A Vision 2030 Flagship Project

National Drought Management Authority
BARINGO COUNTY

DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR AUGUST 2025

AUGUST 2025 EW PHASE

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

The county experienced wet and dry weather conditions during the month of August 2025. Low temperatures were reported across the county. Environmental and production indicators were stable during the period under review. The current drought status for the county remained normal with stable trend.

Biophysical Indicators

- Sporadic showers were received during the month across the livelihood zones for almost 3-4 days. Pasture and browse condition was rated good with exceptional pockets in Pastoral with fair pasture and browse. The volume and levels of water in most pans were within normal range at 70-80 percent capacity.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production Indicators

- Pasture and browse condition was good to fair with localized pockets of Tiaty with fair to poor vegetation condition. Milk production was above average especially in Mixed Farming zone. No unusual livestock death cases.

Access indicators

- Terms of trade for rural households was table in reference to LTA. Trekking distances for households and livestock were within average ranges.

Utilization indicators

- Prevalence of children at risk remained high (Critical) level. The copping strategy index (CSI) for households was within the normal seasonal range.
- Majority of households had acceptable (58.9%) and borderline (38.1%) food consumption.

Early Warning Phase Classification

LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TRENDS
Pastoral	Normal	Stable
Agro Pastoral	Normal	Stable
Irrigated Crop	Normal	Stable
County	**Normal**	**Stable**

Biophysical Indicators	Value	LTA	Normal Ranges
Average rainfall (mm)	40.28	46.11	

Production indicators	Value	Normal Ranges
Livestock Migration Pattern	Intra Migration	Normal
Livestock Body Condition (BCS)	Good – Fair	Good
Milk Production (Ltr /HH/Month)	1.9	1.1 – 2.0
Livestock deaths due to Drought	No deaths	No death

Access Indicators	Value	Normal ranges
Terms of Trade (ToT)	63.7	32 - 43
Water for Households-trekking distance (km)	3.4	2.9 – 5.4

Utilization indicators		Value	Normal ranges
Milk Consumption (Litres)		1.7	1.0 – 1.4
Prevalence of children 6-59 months at risk of malnutrition by MUAC		17	≤13.6
rCSI		11.66	<19.0
FCS (%)	Poor	3	0 - 21
	Borderline	38.1	21.5 - 35
	Acceptable	58.9	>35

▪ Short rains harvests ▪ Short dry spell ▪ Reduced milk yields ▪ Increased HH Food Stocks ▪ Land preparation		▪ Planting/We9eding ▪ 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

Several places of the county received substantial amounts of rainfall during the month of August 2025. The rainfall was near to above average over most parts of the county.

1.2 Amount of Rainfall and Spatial Distribution

According to Kenya Metereoligical data, southern parts of Baringo County received raainfall totals ranging between 101 – 150 mm during the period under review (Figure 1). The distribution was even in terms of space coverage. However, in terms of frequency (temporal distribution), the precipitation was fair (Figure 2).

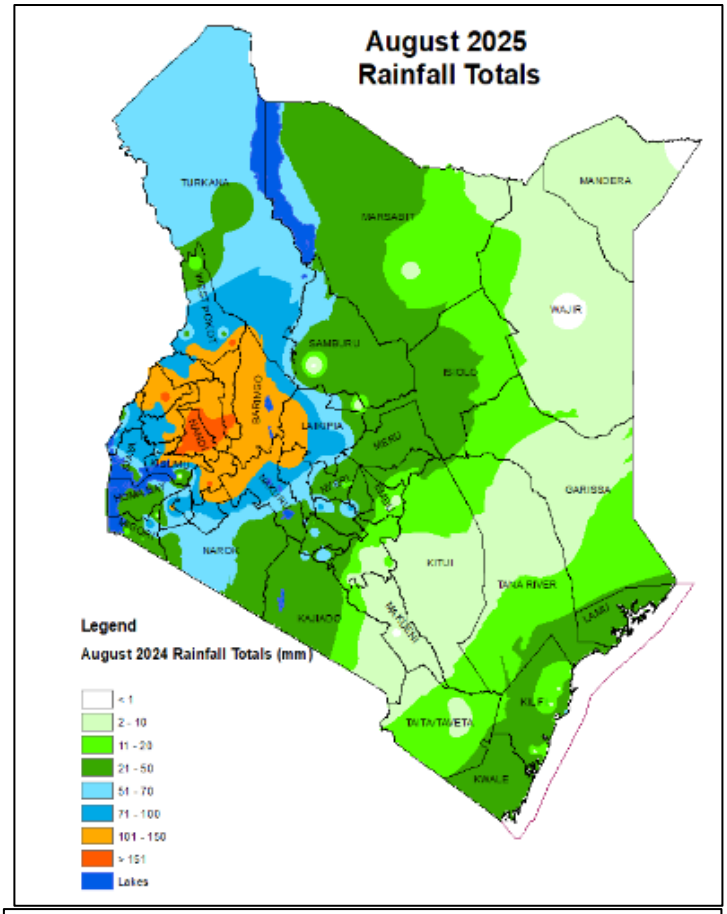

Figure 1: Rainfall Totals (mm)

