



**National Drought Management Authority
KITUI COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR NOVEMBER 2015**

NOVEMBER EW PHASE



**Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification
Biophysical Indicators**

Generally, the onset of rains was late by one weeks during the first week of November. The rains were characterised by even spatial distribution and good temporal distribution. Pasture and browse have regenerated but the current situation is below normal as indicated by a vegetation condition index (VCI) of 25.7 (moderate vegetation greenness deficit) and most of the open water sources have been recharged almost to their capacity.

Socio economic Indicators

Production: Livestock body condition was good for all species and animals were grazing in their normal areas during this time of the year. Milk production was above normal and no drought related deaths were reported. In the cropping sector, various crops were in good condition.

Access: Terms of trade were favourable and milk consumption was above the long term mean (LTM). Both the return distances to water sources and cost of water were normal.

Utilization: the coping strategy index (CSI) was below the LTM and the percentage number of children at risk of malnutrition was less compared to LTM

Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	EW Phase	Trend
Marginal Mixed Farming	Alert	Improving
Mixed Farming	Alert	Improving
County	Alert	Improving
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal ranges
SPI-3MonthTAMSAT		-1-1
VCI-3month	25.7	35-50
Production Indicators	Value	Normal ranges/LTA
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Normal	Normal
Milk Production	367.5	>268.5l
Livestock Deaths (drought related)	No death	No death
Crop Condition	Good	Good
Access Indicators	Value	Long term mean
Terms of Trade (ToT)	97	>69
Milk Consumption	337.5	>240
Return Distance to Water Sources	2.5	<5km
Cost of water sources (20l)	2	<5ksh
Utilization Indicators	Value	LTM
MUAC	5	11%
Coping Strategy Index	0.9	1.2

1. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS
1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- The onset of the rains was late by one week during the first week of November. It was characterised by even spatial distribution and good temporal distribution.
- The number of wet days reported ranged from 10 in Marginal mixed farming livelihood zone to 19 days in mixed farming livelihood zone.

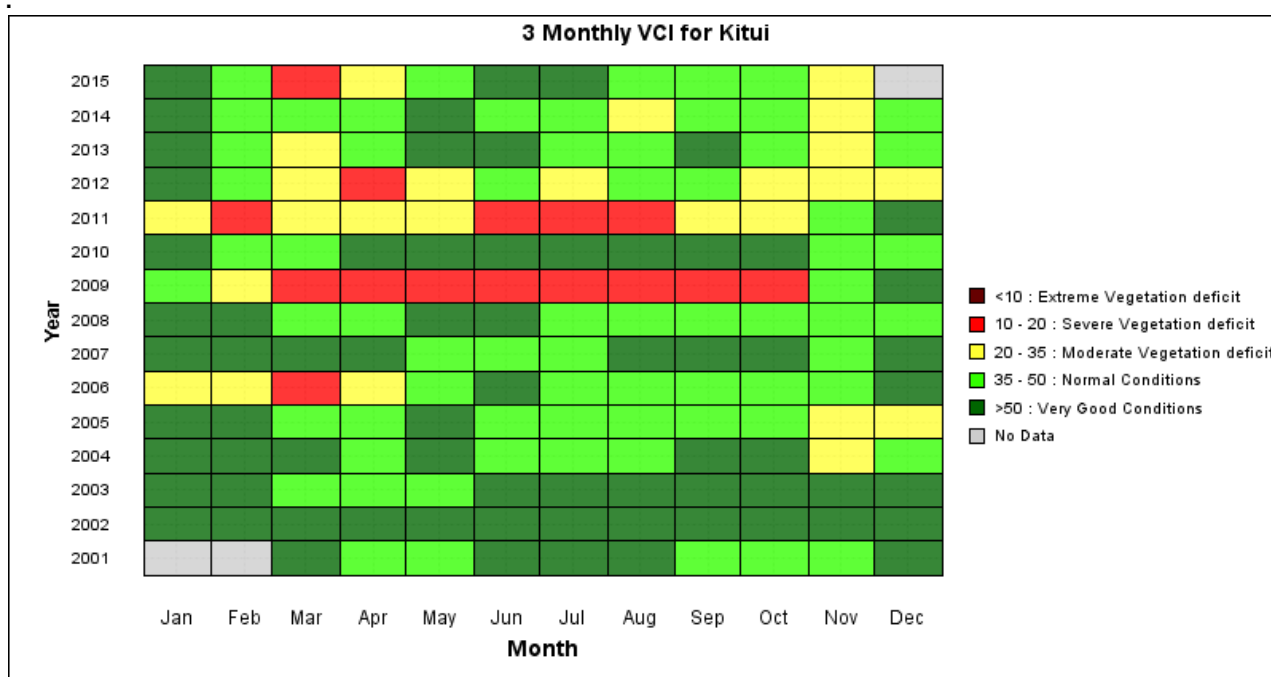
1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- The amount of rainfall received varied across and within livelihood zones with Ngomemi town rain gauge reporting 306.1mm and Katse 175mm
- It was characterised by even spatial distribution and good temporal distribution. In isolated cases in Kitui Town there were flash floods that washed away houses and vehicles

