



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



National Drought Management Authority
KITUI COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR JUNE 2024

JUNE EW PHASE		Early Warning Phase Classification																																																																																																																		
	LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TRENDS																																																																																																																	
	Marginal Mixed Farming	Normal	Worsening																																																																																																																	
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<u>Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification</u> <u>Biophysical Indicators</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The county experienced dry conditions in most places with light showers in few areas. The vegetation greenness was normal and declining. Forage condition varied between good to fair across the livelihood zones, with a decling trend. <u>Socio-Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)</u> <u>Production Indicators</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The crop condition was fair, with maize at maturity stage across the county. Livestock exhibited a good to fair body condition with no cases of unusual livestock migration and disease outbreaks. Milk production was within normal ranges. <u>Access Indicators</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The terms of trade were above the long term average. Milk consumption remained stable and within normal ranges and similar to long term average. The return trekking distance to water sources increased but remained within the seasonal range. The 20 litre water jerrican retailed normally at 2-5 shillings at source and 10-20 shillings from vendors. <u>Utilization Indicators</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The percentage of children at risk of malnutrition was higher than the long term average but although within the seasonal range and stable. The food security situation declined, with 49 percent of households under acceptable food consumption score. The proportion of households that employed stressed and crisis food-based coping mechanisms increased to 17.1 and 0.6 percent respectively. 		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Biophysical Indicators</th> <th>Value</th> <th colspan="2">Normal ranges</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Rainfall (% of normal)</td> <td>104</td> <td colspan="2">80-120</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VCI-3 month</td> <td>69.6</td> <td colspan="2">35-50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Forage Condition</td> <td>Good to Fair</td> <td colspan="2">Good to fair</td> </tr> <tr> <th>Production indicators</th> <th>Value</th> <th colspan="2">Normal ranges</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Maize Stocks Held by Households (Kgs)</td> <td>72</td> <td colspan="2">3-197</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Livestock Body Condition</td> <td>Good to fair</td> <td colspan="2">Good to fair</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Milk Production (in litres)</td> <td>1</td> <td colspan="2">0.8-1.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Livestock Migration Pattern</td> <td>Normal</td> <td colspan="2">Normal</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Livestock Deaths (from drought)</td> <td>No deaths</td> <td colspan="2">No deaths</td> </tr> <tr> <th>Access Indicators</th> <th>Value</th> <th colspan="2">Normal ranges</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Terms of Trade (ToT) in kgs</td> <td>127</td> <td colspan="2">49-112</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Milk Consumption (in litres)</td> <td>0.9</td> <td colspan="2">0.6-1.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Return Distance to Water Sources (Km)</td> <td>Household</td> <td>5.8</td> <td>4.4-7.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Livestock</td> <td>6.5</td> <td>4.8-7.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Cost of Water (20 litres Jerry can) in Kshs</td> <td>At Source</td> <td>2-5</td> <td>≤ 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vendor</td> <td>10-20</td> <td>10-20</td> </tr> <tr> <th>Utilization indicators</th> <th>Value</th> <th colspan="2">Normal ranges</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)</td> <td>7.5</td> <td colspan="2">3.8-8.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)</td> <td>1.9</td> <td colspan="2">2.9-9.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="4">Food Consumption Score (%)</td> <td>Mean</td> <td>49</td> <td>≥ 42.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Acceptable</td> <td>84</td> <td>≥ 80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Borderline</td> <td>16</td> <td>≤ 20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Poor</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal ranges		Rainfall (% of normal)	104	80-120		VCI-3 month	69.6	35-50		Forage Condition	Good to Fair	Good to fair		Production indicators	Value	Normal ranges		Maize Stocks Held by Households (Kgs)	72	3-197		Livestock Body Condition	Good to fair	Good to fair		Milk Production (in litres)	1	0.8-1.2		Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal		Livestock Deaths (from drought)	No deaths	No deaths		Access Indicators	Value	Normal ranges		Terms of Trade (ToT) in kgs	127	49-112		Milk Consumption (in litres)	0.9	0.6-1.1		Return Distance to Water Sources (Km)	Household	5.8	4.4-7.0	Livestock	6.5	4.8-7.4	Cost of Water (20 litres Jerry can) in Kshs	At Source	2-5	≤ 5	Vendor	10-20	10-20	Utilization indicators	Value	Normal ranges		Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	7.5	3.8-8.2		Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)	1.9	2.9-9.9		Food Consumption Score (%)	Mean	49	≥ 42.5	Acceptable	84	≥ 80	Borderline	16	≤ 20	Poor	0	0	<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains harvests Short dry spell Reduced milk yields Increased HH Food Stocks Land preparation </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting/Weeding Long rains High Calving Rate Milk Yields Increase </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long rains harvests A long dry spell Land preparation Increased HH Food Stocks Kidding (Sept) </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains Planting/weeding </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dry Season</td> <td>Long Rains</td> <td>Dry Cool Season</td> <td>Short Rains Season</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jan</td> <td>Feb</td> <td>Mar</td> <td>Apr</td> <td>May</td> <td>Jun</td> <td>Jul</td> <td>Aug</td> <td>Sept</td> <td>Oct</td> <td>Nov</td> <td>Dec</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains harvests Short dry spell Reduced milk yields Increased HH Food Stocks Land preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting/Weeding Long rains High Calving Rate Milk Yields Increase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long rains harvests A long dry spell Land preparation Increased HH Food Stocks Kidding (Sept) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains Planting/weeding 	Dry Season	Long Rains	Dry Cool Season	Short Rains Season	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- The county experienced a normal off-season period with insignificant precipitation across the livelihood zones.
- Most parts of the county received no rainfall, with only a few areas recording little showers in all the dekads.
- Data from WFP-VAM, CHIRPS/MODIS indicate that in June 2024, the county recorded 1.6, 1.3 and 1.9 millimetres in the first, second and third dekads respectively, compared to 41.5, 4.7 and 11.9 millimetres for the respective dekads in May, representing a 92 percent decrease (Figure 1). The current rainfall is 104 percent of normal rainfall for the month of June.
- The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) decreased from 111 percent of normal in May to 73 percent of normal in June.

