



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



National Drought Management Authority WEST POKOT COUNTY DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR MAY 2022

MAY EW PHASE



Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- In May, moderate rainfall was received across the County. Areas in Pastoral livelihood zones in Pokot Central sub-county recorded severe vegetation deficit had received insufficient rainfall. The monthly rainfall had fair temporal and even spatial distribution across all livelihood zones.
- The Vegetation Condition Index increased from 27 in April to 29 in May. The trend is slightly upward in all livelihood zones as revealed by the rise in VCI when compared to that of April. Pokot Central recorded severe drought conditions while Pokot North and Pokot West sub-counties reported moderate drought VCI conditions while Pokot South Sub-county reported normal vegetation conditions.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

- Milk production and consumption at household level improved slightly across the County.
- The livestock body condition was fair and improving, especially the browsers species. Distances to water sources for households decreased markedly in all livelihood zones.
- The terms of trade were not favourable and showed a declining trend across livelihood zones. Most of the households were at Acceptable Food Consumption Score category.
- The Coping Strategy Index slightly dropped in all livelihood zones.

Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification		
LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TREND
AGRO PASTORAL	ALERT	IMPROVING
PASTORAL	ALERT	IMPROVING
COUNTY	ALERT	IMPROVING
Biophysical Indicators		
VCI-3month (County)	29	>35
Forage Condition	Fair	Good
Production Indicators		
Livestock Body Condition	Fair	Good
Milk Production	1.3	>1.5 Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Medium	Low
Livestock deaths (attributed to drought)	No deaths	Nodeaths
Access Indicators		
Terms of Trade (ToT)	54	>77
Milk Consumption	1.1	>1.5 Litres
Return distance to water sources (household)	3.5 km	<2.9km
Cost of water at source (Kshs /20 litres)	Kshs 5	<Kshs 5
Utilization Indicators		
Nutrition status, MUAC (Severe + Moderate)	2.6	<2.8
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	1.5	0.0-14.5
Food Consumption Score	48	>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

- West Pokot County recorded moderate rainfall across all livelihood zones during the month of May 2022, where the performance was noted to be below normal in comparison to the Long Term Average (LTA) at such time of the year for the County.
- During the month, the first and second cumulative dekadal rainfall amount was 49.4 mm, which represents an increase from the 30.9 mm (Figure 1) that was recorded in the previous month. The current amount however depicts 66 percent of the cumulative dekadal average for the month at such time.

- The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) that shows the quantity and quality of live green vegetation was slightly below normal for the month, although with an upward trend (Figure 1).

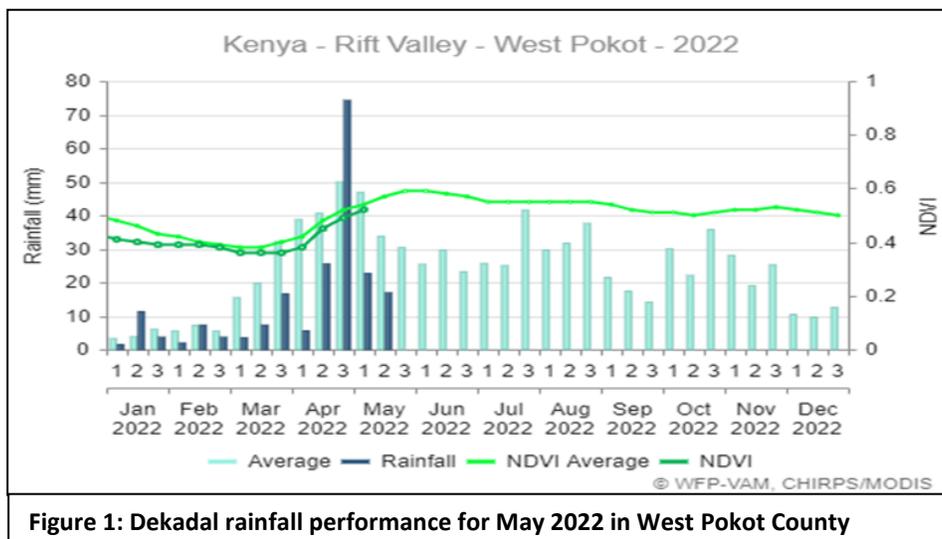


Figure 1: Dekadal rainfall performance for May 2022 in West Pokot County

Source: VAM-World Food Programme

1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- According to the county meteorological report, moderate precipitation was recorded in May. The rainfall had even spatial and fair temporal distribution, having been received across the livelihood zones for a total of about 14 days. Generally, there was an improvement in rainfall performance as compared to that of the previous month.

1.3 OTHER EVENTS

- Incidences of insecurity were reported along Chesegon at the West Pokot-Elgeyo Marakwet Counties border and at Kainuk in Turkana County bordering West Pokot County. Scores of human lives were reportedly lost during the flare ups and tension has remained high in these areas.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

