is good across the livelihood zones and is normal for such period of the year. The quality of the browse condition is good as compared to that of June.
- 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 forage access is good attributed to heightened peace building efforts along Conflict borders.

## **2.2 WATER RESOURCE**

### **2.2.1 Sources**

- In July, the proportion of sampled population using main water sources for both households and livestock are; 33 percent for traditional river wells, 19 for pans and dams, 17 percent for boreholes while those using rivers were at 15 percent.
- The recharge remained stable in all surface water sources in comparison to that of June. The situation is attributed to good ongoing rains.
- The current main water sources in use are the normal ones used by households during such time of the year.

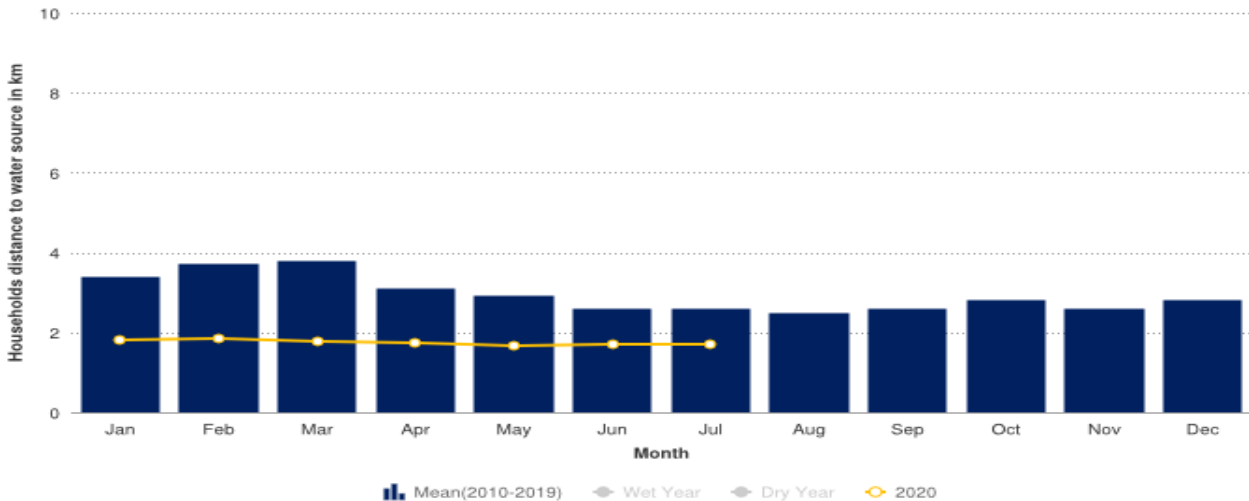
**West pokot County Water sources**  
(July 2020)



### 2.2.2 Household Access and Utilization

- The return distance to water source from the household is at 1.7 km, same as that recorded in June. The current distance is 35 percent below the Long Term Average (LTA).
- The pastoral livelihood zones reported longer trekking distance to water source than the agro-pastoral livelihood zones. The stability in distance is credited to sufficient water source recharge.

