NATIONAL DROUGHT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

National Drought Early Warning Bulletin

September 30th 2026

1.0 DROUGHT SITUATION OVERVIEW

Figure 1 shows the September 2026 drought phase classification for Arid and Semi-Arid (ASAL) counties. These phase classifications were informed by deviations in key environmental, production, access, and utilization indicators from their normal seasonal thresholds. Overall, September saw clearer evidence of deterioration of drought situation in several counties. Laikipia, Baringo, Samburu, Turkana, and West Pokot remained in the Alert phase, but their conditions deteriorated. Narok, Wajir, Embu, Isiolo, Garissa and Mandera in Pre-Alert phase. Meanwhile, acute malnutrition remained a critical concern in ASALs, driven by previous food insecurity, high morbidity levels, and sub-optimal child care practices. The anticipated Elnino rains are expected to improve the current drought conditions.

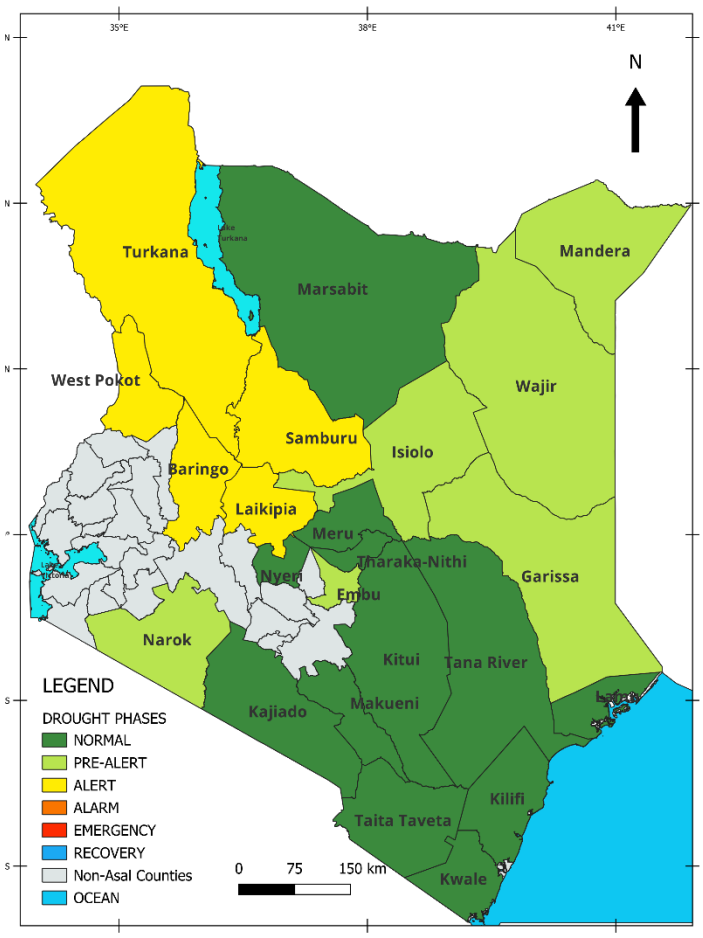


Figure 1. Drought Phase Classification, September 2026

2.0. Observed Drought Indicators

2.1 August 2026 Rainfall Performance

September 2026 rainfall performance across the ASAL counties (Figure 2) reflected the tail end of the cool, dry season, with most of them receiving less than 25 mm. Turkana, West Pokot, Samburu, Isiolo, Wajir, Garissa, Baringo, Laikipia, Kitui, Makueni, Kajiado and Narok were largely dry, with at most negligible, localized rainfall. As a result, there was little replenishment of pasture, browse and surface water sources across the pastoral north-west, the pastoral north-east and the south-eastern marginal agricultural areas.