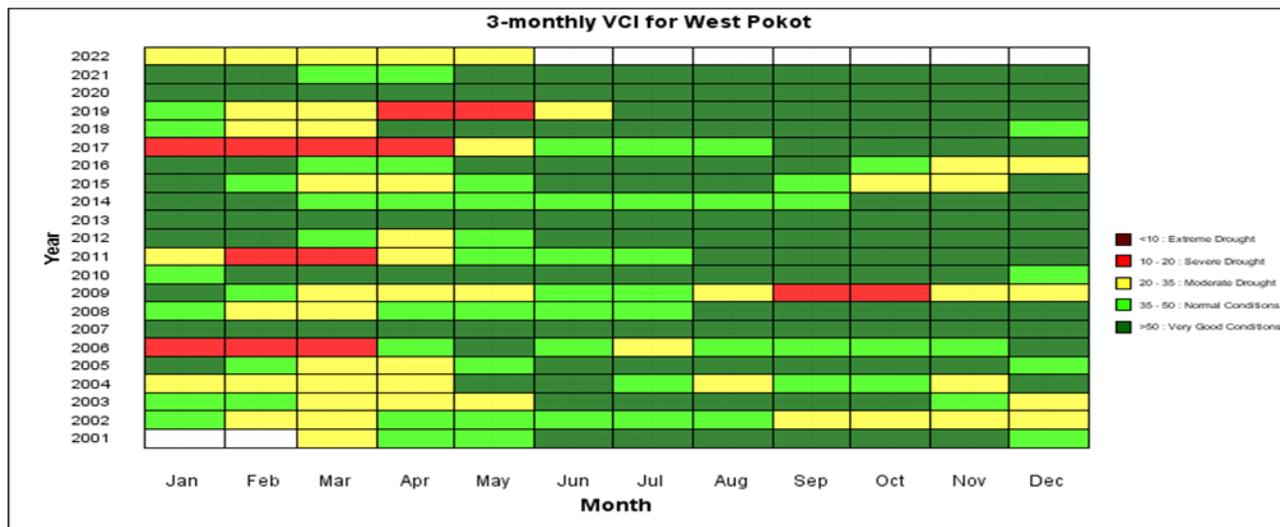


Figure 2: Matrix of 3 Months Vegetation Condition Index for May 2022 in West Pokot County

Source: Boku University

- In May, the vegetation greenness index (VCI) across the County revealed moderate drought conditions as expressed by a VCI of 29 (VCI-3 month) in figure 2 above, demonstrating a slight increase from 26 recorded in April.
- Severe drought conditions with VCI of 19 were reported in Pokot Central Sub-County, both Pokot North and Pokot West sub-Countries recorded moderate drought conditions of 29 whereas Pokot South Sub-County recorded normal conditions of 39. The 3-month VCI portrayed a marginal increase with an upward trend in all livelihood zones due to the fair regeneration of vegetation cover credited to significant rainfall in during the month of May 2022 (Figure 3).

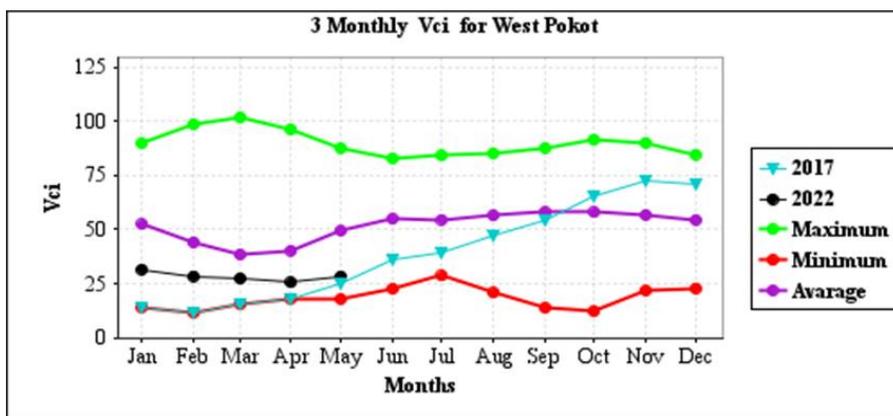


Figure 3: Graph of 3 months VCI for May 2022 in West Pokot County

2.1.2 Pasture

- During the month, the sampled community members' proportion which reported that pasture was fair was 58 percent in Pastoral and 75 percent Agro-pastoral livelihood zones (Figure 4).

- Particular areas that recorded severe vegetation deficit include Masol, Sekker, Weiwei and Lomut wards in Pokot Central Sub-County. However, the situation is noted to have slightly improved in comparison to the one in April due to moderate rainfall received in May.
- The quality and quantity of pasture was fair in both livelihood zones during the month of May.

