

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



**FEBRUARY 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	12.25	>35
Forage condition	poor	Good
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Crop Condition (specify crop)	Poor	Good
Livestock Body Condition	Fair	Normal
Milk Production	2.5 litres	>46.0 litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths	No deaths	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	37 kgs	>47 kgs
Milk Consumption	1.8 litres	40.3 litres
Return distance to water sources	13 km	<4 Km
Cost of water at source (20 litres)	10ksh	<5Kshs
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	28.57	<30.0
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	21.28	<0.95

**Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification**

**Biophysical Indicators**

- Rains were received in some parts of the County in the last two days of the Month. Areas which received rainfall include Banisa subcounty, Parts of Mandera south especially Shimbir Fatuma and Lafey Sub County.
- Vegetation condition;** the current three-month Vegetation Condition index deteriorated compared to last month categorizing the County as Severe vegetation deficit band. All the Sub Counties are currently in severe vegetation deficit band except Banisa Sub County which is in Moderate vegetation deficit band.
- 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)**

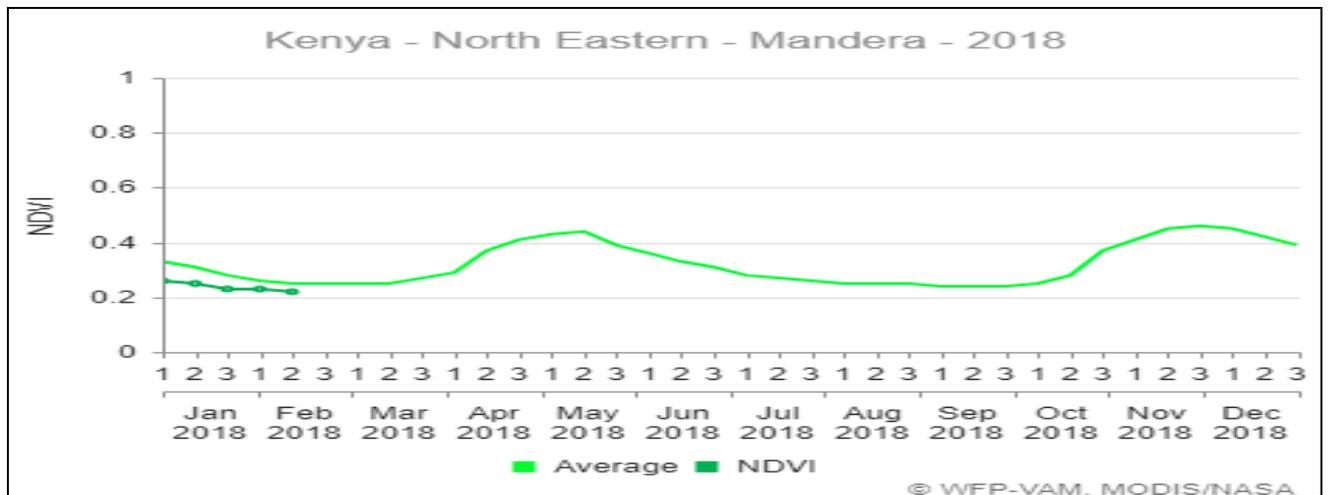
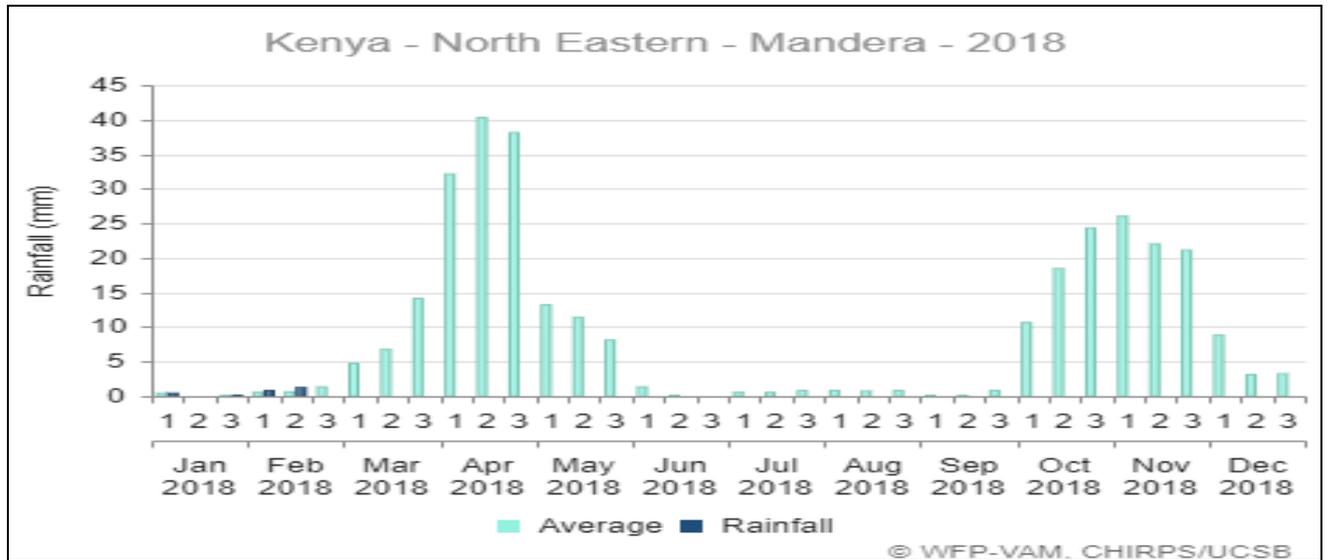
- Production indicators;** Milk production and consumption are below LTA .
- Livestock prices have decreased compared to last month.
- Term of trade is un favourable to pastoral communities
- The livestock body condition for all species is poor to fair
- The utilization indicator is outside the normal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

<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

# 1. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

## 1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- Rains were received in some parts of the County in the last days of February. Areas which received rainfall include Banisa subcounty, Parts of Mandera south especially Shimbir Fatuma and Lafey Sub County.
- This is not normal during the time of year as the onset of long rains were expected on third dekad of March.



