

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



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



**JANUARY 2021 EW PHASE**

**Drought Status: ALERT**



**Maandalizi ya mapema**

**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 most of Earth pans have dried up increasing the water trekking sites to over hundred centres.

**Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)**

**Production indicators:**

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

**Access indicators:**

- Terms of trade is favourable 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	Alert	Worsening
Irrigated Cropping	Alert	Worsening
Pastoral all species	Alert	Worsening
County	Alert	Worsening
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	0	80 -120
VCI-3Month	32.0	>35
Forage condition	Fair-Poor	Good
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Crop Condition (Maize)	Poor	Good
Livestock Body Condition	Fair	Good
Milk Production	2.0	2.4 litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Migration	Normal
Livestock deaths	No deaths	No deaths
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	56	>41.6kgs
Milk Consumption	0.9	1.6 litres
Return distance to water sources	14.4	<8.3 Km
Cost of water at source (20 litres)	8	<5Kshs
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	23.4	20.54
Coping Strategy Index	17.4	<0.95

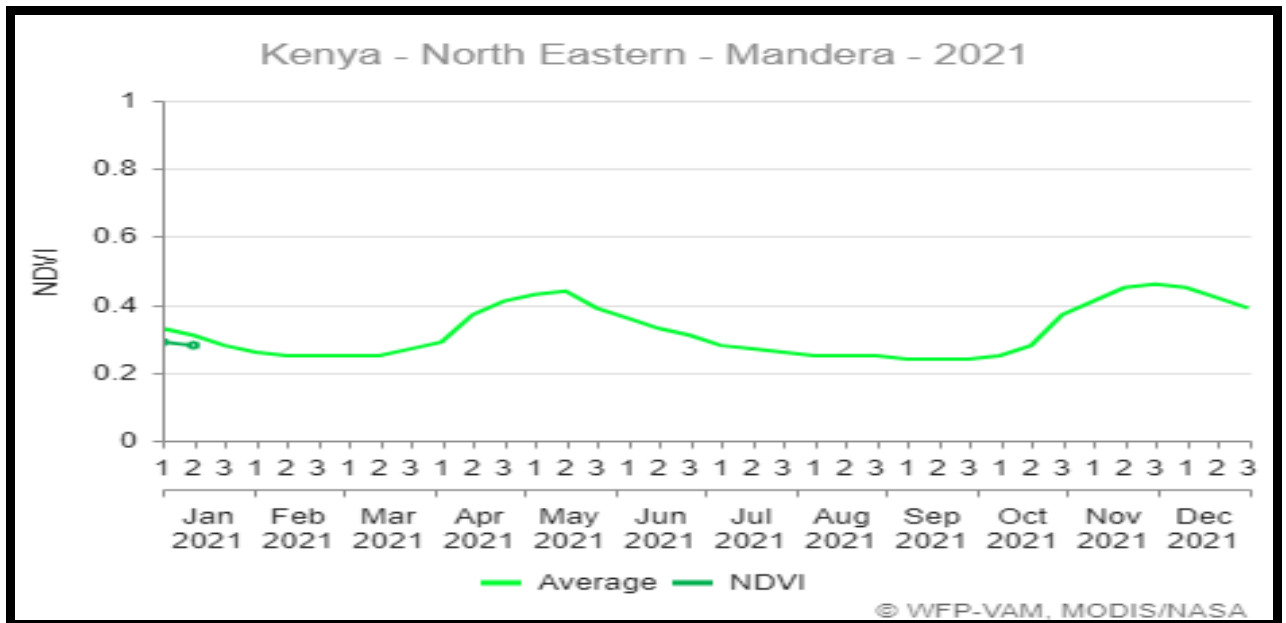
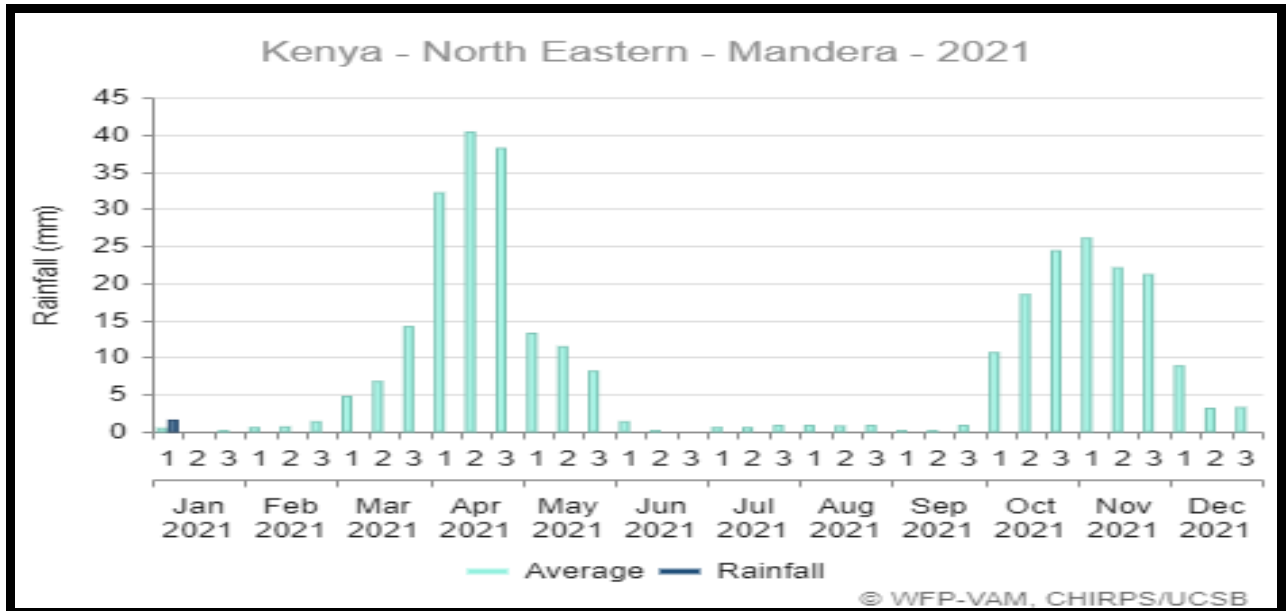
**Seasonal Calendar**