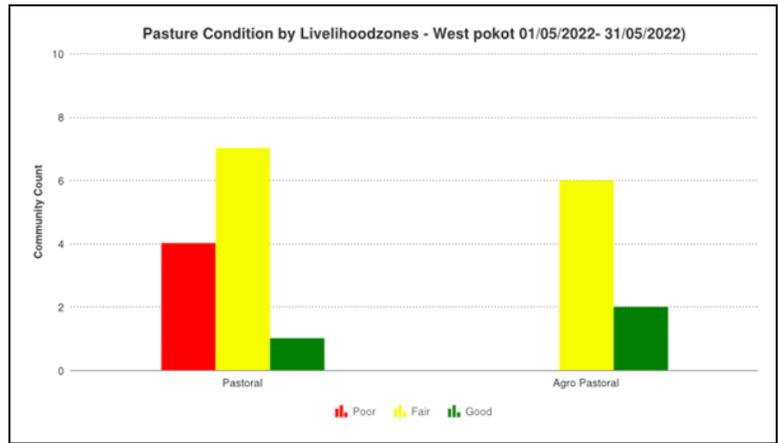


Figure 4: Pasture condition during May 2022 in West Pokot County

2.1.3 Browse

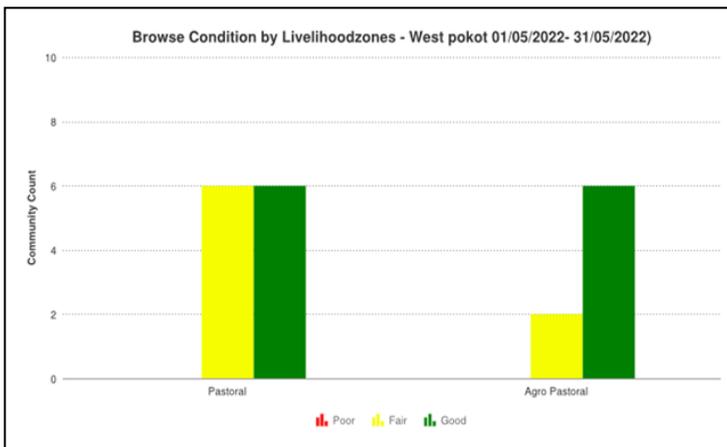


Figure 5: Browse condition during May 2022 in West Pokot

- Figure 5 shows that the sampled community members’ proportion which reported that browse condition was good at 50 percent in Pastoral zones and at 75 percent in Agro-pastoral zones.

The browse condition was generally fair in all livelihood zones despite being below normal for such period of the year.

- There was variation in browse condition between the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones

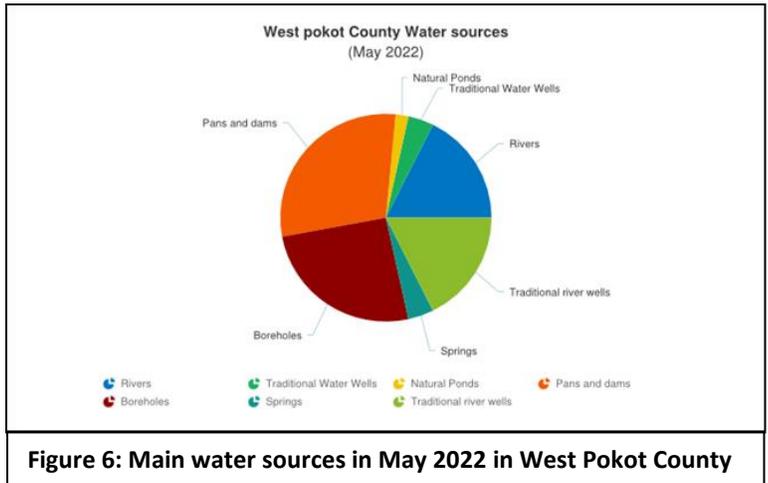
was linked to significant rains mostly in the highland areas harbouring Agro-pastoral areas.

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

2.2.1 Sources

- The main sources of water during the month of May 2022 were boreholes, rivers, pans/dams, traditional river wells and springs, which were relied upon by proportions of 28, 17, 28, 17 and four percent of the sampled communities respectively (Figure 6). Compared to the situation in April 2022 where the main sources were boreholes, rivers, traditional river wells, pans/dams and springs at 38, 26, 19, 10 and 5 percent respectively, the use of pans/dams increased significantly from 10 to 28 percent while use of boreholes and rivers decreased from 38 to 28 and 26 to 17 percent respectively whereas community reliance on traditional river wells and springs remained stable.

- The recharge of all water sources was substantial, a situation linked to significant rainfall performance during the month, explaining why use of pans/dams was on increase. Use of boreholes declined in the face of recharging pans/dams as attributed to congestion, breakdowns and operating challenges.



- The current main water sources in use were normal for such time of the year. The ongoing rains are anticipated to improve the water access especially in the Pastoral areas.
- Boreholes that are still broken down include; Chepkopegh, Pserum, Chesra, Kapsimatia and Prikwo in Pokot South Sub-county. Boreholes in Pokot West Sub-county include Koitukum, Chemuma, Kitelakapel center, Lokna, Chemakeu, Poole, Kongelai center and Akiriamet. Kases, Kitelarengan, Lokii, Nakuyen, Lopushonokou, Katilisha, Menjo, Ngotut, Konyao arid zone primary, Lokasur, Kopeon and Kois are among the boreholes in Pokot North Sub-county. Pokot Central Sub-county boreholes include Marich, Chepkolol, Runo primary, Kalas, Kamanau, Cheporomwagh and Chirkil.

2.2.2 Household Access and Utilization

- In the month under review, the average return distance to water source from the household was 3.5 km, being a decrease from 4.6 km recorded previously (Figure 7). The current distance was however 21percent above the STA for such time of the year.

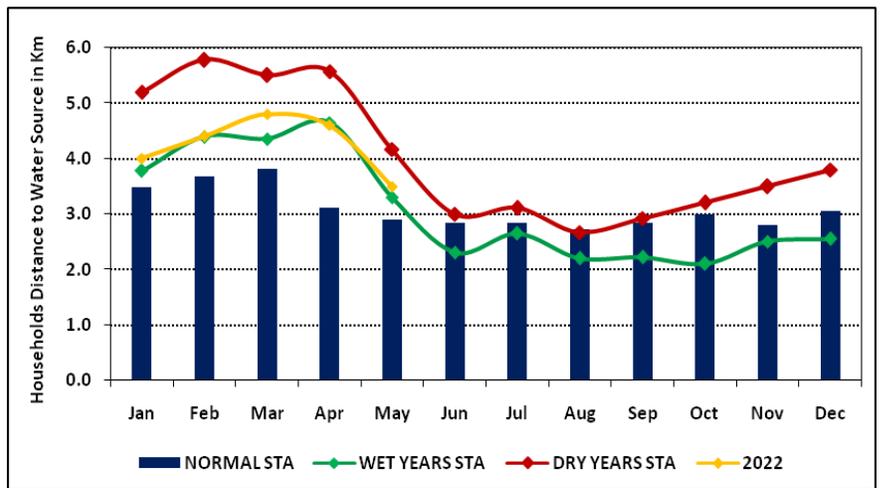


Figure 7: Household Water Distances during May 2022 in West Pokot

- The Pastoral zones of Pokot Central Sub-County recorded longer trekking distances to water sources of 3.9 km compared to 3.1 km in the Agro-pastoral livelihood zones. The general drop in trekking distances was attributed to the significant recharge of water sources in May.
- The average waiting time at the water source, especially at boreholes was still longer in Pastoral zones at around 30 minutes as compared 20 minutes normally. In the Agro-pastoral livelihood zones, the

