



**National Drought Management Authority  
WEST POKOT COUNTY  
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR JUNE 2021**

**JUNE EW PHASE**



**Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification**

**Biophysical Indicators**

- In June, depressed rainfall was received. The temporal distribution was poor and spatial distribution was uneven across the livelihood zones.
- The vegetation cover index is at normal range, with an improving trend across the livelihoods as shown by the Vegetation Condition Index as compared to that recorded in May. All Sub-counties recorded normal vegetation conditions. Forage condition was fair with improving trend.

**Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)**

- The milk production at household level slightly increased and was above long term average while milk consumption remained stable.
- The livestock body condition is still fair, with a stable trend across the County for all species. Distance to water sources slightly decreased across the County.
- The County's terms of trade was favourable with a decreasing trend in all livelihood zones.
- Most of the households fell within the Acceptable Food Consumption Score as the Coping Strategy Index decreased across livelihood zones. There were no notable variations in livelihood coping strategies employed between livelihoods.

**Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification**

LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TREND
AGRO PASTORAL	<b>NORMAL</b>	STABLE
PASTORAL	<b>NORMAL</b>	STABLE
<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>NORMAL</b>	<b>STABLE</b>

Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal range
VCI-3month (County)	57	>35
Forage Condition	Good	Good

Production Indicators	Value	Normal range
Livestock Body Condition	Fair	Normal
Milk Production	1.5	>1.6 Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Usual	Normal
Livestock deaths (attributed to drought)	No deaths	No deaths

Access Indicators	Value	Normal range
Terms of Trade (ToT)	87	>76
Milk Consumption	1.3	>1.2 Litres
Return distance to water sources (household)	3.1 km	0.0-2.6km
Cost of water at source (Ksh. /20 litres)	Kshs 5	<Kshs 5

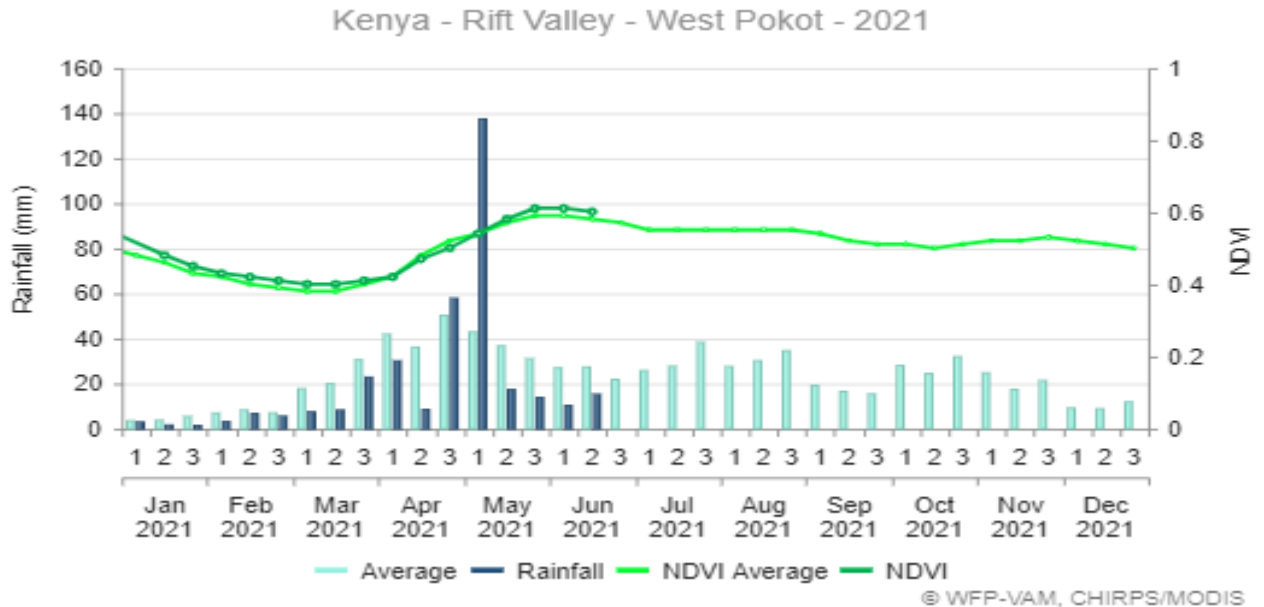
Utilization Indicators	Value	Normal range
Nutrition status, MUAC (Severe + Moderate)	2.4	<4
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	1.3	0.0-14.5
Food Consumption Score	48	>35

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Short rains harvests</li> <li>▪ Short dry spell</li> <li>▪ Increased HH Food Stock</li> <li>▪ Land preparation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Planting/Weeding</li> <li>▪ Long rains</li> <li>▪ High Calving Rate</li> <li>▪ Milk Yields Increase</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Long rains harvests</li> <li>▪ A long dry spell</li> <li>▪ Land preparation</li> <li>▪ Increased HH Food Stock</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Short rains</li> <li>▪ Planting/weeding</li> <li>▪ (Irish potatoes, Cabbages and Onions)</li> </ul>								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

# 1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

## 1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- Inadequate rainfall was received during the month. The situation was below normal for such time of the year.



Source: VAM-World Food Programme

- In the month under review, the dekadal rainfall was at 10.2 mm from 137 mm in the first dekad and at 15.2 mm in the second dekad from 17.2 mm in May. The amounts significantly decreased when compared with the previous month dekadal amounts. The amounts were generally below normal.
- The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) was slightly above the normal in first and second dekads and tracks same trend when compared to their respective long term dekadal NDVI values.

## 1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- In June, the spatial and temporal rainfall distribution was poor across the livelihoods. The amounts received were below normal.

