

National Drought Management Authority

KAJIADO COUNTY

DROUGHT MONITORING AND EARLY WARNING BULLETIN – DECEMBER 2019



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



DECEMBER EW PHASE

Drought Status: **NORMAL**



Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- ✓ All parts of the County continued to receive heavy rainfall in the first two dekads of December.
- ✓ The vegetation in the County was in very good condition during the month, while water was adequately available and accessible to both livestock and people.

Production and Access Indicators

- ✓ Livestock were in their normal grazing fields, with very good body condition.
- ✓ Livestock prices were stable while milk production increased but was below the long term average probably due to reduction in tropical livestock units over time.

Access indicators

- ✓ The terms of trade were good, stable and above the long term average during the month.
- ✓ Household milk consumption increased but remained below the long term average due to low production.

Utilization Indicators

- ✓ The risk of malnutrition for under-fives continued to reduce as households employ normal consumption based coping strategies such including reliance on less expensive food.

Early Warning Phase Classification

LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TRENDS
PASTORAL	NORMAL	STABLE
AGRO-PASTORAL	NORMAL	STABLE
MIXED FARMING	NORMAL	STABLE
COUNTY	NORMAL	STABLE

Biophysical Indicators	Observed Value/Range	Normal Range/LTA
State of water	Adequate	Adequate
3-monthly VCI	81.8	35 - 50
Pasture condition	Very good	Good
Production Indicators	Observed Value/Trend	Normal Range
Cattle body condition	Very good	Good
Household daily milk production	2.4 litres	>= 4.0 litres
migration pattern	No migration	No migration
Access Indicators	Observed Value	Normal/LTA
Terms of trade	92 kg of maize/goat	61 kg of maize/goat
Household daily milk Consumption	1.7 litres	3.8 litres
Distance to water source	Livestock	4.5 km
	Households	4.2 km
4.7 km	4.2 km	4.2 km
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal Range/LTA
MUAC (% <135 mm)	7.6%	12.6%
Coping Strategies	Normal	Normal

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains harvest Short dry spell Reduced milk yields Increased HH food stock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting/Weeding Long rains High calving rate Milk yields increase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long rains harvest A long dry spell Land preparation Increased HH food stocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains Planting/weeding 								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Seasonal Calendar

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 Rainfall

- All parts of the County continued to receive heavy rainfall since November.
- In the first dekad of December, the County received an average of 110 mm compared to a normal of 27 mm while in the second dekad, the County got 21 mm compared to long term average of 28 mm. (Figure 1)

