



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



National Drought Management Authority

Kajiado County

Drought Early Warning Bulletin as at 31st January 2026

JANUARY DEW PHASE							Early Warning Phase Classification						
Drought Status: ALERT  Maandalizi ya mapema							LIVELIHOOD ZONE		EW PHASE		TRENDS		
							PASTORAL		ALERT		WORSENING		
							AGRO-PASTORAL		ALERT		WORSENING		
							MIXED FARMING		ALERT		WORSENING		
							COUNTY		ALERT		WORSENING		
Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification <u>Biophysical Indicators</u> ✓ Although the vegetation condition index for January indicated normal drought conditions, the ground observation showed that pasture was mainly poor. Forage regeneration was poor following below rainfall performance during the OND season. <u>Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)</u> <u>Production Indicators</u> ✓ Livestock body condition was 52.4% borderline while 14.3% appeared thin with a deteriorating trend. ✓ Milk production remained same as last month, failing to increase after a rainy season with a likely downward trend. ✓ No return migration as would be expected, livestock remained in dry season grazing areas. <u>Access indicators</u> ✓ Distances to water sources increased but still within normal and so was milk consumption, but at lower limit. ✓ Terms of trade slightly rose due to stable goat price, within normal but on declining trend as crops failed. <u>Utilization indicators</u> ✓ The risk of under-five malnutrition rose above the mean indicating increasing vulnerability of households to food security. ✓ Coping strategy index rose and high in Pastoral areas, underlying vulnerability persists. 6.1% of households were food insecure while 24.6% were vulnerable to food insecurity. <u>Hotspot</u>: Kajiado south, Kajiado west and parts of Kajiado north							Biophysical Indicators		Observed Value		Normal Range/LTA		
							3-monthly VCI		40.08		35-50		
							Pasture condition		Fair - Poor		Good – Fair		
							Browse condition		Fair		Good		
							State of water		Fair		Adequate		
							Production Indicators		Observed LBS		Normal Range		
							Livestock body condition		3 – 4		4 – 5		
							Milk production		1.7 lt		2.0 lt – 2.5 lt		
							Livestock migration		Outmigration		None		
							Livestock deaths		None		None		
							Access Indicators		Observed Value		Normal Range		
							Terms of trade (kg of maize for a goat)		97.8		70.6 – 104.9		
							Milk consumption		1.5 lt		1.5 lt – 2.1 lt		
							Distance to water sources	Livestock	6.5 km		5.3 km – 7.5 km		
								Domestic	5.5 km		4.6 km – 5.8 km		
							Cost of water at source (20 litres)		Ksh. 0-10		Ksh. 0-10		
							Utilization indicators		Value		Normal Range		
							MUAC		8.7%		7.3% - 9.5%		
							CSI		6.5		5.6 – 7.6		
							FCS	Poor	6.1%				
								Borderline	24.6%				
								Acceptable	69.3 %				

▪ Short rains harvest ▪ Short dry spell ▪ Reduced milk yields ▪ Increased HH food stock			▪ Long rains ▪ Planting/weeding ▪ High calving rate ▪ Milk yields increase			▪ Long rains harvest ▪ A long dry spell ▪ Land preparation ▪ Increased HH food stocks			▪ Short rains ▪ Planting ▪ weeding		
						✓					
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Seasonal Calendar

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 Rainfall Performance

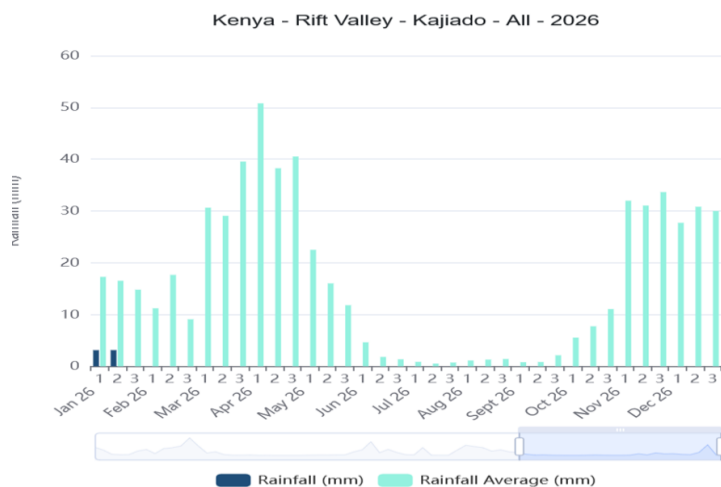


Figure 1. Rainfall performance; Kajiado -January 2026
Source: VAM-WFP

accelerating moisture loss. Due to the poor performance of the October–November–December rains, these conditions are likely to lead to a rapid decline in food security and underscoring the need for timely mitigation measures to safeguard lives and livestock livelihoods before the onset of the next rainy season.

