

**National Drought Management Authority**  
**MANDERA COUNTY**  
**DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR MAY 2018**



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



**MAY EW PHASE**



**Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification**

**Biophysical Indicators**

- Rains received in all parts of the County during the first week of month.
- **Vegetation condition;** the current three-month Vegetation Condition index improved compared to last month categorizing the County as Normal vegetation band.
- The browse situation is good in all the sub counties while pasture is fair and improving.

**Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)**

- **Production indicators;** Milk production and consumption are normal and above Long Term Averages .
- Water availability has improved compared to last month
- Livestock prices have increased compared to last month.
- Terms of trade is favourable to pastoral communities
- The livestock body condition for all species is good.
- The utilization indicator is outside the normal range

**Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification**

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral zone	Normal	Stable
Irrigated Cropping zone	Normal	Stable
Pastoral all species	Normal	Stable
County	Normal	Stable
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	0	80 -120
SPI-3Month (TAMSAT)	-0.42	-1.0 to 1.0
VCI-3Month	69.87	>35
Forage condition	fair	Good
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Crop Condition (specify crop)	poor	Good
Livestock Body Condition	Good	good
Milk Production	7.5	>46.0 litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths	No deaths	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	63	>44 kgs
Milk Consumption	6	40.3 litres
Return distance to water sources	1.5	<4 Km
Cost of water at source (20 litres)	3	<5Kshs
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	21.45	<30.0
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	21.28	<0.95

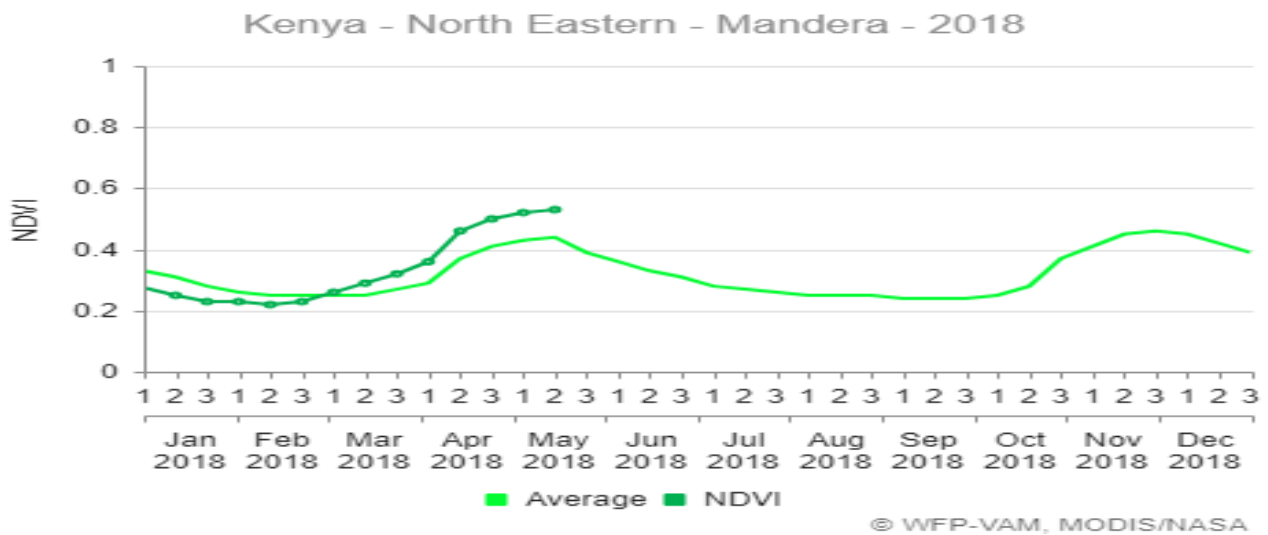
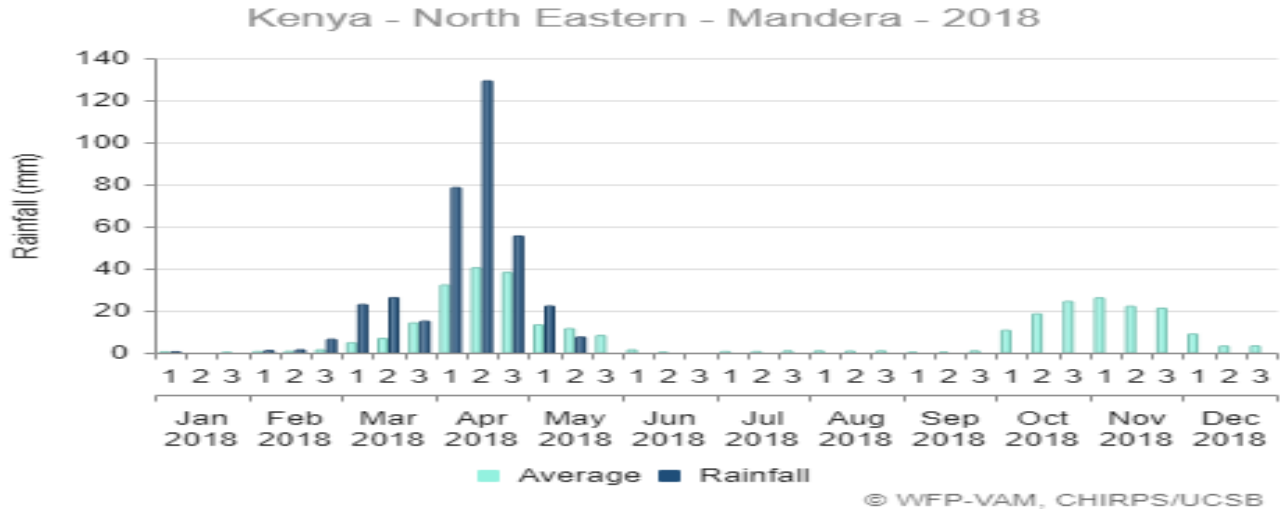
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Short rains harvests</li> <li>▪ Short dry spell</li> <li>▪ Reduced milk yields</li> <li>▪ Increased HH Food Stocks</li> <li>▪ Land preparation</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Planting/Weeding</li> <li>▪ Long rains</li> <li>▪ High Calving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

**Seasonal Calendar**

# 1. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

## 1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- Rains were received in all parts of the County during the month and ceased after that
- This is normal during the time of the year.



