NATIONAL DROUGHT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

National Drought Early Warning Bulletin

February 2026

1.0 DROUGHT SITUATION OVERVIEW

Drought conditions largely stabilized across most ASAL counties following the off-season rainfall received in February, which temporarily eased environmental stress and slowed the deterioration of key drought indicators. Despite these short-term improvements, hot and dry conditions persisted in several areas, sustaining drought risk and slowing full recovery of livelihoods. As a result, Mandera, Kilifi, Kwale, and Wajir remained in the Alarm phase, signaling heightened drought stress and the need for sustained response measures. A further thirteen counties—Samburu, Baringo, Marsabit, Kitui, Taita Taveta, Kajiado, West Pokot, Garissa, Isiolo, Tana River, Turkana, Lamu, and Tharaka Nithi—were classified in the Alert phase, indicating emerging drought pressure and close monitoring requirements. Laikipia and Narok were in the Pre-Alert phase, while Makueni, Nyeri, Embu, and Meru maintained Normal drought status. These phase classifications were informed by deviations in key environmental, production, access, and utilization indicators from their normal seasonal thresholds.

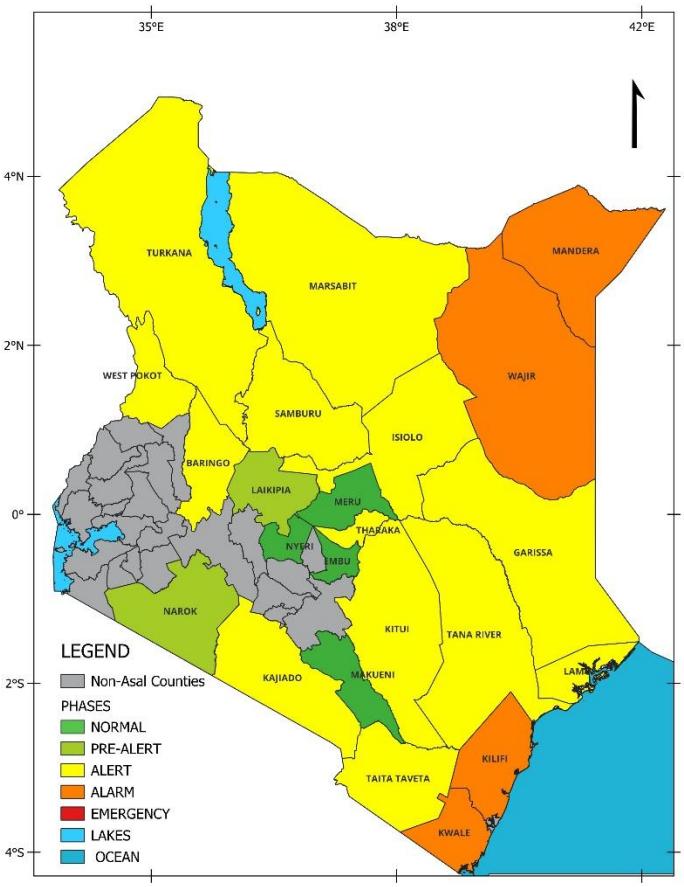

Figure 1: February 2026 Drought Phase Classification

Meanwhile, acute malnutrition remained a critical concern, driven by persistent food insecurity, high morbidity levels, and sub-optimal child care practices. The burden was most pronounced in Mandera, Garissa, Marsabit, Samburu, Baringo (Tiaty), and Turkana, which recorded the highest proportions of food-insecure populations. Overall, an estimated 810,900 children under five years and 116,800 pregnant and breastfeeding women are currently acutely malnourished and in urgent need of treatment and nutrition support interventions.

2.0. Observed Drought Indicators

2.1.1 February 2026 Rainfall Performance

Rainfall performance across the ASAL counties in February 2026 showed a slight improvement compared to January, though the spatial and temporal distribution remained uneven and largely inadequate to significantly ease prevailing drought stress. Most areas received light to moderate rainfall, providing only short-term moisture gains and limited recovery of rangeland resources.

