



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



National Drought Management Authority

KITUI COUNTY

DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR JANUARY 2026

DECEMBER EW PHASE						Early Warning Phase Classification																	
Drought Status: ALERT  Maandalizi ya mapema						LIVELIHOOD ZONE		EW PHASE		TREND													
						Marginal Mixed Farming		Alarm		Worsening													
						Mixed Farming		Alert		Worsening													
						County		Alert		Worsening													
Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification																							
Biophysical Indicators						Biophysical Indicators		Value		Normal ranges													
- The county experienced predominantly sunny and dry conditions throughout the month. - The VCI was below normal, with below-normal vegetation greenness. - Pasture condition predominantly poor, fair browse but below normal, with availability projected to last less than normal duration characterized by rapid depletion.						Rainfall (% of normal)		28		80-120													
						VCI-3 month		34		35-50													
						Forage Condition		Poor		Good to Fair													
Socio-Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)						Production indicators		Value		Normal ranges													
Production Indicators - Most crops failed and some areas experienced total crop failure, thus projected production anticipated to remain below average. Household cereal stocks are critically low, with most parts reporting complete depletion. - Livestock body condition was fair, with a deteriorating trend across livelihoods. No livestock reported in critical condition. - Milk production was on decline, with relative short-term stability owing to the projected depreciating factors.						Maize Stocks Held by Households (Kgs)		6		9-21													
						Livestock Body Condition		Fair to poor		Good to Fair													
						Milk Production (in litres)		1.4		0.4-1.0													
						Livestock Migration Pattern		Above Normal		Normal													
						Livestock Deaths (from drought)		No deaths		No deaths													
Access Indicators						Access Indicators		Value		Normal ranges													
Access Indicators - Terms of Trade worsened; lowering purchasing power and increasing household vulnerability to further shocks. Milk consumption was declining, especially in the Marginal Mixed Farming zones. Trekking distance to water increased to above Long-Term Average, exerting sustained pressure on current sources. - Water prices remained within normal ranges at source points, but spiked to above-normal levels at vendor stations. Reliance on boreholes continued to rise due to poor recharge and depletion of alternative water sources. - The 20 litre water jerrican retailed above normal at 3-15 shillings at source and also above normal (40-50 shillings) from vendors.						Terms of Trade (ToT) in kgs		95.8		53-119													
						Milk Consumption (in litres)		1.1		0.5-1.0													
						Return Distance to Water Sources (Km)		Household	7.0		2.7-4.2												
								Livestock	6.8		3.7-4.2												
						Cost of Water (20 litres Jerry can) in Kshs		At Source	3-15		≤ 5												
								Vendor	40-50		20-30												
						Utilization indicators						Utilization indicators		Value		Normal ranges							
Utilization Indicators - Average Food Consumption Score was 41, while 72.2, 23.3 and 4.5 percent of households classified under acceptable, borderline and poor categories respectively. - The number of children at risk of malnutrition increased. Household food-based coping strategy increased as the reduced coping strategy index increased from 6.8 to 9.4. Food security worsened as more households employed stressed and crisis coping mechanisms at 24.8 and 1.4 percent respectively.						Nutrition Status by MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)		7.3		4.2-9.9													
						Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)		9.4		3.5-14.6													
						Food Consumption Score (%)		Mean	41		≥ 46.8												
								Acceptable	72.2		≥ 80												
								Borderline	23.3		≤ 20												
Poor	4.5		0																				
- 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																	
Dry Season						Long Rains						Dry Cool Season						Short Rains Season					
Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sept		Oct		Nov		Dec	

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- In January, the county experienced a marked decline in both rainfall and vegetation conditions. Recovery remained weak and continued to deteriorate, largely due to the poor performance of the OND short rains.
- The January 2026 WFP-VAM (CHIRPS/MODIS) data indicates that the county received only 2.5 mm and 2.1 mm of rainfall during the first and second dekads, respectively. This is significantly lower compared to 8.4 mm and 72.7 mm recorded in the corresponding dekads of the previous month, and also below the Long-term Average (LTA) of 10.1 mm and 7.4 mm (Figure 1).
- The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) for January was however higher than the LTA for this period, which can be attributed to the effect of the rains received in December 2025.

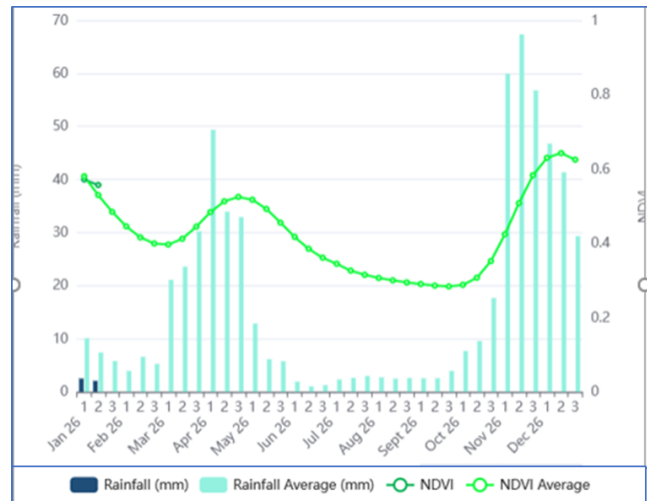


Figure 1: Rainfall distribution and NDVI trends

1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- According to the January 2026 weather review by the Kenya Meteorological Department, Kitui County experienced predominantly sunny and dry conditions throughout January 2026, with only one or two isolated rainfall events in pockets of Kitui Central thus very poor spatial distribution.
- These rains were below the January LTA, with insignificant impact to the livelihood performance.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The overall VCI decreased from 43 in December 2025 to 34 in January 2026, depicting a persistently worsening trend in vegetation condition deficit reflected across the county.