Figure 1 shows that January was predominantly sunny and dry, which is typical for the season, but rainfall was significantly below normal, with only 9.7 mm received, about 20 percent of the long-term average of 48.6 mm. According to the Kenya Meteorological Department, the dry conditions were accompanied by above-average temperatures,

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

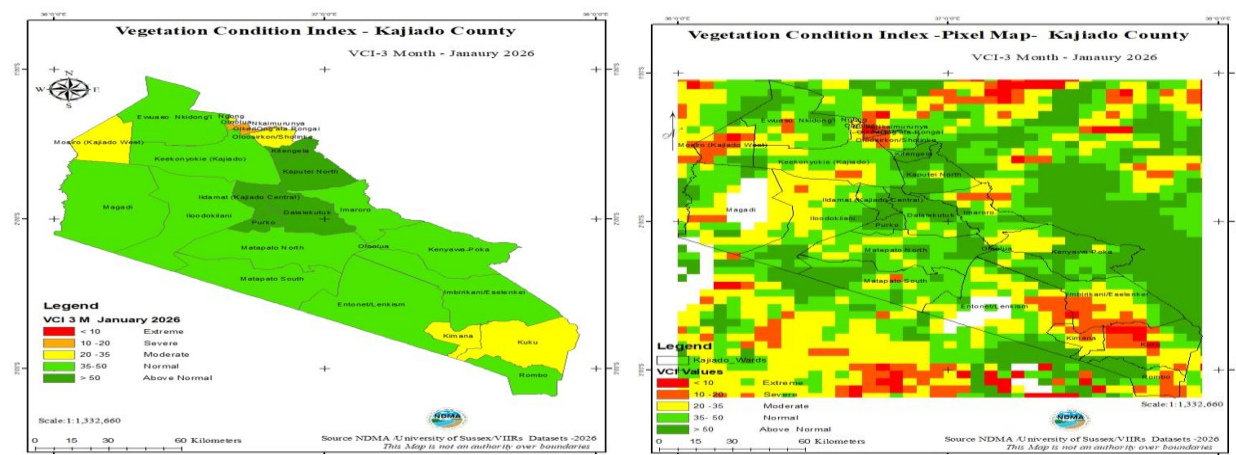


Figure 2: VCI 3 Months Map; Kajiado January 2026

The County Vegetation Condition Index (VCI-3 month) in January stood at 40.08, indicating normal vegetation conditions, but reflecting a decline from 51.17 recorded in December 2025 (Figure 2). This deterioration is attributed to the poor spatial and temporal performance of the October–December (OND) rainfall season. As shown in Figure 2, parts of the central and eastern areas, including Kaputiei North, Dalalekutuk, Ildamat, and Purko maintained normal vegetation

conditions, largely supported by localized rainfall events and residual moisture. In contrast, stressed vegetation conditions were observed in several wards due to below-average OND rainfall and increasing moisture stress. Ong'ata Rongai and Nkaimurunya wards recorded extreme vegetation stress (VCI 10.8, 12.7 respectively), while Kimana, Ngong, Olkeri, Mosiro, and Oloosirkon/Sholinke recorded moderate vegetation conditions, mainly in the western, northern, and southern parts of the county, indicating signs of rangeland depletion.

2.2 Pasture and Browse Condition

Pasture conditions in January 2026 were predominantly fair to poor, with 50.4 percent of the county reporting fair pasture and 46.3 percent reporting poor conditions, while only 3.4 percent remained in good condition. This reflects a slight improvement in fair pasture compared to December 2025 (47.1 percent), alongside a decline in poor pasture from 50.7 percent, but with minimal recovery in good pasture. The observed conditions are consistent with the poorly performing OND rainfall season, resulting in limited pasture regeneration and increasing moisture stress across rangeland areas. Poor pasture included parts of Magadi, Mbirikani, Ewuaso, Loodokilani, Rombo, Keekonyokia and Matapato South. The available pasture was likely to last up to February while browse would last until the onset of long rains season.

2.3 Water Access and Utilization

2.3.1 Water Sources

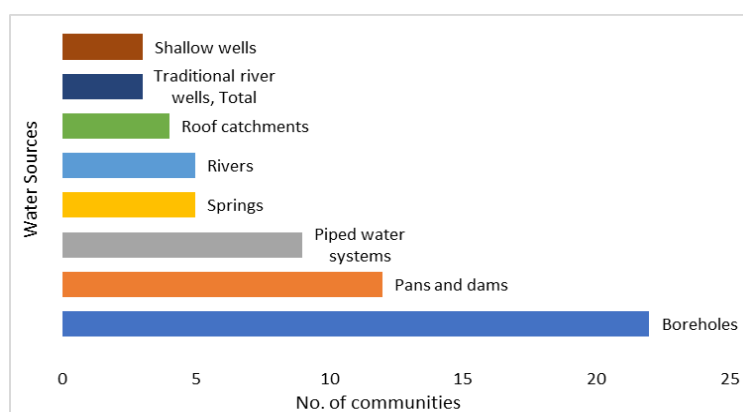


Figure 3. Main water sources; Kajiado, January 2026

traditional river wells and shallow wells (3 each) were minimally used (Figure 3). This is consistent with the poor performance of OND 2025 rains, which were below normal and unevenly distributed, leading to declining seasonal sources such as rivers, rock catchments and springs and increased concentration around boreholes and pans/dams.

