

National Drought Management Authority

MANDERA COUNTY

DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR DECEMBER 2017



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



DECEMBER EW PHASE

Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral zone	ALERT	Worsening
Irrigated Cropping zone	ALERT	Worsening
Pastoral all species	ALERT	Worsening
County	ALERT	Worsening
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	0	80 -120
SPI-3Month (TAMSAT)	-0.42	-1.0 to 1.0
VCI-3Month	27.69	>35
Forage condition	poor	Good
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Crop Condition (specify crop)	Poor	Good
Livestock Body Condition	Fair	Normal
Milk Production	4.2	>46.0
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths	No deaths	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	52	>47
Milk Consumption	2	40.3 litres
Return distance to water sources	15.9	<4 Km
Cost of water at source (20 litres)	7	<5Kshs
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	27.4	<30.0
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)		<0.95
Food Consumption Score		

Drought Status: ALERT



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Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- No rains were received in the entire County during the month of December. Cessation of the short rains was early as it occurred in the second week of November compared to normal of first week of December.
- **Vegetation condition;** the Vegetation Condition index worsened from 32.35 in November to 27.69 in December categorizing the County as moderate vegetation deficit band. Mandera East Sub County is currently under severe vegetation deficit.
- The pasture situation is poor in all the sub counties while the browse situation is slightly fair in Banisa Sub County.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

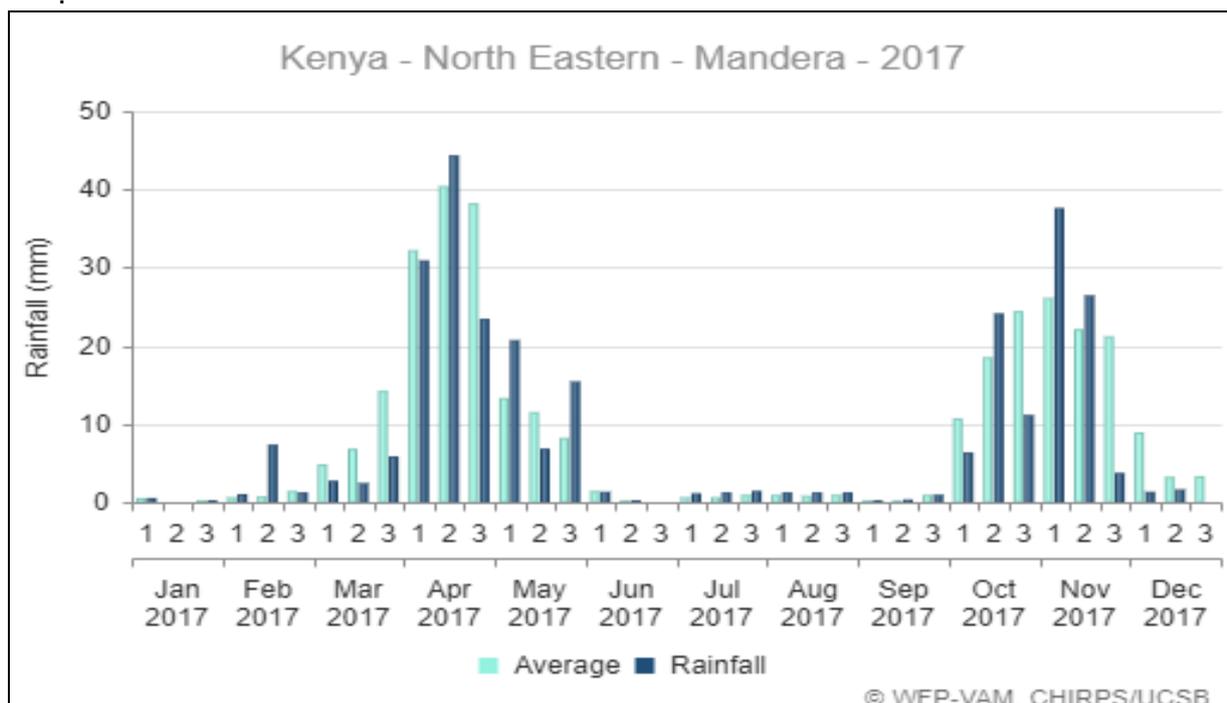
- **Production indicators;** Milk production and consumption are below long term average but have improved compared to last month.
- Livestock prices have improved compared to last months.
- Term of trade is favourable to pastoral communities
- The livestock body condition for all species is fair
- The utilization indicator is outside the normal range

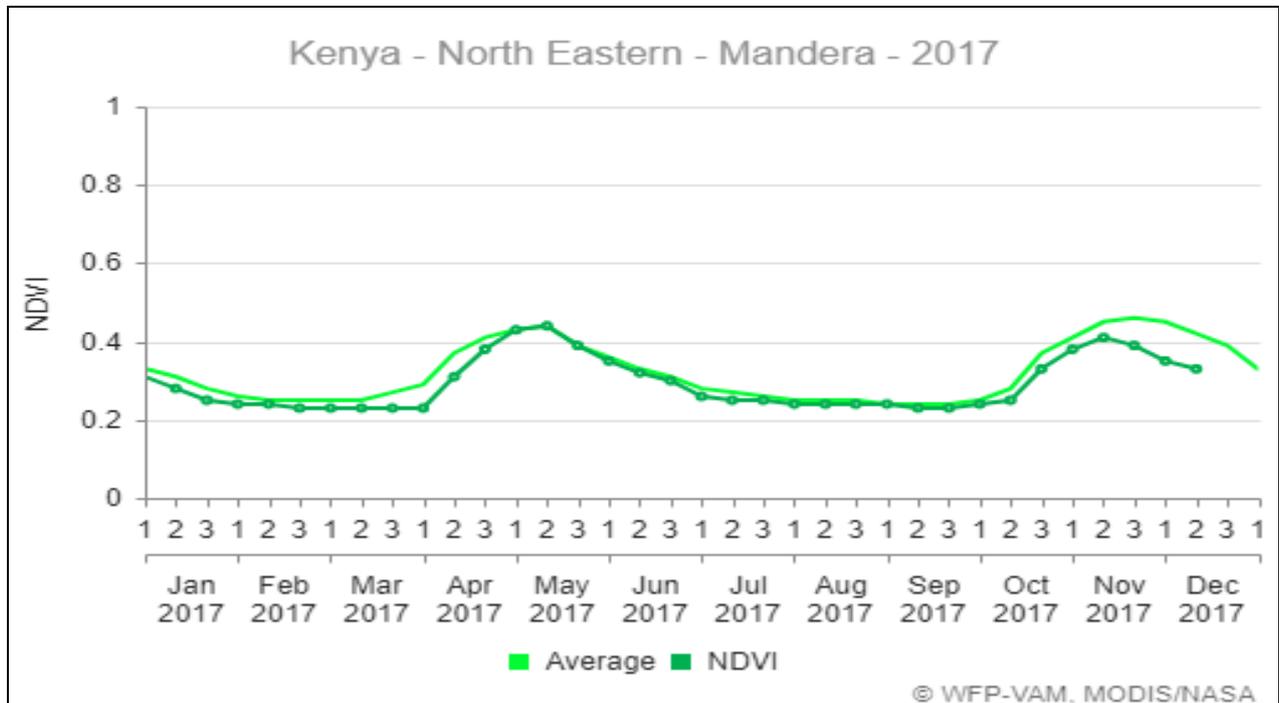
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains harvests ▪ Short dry spell ▪ Reduced milk yields ▪ Increased HH Food Stocks ▪ Land preparation 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planting/Weeding ▪ Long rains ▪ High Calving Rate ▪ Milk Yields Increase 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long 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	Sept mber	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

1. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- The onset of short rain season was in the second dekad of month of October which was timely. The amount of rainfall received in most parts of the County was depressed at less than 70 percent of normal rains with an exception of Banisa Sub County and few parts of Mandera West and Kutulo Town of Mandera South Sub County which received nearly 100 percent of the normal rains. The short rains were characterised by poor temporal distribution and uneven spatial distribution across all the livelihood zones. The cessation was very early as it occurred in the second week of November compared to Normal of first week of December.
- No rains were received in the month of December.





1.3 Other Events

1.3.1 Flooding

- No floods were reported during the month under review and flood water in the farms have dried up while seasonal River Dua is anticipated to dry in the last week of January.

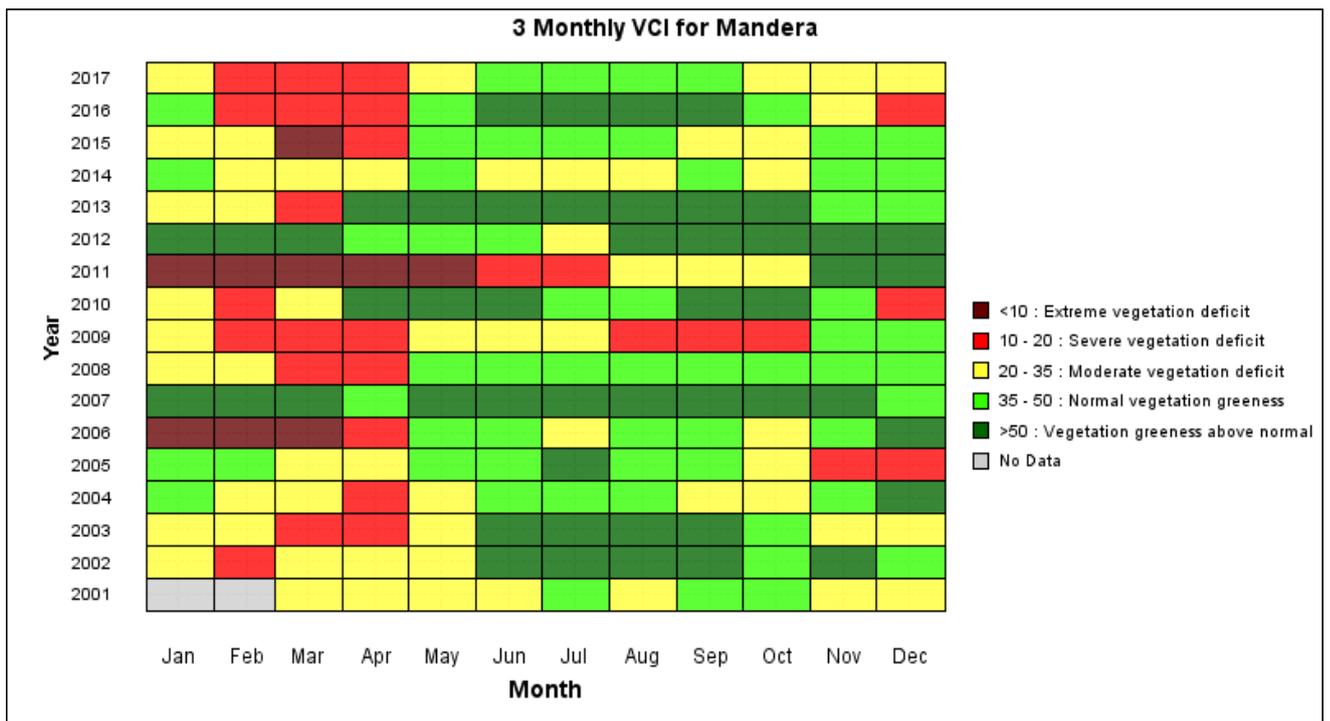
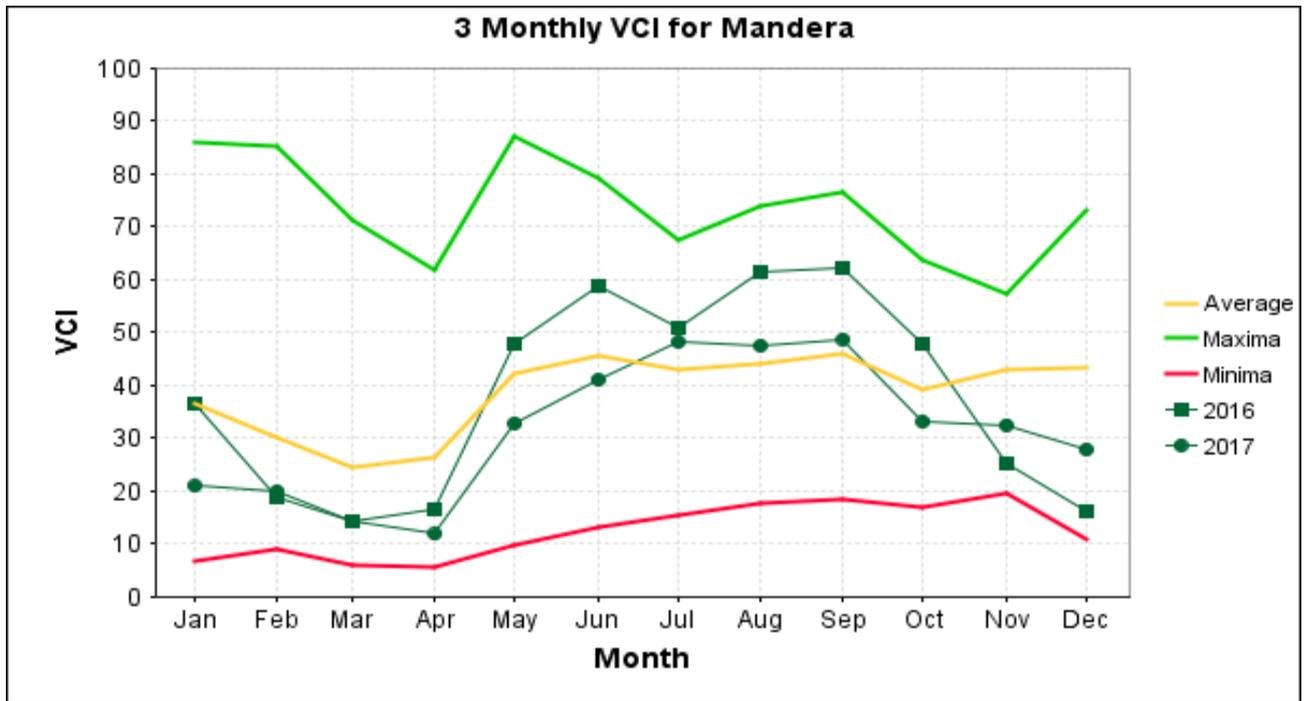
2. IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

