



National Drought Management Authority

GARISSA COUNTY

DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR MARCH 2015



Drought early warning Flag- Phase Alarm



Early Warning Phase Classification

LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TRENDS
Agro-pastoral	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral cattle/sheep	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral-all species	Alarm	Worsening

Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal ranges
% of average rainfall (Oct-Marc)	N/A	80-120%
VCI-3month	15.66	35-50
SPI-3Month	-0.55	-1-1
State of Water Sources	3	5

Production indicators	Value	Normal ranges
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock Body Conditions	1-2	4-5
Milk Production	20	13.33-36.01
Livestock deaths (for drought)	No death	No death
Crops area planted (%)		% of LTA

Access Indicators	Value	Normal ranges
Terms of Trade (ToT)		0.26-0.76
Milk Consumption		9.0 -21.80
Water for Households		

Utilization indicators	Value	Normal ranges
MUAC	21.68	21.60 - 15.64
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	N/A	1.50 – 1.02

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- The vegetation condition index value reduced from 23.86 in February to 15.66 in March which is the county moved from moderate drought category to severe drought category. The sub counties of Dadaab, Dujis (township) and Balambala recorded the worst values of 5.5 and 6.84 and 8.07 respectively which is in the extreme drought condition category, Lagdera and fafi are in severe drought condition category.
- The state of water sources remained at 3. The communities are dependent on permanent water sources which have low yield or are congested.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

- Livestock body conditions was between emaciated and poor for all livestock species with a score of 1- 2, this is anticipated to improve as the long rains have started in some parts of the county.
- Milk production reduced from 23litres from previous month to 20l drying of most lactating, drought stress from poor forage and long distances. Households are dependent on powdered milk purchased from market. The current price of a 750ml bottle of milk is kshs.75
- The MUAC levels of 21.68%.was above the normal ranges and have an effect on children performance and growth.

Current Drought Risk	Low	✓ Medium	High
-----------------------------	-----	----------	------



The county biophysical indicator shows it is severe drought condition category and with three sub counties in extreme drought condition, the performance of livestock greatly reduced and if the started long rains season performance dwindles then it is anticipated that the county will be affected acute food insecurity.

