National Drought Management Authority

KAJIADO COUNTY
DROUGHT MONITORING AND EARLY WARNING BULLETIN – OCTOBER 2019

NDMA — A Vision 2030 Flagship Project

KENYA VISION 2030

OCTOBER EW PHASE

Drought Status: NORMAL

Early Warning Phase Classification

LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TRENDS
PASTORAL	NORMAL	STABLE
AGRO-PASTORAL	NORMAL	STABLE
MIXED FARMING	NORMAL	STABLE
COUNTY	NORMAL	STABLE

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- ✓ The onset of 2019 short rains was normal. The rains started in the second week of October with fair temporal distribution.
- ✓ The vegetation greenness was within the normal band after fair forage regeneration across the County.
- ✓ Water was now adequate with about 50% recharge of most surface water sources.

Production and Access Indicators

- ✓ The impact of short rains was yet to be felt in livestock productivity. Their body condition was still poor and, milk production and prices were still low.
- ✓ Return migration of livestock were observed by end of October.

Access indicators

- ✓ The terms of trade improved in October compared to September probably due to reduced prices of food stuffs.
- ✓ Household milk consumption declined due to low production.
- ✓ Water was now accessible to both livestock and people with distances to water points having reduced.

Utilization Indicators

- ✓ The risk of malnutrition for under-fives was stable and below the long term average as household employ consumption based coping strategies such as skipping and reducing the number of meals consumed in a day to deal with lack of food.

Biophysical Indicators	Observed Value/Range	Normal Range/LTA
State of water	Adequate	Adequate
3-monthly VCI	42.80	>35
Pature condition	Fair	Good
Production Indicators	**Observed Value/Trend**	**Normal Range**
Cattle body condition	Poor	Good
Household milk production per day	1.7 litres	>=5 litres
migration pattern	Return Migration	Return migration
Access Indicators	**Observed Value**	**Normal/LTA**
Terms of trade	82 kg of maize/goat	62 kg of maize/goat
Household milk Consumption per day	1.3 litres	3.0 litres
Distance to water source — Livestock	7.4 km	8.9 km
Distance to water source — Household	6.7 km	6.0 km
Utilization indicators	**Value**	**Normal Range/LTA**
MUAC (% <135 mm)	9.6%	12.7%
Coping Strategy Index	5.16	<=10
Proportion consuming poor diet	5.15%	<5% poor

▪ Short rains harvest ▪ Short dry spell ▪ Reduced milk yields ▪ Increased HH food stock	▪ Planting/Weeding ▪ Long rains ▪ High calving rate ▪ Milk yields increase	▪ Long rains harvest ▪ A long dry spell ▪ Land preparation ▪ Increased HH food stocks	▪ Short rains ▪ Planting/weeding

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Seasonal Calendar

1.0   CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1   Rainfall

- The 2019 short rains started in the second week of October (figure 1). This is the normal onset.

- The rains started with light showers and progressed to fair rains in the third week of October. By the fourth week, the central and western pastoral received fair rains (between 6 mm and 21 mm) while the agro- pastoral and mixed farming zones (eastern and southern parts) received good rains (between 29 mm and 43 mm).

