



NATIONAL DROUGHT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

National Drought Early Warning Bulletin

July 31st 2026

1.0 DROUGHT SITUATION OVERVIEW

As shown in Figure 1, the July 2026 drought phase classification map indicates that the majority of ASAL counties remained under the Normal drought phase during the month. Marsabit, Mandera, Wajir, Samburu, Meru, Tharaka-Nithi, Narok, Kajiado, Makueni, Kitui, Tana River, Taita Taveta, Kwale, Kilifi and Lamu were all classified as Normal. West Pokot, Turkana, Baringo and Garissa moved into the Pre-Alert phase, an early signal of deteriorating conditions that will require closer monitoring in the coming weeks. Isiolo recorded the most notable deterioration, moving into the Alert phase classification during July. No county fell under the more severe Alarm or Emergency phases. These phase classifications

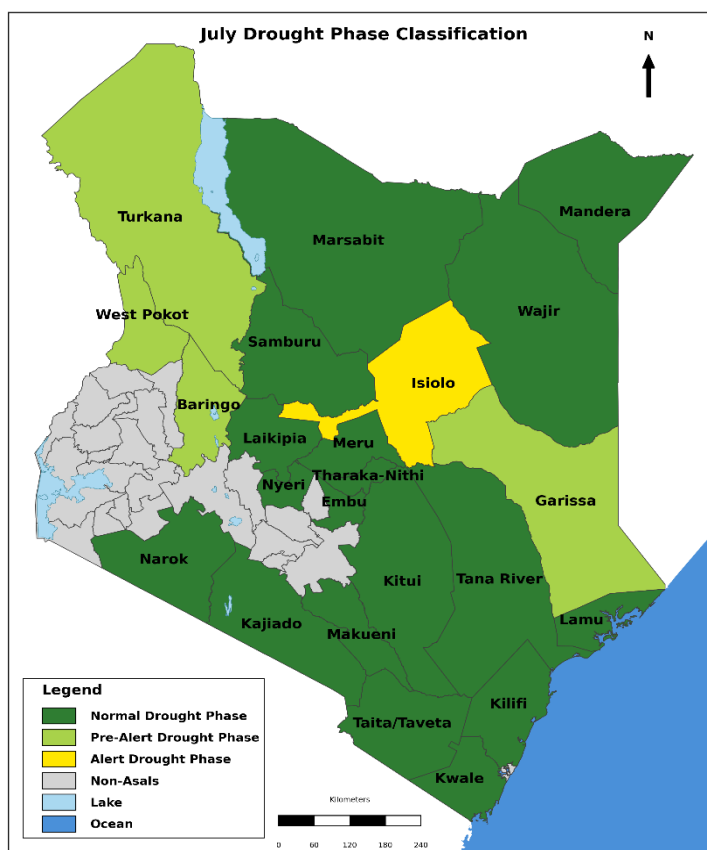


Figure 1: Drought Phase Classification, July 2026

were informed by deviations in key environmental, production, access, and utilization indicators from their normal seasonal thresholds. Meanwhile, acute malnutrition remained a critical concern in ASALs, driven by previous food insecurity, high morbidity levels, and sub-optimal child care practices. Overall, July brought early signs of deterioration across parts of the ASAL region, with Isiolo moving into the Alert phase and West Pokot, Turkana, Baringo and Garissa into Pre-Alert, even as the majority of ASAL counties remained in the Normal phase; this shift, coinciding with the onset of the drier, cooler season, underscoring the need for closer monitoring in the months ahead.

2.0. Observed Drought Indicators

2.1 July 2026 Rainfall Performance

July 2026 rainfall performance across the ASAL counties reflected the continuation of the cool, dry season, with most areas receiving little or no rainfall, as expected during this period. However, several areas recorded localized rainfall that had a positive influence on vegetation and water resources. The north-western counties, particularly Turkana and parts of Samburu, benefited from residual rainfall that contributed to positive rainfall anomalies and supported the regeneration of pasture and browse. Similarly, Laikipia recorded favorable rainfall conditions that helped sustain forage resources and livestock productivity. Along the coast, light rainfall in Kilifi and Lamu contributed to improved environmental conditions in localized areas (Figure 2).