## 1.3 Other Events

### 1.3.1 Flooding

- Floods were still reported along river Daua with no farming activities taking place in the farms due to flooding.

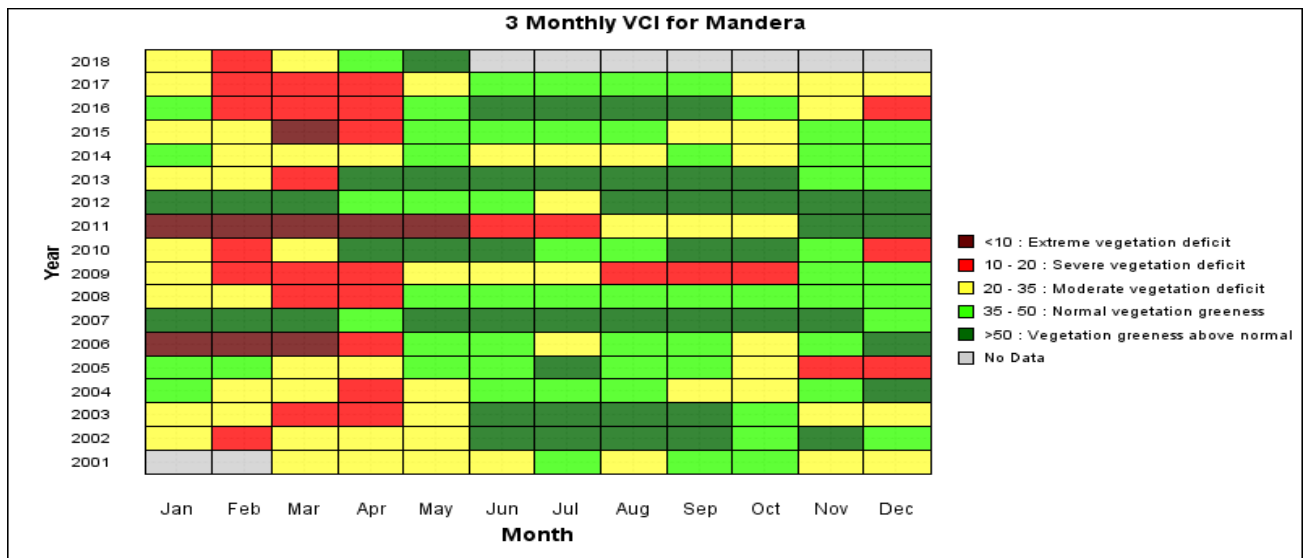
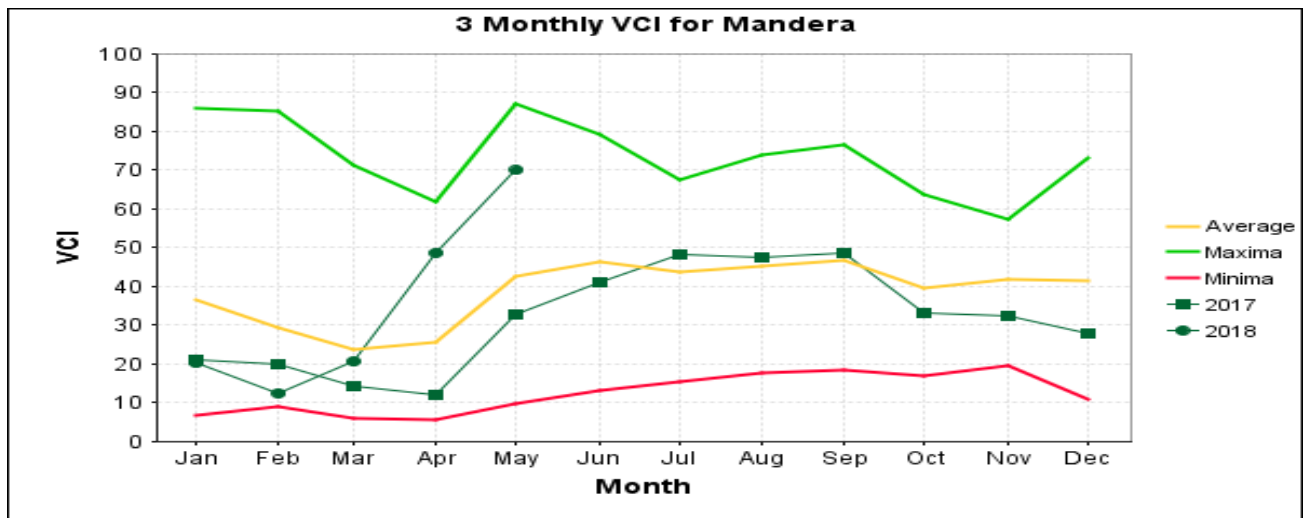
## 2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

### 2.1 AGRICULTURAL DROUGHT

#### 2.1.1 CONDITION INDEX (VCI)

##### Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

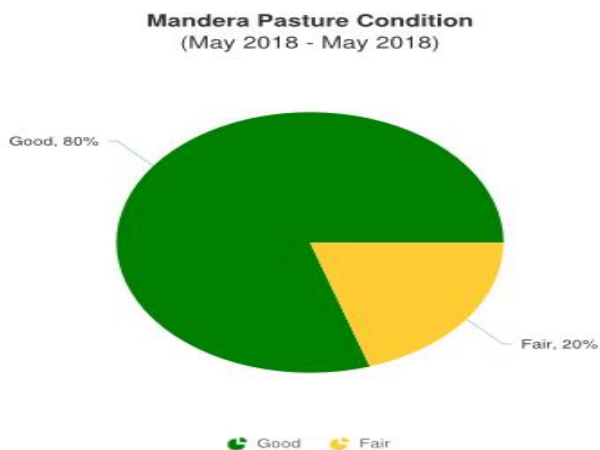
- The current vegetation condition index's in the month of May is 69.87 indicating Normal vegetation greenness bands above normal.
- All sub counties are showing normal vegetation greenness.
- The improvement of VCI was as a result of above normal rains witnessed in all parts of the County which has regenerated the pasture and browse condition in the entire County.
- The situation is expected to improve as the long rains were well distributed across the entire county
- The VCI is above the long-term average and above the same year as shown in the graph below.



