



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



National Drought Management Authority KWALE COUNTY DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN MAY 2022

MAY 2022 EW FLAG



Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Mixed Farming	Alert	Stable
Livestock Farming	Alert	Stable
County	Alert	Stable
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/Value
VCI	17.15	>45
State of Water Sources	5	5
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Crop condition (maize and legumes)	-	-
Milk Production (Litres)	2.2	3.8
Livestock Migration Pattern	-	No migrations
Livestock deaths (from drought)	-	-
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of trade	33.6	54
Milk Consumption (litres)	1.7	1.5
Return distance to water sources for households (km)	3.3	2.5
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	3.2	-
Food consumption score (FCS)	30.0	-
Reduced coping strategy index (rCSI)	10.2	-

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- The first dekad of May received normal rains while the second dekad received below normal rains.
- The vegetation condition for May was below average for the month.
- The state of water sources was normal for the month.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production indicators

- Land preparation and planting was on-going for the season.
- Milk production was below average for May.

Access indicators

- Terms of trade (casual labour to maize) were below normal for May implying reduced household purchasing power.
- Milk consumption was normal for the month under review.
- Return distances to water sources for domestic use were above normal for the month.

Utilization Indicators

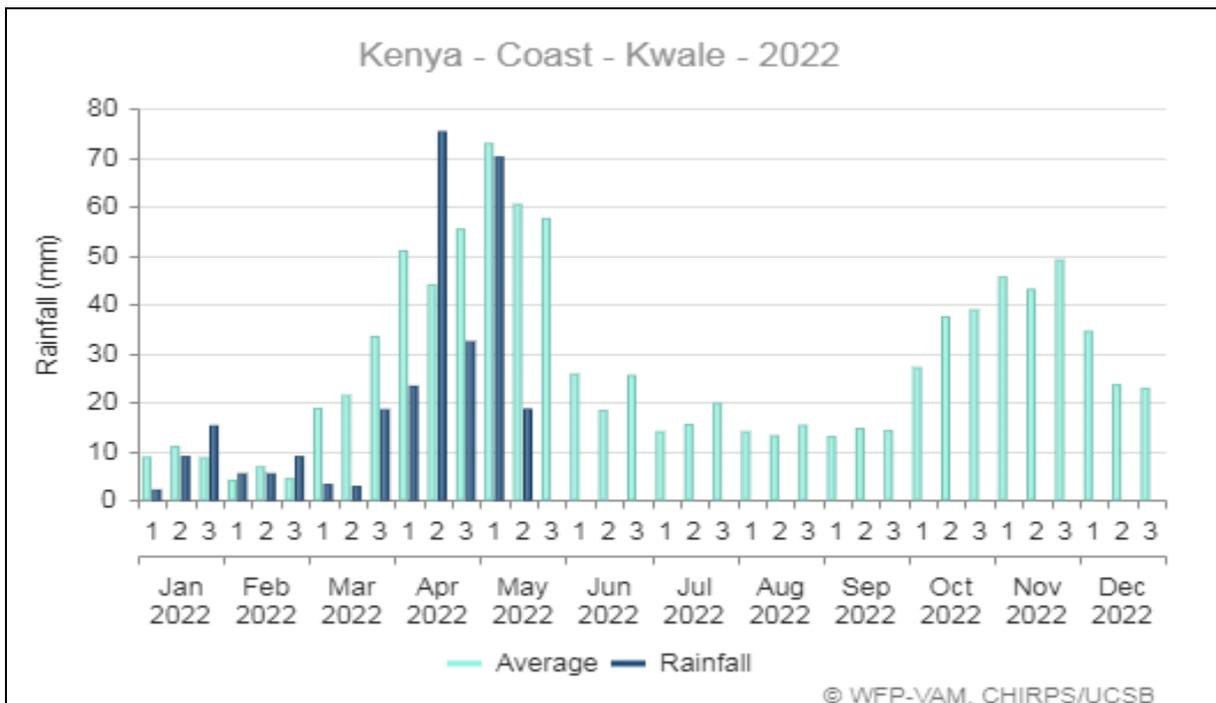
- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition was approximately 3.2 percent in May.
- The food consumption score was 30.0 in May and had increased by 19.4 percent from 25.14 in April.
- The reduced coping strategy index was 10.2 in May having maintained a stable trend compared with 9.9 in April.

Seasonal calendar

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

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- The onset of the long rains season occurred in the first dekad of April in line with the forecast from the Kenya Meteorological Services department.
- The first dekad in May received normal rainfall amounts approximated at 69.933mm in comparison with 72.654 mm in the long-term average (LTA).
- The second dekad of the month received approximately a third of the rainfall expected at 18.383 mm in comparison with 60.279 mm as shown in the graph below.
- The temporal distribution was fair although the spatial distribution was uneven as there were parts of the livestock farming livelihood zone that had received very little rainfall.
- The rains were still on-going.



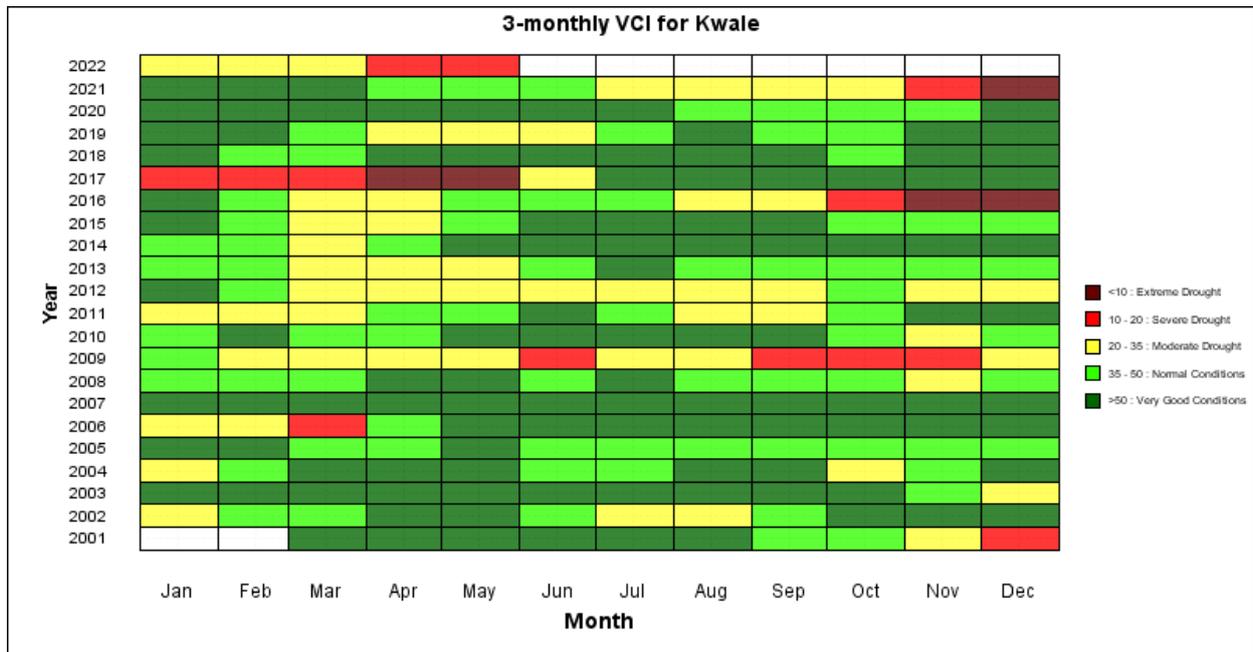
2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 3-monthly Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The vegetation greenness in the county recorded a stable trend as the 3-monthly vegetation condition index (VCI) for May was recorded at 17.15 in comparison with 18.55 posted in April. Therefore the county was classified in the severe drought category similar to last month.
- The rains recorded so far were still regenerating vegetation that had been severely depleted due to the failure of the previous short rains season and the prolonged dry spell before the onset of the current season.
- Lunga Lunga and Kinango Sub-counties were classified in the severe drought category with indices of 17.2 and 13.12 respectively.
- Matuga and Msambweni were classified in the moderate drought category with indices of 30.54 and 30.76 respectively.
- All sub-counties retained their drought categories for the previous month.