1.3 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

1.3.1 VEGETATION CONDITION INDEX

- The three month vegetation condition index (VCI) was 25.7 indicating moderate vegetation deficit as indicated in the matrix below.
- The late onset of rains delayed regeneration of vegetation and thus the decline in vegetation greenness compared to the month of October.

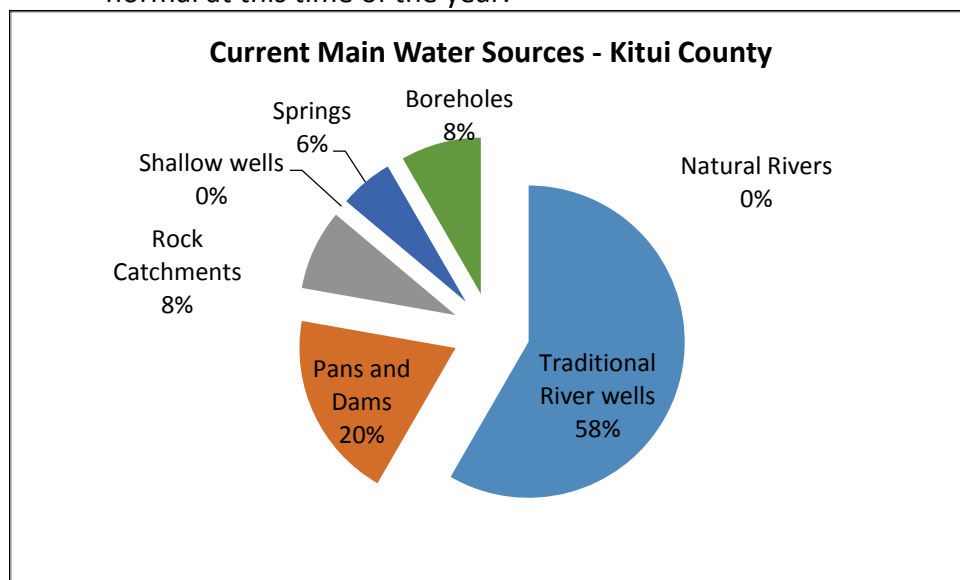


1.3.2 Field Observations (Pasture and Browse Conditions)

- Pastures and browse conditions have improved significantly during the month following the onset of the short rains season. The vegetation cover is expected to improve further with progression of the rain season.

1.4 WATER RESOURCE

- The main sources of water during the month were Traditional river wells and Pans and Dams which were relied by 58% and 20% of the communities respectively and this is normal at this time of the year. Other sources included; Boreholes, Rock Catchments and Springs. Most open water surface facilities were recharged to about 70% of their Capacity across the livelihood zones.
- Currently, the cost of water is between Ksh.2 to Ksh.3 per 20litres Jerican and this is normal at this time of the year.



2.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

2.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

2.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Generally, the body condition for shoats is good and that of cattle is fair.
- The current livestock body condition of cattle is moderate, neither fat nor thin and this which is normal at this time of the year.