2.3.2 Household Water Access and Utilization

In January, communities relied mainly on boreholes (22), followed by pans and dams (12) with reduced quality, reflecting typical dry-season dependence on permanent water sources. Other sources included piped water systems (9), rivers (5), springs (5), roof catchments (4) while

Household water access deteriorated in January, with the average distance to water sources

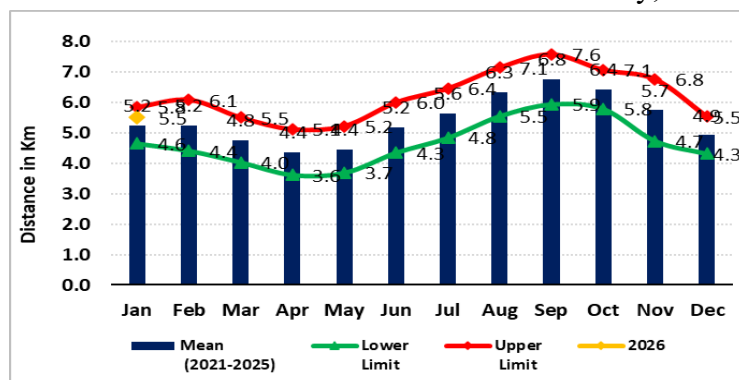


Figure 4. Average return distance to water points from home; Kajiado, January 2026

increasing from 4.2 km in December to 5.5 km, which is above the long-term mean of 5.2 km, reflecting the impact of the OND's rains poor performance and increased reliance on permanent water sources (Figure 4) due to poor recharge of other sources. The longest distances were reported in pastoral areas such as Rombo (7.0 km), Ewuaso Kedong (6.0 km), and Mbirikani (6.0 km). Water treatment remained common, with 54.8 percent of households treating water through boiling (52.7 percent), water treatment chemicals (27.3 percent), and filtration (20 percent). Water consumption reduced slightly averaging 5–10 litres per person per day in pastoral zones and 10–15 litres in agro-pastoral areas, while water prices ranged from Ksh. 10 per 20-litre jerrican at source to Ksh. 50 from vendors, reflecting rising pressure on household water access.

2.3.3 Livestock Access to Water

Figure 5 indicates that livestock water access deteriorated in January, with the average distance to water sources increasing to 6.7 km

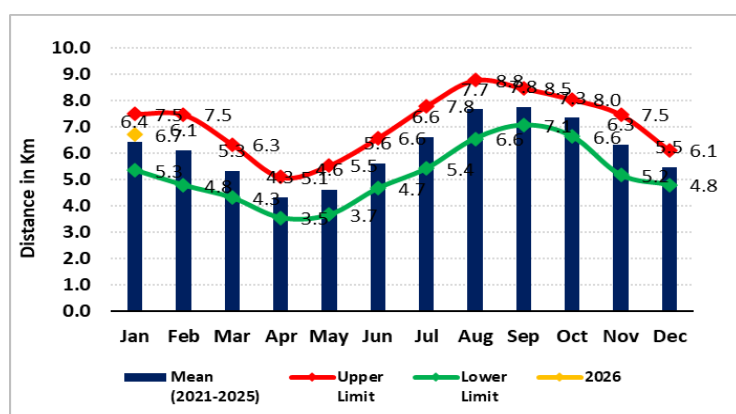


Figure 5. Average return distance from grazing fields to water points; Kajiado January 2026

from 5.6 km in December, slightly above the long-term mean of 6.4 km but still within the normal range (5.3–7.5 km). Severe localized stress was evident in Mbirikani, where trekking distances was 16.7 km due to migration, resulting in a reduced watering frequency of three times per week, while shorter distances were recorded in Kaputiei North (3.3 km), Oldonyonyokie (4.7 km), and Loodokilani (2.0 km) with watering frequencies of 5–6 times per week. The situation reflects the poor performance of the OND 2025 rains, which limited recharge of open water sources and increased reliance on permanent sources such as boreholes and a few pans and dams.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock Production

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

Livestock body condition deteriorated significantly in January, with the county-wide proportion of animals in borderline condition rising to 52.4 percent from 45 percent in December, and 14.3 percent classified as thin. This decline is most acute in western, southern, and northern wards experiencing poor pasture such as Ewuaso Kedong, Kuku, Mbirikani, and Rombo, where thin and borderline animals dominate and is consistent with reported increases in trekking distances for water and ongoing migration. Goats generally maintain moderate condition, but the overall trend indicates escalating livestock nutritional stress across the county. In a typical year, cattle would be fat with a good smooth appearance following a rainy season.

3.1.2 Livestock Mortalities

There were no reports of unusual livestock mortalities due to drought in January.

3.1.3 Livestock Diseases

The endemic livestock diseases reported in the county during January included Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), similar to those reported in December.

3.1.4 Livestock Migration

Livestock migration began in October and peaked in November, with no return migration reported by January. Over 75 percent of livestock from Kajiado South moved to the Chyulu Hills and Makueni County, while herds from Kajiado West, particularly Mosiro and Ewuaso, migrated to Narok and Nakuru counties. Livestock from Oldonyonyokie and Loodokilani moved to Oltinga, Keekonyokie (about 15 km), Kaputiei North, and Kajiado Central. This pattern is abnormal for this time of year, as livestock would typically be in wet-season grazing areas, and reflects poor pasture and water conditions resulting from the poor performance of the short rains.