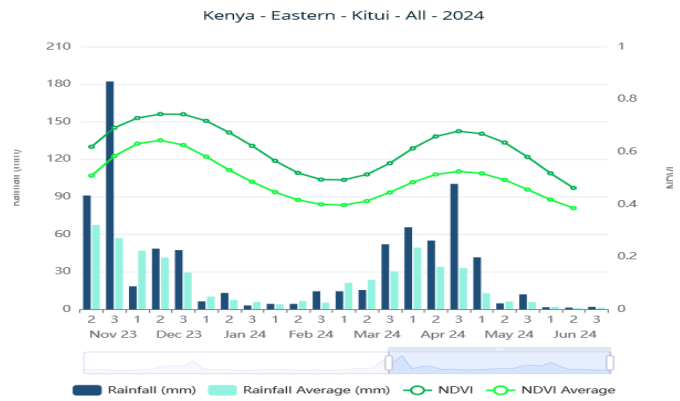


Figure 1: Rainfall Distribution and NDVI Trends

1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- The county remained relatively dry, with few areas among the Mixed Farming zone experiencing occasional wet days.
- According to the Kenya Meteorological Department weather review for the month of June 2024, Kitui County recorded less than 25 mm of rainfall categorized as light showers, with most parts receiving no rainfall at all throughout the month as shown in figure 2.
- About 70 and 90 percent of Mixed Farming and Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zones respectively received no rainfall during the month.
- The rainfall distribution exhibited uneven spatial and poor temporal distribution.

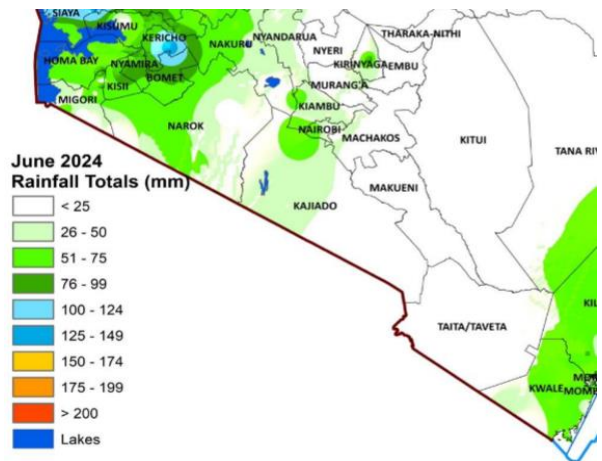


Figure 2: Spatial Rainfall Distribution

1.3 OTHER EVENTS

- No unusual events were reported during the month.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The overall VCI for the county remained above normal and portrayed very good conditions, comparable to the previous month.
- The apparent above normal vegetation greenness is attributed to the effect of the sufficient long rains received across the county in March-April-May and compounded by the cumulative effect of the favourable short rains season during the October-November-December (Figure 3).

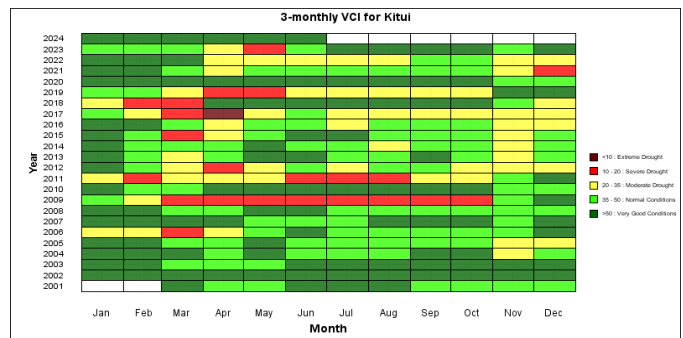


Figure 3: 3-Month VCI Matrix

2.1.1.1 Sub-county and Ward Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The current 3-Month VCI for the county generally decreased to 69.6, from 76.2 recorded in the previous month, indicating a downward trend attributed to dismal precipitation during the period.
- Despite the decline in the overall VCI, the county maintained above normal vegetation conditions. Areas that experienced deprived vegetation include Endau/Malalani Ward which showed extreme vegetation deficit with VCI of 1.3 while Township Ward experienced severe vegetation deficit at 19.1 with Athi Ward having moderate vegetation deficit at 27.4. A number of wards experienced above normal vegetation greenness with VCI above 86, including Nguutani, Kisasi, Mbitini and Kauwi, while Mulango and Kyangwithya West recorded VCI of 90. The rest of the wards portrayed normal vegetation conditions (Figure 4).

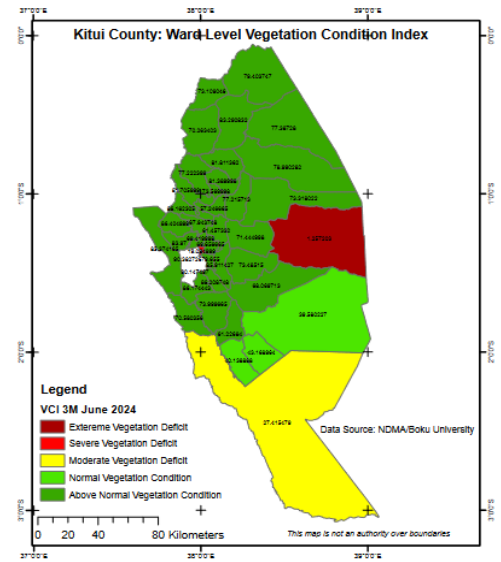


Figure 4: Ward Level 3-M VCI

2.1.2 Pasture

- The condition of pasture varied from good to fair in quality and quantity, with 69 percent of sampled community members reporting that pasture condition was good while 27 and four percent of them stated that it was fair and poor respectively (Figure 5). This shows some deterioration in pasture condition compared to the previous month, whereby 73 and 27 percent of sampled community members reported of pasture being good and fair respectively. Most areas in the Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone including Endau, Tseikuru, Nuu and Athi experienced pasture depletion owing to the dry weather.
- The available pasture is projected to last for two months, which is a normal duration at such time.