- The current vegetation conditions were worse than a similar time last year when the county was classified in the normal category as shown in the graph and matrix below.



Field Observations (Pasture and browse conditions)

Pasture

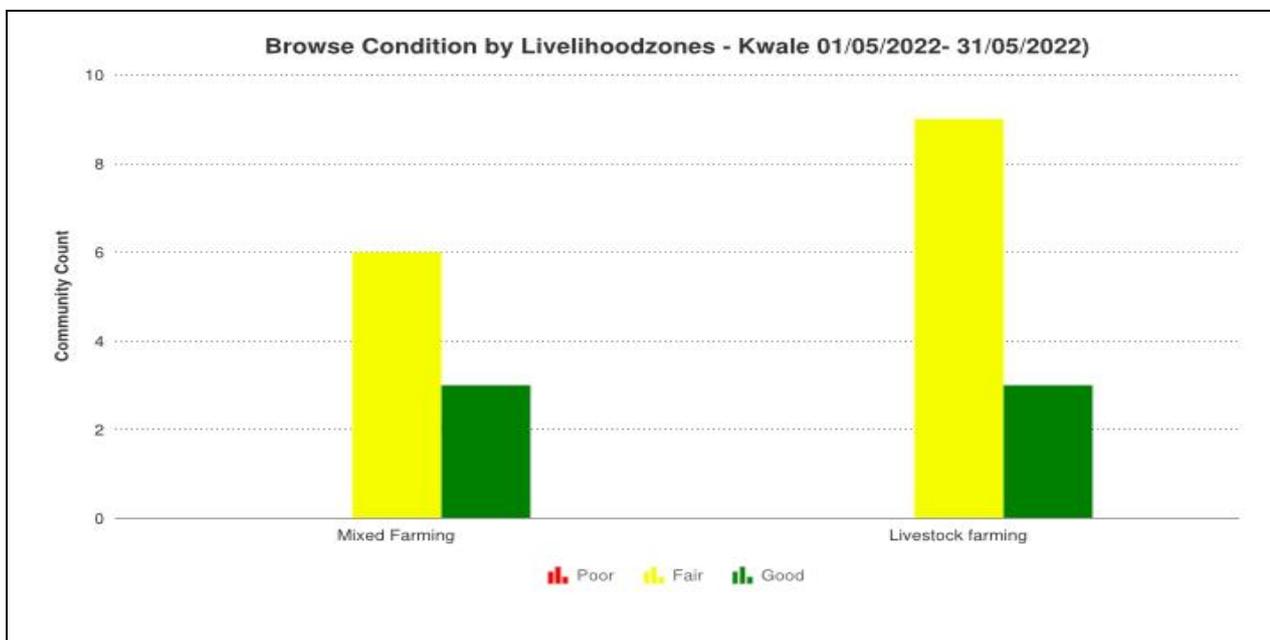
- Pasture conditions improved this month as evidenced by the increase in the proportion of households reporting good pasture conditions from 4.8 percent in April to 42.9 percent in May.
- In addition, the number of households who reported poor pasture conditions had also reduced from 76.2 percent in April to 47.6 percent in May.
- Pasture rejuvenation was on a positive trend owed to the increased availability of water.
- The following graphs show the change in pasture conditions at livelihood zone level.

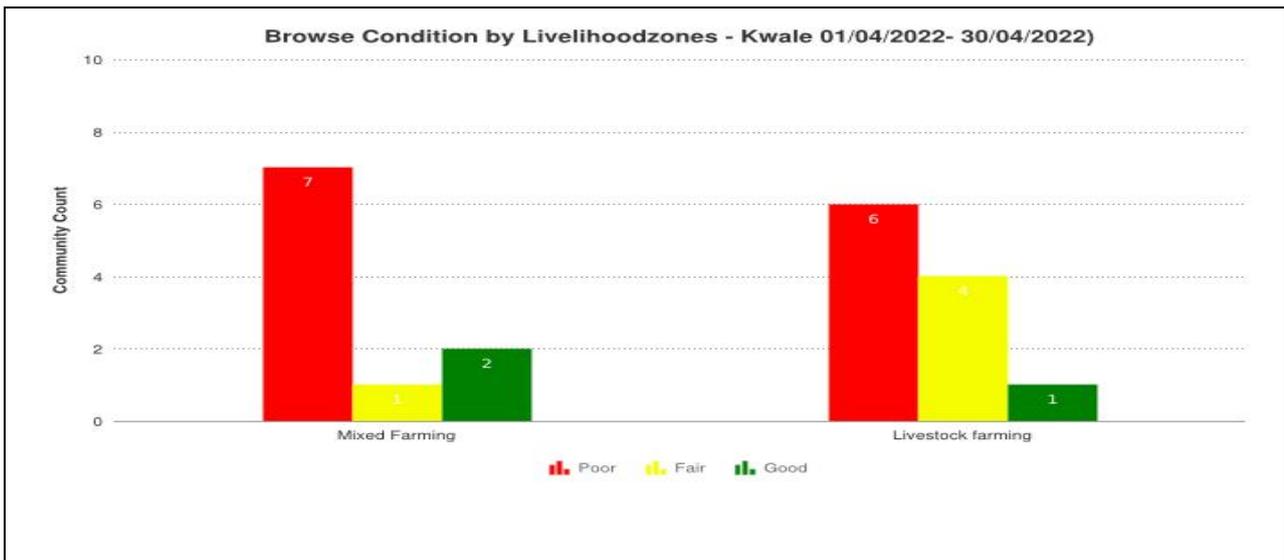




Browse

- Browse condition improved during the month as the proportion of households that had reported good browse condition doubled from 14.3 percent in April to 28.6 percent in May.
- In addition, the proportion that had reported poor browse condition decreased from 61.9 percent in April to nil in May.
- Browse, similar to pasture, had benefitted from the rains experienced in the county resulting in the positive trend.
- The graphs below show the changes at livelihood zone level.

