



# National Drought Management Authority

IJARA SUB-COUNTY – GARISSA COUNTY

## EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR MARCH 2015

MARCH EW PHASE



**ALERT**

### Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

#### Biophysical Indicators

- The long rain season started in the fourth week of March 2015 in the entire Sub County
- Most of the water pans/dams and natural ponds are filled up with substantial volume of water that was anticipated to last for three months. The state of the water sources was normal and recorded at 5 which was within the normal range of 4-5
- The vegetation condition index VCI-3month was 31.3 which was below the normal range of 35-50

#### Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

- The satellite Livestock are camped in the dry grazing zone in Boni forest and only few milking herds and shorts were within the settlement areas/sentinel sites
- The livestock body condition was scored at 3 which was below the normal range of 4-5.
- Milk Production was recorded at 29.3 litres which was within the normal range of 13.33-36.01
- Milk consumption was at 24.3 litres which was above the normal range of 9.0- 21.8
- Percentage of children at risk of malnutrition based on MUAC below 135mm was 15.6% which was within the (threshold ) the normal ranges of 15.64-21.60
- The average prices of all species of livestock had registered a decrease when compared with previous month.

### Early Warning Phase Classification

LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TRENDS
PASTORAL	ALERT	IMPRROVING ENING
AGROPASTORAL	ALERT	IMPRROVING ENING
PERI URBAN	ALERT	IMPRROVING ENING
SUB-COUNTY	ALERT	IMPRROVING ENING

Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal ranges
% of average rainfall (January)	0	
VCI-3month	31.32	35-50
State of Water Sources	5	4-5

Production indicators	Value	Normal ranges
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock Body Conditions	3	4-5
Milk Production	29.3	13.33-36.01
Livestock deaths (for drought)	No death	No death
Crops area planted (%)	0	% of LTA

Access Indicators	Value	Normal ranges
Terms of Trade (ToT)	0.46	0.26-0.76
Milk Consumption	24.3	9.0 -21.80
Water for Households	Normal	Normal

Utilization indicators	Value	Normal ranges
MUAC	15.6	15.64 -21.60
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	1.24	1.02 -1.50

Current Drought Risk

Low

✓ Medium

High

## 1.0 ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS (STABILITY)

### 1.1 Rainfall

- The long rainfall season started in the fourth week of March 2015 in the entire Sub county .The onset of the rain season was timely when compared with a normal season in the same period.
- Hulugho and Sangailu pastoralist ;and Abalatiro Agro pastoralist livelihoods had received normal rainfall while the northern wet grazing areas of Ijara and Masalani; and Bodhai Agro pastoral livelihoods had received below average rainfall

#### Distribution: (Temporal and Spatial distribution)

	Sentinel Sites/location	Day when LR season started	Days which it Rained as from 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2015 (Lon Rains Season )
1	Masalani Peri-urban	21 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	,21 <sup>st</sup> 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2015
2	Galmagalla(Khoranhidi)	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	25 <sup>th</sup> 27 <sup>th</sup> ,28 <sup>th</sup> and 29 <sup>th</sup> March2015
3	Handaro	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	25 <sup>th</sup> 27 <sup>th</sup> ,28 <sup>th</sup> and 29 <sup>th</sup> March2015
4	Sangailu	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	25 <sup>th</sup> 27 <sup>th</sup> ,28 <sup>th</sup> and 29 <sup>th</sup> March2015
5	Abalatiro	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	25 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2015
6	Ijara	21 <sup>st</sup> March 2015	22 <sup>rd</sup> ,24 <sup>th</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup> 28 <sup>th</sup> and 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015
7	Hara	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	25 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2015
8	Bodhai	21 <sup>st</sup> March 2015	22 <sup>rd</sup> ,24 <sup>th</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup> 28 <sup>th</sup> and 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015

- Generally the rains were unevenly distributed in time and space across the Sub County
- The two days rainfall experienced in Abalatiro Agro pastoralist livelihood had caused flash floods that have led to destruction of structures such as toilet, semi-permanent houses etc

### 1.2 Condition of Natural Vegetation and Pasture.

- The quality and quantity of pasture and browse was fair but below normal when compared with the same period in a normal year.
- The pasture and browse condition had reduced in the first three weeks of the month as evident from the VCI for March which recorded 31.2 compared to 38.72 recorded for February 2015. The VCI for this reporting month is below the normal of 35 to 50 but expected improve following the long rains season received

#### 1.3.1 Distance to Grazing Areas

- The average distance to grazing areas had increased from 8.1km to 9.16km. The increased distance to grazing field was as a result of worsening dry spell that lead to diminished caused pasture and browse.
- The distance to grazing field for Agro pastoralist was 8.8km while pastoralist livelihood was 9.3km. However, following the long rainfall received in the fourth week of the month under review the condition of pasture and browse is projected to improve.

