

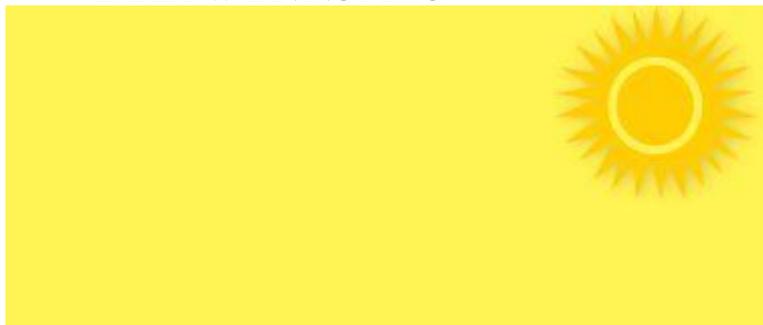


National Drought Management Authority MANDERA COUNTY

DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR JANUARY 2015

JANUARY EW PHASE

EARLY WARNING FLAG



Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- No rainfall was received during the month of January
- The 3-monthly Vegetation Condition index for the County was 29.04 indicating moderate drought except Banissa Sub County that was within the normal range with a VCI of 36.27.
- Over 30% of the surface water sources had dried up and congestion had been witnessed around strategic boreholes. The County Government was trucking water to over 60 centres Countywide under water stress.
- All the biophysical indicators were outside the expected normal range.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

- Three of the production indicators were outside the normal ranges. The access indicators were also fluctuating outside the normal ranges.
- Livestock migration patterns remained normal with livestock from south moving to west, Ethiopia and Wajir border in search of pasture.
- Pasture and browse was depleted in Mandera South and North. However, there were pockets of the same in interior parts (Banissa) though dried up. The body condition of animals was fair except cattle whose condition was poor. The prices of livestock had decreased due to the deteriorating body condition.
- The utilization indicators remained within normal ranges. However, cases of malnutrition were noted to be on the increase.

Early Warning Phase Classification

LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TRENDS
AGRO PASTORAL	NORMAL	Worsening
PASTORAL ALL SPECIES	ALERT	Worsening
IRRIGATED	ALERT	Worsening

Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal ranges
% of average rainfall (July -Dec)	39.46	80-120
VCI-3month	29.04	35-50
State of Water Sources	3	5

Production indicators	Value	Normal ranges
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock Body Conditions	4	5
Milk Production	15.9	>20.1
Livestock deaths (for drought)	No deaths reported	No deaths reported
Crops area planted (%)	46%	% of LTA

Access Indicators	Value	Normal ranges
Terms of Trade (ToT)	40.42	>46.43
Milk Consumption	10.30	>15.36
Water for Households	4	5

Utilization indicators	Value	Normal ranges
MUAC	18.3	<22.1
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	1.03	1.50 – 1.02

Current Drought Risk

Low

Medium

High

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All the indicators are projected to lie outside the normal range within the next two months especially if there will be no early onset of the long rains hence the drought risk is high.

