

National Drought Management Authority

MAKUENI COUNTY

DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR JANUARY 2018



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



JUNE EW PHASE

Drought Status: **NORMAL**



Shughuli za kawaida

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- Generally the month of June was dry characterised by light showers and cold days/nights.
- The vegetation greenness for the County was above normal as indicated by the 3 month Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)
- The quantity and quality of pasture and browse ranged from fair to good across all the three livelihood zones.
- Water availability was normal across the county.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

- The Livestock body condition ranged from fair to good across all the livelihood zones.
- Milk production and consumption was good attributed to the availability of pasture and water for livestock.
- Terms of trade were favourable at 111.8 an implication that from the sale of one goat one could purchase 111.8kg of maize.
- Average distances to watering sources for livestock was 3.9km a slight increase from 3.4km attributed to the breached dams as a result of the April floods hence the use of alternative sources of water.
- The percentage of children at risk of malnutrition was within the normal range.
- The County CSI was within the normal range implying households employed reduced mechanisms to cope with lack of food or money to buy food.

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Mixed farming coffee/dairy	Normal	Stable
Mixed farming Food Crop/Livestock	Normal	Stable
Marginal Mixed Farming	Normal	Stable
County	Normal	Stable
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Ranges
Rainfall (% of Normal)	100	80-120
VCI-3Month	85.98	>35
State of Water Sources	5	5
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Crop Condition	good	Fair
Livestock Body Condition	6-Normal	6-Normal
Milk Production	1.9	1.8 Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	111.8	>80
Milk Consumption	1.2	1.2 litres
Return distance to water sources	4.1Km	3.4 Km
Cost of water at source (20 litres)	Ksh 3-5	Ksh 3
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	9.8	<12.9
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	2.8	<10

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains harvests ▪ Short dry spell ▪ Reduced milk yields ▪ Increased HH Food Stocks ▪ 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 Stocks ▪ Kidding (Sept) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains ▪ Planting/weeding 								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

1. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- There was no significant amount of rainfall recorded for the month under review apart from light showers. Dekad one recorded 2.9mm against an average of 2.8mm and dekad 2 recorded 1.1mm against an average of 1.1mm while dekad 3 received 1.2mm against an average of 0.8mm.

