National Drought Management Authority
MARSABIT COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR MARCH 2025

A Vision 2030 Flagship Project

DROUGHT EW PHASE: ALERT

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

Rainfall: In the month under review, the onset of the long rains occurred in the second-third dekad of March. Current rainfall for estimate is between 107 and 216 percent of the normal with North Horr and Moyale recording better rains.

Vegetation Condition: The Vegetation Condition Index is 34.8 (Moderate Vegetation Deficit). Normalized difference vegetation index indicates that vegetation greenness is 111-195 percent of the 20-year average.

Socio-Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

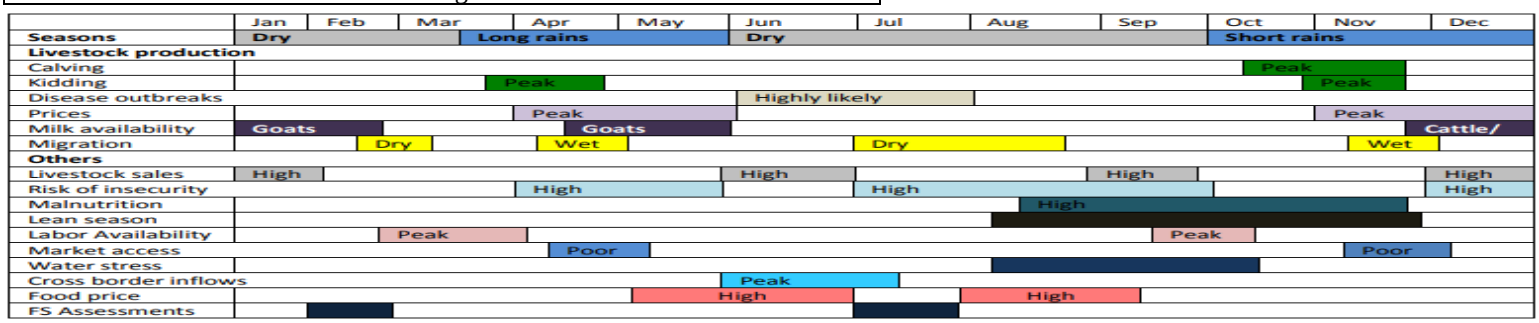
Production Indicators: Currently, most of the livestock species exhibit good-fair body conditions. All livelihood zones recorded slightly above normal milk production. Livestock migration patterns were minimal and followed traditional routes. The birth rates (kidding, lambing, calving) for all livestock species are above normal in all the livelihood zones. Increased incidences of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) in sheep/goats in Moyale sub-county. In North Horr, a suspected tick-borne disease outbreak in camels led to 12 camel deaths. Maize (780 Ha), beans (500 Ha), and green grams/cowpeas (100 Ha) are currently at the planting/germination stage, with germination observed. Field activities include planting and weeding, with cutworms identified as the main pest.

Access Indicators: Water distances for both households and livestock are below normal. Water sources in North Horr and Moyale sub-counties having high current depths of between 84-92 percent. Groundwater recharge in most parts of Saku sub-county shows moderate water levels. Milk consumption remained below normal levels. Terms of trade continued to perform above normal. Cereal prices remained generally stable across most commodity markets, with normal market operations reported. Livestock prices were above average.

Utilization Indicators: The majority of households are applying consumption and livelihood-based coping strategies, indicative of crisis level (IPC Phase 3). Households are in crisis- level food consumption category indicative of large household food consumption gaps. Children below the age of five years at risk of malnutrition are within the normal ranges.

Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	**Alert**	**Improving**
Pastoral All species	**Alert**	**Improving**
Fisher folk/Casual labour/Petty Trading	**Alert**	**Improving**
County	**Alert**	**Improving**
Biophysical Indicators	**Value**	**Normal Range/Value**
Rainfall (% of Normal)	107-217%	80 -120%
VCI-3 Month (County)	34.8	> 35
NDVI Anomaly	111-195%	100%
State of Water Sources	2-3	3-4
Production indicators	**Value**	**Normal**
Livestock Body Condition	LBCS 3-4	LBCS 3-5
Milk Production	2.0	>1.7 Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No deaths	No deaths
Access Indicators	**Value**	**Normal**
Terms of Trade (ToT)	99.9	>81.7
Milk Consumption	1.0	>1.2 Litres
Return distance to water	4.8	0.0-7.7 Km
Livestock distances	12.5	< 16.4
Utilization indicators	**Value**	**Normal**
Nutrition Status	16.3	0.0-18.9
Coping Strategy Index	19.3	<18
Livelihood Coping	Stressed	Crisis
Food Consumption Score	34.0	>35



1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

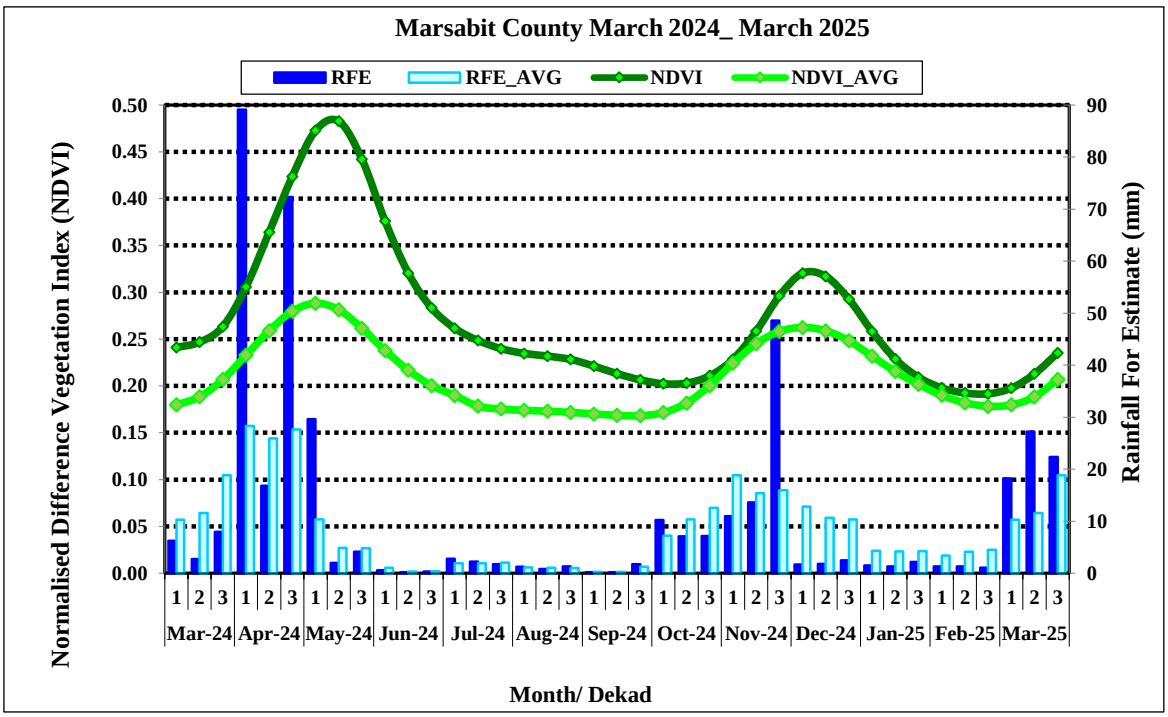


Figure 1: Dekadal Rainfall (mm) and NDVI values compared to the Long-Term Average

- The above figure compares current dekadal rainfall estimates and the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) to their respective long-term historical averages. The current rainfall for estimate is between 107.16 and 216.68 percent of the normal March rains, indicating a significant increase in current rainfall amounts compared to historical trends. Similarly, the NDVI is between 94.57-111.01 percent of the normal March vegetation conditions, driven by the effects of the above-normal March rains received in most parts of the County that led to gradual reinvigoration of forage cover across the County. vegetation greenness levels are slightly above average attributed to the ripple effect of the previous three consecutive rains across Marsabit County.

1.2 Onset of the Long Rains

- The onset of the long rains varied across the sub-counties. In Moyale and Saku sub-counties, the onset of the long rains was timely as it occurred in the second dekad of March which is a normal onset. Conversely, the onset of the long rains was late in North Hor and Laisamis as it occurred in the third dekad of the month as opposed to the normal second dekad.

1.3 Amounts Received

- In the month under review, Moyale Meteorological Station recorded significant rainfall amounts totalling 151.2 mm of rainfall in 11 rainy days with the highest amount recorded on 28th March at 46.2 mm. However, Marsabit Meteorological Station recorded only 69 mm of rainfall in 9 rainy days with the maximum amount recorded on 28th March at 31.8mm. Ground Rainfall Data from Community Based Observation Network (CBON) manual weather stations in North Horr sub-county indicates that enhanced rainfall amounts were recorded in North Horr, Elboru Magadho, Dukana and Balesa with the March rainfall

amounts cumulating to 207mm, 158mm, 152mm and 108mm respectively in 3-8 rainy days. Monthly accumulation of rainfall significantly was above average, with positive anomalies for North Horr, Dukana, Elboru Magadho and Balesa at 170mm, 98mm, 74mm, and 70mm respectively.

