A Vision 2030 Flagship Project

National Drought Management Authority
Baringo County
Drought Early Warning Bulletin for June 2024

JUNE EW PHASE

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Drought Phase: Normal- Stable

Biophysical indicators

- The county had dry spells for the better part of the month.
- Vegetation condition as measured by NDVI was above LTA, implying good conditions
- The Water levels in most pans were within normal range at 70-80% capacity.
- The forage condition was fair to good in both quality and quantity

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production indicators

- Livestock body condition was fair to good
- Milk production was above normal across the county.
- There were no unusual livestock death cases

Access indicators

- Terms of trade were good and above LTA
- Distances to water sources for households were below the long-term average.

Utilization indicators

- The number of under-five children at risk of malnutrition were slightly above the seasonal range.
- Copping strategy index (CSI) for households was within normal seasonal range.
- The bulk of the households had acceptable food consumption score

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 %	77%	85	80%-120%
VCI-3month	85		>35
Percent Of water in the pans	70%-80%		80%-100%
Production indicators		**Value**	**Normal ranges**
Livestock Migration Pattern		Normal	Normal
Livestock Body Condition (BCS)		3	3-4
Milk Production (Ltr /HH/Month)		2.5	≥1.26
Livestock deaths (for drought)		No death	No death
Access Indicators		**Value**	**Normal ranges**
Terms of Trade (ToT)		72.2	≥37
Water for Households-trekking distance (Km)		3.6	≤4.1
Utilization indicators		**Value**	**Normal ranges**
Milk Consumption (Litres)		2.2	≥1.2
Nutrition status of children 6-59 months at risk of malnutrition by numbered MUAC (% at risk)		20.34	≤17.4
CSI		11.74	<19.0
FCS		45.1	>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

The ceasation of the long rains season of March to May ended during the third dekad of May, which was normal. The period under review experienced dry spells especially during the second and third dekad of June (Figure 1). However, there were few days of light showers especially in the highland areas with uneven distribution (Figure 2). By the end of the third dekad, the total amount of rains received were below the long term average (LTA) but within the seasonal range (Figure 3).

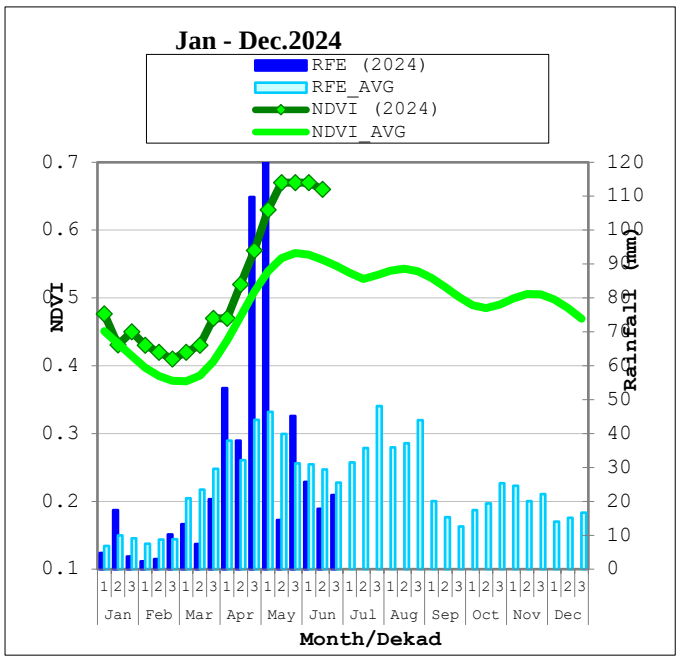

Figure 2: Temporal distribution

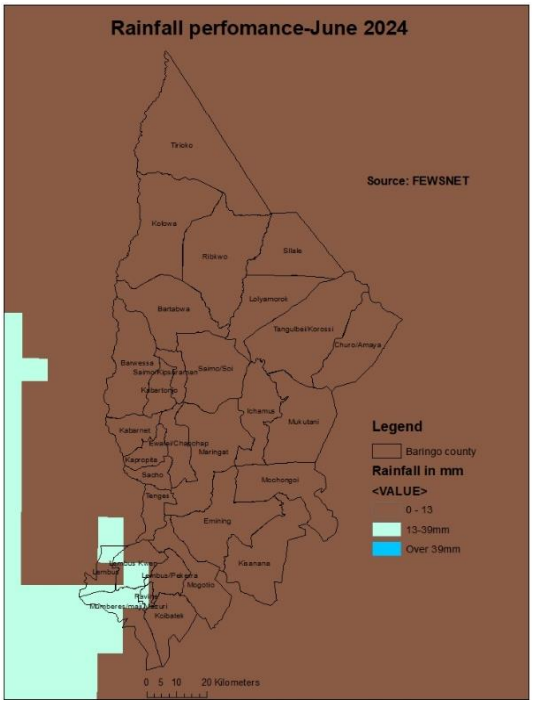

Figure 1: Spatial distribution

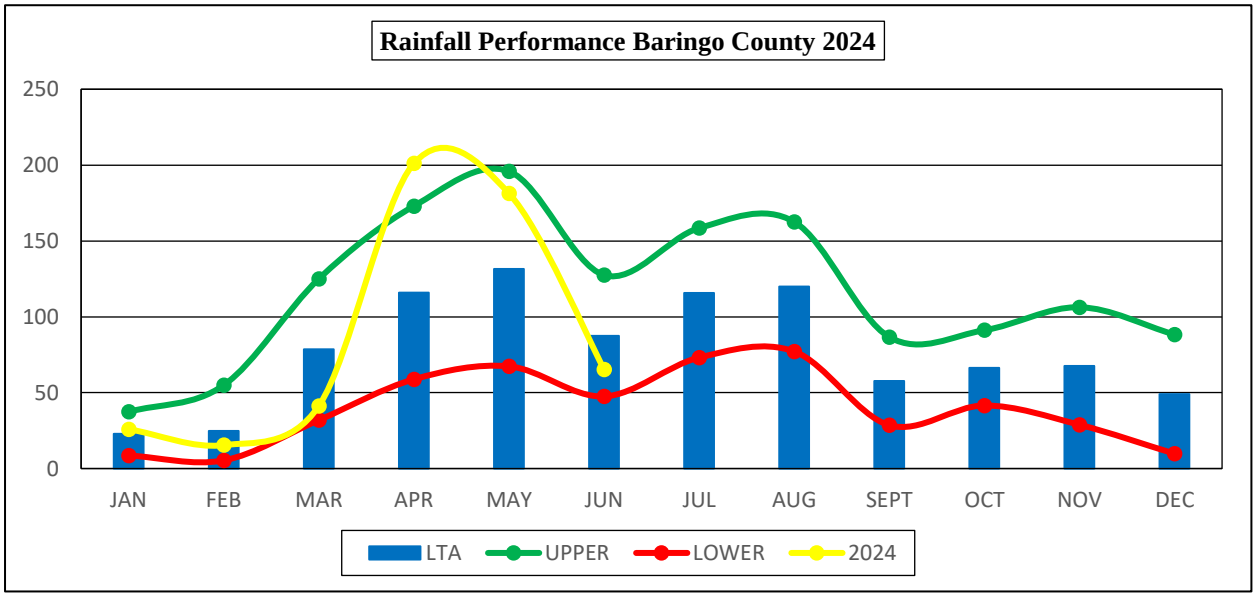

Figure 3: Rainfall trend

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation condition

The vegetation greenness as depicted by the three-month vegetation condition index was normal for the county and has improved as compared to the previous month (Figure 4) & (Figure 5). This was contributed by the enhanced rains that were received in the county for the last few months. However, the greenness is likely to decline with the current dry weather conditions being experienced in the county.

