



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



**National Drought Management Authority
WEST POKOT COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR APRIL 2022**

APRIL EW PHASE

Drought Status: ALERT



Maandalizi ya mapema

Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification

LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TREND
AGRO PASTORAL	ALERT	IMPROVING
PASTORAL	ALERT	IMPROVING
COUNTY	ALERT	IMPROVING

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- Moderate rainfall was received across the County in April. Pastoral livelihood zones in Pokot Central sub-county which had been hard hit by drought experienced erratic rains. The monthly rainfall had poor temporal and even spatial distribution across livelihood zones.
- The vegetation cover index slightly dropped from 27 in March to 26 in April. The trend dropped in all livelihood zones as revealed by the decline in Vegetation Condition Index when compared to the previous month. Pokot Central recorded severe drought conditions while Pokot North and Pokot West sub-counties reported moderate drought VCI conditions as Pokot South Sub-county reported normal vegetation conditions.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

- Milk production and consumption at household level was stable across the County.
- The livestock body condition remained poor; not deteriorating further, particularly for grazers' species. Distances to water sources for households slightly dropped across livelihood zones.
- The terms of trade were unfavourable with a decreasing trend across livelihood zones. Most of the households were at Acceptable Food Consumption Score category.
- The Coping Strategy Index was stable in all livelihood zones.

Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal range
VCI-3month (County)	26	>35
Forage Condition	Poor	Good

Production Indicators	Value	Normal range
Livestock Body Condition	Poor	Good
Milk Production	1.0	>1.3 Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Medium	Low
Livestock deaths (attributed to drought)	No deaths	No deaths

Access Indicators	Value	Normal range
Terms of Trade (ToT)	58	>77
Milk Consumption	0.9	>1.3 Litres
Return distance to water sources (household)	4.6 km	<3.1 km
Cost of water at source (Kshs /20 litres)	Kshs 5	<Kshs 5

Utilization Indicators	Value	Normal range
Nutrition status, MUAC (Severe + Moderate)	2.5	<2.8
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	1.7	0.0-14.5
Food Consumption Score	47	>35

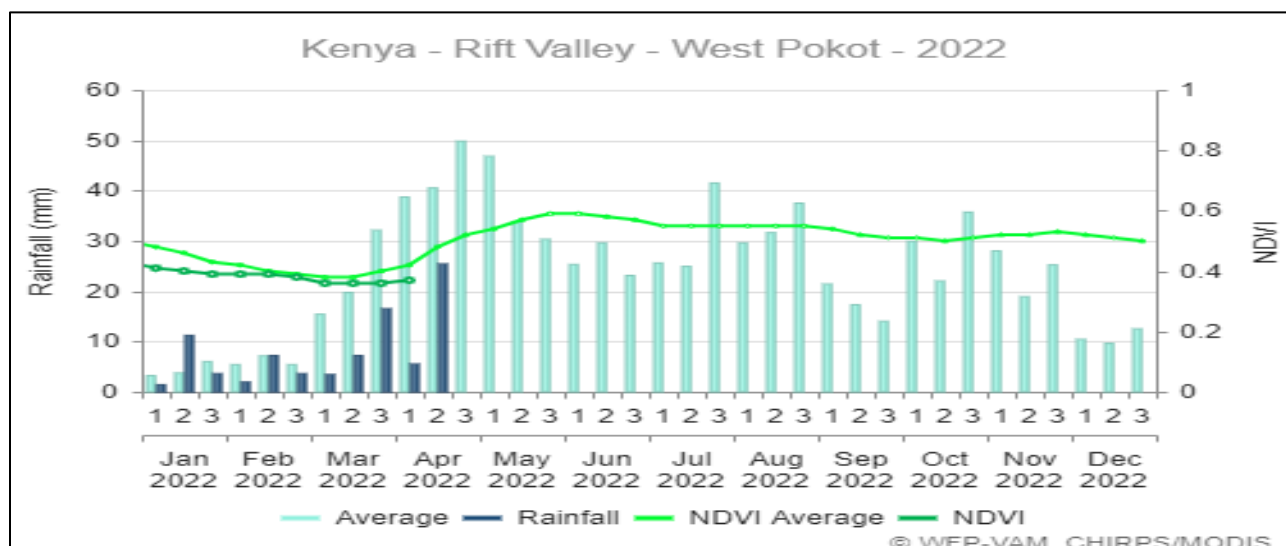
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains harvests Short dry spell Increased HH Food Stock Land preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting/Weeding Long rains High Calving Rate Milk Yields Increase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long rains harvests A long dry spell Land preparation Increased HH Food Stock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains Planting/weeding (Irish potatoes, Cabbages and Onions)
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Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- In the month under review, moderate rainfall was received in all the livelihood zones of the county. In comparison to the Long Term Average (LTA), the current rainfall performance was below normal for such period of the year.



Source: VAM-World Food Programme

- The cumulative dekadal amount of rainfall was at 30.9 mm, an increase from 10.0 mm that was recorded in March, although representing 60 percent below the cumulative decadal average for the month.
- The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) that depicts the quantity and quality of live green vegetation, was below normal for April with a stable trend.

1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- According to the county meteorological report, appreciable precipitation was experienced during the month, especially in the last dekad. The rainfall was evenly distributed as it was received over most parts of the county, whereby there was improved rainfall performance compared to the previous month. All the key weather stations in the county which include, Alale AWS (Pokot North), Kacheliba AWS (Pokot North), St. Catherine AWS, Nasukuta AWS (Pokot South), Kaibichbich AWS (Pokot South), Sigor AWS (Pokot Central), Kaibos Mixed Sec. School (Pokot West) received rainfall amounts of over 20 mm during the month. significant