1.4 Spatial and Temporal Distribution

- Satellite Rainfall Estimate Data from the NASA Global Precipitation Measurements (GPM) indicates rainfall anomaly estimates across Marsabit County. Rainfall anomaly across Marsabit County in March 2025 exhibited significant spatial variability, with different wards experiencing a mixture of below-normal, normal, above-normal, and exceedingly above-normal rainfall amounts. Negative anomalies (below-normal rainfall) were observed in

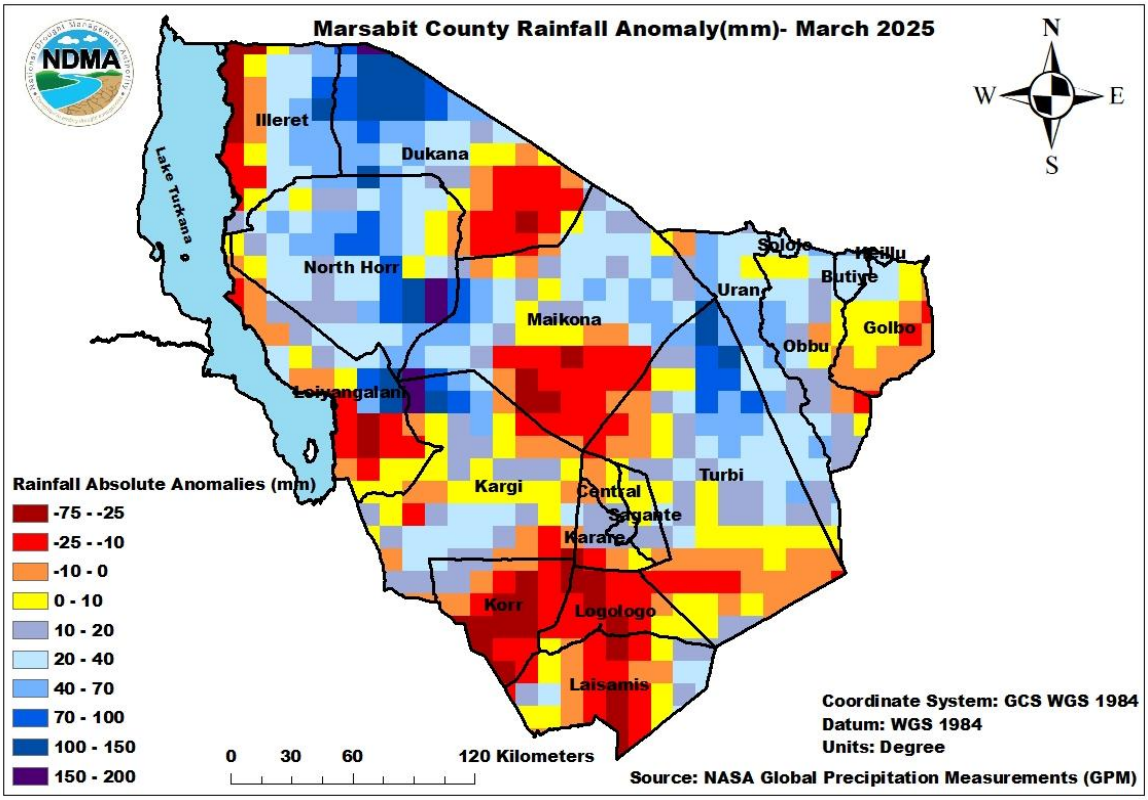


Figure 2: NASA Global Precipitation Measurements Anomaly_Marsabit County

Kargi, Korr, Karare, Logologo, Laisamis, and Golbo and Loiyangalani along the Lake Turkana Belt, where rainfall deficits ranged from -10mm to -75mm. These areas generally experienced dry than usual conditions, indicating lower-than-expected rainfall. The most pronounced deficits were observed in Loiyangalani along the Lake Turkana belt, Korr, and Golbo wards, where anomalies ranged between -25mm to -75mm, highlighting severe rainfall shortages.

- Areas with near-normal rainfall (0 to 20mm anomaly) included parts of Maikona, Turbi, Uran, and Central Marsabit. These wards received rainfall close to the climatological norm. Wards that experienced above-normal rainfall (20mm to 70mm anomaly) included Dukana, Uran, Obbu, and parts of North Horr, where moderate rainfall was observed. Areas with significantly above-normal rainfall (70mm to 150mm anomaly) were scattered across pockets of Maikona, Turbi, and Uran, showing higher precipitation amounts than typical for the month under review. Exceedingly above-normal rainfall (>150mm anomaly) was observed in isolated pockets, particularly in the northwestern parts of the county. These areas

received highly enhanced rainfall, which resulted in flooding. By and large, Marsabit County experienced a mixed rainfall anomaly pattern for the month under review, with southern and southwestern parts being drier than normal, while northwestern and central parts recorded significantly above-normal rainfall amounts.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

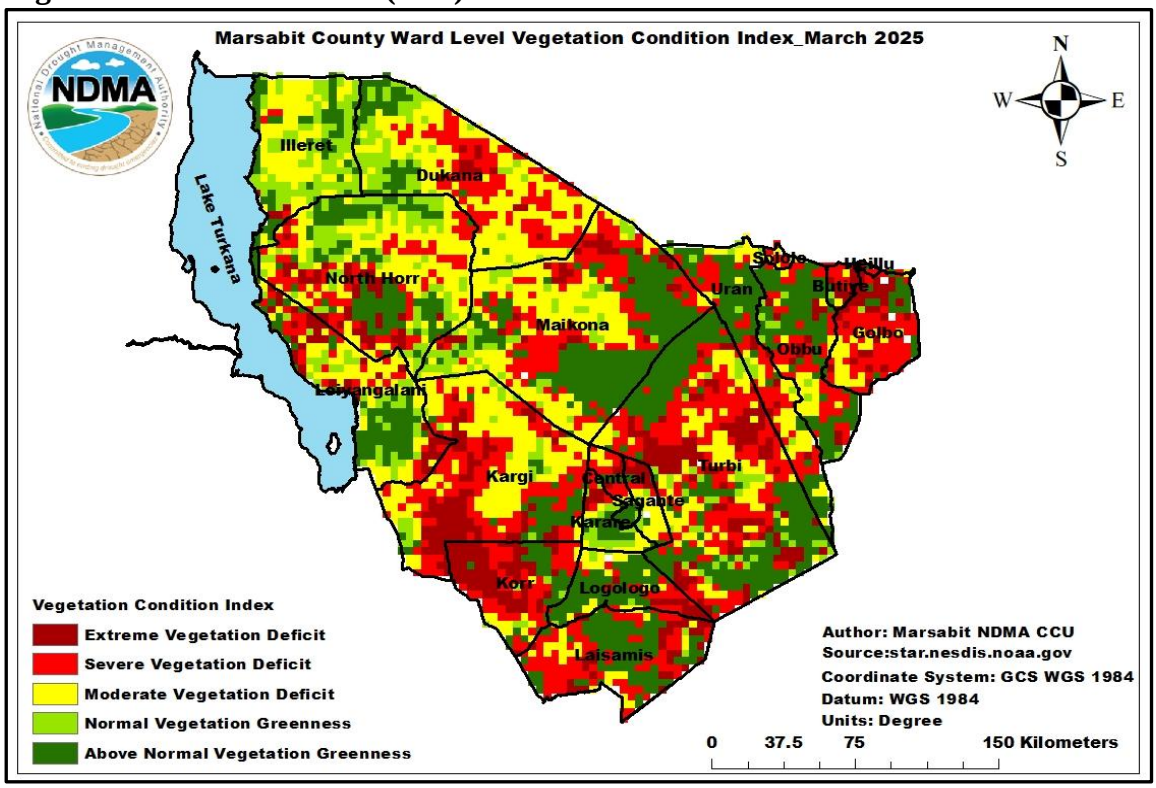


Figure 3: Vegetation Condition Index across Wards in Marsabit County_March 2025

- The Vegetation Condition Index (VCI) map of Marsabit County for March 2025 portrays a stark picture of varying vegetation conditions across different wards, driven by the uneven spatial distribution of the March rainfall. The northern parts of North Horr and Maikona wards and eastern parts of Turbi, and Obbu wards are in extreme and severe vegetation deficits. Towards the central parts of the county e.g. Dukana, Uran, and Laisamis, indicating moderate vegetation deficits. In contrast, the southern and central wards, including Karare, Logologo, and Saku indicate patches of normal vegetation conditions. Amidst the widespread vegetation stress, pockets of above-normal vegetation greenness are in isolated pockets of Loiyangalani, North Horr, Dukana, Logologo, Sololo, and Karare attributed to good rainfall amounts exhibited in those areas.

