

National Drought Management Authority
MANDERA COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FEBRUARY 2021



FEBRUARY 2021 EW PHASE



Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- No rains were received in all parts of the county during the Month under review.
- Vegetation condition;** the current three-month Vegetation Condition index is moderate vegetation greenness deficit for the County on worsening trend.
- Pasture and browse conditions are currently poor across the County.
- Water availability is below average as the number of water trekking sites increased to over two hundred

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production indicators:

- Livestock body condition is currently fair to poor in all the livelihood zones.
- Milk production is below normal when compared to LTA.

Access indicators:

- Terms of trade is unfavourable across all the livelihood zones.
- Milk consumption is below normal in all the livelihood zone.
- Water access for both human and livestock consumption is below normal.

Utilization Indicators:

- The percentage of under five children at risk of malnutrition (MUAC) was above the long-term average

Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral zone	Alarm	Worsening
Irrigated Cropping	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral all species	Alarm	Worsening
County	Alarm	Worsening
2	Value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	0	80 -120
VCI-3Month	23.5	>35
Forage condition	Fair-Poor	Good
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Crop Condition (Maize)	Poor	Good
Livestock Body Condition	Poor	Good
Milk Production	1.8	2.2 litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Migration	Normal
Livestock deaths	No deaths	No deaths
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	46	>46.2kgs
Milk Consumption	0.8	1.5 litres
Return distance to water sources	16.5	<8.7 Km
Cost of water at source (20 litres)	10	<5Kshs
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	28.4	23.0
Coping Strategy Index	17.4	<0.95

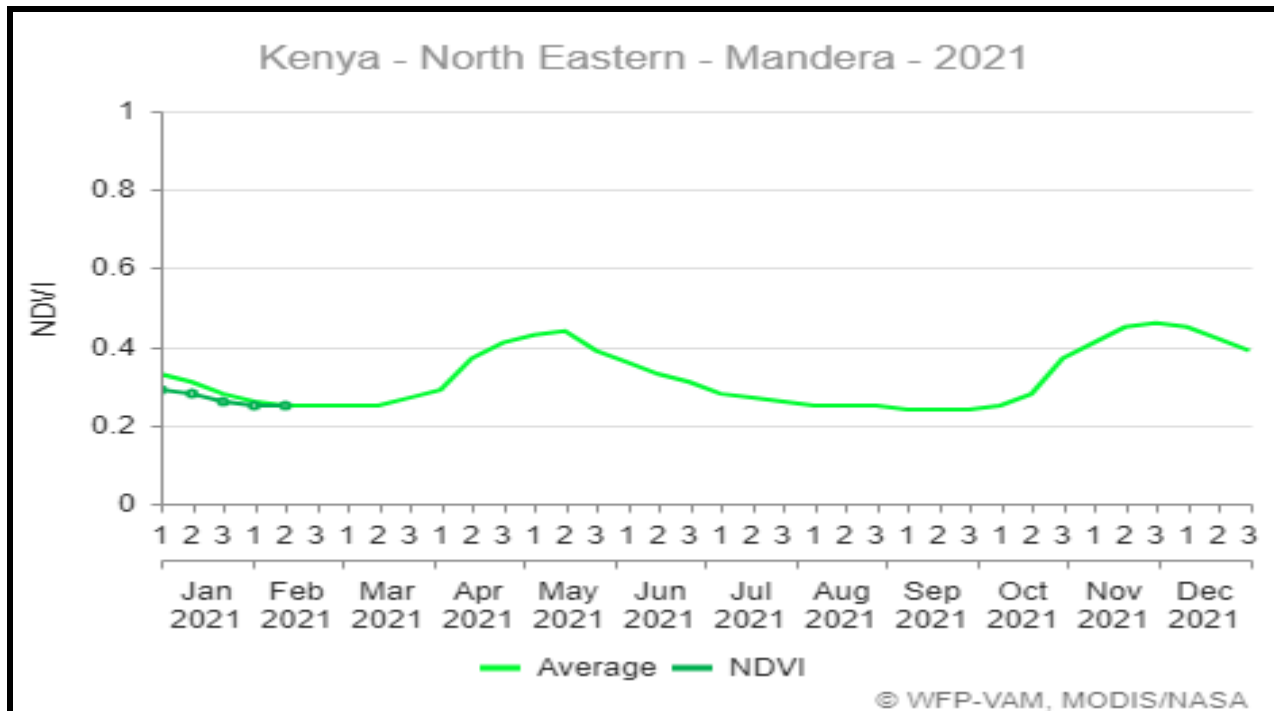
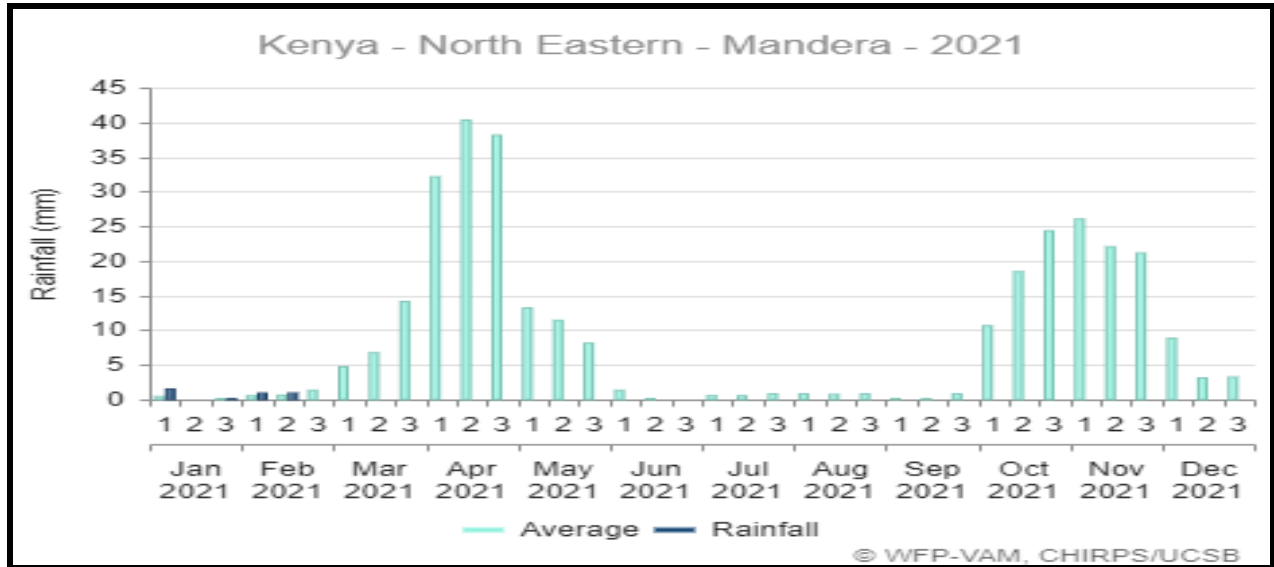
Seasonal Calendar

<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	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

1. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- No rains were received during the month of February
- This is normal during these time of the year
- The next rain are the long rains which are expected on mid-March
- The current NDVI average is below average as shown below.