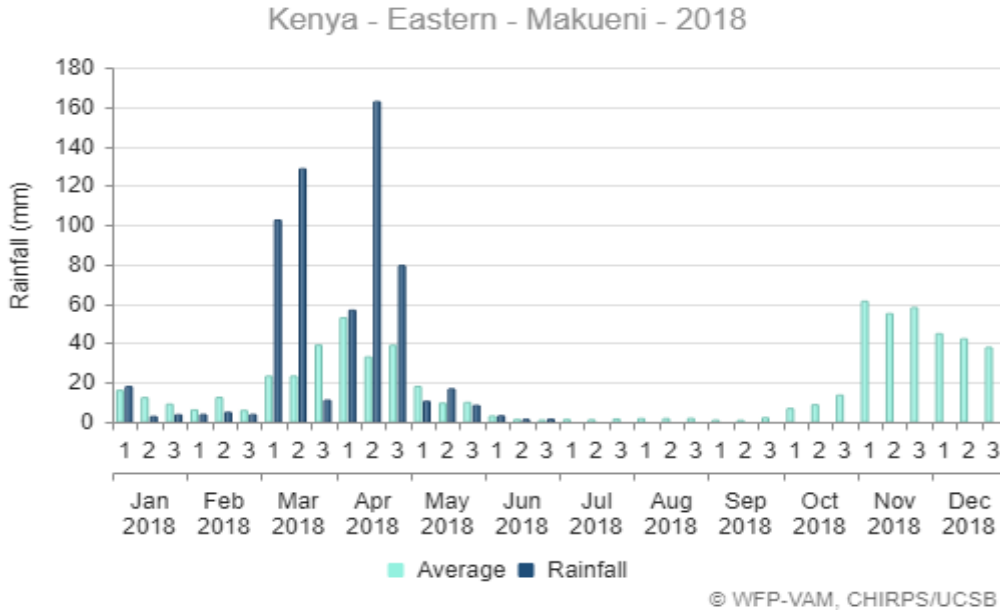


Figure 1: Makueni June average rainfall

2. IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

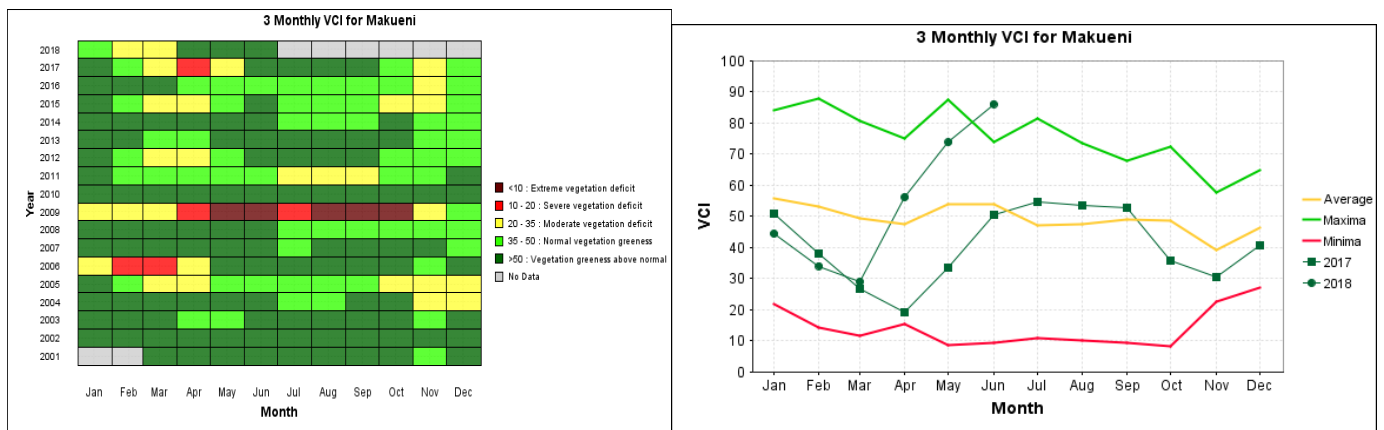


Figure 2: Makueni June VCI matrices

2.1.2 Pasture and Browse

- The quantity and quality of pasture and browse ranged from fair to good across all livelihood zones attributed to the MAM rains that were received in early March through May.
- The available pasture is expected to last the county for the next two to three months

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

2.2.1 Sources

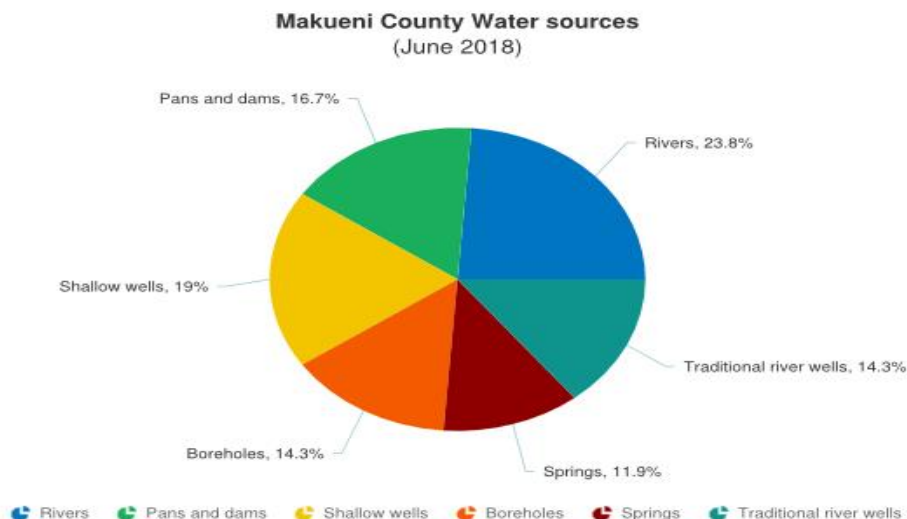
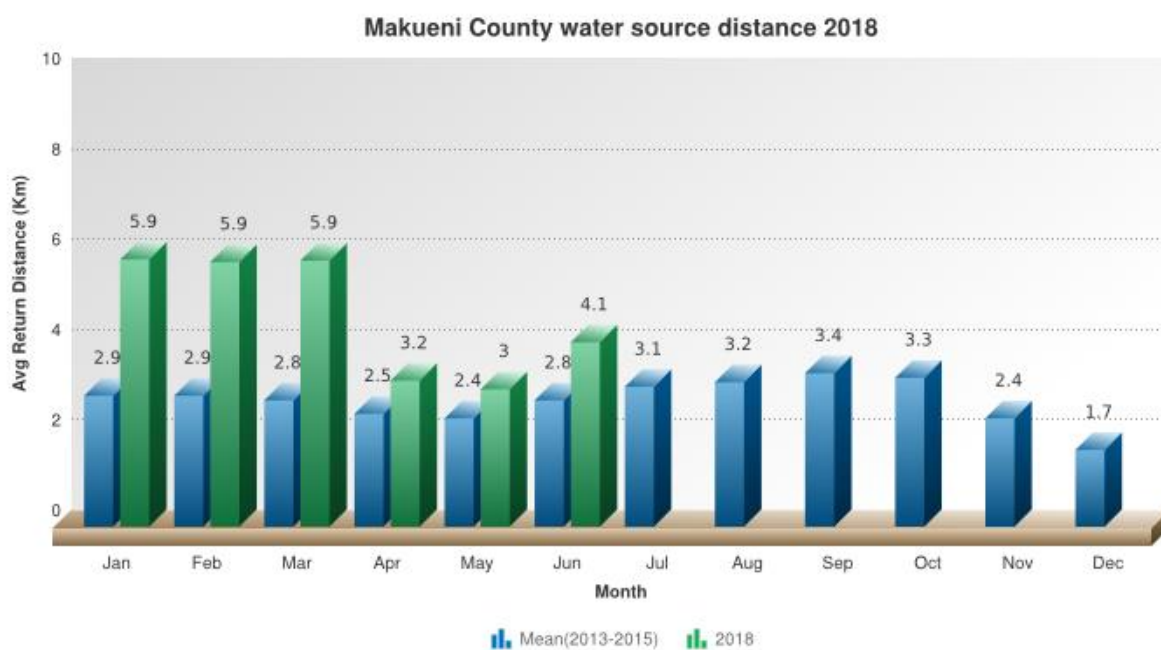


Figure 3: Makueni June major water sources

- Major sources of water for both human and livestock consumption in the county during the month were: rivers, pan and dams, shallow wells, traditional river wells, boreholes and springs. Other water sources included piped water schemes in major urban centres.
- Average cost of a 20 litre Jerrycan at the water kiosk ranged from Ksh3 to Ksh5 against the normal price of Ksh 3.

