



**NATIONAL DROUGHT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
LAMU COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR APRIL 2025**

| | | | |
|--|---|--------|---------------|
| APRIL 2025 DEW PHASE | Early Warning Phase Classification | | |
| <div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> Drought Status: NORMAL Shughuli za kawaida </div> | Agropastoral | Alert | Deteriorating |
| | Mixed farming | Normal | Stable |
| | Fishing | Alert | Deteriorating |
| | Formal/Unskilled employment | Normal | Stable |
| | County | Normal | Deteriorating |

| | | | |
|---|--|--|----------------------|
| <p>Drought Situation</p> <p>Biophysical Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The county received below average rains which were poorly distributed in terms of space and time. The vegetation condition Index (VCI-3Month) was stable compared to the previous month. The VCI indicated Above Normal vegetation. The county was in the Normal drought phase. Forage condition was good to fair in the Mixed farming and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones and largely poor in the Fishing livelihood zone. <p>Socio Economic Indicators</p> <p>Production indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livestock species exhibited good body condition in all livelihood zones except the Fishing livelihood zone that recorded fair to poor body condition. Crop farmers were preparing their farms for planting in anticipation of the long rains. Average Milk Production was below the normal range. No livestock disease outbreaks or death cases were reported. <p>Access indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terms of trade were unfavourable but within the normal range. Household water distance was within the normal range. Grazing area to water source distance was within the normal range. Average Milk Consumption was within the normal range. <p>Utilization indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition was above the normal range. The average coping strategy index was within the normal range. Majority of households in the county were in the borderline and poor food consumption score categories. | Early Warning (EW) Phase Classification | | |
| | Biophysical Indicators | Value | Normal ranges |
| | Rainfall (% of normal) | 125 | 80-120 |
| | Forage Condition | Good to fair | Good |
| | VCI-3Months | 109.4 | <35 |
| | Production Indicators | Value | Normal ranges |
| | Maize Crop Condition | Land preparation | Good |
| | Livestock Body Condition | Fair to poor | Good |
| | Milk Production (in litres) | 1 | ≥ 3 |
| | Livestock Migration Pattern | Not normal | Normal |
| | Livestock Deaths (from Drought) | No deaths | No deaths |
| | Access Indicators | Value | Normal ranges |
| | Terms of Trade (ToT) | 81 | ≥ 65 |
| | Milk Consumption (in litres) | 1 | ≥ 2 |
| | Return Distance to Water Sources (HH- in km) | 5.6 | ≤ 2 |
| | Return distance from grazing areas to water sources. | 8.8 | >3 Km |
| | Cost of Water at Source (20 litres Jerry can) | 5-10 | ≤ 5Ksh |
| | Utilization indicators | Value | Normal ranges |
| | Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition) | 11 | ≤5.9 |
| | Coping Strategy Index (CSI) | 12.6 | ≤ 6.9 |
| Food Consumption Score (%) | Poor-41 Borderline-44 Acceptable-15 | Poor - 0 Borderline- ≥20 Acceptable ≥ 80 | |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Short rains harvests | Planting/Weeding | Long rains harvests | Short rains |
| Short dry spell | Long rains | A long dry spell | Planting/weeding |
| Reduced milk yields | High Calving Rate | Land preparation | |
| Increased HH Food Stocks | Milk yields Increase | Increased HH Food Stocks | |
| Land preparation | | Kidding (Sept) | |
| 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

1.1 Rainfall performance

- The Long rains onset was reported in the first dekad of April.
- The county received below normal rainfall amounts. This was fairly to poorly distributed in terms of time and space across the livelihood zones.

1.2 Amount of rainfall and spatial distribution

- According to CHIRPS/MODIS data, the county recorded a cumulative amount of 85.53 mm (Dekad 1=56.54 mm, and dekad 2=28.99) mm of rainfall against an average of 68.59 mm.
- This represented 125 percent of normal rainfall.

1.3 Other hazards

- Water-borne diseases like Cholera, Bilharzia and Typhoid in flood prone areas.
- Trypanosomiasis from tsetse fly infestation, lumpy skin disease and worms affecting livestock body condition.