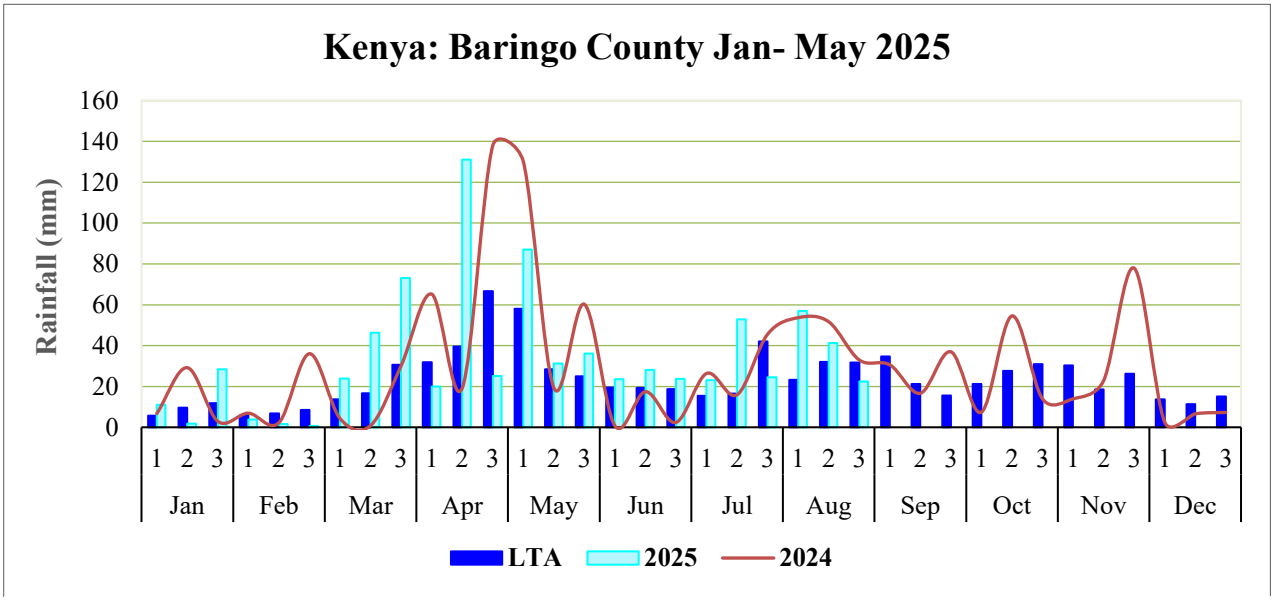

Figure 2: Temporal Rainfall Distribution

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation condition

Remote sensing data for August 2025 indicates that vegetation conditions across Baringo County remain mixed, with significant spatial variability driven by differences in livelihood zones and localized rainfall distribution. On average, the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) remained above the long-term mean, although it was slightly lower compared to August 2024 (Figure 3). This trend is largely attributed to enhanced soil moisture following the June–July–August (JJA) 2025 showers.

The cumulative effect of intermittent rainfall during the JJA season has supported moderate regeneration of pasture and browse, particularly in Agro-pastoral and highland areas. Satellite imagery confirms a gradual improvement in vegetation greenness in these zones, contributing to fair rangeland conditions in parts of the county. However, a persistent challenge remains the widespread infestation of *Prosopis juliflora*, especially in Baringo South sub-county around Lake Baringo. This invasive species continues to outcompete native vegetation, significantly reducing forage availability and posing a serious constraint to sustainable livestock grazing and rangeland rehabilitation efforts.

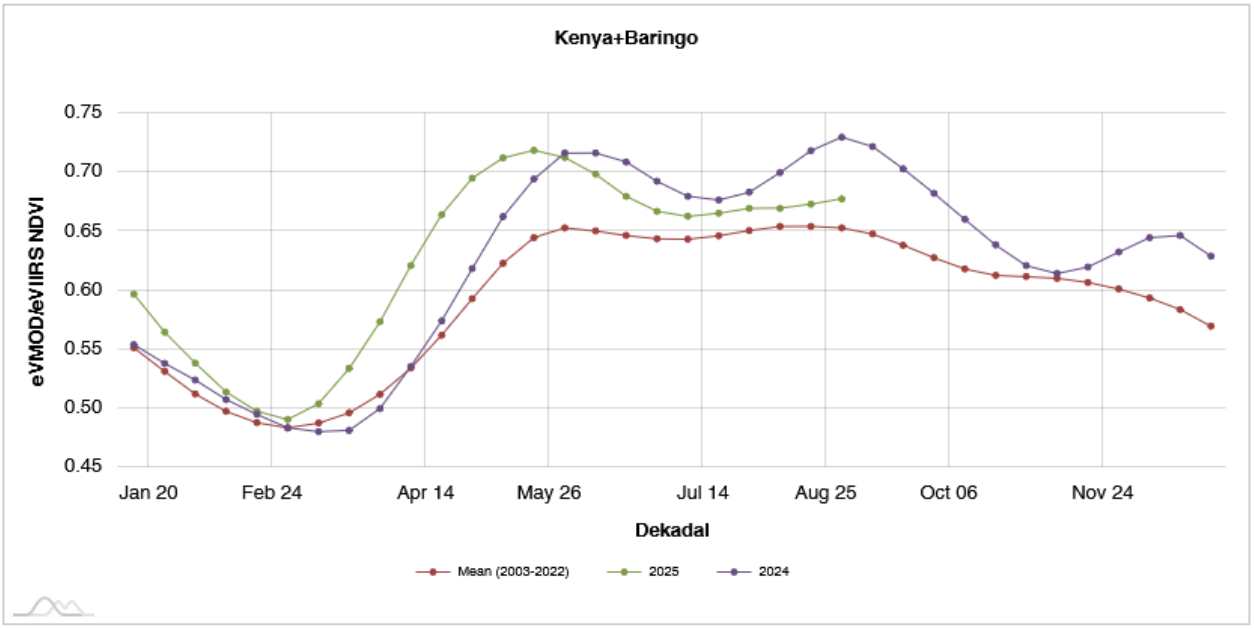

Figure 3: NDVI Trends for Baringo County

2.1.1 Field Observation

Forage Condition

As of August 2025, the pasture and browse conditions across Baringo County were generally favorable, supported by the cumulative effects of the March–May long rains and June–August off-season showers. According to field assessments, 66.7 percent of pasture was rated as good, while 100 percent of browse was classified as good, indicating ample forage availability across most zones. This has contributed to the maintenance of livestock body condition and productivity across the county.

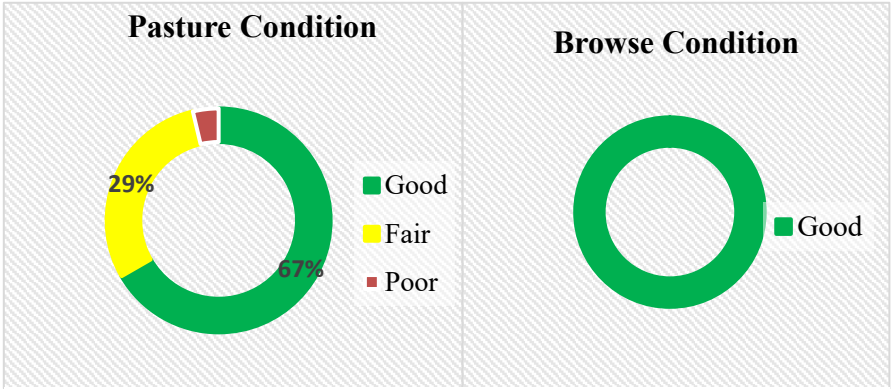

Figure 4: Pasture and Browse Condition

However, disparities persist among livelihood zones. Pastoral areas, particularly in Tiaty, continue to face challenges, with pockets of fair to poor pasture reported. These conditions are attributed to overgrazing, the spread of invasive species such as *Prosopis juliflora* and *Parthenium hysterophorus*, and limited natural regeneration on degraded rangelands. In contrast, Agro-Pastoral and Mixed Farming zones reported consistently better forage conditions, benefiting from above-average rainfall earlier in the year

2.2 Water Resources

2.2.1 Water Sources

During August 2025, the main water sources for both livestock and households included Traditional River Wells, pans and dams, Lake Baringo, rivers, and boreholes. The county benefits from permanent rivers such as Perkerra, Molo, and Emining, which supplement domestic and livestock water needs alongside Lake Baringo and other smaller lakes. In terms of access by households: 26% of households relied on Traditional River Wells, while 21% depended on pans and dams. Water sources are concentrated in Mixed Farming livelihood zones, which have better natural potential compared to the rocky and water-scarce Pastoral and Agro-Pastoral zones (Figure 5). Water is more available in urban and peri-urban areas of Mixed and Irrigated Farming zones than in the remote Pastoral areas. The June–August 2025 rains recharged the open water sources, ensuring short-term stability in availability.

