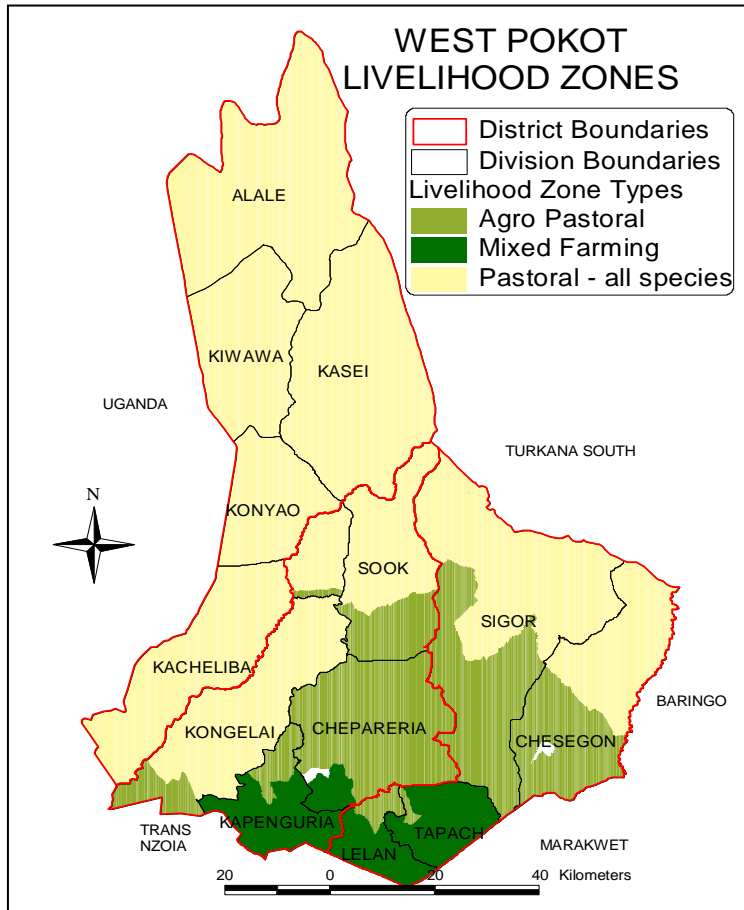




# National Drought Management Authority

## West Pokot County

### DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR JULY 2014



### WARNING STAGES

Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Agro pastoral	Alert	Worsening
Mixed farming	Alert	Improving
Pastoralist	Alarm	Worsening
County	Alert	Worsening

### SEASONAL CALENDAR

SR

LR

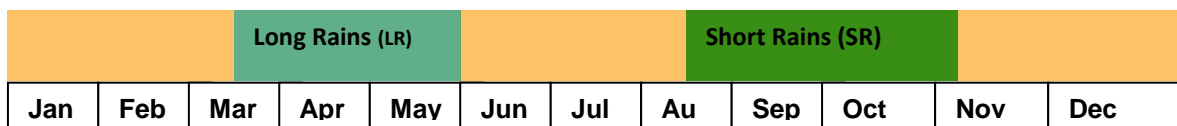
Harvesting

Planting

Harvesting

Land  
Preparation

SR Planting



## **Situation Overview**

- Generally during the month of July, major parts of the county received depressed rainfalls below 50% of the normal.
- Temporal and spatial distribution was fair in mixed farming livelihoods but poor in pastoral and agro-pastoral during the period under review.
- Pastoral parts of Alale, Kiwawa, Kasei and Chesegeon recorded depressed rainfall ranging between 10 mm to 40 mm.
- Others areas had rains amount of between 40 mm – 120 mm.
- Boreholes, Natural Rivers and Traditional river wells were the commonly used sources of water for domestic and livestock during the period under review.
- Grazing return distance decreased from 4.52 km to 3.14 km while household trekking distances to water points increased from 2.42 km to 2.75 km.
- Cattle body condition was rated as poor in pastoral and agro – pastoral livelihoods while fair to good in mixed farming zones. Browsers (Goats and Camels) had fair body conditions.
- Cattle average price increased from Kshs 11,566 to Kshs 13,125.
- Like cattle prices, goats’ average price also increased to Kshs 2.199 from Kshs 2.117.
- The rate of children at risk of malnutrition improved from 14.01% to 11.18%.
- Kaibos (mixed farming) and Pserum (agro-pastoral) continued to recorded high proportion of children at risk of malnutrition.
- Kaibos improved from 27.4% to 19.4% while Pserum improved to 17.5% from 32.9%.
- High rates of malnutrition continued to be noted in mixed farming livelihoods at an average of 14% followed by agro – pastoral at 12.3% while pastoral had 5.8%.

## **Recommendations to CSG/KFSSG**

- Provision of mobile clinics in the remote rural areas for better child maternal care services.
- Scale up health facilities implementing High Impact Nutritional Interventions.
- Provision water tanks and implementation of roof water catchment in schools especially in pastoral and agro – pastoral areas.
- Upscale school feeding program to curb drop-out in schools.

## **Current Interventions**

### **Non-Food**

- Long rains assessment carried between 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July to ascertain the impact of the long rains.
- Ongoing piping water system implemented by World Vision for Sekerr community in Chepkondol sub location.
- Ongoing pasture reseeding implemented by county department of livestock.
- High Impact Nutrition Interventions (HINI) implemented by ACF in partnership with MOH.
- Rehabilitation of cattle dips by County Veterinary Department across the livelihoods.

### **Food Aid**

- The county received relief aid through the office of county commissioner for West Pokot, Central and North Sub Counties
- The County government purchased 1,260 (90 kg) bags of maize relief food yet to be distributed.
- Ongoing School Feeding Programme in some schools implemented by WFP in collaboration with Ministry of Education.

## **Previous CSG Meeting and CSG Recommendation**

The CSG met on 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July 2014 with the main point discussion being the Long Rains Assessment and the following were realized:

- The CSG approved the areas to be visited during the transcend drive based on the livelihoods.
- The CSG also agreed on the 20% as the proportion of population in need of food assistance and the sub county rankings.