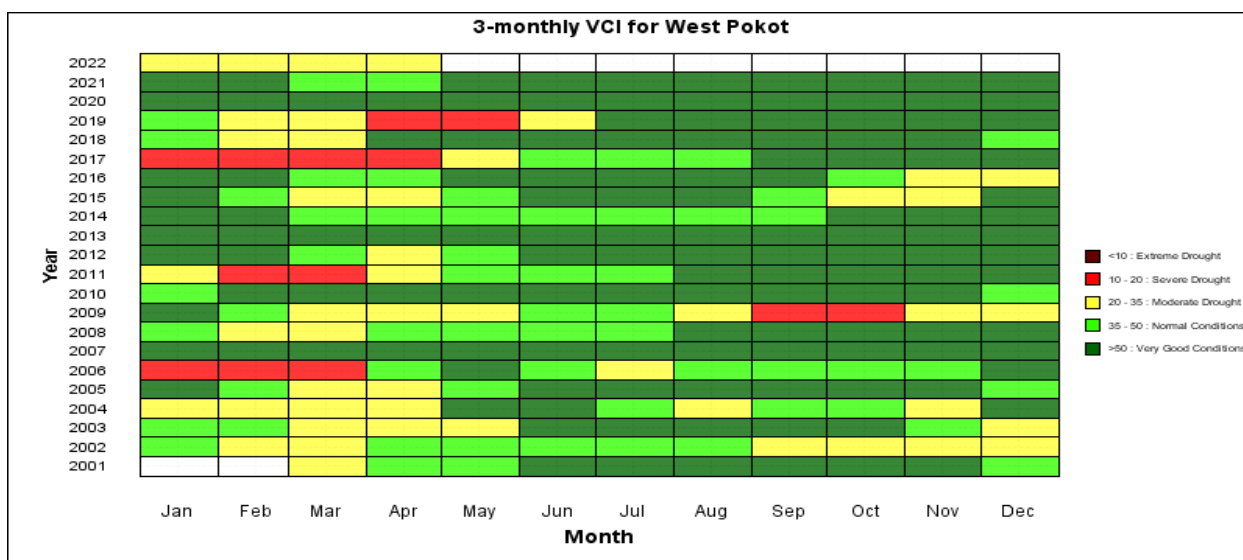
1.3 OTHER EVENTS

- Fewer cases of insecurity flare ups were reported along Chesegon Elgeyo Marakwet and West Pokot Counties border as compared to the insecurity experienced in the past in the area. The situation is attributed to intensified peace building efforts by the County government and peace other actors.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

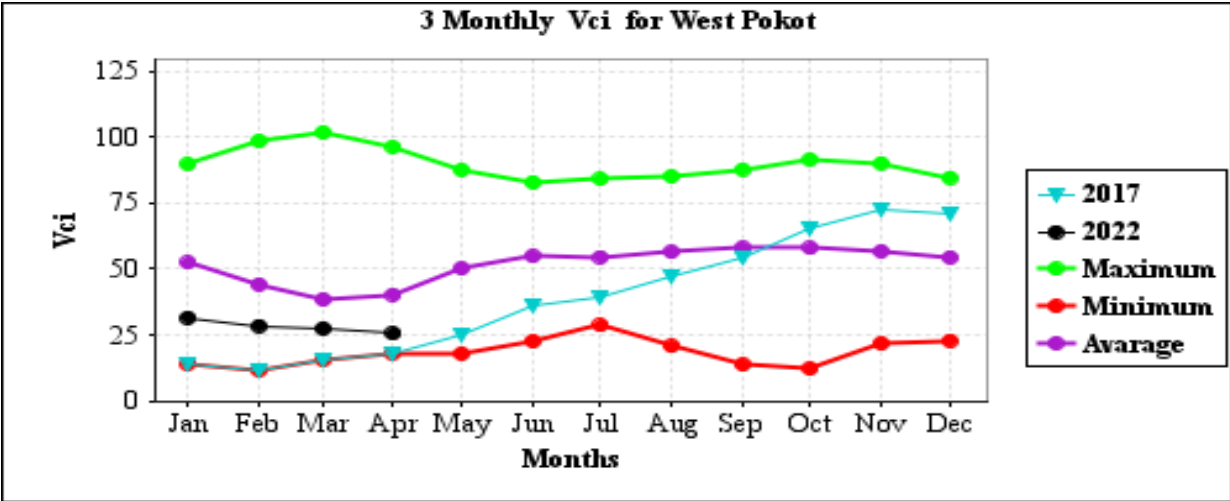
2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)



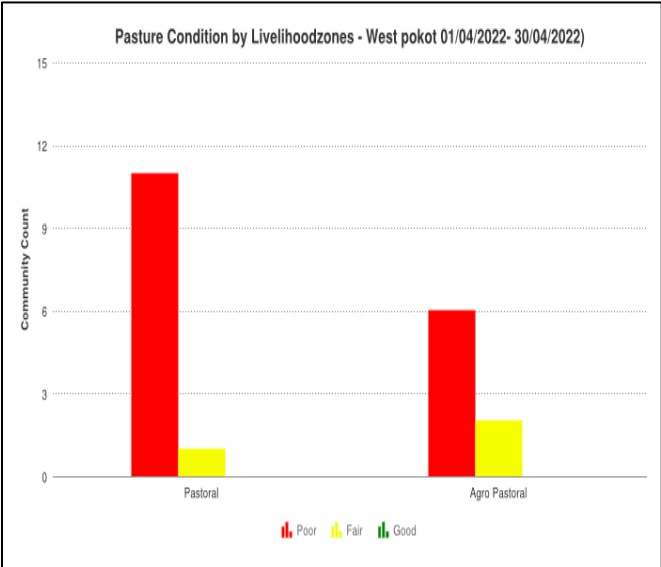
Source: Boku University

- The vegetation greenness index (VCI) across the County depicted moderate drought conditions as shown by a VCI of 26 (VCI-3month).
- Pokot Central Sub-County still recorded severe drought conditions VCI of 16, while both Pokot North and Pokot West sub-Counties recorded moderate drought conditions of 29 whereas Pokot South Sub-County recorded normal conditions of 36. The 3-month VCI showed a declining trend in all livelihood zones due to the inadequate regeneration of vegetation cover attributable to below normal rains during the month.



2.1.2 Pasture

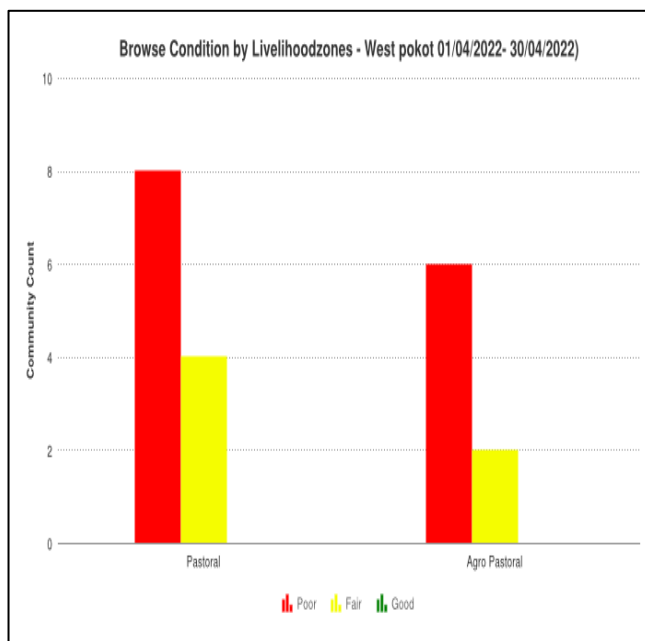
- During the month, the sampled community members' proportion which reported that the pasture was poor was at 92 percent in Pastoral and 75 percent Agro-pastoral livelihood zones. The reported drought hotspot areas were in Masol, Sekker, Weiwei and Lomut wards (Pokot Central Sub-County). The situation was however stable in comparison to that of the previous month due to the moderate rainfall received in April.