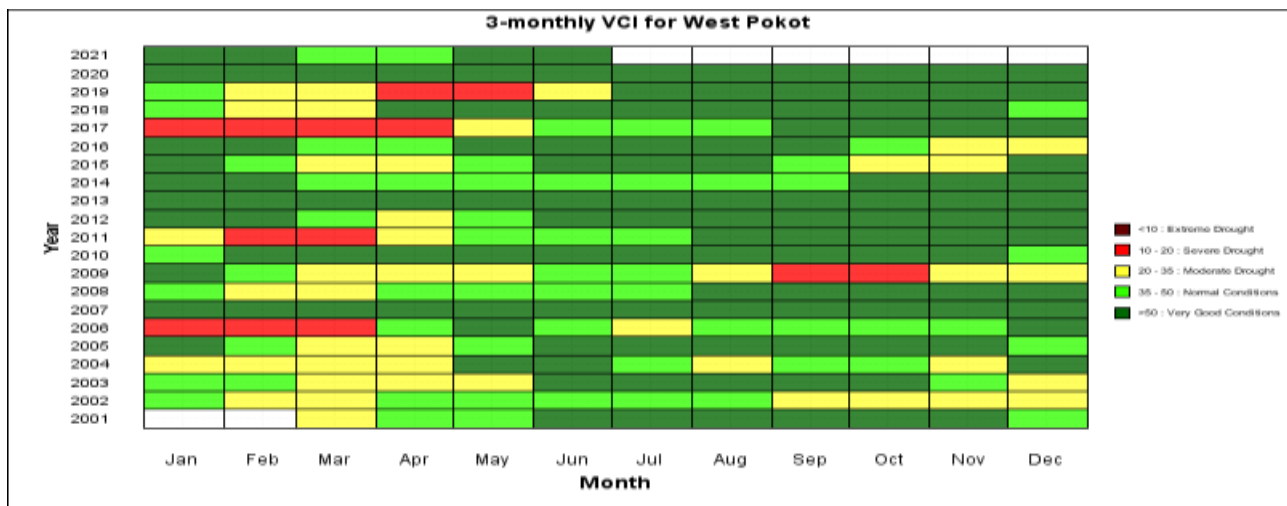
## 1.3 OTHER EVENTS

- There were no notable events were reported across the County during the month.

## 2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

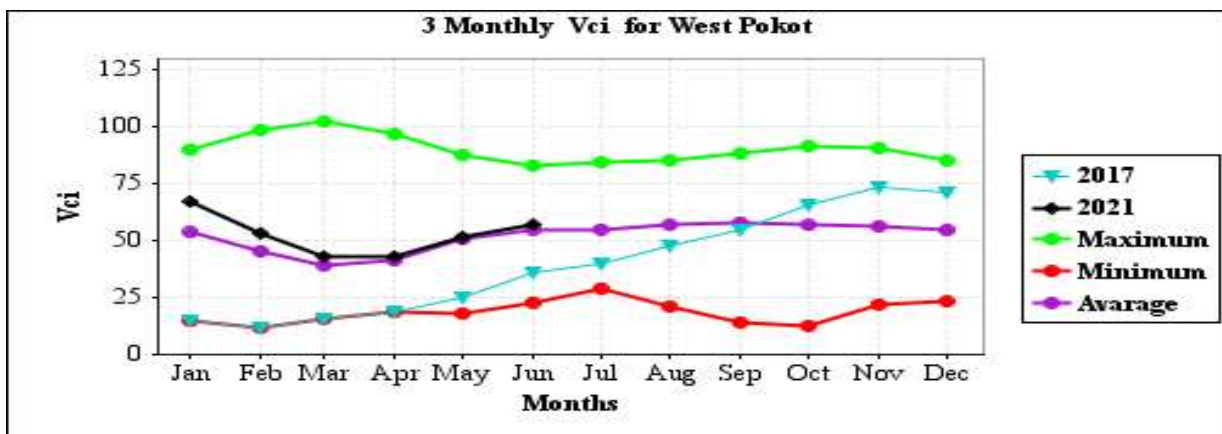
### 2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

#### 2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)



Source: Boku University

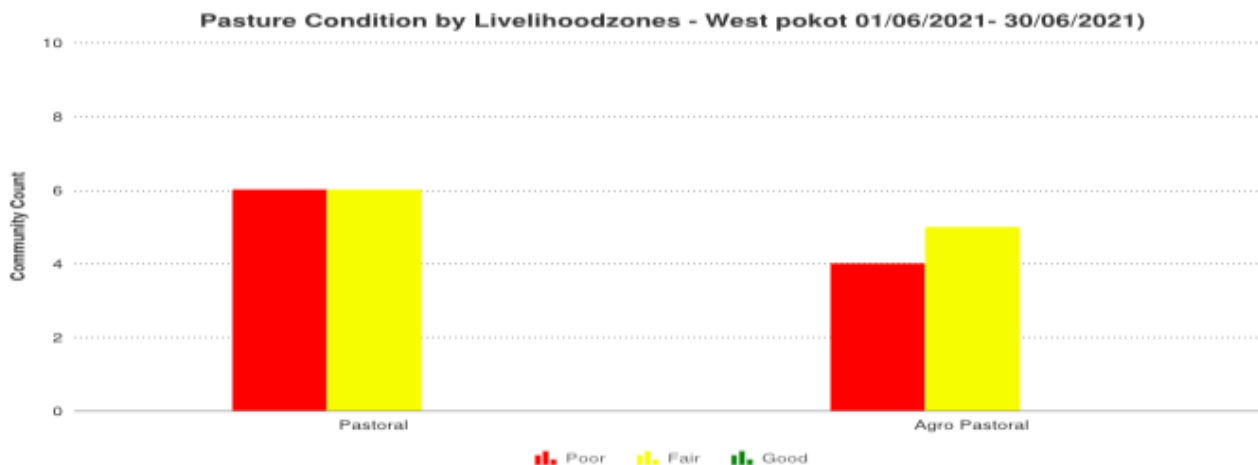
- The VCI (VCI-3month) which describes the vegetation status of the County was at 57 an increase from 51 reported in May. The current VCI depicts very good vegetation condition.
- The VCI is on increasing trend across all livelihood zones. All sub-counties reported above normal vegetation conditions. Both Pokot North and Pokot Central Sub counties recorded improving condition in VCI from 44 to 56 and 49 to 52 respectively while in Pokot South and Pokot West the VCI of both Sub counties dropped from 64 to 58 and 58 to 55 respectively. The unsteady VCI situation in these Sub counties is credited to poor regeneration of vegetation cover owing to erratic performance of rains in June.



- The poor performance of rainfall in June adversely affected the vegetation rejuvenation in the County.

