

National Drought Management Authority
WEST POKOT COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR OCTOBER 2018



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



OCTOBER EW PHASE

Drought Status: **NORMAL**



Shughuli za kawaida

Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification

LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TREND
AGRO PASTORAL	NORMAL	STABLE
PASTORAL	NORMAL	STABLE
COUNTY	NORMAL	STABLE

Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal range
VCI-3month (County)	56	>35
VCI-3month (Pokot North)	50	>35
Forage Condition	Good	Good

Production Indicators	Value	Normal range
Livestock Body Condition	Normal	Normal
Milk Production	1.9 Litres	>1.4 Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Usual	Normal
Livestock deaths (attributed to drought)	No deaths	Nodeaths

Access Indicators	Value	Normal range
Terms of Trade (ToT)	148	>76
Milk Consumption	1.7 Litres	>1.4 Litres
Return distance to water sources (household)	2.4 km	0.0-2.6km
Cost of water at source (Ksh. /20 litres)	Kshs 5	<Kshs 5

Utilization Indicators	Value	Normal range
Nutrition status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	4.3	0.0-9.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	2.2	0.0-14.5
Food Consumption Score	46	>35

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- The County received moderate rainfall with enhanced intensity across the livelihood zones in the first and second dekads of the month. The temporal and spatial distribution was fair. The rainfall performance is generally normal with a timely onset.
- The vegetation condition is normal, with a downward trend across most parts as indicated by the drop in the Vegetation Condition Index. All Sub-counties recorded above normal vegetation greenness. Forage condition remained fair.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

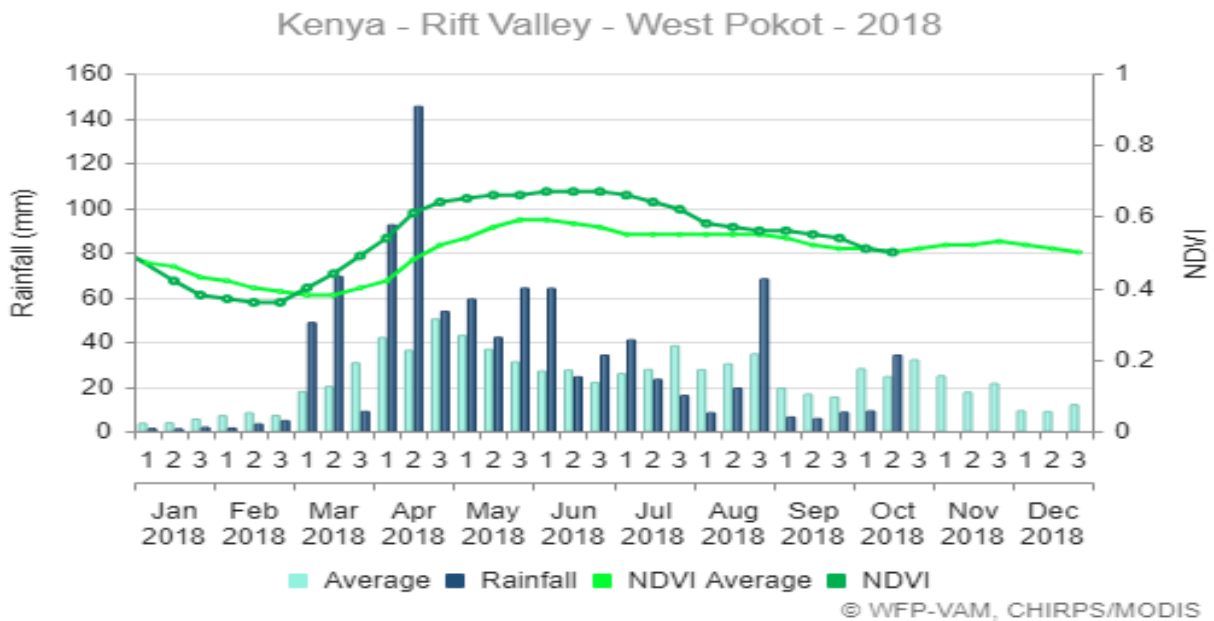
- Across the County, the livestock body condition is good with a stable trend. Distance to water sources remained stable.
- The Terms of Trade were favourable, with milk production and consumption at household level being stable.
- Most households fell within the Acceptable Food Consumption Score, whereby the Coping Strategy Index decreased within the month.
- Nutrition improved, as the proportion of children 'at risk' of malnutrition remained stable and within the normal range.

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

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- The County received substantial rainfall in October, with increased intensity in comparison to the previous month as seen in both first and second dekads. The onset of October-November-December (OND) season rains was timely.
- The rainfall situation is normal for such time of the year.



Source: VAM-World Food Programme

- During October, the dekadal rainfall increased from 6.2 mm to 8.9 mm and 5.5 mm to 33.9 mm in the first and second dekads respectively. The amount in the first dekad was however below normal while that of the second dekad was above normal.
- The NDVI values were at par with the historical NDVI values; attributed to substantial rains in the County. The NDVI trend is stable coupled with the increasing rainfall intensity.

1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- The spatial and temporal rainfall distribution was poor in lowlands but fair in highland areas owing to improved precipitation in the latter. More rainfall was recorded in the highlands, with higher intensity than in the lowlands.
- During the month, the County remained fairly wet.