- The quality and quantity remained poor in both livelihood zones during the month

2.1.3 Browse

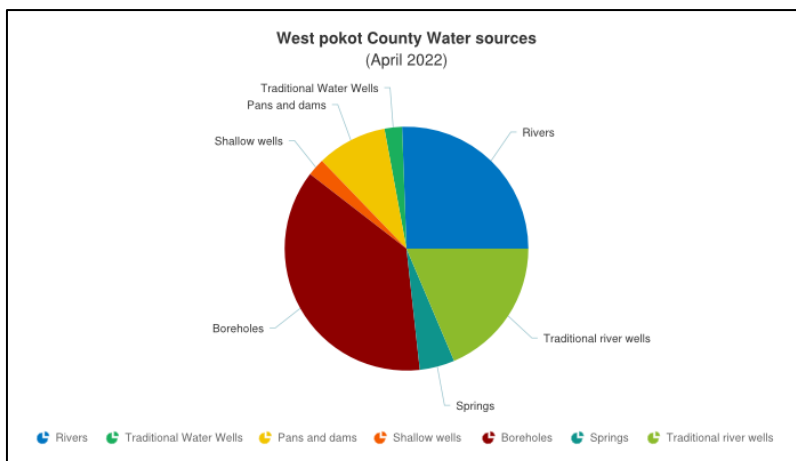
- In April, the sampled community members' proportion which reported that browse condition was poor was 67 percent in Pastoral zones and 75 percent in Agro-pastoral zones.
- The browse condition was generally poor in all livelihood zones and was below normal for such period of the year. The quality and quantity of the browse condition was improving as compared to that of the previous month owing to moderate rains in April.
- There was variation in browse condition between the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones attributed to better precipitation especially in the highland areas.



2.2 WATER RESOURCE

2.2.1 Sources

- The main sources of water were boreholes, rivers, traditional river wells, pans & dams and springs, which were relied upon by 38, 26, 19, 10 and 5 percent of the sampled communities respectively.
- The recharge of all water sources was fair, a situation attributed to moderate rainfall performance in April.

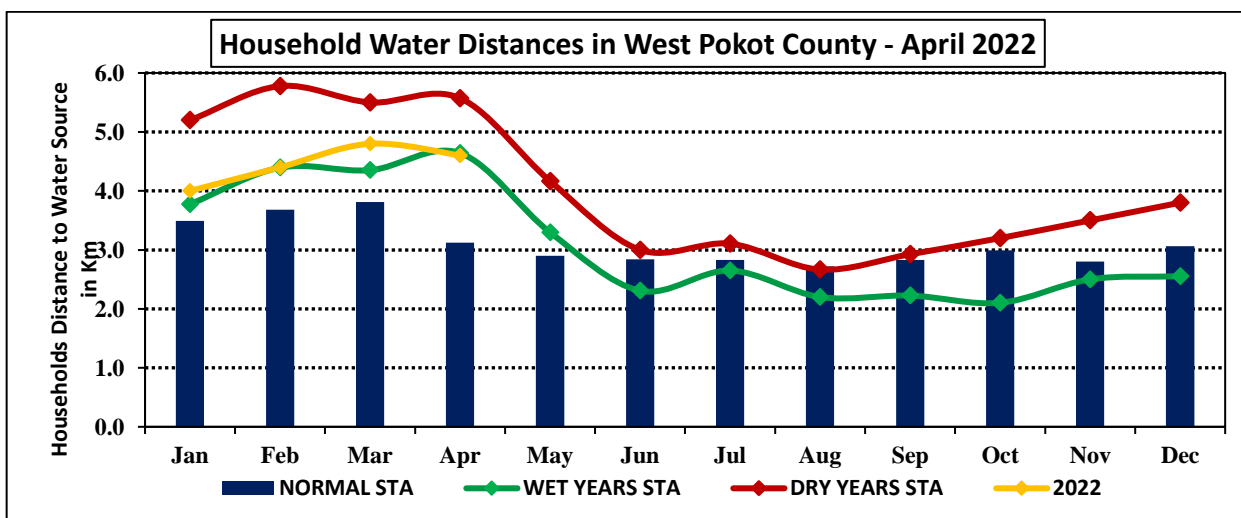


- The current main water sources in use were normal for such time of the year, although some bore holes were not functioning and a number of pans and dams dried up. The ongoing rains are expected to ease the challenge of water scarcity in the Pastoral areas.

- Boreholes that are broken down include; Chepkopegh, Pserum, Chesra Kapsimatia and Prikwo, primary boreholes in Pokot South Sub-county., Koitukum, Chemuma, Kitelakapel center, Lokna, Chemakeu, Poole primary, Kongelai center and Akiriamet boreholes in Pokot West Sub county. Kases, Kitelarengan, Lokii, Nakuyen, Lopushonokou, Katilisha, Menjo, Ngotut, Konyao arid zone primary, Lokasur, Kopeon and Kois boreholes in Pokot North Sub-county. Pokot central Sub-county boreholes include Marich, Chepkolol, Runo primary, Kalas, Kamanau, Cheporomwagh and Chirkil boreholes.

2.2.2 Household Access and Utilization

- During the month, the average return distance to water source from the household was 4.6 km, portraying a drop from 4.8 km reported in March. The current distance was however 48 percent above the Short Term Average (STA).
- The Pastoral zones of Pokot North and Pokot Central Sub-Counties reported longer trekking distances to water sources of 5.4 km compared to 4.1 km in the Agro-pastoral livelihood zones. The decrease in trekking distances was linked to the fair recharge of water sources during the month as the rains persisted.

