



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



National Drought Management Authority Baringo County Drought Early Warning Bulletin for October 2020

OCTOBER EW PHASE	Early Warning Phase Classification			
Drought Status: NORMAL Shughullu ka kwawatha	LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TRENDS	
SDrought Situation & EW Phase Classification Drought Phase: Normal- Stable Biophysical Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The county received above normal rains during the month. The Vegetation greenness as depicted by the VCI is above normal. The Water levels in most water sources are normal at 90%-100% capacity. Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators) Production indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The forage condition is good in both quality and quantity and is expected to remain stable during the short rains season. Livestock body condition is good in all livelihood zones. Milk production is within the normal seasonal range apart from the irrigated livelihood zone. No drought related livestock deaths were reported during the reporting period.. Access indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terms of trade are stable and within the seasonal range. Distances to water sources for households are below normal seasonal ranges and stable due to recharge of most surface water sources. Utilization indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of under-five children at risk of malnutrition is minimal and stable. Copping strategy index (CSI) for households is within normal ranges. The bulk of the households have acceptable food consumption score 	PASTORAL	NORMAL	STABLE	
	AGRO PASTORAL	NORMAL	STABLE	
	IRRIGATED CROP	NORMAL	STABLE	
	COUNTY	NORMAL	STABLE	
	Biophysical Indicators	Value for the month Baringo	LTA-Monthly Baringo	Normal ranges Kenya %
	Average rainfall MM (%)	117%	55.3	80-120
	VCI-3month	95.76		35-50
	% Of water in the water pan	90%-100%		50-60
	Production indicators			
			Value	Normal ranges
	Livestock Migration Pattern		Normal	Normal
	Livestock Body Condition		4-5	3-4
	Milk Production (Ltr/HH/Month)		1.8	1.76
	Livestock deaths (for drought)		No deaths	No death
	Access Indicators			
		Value	Normal ranges	
Terms of Trade (ToT)		86.3	>63	
Milk Consumption (Ltr)		1.7	≥1.7	
Water for Households-trekking distance (km)		2.8	0-4	
Crops area planted for the season				
Utilization indicators				
		Value	Normal ranges	
Children at risk of malnutrition (MUAC %)		13.35%	<15	
CSI		11.27	>19.0	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains harvests Short dry spell Reduced milk yields Increased HH Food Stocks Land preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting/Weeding Long rains High Calving Rate Milk Yields Increase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long rains harvests A long dry spell Land preparation Increased HH Food Stocks Kidding (Sept) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains Planting/weeding 								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

1. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 Rainfall performance

- During the month under review, the performance of the rains was above normal compared to the previous seasons. In the highland areas (Mostly mixed farming livelihood zone), the onset of the short rains season was early in the first dekad of October while in low lands (Mostly pastoral and agro pastoral livelihood zones) the onset was normal during the third dekad of October. Rainfall continuity is fair as most parts of the county have recorded at least two wet days of rainfall in a week.

1.2 Amount of rainfall and spatial distribution

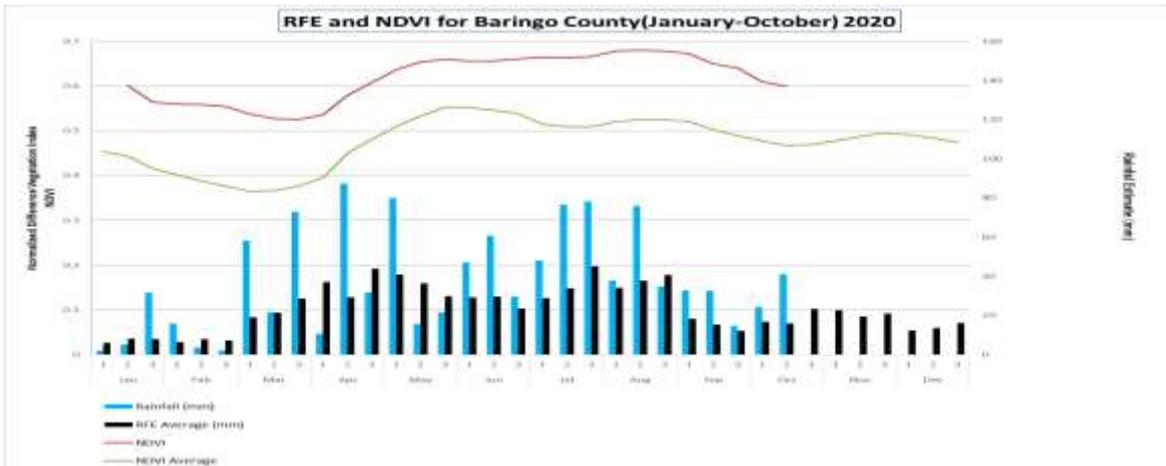


Figure 1. Rainfall performance

- The county received above normal rains during the first two decades of the month translating into 117 percent of the normal rains (Figure 1). Both spatial and temporal distribution was good across the livelihood zones. The vegetation greenness according to normalized differential vegetation index (NDVI) is above long term means for the month under review.