## 1.3 Other Events

### 1.3.1 Flooding

- No floods were reported during the month under review

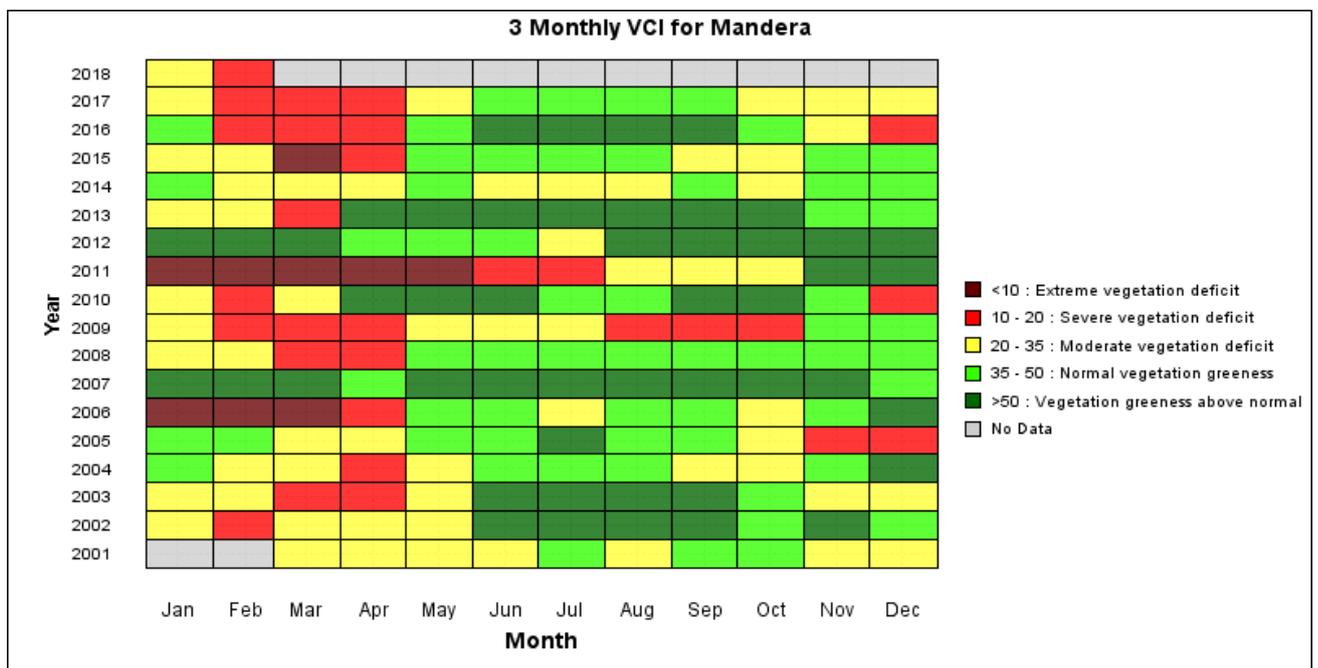
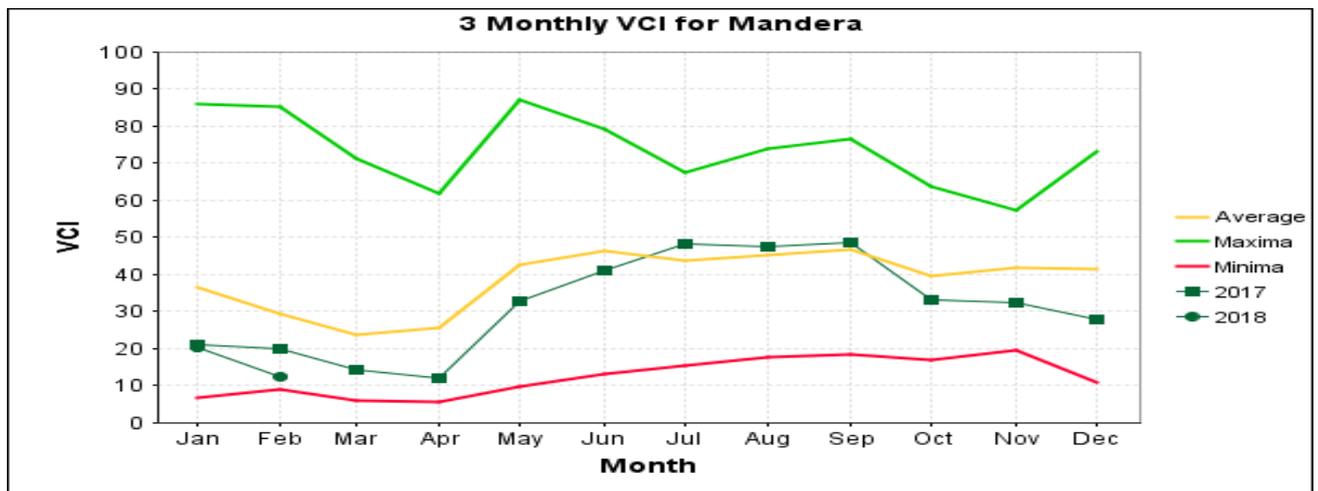
## 2. IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

### 1.2 AGRICULTURAL DROUGHT

#### 1.2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION INDEX (VCI)

##### Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

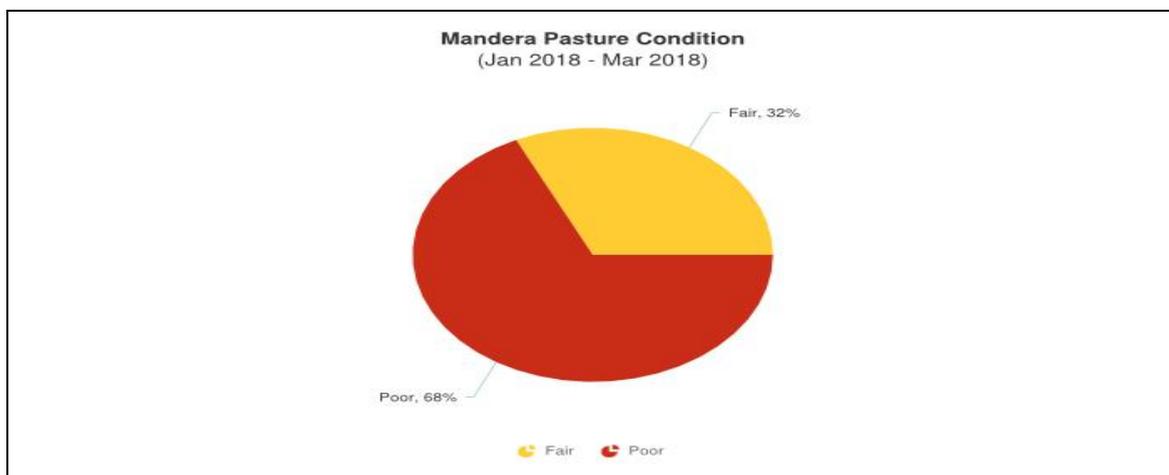
- The current vegetation condition index's in the month of February is 12.25 indicating severe vegetation deficits band for the entire County
- Five sub counties are showing severe vegetation deficit while Banisa sub County in Moderate vegetation deficit with a fast deterioration of the vegetation greenness.
- The deterioration of VCI was 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 slightly improve as rains were received in some parts of the County.
- The VCI is below the long-term average and below the same year as shown in the graph below.