Table 1.0: Vegetation Condition Index across Wards

No.	Ward	Vegetation Condition Index	Vegetation Condition Category
1.	Butiye	**19**	**Severe Vegetation Deficit**
2.	Sololo	20	Moderate Vegetation Deficit
3.	Heillu/Manyatta	28	Moderate Vegetation Deficit
4.	Golbo	24	Moderate Vegetation Deficit

5.	North Horr	37	Normal Vegetation Greenness
6.	Illeret	42	Normal Vegetation Greenness
7.	Sagante/Jaldesa	27	Moderate Vegetation Deficit
8.	Laisamis	43	Normal Vegetation Greenness
9.	Uran	42	Normal Vegetation Greenness
10.	Obbu	51	**Above Normal Vegetation Greenness**
11.	Dukana	29	Moderate Vegetation Deficit
12.	Maikona	44	Normal Vegetation Greenness
13.	Karare	42	Normal Vegetation Greenness
14.	Marsabit Central	37	Normal Vegetation Greenness
15.	Loiyangalani	39	Normal Vegetation Greenness
16.	Turbi	36	Normal Vegetation Greenness
17.	Kargi/South Horr	25	Moderate Vegetation Deficit
18.	Korr/Ngurunit	23	Moderate Vegetation Deficit
19.	Logologo	54	**Above Normal Vegetation Greenness**

- The analysis presented in the aforementioned table indicates that wards such as Butiye (VCI 19) and Sololo (VCI 20) are classified within the bands of severe and moderate vegetation deficits, respectively. Conversely, wards such as Obbu (VCI 51) and Logologo (VCI 54) exhibit above-normal levels of vegetation greenness. It is noteworthy that a majority of wards—including North Horr, Illeret, and Laisamis—are categorized under "Normal Vegetation Greenness," suggesting a prevailing trend of enhanced stability in vegetation across these wards. Nevertheless, the existence of several wards exhibiting moderate vegetation deficits (for example, Heillu/Manyatta, Golbo, and Dukana) requires close monitoring.

2.1.2 Pasture Condition

- A gradual improvement in pasture conditions was recorded across all livelihood zones, attributed to the ongoing long rains which improved the general vegetation cover. The pasture condition remained largely fair at 68.6 percent, with 22.9 percent recorded as good and only 8.6 percent recorded as poor across all the livelihood zones. The current pasture across the different livelihood zones will likely coincide with the next short rain season expected in October. The current factors limiting access to pastures include the proliferation of invasive plant species including acacia reficiens and woodland covering about a total of 35,000 hectares. Prosopis spp and Acacia reficiens are estimated to occupy an estimated 3,000ha and 20,000ha respectively in Laisamis sub-county. In Saku subcounty, invasive weed/plant species include Capparis tomentosa, Solanum incanum, and Lantana camara.

2.1.3 Browse Condition

- The month under review recorded generally fair browse conditions in all livelihood zones, which is normal at this time of the year. A gradual improvement in browse quality and quantity was recorded driven by the ongoing long rains in most parts of the County.
- The current pasture across the different livelihood zones will likely coincide with the onset of the next rainy season expected in October.

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

2.2.1 Sources

- In the month under review, increased water availability was recorded across all livelihood zones. Recharge levels for surface water sources are 30-45 percent of their capacities and currently, over 55 percent of all surface water sources across all the sub-counties have recharged. Groundwater sources have recorded an improvement as a result of the ongoing long rains in most parts of the County. Boreholes recorded the largest household usage rate at 50 percent. The use of shallow wells, traditional river wells, pans/dams, natural ponds, traditional rivers, and springs was at 16.1 percent, 8.1 percent, 6.5 percent, and 6.5 percent respectively.

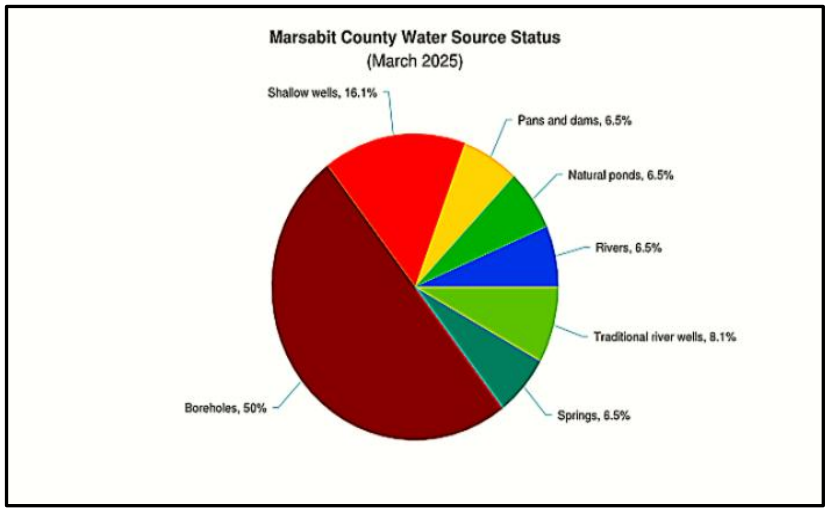


Figure 4: Status of Water Sources across Marsabit County

- The water point viewer indicates varying water availability across Marsabit County for the groundwater recharge, with water sources in North Horr and Moyale sub-counties having high current depths of between 84-92 percent, suggesting high recharge. Groundwater recharge in most parts of Saku sub-county shows moderate water levels while those in the southern parts of Laisamis sub-county are at Alert with a very low recharge level of 4 percent.

2.2.2 Household Water Access and Utilization

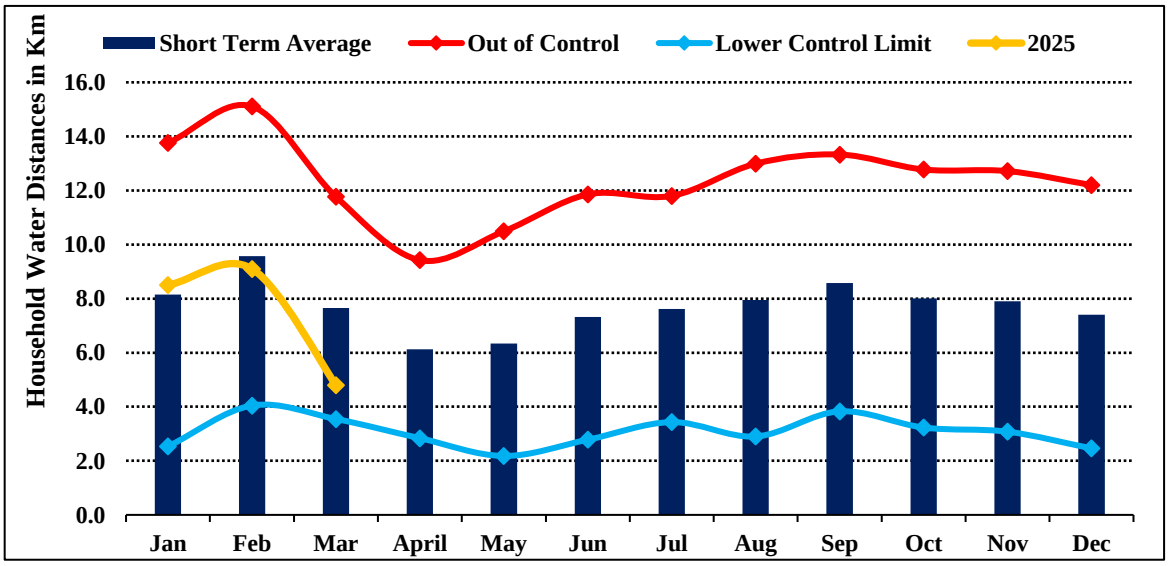


Figure 5: Current household return water distances compared to the Short-Term Average distances (Km)

- Household water distance significantly decreased from 9.3 km in February to 4.8 km during the month under review, driven by increased water recharge across all livelihood zones. Per capita water consumption in these zones ranges between 11-12 liters per day, which remains below the normal 15-20 liters per day.
- However, there was an improvement in March compared to the previous month, attributed to ongoing long rains experienced in most parts of the county.
- Waiting times at water sources have also reduced. In agro-pastoral zones, the wait time now ranges between 15-30 minutes, compared to the usual 30-45 minutes. In pastoral zones, the average wait time is 30-60 minutes, down from the normal 45-60 minutes. This decline in waiting times is due to increased recharge levels in sub-surface water sources.
- Looking ahead, water availability and accessibility at the household level are expected to improve further across all livelihood zones as the long rains continue.

2.2.3 Livestock Access

- The average return trekking distance for livestock from grazing areas to water points has significantly declined to 12.5 km, compared to 19.1 km in the previous month. This distance is now within acceptable ranges relative to the normal grazing distance of 16.4 km.
- In all livelihood zones, the watering interval for cattle is currently 1-2 days, slightly longer than the normal one-day interval. Camels are watered every 5-7 days, which is below the usual 7-10 days, while sheep and goats are watered every 2-3 days, instead of the normal 2-day interval.

