



National Drought Management Authority
KWALE COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN JANUARY 2021

JANUARY 2021 EW FLAG

Drought Status: NORMAL



Shughuli za kawaida

Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Mixed Farming	Normal	Improving
Livestock Farming	Normal	Improving
County	Normal	Improving
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/Value
VCI	64.28	>50
State of Water Sources	5	5
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Crop condition (maize and legumes)	N/A	N/A
Milk Production (Litres)	2.4	3.8
Livestock Migration Pattern	No migration	No migration
Livestock deaths (from drought)	Zero deaths	Zero deaths
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of trade	104.9	90
Milk Consumption (litres)	1.7	1.8
Return distance to water sources for households (km)	3.9	2.3
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	2.8	5.3

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- The first dekad of the month recorded above normal rainfall while the second dekad received below normal rainfall.
- The vegetation condition index for January was in the above normal greenness band which was normal for this time of the year.
- The state of water sources was normal for this time of the year.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production indicators

- Harvesting of maize crop was ongoing for the few farmers who planted early
- Milk production was below normal for this time of the year.
- No drought-related deaths or migration incidences were reported this month.

Access indicators

- Terms of trade (casual labour to maize) were above-average implying higher-than-normal household purchasing power for this time of the year.
- Milk consumption at household level was within seasonal averages for the month.
- Distances to water points for household consumption were longer than the seasonal norms for this time of the year.

Utilization Indicators

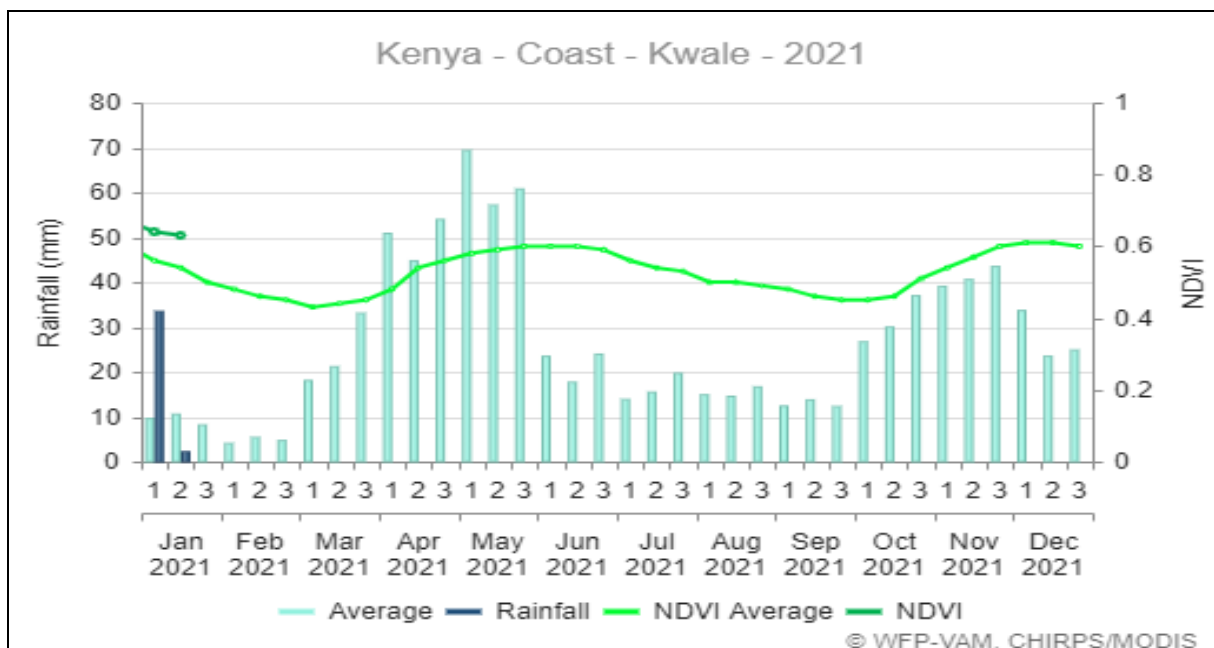
- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition was below-average implying an improved nutritional status for children aged 0-5 years.

Seasonal Calendar

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains harvests ▪ Short dry spell ▪ Reduced milk yields ▪ Increased household 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 household 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

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- The first dekad of the month received 33.4 mm of rainfall compared to a long-term average of 9.5 mm while the second dekad of the month the rainfall received was 2.1 mm compared to a long-term average of 10.5 mm.
- This implies that the rainfall received in the first dekad was above normal while in the second dekad was below normal.
- The distribution was fair both in time and space as most parts of both livelihood zones recorded some rainfall during the first and second dekads.
- The chart below illustrates trends in rainfall performance for January.