**Field Observation:**

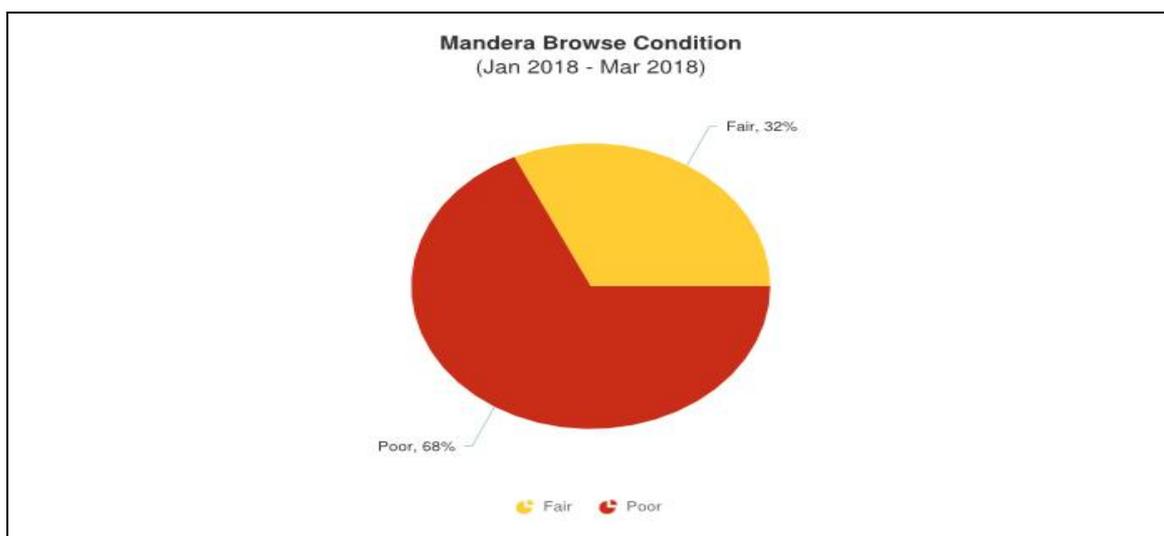
**2.1.2 Pasture:**

- The pasture situation is poor in all livelihoods zones except few areas of Banisa Sub County where the pasture is slightly fair.
- This was as result of depressed short rains seasons and consecutive rainfall failure witnessed in previous seasons. This is not normal during this time of the year.
- This condition is expected to improve as rains have been received in some parts of the County.



**2.1.3 Browse:**

- The browse conditions are fair in Banisa subcounty while the other parts of the County have poor browse conditions.
- When compared to same month, the browse situation is below normal.
- The browse is expected to improve in the next two weeks as rains were received in some parts of the County.

