

# National Drought Management Authority MARSABIT COUNTY DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR DECEMBER 2018



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



## EW PHASE: ALERT

**Drought Status: ALERT**



**Maandalizi ya mapema**

### Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

#### Biophysical Indicators

- **Rainfall:** Rainfall was received in most parts of the County which was below normal characterized by poor spatial and temporal distribution of across the livelihood zones.
- **Vegetation condition:** 3-months Vegetation Condition Index for the month under review was 33.0 which exhibited noteworthy decline when compared to the preceding months' vegetation condition index of 54.62. Forage condition is generally good-fair across the County.

#### Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

**Production indicators:** Livestock body condition was good for all the livestock species across the livelihood zones. Milk production improved to 3.8Litres/household/day due to high birth-rate's especially in amongst the camel in the month under review. Maize is at physiological stage in Saku while in Moyale its been harvested. Beans is at harvesting stage in the agro-pastoral areas of Moyale and Saku sub-counties.

**Access indicators:** Household and livestock trekking distances to water points have gradually increased when compared to the previous month water distances. Milk consumption has declined to 1.4Litres/household/day which is below the Long Term Average. Terms of trade was favourable due to better goats' prices coupled with stable maize prices. Households are majorly relying on water pans and boreholes.

- **Utilization indicators:** Nutritional status of children below the age of five years was 13.2percent which was within the normal ranges. Food consumption score fell within the acceptable band whereas stressed reduced coping strategies were employed by households in December.

### Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Normal	Deteriorating
Pastoral All species	Alert	Stable
Fisherfolk/ Casual labour /Petty Trading	Alert	Stable
County	Alert	Stable
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	60	80 -120
VCI-3Month	33.0	>35
Forage condition	Good-Fair	Good
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Good-Fair	Good-Fair
Milk Production	3.8	>1.9Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	112	>75
Milk Consumption	1.4	>1.6Litres
Return distance to water	3.9	0.0-2.8 Km
Cost of water	0-5	<Ksh.5
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	13.2	0.0-18.9
Coping Strategy Index	18.95	<20
Food Consumption score	42.3	>35

<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	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

# 1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

## 1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

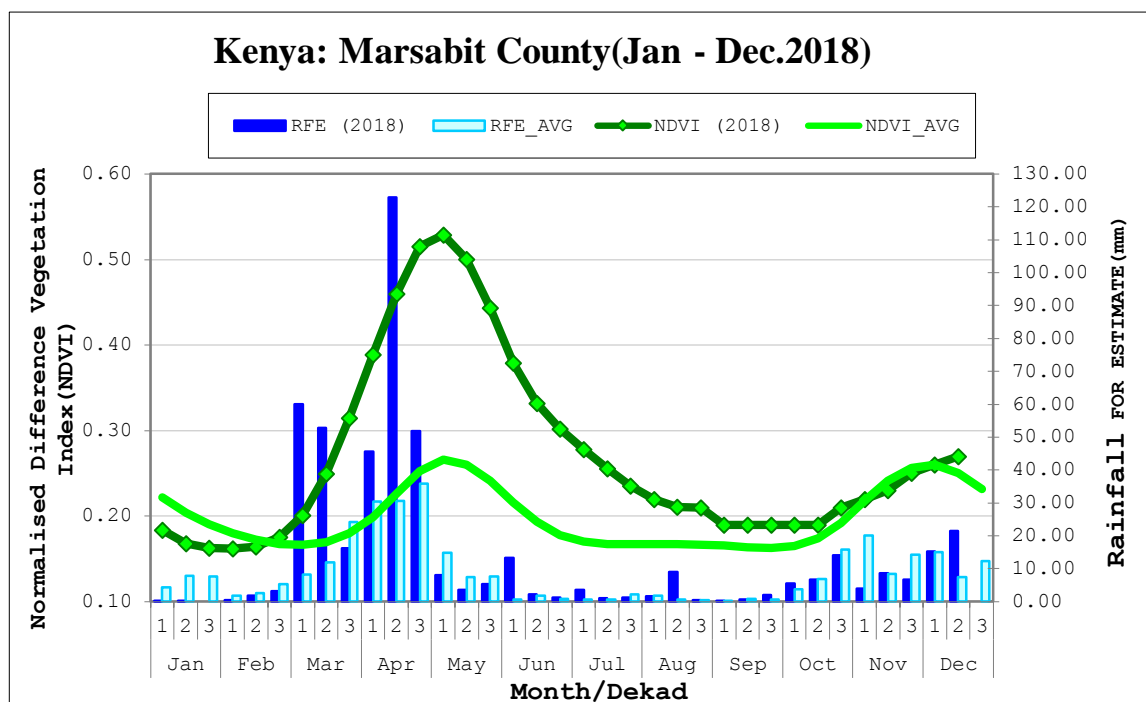


Figure 1: Dekadal Rainfall(mm) and NDVI values compared to the Long Term Average

- From the (Figure 1) shown above, dekadal rainfall for estimate(RFE) for the first and second and dekads were 15.07mm and 21.40mm respectively against the dekadal long term averages of 15.07mm and 7.47mm for the first and second dekads respectively. Therefore, second dekad rainfall for estimate were generally above normal.
- The normalised difference vegetation index(NDVI) for the first and second dekads for the month under review were 0.26 and 0.27 for the first and second dekads respectively which were normal.

### 1.2 Cessation of the Short Rains

- Cessation of the short rains occurred in the second dekad of the month of December across the County. When compared to a normal season, cessation of the short rains was timely.

### 1.3 Amounts received

- Moyale rainfall station recorded rainfall totalling to 65.6mm in 4-5 rainy days with the highest amount recorded on 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 38.5mm. Similarly, Marsabit Mountain received rainfall amounting to 54.6mm in 5 rainy days with the maximum amount recorded on 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 27.1mm. By and large, Moyale and Saku sub-counties received near normal rainfall amounts whereas Laisamis and North Horr sub-counties received below normal rains. Nevertheless, some parts of North Horr sub-county (Gas, Dukana, Darade, Maikona, Huri Hills, Turbi and North Horr) and Laisamis sub-county (Logologo, Laisamis South Horr , Arapal and Mt.Kulal) received torrential rainfall amounts in 2-3 rainy days.

### 1.4 Spatial and Temporal Distribution

- Largely, spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall was poor across the County as rainfall of varying intensities were received at different time intervals. Saku (Sagante, Qargasa, Dirib Gombo, Karare and Jaldesa) and Moyale (Uran, Sololo, Anona, Wahegogha, Walda, Heillu, Kinisa and Township) sub-counties received rains in 4-5 rainy days. Conversely, most parts of North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties received rains in a frequency of 2-3 rainy days. Also lowland areas bordering Wajir in areas of Moyale sub-county (Dabel, Amballo, Badanrero, Amballo) received rains for 1-2 days. Generally; Soito, Farakoen and Loyangangalani in Laisamis, Bubisa and Shurr in North Horr generally remained dry in the

month under review. Agro-pastoral livelihood zone received near normal rains whereas Pastoral livelihood zone received below normal rainfall amounts in December.

## 1.5 CUMULATIVE RAINFALL AMOUNTS

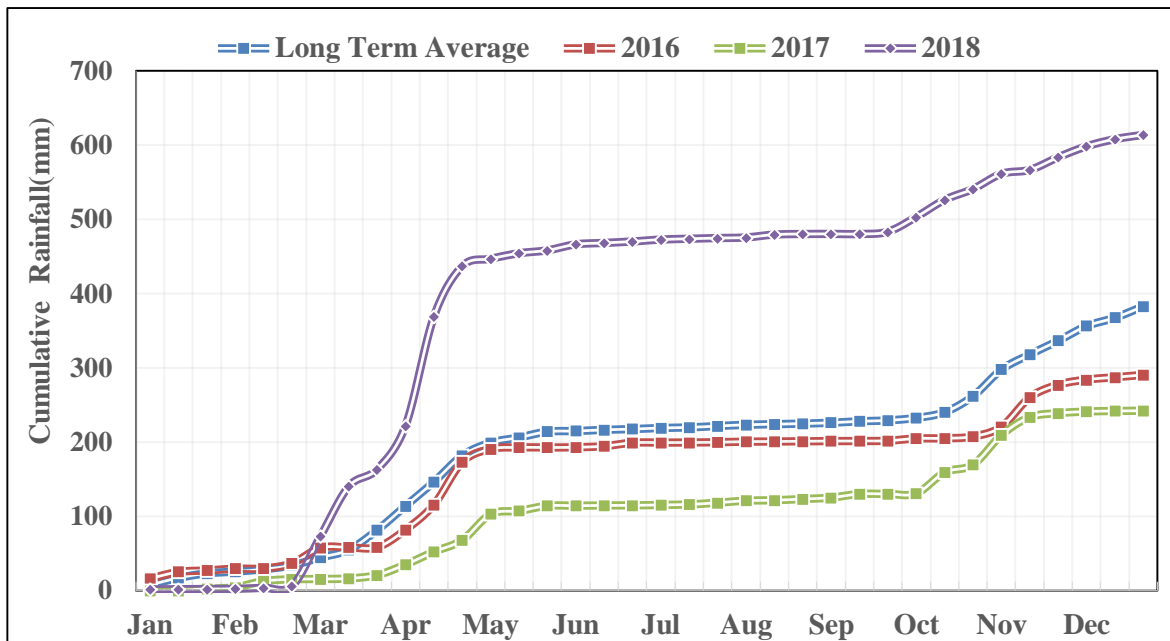


Figure 2: Marsabit County Cumulative Rainfall Amounts(mm)

- From the figure (2) shown above, 6-months cumulative rainfall was 60percent of the normal across the County. This was attributed to depressed and erratic rains short rains in the pastoral areas of North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties which crowded out slightly enhanced rainfall amounts in the Agro-pastoral areas of Moyale and Saku sub-counties respectively.
- Cumulatively, the year 2018 has generally been a non-drought year due to exceedingly high long rains which sustained most of the drought indicators to within normal ranges albeit the short rains which was not promising as it was erratic, depressed in the pastoral areas of North Horr and Laisamis and near normal in the agro-pastoral areas of Moyale and Saku.