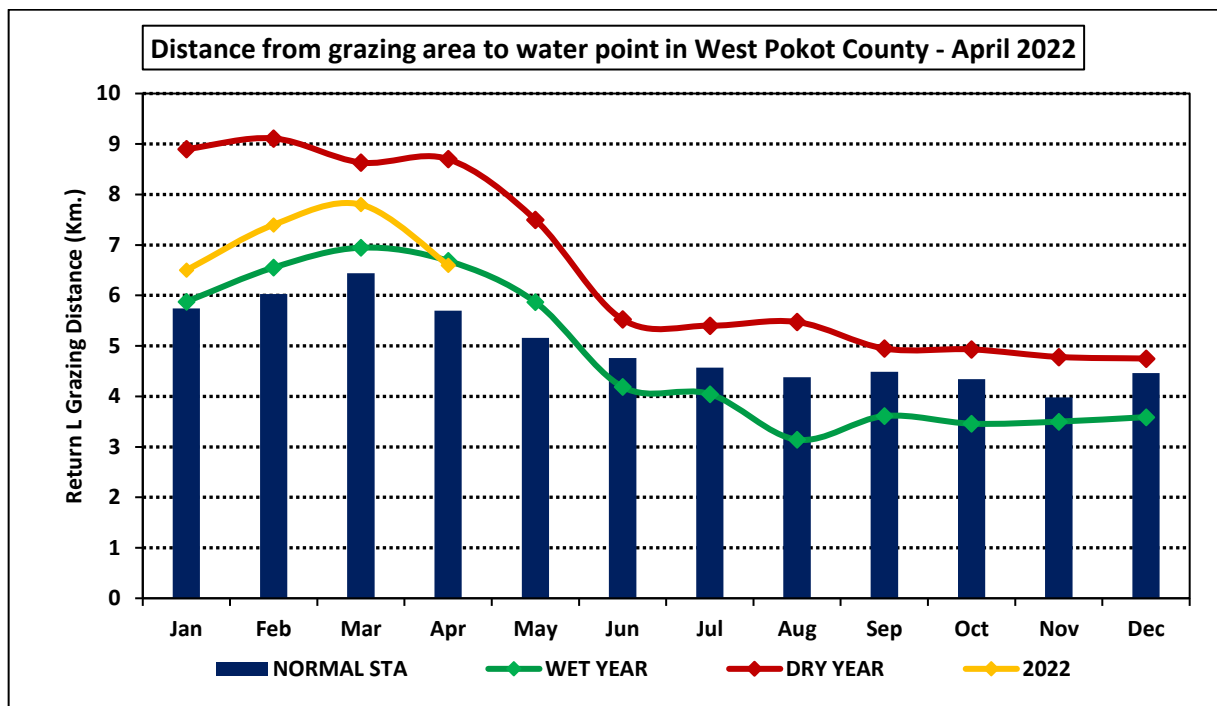


- The average waiting time at the water source was still longer in Pastoral zones at around 45 minutes as compared 30 minutes normally. In the Agro-pastoral livelihood zones the waiting time was still about 30 minutes as compared to that of less than 20 minutes at such time of the year. The duration is above normal for a similar period of the year.
- The household water consumption per person per day was at 8-10 litres in the Pastoral zones while consumption in the Agro-pastoral zones was 10-12 litres. The situation is generally below

normal, where the consumption is normally at 9-12 and 11-13 litres for the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral areas respectively. The water cost at the source is however free in the rural areas.

2.2.3 Livestock Access

- The average return livestock trekking distance from grazing areas to water sources decreased to 6.6 km from 7.8 km recorded in the previous month. The current trekking distance is 16 percent above the LTA.
- The Pastoral livelihood zones recorded longer trekking distance from grazing areas to water source of 7.0 km as compared to 6.0 km covered in Agro-pastoral livelihood zones.



- The downward trend in livestock trekking distance to water points is attributed to fair surface water recharge at water points for livestock across the county.
- The livestock watering frequency was at 6-7 times in a week for both cattle and shoats and 4-6 times in a week for camel, as compared to a normal situation where the former are watered daily while camels are watered 5-6 times in a week.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

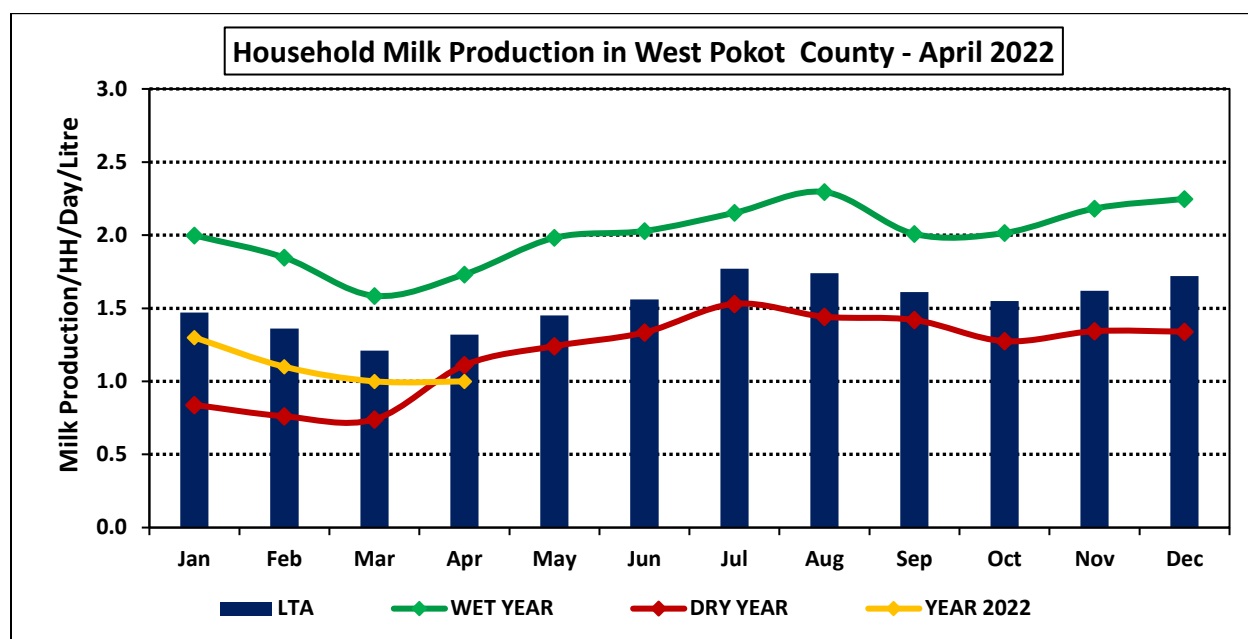
- In April, the livestock body condition was poor for cattle and sheep while goats and camels maintained a fair to poor body condition across livelihood zones. The condition is on a stable trend as compared to that recorded in March owing to moderate rains received.
- With the ongoing rains, the body condition is expected to continue improving across all livelihood zones for all livestock species.
- The livestock body condition is below normal for cattle and sheep while goats and camels are at normal as compared to the same period of the year.
- There was therefore a significant variation in livestock body condition between the grazers and browsers livestock species.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Cases of Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP) were reported in Pokot Central and Pokot North Sub-Counties.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- The County recorded an average milk production of 1.0 litre per household per day, the same as that reported in March.
- Cattle and camels were the main livestock species producing milk in the households in all the livelihood zones in the County. The current average household milk production is 23 percent below the LTA.
- The household stable trend in milk production is attributed to substantial regeneration of forage in the traditional livestock grazing areas along with water recharge following moderate rains.