### **1.3 Water Sources and Availability**

- The main water sources for the month under review in all the livelihoods were pans/dams, river and natural ponds. It is important to note that since the long rainfall started in the fourth week of March 2015 most of the water sources were filled up with substantial volumes of water that are expected to last for three months .
- The quality and quantity of water in all livelihoods have also improved
- The water situation was normal and rated 5 which was within the normal range of 4-5
- There was no any constraints in accessing the water sources

#### **1.3.1 Average distance (KMs) to water sources**

- The average distance from households to water sources has increased from 1.63km to 1.95 km. However, the situation improved in all the livelihoods following the rainfall received in the last week of the month where all the water sources currently contain substantial volume of water.

### **1.4 Emerging issues**

#### **1.4.1 Conflicts/ insecurity/human displacement**

- There is insecurity along the Kenya-Somalia border and Bodhai in Boni forest. The insecurity in Boni forest has limited the movement of the locals who mainly depend on bush product such as honey harvesting as a source of livelihood.
- Wildlife poaching along the riverine and Gababa area by Tana River Community is a concern that needs to be addressed by Kenya wildlife service

#### **1.4.2 Migration**

- The satellite livestock are still camped in Witu and Dharim areas in Boni forest. There was no in and out migration of livestock reported in the month under review

### **1.5 Implication on food security**

Emerging issues such as insecurity and conflict/disputes over resource utilization have negative impact on food security because most of the traders avoid taking food commodities to Bodhai because of insecurity

## **2.0. RURAL ECONOMY INDICATORS (FOOD AVAILABILITY)**

### **2.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION**

#### **2.1.1 Livestock body condition**

- Livestock body condition for all species was rated fair in pastoralist and agro pastoralist livelihoods. It was observed that the body condition continued to deteriorate as the dry spell worsened when compared with preceding month.
- The body condition was recorded at 3 which indicated thin fore ribs visible hence alert and worsening situation

### **2.1.2 Livestock diseases.**

- Livestock diseases such as Trypanosomiasis, CCPP and CBPP are endemic in all the livelihoods in the Sub County. The department of veterinary services has undertaken mass vaccination and treatment against diseases such as PPR, CCPP, CBPP, intestinal worms infestation etc .
- There was no outbreak of livestock diseases reported in the month under review

### **2.1.3 Milk Production.**

- The average milk production per household was 29.3 litres which was within the normal range of 13.33 to 36.01 litres. But the production level had dropped when compared with previous month
- The decreased milk production was as result of worsening dry spell that had negative impact on pasture and browse that favour the livestock body condition and production.
- The observed trend had positive impact on food security

## **3.1 Livestock Prices**

### **3.1.1 Livestock Terms of Trade**

- Generally the terms of trade for the people in the entire Sub county was favourable as they could access 1kg of maize at ksh 50.6 against 1kg of goats at ksh126.7. The terms of trade was 0.46 which was within the normal range of 0.26-076

