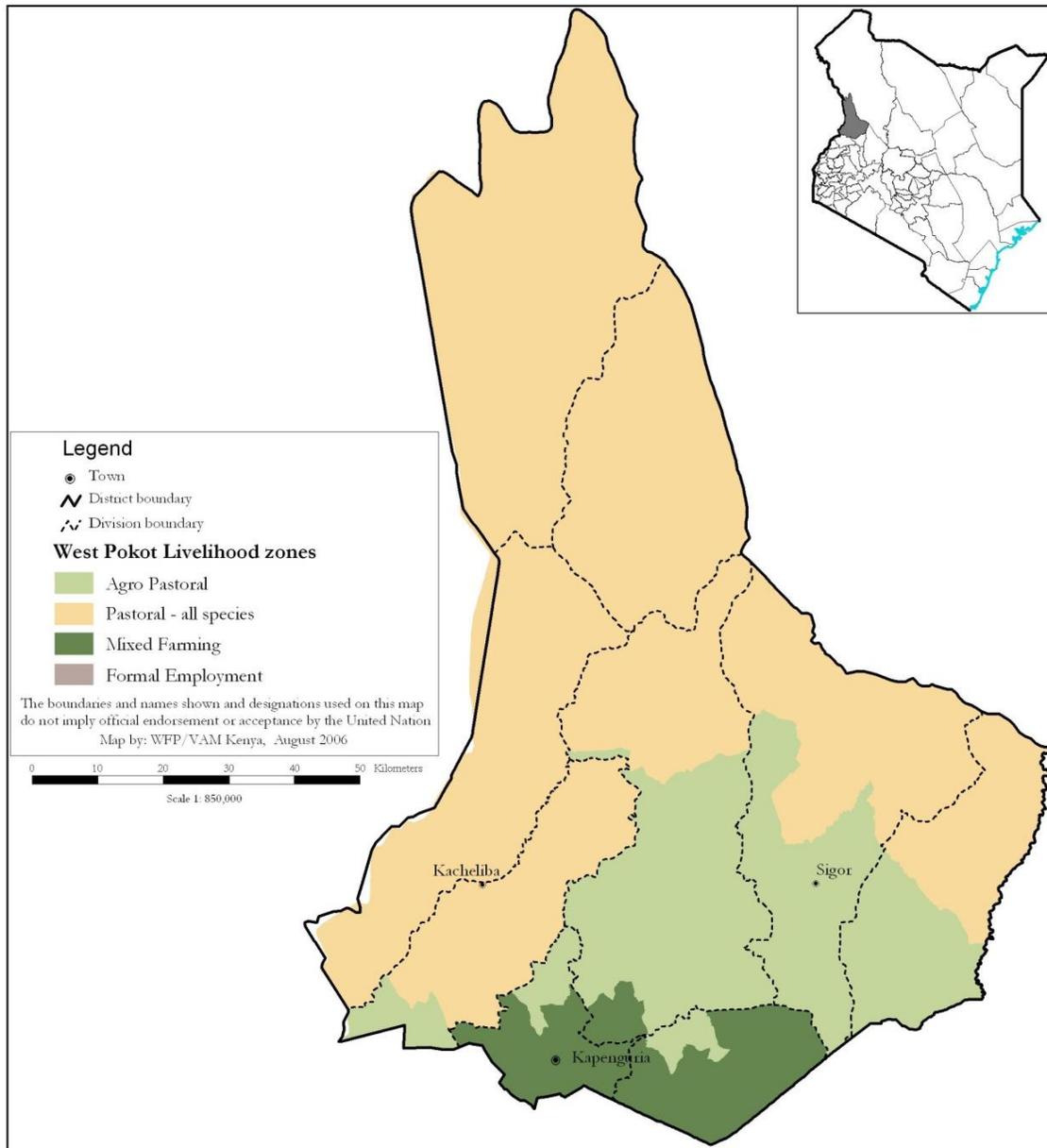


**WEST POKOT COUNTY
2019 LONG RAINS FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY ASSESSMENT REPORT**



A Joint Report by the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG)¹ and West Pokot County Steering Group

July 2019

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2019 Long Rains Assessment in West Pokot County was conducted by the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) in conjunction with the technical members of the West Pokot County Steering Group (CSG). The members were drawn from livestock, agriculture, water and health and nutrition sectors and other stakeholders. The assessment was carried out in the three major livelihood zones namely; Pastoral, Agro-pastoral and Mixed Farming livelihood zones. The main objective of the assessment was to develop an objective, evidence-based and transparent food and nutrition security situation analysis following the long rains of 2019. The situation analysis was done using both quantitative and qualitative methods.

From the assessment findings, near normal performance of rainfall, livestock diseases and incidences of insecurity were the main food insecurity drivers. Food is currently available in households in the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone as evidenced by the maize stocks held at household level which are 28 percent above the long-term average. Livestock productivity is normal as evidenced by the good body condition of livestock due to availability of pasture and browse across the livelihoods. The prevalence of livestock diseases was normal and as such, the mortality rates remained normal. In terms of food access, staple food prices are 14 percent above the five-year average while those of livestock are 17 percent above the long term average. Consequently, the terms of trade are three percent above average maintaining favorable household purchasing power and access to food. Markets are functioning normally and are well provisioned with food and non-food supplies from the medium and high agricultural production areas of the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone and from Uganda. Currently, water is available and accessible largely from sub surface water sources. Distances to water sources have reduced across the livelihoods. Consequently, household water consumption has remained normal across the livelihoods. In the Pastoral Livelihood Zone, households are consuming 8- 10 litres of water per person per day, while those in the Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zone are consuming 10-15 litres per person per day. In the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone, households are consuming more than 15 litres per person per day.

According to the SMART survey data, households having acceptable, borderline and poor food consumption as at June 2019 were 69, 24.7 and 6.3 percent respectively. National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) surveillance data indicated that households having acceptable, borderline and poor food consumption as at July 2019 were 70.3, 25.7 and 4.1 percent respectively. Majority of the households (67.6 percent) were not employing any food consumption related coping strategies and the remaining 32.4 percent used stressed coping strategies. With regard to livelihood change, there were 91.2 percent not employing any coping strategy while another 6.1 and 2.7 percent were using Stressed and emergency coping strategies respectively. The Nutrition status is Serious with Global Acute Malnutrition rates of 11.7 percent based on weight for height z- scores. As at May 2019, the Under Five Mortality Rate and the Crude Mortality Rate (CMR) were 0.07 per 1000 live births and 0.2 per 10,000 persons per day respectively (Registrar of Births and Deaths-West Pokot County). The mortality rates are below the emergency cut offs.

West Pokot County is classified as ‘Stressed’ (IPC Phase 2) in the pastoral and some parts of the agro-pastoral livelihood zones while the mixed farming livelihood zone is in the ‘Minimal’ (IPC Phase 1).

