

National Drought Management Authority
ISIOLO COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR OCTOBER 2019



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



October 2019 EW Phase

Drought Cycle Stage: Alarm



Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- The month of October was characterized by a mixture of cloudy and hot weather conditions during the day. Rains with high time and space variability were received.
- The 3-month Vegetation Condition was stable, remaining in a moderate vegetation condition.
- Condition and availability of pasture and browse ranged from poor to very poor.
- Water availability in all sources ranged from fair to poor. Its availability has improved in several parts of the county.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production Indicators

- Body condition of small stock and cattle was ranged from fair to very poor in all livelihood zones. Few cattle and sheep deaths occurred in the pastoral livelihood zone.
- Milk production was poor and on a declining trend in the agro-pastoral and pastoral livelihood zone.

Access Indicators

- Livestock prices stabilized while food prices increased over the period under review.
- Household milk consumption was poor over the period under review due to poor production.

Utilization Indicators

- Proportion of households that were unable to adequately meet their daily nutritional needs was high above 50% of population.
- A malnutrition level among children under five year's remained high after a slight over period under review.

Early Warning Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	EW PHASE	TRENDS
Pastoral-All Species	Alarm	Improving
Agro-Pastoral	Alarm	Improving
Casual Waged Labour /Charcoal burning	Alarm	Improving
County	Alarm	Improving
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	75.7mm	>27.3mm
VCI-3month (Isiolo)	23	Below normal
Water Sources	4	5
Production Indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Poor	Fair to Good
Milk Production	0.6 Litres	>1.2 Litres
Livestock deaths (from drought)	Few deaths	No deaths
Livestock Migration Pattern	In/ Out migrations	Normal
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	50	>60
Milk Consumption	0.5 Litres	>1 Litres
Return distance to water households	2.5 km	<5 km
Cost of water at source (20 litres)	Ksh 4.00	<Ksh. 5.00
Utilization indicators	Value	Range/Value
MUAC	15.9 percent	<22.6 percent
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	13.2	<13.5
Food Consumption	48.1 Percent Acceptable	>71 Percent Acceptable

Seasonal Calendar

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains starts ▪ Short dry spell ▪ Reduced milk yields ▪ Migration to dry season area ▪ Land preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Migration to wet grazing areas ▪ Long rains ▪ High Calving Rate ▪ Milk Yields Increase ▪ Reduced pasture/water stress (Normal Scenario) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long rains harvests ▪ A long dry spell ▪ Increased distances to water and pasture ▪ Reduced water levels ▪ Kidding (Sept) ▪ Community/HH coping measures taken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains ▪ Planting in Agro-pastoral LZ ▪ Migration from dry season area ▪ Increased milk yield ▪ Reduced pasture/water stress (Normal scenario) 								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

1. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- The month’s weather conditions were characterized by a mixture of rainy, cloudy and sunny weather and moderate to high day time temperature.
- There were some rains in a number of parts across the county, though the distribution in space and time was poor.
- Areas that received some rains during the month include Cherab, Charri, Oldonyiro, Burat and Kinna. Garbatulla and Sericho wards have received insignificant amount of rains during the month under review.

1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- The county received an average of 60.3mm of rain during the period under review marking the beginning of the October-November-December short rains season.
- Most of the rains received were concentrated around Isiolo Central which had a high number of rainy days compared to the rest of rainy stations.
- The short rains are expected to perform much better than the long rains which were distributed poorly in terms of space and time with insignificant impact on the rangelands.

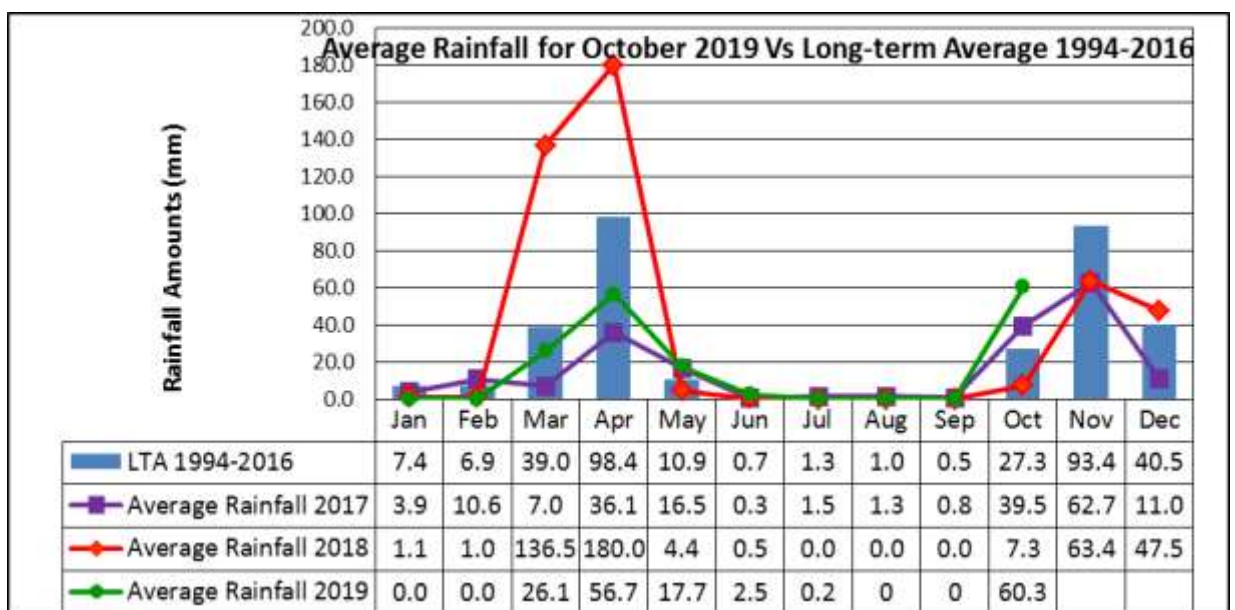


Figure 1a: A graph showing station rainfall performance for Isiolo County

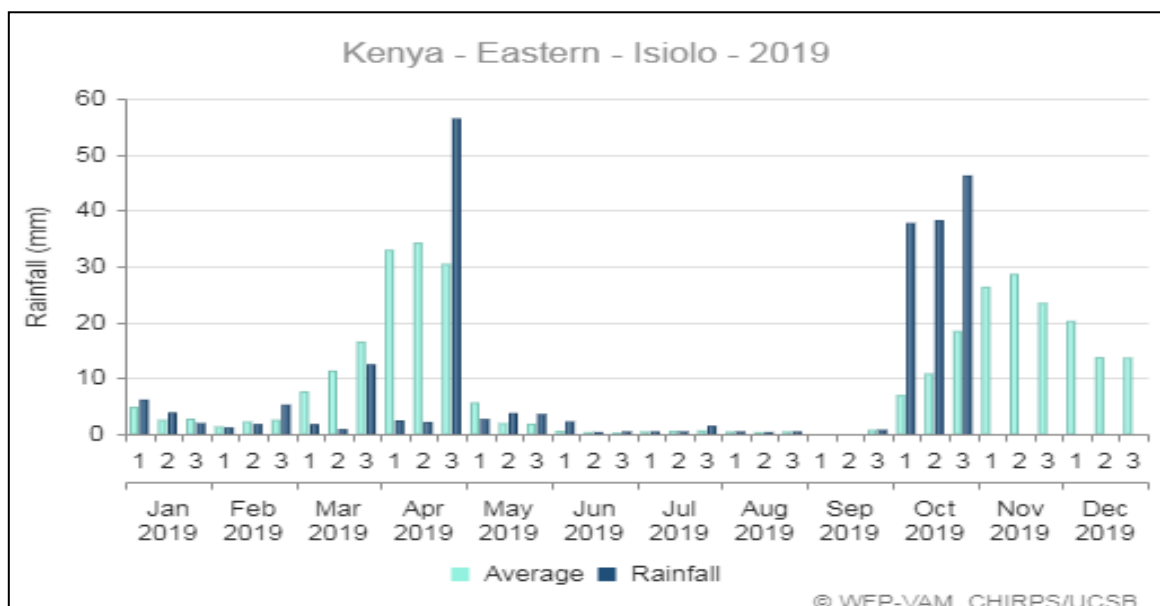


Figure 1b: A graph showing decadal rainfall performance for the current year compared to the long-term average. Source WFP-VAM, CHIRPS

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The matrix below illustrates October 2019 Vegetation Condition Index, classified as agricultural drought based on VCI thresholds. The chart shows a retrospective analysis of the vegetation condition as related to drought.

