



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



National Drought Management Authority KILIFI COUNTY

DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

DECEMBER EW PHASE	Early Warning Phase Classification		
Drought Status: ALERT  Maandalizi ya mapema	LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TRENDS
	Marginal Mixed Farming	Alert	Deteriorating
	Livestock (excluding pastoralism)	Alert	Deteriorating
	Cash Cropping	Alert	Deteriorating
	Mixed Food Cropping	Alert	Deteriorating
	Mixed Farming	Alert	Deteriorating
	County	Alert	Deteriorating

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

Rainfall report. The month under review received minimal rains with uneven spatial distribution.

Vegetation Condition: On average, the county recorded fair vegetation condition with the livestock farming livelihood zone recording fair pastures and browse condition.

Water status was below normal at this time of the year.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production indicators: On average, the livestock body condition for all species ranged from fair to good. Average milk production declined as compared to the previous month with no livestock disease outbreaks reported.

Access indicators: Average distance to water sources by households and livestock recorded an increase during the month under review.

Utilization indicators: Percentage of children at risk of malnutrition remained stable compared to the previous month with an increase in Reduced Coping Strategy Index. Households under poor food consumption band remained high (65.32) during the month under review with a decline in household milk consumption.

Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal value/ranges /condition
Rainfall mm (Average)	51.8	52.1
Average Forage Condition	Fair	Good
VCI3M	28.53	35-50
Production indicators	Value	Normal value/Condition
Maize Crop Condition	Poor	Good
Livestock Body Condition	Fair	Good
Milk Production (litres)	1.5	3.5
Livestock Migration Pattern	No migration	No migration
Livestock Deaths (from Drought)	0	30-100
Access Indicators	Value	Normal value
Terms of Trade (ToT)	142.20	87.00
Milk Consumption (in litres)	0.6	1.22
Return Distance to Water Sources (in km)	2.90	3.00
Return Distance to Water Sources from grazing (km)	3.5	3.1
Cost of water at source (20ltrs)	KShs(5-10)	KShs.5
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal values
MUAC (% at risk)	3.0	1.6
Reduced Coping strategy Index (rCSI)	5.34	5.76
Food Consumption Score (FCS)		42.1

- Short rains harvests
- Short dry spell
- Reduced milk yields
- Increased HH Food Stocks
- Land preparation

- Long rains
- Planting/Weeding
- High calving Rate
- Milk yields Increase

- Long rains harvests
- A long dry spell
- Land preparation
- Increased HH Food Stocks
- Kidding (Sept)

- Short rains
- Planting/weeding/pest control/

Dry Season

Long Rains

Dry Cool Season

Short Rains Season

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Jul

Aug

Sept

Oct

Nov

Dec

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

Rainfall estimates for the month of December remained minimal with the 1st dekad recording below the average while 2nd dekad recording slightly higher than the average. Amount recorded during the second dekad of December, had minimal impacts as previous season dekads recorded below average rains with high temperatures.

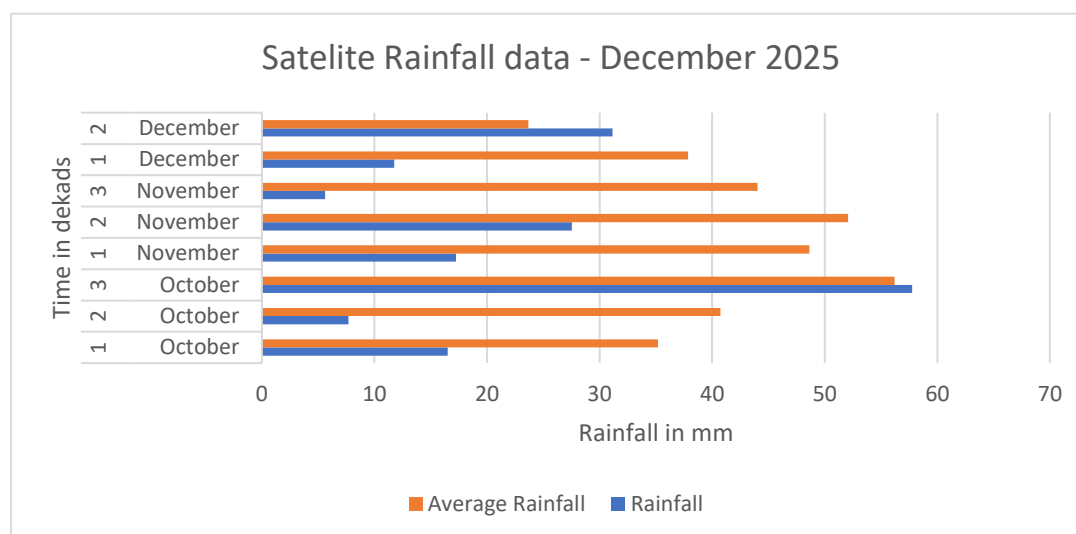


Fig 1: Rainfall Estimates from satellite images

1.1 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- The month under review was generally categorized as dry with high day and night temperatures with occasional rainfall episodes characterized with uneven spatial distribution.
- On average, the month of December recorded 51.8 mm of rainfall compared to 55.2mm recorded in the previous month with poor spatial distribution, the livestock farming zone recording the highest average amount of 94.8mm with the mixed farming zone recording the lowest amount of 4.3mm.
- The average amount recorded in the month under review was equivalent to the long-term average and below the upper limit.