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 County background

West Pokot County is located in the northwestern region of the country. The county borders the Republic of Uganda to the west, Trans Nzoia and Elgeyo Marakwet counties to the south, Turkana County to the north and Baringo county to the east. Administratively, West Pokot county is subdivided into Pokot North, Pokot South, Pokot Central and Pokot West sub counties, covering approximately 9,169.4 square kilometers (km²). According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), the county has a projected population of 649,418 persons (KNBS, 2016). There

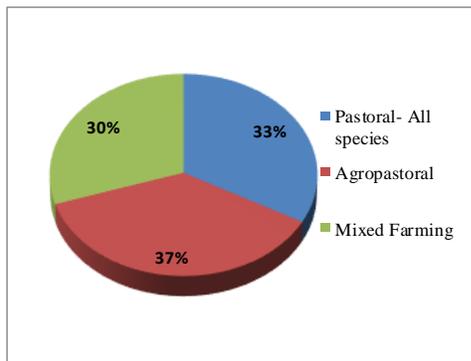


Figure 1: Population Proportions per livelihood

are three main livelihood zones namely; Pastoral (All Species) Livelihood Zone, Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zone and the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone occupied by 33 percent, 37 percent and 30 percent of the population (Figure 1). The households mainly engage in livestock keeping and food crop farming. Livestock production is the mainstay of the county contributing to 69 percent, 30 percent and 26 percent to cash incomes in the Pastoral-all species, Mixed Farming and Agro-pastoral Livelihood zones respectively. Cash crop farming and poultry

production each contributes to 15 percent to cash incomes in the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone and the Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zone respectively. The main hazards experienced in the county are livestock pests and diseases, malaria outbreaks and waterborne disease epidemics such as cholera and dysentery.

1.2 Methodology and approach

The food and nutrition security assessment exercise is bi-annual and its main objective is to develop an objective, evidence-based and transparent food and nutrition security situation analysis following the rainfall performance. Quantitative and qualitative methods were used during the exercise. The primary data was collected from the community through semi-structured focus group discussions and key informant and market interviews that were carried out in the three main livelihood zones. The sectoral checklists were administered to the relevant departments which provided the quantitative data and sectoral briefs during the County Steering Group (CSG) meeting. Secondary data provided included livelihood zone data, satellite rainfall data, routine Demographic Health Information Systems (DHIS) data, livestock and staple food prices and Mid-Upper-Arm Circumference (MUAC) data, National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) monthly drought early warning bulletins and SMART survey reports among others. The data collected was then collated, analyzed and triangulated and analyzed by livelihood zones. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) protocols were used to identify the possible causes of food insecurity and classify the severity of food insecurity.

The multi-sectoral and multi-agency assessment exercise was conducted between 8th and 12th July 2019. The assessment team comprised of the technical experts from the departments of agriculture, livestock, water, education and health and nutrition of the West Pokot CSG and a technical team of the Kenya Food Security Steering Group. Other partners who participated at County level were the Action against Hunger (ACF) and Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS). The assessment was

carried out in the three main livelihoods of the county, with representative samples from each of the livelihoods. The sampling sites included Kamketo, Orolwo, Orwa and Kitelakapel in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone, Tulungwo, Nyangaita, Ortum in the Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zone and Chepkono and Talau in the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone. Market interviews were done at Kamketo, Ortum, Chepkono and Orolwo.

2.0 DRIVERS OF FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN THE COUNTY

2.1 Rainfall Performance

The onset of the long rains occurred during the third dekad of April, which was 30 days late. Cumulatively, the county received an average of 169 mm of rainfall, which was 60 percent of normal compared to 281mm normally. Most parts of the county received 75–90 percent of normal. However, the southwestern areas of the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone of Pokot West sub county and the northern areas of the Pastoral Livelihood Zone of Pokot North received 110–125 percent of normal. Temporal distribution was poor with highest rainfall amounts received during the 3rd dekad of April and the 1st dekad of June. Spatial distribution was also poor (Figure 2). Vegetation condition index as at June was above normal indicating rejuvenated forage coverage, which was also observed during the transect drives.

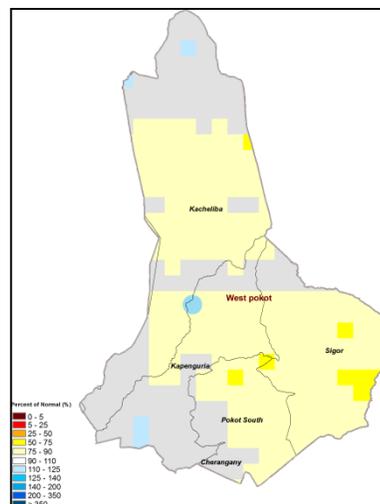


Figure 2: Rainfall performance as a percent of normal

2.2 Insecurity/Conflict

Insecurity incidences were reported at Chesezon along the West Pokot–Marakwet border, which led to the closure of Chesezon market. As a result, households had to travel to Lomut market to access food items. Also, some of the households in the area reported not to have planted for fear of attacks. In Orwa– Sarmach along the West Pokot– Turkana border, several herds of livestock were lost to cattle rustlers.

2.3 Other shocks and hazards

Among the livestock diseases reported, Hemorrhagic Septicemia in camels led to the death of an estimated 106 camels in Kamketo area in Kasei Ward of Pokot North sub county. Crops in the farming areas in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone were affected by Fall Army Worm (FAW), which is likely to reduce production. In the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone, frost led to the reduction of the Irish potatoes in the farms. In addition, frost effects on local vegetables in Pokot South sub county reduced their availability in the markets.

3.0 IMPACTS OF DRIVERS ON FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

3.1 Availability

Pasture and browse is currently available across the three livelihoods in the county and are expected to last to the next season. Livestock body condition is good for all livestock species. Milk is available across the livelihoods. However, it was noted that milk available in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone was largely from camels. Households in the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone

have plenty of maize stocks which they were hoarding waiting for favorable prices. Supply of food stuffs in the markets is normal supported by imports from Uganda. Overall, food is available in the county.

3.1.1 Crops Production

The long rains season in West Pokot County is the main season and contributes to 90 percent of the annual total production. The main crops grown in the county under rain-fed production in the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone are maize, beans, sorghum and Irish potatoes. In the Agro-pastoral and Pastoral Livelihood zones, maize and sorghum are the main crops grown with some areas in the Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zone also growing beans. The food crops aforementioned are largely grown for local food consumption across the livelihoods except in the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone where maize and Irish potatoes are also sold. In the Mixed Farming, Agro-pastoral and Pastoral Livelihood zones, maize contributes 39 percent, 52 percent and 55 percent to food respectively. The contribution of maize to cash income is 30 percent, 28 percent and 15 percent in the Mixed Farming, Agro-pastoral and Pastoral Livelihood zones respectively. Beans contribute 21 percent to cash incomes and 15 percent to food in the Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zone. In addition, beans also contribute to eight percent to cash incomes and 15 percent to food in the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone. Irish potatoes contribute 20 percent to cash incomes and 25 percent to food in the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone.

Rain-fed Cropping

Table 1: Rain-fed crop production

Crop	Area planted during the 2019 Long rains season (Ha)	Long term average area planted during the long rains (Ha)	Percent of Long term average	2019 long rains production (90 kg bags) Actual	Long term average production planted during the long rains (Ha)	Percent of the Long-term average
Maize	36,671	36,724	100	1,115,960	1,079,854	103
Beans	10,186	10,164.4	100	61,095	61,336	100
Sorghum	874	1,075	81	6,137.5	9,033	68
Irish Potatoes	1,850	1,850	105	156,000	200,000	78

The area planted under rain-fed production for maize and beans remained the same as long-term average for the season (Table 1). Acreage planted in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone was noted to have reduced. However, in the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone and the Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zone, household increased the area planted due to the provision of certified seeds by the county government. Following delayed rainfall onset that led to differences in planting times, the maize crop was at various growth stages ranging from weeding to tasseling. Maize production is expected to increase marginally by three percent while that of beans is expected to remain the same as the long-term average (Table 1). The increase in maize production is mostly expected in the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone and the Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zone. Low production is however expected in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone.

