



National Drought Management Authority
KWALE COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN MAY 2021

MAY 2021 EW FLAG

Drought Status: NORMAL



Shughull za kawaida

Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Mixed Farming	Normal	Deteriorating
Livestock Farming	Normal	Improving
County	Normal	Stable
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/Value
VCI	42.55	>40
State of Water Sources	5	5
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Crop condition (maize and legumes)	Fair	Good
Milk Production (Litres)	2.7	3.8
Livestock Migration Pattern	No migration	No migration
Livestock deaths (from drought)	Zero deaths	Zero deaths
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of trade	57.2	54
Milk Consumption (litres)	1.7	1.5
Return distance to water sources for households (km)	3.1	1.5
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	2.8	-

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- The first dekad of the month received significantly above-average rainfall while the second dekad received below normal rainfall.
- The vegetation condition index for May was normal for this time of the year.
- The state of water sources was as normal for May.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production indicators

- Weeding was on-going for the long rains season crop.
- Crop condition was fair currently when normally it would be good.
- Milk production was below normal for the month.
- No cases of drought-related livestock deaths or migration were reported during the month.

Access indicators

- Terms of trade (casual labour to maize) were within seasonal norms implying normal household purchasing power.
- Household milk consumption was within seasonal norms for May.
- Distances to water sources for domestic consumption were above average.

Utilization Indicators

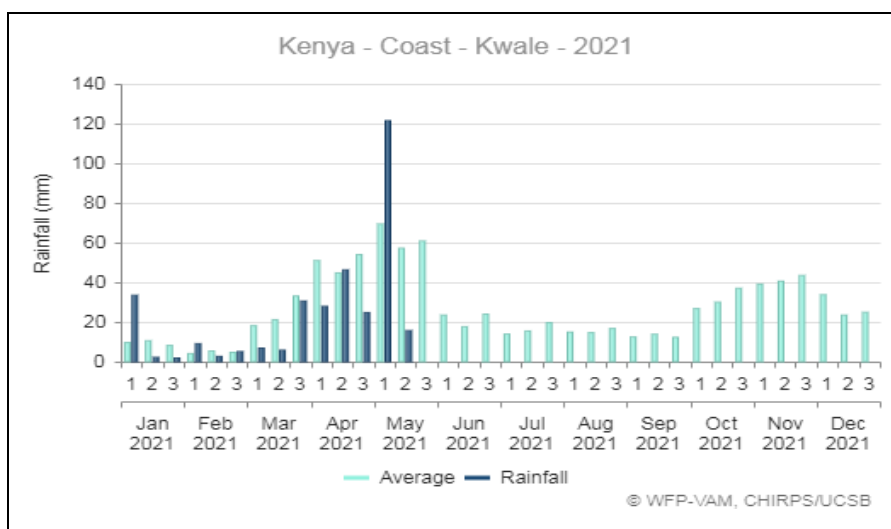
- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition was approximated at 2.8 percent for children aged 0-5 years.

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 dekad of the month received significantly above-average rainfall (121.4mm) being almost double the amount normally received for the month compared with the long-term average (LTA) of 69.338 mm.
- The second dekad on the other hand received significantly below average rainfall (15.617mm) which was less than a third of the amount expected for the month in comparison with the LTA as shown in the graph below.
- The rains were unevenly distributed in space but fairly well distributed in time despite the varying amounts received in the two dekads.



2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

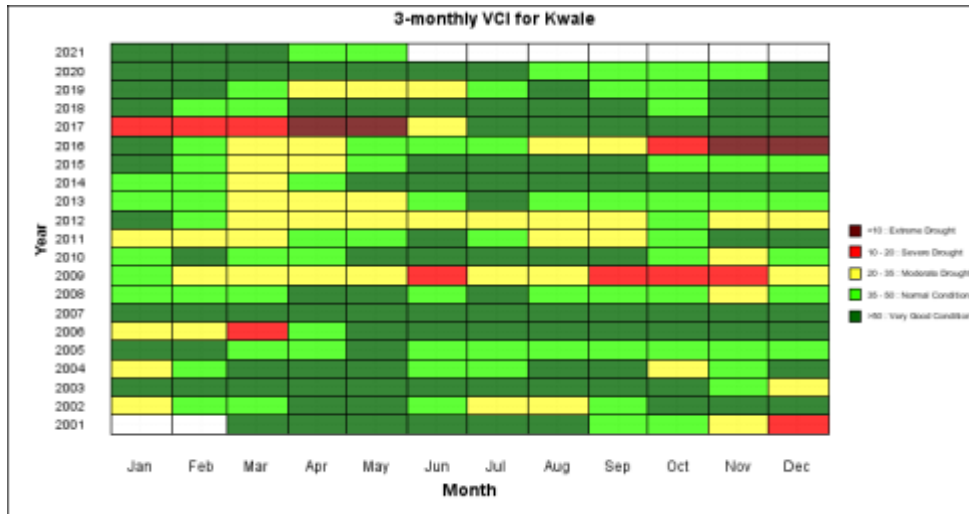
2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 3-monthly Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The vegetation greenness in the county remained stable as the VCI posted an insignificant change from 43.08 in April to 42.55 in May. The situation in the county was normal for the month.
- At sub-county level, the situation was varied. It remained relatively the same in Msambweni and Kinango Sub-counties, increased by 46.6 percent in Lunga Lunga Sub-county but reduced by 19.1 percent in Matuga Sub-county as shown in the table below.
- In addition, the vegetation condition was normal in Kinango and Matuga Sub-counties and above normal in Msambweni and Lunga Lunga Sub-counties.