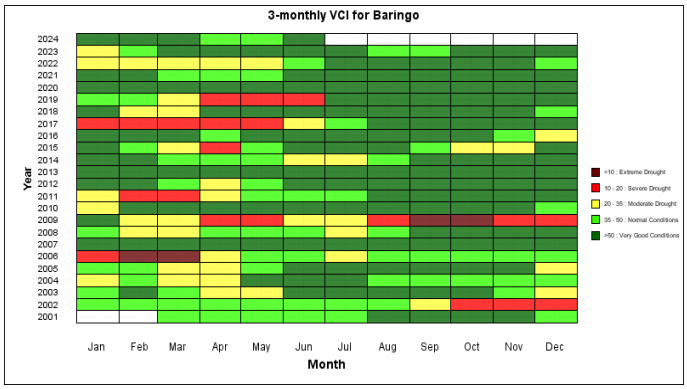

Figure 4: 3-month VCI Matrix

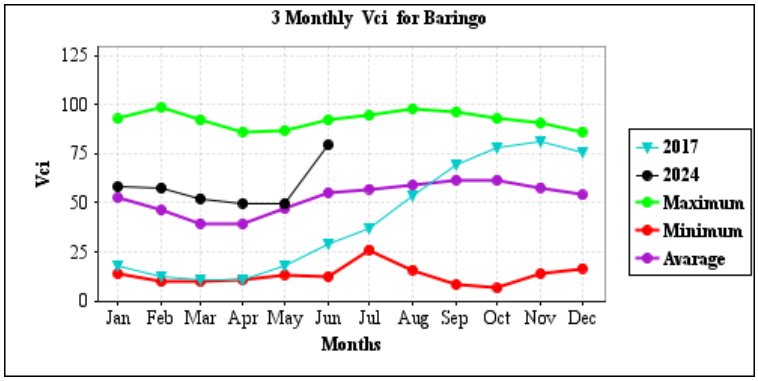

Figure 5: 3-month VCI Graph

2.1.1 Field observation

Forage

The pasture condition has improved across all livelihood zones, which was attributed to the enhanced rains received in the last season. The pastures were good in the Marginal mixed farming and Irrigated cropping livelihood zones while fair in the Pastoral livelihood zone. The variation in pasture conditions across livelihood zones was due to the slow regeneration in the Pastoral areas as a result of poor rangeland management, presence of invasive species among other reasons. The current pastures were expected to last for three to four months in Pastoral and Agro pastoral livelihood zones and five months in Irrigated and Mixed farming livelihood zones. The browse conditions were relatively good across all the livelihood zones in the county and this was attributed to better regeneration of browse. The available browse was expected to last for four months in Pastoral and Agro- pastoral livelihood zones and more the six months in the Irrigated cropping livelihood zone.

2.2 Water resources

2.2.1 Water sources

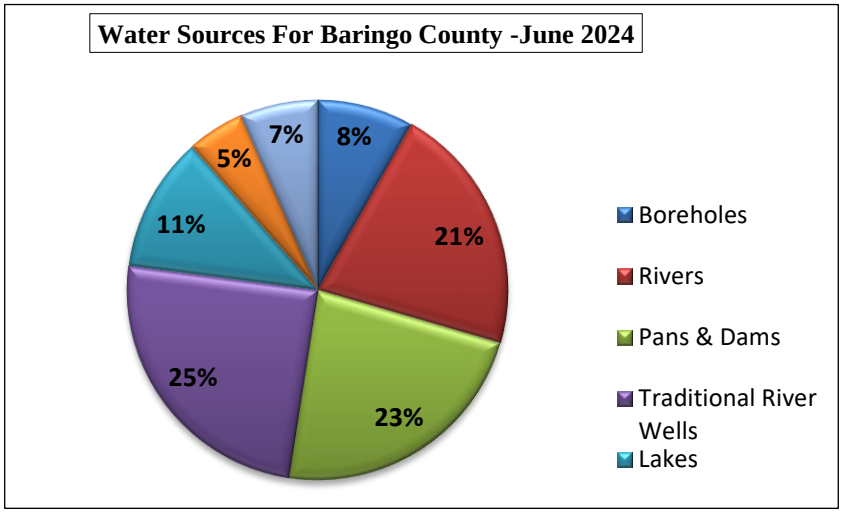

Figure 6: Water sources

The good rains received in the county led to good recharge of water sources across livelihood zones. The major water sources in the county for both domestic and livestock use were rivers, traditional water wells and water pans which collectively accounted for 69 percent of all the water sources in use (Figure 5). Most water pans and dams were at 70-80 percent of their full capacity. The current open water sources were expected to last for four to five months in Pastoral and Agro- pastoral livelihood zones and over six months in Irrigated cropping livelihood zone. Water quality and quantity across Pastoral and

Agro-pastoral livelihood zones was fair, which was normal at this time of the year.