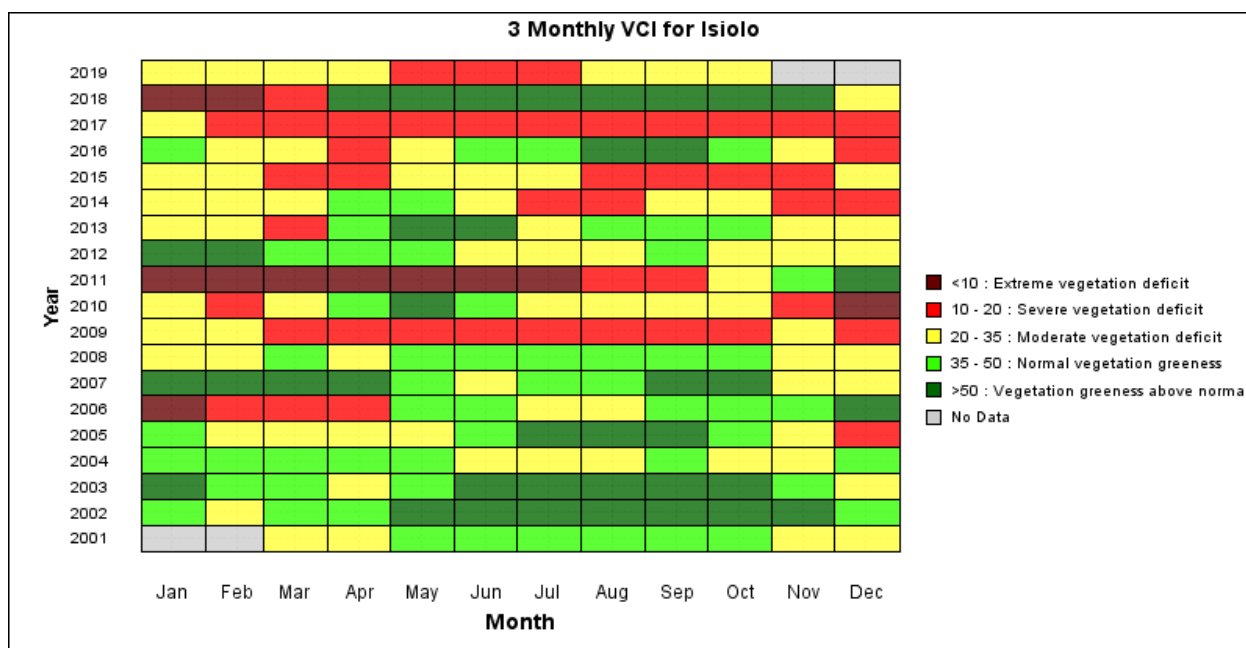


Figure 2: A chart of 3-Monthly Vegetation Condition Index

- The 3-month vegetation condition index stabilized at 23, a figure that signifies that the county remained in a moderate vegetation deficit.
- Isiolo North had the worst vegetation condition index of 18, which signifies the sub-county also remained at severe vegetation deficit, implying that the rains received in the sub-county were insignificant as there was no notable natural vegetation regeneration. Isiolo South on the other hand remained in a Moderate vegetation deficit.
- The poor vegetation condition state was attributed to poorly distributed rains in the previous season and the current season. Possible cumulative depletion of vegetation cover over the previous dry spells could also contributed to the current condition.
- Vegetation condition is expected to improve considerably in the month of November as the rains received, though poorly distributed would have some impact.

2.1.2 Pasture

- The general condition of pasture in the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones was poor mainly caused by poor regeneration in the previous rainy seasons and eventual depletion in most grazing areas.
- There is a moderate rate of regeneration in selected regions which have received some rains in the month under review. However, the rate of regeneration of natural vegetation may be curtailed by the poor distribution of the ongoing rains in time as the pattern of rains is been characterized by flash floods whose impact last for a short period, bearing the prevailing high temperature in the entire county.
- The livestock animals' utilization of freshly germinating grass and herbs will also contribute largely to the limited regeneration.
- The reported regeneration of natural vegetation in the traditional grazing areas has prompted herders to retreat back closer to their homes from the dry season grazing areas such as Kom and Yamicha among others.

- Overall pasture condition in the month under review was improving as opposed to the previous year where rains delayed until November.

2.1.3 Browse

- The general condition of browse in the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones was poor to very poor mainly caused by poor shedding of leaves due to high temperature as well as eventual exhaustion in most of the grazing areas.
- There is a moderate rate of regeneration reported in selected sections of the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones which have received moderate rains in the month under review.
- The rate of regeneration of natural vegetation may however be curtailed by the poor distribution of the ongoing rains in terms of time as the pattern of rains is characterized by flash floods whose impact last for a short period, bearing the prevailing high temperature.
- The reported regeneration of bushes, trees and shrubs in the traditional grazing areas has prompted herders to retreat back closer to their homes from the dry season grazing areas such as Kom and Yamicha among others.
- Overall browse condition in the month under review was improving as opposed to the previous year where rains delayed until November.
- Browse availability in the month under review was poorer compared to the long-term condition in a similar period of the year.

2.2.1 Water Sources

- Main water sources during the period under review were rivers, boreholes, shallow wells and traditional river wells. There was poor recharge of open water sources even after the short lived rains received in the second and third week of the month under review.
- Availability of water in traditional river wells dug in sand dams was improved in Oldonyiro and along R. Ewaso Nyiro whose water volumes increased considerably.
- The yield in shallow wells in Merti, Garbatulla and Sericho wards went down further due to over-reliance and resultant poor recharge. The yield is expected to improve if the ongoing rains will be heavy and occur in good distribution especially in terms of time.
- Water access for households in established settlements remained stable where majority of them obtained the commodity from boreholes and distributed to homestead pipes and water kiosks close to their settlements. However, majority of households in Isiolo town faced moderate water shortages as supply was rationed but the supply volumes are expected to get back to normal following the onset of rains in the current season.