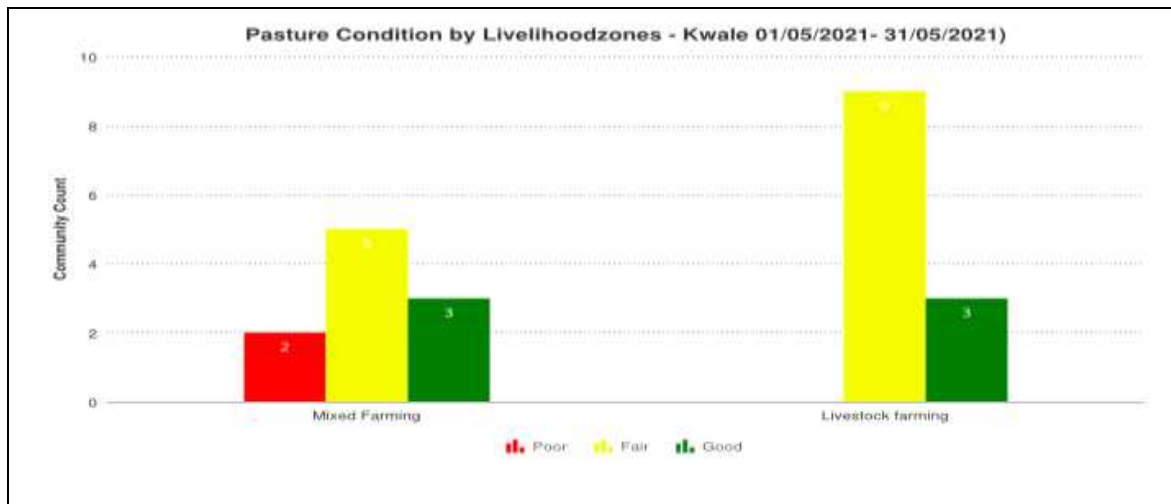
Area	September 2020	October 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	April 2021	May 2021
Kinango Sub-county	38.82	38.51	33.84	55.02	61.91	55.81	45.9	36.67	37.17
Lunga Lunga Sub-County	29.27	28.4	30.71	60.06	68.29	61.71	54.78	36.67	53.4
Matuga Sub-county	47.78	48.91	50.75	61.46	67.06	67.2	64.76	53.92	43.63
Msambweni Sub-county	48.73	47.75	47.7	57.19	67.06	66.07	64.34	55.43	51.81
Kwale County	37.88	37.88	35.92	57.14	64.28	59.16	51.29	43.08	42.55

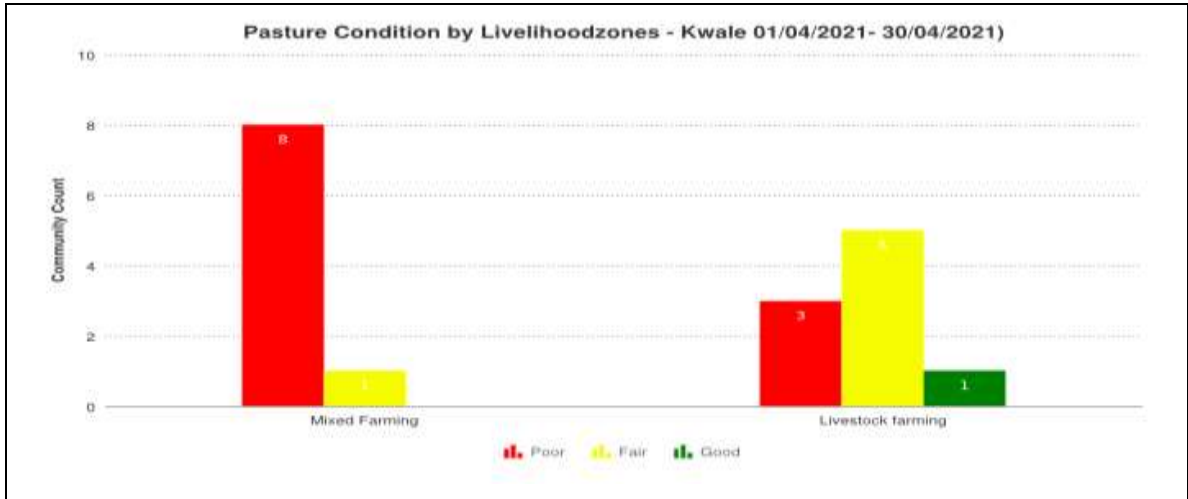
- The matrix below shows the trend in vegetation greenness in the county for a 20-year period. The current situation was slightly worse than a similar time last year but much better than a similar time in both 2017 and 2019.



2.1.2 Pasture

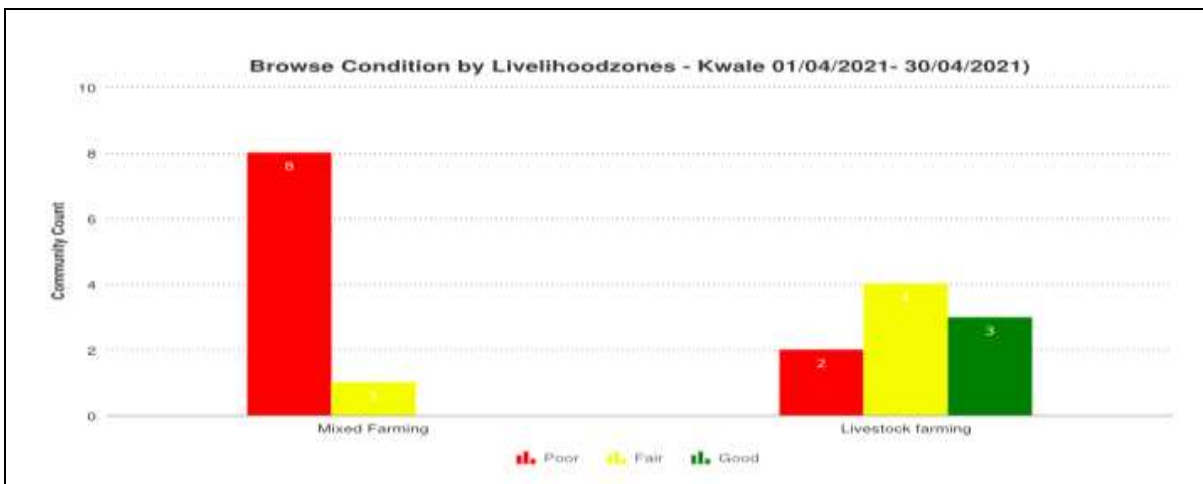
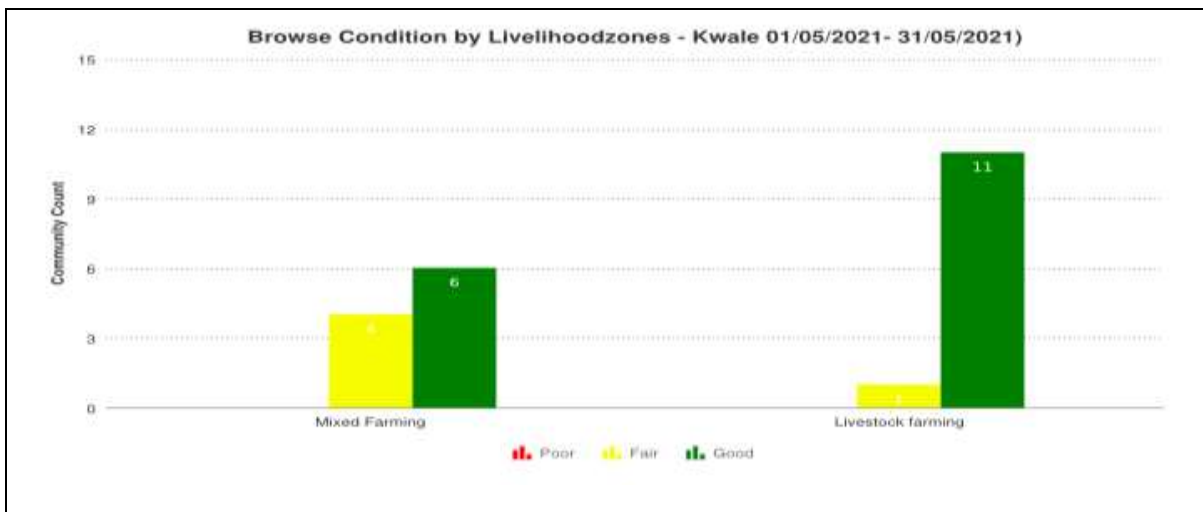
- Pasture condition improved slightly compared with last month as the proportion of households who reported good condition increased from 5.6 percent in April to 27.3 percent in May.
- However, disparities were evident at the livelihood zone level where the improvement was most visible in the livestock farming livelihood zone as shown in the graphs below.