## 2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

### 2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

#### 2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

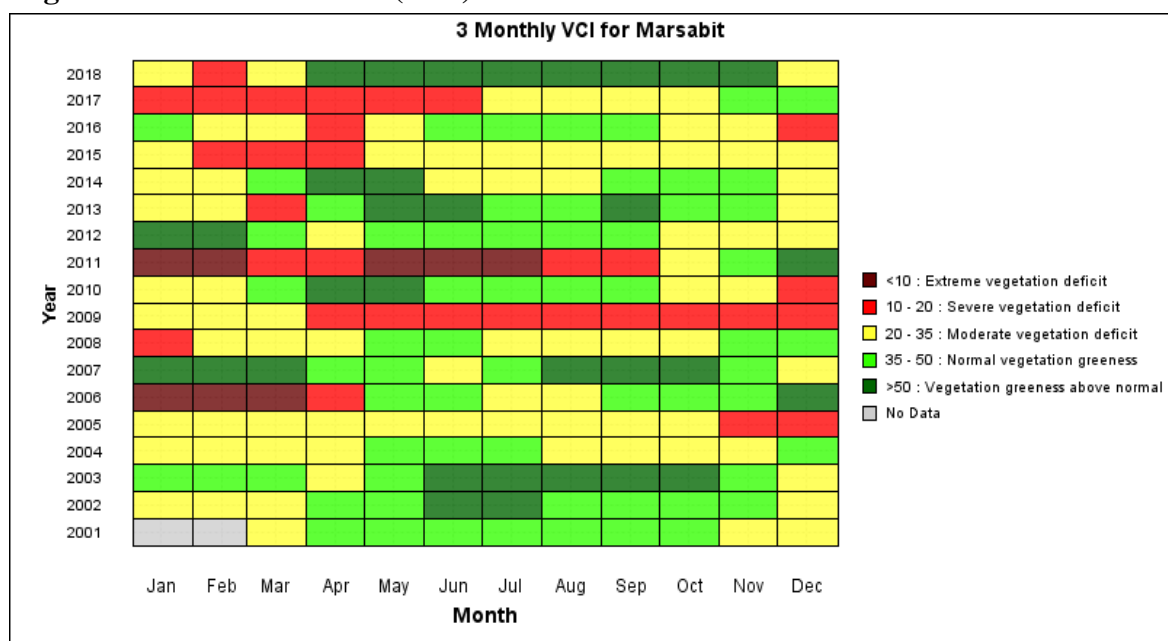


Figure 3: Vegetation Condition Index across the County

- The basis of the vegetation condition index comprises of relative implication of differences in NDVI with respect to minimum and maximum historical NDVI values.
- From the matrix shown above, 3-months vegetation index for the month of December was 33.0 which is an indicative of significant decline when compared to the previous months VCI of 54.62. The 3-months vegetation condition index plummeted from above normal vegetation condition greenness to moderate vegetation condition deficit due to depressed and erratic rainfall received in the pastoral areas (North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties) and near normal rains in the agro-pastoral areas of Moyale and Saku sub-counties thereby not sufficiently regenerating vegetation cover across the County.
- Also, 3-monthly vegetation condition index for Moyale (37.71) and Saku (43.82 sub-counties fell in the normal vegetation greenness band whereas North Horr (32.12) and Laisamis (31.38) sub-counties fell in the moderate vegetation deficit band hence considerable decline.

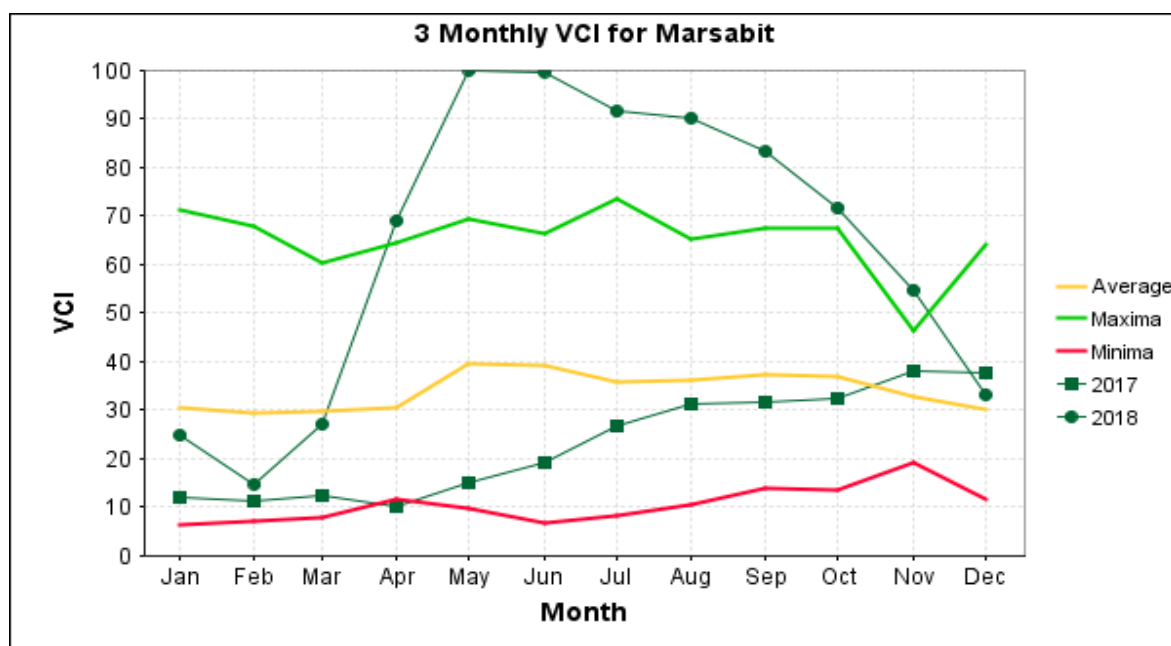


Figure 4:Vegetation Condition Index Trends across the County

- The figure shown above compares 2018 VCI trends to 2017, long term average and gives maximum and minimum values ever recorded.
- Vegetation condition index for the month under review was below 2017 December VCI and has been on a consistent declining trend.
- Significant decline in the trend of vegetation condition index from November to December was noted due to depressed and erratic rains that were received in the pastoral areas which crowded out the general normal vegetation greenness recorded in the agro-pastoral areas.
- When compared to similar periods, the current vegetation condition index is above normal.

### 2.1.2 Pasture

- Pasture condition is generally good in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone of Moyale and Saku sub-counties whereas fair in the pastoral livelihood zone of North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties.
- Succulent pasture was noted in Saku and Moyale sub-counties due to near normal rains in-addition to previous good season. Significant pasture deterioration was witnessed in most

parts of North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties. Areas of Lontolio, Meriile, Korr, Kargi, Sarima, Loiyangalani and Laisamis have fair pasture although Mt Kulal, South Horr and Olturot in Laisamis sub-county have good pasture. In North Horr sub county; Kalacha, Maikona, Balesa, Dukana, Elbesso, Gas, Malabot have fair to poor pasture but areas of Shurr, Turbi, Huri Hills pasture condition is generally good.

