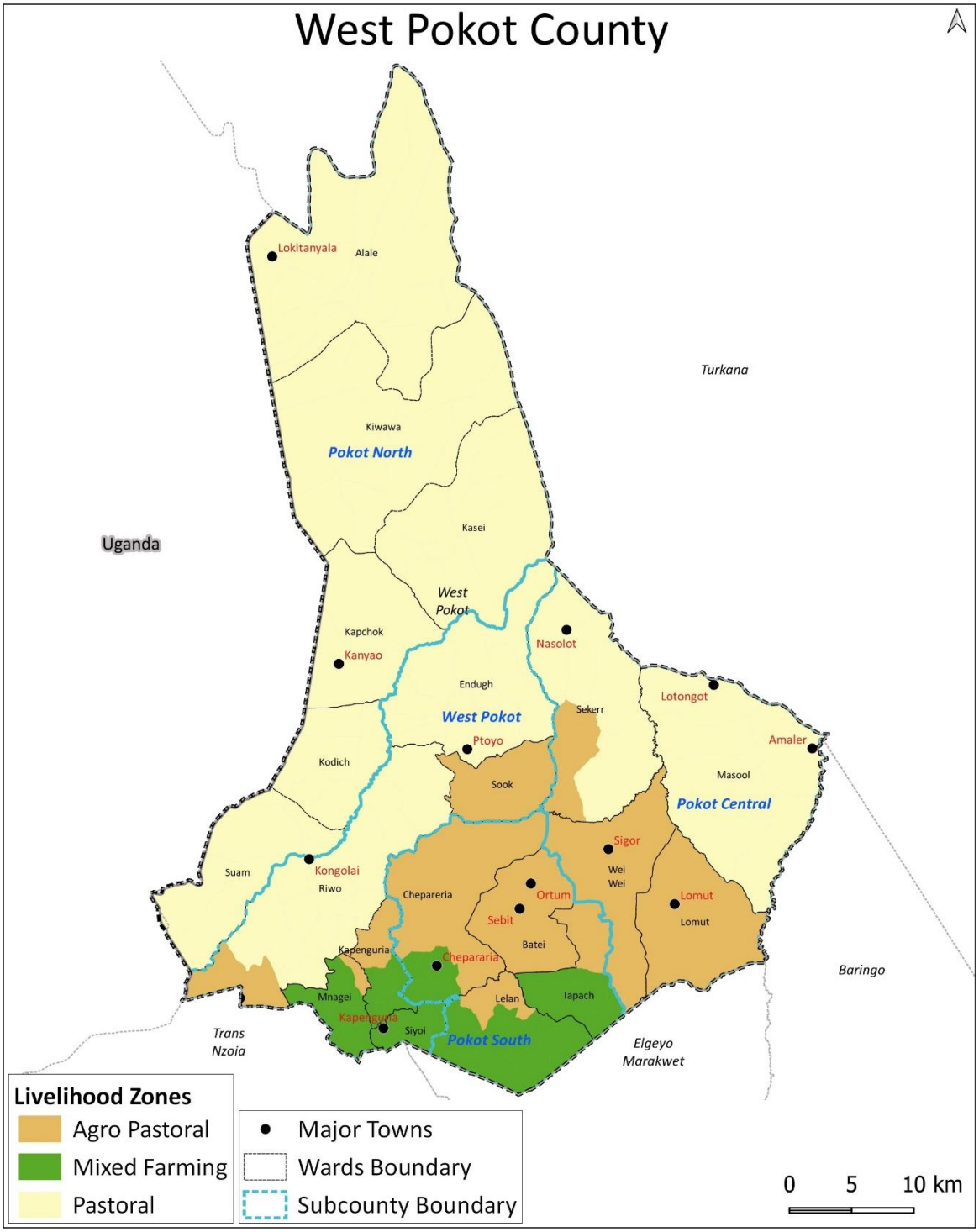
WEST POKOT COUNTY
2023 SHORT RAINS FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY ASSESSMENT REPORT



A Joint Report of Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) and West Pokot County Steering Group (CSG) February, 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The assessment exercise for the 2023 short rains was conducted from 5th to 9th February 2024 by the county technical personnel in collaboration with the Kenya Food Security Steering Group team. The exercise aimed at establishing the food and nutrition status of the county following the performance of the October-November-December (OND) 2023 short rains, while considering the cumulative effect of the preceded March-April-May (MAM) long rains so as to provide recommendations for action. The findings established that the county had a normal rainfall onset on the second week of October in the lowlands and from September in the highlands. Both spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall were fair. Majority parts of the Pokot West and Central received 76-90% of normal rains. A large portion of Pokot North, Central and South received 91-110% of normal rains. Cessations of the short rains occurred during the third week of December 2023 in the Mixed Farming and Agropastoral livelihood zones and dekad two of November in the Pastoral livelihood zone. Findings indicate that shocks experienced were erratic rainfall in the Pastoral Livelihood zone and high food prices with insecurity at borders as well as livestock and human disease. Maize stocks held by households were 86 percent below Long-Term Average (LTA). Beans green grams and Irish potatoes were the main rainfed crops grown. Area planted and produced for beans was 132 % and 117% of LTA respectively. This was attributed to early onset of rains and publicity of el-nino scenario prompting farmers to embrace second season beans production. Increased acreage was mainly in Mixed Farming and Agropastoral livelihood zones. There was less occurrence of pests and diseases due to farmers good management practices. Green grams planted acreage and production was 125 % and 102 % respectively of LTA attributed to early and good performance of rains in agropastoral zone in Pokot Central sub county, increased acreage, pest and disease management by farmers. Irish potato domiciled in Mixed farming livelihood zone had an increase of 5.56% both in area planted and produced compared to LTA because certified seeds were available and farmers were assisted by transport from the ministry to acquire seeds. There was good rainfall performance and proper disease control. Traders' maize stocks are 121% of LTA as a result of hoarding in anticipation for increased prices. Terms of trade (ToT) declined and remained fair although there was a decrease in goat prices and increase in maize prices. Households were able to purchase 69 kilogrames of maize from proceeds of sale of a goat. The secondary school enrolment went up by 34% while Junior school also had increased enrolment by 13%. This could have been attributed to the government policy on 100% transition in both levels. There was a decreased in school attendance for both pre-primary and primary schools. In ECD the boy's enrolment decreased by 2.1% while that for girls also reduced by 5.5%, primary enrolment went down by 4.8% for boys and 4.6% for girls. This could be attributed to irregular school attendance and dropouts. Main reasons reported for drop outs were migration of parents majorly in North Pokot, Kacheliba and Pokot Central as families searched for water and pasture for their livestock. Other reasons reported include Early marriages and pregnancies, distances between registered school to offer JS curriculum. Most water points across the county water sources did not charge any fee to access water at source, although transport charges applied in the across all livelihood zones making the cost range KES 20-50 per 20 litre jerrican. Average water consumption was 20 litres,15 litres and 10 litres in the Mixed Farming, Agropastoral and Pastoral livelihoods respectively which was normal. Pasture condition was poor, fair and good in the Pastoral, Agropastoral and Mixed Farming livelihood zones, while browse condition was fair, good and good in the three zones respectively. Cattle and sheep body condition was fair to good in the Pastoral and Agropastoral livelihood zones and good in the Mixed Farming zone. The average daily milk consumption per household was 1.1 litres across the livelihood zones, signifying a slight decrease of eight percent from 1.2 litres recorded in December 2023.Morbidity trend was on increase for diarrhoea across the livelihood zones while trends for URTI and Malaria were fluctuating upward and downward trend. There was an increase in fully immunized child from 41.2% in 2022 to 54.1% in 2023. Case of measles increased from 48.9% in 2022 to 61.5% in 2023 due to scale up of outreaches. The Immunization coverage was still low though there was an increase in fully immunized child from 41.2% in 2022 to 54.1% in 2023. Measles immunization increased from 48.9% to 61.5%. Latrine coverage improved from 57.4% in 2022 to 64.6% in 2023 attributed to programmes like Community Led Total Sanitation, Sanitation Nutrition and Baby Friendly Community Initiative Programmes. Hand Washing at five critical times remain low (16.5%) thus increasing chances of food contamination and disease outbreak. There was an increase in vaccination of OPV1,OPV3 and measles from 52.8%,38.8% and 48.9% in 2022 respectively to 79.1%,58.1% and 61.5% in 2023.The number of Measles cases reported in all sub-counties reduced from 19 in July-December 2022 to 7 in the same period of 2023. The proportion of households in the acceptable food consumption score category was 89 percent compared to 78.7 percent in December, 2023 while proportion in the borderline category was 11 percent compared 20 percent the previous month. The mean reduced coping strategy index (rCSI) declined slightly from 1.57 to 1.55 in January, 2024. The mean reduced coping strategy index (rCSI) declined slightly from 1.57 to 1.55 in January, 2024. The rCSI was lower in Pastoral at 1.4 compared to 1.8 in Agro-pastoral livelihood zone. The county was classified under 'Stressed' Phase of the Integrated food security Phase Classification (IPC Phase 2). Some of the immediate interventions include treatment of SAM and MAM in all the 118 IMAM treatment sites, equipping the capped boreholes provision certified assorted crop seeds to farmers

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 County Background

West Pokot County is in the North Western part of Kenya, bordering the Republic of Uganda to the west and the Counties of Turkana and Baringo to the north and east respectively. It borders both Trans Nzoia and Elgeyo Marakwet Counties to the south. This county is divided into six administrative sub-counties namely: Pokot Central, Pokot South, Kipkomo, Pokot West, Pokot North and Kacheliba. It has an approximate area of 9,170 square kilometres with a population of 621,241 persons (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, 2019). Mixed Farming, Pastoral and Agro-pastoral are the three major livelihood zones in the county, with population proportions of 23, 44 and 33 percent respectively. Drought episodes are more prevalent in the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral livelihood zone while the mixed farming livelihood zone is more prone to flash floods, other hazards experienced in the county include landslides, human conflicts as well as crop/livestock pests and diseases. Livestock production is the economic mainstay contributing to 69, 26 and 30 percent of cash income in the Pastoral, Agro-pastoral and Mixed Farming livelihood zones respectively. Other sources of income include: Food and cash crops along with small businesses and petty trading.