## **Abbreviations**

FEWSNET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
USGS	United States Geological Survey
CSG	County Steering Group
KFSSG	Kenya Food Security Steering Group
LTM	Long Term Mean
ECF	East Coast Fever
CCPP	Contagious CaprinePleuro Pneumonia
CSI	Coping Strategy Index

# 1.0. ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS (STABILITY)

## 1.1 Rainfall

### Current Season Performance

- Generally, the county recorded light showers that were below average.
- Pastoral parts of Alale, Kiwawa, Kasei and Chesezon recorded depressed rainfall ranging between 10 mm to 40 mm.
- Others areas had rains amount of between 40 mm – 120 mm.
- Both temporal and spatial distribution was poor during the period under review.
- Compared to Long Term Mean, the situation is below normal at this time of the year (Fig. 1).

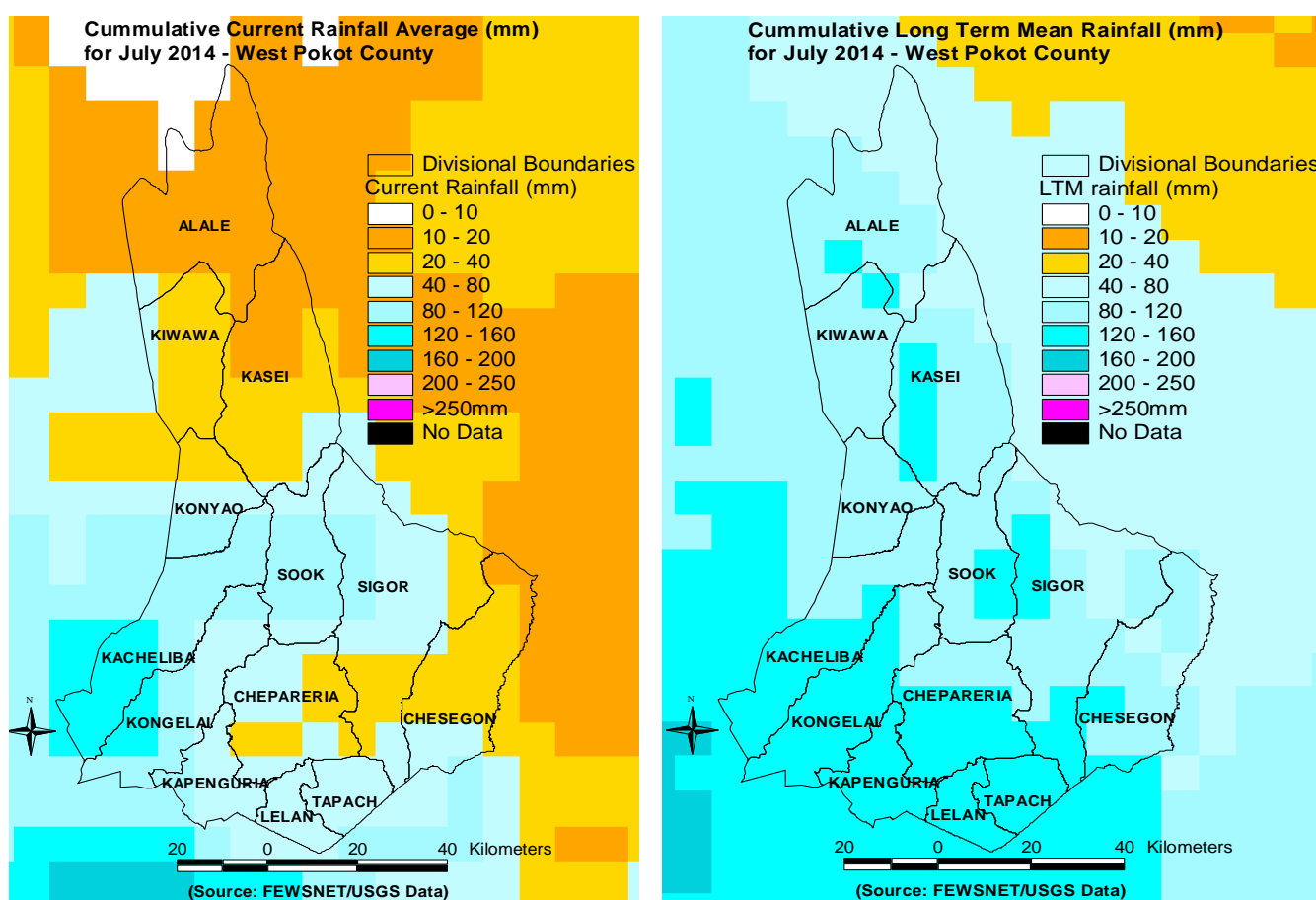
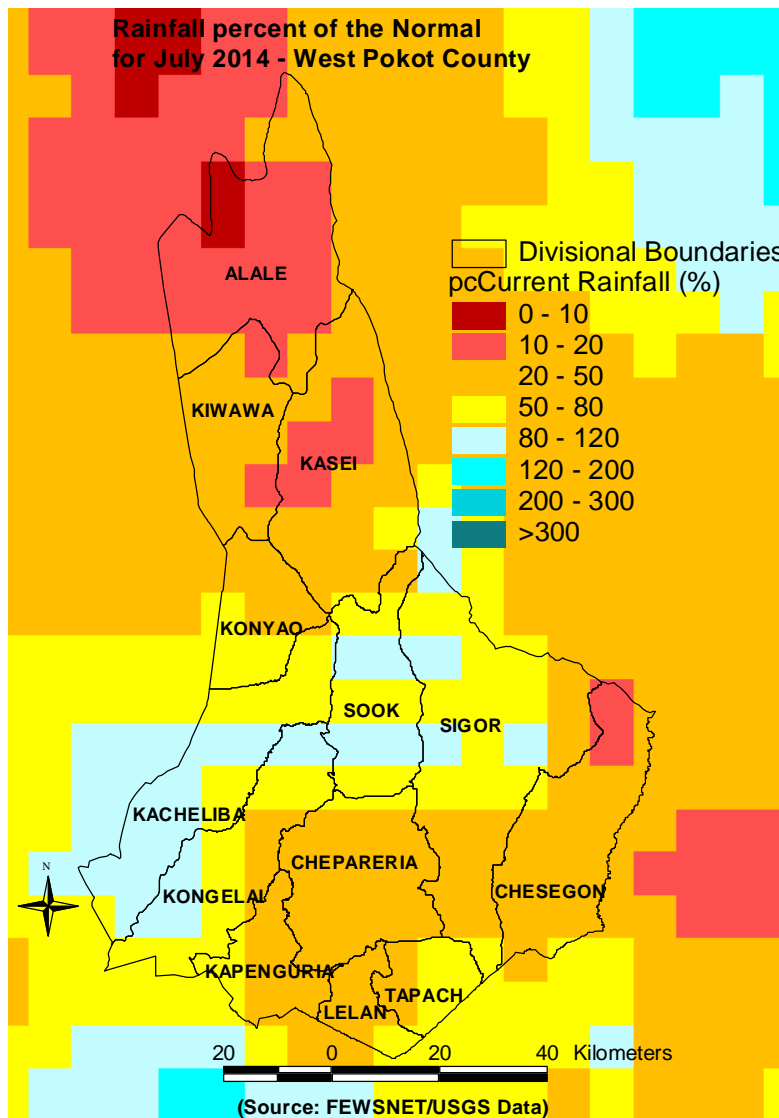