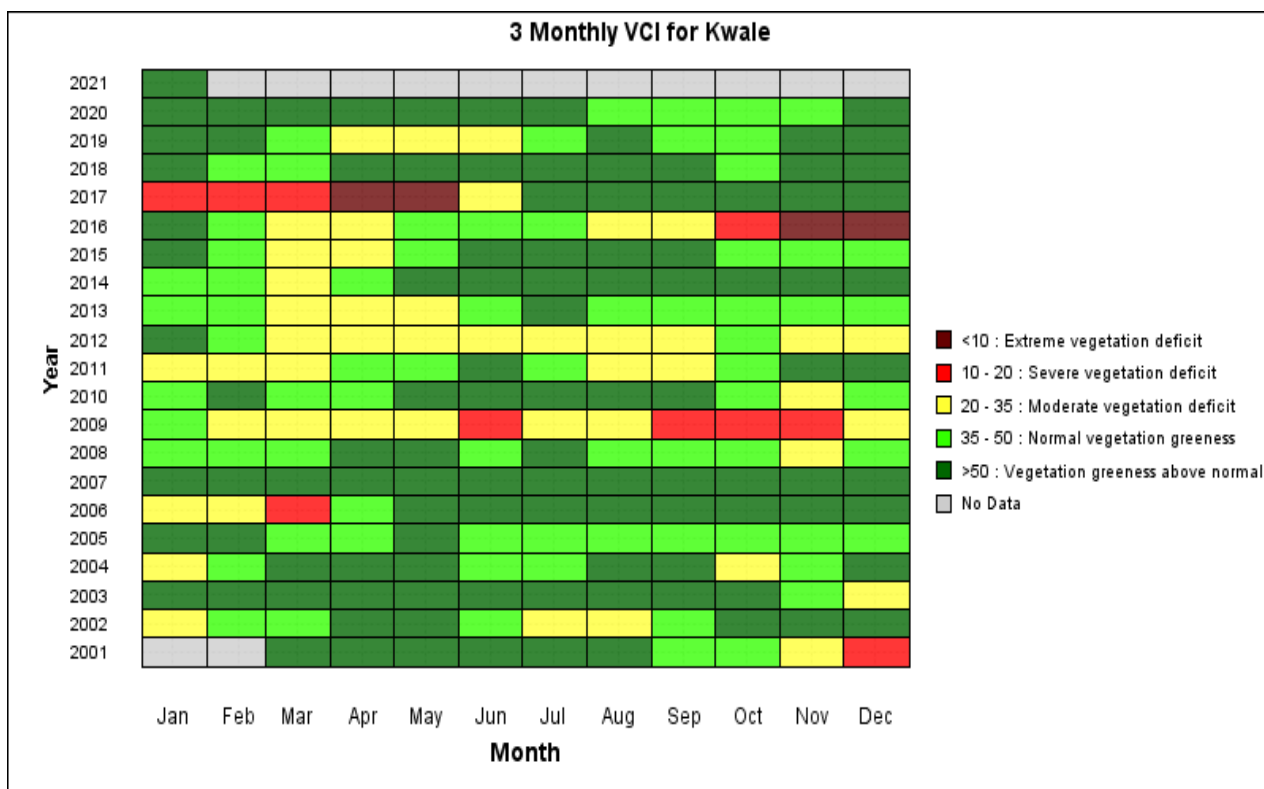
2. IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 3-monthly Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The vegetation greenness in the county recorded a remarkable improvement compared to last month and was in the 'above normal vegetation greenness' band at 64.28 up from 57.14 recorded last month as shown in the table below.
- There were no variations across the livelihood zones. Both the mixed farming livelihood zone (comprising largely Matuga and Msambweni Sub-counties) and the livestock farming livelihood zone (comprising largely Kinango and Lunga Lunga Sub-counties) recorded above normal vegetation greenness similar to the month of December 2020

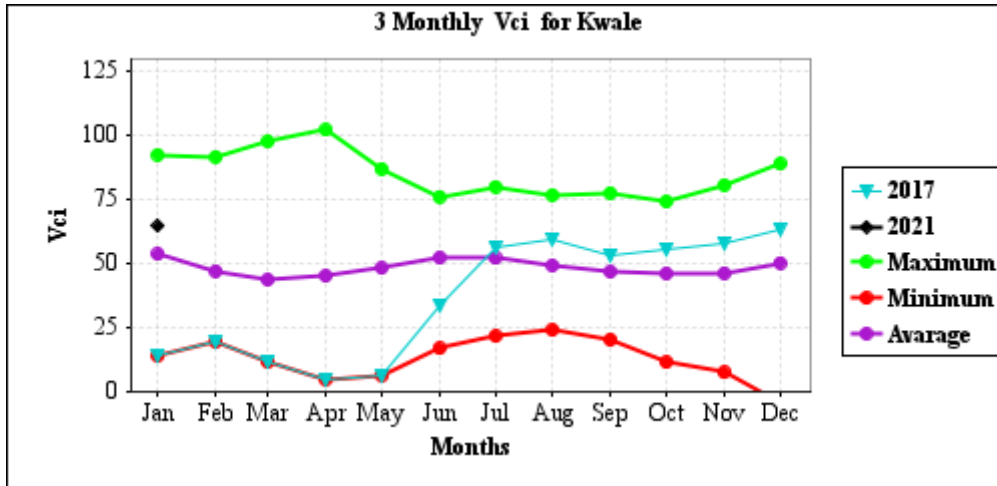
Area	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	August 2020	September 2020	October 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	JAN 2021
Kinango Sub-county	90.87	74.06	59.41	46.1	38.82	38.51	33.84	55.02	61.91
Lunga Lunga Sub-County	86.23	73.97	59.65	40.52	29.27	28.4	30.71	60.06	68.29
Matuga Sub-county	75.85	65.2	66.97	56.27	47.78	48.91	50.75	61.46	67.06
Msambweni Sub-county	68.67	57.46	60.23	55.27	48.73	47.75	47.7	57.19	67.06
Kwale County	86.79	72.11	60.47	46.51	37.88	37.88	35.92	57.14	64.28



- According to the 1 monthly VCI, the county remained in the normal vegetation greenness band this month similar to last month shown in the indices below. However, the values recorded were in a declining trend. The highest decline was recorded in the livestock livelihood zone where in Kinango and Lunga lunga the values declined from 71.33 and 79.2 to 58.14 and 59.62 respectively.