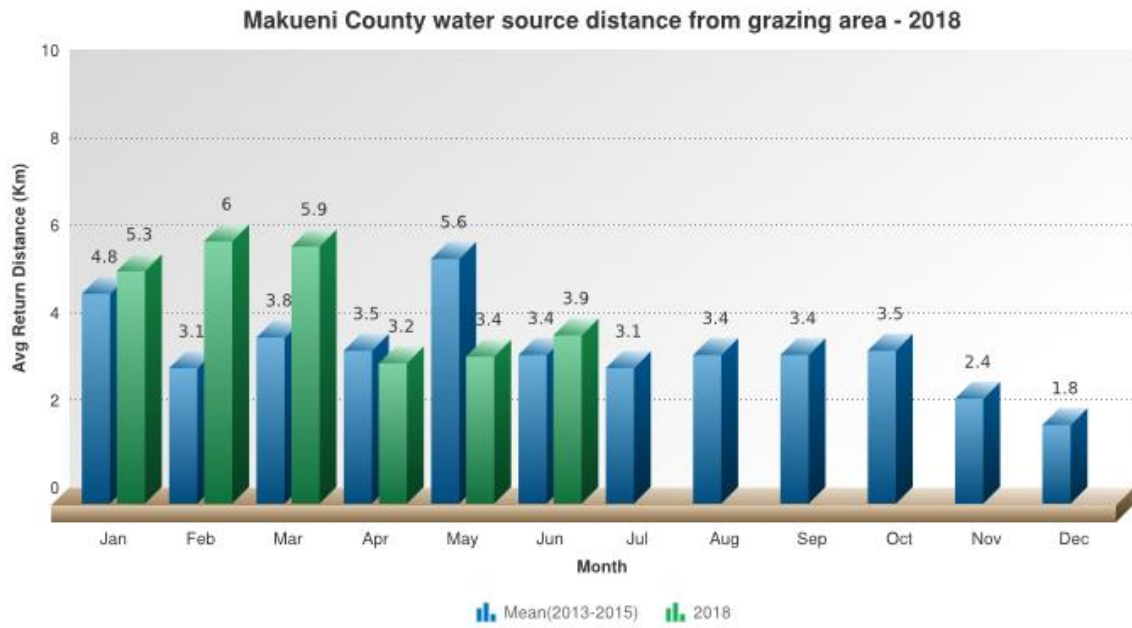
2.2.2 Household access and Utilization of water

Distances to water sources for household consumption



- Average household return distances increased from 3.0Km to an average of 4.1Km. The increase is attributed to change in alternative water sources given that most surface water sources were damaged by floods.

2.2.3 Livestock access to water



- Average return distances to water sources had increased by 0.5Km from 3.4Km to 3.9Km. This was attributed to the breached dams hence use of alternative sources of water.
- The distances are expected to increase in the next two three months.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Current livestock body condition for cattle in most parts of the county ranged from fair to good.
- Majority of the livestock had a smooth good appearance a body score of 6.
- The normal livestock body condition is expected to continue for the next one to two months due to the availability of pasture and water.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- No major livestock disease outbreaks.

3.1.3 Milk Production

Milk availability

- Milk availability was fair to good in mixed farming livelihood zone and is expected to remain stable with the availability of pasture and water for livestock.

Marginal mixed Farming zone:

- Households in this zone were more reliant on goat milk whose yield was between 500-750mls per day against a long term of one litre per day. Local Zebu also produced 500-750mls.

Mixed farming (Food Crop/Livestock):

- In this livelihood zone, Zebu cattle and crossbreeds accounted for most milk produced. Availability was approximately 750-1000mls compared to a normal of 1000mls.

Mixed Farming (Coffee/Dairy):

- The production of milk per day per household ranged from 1000-1500mls per day against a normal of 2 litres.

