

National Drought Management Authority MARSABIT COUNTY DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR MARCH 2019



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



EW PHASE: ALARM



Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Alarm	Stable
Pastoral All species	Alarm	Stable
Fisherfolk/ Casual labour /Petty Trading	Alert	Deteriorating
County	Alarm	Stable
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	28	80 -120
VCI-3Month	23.79	>35
Forage condition	Fair-Poor	Good
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Fair-poor	Good
Milk Production	1.2	>1.4Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Unusual	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	76	>67
Milk Consumption	0.75	>1.0Litre
Return distance to water	6.7	0.0-3.8 Km
Cost of water	0-5	<Ksh.5
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	16.1	0.0-18.4
Coping Strategy Index	19.29	<20
Food Consumption score	33.1	>35

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- **Rainfall:** Rains were received in a few pockets of the County in one rainy day of which the amounts received were fair.
- **Vegetation condition:** The 3-months Vegetation Condition Index for the month of March was 23.79 which is exhibit no change when compared to the previous months' vegetation condition index of 23.78. Generally, forage condition was fair-poor across the livelihood zones.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production indicators: Livestock body condition deteriorated further and was fair-poor for all the livestock species across the livelihood zones with exception of camels that exhibited good-fair body condition. Milk production reduced to 1.2Litres/household/day which was below normal. Approximately 1750acres of productive land has been cultivated mainly in the agro-pastoral areas of Saku and Moyale sub-counties.

Access indicators: Household and livestock trekking distances to water points increased further due to drying up of 93percent of open water sources and overconcentration of livestock at strategic water points. Milk consumption has declined further to 0.75Litres which is below normal. Terms of trade declined nevertheless was favourable due to better goats' and stable maize prices. Major livestock markets were operational.

- **Utilization indicators:** Nutritional status of children below the age of five years was 16.1percent which was within the acceptable ranges. Food consumption score declined from acceptable to borderline band while but consumption based coping strategies slightly increased but was static at the stressed phase. Morbidity trends were within normal.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains harvests ▪ Short dry spell ▪ Reduced milk yields ▪ Increased HH Food Stocks ▪ Land preparation 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planting/Weeding ▪ Long rains ▪ High Calving Rate ▪ Milk Yields Increase 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long rains harvests ▪ A long dry spell ▪ Land preparation ▪ Increased HH Food Stocks ▪ Kidding (Sept) 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains ▪ Planting/weeding 		
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS
1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

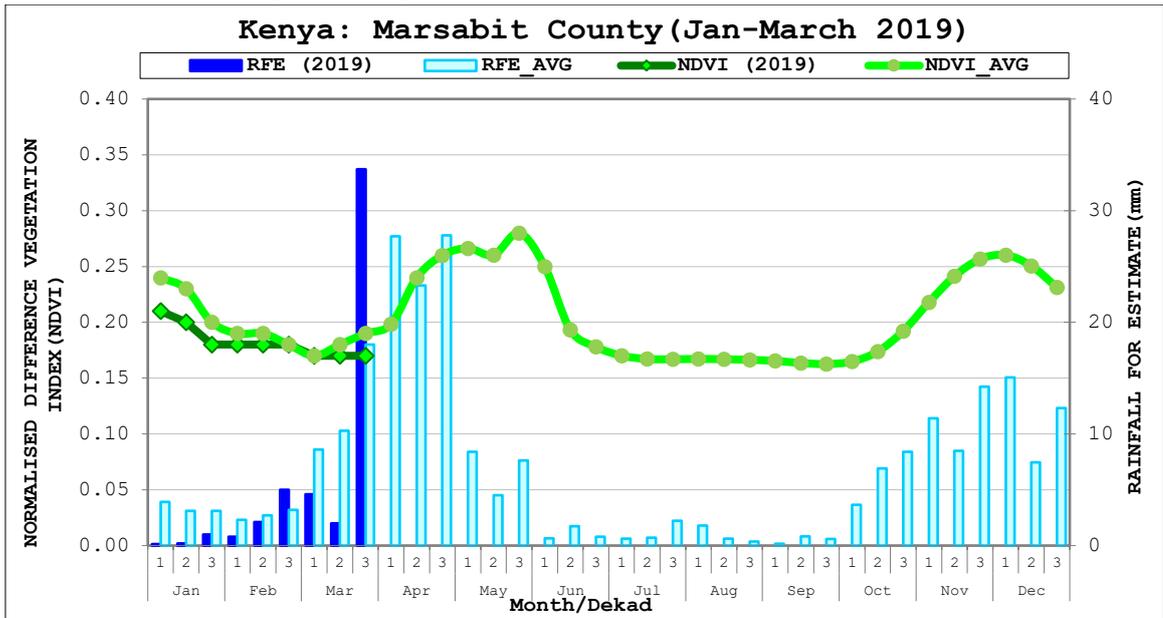


Figure 1: Dekadal Rainfall(mm) and NDVI values compared to the Long Term Average
Source: WFP-VAM, CHIRPS/MODIS

- Moyale and Marsabit rainfall stations recorded rainfall amounts of 20.5mm and 25.1mm respectively in 1 rainy day between 28th -29th March. Most parts of Saku sub-county received heavy downpour in one day; Moyale (Dabel,Township, Adadi, Amballo) received slightly better rains while Sololo, Butiye wards received poor rains.
- Southern parts of Laisamis sub-county (Logologo, Laisamis, Merille, Arapal, Ririma, Nkororoi, Gudas and Mt Kulal) received poor rains while other areas largely remained dry. In North Horr sub-county (along the Kenya/Ethiopia border, Hurri Hills, North Horr town, Dukana Central, Algana, Marime) received fair-poor rains in one rainy day while the southern parts of the sub-county didn't receive rains.
- From the figure 1 shown above, current dekadal averages (rainfall for estimate) for the first and second dekads were below normal whereas in the third dekad rainfall for estimate was above normal. Similarly, the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index(NDVI) for the three dekads was on a declining trend but when compared to similar periods was normal.

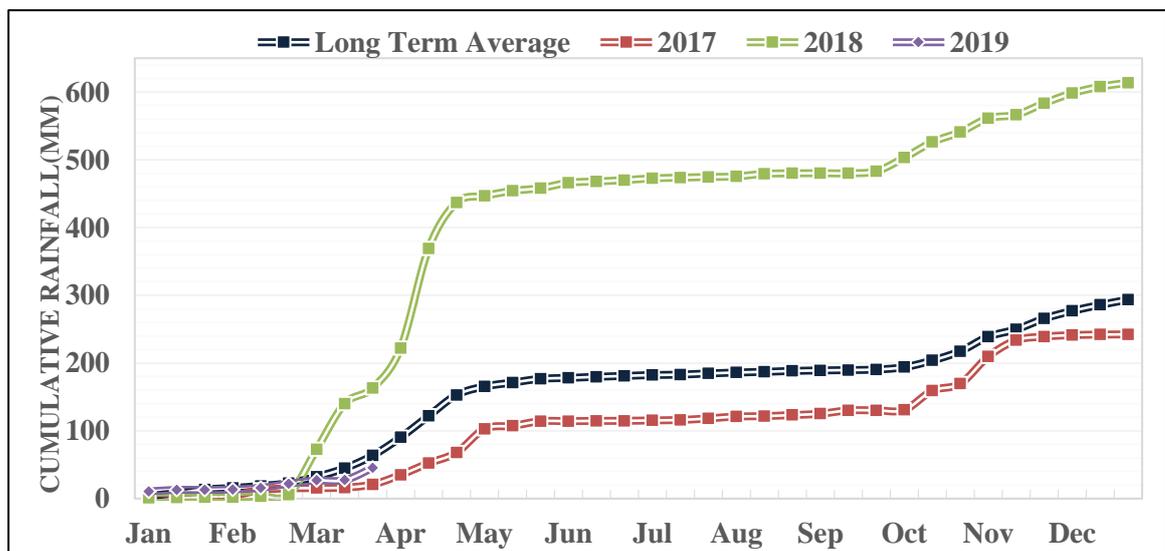


Figure 2: Marsabit County Cumulative Rainfall Amounts(mm)

- From the figure shown above, current cumulative rains are 28percent of the long term cumulative rains. The cumulative rains are almost equal to the cumulative 2017 rains which was a bad year.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