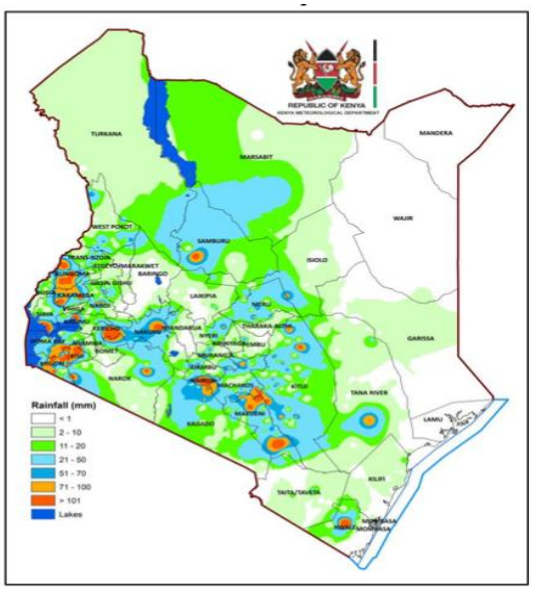

Figure 2: Rainfall Performance in February

In the Pastoral North West cluster (Turkana, and Samburu) and parts of West Pokot, rainfall was largely light (1–20 mm), particularly across northern Turkana. However, southern Turkana and sections of West Pokot and Samburu recorded light to moderate rainfall (21–50 mm), signaling localized improvements in moisture conditions. In the Pastoral North East (Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, and Isiolo) and parts of Marsabit, rainfall remained generally light and poorly distributed, with Mandera, Wajir, and Garissa receiving minimal precipitation, while parts of Marsabit and Isiolo recorded localized totals of 21–50 mm.

Across the south-eastern lowlands (Kitui, Makueni, Kajiado, Taita Taveta, and Tana River), rainfall activity improved slightly, with most areas receiving 21–50 mm and isolated pockets in Taita Taveta and Kajiado exceeding 50 mm, offering temporary improvements in pasture and water availability. Similarly, the Coastal counties of Kilifi, Kwale, Lamu, and coastal Tana River recorded light to moderate rainfall (21–50 mm), with relatively heavier pockets in southern coastal areas such as Kwale. Overall, despite the modest increase in rainfall intensity, much of the northern and north-eastern counties continued to receive light and erratically distributed rainfall, limiting meaningful recharge of soil moisture, pasture regeneration, and water resources, and sustaining underlying drought risk across pastoral and agro pastoral livelihood zones.

2.1.2 March 2026 Rainfall Forecast

The March 2026 rainfall outlook points to a generally favorable onset of the long rains across most ASAL counties, with near to above-average rainfall expected in several regions. This is likely to

support gradual recovery of rangeland resources, improve soil moisture, and contribute to partial recharge of water sources following the recent drought. However, spatial variability in rainfall performance is expected, particularly in parts of the north-eastern ASAL counties, where recovery may be slower.

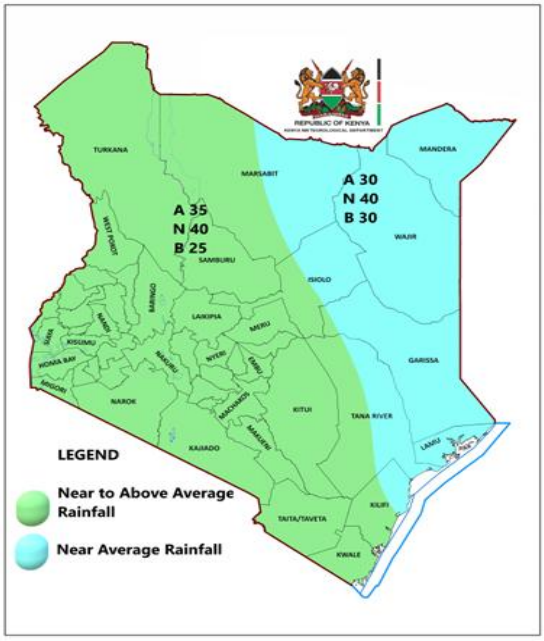

Figure 3: March 2026 Rainfall Forecast

In the Pastoral North West cluster (Turkana and Samburu) and West Pokot, rainfall is forecast to be near to above average, which may support early pasture and browse regeneration and localized improvement in water availability. Counties in the Pastoral North East cluster (Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, and Isiolo) and Marsabit are expected to receive near-average rainfall. While this represents an improvement from preceding dry conditions, the timing and distribution of rainfall will be critical in determining the extent of rangeland recovery.

Meanwhile, the south-eastern lowlands (Kitui, Makueni, Kajiado, and Taita Taveta) are likely to experience near to above-average rainfall, which is expected to enhance soil moisture and support vegetation regeneration. The coastal counties of Tana River, Kilifi, Lamu, and Kwale are also projected to receive near-average rainfall with localized above-average pockets, potentially driving gradual improvements in vegetation and surface water availability. Overall, the projected onset of the long rains offers cautious optimism for easing drought conditions, but close monitoring of rainfall distribution and continuity will be essential, as uneven performance could slow recovery and sustain localized drought risk in vulnerable pastoral areas.