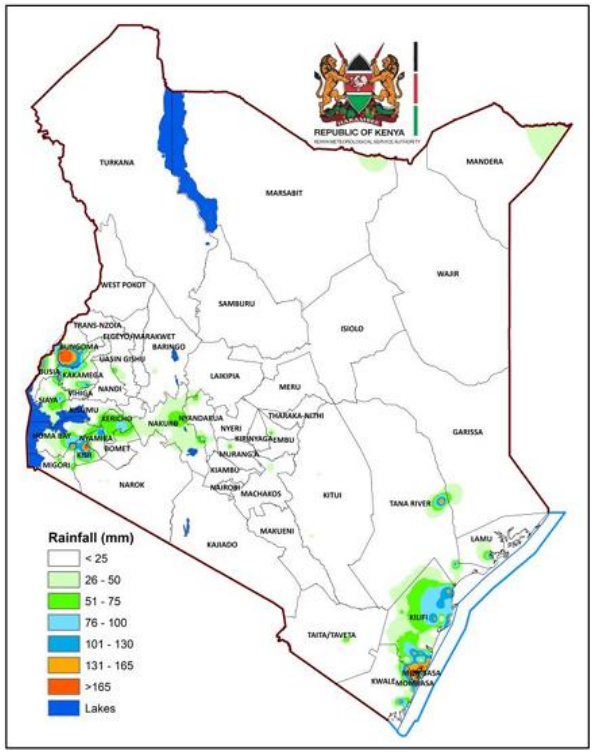


Figure 2. Rainfall Performance, September 2026

Coastal counties received significant rainfall with Kilifi recording the highest amount ranging between 76 mm and 100 mm that was fairly spread over the county. In Kwale, the northern parts adjoining Mombasa received between 51 mm and 100 mm of rainfall.

In Tana River, a small area in the central-eastern part of the county recorded 76–165 mm of rainfall, while Lamu and Taita Taveta recorded only isolated light rainfall of 26–50 mm. Elsewhere, light and patchy rainfall of 26–50 mm was limited to small pockets in parts of Meru, Tharaka-Nithi, Embu and Nyeri, and to the extreme northern edge of Marsabit and the north-eastern corner of Mandera. These falls were too light and too localized to reverse the seasonal decline in rangeland resources, and their benefit was confined to the immediate areas affected. Overall, rainfall performance was broadly consistent with the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) September forecast of mainly sunny and dry conditions over most ASAL counties, with near-average rainfall along the coastal strip. Continued monitoring of vegetation condition, water availability and livestock body condition remains necessary while the country waits for the onset of the October–December short rains.

2.2 October Rainfall Forecast

The rainfall forecast for October 2026, presented in Figure 3, indicates a marked change from the dry September, with the onset of the October–November–December (OND) short rains are expected over the country in October. The forecast shows above-average rainfall over most of the ASAL region, with the highest probabilities in the north-east and along the coast and lower Tana River, which is consistent with the KMD outlook of widespread rainfall with localized heavy events in October and November. Above-average rainfall with higher probabilities (about 55 percent above-normal, 30 percent normal and 15 percent below-normal) is forecast over Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, most of Tana River, Lamu, Kilifi and Kwale, and the eastern parts of Taita Taveta. Onset is expected between the second and third weeks of October in Mandera, Wajir and Garissa, and in Kilifi, Kwale, Lamu and the Tana Delta, with rains in the latter group expected to ease

between the first and second weeks of December. In the inland parts of Tana River, the onset of the season is expected later, between the third and fourth weeks of October.

About 50 percent above-normal, 30 percent normal and 20 percent below-normal rainfall is forecast over Isiolo, Meru, Tharaka-Nithi, Embu, Nyeri, eastern Laikipia, Kitui, Makueni, Kajiado, most of Taita Taveta and the eastern parts of Marsabit. Onset is expected between the second and third weeks of October. The south-eastern lowlands of Kitui, Makueni, Kajiado and Taita Taveta are expected to have a later onset, between the third and fourth weeks of October. Onset in Turkana and Samburu is expected between the third and fourth weeks of October, with the season ending in the first week of December. The rainfall distribution in these counties is expected to range from poor to fair.