3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

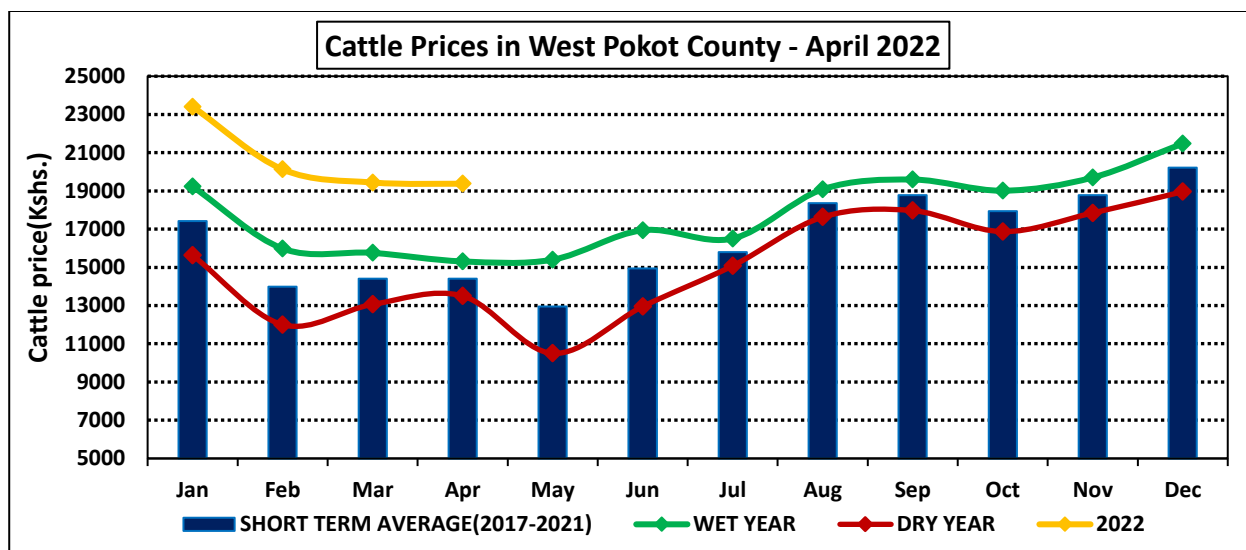
- During the month, most crop farms were at planting stage especially in Agro-pastoral and Mixed Farming livelihood zones.
- Onion crop is being harvested along the horticultural production zones while at land preparation stage in the highland zones in Lomut and Batei wards.
- The supply of horticultural products to major markets in Ortum, Wakkor and Lomut has been affected owing to previous persistent dry conditions. The mango and paw paws are usually supplied to Lomut, Ortum, Sigor and external markets for distribution to other centres within and outside the County.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

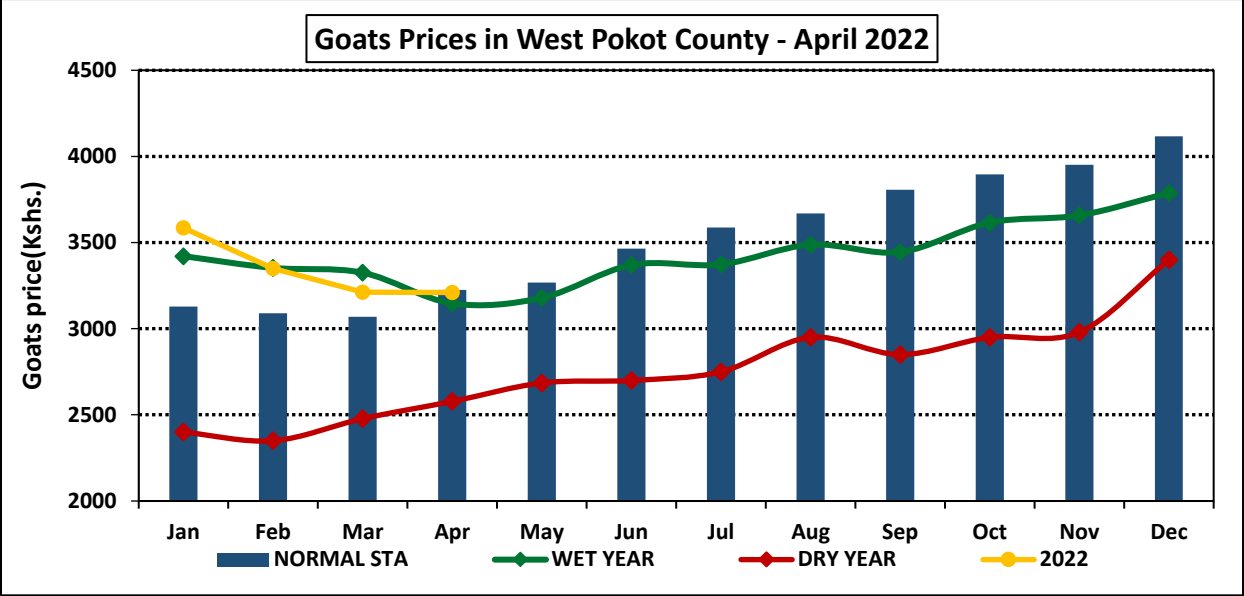
4.1.1 Cattle prices

- The medium sized 4-year bull was sold at an average price of Kshs 19,375, which depicted a price stability as compared to the price of Kshs 19,438 recorded in the previous month. The current price is 35 percent above the STA value.
- The lowest cattle price of Kshs 10,500 was recorded in Lomut market in Pokot Central Sub-county and Kshs 25,000 in Chepareria market in Pokot South Sub-county. The body condition for cattle in Chepareria was better than in Lomut, thus the price variation.



