

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



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



EW PHASE: ALARM



Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Alarm	Deteriorating
Pastoral All species	Alarm	Deteriorating
Fisherfolk/ Casual labour /Petty Trading	Alarm	Deteriorating
County	Alarm	Deteriorating
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	52	80 -120
VCI-3Month	28.25	>35
Forage condition	Fair-Poor	Good
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Fair	Good
Milk Production	0.75	>1.8Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Unusual	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	Death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	70	>80
Milk Consumption	0.5	>1.2Litre
Return distance to water	10.8	0.0-3.7Km
Cost of water	0-5	<Ksh.5
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	19.5	0.0-19.3
Coping Strategy Index	18.76	<20
Food Consumption score	34.35	>35

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

Rainfall: Offseason rains were received in few pockets across the County. Offseason rains were poorly distributed both temporally and spatially.

Vegetation condition: The 3-months Vegetation Condition Index for the month of August was 28.25 thus fell in the moderate vegetation deficit strap and when compared to similar periods was below normal. Forage condition was fair-poor across the livelihood zones.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production indicators: Livestock body condition was fair-poor for small stock and cattle while camels exhibited good-fair body condition across all livelihood zones. Milk production was 0.75Litres/household/day which was below normal. Livestock deaths were reported in few pockets due to drought. Intense livestock migration was witnessed across the County.

Access indicators: Household and livestock trekking distances to water sources more than doubled and 99percent of open water sources dried up. Milk consumption was 0.5Litres/household/day and below normal when compared to similar periods. Terms of trade was below normal due to declining goat prices and stable maize prices. Livestock market operations didn't function normally due to low traded volumes and livestock prices especially for cattle which posted low market prices.

Utilization indicators: Nutritional status of children below the age of five years were above the normal threshold. Food consumption score was in the borderline band across all the livelihood zones while 60percent of the households employed stressed reduced food consumption based coping strategies and the severity expected to increase with the severe drought.

<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
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Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

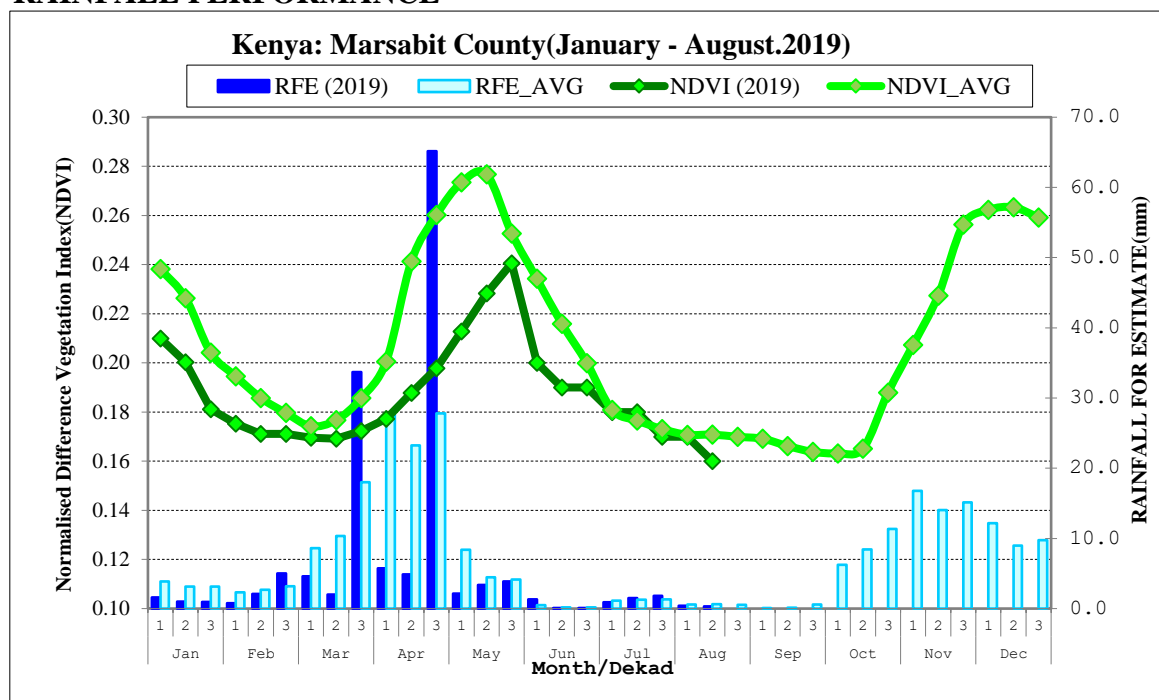


Figure 1: Dekadal Rainfall(mm) and NDVI values compared to the Long Term Average

Source: WFP-VAM, CHIRPS/MODIS

- From the figure 1 shown above, dekadal rainfall for estimate amounts for the first and second dekads were normal when compared to corresponding long term dekadal averages.
- Normalized Difference Vegetation Index(NDVI) for the first dekad was normal while below normal when compared to respective dekadal long term NDVI values.

1.2 Amounts received

- During the month under review, off-season rains were received in a few pockets across the County. Moyale rainfall station recorded 6.8mm in 2 rainy days whereas Marsabit Mountain exhibited traced rainfall amounts of 2.1 mm in one rainy day. Northwest parts of North Horr, Northern parts of Laisamis and Northwest parts of Moyale sub-counties also received some off-season rains in the month under review.

1.3 Spatial and temporal distribution

- Distribution of off-season rains was poor both temporally and spatially characterized by showers in few pockets across the County. In Moyale sub-county (Sololo, Elledimtu, Rawana and Moyale Township) received some showers in 2 rainy days. Moite, Sarimo, Loyangalani and Mt.Kulal in Laisamis sub-county received slightly good showers in 2 rainy days while in North Horr sub-county rainfall was received in Qorqa, Illeret, Sibilo, Balesaru and Bulluk in 2-3 rainy days which were also slightly enhanced while Marsabit Central in Saku sub-county received traced rainfall amounts in only one rainy day while other parts of the sub-county didn't receive any rains.
- Nevertheless, most parts of the County didn't receive rains in the month under review hence largely remained dry. When compared based on the livelihood zones, pastoral areas of North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties received better rains than the agro-pastoral areas of Moyale sub-county. Pastoral areas of Moyale and Saku sub-counties didn't receive any rainfall in the month under review.

1.5 CUMULATIVE RAINFALL AMOUNTS

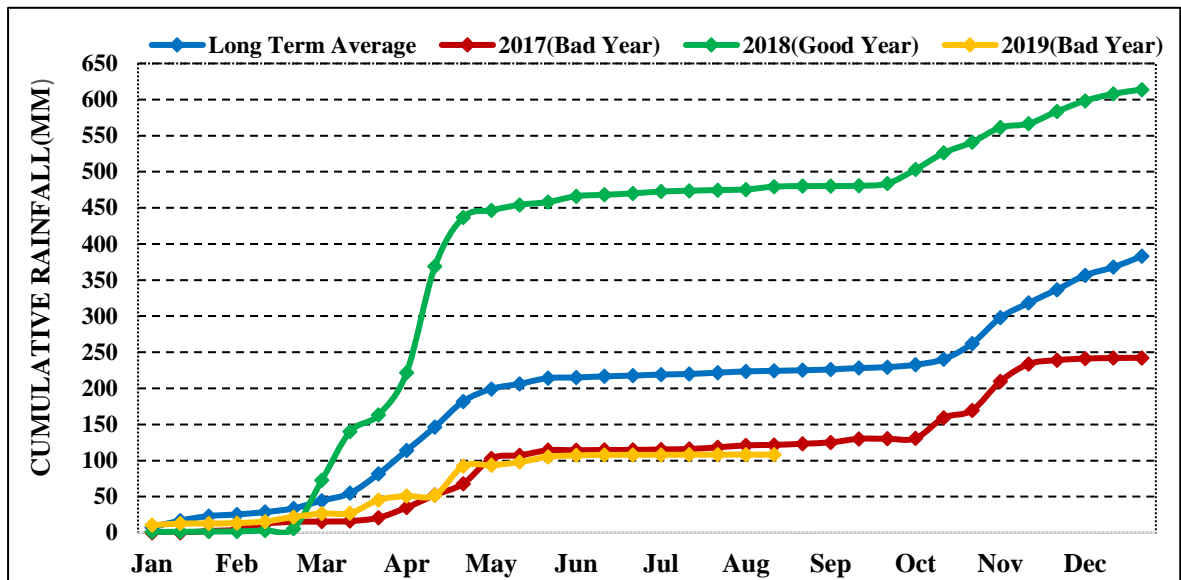


Figure 2: Marsabit County Cumulative Rainfall Amounts(mm)

- From the figure (2) shown above, current cumulative rains are 52percent of the long term cumulative rains. The current cumulative rainfall amounts are similar to the cumulative rains of 2017 which was a bad year hence an illustration of cumulative rainfall deficits.
- As the long dry spell and drier than average rainfall conditions expected to continue, cumulative rainfall amounts are expected to stagnate until onset of the short rains in the expected in the third dekad of October.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