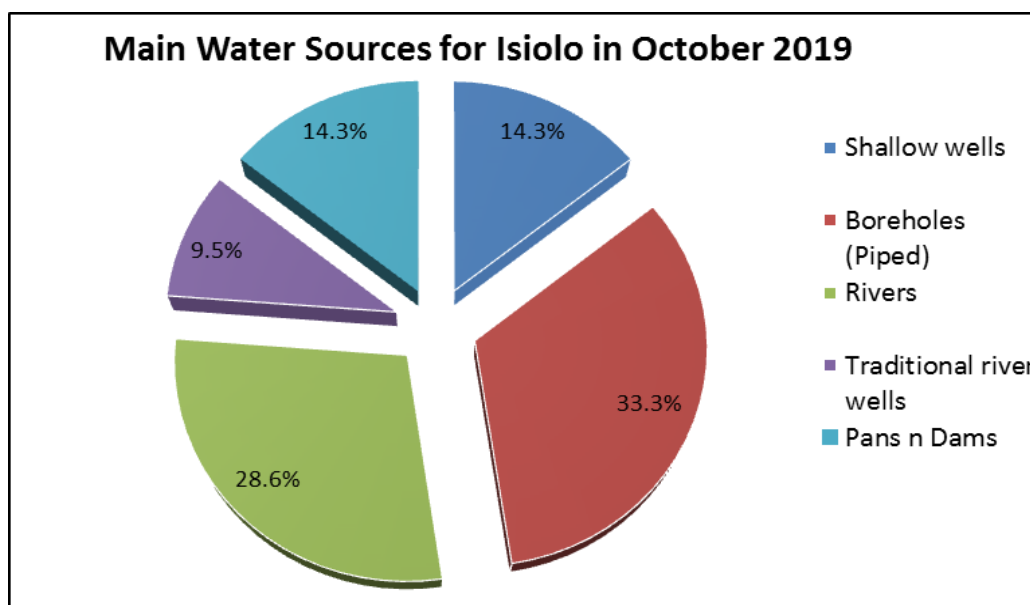


Figure 3: A chart of main water sources in the county

2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

- Household water access distance to main sources reduced significantly slightly to an average of 2.5km over the period under review from 4.7km in the previous month.
- The commodity access was stable in majority of the established settlements in the pastoral livelihood zone where the water is mainly drawn from permanent boreholes.
- Water accessibility in Oldonyiro ward which is mainly in sand dams and water pans improved considerably following a recharge after rains were received in the region and Mt. is the main catchment for rivers flowing through the hilly region.
- Water access remained poor in Sericho and large parts of Garbatulla wards, all in the pastoral livelihood zone as there was no rain received in the region in the month under review.
- Water availability improved considerably in Cherab after water pans in the region recharged from surface run-offs after two heavy downpours were received in the region.
- Water availability in majority of semi-permanent sources such as rivers, sand dams, traditional river wells and shallow wells is expected to improve following onset of the short rains season.

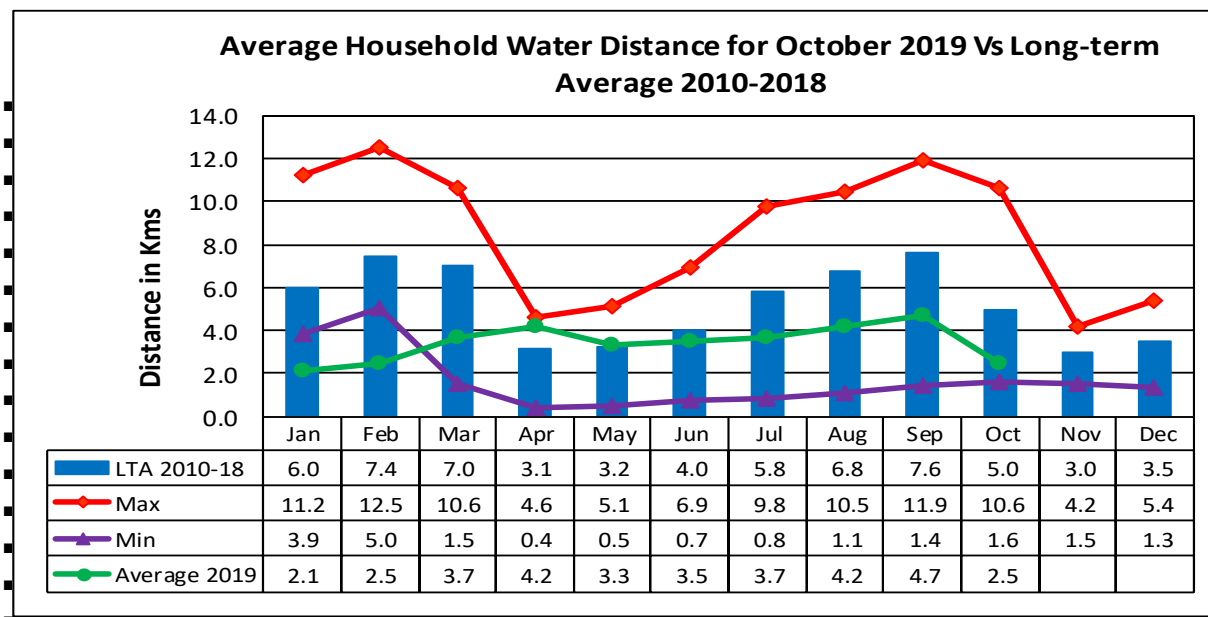


Figure 4: Household distance to water sources

- A bigger proportion of households obtained water from community kiosks and homestead pipes sourcing water from rivers and boreholes.
- The average cost of water from piped distribution points (*kiosks*) was Ksh. 2.00 per 20 litre jerrican while in some settlements households were charged an average of Ksh. 200.00 for an entire month.
- Waiting time at the main sources in the pastoral set ups settlements has reduced considerably to between 5 and 20 minutes, but this is expected to prevail for a short period should the rains perform poorly.
- The average return distance in the agro-pastoral and pastoral livelihood zones was 1.2km and 3.5km respectively. The lowest average distance of about 0.5km was recorded in the casual-waged labour livelihood zone.

2.2.3 Livestock access

- Livestock access to water improved substantially following the rains received in some parts of the county during the month under review. Yield in boreholes was poor and with declining yield. Majority of them in the dry season grazing areas will remain unutilized until scarcity of forage hits again.
- Average distance to water sources from grazing areas in the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones decreased significantly to 12.4km over the period under review from 18.9km in the previous month.

- The reduction was occasioned by herders retreating back with their animals to the traditional grazing areas to utilize the regenerating vegetation. This retreat has resulted into animals getting closer to reliable sources of water such as rivers and water pans which recharged partially.
- Livestock watering interval was returned to normal, daily from an interval of two to three days for goats, sheep and cattle. Camels were watered at an interval of 4 to 7 days.
- Majority of livestock are being watered at water pans and rivers though small proportions are still depending on boreholes and sand dams.
- Water access distance reportedly reduced significantly in grazing areas mainly in Garbatulla, Kinna, Cherab, Charri and Oldonyiro. However, majority of livestock in Sericho which has not received any substantial amount of rains migrated to Cherab and some to Kinna.
- The average distance to water sources is expected to decrease significantly following the ongoing rains but may be short lived just like pasture availability.