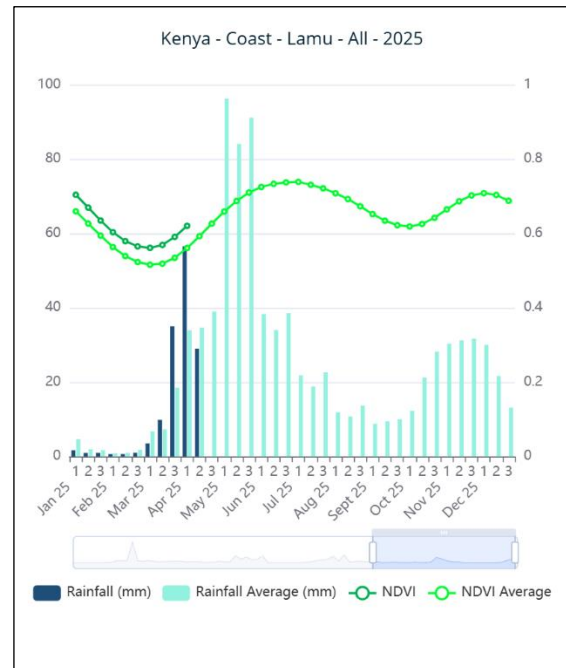


Figure 1: Rainfall performance

2.0 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- According to the vegetation condition index, the county was in the above normal vegetation conditions category with an index of 109.4 compared to 69.5 in the previous month.
- This was attributed to the MAM seasonal rains recorded during the month.
- All wards (Basuba, Witu, Hongwe, Bahari, Mkunumbi, Faza, Kiunga, Mkomani, Hindi and Shella) were in the above normal vegetation conditions.
- However, heavy influx of livestock from neighboring counties and overgrazing contributed heavily to the depletion of pasture and vegetation.

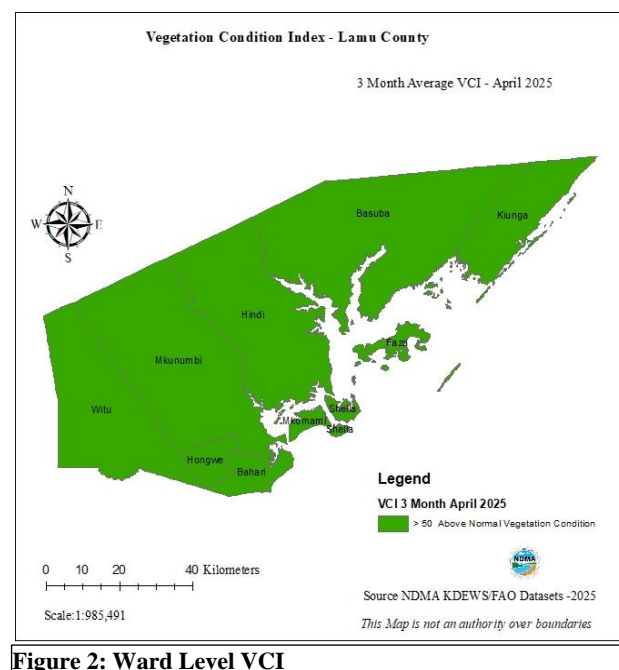


Figure 2: Ward Level VCI

PASTURE AND BROWSE CONDITION

2.1.2 Pasture condition

- Pasture condition was largely fair across all livelihood zones except for a few areas in the Agro-pastoral and Fishing Livelihood zones that reported poor pasture condition.
- According to community interviews, 27, 53 and 20 percent of respondents reported that pasture was good, fair and poor respectively as indicated in figure 3.

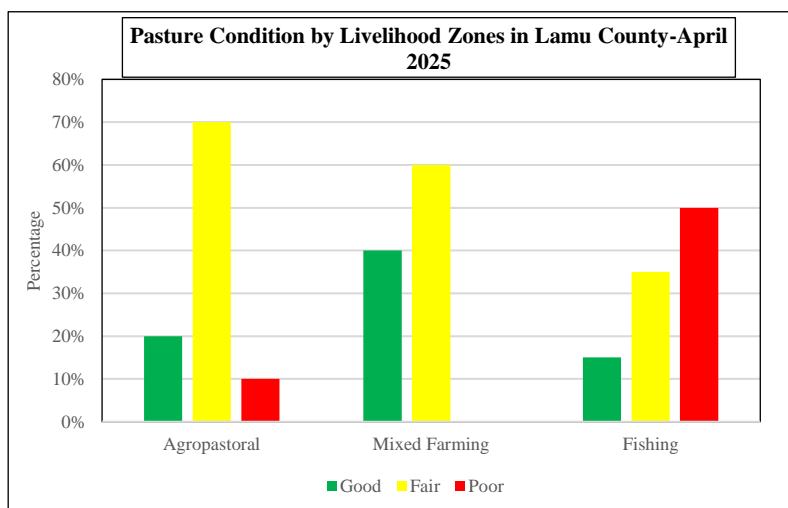


Figure 3: Pasture condition

- Compared to the previous month, pasture condition was on a declining trend especially in the Agropastoral and Fishing livelihood zones.
- This was attributed to the dry conditions experienced over the previous months, scanty rainfall amounts unable to sustain pasture regeneration and influx of livestock from neighbouring counties resulting to overgrazing and depletion of available pasture.
- Available pasture is likely to last less than a month.

2.1.3 Browse condition

- Browse condition was fair across the livelihood zones except in several hotspot areas in the Agro-pastoral and Fishing zones that reported poor browse condition.
- From community interviews, an estimated 30, 50 and 20 per cent of respondents reported that browse was good, fair and poor respectively as indicated in figure 4.

