



**National Drought Management Authority  
TANA RIVER COUNTY  
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR MARCH 2025**

MARCH EW PHASE		Early Warning Phase Classification		
<p><b>Drought Status: NORMAL</b></p> <p><b>Shughuli za kawaida</b></p>	LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TRENDS	
	Pastoral	Alert	Improving	
	Marginal Mixed Farming	Normal	Improving	
	Mixed Farming	Normal	Improving	
	County	Normal	Improving	

**Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification**

**Biophysical Indicators**

- Generally, Wet and dry weather conditions prevailed over most parts of the county coupled by warmer than average temperatures.
- The county's vegetation greenness was normal
- Pasture and browse ranged from fair to good across all the livelihood zones.

**Socio-Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)**

**Production Indicators**

- Livestock body condition for all species was observed to range from a good smooth appearance to a moderate BCS (neither fat nor thin).
- Household milk production remained relatively stable, averaging about 2.6 liters, which is within the normal range.

**Access Indicators**

- Households managed to purchase approximately 93 kilograms of maize through the sale of a medium-sized goat.
- Household milk consumption was reported to be below normal range at 1.3 liters.
- Return trekking distances to water sources for both domestic and livestock use remained within the normal ranges.

**Utilization Indicators**

- The percentage of children at risk of malnutrition was 18.3%, which was within the normal range.
- Household diet (FCS) is currently within acceptable to borderline score.

Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal ranges
Rainfall (% of normal)	25.14	75 - 120
VCI-3 month	30.9	35 - 50
Forage Condition	Fair to good	Good
Production indicators	Value	Normal ranges
Crop Condition	Germination	Germination
Livestock Body Condition	Moderate	Good
Milk Production (in liters)	2.6	2.0 – 5.2
Livestock Migration Pattern	In-Migration	In migration
Livestock Deaths (Drought)	No Deaths	No deaths
Access Indicators	Value	Normal ranges
Terms of Trade (ToT)	93	53 - 70 kgs
Milk Consumption (in liters)	1.3	1.4 – 2.1
Return Water Distance (Km)	Household: 3.6 Livestock: 11.7	1.8 – 3.9 7.4 – 15.3
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal ranges
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at Risk)	18.3	14.5 – 27.8
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	11.9	11.2 – 14.6
Food Consumption Score (%)	Acceptable	≥ 35.5
	Borderline	21.5 - 35
	Poor	0 - 21

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Short rains harvests</li> <li>▪ Short dry spell</li> <li>▪ Reduced milk yields</li> <li>▪ Increased HH Food Stocks</li> <li>▪ Land preparation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Planting/Weeding</li> <li>▪ Long rains</li> <li>▪ High Calving Rate</li> <li>▪ Milk Yields Increase</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Long rains harvests</li> <li>▪ A long dry spell</li> <li>▪ Land preparation</li> <li>▪ Increased HH Food Stocks</li> <li>▪ Kidding (Sept)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Short rains</li> <li>▪ Planting/weeding</li> </ul>								
<b>Dry Season</b>		<b>Long Rains</b>		<b>Dry Cool Season</b>			<b>Short Rains Season</b>				
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

# 1. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

## 1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- For the month under review, wet and dry weather conditions with warmer than average temperatures prevailed over most parts of the county.
- Based on the data from CHIRPS/MODIS, the county experienced 1.12mm,12.26mm and 62.28mm of rainfall during the first, second and third dekad respectively, as illustrated in Figure one alongside.
- An analysis of rainfall data up to the end of the March shows that many parts of the county received above-average rainfall by third week of March.

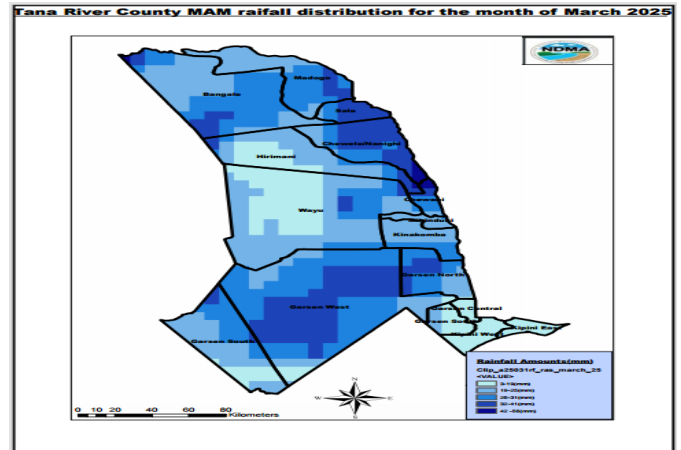


Figure 1: Rainfall Performance, Tana River County.

## 1.2 RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION

- The month of March is typically the onset of MAM rainy season.
- The rainfall amounts received during the month of March were above average.
- Rainfall distribution across the county was fair, characterized by isolated storms and light showers affecting various areas.
- Additionally, temperatures throughout the county decreased between 30<sup>0</sup> to 35<sup>0</sup> C.
- During the season, Chewani, Sala, Nanighi, Garsen West, Garsen North, Bangale and Madogo received average highest rainfall of 37mm,33mm,33mm,30mm,28mm,26mm and 25.9 mm respectively while Kipini West and East ward received the least amounts of rainfall at 14.3mm and 8.1mm respectively.