2.1.3 Browse

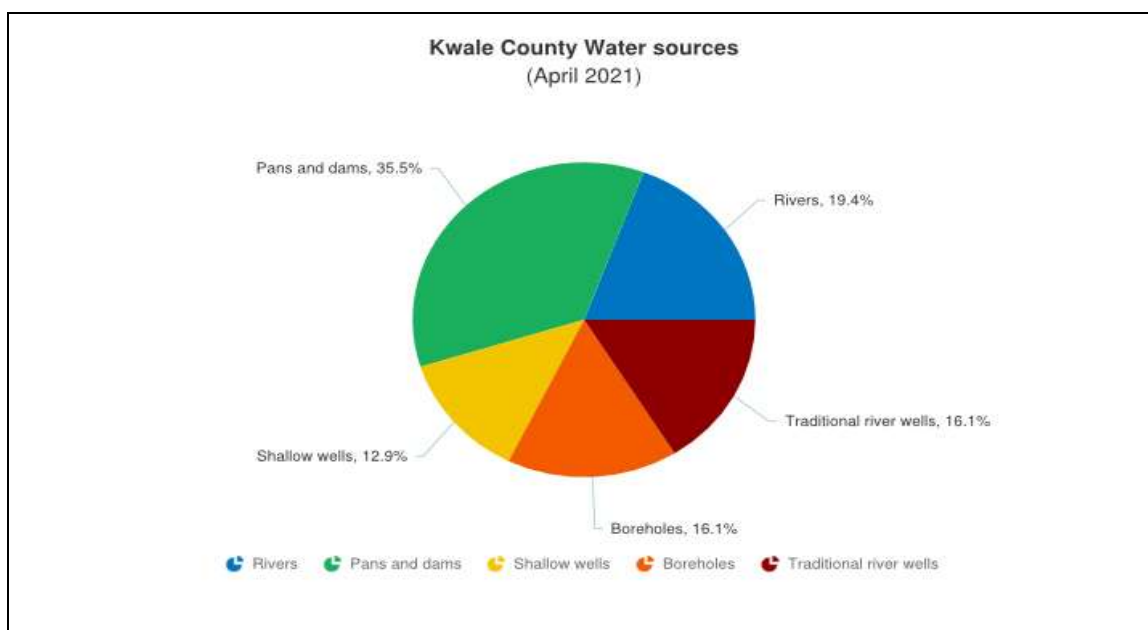
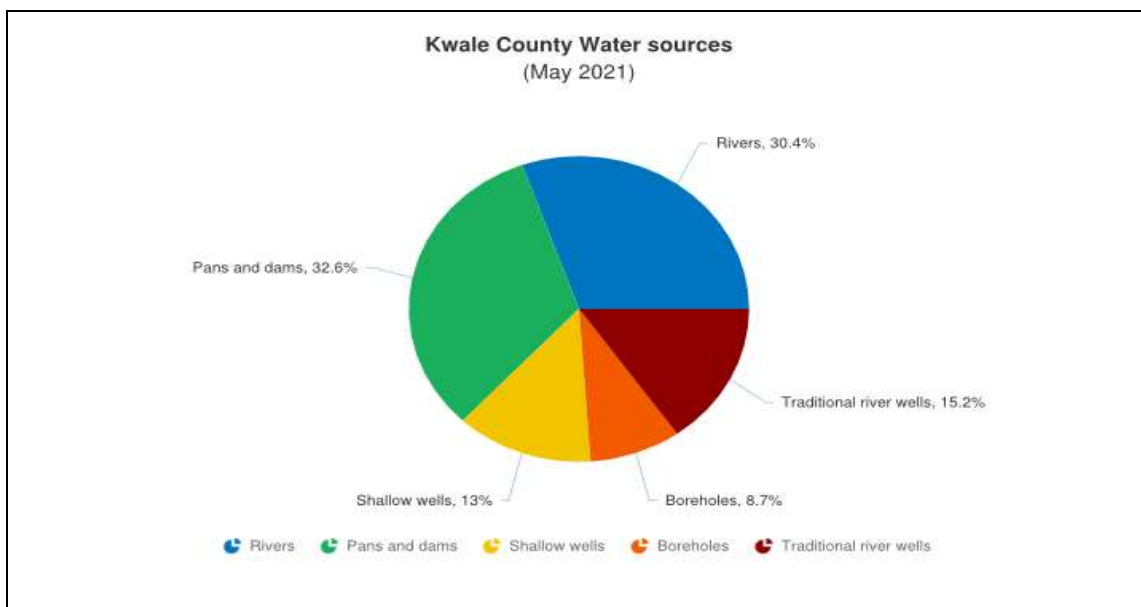
- There was a remarkable improvement in browse condition as manifested in the significant increase in the proportion of households who reported good condition from 16.7 percent in April to 77.3 percent in May.
- The improvement was registered at livelihood zone level too where both the mixed farming and livestock farming livelihood zones posted significant positive changes as shown in the graphs below.