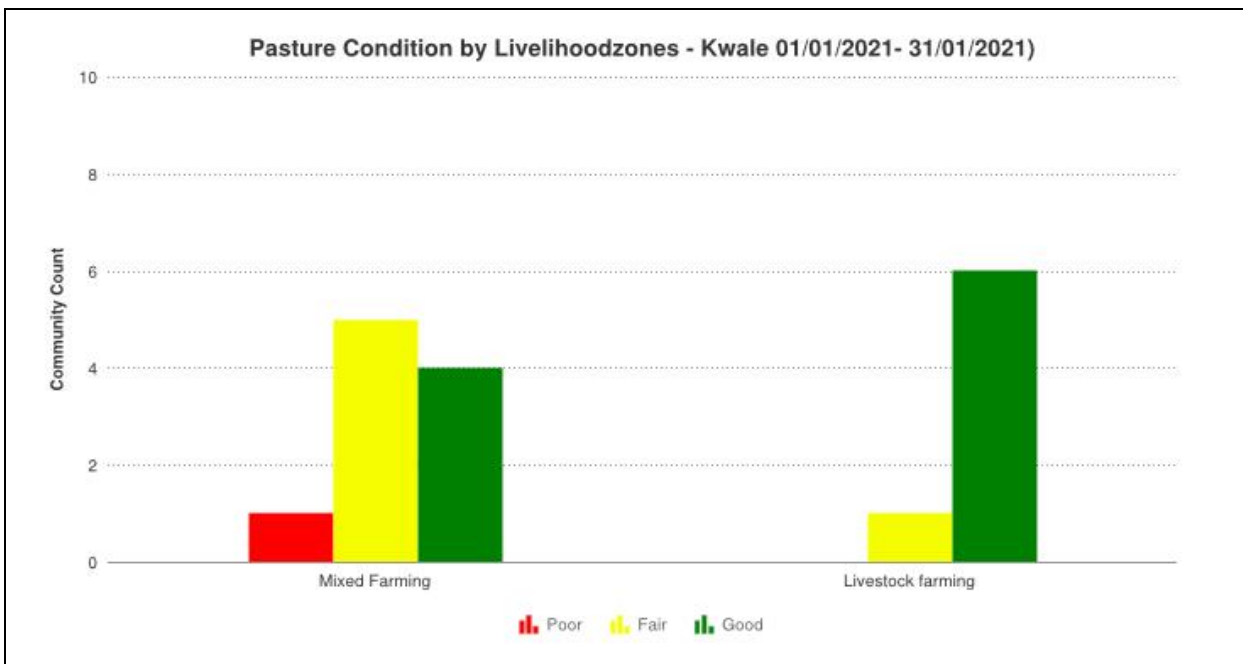
	1-monthly VCI (Nov. 2020)	1-monthly VCI (Dec. 2020)	1-monthly VCI (Jan 2021)
Kwale	34.33	72.45	58.14
Kinango	30.65	71.33	58.14
Lungalunga	33.22	79.2	59.62
Matuga	48.78	67.5	63.94
Msambweni	46.45	65.86	64.85

- The graph below shows the general vegetation condition at county level which was slightly above the average for that time of the year.



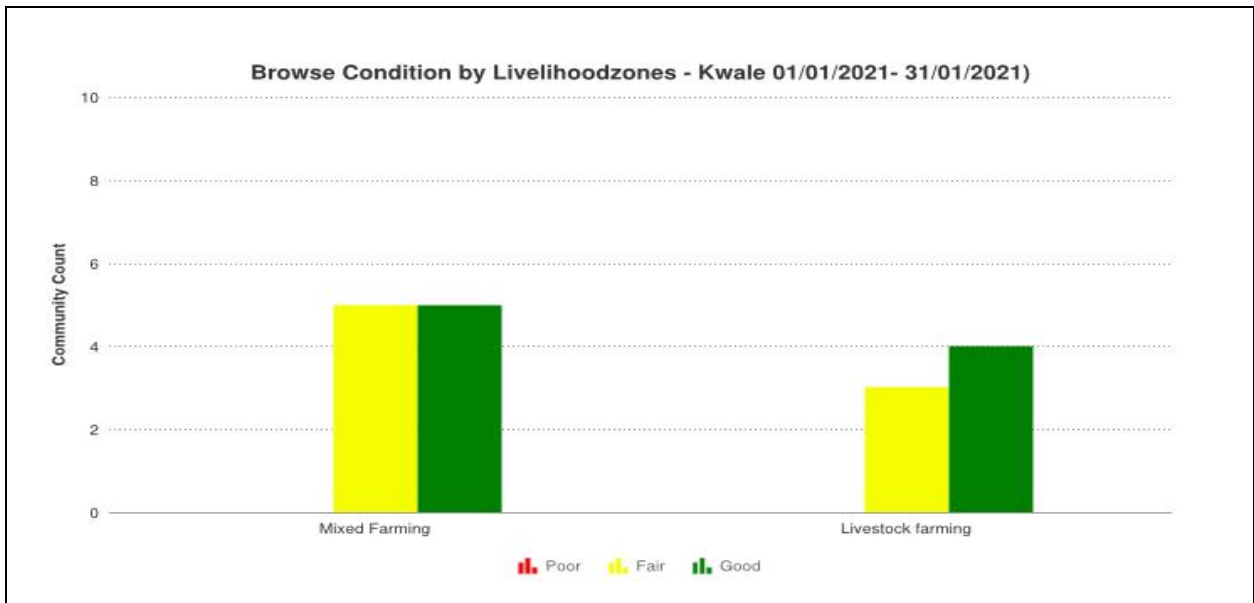
2.1.2 Pasture

- The pasture condition at the county level reduced this month compared with last month as 58.8% percent of the households reported good condition compared to 66.7 percent last month.
- There were 5.9 percent households which reported poor pasture condition this month while no households reported poor pasture condition in December.
- The condition of pasture recorded at the livelihood zone level was as shown in the graphs below.