Figure 1: Comparison of the current and long term rainfall distribution for West Pokot County

- The northern pastoral livelihood zone continued to record poor rains with Alale receiving 0 - 10% of the normal.
- Kiwawa, Kasei, Chepareria, Chesezon and Lelan received depressed rainfalls of 20 - 50% of the normal.

- Pockets of Kacheliba, Kongelai, Sook and Sigor recorded 80 – 120% of the normal.
- The current situation is below normal at this time of the year.



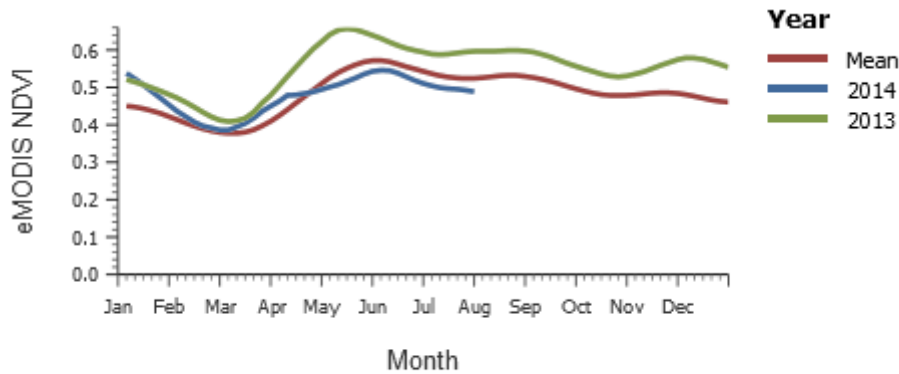
**Figure 2:** A representation of percentage of the normal Rainfall Estimate (RFE) computed from cumulative Satellite Imagery for July 2014 compared to the month’s long term average

## 1.2 Condition of Natural Vegetation and Pasture

### 1.2.1 Quality and Quantity

- Pasture quality has improved in Mixed farming livelihoods compared to last month but remained poor in both pastoral and agro – pastoral livelihoods while browse was fair across the across the livelihoods.
- The pastoral and agro-pastoral areas are still the most affected with livestock had migrated in search of pasture.

- When compared to long term mean, the current vegetation condition is below normal at this time of the year.



### Kenya+Rift Valley+West Pokot

**Figure 3:** Comparison of the current and long term vegetation cover for West Pokot County

(Source: FEWSNET/USGS Data)

#### 1.2.2 Distances to Grazing Areas

- Average distances from water points to grazing areas slightly decreased from 4.52 km to 3.84 km.
- This decrease in average grazing distance can be linked to livestock migrations near water sources and grazing areas.
- Nyangaita (pastoral) and Ptokou (agro – pastoral) had the highest grazing distances at 13.8 km and 7.3 km respectively while Kapsait (Mixed farming) recorded the lowest distance at 0.4 km.
- Pastoral livelihoods continued to recorded highest average distance at 4.6 km compared to 6 km recorded in June. Agro pastoral livelihoods had an average of 4.4 km while mixed farming livelihoods had 0.5 km.
- Compared to long term mean, the situation is normal at this time of the year.

