



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



National Drought Management Authority MANDERA COUNTY DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR AUGUST 2025.

AUGUST 2025 DEW PHASE	Early Warning Phase Classification			
Drought Status: ALERT Maandalizi ya mapema	LIVELIHOOD ZONE	EW PHASE	TRENDS	
	Agro-pastoral zone	Alert	Worsening	
	Irrigated Cropping	Alert	Worsening	
	Pastoral all species	Alert	Worsening	
	County	Alert	Worsening	
<p>Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification</p> <p>Biophysical Indicators</p> <p>Rainfall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The county received below average rains rainfall during the off-season showers during the month of August. <p>Forage condition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The vegetation condition Index (VCI-3Month) was unstable compared to the previous month that recorded 30. The VCI indicated moderate vegetation (Alert) as compared to the previous month. Forage condition was fair to poor in all livelihood zones. <p>Socio Economic Indicators</p> <p>Socio-Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)</p> <p>Production Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livestock body condition was fair to poor. Livestock diseases were reported. Milk production was below normal ranges. <p>Access Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terms of trade were below normal ranges. Household water distances were below normal. Livestock watering distance were above the normal ranges. No water trucking currently going on Water consumption was normal. <p>Utilization Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malnutrition cases are stable compared to the normal ranges. Milk consumption was below the normal ranges Reduced Copying Strategy was above normal ranges. Households with acceptable food consumption category recorded below the normal range. Households within the borderline have increased. Households within the poor category have decreased. 	Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal ranges	
	Rainfall (% of normal)	3.8	80-120	
	Rainfall Amounts in mm	4.58	27.43-96.78	
	VCI-3 month	30	35-50	
	SPI -3 Month	-0.02	≥ 3	
	Forage Condition	Fair to poor	Fair to Good	
	Production indicators	Value	Normal ranges	
	Maize Crop Condition	poor	Fair to Good	
	Livestock Body Condition	Fair to good	Fair to Good	
	Milk Production (in litres)	2.2	2.1-2.5	
	Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal	
	Livestock Deaths (from Drought)	Death	≤ 2%	
	Access Indicators	Value	Normal ranges	
	Terms of Trade (TOT)	44	73-109	
	Return Distance to Water Sources (Km)	Household	8.6	8.67
		Livestock	15.8	9.48
	Water Consumption	At Household	10-15	≥ 15
	Utilization indicators	Value	Normal ranges	
	Percentage of children 6-59 months – At Risk < 135 mm	29	28.93	
	Milk Consumption (in litres)	1	1.25	
	Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)	12.65	<0.95	
	Food Consumption Score (%)	Poor	22	Poor - 0
		Borderline	56	Borderline- ≥20
Acceptable		22	Acceptable ≥ 80	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains harvests Short dry spell Reduced milk yields Increased HH Food Stocks Land preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting/Weeding Long rains High Calving Rate Milk Yields Increase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long rains harvests A long dry spell Land preparation Increased HH Food Stocks Kidding (Sept) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains Planting/weeding
Dry Season	Long Rains	Dry Cool Season	Short Rains Season

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

1.1 Rainfall performance

- Mandera County's main rainfall indicates a predominantly dry month.

1.2 Amount of rainfall and spatial distribution

According to CHIRPS/MODIS data, the county recorded a cumulative amount of 4.58 mm of rainfall against an average of 4.46mm as in figure 1 alongside. This precipitation received during the month represented 3.8 per cent of normal rainfall.

- The precipitation received was above when compared to previous month of July.

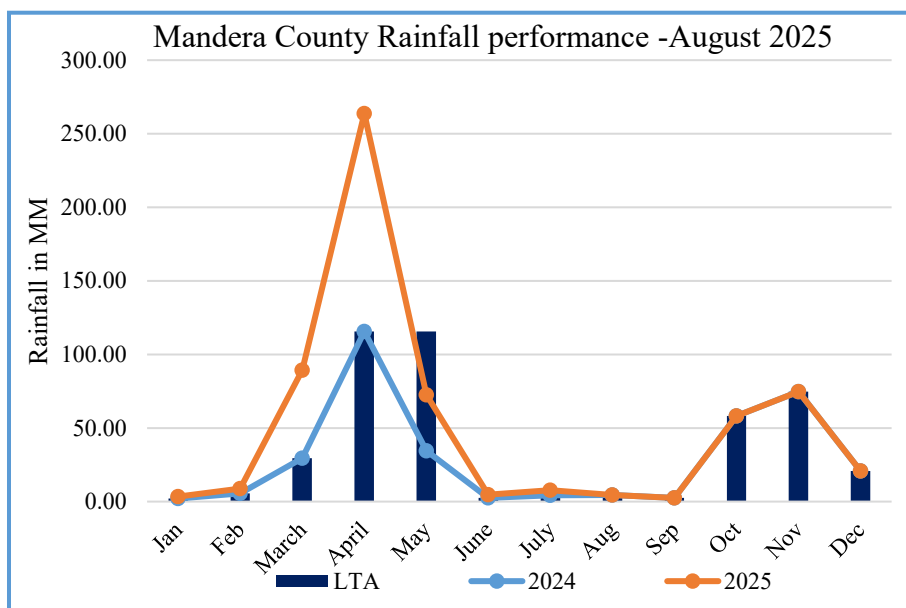


Figure 1: Rainfall performance

- The precipitation received was 31 per cent above when compared to the same period last year 2024.

1.3 The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)

- The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) is a significant indicator of vegetation condition.
- The NDVI was on downward trend from the third decade during the month of June, indication decline vegetation condition.
- The NDVI recorded for the month of August was stable compared to the long-term average as indicated in figure 2.