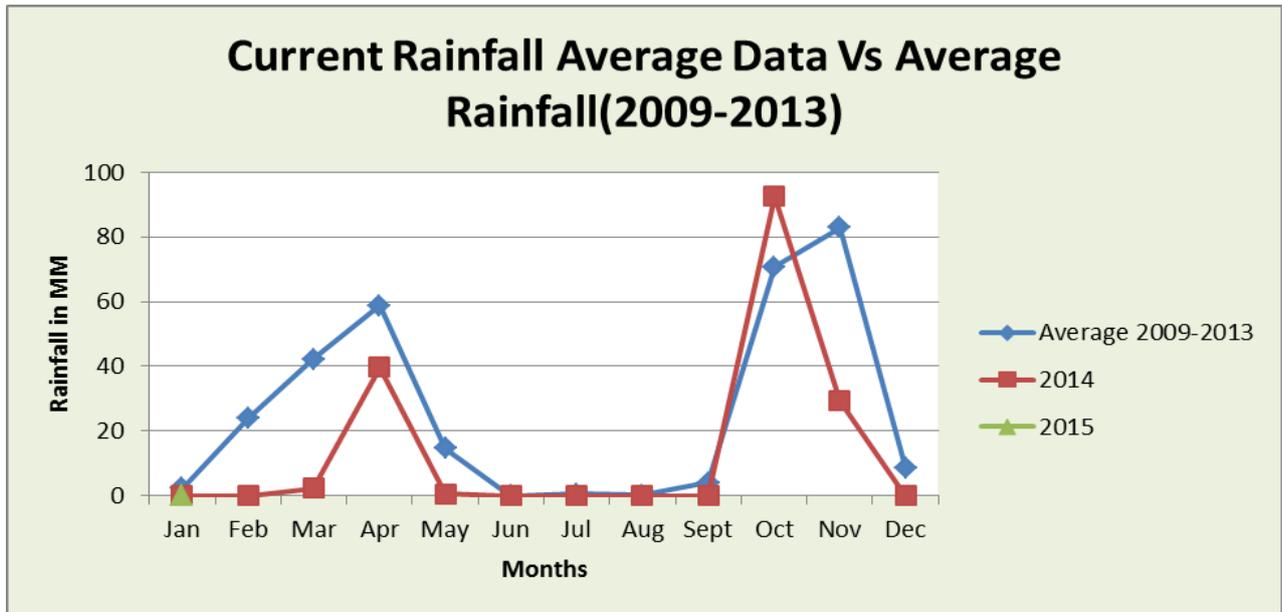
A. BIO-PHYSICAL INDICATORS

1. MEASURING DROUGHT HAZARD

1.1 METEOROLOGICAL DROUGHT

1.1.1 Actual Rainfall

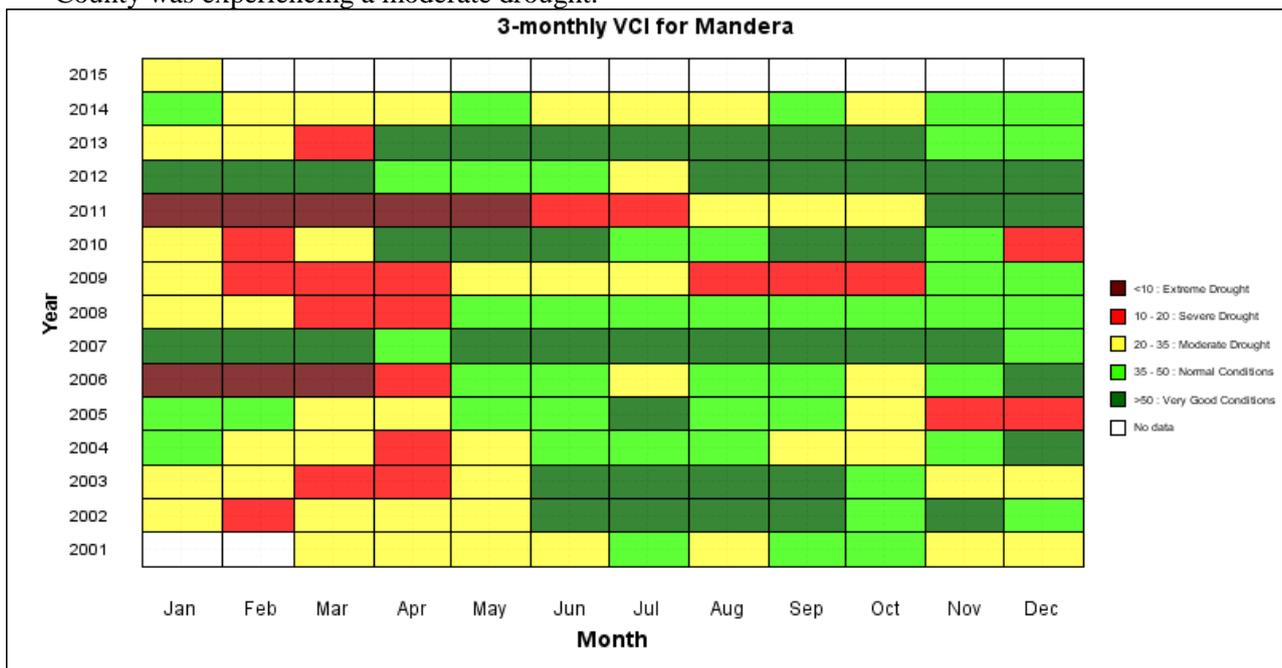
- The January dry spell persisted with no rainfall being received throughout the County, that being a normal case within the calendar year of the County.
- Below is a graphical representation of the actual monthly rainfall as recorded by the mandera meteorological station.



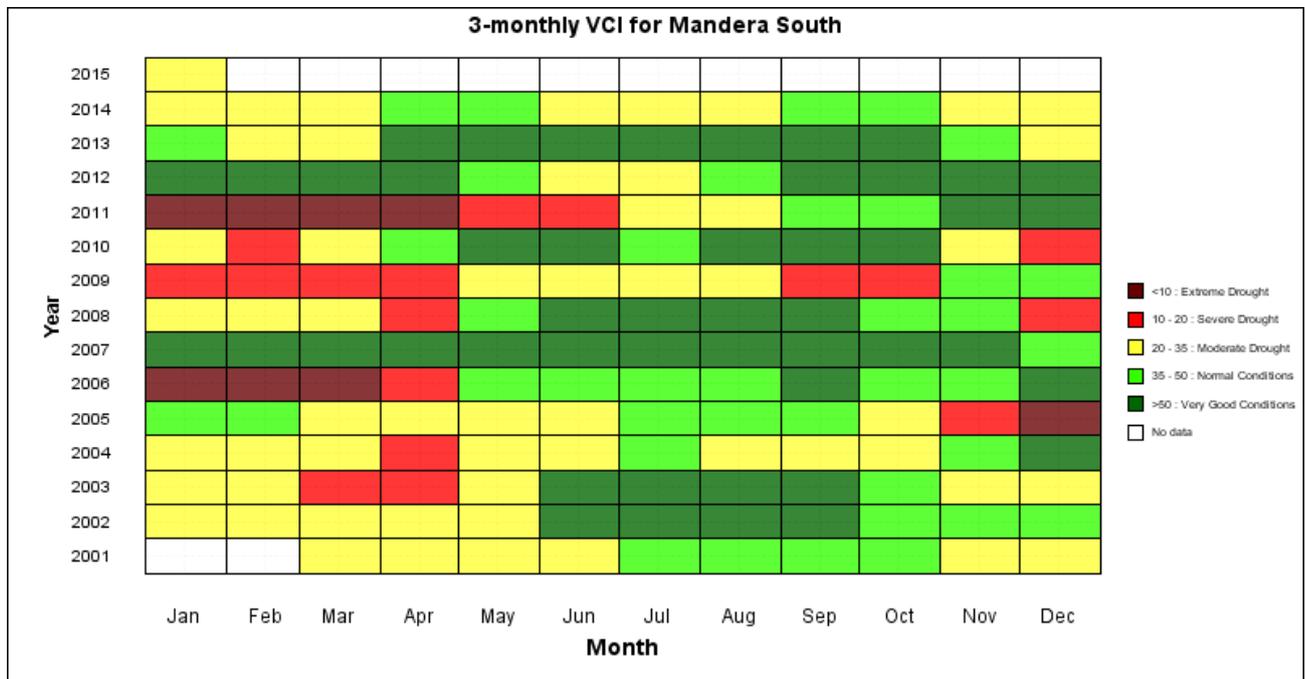
1.2 AGRICULTURAL DROUGHT

1.2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION INDEX (VCI)

- The 3-monthly Vegetation condition index for the County as at January was 29.04 indicating that the County was experiencing a moderate drought.



