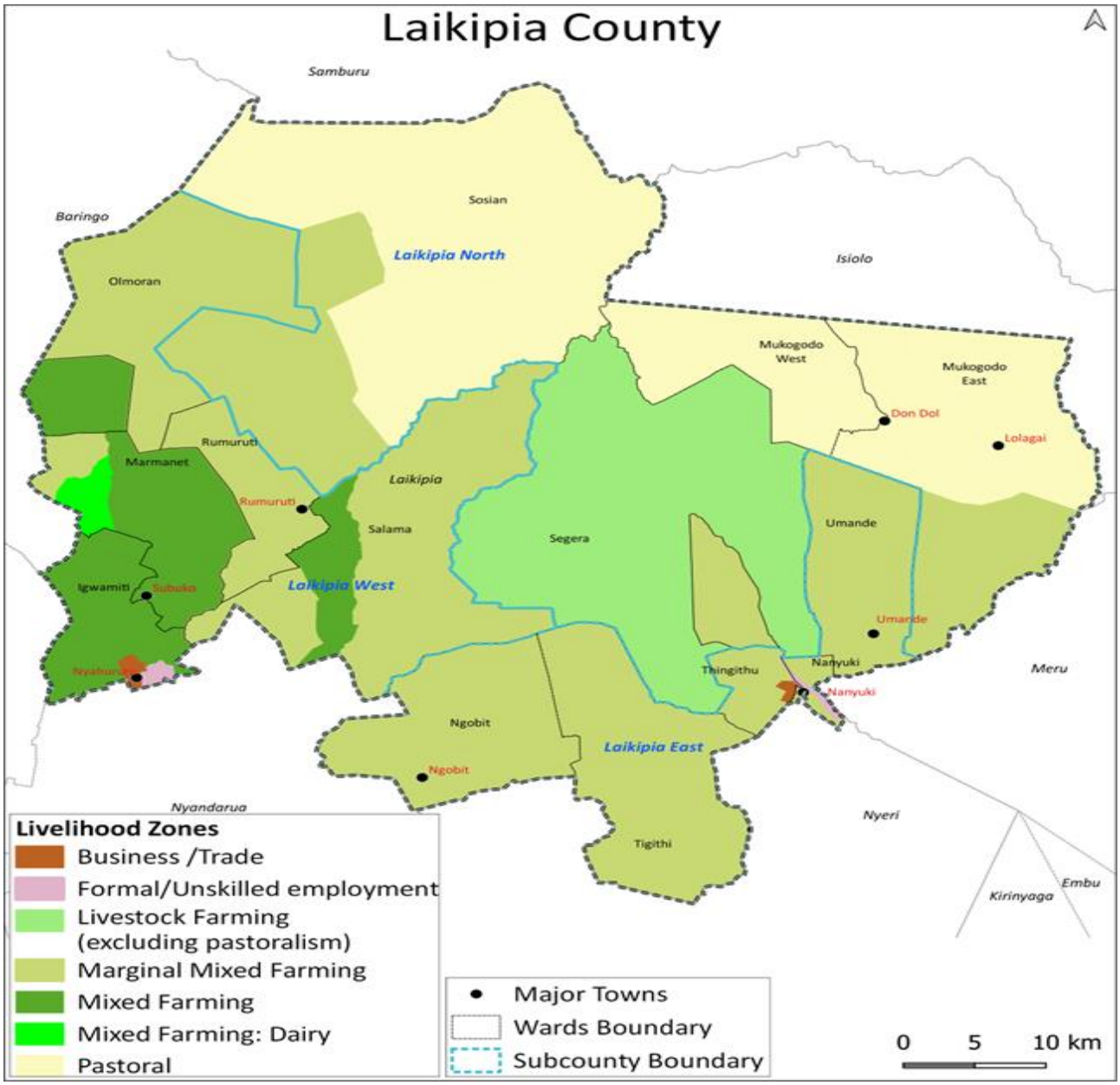
LAIKIPIA COUNTY

2025 LONG RAINS FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY ASSESSMENT REPORT



A Joint Report by the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG)[1] and Laikipia County Steering Group (CSG)

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Executive Summary

The 2025 Long Rains Food and Nutrition Security Assessment for Laikipia County was carried out by the County Steering Group (CSG), under the coordination of the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), and with technical support from the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG). This assessment, which is conducted twice a year following each rainfall season, aimed to evaluate the impact of the 2025 long rains on food and nutrition security across the county's diverse livelihood zones. It covered all six sub-counties and drew from both field data and secondary information sources. The purpose of the assessment was to determine how the long rains season affected food availability, access, and nutritional outcomes at both household and community levels. It also aimed to provide projections for the period between July 2025 and January 2026, and to guide appropriate and timely responses from the government and development partners. Findings from the assessment indicate that Laikipia County is currently classified in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed), with some areas in Laikipia North particularly Mukogodo East and West facing more severe outcomes with some population in IPC Phase III (Crisis). The near average to below-average performance of the long rains season resulted in significantly reduced crop production, particularly for maize and beans. The majority of households have already depleted their food stocks from the 2024 short rains season, resulting in increased dependence on market purchases at a time when staple food prices are well above average, further limiting household food access. In the pastoral zone, poor pasture and water in availability have contributed to reduced livestock productivity, particularly milk production. This has impacted household incomes and access to nutritious food, especially for children. Livestock migration has intensified, creating additional pressure on available resources in receiving areas. Meanwhile, nutrition outcomes have worsened, with about three percent of children under five years at risk of acute malnutrition (MUAC <135mm), compared to a five-year average of 1.9 percent. However, mortality rates remain within normal thresholds, and health services continue to function normally. The key drivers of food insecurity include declining agricultural and livestock productivity, elevated food prices, increased reliance on markets, and reduced household incomes. These conditions have forced many households to adopt stress coping strategies, such as reducing meal frequency, selling productive assets, and resorting to environmentally harmful activities like charcoal burning. An analysis of the food security situation through the four key pillars availability, access, utilization, and stability shows some strain more so among vulnerable households. Food availability has declined due to reduced crop productivity. Access to food is constrained by high market prices and reduced income. Utilization has been affected by limited dietary diversity, low milk intake, and rising malnutrition, while the overall stability of food security remains fragile, especially in pastoral livelihood zones where resource competition and in migration of livestock from neighbouring counties continue. Throughout the outlook period, the county is expected to remain within IPC Phase 2 ("stressed"). However, if the forecasted near-normal October to December short rains materialize, they could improve pasture conditions, support short-cycle food crops, and ease pressure on water resources. These improvements may help stabilize food access and consumption in some areas, particularly in the Mixed and Marginal Mixed Farming zones, though recovery in pastoral areas may be slow. The findings underscore the need for targeted interventions to prevent further deterioration. Priorities include water supply in affected areas, livestock support services, nutrition programs for vulnerable groups, and close monitoring of market trends.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 County Background

Laikipia County lies between latitudes 0°18' South and 0°51' North, and longitudes 36°11' East and 37°24' East. It shares borders with Samburu County to the north, Isiolo County to the northeast, Meru County to the east, Nyeri County to the southeast, Nyandarua County to the south, Nakuru County to the southwest, and Baringo County to the west. The county covers an area of 9,532 square kilometers and has a population of 561,000 (KNBS, 2023 projection). It ranks as the 15th largest county in Kenya by land size.

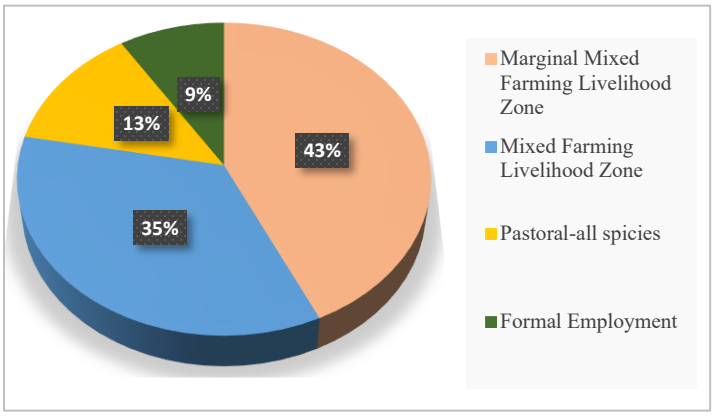

Figure 1: Proportion of Population by Livelihood Zones

Administratively, Laikipia is divided into six sub-counties: Laikipia East, Laikipia North, Laikipia West, Laikipia Central, Nyahururu, and Kirima. Politically, it is represented by three constituencies: Laikipia East, Laikipia North, and Laikipia West. The county comprises four main livelihood zones: Marginal Mixed Farming (43 percent), Mixed Farming (35 percent), Pastoral (all species) (nine percent), and Formal Employment (13 percent). Major rivers traversing the county include the Ewaso Nyiro and Ewaso Narok. Livelihood activities vary by zone, with households engaged in crop farming, livestock keeping on large commercial ranches, and the use of community-owned rangelands. Ranching is especially prominent, covering approximately 65 percent of the Pastoral livelihood zone.

1.2 Methodology and Approach

Food and Nutrition Security Assessment is a biannual exercise aimed at producing an objective, evidence-based, and transparent analysis of the food and nutrition security situation. The assessment followed the performance of the 2025 long rains season and considered the cumulative effects of previous rainfall seasons to provide immediate and medium-term recommendations for appropriate response interventions. A multi-sectoral and multi-agency approach was employed, involving technical representatives from the County Steering Group (CSG) as well as various non-state actors. Both quantitative and qualitative methods were used during primary data collection, which included focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and market assessments conducted across the pastoral, marginal mixed farming, and mixed farming livelihood zones.

Sectoral checklists were administered to the relevant departments, which provided seasonal quantitative data and technical briefs during CSG meetings. Secondary data sources included livelihood zone baselines, satellite rainfall estimates, routine Demographic Health Information System (DHIS) data, market price monitoring, Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurements, National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) monthly bulletins, Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM), and Food Security Outlooks, among others. The collected data were collated, triangulated, and analyzed according to the county's main livelihood zones. The assessment was conducted from 14th to 24th July 2025 and covered the three major livelihood zones, using a structured sampling frame to ensure adequate representation.

The sampled sites included Tigithi, Ngobit, Kinamba, Salama, Rumuruti, Mukogodo East, Chumvi, and Kimanjo. A comprehensive county report was compiled, and the preliminary findings were presented to the CSG on 24th July 2025 for validation and adoption. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) protocols were applied to determine the severity of food insecurity and to identify its key drivers.

2.0 DRIVERS OF FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN THE COUNTY

2.1 Rainfall Performance

The onset of the March–April–May (MAM) 2025 seasonal rains was timely, occurring between the second and third weeks of March. Rainfall distribution across most parts of Laikipia County was generally fair to good. Overall, the county received between 91 to140 percent of the normal seasonal rainfall, reflecting normal to above-normal performance.

The season was marked by heavy storms, particularly during the peak month of April. Although these storms posed some risks, they caused minimal hazards to life and property, with no significant damage reported. However, rainfall ceased earlier than expected between the first and second weeks of May, negatively affecting rain-fed crops, especially in parts of Laikipia North and Laikipia East, where crops were still at critical growth stages.

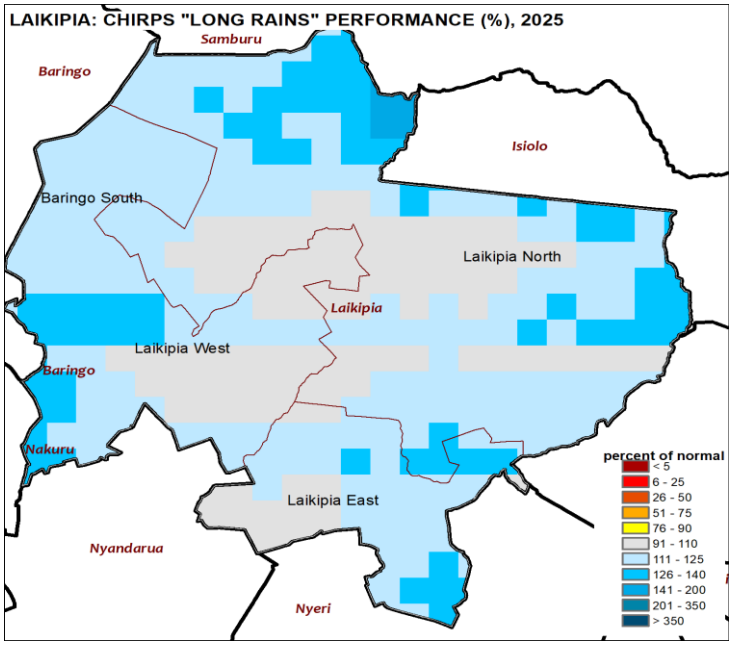

Figure 2: Rainfall Performance in the County (% of Normal)

Rainfall amounts varied significantly across the county. According to ground observations by the Kenya Meteorological Department, Lariak Station in Laikipia West recorded the highest cumulative rainfall at 552 mm, while Mukogodo West and Mukogodo East recorded depressed amounts. Despite this variation, most areas received sufficient rainfall to support water harvesting for both domestic and livestock use. Water availability improved in pans, dams, and other storage facilities as a result of the season's performance.

2.2 Insecurity/conflict

Conflict was reported in Mutigari Village, located in Mutara Location of Laikipia West Sub-County, following the murder of a male individual. The incident sparked tensions and clashes between the two communities residing in the area. As a result, nine homesteads were burned, approximately 166 people were displaced, and several livestock were reported missing.

2.3 Other Shocks and Hazards

Crop pests and diseases

Pest and disease infestations have contributed to reduced production of maize, beans, and potatoes. Fall Armyworm (FAW) is projected to cause a 15 percent reduction in maize yields, while anthracnose and bean rust have led to a 10 percent decline in bean production. Early and late blight have resulted in an estimated 10 percent reduction in potato yields.

High Production Costs

There has been a noticeable shift towards cultivating alternative crops in Laikipia County, leading to a reduction in the acreage dedicated to maize, a key staple in the region. This trend is partly driven by rising production costs, including a 25 percent increase in maize seed prices, a 10 percent rise in agrochemical expenses, and five percent hike in labor costs compared to the same period in 2024. Additionally, in the marginal mixed farming zones, limited access to certified seeds has compelled some farmers to use poor-quality seeds, resulting in decreased acreage and lower overall production of beans and potatoes.

Livestock diseases

Livestock diseases affecting the region include Contagious Bovine Pleural Pneumonia (CBPP), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Contagious Caprine Pleural Pneumonia (CCPP), Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), Enterotoxaemia, Blue Tongue, Sheep and Goat Pox, Fowl Pox, Infectious Coryza, Newcastle Disease (NCD), and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR). These diseases continue to impact livestock across the region. FMD and LSD have been reported in Laikipia East and Laikipia West sub-counties, specifically in Tigithi, Thingithu, Ngobit, Salama, Marmanet, and Rumuruti wards. PPR has been observed in Laikipia North, particularly in Kimanjo and Sosian wards. The diseases have resulted in reduced livestock productivity, including lower milk and meat yields and diminished breeding potential, leading to economic losses for households and negatively affecting incomes and food security.