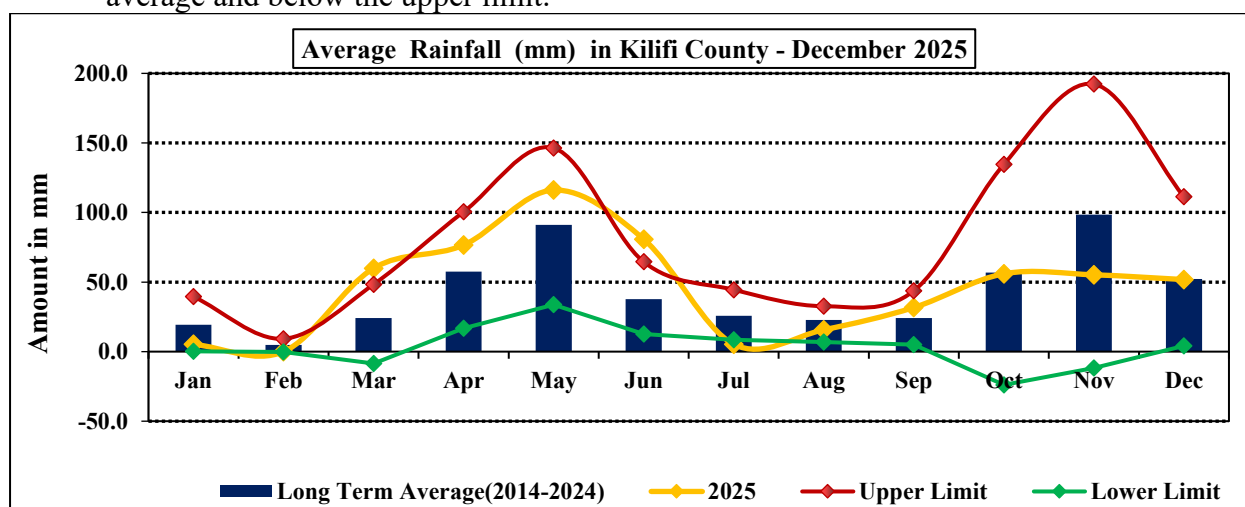


Fig.2: Rainfall from Early Warning Sentinel sites-ground data

2.0 IMPACT ON VEGETATION

2.1 Vegetation Condition

- On average, the vegetation condition ranged from fair to poor with some pockets recording good condition. It varied across the livelihood zones with declining trend in most livelihoods with some regeneration recorded in some parts of the livestock farming zone.
- Some pockets in Ganze sub county were in extreme drought with significant parts in the same sub county being in severe drought. Magarini sub county too recorded significant area in moderate drought condition and as the temperatures remained high, there is a high likelihood of falling into severe drought condition as the season continued performing poorly.

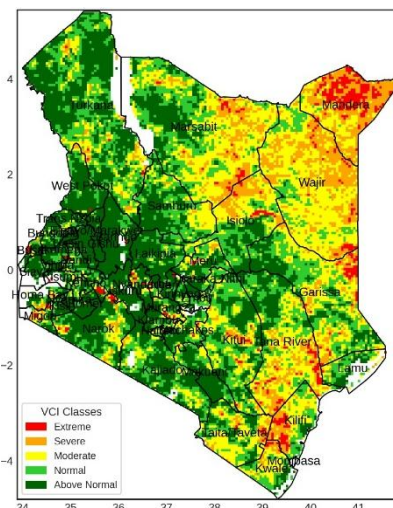


FIGURE3: VEGETATION CONDITION INDEX-DEC 2025

2.1.2 Pasture

- During the reporting period 25.0 percent of sampled households recorded poor pasture condition while 40.0 percent recorded fair pasture condition. The portion in good and fair condition increased compared to the previous due to some rains and showers recorded in some pockets during the early month of December.
- Pasture condition is expected to continued deteriorating as the short rains ceased and temperatures remained high.
- The good pasture was recorded in the mixed farming, mixed food cropping livelihood zones which received some rains during the season.

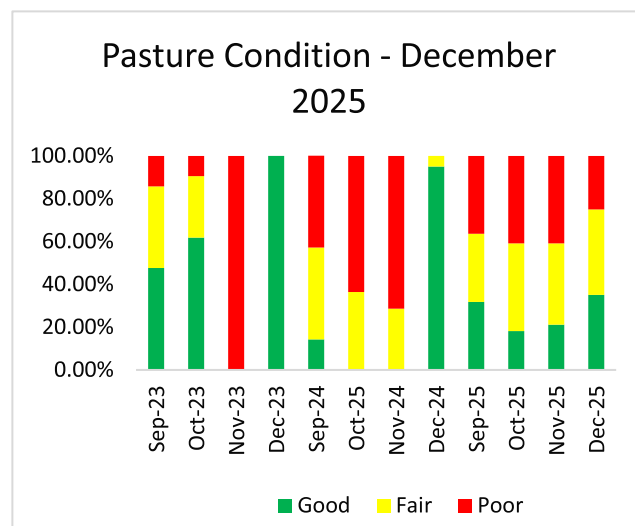


Fig.4: Pasture condition

2.1.3 Browse

- The month under review recorded 30.0 percent of the sampled households with poor browse condition, with 20.0 percent recording fair browse condition.
- The fair browse condition in most livelihoods can be attributed to some rains received in the first dekad of December in some parts of the livelihood zone as some parts of the marginal mixed, browse condition continued deteriorating due poor rains recorded in the zone in the month under review.
- Current browse condition is expected continue deteriorating as the temperatures remained high and failed in the 2025 short rains season. The available browse was below normal at this time of the year and better compared to December 2024 and 2023.

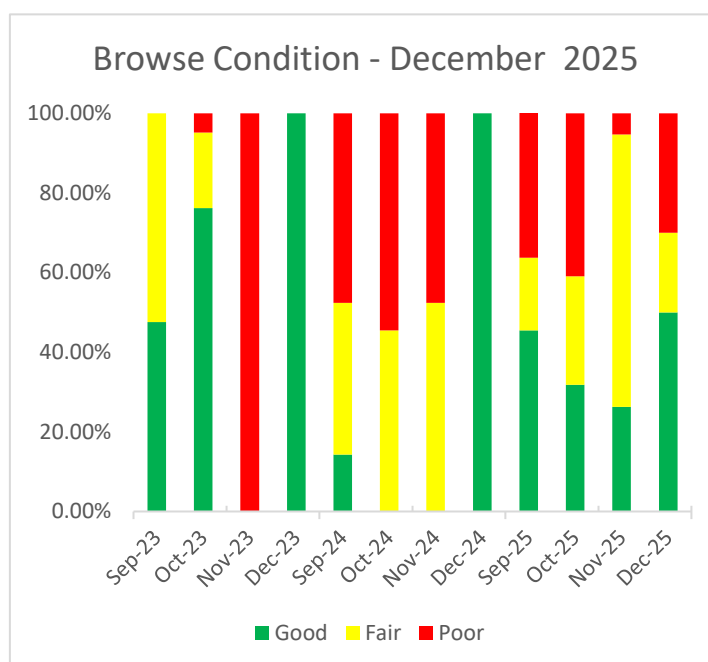


Fig. 5: Browse condition

2.2 Water Resources

2.2.1 Water Sources

- The main water sources for both human and livestock use during the month under review were piped water, water pans and dams, and boreholes varying across the livelihood zones.
- Most open water sources recorded minimal recharge during the season for the month under review. Significant number of pans remained dry in parts of Ganze, Kaloleni and Magarini sub counties. The overall condition of water sources was below normal at this time of the year.