1.3.1 Other Events

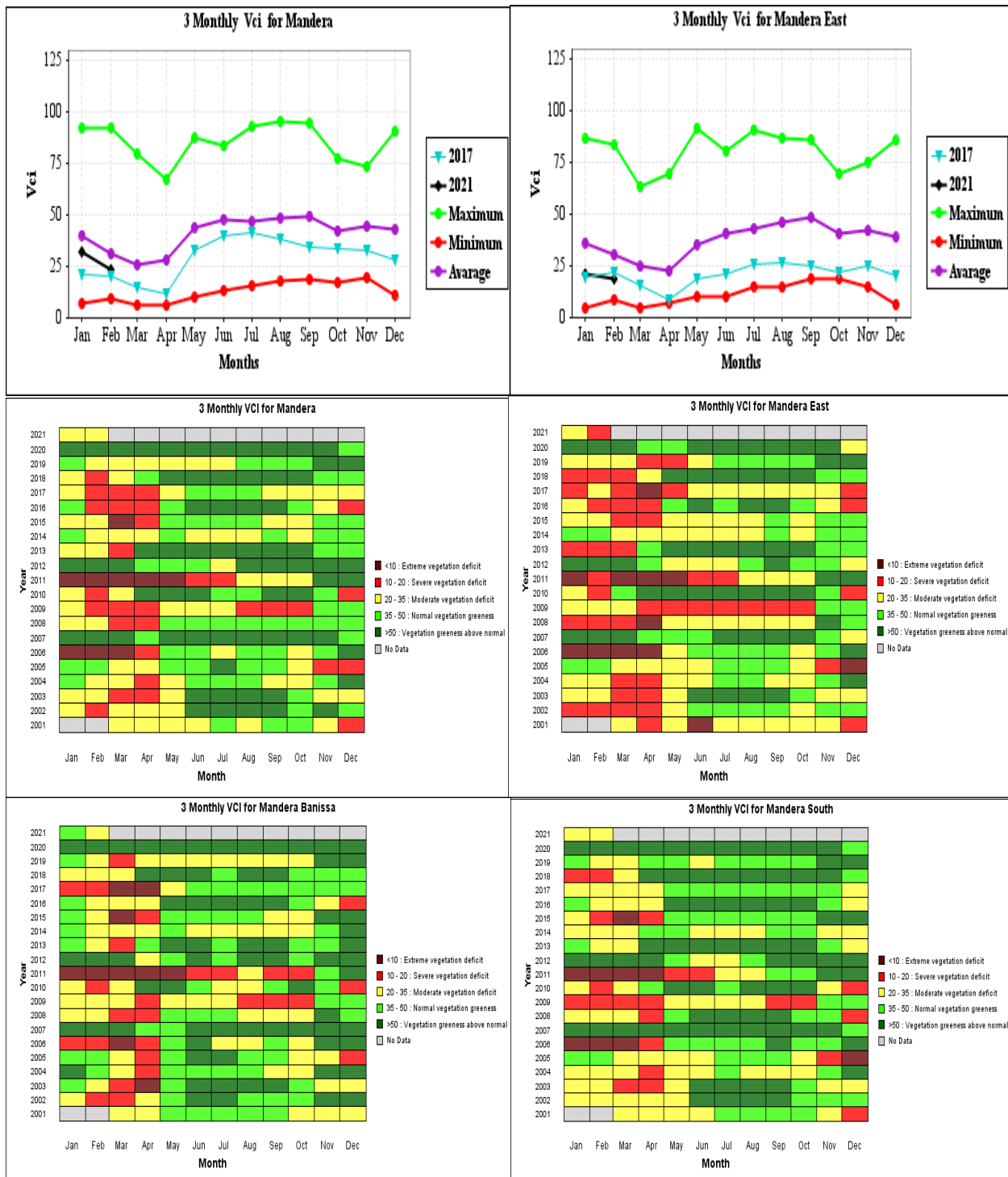
- Rift valley fever outbreak was reported in Mandera north subcounty in Mandera county where there was one confirmed death during the month.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

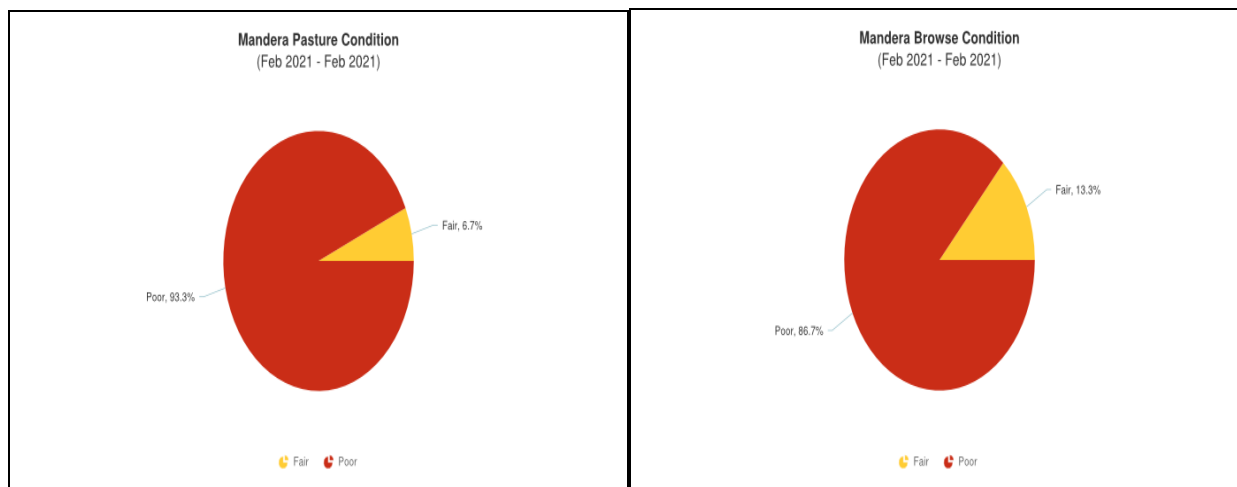
2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION INDEX

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The current vegetation condition index deteriorated to moderate vegetation deficit band indicating worsening trend for the month of February 2021.
- When compared to the previous month, the current 3-month VCI decreased from 32.03 in January to 23.51 in February 2021.
- Mandera East sub county is showing severe vegetation deficit while all remaining sub counties are in moderate vegetation deficit.