2.2.2 Household access and utilization

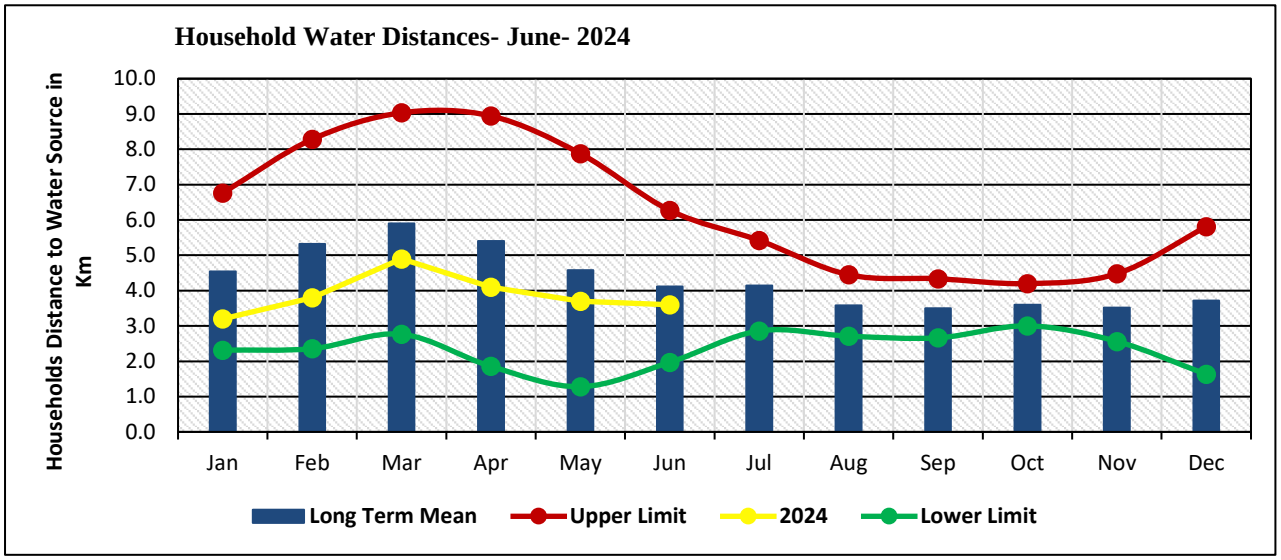

Figure 5: Water distances

The recharge of water sources in the county has led to a marginal decrease in the average household trekking distances from water points by three percent in comparison to the previous month, which currently is at 3.6km (Figure 7). The recorded distances were below the LTA by 13 percent and were falling within the seasonal range. Irrigated cropping livelihood zone recorded the least trekking distance of one kilometre while Agro-Pastoral livelihood zone recorded the highest average of 4.2 km and this was attributed to high tensions in the area that made households to travel to secure areas that were far away to access water.

2.2.3 Livestock access

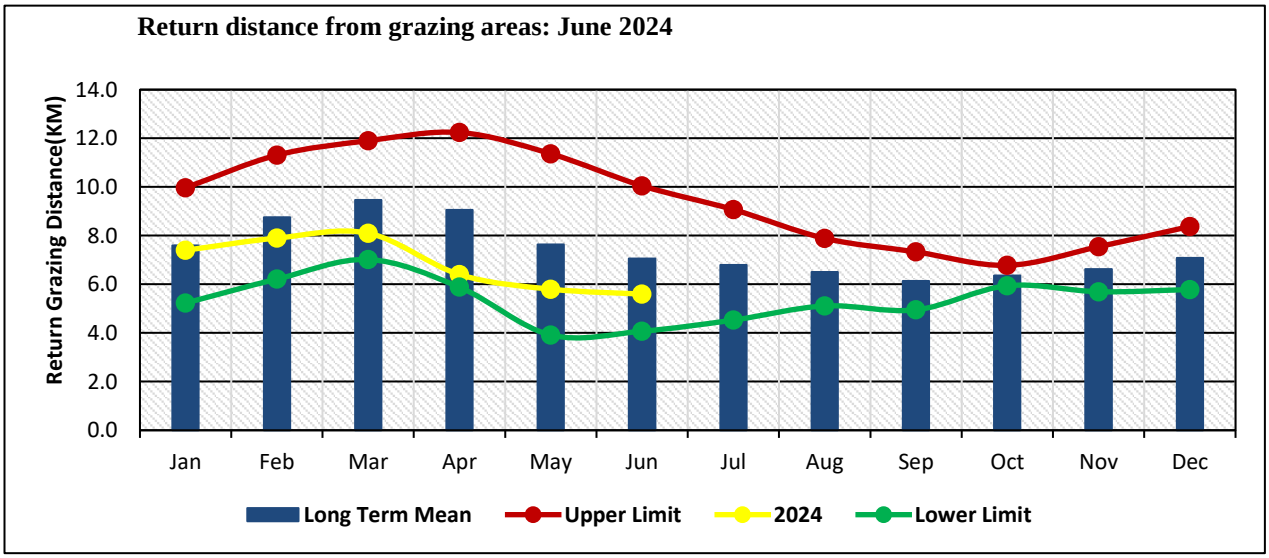

Figure 6: Grazing distances

The average trekking distance by livestock from grazing fields to watering points was at 5.6km, a decrease of three percent as compared to the preceding month and were below the long term mean by 21 percent (Figure 8). The Pastoral livelihood zone recorded the highest average distance of 6.2 km while Irrigated livelihood zone recorded the shortest average distance of two kilometres. The current distances remained within the seasonal range. The declining trend in return distances was attributed to the regeneration of pastures and recharging of open water sources across all livelihood zones.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock Production

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

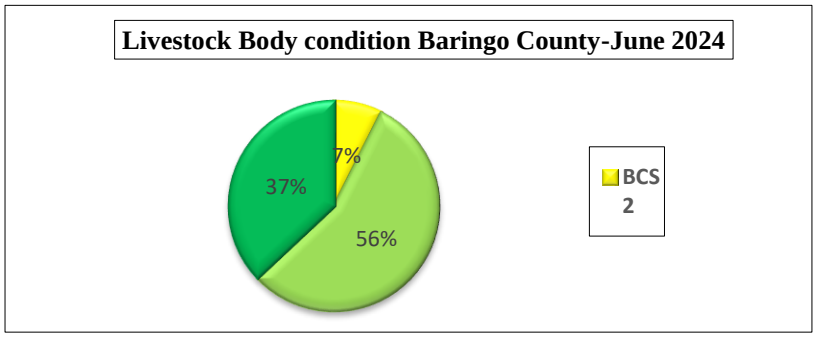

Figure 7: Livestock body condition

Livestock body condition for cattle during the month had improved as compared to the previous month, which was mostly good (BCS-3) across the livelihood zones though there were some cattle in poor condition (BCS-2) and these were mostly found in the Pastoral livelihood zone (Figure 8). The current improvement in the status of livestock body condition was attributed to availability of water for livestock and improving pasture condition in the county.

3.1.2 Livestock diseases

There was no outbreak of notifiable livestock diseases reported during the month. Households only reported the usual endemic cases such as contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP), mange, helminthiasis, heartwater, enterotoxaemia and sheep and goat pox across the livelihood zones.

