



Drought Status: NORMAL



Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	NORMAL	Improving
Pastoral All species	NORMAL	Stable
Fisher folk/Casual labour/Petty Trading	NORMAL	Improving
County	NORMAL	Improving
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	80%	80 -120%
VCI-3Month (County)	49.1	> 35
State of Water Sources	3-4	3-4
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	LBCS 4-5 (Good)	LBCS 3-4
Milk Production	1.0	>1.5 Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No Deaths	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	59	>75
Milk Consumption	0.8	>1.1 Litres
Return distance to water	6.2	0.0-7.0Km
Livestock distances	8.9	< 18.6
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status	13.5	0.0-18.5
Coping Strategy Index	16.7	<18
Food Consumption Score	31.7	>35

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Seasons	Dry			Long rains		Dry				Short rains		
Livestock production												
Calving										Peak		
Kidding			Peak								Peak	
Disease outbreaks						Highly likely						
Prices				Peak							Peak	
Milk availability	Goats				Goats							Cattle/
Migration		Dry		Wet			Dry				Wet	
Others												
Livestock sales	High					High			High			High
Risk of insecurity				High			High					High
Malnutrition								High				
Lean season												
Labor Availability		Peak								Peak		
Market access				Poor								Poor
Water stress												
Cross border inflows						Peak						
Food price					High			High				

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

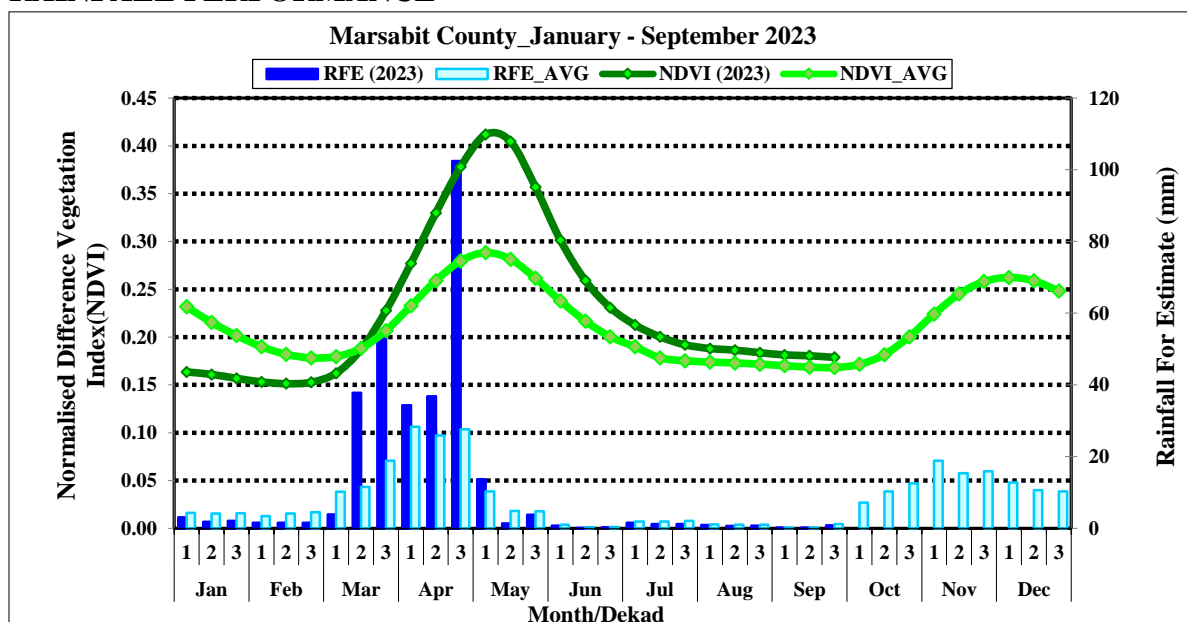


Figure 1: Dekadal Rainfall (mm) and NDVI values compared to the Long-Term Average