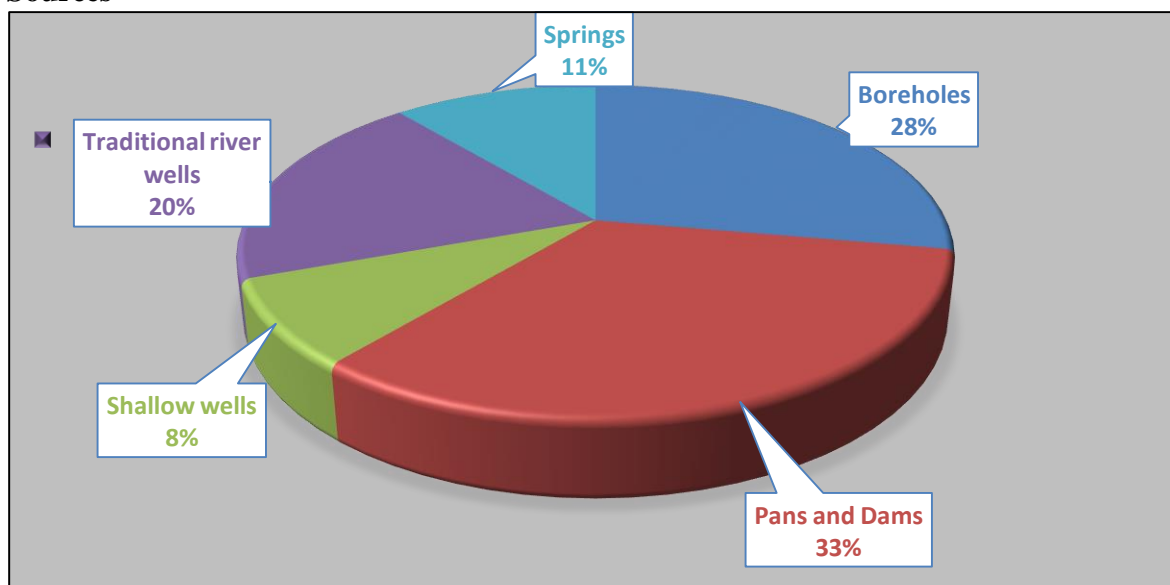
- Reported incidences of emergence of herbaceous vegetation was predominant in the northern and southern parts of North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties respectively especially *calotropis procera*.
- Available pasture is expected to last for the next 3months against the normal 2months in the agro-pastoral areas whereas in the pastoral areas pasture is projected to last for the next 1-2months against the normal 1month.

### 2.1.3 Browse

- Generally, browse condition is good in the agro-pastoral zone whereas good-fair in the pastoral livelihood zone and is on a deteriorating trend when compared to the preceding month.
- Quality and quantity of browse is largely good which is normal when compared to similar periods.
- Browse is expected to last for the next 4months against the normal 3months in the agro-pastoral areas whereas in the pastoral areas pasture is projected to last for the next 2-3months against the normal 2months.

## 2.2 WATER RESOURCE

### 2.2.1 Sources



**Figure 5: Major water sources across the County**

- From (Figure 5) shown above, the main water sources employed by the communities are water pans, boreholes and traditional river wells at 33percent, 28percent and 20percent respectively in the month under review across the County.
- Other water sources used by the communities were springs and shallow wells at 11percent and 8percent respectively.

- Recharge levels of the open water sources are generally fair at 30percent and 40percent in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone of Moyale and Saku sub-counties. Much lower water recharge levels were recorded in North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties at 10percent and 15percent respectively due to depressed and erratic rainfall.
- At this time of the year, most households usually depend on water pans and boreholes as the main source of water which is normal at this particular time of the year.

## 2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

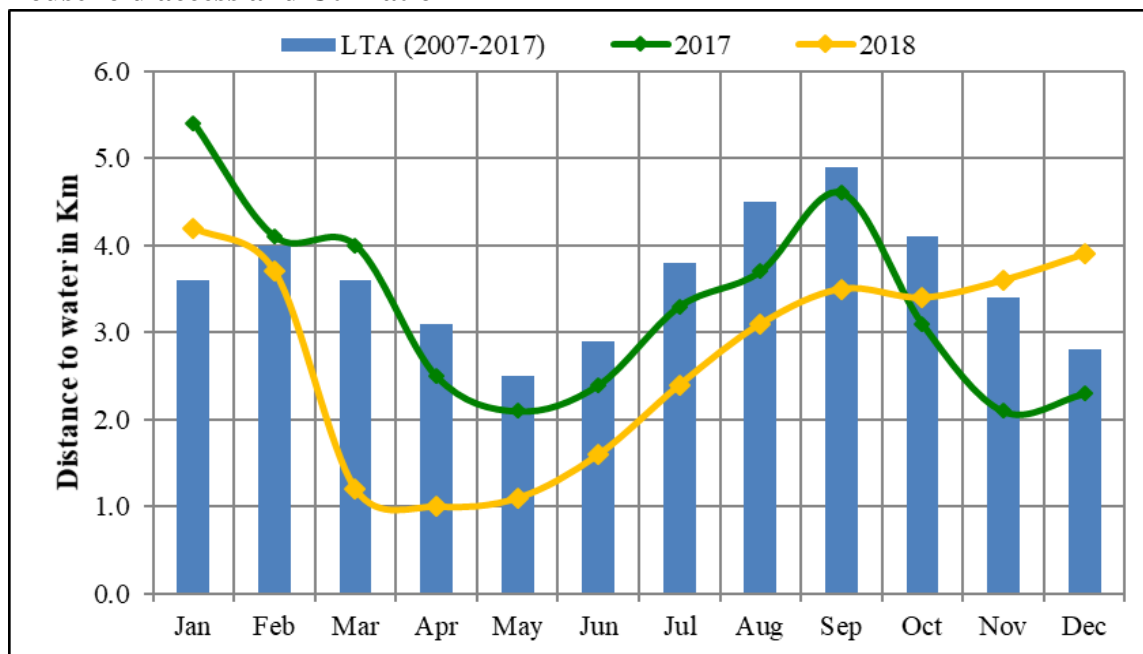


Figure 6: Current household return water distance(km) compared to Long Term Average distances(km)

- From (Figure 6) shown above, return household water distances to the main water sources was 3.9Km for the month under review across the livelihood zones which exhibits gradual increase when compared to preceding months' household water distances of 3.6km.
- When compared to similar periods, the current household water distance of 3.9Km is 40percent longer than the long term average of 2.8Km. Gradual increase in return households' water distances was mainly occasioned by not enhanced short rains which led to low recharge levels of sub-surface water sources majorly in the pastoral livelihood zone of North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties.
- Average waiting time across the livelihood zones is 15-75 minutes which is above the normal waiting time of 5-60 minutes at this particular time of the year. Longer waiting time were recorded in Moyale Township and Marsabit Central in addition to the lowlands of Laisamis sub-county. Notably, North Horr sub-county recorded lower waiting time averaging to 15-30mins due to improved water availability and access especially for the permanent water source such as boreholes.
- Average water consumption in the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral areas are 8 and 10 litres per person per day respectively. In the pastoral areas, Laisamis sub-county exhibited low household water consumption averaging 5 litres per person per day (below normal) whereas North Horr sub-county was 10-12 litres per person per day which is above normal. In the agro-pastoral areas Moyale and Saku sub-counties noted normal household water consumption.

- At the source, the cost of water is zero in most areas across the county with exception of areas where borehole is pumped using generator. However, water vendors are selling water at Ksh.40- 50per 20litre jerrican in Marsabit Central and Moyale Township wards.

### 2.2.3 Livestock access

- From (Figure 7) shown below, current return livestock trekking distance from grazing areas to water points is 13.6Km across the livelihood zones.
- When compared to the preceding months' livestock trekking distances of 12.2km, the current trekking distances slightly increased.
- When compared to similar periods, current livestock return trekking distance of 13.6Km is 48percent longer than the normal livestock trekking distance of 9.2Km

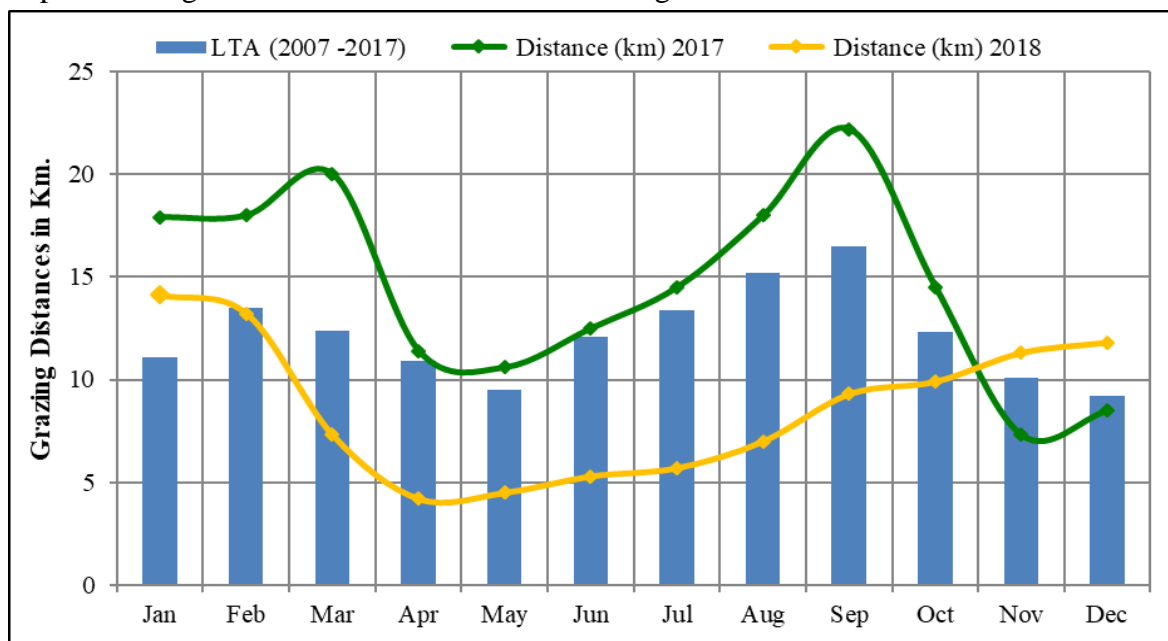


Figure 7: Current livestock return trekking distances compared to long term average trekking distances(km)

- North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties recorded longer livestock trekking distances due to deteriorating forage and 80percent of the open water sources drying up. However, slightly shorter livestock trekking distances were witnessed in Moyale and Saku sub-counties.
- Return livestock trekking distances have increased from the normal 10-15Km to 10-25Km in the Pastoral zone. However, return livestock trekking distances to water sources in the agro-pastoral areas are normal at 5-15Km.
- Presently, cattle are watered after every 2 days; small stock 2-3 days and camels after every seven days across the livelihood zones. When compared to similar periods, watering frequency has slightly increased due to gradual increase in livestock trekking distances.

