



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



National Drought Management Authority Baringo County Drought Early Warning Bulletin for May 2022

MAY EW PHASE		Early Warning Phase Classification									
Drought Status: NORMAL Shughuli za kawaida		LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TRENDS							
Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification Drought Phase: Normal- Stable Biophysical Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The county received rainfall which was fair to good in terms of amount received and distribution The Vegetation greenness as represented by the VCI depicted moderate vegetation deficit Status of water sources is almost normal as water levels are above 50% across the county. Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators) Production indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The forage conditions were mainly fair to good in both quality and quantity Livestock body condition was poor to fair in Pastoral and Agrop pastoral livelihood zones. Milk production was below the normal seasonal range across all livelihood zones but on an improving trend. Access indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terms of trade are declining and below long term means Trekking distances to water points are declining due to the ongoing recharge of water sources. Utilization indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of under-five children at risk of malnutrition was above the long term mean Copping strategy index (CSI) for households is stable and within normal seasonal range. 		PASTORAL		ALERT	IMPROVING						
		AGRO PASTORAL		NORMAL	IMPROVING						
		IRRIGATED CROP		NORMAL	IMPROVING						
		COUNTY		NORMAL	IMPROVING						
		Biophysical Indicators	Value for the month Baringo	LTA-Monthly Baringo	Normal ranges Kenya %						
		Average rainfall MM (%)	54 %	46	80-120						
		VCI-3month	33.01		35-50						
		% Of water in the water pan	>50%		50%-60%						
		Production indicators		Value	Normal ranges						
		Livestock Migration Pattern		Normal	Normal						
Livestock Body Condition		1-2	3-4								
Milk Production (Ltr /HH/Month)		<1	≥1.4								
Livestock deaths (for drought)		No deaths	No deaths								
Access Indicators		Value	Normal ranges								
Terms of Trade (ToT)		36	>50.87								
Milk Consumption (Ltr)		<1	≥1.2								
Water for Households-trekking distance (km)		4	≤ 5								
Utilization indicators		Value	Normal ranges								
Nutrition status of children 6-59 months at risk of malnutrition by numbered MUAC (% at risk)		18%	<17%								
CSI		17	<19.0								
FCS		36.5	>35								
<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

1.1.1 Amount of rainfall and spatial distribution

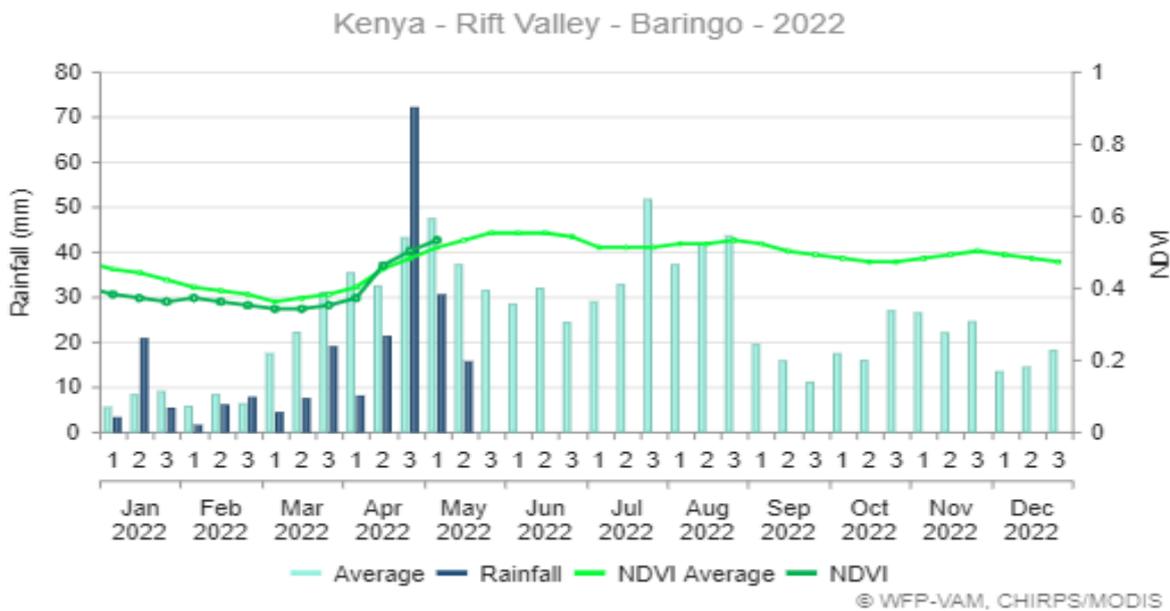


Figure. 1. Rainfall performance

- The county did receive some rains during the month under review although the amount received were less compared to the previous month, translating to 54 percent of the normal rains received during the first two dekads of May (Figure 1). The distribution in time and space was fair across the livelihood zone, though there was a dry spell of about 10 days during the first dekad.