<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. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

## 1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- No rains were received during the month of January
- 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

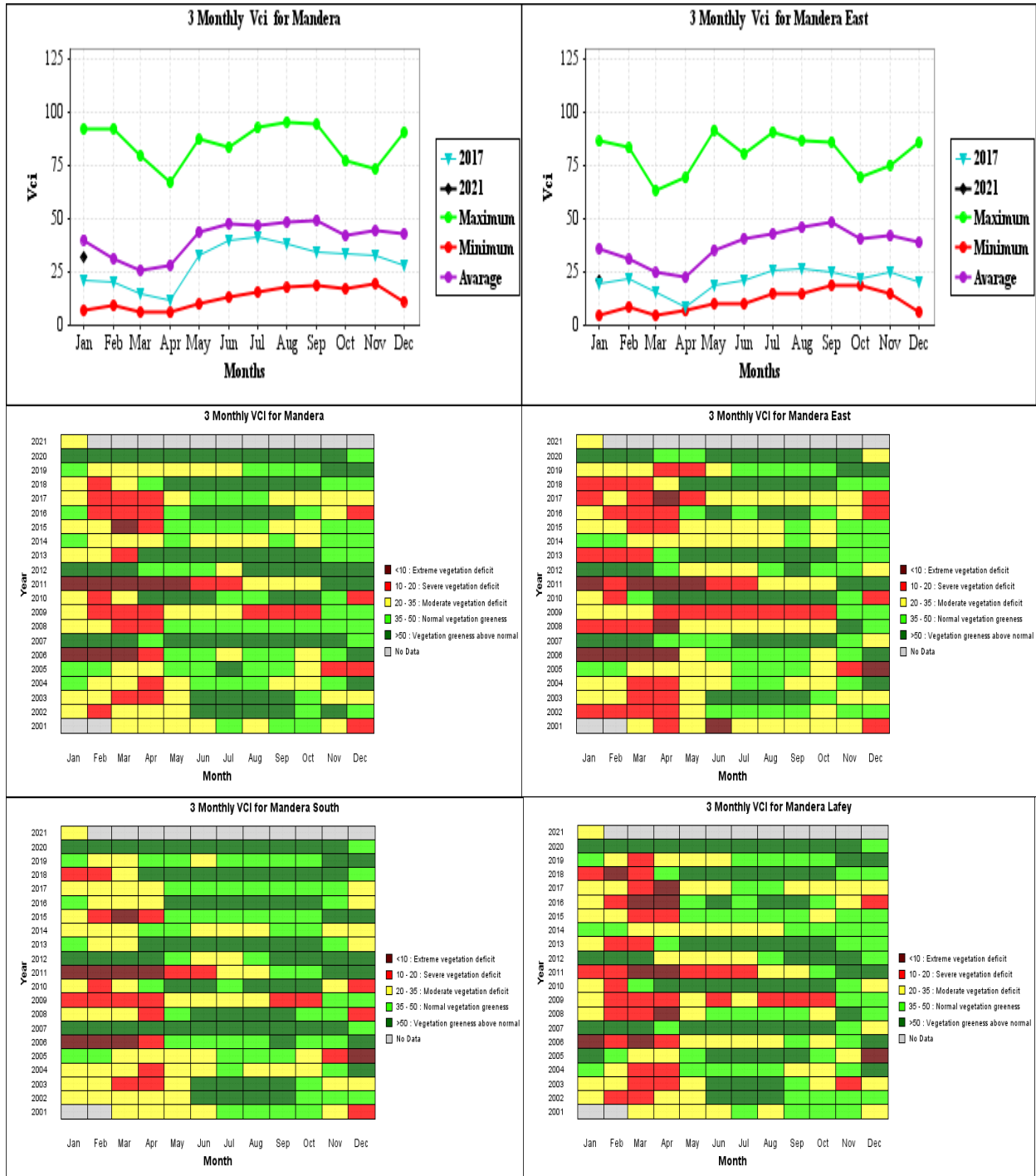
- Locust invasion was reported in Mandera west, Banisa, and north sub counties destroying vegetations and crops during the month under review.

## 2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

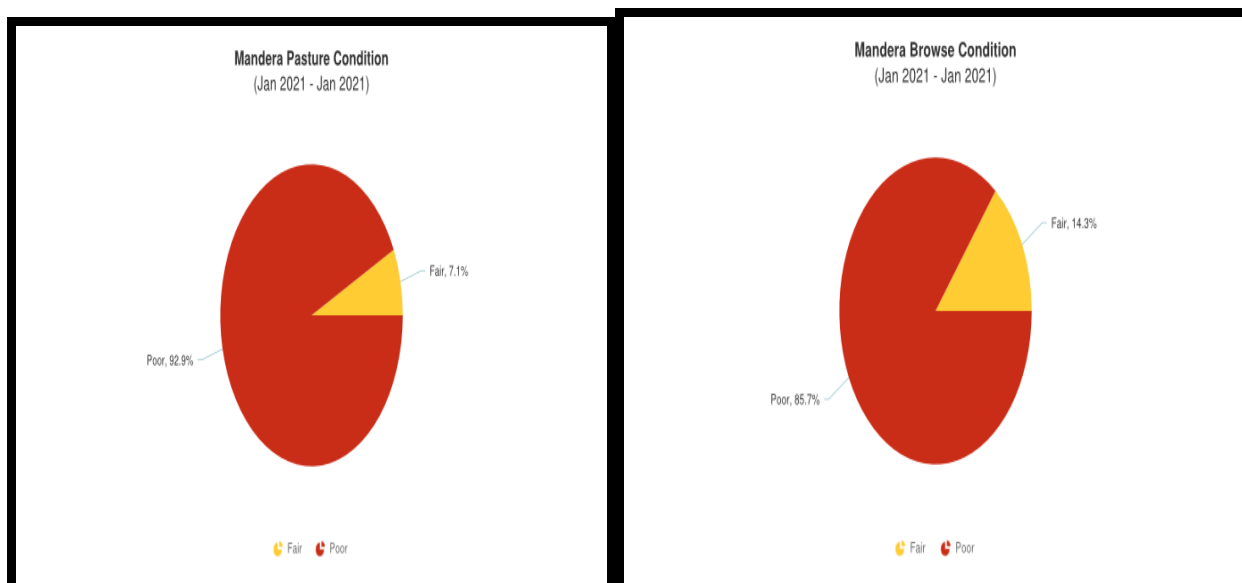
### 2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION INDEX

#### 2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The current vegetation condition index deteriorated from normal to moderate vegetation deficit band indicating worsening trend for the month of January 2021.
- When compared to the previous month, the current 3-month VCI decreased from 44.15 in December to 32.03 in January 2021.
- Four sub counties are showing normal vegetation greenness while Mandera East and Lafey sub counties are in moderate vegetation deficit.



