



National Drought Management Authority
KWALE COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN OCTOBER 2020

OCTOBER 2020 EW FLAG

Drought Status: NORMAL



Shughull za kawaida

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- The three dekads received lower than normal rainfall during the month.
- The vegetation condition index for October was normal for this time of the year implying normal vegetation greenness.
- However, the vegetation condition in the county has been on a declining trend since April, with Lunga Lunga Sub-county already in the moderate vegetation deficit band of vegetation greenness.
- The state of water sources was below normal for this time of the year.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production indicators

- Farmers had started planting during the month and most of the crops were at germination stage
- Milk production was slightly below normal for this time of the year.
- No drought-related deaths or migration incidences were reported this month.

Access indicators

- Terms of trade (casual labour to maize) were above-average implying higher-than-normal household purchasing power for this time of the year.
- Milk consumption at household level was within seasonal averages for the month.
- Distances to water points for household consumption were longer than the seasonal norms for this time of the year.

Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification

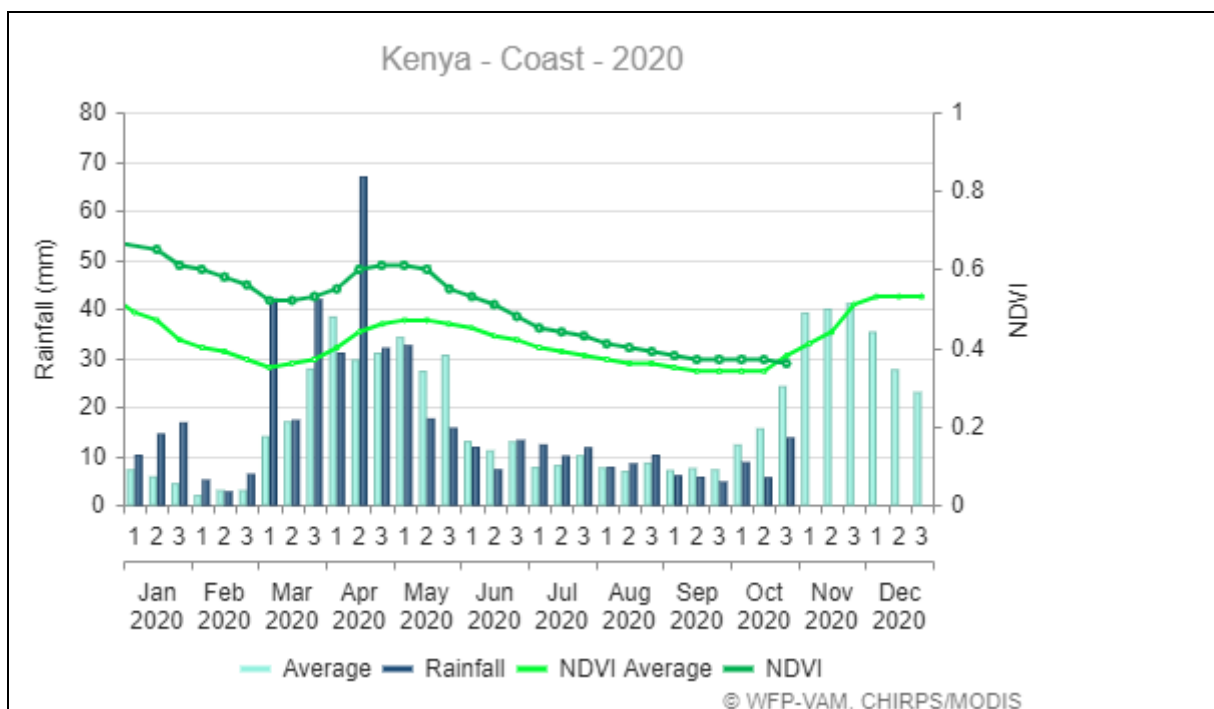
Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Mixed Farming	Normal	Improving
Livestock Farming	Alert	Improving
County	Normal	Improving
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/Value
VCI	37.88	35
State of Water Sources	4	5
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Crop condition (maize and legumes)	N/A	N/A
Milk Production (Litres)	3.0	4.2
Livestock Migration Pattern	No migration	No migration
Livestock deaths (from drought)	Zero deaths	Zero deaths
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of trade	83.9	42.5
Milk Consumption (litres)	2.0	1.6
Return distance to water sources for households (km)	4.3	3.0

Seasonal Calendar

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains harvests ▪ Short dry spell ▪ Reduced milk yields ▪ Increased household food stocks ▪ 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 household food stocks ▪ Kidding (Sept) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains ▪ Planting/weeding 								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- The first, second and third dekads of the month received below normal amounts of rainfall of approximately 8.5, 5.4 and 13.5 mm respectively compared with long-term averages of 12.1, 1.4 and 24 mm in the respective dekads.
- Temporal and spatial distribution was fair as most parts of both livelihood zones recorded some rainfall during the three dekads.
- The chart below illustrates trends in rainfall performance for September.



2. IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 3-monthly Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

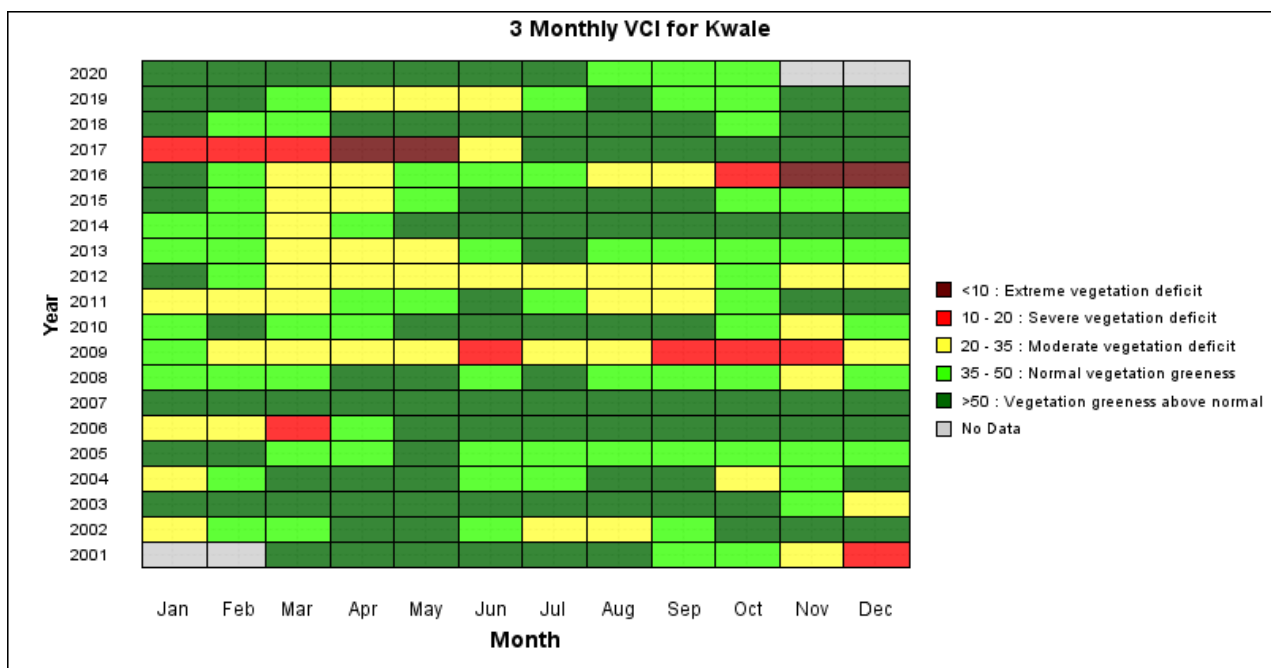
- The vegetation greenness in the county remained similar to last month and was in the ‘normal vegetation greenness’ band at 37.88 as shown in the table below.
- At livelihood zone level, the vegetation condition also remained similar to the values recorded in the month of September in both livelihood zones. This was the case in the mixed farming livelihood zone (comprising largely Matuga and Msambweni Sub-counties) and the livestock farming livelihood zone (comprising largely Kinango and Lunga Lunga Sub-counties) as indicated in the table below.
- All sub-counties had however remained within the ‘normal vegetation greenness’ band with the exception of Lunga Lunga Sub-county which had entered the ‘moderate vegetation deficit’ band with a 3-monthly VCI of 28.4, having slightly decreased from 29.27 recorded last month.

Area	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	August 2020	September 2020	October 2020
Kinango Sub-county	91.99	106.65	105.45	90.87	74.06	59.41	46.1	38.82	38.51
Lunga Lunga Sub-County	92.41	94.14	97.3	86.23	73.97	59.65	40.52	29.27	28.4
Matuga Sub-county	88.67	90.54	96.54	75.85	65.2	66.97	56.27	47.78	48.91
Msambweni Sub-county	89	92.0	93.58	68.67	57.46	60.23	55.27	48.73	47.75
Kwale County	91.52	97.41	101.81	86.79	72.11	60.47	46.51	37.88	37.88

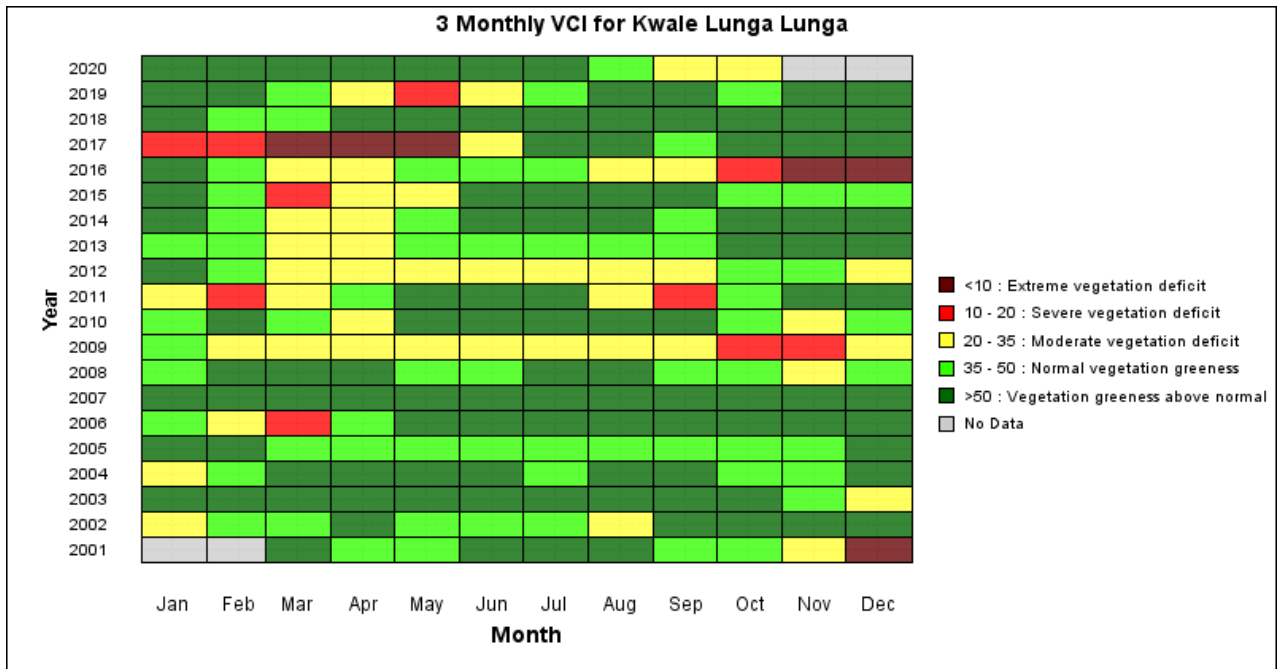
- According to the 1 monthly VCI, Lungalunga sub-county had improved although still remained in the moderate vegetation deficit band similar to the month of September as shown in the indices below.