2.1.2 Ward and sub-county Level VCI

- The vegetation condition for most sub-counties indicated moderate to severe vegetation deficit, with 3-month VCI values ranging between 16 and 34. Mwingi West, Kitui East, Kitui West, Mwingi North, and Kitui South recorded 3-months VCI of 16, 26, 31, 33 and 34 respectively, while Kitui Rural and Mwingi Central showed normal vegetation conditions with 3-month VCI of 43 and 44 respectively. Contrastingly, Kitui Central showed above normal vegetation conditions with the highest VCI of 62, reflecting better greenness compared to the rest (Figure 2). At wards level, Mutitu/Kaliku, Kyome/Thaana, Migwani, Tharaka, Zombe/Mwitika and Mutonguni experienced severe vegetation deficit with VCI of 12, 13, 14, 16, 19 and 20 respectively while Nguutani, Endau/Malalani, Tseikuru, Mutha, Kivou, Kauwi, Mutha and Athi posted moderate vegetation with VCI of 22, 23, 25, 30, 32, 32 and 34 respectively. The rest of the wards experienced normal and above normal vegetation greenness, with Township recording the highest VCI of 70.

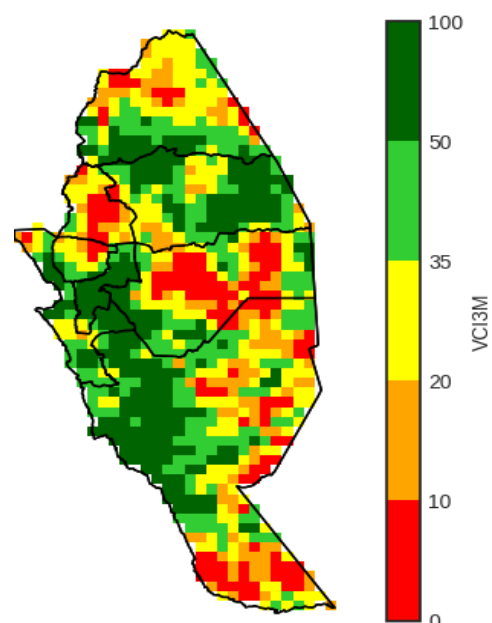


Figure 2: Sub-county level 3-month VCI

2.1.2 Pasture:

- During the month of January 2026, pasture condition across the county was predominantly poor. The proportion of community members interviewed who confessed that pasture condition was good, fair and poor was 11, 67 and 22 percent respectively (Figure 3). Notably, Ikutha ward in Kitui South sub-county was the only area with good pasture condition, highlighting the impact of prolonged moisture stress and limited regeneration elsewhere.
- The Marginal Mixed Farming (MMF) livelihood zone recorded more areas with poor pasture compared to the Mixed Farming (MF) livelihood zone. Access to available pasture was further constrained by vector-borne disease outbreaks and cross-border livestock influx due to immigration of livestock from outside the county.
- Under normal circumstances, pasture availability would last about two months. However, current projections indicate that existing pasture will sustain livestock for less than one month, underscoring the severity of the situation.

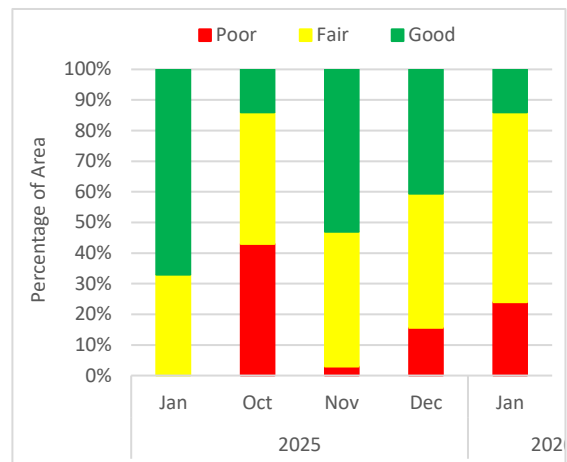


Figure 3: Pasture condition

2.1.3 Browse

- Browse conditions were relatively better compared to pasture, with 89 percent of sampled community members reporting fair browse and 11 percent stating it that it was poor (Figure 4).
- There were variations among livelihood zones such that the MF zone recorded 100 percent fair browse, whereas the MMF zone reported 89 percent fair with 11 percent being good.
- Access to browse was constrained by disease outbreaks, particularly vector-borne and transboundary diseases, which limited utilization.
- Considering the current trend, the available browse is projected to last for one to two months, compared to two to three months normally expected at this time of year, translating into early depletion.

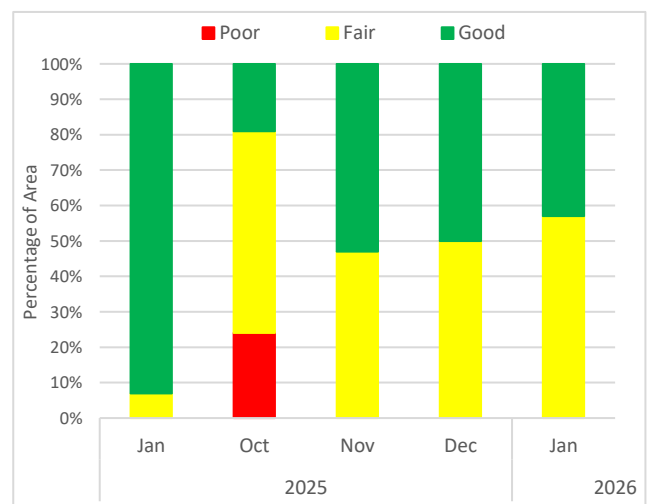


Figure 4: Browse condition

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

2.2.1 Sources

- During the review period, households mainly relied on boreholes, traditional river wells and shallow wells at 32, 26 and 13 percent respectively. Pans and dams were relatively less utilized at nine percent, while other sources such as natural ponds and roof catchments accounted for 15 percent (Figure 5). Utilization of pans and dams declined due to poor recharge during the month.
- Water availability varied by livelihood zone, such that in the MMF areas, available water is expected to last less than one month to one month, compared to the usual 4-5 months. In the MF areas, water is projected