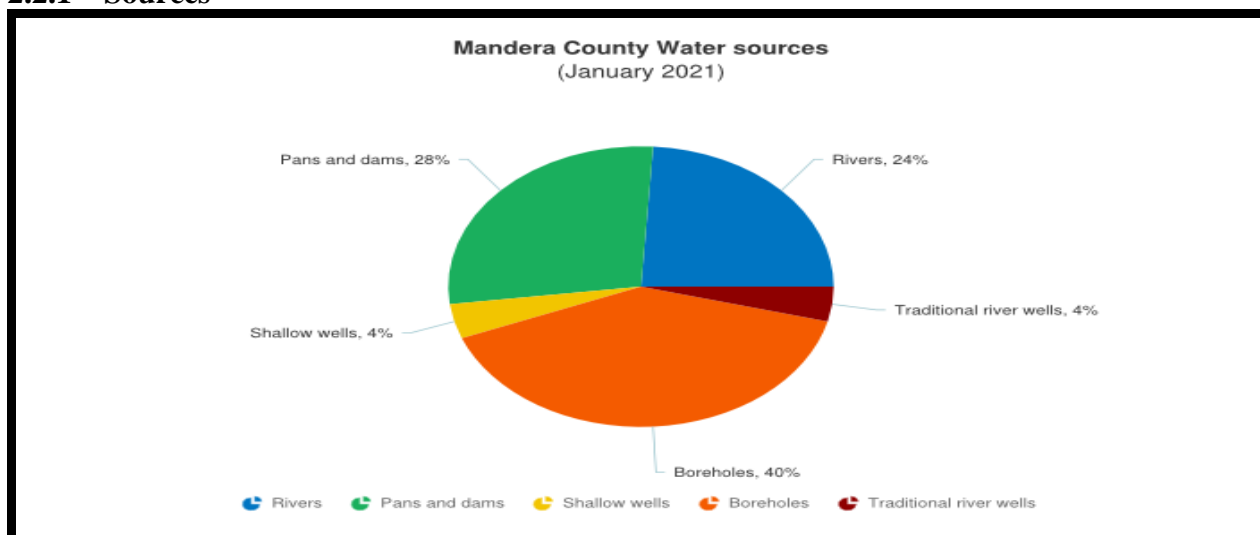
## 2.1.2 Pasture and Browse



- 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 six percent of the 210 households interviewed reported browse conditions as poor while 14 percent reported browse condition as fair.
- When compared to last month, the pasture situation is getting worser 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.
- Locust invasion was reported in Madera west, Banisa, and north sub counties destroying vegetations and crops.

## 2.2 WATER RESOURCE

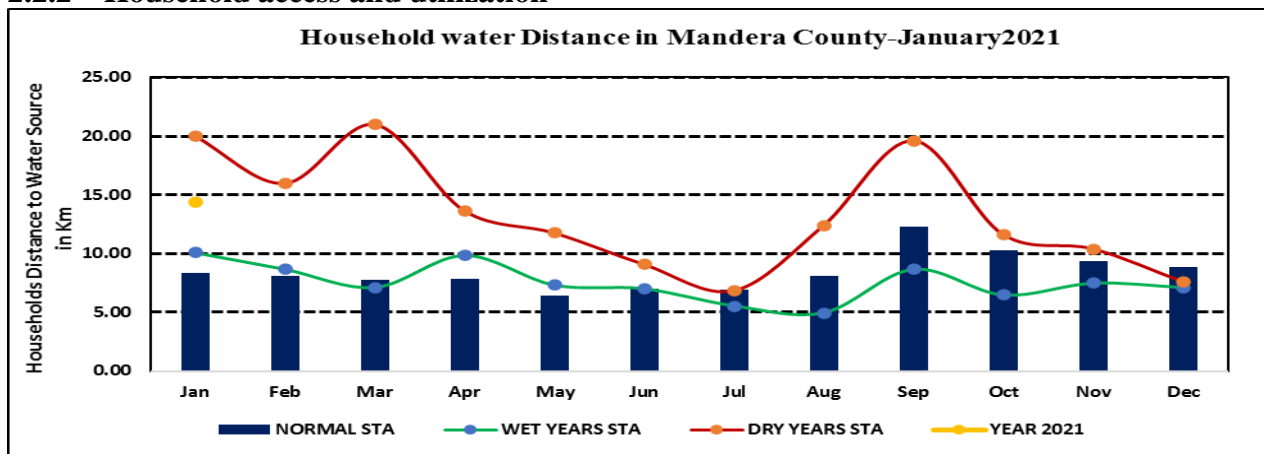
### 2.2.1 Sources



- 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 percent in the month of January, earth pans at twenty six percent and River at twenty four percent and shallow wells with four percent respectively.

- Currently over 140 centres are under water trucking including Dandu town which has over 10000 households and need for close monitoring of the situation.