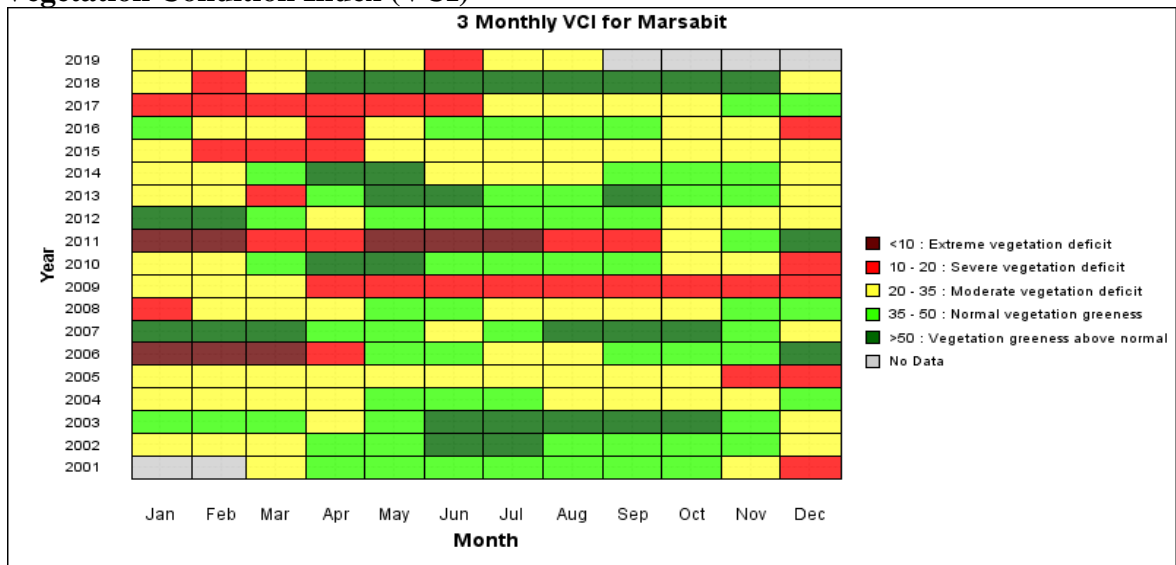


Figure 3: Vegetation Condition Index Across the County

- From the matrix shown above, the 3-months vegetation index for the month under review was 28.25 thus fell in the moderate vegetation deficit strap and with expected rise in the land surface temperatures, next month is expected to be drier than normal thus a livelihood shifts to the severe vegetation deficit strap in the next one month. Off-season rains received in a few isolated areas especially in the North-western part of North Horr sub-county and Northern Laisamis had a paltry effect on vegetation cover.

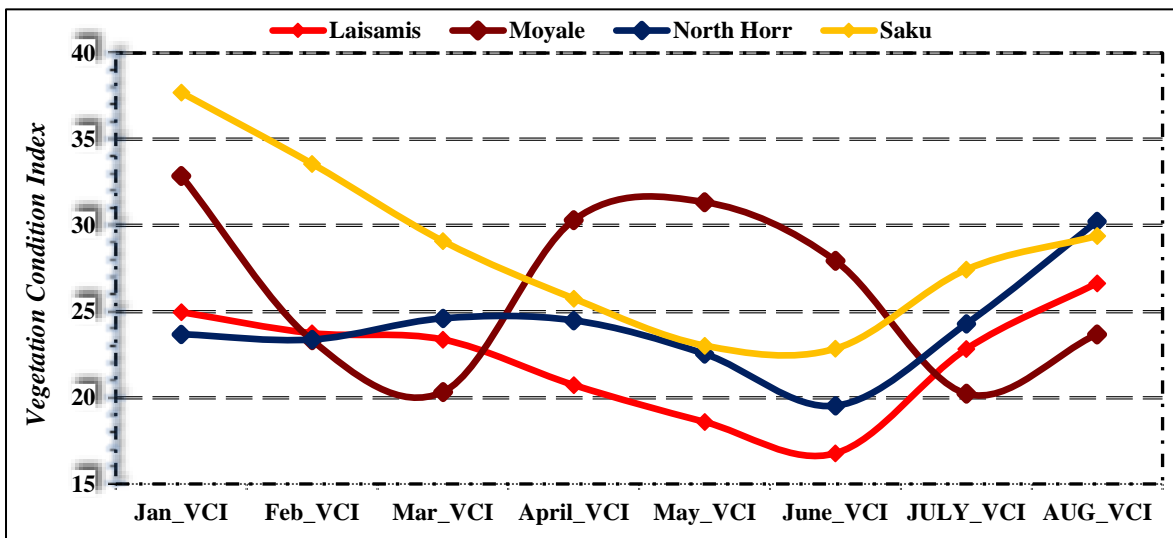


Figure 4: Vegetation Condition Index across sub-counties

- From figure (4) shown above, North Horr and Saku sub-counties revealed slightly better vegetation condition index than Laisamis and Moyale sub-counties but no meaningful improvement was noted when compared to the previous months' vegetation condition index.
- North Horr, Saku, Laisamis and Moyale sub-counties posted a 3-months vegetation condition index of 30.24, 29.39, 26.65 and 23.69 correspondingly hence stagnated in the moderate vegetation deficit band when compared to the previous month.
- Moderate vegetation deficit was attributed cumulative rainfall shortfalls which had negative causality on vegetation cover thus not sufficiently invigorating forage condition in all livelihood zones.

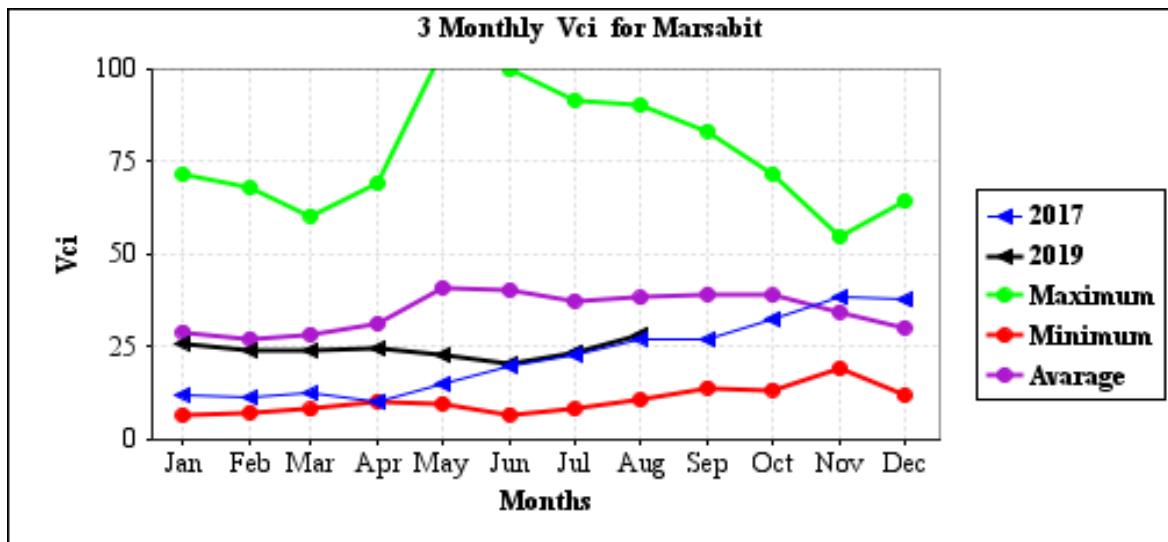


Figure 5: Vegetation Condition Index Trends across the County

- The figure shown above compares August 2019 vegetation condition index to August 2018, long term average and also illustrates maximum and minimum VCI values ever recorded.
- From the figure shown above, vegetation condition index for the month under review was noticeably below August 2018 VCI value which was at an all-time high. When compared to the long term average, the current vegetation condition index was below normal for seven successive months. If the long dry spell progresses, vegetation condition index will significantly decline and slide to the severe vegetation deficit band in the next one month.

2.1.2 Pasture

- Pasture is currently depleted in all the wet season grazing areas in pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones except for a few areas which are traditionally dry season grazing.
- However, pasture was fair in the pastoral areas of Mt.Kulal in Laisamis sub-county, Sarimo, Bulluk, Balesaru , Darade, Sabare, Matalama, Araptis and Huri-Hills in North Horr sub-county , few pockets of Sololo and Uran wards in Moyale sub-county. Available pasture in the aforesaid areas were prompted by light showers that were received in August.
- Resource based conflicts hindered access to good pasture in the above mentioned dry season grazing areas. Total crop failure was witnessed in the agro pastoral livelihood zones thus no existence of crop residues as part of livestock feeds. Off-season rains received in few pockets across the livelihood zones didn't have meaningful impact on pasture generation.
- Where pasture is available, it will last for the next one month against the normal two months attributed to cumulative rainfall shortfalls and intense livestock migration. Furthermore, as livestock migration intensifies pasture will be depleted in the dry season grazing areas and likelihood occurrence of resource based conflicts.

2.1.3 Browse

- Browse condition was fair in most parts of Moyale, Laisamis and Saku sub-counties with exception of North Horr sub-county which had generally poor browse. Off-season rains received in few pockets across the County didn't enhance browse regeneration.
- Emergence of herbaceous vegetation across the County especially calotropis procera coupled with bush encroachment.
- Quality and quantity of browse is fair against good during similar periods. Browse is expected to last for the next one and half months against the normal 3months in the agro-pastoral areas whereas in the pastoral livelihood zone browse is expected to last for the next one month against the normal of 3months.