3.1.3 Milk Production

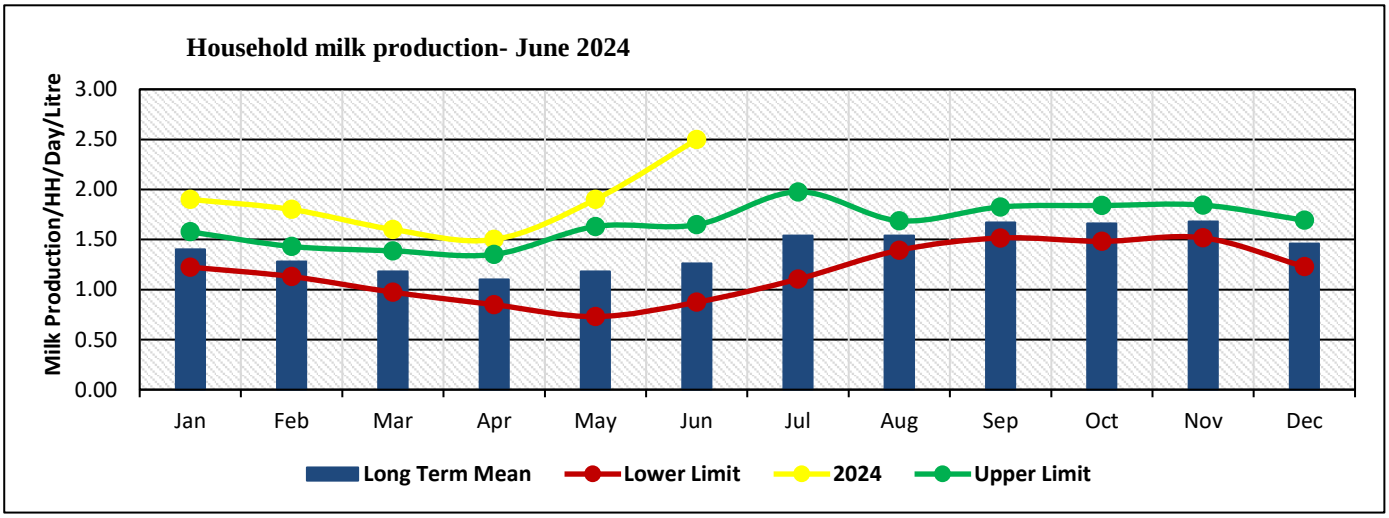

Figure 8: Milk production

During the month under review, the average milk produced per household per day was 2.5 litres in comparison to the previous month, which represented a 32 percent rise. The production level was above the long-term average by 98 percent as well as being above the seasonal range at this time of the year (Figure 10). Production level was lowest in Agro-pastoral livelihood zone at an average of 1.4litres and this was occasioned by the minimal numbers of livestock owned by homesteads due to insecurity issues. The current trend was attributed to by the improving livestock body conditions in all livelihood zones and was expected to be observed for the next two months. Pastoral livelihood had the highest production at 2.6 litres which was mostly coming from camels while Irrigated cropping livelihood zone had the lowest production at 2.3 litres.

3.2 Rain fed crop production

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

The maize planted in the Mixed farming and Irrigated cropping livelihood zones are at tussling stage. Most of the beans were destroyed by the heavy rains received earlier in the county. Tomatoes in the irrigated are at harvesting stage.

4.0.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1.0 Livestock marketing

4.1.1 Cattle prices.

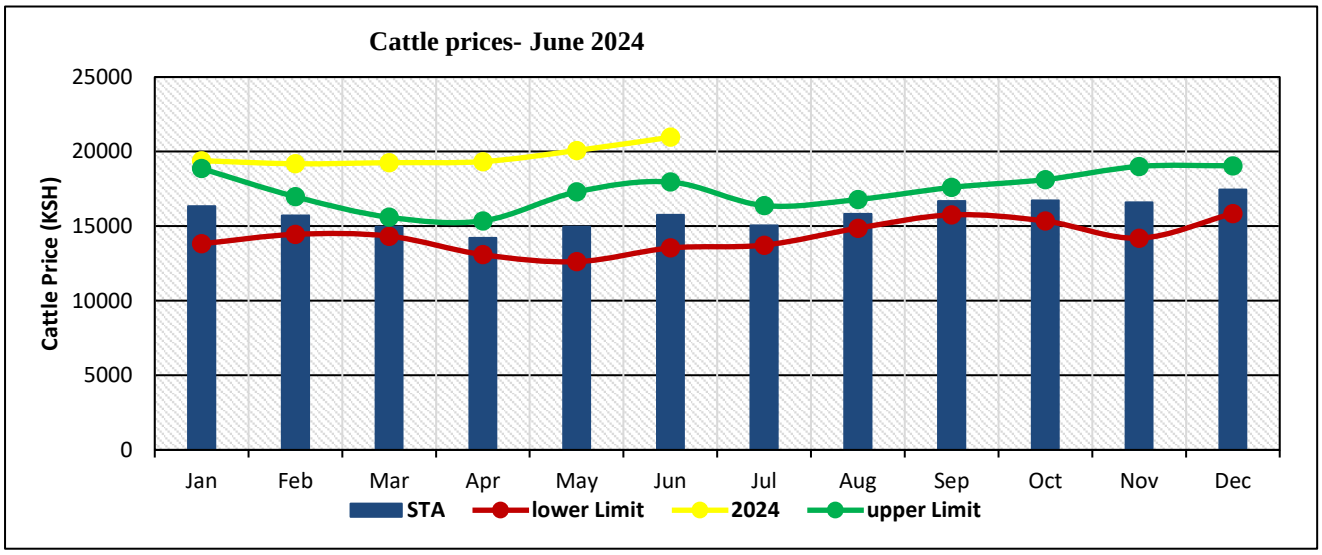

Figure 9: Cattle prices

The average price for medium-sized cattle was Ksh.20,966, which was a marginal increase of four percent in comparison to the previous month and were above the seasonal range (Figure 11). Irrigated livelihood zone had the highest average prices of Ksh.30,000 while Agro-pastoral livelihood zone recorded the least average price of Ksh.15,833. The price was above the short-term average (STA) by 33 percent. The good prices were attributed to good livestock body condition in the county and the trend is expected to be sustained for the next few months.