An estimated 20 percent of households reduced their acreage in the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Livelihood zones due to delayed onset of rains. In Nyangaita and Cheptulel location, 90 percent of the households did not plant at all despite having prepared land. Consequently, the availability

of food from own production in these areas is likely to be compromised over the next three months increasing household dependency on markets. A Fall Army Worm (FAW) infestation affected 40 percent of the crops planted in the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zones and 20 percent in Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone. The FAW infestation is likely to reduce the projected production if effective control measures are not put in place.

The acreage under sorghum reduced to 81 percent of the long-term average attributed to reduced availability and provision of certified seeds and preference for maize. The production of sorghum is expected to be 68 percent of the long-term average. The area planted for Irish potatoes was five percent above the long-term average while production is projected to be 78 percent of the long-term average. The increase in acreage was due to provision of certified seeds by the government and other stakeholders. The reduction in production of Irish potatoes is attributed to frost and post-harvest losses, pests and diseases that led to 22percent crop loss.

Irrigated Cropping

Table 2: Acreage and Production under Irrigation in West Pokot County

Crop	Area planted during the 2019 long rains season (Ha)	Short term average area planted during the long rains (Ha)	Percent of the short-term average	2019 long rains production (90Kg) Actual bag)	Short term average production during the long rains	Percent Difference
Maize	325	200	163	8100	5,000	62

In the current season, only maize was put under irrigation in which acreage planted increased to 63 percent above the long-term average (Table 2). The increase resulted from increased irrigation infrastructure and efficiency augmented by prevailing rains as well as FAW management. Production was 62 percent above the long-term average attributed to efficiency augmented by prevailing rains and ongoing fall army worm management.

3.1.2 Cereals stock

Table 3: Cereal Stocks

Commodity	Maize		Rice		Sorghum	
	Current	LTA	Current	LTA	Current	LTA
Farmers	210,273	164,790	0	0	2,513	2,106
Traders	96,918	141,563	10,350	10,000	2,758	2,300
Millers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Aid/NCPB	36,837	35,016	0	0	0	0
Total	344,028	341,369	10,350	10,000	5,271	4,406

Stocks held by the households were 28 percent above the long-term average and were largely in the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone (Table 3). The huge stocks held resulted from hoarding tendencies by farmers as they await favorable prices. Stocks held by the traders were 68 percent of the long-term average. The low stocks held by the traders are because cross border trade volumes from external sources like Uganda and Trans Nzoia reduced and farmers are not selling their stocks. Sorghum stocks held by households are 19 percent and 20 percent above long-term average in Mixed Farming and Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zones respectively while Pastoral Livelihood Zone do not hold any stocks. Rice stocks with traders stand at 3.5 percent above long-

term average as a result of entry of new traders in the market (Table 3). Maize stocks in the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone will last for the next three months which is normal.

3.1.3 Livestock Production

The major livestock species reared in the county are cattle, goats, sheep, camel and poultry. Livestock production contributes approximately 69 percent to cash incomes in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone, 30 percent in the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone and 26 percent in the Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zone. Cattle, goats and sheep contribute to 25 percent, 40 percent and 30 percent to cash incomes in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone respectively. In the Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zone, cattle, goats and sheep contribute to 25 percent, 30 percent and 28 percent to cash incomes. In the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone, cattle contribute 55 percent to cash incomes and 49 percent to food. Cattle are mainly kept for milk and meat, while sheep and goats are reared for sale. Over 70 percent of all the cattle in the county are of indigenous breed. However, the county government has bought dairy cattle breed to be distributed to the different wards of the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone and the Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zone of the county while Sahiwal bulls and Galla bucks will be used to improve cattle and goat breeds in the Pastoral Livelihood zone. The move is aimed at improving the livestock breeds, ultimately improving milk and meat production, reducing food insecurity.

Pasture and browse situation

Pasture condition is good across all livelihood zones attributed to the off-season rainfall witnessed in the county over this period. The available pasture is adequate to meet the needs of the livestock for the next two-three months in Agro-pastoral and Pastoral Livelihood Zones which is normal in this time of the year. In some areas, in Nyang'aita, in Pokot Central in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone, pasture is fair to good. Browse is expected to last 3-4 months across the livelihood zones. Currently, browse available is above normal as a result of the continued off-season rains. The acacia plant is very evident in Pokot Central sub county threatening the pasture growth because of its canopy.

Livestock Productivity

Livestock body condition

Livestock body condition was good for all species across the livelihood zones, a factor attributed to availability of adequate pasture and browse for livestock. The livestock body conditions are attributed to improved water availability. Livestock body condition is expected to remain stable across the livelihood zones over the next three months. The good body conditions will positively impact on livestock productivity and market value of live animals.

Tropical livestock units (Tropical Livestock Units) and birth rates

In the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones TLUs remained normal for the various groups of households. Birth rates and calving intervals remained normal across all livelihood zones.

Milk Production and consumption

Milk production is currently below average owing to the impact of the prolonged dry period between January and April coupled with livestock migration into Uganda during the period. As a result of reduced milk availability, households are consuming 50 percent of the long-term average in all livelihood zones. The milk that is available for sale is mainly from Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone and that of camels in the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zones. Milk price

is normal in the Mixed Farming Livelihood zone at Ksh. 45 per litre and above normal in the Agro-pastoral and Pastoral Livelihood Zones at Ksh. 60 and Ksh. 75 per litre respectively. Milk availability is likely to improve following the improved availability of pasture and browse across the livelihoods.

Migration, Diseases and Mortalities

Livestock back migration, mainly cattle, returning from Uganda was reported in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone in the northern and central parts of the county. However, this was on a smaller scale compared to the normal. Livestock diseases reported recently include; Contagious Caprine Pleural Pneumonia, (CCPP), Petite Pestes des Ruminant (PPR), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Lumpy Skin Disease and East Coast Fever (ECF). The veterinary department has already conducted ring vaccination across the county to control the diseases. In Karpu in Kamketo area in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone, 106 camels have reportedly died from Hemorrhagic Septicemia.

Water for Livestock

The main sources of water for livestock were rivers, streams boreholes, water pans and *lagers*. The water volumes in these sources were well recharged. The current returning trekking distance is 1-2 km across all the livelihood zones compared to the normal of 2-6 km. In the Pastoral Livelihood Zone, the trekking distances are expected to increase as rains subside gradually. Currently, the watering frequency is once a day for cattle which is normal at this time of the year. The quality of water is good and this may increase milk production as animals take more water

3.2 Access

3.2.1 Market operations

The main livestock markets are Kishaunet in the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone, Chepareria, Ortum, Sigor and Lomut in the Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zone and Orolwo, Nakujit and Kacheliba in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone. The main food commodity markets are Makutano, Chepareria, Chepkopegh, Ortum, Orolwo, Kaibichich, Kacheliba and Amakuriat. Food commodities are mostly supplied internally especially from Makutano, Kishaunet, Chepnyal, Cheptuya, Kasei and Kongelai markets. All markets were operational except Chesegon that was closed due to insecurity. The quantities traded for maize and beans were near normal at 90 percent for such time of the year in the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone while in the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zones, less volumes are traded due to diminishing cross border volumes.