Source: WFP-VAM, CHIRPS/MODIS

- In the illustration above, the decadal rainfall for estimates (RFE) amounts in the first and second dekads were near normal and below normal in the third dekad when compared to their corresponding long-term decadal rainfall for estimates averages.
- The county generally remained dry during the month and no off-season rains were recorded.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETAION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

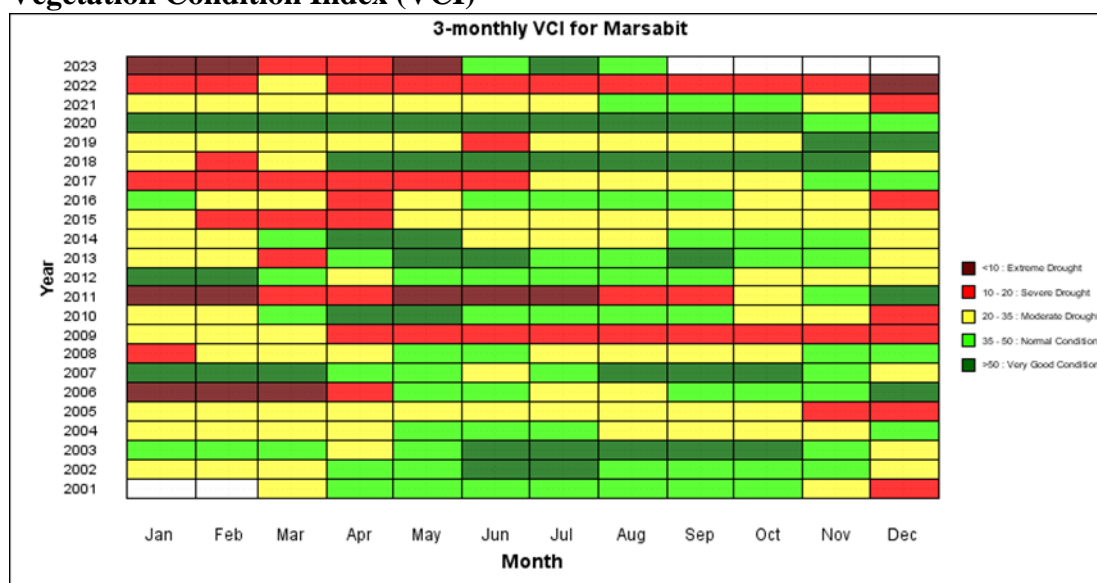


Figure 2: Vegetation Condition Matrix across Marsabit County

Source: NDMA/ Boku University

- The vegetation condition index for the month under review was at 49.1 compared to the previous month, which was 49.5 indicating a slight decline. The VCI remained within normal condition vegetation band with the slight decline attributed to maturing vegetation in most parts of the County coupled with the prevailing hot and dry conditions. The VCI for the pastoral zone of North Horr sub-county remained within the same above normal vegetation

condition band at 52.95 whereas Laisamis Sub County recorded a slight decline of 45.33 in August compared to 42.15 within normal vegetation band in the month under review. Moyale sub county also remained within the normal vegetation band at 44.01 whereas the agro pastoral zone of Saku remained within the above normal vegetation band at 72.24.

- The vegetation condition across the county generally remained at normal condition with stable trend as a result of the prevailing hot and sunny dry spell. The current forage is expected to improve as from next month which is the onset of the short rain's season