3.0 IMPACTS OF DRIVERS ON FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

3.1 Availability

3.1.1 Crop Production

The Long Rain season, typically occurring between March and May in Laikipia County, is crucial to food security due to its role in sustaining agricultural production. The season provides the main source of rainfall for rain-fed farming, which the majority of smallholder farmers in the county depend on. Adequate rains during this period support the cultivation of staple crops like maize, beans, potatoes, and wheat, which are essential for household food supply and market sales. Additionally, the seasonal rains also result to the recharge of water reservoirs that are used to supply water for crop irrigation. Horticultural crops grown under irrigation include cabbages, tomatoes, French beans, snow peas, onions, Capsicum and snap peas. Therefore, good performance of the Long Rain season leads to increased food availability, improved household incomes, and greater resilience against hunger and malnutrition. Food crop production accounts for 46 percent and 54 percent of food and cash income respectively in Mixed farming zone. In Marginal Mixed farming livelihood zone, Food crop production accounts for 50 percent of food and 50 percent for cash income.

Table 1:Percentage Contribution of Crops to Food and Income by Livelihood Zone

Livelihood zones	Crop	Food (%)	Income (%)
Mixed Farming (Laikipia West Sub County)	Maize	40	60
	Beans	60	40
	Wheat	20	80
	Potatoes	65	35
Marginal Mixed Farming (Laikipia East sub county, Sosian and Segera Wards in Laikipia North sub county)	Maize	75	25
	Beans	50	50
	Potatoes	65	35
	Wheat	20	80

	Pigeon peas	60	40
	Sorghum	30	70
Pastoral Zone (Mukogodo East and West Wards)	Pigeon peas	70	30
	Sorghum	70	30
	Dolichos	80	20
Irrigated crops in Marginal Mixed Farming and Mixed farming livelihoods	Tomatoes	10	90
	Cabbages	10	90
	French beans	5	95
	Onions	10	90

Rain Fed Crop Production

The area planted with maize and beans was below the long-term average (LTA) by five percent and 15 percent respectively. The decline is attributed to farmers shifting to other enterprises such as wheat, avocado, and coffee farming, particularly in the Mixed Farming Zone. Additionally, the subdivision of agricultural land and its conversion to commercial use have contributed to the reduction in land available for cultivation. Maize production is projected to be 33 percent below the LTA, primarily due to poor distribution and early cessation of the rains. Only five wards Githiga, Marmanet, Olmoran, Igwamiti, and parts of Sosian are expected to record fairly good harvests. In contrast, maize crop performance in Salama, Ngobit, Tigithi, and Umande wards is poor due to moisture stress experienced during the vegetative growth stage. The maize crop, which is still in the fields, is expected to be harvested between September and October, prior to the short rains season. Production of beans and potatoes was equally below the LTA seven percent and 22 percent accordingly with the situation largely attributed to farmers using uncertified seeds due to a shortage of certified seeds from breeders.

Table 2: Rain- Fed Crop Production

Crop	Area planted during 2025 Long rains season (Ha)	Long Term Average (LTA)-5 years area planted during the long rains season (Ha)	2025 Long rains season production (90 kg bags) Projected	LTA-5years production during the long rains season (90 kg bags)
Maize	36,857	38,938	921,425	1,371,644
Beans	15,562	18, 474	194,525	209,998
Irish potatoes	11,630	6,844	307,000	391,689

Irrigated Crop Production

Area under tomatoes, cabbages and French beans was below the Long-Term Average (LTA) by 60 percent, 59 percent, and eight percent respectively. Low water levels in the rivers, which is the main source of irrigation water was the major factor driving the below average acreage under production. Consequently, production of tomatoes, onions, and cabbages was below average by 27 percent, 17 percent, and eight percent in that sequence. In terms of gender, 50 percent of the irrigated farming is undertaken by adult male, 20 percent by adult female and 30 percent by male youth.

Table 3: Irrigated Crop Production

Crop	Area planted during 2025 Long rains season (Ha)	Long Term Average (3years) area planted during the long rains season (Ha)	2025 Long rains season production (tonnes)	Long Term Average production during the long rains season (tonnes)
Tomatoes	396	1,000	22,000	30,000
Cabbages	584	700	29,200	35,000
French Beans	150	163	2,382	2,588

3.1.2 Cereal Stocks

The main cereals consumed and stocked in the different livelihood zones of the county are maize, rice, sorghum and green grams. During the season, maize and beans stocks held by farmers were below LTA by 26 percent, attributed to the farmers selling their produce immediately after harvest to generate income for other household needs, favorable prevailing prices and insufficient storage facilities at household level. Maize stocks held by traders and millers were eight percent and four percent respectively above LTA due to high demand for the commodities by consumers. The traders mainly sourced their stocks from Trans Nzoia, Uasin Gishu and Nakuru Counties. Maize stocks are expected to be above the LTA in October as a result of the expected harvesting of the maize currently on the farms. Available stocks at household level are expected to last for 2-3 months in Mixed Farming livelihood zone compared to 4-5 months normally, while in Marginal Mixed Farming zone, the stocks are projected to last for 1-2 months compared to three months normally.

Table 4: Cereal Stocks in the County

Actor	Maize		Rice		Sorghum		Green gram	
	Current	LTA	Current	LTA	Current	LTA	Current	LTA
Farmers	44,700	60,500	127,150	129,000	85	90	45,500	50,000
Traders	131,150	122,000	25,000	20,000	125	130	1200	850
Millers	67,500	70,500	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Aid/ NCPB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	243,350	253,000	152,150	149,000	210	220	46,700	50,850

3.1.3 Livestock Production

The livestock sector in Laikipia County plays a vital role in both food and income generation across the various livelihood zone. Contribution to food is approximately 45, 40 and 60 percent in the Mixed Farming livelihood zone, Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone and Pastoral livelihood zone accordingly. Equally, contribution to household income is about 30, 52, and 90 percent in the mixed Farming livelihood zone, Marginal Mixed Farming zone and Pastoral zone respectively.

The county's primary livestock species include cattle, sheep, goats, camels, and poultry. Among pastoral communities, these animals represent both wealth and social standing. Small stock (sheep and goats) are prized for their milk, meat, hides, and as a readily accessible source of income for day-to-day needs. In contrast, large stock (cattle and camels) are valued not only for their meat, milk, and hides but also as strategic assets for larger investments. The March–April–May (MAM) long rains fostered satisfactory fodder growth across all livelihood zones. As a result, livestock body condition improved to Fair to Good. This marked improvement translated into greater productivity, with milk yields rising above the long-term average and livestock birth rates exceeding normal seasonal levels.

Pasture and Browse

Pasture condition in the Pastoral zone is poor to fair compared to good, normally. Pasture in the Marginal Mixed Farming Livelihood zone was fair to good, while in the Mixed Farming Livelihood zone, pasture was very good compared to very good normally. Mukogodo East and West wards have pasture whose condition was poor, which can be attributed to dismal and poor rainfall performance, which has inhibited pasture regeneration. On the other hand, browse condition was generally fair in the Pastoral zone and good in the marginal mixed farming and the mixed farming livelihood zone, compared to very good conditions normally. Receipt of average rainfall over the March to May period led to vegetation growth, resulting in the normal regeneration of forage in terms of quality and quantity in the Marginal Mixed farming and mixed farming livelihood zone, apart from some parts in the pastoral zone where the rainfall distribution was uneven.

On average, it is anticipated that the available pasture will be adequate to meet the fodder needs of livestock for the next three months in the marginal mixed farming and the mixed farming livelihood zone, which is comparable to the normal. Browse is expected to last for the next four months in the marginal mixed farming and Mixed farming livelihood zone, compared to an average of three months during normal conditions. Off-season rains, occurring outside the typical rainy seasons in Laikipia County, are expected to continue improving the pasture and browse conditions. The factors limiting access to pasture and browse were mainly: Invasion by cactus, *Opuntia stricta*, in Laikipia North. Crop residues such as maize stoves and wheat straw are currently not highly utilized in Mixed Farming and Marginal Mixed Farming livelihoods.

Table 5: Pasture and Browse Condition

Livelihood zone	Pasture					Browse				
	Condition		How long to last (Months)		Factors Limiting access	Condition		How long to last (Months)		Factors Limiting access
	Current	Normal	Current	Normal		Current	Normal	Current	Normal	
Pastoral	Poor	Good	1	2	Unevenly Distributed rainfall	Fair	Good	2	3	Unevenly Distributed Rainfall
Marginal Mixed Farming	Good	Very Good	3	6		Good	Good	4	6	N/A
Mixed Farming	Good	Very Good	4	6	N/A	Very Good	Very Good	4	6	N/A

Livestock Productivity

Livestock body condition

In the Pastoral Livelihood Zone, the body condition for all livestock species was fair (BCS3) compared to good (BCS 4) normally. In the Marginal Livelihood Zone, cattle had a good body condition compared to BCS 5 (Very Good) normally, while sheep and goats had a good body condition, which is normal compared to BCS 5 (Very Good) for the season. In the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone, the livestock body condition for cattle was BCS 4 (Good) compared to a normal of BCS 5 (Very Good) for the season, while sheep and goats were BCS 4 (Good) compared to BCS 5 (Very Good) normally. The improved livestock body condition was a result of forage and water availability during the season. The good livestock body condition is expected to have a positive impact on livestock productivity and animal health, which will in turn enhance the market value of livestock and thereby improve household incomes from the sale of livestock and livestock products.

Table6: Livestock body condition

Livelihood zone	Cattle		Camel		Goat		Sheep	
	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current	Normal
Pastoral	BCS 3	BCS 4	BCS 3	BCS 4	BCS 3	BCS 4	BCS 3	BSC 4
Marginal Mixed Farming	BCS 4	BCS 5	BCS 3	BSC4	BCS 4	BCS 5	BCS 4	BCS 5
Mixed Farming	BCS 4	BCS 5	N/A	N/A	BCS 4	BCS 5	BCS 4	BCS 5
Note: BCS 1 – Very Poor BCS 2 – Poor BCS 3 – Fair BCS 4 – Good BCS 5 – Very Good								

Tropical Livestock Units (Average Number of Livestock)

Across all the livelihood zones, both poor and medium-income households currently own fewer livestock than they do normally. Poor households are generally affected by lower livestock holdings across the board. In the Pastoral zone, TLUs were approximately 40 percent below the LTA. In the Marginal Mixed Farming Zone, the poor and the medium-income households recorded TLUs that were 20 percent below the LTA indicative of both categories of households having lost a significant portion of their livestock holdings. In the Mixed Farming, the poor income households, the TLUs remained stable, while in the medium income households, they were below the LTA by 10 percent. The stability for the poor households suggests they may have minimal livestock, making further losses negligible, while the medium-income households have recorded some reductions.

Table 7: Tropical Livestock Units (TLUs) by household income groups

Livelihood zone	Poor-income households		Medium-income households	
	Current	Normal	Current	Normal
Pastoral	8	15	12	15
Marginal Mixed Farming	2	5	5	10
Mixed Farming	1	2	2	5

Birth rate

Birth rates (lambing, Kidding, and calving) were above average in Marginal mixed farming and Mixed farming livelihood zones due to improved pasture and water levels. However, the situation was different in some parts of the Pastoral zones, such as- Mukogodo East, where no optimum rainfall was received. Birth rates are expected to decrease in the next 4-6 months due to the ongoing dry uneven distribution of rainfall likely to lead to deterioration of forage condition.

Milk Production and Consumption

Milk production was within the LTA in the Pastoral zone, while in the Marginal Mixed Farming and the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone, it was above the LTA by 25 percent and 20 percent respectively. The above average milk production could be attributed to improved livestock body condition in the two livelihood zones. The average milk consumption per household per day remained normal across the livelihood zones. In the Marginal Mixed Farming and Mixed Farming livelihood zones, the milk price per liter was above LTA, while in the Pastoral Livelihoods, milk prices were below LTA by 10 percent and 30 percent, respectively. The above normal milk prices in both Marginal Mixed Farming and Mixed Farming Livelihood zones was due to the increase in demand with reduced overall supply, coupled with the high cost of milk production. Also, land holdings have reduced, thus putting a constraint on optimum milk production.

Table 8: Milk production, consumption, and prices

Livelihood zone	Milk Production (Litres)/Household		Milk consumption (Litres) per Household		Prices (Ksh)/Litre	
	Current	LTA	Current	LTA	Current	LTA
Pastoral Zone	2	1	1	1	90	60
Marginal Mixed Farming	5	3	2	2	60	50
Mixed Farming	6	5	3	2	55	45

Migration

The season under review did experience small forms of migration of the livestock within the county as livestock moved from the pastoral zone in the county to the Marginal mixed Farming zone in search of greener pasture and adequate water. Livestock species that migrated from one point to another included cattle, goats, and sheep. Cattle were involved in a higher percentage of 50 percent in the migrations. Migration routes were Mukogodo East wards to Mukogodo forest, Mukogodo West to some parts of Sosian, Muarak to Rumuruti in the East, and Segera to some parts of Tigithi in the East. Inter-county migration albeit to a smaller scall was witnessed with pastoralists from the neighboring Samburu County migrating to some parts of Sosian ward and Rumuruti wards. During the season, approximately 1,000 livestock had moved from one point to another.

Mortalities

Cases of disease outbreaks included: Foot and Mouth disease (FMD), which has been rampant, and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in cattle. In the small stock, the notifiable diseases included Contagious Caprine Pleuro Pneumonia (CCPP) in goats, Pestes Petit Ruminant (PPR) in both sheep and goats, which occurred in the County during the review period. However, several endemic diseases continued to affect livestock, including Enterotoxaemia and Sheep and Goat Pox (S&G), fowl pox, infectious coryza, and Newcastle Disease in poultry. FMD was specifically reported in Laikipia East, particularly in the Ngobit and Tigithi wards in the East, Marmanet and Salama wards in the west, Kiwanja Ndege and Doldol in the North and there was no nay impact on markets as the outbreak wasn't that severe. In response, the Laikipia County Government implemented vaccination campaigns against FMD to curb its spread, reduce animal mortality, and improve overall livestock health in the affected areas. These endemic diseases reduced livestock productivity, leading to economic losses for affected households. The reduced output, especially in milk, meat, and breeding potential, is directly and negatively impacting household incomes and food security. Livestock mortality rates for all species in the county were normal during the review period, as illustrated in the table below.