2.1.2 Livestock Migration Patterns

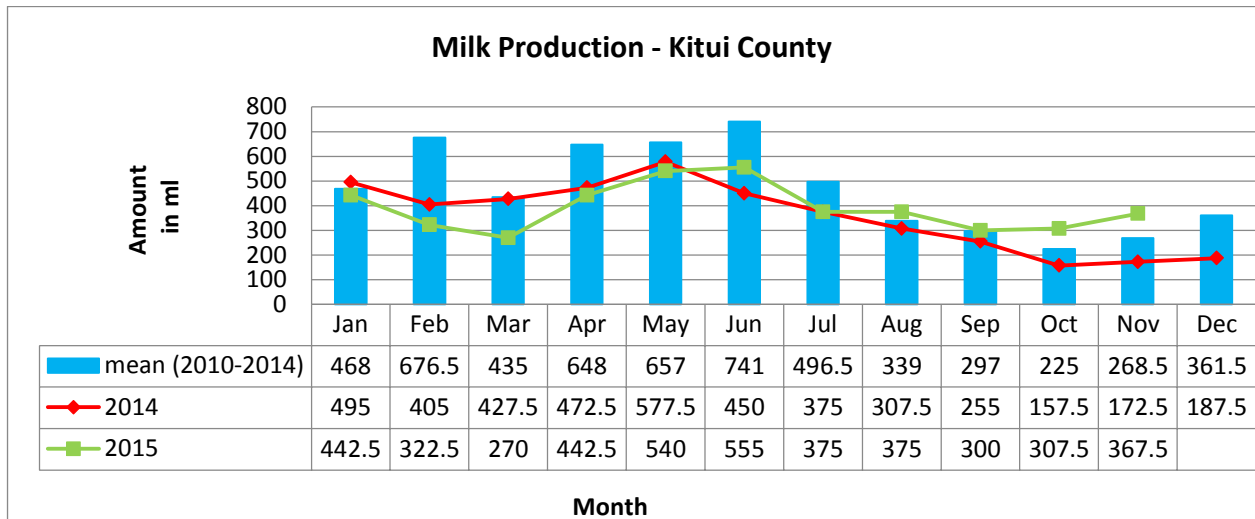
No unusual livestock migration was reported in the county.

2.1.3 Livestock Diseases

- No livestock disease outbreak was reported across the livelihood zones.

2.1.4 Milk Production

- Milk production per household rose to 367.5ml in November from 307.5ml last month.
- The current production is above long term mean as shown in the figure below.



2.1.5 Livestock deaths

No unusual livestock deaths were reported.

2.2 RAIN FED CROP PRODUCTION

2.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

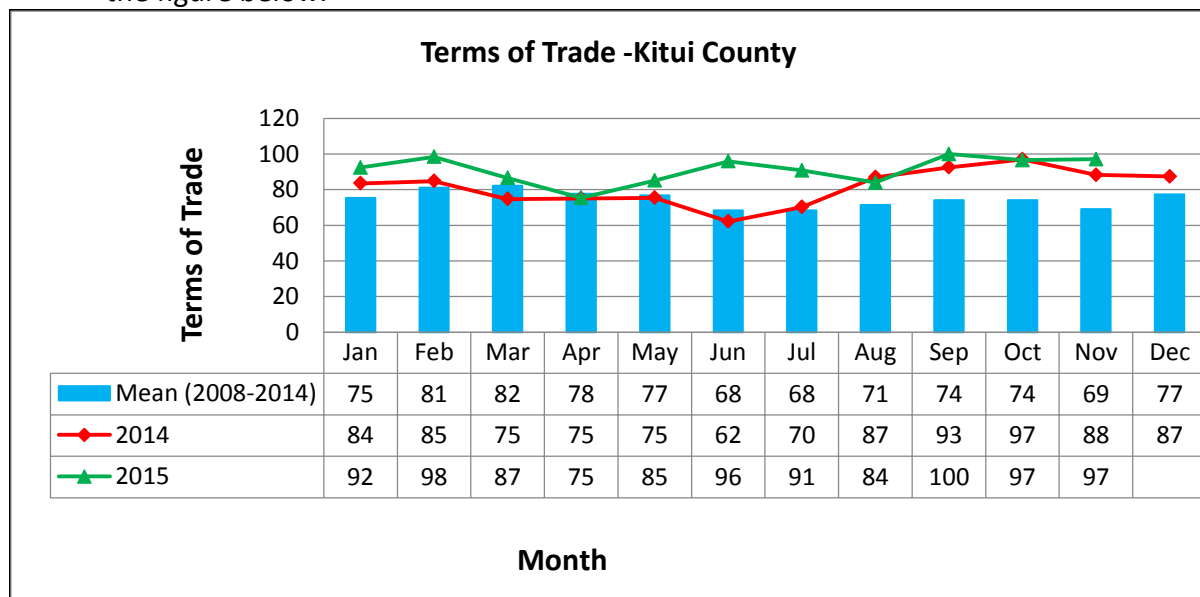
- Land preparation and planting is on-going across the livelihood zones. However, farmers along the rivers are still engaging in irrigated crop production growing horticultural crops which are at various stages of growth ranging from germination to maturity.
- No unusual crop pests and diseases have been reported.