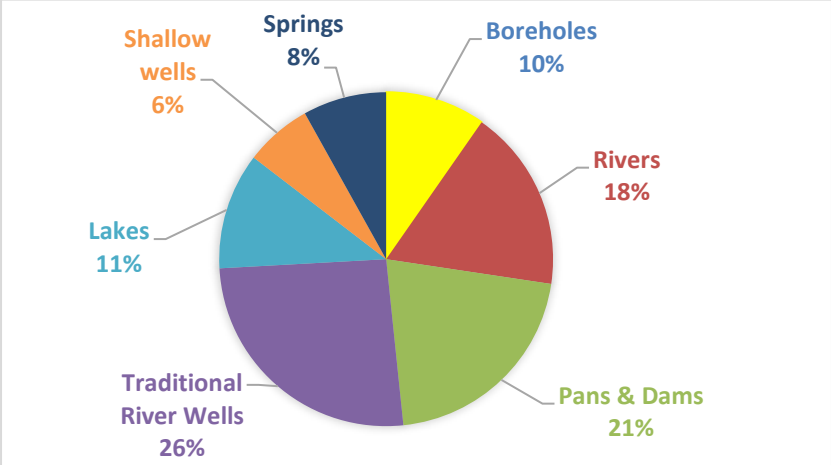

Figure 5: Common Water Sources

Household Access and Utilization

The average household trekking distance to water points reduced to 3.4 km, down from 3.8 km in July, representing an 11 percent decrease. This improvement was largely due to the recharge of open water sources following the cumulative impact of both the March–May rains and the June–August Rains. The current distance aligns with the long-term average (LTA), indicating stable access conditions. Disparities were observed across livelihood zones, with pastoral households recording the highest average distance at 3.8 km, reflecting the continued challenges of rocky terrain and sparse water infrastructure. (Figure 6). In comparison, Agro-pastoral households trekked 2.6 km on

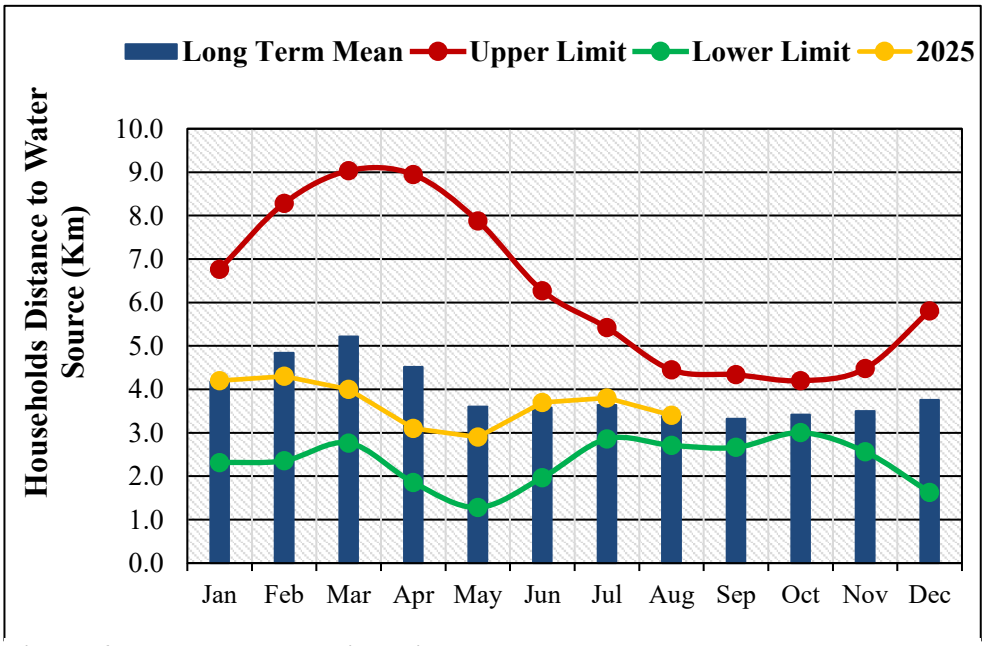

Figure 6: Household Trekking Distances

average, while irrigated households had the shortest distance at just 1.0 km, benefiting from better water infrastructure and proximity to irrigation systems.

2.2.2 Livestock Access

The average trekking distance for livestock to watering points during the month was 6.3 km, compared to 6.2 km in July, representing a minimal increase of 2 percent. This distance is 2 percent above the LTA, indicating slightly stress than normal seasonal conditions. As with households, significant variation was noted across livelihood zones (Figure 7). Livestock in pastoral areas trekked the longest distances at 7.2 km, reflecting the sparse distribution of permanent water sources and pressure from invasive plants that limit grazing options near water points. In the Agro-pastoral zone, livestock trekked an average of 4.6 km, while in the irrigated cropping zone, the average was only 2.0 km, demonstrating the advantage of improved water infrastructure and year-round supply.