**Household distances to water sources in West pokot - July 2020**

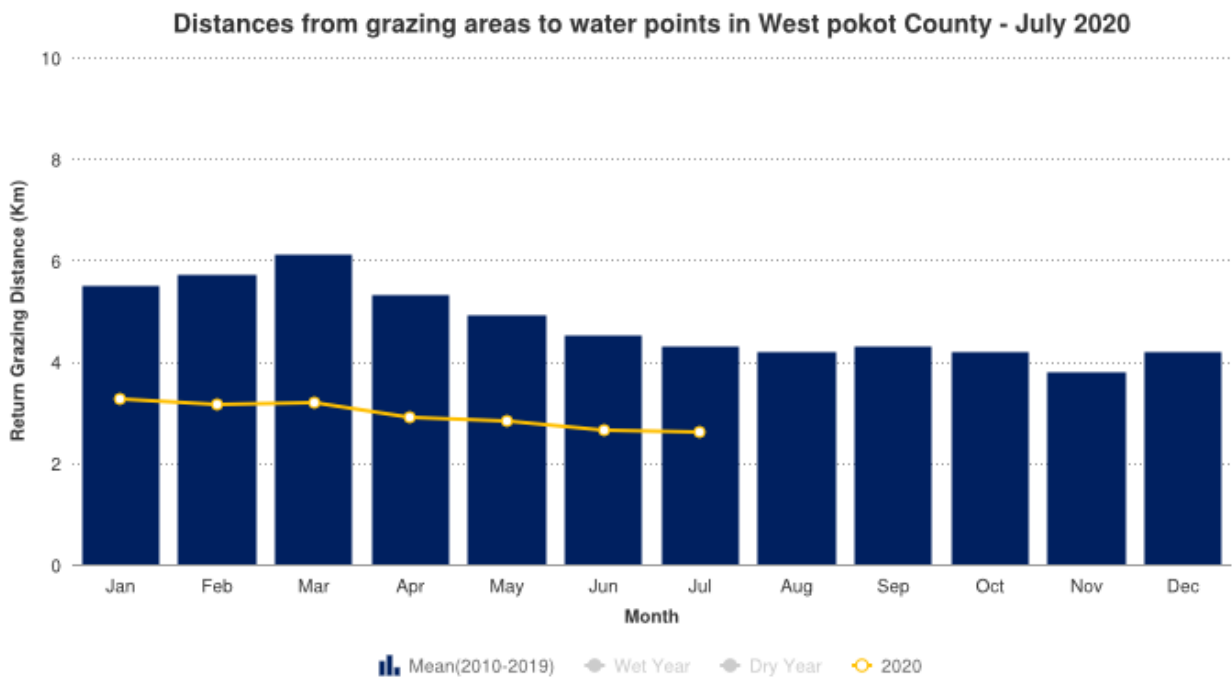


- The pastoral livelihood zones reported longer waiting time at water source than the agro-pastoral zones.

- The average household water consumption per person per day is still at 18-20 litres in the pastoral zones while that in the agro-pastoral zones was at 15-18 litres.
- The cost of accessing water at the source is still free in the rural areas and different in urban centres where a 20 litre Jerrican cost was within normal ranges for the period at Kshs 5.

### 2.2.3 Livestock Access

- During the month, the livestock return trekking distance from grazing areas to water sources is at 2.6 km, a slight drop from 2.7 km recorded in June. The current trekking distance is 39 percent below the normal range.
- The pastoral livelihood zone recorded longer trekking time from grazing areas to water source as compared to that in the agro-pastoral livelihood zones.



- The decrease in livestock trekking distance to water points is credited to adequate rainfall along with good recharge to the water sources.
- Frequency of watering remained at 7 times in a week for cattle and shoats and 6 times in a week for camel.