2.1.3 Browse

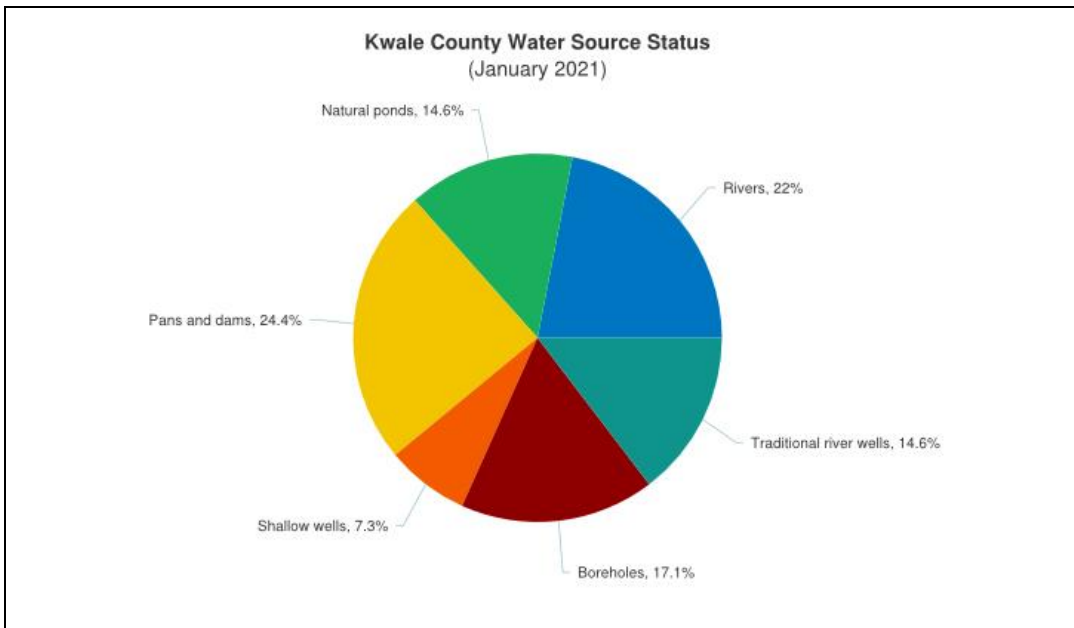
- The browse condition declined this month as approximately 52.9 percent of households reported good condition compared to 83.3 percent reported in the month of December.
- The browse condition recorded at livelihood zone level was as shown in the graphs below;



2.2 WATER RESOURCES

2.2.1 Sources

- Pans, dams and rivers were the major sources of water for domestic consumption this month similar to last month as shown in the pie-chart below.
- The sources were normal for this time of the year.

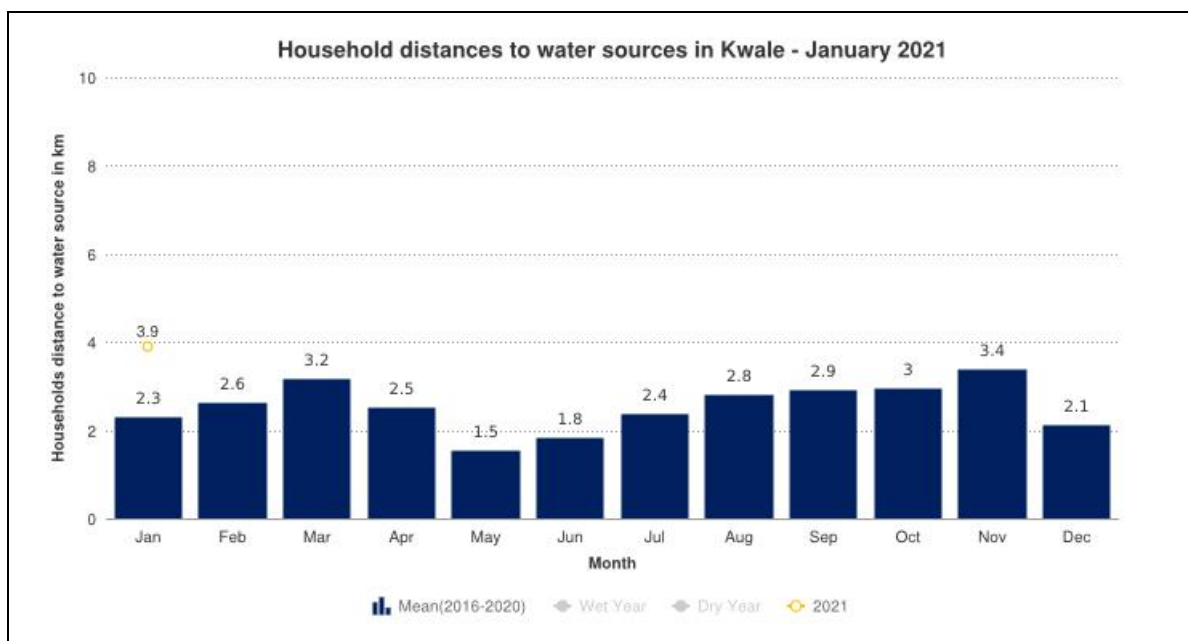


- The status of water resources was normal at index '5' (a description is provided in the table below) similar to last month which was normal for this time of the year.