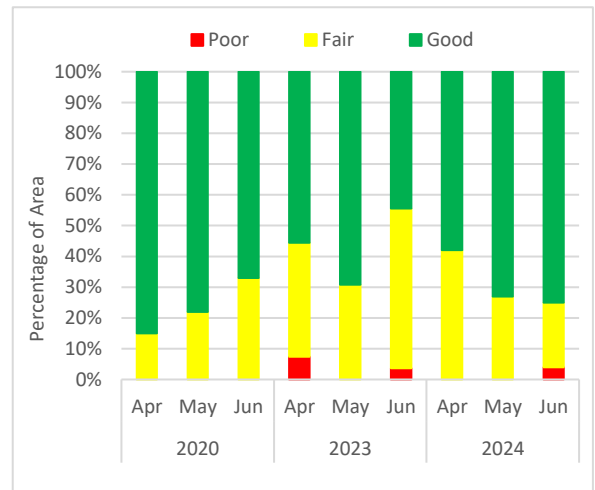


Figure 5: Pasture Condition

2.1.3 Browse

- Browse condition was good, as reflected in 79 of community members interviewed confessing as good with 21 percent terming it fair (Figure 6).
- Browse condition depicted a slight deterioration as compared to the previous month where the proportions were at 86 and 14 percent for good and fair condition respectively. Marginal Mixed areas were more affected by the decline in browse.
- The available browse is estimated to last for three months, as it normally takes at such time of the year.

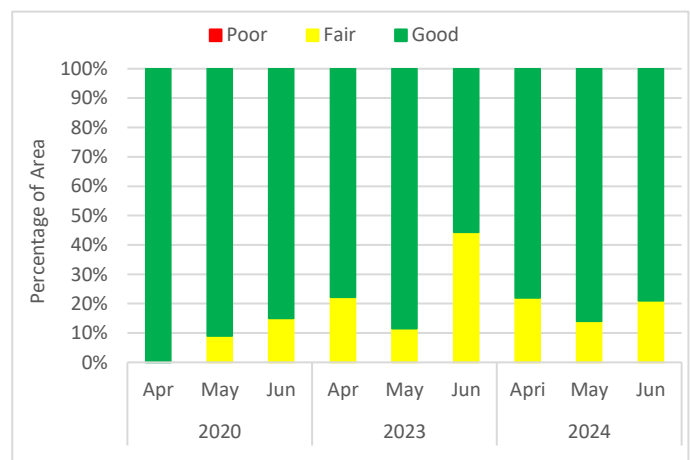


Figure 6: Browse Condition

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

2.2.1 Sources

- The main water sources in use by both human beings and livestock during the month were boreholes, traditional river wells, pans/dams and shallow wells at proportions of 29, 25, 19 and 15 percent respectively (Figure 7). There was variation as compared to the previous month, where the above sources were at 24, 20, 28 and 15 percent respectively, revealing a significant decrease in use of pans/dams from 28 to 19 percent in May and June respectively and increase in use of bore holes and traditional river wells from 24 to 29 percent and 20 to 25 percent in May and June respectively. The shift is attributed to decreasing water levels in pans and dams thus communities resorting to bore holes and traditional river wells.

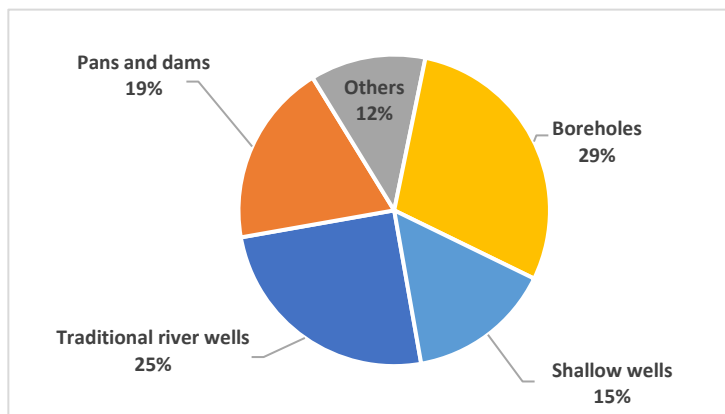


Figure 7: Major water sources

- The decrease in use of open water sources is attributed to the poor recharge realized due to dismal precipitation across the livelihoods during the month.
- The available surface water sources are estimated to last for two months as normally expected.

2.2.2 Household Access and Utilization

- The average return distance from households to water sources was 5.8 km, being an increase from 3.6 km recorded in the previous month. The current distance is comparable to the Long-Term Average (LTA) of 5.7 km and within the seasonal range of (4.4-7.0) km as shown in figure 8.
- The significant increase in distance is attributed to the shift in reliance from pans/dams to other sources that are more distant. Pans/dams continued drying and thus ceasing in use.

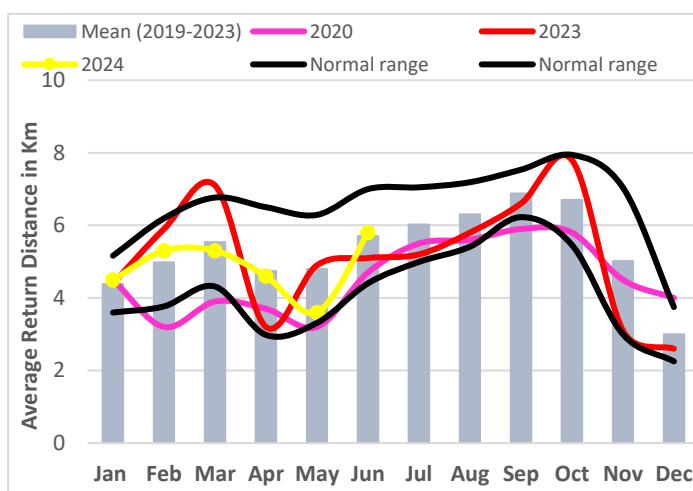


Figure 8: Household distance to water sources

- Households in the Mixed Farming livelihood zone trekked an average of 4.8 km compared to 6.7 km in Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone.
- Water consumption per person per day decreased from 21 litres in May to 18 litres in June.
- The proportion of households buying water remained insignificant, while the proportion of households treating water before consuming stood at 10 percent, with the most preferred method of treating water across the livelihood zones being chemicals.
- The price of water per 20-litre Jerry can at source was normal at 2-5 shillings, while vendors retailed at 10-20 shillings within and near town centres, being normal as well.

2.2.3 Livestock Access

- In June 2024, the average return distance from livestock grazing areas to main water sources was 6.5 km, having increased from 4.8 km recorded in May. The increase in distance is attributed to decrease in alternative water sources due to depletion of water in the open water sources (pans/dams) occasioned by scarce rains and poor recharge. The current trekking distance is slightly above the LTA of 6.1 km, although within the normal range of 4.8-7.4 km (Figure 9).