2.2 WATER RESOURCES

2.2.1 Sources

- Pans, dams and rivers were the main sources of water for domestic consumption in May as shown in the pie chart below.
- The sources were the normal ones for the month.



- The status of water sources was normal at index '5', a description of which is provided in the table below and is similar to April.

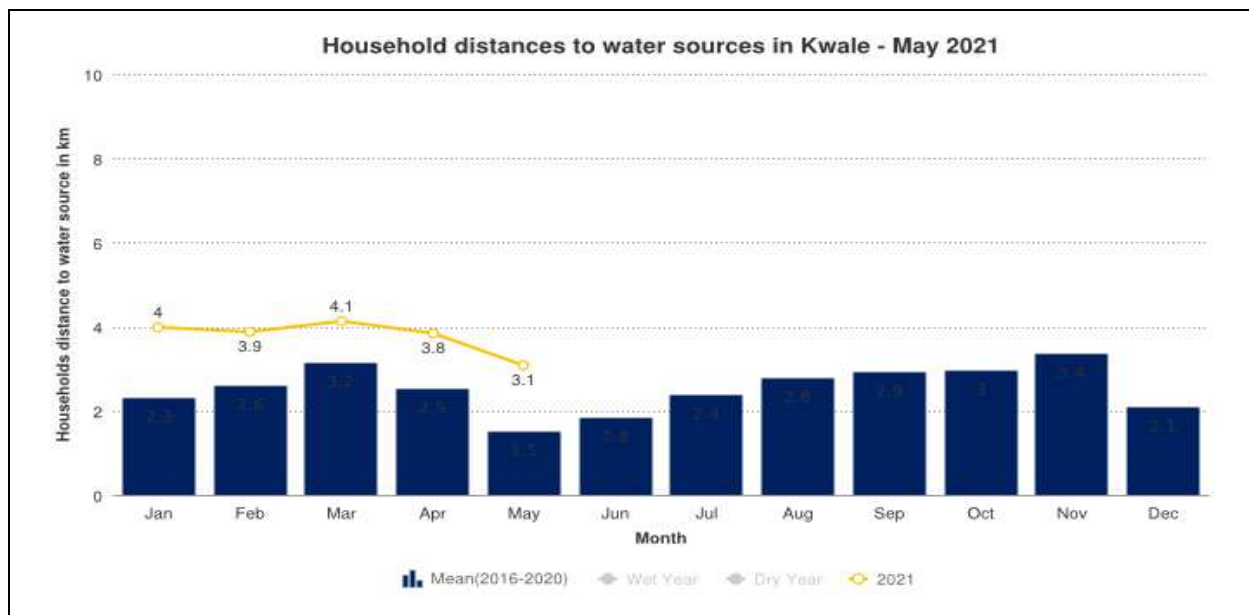
INDEX	STATUS OF WATER SOURCE	DESCRIPTION
1	EMERGENCY SITUATION	All main water sources have dried up; only few boreholes still yielding significant amounts

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

- The water situation was normal for the month.

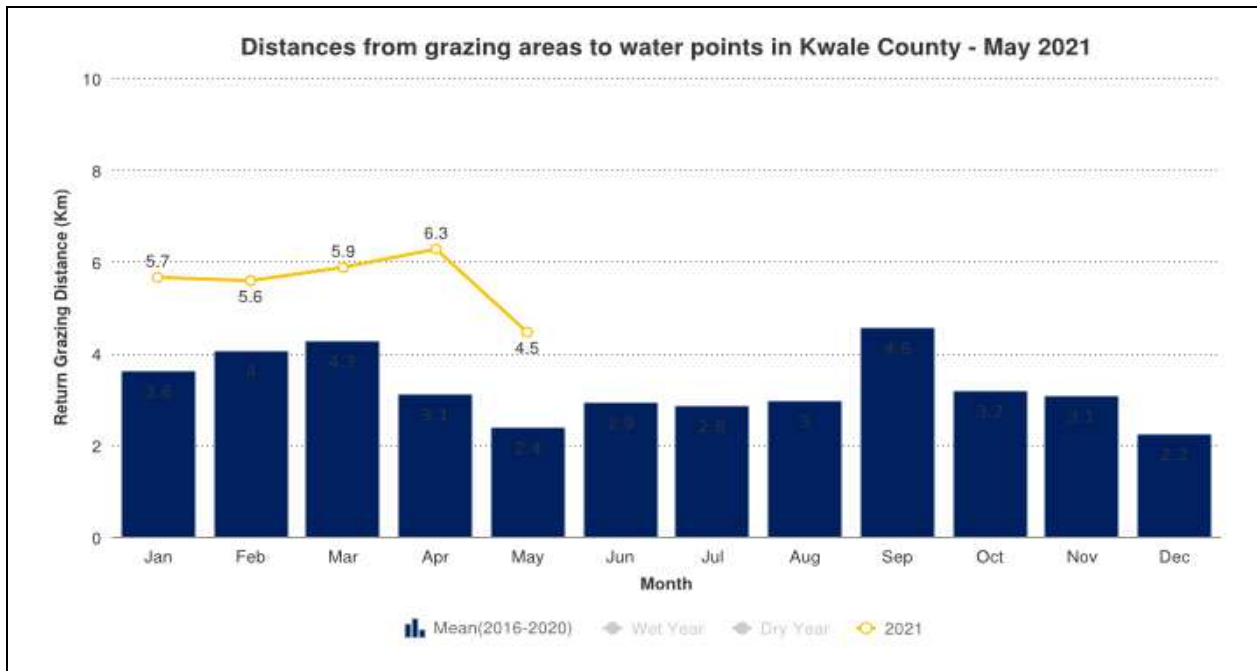
2.2.2 Household access and utilization

- Access to water for household consumption improved slightly as distances to water points reduced by approximately 18.4 percent from 3.8 km in April to 3.1 km in May.
- However, despite the improvement in access, the distance walked was approximately twice that normally walked during this time of the year in comparison with 1.5 km recorded in the 2016-2020 LTA as shown in the graph below.



2.2.3 Livestock access to water

- Access to water for livestock improved this month as livestock had to walk an average of 4.5 km from grazing areas to watering points in May having reduced by a 28.6 percent margin from 6.3 km in April.
- However, despite the decrease in distance and therefore improvement in water access, the distance was almost twice that normally walked during the month compared with 2.4 km normally walked in the 2016-2020 LTA.
- The following graph shows the trend in the distance to grazing areas from water sources in the county.