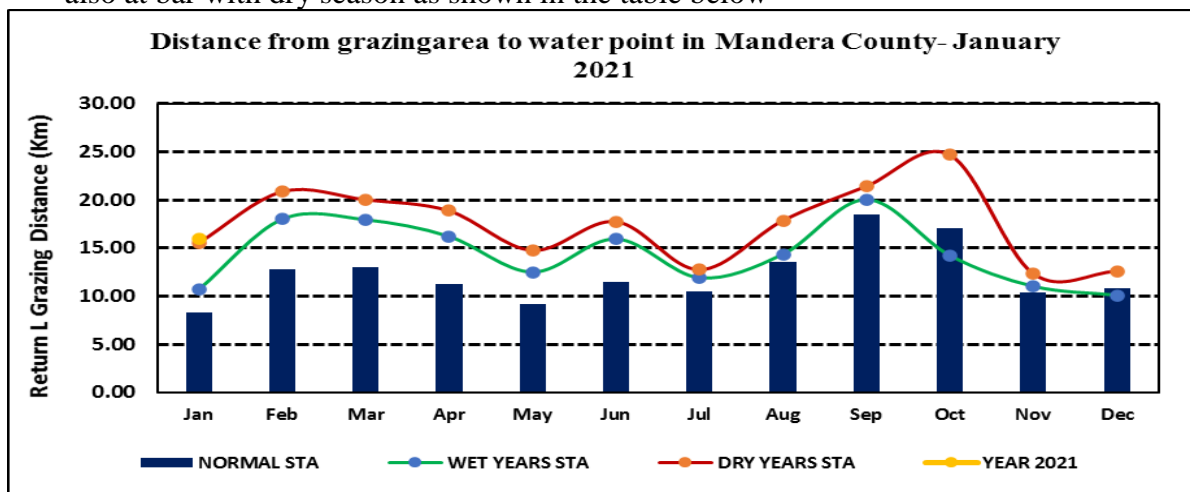
### 2.2.2 Household access and utilization



- The average household return distance to watering sources recorded during the month was 14.4Km as shown in the chart above.
- The current average return distance is above the normal STA 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 14.9Km, the average grazing distance increased when compared to last month.
- Pastoral all species livelihood zone reported the longest average return grazing distance at 15.0Km followed by Agro pastoral zone with 12.2 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 and also at bar with 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

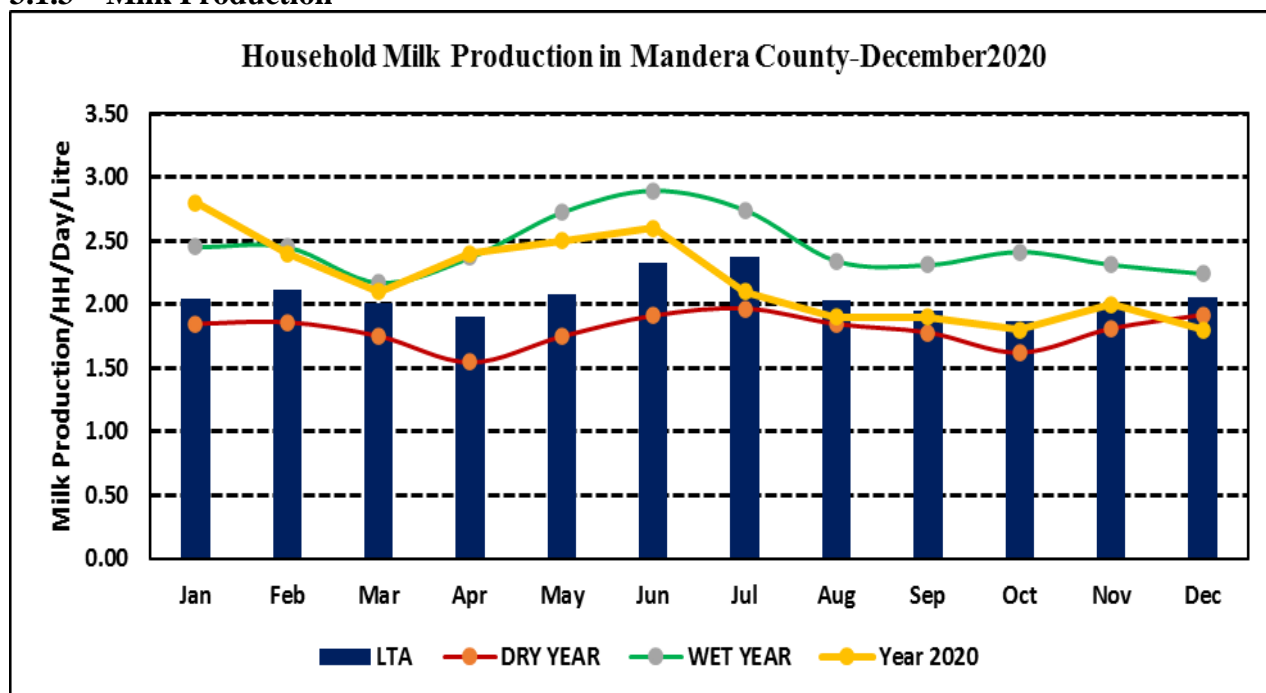
##### 3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition.

- 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 expected to deteriorating.
- Compared to a similar period in the previous years, the situation is worsening during these times of the year.

##### 3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- 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 January, 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.

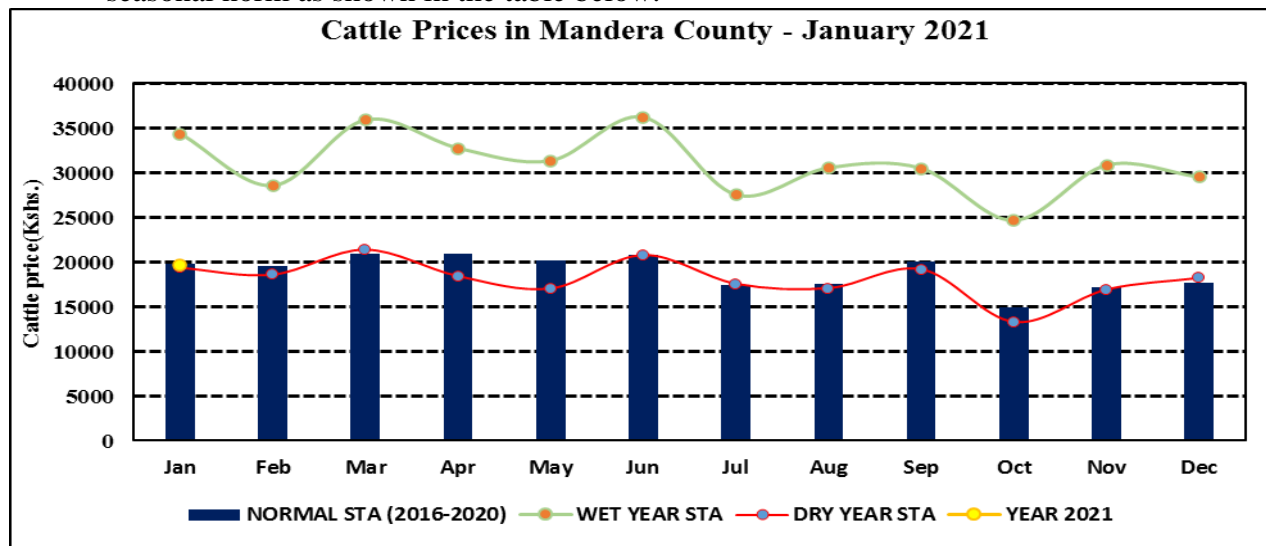
- Minimal harvest is expected along River Daua will affect the households along the irrigated cropping zone.

## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

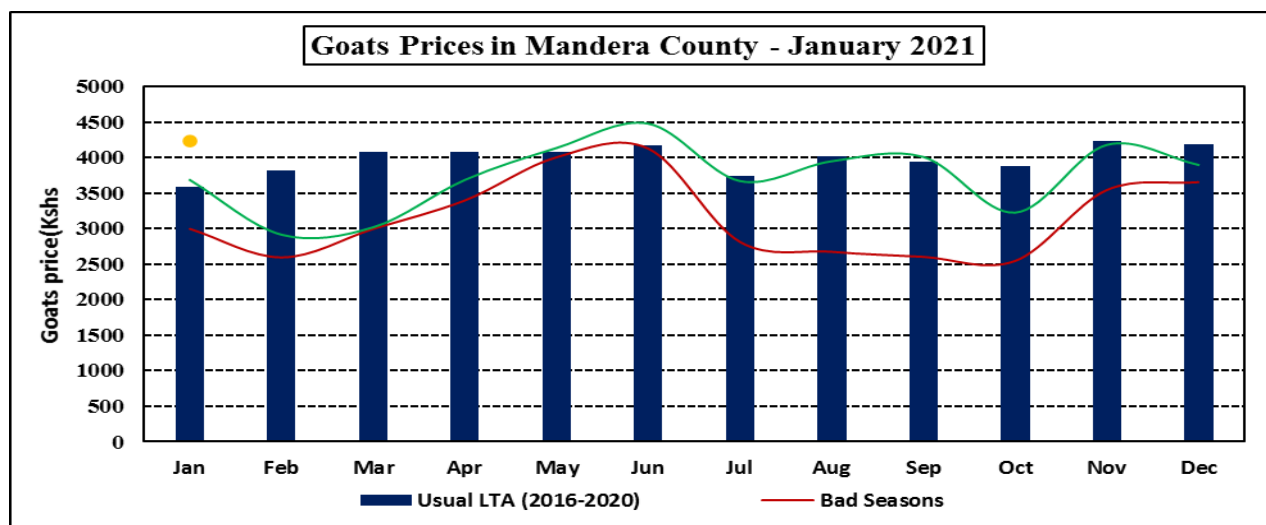
#### 4.1.1 Cattle Prices

- Average cattle price was Ksh 19,667 in the month of January 2021. The price slightly increased 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 stable and following seasonal norm as shown in the table below.



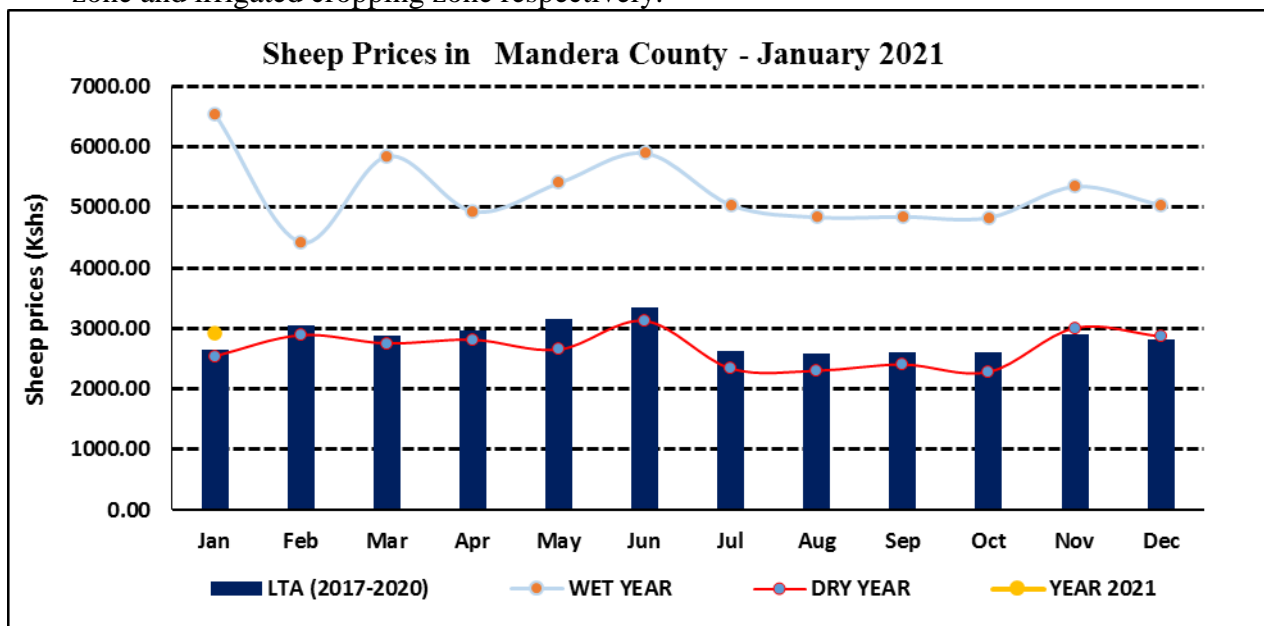
#### 4.1.2 Goat Prices

- Average goat price was Ksh 4,228 in the month of January, when compared to previous month, the goat price slightly decreased
- Highest price range was in Agro pastoral livelihood zone followed by Pastoral all species livelihood zone and Irrigated livelihood zone.
- The current average price is higher when compared to the usual long-term average, bad season and the good season as shown in the graph below.