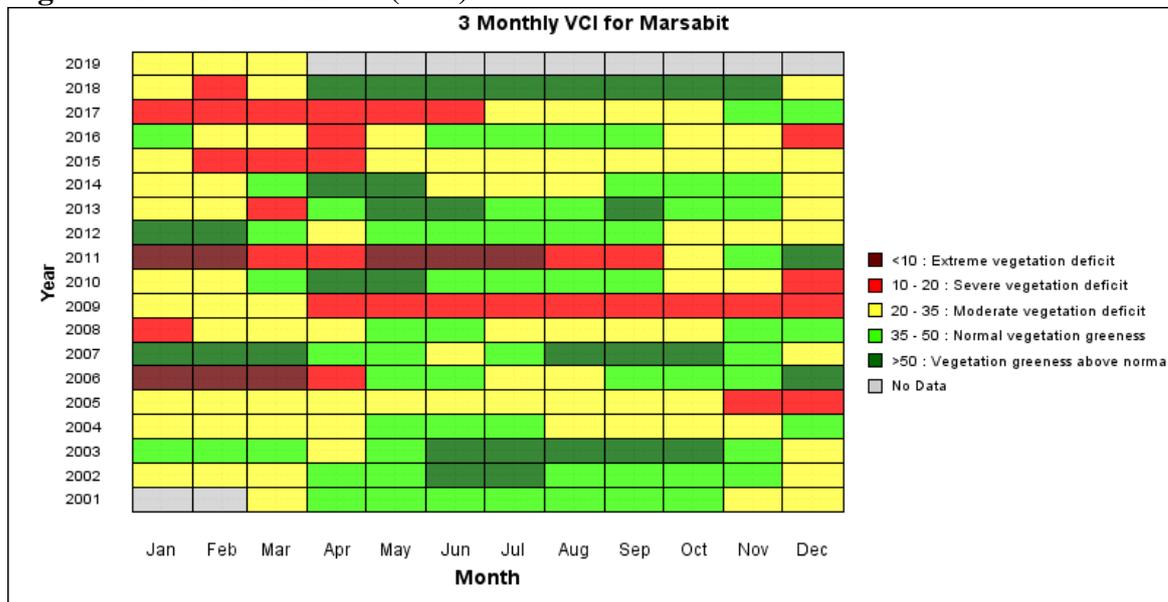


Figure 3:Vegetation Condition Index across the County

- The foundation of the vegetation condition index comprises of relative differences in normalised vegetation index (NDVI) with respect to minimum and maximum historical NDVI values.
- From the matrix shown above, the 3-months vegetation index for the month under review was 23.79 which is an indication of no change when compared to the previous months' vegetation condition index of 23.78.
- Notably, vegetation condition index remained in the moderate vegetation deficit band for four consecutive months with a propensity of it falling into the severe vegetation deficit strap if the short dry spell continues.
- The moderate vegetation condition deficit was attributed to erratic and depressed long rains which have also been poorly distributed both spatially and temporally (only one day rains) in addition therefore not revitalizing the vegetation cover across the County with exception in some parts of Saku (Marsabit Mountain) and Moyale (Amballo, Adadi, Qalaliwe and Odda) where slight improvement in browse condition was noted.
- Moyale, Saku, Laisamis and North Horr sub-counties all fell in the moderate vegetation deficit band with 3-months vegetation condition index of 20.34, 29.09, 23.38 and 24.61 respectively.
- With the continuity of the short dry spell, vegetation condition index is expected to deteriorate until there is onset of the long rains.

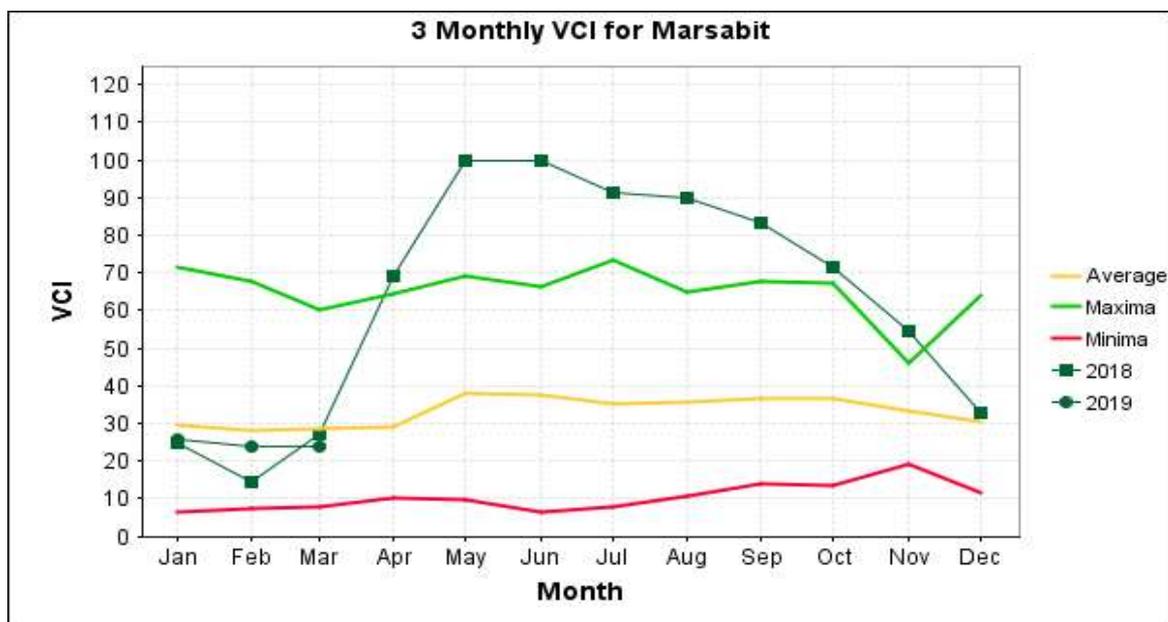


Figure 4: Vegetation Condition Index Trends across the County

- The figure shown above compares March 2019 vegetation condition index to March 2018, long term average and also portrays maximum and minimum VCI values ever recorded.
- From the figure shown above, vegetation condition index for the month under review was the same with the March 2018 VCI value.
- General deterioration in the vegetation condition index was attributed to erratic and depressed long rains which have also been poorly distributed both spatially and temporally
- When compared to similar periods, the current vegetation condition index is slightly below the long term average.

2.1.2 Pasture

- Pasture is depleted in most parts of the County. Where it is available, the pasture condition is fair-poor. In agro pastoral areas, available pasture is supplemented with crop residuals.
- In Moyale sub-county (Amballo, Qalaliwe, Bori, Kukub, Dabel), Laisamsi sub-county (Logologo, Kargi, Gudas, Soriadi, Thurusi, Mt.Kulal, Yel, Chari Ashe), North Horr sub-county(Hawaye, Shurr, Darade, Chari Ashe, Diid Gola, Shankuru, Sabare, Hurri Hills) and most parts of Saku sub-county pasture is fair-poor.
- However, access to pasture was hindered by insecurity in Yamicha, Kom and Darade. Water scarcity experienced in most parts of the County also hindered access to pasture.
- Emergence of herbaceous vegetation was predominant in the northern and southern parts of North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties respectively especially *calotropis procera*.
- Available pasture is expected to last for the next 2 weeks against the normal 2 months in the agro-pastoral areas whereas in the pastoral areas, pasture is expected to last for the next 1 week against the normal 1 and half months. Generally, pasture condition is below normal when compared to similar periods.
- The onset of the long rains which is expected in the second week of the next month will likely trigger regeneration of pasture across the livelihood zones.

2.1.3 Browse

- Browse condition is fair-poor in the agro-pastoral zone whereas poor in the pastoral livelihood zone. When compared to the previous month, browse declined across the County

with exception in parts of Moyale sub-county (Adadi, Amballo, Dabel, Teso) and most parts of Saku sub-county which exhibited slight improvement in browse condition.

- Quality and quantity of browse is poor which is below normal when compared to similar periods.
- Browse is expected to last for the next 1month against the normal 3months in the agro-pastoral areas whereas in the pastoral areas browse will likely last for the next 2 weeks against the normal of 2 months.