3.1.5 Milk Production

Average daily milk production per household in January was 1.7 litres, mainly from cattle and goats, unchanged from December but below the long-term mean of 2.2 litres and the normal range (2.0–2.5 litres) for this time of year (Figure 6). Production was below normal, reflecting poor pasture and water availability, deteriorating livestock body conditions, increased trekking distances, and sustained migration. Marked livelihood-based differences were observed, with the agro-pastoral zone recording the highest production in Kaputiei North (3.1 litres) due to better

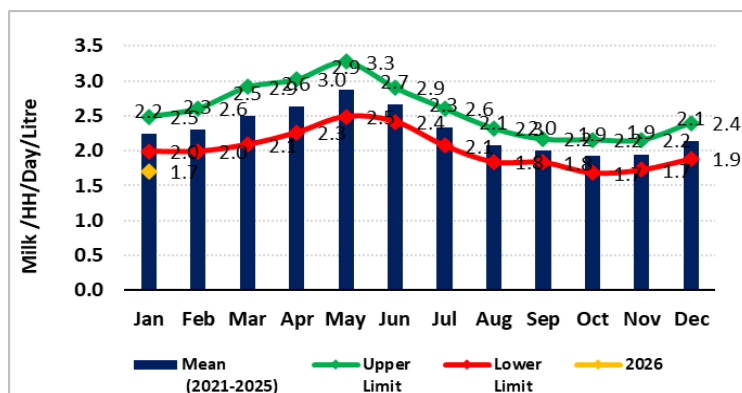


Figure 6. Average daily milk production; Kajiado, January 2026

breeds and access to pasture, crop residues, and water, while the pastoral zone recorded the lowest production in Loodokilani (1.0 litre), attributed to poor rangeland conditions, predominantly local breeds, and migration.

3.2 Rain-Fed Crop Production

Due to the poor performance of the short rains, rain-fed maize, beans, and Irish potatoes, the county's major crops suffered near total failure in agro-pastoral and mixed farming areas from severe moisture stress. Production sharply declined, with maize falling by 73.4 percent, beans by 72.3 percent, and Irish potatoes by 41.5 percent against the long-term averages for the season.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 Livestock Marketing

The county's major livestock and food crop markets operated normally in January.

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

In January, the average price of a medium-sized bull declined by 2.7 percent from the previous

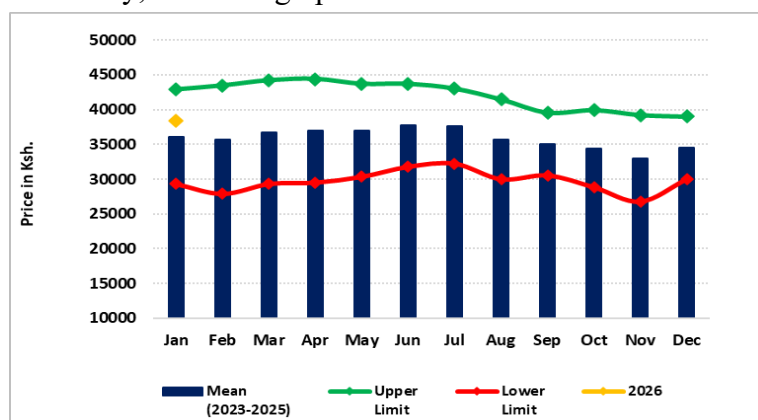


Figure 7. Average cattle prices; Kajiado, January 2026

Significant spatial variations were observed, with cattle selling for as low as Ksh. 20,000 in Ewuaso (Pastoral West) compared to up to Ksh. 50,000 for similar animals in Isinya (Agro-pastoral East). Without significant off-season rainfall, cattle prices are expected to decline further by February as pasture and water conditions continue to deteriorate.

month to Ksh. 38,333, slightly above the short-term January average of Ksh. 36,090 (Figure 7). The price reduction was driven by declining livestock body conditions, reduced forage availability, increased need for school fees, and distressed sales.

4.1.2 Goats Prices

From figure 8, the average goat price increased from Ksh. 7,000 to Ksh. 7,333, remaining above

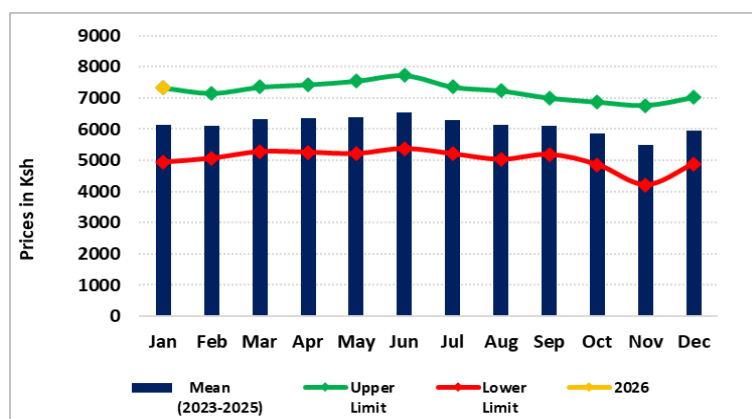


Figure 8. Average goats' prices; Kajiado, January 2026

the short-term January average of Ksh. 6,133 and within the normal range of Ksh. 4,938–7,329. The higher prices were driven by increased demand for smaller, more affordable livestock that are cheaper to maintain during dry spells and have better body conditions due to greater resilience. Prices varied

across markets, with the lowest recorded in Rombo (Pastoral) at Ksh. 6,000 and the highest in Isinya (Agro-pastoral East) at Ksh. 9,000; however, without significant off-season rainfall, prices are expected to decline by February as pasture and water availability continue to deteriorate.