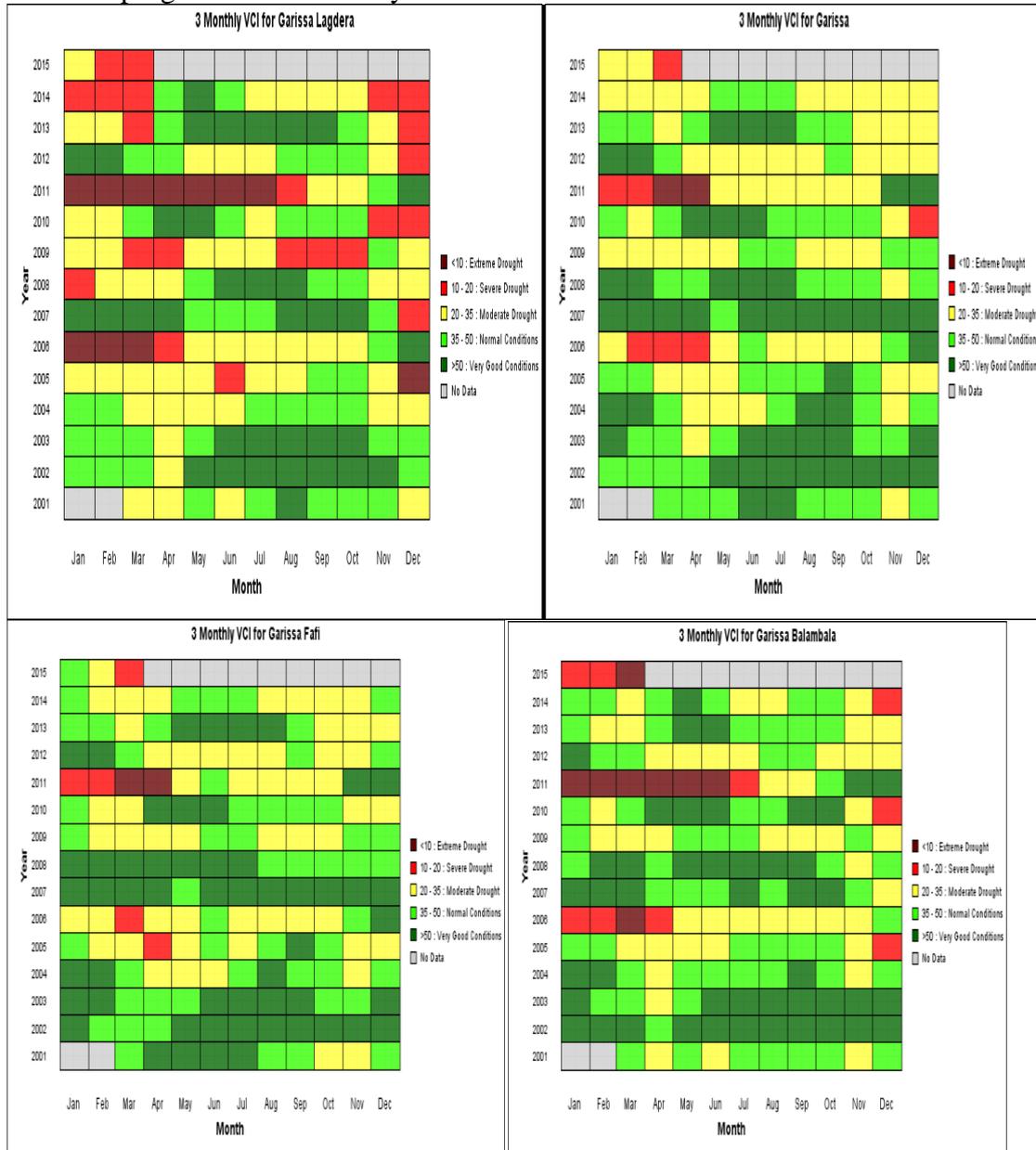
ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITION (Stability)

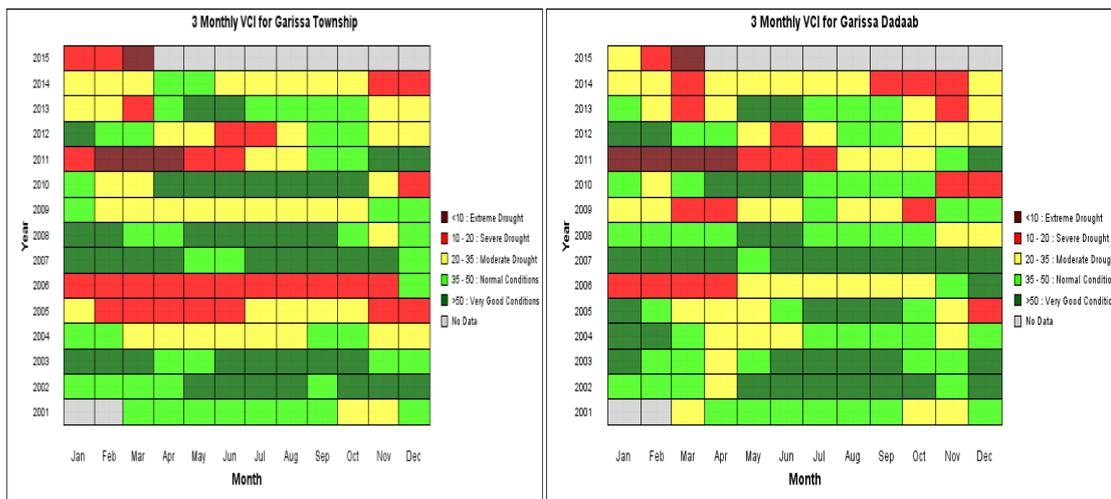
1.1 Rainfall

- The long rains season started on the third week of March but only two days of rain was reported in some parts of the county whiles some areas of Danyere, balambala Modogashe and shantaabak are still dry.

