



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



National Drought Management Authority

TURKANA COUNTY

DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR MARCH 2021

MARCH EW PHASE

Drought Status: **ALARM**



Mipango ya kukabiliana na ukame

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- The long rains onset had not been attained and thus dry and hot weather conditions prevailed across all parts with the highest temperature oscillating at 38°C. Cumulative rainfall for the period commencing October 2020 to March 2021 accounted for only 54 percent of the normal rainfall for that duration.
- Condition of vegetation deteriorated further during the period under review with most areas in all the Sub counties experiencing severe vegetation deficit. Turkana North, East, South (Pastoral areas) and Central were the most affected.
- All the open water sources had dried up while the number of non-functional boreholes was on the rise with water trucking sites also increasing rapidly during the month under review.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

- Livestock body condition for all species was poor while the milk production level declined further. Livestock deaths attributed to starvation were reported with over 80 percent of herd migrating in search of forage and water.
- Considerable increase in the household return distance to water source was witnessed while the cost of water was outside the normal range. Household purchasing power remained eroded as a consequence of the reported poor terms of trade and the milk consumption level was on a seasonal low.
- As a consequence of the prevailing food gaps evidenced by the rise in proportion of households falling within the poor FCS category, severe coping strategies were being applied with proportion of malnourished under-fives increasing gradually.

Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification

LIVELIHOOD ZONE	PHASE	TREND
PASTORAL-ALL SPECIES	ALARM	WORSENING
AGRO-PASTORAL	ALARM	WORSENING
FISHERIES	ALARM	WORSENING
COUNTY	ALARM	WORSENING

Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range
Rainfall (% of Normal)	54	90-110
VCI-3 month (T. North)	40	>35
VCI-1 month (T. East)	37	>35
Forage Condition	Poor	Good
State of Water Sources	2-3	5-6

Production Indicators	Value	Normal Range
Livestock Migration Pattern	Not Normal	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Poor	Good
Milk Production	0.8Litres	> 2.1 Litres
Livestock deaths (attributed to drought)	Reported Deaths	No Deaths

Access Indicators	Value	Normal Range
Terms of Trade (ToT)	31	>36
Milk Consumption	0.8Litres	>2.1 Litres
Return distance to water sources (Household)	11.9 km	< 7.5 km
Cost of Water (KSh/20L)	KSh.10	<KSh. 5

Utilization Indicators	Value	Normal Range
Nutrition Status, (% with MUAC: 115-124mm)	Yellow:4.4	<6.2
Food Consumption Score Proportions (%)	27 Poor: 39 Borderline: 34	>35 Poor< 30 Borderline: <37
Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)	18.3	<17.4

<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 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains Planting/weeding High Calving Rate Milk Yields Increase 		
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- Despite the onset of the long rains having been forecasted to be during the third dekad of March, there was no significant rainfall experienced during the month under review.
- Consequently, remarkably dry and hot weather conditions prevailed across most sections of the County throughout the three dekads of the period under analysis.

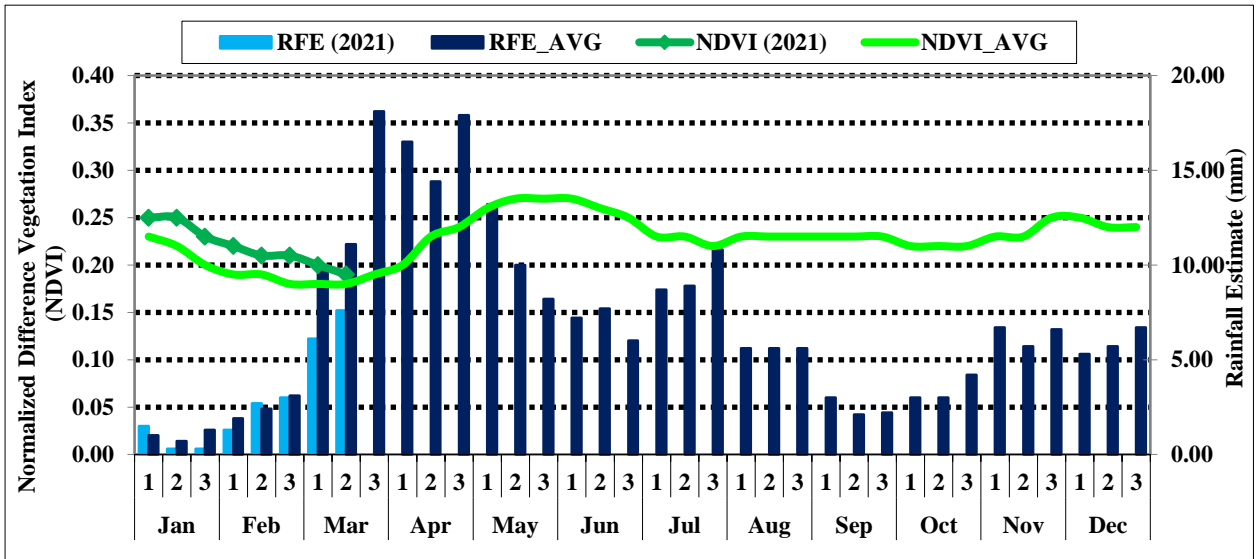


Figure 1: Dekadal Rainfall (mm) and NDVI Values Compared to the Long-Term Average
 Source: VAM-World Food Programme-CHIRPS/MODIS

- The condition of vegetation thus deteriorated further as evidenced by the continued decline in the Normalized Vegetation Condition Index (NDVI) (Figure 1).
- All sites across the three livelihood zones thus exhibited drier than normal conditions due to the onset of the March-April-May (MAM) rainfall season having not been attained. Comparatively though, Turkana North, East, Central and South (Pastoral wing) remained the most affected.

1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- Based on the period commencing October (onset of the short rains 2020) and extending to March 2021 (onset of the long rains 2021), total rainfall recorded accounted for only 54 percent of the long-term average rainfall for that duration (Figure 2).