3 ACCESS INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock Prices

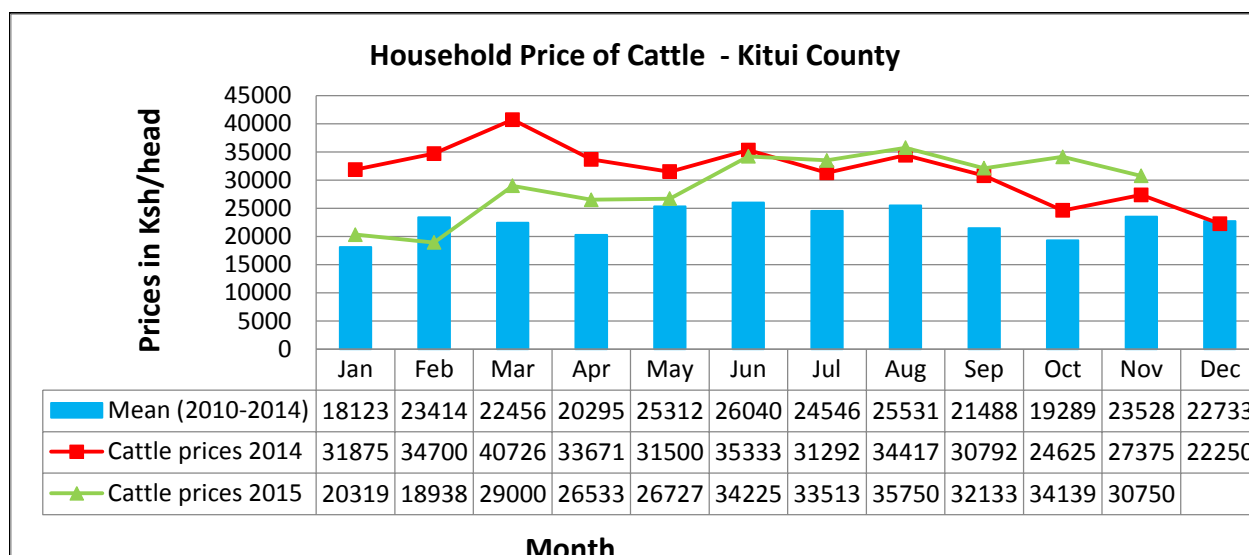
3.1.1 Livestock Terms of Trade

- Terms of trade remained at 97 in November as it was last month. This implied that the proceeds from a sale of one goat could purchase 97kg of maize in November as it was last month. The terms of trade were in favor of pastoralists compared to crop farmers.
- The current terms of trade are above year 2014 and the long term average as indicated in the figure below.