3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

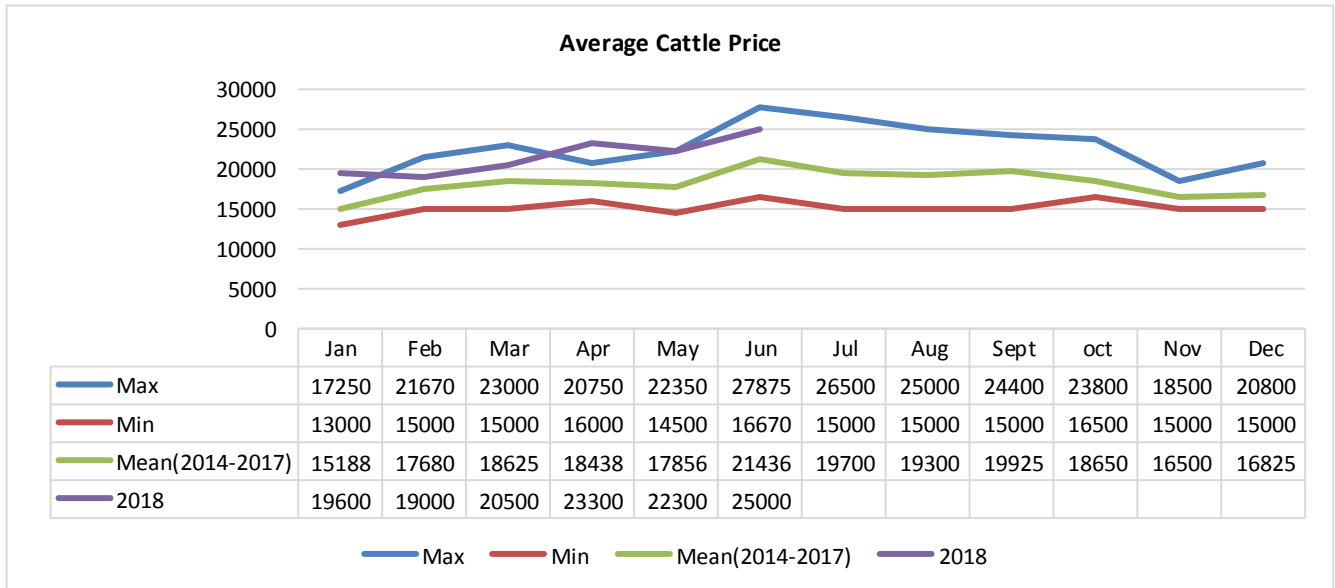
3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

- Harvesting of green grams was still ongoing in both Kibwezi west, Kibwezi East and parts of Makueni sub Counties. Harvesting of pigeon peas and cow peas was also ongoing in most part of the county. In the highland where maize had performed well it was at the grain filling stage while the early planted maize had matured and was being consumed while green.

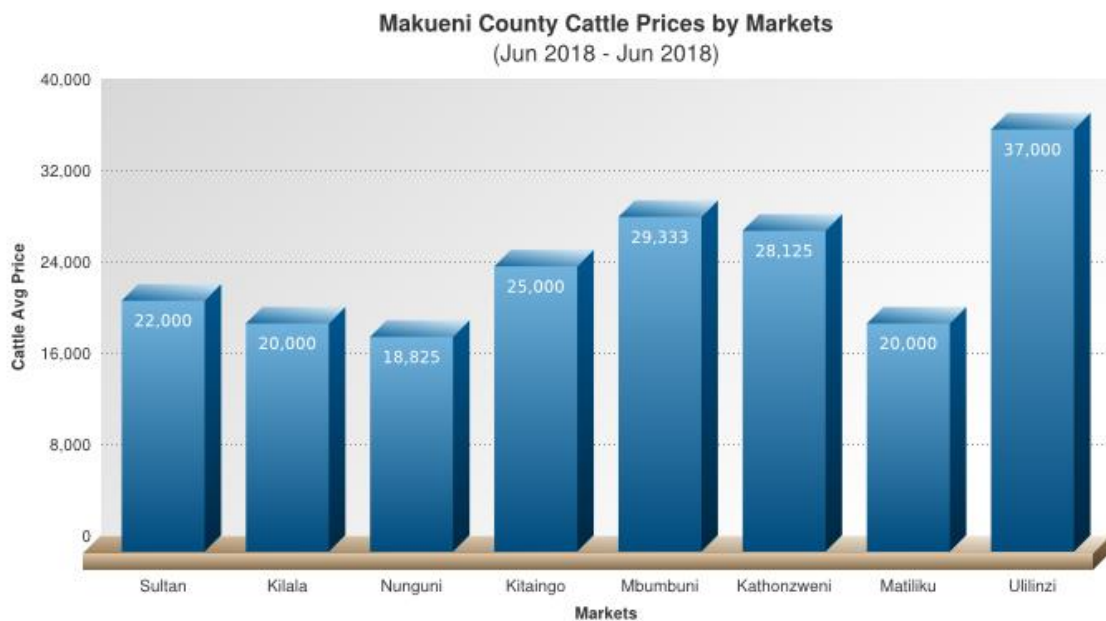
4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