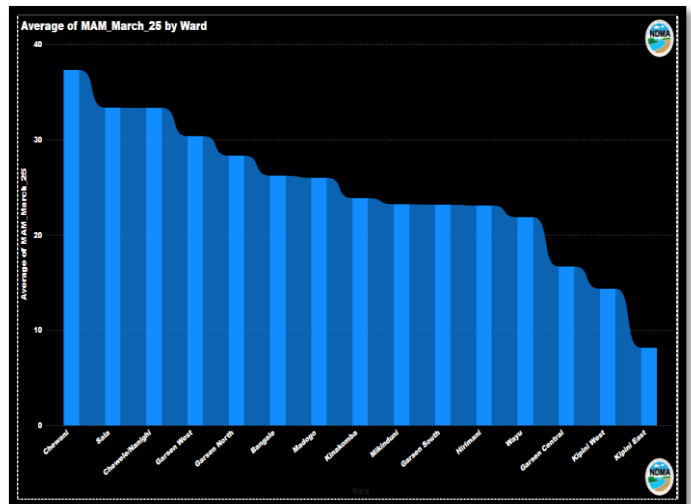


Figure 2. Rainfall Distribution per ward

## 1.2. TEMPERATURES

### 1.2.1. LAND SURFACE TEMPERATURE (LST)

- For the month of March 2025, the County experienced average land surface temperatures (LST) of 42°C in dekad one, 43°C in dekad two and 41°C in dekad three as compared to the long-term averages of 40°C and 39°C in dekad one, two and three respectively.
- Warmer than average temperatures were recorded across the different parts of the county.
- Temperatures are expected to remain warmer than usual throughout until the end of the season.

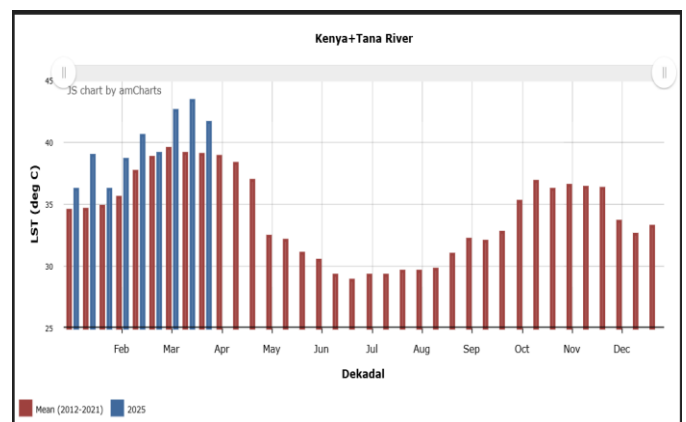


Figure 3: LST-C6, Tana River County.

## 2.1. IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

### 2.1.1 VEGETATION CONDITION INDEX (VCI)

- The County 3-month Vegetation Condition Index (VCI-3M) for the month of March 2025 was 30.9, an indication of normal vegetation greenness.
- The normal vegetation greenness is attributed to the onset of the long rains season.
- Majority of the wards recorded normal to moderate vegetation conditions.
- Wards experiencing moderate vegetation deficit included Hirimani and Bangale ward.
- However, with the ongoing rains the vegetation condition across the various wards is expected to improve more in the coming one to two months.

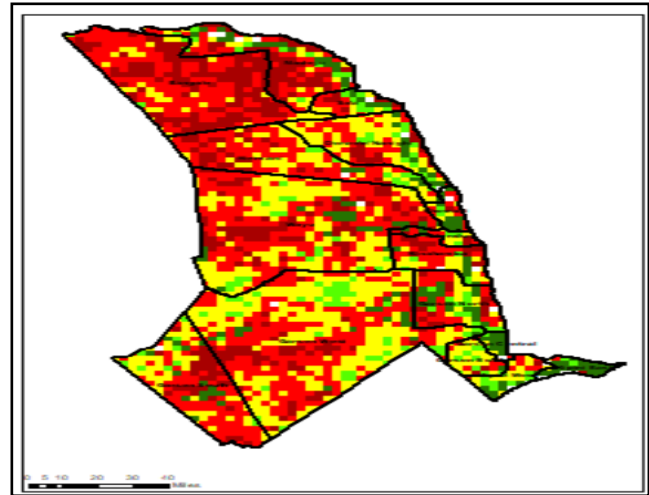


Figure 4: VCI Map, Tana River County

- The Normal differential vegetation Index (NDVI) for the county has been below average over the last two months.
- During the month of March 2025, an NDVI of 0.34 was recorded in dekad one, 0.35 in dekad two and 0.35 was recorded in dekad three against a medium-term average (12 years, 2002 - 2013) of 0.37 and 0.40 in dekad one, two and three respectively.
- The decline in vegetation condition in the last two months was attributed to lack of rain and prevailing heat effect. The situation is expected to improve with the onset of the long rains.

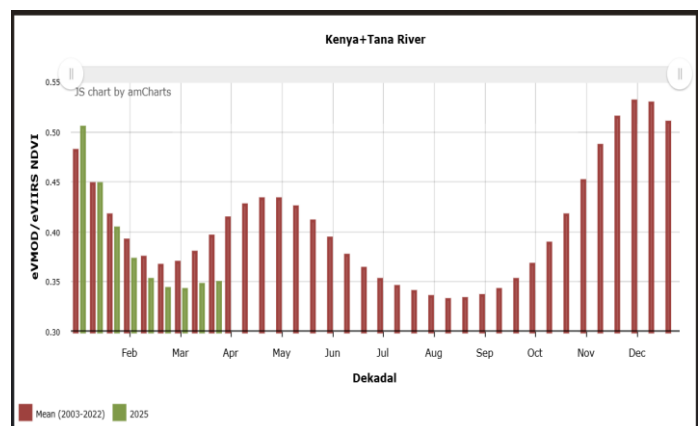


Figure 5: NDVI for Tana River County

### 2.1.2. Pasture and Browse

- The condition of pasture and browse in the county ranged from fair to poor. The pasture and browse conditions are expected to improve to good conditions in the next two months. This is attributed onset of the long rains season being experienced across the county.
- The current pasture and browse were likely to last 1-2 months across Pastoral livelihood zones as compared to normal of 2-3 months while in Mixed farming and Marginal mixed Farming livelihood zones it's expected to last 2-3 months.
- The browse condition is fair to good across all the livelihood zones in the county, and the available browse is expected to last for more than three months in all zones.