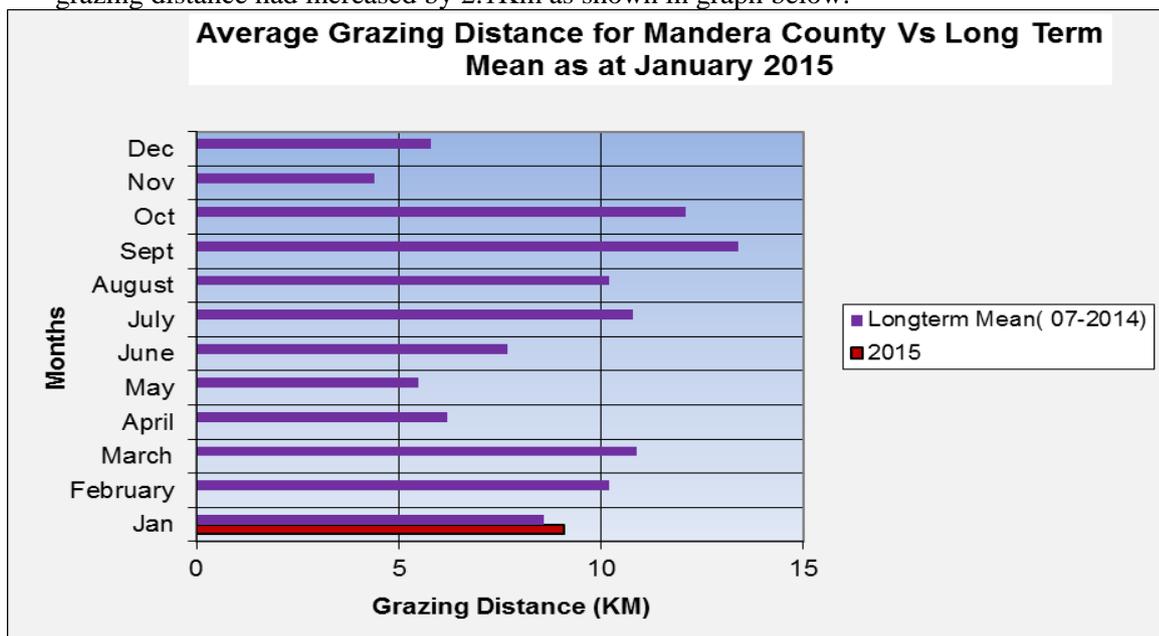
- All the sub counties are experiencing a moderate drought except Banissa that still exhibits normal conditions as illustrated below.
- Mandera South is worst hit with a VCI of 22.48 almost falling into the severe drought category followed by Mandera North with a VCI of 28.3



Field observation

1.2.2 Pasture and Browse Conditions

- Pasture and browse in the entire County was fair though dried up, however, it's good in the interior parts of the County such as Banissa that had received sufficient rains. The situation is different in Mandera South and North whose pasture had depleted by December 2014 and the available one in the other sub counties is projected to last for two weeks.
- The average distance to grazing areas from the main source of water was 9.1Km while that of households access to water was 6.8Km, and when compared to the month of December, the average grazing distance had increased by 2.1Km as shown in graph below.



1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Water Sources

- The main water sources for the larger County livelihood zones were boreholes, River (Daua), shallow wells, water trucking and earth pans.
- The County Government was trucking water to over sixty (60) centres including (West-17, East-10, South-20, Banissa-12, Lafey-2, and North-6 centres respectively) during the month under review.
- During the month, congestion in all the strategic water boreholes was witnessed with an average waiting time of 2-4hrs.
- Over 30% of the surface water sources have dried up with frequent borehole breakdowns being reported.

1.4 Emerging Issues

1.4.1 Security issues.

- No insecurity incidences had been reported in the entire County during the month under review. Peace building initiatives by the National & County Government in conjunction with NDMA and other actors were on-going.
- The inter clan conflict had come to an end.

1.4 .2 Migration

- Migration of livestock from Mandera South to Mandera West, Wajir border, Ethiopia and Somalia had been witnessed during the month under review.

1.5 Implication on food security.

- The dwindling water levels coupled with the rapid depleting of pasture in critical parts of the County was likely to have a negative impact on food security of most households. The situation was likely to be worsened by the poor harvest.

2. RURAL ECONOMY INDICATORS (FOOD AVAILABILITY)

2.1 livestock production

- The main livestock reared by the pastoralist are camel, cattle, goats and sheep. Camel & cattle being long term assets while shoats are short term assets/current assets.

