

**National Drought Management Authority**  
**WEST POKOT COUNTY**  
**DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR JULY 2019**



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



**JULY EW PHASE**

Drought Status: **NORMAL**

Shughuli za kawaida

**Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification**

**Biophysical Indicators**

- The County received sufficient rainfall across all livelihood zones in all dekads. The temporal and spatial distribution was good.
- Very good vegetation condition index was recorded, with sharp upward trend across the livelihoods as portrayed by the rise in the Vegetation Condition Index. All Sub-counties recorded very good vegetation conditions. Forage condition is still good.

**Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)**

- The livestock body condition is good with an upward trend across the County. Distance to water sources decreased.
- The terms of trade remained favourable with an improving trend.
- Milk production and consumption at household level increased and was comparable to long term average.
- Majority of the households fell within the Acceptable Food Consumption Score as the Coping Strategy Index decreased.
- Nutrition status improve as the proportion of children 'at risk' of malnutrition fell within the normal range with a decreasing trend.

**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)	55	>35
VCI-3month (Pokot Central)	52	>35
Forage Condition	Good	Good

Production Indicators	Value	Normal range
Livestock Body Condition	Good	Normal
Milk Production	1.6Litres	>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)	57	>76
Milk Consumption	1.4 Litres	>1.2 Litres
Return distance to water sources (household)	2.3 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 (% at risk of malnutrition)	5.2	0.0-9.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	2.3	0.0-14.5
Food Consumption Score	41	>35

- Short rains harvests
- Short dry spell
- Increased HH Food Stock
- Land preparation

- Planting/Weeding
- Long rains
- High Calving Rate
- Milk Yields Increase

- Long rains harvests
- A long dry spell
- Land preparation
- Increased HH Food Stock

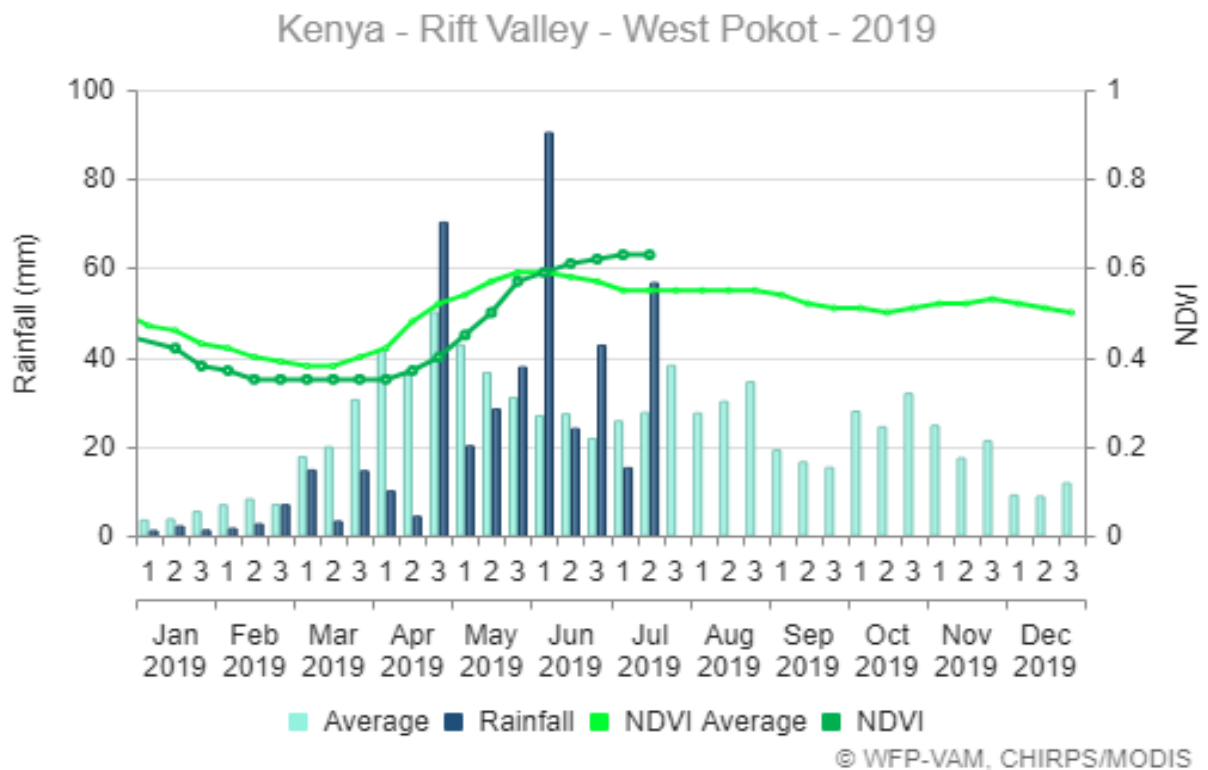
- Short rains
- Planting/weeding
- (Irish potatoes, Cabbages and Onions)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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# 1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

## 1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- The county received sufficient rainfall in all dekads in July. The intensity was higher in both highlands and the lowlands.
- The rainfall situation is normal for such time of the year.



Source: VAM-World Food Programme

- During the month, the dekadal rainfall increased from 23.9 mm to 56.6 mm in the second dekad. Generally, the amount was above normal.

## 1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- The spatial and temporal rainfall distribution was good across the livelihoods. The intensity remained good in all livelihood zones.