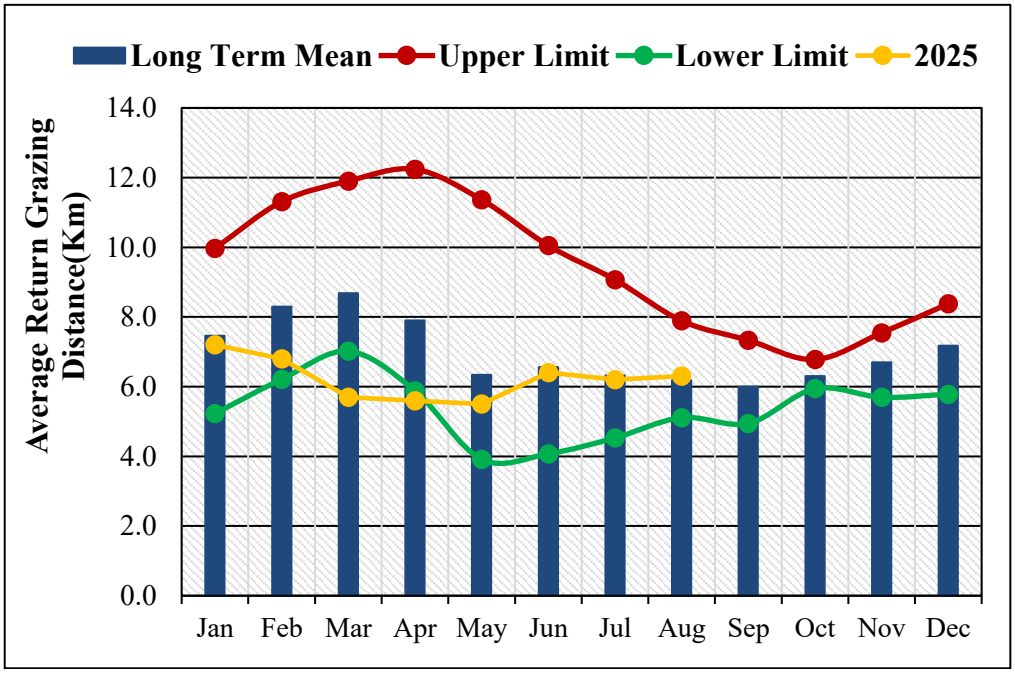

Figure 7: Livestock Grazing Distances

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock Production

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

The overall body condition of livestock in Baringo County was generally rated as good, supported by improved pasture and browse following good performance of the long and the June–August rains. Most livestock species appeared healthy, with only a small proportion of cattle and sheep in Pastoral livelihood zones reported to be in fair condition, largely due to limited forage in areas infested by *Prosopis juliflora* and *Parthenium hysterophorus*. Key informant data indicated that 66 percent of livestock were in good condition with smooth appearance, while 34 percent were moderate. Off-season rains are expected to sustain forage and water resources for the next one to two months, supporting stable body conditions until the October 2025 short rains. However, localized stress in pastoral pockets requires close monitoring and targeted interventions such as fodder support and invasive species management.

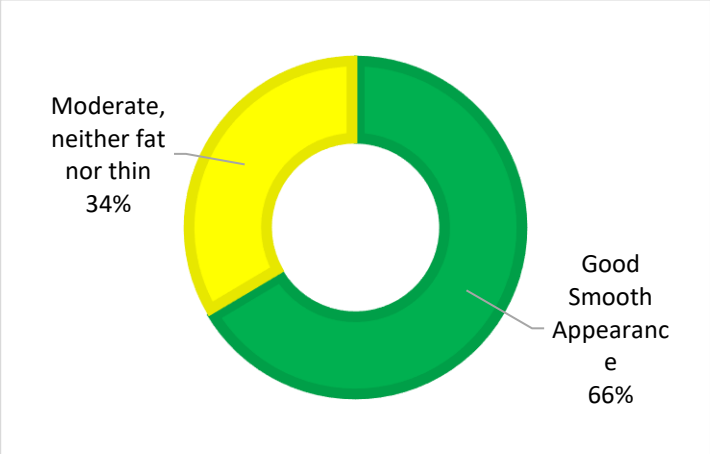

Figure 8: Livestock Body Condition

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

The county reported cases of endemic and transboundary diseases, though no unusual deaths occurred. Suspected outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) were observed in Pastoral and Agro-Pastoral zones. Other diseases included Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP) in goats and sheep, and tick-borne infections such as East Coast Fever (ECF) in cattle. Effective containment measures prevented major impacts. Ongoing vaccination campaigns, early surveillance, and farmer awareness remain critical in limiting spread, especially in mobile pastoral herds.

3.1.3 Milk Production

Milk production remained above average, though it declined slightly compared to July. In August 2025, households produced an average of 1.9 litres per day, representing a 10 percent decrease from July (2.1 litres) but still 12 percent above the long-term average (LTA). Pastoral zones recorded the highest yield of large livestock numbers while Agro Pastoral and Irrigated zones lagged behind due to minimal livestock numbers as most households lost their herds to banditry. The decline was linked to gradual forage depletion in areas affected by invasive weeds in the pastoral livelihood zones. (Figure 9).

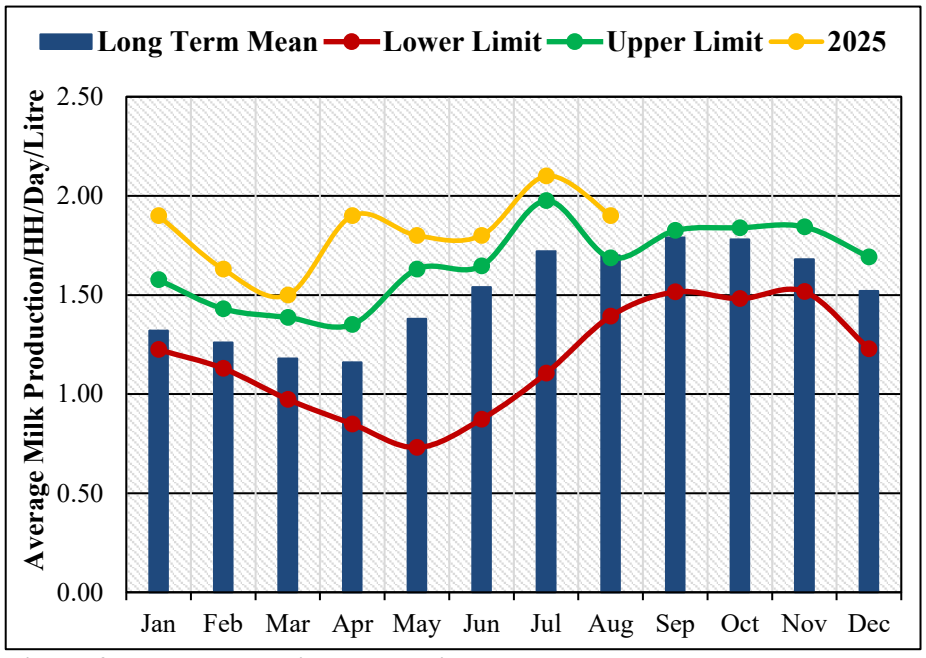

Figure 9: Household Milk Production

Nonetheless, ongoing off-season showers are expected to stabilize production in the short term, with potential improvement expected with the October 2025 short rains.

3.2 Rain-fed Crop Production

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of Food Crops

Farmers across the county continued to benefit from the favorable June-August rains, which supported planting of short term crops such Beans Green grams, Tomatoes and Onions.