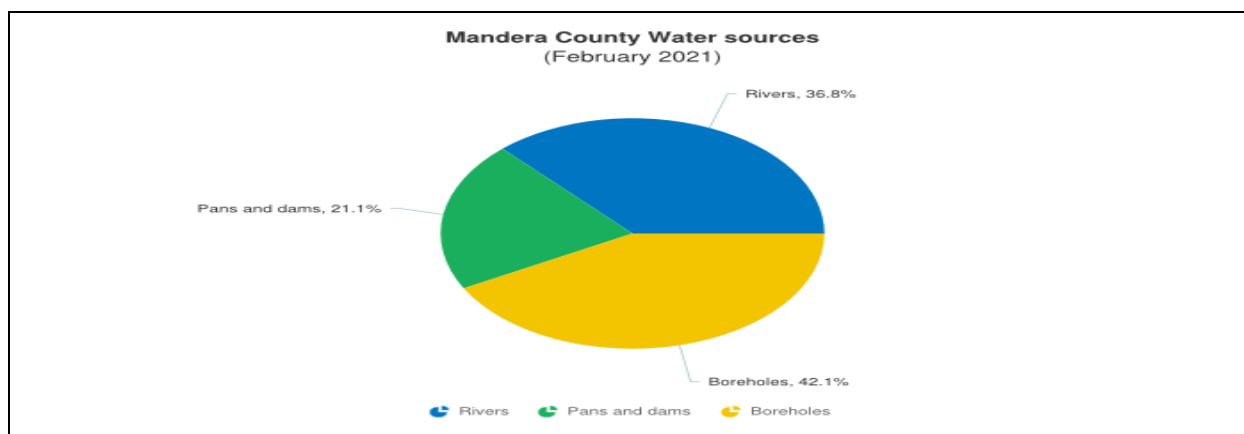
2.1.2 Pasture and Browse



- According to sampled communities, 93 percent of the 210 households interviewed reported that the pasture condition is poor while seven percent reported pasture condition as fair as shown in the above chart.
- Eighty seven percent of the 210 households interviewed reported browse conditions as poor while 13 percent reported browse condition as poor.
- When compared to last month, the pasture situation is getting worsen and the situation is expected to remain the same until onset of the long rains.
- Some livestock farmers are already purchasing maize grains for their livestock as feeds due to depleted pastures specially Madera East, Lafey and South sub counties.

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

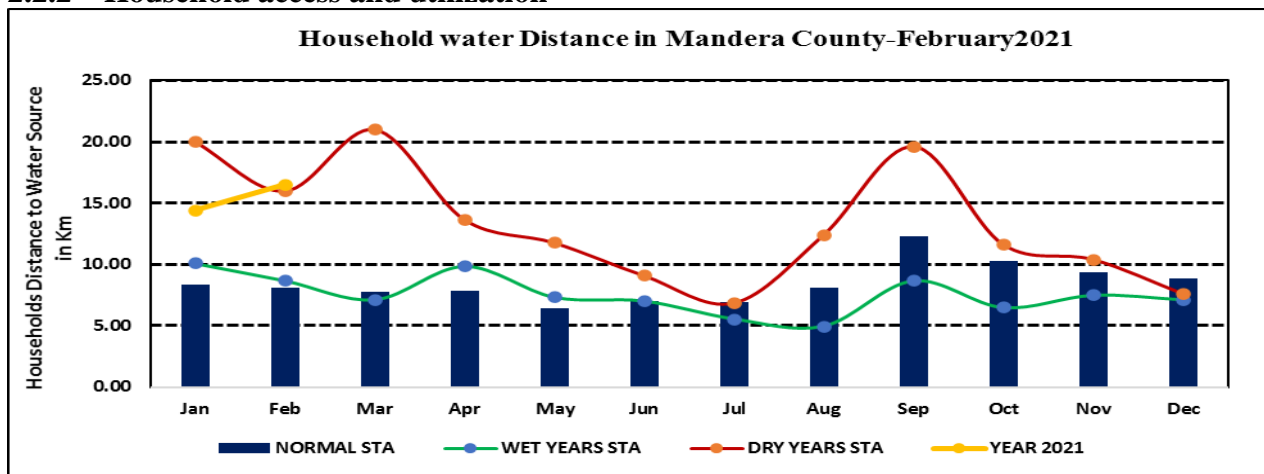
2.2.1 Sources



- The current main sources of water in use by both human and livestock in the county are boreholes, River Daua and earth pans. The proportion of sampled population using boreholes water was forty two percent in the month of February, earth pans at twenty one percent and River at thirty seven percent respectively.

- Currently over 240 centres are under water trucking including Dandu town which has over 10000 households and need for close monitoring of the situation.

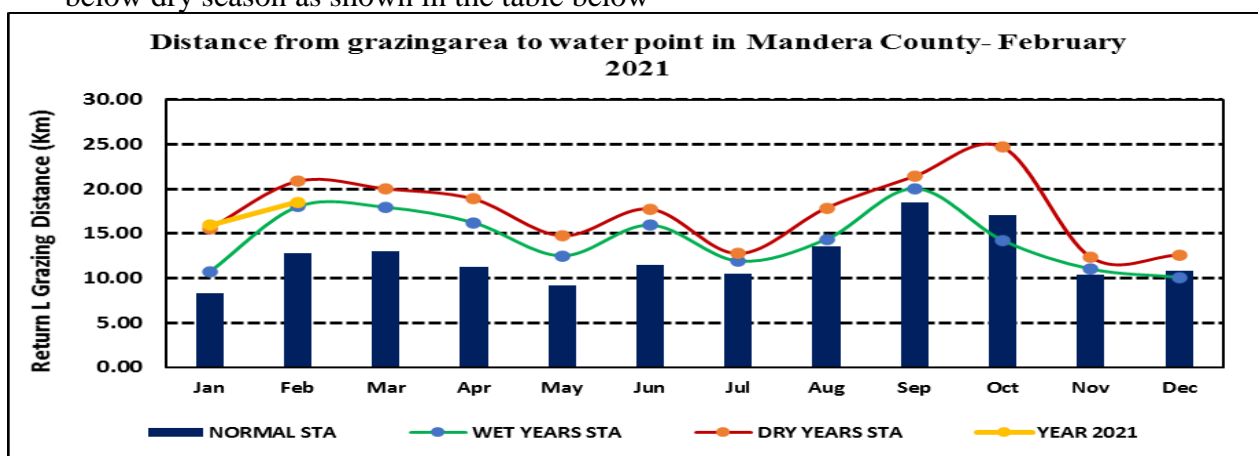
2.2.2 Household access and utilization



- The average household return distance to watering sources recorded during the month was 16.5Km as shown in the chart above.
- The current average return distance is above the normal STA, dry season and the wet season STA.
- The average household distance increased when compared to last month.
- The average cost of 20-litre jerry can at the source is between Ksh10-15, which is not normal at this time of the year in most parts of the county, and water consumption is not normal in areas where water is unavailable.
- The proportion of households currently treating water is significantly very low with only few households mainly in urban centers reported to have used boiling methods