## 3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

### 3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

#### 3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Livestock body condition is generally good in the agro-pastoral areas of Moyale and Saku sub-counties whereas good-fair in the pastoral livelihood zone of North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties across the livelihood zones in all species. Fair body condition was noted in Dukana and Elhadi in North Horr sub-county and parts of Karare in Saku sub-county mainly due to diseases.

- At this time of the year, body condition is usually fair for all the livestock species with exception of camel that usually exhibit good body condition. Due to significant decline in vegetation cover across the livelihood zones coupled with increased livestock trekking distances, livestock body condition is expected to deteriorate from good to fair.

### 3.1.2 Livestock Migration

- Currently, livestock are grazing in their normal satellite camps across the livelihood zones.
- In Laisamis sub-county, livestock is migrating towards Soriadi and Gudas mainly from Logologo, Laisamis, Lontolio and Korr, Illaut and Ngurunit migrating towards Ndotto ranges and South Horr, Kargi and Kurkum migrating towards Olturot and Arapal. Also some livestock from Laisamis ward have migrated towards Baragoi, Sabarwawa, Sereolipi, Archer's post and Wamba in Samburu County whereas others have migrated towards Belesabiliqo conservancy in Isiolo County.
- In Moyale sub-county livestock are migrating from Korondile (Wajir County) through Dabel- Bute (Wajir County) through Watiti-Golbo ward. Southern Ethiopia towards Uran, Obbu, Butiye and Golbo wards.
- In North Horr sub-county, livestock from Elhadi, Balesa and Dukana are migrating towards Ito, Tao, Garwole and Bales Saru while those in Elbesso, Qorqa, Malabot, Gas are moving Sarima in search of pasture.

### 3.1.3 Tropical livestock units (TLUs)

- Sustained gestation period for livestock was experienced due to extreme drought witnessed in 2016 and 2017. Nevertheless, the peak season for calving and kidding is currently being observed across all the livelihood zones at an increase of 21percent.
- Currently, poor households own an average of 3 TLUs while the medium income households have between 4-4.5TLUs. A medium household owns between 22 and 28 herds of cattle, between 120 and 170 small stock and between 11-22 camels. Poor household owns between 6 and 10 herds of cattle, between 55 and 115 small stock and between 2-6 camels.

### 3.1.4 Livestock diseases and mortalities

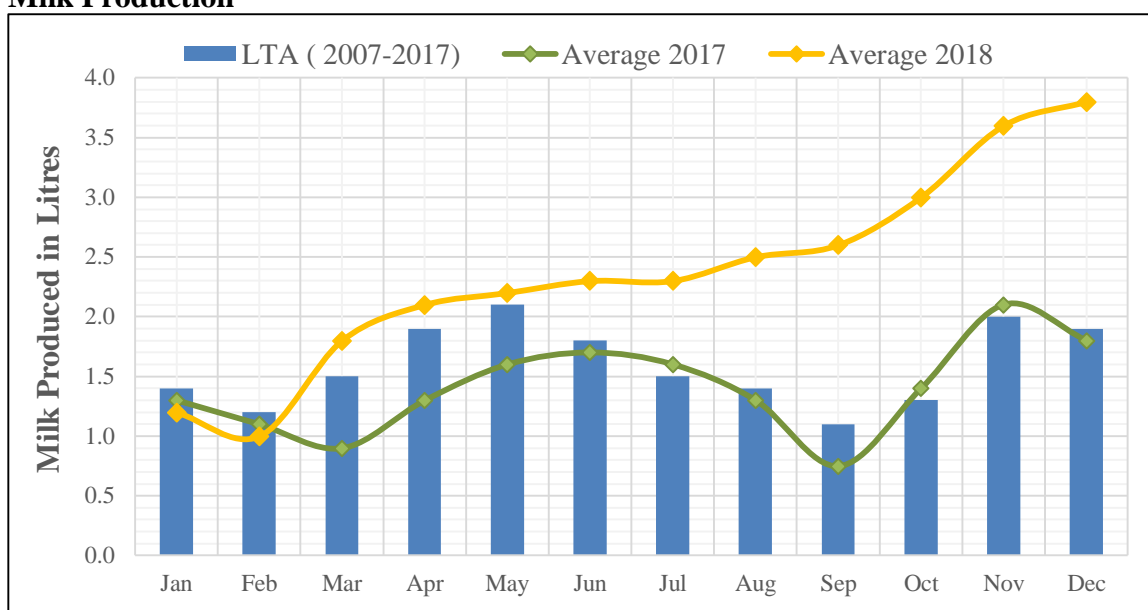
- No cases of livestock mortalities attributed to drought were reported across the across the County. However, mortalities reported were as a result of diseases. Mortalities were higher in young kids due to incidences of endemic livestock diseases in North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties.

SUB-COUNTY	LOCATION	SPECIES AFFECTED	REPORTED SIGNS
North-Horr	Demo	Goats	Mass death of 2-3months old goat kids with the following signs: Diarrhoea, nasal and ocular discharges, ulcers in the mouth.
	Illeret	Sheep and goats	Sudden death Anorexia Swollen gall bladder Diarrhoea Unthriftiness Chronic cough commonly in sheep Staggering gaits High mortality rates in young one



Laisamis	Namarei and Ndikir	Camel	Sudden death with the following post-mortem signs: Very dry hard faeces in the rectum All lymph nodes are swollen, Oedematous and congested Swollen liver Yellowish intestinal contents with foul smell when opened Swollen heart with excess pericardial fluid
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### 3.1.5 Milk Production



**Figure 8: Milk production/Household/Day/Litre compared to the Long Term Average**

- From (Figure 8) shown above, household milk production per household per day for the month of December improved to 3.8Litres from 3.6Litres recorded in the preceding month across the livelihood zones.
- When compared to similar periods, current milk production of 3.8Litres is above the long term average milk production of 1.9Litres/Household/Day
- Above normal milk production was occasioned by continued improvement in birth-rates and generally good livestock body condition
- There was increased milk production from camel by 55percent. With improved calving, milk production is likely to improve further.
- Average household milk production per day in the pastoral livelihood zone is 2-5litres against the normal 1-3litres. In the agro- pastoral zone, household milk production is 1.5-3.5litres compared to the long term average of 1-2litres.
- Currently, milk prices are retailing at an average price of Kshs.60-80 per Litre across the livelihood zones which is normal.