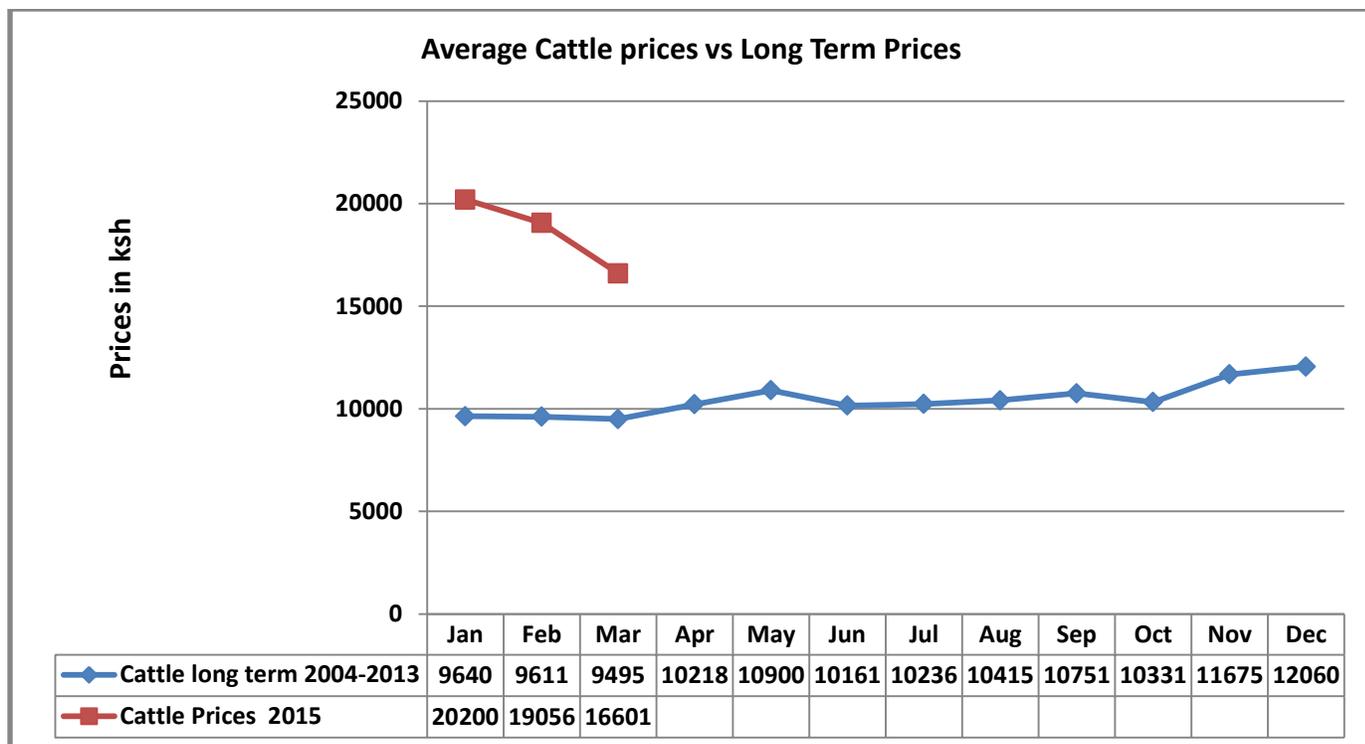
## **4.0 ACCESS TO FOOD**

### **4.1. Livestock marketing**

- Generally the average livestock prices for all species had registered a decrease in the month under review when compared with the preceding month of February 2015. The down ward trend was as a result of the effect of the worsening dry spell that led to inadequate pasture and browse beside lack of proper livestock marketing and prospective buyers

#### **4.1.1 Cattle prices**

- The average prices of cattle had decreased from Ksh 19,056 in February to ksh 16,601 in this reporting Month.
- The highest cattle price was recorded in Handaro Pastoralist livelihood zone at Ksh.24,900 while Ijara pastoralist livelihood zone recorded the lowest price at Ksh 10,000. The decreased livestock prices was as a result of poor marketing and the worsening dry spell , endemic livestock diseases and lack of livestock market in the Sub County .