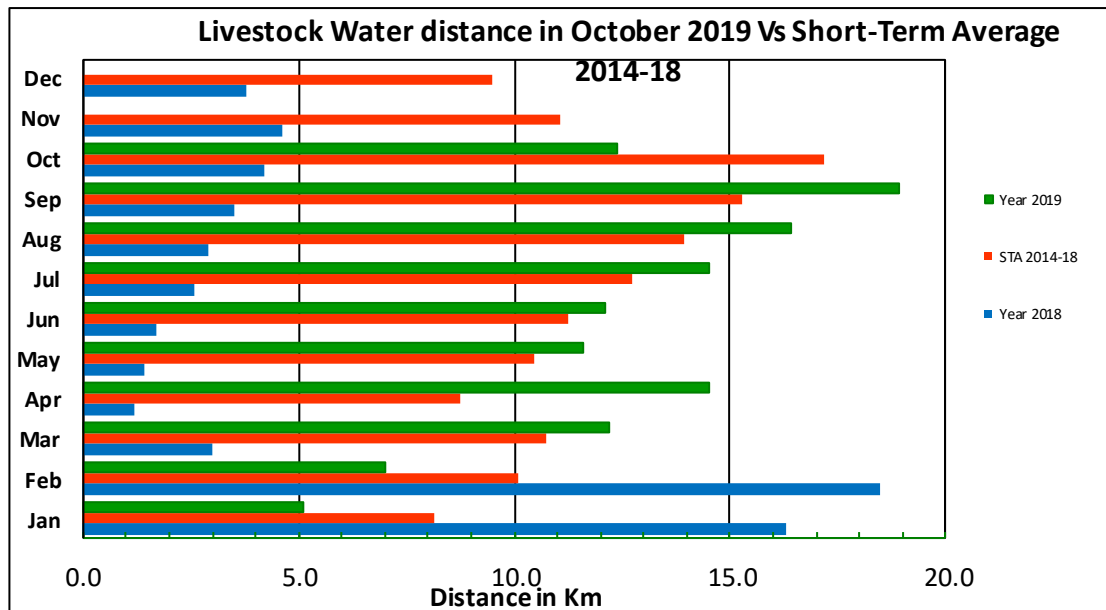


Figure 5: A graph of average distance for livestock water access

2.3 IMPLICATION TO FOOD SECURITY

- Onset of the short rains season though initially poorly distributed in terms of time and space coverage is a sign of relief to two major livelihoods; livestock and crop production.
- The shortages of livestock feed in the beginning of the month under review threatened the pastoral livelihood which had previously led to rampant migrations into dry season grazing reserves and anywhere else where some pasture and browse could be located. The movements led to weakening of animals, with the most affected being grazers such as cattle and sheep. Goats too had severely been affected by the shortage. Majority of them have since migrated to areas where some rains were received to take advantage of the regenerating pasture and browse, a factor that will help stabilize their weak body conditions.
- Water availability has been poor in the beginning of the month but the ongoing rains in some parts of the county and in the Mt. Kenya have led to a significant increase in the water flow in the rivers that pass through the county. The increased volumes will help revitalize small-scale irrigation that had slowed down due to limited flow. Water for household consumption will also improve in the Isiolo urban water supply after months of continuous rationing.
- Marketing still faces a challenge of low supply as majority of pastoralists seek to keep their herds to recover from the impacts of the dry spell, this is expected to boost the price levels of the few heads that would be forwarded for sale. On the other hand, all households', either crop or livestock dependent, access to food will be limited until some significant recovery is reached.
- Crop production under rain fed conditions is set to recover following the onset of the rains, a move that will help increase food supply in the local markets.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Body condition for majority of cattle, goats and sheep deteriorated further ranging from fair to very poor while that of camel was fair to poor. All were on a worsening trend in all the livelihood zones.
- All animals were at risk of malnutrition as the shortage of feed bite into the month under review due to unavailability of feed even as rains onset was received in selected parts of the county where almost all animals have migrated to. The natural vegetation is yet to recover to substantial amounts and quality that would enable them recover from the just ended four-month dry spell.
- The risk is however reduced by the incidence of regenerating vegetation in areas that received some significant downpours in the middle of the month under review.
- The current livestock body condition is poorer when compared to the condition at a similar time in the previous year.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- No notifiable livestock diseases were reported during the month under review apart from endemic diseases including CCPP and PPR.
- PPR was highly reported in Oldonyiro and its environs.

3.1.3 Milk Production

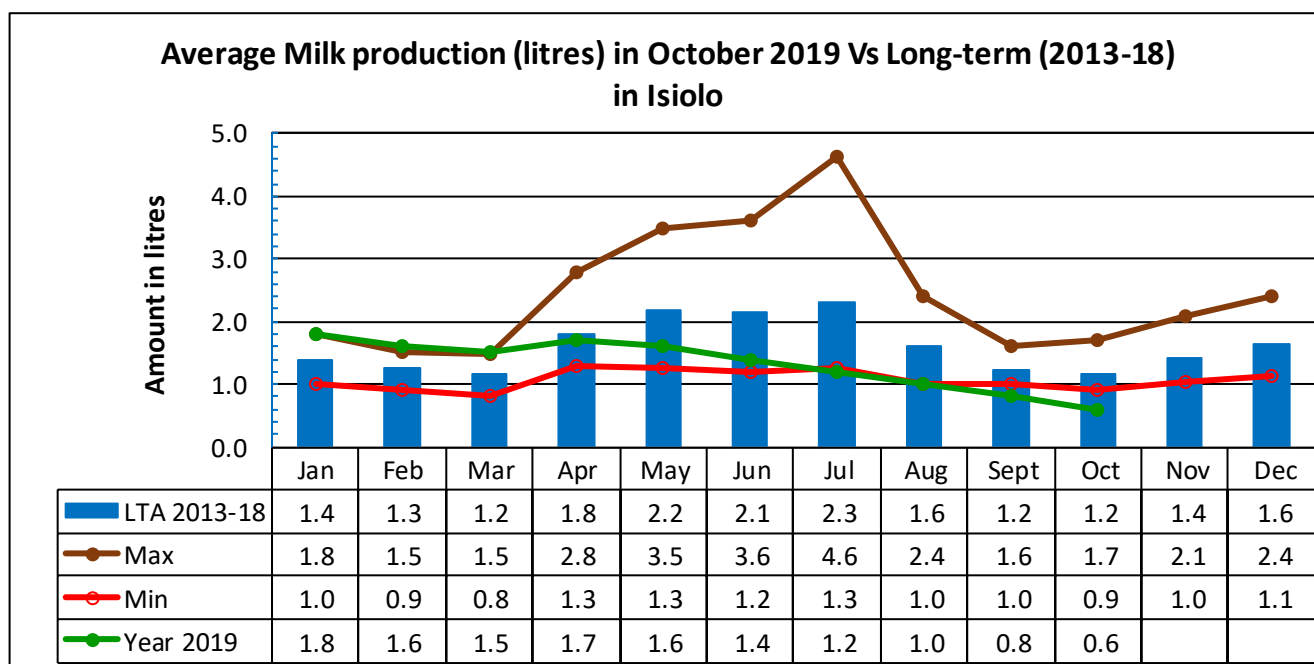


Figure 6: A graph of average milk production in litres

- Milk production in milking households was close to half a litre during the month under review from slightly more than three-quarter litres in the previous month.
- Majority of milk was produced in Kinna and Garbatulla wards where camel population is high when compared to other sites.
- The recorded decline in milk production was attributed to the weakening livestock body condition and poor access to animal feed.
- The level of production is expected to improve slightly as the short rains season begins.
- Highest proportion of milk was obtained from camels as other species produced negligible amounts.
- Milk production per household was 50 per cent lower than the short-term average amount of 1.2 litres.

3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of Food Crops

- Farmers in the agro-pastoral livelihood zones engaged in preparation of their farms where majority who practice rainfed crop production planted early maturing varieties of food crops such as maize, beans, cowpeas and green grams. This followed onset of the short rains season that began in mid the month under review.
- The crops are at young development stages after germination.
- Small-scale irrigation where fruits and vegetable crops such as onions, tomatoes, and kales were received a major boost after the onset that has seen significant increase in water levels.
- More farm portions under fruit and vegetables are expected to be increased considerably in the next three months as farmers seek to maximize their productivity.

3.3 IMPLICATION OF THE ABOVE INDICATORS TO FOOD SECURITY

- The general livelihoods productivity has been under threat from the fierce shortage of water and animal feed in all livelihood zones.
- Majority of livestock are weak due to poor access to feed whose availability was a key challenge as majority of grazing areas were totally depleted. This is however set to improve following onset of the short rains season that has been received in several parts of the county with pasture and browse regeneration in progress.
- A current animal body condition is unattractive for business a move that would lead to pastorolists hold them for recovery for quite some time. This implies that majority would not sell and their access to food commodities would remain poor.
- On the other hand, crop yields were poor with a ripple effect on the household stocks and subsequently market supplies, a factor that has led to a gradual increment in food and vegetable prices. Low sales have led reduced income thereby eroding crop farmers' purchasing power.
- To this effect, majority of food items are being supplied from neighbouring counties at a higher price. Availability of fresh produce also reduced significantly when compared to normal as production reduced considerably due to reducing water levels in the rivers.
- The worsening production in the animal and crop has had negative impact on pastorolists and farmer's income and thus low purchasing power. This implies that their food security situation has been stressed and may remain in that situation for next three months before impact of the ongoing short rains season takes shape.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 Livestock Marketing

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

- Average cattle price recorded a slight increment to Ksh 24,000.00 in the month under review from Ksh 21,500 in the previous month. The price increase was largely attributed to low supply of cattle to the market as farmers seek to hold them to recover from the effects of the severe feed shortage.
- The price was moderate with a relative stability being gradually achieved as supply that is controlled by herders who stop offering their animals for sale when rains are received.
- The highest average price was recorded in Isiolo market at Ksh.29,500 while the least was Ksh.20,000 in Charri, Oldonyiro and Kinna markets.
- The period's price was almost 55 percent higher than the long-term average of Ksh.15,800 mainly attributed a relatively stable demand.