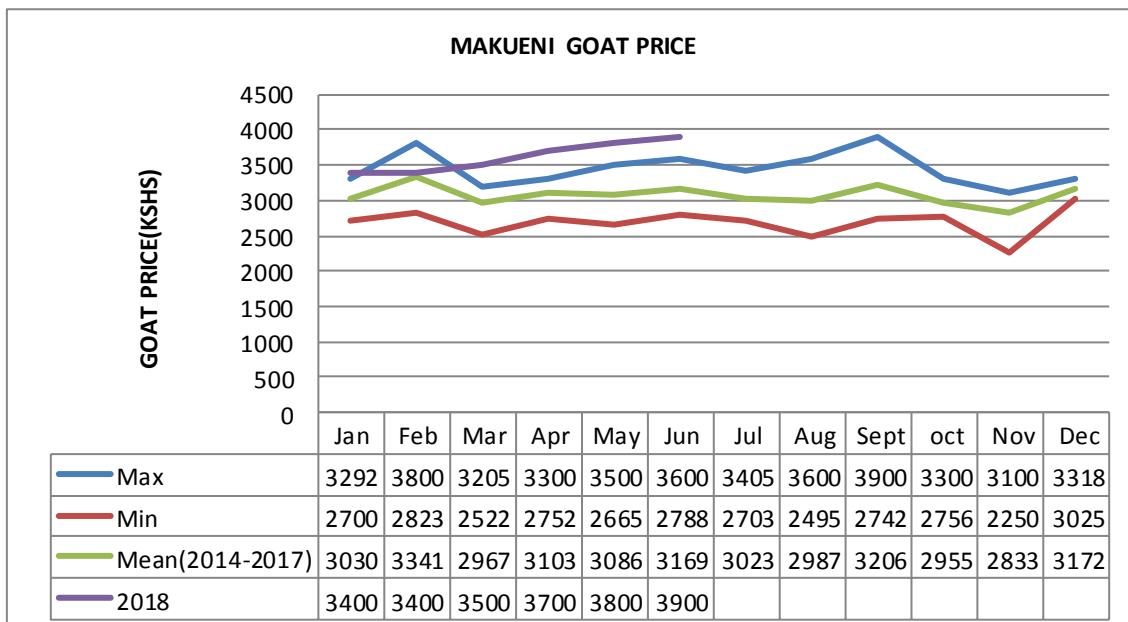
4.1.1 Cattle Prices



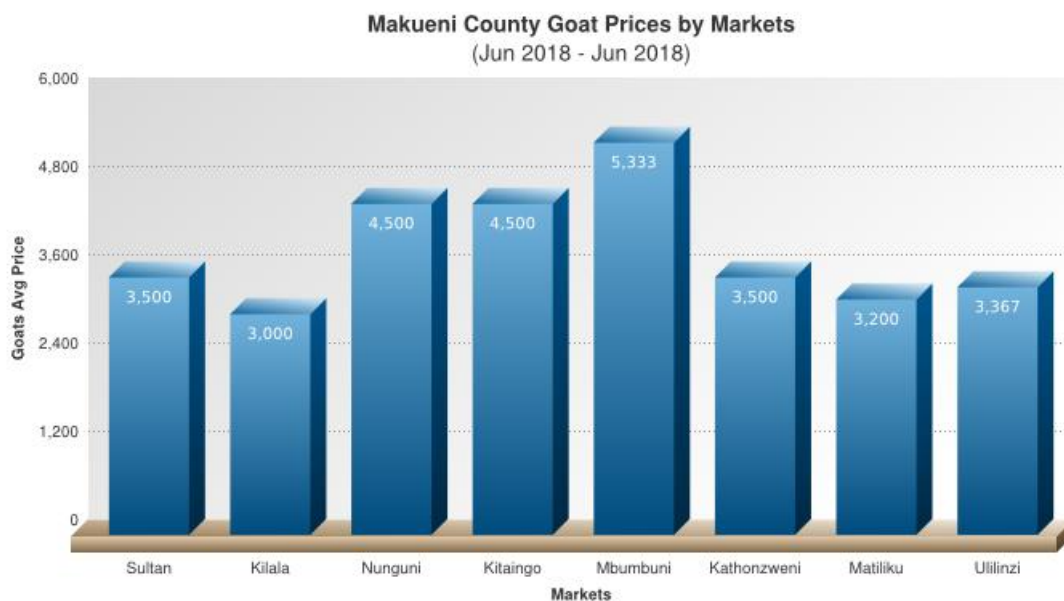
- Average farm gate prices of cattle (2-3 year old bull) increased from Ksh22,300 to Ksh25,000. Compared to (2014-2017) long term average the current price was above normal.
- The increase in price is attributed to the good body condition of livestock.
- The prices of cattle at different markets were as follows:



4.1.2 Goat Prices

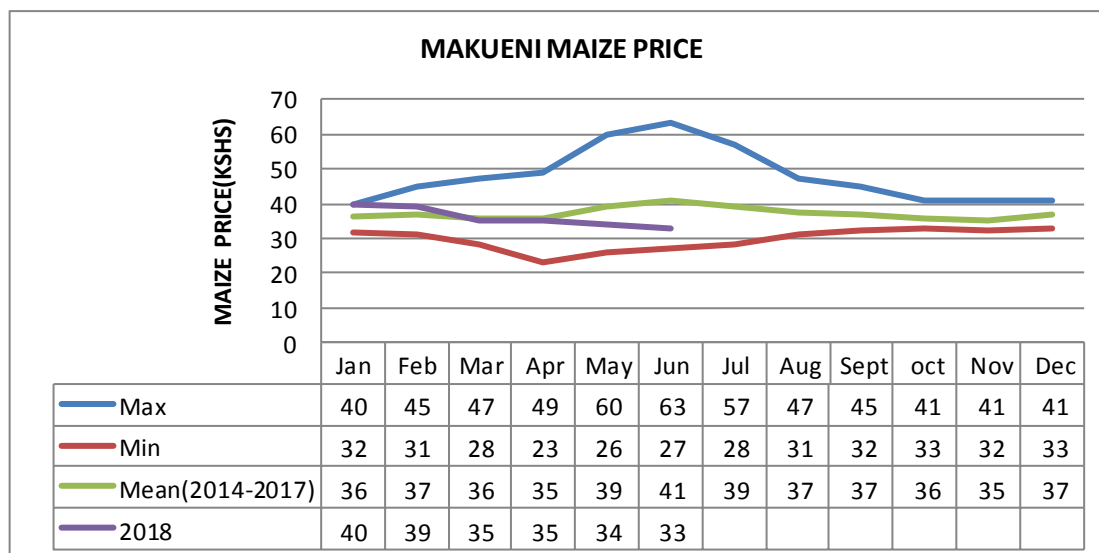


- The average farm-gate price of a goat increased from Ksh3,800 to Ksh3,900.
- Compared to the 2014-2017 long term mean the price remained relatively high.
- The increase in price was attributed to the prevailing good body condition.
- Average goat market prices were as follows in the various markets.