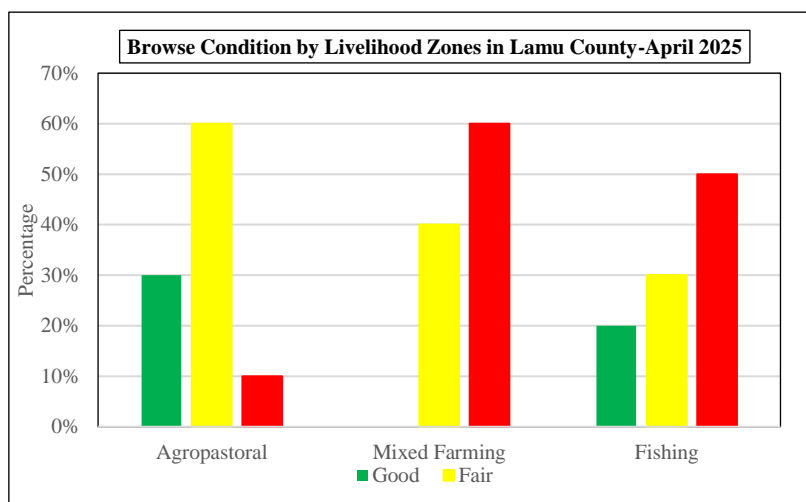


Figure 4: Browse condition

- When compared to the previous month, the current browse condition implied a declining trend.
- This was attributed to dry conditions over the previous months, poor rains and heavy influx of livestock from neighbouring counties resulting in over browsing and plant depletion.
- The available browse is likely to last for one month.

2.2.0 HYDROLOGICAL DROUGHT

2.2.1 Water Sources and Availability

- The main water sources in the county during the month under review were shallow wells, pans, boreholes, and rivers as shown in figure 5.
- Main water pans and dams were reported to be holding fair amounts of water while others had completely dried up.
- The state and condition of most open and underground water sources in the county is fair across the livelihood zones except in the fishing zone that reported poor condition. This is attributed partially to dry conditions and water salinity.
- Available water sources are likely to serve both domestic and livestock uses for the next one month.

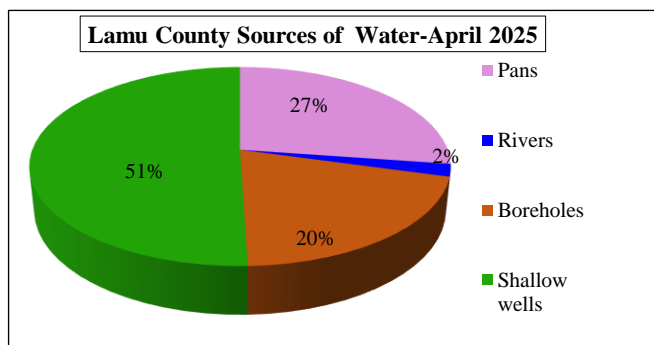


Figure 5: County water sources

2.2.2 Household Water Access and Utilization

- The average household to water source return distance was recorded at 6 kilometres, same as the previous month and above the LTA by seven percent.
- Drying up of open water sources in the previous months and poorly distributed rains contributed to the high distance.
- Distances were highest in the Fishing livelihood zone recorded at 6 kilometres while Agropastoral zones reported 3 kilometres and lowest in Mixed farming zones recorded at 2 kilometres.
- The average household water consumption per person per day is 15-20 litres. However, for hot spot areas in the Agropastoral and Fishing zones, consumption was 10-15 litres per person per day.
- Water cost at is at 5-10 Kes in town and village centres for a 20 litre jerrican in Mixed farming and Agropastoral zones. In Fishing zone, water is sourced from djabias and desalination plants and costs Kes 10-50 for a 20 litre jerrican.

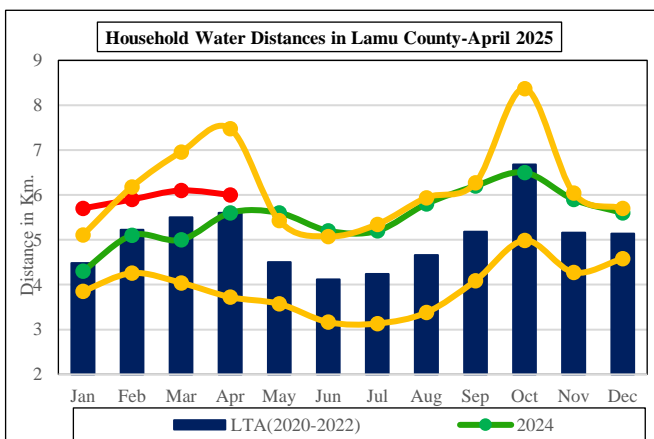


Figure 6: Household water sources

2.2.3 Livestock Access to Water

- Livestock average distance to water sources from grazing areas was recorded at 9 kilometres compared to 11 kilometres in the previous month and above the LTA by 10 percent.