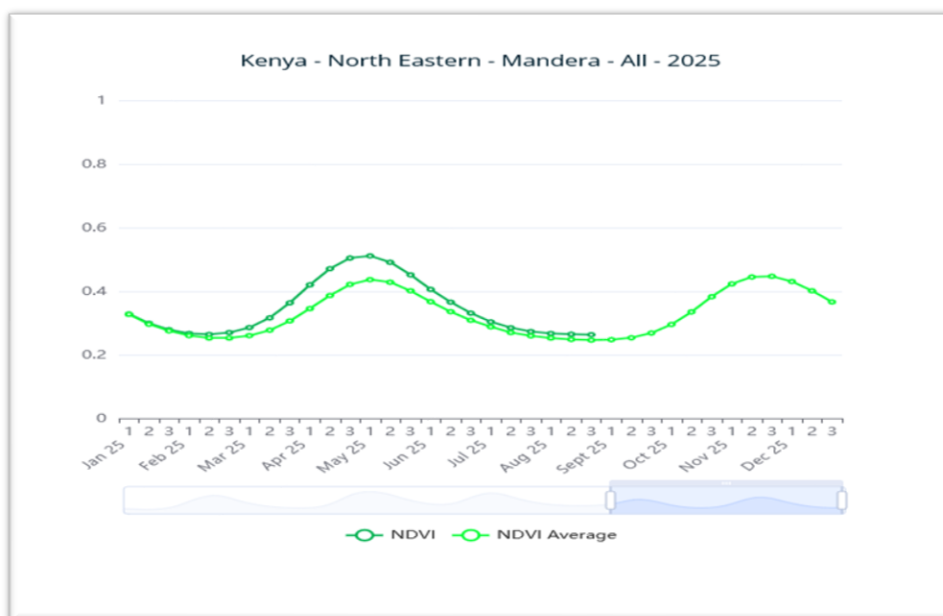


Figure 2: NDVI

- The NDVI values are on decrease compared to the previous month of July, thus following seasonal trend as in figure 2.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The According to the Vegetation Condition Index (VCI), the county was stable in August compared to July.
- The 3 month vegetation condition index(VCI) for the county show moderate vegetation greenness and was recorded as 30.
- however a lot of wards in the county indicate extreme vegetation deficit while some show severe vegetation deficit as shown in the map below.
- A total of four sub-counties namely, Mandera south, west, Lafey and Banissa indicate severe vegetation deficit while the remaining two show moderate vegetation (stressed).

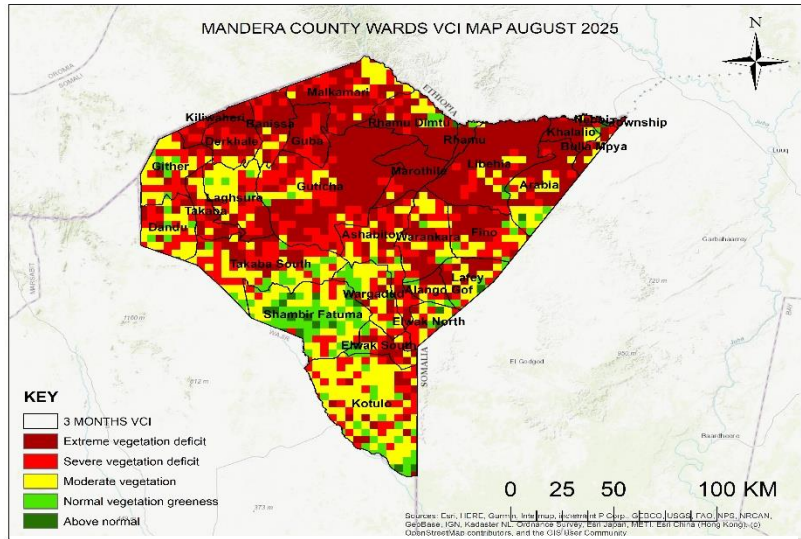


Figure 3: Vegetation condition index

2.1.2 Pasture condition

- Pasture conditions were reported as fair to poor across all livelihood zones, mainly due to over grazing and depleted pasture.
- Community interviews revealed that 44 per cent of respondents rated pasture as fair, while 56 percent indicated it was poor (Figure 4).
- Compared to the previous month, pasture condition continued to decline, particularly in the agropastoral and pastoral livelihood zones.
- Although average rains received in some areas supported partial regeneration of pasture, the available forage is only expected to last for less than two months.

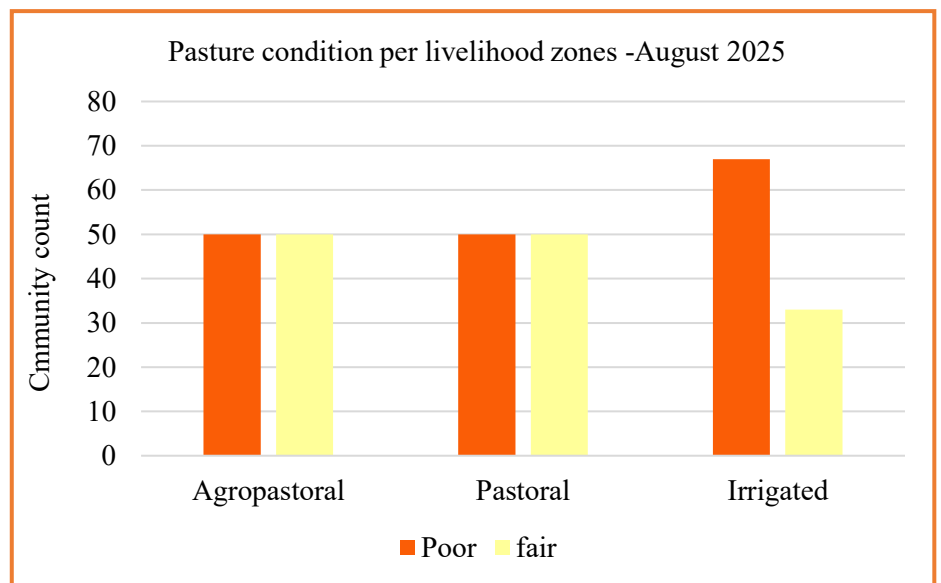


Figure 4: Pasture condition

2.1.3 Browse condition

- The browse condition in the County during the month of August reflected a generally negative outlook, largely attributed to depleted pasture conditions.
- Community feedback indicated that the availability and quality of browse for small ruminants had significantly declined due to overgrazing.
- According to respondents, 39 percent rated browse condition as fair, while 61 percent described it as poor.
- Fair browse conditions were reported to be inadequate to meet the expected livestock feed demand.
- In the agropastoral livelihood zone, browse condition was evenly split, with 50 per cent rating it as fair and 50 per cent as poor.
- In the pastoral and irrigated livelihood zones, 67 percent rated browse as poor and 33 percent as fair.
- Overall, the trend in browse condition is deteriorating. The available browse is expected to last for less than one month.

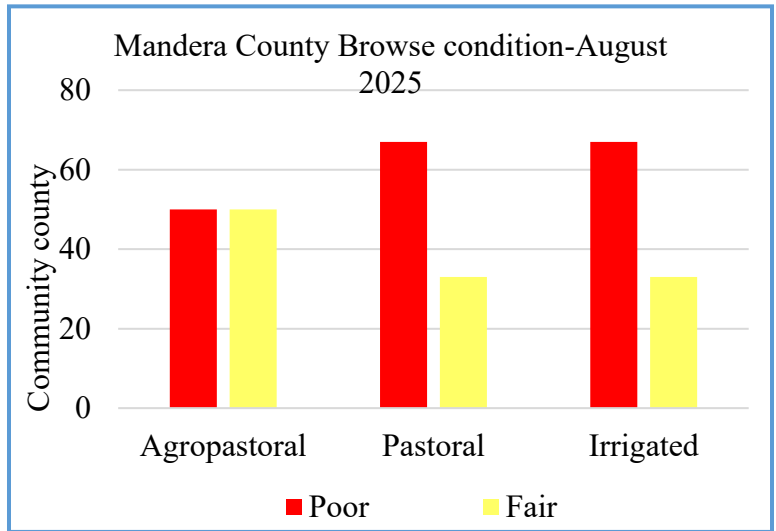


Figure 5: Browse condition

2.2.1 Main water sources

- According to the August 2025 DEW data, the County continues to rely on a variety of water sources to meet community needs.
- The distribution of water uses highlights both community preferences and the environmental realities shaping access.
- Boreholes are the primary source, accounting for 42 per cent of total water use.
- Other key sources include rivers, pans and shallow wells that recorded 29, 17 and 12 per cent respectively.
- The County’s only river is seasonal, flowing for about ten months of the year, primarily during rainfall periods.
- This seasonality makes the river an unreliable source, particularly as climate change drives increasingly erratic rainfall patterns.