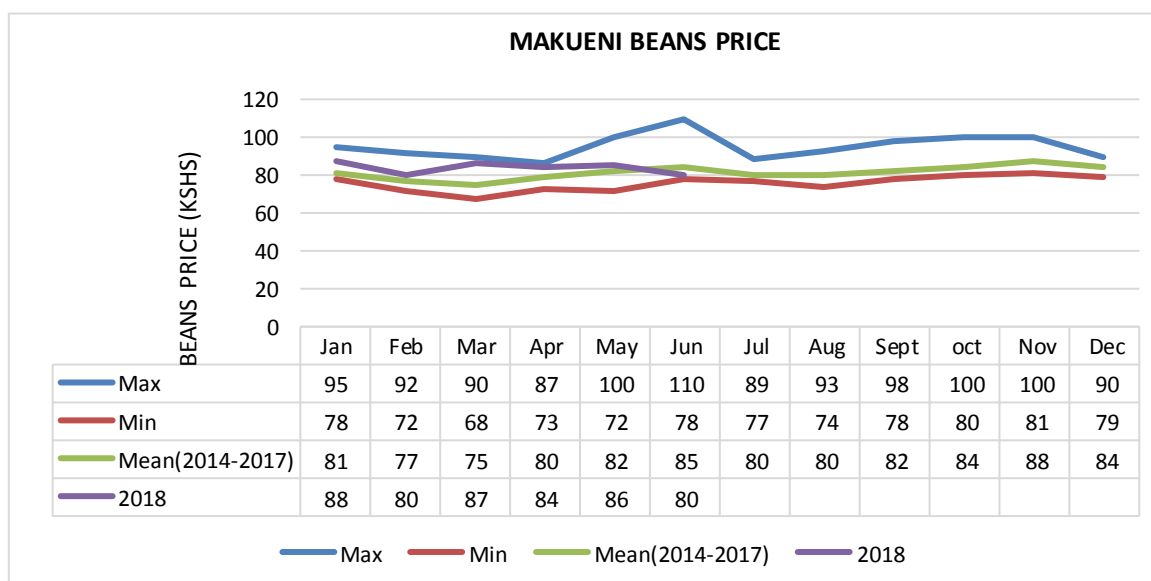
4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize



- The average market price of maize decreased by a shilling from Ksh34 to ksh33 per kilogramme.
- It's expected that the price will remain stable for the next two months since the commodity was readily available in the markets.

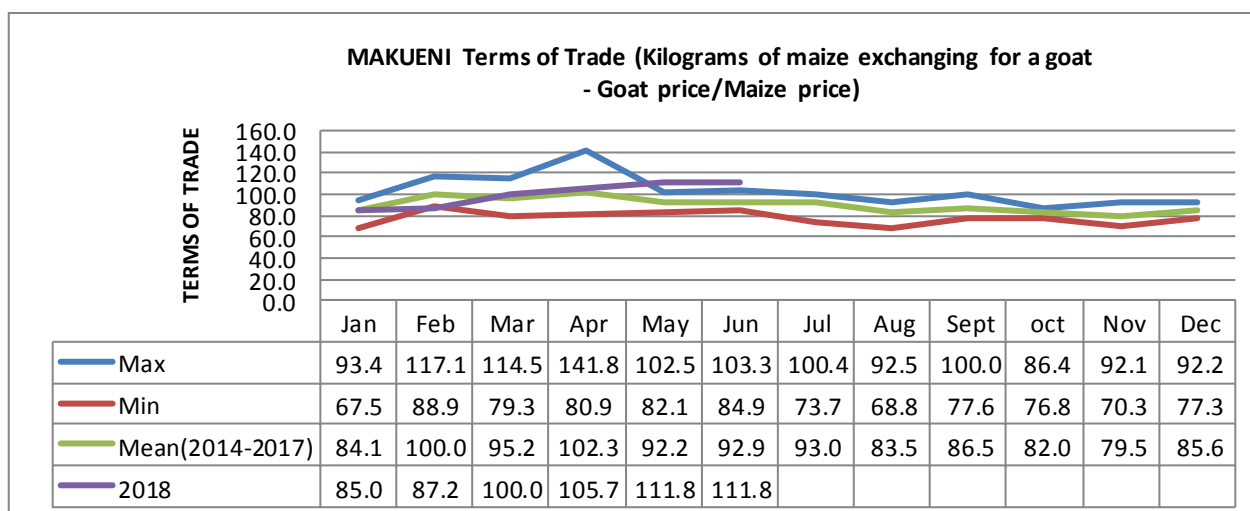
4.2.3 Beans



- The average price for beans for the month recorded as KSh80 a decrease from Ksh86.
- The prices varied from one market to another.
- The decrease in price is attributed to the availability of alternative cereals like pigeon peas and cow peas.
- Compared to the long term mean the current prices was slightly below normal.