INDEX	STATUS OF WATER SOURCE	DESCRIPTION
1	EMERGENCY SITUATION	All main water sources have dried up; only few boreholes still yielding significant amounts
2	STRONGLY INADEQUATE	Surface water sources have dried up while the underground water sources are yielding very little amounts of water. Breakages of boreholes contribute to worsen the situation. Acute water shortage in many areas within the livelihood
3	INADEQUATE	Surface water sources have dried up while the underground water sources are yielding modest amounts of water. Concentration of livestock around few water points contribute to spread communicable diseases and to degradation of rangeland
4	DECLINING	The water availability is below normal for the period
5	NORMAL	The water availability is normal for the period
6	GOOD	The water availability is above normal for the period

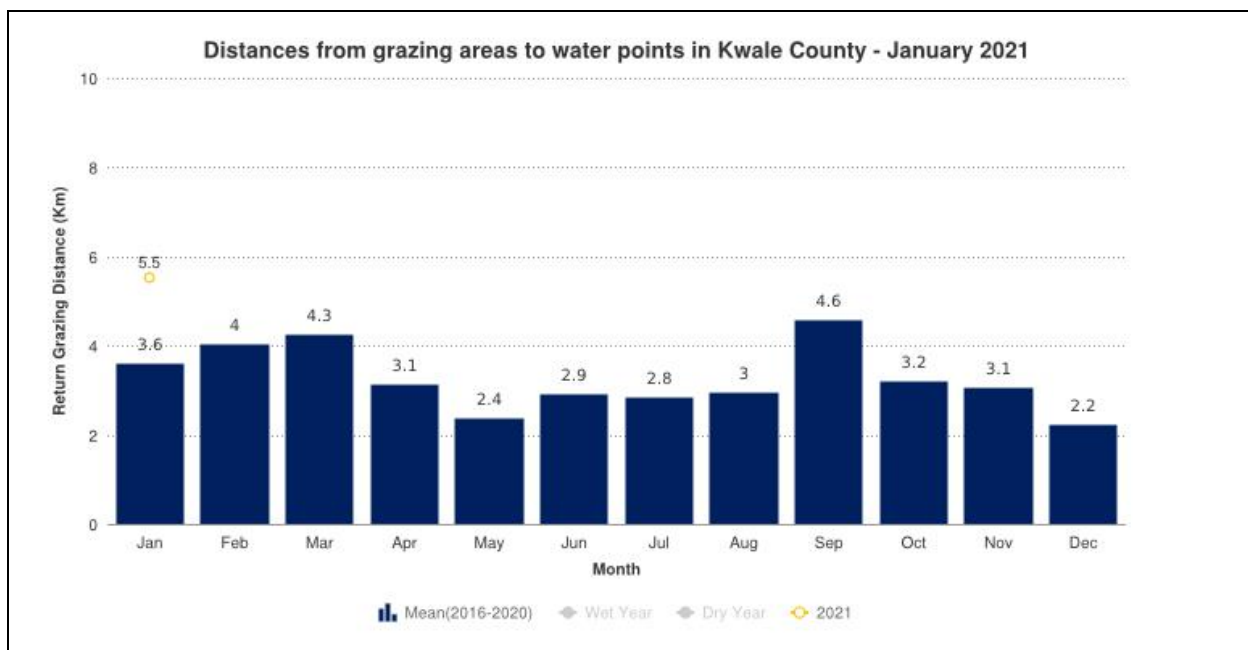
2.2.2 Household access and utilization

- Access to water for household use declined this month compared with last month as households had to walk a longer distance from 2.4 km last month to 3.9 km in January.
- The distance was also longer than the seasonal norms which was recorded as 2.3 km in the 2016-2020 LTA as shown in the graph below.



2.2.3 Livestock access to water

- Access to water for livestock use declined as livestock had to walk an average distance of 5.5 km from grazing areas to water sources in January compared with 3.7 km in December.
- The distance was longer than normal for this time of the year which was 3.6km as shown in the graph below.



3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- The proportion of livestock in the normal body condition band in the county was 60 compared to 52.9 reported in December, while 33.3 and 6.7 percent of livestock were in moderate and stressed bands respectively. This implies that a larger proportion of livestock were in normal body condition this month similar to the month of December.
- This condition was normal for this time of the year following the early warning classification below.