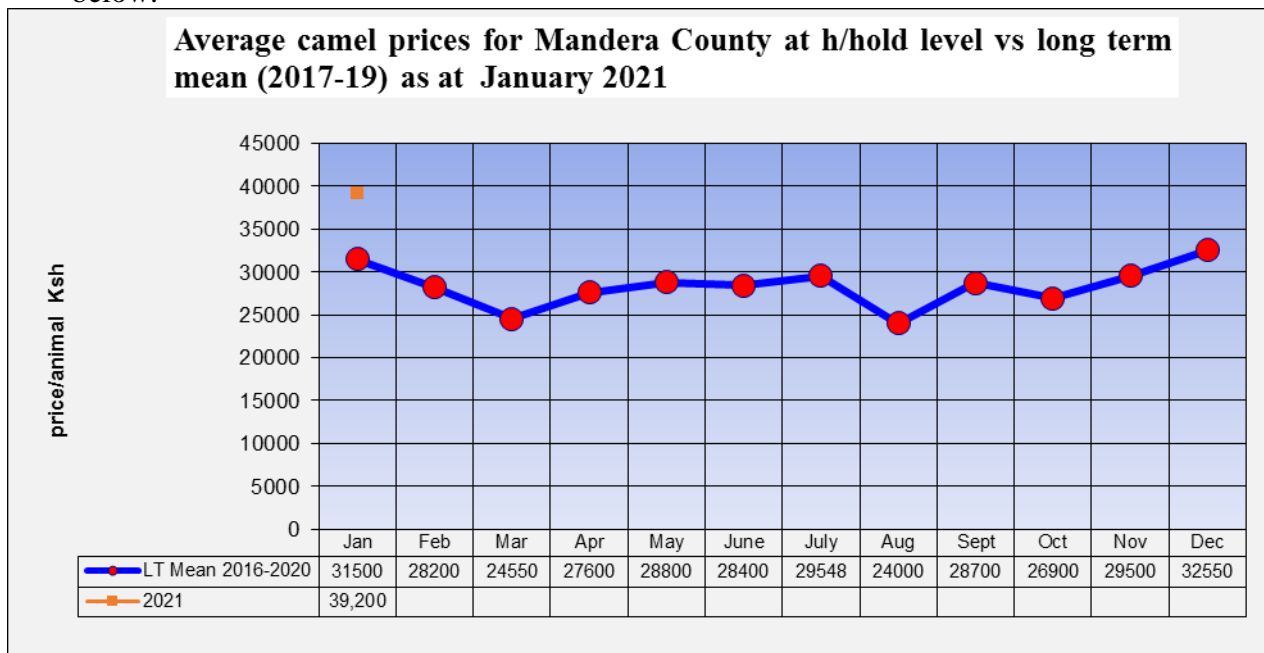
#### Sheep Price

- Average sheep price was Ksh 2,920 in the month of January and when compared to the previous month, the current average price was stable.
- The current average price is slightly higher than the long-term average and dry year of the same month as shown below.
- The highest average price was noted in Agro pastoral zone followed by Pastoral all species zone and irrigated cropping zone respectively.



#### 4.1.3 Camel Prices

- The average camel price during the month of January 2021 is Kshs 39,200 when compared to the previous month, the average price increased.
- 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.