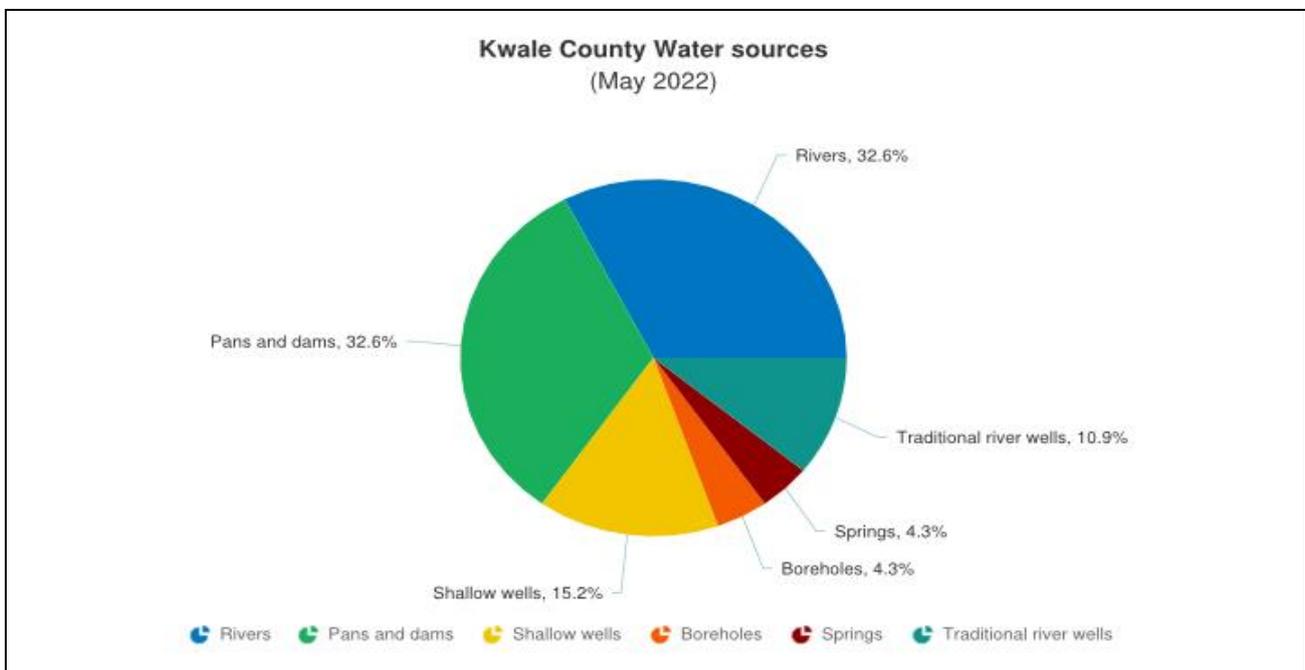


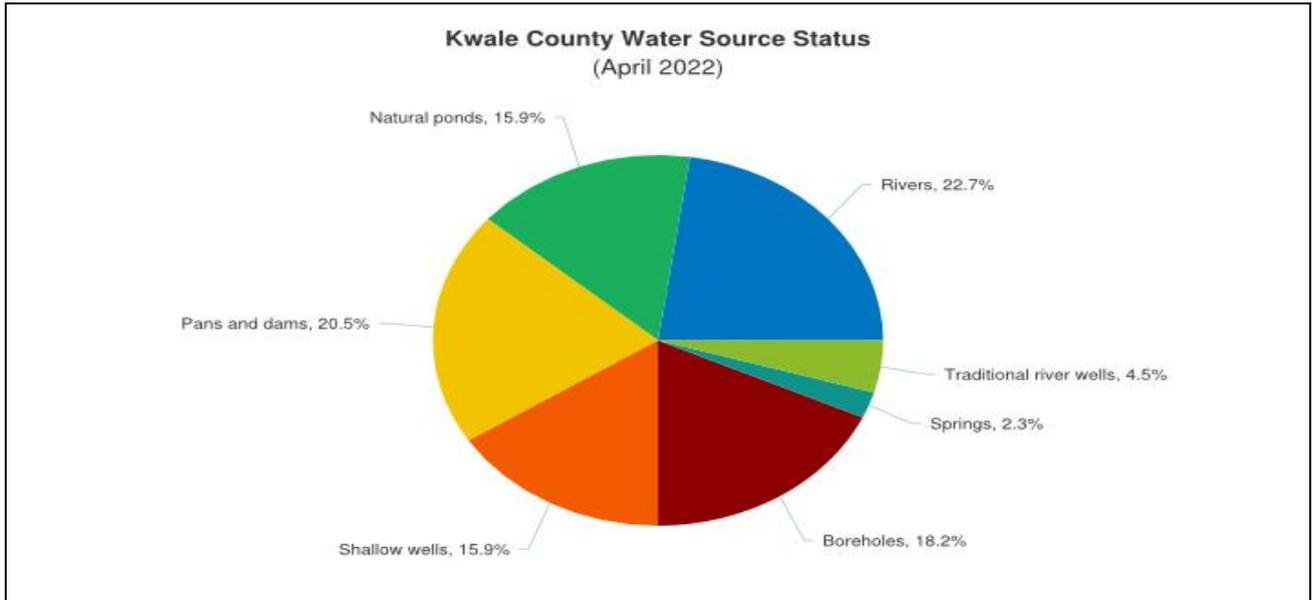


2.2 WATER RESOURCES

2.2.1 Sources

- Open water sources largely rivers, pans and dams were the most relied upon for domestic use this month as shown in the graph below.
- The proportion of households relying on these had increased in comparison with last month.
- Normal water sources for this time of the year apart from pans and dams are shallow wells and traditional river wells still being relied upon this month.
- The graphs below show the proportions of households relying on the different sources in May in comparison with April.