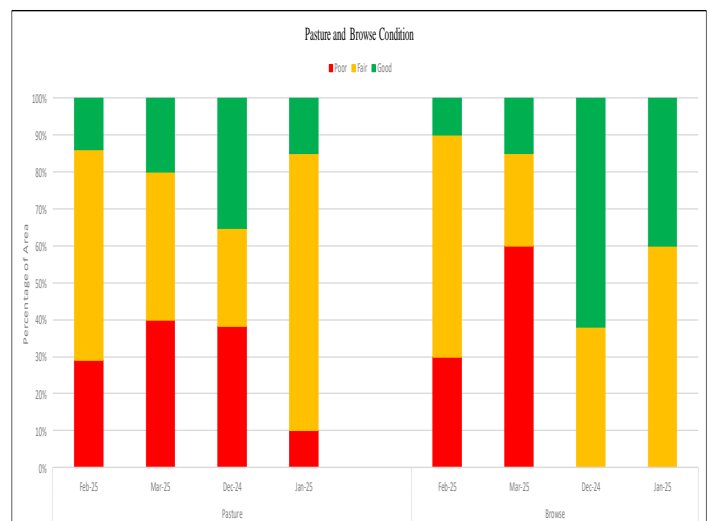
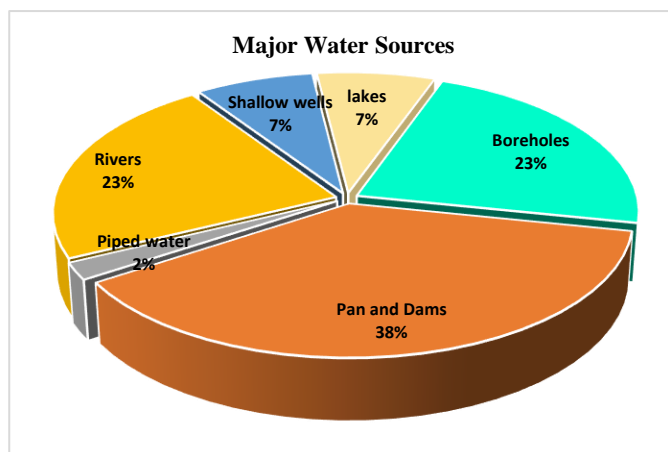


Figure 6: Pasture and Browse Condition.

## 2.2 WATER RESOURCE

### 2.2.1 Sources

- Main water sources for both livestock and human consumption during the month were rivers, boreholes, shallow wells and pans and dams as illustrated in figure seven alongside.
- In urban centres like Hola town, piped water schemes and water trucking were primary the main water source.
- Open water sources like water Pans, shallow wells and River Tana were at 55-60 percent of their capacity which was currently normal.



### 2.2.2 Household access to Water and Utilization

- The household trekking distance in March remained relatively stable at an average of 3.6 km and slightly above the normal range.
- The increase in distances over the last two months is attributed to the lack of rain from January to Mid-March 2025.
- Compared to the long-term average, the current trekking distance was above the long-term mean by 32%.
- Water consumption across the three livelihood zones was normal across the different livelihood zone.

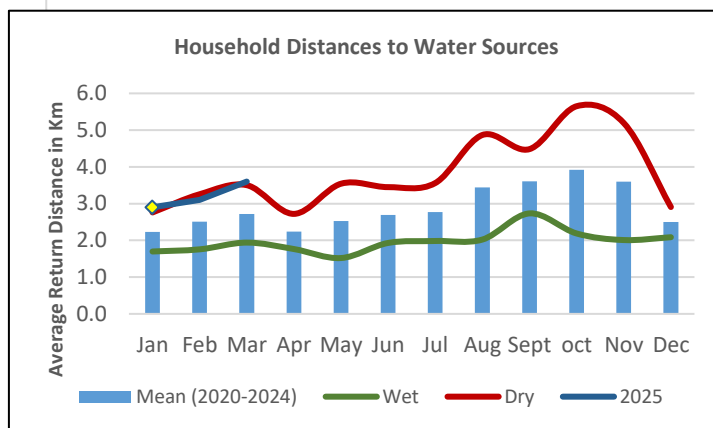


Figure 8: Household Access to Water, March 2025

### 2.2.3 Livestock Access to Water

- Compared to the previous month, the average return distance from livestock grazing areas to water points decreased by 2% to an average of 11.7 km, which was within the normal range.
- The decrease in distances was attributed to availability of pastures and water across the county as a result of the onset of 2025 MAM rains.
- Compared to the long-term average, the current return distance was two percent above the LTA.
- It is anticipated that with the onset of the long rains, pastures and water availability is expected to improve further in the coming months.