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

2.2.1 Sources

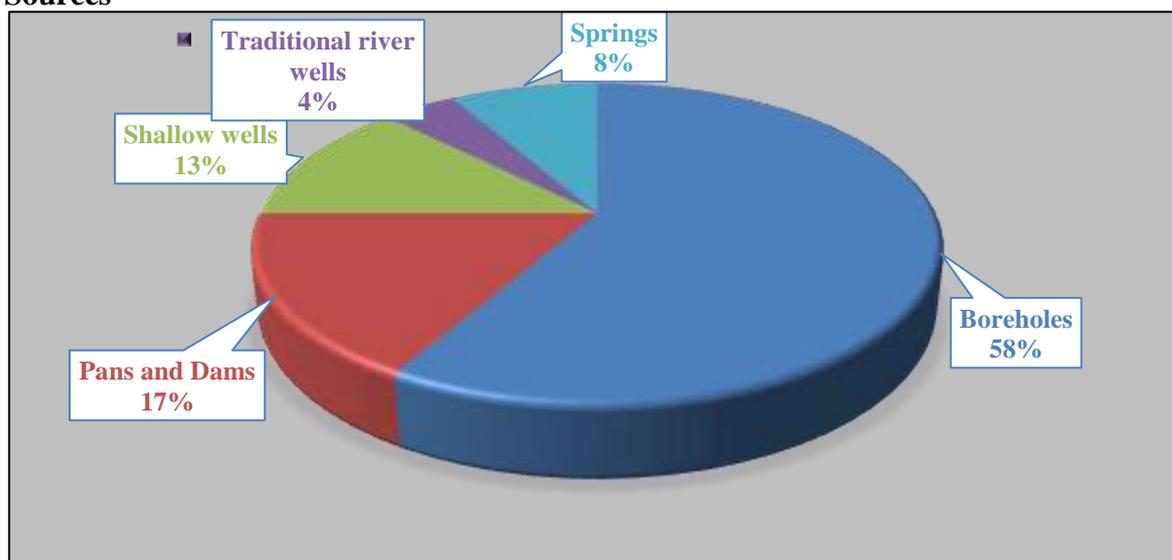


Figure 5: Major sources of water across the livelihood zones

- From figure 5 shown above, borehole was the major water source utilized by the communities across the livelihood zones at 58percent which normal at this particular time of the year.
- Other water sources employed by the communities were water pans, shallow wells, springs and traditional river wells at 17percent, 13percent, 8percent and 4percent respectively.
- Recharge levels of the open water sources are generally low at 10percent in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone whereas in the pastoral areas recharge level of open water sources is at 5percent.
- There is acute water shortage in most parts of the County due to overconcentration of livestock in strategic drought fall boreholes and continuous breakdown of boreholes as the short dry spell progresses.
- In North Horr sub-county (Nyaber, Qorga, Konon Gas, Kubi Adhi, Diid Golla, Khalesa, Shankara, Burarat, Gandile, Yaa Gaara, Elhadi, Malbe mara, Bori, Toricha, Waara, Qatamur, Tigo, Yaa galbo and Yaa odhola) require water trucking.
- The areas that require immediate water trucking in Laisamis sub-county are (Kambinye, Bagasi, Farakoen, Ilmoti, Lependera, Kurkum and Gudas). Moyale Sub-county (Koloba, Funanyata, Somare, Qonqom, Godhe, Gimbe, Illadu, Watiti, Qate, Badanrero, Aria, Laqi, Karbururi, Anona, Mado Adhi, Ele dimtu, Ellebor, Funanqumbi and Funan Idha) require water trucking. For Saku sub-county, areas of (Parkishon, Qarqasa, Kubibagasa, Boru Haro, Dub Gobba, Qachacha, Golole, Adama, Manyatta Jillo and Huka Addi) also are in dire need of water

2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

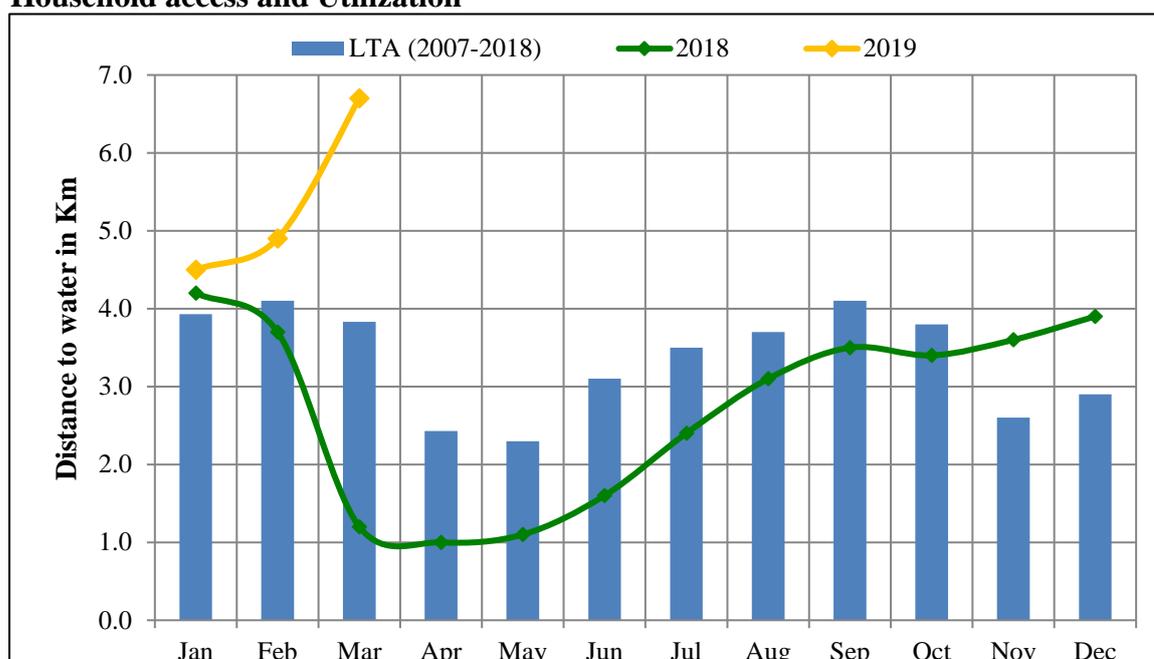


Figure 6: Current household return water distance(km) compared to Long Term Average distances(km)

- From (Figure 6) shown above, return household water distances to the main water sources was 6.7km for the month under review across the livelihood zones which exhibits an increase when compared to previous months' household water distances of 4.9km.
- When compared to similar periods, the current household water distance of 6.7km is 76percent longer than the normal 3.8km.
- Areas in the agro-pastoral livelihood zones that exhibited longer household water distances were Qachacha, Boru Haru, Dirib Gombo, Adama and Parkishon in Saku sub-county with water distances of 10-15km.
- In North Horr sub-county (Qorga, Konon Gas, Kubi Adhi, Diid Golla, Burarat, Gandile, Yaa Gaara, Toricha, Qatamur, Tigo and Yaa galbo) and Laismais sub-county (Bagasi, Farakoen, Ilmoti, Kambinye, Lependera and Kurkum) households trekked for over 15 km in search of water.
- Current waiting time in the agro-pastoral and pastoral livelihood zones are 45-60 minutes and 30-60 minutes respectively against the normal waiting time of 15-30 minutes in the pastoral areas and 15-45 minutes in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone
- The average water consumption across the livelihood zones was 5litres per person per day against the normal 10-20 litres per person per day. For the pastoral livelihood zone, the average water consumption ranged from 6-8litres per person per day. The pastoral livelihood zone of North Horr sub-county recorded better household water consumption per person per day. Water consumption is expected to gradually improve in the next 2-3 weeks.
- The cost of water is zero at the source in most areas across the county with exception of areas where borehole is pumped using generator. In Moyale Township and Marsabit Central water vendors are selling water at Ksh.40- 50per 20litre jerrican.

2.2.3 Livestock access

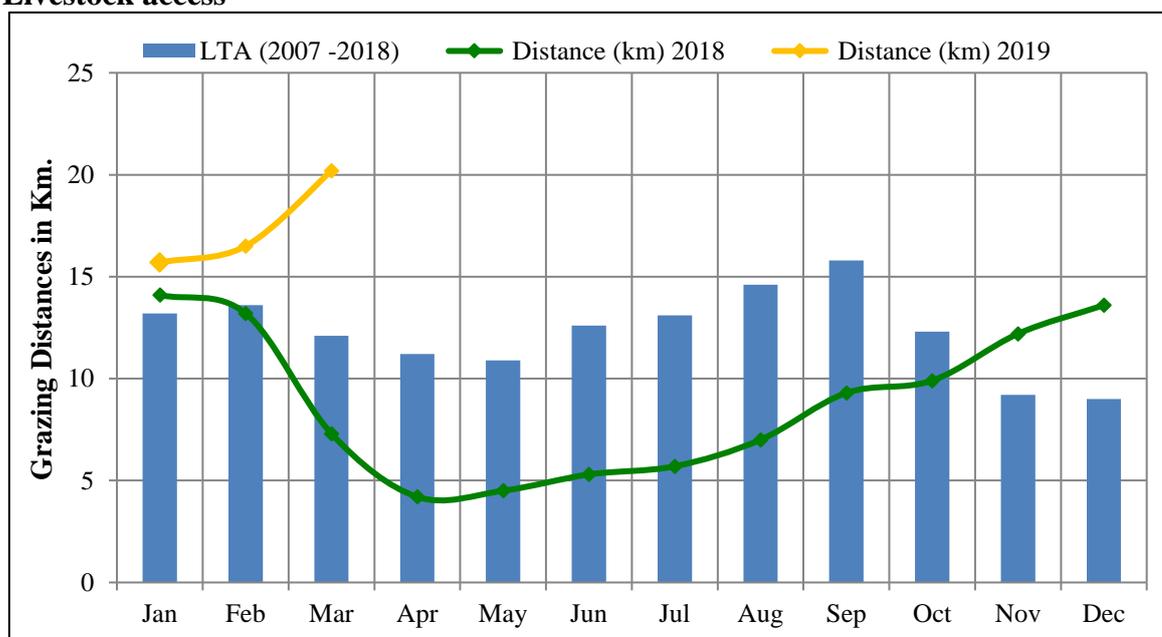


Figure 7: Current livestock trekking distances compared to long term average trekking distances(km)

- From (Figure 7) shown above, current return livestock trekking distance from grazing areas to water points is 20.2km across the livelihood zones.
- When compared to the previous months' livestock trekking distances of 16.5km, the current livestock trekking distances from grazing areas to water points considerably increased.
- Current livestock return trekking distance of 20.2km is 67percent longer than the long term average livestock trekking distance of 12.1km.
- In the pastoral areas, the return livestock trekking distances to water points was 20-30km against the normal 10-15km. Similarly, in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone; livestock trekking distances were between 10-15km against a normal of compared to the normal 5-10km.
- North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties recorded longer livestock trekking distances due to intensive livestock migration to the dry season grazing areas.
- However, Moyale (Amballo, Adadi, Kukub, Mayie, Teso, Dabel, Qalaliwe) and most parts of Saku sub-county livestock trekking distances were slightly shorter due to fair-poor pasture condition.
- Currently, cattle are watered after every 3 days; small stock 4 days and camels after every seven days across the livelihood zones. When compared to similar periods, watering frequencies have increased due to longer livestock trekking distances and intense migration.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Body condition for goats and camels were generally fair whereas cattle and sheep posted poor body condition. When compared to the previous month, livestock body condition for all species significantly reduced due to the progression of the dry spell.
- Emaciated body condition has been reported in Malabot, Gas, Bubisa, Kalacha, Maikona, North Horr, Illeret and and Dukana in North Horr sub-county. In Laisamis sub-county, Korr, Ngurunit, Ndikir, Loyangalani and Farakoen livestock exhibited poor body condition. Sololo, Dambala Fachana and parts of Butiye ward livestock body condition was also poor.
- When compared to similar periods, livestock body condition is slightly below normal. Livestock body condition is expected to worsen further till towards end of next month when they are likely to improve as a result of expected long rains.