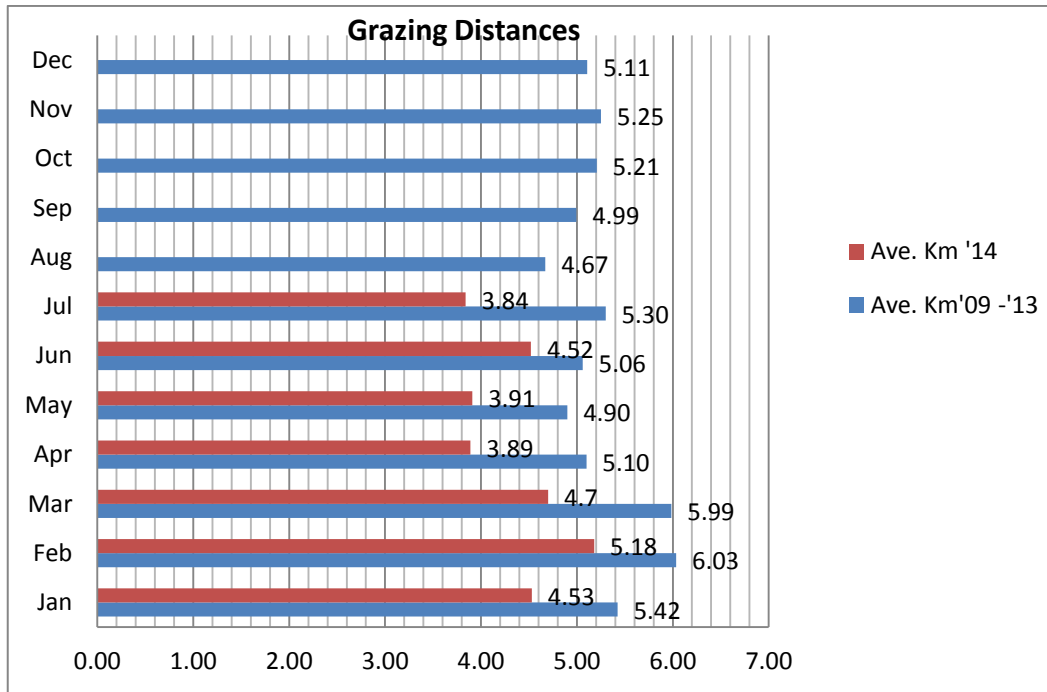


Figure 4: Distance travelled to grazing areas.

### 1.3 Water Sources and Availability

#### 1.3.1 Water Sources

- The current three major water sources were boreholes, Natural Rivers and Traditional river wells.
- Boreholes usage increased from 25% from the previous month to 34% in July while Natural rivers usage decreased to 23% from 43%.
- Boreholes were the main source of water in pastoral livelihoods.
- The situation is not normal at this time of the year.

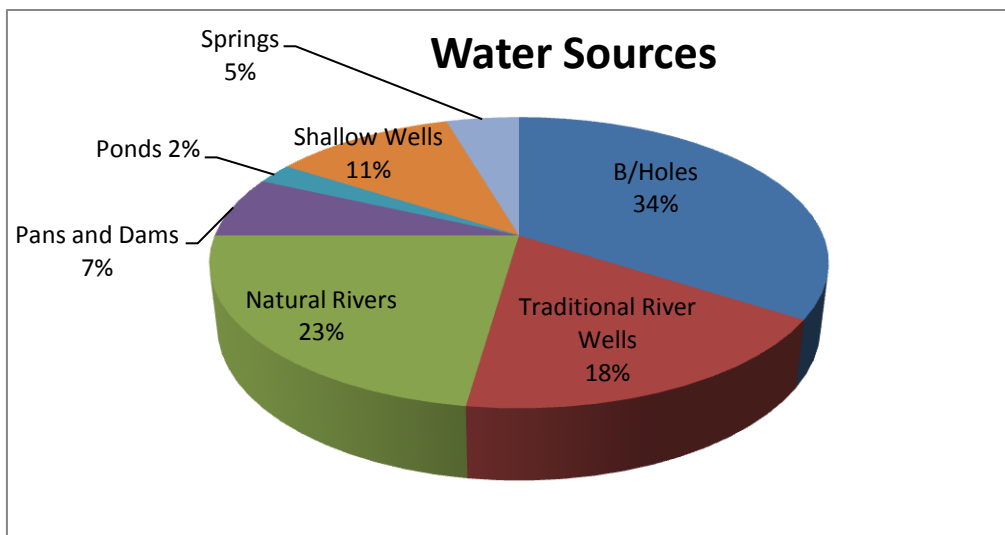


Figure 5: Common water sources



### 1.3.2 Household Access to Water

- The current household trekking distance to water points increased from 2.42 km to 2.75 km.
- Nyangaita (pastoral) continued to record long distances to water points at an average of 10 km while Kapsait and Kaibos (mixed farming) recorded 0.2 km and 0.6 km respectively.
- Pastoral livelihoods trekked long distances to main water sources at 3.6 km, agro-pastoral at 2.7 km and Mixed farming zones had the lowest at 0.4 km.
- Compared to LTM, the situation is normal at this time of the year.

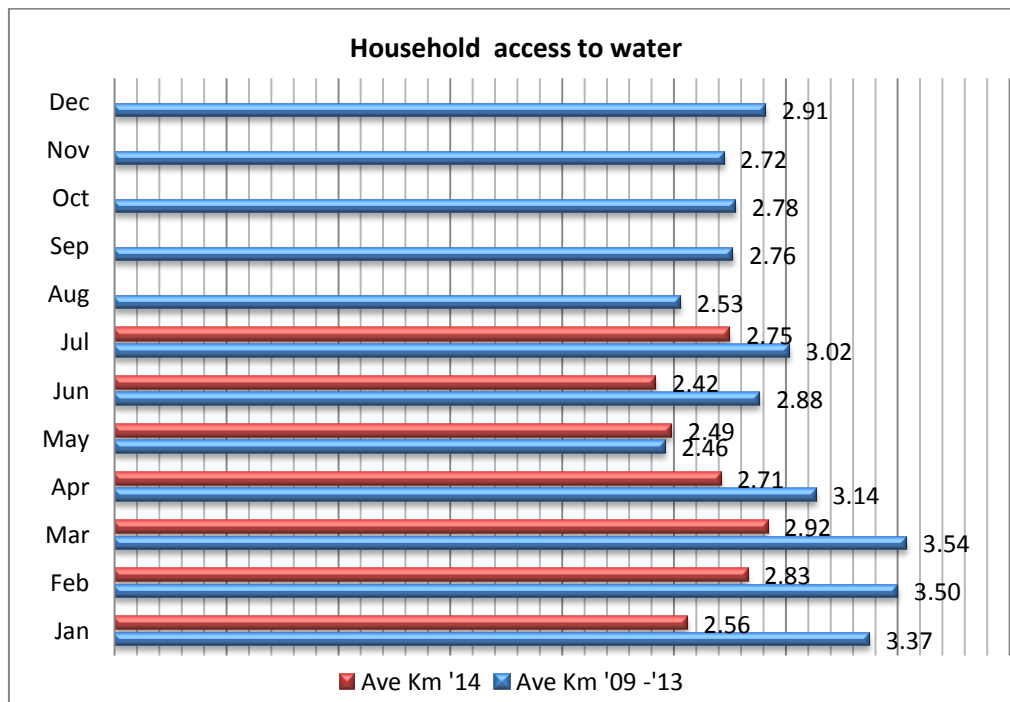


Figure 6: Average distances travelled by households in search of water

## 1.3 Emerging Issues

### 1.3.1 Insecurity/Conflict

- There were no major incidences of insecurity reported this month.
- This situation is normal at this time of the year.