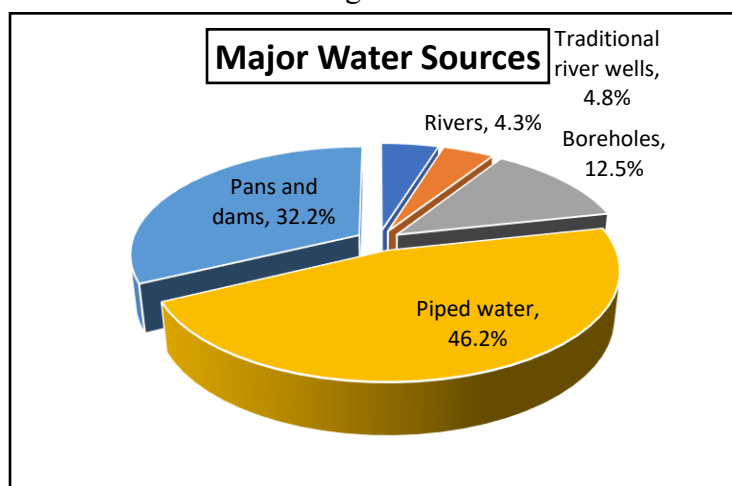


Fig.6: Water sources

2.2.2 Household water access and utilization

- The average household return distance to water sources recorded an increase of 7.4 percent compared to the previous month from 2.7kms to 2.9kms.
- The increase in average distance can be attributed to decline in water in the sources as more pans dried up following poor recharge from previous two consecutive rainfall seasons mainly in the livestock farming and marginal mixed zones thus a shift to using pipeline. The livestock livelihood zone recorded the highest average return distance of 5.9kms while the mixed food cropping zone recorded the lowest; averaging 0.4kms. The average distance covered by

households in accessing water during the month under review was almost equivalent to the Short-Term Average at this time of the year.

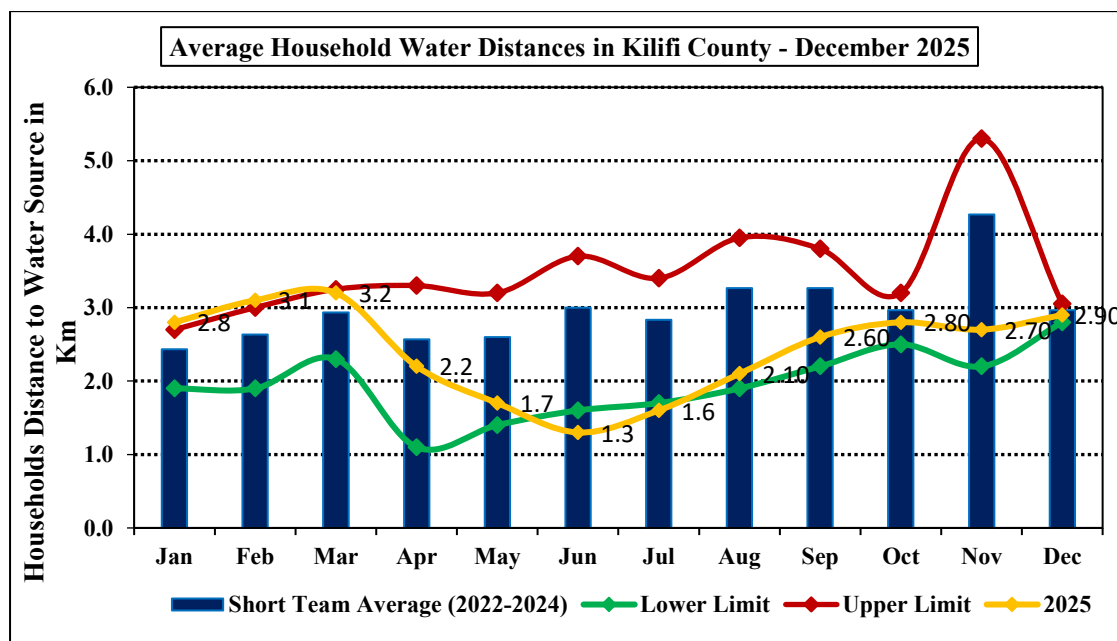


Fig.7: Average household distances

2.2.3 Livestock access to water

- The average return trekking distance during the month under review recorded 9.4 percent increase from 3.2kms recorded in the previous month to 3.5kms. The increase can be attributed drying of some surface water sources of water for livestock near the households.
- On average distance is expected to remain high as the 2025 short rains performed poorly. The average trekking distance was 12.9 percent above the short-term average at this time of the year.

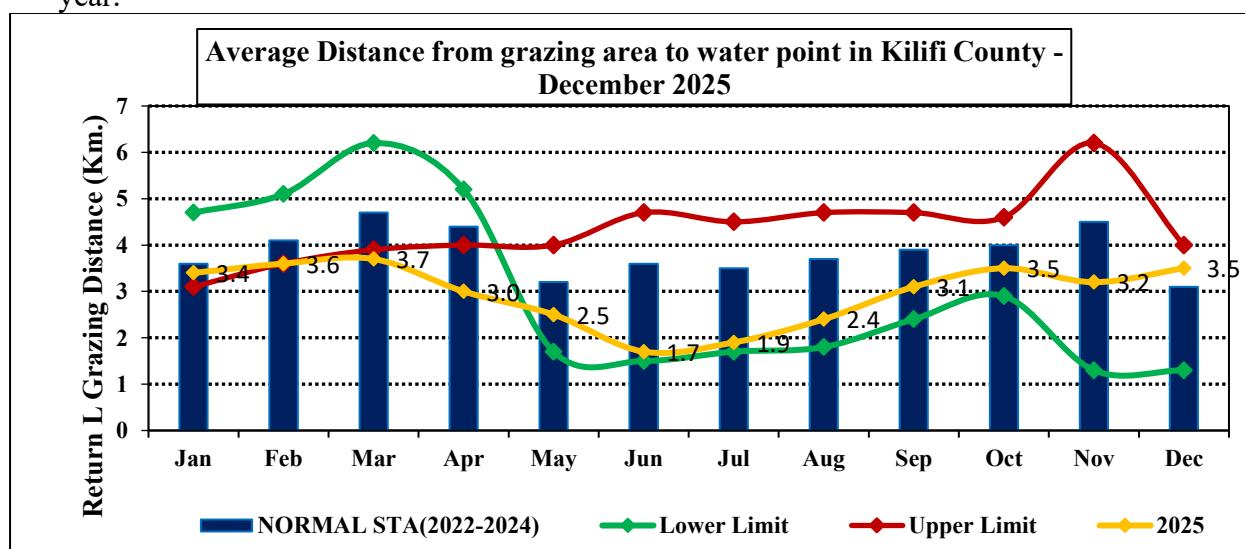


Fig.8: Average grazing distances

3.0 PRODUCTION

3.1 Livestock Production

Livestock body condition was used as a key parameter in determining overall health and productivity, reflecting the animal's energy reserves and nutritional status.

3.1.1 Livestock body condition

- On average, livestock body condition recorded a slight improvement as compared to the previous month with 45.0 percent sampled housed holds recording borderline, with poor-skeleton clearly visible and $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ ribs visible while 15.0 percent recording moderate neither fat nor thin condition.
- On average, the body condition of livestock is expected to deteriorate as trekking distances increased with decline in pasture and browse condition following poor rejuvenation and the prevailing high temperatures.

