

National Drought Management Authority

MARSABIT COUNTY

DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR MAY 2019



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



EW PHASE: ALARM



Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Alarm	Stable
Pastoral All species	Alarm	Stable
Fisherfolk/ Casual labour /Petty Trading	Alert	Deteriorating
County	Alarm	Stable
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	51	80 -120
VCI-3Month	22.57	>35
Forage condition	Fair-Poor	Good
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Fair	Good
Milk Production	1.0	>2.3Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Unusual	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	71	>72
Milk Consumption	0.75	>1.7Litre
Return distance to water	6.3	0.0-2.3 Km
Cost of water	0-5	<Ksh.5
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	17.9	0.0-19.9
Coping Strategy Index	19.86	<20
Food Consumption score	34.69	>35

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

Rainfall: Rains were received a few pockets across the County. Rainfall was uneven and poor for both temporal and spatial distribution.

Vegetation condition: The 3-months Vegetation Condition Index for the month of May was 22.57 an indicative of gradual decline when compared to the preceding months' vegetation condition index of 24.19. Generally, forage condition was fair-poor across the livelihood zones.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production indicators: Livestock body condition was good-fair for all the livestock species across the livelihood zones with exception of cattle that exhibited generally poor body condition. Milk production considerably reduced to 1.0Litres/household/day. No livestock deaths reported due to drought. Failure of the long rains led to total crop failure in the agro-pastoral areas of Moyale and Saku sub-counties.

Access indicators: Household and livestock trekking distances to water sources increased and 90percent of the water pans dried up. Milk consumption has declined to 0.75Litres which is below normal. Terms of trade declined and was normal due to slightly above normal goat prices and stable maize prices. Markets were operational however traded volumes for livestock declined particularly the livestock market.

Utilization indicators: Nutritional status of children below the age of five years deteriorated however was within the normal ranges. Food consumption score to borderline while households adopted crisis reduced consumption based mechanisms. Morbidity and mortalities trends for children below the age of five years was within normal.

<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

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

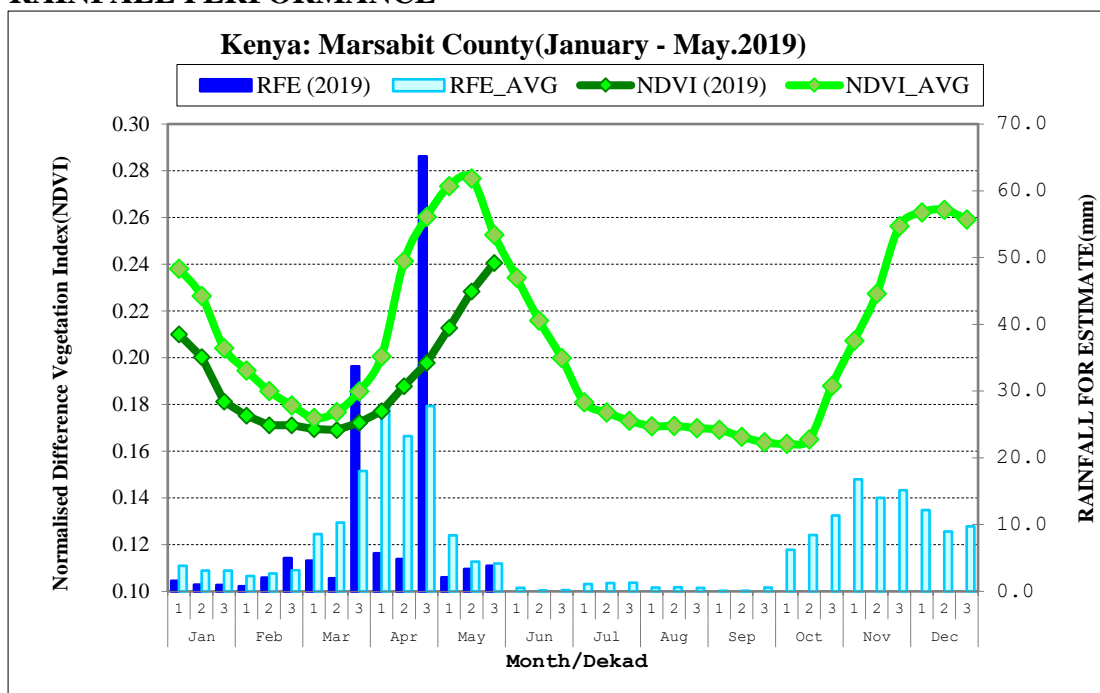


Figure 1: Dekadal Rainfall(mm) and NDVI values compared to the Long Term Average
Source: WFP-VAM, CHIRPS/MODIS

- From the figure 1 shown above, current dekadal averages (rainfall for estimate) for the first and second dekads were below normal with exception of the third dekad which indicated normal rainfall for estimate. Similarly, Normalized Difference Vegetation Index(NDVI) for all the dekads in the month under review were below the dekadal long term average. Normalized Difference Vegetation Index for the month under review was below normal because of minimal rejuvenation of vegetation cover across the livelihood zones.

1.2 Amounts received

- During the month under review, 72.6mm of rainfall was recorded in Moyale rainfall station for a period of 5 rainy days with the highest amount recorded on 24th May totalling to 30.5 mm. However, Marsabit Mountain rainfall station recorded a dismal amount of 24.6mm in 3 rainy days with the highest amount recorded on 22nd April at 10.5mm. Southern parts of Laisamis sub-county also received light showers in the month under review.

1.3 Spatial and temporal distribution

- Distribution of rainfall in time and space was poor characterized with rainfall of varied intensity across the County. Golbo, Heillu Manyatta, Township, Sololo and Uran wards in Moyale sub-county received enhanced rains in 3 rainy rainy days and parts of Dukana ward along the border with Ethiopia received slightly enhanced rainfall in a period of 2rainy days. Saku sub-county received depressed rains in 2-3 rainy days in the month under review.
- However, most parts of Laisamis and North Horr sub-counties didn't not receive any rainfall in the month under review. Based on the livelihood zones, Agro-pastoral of Moyale sub-county received enhanced rains while agro-pastoral areas of Saku sub-county received depressed rains. Pastoral livelihood zone of Moyale sub-county received slightly enhanced rains whereas other pastoral areas across the County didn't receive rains during the reporting period. When compared to similar periods, the long rains received in the month review was depressed and below normal.

1.5 CUMULATIVE RAINFALL AMOUNTS

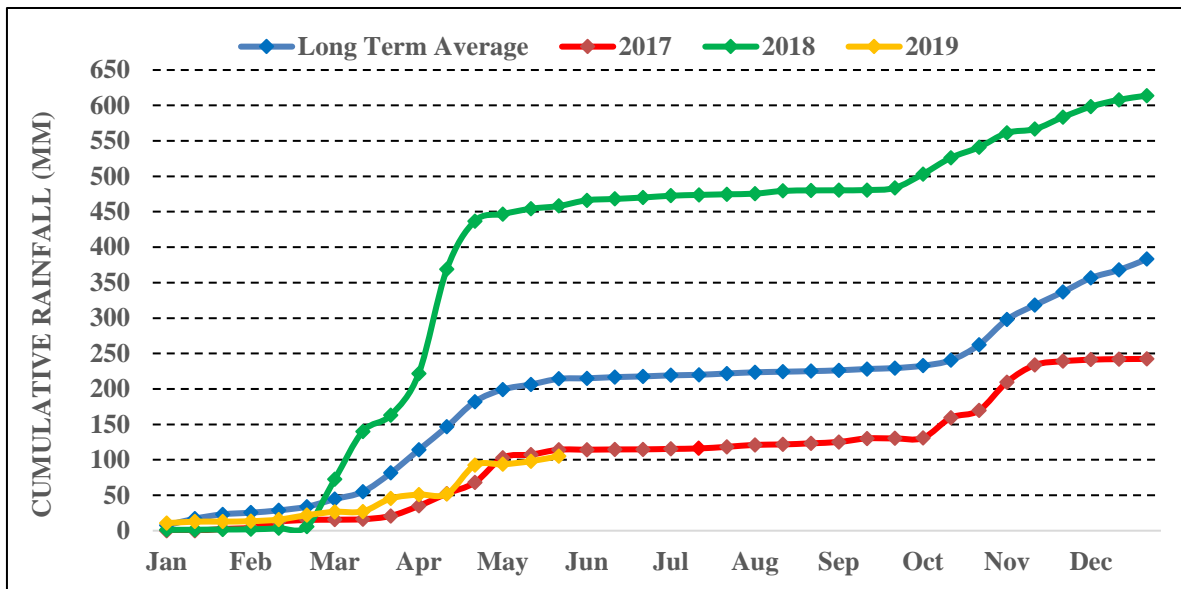


Figure 2: Marsabit County Cumulative Rainfall Amounts(mm)

- From the figure (2) shown above, current cumulative rains were 51percent of the long term cumulative rains. The current cumulative rainfall amounts are similar to the cumulative rains of 2017 which was a bad year.
- With progression of the long rains which is erratic, cumulative rainfall amounts are expected to marginally increase but still be way below normal when compared to similar periods.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