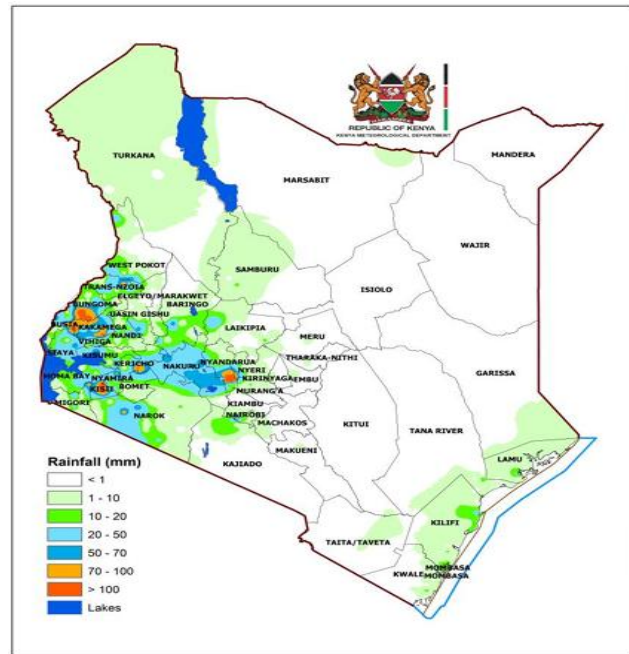


Figure 2: Rainfall Performance, July 2026

These localized rainfall events helped slow the deterioration of rangeland resources and, in some counties, contributed to improvements in drought indicators and early warning phase classification. Nevertheless, the overall rainfall pattern remained consistent with the seasonal dry period, highlighting the need for continued monitoring of vegetation, water availability, and livestock production across the ASAL counties.

2.2 August 2026 Rainfall Forecast

The rainfall forecast for August 2026 is presented in Figure 3, the outlook indicates a continuation of generally dry conditions across most of the 23 ASAL counties. Marsabit, Wajir, Mandera, Garissa, Isiolo, Tana River, Kitui, Makueni, Kajiado and Taita Taveta are expected to experience generally sunny and dry conditions through the month, with little to no rainfall anticipated; these conditions are likely to further constrain pasture and browse regeneration and accelerate the depletion of surface water sources. Turkana, West Pokot, Baringo and the western parts of Narok are forecast to receive near-average to below-average rainfall; in Turkana, probabilities stand at roughly 25 percent for above-average, 30 percent for near-average and 45 percent for below-

average performance, while the wider north-western belt carries roughly 25 percent probability of above-average, 40 percent for near-average and 35 percent for below-average rainfall, pointing to a tilt towards below-average conditions in the north-west. Nyeri, southern Laikipia and the fringes of Embu, Meru and Tharaka-Nithi are expected to experience periodically cool and cloudy conditions with occasional rainfall, typical of the August transition period; while substantial rainfall totals are not expected, the intermittent showers and clouds cover may help moderate moisture loss in these areas. Kilifi, Kwale and Lamu are forecast to receive near-average to below-average rainfall along the coastal strip, with roughly 25 percent probability of above-average, 40 percent for near-average and 35 percent for below-average

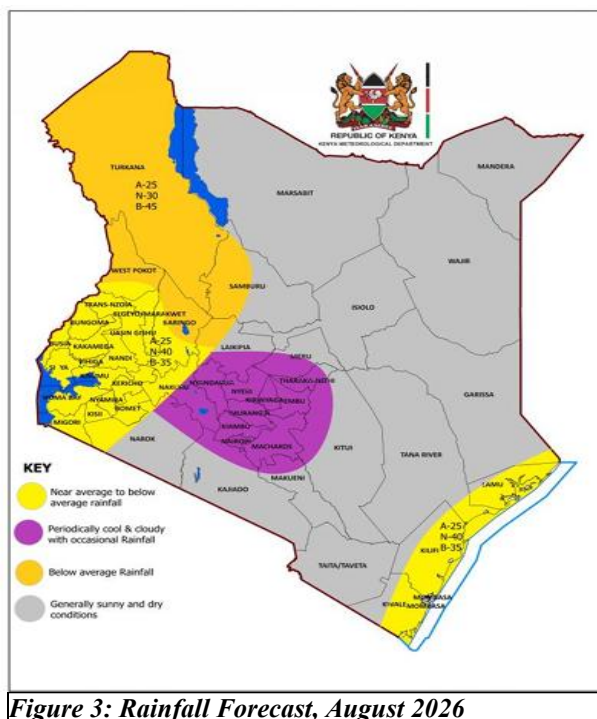


Figure 3: Rainfall Forecast, August 2026

performance. Samburu is expected to remain largely dry, consistent with the generally sunny and dry conditions dominating much of the wider ASAL region. Taken together, the August 2026 outlook suggests that dry conditions will persist across most of the pastoral north, north-east and south-east, and continued monitoring of drought indicators will be necessary in these areas as the dry season continues, while the north-western ASAL counties face a tilt towards below-average rainfall that could slow rangeland recovery heading into the September-October period.