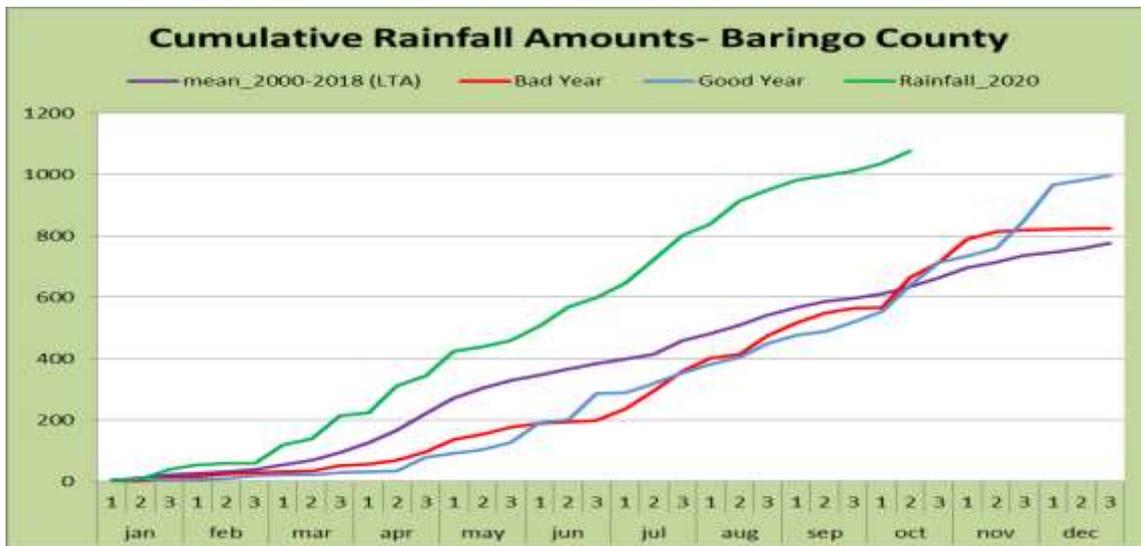
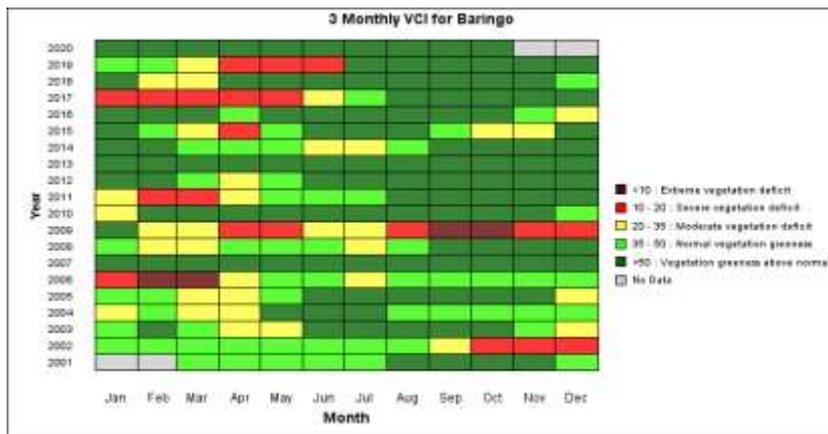


Figure 2: Cumulative rainfall

- The cumulative rainfall received for the month under review is above the long term means as shown in Figure 2. This implies that the cumulative total amount of rainfall received by October 2020 is much higher than the long term mean.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)



The vegetation greenness as depicted by the vegetation condition index (VCI) is above normal in all the sub counties (Figure 3). This has been contributed by the above normal rains the county has been receiving for the whole of this year.

Figure 3. Vegetation Condition Index

The trend for the current VCI is above long term mean and lies within the maximum values for the month, signifying that vegetation conditions are very good (Figure 4).

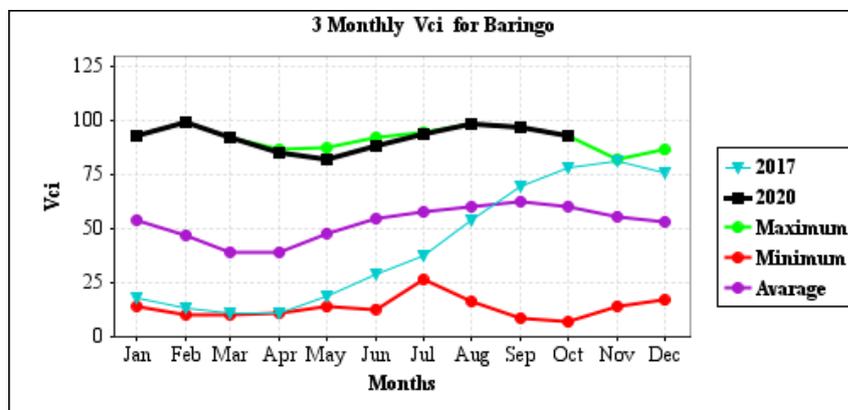


Figure 4: Vegetation condition index trend

2.1.1 Field observation

2.1.1.1 Pasture

- The pasture condition is good both in quantity and quality across all livelihood zones
- These conditions are normal at this time of the year.
- The current pasture is expected to last for three months in the pastoral and agro pastoral livelihood zones and four months in irrigated livelihood zone given the prevailing conditions.

