



**National Drought Management Authority  
WEST POKOT COUNTY  
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR SEPTEMBER 2021**

**SEPTEMBER EW PHASE**

Drought Status: **NORMAL**



Shughuli za kawaida

**Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification**

**Biophysical Indicators**

- Sufficient rainfall was received across the County in September. The temporal distribution was good with even spatial distribution across the livelihood zones.
- The vegetation cover index is at above normal range, with an increasing trend across the livelihoods as shown by the increasing Vegetation Condition Index as compared to that reported in August. All Sub-counties recorded above normal vegetation conditions. Forage condition remained good with stable trend.

**Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)**

- Both milk production and consumption at household level increased.
- The livestock body condition is still good, with stable trend across the County for all species. Distance to water sources decreased across the County.
- The County's terms of trade is favourable with an improving trend across the livelihood zones.
- Majority of the households fell within the Acceptable Food Consumption Score as the Coping Strategy Index decreased across livelihood zones. There were no notable variations in livelihood coping strategies employed between livelihoods.

**Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification**

LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TREND
AGRO PASTORAL	<b>NORMAL</b>	STABLE
PASTORAL	<b>NORMAL</b>	STABLE
<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>NORMAL</b>	<b>STABLE</b>

Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal range
VCI-3month (County)	63	>35
Forage Condition	Good	Good

Production Indicators	Value	Normal range
Livestock Body Condition	Good	Normal
Milk Production	1.8	>1.6 Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Usual	Normal
Livestock deaths (attributed to drought)	No deaths	No deaths

Access Indicators	Value	Normal range
Terms of Trade (ToT)	101.9	>77
Milk Consumption	1.6	>1.4 Litres
Return distance to water sources (household)	2.8 km	0.0-2.6km
Cost of water at source (Ksh. /20 litres)	Kshs 5	<Kshs 5

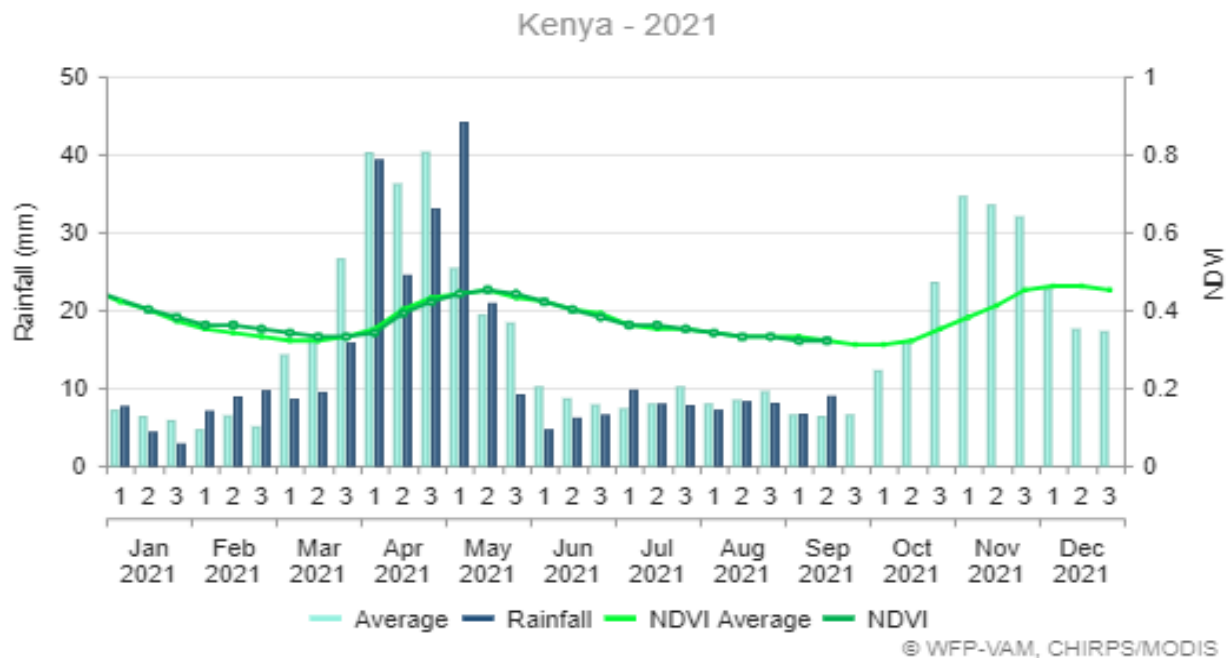
Utilization Indicators	Value	Normal range
Nutrition status, MUAC (Severe + Moderate)	1.9	<4
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	1.3	0.0-14.5
Food Consumption Score	53	>35

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short rains harvests</li> <li>Short dry spell</li> <li>Increased HH Food Stock</li> <li>Land preparation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planting/Weeding</li> <li>Long rains</li> <li>High Calving Rate</li> <li>Milk Yields Increase</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long rains harvests</li> <li>A long dry spell</li> <li>Land preparation</li> <li>Increased HH Food Stock</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short rains</li> <li>Planting/weeding (Irish potatoes, Cabbages and Onions)</li> </ul>								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

# 1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

## 1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- In the month under review, adequate rainfall was received. The situation was above normal for such time of the year.



Source: VAM-World Food Programme

- The dekadal rainfall was at 6.5 mm from 16.2 mm in the first dekad and at 8.8 mm in the second dekad from 19.7 mm in August. The dekadal amounts dropped in September as compared to that of August. The amounts were generally above normal for September.
- The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) follows a normal trend in both first and second dekads in September.

## 1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- The rainfall amounts were sufficient with even spatial and good temporal distribution across the livelihoods. The amounts received were above normal in the period under review.

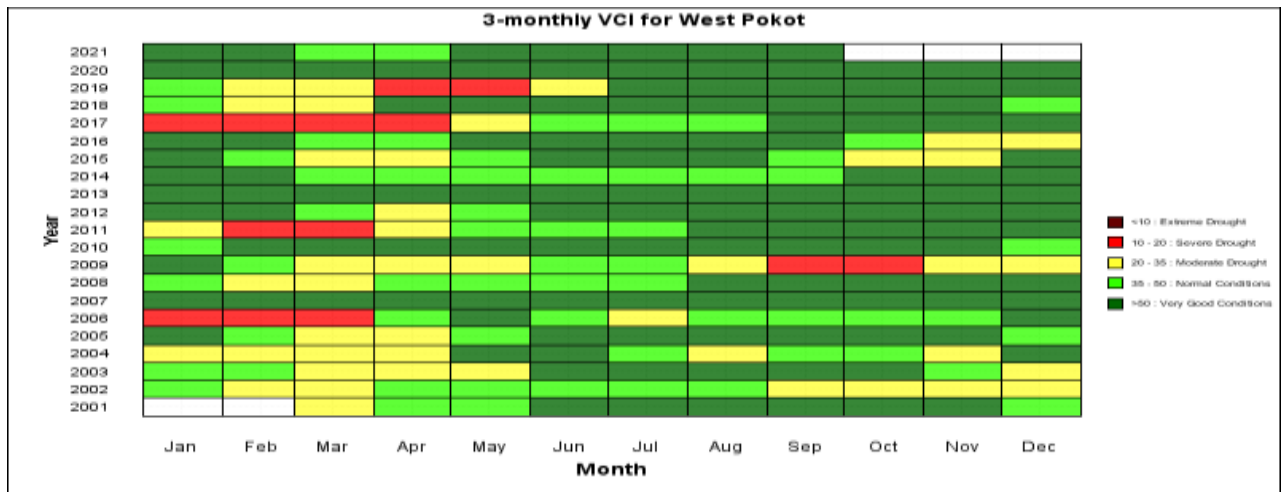
## 1.3 OTHER EVENTS

- Minimal cattle rustling incidences were reported at Chesegon area along Elgeyo Marakwet border during the month.