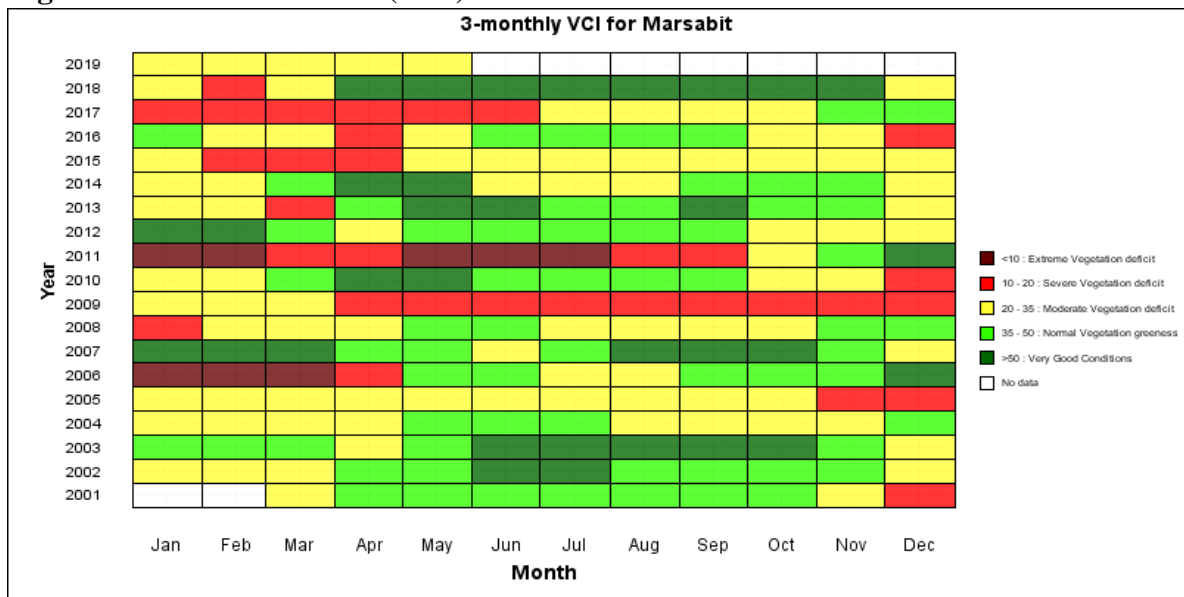


Figure 3: Vegetation Condition Index Across the County

- From the matrix shown above, the 3-months vegetation index for the month under review was 22.57 which is an indicative of gradual decline when compared to the previous months' vegetation condition index of 24.19. Generally, the 3-months vegetation condition index stagnated in the moderate vegetation deficit band for five consecutive months with no notable change in the same period.

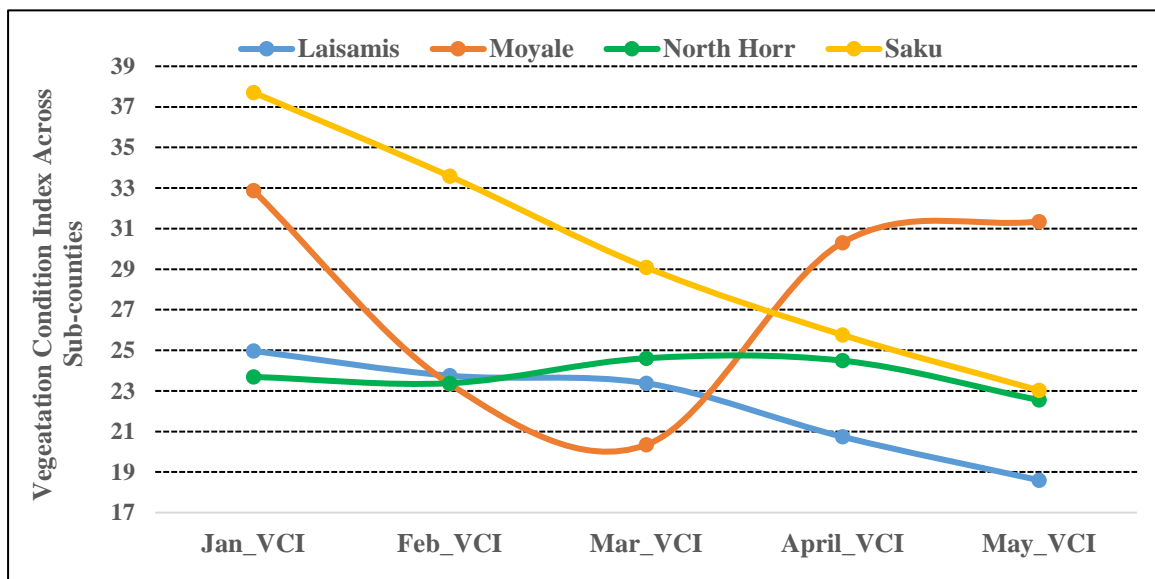


Figure 4: Vegetation Condition Index across sub-counties

- From figure (4) illustrated above, Moyale sub-county demonstrated improvement in the vegetation condition index with exemptions of other sub-counties of Laisamis, North Horr and Saku that displayed steady decline. Nonetheless, Moyale, Saku, and North Horr sub-counties fell within the moderate vegetation deficit band with 3-months vegetation condition index of 31.35, 23.03 and 22.55 respectively. However, Laisamis sub-county fell in the severe vegetation deficit strap with a 3-months vegetation condition index of 18.6.
- Decline in vegetation condition deficit was attributed to erratic and depressed long rains which had minimal causality on vegetation cover and therefore didn't Depressed didn't revitalize forage condition save for agro-pastoral areas of Moyale sub-county.

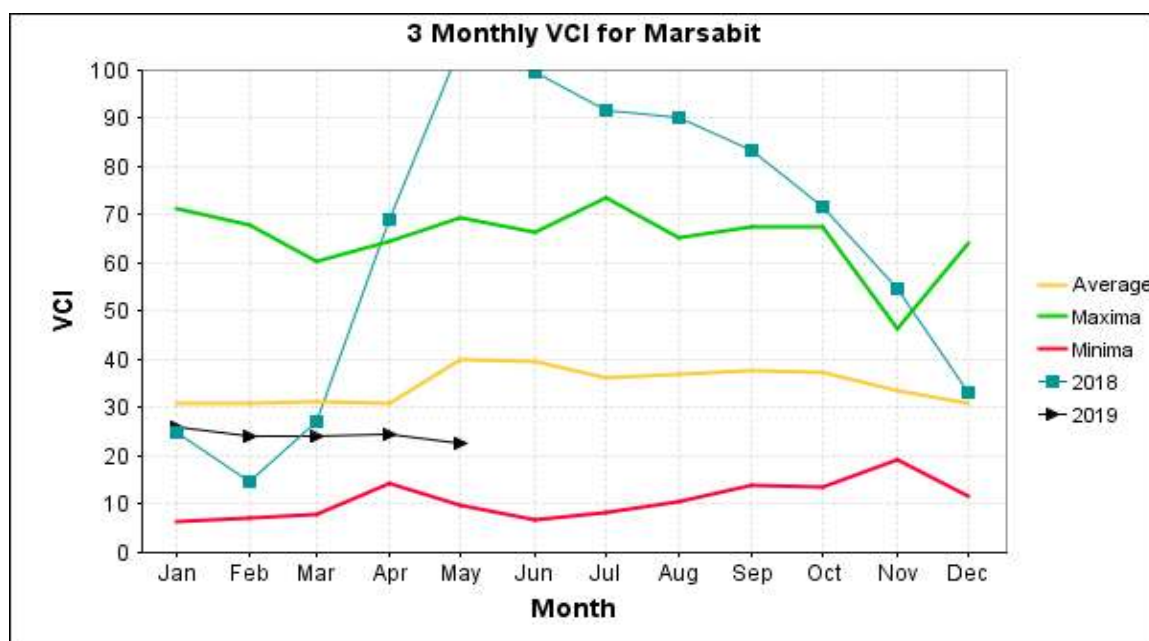


Figure 5: Vegetation Condition Index Trends across the County

- The figure shown above compares May 2019 vegetation condition index to May 2018, long term average and also illustrates maximum and minimum VCI values ever recorded.
- From the figure shown above, vegetation condition index for the month under review was remarkably below April 2018 VCI value. When compared to the long term average, the current vegetation condition index was below normal. With the expected cessation of the

long rains across the County, vegetation condition index will significantly decline in the next 1 month.

2.1.2 Pasture

- Pasture condition was poor across all the livelihood zones compared to a normal season at this time of the year. Pasture was fair in the pastoral areas of Kargi, Hurri Hills, Logologo, parts of Dukana and South Horr. In most parts of the Agro pastoral areas of Saku sub-county pasture condition with exception of few pockets in Karare ward which had fair pasture whereas in the Agro-pastoral areas of Moyale sub-county pasture was fair.
- Pasture was also available along the borders of Kenya and Ethiopia e.g. Forole and Dukana area but the communities couldn't access pasture due to insecurity along porous border. Similarly, there exists small pockets of pasture around Leyai-Badassa area which cannot be accessed due to insecurity.
- However, light showers received in few pockets of Saku sub-county didn't have a significant effect on pasture since the seeds had already dried up which negatively affected the length of growing period for pasture.
- Generally, pasture condition is poor across the County and is expected to considerably deteriorate in the next one month if no continuity of the long rains is witnessed coupled by intense livestock migration.
- Available pasture is expected to last for the next 2 months against the normal 4 months in the agro-pastoral areas whereas in the pastoral areas, pasture is expected to last for the next 1 month against the normal 3 months.
- Pasture is expected to last for the next 1-2months against the normal 4 months.