## **3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS**

### **3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION**

#### **3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition**

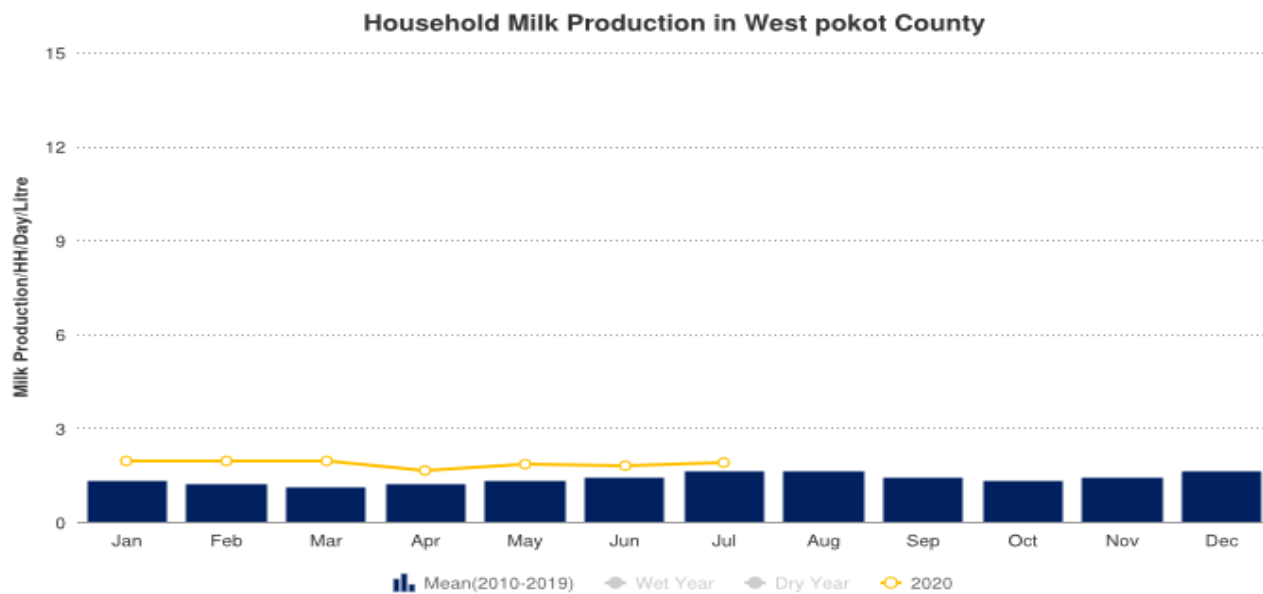
- The body condition for all livestock species is good in both pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones in comparison to that reported in June, the condition remained stable.
- The livestock body condition is projected to remain stable across the livelihood zones.
- The body condition is normal for all livestock species in comparison to same period during a normal year. The trend is stable owing to sufficient forage regeneration.
- There was no significant variation in livestock body condition between the two livelihood zones.

#### **3.1.2 Livestock Diseases**

- CCPP was reported in Kapchok ward.

#### **3.1.3 Milk Production**

- In July, the County reported an average production was at 1.9 litres of milk per household per day, same as that reported in June.
- Cattle was the main livestock producing milk at the households.
- The current household milk production is above the LTA by 19 percent.
- The household stable trend in milk production is credited to enhanced forage access in the traditional grazing areas.



### 3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

#### 3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

- During the month, the County’s major crops include maize, beans, potatoes and bulb onions. Maize crop is at maturity stage in most areas.
- The horticultural production and supply to major markets in Wakkor, Ortum and Lomut is at normal levels in comparison to the seasonal performance.
- The level of farming has improved along the horticultural production zones.
- The cultivation of bulb onions in the highlands is stable. These are supplied to Ortum and Sigor markets for distribution to other centres within and outside the County.