- The distance in Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone was 6.9 km compared to 5.3 km in the Mixed Farming livelihood zone.
- Livestock watering frequency remained daily for all species across the livelihood zones, a scenario that is expected at such time of the year.

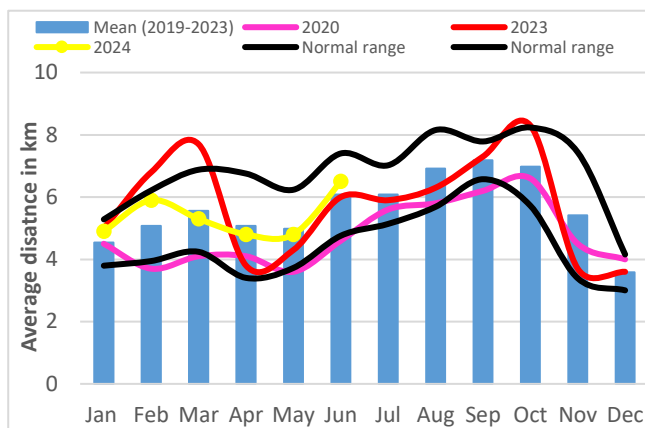


Figure 9: Distance from grazing areas to water points

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- The body condition for livestock varied from good to fair across the livelihood zones.
- Monitoring revealed that about 65 percent of cattle showed good (smooth appearance) body condition, while 35 percent exhibited a moderate (neither fat nor thin) body condition as shown in figure 10.
- The current body condition indicates some deterioration from the previous month, where 78 percent cattle was in good body condition with 22 percent in moderate body condition.
- The deterioration is attributed to the general decline in forage and increased trekking distance to water sources.
- There were no unusual cases of livestock migration in search of water and forage so far.
- The livestock body condition is projected to continue deteriorating given the ongoing dry spell.

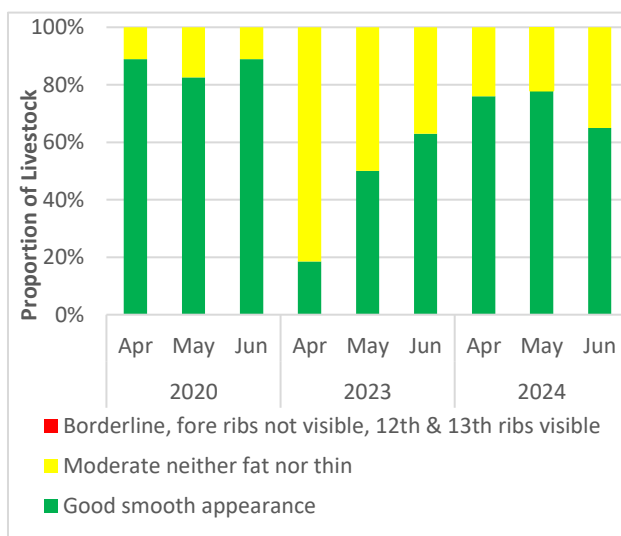


Figure 10: Livestock Body Condition

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases and Mortalities

- There were no unusual incidences of livestock disease outbreaks and mortalities reported.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- The average daily milk production per household was one litre (from cattle), having decreased from 1.2 litres recorded in the previous month but at par with LTA. The production remained within the seasonal range of (0.8-1.2) litres as shown in figure 11.
- The downward trend in milk production which is attributed to the decline in pasture and increased trekking distance from grazing areas to water sources for livestock. Milk production was higher in the Mixed Farming livelihood zone at 1.3 litres compared to 0.7 litres in the Marginal Mixed Farming zone.
- Unprocessed milk was sold at average price of Ksh 60 per litre, same as the previous month and during normal period.

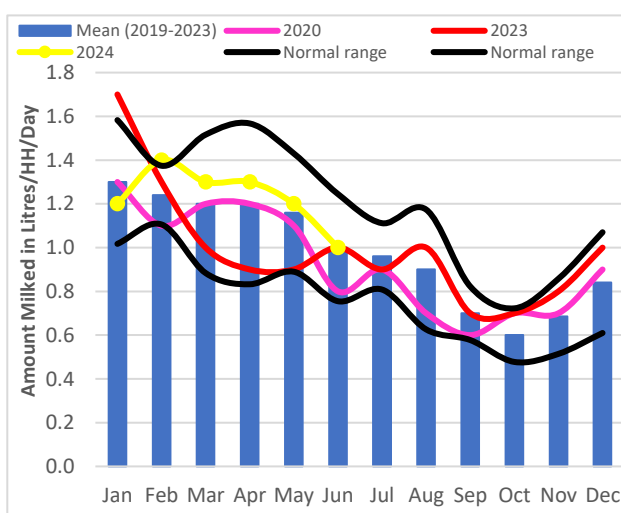


Figure 11: Household Milk Production

3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of Food Crops

- The main crops were millet, cowpeas, green grams, sorghum, and maize in the Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone and maize, beans, pigeon peas, cow peas and green grams in the Mixed Farming livelihood zone.
- Maize was predominantly at maturity stage, and its performance was fair in the Mixed Farming zone while poor in the Marginal Mixed Farming zone.

3.2.2 Cereal Stocks Held by Households

- Currently, households held an average of 72 kgs of maize stocks, as compared to 81 kgs in the previous month, showing a decrease, although higher than the LTA of 35 kg (Figure 12). The current stocks were within the seasonal range of (3-197) kg.
- Households in the Mixed Farming livelihood zone held an average of 81 kgs compared to 51 kgs in the Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone.