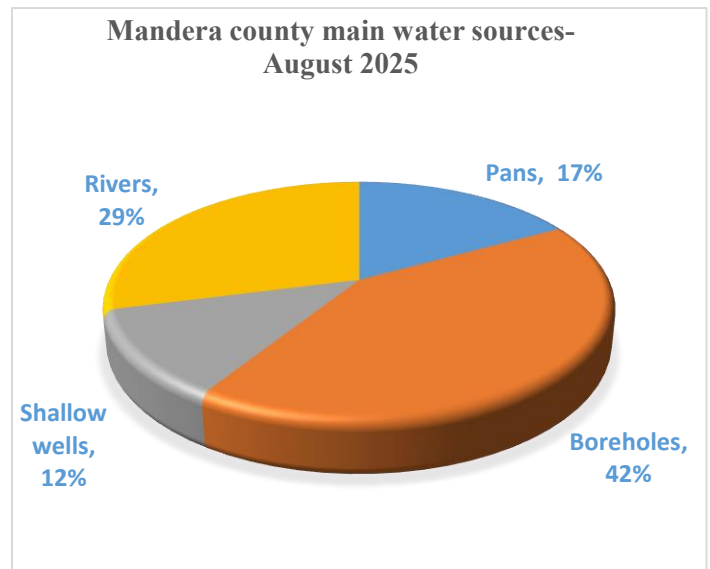


Figure 6: Main water sources1

- The river typically dries between January and March. In years when rainfall is delayed or below average, riverbeds remain dry for extended periods, forcing communities to rely on alternative sources. This increases both the distance to fetch water and the cost of access.
- Climate variability poses serious risks to the stability and quality of water supplies.

2.2.2 Household Access and Utilization

- The average distance from households to main water sources increased by eight in August compared to July, as illustrated in the accompanying figure.
- Both trekking distances and waiting times at water sources have risen, largely due to below-average rainfall and poor recharge of surface and underground water sources.
- On average, households in the pastoral, agropastoral, and irrigated livelihood zones trekked four, five and two kilometres respectively to access water.
- Women and children, who traditionally bear the responsibility of fetching water, are now walking longer distances.

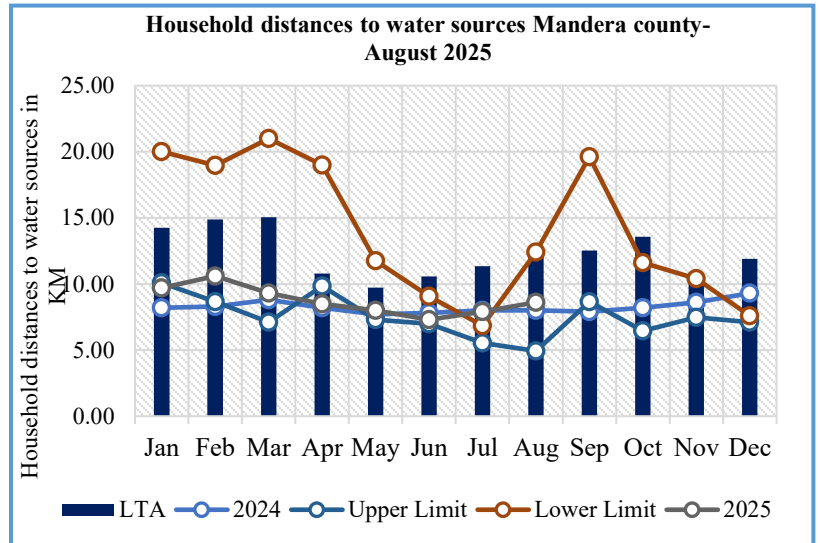


Figure 7: Household water distances

- Overall, water availability and access across the County has deteriorated compared to the previous month.
- The cost of a 20-litre jerrican of water ranged between Kes five and 50 at source, including transport expenses. Water consumption per person per day was estimated at 10–15 litres, varying with the type of source accessed.

2.2.3 Livestock Access

- The average trekking distance from grazing fields to main water sources increased by 38 per cent in August compared to July.

- The current distance is 15 per cent above the long-term average (LTA) and 42 per cent higher than the same period last year.
- Grazing-to-water return distances were longest in the Agropastoral zones at 11.2 kilometres, followed by Pastoral zones at 7.5 Kilometres and Irrigated cropping zones at five Kilometres.
- A few open water sources, particularly pans near grazing areas, retained below-average water levels, contributing to the extended trekking distances.
- Livestock watering frequency averaged four days per week, which is typical for this period of the year.
- Currently, only about 34 per cent of all earth pans still hold water and remain in use. However, 177 pans have dried up, significantly affecting livestock watering system.

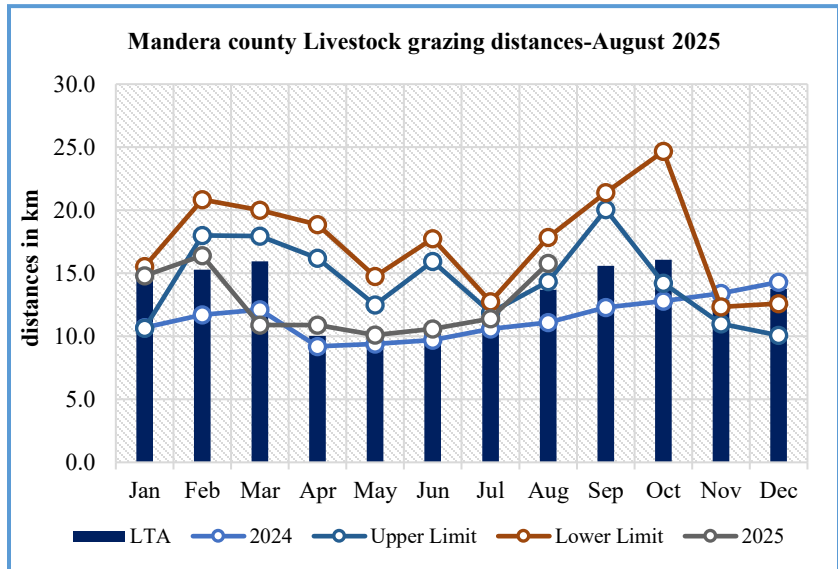


Figure 8: Livestock grazing distance

2.2.4 Household Source of Income

- The county's main sources of income are employment, casual labour, sales of livestock and livestock products, and trade, with casual labour showing an increase
- As the county is currently in the crisis phase, casual labour forms the highest form of income at 46 per cent during the month under review.
- Employment and sale of livestock related products increased by two and four per cent respectively compared to the previous month of July, while casual labour decreased by five per cent compared to the previous month, while trade was stable.
- The average casual labour wage for the county for the month under review was Kes.1,200, compared to Kes. 1,700 in the previous month.