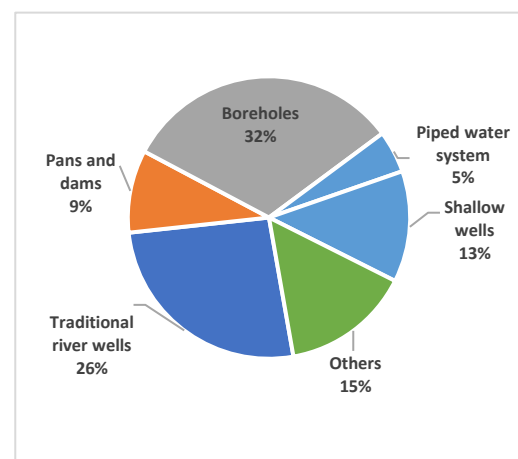


Figure 5: Main water sources

to last 1-2 months, instead of the normal 4-6 months at this time of year. It is worth noting that the water recharge was generally poor across the county, leading to the expected water scarcity.

2.2.2 Household Access and Utilization

- The average distance to water sources increased to 7 km, up from 5.2 km in the previous month, and higher than LTA of 4.4 km and outside the season range of (3.6-5.2 km) as shown in figure 6. Longer trekking distances were reported in Nuu (12 km) and Endau/Malalani (10 km), both showing significant increments compared to the previous month.
- Households in the MF livelihood zones trekked slightly shorter distances to fetch water compared to those in the MMF livelihood zone, though both remained above the LTA. The increase in distance was mainly attributed to breakdown of water facilities, poor recharge, and un-recharged sources in the MMF zone.
- Water consumption per person per day declined across the livelihood zones. In the MMF areas, consumption dropped from the normal 20–30 litres to 15-20 litres, while in the MF zones it fell from 30-40 litres to 20-25 litres. The decrease was driven by low recharge of surface water, fewer alternative sources, broken-down facilities and water rationing, particularly in areas served by Water Service Providers.
- The price of water per 20-litre jerrycan remained relatively stable across the livelihood zones. However, Endau/Malalani in Kitui East sub-county reported high prices of up to Kshs 50, attributed to poor rainfall performance and breakdown of water facilities.

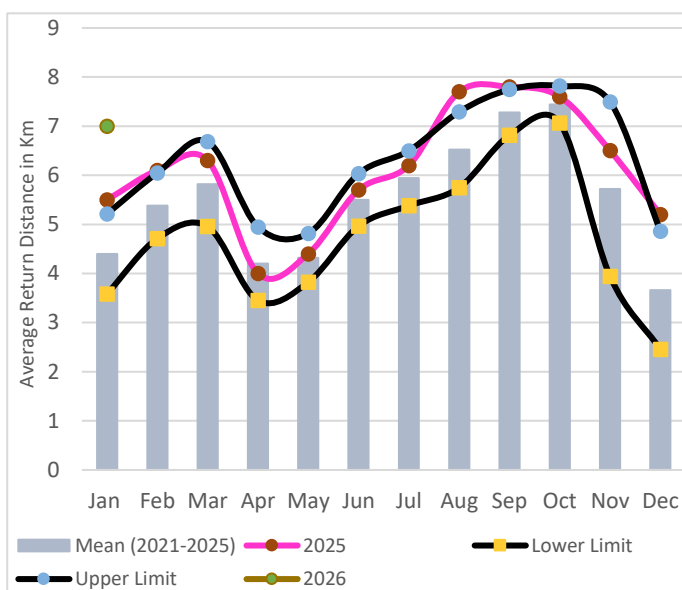


Figure 6: Household distance to water sources

2.2.3 Livestock Access

- Livestock trekking distance from grazing areas to water sources increased across the livelihood zones. The distance averaged to 6.8 km compared to 5.3 km in the previous month and to 5.9 km at the same time in the previous year (Figure 7). The current distance was higher than the LTA of 4.7 and seasonal range of (3.8-5.6) km.
- Most surface water sources were expected to last only 1-2 months, which is below the normal duration of three months at such time of year.
- Despite the shortage, livestock watering frequency remained normal at 5-7 times per week across the livelihood zones.

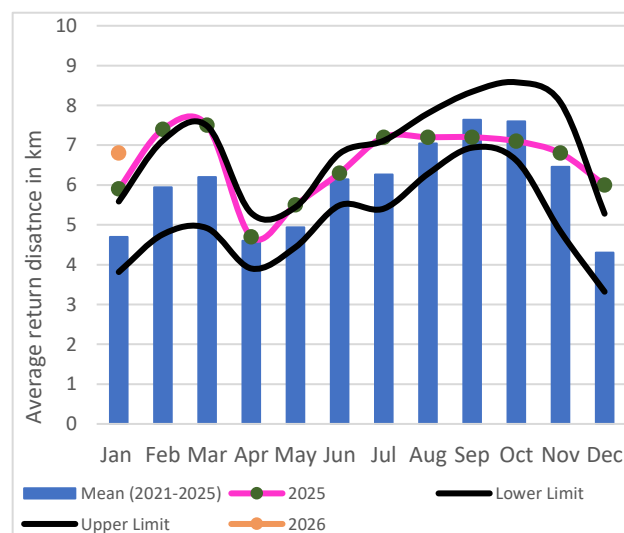


Figure 7: Livestock trekking distance to water sources

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Livestock body condition generally varied from fair to good, with 33 percent of livestock being categorized in BCS 4 (good), while 67 percent in BCS 3 (fair) across both livelihood zones (figure 8). No livestock was reported in critical condition (BCS 1) during the reporting period. There was slight improvement compared to the previous month but worse compared to the same period during the previous year.
- The body condition of cattle and sheep; which are mainly grazers, is likely to decline from fair to poor in the next few weeks because the dry season is likely to intensify resulting in reduced availability of forage and water.
- It should be noted with concern that multiple instances of livestock immigration from neighbouring counties are being reported.