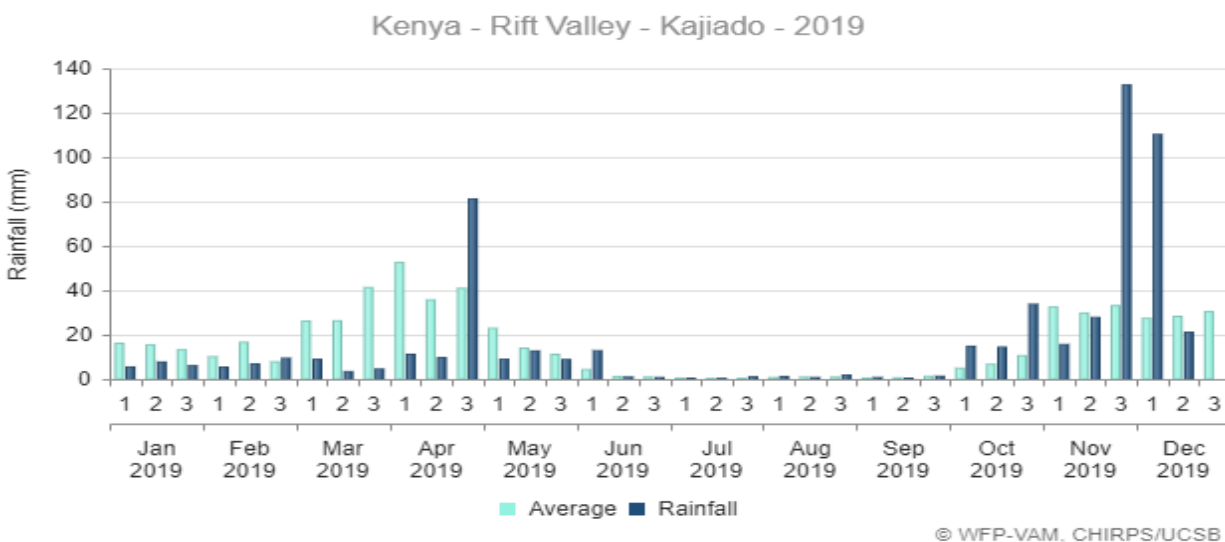


Figure 1: Trend in Rainfall performance for Kajiado

1.2 Other Events

1.2.1 Floods

- Due to heavy rainfall that the County received in the last week of November and the first week of December, many parts of the County experienced severe flooding that led to loss of life and property.
- Areas affected by floods include those along Olkeria river (Mashuuru/Selenkei, Kajiado River (Kajiado), Olekasasi River (Kisamis), Ngataatek and Partimayo Rivers (Matapato).
- Other floods spot areas include, Pakase and Kamukuru (Magadi), Lenkism, Isinya and informal urban settlements including Nkaimurunya.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

- In December, the County vegetation greenness was far above normal (Figure 2) with vegetation condition index of 81.8.
- Heavy rainfall that pounded the County in November and December resulted into very good vegetation condition in all the sub-Counties.



Figure 2: 3-monthly VCI Matrix; Kajiado, 2001 - 2019

2.2 Pasture and Browse Situation

- The pasture and browse was now good across all livelihoods due to the heavy rainfall that the County had been experiencing during this rainy season.
- The available pasture and browse would last for the next six months.

2.3 Water Sources

- Figure 3 shows multi response results on the three common sources of water for the communities in the month of December. Out of all 24 communities, pans were among the three sources.
- This was as a result of the heavy rains that recharged surface water sources to the brim.

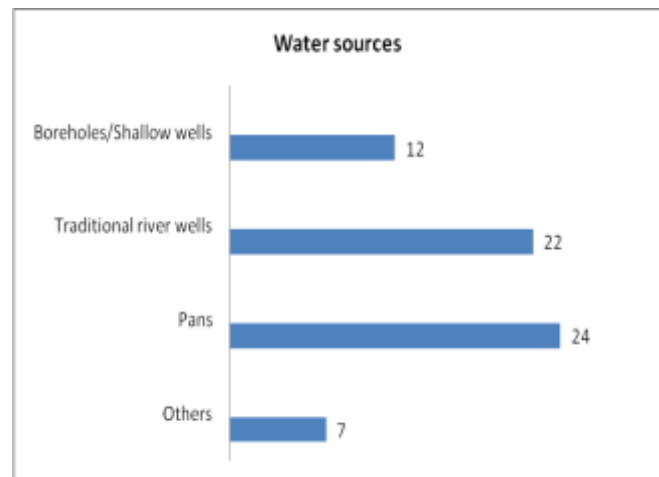


Figure 3: Water sources; Kajiado, November 2019

2.4 Households Access to Water

- In the month of December, most households got water for domestic use from traditional river wells in addition to shallow wells and boreholes.
- The return distance that people travelled from their homes to water points reduced from 4.9 km in November to 4.2 km in December (Figure 4).
- The current distance is similar to the long term average.
- No significant livelihood variation in the distance that households covered to get water during the month.