2.1.1.2 Browse

- The browse condition is good both in quantity and quality across all livelihood zones .The condition is normal as compared to seasonal range for this time of the year.
- The available browse is expected to last for three months in pastoral and agro pastoral livelihood zones and four months in irrigated cropping livelihood zone.

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

2.2.1 Source

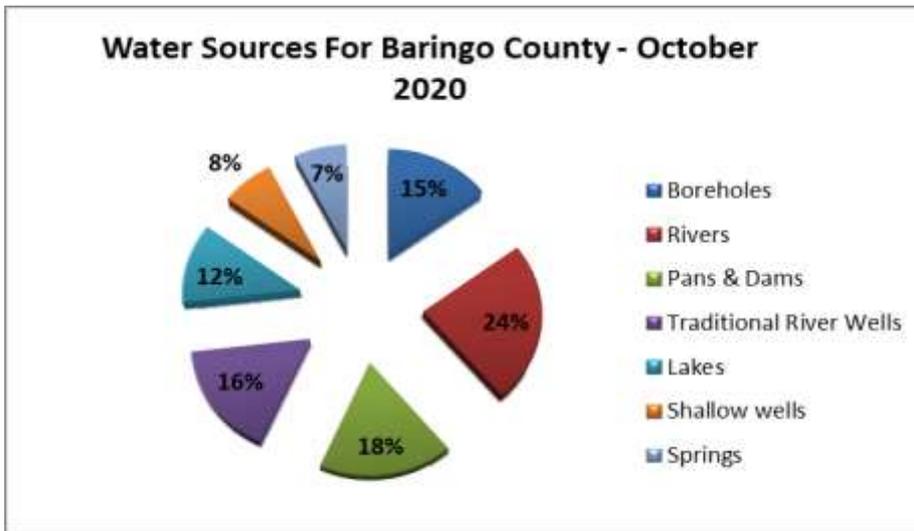


Figure 5: State of water sources

The main water sources for both livestock and human consumption across all livelihood zones were rivers, water pans and traditional river wells (Figure 5). Most water pans and dams were at 80 percent to 90 percent of their full capacity. Water quality and quantity across pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones is good, which is normal at this time of the year. The current water sources are expected to last for over five months in all livelihood zones due to the ongoing rains.

2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

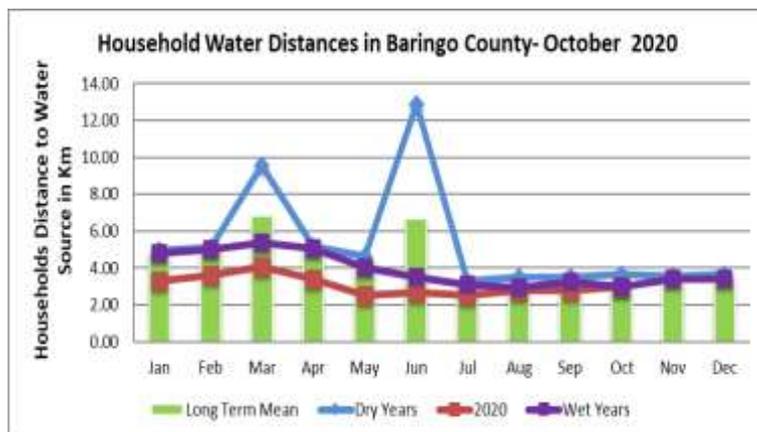


Figure 6: Water access

The average household trekking distance to water sources was stable during the month at 2.8km, in comparison to the previous month at 2.5km (Figure 6). The distances are below the long term average (LTA) by 21 percent. Irrigated cropping zone recorded the least trekking distance of less than one kilometre while pastoral livelihood zone recorded the highest average distance of 2.8km. The stability in distances is attributed to the recharge of open water sources across all livelihood zones due to the ongoing rains.

2.2.3 Livestock access

The average return distance for livestock from grazing fields to water points was stable at 4.7 km in comparison to the previous month at 4.4 km (Figure 7). The pastoral livelihood zone recorded the longest average distance of 5.6 km while irrigated livelihood zone recorded the shortest average distance of 1.6 kilometres. The return distances are still below the long term average and this is attributed to availability of pastures and water at the traditional grazing sites across all livelihood zones.

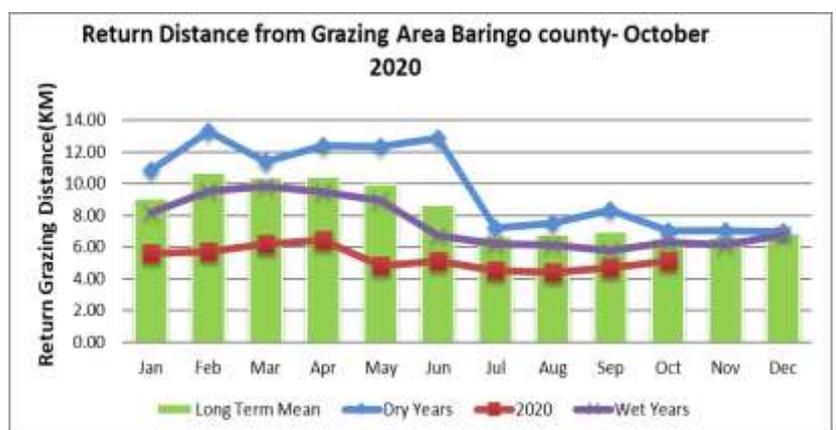


Figure 7: Grazing distances

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock Production

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- The livestock body condition is good across all livelihood zones for all the livestock species. This has been occasioned by availability of enough pasture, browse and water across the livelihood zones as a result of the impact of the extended long rains season that has just ended.
- The current livestock body condition is expected to remain stable for at least three months from now.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Eruption of CCPP was reported county-wide. PPR was reported in all livelihoods except Mixed farming zone. Blue Tongue disease was reported in irrigated cropping and agro-pastoral zones in Baringo south and Tiaty sub counties