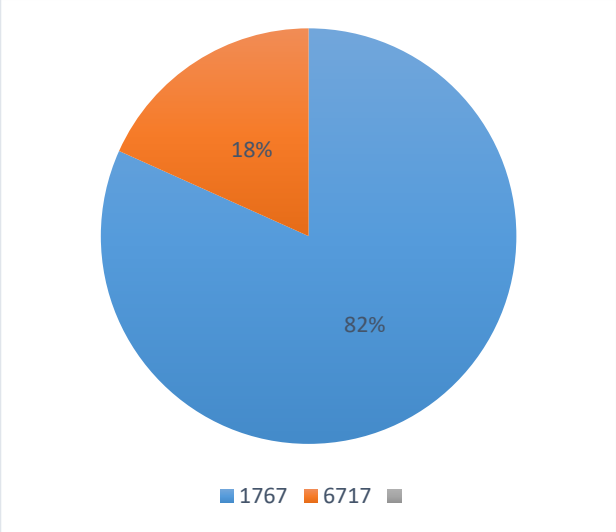


Figure 1: Livelihood zones, West Pokot

1.2 Methodology and Approach

The short rains food and nutrition security assessment exercise was conducted between 5th February, 2024 and 9th February, 2024, by a multi-sectoral and multi-agency team drawn from the departments of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries Services, Water and Sanitation, Education and Health and Nutrition and representatives from Action Against Hunger (ACF), Anglican Development Services Rift Valley, and Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS. The exercise started with sectoral checklists administration at sub-counties, consolidation of sub- county data to county checklist, analysis and sectoral reporting. Primary data was gathered through; interviews with key informants, focus group discussions and observation during transect drives. Secondary data was captured from existing monthly and quarterly sector reports: including Kenya Health Information System (KHIS), Nutrition Surveys, Livelihood Zone Data, food security assessment reports and National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) early warning bulletins. Desktop review of both secondary and primary data was done to produce the initial draft report which was discussed at the first CSG meeting for review and establishment of information gaps. After the first CSG deliberation of the draft report, a technical team was constituted to enrich the report further, through verification and

validation of facts on a countywide transect drive which involved more field observations and information/data capture for triangulation with the documented one. During field work, various techniques were used to capture information/data, including direct observation to acquire information on pasture/crop condition, livestock body condition and water situation status. The team employed focused group discussions (FGDs), community interviews, key informants, and market surveys to acquire required information. The areas visited were water facilities, market centres, schools, health centres, livestock sale yards and farms. The livelihood zone was used as the unit of analysis thus purposive sampling for site selection for field work was based on the the three main livelihood zones within the four sub-counties of Pokot North, Pokot South, Pokot West and Pokot Central. Quantitative methodology was used to analyze livestock/commodity prices data, trekking distances, milk production and consumption, percent of water recharge, cereal stocks and crop yields and projections. The qualitative approach was employed on data aspects such as crop condition, water quality, livestock body condition as well as pasture and browse situation. After field work, more analysis was done and final findings presented to the final CSG for deliberations and adoption. The integrated food security phase classification (IPC) protocols were used to classify the food security in the county.

2.0 DRIVERS OF FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN THE COUNTY

2.1 Rainfall Performance

Most places in the pastoral livelihood zone attained its onsets in the second week of October 2023. However, in the Mixed Farming and Agropastoral livelihood zones, rainfall continued from September 2023. Majority parts of the Pokot West and Central received 76-90% of normal rains. A large portion of Pokot North, Central and South received 91-110% of normal rains.

Both spatial and temporal rainfall distributions were fair in Mixed and Agropastoral LZs. Pastoral livelihood zone experienced poor temporal distribution. Cessations of the short rains occurred during the third week of December 2023 for Mixed and Agropastoral LZs. Pastoral LZ had an early cessation of dekad 1 of November.

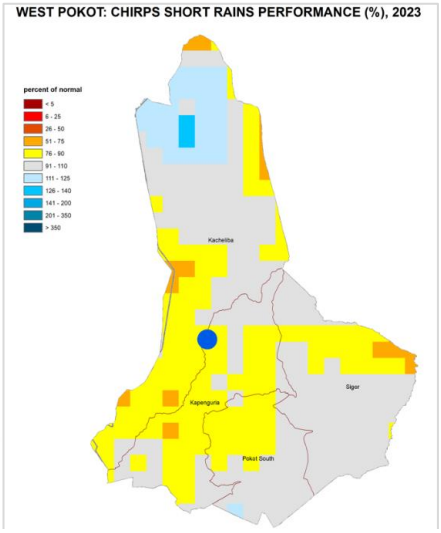


Figure 2: Rainfall Performance

2.2 Insecurity/Conflict

- There were reported inter community conflict incidences in Sarmach in Sekker Ward and Chesogon in Masol Ward. These incidents lead to disruption of businesses and hampered access to markets in the affected areas.

2.3 Floods and Flash Floods

- Masol ward reported flash floods during the period under review.
- Landslides were reported in Klan village, Krich sub-location, Endough location, Endough ward where two houses were partially destroyed while in Kapro location of weiwei ward an approximated 30 acres of onion crop were washed away by floods.

2.4 Other shocks and hazards

Shocks experienced were erratic rainfall in the Pastoral Livelihood zone and high food prices with insecurity at borders as well as livestock and human disease. The diseases reported include CCPP and PPR in Riwo and Chepareria wards.Black quarter disease was reported in Lelan and Sook wards. FMD and LSD was reported in Mnagei, Chepareria, Sook, Endough, Suam, Riwo, Lelan, Kapenguria and Siyoi wards.

Cases of PPR, CBPP and CCPP were reported in Kapchok, Suam, Alale and Kiwawa wards in among the Pastoral areas. FMD Quarantine notice was imposed countywide and livestock markets closed.

Hazards

Lightning strikes were reported in Siyoi and Tapach wards, killing one person and five heads of cattle respectively during the month of October.Floods on the hills of Weiwei ward washed away about 10 acres of farmland

3.0 IMPACTS OF DRIVERS ON FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

3.1 Availability

3.1.1 Crop Production

Rain-fed Crop Production

Short rain season is not the main crop production season in and livelihoods mainly rely on the long rains season for significant crop production. However, during the season beans, green grams and Irish potatoes are grown under rainfed in mixed and agropastoral zones. Under irrigation the main crops grown are maize, beans and green grams. Short rains performance was good and contributed to general good performance of crops both under rain-fed and irrigation resulting in overall high production and productivity.

Table 1: Rain-fed crop production

Crop	Area planted during 2023 short rains season (Ha)	Long term average (5 year) area planted during the short rains season (Ha)	2023 short rains season production (90 kg bags) Projected/Actual	Long term average (5 year) production during the short rains season (90 kg bags)
1.Beans	312	237	1, 990	1,707
2.Green grams	100	80	1,020	1,000
3.Irish Potatoes	950	900	76,000	72,000

Area planted with beans was 132 percent of LTA due to early onset of rains and publicity of el-nino scenario prompting farmers to embrace second season beans production. Increased acreage was mainly in mixed and agropastoral zones. Production of beans was 117 percent of LTA as a result of increased acreage and well distributed rains across the season. There was less occurrence of pests and diseases due to farmers good management practices. Green grams acreage was 125 percent of LTA attributed to early and good performance of rains in agropastoral zone in Pokot Central sub county. Productivity also increased by 2 percent due to increased acreage and pest and disease management by farmers. Irish potato domiciled in mixed livelihood zone had an increase of 6 percent compared to LTA because certified seeds were available and farmers were assisted by transport from the ministry to acquire seeds. This increased acreage contributed to increased productivity of 6 percent also attributed to good rainfall performance and proper disease control.

Table 2: Irrigated Crop Production

Crop	Area planted during the 2024 short rains season (ha)	Long term average (3 years) area planted during short rains season (ha)	2024 short rains season production (90 kg bags/MT) Projected/Actual	Long term average (3 years) production during the short rains season (90 kg bags/MT)
1.Maize	320	304	6880	5080
2.Beans	53	42	480	325
3.Green grams	105	76.5	609	553

Area planted for green grams, beans and maize was at 37, 26 and 5 percent respectively above the LTA. Attributed to early onset of rains that encouraged farmers to increase acreage as supplementation from rains was expected. establishment and operationalization of KIKIN and Parsany irrigation schemes. Weiwei irrigation scheme which is seed maize. While production was at 48, 35 and 10 percent respectively above the LTA. Attributed to due to less occurrence of pests and diseases

3.1.2 Cereals stock

Table 3: Quantities of Cereal Stocks Held Currently (90-kg bags)

Commodity / Held by	Maize		Beans		Sorghum		Green gram	
	Current	LTA	Current	LTA	Current	LTA	Current	LTA
Farmers	215,100	250,700	5,560	5,250	924	935	690	657
Traders	73,400	60,660	1,200	1,100	748	751	233	232
Millers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Assistance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NCPB	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	**288,500**	**311360**	**6760**	**6350**	**1672**	**1686**	**1347**	**889**

Food stocks among households and traders was generally lower than the Long-Term Average (LTA) due to low production of staples during 2023 long rain season and disposal by farmers to meet other expenses. Markets are functioning and food is available and can be accessed because the prices are low compared to last year at such time.

Stocks held by farmers for Maize was 85 percent of LTA, sorghum was within the LTA, while that of green grams and beans was at 6 percent above LTA. Stocks held by traders were for maize and beans were at 21 and 9 percent above the LTA, result of hoarding in anticipation for increased prices and buying from farmers, while that of sorghum and green grams was within LTA. (Table 3). The overall stocks maize stocks held within the county was 93 percent of the LTA while that of beans was 6 percent above the LTA. Decline was attributed to disposal for other household commitments,

less production during MAM long rain season and poor post-harvest handling predisposed by rains. These stocks are mainly in mixed livelihood zones.

The maize stock of 288,500 bags will last for 3.5 months in mixed livelihood zone, 2 months in agropastoral while pastoral zones do not have stocks. Traders obtained part of their stocks from external markets outside the county, including Trans Nzoia County and the republic of Uganda. There were no stocks reported at the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) and for food aid in the county. There were no reported cases of aflatoxin in the county during the season. Households with depleted stocks were depending on local markets which were functional and fairly provisioned with commodities.

3.1.3 Livestock Production

The major livestock species reared in the county include cattle, goats, sheep, camels, donkeys, and poultry. Whereas the rest of the species exist in all the livelihoods, camel is limited to the Pastoral zones and in a few Agro-pastoral areas. Generally, livestock contributes to 70, 40 and 30 percent of cash income in the Pastoral, Agro-pastoral, and Mixed Farming livelihood zones respectively. In particular, cattle, goats, and sheep contribute 25, 40 and 30 percent to cash income respectively in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone while they contribute 25, 30 and 28 percent to cash income in the Agropastoral Livelihood Zone respectively. Cattle contributes 55 and 49 percent to cash income and food respectively in the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone. An estimated 70 percent of cattle in the county are indigenous breeds. Beekeeping is one of the non-consumptive forest uses in the county, where significant honey is produced, especially in the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Livelihood Zones. During the season, there was poor rainfall in pastoral areas, a situation that affected the normal level of honey production. Pasture regeneration was generally below normal in pastoral zones, except for agro-pastoral and mixed farming areas where the rains were slightly above normal. On the whole, the rains were adequate to enhance pasture availability for livestock in mixed farming areas.