1.1.2 Cummulative rainfall

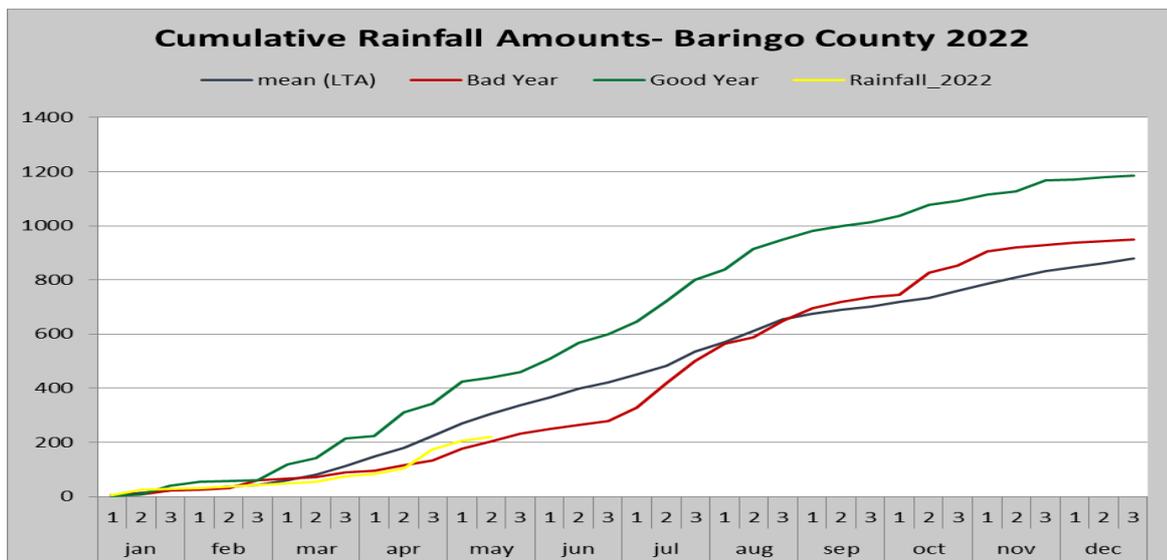


Figure 2: Cummulative rainfall

- The cumulative amount of rainfall received by the second dekad of the month under review was below the long term mean but on an increasing trend following the onset of the long rains season (Figure 2).

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

The three month vegetation condition index is 33.01, depicting a moderate vegetation deficit for all the sub counties apart from Eldama Ravine which has normal vegetation (Figure 3).

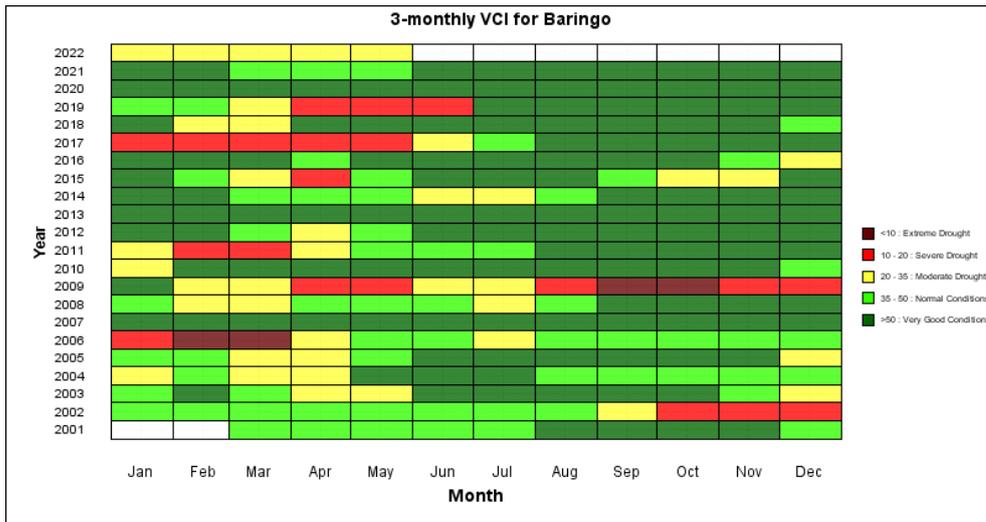


Figure 3. Vegetation condition index

The VCI trend for the county is still below the long term average (LTA) but is improving as highlighted in Figure 4 for Mogotio and Tiaty sub counties.