	1-monthly VCI(Sept. 2020)	1-monthly VCI (Oct. 2020)
Kwale	35.72	44.36
Kinango	35.51	45.45
Lungalunga	27	34.58
Matuga	47.66	55.29
Msambweni	49.75	50.28

- The matrix below shows the general vegetation condition at county level which was similar to the same time last year.

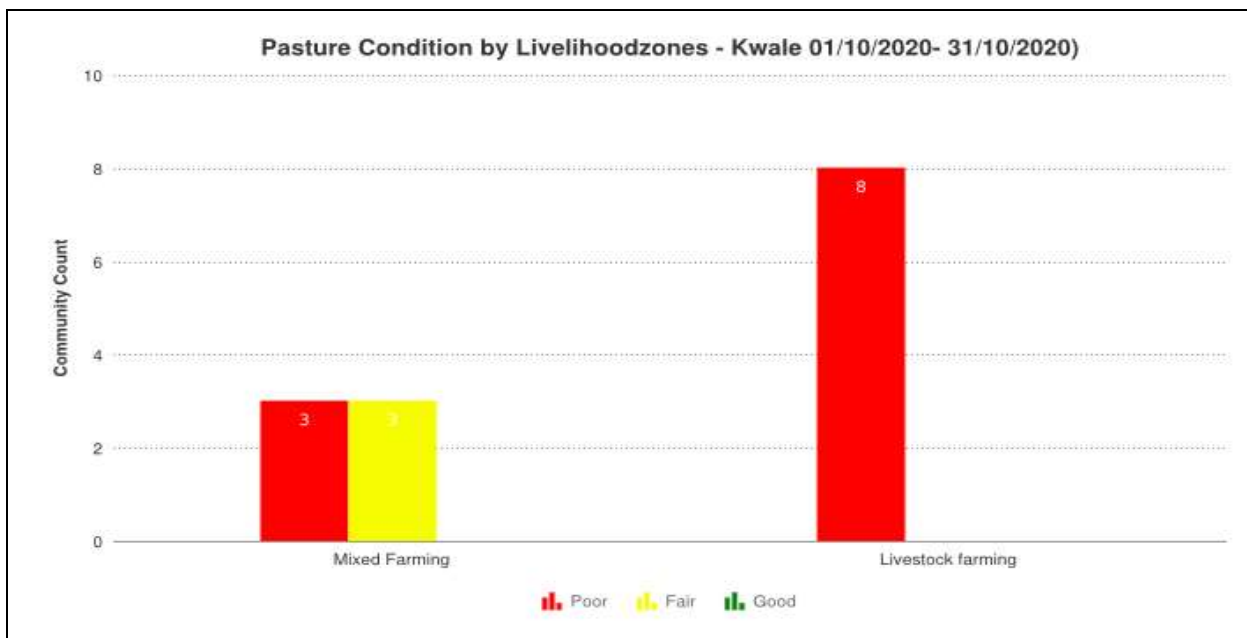


- The matrix below shows the vegetation condition in Lunga Lunga Sub-county which indicates that the vegetation greenness remained in the 'moderate vegetation deficit' band and worse than at a similar time last year.



2.1.2 Pasture

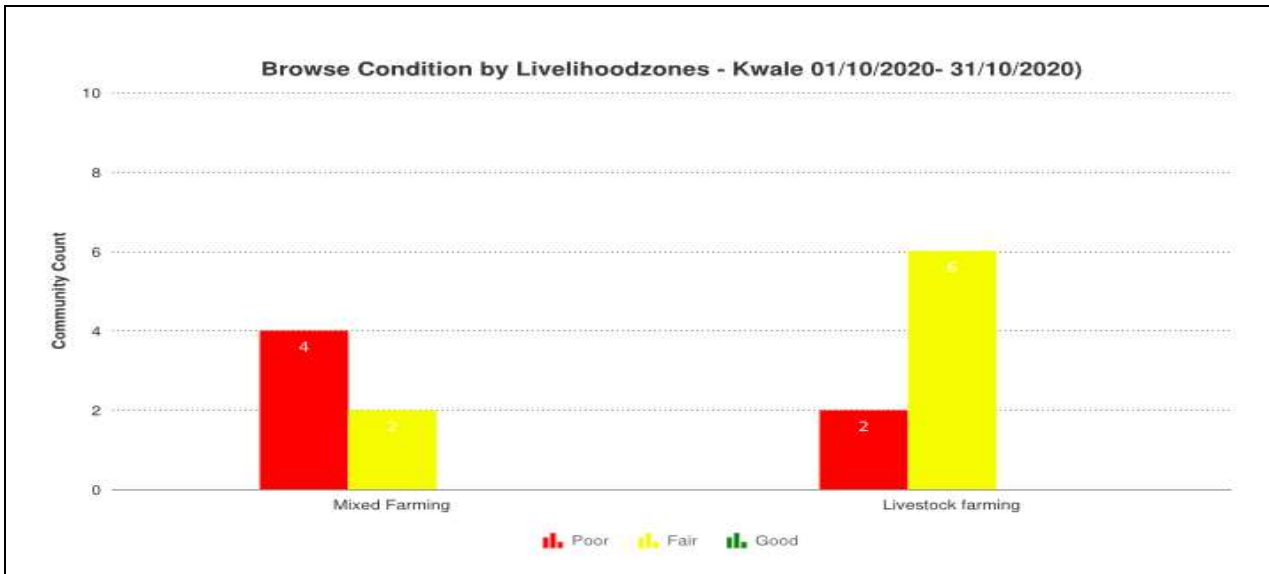
- The pasture condition at the county level deteriorated this month compared with last month as no households reported good condition as compared to 27.8 percent in September.
- In addition, approximately 78.6 percent had reported poor condition as compared to 33.3 percent last month.
- The deterioration in pasture condition was also recorded at the livelihood zone level as shown in the graphs below.