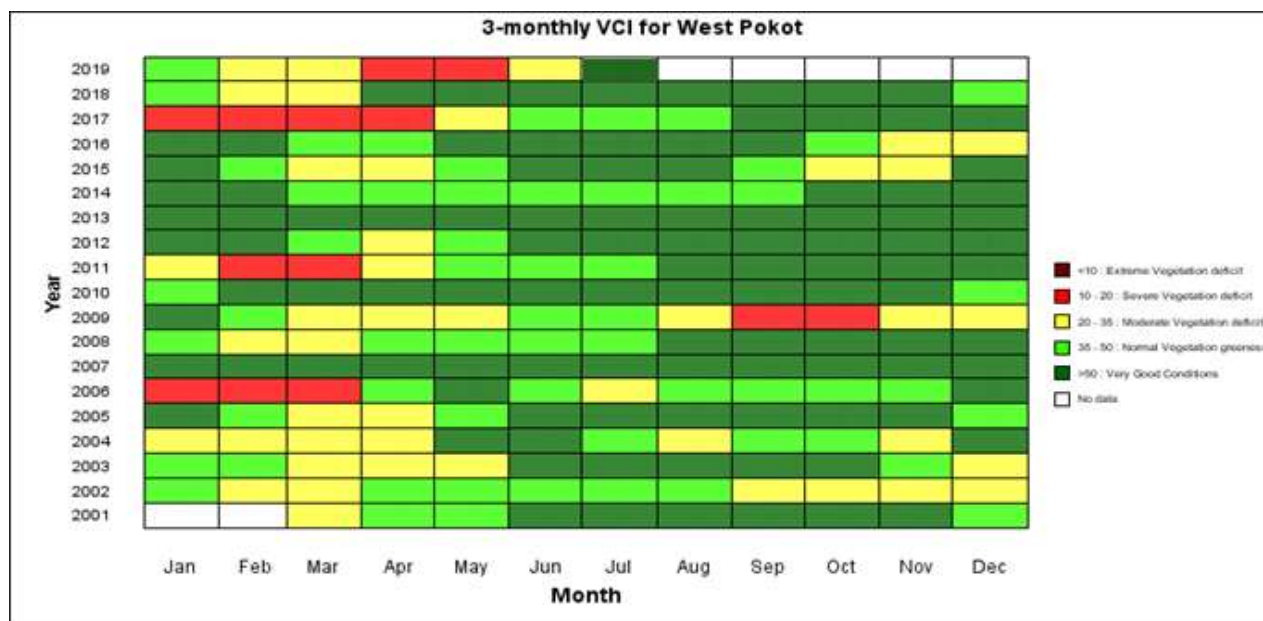
## 1.3 OTHER EVENTS

- No notable event was reported 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 portrays the vegetation status of the County was 55 in July, up from 22 reported in the previous month. The current VCI depicts very good vegetation condition.
- The VCI trend improved sharply across all livelihood zones. All sub-counties reported very good vegetation conditions. The sharp increase in VCI is from 26.2 to 57.5, 22.9 to 50.5, 14.8 to 54.4 and 24.5 to 51.6 in Pokot North, Pokot South, Pokot West and Pokot Central Sub-counties respectively. The upward trend in VCI is attributed to adequate rejuvenation of vegetation cover owing to sufficient rainfall in the county.
- **2.1.2 Pasture**
- The proportion of sampled community members which described that the pasture was good increased from 50 percent in June to 90 percent in July.
- Pasture situation is good across the livelihood zones. The communities reported that the condition was normal for such time of the year. The trend is upward in comparison to that of June and is attributed to sufficient rains in July.
- The pasture condition is expected to improve with the ongoing off-season rains.
- There is no significant variation in terms of pasture quality and quantity between livelihood

zones.

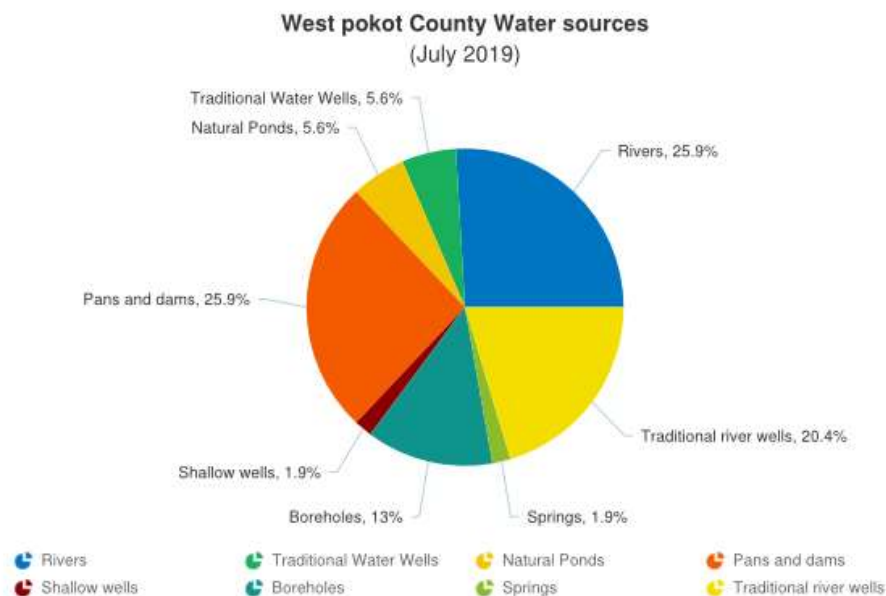
### 2.1.3 Browse

- During the month, the proportion of sampled community members which stated that browse condition was good is 100 percent, having increased from 95 percent reported in June.
- The browse condition is good across the livelihood zones and is normal for such period of the year. The quality of the browse condition is good in comparison to that of June as a result of adequate rainfall.
- The quantity of browse is good across the livelihood zones and there was no significant variation between the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones.
- The frequent conflict along Pokot-Marakwet/Turkana borders hinder access to forage.