3.1.3 Milk Production

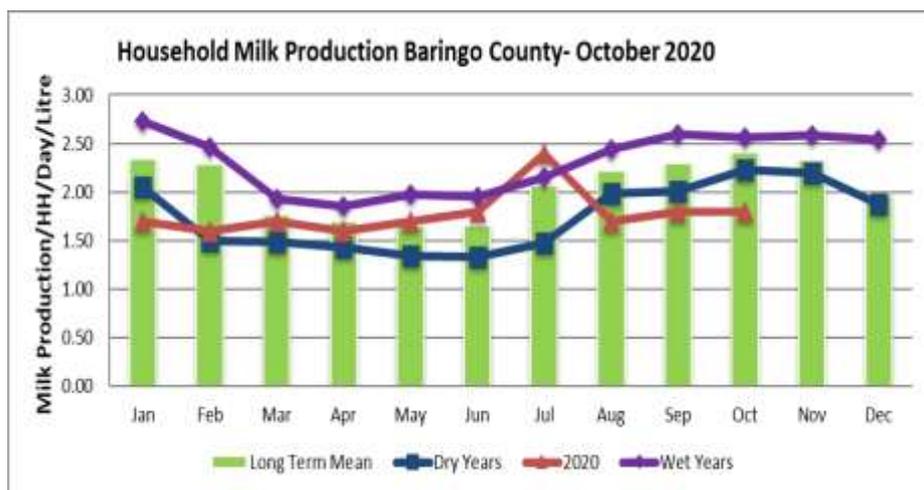


Figure 8: Milk production

The average milk produced per household per day was at 1.8 litres, which was similar to the previous month (Figure 8). The milk was mainly from cattle and goats. Irrigated livelihood zone had the highest average of milk produced of 2.5 litres while agro pastoral had the least at 0.8 litres. The current milk production is below LTAs by 25 percent and this has been contributed mainly by migration of livestock from the irrigated livelihood zone due to flood menace. The livestock have been moved to safer areas thus leaving households with fewer animals to milk.

3.2 Rain fed crop production

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

- Currently farmers have harvested their maize in the irrigated and agro pastoral livelihood zones. They are preparing their farms for the short rains season although many farms have been submerged by lake Baringo in the irrigated livelihood zone.
- Monitoring of desert locusts is ongoing.

4.0.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1.0 Livestock marketing

4.1.1 Cattle prices.

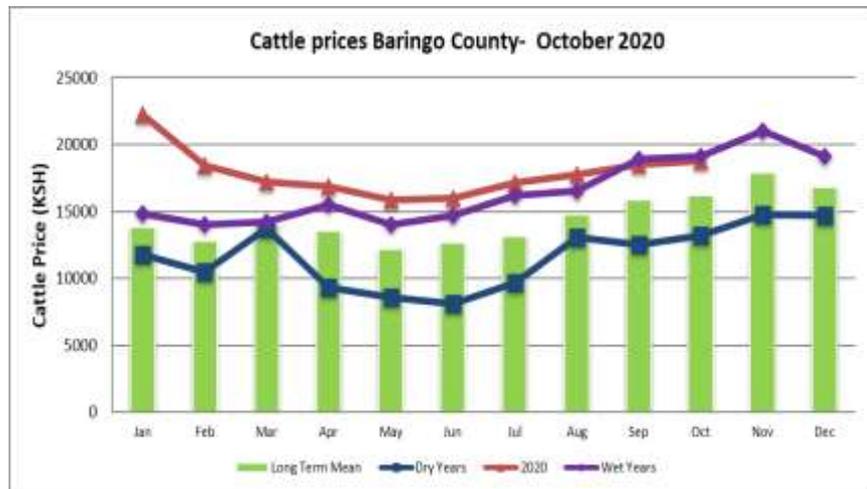


Figure 9: Cattle prices

There was a minimal increase in average price for medium-sized cattle as compare to the previous month at Ksh.18,759 (Figure 9). The price was above the long-term average by 16 percent. Irrigated livelihood zone posted the highest prices of Ksh.25,333 while pastoral livelihood zone recorded the least average price of Ksh.17,125. The improved prices was partly due to partial reopening of markets, coupled by the prevailing good livestock body condition.

4.1.2 Goat Prices.

The average price of a medium sized goat was at Ksh.3,026, a slight decrease by 11 percent as compared to the previous month at Ksh. 3,406 (Figure 10). The price was above the LTA by eight percent. The prices were highest in fishing livelihood zone at Ksh. 3,750 and lowest in agro pastoral livelihood zone at Ksh.2,633. The price stability is as a result of prevailing good body condition.