4.1.2 Goat Prices.

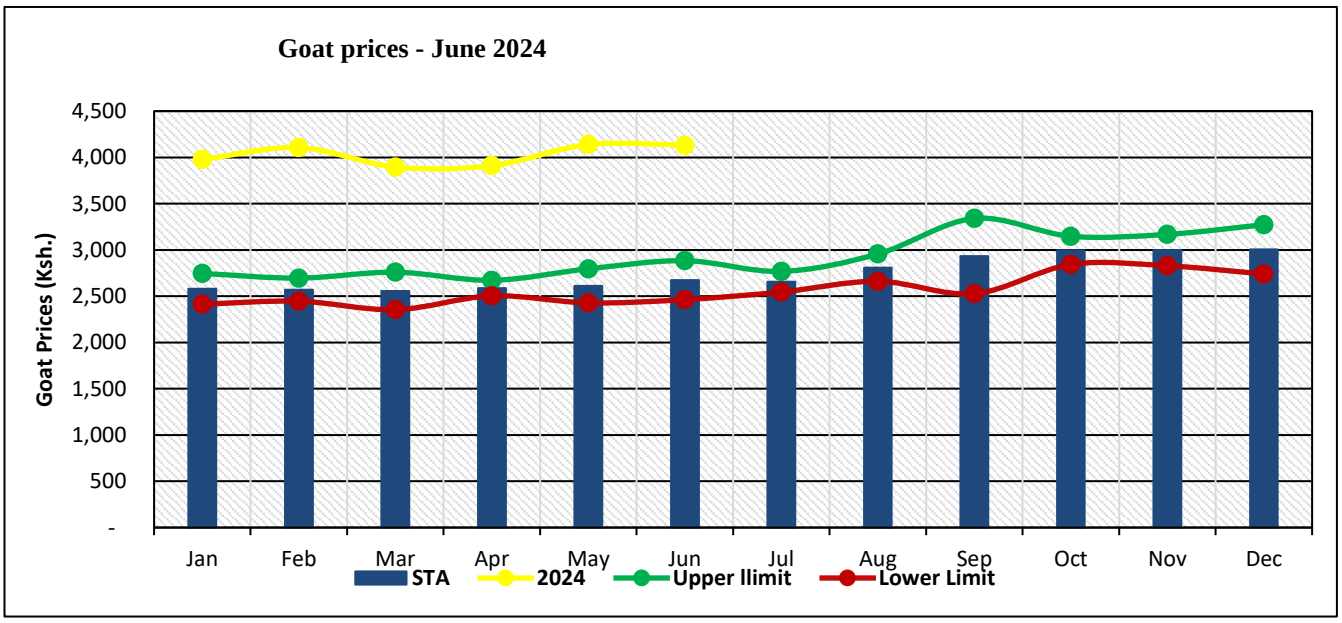

Figure 10: Goat prices

During the month under review, the average price of a medium sized goat was stable at Kshs 4,131 as compared to the previous month at Ksh. 4,139 and was above the STA by 55 percent (Figure 12). The prices were highest in Irrigated cropping livelihood zone at Ksh. 5,167 and lowest in Pastoral livelihood zone at Ksh.3,883. The low prices in the Pastoral livelihood zone were attributed to the frequent insecurity incidents that have affected the major livestock market in the sub county. Never the less, the good goat prices were attributed to the prevailing good livestock body condition in the county.

4.2.0. Crop prices

4.2.1 Maize

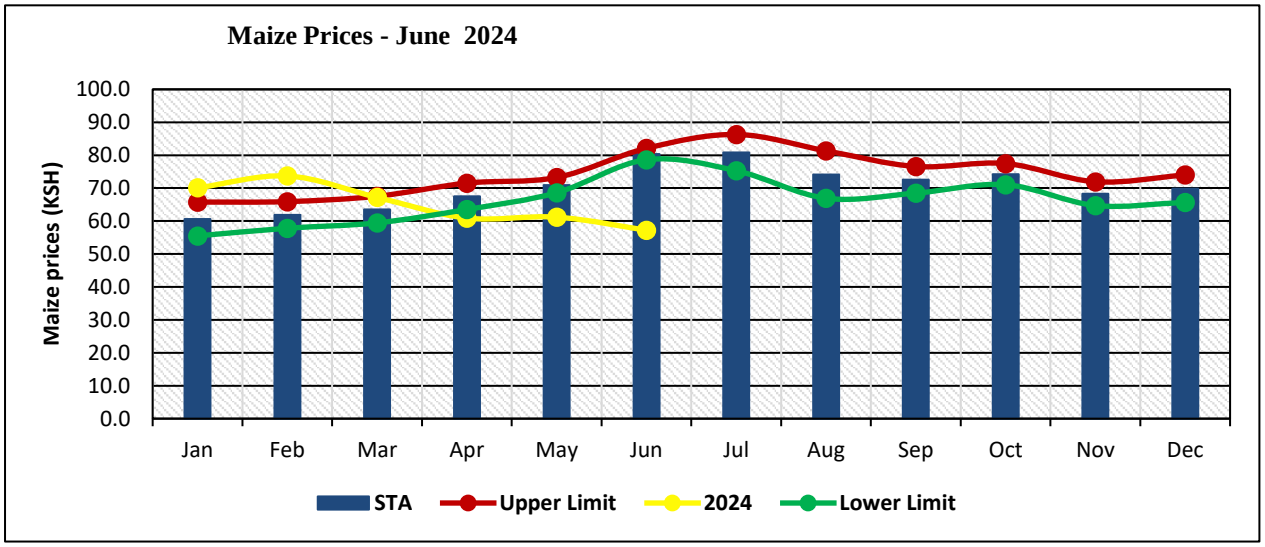

Figure 11: Maize prices

The average maize prices during the month under review was at Kshs. 57, which a decrease of seven percent in comparison to the previous month at 61 (Figure 13). The current prices were below the short-term mean by 29 percent, the prices recorded were attributed to the maize held by traders as they are sourcing relatively cheap maize from the neighbouring counties as well as Uganda. Pastoral livelihood zone recorded the highest average price of Kshs. 59 per kg while Irrigated cropping livelihood zone recorded the lowest at Ksh.40 per kg.

4.2.2 Posho (Maize meal)

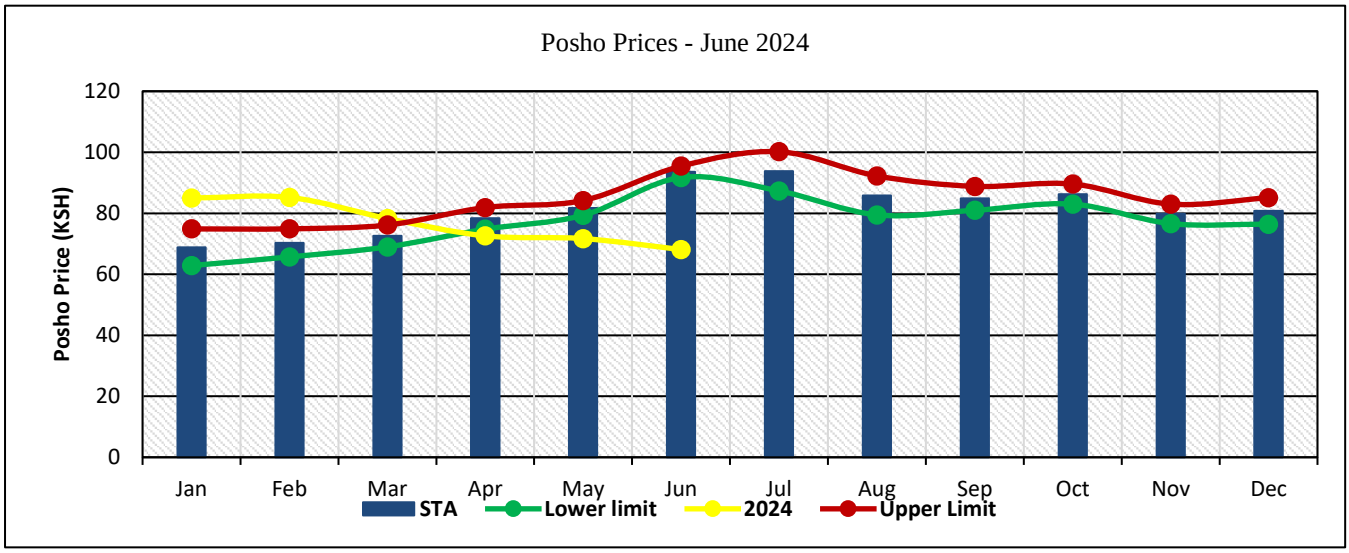

Figure 12: Posho prices

The current average posho prices dropped by five percent in comparison to the previous month to retail at Kshs 68/kg (Figure 14). The stability in prices was attributed to the incoming of cheap maize from

neighbouring counties and countries. The price was below the short-term average by 27 percent and was falling below the seasonal range. The Pastoral livelihood zone recorded the highest average price of Kshs. 70/kg while the Irrigated cropping zone had the least average price of Kshs. 50/kg.