waiting time was still about 15 minutes as compared to that of less than 10 minutes at such time of the year. The situation is above normal for a similar period of the year.

- The household water consumption per person per day was at 9-12 litres in the Pastoral zones while consumption in the Agro-pastoral zones was 12-15 litres, having increased from 8-10 and 10-12 litres for respective livelihood zones in the previous month. The discrepancy from the standard amount of 15 litres per person per day was getting minimal.
- The situation is generally below normal, where the consumption is normally at 10-13 and 15-20 litres for the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral areas respectively. The water cost at the source is however free in the rural areas.

2.2.3 Livestock Access

- During the month, the average return livestock trekking distance from grazing areas to water sources decreased to 5.6 km from 6.6 km recorded in the previous month (Figure 8). The current trekking distance is however eight percent above the LTA, since the situation has not yet recovered to normalcy.

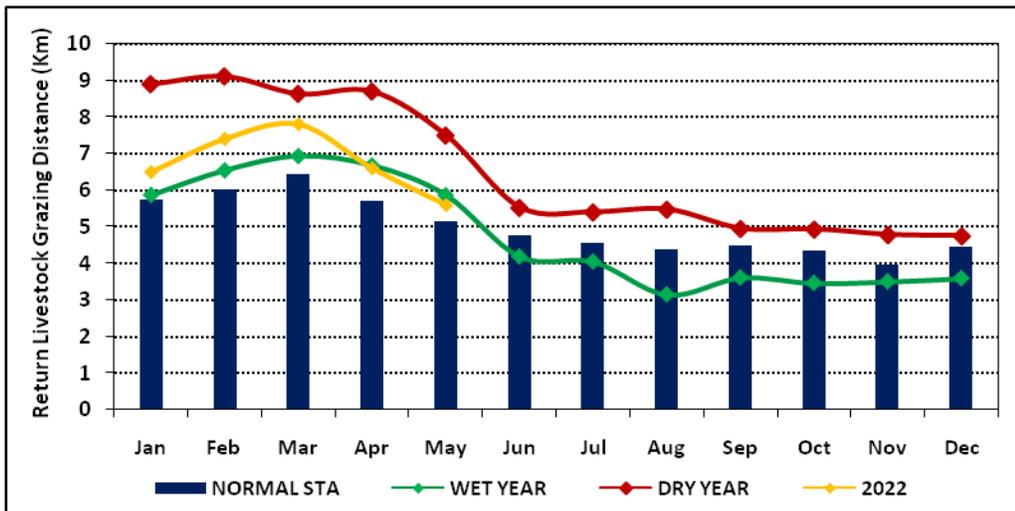


Figure 8: Distance from grazing area to water point in West Pokot County - May 2022

normalcy. The Pastoral livelihood zones recorded longer trekking distance from grazing areas to water source of 6.0 km as compared to 5.2 km covered in Agro-pastoral livelihood zones.

- The declining trend in livestock trekking distance to water points is credited to substantial surface water recharge at water points across the county. The distance has been above LTA since the dry spell before the long rains but it is expected to decrease as the situation normalizes with time.
- The watering frequency remained at 6-7 times in a week for cattle, sheep and goats while camels were watered 5-6 times. At normal times, the former are watered daily while camels are watered 5-6 times in a week.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- During the month, the livestock body condition was fair for cattle and sheep while goats and camels maintained a good to fair body condition across livelihood zones. The condition is on an upward trend as compared to April due to improved access to forage and water in the county during the month.
- As rains continue, the body condition for all livestock species is likely to continue improving in all zones.
- The livestock body condition is below normal for cattle and sheep while goats and camels are at normal as compared to the same period of the year.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Pokot Central and Pokot South sub-counties reported incidences of Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP).

3.1.3 Milk Production

- In May, the County recorded an average milk production of 1.3 litres per household per day, an increase from 1.0 reported in April (Figure 9).
- Cattle and camels were the main livestock species producing milk in the households in all the livelihood zones. The current average household milk production is 13 percent below the LTA.
- The increase in milk production is attributed to significant forage rejuvenation in the traditional grazing areas and water recharge.