## 2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

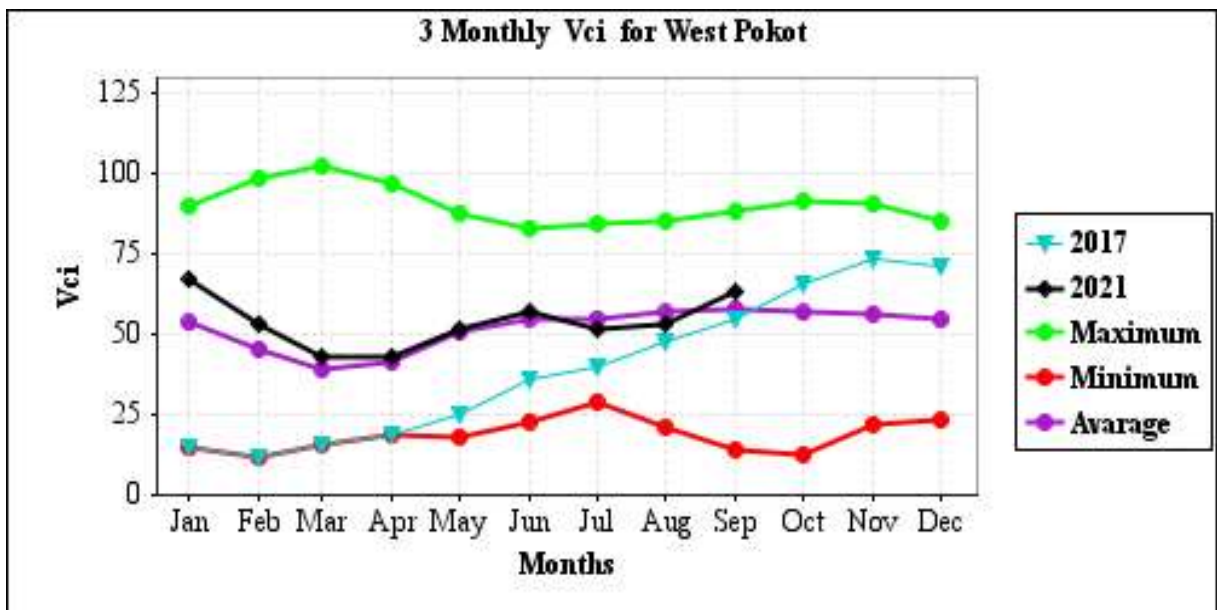
### 2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

#### 2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)



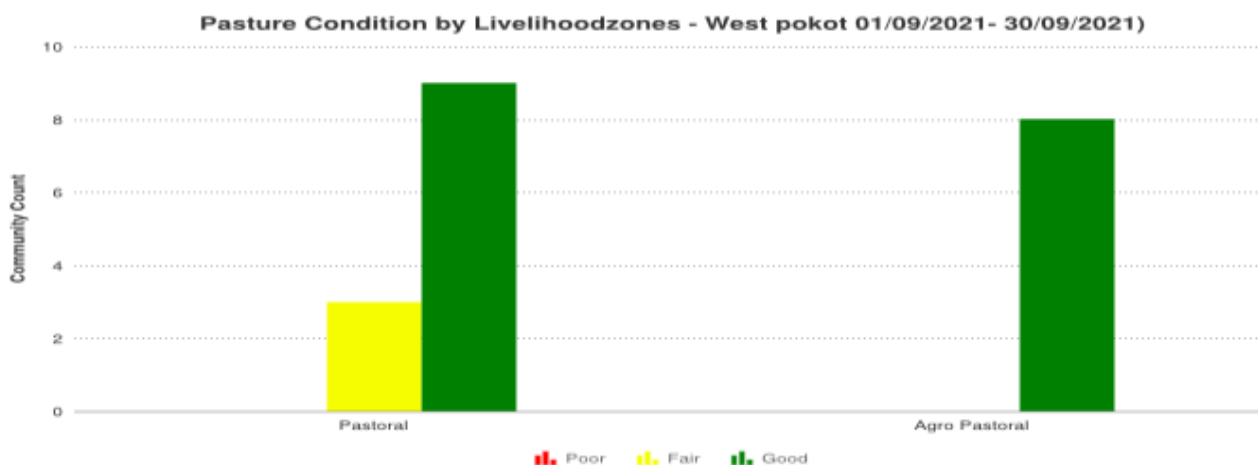
Source: Boku University

- The VCI (VCI-3month) which portrays the vegetation status of the County was at 63, an increase from 53 recorded in August. The current VCI portrays very good vegetation condition.
- The VCI is on upward trend across all livelihood zones. All sub-counties reported above normal vegetation conditions. Pokot North, Pokot Central, West Pokot and Pokot South Sub counties recorded improving vegetation condition in VCI from 51 to 58, 51 to 60 and 55 to 67 and 62 to 73 respectively. The increasing trend in VCI condition in all Sub Counties is attributed to improved regeneration of vegetation cover owing to above normal performance of rainfall in September.