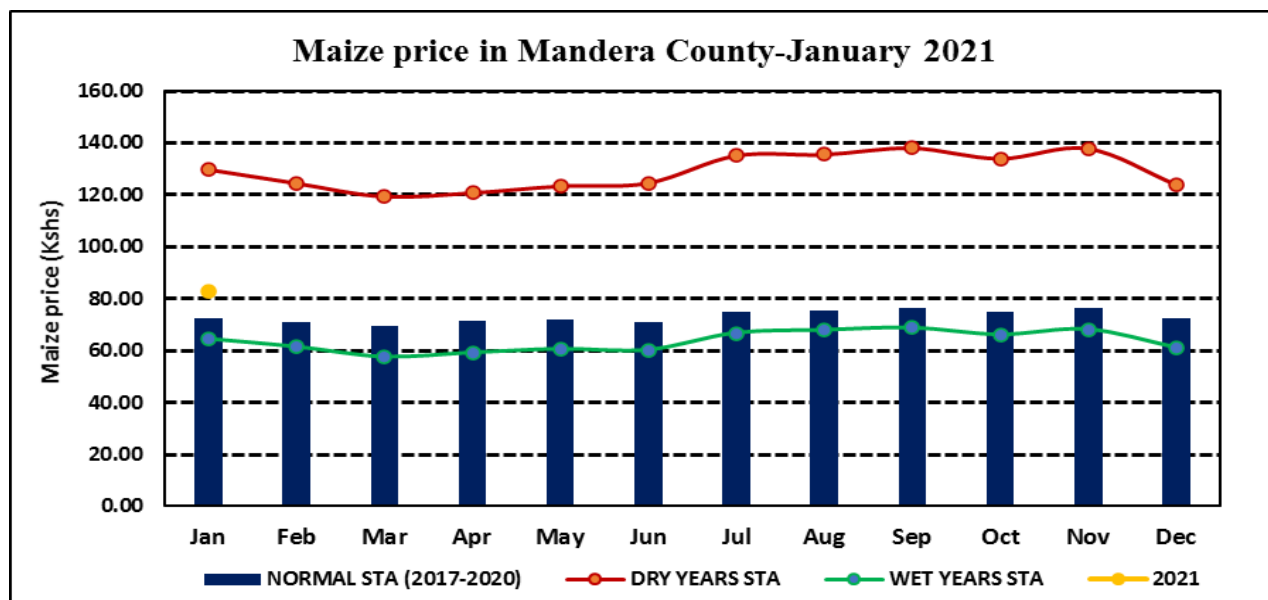




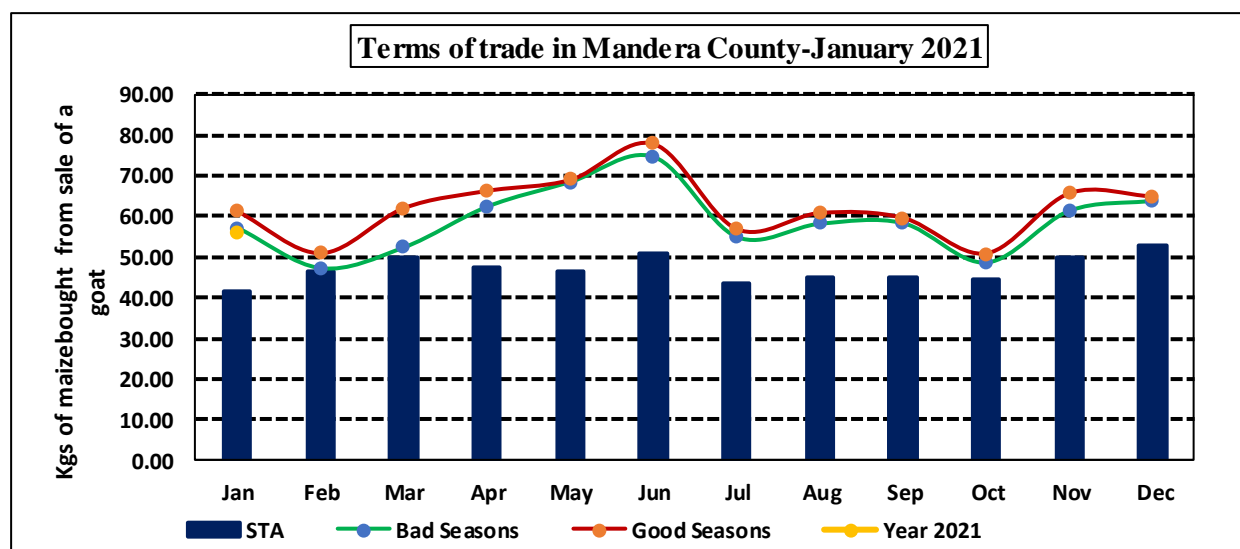
## 4.2 CROP PRICES

### Maize

- The average maize price during the month of January 2021 was Ksh.83per kg.
- Compared to the previous month, the average price has slightly increased.
- 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 56Kgs of maize by selling one medium goat.
- The terms of trade decreased when compared to last month.
- The terms of trade are favourable to pastoral communities
- The current TOT is above the STA but at bar with the bad season.
- The highest terms of trade were reported in Pastoral all species livelihood zone followed by Agro pastoral and Irrigated livelihood zone.

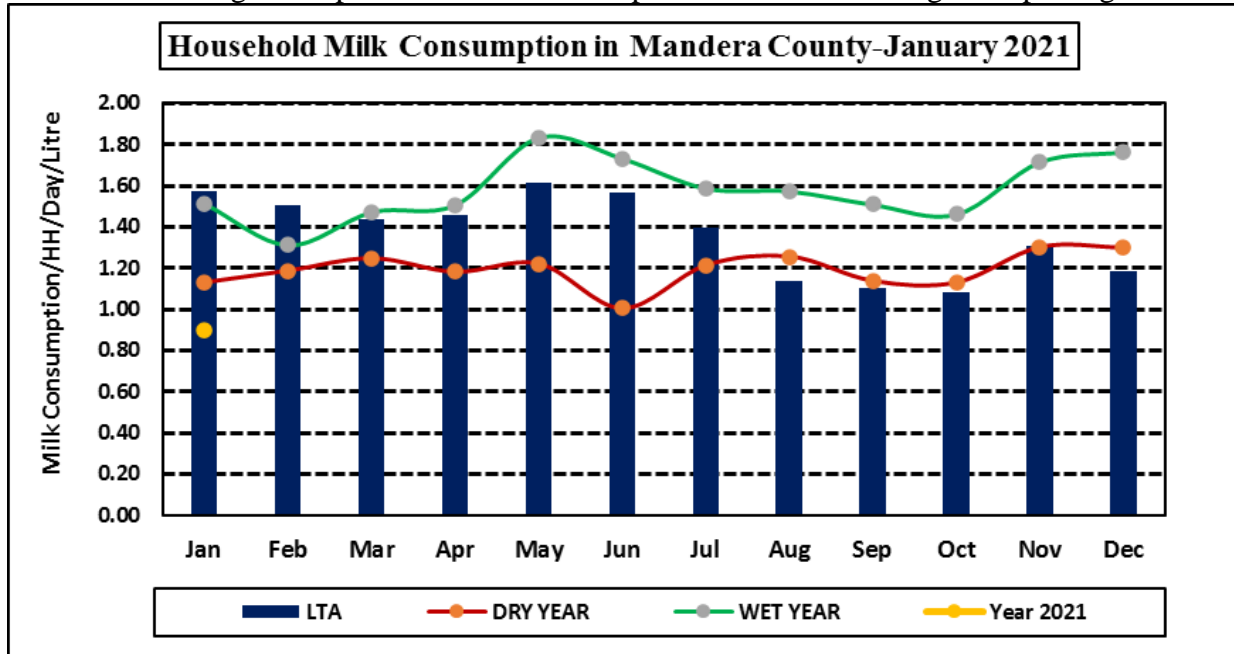
### 4.2 Implication of above indicator on Food Security

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

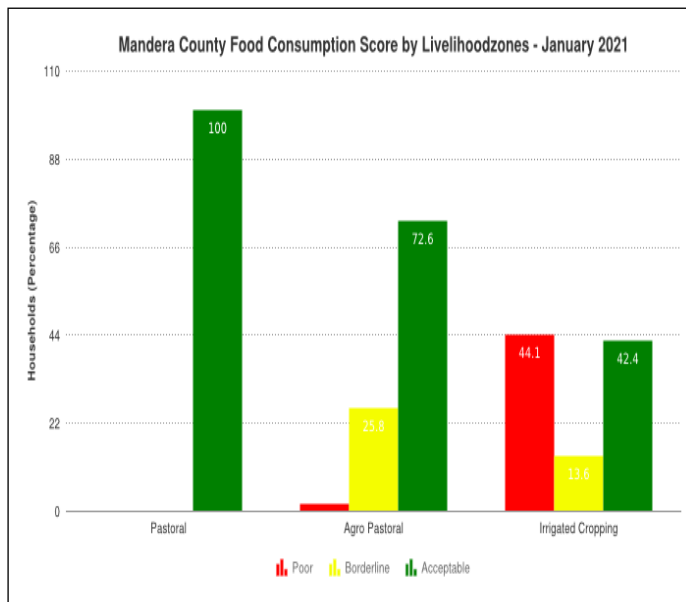
## 5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

### Milk consumption

- Milk consumption at household level for the month of January 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.