2.3 Vegetation Condition

Figure 4 compares vegetation conditions in June and July 2026 and shows a landscape transitioning from above-normal greenness as the cool, dry season progressed, with Isiolo recording a more pronounced decline in vegetation conditions. In June 2026, most ASAL counties recorded favorable vegetation conditions, with the majority falling within the above normal vegetation greenness category ($VCI3M \geq 50$), while a smaller proportion remained within the normal range (35–50), indicating generally healthy pasture and browse conditions across much of the ASAL region. By July, vegetation conditions showed the expected seasonal decline associated with the progression of the cool, and dry season. Approximately one-quarter of the counties

experienced a deterioration in vegetation greenness, with most shifting from the above normal to the normal category. One county recorded a more pronounced decline, moving from above normal to moderate vegetation deficit, signaling emerging stress on pasture and browse resources

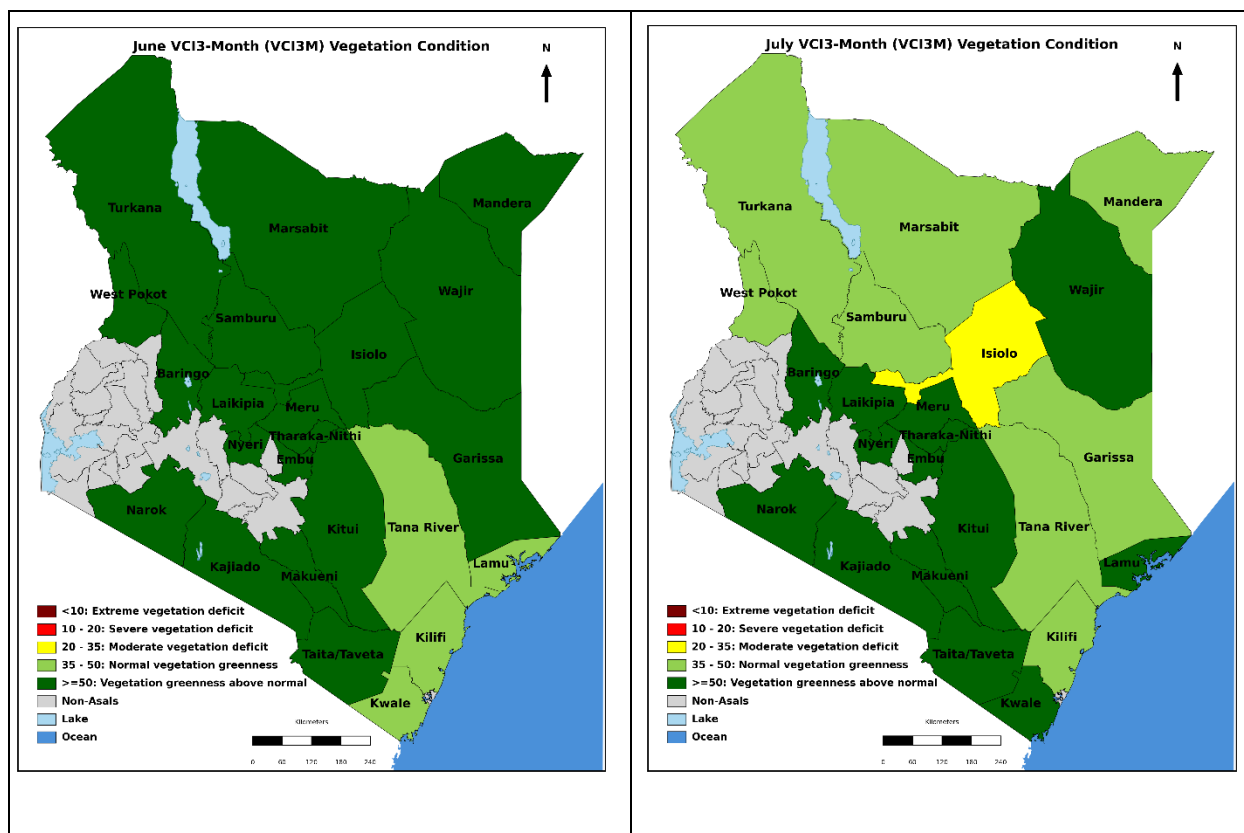


Figure 4: Maps comparing Vegetation Conditions (VCIs) of June and July 2026

Despite this seasonal decline, more than half of the counties maintained stable vegetation conditions and remained within the above normal category, demonstrating the continued influence of the favorable March–May rainfall season. In addition, a small number of counties registered improvements in vegetation greenness, moving from the normal to the above normal category, reflecting localized rainfall and sustained soil moisture conditions.