### 2.1.2 Pasture

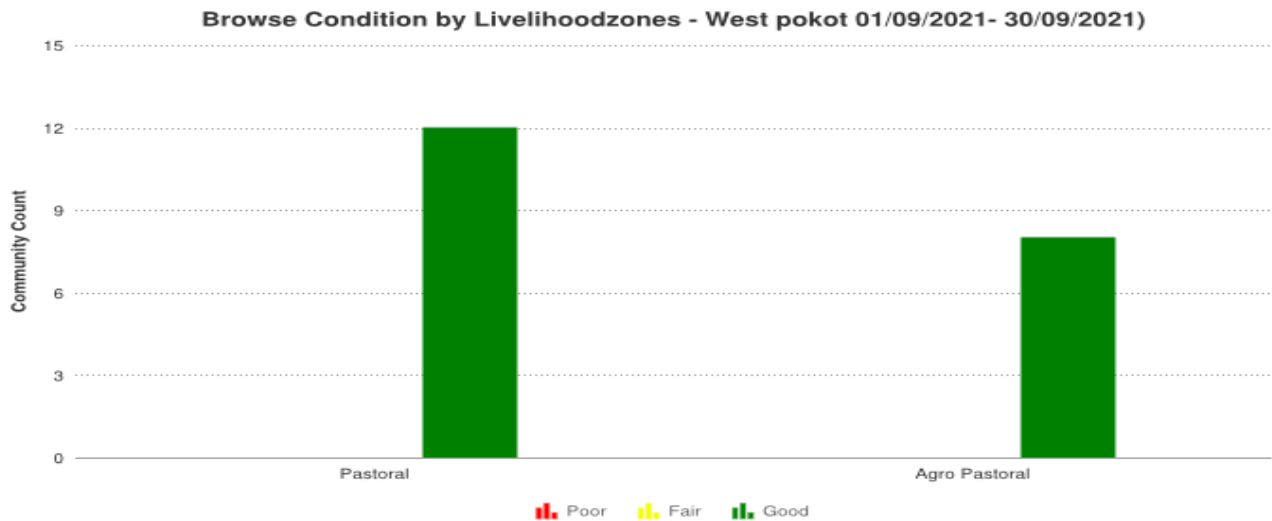
- The proportion of sampled community members which reported that the pasture was good was at 75 percent in pastoral and 100 percent in agro pastoral livelihood zones, the pockets the reported fair pasture conditions were Lower Sekker, Masol and Kasei areas and when compared to that of August, the situation improved.
- The communities stated that pasture situation was generally good in all livelihood zones. The condition was below normal for such time of the year.



- The pasture condition is on improving trend when compared to that of the previous month due to sufficient rainfall effects during the month. The pasture condition is expected to remain stable with the forecasted near normal OND rains.
- There was significant variation in terms of pasture condition where agro pastoral and pastoral households reported pasture as good at 100 and 75 percent respectively. The quality and quantity was generally good in both agro-pastoral and pastoral livelihood zones.

### 2.1.3 Browse

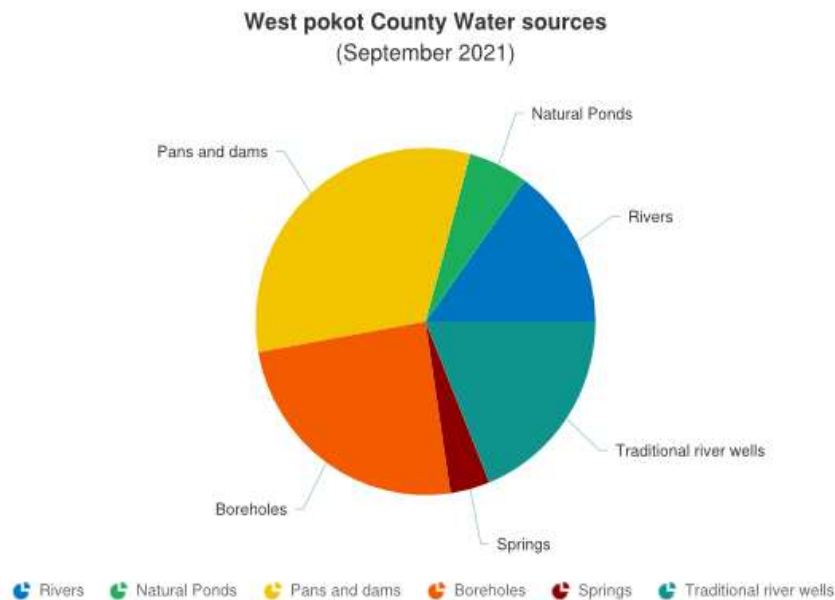
- In September, the browse condition was good in both agro pastoral and pastoral livelihood zones and is above normal for such period of the year. The quality of the browse condition is stable, when compared to that of the previous month.
- The proportion of sampled community members which stated that browse condition was good was at 100 percent in both agro pastoral and pastoral livelihoods.
- There was no significant variation between the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones.
- The up-scaled peace building efforts have improved access to forage in the conflict buffer zones in the County.



## 2.2 WATER RESOURCE

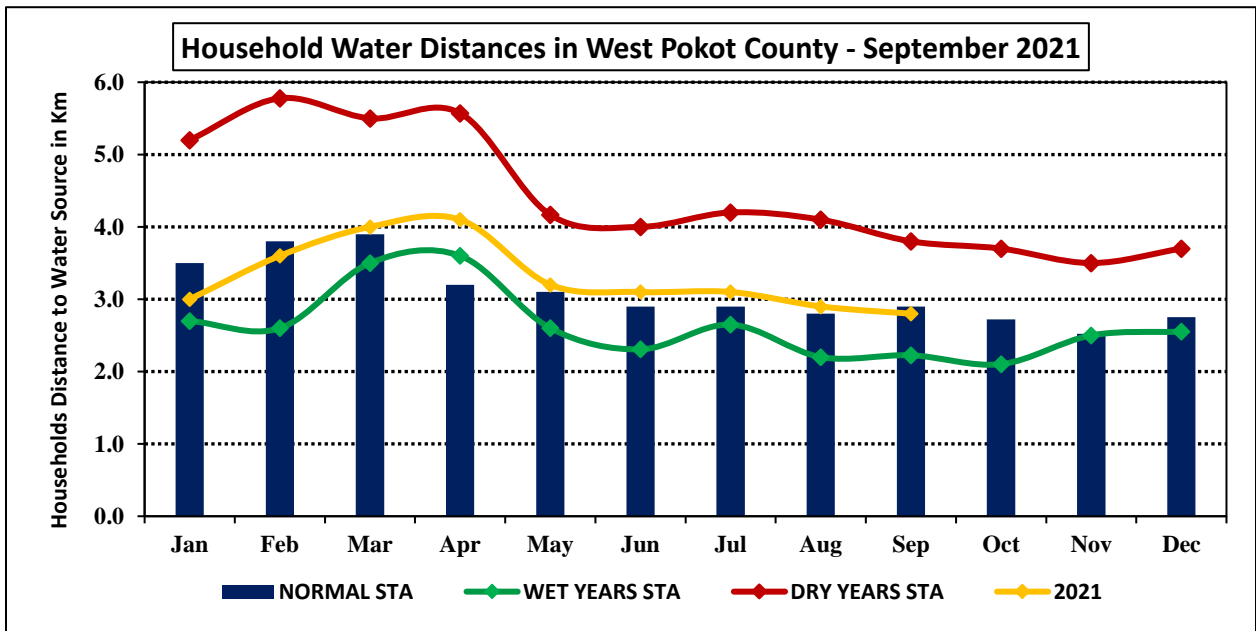
### 2.2.1 Sources

- In the month under review, the proportion of sampled population using main water sources for both households and livestock were; 33 percent for pans and dams, both 19 percent for traditional river wells and for boreholes and 15 percent for rivers.
- There was good surface water recharge in all sources. The situation improved due to adequate rainfall in September.
- The current main water sources in use are the normal ones used by households during such time of the year.