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

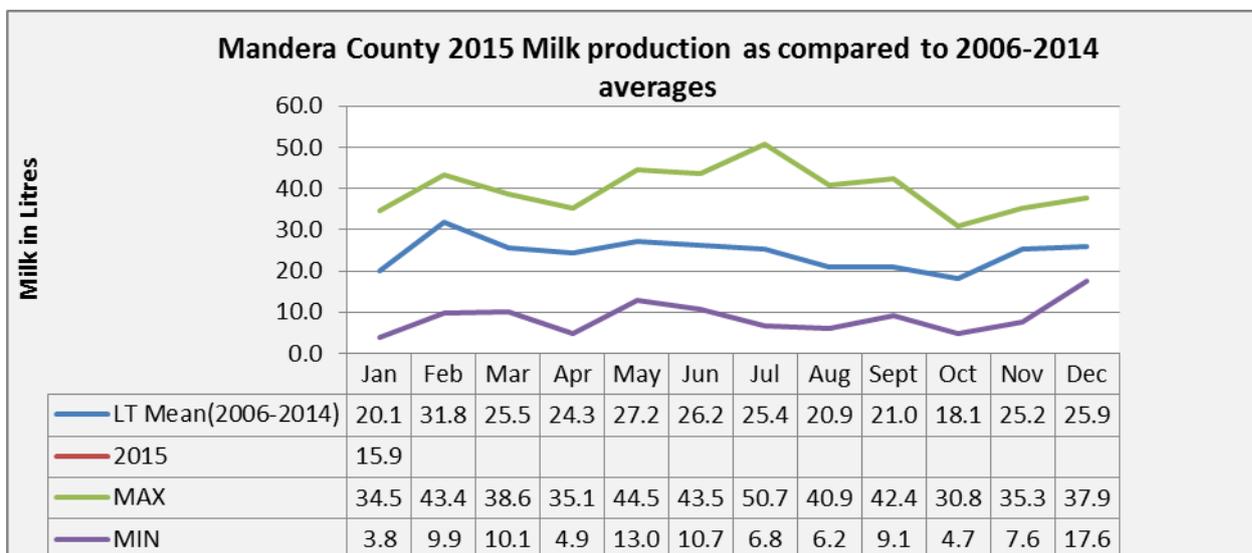
- The livestock body condition for Camel was still good, that of shoats was fair while that of cattle poor during the month under review.

2.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- There were no major disease outbreaks reported during the month. However, cases of black quarter and mysterious camel disease had been reported.
- Death of goats in Lafey and Arabia due to endemic diseases of PPR and CCPP had been witnessed.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk production had decreased in volume when compared to the previous month (fell from 30litres to 15.9 litres on average) and that was majorly due to dwindling pasture and browse quantities in most parts of the County precipitating livestock to move into interior parts and others cross the border into Ethiopia. The graph below illustrates the trend in terms of milk production.



2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timelines and status of crop production.

- In the Irrigated cropping zone: most of the farms had been planted and maize crop was slightly above knee height stage. However, the effects of the floods still remain evident.
- In Agro pastoral zone: Crop failure had been witnessed due to the near normal rains received that were again poorly distributed.

2.2.2 Pest and diseases

- No pest and disease had been reported in the entire county during the month under review.

2.2.3 Harvest

- No significant harvest had been witnessed in the entire livelihood zones except along the river line where slight production was realised during the month under review.

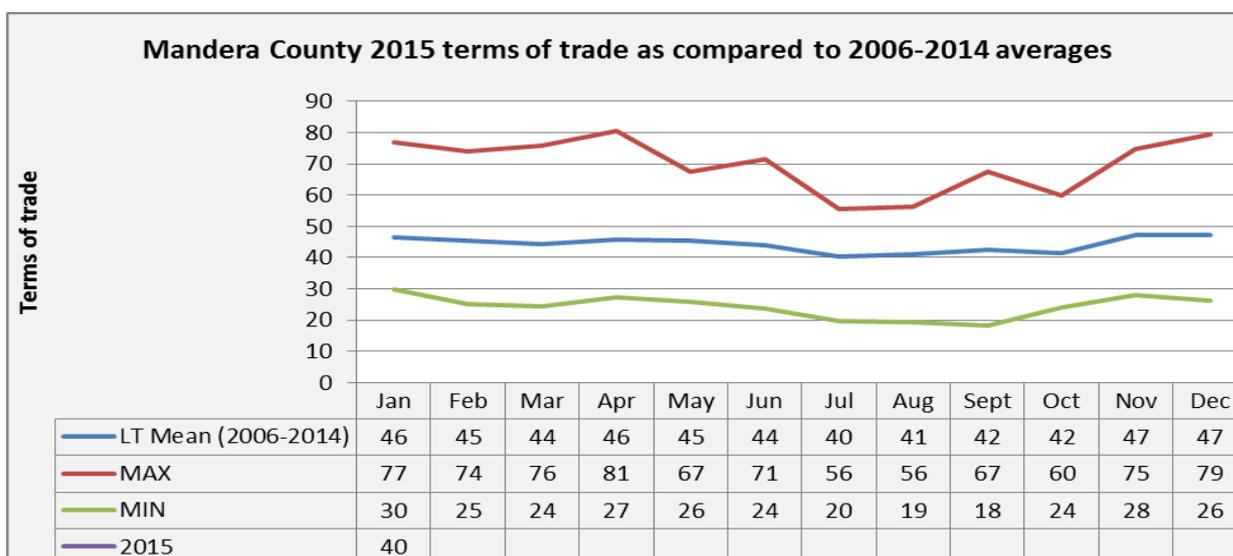
2.2.4 Implications on food security

- The development of a moderate drought within the county was likely to strain further output from livestock and crop production and that would have a knock effect on food security.