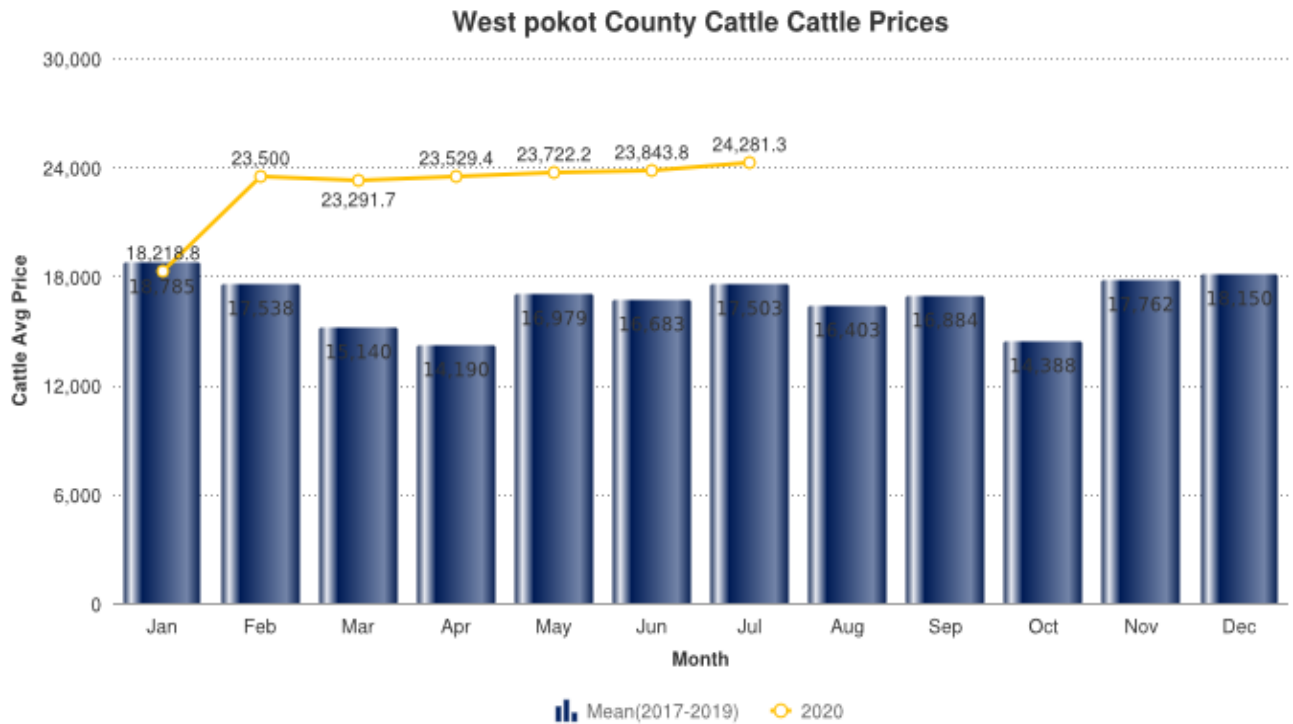


## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

#### 4.1.1 Cattle prices

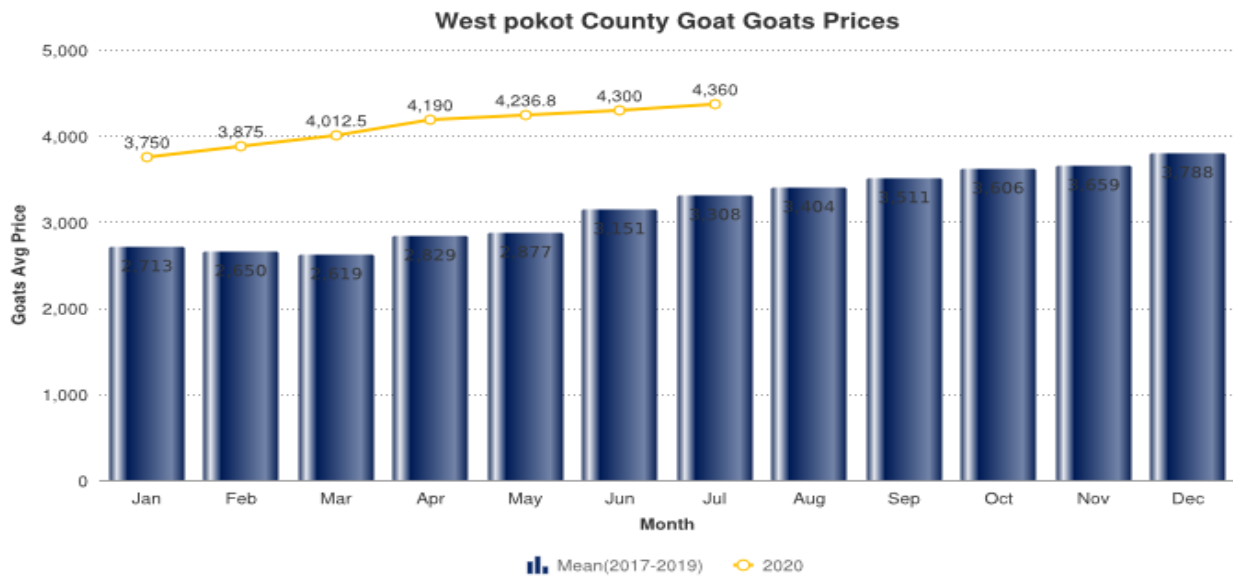
- In July, the medium sized 4-year bull was sold at an average price of Kshs 24,281, demonstrating an increase in price as compared to Kshs 23,843 reported in June.