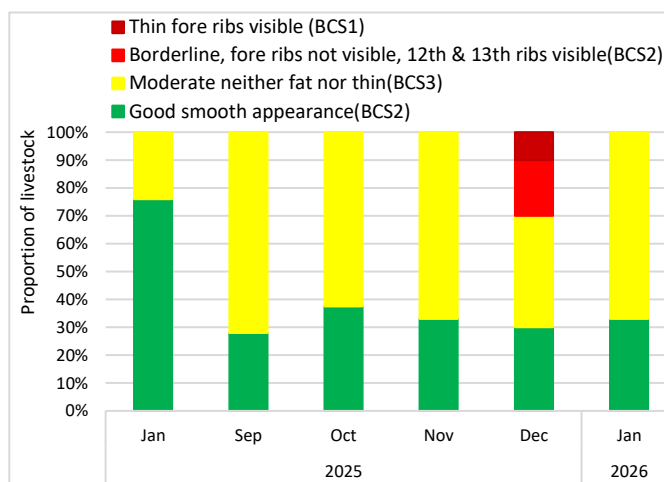


Figure 8: Livestock body condition

Legend:

BCS	5	4	3	2	1
State	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases and Mortalities

- During review period, reports from Kitui East, Kitui South, Mwingi Central, Kitui Central and Kitui West Sub-counties experienced unusual livestock (cattle and goat) deaths. A death mortality ranging 20 to 40 percent was reported in the affected households for cattle, with mortality of up to 33 percent in goats reported and morbidity rate of 19 to 83 percent across the livelihood zones. The reported mortality rate was higher than normal and associated with the onset of the OND rains which led to increased vectors causing diseases in livestock. In early January 2026, a total of 25 cattle in 5 farmers with a total of 166 cattle were reported to have died in areas of Nzombe/Mwitika Ward with a mortality of 15 percent.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- Milk production during the month was 0.9 litres per household per day, being similar to the previous month although lower than LTA of 1.2 litres, although within the seasonal range of (0.9-1.5). as shown in figure 9.
- One litre of unprocessed milk was sold at a higher price of Kshs 70 in both livelihood zones compared to the previous Kshs 60 due to increased demand for milk as drought intensified.

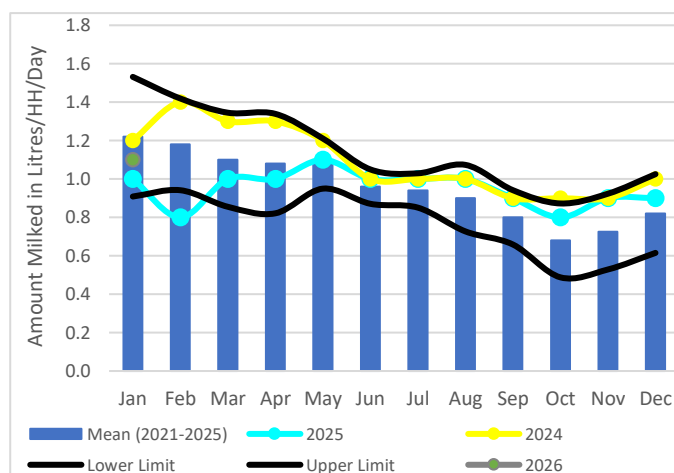


Figure 9: Household milk production

3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of Food Crops

- The season's main crops remained millet, cowpeas, green grams, sorghum, and maize in the MMF livelihood zone, while maize, beans, pigeon peas, cowpeas, and green grams were grown in the MF livelihood zone.
- The report on condition of crops showed that most crops had failed due to prolonged moisture stress. Maize that had reached the tussling stage looked withered, beans at podding stage had largely dried up, while cowpeas and green grams that were previously flowering have also deteriorated. Only isolated pockets recorded minimal survival, but overall crop condition was poor to failed across the livelihood zones.

- The general performance of crops was far below normal, with widespread crop failure reported. The deterioration is attributed to the below-normal performance of the October–December (OND) short rains and the false onset that misled farmers into early planting. Most areas had no viable harvest prospects, underscoring the severity of the agricultural stress.

3.2.2 Cereal stocks held by households

- Most households across the county had no cereal stocks. Only Kyangwithya West reported limited reserves, with an average of 13 kg of maize and 11 kg of pigeon peas. Availability of beans, maize, and pigeon peas was low in Kyangwithya Ward. Household cereal stocks were completely depleted in Kanyangi, Kauwi, Ikutha, Endau/Malalani, Kyome/Thaana, Kivou, Nu, and Tseikuru wards.
- Households were buying food for only what to eat but not to stock.
- Households experienced low purchasing power due to prevailing economic hardships and elevated food prices, while limited food availability further constrained access. Existing household cereal stocks were expected to last for less than one month, a shorter duration than anticipated.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

- **Average Market Price:**
The average price of a medium-sized cattle in January 2026 was Kshs. 32,444, which is a marginal decrease as compared to that of December 2025 of Kshs. 34,700 (Figure 10).
- The price was however above LTA of Kshs. 30,520 and higher than the seasonal range of Kshs. (25,855-33,899) as shown in figure 11.
- Prices were highest at Kanyangi market among the MF zone, reaching up to Kshs. 50,000, while the lowest prices were recorded at Tseikuru market in the MMF zone at Kshs. 25,000.