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

2.2.1 Sources

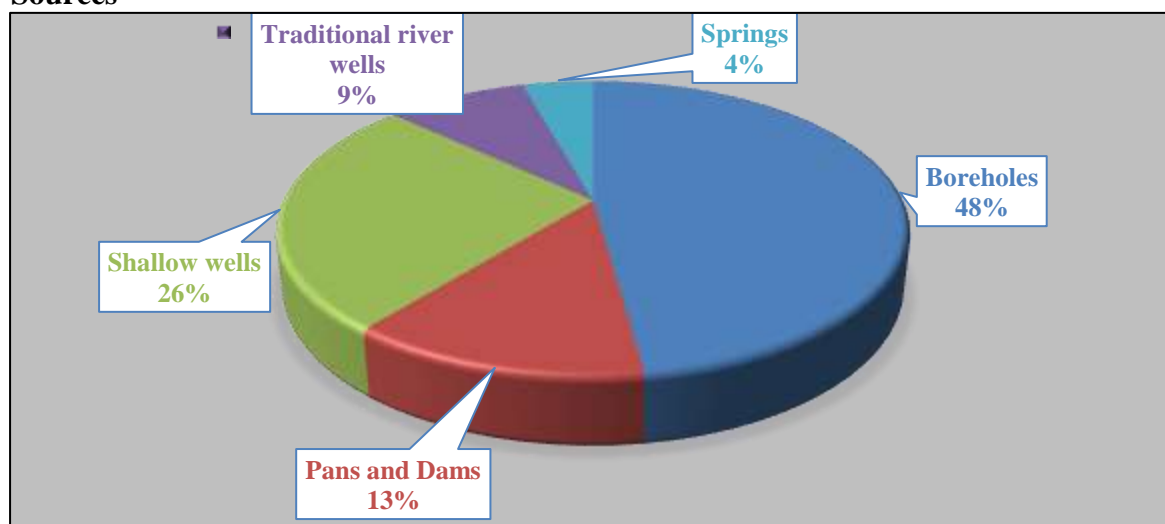


Figure 6: Major water sources across the livelihood zones

- From figure 6 shown above, borehole was the major water source employed by the majority of households across the livelihood zones at 48percent which is unusual when compared to similar periods. At this time of the year, water pan is usually the main source of water.
- Other water sources utilized by the communities were shallow wells, water pans, traditional river wells and springs at 26percent, 13percent, 9percent and 4percent respectively.

- 99percent of open water sources have dried up and 20percent of the remaining shallow wells are expected to last for only one and half months due to high evapotranspiration rate and intense livestock migration. Water trucking is currently ongoing in areas illustrated in the table below.

Sub-County	Areas Water trucking being undertaken
Moyale	Illadu,Mayie,Kukub,Aria,Damballafachana,Adadi Odda, Bori Junction,, Funannyata, Godhe, Antut,Laqi, Osmole,Funanqumbi,Ellebor, Elledimtu, GadaKorma, Somare
Laisamis	Namarei,Lekuchula,Lependera and Kambinye
North Horr	North Horr Ward (Kob Dertu,Malabot/Gorich), MaikonaWard(Kalesa,Yaa Sharbana,Qatamur), DukanaWard(Elhadi) ,Turbi/Bubisa Ward(Tigo Area).
Saku	Sagante/Jaldesa Ward-Boru Haro, Gar Qarsa, Qachacha,Manyatta Jillo,Jillo Schemes,Wario Duba,Kubi Dibayu,Galgallo Halake,Golole 1,Golole 2,Huka Adhi,Kukub Tiro,Dub Goba,Wario Guyo,Malka Lakole, Kubibagasa

2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

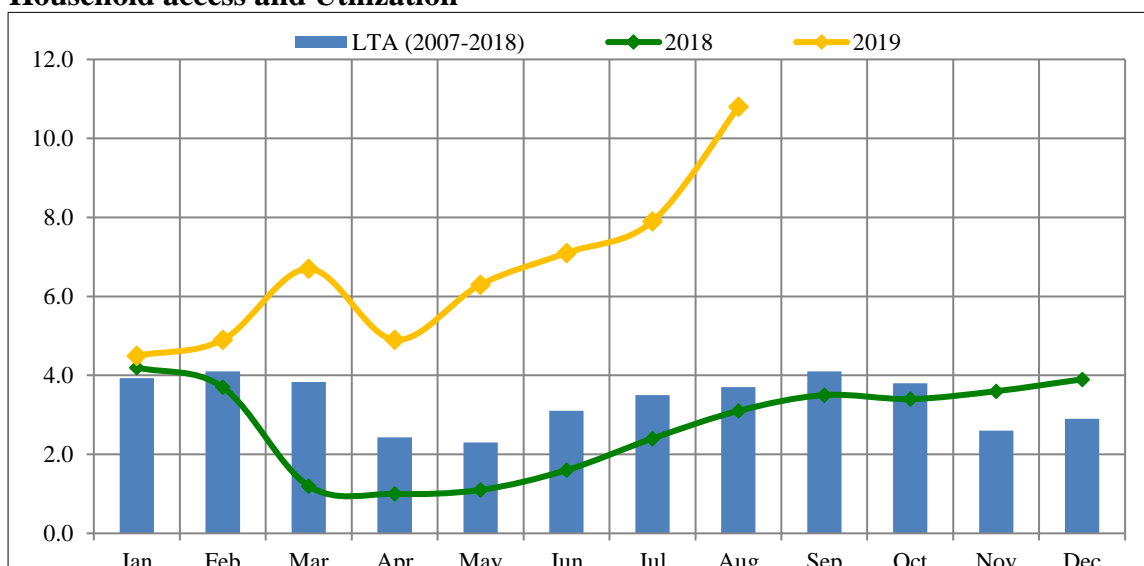


Figure 7: Current household return water distance(km) compared to Long Term Average distances(km)

- From (Figure 7) shown above, return household water distances to the main water sources was 10.8km in the month under review which depicted significant increase when compared to preceding months' household water distances of 7.9km.
- When compared to similar periods, the current household water distance has more than doubled the normal threshold.
- However, in the pastoral areas of North Horr sub-county (Hurri Hills, Tuluqarsa,Diid Golla, Kubiadhi, Garwole, Arara, Malabot, Kalesa, Qatamur, Anchacha, Tigo,Shankuru, Tigo), Moyale sub-county (Golla, Guyotimo, Basil, Elledimtu, Qolob, Antut, Adadi, Mayie, Kukub, Illadu, Mansille, Rawana, Misa, Qate); Laisamis sub-county (Lependera, Civicon, Namarei, Lekuchula, Kambinye) in Laisamis sub-county where households trekked for more than 17km in search of water.
- Current waiting time in the agro-pastoral was 60mins against the normal of 30 minutes. In the pastoral areas, waiting time was 60-90 minutes against the normal 45 minutes.
- The cost of water was sold at Ksh.3-5 per 20 litres across the livelihood zones compared to the normal price of Kshs.2-5 per 20 litre jerrican. Cost of water was high in Marsabit Central and Moyale Township where vendors sold water at Ksh.40-50 per 20 litre jerrican.

- The average water consumption across the livelihood zones was 5litres per person per day against the normal 15-20 litres per person per day.

2.2.3 Livestock access

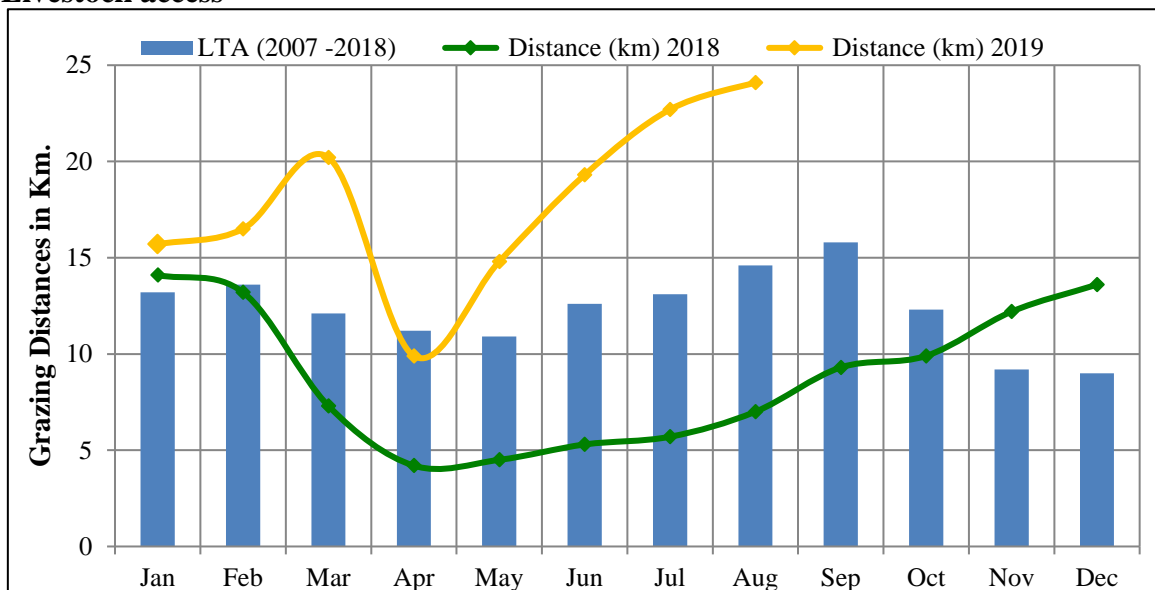


Figure 8: Current livestock trekking distances compared to long term average trekking distances(km)