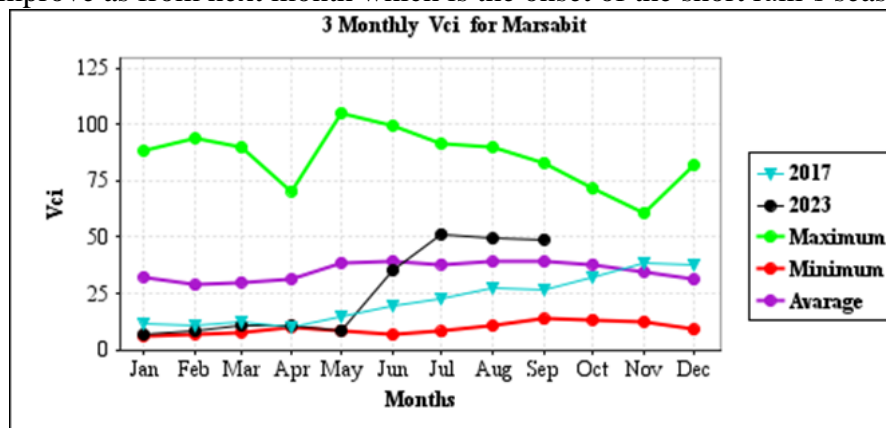


Figure 3: Trends Variation of Vegetation Condition Index across Marsabit County

- According to figure 3 above, the current VCI falls within the normal band and is also above normal compared to the long-term average (LTA), hence indicative of very good vegetation conditions across the livelihood zones.

2.1.2 Pasture Condition

- The pasture condition across the County remained fairly good in all the livelihood zones, with the agro-pastoral livelihood zone of Saku leading followed by the Pastoral zone of North Horr. Moyale (agro pastoral) and Laisamis (Pastoral) in that sequence. In the agro-pastoral zones, forage was supplemented by use of crop residues. Generally, the pasture condition is above normal for this time of the year. However, some areas exhibit fair to poor pasture conditions notably; Some pockets of North Horr and Laisamis Sub Counties exhibited fair to poor pasture conditions notably Gas, Mbarambate, Eyi bete (Ileret), Yaa gara, Malabot, Elgade, Loyiangelani, Civicon, Sirima, Oldonyo Mara and Ndikir. This is attributed to the below average seasonal cumulative rainfall amounts received in these areas coupled with the current hot and dry conditions. These areas exhibit feeds deficit driving pastoral herds to migrate to dry season fall back areas.
- The current forage is projected to last for up to 3 months. The major impediment to forage quantity and quality was the proliferation of weeds and invasive species. Incipient cases of insecurity the Dukana border area with Ethiopia, Mt. Kulal and Moite also presented a challenge in accessing pastures in those areas.
- Generally, pasture condition is expected to remain within the normal band as a result of the combined effect of very good regeneration following the MAM rains and the anticipated enhanced short rainfall.

2.1.3 Browse Condition

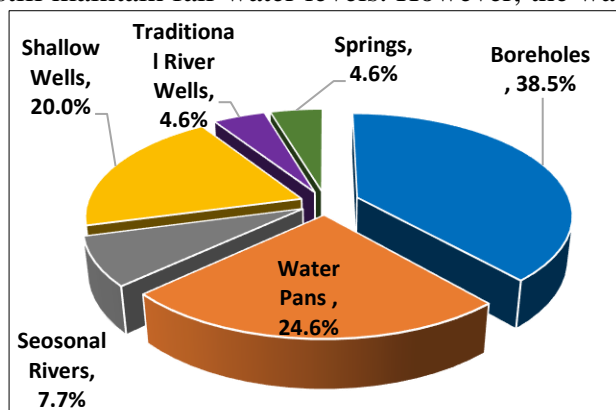
- In August, the browse condition largely remained good across all livelihood zones and is above normal for this time of the year. The browse conditions in the agro-pastoral zone of Saku remained very good whereas those in the pastoral livelihood zone of North Horr remained fairly good, except for some pockets, notably the areas of Gas, Elguifu, Elbeso and Nyaber, which exhibited fair to poor browse conditions.

- The pastoral zone of Laisamis recorded good to fair browse conditions, with some pockets of fast deteriorating browse conditions notably Laisamis ward, Loyiangelani, Moite and Arabal areas. The browse condition is expected to deteriorate in the short term, particularly in the low lands as hot and dry conditions prevail. The browse is expected to last for 2-3 months in the pastoral zone and 4 months in the agro-pastoral zone.

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

2.2.1 Sources

- For the month of September, majority of the major water sources across the county generally still maintain fair water levels. However, the water levels are exhibiting gradual decline as a



result of the prevailing hot and dry conditions. Surface water sources such as pans and dams, shallow wells, and natural ponds, are in use as well as sub-surface sources such as boreholes, springs and river wells.