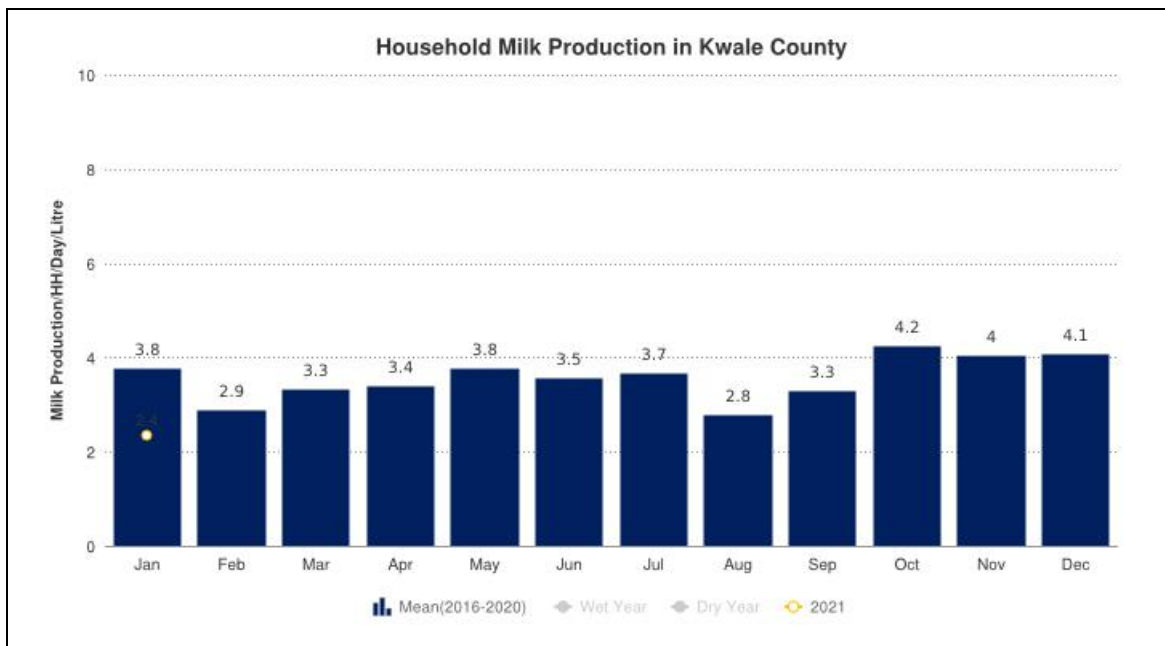
Level	Classification	Characteristics (this describes majority of the herd and not individual isolated stock)
1	Normal	Very Fat Tail buried and in fat
		Fat, Blocky. Bone over back not visible
		Very Good Smooth with fat over back and tail head
		Good smooth appearance
2	Moderate	Moderate. neither fat nor thin
3	Stressed	Borderline fore-ribs not visible. 12th & 13th ribs visible
4	Critical	Thin fore ribs visible
5	Emaciated	Very thin no fat, bones visible
		Emaciated, little muscle left

3.1.3 Livestock diseases

- There was an outbreak of FMD in areas of Dzombo, Mwereni and parts of Kinango

3.1.3 Milk Production

- The average milk production this month was 2.4 litres similar to 2.4 litres recorded in December.
- The production was lower than normal compared with 3.8 litres recorded in the 2016-2020 LTA as shown in the graph below.



3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and condition of food crops

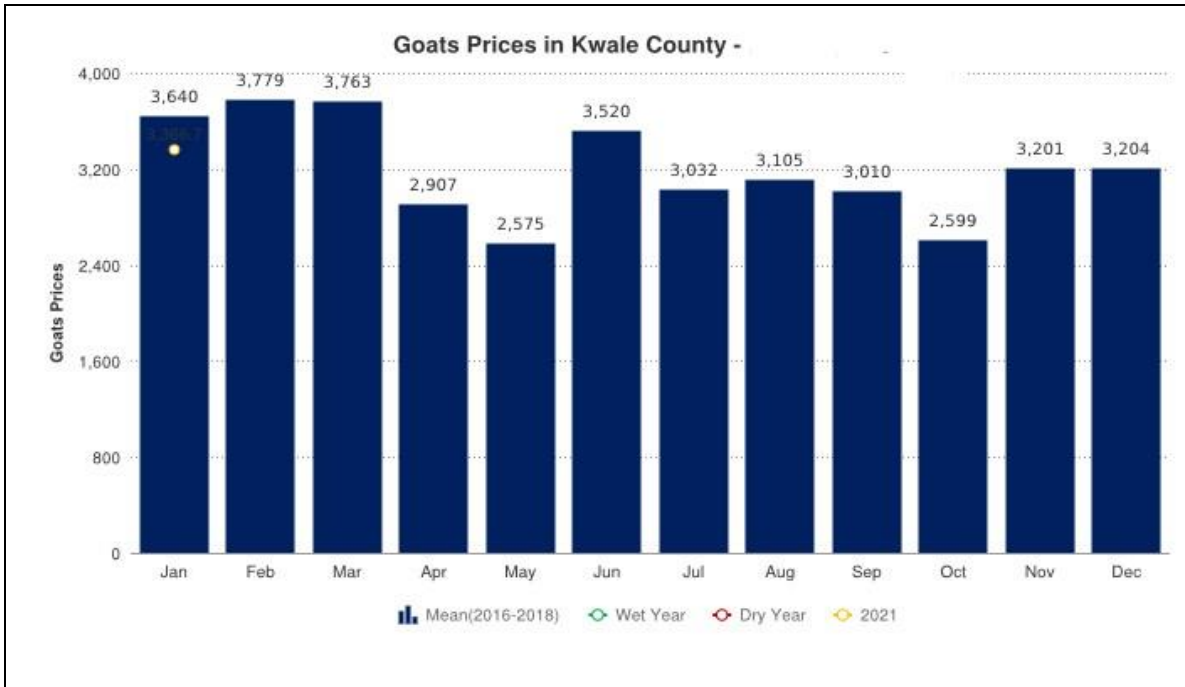
- The maize crop is currently drying on the farms due to failing seeding stage, while the few farmers who planted early are currently harvesting. Farmers who planted green grams and cowpeas were in the final stages of harvesting.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Goat prices

- The trading price of a medium-sized three-year old buck was Kshs 3,385.7 in January similar to Kshs 3,392.3 recorded in December.
- The current price was below the normal price expected for this time of the year approximated at Kshs 3,640 recorded in the 2017-2019 LTA as shown in the graph below.
- The current decline in goats prices could be attributed to the poor regeneration of pasture during the short rains season.