### 2.2.2 Household Access and Utilization

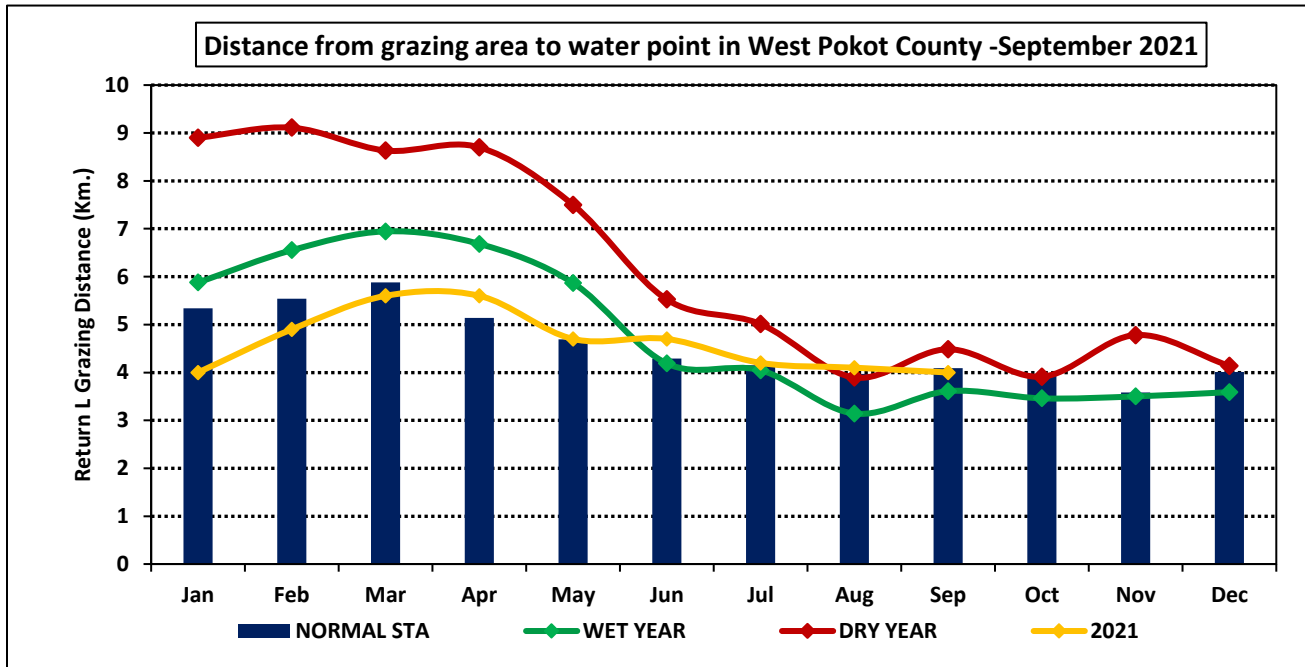
- The return distance to water source from the household at 2.8 km, a decrease from 2.9 km recorded in August. The current distance remained at 3 percent below the Long Term Average (LTA).
- Pastoral zones of Pokot North and Central recorded longer trekking distance to water source than the agro-pastoral livelihood zones. The drop in distance is owing to good recharge to water sources during the month.



- As usual, the pastoral livelihood zones recorded longer waiting time at water source than the agro-pastoral zones as usual.
- The average household water consumption per person per day is at 10-12 litres in the pastoral zones while that in the agro-pastoral zones was 12-15 at litres. The water cost at the source is free in the rural areas.

### 2.2.3 Livestock Access

- In September, the livestock return trekking distance from grazing areas to water sources slightly decreased to 4.0 km from 4.1 km reported in August. The current trekking distance is at par with the long term average.
- The pastoral livelihood zone recorded longer trekking time from grazing areas to water source as compared to that in the agro-pastoral livelihood zones.



- The down trend in livestock trekking distance to water points is attributed to improving recharge in the month under review.
- Livestock watering frequency is at 6-7 times in a week for both cattle and shoats and 5-6 times in a week for camel.

## **3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS**

### **3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION**

#### **3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition**

- The body condition for all livestock species is good in both pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones. The condition is improving when compared to that of August.
- The livestock body condition is anticipated to remain stable across livelihood zones with the predicted OND rains in October.
- The body condition is normal for all livestock species in comparison to same period during a normal year. The body condition is improving due to good forage condition.
- There was no significant variation in livestock body condition between the two livelihood zones.

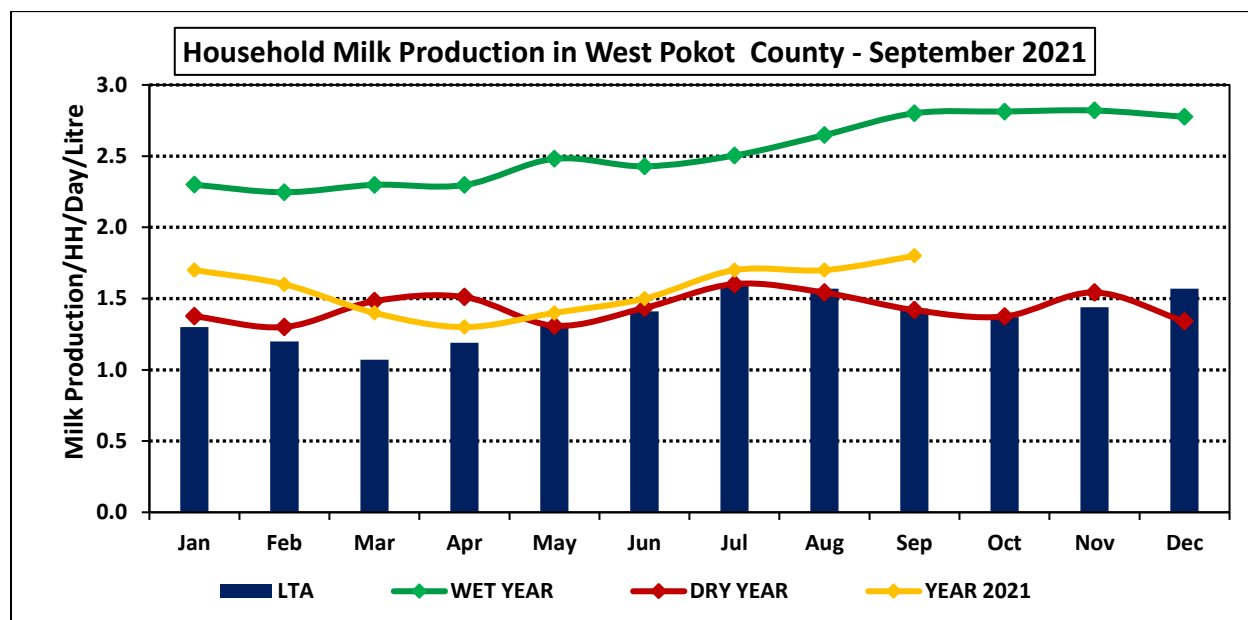
#### **3.1.2 Livestock Diseases**

- Kasei, Chepareria and Masol ward reported CCP and CCBP incidences in Pokot North, South and Central Sub counties.