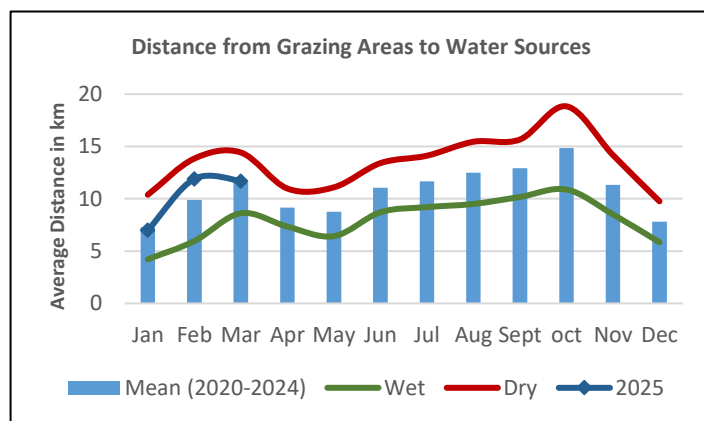


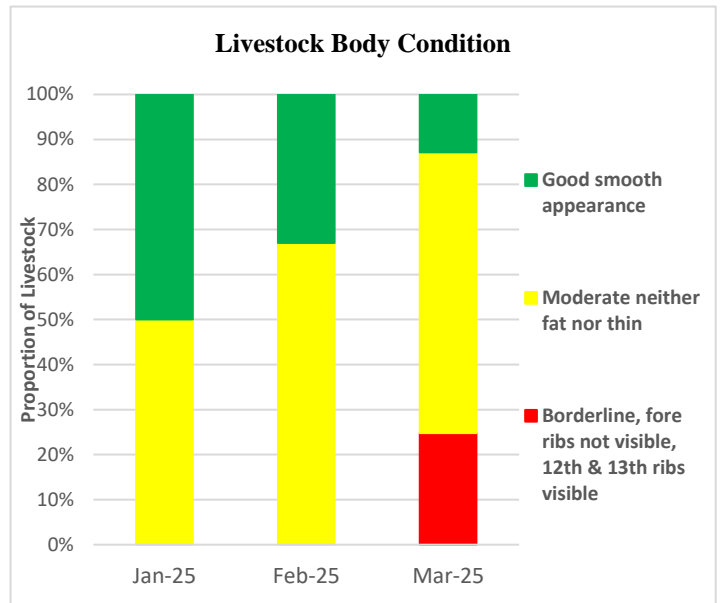
Figure 9: Livestock distance to water Source, March 2025.

### 3.0. PRODUCTION INDICATORS

#### 3.1 Livestock Production

##### 3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- The body condition scores for all livestock species ranged from fair to good across all livelihood zones.
- This was largely attributed to the declining pasture and browse conditions before the onset of the rains.
- With the expected improvements in pasture and browse availability and reduced trekking distances, the current body conditions of livestock are expected to improve.



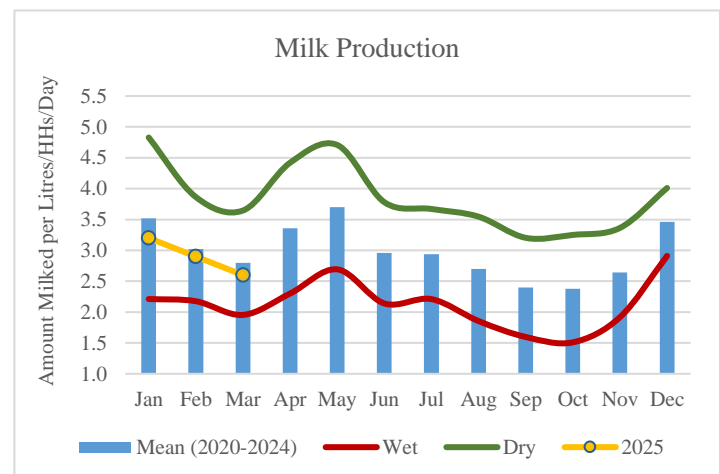
**Figure 10. livestock body conditions**

##### 3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Incidences of livestock diseases were reported across the three livelihood zones. Reported diseases included Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), sheep and goat pox, Contagious Caprine Pleuro-Pneumonia (CCPP), and Contagious Bovine Pleuro-Pneumonia (CBPP), among others.

##### 3.1.3 Milk Production

- For the month under review, the average milk produced per household decreased by 10 percent to an average of 2.6 litres.
- The decrease in milk production over the last two months is attributed to the declining pasture and browse conditions before the onset of the long rains.
- Compared to the long-term average (2020-2024), current milk production is below by seven percent, which is below the normal ranges.
- With the onset of the long rains, regeneration of pastures & browse is expected which will lead to increase in milk production.



**Figure 11: Milk Production, March 2025.**

### 3.2. RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION.

#### 3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

In the mixed and marginal mixed farming livelihood zones, many farmers have planted and waiting for their crops to germinate, there are a number of farmers who are yet to plant as they wait for the rains to be consistent. Land preparations still ongoing in some parts of mixed farming livelihood zones.

#### 4. MARKET PERFORMANCE.

##### 4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

###### 4.1.1 Cattle Prices

- The average price for medium-sized cattle decreased by nine percent to an average of Ksh 44,400, though within the normal range.
- The decline in price was attributed to the deterioration in livestock body condition.
- The prices are expected to improve with the onset of the long rains.
- Compared to the long-term average the current market prices are 16% higher than normal.

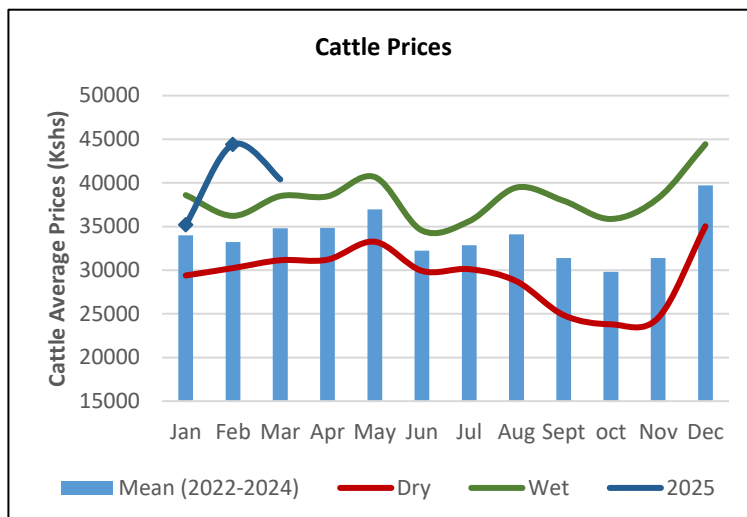


Figure 12: Cattle Prices, Tana River County.

###### 4.1.2 Goat Prices

- Goat prices have been on an increase since January 2025, attributed to the availability of browse and water.
- The price of a medium sized goat averaged at Ksh. 6,550 in March 2025 which was 29 percent higher than the long-term average (Figure 4).
- Goat price were higher in Marginal Mixed livelihood zones at Ksh 7,167 for medium sized goat and lower at Ksh 5,467 shillings for a mature sized goats across the Mixed farming livelihood zones.
- The price of goat is likely to increase for the next 2-3 months due to availability and accessibility of browse.