### 3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

- Area under crop production in Saku was 1160ha, 640ha in Moyale, 40ha in North Horr and 86ha in Laisamis.
- In the agro-pastoral areas of Saku sub-county, early planted beans were harvested and in the next one week 70percent of the bean crops will be harvested. Beans harvesting occurred in

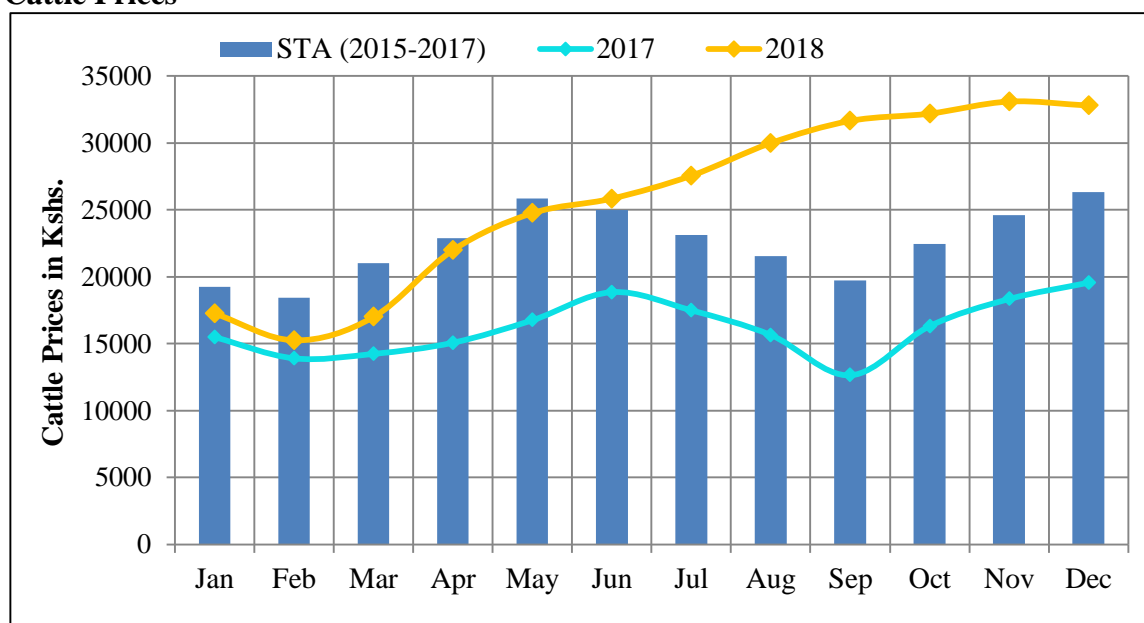
Saku lowlands (Dirib Gombo, Gororukesa, Badasa) while the upper areas (Marsabit Township) yet to harvest beans. Generally, the performance of beans crops was good. Early planted maize is at physiological maturity and the performance was very good while late planted maize is at silking stage coupled with a stressed performance. Teft and wheat crops have been harvested.

- In the agro-pastoral areas of Moyale sub-county (Sololo, Uran, Lataka, Anona, MadoAdhi) performance of maize and beans crops was good with households harvesting 15-20 bags and 10-12 bags of maize and beans respectively. Maize crops dried off in Dambala Fachana in Moyale sub-county. Generally, performance of maize and beans crops was good due to the cumulative effect of previous long rains that were at an all-time high that improved soil moisture in-addition to the recent short rains that were near normal in Moyale and Saku sub-counties.

## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

#### 4.1.1 Cattle Prices



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

- From the figure shown above, cattle price for the month under review was Kshs. 32,800 hence it remained stable when compared to the preceding months' cattle price of Kshs. 33,100.
- Current cattle price of Kshs. 32,800 is 25percent above the short term average price of Kshs. 26, 321. Improved cattle prices were attributed to improved sensitization and stimulation of the livestock markets and generally good-fair cattle body condition across the livelihood zones.
- Gurumesa and Merille livestock markets in Moyale and Laisamis sub-counties posted favourable cattle prices ranging between Kshs. 30,000-Kshs. 35,000. Jirime and Dabel livestock markets posted fair cattle price averaging at Kshs. 25,500.
- Terminal and primary livestock markets are expected to continue posting favourable cattle prices due to improved traded volumes and good body condition.

### 4.1.2 Goat prices

- From the figure shown below, current goat price is Kshs.4, 800 across the livelihood zones hence goat prices remained stable when compared to the preceding months' price of Kshs. 4, 850.
- The current goat price of Ksh. 4, 800 is 32percent above the short term average goat price of Kshs.3, 623.
- Above normal goat prices were attributed to increased demand for goats during the festive season, improved livestock market activation and livestock market system strengthening activities that have been undertaken across the livestock markets within the County.

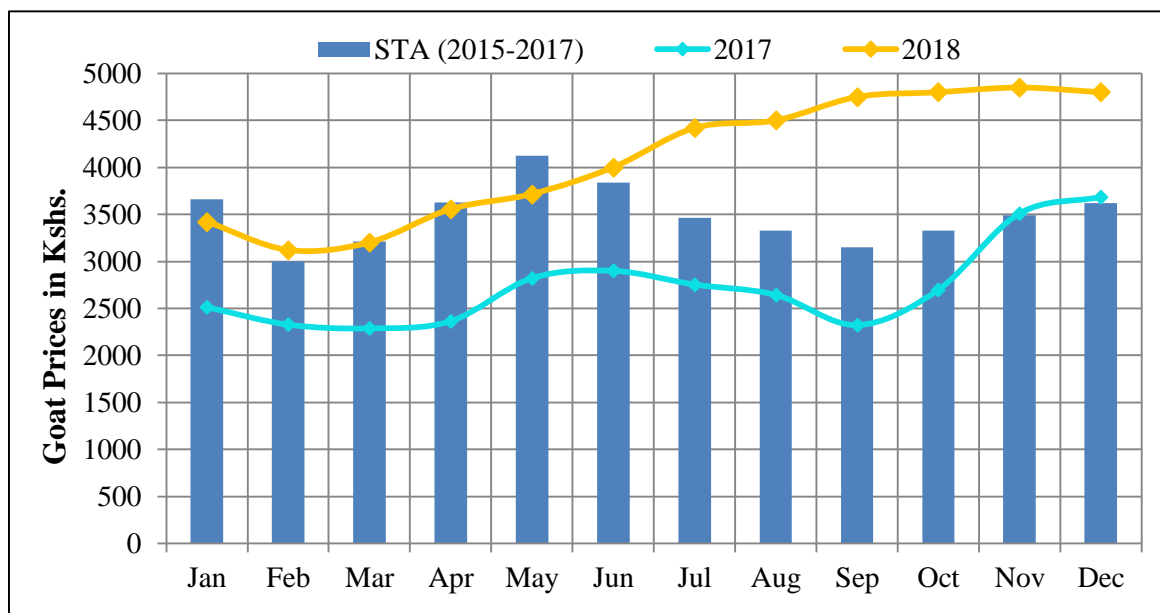


Figure 10: Current goat prices compared to short term average prices

- Stable goat prices were posted in Moyale, Karare, Loyangalani, Merille and Jirime livestock markets with prices ranging between Kshs. 4,500-6,000. Goat prices are likely to reduce gradually in the next month due to increased injections in the markets.

### 4.1.3 Sheep Prices

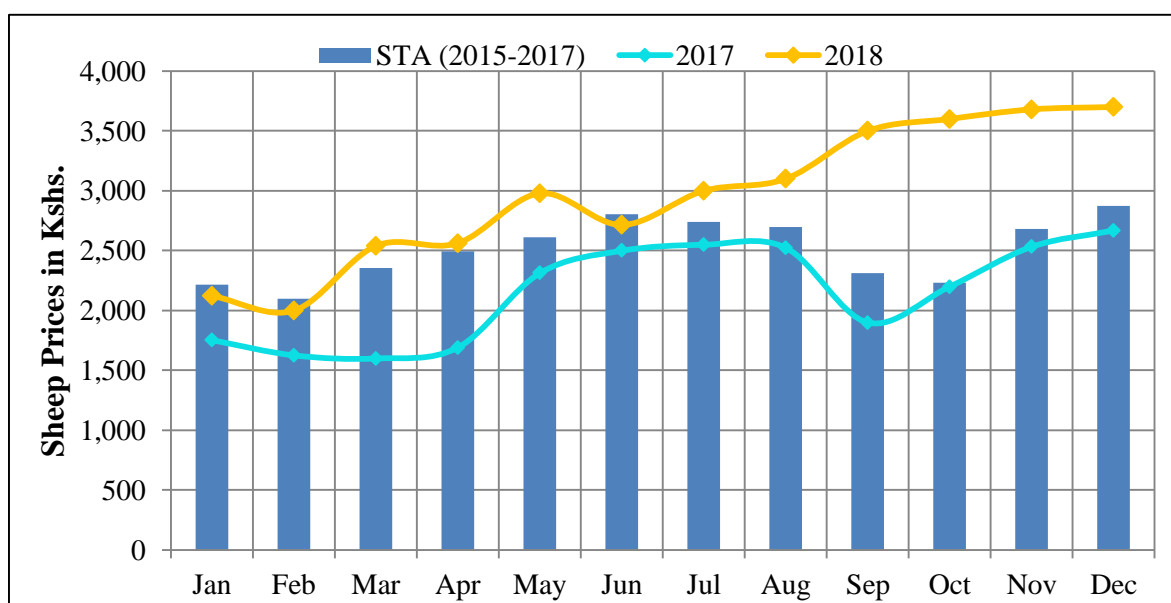


Figure 11: Current sheep prices compared to the short term average prices(kshs.)

- From the (Figure 11) shown above, sheep price for the month of under review was Kshs. 3,700 across the livelihood zones.
- When compared to the short term average price of Kshs. 2,875, current sheep price is 29percent above normal. Above normal sheep prices were attributed to increased demand for sheep during the festive season.
- Sheep prices were favourable in Moyale livestock markets with prices averaging at Kshs.4, 000. Favourable sheep prices in the Moyale were attributed to the vibrant neighbouring Ethiopia market.