Pasture and browse situation

During the season, pasture was poor in Pastoral livelihood zones while fair in the and Agro-pastoral but good in Mixed Farming zones. Under normal circumstances, pasture is usually fair in the Pastoral zones and Agro-pastoral but good in Mixed Farming zones (Table 4). The browse condition was fair in Pastoral and good in Agro-pastoral zones, whereby it is expected to be good at such time of the year in Agro-pastoral. Browse condition in the Mixed Farming livelihood zone was in good condition as expected of the season. In the Pastoral areas, pasture is projected to last for one month as compared to two months normally, while it is estimated to last for two months in Agro-pastoral zones but 3 months in mixed farming which it normally lasts for three months. Although the current browse is likely to last for 1, 2, and 3 months in the Pastoral, Agropastoral, and Mixed Farming Livelihood Zones respectively, the same normally last for 2, 3, and 4 months in the respective areas. It was noted that invasive weeds and thick bushes limited pasture and browse access in Pastoral and Agro-pastoral areas, with the following invasive species reported to be common in the said areas: Prosopis juliflora and Xanthium strumarium in Pokot Central Sub-county (Masol and Weiwei wards) and Euphobia with Acacia reficiens and Xanthium strumarium

(Chepkechir) in Pokot North Sub-county, while sansevieria species (Sarokit) being a menace in Kacheliba and Pokot North Sub-counties. In parts of Pastoral areas including Kasei and Masol, insecurity affected access to pasture. Cocklebur which is a poisonous invasive species found along river banks and maize farms in Suam,Riwo ward.Wild sisal and Xanthium strumarium are found in agro pastoral zone and parts of mixed farming such as Chepareria and Batei Wards .These invasive and poisonous plant species have greatly affected livestock productivity by reducing pastures field sizes and sometimes causes death of animals.

Land tenure in terms of individual parcels was a limiting factor to pasture and browse access in the Agro-pastoral zones and Mixed Farming livelihood zones. Communities embarked on manual uprooting, slashing and cutting as control measures for weeds. During the period there was outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease, Lumpy Skin Disease and CBPP, therefore limiting access to pasture in all livelihood zones.

There was rain in some parts of the county during the months of November 2023 which positively impacted on availability of livestock forage. Lower parts of Chepareria, Batei , Sekerr,Wei Wei and Lomut Wards, Masol were greatly affected by drought.

No livestock migration from Riwo ward to Uganda was observed which is normally expected at this time of the year. This is largely attributed to the Elnino rain which supported steady supply of browse and pastures. There were several factors affecting access to pasture and browse. Insecurity experienced along the border of Masol ward-Turkana county and Lomut ward-Elgeyo Marakwet county, Uganda border affected Riwo(Kanyerus), Alale, Kiwawa, Kapchok and Suam wards. Individual land ownership system, invasive species and poisonous plants were other factors affecting access to pasture.In Alale ward, training on range management is being undertaken whose aim is sustainable resource use to reduce livestock migration

Table 4: Pasture and Browse condition

	Pasture					**Browse**				
Livelihood zone	**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	Fair	Good	1-2 months	3 months		Fair-Good	Fair-good	2-4 months	4-7 months	Insecurity/Conflict/ Disease

Agro Pastoral	Fair-good	Good	2-3 months	2-3 months		Good	Good	3-4 months	3-4 months	Individual land tenure Systems, bushes and shrubs
Mixed farming	Good	Good	3 months	4 months		Good	Good	4 months	4 months	Individual land tenure Systems, bushes and shrubs

Pasture/ fodder conservation status

Table 5: baled hay status

Sub County	No. of Hay Stores	Storage Capacity (Total number of bales)	No. of Bales currently being held	How long is expected to last (months)	Sub County demand	Average Weight per bale (in Kgs)	Average price per bale (Kshs.)	remarks
Pokot South	2	30,000	6000	3 months	80000 bales	14	250-300	Urgently needed. 90% of the hay is produced in the Nasukuta livestock improvement centre for their own consumption. 10% is produced by individual farmers.
Pokot West	1	5000	0		70,000	15	250	Needed urgently before April
Pokot central	3	30000 bales		3months	100,000	15	250	standing hay available

Pokot North	1	0		5 Months	200,000	15	300	Established but not yet harvested

Pasture and fodder conservation is mainly done by farmers on their farms in form maize stovers, standing hay (enclosures) and baled hay. A few farmers in mixed farming areas in West Pokot Sub County conserve fodders in form of silage. The County government through, livestock production department has been training farmers on pasture production, utilization, and conservation. There were 5 hay stores of 12,000 bales capacity which is not enough. A few farmers had small hay stores especially in the mixed farming livelihood zones. A bale of hay range between Ks 250-300. The county is in deficit of approximately 450,000 bales of hay to sustain the animals to May or June as current pastures may have been exhausted by end of February. Pasture conservation is very low agro pastoral and pastoral zones but some farmers are practicing enclosures.

Livestock Productivity

Livestock body condition

The Livestock Body Condition Score (BCS). The average body condition for livestock was fair-good in both Pastoral and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones but good in the Mixed Farming zones. The body condition for cattle and sheep was fair-good while that of camels and goats was good in the Pastoral zones while that of cattle and sheep was fair-good in the Agro-pastoral zones, whereas that of goats was good (Table 6). At such time of the year, the body condition of all livestock species is expected to be good across the livelihoods. In the Mixed Farming Livelihood Zones, livestock was still in good body condition, similar to the normal situation. The declining trend in livestock BCS is attributed to inadequate access to water and forage in Pastoral areas. There was a slight variation in livestock body condition between the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral zones as compared to the Mixed Farming zones where the body condition was better in the latter owing to higher forage availability than in the former. The livestock body condition is generally normal for all livestock species across the livelihood zones. Over the next three months, the body condition of cattle and sheep is expected to deteriorate steadily with that of goat and camel deteriorating relatively slowly across the livelihood zones due to the dwindling forage and water resources. As compared to normal, there is some crop residue contributing to livestock feed, owing to crop production during the season. The deteriorating body condition is likely to lower milk production and affect household food security in the coming months. More livestock may migrate in search of pasture and water and thus hinder households from accessing milk. Livestock prices are expected to drop as the body condition deteriorates thus lower household income, thereby affecting purchasing power. poor income and lack of milk would subject households to food insecurity and force them to adopt severe coping mechanisms to access food.

Table 6: Livestock body condition

Livelihood zone	Cattle		Sheep		Goat		Camel	
	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current	Normal
Pastoral	Fair-Good (LCS 3-4)	Good (LCS 4)	Fair-Good (LCS 3-4)	Good (LCS 4)	Good (LCS 4)	Good (LCS 4)	Good (LCS 4)	Good (LCS 4)
Agropastoral	Fair-Good (LCS 3-4)	Good (LCS 4)	Fair-Good (LCS 3-4)	Good (LCS 4)	Good (LCS 4)	Good (LCS 4)	-	-
Mixed Farming	Good (LCS 4)	Good (LCS 4)	Good (LCS 4)	Good (LCS 4)	Good (LCS 4)	Good (LCS 4)	-	-

Note: BCS – Livestock Body Condition Score

BCS 1 – Very Poor (Emaciated) BCS 2 – Poor BCS 3 – Fair BCS 4 – Good BCS 5- Very Good

Tropical Livestock Units (Average Number of Livestock)

Generally, TLUs per household were comparable to LTA across the livelihood zones for both poor and middle-income households. TLUs were four and eight for poor and middle-income households respectively in the Pastoral livelihood zones, which is comparable to the LTA. In the Agro-pastoral areas, poor households held two TLU which is same to LTA while the middle income held five against the expected five (Table 7). In the Mixed Farming areas, poor-income households maintained three TLUs while those in the middle income held six (normal) TLUs during the season. There were no fluctuations.

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

Livelihood zone	Poor income households		Middle income households	
	Current	Normal	Current	Normal
Pastoral	4	4	8	8
Agro-pastoral	2	2	5	5
Mixed Farming	3	3	6	6

Birth rate

Birth rates were normal for all livestock species across the livelihood zones. The stability is attributed to the fair performance of the 2023 short rains. It is predicted that birth rates would exhibit a downward trend for all livestock species across the livelihood zones in the next three and six months owing to the effects of the current dry spell. Although long rains are expected, there might be no effect on the birth rates.

Milk Production and consumption

The main source of milk across the livelihood zones was cattle, goats and lastly camel, where camel milk was only available in the Pastoral areas and thus accessed by fewer households.

During the review period, milk production per household per day was below the LTA in Mixed Farming livelihood zones, where production in the Pastoral, Agro-pastoral and Mixed Farming zones was 1, 2.5 and 5litres respectively, as compared to 1.5, 3 and 4 litres for the respective zones normally. Consequently, milk consumption decreased for all livelihoods to one litre per day from 1.5 litres in Pastoral areas and two litres per day in both Agro-pastoral and Mixed Farming areas. As such, the price per litre increased in both Pastoral and Agro-pastoral areas from Kshs 60 to Kshs 75 although remained stable at Kshs 60 in the Mixed Farming zones. As production is projected to continue decreasing, milk consumption is expected to continue decreasing along with the price increase hence affecting household food security. Among the factors contributing to low milk production and high prices are poor forage and water availability in the traditional grazing areas.

Table 8: Milk production, consumption and prices

Livelihood zone	Milk Production (Litres)/Household		Milk consumption (Litres) per household		Prices (Kshs)/Litre	
	Current	LTA	Current	LTA	Current	LTA
Pastoral	1	1.5	1	1.5	75	60
Agro-pastoral	2.5	3	1	2	75	60
Mixed Farming	5	4	1	2	60	60

The reason behind the reduced milk prices is as a result of availability of green pastures for livestock to feed on especially in the Mixed Farming and Agropastoral livelihood zones following the rains as compared to last year. The rainfall performance was good both in time and space in these zones. Both production and milk prices are expected to remain relatively stable with a possibility of improving in both the next 3 to 6 months since rainfall long rains season onset is expected from mid-March until June. During this period, quality pasture and water will be available to livestock hence ensuring constant milk supply for both households and markets. The current prices of hawked milk is Ksh. 30-40 per cup, lower as compared to normal. Packaged milk is sold at Ksh 60per 500ml packet which is normal. To fill any milk production and consumption gaps, households use goat and sheep milk of which is not much to meet the household need. Some households buy packaged or hawked milk and some prefer porridge/tea with small amount of milk for small children.

Migration

About 60 percent of cattle from Pokot North Sub-county in the Pastoral areas have migrated to Uganda, while an estimated 40 percent from Pokot Central originating from both Pastoral and Agro-pastoral zones have moved to Turkana South in search of pasture and water. The estimated livestock numbers that have migrated are considered above normal whereby less than 40 percent of cattle in Pokot North and only 30 percent in Pokot Central are expected to have migrated at such time of the year. The migratory routes were however normal and included Nasal-Loroo and Kiwawa-Achorichor in Pokot North and Masol-Amaler-Akulo in Pokot Central. Cattle were the main livestock species affected by migration, where the Pastoral livelihood zone was most affected. The migration incidences left households without a source of milk thus subjecting them to food insecurity.

Livestock disease and Mortalities

The diseases reported include CCPP and PPR in Riwo and Chepareria wards. Black quarter disease was reported in Lelan and Sook wards. FMD and LSD was reported in Mnagei, Chepareria, Sook, Endough, Suam, Riwo, Lelan, Kapenguria and Siyoi wards, while cases of PPR, CBPP and CCPP were reported in Kapchok, Suam, Alale and Kiwawa wards in among the Pastoral areas. The reported diseases affected livestock body condition leading to low productivity, hence food insecurity for affected households. FMD Quarantine notice was imposed countywide and livestock markets closed. So far, no cases of mortalities due to drought have been reported. Ring vaccination by the county government was carried out in the affected wards. During the period, 32,760 heads of cattle were vaccinated against CCBP in Suam, Kapchok, Kiwawa and Kasei wards in Pokot North Sub County while 2,854 heads of cattle in Lelan Ward in Pokot South Sub County where vaccinated against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). Alale, kasei, kapchok wards experience slightly above normal livestock death.