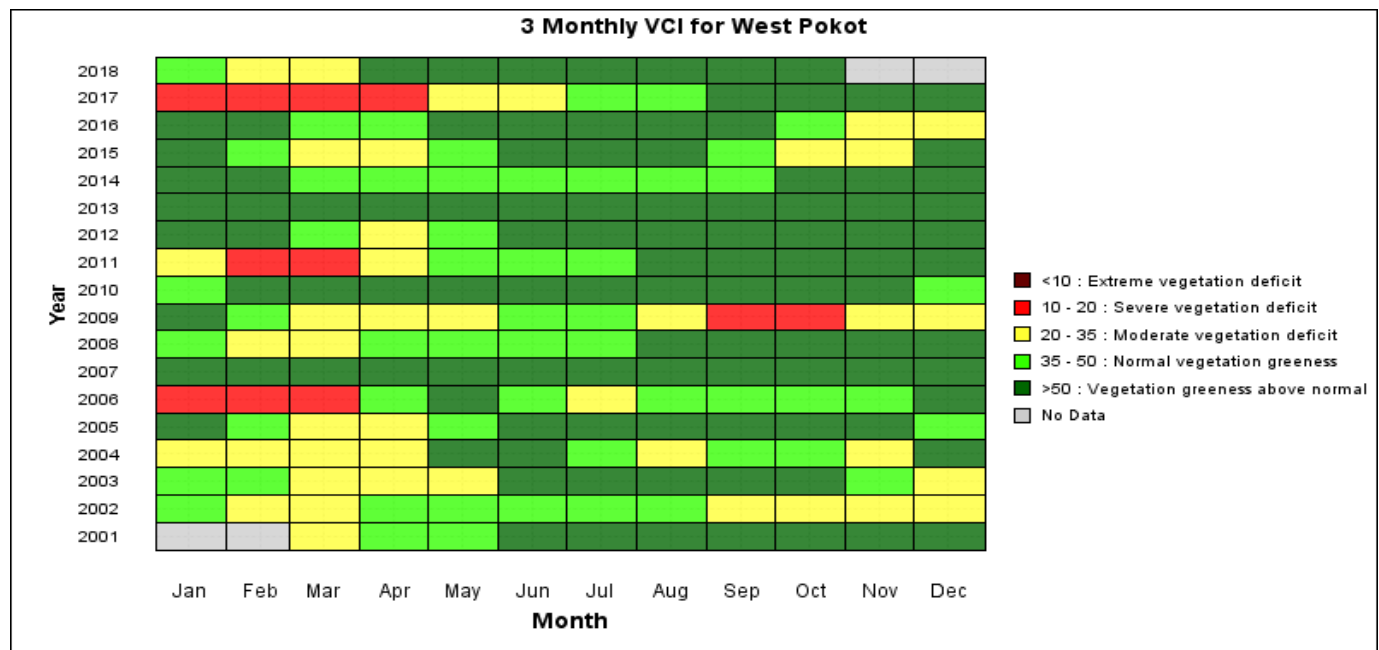
1.3 OTHER EVENTS

- No notable events such as floods, land/mud slides, lightning strikes and hailstorms occurred in October.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)



Source: Boku University

- The VCI (VCI-3month) which depicts the vegetation status of the County is 56 during the month, indicating a decrease from 65 recorded in the previous month. Despite the drop, the current VCI remains above normal (35) vegetation greenness condition.
- The VCI trend is downward across the County. Nevertheless, all sub-counties recorded above normal vegetation greenness band. The decrease is from 63 to 50, 68 to 59, 69 to 59 and 64 to 61 in Pokot North, Pokot West, Pokot South and Pokot Central Sub-counties respectively. The declining trend in the VCI is attributed to minimal regeneration of vegetation cover due to erratic rainfall experienced during the previous month.

2.1.2 Pasture

- The proportion of sampled community which reported that the pasture was fair is 70 percent, an increase from 30 percent recorded in September.
- The pasture condition is fair across livelihood zones. The communities reported that the condition was normal for the month. The trend is stable when compared to the previous month owing to enhanced rainfall during the month under review.
- The pasture situation is anticipated to remain stable with the onset of the OND rains season.
- There is no significant variation in terms of pasture quality and quantity in both livelihood zones.

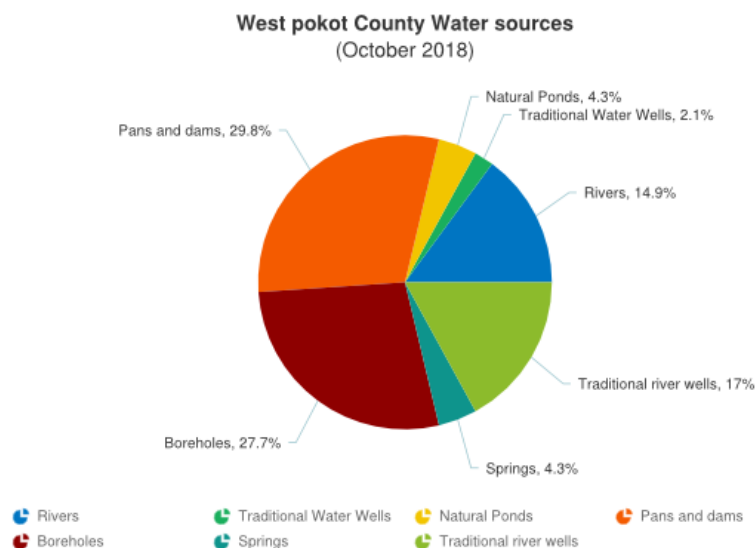
2.1.3 Browse

- During the month, the proportion of the sampled community which stated that the browse condition was good was 60 percent, a decrease from 85 percent recorded in the previous month.
- The browse condition is still good across livelihood zones. The browse situation is normal in comparison to the situation for such period of the year. The quality of the browse condition is good in relation to that of the previous month and is due to significant rainfall amounts received during the month.
- Access to browse is still constrained along the Pokot-Marakwet/Turkana borders by fears of insecurity along conflict hotspots.
- The quality and quantity of browse is good across livelihood zones and there was no significant variation between the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones.

