




A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



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

MARCH 2025 DEW PHASE	Early Warning Phase Classification		
Drought Status: NORMAL  Shughull za kawaida	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 rainfall which was poorly distributed in terms of space and time. The vegetation condition Index (VCI-3Month) increased when compared to previous month of February. The VCI indicated Above Normal vegetation. The county was in the Normal drought phase. Forage condition was fair to poor in the Mixed farming and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones and poor in the Fishing livelihood zone. <p>Socio Economic Indicators</p> <p>Production indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livestock species exhibited fair to poor body condition in all livelihood zones except the Fishing livelihood zone that recorded poor body condition. Crops farmers are currently in land preparations. Average Milk Production was below the normal range. There were reports of livestock death, especially in Fishing zone. <p>Access indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terms of trade were unfavourable but above the normal range. Household water distance was above the normal range. Grazing area to water source distance was above the normal range. Average Milk Consumption was below 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 above 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)	37	80-120
	Forage Condition	Good to fair	Good
	VCI-3Months	69.5	<35
	Production Indicators	Value	Normal ranges
	Maize Crop Condition	Land preparation	Good
	Livestock Body Condition	fair to poor	Good
	Milk Production (in litres)	1.1	≥ 3
	Livestock Migration Pattern	Not normal	Normal
	Livestock Deaths (from Drought)	Deaths	No death
	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)	6.1	≤ 2
	Return distance from grazing areas to water sources.	11	>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)	10.8	≤5.9	
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	13.45	≤ 6.9	
Food Consumption Score (%)	Poor-45 Borderline-34 Acceptable-21	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 MAM season onset for the county was not established due to below the expected threshold.
- The county received below average rainfall amounts which 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 4.09mm, 8.01 mm and 32.55mm of rainfall against an average of 6.77 mm, 7.33mm and 18.54mm for the first, second and third dekads respectively.
- This represented 37 per cent of normal rainfall.
- The precipitation received was above when compared to previous month of February.
- The precipitation received was 24 per cent above compared to the same period last year.
- The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) is a vital indicator of vegetation condition.
- The NDVI was on decline trend from the second decade during the month of January, indication downward vegetation condition.
- The NDVI recorded for the month of March was unstable compared to the long-term average as indicated in figure 1.
- The NDVI values is on decrease compared to the previous month of February, thus following seasonal trend as in figure 1.

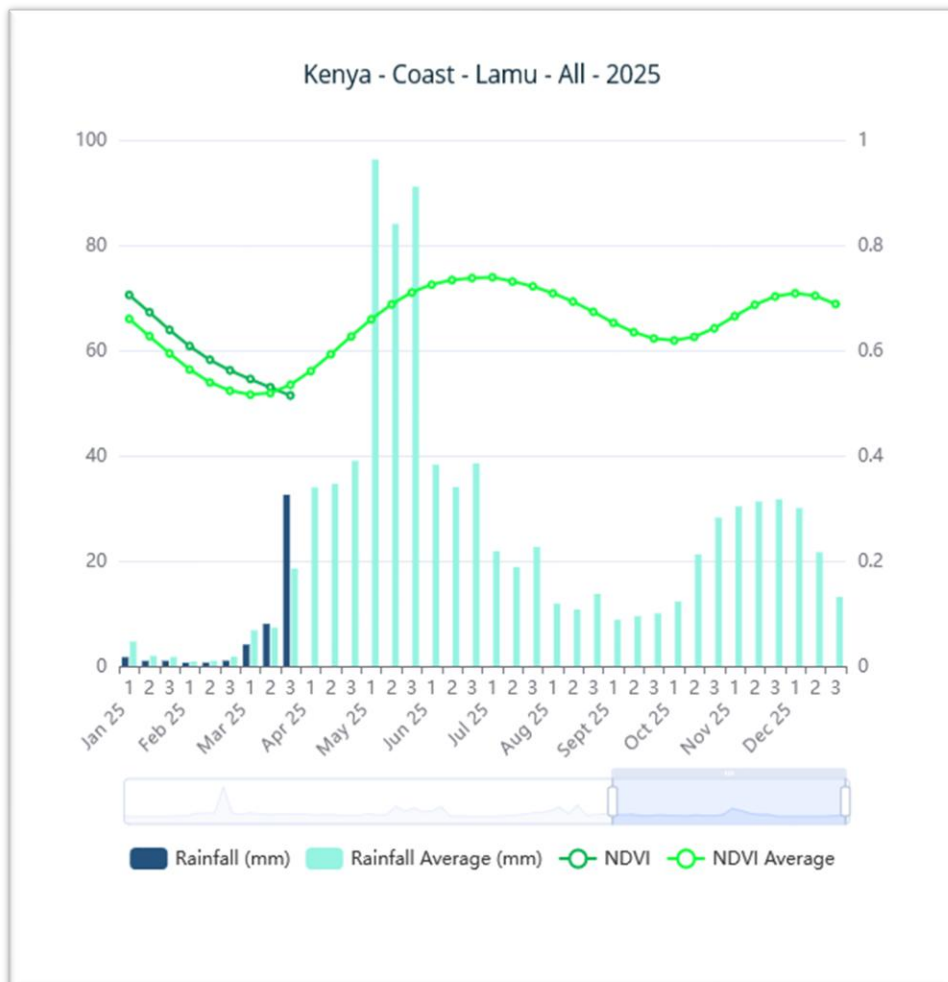


Figure 1: Rainfall performance

2.0 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- According to the vegetation condition index, the county recorded 69.5 in vegetation condition compared to the previous month of February at 39.6
- This was attributed to precipitation received during the month of March.
- Two livelihood zones (Fishing and Agropastoral) were in the drought status in alert phase.
- The other seven (Hongwe, Bahari, Mkunumbi, Hindi, Shella, Basuba, and Mkomani) were in the normal vegetation condition category.
- The dry and sunny conditions coupled with influx of livestock from neighboring counties contributed to the depletion of forage.