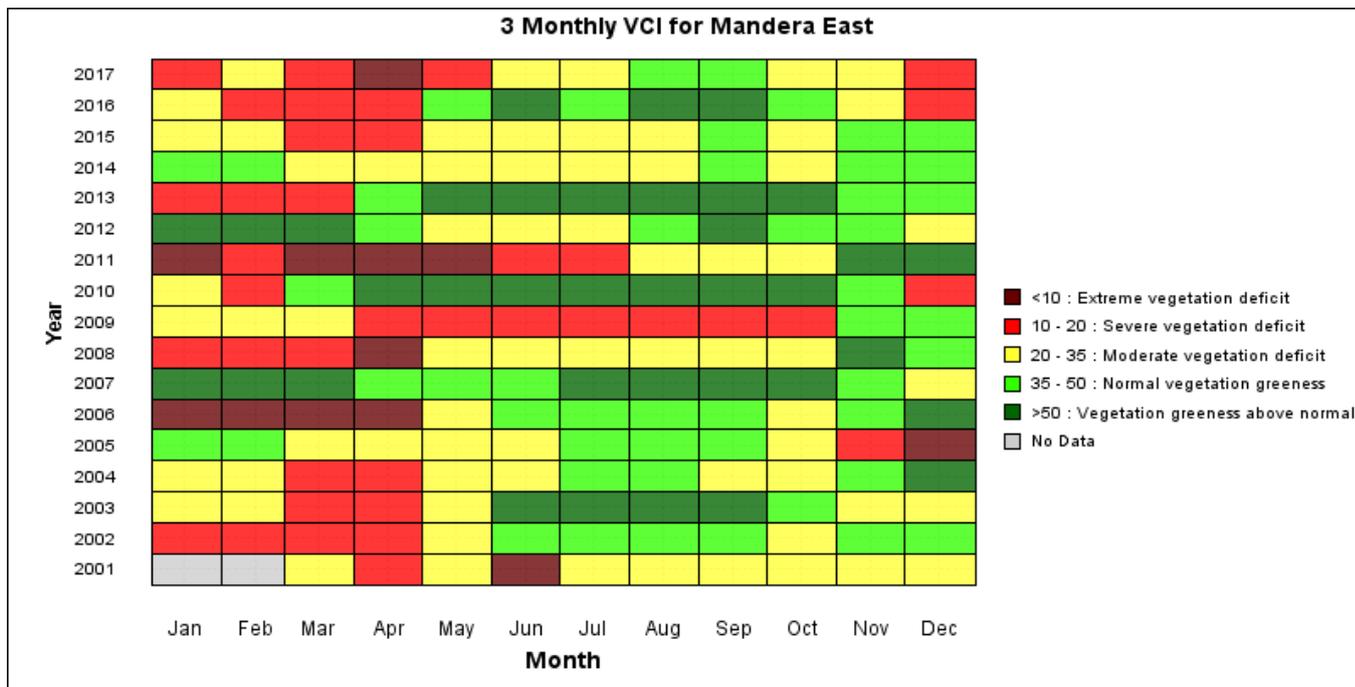
1.2 AGRICULTURAL DROUGHT

1.2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION INDEX (VCI)

Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The current vegetation condition index's in the month of Decembers shows a general deterioration as compared to the previous month of November, where the 3 months vegetation cover index indicates moderate vegetation deficit for the County. Mandera East Sub County is showing severe vegetation deficit while Mandera south, North, West and Lafey sub counties are in moderate vegetation deficit. Banisa Sub County is showing normal vegetation Band. The deterioration of VCI is as a result of below normal rains witnessed in most parts of the County except Banisa Sub County which received near normal rainfall. The situation is expected to deteriorate further since the performance of the rain was poor and no rains were received in the month of December.
- The VCI is below the long-term average but below same year as shown in the graph below.





Field Observation:

2.1.2 Pasture:

- The pasture situation is poor in all livelihoods zones except few interior parts of Banisa Sub County where the pasture is slightly fair. These is as result of depressed short rains seasons and consecutive rainfall failure witnessed in previous seasons. These is not normal during this time of the year. This condition is expected to worsen as rain are not expected in the coming months.