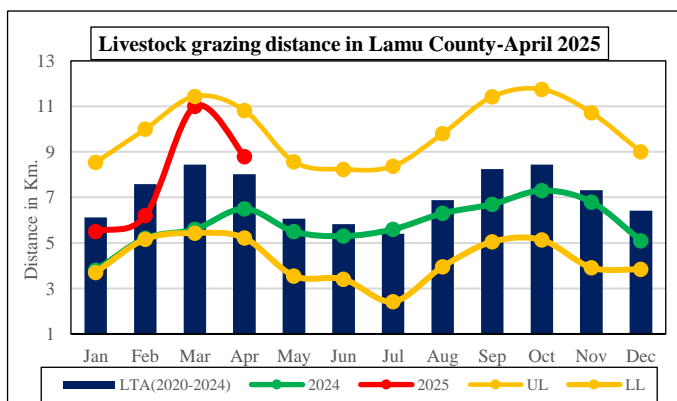


Figure 7: Livestock grazing to water access

- Grazing to water return distances were highest in Fishing zones that recorded 7 km while Mixed farming and Agropastoral zones recorded 4 km and 1 km respectively.
- A few open water sources especially pans and dams near grazing areas were holding water while others had dried up. This resulted in the relatively high grazing to water source distance.
- Watering frequencies for livestock species was at five to seven days per week.

2.2.4 Household Income Sources

- The households' main income sources were casual labour, trade, employment, the sale of livestock and products and the sale of crops.
- In comparison to the previous month, casual labour and sale of crops dropped by 11 and 1 percent respectively. Trade, employment and sale of livestock related products improved by 1, 2 and 7 percent respectively.
- The average casual labour wage for the county for the month under review was Kes.2,700, compared to Kes. 1,200 in the previous month.

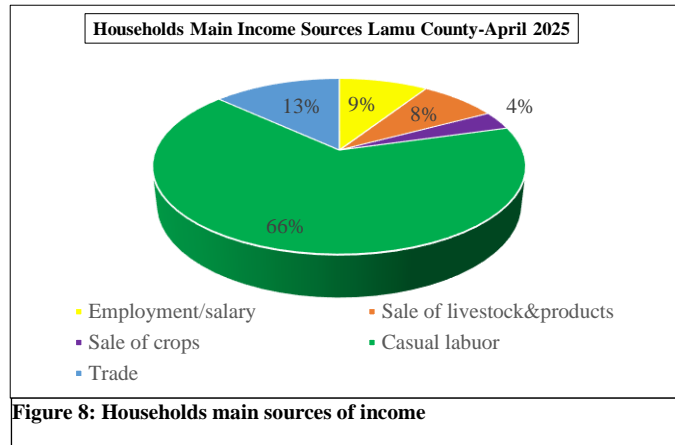


Figure 8: Households main sources of income

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1.0 Livestock Production

3.1.1 Livestock Migration Patterns

- Movement of livestock from the neighboring counties of Garissa and Tana River and Hindi-Bargoni were reported during the month under review.

Livestock Body Condition

- Livestock body condition was good for both cattle and small ruminants.
- However, some hotspot areas in the Agropastoral and Fishing Livelihood zones recorded significant cases of fair and poor livestock body condition.

Livestock Diseases

- There were no major cases of livestock diseases reported during the month.

3.1.4 Milk Production

- The average county milk production for the month was recorded at 1 litre, same as the previous month and below the LTA by 38 percent.
- The low average milk production was largely attributed to pasture depletion caused by overgrazing and livestock influx.
- Milk production was highest in the mixed farming livelihood zone recorded one litre and lowest in Fishing zones with a record of less than 0.5 litre.

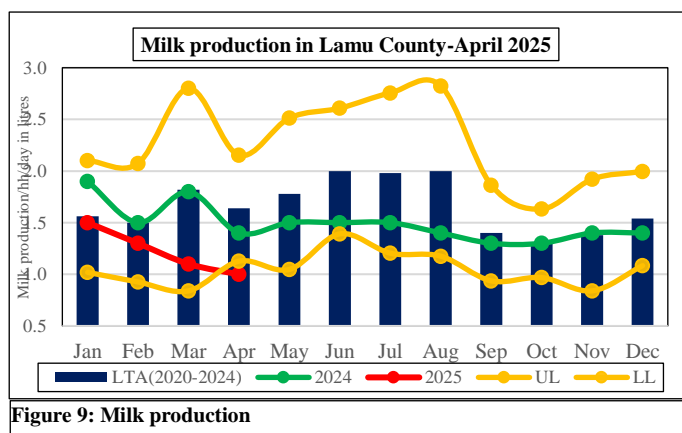


Figure 9: Milk production

- Milk was retailing at an average price of Kes 100 in Agropastoral zones and Kes 100-120 per liter in towns.

Rain-fed crop production

3.2.1 Stage and condition of food crop

- The main crops grown in the county are Maize, Cow peas, green grams and simsim.
- Farmers in some areas across the livelihood zones were preparing their farms for planting.

Crop Harvest

- A small proportion of farmers in the Mixed farming livelihood zone were harvesting simsim.
- Households currently have little food stocks due to below average production during the previous seasons, mainly in the Fishing and Agropastoral zones.

3.3 Implications on Food Security

- Below average production and depletion of food stocks at household level is likely to further negatively affect food security in the county.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1.0 Livestock marketing

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

- The average cattle market price was Kes. 31,500, compared to Kes.32,300 in the previous month.
- This was also same as the STA.
- This implied a slight decrease in market price mainly attributed to declining cattle body condition and demand versus supply forces in the markets.
- Poor forage condition and trekking long distances to grazing areas highly affected general cattle body condition.
- Uncontrolled movement and heavy influx of livestock from neighbouring counties also contributed to transmission of diseases which also affected the market value of cattle.
- In this case, cattle market prices were less favourable in the fishing and hotspot areas in the agropastoral livelihood zones. The average cattle market prices were highest in Witu at Kes. 40,000 and lowest in Mswakini at Kes. 25,000 and below.