3.2.2 Harvesting

Harvesting of maize has been completed in the Irrigated and Agropastoral livelihood zone while ongoing in the Mixed farming. This has provided a temporary relief to household food stocks and improving local market supplies. Agro-Pastoral and Mixed Farming zones particularly benefited from these harvests, though localized challenges such as flooding in some low-lying areas affected portions of cropland earlier in the season.

4.0.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1.0 Livestock Marketing

4.1.1 Cattle Prices.

The average price of a medium-sized bull increased to Ksh. 21,885 in August 2025, up from Ksh. 20,696 in July, representing a six percent rise. Prices remain 38 percent above the short-term average (STA), underscoring the strong performance of the cattle market. The steady rise in cattle prices is attributed to improved livestock body conditions supported by good pasture and water availability following recent rains. Demand in local and external markets has also been resilient, despite security-related challenges that had earlier discouraged traders, especially in pastoral areas such as Nginyang. The higher cattle were recorded in the Irrigated livelihood zone at Ksh. 27,167 and lowest in the Agro pastoral Livelihood zone this is attributed to constrain market activities in conflict-prone zones potentially exposing households in these areas to lower returns compared to better-served markets (Figure 10). The livestock volumes were low as most farmers are reluctant to sell their animals as there are good pastures across livelihood zones.

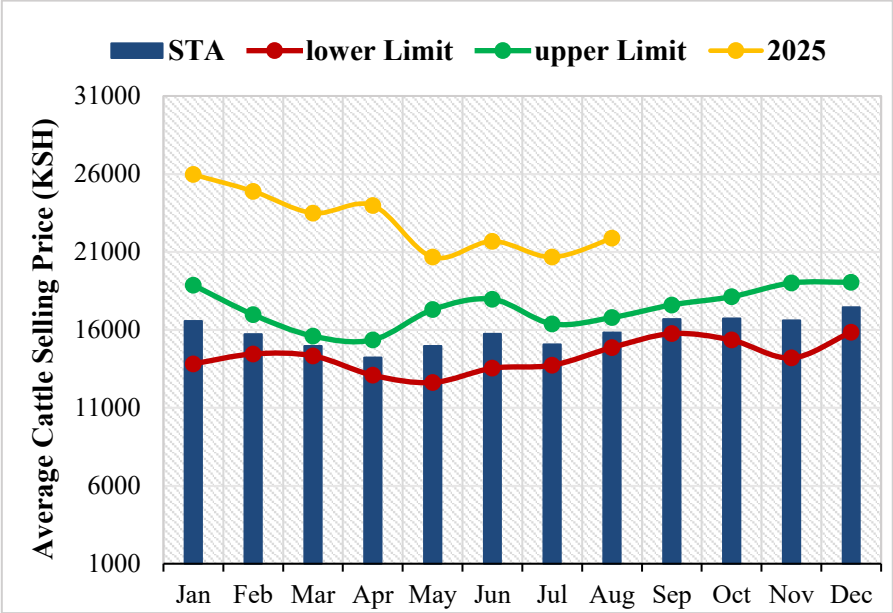

Figure 10: Cattle Market Prices

4.1.2 Goat Prices

Goat prices followed a similar positive trend, averaging Ksh. 4,507 in August, up from Ksh. 4,297 in July, a five percent increase. Prices were also 32 percent above the STA, demonstrating strong market dynamics driven by high demand and favorable livestock conditions. Pastoral livelihood zones, where goats are the dominant species, recorded even higher prices, in some cases above Ksh. 5,000, due to improved body condition and external traders purchasing in bulk. Goats remain the most liquid asset for households, and their strong market value has improved resilience by allowing pastoralists to trade them for staple foods and other essentials.

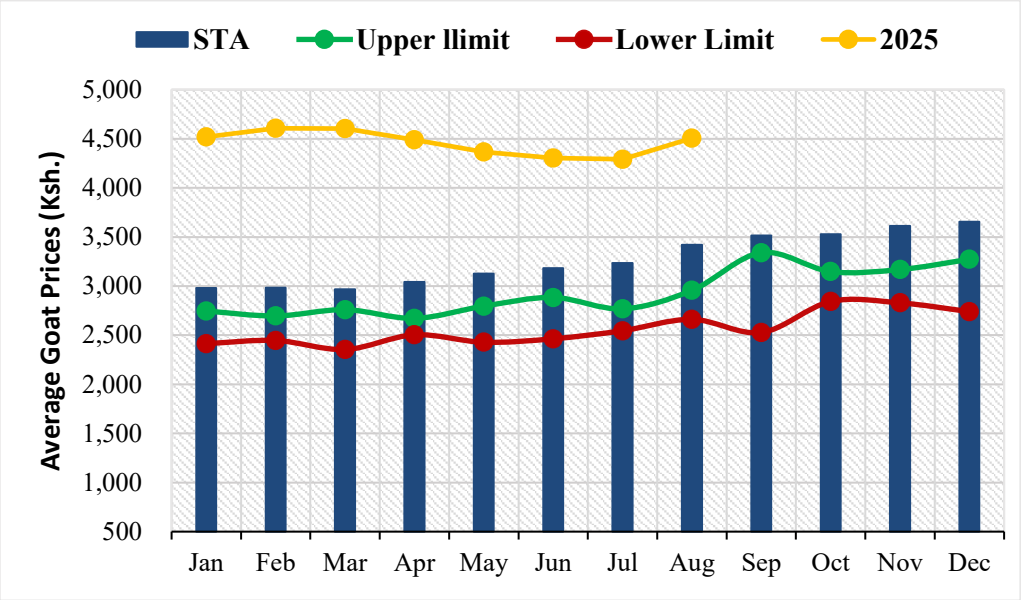

Figure 11: Goats Market Average Prices

This upward trend has also cushioned vulnerable households against rising food costs, particularly in maize-deficit areas. However, insecurity and poor road access in some remote zones still limit full market participation, meaning not all households can benefit equally from the favorable goat prices. If rangeland conditions remain stable, goat prices are expected to continue performing well into the short rains season.