- From (Figure 8) shown above, return livestock trekking distance from grazing areas to water points is 24.1km across the livelihood zones.
- When compared to the previous months' livestock trekking distances of 22.7km, there was increased livestock trekking distances from grazing areas to water points due to progression of the long dry spell.
- Current livestock return trekking distance of 24.1km is above normal by 65percent when compared to the long term average trekking distances of 14.6km.
- The return livestock distances are likely to increase further due to drying up of water sources and pasture depletion in most parts of the County. Longer livestock trekking distances were noted in North Horr sub-county with other areas especially in Maikona, Turbi/Bubisa and North Horr wards posting longer trekking distances greater than 50km. The water points on Dukana/Illet border not accessible due to insecurity.
- Watering frequencies significantly reduced as a result of increased livestock trekking distances in most parts of the County. Currently, cattle are watered after every 3 days against the normal 1-2 days; small stock 4 days against the normal 1-2 days and camels after 10-12days against the normal 4days across all livelihood zones.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Across the livelihood zones, the body condition of cattle was fair to poor against the normal good body condition. However, majority of cattle concentrated around Elledimtu, Lafen, and Ellebor posted good-fair body condition. In North Horr sub-county, cattle around Hurri Hills and Buraraat; Laisamis sub-county (Mt.Kulal, Logologo and Civicon) also revealed good-fair body condition.
- The body condition of goats was fair-poor across all livelihood zones with exception of the agro-pastoral areas of Moyale sub-county which exhibited fair body condition. The body condition of sheep was across all the livelihood zone was also poor and it's expected to be emaciated in the next 1 month if the long dry spell continues. In pockets of Balesa and Gas

in North Horr and Korr in Laisamis sub-county small stocks exhibited emaciated body condition. Most livestock in dry season fall back areas are still having good body condition.

- Camel were in good to fair body condition across all the livelihood zones against the normal good body condition mainly attributed to lack of pasture and browse, increased trekking distance to pasture and water points and insecurity along the Kenya/Ethiopia border.
- The body condition for all species is expected to deteriorate further in the next 1month as pasture and browse gets depleted, quality and quantity of forage diminishes, unusual reduction in livestock watering frequencies and more than double the normal livestock trekking distances.

3.1.2 Livestock Migration

- Livestock migratory routes were unusual in dry grazing areas across all the livelihood zones. In the month under review, 95percent, 90percent and 80percent of cattle, small stock and camel respectively migrated to abnormal dry season grazing areas.
- In North-Horr sub-county livestock have migrated towards Bulluk, Sarimo, Darade, Sabare, Balesaru, Burrarat, Shurr, Hawaye, Lalesa, Alaftisi, Hurrihills and Tao
- In Laisamis sub-county, livestock from Laisamis, Korr, Merille, Logologo are concentrated around Soriadi, Dedertu, Gudas, Sabarwawa and Kom. Those in Ngurnit, Illaut, and South horr have also migrated towards Baragoi in Samburu County. Livestock from Sarima moved to Losam and Likayo in Samburu county and others to Karumbe and Kamesesil in Mt Kulal. Those livestock from Moite moved to Lochalgoro, Halgore Darade and Sarima.
- In Moyale sub-county livestock from Golbo and Butiye wards have out-migrated towards Wajir North (Lakole, Basir, Arbijan, Bute) , southern Ethiopia and Waso in Isiolo County. Livestock from Obbu ward are concentrated in Sololo, Badanrero, and southern Ethiopia.
- Livestock from Uran are concentrated in Elledimtu, Banale, Ellebor, FunanIdha, Lafeni and southern Ethiopia. In Saku sub-county, most of the livestock especially cattle have migrated towards Jaldesa, Kubiqallo, Baragoi, Shurr, Uran and Sololo.

3.1.3 Tropical Livestock Units (TLU) and Calving & Kidding Rates

- In the agro pastoral livelihood zone, poor income households had 1-2TLUs compared to 2-4 normally while the middle income had 5-8 compared to 10-15 normally. In the pastoral livelihood zone, poor income households had 2-5TLUs compared to 4-7 normally while the middle income had 8-10 compared to 15-20 normally. The reduced TLUs was associated with livestock losses during the 2016/2017 severe drought and consecutive failure of the 2018 short rains and 2019 long rains.
- Birthrates were slightly above normal across the livelihood zones especially for camels and goats during this season. Slightly above normal birthrates were occasioned by extraordinary good cumulative long rains of 2018. Even though the current birthrates are slightly above normal, no notable change in TLUs due to lapse in livestock generation interval and considerable slaughter of calves in most parts of the County.

3.1.4 Livestock diseases and mortalities

- Livestock deaths were reported in Moyale sub-county in areas of Dabel, Badanrero, Dambala Fachana, Adadi and Sololo Makutano for cattle and small stock.
- Cases of livestock mortalities amongst calves/kids were prompted by the severe drought in most parts of the county where slaughtering of calves were witnessed as a survival mechanism for the remaining co-herds.

- There was no outbreak of livestock diseases however few incidences of endemic livestock diseases in some parts of the County in addition to foot and mouth were reported along the Laisamis/Samburu border due to livestock migration.

3.1.5 Milk Production

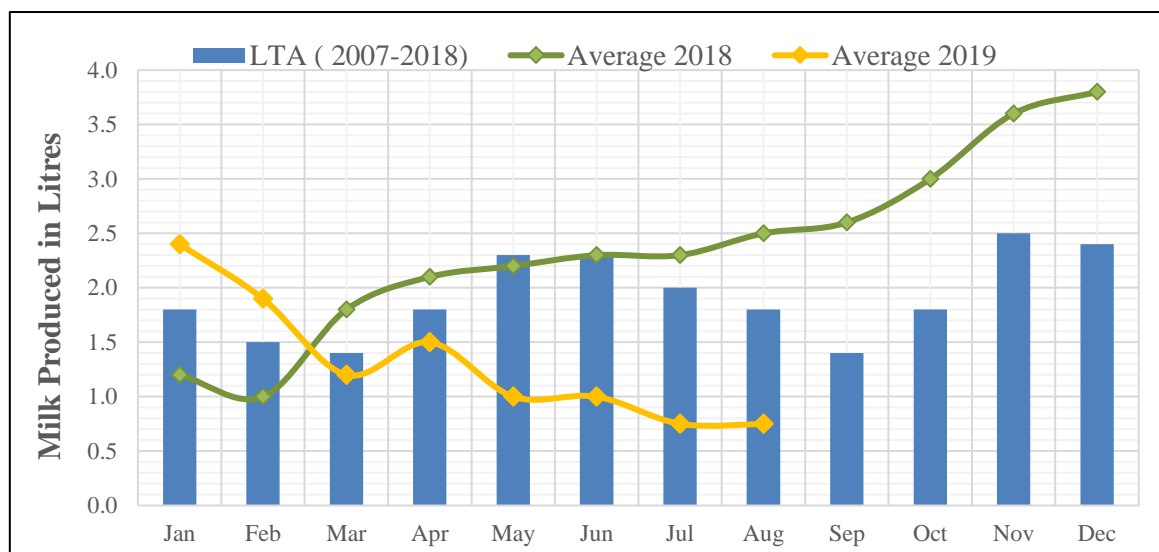


Figure 9: Milk production per household per day in litres across the livelihood zones

- From figure 9 shown above, household milk production per day for the month under review was 0.75Litre/Household/Day across all the livelihood zones.
- When compared to similar periods, average milk production of 0.75Litre was below the long term average milk production of 1.8Litres.
- Most of the households approximately 99percent reported nil milk production. Where production was reported. Few lactating herds especially camels were available near homestead which majorly provided milk to the households.
- Below normal milk production was attributed to intense livestock out- migration to drought fall back areas. Milk price was Ksh.90-120 per litre against the normal of Ksh.60 per litre.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