Boreholes took the largest share of water sources at 38.5% and pans and dams followed at 24.6% as depicted by figure 5.

Compared to the previous month, there is

a shift towards sub surface water sources across all livelihood zones. This is attributed to the prevailing hot and dry conditions triggering high evaporation.

- For North Horr, main water source remained borehole followed by shallow well, the pans and dams. Majority of pans and dams had good recharge. However, some pans in Turbi and Maikona wards were observed to have dried out. Water levels in shallow wells was also reported to have gone down significantly. The areas of Gas, Mbarambate, Qorqa, Yalgana were reported to be experiencing water stress, attributed to effects of low precipitation during the MAM rains received in the said areas, coupled with local saline conditions.
- In Laisamis, the main water sources remained boreholes followed by shallow wells then traditional river wells and springs. The prevailing hot and dry conditions are hastening water scarcity, with dams like Ririma already dried up. Long queues of livestock watering were observed in Tupcha and Ririma boreholes. In Korr, water for both household and livestock use remained scarce, with local wells noted to have dried up. River wells in Ilaut, Korr, and Ngurnit are on a quick decline.
- In Moyale, the main water source remained boreholes followed by pans and dams. The water levels in water pans that was previously well recharged have subsided fast with a few almost drying up. Most of the water pans that have water are likely to last for one to two months across the Sub County.
- For Saku Sub County, the main water sources for the period under review were pans and dams, shallow wells, boreholes (at source and water kiosks) and roof catchment from the previous MAM rain season. Pans and dams were noted to be drying up at a fast rate as also roof catchments diminish.
- The main challenge in water access and utilization is fast declining open water sources, poor quality (high salinity), few cases of borehole breakdown and use of untreated water from open water sources at the household level. The prevalent hot and dry weather conditions have

resulted in declining water levels in water sources. This is likely to persist till the onset of OND rains.

2.2.1 Household Water Access and Utilization

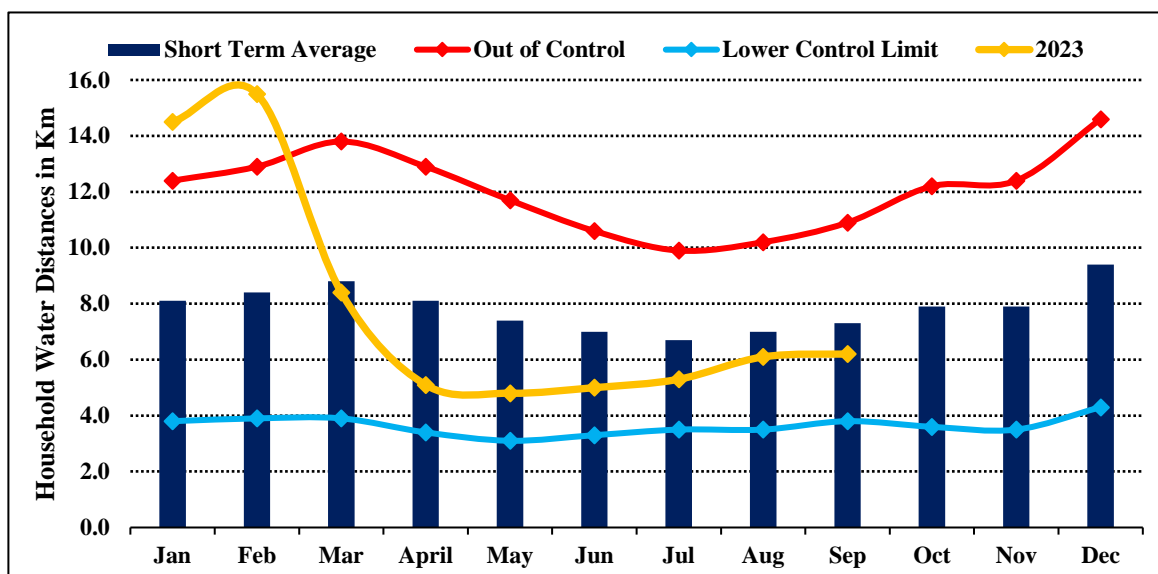


Figure 7: Current household return water distances compared to the Short-Term Average distances (Km)