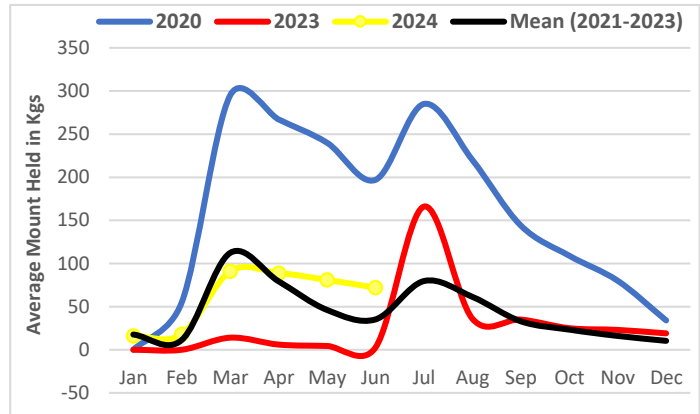


Figure 12: Maize stocks held by households

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

- The average market price of a medium-size cattle was Kshs. 33,423, showing price stability in comparison to the previous month of Kshs. 32,702 along with the LTA price of Kshs. 32,174 as shown in figure 13.
- The stability in price is attributed to relatively good the body condition and the prevailing invariable supply of traded volumes at the market between the two months.
- Cattle price was highest in the Mixed Farming livelihood zone at Kshs. 38,902 at Kavizuni market and lowest at Kshs. 24,117 at Tiva market in the Marginal Mixed Farming zone.

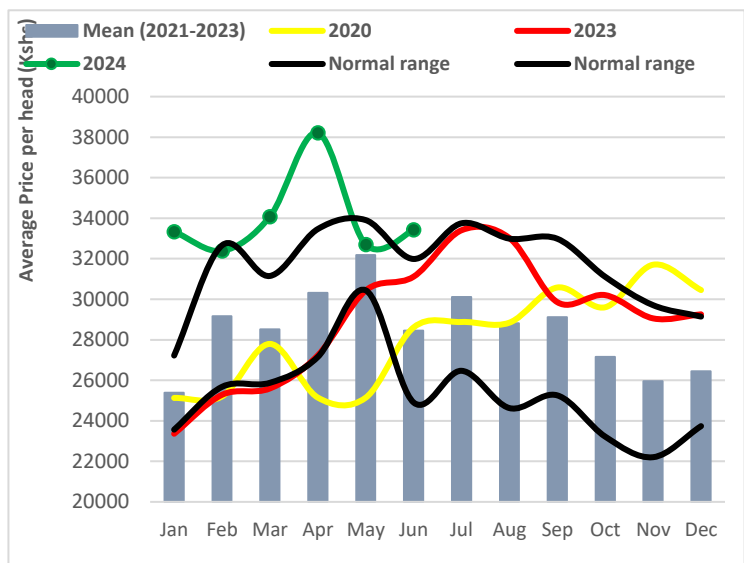


Figure 13: Market Price of Cattle

- The market price for cattle was out of the normal range (24,905-31,987) on the upper limit, indicating a positive gesture to the households.

4.1.2 Small Ruminants Prices (Goat Price)

- In June 2024, a medium-size goat was sold at average market price of Kshs. 5,604, compared to Kshs. 5,783 in May, indicating a general price stability. In comparison with the LTA of Kshs. 4,092 and seasonal range of Kshs. (3,473-4,712), the current price is still favourable to the farmer (Figure 14).
- The stability in price is attributed to the stable goat body condition and invariability in the supply of goats in the market compared to the previous month.
- Mixed Farming livelihood zone recorded a higher price of Ksh. 6,725 compared to Kshs. 5,000 recorded in Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone. The variation in price is attributed to sizes of animals presented at the market, whereby larger animals attracted higher prices.

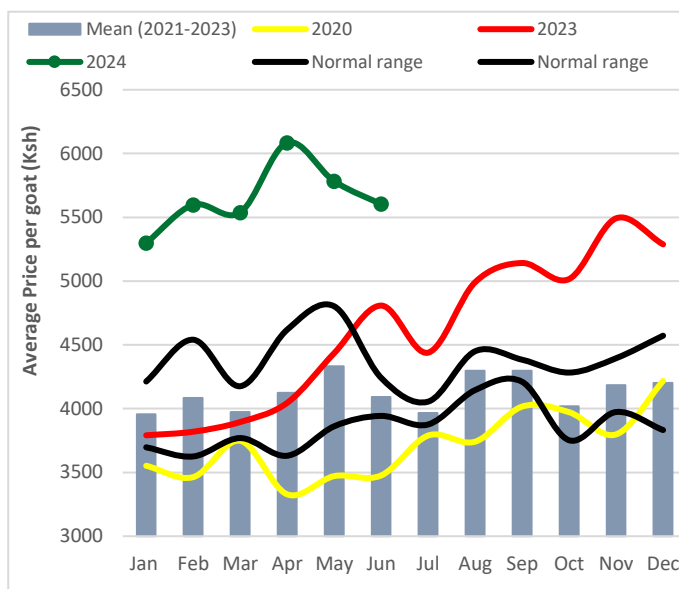


Figure 14: Market Price of Goat

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

- The average market price of maize per kilogram was Kshs. 42, being a slight increase compared to Kshs. 40 recorded in the previous month. The current price is however lower than LTA of Kshs. 56. The price increase is attributed to decreasing household stocks.
- Maize price was higher in Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone at Kshs. 50 at Endau compared to Kshs. 35 in Mixed Farming livelihood zone at Katutu market.
- The current maize price is within seasonal range of 34-79 shillings (Figure 15).

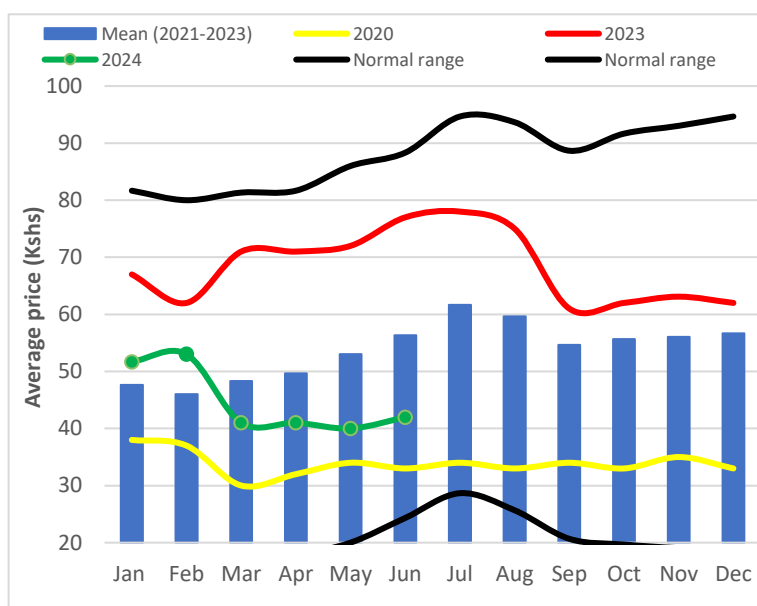


Figure 15: Price of Maize

4.2.2 Beans

- The average market price of beans per kilogram was Kshs. 120, compared to Kshs. 123 in the previous month. The decrease in the price is mainly attributed to relatively high stocks supply from the short rains harvests especially in the Mixed Farming livelihood zone markets.
- The current beans price is similar the LTA value of Kshs. 120 and within the seasonal range of Kshs. 83-157 (Figure 16).
- Beans price was higher in Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone at Kshs. 173 at Nuu Market compared to Kshs. 80 in the Mixed Farming livelihood zone at Katutu market.