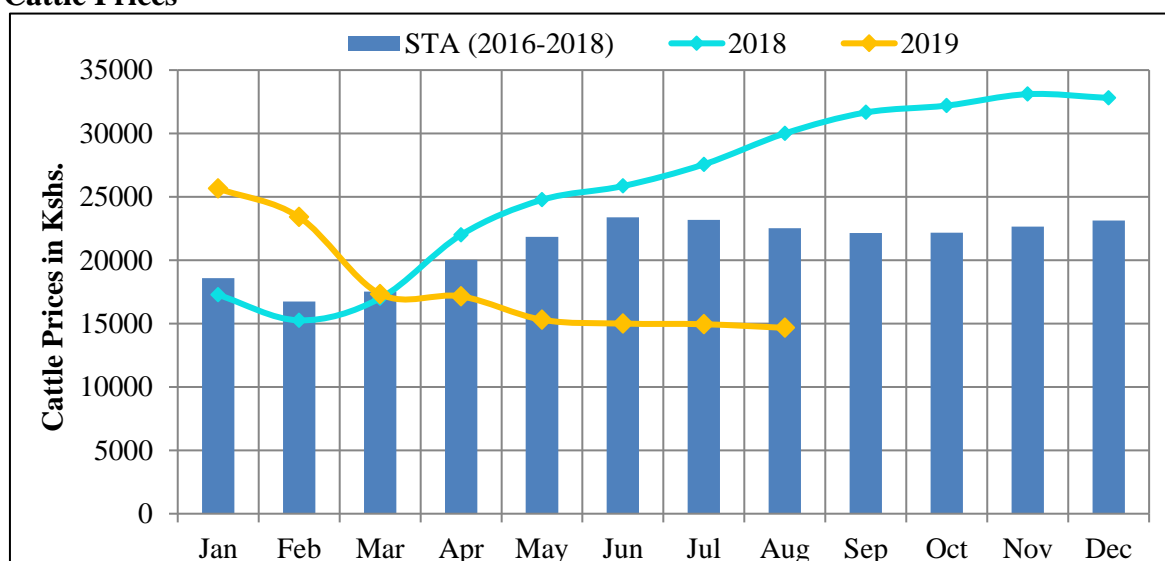


Figure 10: Current cattle prices compared to the short term average prices

- From the figure (10) shown above, cattle price for the month under review was Kshs. 14,660 thus no notable change was recorded when compared to the preceding months' price of Kshs. 14,950.
- Current cattle price of Kshs. 14,660 is below the short term average price of Kshs. 22,518 by 35percent. Below normal cattle price was attributed to deteriorating cattle body condition and lack of ready buyers in the major livestock markets.
- Moyale livestock market posted fairly better cattle prices with prices averaging at Kshs. 20,000 while other livestock markets recorded lower cattle prices. Traded volumes of cattle were very low because traders prefer selling to Ethiopian markets which offer better prices.
- With the progression of the long dry-spell, both feeder and major livestock markets are likely to record an all-time low cattle prices hence significant decline of saleable cattle herds.

4.1.2 Goat prices

- From figure 11 shown below, the average goat prices in the month under review was Ksh. 3,300 which was near-normal when compared to the short term average goat price of Ksh. 3,451.
- Near-normal goat price was occasioned by the cumulative effect of 2018(March, April, May) rains which were remarkably high thus sustained standing hay.

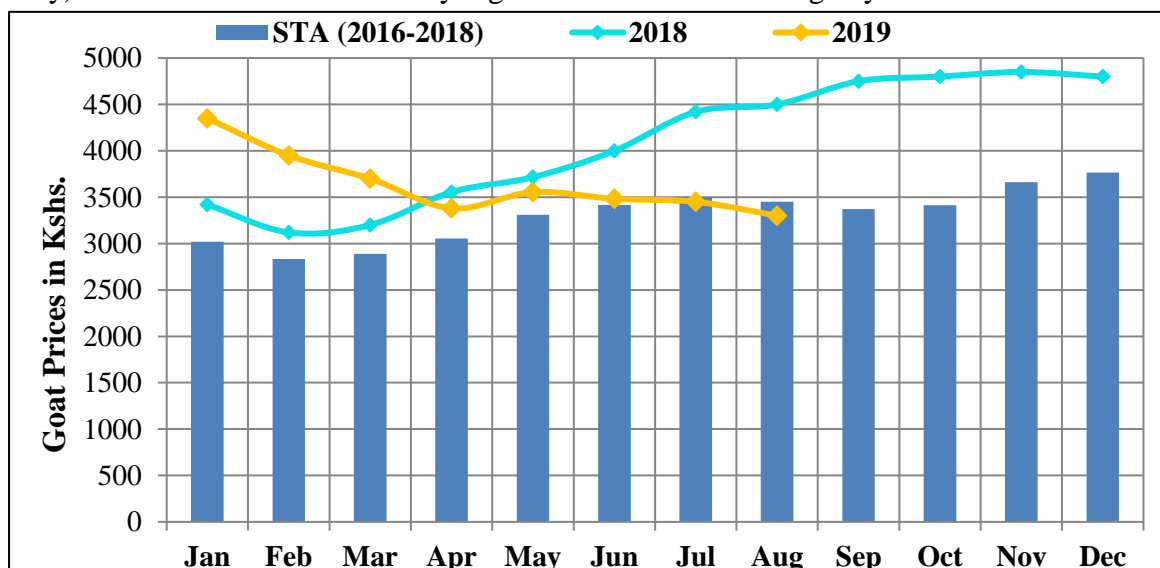


Figure 11: Current goat prices compared to short term average prices

- Favourable goat prices were recorded in Moyale livestock market with prices ranging between Ksh 4000-5500 whereas North Horr sub-county posted lower goat prices ranging between Ksh.2500-3000. Many traders both in Kenya and Ethiopia perceive Moyale as market for small stocks hence justification of better goat prices.
- Market operations were below normal across the county, however disruptions in the livestock market in North Horr sub-county especially Forolle and Dukana markets were attributed to insecurity incidences along the porous border of Ethiopia.

4.1.3 Sheep Prices

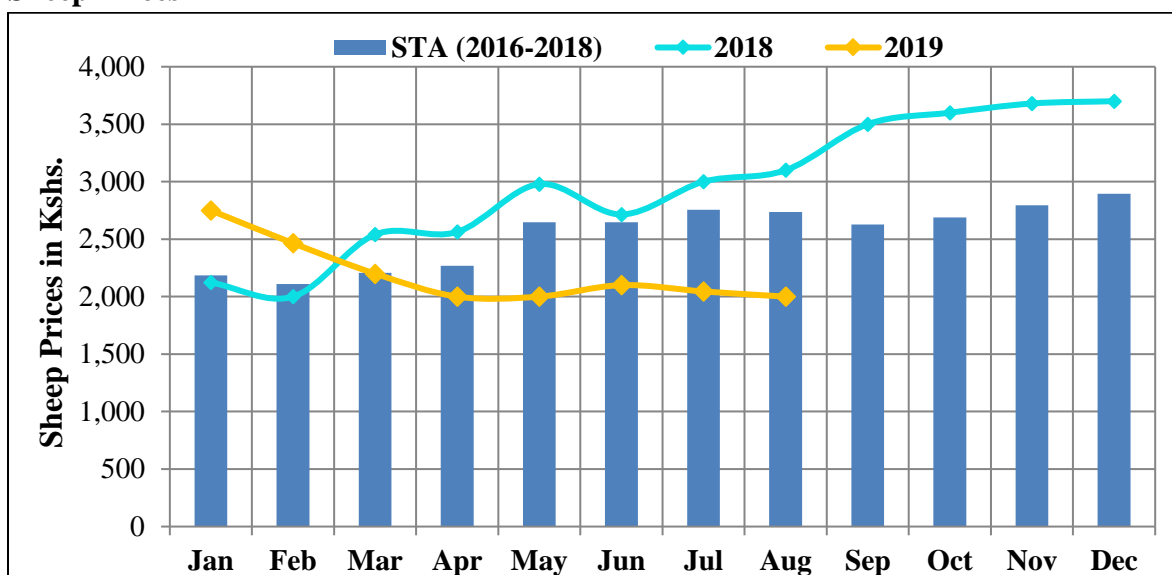


Figure 12: Current sheep prices compared to the short term average prices(kshs.)

- From the figure 12 shown above, sheep price for the month under review was Kshs. 2,000 across the livelihood zones which is an illustration of no change when compared to the previous months' sheep prices of Kshs.2, 045.
- When compared to the short term average price of Kshs. 2,736, current sheep price is below normal by 27percent. Below normal sheep prices were attributed to fair-poor body condition. However, Moyale market posted better sheep prices averaging Kshs. 3,000.
- Below optimal performance of the major livestock markets considerably reduced household purchasing power as 85percent of the population mainly depend on livestock sales as a main source of income.

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

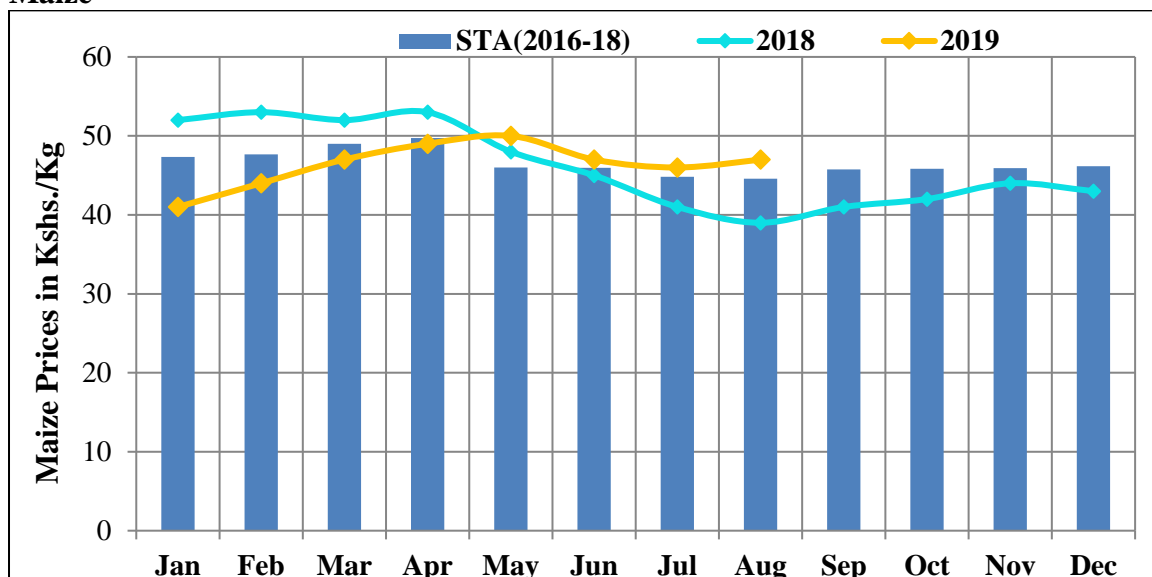


Figure 13: Current maize prices compared to the short term average maize prices(Kshs.)