**Field Observation:**

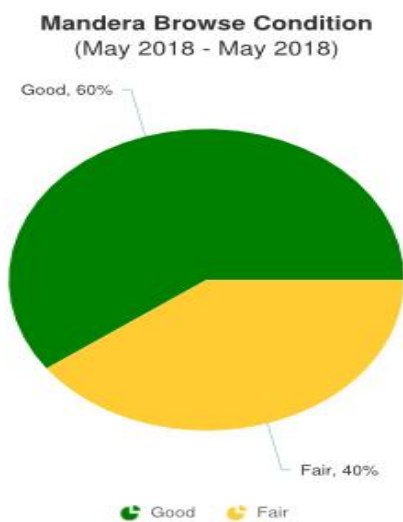
**2.1.2 Pasture:**

- The pasture condition is good in all livelihoods zones of the County due to the heavy rains that were received in the previous months. Both quantity and quality have improved in the month under review.
- This pasture condition is expected to last in the coming three months.



**2.1.3 Browse:**

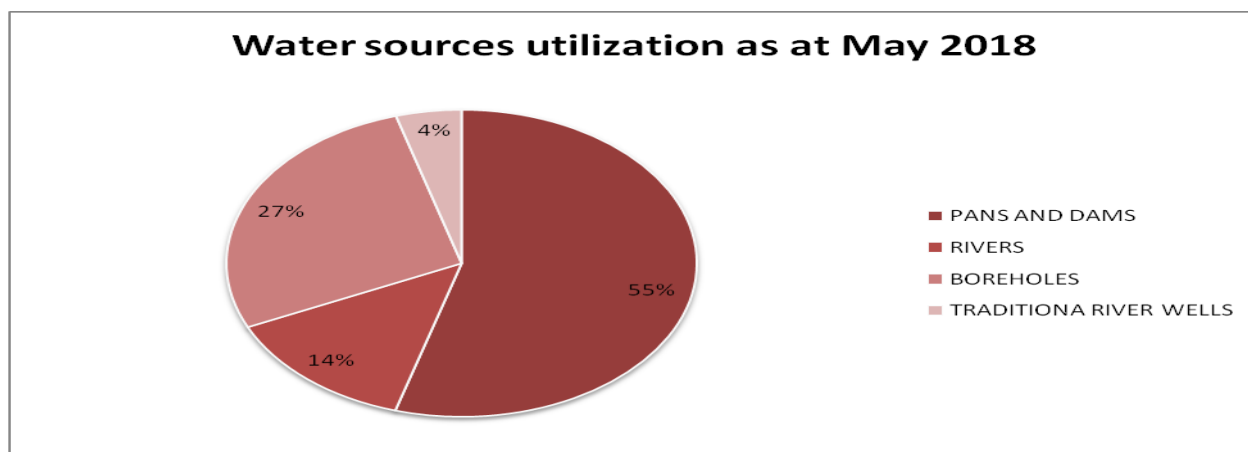
- The browse conditions are good in all parts of the county except Mandera east Sub County that has fair browse conditions.
- When compared to last month, the browse situation is still good



## 2.2 WATER RESOURCE

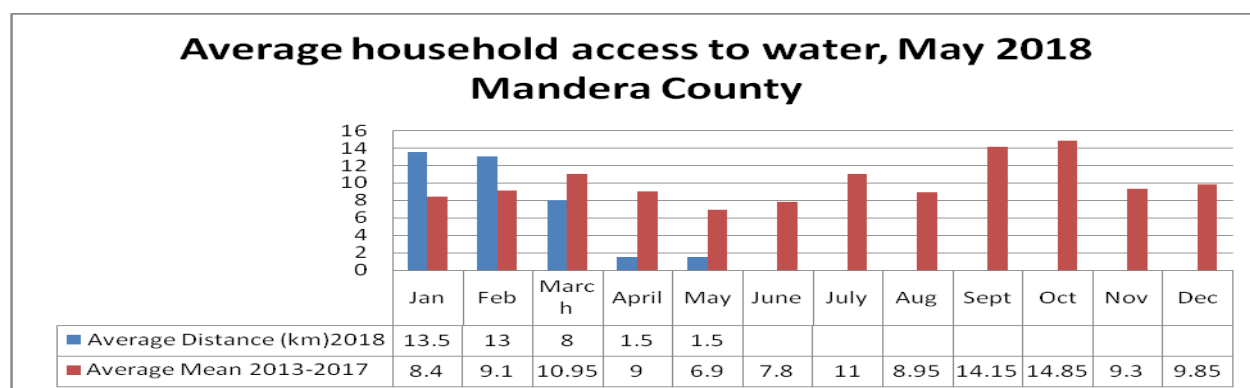
### 2.2.1 Sources

- The current main sources of water in use by both human and livestock's in the county are boreholes, River Daua and water pans.
- Almost 13.6%, of the household are using river while 27.3% use Boreholes and 54.5% relied on earth pans as their main water source.
- Compared to the previous month water source utilization remain stable as water was available across the County



### 2.2.2 Household access and utilization

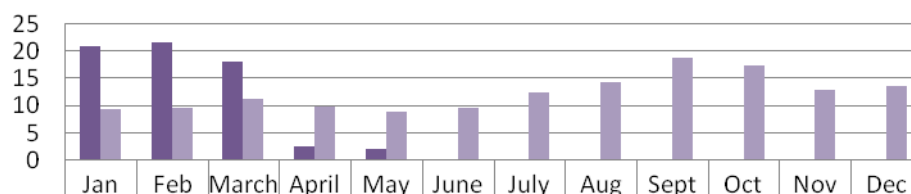
- The average distance to watering sources was recorded at 1.5km as shown in the chart below.
- The current average distance is below normal when compared to long term average. Distance remained stable when compared to previous month.
- The proportion of households currently treating water is significantly very low with only few households mainly in urban centres reported to have used boiling methods.



### 2.2.3 Livestock Access

- The average distance to grazing areas from the main source of water is 2 Km, the average grazing distance decreased by 0.6km when compared to last month and this is due to availability of browse and water in all parts of the County as shown in graph below.
- Agro pastoral livelihood zone recorded the longest average return distance of 1.1km.
- The current distances are above the long-term averages
- The situation is expected to reduce as pasture is expected to regenerate in the coming weeks.