- The rise in cattle price is due to good body condition along with adequate forage access, as well as significant recharge of water sources for livestock.
- The current cattle price is 38 percent above the LTA.

### 4.1.2 Goat Prices

- The County recorded an average price of Kshs 4,360 for a 2-year old medium size goat, which represented a rise in comparison with Kshs 4,300 recorded in June.

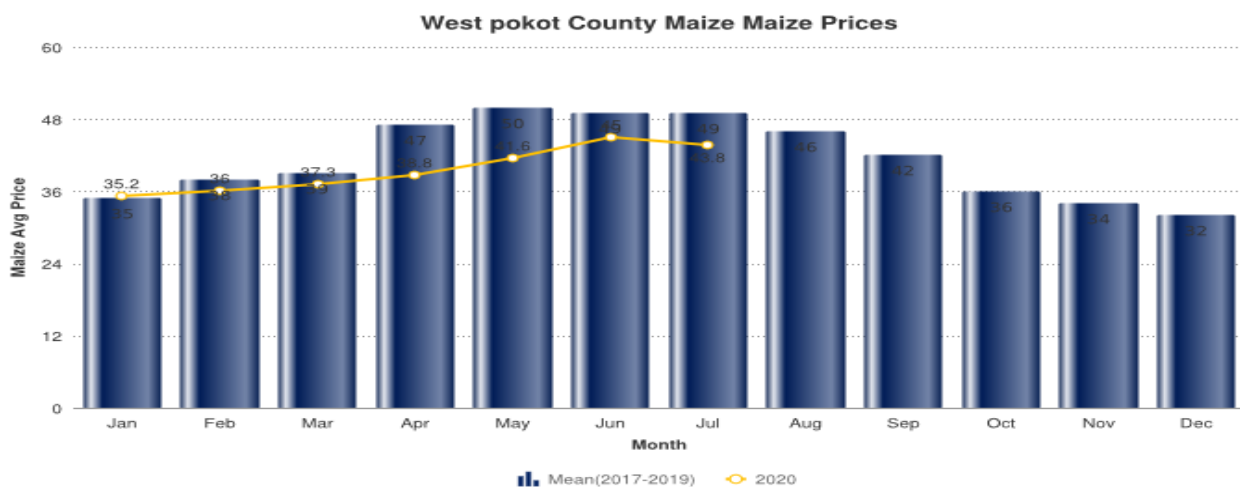


- The price up trend is linked to good body condition for goats in the livelihoods.
- The current goat price is 32 percent above LTA for the month.