- The average price of maize for the month under review was Ksh.47 per kg which was slightly above normal when compared to the short term average of Ksh. 45 per kg.
- However, favourable maize prices were recorded in Moyale and Marsabit commodity markets which depicted a retail price of Kshs. 35-50 attributed to continuous supplies from terminal markets of Meru and Nyahururu and neighbouring Ethiopia.

- North Horr sub-county recorded 20percent increase in maize prices attributed to inaccessible Ethiopia markets which was prompted by spate of insecurity incidences in Dukana and Maikona wards.
- Highest maize prices were recorded in most parts of Laisamis sub County with prices retailing at Kshs.60-70 per kg.
- Maize prices are expected to gradually increase in the next 1month due to expected reduced injections from the external markets.

4.2.2 Beans

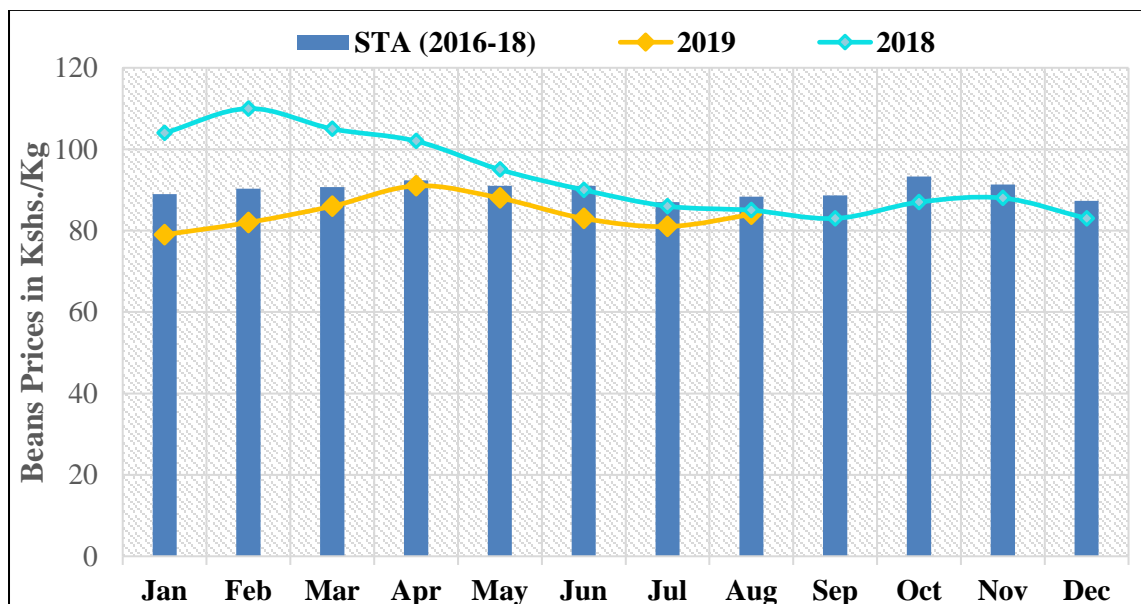


Figure 14: Beans prices compared to the short average term average prices(Kshs.)

- From the figure shown above, beans prices retailing at Kshs.81/kg across the livelihood zones in the month under review hence no notable change if compared to the previous months' beans price of Kshs.83/kg.
- When compared to similar periods, beans price of Kshs.81/kg is slightly below the short term average price of Kshs.87/kg by 7percent.
- Better beans prices were posted in Moyale and Sololo markets with prices ranging between Kshs.50-75/kg. Marsabit commodity market also posted better beans prices. However, beans prices were higher in most parts of Laisamis sub-county due to reduced market access.
- Favourable beans price was attributed to market injections from the neighbouring vibrant Ethiopia market and supplies from external markets of Meru and Nyahururu.

4.2.3 Terms of Trade (TOT)

- In the month under review, terms of trade were 70 across all the livelihood zones hence below normal when compared to the preceding months terms of trade of 75. When compared to similar periods, current terms of trade of is below normal by 13percent.
- Below normal terms of trade were occasioned by near-normal goat and slightly above normal maize prices resulting to reduced household purchasing power hence reduced household food access across the County.
- Terms of trade is expected to worsen further in the next one month due to expected below normal goats' prices coupled with increased maize prices.

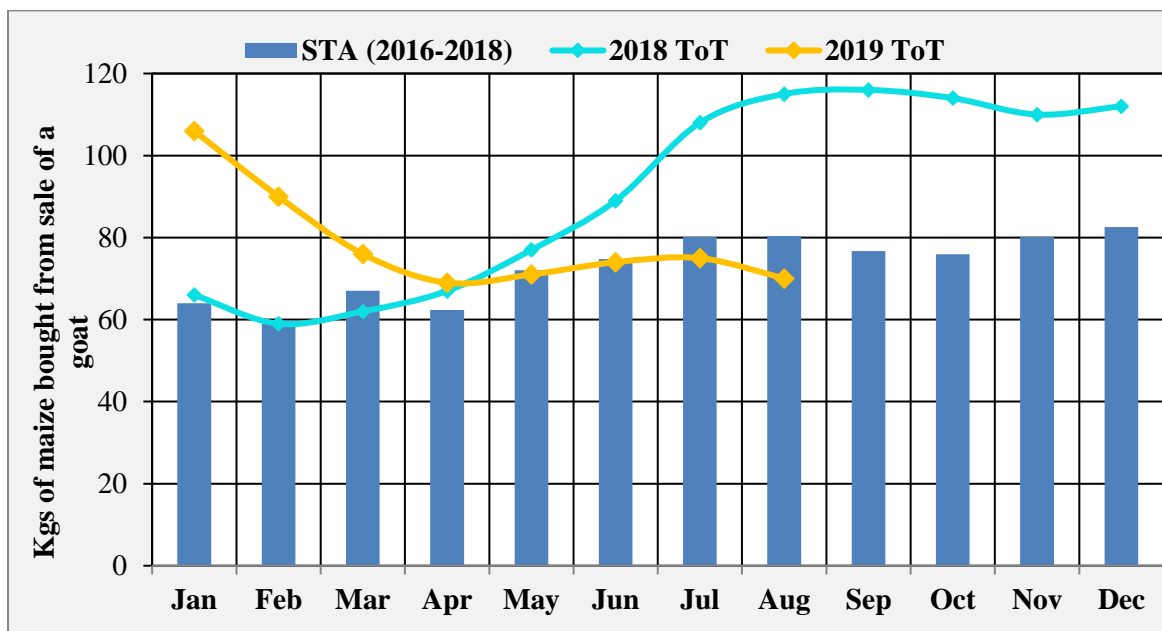


Figure 15: Current terms of trade versus short term average terms of trade

- Terms of trade is near-normal in Moyale sub-county due to favourable livestock and commodity markets with its neighbouring Ethiopia, slightly below normal in Saku sub-county and below normal in North Horr and Laismis sub-counties. North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties will be continue to post below terms of trade due to insecurity incidences and severe drought.
- With the progression of drought and insecurity incidences in some parts of the County, goat prices are expected to decrease further while maize prices are likely to gradually increase hence probable decline in terms of trade and household purchasing power.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

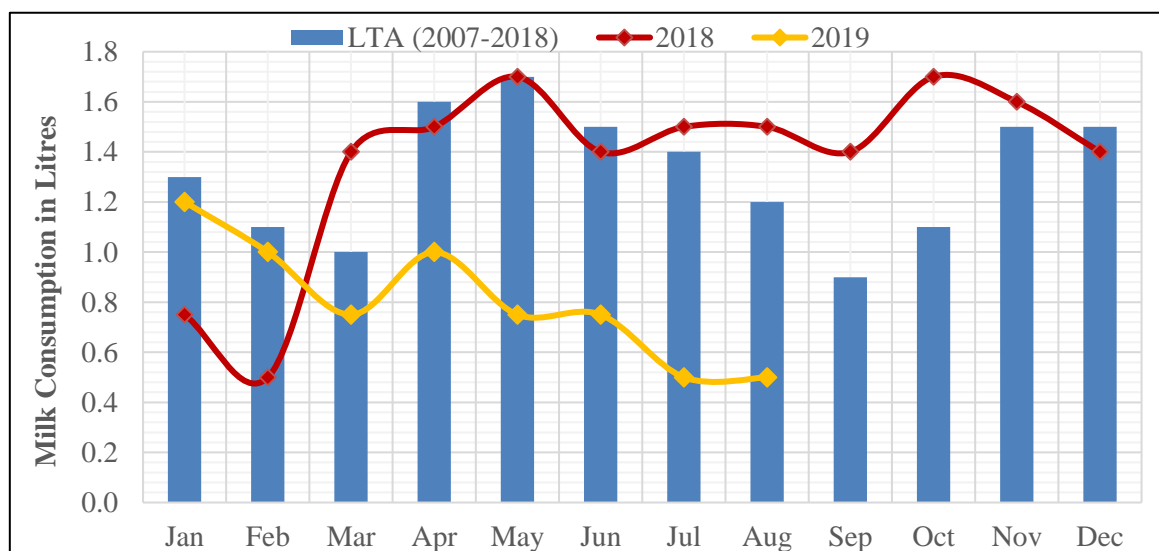


Figure 16: Current milk consumption/household/day/litre against long term average

- From the figure 16 shown above, household milk consumption is half litre/household/day in the month under review across the livelihood zones hence no change when compared to the previous month.
- When compared to the long term average milk consumption of 1.2litres/household/day, current milk consumption is at an all-time low.