2.1.3 Browse

- Browse condition is generally fair across the livelihood zones. Enhanced rains received in Moyale sub-county led to emergence of browse which will likely sustain the livestock body condition for Camel and Goats to fair state in those few pockets for the next 2-3 months.
- There was widespread emergence of non-palatable vegetation across the County especially *calotropis procera*.
- Quality and quantity of browse is fair where normally is always good. Browse is expected to last for the next 3months against the normal 4months in the agro-pastoral areas whereas in the pastoral livelihood zone browse is expected to last for the 2 months against the normal of 3 months

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

2.2.1 Sources

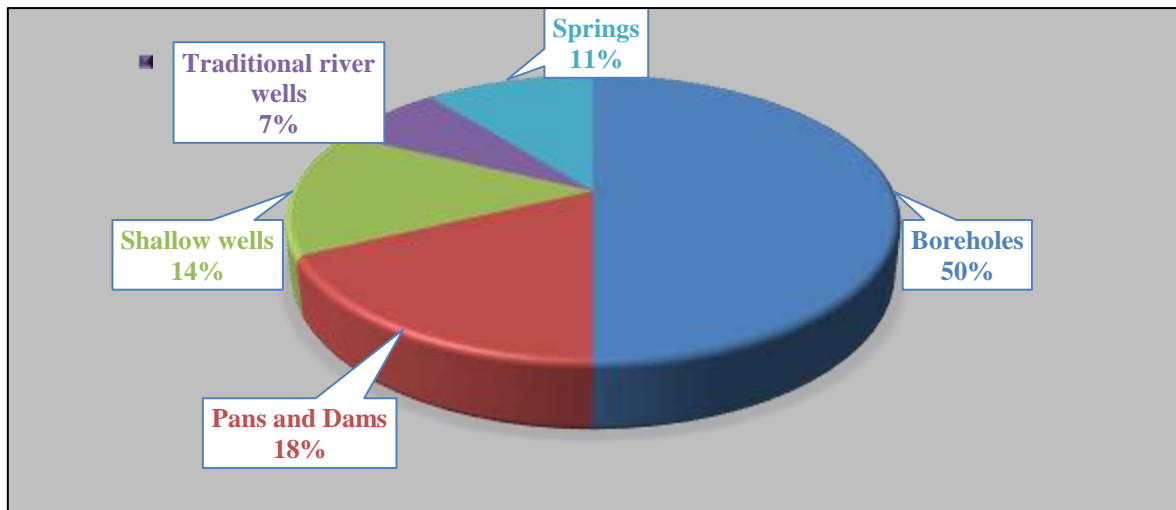


Figure 6: Major water sources across the livelihood zones

- From figure 6 shown above, borehole was the major water source employed by the majority of community members across the livelihood zones at 50percent which is not usually the main source of water at this particular time of the year. Normally, water pan is always the main water source.
- Other water sources utilized by the communities were water pans, shallow wells, springs and traditional river wells at 18percent, 14percent, 11percent and 7percent respectively.
- 90percent of the water pans are currently dry and the few water pans that are partially recharged will last for the next one-two months because of intense livestock migration across the County in search of water. 60 percent of the shallow wells are currently operational and are expected to dry up completely in the next 2 months if the dry spell progresses.
- Areas that face acute water shortage are Saku sub-county and water trucking is currently ongoing are: Saku sub-county (Garqarsa, Qachacha, Manyatta Jillo, Parkishon), North Horr sub-county (Malabot, Gorich, Kalesa, Yaa Sharbana, Qatamur, Anchacha, , Tigo, Hurri Hills, Kubiadhi, Dololo Bojji), Moyale sub-county (Elle Borr, Elledimtu, Antut, Adadi, Gadakorma, Dambala Fachana, Mayie, Guyotimo, Gola), Laisamis sub-county (Namarei, Lekushula, Lependera, Kambinye).

2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

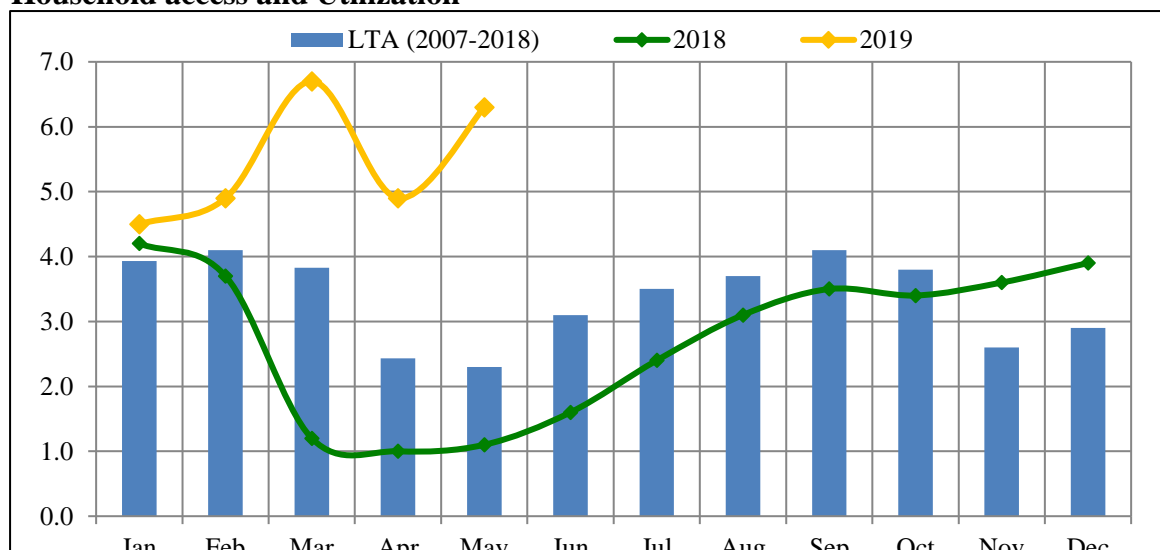


Figure 7: Current household return water distance(km) compared to Long Term Average distances(km)

- From (Figure 7) shown above, return household water distances to the main water sources was 6.3km in the month under review across the livelihood zones which is an indicative of an increase when compared to previous months' household water distances of 4.9km.
- When compared to similar periods, the current household water distance is above normal.
- However, in the pastoral areas of North Horr sub-county (Kobdertu, Gas, Malabot, Kalesa, Qatamur, Anchacha, Tigo, Kubiadhi, Shankuru), Moyale sub-county (Elle-Borr, Elledimtu, Qolob, Antut, Adadi, Mayie, Kukub, Illadu, Guyotimo) and Lependera in Laisamis sub-county return household water distances were more than 15km longer.
- The current waiting time in the agro-pastoral was 30-60 minutes against the normal of 15-30 minutes. In the pastoral areas, waiting time was 30-90 minutes compared to normal of 20-30 minutes
- The cost of water was sold at Ksh.3-5 per 20 litres across the livelihood zones compared to the normal price of Kshs.2-5 per 20 litre jerrican. Cost of water was high in the agro pastoral areas of Marsabit Central, Hurri Hills and Moyale Township where vendors sold water at Ksh.40-50 per 20 litre jerrican.
- The average water consumption across the livelihood zones was 5-7 litres per person per day against the normal 15-20 litres per person per day.

2.2.3 Livestock access

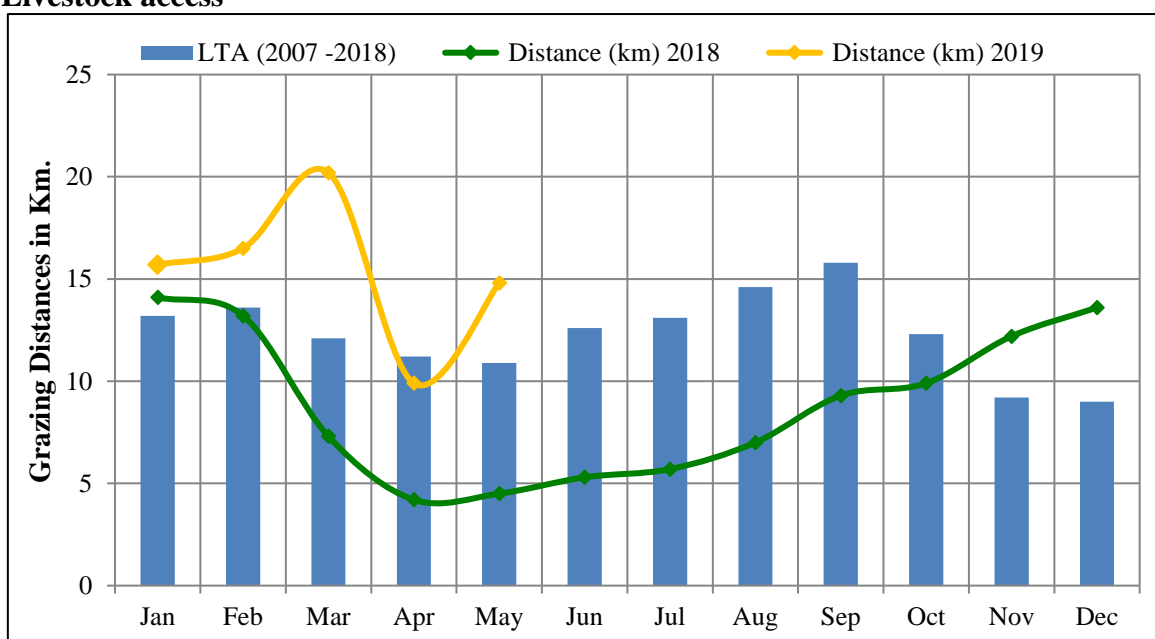


Figure 8: Current livestock trekking distances compared to long term average trekking distances(km)

- From (Figure 8) shown above, return livestock trekking distance from grazing areas to water points is 14.8km across the livelihood zones.
- When compared to the previous months' livestock trekking distances of 9.9km, increased livestock distances from grazing areas to water points was experienced as rains were depressed.
- Current livestock return trekking distance of 14.8km is above normal by 36percent when compared to the long term average trekking distances of 10.9km.
- The return distances are likely to increase further due to drying up of water sources as result of high concentration of livestock. Livestock in North Horr and Laisamis areas trekked longer distances up to 20 km due to dried up water sources and far dry grazing areas.
- High concentration of livestock was observed in Hurri hills water pan, Darade shallow wells, Ambalo Pam, Arapal borehole, Misa borehole and Gudas water pan. On average cattle

were watered after every three days; sheep and goats four days and camels after every eight days across the livelihood zones.