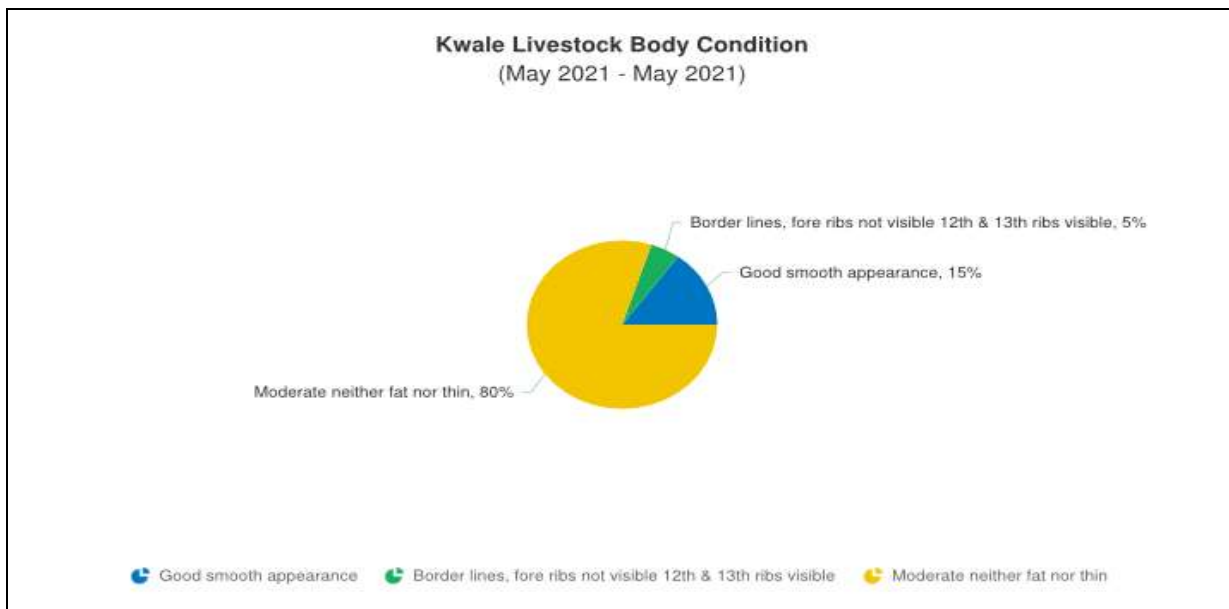


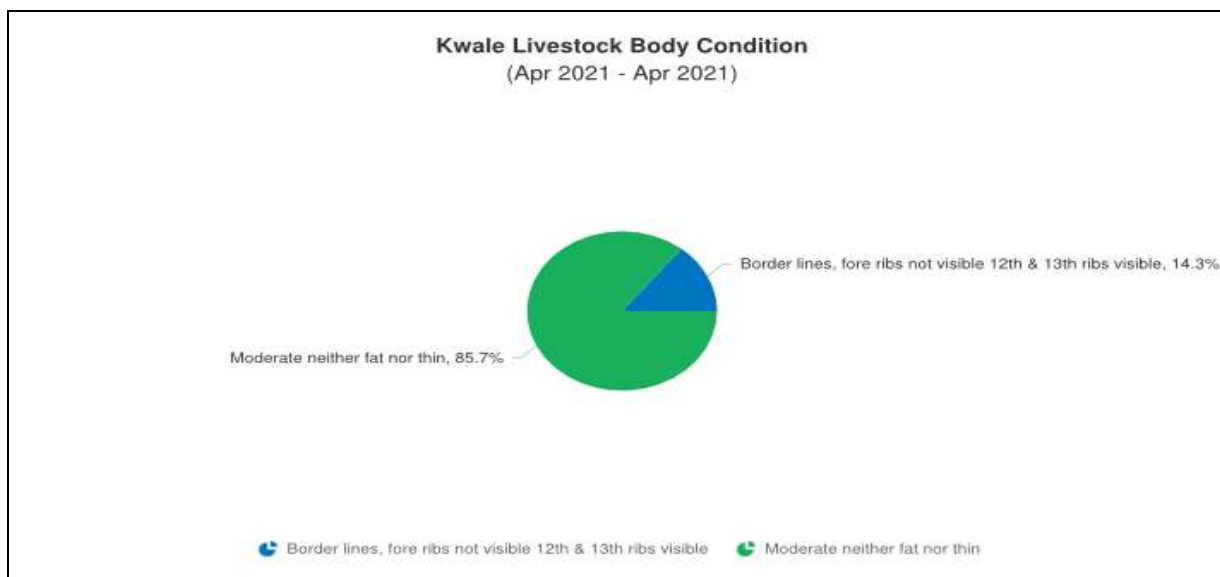
3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Livestock body condition improved this month as the proportion of households who reported good smooth appearance increased from nil in April to 15 percent in May.
- The improvement could have been occasioned by the improved condition of rangeland resources (pasture, water and browse) in comparison with last month.
- The change in body condition is illustrated in the pie-charts below while the table describes their various categories.