3.1.2 Livestock Migration

- Intense livestock migration to drought fall back areas was witnessed across the County.
- In North Horr sub-county, livestock from North Horr migrated towards Darade, Sarimo and Hurri Hills. Those from Balesa, Elhadi and Dukana migrated towards Chachane, Tao, Ito, Garwole, Bulluk, Sabare, Araptis, Diid Golla, Bales Saru and Baadha while those from Gas, Elbesso, Qorqa and Malabot migrated towards Sarima in search of pasture.
- In Laisamis sub-county, livestock from Korr and Merille migrated towards Gudas, Dedertu, Sabarwawa and Kom in Isiolo. Those in Kargi, Illaut, olturot and migrating towards Mt Kulal and. Laisamis- Koya. Laisamis- Soriadi. Kargi- Maikona. Loiyangalani –Moite. Also some livestock from Laisamis sub-county have migrated towards Baragoi, Sabarwawa, Sereolipi, Archer's post and Wamba in Samburu County whereas others have migrated towards Merti in Isiolo County.
- In Moyale sub-county livestock are migrating from Guyotimo towards Bule, Korondile in Wajir County, Watiti towards Ogomdi in Wajir County and livestock from Dambala Fachana, Sololo, Walda and parts of Butiye ward have migrated towards Amballo and Badanrero in search of water and water. In-migration of livestock was witnessed from southern Ethiopia towards Uran and Heillu Manyatta wards.

3.1.3 Tropical livestock units (TLUs)

- Currently, poor households own an average of 3 TLUs while the medium income households have between 4-4.5TLUs. A medium household owns between 22 and 28 herds of cattle, between 120 and 170 small stock and between 11-22 camels. Poor household owns between 6 and 10 herds of cattle, between 55 and 115 small stock and between 2-6 camels.

3.1.4 Livestock diseases and mortalities

- Common diseases reported in small ruminants in agro-pastoral zones were pneumonia and diarrhea causing mortalities especially in kids. PPR was suspected in North Horr & Saku.
- Between 10th and 13th March, 47 shoats were reported to have died in Balesa due to water contamination.
- Mass death of sheep and goats (346) in Hurri Hills following one-day heavy rain at a village on 27th March in a village called Shankeera.
- In Ririma (Laisamis sub-county) sheep were reported to have died as a result of rain storms.

3.1.5 Milk Production

- From figure 8 shown below, household milk production per household per day for the month under review declined from 1.9Litres in the previous month to 1.2Litres across the livelihood zones.
- When compared to similar periods, average milk production of 1.2Litres is below the long term average milk production of 1.4Litres by 14percent.
- Milk production is 0.5- 1.5Litres in the pastoral areas and in the agro-pastoral areas, milk production is 0.5Litres. Most of the households approximately 90% reported nil milk production.

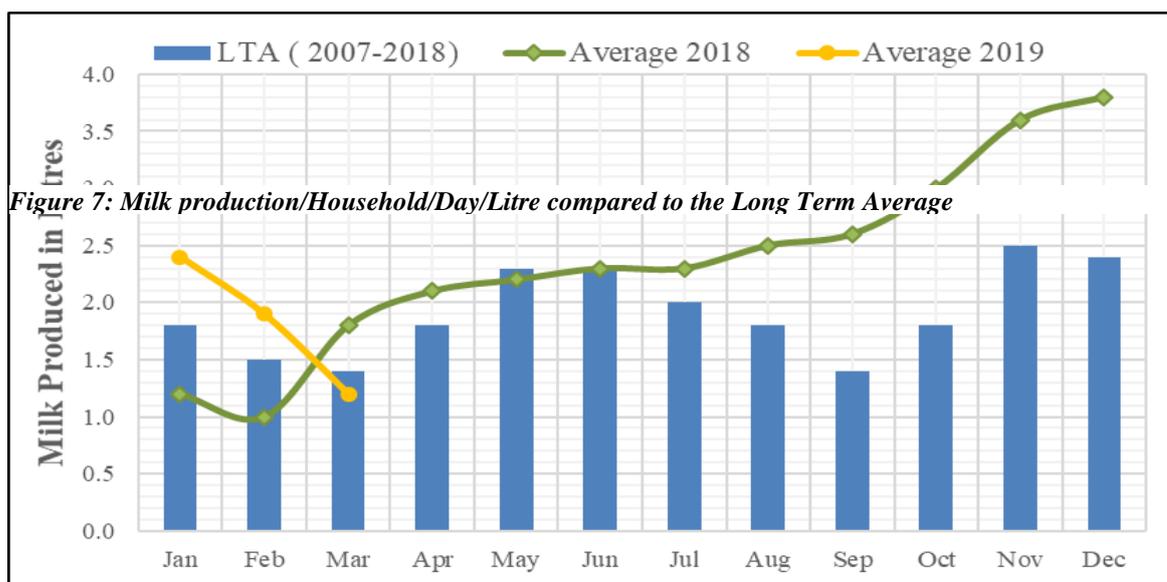


Figure 7: Milk production/Household/Day/Litre compared to the Long Term Average

Figure 8: Milk production per household per day in litres across the livelihood zones

- Below normal milk production was attributed to intense livestock migration to the dry season grazing areas and deteriorating livestock body condition.
- Generally, price of milk is Ksh.90-120 per litre with exception few pockets in the agro-pastoral areas where milk retailed at Ksh.75 per litre.

3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

- There was increased land cultivation across the County in anticipation of the long rains expected in the second week of April. 1200 acres of land in Saku, 400 acres in Moyale, 120 acres in Laisamis and 30acres of productive land have been cultivated which is near the normal acreage as a result of subsidized tractor services.
- Farmers received 18 metric tonnes of assorted drought tolerant crops (8MT of Maize, 6MT of Beans, 1.5MT of Green grams, 1.5MT of Cowpeas and 1MT of Sorghum).

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

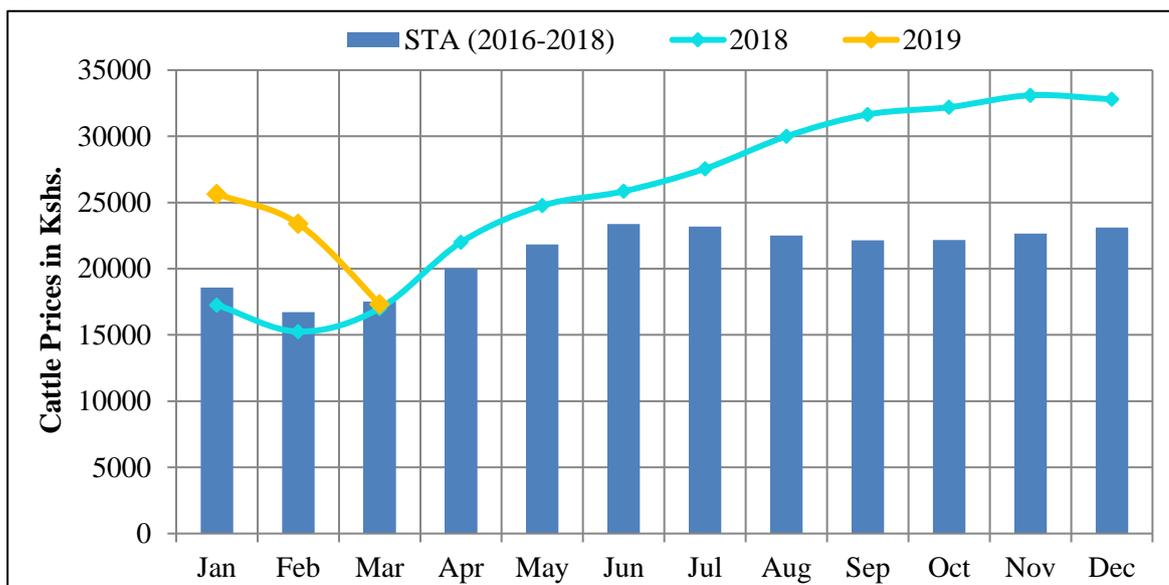


Figure 9: Current cattle prices compared to the short term average prices

- From the figure (9) shown above, cattle price for the month under review was Kshs. 17,333 which is an indicative of a decline from Kshs. 23,400 recorded in the preceding month.
- When compared to similar periods, current cattle price of Kshs. 17,333 is normal. Significant decline in cattle prices was attributed to poor body condition and lack of ready buyers.
- Moyale, North Horr and Merille livestock markets posted fair cattle prices averaging at Kshs. 20,000. Jirime livestock market posted much lower cattle price at Kshs. 15,000.
- As the short dry spell progresses, terminal and primary livestock markets are expected to post declining cattle prices which will likely gradually increase towards the end of April when impact of the long rains will be felt.