## 4.2 CROP PRICES

### 4.2.1 Maize

- From the figure shown below, current maize price is Kshs.43/kg across the livelihood zones thus remained stable when compared to the previous months maize price of Kshs.44/kg.
- Stable maize prices were attributed to improved maize harvests by the farmers in Moyale sub-county and enhanced maize supplies from the main terminal markets of Meru, Nyahururu and the neighbouring Ethiopia market.
- When compared to similar period, current maize price of Kshs.43/kg is below the normal price of Kshs.48 by 10percent.

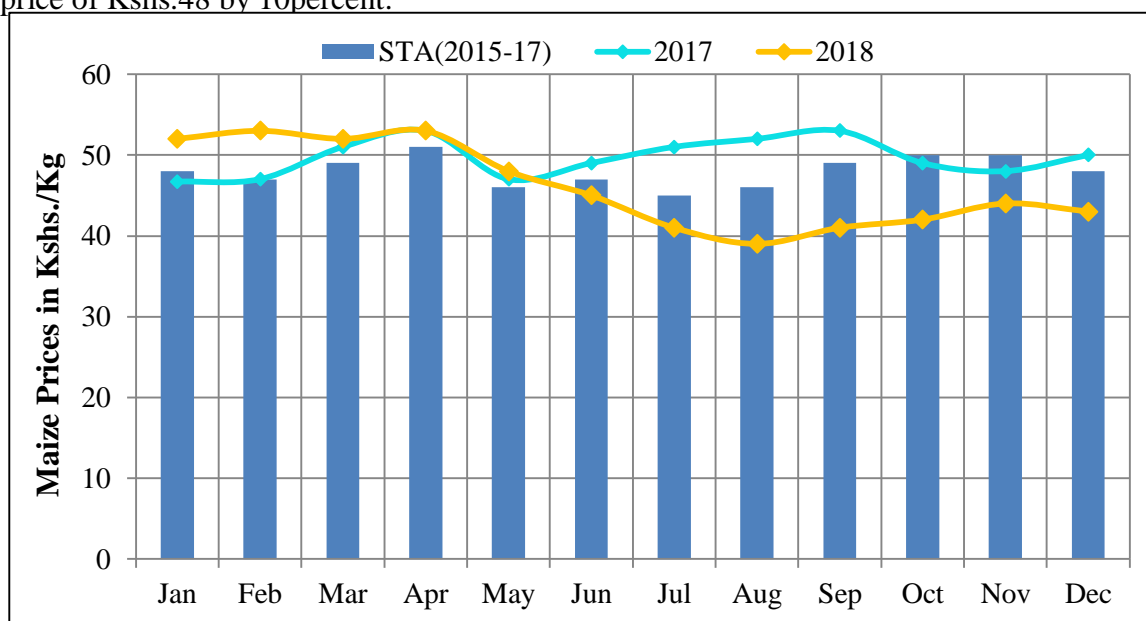


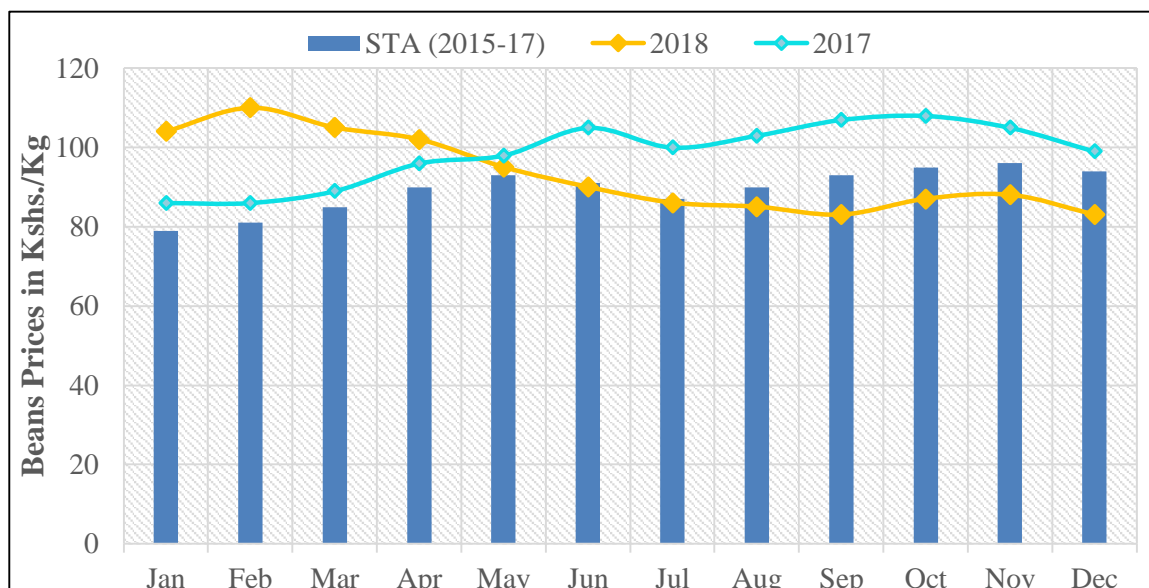
Figure 12: Current maize prices compared to the short term average maize prices

- Favourable maize prices were posted in Moyale, Sololo, North Horr and Dukana with prices ranging between Ksh.30-35/kg.
- Higher prices were recorded in Korr, Loyangalani, Merille and Farakoen with prices ranging between Ksh.50-60/per kg.

### 4.2.2 Beans

- From the figure shown below, current beans prices averaged at Kshs.83/kg. When compared to the previous month beans price of Kshs.88/kg, beans prices relatively remained stable across the livelihood zones.
- When compared to similar periods, beans price of Kshs.83/kg is below the short term average price of Kshs.94/kg by 10percent.

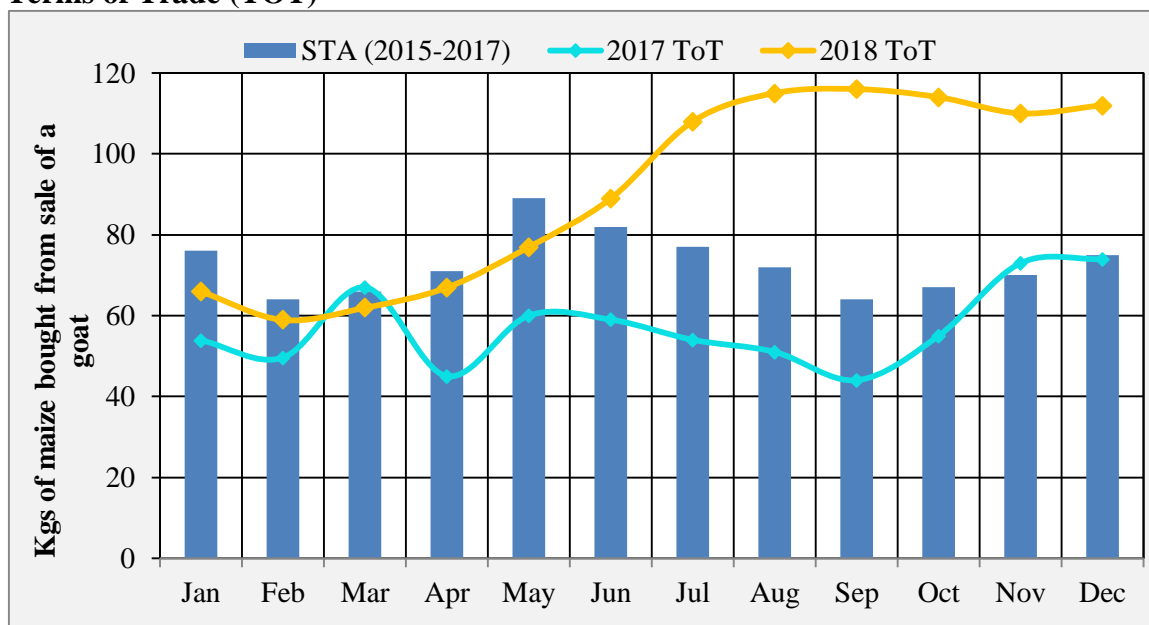
- Favourable beans prices were posted Moyale, Sololo, Marsabit Central, North Horr and Dukana with prices ranging between Kshs.60-75/kg and in some markets especially Moyale, prices averaging at Kshs.50/kg.