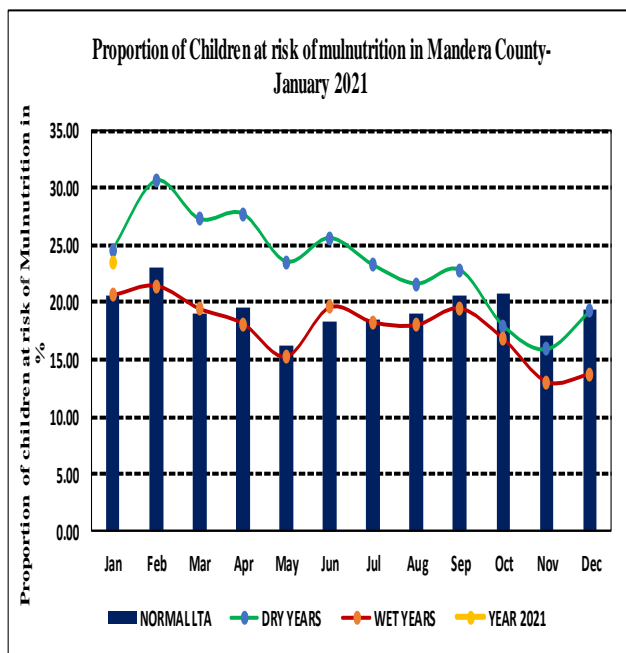


### 5.1 Food Consumption Score



- The proportion of households with a poor food consumption score was 17 percent in January 2021 compared to 23 in December 2021.
- The proportion in the borderline category was 15 percent in January in comparison to 19 percent in December while those in the acceptable food consumption score were at 68 percent for January 2021.
- When compared to January 2020 which had 17 percent poor and 17 percent borderline and 66 percent acceptable indicating worsening situation.

### 5.3.1 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

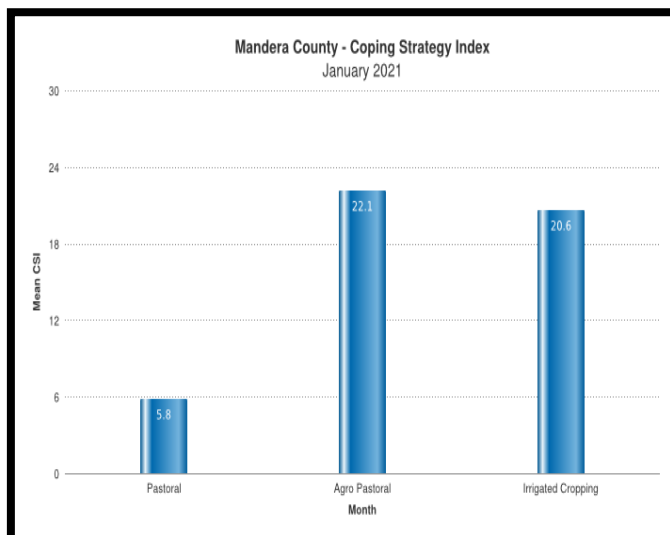


- The percentage of children (<5yrs) at mid-risk category for 125mm to 134mm during the month of January was 23.4 percent.
- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition in Mandera increased when compared to last month. MUAC rates are higher than the long-term average.
- The high levels of malnutrition 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
- No other outbreaks of human disease were reported across the County.

### 5.4 COPING STRATEGIES



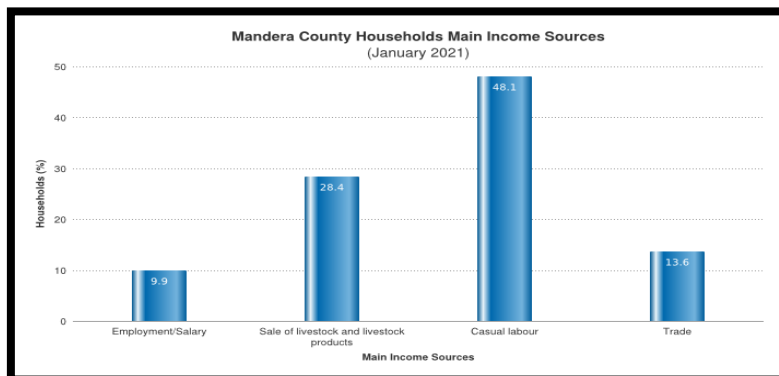
- The Coping Strategy Index (CSI) was 17.45 for the January 2021.
- When compared to same time last year, the CSI was within the range
- The highest CSI is in the Agro pastoral livelihood zone followed by Irrigated cropping zone and Pastoral livelihood zone respectively.
- This implies communities were 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 January 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.
- DRC is implementing two projects (Covid-19 response and locust response projects) for three months.
- Sustainable food system program by World Food Program through COCOP over 7000 households in Mandera West, North and Banisa Sub-counties.

### 6.2 FOOD AID - NOTE THE FOLLOWING

- Supplementary feeding at 63 health facilities by WFP through KEMSA and COCOP.

## 7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

### 7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- Insecurity incidents were reported in Banisa, Takaba, Lafey and Mandera Norths sub counties during the month.

### 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 stressed phase but expected to worsen in the coming months due to failure of short rains.
- Water availability is below average with almost 80 percent of earth pans empty resulting to over hundred and forty centres been water trucked by department of Water.
- Pasture and browse are poor in all parts of 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 favourable but on worsening trend compared to last month.
- The food security situation is projected to be in crisis as the rains are 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**

- Activation of rapid response team for immediate response to carry out service and maintenance of livestock strategic boreholes as boreholes will be overwhelmed.
- Repair and maintain all water boozers in readiness for conducting water trucking activities with water scarcity centres.
- Provision of fast moving spare parts to livestock boreholes and repair of defective boreholes

### **Livestock**

- Support county wide mass deworming and treatment of livestock
- Manage conflict along watering points and migration corridors
- Mobilization of communities to undertake Livestock offtake for small herds before the body condition of livestock worsen.

### **Agriculture**

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

### **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 truck 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