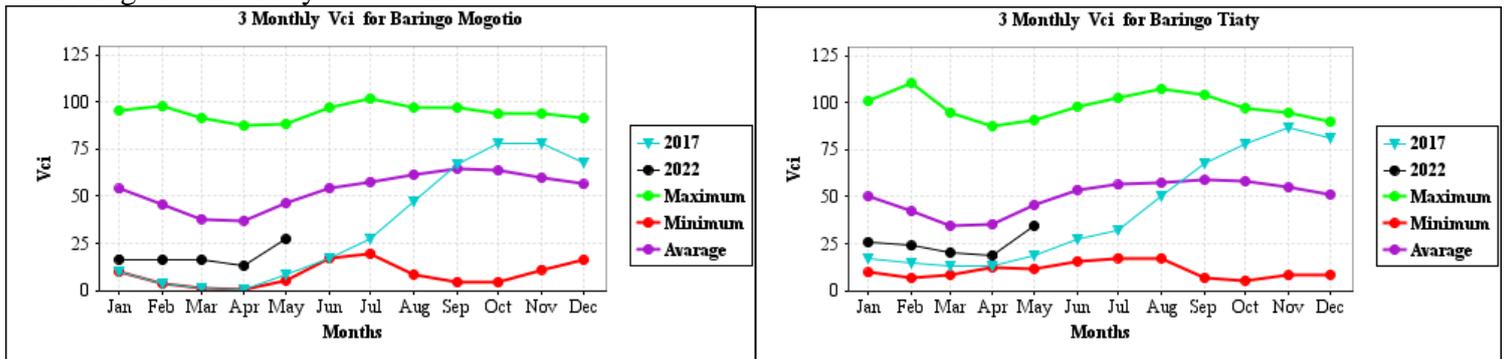


Figure 4: Vegetation condition index trend-Mogotio and Tiaty sub counties

2.1.1 Field observation

Pasture

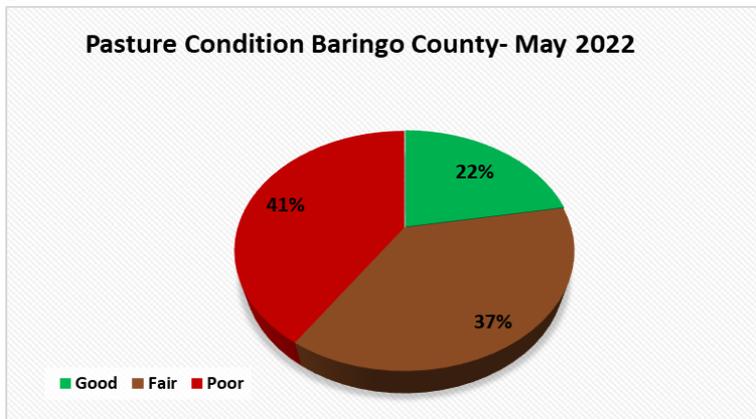


Figure 5. Pasture condition

The pastures were poor to fair in the Pastoral and Agro pastoral livelihood zones whereas in Irrigated crop and parts of Agro pastoral livelihood zones, the pastures were fair to good. Regeneration of pastures is ongoing across all livelihood zones following the onset of the long rains season. (Figure 5).

2.1.1.2 Browse

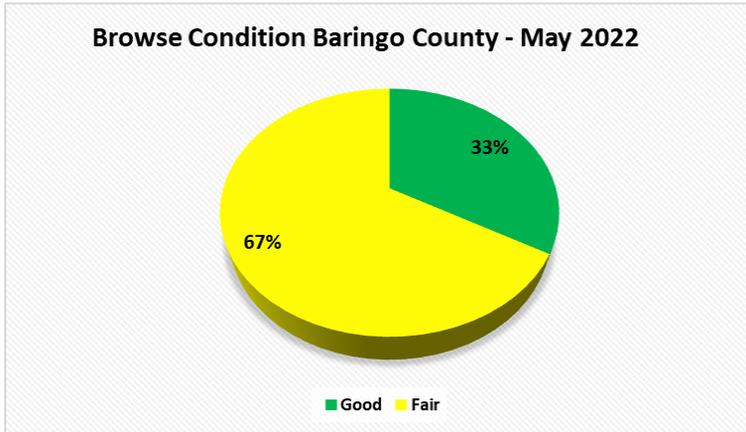


Figure 6: Browse condition

The browse condition during the month under review was mostly fair to good both in quantity and quality in Pastoral and Agropastoral livelihood zones (Figure 6) while good in the Irrigated livelihood zone. The condition was below normal as compared to seasonal range at this time of the year. The available browse was expected to improve due to the ongoing rains. The browse is expected to last for more than three months in Pastoral and Agro pastoral livelihood zones and five months in Irrigated cropping livelihood zone

2.2 Water resources

2.2.1 Source

The major water sources for both livestock and human consumption across all livelihood zones were rivers, pans & dams and traditional river wells (Figure 7). Most water pans and dams were above 50 percent of their full capacity in the Pastoral and Agro pastoral livelihood zones as a result of on going rains. Water quality and quantity across Pastoral and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones was fair, which was not normal at this time of the year. The current open water sources were expected to last for two to three months in Pastoral and Agro pastoral livelihood zones and five month in Irrigated livelihood zone.

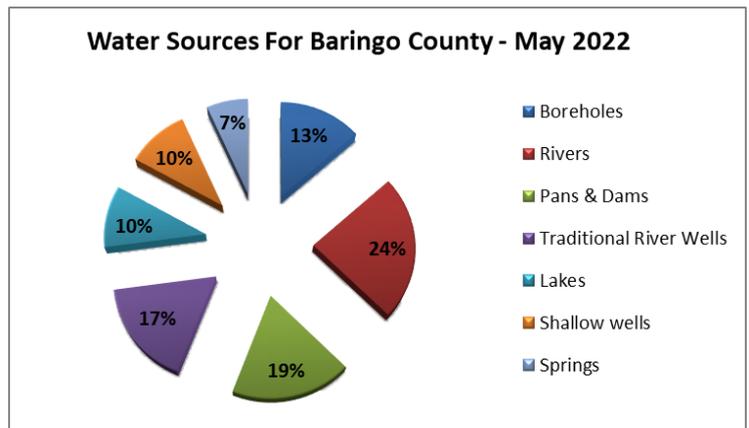


Figure 7. Water sources

2.2.2 Household access and utilization

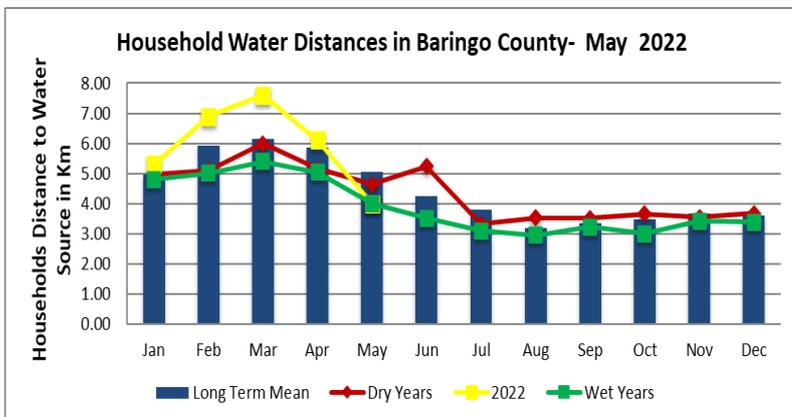


Figure 8. Trekking distance

The average household trekking distance to water sources recorded a decrease of 20 percent at 4 km from 6.7 km the previous month (Figure 8). In comparison to the long term average (LTA) the distances were below normal by 21 percent. Irrigated cropping livelihood zone recorded the least trekking distance of one kilometre while Pastoral livelihood zone recorded the highest average of 4.4 km. The decrease in distances was attributed to ongoing recharge of water points as a result of the onset of the long rains season.