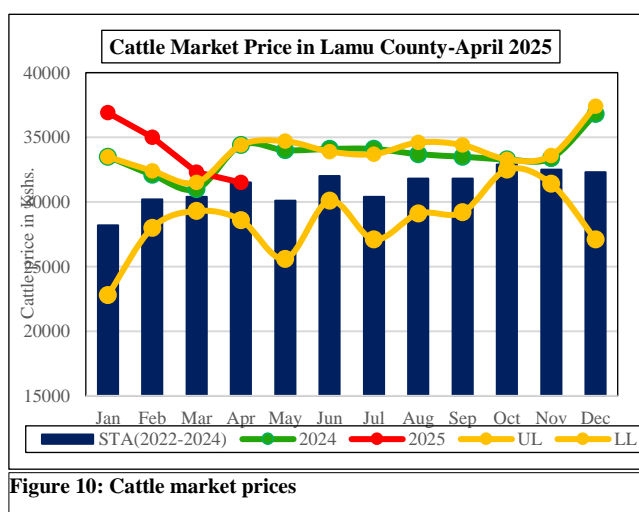


Figure 10: Cattle market prices

4.1.2 Goat Price

- The average goat market price was recorded at Kes. 5,100, compared to Kes. 5,200 in the previous month and below the STA by four percent.
- The decrease was as a result of decline in goat body condition. This was mostly brought about by poor or lack of quality pasture.
- The goat average market price was highest in Witu market at Kes 6,000 and the lowest in Mswakini market at Kes 4,000.

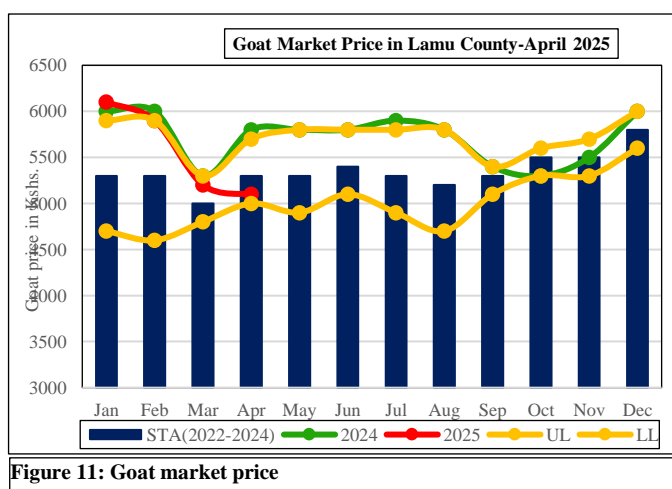


Figure 11: Goat market price

4.2.0: Crop prices

4.2.1 Maize price

- The average market price for a kilogram of maize was Kes. 64, same as the previous month and the STA.
- The relative stability in price was brought about by good supply and high demand for the commodity across different markets.
- Below average harvests from the previous seasons also forced households to rely entirely on purchases from different markets and shops.
- The maize market prices were highest in Kiunga market at Kes. 100 and lowest in Mpeketoni market at Kes 50. Commodity price is likely to increase over the next months.

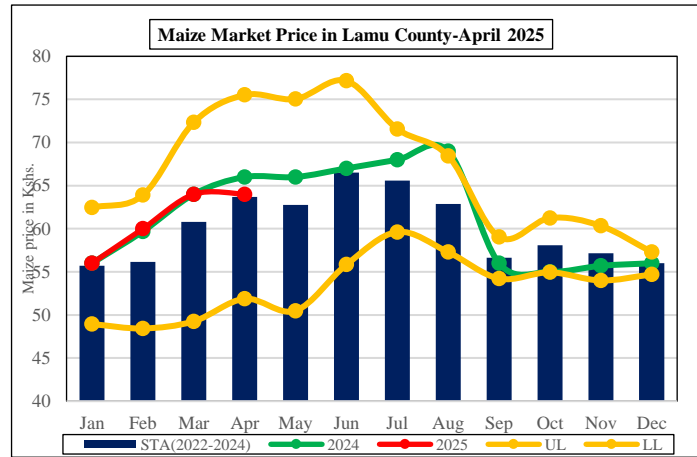


Figure 12: Maize market price

4.2.2 Beans prices

- The average market price for a Kilogram of beans was Kes. 173, compared to Kes. 170 in the previous month and above the STA by five per cent.
- The relatively high price was attributed to high demand for the commodity in the sampled markets.
- Unstable and poor supply also forced households to rely on markets and retailers.
- The price of beans was highest in Kiunga at Kes 200 and lowest in Mpeketoni at Kes 150.
- Purchasing power of households also determined prices for the commodity.

