

# National Drought Management Authority MARSABIT COUNTY DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR NOVEMBER 2019



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



## EW PHASE: NORMAL



### Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

#### Biophysical Indicators

**Rainfall:** During the month under review, all sub-counties received enhanced rains in 10-15 rainy days which was well distributed in time and space. Rainfall amounts were above normal. Rainfall amounts in Laisamis and North Horr significantly improved from the previous month.

**Vegetation condition:** The 3-months Vegetation Condition Index for the month under review was 60.81 thus shifted from moderate vegetation deficit strap to above normal vegetation greenness.

#### Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

**Production indicators:** Livestock body condition was fair-good for small stock and cattle while camels depicted good body condition across all livelihood zones. The early-planted maize is tussling, while early-planted beans are podding. Milk production was 4.5Litres/household/day which was above normal due to high calving, kidding and lambing.

**Access indicators:** Household and livestock trekking distances were short and significantly declined due 100percent recharge of open water sources. Milk consumption was 1.7Litres/household/day and above normal when compared to similar periods. Terms of trade was normal due to above normal goat prices and stable maize prices. Livestock market operations were below normal due to low traded volumes.

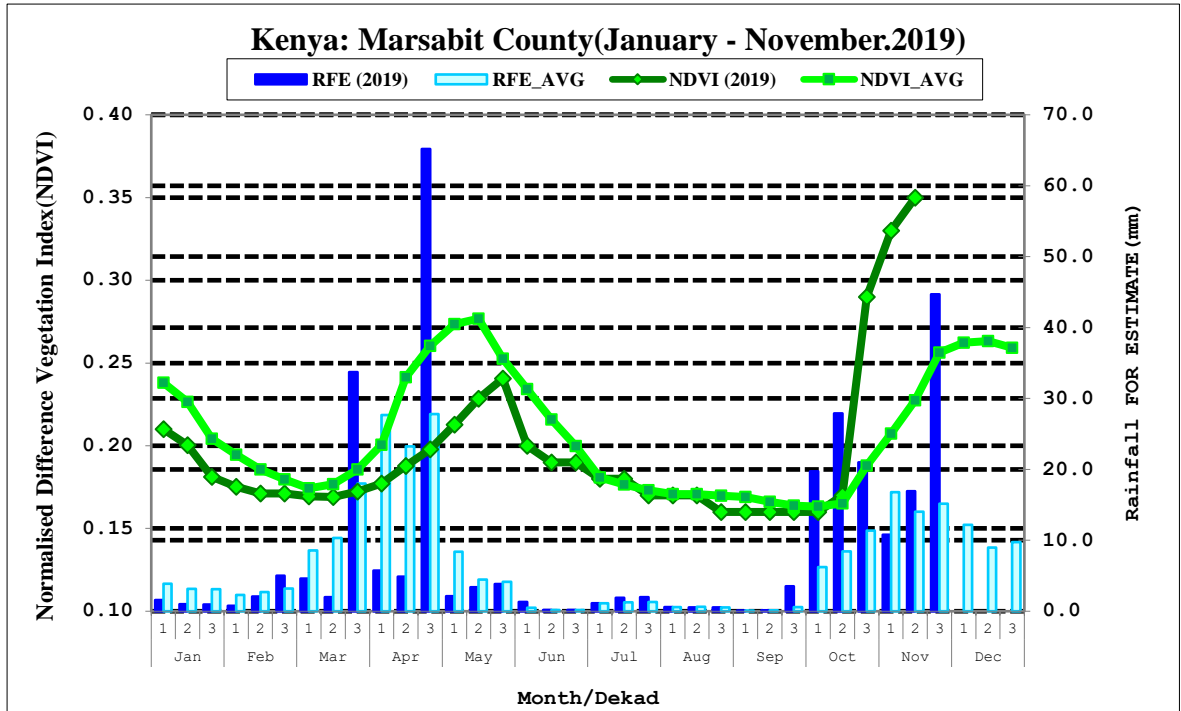
**Utilization indicators:** Nutritional status of children below the age of five years was within the normal range. Food consumption score significantly improved from borderline band in the previous month to acceptable in the month under review. Households employed coping mechanisms that were less severe.

### Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Normal	Improving
Pastoral All species	Normal	Improving
Fisherfolk/ Casual labour /Petty Trading	Normal	Improving
County	Normal	Improving
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	147	80 -120
VCI-3Month	60.81	>35
Forage condition	Fair-Good	Good
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Good	Good
Milk Production	4.5	>2.5Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	82	>80
Milk Consumption	1.7	>1.5Litre
Return distance to water	0.8	0.0-2.6Km
Cost of water	0	<Ksh.5
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	18.9	0.0-20.2
Coping Strategy Index	15.93	<20
Food Consumption	42.88	>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**



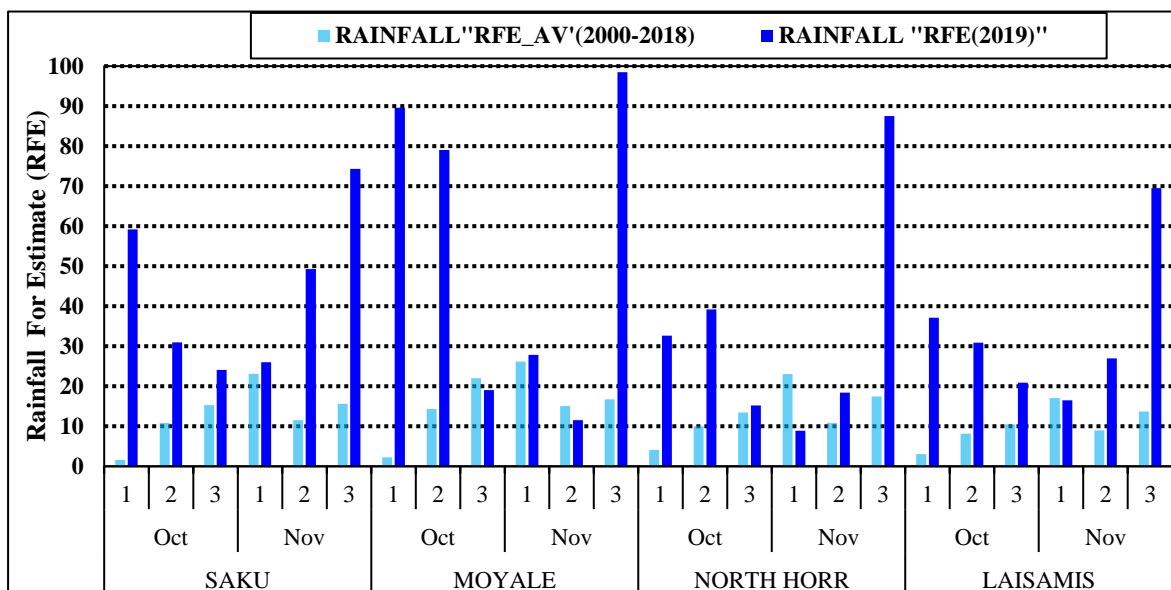
*Figure 1: Dekadal Rainfall (mm) and NDVI values compared to the Long Term Average*  
**Source: WFP-VAM, CHIRPS/MODIS**

- From the figure 1 shown above, dekadal rainfall for estimate amounts for the first dekad was below normal. However, dekadal rainfall amounts for second and third dekads were above normal when compared to corresponding long-term dekadal averages.
- Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) for the first and second dekads were remarkably above normal when compared to respective dekadal long-term NDVI values.

**1.2 Onset of the Short Rains**

- Onset of the rains occurred in the third dekad of September- first dekad of October across the County which was early when compared to a normal onset of third dekad of October.

**1.3 Amounts received**



*Figure 2: Rainfall Amounts (mm) per sub-counties/dekad*

- During the month under review, 265.9mm of rainfall was received in Marsabit Mountain in 12 rainy days with the highest rainfall amount realized on 12<sup>th</sup> November totalling to 57.8

mm. Moyale Township received 140mm of rainfall in 11 rainy days with the maximum amount recorded on 25<sup>th</sup> November at 39mm. Balesa, Kalacha, El-gade, Malabot and El-hadi in North Horr sub-county received enhanced rainfall at 226mm, 203mm, 155mm, 149mm and 145mm respectively in 6-9 rainy days. However, Dukana town, North Horr and Gas received slightly depressed rains at 54mm, 73mm and 85mm respectively in 4-5 rainy days. Generally, Moyale and Saku sub-counties received significant above normal rainfall amounts but drastically subsided when compared to the previous month. North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties also received enhanced rains and remarkably increased when compared to the preceding month.

#### 1.4 Spatial and temporal distribution

- Distribution of the rains in the month under review was good and even both spatially and temporally across the County.
- When compared based on the livelihood zones, agro-pastoral areas of Saku sub-county received much better rains than Moyale sub-county. Similarly, pastoral areas of North Horr sub-county received slightly enhanced rains than Laisamis sub-county. Generally, pastoral areas of Laisamis and Northhorr sub counties received rains for 8-11 days while agro pastoral areas of Saku and Moyale received rains for 11-15 days during the month. Rainfall amounts at health facilities in North Horr sub-county is illustrated in (figure 3) below.