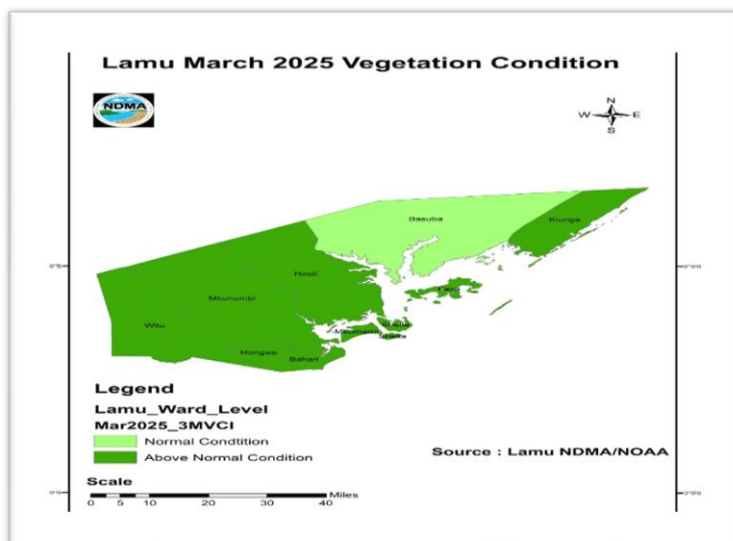


Figure 2: Ward level VCI

2.2 PASTURE AND BROWSE CONDITION

2.3 Pasture condition

- Pasture condition was mainly fair to poor across all livelihood zones except fishing Livelihood zones that record poor.
- According to community interviews 25 and 75 per cent of respondents in the sentinel sites reported that pasture was fair and poor respectively
- The fishing livelihood zones had recorded 100 per cent poor pasture as indicated in figure 3.
- Compared to the previous month, pasture condition was on declining trend especially in the Agropastoral and Fishing livelihood zones.
- This was attributed to influx of livestock from neighbouring counties and Somali resulting to overgrazing and depletion of available pasture and water.
- Available pasture is likely to last less than a month.

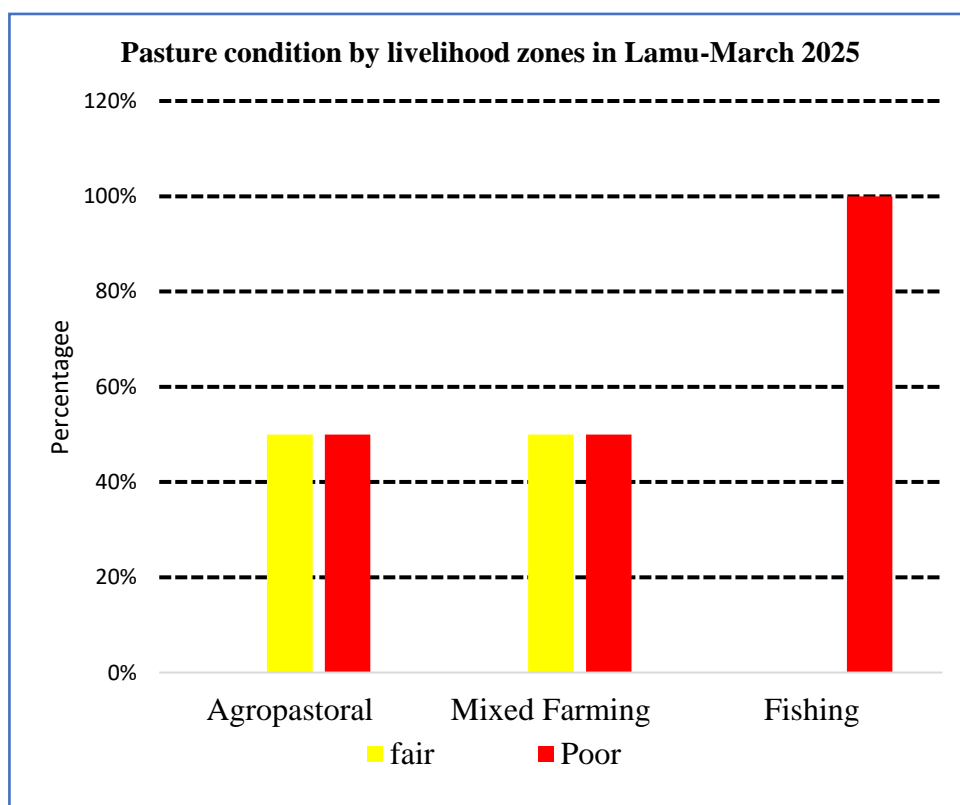


Figure 3: Pasture condition

2.4 Browse condition

- Browse condition was fair to poor across all the livelihood zones except in areas in the Fishing zones that recorded poor.
- From community interviews, an estimated 50 and 50 per cent of respondents reported that browse was fair and poor respectively.
- The fishing zone recorded poor browse condition as indicated in figure 4.
- When compared to the previous month, the current browse condition implied a declining trend.
- This was attributed to heavy influx of livestock from neighbouring counties and Country resulting in over browsing and thus depletion.
- The available browse is likely to last less than a month.

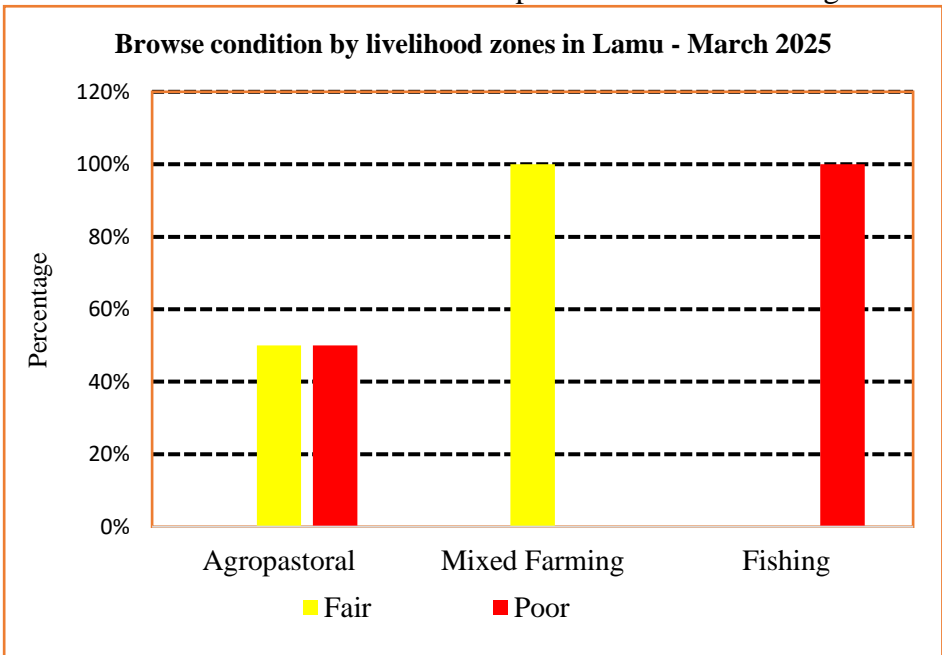


Figure 4: Browse condition

2.2.0 HYDROLOGICAL DROUGHT

2.2.1 Water Sources and Availability

- The three main water sources in the county during the month of March were shallow wells, pans and boreholes as shown in figure 5.
- Main water pans were reported to be holding below 20 per cent of their capacity, however water pans in fishing zones have dried up.
- The state and condition of most open and underground water sources in the county is fair to poor across the livelihood zones due salinity except in the fishing zone that recorded poor and saline.
- Available water sources are likely to serve both domestic and livestock uses for less than a month.