#### **3.1.3 Milk Production**

- In the month under review, the County recorded an average production of 1.8 litres of milk per household per day, an increase from 1.7 litres recorded in the previous month.
- The cattle was the main livestock producing milk at the households in all the livelihood zones in the County.
- The current household milk production is 29 percent above the long term average.
- The household improving trend in milk production is attributed to good forage access in the traditional grazing areas.





## 3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

### 3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

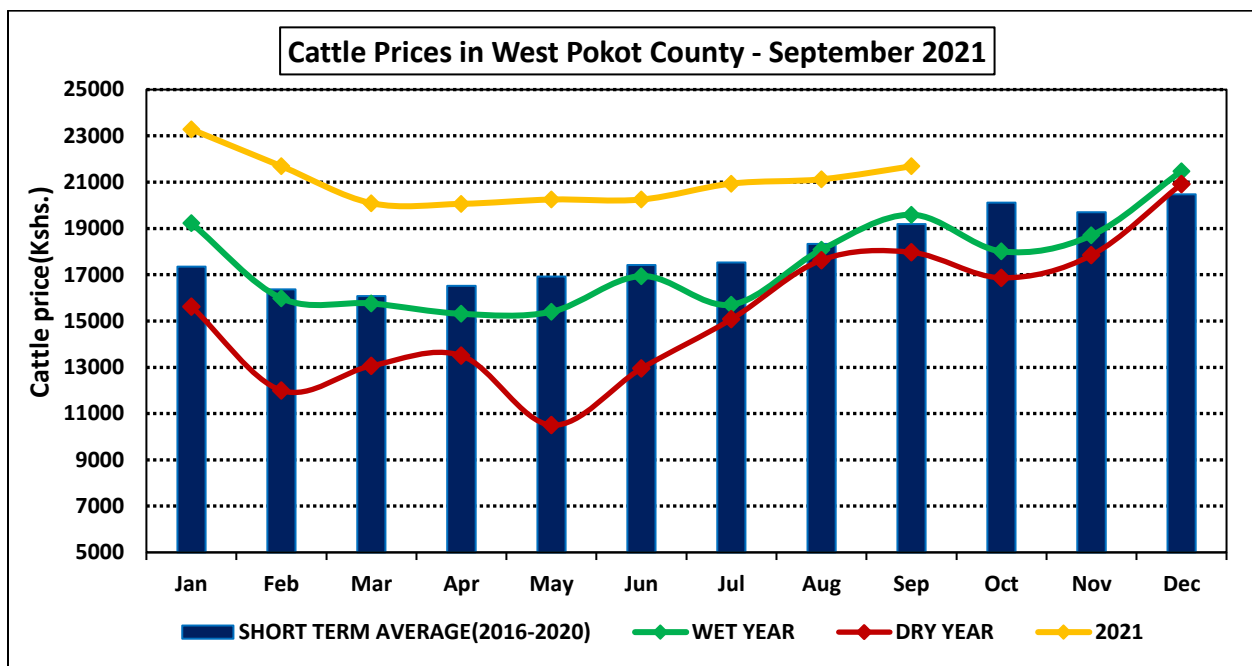
- The County's main crops cultivated include maize, beans, potatoes and bulb onions. Maize crop is at staking level across the livelihood zones.
- The horticultural production and supply to major markets in Ortum, Wakkor and Lomut is good in comparison to the seasonal performance due to above normal off-season rainfall performance.
- Harvesting of onion crop along the horticultural production zones is ongoing in the highland zones of Pokot South Sub County.
- The Pawpaw and Mango fruits supply is on-season. These are usually supplied to Lomut, Ortum, Sigor and external markets for distribution to other centres within and outside the County.

## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

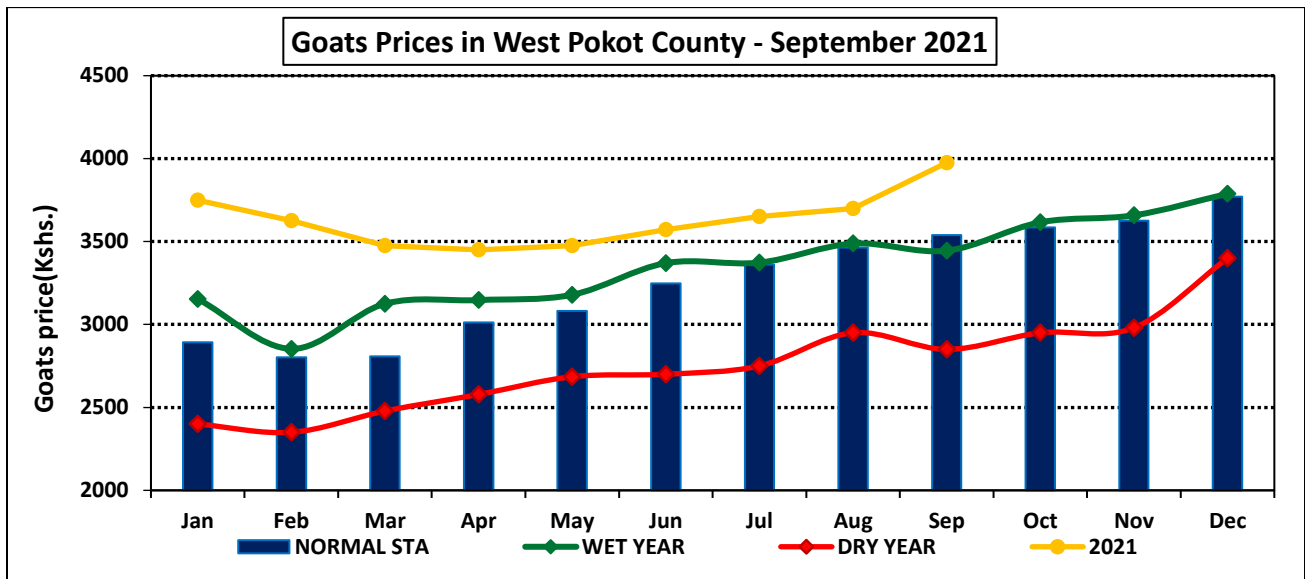
#### 4.1.1 Cattle prices

- The medium sized 4-year bull was sold at an average price of Kshs 21,688, an increase from Kshs 21,125 recorded in August.
- The upward trend in cattle price is mainly associated with good livestock body condition along with improved recharge of water sources for livestock.
- The current cattle price is 13 percent above the long term average.