4.2 Prices of Cereals and Legumes

4.2.1 Maize Prices

The average maize price per kilogram declined slightly by about 1.3 percent from Ksh. 76 in

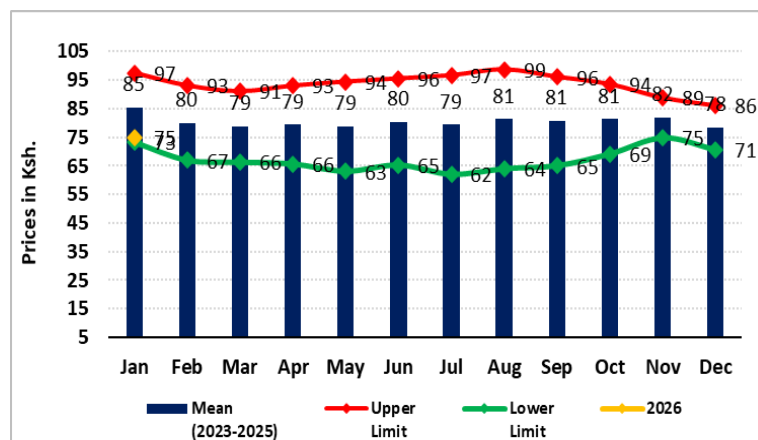


Figure 9. Average price of maize; Kajiado, January 2026

December 2025 to Ksh. 75 in January 2026, remaining approximately 11.8 percent below the January three-year mean of Ksh. 85 (Figure 9). Prices showed wide spatial variation, ranging from Ksh. 50 in Loitoktok (mixed farming) to Ksh. 120 in Ewuaso (pastoral). Although prices appear

within the normal range (Ksh. 97-73), the three-year mean is inflated by exceptionally high prices in 2023, masking current market stress. The slight month-on-month decline, despite the harvest period when prices are normally much lower, reflects constrained supply following the failed OND harvest, localized demand pressures, and ongoing drought impacts. Consequently, staple food prices remained relatively high, limiting seasonal market relief and signaling continued food security vulnerability.

4.2.2 Beans Prices

Figure 10 indicates that the January the average bean price declined slightly by about 1.5 percent

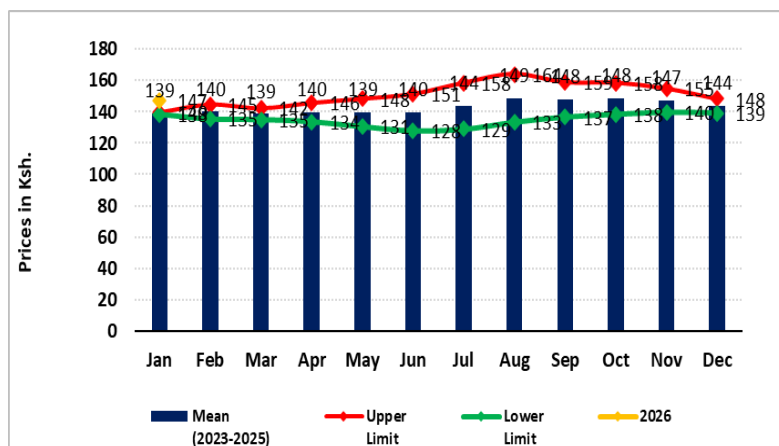


Figure 10. Average price of beans; Kajiado, January 2026

from Ksh. 149 in December 2025 to Ksh. 147, but remained about 5.5 percent above the three-year mean of Ksh. 139 and above the narrow normal range (Ksh. 138–140). Prices varied widely across livelihood zones, with the lowest recorded in Loitoktok (mixed farming) at Ksh. 100 and the

highest in Ewuaso (pure pastoral) at Ksh. 200. Although the three-year mean includes the 2023 drought period with exceptionally high prices, current prices remaining above this range indicate that bean markets have not normalized, reflecting continued supply deficits following the failed OND harvest. The slight month-on-month decline, despite poor production, is attributed to short-term market adjustments such as limited household sales, substitution with other foods, and localized demand fluctuations rather than improved availability.