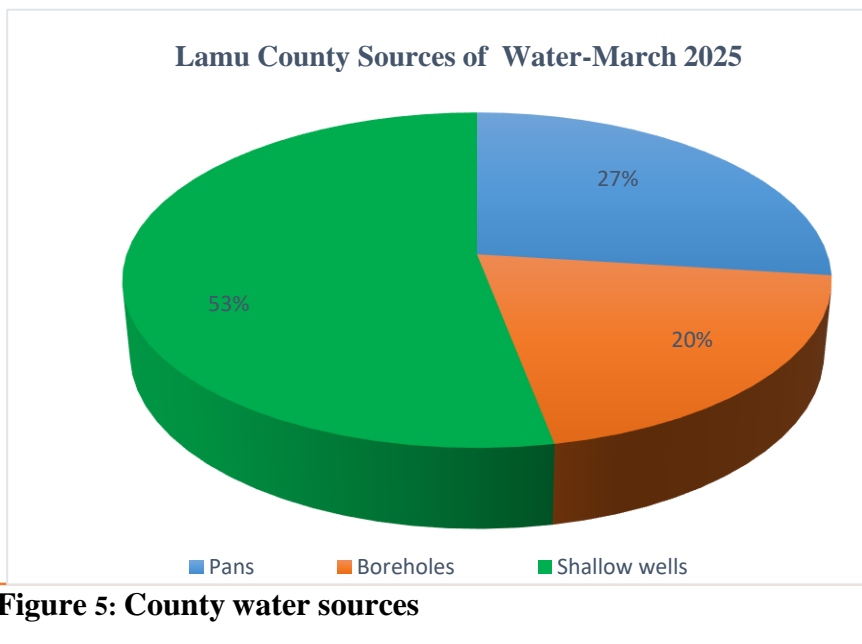


Figure 5: County water sources

2.2.2 Household Water Access and Utilization

- The average household to water source return distance was recorded at 6.1 kilometres, compared to 6.3 kilometres in the previous month.
- The household water distance was stable compared to the previous month.
- The 6.1 Kilometres was 11 per cent above when compared to the long-term average as in figure 6.
- Household to water return distances were highest in the Agropastoral livelihood zone recorded at 14 kilometres while fishing and mixed farming zones reported four and two kilometres respectively.
- 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 source is 5-10 Kes in town/village centres for 20 litres Jerrican while the cost in fishing ranges between Kes 10-50 sourced from desalination plants and Djabias.

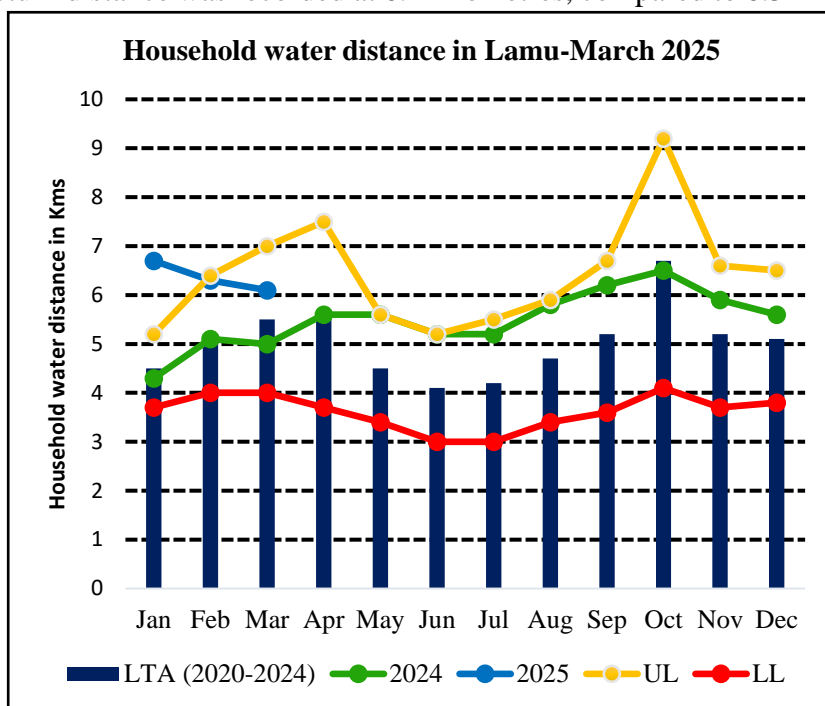


Figure 6: Household water distances

2.2.3 Livestock Access to Water

- Livestock average grazing distance to water sources recorded at 11 kilometres compared to 9.6 kilometres in the previous month.
- The 11 Kilometres was 26 per cent below the long-term average. The increase in distance was attributed to decline in open and underground water sources.
- Grazing to water return distances were highest in Fishing zones that recorded seven kilometers while Mixed farming and Agropastoral zones recorded two and four kilometer respectively.
- Most open water sources especially pan near grazing areas were depleted or dried-up.
- The water frequencies were six to seven days per week.