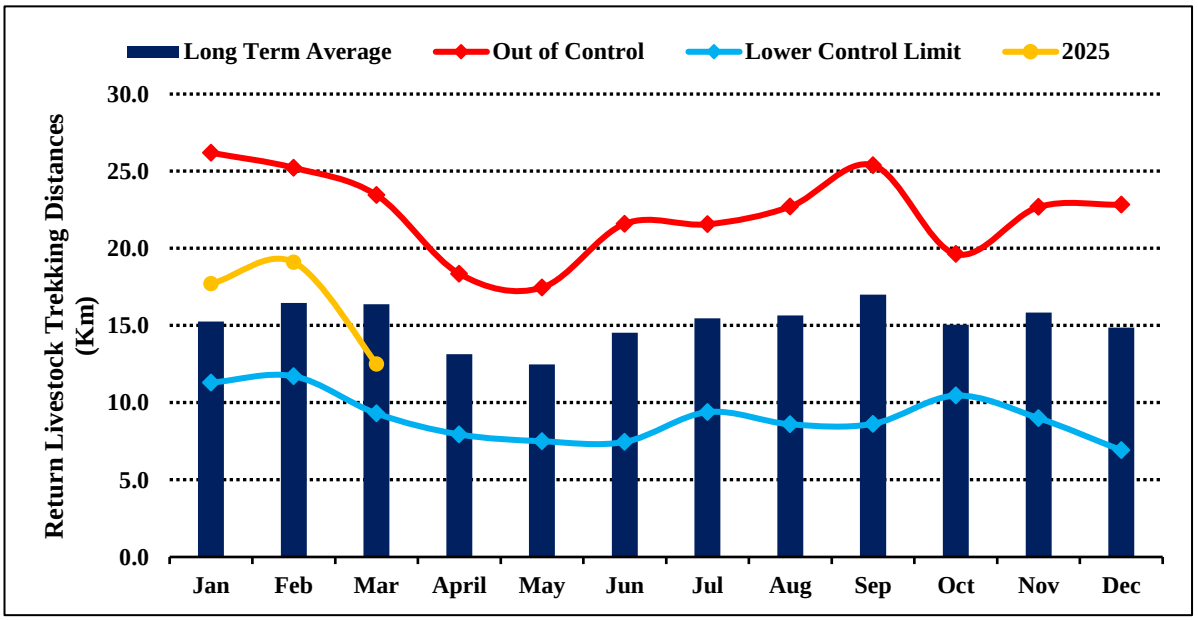


Figure 6: Current livestock trekking distances compared to the Short-Term Average distances (Km)

- The reduction in watering intervals across all livestock species is attributed to improved vegetation conditions and increased recharge levels in sub-surface water sources across the livelihood zones. Looking ahead, livestock watering intervals are expected to decrease further next month due to the likely continuation of the long rains.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

- Livestock production across all livelihood zones is currently rated as fair to good, largely due to the stable availability of pasture and browse, as well as improved watering intervals for all species. These improvements are attributed to the ongoing long rains, and the presence of below-normal livestock holdings, which has reduced pressure on available resources.
- Generally, livestock productivity is good across the county. However, there are still some constraints, including the prevalence of livestock diseases—particularly affecting shoats and camels—and limited availability of breeding stock, which may hinder further productivity improvements.

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Livestock body condition across all livelihood zones ranges from fair (BCS 3) to good (BCS 4), which is normal. A gradual improvement in the condition of large stock has been observed, primarily due to reduced trekking distances to water sources. However, isolated cases of poor to fair body condition persist, mainly as a result of increased disease prevalence.
- In the next month, livestock are expected to maintain good body condition scores in the coming month, supported by the continued availability of adequate forage and improved water access. This sustained improvement is anticipated to enhance milk production at the household level and contribute to higher market prices in major livestock markets.

3.1.2 Livestock Migration

- Minimal livestock migration has been observed across the County, largely due to the general improvement in pasture and water conditions. However, in North Horr Sub-County, approximately 10–15 percent of livestock remain in their traditional grazing areas, including Gor Dima, Sarimo, Darade, Bulluk, Sabarei, Saru, Olom, Hurri Hills, Hawaye, Sibiloi, and Torich. In Laisamis Sub-County, some livestock have migrated within the area to Oldonyo Mara, Soriadi, Civicon, Falam, and Durusi, and beyond the county to Baragoi, Tum, and Oldonyo Uasin in Samburu County. As the long rains progress, the majority of livestock are likely to remain within the homestead in the next month.

3..1.3 Tropical Livestock Units (TLU) and Calving & Kidding Rates

- The current Tropical Livestock Units (TLUs) in the county remain below normal levels, although they are on a gradual upward trend. This recovery follows the severe and prolonged drought of 2022–2023, which resulted in the loss of approximately 45 percent of livestock.
- While the calving season for cattle and camels has concluded, kidding and lambing are currently ongoing across the county. Over the past three consecutive seasons, TLUs have shown consistent improvement, driven by increased birth rates across all livelihood zones. However, despite a slight rise in TLUs for large stock, herd recovery is being hampered by the emergence of livestock diseases and an increase in abortions, which continue to pose significant challenges to full recovery.

3.1.4 Livestock Diseases

- The community syndromic reporting revealed the distribution of the six most commonly reported syndromes across all livestock species: eye discharge (18.6%), nasal discharge (18.4%), skin swellings (17.9%), difficulty breathing (16.9%), and wounds on legs and mouth (12.1%). Notifiable diseases reported included Brucellosis, Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Peste des Petit Ruminants (PPR) at 4.3%, Trypanosomiasis, Camel pox, and Enterotoxaemia. The incidence of these diseases was highest in goats (45.5%), followed by camels (21.4%), sheep (19.4%), and cattle (13.7%). The symptoms reported were consistent with PPR and CCPP, with PPR notably affecting sheep and goats, characterized by diarrhea, ocular and nasal discharge, mouth sores, emaciation, and death. Goats experienced higher severity compared to sheep.

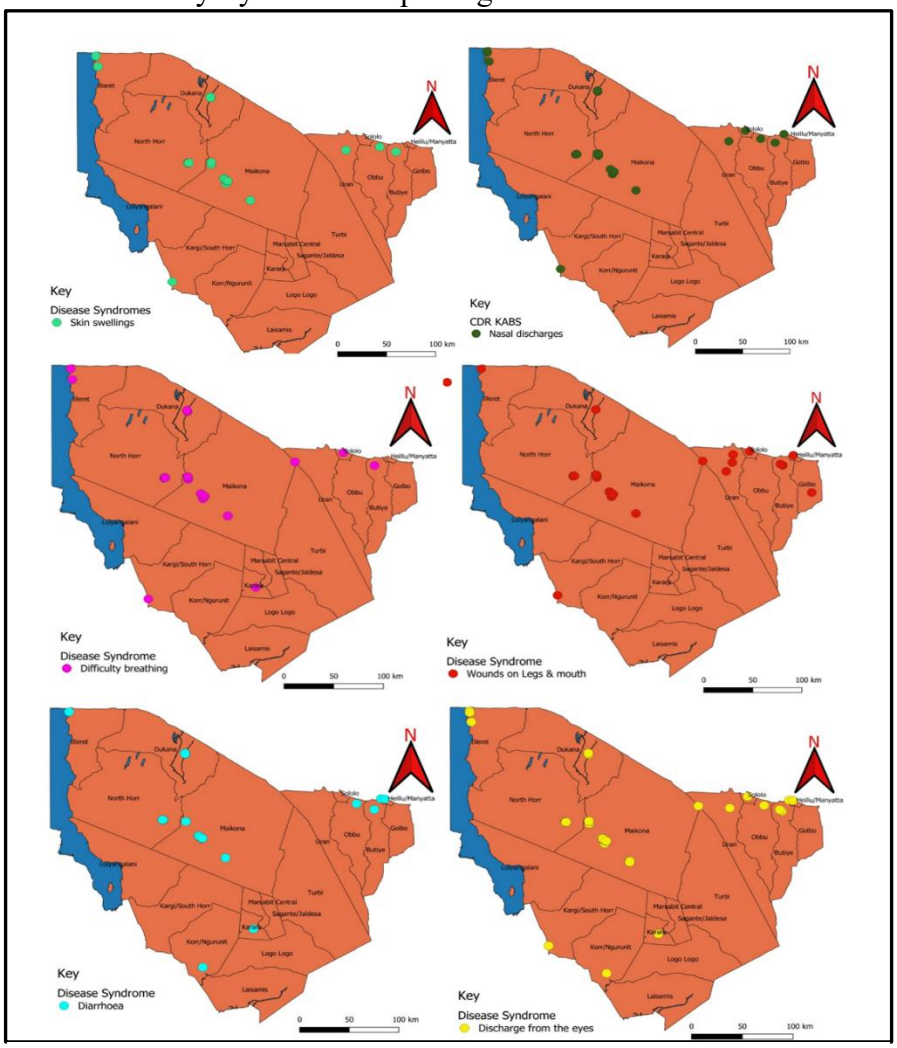


Figure 7: Livestock Disease Syndromes across Marsabit County

- PPR, endemic to Marsabit County, is a highly impactful disease, especially in small ruminants, with its spread linked to contact with infected animals. Outbreaks were often linked to the introduction of immuno-naïve animals through drought recovery interventions and high lambing/kidding rates. Low vaccination coverage exacerbated the situation. In Moyale Subcounty, previously reported suspected Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreaks subsided, but CCPP cases continued. PPR was reported in several areas, including Elle Dimtu and Funan Qumbi. In North Horr Subcounty, a suspected tick-borne disease outbreak in camels led to 12 camel deaths, although recovery followed treatment.
- In Saku Subcounty, FMD cases from January and February subsided, while in Laisamis Subcounty, Camel flu was reported in Namarei.