4.2.3 Beans Prices

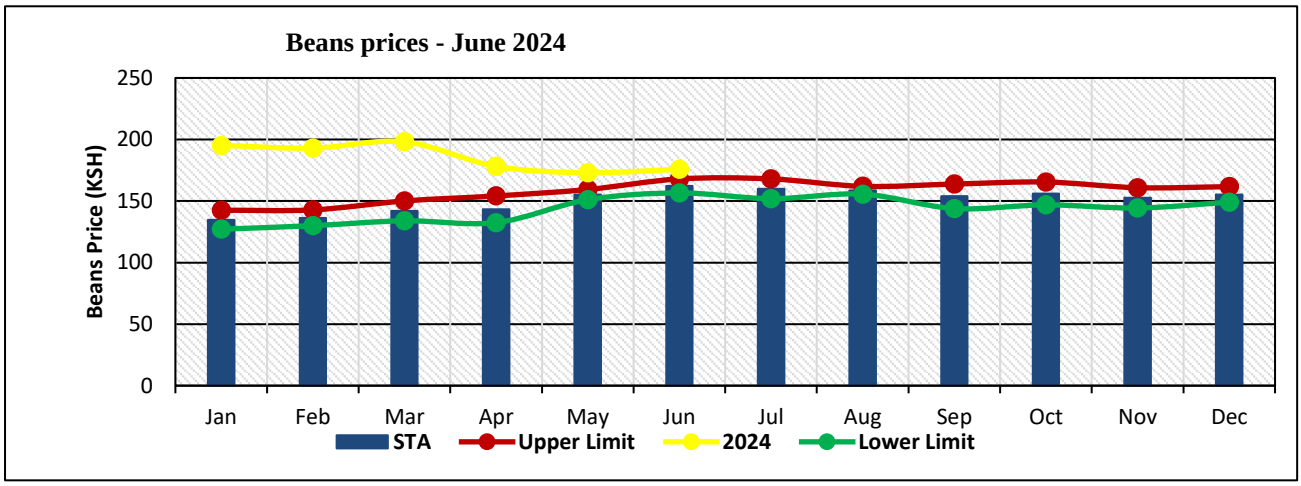

Figure 13: Beans prices

The average price per kilogram of beans retailed at Kshs.176, which was a minimal increase of two percent in comparison to the previous month (Figure 15). The current prices were above the short-term average by eight percent and falling outside the seasonal ranges slightly. The Pastoral livelihood zone recorded the highest average prices of Ksh.184 while the Irrigated cropping livelihood zone recorded the least prices of Ksh.140. The high prices were attributed to scarcity of the commodity due to poor yields following flower abortions caused by excess rains in the last two rainfall seasons.

4. 3 Terms of Trade

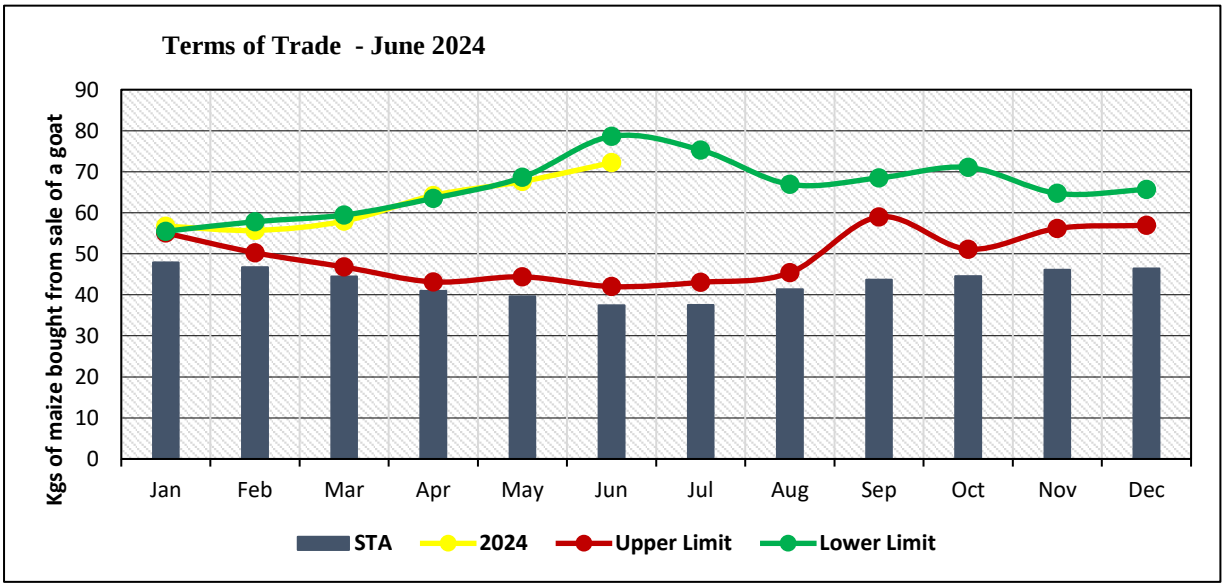

Figure 14: Terms of trade

During the month under review, a farmer was able to buy an average of 72 kg of maize from the sale of one goat, which was an improvement as compared to the previous month at 68 (Figure 16). The current terms of trade were above the short-term mean by 93 percent and were falling within the seasonal range at this time of the year. The favourable terms of trade were attributed to better goat prices and decreasing maize prices.

Irrigated cropping livelihood zone had the highest terms of trade at 129 while Pastoral livelihood zone had the least at 65.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 Milk Consumption

