Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

**Biophysical Indicators**
- Rainfall was received during the first and second dekad of the month with cessation being witnessed during the third dekad. For instance, rainfall received in Nasukuta was 138 percent of the normal with a temporal distribution of fourteen days. The distribution in space was relatively good.
- The condition of vegetation improved significantly during the month as evidenced by the shift in vegetation condition index (VCI-3 month) from 41.83 in April to 59.58.
- Forage condition is good across all livelihood zones.

**Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)**
- The current condition of maize is fair with livestock exhibiting a normal body condition. Milk production quantity was on the rise falling within the normal range for the month. Neither was there any migration (in and out) taking place nor livestock deaths attributed to drought during the month under review.
- All access indicators were within the normal range with distance to water sources greatly reduced except for milk consumption quantities that were slightly low.
- Proportion of children ‘at risk’ of malnutrition decreased and remained within the normal range with the CSI also falling within the normal range for the month.

### Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Livelihood Zone</th>
<th>EW Phase</th>
<th>Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agro Pastoral</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Stable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral all Species</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Stable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Farming</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Stable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Stable</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biophysical Indicators</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Normal range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rainfall (% of normal for Nasukuta Station)</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>90-110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPI-3Month(TAMSAT)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-1.0 to 1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VCI-3-month</td>
<td>59.58</td>
<td>&gt;35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forage Condition</td>
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<td>Good</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Production Indicators</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Normal range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crop Condition (Maize)</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock Body Condition</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk Production</td>
<td>38.8</td>
<td>&gt;33.8 litres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock Migration Pattern</td>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock deaths (from drought)</td>
<td>No deaths</td>
<td>No deaths</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access Indicators</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Normal range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terms of Trade (ToT)</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>&gt;71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk Consumption</td>
<td>29.0</td>
<td>&gt;33.4 litres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return distance to water sources (household)</td>
<td>1.6km</td>
<td>&lt;2.2km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of water at source (20 litres)</td>
<td>Kshs.2</td>
<td>&lt;Kshs.5</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Utilization Indicators</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Normal range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)</td>
<td>7.62</td>
<td>0.0- 8.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coping Strategy Index (CSI)</td>
<td>1.90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Consumption Score</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>&gt;35</td>
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### Seasonal Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sept</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short rains harvests (fast maturing crops)</td>
<td>Planting/Weeding</td>
<td>Long rains harvests</td>
<td>Planting/Weeding</td>
<td>Short rains</td>
<td>Planting/Weeding</td>
<td>(Irish potatoes, Cabbages and Onions)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Short dry spell</td>
<td>Reduced milk yields</td>
<td>Increased HH Food Stocks</td>
<td>Land preparation</td>
<td>Increased HH Food Stocks</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINDROP PERFORMANCE

- During the month under review, the temporal distribution across the county was between twelve to eighteen days. Most areas received rainfall during the first and second dekad of the month only.

  ![Rainfall Graph](image)

  Source: VAM-World Food Programme

- There was a gradual decrease in the amounts received from the third dekad of April to the second dekad of May. The progression was good earlier in the month but it became erratic towards the third dekad culminating in cessation.

1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINDROP AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- The spatial distribution was generally good during the first and second dekad of the month with all parts of the county receiving rainfall. During this period, the distribution in time was relatively good across all the livelihood zones.
- Taking for instance data from Nasukuta rainfall station located in the lowlands, it clearly shows that the cumulative rainfall for the six month period (December 2015 to May 2016) amounting to 605.1mm is superior when compared to the cumulative long term rainfall average for the period that totals to 440mm only.
- This translates to 138 percent of the average rainfall for the period and hence lies within the normal range for the season.
- The current cumulative rainfall surpasses the cumulative rainfall for the same period during the previous year by eighty two percent or an absolute surplus of 274.4mm.
1.3 OTHER EVENTS

1.3.1 Flooding
- Massive flooding that resulted in destruction of maize farms occurred in Kasitet, Kanyangareng, and Kokwositot during the month under review.