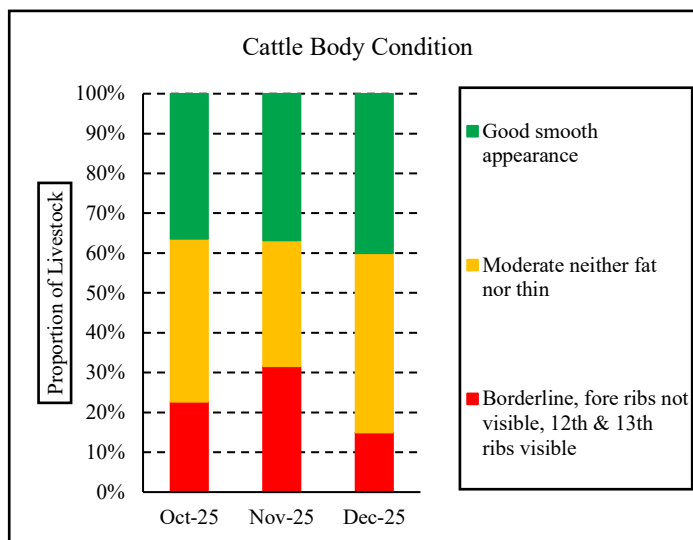


Fig.9: Cattle body condition

3.1.2 Livestock disease

- No disease outbreaks were reported across the livelihood zones during the month under review.

3.1.3 Livestock Migration.

- There were no livestock migration cases reported during the month under review.

3.1.4 Milk production

- Average milk production during the month under review recorded a 5.9 percent decrease from 1.7 litres/hh/day to 1.6 litres/hh/day as compared to the previous month. The decrease can be attributed to increased trekking distances and decline in pasture and browse quality recorded during the month under review in most areas across livelihood zones.
- The current production is expected to decrease due to declining pasture condition especially in areas where rains were not recorded and pasture condition is on the decline.
- The current average production of milk was 48.4 percent below the long-term average at this time of the year.

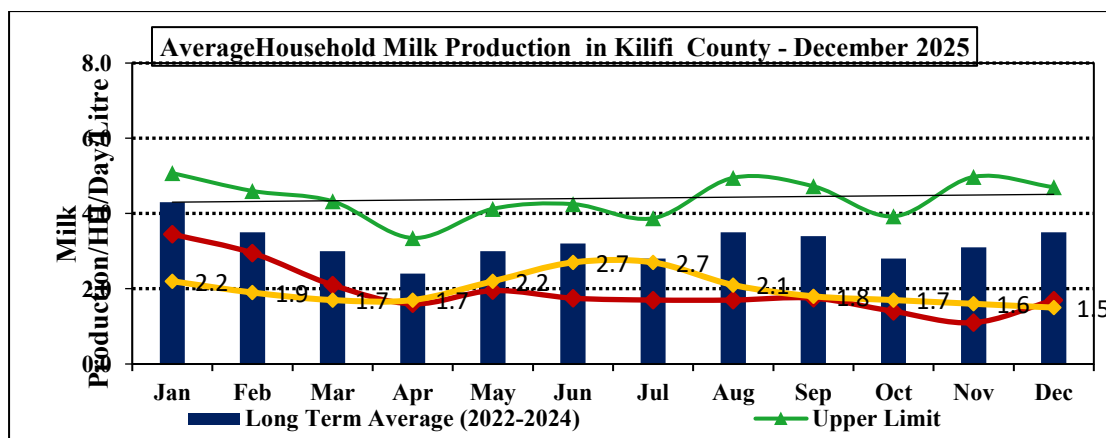


Fig.10: Milk production

3.2 Rain Fed Crop Production

Rain-fed crop in the farms included cassava, maize, green grams and cowpeas in poor to fair condition. Mangoes and pineapples on a small scale too were reported.

3.2.1 Stage and condition of food crop.

- Cassava crop was in fair condition after a poor short rains season.

3.2.2 Crop Harvest.

- Minimal harvest of cassava, green grams were recorded during the month under review in some few pockets within the county.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKET

Livestock attracted good prices in the markets across the county due to their good body condition mostly from parts of the livelihood where access to pasture and water was not constrained.

4.1.1 Cattle prices.

- Average price for a 4-year-old bull during the month under review increased from Ksh 30,666 to Kshs.32,157 as compared to the previous month.
- The increased can be attributed to festive seasons demands for meat and other animal products but expected to decrease in January due to high supply as parents searched for school fees.
- However, current average price was 8.4 percent above the short-term average at this time of the year.

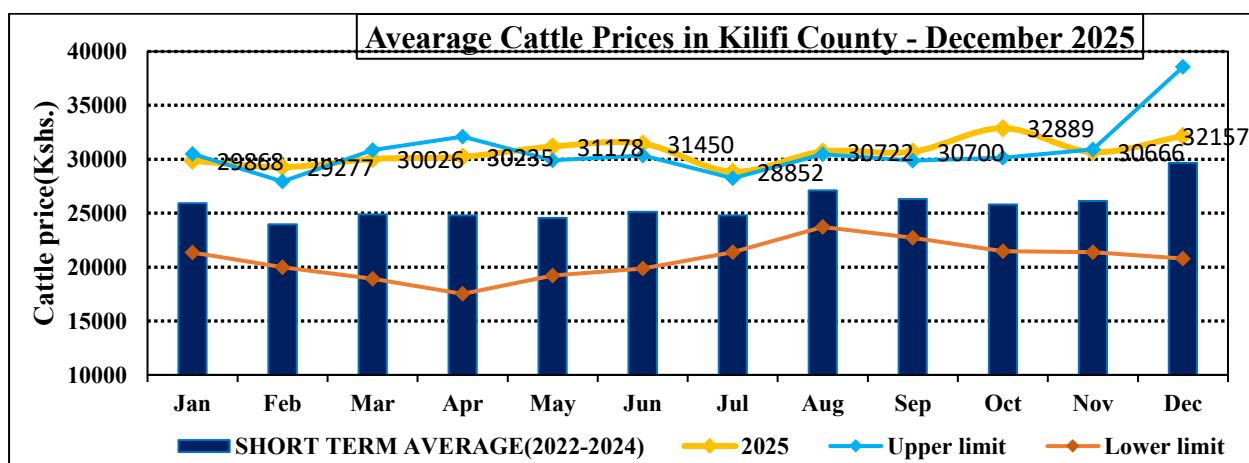


Fig.11: Average cattle prices

4.1.2 Goat prices

- Average price of a 3-year-old medium sized buck during the month under review remained stable at Ksh 7,125 as compared to the previous month.
- The stability can be attributed to good body condition and stable supply in the market.
- Goats' average prices expected to record a decrease in next one to three months as the season performed poorly.
- The month's average price was 50.9 percent above the short-term average at this time of the year and significantly above the upper limit at this time of the year.

