

National Drought Management Authority

KAJIADO COUNTY

DROUGHT MONITORING AND EARLY WARNING BULLETIN APRIL 2023



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



APRIL EW PHASE

Drought status: **RECOVERY**



Mipango ya ahueni

Early Warning Phase Classification

LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TRENDS
PASTORAL		IMPROVING
AGRO-PASTORAL		IMPROVING
MIXED FARMING		IMPROVING
COUNTY		IMPROVING

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- ✓ The County continued to receive rains in April that is fairly distributed in time but with variation in space.
- ✓ The vegetation greenness was slightly above normal for the month and water was adequately available.

Production Indicators

- ✓ Cattle are thin but expected to improve because pasture and water is now available. Their price is expected to improve while milk production will remain low for more than six months.

Access indicators

- ✓ Distances to water sources improved after rains with livestock getting water mainly from pans and ponds that is normal at this time of the year.
- ✓ The terms of trade was relatively low that translated to less household access to food.

Utilization Indicators

- ✓ Households' milk consumption was low that contributed, among other factors, to high risk of malnutrition for under-fives.
- ✓ The proportion of households that would consume staples and vegetables, neither never nor very seldom consumed protein rich food such as meat, and daily products is still high due to low purchasing power.
- ✓ Adults were mostly skipping meals in order to deal with lack of food.

Biophysical Indicators	Observed Value/Range	Normal Range/LTA	
3-monthly VCI	50.68	35-50	
State of water	Adequate	Adequate	
Pasture condition	Fair	Good	
Production Indicators	Observed Value/Trend	Normal Range	
Cattle body condition	Thin	Fat	
Milk production	1.9 lt	>= 4.3 lt	
Livestock migration	Return migration	No migration	
Access Indicators	Observed Value	LTA	
Terms of trade (kg of maize for a goat)	42	88	
Milk consumption	1.5 lt	>=2.6 lt	
Distance to water sources	Livestock	5.6 km	4.4 km
	Domestic	5.0 km	4.9 km
Utilization indicators	Value	LTA	
MUAC	12.7 %	8.2	
CSI	9.74	< 10	
FCS	Pastoral	Poor = 9.4%, Borderline = 47.4%, Acceptable = 43.2%	
	Agro-Pastoral	Poor = 10.3%, Borderline = 54.1%, Acceptable = 35.8%	

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

Seasonal Calendar

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 Rainfall Performance

- All parts of the County continued to receive rains in April with most part having three to four rainy days per week.
- The cumulative rainfall for the first two dekads of April was 47 mm compared to 81 mm long-term average (Figure 1).
- The spatial distribution of rainfall during the month varied with some areas such as Enkorika in Kajiado central receiving over 70 mm well Rongai in Kajiado west received less than 40 mm.

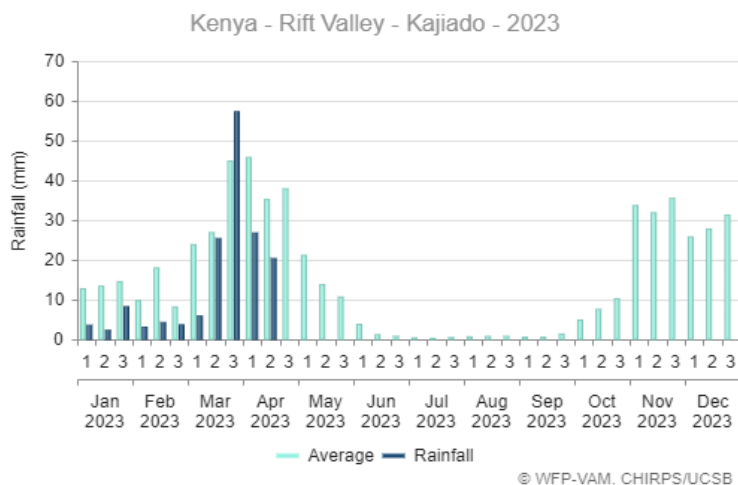


Figure 1. Rainfall performance, Kajiado; 1994 - 2023

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition Index

- The near normal rainfall that the County was receiving continue to improve on vegetation greenness (Figure 2).
- The current vegetation condition is better when compared to the long-term average condition for the similar months as evidenced a vegetation condition index (VCI) of 50.68.
- Kajiado south had severe vegetation greenness deficit with VCI of 10.78 while Kajiado east was in moderate vegetation greenness with VCI of 16.25. This is a reflection of rainfall performance in March.