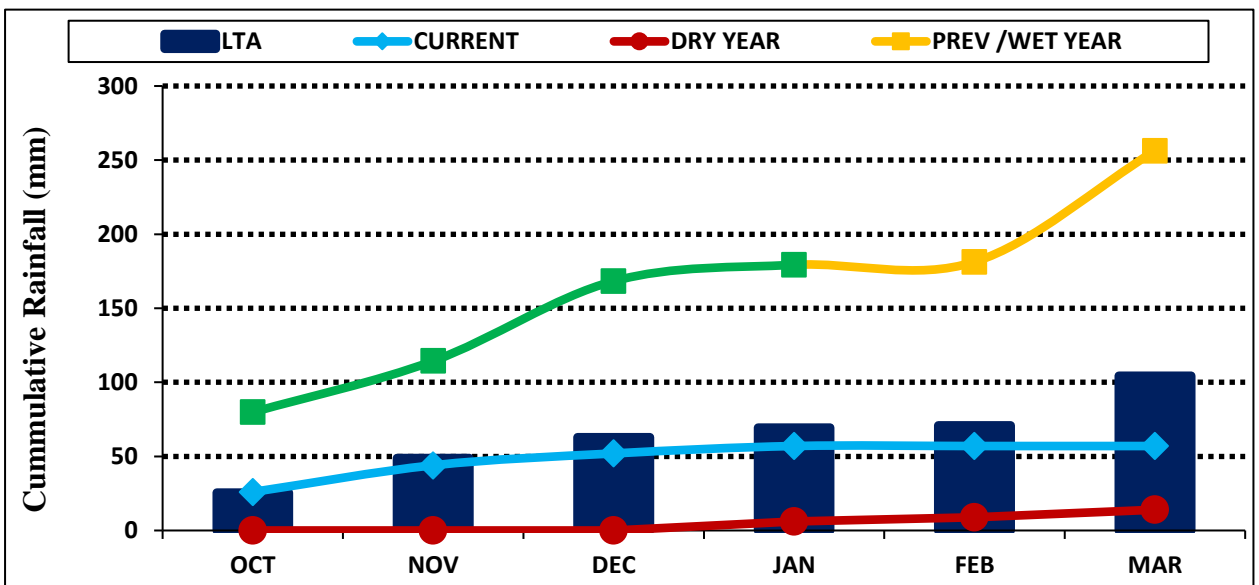


Figure 2: Six-Month Cumulative Rainfall Trend (October 2020 to March 2021)
 Source: Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD)

- Maximum day time temperature ranged between 36⁰C and 38⁰C whereas the minimum temperature oscillated at 25⁰C to 27⁰C throughout the month of March.
- The total rainfall reported for the six-month period (October 2020-March 2021) was significantly lower than the one reported for the same period during the previous year that happened to be the wet year too by 78 percent.
- The period between October 2016 to March 2017 was considered to be the driest within the last thirteen years having recorded only 14 mm of rainfall.
- Some of the notable sites in each Sub county that were exhibiting drier than normal conditions with respect to vegetation and water availability within the open water sources were as populated in table 1.

Table 1: Areas Exhibiting Drier than Normal Conditions for March

Turkana East	Turkana North	Turkana Central	Turkana South	Loima	Turkana West
Kangitit	Kaeris,	Lokitela,	Lochwaa	Napeillilim	Lokore
Nakukulas	Kaaleng	Nagetei	Kangakipur,	Nameyana	Kakuma
Lopii,	Nakalale,	Kapua	Kalapata,	Nadapal	Kalobeyei
Kamuge	Nasechabuin,	Namorutunga	Kaakalel	Kaitese	Nakururum
Lokoriokot	Epur	Loturerei	Lokichar	Koolioro	Letea
Nakukulas	Lokitongaber	Lokaparparai	Nakabothan	Lorugum	Lokipoto
Lopedur	Lomekwi,	Kalotum	Kangirega	Namuruputh	Songot
Ng'ilukia	Karebur	Kang'atotha	Nagetei,	Lomil,	Nanaam
Lokwomosing	Kataboi,	Kalimapus	Naaguro	Lobei	
Kaaruko	Nachukui	Kalokol	Kaatir	Nakamane	
Lokorkor	Katiko,	Ngumuriae	Kaesamalit	Lolupe	
Katilia	Narengewoi	Kangirisae,	Kapese	Nasiger	
Lokori	Ataerika	Nakurio	Napusmoru,		
Lochakula	Lokapelpus,	Kerio, Naotin	Loperot,		
Katamanak	Lowarengak		Kaekunyuk		
Lokwii	Kanakurudio		Locheromoit,		
	Lakezone		Kasuroi		

1.3 OTHER EVENTS

1.3.1 Flooding

- There were no flash floods reported across all parts of the County during the month under review.

1.3.2 COVID-19 Pandemic

- Following the third wave of COVID-19, as at 18th March 2021 the County had recorded 1,095 COVID-19 positive cases out of the 9,309 samples tested with a positivity rate of 38.7 percent but localized to Turkana West.
- Total recoveries were 985 with 73 active cases in Turkana West while cases of absconders remained unchanged from the previous month at 16 with cumulative mortalities increasing to 21.
- Cumulatively, 2,401 contacts had been traced and currently 434 were on follow up while the operational isolation facilities remained two. (*Source: Turkana County CRRT-Disease Surveillance Secretariat*).

1.3.3 Desert Locusts Invasion

- There were no reports of Desert Locusts invasion during the month under review but preparedness measures that entailed training of scouts was on-going and heightened surveillance in all the high-risk entry areas.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The condition of vegetation deteriorated remarkably during the month of March as evidenced by

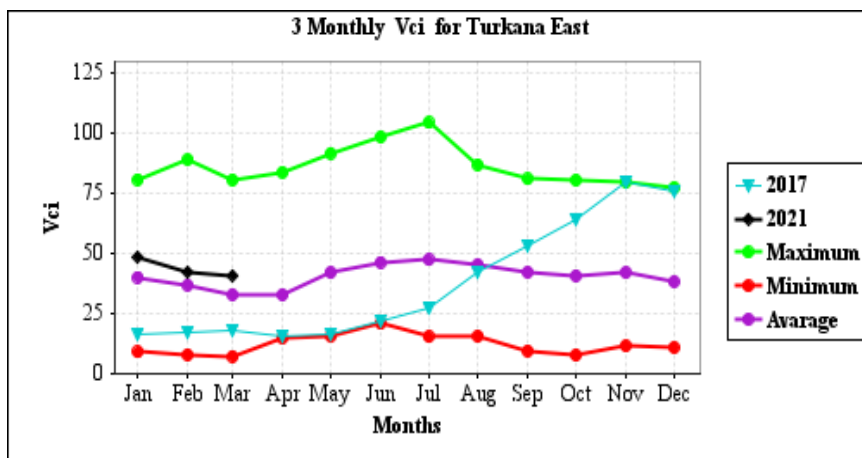


Figure 3: Trends in Vegetation Condition-Turkana East

- The negative trend observed could be attributed to the late onset of the long rains that had not been realized and the prevailing above average Land Surface Temperature (LST).

the shift in the VCI-3month value downwards across most Sub-counties.

However, invasive drought tolerant but unpalatable species like *Prosopis Juliflora* dominated with dense green canopies across all the livelihood zones and especially along the numerous seasonal rivers criss-crossing most sections of the County and the irrigation schemes.

2.1.2 Field/Ground Observations: Pasture

- Based on responses from community focus group discussions, key informant interviews and visual inspection during the transect drive, pasture condition was noted to be considerably poor across all the three livelihood zones (Figure 4).
- Continued deterioration was observed from the previous month in all the sites and that could be attributed to the onset of the long rains having not been attained yet with the above normal LST accelerating the deterioration across March.
- Water in availability in the dry season grazing zones, insecurity in the traditional conflict hotspots with dry pasture albeit in minimal quantities and high prevalence of transboundary and infectious livestock diseases were some of the notable constraints to pasture access.
- There was no significant variation in the quality and quantity of pasture across all the livelihood zones during the period under review.