Water for Livestock

The main water sources for livestock in the Mixed Farming livelihood zones were rivers, streams, and piped water, which were normal for such time of the year. The main sources in both Pastoral and Agro pastoral livelihood zones were pans/dams, boreholes, and perennial rivers, which were normal sources. Although pans and dams were in use a number of them had dried up while some boreholes had broken down. The recharge level was 50 and 30 percent in the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral zones respectively, compared to normal recharge of 80 and 60 percent for the respective zones. In comparison to the normal situation, the current sources are fewer and more distant, therefore leading to longer distances to available sources and more congestion at the water facilities. The scenario led to the increased waiting time at water sources and pressure on facilities, at times causing breakdown. More boreholes were on demand and pressure was mounting, occasioning the upgrading of hand-pumped ones to the solar powered. The current trekking distance from grazing areas to water points is longer than normal in the Pastoral and pastoral zones whereby livestock moved seven kilometers instead of the normal five and five kilometers respectively. The return distance in Mixed Farming zones was within the normal range of one kilometer. However, water is expected to last less than expected in pastoral livelihoods, at one, two, and three months in the Pastoral, Agro-pastoral, and Mixed Farming livelihood zones respectively as compared to the normal duration of two, three and four months in the respective zones. The frequency of watering livestock in Pastoral, Agro-pastoral and Mixed Farming areas decreased to three, five, and seven times per week respectively as compared to a normal, where livestock is watered five, six and seven times in the respective livelihood zones (Table 8). There was a general decline in water for livestock due to below normal recharge following the poor rain received in pastoral areas.

Table 9: Water for livestock

Livelihood zone	Return trekking distances (Kms)		Expected duration to last (Months)		Watering frequency	
	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current	Normal
Pastoral	7	5	1	2	3	5
Agro-pastoral	5	3	2	3	5	6
Mixed Farming	1	1	3	4	7	7

The current good to fair cattle and sheep condition in the pastoral and agropastoral livelihood zone is likely to deteriorate in the next one month before onset of the long rains. However, the good goat and camel condition is expected to offer some reprieve to household income. The onset of the long rains is also expected to create opportunities for casual labour in the farmlands which will contribute positively to household income. In-migration of livestock is expected from Uganda beginning late March when the long rains are expected to begin. This will avail milk and meat for the households and hence improve nutritional status.

3.1.4 Impact on availability

Crop production is currently below normal, with cereal stocks held by both farmers and traders falling below LTA levels. The scenario depicts a deficit in food availability, posing a threat to food security in the county. Livestock body condition is below normal, whereby milk production is less than expected at such time of the year. The fair livestock body condition are likely to deteriorate before the onset of the rainfall season especially in the pastoral livelihood zone translating to poor terms of trade and risk to food security. Increasing livestock out-migration numbers beyond normal is posing a threat to food security as moved stocks deprive households of milk. However, the operational markets across all livelihood zones with normal volumes are expected to ensure that the food security situation remains relatively stable for the next two months.

3.2 Access

3.2.1 Markets

The assessment team noted that markets were functioning normally without disruptions and with requisite commodities, however, prices remained high. The main livestock markets remained Kishaunet and Kabichbich in the Mixed Farming livelihood zones, with Sigor, Chepareria, Ortum, and Lomut in the Agro-pastoral zones. Alale, Nakwijit and Kacheliba were the main livestock markets in the Pastoral zones. Main markets for food commodities included Makutano (Mixed Farming), Chepareria, Ortum, Kabichbich, Kacheliba and Konyao. Sheep (Dorper) prices ranged from Ksh 3,500 -14,000; local sheep Ksh2,500-7,000; local goat at Ksh 5,000 - 9,500 while that of cocks was Ksh 750-1000 and hens at Ksh350-700 across all livelihood zones. Livestock traded in markets was sourced from the communities, mostly in the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones. The key food commodities sold in the market were maize and beans, with cattle, sheep and goats representing the commonly traded livestock species.

3.2.2 Market Prices

Maize prices

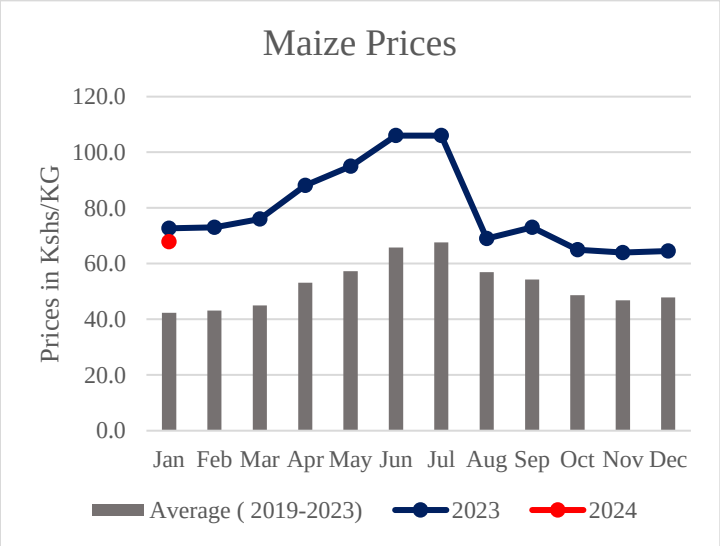


Figure 3: Maize prices, West Pokot

In the month of January 2024, the average price of maize per Kg in the county was Kshs 67.9 and 100 percent above the LTA (Figure 3). The price in the Mixed Farming zone was lowest at Kshs 55 per Kg while the Pastoral zones recorded the highest price of Kshs 75 per Kg. The lower price recorded in the Mixed Farming zone is attributed to the stocks from harvests realized in the long rains and this season plus supplies from the neighboring Trans Nzoia County. Maize prices are projected to continue increasing through to May or June 2024 when maize crop harvests will be realized in most parts of the county.

Goat prices

The market price of a medium size goat was Kshs 4,682 in January 2024, which is 29 percent above the LTA price (Figure 4). The highest average price was at Kshs 5,000 in the Agro-pastoral zone, while Pastoral areas recorded the lowest price of Kshs 4,250. The variation in price is attributed to the difference in the body condition of animals presented for sale. The stability in the goat price is attributed to the good body condition following the season's browse improvement. However, the price is likely to decline stable owing to diminishing browse and water in the next three months.

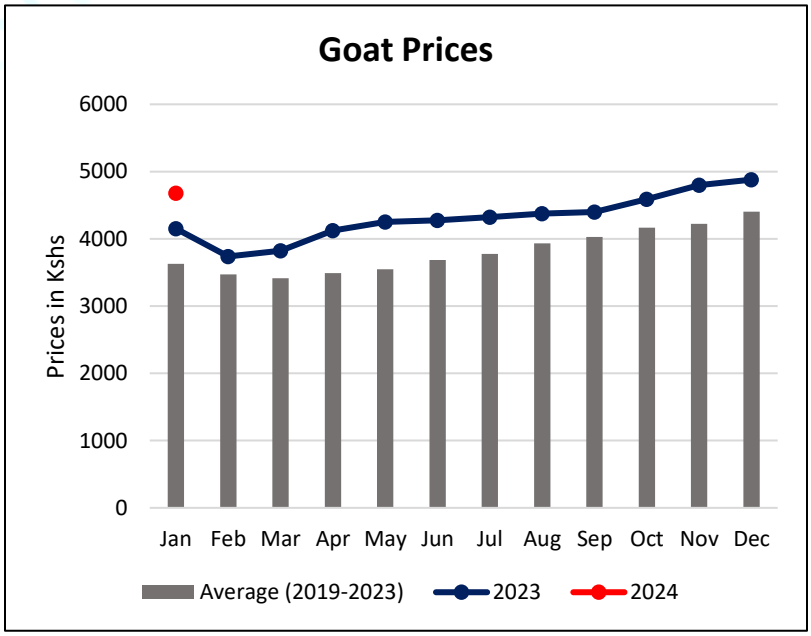


Figure 4: Goat prices, West Pokot

3.2.3 Terms of Trade

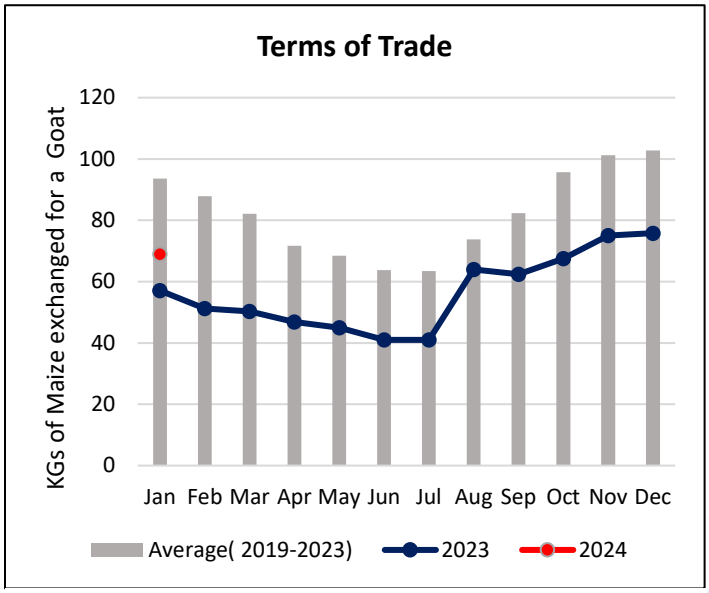


Figure 5: Terms of Trade, West Pokot

The terms of trade were unfavorable. In January, the price of a goat could purchase 69 kg of maize which is 27 percent below the LTA (Figure 5). The Pastoral zones recorded higher ToT at 74 while Agro-pastoral zones recorded the lowest ToT at 65. The variation between the livelihood zones is attributed to the higher goat price relative to maize in the Pastoral areas compared to the lower goat price in the Agro-pastoral areas. The terms of trade are likely to continue decreasing as the price of maize assumes the upward trend while goat prices decline in the next three months.

3.2.3 Income sources

During the season, livestock sales and casual labour remained the main source of income. Employment and trade were other sources of income.

Table 10: Income sources

Income Sources	October 2023	November 2023	December 2023	January 2024
Employment/Salary	7%	7%	7%	7%
Sale of Livestock	47%	43%	42%	47%
Casual Labour	43%	48%	51%	45%
Trade	3%	1%	1%	1%

3.2.4 Water access and availability (including cost + consumption

The primary water sources for domestic water within the county in most livelihood zones include boreholes, rivers (perennial and seasonal), water pans, traditional river wells, springs and natural ponds which have been relied upon in proportion of 22,25, 25,18,6 and 4 percent respectively. The agro-pastoral and mixed farming livelihood zones rely on springs, boreholes, and rivers while the pastural livelihood zones majorly depend on water pans, rivers, boreholes, and traditional shallow wells.