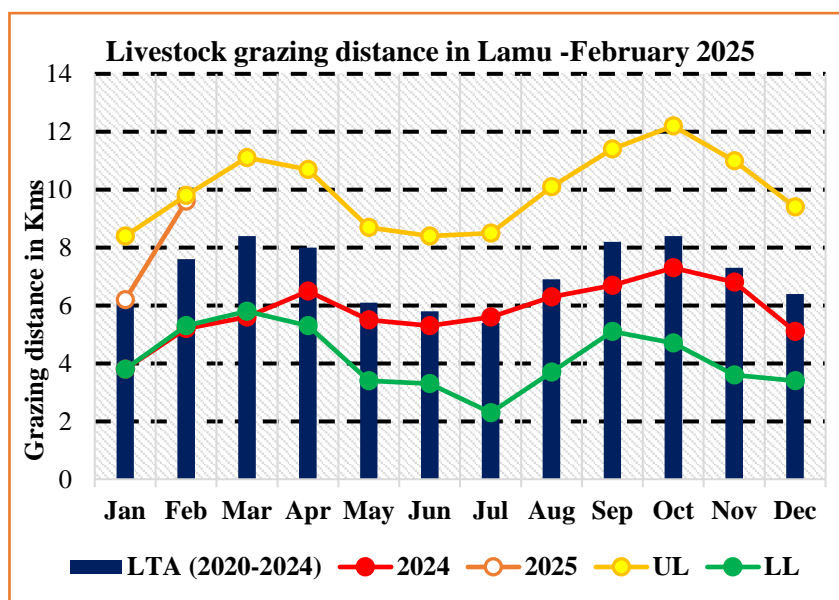


Figure 7: Livestock grazing distance to water access

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 crop increased by 13 and one per cent respectively.
- Trade and sale of crops remained stable.
- The average casual labour wage for the county for the month of March decreased by 33 per cent was (Kes.1,200) compared to (Kes. 1,800) in the previous month. This was 33 per cent decrease.

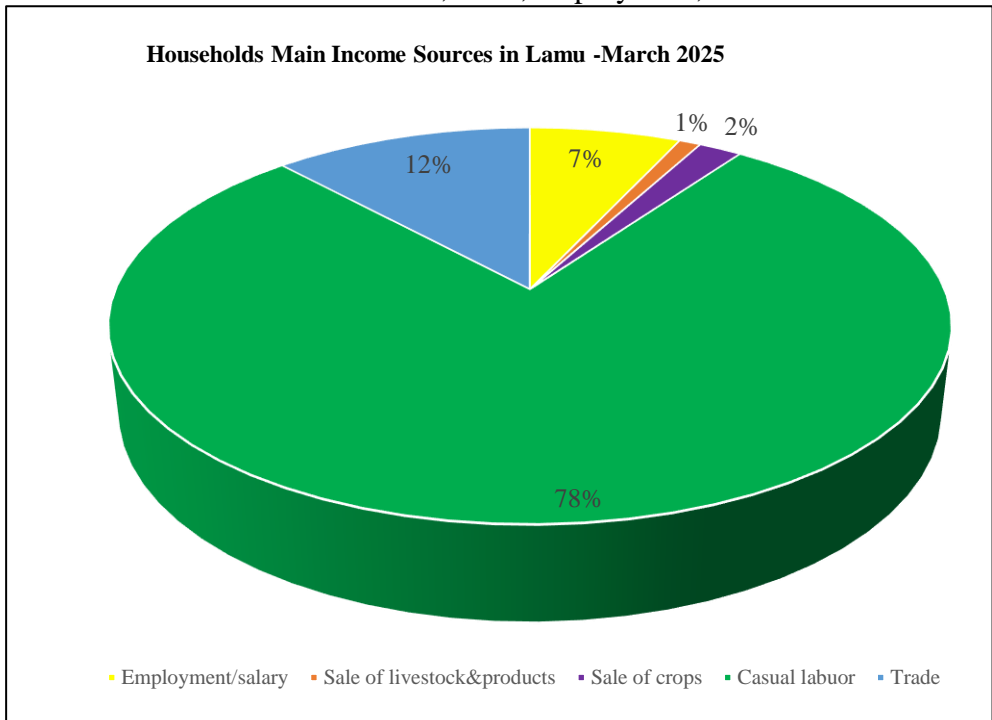


Figure 8: Household main sources of income

2.3 Implications on Food Security

- The influx and the early depilation of forage is likely to impact on livestock production and prices, hence affecting on household income.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1.0 Livestock Production

3.1.1 Livestock Migration Patterns

- Movement of livestock from Kiunga to Basuba ward and Hindi to Bargoni were reported during the month of March.

3.1.2 Livestock Body Condition

- Livestock body condition was good to fair 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.

3.1.3 Livestock Diseases

- No major cases of livestock diseases outbreak reported during the month.

3.1.4 Livestock deaths

Death of Cattle has been reported in several villages in fishing livelihood zones.

Table 1: Cases of death reported per village.

Village	No. of Cattle reported dead
Ndau	10
Kizingitini	5
Patte	10
Mtangawanda	6
Faza	11
	42

3.1.5 Milk Production

- The average county milk production for the month was stable at 1.1 litres, compared to the previous month.
- The 1.1 litres of milk were below the LTA by 63 per cent.
- The slight decrease in milk production was attributed to long distance to water sources and depleted pasture, thus low milk production.
- Milk production was highest in the mixed farming livelihood zone recorded at one litre and lowest in Fishing zones with a record of less than 0.5 litre.
- Milk was retailing at an average price of Kes 100 in Agropastoral zones and Kes 100-120 per liter in towns.

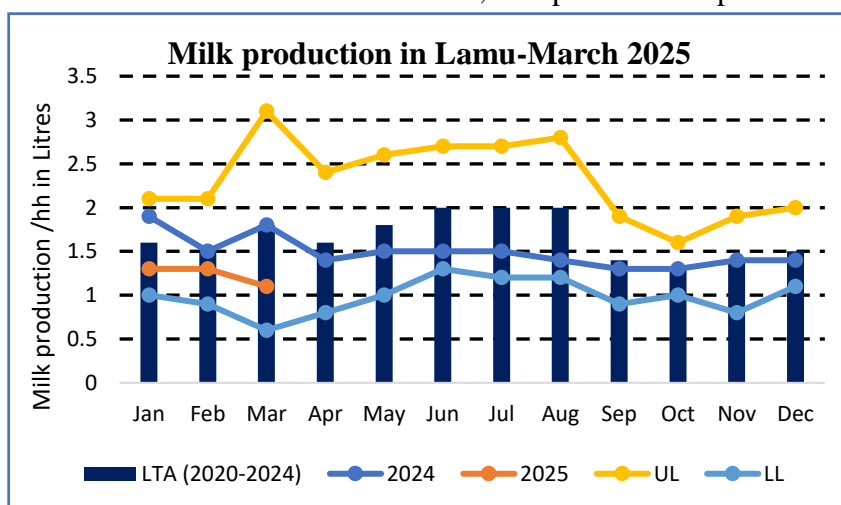


Figure 9: Milk production

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.
- The crop farmers are currently in land preparation in all the livelihood zones

3.2.2 Crop Harvest

- Few crop farmers are currently harvesting Simsim in mixed farming zone
- The households currently have little food stocks due to below average production during the previous seasons, mostly 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 impact on food insecurity in all the livelihood zones.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1.0 Livestock marketing

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

- The average cattle market price was Kes. 32,300, compared to Kes.38,000 in the previous month.
- This recorded 15 per cent decrease compared to the previous month of February.
- The decrease in cattle prices was attributed to low in demand for meat and low supply in different markets. This was attributed to month of Ramadhan.
- Decline in cattle body condition also implied that cattle fetched relatively low prices.
- The average cattle market prices were highest in Patte at Kes. 38,300.
- Lower prices were recorded at Mswakini markets at Kes. 25,000.
- The current average cattle market price was above the short-term average by six per cent.