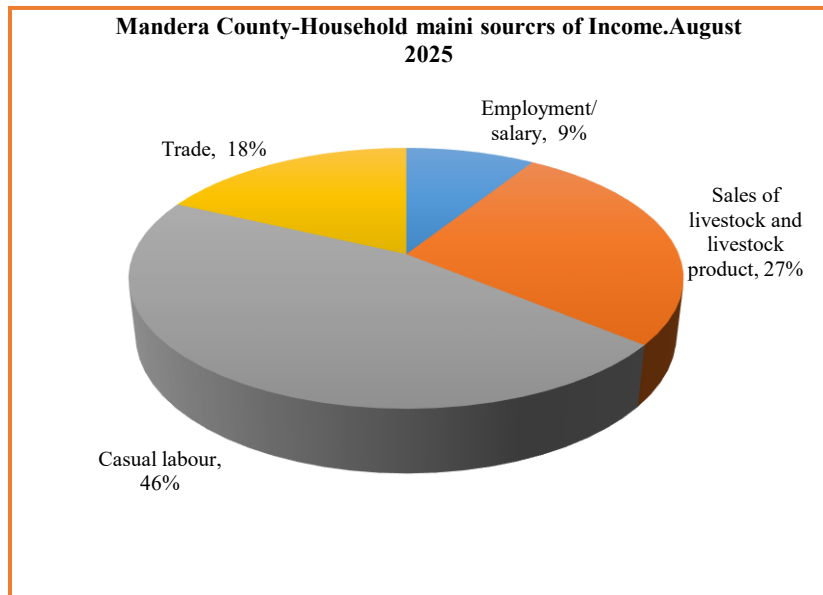


Figure 9: Household main source of income

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.0 Livestock Migration Patterns

- Movements of livestock from the neighbouring counties were reported during the month.

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Livestock body condition was fair to poor for all livestock species.
- However, some hotspot areas in the Irrigated and pastoral Livelihood zones recorded significant cases of fair and poor livestock body conditions.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- There were no cases of unusual deaths of livestock due to diseases reported during the month.
- Commonly reported and encountered diseases in the county are PPR, CCPP, Sheep & Goat pox, trypanosomiasis, brucellosis, Black quarter, and rabies.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- In August, the County recorded an average household milk production of 2.2 litres per day, which remained stable compared to the previous month of August.
- However, milk production is expected to decline in the coming month as the dry spell persists, reducing both forage and water availability.
- Only 22 percent of households in the sampled sentinel sites reported milk production during the period.
- Production levels were highest in the agropastoral livelihood zones, averaging 2.8 litres per household per day.
- Overall, household milk production was 22 percent above the long-term average (LTA) but remained below levels recorded during wet years and was 27 per cent lower compared to the same period last year, as shown in Figure 10.

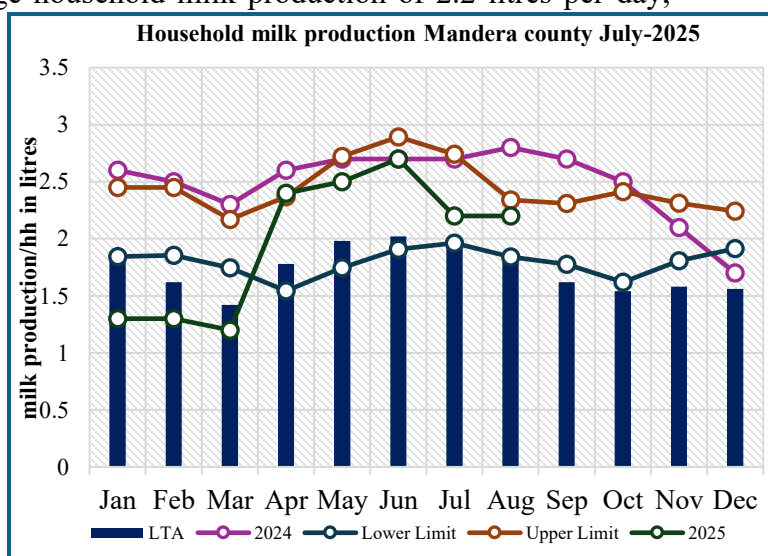


Figure 10: Milk production

3.2 RAIN-FED AND IRRIGATED CROP PRODUCTION

Rain-fed crop production

3.2.1 Stage and condition of food crop

Agro-pastoral areas,

- Mainly grow maize, simsim, sorghum, millet and cowpeas.
- Currently due below average off season rain, there are no crops in the farms.

Irrigated cropping zone,

- There mainly grow Maize, cow peas, sunflower, Simsim onions, tomatoes and water melon.

- Crops planted were at various stages with most of the cereals and pulses at harvesting stage and other commercial crops like onions and watermelons doing well.
- Crop especially maize is in different stages, germination, Knee height, above knee height and others are flowering stages in irrigated cropping zones.

Crop Harvest: Most farmers in both cropping zones preferred harvesting and selling green maize stalks and green cowpeas vines as fodder for livestock which resulted in reduced crop production despite changes in the area cultivated under the two major crops. Increasing demand for vegetable crops also shifted the focus of farmers from the three major crops resulting in a reduced yield, especially in the irrigated cropping zones.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

- The average market prices upsurge by 34 per cent (29,000) the current month, mature cattle compared to the previous month of August (21,600).
- The current price was five, 41, 70 and 114 per cent below compared to the same period last year, short term average, wet season and dry season respectively as shown in figure 11.
- Cattle prices are likely to decrease within the next few months in few pockets during the dry spell and follows season trend.
- The upsurge in Cattle was attributed to low supply and high demand in different markets.