3.2.2 Markets prices and Terms of Trade

Maize price

The average price for a kilogram of maize was Ksh 56 in July, which was 14 percent above the five-year average and 87 percent above the 2018 prices (Figure 3). The atypically high prices

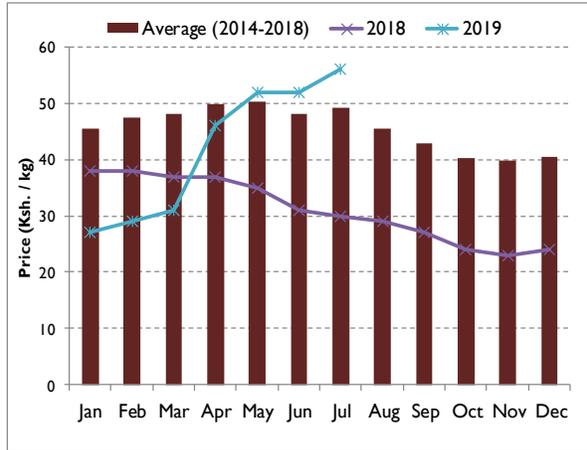


Figure 3: Maize Prices

resulted from a general maize shortage including in markets such as Orolwo and Kamketo which rely heavily on external supplies from Kitale and cross-border imports from Uganda. Maize prices have been on an upward trend as from March 2019. Based on community interviews, higher maize prices were reported in the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zones at Ksh. 60-65. The prices are likely to reduce slightly as from August when the current crop is expected to be harvested and thus will start stabilizing the prices. The prices are likely to remain above the long-term averages for the next three months.

Goat price

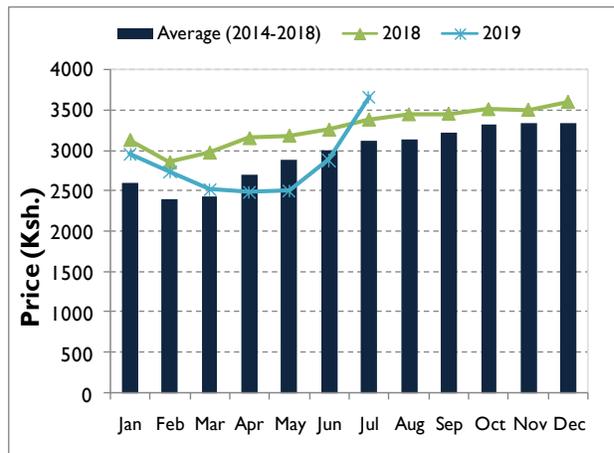


Figure 4: Goat Prices in West Pokot County

The price of a medium sized goat was Ksh. 3,653 in July, which was 17 percent above the five-year average and 8 percent above those in 2018 (Figure 4). Between January and April, prices decreased unseasonable due to declines in body conditions. However, with the onset of the long rains, prices increased from May as market supplies decreased. The goat prices are likely to follow the normal upward trend remaining within the seasonal five yearlong-term averages.

Terms of trade

Currently, the sale of a goat can buy 65 kg of maize compared to the five-year average of 63 kg and 112kg in 2018. The trends of the terms of trade were initially on a downward trend since January 2019 although they were generally above the long-term average until April when they became lower than the long-term average (Figure 5) following the decrease in goat prices with a notable increase in maize prices across the livelihoods. The terms of trade are likely to remain improve in the next three months as some changes are expected in both the goat and maize prices where goat prices are likely to be on an upward trend while maize prices are likely to reduce.

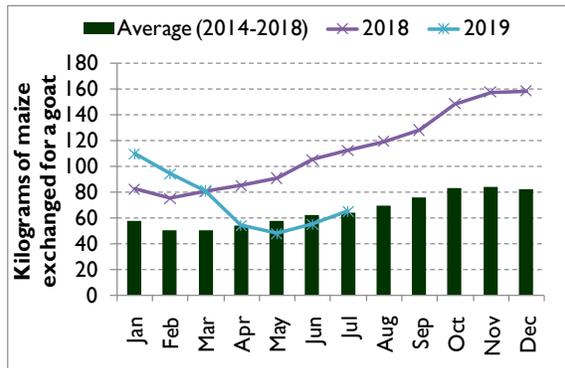


Figure 5: Terms of Trade in West Pokot County

3.2.3 Income sources

The main sources of cash incomes are varied across the livelihood zones. Livestock production including meat, milk, hides, skins and by products contributes 69, 30 and 26 percent to cash incomes in the Pastoral-all species, Mixed Farming and Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zones respectively. In the Mixed Farming and Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zones, food crop production, contributes 25 and 20 percent respectively to cash incomes. In the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone, cash crop production contributes 15 percent to cash incomes while small businesses contribute to 10 percent. Additionally, in the Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zone, poultry production contributes 15 percent. Other current sources of income for the households are charcoal burning and casual labour as noted during the community interviews. Currently, 24, 23 and 21 percent of the households are getting their income from the sale of livestock, casual labour and sale of crops respectively while 11 percent of the households are getting their incomes from petty trading and another 10 percent from formal employment at (West Pokot SMART Survey, June 2019)

3.2.4 Water access and availability

Major water sources

The main sources of water for domestic and livestock use in the County are rivers, shallow wells, springs, traditional shallow wells and boreholes across all the three livelihood zones and the sources are normal at this time of the year. Rivers recharged to 75 percent of their normal capacities while boreholes and dams recharged to 65 percent. Currently, 75 percent of the boreholes were operational with the rest being non-operational as a result of frequent breakages due to continuous over use and lack of fast moving spares for repairs. Vandalism of some solar operated boreholes also made them non-operational. Water pans were operational at 90 percent while the remaining 10 percent were non-operational due to siltation, broken embankments and spillways.

Distance to water sources

The average return distance to water sources have reduced considerably compared to the normal across all the livelihood zones due to the good recharge of open sources. The current average return distances to the water sources is 1-2 km in Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zone while in Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone, the return distances have also reduced to less than one kilometre. In the pastoral

Livelihood Zone, the return distances have reduced from eight kilometres normally to five kilometers. Areas with long trekking distances include Nyangaita, Lokodoso and Kong’elai.

Waiting time at the source, Cost of water and water consumption

The cost of water in most public sources remains free of charge. However, in cases where water has to be sold, the cost was at an average cost of Ksh. 20 per jerrican by the water vendors. The stable water prices can be attributed to the availability and accessibility of water at proximate water sources. The waiting time at the watering points in all livelihood zones reduced significantly. In the Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zone waiting time at source was 30minutes down compared to 60 minutes normally. In the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone, the waiting time averaged 0-20 minutes while in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone it was 30-60 minutes. The average water consumption per person per day was 8-10 litres in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone, 10-15 litres per person per day in the Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zone and more than 15 litres per person per day in the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone. Water consumption was normal across the livelihoods.

3.2.5 Food Consumption

According to the NDMA Early Warning Bulletin, as at July 2019, the proportions of households having acceptable, borderline and poor food consumption scores in the county were 70.3, 25.7 and 4.1 percent respectively (Figure 6).