2.2.3 Livestock Access

- The current trekking average return distance from grazing areas to the main source of water is 18.5Km, the average grazing distance increased when compared to last month.
- Pastoral all species livelihood zone reported the longest average return grazing distance at 17.0Km followed by Agro pastoral zone with 11.3 and Irrigated cropping livelihood zone with distance of 8.0 km respectively.
- The current trekking distances is above the normal STA and wet season STA averages but below dry season as shown in the table below



2.3 Implication on food security .

- Declining pasture and water availability will affect trekking distance which will affect the body conditions of livestock thus reduce the production at household level.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

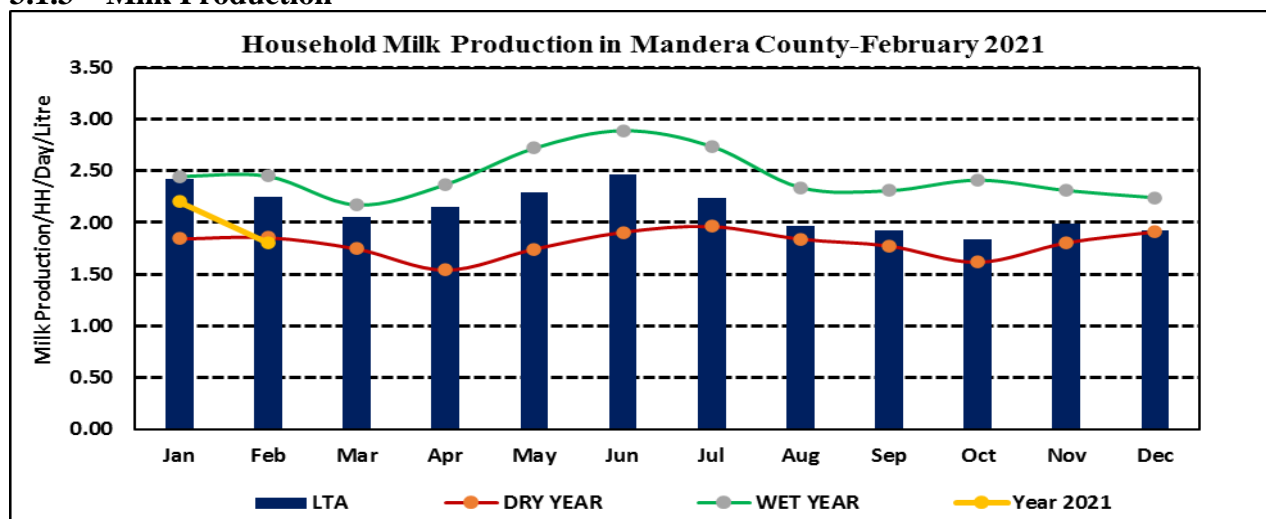
3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition.

- The body conditions of livestock for all species were fair to poor across all livelihood zones in the County.
- The livestock body conditions are expected to worsen as pasture and browse conditions are poor across the County.
- Compared to a similar period in the previous years, the situation is worsening during these times of the year.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- An alarming case of rift valley fever outbreak was reported in Mandera north subcounty in Mandera county. The sub-county is under quarantine at the moment as the people are advised not to use any animal products such as meat and milk from the area under question, closing all the slaughter houses and major markets following a directive from the county government.
- There are still suspected cases of PPR, CCPP, and Black Quarter County wide.
- The department of veterinary service continued to carry out routine treatment and deworming of reported cases.

3.1.3 Milk Production



- The average milk production per household was 1.8 litres in February, compared to the previous month, the milk production decreased.
- The production is below the long-term average and the dry year as shown above.
- Agro pastoral zone reported highest milk production followed by Pastoral all species and irrigated cropping zone respectively.

3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION.

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

- In Irrigated cropping zone, Maize crop is tussling stage while horticultural crops like water melons, onions and Bananas are been harvested.
- Agro pastoral zone, crops have been planted wilted due to moisture water stress.

3.3 IMPLICATION OF THE ABOVE INDICATORS ON FOOD SECURITY.

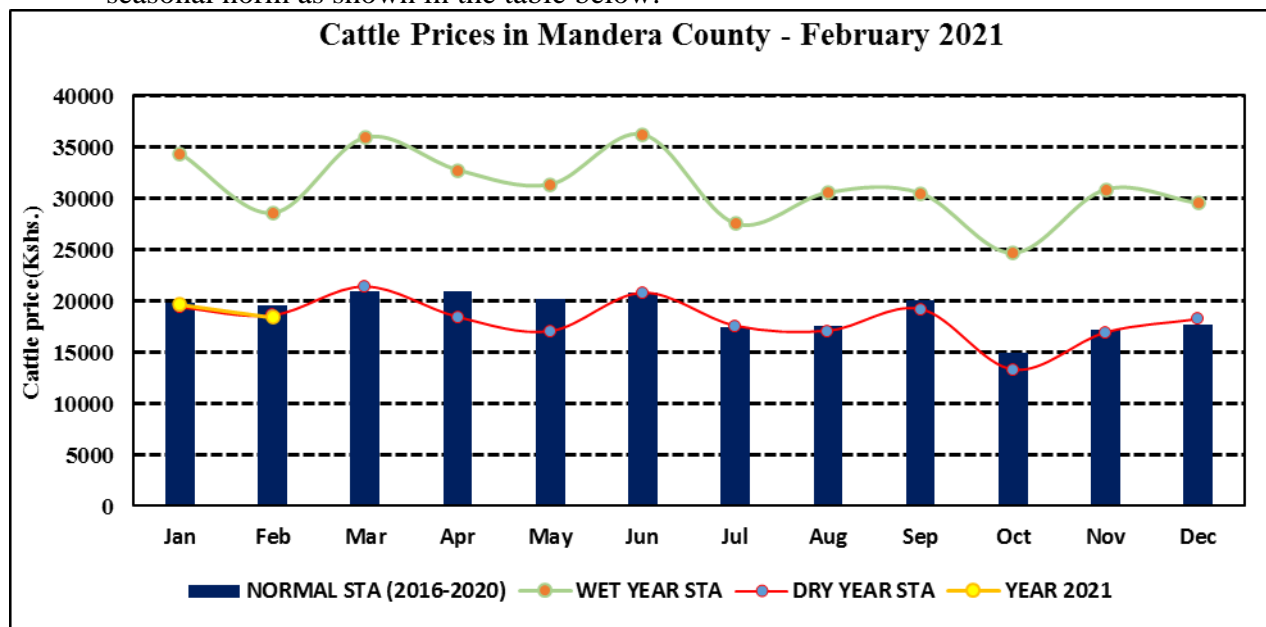
- Minimal harvest is expected along River Daua which will affect the households along the irrigated cropping zone.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