4.2.0. Crop prices

4.2.1 Maize

The average price of maize declined to Ksh. 70.7 per kilogram in August, down from Ksh. 77.2 in July, reflecting an eight percent drop. Prices were also eight percent below the STA, providing short-term relief to households. The decrease is mainly linked to the onset of the long-rains maize harvest, which improved supply in local markets and reduced pressure on prices. Areas near irrigation schemes and major roads reported even lower prices, some ranging between Ksh. 50–60 per kilogram, making maize more affordable in these locations. However, far-flung pastoral markets such as Ngoron and Kamurio experienced higher prices of Ksh. 90–100 due to transport challenges, poor infrastructure, and localized supply shortages. While the decline in maize prices has temporarily improved food access, there is concern that prices may rise again in the coming months as household stocks diminish before the short rains

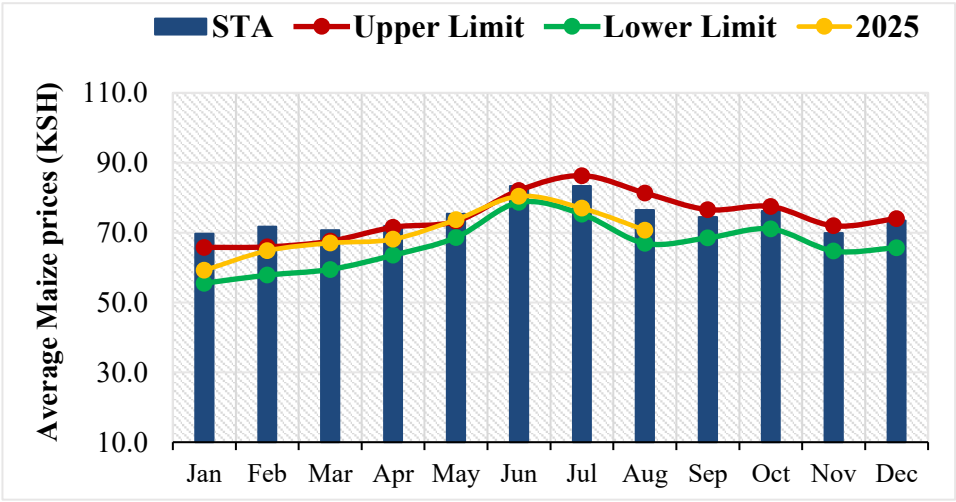

Figure 12: Maize Market Price

harvest. Close monitoring is necessary to anticipate and manage these fluctuations to safeguard household food security. (Figure 12).

4.2.2 Beans Prices

Bean prices averaged Ksh. 158.5 per kilogram in August, compared to Ksh. 172.2 in July, representing an 8 percent decrease. The prices were seven percent below the STA; this is due to availability of the commodity on the markets due to increase in supply from both local and external markets. In pastoral markets like Kollowa and Takawira, beans sold at Ksh. 180–200 per kilogram, driven by high transport costs, insecurity, and localized deficits. However, household-level stocks remain low, and reliance on markets for beans is high, meaning prices could rise again in the lean season. The relatively persistence of high bean prices relative to maize highlights the continued challenge households face in accessing balanced diets, as affordability of protein sources remains constrained.

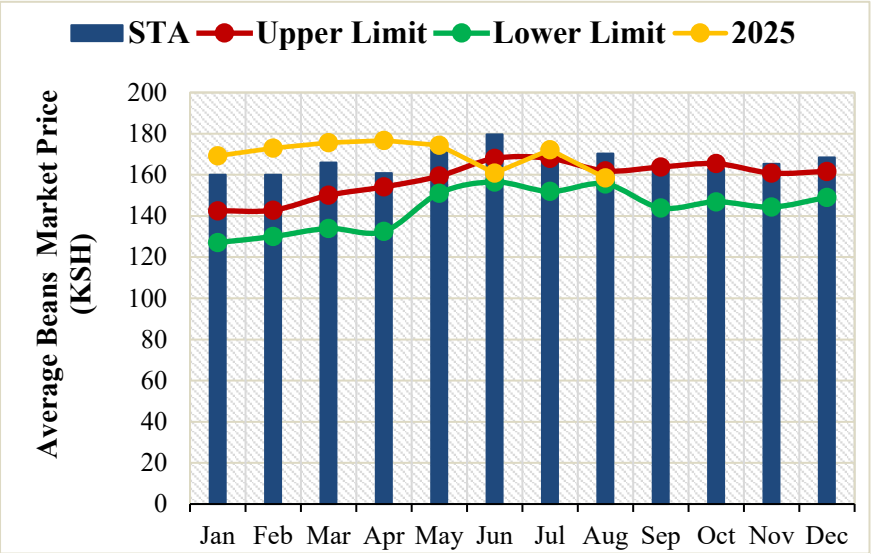

Figure 13: Beans Price

4. 3 Terms of Trade

The Terms of Trade (ToT) improved significantly, strengthening household purchasing power. In August, the sale of one medium-sized goat could purchase 63.7 kilograms of maize, compared to 55.7 kilograms in July, representing a 14 percent increase. The current ToT was also 26 percent above the STA, reflecting a favorable shift for livestock-keeping households. The improvement was driven by the simultaneous increase in goat prices and reduction in maize prices, allowing households to exchange fewer livestock for more food. Agro-Pastoral zones recorded the most favorable ToT due to higher goat prices and lower maize costs near irrigation schemes and accessible markets. In contrast, remote pastoral areas, despite high goat prices, still faced higher maize prices, moderating their benefits. Improved ToT has helped reduce household vulnerability by enabling better food access, particularly in zones where livestock is the main livelihood asset. Sustaining this positive trend will depend on stable livestock markets, continued maize supply from ongoing harvests, and improved security along transport routes to reduce disparities across zones.

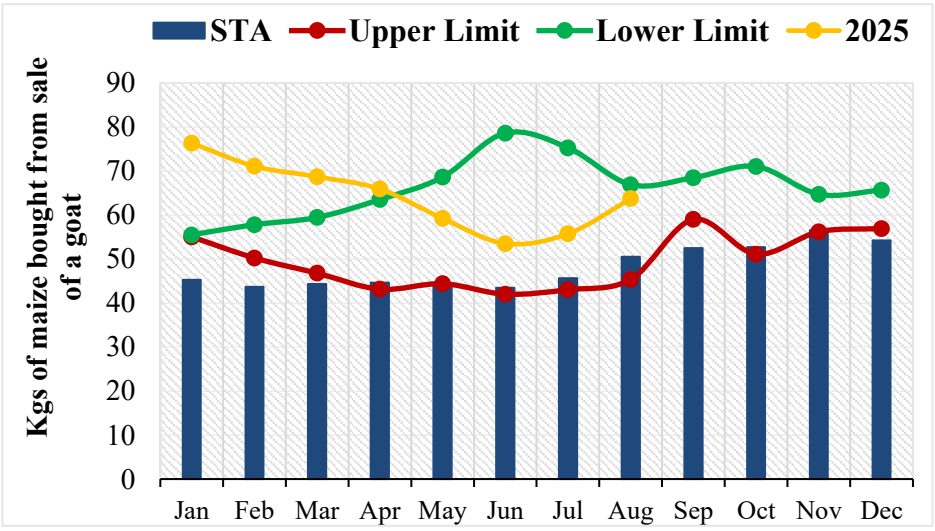

Figure 14: Goat to Maize Ratio

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 Milk Consumption

Milk consumption per household averaged 1.7 liters per day in August, marking a 10 percent decline from July. Despite this drop, consumption remained 12 percent above the long-term average (LTA), reflecting overall favorable livestock productivity conditions. The reduction was largely attributed minimal milk production across livelihood zones, though irrigated and pastoral zones recorded relatively better access. Milk remains a critical dietary component in the county, particularly for children, and the above-average availability continues to provide nutritional benefits despite seasonal fluctuations. Sustaining current levels will require ongoing support for livestock health, water access, and rangeland management to prevent further declines as the dry season progresses.

