

National Drought Management Authority

KAJIADO COUNTY

DROUGHT MONITORING AND EARLY WARNING OCTOBER 2020



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



OCTOBER EW PHASE

Early Warning Phase Classification

Drought Status: NORMAL

Shughuli za kawaida

LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TRENDS
PASTORAL	WEST - NORMAL	DETERIORATING
	SOUTH - ALERT	WORSENING
AGRO-PASTORAL	NORMAL	DETERIORATING
MIXED FARMING	NORMAL	DETERIORATING
COUNTY	NORMAL	DETERIORATING

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- ✓ The onset of short rains was late with poor spatial and temporal distribution.
- ✓ The County vegetation greenness was above normal.
- ✓ Forage condition was poor in pastoral zones and fair in Agro-Pastorals areas.
- ✓ The Southern Pastoral was water stressed with poor pasture.

Production Indicators

- ✓ Livestock all species ranged from good to moderate while milk production was below the long term average. Low milk production was due to low livestock tropical unit and low calving rate during the month.
- ✓ There was migration of livestock in search of pasture in Kajiado South pastoral.

Access indicators

- ✓ The terms of trade were good, above five year average.
- ✓ The amount of milk consumed by households was less than the normal for similar period of the year due to low production.
- ✓ Distances to water sources from homestead and grazing fields increased in October but still remained slightly shorter than long term averages for similar months.

Utilization Indicators

- ✓ Proportion of under-five children at risk of malnutrition remained stable below long-term average.
- ✓ Households with no money to buy food opted for less preferred foods, borrowing or reducing food portions. Most households, 70% were consuming required food varieties at required frequency.

Biophysical Indicators		Observed Value/Range	Normal Range/LTA
3-monthly VCI		93.39	>35
State of water	South Pastoral	Stressed	Adequate
	Mixed & Agro-Pastoral	Fairly Adequate	Adequate
Forage condition		Fair to poor	Good
Production Indicators		Observed Value/Trend	Normal Range
Livestock body condition		Good to Moderate	Good
Household milk production per day		2.5 litres	>4 litres
Livestock Migration		Minimal -South	None
Access Indicators		Observed Value	Long Term Average
Terms of trade (kg of maize for a goat)		101.8	70
Household milk Consumption per day		2.4 litres	2.7 litres
Distance to water sources	Livestock	6.6 km	7.48 km
	Household	6.3 km	6.8 km
Utilization indicators		Value	LTA
MUAC (% <135 mm)		7.1	8.55
CSI		5.47	<10

<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"> Long rains Planting/weeding 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
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Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Seasonal Calendar

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 Rainfall Performance

- The month of October marks the onset of rainfall in several parts of the Country, Kajiado County included. However, the weather forecast for October 2020 had indicated a negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) that is not conducive for good rainfall in Kenya.
- Consequently, the 2020 short rains onset in Kajiado County was late in fourth week of October to first week of November. Occasional rainfall was received during the second week of October.
- On average the County received depressed rainfall; less than average rainfall during October 2020 (Figure 1).
- The distribution of the rainfall in time and space was poor over several areas during the month of October. The forecast points to a continued trend through November 2020.
- Potential consequences on various sectors in need of considerations to minimize negative impacts include: reduced pasture availability, pests and diseases associated with drought, water scarcity, human wildlife conflicts, dust storms which may lead to respiratory track diseases among others.