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

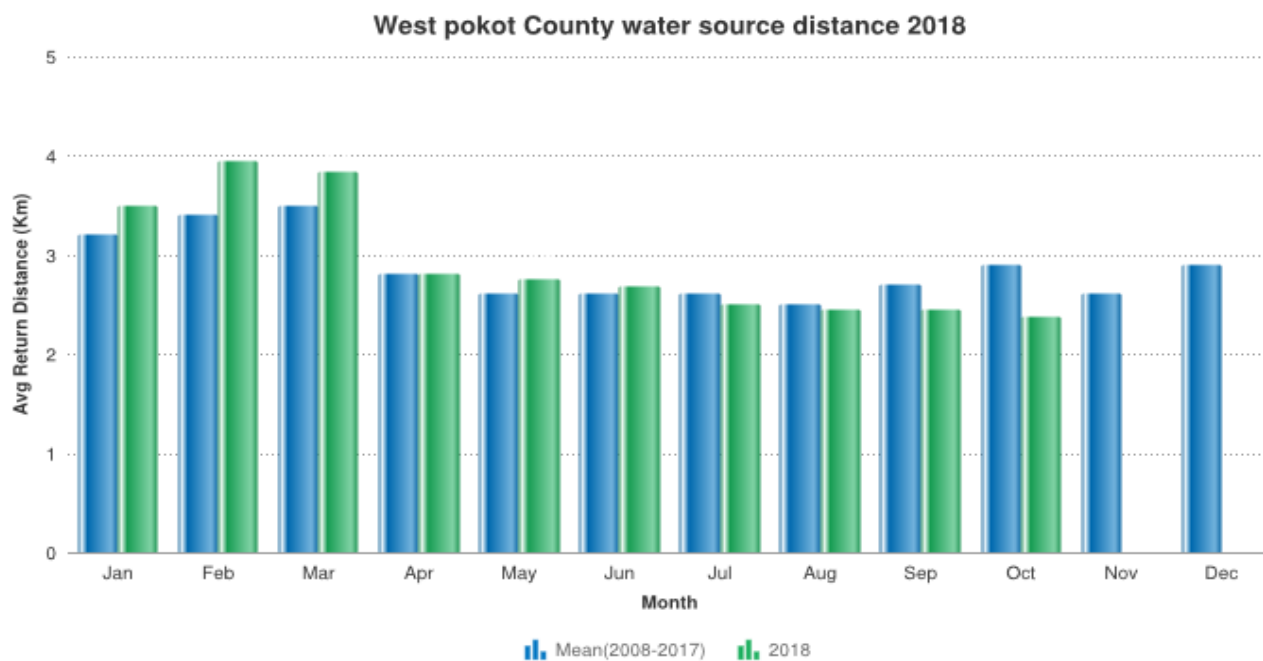
2.2.1 Sources

- During the month, the proportion of sampled population using main water sources for both households and livestock is 29.8 for pan dams, 27.7 for boreholes, 17 for traditional river wells and 14.9 for rivers. Other water sources in use include wells and springs both at 4.3 percent.
- The water recharge levels increased compared to the previous month, attributed to significant rains.
- The water levels for both boreholes and rivers were stable due to improved recharge levels.
- The current main sources in use are the normal sources where households draw water during such time of the year.



2.2.2 Household Access and Utilization

- The return distance to water source from the household is 2.4 km, a decrease from that recorded in September. The current distance is 17 percent below the Long Term Average (LTA) distance.
- The agro-pastoral livelihood zone recorded slightly longer trekking distance to water source in comparison to the pastoral livelihood zone. The pastoral areas have more permanent rivers than agro-pastoral one. The stability in distance is due to the sustained surface water sources during the month.

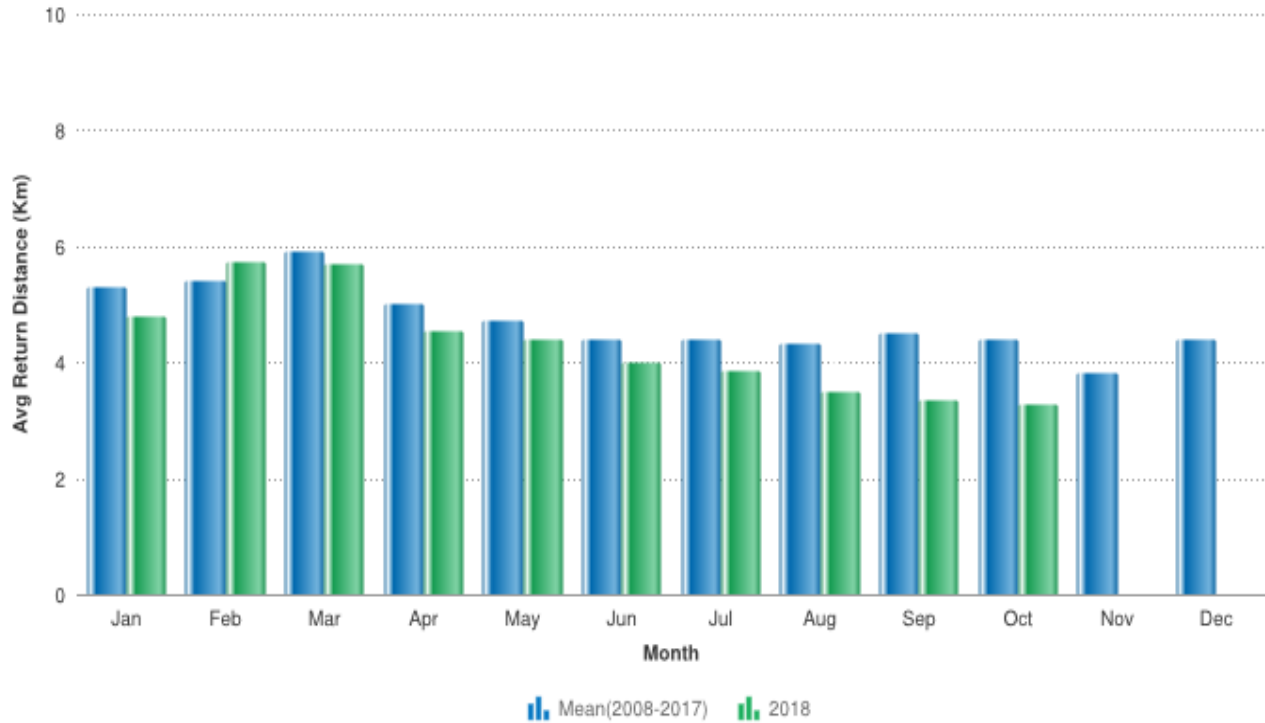


- Both pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones recorded stable waiting time at water source.
- The average household water consumption per person per day is still at 9-13 litres in the pastoral zone while that in the agro-pastoral zone as well remained at 10-15 litres.
- In October, the cost of accessing water at the source remained free in the rural areas unlike in urban centres where a 20 litre Jerrican cost stuck within normal ranges for the period.