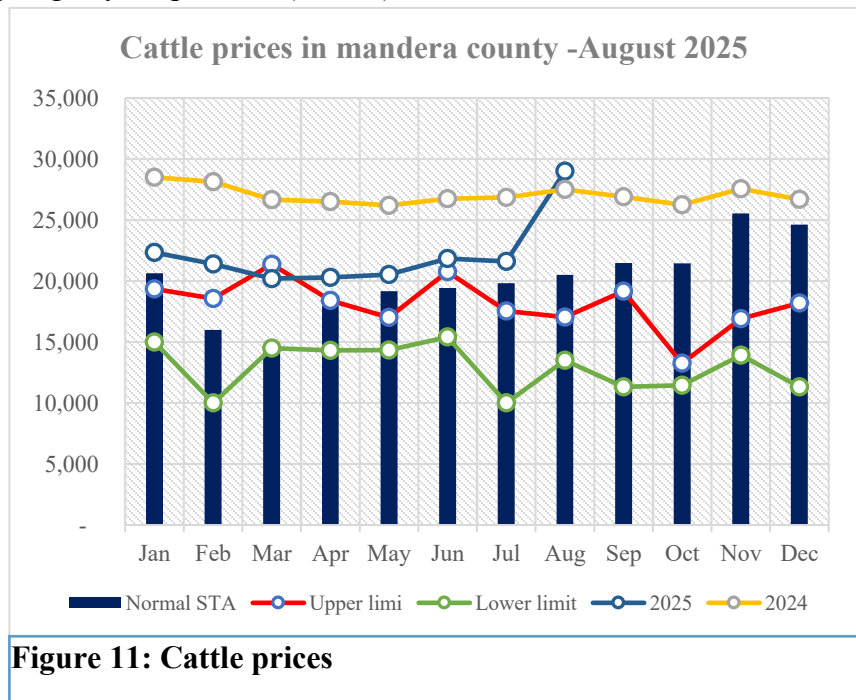


Figure 11: Cattle prices

4.1.2 Goat Price

- The average market price of a goat declined by 18 per cent compared to the previous month of July.
- The current price was 12, 43 per cent lower compared to STA and the same period last year. These downward prices were attributed to high supply coupled with low demand.
- The current price was above by 23 and 75 per cent compared to wet season and dry season respectively as shown in figure 12.
- The trend is expected to decline in goat prices in the next few months due low demand and decline in body condition.

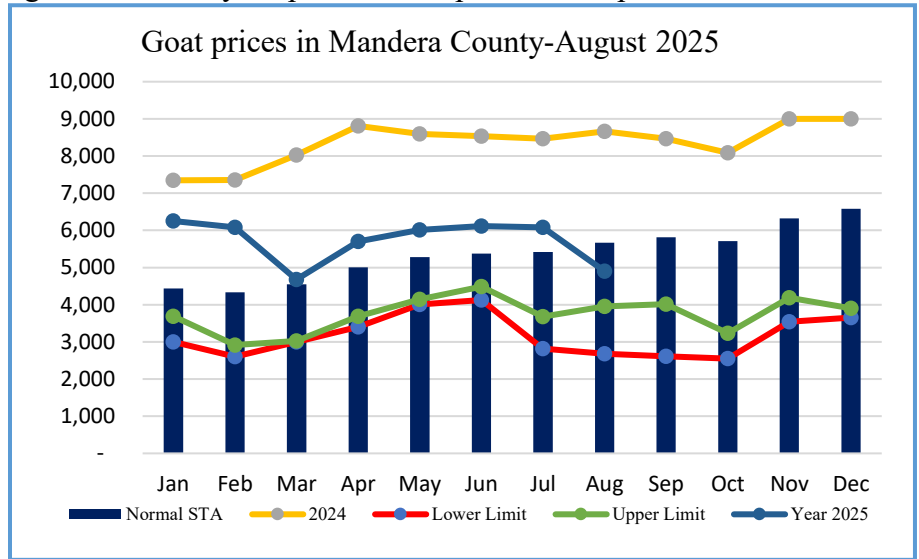


Figure 12: Goat prices

Camel price

- The average Camel prices decrease by two per cent compared the previous month of July.
- The current Camel price was 14 per cent lower compared to wet season and the same period last year.
- These downward prices were attributed to high supply coupled with low demand and decline in body condition
- The current camel price was above by 15 and 73 per cent compared to STA and dry season respectively as shown in figure 13.
- The highest average price recorded Kes 50,000 at Mandera market and the lowest recorded Kes 24,400 at Elwak market.
- The average camel price is following season trends.

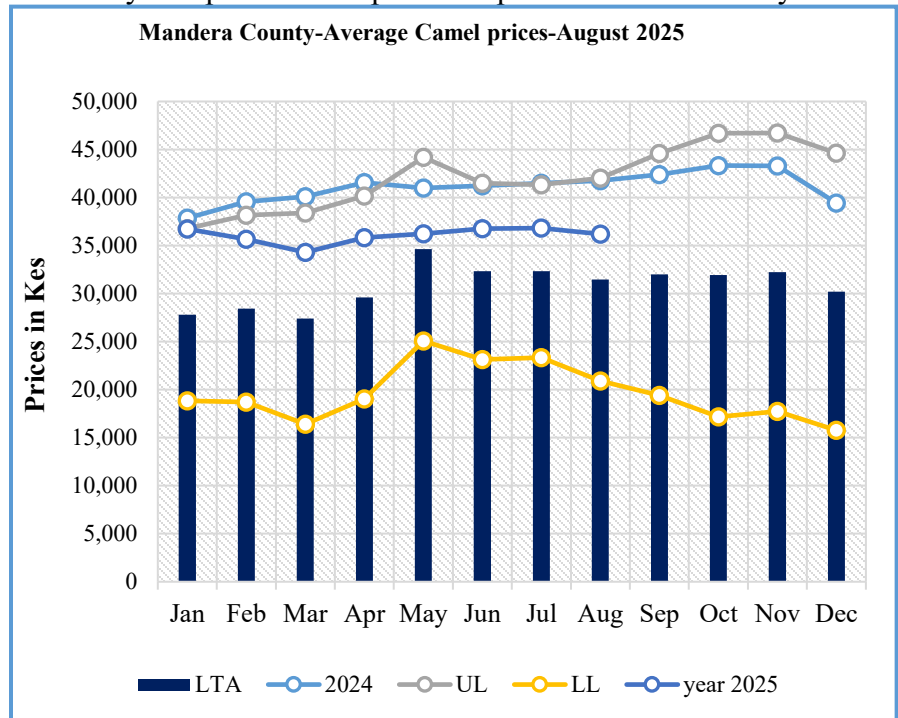


Figure 13: Camel prices

4.1.4 Sheep Price

- The price of a medium sheep recorded during the reporting month costed Kes 3400 compared to 4000 during the previous month of July. This was attributed to low demand and high supply coupled decline in body condition.
- The current sheep price was 15 and 46 per cent lower compared to STA and THE same period last year.
- The current prices are 33, and 47 per cent above the wet and dry season.
- When analysing the prices across different markets, Elwak recorded the highest price at Kes 4,100 and Rhamu market recorded the lowest price at Kes 2300.
- There sheep market prices are expected to decrease in the next few weeks due to forage depletion and decline in body condition.