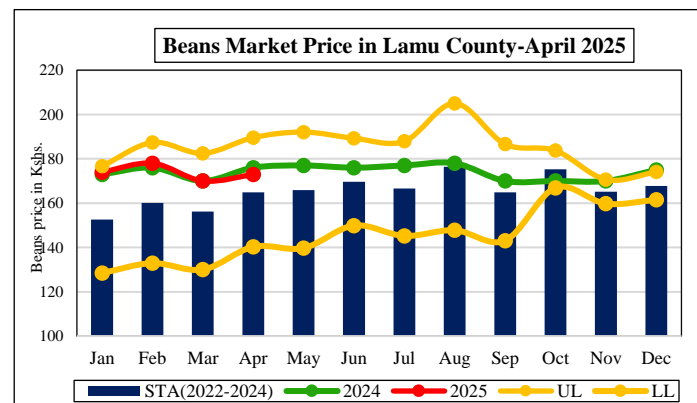


Figure 13: Beans market price

4.3 Terms of Trade

- Terms of trade were unfavourable but stable.
- Proceeds from the sale of a two-year-old goat could purchase 81 kilograms of maize, same as the previous month and below the STA by six per cent.
- The trend of ToT was unstable due to fluctuations in the price of maize and goats in different markets.
- The highest ToT ratio was recorded in Agropastoral zones at 97 kilograms, while the Mixed farming livelihood zone reported 110 kilograms. Fishing zone recorded the lowest ToT at 70 kilograms.

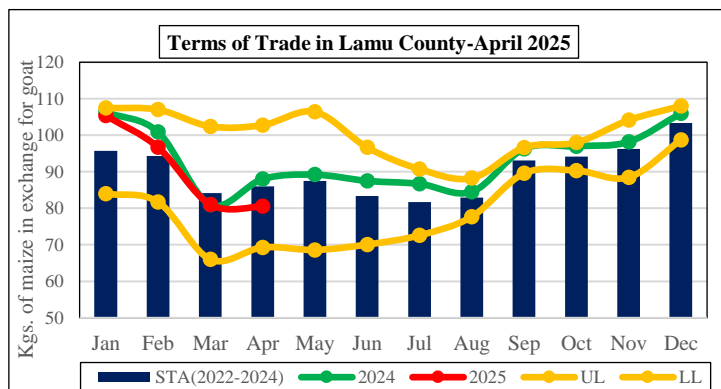


Figure 14: Terms of trade

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 Milk for Household Consumption

- The average milk consumption per household per day was recorded at 1 litre, same as the previous month and below the LTA by nine percent.
- The average Milk consumption was highest in mixed farming at 1.2 litres and lowest in fishing zones with 0.5 litres.
- The relatively low milk consumption was attributed to a number of factors such as, movement of livestock to far grazing areas, depletion of pasture and rearing of local cattle breeds.

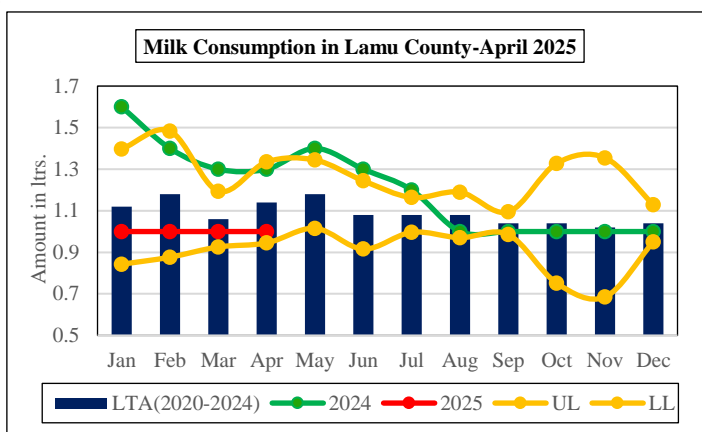


Figure 15: Milk consumption

Health and Nutrition Status

5.2.1 MUAC

- A total of 527 children below five years were sampled for MUAC measurement during the month under review.
- The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition with Mid Upper Arm Circumference below 135mm was 9.3 per cent, compared to 10.8 percent in the previous month and above the long-term average by 43 percent as shown in figure 16.
- The rates of malnutrition cases especially for the under-fives were stable in all livelihood zones because of improved childcare practices, increased number of integrated health outreaches and delivery of essential nutrition services in malnutrition affected areas.
- However, above normal malnutrition rates were reported in hotspot areas of Kiunga, Mkokoni, Bahamisi, Basuba, Milimani, Mararani, Pandanguo and Bargoni.
- The high rates in these areas contributed to the relatively high proportion of children at risk of malnutrition for the month under review.