2.1.3 Browse:

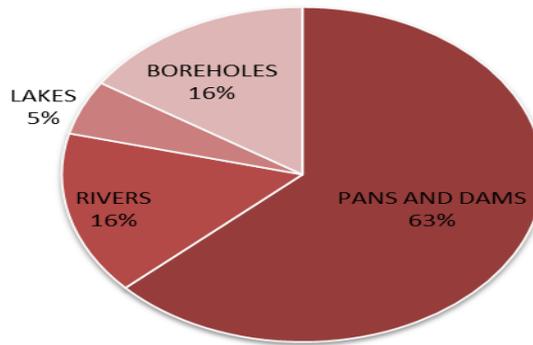
- The browse conditions are fair in the Agro pastoral and some parts of Pastoral all species (Kutulo, Wargadud, Ashabito, Simbir Fatuma and Warankara divisions) and Irrigated livelihood zone (Rhamu dimtu division) while poor in Pastoral all species of Lafey and Fino divisions and areas along River Daua of Khalalio, Libehia and Hareri divisions. When compared to same month, the browse situation is below normal. The available browse is expected to last at least one to two months.

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

2.2.1 Sources

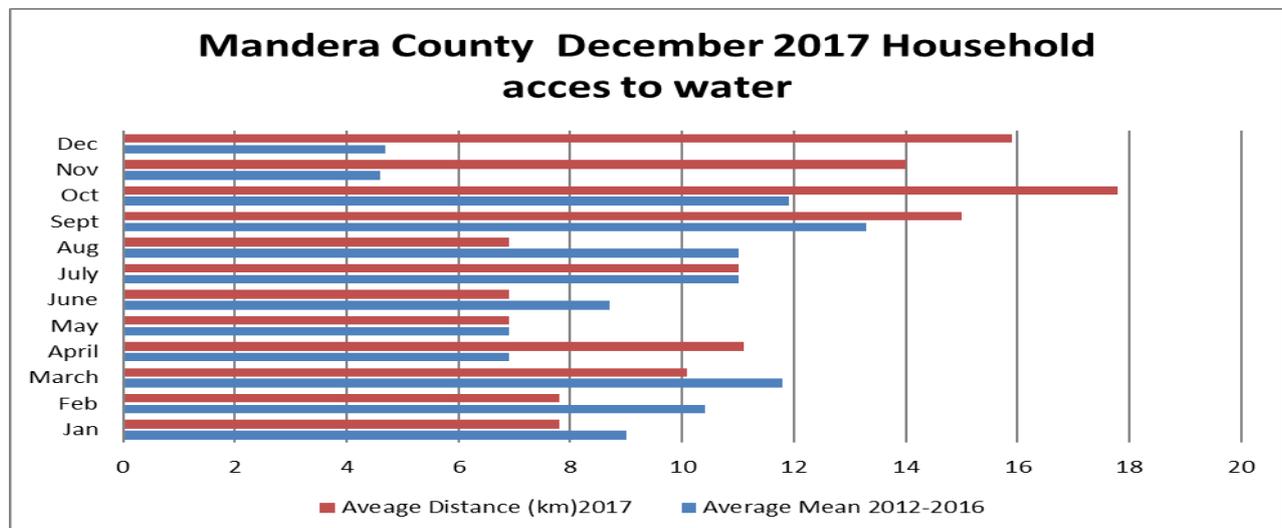
- The current main sources of water in use by both human and livestock’s in the county are boreholes, River Daua and water pans. Most of the household use earth pans with 60%, lakes at 5%, Boreholes 15% and rivers with 15% respectively. Water trucking is currently ongoing in twenty centres in Lafey, Mandera East and North sub counties which their earth pans did not impound water during the short rains due to below normal rainfall. Mandera North, East and Lafey sub counties currently depend on boreholes as their main water sources and these is not normal during this time of year. The water pans are likely to last for a period of 1-2 months.

Water sources utilization as at December 2017



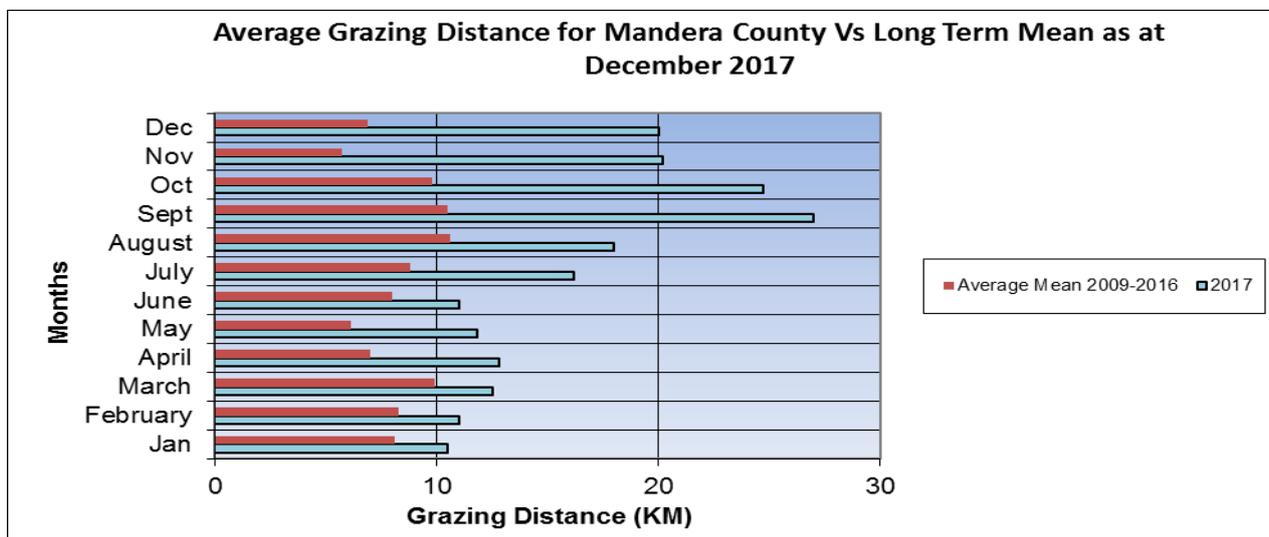
2.2.2 Household access and utilization

- The average distance to watering sources was recorded at 15.9km having increased from 14km recorded in the previous month as shown in the chart below. The current average distance is above normal at this time of the year.
- The current average household consumption per person per day remained stable due to availability of water in most parts of the county and this is normal at this time of the year, though areas in Lafey and Mandera East sub counties have low household consumption as a result of poor performance of the October- December rains
- 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.