2.1.3 Field Observations: Browse

- Browse condition was poor across all sites in the County during the period under review and significantly below the level normally observed for March (Figure 4). Prevailing dry conditions occasioned by the late onset of the MAM rainfall was the major factor that was promoting the observed deterioration in browse condition during the period under review in all livelihood zones.
- The major impediments to browse access included: insecurity, drying up of open water facilities and high prevalence of livestock diseases. In addition, there was no notable variation in browse quantity and quality across the three major livelihood zones.

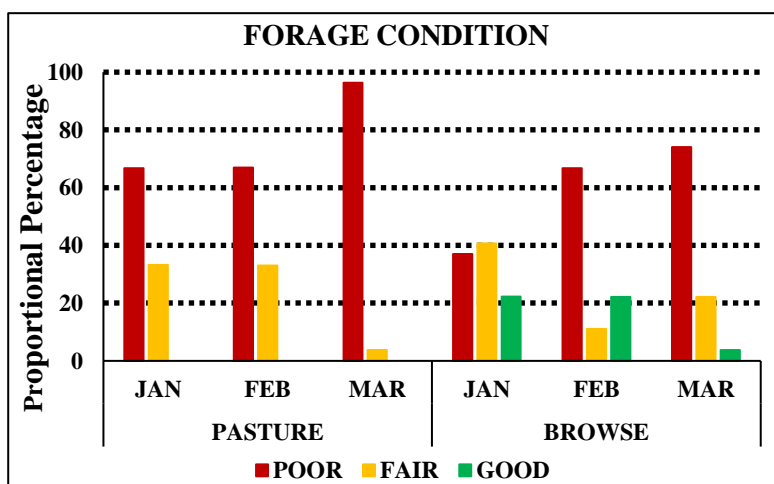


Figure 4: Pasture and Browse Condition in Turkana County

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

2.2.1 Sources

- Boreholes, traditional river/hand dug wells and shallow wells remained the major water sources that most households relied on during the period under analysis (Figure 5).
- Notably though, concentration was witnessed around strategic solar powered boreholes owing to their high yield and better water quality. However, a significant proportion of households especially those in sites without a functional borehole relied heavily on the hand dug wells as their main source of water and this was partly propelled by the closeness of the seasonal rivers to areas of residence and grazing sites.

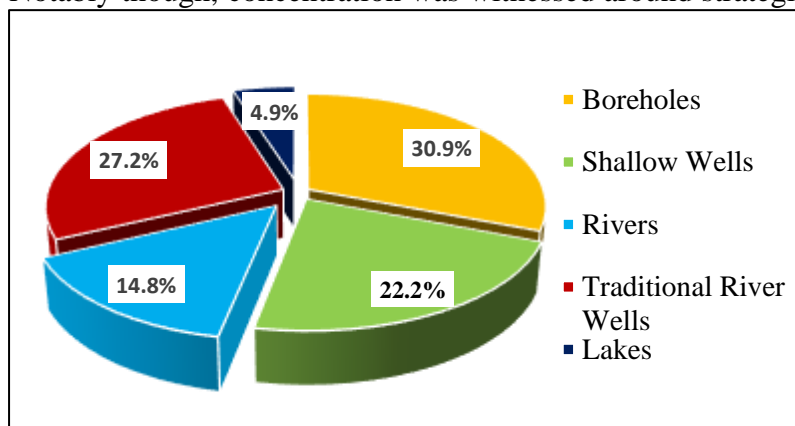


Figure 5: Sources of Water in Turkana County-March 2021

All the open water sources (water pans and rock catchments) visited during the field inspection/monitoring and data collection mission had dried up and despite the boreholes continuing to supplement water needs, the operational capacity was low at approximately 60 percent due to increased breakdowns occasioned by over-use.

- The depth of the traditional river wells along major seasonal rivers like Lokichar, Natiira, Tarach, Kospir, Napasinyang, Kawalathe, Kalemngorok and Kalobeyei was highly elongated and ranged between 6-7 metres as opposed to 1-2 metres normally given water flow could be witnessed at such a time of the month; in some areas the non-water sipping level had been attained.
- Increased demand for water was witnessed across most areas experiencing acute water shortage as the drought severity intensified during the month under review with the drop in water table rendering some boreholes mainly within the plains of the County redundant.
- Compared to the normal water situation at such a time of the year, the prevailing water situation in March was significantly poor with all the livelihood zones being severely affected.

2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

- The return trekking distance to water source by households increased significantly (by approximately 43 percent) with respect to the previous month of February and thus averaged 11.9 km in all the three livelihood zones (Figure 6).

- Not only was the recorded trekking distance during the month of March above the five-year average distance for the period by 58 percent but also the one reported for the same month during the dry years by a similar margin and thereby indicative of a worse off water situation.

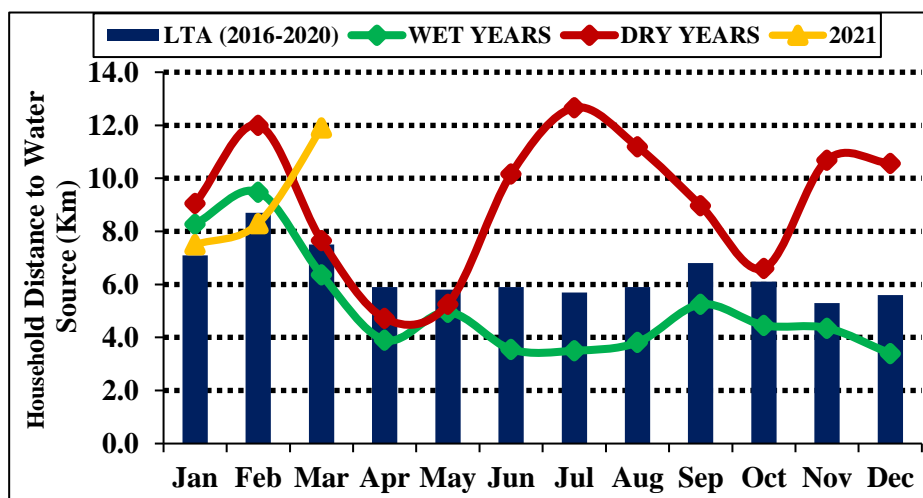


Figure 6: Household Trekking Distance to Water Source

- Comparatively, the household trekking distance to water source was noted to be longer in the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones with majority of

households along the Fisheries livelihood zone relying on the water from Lake Turkana albeit being saline but was relatively easy and nearer to access.

- Continued deterioration in the water situation was witnessed relative to the previous month with a remarkable increase in access distance across all the sites.
- The average waiting time at water source in the Agro-pastoral, Fisheries and Pastoral livelihood zones was 45-60 minutes, 60-90 minutes and 90-120 minutes compared to less than 20 minutes, 30-45 minutes and 45-60 minutes normally respectively.
- Water consumption at household level remained remarkably low for the month of March. Whereas the consumption per person per day averaged 5-10 litres in both the Fisheries and Pastoral livelihood zones as opposed to 20-30 litres normally, in the Agro-pastoral livelihood zone an individual resident was consuming 10 litres compared to 30-45 litres normally per day.
- Households dependent on water kiosks and delivery by motor bike riders were accessing a 20-litre jerry can at average cost of KSh. 10 although this cost could rise to between KSh. 50-100 in some areas with acute water shortage once the transportation cost was factored. The recorded cost of water was outside the seasonal range of less than five shillings.