1.3.2 Lightning Strikes
- Two lives were lost and a number of livestock died as a result of lightning strikes that occurred in Cheptiangwa area of Tapach ward during the month of May.

1.3.3 Hailstorms
- During the month, a total of ten households were rendered homeless as a result of their houses being blown off by a strong storm in Cheptuyis area of Kongelai ward.

Source: meteorological department-West Pokot County
2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index

- The matrix below depicts vegetation condition based on VCI thresholds. It gives a retrospective analysis of the vegetation condition and related deficit category for the month under review.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2000</th>
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Source: Boku University

- It clearly illustrates an improvement in the condition of vegetation during the current month in comparison to the previous month as evidenced by the shift in the vegetation condition index (VCI-3month) to 59.58 from the 41.83 recorded in April for the entire county.

- Therefore, during the month, the county exhibited normal vegetation greenness with very good conditions. This could be attributed to cumulative effect of the enhanced rains (normal to above normal) received over the month of April and May.

- There was also a significant improvement in the condition of vegetation across all sub counties. For instance, Pokot north and central that are dominantly pastoral, recorded an improvement as evidenced by the shift in VCI-3month from 38.02 and 38.35 in April to 59.58 and 51.69 in May respectively.

2.1.2 Pasture

- Pasture condition across all the livelihood zones was good during the month under review and within normal to above normal levels.

- There was an improvement in comparison to the previous month and this could be attributed to the cumulative effect of the April and May rains.
The available pasture is expected to last within two months in the Pastoral zone, two and half months in the Agro Pastoral zone and three months in the Mixed Farming zone due to the early cessation of the long rains that has been witnessed.

There were no notable constraints to pasture access during the month of May.

The Mixed Farming zone boosts sufficient pasture of good quality and quantity in comparison to that in the Pastoral and Agro Pastoral zones that is adequate to last for a shorter period due to the onset of the dry season in the lowlands.

2.1.3 Browse

- The condition of browse is good across all the livelihood zones and within normal to above normal levels.
- There was a significant improvement in the condition of browse in May in comparison to the previous month mainly spurred by the cumulative effect of the April and May rains.
- The available browse is projected to last for two months in the Mixed Farming zone and three months in the Pastoral and Agro Pastoral livelihood zones.
- There were no notable constraints to browse access during the month under review.
- The Pastoral and Agro Pastoral livelihood zones boost adequate browse of good quality and quantity in comparison to that in the Mixed Farming zone where intensive agricultural activities have led to depletion of palatable species.

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

2.2.1 Sources

![The Main Water Sources for West Pokot, May 2016](image)
• The main water sources currently in use by human beings and livestock include natural rivers, boreholes and traditional river wells with 35%, 27% and 20% by population percentage drawing water from them respectively.

• In comparison to the preceding month, the water situation (quantity and quality) has improved as a result of adequate recharge during the month under review. Existence of a variety of water sources across livelihoods has also led to improved water quality as animals and humans draw from separate sources.

• The Agro Pastoral zone is mainly served by permanent rivers whereas the Pastoral zone boosts a number of seasonal rivers whose flow is cut one month after cessation of the rains. The Mixed Farming zone is well endowed with streams and springs that run for the better part of the year.

2.2.2 Household Access and Utilization

• During the month under review, household distance to water source was 1.5km across the livelihood zones. This was a decrease in comparison to the 2.4km recorded during the previous month of April and falls well within the normal range for the month.

• The factors contributing to the reduction in distance included ease of access to water from recharged water pans, availability of water along seasonal rivers in close proximity to households and enhanced rain water harvesting especially for households in the Mixed Farming zone.

![Average Household Distance to Water Source](image)

• Average household water consumption per person per day is lowest in the Pastoral zone at 10litres and highest in the Mixed Farming zone at 20litres with the usage in the Agro pastoral zone being 15litres.
• Cost of water is within the normal range of Kshs.2 per 20 litre jerry can with an exception of water vendors who are selling a 20litre jerry can at five shillings.