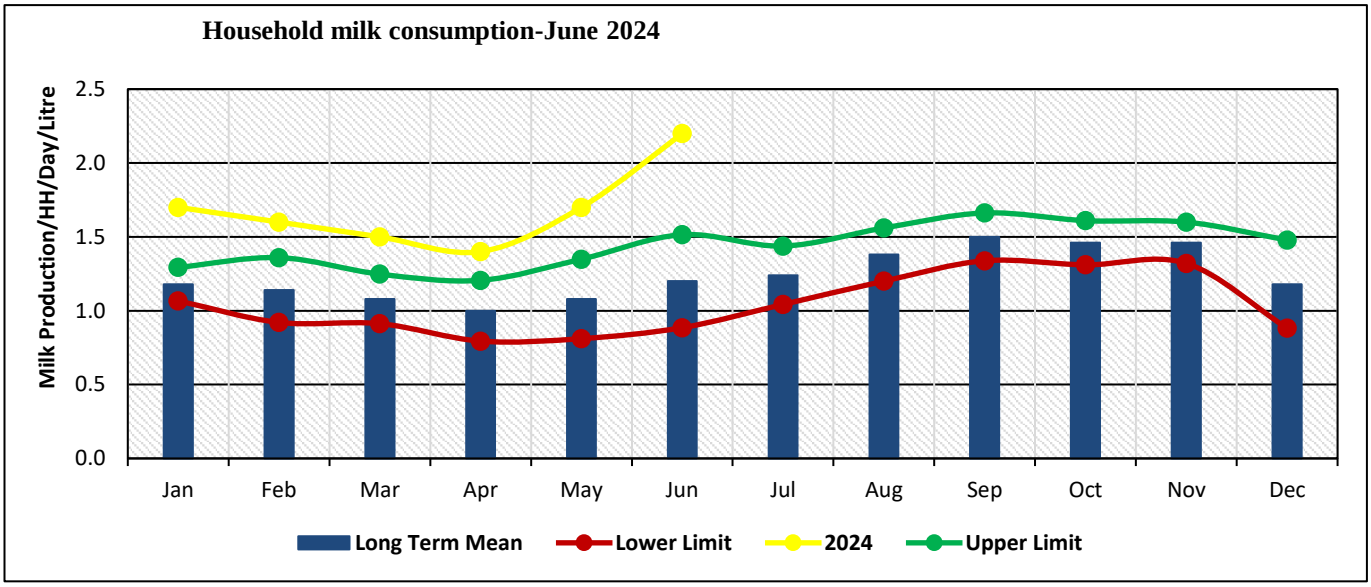

Figure 15: Milk consumption

The average milk consumption per household per day was at 2.2 litres in comparison to the previous month, which was an increase of 29 percent. The current milk consumption rate was above the long-term average by 83 percent (Figure 17). The average milk consumption per household was highest in the Irrigated cropping livelihood zone at 2.3 litres and lowest in Agro-pastoral livelihood zone at 1.4 litre.

5.2 Food consumption

5.2.1 Food consumption score

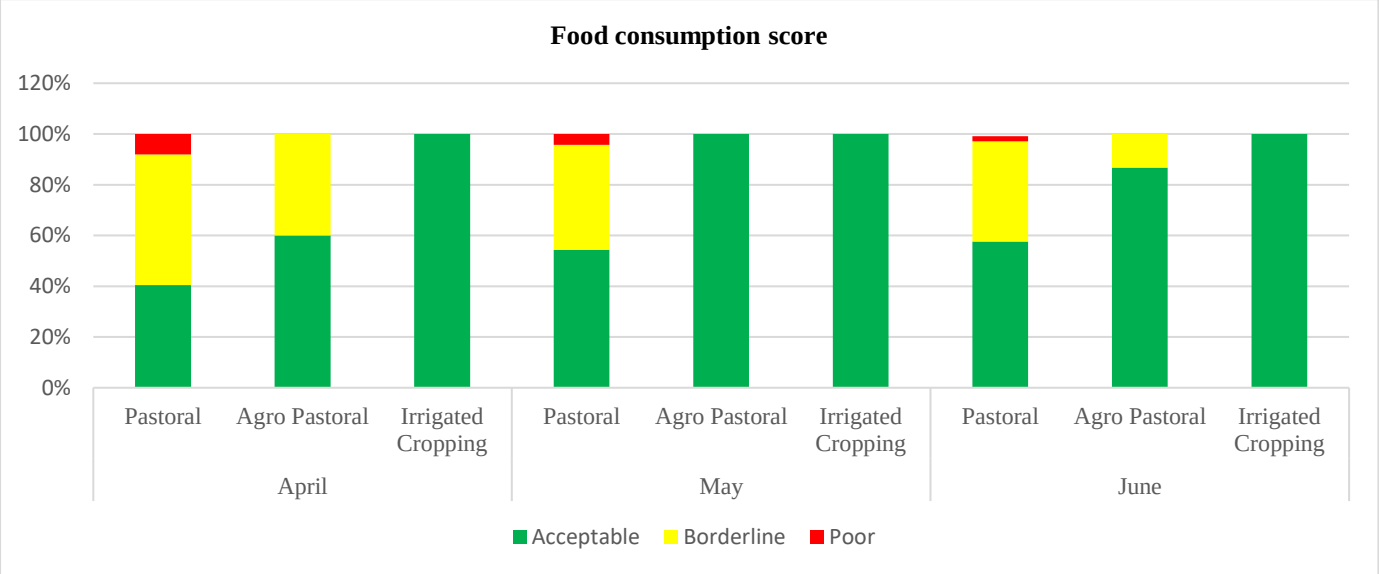

Figure 16: Food consumption score

Generally, the county had an acceptable food consumption score of 45.1 which was an improvement as compared to the previous month at 41.2. A proportion of 2.2, 32.2 and 64.6 percent of the sampled households across the livelihood zones had poor, borderline and acceptable food consumption scores. The Pastoral, Agro- pastoral and Irrigated cropping livelihood zones had 42.4, 50.6 and 58.2 average food consumption scores respectively. Households with poor food consumption score were reported in the Pastoral livelihood zones for the past three months although the proportions have been declining and is now at a mere two percent by June (Figure 18). Generally, more households moved to acceptable consumption scores as compared to the previous month. The improving food consumption was attributed to the availability of milk, leafy vegetables and other food varieties across the livelihood zones.

5.3. Health and Nutrition Status

5.3.1 Nutrition status

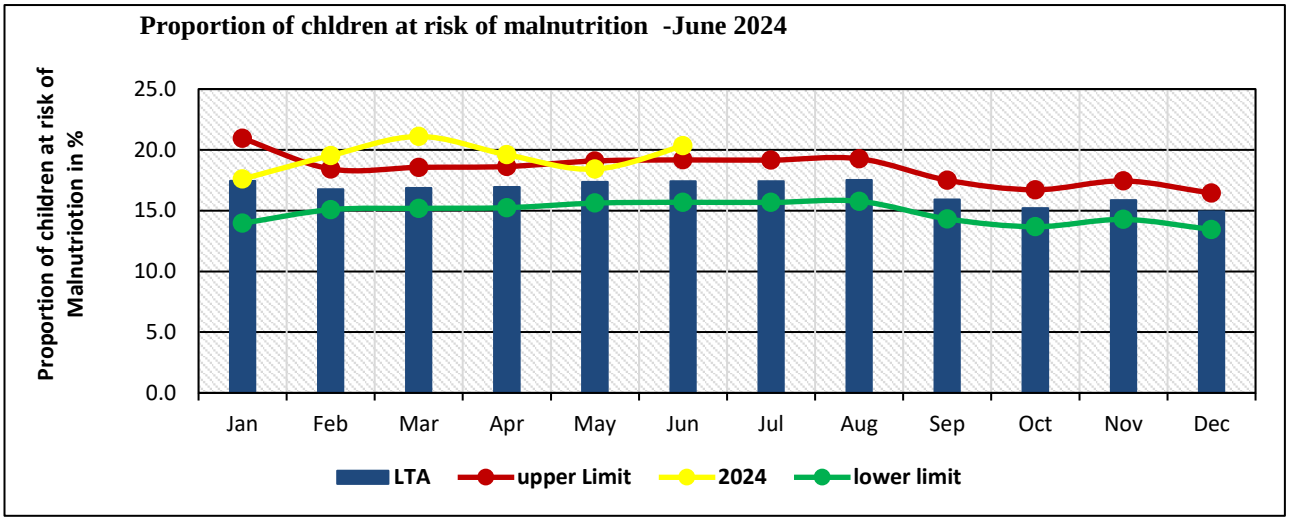

Figure 17: Nutrition status by MUAC

The proportion of children sampled who were at the risk of malnutrition during the month under review was 20.34 percent, which was an increment of seven percent as compared to the previous month (Figure 19). The current rate was high in comparison to the long term mean and slightly outside the seasonal range. The increase in the proportion was due to closure of nutrition outreach sites in parts of Tirioko and Ribkwo wards in Pastoral livelihood zone due to lack of commodities. Akoret (Chepkererat, Kapedo North & Kamurio), Ribko and Komolion sentinel sites recorded the highest rates of 62.5,35.6 and 25.89 respectively all being in the Pastoral livelihood zone. Other contributing factors to malnutrition cases in the county include poor hygiene practices as well as child care practices.