## 2.2 WATER RESOURCE

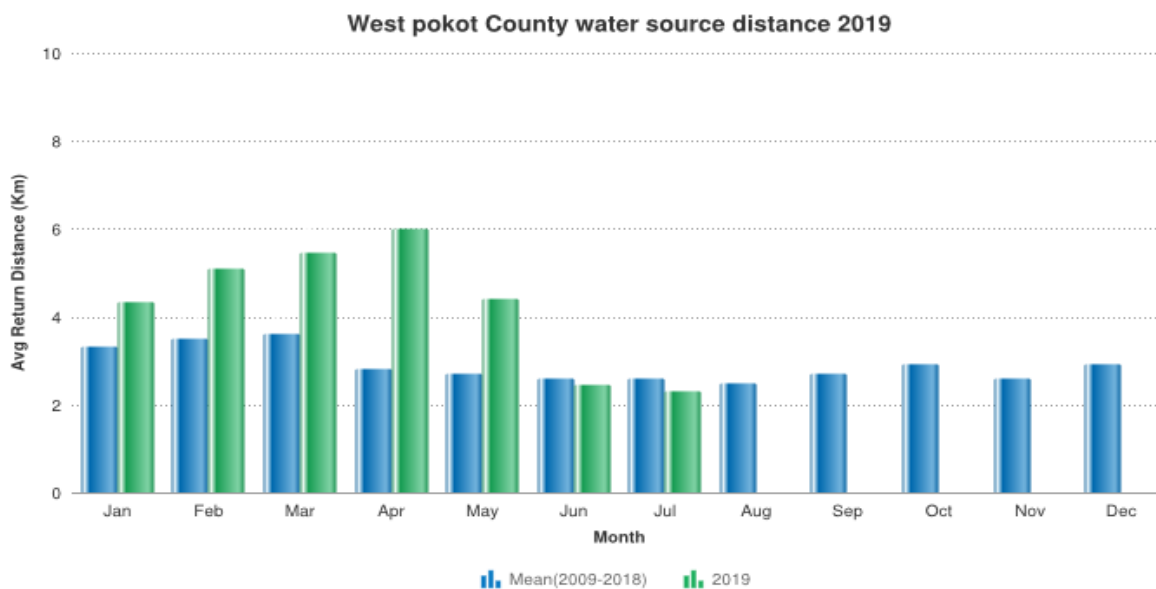
### 2.2.1 Sources

- The proportion of sampled population using main water sources for both households and livestock is 25.9 percent for both pans/dams and rivers, 20.4 percent for traditional river wells and 13 percent for boreholes. Other water sources in use include natural ponds at 5.6 percent.
- There was adequate water recharge to all surface water sources during the month in comparison to June. The situation is attributed to heavy rains received in July.
- 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

- In July, the return distance to water source from the household was 2.3km, a drop from 2.5 km recorded in June. The current distance is 11.5 percent below the Long Term Average (LTA).
- Pastoral livelihood zones reported longer trekking distance to water source than the agro-pastoral livelihood zones. The decreasing trend in distance is credited to sufficient recharge of water sources in July.