## Average Grazing Distance for Mandera County Vs Long Term Mean as at May 2018



■ 2018	20.9	21.6	18	2.6	2							
■ Average Mean 2013-2017	9.3	9.65	11.2	9.9	8.95	9.5	12.5	14.3	18.75	17.25	12.95	13.45

### 2.3 Implication to food security

- Decrease in distance to grazing areas is expected to improve the body condition of livestock thus enhancing the productivity of the livestock at household level

### 3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

#### 3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

##### 3.1.2 Livestock Body Condition

- The livestock body condition for all species is currently good across all livelihood zones in the County.
- These is attributed to good pasture and browse conditions in all parts of the County.
- The body condition is expected to remain good as pasture and water is available

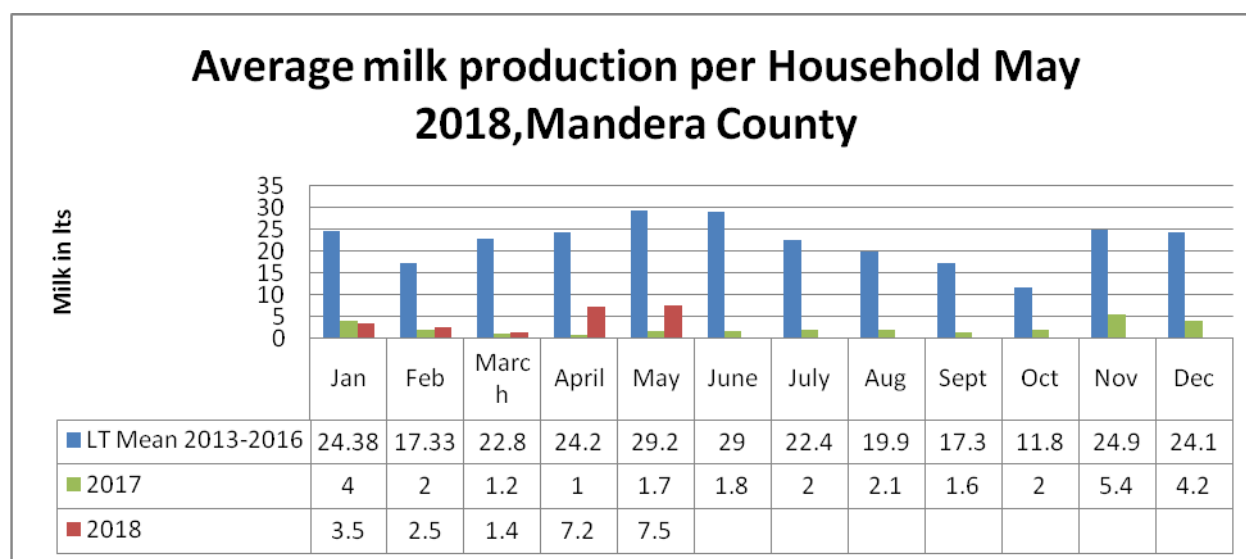
BODY CONDITIONS	SCORE
Emaciated, little muscle left	1
Very thin no fat, bones visible	2
Thin fore ribs visible	3
Borderline fore-ribs not visible. 12 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup> ribs visible	4
Moderate. Neither fat nor thin	5
Good smooth appearance	6
Very Good Smooth with fat over back and tail head	7
Fat, Blocky. Bone over back not visible	8
Very Fat Tail buried in fat	9

##### 3.1.3 Livestock Diseases

- The suspected diseases that are currently reported in the entire county include Contagious Caprine Pleuro-pneumonia (CCPP) in goats, Contagious Bovine Pleuro-pneumonia (CBPP), PPR, Sheep and Goat pox and worms.
- No new outbreaks were reported during the month under review.

##### 3.1.4 Milk Production

- The milk availability for all livestock species (camel, goat, cattle) at household levels in all the livelihood zones was stable during the month.
- Average milk production per household is currently about 7.5 liters. When compared to last month, the average milk productions stable and this is associated to plenty of browse and pasture conditions in all parts of the County.
- Agro pastoral zone reported highest milk production followed by Pastoral all species and irrigated cropping zone respectively. The milk production is below the long-term average.



## **3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION.**

### **3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops**

- In irrigated cropping zone: Farms are largely submerged with water bringing farming activities to standstill. Approximately over 4000 acres of farm land were affected by floods
- Assorted food crop and horticultural crops has been destroyed which were at harvesting stage
- In Agro pastoral zone no crops were not planted as farms are also water logged.

## **3.3 IMPLICATION OF THE ABOVE INDICATORS TO FOOD SECURITY.**

Floods destroyed crops along River Daua and washed away farm implements. These will affect negatively on food security of the households in the Irrigated Livelihood zone.