4.3 Milk Price

In January, the average milk price increased by about 8.3 percent from Ksh. 72 in December

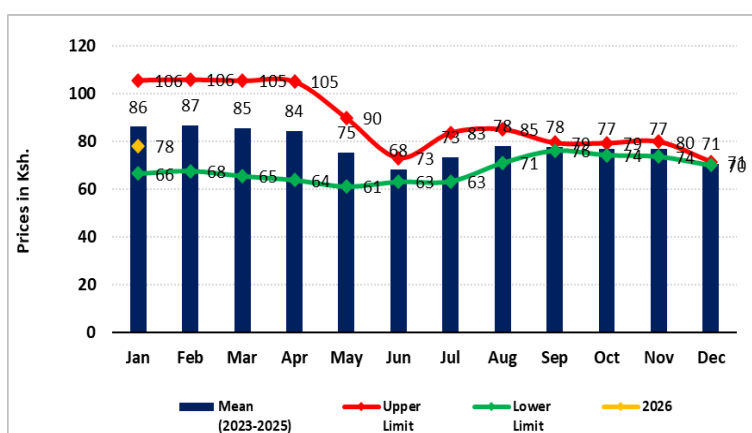


Figure 11. Average price of milk; Kajiado, January 2026

2025 to Ksh. 78, but remained approximately 9.3 percent below the three-year mean of Ksh. 86, with no significant variation across livelihood zones (Figure 11). The increase was attributed to high household consumption, estimated at about 86 percent of production, limited market supply coupled with

low production. Despite the month-on-month price increase, prices staying below the long-term average reflect constrained purchasing power and reduced market volumes rather than improved milk availability, with implications for household nutrition and income, particularly among pastoral households.

4.4 Terms of Trade

The average terms of trade (ToT) increased by about 6.3 percent from Ksh. 92 in December 2025

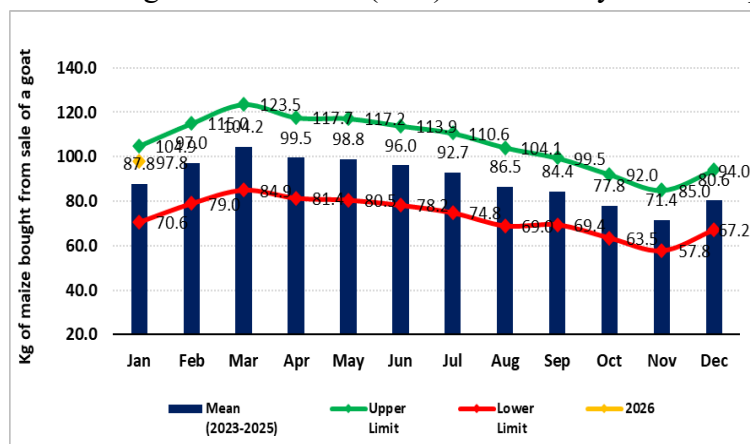


Figure 12. Terms of trade; Kajiado, January 2026

against stable maize prices. The blend of increased goat prices and a slightly decline in maize prices improved purchasing power in better-endowed areas, while households in areas like Ewuaso, Mosiro continued to face constrained food access due to unfavourable ToT.

to Ksh. 97.8 and was 11.4 percent above the three-year average of Ksh. 87.8 with a normal range of 70.6–104.9 (Figure 12). The average ToT varied significantly, with the lowest recorded in Ewuaso at 63.9, reflecting high maize prices, and the highest in Dalalekutuk at 120.5, supported by higher goat prices

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 Milk Consumption

The average daily household milk consumption increased by 25 percent to 1.5 litres per day in

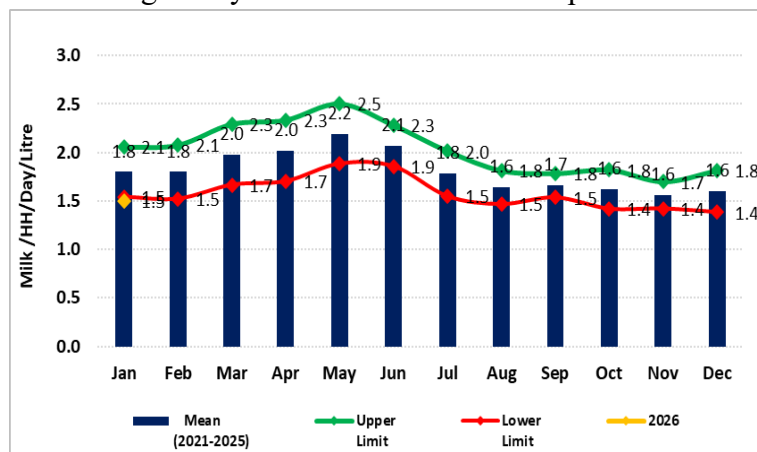


Figure 13. Household milk consumption; Kajiado, January 2026

January, yet still lagged 17 percent behind the five-year mean of 1.8 litres (Figure 13). Consumption ranged from 1.0 litre in Loodokilani to 2.7 litres in Kaputiei North, with 86.5 percent of milk produced retained for household use. This very high retention rate during a period of crop failure, indicates

heavy reliance on own-produced milk as a primary food source, a clear stress signal reflecting constrained market access, reduced dietary diversity, and weakened purchasing power, which heightens vulnerability if milk production declines further.