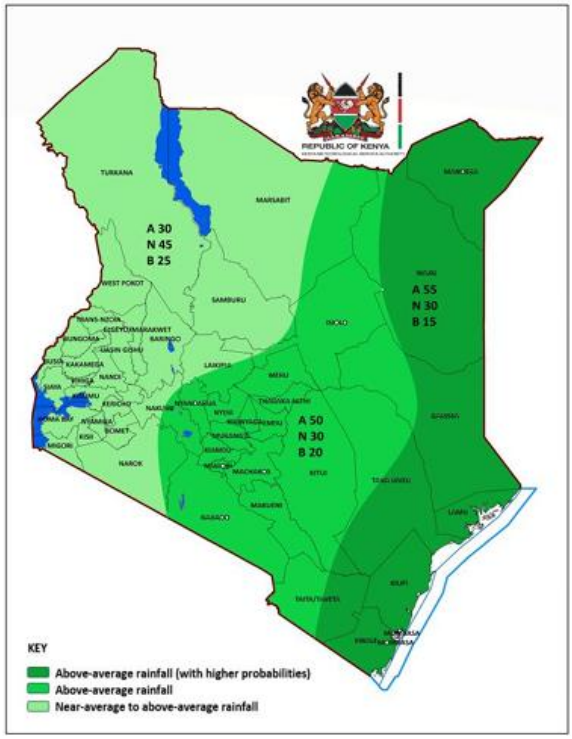


Figure 3. Rainfall Forecast, October 2026

2.3 Vegetation Condition

Figure 4 and 5 compares vegetation conditions in August and September 2026.

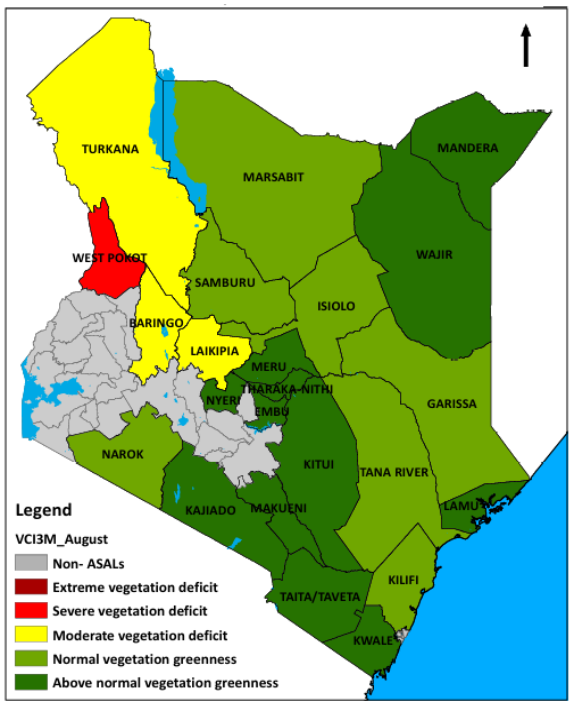


Figure 4. VCI Map, August 2026

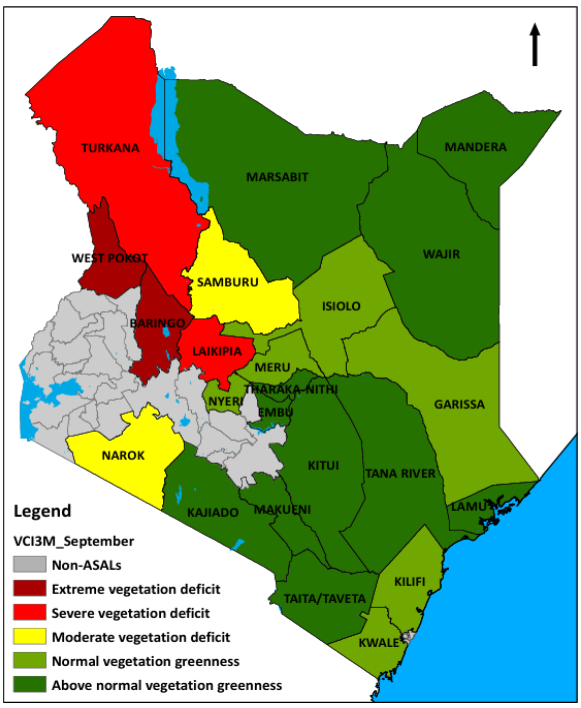


Figure 5. VCI Map, September 2026

Clearly the vegetation greenness deteriorates as the dry season advanced, with the Pastoral north-west and the Baringo–Laikipia–Narok belt being the most affected.