- Watering frequencies have decreased due to increased trekking distances compared to similar periods in most areas. Currently, cattle are watered after every 2 days; small stock 2-3 days and camels after 6-7 days across the livelihood zones which is not the normal livestock watering frequency.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- In the pastoral and agro pastoral livelihood zones, the body condition of cattle was fair to poor compared to good at this time of the year. Areas that exhibited poor cattle body condition were Sagante/Jaldesa ward in Saku sub-county, parts of Obbu, Butiye and Golbo wards in Moyale sub-county, Gas in North Horr sub-county and parts of Korr ward mainly Lependera in Laisamis sub-county.
- Livestock body condition for cattle was good around Mount Marsabit (Songa and Karare), Hurri Hills in North Horr sub-county, Logologo and Mt.Kulal in Laisamis sub-county. The body condition of goats, sheep and camel was good to fair across the livelihood zones.
- Livestock body conditions are expected to worsen in one month due to diminishing pastures and browse, reduced water availability and increased trekking distances. If the long dry spell continues, 70percent, 50percent, 60percent and 20percent of livestock in North Horr, Moyale, Saku and Laisamis sub-counties will be in poor body condition for all the species in the next 1 month.

3.1.2 Livestock Migration

- Livestock migratory routes were unusual in dry grazing areas across all the livelihood zones which is not normal at this time of the year. In Laisamis sub-county, livestock from Karare area are concentrated in Soriadi, Gudas, Koya, Thurusi, and Malgis. Livestock from Sarima moved to Losam and Likayo in Samburu county and others to Karumbe and Kamesesil in Mt Kulal. Those livestock from Moite moved to Lochalgoro, Halgore Darade and Sarima.
- In North-Horr sub-county livestock from Kalacha migrated to Hurri hills. Most of the livestock from Bubisa, Turbi, Maikona, Shegel, Elhadi, Balesa and Elgade migrated to Hurri hills recently. Livestock from Dukana migrated to Sabare, Bulluk and Alaftisi.
- In Moyale sub-county livestock from Golbo moved to Misa and Dirdima within the ward, Livestock from most parts of Obbu ward are concentrated in Ambalo and Sololo. In migration of livestock from Wajir (Buna, Bute, Korondile, Hote) towards Misa in Golbo ward (Moyale sub-county). Livestock from Uran are concentrated in Banale, Uran dida and Rawana. Livestock from Butiye ward (Bori, Antut, Qate, Dadach Lakole) have migrated towards Badanrero, Sololo and southern Ethiopia.
- In Saku sub-county, most of the livestock are concentrated in Jaldesa, Dokatu and Garqarsa areas (Sagante Jaldesa ward). 60percent, 75percent, 80percent and 95percent of livestock in Laisamis sub-county, Saku sub-county, Moyale sub-county and North Horr sub-county correspondingly have migrated to unusual grazing areas in search of pasture and water and the situation is expected to worsen further in the next 1 month if the dry spell continues.

3.1.3 Livestock diseases and mortalities

- No major outbreak reported across all the livelihood zones. In small stock, Peste des Petitis Ruminants (PPR) and CCPP have been widely reported in North Horr, Saku sub county and Moyale sub-county. Sheep and goat pox was reported in many areas of Laisamis, North horr and Moyale sub-counties.
- Progressive Interstitial Tissue Pneumonia(PIP) was reported to have caused death amongst sheep in Gas (North Horr sub-county) and in border areas around Magado and Elledimtu. In Elmolo bay (Laisamis sub-county) a mysterious disease caused paralysis of the hide quarters was reported to have affected many small stocks especially the young ones resulted to paralysis which led to deaths of small stock.
- Mortalities were normal across all livestock species except in camels due to disease incidences and kids in parts of Moyale sub-county (Walda, Dambala Fachana and Gadakorma). With increased livestock migration along the grazing areas, disease incidences are expected to increase in the next 1-2 months.

3.1.4 Milk Production

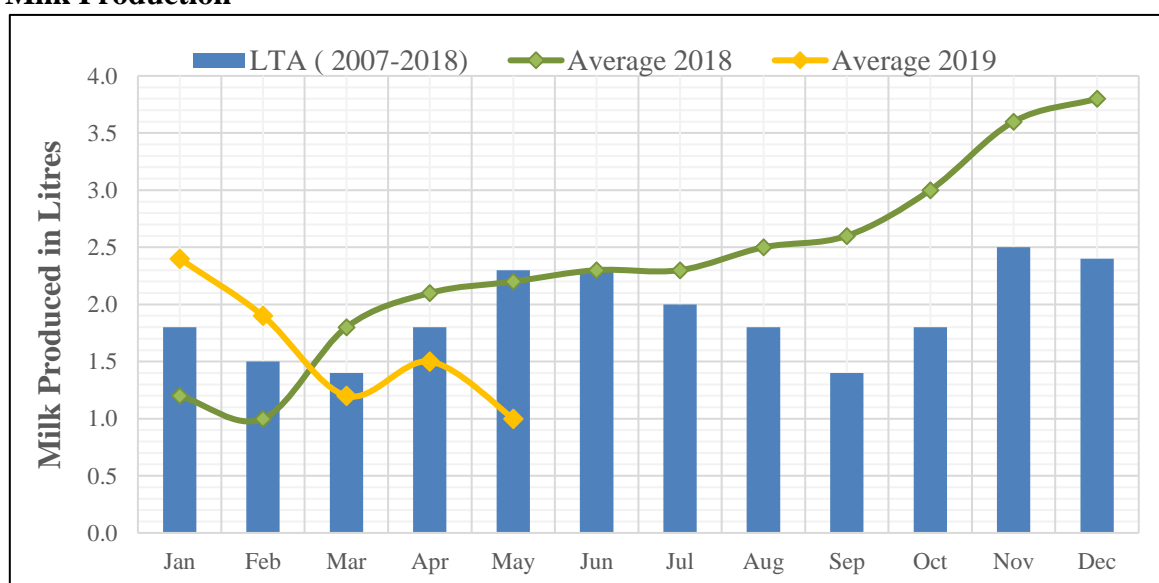


Figure 9: Milk production per household per day in litres across the livelihood zones

- From figure 9 shown above, household milk production per day for the month of May declined from 1.5Litres in the previous month to 1.0Litre across the livelihood zones. Reduction in milk production was attributed to mass livestock migration to the drought fall back areas hence milk production is only available in the grazing areas.
- When compared to similar periods, average milk production of 1.0Litre was below the long term average milk production of 2.3Litres.
- In the pastoral livelihood zone, milk production was 0.5-1 litres compared to 2-4 litres normally. Few lactating stocks especially camels and goats were available near homestead to provide milk to the households.
- Below normal milk production was attributed to generally abnormal livestock migration to the major drought fall back areas.
- Generally, price of milk is Ksh.80-120 per litre with exception few pockets in the agro-pastoral areas where milk retailed at Ksh.75 per litre.