As detailed in table 1, 14 of the 23 ASAL counties recorded above normal vegetation greenness in July 2026, namely Baringo, Embu, Kajiado, Kitui, Kwale, Laikipia, Lamu, Makueni, Meru, Narok, Nyeri, Taita Taveta, Tharaka-Nithi and Wajir. A further 8 counties; Garissa, Kilifi, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana and West Pokot recorded Normal vegetation greenness, reflecting adequate, though no longer above-average, pasture and browse conditions. Isiolo was the only county to record Moderate Vegetation Deficit at the aggregate level; the sub-counties

driving this classification included Isiolo North, together with Ganze, Kacheliba, Lagdera and Mandera West, which fall within Kilifi, West Pokot, Garissa and Mandera respectively a reminder that individual sub-counties can register deficit conditions even where their parent county's overall, weighted classification remains higher. No severe or extreme vegetation deficits were observed anywhere in the ASAL region in July. Overall, vegetation conditions across the ASAL counties remained broadly favorable, sustaining adequate grazing resources, even as the emerging deficit in Isiolo and scattered sub-counties elsewhere signals early, localized stress worth continued monitoring.

Table 1: Vegetation Condition Index (VCI), July 2026

Category	County	Sub Counties
Extreme Vegetation Deficit		
Severe vegetation deficit		
Moderate vegetation deficit	(1) Isiolo	(5) Ganze, Isiolo North, Kacheliba, Lagdera, Mandera West
Normal vegetation greenness	(8) Garissa, Kilifi, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Tana River, Turkana, West Pokot	(22) Banissa, Bura, Fafi, Galole, Isiolo South, Kaloleni, Kapenguria, Kilgoris, Laikipia North, Laikipia West, Laisamis, Loima, Mwingi North, Samburu East, Samburu North, Tiaty, Tigania East, Turkana Central, Turkana East, Turkana North, Turkana West, Voi
Above Normal greenness	(14) Baringo, Embu, Kajiado, Kitui, Kwale, Laikipia, Lamu, Makueni, Meru, Narok, Nyeri, Taita/Taveta, Tharaka-Nithi, Wajir	(86) Baringo Central, Baringo North, Baringo South, Buuri, Central Imenti, Dujis, Eldama Ravine, Eldas, Emurua Dikirr, Gachoka, Garsen, Igembe Central, Igembe North, Igembe South, Ijara, Kaiti, Kajiado Central, Kajiado East, Kajiado North, Kajiado South, Kajiado West, Kibwezi East, Kibwezi West, Kieni, Kilifi North, Kilifi South, Kilome, Kinango, Kitui Central, Kitui East, Kitui Rural, Kitui South, Kitui West, Lafey, Laikipia East, Lamu East, Lamu West, Lunga lunga, Maara, Magarini, Makueni, Malindi, Mandera East, Mandera North, Mandera South, Manyatta, Mathira, Matuga, Mbooni, Mogotio, Moyale, Msambweni, Mukurweni, Mwatate, Mwingi East, Mwingi West, Narok East, Narok North, Narok South, Narok West, North Horr, North Imenti, Nyeri Town, Othaya, Pokot South, Rabai, Runyenjes, Saku, Samburu West, Siakago, Sigor, South Imenti, Tarbaj, Taveta, Tetu,

		Tharaka, Tigania West, Turkana South, Wajir East, Wajir North, Wajir South, Wajir West, Wundanyi
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3.0 Livestock Productivity

3.1 Livestock Body Condition

Livestock body condition across the ASAL counties in July 2026 remained predominantly fair to good, reflecting sustained recovery following the long rains and continued availability of pasture and browse. Cattle body condition was rated as good in approximately 39 percent of the monitored counties (Kajiado, Kitui, Makueni, Embu, Taita Taveta, Lamu, Meru, Wajir, and Tana River), while 57 percent reported fair condition (Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo, Kilifi, Kwale, Laikipia, Mandera, Marsabit, Nyeri, Tharaka Nithi, Turkana, Samburu, Narok and West Pokot). Similarly, goats and sheep exhibited a comparable pattern ranging from fair to good livestock body condition (Table 2.0).

The overall livestock condition was supported by continued regeneration of rangeland forage and browse following the March–May rainfall season, improved livestock access to water, and the sustained availability of crop residues in mixed farming areas. These gains were further reinforced by ongoing livestock health interventions, including disease surveillance, vaccination campaigns, strategic deworming, and supplementary feeding of vulnerable herds, which collectively enhanced animal resilience and productivity.