3. ACCESS TO FOOD

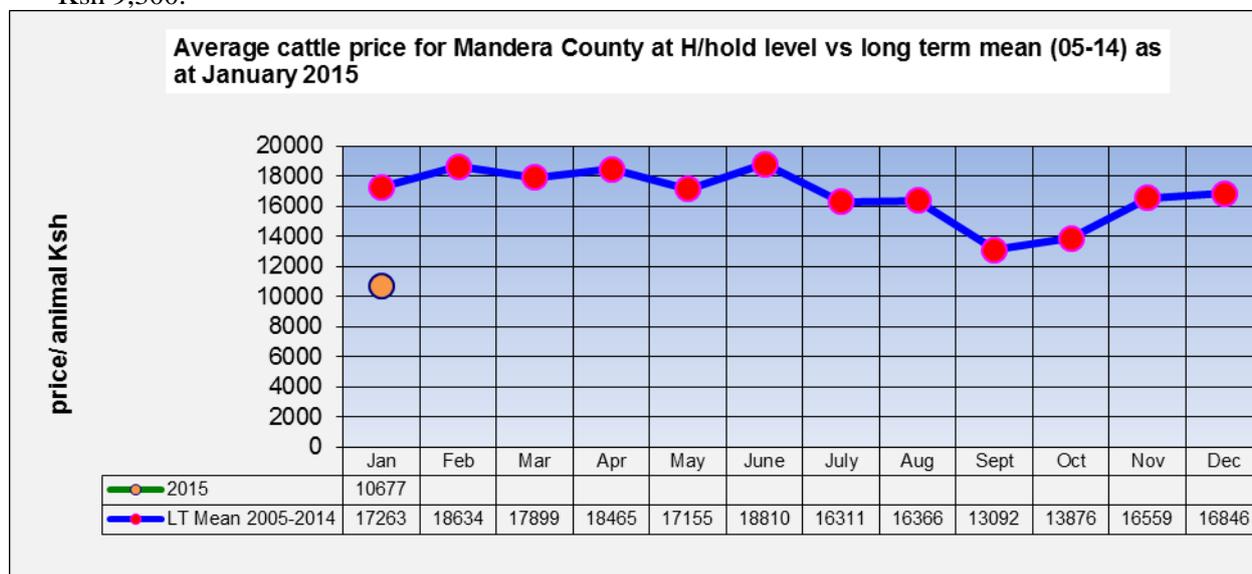
3.1 Livestock marketing

- There was a dismal performance in the terms of trade for the month of January, a significant drop from 55 the previous month of December 2014 to 40. That, was below the long term average by a margin of six (6). The graph below illustrates.



3.1.2 Cattle prices

- Average cattle price decreased from Ksh12, 133 in December 2014 to Ksh 10,677 during the month of January 2015, the decrease in price was attributed to low market demand and the deteriorating animal body condition.
- In comparison to the long term mean, the average price was lower by Ksh6, 586.
- The highest average cattle price was realized in Agro pastoral zone where it traded at Ksh12, 257, followed by that in the Pastoral all species zone at Ksh 10,475 and Irrigated cropping zone closing at Ksh 9,300.



NB: No. of Households :(N) 390HH

3.1.2 Goat prices

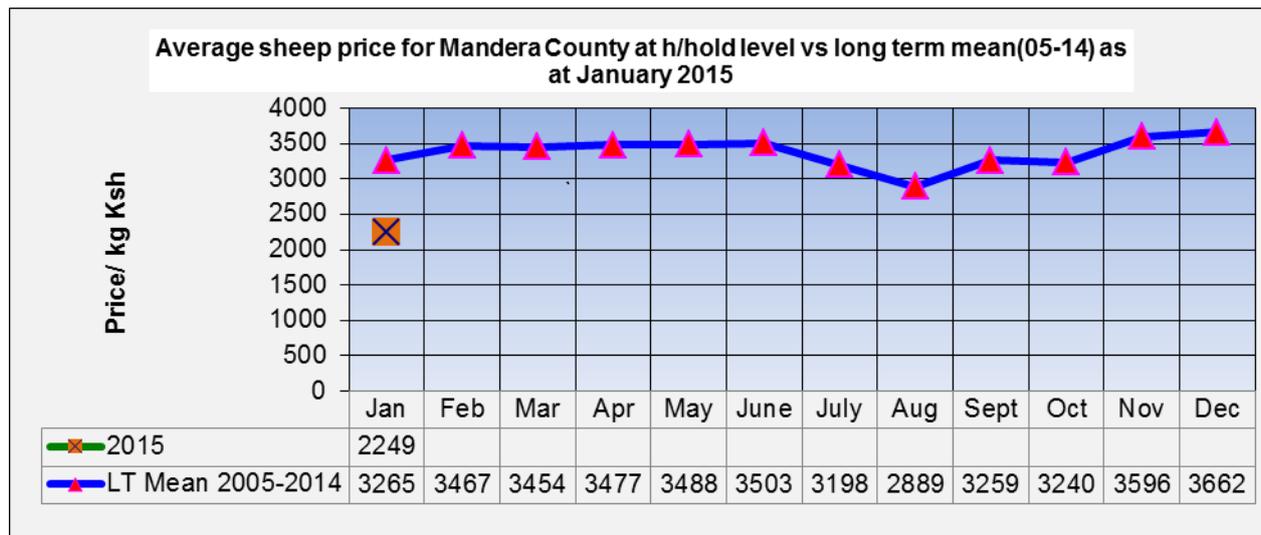
- Average goat price fluctuated slightly dropping to Ksh 2, 668 from Ksh 3,323 the previous month. The decrease in price was attributed to a decrease in demand as a result of low family income per capita and deteriorating body condition.
- The continued decrease in goat price was likely to have adverse effects on the food security of households due to limited trading activity in terms of purchase of essential food commodities.
- Compared to the long term mean (2011-2014), the average price was lower by Ksh 886 during the month of January 2015.
- Agro Pastoral zone recorded the highest average price with a goat retailing at Ksh 3,532 followed by the price at Pastoral all species zone that closed the market with a goat costing Ksh 2,659 and that of Irrigated cropping zone closing the pack at Ksh 1,813 per goat.