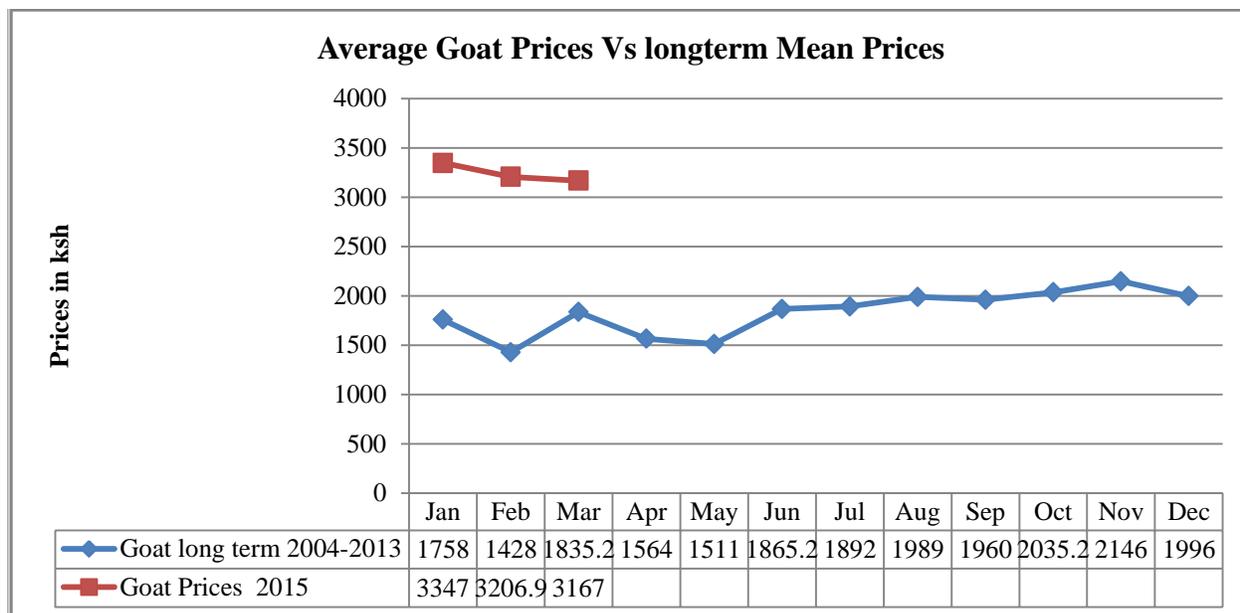


**N=240**

- The price recorded in the month was much higher than ksh9495 recorded for the same period of the reference year (2004-2013)
- The trend had positive impact on food security since the cattle prices were above the long term average

#### **4.1.2 Goat prices**

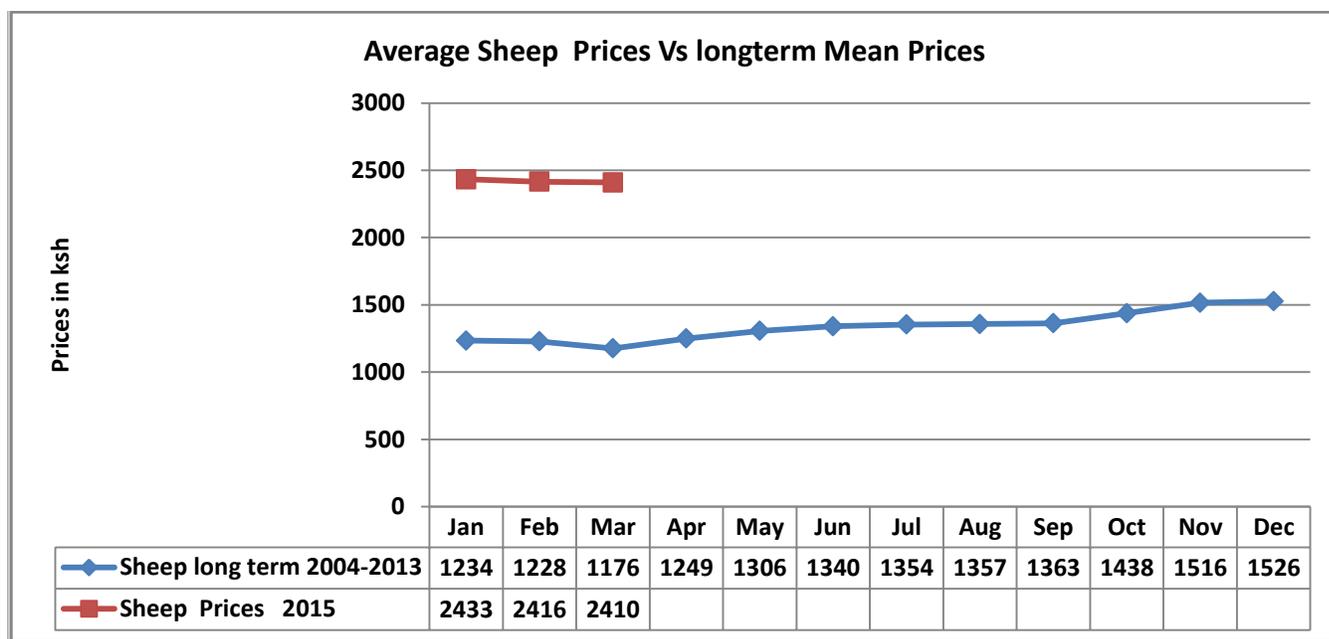
- The average prices of goats had decreased from Ksh 3206.9 to ksh 3167 in the month under review. The decreased price was as a result of effect of worsening dry spell on livestock body condition and lack of marketing in the Sub County
- The highest prices were recorded in Abalatiro Agro pastoralist livelihood zone at Ksh 4600 while Ijara pastoralist livelihood zone recorded the lowest price level at Ksh 2375
- The average price was much higher than Ksh1835.2 recorded for the same period of the reference year (2004-2013).
- This trend had positive impact on the household food security since the current goat prices is higher than long term average and terms of trade for pastoralist is favourable as they could buy 1 kg of maize at ksh 50.6 against 1kg of goat meat at ksh 126.7



**N=240**

#### 4.1.3 Sheep prices.

- The average sheep prices had decreased from ksh 2416 to ksh 2410 in this reporting month of March 2015.
- The highest sheep prices was recorded in Bodhai Agro pastoralist livelihood zone at ksh 3000 while Khoranhidi (Galmagalla) pastoralist livelihood zone recorded the lowest price at ksh 2125
- The price was higher than the same period of the reference year (2004-2013) recorded at ksh 1176
- The trend had positive impact on food security



N=240

## 5.2 Livestock sales

The livestock sales rate for cattle and Goats had increased while a decrease was noted for goats in the month under review. In these regard the sale rate for cattle and sheep increased from 1.2% to 1.38% and 0.97% to 2.2% respectively. In addition the sales rate for goats decreased from 1.93% to 1.1%. The reason for the increased sales rate for cattle and sheep was that the community depended more on these species than goats hence many animals presented to the market for sale.