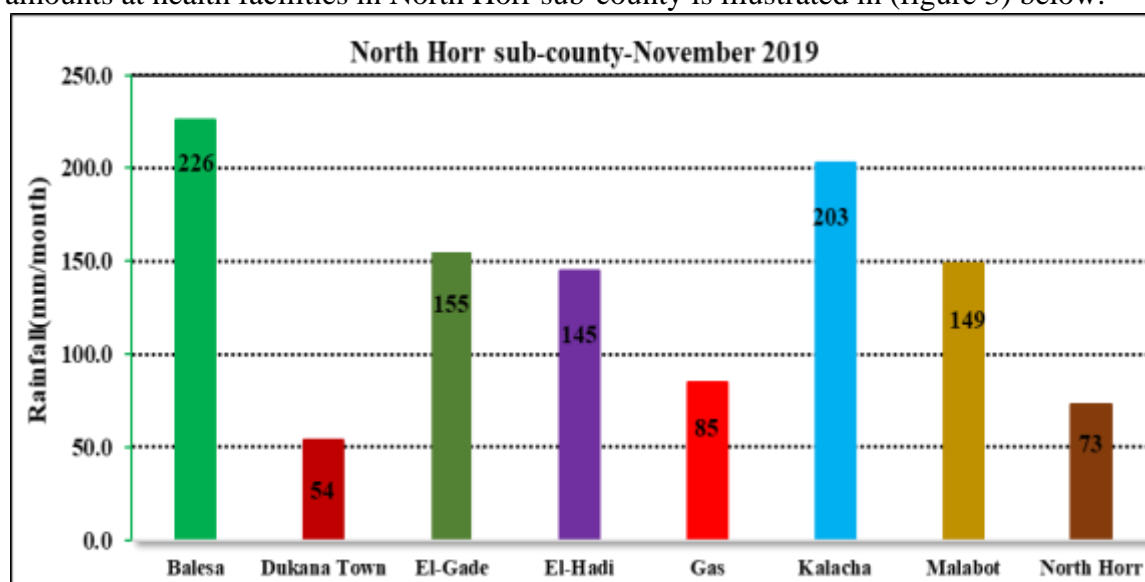


Figure 3: Monthly Rainfall recorded at health facility level under the One Health Project

#### 1.5 CUMULATIVE RAINFALL AMOUNTS

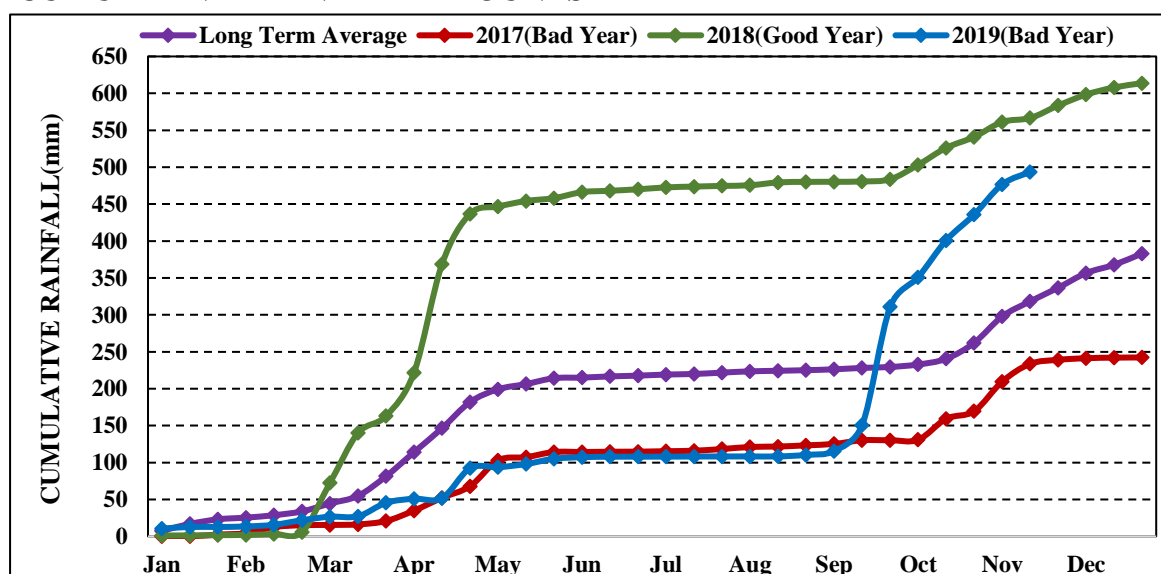


Figure 4: Marsabit County Cumulative Rainfall Amounts (mm)

- From the figure (4) shown above, current cumulative rains are 47percent above the long-term cumulative rainfall amounts.
- The current cumulative rainfall amounts are above the normal cumulative rainfall amounts due to substantial above normal rains received across the livelihood zones of Marsabit County and is expected to improve further if the short rains continues in the next month.

## 2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

### 2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

#### 2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

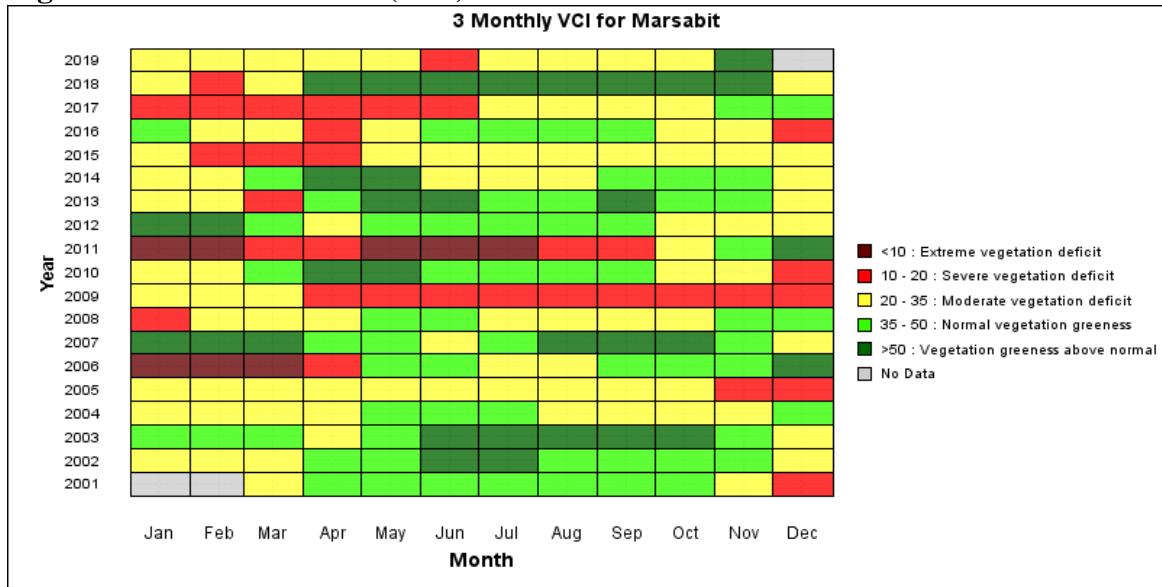


Figure 5: Vegetation Condition Index across the County

- From (figure 5) shown above, the 3-months vegetation condition index for the month under review was 60.81 thus significantly improved to above normal vegetation greenness from the previous months' moderate vegetation deficit of 27.72. Above normal vegetation greenness was precipitated by enhanced and well distributed rains received across the County.
- If the short rains progresses in the next month, absolute value of the vegetation condition index will increase further but still remain in the above normal vegetation greenness strap.

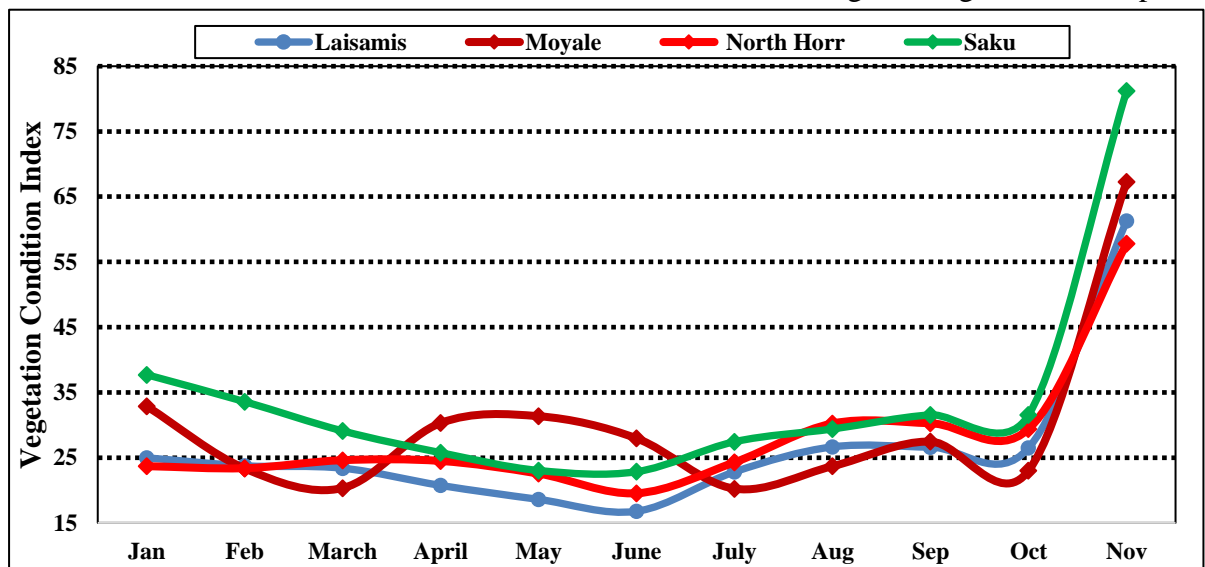


Figure 6: Vegetation Condition Index across sub-counties

- From figure (6) shown above, all sub-counties illustrated remarkable improvement of vegetation condition index with Saku sub-county exhibiting higher vegetation condition index when compared to other sub-counties.
- Saku, Moyale, Laisamis and North Horr sub-counties exhibited 3-months vegetation condition index of 81.2, 67.29, 61.27 and 57.79 respectively hence shifted to above normal vegetation greenness band from moderate vegetation deficit band recorded in the previous month.
- Above normal vegetation greenness was necessitated by above normal rains which were well distributed both temporally and spatially hence significantly rejuvenated vegetation cover across the County.