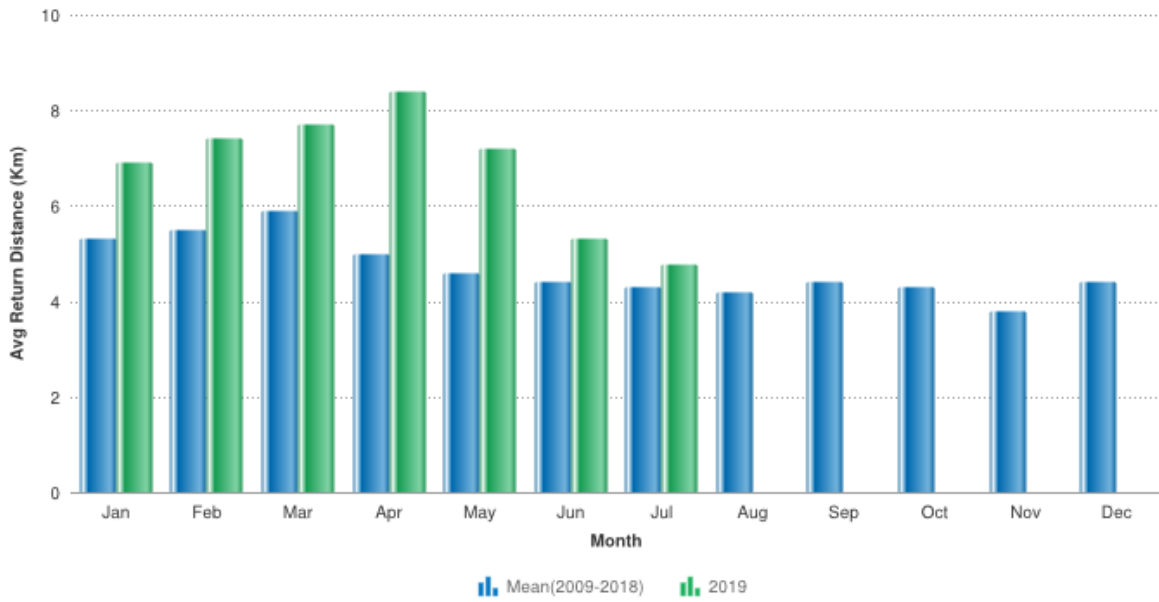


- The pastoral livelihood zones recorded longer waiting time at water source than the agro-pastoral zones.
- The average household water consumption per person per day is at 8-12 litres in the pastoral zones while that in the agro-pastoral zones was 10-13 litres.
- The cost of accessing water at the source remained 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

- The livestock return trekking distance from grazing areas to water sources was 4.8 km, in July, signifying a decrease from 5.3 km recorded in June. In comparison to the normal trekking distance of 4.3 km, the current trekking distance lies above the normal range by 11.6 percent.
- The pastoral livelihood zone recorded longer trekking time from grazing areas to water source as compared to that in the agro-pastoral livelihood zones.

West pokot County water source distance from grazing area - 2019



- The decline in livestock trekking distance to water is attributed to adequate rainfall that enabled good recharge to the water sources.
- Frequency of watering remained same as for the previous month, which was 7 times in a week for cattle and shoats and 5-6 times in a week for camel.

### 3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

#### 3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

##### 3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

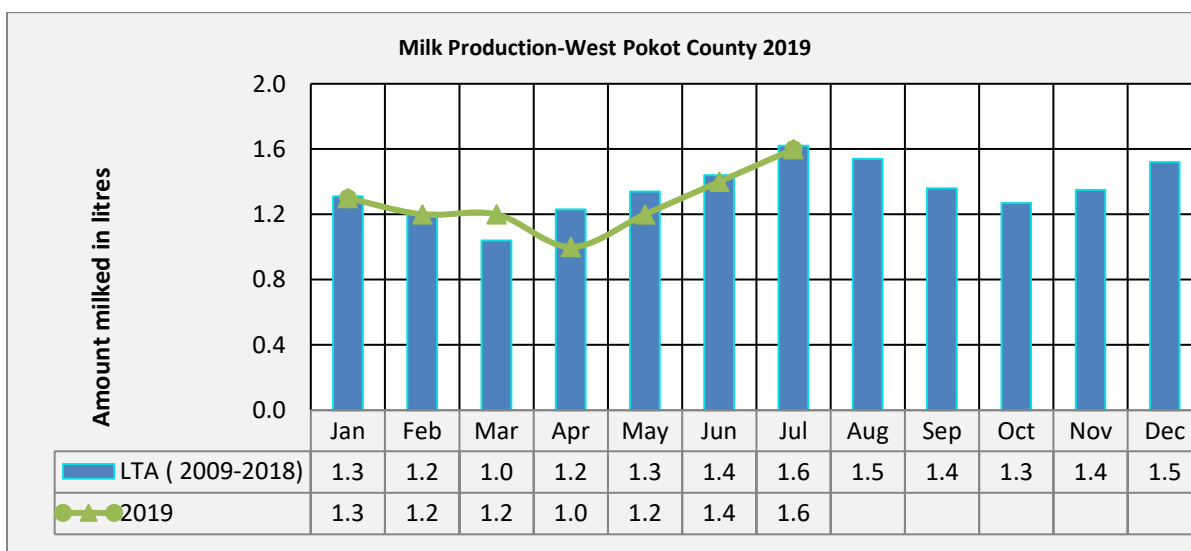
- During the month, the body condition for all livestock species was good in both pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones, an improvement from that reported in June.
- The livestock body condition is expected to improve across the livelihood zones, with the ongoing good rainfall.
- The body condition is normal for all livestock species in comparison to a similar period during a normal year. The trend is upward and is attributed to sufficient forage regeneration.
- There was no significant variation in livestock body condition between the two livelihood zones.

##### 3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Masol and Lomut wards reported cases of PPR disease.

##### 3.1.3 Milk Production

- In July, the County recorded an average production of 1.6 litres of milk per household per day, representing an increase from 1.4 litres reported in June.
- The cattle produced most milk than other livestock species as usual.
- The current household milk production is comparable to the LTA.
- The household enhanced milk production is attributed to improved forage access in the traditional grazing areas.



## **3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION**

### **3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops**

- The main crops include maize, beans, potatoes and bulb onions, where in most areas maize is currently at tussling stage.
- Horticulture production and supply to major markets like Sigor, Ortum and Lomut is at normal levels compared to the seasonal performance.
- The harvesting of bulb onions in highlands is ongoing. These are supplied to Ortum and Sigor markets for distribution to other centres within and outside the County.
- The level of farming has improved particularly along the production zones of Lomut, Ortum and Wakorr.