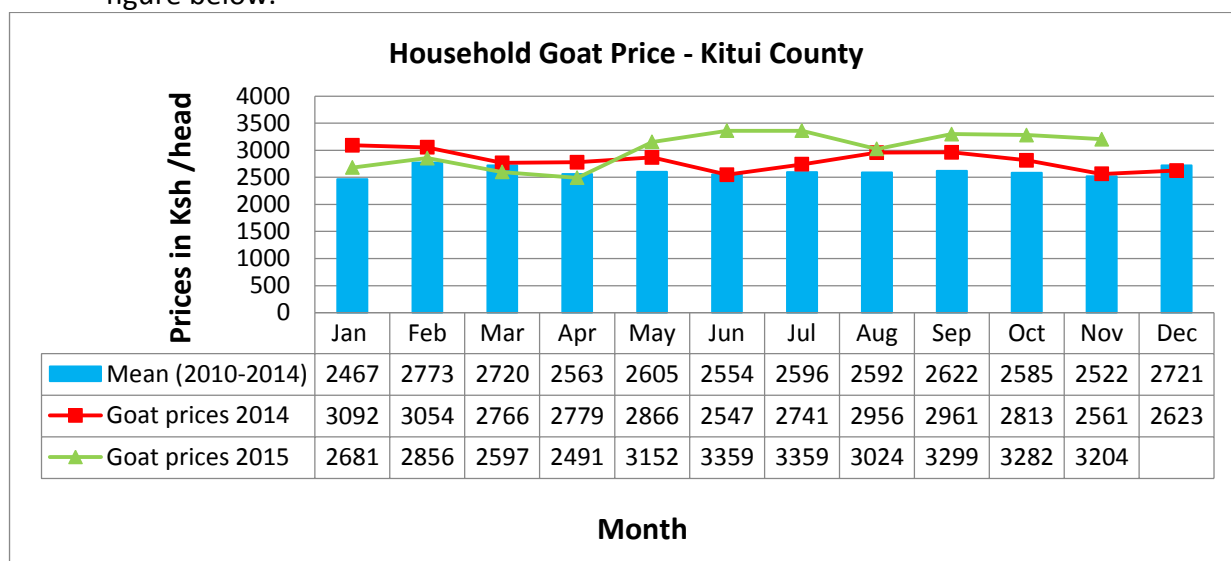
3.1.2 Cattle Prices

- The average household price of cattle declined from Ksh.34, 139 in October to Ksh.30, 750 in November and this was mainly attributed by an increased demand for meat and animals for sale. The prices varied across livelihood zones with Marginal Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone recording a price of Ksh.42, 500 compared to Ksh.19, 000 in Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone.
- The current price is above long term means and similar period in year 2014 as shown in the figure below.



3.1.3 Goat Prices

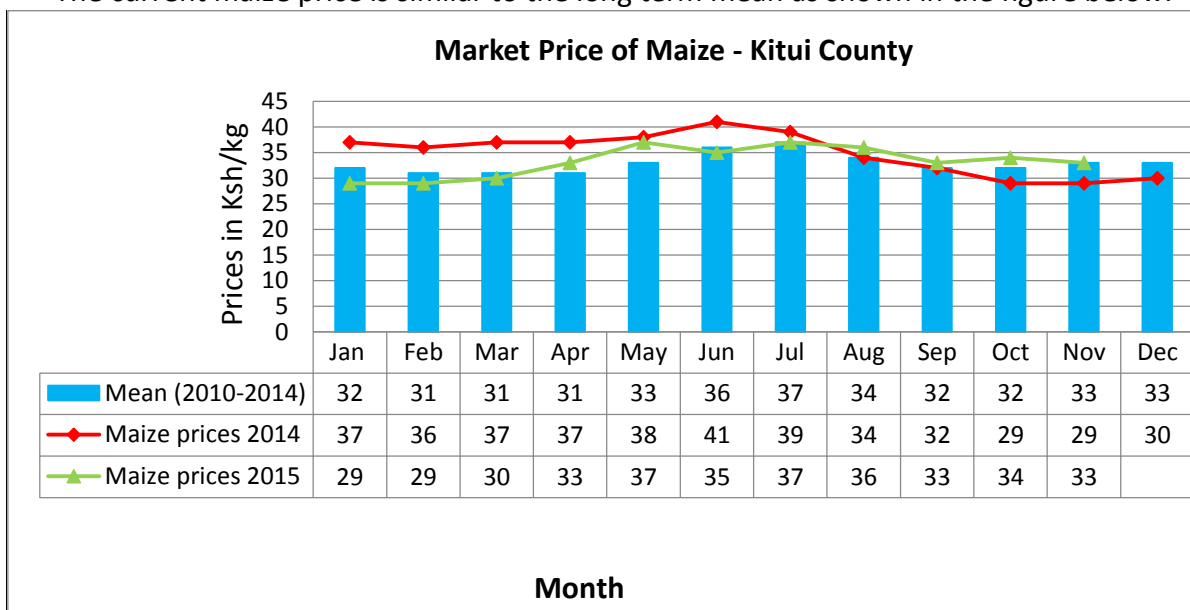
- The average household price of goats was stable at Ksh.3,204 in November compared to Ksh.3,282 last month. Higher price of Ksh.3,445 was reported in Marginal Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone compared to Ksh.2,963 recorded in Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone.
- This stability in price is attributed to availability of browse and prevailing good body condition of shoats.
- The current price is above long term mean and similar period in year 2014 as shown in the figure below.