In August 2026, 12 of the 23 ASAL counties were in above normal category (VCI3M ≥50), 7 were in the normal range (35–50), 3 (Baringo, Laikipia and Turkana) were in moderate vegetation deficit (20–35). West Pokot was in severe vegetation deficit (10–20). By September 2026, the number of counties in above normal greenness had declined to 11 and those in the normal range to 6, while 6 counties had moved into the vegetation deficit categories: 2 in moderate, 2 in severe and 2 in extreme deficit (<10).

Nine counties recorded a deterioration in vegetation conditions between August and September. West Pokot moved from severe to extreme vegetation deficit, and Baringo moved from moderate to extreme deficit, the sharpest decline of the period. Laikipia and Turkana moved from moderate to severe deficit. Narok and Samburu moved from normal greenness to moderate deficit, signaling emerging stress on pasture and browse resources in the Narok and Samburu rangelands. Meru, Nyeri and Kwale slipped from above normal to normal greenness, reflecting a seasonal decline rather than a deficit.

Despite this decline, about half (12 of the 23) of the counties maintained the same category as in August. Embu, Kajiado, Kitui, Lamu, Makueni, Mandera, Taita/Taveta, Tharaka-Nithi and Wajir remained in the above normal category, while Garissa, Isiolo and Kilifi remained in the normal range. In addition, Marsabit and Tana River improved from normal to above normal greenness. For Tana River, this coincides with the localized rainfall recorded in the county in September (Section 2.1).

At the sub-county level, extreme vegetation deficit was recorded in 7 sub-counties: Baringo Central, Baringo North and Tiaty in Baringo; Kacheliba, Kapenguria and Sigor in West Pokot; and Turkana West. Severe deficit was recorded in 9 sub-counties, namely Baringo South and Mogotio in Baringo, Laikipia North and Laikipia West in Laikipia, Pokot South in West Pokot, Turkana East in Turkana, Ganze and Kaloleni in Kilifi, and Nyeri Town in Nyeri (Table 1). These results are a reminder that individual sub-counties can register deficit conditions even where the parent county's overall, weighted classification is higher, as in Kilifi and Nyeri, and that conditions within a county can differ widely, as in Turkana.

Overall, vegetation conditions across the ASAL counties deteriorated between August and September, with 6 counties in vegetation deficit compared with 4 in August. Conditions remained broadly favourable across the eastern, south-eastern and coastal counties, where pasture and

browse are still adequate. However, the extreme and severe deficits in Baringo, West Pokot, Laikipia and Turkana, together with the new moderate deficits in Narok and Samburu, point to growing stress on grazing resources in the north-west and the Rift Valley fringe. These areas need priority monitoring, particularly because the October forecast indicates a later and less certain onset of rains over Turkana and Samburu.

Table 1. Vegetation Condition Index (VCI), September 2026

Category	County	Sub Counties
Extreme Vegetation Deficit	(2) Baringo, West Pokot	(7) Baringo Central, Baringo North, Kacheliba, Kapenguria, Sigor, Tiaty, Turkana West
Severe vegetation deficit	(2) Laikipia, Turkana	(9) Baringo South, Ganze, Kaloleni, Laikipia North, Laikipia West, Mogotio, Nyeri Town, Pokot South, Turkana East
Moderate vegetation deficit	(2) Narok, Samburu	(13) Eldama Ravine, Kilgoris, Laikipia East, Loima, Mukurweni, Narok East, Narok West, Rabai, Samburu North, Samburu West, Turkana Central, Turkana North, Turkana South
Normal vegetation greenness	(6) Garissa, Isiolo, Kilifi, Kwale, Meru, Nyeri	(24) Banissa, Bura, Buuri, Fafi, Igembe Central, Igembe North, Isiolo North, Isiolo South, Kajiado West, Kieni, Kilifi South, Kinango, Lagdera, Laisamis, Magarini, Malindi, Mathira, Mwingi North, Mwingi West, Narok North, Narok South, Samburu East, Tigania East, Tigania West
Above Normal greenness	(11) Embu, Kajiado, Kitui, Lamu, Makueni, Mandera, Marsabit, Taita/Taveta, Tana River, Tharaka-Nithi, Wajir	(60) Cental Imenti, Dujis, Eldas, Emurua Dikirr, Gachoka, Galole, Garsen, Igembe South, Ijara, Kaiti, Kajiado Central, Kajiado East, Kajiado North, Kajiado South, Kibwezi East, Kibwezi West, Kilifi North, Kilome, Kitui Central, Kitui East, Kitui Rural, Kitui South, Kitui West, Lafey, Lamu East, Lamu West, Lunga Lunga, Maara, Makueni, Mandera East, Mandera North, Mandera South, Mandera West, Manyatta, Matuga, Mbooni, Moyale, Msambweni, Mwatate, Mwingi East, North Horr, North Imenti, Othaya, Runyenjes, Saku, Siakago, South Imenti, Tarbaj, Taveta, Tetu, Tharaka, Voi, Wajir East, Wajir North, Wajir South, Wajir West, Wundanyi