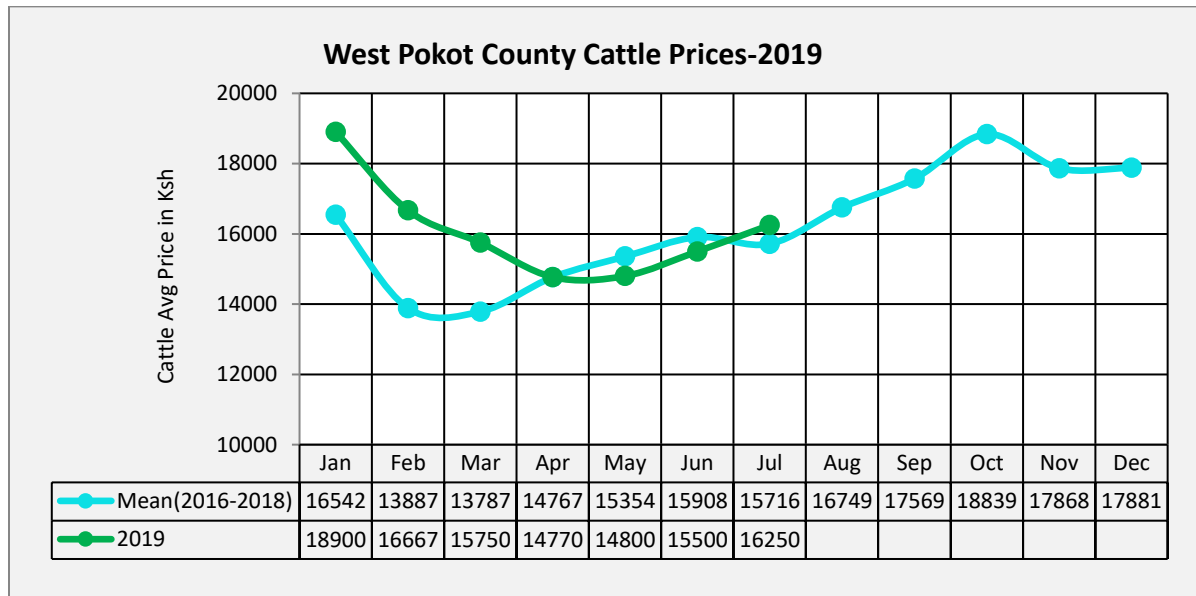


## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

#### 4.1.1 Cattle prices

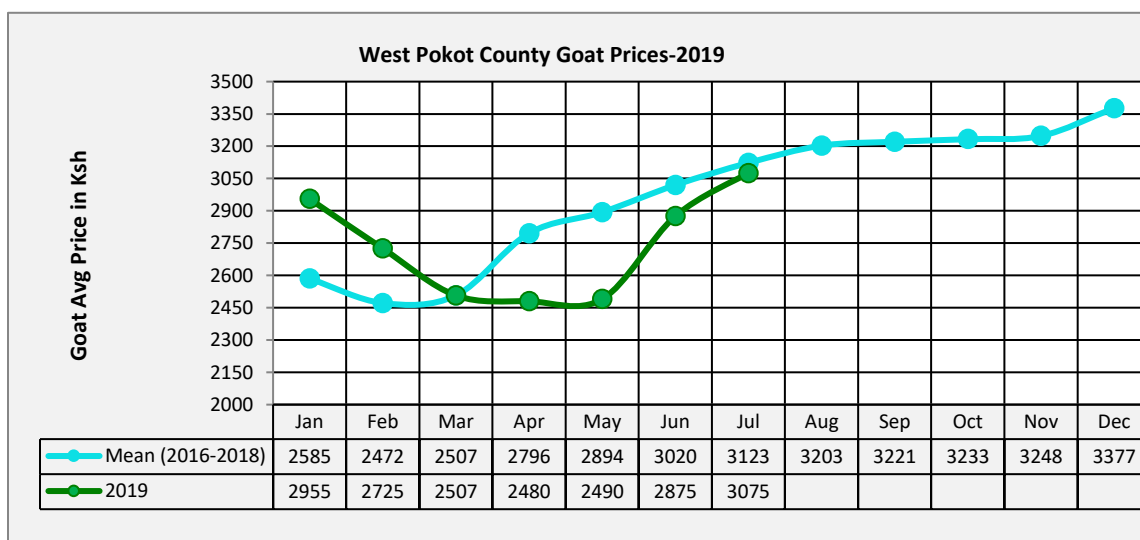
- In July, the medium sized 4-year bull was sold at an average price of Kshs 16,250, depicting a rise in price as compared to Kshs 15,500 recorded in June.



- The cattle price surge is as a result of the good body condition as a result of sufficient forage condition, coupled with heightened recharge of water sources for livestock.
- The current cattle price is 3 percent above the LTA.

#### 4.1.2 Goat Prices

- The County recorded an average price of Kshs 3,075 for a 2-year old medium size goat, which indicated an increment in comparison with Kshs 2,875 recorded in the previous month.