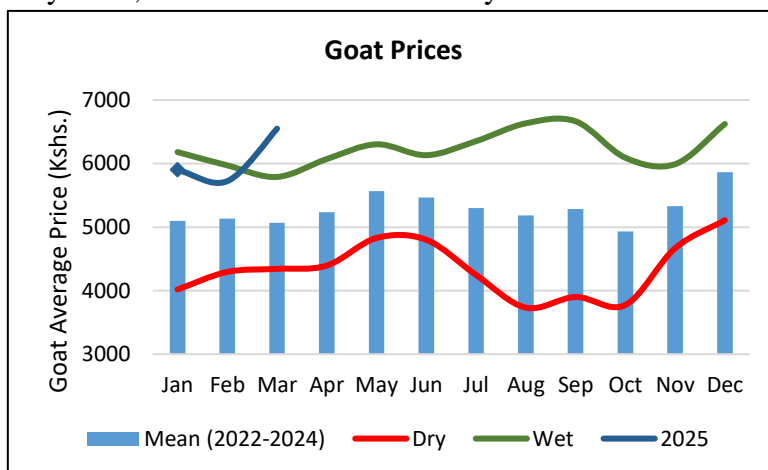


Figure 13: Goat Prices, Tana River County

## 4.2. CROP PRICES

### 4.2.1 Maize

- Maize prices remained relatively stable at Ksh 70. However, a notable increase was observed from February 2025 through March 2025, primarily due to decreased household stocks from own production, leading to an over-reliance on market supplies.
- Additionally, lower maize yields from neighbouring counties, such as Lamu and Kitui, have exacerbated the scarcity of maize within the County.
- In March 2025, the average retail price of maize was Ksh 70, which was eight percent below the long-term average (Figure 3). The highest average price was recorded in the Marginal Mixed livelihood zone at Ksh 74 while the lowest average price was recorded in Mixed Farming livelihood zones at Ksh 64.

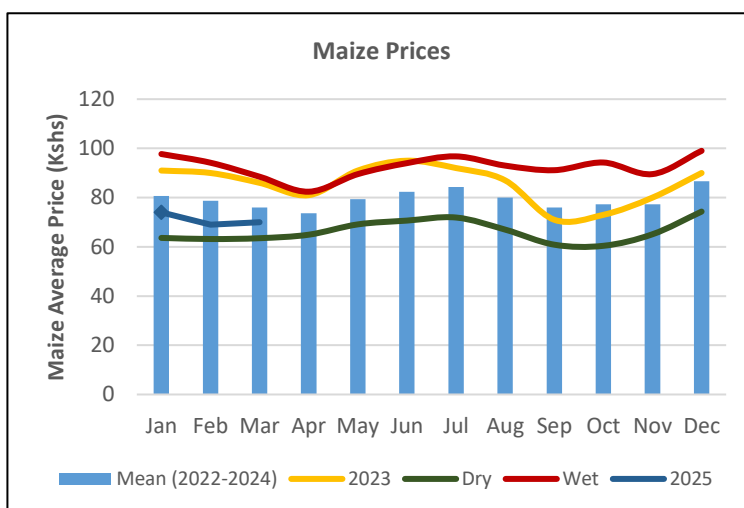


Figure 14: Maize Prices, Tana River County.

### 4.3. Livestock Price Ratio/Terms of Trade

- The household purchasing power has been improving since January 2025 following the stabilization in goat prices against the high maize prices.
- The terms of trade (TOT) for March 2025 stood at 93 which was 37 percent higher than the long-term average.
- This implied that households were able to purchase 93 kilograms of maize from proceeds of a sale of a medium sized goat as compared to 68 kilograms during a normal season.
- The sale of one goat would enable a household in the Pastoral livelihood zone to purchase 75.7 kilograms of maize as compared to 96.6 in the Mixed Farming livelihood and 95.6 kilograms in the Marginal Mixed Farming zone

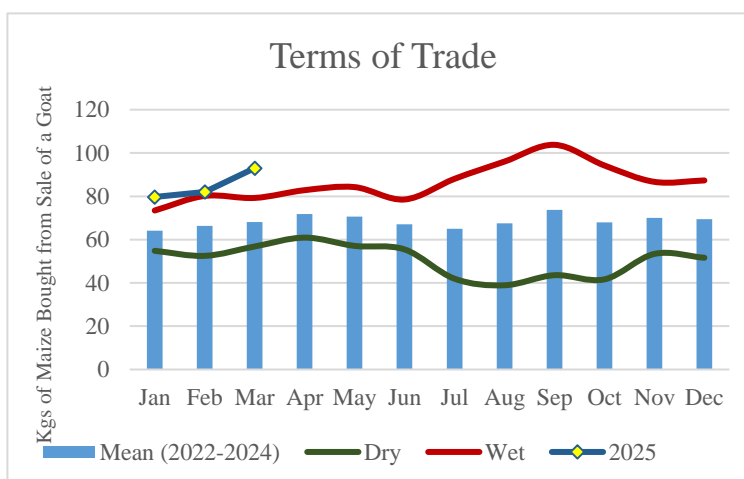


Figure 15: Terms of Trade (TOT), Tana River County.

## 5.1. FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

### 5.1.1. Milk Consumption

- Average milk consumption per household was 1.3 liters, a 35 percent decrease from the previous month. The low milk consumption is attributed to the decreased availability of milk production, caused by diminishing pastures and increased trekking distances before the onset of the long rains.
- The current milk consumption is below the long-term average by nine percent.
- Milk consumption is anticipated to increase in the upcoming weeks due to regeneration of pasture and browse attributed to the onset of the long rains.