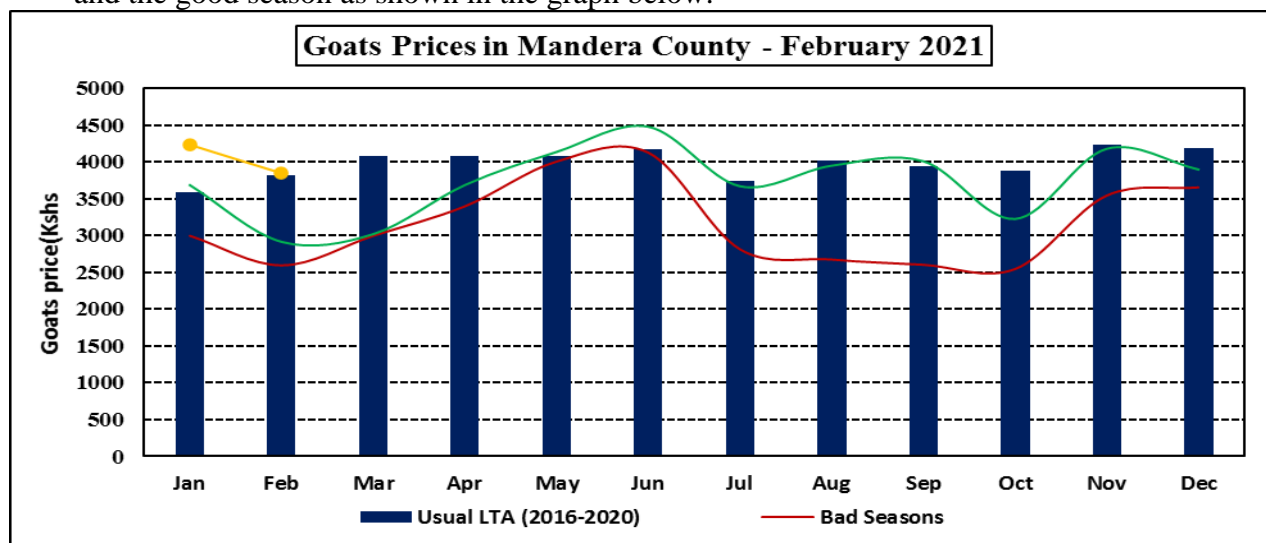
4.1.1 Cattle Prices

- Average cattle price was Ksh 18,367 in the month of February 2021. The average price decreased when compared to last month.
- Agro pastoral livelihood zone recorded the highest average followed by Pastoral all species and Irrigated Livelihood zones respectively.
- When compared to the Normal STA, the average cattle price was below but following seasonal norm as shown in the table below.



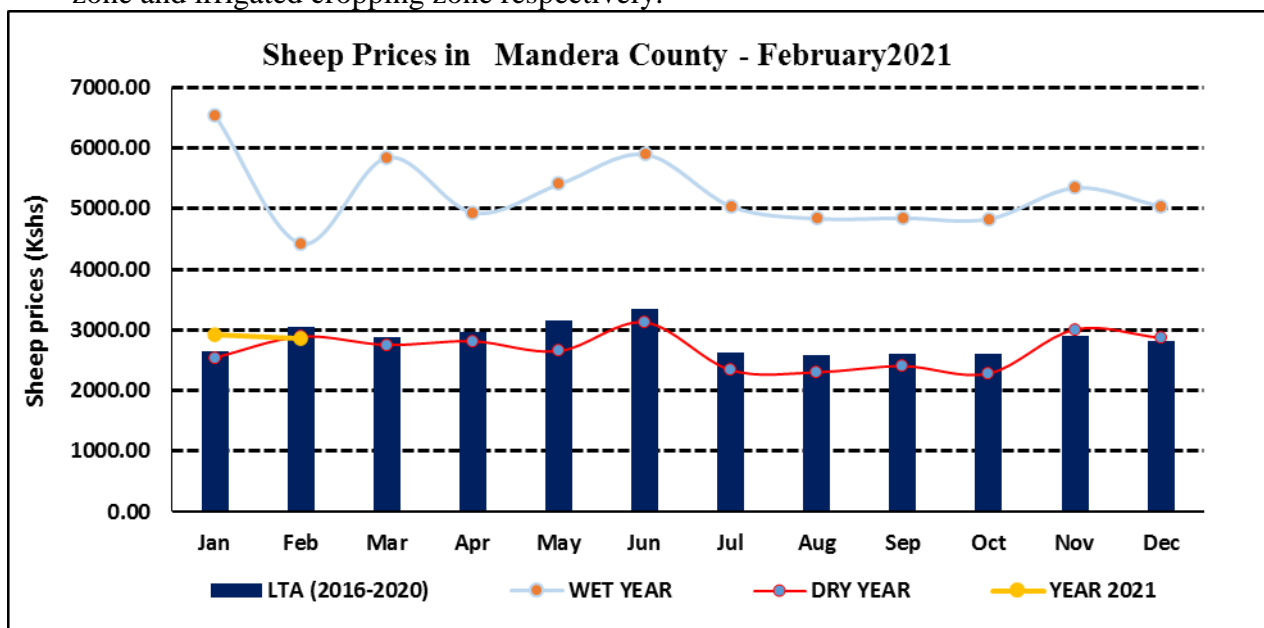
4.1.2 Goat Prices

- Average goat price was Ksh 3,853 in the month of February, when compared to previous month, the goat price decreased
- Highest price range was in Pastoral all species livelihood zone followed by Agro pastoral livelihood zone and Irrigated livelihood zone.
- The current average price is at par with the usual long-term average but above the bad season and the good season as shown in the graph below.