1.2 Natural Vegetation and Pasture Condition

- The quality and quantity of pasture and browse got depleted and was not able to sustained livestock production in the county but is anticipated to improve as the long rains season started.
- The vegetation condition index value reduced from 23.86 in February to 15.66 in March which is the county move moderate drought category to severe drought category. The sub counties of Dadaab, Dujis (township) and Balambala recorded the worst values of 5.5 and 6.84 and 8.07 respectively which is in the extreme drought condition category, Lagdera and fafi are in severe drought condition category.
- The matrixes below indicates the vegetation condition index for the different subcounties and there progression on monthly basis.





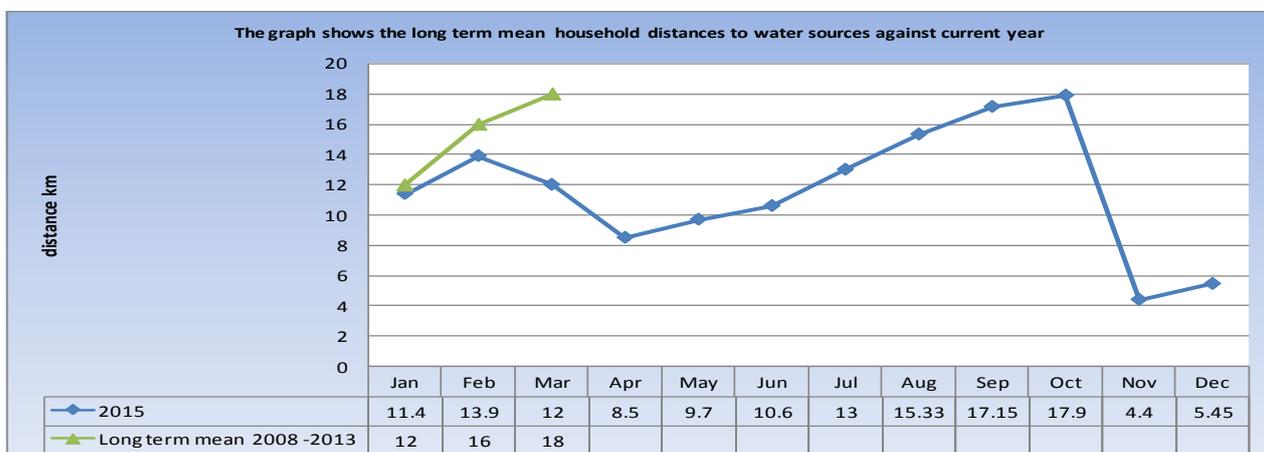
1.3 Water Sources and Availability

1.3.1 Use of Water Sources

- Water sources currently in use are boreholes, shallow wells, and spring and river Tana. The water levels of river Tana increased due to upstream rains.