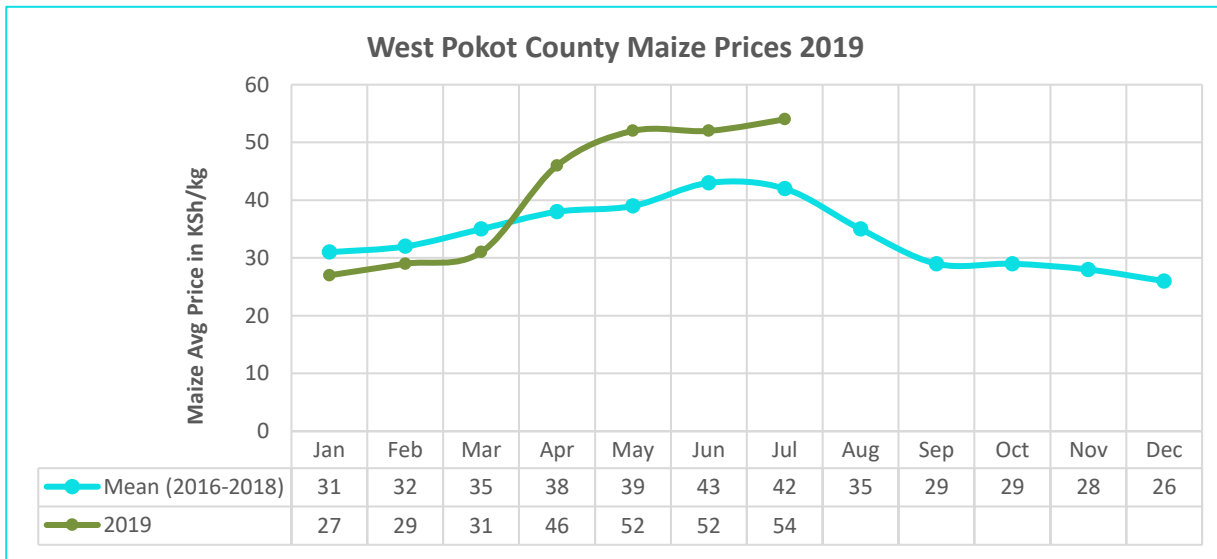


- The rise in price is linked to the prevailing good body condition for goat across the livelihoods.
- The current goat price is however 2 percent below LTA for for the month of July.

## 4.2 CROP PRICES

### 4.2.1 Maize

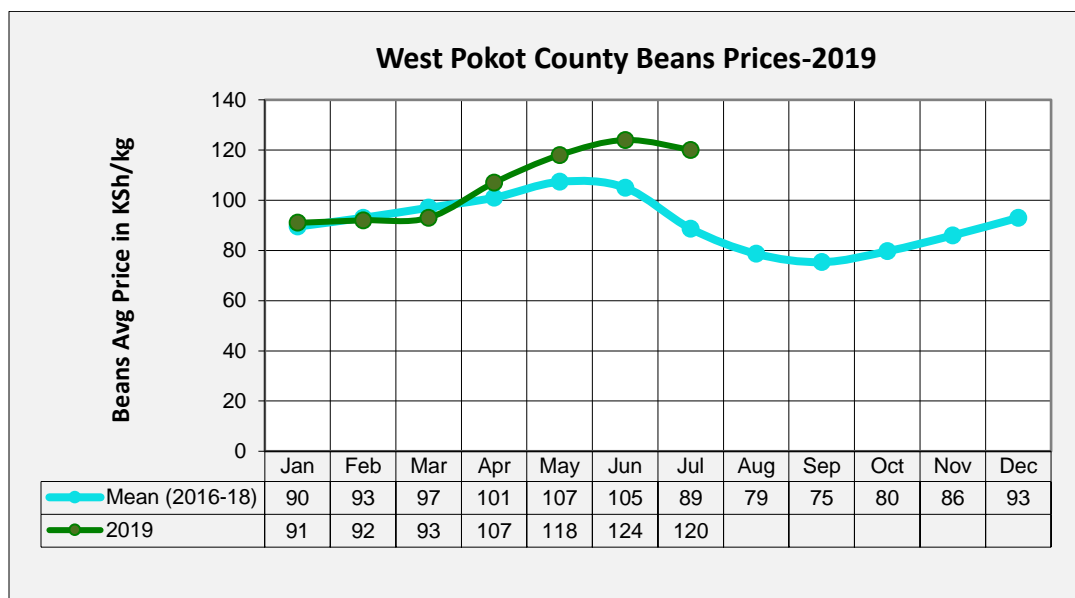
- The maize was sold at Kshs 54 per Kg in July, having slightly increased as compared to June.
- The current price is 29 percent above the LTA price.



- The increase in price correlates with the erratic supply of maize by local traders along with unstable external supply of maize from outside the county.
- Most households depended more on local market purchase for their maize requirements. Maize price is anticipated to be stabilize due to the expected harvests in the near future.