2.2 Vegetation Condition

Variation in vegetation condition was noted across the ASAL counties; while it generally stabilized in the Agro-pastoral, South Eastern Marginal Agriculture and some parts of the Pastoral North West clusters, notable declines were observed in the Pastoral North East and Coastal Marginal Agriculture Livelihood Clusters compared to the previous month. The deterioration in vegetation greenness reflected persistent moisture stress and rising temperatures, that continued to constrain pasture regeneration and rangeland recovery despite localized rainfall. Nyeri (Kieni)

was the only county that registered above-normal vegetation greenness, while Baringo, Narok and Makueni maintained near-normal vegetation conditions, indicating relatively stable forage availability. Across much of the ASAL areas, however, vegetation deficits intensified. Twelve counties—Garissa, Lamu, Marsabit, Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Embu, Kitui, Turkana, West Pokot, Samburu, Laikipia, and Kajiado—recorded moderate vegetation deficits, signaling growing pressure on pasture resources and rangeland productivity. Severe vegetation deficits were observed in Kwale, Wajir, Tana River, Taita Taveta, and Isiolo, highlighting areas where grazing resources are rapidly diminishing and where pastoral livelihoods face increasing strain. Conditions were most critical in Mandera and Kilifi, where vegetation greenness remained within the extreme deficit band, pointing to acute rangeland degradation and heightened drought risk. Figure 3 presents the spatial distribution of vegetation conditions across the ASAL counties at the end of January and February 2026, while Table 1 provides detailed county-level analysis, with particular focus on the most affected sub-counties.