### 4.2 CROP PRICES

#### 4.2.1 Maize

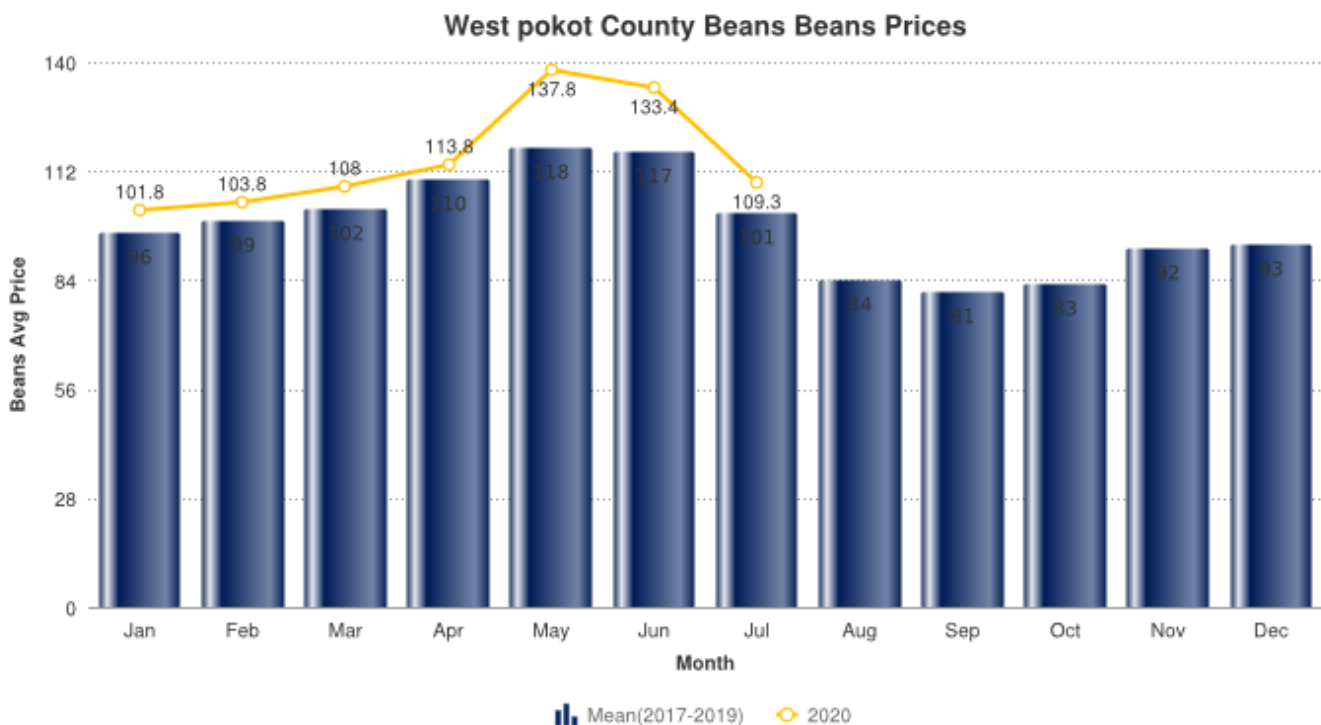
- In July, the maize was sold at Ksh 44 per kg, a drop from (Ksh 45) that was recorded in the previous month.
- The current price is 10 percent below the LTA price.



- The decrease in price is attributed to the availability of local harvests supplies in the market mainly in Pokot Central Sub County.
- Most of the households depended more on local market purchase for their maize requirements. Maize price is projected to decrease further as harvesting season is expected in the next 2 months.