2.2.3 Livestock access

The average return distance for livestock from grazing fields was 6.9 km, a decrease of 34 percent in relation to the previous month at 10.5 km (Figure 9). The recent distances were below the long term mean by 11 percent. The Pastoral livelihood zone recorded the longest average return distance of 7.8km while Irrigated cropping livelihood zone recorded the shortest average distance of two kilometres. The declining distances were due to the ongoing rains in the county that has led to recharge of water sources.

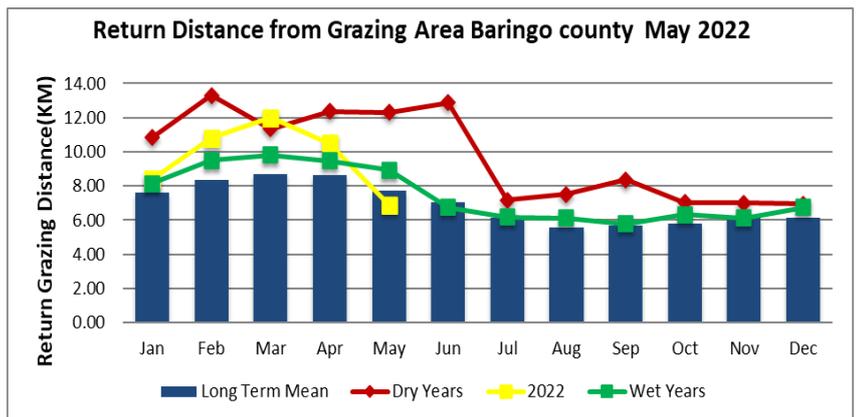


Figure 9. Return distance from grazing area

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock production

3.1.1 Livestock body condition

During the reporting month the livestock body condition was generally thin with fore ribs being visible in the Pastoral and parts of Agro pastoral livelihood zones for the cattle species (Figure 10). The condition was better as compared to the previous month whereby most animals were emaciated. This was occasioned by poor pasture, browse and water resources in these zones. The body condition is likely to continue improving due to the ongoing forage regeneration.

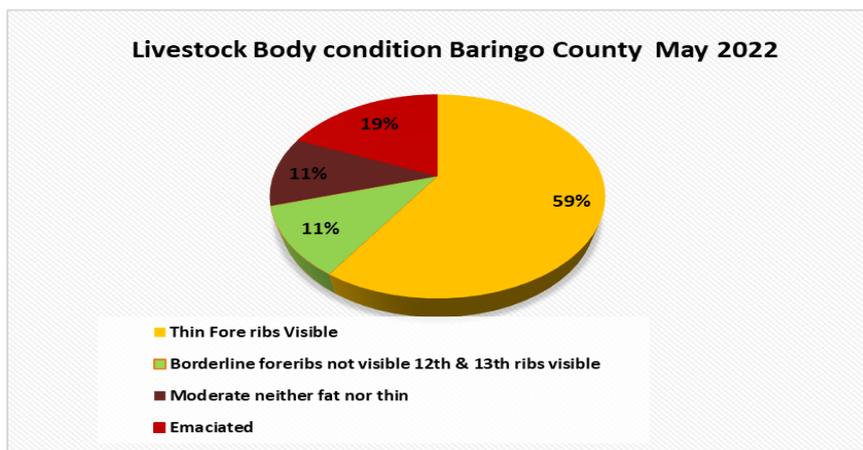


Figure 10. Livestock body condition

3.1.2 Livestock diseases

Endemic cases of contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP) and pestes des petits ruminants (PPR) exist in parts of Baringo South and Baringo North sub counties.

3.1.3 Milk production

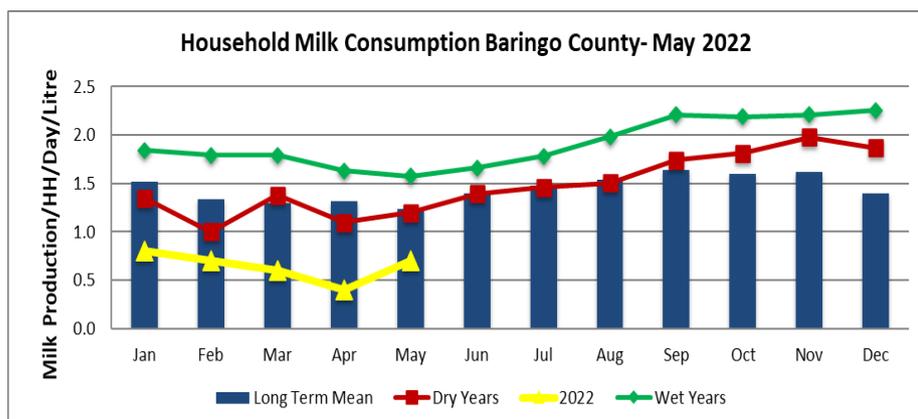


Figure 11: Milk production

There was an increase in the average milk produced per household per day during the month at 0.7 litres, in relation to the previous month at 0.4 litres, and this situation was attributed to ongoing improvement of forage condition due to the onset of the long rains season (Figure 11). Agro pastoral livelihood zone had the highest average milk production of 3.1 litres while Irrigated cropping zone had the least average of 0.4 litres. The current milk production was below LTAs by 51 percent.

3.2 Rain fed crop production

3.2.1 Stage and condition of food crops

- Most farmers have concluded crop planting following the late onset of the long rains season. Some farmers have started weeding their maize especially in the irrigated livelihood zone. Germination of the crops was good although a number of farms have been attacked by African army worms which are destroying the crops in the Mixed farming livelihood zone.