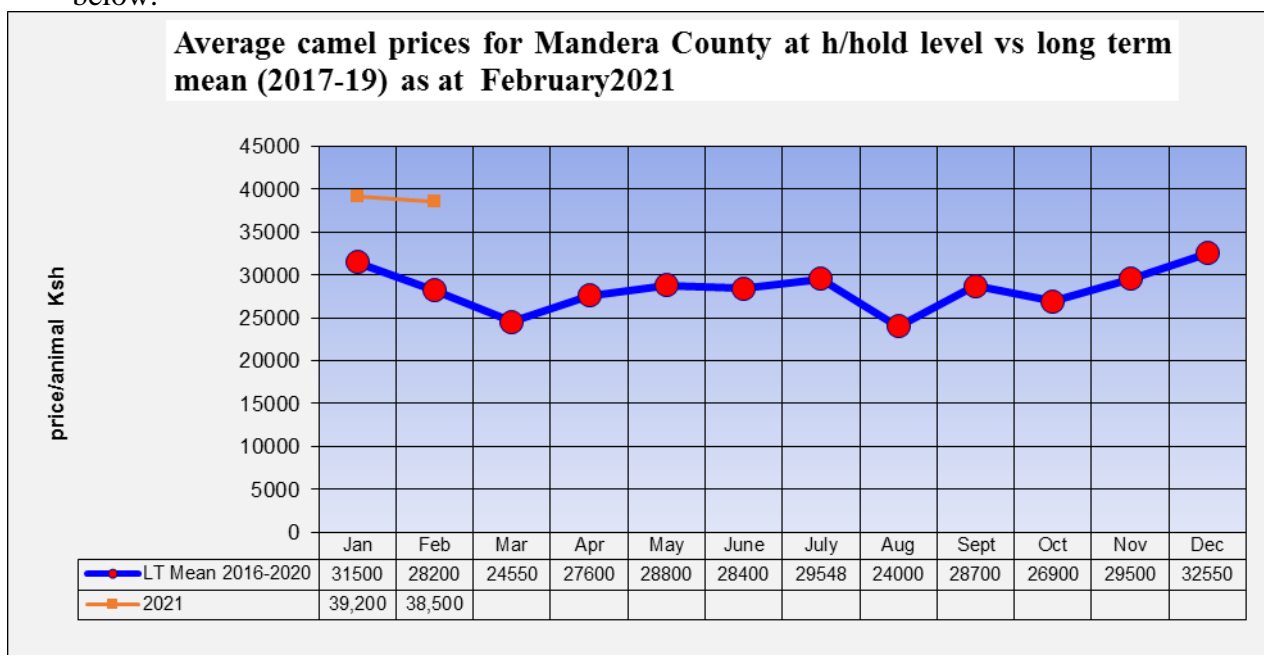
Sheep Price

- Average sheep price was Ksh 2,850 in the month of February and when compared to the previous month, the current average price was stable.
- The current average price is slightly below the long-term average and at par with dry year of the same month as shown below.
- The highest average price was noted in Pastoral all species zone followed by Agro pastoral zone and irrigated cropping zone respectively.



4.1.3 Camel Prices

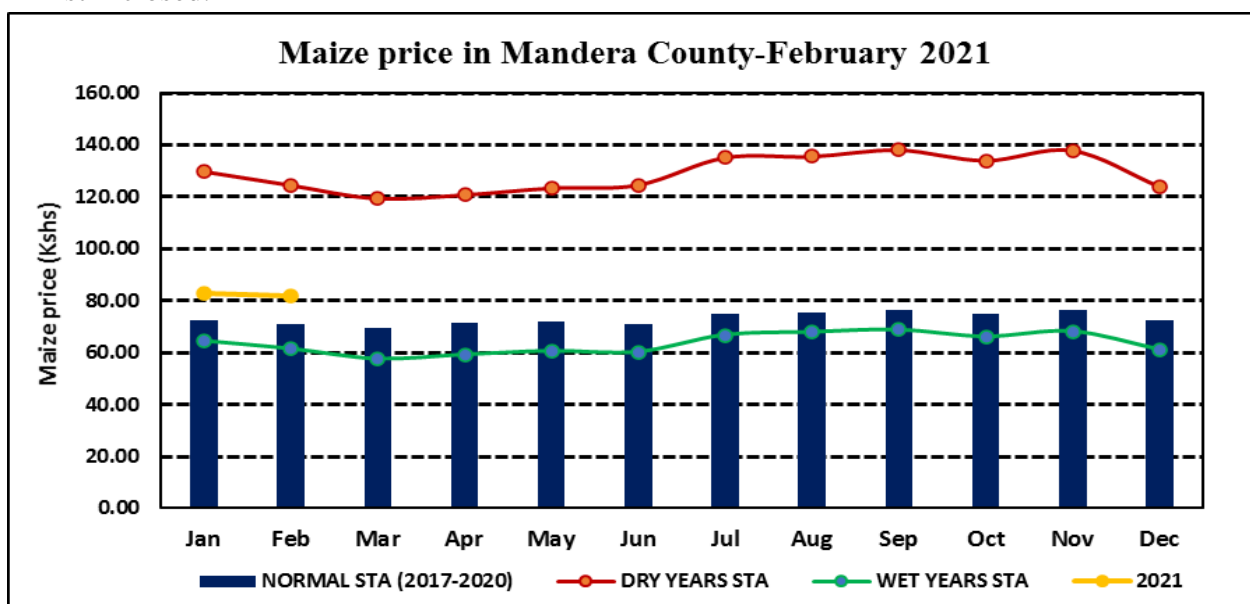
- The average camel price during the month of February 2021 is Kshs 38,500 when compared to the previous month, the average price within the range.
- Highest average price was recorded in Agro pastoral zone followed by Pastoral all species livelihood zone and Irrigated cropping livelihood zone.
- The average camel price is higher when compared to normal range as shown in the table below.



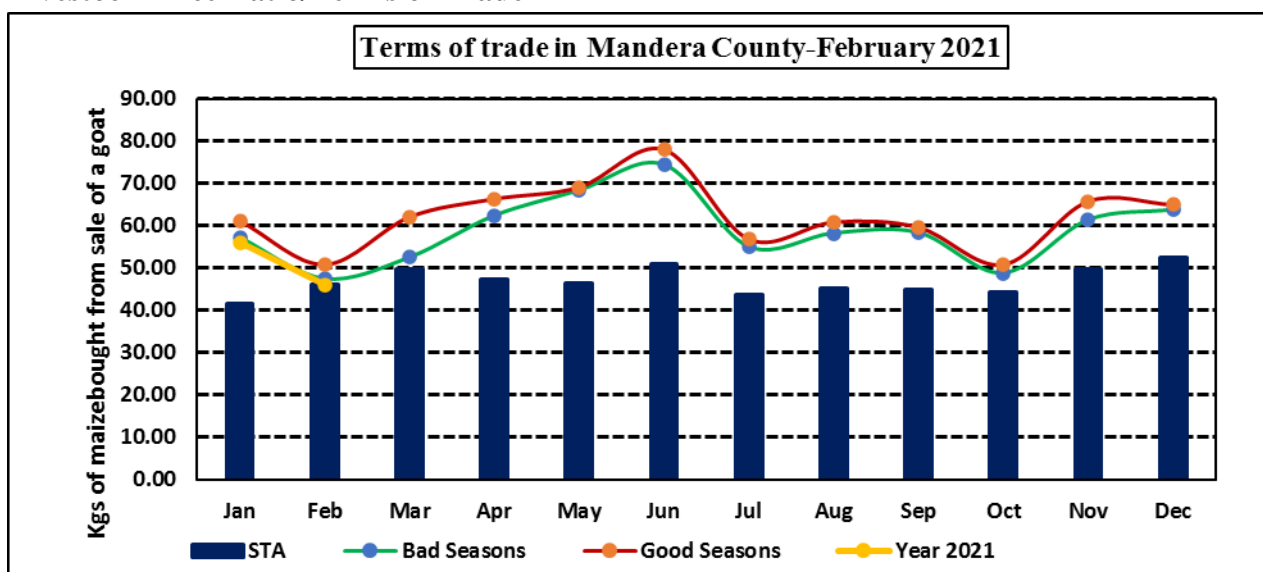
4.2 CROP PRICES

Maize

- The average maize price during the month of February 2021 was Ksh.82per kg.
- Compared to the previous month, the average price was stable.
- When compared to the normal STA, the average price was higher than normal.
- The price of maize is expected to go higher as cross border Ethiopia which was main source is still closed.