- During the month under review, the return household water distances to the main water sources is 6.2 Km as indicated in Figure 7 above, which relatively remained stable when compared to the previous month's household water distance at 6.1 km across all the livelihood zones. Relatively stable household water distance is mainly attributed to low breakdowns of boreholes due to less concentration at water points.
- The current household water distance of 6.2 km is below the short-term average household water distance of 7.3 Km by 15%. Waiting time in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone varied between 5 and 15 minutes while in pastoral livelihood zone, average waiting time ranged between 15-25 minutes against a normal waiting time of 25-30 minutes.
- In the agro-pastoral livelihood zone of Moyale and Saku sub-counties, average water consumption was 15-20 litres per person per day whereas the pastoral areas of North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties recorded average water consumption per person per day of 12-15 litres against the normal 15-20 Litres per person per day. Household water consumption is nearly within the normal ranges in all the livelihood zones.
- With the expected onset of the short rains in the month of October, households water distance is likely to decline in the next month hence slight improvement in water consumption levels across all the livelihood zones.

2.2.2 Livestock Access

- Figure 8 above illustrates the return livestock trekking distance from grazing areas to water points at 10.6 km, which is a 19% increase when compared to the previous month's distance of 8.9 km across the livelihood zones.
- When compared to a similar period, the current livestock trekking distance of 10.6 km is below the average short-term grazing distance of 18 km by 41%. Current return trekking distances in the pastoral livelihood zone are 8-15km compared to 12-17km normally. In the agro-pastoral livelihood zone, livestock trekking distances are 6 -12 km against a normal of 12-14km.

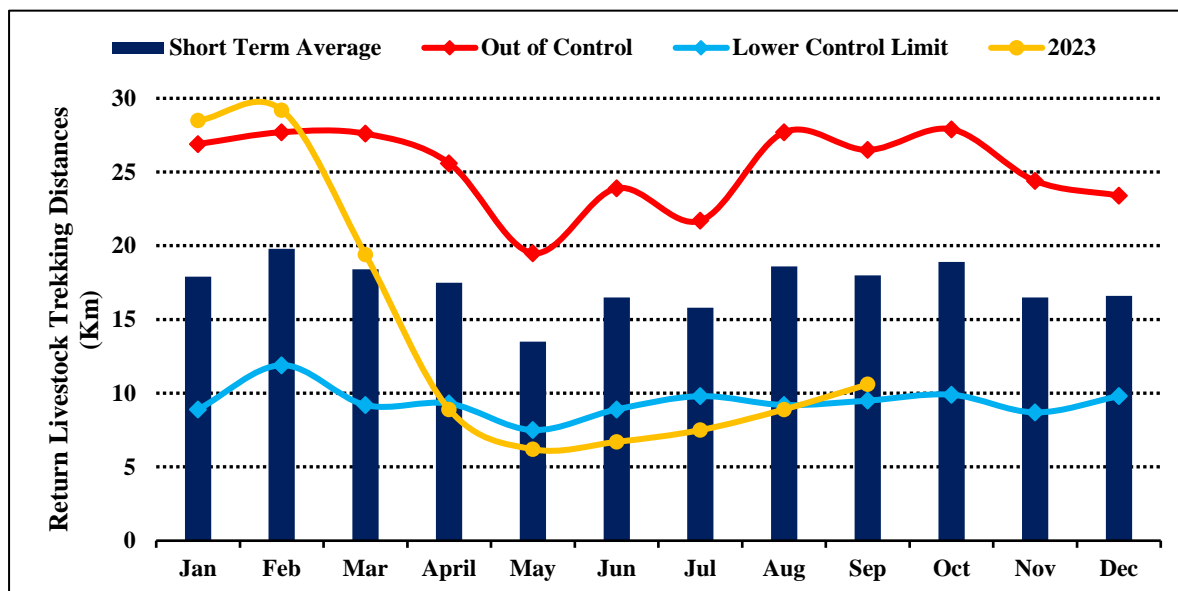


Figure 8: Current livestock trekking distances compared to the Short-Term Average distances (Km)