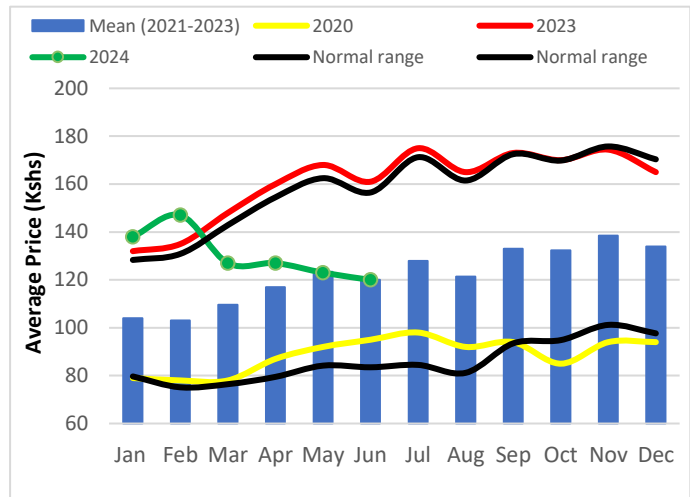


Figure 16: Price of Beans

4.3 Livestock Price Ratio/Terms of Trade

- The terms of trade (ToT) declined during the month whereby one goat was traded for 127 kg of maize, down from 129 kg in the previous month.
- The decline in ToT is attributed to the increasing maize price relative to goat price.
- The terms of trade were outside the seasonal range of 49-112 kg and higher than LTA of 80 kg (Figure 17).
- Terms of trade were better in the Mixed Farming livelihood zone at 151 kg in compared to 134 kilograms in Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone.

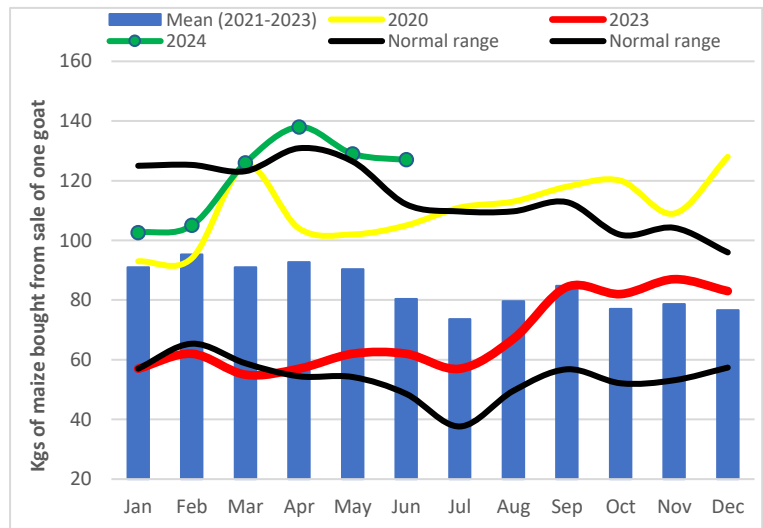


Figure 17: Terms of Trade

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- The average daily milk consumption per household remained 0.9 litres, as in the previous month and LTA. The stability in consumption is due to sustained milk availability.
- The current milk consumption is within the normal range of (0.6-1.1) litres as shown in figure 18.
- Milk consumption was higher in Mixed Farming livelihood zone at one litre compared to 0.7 litres in the Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone.

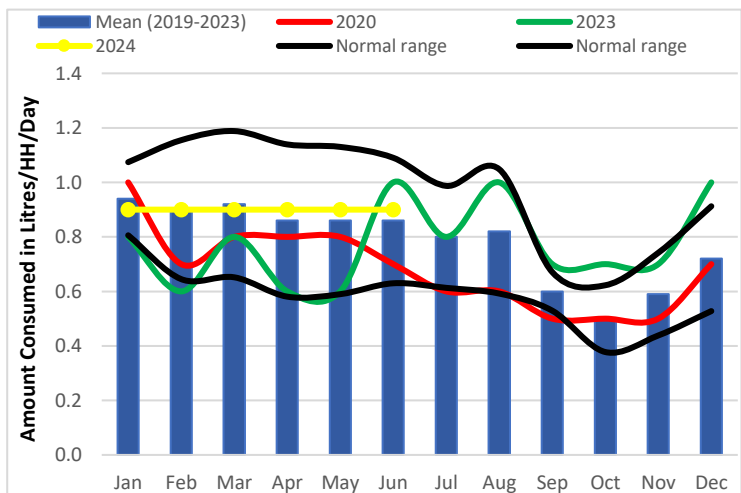


Figure 18: Household Milk Consumption

5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

- The household food consumption dropped slightly in June. The mean Food Consumption Score (FCS) decreased from 51 percent in May to 49 percent in June.
- The proportion of households under acceptable, borderline and poor food consumption score was 84, 16 and zero percent respectively in June, compared to the May which recorded 86, 14 and zero percent for the respective categories (Figure 19).
- The mean FCS was 46 percent in the Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone and 50 percent in the Mixed Farming zone.
- The Mixed Farming livelihood zone maintained the highest number of households under acceptable food consumption category at 86 percent compared to 70 percent in the Marginal Mixed Farming zone.
- Households consumed cereals, pulses, vegetables and oils/sugars/sugary products for six, five, four and two days respectively per week, while milk, meat/eggs/fish and fruits once per week.