3.1.5 Milk Production

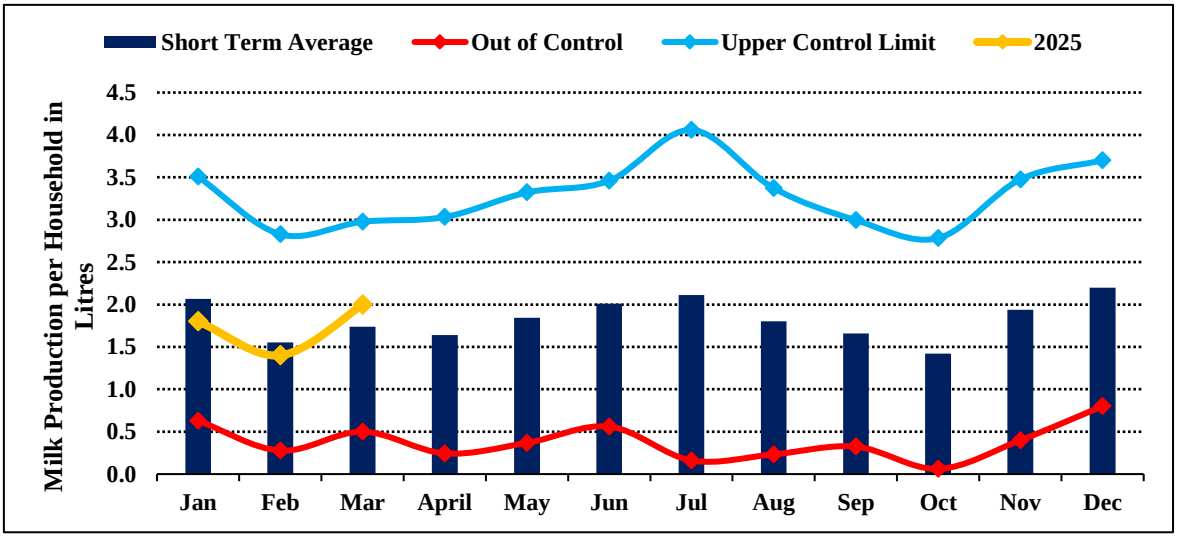


Figure 8: Milk Production across Marsabit County

- The average daily household milk production across the livelihood zones declined to 2.0 liters, which, while slightly reduced, remains above the long-term average of 1.7 liters.
- This relative increase is primarily attributed to the improvement in livestock body condition, resulting from shorter trekking distances to water sources.
- As grazing distances are expected to decrease further in the coming month, milk production is anticipated to gradually rise, enhancing household milk access in all the livelihood zones.

3.2 Rainfed Crop Production

- An estimated area of 3450 acres has been put under cultivation in the current season. The main crops cultivated include: maize, sorghum, beans, cowpeas, and green grams. The area under-crop for this season declined by 12.7 percent compared to the previous season due to forecasted below-average rains.

Table 2.0: Rain-fed Crop Production

Crop	Acreage	Stage of Growth	Performance	Field Activities	Pest/ Diseases	Remarks
Maize	780Ha	Planting /Germination	Germination	Planting /Weeding	Cutworms	The rains started quite late in the 3rd dekad of March 2025
Beans	500Ha	Planting /Germination	Germination	Planting /Weeding	Cutworms	The rains started quite late in the 3rd dekad of March 2025
Green grams /Cowpeas	100Ha	Planting /Germination	Germination	Planting /Weeding	Cutworms	The rains started quite late in the 3rd dekad of March 2025.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle Price

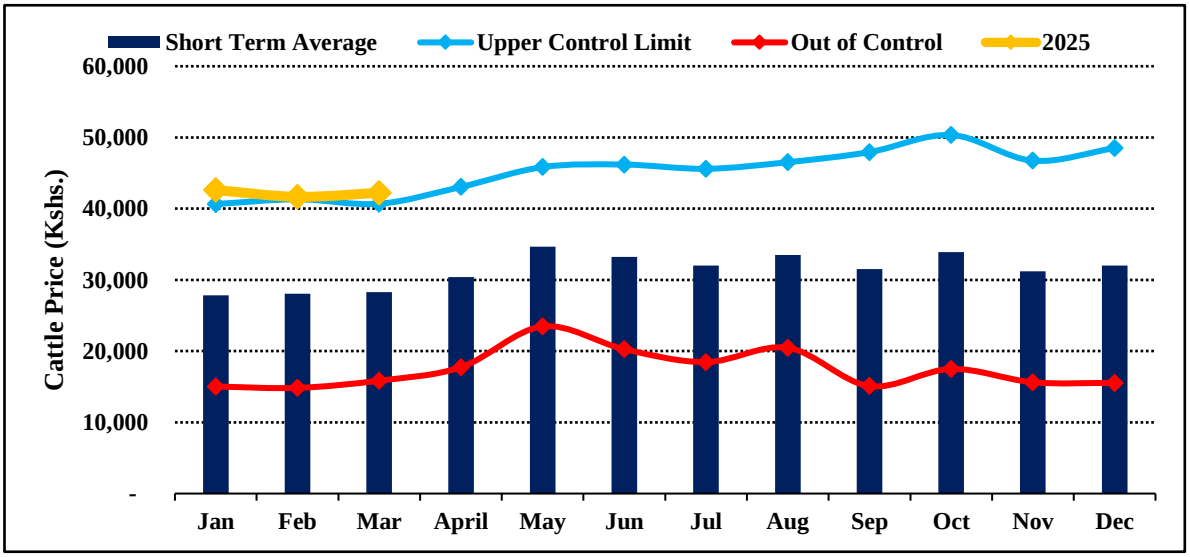


Figure 9: Cattle Prices Trends in Marsabit County

- The current average price of cattle in Marsabit County stands at Kshs. 42,240, reflecting a stable trend compared to the previous month's price of Kshs. 41,667, and significantly above the short-term average of Kshs. 28,274.
- This price stability is largely attributed to improved cattle body condition and low market supply, as pastoralists continue to retain their livestock to rebuild herds following past drought-induced losses in Tropical Livestock Units (TLUs). High demand combined with limited supply has contributed to generally above-average prices. The highest prices were observed in the Marsabit, North Horr, and Moyale markets, ranging from Kshs. 45,000 to Kshs. 60,000, while Loiyangalani and Dukana recorded the lowest prices of Kshs. 18,000 to Kshs. 20,000, influenced by poor market integration and insecurity challenges, particularly in Dukana.
- Cattle prices are projected to rise further over the next month, supported by continued improvement in livestock body condition and persistently low traded volumes, which will maintain upward pressure on market prices.

4.1.2 Goat Prices

- The current average price of a medium-sized goat is Kshs.6,614 thus relatively increased when compared to the preceding month's price of Kshs.6,031. The current price is significantly higher than the short-term average of Kshs. 4,410, as illustrated in the figure below. Increased goat prices at this time are attributed to generally improved goats' body condition.
- Goat prices across Marsabit County demonstrated significant variation, with the highest prices recorded in Moyale, Sololo, and Jirime markets, ranging from Kshs. 9,500 to Kshs. 10,000. In contrast, lower prices were observed in North Horr, Loiyangalani, and Korr, where goats were sold for between Kshs. 3,500 and Kshs. 5,000.

- These price disparities are influenced by market integration and insecurity incidences. The elevated prices in more connected markets reflect strong demand coupled with reduced supply, as pastoralists continue to withhold livestock from markets to rebuild their herds following the recent drought.

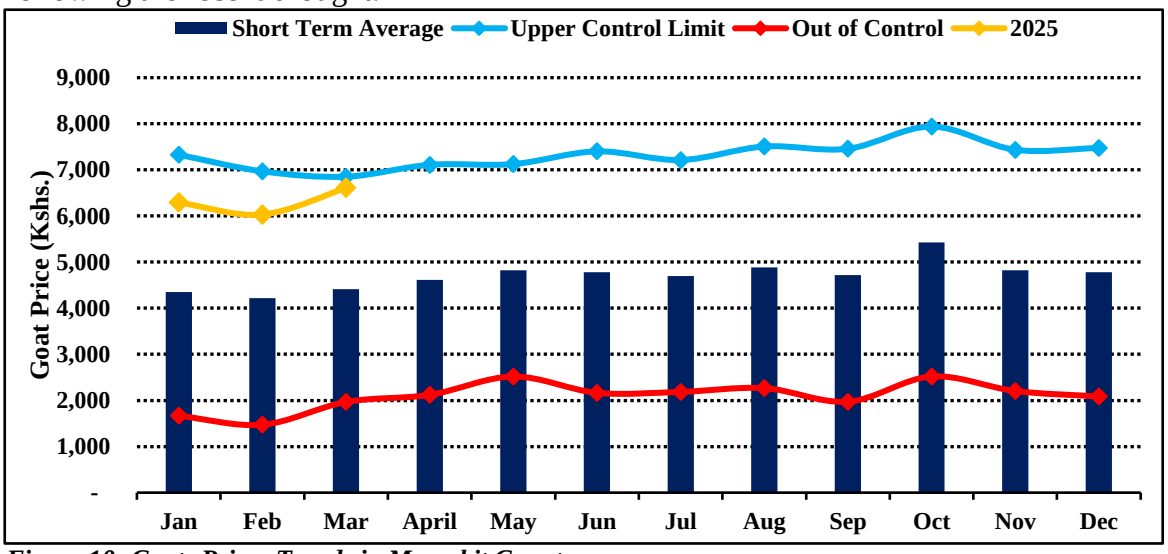


Figure 10: Goats Prices Trends in Marsabit County

- With the progression of the long rains, which are expected to further improve pasture and water availability, pastoralists are likely to maintain this strategy of herd retention, thereby sustaining the above-normal price trend across the County in the coming weeks.