- The watering frequency for cattle and small stock in both livelihood zones is daily compared to a normal of 1-2 days in all the livelihood zones. Watering frequency for camels is 3-5 days across the livelihood zones against a normal of 4-6 days.
- Tolerable livestock watering intervals across the livelihood zones were attributed to fair availability of grazing resources. The prevailing hot surface temperature and dry conditions progressively deteriorate and watering intervals will likely remain the same.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

- As of the period under review, livestock production is still recovering from the effects of the ended protracted drought period. The effect of the above-average MAM rain season has continued to have a favourable impact on the grazing resources during the time under review, assuring continuing recovery.

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- For the month of September, the general Livestock Body Condition Score (BCS) for all species across the county fell within the LBCS 4-5 band, which is above average when compared to LBCS 3- 4 normally. The good to very good livestock body condition is attributed to good to very good forage conditions and water availability coupled with low livestock numbers, hence low pressure on grazing resources.
- Few cases of large stock falling under stressed were reported in few areas in North Horr i.e. Gas, Barambate and El Beso, which was attributed to increasing distances to water points.

3.1.2 Livestock Migration

- For the month under review, majority of the livestock in the county remained within their traditional satellite grazing zones, except for some few cases of movement reported in areas such as Dukana along the border due to heightened insecurity. In general, livestock are expected to remain within their traditional grazing areas till the next rain season.

3.1.3 Tropical Livestock Units (TLU) and Calving & Kidding Rates

- Despite the availability of adequate grazing resources, the tropical livestock units (TLUs) remain below normal due to the effect of the protracted drought. For small stock, kidding and lambing has commenced hence the TLUs are expected to improve on the short term. However, this may be hampered by the notable cases of abortion reported in parts of Moyale

and North Horr Sub County. TLUs for large stock are expected to significantly improve over a period of five to eight months when calving is expected to commence.

- The slow recovery resulting in depressed TLUs have led households continued vulnerability and high dependence on food and cash aid.

3.1.4 Livestock Diseases and Mortalities

- Generally, the main livestock diseases reported during the period under review across the county include; Brucellosis, Pneumonia, Helminthiasis, Trypanosomiasis, Goat Pox, Poisoning, Animal bites Haemorrhagic Septicemia, Camel Pox and Rift Valley Fever (RVF). High incidences of diseases is observed among Goats 41.8% and Cattle 18.2% while both Sheep and had lower incidences at 15.45%. Majority of the syndromes reported are Gastrointestinal 24.5%, Cutaneous 22.5%, Respiratory 20.6% and Abortion 15.7%.

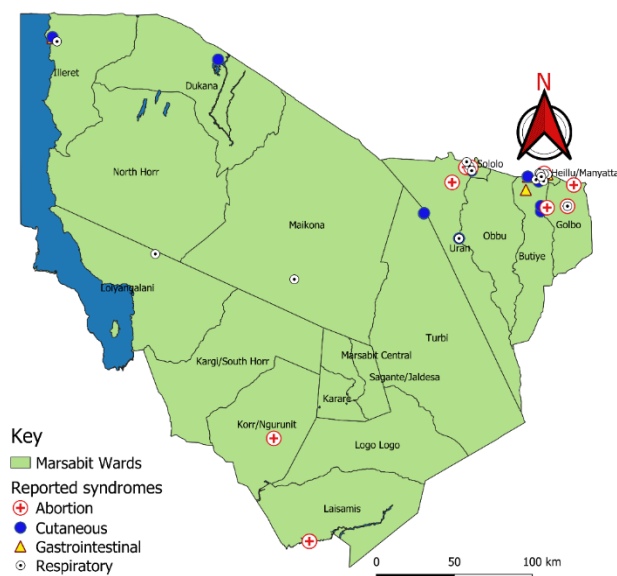


Figure 9: Spatial distribution of livestock syndromes

- The disease incidences reported in North Horr sub-county were notably, an outbreak of Camels disease characterized by swollen head and deaths has been reported in North Horr, Elgade and Kalacha areas. The increased incidence of respiratory diseases including Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP) was also reported in Kalacha whereas suspected Rabies outbreak has also been reported in Hurri Hills location.