3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

- Area under rain-fed maize and beans reduced to 26 and 15 percent respectively compared to the long term averages. Variations in area under cultivation were attributed to: most farmers didn't plant their farms due to delayed onset of rains, false germination due to poor onset rains, short length of growing period, tribal conflicts around Sagante ward, lack of certified seeds for pulses in the local markets, resultant late land preparation and planting, demoralization of farmers due to unsuccessful previous rainy seasons in Uran, Golole, Anona, Sololo, Madoadhi, Wayegodha in Moyale sub-county, high rates of farming drop out in Moyale sub-county.
- The projected production will be negligible with about 4 bags of maize, 3 bags of beans and 6 bags of green grams mainly attributed to general failure of the season. Significant variations were noted that is total crop failure in Sagante and Karare wards in Saku sub-county as compared to minimal harvest in Uran, Anona, and Wayegodha and zero harvest in Sololo, Golole, Dabala Fachana, Bori and Godoma in Moyale sub-county. The variations were attributed to: variation in distribution of rains within the same livelihood zone, high rates of farming drop out in parts of Moyale Sub County and disparities in uptake of crop farming owing to culture of communities in these places.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

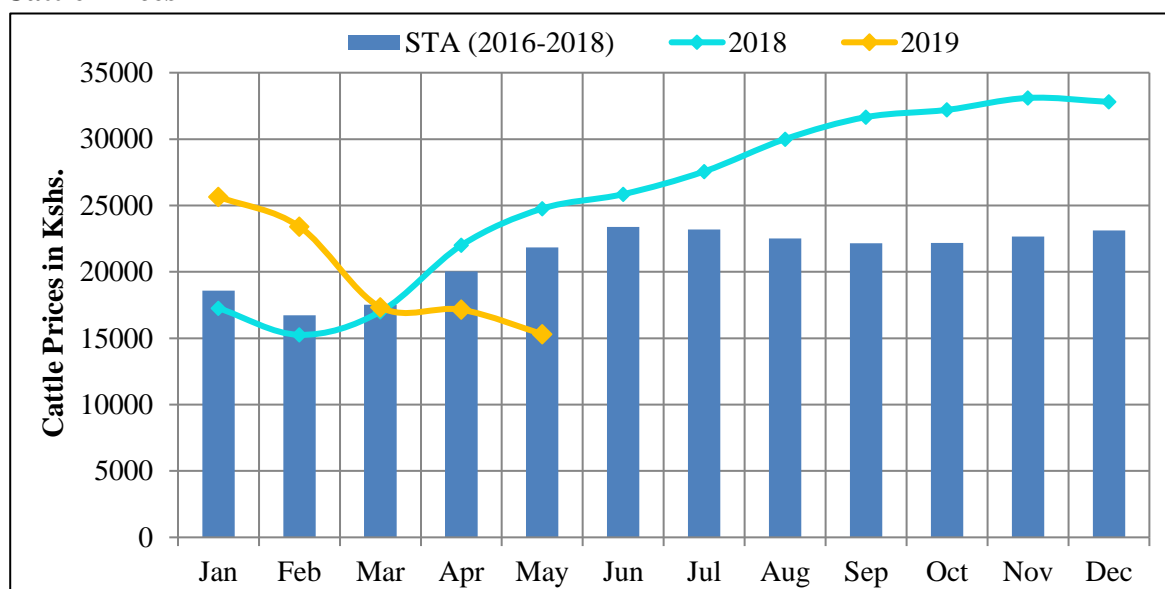


Figure 10: Current cattle prices compared to the short term average prices

- From the figure (10) shown above, cattle price for the month under review was Kshs. 15,300 which was an illustration of a decline when compared to the previous month price of Kshs. 17,150.
- When compared with similar periods, current cattle price of Kshs. 15,300 is below the normal price of Kshs. 21,842 by 30percent. Below normal cattle price was attributed to poor body condition and lack of ready buyers.
- Only Moyale livestock market posted fairly better cattle prices with prices ranging between Kshs. 20,000 – 25,000. North Horr and Jirime recorded lower cattle prices.
- As long rains cessed, major terminal livestock markets are expected to post lower and below normal cattle prices due to reduced saleable livestock.

4.1.2 Goat prices

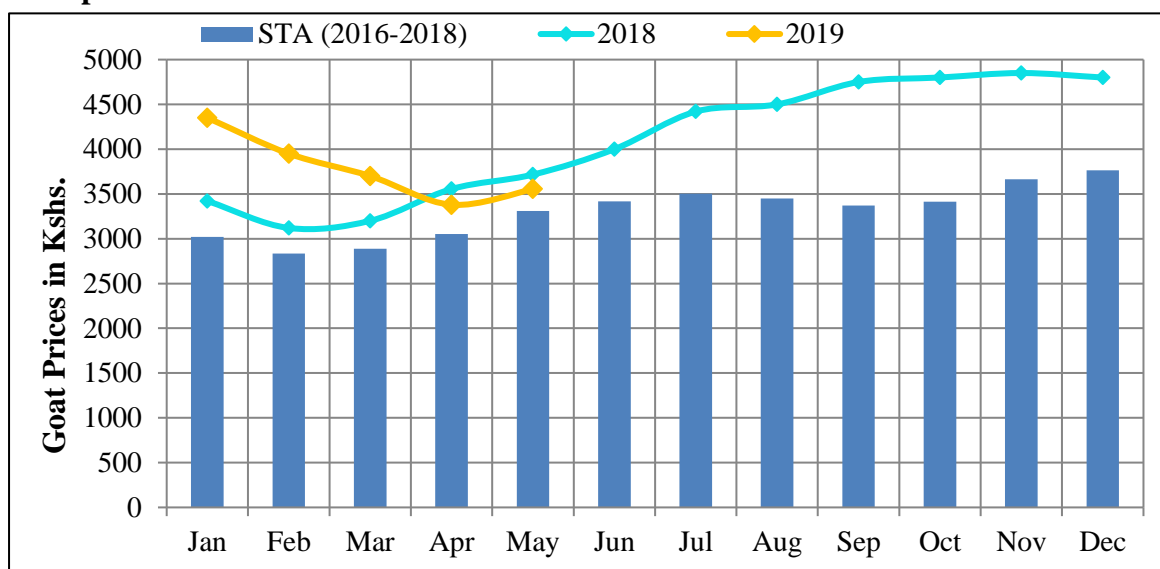


Figure 11: Current goat prices compared to short term average prices

- The average goat prices in the month of May was Ksh. 3,555 which was slightly above the short term average of Ksh. 3,311 across the livelihood zones.
- Slightly above normal goat prices were attributed to the cumulative effect of the last long rains which were exceedingly high and, improvement of browse condition in most parts of the County which led to good to fair body condition hence better market prices.
- The current goat price of Ksh. 3, 555 is above the short term average goat price of Kshs3,311 by 14percent. Market operations were normal across the county, however disruptions in the livestock market in North Horr sub-county with its neighbouring Ethiopia were witnessed due to spate of insecurity incidences.
- However, higher goat prices were recorded in Karare and Moyale ranging between Ksh 4500-6000. Lower prices were recorded in North Horr where a medium goat was sold at Ksh.2500-3000. If the dry spell and insecurity incidences continues, goats' prices are expected to be normal in the next 1 month and deteriorate to below normal in the next 2months across the livelihood zones.

4.1.3 Sheep Prices

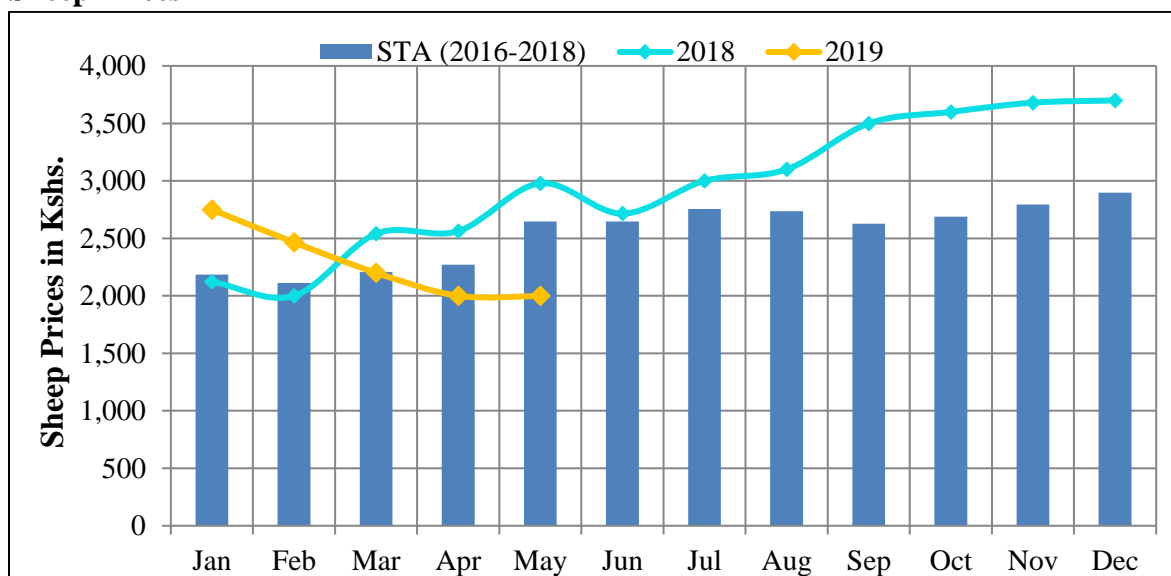


Figure 12: Current sheep prices compared to the short term average prices(kshs.)

- From the figure 12 shown above, sheep price for the month of May was Kshs. 2,000 across the livelihood zones which is a depiction of no change when compared to the previous months' sheep prices.
- When compared to the short term average price of Kshs. 2,648, current sheep price is below normal by 24percent. Below normal sheep prices were attributed to generally poor pasture condition across most parts of the County thus had no impact on sheep body condition.
- Sheep prices were slightly better in Moyale livestock market with prices averaging at Kshs. 2,500 attributed to the neighbouring Ethiopia market. In other livestock markets, sheep prices ranged between Kshs. 1,500- 2,000.