### 1.3.2 Migration

- Livestock from pastoral and agro – pastoral zones are still in Kadam in Uganda and other along the Pokot – Turkana border.
- No migration in mixed farming as farmers’ practice paddocking system of farming.
- This situation is not normal at this time of the year.

## **1.4 Implication on Food Security**

- The depressed rains will have below average crop development and low yields thus impacting negatively on food security.
- Depleting forage conditions in pastoral livelihoods has affected the livestock body conditions hence low fetching prices which has a negatively on food security.

## **2.0 RURAL INDICATORS (FOOD AVAILABILITY)**

### **2.1 Livestock Production**

#### **2.1.1 Livestock Body Condition**

- In pastoral and agro – pastoral livelihoods, the body condition for cattle was poor while that of goats’ and camel was fair. The poor body condition is attributed to the depleted pastures and long distances to watering points.
- In mixed farming the body condition for cattle was good as the farmers practice paddocking system of farming.
- Pastoral and agro pastoral had the weakest cattle with very thin no fat and bones visible.
- This situation is not normal at this time of the year.

#### **2.1.2 Livestock Diseases**

- There were no major cases of livestock diseases reported this month, however cases of endemic diseases like ECF, CCPP and mange continued to be reported.
- This situation is normal at this time of the year.

#### **2.1.3 Milk Production**

- This month’s average milk production was 38 bottles compared to 40 bottles produced in the month of June.
- Kapsait (mixed farming) had the highest milk production averaging at 170 bottles while Orwa (pastoral) had the least at an average of 15 bottles.
- The situation is below normal at this time of the year.

## **2.2 Crop Production**

### **2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of various crop production activities**

- Maize especially in Kapenguria ward that were planted earlier are at grain filling, tussling stage while others are in above knee level.
- Beans are at flowering and pod development stage in the highlands with few harvests in some marginal pockets.
- The stage and yields of food crops are below normal at this time of the year.

### **2.2.2 Pests and diseases**

- No major outbreak of crops pests and diseases reported within the county.
- The situation is normal at this time of the year.

### **2.2.3 Harvest**

- Little harvest of beans noted in the highlands of Kasei and Sekerr. The harvest was below expected productions.
- This is normal at this time of the year.

### **2.2.4 Implications on food security**

- Poor condition of livestock in pastoral and agro – pastoral areas has led to reduced animal selling prices which have led to low purchasing power hence negatively impacting on food security.
- The little harvest of beans has led to reduced beans prices thus positively impacting on food security.

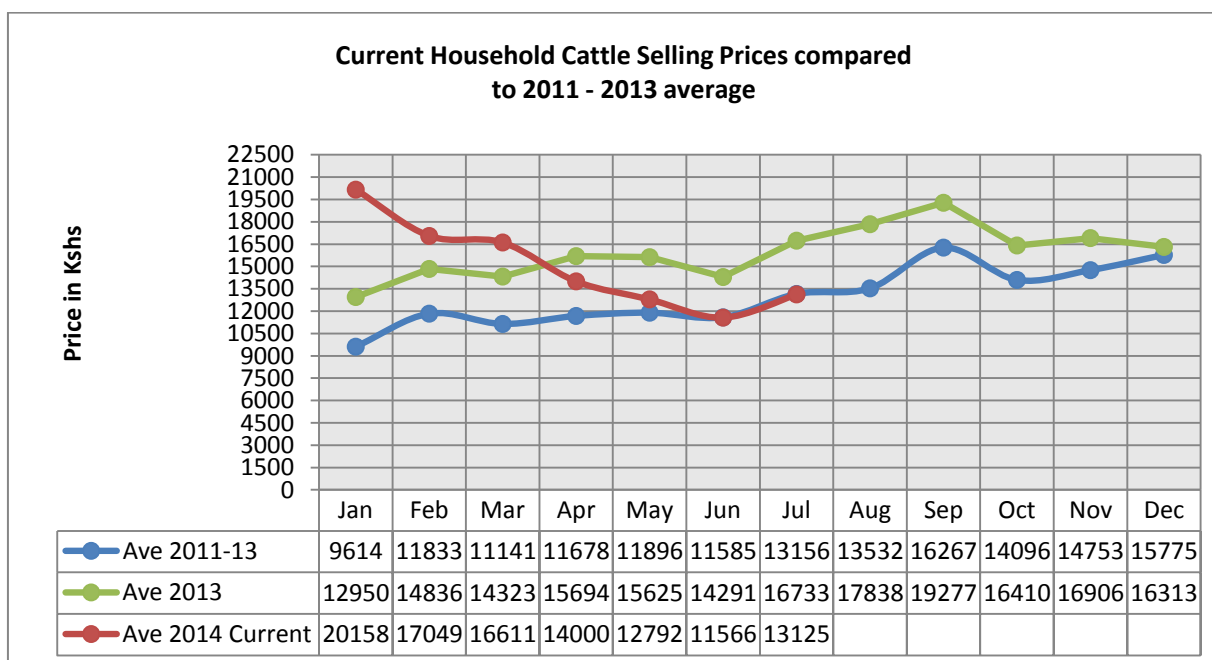
## **3.0 ACCESS TO FOOD**

### **3.1 Livestock Marketing**

#### **3.1.1 Cattle prices**

- This month's cattle average price was Kshs 13, 125 compared to Kshs 11,566 recorded in the previous month.
- High cattle average price was noted in Nyangaita (pastoral) at Ksh 16,000 and lowest continued to be noted in Konyao at Kshs 9,000.
- Mixed farming livelihood zones recorded the highest average cattle price at 13,000 while agro-pastoral and pastoral had 12,000 and 12,333 respectively