## 5.3 Milk consumption

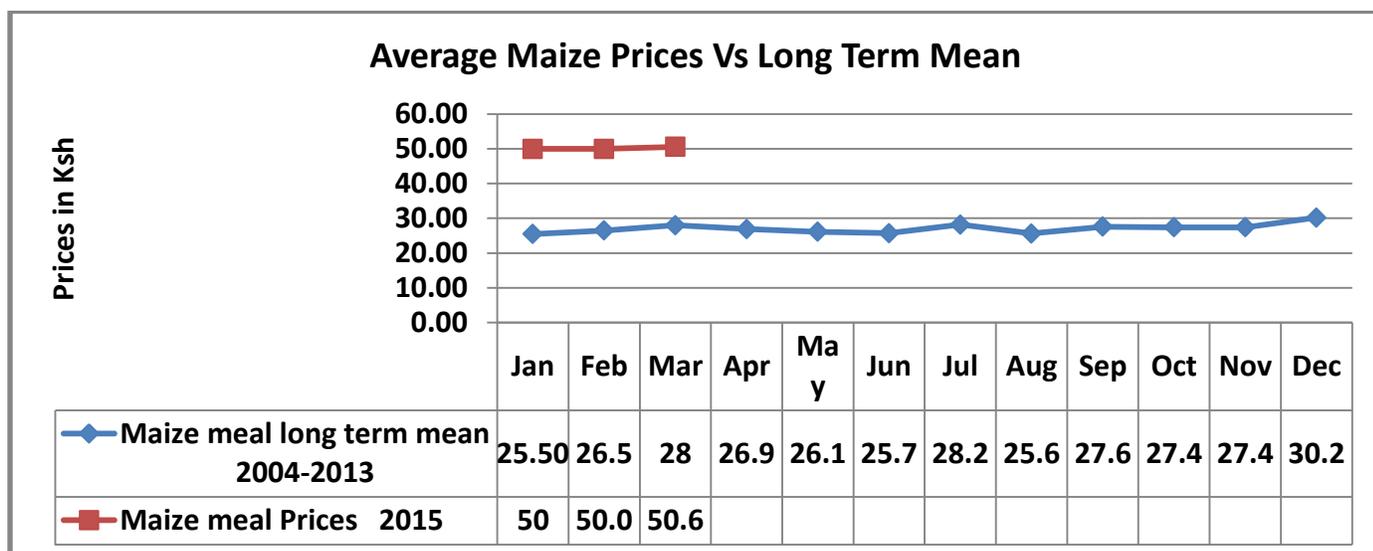
- The average households milk consumption had decreased from 30 litres to 24.3 litres in the month under review. The decreased milk consumption was attributed low milk production because of inadequate pasture and browse following the worsening dry spell.

## 5.4 Food prices

- Generally the average food prices have increased in the month under review hence above the long term of 2004 to 2013

### 5.4.1 Maize

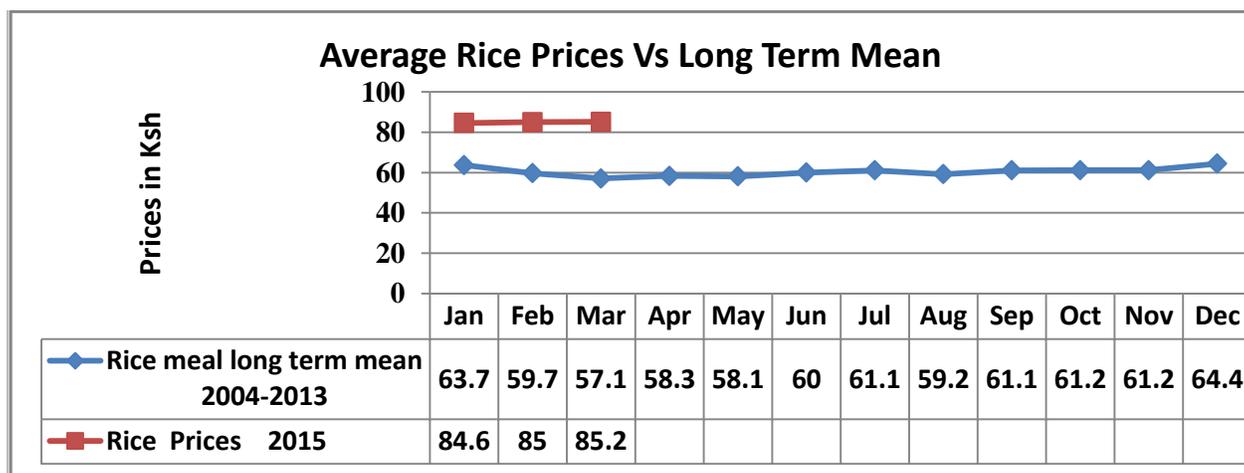
- The average price of 1 kg of maize slightly increased from ksh 50 in February 2015 to ksh 50.6 in the month under review. Khoranhidi (Galmagalla) pastoralist livelihood recorded the highest price at ksh 55 while Bodhai Agro-pastoralist livelihood had recorded the lowest price at ksh 45.
- The price was much higher than the long term mean average price of (2004-2013) recorded at Ksh. 28