2.1.3 Browse

- The browse condition worsened this month as approximately 42.9 percent of households reported poor condition and no household reported good condition as compared to 33.3 percent of households reported good condition in September.

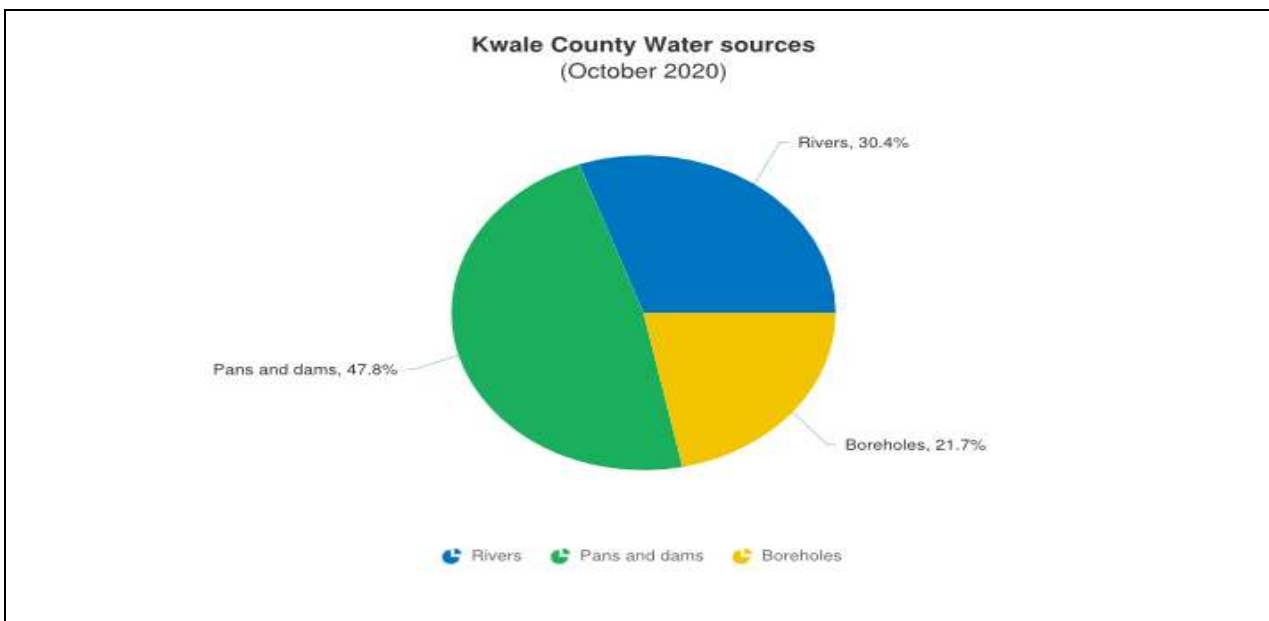
- The deterioration in browse condition was evident at livelihood zone level as shown in the graphs below.



2.2 WATER RESOURCES

2.2.1 Sources

- Pans, dams and rivers were the major sources of water for domestic consumption this month similar to last month as shown in the pie-chart below.
- The sources were normal for this time of the year.

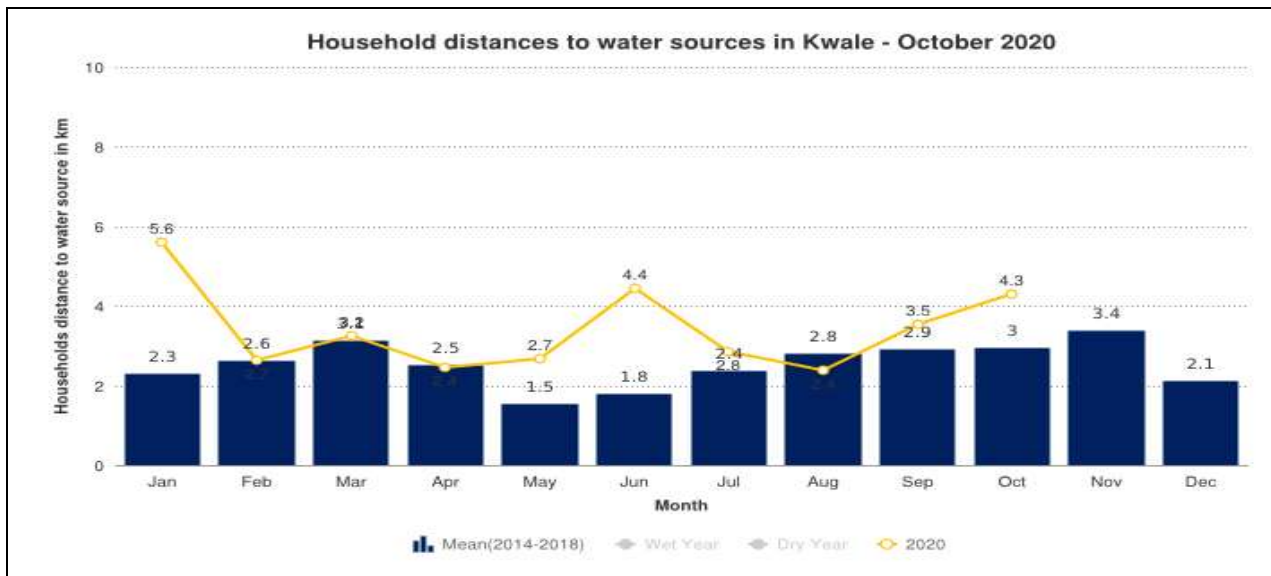


- The status of water resources remained normal at index '4' (a description is provided in the table below) similar to last month which was normal for this time of the year.