3.0 Livestock Productivity

3.1 Livestock Body Condition

Livestock body condition across the 23 ASAL counties in September 2026 was predominantly fair, with localized deterioration toward poor condition as the dry season reduced pasture, browse and water availability. Based on the county reports, cattle and goats body condition were predominantly poor in Lamu, Marsabit, Taita Taveta and Wajir. Those in other counties were predominantly either fair or good (Table 2). The predominantly fair to poor condition reflected the progression of the dry season and declining forage and water resources in these counties. Deterioration was evident in areas such as Baringo, Laikipia, Meru, Narok, Nyeri, Turkana and West Pokot, where declining pasture and browse, longer livestock trekking distances and, in some areas, livestock disease pressure affected animal condition. In contrast, relatively favorable conditions were reported in Lamu, Marsabit, Taita Taveta and Wajir, supported by comparatively better forage and water availability. The expected OND rains is likely to improve pasture, browse and water availability, although continued veterinary surveillance, vaccination, treatment and strategic livestock support remain important during the transition period.

Table 2. Livestock Body Condition, September 2026

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

3.2 Milk production

Comparison of the milk production against the long-term averages (LTA) is shown in Table 3. Milk production across the reporting counties showed mixed performance in September. Nearly three-quarters of the counties (Baringo, Garissa, Kajiado, Lamu, Tana River, Tharaka Nithi, Turkana, Wajir, West Pokot, Kilifi) that reported below long-term average milk production also reported a worsening situation. Although the milk production in Kitui and Embu was above the average long term, the production trend showed a deteriorating situation.

Table 3: Milk production, September 2026

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

The decline in milk production was mainly associated with diminishing pasture and browse, deteriorating livestock body condition, livestock migration, increasing trekking distances to water and grazing areas, and disease pressure in some counties.

On the other hand, milk production improved month-on-month in Laikipia, Makueni and Marsabit, mainly reflecting localized improvements in livestock productivity, kidding/calving and residual forage availability.

3.3 Livestock diseases

Livestock disease reports during September continued to highlight Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), East Coast Fever (ECF), anaplasmosis, trypanosomiasis and mange. West Pokot reported 745 disease cases on different species, down from 1,004 in August; CCPP accounted for 307 cases, PPR 216 cases, FMD 112 cases, ECF/haemoparasites 56 cases, mange 41 cases and trypanosomiasis 4 cases. Baringo also reported FMD, CCPP, LSD, Newcastle disease and PPR, while Mandera reported endemic livestock diseases without a major outbreak. Wajir reported no livestock disease outbreak during the month, although endemic diseases were present and the county recommended strengthened surveillance, particularly for Rift Valley Fever (RVF). The anticipated OND rains may increase livestock movement and disease transmission around replenished water sources, making continued surveillance, vaccination and timely treatment important.

3.4 Cattle Prices

About three quarters (74%) of the counties reported declining trend in cattle prices. Isiolo, Kwale, Meru, Tana River and West Pokot reported below the long-term average price with a declining trend (Table 4).

Table 4: Cattle prices, September 2026

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

The generally favorable prices in several counties were supported by market demand and constrained supply, while declines in other counties were associated with deteriorating body condition, increased livestock supply, distress sales and weakening purchasing power. Overall, livestock prices remained sensitive to livestock body condition, forage and water availability, household sales pressure and market demand.