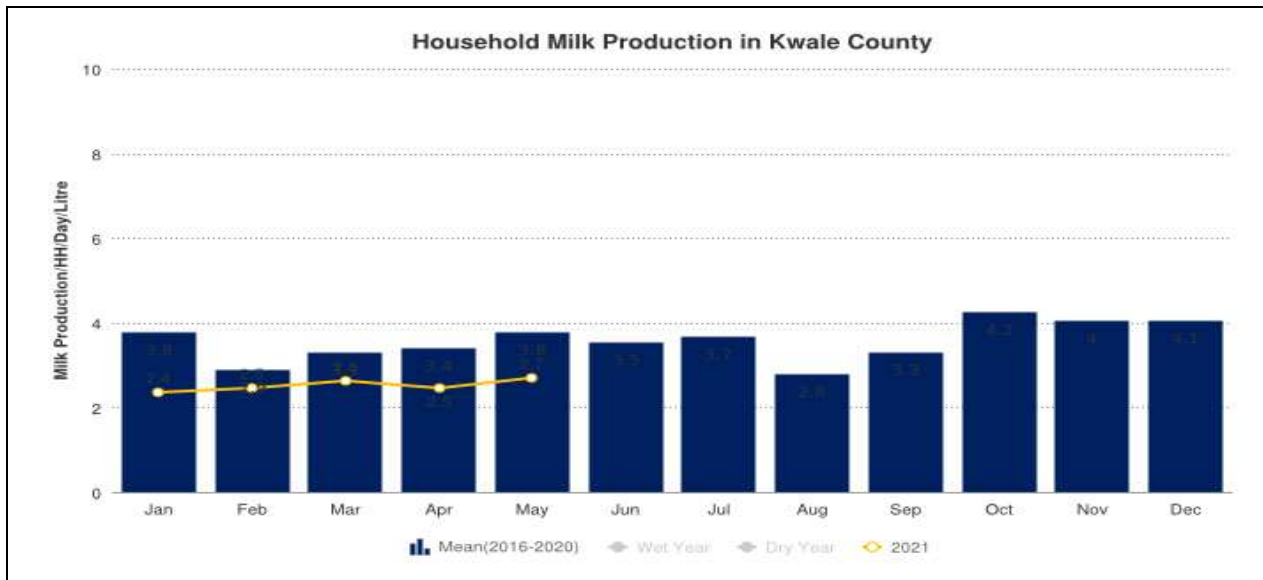
Level	Classification	Characteristics (this describes majority of the herd and not individual isolated stock)
1	Normal	Very Fat Tail buried and in fat
		Fat, Blocky. Bone over back not visible
		Very Good Smooth with fat over back and tail head
		Good smooth appearance
2	Moderate	Moderate. neither fat 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

- Ndavaya Ward in Kinango Sub-county recorded Foot and Mouth Disease and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in cattle, Contagious Caprine Pleuro Pneumonia (CCPP) in goats and New Castle Disease (NCD) in poultry.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- Household milk production averaged 2.7 litres in May having maintained a stable trend in comparison with 2.5 litres in April.
- The production was below normal compared with 3.8 litres recorded in the 2016-2020 LTA as shown in the graph below.



3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and condition of food crops

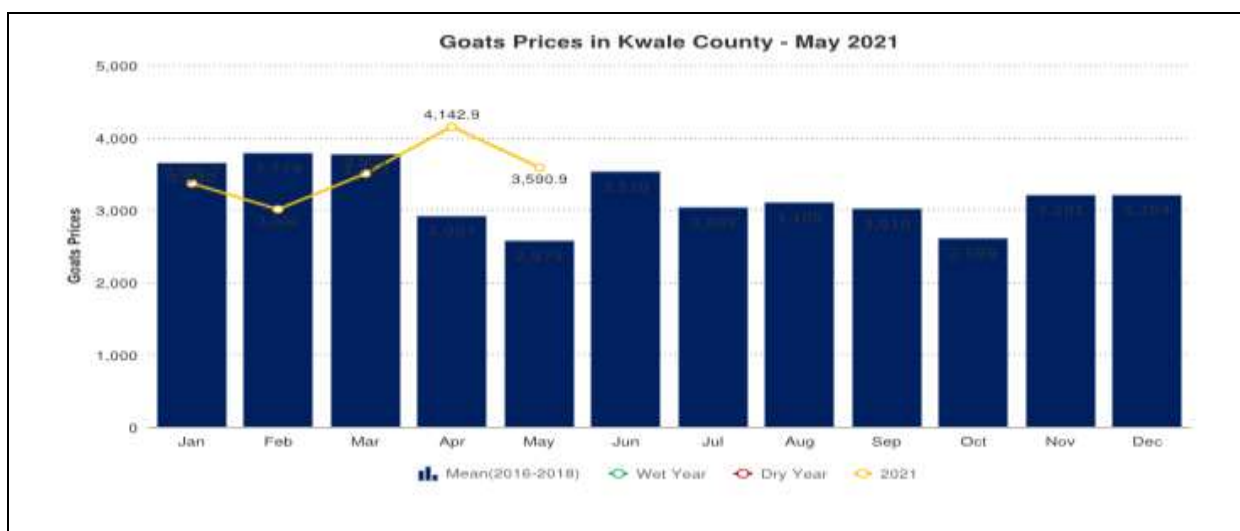
- Main crops grown this season were maize, cow peas and green grams which was normal for the season.
- Most crops were at germination stage and in fair condition although a few households were still engaged in land preparation.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Goat prices

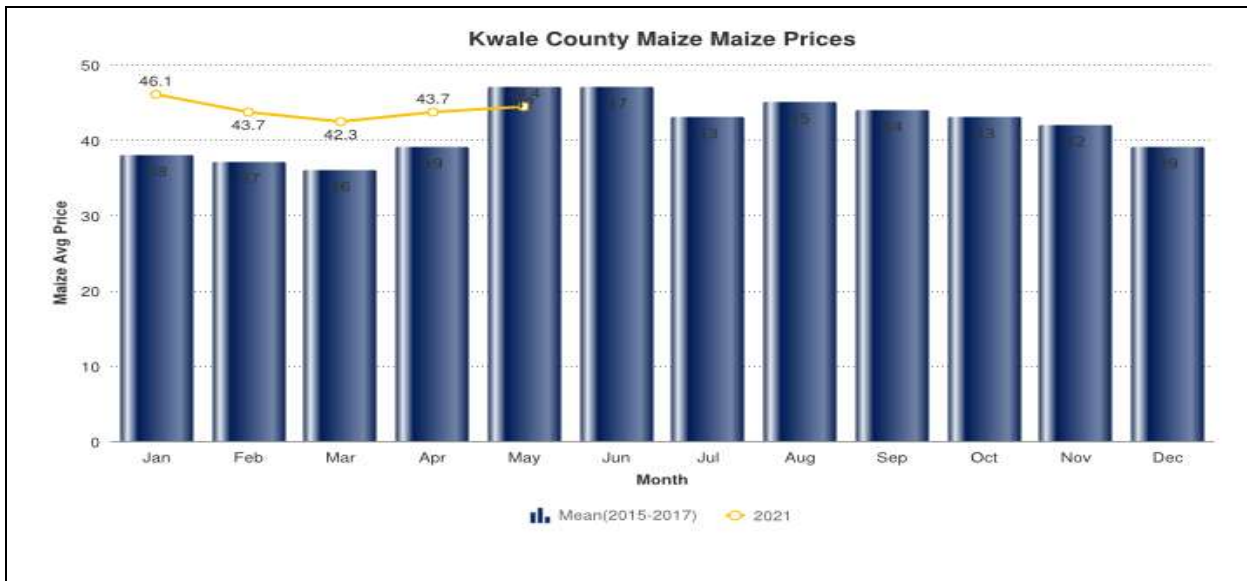
- The price of a medium-sized three-year old buck was Kshs 3,590.9 in May having reduced slightly by 13.3 percent from Kshs 4,142.9 in April.
- The price was 36.3 percent above normal in comparison with Kshs 2,575 in the 2016-2018 LTA as shown in the graph below.