- There were at least three wet days a week since the start of the 2019 short rains. The rains were expected to continue until the end of November.
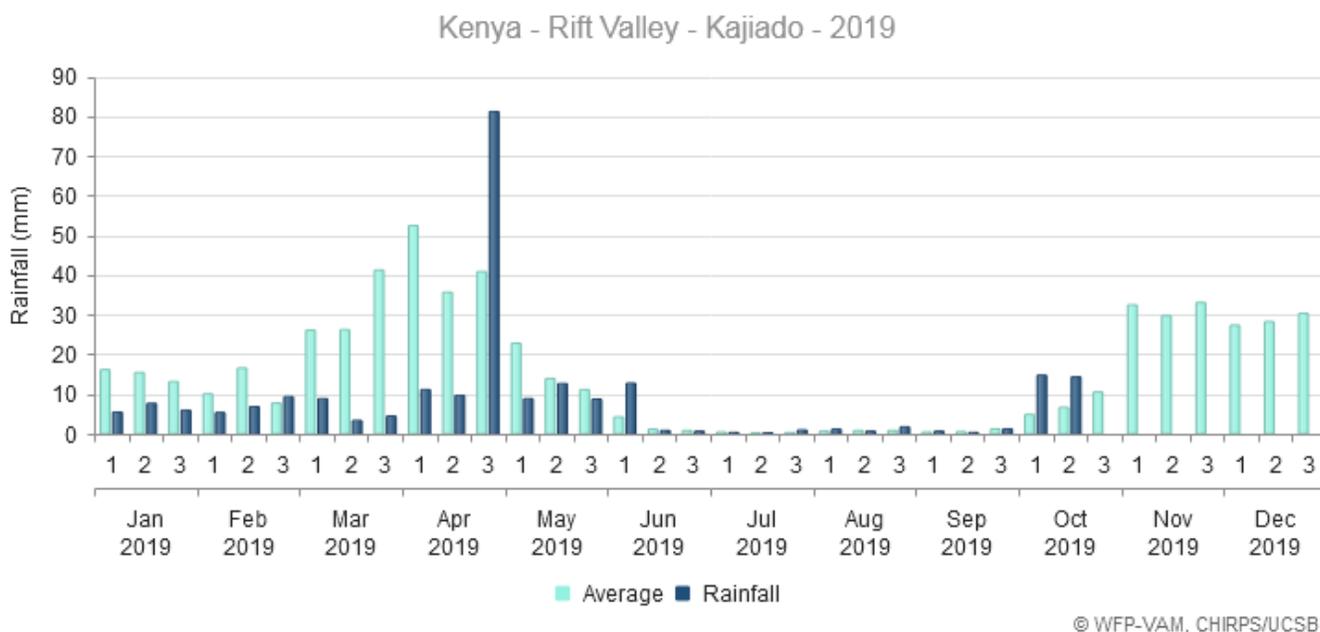

Figure 1: *Trend in Rainfall performance for Kajiado*

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

- The County vegetation greenness has remained normal for four months since June (Figure 2).

- In October, the vegetation greenness in all the five sub-Counties was normal with the County vegetation condition index (VCI) being 42.80.
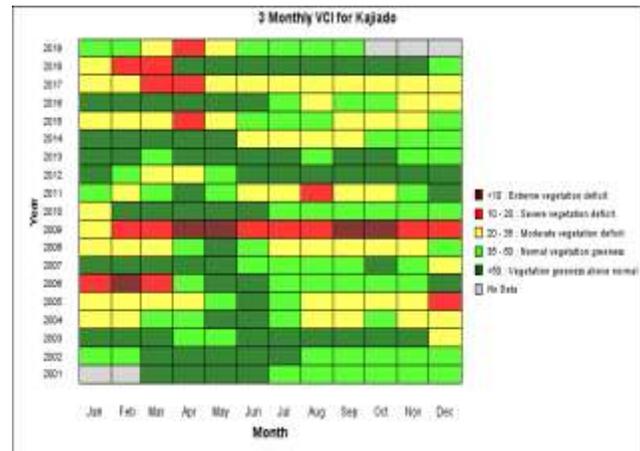

Figure 2: *3-monthly VCI Matrix; Kajiado, 2001 - 2019*

2.2 Pasture and Browse Situation

- By the end of October, pasture and browse had started to regenerate across the County. Currently the pasture and browse condition was fair and expected to improve further.

- In September, pasture was poor and depleted in some parts of the County while browse was fair.

- No livelihood variation in pasture and browse condition was noted in October.

2.3 Water Sources

- Pans were the main source of water in October. This was normal for this time of the year. The source was reported by 19 (82.6%) out of 23 key informants (Figure 3).

- Other water sources during the month included piped water systems, rivers and streams.