INDEX	STATUS OF WATER SOURCE	DESCRIPTION
1	EMERGENCY SITUATION	All main water sources have dried up; only few boreholes still yielding significant amounts
2	STRONGLY INADEQUATE	Surface water sources have dried up while the underground water sources are yielding very little amounts of water. Breakages of boreholes contribute to worsen the situation. Acute water shortage in many areas within the livelihood
3	INADEQUATE	Surface water sources have dried up while the underground water sources are yielding modest amounts of water. Concentration of livestock around few water points contribute to spread communicable diseases and to degradation of rangeland
4	DECLINING	The water availability is below normal for the period
5	NORMAL	The water availability is normal for the period
6	GOOD	The water availability is above normal for the period

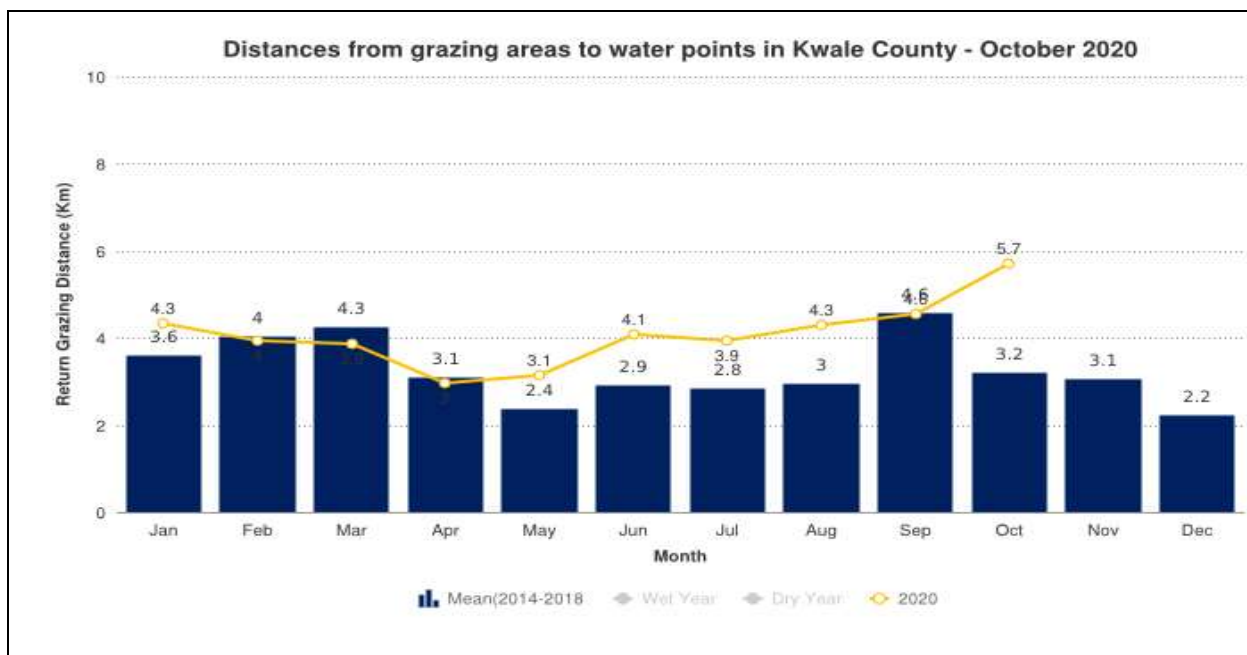
2.2.2 Household access and utilization

- Access to water for household use was slightly more difficult this month compared with last month as households had to walk a longer distance from 3.5 km last month to 4.3 km in October.
- The distance was longer than the seasonal norms which was recorded as 3.0 km in the 2015-2019 LTA as shown in the graph below.
- Minimal differences at livelihood zone level were recorded. The livestock farming livelihood zone recorded an average distance of 1.9km compared with 1.5 km in September while the mixed farming livelihood zone posted a distance of 1.7 km compared with 1.8km last month.



2.2.3 Livestock access to water

- Access to water for livestock use increased as livestock had to walk an average distance of 5.7 km from grazing areas to water sources in October compared with 4.6 km in September.
- The distance was also longer than normal for this time of the year as shown in the graph below.
- The mixed farming livelihood zone recorded the longest distance at 4.0 km having increased from 3.0 km recorded in September.
- The livestock farming livelihood zone recorded the shortest distance at 2.0 km having increased from 1.6 km recorded in September.



3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- The larger proportion of livestock in the county were stressed this month while they had good body condition in September.
- This condition was not normal for this time of the year following the early warning classification below.