#### 4.1.2 Goat Prices

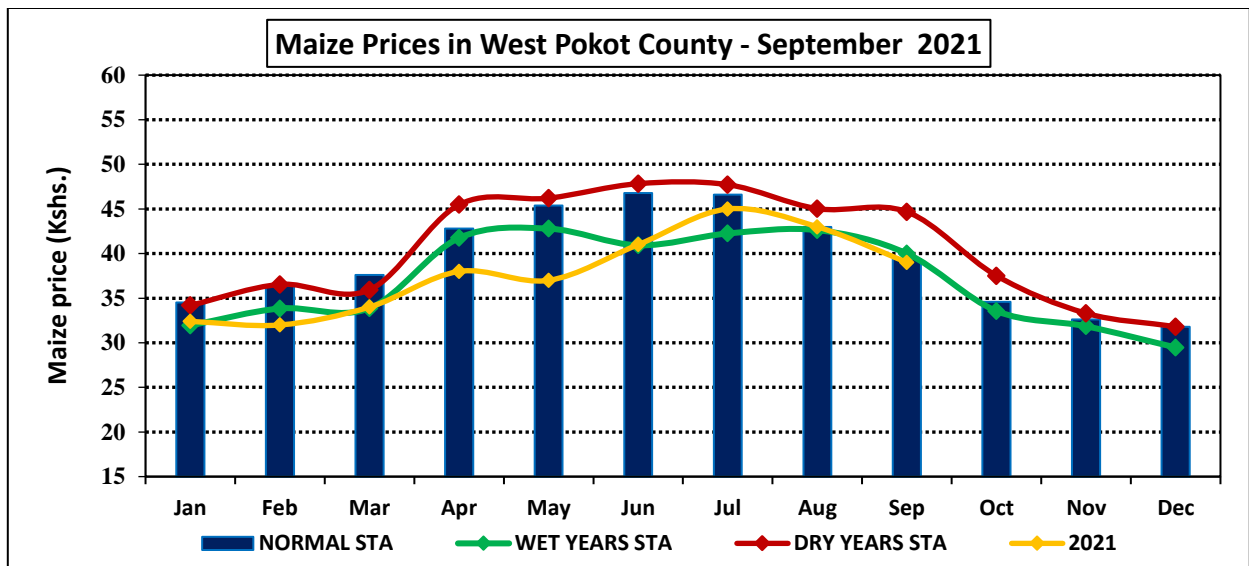
- In September, the County recorded an average price of Kshs 3,975 for a 2-year old medium size goat, which portrayed price rise in comparison with Kshs 3,700 recorded in August.
- The price increase is attributed to good body condition coupled with dropping trekking distances across the livelihoods. The current goat price is 12 percent above long term average for such a period of the year.



## 4.2 CROP PRICES

### 4.2.1 Maize

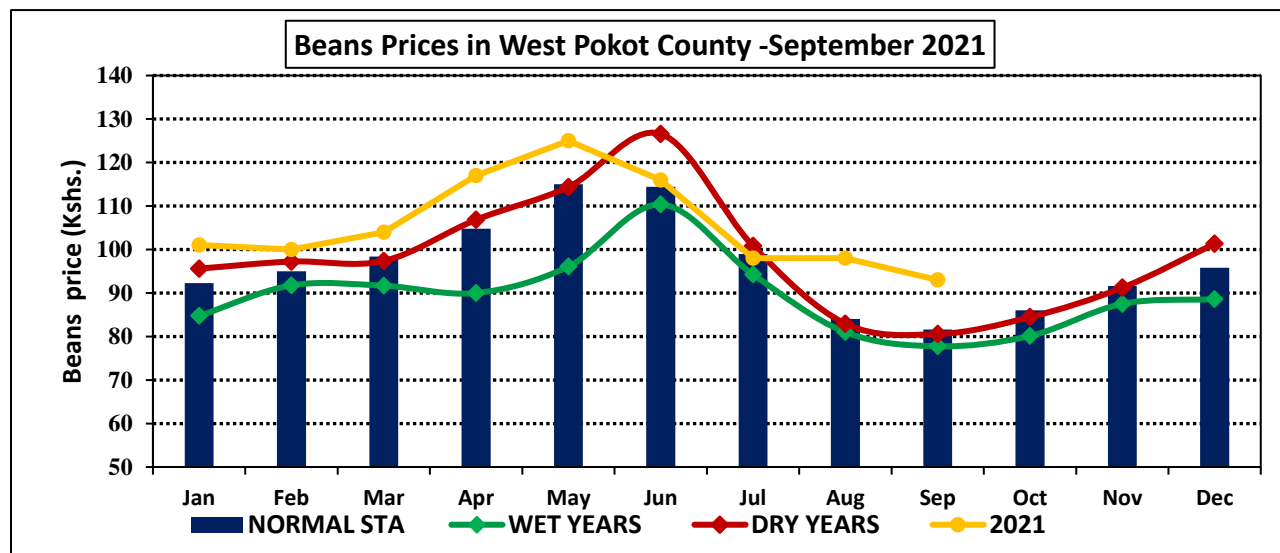
- In September, the maize was sold at Ksh 39 per kg, a decrease from Ksh 43 reported in August. When compared to the short term average, the current price is at par with the long term average price.



- The decreasing price trend is linked to the unstable supply in the market mainly in Chepareria, Sigor and Makutano areas in Pokot South, Pokot Central and Pokot West Sub Counties respectively.
- Majority of the households depend more on local market purchase for their maize requirements. Maize price is likely to remain stable due to unavailability of local stock in the markets.