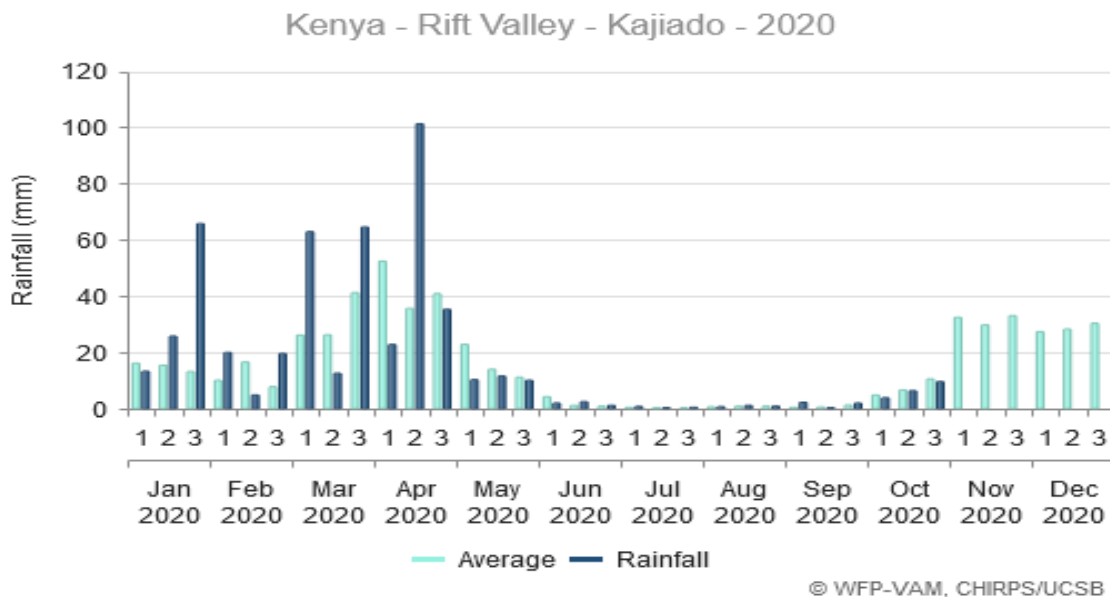


Figure 1: Rainfall performance; Kajiado, 2020

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

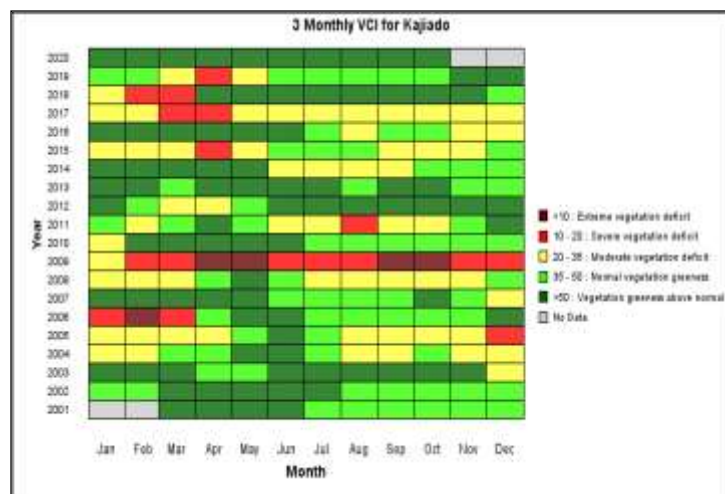


Figure 2: 3-monthly VCI matrix; Kajiado 2001-2020

- The County Vegetation Condition Index (VCI) reduced slightly to 93.39 from 95.59 during the previous month.
- However, the County vegetation greenness remains above normal due to the cumulative positive impact of the previous two rainy seasons (Figure 2). This is likely to deteriorate if rainfall patterns remain as observed and forecasted in the coming months.

2.2 Pasture and Browse Condition

- The County average pasture condition ranged from fair to poor with a deteriorating trend. Variations in pasture condition was fair in Pastoral West to poor in Pastoral South where minimal intra - migrations were reported in Rombo, Kuku and Mbirikani.
- Browse was good across the County and can last for the next two months.