- The cumulative numbers affected by species are 241 sheep, 158 Goats and 8 cattle with a

continuously increasing trend. The affected animals present with clinical symptoms which include; fever, CNS signs, Respiratory distress, Incoordination, Dehydration, Depression, and Congestion of mucous membranes, convulsions and then death. Other animals present with sudden death without any symptoms. Post-mortem findings are Hydropericardium, hydrothorax, congestion of the liver and Enteritis while from those that die suddenly are haemorrhagic enteritis, small and large intestine content empty and sometimes filled with gas. Another cohort consisting of mostly goats present with Fever, laboured breathing, nasal discharge, open mouth breathing, coughing while P.M. lesions are; pleural fluids, congested frothy lungs, and pleural adhesions.

3.1.5 Milk Production

- According to Figure 10 shown below, the average household milk production per day for the month under review was 1.0 liters compared to the short-term average of 1.5 litres across the livelihood zones. The milk was largely obtained from kidding shoats and a few camels. The significantly below normal milk production was attributed to reduced household flock size and low livestock birth rates across all the livelihood zones.
- Given the low milk production levels, most households are purchasing powdered milk and packet milk from retail shops to meet their dairy needs.
- Milk production is expected to gradually increase over the next few months, given the availability of grazing resources and the projected above normal OND rain season.

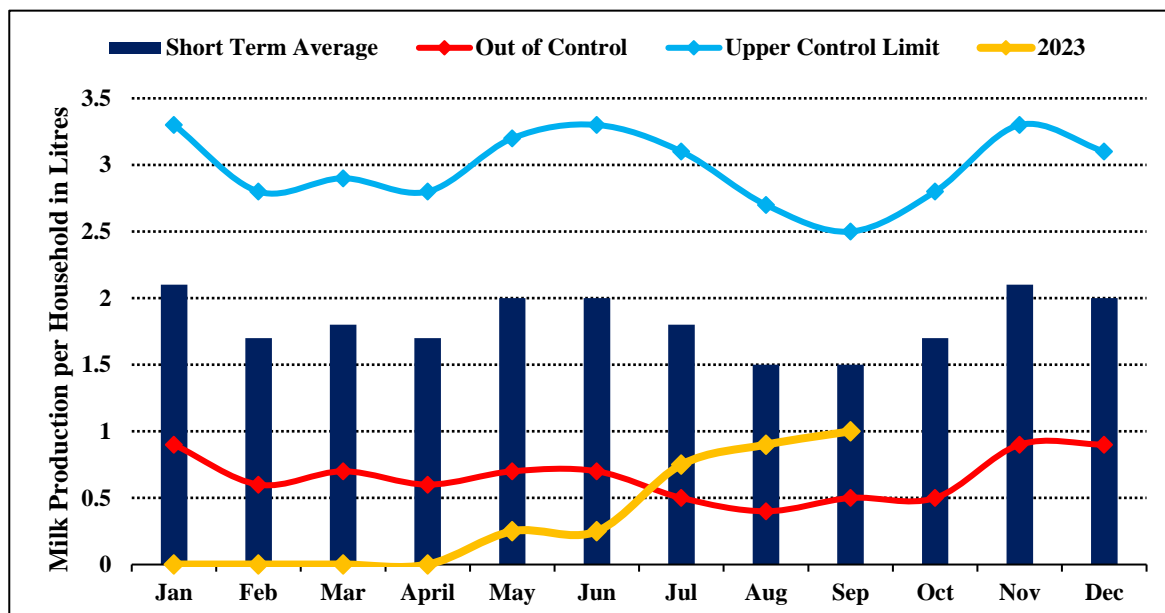


Figure 10: Milk Production at household level in Litres

3.2 CROP PRODUCTION

- The main activity going on farms in agro pastoral zones is land preparation in anticipation of the short rains. In the month under review County Government, Concern worldwide, IREMO and WFP supported farmers in ploughing of land and distribution of certified seeds in preparation for the onset of the short rains.
- Most of the farmers however are reporting challenges of lack of certified seeds for drought tolerant crops and inadequate capacity to prepare farms even though willing to so.