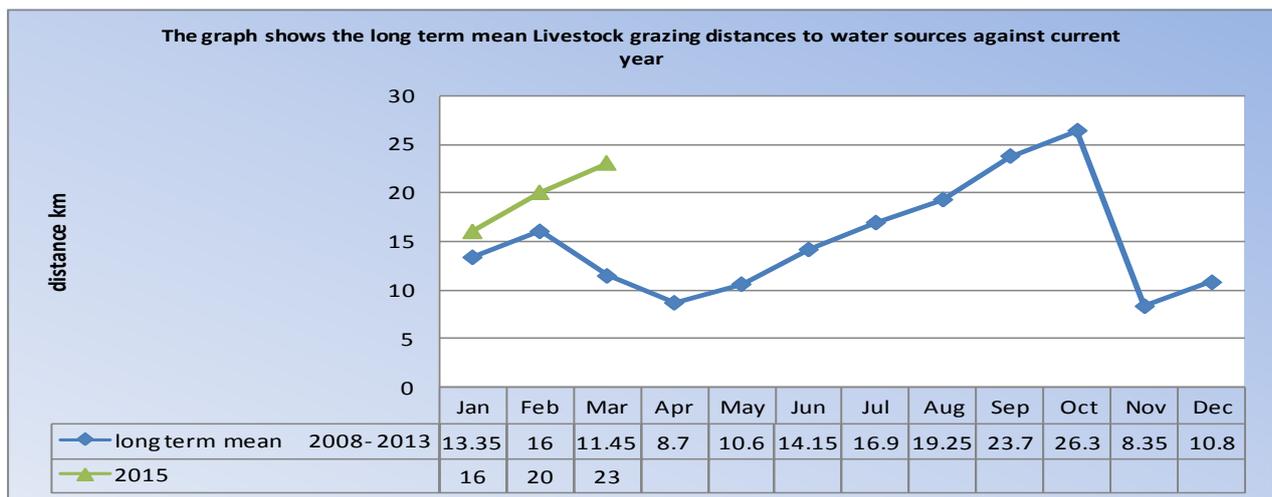
1.3.2 Household accessibility to water

- The current trekking distances to water sources increased from an average of 16km across the livelihood zones to 18km thus reducing household water availability.
- The trend is increasing and is above the long term mean for the month thus stress to women who mainly fetch water for the family.



1.3.3 Livestock accessibility to water

- Water accessibility for livestock continue to decrease with increasing trekking distances from grazing areas resulting from depletion of pasture and browse and congestion from high livestock population at watering point. The distances covered by livestock between grazing areas and the water points have increased from average of 20km to 23km in all the livelihood zones ,
- The distance is highly above the long term mean of 11.45km for February.



1.4 EMERGING ISSUES

1.4.1 Insecurity/Conflict/ Human displacement

- Conflict between the communities of Garissa County in areas of Benane and Danyere with communities from Isiolo County was reported during the month. No resource based conflict was reported though cases of wildlife human conflict reported.

1.4.2 Migration

- In migrations from isiolo was reported due to the conflict that has started in the area.

1.4.3 Implication on Food Security

- Water stress as most of the water points are congested, increasing trekking distance between grazing areas and water points due to depleted pastures and diminishing browse and high cost of watering livestock negatively impacts on food security situation in the county.

2.0 RURAL ECONOMY INDICATORS (FOOD AVAILABILITY)

2.1 Livestock Production

2.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

Livestock body conditions for all species continue to deteriorate with a score of 1- 2, which translates to very poor and poor. Diminishing pasture and browse in the range land and occurrence of metabolic and opportunistic diseases adversely affected the body condition couple with long trekking distances to water points.

2.1.2 Livestock Health and Diseases

Livestock diseases reported during the month were: lumpy skin disease cases, Trypanosomiasis, anapalsmosis, sheep/goat pox, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and camel enterotoxaemia. Mortalities of livestock was reported but of limited numbers.

2.1.3 Milk Production

- Milk production reduced from 23litres from previous month to 20 litres due to drying of most lactating, drought stress from poor forage and long trekking distances. Households are dependent on powdered milk purchased from the market. The current price of a 750ml bottle of milk is kshs.75

2.2 CROP PRODUCTION

2.1.1 Crop production activities along river Tana.

Some of the farms started preparing land for both annual and perennial crops planting during the long rains season as the cost of fuel for the generators are high.

2.1.2 Pests and Crop Diseases

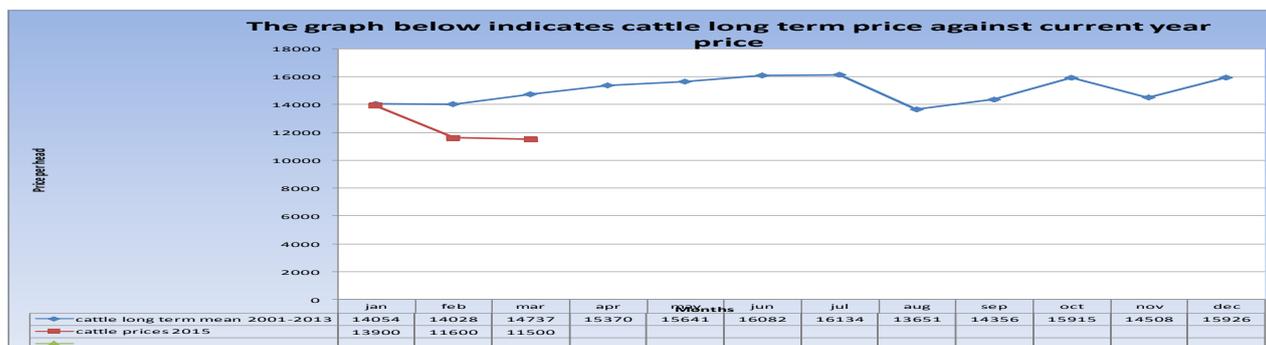
- Banana leaf spot and tomato leaf minor were still reported in some farms.