4.2 CROP PRICES

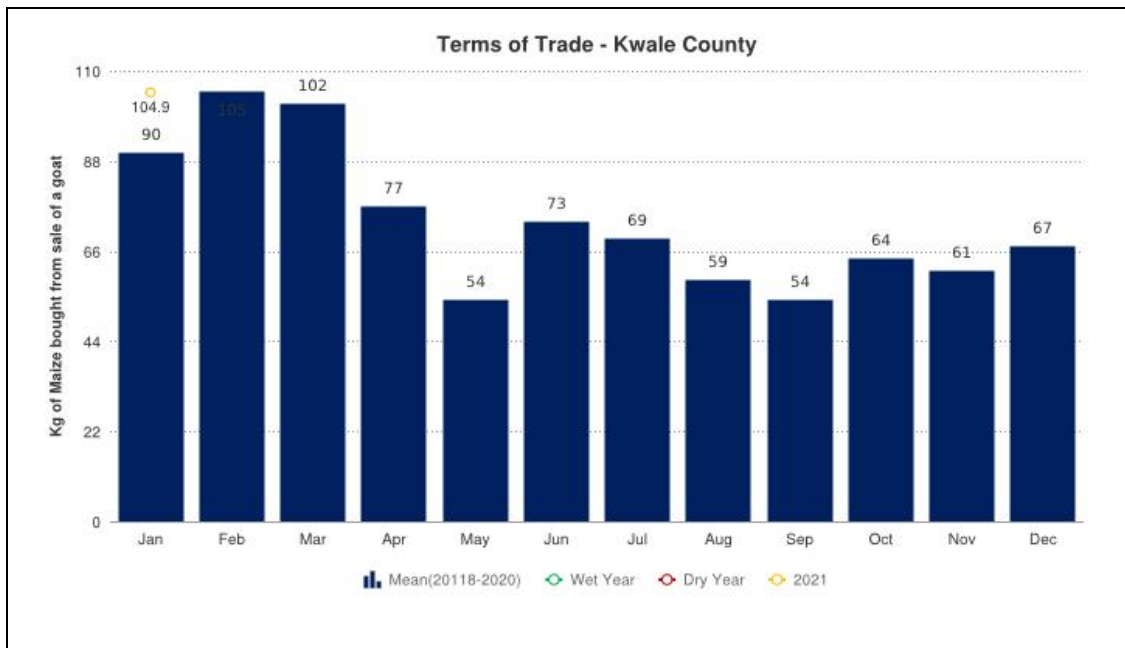
4.2.1 Maize

- A kilogram of maize was selling at Kshs 45.8 in January relatively similar to Kshs 44.6 posted in December.
- The price was above the seasonal norms compared with Kshs 38 posted in the 2017-2019 LTA as shown in the graph below.



4.3 TERMS OF TRADE (ToT) - CASUAL LABOUR VERSUS MAIZE PRICES

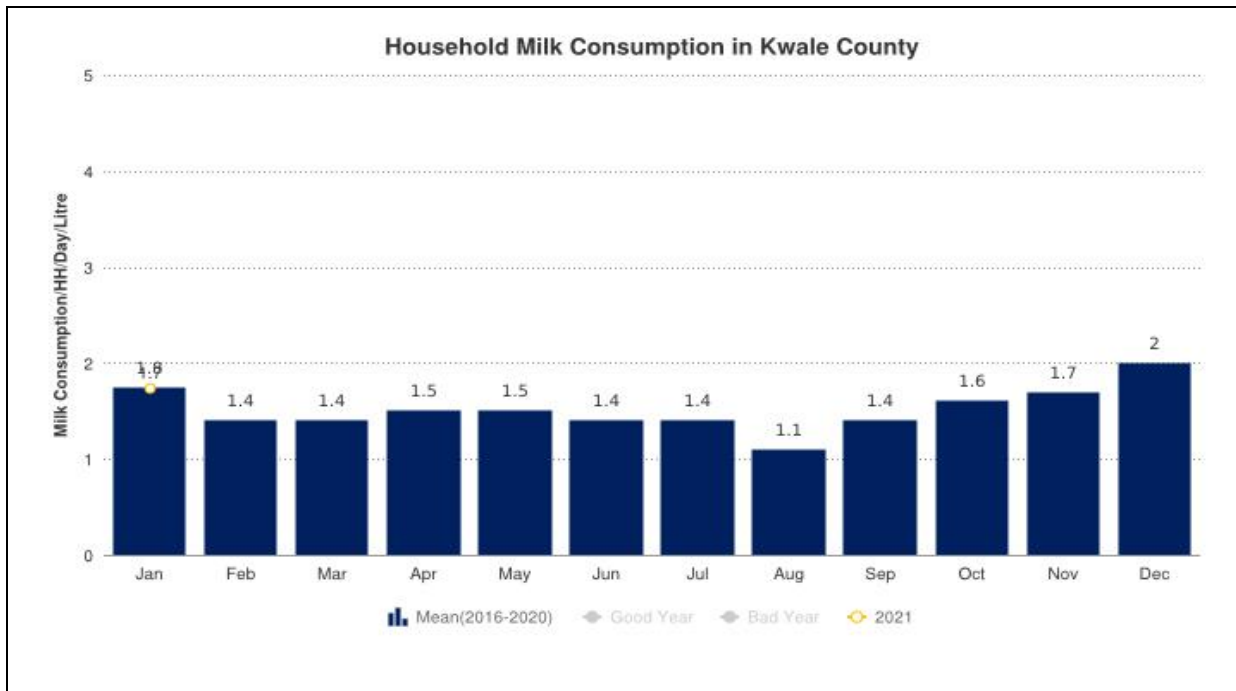
- The ToT averaged 104.9 in January similar to 104.5 recorded in December.
- The current ToT was higher than expected at this time of the year recorded at 90 as shown in the graph below.
- The increase in the ToT and the above-average trend implied increased purchasing power at household level compared with last month.
- Households were therefore able to purchase a higher quantity of maize from the proceeds of casual labour this month and compared with normal times.