Table 9: Mortality

Livestock species	Total county Population per species	Reported Livestock deaths per species	Mortality rate (number of reported deaths per species/ total population per species)	Remarks
Cattle	336,383	200	0.06 %	Normal
Goat	704,968	652	0.09 %	Normal
Sheep	433,871	322	0.08 %	Normal
Camels	20,207	40	0.20 %	Normal
Donkeys	21,100	20	0.09 %	Normal

Water for Livestock

The main sources of water for livestock were rivers, seasonal rivers, dams, water pans, boreholes, and earth dams. Due to the uneven distribution of the long rains, the livestock water situation was quite alarming in the pastoral zone but good in the Marginal mixed farming and mixed farming livelihood zones. As a result of the normal recharge of water sources, the return trekking distance from grazing areas to water sources in the mixed farming and the Marginal mixed farming was below normal.

The distance to water sources is expected to remain the same over the next three months. On average, water for livestock is expected to last for two months or less in the Pastoral livelihood zone compared to a normal of three months, while in the Marginal Mixed Farming, Mixed Framing Livelihood Zone, it is expected to last for 4-5 months, respectively, compared to a normal of six months. In Mukogodo East, competition among users and long trekking distances were among the limiting factors to water access that resulted in the persistent drought.

Table 10: Water access and availability

Livelihood zone	Sources		Return average distances (km)		Expected duration to last (months) for each source		
	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current / Normal Source	Current Duration	Normal Duration
Pastoral	Borehole, Earth dams Seasonal rivers	Earth dams, seasonal rivers, and boreholes	5	4	Boreholes Earth dams Water Pans, Seasonal rivers	1-3	2-3
Marginal Mixed Farming	Boreholes, Seasonal Rivers, Earth Dams	Borehole, Earth dams, seasonal rivers	1	2	Borehole Earth dams, Seasonal rivers	3-4	3-6
Mixed Farming	Water Pans, Rivers, Springs	Water Pans, Rivers, springs	0.5	0.5	Water Pans-3 Rivers-4, Springs-4	3-4	6

Water Frequency

The watering frequency was seven days a week for all the livestock species except camel in the Pastoral zone, Marginal mixed farming zone, and Mixed Farming livelihood zone as depicted below.

Table 11: Watering Frequency for Livestock

Livelihood zone	Cattle		Camels		Goats		Sheep	
	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current	Normal
Pastoral	7	7	2	3	7	7	7	7
Marginal Mixed Farming	7	7	3	4	7	7	7	7
Mixed Farming	7	7	N/A	N/A	7	7	7	7

Impact on availability

The performance of the 2025 Long Rains season was characterized with a timely onset during the second dekad of March. Equally, the distribution in time and space resulted to varied impacts across most sectors. Generally, low household stocks are anticipated within the rain-fed areas as a result of the low acreage under cultivation with early cessation of the long rains likely to exacerbate the situation. Improved livestock productivity witnessed more so in the Mixed Farming and Marginal Mixed Farming Livelihood Zones attributed to considerable recovery of the rangelands shall imply

that households will most likely be fairly provisioned to meet basic needs albeit with some little level of stress. On the contrary, households in the pastoral zone where the rainfall performance was to a greater extent was poor will most likely continue experiencing pronounced food gaps. In addition, the risk posed by crop pests and the high prevalence of livestock diseases might result to more households experiencing stock outs and reduced incomes as the effects of the dry season in some parts intensify in severity.

3.2 Access

3.2.1 Market operations

Major livestock markets in the county include Doldol, Kimanjo, Lotasha, Ngare Ngiro, and Mowarak in the Pastoral zone; Rumuruti, Sipili, Ol Moran, Wiyumiririe, Nanyuki, and Ngobit in the Marginal Mixed Farming zone; and Nyahururu in the Mixed Farming zone. Cattle, sheep, goats, and camels are traded in the Pastoral zone, while cattle, sheep, and goats dominate in Marginal Mixed Farming zones and Mixed Farming zones. No market disruptions were reported, and trends are expected to remain stable over the next 3-6 months. Livestock supplies come from within the county and from Samburu and Baringo, with stable volumes and average prices compared to the Long-Term Average (LTA). However, a slight decline in volumes and prices is expected as livestock body conditions shift from good to fair in Marginal Mixed Farming zones and Pastoral zones. Main livestock buyers include butchers, producers, and brokers, with no unusual sales or purchases reported. Additional markets include Nairobi, Nyeri, and Nakuru.

Food markets across livelihood zones include: Nyahururu, Rumuruti, Sipili, Kinamba in Mixed Farming livelihood zone, Wiyumiririe, Makutano, Nanyuki in Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zones and Timau, Chumvi, Doldol, Kimanjo, Lotasha, Ngare Ngiro, Mowarak in Pastoral livelihood zones. All food markets were operational and well-stocked with cereals, pulses, vegetables, tubers, and fruits. Commodities flowed in from neighboring counties: potatoes (Nyandarua, Meru, Nyeri), maize (Trans Nzoia, Uasin Gishu, Nakuru), pulses (Meru, Nyeri, Tharaka Nithi, Kirinyaga), and fruits/tubers (Meru, Kirinyaga, Embu). Market disruptions included poor rural road infrastructure, which affected access and led to post-harvest losses, and price volatility of staples due to rainfall variability, fluctuating supply, and speculative trading, particularly around expected low maize yields.

3.2.2 Market Prices

Maize Price

The trend in maize prices shows an increase compared to 2024. The average price of a kilogram of maize rose to Ksh 62 in July, up from Ksh 56 in June. This represents a 48 percent increase compared to the same period in 2024 and is seven percent above the long-term average (Figure 3).

The price increase can be attributed to the fact that many households have now exhausted their maize stocks or have only negligible amounts remaining in storage. Several factors contributed to this depletion: households sold off their remaining stocks earlier in the year to meet urgent financial needs such as school fees and other essential expenses while some of the stored maize was used as seed for planting.

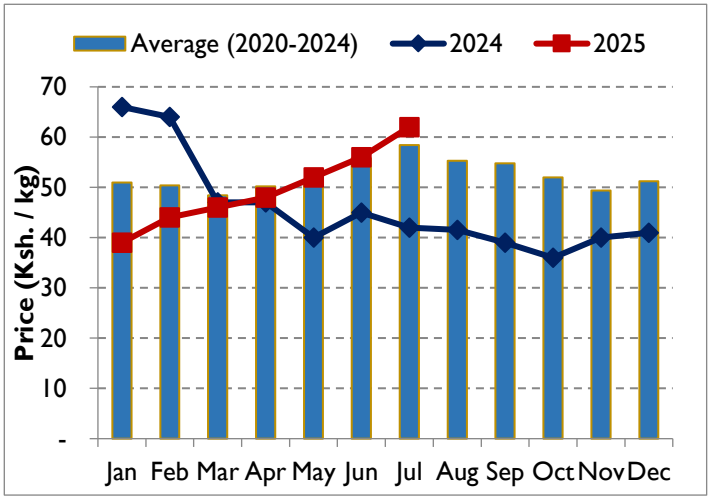

Figure 3: Maize Price Trends in Laikipia County

As a result, there has been increased reliance on market purchases to meet household food needs, placing upward pressure on maize prices. Notably, the highest maize price Ksh 62 per kilogram was recorded in the Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zones, while the lowest price Ksh 56 per kilogram was observed in the Mixed Farming zones, where some farmers were still holding stocks.

Goat Price

The trend in goat prices shows a steady increase compared to July 2024 and the long-term average. In July 2025, the average price of a medium-sized goat was Ksh 7,680, up from Ksh 7,326 recorded in June 2025 (Figure 4). The current average price is 65 percent higher than the long-term average and 16 percent higher than the same period in 2024. This increase is attributed to improved browse availability and reduced trekking distances to water sources in the Marginal Mixed and Mixed Farming livelihood zones. With improved body conditions and a better production outlook, many farmers have opted to retain their herds rather than sell immediately. This decision is driven by expectations of even more favorable market conditions or potential further price increases in the near future. As a result, the number of goats supplied to markets has decreased, helping to sustain prices at relatively high levels.

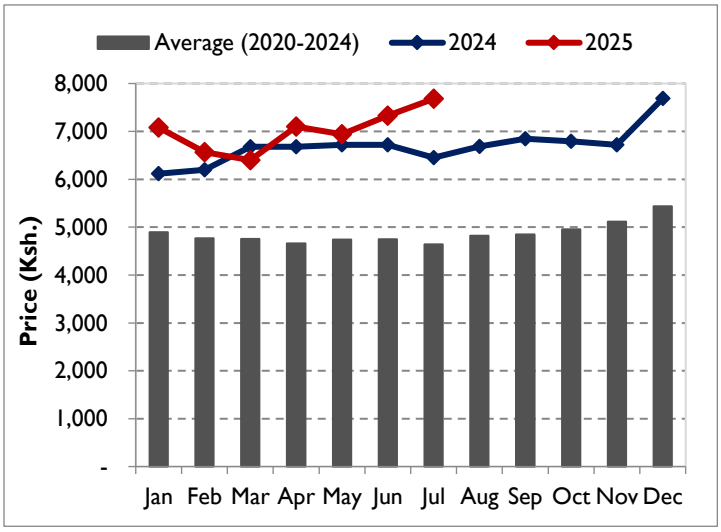

Figure 4: Goat Price in Laikipia County

Across livelihood zones, goat prices varied as follows: the highest average price was recorded in the Mixed Farming zones at Ksh 8,400, followed by the Marginal Mixed Farming zones at Ksh 8,041, while the lowest average price was observed in the Pastoral zones at Ksh 6,600. These differences highlight the influence of market access, livestock condition, and local demand patterns on pricing.

3.2.2 Terms of trade (TOT)

The trend in Terms of Trade (TOT) has been on a declining trajectory since April 2025, primarily due to the steady increase in maize prices, which has outpaced the gains in livestock prices. In July 2025, the sale of a medium-sized goat could purchase 124 kilograms of maize (Figure 5). While this represents a TOT that is 56 percent higher than the long-term average (LTA), it is 24 percent lower compared to the same period in 2024.

This decline indicates reduced purchasing power for pastoral and agropastoral households who rely on livestock sales to access staple foods. The drop in TOT is especially

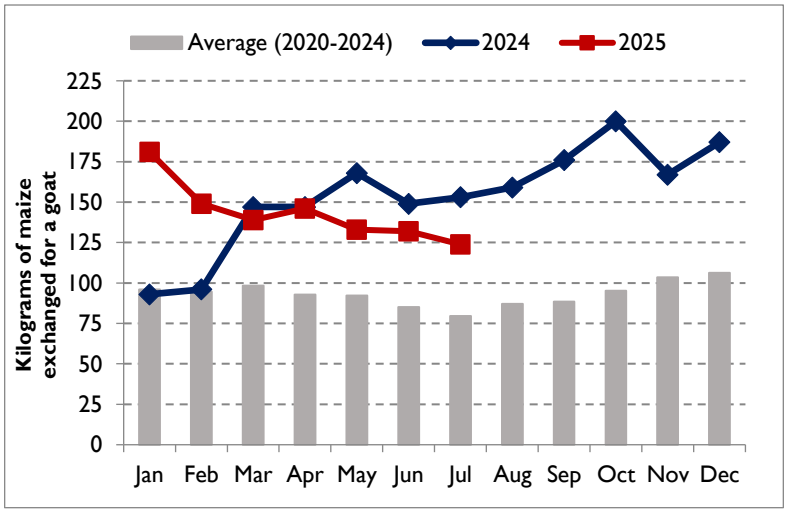

Figure 5: Terms of Trade in Laikipia County

concerning for vulnerable households in the Pastoral and Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zones, where market dependence for food is high and own-produced food stocks are low or depleted. The reduced TOT means households are now receiving less maize per goat sold, which could affect food access, dietary diversity, and overall household food security if the trend continues. If maize prices remain elevated and livestock supplies to markets stay limited due to farmers withholding sales, the TOT may continue to deteriorate further in the coming months.

3.2.3 Income Sources

The main sources of income for most households in the county include the sale of food crops, horticultural crops, livestock, and livestock products, as well as earnings from formal employment and waged labor. Income sources vary across livelihood zones. In the Mixed Farming and Marginal Mixed Farming zones, households primarily rely on crop sales, dairy farming, formal employment, and waged labor. In the Pastoral livelihood zone, income is mainly derived from the sale of livestock and livestock products, along with formal employment and waged labor (Table 12).

Communities living near major rivers such as Mwiyogo, Pesi, Mutara, Ngare Ngiro, Ewaso Narok, and Ewaso Nyiro as well as those near dams, boreholes, water pans, and ponds, engage in irrigated farming. The sale of horticultural crops, including onions, cabbages, French beans, and tomatoes, provides additional income for these households. Overall, income sources are considered normal for this time of year, except in some parts of the Pastoral and Marginal Mixed Farming zones, where households have been supplementing their income through charcoal sales, due to ongoing charcoal-burning activities.

Table 12: Income Sources

Livelihood zone	% Cash Income Contribution				
	Livestock Production	Food Crop Production	Cash crop production	Casual Wage	Petty Trade
Marginal mixed farming	52	20	3	5	-
Mixed farming	30	40	10	3	2
Pastoral-all species	90	-	-	1	1

3.2.4 Water Access and Availability

Major Water Sources.

Major water sources

The main domestic water sources in the county include shallow wells, rivers, and pans/dams. Approximately 29.5 percent of the population met their water needs through shallow wells while about 20.5 and 22.7 percent drew their water from rivers and dams respectively. Additional sources consist of traditional river wells and boreholes, where 13.6 percent of the population rely on them. In urban and peri-urban areas, treated piped water is provided by Nyahururu Water and Sanitation Company (NYAHUWASCO) and Nanyuki Water and Sanitation Company (NAWASCO), collectively serving about three percent of the population. There has been a notable improvement in the recharge levels of open water sources including rivers, dams, and water pans particularly within the Mixed Farming and Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood

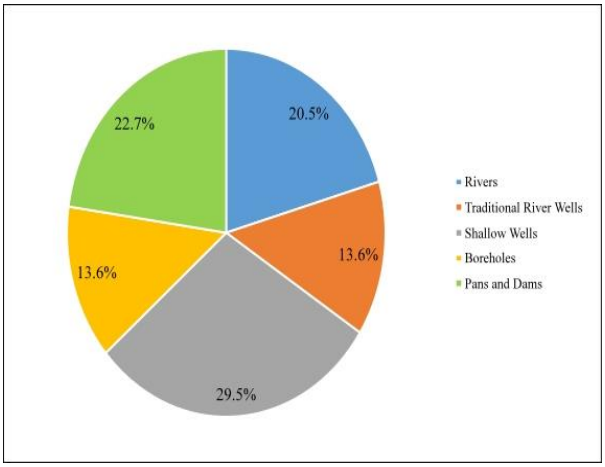

Figure 6: Main sources of water

zones. This positive development is largely attributed to the average rainfall received during the March–April–May (MAM) season, which enhanced surface runoff and replenished key water catchments in these areas. However, a contrasting trend has been observed in the Pastoral livelihood zone, with a particular focus on Mukogodo East and Mukogodo West. These wards have experienced minimal recharge of open water sources, resulting in reduced water availability for both domestic use and livestock. The limited recharge is mainly due to the below-average or erratic rainfall performance during the MAM season, which failed to generate sufficient runoff to restore surface water bodies in these arid and semi-arid zones.