2.2.3 Livestock Access

• The current livestock trekking distance from grazing area to water sources is 2.3km. This is a decrease from the previous month that recorded a distance of 4.3km and falls within the normal range for the month.

![Average Grazing Distance From Water Source](chart.png)

- Recharge of most surface water sources, improved forage condition in all sites within the county, water flow through seasonal rivers and return of animals from dry season grazing zones to areas in close proximity to households were some of the reasons that contributed to the reduced trekking distance to water sources.

- There has been an improvement in the water frequency for livestock since March with the current range being 5-7 days per week for all species and this is normal during this time of the year.

- The Pastoral all species zone recorded the highest trekking distance at 3.3km with the least livestock watering frequency of 4-5 days per week. The Mixed Farming zone had the least trekking distance of 1km and a superior livestock watering frequency of 7 days per week. On the other hand, the Agro Pastoral zone recorded a trekking distance of 3km and livestock watering frequency of 5-6 days per week.
3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- The body condition of cattle, goats and camels that are the main species reared in the county is good across all livelihood zones.
- Cattle in all livelihood zones exhibit a good smooth appearance with goats in the Agro Pastoral and Pastoral zones having a very good smooth back with no visible bone. On the other hand, the camel species in the two preceding zones exhibit a thick fatty hump with no visible rib bones.
- Compared to similar periods during previous years, the body condition of all species remains relatively normal. This is equally an improvement from the previous month and it’s mainly attributed to availability of sufficient pasture in areas in close proximity to households.
- There are no glaring variations in terms of livestock body condition across the livelihood zones.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- There has been a rise in cases of tick borne diseases (anaplasmosis and heart water disease) being reported across all livelihood zones with locations such as Kacheliba and Kiwawa most affected.
- Notifiable cases of contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP) affecting cattle was reported in the Pastoral livelihood zone especially in Alale ward. Pest petis ruminants (PPR) in goats was equally reported in the entire Kasei and some parts of Kapchok wards.
- The county veterinary department is currently undertaking vaccination campaigns against foot and mouth disease whose outbreak had been reported in Chepkopegh and Kishaunet areas during the month of March.
- However, there are no unusual livestock deaths that have been reported during the month under review.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- The current average milk production per household is between 2-5 litres (Mixed Farming zone-5litres, Pastoral zone-3litres, and Agro Pastoral zone-2litres) with a sentinel site producing 38.8litres on average mainly from the cattle species across all livelihood zones.
- Milk production is on an increasing trend and this is mainly attributed to the high calving rate during the previous and current month. Pasture availability and reduced trekking distance in search of pasture and water have also been other factors driving the increase in milk production levels.
In comparison to the same period over time, milk quantity is on an increasing trend surpassing the normal levels albeit by a slight margin.

The Mixed Farming zone recorded the highest milk production levels followed by the Pastoral zone with the Agro Pastoral zone recording the least. These variations are as a result of farmers in the Mixed Farming zone rearing superior breeds in comparison to those reared by the pastoralists.

3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

- Maize, beans and Irish Potatoes are the main crops grown by farmers (approximately 50 percent of the population) during the long rains season. Maize in the Mixed Farming zone is slightly above knee height and the same case is replicated across most farms in the Pastoral zone where late planting took place. In the Agro Pastoral zone, maize is at tussling/cobbing stage in most farms. Beans across all the livelihood zones is at flowering stage with farmers readying themselves for harvesting of the Irish potatoes in the Mixed Farming zone. Across all zones farmers are engaged in the second round of weeding.

- The condition of these crops is fair and is likely to deteriorate further in subsequent months.