## 2.1.2 Pasture

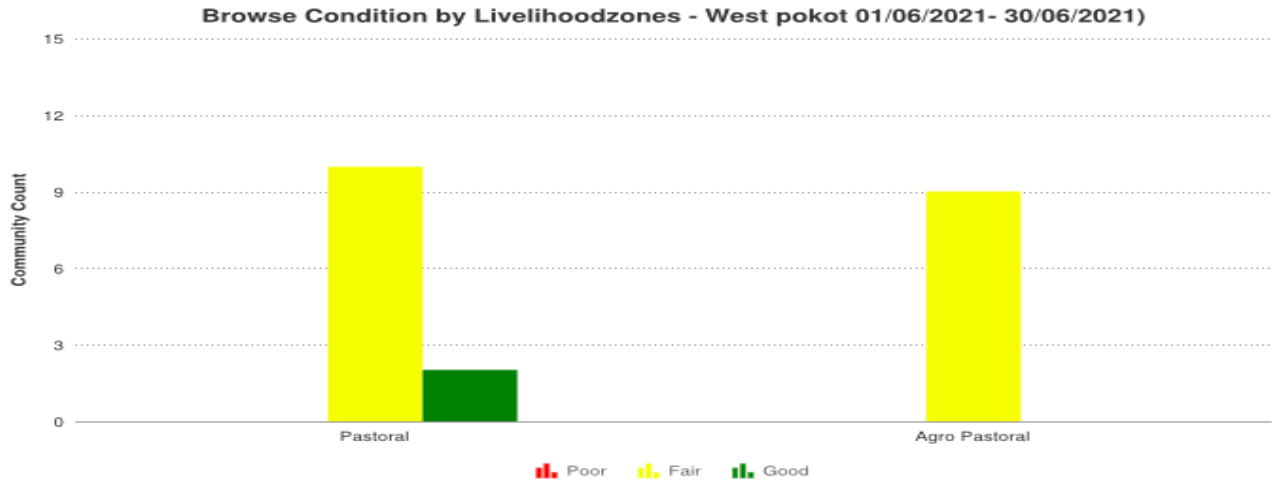
- The proportion of sampled community members which stated that the pasture was fair was 50 percent and 56 percent in pastoral and agro pastoral livelihood zones respectively, when compared to that of May, the situation remained stable.
- The communities reported that pasture situation was fair in all livelihood zones. The condition was however below normal for such time of the year.



- The pasture condition is on stable trend when compared to that of the previous month owing to cumulative significant effects of long rains season. The pasture condition is likely to deteriorate if off season rains fail.
- There is no significant variation in terms of pasture. Quality and quantity is fair in both agro-pastoral and pastoral livelihood zones.

## 2.1.3 Browse

- In June, the browse condition remained fair to good in both agro pastoral and poor in pastoral livelihood zones and is below normal for such period of the year. The quality of the browse condition is stable, when compared to that of the previous month.
- The proportion of sampled community members which stated that browse condition is fair was at 83 percent in pastoral and 100 percent in agro pastoral livelihoods.

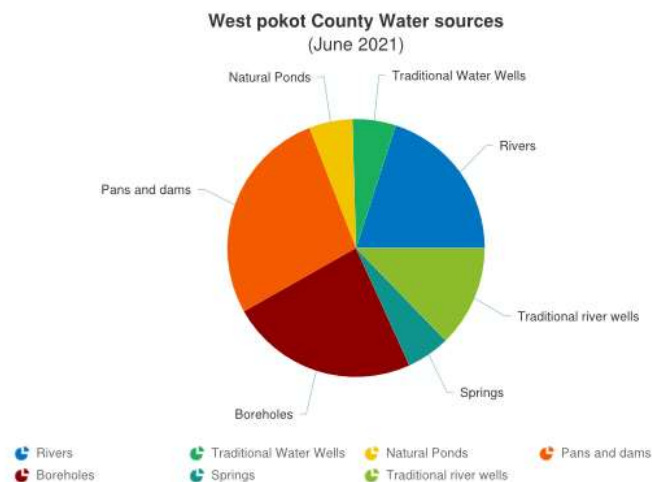


- There was significant variation between the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones.
- The sustained peace building efforts have enhanced access to forage in the conflict zones in the County.

## 2.2 WATER RESOURCE

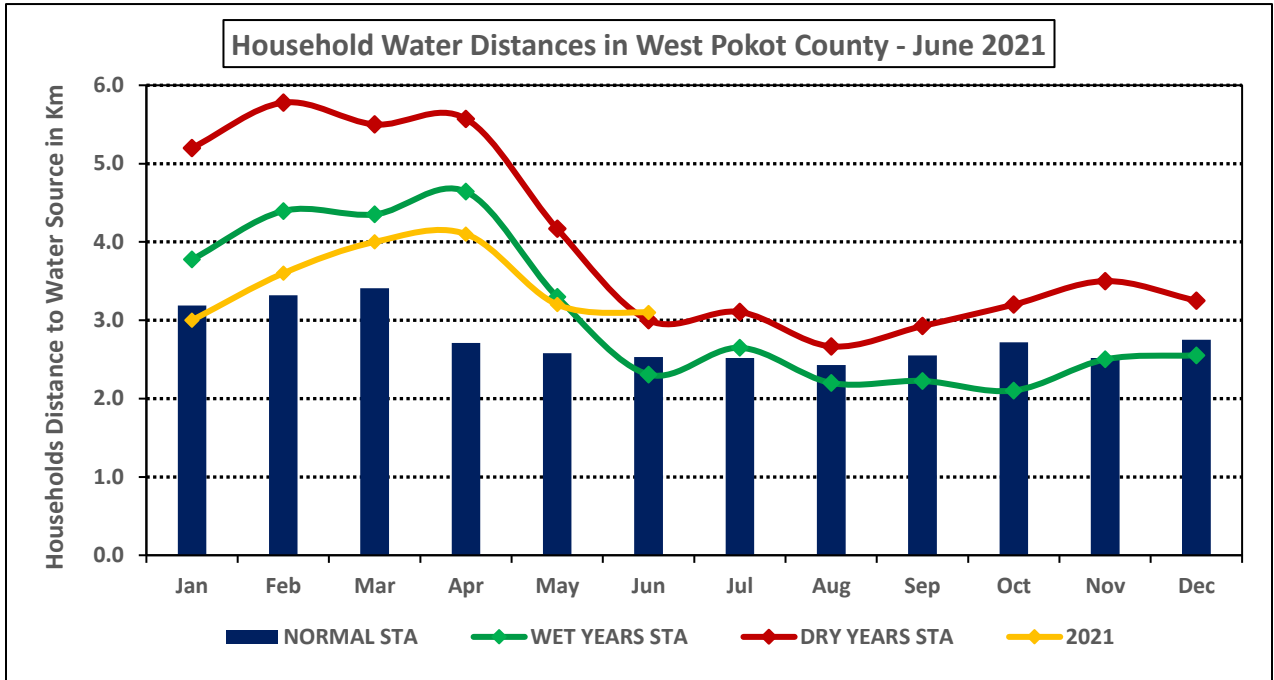
### 2.2.1 Sources

- The proportion of sampled population using main water sources for both households and livestock in June were; 31, 27, 23 and six percent for pans and dams, boreholes, rivers and natural ponds, springs and traditional water wells respectively.
- There was low surface water recharge in all sources. The situation was poor owing to poor rains during the month.
- The current main water sources in use are the normal ones used by households during such time of the year.