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3.1.3 Sheep prices

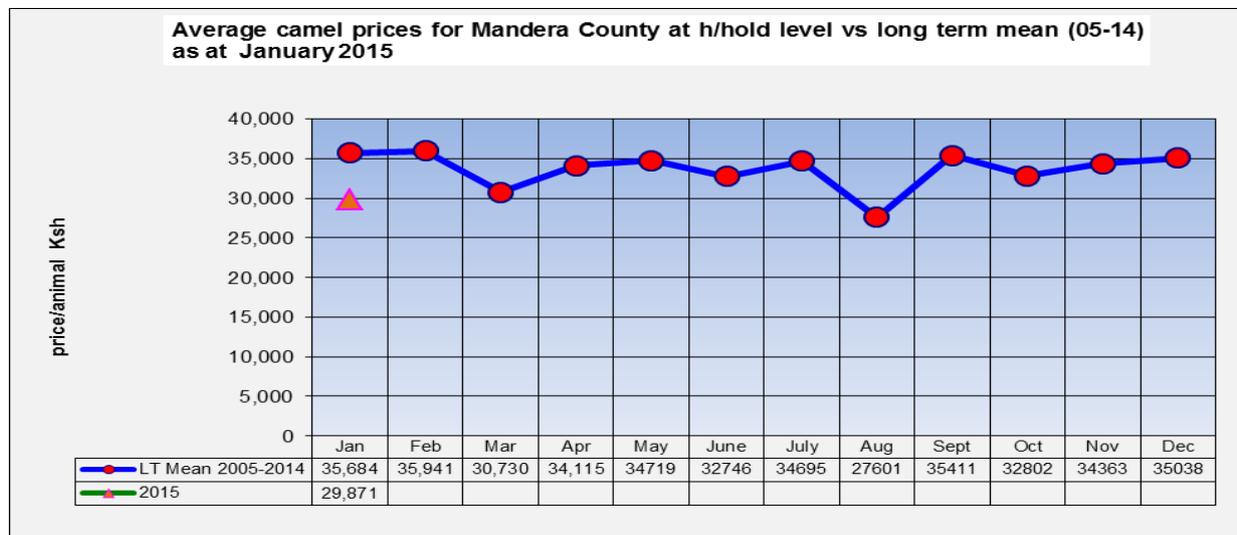
- Sheep price adjusted slightly downwards to Ksh 2,249 from Ksh 2,321 recorded during the month of December.
- Compared to long term mean, the average price was lower by Ksh 1,016 during the month of January 2015.
- The Agro pastoral zone traded at the highest average price of Ksh 3,058, the pastoral all species zone at Ksh 2,188 and the irrigated cropping zone quoting the least at Ksh 1,500.
-



: No of households :(N) 390HH

3.1.4 Camel prices

- The average camel price fell to Ksh 29,871 from the Ksh 30,000 recorded during the month of December 2014.
- Notably again, there was minimal activity in terms of camel trading in the pastoral all species and the Irrigated cropping zones.
- The average price range was achieved highest in the Pastoral all species zone where it traded at Ksh 33,000.
- On the other hand, the average camel price was lower as compared to the long term mean by a margin of Ksh 5,813 as shown here:



: No of households :(N) 390HH

3.2 Livestock sales

- The average sales for goats, cattle, camel and sheep were 184, 15, 12 and 57 respectively with the total number of livestock sales being 268 during the month of January.
- The preceding month had recorded total sales of 97 for all species of animals.
- The highest number of sales for all species was in the Agro pastoral zone followed by Pastoral all species zone and the irrigated cropping zone producing low figures in terms of animals traded.
- Most households depended on livestock to meet their basic essential needs.

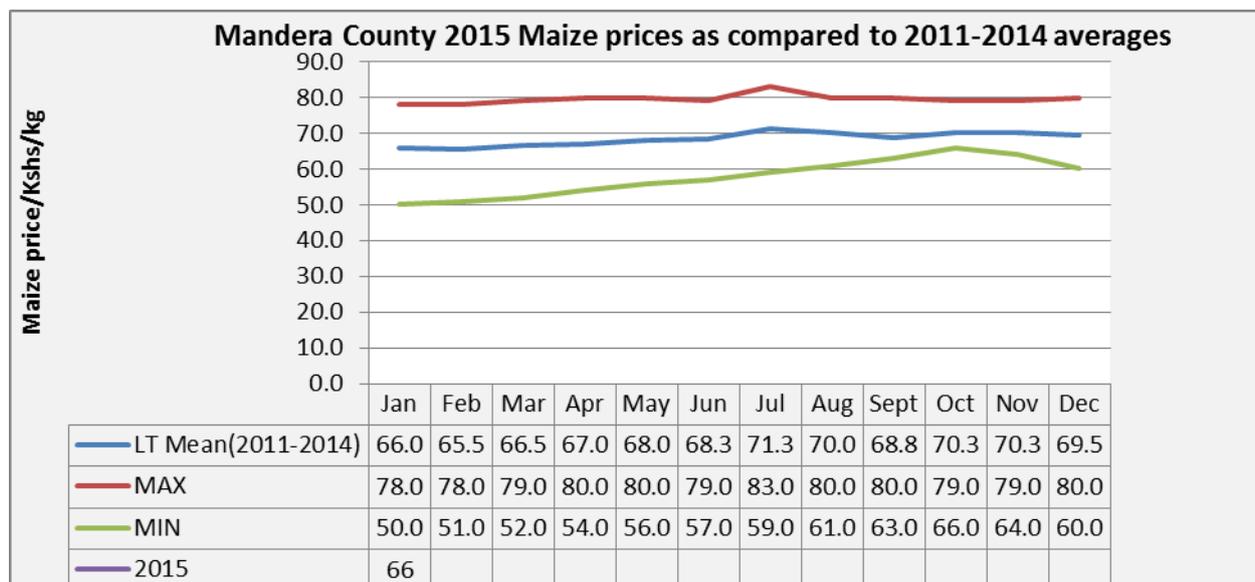
3.3 Milk Consumption

- Milk consumption decreased in comparison to the month of December 2014. The total number of litres consumed out of the 15.9 litres produced was 10.3 litres on average for all the sampled sentinel sites while the average milk price was Ksh 70 per 750 ml bottle during the reporting month.
- The rise in cost of milk per 750ml bottle from Ksh 62(in December 2014) to Ksh 70 in January 2015 was likely to have a negative effect on food security of households.