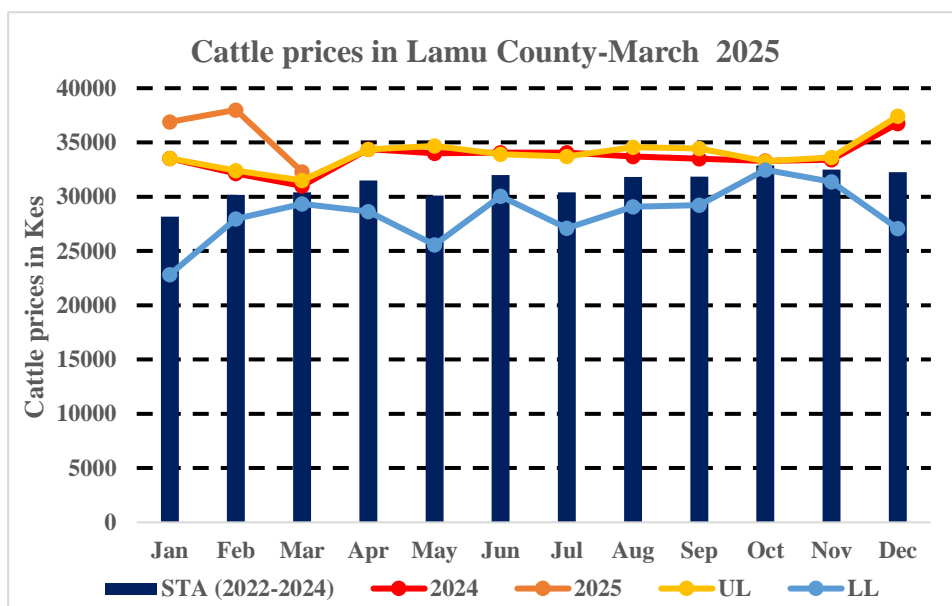


Figure 10: Cattle prices

4.1.2 Goat price

- The average goat market price was recorded at Kes. 5,200, compared to Kes. 5,900 in the previous month.
- The current goat price decreased by 12 per cent compared to the previous month of February.
- The average goat market price in the month of March was above the short-term average by four per cent.
- The slight decrease in goat market price was attributed to decline in goat body condition coupled with low demand for goat meat.
- The goat average market price was highest in Patte market at Kes 6500 and the lowest in Mswakini market at Kes 4,500.

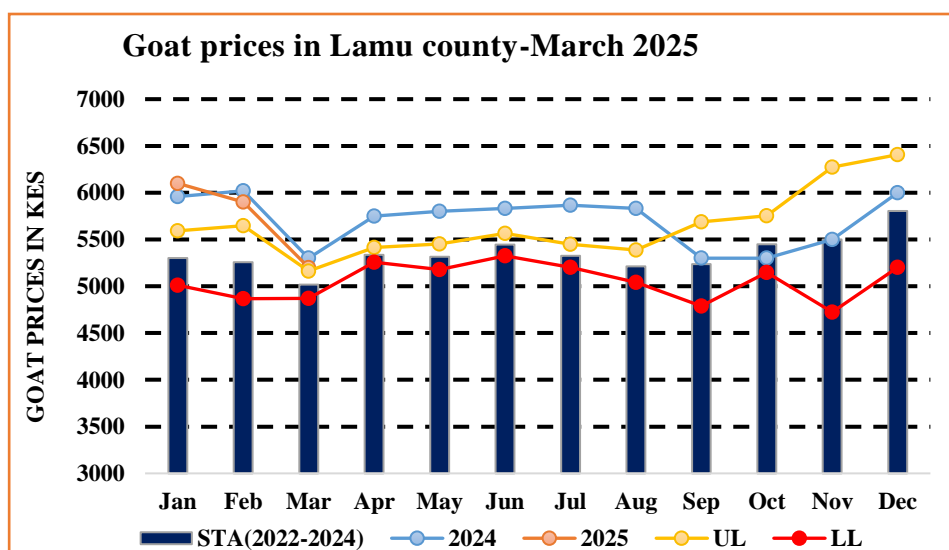


Figure 11: Goat prices

4.2.0: Crop prices

4.2.1 Maize price

- The average market price for a kilogram of maize was stable compared to the previous month of February.
- The market price for maize recorded five per cent above the short-term average as shown in figure 12.
- The relatively stable price was brought about by stable supply and high demand for the commodity in different markets.
- Below average harvests from the previous seasons also forced households to rely entirely on purchases of commodities from different markets and shops.

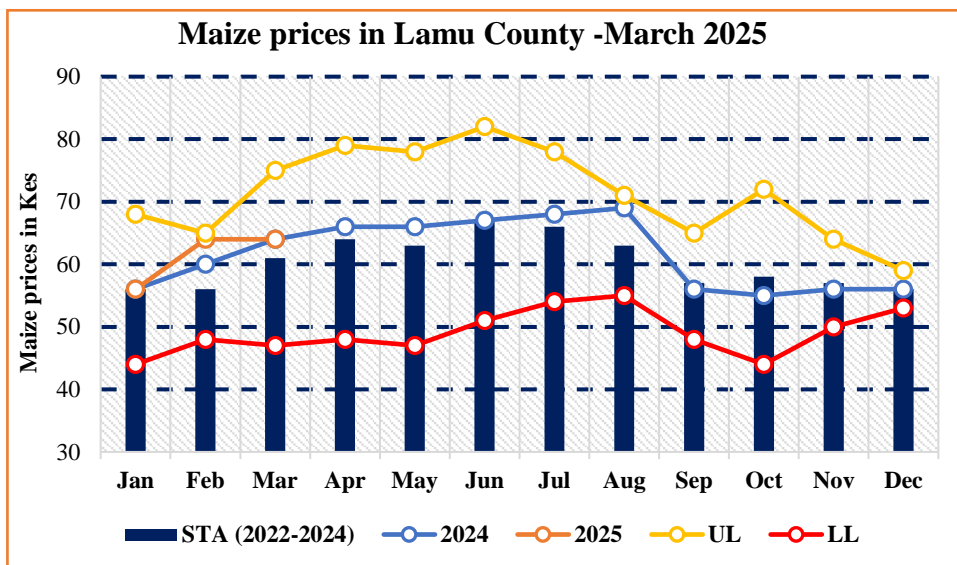


Figure 12: Maize prices

- The maize market prices were highest in Kiunga market at Kes. 100 and lowest in Mpeketoni market at Kes 50.
- The commodity price implies unstable trend over the next three months.