2.3 Water Sources

- The most used water sources as reported with the 21 key informants were boreholes and Pans/Dams with frequencies of 15 and 16 respectively (Figure 3).
- Other sources used during the month were water trucking in Mbirikani and Magadi wards, piped water mainly in Kaputie North and Ewaso wards and traditional river wells across wards.
- Increased use of strategic boreholes due to drying up of some pans continued to be

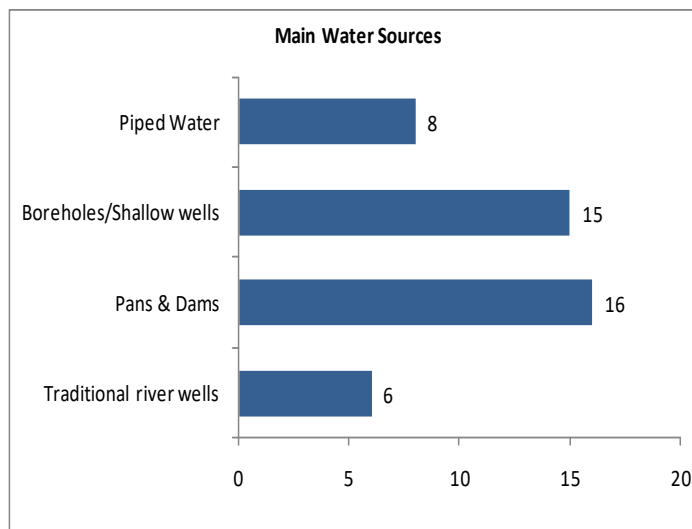


Figure 3: Water sources; Kajiado, October 2020

observed. Although October is a wet month in a normal year, many parts of the County had not received significant rains by end of the month.

2.4 Households Water Access and Utilization

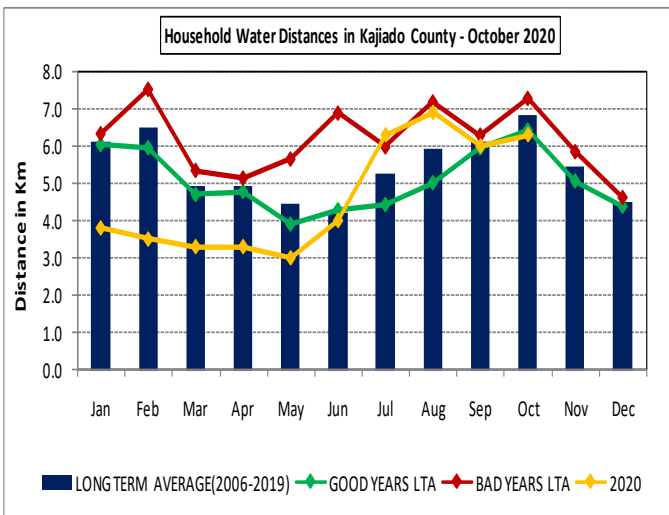


Figure 4: Average return distance from homesteads to water sources; Kajiado 2009 -2020

from water points.

2.5 Livestock Access to Water

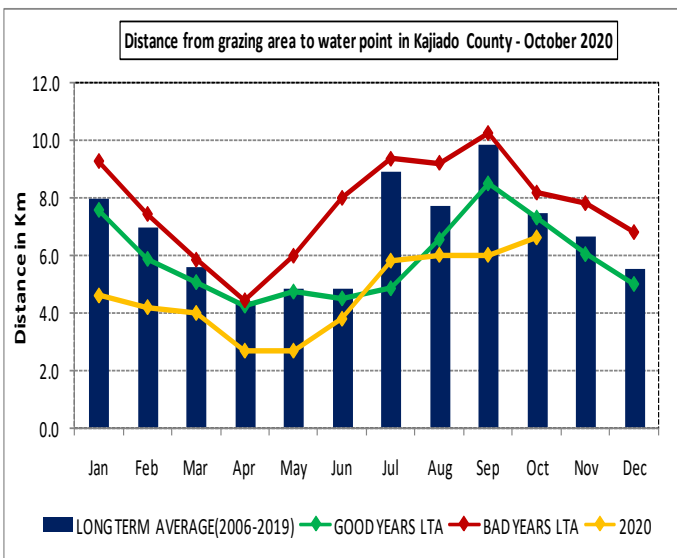


Figure 5: Average return distance from grazing fields to water sources; Kajiado, 2009-2020

livestock travel from grazing fields was expected to decrease in November at peak of short rains.

- Notably, if the depressed rains continue; minimal improvement would be observed.