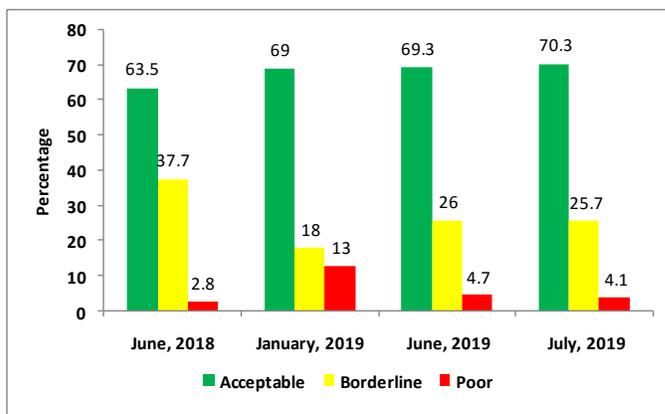


Figure 6: Food Consumption Trends for West Pokot County

The proportion of households that were having acceptable food consumption scores in the Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zone were 100 percent and 50 percent in Pastoral Livelihood Zone. Households having borderline and poor food consumption scores in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone were 43.2 and 6.8 percent respectively. Majority of the

households (67.6 percent) were not employing any food consumption related coping strategies and the remaining 32.4 percent used coping strategies. Stressed coping strategies were employed by 76.7 and 2.3 percent of households in the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zonse respectively. Those not employing any coping mechanisms were 97.7 and 23.3 percent respectively. Survey results indicated that the proportions of households having acceptable, borderline and poor food consumption scores in the county were 69, 24.7 and 6.3 percent respectively compared to 63. 5, 37.7 and 2.8 percent who had acceptable, borderline and poor food consumption scores in the same period in 2018.

3.2.6 Coping strategy

According to the NDMA bulletin, the mean coping strategy index (CSI) for the county in July was 2.3 and was comparable June 2019 was 2.5. There was noted a reduction in the current month from 4.5 reported in May 2019. In the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zones, the coping strategy index in July was 0.6 and 5.0 respectively while it was in 3.1 in the pastoral livelihood zone and 1.9 in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone in the month of June 2019. With regard to livelihood

change, there were 91.2 percent not employing any coping strategy while another 6.1 and 2.7 percent were using Stressed coping strategies and emergency coping strategies respectively. In the agro pastoral livelihood zone, 88.3percent were not using any coping mechanisms while the remaining 5.0 and 6.7 were employing stressed and emergency coping strategies respectively. In the pastoral livelihood zone 93.2 percent indicated not using any coping while the remaining 6.8 percent were using Stressed coping strategies. Trends indicate that there were no significant changes in the severity of the food consumption related coping strategies across the livelihood zones during the long rains season across the livelihoods. According to the SMART survey, the most commonly employed food consumption related strategies were reduction of the number of meals and reducing the portion size across all livelihood zones.

3.3 Utilization

3.3.1 Morbidity and mortality patterns

The most prevalent diseases in the county were upper respiratory tract infections, diarrhea and malaria as collaborated by data from the SMART survey which indicated that 63, 42 and 22 percent

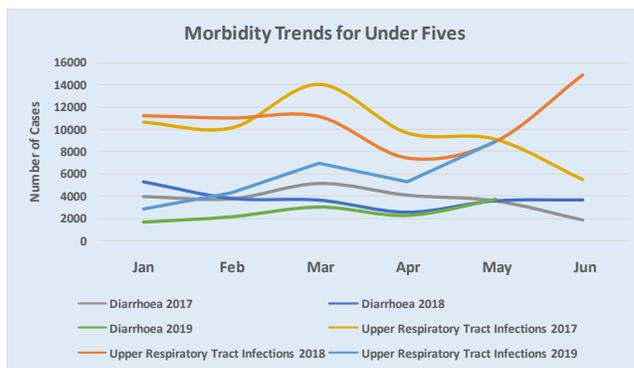


Figure 7: Morbidity trends for Under Fives in West Pokot

of children under the age of five years were reported to have had malaria, acute respiratory infections and diarrhea respectively two weeks to the survey. For the under-fives, the upper respiratory tract infections for the period January to May 2019 were on an upward trend but below the number of cases reported each month in the year 2018 and 2017. The upward trend noted especially in the month of May is attributed to cold conditions experienced after the onset of the rains. Cases of diarrhea among the children aged less than five years for the period January to May 2019 followed the seasonal trend (Figure 7).

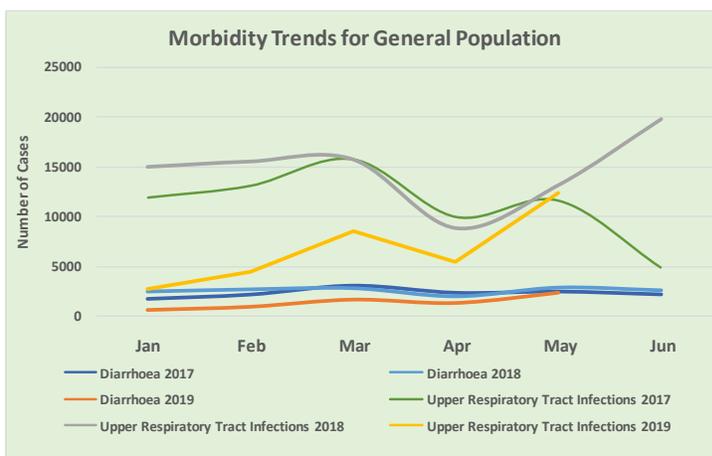


Figure 8: Morbidity trends for the General Population in West Pokot

the reference period compared to a similar time in the previous two years. The lower prevalence

of children under the age of five years were reported to have had malaria, acute respiratory infections and diarrhea respectively two weeks to the survey. For the under-fives, the upper respiratory tract infections for the period January to May 2019 were on an upward trend but below the number of cases reported each month in the year 2018 and 2017. The upward trend noted especially in the month of May is attributed to cold conditions experienced after the onset of

The morbidity trends for the general population were similar to those exhibited by the children under five years. Upper respiratory tract infections were on an upward trend especially in the month of May; however, they were still below the cases reported in the same period in 2018. Diarrhea remained within the seasonal norms (Figure 8). Cases of malaria for both the under-fives and the general population were lower during

may be attributed to the relatively dry conditions that were experienced during the period as there were minimal rains received during that time. Cases of dysentery decreased by 55 percent and were 574 in January to May 2019 compared to 1278 and 1457 in the same period in 2018 and 2017 respectively.

The crude mortality rate (CMR) and under five mortality rate (U5MR) from January to May 2018 were 0.01 per 10,000 per day and 0.16/1000 live births per day respectively remained relatively similar to what was reported in 2019 where U5MR and the CMR were 0.07 per 1000 live births and 0.02 per 10,000 persons per day respectively (Registrar of Births and Deaths -West Pokot). The rates reported in the same period in 2019 were below the emergency thresholds.