Table 13: Current Operational Sources of Water

Ward/ Livelihood zone	Water Source (Three (3) major sources)	No. of Current Operational Sources	No. of Normal Operational	Projected Duration (Operational Sources)	Normal Duration that Water Last in Months	Current Water Level as % of Full Capacity after Recharged by the Rains
Mixed Farming	1.rivers	16	11	47	39	170
	2.dams	27	35	32	39	180
	3.boreholes	58	68	48	48	400
Pastoral	1.Boreholes	35	36	20	30	320
	2.Dams	23	18	12	13	300
	Rock catchment	5	3	3	3	100
Marginalized Mixed Farming	1.Rivers	11	10	34	20	315
	2.boreholes	116	119	72	36	490
	3.dams	76	82	28	16	350
	4.springs	5	5	12		90
	5.laggas	4	4	2		60

The recharge rates in the Marginal Mixed Farming, Mixed Farming, and Pastoral livelihood zones were 50 percent, 80 percent, and 50 percent, respectively, compared to normal rates of 35 percent, 45 percent, and 25 percent. This above-normal recharge is attributed to enhanced rainfall during the MAM period. However, most dams did not retain sufficient water due to high rates of siltation. In marginal mixed farming and mixed farming livelihood zone water is expected to last for three months compared to five months normal duration. In the pastoral livelihood zone water is expected to last for 1-2 months compared to normal duration of four months. The non- operational water sources included those in areas like Village 7, Kabanga, Kiambiriria, Village 2, Chuma Njeremano, Wamura, Withare, Kijabe, Githira, Munyaka, Mirera, Njoguini dam, Nturukuma, Nkando Tetu, Ndemu along the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone, Nandung`oro, Ethi, Kirurumo, Doldol, Upper and lower Sepeyo, Ilpolei, Loiborsoit, Ewaso Kijabe, Koija,Loiborsoit, Kimanjo, Debates, Bombo, Minjore, Gitima, and Kahuho in the Pastoral Zone, Mutara, Survey, and Kaharati in the Marginal Mixed Farming Zone. Major causes for non-functionality were upstream abstraction, High level of siltation, and borehole breakdown.

Table 14: Most Concentrated Water Points

Ward/ Livelihood zone	Actual Name of the Water Point	Normal No. Served	Current No. Being Served	Reason(s) for Variation
Tigithi	Thome b/h	350	500	It is the only water point, Kibubung`i and Kiahuko borehole have not yet been equipped.
Ngobit	Mwiremia b/h	400	700	It is the only water point and Increased settlement
	Withare b/h	500	800	It is the only water point and Increased settlement

Thingithu	Njogu-ini b/h	1200	1800	Increased settlement
Nanyuki	Nturukuma w/p	2000	3000	Increased settlement
Mukogodo east /pastoral zone	Olkinyei	200	500	Neighboring borehole is not operational (Makurian)
Mukogodo west /pastoral zone	Ilpolei	400	700	Lack of other sources of water and migration to the area
Mukogodo west /pastoral zone	Kimanjo borehole	500	1000	Neighboring borehole is not operational and Musul residents gets water from there
Ol Moran	Olmoran water supply	800	1500	It is the only source of water in the area and migration into the Centre

Distances to water sources

There has been a notable reduction in the average distance to domestic water sources in Laikipia East and Laikipia West sub-counties, which fall under the Marginal Mixed Farming and Mixed Farming livelihood zones, respectively. This improvement is attributed to the replenishment of both surface and groundwater sources following the recent long rains. Rivers, shallow wells, and springs have recovered sufficiently to meet local water needs. In contrast, Laikipia North, which did not receive sufficient rainfall, has seen no improvement in water access. Distances to domestic water sources remain unchanged, and in some areas, conditions have worsened. In the pastoral zones of Mukogodo West and Mukogodo East, many dams and water pans have either dried up or are nearly depleted, following poor rainfall performance during the March–April–May (MAM) season.

Table 15: Distances to water sources, costs, waiting time, and average water consumption

Ward / livelihood zone	Return Distance to Water for Domestic Use (Km)		Cost of Water at Source (Ksh. Per 20litres)		Waiting Time at Water Source (Minutes)		Average Water Consumption (Litres/person/day)	
	Normal	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current
Marginal Mixed Farming	4	2	10	5	10	5	20	30
Pastoral	6	8	10	25-30	15	30	20	10
Mixed Farming	4	2	10	5	10	5	30	30

As a result, residents in areas such as Mosul, Chumvi, and Arjijo are now trekking between 10-15 kilometers to access water for domestic use. This has increased pressure on the few remaining boreholes and alternative water points, many of which are far from households and under strain due to rising demand. The situation has significantly affected water availability for domestic purposes, limiting daily household activities and compromising health and sanitation. Despite the challenges in Laikipia North, improved water availability has been reported in localized areas such as Sossian and Segera, where water sources have benefited from better rainfall and are currently serving communities more effectively.

Waiting time at the source

The average waiting time for water collection at the source has improved in parts of the county. In both the Mixed Farming and Marginal Mixed Farming Zones, the average waiting time has decreased from 10 minutes to five minutes compared to normal. This reduction has significantly enhanced access to water, allowing households to collect larger quantities for domestic use with less time spent at the source. In contrast, the Pastoral Zones continue to experience longer waiting times, ranging between 15-30 minutes, which remains within the normal range for these areas. However, access remains strained due to the high ratio of water users both human and livestock to available water points. In

Mukogodo West and Mukogodo East, where only a limited number of boreholes are operational, the situation is more severe.
Waiting times at these boreholes range from 1- 6 hours, depending on the queue at the water point and the pumping capacity of the borehole. These extended delays are primarily due to: Low water yield at the Kinamba-Sossian borehole, which limits the flow rate and High demand at the Kimanjo borehole, which currently serves both Kimanjo Centre and Mosul Village, placing significant pressure on the infrastructure. To address these challenges and reduce congestion at existing water points, a new borehole has recently been drilled and capped. It is currently awaiting installation of the necessary equipment to become fully operational, which is expected to ease pressure on existing boreholes and reduce waiting times once commissioned.

Cost of water

The cost of a 20-litre jerry can of water varied significantly across the different livelihood zones in Laikipia County during the reporting period, reflecting disparities in water availability and access. In the Mixed Farming and Marginal Mixed Farming Zones, the price of a 20-litre jerry can of water remained stable at five shillings, which is considered within the normal seasonal range. The affordability in these areas is attributed to the replenishment of both surface and groundwater sources following recent rains, which has ensured adequate supply and reduced dependency on water vendors. In contrast, the Pastoral Livelihood Zones experienced a sharp increase in water prices. The cost of a 20-litre jerry can of water rose to Ksh 25, compared to the normal price of Ksh 10 for this time of year. This 150 percent increase is primarily due to the drying up of key water sources, including dams, pans, and seasonal streams, which has forced residents to rely heavily on water vendors and distant boreholes. The elevated cost in pastoral areas not only places a financial strain on households—especially those with large families or herds—but also highlights the urgent need for emergency water interventions and investment in sustainable water infrastructure.

Table 16: village(s)/area and proportion of population relying entirely on water vendors

Name of Village	Ward	Proportion relying entirely on water vendors (%)	Current cost per 20 litres jerrycan	Normal cost per 20 litres jerrycan	Reasons why the village does not have a water source and reasons for price variations
Musul	Mukogodo West	90	50	50	Challenging rock formations that make it difficult to locate underground water.
Ilpolei	Mukogodo West	70	10	10	Low water point concentration
Chumvi	Mukogodo West	70	30	20	Lack of recharge on water sources due to poor rainfall leading to water sources drying.

Water consumption

Water consumption levels across Laikipia County varied by livelihood zone, reflecting differences in water availability and rainfall performance during the current season. In the Pastoral Livelihood Zone, the average daily water consumption stood at 10- 20 litres per person, which is within the normal seasonal range. However, in Mukogodo West and Mukogodo East, water consumption has declined significantly to 10 litres per person per day, a sharp drop from the usual 20 litres. This reduction is primarily attributed to ongoing water shortages resulting from poor recharge of water sources and limited access. Conversely, in the Mixed Farming and Marginal Mixed Farming Zones, particularly in Laikipia East and West, average daily water consumption has increased to 30 litres per person, compared to the normal 20 litres. This rise is largely due to the enhanced water availability following the recent off-season rainfall, which has replenished surface and groundwater sources in these areas

and improved access to water for domestic use. These trends highlight the disparity in water access across the county, with some areas benefiting from improved supply, while others continue to experience significant stress due to prolonged dry conditions.

3.2.5 Food Consumption Score (FCS)

According to July 2025 NDMA data, proportion of households categorized as having an acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS) was 65 percent, representing a decline from 74 percent during the same period in 2024. Approximately 35 percent were categorized as having a borderline food consumption score (Figure 7). Consequently, households in this category typically consumed staple foods and vegetables daily, with limited inclusion of pulses and cooking oil a few times per week. Animal protein, fruits, and dairy were either rarely consumed or absent from diets. Notably, the Marginal Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone presented the highest proportion of households (46 percent) that fell within the borderline food consumption score category based on their consumption. The recorded decline albeit marginal in the proportions within the respective FCS categories in relation to a similar period the previous year and since the onset of the Long Rains could be attributed to availability of some small quantity of food out of own production. Overall, household dietary diversity remained a major concern due to the rising food prices. Additionally, reduced income from agricultural wage labor due to limited opportunities and seasonal demand has further constrained household budgets.

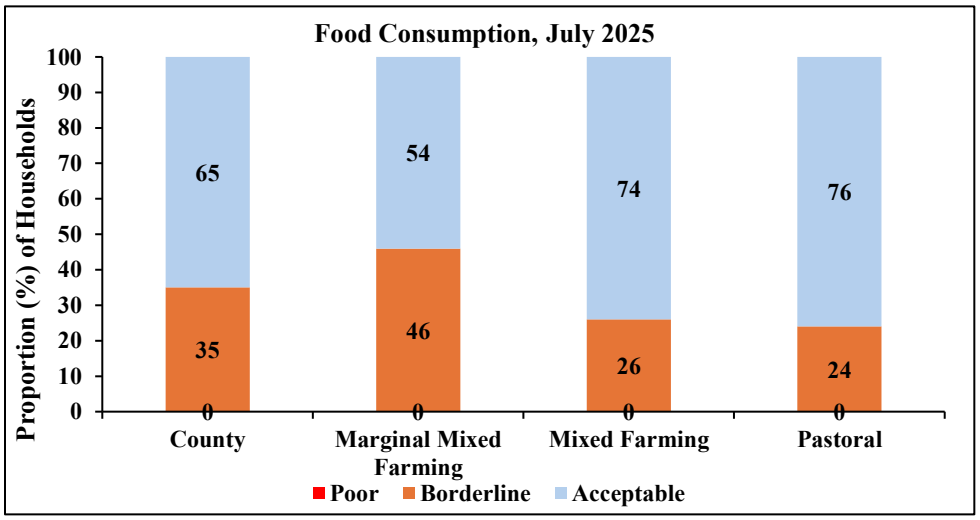

Figure 7: Food Consumption Score

This trend highlights growing food access challenges and underlines the need for targeted food security interventions, including food assistance, nutrition education, and support to stabilize incomes and food availability at the household level.

Coping Strategy

According to the NDMA sentinel site surveillance data, the coping strategy index (CSI) for the county was 3.6 and being a reduction from the one of 3.9 recorded over the same period the previous year. Consequently, households were relying less on

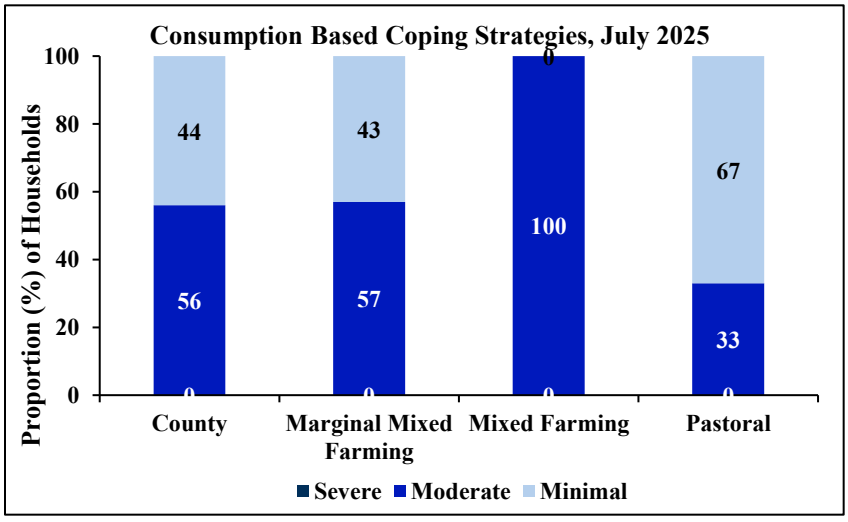

Figure 8: Reduced Coping Strategy index

consumption-based coping mechanisms, suggesting relatively better food access or improved household food security conditions compared to the previous year. There were no households applying severe consumption based coping strategies. The proportion of households applying moderate consumption based coping strategies was 56 percent with majority being residents of the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone as exhibited by the significant proportion of 100 percent recorded in the zone (Figure 8). Equally, majority of the residents of the Marginal Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone were applying moderate consumption based coping strategies while about 33 percent of pastoral households resorted to application of moderate strategies in order to meet their minimum daily energy needs. Common coping strategies reported by households included consuming less preferred or cheaper food, reducing portion sizes, and limiting the number of meals per day. These strategies reflect efforts to stretch limited food supplies without completely compromising nutritional intake.

Households in the Mixed Farming livelihood zones reported the highest level of coping, with a CSI of 6.3, indicating increased stress likely due to higher food prices or reduced food stocks. This was followed by the Pastoral zones with a CSI of 3.1, and the Marginal Mixed Farming zones with the lowest CSI at 2.8. The variation in CSI across zones reflects differences in food availability, market access, and household income sources. Although the overall CSI shows improvement, continued monitoring is essential, particularly in the Mixed Farming zones, where the relatively higher CSI suggests that some households are still under pressure and may remain vulnerable if food prices continue to rise or incomes decline.

3.3 Utilization

3.3.1 Nutrition status by MUAC

The trend in Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurements for July 2025 indicates a significant increase in the proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition. The percentage of children at risk rose sharply from 0.04 percent in June to three percent in July 2025. This figure is 59 percent above the long-term average (LTA) threshold of 1.9 percent, signaling a notable deterioration in child nutritional status (Figure 9).