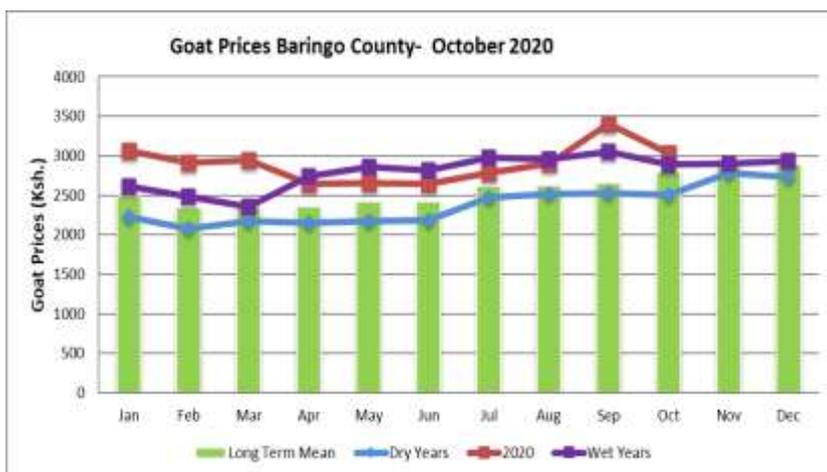
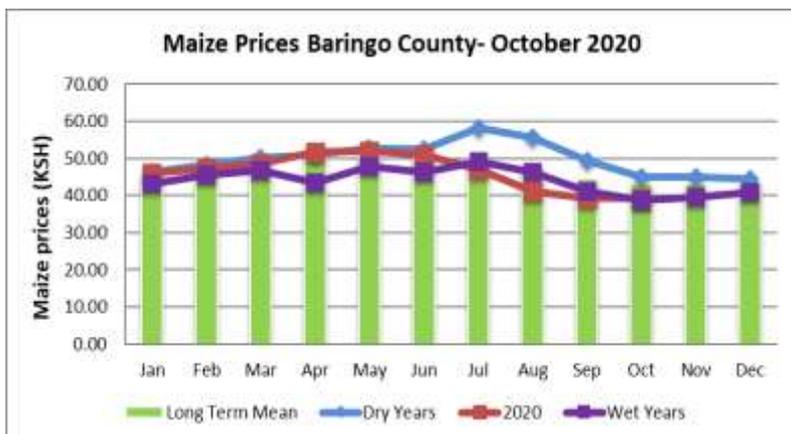


Figure 10: Goat prices

4.2.0. Crop prices

4.2.1 Maize



The current average price for a kilogram of maize was stable at Ksh. 39, as compared to the previous month (Figure 11). The current prices are below the long-term average at this time of the year by nine percent. The stability in prices can be attributed to the ongoing maize harvesting both within and outside the county. Pastoral livelihood zone recorded the highest price of Ksh.41 per kg while irrigated livelihood zone recorded the lowest at Ksh.30 per kg.

Figure 11: Maize prices

4.2.2 Posho (Maize meal)

The price per kilogram of posho was at Ksh.47, a slight reduction as compared to the previous month at Ksh.49. (Figure 12). The price was below the long-term average by 11 percent. The decrease in prices was attributed to increased maize stocks both at household level and trader's stores.

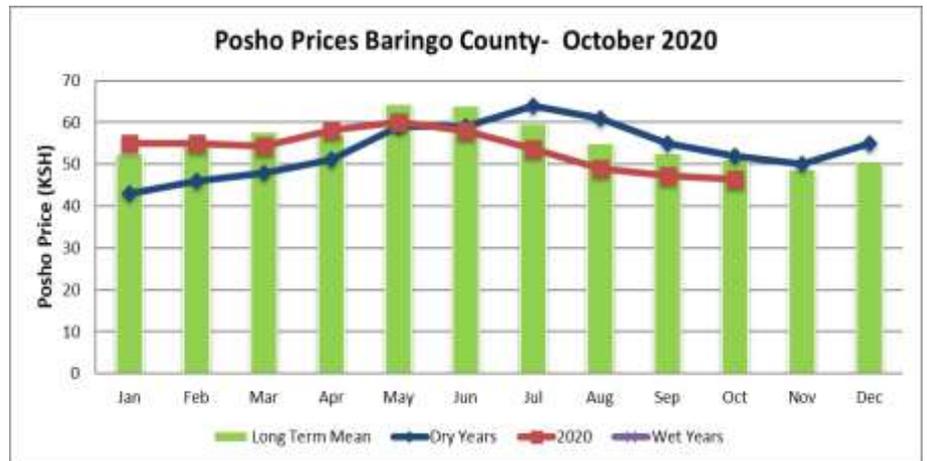
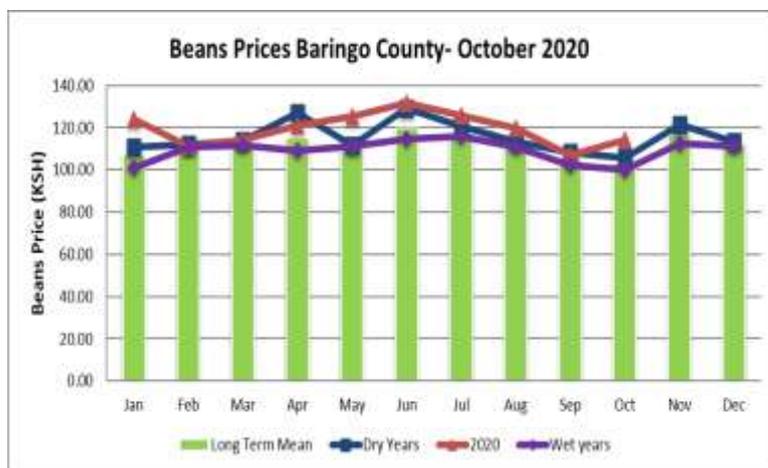