2.2.3 Livestock Access

- The livestock return trekking distance from grazing areas to water sources is at 3.3 km in October, representing a slight decrease from 3.4 km recorded in September. In comparison to the normal trekking distance of 4.4 km, the current trekking distance lies below the normal range by 25 percent.
- The trekking time from grazing areas to water sources is still longer in the pastoral livelihood zone than in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone.

West pokot County water source distance from grazing area - 2018



- The tendency to stability in livestock trekking distance to water is generally attributed to significant rainfall received within the month of October that recharged the available water sources.
- Watering frequency in cattle and shoats remained stable at 5-7 times in a week while for camel is 4-5 times in a week.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- During the month, the body condition for all livestock species was good in both pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones.
- The body condition is projected to improve across the livelihood zones, with the ongoing OND rains.
- Body condition is normal for all livestock species in comparison to a similar period during a normal year, and is attributed to of fair forage condition in October. The trend is stable as a result of substantial rains received in the month.
- There was no significant variation in livestock body condition across the two livelihood zones.

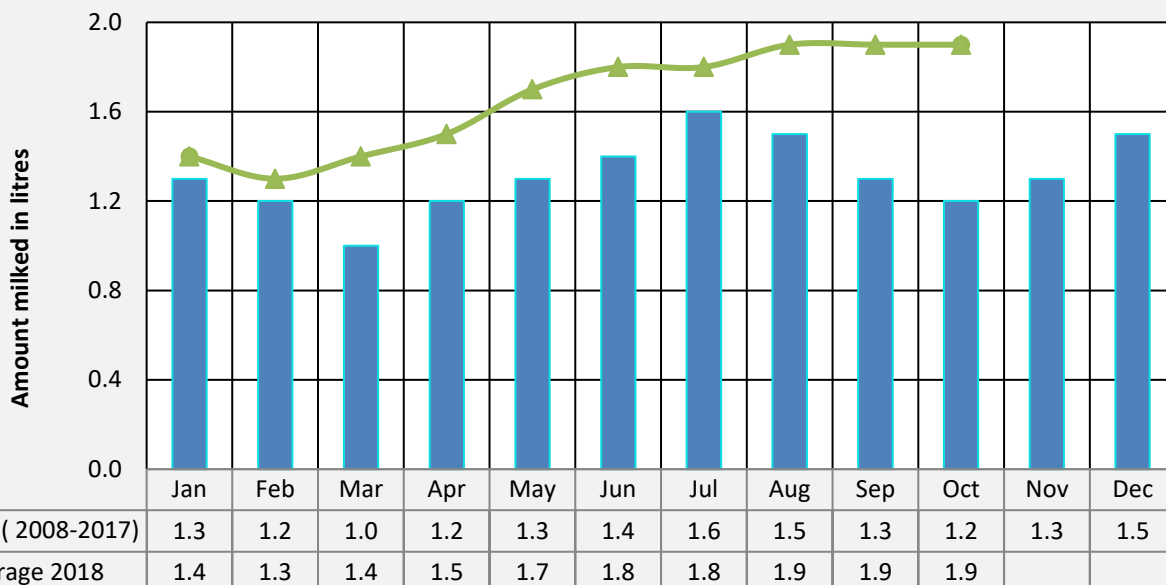
3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Kapchok, Kasei and Kiwawa wards reported PPR disease in goats, whereas CCPP was reported in Pokot Central Sub-County.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- On average, the County recorded 1.9 litres of milk per household per day in October, same as the one recorded in September.
- Comparing the current to the previous month, milk production in the County is still stable, whereby cattle produced most milk than other livestock species.
- The current household milk production is 58 percent above the LTA for the month.
- The household milk production stability is attributed to good forage being accessed in the normal grazing areas.

Milk Production-West Pokot County 2018



3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

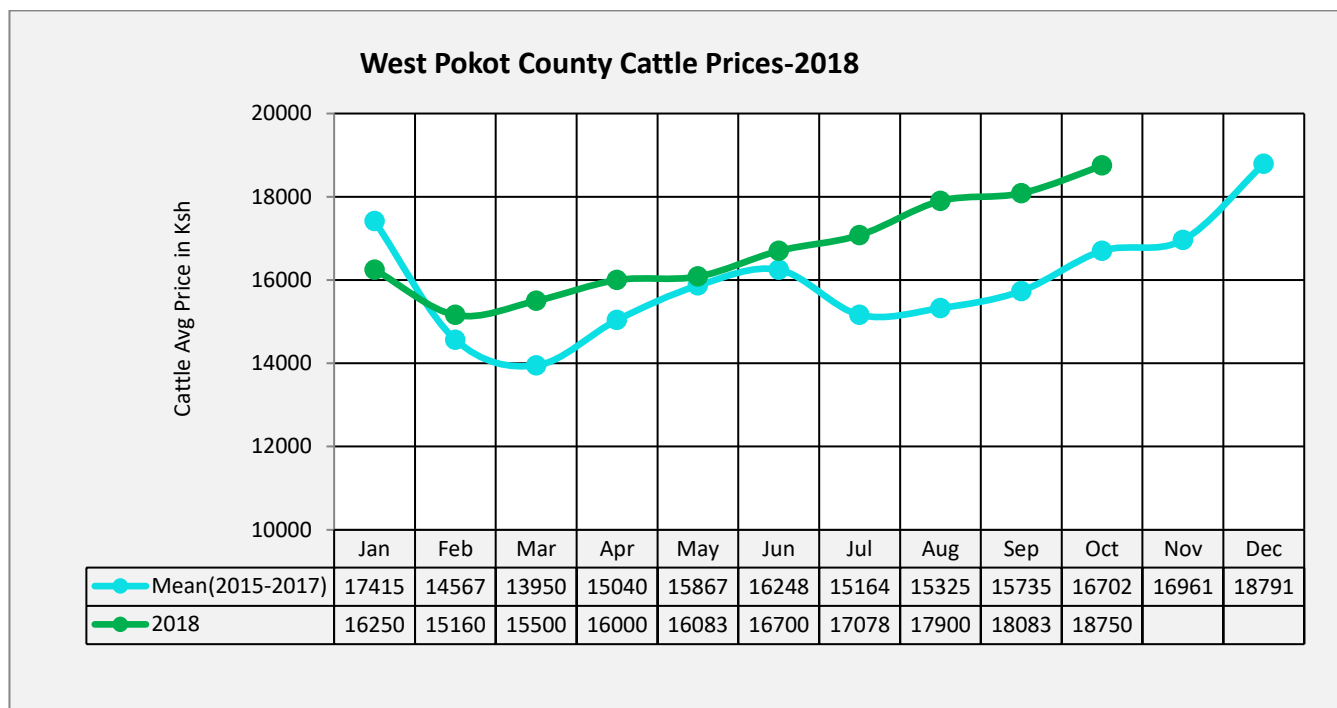
- The main crops grown in the County include maize, beans and bulb onions. Maize crop harvesting is ongoing.
- The production and supply of horticultural crops such as mangoes and onions to major markets including Sigor, Ortum and Lomut is normal as compared to the seasonal performance.
- The harvesting of mangoes in lowlands, with bulb onions in highland that are supplied to Ortum and Sigor markets for distribution to other centres within and outside the County is ongoing.
- Horticultural farming level is fair with significant rains received along the production zones of Tapach, Sebit, Wakorr, Wei Wei, Kabichbich and Lomut.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle prices