- The average return distance to water points by households was 6 km in September and 6.3 km in October (Figure 4).
- The increase in distance that households travelled to water points was due to drying up of some traditional river wells.
- The long term average distance in October is 6.8 km.
- In Pastoral areas, households were travelling up to seven kilometres to and

- In October, Pastoral South livestock had begun moving into dry season grazing areas. Most of these areas are far from water sources. In effect, the average livestock return distances from grazing fields to water sources increased from 6 km between July-September to 6.6 km in October (Figure 5).
- However, the current distance is still below the long term average of 7.48 km for similar period.
- Distances to water points that the

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock Body Condition

- The current livestock body conditions for all species were mainly good with exceptions of cattle in Rombo, Kuku and Mbirikani which were moderate; neither fat nor thin. These areas are experiencing reduced availability of pasture in addition to increased watering distances.
- Given the likely below normal performance of the current short rains, the situation is expected to deteriorate in the coming months.

3.2 Livestock Diseases

- In October, clinical cases of Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP) continued to be reported mainly in Kajiado Central, South and West sub-Counties. Kajiado West also reported Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD).

3.3 Livestock Mortalities

- No cases of unusual livestock mortalities were reported in the County during the month.

3.4 Livestock Migration

- Livestock movement following dry season grazing pattern or closer to water sources was observed in Kajiado South. Livestock from Injekita in Lenkism/Entonet ward moved close to Amboseli National Park in search of water. Livestock from Rombo, Kuku and Mbirikani continued moving to Chylu hills in search of pasture.

3.5 Milk Production

- Household daily milk production decreased further from 3 litres in September to 2.5 litres in October (Figure 6). This was attributed to low calving in October, increased distances to water sources, reduced pasture and low tropical unit.
- In pastoral zone, the daily milk production per household was 3.3 litres and 1.2 litres in Agro-pastoral.
- Long-term average for the month is 3.65 litres.

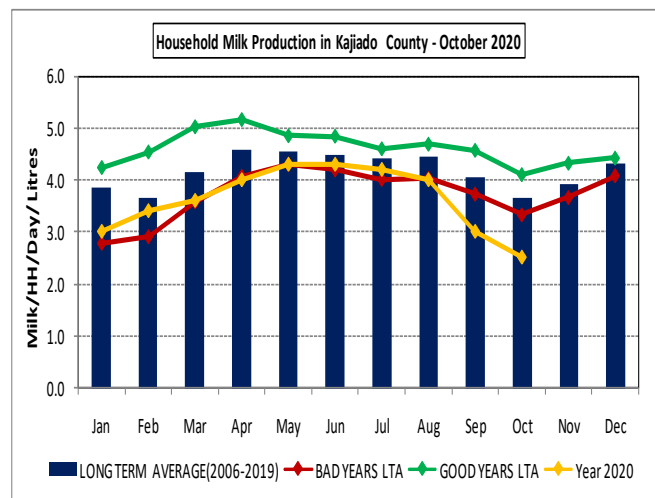


Figure 6: Milk production; Kajiado, 2006-2020
Page 5 of 12

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 Livestock Marketing

- Livestock markets have been operating normally since January. The major livestock markets in the County include; Shompole, Kiserian, Ibbisil, Kimana and Rombo.