2.2.2 Livestock Access

- The average distance to grazing areas from the main source of water is 20Km, the average grazing distance increased when compared to last month and these is due to poor pasture in most parts of the County as shown in graph below.
- Pastoral livelihood zone recorded the longest average return distance while the Agro pastoral zone recorded the lowest average
- The current distances are the above the long-term averages



2.3 Implication to food security

- Increase in distance to grazing areas is expected to worsen the body condition of livestock thus affecting the productivity and impacting negatively on food security at household level.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.2 Livestock Body Condition

- There was general improvement in livestock body condition across the county during the season with exception of cattle in pastoral livelihood zone not fully regained their body weight.
- Camel body condition is fair to Good in all livelihood zone. Goats' body condition is currently fair to good with smooth appearance across livelihood zones with those in Agro-pastoral showing good body condition while those in other livelihood zones ranging from fair to good. Sheep and cattle are yet to show signs of full recovery.
- Cattle body condition is at borderline with fore-ribs not visible while 12th and 13th ribs are visible in most livelihood zones with exception of Lafey and Mandera East sub counties.
- Livestock body condition are expected to worsen as the browse condition is diminishing.

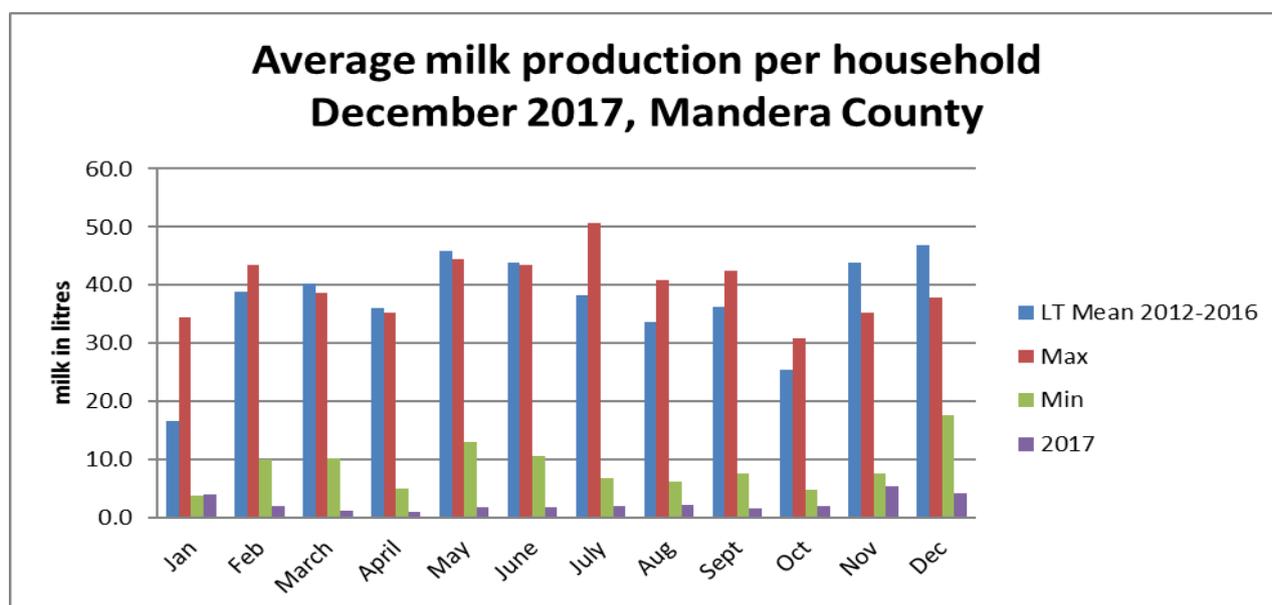
BODY CONDITIONS	SCORE
Emaciated, little muscle left	1
Very thin no fat, bones visible	2
Thin fore ribs visible	3
Borderline fore-ribs not visible. 12 th & 13 th ribs visible	4
Moderate. Neither fat nor thin	5
Good smooth appearance	6
Very Good Smooth with fat over back and tail head	7
Fat, Blocky. Bone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

3.1.3 Livestock Diseases

- The endemic diseases in the area include Contagious Caprine Pluero Pneumonia (CCPP), Sheep and Goat Pox and Contagious Bovine Pleuro Pneumonia (CBPP). No new outbreaks were reported during the month under review.

3.1.4 Milk Production

- There was slight decrease in availability of milk for all livestock species (camel, goat, cattle) and at household levels in all the livelihood zones. Average milk production per household is currently about 4.2 liters. When compared to last month, the average milk productions have slightly decreased by 1.2ltrs and these is attributed to migration of livestock to areas with slightly better browse. 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: No flood water in the farms and some farmers started land preparation and replanted with maize, pasture seeds and cow peas as fodder for their livestock while few farmers did not plant due to fear of drying up of season River Daua as its anticipated to dry in the month of January. In Agro pastoral zone crops have wilted due to moisture water stress.

3.3 IMPLICATION OF THE ABOVE INDICATORS TO FOOD SECURITY

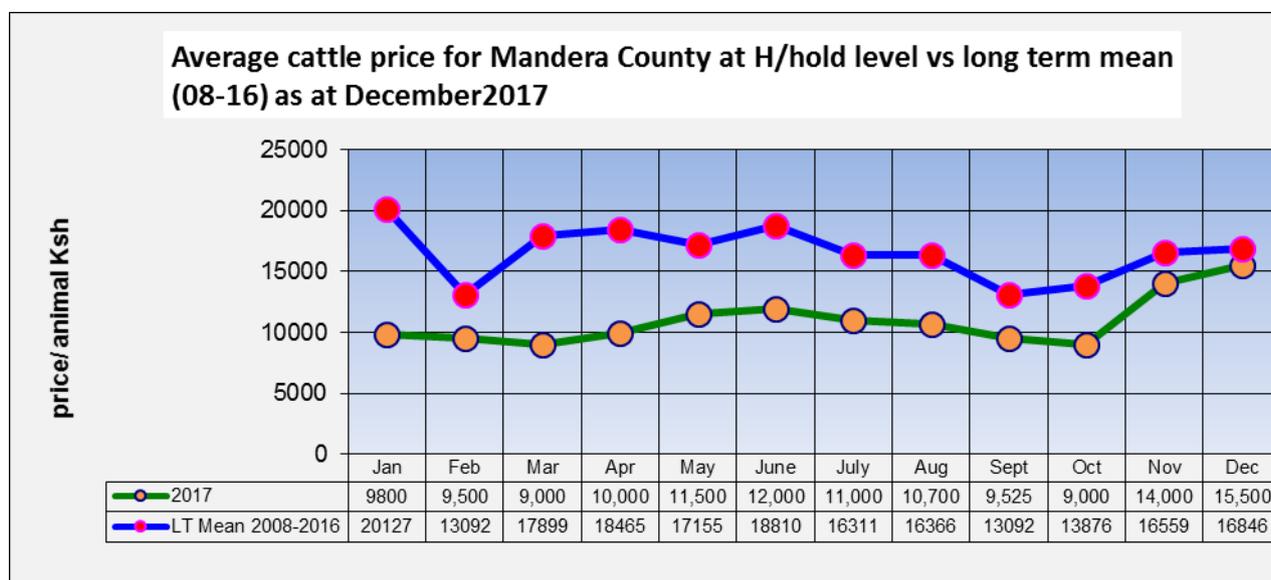
- Below normal and depressed rainfall experienced during short rains will affect crop production thus impacting negatively on food security.
- No crops planted in Agro pastoral zone will affect negatively on food security of the households