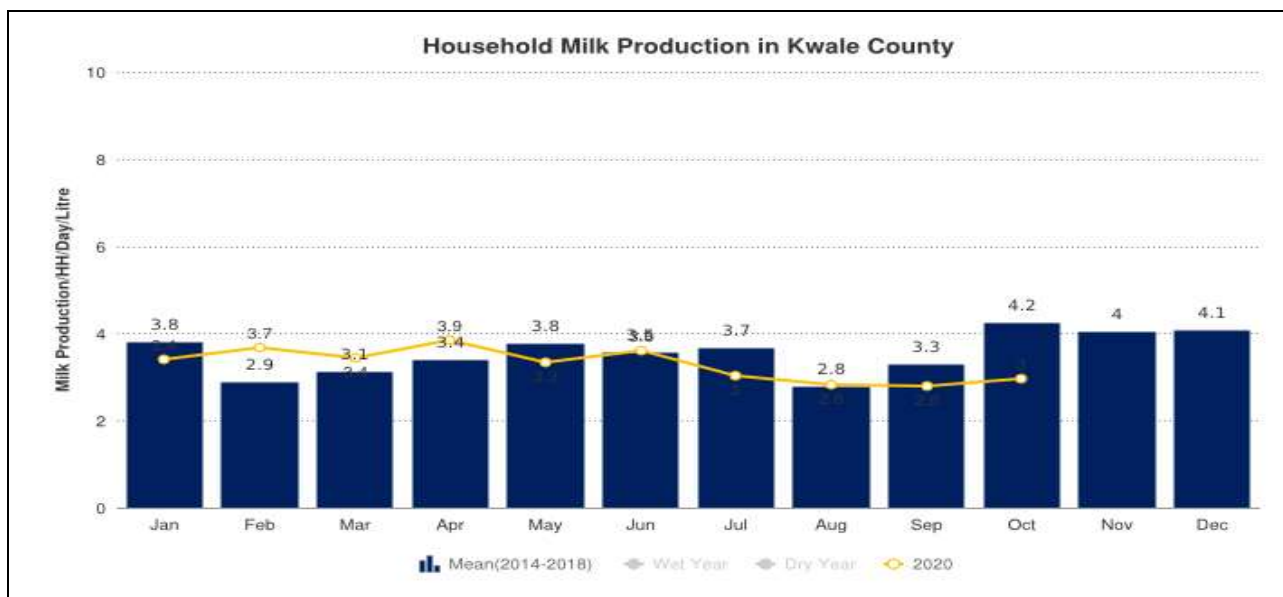
Level	Classification	Characteristics (this describes majority of the herd and not individual isolated stock)
1	Normal	Very Fat Tail buried and in fat
		Fat, Blocky. Bone over back not visible
		Very Good Smooth with fat over back and tail head
		Good smooth appearance
2	Moderate	Moderate. neither fat nor thin
3	Stressed	Borderline fore-ribs not visible. 12th & 13th ribs visible
4	Critical	Thin fore ribs visible
5	Emaciated	Very thin no fat, bones visible
		Emaciated, little muscle left

3.1.3 Livestock diseases

- The main livestock disease that had been reported last month that had a threat to food security is Contagious Bovine Pleuro-Pneumonia (CBPP) in cattle in the livestock farming livelihood zone in Kinango and Lunga Lunga Sub-counties. However, incidences of this disease reduced during the month due to the ongoing rains
- Incidences of tick borne disease (East Coast Fever – ECF) were reported in Ndavaya ward in Kinango sub county.
- A quarantine notice that was issued in Mwangulu market in Lunga Lunga Sub-county by the county’s veterinary department was still in force during the month.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- The average milk production this month was 3.0 litres in October which was slightly more 2.8 litres recorded in September.
- The production was slightly lower than normal compared with 4.2 litres recorded in the 2015-2019 LTA as shown in the graph below.



3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and condition of food crops

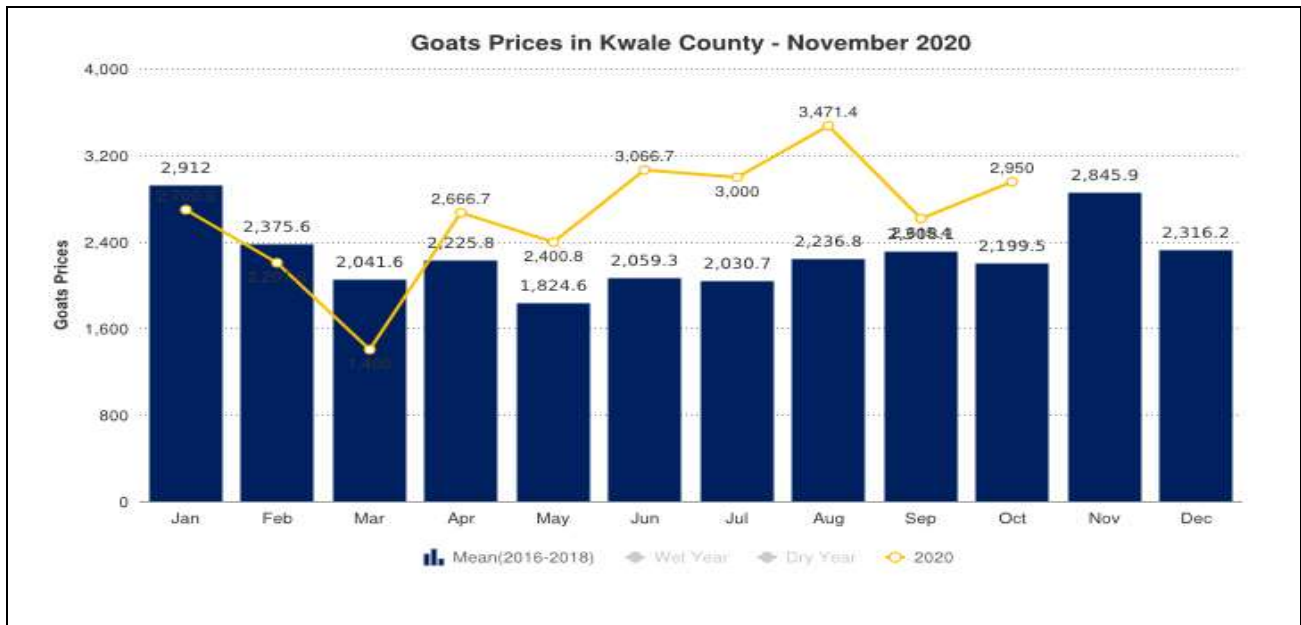
- Farmers had started planting with most of the crops being at germination stage. A few farmers who planted early had their crops at near knee-high.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Goat prices