4.2.3.1 Other outstanding observations.

4.3 Livestock Price Ratio/Terms of Trade



- Terms of trade were favorable 111.8 implying that from a sale of one goat, a farmer could purchase 111.8 Kg of maize.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

Marginal mixed Farming zone

- Milk consumption per day in this zone was between 500mls to 750mls against the long term of 750mls to 1000mls.
- The prices were high at Ksh 55-60per litre against the normal of Ksh55.
- Milk consumption is expected to improve even more with the availability of pasture and water for livestock.

Mixed farming Zone (Food crop/Livestock).

- Milk consumption per day in this zone was between 500mls to 750mls.
- The current milk price was Ksh 50 against the normal of Ksh45.

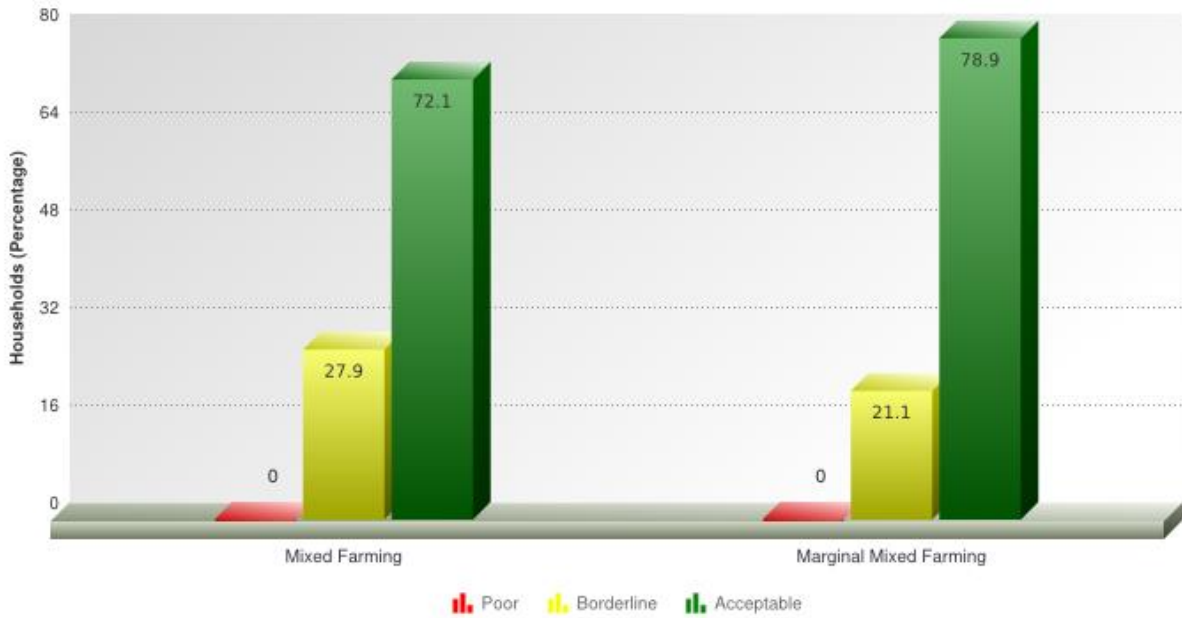
Mixed Farming Zone (Coffee/Dairy)

- Milk consumption is about 1000mls to 1500mls. The average milk price was Ksh 50 against the normal of Ksh45.

5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

- In mixed farming zone 72.1percent of households had an acceptable food consumption score while 27.9 percent of households were at the borderline. In the marginal mixed farming zone 78.9percent of households had an acceptable food consumption score while 21.1 percent of households were at the borderline.
- This is attributed to the availability of food and money to buy food.
- Below is an illustration of food consumption score in different livelihood zones.

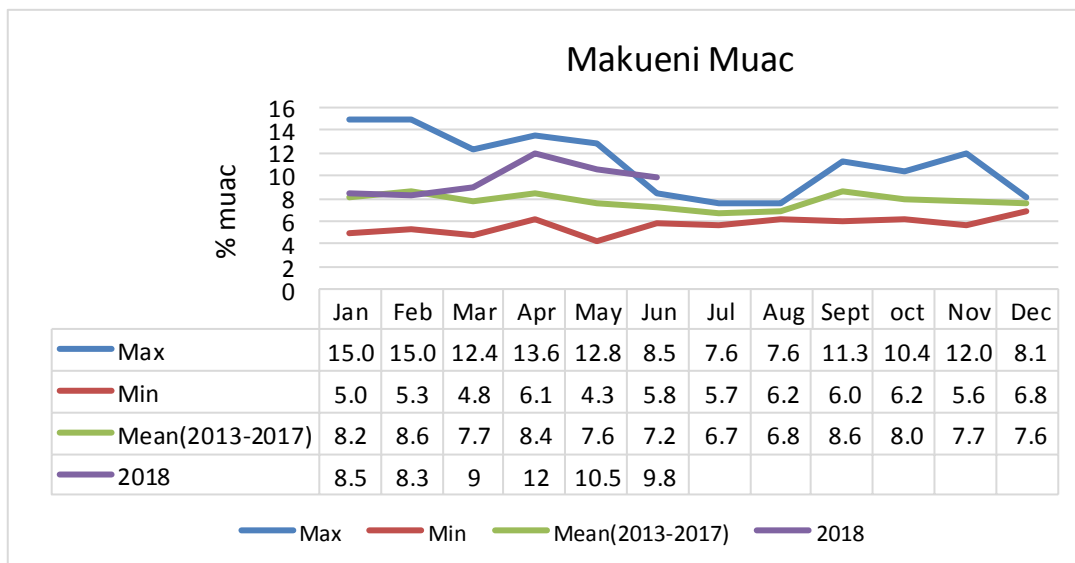
Makueni County Food Consumption Score by Livelihoodzones - June 2018