4.1.2 Goat prices

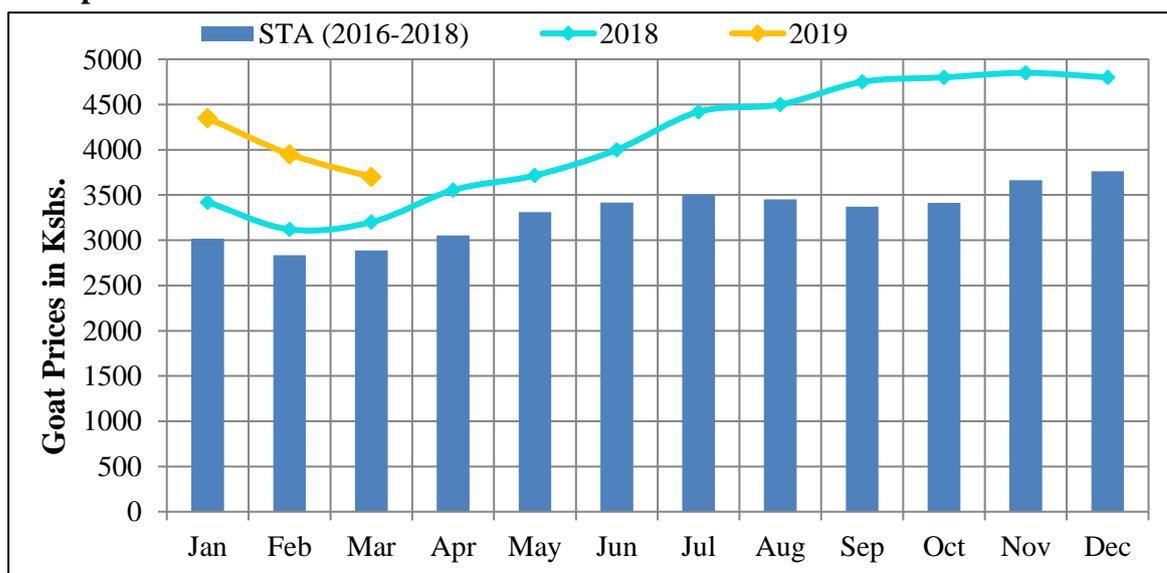


Figure 10: Current goat prices compared to short term average prices

- From the figure shown above, current goat price is Kshs.3, 700 across the livelihood zones which is an indicative of a gradual decline when compared to the previous months' goat price of Kshs. 3,950.
- When compared to similar periods, the current goat price of Ksh. 3, 700 is above the short term average goat price of Kshs.2, 888 by 28percent.
- Above normal goat prices were attributed to spill over of the last good season (long rains 2018), heightened livestock market activation in primary and satellites markets coupled with fair body condition of the goats.
- Market operations were normal across the county with no disruptions. However, the traded volumes slightly reduced when compared to the previous month.
- Fair goat prices were posted in Moyale, Merille, Jirime and Korr livestock markets with prices ranging between Kshs. 3,500-4,500.
- Goat prices are expected to gradually decline due to expected reduction in traded volumes in the markets.

4.1.3 Sheep Prices

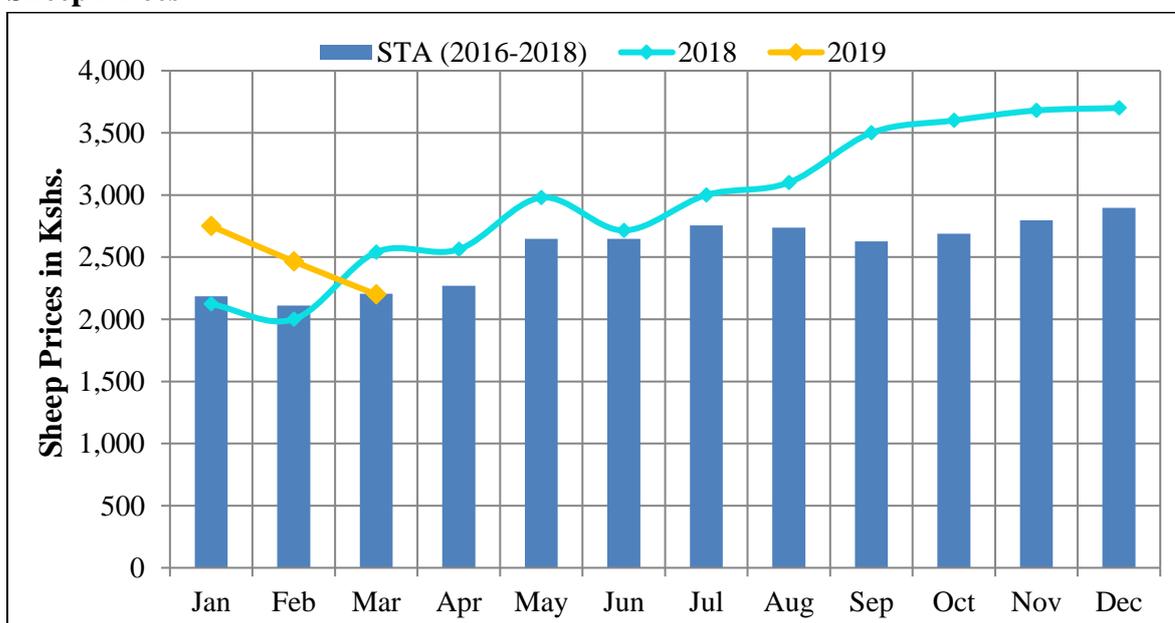


Figure 11: Current sheep prices compared to the short term average prices(kshs.)

- From the figure 11 shown above, sheep price for the month of under review was Kshs. 2,200 across the livelihood zones which is an illustration of a gradual reduction from Kshs. 2,465 recorded in the previous month. Gradual decline in sheep prices was due to poor body condition.
- When compared to the short term average price of Kshs. 2,206, current sheep price is normal. Normal sheep prices were attributed to revitalized livestock markets and spill over of the last good season (Long rains of 2018).
- Sheep prices were slightly better in Moyale livestock market with prices averaging at Kshs. 3,000 attributed to the vibrant neighbouring Ethiopia market. However, most other markets sheep prices ranged from Kshs. 1,800- 2,100 due to poor body condition.

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

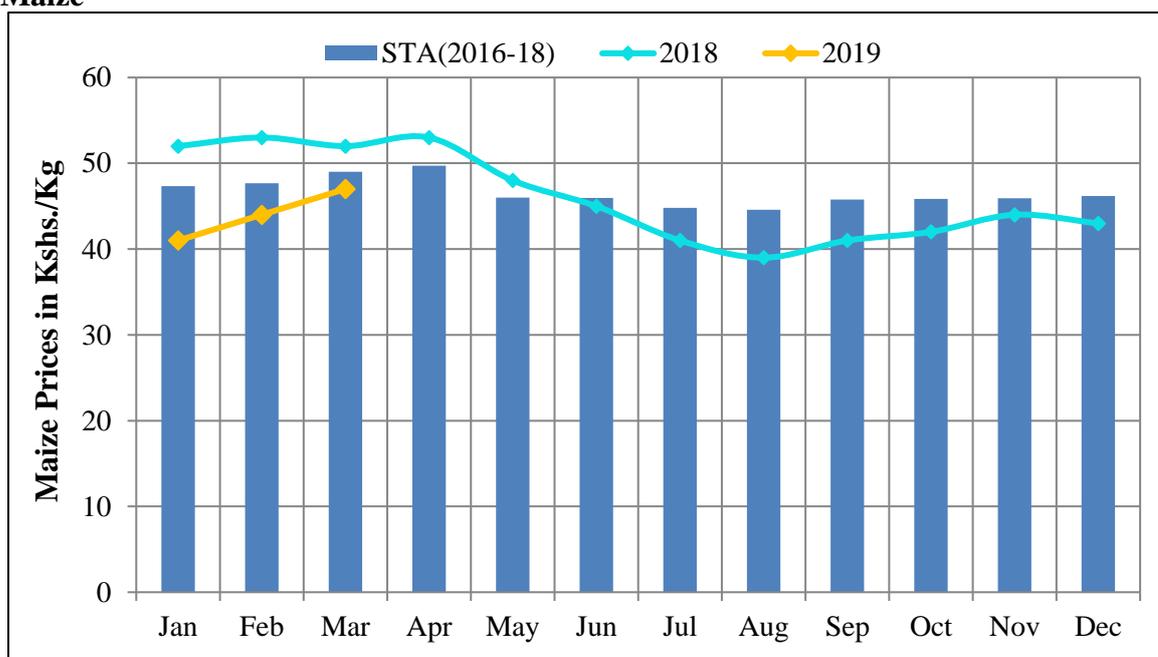


Figure 12: Current maize prices compared to the short term average maize prices

- From the figure shown above, current maize price is Kshs.47/kg across the livelihood zones thus remained stable when compared to the previous months maize price of Kshs.44/kg.
- Stable maize prices were attributed to increased maize supplies from the main terminal markets of Meru, Nyahururu and the neighbouring vibrant Ethiopia market.
- When compared to similar periods, current maize price of Kshs.47/kg is normal(long term average maize price being Kshs.49/kg).
- Favourable maize prices were posted in Moyale, Dukana, North Horr and Marsabit town with prices ranging between Ksh.30-35/kg.
- However, higher maize prices were posted in most parts of Laisamis sub-county with prices ranging between Ksh.50-65 per kg.