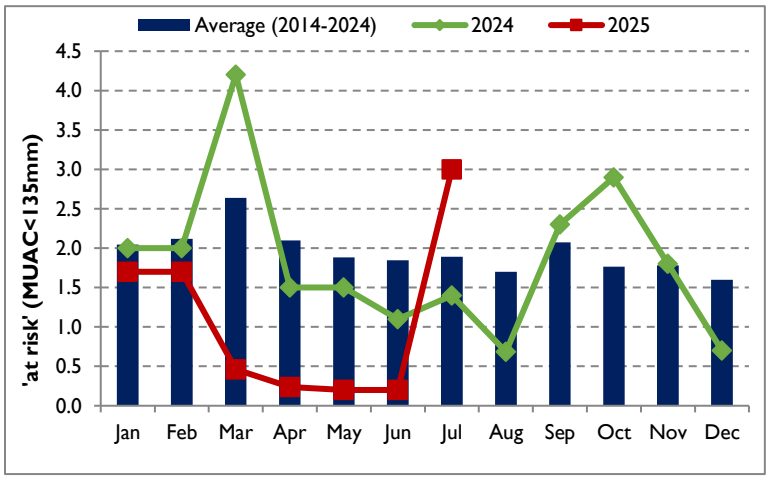

Figure 9: Nutrition Status of children below the age of five years

Deterioration in nutritional outcomes can be attributed to several interrelated factors. Rising food prices have reduced household access to adequate and nutritious food, especially among vulnerable families. Additionally, a decline in casual waged labor opportunities has limited household income, further restricting food purchasing power. Compounding this, reduced milk production particularly in Pastoral and Marginal Mixed Farming zones due to deteriorating livestock body conditions has decreased the availability of a key nutrition source for young children. The spike in MUAC rates raises concern about the nutritional vulnerability of children under five and underscores the need for immediate interventions, including targeted nutrition support, food assistance for at-risk households, and livelihood stabilization measures to mitigate further deterioration.

3.3.2 Morbidity and Mortality patterns

The primary ailments affecting children under five years of age continue to be Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTIs) and malaria. During the period from January to June 2025, there was a significant decrease in infections across all major ailments compared to the same period in 2024. This reduction can be largely attributed to lower rainfall levels in January to June 2025, as opposed to the higher rainfall experienced during the same period in 2024. Specifically, there was a 17.1 percent decrease in Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTIs), a 25.8 percent decrease in diarrhea cases, and a remarkable 64.2 percent decrease in malaria cases. These reductions are likely due to both the reduced rainfall and broader climate changes. Additionally, the decline can be partially credited to strengthened disease surveillance and targeted health interventions implemented during the period.

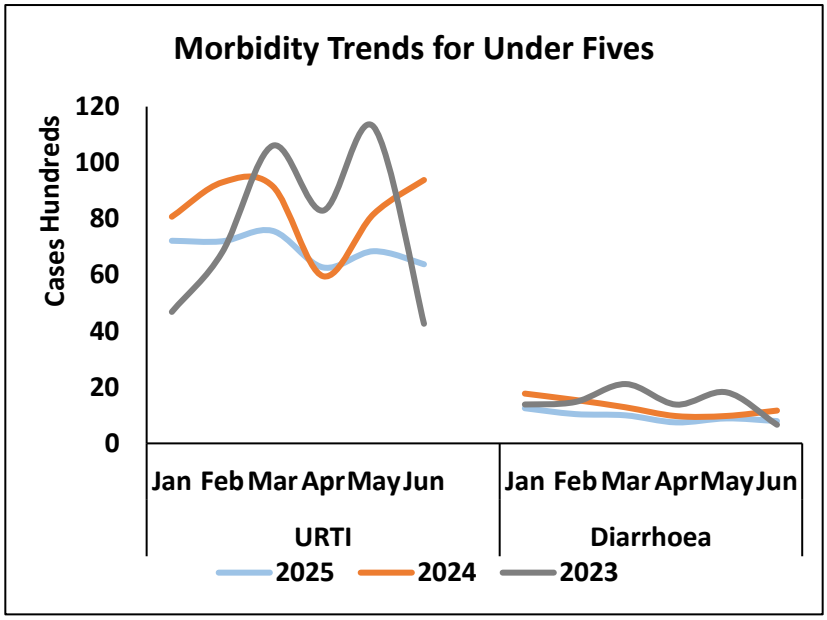

Figure 10: Trends in Morbidity for Under Fives

General Population

The main diseases affecting the general population in the county were Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTIs), diarrhea, and malaria. Malaria cases recorded a significant 80 percent decrease during the period of January to June 2025 compared to the same period in 2024. This decline can be attributed to reduced rainfall which led to fewer breeding sites for mosquitoes along with ongoing health interventions and increased community health education. Diarrhea cases, however, showed a slight increase of 1.9 percent in the same period. This rise is likely due to challenges in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), including poor hygiene practices and compromised water quality.

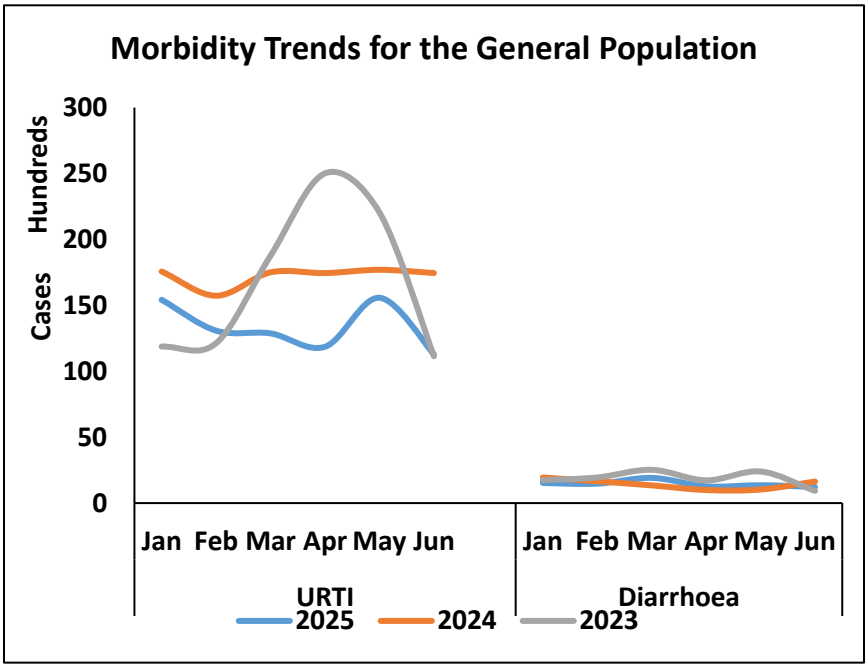

Figure 11: Trends in Morbidity for General Population

3.3.3 Integrated management of Acute malnutrition (IMAM), Immunization and Vitamin A supplementation

Vitamin A supplementation

Vitamin A supplementation (VAS) coverage from January to June 2025 was 90 percent for children aged 6–11 months and 77 percent for those aged 12–59 months. This represents a decrease compared to the same period in 2024, when coverage was 92 percent and 90 percent respectively. While the VAS coverage for the 6–11month cohort exceeded the national target of 80 percent in the January–June 2024 period, a notable decrease was observed in the 12–59-month cohort in 2025.

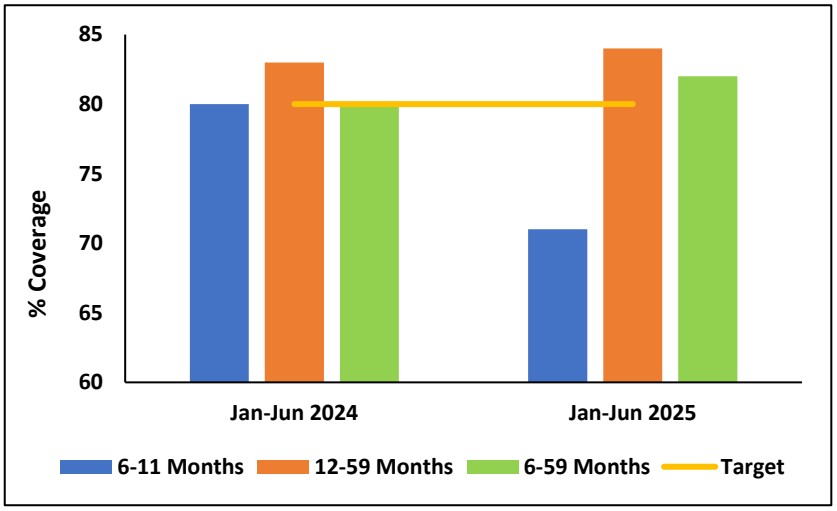

Figure 12: Vitamin A coverage

The reduced VAS coverage in the January to June 2025 periods was attributed to low integrated outreaches across the county out of stock for VAS was noted in most of the facilities in Feb and March.

Immunization coverage

Coverage for both OPV1 and OPV3 met the national target during this period. However, there was a 2.1 percent decrease in measles vaccination coverage compared to the same period in 2024. The proportion of fully immunized children was 72 percent from January to June 2025, representing a slight decrease from the previous year.

The overall coverage for fully immunized children remains lower compared to other antigens. In the period 2025. The decrease in coverage is partly attributed to vaccine stock-outs reported in some health facilities, which limited caregivers' access to immunization services and contributed reduced coverage.

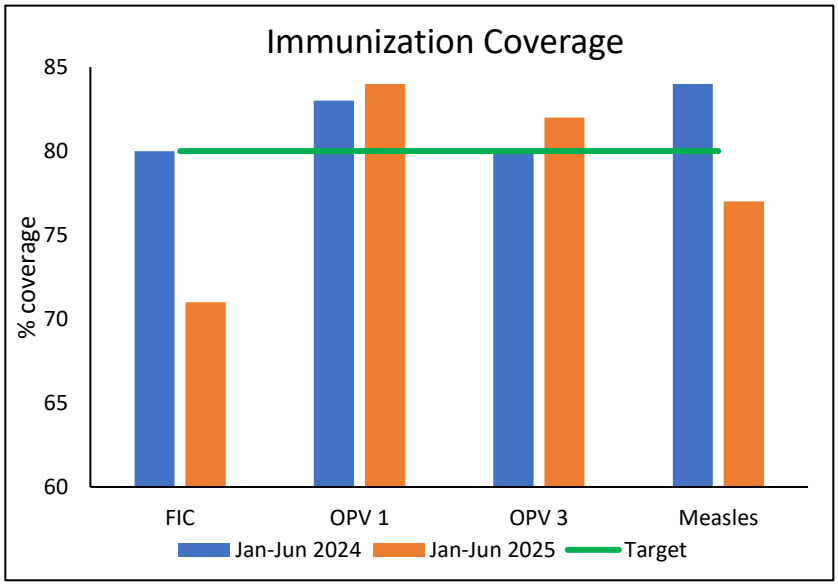

Figure 12: Immunization coverage

Admissions in IMAM

During the period January to June 2025, there was a 73 percent increase in new admissions to the Supplement (SFP) compared to the same period in 2024. This significant rise can be attributed to two main factors: improved case identification at health facilities and the resolution of intermittent stocks of SFP commodities experienced in the year. With the availability of supplies, health workers were able to admit more eligible beneficiaries into the program.

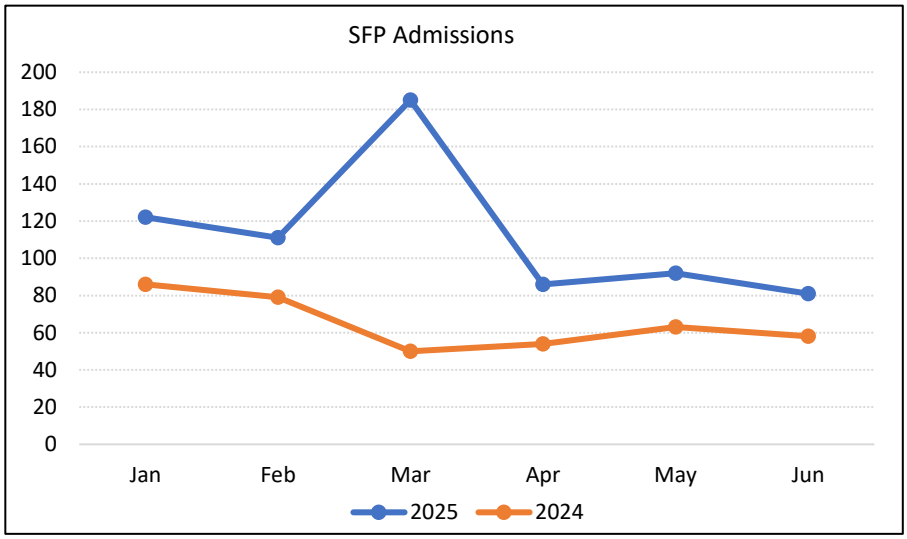

Figure 13: SFP Admissions

However, despite this improvement in admissions, it was observed that active case finding at the community level has declined. Community health volunteers and outreach teams conducted fewer household screenings and referrals during the reporting period, possibly due to resource constraints, reduced incentives, or logistical challenges. This decline in community-based screening suggests a gap in early identification of malnutrition cases, emphasizing the urgent need to strengthen and scale up community outreach and surveillance efforts. Additionally, there was a 26.6 percent decrease in the proportion of underweight children aged 0–59 months in the period January to June 2025 compared to the same period in 2024. This decrease is primarily attributed to reduced diseases as morbidity and malnutrition have some associations.

3.3.4 Dietary diversity and care practice

Dietary diversity

Dietary diversity was reported to be poor in pastoral areas, where most households consumed only 1-2 meals per day and had limited variety in food groups. In contrast, dietary diversity was moderate to good in the Marginal Mixed Farming and Mixed Farming livelihood zones, with the majority of households consuming two meals per day and an average of five different food groups. This trend was observed among both children under five years and adults. In the Pastoral livelihood zone, milk production was adequate for young children, who were able to consume 2-3 glasses of milk per day. Adults in these areas commonly consumed milk with tea. Despite the challenges in dietary diversity, milk remained an important nutritional component for pastoral households.

Reported daily milk consumption by livelihood zone was as follows: Pastoral zone: one litre, Marginal Mixed Farming zone: two litres and Mixed Farming zone: three litres. These figures were gathered through individual 24-hour dietary recall interviews conducted during field visits. The relatively better dietary diversity in the Marginal Mixed and Mixed Farming zones was attributed to several factors, including increased local food production, improved food accessibility, and reduced food prices. However, in the pastoral areas, milk production was less as compared to the same period last year compromising the diet for children as most children in pastoral zones depend on milk as food and this affect the nutrition status

3.3.7 Sanitation and Hygiene

The main source of water for households is rivers and springs, accounting for 46.9 percent of total water access. This is followed by piped systems, boreholes, and protected shallow wells, which collectively serve 18.7 percent of the population. The heavy reliance on rivers and springs many of which are unprotected raises serious public health concerns, particularly in areas where water is not treated before use. Unprotected water sources are highly vulnerable to contamination from both human and animal activities. Open defecation, livestock access, and poor waste disposal practices near water bodies significantly increase the risk of bacterial, viral, and parasitic contamination. As a result, communities relying on untreated water from these sources face a heightened risk of waterborne diseases such as diarrhea, cholera, typhoid, and dysentery.