5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The percentage of children (under-fives) at risk of malnutrition was 9.8% a decrease from 10.5% though within the normal range.
- Compared to the long term average the situation was above normal.

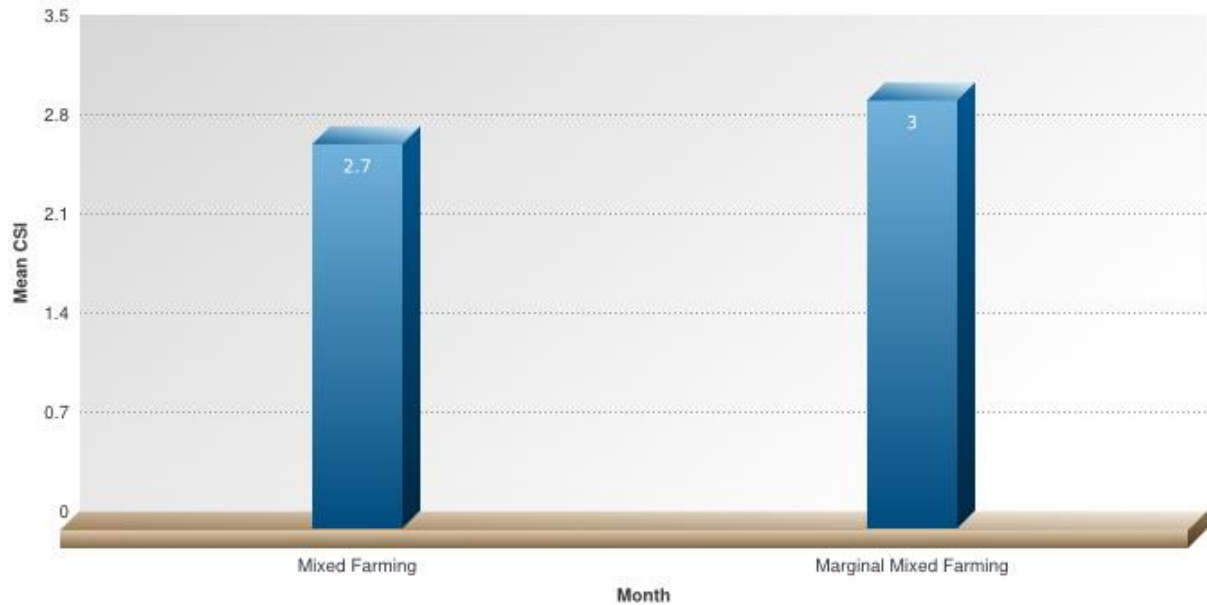


5.4 COPING STRATEGIES

- The CSI in Mixed farming livelihood zone was 2.7, a decrease from 3.2 while in the Marginal mixed farming zone it was 3, implying that less coping strategies were being employed during the month.
- The average CSI for the county was 2.8

Makueni County - Coping Strategy Index

June 2018



6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 NON-FOOD INTERVENTIONS

- Ward community contingency planning training by NDMA in collaboration with line department officers in Nguu, Makindu and Kiu wards.
- Asset Creation projects funded by WFP through NDMA and implemented by WVK in North Makueni and KRCS in South Makueni.
- Training of Farmers on feed preservation, utilisation and Hay bailing.
- Capacity building of farmers on Aflatoxin
- Post-harvest management.
- 1000 pieces of Iron sheets from ministry of devolution and a consignment of buckets, Jerri cans, bar soaps and aqua tabs were received from UNICEF and were distributed to the flood victims.

6.2 FOOD AID

- There was no food aid received during the month under review.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement/Human Wildlife conflict/Floods

- No major incidence reported.

7.2 Migration.

- No major livestock migration.

7.3 Food security prognosis

- The drought situation is currently normal but with the rains having ceased, the situation is expected to gradually deteriorate from the month of July through September. The available pasture is expected to last the county until the next rain season.
- The breached earth dams and pans as a result of the heavy rains received in April may hamper availability of water to livestock which may have to cover longer trekking distances to access it. The terms of trade which are currently fair are not expected to change much over the next two months. This is because the livestock body condition for both large and small herd is good and there was bumper harvest of legumes such as green grams.
- Maize harvest was relatively good and is currently being consumed in its green state. This has seen the price of a kilogramme of maize drop to an average of Ksh. 33. Staple foods are available in markets at moderate prices.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Pasture harvesting and silage storage trainings for farmers.
- Proper post-harvest storage techniques trainings for farmers.