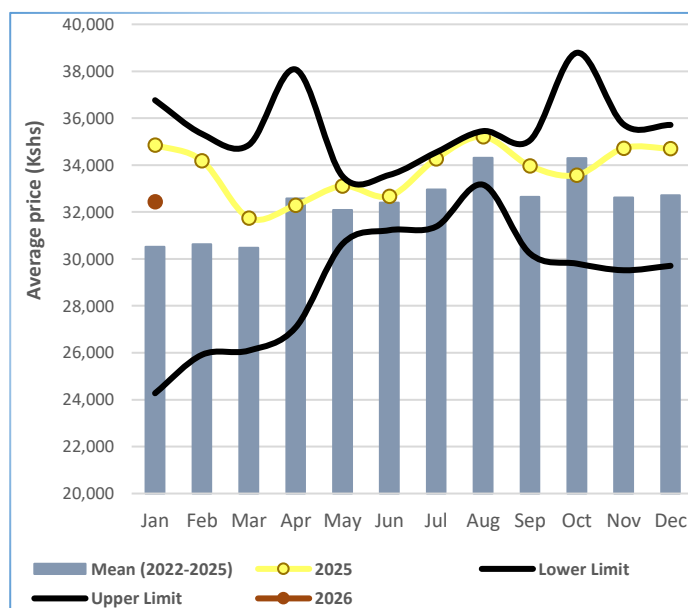


Figure 10: Market price of cattle

4.1.2 Small Ruminants Prices (Goat Price)

- The average price for a medium-sized goat decreased to Ksh 5,357, down from Ksh 5,800 the previous month (Figure 11). This was the general trend across all livelihood zones.
- Prices were consistent across zones, with the MF zone averaging to Kshs 5,338 and the MMF zone at Kshs 5,373. Tseikuru market recorded the lowest average price at Kshs 4,333.
- While the current price was above the LTA of Ksh 4,862, it remained within the seasonal range of Kshs (3,929-5,795).
- Prices are projected to decline further as livestock body condition is expected to deteriorate due to depleted pasture and intensifying dry spell.

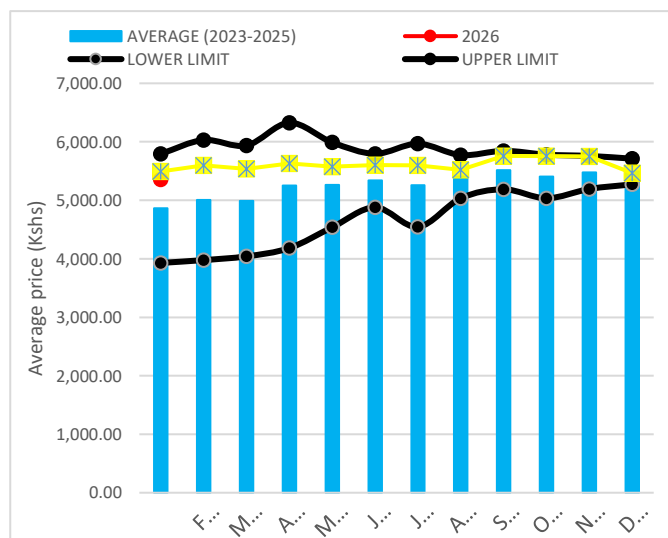


Figure 11: Market price of goat

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

- The market price of one kilogram of maize was Kshs. 61, being above both the LTA of Kshs. 48 and for the previous month of Kshs. 55 (Figure 12). The price was within the seasonal range of Kshs (46-66) at such time of the year. There was significant increase in the price of maize which can be attributed to the currently depleted household stocks as occasioned by consistent below normal harvests for the last two seasons due to poor rainfall. Maize price was higher in MMF livelihood zone at Kshs. 65 at Malalani compared to Kshs. 55 in MF livelihood zone at Tiva market. The price of maize is likely to increase further due to the recorded massive crop failure across the livelihood zones in the county.

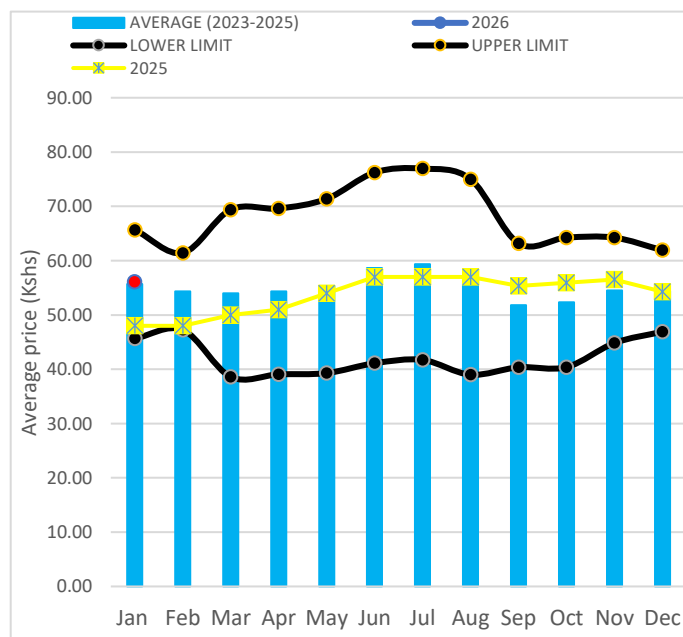


Figure 12: Market price of maize

4.2.2 Beans

- The average market price of beans was Kshs. 131, lower than the previous month's Kshs. 138 and below the LTA of Kshs. 138 (Figure 13). The price remained within the seasonal range of Kshs. (132-144).
- Bean prices were relatively uniform across livelihood zones, with Kshs. 120 recorded as the lowest price in most markets across the county. However, higher prices were observed in NuU (Kshs. 160) and Tiva (Kshs. 150) markets.