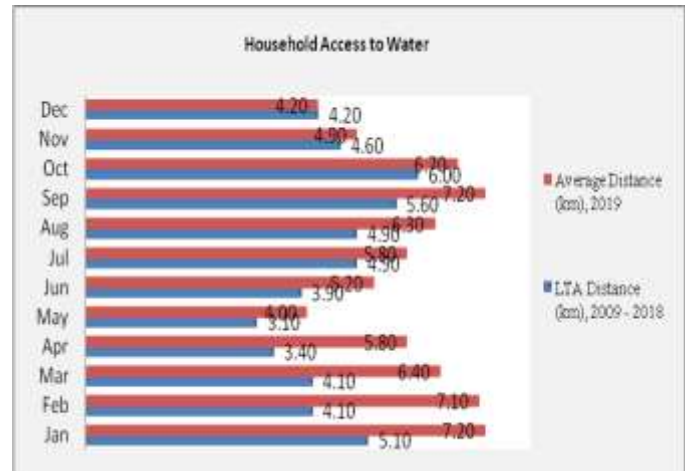


Figure 4: Average household return distance to water source, Kajiado 2009 - 2019

2.5 Livestock Access to Water

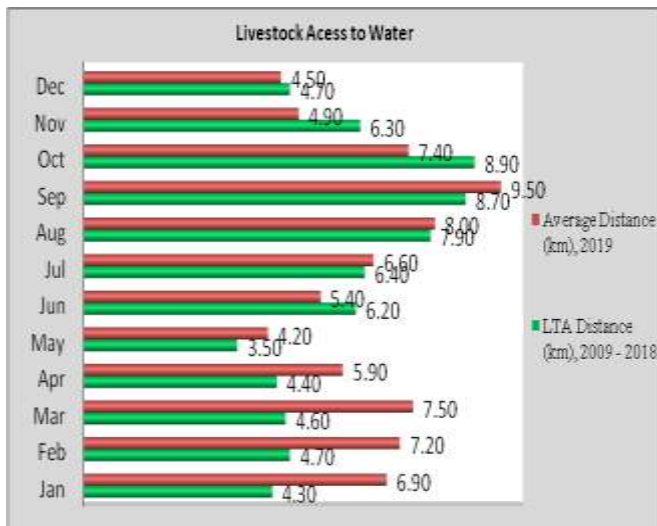


Figure 5: Average distance from grazing field to water sources, Kajiado, 2009 - 2019

- In December, livestock covered nearly a similar distance to that of the long term average at 4.5 km and 4.7 km respectively from grazing fields to water points (Figure 5).
- In November, this distance was 4.9 km.
- Ponds and pans were the major sources of water for livestock during the month and the distance to these sources varied minimally across livelihoods.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Body condition for all livestock species was very good, fat with smooth appearance. During the month, pasture, browse and water were pretty. On the other hand, livestock disease incidences were minimal.

3.2 Livestock Diseases

- Few unconfirmed livestock diseases were reported during the month of December. These suspected cases include that of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP) across the County.

3.3 Livestock Migration

- Since the beginning of the season, livestock have remained in their normal wet grazing areas.

3.3 Milk Production

- The average household milk production was 2.1 litres per day in November and 2.4 in December (Figure 6).
- The long term household milk production in December is 4 litres per day.
- The current milk product was below the long term average probably due to continued reduction in tropical livestock units over time.