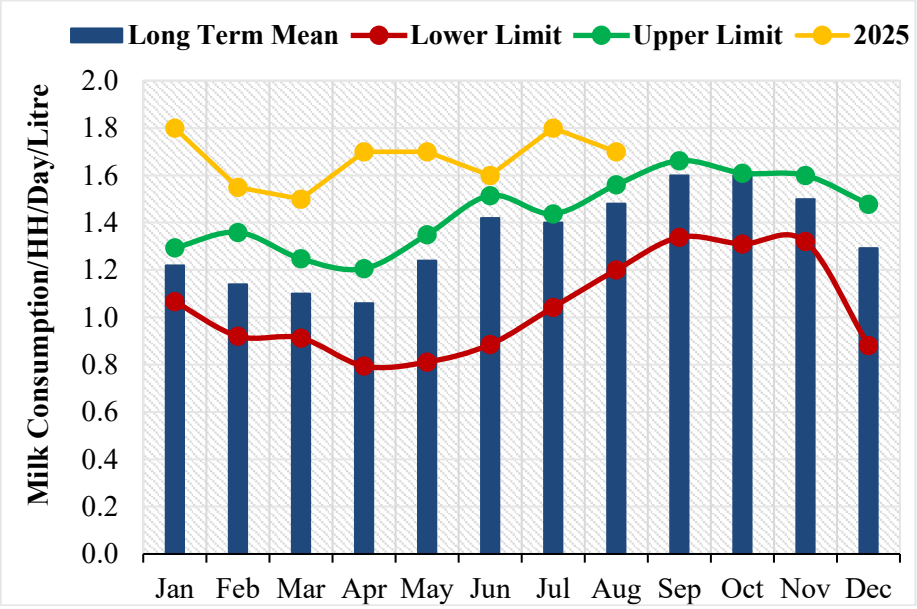

Figure 15: Household Milk Consumption

5.2 Food Consumption

5.2.1 Food Consumption Score

Household food consumption patterns remained relatively stable in August 2025, though disparities were evident across livelihood zones. Countywide, 3.0 percent of households had poor consumption scores, 38.1 percent were borderline, while 58.9 percent achieved acceptable consumption. In the Pastoral livelihood zone, 3.8 percent of households fell into the poor category, 41.9 percent were borderline, and 54.3 percent were acceptable. This marked a slight improvement compared to July, where 4 percent were poor, 44.6 percent borderline, and 51.4 percent acceptable. In Agro-Pastoral zones, 50 percent of households had borderline consumption and 50 percent acceptable, showing a decline from July where 73.3 percent were acceptable and only 26.7 percent borderline. Meanwhile, households in Irrigated Cropping zones continued to report no consumption gaps, maintaining strong dietary diversity and meal frequency. These trends highlight persistent stress in pastoral and Agro-pastoral zones where access to diverse foods remains constrained, while irrigated areas enjoy more stable food access.

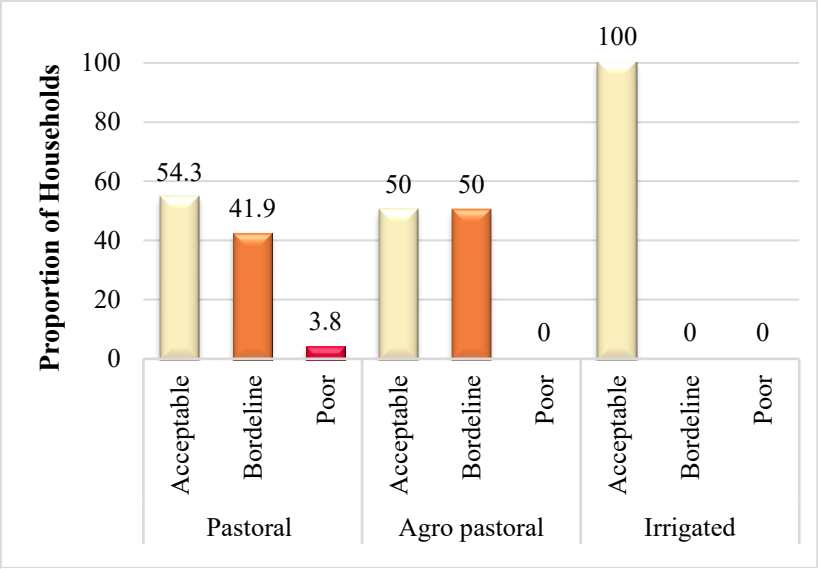

Figure 16: Household Food Consumption Patterns

5.3. Health and Nutrition Status

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

The nutrition situation among children under five years remained of concern, though some improvement was recorded. Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) prevalence stood at 17 percent in August, down from 18.46 percent in July, representing an 8 percent decrease. Despite this positive change, the figure remained 25 percent above the LTA, pointing to persistent malnutrition challenges in the county. Hotspots included Akoret (53.6 percent prevalence), Orus (22.4 percent), Saimo Soi (21.05 percent), and Komolion (17.54 percent), where critical malnutrition levels were observed. The persistently high rates are linked to poor dietary diversity, low meal frequency, and gaps in child care and feeding practices, especially in pastoral zones. Continued nutrition-sensitive interventions, including supplementary feeding and agriculture-nutrition linkages, are essential to address these chronic vulnerabilities.