4.2.2 Beans

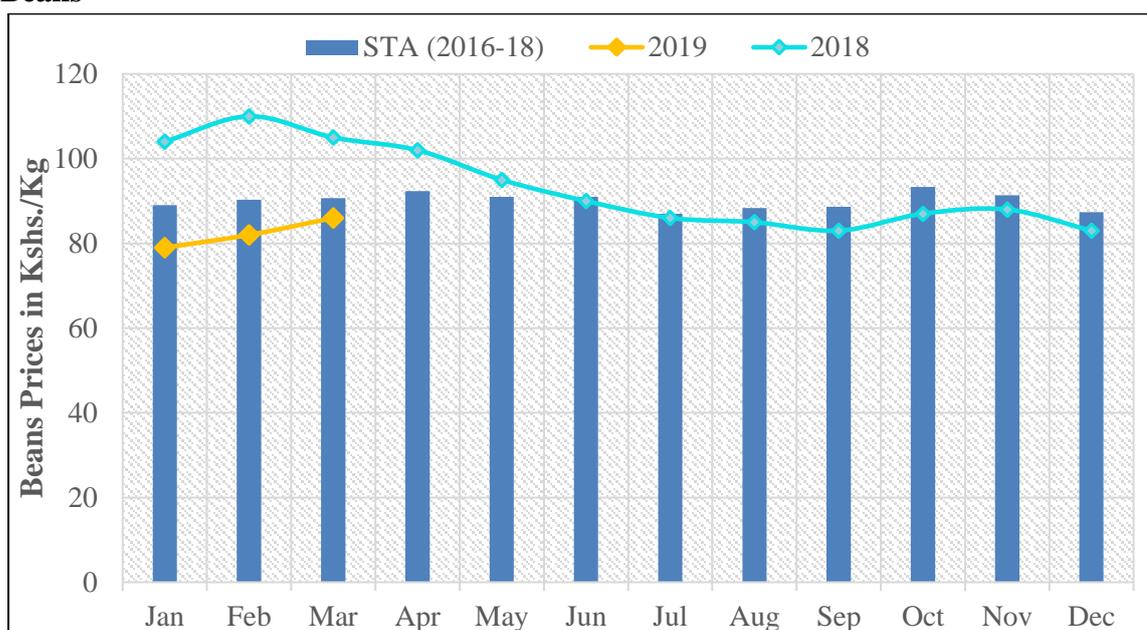


Figure 13: Beans prices compared to the short average term average prices(Kshs.)

- From the figure shown above, current beans prices averaged at Kshs.86/kg. When compared to the previous month beans price of Kshs.82/kg, beans prices relatively remained stable across the livelihood zones.
- When compared to similar periods, beans price of Kshs.86/kg is near the normal price of Kshs.91/kg.
- Favourable beans prices were posted Moyale Township, North Horr, Sololo, Dukana and Marsabit Central with prices ranging between Kshs.60-75 /kg and in some markets especially in Moyale Township prices retailed at Kshs.50/kg.
- Favourable beans prices witnessed in Moyale, Sololo, Marsabit Central, North Horr and Marsabit Central were attributed to generally good performance of the beans crops in the agro-pastoral areas of Moyale and Saku sub-counties coupled with increased market supplies from the neighbouring vibrant Ethiopia and terminal markets.
- However, most parts of Laisamis sub-county posted higher beans prices with prices ranging between Kshs.90-100/kg.

4.2.3 Terms of Trade (TOT)

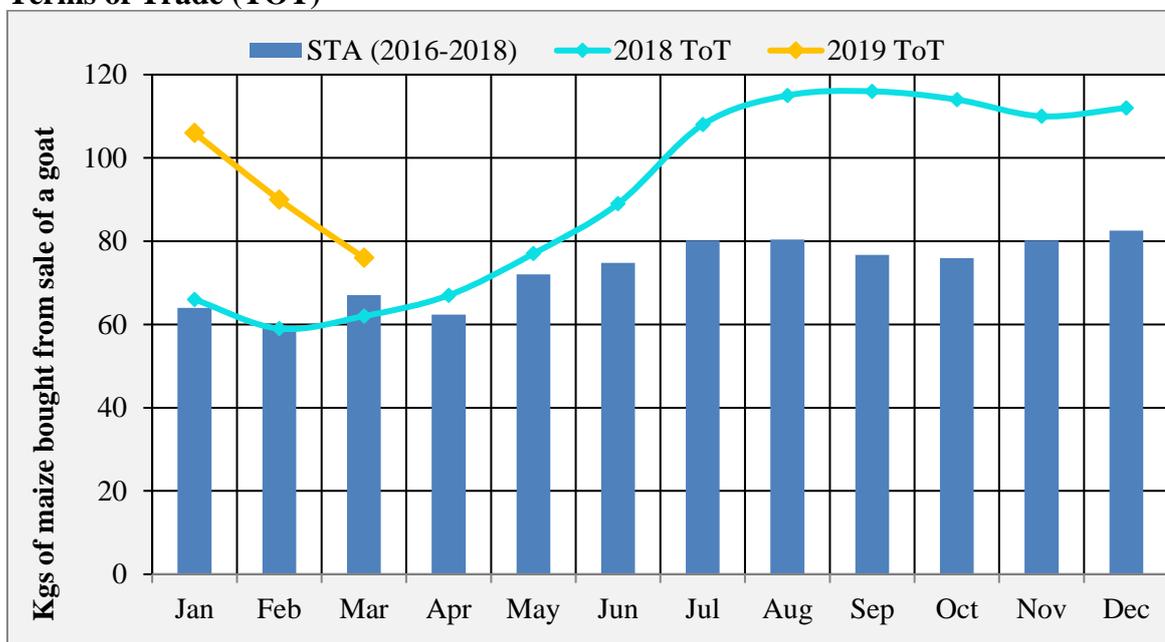


Figure 14: Current terms of trade versus short term average terms of trade

- From the figure shown above, the current terms of trade is 76 across the livelihood zones hence exhibited a decline when compared to the preceding months' terms of trade of 90.
- When compared to similar periods, current terms of trade of 76 is above the short term average terms of trade of 67 by 13percent.
- Above normal terms of trade was stirred by above normal goats prices coupled with stable maize prices. With the progression of the dry spell, terms of trade is expected to gradually decline however will be still above the short term average due to expected no notable change in goat prices and stable maize prices.
- Moyale and North Horr sub-counties exhibited better terms of trade due to close proximity with the vibrant neighbouring Ethiopia market.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS
5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

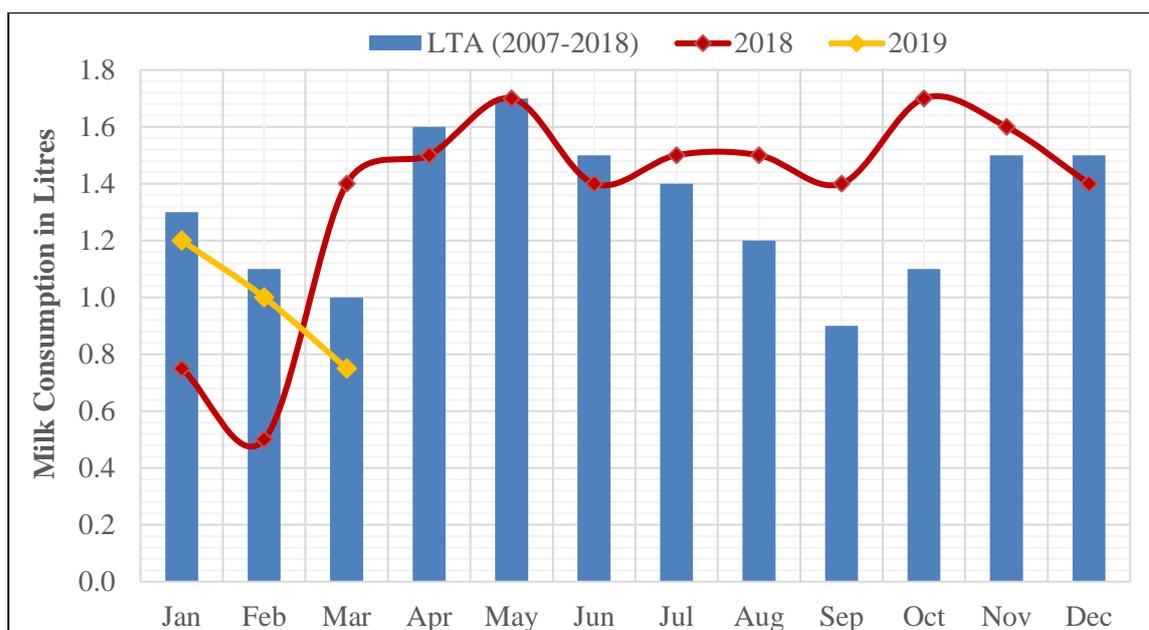


Figure 15: Current milk consumption/household/day/litre against long term average

- From the figure 15 shown above, household milk consumption is 0.75litres/household/day in the month under review across the livelihood zones.
- When compared to the previous months’ milk consumption of 1.0litres/household/day, milk consumption reduced.
- When compared to the long term average milk consumption of 1.0litres/household/day, the current milk consumption is below normal by 25percent.
- Average household milk consumption per day in the pastoral zone is 0.5-1.0litres against the normal 1.5litres whereas in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone household milk consumption ranges between at 0.5litres against the normal 1.0litres.
- Decline in milk consumption was attributed to only 10percent of the households producing milk and the remaining milking herds which haven’t migrated are also very weak.