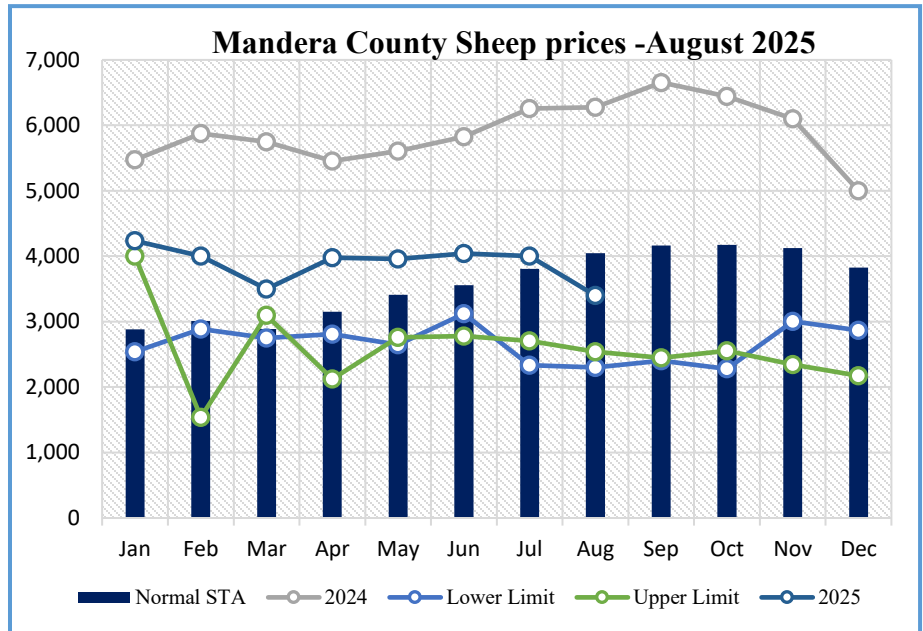


Figure 14: sheep prices

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

- The average price of maize per kilogram was stable during the reporting month compared to the previous month of July recorded at Kes 99.
- The current maize price was eight, 26 and four per cent higher compared to the STA, the same period last year and the wet season.
- This suggests that maize prices are currently elevated compared to historical averages.
- When analysing the prices across different markets, Banisa recorded the highest price at Kes 130 and Lafey market recorded the lowest price at Kes 75. The prices follow seasonal trends.
- The maize prices are likely to remain above average in the coming months

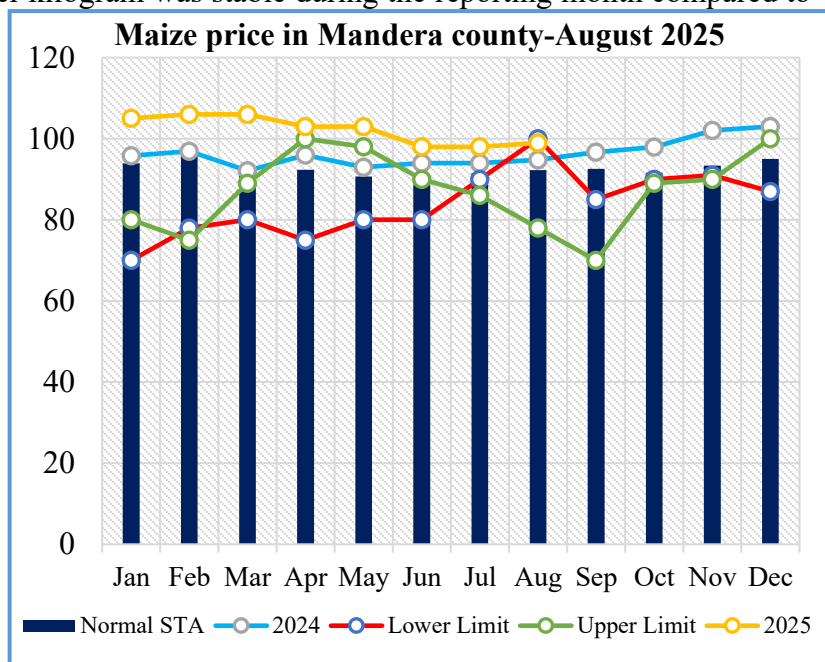


Figure 15: Maize prices

4.3 Livestock Price Ratio/Terms of Trade

- The exchange of one medium-sized goat was stable compared to the previous month, thus

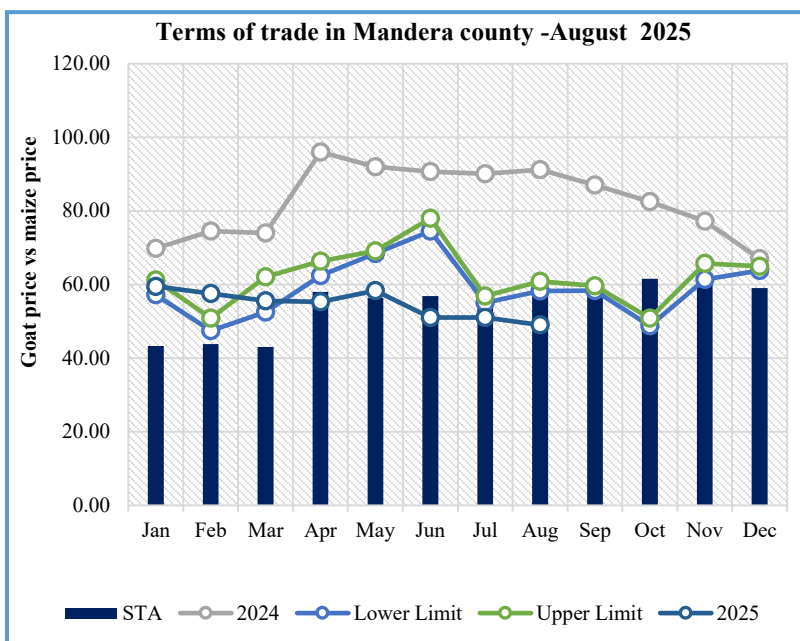


Figure 16: Terms of trade

recorded 29 in Mandera North sub counties. The ToT is likely to remain below the STA in the next three months.

enables a household to purchaser 49 kilograms of maize.

- The current exchange ratio is stable in comparison to the previous month this is because of the difference in both goats and maize prices.

- Terms of trade are currently favourable to pastoral communities.

- The current price is 17, 20 and 16 per cent lower compared to STA, wet season and dry season as shown in figure 15.

- Mandera south reported the highest terms of trade at 70 while the lowest

4.4 Beans prices

- The average market price for a Kilogram of beans increased to Kes. 231 compared to the previous month at Kes 213 as in figure 17.