2.2.3 Livestock access

- During the period under review, the return trekking distance to water source from grazing sites mainly along the peripheries of the County increased by 52 percent relative to the preceding month of February and hence averaged 17.5 km across the three major livelihood zones (Figure 7).
- The recorded return trekking distance during the month under review was considerably higher than the one reported for the similar period during the dry years and the five-year average distance for March by approximately 28 percent and 88 percent accordingly.
- The Fisheries and Pastoral livelihood zones returned the longest distance due to the prevailing

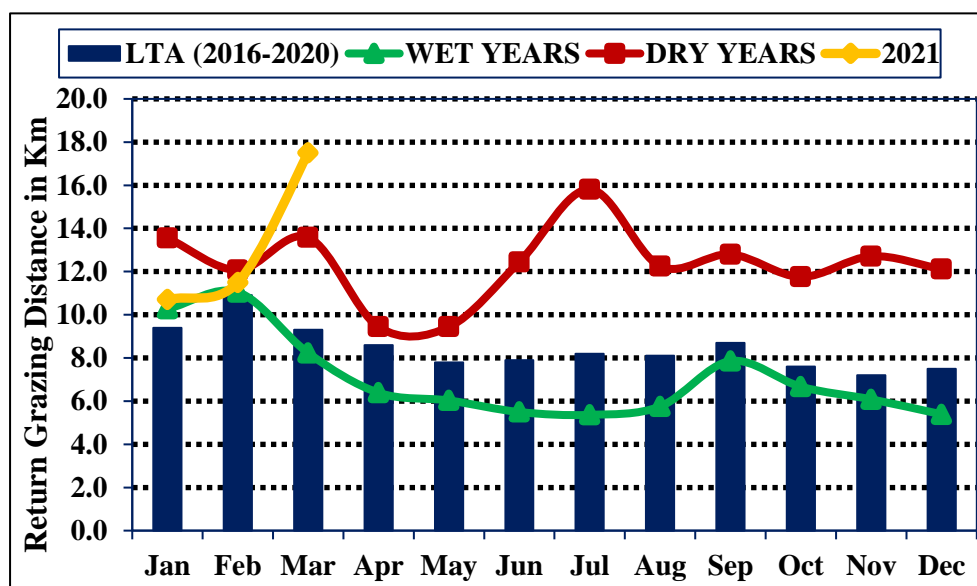


Figure 7: Return Distance to Water Source from Grazing Areas

and Kibish Sub-counties and the general depletion of forage occasioned by the above normal LSTs and Tree Locusts were some of the factors that were driving the observed trend in March.

- Livestock watering frequency was generally low and averaged two times for large stock in all zones compared to 5-6 times normally while that of small stock was three times as opposed to 6-7 times normally at such a time of the year across the three livelihood zones.
- Non-functionality of some boreholes occasioned by the drop in the water table and frequent break-downs due to over-use, drying up of all open water structures and elongated depth of traditional river wells owing to non-flow of water through them as a result of the late onset of the long rains were some of the major drivers of the negative trend noted during the month under analysis.

poor forage condition and water situation that necessitated livestock to cover longer distances compared to those in the Agro-pastoral livelihood zone. Migration of livestock to distant areas without established water structures, insecurity in some areas with forage reserves especially in Turkana East

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- During the period under review, livestock body condition for all species was poor in all the sites with cases of emaciated shoats along the Fisheries and Pastoral livelihood zones. Cattle and shoats were generally thin with little fat and bones visible.
- The body condition of all livestock species is expected to deteriorate further owing to the late onset of the MAM rainfall implying forage gaps are likely to persist throughout the month of April.
- Livestock body condition for all livestock species portrayed out of the norm characteristics across all the livelihood zones and that was due to pasture/browse depletion coupled with the longer than average trekking distance covered in March.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases and Mortalities

- Majority of the sites along the Pastoral and Fisheries livelihood zones continued reporting cases of Pest Petis Ruminantes (PPR) in small stock. Incidents of Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP) was also reported by a number of households in the Agro-pastoral livelihood zone.
- Livestock mortality attributed to starvation and dehydration was on the increase with several sites in the Pastoral (Kalapata, Kaaleng, Lokichar, Kibish, Loima) and Fisheries (Lakezone, Kalokol, Kerio) livelihood zones being affected.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- Negligible proportion of households reported on milk production whose amount was below one litre and was on a declining trend (Figure 8).

- Compared to the normal production level for the period and the one reported for a similar month during the dry years, the recorded production level for March was significantly lower by 62 and 56 percent respectively.

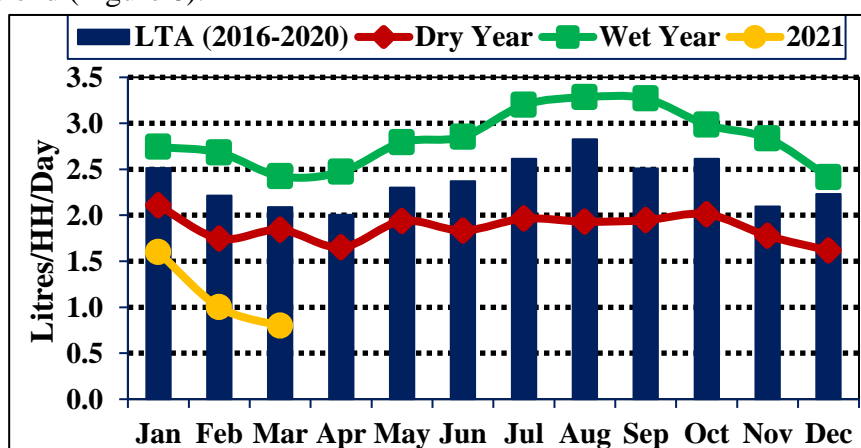


Figure 8: Milk Production Trends in Turkana County

- Across all the markets in the three livelihood zones, there were no milk sales reported since preference was given to the young ones to drink among the lactating herd as a means of cushioning them from drought effects.
- The observed negative trend could be ascribed to the low calving rates and migration of a significant proportion of the herd to areas along the County borders in search of forage.

3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of Food Crops

- The long rains (MAM) is the major farming season for most farmers along the Agro-pastoral livelihood zone who practice rain-fed agriculture with the major crops cultivated including maize, cowpeas and sorghum.
- During the period under analysis, majority of the farmers were involved in land preparation in anticipation of the onset of the long rains for planting.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

- The price of a 4-year old medium sized bull declined further during the month under review and hence across the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral markets it traded at KSh. 13,100 (Figure 9).
- Deterioration in cattle body condition occasioned by constraints in accessing pasture and water within shorter trekking distances was the major factor that contributed to the observed price negativity in March.