Table 2: Livestock Body Condition, July 2026

Cattle			Goats/Sheep		
Poor	Fair	Good	Poor	Fair	Good
	Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo, Kilifi, Kwale, Laikipia, Mandera, Marsabit, Nyeri, Tharaka Nithi, Turkana, Samburu, Narok	Kajiado, Kitui, Makueni, Embu, Taita Taveta, Lamu, Meru, Wajir, Tana River		Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo, Kilifi, Kwale, Laikipia, Mandera, Marsabit, Nyeri Tharaka Nithi, Turkana, Samburu, Narok West Pokot	Kajiado, Kitui, Makueni, Embu, Taita Taveta, Lamu, Meru, Wajir, Tana River

3.2 Milk production

In July 2026, milk production across the ASAL counties showed mixed performance. Production levels were above the Long-Term Average (LTA) in approximately 34.8 percent of the monitored counties, at the seasonal average in 13.0 percent, and below the LTA in 52.2 percent of the counties (Table 3). Regarding production trends, 21.7 percent of counties recorded improving milk production, largely due to the continued availability of forage and water resources following the March–May rains, improved livestock body conditions, and ongoing animal health interventions. A further 26.1 percent of counties remained stable, as livestock continued to benefit from residual pasture and relatively adequate access to water despite the progression of the dry season.

However, 52.2 percent of the counties experienced declining milk production as the cool, dry season advanced. The worsening trend was mainly attributed to diminishing pasture and browse resources, increasing trekking distances to water sources, declining livestock body conditions in affected areas, and the gradual depletion of the gains realized during the previous rainy season. Overall, although several counties continued to maintain favorable milk production levels, the progression of seasonal dry conditions increasingly constrained livestock productivity across much of the ASAL region.

Table 3: Milk production, July 2026

Current status			Trend		
Above LTA	At LTA	Below LTA	Improving	Stable	Worsening
Kitui, Kwale, Tharaka Nithi, Taita Taveta, Turkana, Wajir, Narok, Meru	Kajiado, Embu, Nyeri	Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo, Kilifi, Laikipia, Lamu, Makueni, Mandera, Marsabit, West Pokot, Tana River, Samburu	Garissa, Kitui, Lamu, Turkana, Wajir	Baringo, Kwale, Laikipia, Tharaka Nithi, Samburu, Meru	Isiolo, Kajiado, Kilifi, Makueni, Mandera, Marsabit, Embu, Nyeri, Taita Taveta, West Pokot, Tana River, Narok, Narok

3.3. Livestock diseases

Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP) continued to pose significant threats to small ruminants across the assessed pastoral areas. PPR and CCPP were widely reported in Marsabit, particularly in Laisamis, North Horr, Moyale and Saku, while PPR and CCPP were also reported in Baringo, Wajir and Tana River. In Marsabit, the diseases were associated with significant impacts on sheep and goat productivity, with goats accounting for the highest proportion of reported disease cases.

Cattle and other livestock also faced considerable disease pressure, with Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) reported in Marsabit, Baringo, Narok, Wajir and Tana

River. Marsabit recorded suspected LSD outbreaks in Saku and North Horr, including three cattle deaths, while FMD was reported in Saku. Narok also reported FMD in selected wards, alongside Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF).

Other livestock diseases remained prevalent across the assessed counties. Sheep and goat pox were reported in Marsabit, Wajir and Tana River, while trypanosomiasis, helminthiasis and tick-borne diseases were reported in Tana River. Marsabit also recorded brucellosis, hemorrhagic septicaemia (HS) and unexplained camel deaths. Disease control measures included vaccination, treatment, active and passive surveillance, pastoralist sensitization and livestock movement monitoring.

3.4 Cattle prices

Cattle prices were generally stable, with improvements observed in some counties, and remained above the Long-Term Average (LTA) in several areas, including Mandera, Turkana, Baringo and Garissa. The favorable trend was primarily driven by improved pasture and water availability following the recent rainfall, which enhanced livestock body conditions and increased their market value. In addition, improved livestock body conditions following the rains contributed to the stable to increasing cattle prices. However, a few counties, such as Garissa, Makueni Tana River, Wajir and West Pokot recorded a worsening price trend despite these generally favourable conditions (Table 4).

Table 4: Cattle prices, July 2026

Current status			Trend		
Above LTA	At LTA	Below LTA	Improving	Stable	Worsening
Baringo, Garissa, Kajiado, Kilifi, Kitui, Laikipia, Lamu, Makueni, Mandera, Narok, Marsabit, Taita Taveta, Tharaka Nithi, Turkana, Wajir, West Pokot, Embu	Meru, Samburu, Nyeri, Isiolo	Kwale, Tana River	Kwale,	Baringo, Isiolo, Kitui Kajiado, Kilifi, Embu, Laikipia, Lamu, Narok, Nyeri, Mandera, Marsabit, Meru, Samburu, Taita Taveta, Tharaka Nithi, Turkana,	Garissa, Makueni Tana River Wajir, West Pokot

3.5 Goat Prices

Goat prices remained generally stable, with improvements observed in some ASAL counties during the month under review (Table 5). The observed trend was mainly attributed to improved grazing conditions following the long rains, which enhanced livestock body conditions and increased their market value. Compared with the Long-Term Average (LTA), goat prices remained above normal levels in several counties, including Mandera, Turkana, Baringo and Garissa, while

West Pokot and Meru were at the LTA. No county recorded a worsening trend in goat prices during the reporting period.