3.2 Price of cereals and other food products

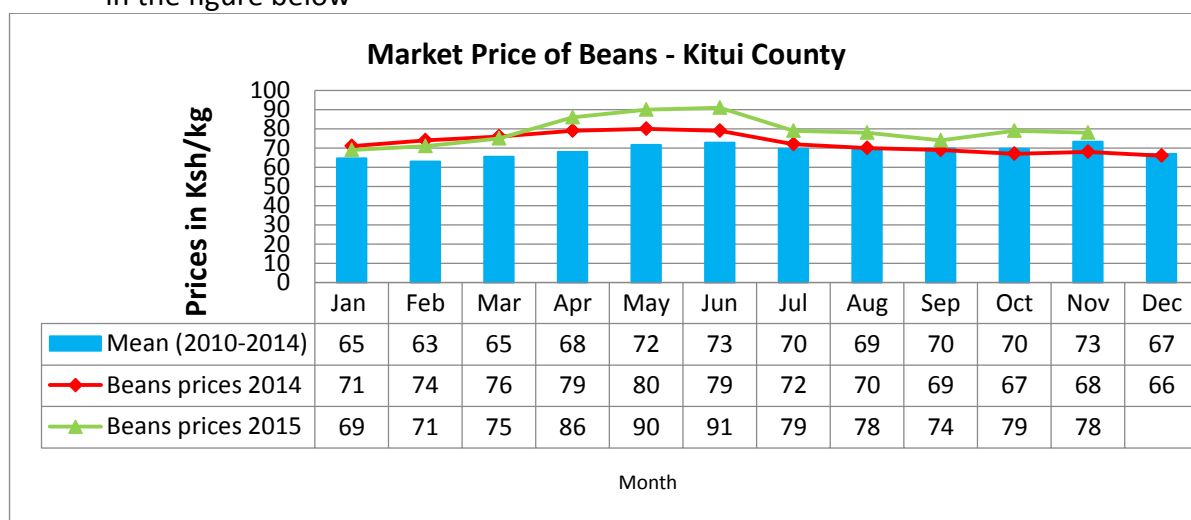
3.2.1 Maize

- The average price of maize per kilo declined to Ksh.33 in November from Ksh.34 last month. The Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone recorded a higher price of Ksh.34 compared to Ksh.31 in Marginal Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone.
- The current maize price is similar to the long term mean as shown in the figure below.



3.2.2 Beans

- The price of beans stabilized at Ksh.78/kg in November compared to Ksh.79/kg last month. The prices in Marginal Mixed Farming and Mixed Farming Livelihood Zones were Ksh.73 and Ksh.83 per kilo respectively.
- The current beans price is above similar period in year 2014 and long term mean as shown in the figure below