### 2.2.2 Household Access and Utilization

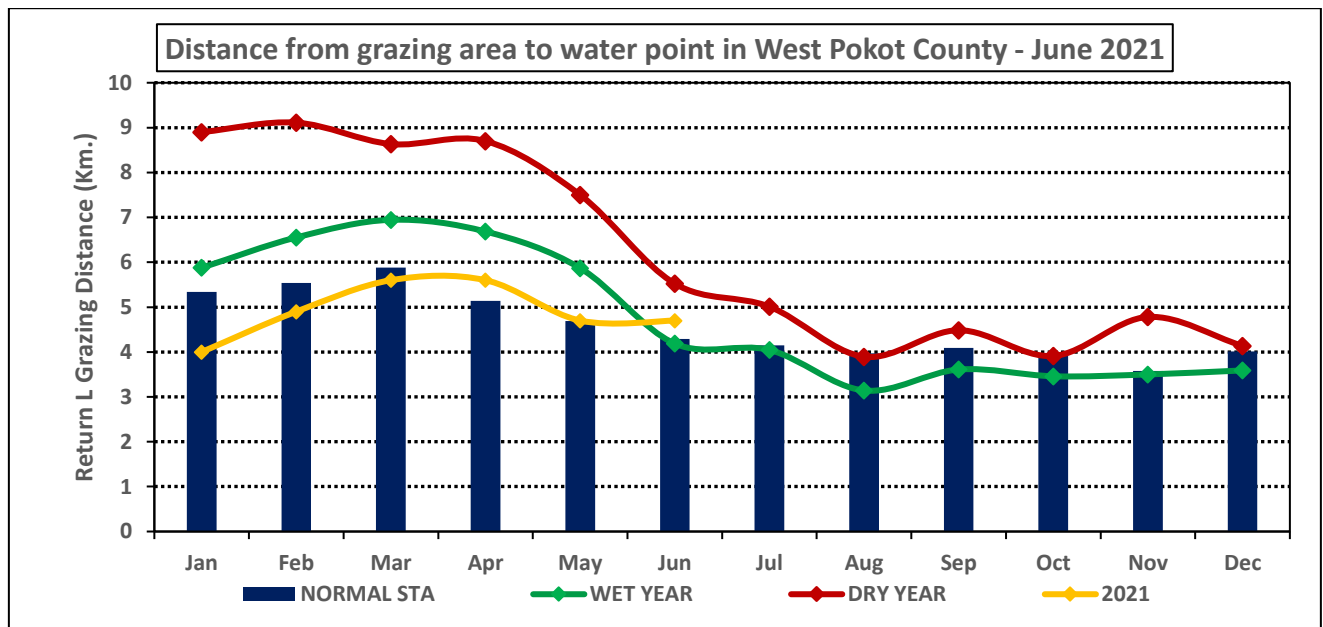
- The return distance to water source from the household was at 3.1 km, a slight decrease from 3.2 km recorded in May. The current distance is 24 percent above the Long Term Average (LTA).
- Pastoral livelihood zones of Pokot North and Pokot Central Sub counties recorded longer trekking distance to water source than the agro-pastoral livelihood zones. The slight drop in distance is indeed expected and is associated to cumulative significant recharge to water sources in during MAM rain season.



- The pastoral livelihood zones recorded longer waiting time at water source as usual than the agro-pastoral zones.
- The average household water consumption per person per day remained at 9-12 litres in the pastoral zones while that in the agro-pastoral zones was 11-15 at litres.
- The water cost at the source is still free in the rural areas and different in urban centres where a 20 litre Jerrican cost was within normal ranges for the period at Kshs 5.

### 2.2.3 Livestock Access

- In the month under review, the livestock return trekking distance from grazing areas to water sources remained 4.7 km, same as that of the previous month. The current trekking distance is 9 percent above the long term average.
- The pastoral livelihood zone recorded longer trekking time from grazing areas to water source as compared to agro-pastoral livelihood zones.



- The trend in livestock trekking distance to water points is stable attributed to significant cumulative recharge from the MAM rains.
- Livestock watering frequency is still at 6-7 times in a week for both cattle and shoats and 5-6 times in a week for camel. The watering frequency is normal for such time of the year.

## **3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS**

### **3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION**

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

- The body condition for all livestock species is still fair in both pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones. The condition is stable in comparison to that of May.
- The livestock body condition is likely to improve across livelihood zones with the forecasted off-season rains during July.
- The body condition is below normal for all livestock species in comparison to same period during a normal year. The stable trend is owed to fair forage condition.
- There was no significant variation in livestock body condition between the two livelihood zones.