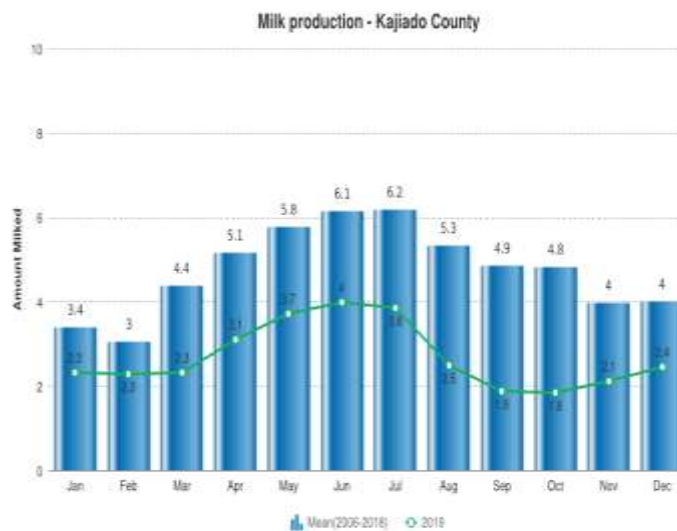


Figure 6: Average household daily milk production, Kajiado, 2009 - 2019

3.4 Crop Performance

- Crops were at late development stages. Beans were maturing while maize had tussled. It was worthwhile noting that some bean that brought forth pods early were adversely affected by rains and may reduce the expected yields.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 Livestock Marketing

- The major livestock markets in the County include; Shompole, Ilbisil, Kimana, Rombo and Kiserian. All these markets operated normally in November.

4.1.1 Prices of Cattle

- Cattle prices were stable in November-December period with a mature bull selling at an average price of Ksh. 33,500 and Ksh. 33,400 respectively (Figure 7). Cattle body condition was good and stable during the period.
- The average market price of a mature bull in December for the past three years is Ksh. 20,500.

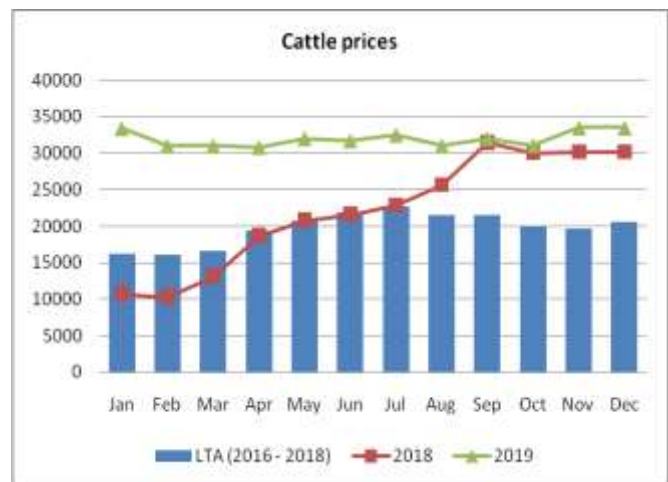


Figure 7: Trends in cattle prices; Kajiado 2016 - 2019

- In pastoral west (Ewuaso Kedong), the average market price of a mature bull was Ksh. 22,600.

4.1.2 Prices of Goats

- Like that of cattle, goats' prices were stable for November-December with the price of a two-year old goat selling at an average price of Ksh. 4,280 and Ksh. 4,240 respectively (Figure 8).
- For the past three years, the average price of a two-year goat in December is Ksh. 3,090.



- In Pastoral west (Ewuaso Kidong), the average price of a goat was Ksh. 3,330.
- Goats' prices were likely to remain stable for the next two months as their body condition was expected to remain good.

Figure 8: Trends in goats' prices; Kajiado 2016 - 2019

4.2 Prices of Cereals and Legumes

4.2.1 Prices of Maize

- The observed decline in maize prices after August stabilized during the last two months of the year.