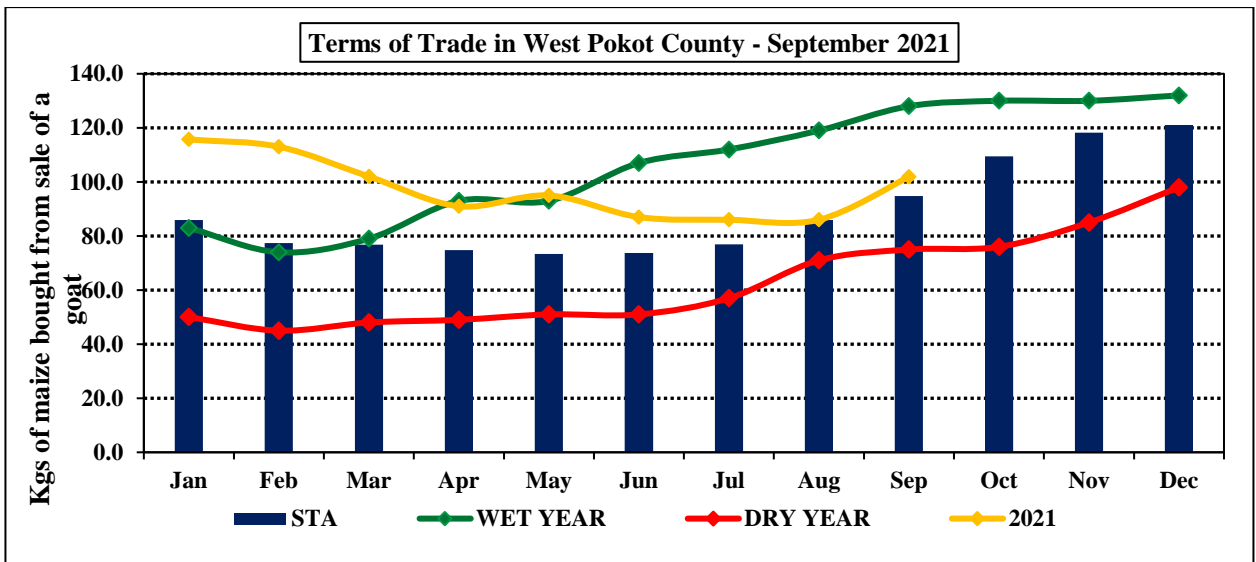
#### 4.2.2 Beans

- The beans traded at Kshs 93 per kg in September, a drop from Kshs 98 reported in the August.
- The price decrease is linked to increased local harvest coupled with constant external supplies from Uganda. There was no significant variation in price across the two livelihood zones since they both rely on the same external sources for supply.
- The current price of beans is 13 percent above the short term average price.



#### 4.3 LIVESTOCK PRICE RATIO/ TERMS OF TRADE (TOT)

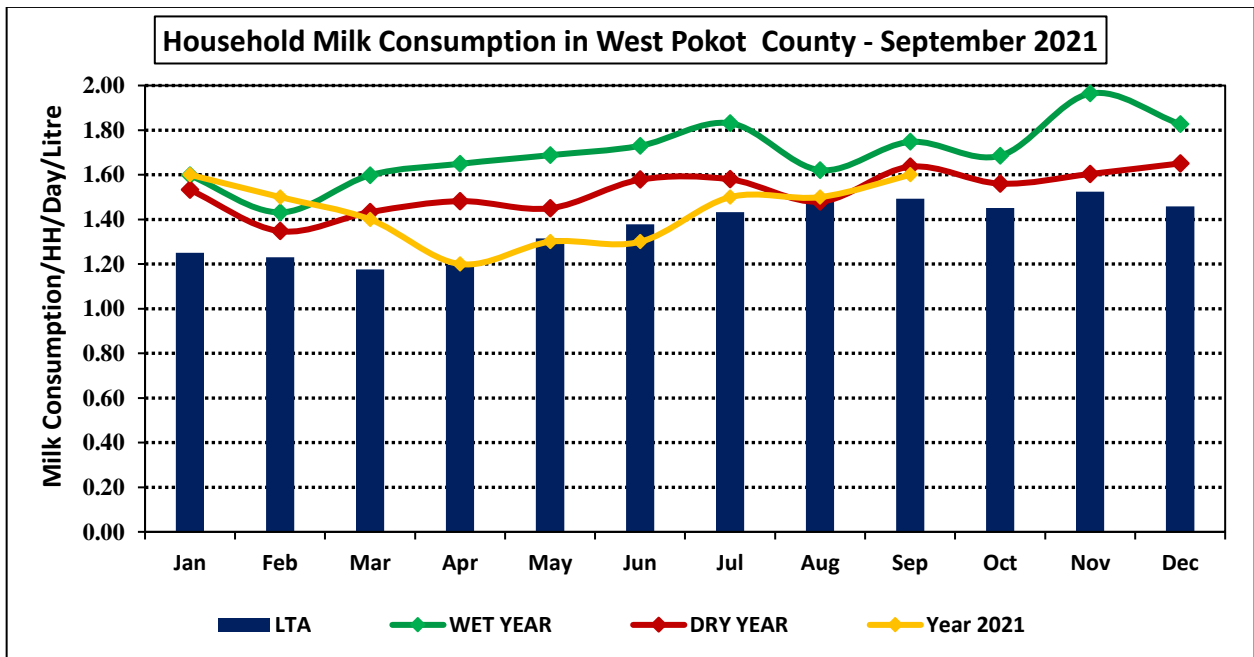
- In the month under review, the Terms of Trade (TOT) was at 102, an increase from 86 recorded in August depicting that households obtained more amount of maize for sale of a goat than in August.
- The upward trend in ToT is linked to improving goat prices and dropping maize prices in the market. The TOT is at 7 percent above the long term average.
- The TOT variation is expected over the next three months as the price of maize is likely to decrease further while that of goat will go up over the period.



## 5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

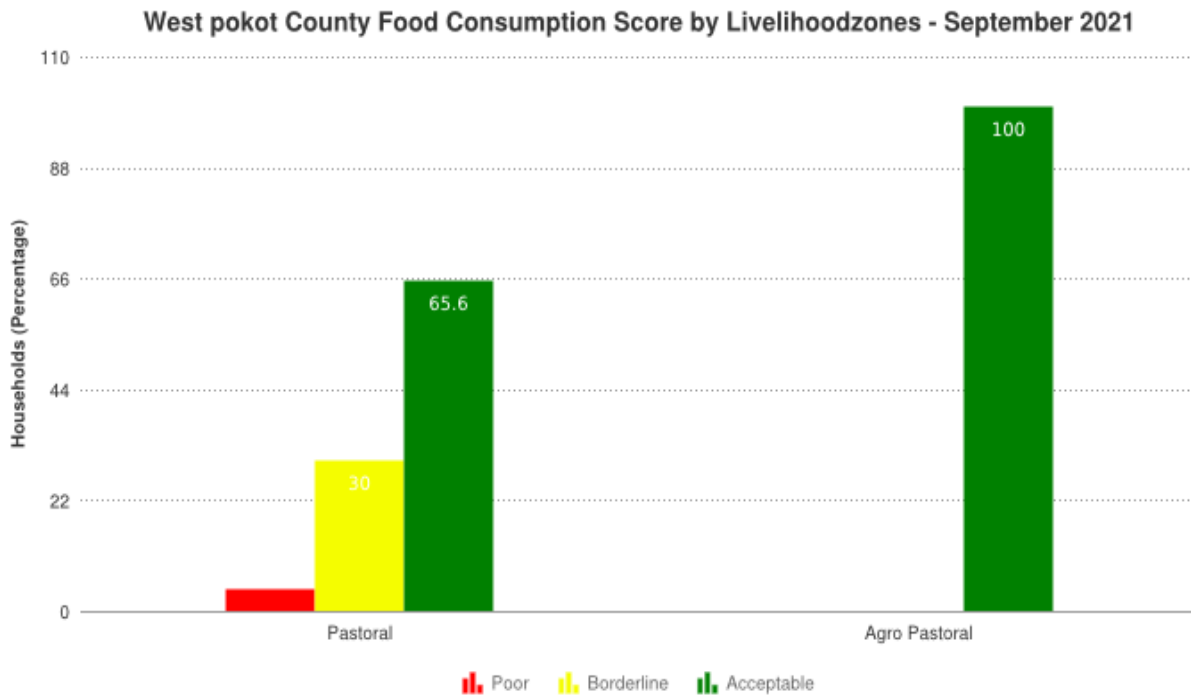
### 5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- During the month, the households across livelihood zones had milk consumption of 1.6 litres of milk on average, up from 1.5 litres reported in August. The consumption is 7 percent above the long term average.