5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE (FCS)

- The mean food consumption score for the month of March was 33.1 across the livelihood zones hence an indicative of significant decline when compared to the previous months’ food consumption score of 38.9 therefore sliding from the acceptable to borderline food consumption band.
- Food consumption score was better in the pastoral than the agro- pastoral livelihood zone as illustrated with a mean of 34.5 and 31.6 respectively thus households in the pastoral areas had better food consumption score than those in the agro-pastoral areas.
- From the figure (16) shown below, proportion of households in the pastoral livelihood zone that were within the acceptable, borderline and poor food consumption score were 47.3percent, 50.6percent and 2.1percent respectively. In the agro-pastoral livelihood zone, proportion of households that were within the acceptable, borderline and poor food consumption scores were 48.8percent, 40.7percent and 10.5percent respectively.

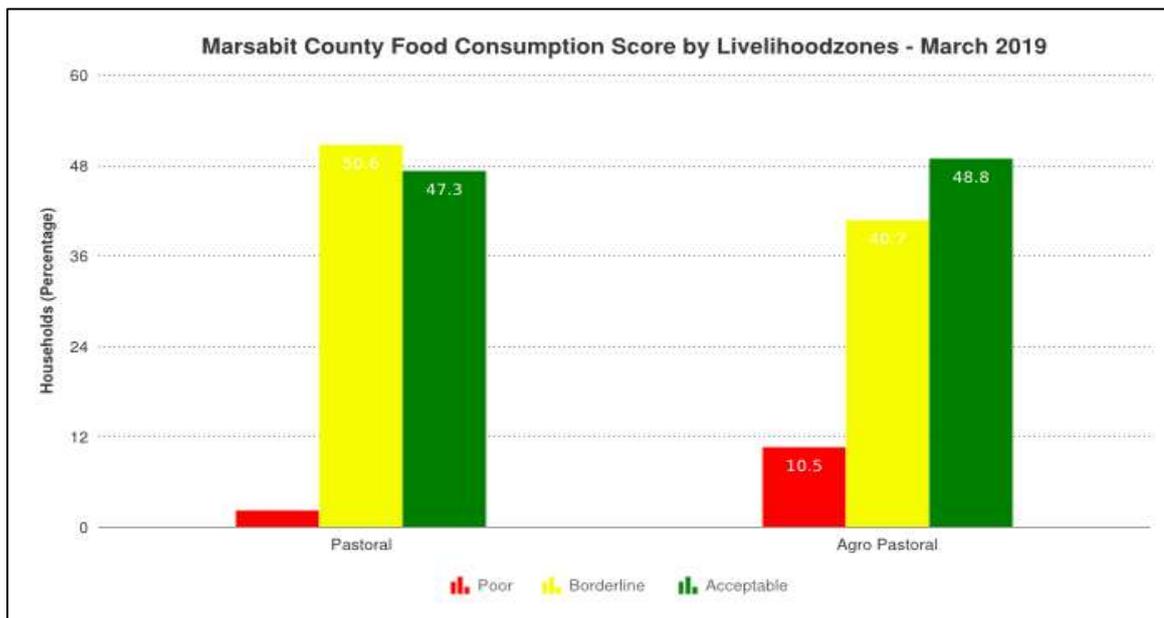


Figure 16: Food consumption score across the livelihood zones

- Borderline food consumption score is an indication of households in both agro-pastoral and pastoral livelihood zones consuming less staples accompanied by frequency of 3 days per week consumption of oil and pulses.
- Food consumption score was lower in Sagante and Heillu Manyatta wards with a mean of 25.2 and 26.4 respectively.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

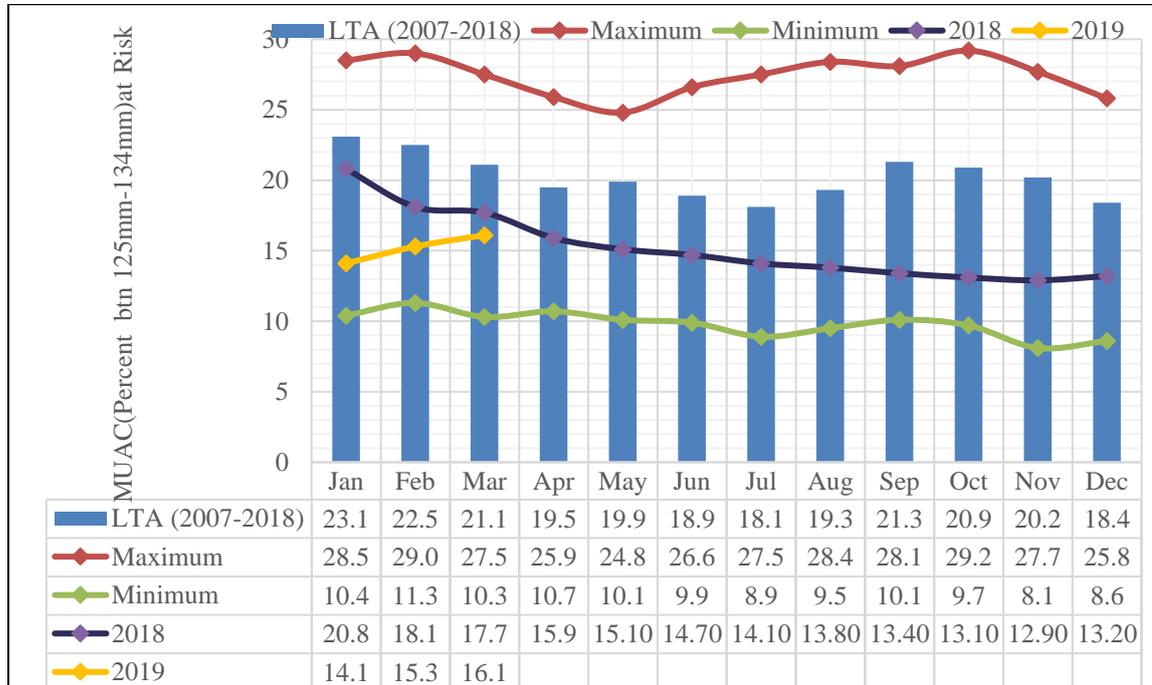


Figure 17: Nutritional status of children below the age of five years verses long term average

- From the figure 17 shown above, children rated ‘at risk’ of malnutrition (MUAC) for the month of March was 16.1percent which depicts a gradual increase when compared to the preceding months’ MUAC of 15.3percent across the livelihood zones.
- When compared to similar periods, the current MUAC average of 16.1percent is below the long term average MUAC of 21.1percent.

- Below normal MUAC for children below the age of five years was attributed to nutritional interventions, majority of households falling within the borderline food consumption score, food distribution and cash transfers by various agencies i.e NDMA HSNP 2 unconditional cash transfer.
- Nutritional status of children below the age of five years is expected to deteriorate in the next one month but will still be within the normal ranges.
- Main malnutrition hotspots in the County are (Kubi Bagasa, Dadach Kambi, Leyai and Qargasa) in Saku sub-county, (Barambate, Marime, Yaa Sharbana, Qoqa, Toricha, North Horr, Bubisa, Elbesso and Illeret) in North Horr sub-county, (Korr, Kargi, Lependera, Sarima and Loyangalani) in Laisamis sub-county and (Qate, Dabel, Nana, Rawana, Dambala Fachana and Uran) in Moyale sub-county.
- According to M.O.H surveillance data, Maikona, Turbi, North Horr, Dukana are at IPC Phase 4-critical phase while Illeret is at phase 5-extreme critical phase
- Morbidity trends are within normal across the livelihood zones.

5.4 COPING STRATEGIES

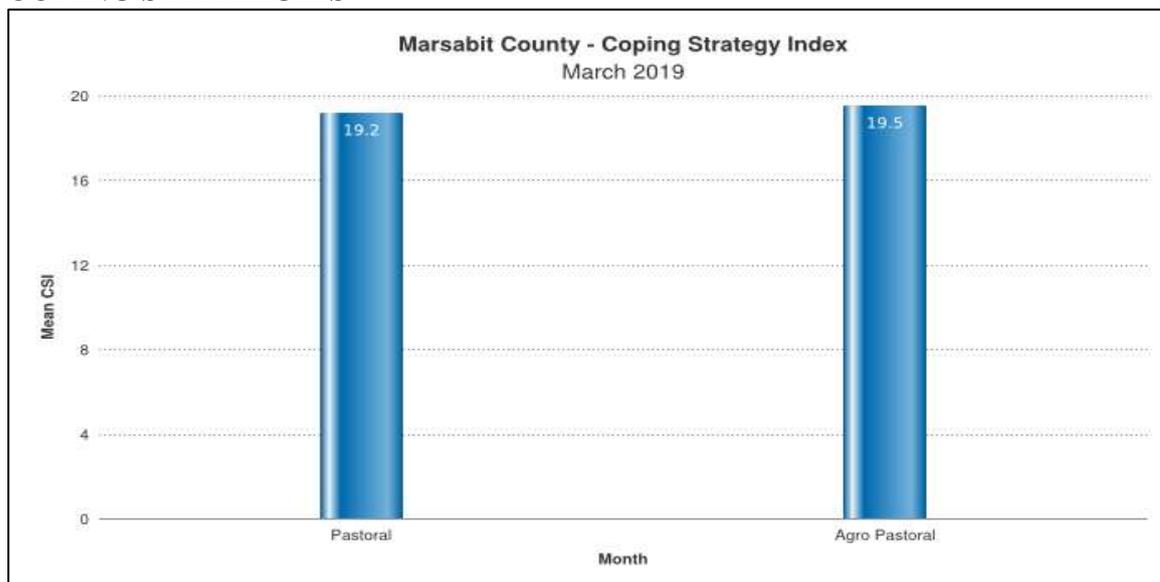


Figure 18: Coping Strategy Index across the livelihood zones

- From the figure shown above, reduced consumption based coping strategy index(rCSI) for the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones are 19.5 and 19.2 respectively hence they were stressed.
- Reduced consumption based coping strategy index(CSI) for the month under review was 19.29 which is an illustration of a slight increase when compared to the previous months' reduced consumption coping strategy index of 18.37.
- Proportion of households who adopted and didn't adopt coping strategies in the month of March were 82percent and 18percent respectively across the livelihood zones.
- Coping mechanisms adopted by households in the month under review were of slight higher severity when compared to the previous months' coping mechanisms.