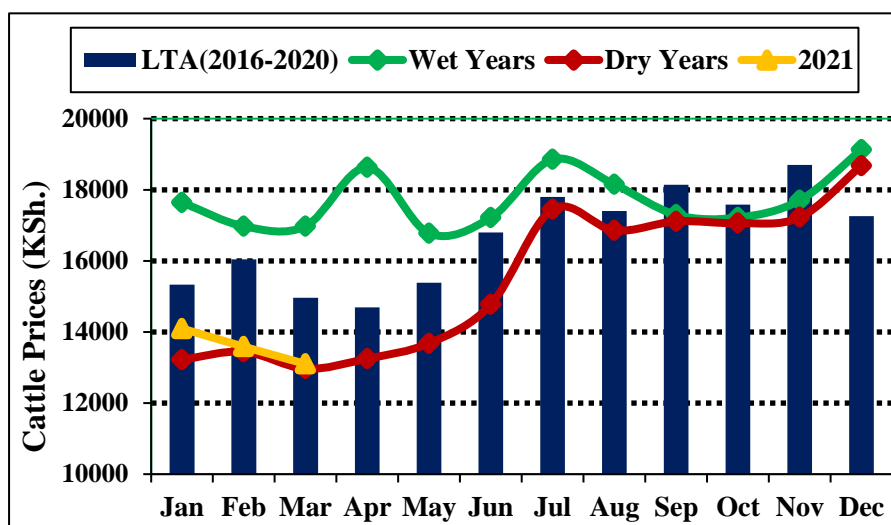


Figure 9: Cattle Price Trend in Turkana County- January to March 2021

reported for a similar period during the previous dry years but below the long-term average for the period under review by 13 percent and thus indicative of a worsening drought situation.

4.1.2 Small Ruminants Prices (Goat price)

- The most commonly traded medium sized goat aged 2 years was retailing at KSh. 2,150 and that was a seven percent drop with respect to the selling price reported in February across all the livelihood zones (Figure 10).
- Access to quality browse in adequate quantities for utilization by goat was a major challenge that resulted to significant deterioration in the body condition hence the observed decline in price.

- The Agro-pastoral livelihood markets reported the highest price of KSh. 2,320 while the Pastoral and Fisheries markets recorded an average price of KSh. 2,130 and KSh. 2,050 in that order.
- Compared to the recorded price of goat for the same month during the dry years and the five-year average price for March, the prevailing market price of goat across all the markets was lower by seven percent and 21 percent respectively.

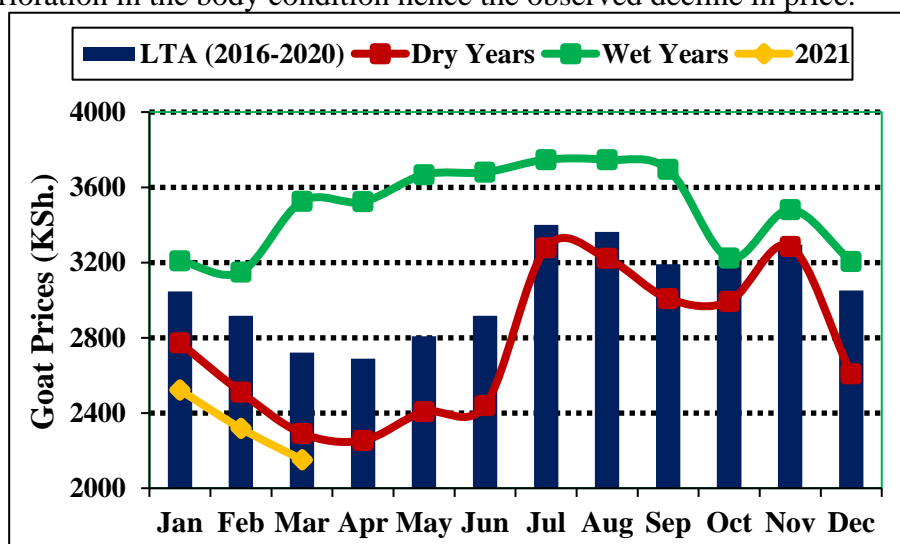


Figure 10: Goat Price Trend in Turkana County-January to March 2021

- Following the late onset of the MAM rainfall that was yet to be attained, recovery/ regeneration of browse was anticipated to take longer than normal and that would most likely have a negative effect on the body condition of goat implying the poor return value at market was expected to persist across the month of April.

4.1.3 Camel Prices

- During the month under review, a slight decline in the price of a 4-year old camel was noted across the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones and hence it traded at KSh. 23,000 (Figure 11).

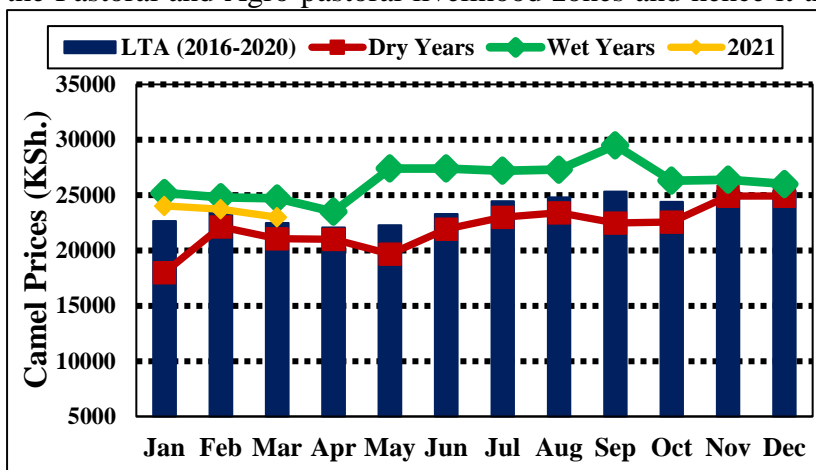


Figure 11: Camel Price Trend in Turkana County-January to March 2021

The observed negative trend in price could be attributed to difficulty in accessing quality palatable browse within relatively shorter trekking distances and that resulted to a further deterioration in the body condition of camel during the month under review.

The Agro-pastoral livelihood markets reported the highest price of KSh. 24,000 while those along the Pastoral livelihood zone returned an average price of KSh. 22,600. No camel sales were reported in the Fisheries livelihood zone.

- The reported price of camel in March was at par with the five-year average price for the period but slightly higher than the one recorded for the same month during the previous dry years by nine percent.

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

- The price of maize increased slightly in relation to the one recorded at market level during the month of February and consequently retailed at KSh. 70 per kilogram across the major markets within the Pastoral, Agro-pastoral and Fisheries livelihood zones (Figure 12).
- Despite the reported price being lower than the one recorded for a similar period during the preceding dry years by a margin of 20 percent, it surpassed the five-year average price of maize for March albeit by four percent. Notable though, majority of households had a higher preference for maize from Trans Nzoia as opposed to imports from Uganda.