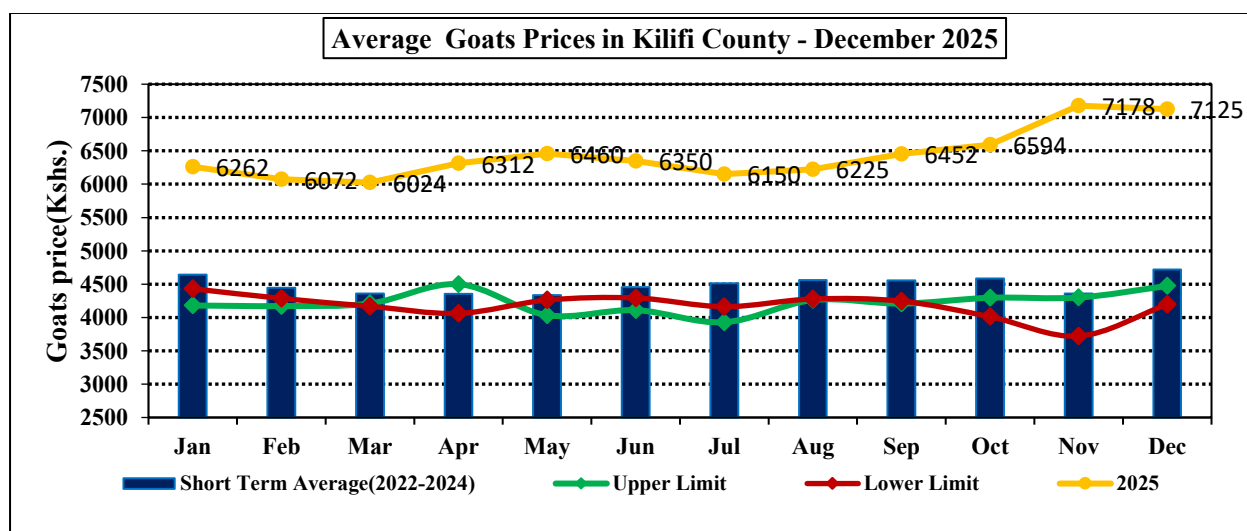


Fig.12: Average goat prices

4.2 Crop prices

Most crop prices were stable and affordable by majority of households due to low demand and availability of alternative and affordable food commodities.

4.2.1 Maize

- Average price per kilo of maize for the month under review recorded a decrease from Ksh 52.20 to Ksh 50.10 when compared to the previous month.
- The decrease can be attributed to an increase in demand of sifted maize meal thus decline in demand for maize.
- Average maize price/kg is expected to increase as more households' stocks continued to be depleted with 2025 short rains harvest expected.
- The average price was slightly below the short-term average and the upper limit at this time of the year.

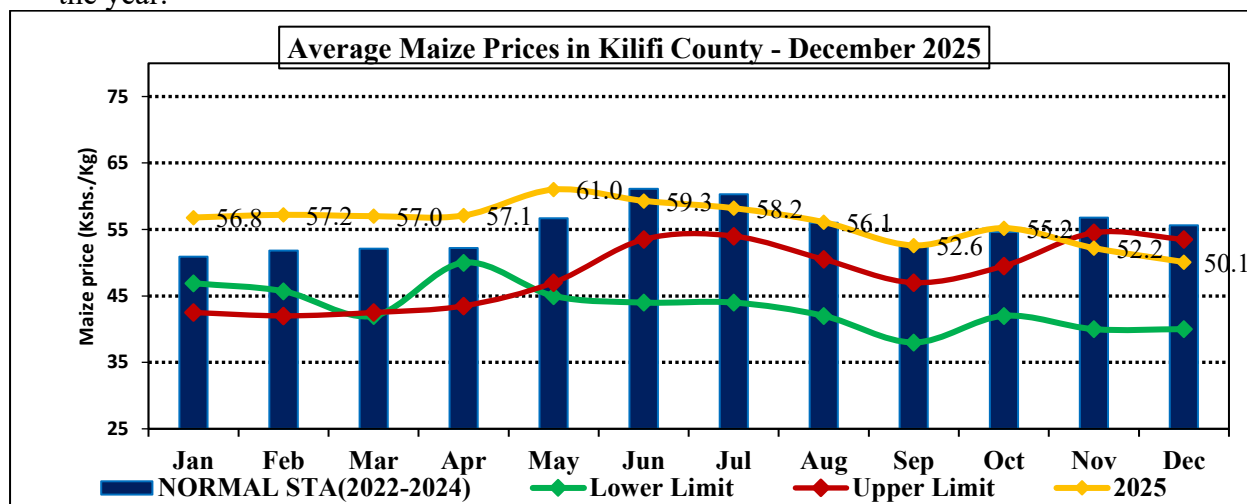


Fig.13: Maize prices

4.2.2 Beans

- Average price per kilo of beans during the month under review recorded a 16.5 percent increase from Kshs 115.0 to Kshs 134.5 when compared to the previous month's average.
- Average price increase can be attributed poor season's harvest for the pulses thus high demand for the beans whose main supply is from outside the county.
- The month's average price/kg was 10.3 percent below the short term mean at this time of the year.