Figure 12: Posho prices

4.2.3 Beans Prices



The average price per kilogram of beans increased slightly by seven percent from Kshs.107 to Ksh. 114 currently (Figure 13). The price increase was attributed to purchasing of the planting materials in the county. The current prices are relatively similar to the long-term average. Agro Pastoral livelihood zone recorded the highest average prices of Ksh.120 while the irrigated livelihood zone recorded the least prices of Ksh.80.

Figure 13: Beans prices

4.3 Terms of Trade

The terms of trade declined slightly in comparison to the previous month. A sale of one goat is able to fetch 77.1 kgs of maize currently compared to 86.3 kgs the previous month (Figure 14). This was attributed to decreased goat prices. The current terms of trade are better in comparison to the long-term average. Irrigated cropping livelihood zone had the highest terms of trade of 95 while agro pastoral livelihood zone had the least at 70.2.

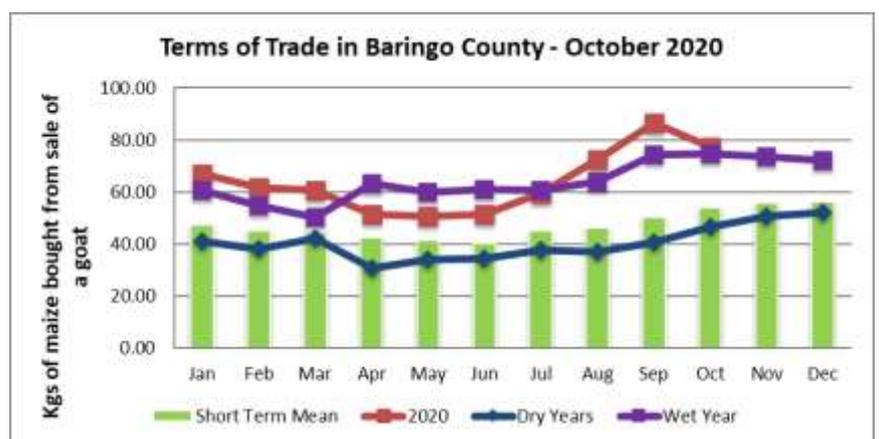


Figure 14: Terms of trade

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 Milk Consumption

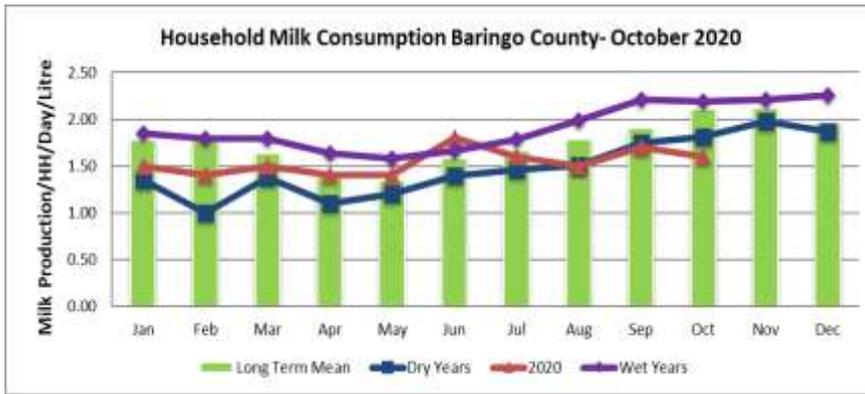


Figure 15: Milk consumption

The average milk consumption per household per day was at 1.6 litres, which was a slight decrease as compared to the previous month at 1.7 litres (Figure 15). The milk consumption was highest in the Pastoral livelihood zone at 2.4 litres and lowest in agro pastoral livelihood zone at 0.6 litres. The amount consumed was below the long-term partly due to reduced milk production in the irrigated livelihood zone.

5.2 Food Consumption Score

Generally, a proportion of 1.1, 23 and 76 percent of the households across the livelihoods have poor, borderline and acceptable food consumption scores respectively. In the pastoral livelihood zone, about 32 percent of the households do not have acceptable food consumption (Figure 16). This implies that they are skipping some nutritious food stuffs mostly animal proteins like meat, fish and milk.