- In October, the medium sized 4-year bull was sold at an average price of Kshs 18,750, which represented an increase in price as compared to Kshs 18,083 recorded in the previous month.

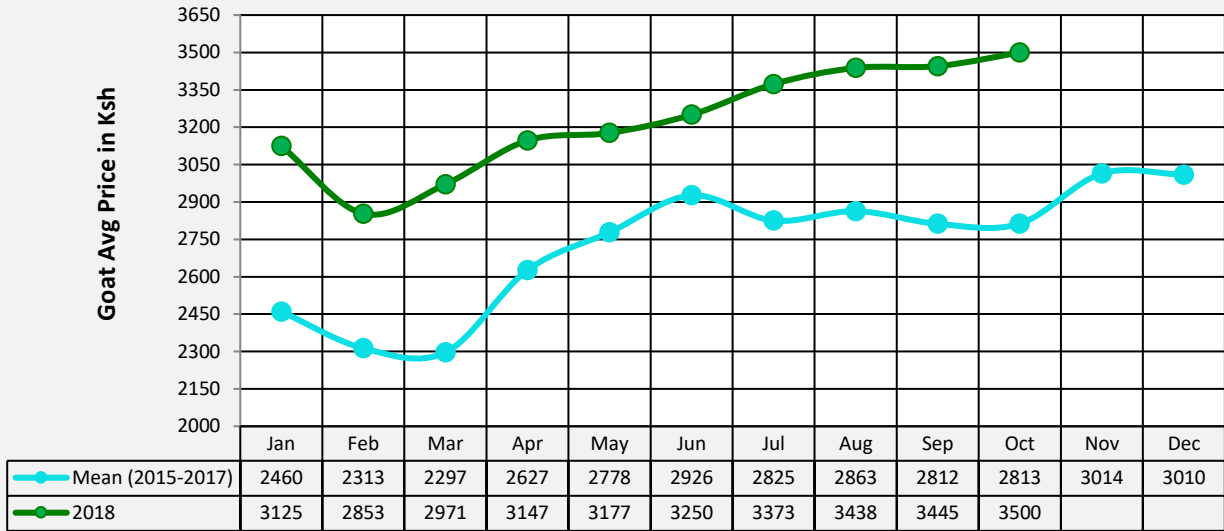


- The prices increase is credited to fair forage condition sustaining cattle in a relatively desirable body condition enabling farmers to fetch fair prices in the market. Moreover, pastoralists still have low tendency to sell their stock, creating low supply of animals at markets, leaving the few supplied going at better prices due to high demand.
- The current cattle price is above the LTA price (Ksh 16,702) for the month by 12 percent.

4.1.2 Goat Prices

- During the month, the County recorded an average price for a 2-year old medium size goat of Kshs 3,500 across the livelihood zones. The goat price remained stable (Kshs 3,445) in comparison to that of the previous month.

West Pokot County Goat Prices-2018



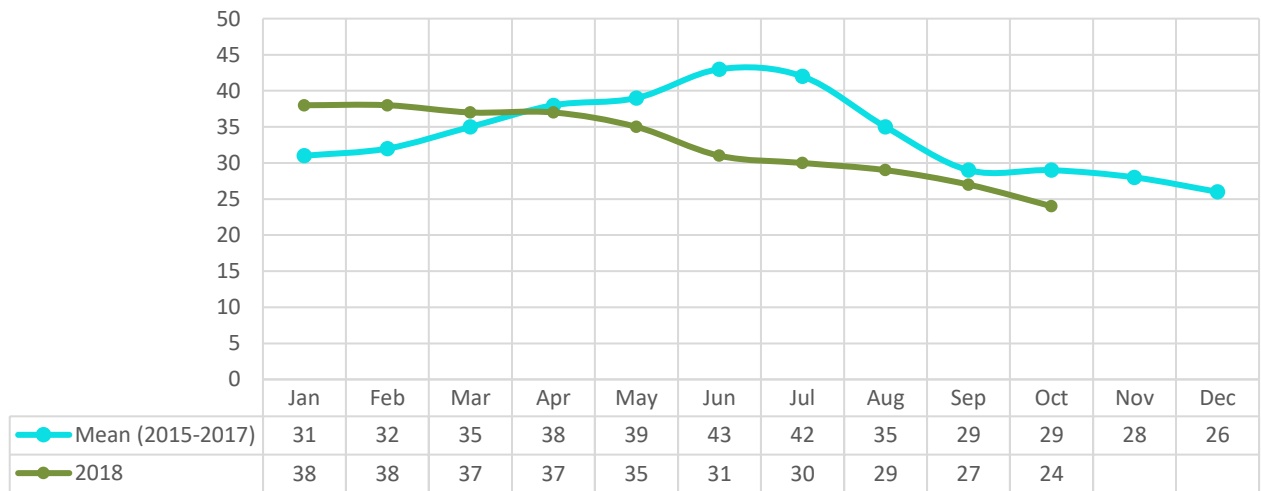
- The price stability is mainly due to fair forage condition in October and fair recharge of water points enhancing good body condition.
- The current price of goat is in addition 24 percent above the LTA price for the month.