N=24

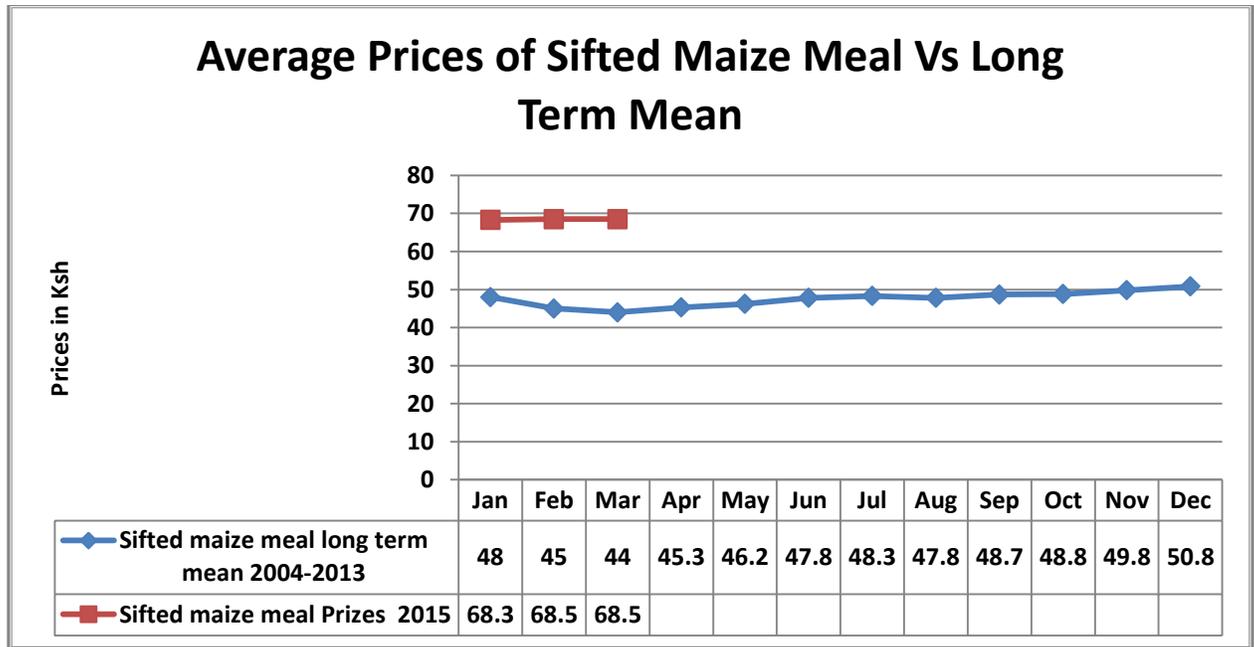
#### 5.4.2 Rice

- The average retail price of 1kg rice had slightly increased from Ksh 85 to 85.2 in the month under review. The highest price of Ksh 100 per kg was recorded in Bodhai Agro-pastoralist livelihood while the lowest price was recorded at Ksh 70 in Masalani peri-urban pastoralist livelihood zone.
- The current average price was much higher than the same period of reference year (2004-2013) recorded at ksh. 57.1