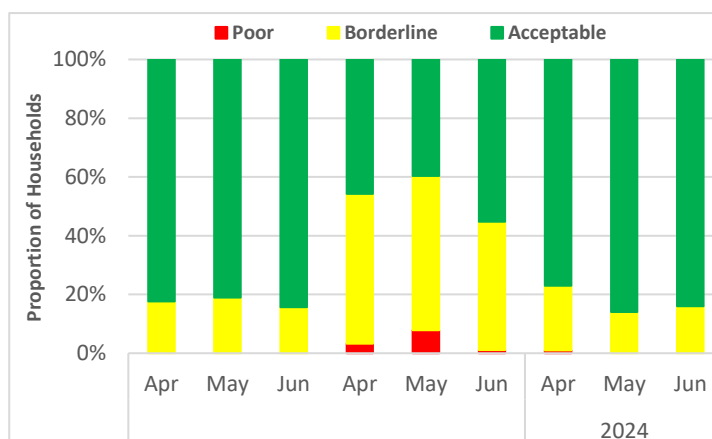


Figure 19: Food Consumption Score

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition status

- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition; with Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) less than 135 mm stood at 7.5 percent, similar to the previous month. The current proportion is above the LTA value of six percent, although within the seasonal range of 3.8-8.2 percent (Figure 20).
- The stability in the proportion of children at risk of malnutrition relative to the previous month is attributed to the sustained access to milk at household level.
- Cases of severely malnourished children (MUAC <115) were at 0.35 percent and within the expected range of (0.08-0.46) percent.

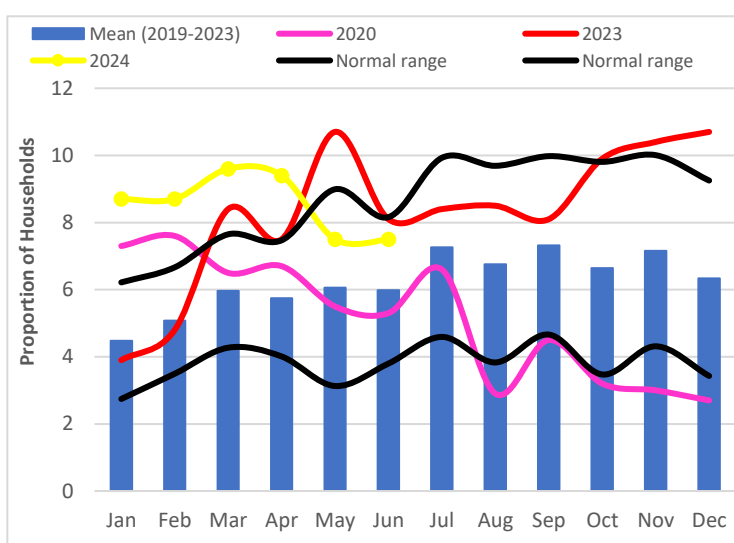


Figure 20: Percentage of children at risk of malnutrition

5.3.2 Health

- The proportion of children suspected to have fever with chills like malaria, fever with breathing difficulties and diarrhoea cases remained 1.8, 1.3 and 0.4 percent respectively, similar to the previous month.

5.4 COPING STRATEGIES

5.4.1 Food Based Coping

- Households experienced minimal food gaps, as was the case in the previous month. The food gaps were reflected in the mean reduced coping strategy index (rCSI) of 1.9, similar to the previous month, although less than the LTA of 6.4 (Figure 21).
- The relatively low in rCSI indicates fair access to food, and better dietary diversification at household level.
- The current rCSI is within the normal range of (2.9-9.9).
- On the other hand, the Food Based Coping Mechanisms (FBCMs) among households showed proportions of 17.1 and 0.6 percent for those employing stressed and crisis coping mechanisms respectively, compared to 16.3 and 0.3 percent for the respective categories in the previous month, with no households employing emergency coping mechanisms, indicating stability and a relatively fair food situation.
- In the Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone, 18.2 and 0.9 percent of households employed stressed and crisis food based coping mechanisms respectively, compared to 17.3 and one percent in the Mixed Farming livelihood zone for the respective levels (Figure 22).

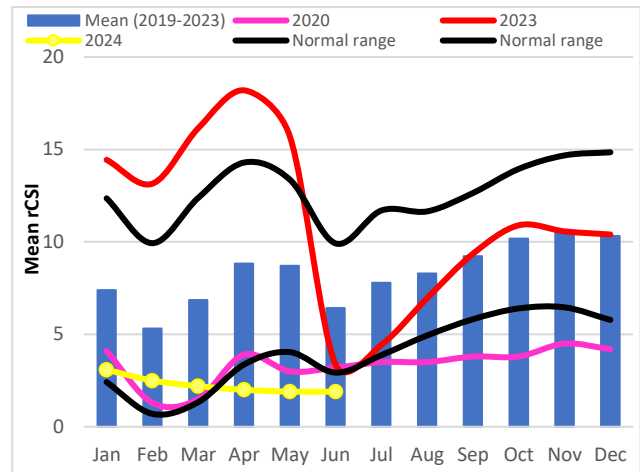


Figure 21: Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)

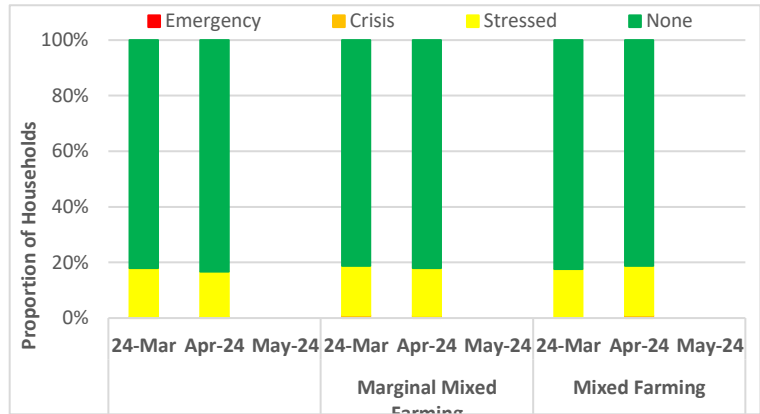


Figure 22: Food Based Coping Mechanisms (FBCMs)

5.4.2 Livelihood Coping

- The proportion of households that engaged in Livelihood Based Coping Mechanisms (LBCMs) in order to access food remained low. Households had the proportions of 11.4, 0.5 and zero percent for those categorized under stressed, crisis and emergency mechanisms respectively, as in the previous month.
- In Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone, 13.1 and 1.2 percent of the households employed stressed and crisis coping mechanisms respectively (through reducing non-food expenses in order to buy food) compared 1.3 and 0.1 percent in the Mixed Farming livelihood zone respectively (Figure 23).