5.2 Food Consumption Score

Figure 14 shows the Food Consumption Score (FCS) which remained generally stable with slight improvement in January, as the proportion of households with acceptable consumption increased

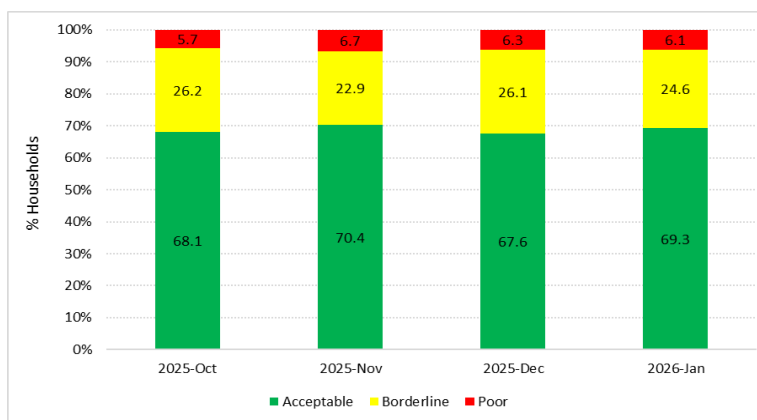


Figure 14. % households per food consumption band; Kajiado, October 2025 to January 2026

to 69.3 percent, compared to 67.6 percent in December and remaining within the range observed since October. At the same time, borderline consumption declined to 24.6 percent from 26.1 percent in December, while poor consumption slightly reduced to 6.1 percent, indicating marginal improvement in

food access. This trend aligns with other indicators showing continued reliance on own food sources and cautious recovery in purchasing power, though underlying vulnerability persists especially in Kajiado West and South households whose purchasing powers were quite slow.

5.3 Health And Nutrition Status

5.3.1 Nutrition Status of Children Aged 6-59 Months

The proportion of under-five children at risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135 mm) marginally

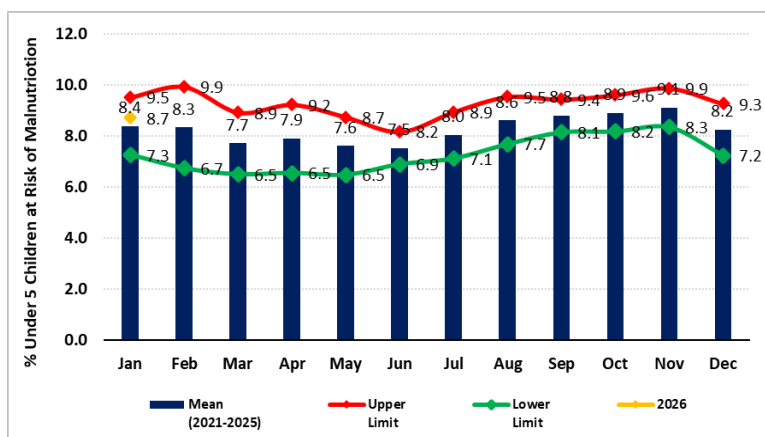


Figure 15. % of under-fives at risk of malnutrition; Kajiado, January 2026

increased to 8.7 percent in January, representing a 1.2 percent rise from December 2025 (8.6 percent) and a 3.6 percent increase above the five-year mean of 8.4 percent, though it remained within the normal range (7.3–9.5 percent) as shown in figure 15. The lowest prevalence was recorded in Dalalekutuk (5.5

percent), while Mbirikani (13.8 percent) reported the highest, with Ewuaso Kedong, Mbirikani, Oldonyonyokie, Rombo, Mosiro, and Meto identified as hotspots. This slight increase suggests heightened household food and nutrition stress, likely linked to reduced dietary diversity, increased reliance on own food sources, seasonal food access constraints, and sub-optimal child feeding and care practices, indicating persistent vulnerability despite the rise.

5.3.2 Health

The most common illnesses reported among under-five children were fever with chills, resembling malaria, affecting about 9.1 percent, mainly in Dalalekutuk, and diarrhea affecting

1.1 percent, predominantly in Loodokilani, with no major human disease outbreaks reported in the general population during the period.

5.4 Coping Strategies

The reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) averaged 6.5 in January, up from 6.3 in December,

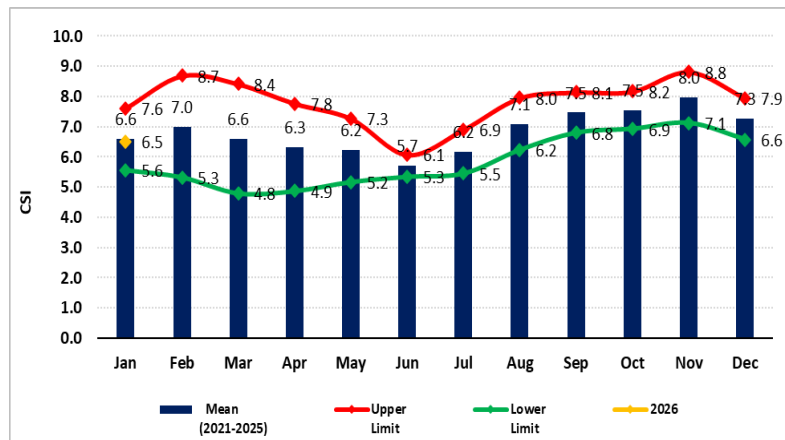


Figure 2. Coping strategy index; Kajiado, January 2026

and remained within the normal range (5.6–7.6), indicating continued livelihood stress (Figure 16). The highest rCSI was recorded in Mbirikani (8.0), while Dalalekutuk reported the lowest. Households mainly coped by reducing the number of meals, relying on less preferred foods,

and reducing portion sizes, reflecting constrained food access. These coping patterns align with other indicators, including borderline Food Consumption Scores in some areas, increased retention of own-produced milk for household consumption, and elevated MUAC risk, suggesting that although overall food security has not significantly deteriorated, underlying vulnerability persists, particularly in areas experiencing higher malnutrition and food consumption stress, likely to worsen as the dry period deepens.