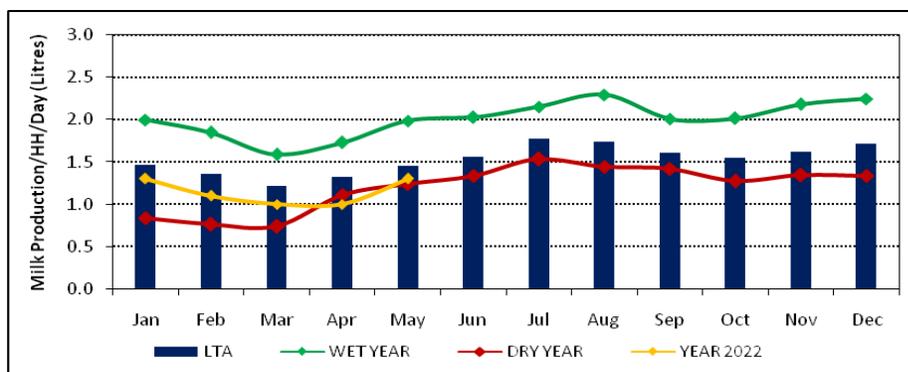


Figure 9: Household Milk Production in May 2022 in West Pokot County

3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

- Most crops were at germination and weeding stages, especially in Agro-pastoral and Mixed Farming zones. The acreage planted under maize is projected to drop due to erratic rains during the season; particularly the false and late onset. Onion farms currently at the land preparation in Lomut and Batei wards. Supply of horticultural products has been affected by previous persistent dry conditions.

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 19,313 in May, which indicated price stability as compared to the price of Kshs 19,375 recorded in the previous month. The current price is however 49 percent above the STA value (Figure 10).
- The lowest cattle price of Kshs 8,000 was recorded in Lomut market in Pokot Central Sub-county and highest of Kshs 26,250 in Chepareria market, Pokot South Sub-county. The body

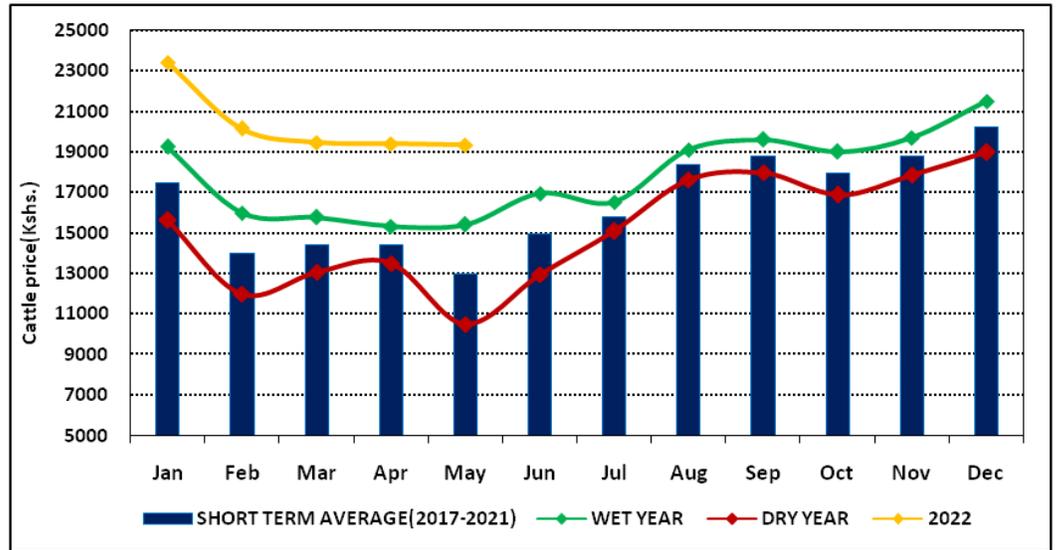


Figure 10: Graph of cattle prices for May 2022 in West Pokot County

condition for cattle in Chepareria in Agro-pastoral zones was better than in Lomut in Pastoral areas, hence the price variation.

4.1.2 Goat Prices

- During May, an average price of Kshs 3,300 was reported for a 2-year-old medium size goat, showing price stability when compared to Kshs 3,210 reported in April and comparable to LTA (Figure 11). The

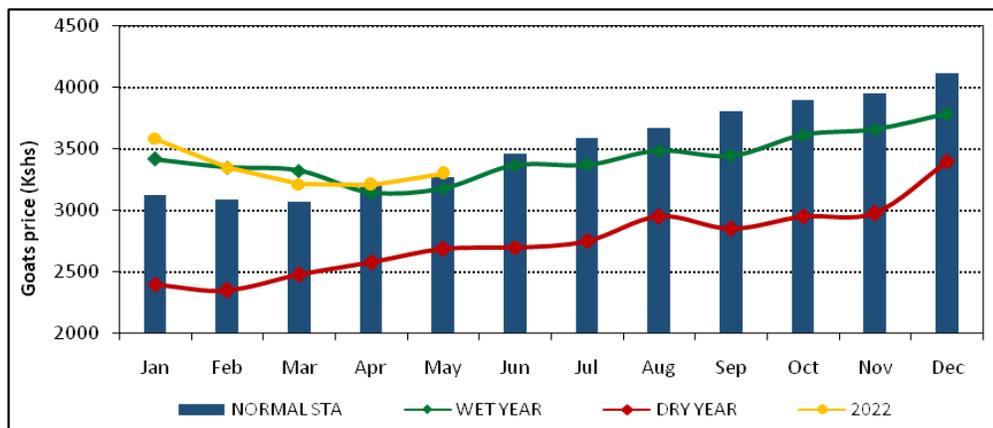


Figure 11: Graph of Goat Price during May 2022 in West Pokot County

highest average goat price was at Kshs 4,600 in Chepareria market in the Agro-pastoral livelihood zones that had fair browse conditions, whereas Pastoral zones of Masol in Pokot Central recorded as low as Kshs

2,080 in Lomut market owing to severe forage deficit thus goat body condition not so good to fetch better price.