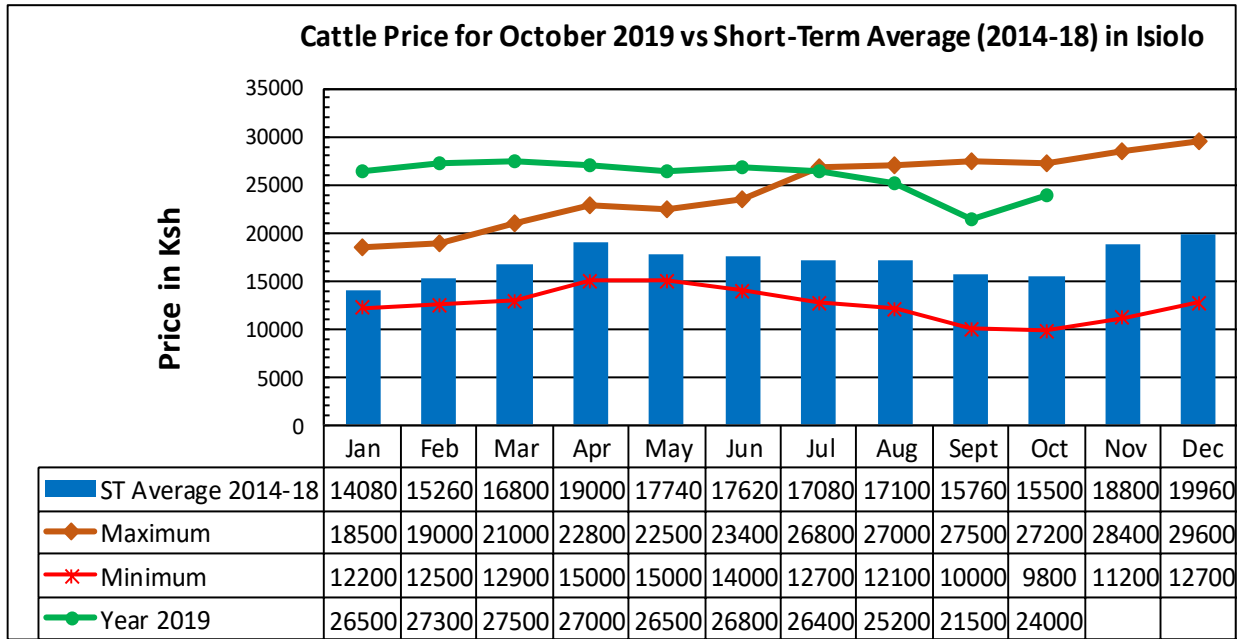


Figure 7: A graph of average market price of cattle

4.1.2 Small Ruminants Prices (Goat)

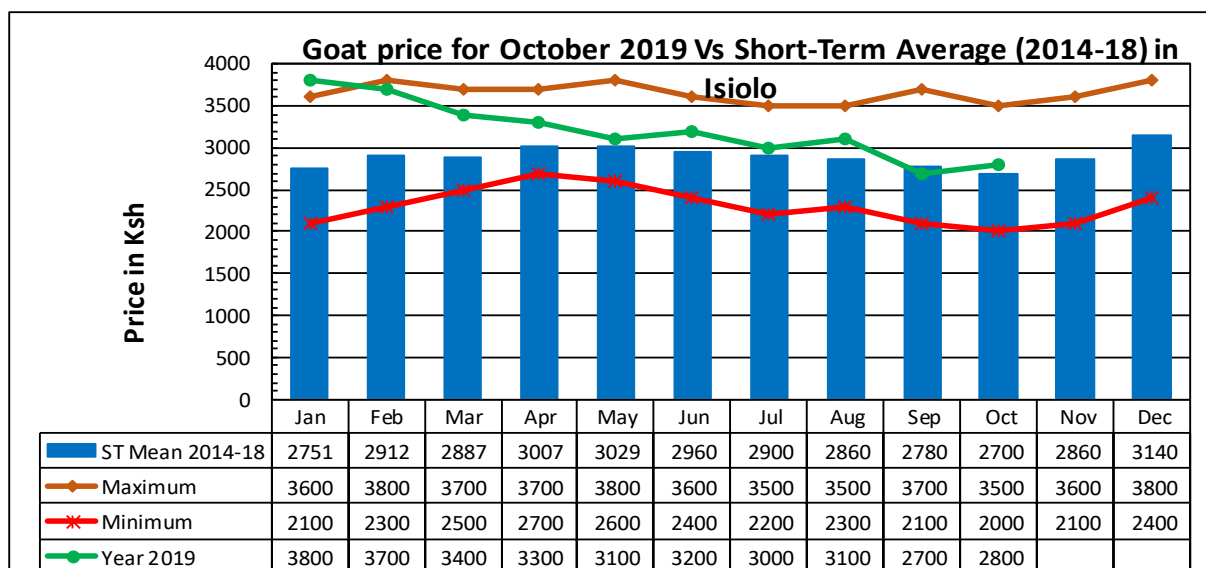


Figure 8: A graph of monthly average market price of goats

- Average goat price stabilized at Ksh.2,800.00 in the month under review. The stability of the small stocks price was mainly attributed to reduced supply of the small stock to the market as farmers hold them for recovery from the adverse effects of the severe shortage of feed.
- There is a likelihood of the price improving as more their body conditions are set to recover as pasture and browse regenerate in areas where rains have been received.
- The least and highest market prices recorded were Ksh 2,500 and Ksh.3,600 in Oldonyiro and Isiolo Central markets respectively.
- Average goat price was 4 percent higher than the short-term average of Ksh.2,700.00 and lower than the period's maximum price of Ksh. 3,500.00.

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

- The market price of a kilogram stabilized at an average of Ksh 56.00 during the month under review.

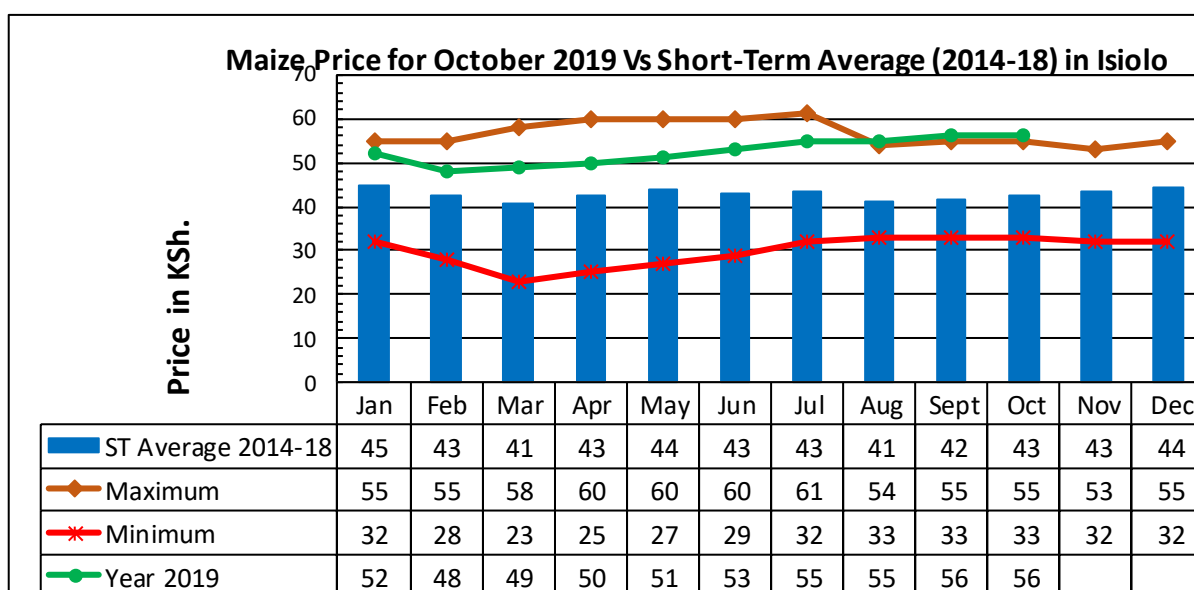


Figure 9: A graph of average maize (cereal) market price in the county

- The staple food commodity's price remained high for the fifth month in a row attributed to the low stocks of maize in the county.
- Cereals lowest price was Ksh.50.00 in Isiolo town market and highest in Merti at Ksh.70. The cereal's price in rural markets including Merti, Bisan Biliqo and Sericho was relatively high as supplies were not consistent attributed to the long distances and community cereal preferences.
- The price remained relatively high in the main markets such as Isiolo as there were no stock additions from the farms following total to partial failure of the crop in the last season.
- The price is expected to rise considerably in the next two months as stocks in the county decline before the next harvests are made in the beginning of the following year.
- Average price of maize was 36 percent higher than the three-year short-term average of Ksh.43.00.