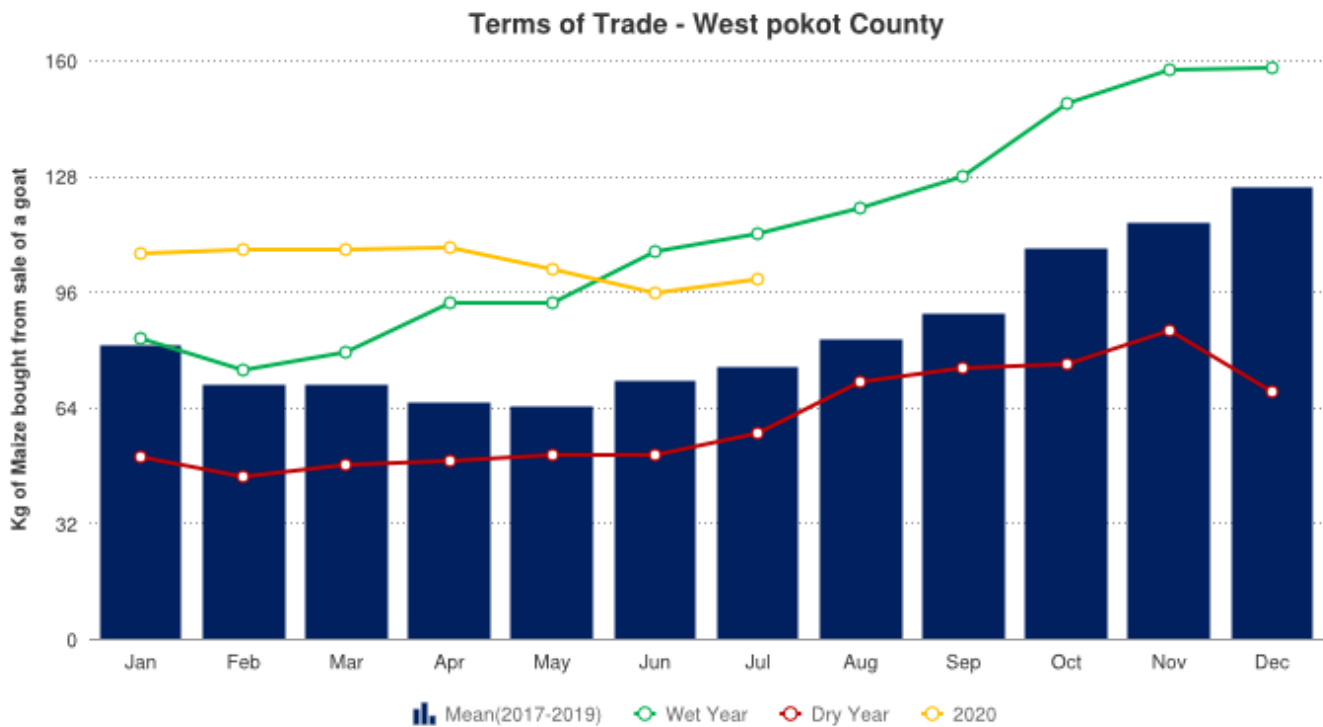
#### 4.2.2 Beans

- The beans traded at Kshs 103 per kg in July, signifying a sharp price drop in comparison to Kshs 133 recorded in June.
- The price down trend is linked to unstable external supplies.
- There was no significant variation in price across the two livelihood zones since they both depend on the same external sources for supply.
- The current price of beans is 2 percent above the LTA price (Ksh.101) for similar period of the year.



### 4.3 LIVESTOCK PRICE RATIO/ TERMS OF TRADE (TOT)

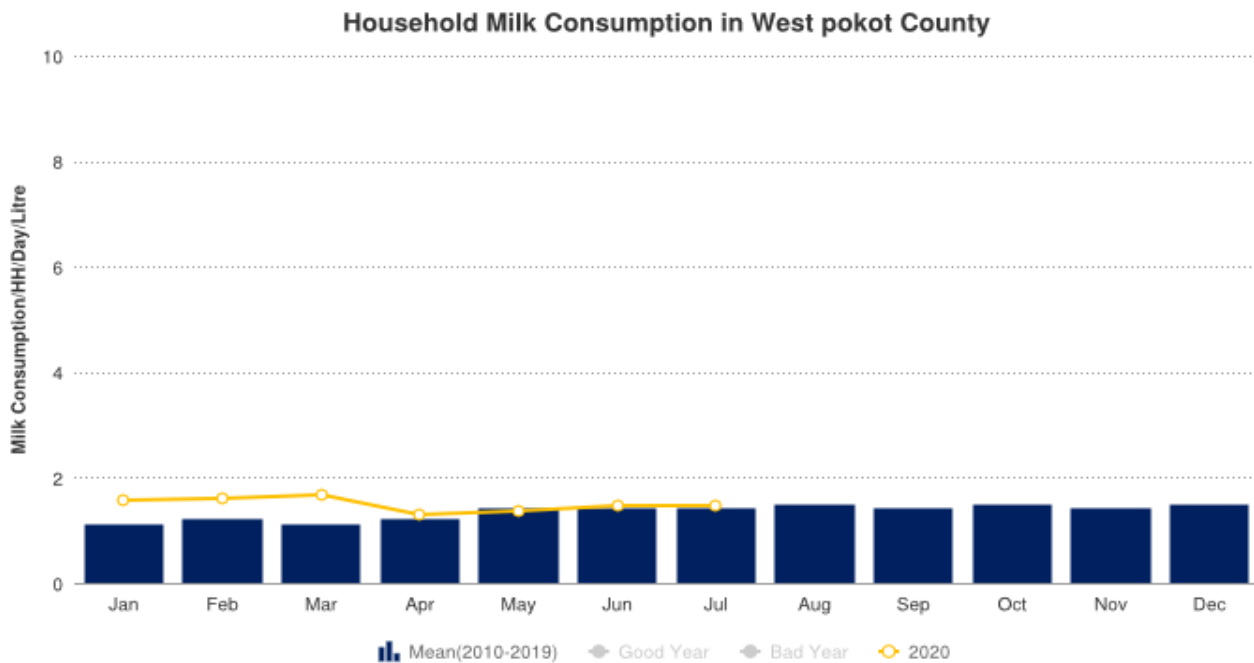
- The Terms of Trade (TOT) is at 100 in July, an increase from 96 recorded in the previous month, demonstrating that households obtained more amount of maize for sale of a goat currently as compared to June.
- The upward trend in ToT is associated with decreasing maize prices along with increasing goat prices.
- The TOT variation is anticipated over the next three months as the price of maize is projected to decrease with the looming harvesting season.