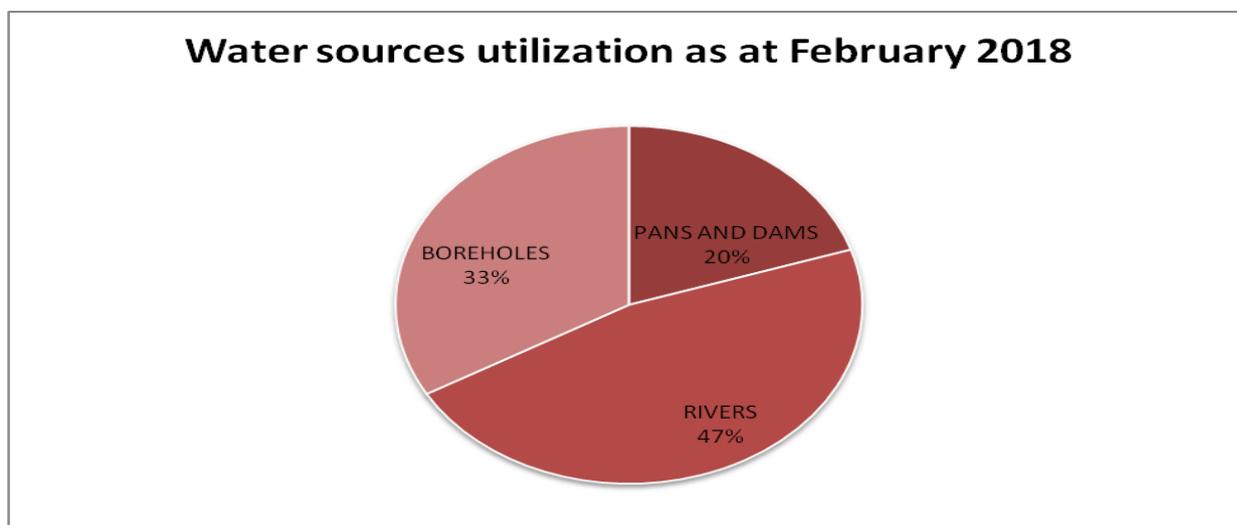


**2.2 WATER RESOURCE**

**2.2.1 Sources**

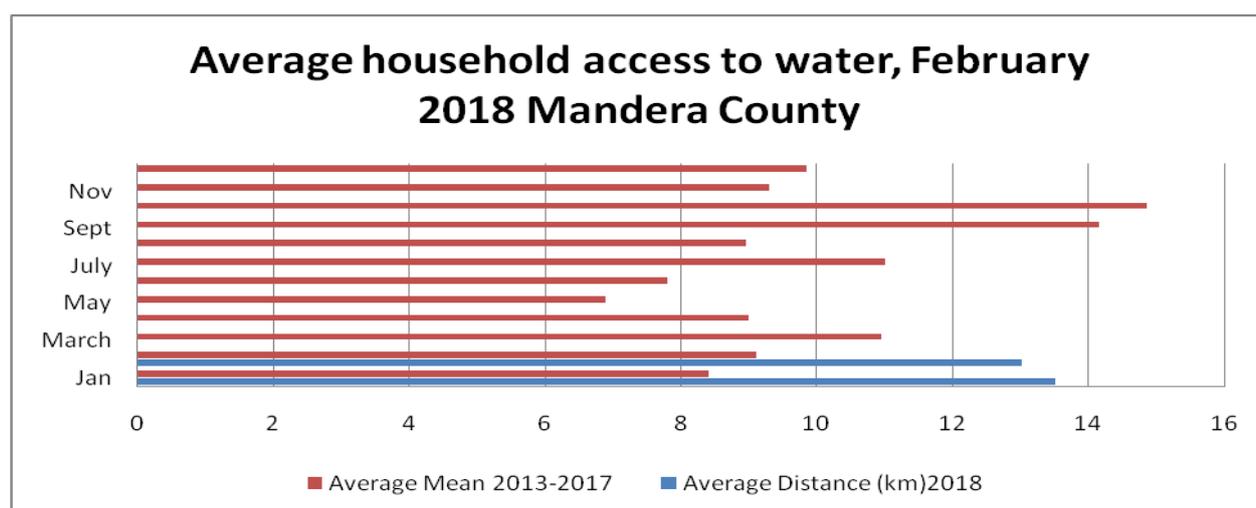
- The current main sources of water in use by both human and livestock's in the county are boreholes, River Daua and water pans.

- Almost 47%, of the household are using rivers while 33% and 20% use Boreholes and earth pans respectively.
- High livestock congestion ob boreholes leading to frequent breakages
- Water trucking is currently ongoing in 70 centres in Lafey, Mandera East and North sub counties
- Few earth pans have impounded water during the last two days rain that was received. These include Simfir Fatuma, Burmayo, Balowle, Bambo, WaranqaraSheikh Barrow earth pans.



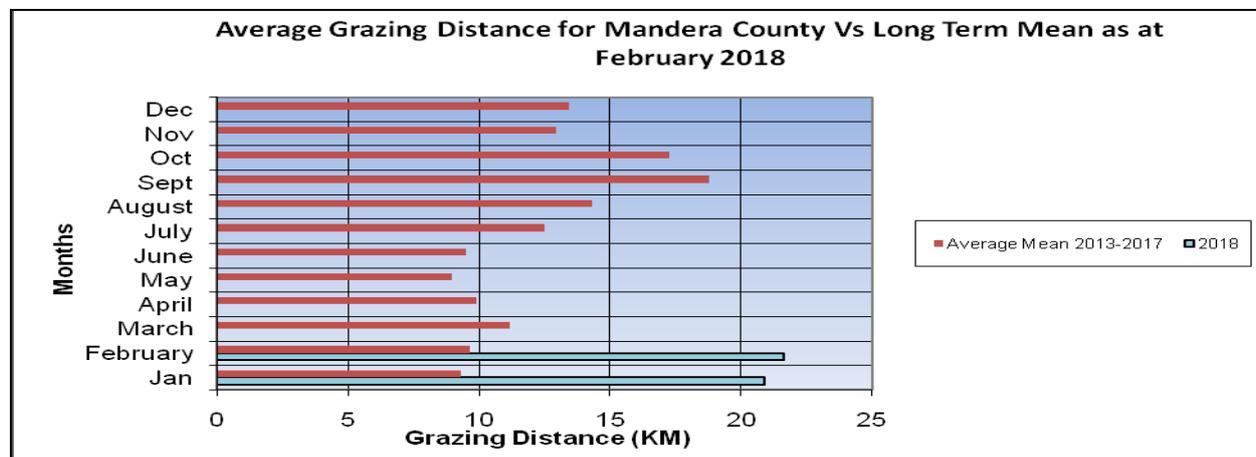
### 2.2.2 Household access and utilization

- The average distance to watering sources was recorded at 13km as shown in the chart below. The current average distance is above normal at this time of the year.
- The distance is expected to reduce as pans have impounded water and availability has improved.
- 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 21.6Km, the average grazing distance increased when compared to last month and these is due to poor pasture condition in entire 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
- The situation is expected to reduce as pasture is expected to regenerate in the coming weeks.



### 2.3 Implication to food security

- decrease in distance to grazing areas in the coming weeks is expected to improve the body condition of livestock thus enhancing the productivity of the livestock

## 3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

### 3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

#### 3.1.2 Livestock Body Condition

- The livestock body condition is generally fair to poor across all livestock species in Lafey, Mandera south, Mandera east, Mandera north and Mandera west sub-counties.
- This is not normal at this time of the year. The condition is attributed to poor forage regeneration in the five sub- counties while Banissa browse condition is fair.
- The body condition is expected to improve as pasture condition are expected to regenerate in the coming weeks.

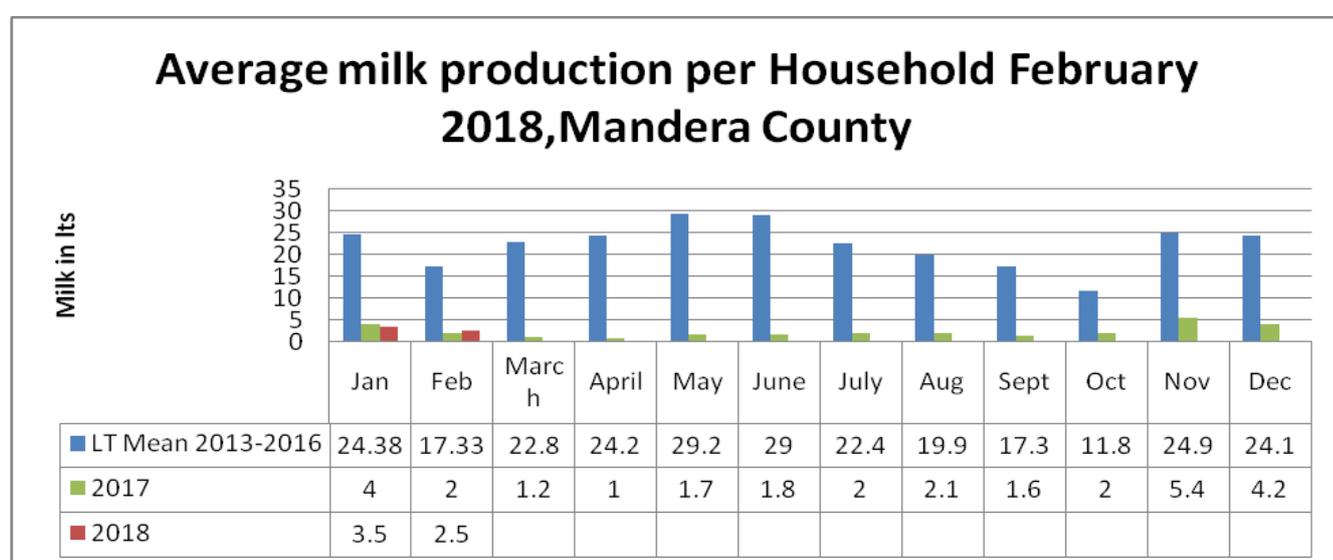
BODY CONDITIONS	SCORE
<b>Emaciated, little muscle left</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Very thin no fat, bones visible</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Thin fore ribs visible</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Borderline fore-ribs not visible. 12<sup>th</sup> &amp; 13<sup>th</sup> ribs visible</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Moderate. Neither fat nor thin</b>	<b>5</b>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