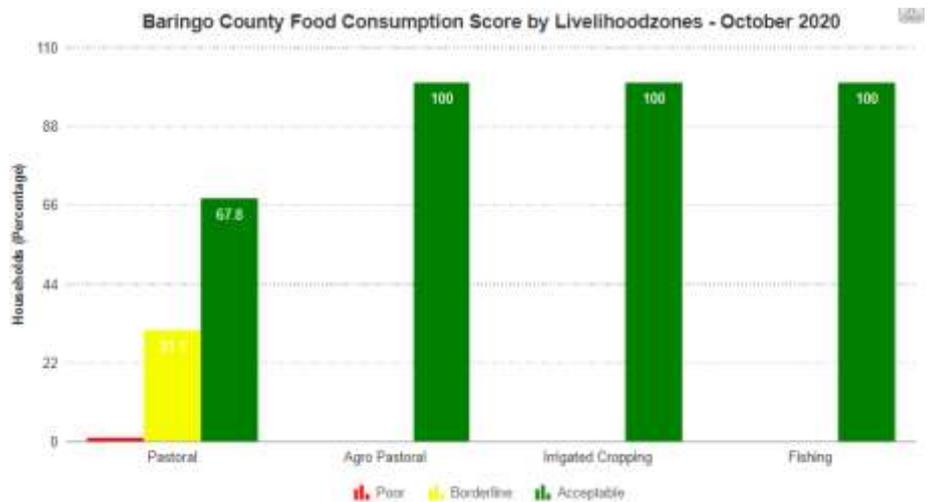


Figure 16: Food consumption score

5.3.1 Health and Nutrition Status

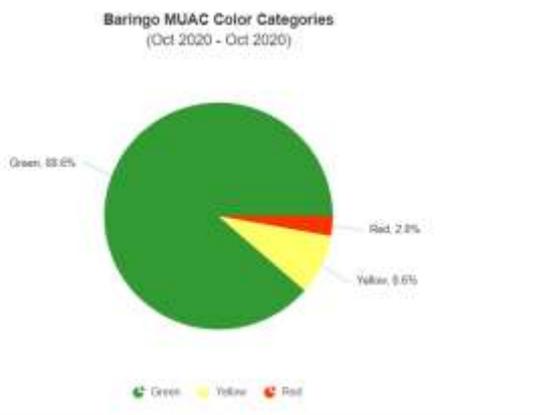


Figure 17: Nutrition status

The nutrition status of the sampled children under five years of age is stable. About 88.6 percent of the sampled children were not malnourished while 8.6 and 2.8 percent were moderately and severely malnourished respectively (Figure 17). The situation was attributed to availability of milk and food at household level.

5.3.2 Health

- During the reporting period, the illnesses that were reported were malaria and diarrhoea across livelihood zones. The diarrhoea cases were occasioned by use of water from stagnant water bodies and poor hygiene practices at household level. Water sources have also been contaminated by flood waters mostly in Baringo South and Tiaty sub counties.
- With regard to Covid 19 cases, a total of 80 cases have been reported in Baringo so far from 1288 tests done giving a positivity rate of 6.2 percent. The county attack rate is 12/100,000 population. Baringo Central has the highest burden of cases accounting for 38/80 (47.5 percent). About 56 recoveries have been reported, 35 from isolation centers and 21 from Home Based Care (HBC). Currently there are 12 active Covid-19 patients, nine on home based care and three on isolation at Mogotio sub county hospital. About 10 health care workers have contracted COVID-19. Four deaths have been reported giving a case fatality rate of five percent. Males are 57/80 (71 percent) and females 23/80 (29 percent). Majority of the cases are in the 30-39 age group 31/80 (39 percent) with the youngest being 2 years old and the eldest 76 years.

5.4 Coping strategies

5.4.1 Coping Strategy Index

The average coping strategy index was at 10.2 by October, the situation is stable as compared to the previous month (Figure 18). Households in agro pastoral livelihood zone employed more coping strategies at 12.2 followed by pastoral livelihood zone at 10.6. The irrigated zone employed the least coping mechanisms at 4.3. Overall, households in agropastoral livelihood zone have recorded relatively higher CSI values for the past five months followed by those in pastoral livelihood zone.

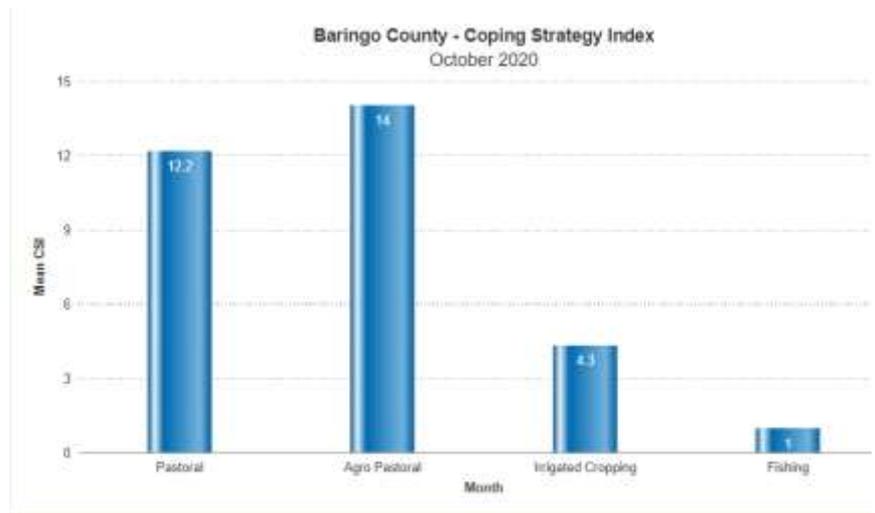


Figure 18: Coping strategy index

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES.