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

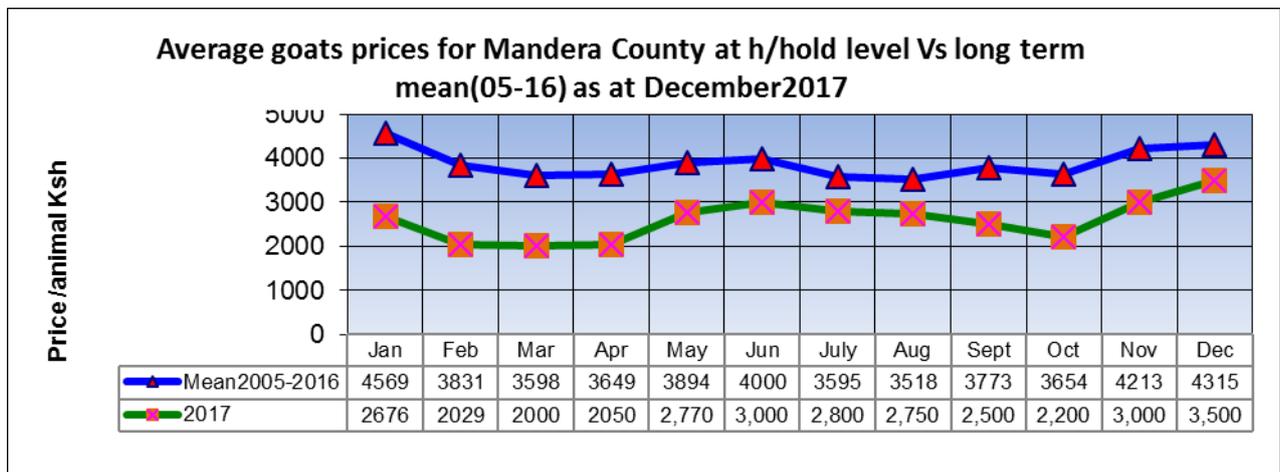
4.1.1 Cattle Prices

- Average cattle price increased from Ksh14000/=in November to Ksh15, 500/= in the month of December2017.the increased price is due to fair of body condition and increased market demand.
- When compared to the long-term mean, the average price is below the expected normal range as shown below.

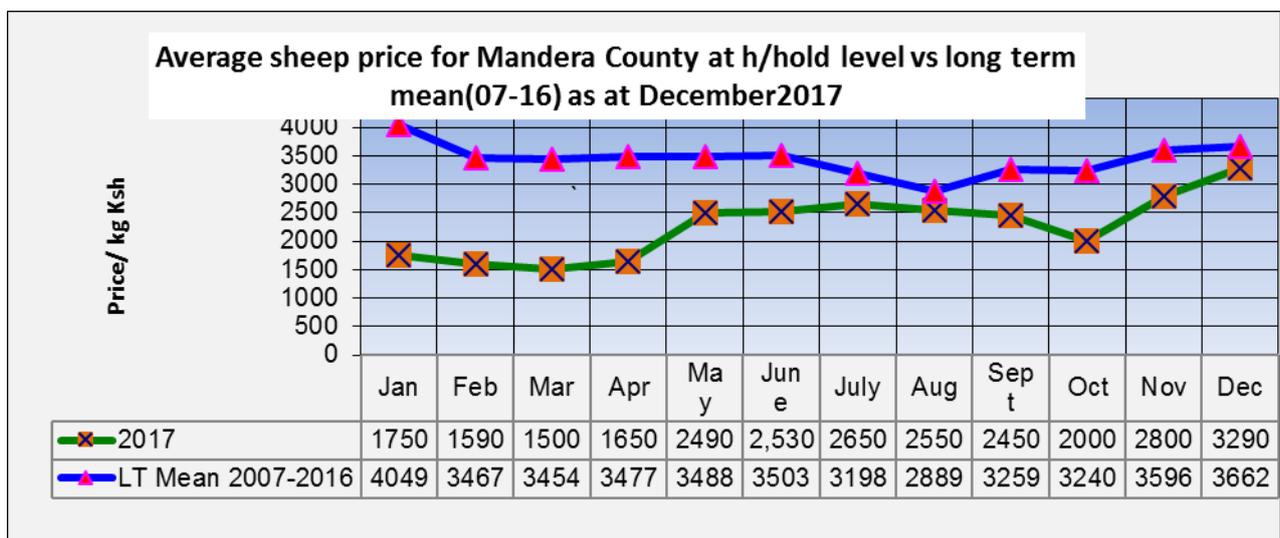


4.1.2 Goat Prices

- Average goat price increased from Ksh 3000 in November to Ksh 3500/= in December. The increase in price is due to the good body condition.
- Compared to the long-term mean (2005-2016), the average price was below the normal Range.