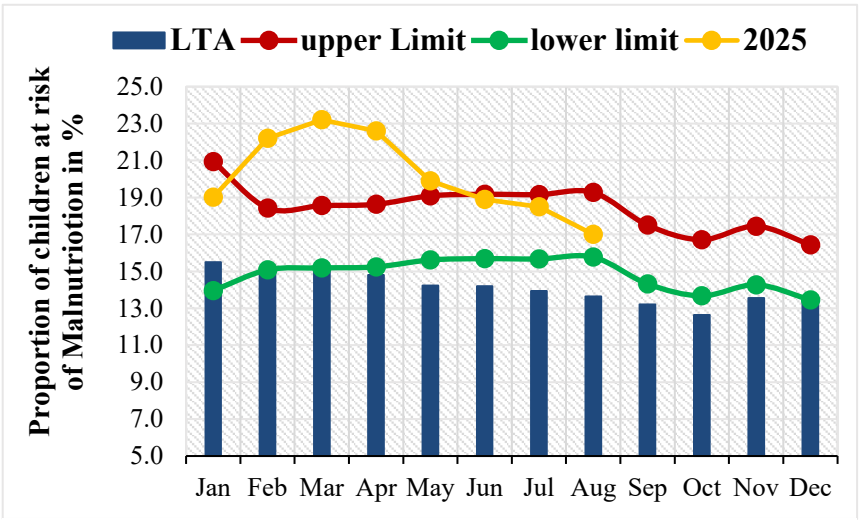

Figure 17: Nutritional Status for Children U5 Years

5.3.2 Health

The county recorded several cases of common illnesses during the review period, with fever with chills (malaria-like symptoms) and diarrhea being the most reported. These conditions disproportionately affect children under five, compounding malnutrition risks in already vulnerable communities. Other illnesses such as respiratory tract infections also persisted but remained within typical seasonal patterns. The combination of limited dietary diversity, recurring childhood illnesses, and low immunity continues to drive acute malnutrition trends in hotspots. Strengthening primary healthcare services, promoting community awareness on hygiene and nutrition, and expanding outreach health programs remain critical in mitigating health-related impacts on food and nutrition security.

5. 4 Coping Strategies

5.4.1 Coping Strategy Index

The Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) averaged 11.66 in August, reflecting relatively mild stress across the county. By zone, Pastoral households recorded 13.1, up from 12.8, showing persistent food access challenges. Agro-Pastoral households reported 9.9, slightly down from 10.3, while Irrigated Cropping households stood at 3.6, compared to 2.7 in July. The most common strategies were reliance on less preferred foods, borrowing food, and reducing meal frequency, particularly in pastoral zones. Irrigated households, benefiting from better market and production access, relied least on negative coping. While coping levels remain within seasonal ranges, rising

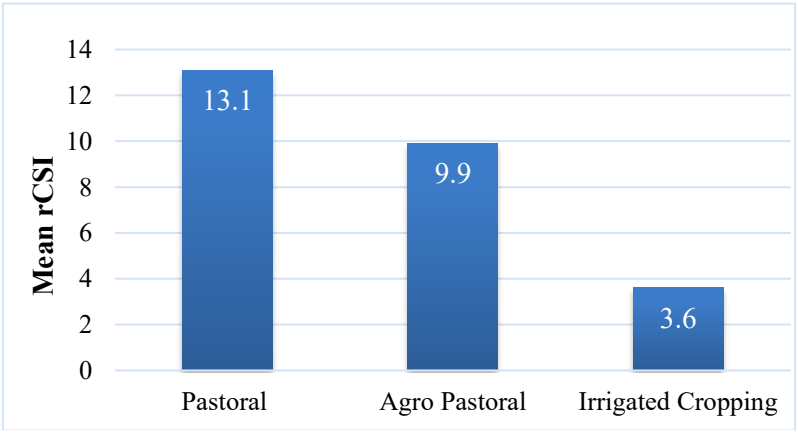

Figure 18: rCSI

stress in pastoral areas signals growing vulnerability that could worsen if food prices rise or forage declines before the October short rains. Sustained interventions are critical to prevent households from shifting to more severe coping strategies. (Figure 18).

6.0 ONGOING INTERVENTION MEASURES.

6.1 Food interventions

6.1.1 General food relief

- National government distributed 2,800 of 50kg bags of maize to vulnerable households in Baringo North, Marigat, Mukutani, Tiaty East and west Sub counties

6.2 Non-food interventions

Health and Nutrition

- Routine monitoring vaccination and nutritional surveillance.

Livestock

- State department of livestock distributed goats for households in Baringo South under the restocking initiative.

Agriculture

- Community extension services on postharvest practices.

Water and sanitation

- General water supply and boreholes rehabilitation by government and partners

Peace and Security

- Security patrol and various initiatives, including peace-building, security operations, and humanitarian efforts by armed forces.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- Relative calmness prevailed in conflict zones following tightened security measures under Operation Maliza Uhalifu in North Rift.

7.2 Food Security Prognosis

- The food security situation in Baringo County is expected to remain generally stable but stressed over the next three to six months, with variations across livelihood zones. The positive impacts of the March–May long rains and the June–August rains have improved rangeland resources, supported good livestock body condition, and sustained milk production.
- Kenya Meteorological outlook for June to August 2025 season indicated that several places of Baringo County are more likely to receive above precipitation. However, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) indicates oceanic and atmospheric conditions in the equatorial central and eastern Pacific showed some consistency with a weak La Niña.
- Forage condition and open-source availability are expected to remained above average through end of September 2025.
- Favorable livestock prices, coupled with declining maize prices from the long-rains harvest, have strengthened terms of trade, improving household purchasing power. This will continue to support food access, especially in Agro-pastoral and irrigated zones, where households benefit from shorter trekking distances to water, better crop harvests, and stable markets.
- Food availability and access is expected to improve due to ongoing maize harvest and ToT due to good livestock prices.

- Pastoral areas may begin to experience stress conditions from November 2025 if the rangeland resources start to deteriorate and La Nina impacts materialize.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Proposed Recommendations

8.1.1. Water Sector

- Distribute water-treatment kits, jerrycans, soap; conduct hygiene education
- Supported climate-smart water and agriculture projects
- Support WRUAs, monitor water quality/quantity, enforce regulations, expand storage
- Supply of water treatment chemicals and facilities like water purifiers, Pur, Aqua tabs etc.

8.1.2. Nutrition and Health

- Nutritionally sensitive farming practices, promoting women-led kitchen gardens and resilient crop varieties.
- Resource mobilization to conduct Mass screening and SMART survey in Baringo North, Baringo South, Tiaty East and Tiaty West.
- Expand outreaches services
- Strengthen local advocacy and policies to curb unhealthy food marketing to children and support healthy diets.

8.1.3. Livestock and Veterinary sector

- Procuring of livestock vaccines and supporting vaccination against LSD, CCPP, PPR and Anthrax.

8.1.4. Agriculture Sector

- Intensify postharvest management capacity building for farmers
- Training irrigation farmers in Perkerra on pesticide use, focusing on promoting safe and responsible practices to minimize health and environmental risks, while maximizing crop yields.

8.1.5 Social Protection

- Support the 521 households of Mukutani returnees with food and non-food items.