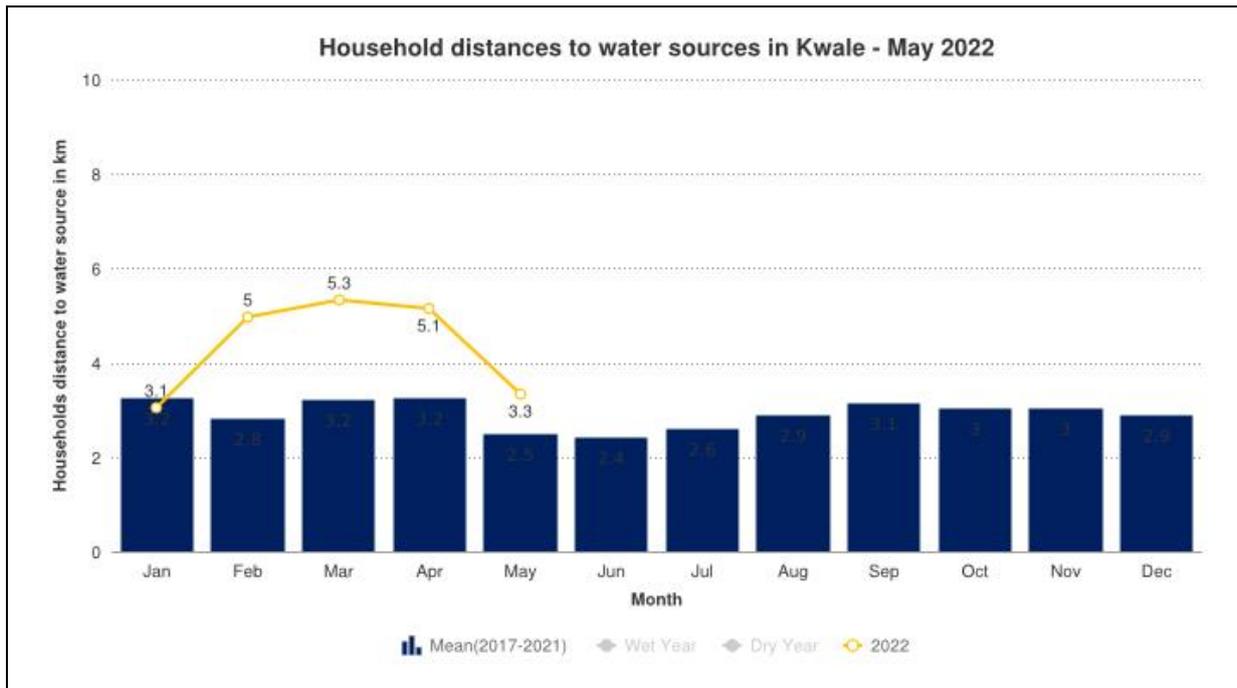


- The status of water sources for the month is 5 implying normal water availability as described in the table below.

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

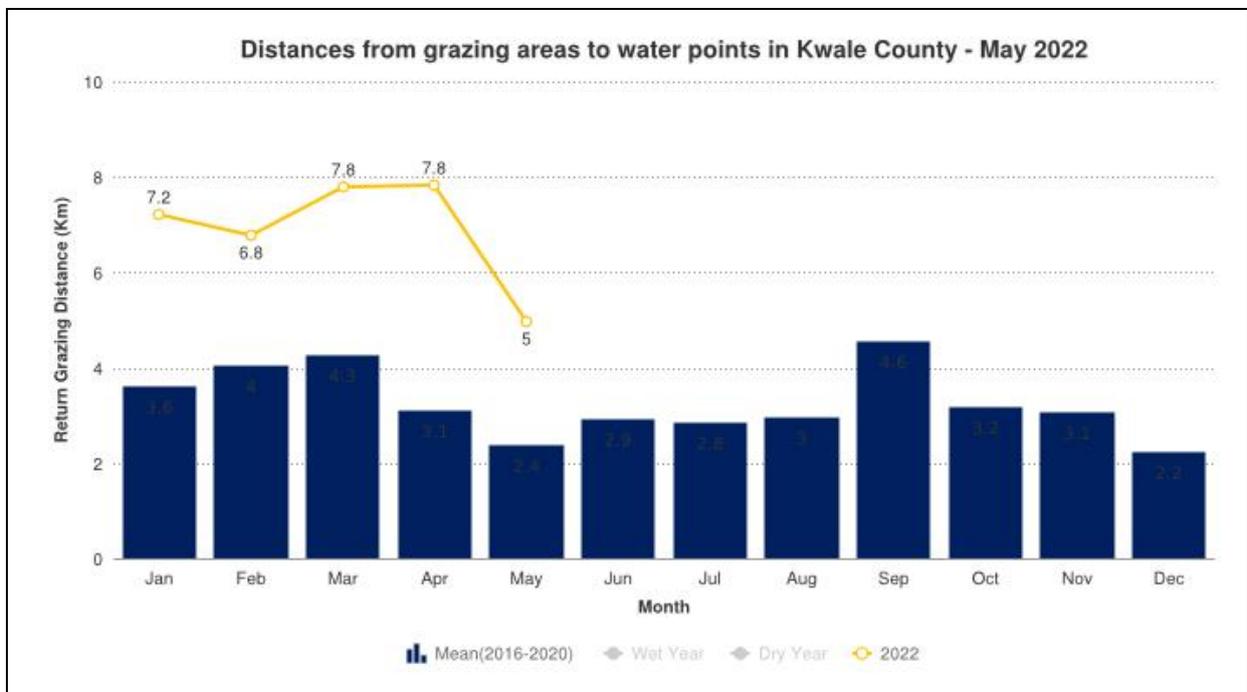
2.2.2 Household access and utilization

- The average distance to water sources for domestic use was 3.3 km in May having reduced from 5.1 km in April as shown in the graph below.
- The reduction could be attributed to an increase in the number of water sources having been recharged from the seasonal rains so households were walking shorter distances to access water.
- However, despite the decrease in distance walked, it was still slightly above normal by 32 percent in comparison with 2.5 km recorded in the 2017-2021 LTA as shown in the graph below.



2.2.3 Livestock access to water

- Access to water for livestock’s consumption improved as the distance to watering points from grazing areas reduced from 7.8 km in April to 5.0 km in May as shown in the graph below.
- Despite the decrease, the current distance was slightly more than twice that normally walked by livestock estimated at 2.4 km in the 2016-2020 LTA for this time of the year.