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

- As shown in figure 12 below, one kilogram of maize was sold at Kshs 61, which was an 11 percent increase from kshs 55 that was sold in the previous month. The price was 33 percent above STA.
- The Pastoral livelihood zones recorded the highest price of Kshs 68 with the Agro-pastoral zones recording the lowest price of Kshs 46 resulting from acute shortage of maize supply from Uganda in the Pastoral areas of Pokot North Sub-County.
- The general increase in price is attributed to unpredictable maize supply from external sources of Trans-Nzoia. The current local supplies were still in Chepareria, Sigor and Makutano areas in Pokot South, Pokot Central and Pokot West Sub-counties respectively.
- Market purchase is the main source of maize requirements in most of households. Maize price is projected to increase further due to persistent unavailability of maize in the local market stocks.

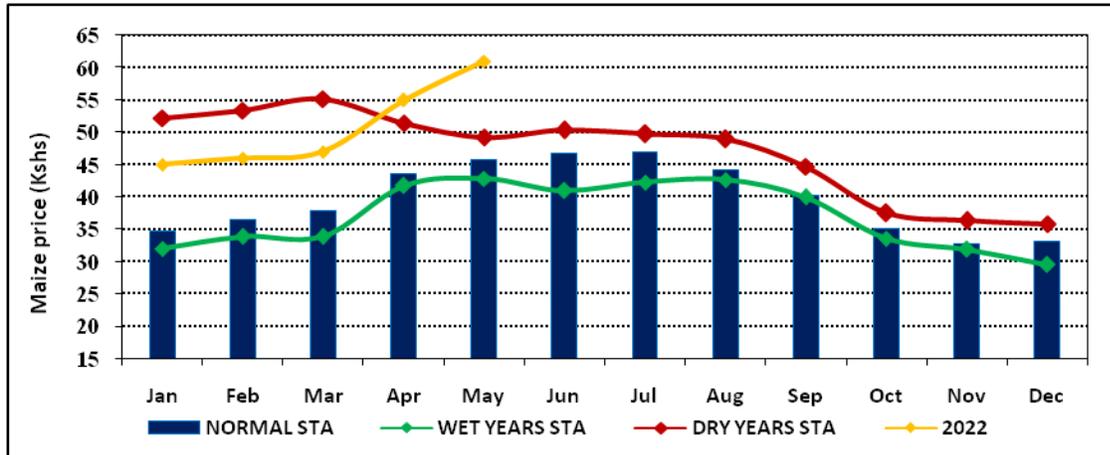


Figure 12: Graph of Maize Price in May 2022 in West Pokot County

4.2.2 Beans

- In May, beans traded at Kshs 124 per kg, a marginal rise from Kshs 123 recorded in April, where the current price of beans was at par with the STA price (Figure 13). Kacheliba market in the Pastoral livelihood zone recorded lowest prices of Kshs 100 while that of Chepareria market recorded Kshs 138 in the Agro-pastoral zones of the

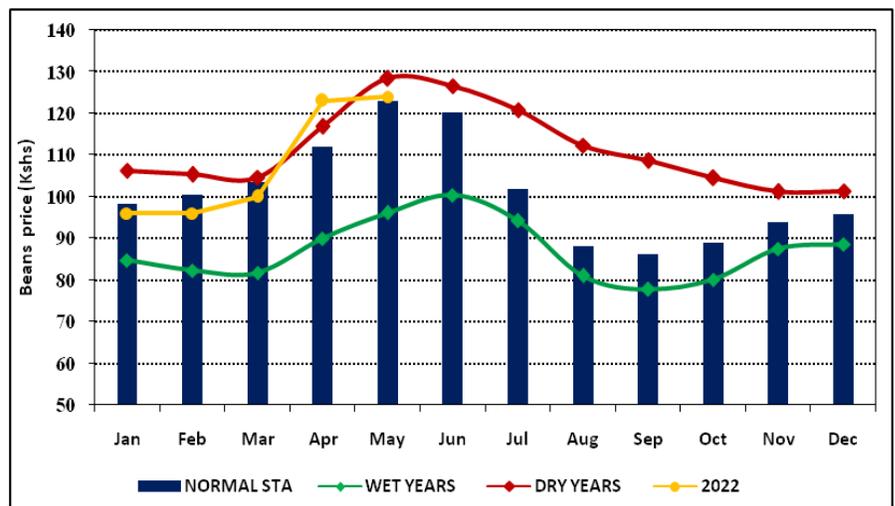


Figure 13: Graph of Beans Price in West Pokot County during May 2022

County. It was noted that Kacheliba market in Pokot North Sub-county was supplied with relatively cheaper beans from the neighbouring republic of Uganda sources that caused the lower beans prices as compared to other markets in the County.

- The price stability is attributed to irregular supply from local sources in Agro-pastoral zones along with erratic supplies from Uganda.

4.3 LIVESTOCK PRICE RATIO/ TERMS OF TRADE (TOT)

- In the month under review, the TOT was 54, Having decreased from the 58 recorded in the previous month, meaning that households obtained less amount of maize for sale of a goat during the month than in the previous month (Figure 14).
- The declining trend in ToT is attributed to shooting maize prices in the market alongside the stable goat prices. The TOT is 31 percent below the STA of the month.
- The decreasing trend for TOT is expected for the next three months as the maize price is probable to continue increasing over the period.