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

- Favourable beans prices were witnessed in Moyale, Sololo, Marsabit Central, North Horr and Dukana because of improved beans harvest in the agro-pastoral areas of Moyale and Saku sub-counties coupled with increased supplies from the neighbouring Ethiopia market.
- Higher beans prices were posted in Loyangalani, Korr and Farakoen with prices ranging between Kshs.90-100/kg

#### 4.2.3 Terms of Trade (TOT)



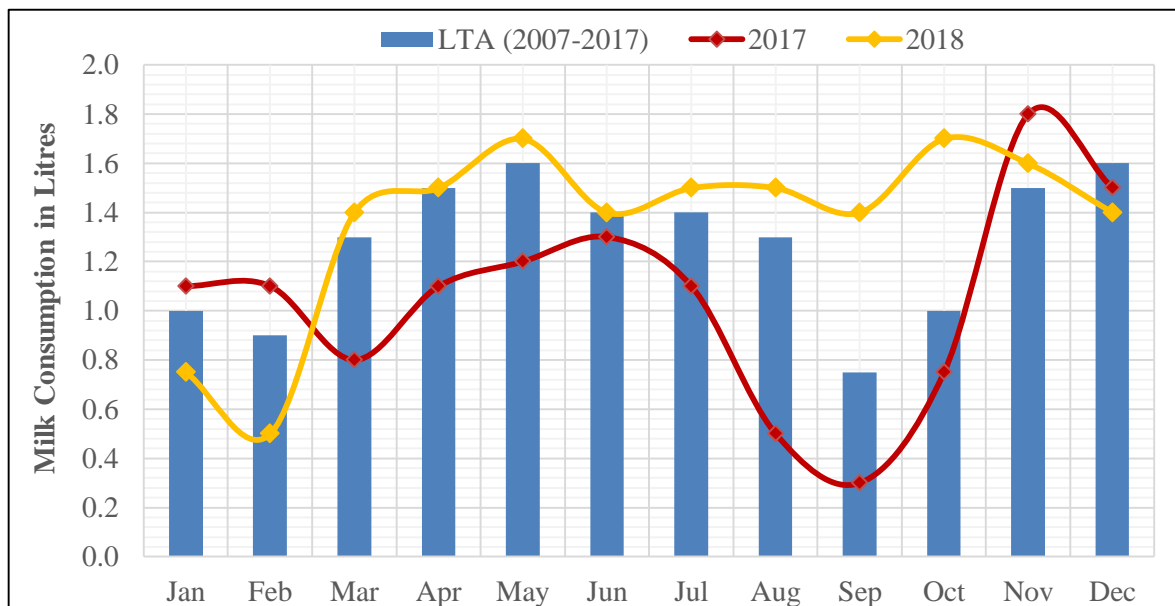
**Figure 14: Current terms of trade versus short term average terms of trade**

- From the figure shown above, the current terms of trade is 112 across the livelihood zones thus relatively remained stable when compared to the previous months' terms of trade of 110.
- When compared to similar periods, current terms of trade of 112 is above the short term average terms of trade of 75 by 49percent.

- Above normal terms of trade was stirred by high goats prices in addition to stable maize prices. As the short dry spell commences, terms of trade is expected to gradually decline but will be still above the short term average due to gradual decline in goat prices.
- Moyale and North Horr sub-counties posted better terms of trade due to maize harvest especially in Moyale sub-county and proximity with the neighbouring Ethiopia market.

## 5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

### 5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION



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

- From the figure 15 shown above, household milk consumption is 1.4litres/household/day across the livelihood zones for the month under review.
- When compared to the previous months, gradual decline in milk consumption was noted. Average household milk consumption per day in the pastoral zone is 1-2litres against the normal 1-2.5litres whereas in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone household milk consumption ranges between at 0.5-2litres against the normal 1-2litres.
- Decline in milk consumption was occasioned to produced milk do not get to the household level while other households are opting to sell milk to buy other households consumables.
- When compared to the long term average milk consumption 1.6litres/household/day, the current milk consumption is below normal by 13percent.
- The current milk price in the agro-pastoral zone is Kshs.80-90/litre against the normal Kshs.90-120/litre whereas in the pastoral zone milk price is Kshs.60-90/litre against the normal of Kshs.90-100/litre.

### 5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE (FCS)

- The mean food consumption score for the month under review was 42.3 across the livelihood zones thus no notable change when compared to the preceding months' food consumption score of 44.6 consequently still within the acceptable food consumption score band.
- From the figure (16) shown below, proportion of households in the pastoral livelihood zone that were within the acceptable, borderline and poor food consumption score were 82.1percent, 14.9percent and 3percent respectively. Similarly, in the agro-pastoral

livelihood zone; proportion of households that were within the acceptable, borderline and poor food consumption scores were 81.7percent, 11percent and 7.3percent respectively

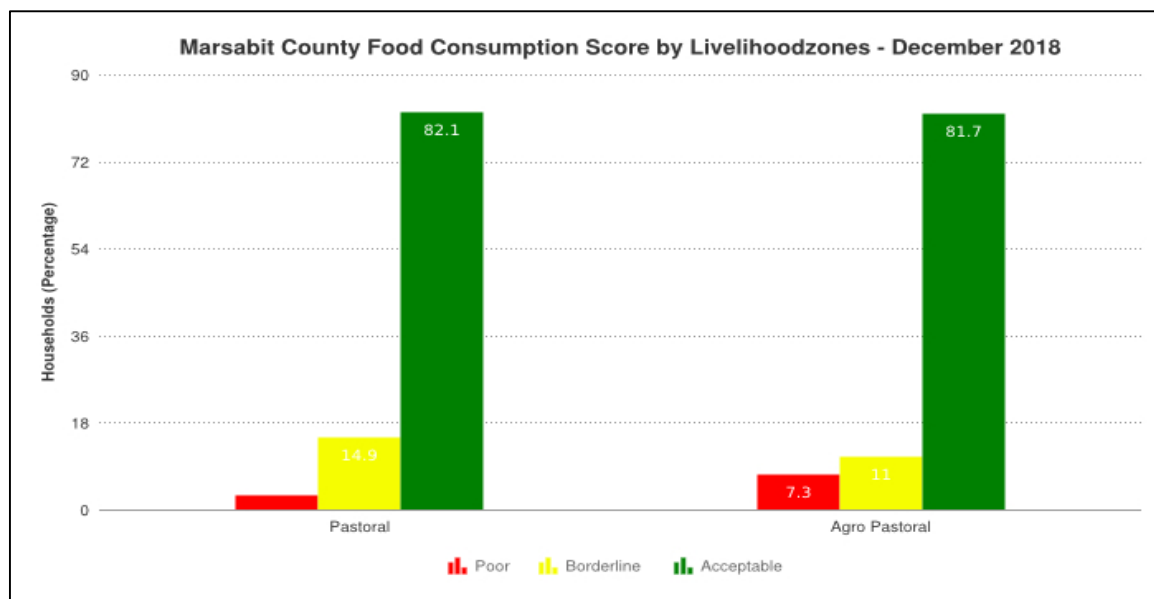


Figure 16: Food consumption score across the livelihood zones

- Food consumption score was better in the pastoral than the agro-pastoral livelihood zone as shown with a mean of 44.2 and 40.3 respectively.
- Acceptable food consumption score is an indicative of households in the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones consuming staple and vegetables accompanied by frequency of four days per week consumption of oil and pulses. Approximately 51percent of households were consuming more than five food groups with highest proportion being in Moyale and Saku whereas Laisamis and North Horr households consumed two-three food groups.