- Average household milk consumption per day is 0.5litres across all the livelihood zones against the normal 1.5-2.0litres. An all-time low milk consumption was occasioned by significant reduction in milk production as only 1percent of the households accessed milk which emanated from few camels that remained in the homestead.
- Majority of households generally used processed or powdered milk. If the long dry spell continues, milk consumption is likely to decline further to a quarter a litre/household/day.

5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE (FCS)

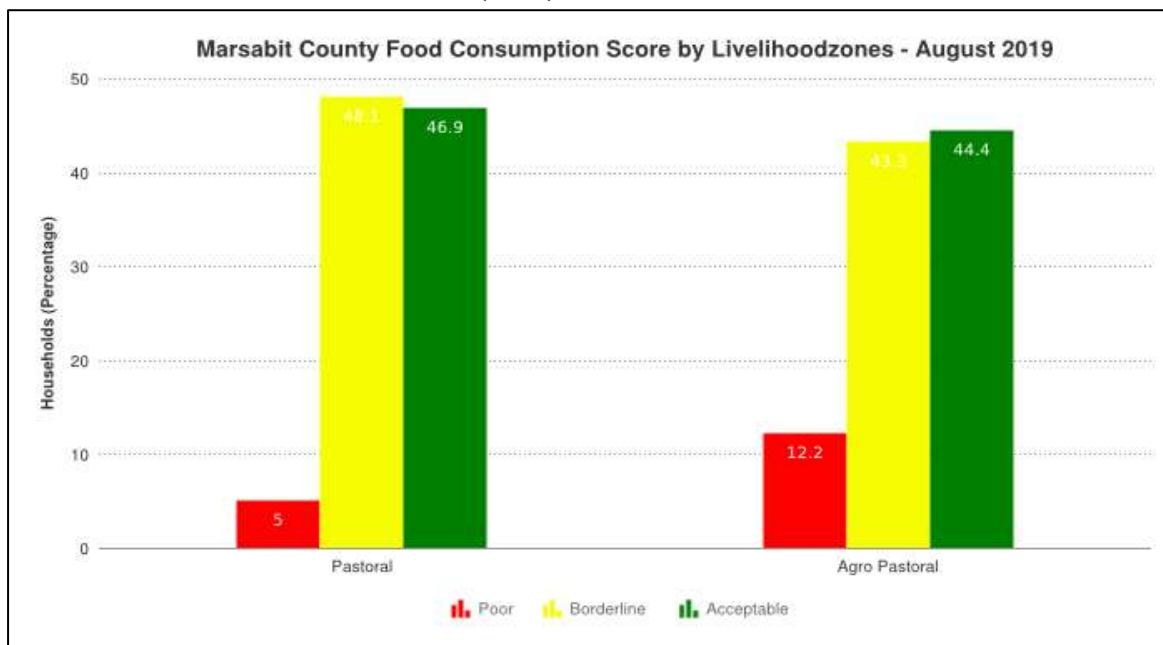


Figure 17: Food Consumption Score across the livelihood zones

- The mean food consumption score was 34.35 across the livelihood zones thus no change when compared to preceding months' food consumption score of 34.65 hence fell in the borderline food consumption score band.
- Food consumption score was better in the pastoral than the agro-pastoral livelihood zone with a mean of 35.31 and 30.57 respectively
- From the table shown below, 9.4percent of households are consumed staples and vegetables every day and never or very seldom are consuming protein rich food such as meat and dairy, 49.3percent are consumed staples and vegetables every day, accompanied by oil and pulses

	FCS Mean	Poor FCS	Borderline FCS	Acceptable FCS
County	34.35	9.4%	49.3%	41.3%
Dukana	37.92	9.4%	49.3%	41.3%
Golbo	30.65	0.0%	33.3%	66.7%
Heillu Manyatta	30.05	20.0%	60.0%	20.0%
Karare	46.81	3.5%	86.2%	10.3%
Korr	33.24	0.0%	41.1%	58.9%
Laisamis	34.48	3.5%	58.6%	37.9%
Loiyangalani	38.00	14.3%	46.4%	39.3%
North Horr	28.57	0.0%	35.7%	64.3%
Sagante	20.80	11.0%	72.8%	16.2%
Turbi	45.13	0.0%	12.5%	87.5%
Uran	36.93	3.3%	43.3%	53.3%

a few times a week whereas 41.3percent are consumed staples and vegetables every day, frequently accompanied by oil and pulses and occasionally meat of dairy product.

- Proportion of households in the pastoral livelihood zone that were within the acceptable, borderline and poor food consumption score were 48.8percent, 44.2percent and 7.1percent respectively. Similarly, proportion of households in the pastoral livelihood zone that were within the acceptable, borderline and poor food consumption scores were 48.9percent, 36.4percent and 14.8percent respectively
- From the table shown above; Uran ward in Moyale sub-county, Karare ward in Saku sub-county and Loiyangalani ward had better food consumption score. However, North Horr, Sagante and Heillu Manyatta wards posted slightly worse off food consumption scores.
- With the progression of the long dry spell continues, food consumption score is likely to deteriorate further and majority of the households will fall in the borderline food consumption strap.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- From (Figure 18) shown below, the proportion of children under the age of five years with MUAC less than 135mm was 19.5percent in the month under review which exhibits slight increase when compared to previous months' MUAC of 18.5percent.
- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition was slightly above normal when compared to the long term average of 19.3percent thus illustrating deterioration of nutritional status of children below the age of five years.
- Deteriorating nutritional status of children below the age of five years was attributed to considerably below normal milk consumption, significant reduction in households purchasing power and cultural practices where households intentionally skipped meals.

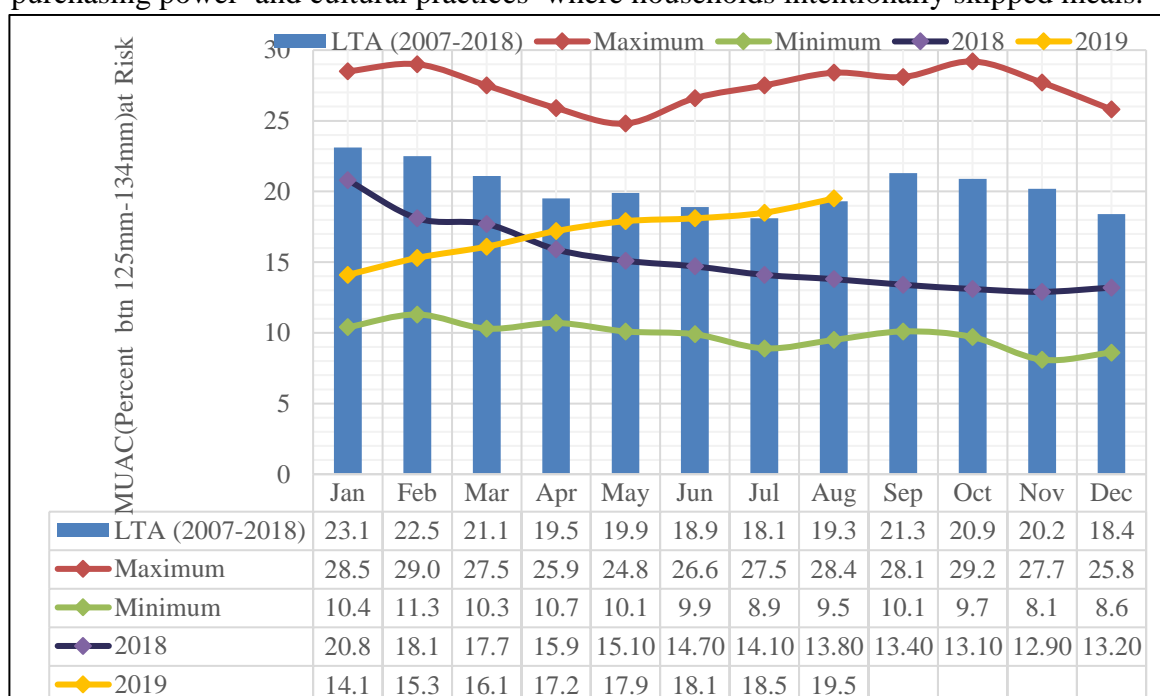


Figure 18: Nutritional status of children below the age of five years versus long term average

- Results from Mass-screening shows that Korr/ Ngurnit, Laisamis and Loglogo wards are at IPC Phase 4-critical phase while Kargi/South Horr and Loiyangalani are at IPC Phase 5

Extreme Critical. Maikona, Turbi, and Dukana at IPC Phase 4-critical phase while North Horr is at IPC Phase 5 Extreme Critical.

- 35 cases of malaria were confirmed in Loiyangalani and Moite. Moyale town in high alert of cholera due to current outbreak and already 26 cases have been confirmed cases.