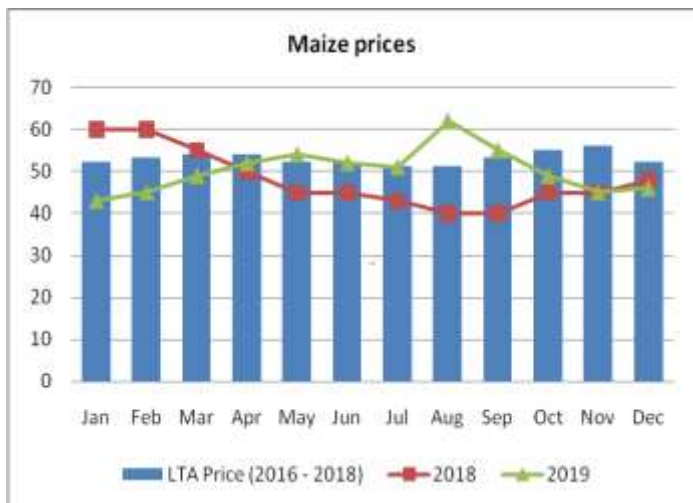


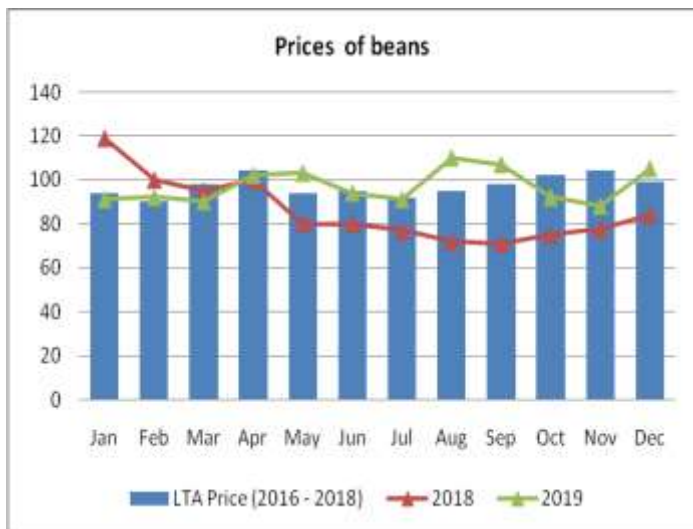
Figure 9: Average prices of Maize; Kajiado 2016 - 2019

year. In November and December a kilogram of maize was retailing at Ksh. 45 and Ksh. 46 respectively (Figure 9).

- Maize prices varied from ksh. 40 in Pastoral south (Rombo) to Ksh. 52 in Pastoral west (Kamukuru) depending on the accessibility of the area.
- For the past three years, the average price of maize in December is Ksh. 52 per kilogram.

4.2.2 Prices of Beans

- Prices of beans increased slightly from an average of Ksh. 88 per kilogram in November to Ksh. 105



per kilogram in December (Figure 10) probably due to low supply in the market.

- In pastoral west (Ewuaso), beans were sold at Ksh. 116 per kilogram while in agro-pastoral east (Isinya) beans were sold at Ksh. 80 per kilogram.

- The average price of beans for the past three years in December is Ksh. 99 per kilogram.

Figure 10: Average prices of beans; Kajiado 2016 - 2019

4.3 Prices of Milk

- The farm gate price of milk was now averaging Ksh. 50 compared to Ksh. 60 in November. The reduction in price of milk was probably due to increased produce compared to the previous months.
- The normal price of milk at this time of the year is Ksh 30 per litre.

4.4 Livestock Terms of Trade



Figure 11: Trends in terms of trade; Kajiado, 2016 - 2019

- As prices of livestock and food stuffs stabilized during November-December period, so did the terms of trade.
- In November and December, one would buy 95 kg and 92 kg respectively of maize by selling a two-year old goat (Figure 11).
- For the past three years, the average terms of trade was 61 kg of maize per goat.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION, HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 Milk Consumption

- Figure 12 shows the average amount of milk consumed by households per day. Due to low milk production, milk consumption was half of the normal for the month (1.7 litres compared to long term average of 3.8 litres).
- Household daily milk production in pastoral south was 2.4 compared to 1.6 litres in agro-pastoral east.