3.5 Goats Prices

Goat prices remained generally favorable in most of counties. Meru, Turkana and West Pokot that reported below long-term price, and Kwale and Samburu that reported prices that are similar to the average price for the past five year also indicated that the prices were declining. Notable is the high number of counties that reported declining prices of goats (Figure 5). Price movements reflected local supply and demand, livestock condition, household sales and market access. The expected improvement in pasture and water resources with the OND rains could support livestock condition and market values, although disease and localized flooding risks will require monitoring.

Table 5. Goat prices, September 2026

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

4.0 Crop production

4.1 Status of Crop Production

Agricultural activities during September were predominantly characterized by land preparation such as ploughing, and input acquisition as farmers prepared for the October–December (OND) Short Rains. Active planting and early-stage crop development were observed in a few areas like Kwale, Kilifi, and Taita Taveta. These coastal counties received significant rainfall in September ranging between 51 mm and 100 mm that was fairly spread over the county. West Pokot experienced poor crop performance and low harvest being expected due to prolonged dry spells and inadequately distributed rainfall (Table 6).

Table 6. Current status of crop production

Cluster	Counties	Current state of crop production
Coastal Marginal agriculture	**Lamu**	Farmers in the Mixed Farming and Agro-Pastoral zones had completed harvesting and storing the main food crops and had begun preparing their land for the October–December (OND) short-rains season.
	Taita Taveta	In the Horticulture/Dairy and Mixed Farming: Food Crop/Livestock zones, land preparation and early planting were ongoing. Meanwhile, maize and other crops in the Irrigated/Livestock zones were at the germination stage.
	Kilifi	Cassava was the main rain-fed crop grown on farms, while a few farms had planted maize. A few farmers were weeding while most of them were preparing their land.
	Kwale	Land preparation and planting for the short-rains season were the main farming activities across all livelihood zones in September, with maize, cowpeas, and green grams being the primary crops.
South Eastern Marginal agriculture	**Tharaka Nithi**	Agricultural activities were minimal, with most farms remaining fallow after harvest, while some households in Mukothima and Nkondi ploughed crop residues to improve soil fertility ahead of the next planting season.
	Kitui	The main harvest and post-harvest activities are complete, with household food stocks declining, while most farmers are preparing land for the upcoming Short Rains season following above-normal September rainfall.
	Makueni	Most farmers had completed harvesting the previous season's crops and shifted to land preparation for the Short Rains season, resulting in minimal rain-fed crop activities during September 2026.

Agro-pastoral	**Narok**	During the month under review, no major agricultural activities took place across the county, as harvesting of maize, wheat, and barley had recently been completed under fair-to-good conditions, while a few farmers began preparing for the expected above-normal rains.
	Laikipia	Land preparation and input acquisition are ongoing as farmers cautiously prepare for the October-November-December (OND) Short Rains season while monitoring its onset and performance.
	West Pokot	Most rain-fed crops were not yet mature for harvesting, with crop performance ranging from below average to poor due to prolonged dry spells and inadequate, poorly distributed rainfall, resulting in moisture stress, poor crop development, and reduced yield prospects.
	Kajiado	Crop farmers are preparing their land in readiness for short rains expected by early October.
	Nyeri	The main on-farm activity was land preparation in Kieni, with farmers increasing the acreage under crop production in anticipation of an above-average season.

4.2 Maize prices

The current status and the trend of maize prices are shown in Table 7. About 50 percent of the counties reported above long-term average prices of which 58 percent of them (Baringo, Garissa, Narok, Wajir, Meru, West Pokot, Kajiado and Isiolo) reported an increasing trend. Some reasons cited for high and increasing prices of maize include increased demand, high cost of production and transportation. As household food stocks reduced during the lean period, more families depended on markets for their daily food needs, putting additional pressure on maize prices. Reduced supplies from surplus-producing areas have enhanced demand. On the other hand, 30 percent of the counties reported better prices compared to the low term average. Lower than the LTA prices for maize in these counties were supported by increased harvest supplies, available stocks, and inflows from neighbouring markets, which improved maize availability and eased price pressure.