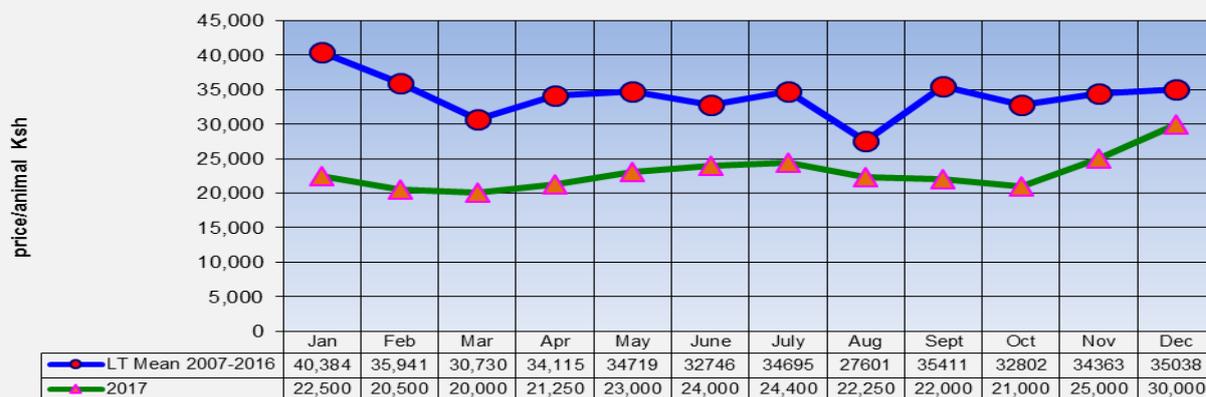
- Average sheep price increased from Ksh. 2, 800/= in November 2017 to Ksh.3290 /= in the month of December2017.
- The current average sheep price is below the long-term mean.
- The highest average prices were noted in Agro pastoral zone followed by Pastoral all species zone and irrigated cropping zone respectively.



4.1.3 Camel Prices

- The average camel price during the month of December2017 is Ksh30,000/= when compared to last month the average price increased
- The average camel price was below the normal range as shown in the table below

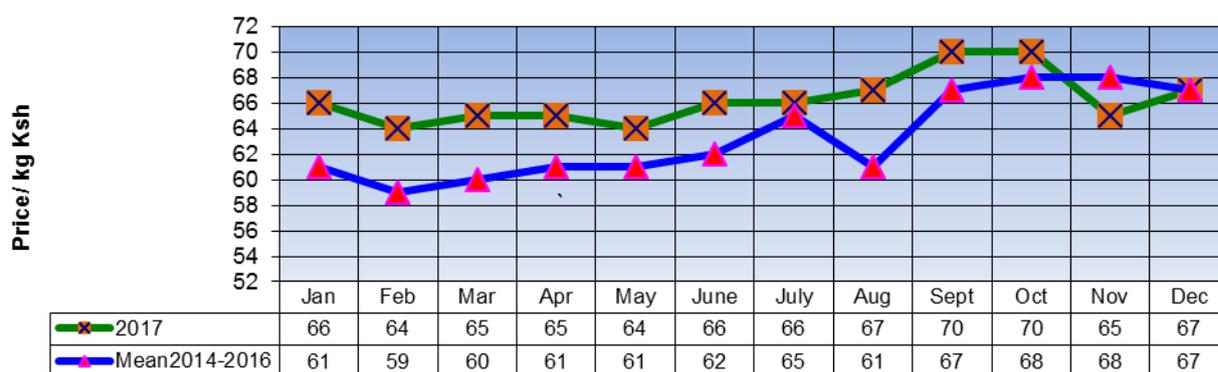
Average camel prices for Mandera County at h/hold level vs long term mean (07-16) as at December 2017



4.2 CROP PRICES

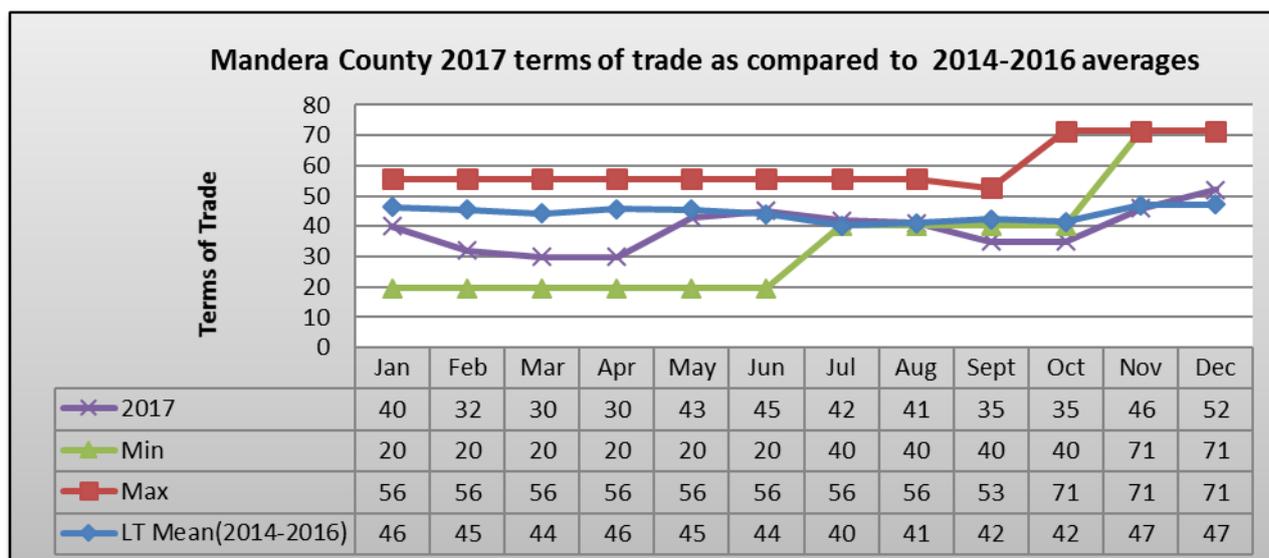
4.2.1 Maize

Average maize price for Mandera County at h/hold level vs long term mean(014-16) as at December 2017



- The average maize price during the month of December 2017 was Ksh.67 per kg.
- Compared to the previous month, the average price reduced by 5Ksh.
- 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 52 Kilogram of maize by selling one medium goat.
- The Terms of trade improved when compared to last month, this is attributed to the increase in goat price and decrease in maize price.
- The terms of trade are favourable to pastoral communities when compared to long term average.
- The price of goat is likely to remain stable or decrease as the body condition is expected to worsen due to long trekking distance to grazing areas.
- The markets across the County continued to function normally with no cases of reported disruptions

4.4 implication of above indicator to Food Security

- Livestock production such as milk and meat improved the purchasing power of Pastoralist through sale of the product which in turn improved malnutrition in the county.
- Easy availability and accessibility of house food commodity to the market due to more supply.
- improved livestock price will have positive impacts on pastoralist return thus enhancing food security at household level.