4.1.2 Goat Prices

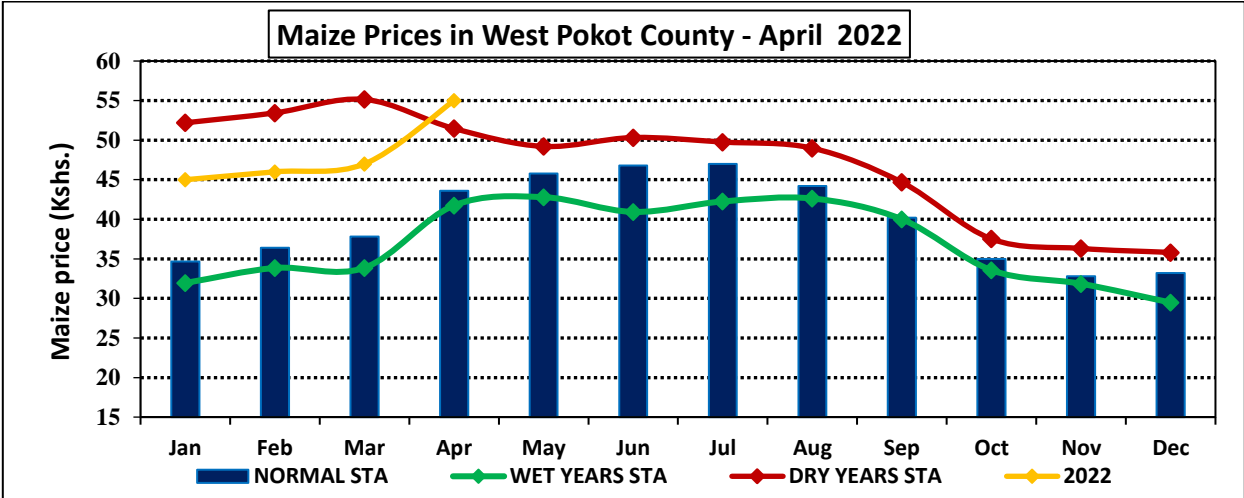
- In April, the County reported an average price of Kshs 3,210 for a 2-year-old medium size goat, whereby if compared with Kshs 3,213 reported in March, the price showed stability.
- The highest average goat price was at Kshs 4, 125 in Chepareria market in the Agro-pastoral livelihood zones that had fair browse conditions, while Pastoral zones of Masol recorded as low as Kshs 1,800 in Lomut market due to poor forage resources resulting to poor body condition goats that fetched lower prices.
- The stability in trend is attributed to the general slight improvement in livestock body condition among the livelihood zones in the county.



4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

- In April, a kilo of maize was sold at Ksh 55, which was an increase from ksh 48 that was reported in the March. The price was 25 percent above the STA price.

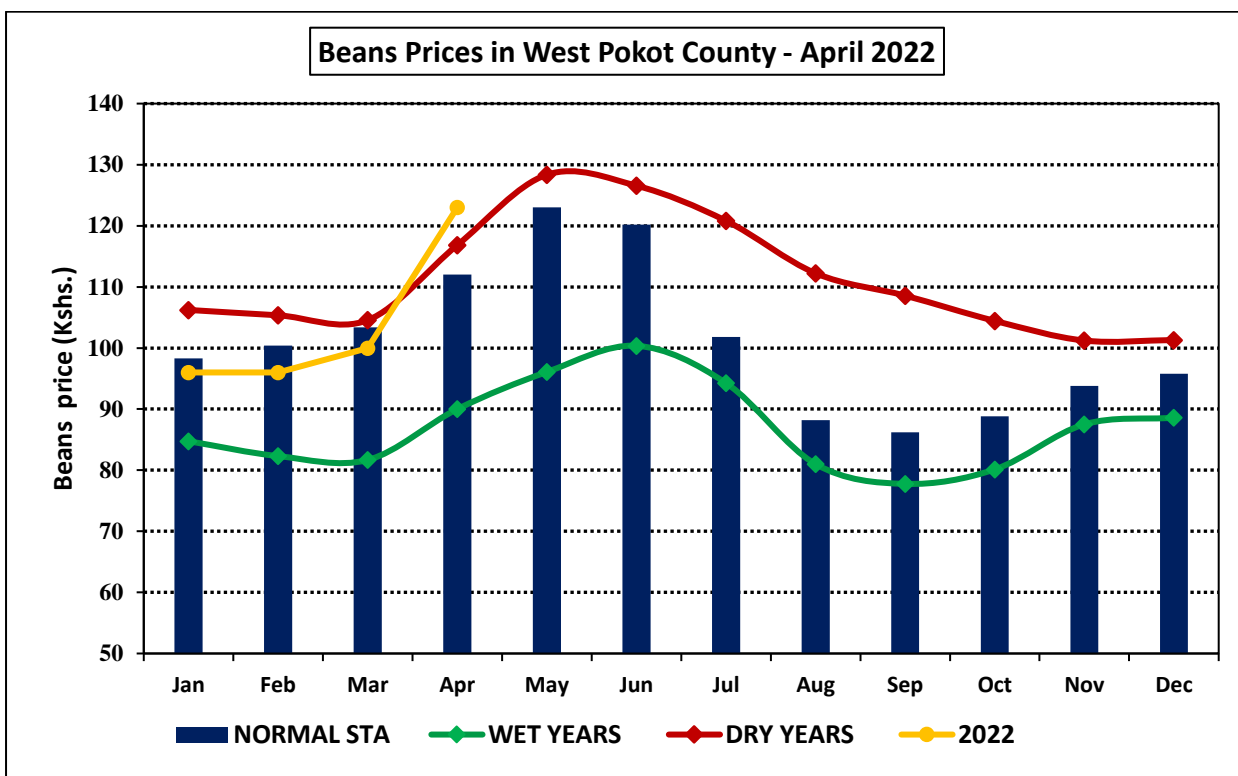


- The Pastoral livelihood zones recorded a high price of Kshs 60 with the Agro-pastoral zones recording a low price of Kshs 45 owing to a scarcity in maize supply from Uganda in the Pastoral areas of Pokot North Sub-County.
- The general increase in price is linked with erratic maize supply from external sources of Trans-Nzoia. The current local supplies were still in Chepareria, Sigor and Makutano areas in Pokot South, Pokot Central and Pokot West Sub-counties respectively.

- Market purchase is the main source for the maize requirements in most of households. Maize price is likely to shoot further owing to unavailability local maize stocks in the markets.