3.3.2 Immunization and Vitamin A supplementation

Based on DHIS data, the proportion of fully immunized children in the county between January to June 2019, was 49.2 percent a slight increase from 48.2 percent reported in the same period in 2018. However, it was below the national target of 80 percent. The increase was attributed to integrated outreaches that are being done in the hard to reach areas by the Kenya Red Cross Society. It was however noted that immunization coverage during the reference period and in the

Table 4: Coverage for Fully Immunized Child per Sub-County

County	Sub County	2017	2018	2019
		Percentage		
West Pokot County	Pokot Central	63.2%	76.8%	52.9%
	Pokot North	30.7%	36.6%	36.7%
	Pokot South	58.2%	67.9%	57.8%
	West Pokot	44.0%	56.9%	53.0%
Total		46.0%	56.9%	49.2%

previous years has been lowest in Pokot North Sub County (Table 2). The sub county has many hard to reach sites and the health facilities available are far apart thus the distance poses a challenge for the households. The above information as collaborated during community interviews where the for example in Kamketo Dispensary, the

community reported there was no fridge. Vitamin A coverage between January and June 2019 for children aged 6-59 months was 70.5 percent compared to 50 percent reported during the same period in 2018 (DHIS data). Vitamin A supplementation coverage for 6-11 months was 110.2 percent while that for children aged 12-59 months was 65.5 percent. The increase in the coverage was attributed to the Malezi Bora exercise that was done in May of 2019 coupled with the uninterrupted supply of Vitamin A supplements. Data from the nutrition SMART survey indicate that Vitamin A supplementation coverage for 6-11 months was 42.1 percent compared to 50 percent reported in the same period in 2018 while that for children aged 12-59 months was 36.1 percent an increase from 19.9 percent. Overall, the proportion of children aged 6-59 months who had received Vitamin A supplementation once were 57.2 percent and a notable increase from 21.2 percent reported in the same time the previous year.

3.3.3 Nutritional status and dietary diversity

Meal consumption has remained normal across the livelihoods with households in the pastoral livelihood zones consuming two meals per day and households in the mixed farming livelihood zone are consuming three meals. In the agro-pastoral livelihood zones about 50 percent are consuming the normal however, it was noted that the other 50 percent may have substituted one meal with less preferred food.

Household dietary diversity information collected during the nutrition SMART survey, indicated that majority of the households are consuming more than five food groups (46.4 percent) an increase from 31 percent reported at a similar time last year. The proportion of households consuming 3-5 food groups was 40 percent while those consuming less than three food groups was 13.6 percent. The most consumed food groups were cereals, vegetables, and oils which were consumed by 97.3, 92.1 and 79.3 percent of the households respectively. The survey results further indicated that milk and legumes were being consumed by 55 and 25 percent of the households confirming the scarcity and lack of access to the beans which is the most used legume as per the community interviews.

The NDMA surveillance data indicated that the proportion of children under five years with MUAC (<135mm) in July 2019 was 3.9 percent and was noted to be 62 percent below compared to long-term averages of 2014-2018. This proportion had significantly reduced from 4.7 percent reported in July 2018 (Figure 9). During the period January to June 2019, the proportion of children at risk of malnutrition based on mid upper arm circumference (MUAC) <135mm) had remained stable and significantly below the long-term averages. The low proportions were attributed to availability of milk across the livelihoods.

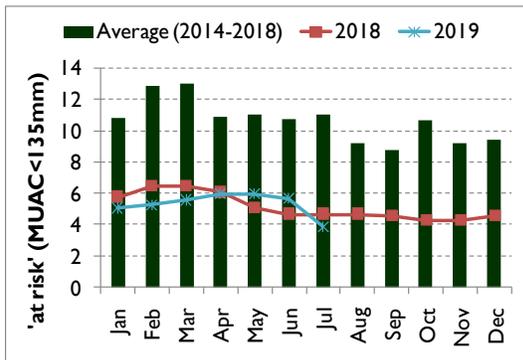


Figure 9: Proportion of Children at risk of malnutrition MUAC <135mm

The Global Acute Malnutrition rate is 11.7 percent and a severe acute malnutrition rate of 1.9 percent (SMART survey, June 2019). The results indicate that there has been no significant change in the nutrition status and thus it remains in the Serious Phase (IPC Acute Malnutrition Classification). Based on Global Acute Malnutrition rate by MUAC was 3.0 percent and is in the Acceptable level. The most likely cause of malnutrition are largely poor infant and young children feeding practices coupled with insufficient food at the household level especially in some parts of the agro-pastoral and pastoral livelihood zones.

3.3.4 Sanitation and Hygiene

From the available water sources, 34.1 percent of households were relying on sub surface water sources, 14 percent of the households relying on hand dug shallow wells, 11.3 percent using piped water system (11.3 percent) and 14.9 percent were relying on water from springs. The proportion of households that drew water from unprotected sources was 75.5 percent. Households drew water directly from the water source in 10 and 20 litres jerricans and store. Water treatment by the households was still at a low 10 percent in which 60 percent were using the boiling method while another 37 percent were using water treatment chemicals. The remaining two percent were using pot filters (SMART Survey, June 2019). The low water treatment rates may be the cause of the water borne diseases reported in the community.

According to the SMART Survey, 48.7 percent used pit latrines for disposal of human waste while another 45.4 were reported to be relieving themselves in the bush/ field. Of the households

interviewed during the nutrition survey 73.6 percent indicated that they were aware of hygiene practices, however only 7.5 percent were practicing hand-washing in all the four critical times. Those who did hand-washing using soap and water were 47.5 percent an improvement from 36.1 percent reported in the same period last year. Those who practiced hand-washing after visiting the toilet, before cooking, before eating and after taking the children to the toilet were 40, 46, 65 and 12 percent respectively (West Pokot SMART Survey, June 2019).

3.4 Trends of key food security indicators

Table 5: Food Security Trends in West Pokot County

Indicator	Short rains assessment, February, 2019		Long rains assessment, July, 2019	
	% of maize stocks held by households (agro-pastoral)	446 percent of LTA		28 percent above LTA
Livestock body condition	Agro-pastoral	Fair	Agro-pastoral	Good
	Pastoral	Fair	Pastoral	Good
	Mixed Farming	Good to fair	Mixed Farming	Good
Water consumption (litres per person per day)	Agro-pastoral	10-15lpppd	Agro-pastoral	10-15lpppd
	Pastoral	5-10 litres per person per day	Pastoral	8-10 litres per person per day
	Mixed Farming	15-20 litres per person per day	Mixed Farming	15-20 litres per person per day
Price of maize (per kg)	Ksh.27		Ksh. 56	
Distance to grazing	Mixed Farming	2 kilometers	Mixed Farming	<1 Kilometre
	Agro-pastoral	2-4 kilometres	Agro-pastoral	1-2 kilometres
	Pastoral	6-8 kilometres	Pastoral	3-4 kilometres
Terms of trade (pastoral zone)	111		65	
Coping strategy index	2.2		2.3	
Food consumption score	Acceptable	69	Acceptable	70.3
	Borderline	18	Borderline	25.7
	Poor	13	Poor	4.1

4.0 CROSS – CUTTING ISSUES

4.1 Education

4.1.1 Enrolment

There are 1197 Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) centers, 625 public primary schools and 142 public secondary schools in West Pokot County. Enrollment for girls in ECDE

and total enrollment in public primary schools remained stable across the three tiers of education. ECDE had 78,261 of which 38,835 were boys and 39,426 being girls. Primary schools recorded an enrollment of 182,069 of which 91,446 were boys while 90,623 were girls. Secondary schools' enrollment remained at 33177 (18,161-boys and girls-15,016). The enrollment remained stable across the three livelihood zones due to availability of food at the households and some feeding programmes in schools. The stable enrollment in secondary schools is as a result of government policy of 100 percent transition from primary school to secondary schools, provision of textbooks at the ratio of 1:1, provision of Education bursaries by the county Government of West Pokot, Free secondary Education and transfers from boarding schools because of the levies.