4.2.2 Beans prices

- The average market price for a Kilogram of beans was Kes. 170 compared to 177 during the previous month.
- The market price for beans was four per cent above compared to the previous month.
- The average beans price of 170 was nine per cent above the short-term average as in figure 13.
- The decrease in price was attributed to low demand for the commodity in the sampled markets.
- Low supply of the commodity also forced households to rely mainly on markets and retailers.
- The price of beans was highest in Patte at Kes 200 and lowest in Mpeketoni at Kes 120.
- The price ranges were determined by commodity supply in the different markets and the purchasing power of individual household.

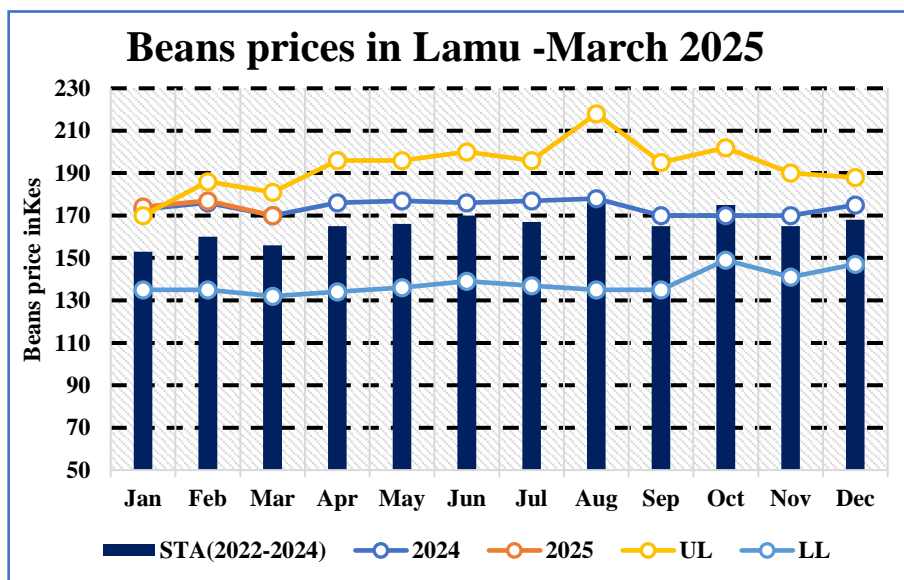


Figure 13: Beans market price

4.3 Terms of Trade

- Terms of trade were unfavourable and unstable.
- Proceeds from the sale of a two-year-old goat was purchased at 81 kilograms of maize, compared to 98 kilograms in the previous month.
- The current ToT recorded four per cent above the short-term average.
- 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 98 kilograms, while the Mixed farming livelihood zone reported 110 kilograms. Fishing zone recorded the lowest ToT at 68 kilograms.

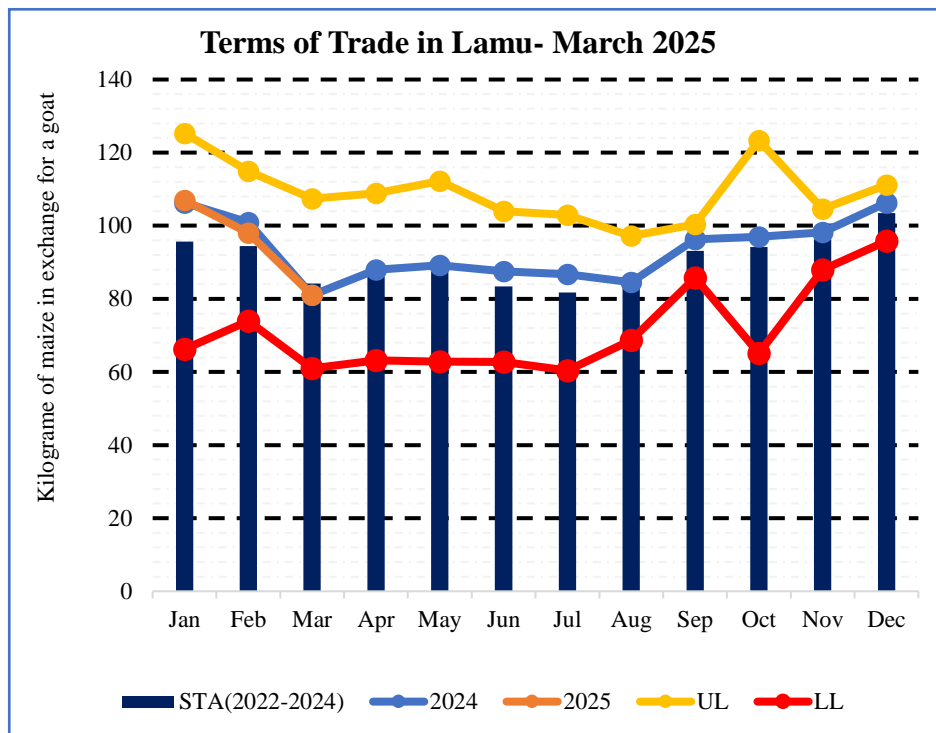


Figure 14: Term of trade

4.4 Implications on Food Security

- The fair to poor cattle and goat body condition in both Agropastoral and Mixed farming livelihood zones has destabilized the prices resulting to below average income for livestock farmers and decline in food insecurity.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 Milk for Household Consumption

- The average milk consumption per household per day was recorded at 0.8 litre, slightly lower when compared to the previous month.
- The 0.8 litre milk consumption was below the LTA by 28 per cent.
- The average Milk consumption was highest in mixed farming at 1.2 litres and lowest in fishing zones with 0.2 litres.
- The low milk consumption was attributed to a different of factors such as, movement of livestock to far grazing areas and rearing of local cattle breeds with low milk production and depleted pasture.