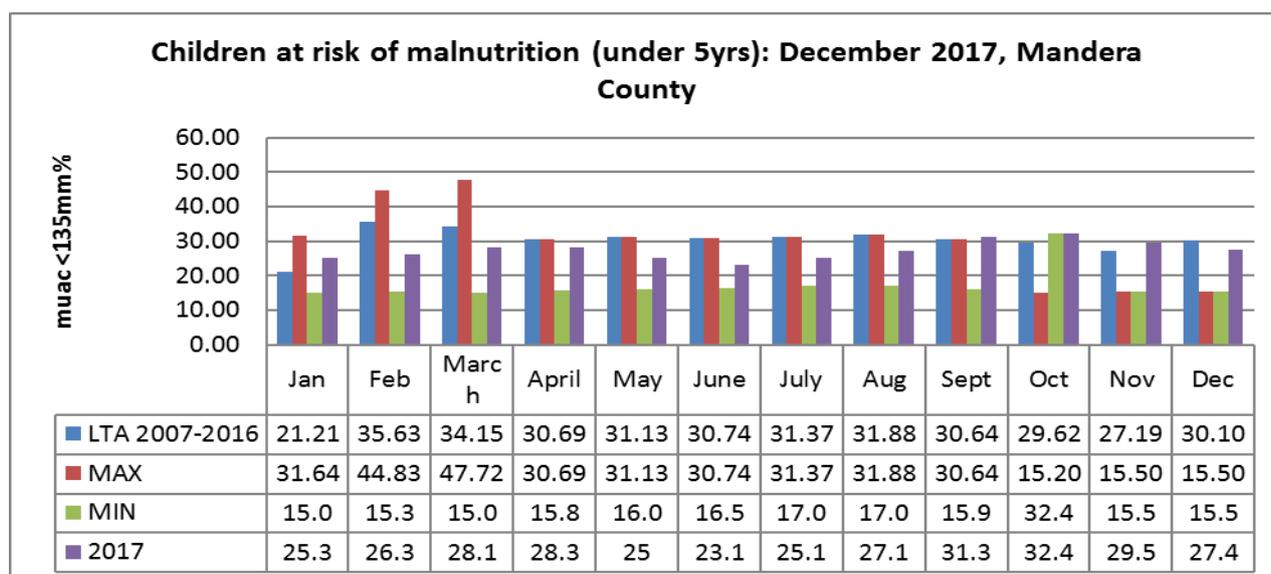
5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- The total number of litres consumed was 2 litres while total produced was 5.4litres on average for all the sampled sentinel sites. The average milk price was Ksh 100 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 December was 27.4%. When compared to last month it has decreased by 1.7%
- The high levels of nutritional cases are attributed to below normal milk production, Poor dietary diversity, poor child feeding practices, poor caring and poor feeding practices.



5.3.2 Health

- Cases of Dengue Fever and Diarrhoea reported in Mandera East Sub County during the month under review.

5.4 COPING STRATEGIES

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

6. CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 NON-FOOD INTERVENTIONS - NOTE THE FOLLOWING

- Hunger safety net programmes provides regular payment of Kshs. 5,400 bi-monthly to 22231 beneficiaries in order to build households resilience and to help mitigate the shocks of the drought
- Regional Pastoral Livelihood Resilience project (RPLRP) is in the process of purchasing spare parts for strategic boreholes and maintenance and repair of boreholes.
- RPLRP is under taking disease surveillance and supportive treatment to notifiable disease in 18 sites within the County.
- RPLRP is also purchasing supplement feeds and provision of range cubes in the all six sub counties
- Health and nutrition outreach in 116 sites in Mandera west, south and Banisa.

6.2 FOOD AID - NOTE THE FOLLOWING

- No FFA food distributed during the months but Blanket supplementary feeding programme is conducted by COCOP and Save the Children in the entire County.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- No security incidence was reported in the entire County during the month under review.
- Alshabab remains major threat to government and NGO workers in the entire county especially Arabia, Lafey road

7.2 Migration

- Migration of livestock from pastoral and irrigated cropping zone to Agro pastoral zone was reported during the month under review. These will result in depletion of browse in the sub counties

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- No rain was received during the month of December and the current performance of the season was below normal and negatively affect food security outlook in the coming months of January to March. Already the Vegetation condition index is showing severe vegetation deficit in Mandera East Sub County and moderate vegetation deficit in Mandera South, North, West and Lafey Sub counties. It is anticipated that livestock production in terms of milk and sales of herds will decline in the month of January going into March as pasture is unavailable and browse is getting depleted.
- Livestock migration will likely increase as the rains have been poor in both spatial and temporal distribution in Pastoral and Irrigated livelihood zones. There is likelihood of resource based conflict arising along the communities due to scarce resource available. Sub counties that require particular attention and face high risk of moderate drought include Mandera South, North, West and Lafey Sub counties. Key issues to monitor among others are human and livestock disease incidences, borehole break downs and inefficiencies, market food availability volumes and commodity price changes, and community conflict.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Response:

- Develop contingency scenario building to enhance early response as the short rains are below normal

Water

- Repair and maintain all water boozers for possible use in the event of water scarcity in areas where the rains were depressed.
- Facilitate repid response team to carry out service and maintainces of livestock strategic boreholes
- Provisision of fast moving spare parts to livestock boreholes and repair of defective boreholes
- Fuel subsidy to boreholes to support overburdened pastoral communties who lost purchasing powers
- Water trucking to all affected water stress centres for human and livestock consumption

Livestock

- Support county wide mass deworming and treatment of livestock
- Provision of hay and mineral suppliments for the affected areas
- Put in place pasture and browse conservation mechanisms
- Manage conflict along watering points and migration corridors

Livelihoods

- Support to vulnerable households estimated at 300,000 persons with food aid across the county
- Up scale Hunger Safety Net Programme across all the group two beneficiairies
- Prepare County response plan
- Emergency scale up to sub counties with severe vegetaion deficit

Agriculture

- Support to vulnerable households estimated at 300,000 persons with food aid across the county.
- Fuel subsidy for Riverine farmers
- Supply of fodder/crop seeds for riverine farmers specially early maturity seeds

Health

- Scale up of health and nutrition outreach programme for settelement withou health 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.
- Monitor malnutrition and general food insecurity in January and February in order to establish the number of households that are food insecure
- Promote personal and communal hygiene through sustained hand-washing campaigns