- Water from the pans is mainly used by livestock while that for domestic use was drawn mainly from boreholes/shallow wells, tradition river wells and other sources.
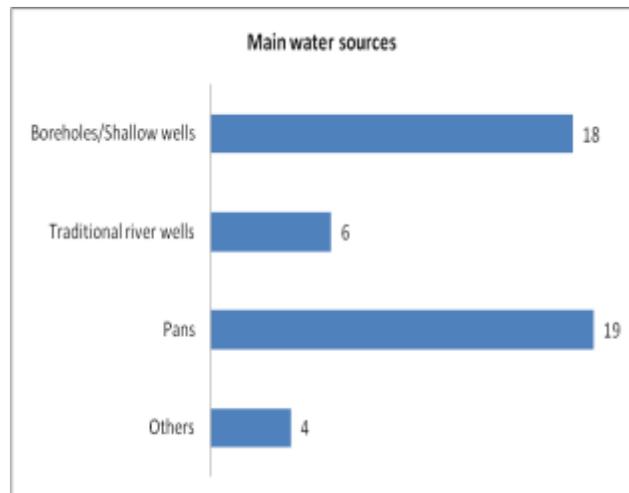

Figure 3: *Water sources; Kajiado, October 2019*

2.4   Households Access to Water

- On average, the return distance that people travelled from their homes to water points reduced from 7.2 km in September to 6.7 km in mid October (Figure 4). This distance may have reduced further by end of October.

- In September, boreholes were the main source of water for domestic use while in October there were other sources such as traditional river wells, roof and rock catchments.

- The long term average return distance covered by people from their homes to water sources in October is 6.0 km.
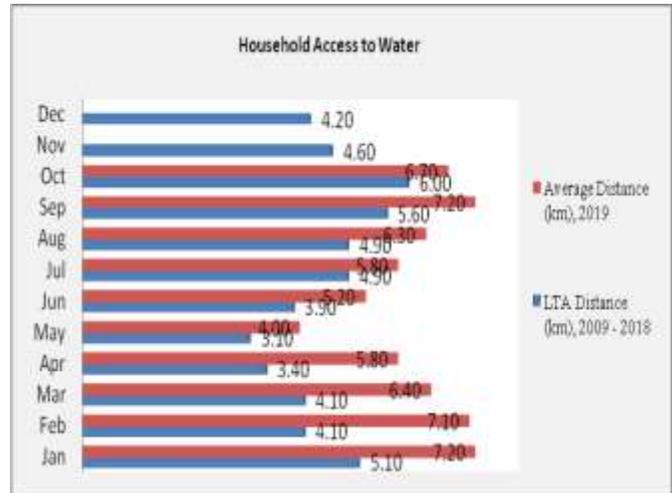

Figure 4: *Average household return distance to water source, Kajiado*

2.5   Livestock Access to Water

- Following some recharge of pans during the ongoing rains, the return distance that livestock travelled to get water from grazing fields reduced from 9.5 km in September to 7.4 km in October (Figure 5).

- During the month, livestock in mixed farming areas covered as less as 3 km to get water.

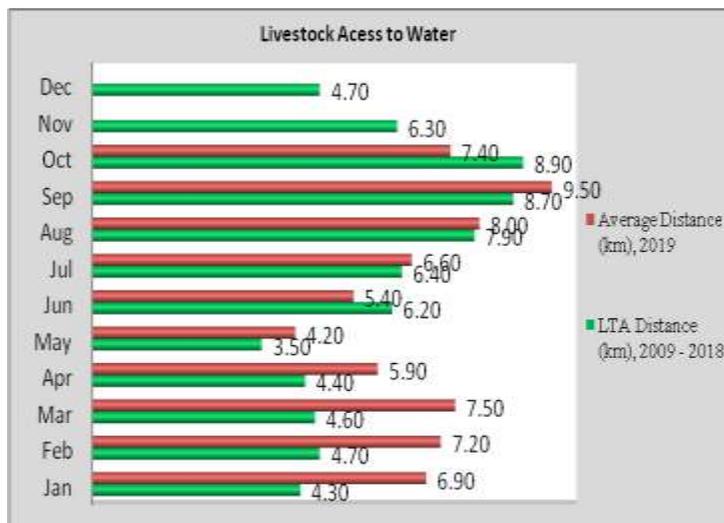- Watering frequency was now daily from three times a week in September.