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

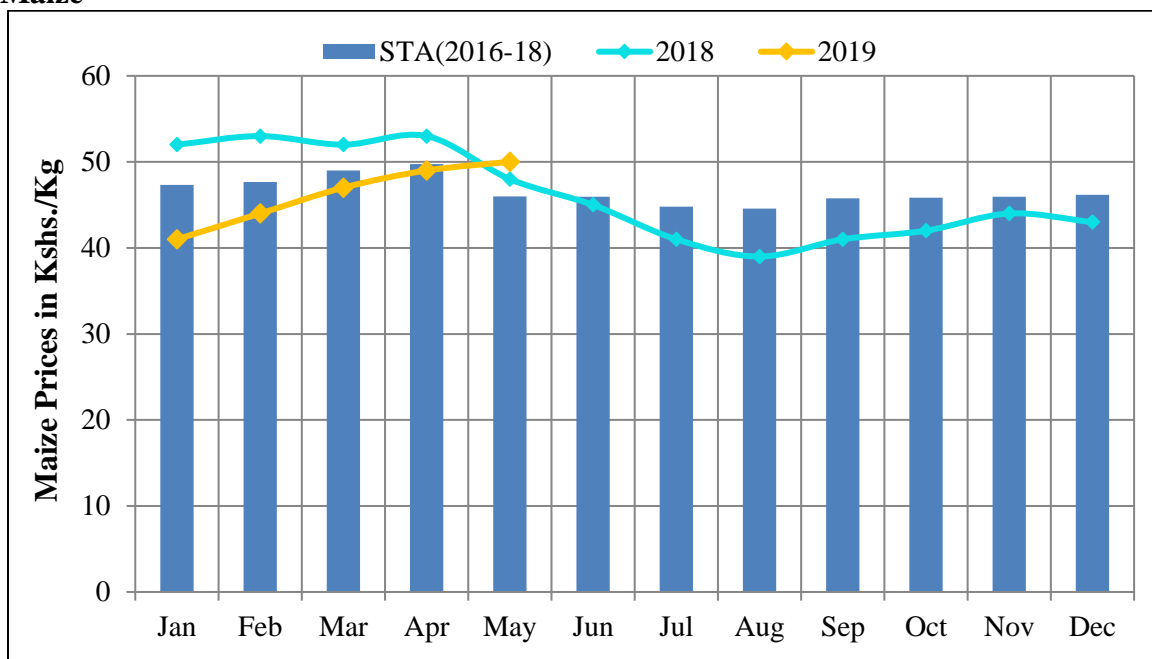


Figure 13: Current maize prices compared to the short term average maize prices(Kshs.)

- The average price of maize for the month of May was Ksh.50 per kg which was slightly above the short term average of Ksh. 46 per kg however still remained stable in most parts of the County.
- Slight increase in maize prices was attributed to insecurity between North Horr sub-county with Ethiopia limiting maize supplies in North Horr sub-county. However, maize prices were favourable in Moyale and Saku sub-counties as it retailed at Kshs. 30 – 40 per kilogram. When compared to similar periods, current maize price of Kshs.50/kg is slightly above the normal price by 9percent. However, higher prices are noted in Sarima, Lependera, Moite, Elmolo in Laisamis sub-county where a kilogram retailed at Kshs.70-80.
- Maize prices are expected to increase further in the next 1 month due to total crop failure in the agro-pastoral areas in-addition to insecurity in North Horr sub-county

4.2.2 Beans

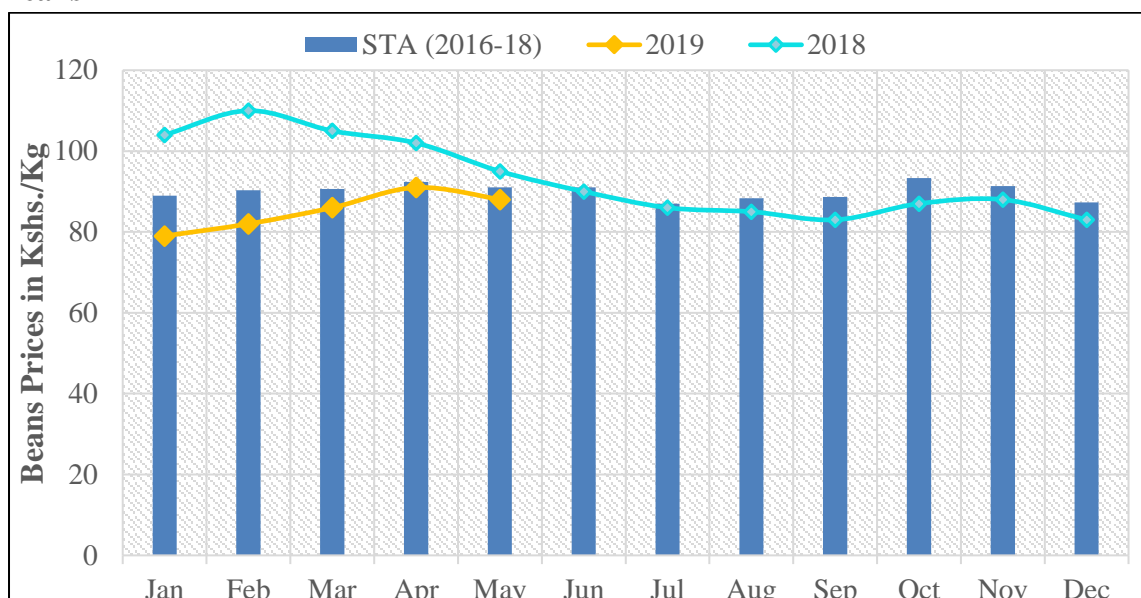


Figure 14: Beans prices compared to the short average term average prices(Kshs.)

- From the figure shown above, current beans prices averaged at Kshs.88/kg. When compared to the previous month beans price of Kshs.91/kg, beans prices relatively remained stable across the livelihood zones.
- When compared to similar periods, beans price of Kshs.88/kg is normal when compared to the short term average price of Kshs.91/kg.
- Below normal beans prices were posted in Moyale and Sololo markets with prices ranging between Kshs.50-75/kg whereas normal beans prices were recorded in Marsabit and market. Generally favourable beans price was attributed to increased market injections from the neighbouring Ethiopia market.
- However, most commodities markets in Laisamis sub-county depicted above normal beans prices as a result of reduced market access.

4.2.3 Terms of Trade (TOT)

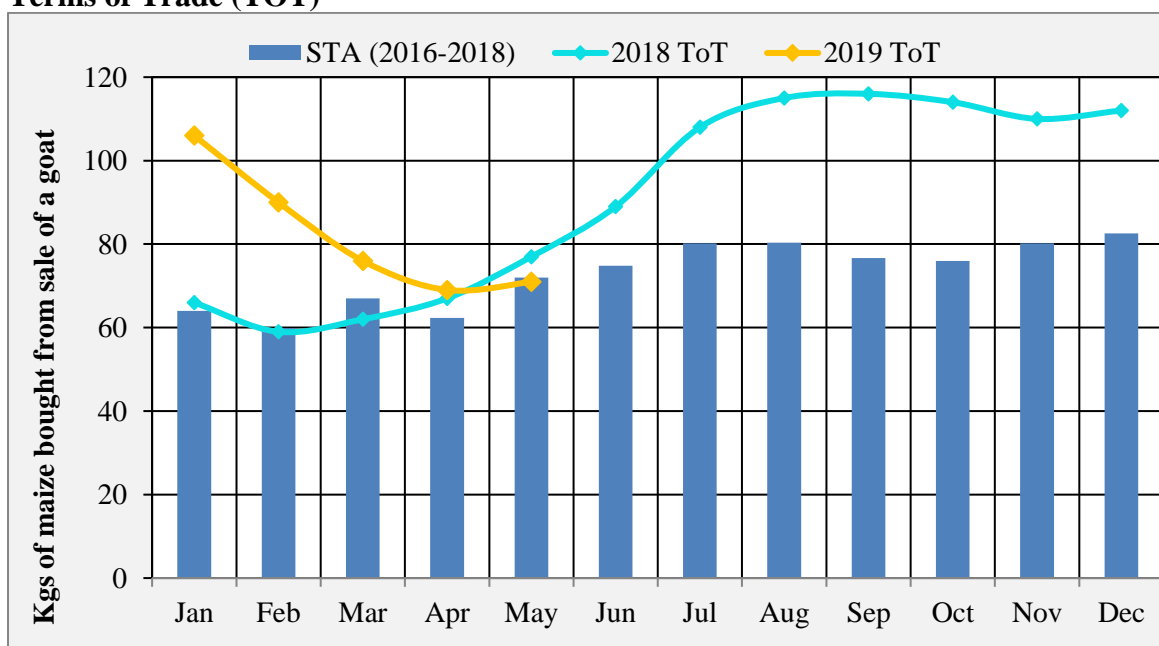


Figure 15: Current terms of trade versus short term average terms of trade

- The current terms of trade is 71 across the livelihood zones thus stable when compared to the previous months terms of trade of 69. When compared to similar periods, current terms of trade of 71 is normal.
- Normal terms of trade was attributed to slightly above goats prices and stable maize prices. Terms of trade is expected to worsen in the next one month and fall below the long term average due to likely normal goats prices coupled with above normal maize prices (total crop failure).
- Terms of trade is likely to be above normal in Moyale sub-county (favourable market with its neighbouring Ethiopia), normal in Laisamis sub-county and below normal in Saku and North Horr sub-counties in the next 1 month if the long rains does not progress. North Horr sub-county will be adversely affected to the insecurity along its borders with Ethiopia.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