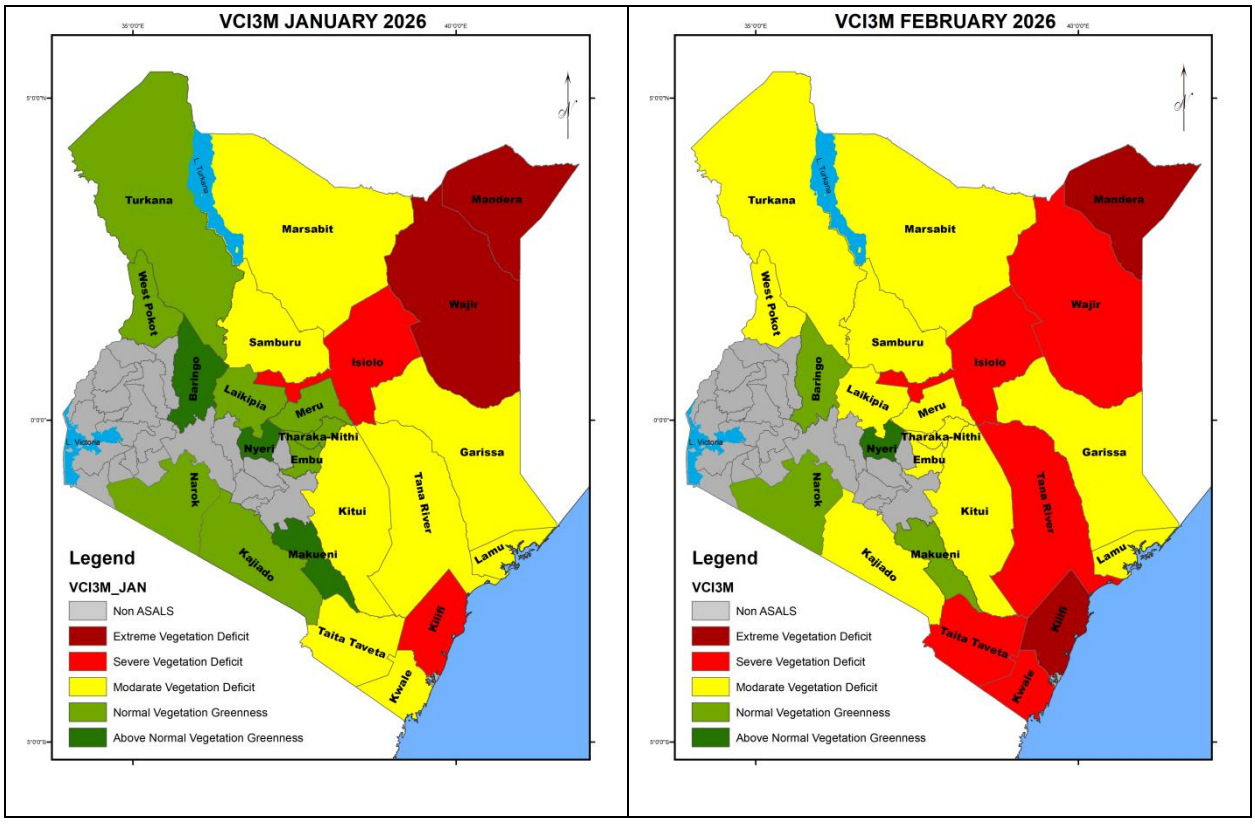

Table1: Vegetation Condition Index (VCI), February 2026

Category	County	Sub Counties (No)
Extreme Vegetation Deficit	(2) Mandera, Kilifi	(16) Banissa, Mandera North, Ganze, Kaloleni, Igembe North, Mwingi West, Mandera East, Lafey, Garsen, Wajir East, Dadaab, Kinango, Tarbaj, Magarini, Wajir South, Eldas
Severe vegetation deficit	**(5)** Isiolo, Wajir, Kwale, Tana River, Taita Taveta	(22) Tharaka, Wajir West, Mandera West, Galole, Kajiado North, Isiolo North, Mandera South, Voi, Tigania West, Kitui East, Moyale, Mwingi North, Rabai, Wajir North, Buuri, Saku, Samburu East, Lagdera, Kilifi South, Laisamis, Isiolo South, Mwatate
Moderate vegetation deficit	(13) Garissa, Kitui, Lamu, Marsabit, Samburu, Kajiado, Tharaka Nithi, Meru, West Pokot, Turkana, Laikipia, Embu, Narok	(36) Wundanyi, Bura, Taveta, Fafi, Balambala, Kajiado South, Narok East, Kitui West, Lunga Lunga, Lamu East, Kacheliba, Mwingi East, Gachoka, Loima, Laikipia North, Kajiado West, Garissa Township, North Horr, Kitui South, Matuga, Siakago, Kajiado Central, Igembe Central, Malindi, Narok South, Ijara, Samburu North, Kajiado East, Turkana North, Narok North, North Imenti, Mbooni, Sigor, Kitui Rural, Tigania East, Turkana Central

1.3. Livestock Productivity

1.3.1 Livestock Body Condition

Livestock body condition across most ASAL counties remained generally fair, accounting for approximately 78 percent of the areas under monitoring. However, poor body condition was reported in parts of Garissa, Tana River, Mandera, Samburu, and Wajir (Table 2). The observed conditions were largely attributed to increasing trekking distances by livestock in search of pasture and water, reflecting localized pressure on available rangeland resources. Despite these challenges, forage availability was partly supported by off-season rainfall received in February, alongside the presence of crop residues in some farming areas, which helped supplement livestock feed and contributed to maintaining relatively stable body conditions in some counties. Furthermore, ongoing livestock health interventions, including vaccination campaigns implemented by county governments and other stakeholders, continued to support livestock productivity and helped sustain the generally stable body condition recorded during the monitoring period.

Table 2.0: Livestock Body Condition, February 2026

Cattle			Goats/Sheep		
Poor	**Fair**	**Good**	**Poor**	**Fair**	**Good**
Wajir Mandera Garissa Tana River Samburu	Makueni, Meru Taita Taveta Narok, Kitui, Nyeri West Pokot, Embu Turkana, Lamu Baringo, Kwale Tharaka-Nithi Kajiado, Isiolo Kilifi, Marsabit		Wajir Mandera	Makueni, Taita Taveta Meru, Narok, Embu Garissa, West Pokot Turkana, Baringo Tharaka-Nithi, Kwale Lamu, Laikipia, Nyeri Kajiado, Isiolo, Kitui Tana River, Kilifi Marsabit, Samburu	

1.3.2 Milk production

A stable trend in milk production was recorded across the majority of the ASAL counties, accounting for approximately 73 percent of the areas under surveillance. However, a declining trend was reported in Garissa, Isiolo, Turkana, Kitui, Nyeri, and Tharaka Nithi (Table 3). The generally stable milk production trend was associated with minimal disease incidences, as well as fair livestock body condition, which was partly supported by the availability of dry forage, though in limited quantities across some counties. In addition, limited migration of lactating herds, many of which were supported through supplementary feeding, contributed to sustaining milk production levels during the reporting period. Despite the observed stability, milk production remained below the expected seasonal averages in approximately 82 percent of the counties. This was largely attributed to the effects of the prolonged drought, which has continued to constrain pasture and water availability and consequently affecting livestock productivity in several ASAL areas.