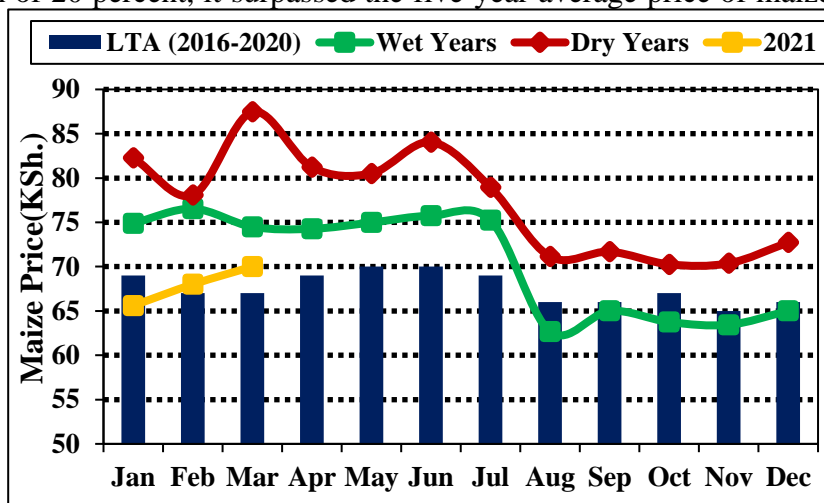


Figure 12: Maize Price Trend in Turkana County-January to March 2021

- The Pastoral, Fisheries and Agro-pastoral markets reported an average price per kilogram of maize of KSh. 73, KSh. 70 and KSh. 58 respectively during the subject period under review.
- Notwithstanding the above price range, majority of interior markets in Turkana East and North Sub-counties reported significantly high prices exceeding KSh. 100 per kilogram of maize with insecurity, poor market/ road infrastructure and market monopolization by select few traders being cited as causal factors for the observed scenario.
- Continued rise in the market price of maize could be attributed to a number of factors including: increased demand occasioned by lack of alternative foods like milk normally obtained from livestock that had migrated, scarcity of maize in some markets resulting from reduced supplies due to incidents of insecurity and the general depletion of internal stocks of maize and other substitutes like sorghum that normally supplemented household food requirements.

4.2.2 Beans

- There was a notable increase in the price of beans during the month under review relative to the previous month of February and thus a kilogram exchanged at KSh. 125 (Figure 13).
- Dwindling of stocks with the major external markets resulted to reduced flow of beans into the

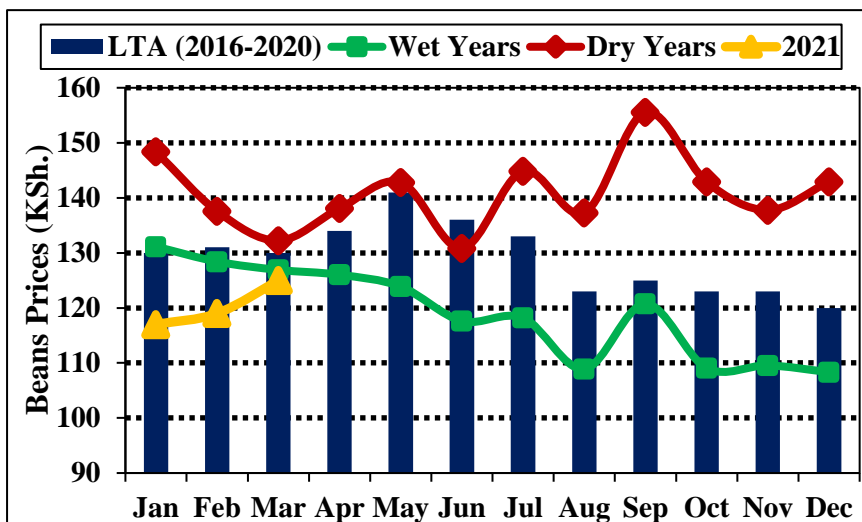


Figure 13: Beans Price Trend in Turkana County-January to March 2021

markets and thus the scarcity witnessed prompted the price shift upwards. In addition, following the poor OND 2020 season, minimal agricultural activity was witnessed and thus substitutes like cowpeas were also not readily available in the market. The highest price of KSh. 128 was recorded along the Pastoral livelihood zone while the Fisheries and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones returned an average

price of KSh. 125 and KSh. 120 accordingly.

- The recorded price of beans in March was lower than the one reported for a similar month during the dry years and the five-year average for March by four percent and six percent respectively.

4.3 LIVESTOCK: CEREAL PRICE RATIO/TERMS OF TRADE (ToT)

- Sustained declining of the terms of trade was noted during the month under review, consequently, proceeds obtained upon sale of a medium sized goat was only adequate in acquiring 31 Kilograms of maize through the market as opposed to 39 Kilograms and 34 Kilograms in January and February respectively (Figure 14). Pastoral households were thus disadvantaged in March.

- Compared to the five-year average ToT for the period under review, the prevailing ToT was lower by 12 percent.
- Following the eroded purchasing power occasioned by the poor ToT, majority of Pastoral households were not able to acquire a diverse diet with the high cost of transportation occasioned by the third wave of COVID-19 and the rise in the cost of petroleum reducing the available funds for food purchase.

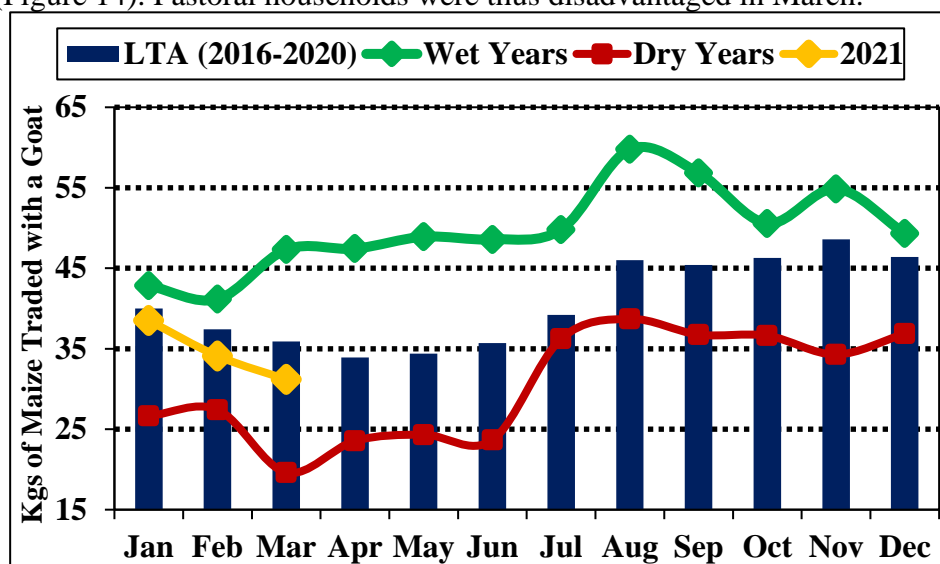


Figure 14: Terms of Trade Trend in Turkana County-January to March 2021

- The observed decline in the terms of trade during the period under review was as a consequence of the drop in the price of goat occasioned by the deteriorating body condition coinciding with a rise in the price of maize following the scarcity witnessed. It is anticipated that the negative trend in ToT will most likely persist across April following the late onset of the long rains.
- Some of the Sub-counties that recorded exceptionally low terms of trade included: Turkana North, East and Kibish mainly influenced by the high cost of maize.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- During the month under review, a negligible percentage of households reported to have consumed milk with the consumption level declining further from the previous month and averaging 0.8 litres per day (Figure 15).