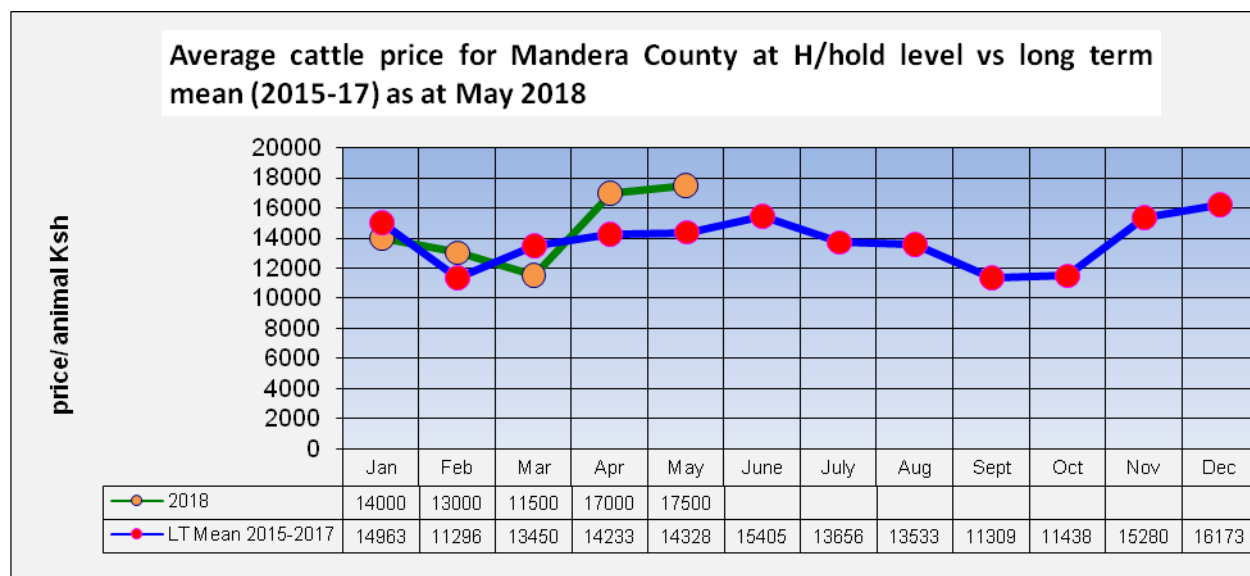


## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

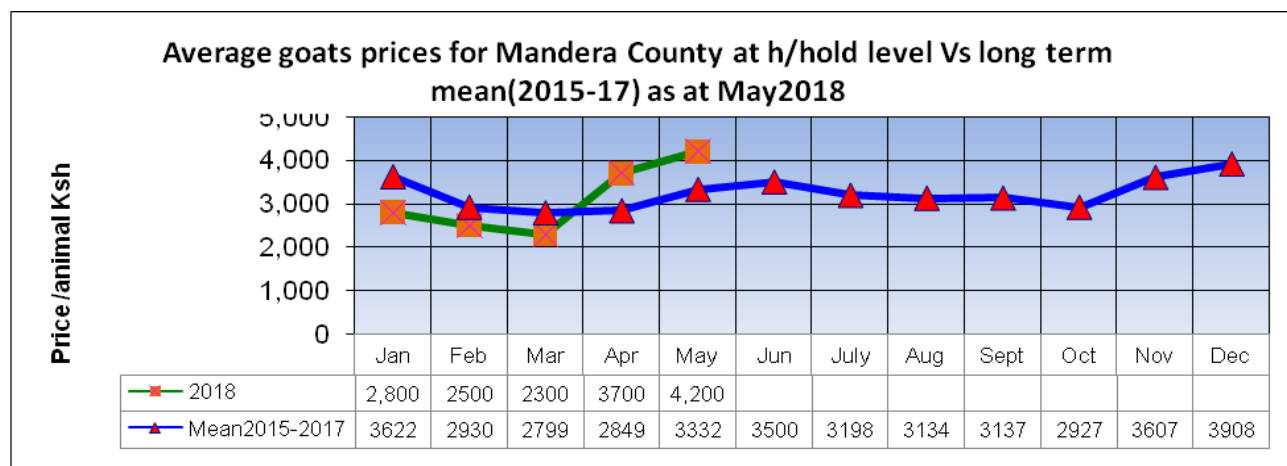
#### 4.1.1 Cattle Prices

- Average cattle price increased from Ksh 17,000/= in April to 17,500Ksh /= in the month of May 2018. The increased price is due to good of body condition and closure of markets in Ethiopia cross border.
- When compared to the long-term mean, the average price is above the expected normal range as shown below.

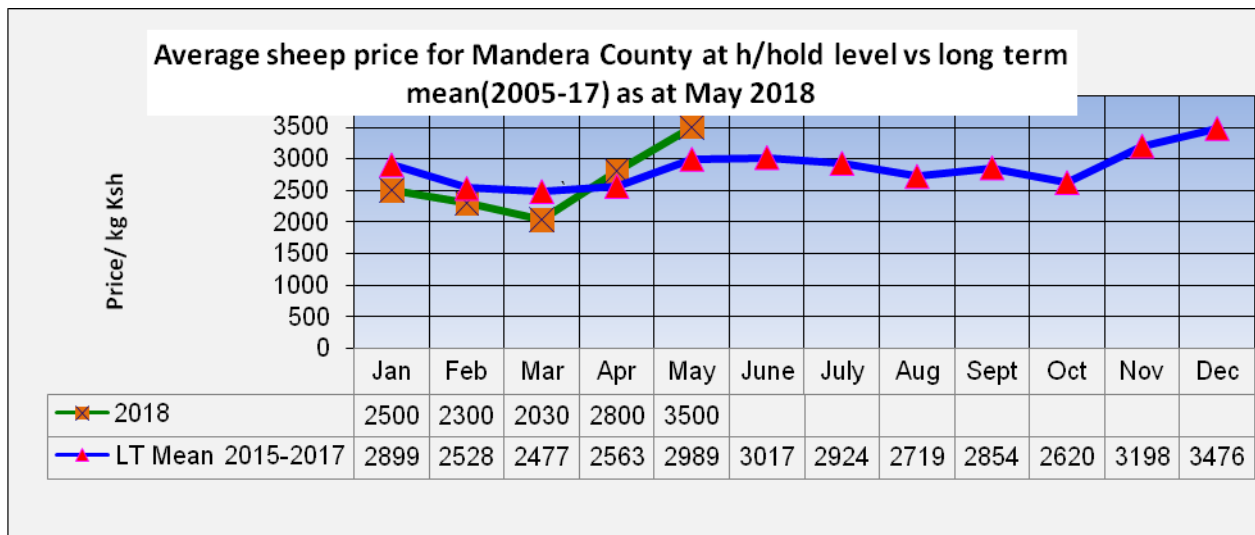


#### 4.1.2 Goat Prices

- Average goat price increased from Ksh 3,700/= in April to Ksh 4200 /= in May 2018. The increase in price is due to good body condition and market demand.
- Compared to the long-term mean (2015-2017), the average price was above the normal