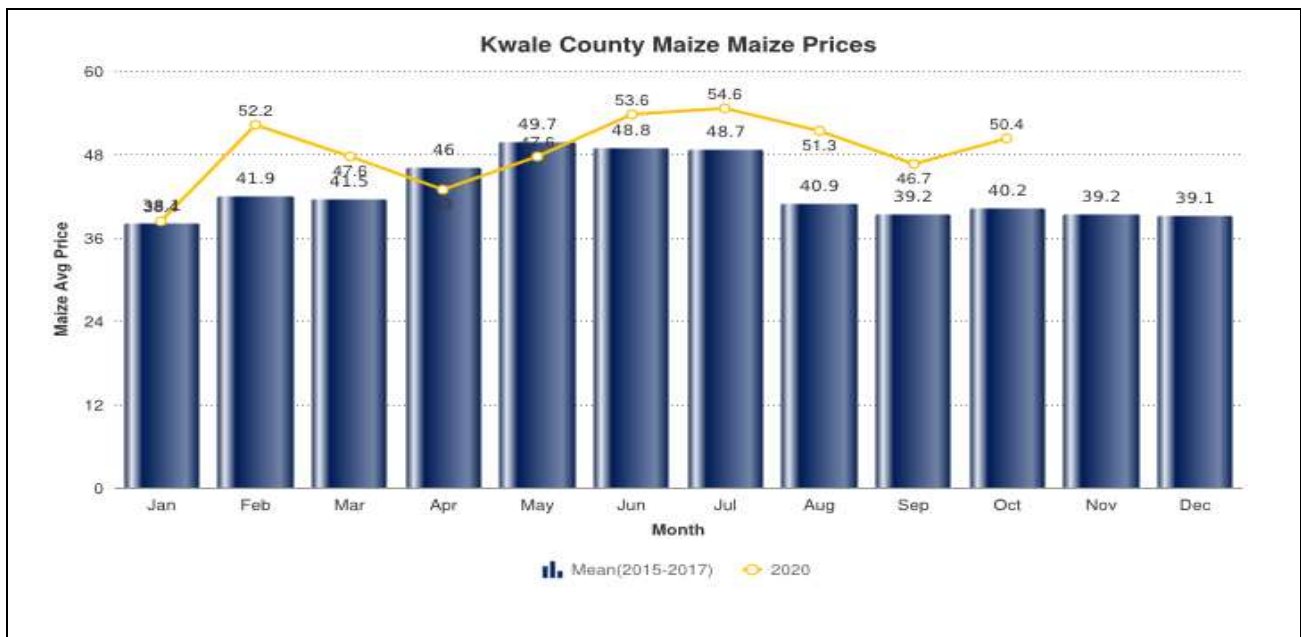
- The trading price of a medium-sized three-year old buck was Kshs 2,950 in October having increased from Kshs 2,613 recorded in September.
- The current price was above the normal price expected for this time of the year approximated at Kshs 2,200 recorded in the 2017-2019 LTA as shown in the graph below.
- The current good body condition of goats could have contributed to the competitive market price posted. However, the declining condition of browse may affect this if rains are not recorded in the county soon.



4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

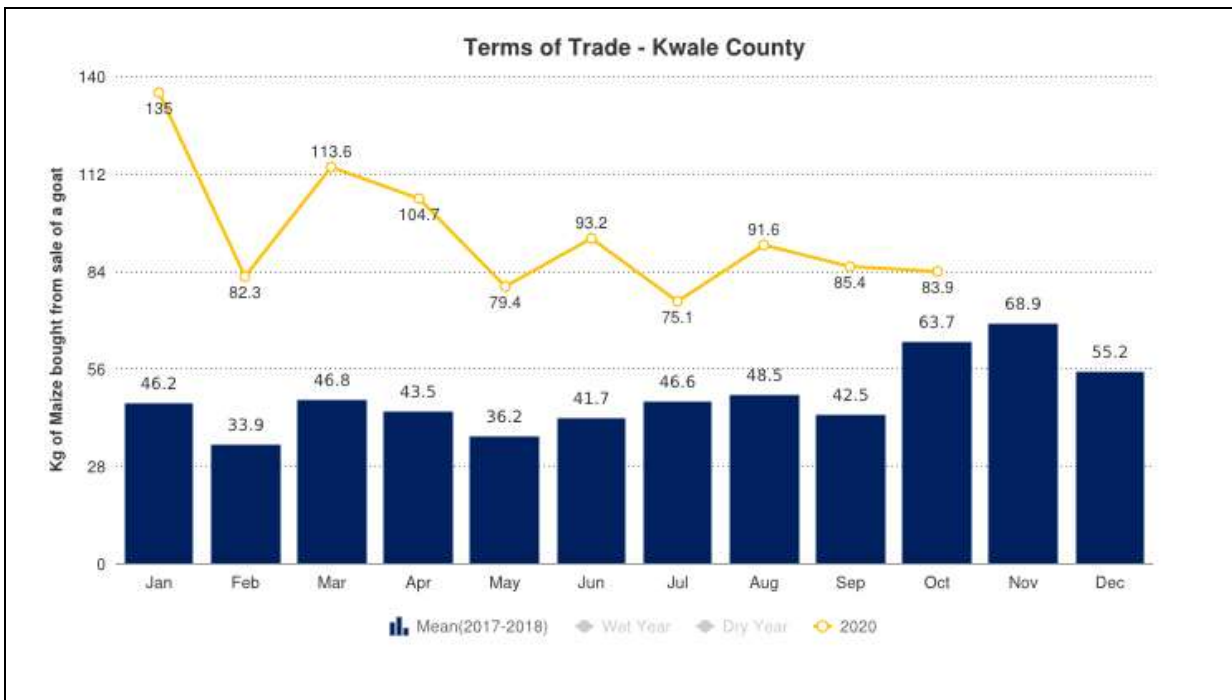
- A kilogram of maize was selling at Kshs 50.4 in October having maintained a stable trend from Kshs 46.7 posted in September.
- The price was within seasonal norms compared with Kshs 40.2 posted in the 2017-2019 LTA as shown in the graph below.