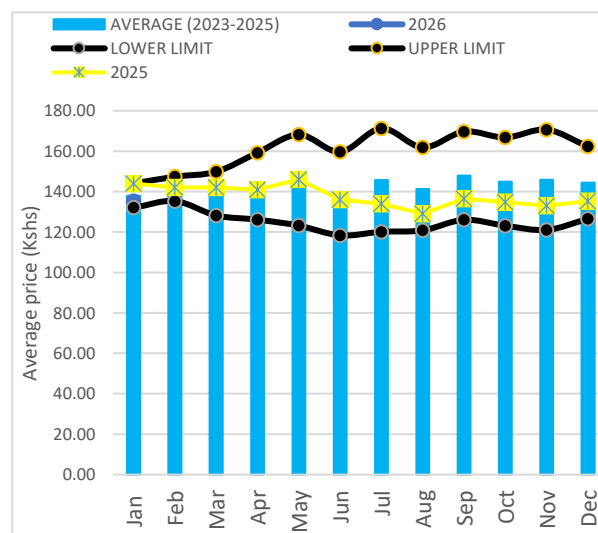


Figure 13: Market price of beans

4.3 Livestock Price Ratio/Terms of Trade

- The household terms of trade decreased from 99 kg to 96 kg in December 2025 and January 2026 respectively (Figure 14). This implies that households would currently obtain less quantities of maize for the sale of the goat than before. The current ToTs are below the LTA of 98 kg at such time of the year, all being attributed to the increase in maize price against the price of goat. The terms of trade were however within the seasonal range of (61-121 kg). There were livelihood variations whereby the terms of trade were better in the MF livelihood zone at 99 kg compared to 94 kg recorded in the MMF livelihood zone
- Terms of trade were more favorable in the MF livelihood zone (102 kg) compared to the MMF livelihood zone (91 kg). However, NuU (78 kg) and Tseikuru (79 kg) recorded unfavorable terms of trade, indicating that households in these wards currently obtain less maize for the sale of a goat compared to the county average. The situation is expected to deteriorate further in the coming months.

of maize for the sale of the goat than before. The

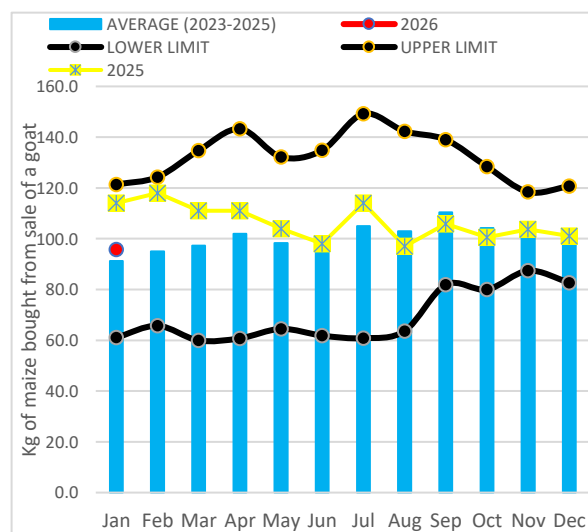


Figure 14: Terms of Trade

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- Household milk consumption was at 0.9 litres per household per day (Figure 15).
- This level was similar to LTA and remained within the seasonal range of (0.8–1.1) litres.
- Some wards, including Nuu, Kyome/Thaana, and Kivou, recorded no milk consumption, while Ikutha (0.7 litres) and Kauwi recorded 0.7 and 0.8 litres respectively.
- The milk consumption was uniform level was uniform across the livelihood zones.