5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- Milk consumption at household level remained relatively similar at an average of 1.7 litres this month as compared to 1.6 litres in the month of December.
- It was also within seasonal norms of 1.8 litres recorded in the 2015-2019 LTA as shown in the graph below.



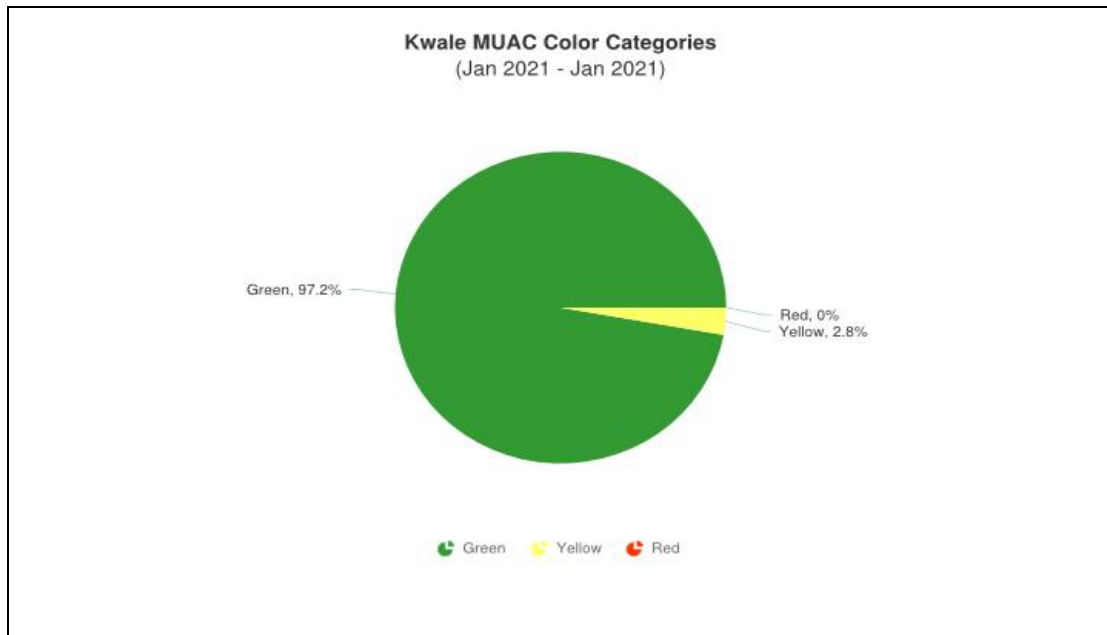
5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

- Approximately 80.8 percent of households were in acceptable food consumption category similar to 81 percent of household recorded in December.
- The mixed farming livelihood zone recorded the highest proportion under acceptable food consumption score at 95.7 percent while the livestock livelihood zone recorded the lowest score in the same category at 65.9 percent.
- The implication was therefore that food consumption patterns had improved compared with the previous month with respect to food frequency, nutritional value and dietary diversity.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition was determined using the mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) method and recorded at 2.8 percent this month while 97.2 percent were in the green category as shown in the chart below.
- The proportion of children at risk this month was lower than the normal at this time of the year recorded at 5.3 percent in the 2014-2018 LTA.
- The implication was that the nutritional status of children had significantly improved compared in comparison with normal times which could be attributed to improved food consumption.



5.4 COPING STRATEGIES

- The county’s aggregate coping strategy index (rCSI) was recorded as 12.41 this month compared with 13.73 recorded in December. The index falls in the stressed band of the IPC food security classification.
- The livestock farming livelihood zone recorded the highest index at 13 having decreased from 14.7 recorded last month.
- The mixed farming livelihood zone recorded the least index which was 11.8 having decreased from 12.8 recorded in December.
- The indices recorded this month implied an improvement in the coping strategies.

6. CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES

6.1 NON-FOOD INTERVENTIONS

○ Agriculture department

The department undertook the following interventions in January:

- Training of farmers on post-harvest handling of farm produce particularly for maize and pulses
- Market promotion for green grams

○ Livestock production

- Distribution of 800 Galla goats for breed improvement across the 4 sub-counties by the county Government of Kwale

○ Veterinary department

- Site selection and identification for construction of 2 new dips in Lungalunga sub-county.

○ National Drought Management Authority

- Coordinated the 2020 short rains assessment by the technical county steering group and the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG)

○ Health and nutrition

- Intensified deworming and vitamin A supplementation
- Vaccination against Filariasis disease across the county.

7. EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- No cases of insecurity, human displacement or conflict were recorded in January.

7.2 Migration

- No migration incidences were reported in January

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Vaccination against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)
- Restricted movement from affected locations to other parts of the county to contain CBPP and plan for vaccination
- Heighten Covid-19 prevention guidelines and measures across the county.