3.0 ACCESS TO FOOD

3.1 Livestock Marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices

- Cattle prices continue to decrease and the price for the month of March was kshs. 11500. Most of the cattle was outside the county and the few presented for sale had poor body condition and markets were depressed thus traders had low demand for cattle. The price is below the long term for the month of kshs.14737 and this gives an indication of poor cattle prices were.



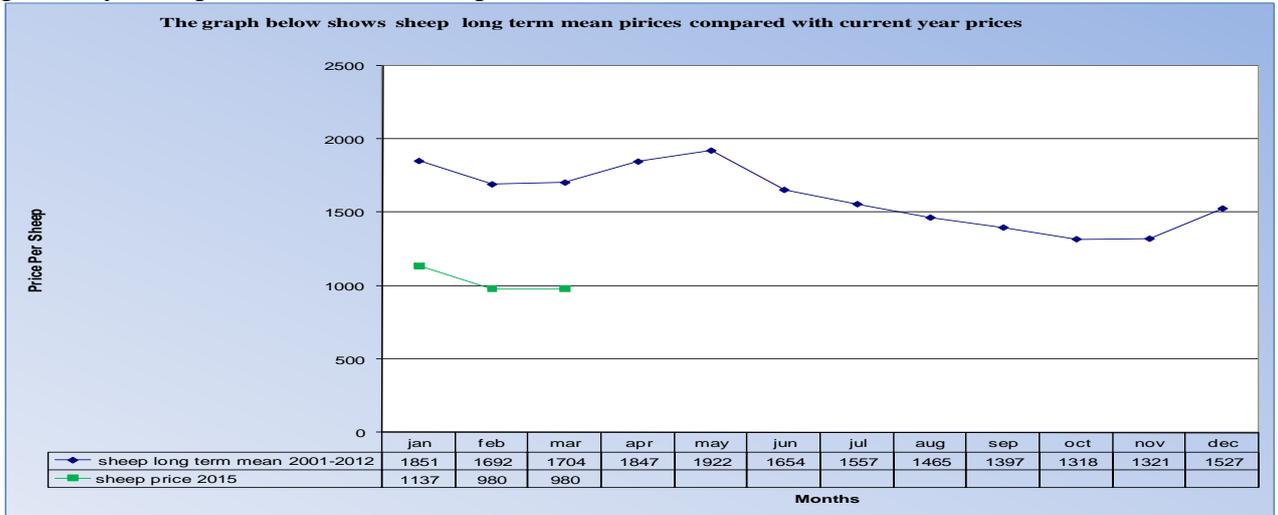
3.1.2 Goats Prices.

- Goat prices continue to decrease when compared with the previous months. The current price recorded was kshs. 2128 and was below the long term mean for the month of kshs. 2543. The declining trend was due to poor body condition, low demand from traders and depressed markets.
- The graph below explains trends in goat's price.



3.1.3 Sheep Prices.

- Sheep prices remained stable but were poor when compared with long mean for the month of kshs.1704. sheep were the first to be affected by drought as shortage of pasture set in as they are grazers and their body deteriorates faster than other livestock species. Traders generally have poor demand for sheep.