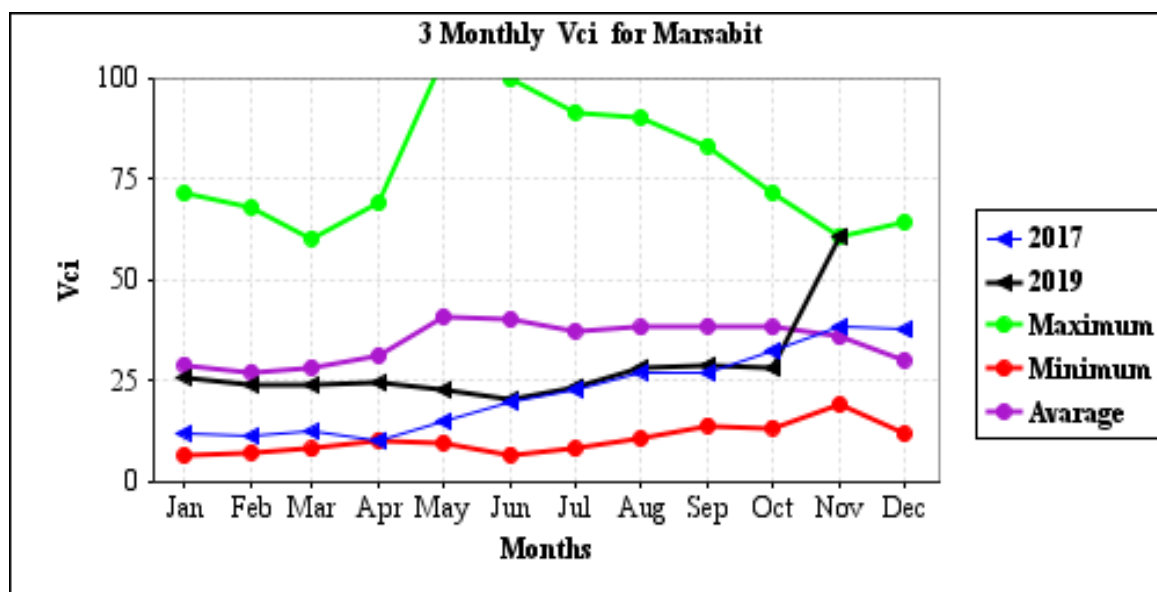


Figure 7: Vegetation Condition Index Trends across the County

- Figure (7) shown above compares November 2019 vegetation condition index to November 2018, long term average and also depicts the maximum and minimum vegetation condition index values ever recorded.
- When compared to the long term average, the current vegetation condition index is way above normal and equates to the maximum vegetation condition index ever recorded at this particular time of the year due to substantial rains that have been received which surpassed seasonal cumulative rainfall amounts.
- With the continuation of the short rains, vegetation condition index will improve further in the next one month.

### 2.1.2 Pasture

- Pasture was generally good across in the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones of Marsabit County attributed to early onset of the short rains that was characterized by torrential rainfall amounts thus invigorated forage condition.
- By and large, the rains received in the month under review had significant impact on pasture regeneration moreso in the agro-pastoral areas of Saku and Moyale sub-counties.
- Available pasture is expected to last for the next 4months against the normal 2months attributed to above normal seasonal cumulative rains.

### 2.1.3 Browse

- Browse condition is good in all the livelihood zones. The rains that were received for the last two months drastically rejuvenated browse cover across the County. There was emergence of non-palatable vegetation across the County especially calotropis procera and bush encroachment.
- Quality and quantity of browse is good in the agro-pastoral areas of Moyale and Saku sub-counties against the normal fair-good whereas in the pastoral areas of North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties quality and quantity of browse is also good against the normal fair condition.
- Browse is expected to last for the next 5 months against the normal three months in the agro-pastoral areas whereas in the pastoral livelihood zone browse is likely to last for the next 4 months against the normal of 2 months.

## 2.2 WATER RESOURCE

### 2.2.1 Sources

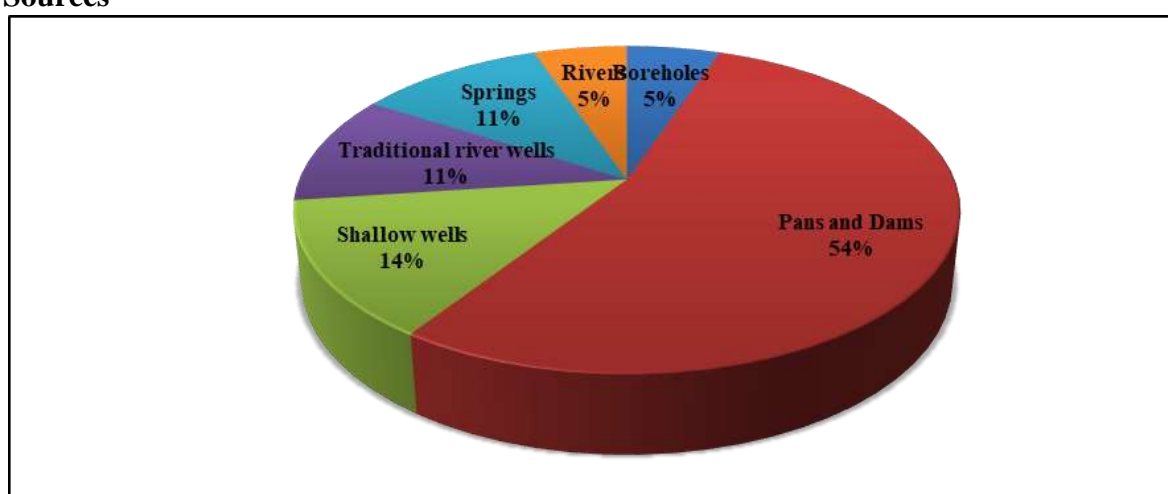


Figure 8: Major water sources across the livelihood zones

- From figure 8 shown above, water pan is the main water source adopted by most of the communities' across the agro-pastoral and pastoral livelihood zones as shown by a response rate of 54percent, which is usually the normal source of water at this time of the year.
- Other water sources adopted by the communities in the month under review were shallow wells, traditional river wells, springs, rivers and boreholes at 14percent, 11percent, 11percent, 5percent and 5percent respectively.
- 100percent of open water sources across the County are fully recharged and with continuity of the short rains, some water pans shall be breached.

### 2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

- From (Figure 9) shown below, return household water distances to the main water sources was 0.8km in the month under review which depicts significant decline in water distances for household consumption when compared to the previous months distance of 2.5km.
- Significant reduction in household distances to water sources was attributed to torrential rains that were received across the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones.

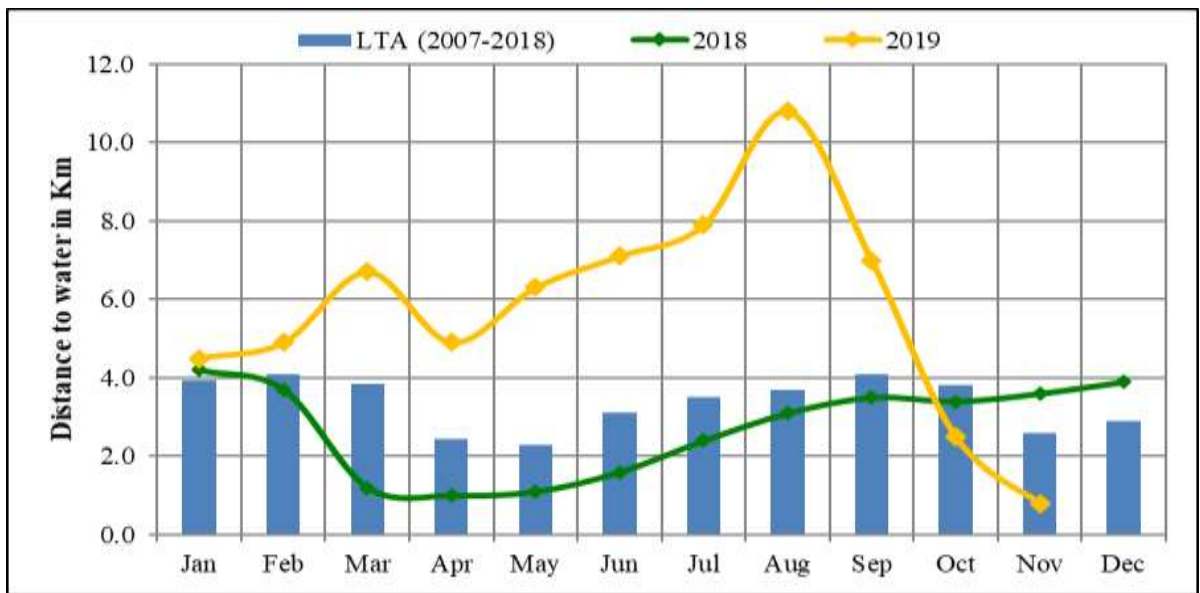


Figure 9: Current household return water distance (km) compared to Long Term Average distances (km)