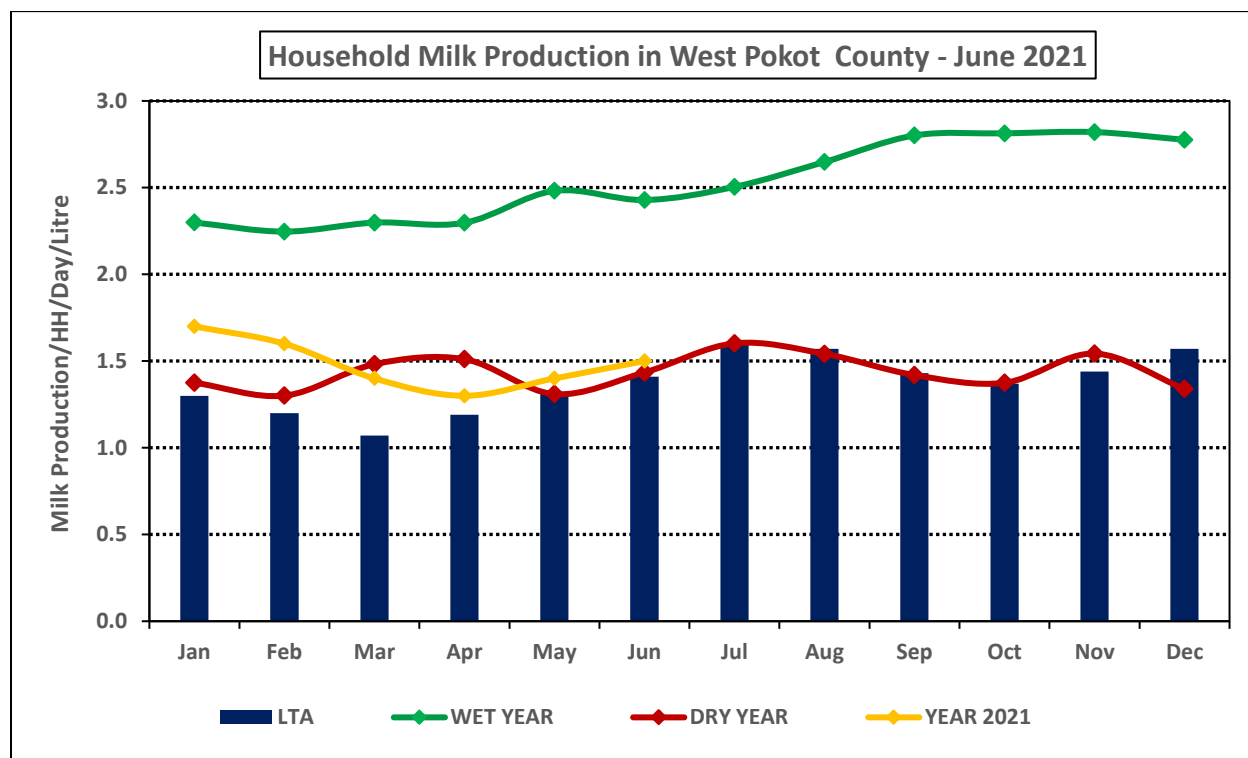
#### **3.1.2 Livestock Diseases**

- Lumpy skin disease was reported in Kiwawa and Kasei wards while Endemic CCPP and CCBP incidences were reported in Suam and Kasei in Pokot North Sub County.

#### **3.1.3 Milk Production**

- During the month, the County recorded an average production of 1.5 litres of milk per household per day, a rise from 1.4 litres reported in the previous month.
- As usual, cattle was the main livestock producing milk at the households in all the livelihood zones in the County.
- The current household milk production is 9 percent above the long term average.
- The household increasing trend in milk production is attributed to fair forage access in the traditional grazing areas.





### 3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

#### 3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

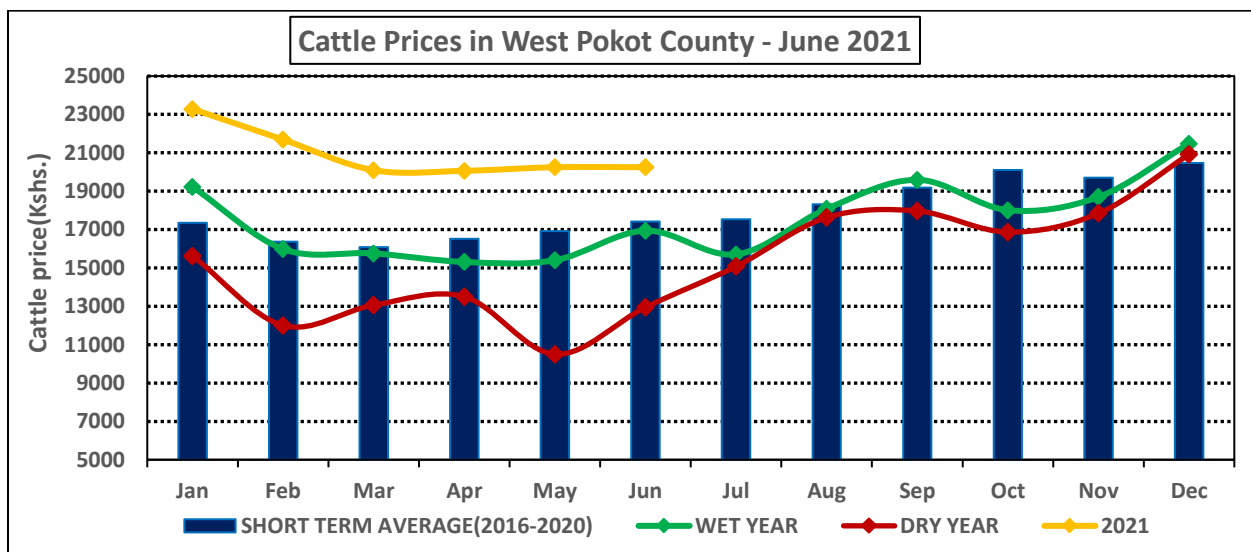
- The major crops cultivated in the County include maize, beans, potatoes and bulb onions. Maize crop in the lowlands has wilted due to water stress during the month of June.
- The horticultural production and supply to major markets in Ortum and Lomut is low in comparison to the seasonal performance due to poor rains in June.
- Onion crop is doing well along the horticultural production zones in the highland zones of Batei ward.
- The pawpaw and Mango fruits supply is off-season. These are otherwise supplied to Lomut, Ortum, Sigor and external markets for distribution to other centres within and outside the County.

## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

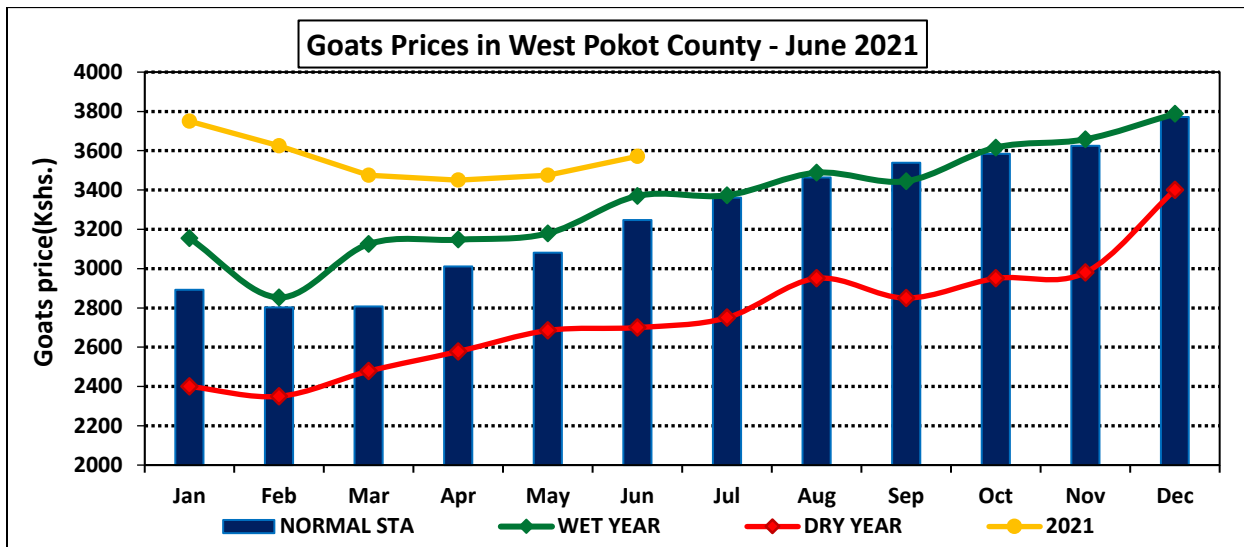
#### 4.1.1 Cattle prices

- The medium sized 4-year bull was sold at an average price of Kshs 20,250, same as that recorded in May.
- The stable trend in cattle price is mainly attributed to fair condition along with fair recharge of water sources for livestock.
- The current cattle price is however 16 percent above the long term average.



#### 4.1.2 Goat Prices

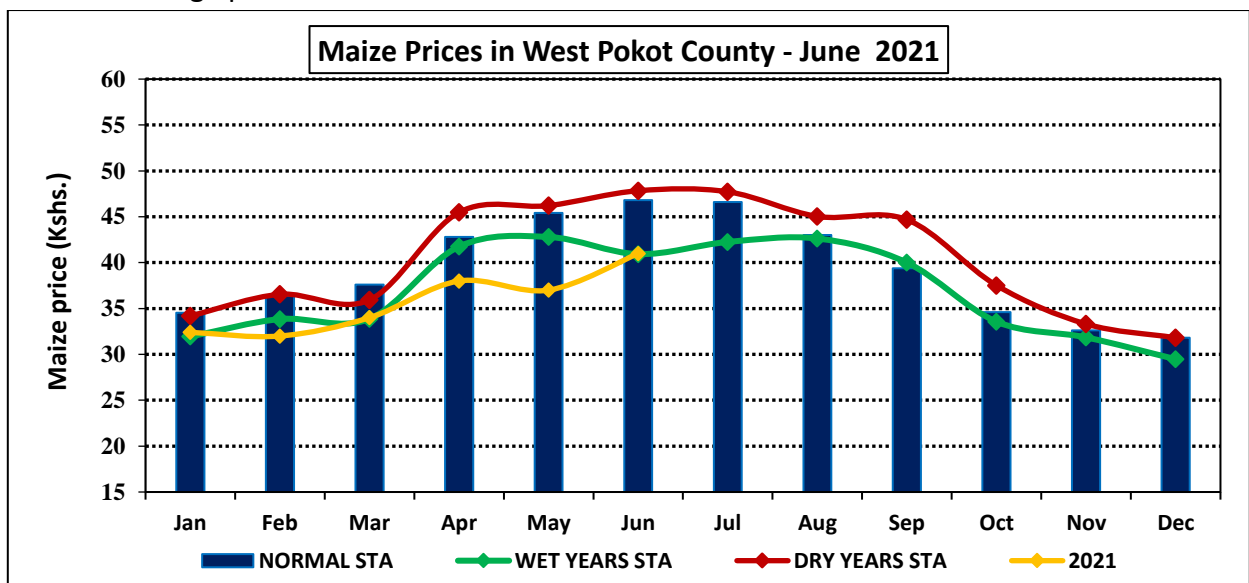
- The County recorded an average price of Kshs 3,571 for a 2-year old medium size goat in June, which depicted price rise in comparison with Kshs 3,475 reported in the previous month.
- The upward price trend is linked to fair body condition as well as decreasing trekking distances across the livelihoods. The current goat price is 10 percent above long term average for such a period of the year.



## 4.2 CROP PRICES

### 4.2.1 Maize

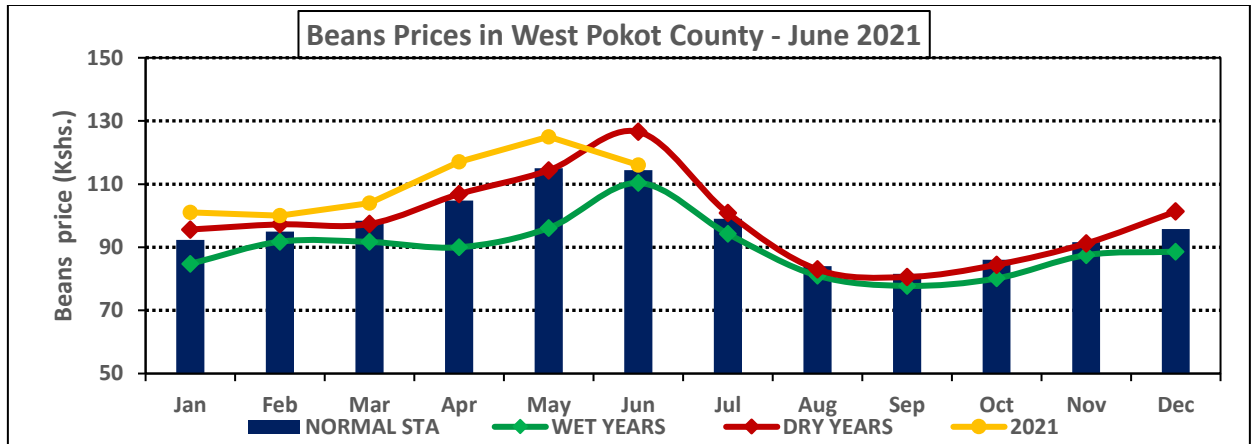
- In June, the maize was sold at Ksh 41 per kg, an increase from Ksh 37 reported in the previous month.
- When compared to the short term average, the current price is 13 percent below the long term average price.



- The increasing price trend is due to the erratic supply in the market mainly in Chepareria, Sigor and Makutano areas in Pokot South, Pokot Central and Pokot West Sub Counties respectively.
- Majority of the households relied more on local market purchase for their maize requirements. Maize price is expected to continue increasing due to depletion of local stock in the markets.