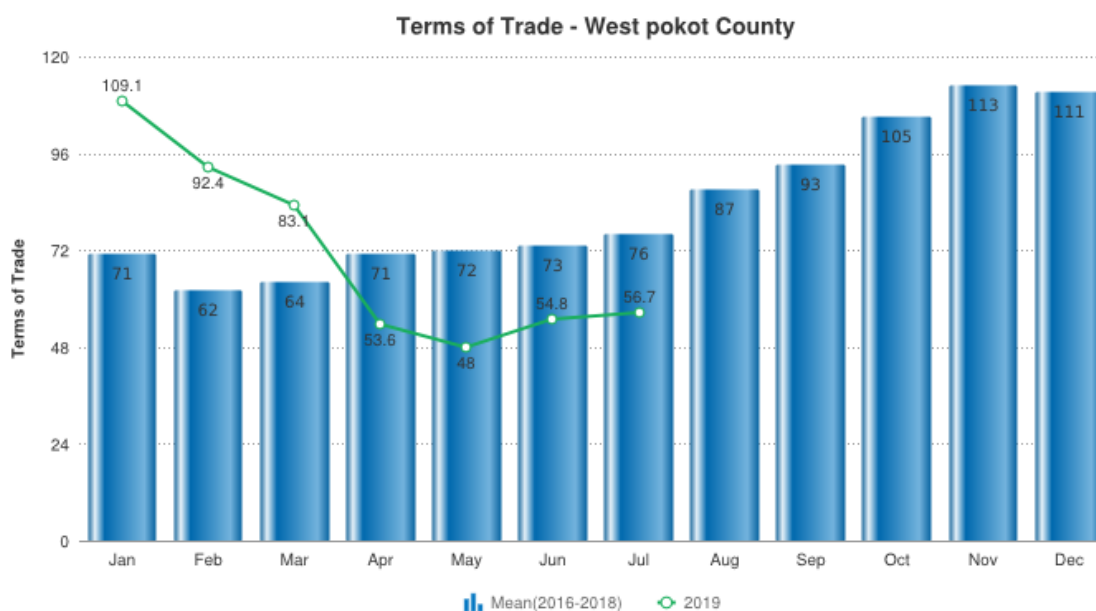
### 4.2.2 Beans

- The beans traded at Kshs 120 per kg in July, demonstrating a price drop relative to June.
- The decrease in price is credited to unreliable external supplies.
- There was no significant variation in price across the two livelihood zones since they both relied on the same external sources for supply.
- The current price of beans is 35 percent above the LTA price (Ksh.89) for such time of the year.



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

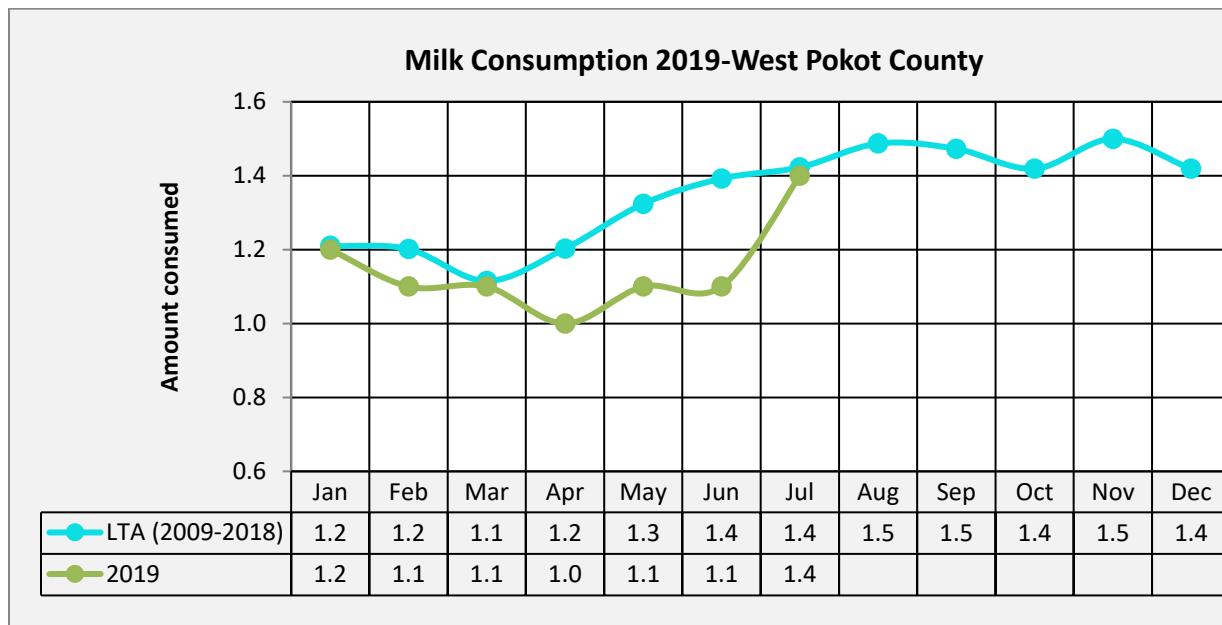
- In July, the Terms of Trade (TOT) increased to 57 kg, compared 55 kg reported in June, implying that households can obtain more maize for sale of a goat currently than they did June.
- The increase in ToT is attributed to enhanced goat prices, especially due to good body condition.
- The TOT variation is expected over the next three months as the price of goat is expected to go up with the good rains coupled with stable maize prices during the period.



## 5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

### 5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- The households across livelihood zones consumed 1.4 litres of milk on average, showing an increase from 1.1 litres that they consumed in June but similar to 1.4 litres of LTA.



- The increase in milk consumption is due to the enhanced milk production associated with good body condition and sufficient forage availability. Access to milk was good during the month.