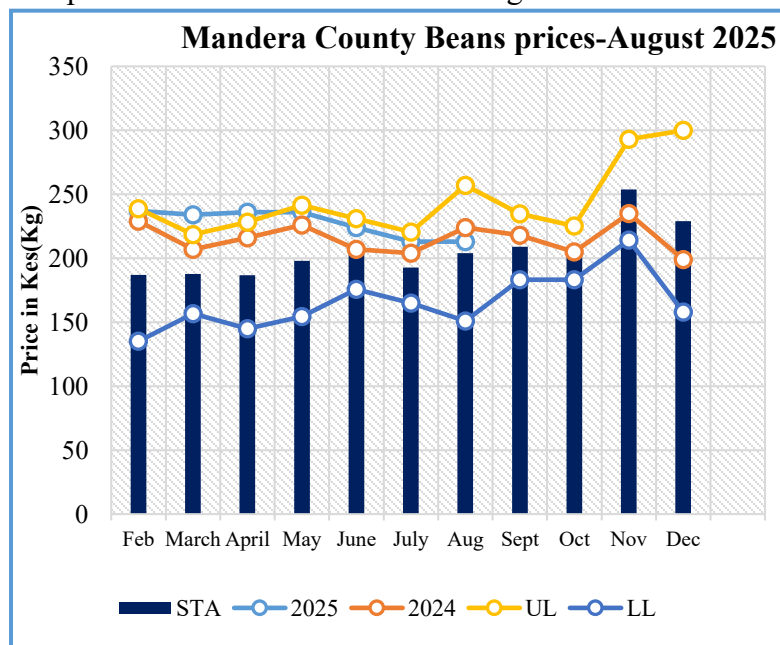


Figure 17: Mandera County Bean prices-August

- The bean price was above the STA by 13 per cent.

- The relatively high price was attributed to high demand for the commodity in the sampled markets.

- Unstable and poor supply of the commodity also forced households to rely on markets and retailers.

- The price of beans was highest in Rhamu Dimtu at Kes 300 and lowest in Banisa at Kes 165.

- The beans are usually outsourced from the neighbouring country of Ethiopia.

- Purchasing power and demand of households also determined prices for the commodity in different markets.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- The average daily milk consumption per household recorded one litre and is stable compared the previous month.
- The current price was stable compared to the long-term average.
- Only 22 per cent of households in the sampled sentinel sites reported milk consumption during the month.
- The highest milk consumption was recorded in pastoral livelihood zones. The decrease in milk consumption is attributed to forage conditions which are deteriorating.
- A litre of milk is currently trading at Kes 50 to 70 in most of the households.
- The Milk consumption is below the normal range as shown in figure 18.

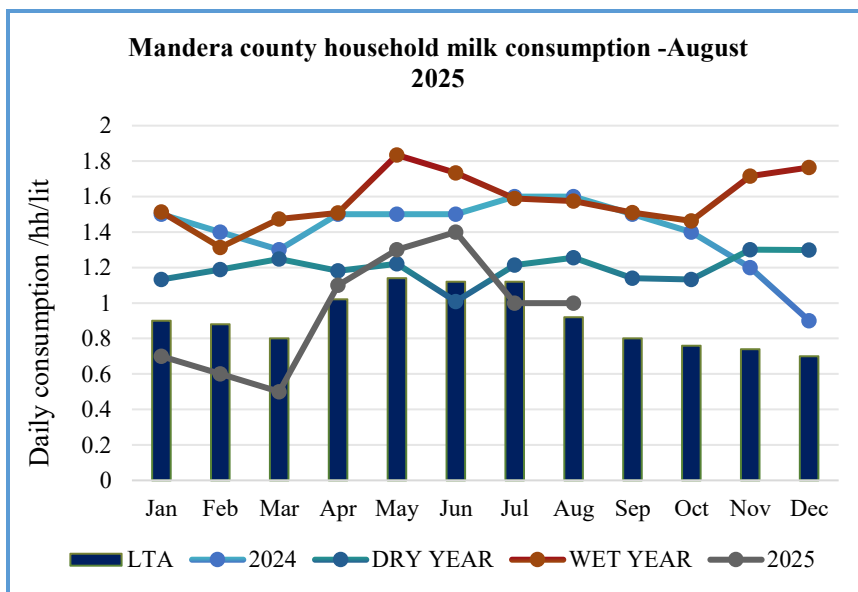


Figure 18: Milk consumption

5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

- The County’s Food Consumption Score (FCS) assessment for August 2025 shows that 22 per cent of households had poor food consumption, while 56 per cent fell within the borderline category, and 22 per cent had acceptable consumption across the livelihood zones.
- Compared to the previous month, there was a gradual deterioration across the food consumption categories, with the borderline group remaining the highest (Figure 19).
- The proportion of households with borderline consumption remained elevated, particularly in the pastoral and irrigated livelihood zones, where acceptable scores declined sharply from 24 per cent in July to 22 per cent in August
- Conversely, the proportion of households with poor consumption decreased slightly by two per cent between July and August, signaling unstable food security conditions.
- Overall, the poor performance of the long rains has worsened existing vulnerabilities, increasing reliance on coping strategies and deepening food insecurity

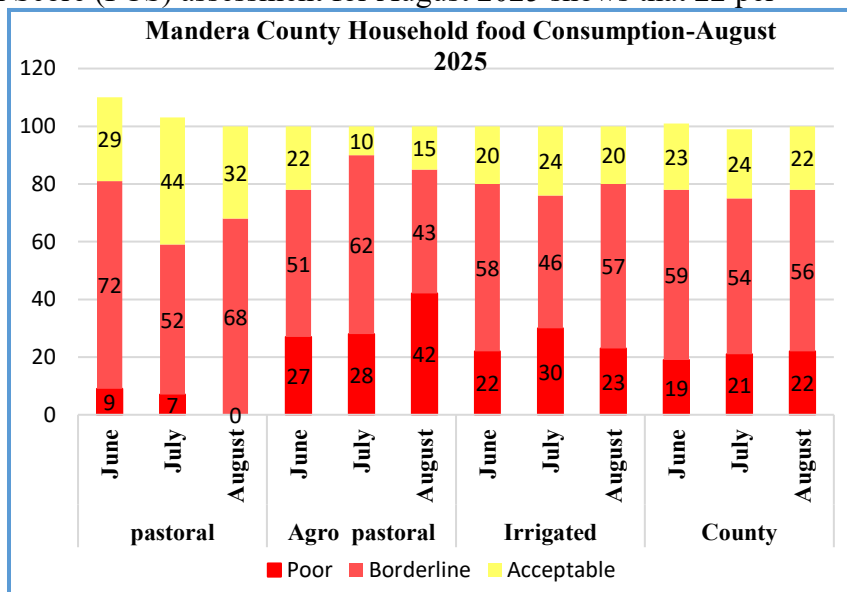
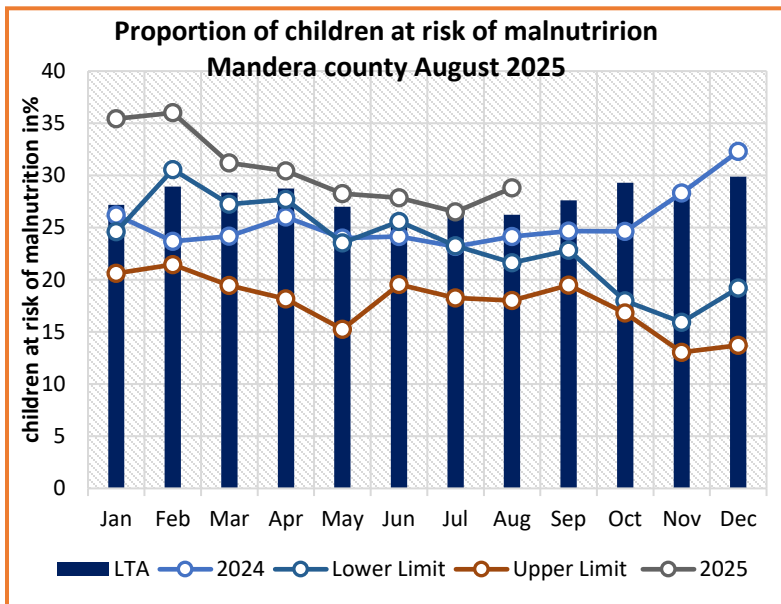


Figure 19: Food Consumption Score

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children aged 6–59 months at risk of malnutrition showed a slight increase during the month under review, rising to 29 per cent compared to 26.5 per cent in the previous month.