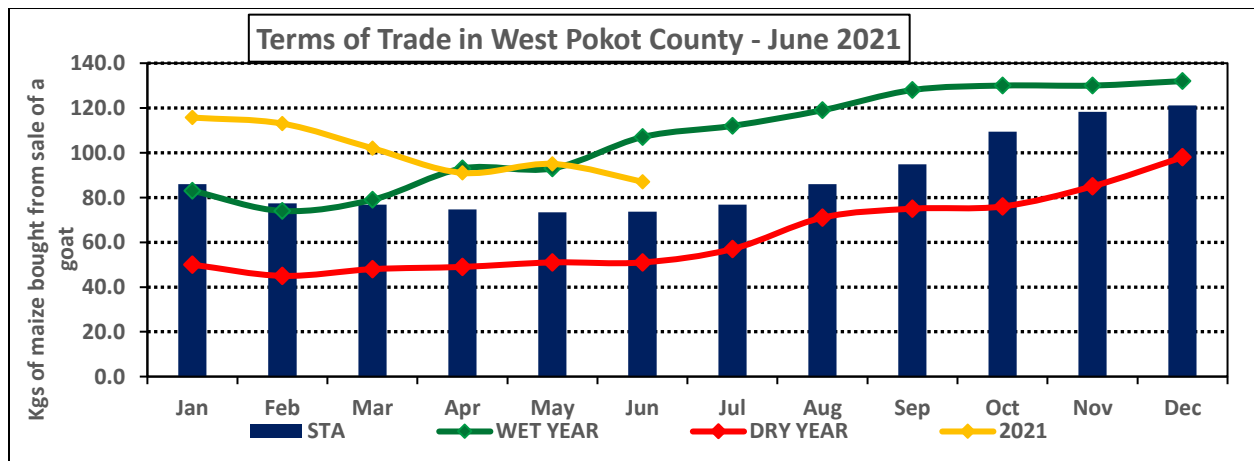
#### 4.2.2 Beans

- During the month under review, beans traded at Kshs 116 per kg, representing a price decrease in comparison to Kshs 125 recorded in the previous month.
- The price drop is linked to significant external supplies from Uganda. There was no significant variation in price across the two livelihood zones since they both rely on the same external sources for supply.
- The current price of beans is 2 percent above the short term average price.



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

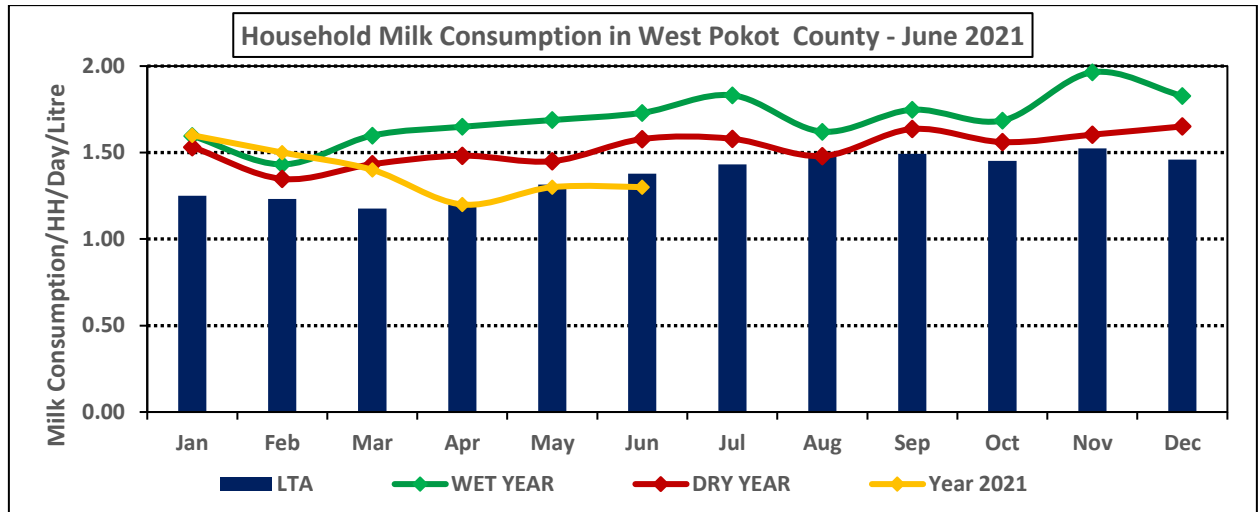
- In June, the Terms of Trade (TOT) was at 87, having decreased from 95 recorded in the previous month implying that households obtained less amount of maize for sale of a goat than in May.
- The down trend in ToT is linked to stability in both goat against increase in maize prices in the market.
- The TOT variation is projected over the next three months as the price of maize is likely to increase further over the period.



## 5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

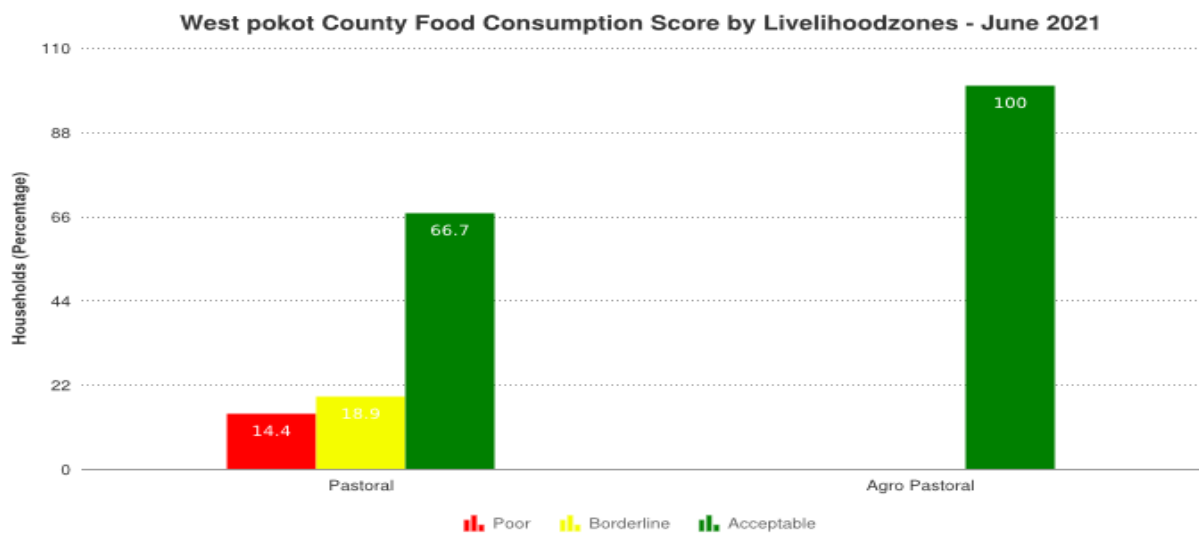
### 5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- In June, the households across livelihood zones had milk consumption of 1.3 litres of milk on average, similar to that reported in May. The consumption is at 7 percent below the long term average and further below wet and dry years.