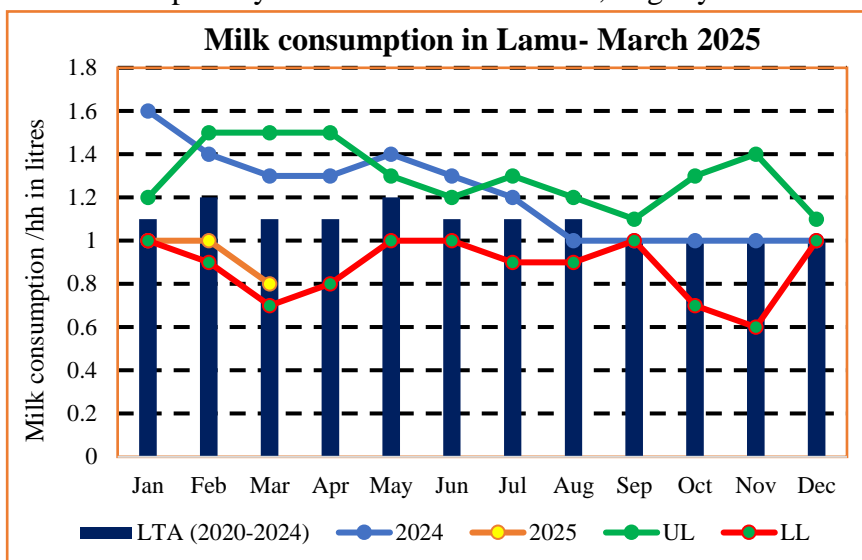


Figure 15: Beans market price

Health and Nutrition Status

5.2.1 MUAC

- A total of 380 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 10.8 per cent, compared to 9.4 per cent in the previous month.
- The 10.8 per cent is above the long-term average by 61 per cent as shown in figure 16.
- The rates of malnutrition cases especially for the under-fives were unstable in all livelihood zones because of decline childcare practices, decreased number of integrated health outreaches and delivery of essential nutrition services in malnutrition affected areas.

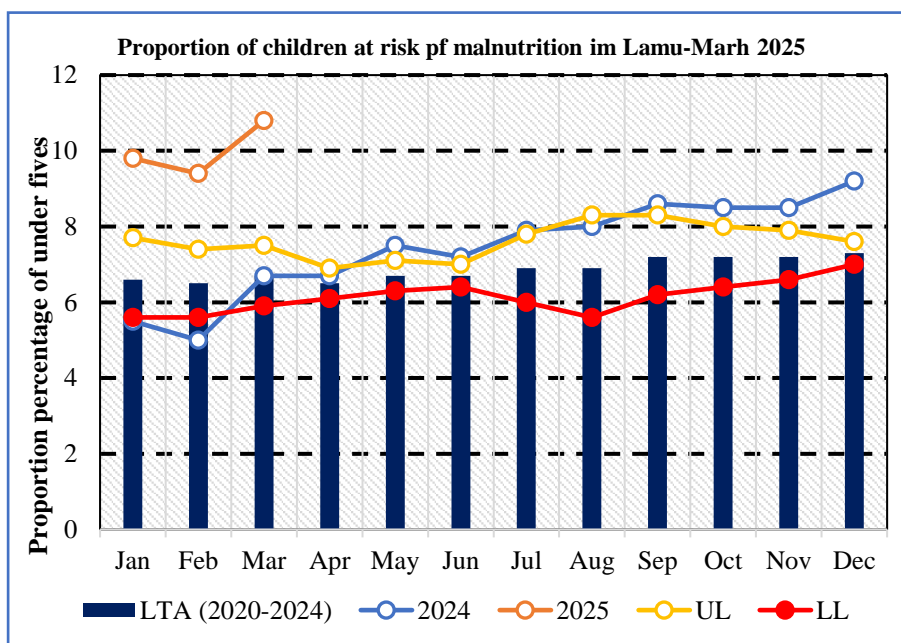


Figure 16: MUAC

- 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 March.

5.2.2 Health

- An estimated less than one per cent (2 cases) of the sampled children was reported to suffer from fever with breathing difficulties in Bahari ward.
- These cases were referred to dispensaries and health centres and managed.

5.2.3 Food Consumption Score

- The county population under poor, borderline and acceptable food consumption score categories was 45, 34 and 21 per cent respectively.
- This implied that an estimated 79 per cent of the households were vulnerable to food insecurity and related challenges.
- This was attributed to the poor harvest from the previous four seasons.
- Exhausted 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 47 per cent of its households under poor and borderline food consumption respectively.
- The Agro-pastoral livelihood zone reported 33 and 67 per cent of households under poor and borderline categories respectively.
- The Mixed-farming livelihood zone reported 40, 22 and 38 per cent of the population to be under poor, borderline and acceptable categories respectively.

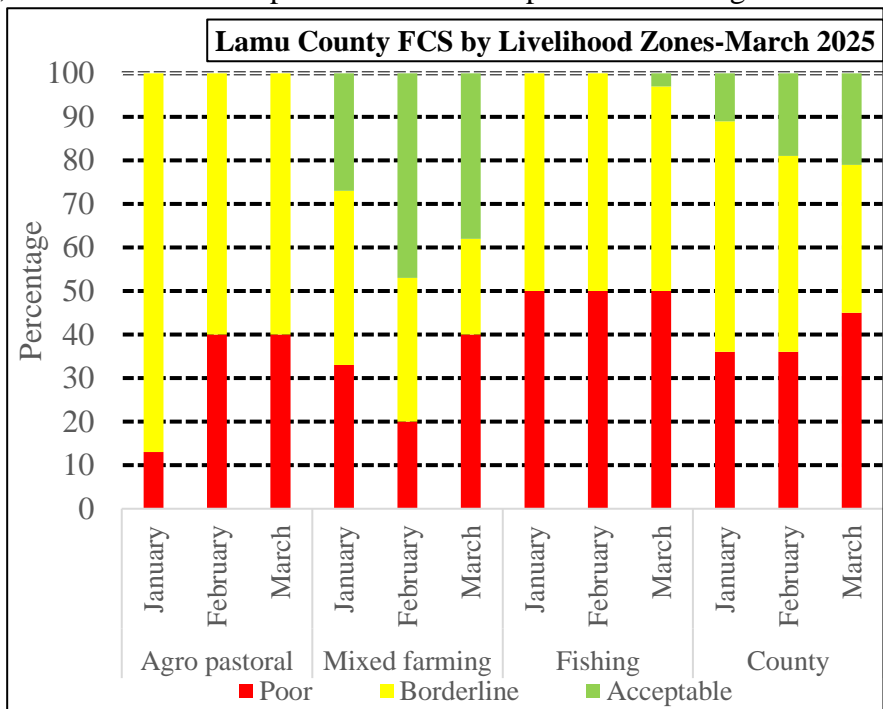


Figure 17: Food consumption score

Coping Strategy Index

- The mean coping strategy Index was 13.45, compared to 12.82 during the previous month.
- The 13.45 was above by 11 per cent compared to the LTA.
- The Agropastoral Zone had a coping index of 11, the Mixed Farming livelihood zone had 10 while the Fishing Livelihood zone had the highest coping strategy recorded at 17.
- Most of the households count on less preferred or less expensive food, reduced portion size of meals, reduced quantity of food for children and reduced number of meals taken per day were the most frequent coping mechanisms adopted across the livelihood zones attributed to high commodity prices hence increase in coping mechanism.