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

- In October, maize was sold at Kshs 24 per Kg, having decreased, as compared to that recorded in the previous month (Kshs 27).
- The current price is however 17 percent below the LTA price (Ksh29) for the month under review.

West Pokot County Maize Prices 2018

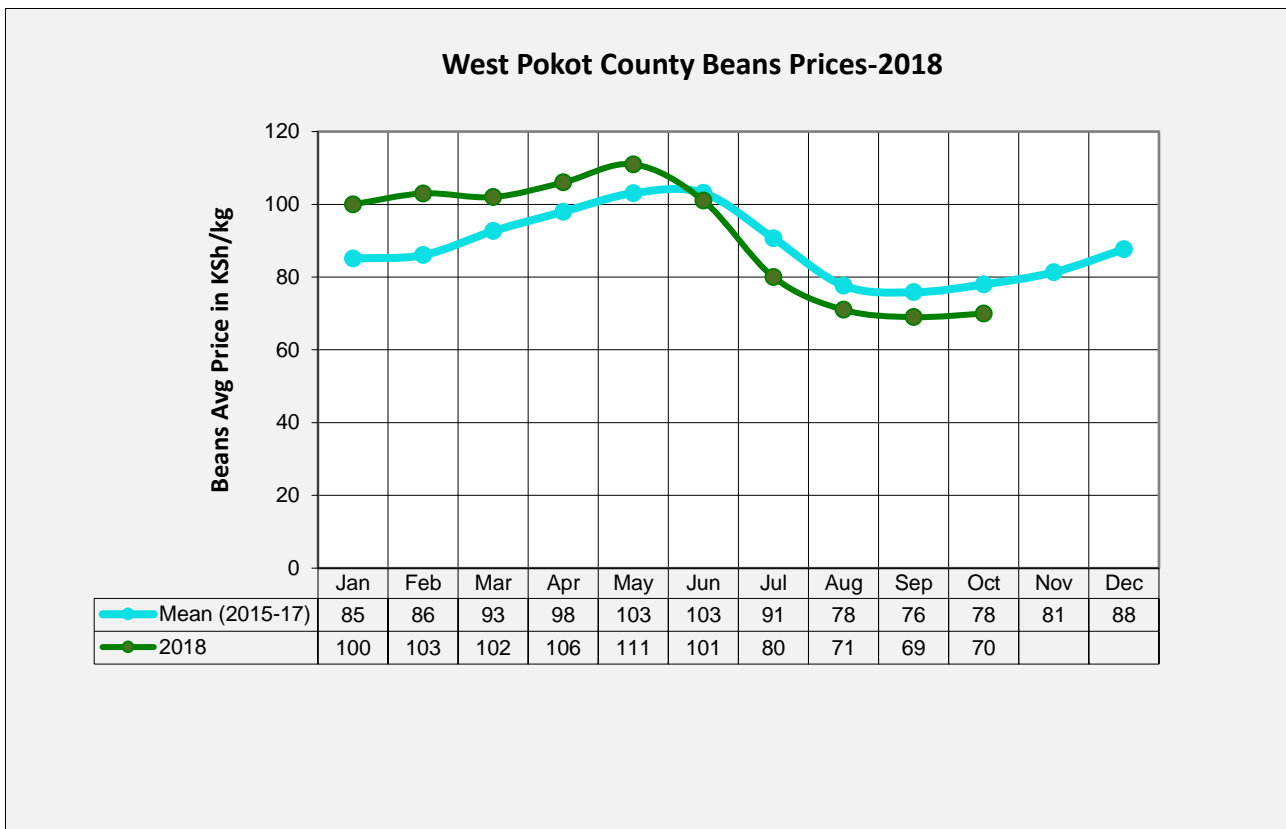


The decrease in price is mainly due to heightened local harvesting and steady external supply of cheaper maize available at local markets.

- During the month, most households depended more on local markets to replenish their maize stocks. Maize price is expected to remain low due to the on-going harvesting coupled with cheap external maize sources (from Uganda and Trans Nzoia County), which are traditionally main suppliers to the County.