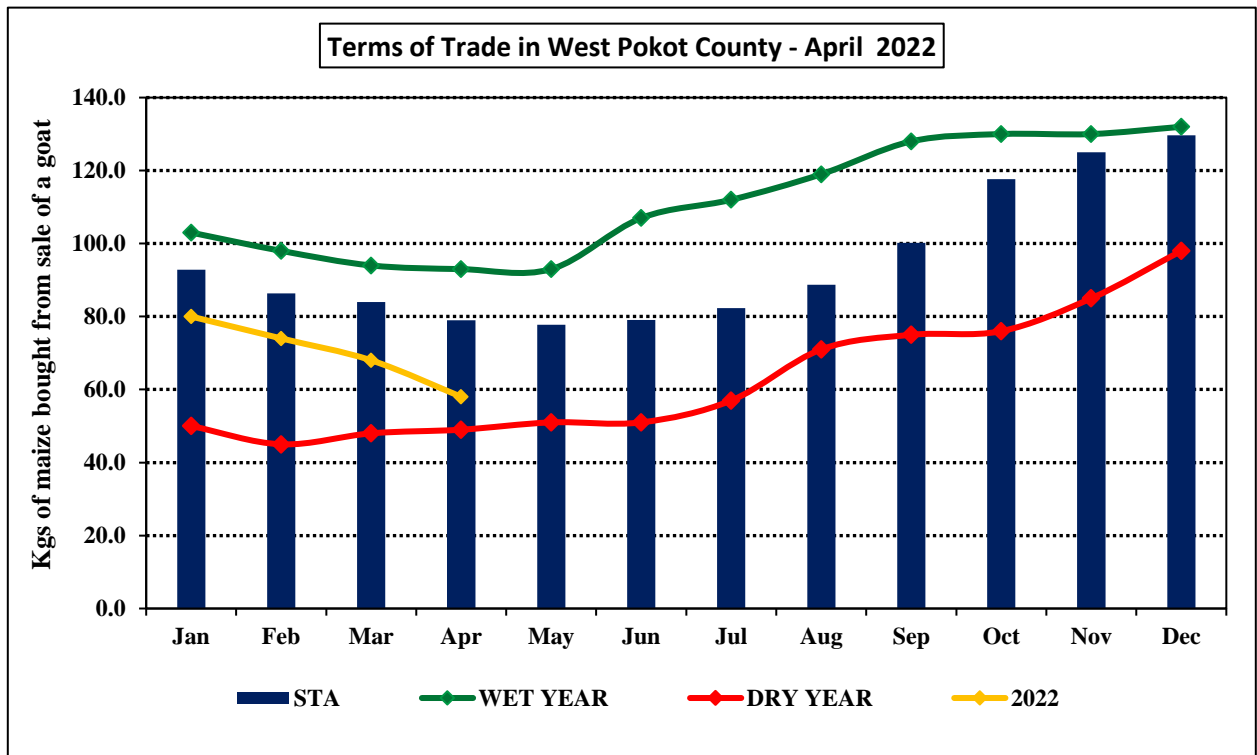
4.2.2 Beans

- In the month under review, the beans was at Kshs 123 per kg, up from Kshs 100 recorded in the previous month. Konyao market in the Pastoral livelihood zones recorded lower prices of Kshs. 100 while that of Chepareria market recorded Kshs 127 in the Agro-pastoral zones of the County. As usual, Konyao market in Pokot North Sub-county was supplied with relatively cheaper beans from the neighbouring republic of Uganda sources that caused the lower beans prices as compared to other markets in the County.
- The price increase is due to irregular supply from local sources in Agro-pastoral zones along with unstable supplies from Uganda.
- The current price of beans was at 10 percent above the STA price.



4.3 LIVESTOCK PRICE RATIO/ TERMS OF TRADE (TOT)

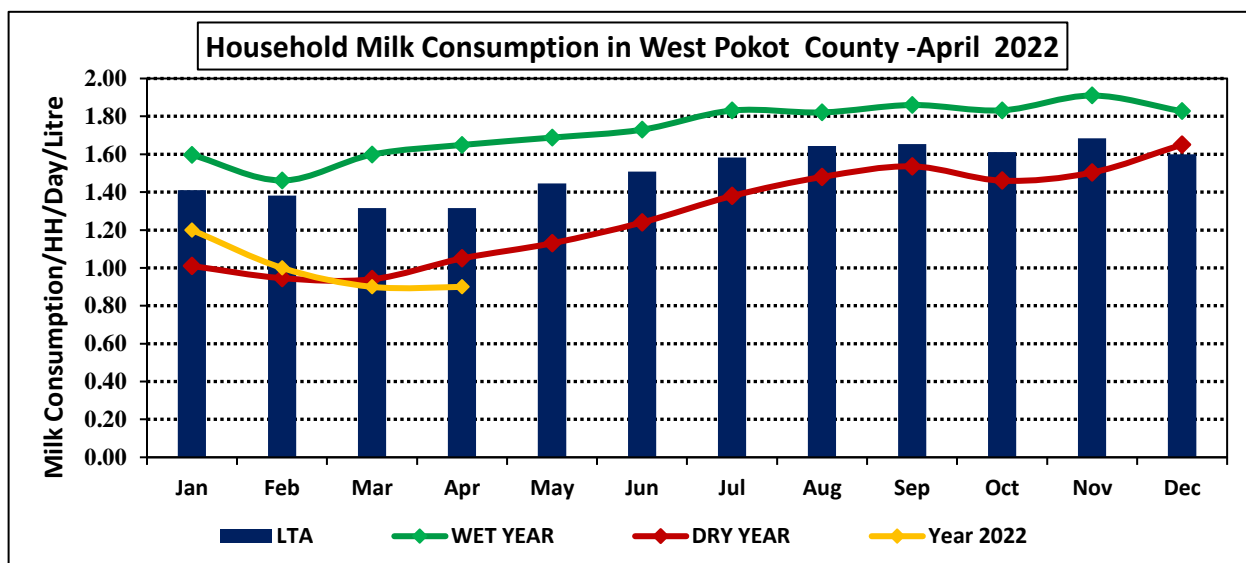
- The Terms of Trade (TOT) was at 58 in April, a drop from 68 recorded in March; depicting that households obtained less amount of maize during the month for sale of a goat than in the previous month .
- The declining trend in ToT is linked to increasing maize prices in the market coupled with stable goat prices. The TOT is 27 percent below the STA of the month.
- The downward trend for TOT is projected for the next three months as the maize price is likely to continue increasing over the period.



5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

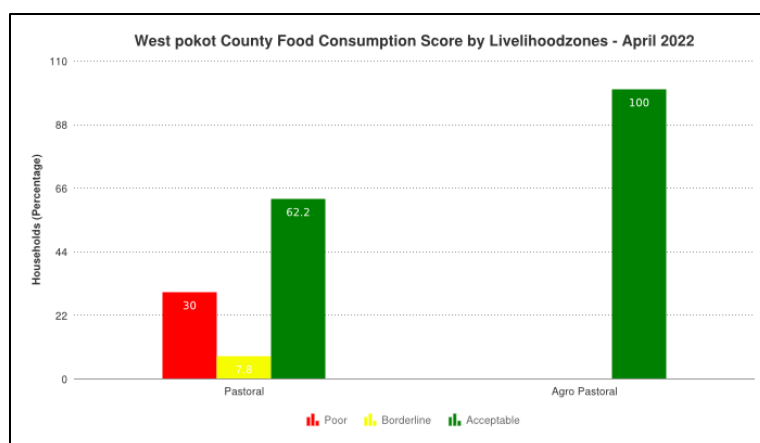
- The average household milk consumption remained at 0.9 litres across the livelihood zones, same as that reported in March and below the LTA by 31 percent.