4.1.3 Sheep Prices

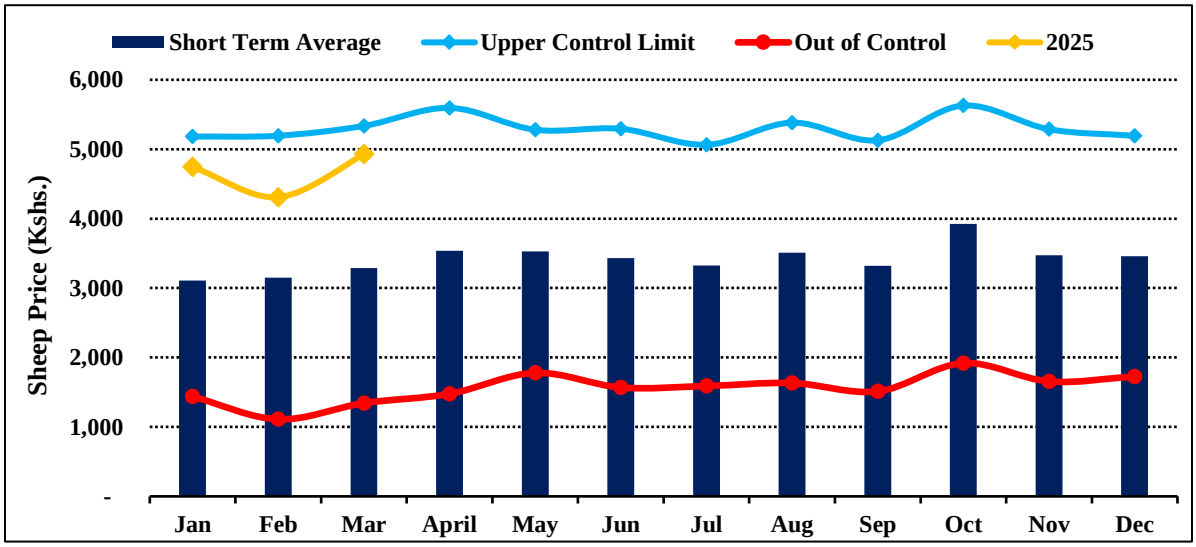


Figure 11: Sheep Price Trends in Marsabit County

- As shown in the illustration above, the current average price of sheep is Kshs. 4,929, compared to Kshs. 4,309 last month. This increase is attributed to improved sheep body conditions, along with low trading volumes in the markets. The current sheep price is higher than the long-term average of Kshs. 3,289.

- The highest recorded sheep prices, ranging between Kshs. 5,500 and Kshs. 6,000, were observed in markets such as Sololo, Moyale, and Jirime. In contrast, the lowest sheep prices, ranging from Kshs. 2,500 to Kshs. 3,000, were recorded in Korr and Loiyangalani markets.
- Above-normal sheep prices are expected to continue next month, driven by the ongoing good body condition of the sheep and the low volumes being traded in the livestock markets.

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

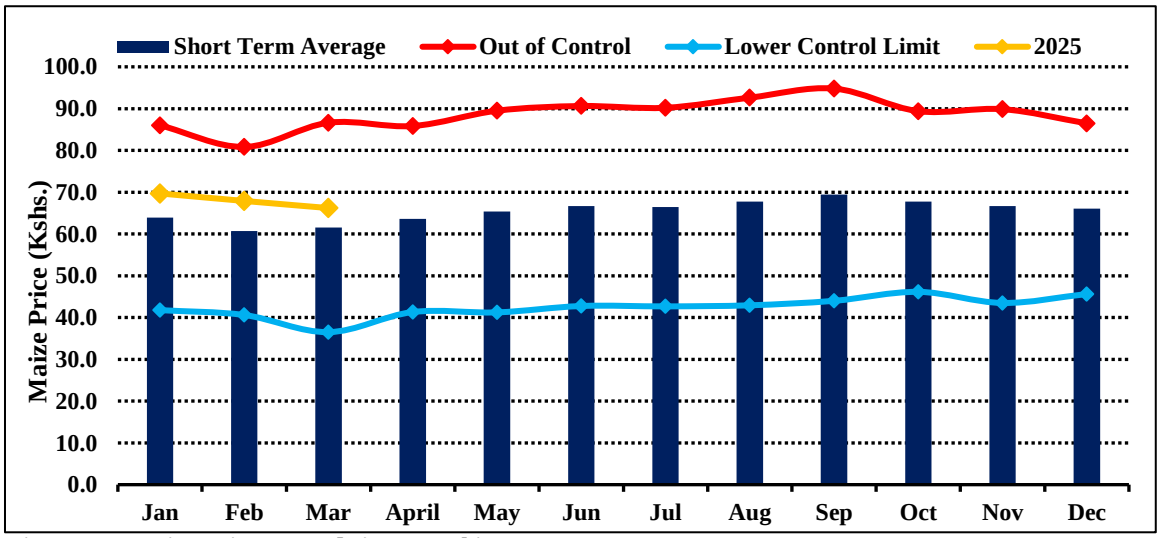


Figure 12: Maize Prices Trends in Marsabit County

- The illustration above shows that the average price of maize is currently Kshs. 66 per kilogram, which remains stable compared to last month's price of Kshs. 68 per kilogram. The current maize price is slightly higher than the short-term average of Kshs. 62 per kilogram, indicating a stable, albeit slightly above-average, price trend. The stability in maize prices is attributed to external market injections.
- Lower maize prices, ranging from Kshs. 50 to Kshs. 60 per kilogram, were reported in markets in Merille, Sololo, Moyale, and Marsabit. These lower prices were driven by general injections from external markets in Nyahururu and Meru, as well as imports from neighboring Ethiopia.
- The highest market prices for maize were observed in the North Horr, Dukana, and Korr commodity markets, where prices ranged from Kshs. 80 to Kshs. 100 per kilogram. These high prices are attributed to imperfect market functions.
- Due to persistent external supplies and the effect of cross-border imports, maize prices are expected to remain stable in the next month.

4.2.2 Beans

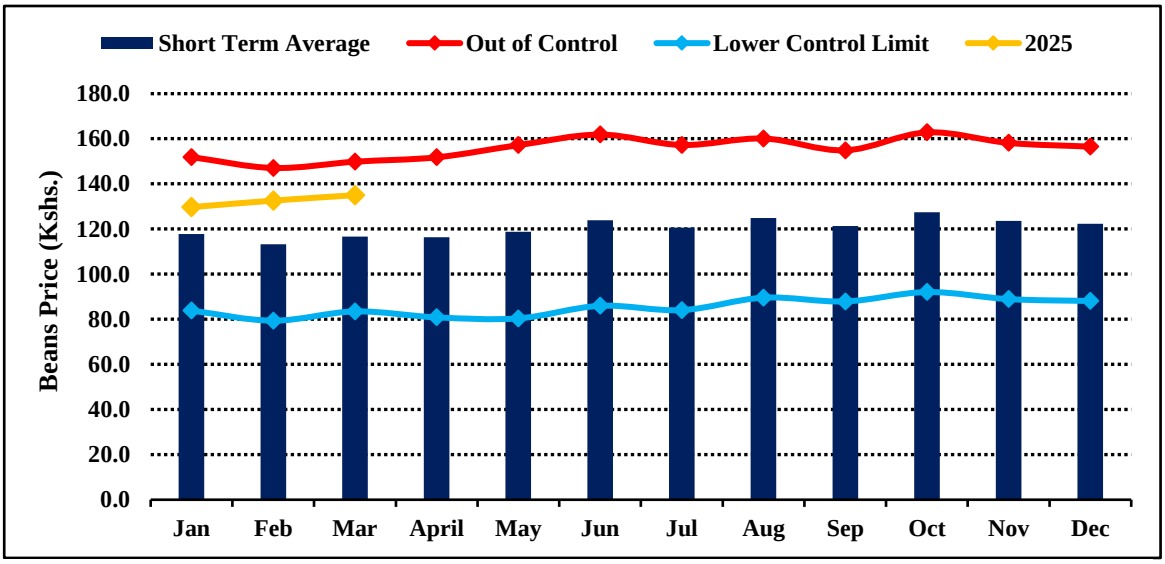


Figure 13: Beans Prices Trends in Marsabit County

- The average price of beans remained steady at Kshs. 135 per kilogram, reflecting a modest increase from last month's price of Kshs. 133 per kilogram. This price is also 15 percent higher than the short-term average of Kshs. 117 per kilogram.
- The lowest bean prices, ranging from Kshs. 100 to Kshs. 120 per kilogram, were reported in Moyale, Sololo, and Jirime markets, driven by supplies from Ethiopia.
- In contrast, Loiyangalani, North Horr, and Korr markets recorded the highest prices for beans, ranging from Kshs. 150 to Kshs. 180 per kilogram. This is attributed to poor market integration.
- It is anticipated that ongoing injections from external commodity markets will help maintain stable bean prices in the next month.