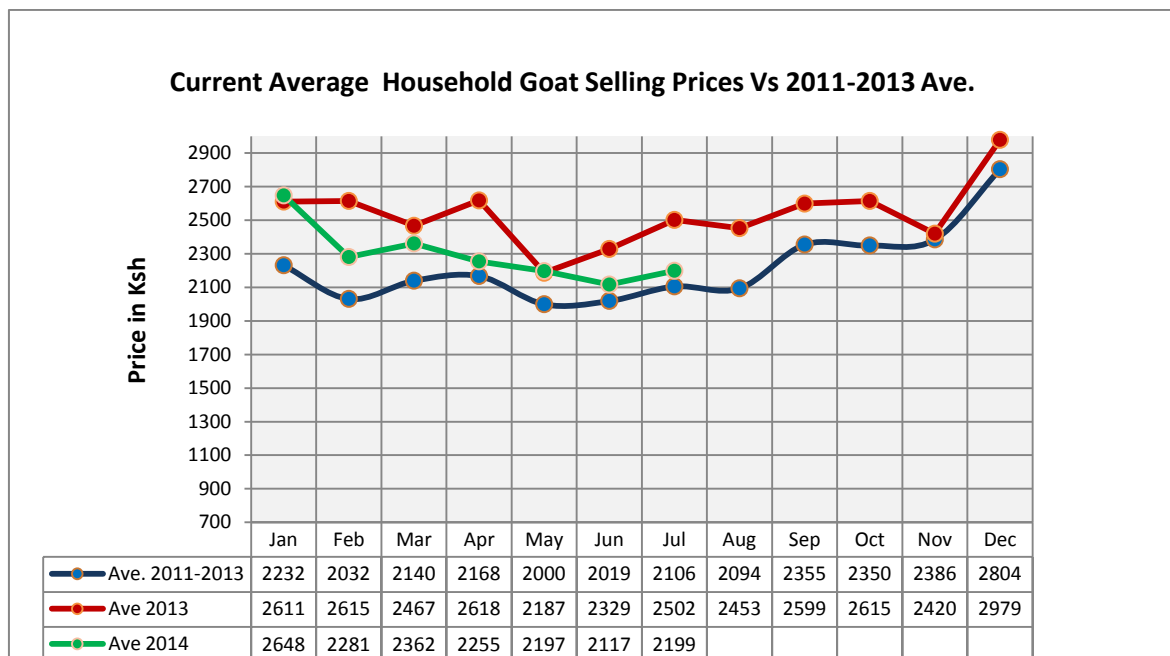
- The average price is below normal compared to long term mean at the same time of the year.



**Figure 7:** Current Cattle sales comparison

### 3.1.2 Goat Prices

- Goats’ average price slightly increased from Kshs 2,117 to Kshs 2,199.
- This increase in goats’ prices can be attributed to high demand in the markets as traders prefer goats that thin no fat cattle.
- Pastoral livelihoods had an average of Kshs 2.038 while agro – pastoral Ksh 1,891.
- No sale of goats’ was recorded in mixed farming livelihoods at the farm gate.
- Compared to LTM, the situation is above normal at this time of the year.