### 5.4.3 Sifted maize meal

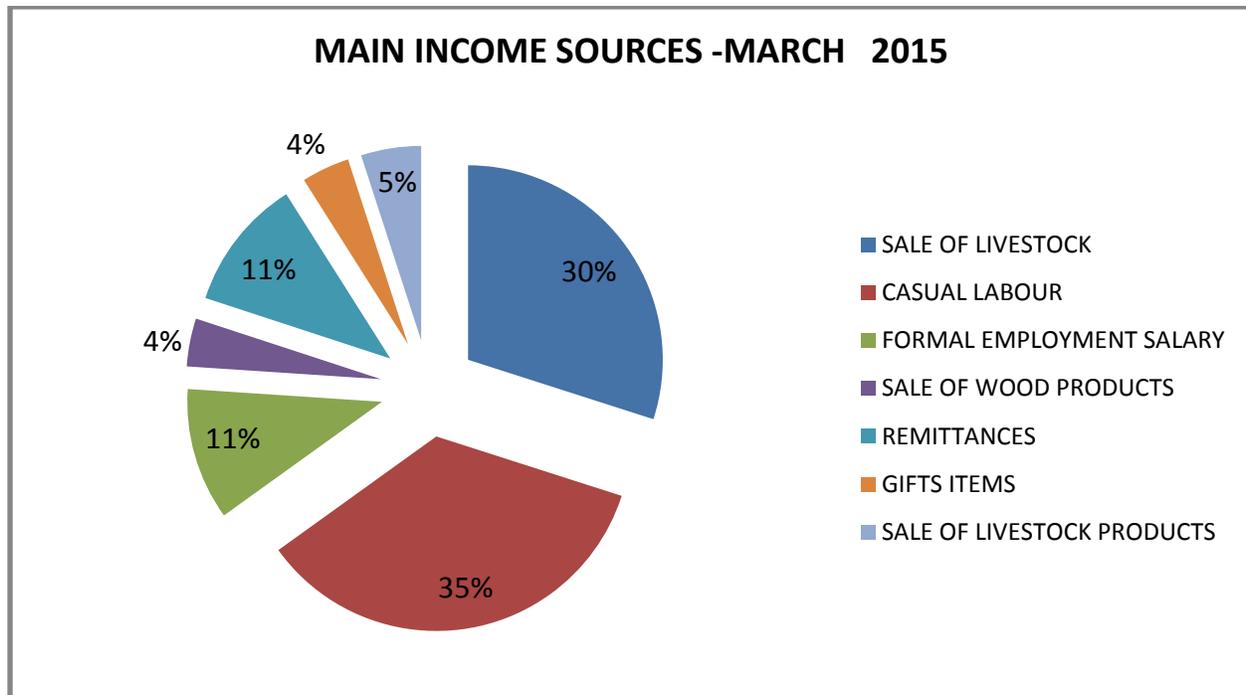
- The average price of 1 kg sifted maize meal remained stable at ksh 68.5 when compared with the preceding month of February 2015. The highest price was recorded in Khoranhidi(Galmagalla) pastoralist livelihood zone at Ksh 80.00 while the lowest price was recorded in Masalani peri-urban and Hara pastoralist livelihood at Ksh 60
- The price was much higher compared to Ksh 44 recorded during the same period of the reference year (2004-2013)



N=24

### 5.5 Income sources

- Major source of income for the households in the month under review were casual labour, livestock sales, formal employment (and self-employment) and remittances.
- The percentage of households who depended on casual labour and livestock sales had increased from 32% to 35% and 29% to 30% respectively
- On the same note the percentage of households that depended on formal employment had decreased from 12% to 11%. Similarly the percentage of household that relied on remittances had decreased from 15% to 11%
- In a nutshell casual labour and livestock sales were the main predominant source of income for the households in the month of March 2015. Major source of income for Agro pastoralist livelihood was casual labour at 27% while pastoralist livelihood depended on livestock sales at 64%. The current income sources of the sampled households are as illustrated in the pie chart below:

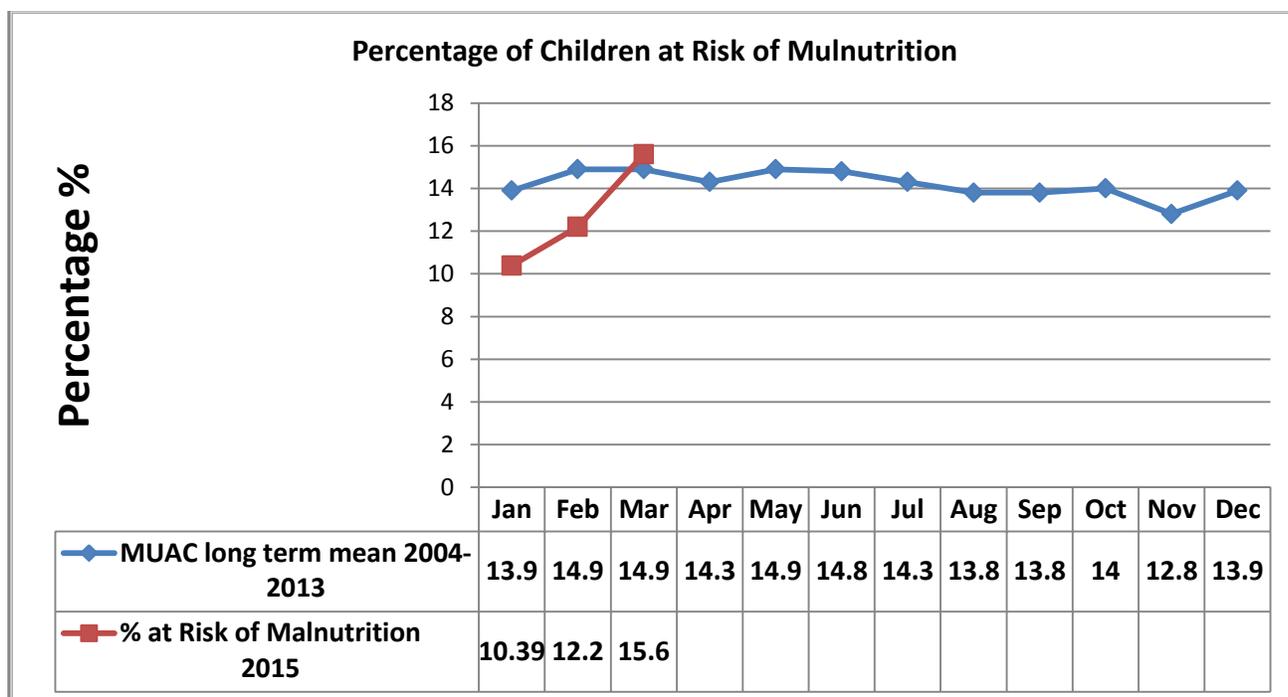


N=240

## 6.0 HUMAN WELFARE INDICATORS (UTILISATION OF FOOD)

### 6.1. Nutrition Status

- The percentage of children under 5 years old considered to be at risk of malnutrition based on the Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurement (<135 mm ) had increased from 12.2% to 15.6% in this reporting month.
- The increased malnutrition level could be attributed to the effect of the worsening dry spell that led to low milk availability for children under five years.
- It was also attributed to upsurge of infectious diseases such diarrheal diseases and malaria .However, the situation raised concern as the current malnutrition level was higher than 14.9% recorded during the same period of the reference year (2004-2013).



N=1,248

## 6.2 Human Health.

- There was no outbreak of communicable diseases reported in the month under review
- The top human diseases reported in most of the health facilities in the sentinel site were malaria ,upper respiratory tract infection, diarrhea and typhoid

## 6.3 FLAGGED AREAS (AFFECTED AREAS)

- Sangailu and Hulugho Pastoralist livelihood
- Bodhai and Boni Agro pastoralist livelihood

## 7.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES AND COPPING STRATEGIES.

### 7.1. Non- food Interventions.

- Mass livestock vaccination and treatment against CCPP,CBPP,PPR,Trypanosomiasis and intestinal worms
- Construction of health facilities
- Construction of water pans , water supply systems by county government

## **7.2 Food Aid**

- School feeding program
- General food aid distribution by the lead Agency (KRS)
- Supplementary feeding Program and therapeutic feeding program (SFP & TFP)

## **7.3. Coping strategies**

Among the coping measures adopted during the month were: -

- Casual labour
- Migration of livestock
- Remittance
- Sale of livestock
- Milk sales

## **7.4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **7.4.1 Livestock diseases**

- Tsetse fly control measures should be instituted
- Provision of subsidized veterinary drugs to pastoralists to cushion livestock farmers from the cost the medicine
- Intensify vaccination and treatment of livestock.
- Disease surveillance should be intensified by veterinary department and other stakeholders

### **7.4.2 Human health**

- Nutritional survey should be undertake in order to establish the causes of increased malnutrition rates
- Provision of water treatment chemicals to household in order to prevent outbreak of water related diseases
- Provision of Supplementary feeding program and therapeutic feeding program meals to children under five years, lactating and antenatal mothers
- Strengthen outreach health services
- Improve sanitation standard by constructing pit-latrines and intensifying community led total sanitation

### **7.4.3 OTHERS**

- Revival of Kotile livestock marketing in order to improve livestock marketing system
- Training of communities on Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) to enhance drought preparedness and drought contingency plans
- Capacity building of water users association
- Improve range management by introducing traditional grazing pattern.