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

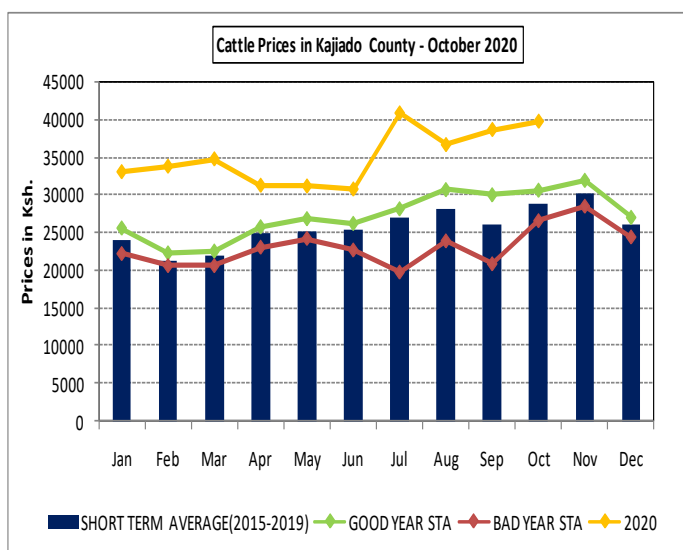


Figure 7: Cattle prices; Kajiado, 2015-2020

- In October, the cattle prices improved by 2.8% to Ksh. 39,800; in September a medium size bull sold at Ksh. 38,700 (Figure 7).
- The increasing price is attributed to stability of their body condition and that of demand against supply: reduced volumes of livestock from Tanzania in the market have been reported.
- Cattle prices ranged from Ksh 45,000 in Loodokilani to Ksh 20,000 in Ewuaso.

4.1.2 Goats Prices

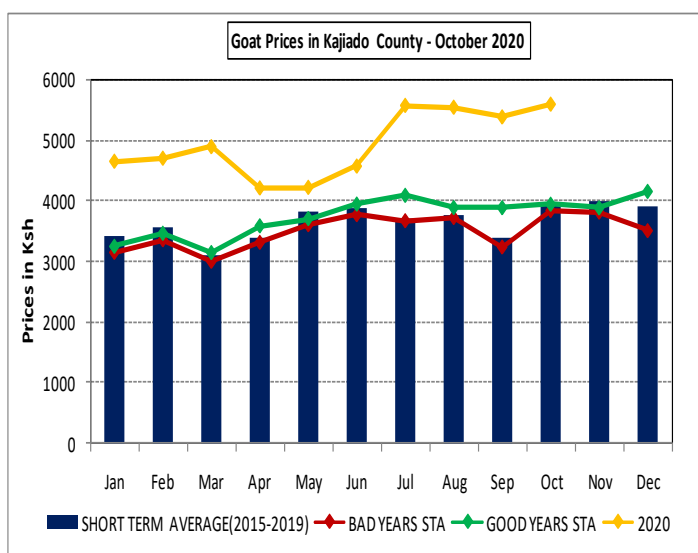


Figure 8: Goats' prices; Kajiado, 2015-2020

- The prices of goats improved to Ksh 5,600 in October from Ksh 5,390 in September (Figure 8).
- The improvement in prices of goats was due to high demand against low supply. During the month, low volumes of livestock came from Tanzania to flood the market.
- The price of goats were expected to increase slightly in the next months if market dynamics remain the same.

4.2 Prices of Cereals and Legumes

4.2.1 Maize Prices

- The average market price of maize increased to Ksh. 55 per kilogram in October from Ksh.53 per kilogram in September (Figure 9). The current price is similar to that of a bad year and 3.8% above five year average.
- The increase maize price was attributed to low supply at market; traders are cautious to sell as weather predictions indicate a possible below average performance of short rains season.
- In mixed farming areas of Rombo and Kimana, a kilogram of maize was selling at Ksh. 45 and Ksh. 65 in Pastoral areas of Magadi.