Table 1: Consumption based coping strategy index(rCSI)		
Sub-county	Ward	rCSI
Saku	Sagante	22.04
Laisamis	Korr	22.22
Laisamis	Loiyangalani	30.59
North Horr	Dukana	21.93
Moyale	Heillu Manyatta	14.17
Moyale	Uran	21.15
Saku	Karare	9.58
Laisamis	Laisamis	9.73
Moyale	Golbo	27.87
North Horr	North Horr	17.17
North Horr	Turbi/Bubisa	13.16

- The table shown above illustrates reduced consumption based coping strategy index across NDMA surveillance sentinel sites. Loiyangalani, Golbo and Korr wards posted high reduced consumption coping strategy indexes of 30.59, 27.87 and 22.22 respectively, therefore households in the aforementioned wards adopted more severe consumption based coping mechanisms.
- However, households in Laisamis, Heillu Manyatta and Turbi wards employed less severe irreversible consumption based coping mechanisms.
- Notable reduced consumption based coping strategies employed by the households across the livelihood zones were reduced portion size of meals, reduction in frequency of food consumption and reliance on less preferred food.
- Therefore, households across the livelihood zones are likely to employ more irreversible stressed consumption based coping strategies with progression of the short dry spell.

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES

6.1 Food Aid

- National Government through the state department of ASAL distributed relief food to the vulnerable households across the County.
- World Food Programme through SND distributed 108kg of sorghum, 21.6kg of pulses and 7.2kg of vegetable oil each to 9168 households across the 15 wards in the County as food ration for 2 months (March-April 2019) under the Sustainable Food Systems Programme.
- Caritas Marsabit distributed food to 178 households from Burarat with each household receiving 24kgs of Rice, 10kgs of Beans, 2kg of Sugar and 2 Litres of vegetable oil monthly for a period of two months. 200HHs(Shurr), 160HHs(Kubiqallo), 60HHs(Jaldesa), 100HHs(Mudhe) and 59HHs(Horonder) received 10kg of Rice, 5kg of Beans, 1kg of Sugar and one litre of vegetable oil each monthly for a period of two months.
- Department of Agriculture supplied farmers with 18 metric tonnes of assorted drought tolerant crops (8MT of Maize, 6MT of Beans, 1.5MT of Green grams, 1.5MT of Cowpeas and 1MT of Sorghum).

6.2 NON-FOOD AID

- Unconditional Cash transfer to 20488 households - Hunger Safety Net Programme through National Drought Management Authority
- Kenya RedCross will support 4000 households with cash with each household receiving Kshs. 3,000 per month for three months (April, May and June) across the County.
- UNICEF, Concern Worldwide, World Vision Kenya, FH-K, NHPPLus and GIZ continued to provide direct support to the department of Health through Capacity Building for Health workers on IMAM surge approach; Support Vitamin A supplementation during Malezi Bora and supplying all the health facilities with Ready to Use Therapeutic Feeds (Plumpy Nuts).
- UNICEF, FH-K Concern Worldwide, World Vision Kenya, GIZ, CCM and NHPPLus supported 103 medical outreaches across the County.
- Department of Water undertook water trucking in areas of Laisamis, North Horr, Saku and Moyale sub-counties that are experiencing acute water shortage.
- Islamic Relief undertook water trucking in Guyotimo and Gola (Golbo ward), Moyale sub-county.
- CIFA undertook water trucking for BadanRero and Dadach Lakole primary school.
- CCM supported Malabot and Elhadi health facilities with water trucking services.
- PACIDA rehabilitated Dosewachu borehole. They also sunk a borehole, installed high powered solar services and provided a tank at Anona. PACIDA also sunk a high yielding borehole at Kinisa.
- Caritas undertook water trucking in Qatamur, Gurarat and Toricha communities (18 trips).
- World Vision Kenya, SND, PACIDA and Caritas supported various peace meetings across the County.
- FAO supported mass vaccination against PPR(Peste des petits ruminants) across the County.
- Concern WorldWide supported routine livestock disease surveillance across the County.
- CCM and VSF-Germany conducted ONE health (livestock and human) activities in North Horr sub-county.
- Kenya Livestock Insurance Programme (KLIP) pay out due to 2500 HH with each household to set to receive Kshs. 70,000.
- Department of livestock to procure of vaccines (FMD, Blanthrax, Sheep and Goat pox) worth Kshs.6M.
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7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 INSECURITY/CONFLICT/HUMAN DISPLACEMENT

- Reported cases of Kalazar in Children between 10 to 12 years in Laisamis (98% of the cases). 41 cases of Kalazar were admitted in Marsabit facility. Due to high Kalazar cases, Marsabit referral hospital team was overwhelmed by high admissions which overstretched the available bed capacity notwithstanding the cost implication of Kalazaar treatment which is always high.
- Pasture is available in areas of Sarima, Darade, South Horr but not accessible due to fear of the livestock being stolen by rival communities.
- Insecurity incidences reoccurred due to resource based conflict which led to 6 deaths in Horonder.

7.2 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS.

- The food security situation is at “stressed” integrated phase classification with a likelihood of some proportion of households in the pastoral areas of North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties shifting towards the Crisis phase of food security due to the prolonged dry spell coupled with forecasted long rains which indicates that the frequency of the rains will be less, amounts depressed and poorly distributed across the County.
- The rains received between 27th – 28th March were erratic and the amounts poor which didn’t have any ripple effect on environmental and socio-economic indicators save for some parts of Moyale sub-county (Amballo, Garba, Dabel, Funnyatta and Qalaliwe) where vegetation and water recharge levels of the water pans improved. Other parts of the County remained largely dry.
- Pasture condition is below normal when compared to similar periods. Available pasture is expected to last for the next 2 weeks against the normal 2 months in the agro-pastoral areas whereas in the pastoral areas, pasture is expected to last for the next 1 week against the normal 1 and half months. The onset of the long rains which is expected in the second week of the next month will likely trigger regeneration of pasture across the livelihood zones.
- Terms of trade deteriorated but was above normal when compared to similar periods due to above normal goats’ prices coupled with stable maize prices. With the progression of the prolonged dry spell, terms of trade is expected to gradually decline however will be still above the short term average due to expected no notable change in goat prices and stable maize prices
- 95percent of 110 boreholes in the county are operational while shallow wells yields have significantly declined in addition of drying up of 90 percent of the water pans. Water trucking is expected to increase in the hardly hit areas across the County and some strategic boreholes are likely to break down
- Milk production is expected to decline further but will still be near normal due to prolonged calving that was occasioned by failure of 2017 seasons as breeding period peaked during the short rains whereas milk consumption is likely to plummet further to half a litre per household across the livelihood zones.
- Nutritional status of children below the age of five years will probably deteriorate further due to dip in household milk consumption, reduction of integrated medical outreaches, likely reduction in proportion of households within the acceptable food consumption group and adoption of more irreversible stressed consumption based coping strategies.
- With the forecasted onset of the long rains expected to occur in the 4th week of March to 1st week of April in-addition to projected near normal rainfall with a tendency to above normal, the food security situation will likely deteriorate further for the next 1 and half months.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Procurement and stock piling of fast moving spare parts for strategic water sources. Repair of strategic boreholes, servicing of gensets and rehabilitation of grounded water bowzers. Water trucking in drought hit areas and institutions.
- Stockpiling of vaccines, strategic vaccination, multivitamin, deworming and enhancement of disease surveillance.

- Activation of livestock services to protect core breeding herd (feeds, water, vet services), maintenance of existing market infrastructure and promotion of cultivation and storage of hay in areas where it will be used.
- Enhance screening and referral for malnutrition in all hot spot areas in all livelihood zones with continued active case finding through MUAC screening and referral by CHVs alongside health education on importance of hygiene, water treatment and distribution of WASH supplies.
- Reprioritization of integrated outreach support based on the Community based Surveillance finding to ensure all the hot spot areas are supported to enhance access to emergency nutrition services with continued surveillance through IMAM surge monitoring and support.
- Support vulnerable farmers with assorted DTC certified seeds. Expansion of land under cultivation through subsidized tractor services and fencing of Logologo irrigation farm.