- The Agro-Pastoral livelihood zone reported the highest proportion of children at risk.

•MUAC rates stood at 11 per cent above the long-term average, as illustrated in Figure 20.

- The elevated levels of malnutrition are mainly attributed to poor dietary diversity, inadequate child feeding practices, and limited care.

Figure 20: MUAC

5.3.2 Coping strategy index

- In August 2025, the Coping Strategies Index (CSI) for the county stood at 12.43, compared to 11.65 recorded in the previous month.
- A lower CSI indicates improved food security and reduced pressure on households to adopt negative coping strategies.
- This significant reduction suggests that households have experienced relatively better food access and stability during this reporting period.
- The pastoral and irrigated coping strategy was stable while Agropastoral livelihood zone had upsurge in coping strategies at household indicating poor access to food.
- The upward trend in CSI is a negative indicator of exacerbate household resilience, food access, and an increase in stress levels related to food insecurity.

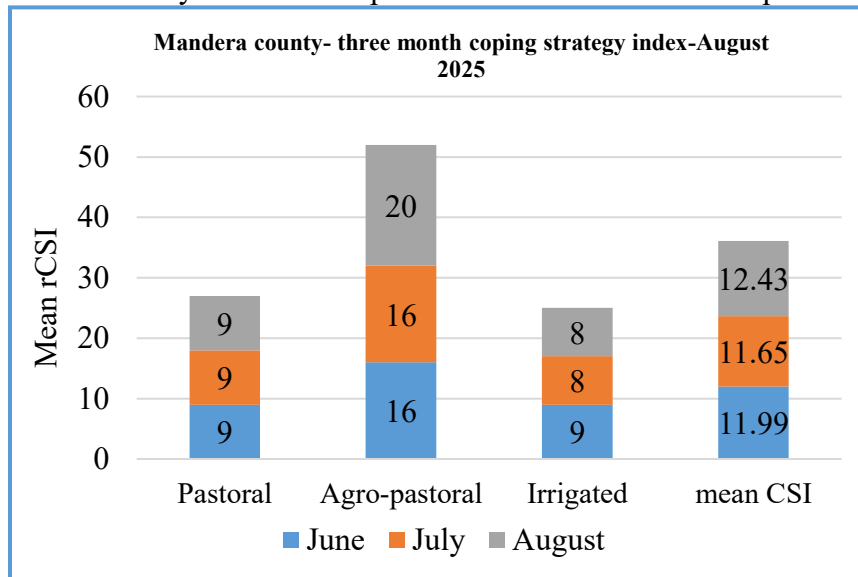


Figure 21: Coping strategy index

- 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 households attributed to increase in food prices hence increase in coping strategies.

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES

6.1 NON-FOOD INTERVENTIONS

- KRCS: A total of 483 internally displaced persons have received NFIs, with support from ECHO, through a partnership between the Kenya Red Cross Society and IOM.
- Integrated medical outreaches are being conducted at 16 sites, with support from UNICEF.

6.2 FOOD AID -

- KRCS: A total of 350 households are receiving KES 5,400 per month for three months (June, July, and August 2025). The target location is Lagsure Ward, Mandera West.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- In the first week of August 2025, an IED attack occurred at Border point 1 where a Lady was injured and mother killed.
- Two armed men hijacked a vehicle belonging to the Mandera County Government, specifically from the Enforcement Department, while it was passing near Green View area in Mandera town.

7.2 Migration.

In migrations within the county was reported during the month under review.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- The forecasts (seasonal outlook for the October-December 2025 "short rains") from the Kenya Meteorological Department, WMO, FEWSNET, and other global sources indicate a high probability of below-average rainfall in Mandera county. Higher than normal temperatures are also predicted.
- Water availability is declining for both livestock and domestic use, thus likely on worsening trend.
- Accelerate depletion of water-pans, increasing trekking distances for water for both humans and livestock
- Irrigated crop production will remain constrained by water availability, high input costs, and pest risks.
- Milk production is expected to remain below the long-term average.
- Maize prices are expected to upsurge; goat prices may fall as market supply increases from distress sale.
- Localized clan conflicts will continue to restrict access to grazing and water points.
- Ongoing food and cash support will continue but will not cover all household in needs.
- The food security situation is currently at IPC phase 3 (Crisis) and projected to slide into 1PC phase 4 (Emergency)

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 CSG meetings	County wide	120,000	NDMA, MCG
	Conduct 3 monthly SCSG meetings	County wide	376,800	NDMA, MCG
	Facilitate bi weekly TWG meetings	HQ	90,000	NDMA, MCG
Social protection	Cash transfer and health insurance subsidy	County wide		NDMA-(HNSP) Directorate of children services,
	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 (Water Human)	Banisa, Gither	5M	NDMA, MCG
	Repair and maintenance of 45 existing boreholes and shallow wells	County wide	14M	NDMA, Mandera County Government, Water Trust Fund. Non-state actors
	Provision of 30 (10,000 litres) plastic water tanks	Banissa, Lafey, Kiliwaheri	10.8M	NDMA, MCG, KRCS
	Rehabilitation of Earth pans	Banisa, Lafey, Kiliwaheri	5M	NDMA, MCG, Non-state actors.
Livestock	Water trucking for Livestock	Libahiya, Marothile, Guba, Malkamari, Arabia, Guticha and Alango.	10M	NDMA, MCG
	Provision drought pellets/Hay	County wide	20M	NDMA, MCG FAO
Agriculture	Provision farm inputs (Certified seeds -drought tolerant)	All wards	40 M	MCG, KALRO, NDMA, KRCS, AFA, World Vision
Education	Provision & installation of plastic water tanks in 30 schools	All wards	10,750,000	NDMA, KRSC, MCG and donors

Sectors	Intervention	Areas to be covered	Cost (Kes)	Possible source of resources
Health & Nutrition	Screening for malnutrition in hot spot areas	Libahiya, Khalalio, Guba		MCG, KRCS, UNICEF
	Purchasing & Distribution of Water treatment chemical	All wards	3,000,000	County Health Department, NDMA, KRCS World Vision
	Conducting Integrated health outreaches	All wards	1,500,00	County Health Department, NDMA, KRCS