4.1.2 Participation

In all levels the attendance rate has been lower due to absence of feeding programmes in ECDE particularly provision of fortified porridge by the County Government. However, the attendance remained relatively stable due to low cost boarding primary schools and RMSP in Pokot North Sub County, the free primary education (FPE), free secondary education (FSE), and the government policy on 100 percent transition from primary and secondary schools. The few variations in attendance schools is attributed to the fact that the community has not valued the importance of education, relocation/migration, household chores, child marriage and teenage pregnancies.

4.1.3 Retention

The dropout rate increased across the three levels of education in second term 2019 as compared to first term 2019. In ECDE more boys compared to girl dropped out 10.6percent for boys and 12.3percent for girls, in primary section the dropout rate increased by 17 boys and 18 girls respectively. In secondary school the dropout rate increased by 20 for boys and 13 for girls (23 to 43) and (47 to 60) respectively. This was partly attributed to parents towards education and the value attached to it. Child marriage and teenage pregnancies were also cited as are reason for dropping out of school.

4.1.4 School meals programme

In West Pokot county, there are three types of school meals programme namely; the Regular School meals Programme (RSMP), Home Grown School meals programme (190 Schools) and the ECDE school feeding programme being implanted by the County Government of West Pokot in 1197 centres across the county. A total of 93,961boys and 90,570 girls (184,531 pupils) are benefiting from the programmes. The school meals programme had led to increased access, participation and retention in the benefiting schools. However, it is important to note that all the 190 schools with home grown school meals program have not received any food for Term II as the government did not disburse funds for purchase of food commodities as expected.

Inter Sectoral links where available

Majority of the schools get water from rivers and boreholes which comprise 70 percent while the remaining 30percent have piped water which are not sustainable. All schools have toilets although most of them are inadequate. 80 percent of schools do not have hand washing facilities while majority of feeder ECDE centres do not have functional latrines. Deworming and vitamin A supplements were done in ECDE centers. Data from the Ministry of Health (MOH) estimated that at least 80 percent of ECDE children were supplemented with deworming drugs and vitamin A.

Most of the school has few classrooms which have contributed to overcrowding and some classes are conducted under trees this scenario cuts across the entire county, most affected areas are the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood of North and central Pokot sub counties. The schools require assistance in terms of food, drought mitigation, provision of water and other physical facilities, which will go a long way in uplifting the education standards in the County.

5.0 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

5.1 Prognosis Assumptions

- According to FEWS NET/USGS preliminary forecast, the short rains (OND 2019) are likely to be average with timely onset in October.
- Based on the long-term trends of prices (NDMA data), the staple food prices are expected to be on a downward trend as from August when the harvest is likely to start while goat prices are likely to increase due to the good body condition.
- Terms of trade are likely to remain within the seasonal normal precipitated by the changes in maize and goat prices as from August for the next three months.
- Based on analysis of the current forage condition, pasture and browse are likely to be available and last until the next season which starts in October.
- Based on trend analysis and the current availability of water, distances to water sources for livestock are expected to remain stable across the livelihood zones for until the onset of the short rains in October.
- Distances and waiting time at the water source for domestic consumption are expected to remain normal for the next three months.

5.2 Food security Outlook (July-September)

Forage conditions are currently good precipitating the improvement of the body condition of livestock leading to improved livestock productivity. In-migration of livestock from dry season grazing has started and as such milk production is expected to increase and be available for consumption at the household level. Water is available and accessible currently and thus distances to water sources are likely to remain minimal for domestic consumption.

Prices for maize which is the staple food are anticipated to remain stable following the anticipated harvest in August-October as livestock prices continue to increase as a result of livestock having good body condition. Households are likely to have access to food as the purchasing power is expected to remain favorable through the three months under review. Food consumption patterns are likely to be good as food will be readily available and accessible during this time and as such the nutrition status for the children under-five is likely to improve. No significant changes are expected in the frequency by which the households employ food consumption related coping strategies. No significant changes are expected in the mortality rates for the children under-five years of age and the general population. The food security situation is likely to improve and as such more households that are currently classified as Stressed (IPC Phase 2) are expected to move to None/ Minimal (IPC Phase 1) as from October 2019.

5.3 Food security Outlook (–October-December)

Livestock body conditions and productivity are expected to remain above normal following the expected performance of the rains which will precipitate availability of good quality pasture and browse. Milk production is expected to be normal and available for consumption at the household

level. Livestock migration back into the wet season grazing areas is expected to peak and be completed. Water will be available and accessible to the households for domestic consumption.

Staple food prices are anticipated to remain stable as livestock prices remain above the long-term average. Terms of trade are expected to remain favorable for the livestock farmers enabling households to have good household purchasing power and access to food. The proportion of households having acceptable food consumption scores are expected to increase following the available household stocks and favorable terms of trade. No significant changes are expected in the coping and mortality rates. Nutrition status is likely to improve. More households that are currently classified as Stressed (IPC Phase 2) are expected to move to None/ Minimal (IPC Phase 1) as at December 2019.

6.0 CONCLUSION AND INTERVENTIONS

6.1 Conclusion

6.1.1 Phase classification

The Phase Classification is ‘Stressed’ (IPC Phase 2) in the pastoral and some parts of the agro-pastoral livelihood zones are in while the mixed farming livelihood zone are in the Minimal (IPC Phase 1)

6.1.2 Summary of Findings

The performance of rainfall during the long rains was near normal to normal and as such crop production and livestock productivity is normal across the livelihood zones resulting to availability of food at the households and the markets. In the pastoral livelihood zone, food availability in the markets is short-termly below normal as maize has started trickling in from the neighbouring Uganda. Currently, households in the mixed farming livelihood zones have maize stocks which are being held from the previous season and are sufficient to last for the next three months. Despite the fact that terms of trade being slightly below normal compared to the long-term average, accessibility is not a major limiting factor as the households are currently able to access food from the markets in agro-pastoral and pastoral livelihood zones. Water availability, access and utilization is normal for the households across livelihood zones. There were incidences of livestock diseases, crop pests reported across the livelihood zones, which have made households to be short-termly vulnerable by stressing the livelihoods. There has been no significant change in the nutrition status which is still ‘Serious’ based on weight for height z-scores. Based on analysis of the sentinel site data from NDMA, trends of children at risk of malnutrition are stably below the long-term averages and the same is collaborated by the SMART survey results in which global acute malnutrition by mid upper arm circumference was acceptable levels. Food consumption had slightly improved compared to February after the short rains assessment. Food consumption related coping strategies were normal for this time of the year. Utilization is a challenge as evidenced by the poor sanitation practices and the low hygiene levels exhibited by the households.