- When compared to similar periods, the current household water distance of 0.8km is 69percent shorter than the long term household water distance of 2.6km.
- Current waiting time in the agro-pastoral and pastoral livelihood zones is less than 2mins against the normal waiting time of 15mins.
- Average water consumption across the livelihood zones was 15-20litres per person per day against the normal 15litres per person per day

### 2.2.3 Livestock access

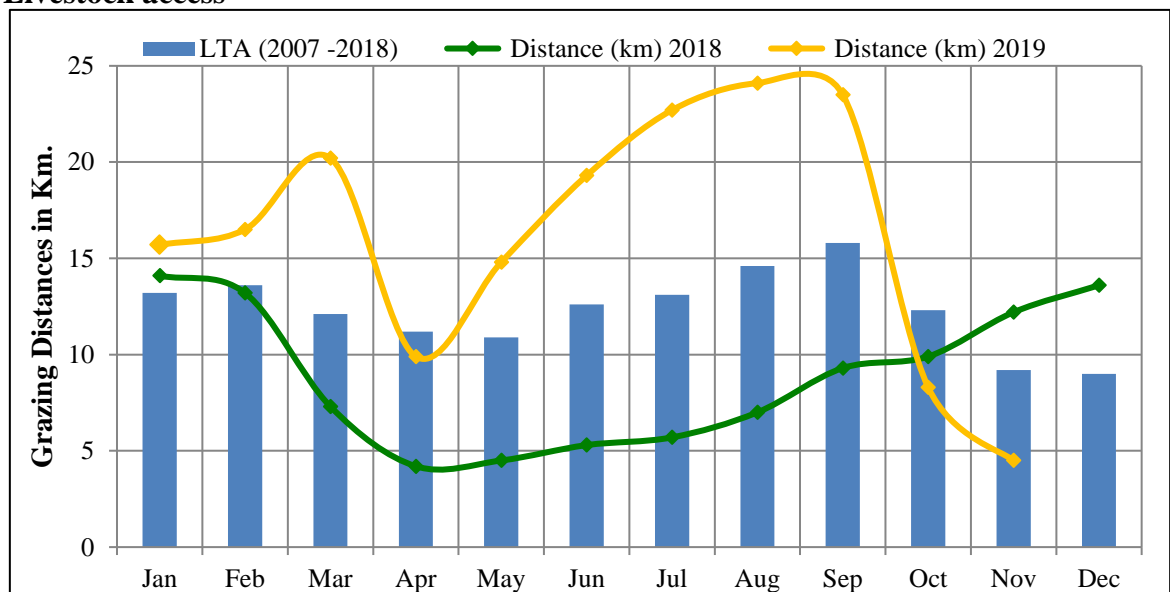


Figure 10: Current livestock trekking distances compared to long term average trekking distances(km)

- From (Figure 10) shown above, return livestock trekking distance from grazing areas to water points is 4.5km across the livelihood zones.
- When compared to the preceding months' livestock trekking distances of 8.3km, drastic decline in livestock trekking distances was noted mainly attributed to timely onset of the short rains coupled with rainfall amounts of high intensity received across the County.
- Current livestock return trekking distance of 4.5km is shorter than the long-term average livestock trekking distance of 9.2km by 51percent.
- As the short rains continues, livestock trekking distances from grazing area to water points is expected to reduce further.

- Watering frequencies significantly declined due to shorter livestock trekking distances across the County. Currently, cattle and small stock are watered daily and camels water after 2-3days across all the livelihood zones which is normal.

### **3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS**

#### **3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION**

##### **3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition**

- Across the livelihood zones, the body condition of cattle and small stock was fair to good against the normal good body condition prompted by above normal vegetation greenness.
- Camel were in good body condition across all the livelihood zones which is normal at this time of the year mainly occasioned by improved browse and low watering frequencies intervals.
- With the progression of the short rains, the body condition for all the livestock species will improve further across the livelihood zones.

##### **3.1.2 Livestock Migration**

- Normal migration for all the livestock species across the livelihood zones was noted under the month under review. Livestock that had trekked to far-flung areas in search of water and pasture are returning to their normal grazing areas. Currently, 70-80percent of all the livestock species that had migrated have returned to the homesteads.

##### **3.1.3 Tropical Livestock Units (TLU) and Calving & Kidding Rates**

- In the agro pastoral livelihood zone, poor income households had 3-5TLUs compared to 2-4TLUs normally while the middle income had 10-12TLUs compared to 10-15TLUs normally. In the pastoral livelihood zone, poor income households had 3-7TLUs compared to 4-7TLUs normally while the middle income had 16-21TLUs compared to 15-20TLUs normally.

##### **3.1.4 Livestock diseases and mortalities**

- Cumulatively, 2,500 small stock in Moyale, 600 in North-Horr, 1,800 in Saku and 500 in Laisamis have been lost to rain. Most of the livestock were infested with blood sucking parasites (lice, ticks), few deaths among weaner calves from diarrhea before the onset of rains. Deaths among goats and sheep largely attributed to effects of rain. However, some cases attributed to disease showed signs like nasal discharge, cough, and fibrinous lungs.
- Swollen head especially in sheep that lost a lot of weight during the period of scarce feeds and succumbed to death. This swelling described as Oedema that is typical sign of haemonchosis (worms) that suck the little nutrients the animals had salvaged from the poor inadequate pastures. Oedema caused is because of imbalanced oncotic pressure.



### 3.1.5 Milk Production

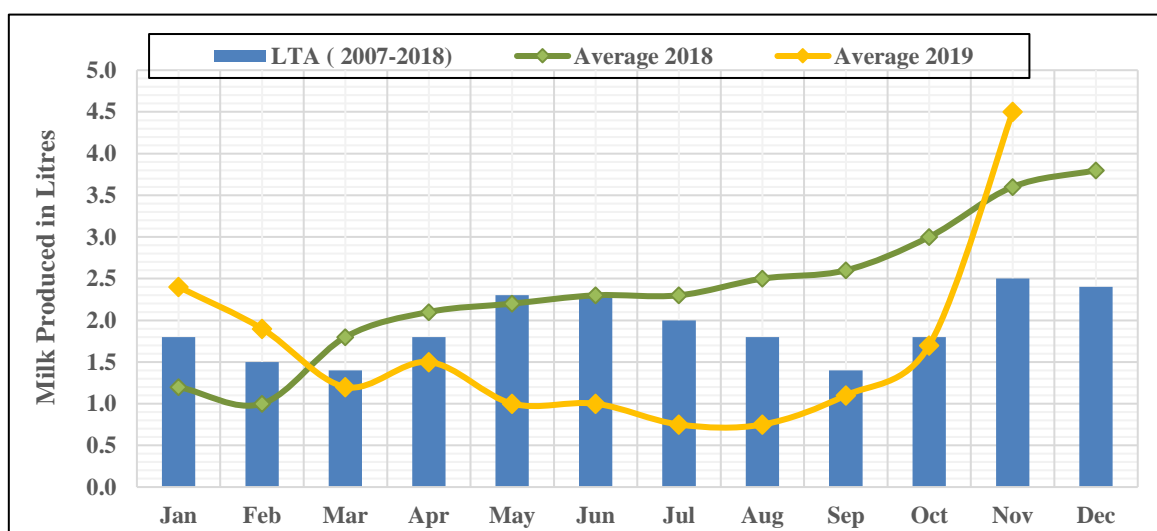


Figure 11: Milk production per household per day in litres across the livelihood zones

- From figure 11 shown above, household milk production per day for the month under review was 4.5litre/household/day across all the livelihood zones.
- When compared to similar periods, average milk production of 4.5litres was above normal by 80percent.
- Drastic increase in milk production across the livelihood zones attributed to generally good livestock body condition occasioned by significant reduction in livestock trekking distances, improved vegetation cover, high calving, kidding and lambing across the livelihood zones.
- Currently, milk price retailed at Ksh.45-60 per litre across the livelihood zones against the normal of Kshs.60-70 per litre.

## 3.1 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

### 3.2.1 Area under crop production

- Farmers commenced land preparation in mid-August 2019 for the short rain season. During the initial stages of the activity, famers majorly relied on private tractor service providers because the County tractor services were not available due to resource availability constraints. Most farmers opted for furrowing their land since no much farming husbandry practices had happened during the failed previous long rain season of 2019 and hence most of the farm-planting surface were soft and loose.