- The stability in milk consumption is attributed to the fair milk access at the household level. Milk availability remained low in April.

5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

- The Food Consumption Score (FCS), an indicator of household food security showed proportions of 77, 18 and 5 percent categorized under Acceptable, Borderline and Poor categories respectively, where Acceptable indicates better food security while Borderline characterizes medium and poor

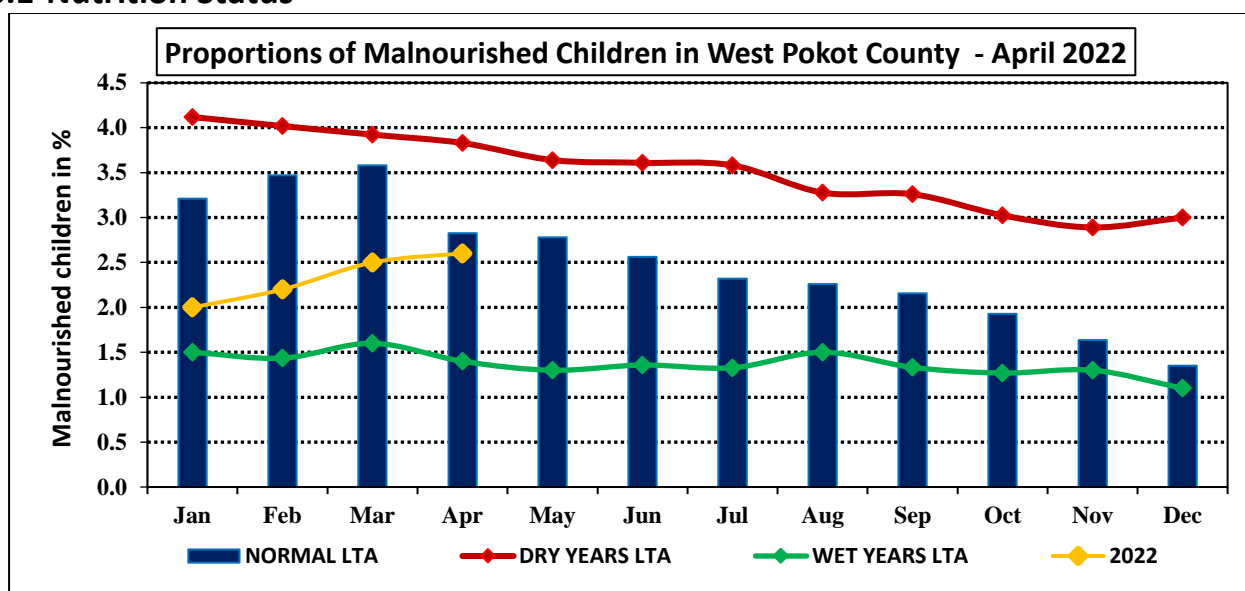


depicts food insecurity. The score decreased for Acceptable and increased for Borderline categories while the Poor category remained stable, all of which as compared to the previous month. It shows that there were some households that degenerated from acceptable to borderline category, a show of a worsening situation. The FCS is generally acceptable during the month.

- The mean FCS for the two livelihood zones remained at 47; same as that reported in March, indicating no change in food consumption at household level.
- The Agro-pastoral livelihood zones recorded a higher mean FCS of 53 than that of 41 in Pastoral zones.
- There was significant variation between the two livelihood zones with for instance 100 percent of households in the Agro-pastoral zone being categorized as having acceptable FCS compared to 62 percent households under the same category in the Pastoral livelihood zone. More food sources diversity in Agro-pastoral livelihood zones as compared to Pastoral livelihoods owing to better local harvest stocks in Agro-pastoral areas explains the variation.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status



- In the month under review, the proportion of children under the age of five years who were malnourished, as recorded through the Mid Upper Arm Circumference colour codes (MUAC) was at 2.5 percent (moderate acute-1.7 percent and severe acute-0.8 percent malnutrition). The condition slightly deteriorated in April.
- When compared to the LTA of 2.8 percent, the proportion of children that were severely and moderately malnourished is below the normal range and dry years, a situation attributed to previous MUAC improvement earlier when food security was better at the household level.

5.3.1 Health

- Waterborne disease incidences including diarrhoea were reported as a common ailment among the sampled households across the livelihood zones.

5.4 COPING STRATEGY

5.4.1 Coping Strategy Index (CSI)

- During the month, the CSI recorded was 1.7 same as the one reported in the previous month. The stability in CSI indicates that the households are employing similar strategies to cope with the food shortages during the month of April as compared to that of March.
- The Pastoral zones reported a CSI of 1.9 while Agro-pastoral livelihood zones recorded 1.5
- The commonly employed consumption coping strategies by the affected households is through reliance on less preferred/less expensive foods.

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 NON-FOOD

- Water trucking was carried out in Pokot North and Pokot Central by water services agency and County government.

6.2 FOOD

- Maize, Beans, maize flour and cooking oil were provided to households in severe need of food assistance in Pokot North and Pokot Central Sub-Counties by PACIDA, where a total of 7,600 households benefited.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 INSECURITY/CONFLICT/HUMAN DISPLACEMENT

- Few flare ups were reported along the conflict hotspots of Elgeyo Marakwet/West pokot and along Turkana borders.

7.2 MIGRATION

- Livestock from Pokot Central; Masol and Lomut migrated deeper into Turkana South hills to access pasture whereas livestock from Pokot North migrated to Uganda in search of pasture.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- Meteorology department forecasts near normal long rains seasonal rainfall performance in the highlands while lowlands will receive below to near normal rainfall. As such, water and forage conditions in Pastoral livelihood zones are expected to perform well over the period despite the late onset.
- Livestock market prices are likely to improve further due to ongoing long rains. The Terms of trade are expected to improve further.
- Forage condition is likely to improve the livestock body condition thus likely to boost livestock production.
- The depletion of food stocks at household level in the maize growing areas in Agro-pastoral and Mixed Farming zones is expected to affect food security at household level.
- Incidences of the severe malnutrition are likely to reduce over the period, owing to the expected improved milk accessibility for most households.

8.0 RECOMMENDED INTERVENTIONS

1. WATER SECTOR

- Provide water treatment chemicals to communities who use open water sources as their main source of water.

2. LIVESTOCK SECTOR

- Support livestock disease surveillance and deworming in wards with reported disease incidences and likely outbreaks.

3. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

- Timely develop and disseminate seasonal participatory scenario advisories to the communities for early action and planning.

4. PEACE AND SECURITY

- Sustain peace building initiatives at border hotspots to cultivate lasting reconciliation and cohesion between communities of Elgeyo Marakwet-West Pokot-Turkana Counties borders.