4.3 TERMS OF TRADE (ToT) - CASUAL LABOUR VERSUS MAIZE PRICES

- The ToT averaged 83.9 in October having marginally decreased compared to 85.4 recorded in September.
- The slight decrease could have been occasioned by the increased on-farm activities as households begin engaging in land preparation for the short rains season.

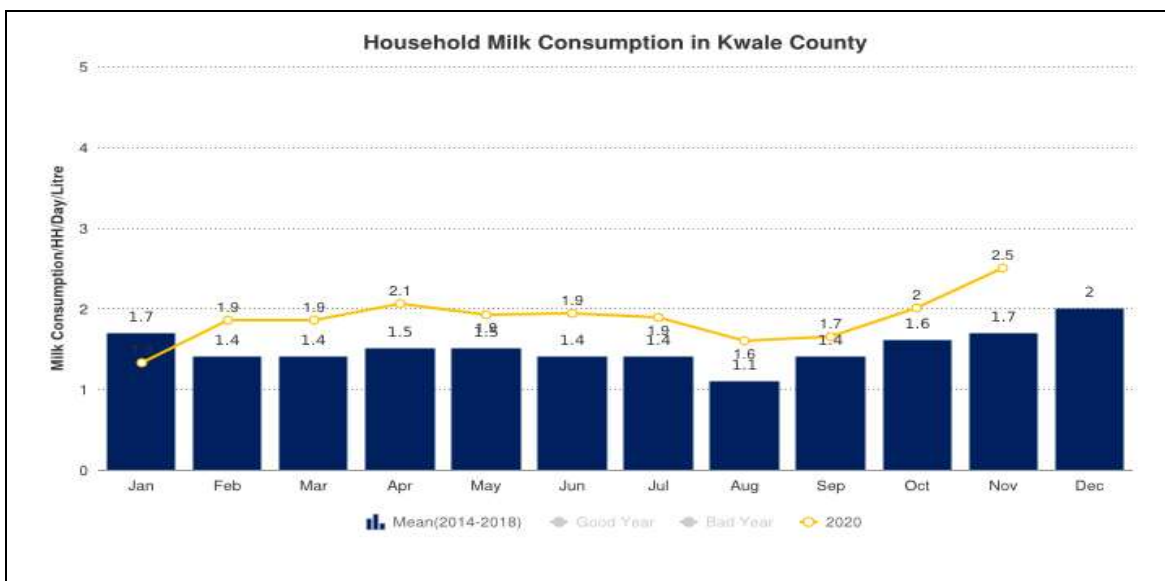
- The current ToT was higher than expected at this time of the year as shown in the graph below.
- The increase in the ToT and the above-average trend implied increased purchasing power at household level compared with last month and normal times.
- Households were therefore able to purchase a higher quantity of maize from the proceeds of casual labour this month and compared with normal times.



5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- Milk consumption at household level increased from an average of 2 litres to 2.5 litres in this reporting month.
- It was also within seasonal norms compared with 1.6 litres recorded in the 2015-2019 LTA as shown in the graph below.



5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

- The average food consumption score at county level averaged dropped significantly from 49.0 recorded the previous month to 42.9 in October 2020.
- The highest score was recorded in the mixed farming livelihood zone at 48.5 and the lowest at 39.2 in livestock farming livelihood zone.
- Approximately 73 percent of households were in acceptable food consumption category compared to 96.7 percent of household recorded in September. in the former livelihood zone compared with 48.3 percent in the latter.
- In addition, 13 percent and 14 percent of households had poor and borderline food consumption respectively
- The implication was that therefore that food consumption patterns had improved compared with October last year with respect to food frequency, nutritional value and dietary diversity.

5.4 COPING STRATEGIES

- The county's aggregate coping strategy index (rCSI) was recorded as 16.5 in October having remained fairly stable compared with 14.5 recorded in September. It had also remained stable compared with 14.1 recorded during the same time last year.
- The livestock farming livelihood zone recorded the least index at 13 which indicated a slight decrease from 16.7 last month.
- The mixed farming livelihood zone recorded the highest index at 20 having increased from 12.3 recorded in September.

6. CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES

6.1 NON-FOOD INTERVENTIONS

○ Health department

- Vitamin A supplementation and deworming in facilities and community outreaches

○ Agriculture department

The department undertook the following interventions in September:

- Tractor ploughing of 1800 acres of land against a target of 6000 acres in 20 wards as an incentive to increase acreage under crop production for the short rains season.
- Rehabilitation of micro-irrigation infrastructure on 4 acres of land in Kinango sub county

○ Veterinary department

- Disease surveillance and control. The department carried out rabies vaccination in Lungalunga sub county

7. EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- No cases of insecurity, human displacement or conflict were recorded in September.

7.2 Migration

- No migration incidences were reported in September.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Monitoring of the rainfall situation to identify isolated areas which may not have experienced the onset of the short rains

- Conduct ring vaccination against the CBPP disease in wards bordering the affected wards to curb the spread of the disease.
- Heighten Covid-19 prevention guidelines and measures across the county.