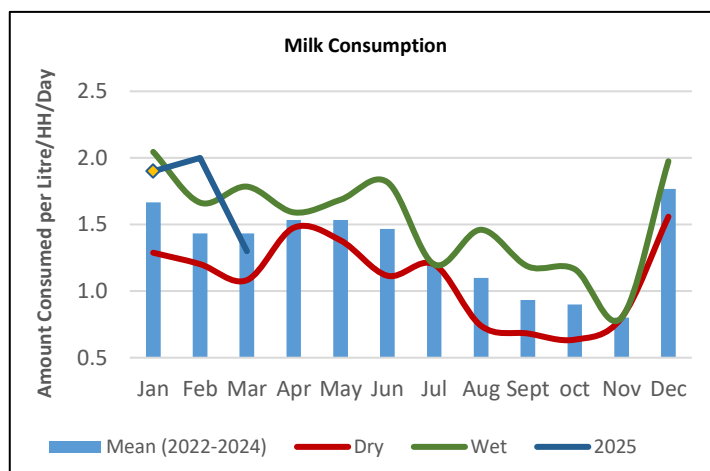


Figure 16: Milk Consumption, Tana River County

### 5.1.2 Food Consumption Score (FCS)

- Approximately 35.9 percent of households had an acceptable FCS, 36.4 percent had borderline FCS while 22.6 percent had a Poor FCS.
- The proportion of households with poor food consumption scores was high in the pastoral zone at 63.3 percent and lower in the Mixed Farming and Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zones at 21 and 2.1 percent respectively.
- Across the Pastoral, Marginal Mixed and Mixed livelihood zones, 7.2 percent, 62.8 percent and 35.5 percent of households respectively had an acceptable food consumption Score respectively.
- Most of the households were consuming 1-2 meals per day compared to a normal of 3 meals per day. Majority of the households in the county rarely consumed staples, vegetables and protein rich food.

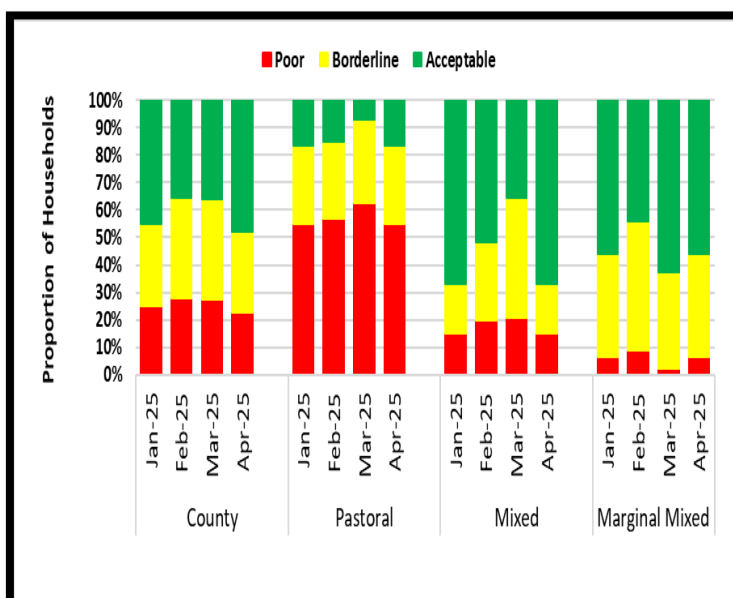


Figure 17: Food Consumption Score, Tana River County

## 5.3 Health and Nutrition Status

### 5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- For the month under review, the percentage of children under the age of five who are at risk of malnutrition had increased to an average of 18.3 percent.
- Compared to the long-term average the current muac was below by nine percent. This increase was mainly attributed to reduction in milk production and consumption during the month. However high cases were recorded in pastoral livelihood zone.
- According to the SMART survey which was conducted in February 2024 the GAM rate was at 13.7% while Severe Acute

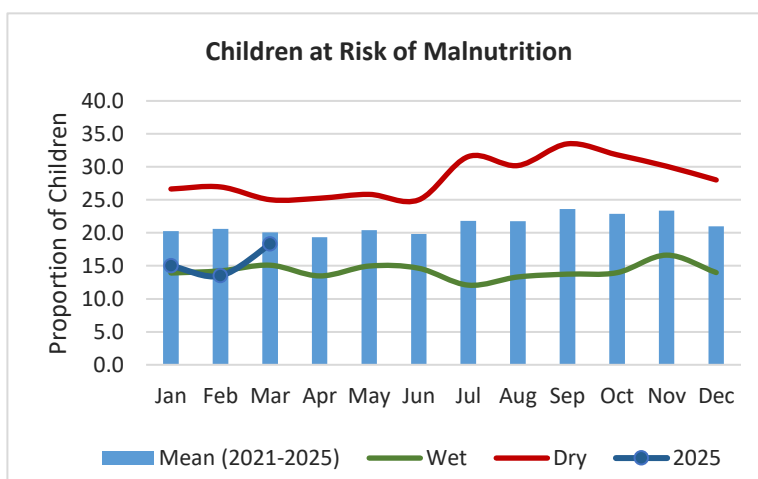


Figure 18: Children at Risk of Malnutrition, Tana River

Malnutrition (SAM) prevalence was at 1.9%.

#### 5.4. COPING STRATEGIES

##### Reduced Coping Strategy Index

- The reduced coping strategy index (rCSI) for the month of March 2025 decreased by one percent to an average of 11.9 compared to last month.
- This was largely attributed to the positive effects on livelihoods caused by the onset of the long rains. Reliance on less preferred or less expensive food, reduced portion size of meals, and reduced number of meals consumed per day were the most frequent consumption-based strategies adopted by households across the various livelihood zones.
- Both Marginal mixed and pastoral livelihood zone were the most affected, recording a Coping Strategy Index (CSI) of 13.3 and 11.8 respectively.