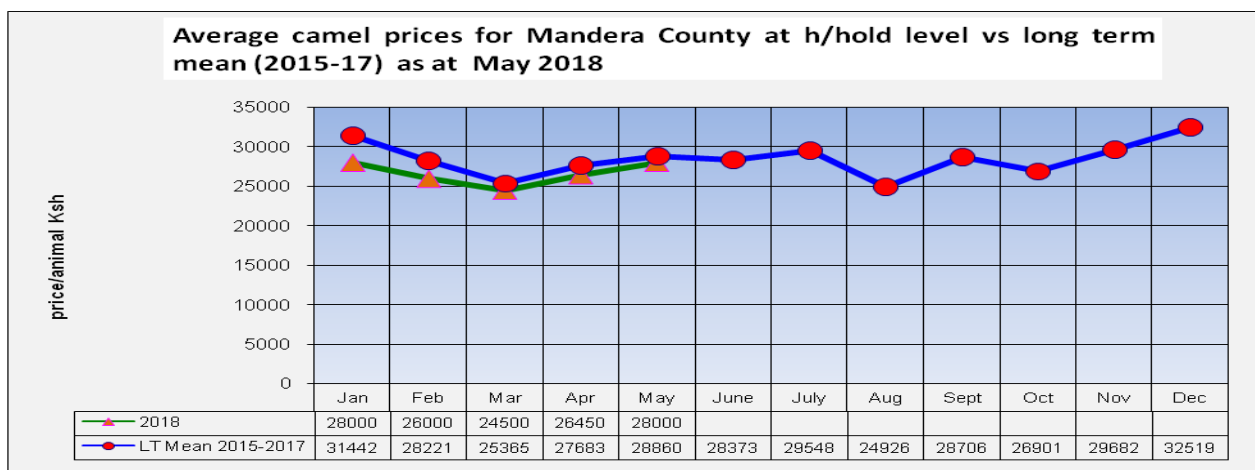


- Average sheep price increased from Ksh2, 800/= in April to Ksh.3500 /= in the month of May 2018.
- The current average sheep price is above the long-term mean.
- The highest average prices were noted in Agro pastoral zone followed by Pastoral all species zone and irrigated cropping zone respectively.



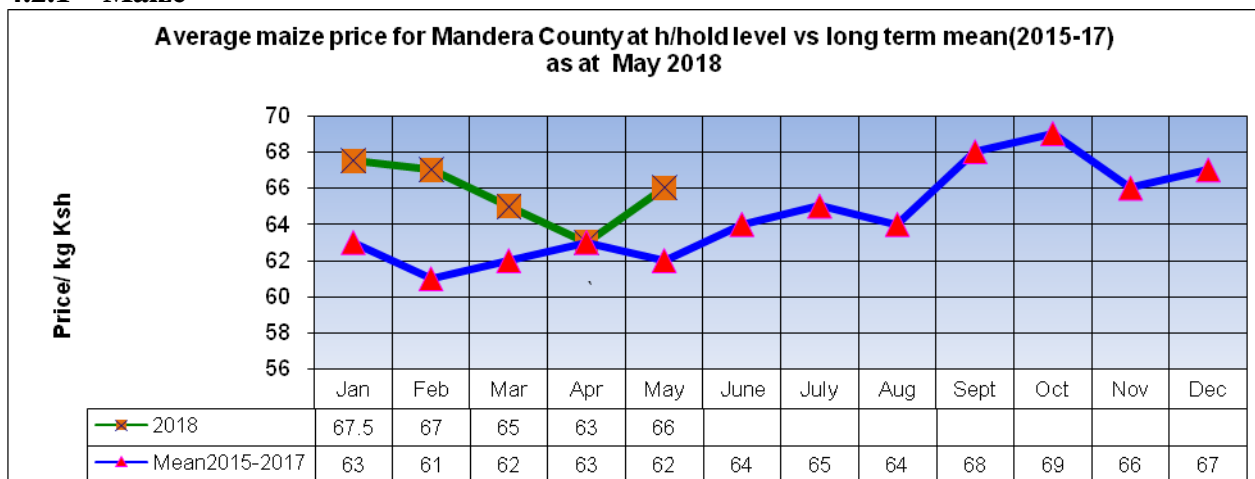
### 4.1.3 Camel Prices

- The average camel price during the month of May 2018 is Ksh28, 000/= when compared to last month the average price has increased and these is attributed to regeneration of body condition ad availability of water, browse and pasture.
- The average camel price was below the normal range as shown in the table below



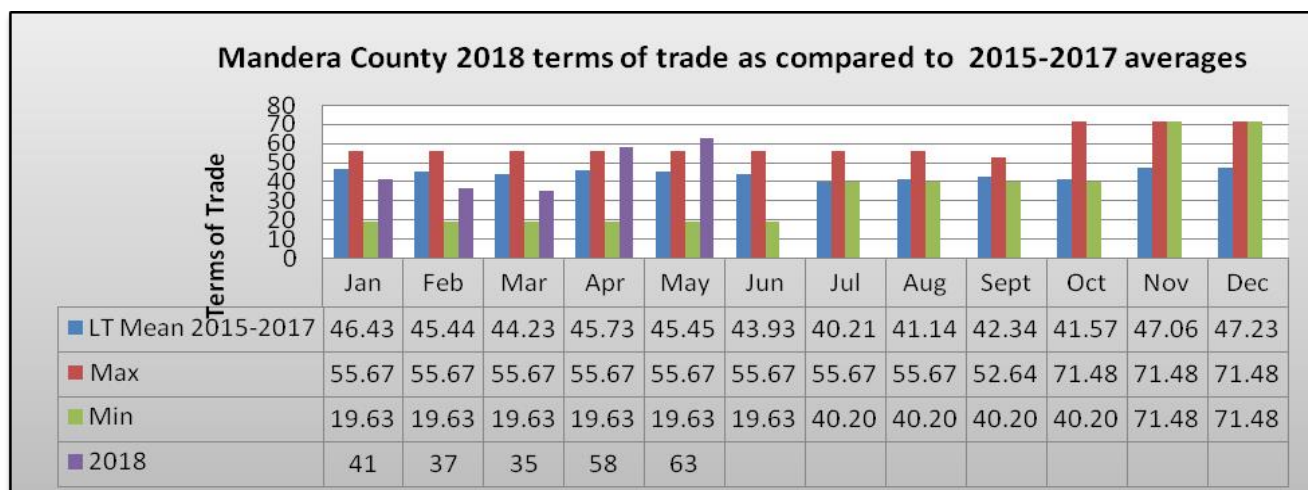
## 4.2 CROP PRICES

### 4.2.1 Maize



- The average maize price during the month of May 2018 was Ksh.66 per kg.
- Compared to the previous month, the average price increased by 3ksh.
- When compared to the long term mean price, the average price was higher than the long term means