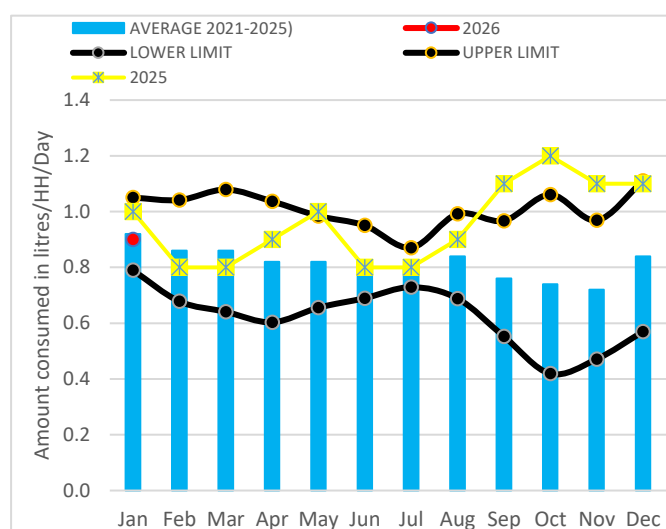


Figure 15: Household Milk Consumption

5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

- The mean Food Consumption Score (FCS) for the county in January was 41, being lower than for the previous month of 43.
- The proportion of households currently categorized under acceptable, borderline and poor was 72.2, 23.3 and 4.5 percent respectively (Figure 16).
- There was a significant proportion of households under poor category of 4.5 percent with low dietary diversity, consuming staples and small amounts of vegetables who rarely or never consumed protein-rich foods (meat/dairy). The 23.3 percent of households at borderline consumed staples and vegetables daily, accompanied by oil and pulses a few times a week remained vulnerable to food insecurity, as minor shocks could push them into poor consumption.
- In comparison to 72.4, 27.2 and 0.4 percent for the respective categories in the previous month, the proportion of households under acceptable and borderline decreased by 0.2 and 3.9 percent respectively while the proportion for households under poor category increased by 4.1 percent. The significant increase in the proportion of households under poor food consumption score indicates the deteriorating food security situation. The scenario is worse as compared to a similar period of January 2025 where the proportions were 86.0 and 14 percent for acceptable and borderline respectively with no households under poor food consumption score.
- The inter-livelihood variations reveal that households in the MMF livelihood zone were categorized under acceptable, borderline and poor in proportions of 62.2, 30.4 and 7.4 percent respectively as compared to MF with 84.7, 14.4 and 0.4 percent for the respective categories. It can therefore be noted that households in the MMF zone are more food insecure as compared to those in the MF livelihood zone, a scenario attributed to shortage of the required food groups at the household level. This confirms the fact that most households have depleted their household food stocks and are depending on markets. Households mostly consumed cereals, oils and sugars/sugary products for five to six days per week; pulses for five days per week; vegetables for four days per week; while milk, meat and fruits were consumed once per week.
- Highlighting wards with particularly poor FCS outcomes notably, Tseikuru Ward recorded 10 percent of households in the acceptable category, 52 percent in borderline, and 38 percent in poor. Endau/Malalani Ward reported 24 percent under acceptable, 76 percent under borderline, with none under poor food consumption category.

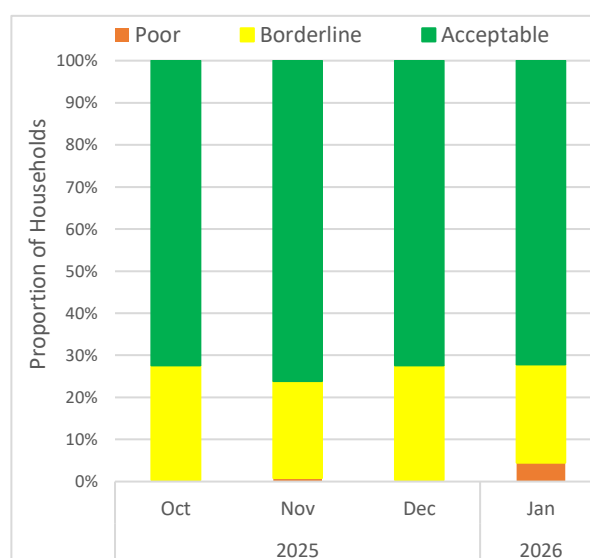


Figure 16: Food Consumption Score

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition status

- The proportion of children under five years surveyed to be at risk of malnutrition marginally increased to 7.3 percent in January, compared to 6.8 percent in the previous month (Figure 17).
- The MUAC score for January was significantly higher than the LTA of 5.3 percent, though it remained within the seasonal range of (2.9-7.7) percent.
- Elevated levels of at-risk and severe malnutrition were observed in Kanyangi at 36.5 percent and Kyome/Thaana at 23.9 percent, highlighting these wards as areas of concern compared to other parts of the county.

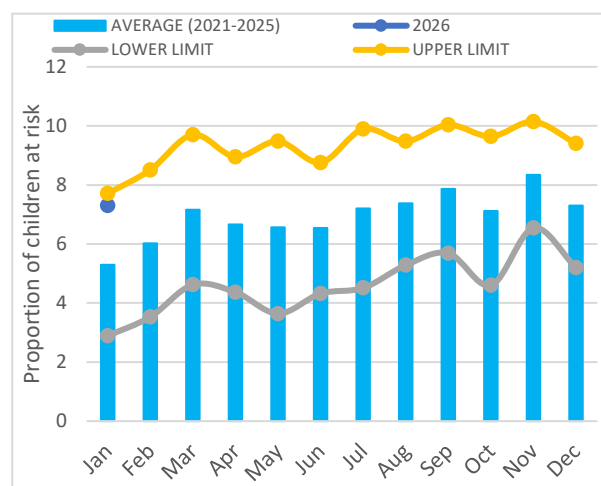


Figure 17: Children at risk of malnutrition

5.3.2 Health

- Reported cases of diarrheal diseases increased in January compared to the previous month, largely due to water stress and poor hygiene. The destruction of latrines during the OND short rains contributed to a rise in open defecation.
- There were higher incidences of malaria were recorded in Endau/Malalani and Kyangwithya West wards.

5.4 COPING STRATEGIES

5.4.1 Food Based Coping

- The reduced mean coping strategy index (rCSI) for the county rose from 6.8 in the previous month to 9.4 in January 2026 (Figure 18). This increase is attributed to the generally poor availability of food at the household level.
- The current rCSI is higher than the LTA of 7.7 and above the level recorded during the same period last year, though it remained within the seasonal range of (2.9-12.5).
- The proportion of households employing stressed and crisis food-based coping mechanisms increased to 23.3 and 4.5 percent respectively, compared to 22.4 and 1.1 percent of the corresponding categories in the previous month. This trend indicates a worsening food security situation at household level.
- To cope with food insecurity, households resorted to strategies such as consuming less preferred or less expensive foods, borrowing food or relying on support from friends and relatives, reducing the number of meals per day, cutting portion sizes, or reducing adult/mother consumption to prioritize children. These practices were more prevalent in the MMF livelihood zones.