4.2.3 Beans

- The average price of beans stabilized at Ksh.125.00 in the month under review.
- The relatively high price was attributed to the low stocks of the pulse in farmers and traders stores after a low yield March-April-May rainy season within and outside the county.
- The highest price was recorded in Merti market in Merti sub-county in the pastoral livelihood zone at an average of Ksh 140.00 while the lowest price was in Isiolo Central and Kinna at Ksh. 110.
- The price was 30 percent higher than the short-term average price of Ksh. 97.00 during a similar period of the year.

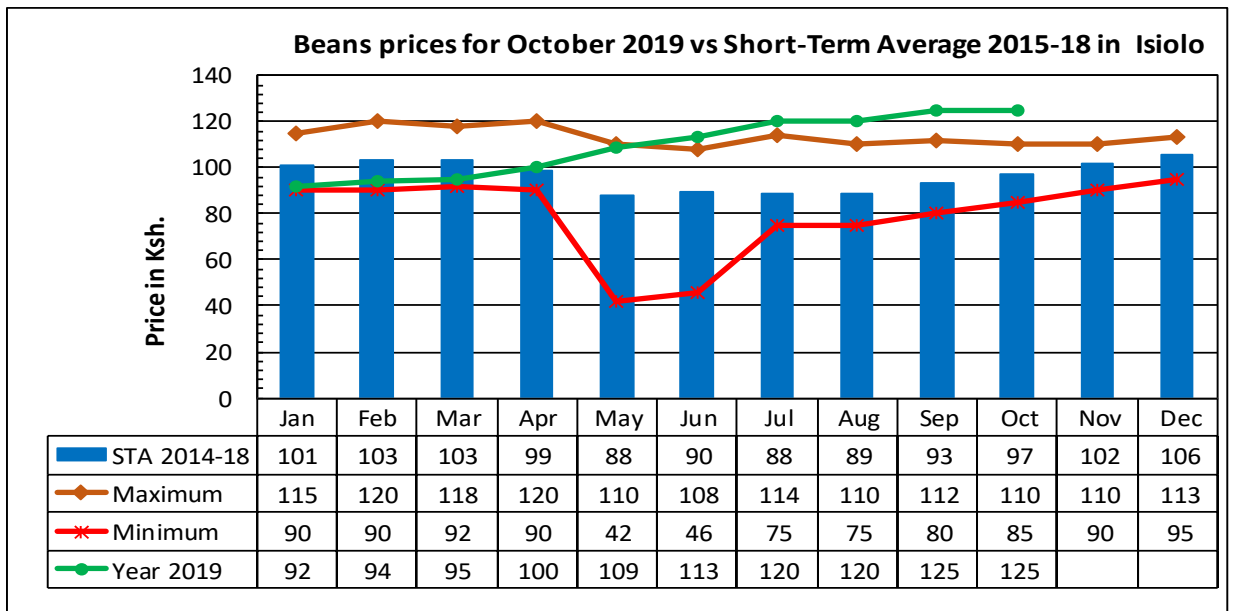


Figure 10: A graph showing average market price for pulses (beans)

4.3 Livestock Price Ratio/Terms of Trade

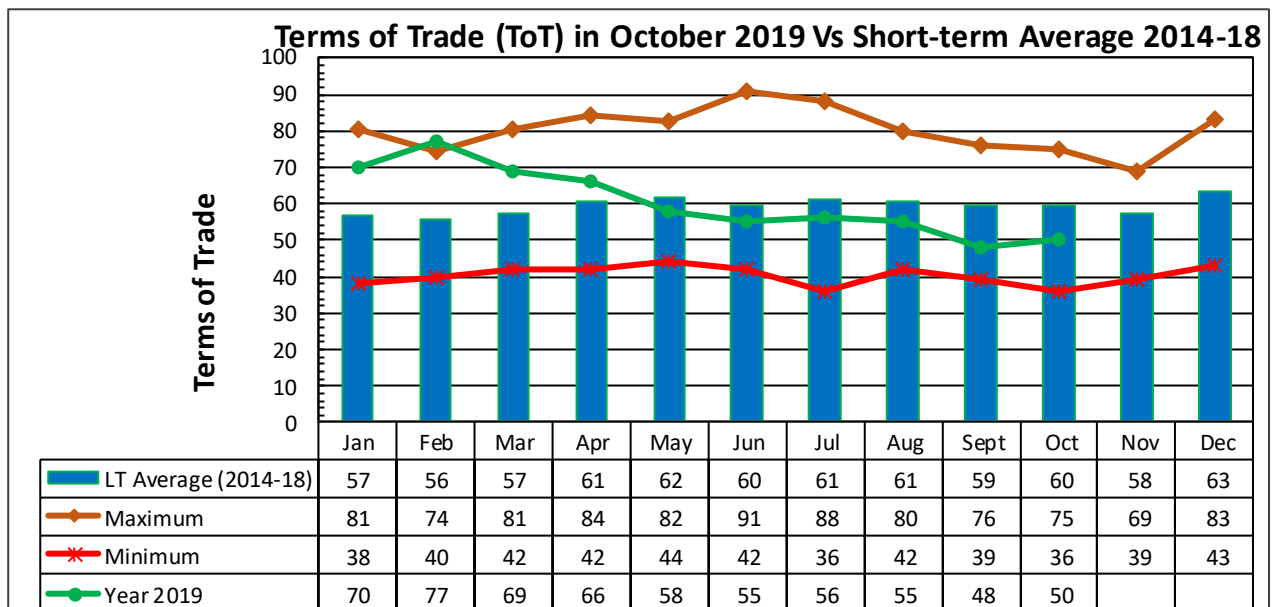


Figure 11: A graph showing the typical pastoralist households Terms of Trade in the county

- The Terms of Trade (the number of kilograms of maize a pastoralist would purchase after a sale of one goat) stabilized at 50kg/goat in the month under review.
- Purchasing power of majorly pastoral households are may improve considerably as a major impact of the rains that are ongoing in various parts of the county.
- The period's stability in the level of purchasing power was mainly influenced by the stabilizing market price of small stock.
- The relative measure of purchasing power is expected to improve in the month of November and December should the ongoing rains perform well.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 Milk Consumption