4.0.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1.0 Livestock marketing

4.1.1 Cattle prices.

The current average price for medium-sized cattle was Ksh. 12,926, an increase of eight percent as compared to the previous month at Ksh. 11,917. (Figure 12). The better prices is due to the improving livestock body condition across all livelihood zones. The price was relatively above the short-term average (STA). Irrigated cropping livelihood zone posted the highest prices of Ksh.24,167 while Agro pastoral livelihood zone recorded the least average price of Ksh.8,000. The prices are expected to increase due to the regeneration of pastures which are expected to impact positively on the livestock body condition.

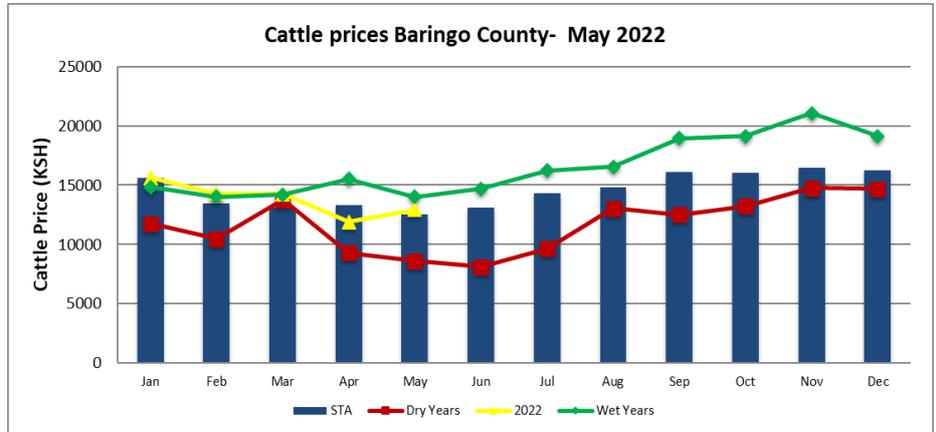


Figure 12: Cattle prices

4.1.2 Goat prices.

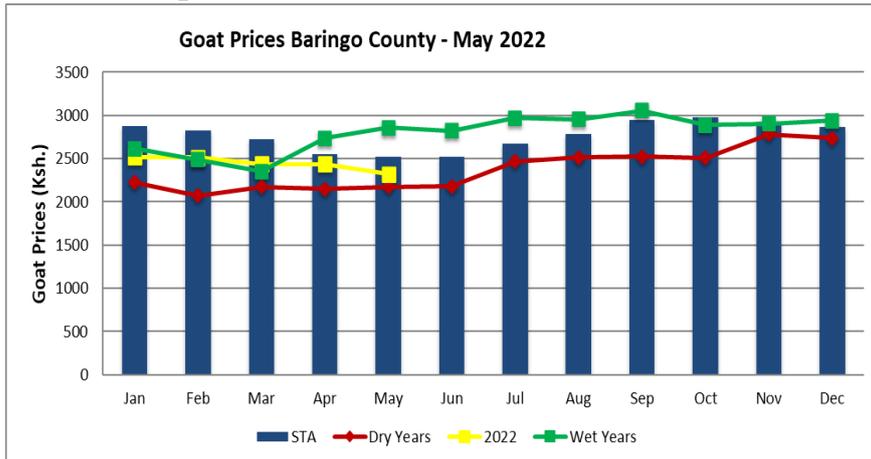


Figure 13: Goat prices

The average price of a medium sized goat was stable at Ksh.2,320 in respect to the previous month at Ksh. 2,439 (Figure 13). The price was below the short term average by eight percent. The prices were highest in Irrigated cropping livelihood zone at Ksh. 3,617 and lowest in Agro pastoral livelihood zone at Ksh.1,350. The prices are expected to improve due to the ongoing improvement in livestock body condition.

4.2.0. Crop prices

4.2.1 Maize

The average price of a kilogram of maize was Ksh.65, an increase of seven percent in comparison to the previous month (Figure 14). The prices were above the short-term average at a similar time of the year by 29 percent. The increase in maize prices was attributed to reduced maize supplies in the local markets as well as increased cost of transport as a result of high fuel prices in all livelihood zones. Pastoral livelihood zone recorded the highest average price of Ksh.68 per kg while Irrigated cropping livelihood zone recorded the lowest price at Ksh.45 per kg.