### 4.3 Livestock Price Ratio/Terms of Trade



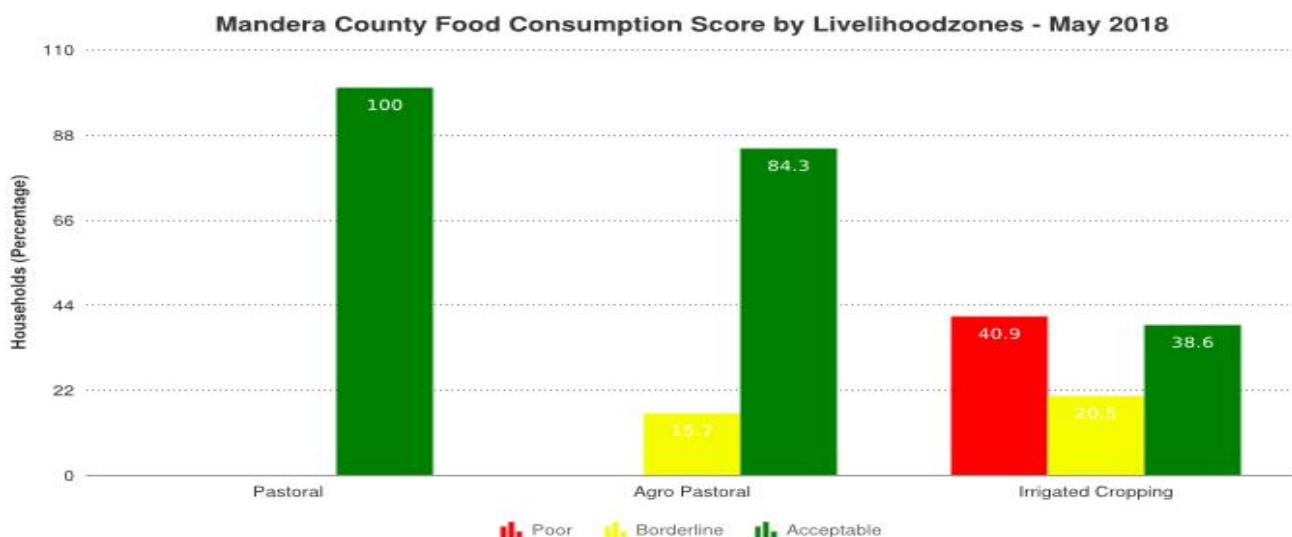
- Currently a household can purchase 63 Kilogram of maize by selling one medium goat.
- The Terms of trade has improved when compared to last month which was 58, this is attributed to the increase in goat price.
- The terms of trade are favourable to pastoral communities when compared to long term average. The current ToT is higher than the long-term average for May by 18 percent.
- The price of goat is likely to increase as the body condition is expected to improve due to regeneration of browse.
- The markets across the County continued to function normally with no cases of reported disruptions although Ethiopia market was closed and no animals are coming from that side
- Border dispute affected trade
- Ethiopian /Somalia conflict/insecurity affected livestock market.

### 4.4 implication of above indicator to Food Security

- Increased livestock prices coupled with normal cereal prices impact positively on pastoral return and increasing the purchasing power of pastoralist.
- Easy availability and accessibility of house food commodity to the market due to more supply has been reported.

## 5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

- The proportion of households with a poor food consumption score was 6 percent in May, compared to 3.3 percent recorded in the previous month. The proportion in the borderline category also decreased from 8.7 percent to 7 percent in May 2018 while those in the acceptable zone decreased from 53 percent to 40 percent.
- The proportion of households with acceptable food consumption score for Irrigated livelihood zone and Pastoral livelihood zone was over 50 percent in all households. This implies that majority of households were consuming staples and vegetables every day, frequently accompanied by oil and pulses and occasionally meat.
- The food consumption situation at livelihood zone level is shown in the graph below:

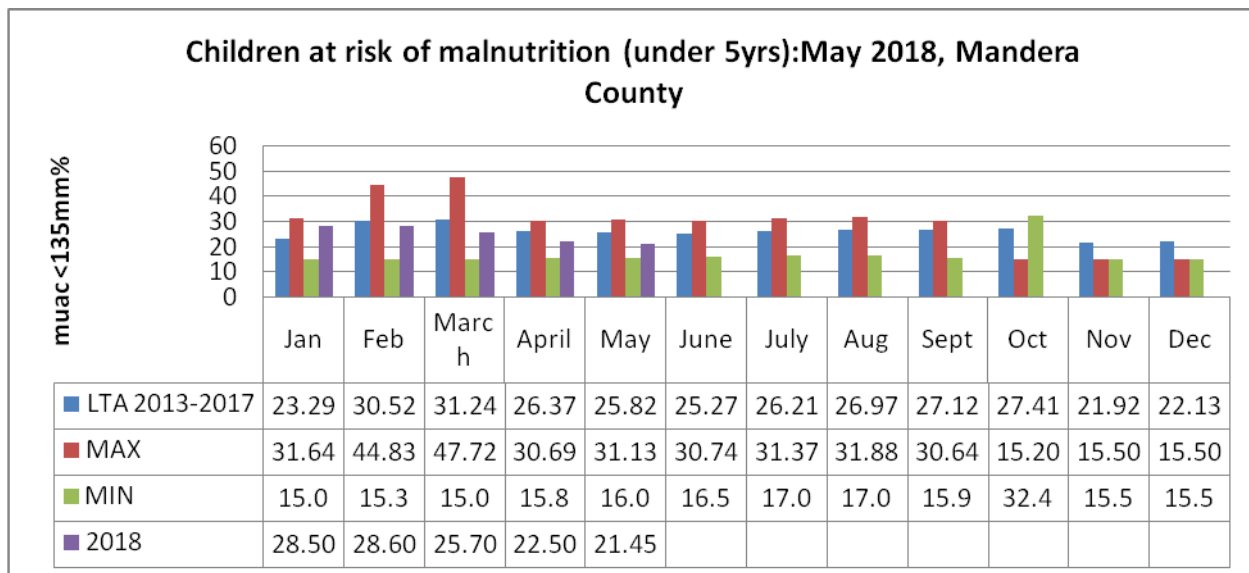


### 5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- The total number of litres consumed was 6 litres while total produced was 7.5litres on average for all the sampled sentinel sites. The average milk price was Ksh 80 per 750 ml bottle during the reporting month.