### 3.1.3 Livestock Diseases

- The current diseases that are 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

- 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 2.5 liters. When compared to last month, the average milk productions have slightly decreased by 1 litre and This is associated to lack of pasture and deteriorating browse condition and out migration in the entire 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, few farmers have planted maize, pasture seeds and cow peas as fodder for their livestock
- In Agro pastoral zone crops have wilted due to moisture water stress.
- River Daa dried up reducing farming activities and the county expects no harvest.

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

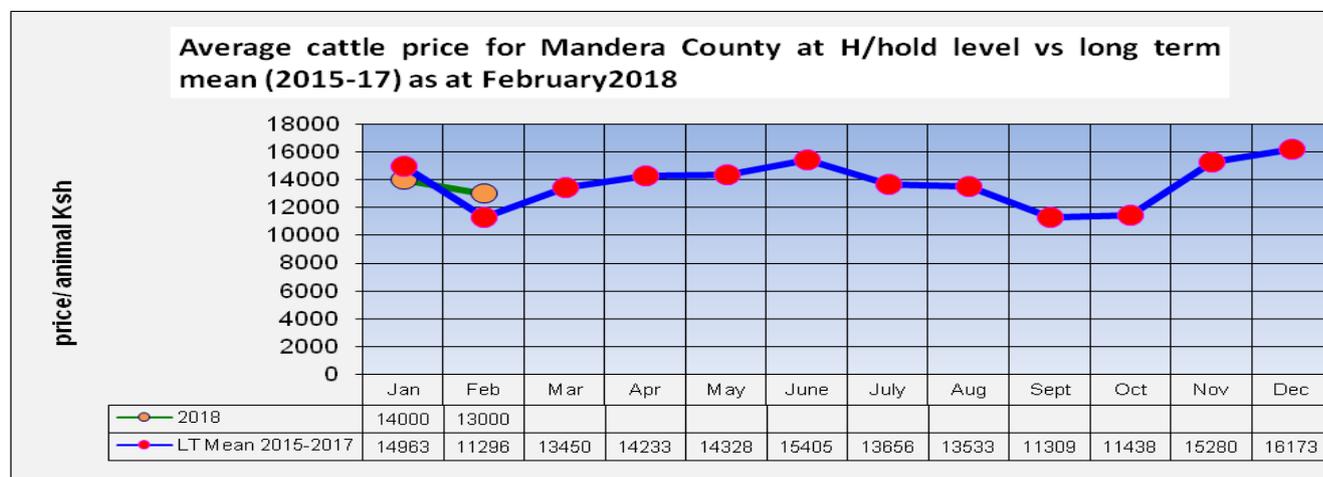
- No crops planted in Agro pastoral zone will affect negatively on food security of the households

## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

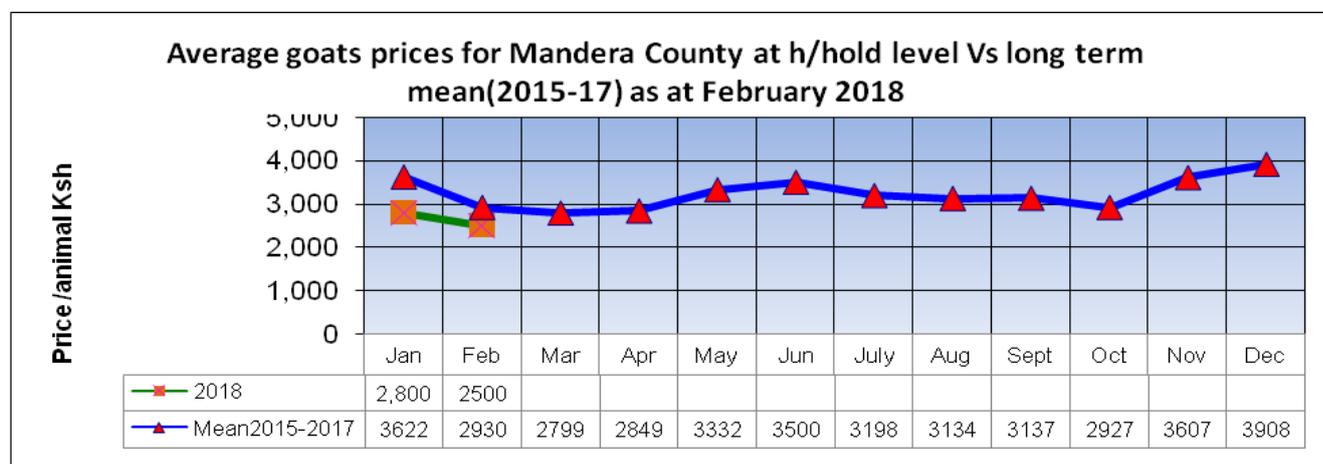
#### 4.1.1 Cattle Prices

- Average cattle price decreased from Ksh14, 000 in January to Ksh 13,000 in the month of February 2018. The decreased price is due to poor body condition, closure of Ethiopian markets due to conflict and also low market demand.
- When compared to the long-term mean, the average price is below the expected normal range as shown below.