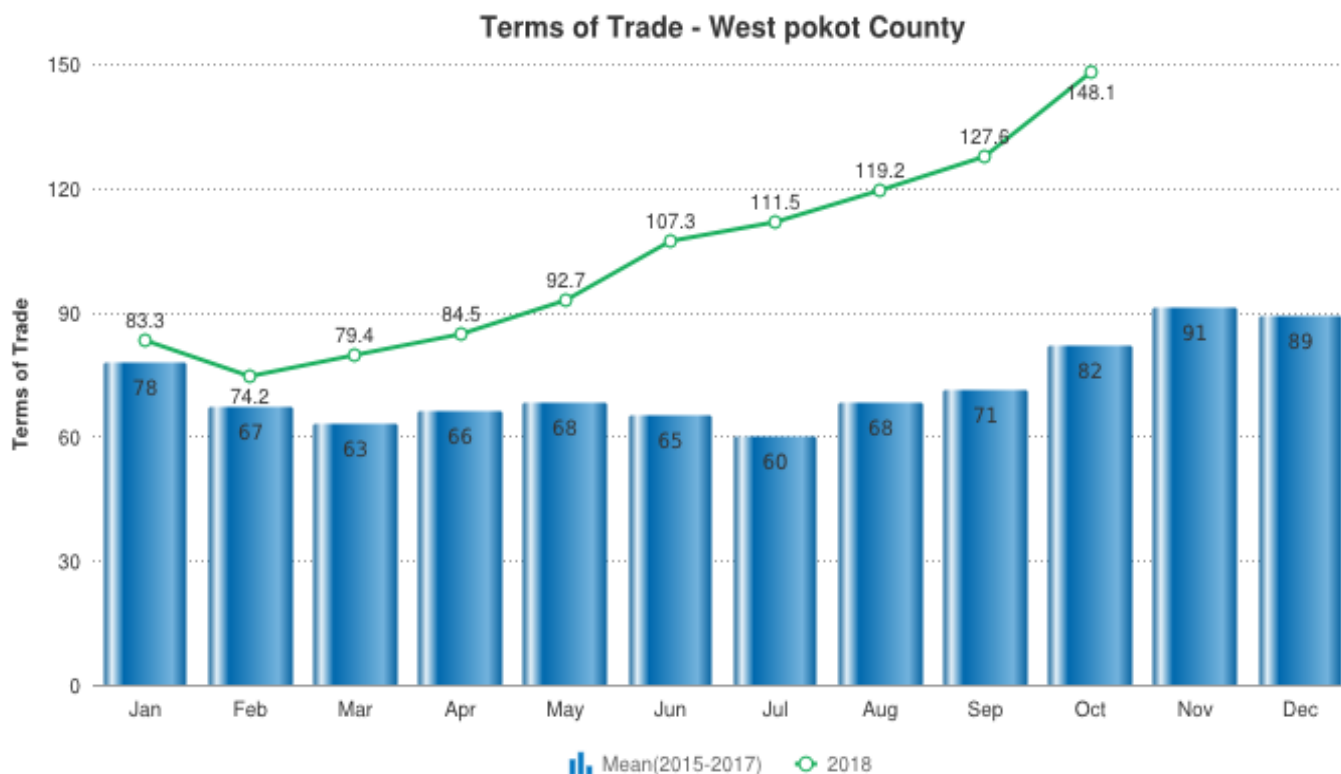
4.2.2 Beans

- In October 2018, beans traded at Kshs 70 per Kg; a slight increase from Kshs 69 recorded in September 2018.
- The price stability is owed to the cheap external supplies and local harvesting in the County.
- There was no **significant** variation in price across the two livelihood zones since they both relied on the same external sources for supply.
- The current market price of beans is below the LTA price (Ksh.78) for such time of the year by 10 percent.



4.3 LIVESTOCK PRICE RATIO/ TERMS OF TRADE (TOT)

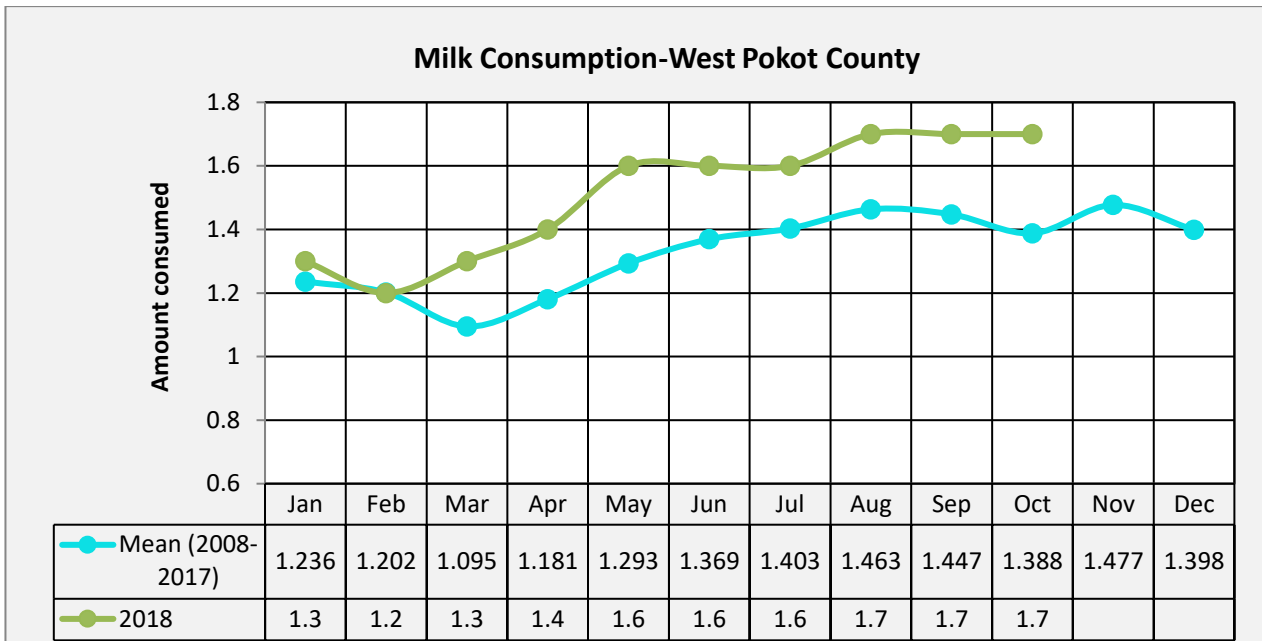
- The Terms of Trade (TOT) was 148, after increasing from 128 recorded in the previous month. The increase shows that pastoralists would obtain more maize for the sale of a goat currently than they did in the previous month.
- The increase in ToT is attributed to stability in goat prices along with increasing maize prices.
- The variation in TOT is projected over the next three months as the price of goat is expected to stabilize with the forecasted good OND rains coupled with dropping maize prices during the same period.



5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- During the month, households across livelihood zones consumed 1.7 litres of milk on average, same as that recorded in the previous month.