### 5.2 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

- The percentage of children (<5yrs) at mid-risk category for 125mm to 134mm during the month of May was 21.45%. The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition in Mandera has improved and the currently MUAC rate is 21.45 percent higher than what would be normally expected at this time of the year when compared to last month the MUAC rate decrease by 1.05%.
- The high levels of malnutrition cases are attributed to below normal milk production, Poor dietary diversity, poor child feeding practices, poor caring and poor feeding practices.
- Shimbir fatuma sentinel site in Agro pastoral livelihood zones recorded the highest percentage of malnourished children.
- An indication shows that areas with the lowest percentage of malnourished children is Banisa sub county and Mandera North

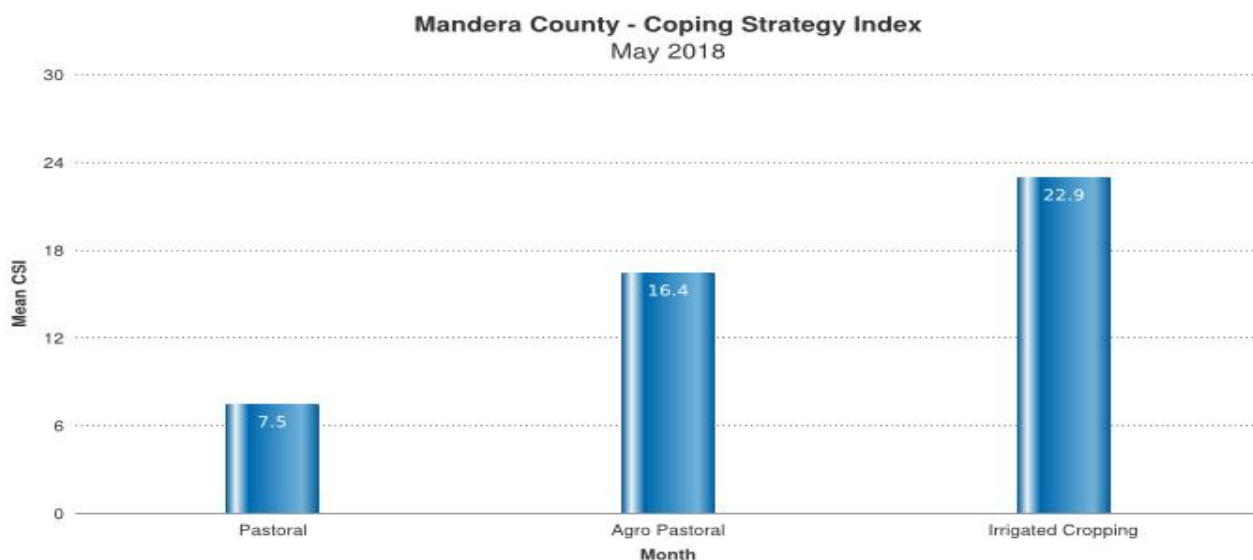


### 5.3.2 Health

- Cases of Dengue Fever and Diarrhoea are still reported in Mandera town during the month under review.

### 5.4 COPING STRATEGIES

- The mean coping strategy index (CSI) for the month increased from 17.01 in April compared to 16.8 in May .
- This implies that households in all the livelihood zones employed slightly less coping strategies compared to previous month.
- The indices at livelihood zone level are shown in the graph below:



The main coping strategies used by communities include-

- HSNP regular beneficiaries receiving by monthly payment for 22231 households.
- Migration to other livelihood zones that have better browse and water
- Food and nutrition support services offered by various actors
- Purchasing basic food items on credit from local shops.

- Borrowing and receiving of gifts from neighbours.
- Engaging in casual labour to support families
- Financial aid and remittances from relatives working in and outside the County
- charcoal burning and cutting wood materials for sale.
- borrowing from friends and relatives
- consumption of less preferred and cheaper foods,
- reduction in the number and sizes of meals,
- skipping of meals
- sale of livestock

## **6. CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)**

### **6.1 NON-FOOD INTERVENTIONS - NOTE THE FOLLOWING**

- Hunger Safety Net Programme provides regular payment of Ksh5,400/= bi-monthly to 22231 beneficiaries in order to build households resilience and to help mitigate the shocks of the drought
- Health and nutrition outreach in 116 sites in Mandera west, south and Banisa Sub counties.

### **6.2 FOOD AID - NOTE THE FOLLOWING**

- FFA food distributed to 41500 beneficiaries for month of May 2018 is ongoing
- Blanket supplementary feeding programme cycle 6 is ongoing distributed by COCOP and Save the Children in the entire County.

## **7.0 EMERGING ISSUES**

### **7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement**

- Over seven thousand households have been displaced due to the floods in the entire county.

### **7.2 Migration**

- No in and out migration was reported in the County during the month under review.

### **7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS**

- The current food security situation in the County is at minimal phase for Pastoral and Agro pastoral livelihood zones while in Irrigated livelihood zone is at stressed phase. water availability, accessibility, pasture and browse situations has improved in the pastoral and Agro pastoral livelihood zones. The body condition of livestock is currently good thus increasing milk consumption and production and reducing malnutrition rates at household level. Farms along the irrigated cropping zone are water logged and no farming activity is taking place

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Construction of dykes and other floods control measures along the riverine
- Food aid to beneficiaries affected by the floods
- Construction of toilets to beneficiaries affected by floods
- Mass deworming and treatment of livestock county wide.
- Disbursement of Drought Contingency funds for resilience activities.
- Capacity building and training of communities on Disaster Risk Reduction and drought cycle management.
- Scale up of health and nutrition outreach programme for settlement without facilities
- Increase mass screening of under five children.
- Provide essential drugs to all health facilities particularly newly operationalised facilities
- Fast truck nutritional commodities supplies to avoid IMAM programme defaulters.