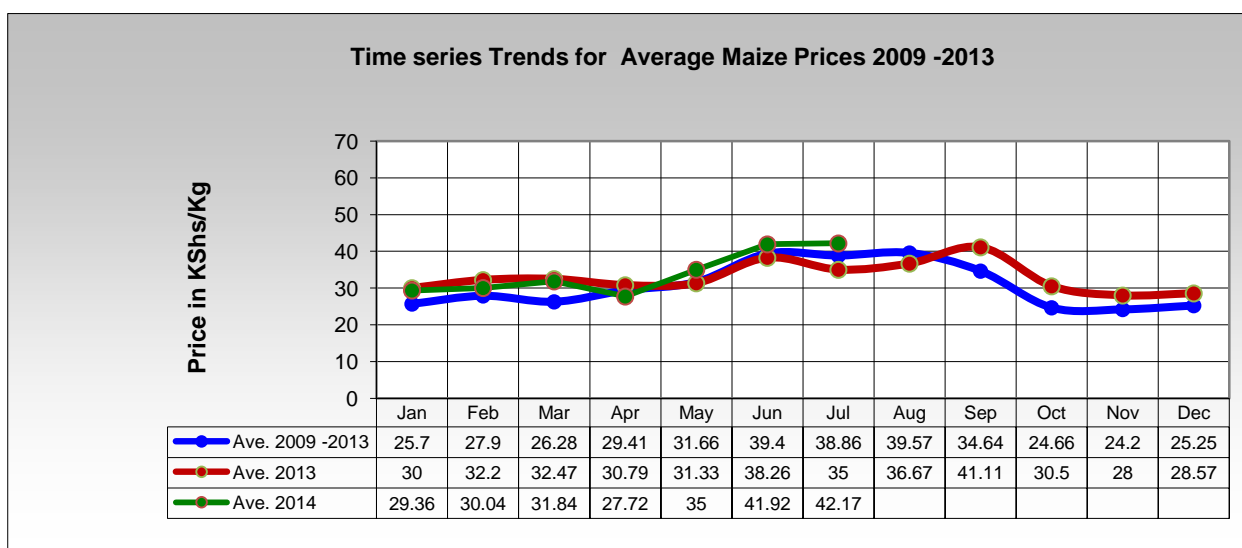


**Figure 8:** Graph showing average Goat prices at Household levels

### 3.2 Crop Prices

#### 3.2.1 Maize (Households)

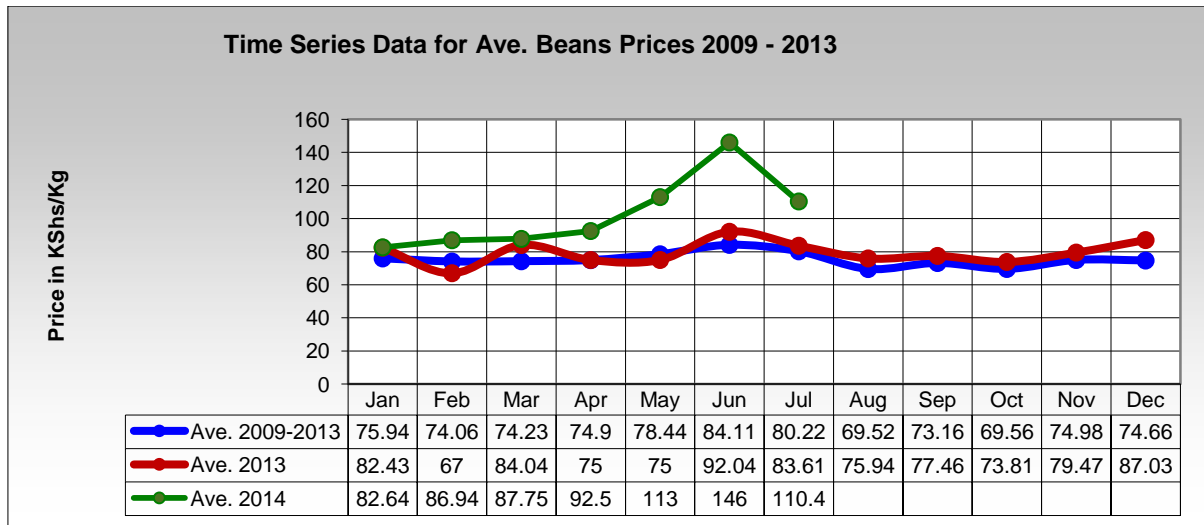
- The average maize price was Kshs 42.17 per kilo compared to Kshs 4192 per kilo.
- This increase can be attributed to diminishing stocks at the farm gates and the households are entirely depending on markets for cereals.
- The situation is above normal at this time of the year.



**Figure 9:** Graph showing Average maize sales at Household Prices

### 3.3.2 Beans

- Unlike maize, beans average market price decreased to Kshs 110.40 from Kshs 146 recorded the previous month.
- This decrease can be attributed to a few farmers harvesting beans in the highlands of Kasei and Sekerr also traders supplying beans from Uganda.
- This month's average price is above long term means.

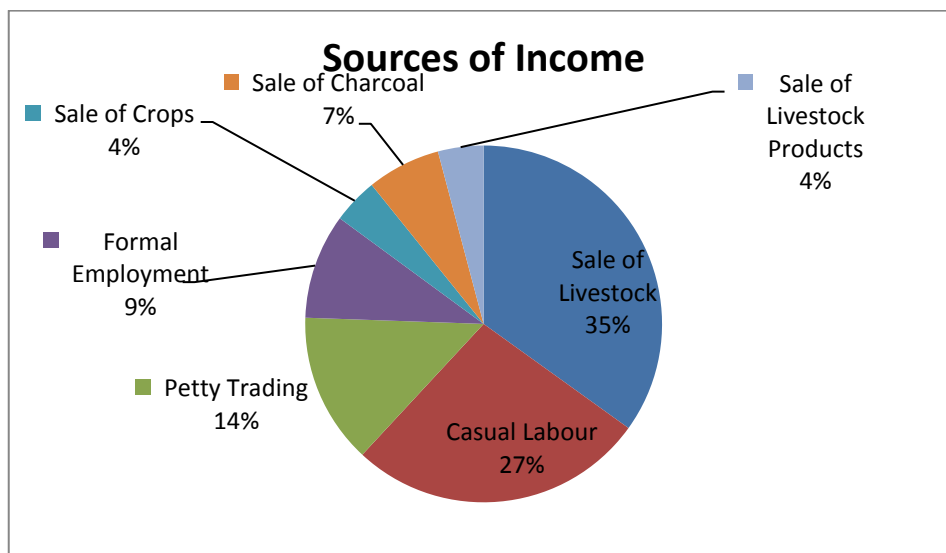


**Figure 10:** Graph showing Average Beans sales at Market Prices

### 3.4 Income

#### 3.4.1 Sources Income

- Sale of livestock and casual labour continued to be the main sources of income during the month under review.
- Sale of livestock as a household's income decreased to 35% o from 38%. Casual labour also increased from 23% to 27%.