- The recorded stability in milk consumption level is attributed to the steady milk production resulting from fair regeneration of forage as well as significant decline in livestock trekking distance to water points. Access to milk is still good.
- The amount of milk consumed is 21% above the LTA for the same period of the year.

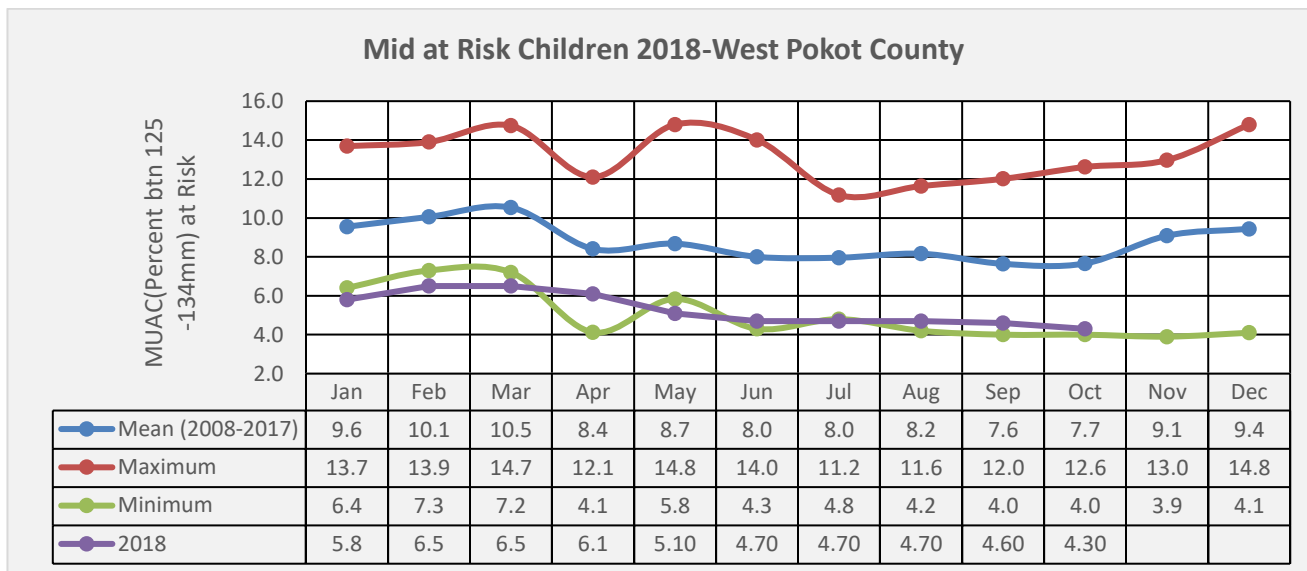
5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

- The households' proportions of 74%, 25% and 1% were recorded of having Food Consumption Score (FCS) within Acceptable, Borderline and Poor categories respectively in October. The score increased for the Acceptable category with a slight decrease for Borderline and poor categories in comparison to the previous month (71%, 27% and 2%). The FCS is generally acceptable within the month.
- The mean FCS for the two livelihood zones in October was at 46; a slight increase from that recorded in the previous month.
- There was significant variation across the two livelihood zones with for instance 57 % of households in the Pastoral zone being categorized as having Acceptable FCS in comparison with 100 % households under the same category in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone. There is more diversified food sources in agro-pastoral livelihood zones compared to pastoral livelihood zones.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of 49 and 51 percent of girls and boys under 5 years respectively were sampled in October, where children rated as being ‘at risk’ of malnutrition were at 4.3 percent, connoting a drop when compared to the previous month of 4.6 percent.
- The current proportion of children rated as being ‘at risk’ of malnutrition lies below the LTA value of 7.7 percent for the such period of the year.



N = 896

- The stability in nutrition status among the under-fives is attributed to improved consumption and access to milk, including other essential health and nutrition commodities within the County. These were the major drivers of the decreasing trend in number of children ‘at risk’ of malnutrition.

5.3.2 Health

- Typhoid and Malaria cases were commonly reported ailments in October among the sampled children.

5.4 COPING STRATEGY

5.4.1 Coping Strategy Index (CSI)

- The CSI was at 2.1 in October; having dropped from the 3.0 recorded in September. The drop in CSI shows that households employed fewer strategies to cope, which could be linked to stable food commodity availability and favourable prices in the markets.
- The Pastoral livelihood zone recorded a CSI of 2.5 compared to 1.7 in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone, which is mainly due to stable livestock productivity.
- The common consumption based coping strategies employed by a few of the households during the month included reliance on less preferred/less expensive foods.

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 NON-FOOD

- County Government conducted ring vaccination against PPR disease in Pokot Central and North Sub-Counties.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 INSECURITY/CONFLICT/HUMAN DISPLACEMENT

- No insecurity incidences were reported across the County.

7.2 MIGRATION

- No abnormal migrations were reported in the County during the month.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- Milk availability is projected stabilize with the substantial regeneration of pastoral resources sustaining livestock production. Malnutrition cases are likely to drop over the period, as children would access enough milk.
- The distance to water sources for both human and livestock is anticipated to remain stable, with the ongoing OND rains.
- Maize prices are anticipated to remain stable while that of goat expected to increase. As such, the terms of trade are likely to improve over this period.
- The livestock productivity is expected to improve, since the forage conditions are likely to continue being adequate with the on-going OND rains, resulting to good livestock body condition hence improving livestock prices and increased access to food due to the expected better purchasing power.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. PEACE AND SECURITY

- Initiate and sustain peace building community projects at borders to bring both sides to work together, especially peace projects at conflict hotspots.

2. HEALTH AND NUTRITION SECTOR

- Conduct health preventive and promotion campaigns while providing health education on sanitation and proper utilization of water treatment chemicals so as to minimize the risk of water borne diseases outbreak.

3. LIVESTOCK SECTOR

- Encourage stock management consistent with available pasture for optimal production and productivity due to land carrying capacity and livestock stocking rate.
- Conduct ring vaccination to curb escalating PPR cases reported in Pokot North and Pokot South Sub Counties.