Table 5: Goat prices, July 2026

Current status			Trend		
Above LTA	At LTA	Below LTA	Improving	Stable	Worsening
Baringo, Garissa Isiolo, Kajiado, Kilifi, Kitui, Kwale, Laikipia, Lamu, Makueni, Marsabit, Narok Samburu, Taita Taveta, Tana River, Turkana, Wajir, Embu	Mandera, Tharaka Nithi Nyeri Meru West Pokot		Embu, Marsabit, Narok	Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo, Kajiado, Kilifi, Kitui, Kwale, Laikipia, Lamu, Makueni, Mandera, Samburu, Taita Taveta, Tana River, Tharaka Nithi, Wajir, Nyeri	Meru, Turkana, West Pokot

4.0 Crop production

4.1 Status of Crop Production

The month of July was characterized by active harvesting and post-harvest activities across the Coastal Marginal Agriculture (CMA), South Eastern Marginal Agriculture (SEMA), and Agro-Pastoral zones, with mixed crop performance across counties. Lamu, Kitui, and Kajiado recorded generally favorable crop performance, while Kilifi, Makueni, Laikipia, and West Pokot experienced poor performance due to moisture stress, pests, and poorly distributed rainfall. In several areas, farmers were also engaged in land preparation and planting in readiness for the short rains. Overall, agricultural activities during the month supported household food availability, although localized production challenges affected expected yields in some counties. Table summarizes key agricultural activities across the counties during the period under review.

Table 6: Current status of crop production

Cluster	Counties	Current state of crop production
Coastal Marginal agriculture	Lamu	Crops were mainly at harvesting and post-harvest stages, with generally good conditions and improved food availability. Land preparation for the short rains had begun, with no significant moisture stress reported.
	Taita Taveta	Crops were mainly at the harvesting stage in the Horticulture/Dairy zones, while land preparation and maize planting were underway in the Irrigated/Livestock and Mixed Farming zones.

	Kilifi	Maize harvesting was underway in the Livestock zone, with poor performance reported. In the Mixed Farming, Food Cropping, and Marginal Mixed zones, maize was mainly at the roasting-ear to physiological maturity stages.
	Kwale	The main long-rains crops were maize, cowpeas and green grams, with most farmers harvesting while some crops remained at the maturity stage across the livelihood zones.
South Eastern Marginal agriculture	Embu	Farmers in both the Mixed Farming (MF) and Marginal Mixed Farming (MMF) livelihood zones had largely completed harvesting. Harvested produce was being dried and stored for household consumption and sale.
	Tharaka Nithi	Agricultural activities focused mainly on pulse threshing and maize harvesting in parts of the Mixed Farming zone, particularly Mukothima and Nkondi. Farmers also prioritized post-harvest storage, supporting short-term household food availability and purchasing power.
	Kitui	Most crops were at the harvesting stage, with good yields reported, particularly for maize, green grams, and cowpeas, which performed above the LTA.
	Makueni	Most crops were at harvesting stage, with some in Kilome still at grain filling. Crop conditions were fair to poor, with pests reported in several areas. The early onset of the season, coupled with crops remaining in fields from the previous OND season, delayed land preparation and planting.
Agro-pastoral	Narok	Maize, the leading crop, was at the harvesting stage across most parts of the county. Agricultural activities during the period focused mainly on harvesting wheat and barley, which are largely grown under extensive commercial farming.
	Laikipia	Late-planted crops experienced significant moisture stress due to the early cessation of the March–May (MAM) rains, followed by prolonged dry conditions in June. These conditions adversely affected crop growth and development, resulting in reduced crop performance.
	West Pokot	Crops were at the vegetative to tasselling stages in July but remained in fair to poor condition due to below-normal, poorly distributed rainfall and prolonged dry spells. Increased moisture stress caused leaf rolling, wilting, and stunted growth, with crop performance and yields expected to remain below average across most of the county.
	Kajiado	Harvesting of long-rains crops progressed in July, with beans fully harvested and maize harvesting ongoing. Favorable rains supported near-normal performance, with maize yields estimated at 9 bags/ha, above the LTA of 8 bags/ha, while beans matched the LTA at 4 bags/ha.
	Nyeri	Poor and uneven rainfall reduced maize, bean and Irish potato production by 40.5%, 54.3% and 27.8%, respectively. Pests, frost, limited fertilizer access

		and excess rainfall further affected yields. About 55% of households had food stocks, lasting one month in MF and 2.5 months in MMF.
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4.2 Maize prices

Maize prices remained relatively stable in approximately 65 percent of the ASAL counties during the month under review (Table 7). Improving maize price trends were recorded in 17 percent of the counties, while a similar proportion (17 percent) experienced worsening trends. The relatively stable price trends observed across most counties indicate generally steady market conditions during the period, although variations were evident across individual markets. Compared with the Long-Term Average (LTA), maize prices were above normal in 22 percent of the counties, at the LTA in 4 percent, and below the LTA in 74 percent. The below-LTA prices observed in most counties point to relatively favorable maize price conditions compared with the long-term seasonal average. However, the higher-than-normal prices recorded in Garissa, Marsabit, Wajir, and Mandera indicate localized variations in market conditions. Overall, maize prices remained generally stable across the ASAL counties, with most markets recording prices below their long-term averages during the month under review.