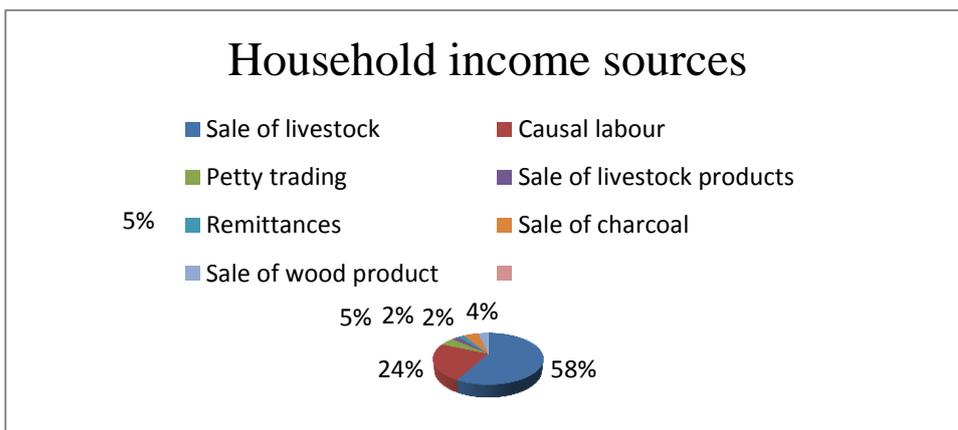


3.2 Livestock sale

- Generally the number of livestock presented for sale reduced as some of the markets were closed and other depressed, livestock trekking to the markets was difficult due to their poor body condition.

3.3 Income sources

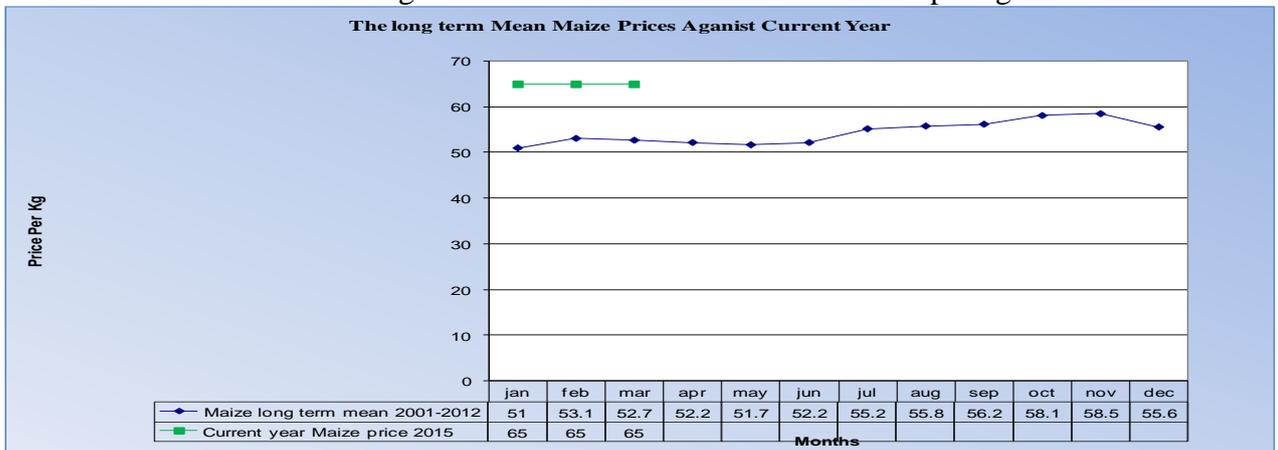
- Livestock sale was the main sources for pastoralist income at slightly decreasing rate compared to other sources and other sources such as casual labour, charcoal burning and sale of wood product increased.
- The chart below indicates the different income sources for households and the percentage score for each income sources.