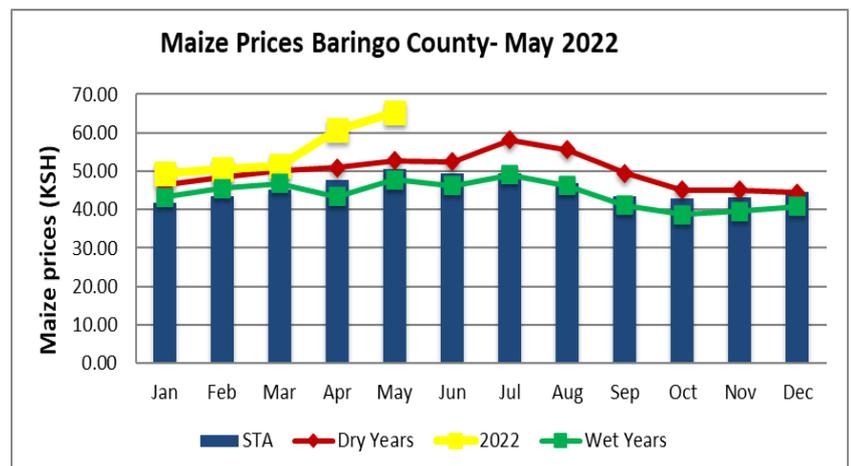


Figure 14: Maize prices

4.2.2 Posho (Maize meal)

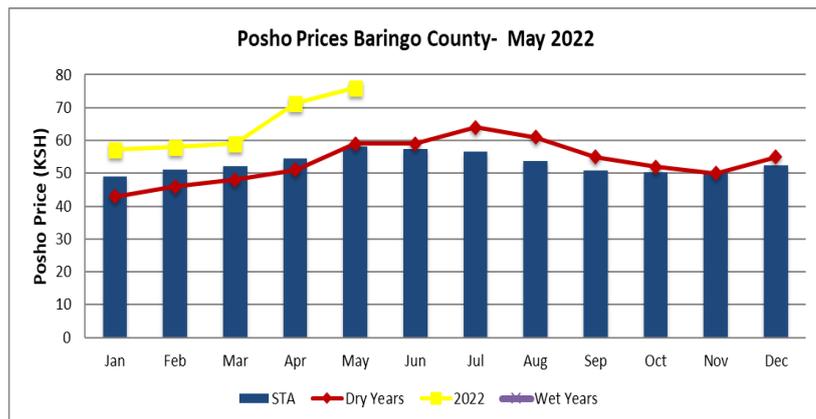


Figure 15: Posho prices

The average household posho price was at Ksh 76/kg compared to the previous month at Ksh 71.9/kg (Figure 15). The price was above the STA by 31 percent. The above normal prices are attributed to increased fuel prices across all livelihood zones. The Pastoral livelihood zone recorded the highest average price of Ksh.82 while the Irrigated cropping livelihood zone had the least average price of Ksh. 55.

4.2.3 Beans Prices

The average price per kilogram of beans retailed at Kshs.142 (Figure 16), an increase of five percent compared to the previous month. The current price was above the STA by 17 percent. The Agro pastoral livelihood zone recorded the highest average prices of Ksh.147 while the Irrigated livelihood zone recorded the least price of Ksh.100. The general increase in prices is attributed to scarcity of the commodity across the county as well as purchasing of seeds for planting.

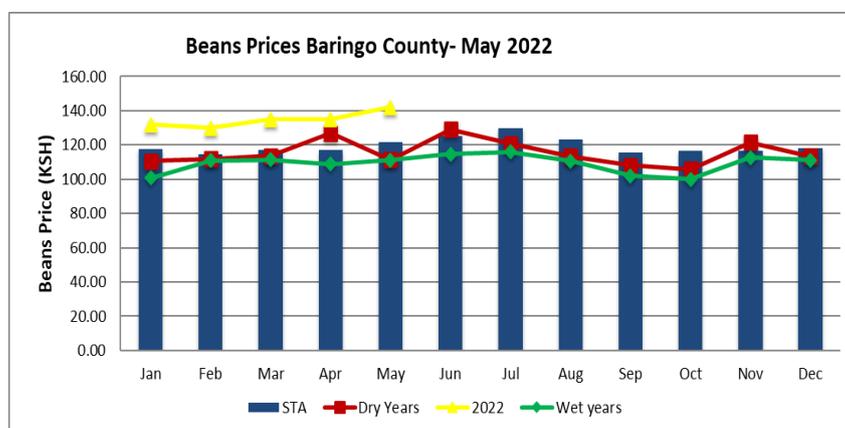


Figure 16: Beans prices

4.3 Terms of Trade

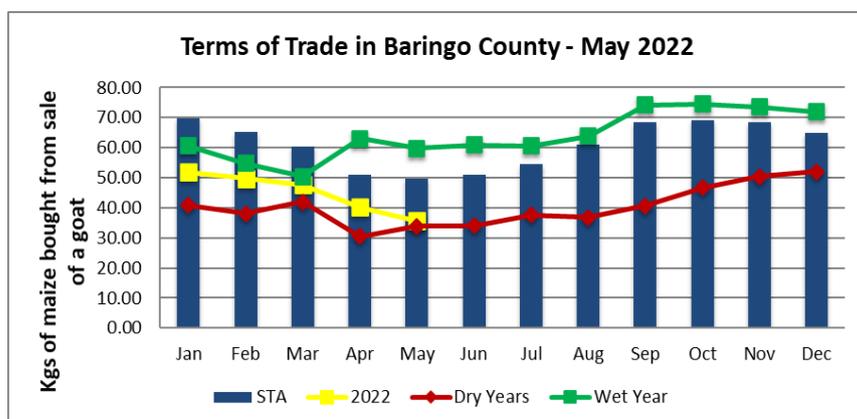


Figure 17: Terms of trade

Terms of trade declined by 11 percent from 40 to 36 in relation to the previous month (Figure 17). This was attributed to increased maize prices. The current terms of trade were below the long-term average by 29 percent. Irrigated cropping livelihood zone had the highest terms of trade of 81 while Agro pastoral livelihood zone had the least at 27. Insecurity challenges and high maize prices in the Pastoral and Agro pastoral livelihood zones also contributed to the worsening of the terms of trade.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 Milk Consumption

The average household milk consumption was 0.7 litre per day an increase of 75 percent as compared to the previous month. The current milk consumption was below the long term average by 44 percent (Figure 18). The milk consumption was highest in the Agro pastoral livelihood zone at 1.9 litre and lowest in Irrigated cropping livelihood zone at 0.5 litre.