4.2.3 Terms of Trade (ToT)

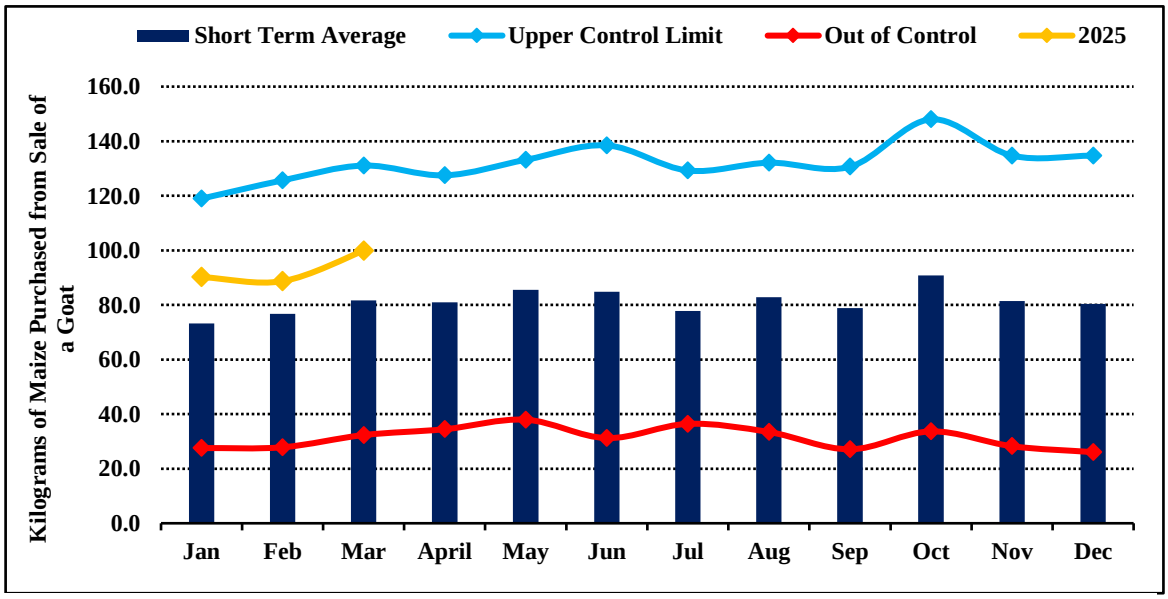


Figure 14: Current Terms of Trade versus Short Term Average

- As illustrated in Figure 14 above, the current terms of trade stand at 99 kilograms of maize in exchange for the sale of a medium-sized goat. This represents an improvement compared to the previous month, primarily due to an increase in goat prices while maize prices have remained stable. This shift indicates a favorable market condition for pastoralists. Furthermore, the current terms of trade are significantly above the short-term average, surpassing it by 21 percent, highlighting a notable gain in the purchasing power of goats relative to maize.
- It is anticipated that all livelihood zones will continue to post above-average trends in the goats-to-maize ratio in the coming month, particularly as the long rains season progresses. The expected increase in rain-driven pasture availability and the subsequent improvement in livestock conditions may contribute to maintaining strong goat prices, further benefiting this favorable trend in terms of trade.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 Milk Consumption

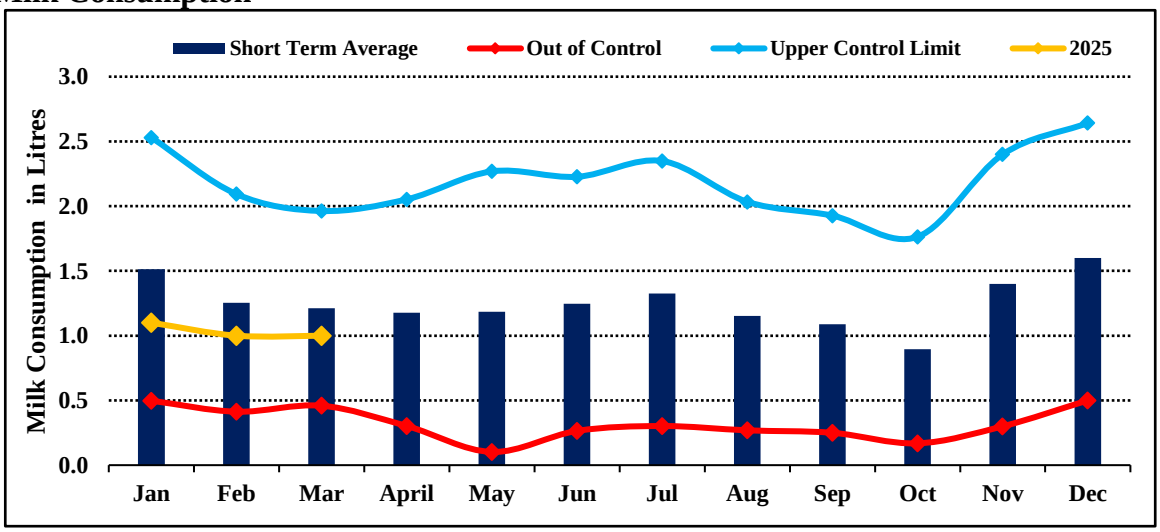


Figure 15: Milk Consumption Per Household across Livelihood Zone

- The average household milk consumption for the month under review was 1 liter per day across all livelihood zones. This consumption remained relatively stable compared to the previous month but was slightly below the short-term average.
- The low levels of household milk consumption can be attributed to communal sharing of milk, which is a result of reduced livestock holdings.
- However, milk consumption is expected to see a slight increase in the coming month across all livelihood zones, mainly due to a likely rise in milk production from the ongoing lambing and kidding activities.

5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE (FCS)

- Across the County, the average Food Consumption Score (FCS) stands at 34.0 (borderline) indicative of crisis-level food consumption and relatively remained the same when compared to the previous month. The figure indicates that 4.9-11.7 percent of households reported poor food consumption scores, a decline compared to 16.6-19.5 percent the previous month, while those with borderline scores ranged from 32.1- 54.7 percent. Households with acceptable scores were 33.6-63.0 percent across the different livelihood zones.

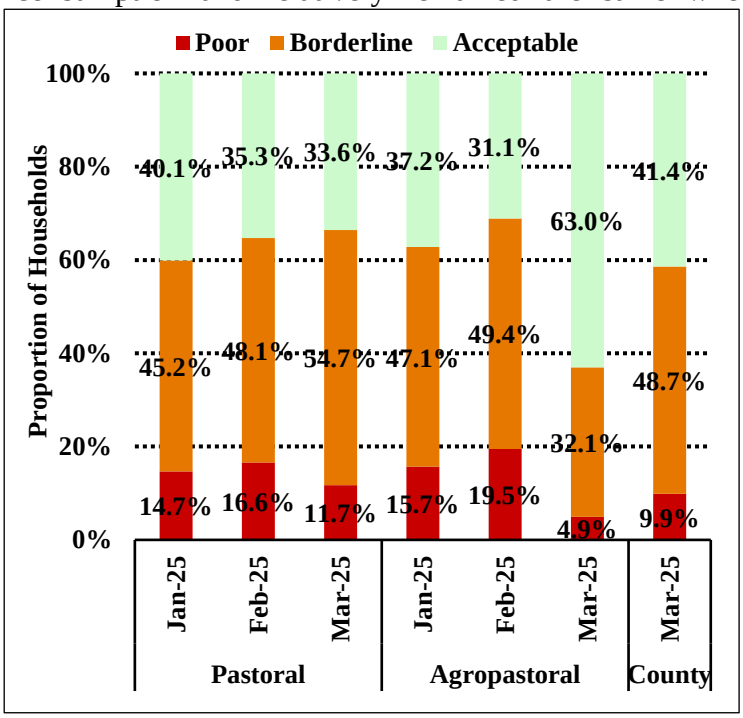


Figure 16: Food Consumption across Livelihood Zones

- Across all the livelihood zones, a gradual increase in the proportion of households in borderline consumption levels was noted compared to the previous month, indicative of a crisis-level food consumption trend and is likely to be attributed scale-down of humanitarian assistance across the County.

Table 3.0: Food Consumption Score by Ward

Ward	FCS Mean	Ward	FCS Mean
County FCS	**34.0**	Loiyangalani	24.1
Butiye	29.3	Laisamis	44.6
Dukana	23.4	North Horr	32.1
Golbo	52.2	Sagante	36.9
Karare	33.7	Turbi	39.3
Korr	31.4	Uran	30.1

- The table above shows food consumption scores across different wards. Loiyangalani recorded the lowest score, closely followed by Dukana and Butiye. Sagante, Laisamis, Turbi, and Golbo wards reported average food consumption scores that were within an acceptable range, indicating that food security outcomes remained stressed. In the coming month, crisis-level food consumption outcomes are expected to persist, particularly in the pastoral livelihood zones of North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

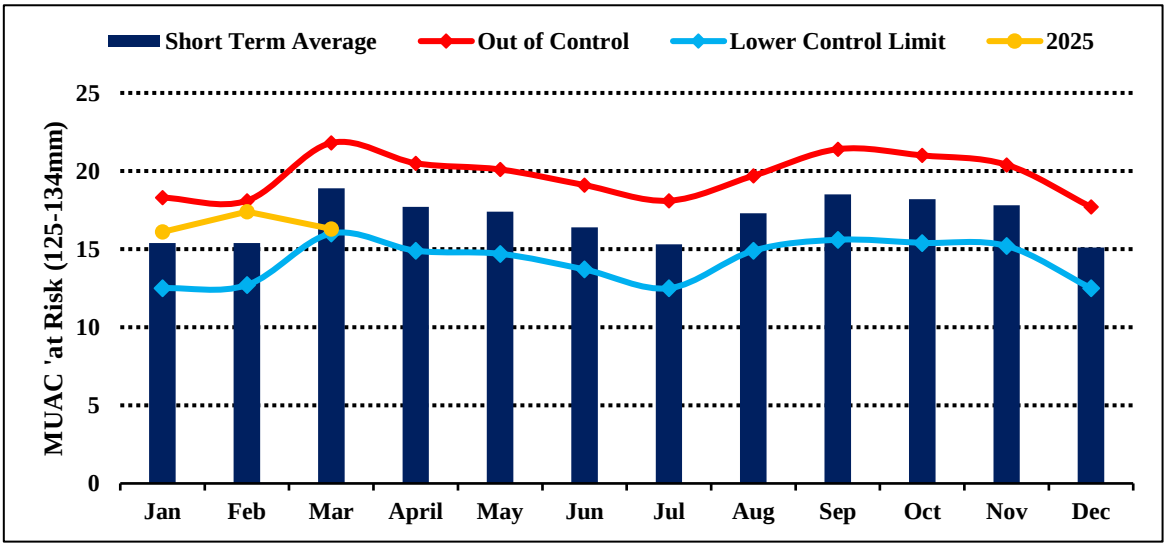


Figure 17: Proportion of Children < 5 Years at Risk of Malnutrition in Marsabit County