Livestock Price Ratio/Terms of Trade



- Currently a household can purchase 46Kgs of maize by selling one medium goat.
- The terms of trade decreased when compared to last month.
- The terms of trade are unfavourable to pastoral communities
- The current TOT is at bar with the STA and the bad season.
- The highest terms of trade were reported in Pastoral all species livelihood zone followed by Agro pastoral and Irrigated livelihood zone.

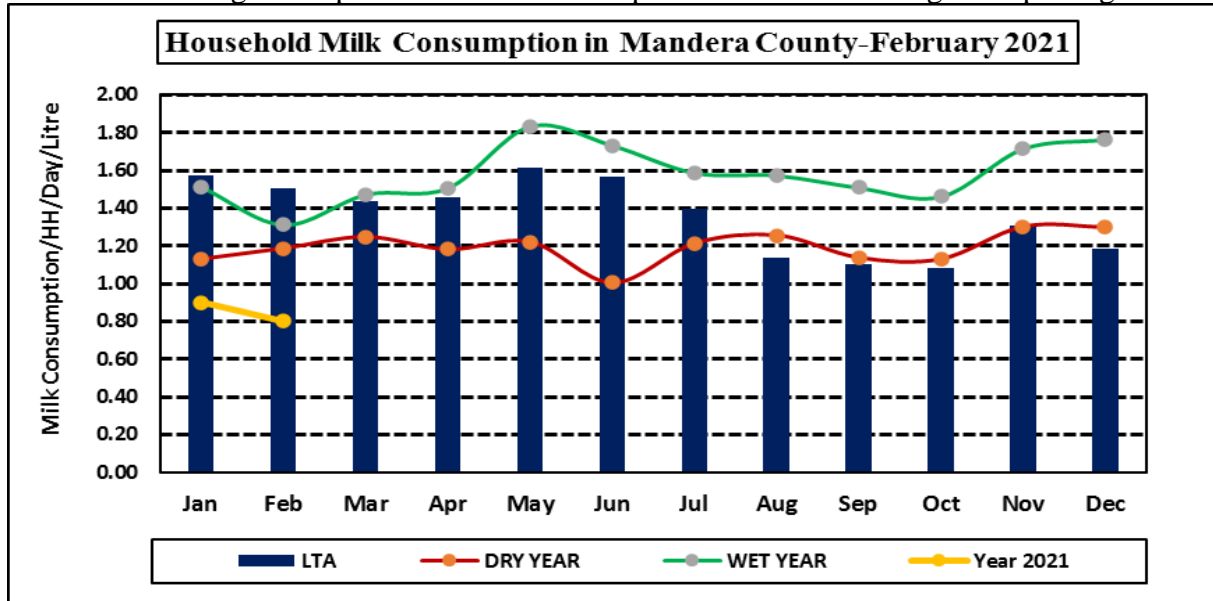
4.2 Implication of above indicator on Food Security

- Increased prices of essential commodities will impact negatively on pastoral return thus decreasing the purchasing power of communities.

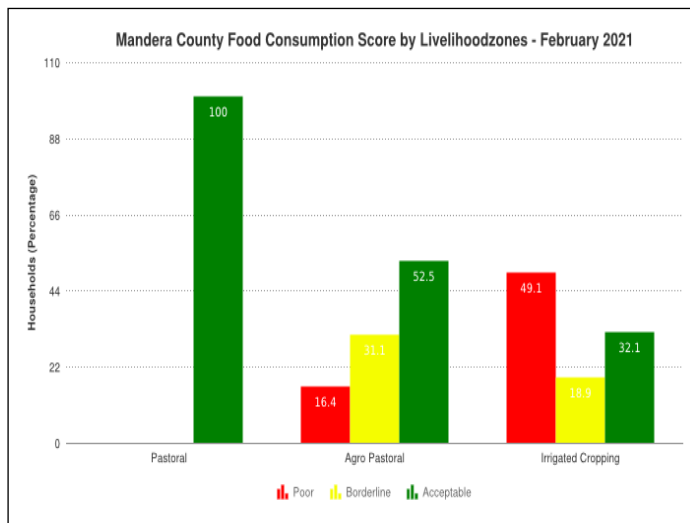
5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

Milk consumption

- Milk consumption at household level for the month of February was less than litres
- When compared to last month, the consumption reduced as shown in the graph below.
- The Milk consumption is below the LTA, dry year and the wet year.
- The average milk price was Ksh 80-100 per 750 ml bottle during the reporting month.



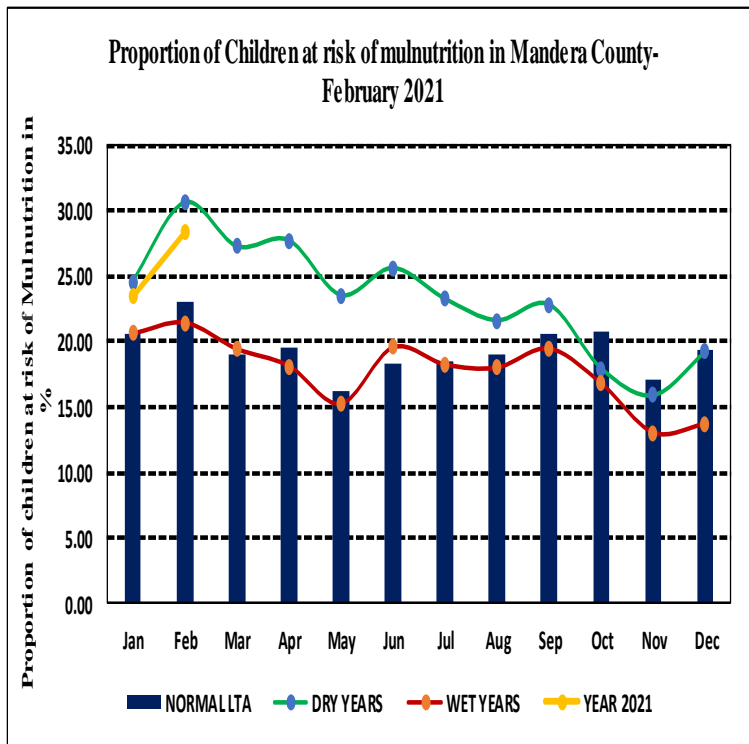
5.1 Food Consumption Score



situation.