Table 7: Maize prices, July 2026

Current status			Trend		
Above LTA	At LTA	Below LTA	Improving	Stable	Worsening
Garissa Marsabit Wajir Mandera Kilifi Embu	Kajiado	Baringo, Samburu Tana River, Kwale, Lamu, Narok Turkana Tharaka Nithi West Pokot Taita Taveta Meru, Makueni Laikipia, Kitui Isiolo, Nyeri	Isiolo Laikipia	Baringo, Garissa, Mandera, Turkana Tana River, Wajir Kajiado, Kilifi, Lamu, Makueni, Marsabit Taita Taveta, Tharaka Nithi, Embu Samburu Kitui, Marsabit	West Pokot Meru Narok Kwale Nyeri

5.0 WATER ACCESS

5.1 Access to water for households

During the month under review, the availability of water for household use remained varied across the ASAL counties during the period under review, with most counties reporting water access conditions that were within or below their long-term average (LTA) (Table 8). The situation was influenced by differences in water availability across the counties, with Wajir and Kitui recording conditions above the LTA, while Lamu, Narok, West Pokot, Turkana, Marsabit, Kwale and Isiolo

reported conditions below the LTA. Other counties, including Baringo, Mandera, Embu and Samburu, reported conditions at the LTA. The trend in household water access was mixed across the counties. Lamu, Mandera, Tana River, Kwale and Meru recorded improving conditions, while Taita Taveta, Laikipia, Kitui, Isiolo, Marsabit, Kajiado, Tharaka Nithi, Makueni and West Pokot experienced stable conditions. Worsening conditions were observed in Wajir, Samburu, Turkana, Embu, Kilifi, Narok, Garissa and Baringo. Despite the varied trends, considerable differences were observed in the distance households travelled to access water. Mandera recorded the longest average distance to water sources among the arid counties, at 7.3 km, while Kitui recorded the longest distance among the semi-arid counties, at 6.2 km.

Table 8: Distance from Households to Main Water Sources, July 2026

Current status			Trend		
Above LTA	At LTA	Below LTA	Improving	Stable	Worsening
Wajir, Kitui Lamu, Narok West Pokot Turkana Marsabit Kwale Isiolo		Baringo, Garissa Mandera, Embu Samburu Tana River Kajiado, Kilifi Laikipia, Meru Makueni, Nyeri Taita Taveta Tharaka Nithi	Lamu	Mandera Tana River Kwale Meru Taita Taveta Laikipia Kitui	Isiolo, Baringo Marsabit, Nyeri Kajiado, Turkana Taita Taveta Tharaka Nithi Makueni West Pokot Wajir, Samburu Embu, Kilifi Narok, Garissa

5.2 Access to water for livestock

Livestock trekking distances to water sources remained below or at the long-term averages (LTA) in approximately 69 percent of the ASAL counties.

Table 9: Distance from Grazing area to Main Water Sources, July 2026

Current status			Trend		
Above LTA	At LTA	Below LTA	Improving	Stable	Worsening
Mandera Turkana Kwale Narok West Pokot Isiolo, Baringo	Kitui Wajir	Marsabit, Embu Tana River, Kajiado, Kilifi Laikipia, Lamu Makueni, Meru Nyeri, Taita Taveta Tharaka Nithi Garissa, Samburu	Tana River	Lamu Wajir Meru Kwale Garissa	Isiolo, Kitui Marsabit Samburu Kajiado, Nyeri Taita Taveta, Narok Tharaka Nithi Mandera, Turkana Embu, Kilifi Baringo, Makueni West Pokot, Laikipia

The majority of ASAL counties recorded trekking distances below their long-term averages, while a few maintained distances directly at LTA. This favourable performance across most areas was largely driven by the sustained availability of forage and nearby surface water sources following the recent long rains, which minimized the need for herders to move livestock over extended distances. Notably, the arid county of Mandera registered the longest distance at 15.9 kilometres, while the semi-arid county of Kitui recorded the longest distance at 6.2 kilometres. Conversely, about 31 percent of the counties recorded trekking distances above their LTA. Regarding month-on-month trends, about 70 percent of the counties reported a worsening trend in livestock trekking distances, indicating a seasonal decline in the availability of nearby water sources. Meanwhile, a few counties remained stable, and only a minimal number showed an improving trend. Despite this seasonal worsening across most areas, overall trekking distances in the majority of ASAL counties stayed below their long-term average.