3.4 Crop Prices

3.4.1 Maize

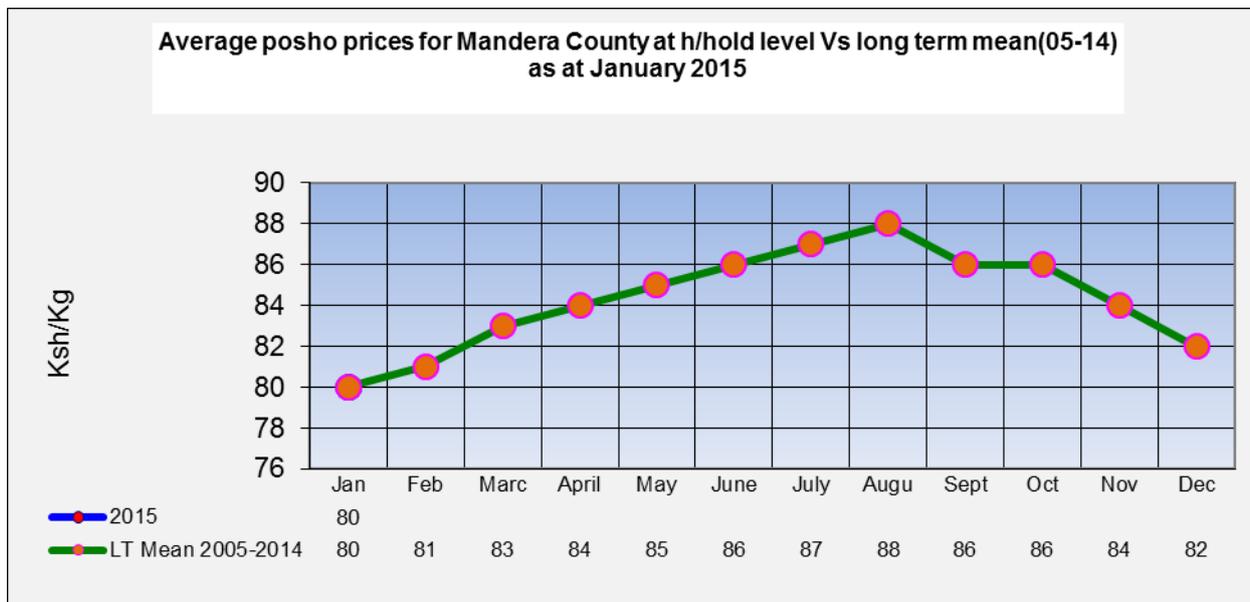
- The average maize price during the month of January was Ksh66 per kg.
- Compared to the preceding month of December, the average price had increased by Ksh 6.
- However, when compared to the long term mean price, the two were at par.
- The Graph below gives an illustrational view of the trend.



: No of households: (N) 390HH

3.4.2 Posho

- The observed average Posho price during the month was Ksh 80 per Kg. In Comparison to the long term mean, the two were at par.

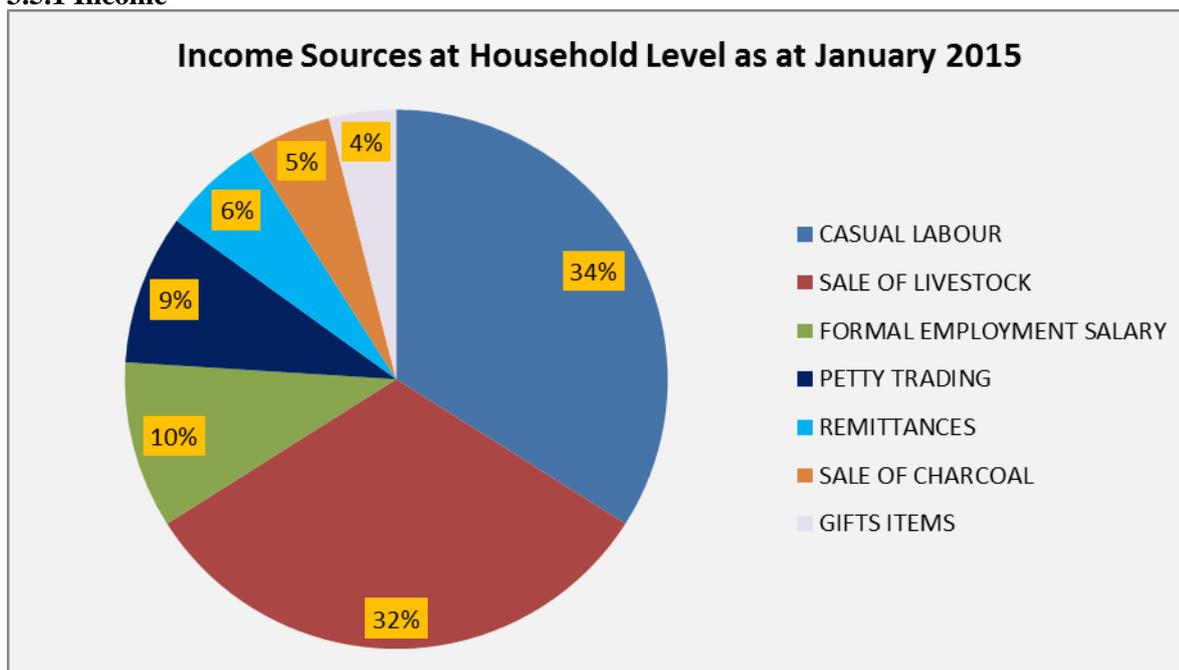


: No of households :(N) 390HH

3.4.3 Other major food crops/ major purchased food

- The other food purchased by the communities was sugar, oil, wheat flour and rice.
- The observed price of Sugar during the month of January was Ksh 97 (December 2014-96/=), Rice costed Ksh 86 (December 2014- 89/=), whereas Oil went for Ksh207 (December 2014-200/=).