## 5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

### 5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- In July, the households across livelihood zones had milk consumption of 1.5 litres of milk on average, an increase as compared to that of June. The consumption remained at par with the LTA.



- The upward trend in milk consumption is linked to the stable milk production along with good livestock body condition and adequate forage. Availability of milk is good in July.

### 5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

- The households' proportions of 81%, 19% and 0% were reported of having Food Consumption Score (FCS) within Acceptable, Borderline and Poor categories respectively. The score increased for the acceptable category, while borderline category dropped as compared to that of June. The FCS is generally acceptable in July.
- The mean FCS for the two livelihood zones remained at 51; an increase from that reported in June.
- There was significant variation between the two livelihood zones with for instance 100 percent of households in the agro-pastoral zone being categorized as having acceptable FCS compared to 69% households under the same category in the pastoral livelihood zone. There are more food sources diversity in agro-pastoral livelihood zones as compared to pastoral livelihoods.

## **5.3 HEALTH STATUS**

### **5.3.1 Health**

- Malaria was reported as common ailment among the sampled households.

## **5.4 COPING STRATEGY**

### **5.4.1 Coping Strategy Index (CSI)**

In July, the County's CSI was at 1.5, a drop from 1.6 recorded in June. The downtrend portrays that households continue to employ few strategies to cope, which could be due to favourable food commodity availability and good access at households and markets respectively.

- The pastoral zones recorded a CSI of 1.6 while agro-pastoral livelihood zones recorded 1.4.
- The commonly employed consumption coping strategies by a few of the households during the month included reliance on less preferred/less expensive foods.

## **6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)**

### **6.1 NON-FOOD**

- MoH COVID-19 pandemic control measures are being enforced across the County.
- Resettlement of displaced landslides victims is ongoing supported by multi agency team

## **7.0 EMERGING ISSUES**

### **7.1 INSECURITY/CONFLICT/HUMAN DISPLACEMENT**

- No livestock theft incidences were reported along West Pokot/Turkana border in July.

### **7.2 MIGRATION**

- Normal livestock movements were reported.

### **7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS**

- Maize prices are expected to drop while goat price is projected to increase, as such terms of trade would go up within the period.
- Milk availability is anticipated to stabilize with enough pasture and water hence improving livestock production. Malnutrition cases are likely to drop over the period, as children would access more milk.
- The distance to water sources for both human and livestock is likely to remain stable owing to good water point recharge with the ongoing rains.
- The livestock productivity is projected to improve, as the forage conditions remains adequate with the ongoing rains resulting to good livestock body condition hence good livestock prices

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. WATER SECTOR**

- Support households on water storage technologies to ensure maximum use of the rain waters.

### **2. PEACE AND SECURITY**

- Sustain peace building community projects at borders to bring both sides to work together, especially peace projects at conflict hotspots of Turkana-West Pokot border.

### **3. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

- People whose houses are built on flood/landslide risk areas are advised to move to safer places to avoid loss of lives and destruction of property during upcoming long rains season. They need to be mobilized to move to safer areas.

### **4. LIVESTOCK SECTOR**

- Support livestock vaccination particularly in wards with reported cases of Foot and Mouth Disease.