Figure 5: *Average distance from grazing field to water sources, Kajiado*

3.0   PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1   Livestock Body Condition

- Cattle body condition was still poor since September. The 12th and 13th ribs were still visible in most of cattle across the County.

- Following regeneration of pasture, cattle body condition was expected to improve by the first dekad of November.

- Goats' and sheep body condition was fair with no significant variation across livelihoods.

3.2   Livestock Diseases

- There are reports of rampant cases of Foot and Mouth Disease and, Sheep and Goat Pox across the County.

- Livestock migration within the County before rains (July - September period) may have contributed to the high prevalence of livestock disease by October.

3.3   Livestock Migration

- In a normal year, a return migration is observed by end of October or start of November.

- This was the case this year. Cattle that had migrated to various parts such as Chylu hills, Narok, Kiambu, Nakuru and Ewuaso Nyiro swamp were now returning to their normal grazing fields.

3.3   Milk Production

- In September and October, the daily household milk production was low at an average of 1.9 litres and 1.7 litres respectively. Household milk production was expected to increase by mid November as more cattle will have returned home and their body condition will have improved.

- The long term average milk production in October is about 5 litres per day per household.

3.4   Crop Performance

- Most crop farmers were now weeding. Maize were slightly less than a foot high well beans had two to four leaves.

4.0   MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1   Livestock Marketing

• Livestock markets in the County operated normally in October. The major livestock markets in the County include; Shompole, Ilbisil, Kimana, Rombo and Kiserian.

4.1.1   Prices of Cattle

• On average, the market price of a mature bull slightly reduced from Ksh. 32,000 in September to Ksh. 31,100 in October (Figure 6) possibly as their body condition was still poor.

• For the last three years, the price of a mature bull averaged Ksh. 19,900 in October.

• In Pastoral west (Ewuaso), the average price of mature bull was Ksh. 21,800, well in Agro pastoral east (Isinya) it was Ksh. 48, 400.

Figure 6: *Trends in cattle prices; Kajiado 2016 - 2019*

• Cattle body condition was expected to improve by November and so is the price.

4.1.2   Prices of Goats

• The average market price of a two-year old goat reduced from Ksh. 4,520 in September to Ksh. 4,010 in October (Figure 7) possibly due to deteriorating body condition by mid October.

• For the last three years, the average price of a two-year old goat in October was Ksh. 3,080.

• In Pastoral west (Ewuaso) the price of a two-year old goat was as low as Ksh. 3,230.

• Goat prices were likely to improve by November as their body condition was expected to improve.

Figure 7: *Trends in goats prices; Kajiado 2016 - 2019*

4.2 Prices of Cereals and Legumes

4.2.1 Prices of Maize

- On average, a kilogram of maize was retailing at Ksh. 55 in September. In October it was Ksh. 49 (Figure 8) with marked variations among and within livelihoods. In Pastoral west (Ewuaso), a

Figure 8: *Average prices of Maize; Kajiado 2016 - 2019*

kilogram of maize was selling at Ksh.55 and Ksh. 45 in Pastoral south (Rombo).

- For the past three years, the average price of maize in October is Ksh. 55 per kilogram.

- Prices of maize were likely to reduce further if rains continue and farmers get good harvest.

4.2.2 Prices of Beans

- A kilogram of maize averaged at Ksh. 92 (Figure 9) with variations among livelihoods. In Agro pastoral east (Isinya) beans were sold at Ksh. 79 per kilogram and Ksh. 115 per kilogram in Pastoral
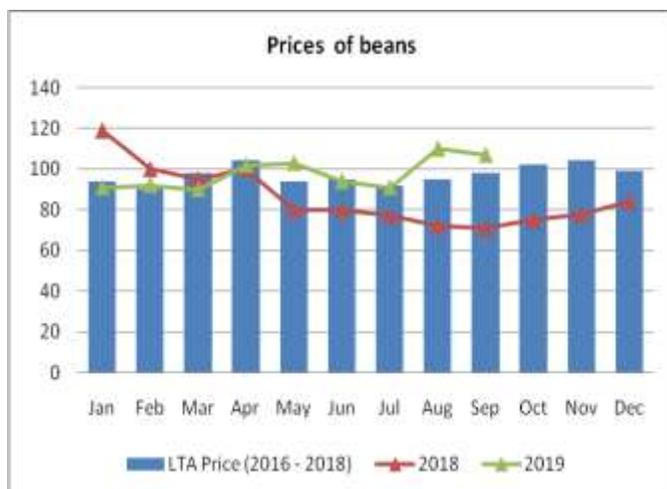

Figure 9: *Average prices of beans; Kajiado 2016 - 2019*

west (Ewuaso).