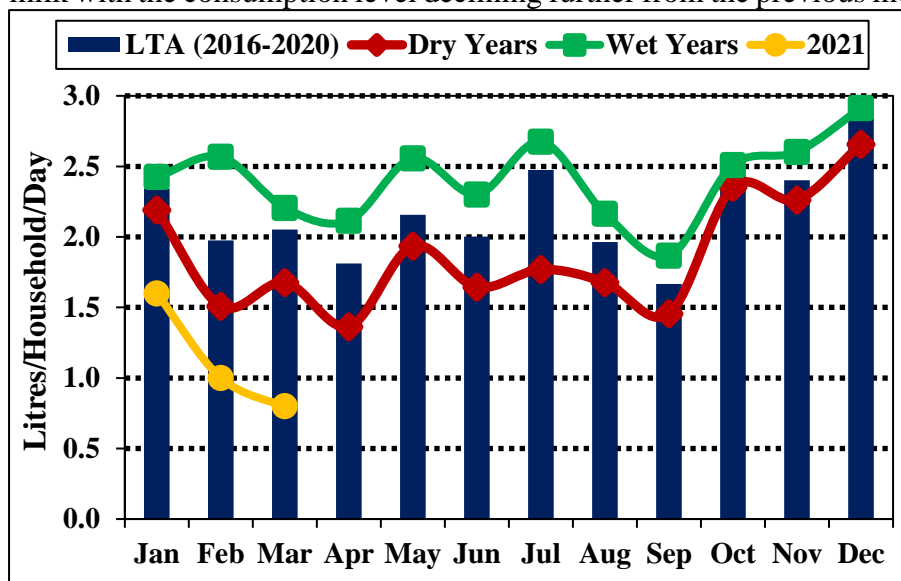


Figure 15: Milk Consumption Trend in Turkana County

The observed trend was as a consequence of the prevailing drought that had resulted to depletion of forage and therefore livestock had to trek for longer distances leading to low milk yields. In addition, the calving rate was also low and therefore very few households had access to milk for consumption. The negative trend is anticipated to persist across April owing to the late onset of the long rains that would most likely affect forage regeneration and recharge of water facilities hence limit availability to livestock across all the livelihood zones.

- Not only was the reported consumption lower than the five-year average for the month of March by 62 percent but also the one recorded for a similar period during the dry years by 53 percent.

5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE (FCS)

- Proportion of the households in March categorized as having acceptable, borderline and poor food consumption score in the three major livelihood zones constituted 27 percent, 34 percent and 39 percent in that sequence (Figure 16).

- Relative to the previous month of February, there was a significant increase (by approximately 14 percent) in the proportion of households classified as having a poor FCS with majority being in the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones.

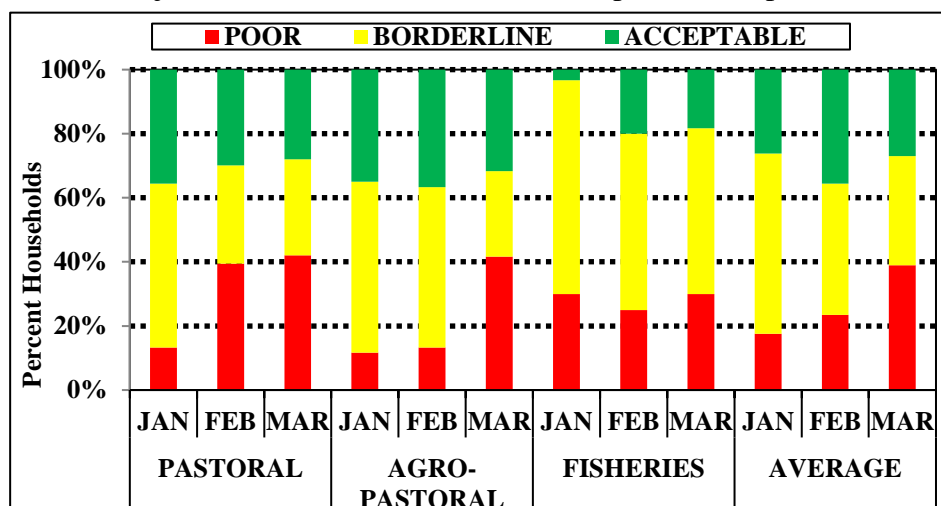


Figure 16: Food Consumption Trends in Turkana County

- Based on the overall food consumption score for the County that averaged 27 in March, a deterioration in the food consumption patterns was evident with respect to the previous month (FCS being 29) implying most households were consuming staples and vegetables every day, accompanied by oil and pulses a few times in a week.
- Remarkable proportion of households exhibiting poor food consumption characteristics could also be traced to Kalokol, Loima and Kaeris wards during the period under review.
- Noteworthy, the food security situation along the Agro-pastoral livelihood zone deteriorated rapidly as a consequence of stock-outs being experienced since minimal agricultural activities took place during the short rains of 2020 and no farming activities were on-going.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- From the sampled children under five years whose Mid Upper Arm Circumference (colour MUAC) was taken in March across the Pastoral, Fisheries and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones, 47 percent constituted females while 53 percent were males.
- The proportion of under-fives falling within the ‘moderately and severely malnourished’ category

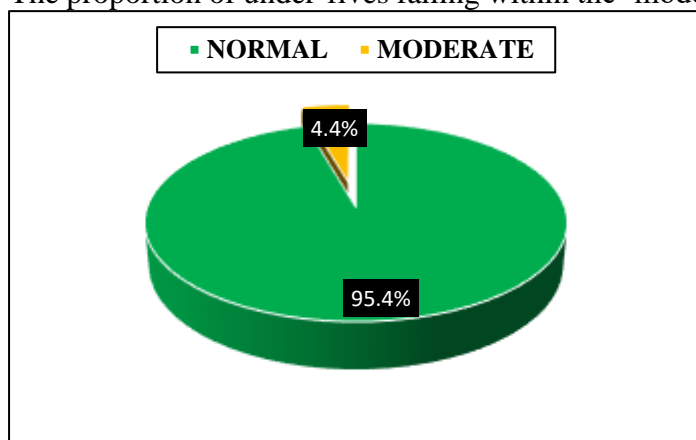


Figure 17: Malnutrition Trends in the County; n=884

was 4.4 percent and that represented an increase with respect to the previous month when the proportion was 3.6 percent (Figure 17). However, the reported proportion of children aged 6-59 months falling within the aforementioned categories in March was lower than the long-term average proportion and the one reported for a similar period during the dry years by 1.8 percent and three percent accordingly. The observed negative trend in malnutrition could be ascribed to reduced milk consumption levels owing to in availability occasioned by livestock migration, reduced household purchasing power due to the poor ToT that had consequently impacted on dietary diversity and fewer number of integrated health outreaches delivering essential nutrition services to malnutrition hotspots that normally are not well served by health facilities due to proximity.

5.4 COPING STRATEGY

5.4.1 Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)

- The coping strategy index adjusted upwards from 16.6 recorded in February to 18.3 in March. Therefore, the rCSI was typically high for the period implying most households across all the livelihood zones were having a minimally adequate diet (Figure 18).
- Variation in the consumption based coping strategies (CBCS) in application during the period under review was noted with more households resorting to severe coping strategies like restricting consumption by adults/mothers in order for the children to eat and borrowing on a regular basis.