Sub County	Prepared by County Tractor	Prepared by private Tractor	Prepared by Oxen and hand Hoe	Total
Saku	150 Acres	320 Acres	160 Acres	630 Acres
Moyale	19 Acres	6 Acres	95 acres	120 Acres
North Horr	-	-	8 Acres	8 Acres
Laisamis	-	-	12 Acres	12 acres
<b>Total</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>220 Acres</b>	<b>257 Acres</b>	<b>770 Acres</b>

### 3.2.2 Stage and Condition of food Crops

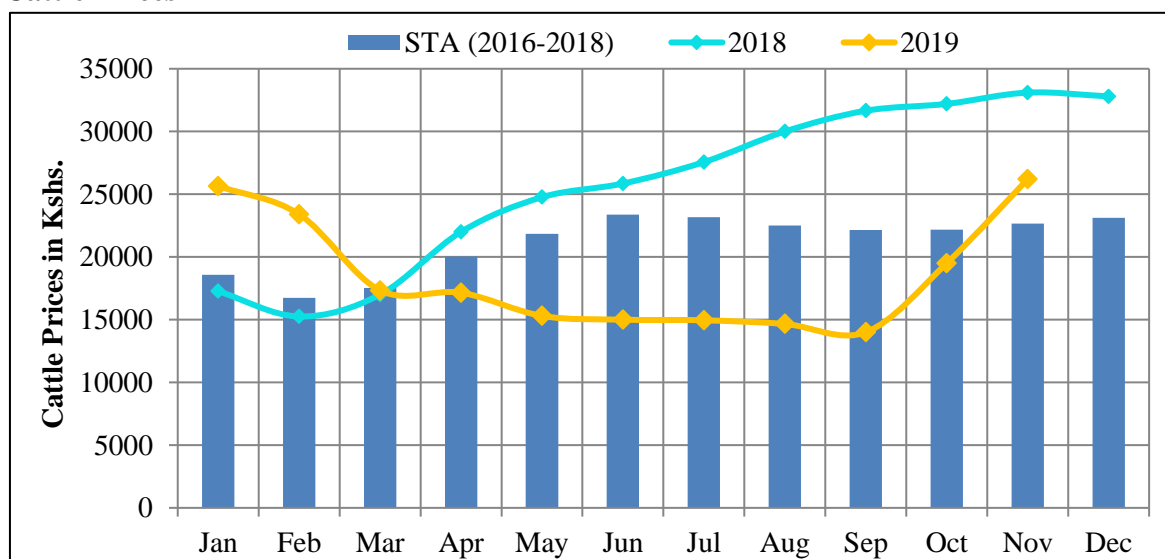
- Early planted crops are doing quite well although fall army infestation has been reported especially in Saku Sub County which has affected 10percent of maize crops. The early-planted maize is tussling while early-planted beans are podding. Currently farmers are undertaking weeding and pest control while some have left their farms un-weeded. 20percent of farms in Saku Sub-county are under intense weeds.
- Moisture content is enough for attainment of physiological maturity of maize and beans.

- Agro-pastoral livelihood zone of Moyale sub-county has experienced massive floods thus crops have been sub merged and others experience stunting due to water logging. The most affected crops include Maize, beans, green grams, cowpeas horticultural crops and pigeon peas.
- Instances of fall worm infestation, proliferation of weeds and farms have been sub merged and swept away. Approximately 80 acres of cropped area was affected by floods and this might lead reduced harvest of crops.

## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

#### 4.1.1 Cattle Prices



**Figure 12: Current cattle prices compared to the short term average prices**

- From the figure (12) shown above, cattle price for the month under review was Kshs. 26,200 thus significant increase exhibited when compared to the previous months' price of Kshs. 19,500.
- When compared to normal periods, current cattle price of Kshs. 26,200 is above the short-term average price of Kshs. 22,647 by 16percent. Above normal cattle price was occasioned by fair-good body condition, and unwillingness of the pastoralists to sell their cattle hence low traded volumes and high prices in the major terminal markets.
- Moyale livestock market posted higher cattle prices averaging between Kshs. 30,000 - 32,000 while Merille and Jirime livestock markets recorded cattle prices of Kshs.20,000-25,000.
- Most of the traders in Moyale sub-county preferred selling their cattle to neighbouring Ethiopian market that offer better prices.
- With the continuation of the short rains, cattle prices in major livestock markets are likely to increase further due to inadequate supply.

#### 4.1.2 Goat prices

- From figure 13 shown below, the average goat prices in the month under review was Ksh. 4,005 hence normal when compared to the short-term average goat price of Ksh. 3,663.

- Merille and Moyale livestock markets recorded favourable goat prices averaging Ksh 4600-5500 whereas North Horr sub-county posted slightly lower goat prices averaging at Ksh. 3,500-3,800.

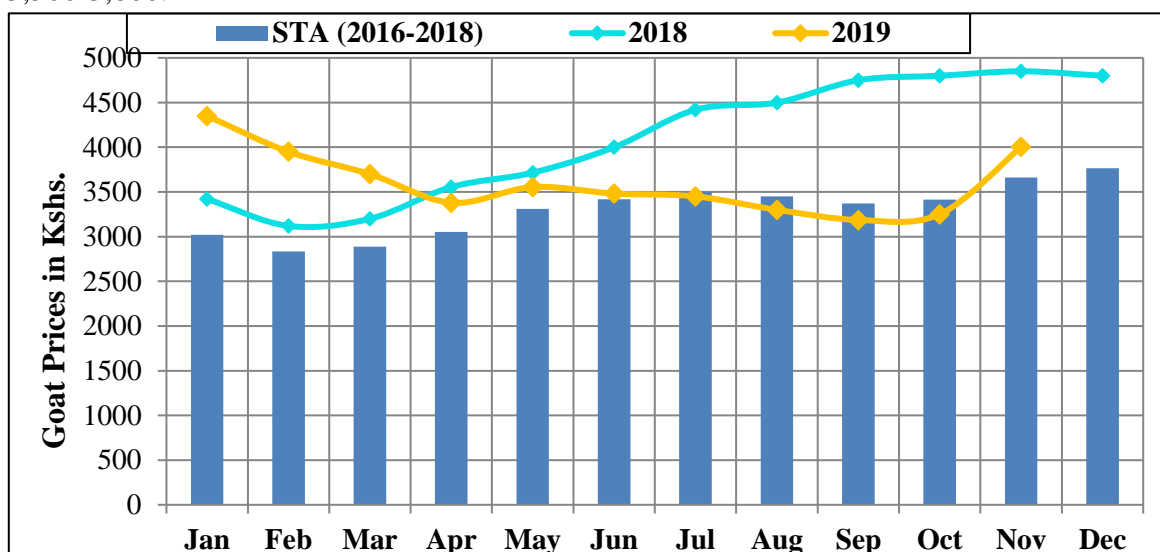


Figure 13: Current goat prices compared to short term average prices

- High goat prices in Moyale was occasioned by preference of most traders from Kenya and Ethiopia who prefer Moyale as a major livestock market for small stocks.
- Most of the livestock markets functioned, however livestock markets in North Horr sub-county especially Forolle and Dukana were disrupted due to insecurity incidences along the porous border with Ethiopia.

#### 4.1.3 Sheep Prices

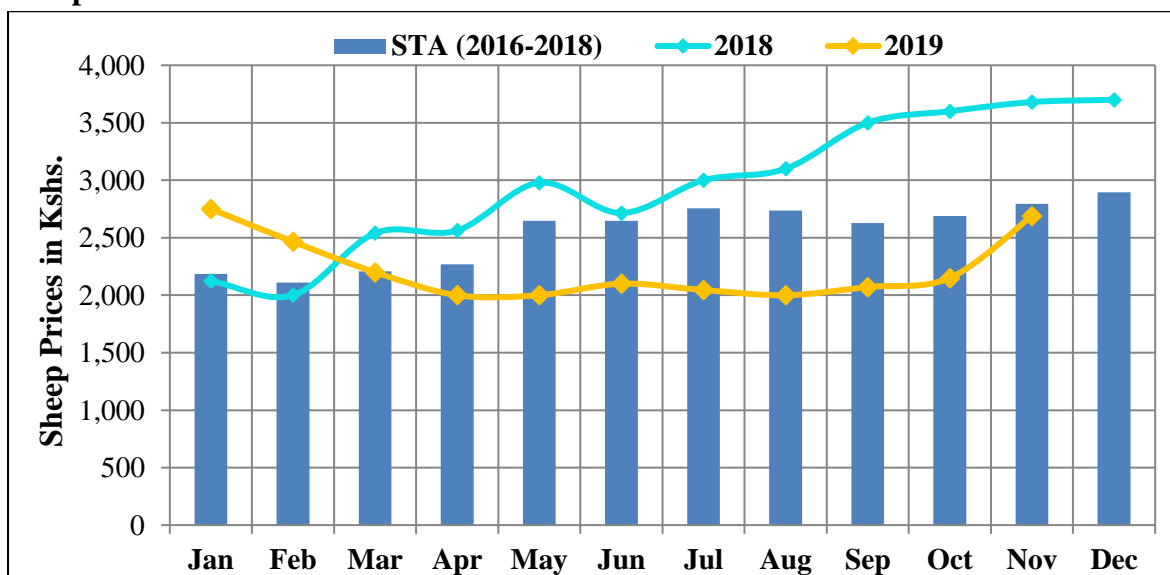


Figure 14: Current sheep prices compared to the short term average prices(kshs.)

- From the figure 14 shown above, sheep price for the month under review was Kshs. 2,690 across the livelihood zones which exhibits gradual increase when compared to the preceding months' sheep price of Kshs.2, 150.
- When compared to the short-term average price of Kshs. 2,796, current sheep price is normal. Normal sheep prices were occasioned to fair-good body condition with exception of Moyale market, which recorded good sheep prices of Kshs. 3,000-3,500.

- As the short rains progresses, sheep body condition is expected to improve thus likelihood of better prices in the next one month across the livelihood zones.