- The stability in milk consumption is attributed to the fair access to milk in the households along with stability in food consumption scores at the households. Milk availability remained fair during the month.

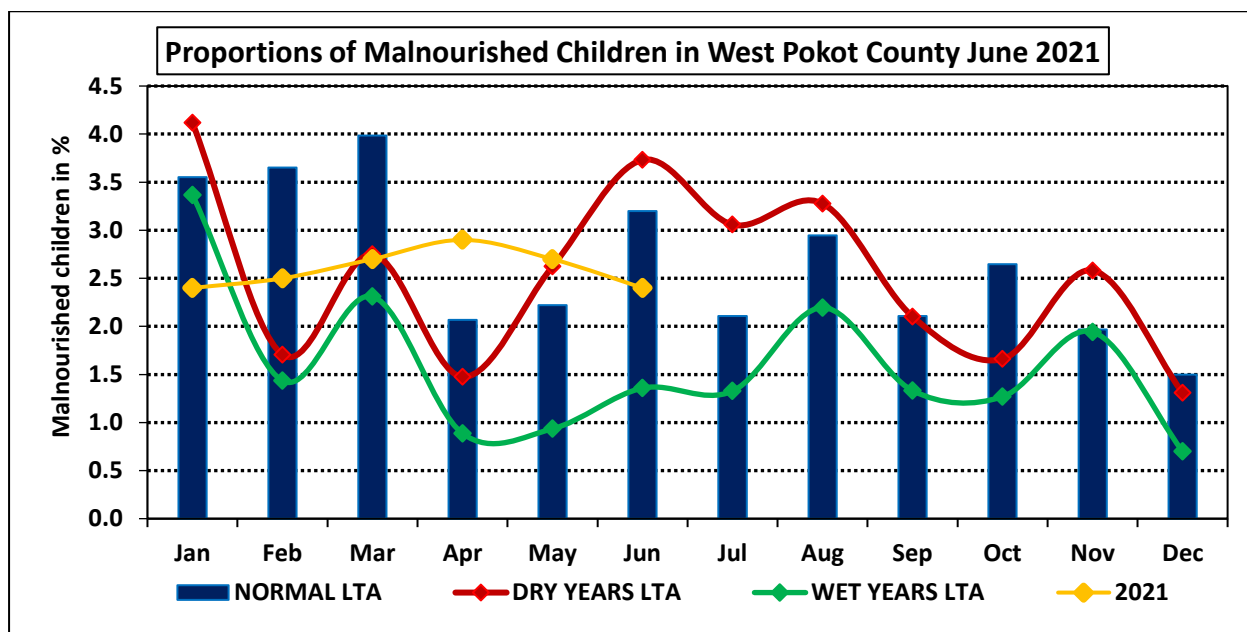
### 5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE



- The households' proportions of 80, 14 and six percent were recorded of having Food Consumption Score (FCS) within Acceptable, Borderline and Poor categories respectively. The score is stable for acceptable category and increased for borderline while it dropped for the poor category when compared to that of the previous month. The FCS is generally acceptable during the month.
- The mean FCS for the two livelihood zones remained 49; showing a stability when compared to the one reported in May.
- In June, there was significant variation between the two livelihood zones with for instance 100 percent of households in the agro-pastoral zone being categorized as having acceptable FCS compared to 66.7 percent households under the same category in the pastoral livelihood zone. There are more food sources diversity in agro-pastoral livelihood zones as compared to pastoral livelihoods due to availability of local harvest stocks in agro-pastoral areas.

### 5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

#### 5.3.1 Nutrition Status



- The proportion of children under the age of five years who were malnourished was 2.4 percent in June (Moderate acute-1.8 percent and Severe acute-0.6 percent malnutrition), while that of the previous month was 2.7 percent portraying a decrease in malnutrition cases.
- In comparison to the long term average of 3.2 percent, the proportion of children who are severely and moderately malnourished is below the normal range and above wet and below the dry years owing to both fair access to food consumption score and milk access at the households the livelihood zones.

### **5.3.1 Health**

- Malaria and Typhoid were reported as common ailments among the sampled households across the livelihood zones.

## **5.4 COPING STRATEGY**

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

- The County CSI was at 1.3 in June, a drop from 1.4 recorded in the previous month, representing a downward trend. The decline connotes that households continue to employ less strategies to cope than in May, which could be attributed to fair food commodity prices and good access to commodities markets.
- The pastoral zones reported a CSI of 1.6 while agro-pastoral livelihood zones recorded 1.0
- As usual, the commonly employed consumption coping strategies by a few of the households in the month under review included reliance on less preferred/less expensive foods.

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

### **6.1 NON-FOOD**

- The ministry of health conducted mass Measles and Rubella vaccination across the county targeting children under 9 years.
- Ministry of health COVID-19 pandemic control measures are being enforced across the County.

## **7.0 EMERGING ISSUES**

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

- Livestock theft incidences were reported in Chesegon along Elgeyo Marakwet and West Pokot Counties border. There is tension as the situation gets to be resolved.

### **7.2 MIGRATION**

- No major livestock migration outside and within the county were reported during the month.

### **7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS**

- The distance to water sources for both human and livestock is likely to decrease owing to fair water point recharge from predicted off season rains during July.
- There is likely fair rejuvenation of forage and fair water recharge associated with the expected off season rains predicted in July. As such, milk production is likely to improve.
- Malnutrition cases are anticipated to drop over the period, due to good cumulative effects of long rains and food consumption score is expected to remain stable for most households.
- Maize prices are expected to go up owing to erratic supplies from traditional external sources with goat prices expected to increase, whence, the terms of trade are likely to drop within the period.
- Improved livestock productivity is projected as the forage condition is likely to recover with the off season rains in July hence causing fair livestock body condition resulting to better livestock prices in the market.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. PEACE AND SECURITY**

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

### **2. WATER SECTOR**

- Provide water treatment chemicals to communities who use pans and dams as their main source of water.

### **3. LIVESTOCK SECTOR**

- Conduct livestock disease surveillance and deworming along migratory routes and particularly in wards with reported disease incidences.

### **4. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

- Upscale early warning alerts and advisories to the communities affected for early action and planning.