Table 3.0: Milk production, February 2026

Current status			Trend		
Above LTA	**At LTA**	**Below LTA**	**Improving**	**Stable**	**Worsening**
Turkana Embu Kwale Narok	Baringo Garissa Samburu Wajir, West Pokot	Isiolo, Mandera Marsabit, Kitui Tana River, Nyeri Kajiado, Kilifi Laikipia, Lamu Makueni, Meru Taita Taveta, Tharaka Nithi	Samburu Kwale Makueni Narok	Baringo, Lamu Mandera, Meru Marsabit, Embu Tana River Wajir, Kajiado Kilifi, Laikipia Taita Taveta West Pokot	Garissa Isiolo Turkana Kitui Nyeri, Tharaka- Nithi

1.3.3. Livestock diseases

Peste des Petits Ruminants **(**PPR) and Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP) remained one of the most prevalent diseases affecting small ruminants during the reporting period. Cases were reported in West Pokot (Chepareria and Kapchok), Laikipia, Mandera (Mandera North, Lafey, and Banisa where it contributed to notable mortality**),** Garissa, Turkana, and Marsabit (widespread in Saku and Laisamis) counties**.** Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) cases affecting cattle were reported in West Pokot, Kwale (Ndavaya areas of Kinango sub-county and parts of Mwereni) and Turkana **(**endemic in pastoral areas**)** counties**.** Suspected Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) affecting cattle was reported in West Pokot (Kapchok), Laikipia, Marsabit (foot of Mt. Kulal), and Turkana counties**.** Vector-borne Diseases increased in Garissa, Mandera, and Marsabit counties due to a rise in vectors such as ticks, mites, lice, and biting flies. In Garissa, increased cases of anaplasmosis, babesiosis, and trypanosomiasis were reported in Barakai, Kadhilash, Gurufa, Afweyn, Dertu, Saka, and Degwardey, mainly affecting cattle and camels. Trypanosomiasis was also commonly reported in Mandera County**.** In Marsabit**,** East Coast Fever (ECF) cases were reported in Boru Haro and areas around Jirime in Saku sub-county**.** Sheep and Goat Pox affecting small ruminants was reported in Mandera, Garissa, and Laikipia counties**,** where the disease remains a recurring livestock health concern. Rabies cases were reported in Marsabit County {(Moyale- outbreaks occurred in Anona, Sololo, Waye, and Aria), (Saku-cases were reported in Manyatta Jillo, where suspected rabid dogs killed several sheep and goats), and North Horr- dog bite incidents were also reported in Malabot area)}.

1.3.4 Cattle prices

Cattle prices remained generally stable across most counties during the reporting period (Table 4). The stability was largely associated with the fair body condition of livestock, that was supported by access to pasture and water resources, albeit in limited quantities across some areas. However, a decline in cattle prices was reported in approximately 30 percent of the counties attributable to the deteriorating livestock body condition resulting from constrained pasture availability, as well as periodic market oversupply. Other factors influencing the decline included weakened market dynamics, such as reduced accessibility to key livestock markets and limited purchasing power among buyers. Despite these localized declines, the prevailing cattle prices remained above their respective long-term averages in majority of the counties during the period under review largely sustained by supplementary livestock feed sources such as crop residues, prevailing market supply

dynamics, fluctuations in demand, and the broader livestock pricing trends observed across the ASAL markets.

Table 4.0: Cattle prices, February 2026

Current status			Trend		
Above LTA	**At LTA**	**Below LTA**	**Improving**	**Stable**	**Worsening**
Garissa, Isiolo Marsabit, Samburu Turkana, Wajir Kilifi, Laikipia Makueni, Meru Narok, Taita Taveta Nyeri, Tharaka Nithi	Baringo Kajiado Kitui, West-Pokot	Mandera Tana River Embu Kwale Lamu	Garissa Tana River Narok, Tharaka-Nithi	Baringo, Meru Mandera, Embu, Kitui Turkana Kajiado Kilifi, Kwale Laikipia Makueni Taita Taveta	Isiolo Marsabit Samburu Wajir Lamu Nyeri West Pokot

1.3.5 Goat Prices

The market price of goats remained largely stable across most ASAL counties during the month under review. However, a declining trend was reported Isiolo, Mandera, Tana River, and Kwale (Table 5). The deterioration in prices in these counties was mainly attributed to imbalances in market demand and supply, which exerted downward pressure on prevailing goat prices. Overall, most counties recorded goat prices within the normal range for the season, with the exception of Mandera, Wajir, Kwale, West Pokot, and Meru. In many markets, above-average goat prices were sustained during the reporting period, largely supported by fair livestock body condition, which was partly maintained through the availability of browse, although on a gradually declining trend. Additionally, relatively strong market performance and sustained demand for goats contributed to maintaining the favorable price levels observed during the month.