3.2 PURCHASE PRICE OF FOOD COMMODITIES.

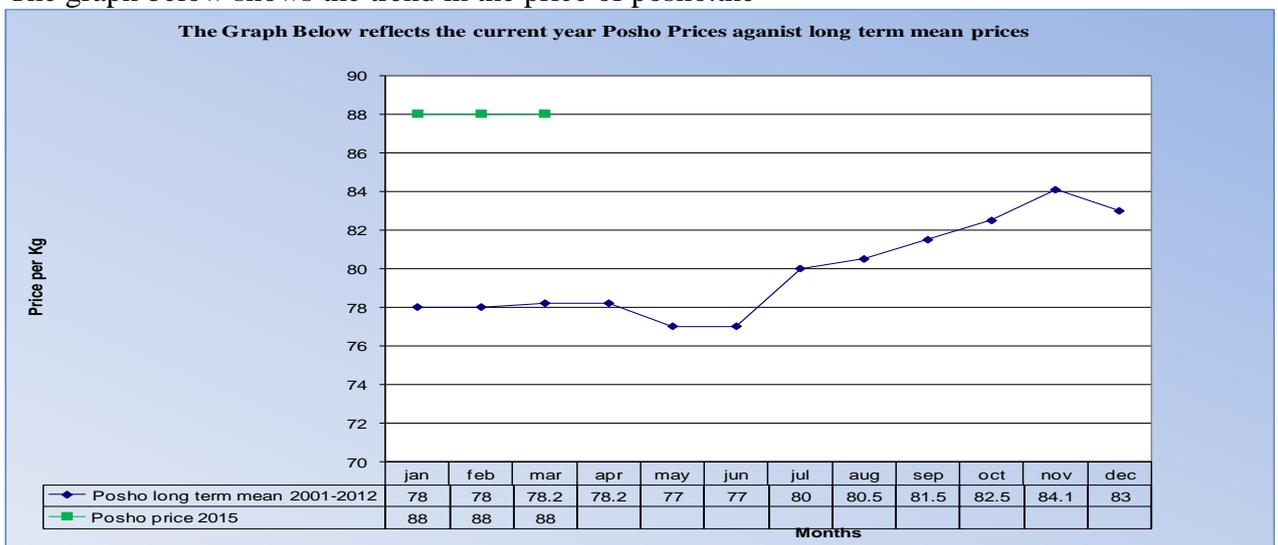
3.2.1 Maize price

- The price of maize was high but stable due to its scarcity in the local markets, pastoralist use maize as feed supplement for livestock during drought period but this time it was substituted by cheaper and available sorghum. The price remained at kshs. 65 and was above the long term mean for the month of Kshs. 52.7 per kg.



3.2.2 Posho (locally milled and Jogoo)

- The price of posho continues to be high but stable as the parent product (maize) price was also high but stable. The current price remained at Kshs. 88 per kg and is above the long term mean of kshs.78.2 per kg. Other substitute foods (rice and pasta) which are cheaper were used by the pastoralist.
- The graph below shows the trend in the price of posho. the



3.3.3 PURCHASE PRICE OF OTHER FOOD COMMODITIES

- Prices of sugar and rice which are commonly used by the communities are high due to poor road networks increasing the cost of transportation and the credit purchases of goods which makes shops close down.