4.2 CROP PRICES

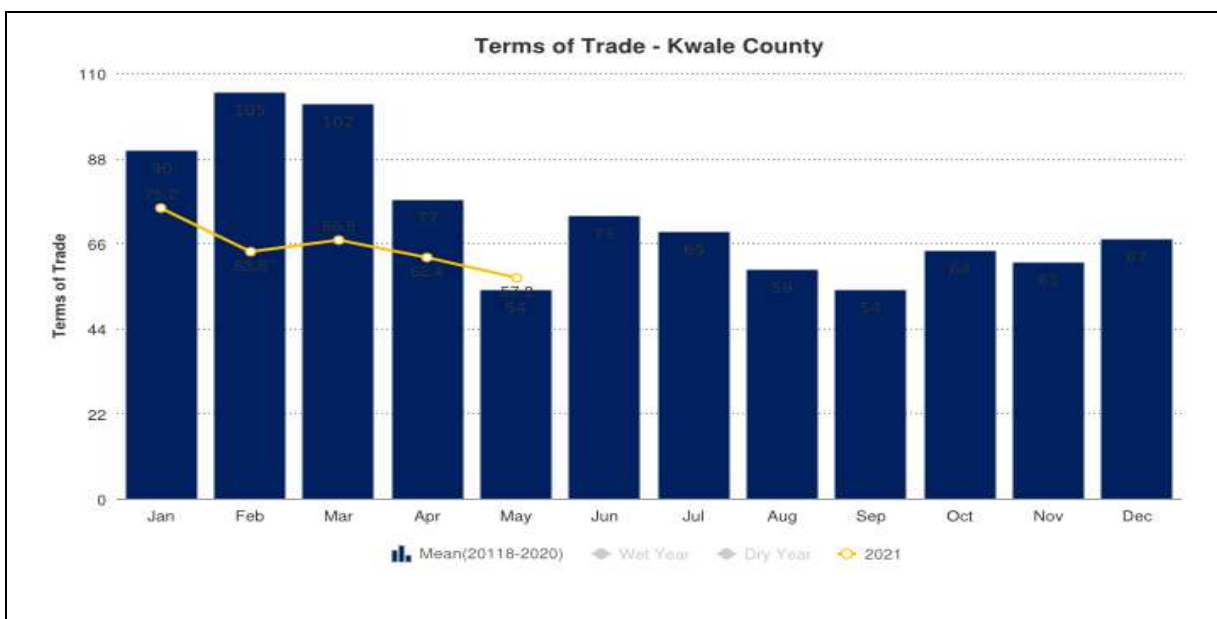
4.2.1 Maize

- The retail price for a kilogram of maize was Kshs 44.4 in May having maintained a stable trend in comparison with Kshs 43.7 in April.
- The price was within seasonal ranges for the month compared with Kshs 47 in the 2015-2017 LTA as shown in the graph below.



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

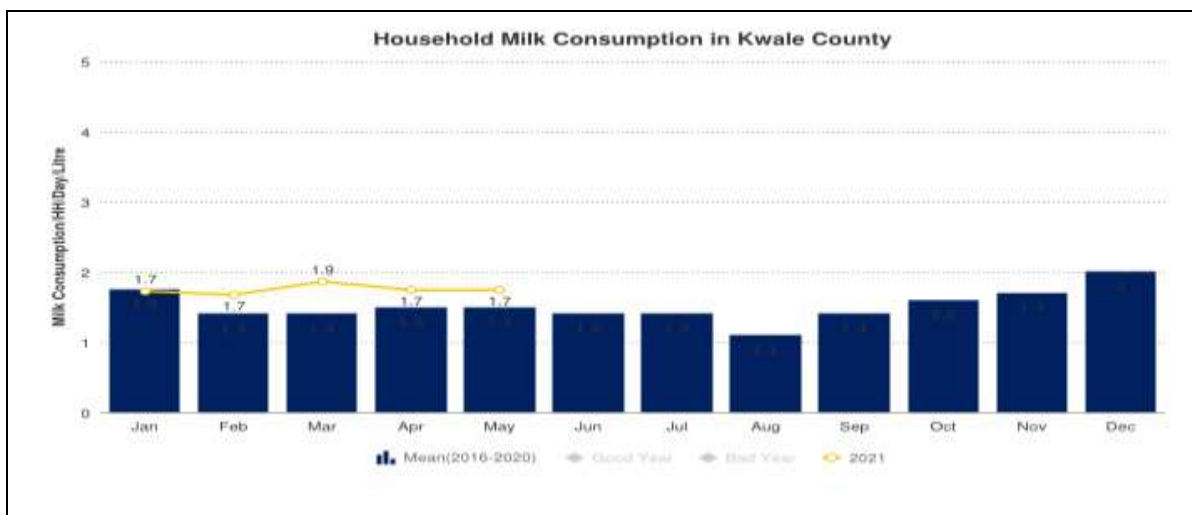
- The average ToT was approximated at 57.2 in May having reduced by a slight margin of 7.9 percent compared with 62.1 in April.
- The average ToT was within seasonal norms compared with 54 recorded in the 2018-2020 LTA as shown in the graph below.
- Households were therefore able to purchase a slightly lower quantity of maize in May from proceeds of casual labour in comparison with April although this quantity was normal for this time of the year.
- Therefore, household purchasing power had reduced in comparison with last month but was normal for the month.