Table 5.0: Goat prices, February 2026

Current status			Trend		
Above LTA	**At LTA**	**Below LTA**	**Improving**	**Stable**	**Worsening**
Baringo, Garissa Isiolo, Marsabit Samburu, Embu Kajiado, Kilifi Kitui, Laikipia Lamu, Makueni Narok, Nyeri Taita Taveta	Tana River Turkana, Tharaka-Nithi	Mandera Wajir Kwale, West-Pokot Meru	Garissa Narok, Tharaka-Nithi	Baringo, Marsabit Samburu, Turkana Wajir, Laikipia Embu, Kajiado Kilifi, West Pokot Kitui, Lamu Makueni, Meru Nyeri, Taita Taveta	Isiolo Mandera Tana River Kwale

1.4 Crop production

Crop production across most counties remained below average, largely due to poor and erratic rainfall experienced during the previous season. In the Coastal and South Eastern marginal agricultural zones, many areas reported poor yields or complete crop failure, particularly for maize, beans, and cowpeas, although a few locations were still harvesting limited produce. As a result, most farmers shifted focus to land preparation and early planting in anticipation of the long rains season. In the agro-pastoral zones, planting and crop management were the main activities, with crop conditions ranging from fair to good in areas that received some rainfall. Table 6 summarizes the state of crop production across select counties in the ASALs throughout February.

Table 6.0: Current status of crop production

Cluster	Counties	Current state of crop production
Coastal Marginal agriculture	**Lamu**	A few farmers across the livelihood zones were preparing their land in readiness for the anticipated long rains season.
	Taita Taveta	In horticulture/dairy areas crops were mostly at harvesting stage with some still being harvested green. In irrigated and mixed farming zones, maize harvesting continued while beans and cowpeas had already been harvested.
	Kilifi	Most farmers focused on land preparation during the reporting month in anticipation of the upcoming long rains season.
	Kwale	Crops in most livelihood zones had reached maturity and were being harvested, although many seasonal crops such as maize, green grams and cowpeas largely failed.
South Eastern Marginal agriculture	**Embu**	The marginal mixed farming zone experienced complete crop failure, while harvests in mixed farming areas were about 70–80 percent below normal. Some farmers began preparing land and planting for the next season.
	Tharaka Nithi	Farm activities mainly involved land preparation ahead of the long rains. Early planting had started in parts of the mixed farming zone, although most farmers were still waiting for consistent rainfall before large-scale planting.
	Kitui	Harvesting had largely concluded but yields were very low, with some areas recording no harvest due to poor OND rainfall. Only limited post-harvest handling occurred where a small portion of crops survived.
	Makueni	Harvesting was ongoing across the county, though conditions varied from fair in better areas to poor in marginal zones due to erratic rainfall,

		moisture stress and pests. Yield losses of up to 65–70 percent were expected in the most affected areas.
Agro-pastoral	**Narok**	Maize crops were in early to mid-vegetative stages following improved rainfall performance, generally in fair to good condition, with weeding being the main farm activity.
	Laikipia	Around 60–70 percent of farmers had prepared land for the MAM season and were sourcing inputs such as certified seeds and fertilizers. Early planted crops had germinated well, while wheat land preparation and Irish potato production were ongoing.
	West Pokot	Farmers were engaged in land preparation and planting activities in preparation for the March–April–May rainy season.
	Kajiado	Planting was underway in most areas, while some farmers continued with land preparation. In drier eastern zones replanting was taking place after early crops suffered moisture stress.
	Nyeri	Farmers were harvesting crops from the previous short rains season while simultaneously preparing land for the upcoming long rains season.

1.4.1 Maize prices

Maize prices remained generally stable in approximately 70 percent of the counties attributable to cross-border imports, the availability of carry-over stocks from the previous production season, and consistent market inflows from neighbouring agricultural counties, which collectively supplemented local market supplies (Table 7). However, price increases were reported in Isiolo, Mandera, Wajir, Kajiado, Kilifi, Kwale, and West Pokot ascribed to increased reliance on market purchases, and the growing use of maize as supplementary livestock feed by pastoral households in response to declining forage availability in some areas. Overall, the prevailing maize prices in most counties remained within the normal seasonal range, with the exception of Samburu, Wajir, and Makueni. In several markets, average price levels were observed, partly due to reduced demand for maize, as households increasingly relied on alternative cereal substitutes available in local markets.