3.5.1 Income



3.5.2 Livestock income

The main source of income for all livelihood zones during the month under review was casual labour and sale of livestock except in the Irrigated cropping zone where petty trade and sale of charcoal substituted sale of livestock. The sale rate of goats went up while that of camel went down.

3.5.3 Casual Labor

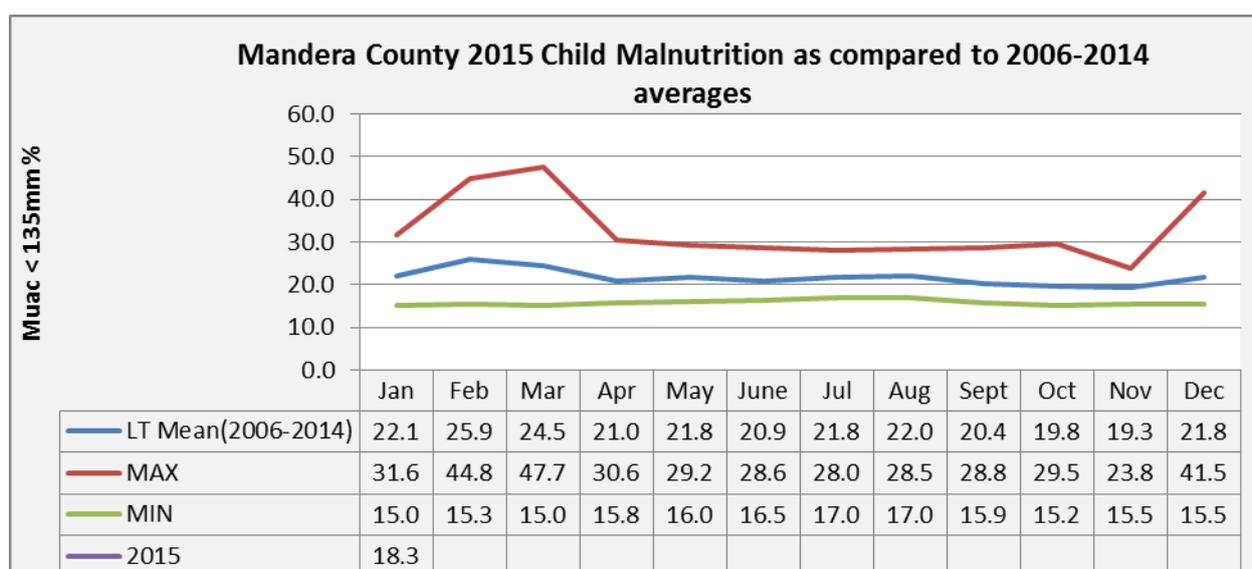
- The average daily wage from sampled divisions was Ksh 433 but from general observations it ranged between 500/= to 600/= per day.
- Compared to the preceding month, the average daily wage had increased by Ksh 54.

- The highest average income was reported in the Agro pastoral zone, followed by irrigated cropping zone and Pastoral all species zone respectively.

4. WELFARE (UTILISATION OF FOOD)

4.1 Nutrition status

- The percentage of children (<5yrs) at risk of malnutrition based on mid upper arm circumference (MUAC<135mm) for the month of January was 18.3%. Compared to the previous month, it had increased by 1%.
- When compared to the long term, the average mean was lower by 3.8%.
- According to sample areas, Ashabito (Guticha sample area) and Shimbir Fatuma divisions reported the highest percentage of children at risk of malnutrition while the lowest was Rhamu division.



: Total No of Children: 1,524.

4.2 Health

- There was no outbreak of human disease reported in the entire County during the month under review except few cases of Diarrhoea reported in December 2014 among under-fives that had since subsided.

4.3 Flagged Areas.

Current Intervention

Food Aid

- Through COCOP, a total of 6553 people were targeted under the protection ration programme, 8573 benefitted from SFP and FFA had 28362 beneficiaries in the entire County.
- The regular supplementary feeding by SCI and IRK supported by UNICEF and WFP continued benefitting households in over 50 selected sites.

Non-Food Aid

- County Government was conducting water trucking to over 60 centres in Mandera East, Lafey, South, West, Banissa and North sub counties
- Islamic Relief –Kenya in conjunction with the ministry of livestock conducted livestock vaccination in three sub counties (Mandera North, East and Lafey).

5.3 Other coping strategies

- Provision of relief food and supplementary feeding for the vulnerable groups of the communities in the divisions still remained as the top most coping strategy.
- Sell of assets and reduced food intake (for approximately 60% of the population) had also been employed as a coping mechanism for most households.
- In comparison to December 2014, the segment of the population resorting to casual work had increased significantly implying that diversification from over reliance on livestock was being embraced.

- A huge section of the population continued to rely on less preferred food with over 50% borrowing from relatives and friends

6.0 Recommendations to CSG

- Water trucking to areas under water stress to continue- Action: County Government and other willing actors
- Formation of a rapid response team (RRT) to deal with emergency borehole breakdown repairs.
- Provide standby gen sets to major livestock boreholes-Action County Government, NDMA and other willing actors.
- Enhance police patrolling along Mandera -Lafey Roads -Provincial Administration
- Enhancement of mobile health outreach service in all rural areas-Action: Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation and other actors
- Intensify the post conflict engagement initiatives among the warring communities and enhance capacity building for the Sub-county Peace Committees (SPCs) to promote early warning information across all the sub-counties-Provincial administration.
- There was need to support farmers who had been affected by floods resulting in massive crop and farm machinery destruction-MOA and other actors
- Vaccination and mass treatment against CCPP and PPR especially in Banissa, Mandera West and South -Action –County Government and other actors.