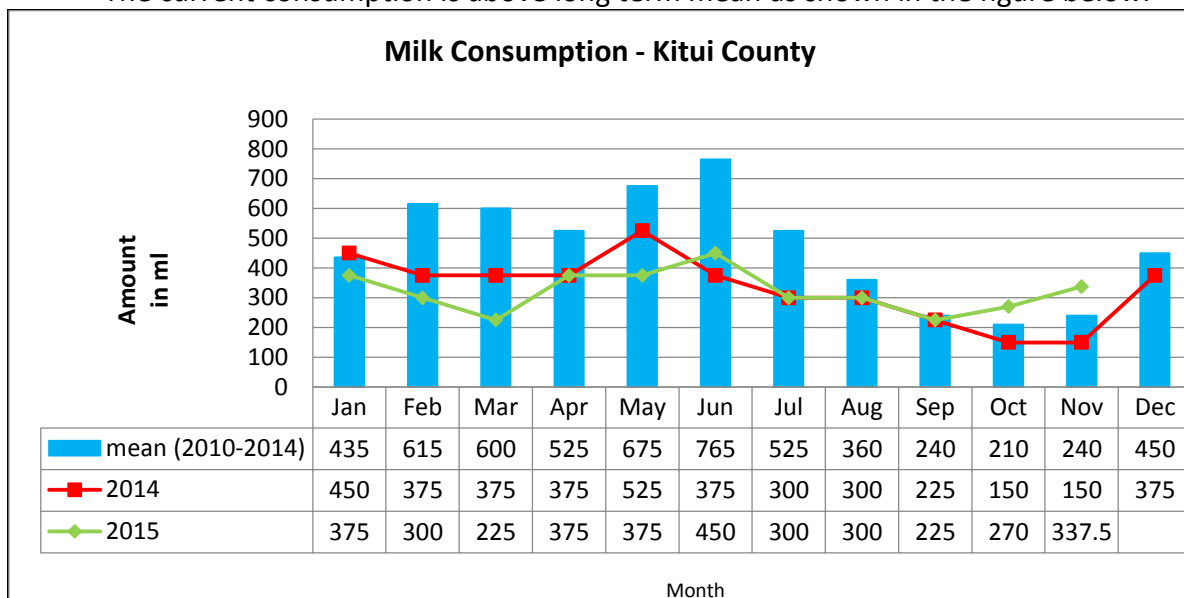


3.3 Access to Food and Water

3.3.1 Availability of milk for household consumption

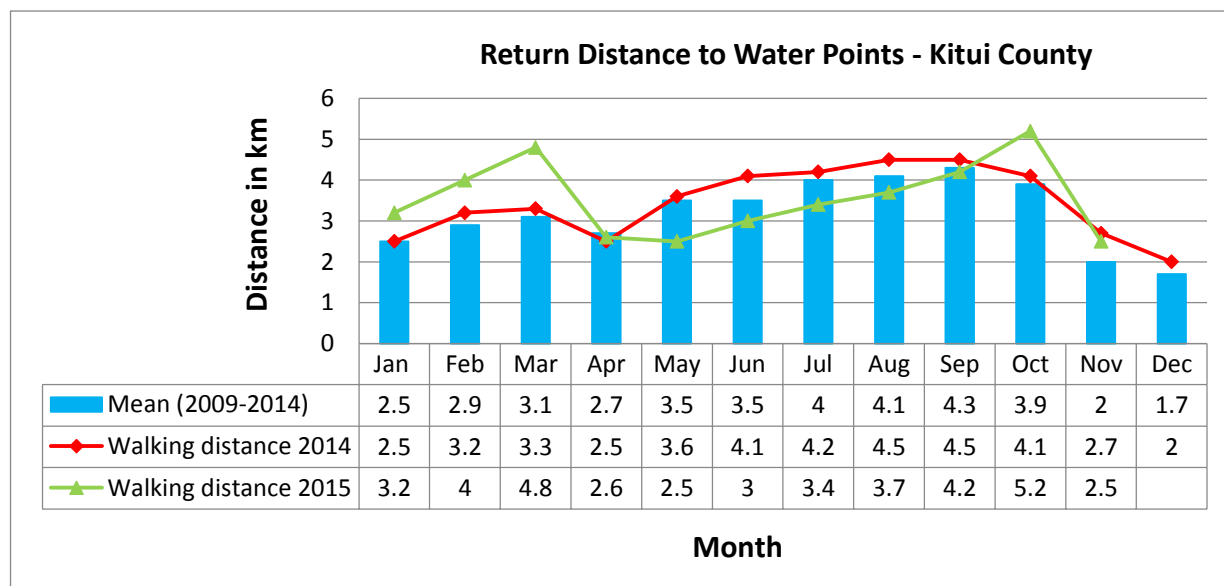
- Milk consumption per household rose to 337.5ml in November from 270ml in October. Milk consumption was mostly enhanced in Marginal Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone compared to Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone.

- The current consumption is above long term mean as shown in the figure below.



3.3.2 Availability of water for household consumption

- Average walking distances to water points declined to 2.5km in November from 5.2km last month. The Marginal Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone and Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone both recorded an average walking distance of 2.5km.
- Distances to water sources have greatly declined due to the ongoing rains. Most households are using roof catchments as their source of water
- Generally, water distances are still above the long term mean as shown in the figure below. However, the distances are expected to decline further as the rains are still going on.