- The illustration above shows that 16.3 percent of children under the age of five are currently at risk of malnutrition, which is within the long-term average MUAC risk level of 18.9 percent. The graph reflects normal malnutrition levels among under-five children, likely due to generally favorable terms of trade across the county.
- However, acute malnutrition levels in Marsabit vary by sub-county. Laisamis and North Horr sub-counties are experiencing critical levels of acute malnutrition (IPC AMN Phase 4), while Saku and Moyale are at an alert level (IPC AMN Phase 2). The Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate by MUAC is 4.1 percent for North Horr and Laisamis, and 3.5 percent based on MUAC classification.

5.4 Reduced Consumption-Based Coping Strategies

- During the month under review, the reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) was 19.3, indicative of crisis-level consumption-based coping strategies. In the pastoral livelihood zone, 52 percent of households applied stressed coping strategies, while 48 percent adopted crisis coping mechanisms to address large household food consumption gaps.

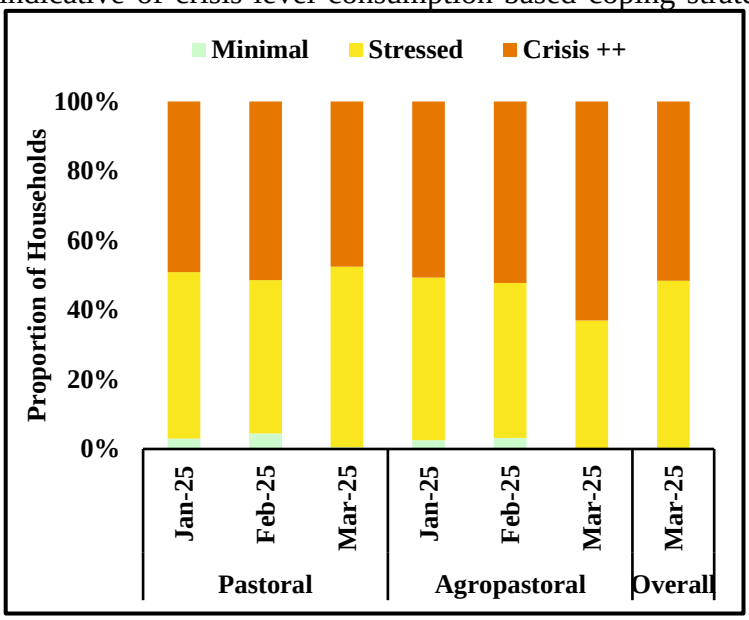


Figure 18: Consumption based coping strategies

- In the agro-pastoral livelihood zone, 37 percent of households resorted to stressed coping strategies, and 63 percent employed crisis-level consumption-based strategies to address food deficits.

- The current trend shows an increase in the number of households resorting to crisis-level consumption-based coping mechanisms. This rise can be attributed to factors such as a reduction in humanitarian aid, which is expected to continue in the next month.

5.5 Livelihood Coping Strategies

- During the month under review, 32 percent of households didn't apply any of the livelihood coping strategies when they lacked food or money to buy food in the agropastoral and pastoral livelihood zones, as depicted in Figure 19. 34.5 percent of households in all the livelihood zones employed stressed coping mechanisms by borrowing money to purchase food. Furthermore, 22.4 percent of households in the agropastoral and pastoral livelihood zones applied crisis livelihood coping mechanisms mainly reduced non-food expenditure. 10.9 percent of households in all the livelihood zones applied livelihood coping mechanisms indicative of Emergency (IPC Phase 4) majorly. In the next month, households in both agro-pastoral and pastoral livelihood zones are likely to continue employing crisis livelihood coping strategies to address food gaps across the livelihood zones.

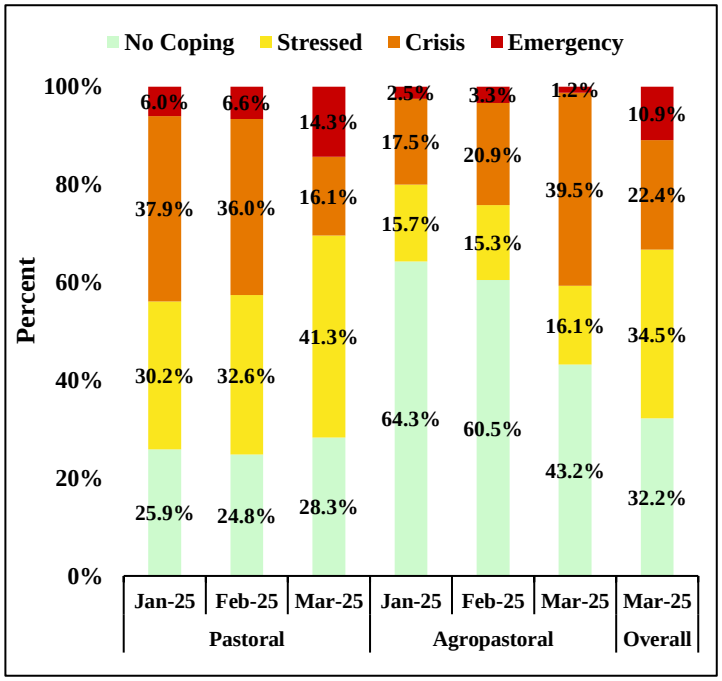


Figure 19: Livelihood Coping Strategies across the County

6.0 Food Security Prognosis

- Marsabit County experienced varied rainfall patterns, with some areas receiving significantly above-normal rainfall while others faced deficits. This variability directly impacted agricultural productivity and livestock conditions in all the livelihood zones. Improved access to water resources has been noted, with average trekking distances for livestock to water points decreasing. The ongoing long rains have positively influenced livestock body conditions, contributing to better overall livestock productivity. Minimal livestock migration has been observed due to improved pasture and water conditions, indicating a cautious approach to migration as the long rains progress.
- There is a gradual recovery in Tropical Livestock Units (TLUs) following the severe drought of 2022-2023, with increased birth rates across all livestock species. However, challenges such as the emergence of diseases and increased abortions continue to hinder full recovery. A significant portion of households (37 percent) are employing stressed coping strategies, while 63 percent are resorting to crisis-level consumption-based strategies to manage food

deficits. This indicates a worsening food security situation, exacerbated by a reduction in humanitarian aid expected to continue. Despite the food security crisis, terms of trade are performing above normal, and livestock prices are above average, suggesting some economic resilience. However, the majority of households are still facing significant food consumption gaps. In summary, the interplay between rainfall variability, water access, and livestock conditions drives the outcomes of food security and economic indicators, highlighting the need for ongoing support and monitoring across the County.

ANNEX 1: Ongoing Drought Response Interventions

Ongoing Interventions_Marsat

ANNEX 2: Recommended Drought Response Interventions

Sectors & Interventions	Activities to be supported	County	Areas to be covered[1]	Cost of planned support	Available resources	Resource gap	The time frame for the support	Possible source of resources
Social Protection	Relief food supplies to 128,750 food-insecure households	Marsabit	Countywide	550,000,000	-	550,000,000	3 months	CGM, NDMA and Partners
Water	Water treatment chemicals	Marsabit	Countywide	1,500,000	-	1,500,000	3 months	CGM, NDMA and Partners
Livestock	Livestock vaccination, vector control, deworming, and disease control.	Marsabit	Countywide	7,000,000	-	7,000,000	3 months	CGM, NDMA and Partners
	Restocking	Marsabit	Countywide	200,000,000	-	200,000,000	3 months	CGM, NDMA and Partners
Agriculture	Provision of drought-tolerant seeds in the agropastoral livelihood zone.	Marsabit	Moyale and Saku	1,500,000	-	1,500,000	1 month	CGM, NDMA and Partners
Education	Provision of food to low-cost boarding primary and secondary schools.	Marsabit	Countywide	35,000,000	-	35,000,000	3 months	CGM, NDMA and Partners
Health & Nutrition	High Impact Nutrition Interventions	Marsabit	Countywide	4,500,000	-	4,500,000	3 months	CGM, NDMA and Partners

[1] Particular counties/sub-counties/ward to be covered by the program

Sectors & Interventions	Activities to be supported	County	Areas to be covered[1]	Cost of planned support	Available resources	Resource gap	The time frame for the support	Possible source of resources
	Support roll-out of BSFP by WFP targeting 3250 PLW in Golbo, Korr, North Horr, Loiyangalani, Kargi, and Illeret wards	Marsabit	Golbo, Korr, North Horr, Loiyangalani, Kargi and Illeret wards	60, 000,000	-	60,000,000	3 months	CGM and Partners