In many cases, humans and livestock share the same water collection points—especially at dams and rivers—further elevating the risk of disease transmission. In contrast, most boreholes are better structured, with separate water collection points: taps for human use and troughs for livestock. Regarding water handling practices, most households in Laikipia East and West have limited-capacity storage facilities and do not treat water, even from protected sources. Among pastoralist communities, the situation is more severe, as many households lack water storage tanks and consume untreated water from unprotected sources.

In pastoral areas, water contamination is often driven by poor human waste disposal practices and flooding, which leads to the spread of contaminants. In farming areas, water sources are primarily polluted by upstream agricultural runoff containing herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers, as well as poor household water handling practices. Rivers and dams are the most affected, resulting in a notable increase in waterborne illnesses during both dry and rainy seasons.

Latrine coverage from January to June 2025 is reported as follows: 97 percent in Laikipia East, 65 percent in Laikipia North, and 77 percent in Laikipia West. The low coverage in Laikipia North is attributed to the nomadic lifestyle of its population, which likely contributes to a higher prevalence of waterborne diseases due to water contamination.

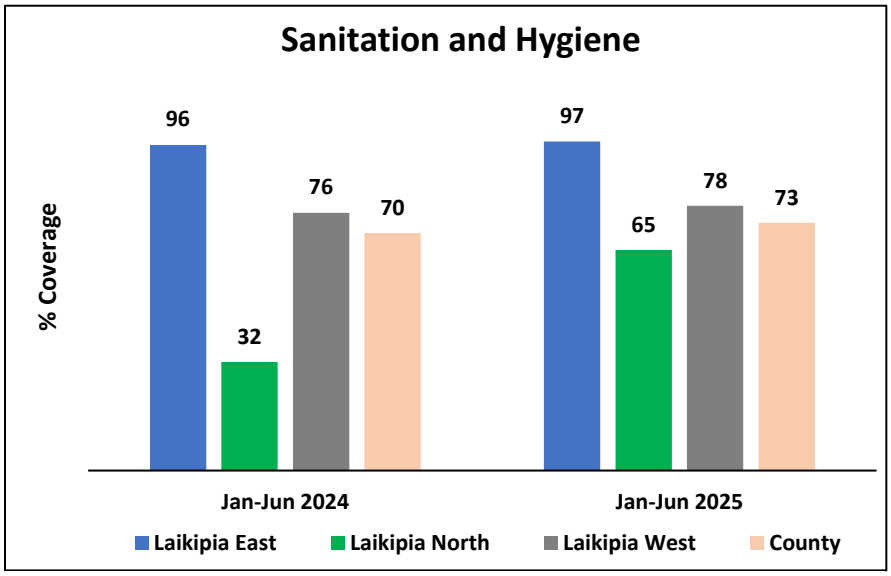

Figure 14: Latrine coverage

Improved toilet facilities in the county stand at 41.2 percent, including 28.7percent for improved excreta disposal facilities, 4.3 percent for shared family toilets, and 8.2 percent for communal toilets. Unimproved toilets account for 58.8 percent of the facilities.

3.4 Trends of Key Food Security Indicators

Table 17: Key Food Security Indicators

Indicator	Short Rains Assessment 2024	Long Rains Assessment 2025
Percentage of maize stocks held by households	Maize stocks above LTA by 52 %	Maize stocks below LTA by 33 %
Livestock body condition	Cattle-Good Sheep-Good Goat-Good Camel- Good	Cattle-Good - Fair Sheep-Good - Fair Goat-Good - fair Camel- Good - Fair
Water consumption (litres per person per day)	Pastoral: 20 Marginal Mixed Farming: 30 Mixed farming: 30	Pastoral: 10 Marginal Mixed Farming: 30 Mixed farming: 30
Price of maize	Ksh. 39 per kilogram	Ksh. 62 per kilogram
Price of Goat	Ksh. 7,079	Ksh. 7,680
Terms of trade (pastoral zone)	181 kg	124 kg
Coping strategy index	Pastoral: 2.6 Marginal mixed farming: 3.3 Mixed farming: 7.1	Pastoral: 3.5 Marginal mixed farming: 3 Mixed farming: 6.3
Food consumption (NDMA) score	Acceptable: 63% Borderline:37%	Acceptable: 65% Borderline:35%
% at risk (MUAC <135mm)	1.7%	1.9%

3.5 Education

3.5.1 Access-Enrollment

Enrolment declined across all the levels except secondary level. In public schools, total enrolment dropped by 517 learners, from 144,677 in Term I to 144,160 in Term II. This decline was more pronounced at the early learning levels, especially pre-primary and junior school, and was largely attributed to factors such as relocation in search of pasture, early pregnancies, early marriages, and moranism. While both boys and girls experienced drops in enrolment, girls were more affected—with the non-attendance rate of girls being higher than that of boys by approximately 30 percent reflecting the continued impact of gender-specific vulnerabilities on school attendance. At the pre-primary level in public schools, enrolment decreased by 305 learners. Boys dropped from 10,194 to 10,038 while girls reduced from 10,488 to 10,156. The sharper reduction among girls suggests heightened exposure to school-interrupting factors such as domestic responsibilities and early childhood care roles, often assigned disproportionately to girls during family relocations.

In public primary schools, the total enrolment declined by 137 learners. Boys fell from 29,159 to 29,032 and girls from 30,379 to 29,755. While both genders experienced declines, the larger drop among girls again points to persistent challenges such as early pregnancies, which continue to hinder female learners' retention at this level. Notably, the number of learners with disabilities in primary schools slightly increased, an encouraging sign in terms of access, although many of these learners still face barriers due to physical inaccessibility and the lack of assistive learning devices in most institutions.

Table 18: Access- Enrollment in public schools for current and previous terms

Level	Term I 2025					Term II 2025					Indicate the difference (+) or (-) between current and previous terms	Reason for accessing/not accessing school
	№ Boys	№ Girls	№ Learners with disabilities		Total	№ Boys	№ Girls	№ Learners with disabilities		Total		
			Boys	Girls				Boys	Girls			
Pre-Primary	10,194	10,488	83	75	21,199	10,038	10,156	81	74	20894	-305	Relocation
Primary	29,159	30,379	380	205	60,101	29,032	29,755	375	202	59964	-137	Migration, early pregnancies
Junior School	14,964	14,718	92	77	30,004	14,855	14,963	92	77	29818	-186	Migration, Early marriages, moranism
Secondary	17,551	15,570	28	17	33,373	17,721	15,763	28	17	33484	111	New admissions

Junior school enrolment also declined, with 186 fewer learners enrolled in Term II. Boys reduced from 14,964 to 14,855, and girls from 14,718 to 14,963. Interestingly, girls' enrolment at this level slightly improved compared to boys, possibly due to targeted support or retention programs in select schools. However, the continued drop overall is still linked to socio-cultural practices such as early marriages and initiation rites, especially affecting learners in pastoralist zones. In contrast, public secondary school enrolment rose by 111 learners, from 33,373 to 33,484. Boys increased by 170, while girls rose by only 193. Although both genders recorded growth, the higher retention of boys suggests stronger transition support or more flexible pathways into secondary education for male learners. Despite this growth, many girls continue to face socio-economic and gender-related barriers that limit their progression, underscoring the need for more targeted interventions at this level.

In private schools, total enrolment remained relatively stable, increasing marginally by 16 learners from 26,489 to 26,505. However, this stability masks subtle shifts within levels. Private pre-primary enrolment saw a slight increase, with both boys and girls recording minimal changes, indicating stable attendance and minimal disruption among early learners in private settings. At the primary level, private schools experienced a slight drop of 34 learners. Boys declined from 6,635 to 6,618 and girls from 6,592 to 6,575. This small decrease is linked to migration of families from urban to rural areas, where learners are then absorbed into public institutions, especially during times of economic strain.

Table 19: Access- Enrollment in private schools for current and previous terms

Level	Term I 2025					Term II 2025					Difference (+) or (-) between current and previous terms	Reason for accessing/not accessing school
	№ Boys	№ Girls	№ Learners with disabilities		Total	№ Boys	№ Girls	№ Learners with disabilities		Total		
			Boys	Girls				Boys	Girls			
Pre-Primary	3,050	3,969			7019	3,048	3,973			7,021	2	Stable enrolment
Primary	6,635	6,592			13227	6,618	6,575			13,193	-34	Family migration to rural public schools
Junior School	2,303	2,444			4747	2,277	2,438			4,715	-32	Shift to public due to affordability
Secondary	673	975			1496	718	858			1,576	80	New intakes and transfers

In junior school, private enrolment fell by 32 learners, primarily due to affordability issues that prompted transfers to public schools. Boys experienced a larger drop than girls, reflecting possible shifts in family prioritization of female education when faced with financial constraints. For private

secondary schools, enrolment grew by 80 learners, rising from 1,496 to 1,576. Boys increased from 673 to 718, while girls declined from 975 to 858. This imbalance suggests that while new admissions and transfers bolstered numbers, female enrolment suffered a setback, possibly due to high tuition costs or limited availability of scholarships for girls in private institutions.

A notable factor influencing enrolment trends across both public and private institutions is the presence of school meal programs. Schools with regular feeding programs—particularly at pre-primary and primary levels—recorded higher learner retention and smoother transitions between terms. Conversely, schools without such programs faced higher dropout and transfer cases, indicating the critical role of nutritional support in sustaining school attendance. Despite some stability in the enrolment of learners with disabilities, significant barriers persist. Most schools remain physically inaccessible and lack adequate assistive devices, limiting meaningful participation for these learners. While enrolment data may suggest inclusion, the lived learning experience of learners with special needs is often hampered by infrastructure and resource inadequacies.

3.5.2 Effects of Short rains (Flooding) in schools

Unlike previous seasons, the 2025 long rains did not cause any direct damage to learning institutions in Laikipia County. There were no reported disruptions due to drought, floods, disease, or insecurity. Teaching and learning continued uninterrupted throughout Term I and Term II. However, infrastructure challenges remain due to historical damage from past floods. Sanitation facilities in some schools, such as latrines and handwashing stations, are still inadequate. The absence of proper maintenance continues to pose health and hygiene risks for learners.

3.5.3 School Feeding Program

Feeding programs continue to play a vital role in learner attendance, retention, and academic performance. Out of 1,021 public schools in the county, 714 had operational school feeding programs. Despite this, over 26,000 learners (13,080 boys and 13,098 girls) were not covered. The feeding programs varied and Cash Transfers (CT), Community/Parents Supported Programs (CSSP), and Government Relief Food (GRF). Community-supported initiatives and government relief remain the primary sources of food for most schools.

Table 20: School Meals Programme Beneficiaries-Public Schools

Category of School	Total Number of Public schools in County/ Sub-County	Number of schools with School Meals Program in the county/sub-county	Types of School Meal Programmes Offered								Total number of beneficiaries on school meals program		Total number of Learners NOT on school meals program	
			Cash Transfer (CT)		Community/Parents supported (CSSP)		Government Relief Food (GRF)		Other types (Please specify.) ……					
			№ Boys	№ Girls	№ Boys	№ Girls	№ Boys	№ Girls	№ Boys	№ Girls	№ Boys	№ Girls	№ Boys	№ Girls
Pre-Primary	303	203	2594	3037	521	557	334	396	3051	2869	3505	3604	783	794
Primary	301	213	3170	3632	6775	6771	2449	2264	11191	10453	26450	27050	5912	5955
Junior School	285	203	2321	3741	2467	2532	1158	1193	6926	8053	13657	13784	3051	3036
Secondary	132	95	8028	7372	1500	1000	0	0	11904	10303	14905	15004	3334	3313
Subtotal	**1021**	**714**									**58517**	**59445**	**13080**	**13098**

3.5.4 Cross-Cutting Issues that Promoted or Affected Learning in Term I and II 2025

Water Access: Over 190 schools lack adequate water storage or treatment facilities. Schools either rely on rainwater harvesting or expensive piped water, which is not sustainable.

Sanitation: Latrine shortages are common, especially in pre-primary and junior schools. Inadequate handwashing stations pose a risk to learners' health.

Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM): No sanitary towels were distributed during the term. Girls face challenges maintaining hygiene, which contributes to absenteeism.

Psychosocial Support: No trainings or services were provided to teachers or learners. With increasing vulnerabilities, schools are unprepared for emotional or trauma-related issues.

Disability Inclusion: Most schools lack ramps, assistive devices, or inclusive sanitation facilities, limiting access for learners with disabilities.

3.6 Child Protection

The 2025 Long Rains Assessment in Laikipia County highlights persistent child protection challenges that continue to affect learners' access to education, psychosocial well-being, and safety. Although no formal reports of abuse were documented during the assessment period, multiple vulnerabilities emerged, particularly in pastoralist communities.

3.6.1 Family Separation

While not formally documented during the Long Rains 2025, oral interviews with the school heads and local administrators indicated growing incidences of family separation, particularly due to migration, economic hardship, and pastoral movements in search of pasture. Children left in the care of relatives or as heads of households face heightened risks, including school dropout, neglect, and abuse.

3.6.2 Child Abuse and Gender-Based Violence

Although specific cases were not officially reported, there remains weak child protection infrastructure across the county. No teacher sensitization sessions on child rights, abuse reporting mechanisms, or guidance and counselling were carried out in Term I or II. Informal reports point to early marriages and pregnancies, particularly among girls from vulnerable households seeking economic survival through dowry or domestic arrangements.

3.6.3 Teenage Pregnancy and Child Marriage

Stakeholder feedback from school heads and community leaders reported increasing teenage pregnancies and early marriages, especially in Laikipia North and West sub-counties. The lack of menstrual hygiene support, poverty, and retrogressive cultural practices were the primary contributing factors. These developments have direct implications for girls' continued participation in education.

3.6.4 Learners with Disabilities

Although enrolment numbers remained stable, children with disabilities in Laikipia County are still marginalized due to the absence of assistive devices, accessible infrastructure, and inclusive sanitary facilities. Most schools lack ramps, disability-friendly toilets, and trained special needs educators.