6.1.3 Sub-county ranking

Sub County	Food security rank (1-10)	Main food security threat (if any)
Pokot Central	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delayed onset and poor performance of rains - Fall army worm infestation

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Depleted household maize stocks - Insecurity - Post-harvest losses - Low access to health facilities, erratic supply of drugs - Poor sanitation practices
Pokot North	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Livestock diseases - Crop pest and diseases - Livestock migration - Limited access to health care services
Pokot West	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Occurrence of frost - Access to services- health, infrastructure - Even distribution of rainfall - Still having household stocks - Water availability and accessibility
Pokot South	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High livestock production - Diversified livelihoods - Water availability and accessibility

6.2 Interventions

6.2.1 Ongoing Interventions

- **Food interventions**

There is Home Grown School Meals programme (HGSM) and Regular School Meals programme (RSMP) in the county. 141 schools are under the regular school meals feeding programme with total of 93,961 boys and 90,570 girls (184,531 pupils) are benefiting from the programmes.

Non-food interventions

Intervention/activity	Specific Location	No beneficiaries targeted	Implementation Stakeholders	Cost	Implementation Timeframe
Livestock					
Breeding programme with 180 Sahiwal Bulls	Pokot North, Pokot Central and Pokot south	1080	County Government of West Pokot	18M	2018/2019 FY
Purchase of 1428 Galla bucks	Pokot North, Pokot Central and Pokot south	7140	County Government of West Pokot	23M	2018/2019
Dairy cattle	West Pokot and Pokot south	1200	County Government of West Pokot	10M	2018/2019

Vaccination – CCPP, PPR, FMD	County wide	100,000	Regional pastoral Livelihood Resilience Project (RPLRP)		2018/2019
Pasture establishment on 50 acres	Nasukuta Livestock Improvement centre	6000	County Government of West Pokot	500,000	2018/2019
Excavation of 2 Water pans	Kodera, Kambi ndege	2040 Households	KCSAP	14 Million	2018/2019
Poultry	County wide	1000	County Government of West Pokot	1 Million	2018/2019
Agriculture					
Procurement of potato seeds	-Siyoi -Lelan Tapach		GOK/KALRO	1.9 Million	2018/2019
Onion Cold store	Tapach		Government of Kenya	1.9 Million	2018/2019
Procurement of maize seeds	County wide		Government of Kenya	50 Million	2018/2019
Procurement of green grams	Suam		Government of Kenya	0.3 Million	2018/2019
Irrigation using water pumps (Micro irrigation)	Weiwei Lomut		Government of Kenya	1 Million	2018/2019
Kamwotogh and Paroo Furrow irrigation	Weiwei Lomut		Government of Kenya	1.1 Million	2018/2019
Rehabilitation of Kaminia/ Kochiv and Kochar Irrigation schemes	Batei and Sook Wards		County Government(GOK), DRSLP(ADB)	8.4M	
Health and Nutrition					
Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM)	84 health facilities and 70 outreach sites	23,730 under fives	MOH, Partners (ACF, KRCS)		Continuous

IYCN Interventions (EBF and Timely Intro of complementary Foods)	130 health facilities and 70 outreach sites	29,880 under fives	MOH, Partners(ACF, UNICEF, KRCS,)		Continuous
Micronutrient Supplementation (Vitamin A, Iron Folic and Zinc)	All facilities	Under Fives , Pregnant Women	Department of Health Services		Continuous
Water					
Rehabilitation of Ortum water supply	Ortum ward	5000 Households	County Government of West Pokot	2.9M	2018/2019 FY Complete
Rehabilitation of pipeline, Tank construction	Tapach Ward	1200 Households	County Government of West Pokot	1.4 Million	2018/2019 FY Complete
Spring protection at Cheptorok	Kamaua-Chepareria	4000 Households	County Government of West Pokot	0.6 Million	2018/2019 FY Complete
Extension of pipeline	Apiriki, Tutiriamoi	2,000 Households	County Government of West Pokot	2.1 Million	2018/2019 FY Complete
Construction of sand dam	Kongelai, Lokodoso, Sasak, Laemosing	4,300 Households	County Government of West Pokot	3.5 Million	2018/2019 FY Complete
Education					
County government ECDE Feeding programe.	All ECD Centres	78,261 pupils	County government of West Pokot	232 Million	2018/2019 FY
Three border peace schools	Kanyerus, Akulo, Katikomor	1200	County government of West Pokot	150 Million	2018/2019 FY
Rehabilitation of MoiMasol (Akiriamet)	MoiMasol Akiriamet	400 pupils	NDMA	50 million	2018/2019 FY

Remarks: Resources required, Available resources, Contribution of each stakeholder

6.2.2 Recommended Interventions

- **Food interventions**

Sub county	Population	Proposed Percentage of people in need	Remarks/ Modality (Wards)
Pokot Central	107,768	10-15	Lower Sekerr, Masol, Lomut
Pokot North	197,617	5-10	Kasei, Kiwawa
Pokot West	176,710	0-5	Riwo
Pokot South	167,329	0-5	Chepkopegh

• **Non-food interventions**

Intervention/activity	Specific Location	No beneficiaries targeted	Implementation Stakeholders	Cost	Implementation Timeframe
Pasture Establishment and preservation	All sub counties	50 Acres (Nasukuta)	CGWP, GoK, Partners	500,000	July-December
Vaccination-PPR, CCPP, FMD	All sub counties	35,000 Animals	CGWP, GoK, Partners	2 Miliion	July-December
Purchase of Camels	Pokot North, Pokot central	20 households	CGWP, GoK, Partners	15Million	July-December
Agriculture					
Provision of farm inputs (green grams)	Lomut	2500HH	GOK/Stakeholders	1.5M	August-Sept 2019
Management of FAW	County wide	10000HH	GOK/Stakeholders	10M	Continous
Provision of farm inputs(Maize)	County wide	163200HH	GOK/Stakeholders	50M	August-Sept 2019
Support provision of farm inputs(beans)	Masol (Nyangaita)	2000HH	GOK/Stakeholders	1M	By April 2020
Feasibility studies in Pokot North and Pokot Central	Kasei(Kamketo) Riwo(Kitalekapel)Lomut(Cheptulele)		GOK/Stakeholders	10M	By 2022
Health and Nutrition					
Water & Sanitation Activities	All subcounties	80% of the HHs	DoHS-CGWP Partners	10Million	Continous

Integrated Outreaches	All subcounties	All children under 5 years-App. 132,000	DoHS-CGWP Partners	5Million	July-December
Management of Malnutrition	Upscale from 84-90 sites across the county	Treat 12,000 children(20 sites)	DoHS-CGWP Partners	1Million	Continuous
Up scaling MIYCN – maternal infant and young child nutrition	All subcounties	Pregnant Women and under 5's	DoHS-CGWP Partners	5Million	Continuous
Water					
Desilting of water pans (10)	Pokot Central Subcounty	20,000 Households	CGWP, MoW, Partners	30Million	July-Dec, 2019
Rehabilitation of Springs (30)	Pokot South Sub County	10,000 Households	CGWP, MoW, Partners	9 Million	July-Dec, 2019
Desilting of Water Pans (10)	Pokot North Sub County	20,000 Households	CGWP, MoW, Partners	30Million	July-Dec, 2019
Education					
-Community sensitization on education	All Sub counties		MOE,CGWP, Partners	4 Million	
Expansion of HGSM	Pokot Central	51,143 pupils	MOE,CGWP, Partners	153 Million	
Provision of water	Pokot Central and Pokot North	68,218	MOE,CGWP, Partners	200 Million	