6.0 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

Based on poor OND rainfall performance, below-normal forage and water availability, declining livestock body conditions, below-average crop performance, persistently high temperatures, and heavy reliance on open water sources, household food security over the next three months is expected to gradually deteriorate. The January–March dry period is likely to exacerbate pasture and water stress, reduce livestock productivity and incomes, and increase trekking distances, while already elevated food prices are expected to rise further, limiting household purchasing power. These conditions are reflected in increasing rCSI and MUAC levels, indicating growing reliance on consumption-based coping strategies and rising nutrition risks, particularly for young children.

Consequently, most households are projected to remain stressed if conditions do not improve. Households with limited livelihood diversification, high dependency ratios, and those in

malnutrition and rCSI hotspots are likely to face worsening food access and dietary quality. Without timely rainfall recovery, livelihood support, or food and nutrition interventions, vulnerability is expected to deepen, increasing the risk of further deterioration in food security and nutrition outcomes over the outlook period.

7.0 INTERVENTIONS

7.1 Current Interventions/actions

Ongoing Non-Food Interventions

Sub County/wards	Intervention	Objective	No. of beneficiaries (HH)	Implementers	Impacts in terms of food security	Cost (million, Ksh.)	Time Frame
Agriculture Sector							
County wide	Promotion of climate Smart Agricultural practices	Train farmers on TIMPs to enhance resilience to climate change, reduce environmental impact and ensure sustainable food production	2,000	CGK/ Stakeholders and other partners	Improve household food stocks and income	-	Continuous
Livestock Sector							
Kajiado central	Provision of pasture seeds	Improve pasture production	10,000	FAO, Drive, Dupoto e- Maa	Protect livelihoods	-	Jan-Mar 2026
Kajiado central	Promotion of livestock insurance	Protect household during drought	10,000	FAO	Protect livelihoods	-	Jan-mar 2026
Water Sector							
Mosiro ward	Solarization of 3 strategic boreholes in Mosiro	Improve water accessibility	1,500	CGK and partners	4		Ongoing (10% complete)
Rombo ward	Rehabilitation of the water canals in Rombo	Improve water availability for irrigation	700	CGK and partners	Improve household income and food		40% complete
Health and Nutrition Sector							
County wide	Vitamin A supplementation	Improve health status of under-fives	114,894	CGK and partners	-	9	Routine
County	Zinc	Improve health	35,298	CGK and	-		Routine

wide	Supplementati on	status of under- fives		partners			
County wide	IYCN Interventions (EBF and Timely Intro of complementar y Foods)	Improve health status of under- fives	15734	CGK and partners	-	0.2	Routine
County wide	Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM)	Improve health status of under- fives	4,864	CGK and partners	-	24	Routine
	Iron Folate Supplementati on among Pregnant Women	Improve health status of under- fives	67960	CGK and partners	-	1.4	Routine
	Deworming	Improve health status of under- fives	97,408	CGK and partners	-	0.9	Routine
Education Sector							
Sub County	Ward	Intervention	No. of benefici aries	Implementers	Impacts in terms of food security	Cost (millio n, Ksh.)	Time Frame
All		Feeding of Primary and JS	85,034 Pupils	Light Up Hope	Retention, good performance, reduced absenteeism	-	Continuo us

7.2 Recommended Interventions/actions

- ✓ Coordination with county/national/partners on drought response agencies for preparedness, support in relief food and subsidies; *by County Government in collaboration with National Drought Management Authority and partners*
- ✓ Resource mobilization for response activities; *by multi-Agency team, partners and other stakeholders.*
- ✓ Slaughter destocking of 5000 cattle to prevent livestock losses during drought; *by National Government and partners*
- ✓ Rehabilitation of non-functional strategic boreholes and Desilting of water pans/dams; *by County government (Water department) and partners.*

- ✓ Management of Acute Malnutrition and Mass screening and outreaches in hotspot areas of Kajiado West and South; *by County Government (department of health services) in collaboration with National Drought Management Authority and partners*
- ✓ Provision of livestock feeds pellets for the milking, pregnant and lactating herds left behind; *by County Government (Livestock production) in collaboration with National Drought Management Authority and partners*
- ✓ Vaccination campaign against Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Lumpy Skin Disease and Foot & Mouth Disease; *by County Government (Veterinary services) in collaboration with National Drought Management Authority and partners.*
- ✓ Fuel Subsidy to strategic boreholes; *by County Government (Veterinary services) in collaboration with National Drought Management Authority and partners*
- ✓ Provision of assorted certified seeds to farmers; *by County Government (Agriculture department).*

This report was verified by:

County Drought Coordinator; Kajiado County

Name....Hussein Alio.... Sign...



..... Date...2/02/2026.....