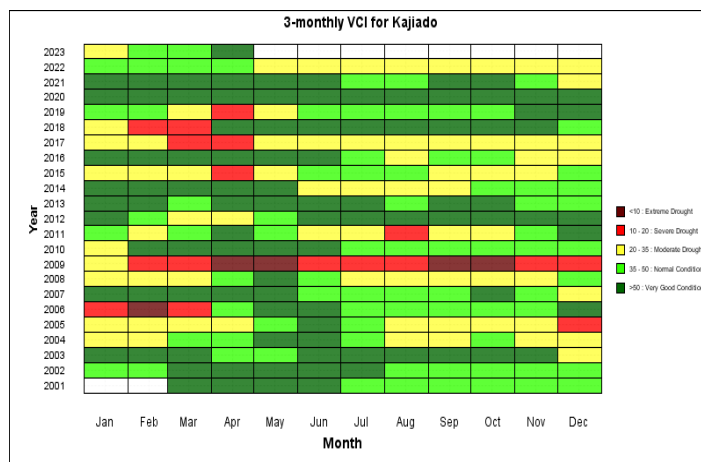


Figure 2. . 3-monthly VCI; Kajiado, 2001 - 2023

2.2 Pasture and Browse Condition

- Pasture as regenerated in most parts of the County, however, the current pasture condition is low especially in Kajiado Mbirikan in Kajiado South and Kenyawa Poka in Kajiado East sub Counties when compared to a typical year.
- Browse was fair with minimal variations across livelihood zones.
- Pasture and browse was expected to improve further with continuation of rains in May.

2.3 Water Access and Utilization

2.3.1 Water Sources

- The main sources of water in April was pans and boreholes. Other water sources during the month include roof and rock catchment catchments (Figure 3).
- Households' were using mostly boreholes and piped water for domestic use and pans for livestock.

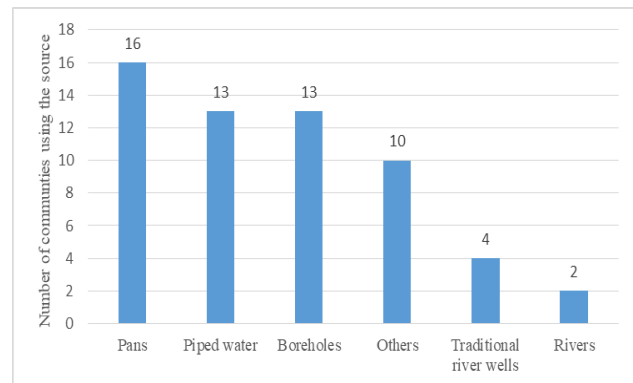


Figure 3. Water sources; Kajiado, April 2023

2.3.2 Households Water Access and Utilization

- The average return distance that people travelled to get water for domestic use reduced from 7.2 km in March to 5.0 km in April. The long term average distance for April is 4.9 km (Figure 4).
- The said reduction in distance was due to households using sources such as pans roof and rock distance that were recharged. The current distance is within the long-term average distance of 4.9 km.