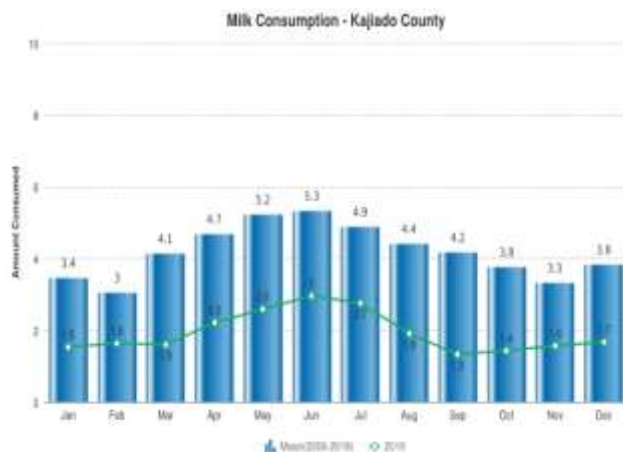


Figure 12: Average household daily milk production, Kajiado, 2009 - 2019

5.2 Food Consumption Score

- Most households across the County were able to afford variety of food items. This is evidenced by stable terms of trade that is far above the long term average for the months of November and December.

5.3 Coping Strategies

- In December, households employed normal consumption coping mechanisms such as reliance on less expensive food to deal with insufficient food or lack of enough money to buy food.

5.4 Human Diseases

- There were two unconfirmed cases of cholera incidences in December: one in Magadi ward and the other in Entonet/Lenkism (Nemelok) ward.

5.5 Nutritional Status of Children aged 6-59 Months

- Nutritional status of under-five continued to improve in November and December which indicates better household access to and utilization of food during the period. This is also evidenced by improved terms of trade
- In December, the proportion of children aged 6-59 months at risk of malnutrition was 7.6% compared to the long term average of 12.6%. In November this proportion was 8.3 % (Figure 13).
- Areas marked for higher than the average risk of malnutrition include Lenkism, Mbirikani, Magadi, Ewuaso, Loodokilani and Mosiro.

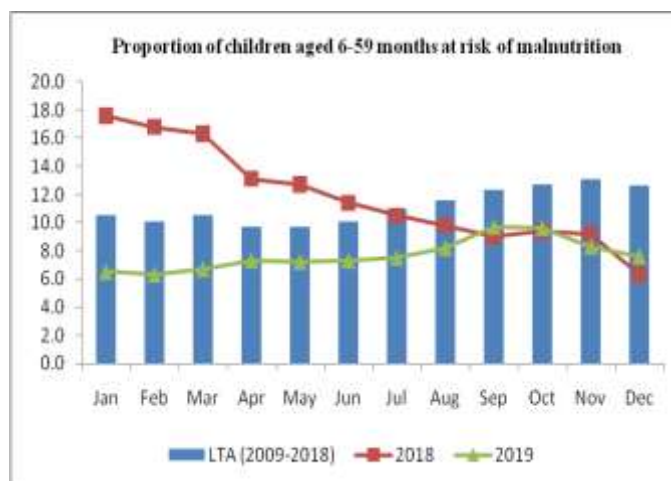


Figure 13: Proportion of children aged 6-59 month at risk of malnutrition; Kajiado, 2009 - 2019

6.0 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS, CURRENT INTERVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Food Security Prognosis

- Livestock migration in the next six months was unlikely as the available pasture and browse would last until June 2020.
- Livestock productivity; body condition, milk production and prices would probably remain stable for at least the next three months.
- Normal to near normal harvest for the short rains season was expected from agro-pastoral and mixed farming areas as well as from the neighboring Counties. Prices of food stuffs were therefore expected to be fairly low by February.
- In light of this, the County will probably remain in normal food security situation for the first half of the year 2020.

6.2 Current Interventions

- Construction of Olooichumari water pan; *by National Drought Management Authority in collaboration with County Government.*
- Food and non-food aid to households displaced by heavy rains: 200 households in Matapato North, 300 households in Magadi, 500 households in Rongai and 1000 households in Lenkism wards. *By County government - Emergency fund department*

6.3 Recommendations for Action

- Establishment of community disaster risk reduction structures as well as strengthening the existing ones; *by National Drought Management Authority, Department of Meteorology, County Government and partners.*
- Update communities and County contingency and response plans; *by National Drought Management Authority in collaboration with County Government.*

- Support Osiram Women Group in Imbirikani ward in hay and horticulture production.
By National Drought Management Authority and County Government (Department of livestock).