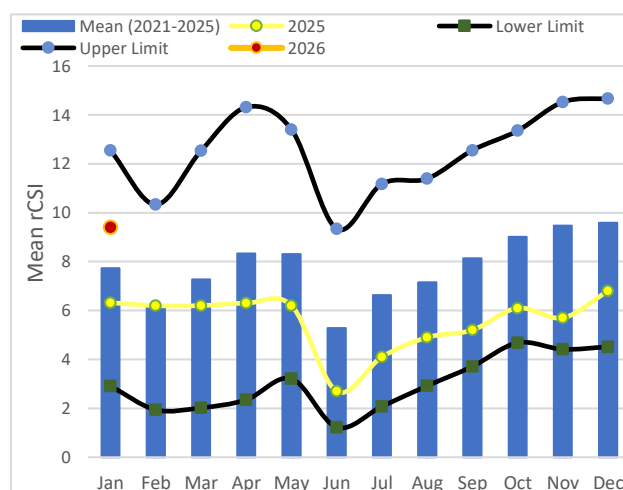


Figure 18: Reduced Coping Strategy Index

5.4.2 Livelihood Coping

- Households who employed stressed, crisis and emergency livelihood-based coping mechanisms were at 23.1, 18.6 and 2.4 percent respectively during January 2026 as compared to 12.9, 3.2 and 0.1 percent respectively in December 2025 (Figure 19). In the MMF livelihood zone, the proportion of households who employed stressed and crisis coping mechanisms were at 26.4, 19.2

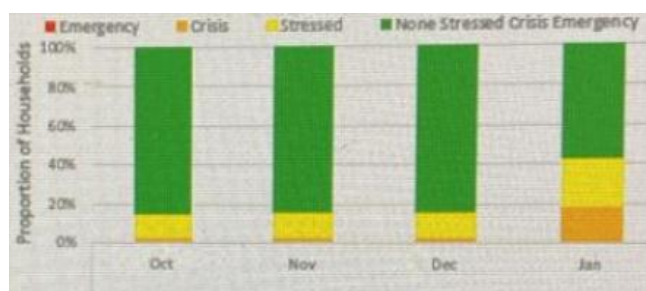


Figure 19: Livelihood Coping

and 3.3 percent respectively, compared to 17.3, 13 and 1.1 percent in the MF livelihood zone. The common Mechanisms employed include reducing non-food expenses and selling of productive assets such as goats in order to buy food.

6.0 EMERGING ISSUES

6.1 INSECURITY/CONFLICT/HUMAN DISPLACEMENT

- There were minimal incidences of human-wildlife conflict during the month. A few reported cases were at the borders of Tsavo East National Park, in the MMF livelihood zones at Endau/Malalani Ward.

7.0 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- According to the Kenya Meteorological Department's February 2026 weather outlook, the South-eastern Lowlands - including Kitui County are expected to experience generally dry conditions throughout most of the month. Maximum temperatures are forecast to range between 24°C and 36°C, while minimum temperatures will range between 12°C and 23°C.
- The anticipated dry conditions are likely to exacerbate food insecurity across the county, as the availability of food, water, and pasture for both human and livestock use is expected to decline further. Water scarcity is projected to be more pronounced in the MMF livelihood zones. In addition, the prevailing dryness may lead to reduced vegetation cover and deterioration of rangeland resources.
- The intensifying drought conditions resulting in poor pasture and widely crop failure, coupled with low household food stocks, increasing coping strategies pose a big risk to the livelihoods.
- Household food availability is expected to decline further, as: OND crop harvests are projected to be below average to failed in several wards due to moisture stress. Household cereal stocks are already critically low and are likely to be exhausted by January 2026 thus increasing dependence on markets.
- Livestock body condition is expected to deteriorate due to declining pasture and water availability. Consequently, milk production is likely to decline to below normal levels, reducing both consumption and income, particularly among MMF households. Livestock trekking distances will increase, raising risks of disease, weight loss, and conflict over grazing and water.
- Food access will be increasingly constrained as market dependence rises amid above-normal staple food prices. Household purchasing power will weaken due to reduced crop income and declining livestock productivity. The nutrition situation is expected to worsen, with increased risk of malnutrition among children under five years.

8.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES

8.1 NON-FOOD INTERVENTIONS

Sector	Intervention	Quantity & Type	Beneficiaries reached	Supporting Agency	Geographical coverage	Cost of the intervention
Socio-Protection	Inua Jamii Tier 2 Cash Transfers for Vulnerable Groups	Older Persons, OVC and PWDs	39,000 beneficiaries	Gok	Countywide	156 M
	Irregular relief distributions	300 (50 kg bags - Maize and 260 (50 kg bags – Beans)	19 sub-counties	Gok	Countywide	124.64 M
	NICHE	61 Households:	15,000 children	Gok	Countywide	7.5 M
Coordination	CSG meetings	25 technical officers	25 officers	Gok	Countywide	132,500
TOTAL						288.27 M

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Immediate/Short Term

The county experienced consistently below-average environmental conditions. The proposed response actions recommended as informed by the current drought conditions for January 2026 include:

Sector	Intervention	Ward
Social protection	Strategic livelihood support to prevent escalation of coping strategies, including market-based safety nets	All hotspot wards
	Support to food aid/cash transfer to severely affected households	200,000 people across the wards
Agriculture	Drought recovery seed support (some failed crops)	All wards
Health and Nutrition	Continued Baby Friendly Community Initiative	All wards
	Early detection and referral (Train CHPs on family MUAC)	30 Wards
	Continuous mass screening with integrated outreaches in far flung and hot-spot areas	Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zones
	Promoting home-based water treatment and conservation measures	All 8 sub-counties
	High Impact Nutrition Interventions (Vitamin A Supplementation, IFAS, Deworming, MNPS supplementation)	All wards
	Integrated Nutrition and Health outreaches	Hot spots areas
	Mass screening for malnutrition	Hot spots areas
	Purchase and distribution of nutrition supplies (FBF/ RUSF, RUTF, F75, F100)	Hot spots areas
Livestock	Continued livestock disease surveillance	All 8 sub-counties
Water	Scale up water access interventions in high-burden wards	Mwingi North and Kitui Central
	Capacity building of water management committees and pump attendants	All eight sub-counties
Peace and Security	Conflicts monitoring, Peace building initiatives and Support to Peace Committees	All hotspot areas: Along Kitui/Tana River Counties border