Table 7.0: Maize prices, February 2026

Current status			Trend		
Above LTA	**At/close to LTA**	**Below LTA**	**Improving**	**Stable**	**Worsening**
Baringo, Tana-River Kwale Nyeri, West-Pokot	Garissa, Isiolo Mandera, Kitui Marsabit, Meru Turkana, Narok Embu, Lamu Kajiado, Kilifi Laikipia Taita Taveta Tharaka Nithi	Samburu Wajir Makueni	Tana River Embu	Baringo, Garissa Marsabit, Lamu Samburu, Kitui Turkana, Laikipia Makueni, Meru Narok, Nyeri Taita Taveta Tharaka Nithi	Isiolo Mandera Wajir Kajiado Kilifi Kwale West Pokot

1.5 WATER ACCESS

1.5.1 Access to water for households

During the month under review, approximately 78 percent of the ASAL counties reported no significant change in the average distance to water sources compared to the previous month (Table 8). The observed stability was largely attributed to improved water availability following the partial recharge of nearby open water sources, resulting from the off-season rainfall received in February. However, increased trekking distances were reported in some areas, mainly due to breakdowns of strategic boreholes and inadequate recharge of water sources as evidenced in Kwale. Among the arid counties, the longest trekking distance was recorded in Wajir, averaging 11.8 kilometres while in the semi-arid counties, the longest distances were reported in Kitui and Lamu, each recording an average of 7.2 kilometres. Overall, about 60 percent of the counties recorded trekking distances within their respective long-term averages. In the remaining counties where distances exceeded the normal range, the deviation was mainly attributed to high evaporation rates that rendered some water sources non-functional, forcing households to rely on more distant alternative water points.

Table 8.0: Distance from Households to Main Water Sources, February 2026

Current status			Trend		
Above LTA	**At LTA**	**Below LTA**	**Improving**	**Stable**	**Worsening**
Garissa Tana River Wajir, Kitui Kilifi, Kwale Laikipia Lamu, Narok	Marsabit Makueni	Baringo, Isiolo Mandera, Meru Samburu, Nyeri Turkana Embu, Kajiado Taita Taveta Tharaka Nithi West Pokot	Baringo Kajiado Narok, Taita Taveta West Pokot	Garissa, Isiolo Mandera, Wajir Marsabit, Kitui Samburu, Lamu Tana River Turkana, Kilifi Tharaka Nithi	Embu Kwale Laikipia Makueni Meru

1.5.2 Access to water for livestock

Approximately 43 percent of the ASAL counties reported an increase in the distance to water points from grazing areas, while 57 percent recorded no significant change compared to January (Table 9). The increasing distances were mainly attributed to the drying up of some open water sources due to poor recharge from the previous rainfall season, a decline in groundwater levels, reduced river flows, and breakdown of water facilities resulting from prolonged overuse. The longest trekking distance from grazing areas to water points among the arid counties was reported in Mandera, averaging 16.4 kilometres, while among the semi-arid counties, Lamu recorded the longest distance 10.2 kilometres. Despite the observed increases in some areas, the prevailing trekking distances in majority of counties remained within the normal seasonal range attributed to the availability of dry forage around some water sources, sustained by the off-season rainfall received during the month under review, particularly in select counties within the Agro-pastoral and South Eastern Marginal Agriculture livelihood clusters.

Table 9.0: Distance from Grazing area to Main Water Sources, February 2026

Current status			Trend		
Above LTA	**At LTA**	**Below LTA**	**Improving**	**Stable**	**Worsening**
Garissa Marsabit Tana River Turkana Kitui, Kwale Laikipia Lamu, Narok West Pokot	Isiolo Mandera Samburu Wajir Kilifi	Baringo Embu, Meru Kajiado Makueni Nyeri Taita Taveta Tharaka Nithi	Kajiado Nyeri Taita Taveta West Pokot	Baringo Mandera Wajir, Kitui Kwale, Lamu Makueni Meru Tharaka Nithi	Garissa, Isiolo Marsabit, Embu Samburu, Narok Tana River Turkana Kilifi, Laikipia