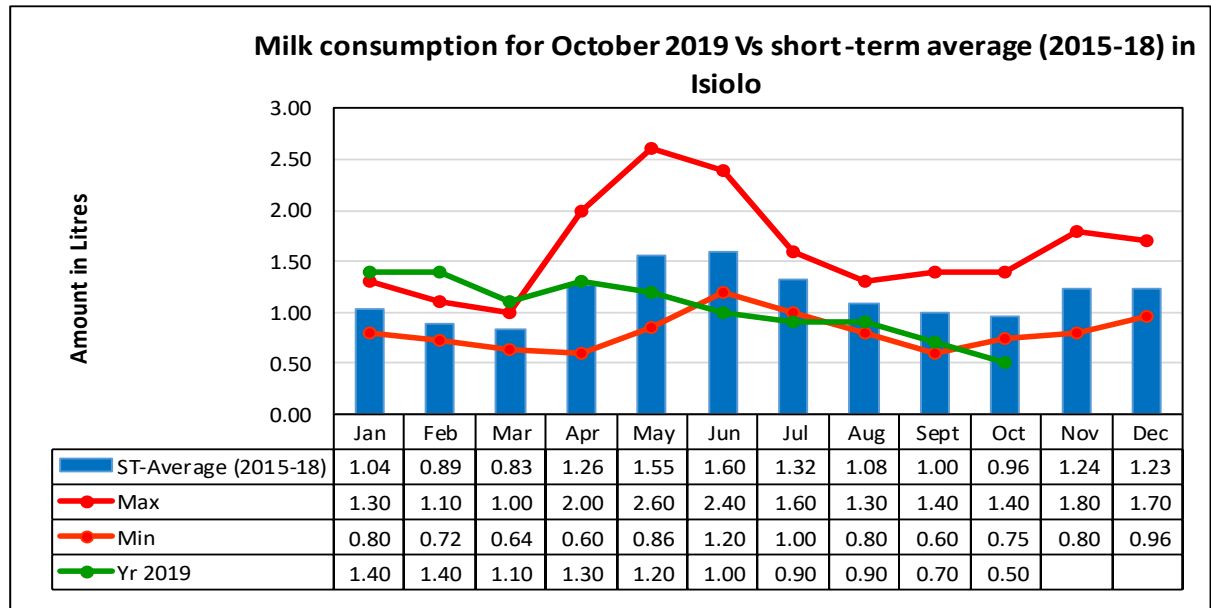


Figure 12: Average milk consumption

- Average milk consumption per household reduced slightly to half a litre in the period under review when compared to 0.70 litres in the previous month.
- The low amount of milk consumed was attributed to the declining rate of production attributed to the poor quality and quantity of forage as well as water access.
- The average consumption was 48 percent lower than the short-term average of 0.96 litres.
- Majority of the milk consumed at the households was from camel as there was little production of milk from goats and cows.
- Consumption was high in the pastoral livelihood zone litres as compared to the other two zones.

5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

- The proportion of households who were persistently food insecure increased to 53.3 per cent in the month under review from 51.5 percent in the previous month.
- The relatively high proportion of households in the two categories is an indication of an overall poor access to and utilization of food commodities.

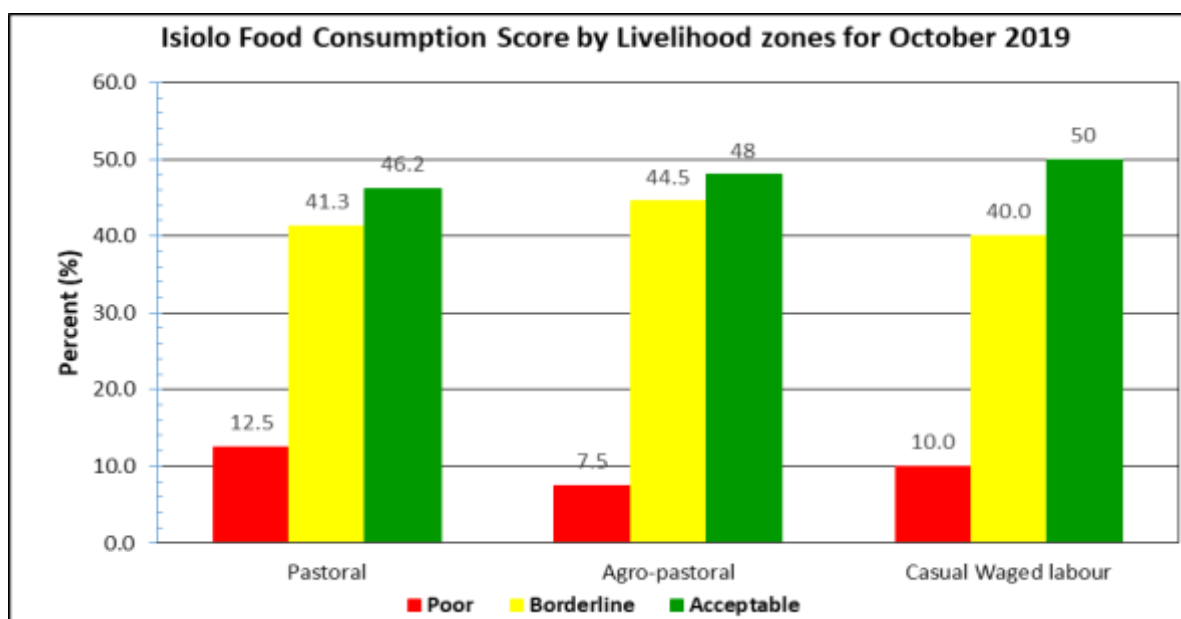


Figure 13: A graph showing the overall households' food consumption score

- There was an overall increase in the proportion of households that are unable to adequately meet their minimum dietary requirements to 53 percent.
- The poor food consumption pattern was attributed to low purchasing power leading to limited access to a diverse and consistent availability of key food commodities.
- The significant decline in household milk consumption in all pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones following a reduction in the amount produced.
- Food consumption pattern is likely to worsen given the poor state of the production systems, especially the major livelihoods, livestock and crop production.
- *“A poor score implies households consumed staples and vegetables every day and rarely consumed protein rich food while borderline FCS imply that households consumed staples and vegetables every day accompanied by oil and pulses a few times in a week while the acceptable imply that households are consuming staples, vegetables every day, and frequently accompanied by pulses and some meat and milk”.*

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition (whose MUAC measurement was below 135.0mm threshold) increased slightly to 15.9 percent in the month under review from 15.6 percent in the previous month.
- The increasing rate of children at risk of malnutrition is attributed to poor food availability and access which has gradually affected utilization.
- A greater proportion of children at risk of malnutrition were victims of poor meal frequency and amount as well as shrinking dietary diversity. Milk consumption was poor due to reduced production. Incidence of endemic diseases such as rising cases of intestinal worms was also a major factor in children sliding into a risk of malnutrition.
- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition was 30 percent lower than the long-term average of 22.6 percent indicating a better nutrition situation compared to the past.
- The situation is expected to worsen in the next two to three months then improve when the impact of the ongoing rains is felt in both livestock and crop production.

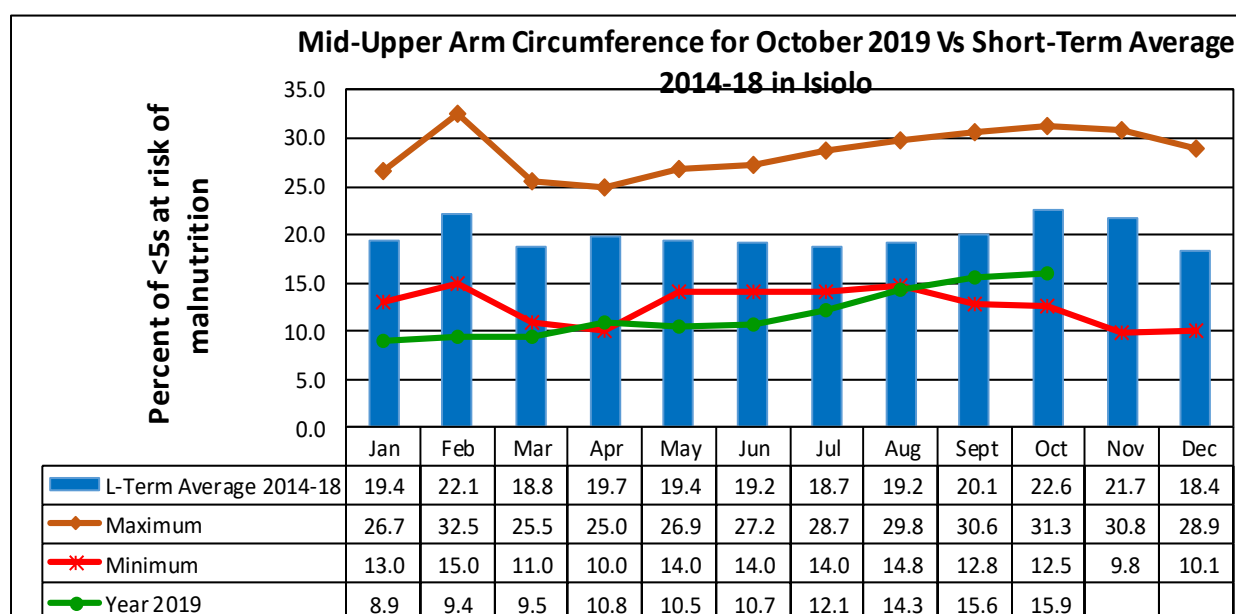


Figure 14: A graph showing the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference for children under 5 years of age

5.3.2 Health

- The general populations’ most prevalent diseases included acute upper respiratory tract infections (URTI), malaria, skin disease, urinary tract infections and rheumatism.
- Children under five years’ most prevalent diseases included the acute respiratory tract infections, pneumonia, malaria, intestinal worms and skin disease.