- No major disease or pests affecting crops have been reported except few cases of potato plight affecting Irish potatoes in the Mixed Farming zone.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING
4.1.1 Cattle prices

- The average price of cattle during the month under review was Kshs.15750. This was an increase in comparison to the Kshs.15100 recorded in April.
- The increase in price could be attributed to the improved cattle body condition during the month resulting from availability of sufficient pasture in the county.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pastoral Livelihood Zone</th>
<th>Average Price (2016)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agro Pastoral</td>
<td>16500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral</td>
<td>15000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Pastoral livelihood zone recorded the highest average cattle price at Kshs.16500 followed by the Agro Pastoral livelihood zone at Kshs.15000.
- In comparison to the three year average cattle price, the current price is slightly above the normal range for the month by three percent.

4.1.2 Goat Prices

- The average price of goat during the month of May was Kshs.2540. This being a slight increase from the Kshs.2380 recorded during the previous month.
- The increase in price could be attributed to the improved goat body condition during the month resulting from availability of sufficient browse in the county.
- The goat traded at highest price in the Agro Pastoral livelihood zone at Kshs.2620 followed the Pastoral livelihood zone where it traded at Kshs.2530.
In comparison to the three year average goat price, the current price is slightly above the normal range for the month by six percent.

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

- The price per kilogram of maize during the month under review was Kshs.35 and thus remained relatively the same as the one recorded in April.
- The Pastoral zone recorded the highest price per kilogram of maize at Kshs.39 followed by the Agro Pastoral zone at Kshs.35 with the Mixed Farming zone recording the least price of Kshs.29.
- The variations in price across the livelihood zones result from the fact that the Pastoral zone is heavily dependent on the Mixed Farming zone for its supplies.
- Compared with the three year average maize price, the current price is slightly above the normal range for the month by three percent.

4.2.2 Beans

- Average price per kilogram of beans in May was Kshs.83 and thus remained relatively the same as the one recorded in April.

![Average Beans Market Price Versus STA Price (2013 -2015)](chart)

- The Pastoral zone recorded the highest price per kilogram of beans at Kshs.86 followed by the Mixed Farming zone at Kshs.80 with the Agro Pastoral zone recording the least price of Kshs.78.
- The variations in price across the livelihood zones result from the fact that the Pastoral zone is dependent on the Agro Pastoral and Mixed Farming zone for its supplies. Availability of some stocks from the short rains season in the Agro Pastoral zone was the major reason as to why it recorded the lowest price.
- Compared with the three year average beans price, the current price is significantly below the normal range for the month by thirteen percent.
4.3 LIVESTOCK PRICE RATIO/ TERMS OF TRADE (TOT)

- The livestock to cereals price ratio for the month under review was 73, it thus did increase by three units from that recorded in April.
- The improved goat body condition especially in the pastoral zone was the major factor that contributed to the increase since pastoralists could be able to get better proceeds from the sale of a goat in comparison to the previous month.

- Pastoralists in the Agro Pastoral livelihood zone during the month were able to obtain 10 more kilograms of maize on top of the 64 kilograms obtained by their counterparts in the Pastoral livelihood zone from the sale of a goat.
- This variation is as a result of the maize price remaining relatively low in the Agro Pastoral zone in comparison to the Pastoral livelihood zone.
- Compared with the three year average, the current livestock to cereal price ratio is within the normal range for the month and remains slightly higher by three percent.
5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- The current average milk consumption per household is between 1-2 litres with the total milk consumed per sentinel site averaging 29 litres mainly from the cattle species across all livelihood zones.

![Household Milk Consumption Trends](chart)

- Milk consumption is on an increasing trend and this is due to availability of adequate quantities at household level arising from high calving during the current month.
- In comparison to the same period over time, the quantity of milk consumed is almost at par with the normal consumption levels for the month.
- The Pastoral zone recorded the highest milk consumption levels followed by the Mixed Farming zone with the Agro Pastoral zone recording least. The difference is as a result of farmers in the Mixed Farming zone selling most of the milk to coolers that dominate the area as compared to pastoralists who consume most of it as their daily food.