### 5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

#### 5.3.1 Nutrition Status

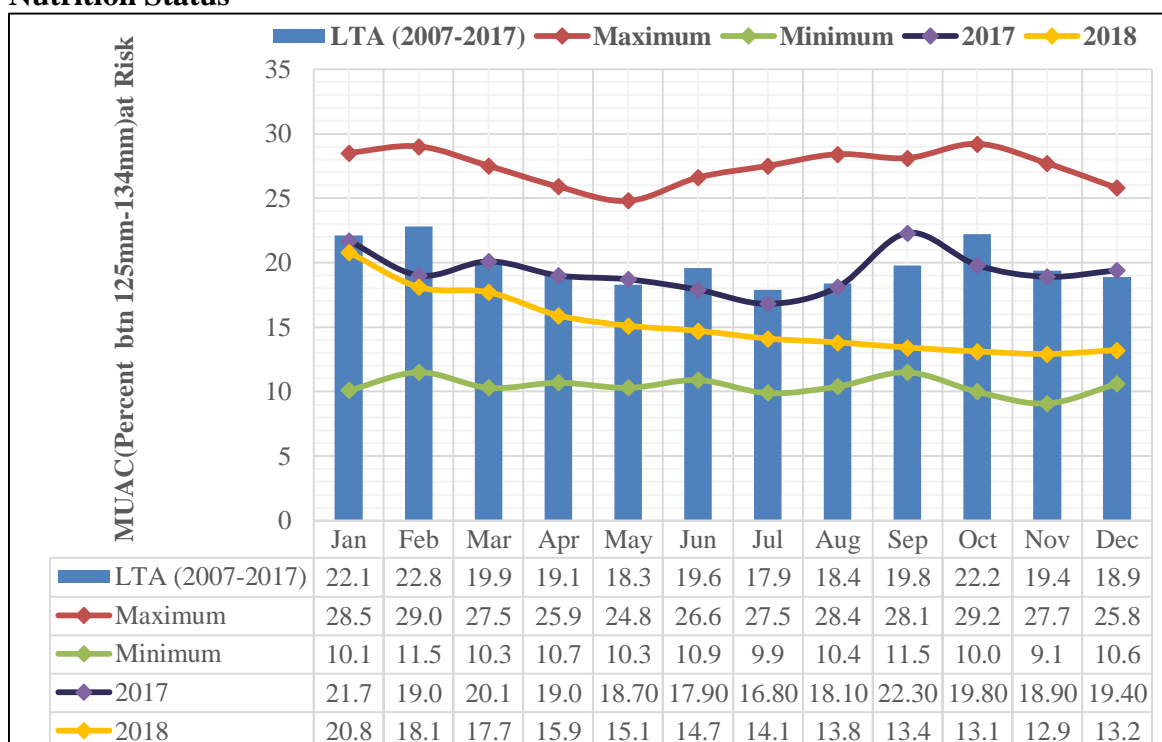
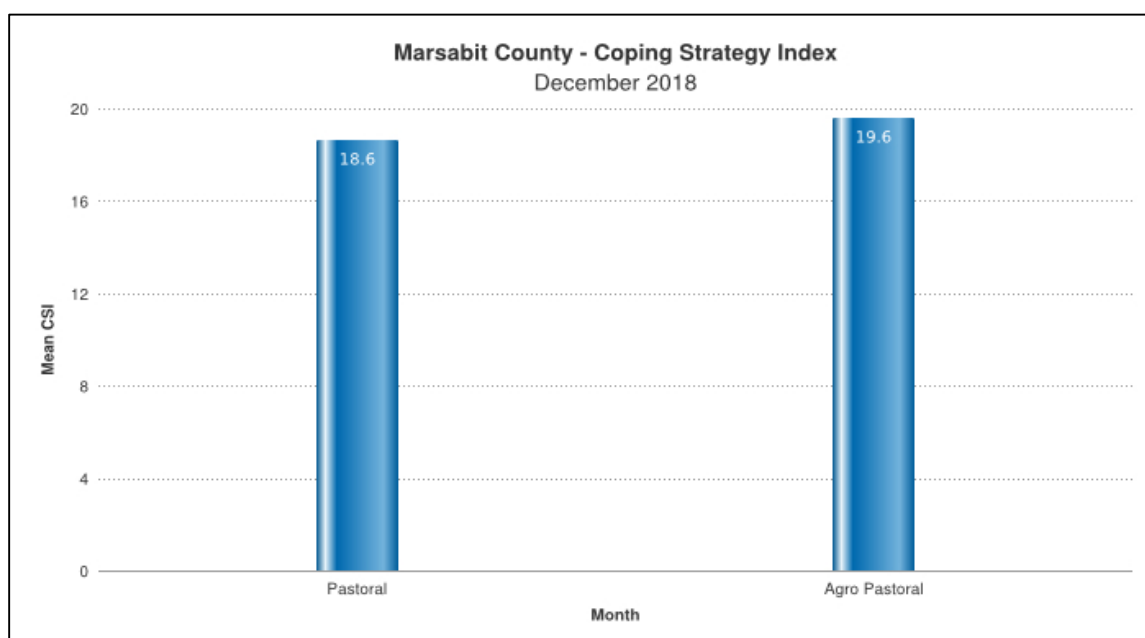


Figure 17: Nutritional status of children below the age of five years verses long term average

- From the figure (17) shown above, children rated ‘at risk’ of malnutrition(MUAC)for the month under review was 13.2 which is an indicative of no notable change when compared to the preceding months’ MUAC of 12.9percent across the livelihood zones.
- When compared to similar periods, the current MUAC average of 13.2percent is below the long term average MUAC of 18.9percent.
- Stable MUAC for the under-fives was occasioned by acceptable food consumption score across the livelihood zones in-addition to supplementary feeding programme and favourable terms of trade.
- As the short dry spell commences, nutritional status of children below the age of five years is expected to gradually deteriorate in the next 2months.
- From the NDMA surveillance data, high malnutrition cases were reported in Korr, Loiyangalani, North Horr and Dabel. Morbidity trends were within normal across the County.

#### 5.4 COPING STRATEGIES



*Figure 18: Coping Strategy Index across the livelihood zones*

- From the figure shown above, reduced consumption based coping strategy index(rCSI) for the agro-pastoral and pastoral livelihood zones were 19.6 and 18.6 respectively.
- Reduced consumption based coping strategy index(CSI) for the month under review was 18.95 which exhibits no noteworthy change from 19.98 posted in the previous month.
- Proportion of households who employed and didn't employ coping strategies in the month under review were 79percent and 21percent respectively across the livelihood zones.
- Coping strategies employed by households in the month under review were of the similar severity when compared to the previous months' coping mechanisms.



<b>Table 1:Consumption based coping strategy index(rCSI)</b>		
<b>Sub-county</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>rCSI</b>
Saku	Sagante	15.2
Laisamis	Korr	18.3
Laisamis	Loiyangalani	31.5
North Horr	North Horr	17.9
North Horr	Turbi	23.1
Moyale	Uran	22.3
Saku	Karare	11.6
Laisamis	Laisamis	13.9
Moyale	Golbo	24.4

- The table shown above presents reduced consumption based coping strategy index across the surveillance sentinel sites. Loiyangalani, Golbo and Turbi revealed higher reduced coping strategy indexes therefore households employed more severe coping strategies in the aforementioned sentinel sites. Households in Sagante, Laisamis and Karare wards adopted less severe coping strategies at reduced frequency.
- Notable reduced consumption based coping strategies employed by the households across the livelihood zones were reduced portion size of meals, reliance on less preferred food and reduction in frequency of food consumption.

## **6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES**

### **6.1 NON-FOOD AID**

- Hunger Safety Net Programme through National Drought Management Authority
- UNICEF continued to provide direct support to the department of Health through the following key interventions during the Month of November 2018: Capacity Building for Health workers on IMAM surge approach, MIYCN, BFCI; Joint Maternal and Child Nutrition Program Monitoring with Concern and Department of Health; Support Vitamin A supplementation during Malezi BoraMonthly and Supplying all the health facilities with Ready to Use Therapeutic Feeds (Plumpy Nuts).
- Malterser International supported sensitization of 300 CHVs on Community Based Nutrition in Loglogo, Loyiangalani and Illeret. Sensitized 57 mother to mother groups members in Northhorr on community nutrition and supported North Horr supervision of 15 health facilities with Vitamin A as well as reporting tools.
- Concern Worldwide supported exhaustive screening for malnutrition for all children 6-59 months in North Horr sub county, those requiring emergency nutrition services were enrolled for treatment.

## **7.0 EMERGING ISSUES**

### **7.1 INSECURITY/CONFLICT/HUMAN DISPLACEMENT**

- Recurring insecurity incidences continued to affect the County. Conflicts were reported in Saku Sub County (Jaldesa, Kubi Qallo, and Sagante), North Horr (Forolle, Bales Saru) Moyale Township and settlements along Kenya/Ethiopia Border. Conflicts have greatly hindered pasture and water access in this areas including loss of human life in Saku.

## **7.2 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS.**

- Food security situation is currently stressed with expected decline as the short dry spell commences and also failure of the short rains mostly in the pastoral livelihood zone which was erratic and below normal. Quantity and quantity of pasture is likely to deteriorate further across the livelihood zones and is expected to last for the next 3months and 2months in the agro-pastoral and pastoral livelihood zones respectively. With commencement of the short dry spell, livestock body condition will likely decline from good-fair to fair for all the species with exception of camels. Terms of trade which is currently stable is anticipated to decline due to expected gradual deterioration in goats' prices during the short dry spell.
- Recharge levels of sub-surface water sources are expected to considerably decline thereby increasing household and livestock trekking water distances. Due to improved calving for camels, tropical livestock units is expected to increase of camel.
- Milk production is expected to gradually decline in the next one month but still within the normal ranges while milk consumption which is currently on a dipping trend, will worsen further thus limiting household milk access.
- Nutritional status of children below the age of five years is expected to gradually deteriorate due to reduced milk consumption at household level, expected decline in household food consumption score and adoption of crisis reduced coping strategies.
- Generally, performance of maize and beans crops was good due to the cumulative effect of previous long rains that were at an all-time high thus improved soil moisture in-addition to the recent short rains that were near normal in the agro-pastoral areas of Moyale and Saku sub-counties.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Continued enhanced commercial livestock offtake through market stimulation and restocking to areas where massive livestock deaths were witnessed in the previous drought especially for camels and galla goats in Laisamis and North Horr sub-counties.
- Urgent livestock vaccination in North Horr sub-county (Demo and Illeret) amongst the small stock, Namarei and Ndikir in Laisamis sub-county for Camel.
- Conservation of strategic rangeland grazing areas
- There is need to undertake exhaustive screening in parts of Moyale where influx from within and across the Ethiopian border has been experienced to ensure all mothers and children requiring treatment for malnutrition and other illnesses have access to services. Kargi and Loiyangalani wards also require some screening to be undertake in Early January to ensure we are reaching all the vulnerable children are reached.
- Coordination of cash transfers programmes undertaken by various implementers.
- The National and County Government should lead and coordinate reconciliation efforts at all levels. In addition, develop and update negotiated and agreed land use and range management plans and continue research on current grazing patterns to prevent sporadic violence.