Table 7. Maize prices, September 2026

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

5.0 WATER ACCESS

5.1 Access to water for households

Distances to water sources are mainly stable with few counties including Samburu and Narok reporting above normal average distances with increasing trend (Table 8). The ongoing rains in coastal counties have improved household water access in Lamu, Kwale and Tana River counties. On the other hand, drying up of open water sources and reduced yields from shallow wells during the dry spell force households to travel longer distances in such for water.

Table 8. Distance from Households to Main Water Sources, September 2026

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

5.2 Access to water for livestock

Table 9 compares the current distances trekked by livestock from grazing fields to the watering points against the long-term average for the month of September. Trends for these distances are also shown. Counties where livestock are currently trekking longer than the average distance reported drying up of open water sources and migration as the main factors. The majority of ASAL counties recorded trekking distances favourable to their long-term averages, while a few maintained above 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 and off-season rains like in Kilifi, which minimized the need for herders to move livestock over extended distances.

Table 9. Distance from Grazing area to Main Water Sources, September 2026

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

Notably, the arid county of Garissa registered the longest distance at 16.1 kilometres, while the semi-arid county of Kitui recorded the longest distance at 6.4 kilometres. Conversely, about 47 percent of the counties recorded trekking distances above their LTA.

6.0 Terms of trade

In September, majority (74%) of the counties reported terms of trade that were above long terms average. Favorable terms of trade in these counties were associated with better prices of goats while maize prices remained comparatively stable during the reporting period. On contrary, Baringo, Kwale, Mandera, Meru and West Pokot report below long-term average terms of trade mainly due to the increase in maize prices following decreased market supplies from the local harvest and external markets. Basically, the terms of trade reflected changes in prices of livestock and food commodities.

Table 10. Terms of Trade, September 2026

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

7.0 Health and Nutrition

Table 11 shows the current nutrition status compared to the long-term average, and the trend compared to the previous month. These results show that the nutrition situation was worsening in more than half (67 %) of the counties where the risk of malnutrition was already above the long-term average.

Table 11: Children at risk of malnutrition in September 2026

Current status			**Trend**		
Above LTA (9)	**Within LTA (2)**	**Below LTA** (12)	**Improving** (3)	**Stable** (7)	**Worsening** (13)
Baringo, Garissa, Kwale, Kilifi, Mandera, Marsabit, Meru, Turkana, West Pokot	Kajiado, Laikipia,	Isiolo, Kitui, Lamu, Narok, Makueni, Nyeri, Embu, Samburu, Taita Taveta, Tana River, Tharaka Nithi, Wajir	Kwale, Tana River, Turkana	Kitui, Nyeri, Mandera, Kilifi, Samburu, Taita Taveta, Tharaka Nithi	Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo, Kajiado, Lamu, Laikipia, Makueni, Marsabit, Meru, Narok, Embu, Wajir, West Pokot

The nutrition situation was also worsening in fifty percent of those counties where the risk of malnutrition was below the long-term average. Some of the reasons cited for elevated risk of malnutrition include; high cost of food stuffs, reduced milk consumption, consumption of less diverse foods, illness, poor child care practices including feeding, and poor health services seeking behaviour. Although malnutrition situation is improving in Kwale and Turkan, the current levels in these counties is worse than the normal for the month. This implies that, among other things, household access to nutritious food is currently less compared to long term average.

8.0 Trends in Drought Phase Classification

Table 12 summarizes the drought phase and how drought situation is progressing in various counties. During the month, most (66%) of the counties were in normal drought phase with drought situation in the worsening. Equally, drought situation is worsening all the counties that were in alert phase of the drought. These counties which include Baringo, Samburu, Turkana, West Pokot and Laikipia require measures to prevent further deterioration of drought conditions and strengthen community resilience

Table 12: Trends of Drought Phase Classification

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

Table 12. Drought phase classification guideline

Normal	**Alert**	**Alarm**	**Emergency**
All environmental Agricultural and pastoral indicators are within the seasonal ranges	Meteorological drought indicators move outside seasonal ranges	Environmental and at least two production indicators are outside long-term seasonal ranges	All Environmental, Metrological and Production indicators are outside normal ranges.
Recovery: The drought phase must have reached at least Alarm stage. Recovery starts after the end of drought as signaled by the environmental indicators returning to seasonal norms; local economies starting to recover			