### 5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

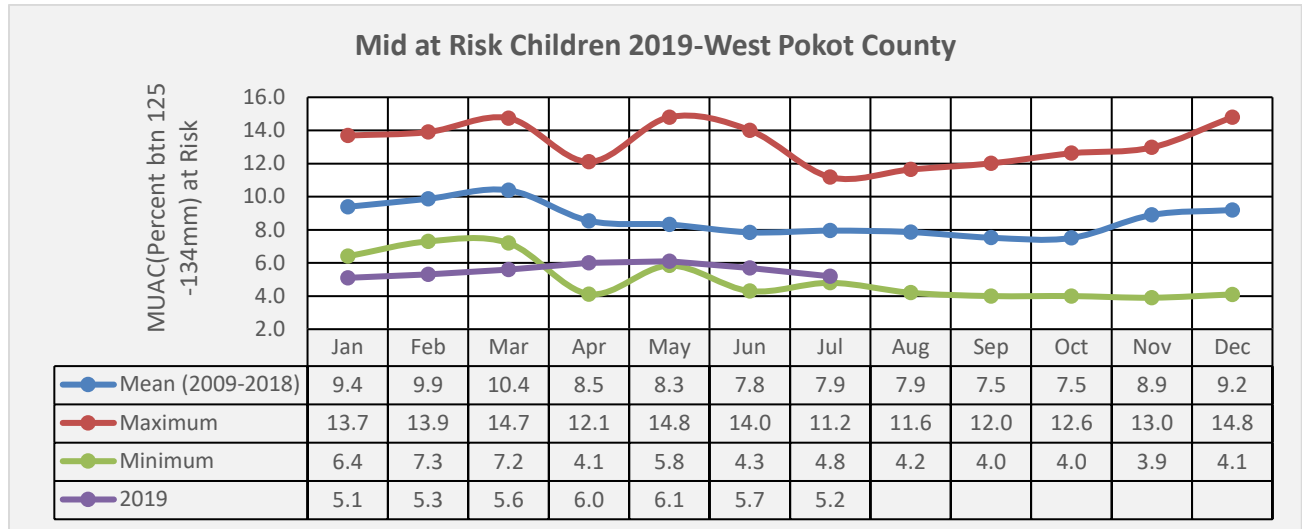
- In July, the households' proportions of 69%, 26% and 5% were recorded of having Food Consumption Score (FCS) within Acceptable, Borderline and Poor categories respectively. The score increased for the borderline category, whereas that for both acceptable and poor categories decreased in comparison to that of June. The FCS is generally, acceptable in July.
- The mean FCS for the two livelihood zones increased to 41 in July; arise from 40 reported 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 49% households under the same category in the pastoral livelihood zone. There is more food sources diversity in agro-pastoral livelihood zones as compared to pastoral livelihoods.

### 5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

#### 5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- During the month, the proportion of 43 and 57 percent of girls and boys under 5 years respectively were sampled, where the children rated as being 'at risk' of malnutrition were at 5.2 percent, a decrease from 5.7 reported in June.

- The current proportion is below the LTA value of 7.9 percent for the such time of the year.



- By show of MUAC, the nutrition status of under-fives was improving and is attributed to substantial milk consumption in addition to other essential health and nutrition commodities. These were the key determinants of the downward trend in number of children ‘at risk’ of malnutrition.

### 5.3.2 Health

- The commonly reported ailments among the sampled children were Typhoid and Malaria.

## 5.4 COPING STRATEGY

### 5.4.1 Coping Strategy Index (CSI)

- The County’s CSI for July was 2.3, which was a decrease from 2.5 reported in June. The decrease shows that households employed few of strategies to cope, which could be linked to favourable food commodity availability and access at households and markets respectively.
- The pastoral zones recorded a CSI of 2.9 while agro-pastoral livelihood zones recorded 1.7.
- The commonly employed consumption coping strategies by a few of the households in July included reliance on less preferred/less expensive foods.

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

### **6.1 NON-FOOD**

- The County Government of West Pokot conducted livestock vaccination in Pokot Central.

## **7.0 EMERGING ISSUES**

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

- Cattle theft incidences were reported along West Pokot/Turkana border. The event caused tension, as it is not known if there will be a counter action to recover the stolen stock.

### **7.2 MIGRATION**

- In July, normal livestock movements were reported within the county.

### **7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS**

- In the next one month, maize prices are anticipated to stabilize while goat price is expected to increase. As such, the terms of trade would improve and remain favourable over this period.
- Milk availability is likely to improve with the restoration of pasture and water supporting livestock production as rains are anticipated to continue. Malnutrition cases are likely to continue decreasing within the period, since children would continue accessing more milk.
- As rains are expected to continue, the distance to water sources for both human and livestock is projected to decrease.
- The livestock productivity is anticipated to improve, as the forage conditions are expected to remain good with the ongoing rains, occasioning improved livestock body condition thus higher livestock prices and improved access to food due to the enhanced purchasing power.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. AGRICULTURE SECTOR**

- Provide pest control chemicals to fight Fall Army Worm (FAW) across the County, in Pokot West, Central and South sub-counties.

### **2. LIVESTOCK SECTOR**

- Support pasture development in all sub-counties.

### **3. WATER SECTOR**

- Provide water treatment chemicals to check on the waterborne cases.
- Build the community capacity the on water harvesting and storage techniques.

### **4. HEALTH AND NUTRITION SECTOR**

- Conduct health preventive and promotion campaigns while providing health education on sanitation and proper utilization of water treatment chemicals so as to minimize the risk of water borne diseases outbreak.

### **5. PEACE AND SECURITY**

- Support peace building community projects at borders to bring both sides to work together, especially peace projects at conflict hotspots of Turkana-West Pokot border.