5.2 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.2.1 Nutrition Status

- By proportion, fifty four percent and forty six percent of the sampled seven hundred and seventy eight children were male and female respectively.
- During the month under review, percentage proportion of children rated being ‘at risk’ of malnutrition was 7.62. This was a decrease in comparison to the 9.29 percent recorded in April.
Compared to the five year average for the month, the current proportion of children at risk of malnutrition is lower by eleven percent and thus lies within the normal range.

Nyangaita in the Pastoral zone and Pserum in the Agro Pastoral zone are among areas with highest percentage of malnourished children with Chepnyal recording the least percentage.

The decreasing trend in malnutrition levels is mainly attributed to improved milk production and consumption coupled with the increasing purchasing power due to favourable terms of trade for pastoralists leading to most households embracing dietary diversity.

5.2.2 Health

For the sampled children, the most commonly reported disease during the month was diarrhoea affecting areas such as Pserum, Sasak and Kapsait.

However, there has been no major disease outbreak but areas around Chepareria, Kaibichbich and Alale require close attention in terms of disease monitoring.

5.3 COPING STRATEGY

5.3.1 Coping Strategy Index (CSI)

The coping strategy index for the month of May was 1.9, thus recorded a slight decrease from the 2.03 recorded during the previous month.
• Compared to the coping strategy index for the same period during the previous year, the current coping strategy index is higher by fifteen percent.
• The Pastoral and Agro Pastoral livelihood zone recorded the highest coping strategy index at 2 with the Mixed Farming zone recording the lowest at 1.3.
• Borrowing and reduced meal size were the most prevalent coping strategies employed by majority of the households during the month under review.

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 NON-FOOD
• The ministry of health conducted a vaccination campaign against measles and rubella targeting children aged nine months to fourteen years. A total of 324493 children were vaccinated (Pokot west sub county-94101, Pokot south-94637, Pokot north-76896, Pokot central-58859).
• A total of 25408 (Pokot west-10750, Pokot south-14658) new vaccinations against tetanus targeting women aged between fifteen and forty nine years were achieved during the month under review in a similar campaign conducted by the ministry of health.

6.2 FOOD AID
• There was no food distribution during the month under review.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 INSECURITY/CONFLICT/HUMAN DISPLACEMENT
• No major insecurity incidences were reported during the month under review.

7.2 MIGRATION
• There was no abnormal human nor livestock migration during the month of May.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS
• The early cessation of the long rains is likely to have a negative impact on crop production with maize and beans expected to perform dismally as the dry spell begins at the critical stage of development of these crops.
• Livestock sector is projected to experience stability during this period as the current pasture and browse quantities are sufficient to last for the next two months in the Pastoral/Agro Pastoral zone and three months in the Mixed Farming zone.
• Animal body condition is thus expected to remain relatively good in the next two months. This is likely to have a positive impact on food security as the purchasing power increases due to favourable terms of trade.

• Minimal migration and improved security will be key in neutralizing the impact of any shocks on food security. Ease of access to markets will enable most households to bridge any food gaps that may occur during this period.

• The situation in Pokot north and central however, needs to be monitored closely with the agricultural activities expected to be affected negatively in subsequent months.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

• Conduct a mass livestock vaccination against CCPP and PPR in Alale and Kapchok/Kasei wards respectively-action, veterinary department.

• Strengthen community health and nutrition surveillance, increase advocacy on access and utilization of health and nutrition services targeting Nyangaita and Pserum sub locations-action, MoH and other nutrition actors.

• Preserve and protect demarcated strategic livestock grazing zones for use during the dry spell especially along the Pastoral livelihood zone- action, livestock department.

• Monitor the crop situation in the Pastoral and Agro Pastoral livelihood zones through enhanced disease/pest surveillance to curb any losses that may result due to the early cessation that has been witnessed- action, agriculture department.