## 4.2 CROP PRICES

### 4.2.1 Maize

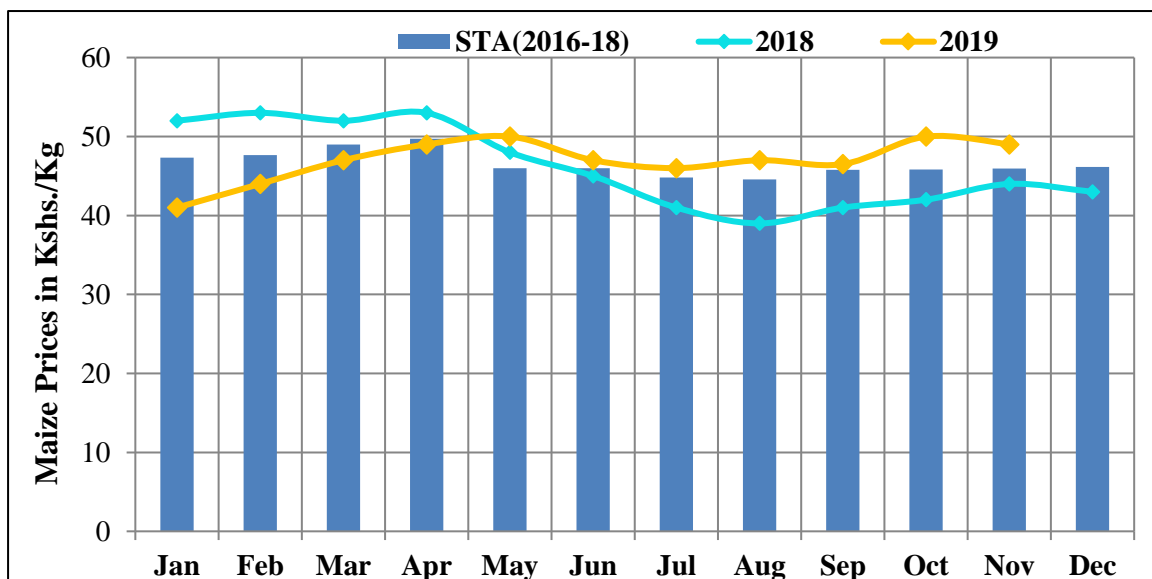


Figure 15: Current maize prices compared to the short term average maize prices (Kshs.)

- The average price of maize for the month under review was Ksh.49 per kg, which was slightly above normal when compared to the short-term average of Ksh.46 per kg.
- However, favourable maize prices were recorded in Moyale and Dabel commodity markets with maize prices retailing at Kshs. 30-35 attributed to injections from the neighbouring Ethiopia market.
- Laisamis sub-county majorly in areas of Merille, Korr and Loiyangalani posted higher maize prices at Kshs.50-60per kg.
- Maize prices are expected to be decline due to expected harvest in the next one month and continued supplies from external commodity markets.

### 4.2.2 Beans

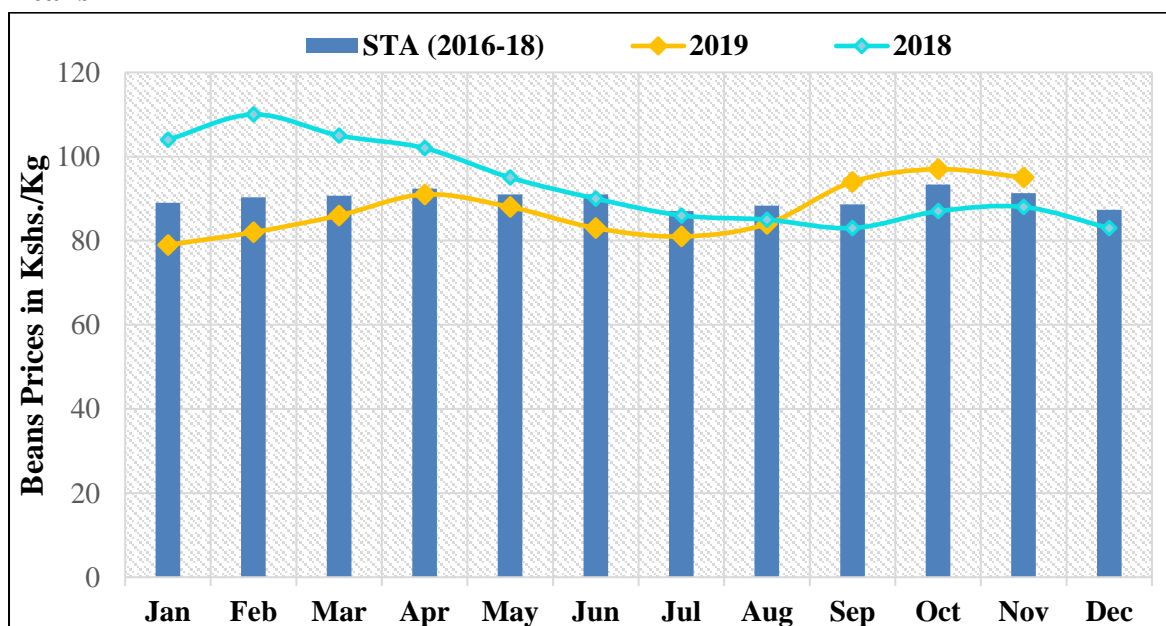
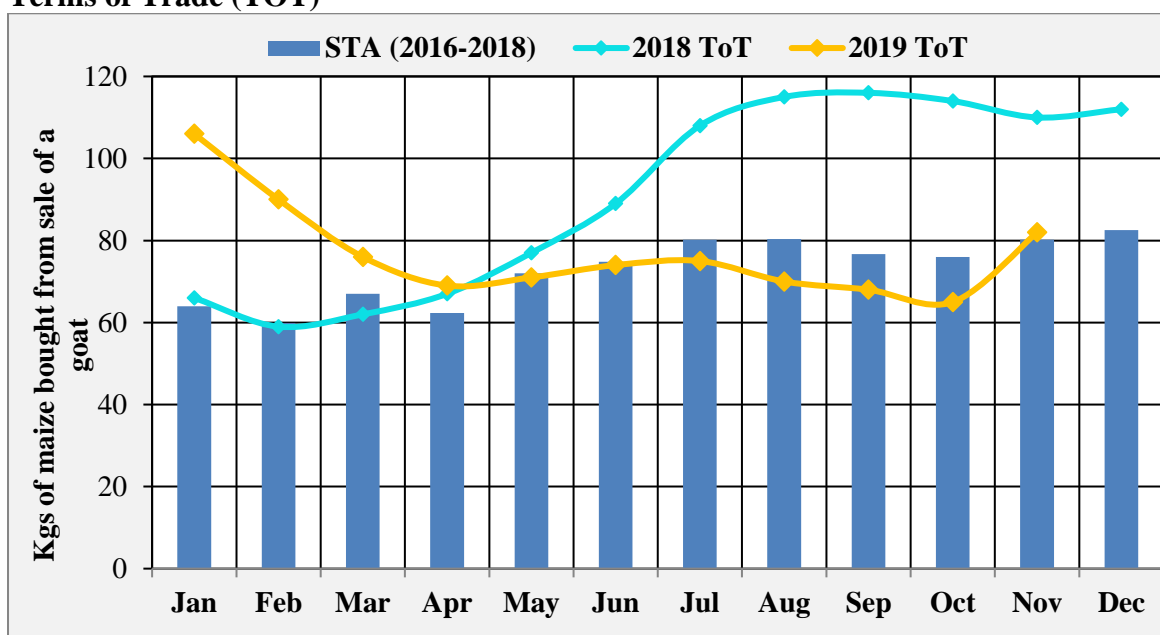


Figure 16: Beans prices compared to the short average term average prices(Kshs.)

- From the figure shown above, beans prices retained at Kshs.95/kg across the livelihood zones in the month under review thus no notable change when compared to the preceding months' beans price of Kshs.97/kg.
- When compared to short-term average beans price of Kshs.91/kg, beans price of Kshs.95/kg is normal.
- Favourable beans prices were recorded in Moyale and Sololo commodity markets with prices ranging between Kshs.50-70/kg. However, beans prices were higher in Loiyangalani and Korr in Laisamis sub-county and Dukana in North Horr sub-county with prices averaging at Kshs.100/kg.
- Increased market supplies from the neighbouring vibrant Ethiopia market occasioned favourable beans price in Moyale commodity market.

#### 4.2.3 Terms of Trade (TOT)



*Figure 17: Current terms of trade versus short term average terms of trade*

- In the month under review, terms of trade were 82 across all the livelihood zones hence normal when compared to the short-term average terms of 80.
- Normal terms of trade were occasioned by above normal goat prices and stable maize prices hence improved household purchasing power for the pastoralists.
- Terms of trade is anticipated to improve in the next one month due to the continuation of the short rains hence and expected further improvement of goats' body condition, which will have a causal effect in goats' prices.
- Terms of trade is above normal in Moyale sub-county due to high goats prices and lower maize prices occasioned by vibrant neighbouring Ethiopian market, near-normal in Saku sub-county and slightly below normal in North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties (high maize prices). North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties will post normal terms of trade in the next one month.