6.0 Terms of trade

About 35 percent of the counties experienced an improvement in the maize-to-goat Terms of Trade (ToT) during the period under review, while 43 percent recorded stable trends and 22 percent experienced a worsening trend (Table 10). The observed improvements indicate that households could obtain relatively more maize from the proceeds of goat sales, while worsening ToT implied reduced quantities of maize that could be accessed through livestock sales. The prevailing trends suggest that households in areas with improving ToT had relatively better access to maize through livestock sales, while those experiencing worsening ToT faced reduced purchasing power. The distribution of ToT across counties indicates varied household access to maize through livestock sales during the period under review.

Table 10: Terms of Trade, July 2026

Current status			Trend		
Above LTA	At LTA	Below LTA	Improving	Stable	Worsening
Baringo, Garissa Isiolo, Marsabit Samburu, Kajiado Tana River, Turkana Kilifi, Kitui, Kwale, Laikipia, Lamu, Makueni, Narok, Nyeri, Taita Taveta Tharaka Nithi West Pokot, Wajir	Embu	Mandera Meru	Isiolo, Mandera Marsabit, Wajir Tana River, Meru Kajiado, Kitui Kwale, Taita Taveta	Baringo Turkana Embu Kilifi, Laikipia Lamu, Tharaka Nithi Samburu	Garissa Makueni Nyeri West Pokot Narok

7.0 Health and Nutrition

Table 11 shows the current status and the trend of risk of malnutrition of under-fives in ASAL counties compared to their long-term average. The risk of malnutrition has improved in ten counties between June and July. However, the risk of malnutrition in three of the ten counties namely: Kwale, Mandera and Meru, is above the long-term average. On the other hand, despite the risk of malnutrition being at the long-term average in Kajiado and Samburu, and below the long-term average in Kitui, Makueni and West Pokot, the situation continues to worsen. In Turkana, the risk remains above the long-term average and in a worsening trend, while in Marsabit and Kilifi, it was stable but above the long-term average. Improvement in child nutrition was due to enhanced consumption of milk alongside ongoing nutritional outreach. On the other hand, the recovery was short-lived in the seven counties that are now on a worsening trend due to the high disease burden and poor childcare practices that are now in worsening trend due to the high disease burden and poor childcare practices.

Table 11: Children at risk of malnutrition (MUAC), July 2026

Current status			Trend		
Above LTA	Within LTA	Below LTA	Improving	Stable	Worsening
Garissa, Kwale Mandera Turkana Marsabit Kilifi, Meru,	Kajiado, Samburu, Taita Taveta	Baringo, Isiolo, Laikipia, Lamu Tana River, Tharaka Nithi, Wajir, Embu Kitui, Makueni West Pokot Narok, Nyeri	Baringo, Kwale, Laikipia, Mandera Meru, Taita Taveta, Tharaka Nithi, Wajir Lamu	Garissa, Isiolo, Kilifi Marsabit, Tana River Narok, Embu, Nyeri	Kajiado, Kitui, Makueni, Samburu, Turkana, West Pokot,

8.0 Drought phase classification

Based on early-warning indicators monitored by the Kenya Drought Early Warning System in July 2026, the majority of ASAL counties remained under the Normal phase, though several areas shifted into deteriorating trends (Table 12). Embu and Kwale were classified in the "Normal" phase with an improving trend, while 11 counties; Tharaka Nithi, Taita Taveta, Lamu, Marsabit, Laikipia, Meru, Mandera, Wajir, Kilifi, Kajiado, and Narok, were in the "Normal" phase with a stable trend. Five counties (Nyeri, Kitui, Makueni, Tana River, and Isiolo) were in the "Normal" phase on a worsening trend. Turkana, Garissa, Baringo, and West Pokot moved into the "Pre-Alert" phase on a deteriorating trend, while Isiolo registered the most significant shift into the "Alert" phase (Table 9.0). No counties were in Alarm, Emergency, or Recovery phases during the month.

Table 12: Drought phase classification, July 2026

Drought status	Trend		
	Improving	Stable	Worsening/Deteriorating
Normal	Embu, Kwale	Tharaka Nithi, Taita Taveta, Lamu, Marsabit, Laikipia, Meru, Mandera, Wajir, Kilifi, Kajiado, Narok	Nyeri, Kitui, Makueni, Tana River, Isiolo
Pre-Alert			Turkana, Garissa, Baringo, West Pokot
Alert			Isiolo
Alarm			
Emergency			
Recovery			