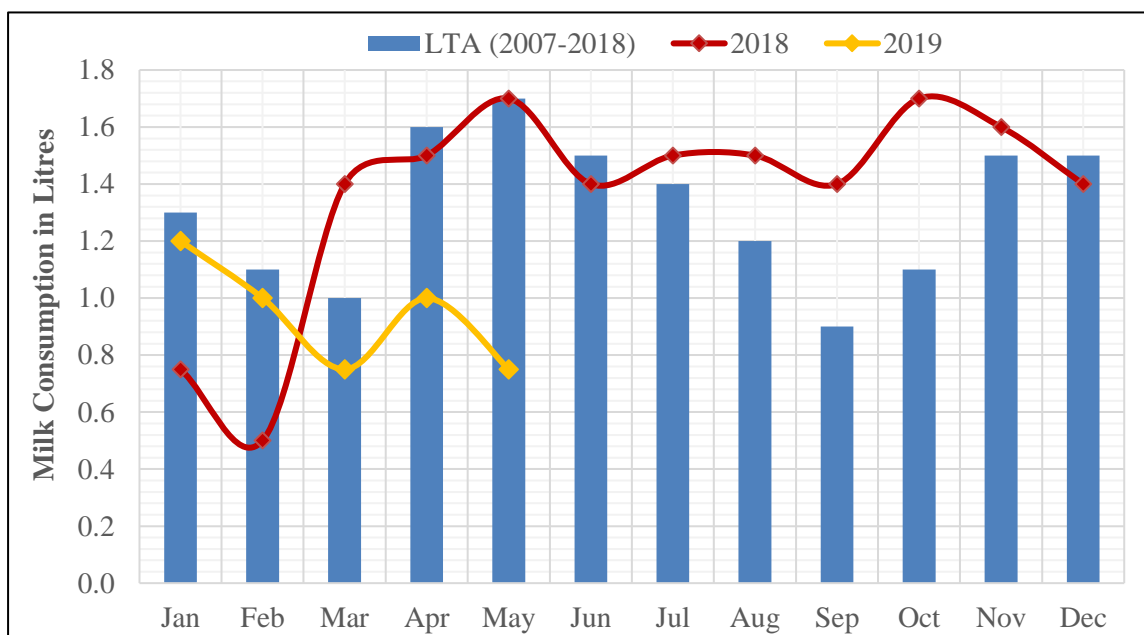


Figure 16: Current milk consumption/household/day/litre against long term average

- From the figure 16 shown above, household milk consumption is 0.75 litres/household/day in the month under review across the livelihood zones.
- When compared to the previous months' milk consumption of 1.0 litres/household/day, milk consumption gradually improved.
- When compared to the long term average milk consumption of 1.7 litres/household/day, current milk consumption is below normal.
- Average household milk consumption per day in the pastoral zone is 0.5-1.0 litres against the normal 2.0 litres whereas in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone household milk consumption is 0.5 litres against the normal 1.5 litres.
- Decline in milk consumption was occasioned by reduction in milk production across the County as 85 percent of livestock had migrated to dry season fall back areas hence limited milk availability and access at household level.

5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE (FCS)

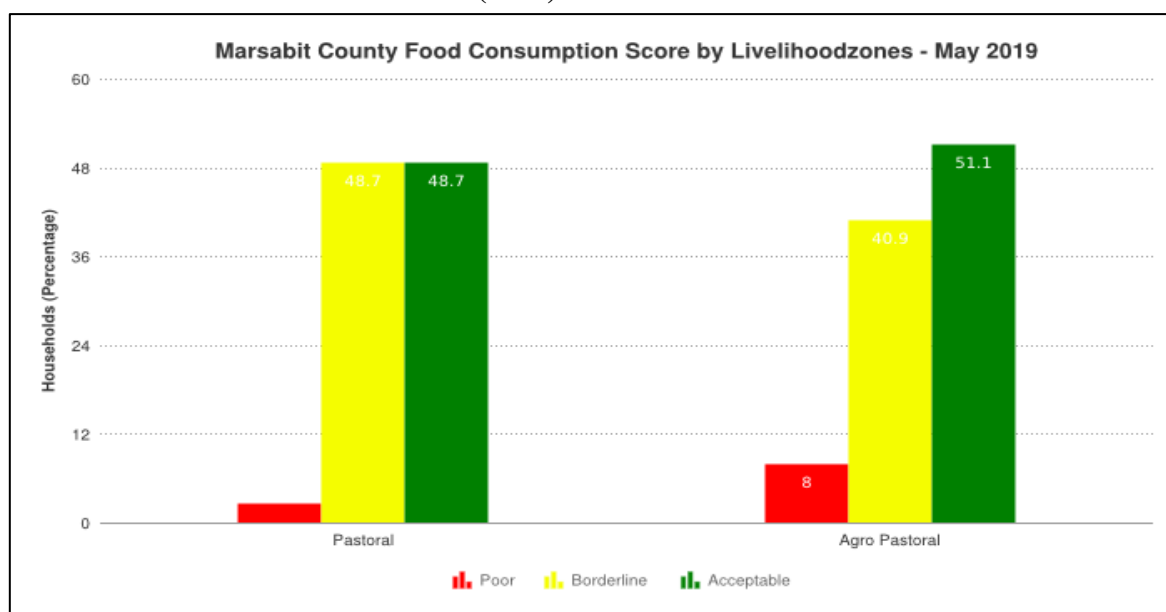


Figure 17: Food Consumption Score across Livelihood Zones

- The mean food consumption score was 34.69 across the livelihood zones hence an indication of gradual decline when compared to previous months' food consumption score of 36.55 thus more households shifted from acceptable to borderline food consumption band.
- Proportion of households in the pastoral livelihood zone that were within the acceptable, borderline and poor food consumption score were 48.7percent, 48.7percent and 2.6percent respectively. Similarly, proportion of households in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone that were within the acceptable, borderline and poor food consumption scores were 51.1percent, 40.9percent and 8percent respectively
- Food consumption score was better in the pastoral than the agro- pastoral livelihood zone with a mean of 35.21 and 32.7 respectively. Heillu and Uran wards in Moyale sub-county, Karare ward in Saku sub-county and Laisamis ward had better food consumption score. However, Dukana and North Horr wards in North Horr sub-county, Sagante ward in Saku sub-county and Korr ward in Laisamis sub-county had slightly worse off food consumption score. If there will be no progression of the long rains, food consumption score will probably decline and majority of the communities will fall in the borderline food consumption band.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- From (Figure 18) shown below, the proportion of children under the age of five years with MUAC less than 135mm was 17.9 percent in May 2019 compared to 17.2(previous month).
- When compared to similar periods, the proportion of children at risk of malnutrition was only 10 percent below the long term average hence an indication of deteriorating nutritional status for children below the age of five years.
- Deterioration of nutritional status of children below the age of five years was attributed to below normal milk production across the livelihood zones

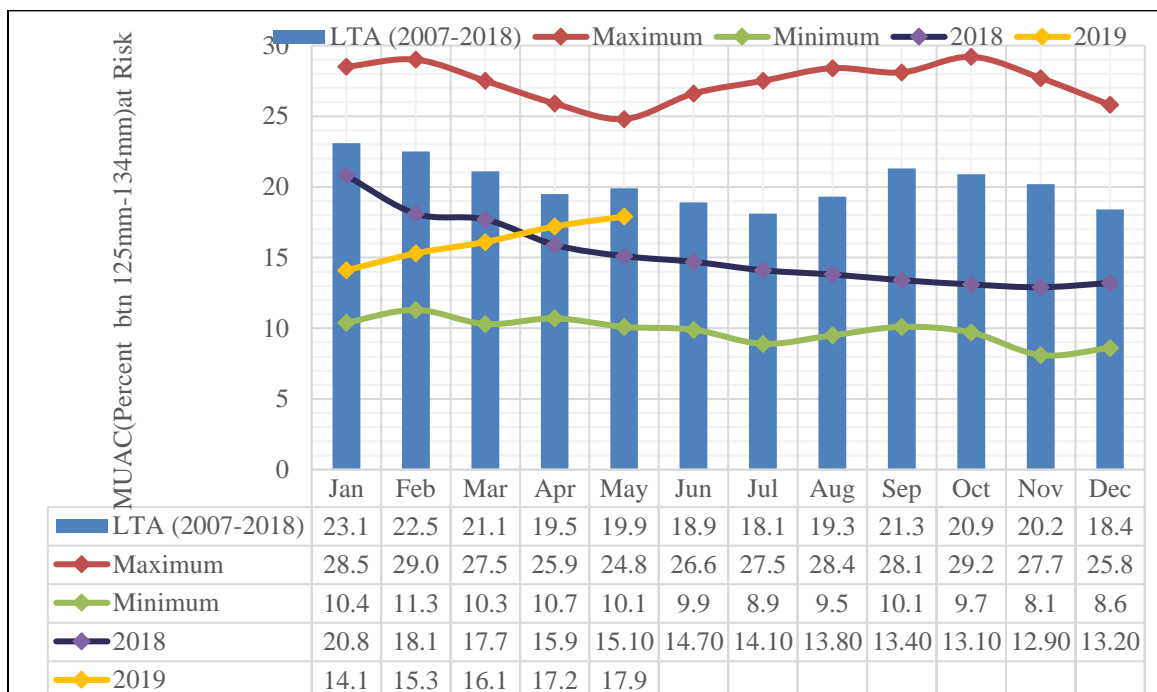


Figure 18: Nutritional status of children below the age of five years verses long term average

- There were no disease outbreaks reported in the month under review. The leading cases of morbidity for both children under five years and the general population for the month were; Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI), Diarrhea, Pneumonia and fever.
- Current outbreak of Kalaazar in Marsabit County started in March 2019, cumulatively **1130** cases have been seen, **881** negatives **249** positives and **7** deaths case fatality stands at **2.8 percent** as at 20th May 2019. Currently **59** patients are on treatment cumulatively in 3 treating centres, **36** at Laisamis County referral hospital, **19** at Logologo model health centre, and **4** at Marsabit County referral hospital. Stock out of ambisome and paramomycin injection `as second line treatment.