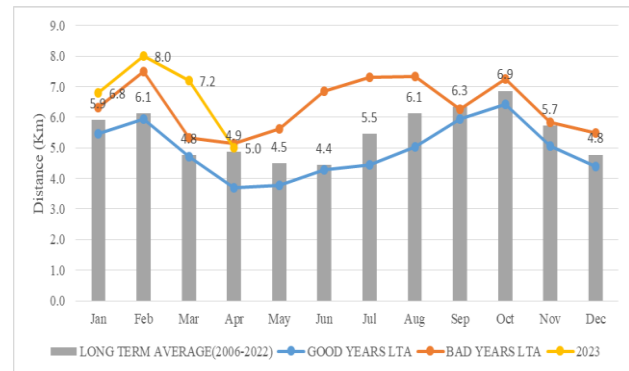


Figure 4. Distances to water sources from homesteads; Kajiado, 2006 - 2023

- Households in Mbirikani (Pastoral zone in south) were covering nearly 8 kilometre to and from water sources that are mainly piped water system.
- On average, households were consuming 80 litres a day with a 20-litre Jerrican costing Ksh. 20 and with no variations across livelihood.

2.2.3 Livestock Access to Water

- After rains and recharge of pans, the average distance that livestock trekked to water sources from the grazing fields reduced from 8.7 km in March to 5.6 km in April (Figure 5).
- The current distance is still above the long-term average of 4.4 km.
- Livestock in Mbirikani were trekking between 8 and 10 km to watering points from grazing fields.

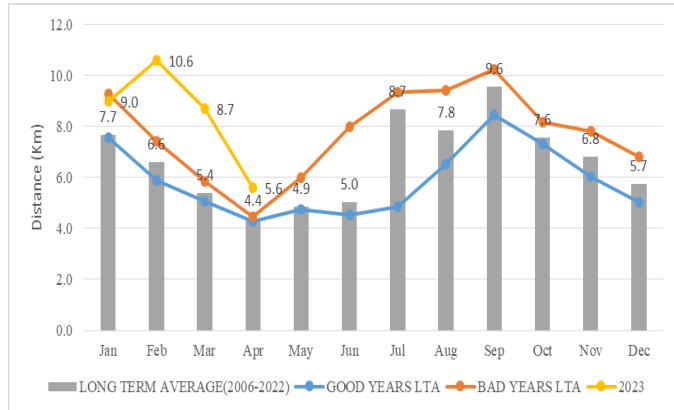


Figure 5. Distances to water points from grazing fields; Kajiado, 2006 - 2023

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock Production

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Livestock body condition has improved compared to March due to improved pasture condition and water.
- Cattle body condition is fair, they look thin with no fat on ribs or in brisket and the backbone is easily visible. Some muscle depletion appears evident through the hindquarters. Goats are looking fairly good.
- There was no observed livelihood variations of livestock body condition in April.

3.1.2 Livestock Mortalities

- There were no reports of livestock mortalities due to drought or related to drought recovery in April.

3.1.3 Livestock Diseases

- Transboundary and endemic diseases including Sheep and goat pox, Peste des petits ruminants (PPR), Lumpy Skin Diseases, Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP) and Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) continue to be reported across the County since last year.

3.1.4 Livestock Migration

- Return migration of cattle continued in April especially for cattle that had migrated to Makueni, Machakos and Nakuru.
- For internal migration, most cattle are now concentrated in Matapato in Kajiado central especially from Kenyawa Poka.

3.1.5 Milk Production

- Household's milk production remains low because cattle that is main source of milk in the County were still in poor body condition. Additionally there was no calving by April due to prolonged drought that the County is now recovery from after rains.
- On average, a household was producing 1.9 litres a day in April and 1.7 litres in January (Figure 6).
- Households in Mixed Farming zones produced about 4.0 lt a day because some of them households keep dairy cattle.