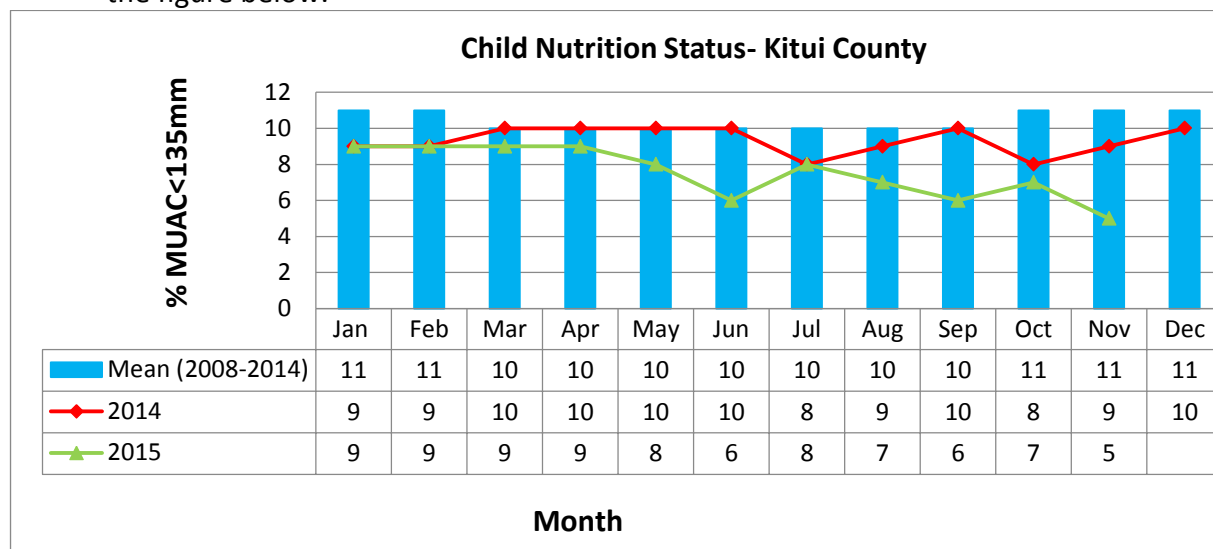


4.0 UTILIZATION INDICATORS

4.1 Health and Nutrition Status

4.1.1 MUAC

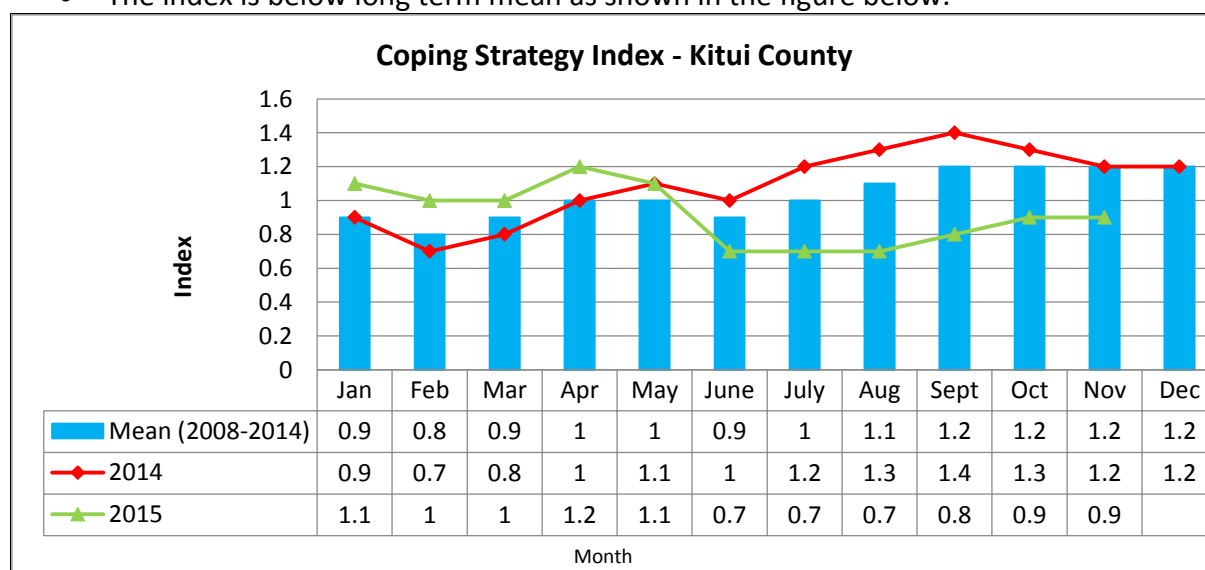
- The number of children at risk of malnutrition declined to 5% in November from 7% last month. The situation varied across livelihood zones with the Marginal Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone and Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone recording an average rate of 4.9% and 5.6% respectively.
- The current level of children at risk of malnutrition is below long term mean as shown in the figure below.



4.2 Coping Strategy

4.2.1 Coping Strategy Index

- The coping strategy index remained at 0.9% in November as it was last month. The coping strategy index in Marginal Mixed Farming and Mixed Farming Livelihood Zones were both at 0.9%.
- The index is below long term mean as shown in the figure below.



5.0 Current Interventions and Recommendations

5.1 Non-food interventions

- Roads repair
- Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP)
- Public awareness and campaigns on cholera
- Livestock de-worming, vaccination and treatment of livestock against notifiable diseases
- Relief seed distribution

5.2 Food Aid

- Cash distribution for PRRO programme
- General food distribution
- Supplementary feeding program

5.3 Recommendations

- Enhanced surveillance on sanitation issues in the County is required due to the ongoing heavy rains.
- Upscaling of mass Livestock de-worming, vaccination and treatment of livestock against notifiable diseases
- Support of high impact health interventions.
- Support to post harvest management practices during harvest time early next year.

6.0 Emerging Issues

6.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- The ongoing Elnino rains have had an adverse effect on the infrastructure particularly the roads. If the trend continues with similar intensity, some roads are likely to be cut off thus affecting access to major markets. This will affect food security in the County.
- Numerous cases of livestock animals being swept away by flood waters have been reported in different parts of the County.