## 5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

### 5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

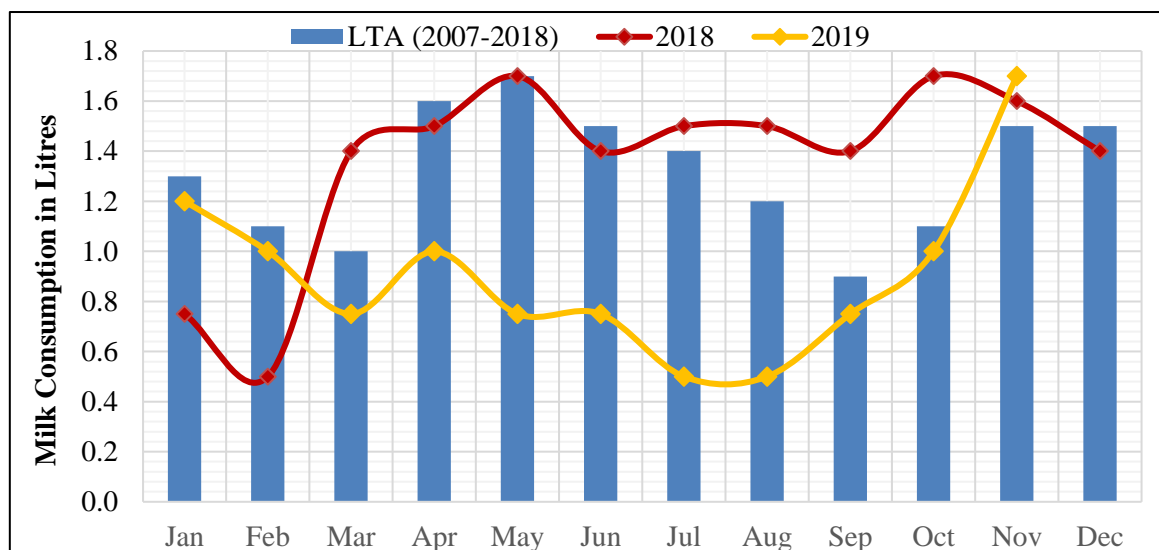


Figure 18: Current milk consumption/household/day/litre against long term average

- From the figure 18 shown above, household milk consumption is 1.7litre/household/day in the month under review across the livelihood zones hence significant improvement when compared to the previous month’s milk consumption of 1.0litre/household/day.
- When compared to the long term average milk consumption of 1.5litres/household/day, current milk consumption is above normal by 13percent.
- Above normal milk consumption at the household level was attributed to improved milk production as 70percent of households accessed milk from camel.
- Majority of households generally used processed or powdered milk. As the short rains progresses, milk consumption is likely to improve further to over one litre/household/day in the next one month.

### 5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE (FCS)

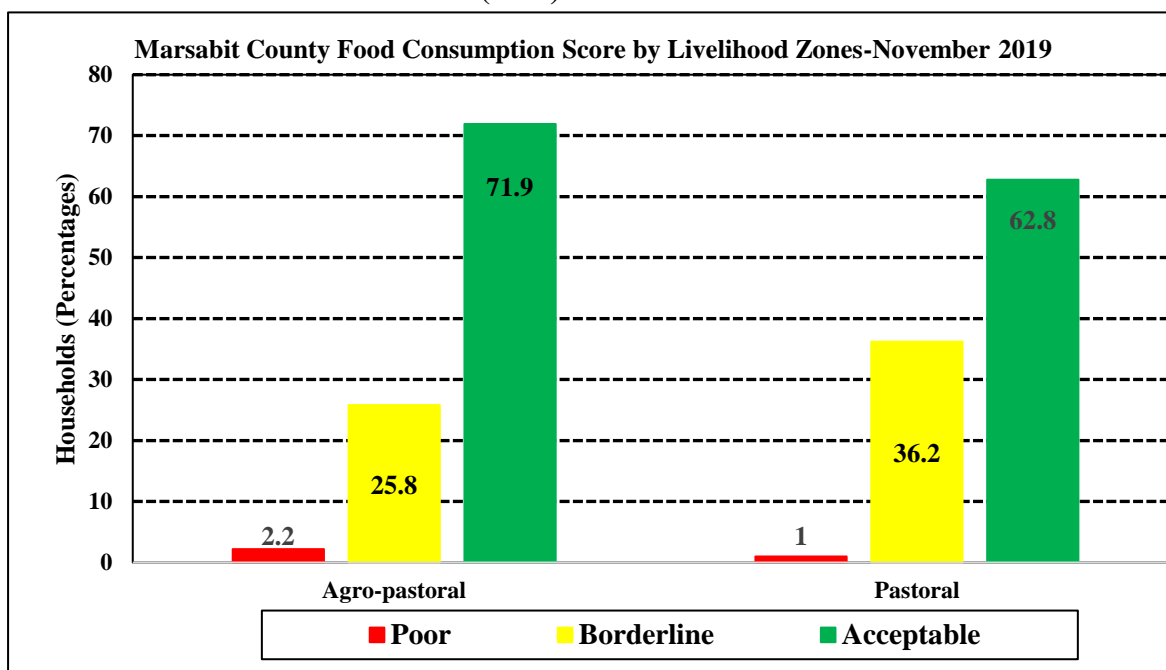


Figure 19: Food Consumption Score across the livelihood zones

- The mean food consumption score was 42.88 across the livelihood zones thus significantly improved when compared to previous months' food consumption score of 33.76 hence households shifted from borderline to acceptable food consumption score.
- Food consumption score was better in the agro-pastoral than the pastoral livelihood zone with a mean of 54.16 and 38.93 respectively.
- From the table shown below, 1.9percent of households consumed staples and vegetables every day and never or very seldom are consuming protein rich food such as meat and dairy. 33.3percent are consumed staples and vegetables every day, accompanied by oil and pulses a few times a week whereas 64.8percent are consumed staples and vegetables every day, frequently accompanied by oil and pulses and occasionally meat of dairy product.

	FCS Mean	Poor FCS	Borderline FCS	Acceptable FCS
<b>County</b>	<b>42.88</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>33.3%</b>	<b>64.8%</b>
Dukana	37.66	3.5%	27.6%	68.9%
Golbo	74.17	0.0%	3.3%	96.7%
Karare	61.53	0.0%	10.0%	90.0%
Korr	39.58	0.0%	26.7%	73.3%
Logologo	45.60	0.0%	6.9%	93.1%
Loiyangalani	33.20	0.0%	63.3%	36.7%
North Horr	33.75	0.0%	63.3%	36.7%
Turbi	46.37	0.0%	11.1%	88.9%
Heillu Manyatta	28.73	0.0%	93.3%	6.7%
Sagante	30.65	17.2%	51.8%	31.0%
Uran	47.76	0.0%	6.7%	93.3%

- Proportion of households in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone that were within the acceptable, borderline and poor food consumption score were 71.9percent, 25.8percent and 2.2percent respectively. Similarly, proportion of households in the pastoral livelihood zone that were within the acceptable, borderline and poor food consumption scores were 62.8percent, 36.2percent and 1.0percent respectively.
- From the table shown above;Turbi ward in North Horr sub-county, Uran and Golbo wards in Moyale sub-county, Karare ward in Saku sub-county, Logologo and Korr wards in Laisamis sub-county posted acceptable food consumption score. However, Sagante, Heillu Manyatta, Loiyangalani and North Horr wards remained in the borderline food consumption score band.
- As the short rains progresses, food consumption score is likely to improve further and majority of the households will continue to fall in the acceptable food consumption band.

## 5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

### 5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- From (Figure 20) shown below, the proportion of children under the age of five years with MUAC less than 135mm was 18.9percent in the month under review, which illustrates gradual improvement when compared to the previous months' MUAC of 21.9percent.
- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition was slightly above normal when compared to the long-term average of 20.2percent hence exhibited deterioration of nutritional status of children below the age of five years.

- Gradual improvement in nutritional status of children below the age of five years was prompted by significant increase in household milk consumption, improvement in pastoralists' purchasing power, acceptable food consumption score and safety nets activities by various actors across the County.

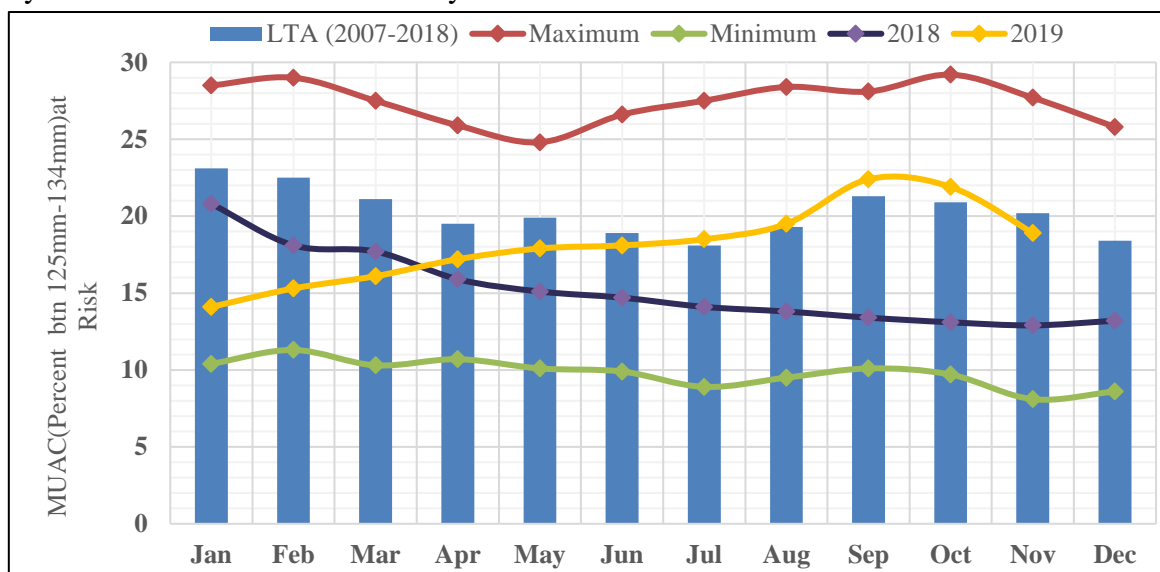


Figure 20: Nutritional status of children below the age of five years verses long term average

- According to the latest Nutrition Sector Update, screening continued through the community health volunteers and by other health workers during outreaches. A total of 2,677 children <5years and 901 pregnant and lactating women were screened, 131 children were referred and enrolled in OTP/SFP while 119 PLW were referred to SFP.