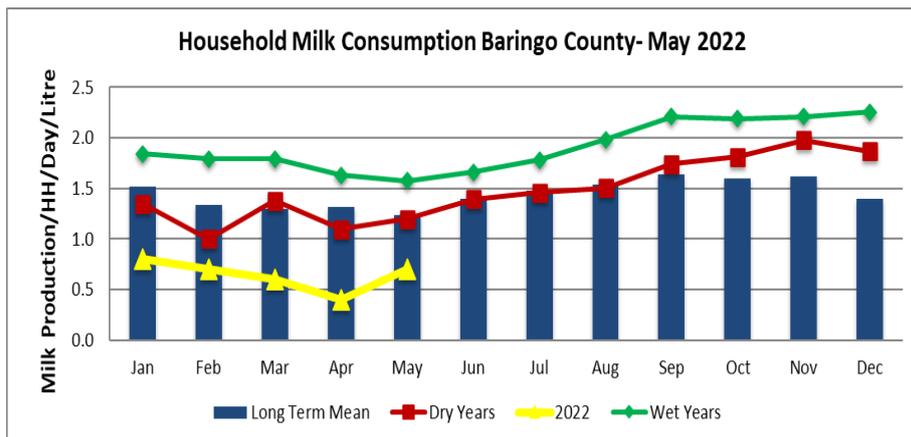


Figure 18: Milk consumption

5.2 Food Consumption Score (FCS)

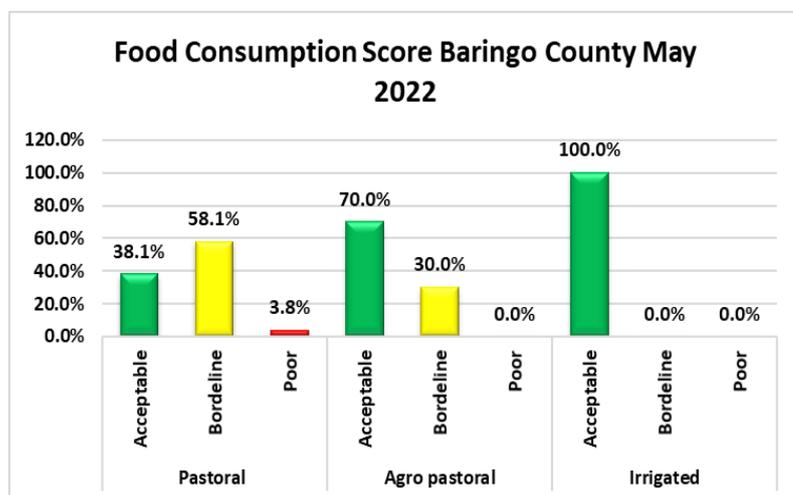


Figure 19: Food consumption score

Generally, the county had an acceptable food consumption score of 36.5, which was stable compared to the previous month. A proportion of 3, 48.5 and 48.5 percent of the households across the livelihood zones had poor, borderline and acceptable FCS respectively. More households have shifted to borderline in comparison to the previous month. The Pastoral, Agro pastoral and Irrigated cropping livelihood zones had 35, 39 and 45 average food consumption score respectively (Figure 19). About 62 percent of the households in Pastoral livelihood zone did not have acceptable food consumption compared to 59 percent for the previous month. Most of them were experiencing food consumption gaps due to poor access and availability of food.

5.3. Health and Nutrition Status

5.3.1 Nutrition status

The proportion of children sampled who are at the risk of malnutrition during the month under review was stable at 18 percent compared to the previous month (Figure 20). This was mostly contributed by the ongoing nutrition interventions whereby all IMAM health facilities are being supported by WFP and County Government with therapeutic products. However, the current rates were still above the LTA by two percent, a situation that was being contributed by minimal milk consumption at household level especially in the Pastoral area.

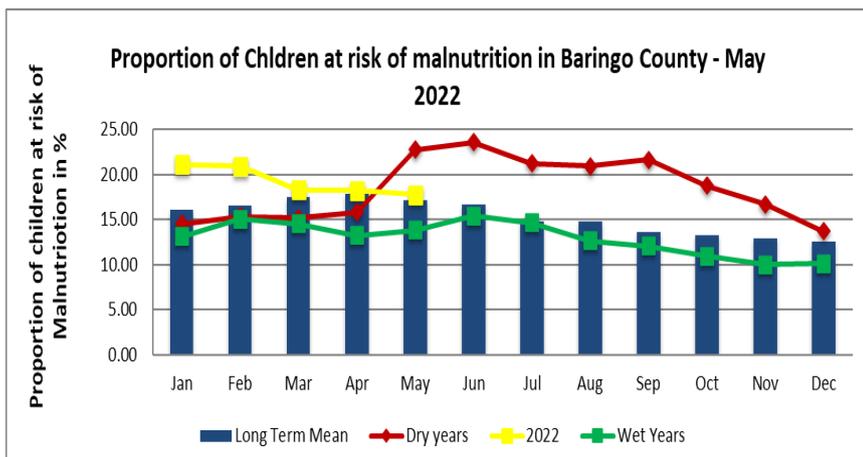


Figure 20: Nutrition status by MUAC

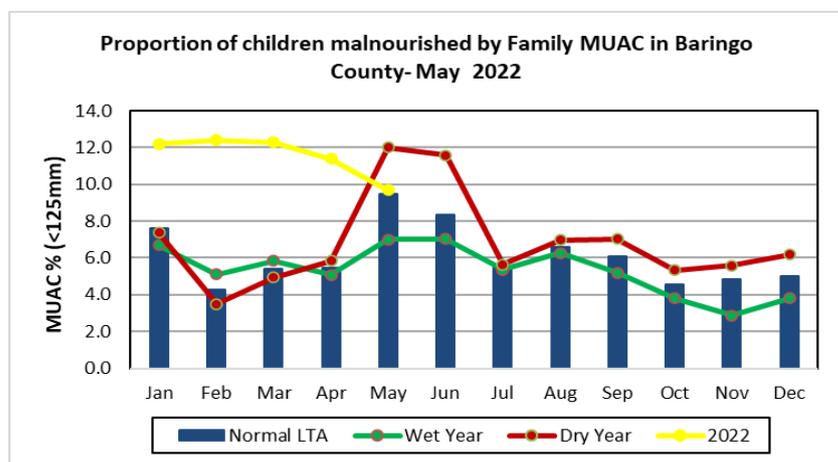


Figure 21: Nutrition status by family MUAC

By family MUAC, the proportion of children malnourished was 9.5 percent. (Figure 21). The improvement in malnutrition status was attributed to the ongoing nutrition interventions in the pastoral livelihood zones. The current proportion was slightly above the long term average.