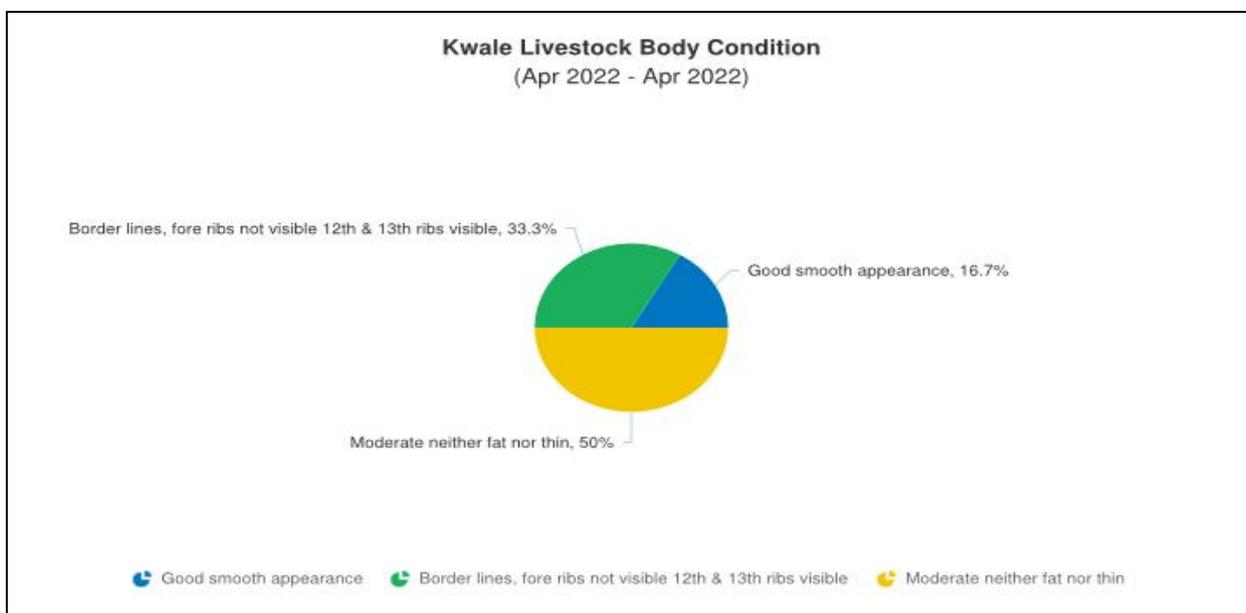
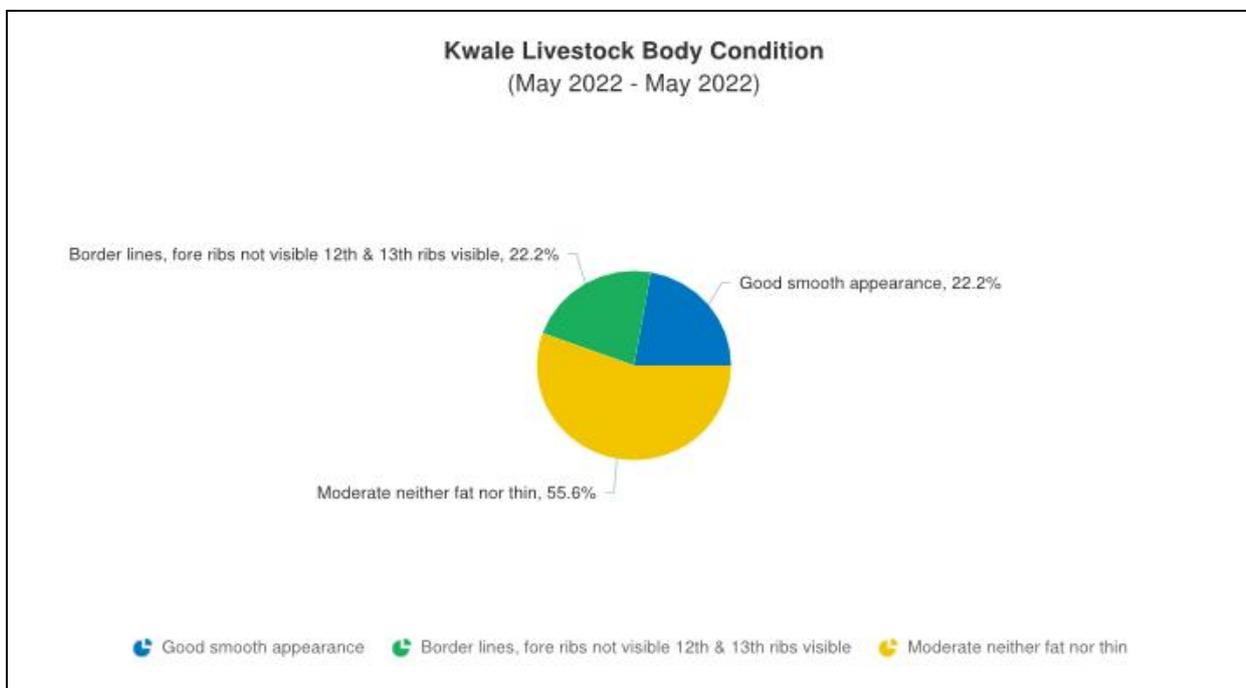


3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Livestock body condition improved slightly in May as approximately 22.2 percent of households reported normal condition (good, smooth appearance) in comparison with 16.7 percent in April.
- The improvement could be attributed to the improved availability of rangeland resources such as forage and water.
- The pie-charts below show the change for April and May.



- The table below provides a description of various levels of body condition in livestock.

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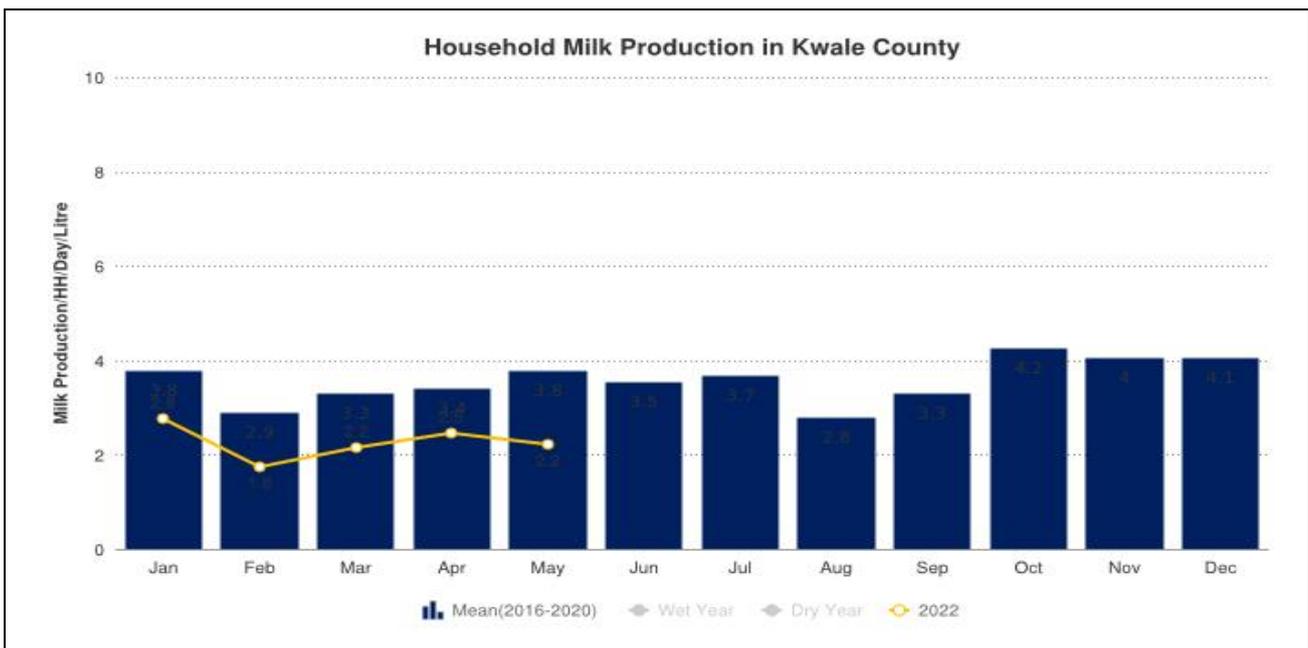
1	Normal	Very Fat Tail buried and in fat
		Fat, Blocky. Bone over back not visible
		Very Good Smooth with fat over back and tail head
		Good smooth appearance
2	Moderate	Moderate. neither fat nor thin
3	Stressed	Borderline fore-ribs not visible. 12th & 13th ribs visible
4	Critical	Thin fore ribs visible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

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- There were suspected cases of Contagious Bovine Pleuro-Pneumonia (CBPP), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), and New Castle Disease (NCD) in Ndavaya Ward in Kinango Sub-county.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- The milk production at household level averaged 2.2 litres in May having maintained a relatively stable trend in comparison with 2.5 litres in April.
- The current milk production was below average in comparison 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