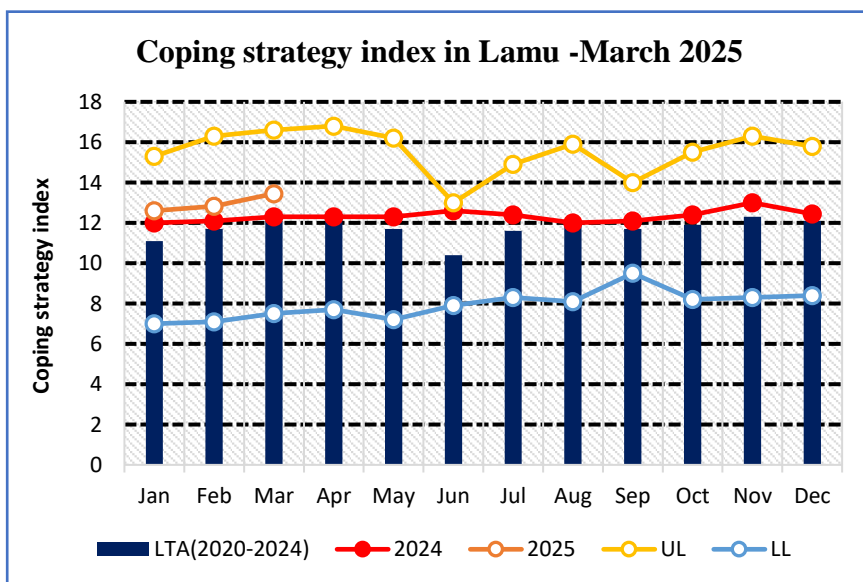


Figure 18: Beans market price

5.3 Implications on Food Security

- This food consumption score implies that an estimated 79 per cent of the households are vulnerable to food insecurity and related challenges.

6.0 INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 Food aid Response

The county drought status is currently normal. However, there are few pockets that are at the alert phase with a deteriorating trend particularly in the fishing and agropastoral livelihood zones.

The following interventions were implemented by various partners in the month of March 2025;

a) **KRCS:** distribution of assorted food items comprising of two kg beans, three kgs rice, one kgs cooking oil and two kgs CSB to 500 HHs in Basuba ward in Lamu East Subcounty

b) Well wishers/foundation:

- Muslim Food bank- food aid to 240 HHs in Pandanguo, Witu, Lamu West Subcounty: 14 kgs maize flour, eight pkts of wheat flour, four kgs maize, 200gms salt, one kg sugar, one litre cooking and one pkt 50gm tea leaves per HH.
- Towfiq hospital: supported 722 households in Bahari, Mkunumbi, Witu wards (Lamu West Subcounty and Hindi ward-Lamu Central Subcounty).
- Jaffer Foundation distribution of assorted food items to 1,718 HHs in Patte, Shanga, Siyu and Mtangawanda (Ramadhan food package)
- Individuals (Mash, Zubedi): cash transfer between kes 2000 -5000/= to 1,718 HHs in Patte, Shanga, Siyu and Mtangawanda (Ramadhan)
- Mzee Salim Pembe provided 30 tons of food items to Aweer communities in Basuba ward. Each HH received; Posho 10kgs, Wheat flour 10kgs, Oil 3 litres, Tea leaves 3Kgs, Date (Tende) 1kg, Packet of milk 500ml, Salt 1kg, Beans 10Kgs, Sugar $\frac{3}{4}$ Kg, Rice 9Kgs

c) **National Government:** Food aid (900 bags of rice and 780 bags of beans in the three sub counties with each sub county allocated 300 bags and 260 bags of rice and beans respectively.

6.2 nonfood items

- **Tree planting:** No tree planting activities were undertaken by the authority during the month under review. Budget to support tree planting during this MAM 2025 season has been submitted for review.
- In preparation for the long rains season, World Vision distributed assorted seeds comprised of 2300 kgs of maize, 1150 kgs of cowpeas, 1150 kgs of green grams to 575 HHs in Hindi ward; each HH received four kgs of maize, two kgs of cowpeas and two kgs of green grams.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflicts

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

7.2 Migration

- Displaced households from neighbouring Somalia were reported in Kiunga hence putting more pressure on the scare's resources and the hosting households.

7.3 Food security prognosis

- According to the forecasts from the Kenya Meteorological Department among other global centres, the March to May long rains in likely to be below normal, although there is uncertainty given the long-range nature of the forecast. Temperatures are likely to be above average through 2025.
- Tsetse flies and Ticks infestation are likely to have a negative impact on livestock body condition, production and prices.
- Household food consumption patterns are likely to worsen due to depletion of household stocks and increased dependence 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 remain below average hence increase malnutrition levels in the next two months.
- The food security situation in the County is projected to be remain stressed (IPC phase 2), however, few pockets in Fishing zones are likely to slide to crisis IPC phase 3.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Proposed Recommendations

Sectors	Intervention	Areas to be covered	Cost (Kes)	Possible source of resources
Coordination (NDMA)	Conduct 3 monthly CSG meetings	County wide	120,000	NDMA, CGL
	Conduct 3 monthly SCSG meetings	County wide	376,800	NDMA, CGL
	Facilitate bi weekly TWG meetings	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 lrs) 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 breeding and at-risk herds)	Faza and Kiunga wards	8.5 million	Lamu County Disaster Fund
	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	County wide	40 M	CGL, KALRO, NDMA, KRCS, AFA, World Vision

Sectors	Intervention	Areas to be covered	Cost (Kes)	Possible source of resources
	seeds -drought tolerant)			
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 Witu, Bahari and Hindi wards by County government of Lamu to reduce water stress.