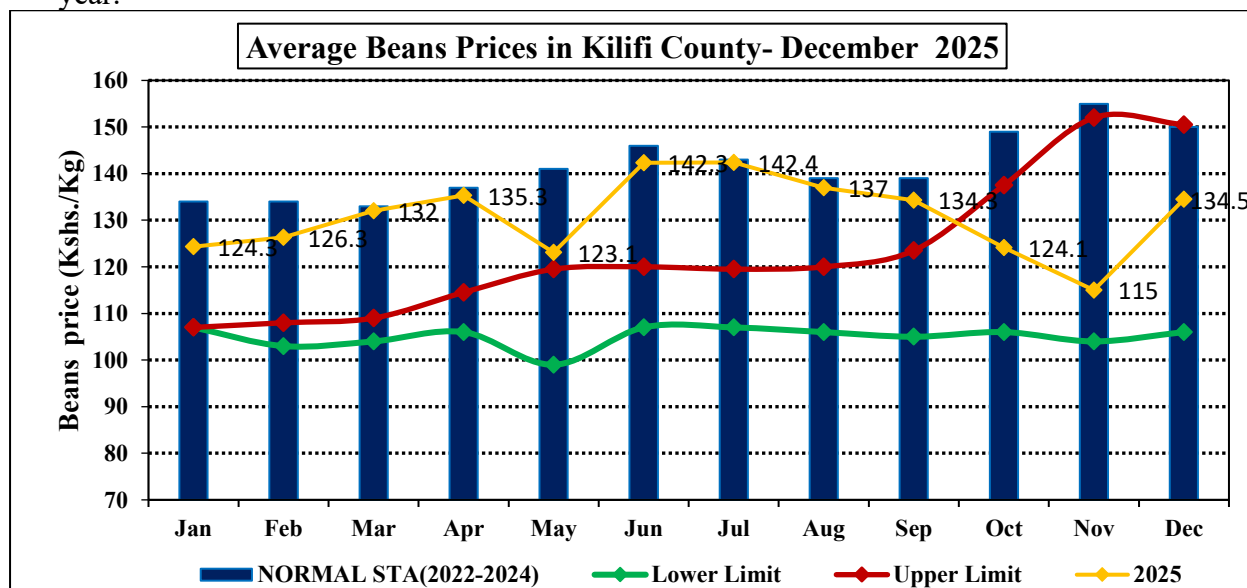


Fig.14: Beans prices

4.3 Terms of Trade (ToT)

- The ToT for the month under review remain stable as compared to the previous month at 142.20 and this can be attributed to slight decrease in maize average price as goat prices remained stable.
- The marginal mixed farming livelihood zone recorded the highest average ToT of 148.4 kgs of maize per sale of a three-years old buck.
- The average ToT for the month under review was 38.8 percent above the short-term average at this time of the year and above the upper limit.

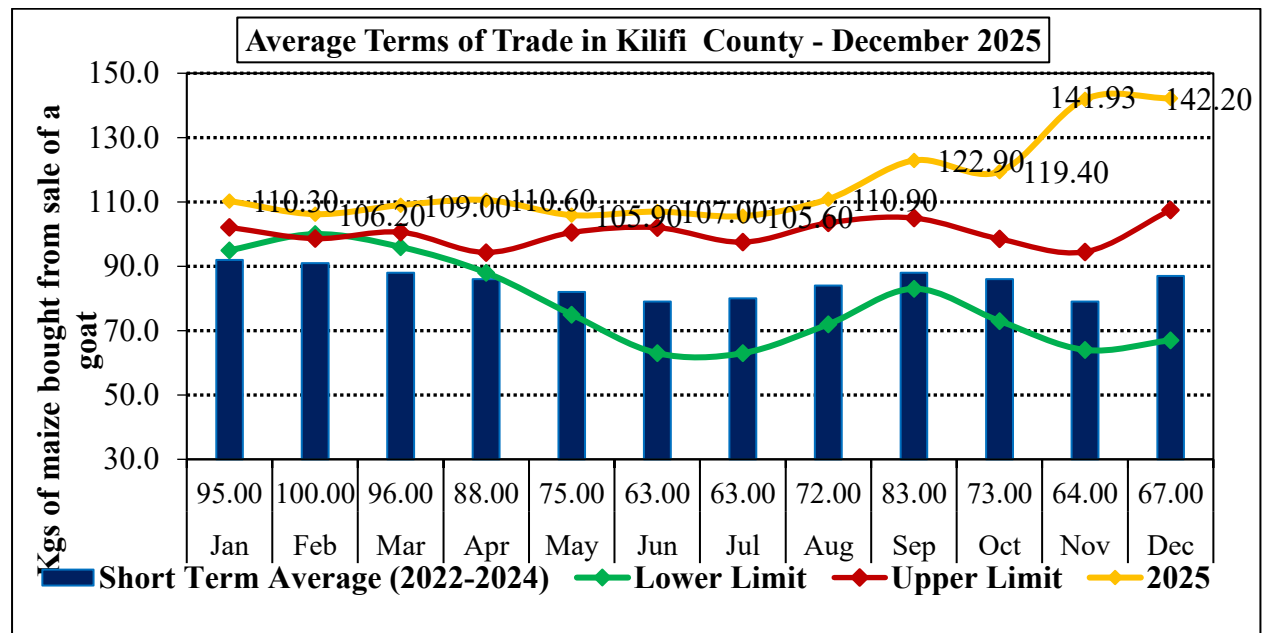


Fig.15: Terms of Trade

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 Milk Consumption

- Average milk consumption per household per day during the month under review remained stable at 0.6litres/hh/day as compared to the previous month; the stability can be attributed to slight decrease in milk production at household level.
- Milk consumption at households expected to continued recording a decrease as access to pasture and water remained a challenge due to poor season's rainfall recharge of water sources and regeneration of pasture and browse.
- The average milk consumption per hh/day was 50.8 percent below the long-term average and below the lower limit at this time of the year.

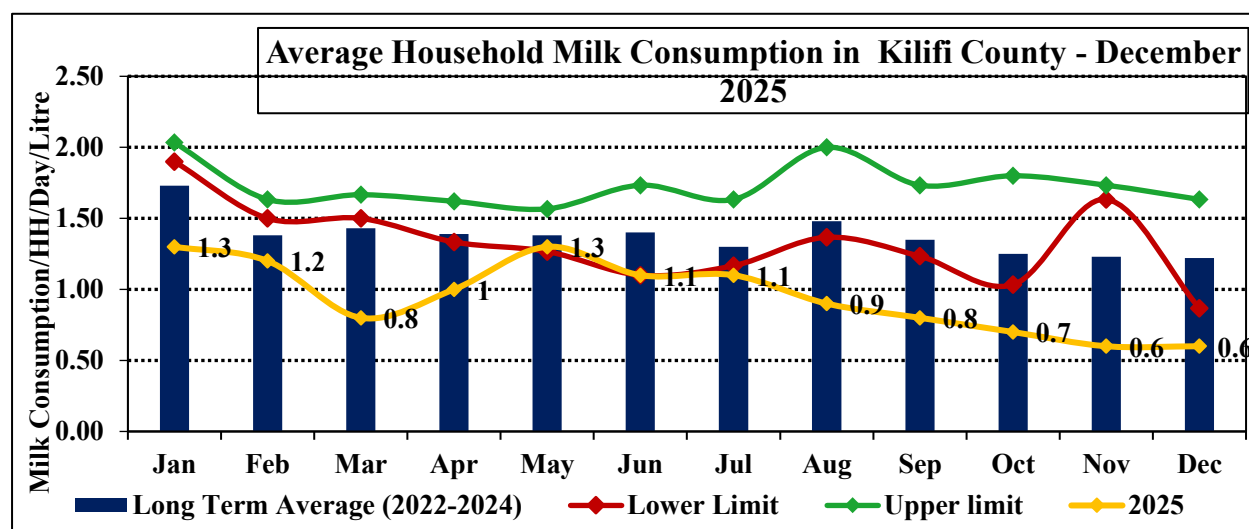


Fig.16: Milk consumption

5.2 Food Consumption Score

- During the month under review, 65.31 percent of the households recorded poor consumption with a slight increase compared to the previous month's score.
- Those in borderline too recorded a slight increase compared to the previous month.
- The consumption score where most households were in poor is an indication of poor dietary diversity. can be attributed stability can be attributed to stability in household dietary diversity during the month under review compared to the previous month.
- Income sources too remained limited as charcoal burning and selling increased significantly in the hinterland where 2025 rains seasons performed extremely poor.