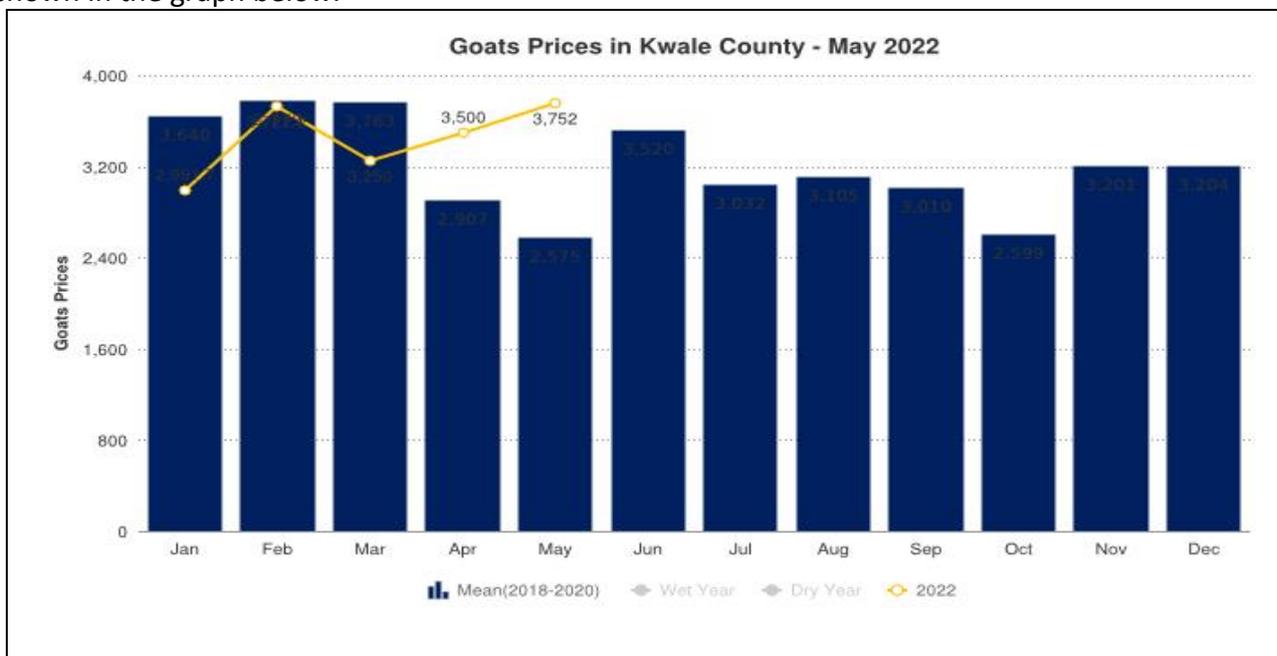
- Planting was on-going as well as weeding for households who planted last month for most households in the mixed farming livelihood zone.
- However, most households in the livestock farming livelihood were yet to begin planting because the area had not received much rains.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

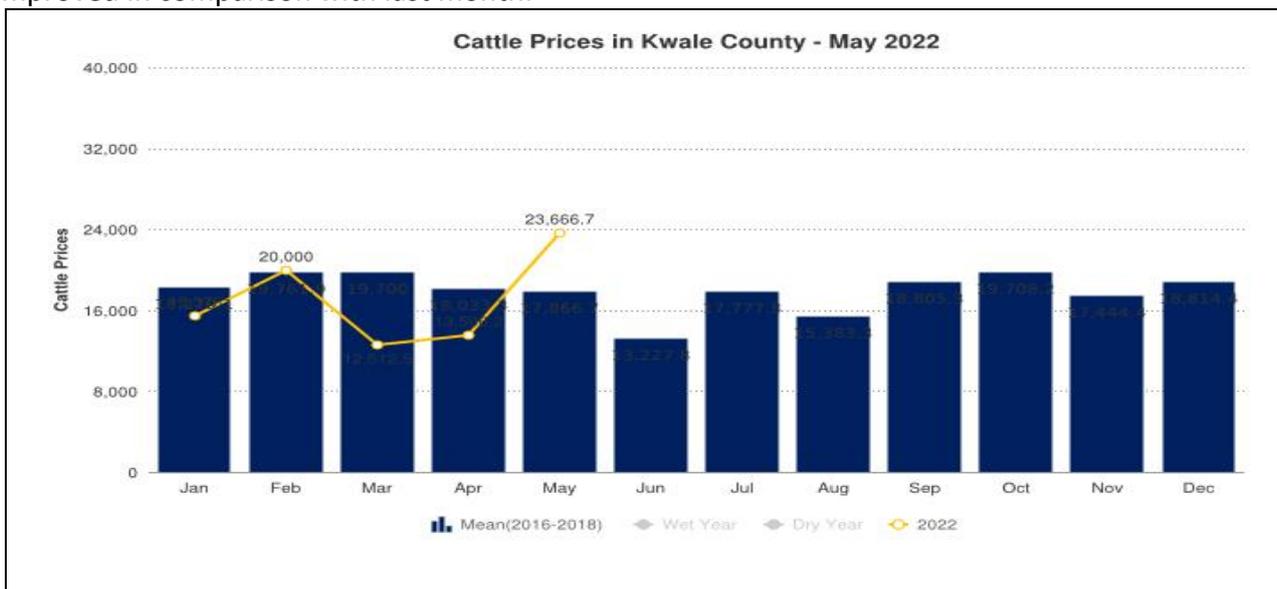
4.1.1 Goat prices

- The price of a medium-sized three-year old buck averaged Kshs 3,752 in May having remained relatively stable in comparison with Kshs 3,250 recorded in April.
- The price was higher than normal in comparison with Kshs 2,575 recorded in the 2018-2020 LTA as shown in the graph below.



4.1.2 Cattle prices

- The retail price of a three-year old bull was Kshs 23,666.7 in May having almost doubled from Kshs 13,506.2 in April.
- The price was 32.5 percent higher than the Kshs 17,866.7 recorded in the 2016-2018 LTA as shown in the graph below.
- The price could have doubled due to the pasture condition and availability having significantly improved in comparison with last month.