#### 5.4 COPING STRATEGIES

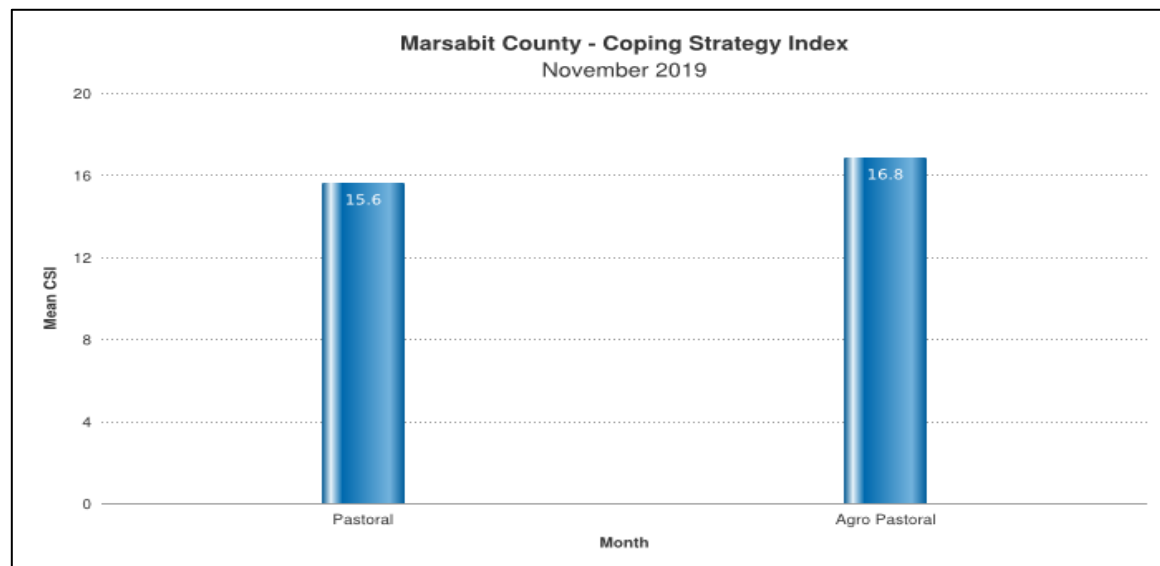


Figure 21: Coping Strategy Index across livelihood zones

- (Figure 21) shown above, reduced consumption based coping strategy index(rCSI) for the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones was 15.6 and 16.8 respectively hence most of the households adopted stressed reduced food consumption based strategies in all the livelihood zones.
- Reduced consumption based coping strategy index (rCSI) for the month under review was 15.93 thus significant improvement when compared to the preceding months' rCSI of 18.42.



- 83percent of the households adopted coping mechanisms while 17percent of the households didn't apply any of the coping strategies in the month under review.
- From table shown below, households in North Horr, Sagante and Loiyangalani wards exhibited higher consumption based coping strategy indexes whereas households in Logologo, Karare, Turbi, Uran and Korr wards illustrated favourable consumption based coping strategy indexes.

Consumption based coping strategy index(rCSI)		
Sub-county	Ward	rCSI
Saku	Sagante	24.7
Saku	Karare	9.9
Laisamis	Korr	12.9
Laisamis	Loiyangalani	31.8
Laisamis	Logologo	5.4
North Horr	Turbi	12.4
North Horr	North Horr	18.5
North Horr	Dukana	16.1
Moyale	Uran	12.3
Moyale	Heillu Manyatta	14.8
Moyale	Golbo	16.1

- 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 distributed 7,000 bags of Rice each 90kg to 7 Districts.

### 6.2 NON-FOOD AID

- Unconditional Cash transfer to 20,488 each receiving Kshs5, 400 bi-monthly.19,901 households in Marsabit County received Ksh109 million in the month of November under Hunger Safety Net Programme III through National Drought Management Authority.
- Kenya RedCross also supported households affected by floods in Moyale sub-county with cash transfer value of Kshs.3000 per household (Yaballo-191, Kinisa-150 and Walda 122 households).
- PACIDA provided cash transfer which targeted 2,117households at Kshs. 4,711 per household in Korr, Laisamis, Logologo, Maikona, Turbi, Uran, Sololo, Obbu wards.
- Kenya Red Cross responded by distributing non-food items to 226 households in Moyale subcounty(Antut-10, Qate-34, Bori junction-52 and Dadach Lakole-150) the items per household were 1 kitchen set, 2 pieces of tarpaulin, 2 pieces of sleeping mats, 2 mosquito nets, 2 collapsible jerricans, 2 pieces of bar soap and 2 blankets.
- PISP also supported households in Dukana, Illeret and North Horr wards with a cash transfer of Kshs. 4,711 per household.
- World Vision Kenya distributed 146,400 sachets of water treatment chemicals.

- 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.

## **7.0 EMERGING ISSUES**

### **7.1 DISEASES/CONFLICT/HUMAN DISPLACEMENT**

- Cumulatively, 2,500 small stock in Moyale, 600 in North-Horr, 1,800 in Saku and 500 in Laisamis have been lost to rain. Most of the livestock were infested with blood sucking parasites (lice, ticks), few deaths among weaner calves from diarrhea before the onset of rains.
- One person was swept away by floods in Eleborr (Moyale sub-county) and three persons also swept by floods in Laisamis ward.
- Some roads have been rendered inaccessible
- Some health centers are inaccessible due to floods, which rendered delivery of medical nutritional commodities to the health facilities difficult.

### **7.2 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS.**

- Moyale and Saku sub-counties received significant above normal rainfall amounts but drastically subsided when compared to the previous month. North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties also received enhanced rains and remarkably increased when compared to the preceding month. The current cumulative rainfall amounts are above the normal cumulative seasonal rainfall amounts due to above normal rains received across the livelihood zones of Marsabit County and which is expected to improve further as the short rains progresses.
- 3-months vegetation condition index for significantly improved from moderate vegetation deficit to above normal vegetation greenness. Above normal vegetation greenness was precipitated by enhanced and well distributed rains received across the County. Above normal vegetation greenness equates to the maximum vegetation condition index ever recorded at this particular time of the year due to substantial rains that have been received which surpassed seasonal cumulative rainfall amounts.
- 100percent of open water sources across the livelihood zones are fully recharged, household and livestock trekking distances to water sources at an all-time low that has led to remarkable improvement in livestock body condition for all the species and with the continuity of the short rains the situation is expected to improve further in the next one month.
- Market prices for cattle and goats were above normal while sheep prices were normal and with expected further improvement in livestock body condition for all the species in the next one month, livestock prices are likely to increase further. Therefore, terms of trade is anticipated to improve in the next one month due to the continuation of the short rains hence

and expected further improvement of goats' body condition, which will have a causal effect in goats' prices.

- Early planted crops are in good condition although fall army infestation has been reported especially in Saku Sub County, which has affected 10percent of maize crops. The early-planted maize is tussling while early-planted beans are podding. Currently farmers are undertaking weeding and pest control while some have left their farms un-weeded. 20percent of farms in Saku Sub-county are under intense weeds. Cumulative torrential rains received in the agro-pastoral areas of Moyale and Saku sub-counties have improved the soil moisture content and water requirement for maize and beans crops that is enough to sustain them to physiological maturity.
- As the short rains progresses, food consumption score is likely to improve further and most of the households will continue to fall in the acceptable food consumption band. Similarly, most of the households will continue to employ irreversible stressed reduced food consumption based strategies at low severity levels across the livelihood zones.
- Nutritional status of children is expected to gradually improve further in the month of December due to above normal milk consumption and acceptable food consumption score. Largely, the food security outcomes are within their normal ranges attributed to remarkable above normal environmental and access indicators.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Immediate food assistance to the 111,000 vulnerable population (Saku-18,000 people, North Horr-28,000 people, Moyale-32,000 people, Laisamis-33,000 people)
- Upscale of various safety net programmes especially in floods affected areas across the County.
- Water harvesting techniques especially roof catchment to harness water for storage.
- Restocking of small stock targeting households affected by floods
- Extensive weeding of farm land in the agro-pastoral areas of Moyale and Saku sub-counties. Pest control against fall army infestation especially in Saku Sub County.
- Strategic vaccination across the County. Procurement of vaccines, multivitamin, deworming and enhancement of disease surveillance.
- Treatment of acute malnutrition in Laisamis and North Horr sub-counties. Enhanced screening and referral for malnutrition in all hot spot areas.
- Integrated medical outreaches in flood affected areas and sensitization of affected population on disease prevention and control with focus on epidemic potential diseases(Malaria and Cholera).