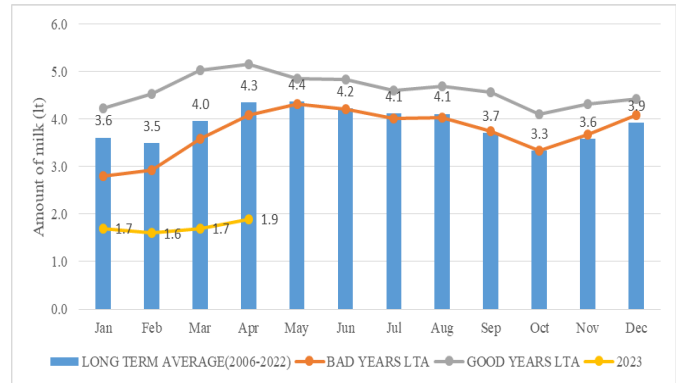


Figure 6. Milk production; Kajiado, 2006 - 2023

3.2 Rain-Fed Crop Production

- Crops are in good condition and within the seasonal growth schedule with the main crop grown during the season being beans.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 Livestock Marketing

- Markets for both livestock and foodstuffs in the County are still operating normally with major livestock markets being Isinya, Ilbisil, Kimana, Ewuaso, Rombo, Shompole and Kiserian.

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

- The average cattle prices remained stable but far below the average price for the last five years for a similar month of the year.

- In January, a medium size bull was selling at Ksh 22,000 and Ksh. 20,300 in April while the average price in April for the last five year is Ksh. 30,500 (Figure 7).
- Cattle are still in poor body condition to prompt any significant increase in their prices despite the County receiving some good rains.

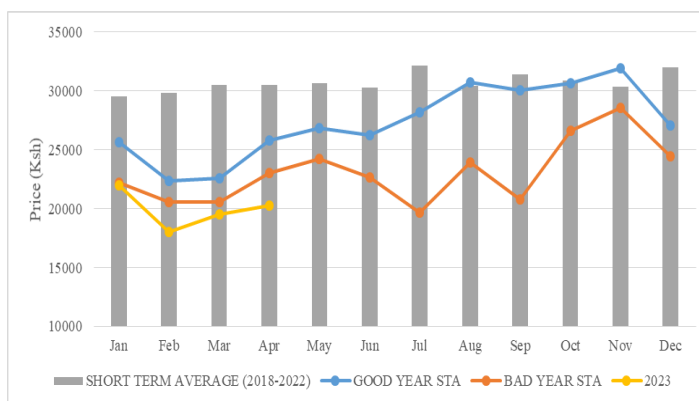


Figure 7. Prices of cattle, Kajiado; 2018 - 2023

4.1.2 Goats Prices

- The average market prices increased from Ksh. 4,200 in March for a medium size goat to Ksh. 4,370 in April for similar size of goat. The average price of medium size goat for the last five year for April is Ksh. 4,590 (Figure 8).
- The increase of prices of goat was because of increased demand from those who want to restock.
- Mbirikani recorded the lowest average price of goat with a medium size goat selling at Ksh. 3,000.

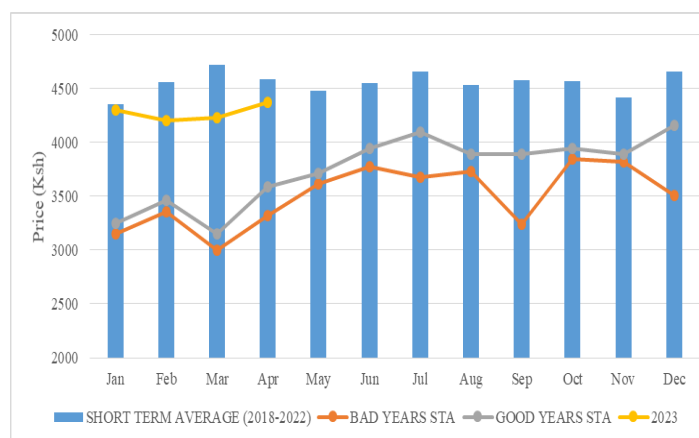


Figure 8. Prices of cattle, Kajiado; 2018 - 2023

4.2 Prices of Cereals and Legumes

4.2.1 Maize Prices

- In April, a kilogram of maize was selling at Ksh. 103 and Ksh. 100 between January and March with a short-term price of Ksh. 52 (Figure 9).
- High prices of maize during January-April period was due to low supply in