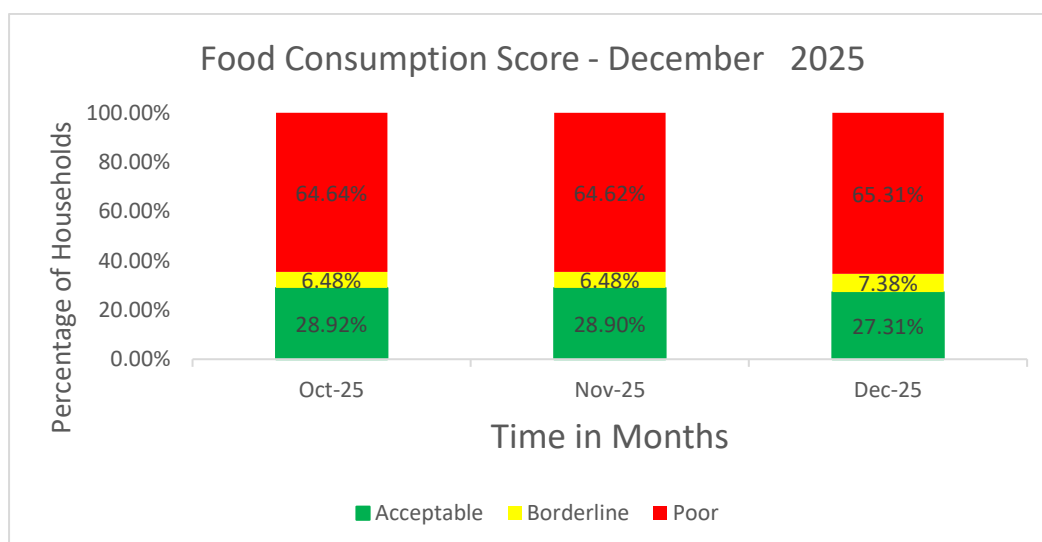


Fig. 16: Food Consumption Score

Kilifi County Drought Early Warning Bulletin as at 31st December 2025

5.3 Health and Nutrition Status

The month under review recorded more female (52.17 percent) than male (47.83 percent) children under-five whose Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) was measured from sampled households.

5.3.1 Nutritional status

- The percentage of children at risk of malnutrition remained stable compared to the previous month as household struggled to feed its members. Malnourished cases likely to increase as 2025 short rains season permed poorly an indication of poor household food security.
- The current proportion of children at risk of malnutrition was higher than the long-term average at time of the year.

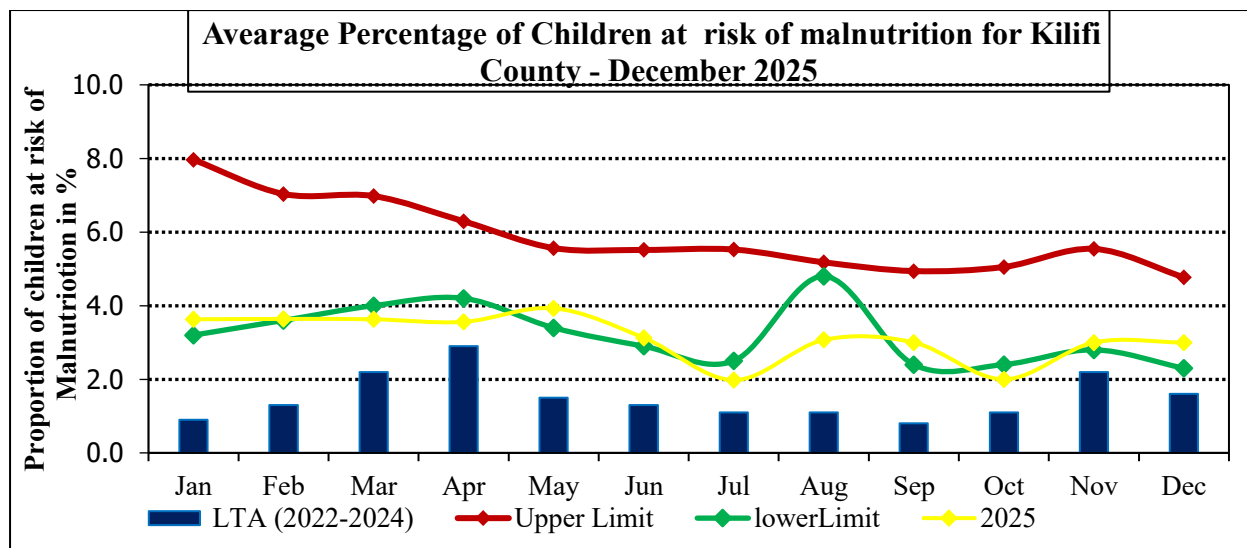


Fig.18: Children at risk

5.3.2 Health

- Common illnesses like fever and coughs were recorded during the month under review.

5.4 COPING STRATEGIES.

- The mean reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) for the month under review recorded an increase to 5.33 from 3.45 recorded in the previous month an indication of an increase in food shortage. Significant percentage of households employed consumption strategies thus the score was reasonably low.
- During the month under review, the livestock and food cropping livelihood zones recorded the highest score; an indication that households' food shortages was high in the zones.

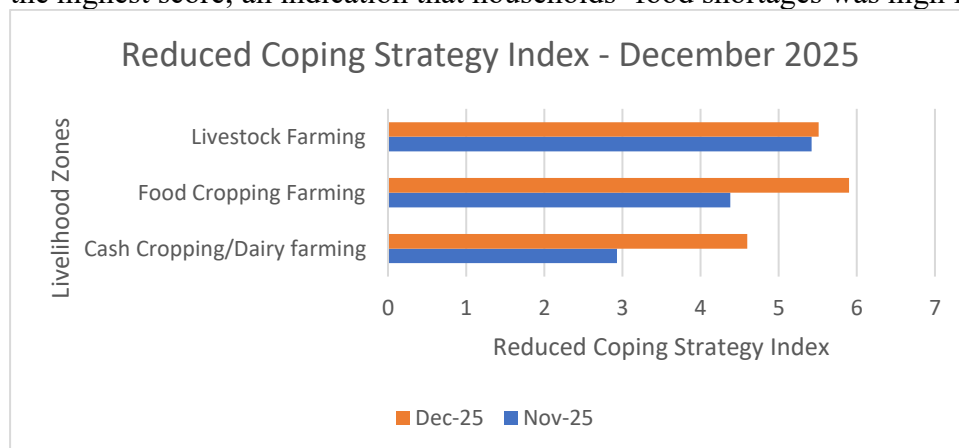


Fig.18: Reduced coping strategies

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES

6.1 Food Intervention

- Relief food distribution by the Kenya Red Cross Society-Karimani in Ganze subcounty (184 households @10kgs rice, 5kgs beans, 5kgs Corn Soya Blend, 1ltr cooking oil)-Est Kshs. 1M, Corn Soya Blend for 1000 households in Magarini 5kgs per household, Corn Soya Blend ++ to three facilities (Mariakani Sub County Hospital, Bamba Sub County Hospital and Kibao Kiche dispensary in Kaloleni Sub County (Est. Kshs 2.5M)
- Water trucking by county water department to hotspot areas.