5.4 COPING STRATEGIES

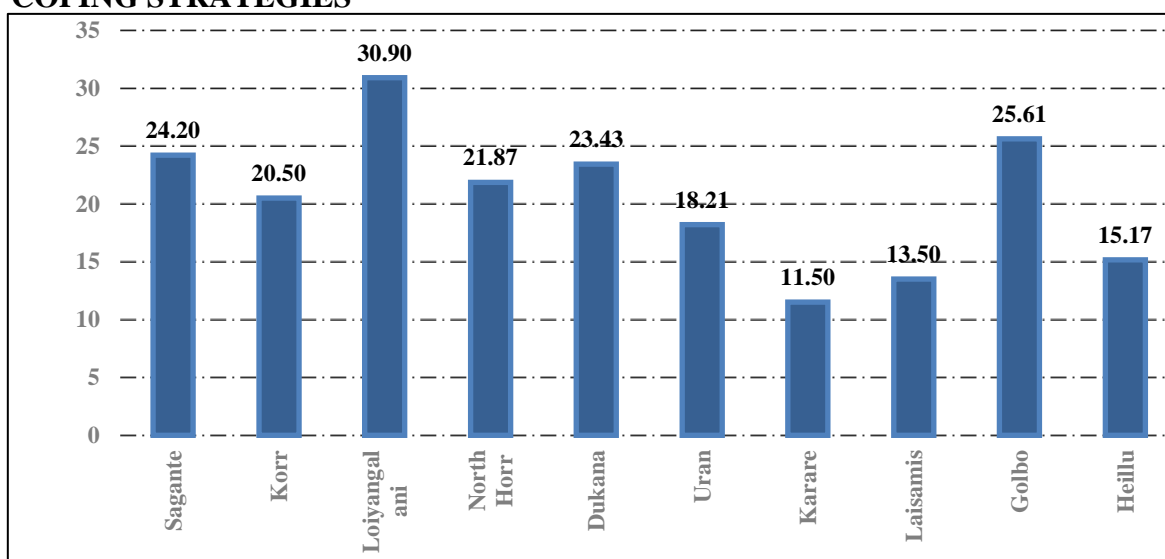


Figure 19: Coping Strategy Index across wards

- Reduced consumption based coping strategy index(rCSI) for the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones was 19.7 and 20.3 hence more household adopted crisis food consumption

based strategies across the County. Reduced consumption based coping strategy index(CSI) for the month under review was 19.86.

- From (Figure 19) shown above, households in Loiyangalani, Golbo, Sagante, Korr, North Horr and Dukana wards posted higher reduced consumption based coping mechanisms whereas other wards like Uran, Heillu, Laisamis and Karare posted generally stressed reduced consumption based coping mechanisms.
- Notable reduced consumption based coping strategies employed by the households across the livelihood zones were reduced portion size of meals, reduction in frequency of food consumption and reliance on less preferred food.

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES

6.1 Food Aid

- National Government through the state department of ASALs distributed of assorted food to the vulnerable households and schools across the County.
- County Government of Marsabit has cumulatively distributed 10,712 bags of maize, 2,662 bags of beans and 2027 cartons of vegetable oil across the County.
- World Food Programme through SND distributed 108kg of sorghum, 21.6kg of pulses and 7.2kg of vegetable oil each to 9168 households across the 15 wards in the County as food ration for 2 months under the Sustainable Food Systems Programme.

6.2 NON-FOOD AID

- Unconditional Cash transfer to 20488 households - Hunger Safety Net Programme through National Drought Management Authority
- Kenya RedCross supported 4000 households with cash with each household receiving Kshs. 3,000 per month in the month of May (Laisamis, North Horr and Moyale sub-counties).
- UNICEF, Concern Worldwide, World Vision Kenya, Kenya RedCross, FH-K, NHPPLus and GIZ continued to provide direct support to the department of Health through Capacity Building for Health workers on IMAM surge approach; Support Vitamin A supplementation during Malezi Bora and supplying all the health facilities with Ready to Use Therapeutic Feeds (Plumpy Nuts).
- UNICEF, Kenya RedCross, FH-K, Concern Worldwide, World Vision Kenya, GIZ, CCM and NHPPLus supported integrated medical outreaches for screening of Pregnant and Lactating Women and Children under the age of 5 years.
- Department of Water undertook water trucking in areas of Laisamis, North Horr, Saku and Moyale sub-counties that are experiencing acute water shortage
- PACIDA carrying out unconditional cash transfert for 3months(April-June) targeting 200 households in Burgabo for 3 months. PACIDA also undertook water trucking in Diid Galgallo, rehabilitation of Dekuku and Bubibsa III boreholes.
- CCM supported Malabot and Elhadi health facilities with water trucking services.
- World Vision Kenya to undertake cash transfer in Laisamis and Moyale sub-counties targeting 2000 households at cumulative sum of Kshs.6m
- SND dispatched health commodities to various health facilities across the County
- ConcernWorldWide to support boreholes rehabilitation in Moyale and Laisamis sub-counties.

- FAO supported mass vaccination against PPR (Peste des petits ruminants) across the County.
- Department of Veterinary vaccinated 208,561 sheep and goats against Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), 31,275 Sheep and goat pox in Moyale sub-county. Vector control and deworming was also done. In North Horr sub-county, the number of livestock vaccinated against PPR was 127,342, anthrax 14,328 and Sheep and goats 13,217 against sheep and goat pox.
- Concern WorldWide supported routine livestock disease surveillance across the County.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 INSECURITY/CONFLICT/HUMAN DISPLACEMENT

- Current outbreak of Kalaazar in Marsabit County started in March 2019, cumulatively **1130** cases have been seen, **881** negatives **249** positives and **7** deaths case fatality stands at **2.8 percent** as at 20th May 2019. Currently **59** patients are on treatment cumulatively in 3 treating centres, **36** at Laisamis County referral hospital, **19** at Logologo model health centre, and **4** at Marsabit County referral hospital. Stock out of ambisome and paramomycin injection as second line treatment
- In Dukana ward (Garwole) 250 households were displaced due to insecurity in Ethiopia and were hosted by communities in Dukana, Kubiadhi and Balesaru in Dukana ward. Also communities in Balesaru the communities lost close to 1200 shoats to Ethiopia raiders. In Saku, communities around Boru Haro, Gabra scheme, Manyatta Jillo were displaced due to recent killings occurred at Gar Shaba and Konso Banchale. Many families in Badasa in Saku sub-county also lost herds of cattle to raiders.

7.2 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS.

- Rains received in the month of May were depressed and erratic thus couldn't alleviate the seasonal cumulative rainfall deficits save for Moyale sub-county which received slightly enhanced rains in the month under review.
- There was minimal and non-causality of the long rains on livestock and food production respectively save for most parts of Laisamis and agro-pastoral areas of Moyale sub-county where most of the livestock are in good-fair body condition. 85percent of livestock have migrated to unusual grazing areas and pasture is likely to be depleted in the next 2 months in those grazing areas.
- Prices for cattle and sheep will likely be below normal across the County in the next 1 month while goats price will fall below the long term average in the next 2 months hence low traded volumes and poor households will likely have limited saleable livestock.
- Terms of trade is expected to be below normal by July due to expected below normal goat prices and high maize prices. Rainfed crops in agro-pastoral areas of Moyale will not attain physiological maturity due to short length of growing season hence total crop failure.
- Nutritional status of children below the age of five years will likely deteriorate and with intensive screening expected to begin in June, more children are expected to be admitted to Outpatient Therapeutic and Supplementary Feeding Programmes. Food consumption score will decline and households will continue to adopt coping mechanisms of high severity. Generally, the season will have failed and food security outcome indicators might be worse.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Immediate food assistance to the vulnerable population
- Stockpiling of vaccines, strategic vaccination, multivitamin, deworming and enhancement of disease surveillance
- Procurement and stock piling of fast moving spare parts for strategic water sources. Repair of strategic boreholes, servicing of gensets and rehabilitation of grounded water bowzers.
- Water trucking in drought hit areas and institutions.
- Commercial destocking across the markets to salvage pastoralists against imminent losses.
- Enhanced screening and referral for malnutrition in all hot spot areas in all livelihood zones with continued active case finding through MUAC screening and referral by CHVs alongside health education on importance of hygiene, water treatment and distribution of WASH supplies.
- Reprioritization of integrated outreach support based on community based surveillance finding to ensure all the hot spot areas are supported to enhance access to emergency nutrition services with continued surveillance through IMAM surge monitoring and support.
- The National Government, County Government and other implementing partners should lead and coordinate reconciliation efforts in North Horr and Saku sub-counties. 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.