5.4 COPING STRATEGIES

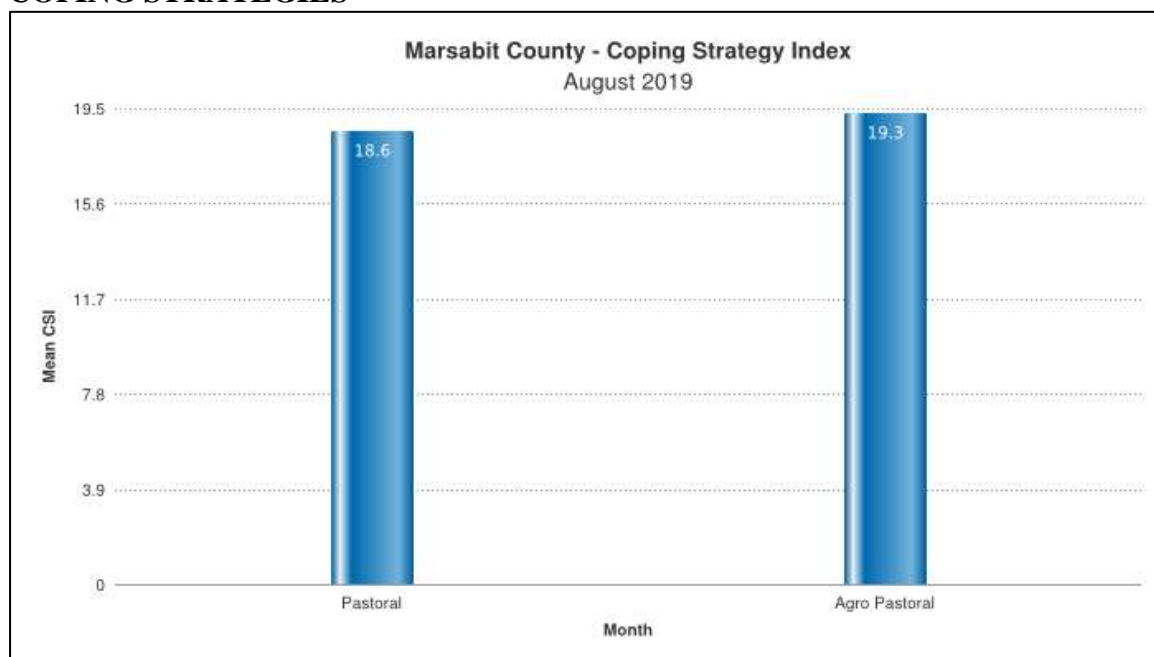


Figure 19: Coping Strategy Index across livelihood zones

- From (Figure 19) shown above, reduced consumption based coping strategy index(rCSI) for the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones was 18.6 and 19.3 respectively hence most of the households adopted stressed reduced food consumption based strategies in all the livelihood zones.
- Reduced consumption based coping strategy index(rCSI) for the month under review was 18.76 hence no change when compared to the previous months rCSI of 18.15.
- 93percent of the households adopted coping mechanisms while only 7percent of the households didn't cope.
- From table shown below, households in Sagante, Loiyangalani and Dukana wards recorded higher consumption based coping strategy indexes whereas households in Karare, Turbi, Heillu Manyatta and Logologo wards posted lower consumption based coping strategy indexes.

Consumption based coping strategy index(rCSI)		
Sub-county	Ward	rCSI
Saku	Sagante	27.47
Saku	Karare	9.72
Laisamis	Korr	20.59
Laisamis	Loiyangalani	32.39
Laisamis	Logologo	10.89
North Horr	North Horr	20.57
North Horr	Dukana	22.37
North Horr	Turbi/Bubisa	11.21
Moyale	Heillu Manyatta	14.93
Moyale	Uran	14.37

- 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.

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES

6.1 Food Aid

- County Government has distributed 10,000 bags of maize, 2,000 bags of beans, 4,000 bags of rice and 2,000 cartons of oil in all the 20 wards worth Ksh 123 million.
- USAID/WFP through SND distributed food rations to 9168 HH across the 50 sites in the County under the sustainable food system programme for the months of September and October which comprised of 1,006.646 Mt of Sorghum, 201.329 Mts of Yellow split peas and 67.110 Mts of vegetable oil.
- PACIDA distributed food to communities in North Horr and Turbi wards targeting 910households.
- CARITAS distributed food to 200households in Barambate and 185 in Elbesso worth Ksh 3,000 per month with each household receiving 25kg of rice, 5kg of beans, 2kg of sugar and 2 litres of oil monthly.
- Kenya RedCross Society completed a one off cash transfer to 2,000households with 806households in North-horr, 1174households in Laisamis and 20households in Moyale each getting Ksh 3,000.

6.2 NON-FOOD AID

- Unconditional Cash transfer to 20,488 each receiving Kshs5,400 in the month of July totalling to Kshs. 110,635,200- Hunger Safety Net Programme through National Drought Management Authority.
- PACIDA provided cash transfer which targeted 2,117households at Kshs. 4,711 per household in Korr, Laisamis, Loglogo, Maikona, Turbi, Uran, Sololo, Obbu wards.
- PISP also supported households in Dukana, Illeret and North Horr wards with a cash transfer of Kshs. 4,711 per household.
- UNICEF, Kenya RedCross, FH-K, Concern Worldwide, World Vision Kenya, GIZ, CCM and NHPPLus supported integrated medical outreaches for screening of Pregnant and Lactating Women and Children under the age of 5 years.
- Department of Water undertook water trucking in areas of Laisamis, North Horr, Saku and Moyale sub-counties that are experiencing acute water shortage
- Northern Water Services Board provided 15,000litres of fuel for water trucking distributed; Moyale (4,000litres), North Horr(4,000litres), Laisamis(4,000litres) and Saku(3,000litres).
- Concern Worldwide also supported department with repair and maintenance of boreholes, procured 12 motors and provided DSA for staff and training for borehole rapid response team.
- Kenya Rapid are supporting maintenance and rehabilitation of boreholes on need basis.
- PACIDA supported water department with 2400litres of diesel and also ongoing drilling and equipping Demo borehole in Turbi ward. PACIDA rehabilitated Qoloba borehole through installation of a genset and control panel.

- CARITAS supported water trucking across the County, drilled a borehole in Dabel and also provided 4000 litres of diesel to strategic boreholes.
- Kenya RedCross Society supported integrated outreaches in 28 sites Laisamis Sub county, active case finding in the outreach sites and deployed surge team of 2 nutritionists and 2 nurses to support service delivery

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 DISEASES/CONFLICT/HUMAN DISPLACEMENT

- Currently, Kalaazar total cases are 2029 tested, 575 cases positive, 79 cases on treatment, 19 deaths confirmed thus case fatality stands at 3.5%. A major challenge is that the County has only 3 Kalaazar treatment centres which include Marsabit County Referral Hospital, Log logo health facility and Laisamis sub-county hospital.
- In the month under review, 8 people were killed in Forolle, 6 injured, 17 camels, 6 calves, 40 donkeys and 100 shoats stolen. 6 people were killed and 4 injured in Sabare and a borehole burnt down and 3 people murdered.

7.2 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS.

- The current cumulative rainfall amounts are similar to the cumulative rains of 2017 which was a bad year hence an illustration of cumulative rainfall deficits. As the long dry spell and drier than average rainfall conditions expected to continue, cumulative rainfall amounts are expected to stagnate until onset of the short rains in the expected in the third dekad of October.
- The 3-months vegetation index fell in the moderate vegetation deficit strap and with expected rise in the land surface temperatures, next month is expected to be drier than normal thus a livelihood shifts to the severe vegetation deficit strap in the next one month. Off-season rains received in a few isolated areas especially in the North-western part of North Horr sub-county and Northern Laisamis had a paltry effect on vegetation cover but pasture is expected to be depleted in those areas in the next one month if the long dry spell continues.
- 99percent of open water sources have dried up and 20percent of the remaining shallow wells are expected to last for only one and half months due to high evapotranspiration rate and intense livestock migration.
- Market prices for cattle and sheep were below normal by 35 and 27percent respectively while goat prices were near normal across the livelihood zones and with the progression of the long dry spell, goat prices are likely to be below normal in the next one month coupled with expected slight increase of maize prices thus unfavourable terms of trade and low household purchasing power.
- Below optimal performance of the major livestock markets considerably reduced household purchasing power as 85percent of the population mainly depend on livestock sales as a main source of income and with the progression of the long dry spell, households purchasing power will be eroded.
- Nutritional status of children is likely to deteriorate further, food consumption score will continue to decline and majority of the households will fall in the borderline food consumption score while communities will continue to employ reduced food consumption coping strategies more frequently. Generally, all the food security outcomes have fluctuated outside their seasonal norms.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Immediate food assistance to the vulnerable households.
- Upscaling of various safety net programmes across the County.
- Enhanced water trucking, procurement and stock piling of fast moving spare parts for strategic water sources.
- Repair of strategic boreholes and rehabilitation of grounded water bowsers.
- Stockpiling of vaccines, strategic vaccination, multivitamin, deworming and enhancement of disease surveillance.
- Commercial destocking across the markets to salvage pastoralists against imminent losses. Stimulation of livestock feeder markets to enhance voluntary commercial destocking.
- Provision of livestock feeds and supplements to salvage milking/core herd.
- Treatment of acute malnutrition in North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties. Enhanced 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 community health volunteers.
- Enhanced peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts between local communities to fastrack access of scarce rangelands.