5.3.2 Health

During the reporting period, the illnesses that were reported were Upper Respiratory Tract infection (URTI) such as flue and diarrhoea across livelihood zones. The diarrhoea cases were due to use of water from open sources, poor hygiene practices at household level and most households were taking untreated water. Water quality was poor mostly in Baringo South, North, Tiaty East and Tiaty West sub counties.

5. 4 Coping strategies

5.4.1 Coping Strategy Index

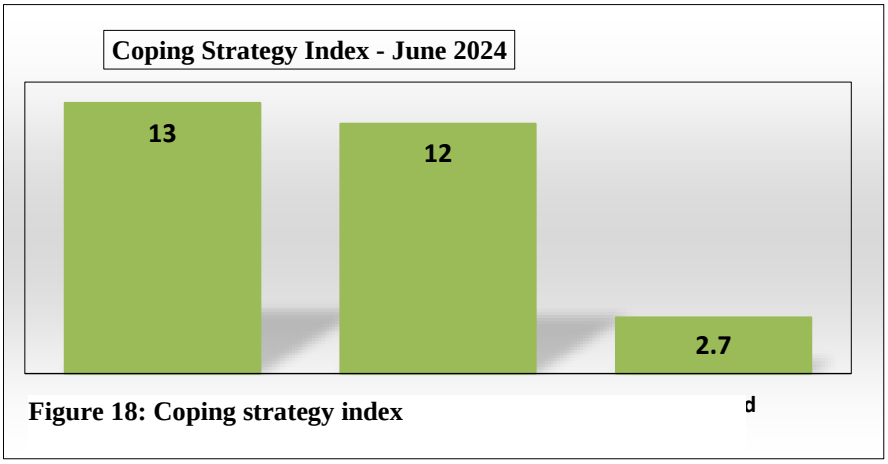

Figure 18: Coping strategy index

The average coping strategy index was at 11.74 which was a drop as compared to the previous month at 12.65. Households in Pastoral livelihood zone employed more coping strategies at 13 followed by Agro-pastoral livelihood zone at 12 while the Irrigated cropping zone employed the least coping mechanisms at 2.7(Figure 20).

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES.

6.1 Food interventions

6.1.1 General food relief

The national government through the office of the deputy county commissioners provided relief Food in Baringo North, Baringo South, Tiaty East and Tiaty West sub counties. 1,600 Bags of 50 Kgs Rice, 2,880 Bags of 50Kgs Beans and 200 Bags of 24kgs Fortified Food that were distributed to the vulnerable households through the chiefs.

6.1.2 Social protection

Give Direct is implementing a none conditional cash transfer program in Baringo South sub county targeting eight locations where each beneficiary is expected to receive a total of Kshs 110,000 in three tranches.
Reconcile is also implementing a cash transfer program in Tiaty East sub county targeting 635 beneficiaries whereby each beneficiary is expected to receive Kshs 8045.
WFP is planning to do an extension of cash transfer program for another six months targeting 1,348HH and 4000HH with nutrition commodities.

6.2 Non-food interventions

Agriculture

The County Government through the department of Agriculture is implementing the Emergency Response Locust Project (ERLP) In five sub counties of Tiaty (Kolloa, Churo/Amaya wards), Baringo North (Bartabwa, Saimo Soi wards), Baringo South (Ilchamus, Mochongoi wards), Mogotio (Kisanana ward) and Baringo Central (Sacho ward) targeting 9,725 beneficiaries. Some of the activities being supported include bee keeping, breed improvement, pasture establishment among others.

Water and sanitation

- Inter-peace provided one tank with a capacity of 1000 litres at Moinonin IDP camp.
- Save the Children assisted in water trucking to Moininin IDP camp while the County government assisted in water trucking in other IDP camps.
- Rehabilitation of boreholes supported by County government and the Kenya Red Cross is ongoing across the county while drilling of new boreholes is being supported by Hope water.
- Capacity building on sustainable water management was supported by the Kenya Red Cross and County government.

Drought risk management

- Baringo NDMA office in collaboration with Self Help Africa reviewed the county drought contingency plan. The exercise led to the updating of the contingency plan that will help in drought response interventions.
- Baringo NDMA office collaborated sensitized top county management on the EDE 11 framework as well as the validation of the same in Baringo and Elgeyo Marakwet counties.

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7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

The County was generally calm although there was an isolated incident at Loruk area whereby security personnel confronted bandits resulting in heavy exchange of gun fire. Some of the stolen livestock was eventually recovered and the security machinery has been able to restore some peace.

7.2 Food security prognosis

Water access and availability is expected to stay stable as most of the water sources were adequately recharged by the long rains hence trekking distances to watering points for both humans and livestock will remain below LTA. Water consumption at the household level will also greatly improve hence leading to better utilization of food.

Food availability is also expected to improve as milk production will be expected to remain above LTA due to sustained good animal body condition. Livestock migrations are expected to be minimal as herders are expected to utilize forage resources that are nearby. Leafy vegetables are also expected to be in plenty and therefore improving dietary diversity at the household level.

Food access is expected to improve especially for pastoral households due to continued improvement in terms of trade whereby households will be accessing more cereals and other food stuff as a result of enhanced household incomes emanating from livestock sales.

Incidents of malnutrition at the household level are expected to go down as milk consumption is expected to pick up. Furthermore, availability of leafy vegetables will enrich the household diets hence leading to improved food consumption score

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1.0 Proposed Recommendations

8.1.1. Water Sector

- Provision of water treatment drugs at water sources and household level to minimise outbreak of water borne diseases.

8.1.2. Nutrition and Health

- Support upscaling of integrated outreaches where community travel long distance to get health services
- Improve resilience of the vulnerable groups through nutrition education to care givers
- Promote proper utilization of food especially the indigenous food stuff that is grown locally.

8.1.3. Livestock and Veterinary sector

- Mopping up of vaccination activities to be done in areas that are having endemic livestock diseases.
- Enhance pasture establishment and conservation through provision of pasture seeds, hay bailing machines and construction of pasture storage structures.
- Promote rangeland restoration in the Pastoral areas especially in areas that are experiencing massive presence of invasive species.

8.1.4. Agriculture Sector

- Enhance post-harvest management measures in order to minimize post-harvest crop loses. This include construction of cereal stores and purchase and distribution of hermetic bags.
- Value addition of produce cereals (Maize, Sorghum and Millet) through milling and fortification of flour and Market linkages.

8.1.5 Drought coordination

- Enhance drought preparedness measures including doing resilient investments that will go a long way in enhancing the local capacity in addressing drought hazard.
- Review of drought contingency and DRR plans at the ward level which will enhance community drought preparedness.