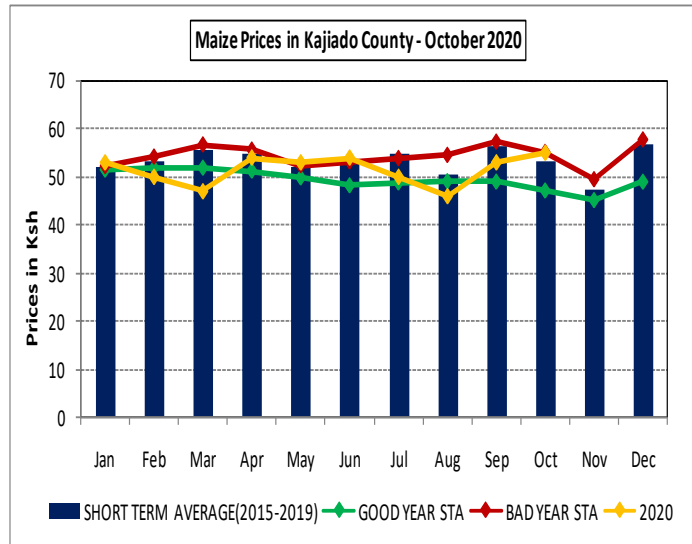


Figure 9: Average prices of Maize; Kajiado, 2015-2020

4.2.2 Beans Prices

- The average market price of beans in October was Ksh. 102 and Ksh. 101 in September (Figure 10). The five year average for similar period is Ksh. 92 per kilogram.
- In Pastoral areas of Ewuaso and Kamukuru, a kilogram was being sold at Ksh. 120.
- Prices of beans were likely to increase further as demand exceeds supply in the coming months.

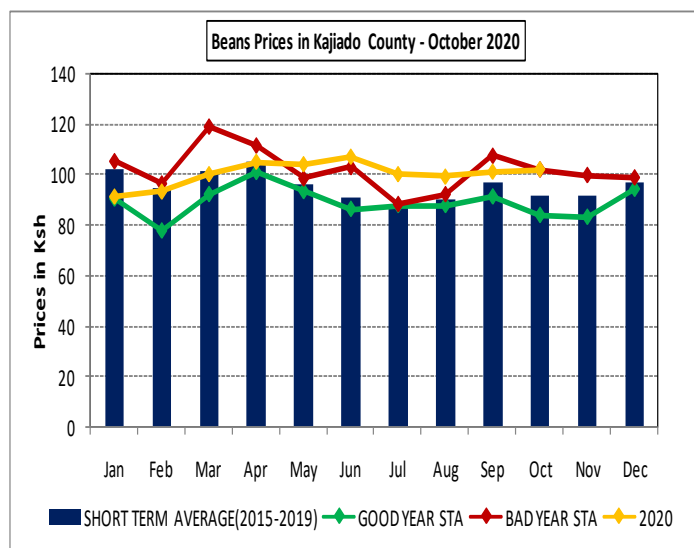


Figure 10: Average prices of beans; Kajiado, 2015-2020

4.3 Prices of Milk

- The average farm gate price of milk was Ksh. 50 per litre with no significant livelihood variations. In September milk was sold at Ksh. 47 per litre.

- Normal price of milk at this time of the year is Ksh. 35 per litre. The current high price of milk was due to low production.

4.4 Terms of Trade

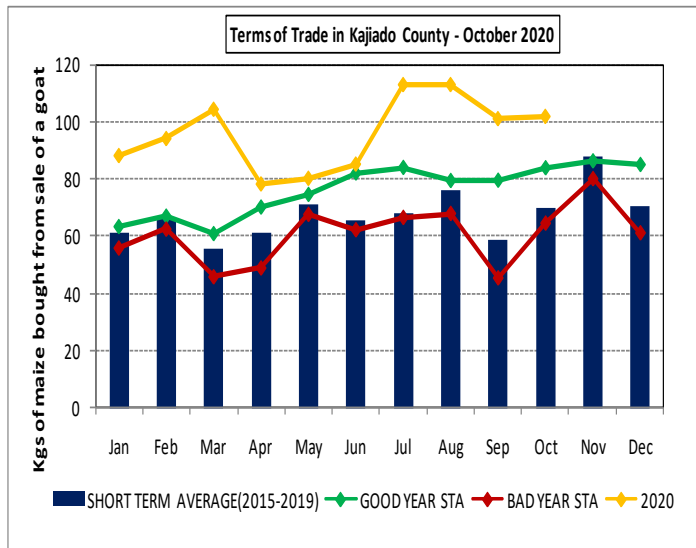


Figure 11: Trends in ToT; Kajiado 2015-2020

- Terms of trade (TOT) remained stable at 101.8 in October despite increased maize prices; this was due to corresponding improvement in goat prices during the month (Figure 11).
- Though TOT declined from 113 in August to 101 in October, it remains at 45% above five year average due to good performance of previous two seasons whose impacts are still being felt.