3.6.5 Psychosocial Well-being

No psychosocial services or trauma-response training was provided to learners or teachers during Term I or II, despite increasing mental health concerns. Cases of anxiety, depression, and behavior changes were reported informally by teachers and caregivers, particularly among learners affected by poverty, food insecurity, and gender-based violence**.**

4.0 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

4.1 Prognosis Assumptions

Laikipia food security prognosis for the next six months is underpinned on the following assumptions:

- The rainfall forecast for the October to December 2025 short rains indicates a likelihood of near-normal to above-normal performance across Laikipia County. This rainfall is expected to support both crop production and pasture regeneration, particularly in the Mixed and Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zones, where agricultural and livestock-based livelihoods are closely tied to seasonal rainfall performance.
- Markets for both food and livestock are expected to remain functional and adequately supplied during the projection period. No significant disruptions are anticipated; however, prices of essential staples such as maize are likely to remain elevated due to the earlier below-average performance of the long rains season and continued reliance on market purchases to compensate for reduced household stocks.
- Pasture and water availability are projected to remain stable or improve in the Mixed and Marginal Mixed Farming zones if the short rains perform as expected. However, in Laikipia North the county's Pastoral zone conditions may remain below average due to persistent dryness. This continued strain on natural resources could impact both livestock and household access to water and pasture, further exacerbating food security challenges in these areas.
- Livestock productivity, including milk and meat production, is expected to remain good or improve in farming zones, supported by enhanced forage availability. In contrast, productivity in pastoral zones is likely to decline if rainfall remains insufficient, leading to worsening livestock body condition. This scenario could trigger increased livestock migration and place additional pressure on already scarce water sources, particularly in Laikipia North.
- Crop production is expected to benefit from the short rains, particularly for fast-maturing crops such as beans and vegetables. These crops will support the second cropping season and contribute to modest improvements in household food availability in areas that receive adequate and well-distributed rainfall.
- Together, these assumptions inform the food security outlook for Laikipia County, which remains classified as Stressed (IPC Phase 2). While the short rains offer a chance for some recovery, especially in farming areas, there remains a risk of deterioration in food security in parts of the county particularly Mukogodo East and West should the rains underperform or if current stressors persist.

4.2 Food Security Outlook

4.2.1 Food Security Outlook (July and September 2025)

Between July and September 2025, food security outcomes across Laikipia County are expected to deteriorate, particularly in the Pastoral and Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zones. Household food stocks in these areas are projected to run low or become fully depleted, resulting in increased dependence on markets for food. This shift, coupled with the prevailing high prices of staples especially maize, which is currently retailing at Ksh 62 per kilogram in some zones will significantly reduce purchasing power for many households. As a result, household food consumption is likely to

decline, with more families shifting from acceptable to borderline or even poor consumption categories. Dietary diversity will shrink, especially among the poorest households, as they prioritize filling foods over nutrient-rich items such as vegetables, pulses, and animal protein. Milk availability in the Pastoral areas, a key nutritional source, is expected to decline due to worsening pasture and water conditions, further reducing dietary quality, particularly for children under five.

Livelihoods during this period will remain under stress. A majority of households are already employing stressed livelihood coping strategies, including reducing meal portions, selling productive assets, and resorting to charcoal burning. As pasture and water sources dwindle in the northern parts of the county, livestock migration will intensify, particularly from Mukogodo East and West towards the better-resourced Marginal Mixed Farming zones. This movement puts additional pressure on already stretched resources in the receiving areas and reflects the underlying stress in household livelihood systems.

Nutrition status is likely to worsen over this period. The proportion of children under five years at risk of malnutrition had already reached three percent by July 2025, surpassing the long-term average of 1.9 percent. With continued food access challenges, limited dietary diversity, and reduced milk consumption, the prevalence of acute malnutrition is expected to rise further, particularly in the Pastoral zones. However, mortality rates are expected to remain within normal ranges despite the worsening nutrition outcomes. This is attributed to the absence of major disease outbreaks and the continued functioning of health and nutrition services, including supplementary feeding programs.

4.2.2 Food Security Outlook October 2025 to January 2026

From October 2025 to January 2026, food security conditions are expected to stabilize and begin to improve, assuming that the forecasted short rains (October–December 2025) perform as predicted—near-normal to above-normal. The anticipated rains will support the regeneration of pasture and browse, improve water availability, and support short-cycle crop production, particularly of pulses and vegetables. As a result, food consumption is expected to improve gradually across most livelihood zones. Households are likely to access early green harvests by December, which will contribute to improved dietary diversity and increased food availability at the household level. In the Marginal Mixed and Mixed Farming zones, improved milk production will further support dietary quality, especially for children. However, in the Pastoral areas, recovery will be slower due to delayed pasture regeneration and the lingering effects of the prolonged dry spell.

Livelihoods during this period are projected to stabilize as environmental and economic conditions gradually improve. Livestock body conditions will recover, especially in the Mixed and Marginal Mixed zones, enhancing household incomes from livestock sales. Migration pressures will ease, and stress on shared resources is expected to decline. While many households will continue to operate under stressed conditions, the use of negative coping strategies is likely to reduce as food and income sources become more reliable.

Nutrition status is also expected to improve moderately from November onwards. Improved milk availability and increased food access from early harvests will contribute to better child nutrition outcomes. Targeted interventions by health and nutrition actors will further mitigate the risk of acute malnutrition, particularly in areas that had previously shown high vulnerability. By the end of the projection period, the proportion of children at risk of malnutrition is expected to decline, although pockets of concern may persist in Laikipia North where recovery may lag behind.

Mortality rates throughout the October to January period are expected to remain stable and within normal thresholds. The absence of new disease outbreaks, continued access to healthcare, and gradual improvement in nutrition and water access will help maintain low mortality levels among the general population and children under five.

In summary, Laikipia County will likely remain in the Stressed (IPC Phase 2) classification throughout the six-month period. However, while the July to September phase is marked by deterioration in food access, increased livelihood stress, and rising malnutrition risks, the October to January period is expected to show signs of gradual recovery, driven by the onset and performance of the short rains. The pastoral zones, particularly in Laikipia North, will continue to require close monitoring due to their vulnerability to prolonged dry conditions and slow recovery trajectories.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

5.1.1 Phase Classification

Laikipia County is currently classified as IPC Phase 2 – Stressed. While most households are able to meet their minimum food requirements, this is often achieved through stressed coping strategies that undermine their ability to afford other essential needs such as healthcare, education, and livelihood investments. In the Pastoral zone, particularly in Mukogodo East and West, households are at the borderline of IPC Phase 3 – Crisis, mainly due to poor pasture and water conditions combined with high food prices.

Between July and September 2025, Laikipia County is projected to remain in IPC Phase 2 – Stressed. However, localized areas, especially in Laikipia North, may deteriorate to IPC Phase 3 – Crisis if water scarcity persists and food access continues to decline. This period is expected to be characterized by reduced household food stocks, elevated food prices, deteriorating dietary diversity, and increasing malnutrition levels, with MUAC (Mid-Upper Arm Circumference) rates reaching three percent. The majority of households are likely to continue relying on stressed livelihood coping mechanisms.

From October 2025 to January 2026, the county is likely to maintain its IPC Phase 2 classification, though gradual improvements are anticipated in some areas. The Mixed Farming and Marginal Mixed Farming zones could begin transitioning toward IPC Phase 1 – Minimal by December 2025 or January 2026, depending on the performance of the short rains and the availability of green harvests. In contrast, the Pastoral zone may continue experiencing Stressed outcomes, with some households potentially falling into Crisis if rainfall remains below average or recovery is slow.

5.1.2 Summary of findings

The long rains season, though distribution was fair to good, was marked by early cessation, which negatively affected the performance of rain-fed crops. Maize production is projected to be 33 percent below the long-term average, and the production of beans and potatoes has declined by seven and 22 percent, respectively. In some areas, farmers were forced to plant uncertified seeds due to shortages of certified varieties, resulting in lower yields and further reduction in household food stocks. This situation has increased household reliance on market purchases at a time when staple food prices are significantly above average.

Livestock productivity has also been affected, with widespread cases of diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) reported across various wards. Although body conditions improved in some zones due to adequate pasture in mixed farming areas, conditions in pastoral zones remain poor. Milk production was above average in the mixed and marginal mixed farming zones but has declined in the pastoral areas, especially in Mukogodo East and West. Livestock migration, both within the county and from neighboring counties like Samburu, increased due to localized pasture and water scarcity.

Market access remained generally stable, but maize prices rose sharply to Ksh 62 per kilogram in July 2025, representing a 48 percent increase from the same period in 2024. While goat prices also rose, the terms of trade have declined, meaning that households now receive less maize per goat sold. This

trend has reduced purchasing power for many agropastoral households. Water availability varied by zone; while access improved in Laikipia East and West due to better recharge of water sources, conditions deteriorated in Laikipia North. In pastoral areas, households reported walking up to 10–15 kilometers for water, and waiting times at boreholes reached up to six hours due to high demand and limited functional infrastructure. The cost of water increased drastically in these areas, rising to Ksh 25 per 20-liter jerrycan, a 150 percent increase from the normal rate.

Nutrition outcomes have worsened, with 3 percent of children under five at risk of acute malnutrition as measured by MUAC, compared to a five-year average of 1.9 percent. This deterioration is attributed to reduced milk availability, high food prices, and limited dietary diversity. Vitamin A supplementation and immunization coverage have declined slightly, largely due to reduced outreach and stockouts in health facilities. Although health services remain operational, rising malnutrition and localized food insecurity raise concerns, particularly for vulnerable households.

In the education sector, enrolment declined across most levels except secondary schools, with girls disproportionately affected due to factors such as early pregnancies, child marriages, and migration in search of pasture. Latrine coverage remains a concern, especially in Laikipia North, where only 41.9 percent of households have access to proper sanitation facilities. This has contributed to increased risk of waterborne diseases due to water contamination from open defecation and shared water sources with livestock.

The 2025 Long Rains Food and Nutrition Security Assessment found that Laikipia County is currently classified as IPC Phase 2 – Stressed. While most households are able to meet their minimum food needs, this is often achieved through stressed coping strategies that compromise other essential needs such as healthcare, education, and livelihood investments. In Laikipia North, particularly in Mukogodo East and West, conditions are more severe, with households bordering IPC Phase 3 – Crisis due to persistent water scarcity, poor pasture conditions, and rising food prices.

5.1.3 Sub-County Food Security Ranking

Table 21: Ward Ranking

Ward	Predominant Livelihood	Ranking	Food Security Threat/Contributing Factor	Hotspot Area
Mukogodo East	Pastoral	1	Invasive species, dried up water sources, High trekking distances (livestock and household), Few water sources, deteriorating pasture (poor) and browse(fair), Low and Poor distribution of rain in both time and space, Livestock diseases (FMD, LSD, CCPP and PPR), Livestock out- migration Low latrine coverage, Malnutrition cases, high food prices, high number of populations in need of food AID, Access to clean water	The whole ward
Mukogodo West	Pastoral	2	Invasive species, dried up water sources, High trekking distances (livestock and household), Few water sources, deteriorating pasture (poor) and browse(fair), Low and Poor distribution of rain in both time and space, Livestock diseases (FMD, LSD, CCPP and PPR), Livestock out- migration Low latrine coverage, Malnutrition cases, high food prices, high number of populations in need of food AID, Access to clean water	The whole ward

Tigithi	Marginal Mixed farming	3	Early cessation of the rains, Crop diseases and pests (FAW, early and late blight on potatoes), Recycling of seeds thus low yields in terms of quality and quantity, Low water volumes in the open water sources, Cases of malnutrition, Forage condition – good to fair, High food prices, Moisture stress on maize crop, Livestock diseases (FMD, LSD, CCPP, Newcastle and fowl pox)	Thome, Matanya
Segera	Pastoral	4	Invasive species, dried up water sources, High trekking distances (livestock and household), Few water sources, deteriorating pasture (fair) and browse(good), Livestock diseases (FMD, LSD, CCPP and PPR), high food prices, high number of populations in need of food AID.	Juakali Naibor
Salama	Marginal Mixed Farming	5	Early cessation of the rains, Crop diseases and pests (FAW, early and late blight on potatoes), Recycling of seeds thus low yields in terms of quality and quantity, Low water volumes in the open water sources, High food prices, Moisture stress on maize crop, Livestock diseases (FMD, LSD, CCPP, Newcastle and fowl pox), High food prices, deteriorating pasture (poor) and browse(fair).	Salam centre Thome Check point
Ngobit	Marginal Mixed Farming	6	Early cessation of the rains, Crop diseases and pests (FAW, early and late blight on potatoes), Recycling of seeds thus low yields in terms of quality and quantity, Low water volumes in the open water sources, Cases of malnutrition, Forage condition – good to fair, Fair food prices, Moisture stress on maize crop, Livestock diseases (FMD, LSD, CCPP, Newcastle and fowl pox).	Withare Kiandege
Sosian	Pastoral	7	Invasive species, Livestock diseases (FMD, LSD, CCPP and PPR), Human wildlife conflict	Sugutan, Mathira
Thigithu	Marginal Mixed Farming	8	Invasive species, dried up water sources, High trekking distances (livestock and household), Few water sources in some pockets, deteriorating pasture (poor) and browse(fair), Low and Poor distribution of rain in both time and space, Livestock diseases (FMD, LSD, CCPP, PPR), Low latrine coverage, Malnutrition cases, high food prices, Access to clean water.	Sweetwaters, Marura
Umande	Marginal Mixed Farming	9	Early cessation of the rains, Crop diseases and pests (FAW, early and late blight on potatoes), Recycling of seeds thus low yields in terms of quality and quantity, High food prices, Moisture stress on maize crop, High food prices, Access to clean water	Mugumo, Mwireri
Olmoran	Marginal Mixed Farming	10	Early cessation of the rains, Crop diseases and pests (FAW, early and late blight on potatoes), Recycling of seeds thus low yields in terms of quality and quantity, Forage condition – good to	Olmoran centre

			fair, High food prices, few pockets suffering from moisture stress on maize crop, Livestock diseases (FMD, LSD, CCPP, Newcastle and fowl pox)	
Rumuruti	Mixed farming	11	Early cessation of the rains, Crop diseases and pests (FAW, early and late blight on potatoes), Recycling of seeds thus low yields in terms of quality and quantity, Fair food prices, Moisture stress on maize crop, High food prices, Access to clean water	Simutwo
Nanyuki	Formal	12	Formal settlement, High cost of living, High cost of food, Slums housing	Likii Majengo
Igwamiti	Mixed farming	13	Water pipeline coverage, Road infrastructure	Manguu and aina village
Githiga	Mixed farming	14	Water pipeline coverage, Road infrastructure	Mwenje muthere
Marmanet	Mixed farming	15	Slum and shanti housing	Kang'a

Population in Need

Table 22: Laikipia County: Households in Need of Food Assistance

Subcounty	Wards	Proportion of population affected
Laikipia North	Mukogodo East	10-15
	Mukogodo West	10-15
	Segera	10-15
	Sosian	5-10
Laikipia East	Tigithi	10-15
	Ngobit	10-15
	Thigithu	5-10
	Umande	5-10
	Nanyuki	5-10
Laikipia West	Salama	10-15
	Olmoran	5-10
	Rumuruti Township	5-10
	Igwamiti	5-10
	Githiga	5-10
	Marmanet	5-10