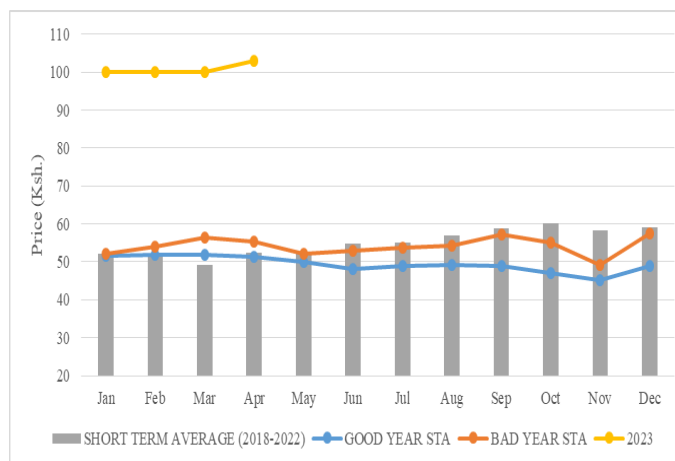


Figure 9. Prices of maize, Kajiado; 2018 - 2023

the market because of crop failure within the County and in the neighbouring counties.

- Kamukuru (Pastoral west) recorded the highest price of maize at Ksh. 130 per kilogram.

4.2.2 Beans Prices

- The average price of beans have been on rise since January due to low supply in the market.
- In January, a kilogram of beans was selling at Ksh. 149 compared to Ksh. 140 in January. The price of beans for January-April this year was 57.4 percent to 53.8 percent of the short-term average (Figure 10).

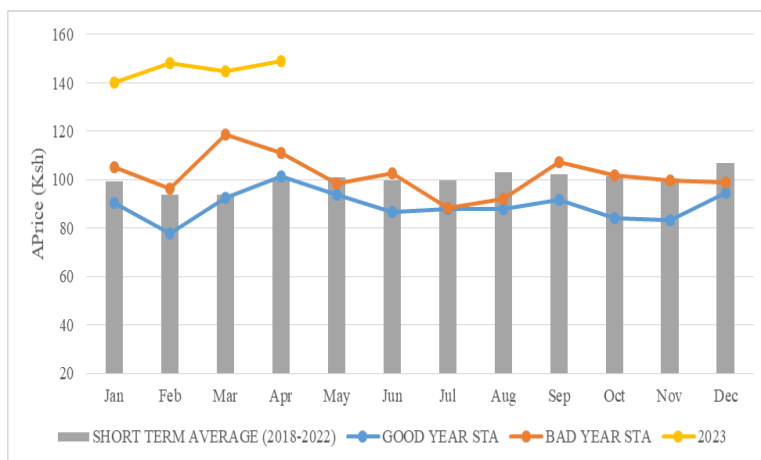


Figure 10. Prices of beans, Kajiado; 2018 - 2023

- In Mbirikani (Pastoral South), a kilogram of beans was selling at Ksh. 200 on average.

4.3 Milk Prices

- The cost of milk remained at Ksh. 120 per litre as opposed to Ksh. 45 during the same time in a typical year. Currently households are getting much of the milk from the markets.

4.4 Terms of Trade

- The terms of trade (ToT) was stable but far below the short-term average for the January – April period at 42 – 43 kilograms of maize per sale of a medium size goat (Figure 11). The average ToT for April is 88 kilograms of maize per sale of a medium size goat.
- There was no livelihood variation in ToT for April.
- Low ToT means less households' access to food and other basics especially for pastoral zone whose main source of income is from sale of livestock.