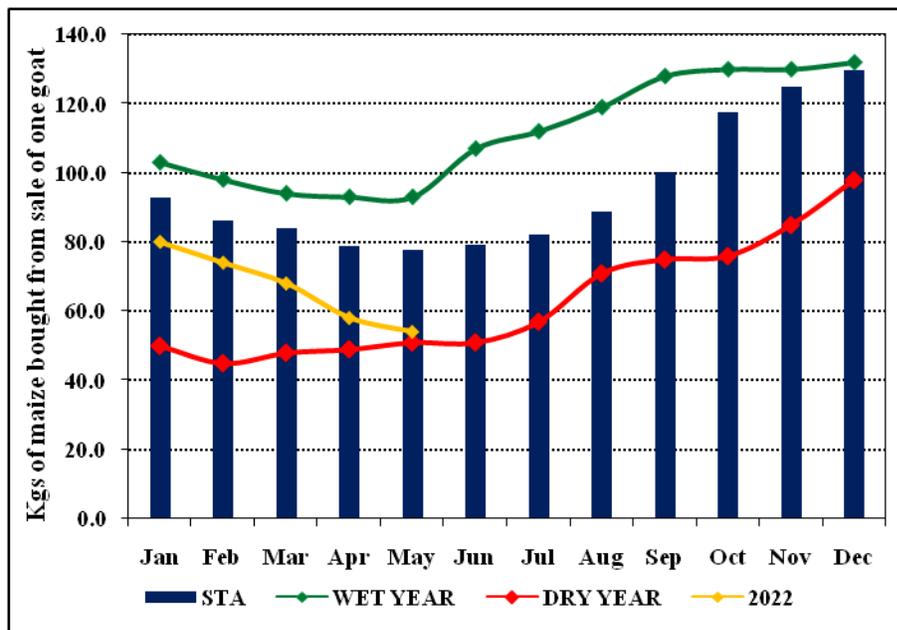


Figure 14: Graph of Terms of Trade in West Pokot County during May 2022

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- The average household milk consumption remained at 1.1 litres across the livelihood zones, an increase from 0.9 mm reported in the previous month and below the LTA by 27 percent (Figure 15).

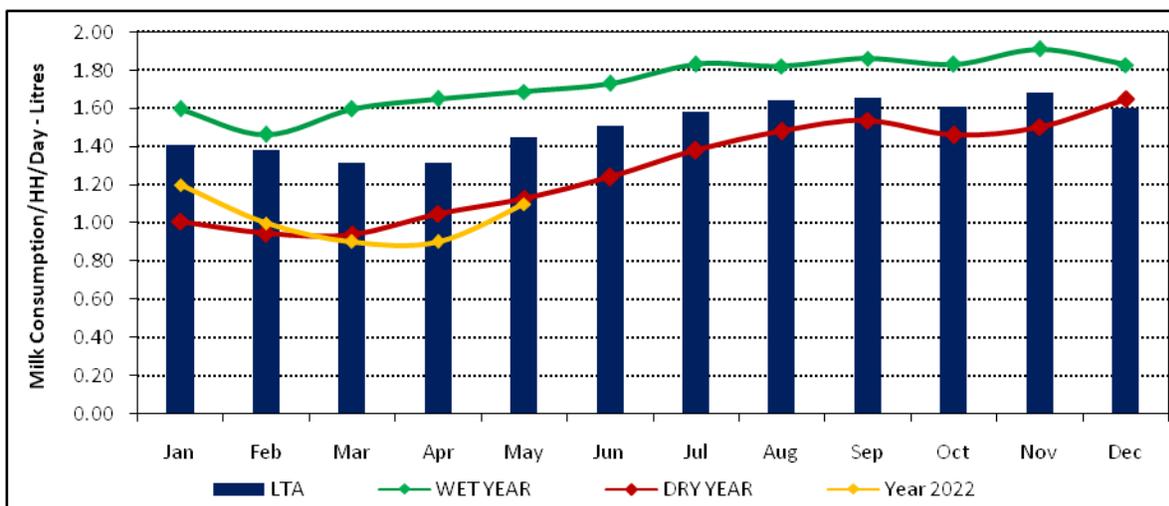


Figure 15: Graph showing household milk consumption in West Pokot County in May 2022

- The slight increase in milk consumption is linked to the fair milk access at the household level.

5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

- The Food Consumption Score (FCS), an indicator of household food security showed proportions of 79, 8 and 13 percent categorized under Acceptable, Borderline and Poor respectively, where Acceptable indicates better food security while Borderline characterizes medium and poor depicts food insecurity. In comparison with the previous month where the proportions were 77, 18 and 5 for the respective categories, the score increased for Acceptable and decreased for Borderline category while the Poor category increased. More households degenerated from Borderline to Poor category as compared to those households that improved from Borderline to Acceptable category; an indication of a worrying situation. The FCS was generally acceptable in May.
- The mean FCS for the two livelihood zones was 48; an increase from 47 recorded in April.
- The Agro-pastoral livelihood zones recorded a higher mean FCS of 54 than 42 in the Pastoral zones.
- 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 64 percent households under the same category in the Pastoral livelihood zone. More food sources diversity in Agro-pastoral livelihood zones as compared to Pastoral livelihoods due to better local harvest stocks in Agro-pastoral areas contributed to this difference.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- In May, the proportion of children under the age of five years who were malnourished, as recorded by the Mid Upper Arm Circumference colour (MUAC) codes was at 2.6 percent (moderate acute-2.3 percent and severe acute-0.3 percent), same as in April; showing stability (Figure 16).
- When compared to the LTA of 2.8 percent, the proportion of children that were severely and moderately malnourished is below the normal range and dry years, a situation credited to better access to milk at the household level.