5.2 Ongoing interventions

5.2.1: Non-Food Interventions

Table 23: Non-Food Recommended Interventions

Sub County	Ward	Intervention	No. of beneficiaries	Implementers	Cost (Ksh.) In millions	Time Frame
Livestock Sector						
Laikipia East	All wards	Sensitization and Capacity Building	100 households	CGL	5	Financial Year
Laikipia West	Marmanet Rumuruti Salama	Pasture Establishment	100 household	CGL	N/A	Financial Year
All Sub-Counties	All wards	Provision on Juncao and Super Napier cuttings	300 Farmers	CGL	1	Financial year
Laikipia East	Marmanet Rumuruti	Construction of Hay stores	40 Farmers	CGL, SNV	3	5 Years
Health and Nutrition						
All	All three sub county	Vitamin A Supplementation	77651	County,	**0.77651**	Jan-June 2025
All	All three sub county	Zinc Supplementation	18567	CGLMOH	**0.12**	Jan-June 2025
All	All three sub county	Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM)	18567	MoH- CGL. UNICEF	0.015	Jan-June 2025
All	All three sub county	IYCN Interventions (EBF and Timely Intro of complementary Foods)	9293	MoH- CGL. UNICEF	0.2	Jan-June 2025
All	All three sub county	Iron Folate Supplementation among Pregnant Women	18567	MoH- CGL. Nutrition International	0.3	Jan-June 2025
All	All three sub county	Deworming	69023	CGL/r	0.15	Jan-June 2025
Agriculture Sector						
Laikipia East, Laikipia North & Laikipia West	Mukogodo East, Sosian, Rumuruti, Ngobit, Salama, Segera, Marmanet	Excavation of water pans, Desilting and rehabilitation of earth dams	400	County department of Agriculture and Irrigation	5	Jan–Oct 2025
Laikipia West and East	Laikipia West and East	Last mile distribution of subsidized fertilizer	Smallholder crop farmers		10	MoALD, County Govt, NCPB

Laikipia West & East	All wards	Capacity building on post-harvest handling	1,000	County Agriculture Dept., NGOs	1	continuous
Laikipia West	Oljabet, Ngobit	Support to farmer cooperatives with storage and aggregation facilities	2,000	County Coop Dept., NCPB, AGRA	5	By 2027
Education Sector						
Kirima	Sossian Githiga Ol Moran	Relief Food provision	12,952	GOK, MOE		Continuous
Nyahururu	Salama	Security, Food	3111	Parents and government		monthly
Nyahururu	Salama	Provision of water storage and greens	97	Samuel Etoo Foundation		3 years
Whole county		Provision of vitamins, and measles vaccination	Whole county	Ministry of health		
Laikipia east		Provision of tanks	20,000students	Moe county game		12 months

Water Sector						
Sub County	**Intervention**	**Ward**	**No. of beneficiaries**	**Implem -enters**	**Cost (Ksh.M**	**Time Frame**
Laikipia North	Equipping of Naituria borehole	Sossian	500	CGL	4	1 Month
	Equipping of Lerai borehole	Sossian	600	CGL	4	1 Month
	Rehabilitation of Loshaki dam	Mukogodo West	550	CGL	5	2 Months
	Rehabilitation of Ilmotiok dam	Mukogodo West	600	CGL	4	2 Months
	Drilling of Lekasuyian borehole	Sossian	650	CGL	3.5	1 Month
	Drilling of Kinamba-Sossian borehole	Sossian	450	CGL	3.5	1 Month
	Drilling of Nosorai borehole	Mukogodo East	400	CGL	3.5	1 Month
Laikipia West	Equipping of Ndindika Dispensary borehole	Githiga	1000	CGL	4	2 months
	Equipping of King`uka Kang`aa borehole	Marmanet	800	CGL	4	1 Month
	Equipping of Eloiloi borehole	Salama	600	CGL	4	1 Month
	Equipping of proposed Kinamba town bus park borehole	Githiga	1500	CGL	3.5	2 months
	Construction of Mlima meza masonry tank	Olmoran	1,100	CGL	3	2 Months

	Equipping of Munyu Gituamba borehole	Marmanet	500	CGL	3.5	2 months
	Equipping of Gatami Water project borehole	Marmanet	500	CGL	4	2 months
	Equipping of Mugumo ECDE borehole	Marmanet	500	CGL	3.5	2 months
	Drilling of Nyakinyua pry school borehole	Githiga	700	CGL	2	I week
	Drilling of Ngarachi Sec school borehole	Githiga	500	CGL	2	I week
	Drilling of Mung`etho pry school borehole	Marmanet	700	CGL	2	I week
	Drilling of Karaba Sec school borehole	Marmanet	1000	CGL	2	I week
	Drilling of Njoguini Dispensary borehole	Marmanet	850	CGL	2	I week
	Drilling of proposed Kiamariga dispensary and slaughter house	Rumuruti	700	CGL	2	I week
	Construction of Kiamariga dam	Rumuruti	1500	CGL/ GOK	25	4 Months
Laikipia East	Equipping of Wamura borehole	Wamura	700	CGL	3.5	1 Month
	Drilling and capping of Sirma borehole	Sirma	600	CGL	3	1 Month
	Drilling and capping of Chuma/Mathenya borehole	Ngobit	1000	CGL	3	1 Month
	Drilling and capping of Bingwa Pry borehole	Nanyuki	1400	CGL	3	1 Month
	Drilling and capping of Githuci health center borehole	Umande	850	CGL	3	1 Month
	Drilling and equipping of Baraka-Solio borehole	Tigithi	1,000	HFHK	5	2 Months
	Drilling and equipping of Mathingira-Solio borehole	Tigithi	400	HFHK	5	2 Months
	Drilling and equipping of Bahati-Solio borehole	Tigithi	1,100	HFHK	5	2 Months
	Solar equipping of Baraka-Solio borehole	Tigithi	1,000	HFHK	2	1 Month
	Solar equipping of Mukandamia-Solio borehole	Tigithi	1,200	HFHK	2	1 Month
	Solar equipping of Bahati-Solio borehole	Tigithi	1,100	HFHK	-	1 Month

5.3 Recommended Interventions

5.3.2 Non-Food Interventions

Table 24: Non-Food Recommended Interventions

Sub County	Ward	Intervention	No. of beneficiaries	Proposed Implementers	Required Resources In million	Available Resources	Time Frame
Livestock Sector							
All Sub-Counties	All Wards	Disease Surveillance and Control	5000 Farmers	CGL, NDMA SDL, IMPACT	50	N/A	Yearly
All Sub-Counties	All Wards	Regular Deworming Exercises and Parasite control	1000 households	CGL NDMA SDL	20	N/A	Yearly
All Sub-Counties	All Wards	Livestock Value addition programs	200 Farmers	CGL NDMA SDL	50	N/A	Yearly
All Sub-Counties	Ngobit Segera Marmanet Githiga	Handing Over of Milk cooler to the Beneficial cooperatives	1000 Farmers	CGL SDL		50M	Financial Year
All Sub-Counties	All wards	Provision of Galla bucks and Doper rams	1000 Farmers	CGL		2M	Financial Year
Laikipia West	Githiga Marmanet	Improvement of Pig Breeds	528 Farmers	CGL		5M	Financial Year
Health and Nutrition							
All three sub county	All three sub county	Carry out OJT on identification and management of malnutrition among Health care providers	92 facilities	GCL- MOH	0.8568	0	Jan-June 2025
All three sub county	All three sub county	Recommend and Conduct MIYCN KAP survey to extensively understand the MIYCN practices in the county including some barriers to effective programming		GCL- MOH	0.5	0	Jan-June 2025
All three sub county	All three sub county	Strengthen our community units through training to promote good MIYCN indicators	92 facilities	GCL- MOH	1	0	Jan-June 2025
All three sub county	All three sub county	Diversify income generating activities, promote kitchen gardens and rearing	I51 community units	GCL- MOH APHRC	0.2	0	Jan-June 2025

		of small animals to increase the quality and quantity of food consumption					
All three sub county	All three sub county	Carry out integrated outreaches in hard-to-reach areas in all sub counties	43 sites	GCL- MOH	0.5	0	Jan-June 2025
Agriculture Sector							
Laikipia North & East	Segera, Olmoran, sosian, Salama, Tigithi, Ngobit, Umande, Mukogodo East	Provision of drought-tolerant seeds	Smallholder farmers	MoALD, County Govt, FAO			August 2025
Laikipia East & North	All wards	Repairs of boreholes and desilting of water pans and earth dams	Critical water points	County Water Dept., Agriculture and irrigation department			Immediate – August 2025
All sub-counties	Various Wards	Farmer training on climate-smart practices	Farmer groups & cooperatives	County Agriculture Dept., NGOs			August–October 2025
Laikipia East	Ngobit, Umande	Rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure	Small-scale irrigation schemes	County Govt, NIA, WRMA			2027
Education Sector							
Kirima, Laikipia East, Nyahururu		Provision of water tanks	All learners	National & County Governments	100M	50M	24 months
Kirima, Laikipia Central, Nyahururu		Installation of gutters	All learners	National & County Governments	10M	0	24 months
county-wide		Provision of safe water	22,638	GOK, NGOs, County Govt, NG-CDF	10M	0	Immediate
County-wide		Deworming Campaign	22,638	GOK, NGOs	3M	0	3 months
Salama, Olmoran, Mukogodo East and West)		School feeding only	3,822	MOE, County Govt, NGOs	Not specified	None	FY 2025–2026
County-wide		School feeding and sanitary towels	23,182	MOE, County Govt, NGOs	Not specified	None	FY 2025–2026
Salama, Olmoran, Mukogodo East and West		Provision of dry food commodities (maize, beans, rice, oil)	10,813	GOK, NGOs, NACONEK	Not specified	Nil	Immediate
Kirima, Laikipia West, Nyahururu Laikipia North)		Curbing teenage pregnancy	2,562	GOK, Ministry of Interior	1M	0	Ongoing

Laikipia East & Nyahururu	Expansion of HGSFP with cooks & storage support	8,600	GOK	1M	2M	

Water - Immediate - Recommended Interventions							
Sub County	**Intervention**	**Ward**	**No. of beneficiaries**	**Proposed Implementers**	**Required Resource**	**Available Resources**	**Time Frame**
Laikipia North	Water trucking	Laikipia North	50,000	CGL/NDMA	1M	Trucks	FY 24/25
	Routine inspection and repair of all boreholes systems	Laikipia North	20,000	CGL/NDMA /NGO	100M	Human Resource	FY 24/25
	Equipping of Lekasuyian borehole	Sossian	650	CGL	4M	Technical labour	1 Month
	Equipping of Kinamba-Sossian borehole	Sossian	450	CGL	4M	Technical labour	1 Month
	Equipping of Nosorai borehole	Mukogodo East	400	CGL	4M	Technical labour	1 Month
	Solar equip Kaptagat borehole	Sosian	450	*CGL/NDMA /NGO*	4M	Technical labour	1 Month
Laikipia West	Solar equipping of Muthengera borehole	Igwamiti	1,600	CGL	4M	Technical labour	1 Month
	Equipping of OMC borehole	Rumuruti	400	CGL	4M	Technical labour	1 month
	Equipping of Mutamaiyu borehole	Rumuruti	700	CGL	4M	Technical labour	1month
	Drilling of the already surveyed borehole sites	Laikipia West		CGL	3.5M	labour, machinery	5 months
	Drilling and equipping of a borehole at Three-point center	Rumuruti	600	CGL	3.5M	Technical labour	2months
Laikipia East	Training of community on efficient water resources management	The whole Sub-County	10,000	CGL/NDMA	10M	Techncal labour	6 months
	Solar equipping of Rehema-Solio borehole	Tigithi	2,000	CGL/NDMA	4M	Technical labour	1 month
	Solar equipping of Kiahuko borehole	Tigithi	1,500	CGL/NDMA	4M	Technical labour	1 month
	Solar equipping of Kibubung`i borehole	Tigithi	1,300	CGL/NDMA	4M	Technical labour	1 month
	Solar equipping of Sirma borehole	Ngobit	600	CGL/NDMA	4M	Technical labour	1 month
	Solar equipping of Chuma/Mathenya borehole	Ngobit	1000	CGL/NDMA	4M	Technical labour	1 month
Water-Medium and Long Term - Recommended Interventions							

Laikipia North	Survey, design excavation, and expansion of Koija dam	Mukogodo West	900	CGL/NDMA /NGO	150M	Technical labour	4 Months
	Desilting, expansion and trough repair of Ngambolo dam	Mukogodo West	1,100	CGL/NDMA /NGO	85M	Technical labour	4 Months
	Desilting of Oldupai pan	Mukogodo West	800	CGL/NDMA /NGO	15M	Technical labour	3 Months
	Desilting, rehabilitation and expansion of Lower Sepeyo Pan	Mukogodo East	600	CGL/NDMA /NGO	90M	Technical labour	2 Months
	Desilting, rehabilitation and expansion of Upper Sepeyo Pan	Mukogodo East	500	CGL/NDMA /NGO	90M	Technical labour	2 Months
	Desilting, rehabilitation and expansion of Lariakorok dam	Mukogodo East	800	CGL/NDMA /NGO	90M	Technical labour	2 Months
	Intake works for Sirimon Water Supply, drilling and equipping of borehole, replacement of main pipes with HDPE, Increase the storage system	Mukogodo East	2000	CGL/NDMA /NGO	120M	Technical labour	2 Months
	Desilting and expansion of Tiemamult dam	Mukogodo West	1500	CGL/NDMA	85M	Technical labour	4 Months
	Desilting of Musul dam	Mukogodo West	850	CGL/NDMA	8M	Technical labour	5 Months
	Rehabilitation and expansion of Olsupkiai dam	Mukogodo East	700	*CGL/NDMA /NGO*	15M	Technical labour	4 Months
Laikipia West	Desilting and expansion of Olmoran dam	Olmoran	500	CGL	12M	Technical labour	4 months
	Rehabilitation and expansion of Maji Mbogo earth dam	Rumuruti	500	CGL	15M	Technical labour	2 Months
	Construction of Kiamariga mega dam	Salama	20,000	CGL/GOK	100M	Technical labour	4 Months
	Construction of Rumuruti mega dam	Rumuruti Forest	50,000	CGL, NDMA, GOK	150M	Technical labour	1 Year
Laikipia East	Desilting and expansion of Njoguini water pan	Thingithu	1,300	CGL/NDMA	20M	Technical labour	3 months
	Desilting and expansion of Baraka-Solio dam	Tigithi	1,000	CGL/NDMA	20M	Technical labour	3 months
	Desilting and expansion of Kabanga water pan	Tigithi	800	CGL/NDMA	25M	Technical labour	3 months
	Desilting and expansion of Mirera water pan	Thingithu	1,500	CGL/NDMA	25M	Technical labour	3 months

	Desilting and expansion of Munyaka water pan	Ngobit	700	CGL/NDMA	15M	Technical labour	3 months
	Desilting and expansion of Wamura dam	Ngobit	950	CGL/NDMA	15M	Technical labour	3 months