- In September the average price of beans was Ksh. 107 per kilogram.

- During the last three years, the average price of maize in October is Ksh. 102 per kilogram.

- Like maize, the prices of beans were likely to drop if the rains continue and farmers get good harvest.

4.3 Prices of Milk

- For the period between August and October, a litre of milk was selling at Ksh. 65. Normally the farm gate price of milk in October is Ksh. 30 per litre.
- A slight decline in prices of milk was expected by end of November as its production was also expected to increase.

4.4   Livestock Terms of Trade

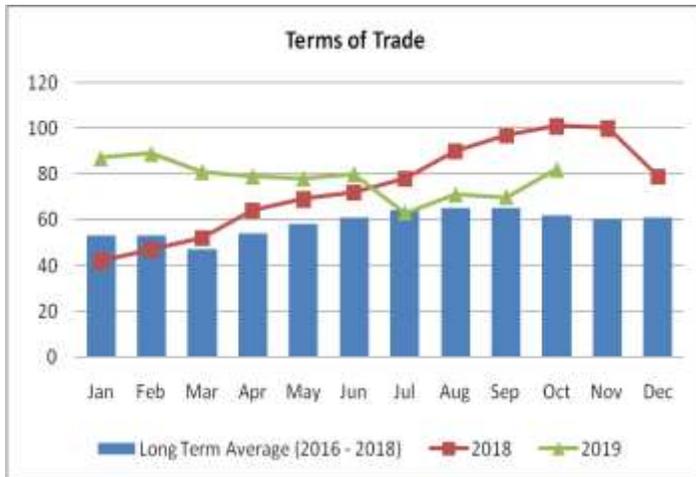- In October, the terms of trade (ToT) improved in favour of pastoralists due to reduction in prices of food stuffs.

Figure 10: *Trends in ToT; Kajiado, 2016 - 2019*

- While in September a goat would be exhanged for 70 kg of maize, in October a goat would be exchanged for 82 kg of maize (Figure 10).
- For the past three years, the ToT averaged 62 kilograms of maize per goat.

5.0   FOOD CONSUMPTION, HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1   Milk Consumption

- The household daily milk consumption in October was 1.3 litres. In a normal year, the average household milk consumption is about 3 litres.

- Low milk consumption in October was as a result of low production.

5.2   Food Consumption Score

- Pastoral west (Kajiado west) had the highest households consuming poor diet and those at borderline at 12.7% and 50.2% respectively (Figure 11).

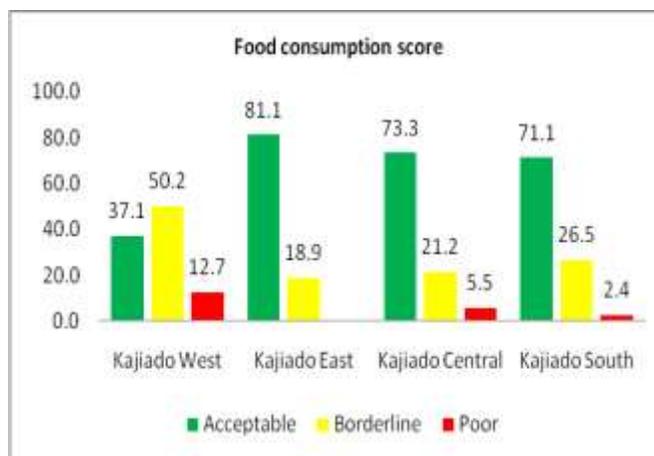- Kajiado west is served by poor road network making it less accessible.