- However, with the projected below average performance of short rains and escalating cases of COVID 19, this trend could deteriorate, unfavourable for the pastoralist.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS AND DISEASE

5.1 Milk Consumption

- The decline in milk production consequently saw a reduction in consumption. The average household milk consumption was 2.4 litres per day in October from 2.8 litres in September (Figure 12).
- The milk produced during the month was majorly consumed at household level.
- On average milk consumption in Agro-pastoral zone was 2.1 liters per day per household while in Pastoral zone it was 2.5 liters per day per household.
- In a normal year, the daily household milk consumption is 4 litres during a similar period.

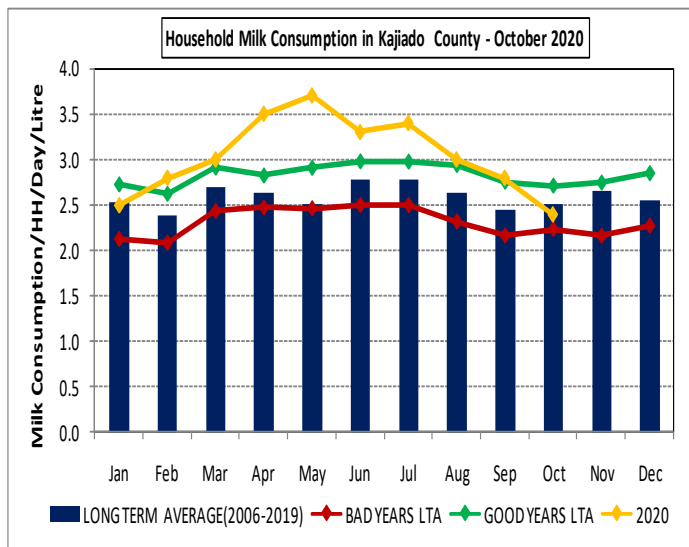


Figure 12: Trends in Milk Consumption; Kajiado 2006-2020

5.2 Food Consumption Score

- Nearly 70% (Figure 13) of households were able to consume required variety of food at required frequency in October.
- For pastoralists, this was due to favourable terms of trade while Mixed farming households had a good harvest during the long rains.
- However, in pastoral West and South, there is need to follow up on the 1.4% and 1.8% respectively who are under poor food consumption score. Additionally the percentage of population

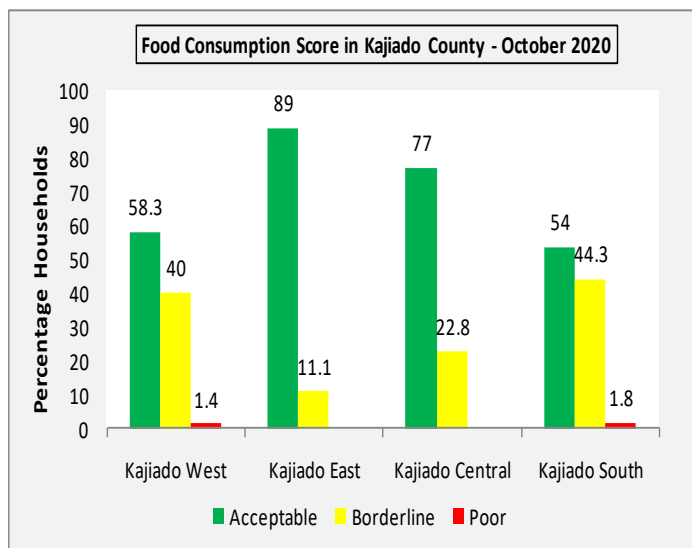


Figure 13: Food consumption score; Kajiado, October 2020

under borderline is high and considering the below average forecast of seasons performance, they could swing to poor consumption; possible food insecurity.

5.3 Coping Strategies

- The mean coping strategic index for the County in October was 5.47 which meant that on average households were able to access food with fewer difficulties during this period.
- Agro-pastoral livelihood zones had a coping strategy index of 3.2 compared to 6.6 for the Pastoral livelihoods zone. The variation is explained by the factor that pastoralists rely more on markets for alternatives foods compared to farmers.
- Main coping strategies employed by households during the month were eating less preferred food, borrowing food, reducing the portions of food eaten.