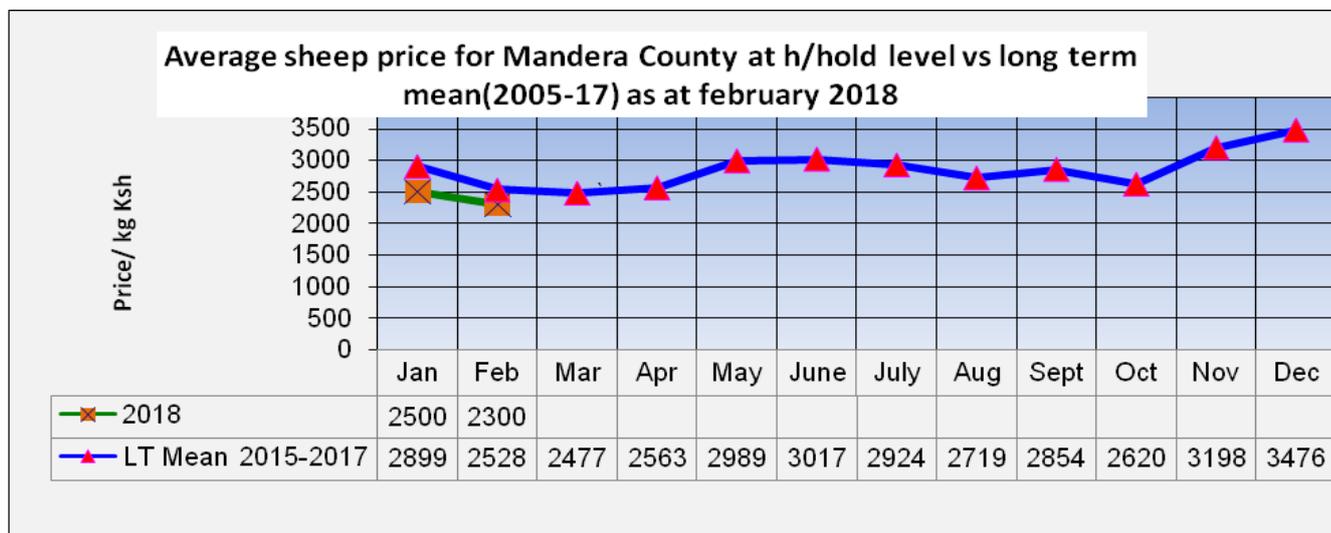


#### 4.1.2 Goat Prices

- Average goat price decreased from Ksh 2800 in January to Ksh2500 in February 2018. The decrease in price is due to deterioration of body condition and also low market demand.
- Compared to the long-term mean (2015-2017), the average price was below the normal

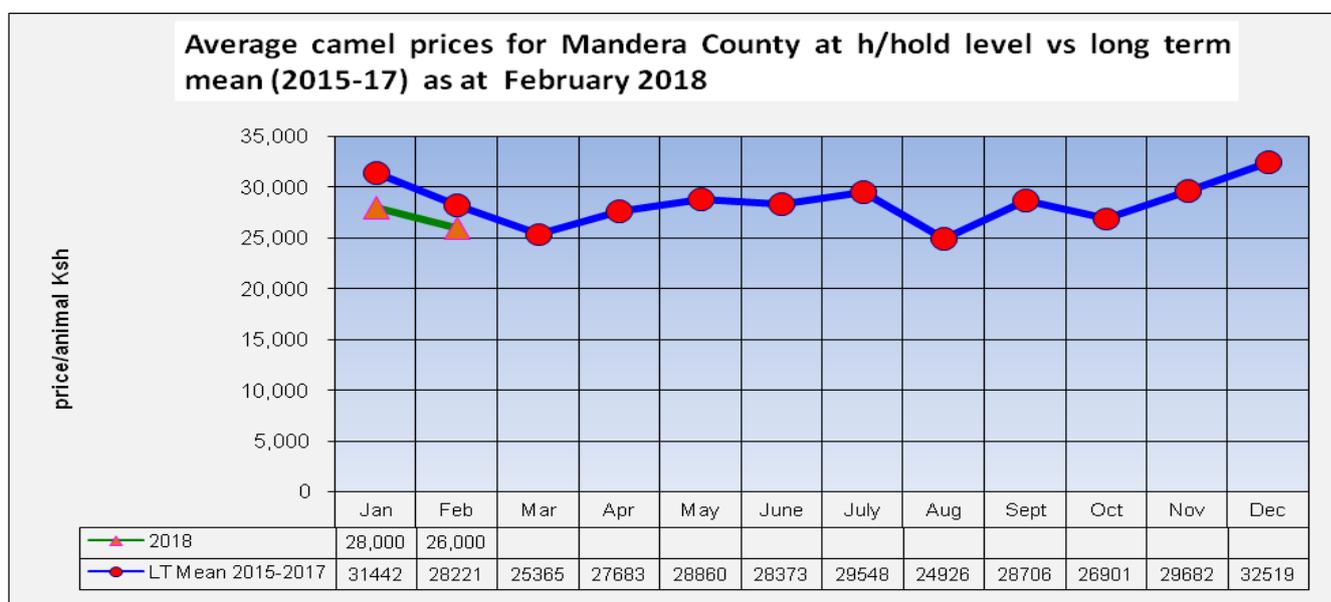


- Average sheep price decreased from Ksh2500 in January to Ksh.2300 in the month of February 2018.
- The current average sheep price is below the long-term mean.
- The highest average prices were noted in Agro pastoral zone followed by Pastoral all species zone and irrigated cropping zone respectively.