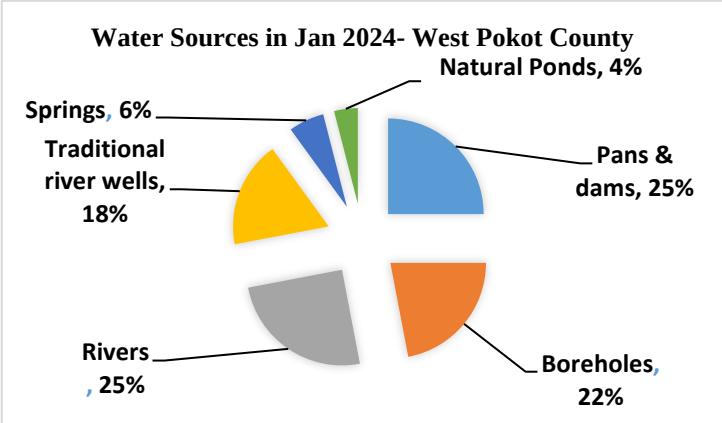


Figure 6: Water Sources

The water levels in surface water sources such as pans and dams was 30% in the agropastoral live livelihood zone and totally dry in the pastoral livelihood zones. There was an exception of large dams in the Pastoral livelihood zone which were at 60 percent full (Kases dam). The flows of the perennial rivers were at 50 percent. This situation is linked to the fair rainfall performance during the previous months. Currently, the main water sources in the county were normal for such time of the year. However, the fair performance of the rains is likely to improve water accessibility in the County. A total of 54 boreholes throughout the county (10 in Central Pokot, 12 in West Pokot, 25 in Pokot North and 7 in Pokot South) have been rendered non-functional due to breakdown of pumps and damaged circuits systems in solar powered boreholes.

The retention of water in pans is expected to last for an average of one month. Perennial rivers are experiencing averagely flows (approximately 50% flow rate) while seasonal rivers have zero discharge as a result of the prevailing hot and dry weather conditions. Areas that significantly few water sources include Kiwawa, Kasei, Kapchok, Kodich, Suam, Alale, Masol, lower Riwo Wards and lower Endough. These are largely in the Pastoral livelihood zone and some parts of agropastoral livelihood zone.

Table 11: Water cost and consumption

Livelihood Zone/Ward	Return Watering Distance (Km)		Cost of water at source (KES per 20 litre jerrican)		Waiting Time at water source (Minutes)		Average Water Consumption	
	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current	Normal
Mixed Farming	1km	2km	Nil	Nil	10 mins	30 mins	20litres	20litres
Agro Pastoral	2km	3km	Nil	Nil	30mins	60mins	15litres	15litres
Pastoral	6km	5km	Nil	Nil	60mins	90mins	10litres	10litres

Waiting time at the source

The average waiting time sources has significantly reduced throughout the county in the pastoral livelihood zones, the waiting time has reduced from an average of 60 minutes to 0-30 minutes. In the agro-pastoral mixed farming livelihood zones, the waiting time at water points declined to 10 minutes as compared to a normal of 30 minutes.

Distance of Water Sources

The return distance from water sources has generally reduced throughout all livelihood zones with the pastoral LZ recording high trekking distances of an averagely 6km against the normal of 5km, while in agro-pastoral and mixed farming zones reduced from 3km to 1km. The reduction of distance and queuing time area attributed to considerable congestion at operational boreholes as well as dried up water sources such as water pans.

Cost of water

There is a variation in the cost of water from vendors within the county where an average of 30percent of households within the mixed farming livelihood zones paid Kshs 20 per 20 liters jerrican, 20percent of the households within the ago-pastoral livelihood zones also paid Ksh20 per 20 litres jerrican, while 10percent of households in the pastoral zones paid an average of Kshs 50. The variation in the cost of water are attributed to reduced accessibility of water. The cost of the water at source is nil, but vendors charge transportation, a fee ranging between Kshs 20 to 50 depending on the distance from the source.

Water consumption

The average water consumption per capita in pastoral livelihoods is approximately 8L/capita/day. The areas with exceptionally low water consumption include Kiwawa, Kasei, Kapchok, Suam, Kodich, Alale, Masol, and lower region of Riwo wards which attributed to the scarcity and long return trekking distances. The situation is generally normal, where the consumption is normally at 8 litres for these livelihood zones. In agro-pastoral and mixed farming zones, the average water consumption per capita remained at 10L to 15 L/ capita/day. The variation is normal owing fairly rainfall performance.

Water storage and treatment

Approximately 95percent of the households in pastoral zones consumed raw water while between 70 percent-80 percent of households in agro-pastoral and mixed farming livelihood zones treat their water through local interventions such as boiling. The proportion of households accessing water from protected sources stands at 31percent for the entire county distributed in proportions of 30 percent, 40 percent, 15 percent, and 40 percent for Pokot Central, West Pokot, Pokot North and Pokot South sub-counties respectively.

Sanitation and Hygiene Practices

The proportion of households washing their hands at 4 critical times is low in the pastoralist zones compared to Agro-pastoralist livelihood zones due to the scarcity of water and its reduced accessibility. The low hand washing practices can also be attributed to inadequate interventions on hygiene and sanitation in the community due to funding from both County Government and developing agencies.

3.2.5 Food Consumption

Food Consumption

An estimated 49.6, 40.7 and 9.7 percent of households in the county were classified under Acceptable, Borderline and Poor food consumption categories respectively based on SMART

survey report July2023. From the NDMA January bulletin, 89 percent of household had acceptable food consumption score while 11 percent were in the borderline category.

The trend is indicative of general improvement in food consumption across the livelihood zones.

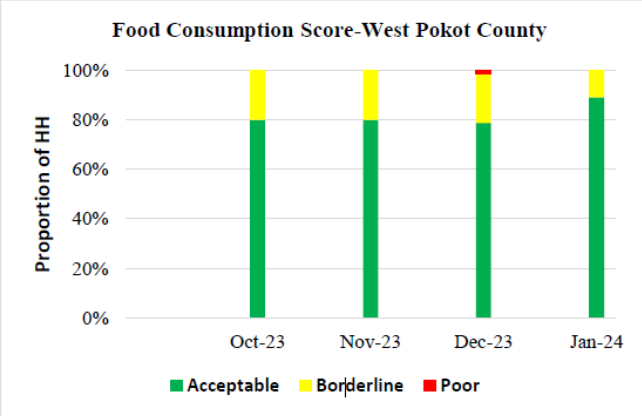


Figure 7: Food Consumption Score

Milk consumption

According to the NDMA Drought Early Warning bulletin for January 2024, the average daily milk consumption per household was 1.1 litres across the livelihood zones, signifying a slight decrease of eight percent from 1.2 litres recorded in December 2023 and 21 percent lower than the LTA. The decrease in milk consumption can be linked to the decreased milk access at the household level due to below normal milk production arising from poor pastures. The current average price of milk is Kshs 75 per litre which is 15 percent above the LTA price. The above normal price is a result of inadequate milk at the household level, which confirms the existing household food insecurity risk security.

3.2.6 Coping strategy

The reduced coping strategy index (rCSI) based January 2024 NDMA EWS Bulletin was 1.55 compared to 2.4 recorded in July 2023. The highest rCSI was recorded in Agro pastoral livelihood zone at 1.6 and lowest in the Pastoral zones at 1.4. The most employed coping strategies were reduction in the number of meals taken in a day, relying on less preferred food and reduction in the portion size of meals. The reduced coping strategy index (rCSI) weighted score was 10.9 according the SMART survey July 2023. The population proportion that employed none, stressed and crisis strategies were 25, 56 and 19 percent respectively.

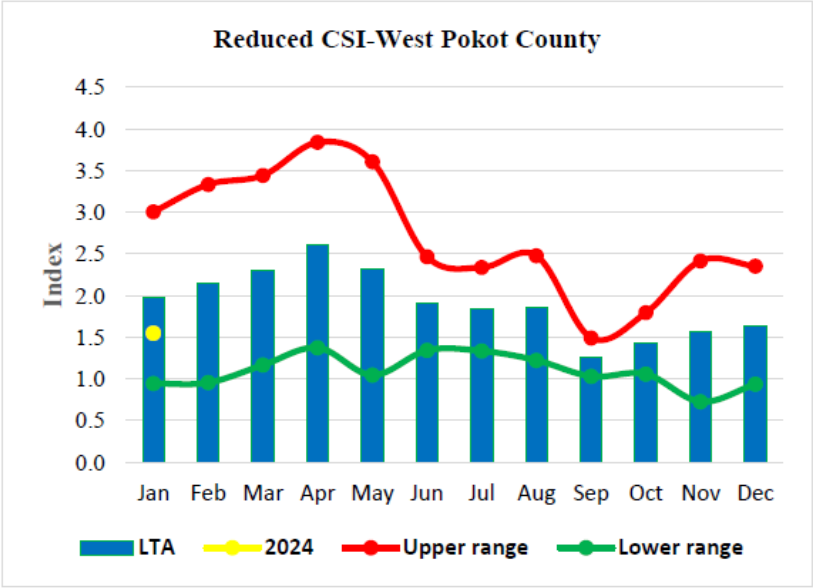


Figure 8: rCSI

Livelihood Coping

Currently, a few households were categorized as stressed coping during the season. The situation reveals some deterioration from the one in July 2022, where no households were coping. More households especially in the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral areas may degenerate into stressed coping with time.

3.3 Utilization

3.3.1Morbidity and mortality patterns

The morbidity trends for three diseases affecting under children five years old mostly increased except malaria which was on upward and downward trend. The main reason for increased for URTI and Diarrhea was, cold weather during the period under review and community's behavior to abandon hand washing practices. Malaria cases were few due to low performance of long rain in the county.

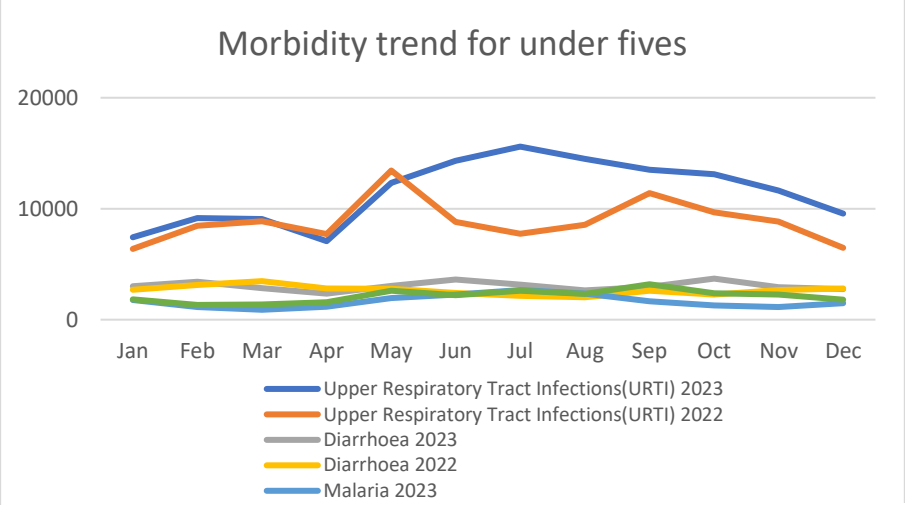


Figure 9: Morbidity trends Under 5

The morbidity trend in general population followed the same trends as in population under five years old. (URTI and diarrhea increased while Malaria was on upward and downward trend.