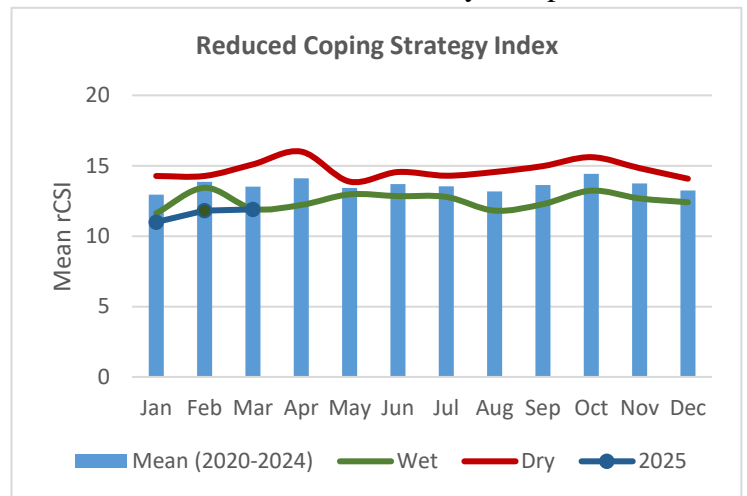


Figure 19: Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)

## 6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES:

### Food-Aid

- There was no food aid allocation for the month under review.

### Non-Food Aid

Agriculture Sector							
Sub-County	Intervention	Ward	No. of beneficiaries	Implementers	Impacts in terms of food security	Cost (Ksh)	Time Frame
Galole Tana North Tana Delta	Extension services, trainings of farmers. Provision of farm inputs; seedlings, certified seeds, fertilizer	All Wards	10,000	CGTR- Dept of agriculture, SOLO, WHH, FAO, Concern worldwide, PGI, CWS, World concern, Islamic Relief,	Increased farming technical knowledge; Increased acreage with modern day technology.	120M	2024-2025
Galole Tana North Tana Delta	Strengthening of value chains. Rice, green grams and Sunflower	All Wards	60,000	CGTR- Dept of agriculture, NAVCDP, Concern worldwide, World concern, PGI, Islamic Relief, SOLO, FAO, WHH, WFP, UNDP	Enhance production while strengthening value addition and marketing	300M	2024-2025
Ongoing Short-term interventions: Agriculture Sector							
Sub-County	Intervention	Ward	No. of beneficiaries	Implementers	Impacts in terms of food security	Cost (Ksh)	Time Frame

Galole Tana North Tana Delta	Rehabilitation of existing and Establishment of new minor irrigation schemes	ALL wards exception of Wayu and Bangale wards		Farmers, UNDP, CGTR NAVCDP Development partners	10,500	250M	2024-2025
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### Livestock Sector

Sub County	Intervention	Ward	No. of beneficiaries	Implementers	Impacts in terms of food security	Cost	Time Frame
Tana Delta	Supply of 440 Langstroth beehives, harvesting and processing accessories to small holder farmers.	Garsen North and Garsen Central wards	220	CWS	Improve households' income	2640000	February 2025

### Ongoing Medium- Long term interventions: Livestock Sector

Sub County	Intervention	Ward	No. of beneficiaries	Implementers	Required Resources	Available Resources	Time Frame
Galole Tana North Tana Delta	Rangeland management training	All wards	1,000	Livestock dept, Other stakeholders	Extension staff, Fuel Finances	Extension staff	June 2025
	Fodder production & conservation	All wards	1000	County government and partners	funds	Extension agents	June 2025
	Livestock Insurance	All wards	1500	County governments and partners	funds	Ext. agents	June 2025
	Restocking	All wards	1500	County Government and partners	FUNDS	Ext. agents	June 2025

### Ongoing interventions: Health Sector

Sub County	Intervention	Ward	No. of beneficiaries	Implementers	Required Resources	Available Resources	Time Frame
Tana North, Tana Delta Tana River	Vitamin A Supplementation	All health facilities		MOH/UNICEF/KRCS			On-Going
	Zinc Supplementation	All health facilities		MOH/UNICEF			On-Going
	Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM)	All health facilities		MOH/UNICEF/KRCS/WFP			On-Going
	IYCN Interventions (EBF and Timely Intro of complementary Foods)			MOH/KRCS/ UNICEF/WVK			On-Going
	Iron Folate Supplementation among Pregnant Women	All health facilities		MOH/KRCS/ UNICEF/			On-Going
	Deworming	All facilities		MOH/WORLDWIDE, CONCERN/MOE			On Going
	Food Fortification-MNP	All		MOH/KRCS/UNICEF/CONCERNWORLDWIDE			On going
	Handwashing/ hygiene promotion	County		MOH/TRCG			Ongoing
	NICHE	All		CGTR/UNICEF/CONCERN WORLDWIDE			Ongoing
<b>Ongoing Immediate interventions: Water-Sector</b>							
Sub County	Intervention	Ward	No. of beneficiaries	Implementers	Required Resources	Available Resources	Time Frame
Tana delta	Mapping out of critical watering points for water trucking to settlements/clusters		8000-8500				Jan-march 2025

Tana river	Rehabilitation of Bohoni borehole	Chewani	280hh	KRCS			Jan-April 2025
Tana north	Borehole Rehabilitation /solarization	Madogo		GAA			Dec 2024-April 2025
<b>Peace and security sector</b>							
<b>Sub County</b>	<b>Intervention</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>No. of beneficiaries</b>	<b>Implementers</b>	<b>Required Resources</b>	<b>Available Resources</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
Tana-delta	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support to 300HH living in IDP Camps	All	300 HH	Church World Service	200,000	200,000	continuous
All	Peace keeping initiatives	All		Interior and coordination			continuous

## **7.0. EMERGING ISSUES**

### **7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement/Disease outbreaks**

- Reports of human-wildlife conflicts were reported majorly in farms in both mixed and marginal mixed farming livelihood zones.

### **7.2. Migration**

- Livestock are currently migrating to their traditional grazing areas, leading to minimal resource-based conflicts. The established migration routes are Bura–Chifiri–Haroresa–Assa, Bura–Chifiri–Haroresa–Delta, Bangale–Titla–Waldena–Assa, and Bura–HOLA–Wenje–Delta. Although no immediate barriers to migration exist, shifts may arise in the next three to six months if the 2025 March-April-May long rains are depressed.