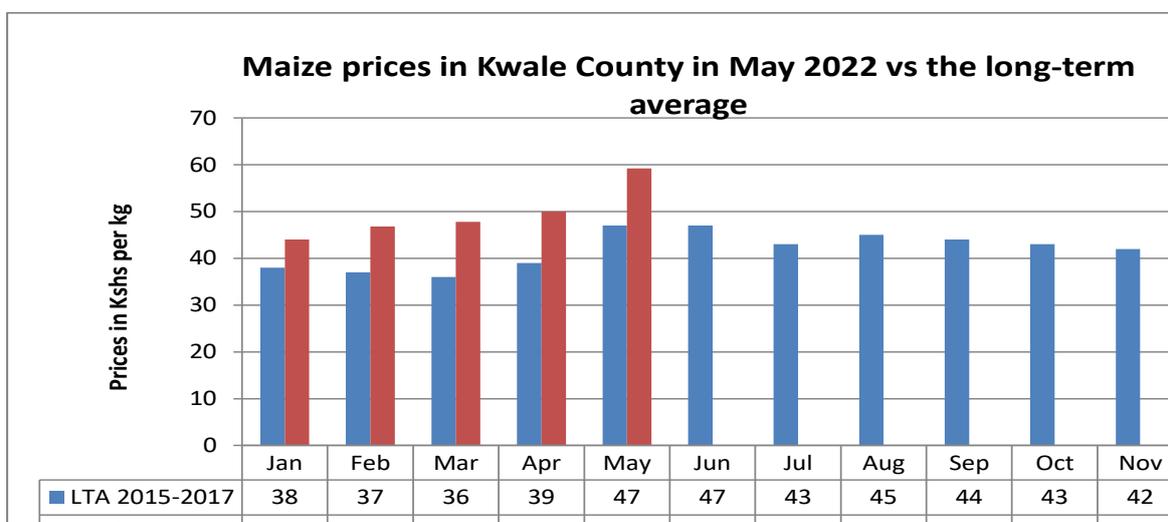




4.2 CROP PRICES

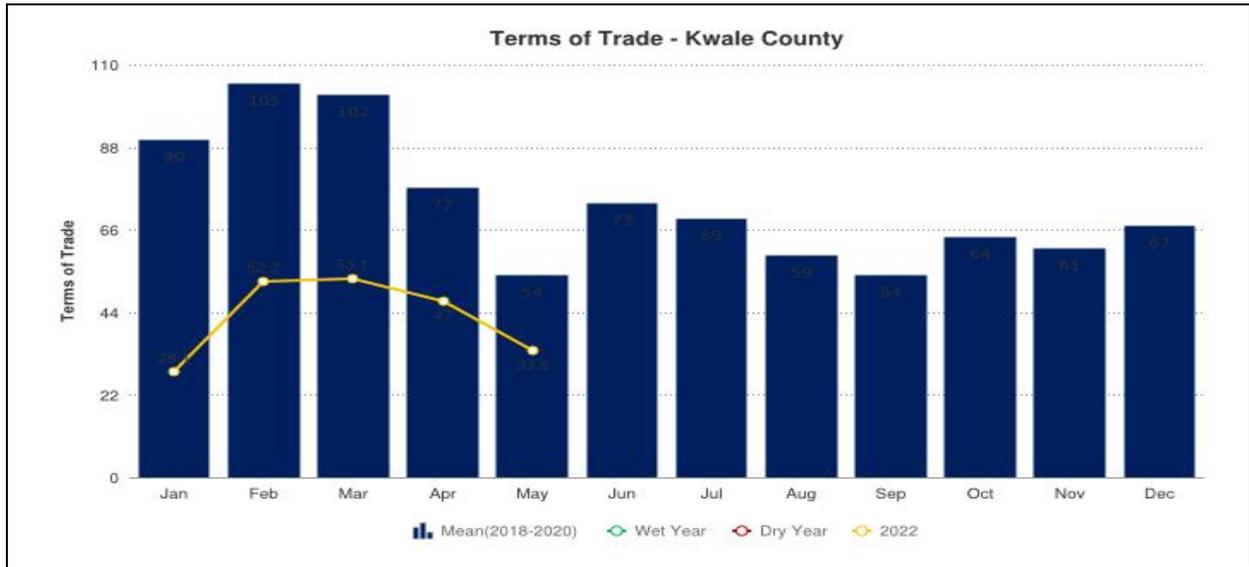
4.2.1 Maize

- The average retail price of a kilogram of maize was Kshs 59.2 in May having increased by a slight margin of 18.4 percent from Kshs 50.0 in April as shown in the graph below.
- The current price was 30 percent higher than normal in comparison with Kshs 47.0 recorded in the 2015-2017 LTA.
- Reduced stocks due to the poor performance of previous seasons could be attributed to the higher than average trend in price.



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

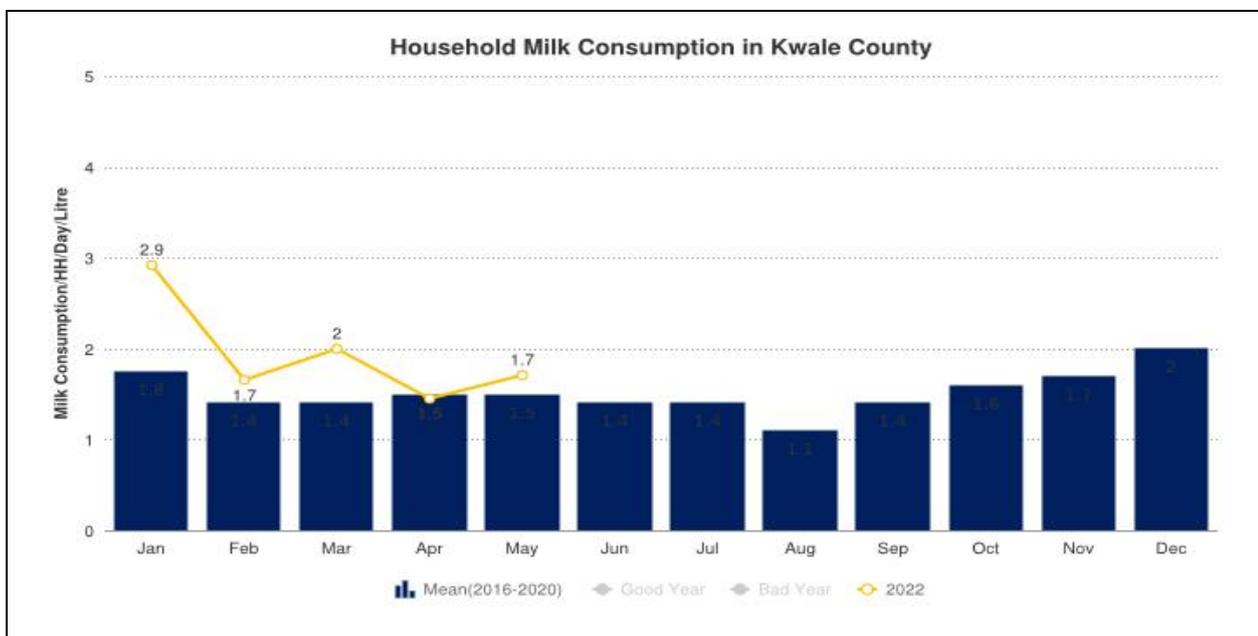
- The average ToT was 33.6 in May having decreased by a 26.5 percent margin from 45.7 in April as shown in the graph below.
- The current ToT was below normal compared with 54 recorded in the 2018-2020 LTA.
- The reduced and below normal ToT implied households had reduced purchasing power compared with last month and normal times.
- Households were therefore able to purchase a lower quantity of maize from the proceeds of casual labour in May compared with last month as well as normal times.