There were no cases of disease outbreak during the period under review. In the county however some cases were reported and investigated without a positive confirmatory test.

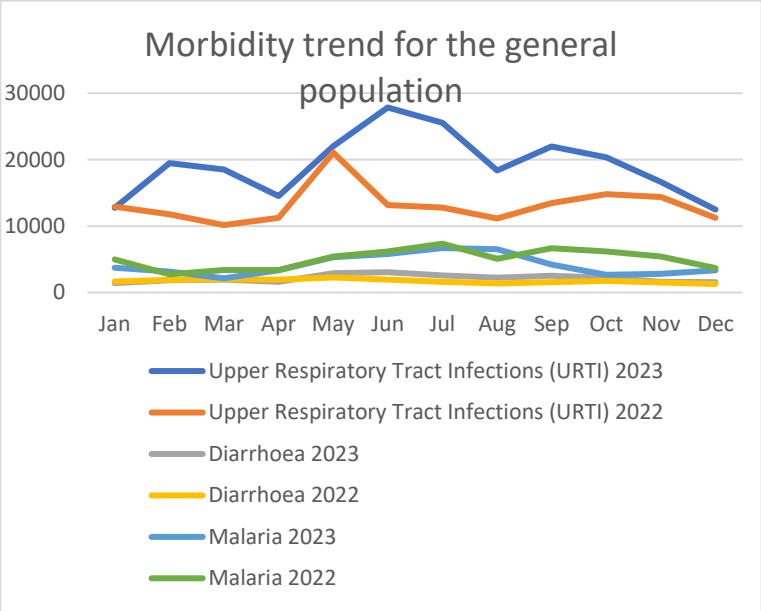


Figure 10: Morbidity trends for general population

3.3.2 Immunization and Vitamin A supplementation

The Immunization coverage is low though there was an increase in fully immunized child from 41.2% in 2022 to 54.1% in 2023. The same as in the coverage for measles from 48.9% to 61.5%. From this data, the county immune status for our children is suboptimal hence more support is required on the part of child immunization and nutrition program in order to prevent childhood diseases.

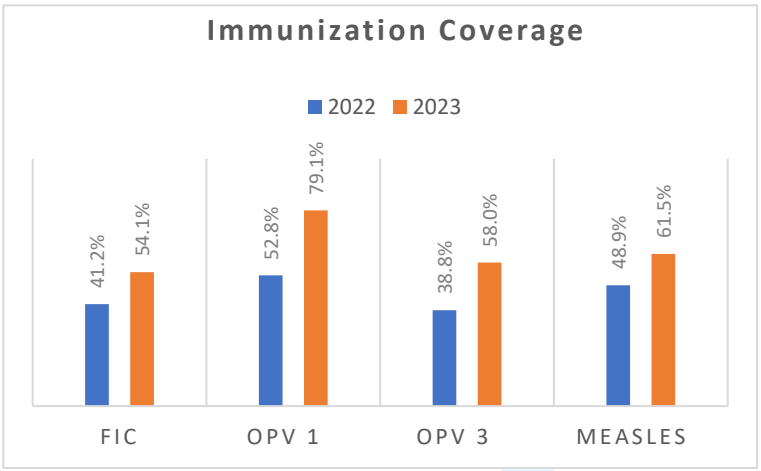


Figure 11: Immunization coverage

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Vitamin A coverage is also sub optimal for children 12 – 59 months for the period under review whereas the coverages for children 6 -11 months increased from 83.2 percent to 109.4 percent. The low coverages means the immune system for our population is compromised hence frequent attacks from infections, therefore increased morbidity among the children under five years old and the general population.

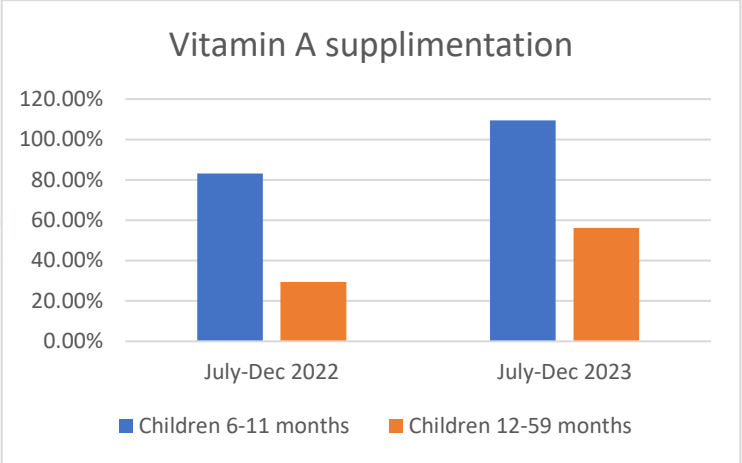

Figure 12: Vitamin A supplementation

3.3.2 Nutritional status and dietary diversity

According to NDMA bulletin January 2024, the proportion of children at risk of malnutrition (MUAC) increased from 2.5 percent to 2.9 percent during the month under review and below 3.6 percent of LTA. This could be attributed to the declining milk consumption by children under five years at household level and increased incidents of diarrhea cases in children under five years. reports.

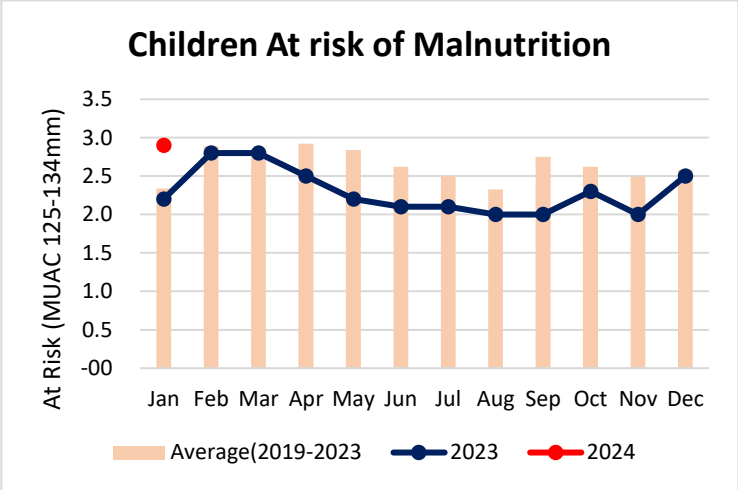

Figure 13: Children at risk of malnutrition

3.3.2 Sanitation and Hygiene

Most population (47.9%) take water for drinking and other domestic use from earth pans, rivers and unprotected springs with 7.8 percent using piped, borehole, protected springs and protected shallow wells. Therefore, posing a serious contamination that results to waterborne diseases. Water treatment is low (16%) in July – December,2023, though there was an increase of 16 percent, in 2023 from 10 percent in 2022. The latrine coverage in the county is improving from 57.4 percent to 64.6 percent because of MoH and partners support in programs like Community Lead Total Sanitation, Sanitation Nutrition and Baby Friendly Community Initiative programs. Open defecation is still a challenge in the county and more effort is needed by all the stakeholders to be able to have the county achieve OPF. Hand Washing at five critical times remain too low (16.5%) over time and chances of food contamination is high, therefore disease outbreak is very high and therefore, malnutrition sets

3.4 Trends of key food security indicators

Table 12: Food security trends in West Pokot County

Indicator	Long rains assessment, Jul 2023	Short rains assessment, Feb 2024
% of maize stocks held by households (agro-pastoral)	45	85.8
Livestock body condition	Fair	Fair-good
Average Return trekking distance (kilometres)	4.5	4.3
Water consumption (litres per person per day)	13	13
Price of maize (per kg)	106	60
Distance to grazing	4	
Terms of trade (pastoral zone)	41	69

Indicator	Long rains assessment, Jul 2023	Short rains assessment, Feb 2024
Coping strategy index	10.9(SMART survey)	
Food consumption score	49.6(Acceptable) 40.7(borderline) 9.7(poor)	

3.5 Education

After analyzing the raw data from interviews and checklists, use those findings to inform your report; prompts are included below.

3.5.1 Enrolment

CATEGORY	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
ECD	33072	30474	63546	32366	28787	61153
PRIMARY	105980	104420	210400	101977	100630	202627
JUNIOR SCHOOL	10288	10678	20966	11759	11960	23719
SECONDARY	18704	16233	34937	23392	23456	46848

The secondary school enrolment went up by 34 percent while Junior school also had increased enrolment by 13 percent this could have been attributed to the government policy on 100 percent transition in both levels. There was a decreased in school attendance for both pre-primary and primary schools. In ECD the boy's enrolment decreased by 2.1 percent while that for girls also reduced by 5.5 percent, primary enrolment went down by 4.8 percent for boys and 4.6 percent for girls. This could be attributed to irregular school attendance and dropouts. Lack of food at the household level contributed to low enrollment in both pre-primary and primary, especially in the Pastoral areas of Kiwawa and Kacheliba in Pokot North, Kacheliba and Masol in Pokot Central Sub-counties. there are still still cases of Early marriages and teenage pregnancies, Child labour, boda-boda riding, truancy coupled with distances of schools especially for Junior schools has led to school dropouts. There has been need for all stake holders to ensure that all school going child attend school as required by the law to reduce the number of school going children who are out of school.

3.5.2 Effects of Short rains (FLOODING) in schools

There has no major effect caused by the season since there was no school closed but there were cases of sinking pit latrines and washed play field in some schools reported especially in pokot Central and Kipkomo sub counties. Some of the schools that there pit latrines sinking included; Kangorio, Chelombai, Naramam, Simat Cherpka, Kapchemogen, Kapsimatiakorellach, monjorwa, tapoyo, Kamatira, Samor, Tirir Tambalal, Chepareria, Tirken, Tolkaghin, Mlimani, Kaakoko and Chepkopegh. Poghoi and Orwa primary schools and Sigor mixed field that was destroyed by water

run offs. The cost of food items has normalized as bag of 90kg Maize was sold at KShs. 5,400. The major sources of water for the schools include rivers, boreholes, sand pans, tap water. There was poor rainfall performance in Pokot North, Kacheliba and Pokot Central sub-counties leading to minimal recharge of water harvesting structures. Pokot South, Pokot West and part of Kipkomo received adequate rains to last the institutions to the next rainfall season. About 406 out of 916 schools had no functional harvesting and storage facilities e.g gutters, water tanks. There are no learners accessing eLearning facilities.

3.5.3 School Feeding

The major feeding programs in our schools were In-kind School Meal Program (ISMP) especially for primary. The supplies were on time where all benefiting school have food items in their stores. National Council For Nomadic Education in Kenya (NACONEK) has been the major supporter of ISMP and distributed food items that included beans, rice, cooking oil and salt to all the six (6) sub counties of Pokot West, Pokot South, North Pokot, Pokot central, Kipkomo and Kacheliba. All the 683 public primary schools have benefited from the school feeding programme. The number of learners benefiting from ISMP term one of 2024 were 113,736 boys and 112,590 girls.

3.5.4 Inter Sectoral links where available

Early marriages and teenage pregnancies reduced enrolment in secondary school as they dropped out of school. The remedy to this is that girls and women should be empowered with information for avoidance of the risk, organizing campaigns against early marriages, teenage pregnancies, providing guiding and counseling, and psycho-social support to victims.

Child labour for school going children that include sand harvesting, aloe Vera collection, gold panning, looking after animals and siblings are still reported since some student resort to quick money. This can be eradicated by providing adequate social protection to all children, increase the number of day school that will reduce cost of education. More bursaries should be awarded to the most vulnerable children. More schools should be registered to reduce distances between schools and homesteads. Sexual abuse and exploitations, truancy, boda boda business, kwara kwara dances, lack of food due to poverty in families and neglect from parents are some of the causes of school dropout. This can be addressed by provision of sanitary towels to girls. The girls in public primary schools will be provided with menstrual/dignity kits by MOE. Perpetrators of sexual abuse and exploitation should be brought to book with assistance from all stakeholders. Those colluding with perpetrators should be punished. Most schools especially pre-primary and primary schools had inadequate functional latrines hence there is need for support. On hand washing facilities it was found that some schools had inadequate/no hand washing facilities

3.6 Child protection

3.5.1 Family Separation

Family separation was identified as a significant issue during this period. The major Causes include poverty, food insecurity and orphan hood.

3.5.2 Violence against Children (VAC)

Cases of violence against children include:

- Transactional sex
- Poverty
- Lack of food
- Parental neglect
- Income instability.

These factors contribute to the exploitation and abuse of children, necessitating targeted interventions to address underlying causes.

3.6.3 Teen Pregnancies

Central Pokot recorded high incidences of teenage pregnancies caused by, Early marriage, Transactional sex, Poverty, Lack of education and Harmful cultural practice. The table below summarizes the child protection needs reported during the short rains assessment of 2023:

Table 13: Child protection needs

Category	Boys	Girls	Total
Family Separation	107	113	220
VAC/GBV	73	96	169
Child Marriage	17	58	75
Teen Pregnancy	0	38	38

The child protection assessment during the short rains of 2023 revealed significant vulnerabilities among children in West Pokot County, particularly in the border sub-counties of Central Pokot and North Pokot. Addressing these issues requires comprehensive interventions targeting root causes such as poverty, food insecurity, and harmful cultural practices. Collaboration between government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and communities is crucial in ensuring the protection and well-being of children in drought-affected regions.

4.0 Food Security Prognosis

4.1 Prognosis Assumptions

- According to the Kenya Meteorological Department current hot and dry conditions are expected to persist throughout the month of February.
- The March-May 2024 long rains season in northern and eastern Kenya is most likely to be average with localized variations.
- Root zone soil moisture forecasts indicate that soil moisture will be above average through at least April 2024, and among the highest on record in parts of northeastern Kenya.
- Above-average temperatures are most likely through at least September 2024.
- The hot and dry conditions are likely to lead to a decrease in surface water availability due to evaporation losses. This may lead to overreliance on sub-surface water sources which may result to increased waiting times hence affecting child care and feeding practices at source and frequent breakdowns.
- The deteriorating terms of trade as a result of reduced goat prices is likely to negatively impact household access to local staple foods in the coming two months. This is more likely in the pastoral and agropastoral livelihood zones.
- The already deteriorating pasture will continue diminishing both in quality and quantity as the high temperature conditions persist.
- The reduction of pasture quality and decrease in water availability will mean that livestock may have to trek longer distances in search of the two commodities. This is likely to impact negatively on the livestock body condition and as a result, reduced milk production and lower market prices.
- There is a likelihood of increased cases of out migration as livestock search for pasture and water.
- This will most likely impact negatively on the vast majority of households in the Pastoral livelihood zone that are dependent on income from sale of livestock and livestock products.
- Reduced milk production at the household level may likely impact negatively on the nutritional status of children under five years old.
- Generally, the county food security situation is expected to deteriorate in the coming one and a half months before onset of the Long rains season in March.
- Forage, pasture, and water resources are expected to remain at average to above-average levels throughout the projection period supported by the forecast average March to May long rains.
- Livestock productivity is expected to remain average to above average throughout the scenario period maintaining a high sale value and providing milk for consumption and sale, supported by expected average to above-average rangeland resources through June.
- An increase in livestock herd sizes and an improvement in household milk availability is expected over the projection period. However, herd sizes, especially for cattle and camel, will likely remain below average.
- Insecurity is likely to be experienced throughout the scenario period in parts of northwest Kenya driven by intertribal conflict, cattle rustling and banditry and in parts of northeast Kenya driven by intertribal conflict activities.
- Agricultural wage labor opportunities and crop sales will likely be average to above average in the marginal agricultural areas, supported by the anticipated above-average short rains

harvests in February, and average labor opportunities during the forecast average March to May long rains cropping season.

4.2 Food security Outlook for the next six months

Based on the assumptions in 4.1 above, give the likely trend of food security outcome in the next three months (February – April 2024) including

Considering the current food security situation and considering the long rains rainfall onset that is expected in March through July, prices of food stuffs are likely to decrease and milk production is expected to increase. This will impact positively on nutrition status of under-fives and the entire general population. Prices of livestock are likely to increase by March-April due to possible improvement of their body condition as pasture, browse and water condition improve. Thus, households' access to food and quality diet will improve by April 2024 but overall, the County will remain in IPC phase 1 in parts of the Agro-Pastoral and Mixed Farming livelihood zones. Parts of the Agropastoral and Pastoral livelihood zone is more likely to remain in IPC phase 2 with some sections of the Pastoral livelihood being in IPC Phase 3. It is estimated that 67,339 are in need of humanitarian assistance across the county. No cases of mortality expected.

Outlook for May 2024 – July 2024

The rains are expected to continue through July. Livestock body condition is likely to be good with possible improvement of forage and water which means their prices are likely to be within or above the normal ranges. In terms of household food access, prices of food stuffs that are likely to reduce as household harvest the short-term growing crops. Nutrition status of households will as a result improve. During the projected period, the County food security situation is likely to improve with some households in IPC phase 2 improving to IPC phase 1. Overall, the County was thus expected to remain in IPC phase 1 with less people persons requiring food assistance. No cases of mortality expected.

5.0 Conclusion and Interventions

5.1Conclusion

From the period under review, there was an increase in vaccination of OPV1,OPV3 and measles from 52.8%,38.8% and 48.9% in 2022 respectively to 79.1%,58.1% and 61.5% in 2023.The number of Measles cases reported in all sub-counties reduced from 19 in July-December 2022 to 7 in the same period of 2023. The proportion of households in the acceptable food consumption score category was 89 percent compared to 78.7 percent in December, 2023 while proportion in the borderline category was 11 percent compared 20 percent the previous month. The mean reduced coping strategy index (rCSI) declined slightly from 1.57 to 1.55 in January, 2024. The rCSI was lower in Pastoral at 1.4 compared to 1.8 in Agro-pastoral livelihood zone. The county was classified under 'Stressed' Phase of the Integrated food security Phase Classification (IPC Phase 2) and projected to be in phase 1.

5.1.1 Phase classification

The food security phase classification for West Pokot is current IPC phase 2 or ''stressed'' following the short rains of OND 2023 that had positive impacts in the across all livelihood zones. However, early cessation in the Pastoral Livelihood zones and sections of the Agropastoral livelihood zones has reversed some of these positive gains.

5.1.2 Summary of Findings

Sub County & Wards	Predominant LZ	Food Security rank	Main food security factors	Population in need of humanitarian assistance
1.Pokot North	Pastoral	2	Poor temporal rainfall distribution Long waiting times at water sources Dried up water pans Poor pasture condition Low milk productivity Crop failure Resource-based conflict-land, water, pasture, Inter- community &livestock-Kasei ward High absenteeism rates in schools Livestock migration Livestock & human disease outbreak-CCPP, LSD, measles High malnutrition rates (though improvement noted) Maternal workload thus under nourishing under-fives	20-25

2.Pokot Central	Agro Pastoral	3	Fair rainfall distribution Resource-based conflict-land, water, pasture &livestock Low immunization coverage hence outbreaks such as measles Irrigation is practiced Maternal workload e.g. mining hence abandoned under fives Poor sanitation & hygiene practices e.g. latrine use, hand washing High school dropout rates to join boda business(boys)	10-15
3. Pokot West-Siyoi, Kapenguria, Mnagei, Riwo, Endough, Sook	Mixed Farming	4	Good harvests from short rains Resource-based conflict-land, water, pasture, Inter-community & livestock-Endough, Riwo Households have food stocks Good livestock body condition Water availability from rivers, springs Low waiting time at water sources Lumpy skin & black quarter in Sook and Riwo Poor pasture condition in Riwo, Sook & Endough High maternal workload Water scarcity in lower Riwo, Sook and Endough due to borehole breakdown Children under 5 years underweight 28.3% Immunization coverage 48.9% SAM Cases 823, MAM cases 2448, VAS coverage 51.3	5-10
4. Pokot South-Lelan, Tapach, Chepararia, Batei	Mixed Farming	5	Good rainfall performance Poor Pasture regeneration Adequate milk production Water availability Crop diversification Proper post-harvest management Good crop harvest Many operational markets Black quarter is common Moderate malnutrition rates in Batei VAS 38.4%	0-5
Very Good (5-6)	Good (4)	Fair (3)	Poor (1-2)	

5.2 Ongoing Interventions

5.2.1 Food interventions

No food interventions were ongoing during the period under review

5.2.2 Non-food interventions

Agriculture Interventions

1.1 Immediate interventions

Sub County	Ward	Intervention	No. of beneficiaries	Implementers	Impacts in terms of food security	Cost (Kshs)	Time Frame
West Pokot, Pokot North	Kapenguria Kapchok, Sook	Purchase and distribution of mango seedlings	1400	County Gov – (Department of Agriculture)	Not yet realized	8,400,000	October 2023-June 2024
		Purchase and distribution of Coffee seedling	180	County Gov – (Department of Agriculture) and other partners	Not yet realized	4,500,000	October 2023-June 2024
		Purchase and distribution of macadamia nuts	152	County Gov – (Department of Agriculture) and other partners	Not yet realized	3,750,000	October 2023-June 2024
		Purchase and distribution of avocado seedlings	503	County Gov – (Department of Agriculture) and other partners	Not yet realized	4,750,000	October 2023-June 2024
Pokot South,	Lelal ,Sekerr	Purchase and distribution	1031	County Gov – (Department	Not yet realized	8,250,000	October 2023-

Pokot Central	Tapach, Weiwei	of onion seeds/ seedlings		of Agriculture) and other partners			June 2024
West Pokot Pokot North	Endough- Kodich and` Kasei	Purchase and distribution of certified maize seedlings	18421	County Gov – (Department of Agriculture) and other partners	Not yet realized	7,000,000	October 2023- June 2024

1.2 Medium term / Long Term interventions

Sub County	Ward	Intervention	No. of beneficiaries	Implementers	Impacts in terms of food security	Cost (Kshs)	Time Frame
Pokot Cental	Masol Ward	Purchase and distribution of water pumps	1,200	County Gov – (Department of Agriculture) and other partners	Not yet realized.	2,400,000	October 2023- June 2024
Kipkom West Pokot	Batei, Riwo, Sook	Purchase and distribution of knapsack pumps	34,220	County Gov – (Department of Agriculture) and other partners	Not yet realized.	6,500,000	October 2023- June 2024
West Pokot Pokot North Pokot Central	Endough, Kodich, Kapchock Masol Sekerr	Purchase and supply of generators	4140	County Gov – (Department of Agriculture) and other partners	Not yet realized	8,300,000	October 2023- June 2024

Pokot Central	Lomut, Wei wei, Mosol	Construction and repair of farrows	3500	County Gov – (Department of Agriculture) and other partners	Not yet realized	3,700,000	October 2023- June 2024
Kacheliba West Pokot	Mnagei, Suam	Purchase and Distributoin of chain link Kitchen garden	529	County Gov – (Department of Agriculture) and other partners	Not yet realized	3,700,000	October 2023- June 2024

Ongoing Interventions

5.3.2 Non-food interventions

1.Agriculture

1.1 Immediate interventions

Sub County	Ward	Intervention	No. of beneficiaries	Proposed Implementers	Required Resources	Available Resources	Time Frame
	County wide	Provision of food supplies needy households	59982	County government national government partners	Finance & human support Ksh 100M	Personnel	7 months
	County wide	Provision certified assorted crop seeds to farmers	59982	County government national government partners	Finance & human support ksh 150M	Personnel Land	6 Months
	Sigor, Kipkomo	Repair of furrows and irrigation infrastructure	5000	County government national government partners	Financial Support Ksh-50M	Personnel	6 months

1.2 Medium term/Long Term interventions

Sub County	Ward	Intervention	No. of beneficiaries	Proposed Implementers	Required Resources	Available Resources	Time Frame
Pokot Central, Kipkomo and Pokot south		Construction of irrigation furrows	4200	County government national government partners	Financial Support - Ksh20m	Land ,personnel A	1year
County wide		Establishment of irrigation schemes	4800	County government national government partners	Financial Support - Ksh100m	Land ,personnel	1-2years

2. Livestock Interventions

2.1 Ongoing interventions

ON – GOING INTERVENTIONS							
County	**Sub County**	**Intervention**	**No. of beneficiaries**	**Implementers**	**Impacts on food security**	**Cost (Kshs)**	**Time Frame**
IMMEDIATE							
West Pokot	Pokot South	Provision of range cubes supplements- 500 bags of 50kgs for Sobukwo and Morpus in Batei Ward.		FAO VSF	Restore bodies of emaciated livestock to avoid deaths.		
West Pokot	Pokot West	Distribution of 1000 bags (50kgs) range	Women and men in Kachemukot	FAO VSF	Improved livestock body condition and		Completed

		cubes supplements in Riwo ward	and Miskwony locations.	County Governmen t oft West Pokot	avoid incidences of death through drought		
,,	,,	Supply of dewormers (supportive treatment)	Livestock keepers in Riwo ward	FAO VSF County Governmen t of West Pokot			Completed
,,	,,	Cash transfer to the vulnerable households in Kachemukot and Miskwony locations		FAO VSF			On going
,,	,,	Supply of 8 solar water pumps in Riwo ward	8 women groups	FAO			Completed
,,	,,	Supply of pasture seeds (10 kgs of boma Rhodes and cenchrus ciliaris in Riwo ward	9 women groups	FAO			Completed
,,	,,	Supply of 9 Kenya top bar hives and 1 langstroth in Riwo ward	At kitelakapel	ASDSP			
,,	,,	Establishment of pasture at keringet		County government of west pokot			Completed

2.2 MEDIUM AND LONG TERM							
West Pokot	Pokot North	Range land management	12000	County government and GIZ	Ongoing		

3. Water Sector Ongoing Intervention

Sub County/ Ward	Intervention	Location	No. of beneficiaries	Implementers	Cost	Time Frame	Implementation status (% of completion)
Pokot Central	Rehabilitation of furrow drilling installation of	Toghomo weiwei	2000	NDMA/NG CGWP	4.3M 2.3M	2022/2023	100%
West Pokot	Rehabilitation of Kalas Spring • Pipeline extension of Bendera	Bendera	1000	CGWP	3M	2022/2023	100%
Pokot North	Pipeline extansion alale Gravity • Construction of Sand dam at Kumun	Alale Alale (Kasitet)	1000 500	CGWP CGWP	5M 1.7M	2022/2023	90% 100%
Pokot South	Sekution water project construction	Sekution	1000	CGWP	4.9M		100%

4. Nutrition intervention

5.1 Ongoing Interventions (High Impact Nutrition Interventions)

Sub county	Intervention	Location	No. of beneficiaries		Implementers	Estimated Cost (Ksh)	Time Frame
			Male	Female			

	Vitamin A Supplementation	County Wide	18,913	19,065	CHMT Partners	6M	Continuous
	Zinc Supplementation	County Wide	18,913	19,065	CHMT partners	4.5M	Continuous
	Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM)	County Wide	18,913	19,065	CHMT partners	20M	Continuous
	MIYCN Interventions (EBF and Timely Intro of complementary Foods)	County Wide	18,913	19,065	CHMT partners	30M	Continuous
	Iron Folate Supplementation among Pregnant Women	County Wide	18,913	19,065	CHMT partners	18.5M	Continuous
	Deworming	County Wide	18,913	19,065	CHMT partners	5M	Continuous
	Food Fortification	County Wide	18,913	19,065	CHMT partners	2.6M	Continuous
	OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS						
	1. blanket supplementary feeding	Herd to reach areas of Riwo, Endough, Sook and Kapenguria wards	20,089	20,251	Unicef Acf Wfp KRCS	15M	Propose intervention
	2.	Herd to reach areas of Riwo, Endough, Sook and Kapenguria wards	20,089	20,251	Unicef Acf Wfp KRCS	17M	Propose intervention

5.Education Sector

Sub-county	Ward	Location	Intervention	Level of school (Pre-primary/primary/Junior School/Secondary)	No. of beneficiaries	Implementers	Impacts in terms of food security	Timeframe
Pokot Central	Masol	Masol	Community dialogues	Pre-primary/primary/secondary	1053	MOE, Unicef, World Vision, Childrен department, NGAO, NDMA	Improved food production and security	5 years
West Pokot	All	All	School meals program	Primary/junior school	226346	MOE	Increase access, retention and transition of learners	FY2023/2024
Kacheliba	Suam	Suam	Establishment of kitchen garden	Primary/ junior School	10165	World Vision MoE	Supplementation of school feeding program	2 years

5.3 Recommended Interventions

5.3.1 Food interventions

5.3.2 Non-food interventions

1.Agriculture

1.1 Immediate interventions

Sub County	Ward	Intervention	No. of beneficiaries	Proposed Implementers	Required Resources	Available Resources	Time Frame
	County wide	Provision of food supplies needy households	59982	County government national government partners	Finance & human support Ksh 100M	Personnel	7 months
	County wide	Provision certified assorted crop seeds to farmers	59982	County government national government partners	Finance & human support ksh 150M	Personnel Land	6 Months
	Sigor, Kipkomo	Repair of furrows and irrigation infrastructure	5000	County government national government partners	Financial Support Ksh-50M	Personnel	6 months

1.2 Medium term/Long Term interventions

Sub County	Ward	Intervention	No. of beneficiaries	Proposed Implementers	Required Resources	Available Resources	Time Frame
Pokot Central, Kipkomo and Pokot south		Construction of irrigation furrows	4200	County government national government partners	Financial Support - Ksh20m	Land ,personnel A	1year

County wide		Establishment of irrigation schemes	4800	County government national government partners	Financial Support - Ksh100m	Land ,personnel	1-2years

1. **Livestock Sector**

RECOMMENDED INTERVENTIONS – SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONG TERM							
County	**Sub County**	**Intervention**	**No. of beneficiaries**	**Proposed Implementers**	**Required Resources**	**Available Resources**	**Time Frame**
West pokot	Pokot South Pokot South	Establishing pasture productions fields/plots and hay store for the community use during drought emergencies in the lower parts of Chepareria and Batei ward.	1000 vulnerable livestock keepers	County government of West Pokot	Pastures seeds Barbed /chain-link wire for fencing Nails Treated post/metallic posts Other necessary equipment	Land from the community	2-5 yearsSS
		Provision of 500 bags range cubes in lower chepareria (chepkopegh and shalpogh locations)	100 vulnerable livestock keepers	County government Partners			March - April 2024
	Pokot North	Establishment of pasture in all wards	50000	National govt, county government,	Land, pasture seeds, labor	Land and labour	West pokot

				NGOs, and community			

2. Water Sector

Sub County	Intervention	Ward	No. of beneficiary	Proposed Implementers	Required Resources	Available Resources	Time Frame
North pokot	Equipping the capped boreholes	Kiwawa Suam Kodich	3000	GOK, COG, DEV Partners	5 M	Land	2023/2024
Central pokot	Desilting of water Pans	Weiwei Masol Lomut	5000	COG, GOK, DEV Partners	15 M	Land	2023/2024
West pokot	Desilting of water pans	Riwo Endough	4000	COG, GOK, DEV Partners	10M	Land	2023/2024
Pokot South	Rehabilitate springs done by NHF	Lelan/Tapach	10000	CGWP/NG/Development partners	10M	Land	2023/2024

3. Health and Nutrition

Intervention description/type	Location	No of beneficiaries		Cost in Ksh	Implementers /actors	Remarks ✓Implementation status (ongoing, completed, not completed) ✓% completion status
		Male	Female			
Treatment of SAM and MAM in all the 118 IMAM treatment sites.	20 Wards of West Pokot County	20,089	20,251	15M	Health Care Workers	Ongoing
BFCI roll out of community Units –88	88 Community Units of West pokot county	42	46	90M	Health Care Workers CHPs	Ongoing
Procurement IMAM and other medical supplies of commodities	county wide	20,089	20,251	25M	Partners CGVT	continuous
Micro–nutrient Supplementation	county wide	20,089	20,251	5M	CHMT SCHMT HCW	continuous

4. Other recommendations for nutrition

Intervention description/type	Location	No of beneficiaries		Cost in Ksh	Implementers /actors	Remarks - Implementation status (ongoing, completed, not completed) - % completion status
		Male	Female			
Water treatment chemicals	All the 20 Wards of West Pokot County	18,913	19,065	18M	WASH Coordinators	Ongoing

5. Education Sector

Sub-county	Ward	Intervention	Level of school (Pre-primary/primary/Junior School/Secondary)	No. of schools	No. of targeted beneficiaries	Proposed Implementers	Required Resources Kshs	Available Resources Kshs	Resource Gap Kshs	Timeframe
West Pokot	Riwo Endugh Sook	Drilling of Boreholes	Pre-primary/primary/Junior School/Secondary	124		MoE NDMA NGO's	124M	0	124M	FY2024/2025
North Pokot	All Wards	Community sensitization	Primary and secondary	35	1400	MoE NGO's	300000	0	300000	3 weeks
Pokot Central	Masol Weiwei	Drilling Boreholes	Pre-primary/primary/Junior School/Secondary	35	13123	NDMA MoE	105M	0	105M	2024-2027
All	All	Sanitary towels	Pre-primary/primary/Junior School/Secondary	683	112,590	MoE	5.6m	0	5.6m	2024/2025
ALL	ALL	Handwashing	Pre-primary/primary/Junior School/Secondary	683	1000	MoE Public Health	7m	0	7m	2024/2025