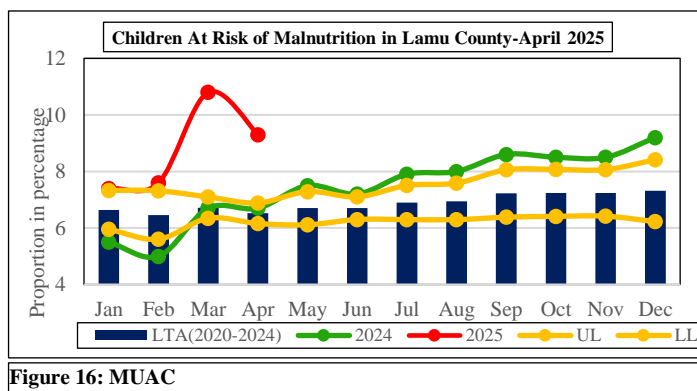


Figure 16: MUAC

5.2.2 Health

- One subject of the sampled children was reported to suffer from fever with breathing difficulties. This and other cases were referred to dispensaries and health centers and managed.

5.2.3 Food Consumption Score

- The county population under acceptable, borderline and poor food consumption score categories was 15, 44 and 41 percent respectively.
- This implied that an estimated 85 percent of the households were vulnerable to food insecurity and related challenges.
- This was attributed to the modest to poor harvests from the previous seasons.
- Strained stock levels and low purchase power for households in hotspot areas contributed to the high proportion of households in poor food consumption. The relatively poor food consumption scores were also attributed to reduced surplus income for purchasing food and the prevailing high cost of food commodities in different markets.
- In terms of livelihood zones, the Fishing livelihood zone was the most vulnerable with 50 and 50 percent of its households under poor and borderline food consumption respectively.
- The Agro-pastoral livelihood zone reported 23 and 77 per cent of households under poor and borderline categories respectively.
- The Mixed-farming livelihood zone reported 37, 21 and 42 per cent of the population to be under acceptable, borderline and poor categories respectively.

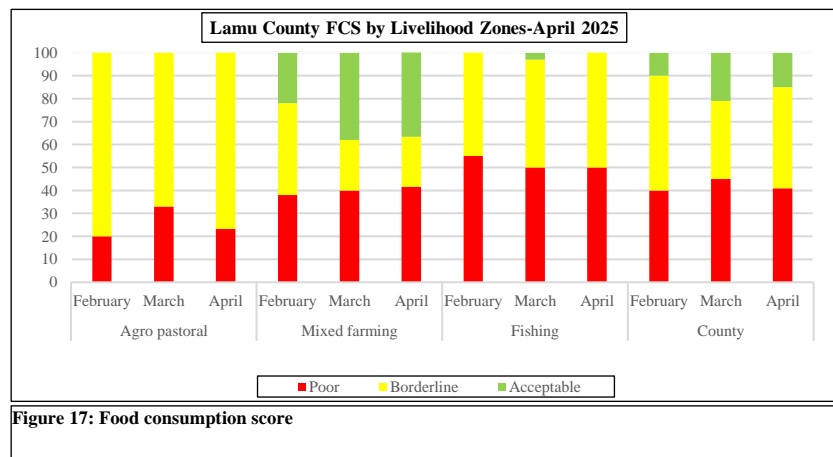


Figure 17: Food consumption score

Coping Strategy Index

- The mean coping strategy Index was 12.6, compared to 13.5 in the previous month and above the LTA by two percent.
- The Agropastoral Zone had a coping index of 10.8, the Mixed Farming livelihood zone had 9.1 while the Fishing Livelihood zone had the highest coping strategy recorded at 17.1.

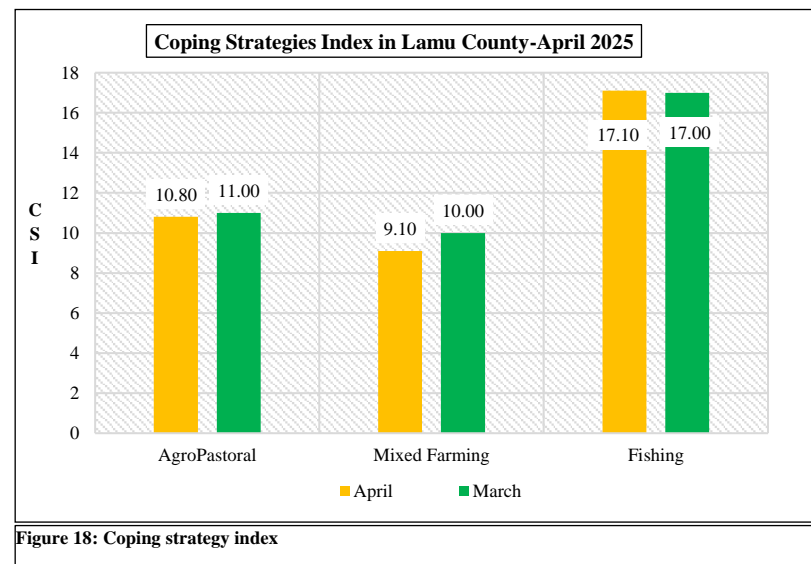


Figure 18: Coping strategy index

- Reliance on less preferred or less expensive food, reduced portion size of meals, reduced quantity of food for children and reduced number of meals eaten per day were the most frequent coping mechanisms adopted across the livelihood zones attributed to increase in food prices hence increase in coping strategies.