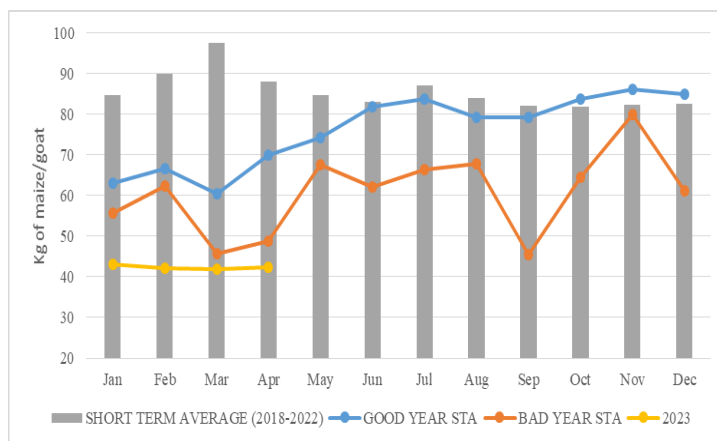


Figure 11. ToT, Kajiado; 2018 - 2023

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1.1 Milk Consumption

- Milk consumption remains far below the average with households consuming 1.4 lt a day in January and 1.5 lt a day in April (Figure 12).
- The long-term household milk consumption in April is 2.6 litres a day.
- Low milk consumption corresponds with low production during the period.

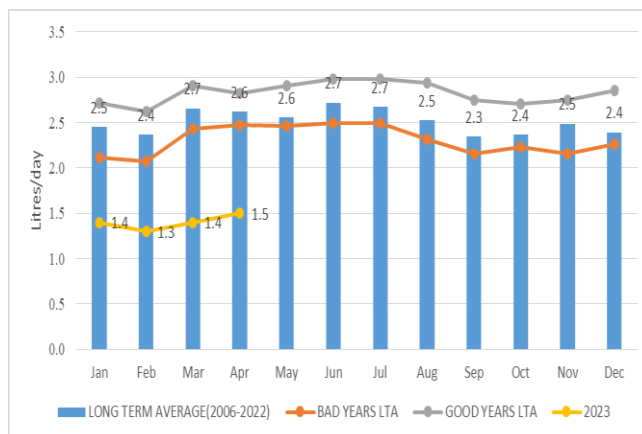


Figure 12. Milk consumption, Kajiado; 2006 -2013

5.2 Food Consumption

- The proportion of the households that would neither consume staples, vegetables and never or very seldom consumed protein rich food daily (Poor category) reduced significantly from 15.3 percent to 9.4 percent in Pastoral livelihood. Better prices of goats in April compared to March might have enabled them to diversify their diet.

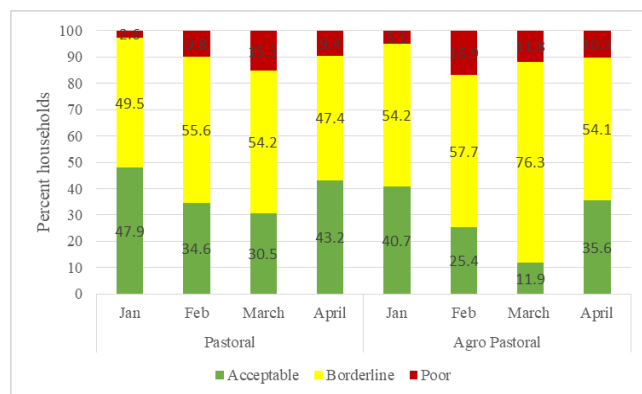


Figure 13. Food consumption score, Kajiado; Jan – April 2023

- In addition, the proportion of the households under borderline category increased between March and April for both zones indicating some improvement (though minimal) in household’s dietary intake.

5.3 Nutrition Status of Children aged 6-59 Months

- The proportion of children aged 6 – 59 months were are at risk of malnutrition remained above the last five years average since January.
- In April, this proportion was 12.7 percent and 12.0 in January (Figure 14).