1.6 Terms of trade

The livestock-to-cereal terms of trade (ToT) remained stable in approximately 60 percent of the ASAL counties, while the remaining counties recorded a worsening trend during the month under review (Table 10). The observed stability across most counties was mainly driven by stable goat prices alongside relatively unchanged maize prices, which helped maintain purchasing power for pastoral households in these areas. Among the arid counties, the lowest terms of trade, averaging 31 kilograms of maize per goat, were recorded in Mandera and Turkana. In the semi-arid counties, the lowest terms of trade were reported in Kwale, averaging 56 kilograms of maize per goat, indicating comparatively reduced purchasing power among pastoral households in these counties. With respect to the long-term seasonal averages, most counties recorded terms of trade within the normal range, with the exception of Mandera, Kwale, Makueni, and Meru. The generally favorable terms of trade observed across the majority of counties were largely attributed to relatively stable livestock prices and favorable market conditions for livestock-dependent households during the reporting period.

Table 10.0: Terms of Trade, February 2026

Current status			Trend		
Above LTA	**At LTA**	**Below LTA**	**Improving**	**Stable**	**Worsening**
Baringo, Garissa Marsabit, Samburu Tana River, Embu Kajiado, Kilifi Laikipia, Lamu Nyeri, Taita Taveta Tharaka Nithi	Isiolo, Narok Turkana Wajir, Kitui West Pokot	Mandera Kwale Makueni Meru	Garissa Embu, Narok Nyeri Tharaka Nithi	Baringo Marsabit Wajir, Kitui Laikipia Lamu, Meru Makueni Taita Taveta	Isiolo, Mandera Samburu, Kwale Tana River Turkana Kajiado, Kilifi West Pokot

1.7. Health and nutrition

The nutrition situation, as assessed through the Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurements among children under five years, indicated a generally stable trend across the majority of the ASAL counties during the month under review. However, deterioration in the nutrition status was reported Garissa, Isiolo, Wajir, Embu, Kilifi, Narok, and Tharaka Nithi (Table 11). The observed stability in most counties was partly attributed to improved access to nutrition services through integrated health outreach programmes, which continued to support routine screening and early identification of malnutrition cases. Conversely, the worsening trend reported

in the affected counties was associated with limited access to diverse diets, as well as declining household milk consumption, which reduced the availability of key nutrients for young children. Overall, the proportion of children classified as 'at risk' of malnutrition was above the usual seasonal range in approximately 52 percent of the counties. The elevated proportions were mainly linked to persistent poor health-seeking behaviour, high morbidity levels, and suboptimal child care and feeding practices, which continue to influence child nutrition outcomes in several ASAL areas.

Table 11.0: Children at risk of malnutrition (MUAC), February 2026

Current status			Trend		
Above LTA	**At LTA**	**Below LTA**	**Improving**	**Stable**	**Worsening**
Garissa, Isiolo Mandera, Kwale Marsabit, Lamu Turkana, Meru Kilifi, Kitui Narok Tharaka Nithi	Baringo Kajiado Laikipia Taita Taveta West Pokot	Samburu Tana River Wajir Embu, Nyeri Makueni	Baringo, Lamu Marsabit, Meru Samburu Tana River Turkana Kwale, Laikipia Makueni West Pokot	Mandera Kajiado Kitui Nyeri Taita Taveta	Garissa, Isiolo Wajir, Embu Kilifi, Narok Tharaka Nithi

2.0 Drought phase classification

Based on early-warning indicators monitored by the Kenya Drought Early Warning System, Mandera, Wajir, Kilifi, and Kwale Counties were classified under the "Alarm" phase. Thirteen counties—Samburu, Baringo, Marsabit, Kitui, Taita Taveta, Kajiado, West Pokot, Garissa, Isiolo, Tana River, Turkana, Lamu, and Tharaka Nithi—were in the "Alert" phase, with some counties showing stable conditions while others exhibited deteriorating trends. Two counties—Laikipia and Narok—were categorized under the "Pre-Alert" phase, while Makueni, Nyeri, Embu and Meru remained in the "Normal" phase, with Meru showing signs of deterioration (Table 12).

Table 12.0: Drought phase classification, February 2026

Drought status	Trend		
	Improving	**Stable**	**Worsening/Deteriorating**
Normal		Makueni, Nyeri, Embu	Meru,
Pre Alert		Laikipia, Narok	
Alert	Samburu, Kajiado, Baringo	Marsabit, Kitui, Taita Taveta, West Pokot	Garissa, Isiolo, Tana River, Turkana, Lamu, Tharaka Nithi,
Alarm			Mandera, Wajir, Kilifi, Kwale
Emergency			
Recovery			