6.1 Non-food interventions

National Drought Management Authority(NDMA)

- The Cabinet Secretary for Devolution Hon. Eugene Wamalwa led County stakeholders in launching of the boarding facilities at the Plessian primary school in Tiaty sub county as well as call for proposal project on livelihood support being implemented by Self Help Africa. The boarding facilities will improve access to education by the local children who often miss classes due to challenges associated with drought and conflict issues.
- The NDMA headquarters with the support of World Food program conducted a capacity building workshop for the sub county staff on dissemination of food security assessment reports. The objective of the workshop was to improve on dissemination strategies being applied in the county so as to have a wider reach for early action in saving lives and livelihoods.
- There was an inter county planning meeting between Baringo and Laikipia counties for the purpose of coming up with an integrated preparedness project. The meeting brought together the Deputy County commissioners, Assistant County Commissioners, Ward Administrators, area chiefs, community elders and some DRR committee members who were sensitized on the project. A draft MOU for resource sharing between LNC and the beneficiary communities was developed.
- The NDMA headquarters organized a two workshop on participatory scenario planning whereby county stakeholders were tasked with developing key sector messages for the current short rains season. The county teams were asked to identify effective channels for the dissemination of the messages to the targeted audience.

Kenya Red Cross (KRCS)

- Conducted covid -19 sensitization across the county using public address system and in schools by Kenya Red Cross volunteers reaching over 30,000 people
- Under USAID/ OFDA Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction, Kenya Red Cross conducted community led total sanitation (CLTS) follow ups in eight villages (Mbechot, Ngoina, Parkarin, Elkatayo, Kipkebuton among others)
- Under USAID/ OFDA Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction, to build communities resilience, Kenya Red Cross conducted training for two pastoralist groups in Kisanana and Loyamorok on Rangeland management, pasture development, fodder preservation and packing reaching 52 pastoralist farmers
- Registration of flood affected households in camps at Loruk, Uwanja ndege and Kambi Samaki areas.
- Distributions of NFIs to IDPs households in Kampi ndege camp
- Nutrition(Integrated Medical Outreaches) in Tiaty West for six sites and Tiaty East for four sites on Immunization, Nutrition services, treatment of minor illness and Covid -19 sensitization

County government

- There was a sensitization workshop for county technical staff on desert locust monitoring, control and reporting.
- On matters of Covid-19 management, Contact tracing with testing and follow up of contacts is ongoing while purchasing of additional PPEs for healthcare providers is being done. Follow up of patients on home based care, risk communication and public health awareness creation, enforcement of Covid-19 regulations and requirements are being done concurrently.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- About 21 schools in Baringo South sub county ave been affected by the rising water levels of Lake Baringo. Both teachers and students have been displaced thus necessitating looking for alternative arrangements to accommodate them.
- A second wave of Covid- 19 disease that started in the first week of October is being experienced in the county. The curve is currently steeply rising after having flattened between the month of August and September. Baringo Central sub-county leads in the number of cases at 38/80 (47.5 percent) followed by Marigat sub-county 20/80(25 percent). Tiaty East and Tiaty West have reported no case. A total of 14 out of 30 wards have reported cases with Kabarnet ward having the highest number of cases with 29/80 (36 percent), followed by Marigat ward 18/80 (23 percent).

7.3 Food security prognosis

- Household food stocks are expected to remain stable and above long term means for the next one month due to the concluded harvesting of crops in the county. Trader’s stocks will also remain stable and above long term means due to stable supplies of cereals both within and without the county.
- Forage conditions are expected to remain above normal conditions for the next one month due to the cumulative impacts of the rains and therefore stabilising livestock body conditions. This is therefore expected to sustain near normal milk production with the exemption of the irrigated livelihood zone whose milk production will continue to be below long term means due to impact of floods that has resulted in the migration of animals to safer grounds.
- Livestock prices are expected to be above long term means while cereal prices are expected to be below seasonal range, resulting in better terms of trade mostly for pastoral and agro pastoral households.
- With the exemption of irrigated livelihood zone, milk consumption is expected to remain near normal, thus stabilising nutrition status of household members particularly the children.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1.0 Proposed Recommendations

8.1.1. Water Sector

- Capacity Strengthening on WASH / Water Management and Catchment protection across the county should be enhanced.
- Supply of Water treatment equipment like water purifiers, Pur, Aqua tabs is needed especially for the displaced populations around the lakes due to the impact of floods.

8.1.2. Nutrition and Health

- Continuous engagement with caregivers on how best to make use of family muac tapes is needed so as to improve the quality of nutrition data.
- Residents should continue to strictly adhere to Covid-19 protocols in order for the health personnel to be able to control a second wave of infection.

8.1.3. Livestock and Veterinary sector

- Hay harvesting, baling and storage should be promoted given that there is a possibility of the county having drought next year following the prediction of a depressed short rains season by the meteorological department. Farmers should take advantage of the existing surplus forage in preparing for the lean period ahead.
- Improvement of marketing infrastructure together with provision of sanitation facilities in the markets. This will enhance smooth market operations with minimal risk of spread of covid 19 pandemic.

8.1.4. Agriculture Sector

- Equipping of farmers with proper knowledge and skills on how to minimize post harvest losses at this time when they have concluded harvesting of their crops from farms. Farmers are advised to invest in proper storage facilities to minimize grain losses