### **7.3 Food Security Prognosis (effects on food security outcomes)**

#### **Rainfall Outlook for 2025 Marc-April-May (MAM)**

Climate outlook for 2025 MAM Long Rains season suggests that most areas in the County will experience near-average to below-average rainfall. The expected rainfall amounts are likely to be at or below the long-term average for this season. It is anticipated that rainfall distribution will generally be poor to fair, both in timing and spatial coverage. The season is expected to have a normal to late onset, with occasional dry spells. The peak rainfall is projected for May. Additionally, the temperature forecast indicates that warmer-than-average temperatures are expected across the county.

- Birth rates is expected to be below average resulting to below average milk production in the next 2-3 months, this is largely attributed to expected poor performance of the October-November-December season which will not be favourable environment to support lambing.
- Prices of essential commodities is expected to remain high due to high fuel prices and inflation rates across all livelihood zones.
- Increased livestock migrations after the long rains are expected towards the fall-back grazing field which may lead to increased cases of resource-based conflicts within the Tana Delta.
- Human wildlife conflict is expected to increase within the same period
- Water borne diseases are expected to increase

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **8.1.1. General Recommendations:**

#### **Disaster Risk management**

- Sensitization of communities on adherence to flood early warning advisories and relocation to cluster villages

#### **Health Services**

- Scale up health services, including sexual and reproductive health (SRH), gender-based violence (GBV) support and nutritional interventions.
- Enhance screening and disease surveillance for livestock diseases.
- Upscale disease surveillance (both passive and active), ensuring timely reporting of livestock disease outbreaks and implementing containment measures.
- Carry out mass vaccinations, treatment, deworming and pest/vector control across all livelihood zones.
- Preposition vaccines and other therapeutic drugs at the ward level.

#### **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)**

- Provision and distribution of water treatment chemicals and items to address waterborne diseases in areas facing water stress.
- Mobilization, sensitization, and distribution of latrine slabs to displaced populations to reduce contamination of water sources.
- Rehabilitation of non-functional water sources (boreholes and shallow wells).
- Provision of potable water to communities in need.

#### **Food Security**

- Provide food aid to populations in need of assistance in Tana North, Tana River, and Tana Delta sub-counties.
- Enhance the provision of nutritional commodities to health centers with high cases of malnutrition.

#### **Livestock Management**

- Carry out livestock vaccinations across all livelihood zones to address increased livestock disease cases.
- Enhance integrated outreach programs in hard-to-reach areas across all sub-counties.
- Monitor and control human-wildlife conflicts across all livelihood zones.
- Advise farmers to continue paying their premiums for livestock insurance.
- Stock CCPP, CBPP, FMD, PPR, LSD, and RVF vaccines in our county drug and vaccine stores.

#### **Security and Community Engagement**

- Implement security surveillance and conduct peace barazas in hotspot areas of Tana Delta and Tana North.

## REFERENCE TABLES

**Table 1: Drought Phase Classification**

Normal	Alert	Alarm	Emergency
All Environmental Agricultural and pastoral indicators are within the seasonal ranges	Meteorological drought indicators move outside seasonal ranges	Environmental and at least two production indicators are outside long-term seasonal ranges	All Environmental, Metrological and Production indicators are outside normal ranges.
<b>Recovery:</b> The drought phase must have reached at least Alarm stage. Recovery starts after the end of drought as signaled by the environmental indicators returning to seasonal norms; local economies starting to recover			

**Table 2: Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)**

Color	SPI Values	Metrological Drought Category
	> +1.5 or more	Wet Conditions
	0 to +1.5	No drought
	-0.1 to -0.99	Mild drought
	-1 to -1.99	Severe drought
	<-2 and less	Extreme drought

**Table 3: Vegetation Condition Index Values (VCI)**

Color	VCI values 3-monthly average	Agricultural Drought Category
	≥50	Wet
	35 to 50	No agricultural drought
	21 to 34	Moderate agricultural drought
	10 to 20	Severe agricultural drought
	<10	Extreme agricultural drought

**Table 4: Livestock Body Condition**

Level	Classification	Characteristics (this describes majority of the herd and not individual isolated Stock)
1	Normal	Very Fat Tail buried and in fat
		Fat, Blocky. Bone over back not visible
		Very Good Smooth with fat over back and tail head
		Good smooth appearance
2	Moderate	Moderate. Neither fat nor thin
3	Stressed	Borderline fore-ribs not visible. 12th & 13th ribs visible
4	Critical	Thin fore ribs visible
5	Emaciated	Very thin no fat, bones visible
		Emaciated, little muscle left

### Definition of Early Warning Phases

The EW phases are defined as follow:

**NORMAL:** The normal phase occurs when **biophysical drought indicators (VCI and SPI) show no unusual fluctuations** hence remain within the expected ranges for the time of the year in a given livelihood zone, division or county

**ALERT:** The alert phase is when either the **vegetation condition index or the standard precipitation index (biophysical indicators) show unusual fluctuations below expected seasonal ranges** within the whole county/sub-county or livelihood zones.

**ALARM:** The alarm phase occurs when both **biophysical and at least three production indicators fluctuate outside expected seasonal ranges** affecting the local economy. The production indicators to be considered are livestock body condition, crop condition, milk production, and livestock migration and livestock mortality rate.

If **access indicators** (impact on market, access to food and water) move outside the normal range, the status remains at “alarm” but with a worsening trend. Proposed access indicators include ToT, price of cereals, availability of cereals and legumes, and milk consumption. The trend will be further worsening when also welfare indicators (MUAC and CSI) start moving outside the normal ranges.

**EMERGENCY:** In the emergency phase, **all indicators are outside of normal ranges**; local production systems have collapsed within the dominant economy. The emergency phase affects asset status and purchasing power to extent that seriously threatens food security. As a result, coping strategy index, malnutrition (MUAC) and livestock mortality rates move above emergency thresholds

**RECOVERY: Environmental indicators returning to seasonal norms.** The drought phase must have reached at least Alarm stage. Recovery starts after the end of drought as signaled by the environmental indicators returning to seasonal norms while production indicators are still outside the normal seasonal range but local economies start to recover. The status changes to normal once the bio physical and production indicators are back to normal range.