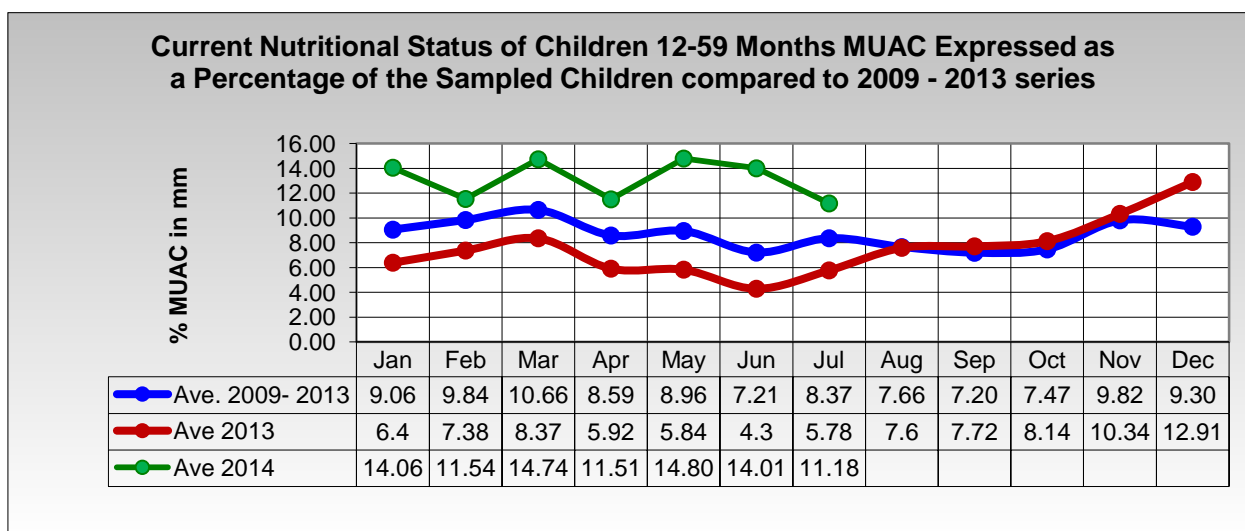


**Figure 11:** Household Common Sources of Income

## 4. UTILIZATION OF FOOD

### 4.1 Nutrition Status

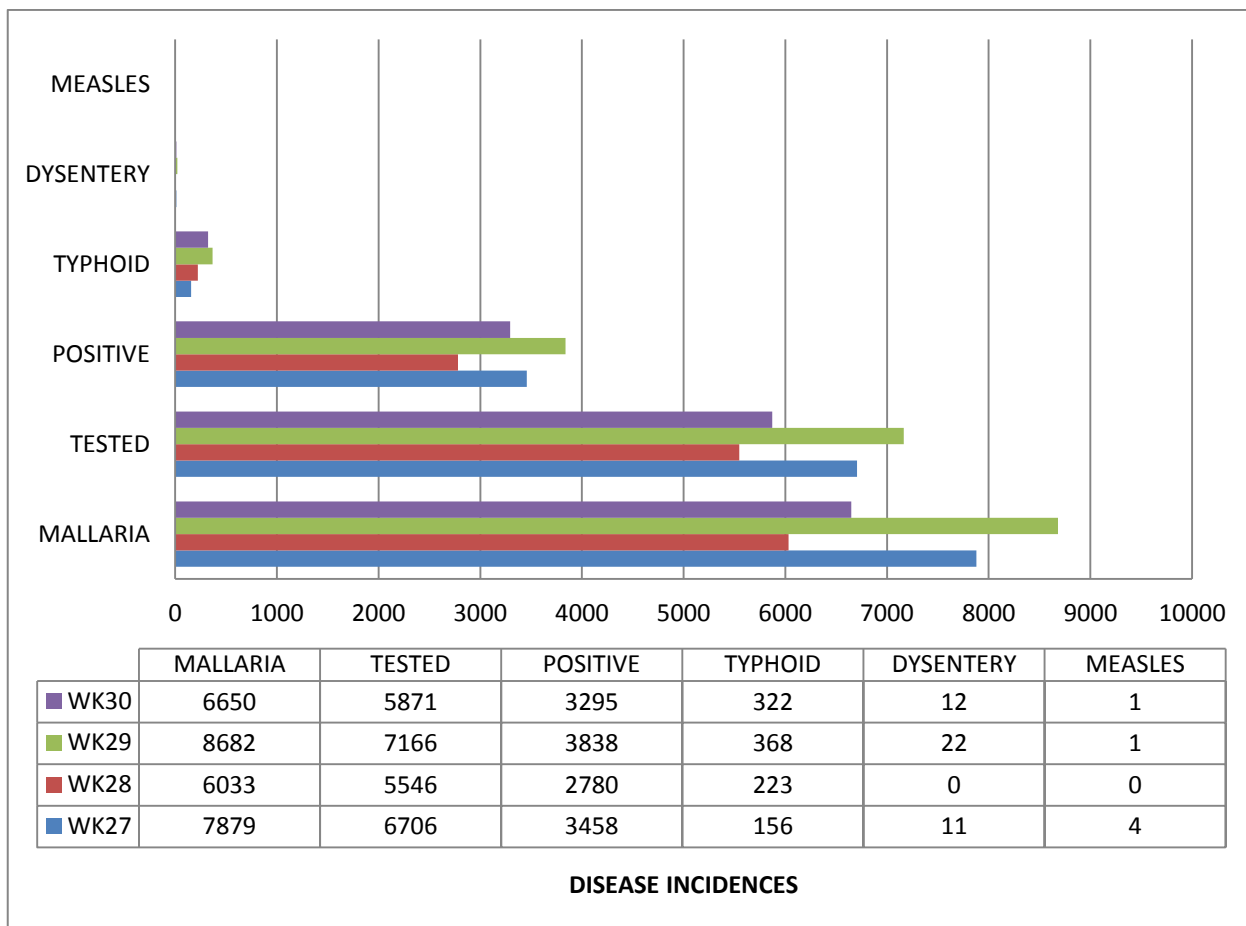
- The proportion of sampled children at risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135 mm) has improved to 11.18% in July compared to 14.01% recorded in June.
- This improvement can be attributed to mass screening done by partners, referral of malnourished children and scaling up of High Impact Nutritional Interventions.
- Kaibos (mixed farming) and Pserum continued to recorded high rates of children at risk of malnutrition.
- Kaibos recorded 19.4% compared to 27.4% recorded in June while Pserum improved from 32.9% to 17.5%.
- Mixed farming livelihoods had 14% of children at risk of malnutrition followed by agro – pastoral at 12.3% while pastoral had 5.8%.
- The situation has improved, however compared to LTM; the trend is above normal at this time of the year.



**Figure 12:** Graph showing average Nutritional status (MUAC)

### 4.2 Health

- Cases of Malaria and Typhoid were reported during the month under review. An increase in malaria incidences was noted in the second week of the month.



**Figure 13:** Graph showing diseases incidences

(Source: MOH West Pokot)

### 4.3 Coping Strategy Index

- The current CSI was 2.19 compared to 2.27 recorded in the previous month.
- This reduction in CSI can be linked to distribution of relief food by County government and National government.
- High CSI of 4 was noted in Ptokou (agro – pastoral) followed by pastoral zones of Nyangaita and Sasak both with CSI of 3.1 while Kapasait (mixed farming) had CSI of 0.7.
- Agro-pastoral livelihoods had CSI of 2.7 and pastoral with 2.4 while mixed farming had 0.8.
- The most used coping strategies were reduction in the number of meals, eating wild fruits and purchase food on credit.