6.0 INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 Food aid

a) National Government

- Food distribution through the office of the County Commissioner across the 3 sub counties as follows; 150 and 150 bags of rice and beans in Lamu West Sub- County, 410 and 340 bags of rice and beans in Lamu Central Sub- County, 340 and 290 bags of rice and beans in Lamu East Sub- County.

6.2 Non-food aid

- Distribution of assorted seeds in the entire county for MAM 2025 season.
- Countywide vaccination of dogs and donkeys against rabies with *the support of the Donkey Sanctuary*

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflicts

- There were no cases of insecurity reported during the month under review.

7.2 Migration

- Households and victims of conflicts displaced from neighbouring Somalia were reportedly being hosted by the local community in Kiunga hence putting more pressure and stress on available resources.

7.3 Food security prognosis

- According to forecasts from Kenya Meteorological Department and partners, the MAM season is highly likely to be marked by below to near normal rains and above average temperatures.
- Household food consumption patterns are likely to worsen due to depletion of household stocks and increased dependance on the markets hence increase of households in borderline and poor food consumption scores.
- The distance to water sources for both humans and livestock is likely to be unstable during the next one month due to influx of livestock.
- Milk consumption patterns for the under-fives are likely to be below average hence increase malnutrition levels in the next two months.
- Food commodity prices in different markets are likely to remain high because of poor yields.
- Households with unreliable income sources are likely to continue employing food-based coping mechanisms for them to access food from markets and shops.
- Regeneration of forage condition due to the seasonal rains is expected to impact positively on livestock productivity, body condition and prices during the next one month.
- However, Tsetse flies and ticks' infestation is likely to have a negative impact on livestock body condition and related income.
- The food security situation in the County is projected to be remain stressed (IPC phase 2). However, hotspot areas especially in the Fishing zones are likely to slide into crisis (IPC phase 3).

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS
8.1.0 Proposed Recommendations

| Sectors | Intervention | Areas to be covered | Cost (Kes) | Possible source of resources |
|---------------------|---|--|-------------------|---|
| Coordination (NDMA) | Conduct 3 monthly meetings CSG | County wide | 120,000 | NDMA, CGL |
| | Conduct 3 monthly meetings SCSG | County wide | 376,800 | NDMA, CGL |
| | Facilitate bi weekly meetings TWG | HQ | 90,000 | NDMA, CGL |
| Social protection | Cash transfer and health insurance subsidy | County wide | | Directorate of children services, SHA |
| | Case management & psychosocial support for vulnerable children | County wide | | Directorate of children services |
| | Cash transfer/food aid to vulnerable households | County wide | | social protection, KRCS, World Vision, Special programmes (interior & coordination) |
| Water | Water trucking | Kiunga, Basuba and Witu wards | 5M | NDMA, CGL, KRCS |
| | Repair and maintenance of 45 existing boreholes and shallow wells | County wide | 14M | NDMA, Lamu County Government, Water Trust Fund |
| | Provision of 30 (10,000 litres) plastic water tanks | Faza, Kiunga and Basuba, Witu and Hongwe wards | 10.8M | NDMA, CGL, KRCS |
| | Rehabilitation of Djabias | Mtangawanda, Bahamisi and Shanga | 5M | NDMA, CGL, KRCS |
| Livestock | Provision of livestock supplementary feeds | Kiunga & Faza wards | 120M | CGL, NDMA, KRCS |
| | Provision Range Cubes as maintenance ration for 25 per cent of herd (core | Faza and Kiunga wards | 8.5 million | Lamu County Disaster Fund |

| Sectors | Intervention | Areas to be covered | Cost (Kes) | Possible source of resources |
|--------------------|--|--|-----------------------|--|
| | breeding and at-risk herds) | | | |
| | Water trucking for Livestock | Faza ward | 400,000 | Lamu County Disaster Fund |
| | Pasture water and body condition and disease surveillance | Faza and Kiunga wards | 284,000 | Lamu County Disaster Fund, Lamu county Department of Fisheries Livestock and cooperatives |
| Agriculture | Provision farm inputs (Certified seeds -drought tolerant) | County wide | 40 M | CGL, KALRO, NDMA, KRCS, AFA, World Vision |
| Education | Provision & installation of plastic water tanks in schools | County wide | 93 @40,000 =3,750,000 | Donors |
| Health-& Nutrition | Screening for malnutrition in hot spot areas | Faza, Hindi Basuba, Kiunga and Witu ward) | | CGL, KRCS, UNICEF |
| | Purchasing & Distribution of Water treatment chemical | Witu, Faza, Hongwe, Basuba, Kiunga, Mkunumbi, Mkomani & Shella | 3,000,000 | County Health Department, NDMA, Red cross, World Vision |
| | Conducting Integrated health outreaches | Witu, Faza, Hongwe, Basuba, Kiunga, Mkunumbi, Mkomani & Shella | 1,500,00 | County Health Department, NDMA, Red cross, |

ANNEX 1: ONGOING DROUGHT RESPONSE

Annex 1.1 Ongoing Drought Responses in Lamu County

- There was water trucking ongoing to hot spot areas in (Pandanguo, Jima and Katsakairu) in Witu ward, Lamu West Sub County by County government of Lamu to reduce water stress.