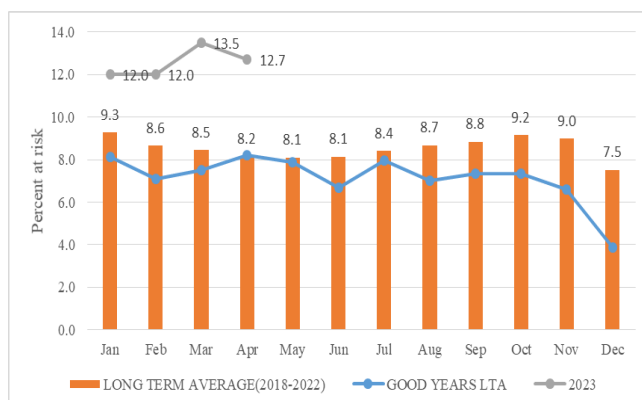


Figure 14. Proportion of U5 at risk of malnutrition, Kajiado; 2018 - 2023

- High risk of malnutrition is majorly due to scarcity of food as households are still depending on markets for food while their income base has not improved resonably.
- Entonet/Lenkism, Matapato South, Imbirikani/Eselenkei, Ildamat, Keekonyokie, Matapato North, Imaroro, Ewuaso Nkidong', Dalalekutuk, Kenyawa-Poka, Iloodokilani, and Purko are some of the wards with high levels of malnutrition.

5.4 Coping Strategies Index

- Figure 15 shows some trends in coping strategies (CSI) for the County as well as for livelihoods.
- Pastoral households are using more stressful ways to get food compared to Agro-Pastoral households as indicated by their CSI (Figure 15).
- Adults were mostly skipping meals in order to deal with lack of food.

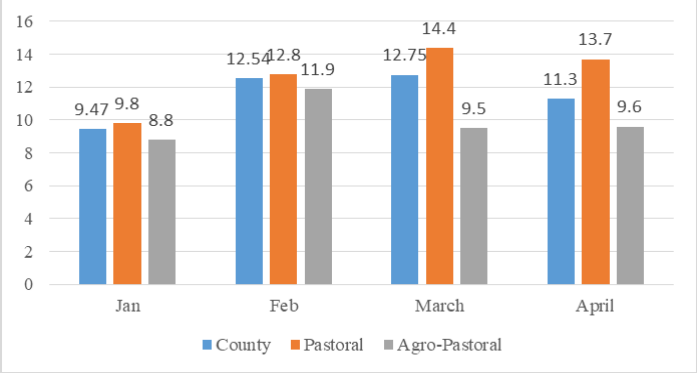


Figure 15. Coping strategy index, Kajiado; Jan – Apr 2023

5.5 Human Diseases

- There were no reports of human disease outbreaks in April.

6.0 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- The onset of the 2023 long rains was timely in March and continued in April with even temporal and fair spatial distribution. The amount of rainfall received between the second dekad of March and the second dekad of April was 66.4% of the normal (101 mm compared to 152 mm). The rains are expected to continue in May.
- Water is adequately available and forage is fair and expected to improve further by May.
- Livestock are expected to significantly improve their body condition by May and thus improve their prices. Milk production will remain low for more than six months because calving is low at this time.
- Households will continue to rely on markets for foodstuffs with prices of cereal expected to remain high until the crop mature possibly around June.
- Malnutrition was likely to remain elevated for the next two months due to low household food production coupled with low purchasing power.

7.0 CURRENT INTERVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Intervention	Location/Sub County	Beneficiaries	Implementer
School Feeding Programme – Provision of Corn Soya Bred	Matapato North and South	43 school with a total of 12171 pupils	Feed the Children
Provision of 6,000 water purifying tablets	Matapato North and South	3,000 households	Feed the Children
Provision of dignity kits	Matapato North and South	800 girls	Feed the Children
Cash transfer	Kajiado Central, West and South	4049 households	World Vision
Extension services	Countywide		County government

8.0 Recommended Immediate Response Options

- ✓ Assist vulnerable households to destock; By County government and stakeholders
- ✓ Sensitization of communities on the need for water harvesting; By County government and stakeholders
- ✓ Humanitarian assistance such as food aid and cash transfers to most vulnerable households; By National government and partners
- ✓ Livestock vaccination and treatment; By County government and partners
- ✓ Integrated health outreaches and availing therapeutic foods for malnourished children; By County government and partners.
- ✓ Livestock and crop disease surveillance; By County government and stakeholders
- ✓ Support communities in contingency planning; National Drought Management Authority and partners.