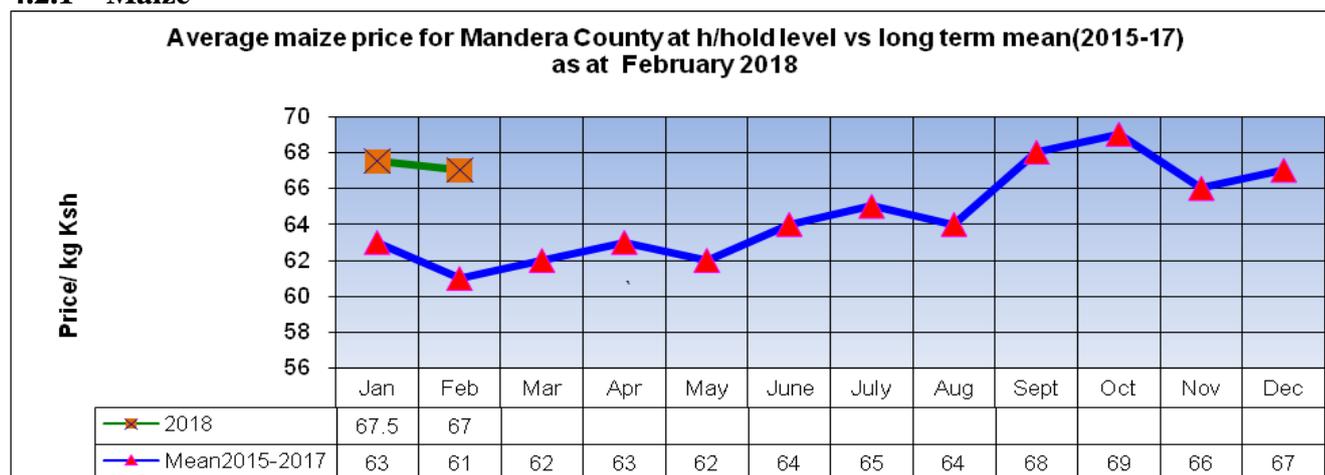
### 4.1.3 Camel Prices

- The average camel price during the month of February 2018 is Ksh26, 000 when compared to last month the average price has decreased and these is attributed to low market demand.
- The average camel price was below the normal range as shown in the table below



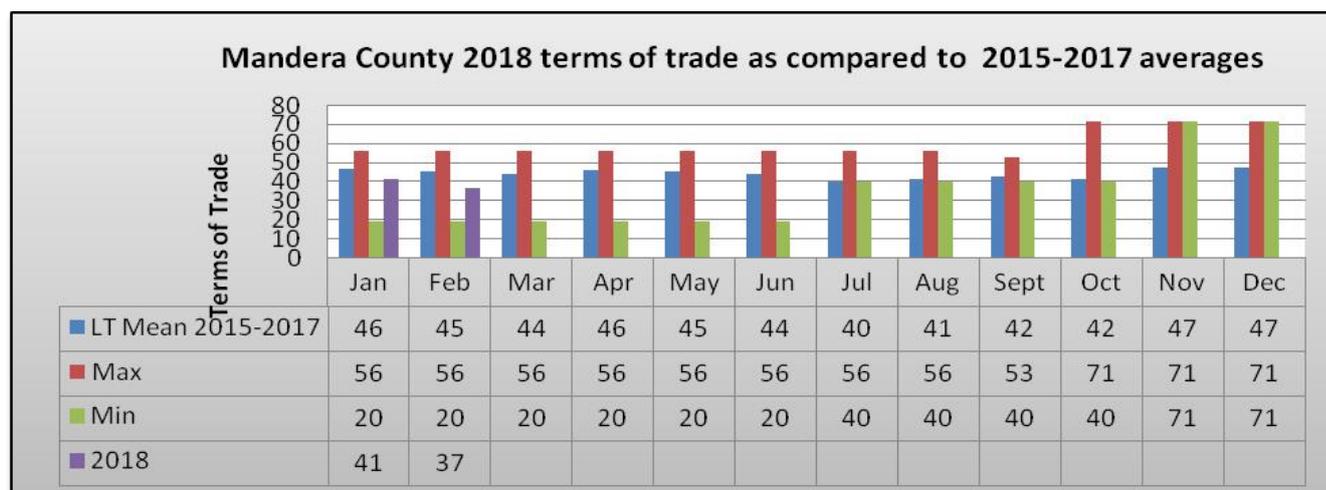
## 4.2 CROP PRICES

### 4.2.1 Maize



- The average maize price during the month of February 2018 was Ksh.67per kg.
- Compared to the previous month, the average price remained stable.
- 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



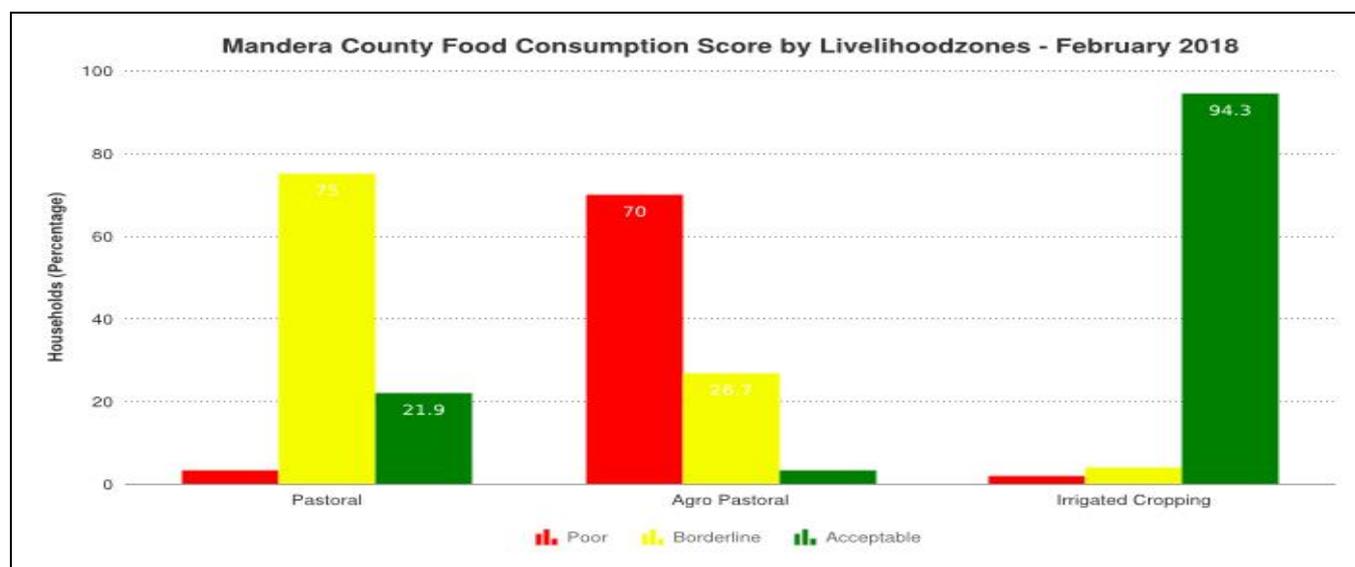
- Currently a household can purchase 37Kilogram of maize by selling one medium goat.
- The Terms of trade decreased when compared to last month, this is attributed to the decrease in goat price.
- The terms of trade are unfavourable to pastoral communities when compared to long term average.
- The price of goat is likely to 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
- Ethiopian /solamia conflict/insecurity affected livestock market.