Figure 11: *Food consumption score; Kajiado, Oct 2019*

5.3   Coping Strategies

- Households strained less to get food in October compared to the previous three months. In October the average coping strategy index for the County was 5.16 compared to 6.7 in September.

- Pastoral communities strained more compared to agro pastoral with coping strategy index of 6.1 and 3.2 respectively.

- Common coping strategies employed by households across the livelihood zones included reliance on less expensive food, reduction of the size of meals and purchasing food on credit.

5.4   Human Diseases

- There were no reports of human disease outbreak in the month of October. Earlier in the month of September, seven cases of cholera were reported in Kajiado West in September; four and three cases from Mosiro and Magadi ward respectively.

5.5   Nutritional Status of Children aged 6-59 Months

- The risk of malnutrition for children aged 6 -59 months was stable and below the long term average between September and October period at 9.7% and 9.6% respectively (Figure 12).

- Stability of risk of malnutrition for under-fives was possibly due to improved terms of trade.

- In October, the long term risk of malnutrition for children aged 6 - 59 months averaged 12.7%.

- Areas marked for higher than the average risk of malnutrition include; Lenkism, Mbirikani, Magadi, Ewuaso, Loodokilani and Mosiro.
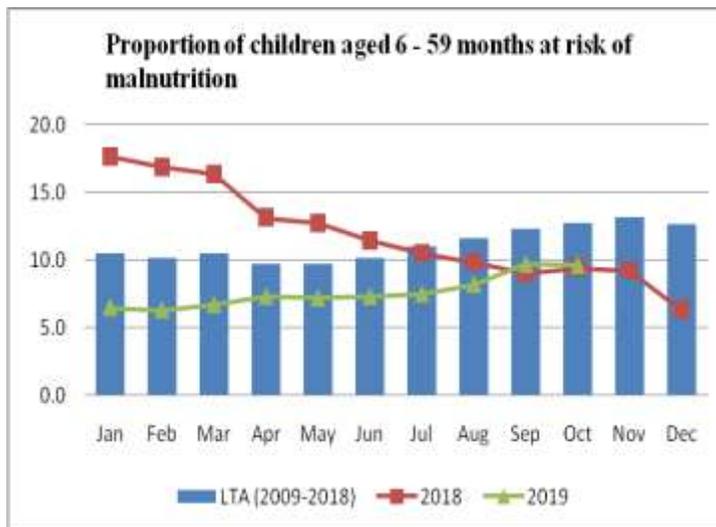

Figure 12: *Risk of malnutrition for children aged 6-59 months; Kajiado, 2009 - 2019*

6.0   FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS, CURRENT INTERVENTIONS AND   RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1   Food Security Prognosis

- Continuity of the 2019 short rains is key in determining household food access and utilization in the County for the next six months.

- Livestock productivity was expected to improve following near normal rains that has resulted in pasture and browse regeneration; Livestock body condition, milk production and prices were expected to improve by mid November.

- Prices of food stuffs were expected to stabilize and thus improve the terms of trade by December.

- It was worth noting that increasing temperatures were likely to reduce access to water and forage earlier than usual.

6.2   Current Interventions

- Construction of Oloichumari water pan; *by National Drought Management Authority in collaboration with County Government.*

- Distribution of seeds (1698 kg of green grams, 2,064 kg of beans -KATB1, 1,642 kg of beans - KATB9, 1656 kg of beans - KATX56, 670 kg of cow peas - M66 and 936 kg of Dolichos - DL1002) to farmers across the County; *by Agriculture department.*

- Provision of food aid to about 80 households affected by fire in Kiserian, Isinya and Rombo; By *County government (Emergency fund).*

- First week of October the County provided water to schools in Kajiado west, Kajiado East and Kajiado Central*; By emergency fund*

6.3   Recommendations for Action

- Training of Imbirikani group ranch on hay production and conservation; *by County government (Livestock production).*

- Vaccination of livestock as most of them were returning from areas of concentration where they and moved during drought period; *by County Government (Veterinary services).*

- Integrated outreach services in areas with high risk of malnutrition namely Lenkism, Mbirikani, Magadi, Ewuaso, Loodokilani and Mosiro; *by County Government (health department)*