5.4 COPING STRATEGIES

- Coping Strategy Index (CSI) increased slightly to 13.2 in the month under review from 12.6 in the previous month.
- The increment recorded in the index is an indication that households employed more coping strategies when compared to the previous month. This implies that the level of food security decreased considerably with a number of households across the county being forced to adjust their consumption patterns.
- The most commonly employed coping mechanisms over the period was reliance on less preferred and/or expensive foods as well as taking credit from neighbours and shops. Other commonly employed coping strategies are reduction of the number of meals and reduction in portion or size of meals and borrowing.

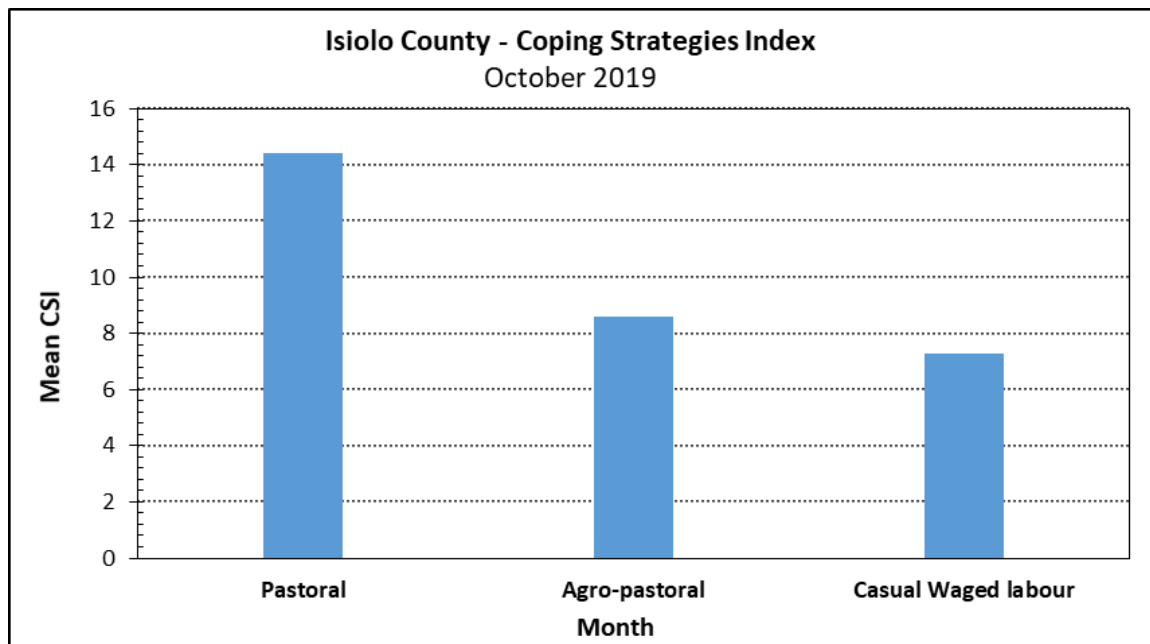


Figure 15: A graph showing the monthly reduced Coping Strategies Index

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTIONS)

6.1 NON-FOOD INTERVENTIONS

Table 1: A table showing the current non-food interventions in the county

Type of intervention	Ward	Sub-county	Action	Amount/ Targets
Provision of supplementary Livestock feeds	Oldonyiro, Kulamawe, Ngaremara	Isiolo South Isiolo North	NDMA	5,300 bags of Drought pellets
	Garbatulla, Oldonyiro and Ngaremara	Daaba and Leparua	FAO VSF Suisse	2082 bags of drought pellet
Water Trucking in Cherab and Sericho	Cherab and Sericho	Isiolo South and Isiolo North	County Government, NDMA KDF	12,000 Households
Repair of boreholes	Dogogicha, Iresaboru Machallo, Duma and Oldonyiro	Isiolo North and Isiolo South	County Government NDMA LVIA	3,700 Households
Drilling of 5 Boreholes	Cherab, Sericho and Oldonyiro	Isiolo North and Isiolo South	County Government, DRSLP	3 in Cherab, 1 in Sericho and 1 in Oldonyiro
Cash Transfer programmes	Oldonyiro, Kinna, Burat and Ngaremara	Isiolo North and Isiolo South	WFP (under SFSP) Kenya Red cross	6,600 Households
	Garbatulla, Ngaremara, Burat, Oldonyiro		World Vision Kenya	1,000 Households
Slaughter Destocking	Kulamawe and Barambate	Isiolo South	FAO VSF Suisse	321 Small Stock

6.2 FOOD AID

Table 2: A table showing the food interventions ongoing in the county

Type of Intervention	Ward	Sub-county	Implementer	Target/ Amount
Relief food distribution	All wards	Garbatulla, Merti and Isiolo	County Government of Isiolo	55,000 beneficiaries
Relief Food Distribution	All wards	Garbatulla, Merti and Isiolo	National Government	55,000 beneficiaries 500 bags of rice in Garbatulla, 500 bags in Merti and 900 bags in Isiolo sub-counties

7. EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- No cases of insecurity reported during the period under review.
- The increased volume of Ewaso Ngiro river has resulted to heavy flooding in some part of Iresa Boru and Saleti.

7.2 Migration

- Majority of local herders who were seeking pasture and browse in Kom, Yamicha and have reportedly retreated back to their traditional grazing areas, majority of them settling lower parts of Charri, Cherab and Kinna and some parts of Garbatulla.
- Cattle herders in Oldonyiro began moving back to their local grazing areas from Laikipia based ranches and conservancies.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- The overall productivity of the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods remained poor throughout the dry spell being a cumulative effect of the poor performance of two consecutive rainy seasons, negatively affecting all major production systems.
- Productivity in livestock declined in both pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones, where animal body conditions largely poor to very poor leaving a few heads of cattle and sheep dead. Milk production declined significantly.
- Crop production under rain fed conditions performed miserably following the poor performance of the long rains which yielded to insignificant harvest was realized. Consequently, small scale irrigation activities had been downscaled significantly due to low water levels in the rivers. Rivers have since onset of the ongoing rains increased their flow levels and is expected likely boost the production.
- Livestock markets performed dismally compared to a similar period in the previous year as a result of the weak body conditions, a risky trend that eroded households' purchasing power threatening a possible markets closure.
- Water availability has since improved in many parts of the county except the large Sericho and some parts of Garbatulla wards where no significant rains have been received so far. Majority of settlements continued to utilize boreholes to get water for household use.
- Access to food commodities was poor affecting slightly more than half of the population, a situation that is likely to prevail for the next two to three months pending maturity of crops and livestock recovery.
- Competition over the meagre range resources have in the recent past resulted into resource-based conflicts whose incidences are expected to reduce significantly as range resources are expected to improve significantly.
- The overall county food security situation was poor but is likely to improve if the ongoing rains performance would be above normal as projected. However, the developing trend needs close a monitoring to track the performance and impacts of the ongoing rains on the entire livelihood system.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Range reseeding programmes should be initiated and strengthen the ongoing range rehabilitation projects in all grazing areas.
- Support peace building, conflict resolution and cohesion mechanisms in all sub-counties.
- Drilling of boreholes and construction of more storage facilities in Isiolo municipality and areas with water scarcity and good ground water potential.
- Purchase of water treatment kits in flooded areas of Iresaboru and Saleti and other potential areas.
- Provide support for an active and continuous human and livestock disease surveillance for all possible disease pandemics.
- Provision of relief food to the households affected by floods
- Provision of Non- food Items (NFIs) to households affected by floods.
- Support cash transfer programmes to vulnerable groups.
- Promotion of hygiene and sanitation practices especially the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS).