



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



National Drought Management Authority BARINGO COUNTY

DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR AUGUST 2026

AUGUST 2026 EW PHASE		Early Warning Phase Classification		
 Drought Status: ALERT Maandalizi ya mapema Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification Sunny and dry weather conditions prevailed across the county. Environmental indicators remained outside the normal as the dry season intensified. The prolonged dry conditions contributed to depleted forage and water conditions condition. Biophysical Indicators - Pasture and browse conditions deteriorated, while household and livestock trekking distances increased due to declining forage and water availability. Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators) Production indicators - Livestock body condition remained generally fair to poor, milk production remained stable at 1.6 litres per household, and household milk consumption averaged 1.5 litres. - No unusual livestock disease outbreaks or mortality were reported despite increasing pressure on forage resources. Access indicators - Goat prices declined slightly, while maize prices increased. Consequently, the Terms of Trade deteriorated, reducing household purchasing power and increasing dependence on markets, particularly among pastoral households. Utilization indicators - The proportion of children at risk of acute malnutrition (MUAC) improved slightly to 14 percent, although localized hotspots remained. - Household food security showed signs of deterioration, with an increase in the Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) and a decline in the Food Consumption Score (FCS), indicating growing reliance on coping strategies and reduced dietary diversity, particularly in pastoral areas.		LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TRENDS
		PASTORAL	ALERT	DETERIORATING
		AGRO PASTORAL	ALERT	DETERIORATING
		IRRIGATED CROP	ALERT	DETERIORATING
		COUNTY	ALERT	DETERIORATING
		Biophysical Indicators	Value	LTA
		Average Rainfall (%)	53.32	115.3
		Percent of water in the pans	30 -40	70
		Production indicators	Value	Normal ranges
		Livestock Migration Pattern	Intra Migration	Normal
		Livestock Body Condition (BCS)	2	3 - 4
		Milk Production (Ltr /HH/Month)	1.6	1.2 – 1.6
		Livestock deaths (for drought)	No death	No death
		Access Indicators	Value	Normal ranges
		Terms of Trade (ToT)	58	61
		Water for Households-trekking distance (km)	3.6	2.3 – 6.8
		Livestock Grazing Distances (km)	8.2	5.2 – 7
		Utilization indicators	Value	Normal ranges
		Milk Consumption (Litres)	1.5	1.1 – 1.3
		Nutrition status of children 6-59 months at risk of malnutrition by numbered MUAC (% at risk)	16.4	14 – 20.9
		CSI	12.8	<19.0
		FCS (%)	Poor	6.7
			Borderline	34.8
			Acceptable	58.5
				>35

▪ Short rains harvests ▪ Short dry spell ▪ Reduced milk yields ▪ Increased HH Food Stocks ▪ Land preparation		▪ Planting/Weeding ▪ Long rains ▪ High Calving Rate ▪ Milk Yields Increase				▪ Long rains harvests ▪ A long dry spell ▪ Land preparation ▪ Increased HH Food Stocks ▪ Kidding (Sept)					▪ Short rains ▪ Planting/weeding	
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 Rainfall Performance

During the reporting month the county received 5.32 mm of cumulative rainfall, distributed across the three dekads. The first dekad received 26.17 mm, followed by 14.62 mm in the second dekad and 12.63 mm in the third dekad, indicating a declining rainfall trend as the month progressed. The rainfall was generally light to moderate and unevenly distributed both temporally and spatially, with most areas experiencing prolonged dry spells between rainfall events. Although the rainfall provided short-term relief by supporting limited regeneration of pasture and browse and

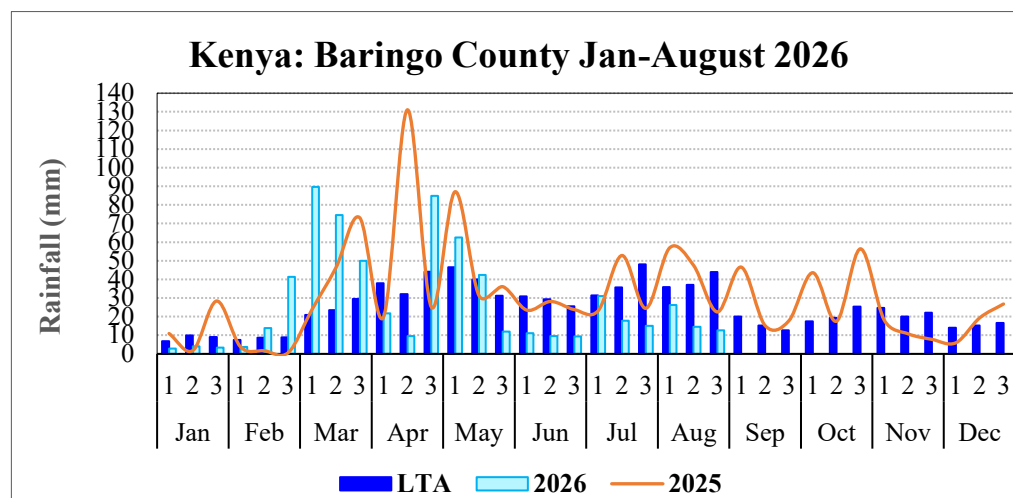


Figure 1: Rainfall Temporal Distributions & Estimates

replenishing some water sources, the amounts were insufficient to sustain vegetation growth or significantly improve soil moisture. Consequently, pasture and browse conditions continued to deteriorate, while surface water sources experienced declining recharge. The erratic rainfall distribution also limited agricultural activities and increased reliance on permanent water sources. With the cessation of seasonal rains, moisture stress is expected to intensify, leading to further depletion of forage and water resources unless substantial rainfall is received during the next rainy season.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

The 3-month VCI indicates a heterogeneous vegetation condition across Baringo County, with severe to extreme vegetation deficits predominantly observed in Tiaty and Parts of Baringo North, while normal to above-normal vegetation greenness is evident in parts of the central, Eldama ravine and Marigat areas. The spatial pattern suggests localized intensification of drought conditions, requiring targeted early warning and

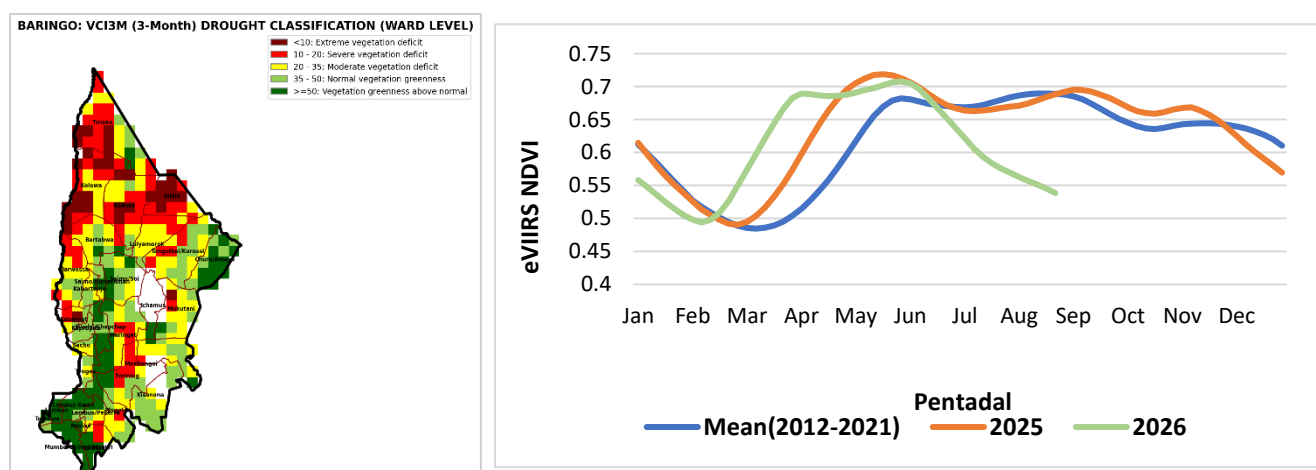


Figure 2: Satellite Imagery Showing Vegetation Condition

resilience interventions in the most vegetation-stressed areas. As at 25 August 2026, satellite-derived eVIIRS NDVI indicated a significant deterioration in vegetation greenness across Baringo County. NDVI had declined from a seasonal peak of approximately 0.70 in June to about 0.54 by late August, which was about 21 percent below the 2012–2021 long-term average of approximately 0.68 and below the corresponding 2025 level of about 0.67. The sharp decline reflects increasing vegetation moisture stress associated with prolonged sunny, dry and warm conditions and below-average rainfall. The deteriorating vegetation condition is

expected to continue constraining pasture and browse availability, particularly in the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas, with implications for livestock body condition, milk production and livestock mobility. This is consistent with the broader outlook that seasonal dryness and above-average temperatures are contributing to declining pasture, browse and water availability through September 2026.

2.1.1 Field Observation

Pasture and Browse Condition

Pasture and browse conditions deteriorated considerably between July and August 2026, largely due to prolonged sunny and dry weather conditions coupled with overgrazing. The proportion of respondents reporting poor pasture conditions increased from 34.8 percent in July to 51.9 percent in August 2026, while those reporting fair pasture declined from 65.2 percent to 48.1 percent. No respondents reported good pasture conditions in either month.

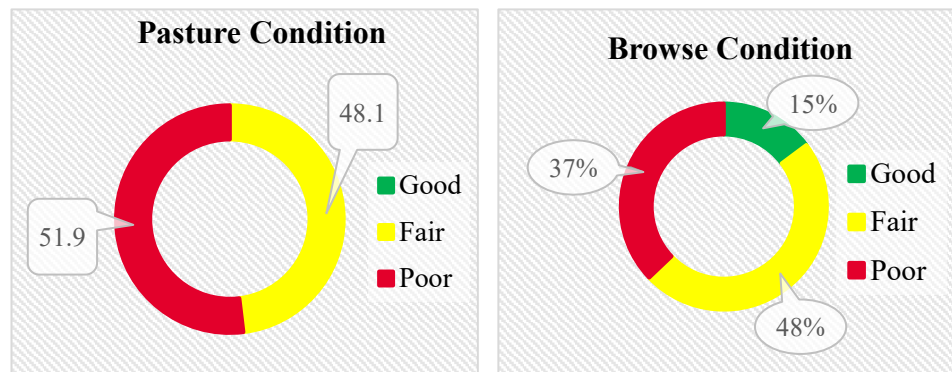


Figure 3: Visually Observed Forage Condition

Browse conditions liken pasture also deteriorated significantly, with the proportion of respondents reporting poor browse increasing from 9 percent in July to 37 percent in August 2026. Meanwhile, respondents reporting good browse declined from 26 percent to 14.8 percent, while those reporting fair browse decreased from 65 percent to 48.1 percent. The continued dry and sunny conditions have accelerated the drying and deterioration of vegetation, reducing the availability and quality of forage. This is likely to contribute to increased livestock trekking distances, declining livestock body condition and reduced milk production, particularly among pastoral and agro-pastoral households.

Water Resources

2.2.1 Water Sources

Pans and dams were the main sources of water, accounting for 33 percent, followed by traditional river wells at 29 percent. Boreholes accounted for 17 percent, while rivers and lakes contributed 13 percent and 8 percent, respectively. The high dependence on pans, dams and traditional river wells, which collectively accounted for 62 percent of water sources, indicates continued reliance on surface and shallow water sources. With the ongoing dry spell, declining water levels in these sources are likely to increase pressure on water access for both households and livestock, particularly in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas.

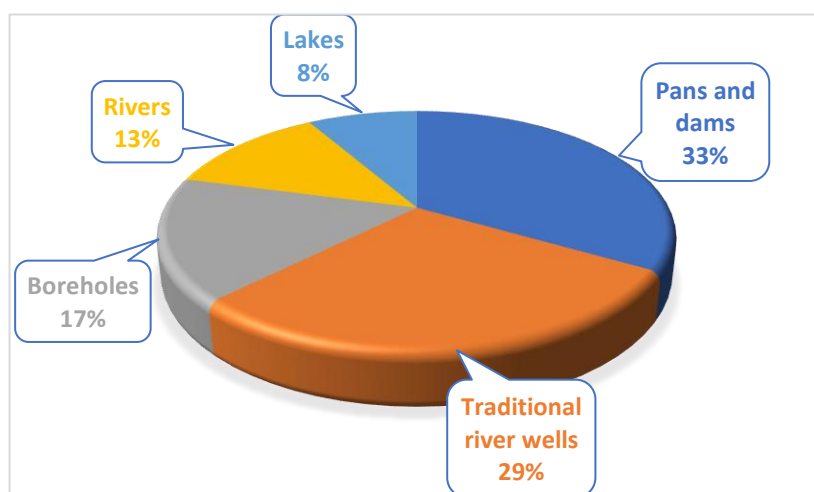


Figure 4: Common Water Source

The high reliance on pans and dams and traditional river wells is attributed to their widespread availability and accessibility within pastoral and agro-pastoral areas. However, the ongoing dry spell has led to declining water levels in pans, dams and rivers, increasingly compelling communities and livestock keepers to rely on traditional river wells and boreholes. The relatively lower contribution of rivers and lakes is associated with reduced river flows, seasonal availability and accessibility constraints.

2.2.2 Household Water Access and Utilization

Households are gradually having to walk farther to access water. The average distance increased from 3.4 km in July to 3.6 km in August, a 6 percent increase and slightly above the long-term average of 3.3 km.

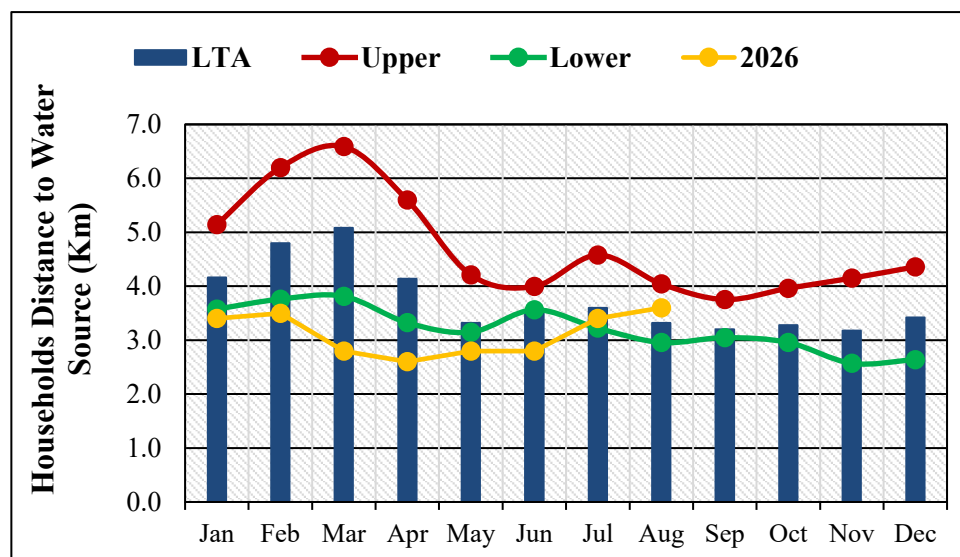


Figure 5: Household Average Distance to Water Points

livestock care, school and other household activities. With parts of Baringo expected to receive below-average rainfall in September and temperatures remaining warmer than normal, water availability is likely to become more challenging before the expected October–November rains.

2.2.3 Livestock Water Access

Average livestock trekking distance stood at 8.2 km in August 2026, which was relatively comparable to the 7.4 km recorded in July 2026. The current average trekking distance remained approximately 36 percent above the long-term average (LTA) of 6.0 km, indicating continued pressure on pasture and water resources. The above-average trekking distance is attributed to the ongoing dry spell, which has resulted in the depletion of pasture and water sources. The sustained above-normal trekking distance reflects reduced availability and accessibility of water and forage, particularly in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas.

Pastoral households recorded the longest return grazing distances at 8.4 km, compared to 5.2 km in agro-pastoral areas and 2.0 km in irrigated cropping systems. Extended trekking distances have increased livestock energy expenditure, contributing to declining milk production, slower weight gain, and increased stress on animals. They also heighten the risk of resource-based conflicts and disease transmission as herds converge around limited grazing areas. Continued deterioration of rangeland conditions may trigger early livestock migration unless pasture and water resources improve.

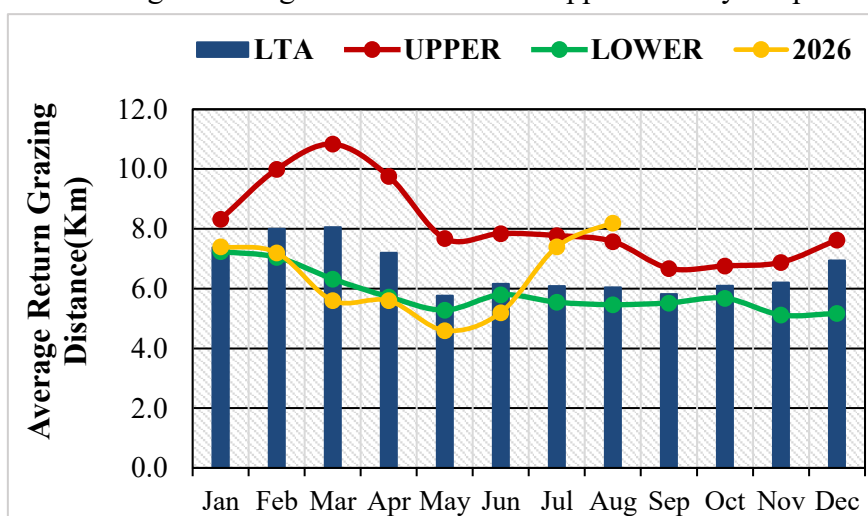


Figure 6: Livestock Trekking Distance from Grazing Fields to Water Points

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock Production

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

According to the sentinel sites, August 2026, livestock body condition was predominantly moderate, with 59 percent of animals visually observed to be neither fat nor thin. However, 28 percent exhibited signs of compromised body condition, comprising 14 percent with visible ribs and 14 percent in borderline condition, characterized by visibility of the 12th and 13th ribs. Only 13 percent of livestock were in good condition, characterized by a smooth appearance.

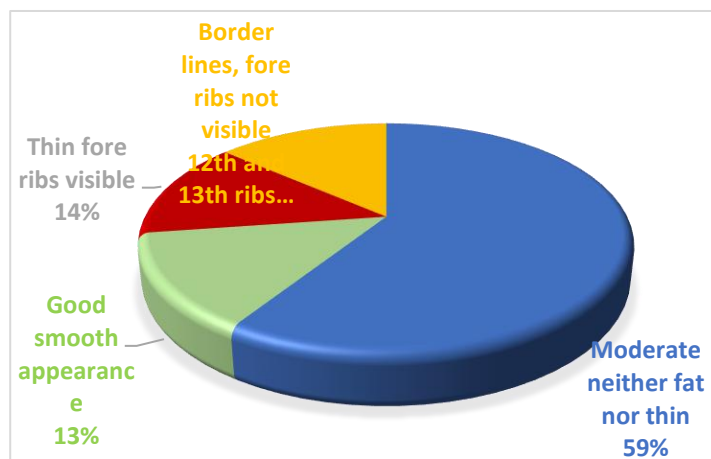


Figure 7: Livestock Body Condition

The findings point to an emerging deterioration in livestock body condition, likely associated with declining pasture and browse availability following prolonged sunny and dry weather conditions.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

Suspected cases of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) continue to be reported in localized areas of the county, particularly in Saimo Soi and Mukutani wards, posing a risk to livestock health and productivity. Endemic livestock diseases, including Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), also continue to be reported across the livelihood zones, further constraining livestock productivity. In addition, Newcastle disease outbreaks have been reported in several areas, affecting poultry and resulting in localized poultry losses. The continued occurrence of these livestock and poultry diseases underscores the need for strengthened disease surveillance, timely reporting, vaccination, and veterinary response to minimize further losses and protect household livelihoods.

3.1.3 Milk Production

Milk production remained relatively with the normal range in August at 1.6 litres per household per day, although this was still about 4 percent below the long-term average. Pastoral households produced about 1.5

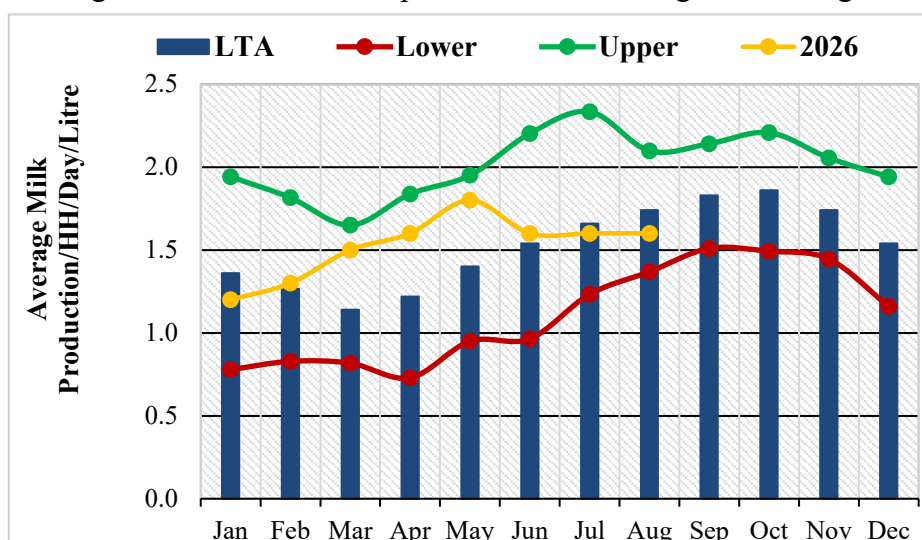


Figure 8: Household Milk Production

litres per day, while no milk production was reported in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone. Irrigated areas recorded the highest production at 2.3 litres per household per day, mainly because households have better access to water and livestock feed from farm residues. Although production has remained relatively stable, the situation remains fragile. Continued loss of pasture and browse, together with longer livestock trekking distances, could reduce milk production as the dry season progresses. Supporting households with livestock feed, water and fodder will be important in maintaining milk supplies, particularly for children.

3.2 Rain-fed Crop production

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of Food Crops

Rain-fed crop production in Baringo County has been severely affected by the prevailing hot, sunny and dry weather conditions, particularly in areas dependent on seasonal rainfall. Maize, the main rain-fed food crop, has experienced significant moisture stress, resulting in poor crop performance and widespread crop failure. Field reports indicate that most farmers recorded more than 80 percent maize crop failure on rain-fed farms, with the surviving crops expected to produce substantially below-normal yields.

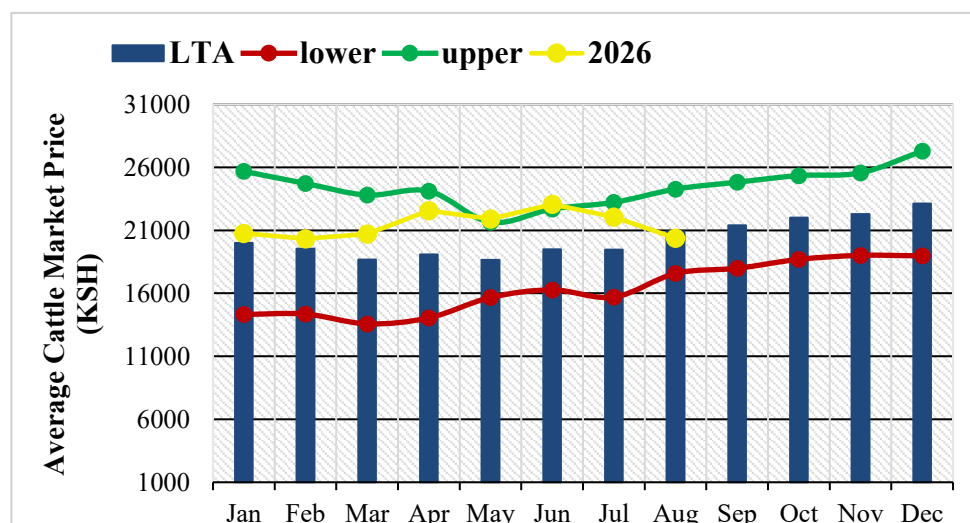
In contrast, irrigated crops have performed relatively better, and harvesting is currently ongoing. However, farmers cultivating under irrigation continue to report below-normal yields, largely attributed to the high cost of farm inputs, including seed, fertilizer and other production costs. Consequently, although irrigation has provided some resilience against the prevailing moisture deficit, its contribution to overall household food availability remains constrained by high production costs and reduced productivity.

4.0.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1.0 Livestock Marketing

4.1.1 Cattle Prices.

During the month, average cattle prices declined from Ksh 22,065 in the previous month to Ksh 20,389 in August, representing an 8 percent decline. The August price was also 3 percent below the long-term average



(LTA) of Ksh 20,925, indicating a gradual weakening in livestock market values. The decline was mainly associated with deteriorating livestock body condition, reduced pasture availability and increased livestock sales by households seeking income to meet food and other essential needs. As more households sell livestock to cope with increasing household needs, the resulting increase in animals on the

market may put further downward pressure on prices.

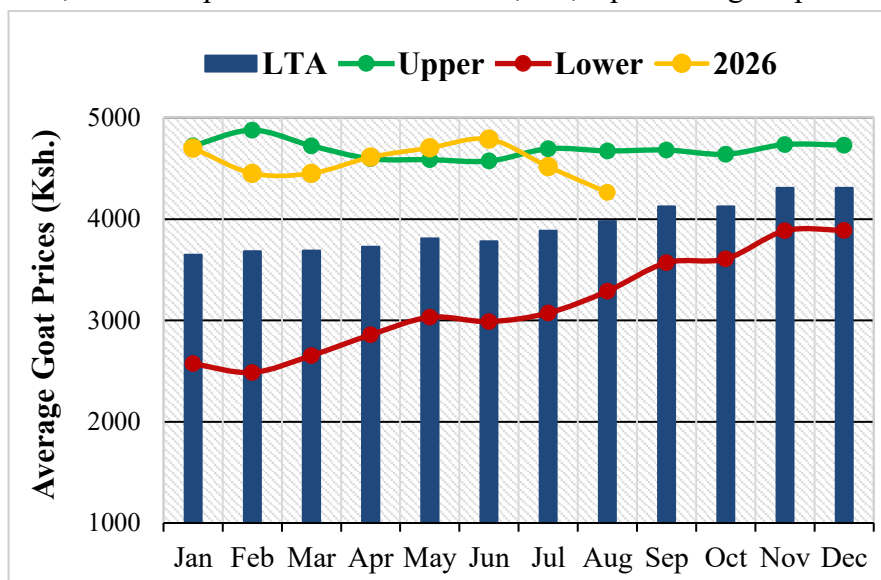
Pastoral households received the lowest average cattle price at Ksh 17,357, compared with Ksh 18,000 in agro-pastoral areas and Ksh 27,000 in irrigated areas. The lower prices in pastoral areas reflect the greater pressure facing livestock-dependent households, whose livelihoods and food access rely heavily on livestock sales. At market level, cattle prices were highest in Marigat at Ksh 31,000, followed by Kolloa at Ksh 28,000 and Nginyang at Ksh 25,000. At the lower end, Kamurio recorded the lowest price at Ksh 7,500, while Sibilo and Kokwatoto each recorded Ksh 17,000. If dry conditions persist and pasture and browse continue to deteriorate, livestock body condition and market values could decline further. This would reduce the income households can obtain from livestock.

4.1.2 Goat Prices

The average goat price declined from Ksh 4,517 in the previous month to Ksh 4,263, representing a 6 percent reduction. Despite the decline, the current price remained 7 percent above the long-term average (LTA) of Ksh 3,981, indicating that goats continued to retain relatively good market value compared with the long-term trend.

The decline in prices was mainly linked to reduced browse availability, weakening livestock body condition and increased household sales as families sought cash to meet immediate food and other basic needs. Although goats generally cope better with dry conditions than cattle, prolonged dryness could eventually affect their body condition and market value.

Pastoral households received the lowest average goat price at Ksh 3,543, compared with Ksh 5,000 in agro-pastoral areas and Ksh 5,367 in irrigated areas. The lower prices in pastoral areas point to the greater pressure on livestock-dependent households, particularly as pasture and browse become increasingly limited.



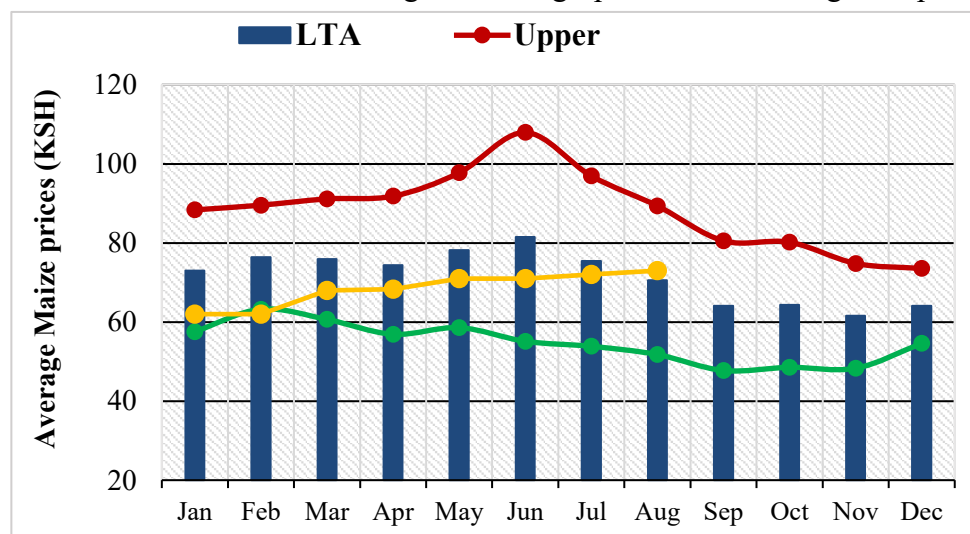
At market level, the highest goat price was recorded in Marigat at Ksh 6,000, followed by Loruk at Ksh 5,600. The lowest prices were recorded in Kamurio and Marigat at Ksh 3,000, followed by Kokwatoto at Ksh 3,200. The decline in goat prices could gradually reduce household purchasing power, particularly among pastoral households that depend heavily on livestock sales to purchase food and meet other basic needs. If dry conditions persist, continued monitoring of livestock body condition, pasture and browse availability, and livestock prices will be important in identifying emerging livelihood pressures and guiding timely food-security interventions.

4.2.0 Crop Prices

4.2.1 Maize

The average price of maize increased slightly from Ksh 72/kg in July to Ksh 73/kg in August, remaining about 3 percent above the long-term average (LTA) of Ksh 71/kg. Although the increase was modest, maize prices continued to vary considerably across livelihood zones and markets.

Pastoral areas recorded the highest average price at Ksh 76/kg, compared with Ksh 60/kg in both agro-pastoral and irrigated areas.



The relatively high prices in pastoral areas are a concern, as households in these areas rely heavily on markets to access food, particularly as household food stocks decline.

At market level, Kamurio recorded the highest maize price at Ksh 90/kg, followed by Takawia and Chepengeret at Ksh 80/kg. The lowest price was recorded in Marigat at Ksh 50–60/kg, while Loruk

Figure 9: Maize Market Price Trend

recorded Ksh 55–60/kg and Sibilo Ksh 60/kg. The differences in prices across markets are likely influenced by food availability, market accessibility, transportation costs and local demand. As the dry season continues and household food stocks gradually run down, maize prices are likely to remain under pressure, particularly in remote and hard-to-reach markets. This could further strain the purchasing power of vulnerable households and increase their reliance on markets to meet their food needs.

4.2.2 Beans Prices

During the month, the average price of beans declined slightly from Ksh 176/kg in July to Ksh 175/kg in August, remaining close to the long-term average (LTA) of Ksh 178/kg. Despite the marginal decline, beans remained relatively expensive for poor and vulnerable households, particularly those experiencing reduced income from livestock.

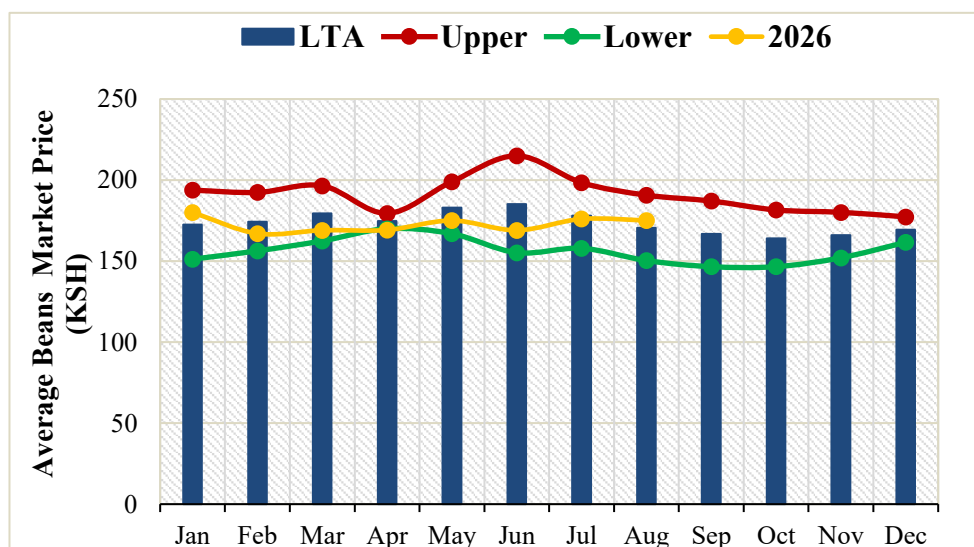


Figure 10: Beans Market Price Trend

Pastoral areas recorded the highest average bean price at Ksh 182/kg, compared with Ksh 162/kg in agro-pastoral areas and Ksh 140/kg in irrigated areas. The higher prices in pastoral areas are a concern, as households in these areas rely more heavily on markets to meet their food needs, particularly as household food stocks decline.

At market level, Kamurio recorded the highest bean price at Ksh 220/kg, followed by Takawia and Chepngeret at Ksh 200/kg. The lowest price was recorded in Marigat at Ksh 140/kg, while Loruk recorded Ksh 160–165/kg and Sibilo Ksh 160/kg. The wide variation in bean prices across markets is likely linked to differences in availability, market accessibility, transportation costs and local demand. Higher prices in markets such as Kamurio, Takawia and Chepngeret could further reduce household purchasing power, particularly among vulnerable households that depend heavily on markets for food. Continued monitoring of bean prices will therefore be important as the dry season progresses and household food stocks come under increasing pressure.

4.3 Terms of Trade

During the month, the amount of maize a household could purchase from the sale of one goat declined from 63 kg in July to 58 kg in August, representing a seven percent deterioration in the terms of trade. Compared

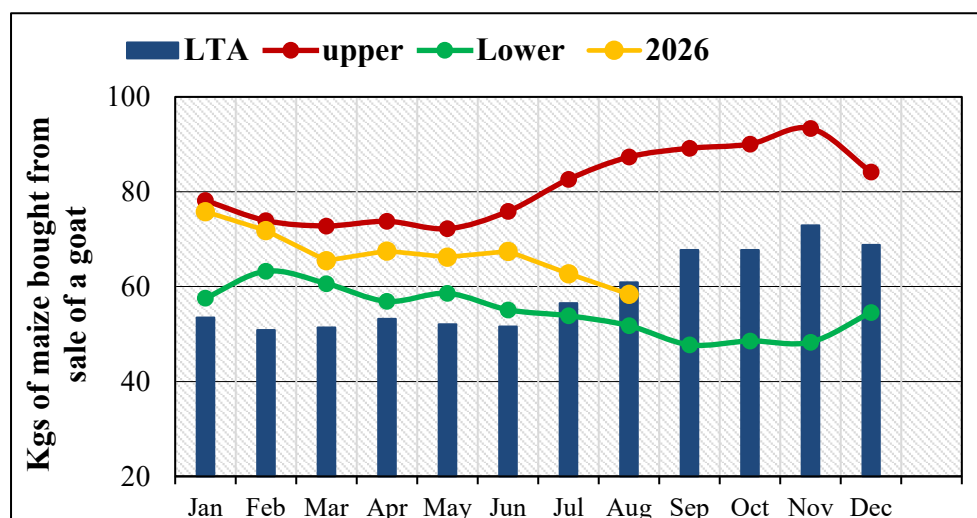


Figure 11: Goat - to - Maize Ratio

with the short-term average of 61 kg, the August terms of trade were four percent lower, indicating a weakening in household purchasing power. The decline was mainly driven by lower goat prices alongside a slight increase in maize prices. As a result, households had to sell livestock to obtain less food than they could in the previous month. Pastoral households were the most

affected, with the sale of one goat purchasing only 53 kg of maize, compared with 83 kg in both agro-pastoral and irrigated areas. The weakening terms of trade are particularly concerning for pastoral households, which rely heavily on livestock sales to purchase food and meet other basic needs. With household food stocks coming under increasing pressure, continued declines in livestock prices alongside relatively high food prices could further erode purchasing power and make it harder for vulnerable households to access adequate food.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 Milk Consumption

Average household milk consumption remained at 1.5 litres per day during the reporting month, reflecting stable household access to milk despite increasing pressure on livestock production systems. Consumption varied across livelihood zones, with pastoral households consuming an average of 1.5 litres per day, no milk consumption reported in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone, and irrigated cropping households maintaining the highest consumption at 2.3 litres per day. The absence of milk consumption in the agro-pastoral zone is indicative of limited milk availability, likely resulting from low livestock productivity and reduced herd ownership. Although overall household consumption remained stable, declining pasture quality and increasing grazing distances continue to pose a risk to sustained milk availability. Most households continued to prioritize available milk for children and other nutritionally vulnerable members. Continued livestock support interventions, including improved access to water and feed, will be critical to sustaining milk consumption and protecting household nutrition as the dry season progresses.

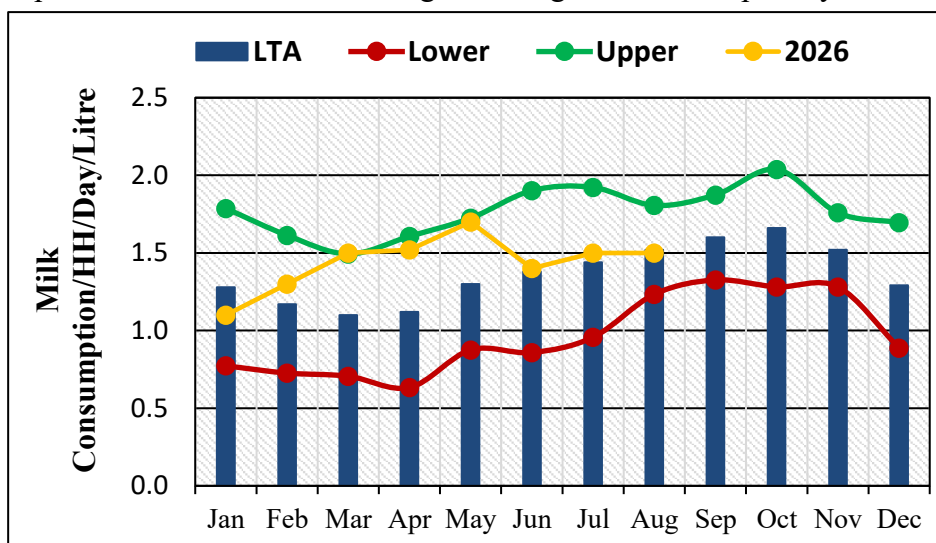


Figure 12: Household Average Milk Consumption

Food Consumption

5.1.1 Food Consumption Score

The average Food Consumption Score declined from 37.3 in July to 36.5 in August, indicating a gradual deterioration in household dietary quality. Overall, 58.5 percent of households were classified within the acceptable food consumption category, 34.8 percent fell within the borderline category, and 6.7 percent recorded poor food consumption. Considerable disparities were observed across livelihood zones, with irrigated cropping households recording the highest average score 50 and all households achieving acceptable consumption, while pastoral households recorded the lowest average score 35.7 and a higher proportion of the households were in borderline and acceptable consumption. The decline reflects reduced milk availability, increased food prices, and weakening purchasing power. Continued monitoring and targeted food security interventions are necessary to protect vulnerable households from further dietary deterioration.

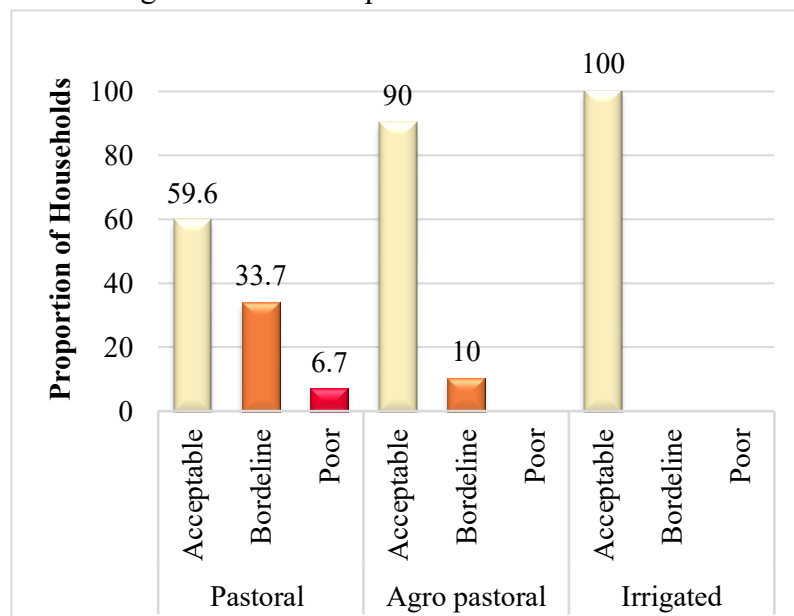


Figure 13: Food Consumption Patterns

5.3. Health and Nutrition Status

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

The nutritional situation among children aged 6–59 months showed signs of deterioration in August 2026. The proportion of children with MUAC below 135 mm increased from 14 percent in July to 16.4 percent in August.

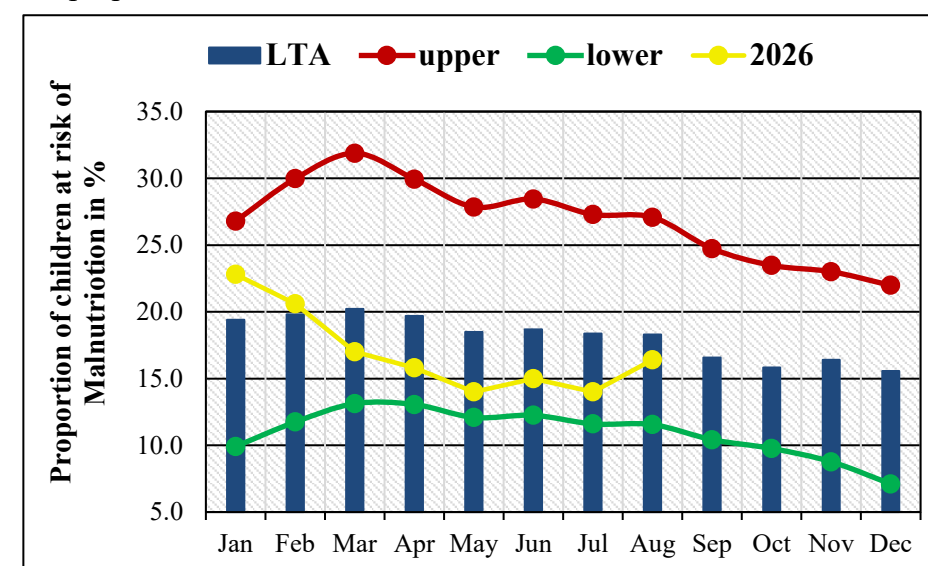


Figure 14: Prevalence of Children U5 at risk of Malnutrition

points to the need for geographically targeted nutrition interventions rather than a uniform county-wide response.

The deterioration is likely linked to increasing household food insecurity, declining milk availability and reduced dietary diversity, particularly among households that depend heavily on livestock and livestock products for food and income. Continued pressure on pasture and water resources may further reduce milk production and limit access to nutritious foods. With the situation showing a worsening month-on-month trend, strengthened nutrition surveillance, screening, referral and treatment services are recommended, particularly in high-burden wards. Additional attention should be given to improving access to diverse foods, protecting milk availability where possible and supporting vulnerable households to prevent the current deterioration from developing into more severe acute malnutrition.

5.3.2 Health

Fever with chills suggestive of malaria remained the leading cause of morbidity, accounting for 85.7% of reported cases, followed by diarrhea (8.9%) and fever with breathing difficulties (5.4%). No unusual disease outbreaks were reported during the month. Continued disease surveillance, malaria prevention, and strengthened WASH interventions are recommended to minimize the risk of communicable disease transmission.

5. 4 Coping Strategies

5.4.1 Coping Strategy Index

The mean for food related reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) was 12.9 among 270 sampled households. The relatively moderate mean CSI suggests that households were employing consumption-based coping strategies to manage food access constraints. The sentinel sites data indicated that approximately 75.6 percent of households were relying on stress coping strategies, while 15.9 percent were using crisis coping strategies and 8.5 percent reported no coping. The relatively high proportion of households using stress coping strategies

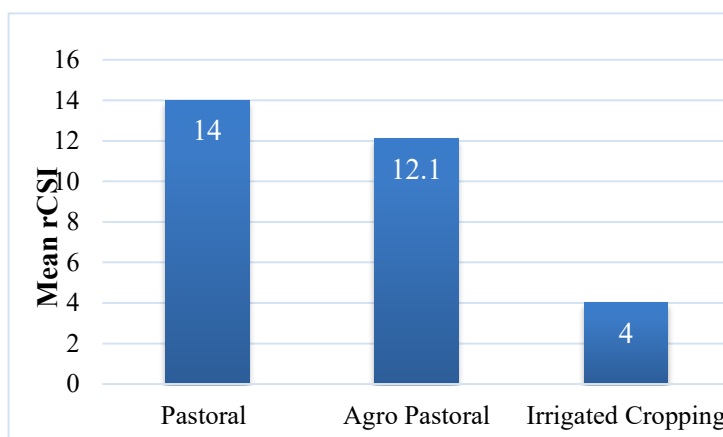


Figure 15: rCSIf per Livelihood Zone

suggests that most households were managing food shortages through measures that may affect their ability to meet future food needs, while the 15.9 percent using crisis coping strategies points to a significant proportion facing more severe food access challenges and potentially compromising their livelihoods to meet immediate food needs.

6.0 EMERGING ISSUES

6.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

There were no reported incidents of cattle rustling within the county. However, a security operation involving forceful disarmament was conducted, which disrupted market activities, particularly in pastoral livelihood zones.

6.2 Food Security Prognosis

4.1 Prognosis Assumptions

According to the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) forecast, Baringo County is expected to experience below-average rainfall and warmer-than-normal temperatures during September 2026.

- Pasture and browse conditions are expected to deteriorate further due to below-average rainfall and warmer temperatures, increasing grazing pressure and livestock trekking distances.
- Water sources are expected to decline further due to limited recharge and increased evaporation, increasing household and livestock distances to water.
- Food prices are likely to remain elevated or increase moderately as household stocks decline and reliance on markets increases.
- Livestock body condition is expected to deteriorate, with a shift from moderate toward poor condition due to declining pasture, browse and water availability. Milk production is also likely to decline.
- Livestock prices are expected to decline, particularly for animals in poor body condition, as distress sales increase and buyers offer lower prices. Small ruminants may retain relatively better value than cattle due to their lower feed and water requirements.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1.0 Proposed Recommendations

7.1.1. Water Sector

1. Repair and maintain strategic water infrastructure, including boreholes, water pans, and pipelines, to ensure reliable water access.
2. Promote household water treatment, safe storage, and water conservation practices to improve water quality and availability.

7.1.2. Nutrition and Health

1. Continue routine nutrition screening and active case finding for children under five, especially in nutrition hotspot areas.
2. Strengthen integrated outreach services to improve access to health and nutrition services in underserved communities.
3. Enhance community education on infant and young child feeding, hygiene, and disease prevention practices.
4. Enhance sensitization and surveillance for infectious diseases such as Ebola.

7.1.3. Livestock and Veterinary sector

1. Strengthen livestock disease surveillance, vaccination, and treatment programmes to prevent disease outbreaks.
2. Support sustainable feed conservation, pasture and grazing management to preserve available forage resources.

7.1.4. Agriculture Sector

1. Strengthen agricultural extension services to promote climate-smart farming practices and improve crop productivity.
2. Promote drought-tolerant and early-maturing crop varieties to enhance resilience to climate variability.

7.1.5 Drought Coordination

1. Strengthen multi-sectoral coordination and information sharing among stakeholders for timely response planning.
2. Enhance food security, nutrition, and drought monitoring to support evidence-based decision-making.
3. Prioritize targeted interventions and resource mobilization for areas with persistent food security and nutrition vulnerabilities.