6.2 Non-food aid

Detailed below are ongoing non-food interventions;

Item	Quantity	Amount	Areas of Coverage
NDMA/KCG			
Drought monitoring	210 households 21-Key informants	-	Jaribuni, Bamba, Mwarakaya, Mwawesa, Mwanamwinga, Kakuyuni and Adu wards
Rehabilitation of Mdachi Irrigation scheme process ongoing	>5000 people	35M	Jaribuni ward
Rehabilitation of Waa dam in Kaloleni process ongoing	>6750 people >4300 livestock	25M	Kayafungo Ward
GIVE DIRECTLY			
Unconditional cash transfers to Mwanamwinga ward (flow payment)	3800-Ongoing each receiving 3400/month per beneficiary	At the end of the project (2021-2026) Kshs. 775,200,000	Mwanamwinga ward, Kaloleni sub county
Large transfers Jan-March, (Sokoke ward)-Kshs 110,000 per household in two tranches (324-First tranche already received)	622 households –Vitengeni division	68,420,000	Sokoke ward, Ganze sub county
KILIFI COUNTY GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTAL PROJECTS AND PARTNERS			
KEMFSED: Local chicken improvement	11000 chicken -1900farmers	10M	Rabai, Kilifi North, Magarini and Malindi sub counties
Farmers training on Climate Smart Agriculture as Climate Change effects continued	30000 farmers	3.5M	All Sub Counties
Trainings on feed conservation & formulation by County government, KEMFSEDP	8,800 farmers	4M	All Sub Counties
Boreholes drilling and equipping	12000 People	45M	Ganda ward in Malindi Sub County

Water Desalination	40000 People	15M	Ganze ward in Ganze sub county
Family MUAC	88,976 Households	-	All Sub Counties
Baby-Friendly Community Initiative- NICHE through JIM Grant	1983 households	19M	
ADS-Pwani			
Climate Change adaptation project (3yrs)	Farmers	743,410 EUROS.	Ganze sub county
NAV CDP			
Livelihood Support projects	Farmers		Across the county
Monitoring/Assessment	SACCOs and Famers Producer Organization		Across the sub counties

7. FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- Average distance in accessing water for households likely to continue increasing following poor recharge during the 2025 short rains season.
- Pasture and browse quality and quantity is expected to decline further as the 2025 rains rejuvenation was poor coupled with prevailing high temperatures thus a likelihood of deterioration of the livestock body condition due to increased trekking distances.
- Average food prices are expected to remain high more households depended on the market for food supply following the poor performance increase as more households are expected to depend on the market for their food supplies as stock got depleted and high probability of a poor 2025 short rains season.
- Milk production is expected to decrease as access to water and pasture continued to be constrained in most livelihoods.
- Human-wildlife conflicts in parts of Ganze and Magarini subcounty expected to continue as animals from the park searched for water.
- Dependency on the market for food supplies for the households will lead to increased demand for income forcing many households to engage in charcoal burning as their main source of income.
- Household food security expected to continue declining as 2025 short rains recorded poor performance on crop production.
- Cases of child malnutrition expected to increase as household food security is expected to decline further till the next good season harvest.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

Coordination

- Need for activation for the County Drought Contingency plan for appropriate and timely response intervention, cash transfers to cushion the vulnerable households as prolonged dry spell contribution to deterioration of most drought monitoring indicators.
- Close-monitoring and management on human-wildlife conflicts in parts of Ganze and Magarini sub counties, due the havoc elephants are causing in the area-KWS to monitor the situation closely.

Crop Sector

- Support for irrigation projects in the county; Chakama, Jilore, Mdachi Jaribuni, Burangi and Madunguni for increased food security in the era of Climate variability and erratic rains.
- Increased partnership in irrigation investment as rainfall seasons continued to perform dismally. Support to Mdachi and Sabaki irrigation utilization for better production for increased food security.
- Encourage households to establish kitchen garden with a likelihood of experiencing vegetable shortage in the coming weeks due to poor season coupled with high temperatures.

Livestock Sector

- Provision of feed supplements /Dairy meal for the critical herd in the livestock farming, marginal mixed and cash cropping livelihood zones with pasture stress
- Community sensitization for commercial offtake as the season performed poorly thus access to water and pasture stress on the rise.
- Need for conflict resolution measures as resource-based conflicts were on the rise in parts of Ganze and Magarini sub counties.

Water Sector

- Rehabilitation and expansion of already dry pans across Ganze, Kaloleni and Magarini Sub Counties where water pans and dams were the main water source.
- Water trucking to communities and health facilities in Ganze, parts of Magarini and Kaloleni sub counties experience water stress.
- Expansion of water pipeline from Raukani in Makongeni sub location to Bofu areas to enhance water supply and availability, to parts of Ganze and Kaloleni areas who lacked the pipeline water supply.
- Excavation of more rainwater harvesting infrastructure as the rains remained erratic in Ganze, parts of Kaloleni and Magarini sub counties. Priority infrastructure include; Ndigiria dam construction, rehabilitation of Kajiri, Mistisktini, Mitsemerini, Mikamini, Milore, Mwananyamalani, Waa and Kadzifitseni water pans/dams to reduce water stress.
- Distribution and installation of water tanks for water trucking in areas most water stressed across the hotspot counties and schools as schools reopen in January.

Health and Nutrition Sector

- Close monitoring of nutritional status of the under-fives, pregnant and lactating women as household food security is likely to decline as the short rains delayed with poor performance expected.
- Community awareness creation on proper nutrition for reduced cases of malnutrition at household level.

Education sector

- Support children from vulnerable households who are likely to drop out of school due to lack of school fees.
- Need for support on the school meals programme for reduced cases of absenteeism following poor household food security.
- Make necessary arrangement to ensure access to clean and safe water for learners is guaranteed following poor recharge of the water sources new schools and minimal rain-water harvesting in schools.

Meteorological Department

- Provision of frequent weather updates as day and temperatures remained high which is not normal at this time of the year.