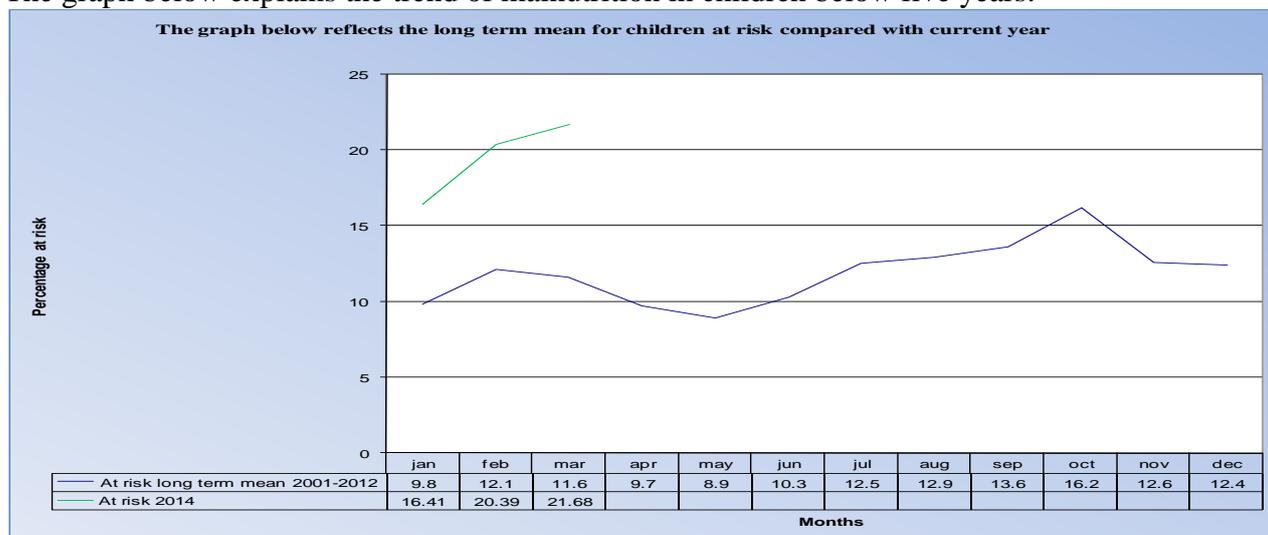
3.2.4 FOOD SECURITY IMPLICATION

- Poor and unfavourable livestock prices leading to low terms of trade, increasing rates of at risk to malnutrition ,high cost of essential food commodities, continuous presence of human and livestock diseases and low price farm produce reflects negatively on food security situation.

4.0 HUMAN WELFARE INDICATORS

4.1 Nutritional Status

- The rate of children at risk to malnutrition increased from 20.39% to 21.68%. The current rate is higher than the long term average for the month of 11.6%. This was attributed to the poor performance of the short rains season that had negative impact on livestock production (milk and meat) and general food security thus emergence of child related illness.
- The graph below explains the trend of malnutrition in children below five years.



4.2 HUMAN HEALTH

The four most common diseases reported from the sentinel sites and the health facilities were malaria, upper respiratory tract infection, and diarrhoea and urinary tract infections. Chicken pox was reported in areas of balambala Sub County.

4.3 FLAGGED AREAS (AFFECTED AREAS)

Jarajara , kokar, diiso, Libahlow and koreale

5.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES

5.1 (NON-FOOD)

- Water trucking by county government and national drought management authority in areas with acute water shortages.
- Peace and conflict resolution activities in affected sub counties of Dadaab, Lagdera, Balambala and Fafi supported by national drought management authority.
- Coordination of drought intervention activities through regular county steering group meetings.
- Livestock vaccination and treatments jointly supported by county government and national drought management authority.
- Desilting of water pans

- Bursaries for needy student provided by county government.

5.2 FOOD AID

- General food distribution and food for asset continued targeting 133,400, beneficiaries.
- School meals programme provided by W.F.P targeting 42,049 children continued during the month.
- Supplementary feeding targeting 2,200 children under five, pregnant and lactating mother continued.

5.3 COPING STRATEGY

- Feeding lactating livestock at household level.
- Remittances ,gifts and donation from friends
- Increased reliance on charcoal burning and sale of other wood materials.
- Rural urban migration
- Search for Casual labour in main towns
- Borrowing and credit facilities.
- Reduced meal size and number of meals.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS TO DISTRICT STEERING GROUP AND KENYA FOOD SECURITY STEERING GROUP.

- Provide farmers with seeds for planting during the long rains season.
- Establish pasture production schemes in the farms along river Tana.
- Support peace and conflict resolution between the communities of Garissa and Isiolo counties.
- Support vaccination and mass treatment of livestock across the county for all species.
- Provide cash relief programme for poor and affected households till full recovery from the drought is realised .
- Support water users association with fuel subsidy in order for them to subsidise water charges for both livestock and households.
- Upscale food aid to cater for household with acute food shortage.
- Conduct integrated health outreach programme as a recovery mechanism for the drought effects on children and mothers (lactating and pregnant)
- Provide bursaries to needy student in secondary schools.
- Continue water trucking till when the rains can support the water need of pastoral households.