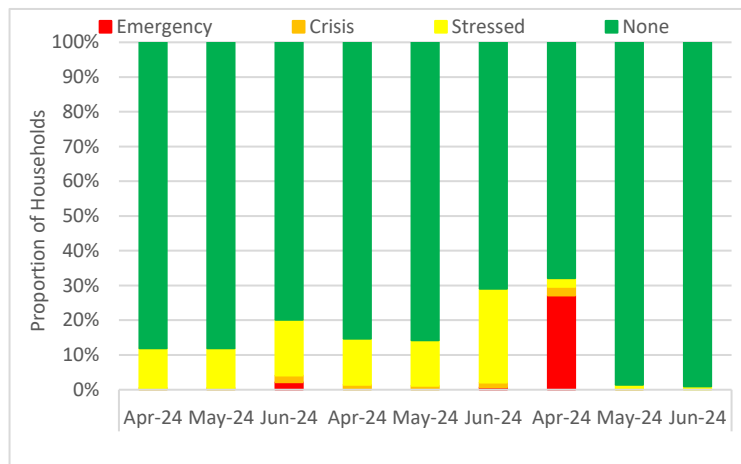


Figure 23: Households employing livelihood-based coping

6.0 EMERGING ISSUES

6.1 INSECURITY/CONFLICT/HUMAN DISPLACEMENT

- During the reporting period, incidences of human-wildlife conflicts that had remained low in the previous months started being reported in Endau/Malalani Ward in Kitui East Sub-county and Mutha Ward in Kitui South Sub-county, in the Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone. Cases reported included Elephant invasion of farms and hyenas/wild dogs preying on small stock and pausing danger to community members.

7.0 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- The Kenya Meteorological Department forecast for July 2024 maintained that Kitui County is expected to remain generally dry, with a few areas likely to experience occasional cold and cloudy conditions, a scenario expected to run through July-August to early September. The remaining part of September is expected to be generally dry. Temperature is expected to be warmer than the average for July over the whole county.
- Cognizant of this projected dry condition, there is likely to be continued poor regeneration of forage and minimal recharge of water resources, which are likely to decrease production, persisting through August 2024.
- Livestock productivity is expected to decline due to poor availability of water and feeds. The livestock body condition is projected to deteriorate and decrease both milk production and prices. There is expected decline in the terms of trade as goat price would decrease further while maize price expected to continue increasing. However, the projected long rains harvests could cape the price increase within the period.
- The current low household food stocks may be depleted in a short time but boosted by the expected harvests in August/September.
- The milk production and consumption is expected to decline as the dry spell persists owing to subsequent deterioration of livestock body condition, and therefore likely to affect nutrition status of children under five years.
- Distance to water sources for both livestock and households is expected to continue increasing and likely to reduce household daily water consumption per day, thus affect food utilization.

8.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES

8.1 NON-FOOD INTERVENTIONS

Sector	Intervention	Target Beneficiaries/Areas	Cost (Kshs.)	Lead Actor	Time Frame
Social protection	Mass screening and hygiene promotion ongoing for Cash transfers	3573 households in 17 wards	84.15 USD/HH/ Month	World Vision Kenya (WVK)	From August 2023 to July 2024
	Inua Jamii Tier 2 Cash Transfers for Vulnerable Groups	40,661 Total beneficiaries (Older Persons: 27,072, OVC: 9,258, PWDs: 4,331)	Kshs. 2,000 per beneficiary per month	GoK	From October 2023
	- Enhanced access to animal health services in Makueni and Kitui counties. - Enhanced access to and consumption of diverse, safe, and nutritious foods in Makueni and Kitui Counties	1000HHs (500 HHs in Mwingi North and 500 HHs in Mwingi Central Sub-counties)		Candle of Hope Foundation – FAO funded	June 2024
Health & Nutrition	Supplementary feeding program (support to children 5 years & pregnant lactating women who are moderately malnourished with RUSF & CSB super cereal plus	5,666 children under 5 years and 1,163 pregnant lactating women in Government health facilities across the county		World Food Program (WFP)	

Sector	Intervention	Target Beneficiaries/Areas	Cost (Kshs.)	Lead Actor	Time Frame
Water	Construction of Mwanja-Maongoa sand dam (pump testing)	1,400 HH, 3 wards 5 schools, 3,000 cattle 6,000 goats, 500 donkeys	34 M	NDMA	Jan- June 2024

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Immediate/Short Term

National Government, County Government and Development partners to collaborate on:

Sector	Intervention	Target Area
Social protection (Food & Safety Nets)	Continued provision of and support to food aid/cash transfer to severely affected households	34,357 households in all eight sub-counties
Livestock	Promotion of pasture production and conservation	All 8 sub-counties
	Scale-up support to improved Galla dairy goats rearing for diversification of livelihoods	Marginal Mixed Farming Zones
	Promotion of modernized apiculture for income generation and diversification	Both Marginal Mixed and Mixed Farming Zones
	Enhance livestock disease surveillance	All 8 sub-counties
Water	Servicing, maintenance, rehabilitation and extension of water pipelines from high yielding boreholes	Water facilities in all eight sub-counties
Agriculture	Promotion of sustainable post harvest management technologies	All 8 sub-counties
	Introduction of water saving irrigation technologies like drip irrigation and kitchen gardens	All 8 sub-counties
Environment	Tree nursery establishment and planting in areas with sustainable water sources	All 8 sub-counties
Health and Nutrition	Continuous mass screening with integrated outreaches in far flung and hot-spot areas	Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zones
	Support hygiene and sanitation promotions	All 8 sub-counties
	Essential medical supplies	All 8 sub-counties
	Promotion of water treatment techniques	All 8 sub-counties
Education	Provision of School feeding programmes	All 8 sub-counties
	Enhance hygiene promotion in learning institutions	All 8 sub-counties
Wildlife management and Conservation	Institute surveillance at wildlife spill-over areas to minimize conflict human-wildlife conflicts as the dry spell continues	Along Kitui Tana River counties bordering wards
	Provide compensations to the losses and damages	
	Identify and designate core conservation areas to minimize competition over resources	