5.4 Nutrition Status of Children aged 6-59 Months

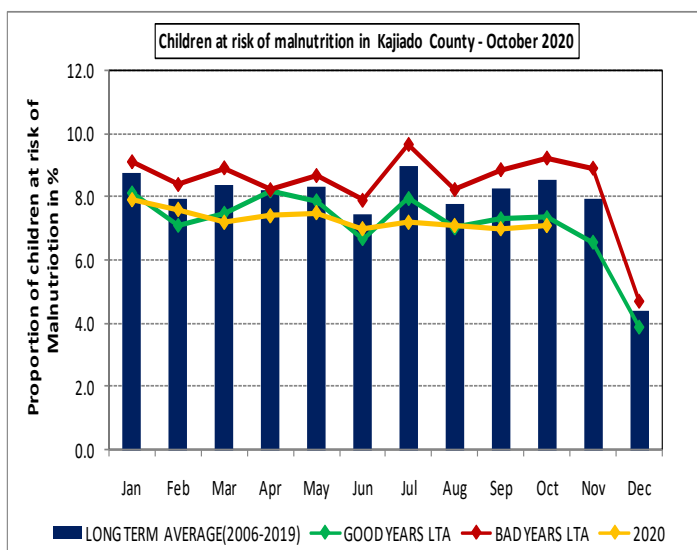


Figure 14: Risk of malnutrition for children aged 6-59 months; Kajiado, 2006-2020

- The risk of malnutrition among the under-fives have remained stable from June through to October 2020.
- In October, the proportion of children aged 6-59 months whose mid upper arm circumference (MUAC) measured between 125 mm and 135 mm was 7.1% (Figure 14). The long term average for October is 8.55%.
- The stability is attributed to household access to food due to favourable terms of trade, availability of milk

consumption and utilization of improved dietary practices. The County Government and partners also intensified nutritional interventions.

- Rombo, Magadi, Mosiro, Lenkism and Mbirikani wards as well as informal settlements remain hotspots areas for malnutrition requiring close monitoring.

5.5 Human Diseases

- The County continue to report positive cases of COVID -19 following the confirmation of the first case in March 2020.

6.0 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS, CURRENT INTERVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Food Security Prognosis

- The onset of October-December short rains was late with poor spatial and temporal distribution and a below average performance forecast from the department of Meteorology. Possible implications would include;
- Below average regeneration of pasture and browse across the entire County thus increased incidences of migration, human-wildlife conflicts and spread of livestock diseases.
- Low surface water recharge such as pans, dams and seasonal rivers thus continued increased trekking distances to watering sources for both livestock and domestic uses.
- Below normal crop performance for the 2020 short rains season thus increased cost of food stuff.
- Livestock productivity including their body condition, prices and milk production were likely to deteriorate. Consequently, increased proportion of households with poor food consumption score due to high food insecurity.

6.2 On going Interventions

- Water trucking in Kajiado South (Lenkism/Entonet, Mbirikani Wards) and Kajiado West (Magadi ward); *by County Government.*
- Training of Osiram women group (Mbirikani Integrated Livelihood project) on hay conservation, horticulture and apiculture; *by National Drought Management Authority in collaboration with County government of Kajiado and financial support from European Union.*
- Construction of Olooichumari water pan; *by National Drought Management Authority in collaboration with County government of Kajiado and financial support from European Union.*

6.3 Recommendations for Action

- Update/review ward contingency plans/action plans and pre-positioning assistances for timely response and building of community resilience- *Action by National Drought Management Authority and partners.*
- Monitoring of the performance of strategic boreholes including breakdowns and yields; *by County Government.*
- Community sensitization to adherence of COVID-19 safety measures; *by County government and partners.*

- Vaccination campaign against Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia(CCPP), Lumpy Skin Disease - *Action by County Government (Veterinary services) in collaboration with National Drought Management Authority and partners.*