5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

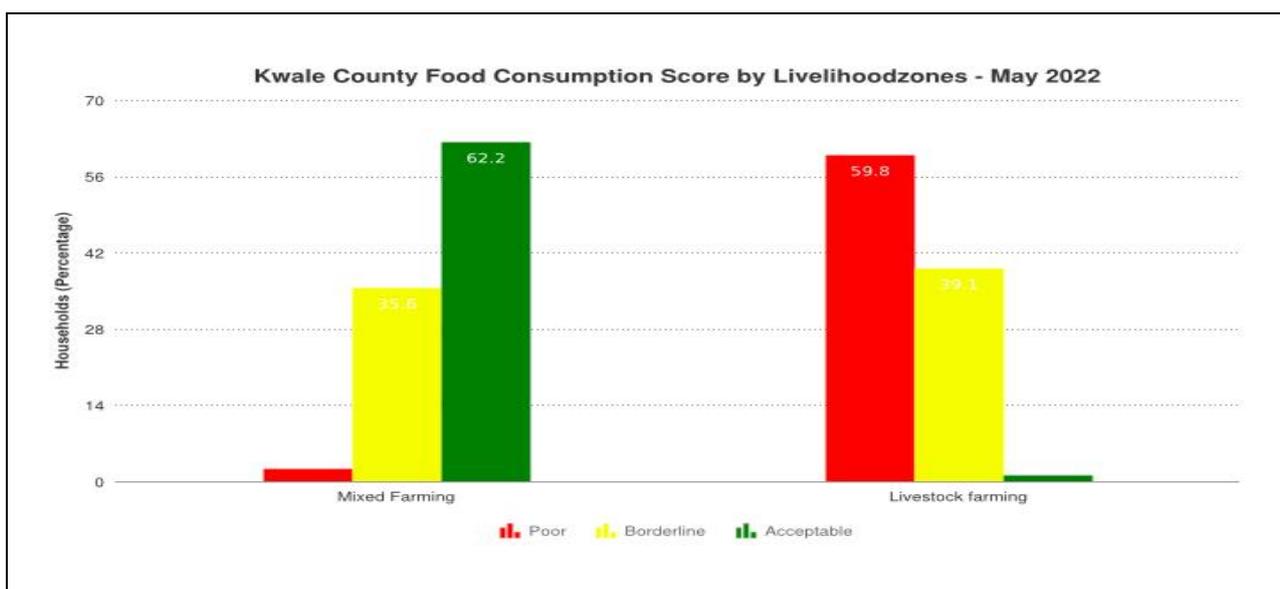
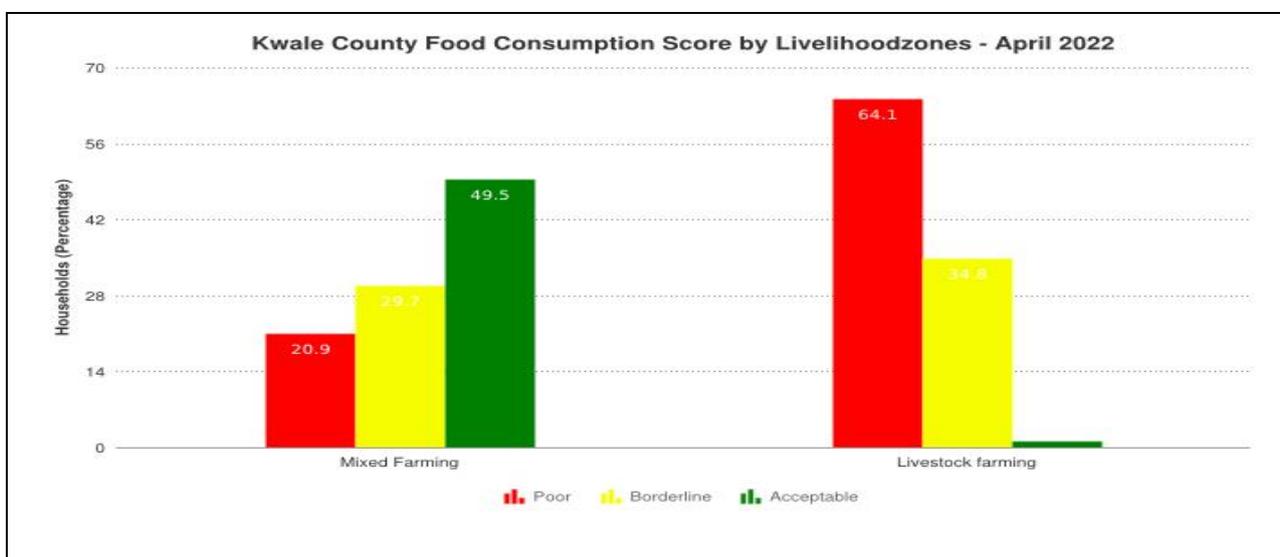
- The average milk consumption at household level was 1.7 litres in May having maintained a stable trend in comparison with 1.5 litres recorded in April.
- The monthly consumption was within seasonal norms for this time of the year compared with 1.5 litres recorded in the 2016-2020 LTA as shown in the graph below.



5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION

5.2.1 Food consumption score

- The average food consumption score at county level was 30.0 in May having increased by a 19.4 percent margin from 25.14 recorded last month.
- The mixed farming livelihood zone recorded the highest score at 42.3 having increased by a 26.1 percent margin from 33.53 recorded in April.
- The livestock farming livelihood zone recorded the lowest score at 17.2 having maintained a relatively stable trend compared with 16.75 recorded last month.
- The proportion of households with acceptable food consumption increased slightly by 26.8 percent from 19.95 percent to 25.3 percent last month at county level indicating an improved trend in food consumption.
- In addition, the proportion of households with poor food consumption decreased from 54.45 percent to 34.8 percent, further underscoring the positive trend which implies that food frequency, dietary diversity and the nutritional value of food had improved in the county.
- The graphs below illustrate the change in food consumption patterns at livelihood zone level for April and May.



5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition for children aged below five years was determined by the mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) method. This proportion was estimated at 3.2 percent having remained relatively stable in comparison with 2.9 percent recorded in April.
- The stability implied that the nutritional status of children in this age cohort had neither deteriorated nor improved significantly in comparison with last month.

5.4 COPING STRATEGY INDEX

- The average reduced coping strategy index (rCSI) was recorded at 10.2 in May having maintained a relatively stable trend in comparison with 9.9 in April.
- The stability implied that households had not significantly decreased or increased the frequency and/or severity with which they engaged consumption-based coping strategies in order to mitigate food consumption gaps compared with last month.
- The highest index was recorded in the mixed farming livelihood zone at 14.5 having maintained a stable trend compared with 13.8 recorded in April.
- The least index was posted in the livestock farming livelihood zone at 5.8 having maintained a stable trend compared with 6.0 recorded in April.
- The most commonly engaged consumption-based coping mechanisms in May included reliance on less expensive and/or preferred food (67.8%) and reduced number/portion sizes of meals each at 64.9 percent.
- Approximately 51.7 percent of households borrowed food while another 32.8 percent limited consumption for adults to allow more for children in order to mitigate food gaps.

6. CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES

6.1 NON-FOOD INTERVENTIONS

○ Nutrition department

The department undertook the following interventions in May:

- Iron folate supplementation for lactating mothers and pregnant women
- Zinc supplementation for lactating mothers and pregnant women
- Growth monitoring for children aged below five years
- Deworming

7. EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Migration/conflict/displacement

- No cases of conflict, migration or displacement were reported during the month under review.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continued disease surveillance for FMD and CBPP in Kinango Sub-county.
- Close monitoring of the current season to assess its potential contribution to food production given that previous seasons have not performed optimally in order to inform early action with regard to food gaps.