- The proportion of households with a poor food consumption score was 24 percent in February 2021 compared to 17 in January 2021.
- The proportion in the borderline category was 20 percent in February in comparison to 15 percent in January while those in the acceptable food consumption score were at 56 percent for February 2021.
- When compared to February 2020 which had 12 percent poor and 24 percent borderline and 64 percent acceptable indicating worsening

5.3.1 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS



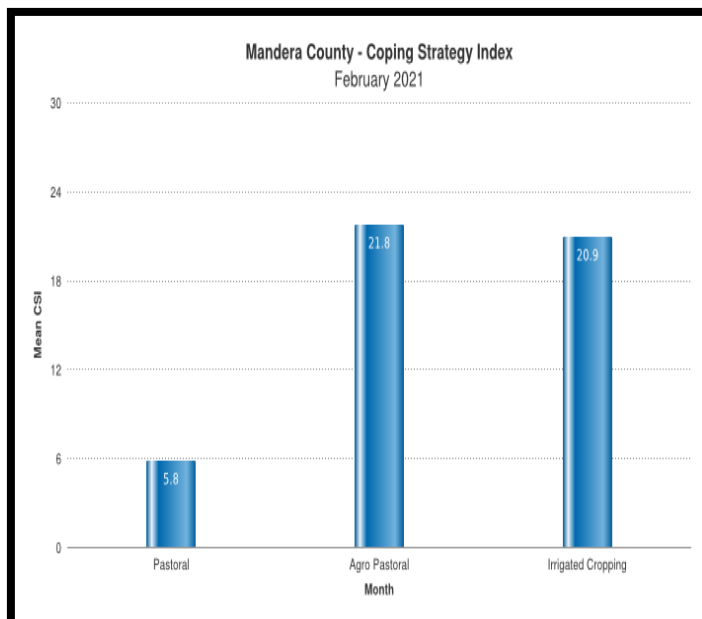
- The percentage of children (<5yrs) at mid-risk category for 125mm to 134mm during the month of February was 28.4 percent.
- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition in Mander increased when compared to last month. MUAC rates are higher than the long-term average.
- The high levels of malnutrition cases are attributed to Poor dietary diversity, poor child feeding practices, poor caring and poor feeding practices.
- Simbir Fatuma sentinel site in the pastoral species livelihood zones recorded the highest percentage of malnourished children while

the lowest percentage of malnourished children was in Yabucho sentinel site.

5.3.2 Health

- No new cases Covid 19 pandemic infection and mortality was reported during the month under review
- One person died in in Kalmalab location of Rhamu dimtu ward in Mander North sub county due to Rift valley fever disease.

5.4 COPING STRATEGIES

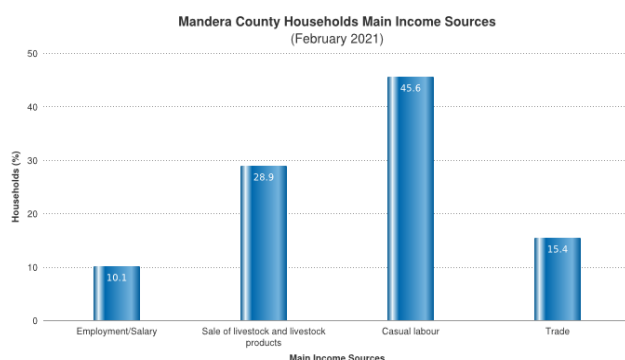


- The Coping Strategy Index (CSI) was 17.68 in February 2021.
- When compared to same time last year, the CSI was within the range
- The highest CSI is in the Agro pastoral livelihood zone followed by Irrigated cropping zone and Pastoral livelihood zone respectively.
- This implies communities were employing less severe strategies to cope with food shortages
- The indices at livelihood zone level are shown in the graph:

The main coping strategies used by communities include-

- HSNP regular beneficiaries receiving bi-monthly payment for 22231 households.
- Food and nutrition support services offered by various actors
- Sale of livestock
- 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
- borrowing from friends and relatives
- Cash transfer for elderly/OVC.

5.5 HOUSEHOLD SOURCE OF INCOME



The main household income for the county during the month of February was sale of livestock and livestock products and casual labour as shown in the graph above.

6. CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 NON-FOOD INTERVENTIONS

- Kenya Red cross society is conducting 16 health outreach sites in Mandera East, North and Banisa sub counties.
- Livestock vaccination and Vector control by DRC and RACIDA through veterinary department.
- Department of water is conducting water trucking to over 240 centres under water stress

6.2 FOOD AID -

- Supplementary feeding at 63 health facilities by WFP through KEMSA and COCOP.
- Mandera County Government (MCG) has distributed relief food to 38,394 HH in entire County during the month of February.
- Sustainable food system program by World Food Program through COCOP over 7000 households in Mandera West, North and Banisa Sub-counties.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- No major insecurity incidence was reported during the month under review.

7.2 Migration.

- Migration was reported in areas where dry pasture was noted thus increasing resource-based conflict.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- The current food security situation is at alarm phase and trend is worsening.
- Water availability is below average with almost 90 percent of earth pans empty resulting to over two hundred and forty centres been water trucked by department of Water.
- Pasture and browse are poor across the County.
- Livestock body condition is fair but on worsening trend for all species.
- Milk production and consumption is below normal.

- Malnutrition rates have increased compared to last month.
- Terms of trade (TOT) is currently unfavourable and on worsening trend compared to last month.
- The food security situation is projected to be in crisis as the long rains are forecasted to be below normal and close monitoring of situation is important.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Response:

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

Water

- Water trucking to over 240 centres under water stress
- Activation of rapid response team for immediate response to carry out service and maintenance of livestock strategic boreholes as boreholes will be overwhelmed.
- Provision of fast moving spare parts to livestock strategic boreholes and repair of defective boreholes.

Livestock

- Support county wide mass vaccination, deworming and treatment of livestock affected by RVF and other diseases.
- Manage conflict along watering points and migration corridors
- Mobilization of communities to undertake Livestock offtake for small herds before the body condition of livestock worsens.
- Provision of hay to pastoral communities affected by drought

Agriculture

- Construction of dykes and other floods control measures along the riverine
- Food aid to communities affected by the drought

Health

- Provision of PPEs and Sanitizers to poor households
- Community Sensitization through Radios and other media service on Coronavirus outbreak and preventions.
- Scale up of health and nutrition outreach programme for settlement without health facilities
- Increase mass screening of under five children.
- Provide essential drugs to all health facilities particularly newly operationalised facilities
- Fast track nutritional commodities supplies to avoid IMAM programme defaulters.
- Monitor malnutrition and general food insecurity in order to establish the number of households that are food insecure
- Promote personal and communal hygiene through sustained hand-washing campaigns