- Proportion of households applying ‘stress’ and ‘crisis/emergency’ consumption based coping strategies during the month under review was 64.8 percent and 35.2 percent in that order.
- Comparatively, difficulty in accessing food or money to buy food was highly pronounced in the Pastoral livelihood zone compared to the other livelihood zones as depicted in figure 18.

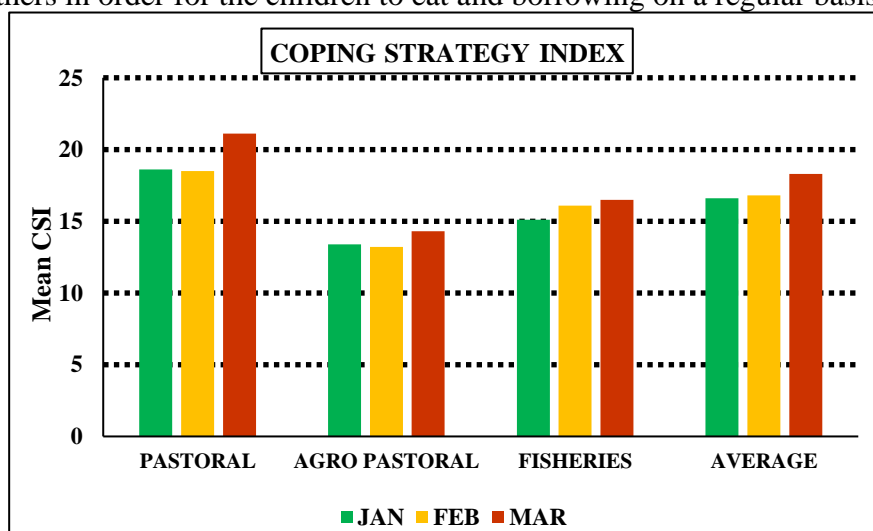


Figure 18: Trends in Coping Strategies in Turkana County-Jan to Mar 2021

- Reliance on less preferred/less expensive food and reduced number of meals consumed per day were some of the most commonly applied consumption based coping strategies during the month under analysis across all the livelihood zones.

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 FOOD

- During the period under review, Turkana County Government (TCG) distributed relief food to the affected population in Turkana East and Kibish Sub-counties.

6.2 NON-FOOD

Table 2: Non-Food Interventions

Intervention	Sub County/ Ward/Location	No. of Beneficiaries	Implementer(s)
Food vouchers distribution under Omo Delta funded by EU to cushion vulnerable households COVID-19 effects	Lokitaung, Kachoda, Kaalem, Moru Eris. Kaaleng, Kopotea in Turkana North and Nakinomet, Loitanit, Koyasa, Kibish and Lokamarinyang in Kibish	185 (147 men and 38 women)	VSF Germany, County Department of Veterinary Services and Public Health
Commissioning of Veterinary Pharmacy under Omo Delta Funded by EU	Lokamarinyang – Kibish sub-county	To serve all the population of Kibish Sub-county	VSF Germany and County Department of Veterinary Services
Distribution of crops and vegetable seeds to farmers as a livelihood support project from effects of Desert Locust	Loima-Kalemunyang, Muruese, Kangalita, Keekuto, Naipa, Turkana South-Katilu, Keekunyuk, Nabeye Turkana East-Nakukulas, Morulem. Lokipoto and Natiira in Turkana West	4,205 (1,436 males and 2,769 females)	FAO, VSF Germany, County Department of Agriculture

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 INSECURITY

7.1.1 Conflict/Human Displacement

- Insecurity associated with cattle rustling was reported in Turkana East (Lokwomosing) during the month under review where shoats were stolen.

7.2 MIGRATION

- Continued migration of livestock from areas where forage had depleted towards the periphery areas and across the County borders into Uganda was witnessed during the period under review.
- Majority of the livestock from the Fisheries livelihood zone had moved towards Todonyang and Kibish despite these areas being perennial conflict hotspots.
- Generally, a significant proportion of livestock estimated at 80 percent had migrated from their normal grazing areas to other sites in search of forage and water as the drought severity intensified during the month of March with the above average LSTs accelerating depletion of forage.
- The observed scenario is projected to persist across April since the onset of the long rains is yet to be attained and therefore recovery of pasture and browse especially within the plains will most likely be slower than expected.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

7.3.1 Food Security Outlook for April 2021

- The MAM rainfall onset was forecasted to be during the third to fourth week of March with the likelihood of the County experiencing near average rainfall. However, as the end of March, the onset had not been attained and therefore the probable food security outcomes across the month of April shall include:

- Agricultural productivity will most likely be impacted negatively with planting anticipated to be delayed by late receipt of rainfall in April as opposed to March normally. Consequently, remaining minimal household food stocks will thus deplete completely over the aforementioned period.
- The body condition of all livestock species is expected to deteriorate further across April owing to minimal regeneration of pasture/browse and therefore, the purchasing power at household level will most likely decrease as the terms of trade decline further across the subject month.
- Milk in availability and minimal delivery of essential nutrition services more so in the hard to reach areas normally targeted through outreaches by various humanitarian actors whose interventions continue being curtailed by the upsurge of COVID-19 positive cases will most likely occasion an upsurge in malnutrition cases across the forecast period.
- Competition for resources especially among the migrating pastoral households will most likely translate to a rise in incidents of insecurity (banditry attacks and raids) and that is likely to have a negative impact on households in terms of increased vulnerability.
- Therefore, the population in urgent need of food assistance as a result of experiencing ‘crisis’ and ‘emergency’ food security outcomes will most like adjust upwards across that period of stress.

8.0 RECOMMENDED INTERVENTIONS

8.1 FOOD

Table 3: Food Related Immediate Recommended Interventions

Sector	Potential Lives Saving Actions
Food and Safety Net	Protect lives through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of relief food/ food assistance, cash transfer targeting vulnerable households’ affected by drought, conflict and COVID-19 third wave.

8.3 NON-FOOD

Table 4: Non-Food Immediate Recommended Interventions

Sector	Potential Livelihood Saving Actions
Water	Enhance water availability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct water trucking to sites experiencing acute water shortage. • Repair of broken-down water facilities such as strategic boreholes.
Livestock/ Veterinary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of supplementary feeds to sustain the core milking herd. • Initiate slaughter destocking to cushion the vulnerable and minimize losses. • Enhance livestock disease surveillance while conducting targeted vaccination and treatment against PPR in convergence zones.
Health and Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization of communities on hygiene and sanitation measures as a means of curbing the spread of COVID-19. • Mass screening for malnutrition cases. • Conduct integrated health outreaches that offer essential nutrition commodities in malnutrition hotspots while distributing water treatment chemicals.
Peace and Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensifying peace meetings: inter-county & cross border for resource sharing.
Agriculture	Enhance food availability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of drought tolerant seeds to farmers practising rain-fed farming. • Enhance control and surveillance measures against the second wave of Desert Locusts.