5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION

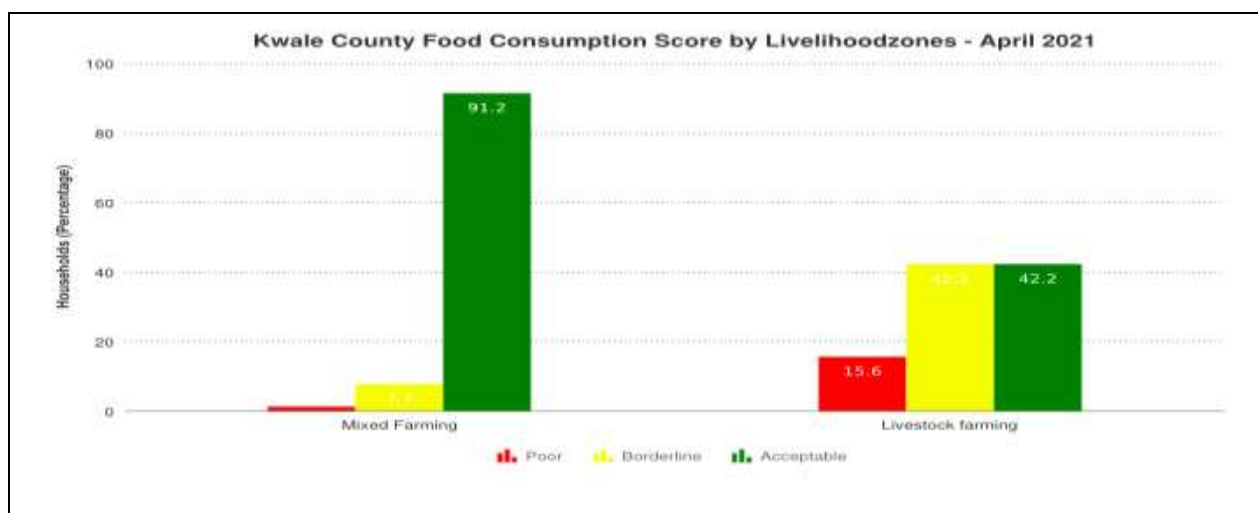
5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

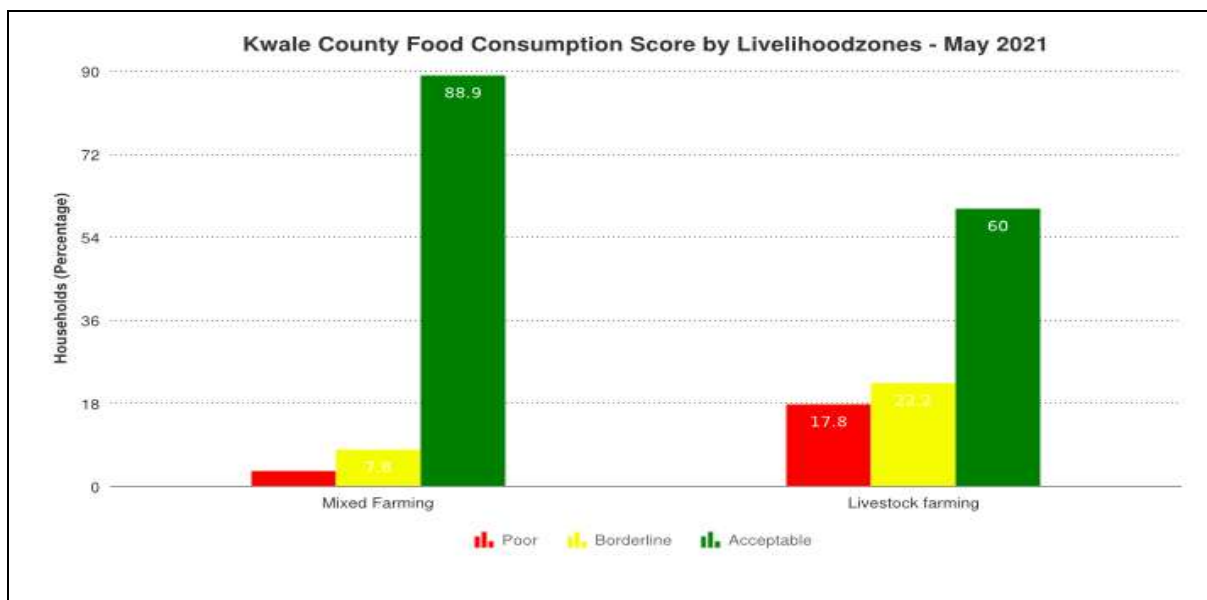
- The average household milk consumption maintained a stable trend in May to stand at 1.7 litres similar to April.
- The consumption was within seasonal norms of 1.5 litres recorded in the 2016-2020 LTA as shown in the graph below.



5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION

- There was an 11.6 percent increase in the proportion of households with acceptable food consumption at county level from 66.7 percent in April to 74.5 percent in May.
- Therefore there had been a slight improvement in the food frequency, nutritional value of food and dietary diversity compared with last month.
- Households with borderline food consumption averaged 15 percent in May in comparison with 25 percent in April.
- In addition, households with poor food consumption averaged 10.6 percent in May compared with 8.3 percent last month.
- The charts below show the change in food consumption patterns in May compared with April at livelihood zone level.





5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children aged below five years at risk of malnutrition as determined by the mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) method was estimated at 2.8 percent in comparison with 2.3 percent in April.
- There was therefore a 21.7 percent increase in the proportion of children at risk of malnutrition from April implying deteriorated nutritional status for children in this age cohort.

5.4 COPING STRATEGIES

- The county's average reduced coping strategy index (rCSI) stood at 13.8 in May having maintained a stable trend in comparison with 13.2 recorded in April.
- The implication was therefore that households had neither decreased nor increased the severity and/or frequency of the consumption-based coping strategies in order to mitigate food consumption deficits.
- A higher index of 14.2 was recorded in the livestock farming livelihood zone having maintained a stable trend in comparison with 13.9 in April.
- A lower index of 13.3 was posted in the mixed farming livelihood zone also having maintained a relatively stable trend in comparison with 12.5 in April.

6. CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES

6.1 NON-FOOD INTERVENTIONS

- **Livestock department**
 - Purchase and distribution of 40 in-calf heifers to Vanga, Dzombo, Pongwe Kidimu and Ukunda Wards (10 heifers per ward) valued at 6M.
 - Purchase and distribution of 56 breeding bulls to McKinnon Road, Puma, Kubo South and Gombato Bongwe Wards (14 bulls per ward) valued at 6M.
- **Agriculture department**
 - Free tractor ploughing, an incentive by the County Government of Kwale to increase acreage under crop production, stood at 4,300 acres as at May.

- Distribution of 12,000 mango seedlings and 5,200 cashew seedlings to farmers.
- Distribution of five tonnes of green grams and 2.5 tonnes of cowpeas to farmers.
- Training of farmers on agronomics.

7. EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- There were no cases of conflict, human displacement or insecurity that were recorded in May.

7.2 Migration

- There were no migration cases recorded in May.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continued vaccination campaigns against Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).