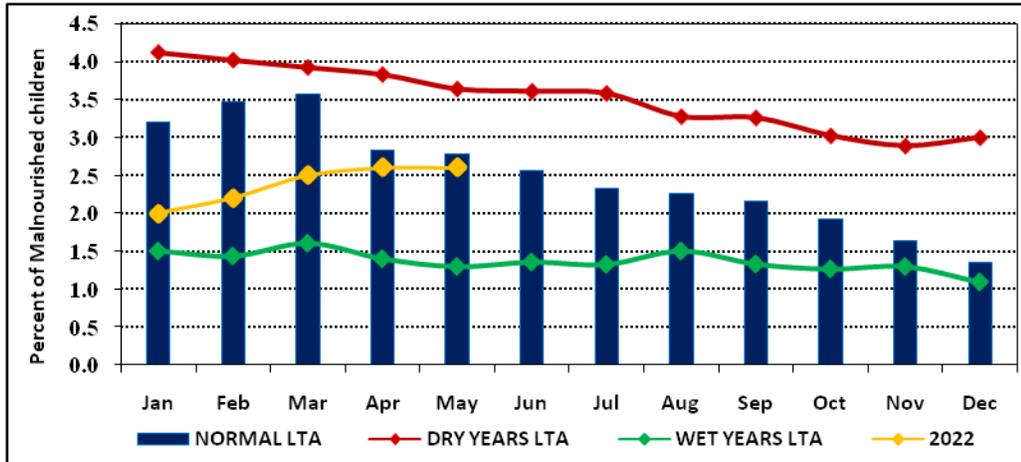


Figure 16: Proportion of Malnourished Children in West Pokot County in May 2022

5.3.1 Health

- Malaria and waterborne disease incidences including diarrhoea were reported as common ailments among the sampled households across the livelihood zones.

5.4 COPING STRATEGY

5.4.1 Coping Strategy Index (CSI)

- During the month, the CSI recorded was 1.5a drop from 1.7 reported in April. The decrease in CSI indicates that the households are employing slightly fewer strategies to cope with the food shortages during the month as compared to that of the previous month where milk availability contributed.
- The Pastoral zones reported a CSI of 1.6 while Agro-pastoral livelihood zones recorded 1.4
- The commonly employed consumption coping strategies by the affected households is through reliance on less preferred/less expensive foods.

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION) - Annexed

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 INSECURITY/CONFLICT/HUMAN DISPLACEMENT

- Insecurity cases were reported along the conflict hotspots of Elgeyo Marakwet/West Pokot and along Turkana/West Pokot borders.

7.2 MIGRATION

- Livestock from Pokot Central; Masol and Lomut had migrated further into Turkana South hills in search of pasture.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- In the period under review, meteorology department forecasts near normal off-season rains performance in the highlands while lowlands will receive below to near normal rainfall. As such, water and forage conditions in Mixed Farming and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones are expected to perform well over the period despite the late onset but the Pastoral areas will have minimal improvement.
- Forage condition is projected to improve the livestock body condition hence boosting livestock production.
- The depletion of food stocks at household level in the maize growing areas in Agro-pastoral and Mixed Farming zones is likely to affect food security at household level.
- Incidences of the severe malnutrition are anticipated to drop over the period, due to the improved milk accessibility among most households.
- Livestock market prices are expected to improve further attributed to ongoing rains that would improve body conditions.

8.0 RECOMMENDED INTERVENTIONS - Annexed

ANNEX OF INTERVENTIONS for Section 6 and 8:

West Pokot County ongoing and recommended interventions for May 2022

	Ongoing interventions		Recommendations
	Intervention	Ward(s)	
1.	<p>PACIDA NGO:</p> <p>Food distribution to 7,600 households in Pokot North and Pokot Central Sub-counties.</p> <p>Each household receiving: 11 Kg maize, 7 Kg beans, 5 Kg maize flour and 1litre of cooking oil.</p>	<p>Kongelai Kasei Kodich Kositei Lomut Sekerr Nakwijit Masol Alale Pakoyum Kiwawa</p>	<p>WATER SECTOR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide water treatment chemicals to communities that use open water sources as their main source of water. • Repair of 13 strategic boreholes in Pokot Central (8 boreholes serving 3,360 people) and Pokot North sub-counties (5 boreholes serving 1,920 people). <p>LIVESTOCK SECTOR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide livestock supplementary feeds to 1,505 livestock heads in Pokot Central Sub County. Livestock feeds to sustain selected livestock herds in Masol and Lomut in Pokot Central Sub-county where the vegetation cover condition is at severe vegetation deficit category and pasture is a challenge. • Support livestock disease surveillance and deworming in wards with reported disease incidences and likely outbreaks. <p>DISASTER PREPAREDNESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timely develop and disseminate seasonal participatory scenario advisories to the communities for early action and planning. <p>PEACE AND SECURITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upscale peace building initiatives at border hotspots to cultivate lasting reconciliation and cohesion between communities of Elgeyo Marakwet-West Pokot-Turkana Counties borders. <p>SOCIAL PROTECTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upscale cash transfer/food assistance to 1000 households (100 households per ward for 10 wards) in Pokot North and Pokot Central Sub Counties.
2.	<p>Water tracking: Trucking in Pokot Central Sub county by County Water Department and Rift Valley Water Services Board</p>	<p>Masol Lomut Weiwei Sekker</p>	
3.	<p>County wide Relief food distribution:</p> <p>300 bags of rice and 200 bags of beans per sub- county in 6 sub-counties. 24 cartons of beef corns in Pokot West sub county</p>	<p>Countywide</p>	
4.	<p>Cash transfers by national government:</p> <p>Targeting 4,290 households by GoK each household receiving Kshs 3,000 per month</p>	<p>Countywide</p>	