5.3.2 Health

- During the reporting period, the illnesses that were reported were URTI, malaria and diarrhoea across livelihood zones. The diarrhoea cases were due to use of water from open sources and poor hygiene practices at household level. Water quality is poor mostly in all livelihood zones.

5.4 Coping strategies

5.4.1 Coping Strategy Index

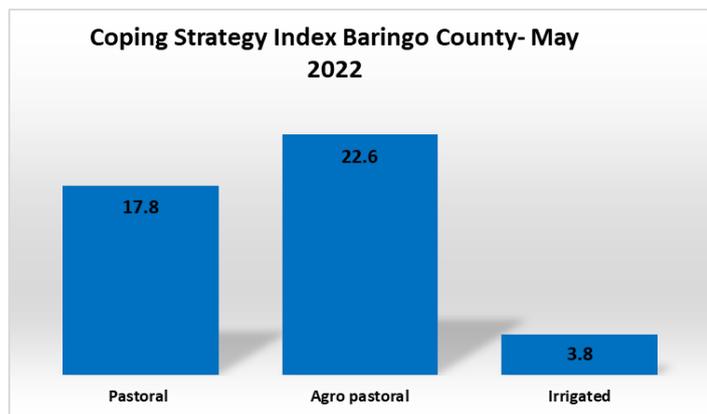


Figure 22: Coping strategy index

The current average coping strategy index was stable at 17 compared to the previous month. Households in Agro pastoral livelihood zone employed more coping strategies at 23 followed by Pastoral livelihood zone at 18 while the Irrigated cropping zone employed the least coping mechanisms at 4 (Figure 22).

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES.

6.1 Food interventions

- The county did not have any relief food distribution during the month under review.

6.2 Non-food interventions

Red Kenya Cross

- Distribution of ready to use therapeutic feeds (RUTF) to all IMAM facilities in Baringo County is ongoing. KRCS have conducted integrated medical outreaches in Tiaty East and Tiaty West Sub counties

Livestock sector

- Distribution of 60 Sahiwal bulls to various farmer groups for improving the local breeds.
- Provision of improved chicken and Galla bucks to targeted groups in Baringo North, Baringo South, Mogotio and Tiaty courtesy of SHA/SAII/FSK
- Participatory Integrated Community Development for Baringo North, Baringo South, Mogotio and Tiaty through ERLP(Desert Locust) Project.

Health and Nutrition

- With support from WFP, there is restocking of nutrition commodities for the management of malnutrition in Tiaty sub county.
- IMAM program in 120 health facilities across the county
- Routine Vitamin A supplementation and deworming in health facilities
- IMAM surge monitoring ongoing in 18 out of 26 health facilities in Tiaty west and East sub counties

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity

- Cases of insecurity were reported in Saimo soi ward in Baringo North, Nosukro and Mochongoi wards in Baringo South sub county.

7.3 Food security prognosis

- Water access and availability is expected to remain stable and normal in the next one month as a result of the ongoing recharge of water sources across the county. Trekking distances are expected to remain below normal while water quality is expected to improve due to elimination of congestion at water points.
- Forage conditions are expected to attain fair to good conditions in the next one month, a situation that will impact positively on livestock productivity in terms of milk production, meat availability and livestock market prices.
- Insecurity challenges are likely to continue being felt in Pastoral and Agropastoral livelihood zones with the possibility of some communities trying to restock their animals via illegal means following the onset of the long rains season. This is therefore likely to affect access to grazing fields and livestock markets due to fear of loss of animals.
- Terms of trade are expected to worsen in all livelihood zones as cereal prices are expected to remain high while livestock prices will remain low.
- In the Pastoral areas, cases of malnutrition will continue to persist due to poor dietary diversity as households will find it difficult to access nutritious food stuffs from the markets due to the existing low purchasing power and poor market functionality.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1.0 Proposed Recommendations

8.1.1. Water Sector

- Provision of water treatment drugs at water sources and household level to minimise outbreak of water borne diseases
- To rehabilitate broken down boreholes and shallow wells within the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones.
- To purchase more plastic tanks (10,000ltrs) to be installed for some institutions for rain water harvesting and also for storage

8.1.2. Nutrition and Health

- Support coordination meetings
- Train more CHV's and caregivers on family MUAC
- Support mass screening in hotspot sites
- Health facilities to be supplied with essential drugs and water treatment chemicals
- Support of Intergrated outreaches where community travel long distance to get health services
- Improve resilience of the vulnerable groups through nutrition education to care givers
- Social behaviour changes and communication for improved dietary practices among children and women of reproductive health-
- Promote community resilience interventions through organize support groups

8.1.3. Livestock and Veterinary sector

- Vaccination against, CCPP, LSD and PPR should be enhanced
- Establishment of pasture field to take advantage of the ongoing rainfall season.
- Sustained security surveillance in the county with the aim of minimizing conflict that is resulting from livestock migration among pastoral communities

8.1.4. Agriculture Sector

- Enhance pest control especially in the face of outbreak of the African army worms that have the potential to cause significant crop losses in the farms.
- Value addition of produce cereals (Maize, Sorghum and Millet) through milling and fortification of flour and Market linkages
- Enhance asset creation for households especially Farm ponds and water pans for food production especially Kitchen Gardening