- The increase in milk consumption is attributed to the improved access to milk in the households along with acceptable food consumption scores at the households. Milk availability remained good in September.

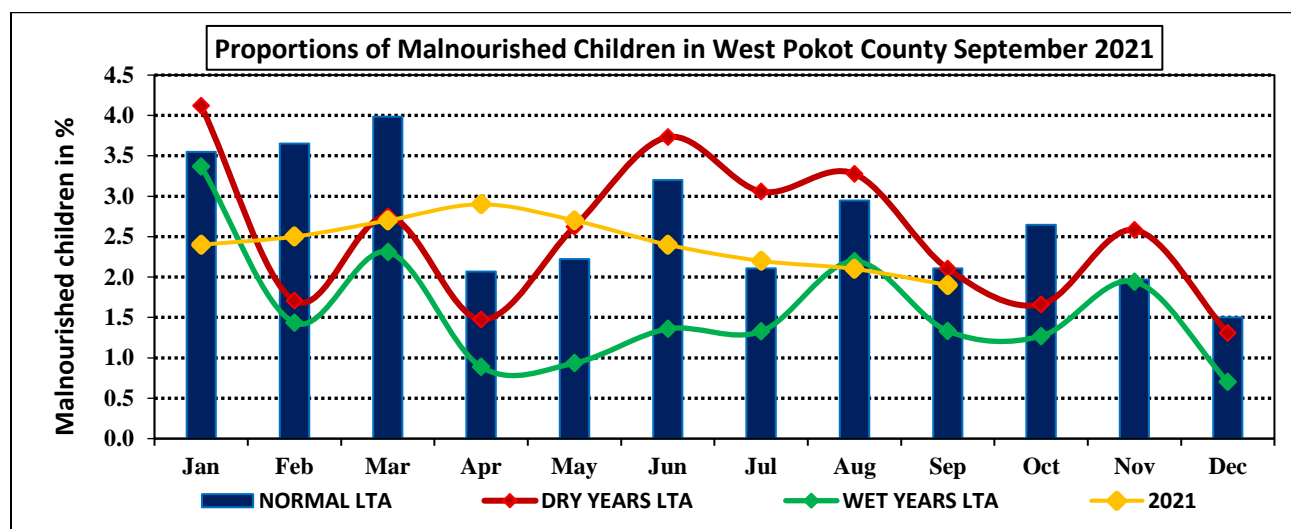
## 5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE



- The households' proportions of 81%, 18% and 1% were recorded of having Food Consumption Score (FCS) in Acceptable, Borderline and Poor categories respectively. The score increased for acceptable, stable for borderline categories while the poor category dropped compared to that of August. The FCS is generally acceptable during the month.
- The mean FCS for the two livelihood zones was at 53; an increase from 51 portraying an improvement when compared to that reported in August.
- There was significant variation between the two livelihood zones with for instance 100 percent of households in the agro-pastoral zone being categorized as having acceptable FCS compared to 65.6% households under the same category in the pastoral livelihood zone. There are more food sources diversity in agro-pastoral livelihood zones as compared to pastoral livelihoods due to availability of local harvest stocks in agro pastoral areas.

## 5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

### 5.3.1 Nutrition Status



- The proportion of children under the age of five years who were malnourished was at 1.9 percent (moderate acute-1.6 percent and severe acute-0 percent malnutrition), while that of the previous month was 2.1 percent portraying a decrease in malnutrition cases.
- When compared to the long term average of 10 percent, proportion of children severely and moderately malnourished is below both the normal range and dry years but above the wet years associated with both acceptable food consumption score coupled with milk access at the households the livelihood zones.

### 5.3.1 Health

- In September, Malaria and Typhoid was reported as a common ailment among the sampled households across the livelihood zones.

## 5.4 COPING STRATEGY

### 5.4.1 Coping Strategy Index (CSI)

- The County CSI remained at 1.3, similar to that recorded in August, portraying a stable trend. The stability demonstrates that households continue to employ fewer strategies to cope same as that reported in August, which can be attributed to affordable food commodity prices and well provisioned markets.
- The pastoral zones reported a CSI of 1.5 while agro-pastoral livelihood zones recorded 1.0

- The commonly employed consumption coping strategies by a few of the households in the month under review included reliance on less preferred/less expensive foods.

## **6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)**

### **6.1 NON-FOOD**

- The County veterinary department conducted mass livestock vaccination against CCPP and lumpy skin disease in across the County.

## **7.0 EMERGING ISSUES**

### **7.1 INSECURITY/CONFLICT/HUMAN DISPLACEMENT**

- Minimal cattle rustling incidences were reported in Cheseгон along Elgeyo - Marakwet Counties. The incidences fuelled the animosity among the two communities.

### **7.2 MIGRATION**

- No major livestock migration outside and within the county were reported in September.

### **7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS**

- The distance to water sources for both human and livestock is expected to remain stable over the period owing to improved water point recharge from forecasted good OND season rains in starting in October.
- Milk production is projected to improve with the good regeneration of forage and stable water recharge coupled with the upcoming OND rains.
- Malnutrition cases are likely to decrease over the period, due to acceptable food consumption score and enhanced access to milk for most households.
- Maize prices are expected to drop attributed to local harvests and stable supplies from traditional external sources while goat price likely to increase, as such terms of trade projected to remain favourable within the period.
- Livestock productivity is likely to improve as the forage conditions is projected to remain stable with the OND season rainfall in the coming months hence eliciting good livestock body condition occasioning better livestock prices in the market.



## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1. AGRICULTURE**

- Provide fast maturing seeds for green grams and water melon for farmers for production during short season rains.

### **2. PEACE AND SECURITY**

- Enhance peace building community projects at borders hotspots to bring warring communities together, especially peace projects at conflict hotspots of Elgeyo Marakwet-West Pokot border.

### **3. LIVESTOCK SECTOR**

- Support livestock disease surveillance and deworming along migratory routes and particularly in wards with reported disease incidences.

### **4. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

- Disseminate and simplify early warning messages and advisories to the communities for early action and planning.

### **5. WATER SECTOR**

- Provide water treatment chemicals to communities who use open water sources as their main source of water.