#### 4.4 implication of above indicator to Food Security

- Decreased livestock prices coupled with high cereal prices impact negatively on pastoral return and reduce 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 23 percent, compared to 5 percent recorded in the previous month. The proportion in the borderline category also increased from 20 to 34 percent while those in the acceptable zone reduced from 94 percent to 58 percent.
- The proportion of households with acceptable food consumption score in both livelihood zones 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, fish and dairy.
- The food consumption situation at livelihood zone level is shown in the graph below:

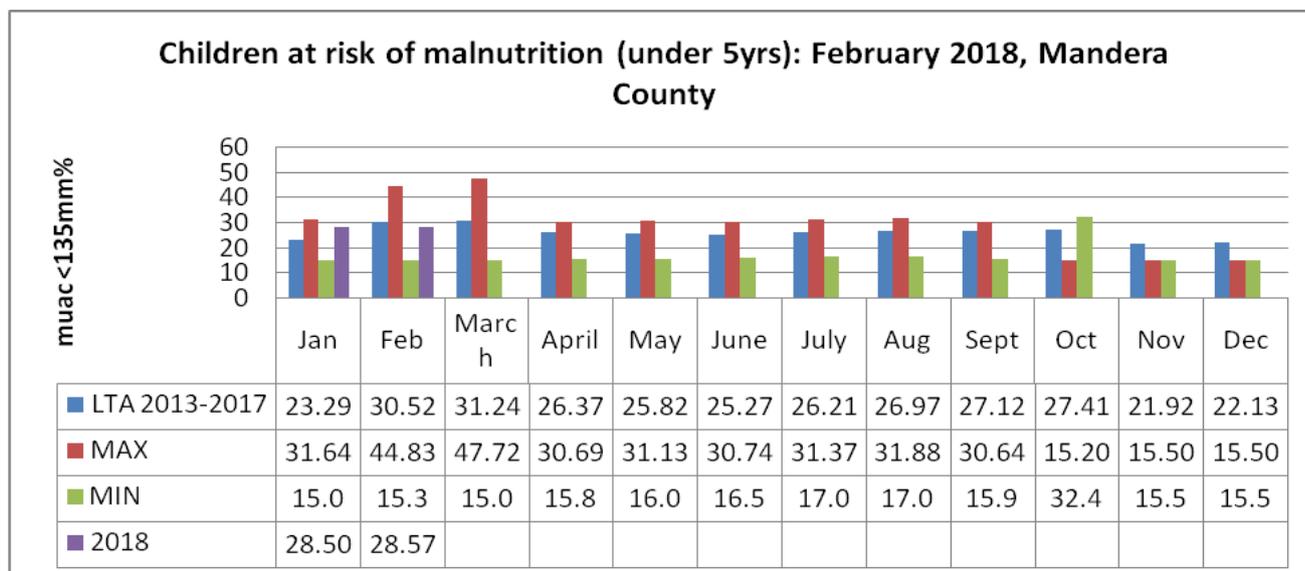


#### 5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- The total number of litres consumed was 1.8 litres while total produced was 2.5litres 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 February was 28.57%. When compared to last month the MUAC remained stable.
- The high levels of malnutritional cases are attributed to below normal milk production, Poor dietary diversity, poor child feeding practices, poor caring and poor feeding practices.

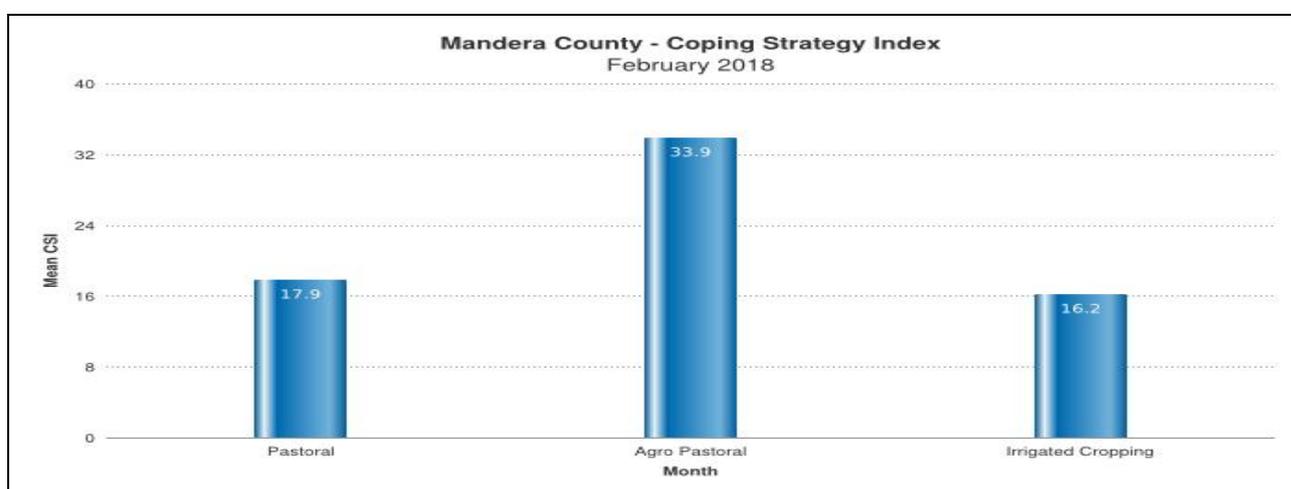


### 5.3.2 Health

- Cases of Dengue Fever and Diarrhoea reported in Mandera during the month under review.
- No out break of human disease was reported during the month under review.

### 5.4 COPING STRATEGIES

- The mean coping strategy index (CSI) for the month increased from 19 in January to 21.28 in February.
- This implies that households in the all the livelihood zones employed more 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 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.
- No food for asset programme distribution done during the month under review

### **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**

- Out migration of livestock from Kotulo in Mandera South was reported towards Wajir east and Tarbaj Sub County during the month under review.

### **7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS**

-The current situation is expected to continue deteriorating. Food prices are expected to continue increasing as livestock price continue to decrease affecting the purchasing power of the communities. Malnutrition cases are expected to increase to continue worsening as access to food continue to be limited. After the onset, the pasture and browse conditions are expected to regenerate leading to increased milk production and consumption and improve water availability at household level. The livestock body condition is also expected to improve thus increasing the purchasing power of communities and food security at household level.

## **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
- Provisson 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 beneficiaries
- 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 February and February in order to establish the number of households that are food insecure
- Promote personal and communal hygiene through sustained hand-washing campaigns