3.2.1 Irrigated cropping

- Irrigated crop production was on going in the areas which have boreholes, springs, shallow wells and water pans. The main vegetable crops under irrigation are kales, spinach, onions and capsicums.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

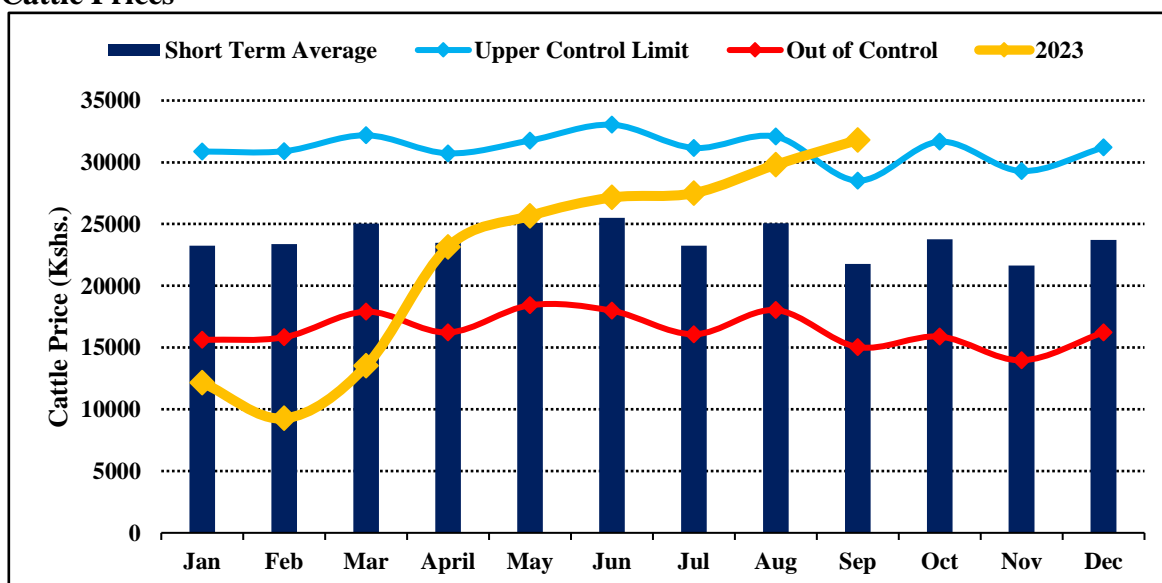


Figure 11: Cattle Prices Trends in Marsabit County

- Referring to the figure 11 shown above, the average cattle price for the month under review was recorded at Kshs.31,800 which is above normal when compared to the short-term average. However, the price has increased when comparing to the preceding month price of Kshs 29,800. The gradual improvement in cattle prices was driven by the good cattle body condition and scarcity at the markets due to hoarding and low volumes across the County.
- Cattle prices in the main markets of Dukana, Jirime, Merille and Moyale recorded Kshs 25,000, Kshs 35,000, Kshs 24,000 and Kshs 32,000 respectively.
- In the coming months, cattle prices are expected to record further improvement given the readily available grazing resources and the expected projected above normal OND rains.

4.1.2 Goat Prices

- According to the graph (12) below, the average goat price for the month of September is Kshs.5,230, which is way above normal in comparison to the short-term average price of Kshs.3,650. When compared to the previous month, the current goats' price recorded a slight improvement of 4 percent. The current price is also above the upper control limit price of Kshs. 4809.

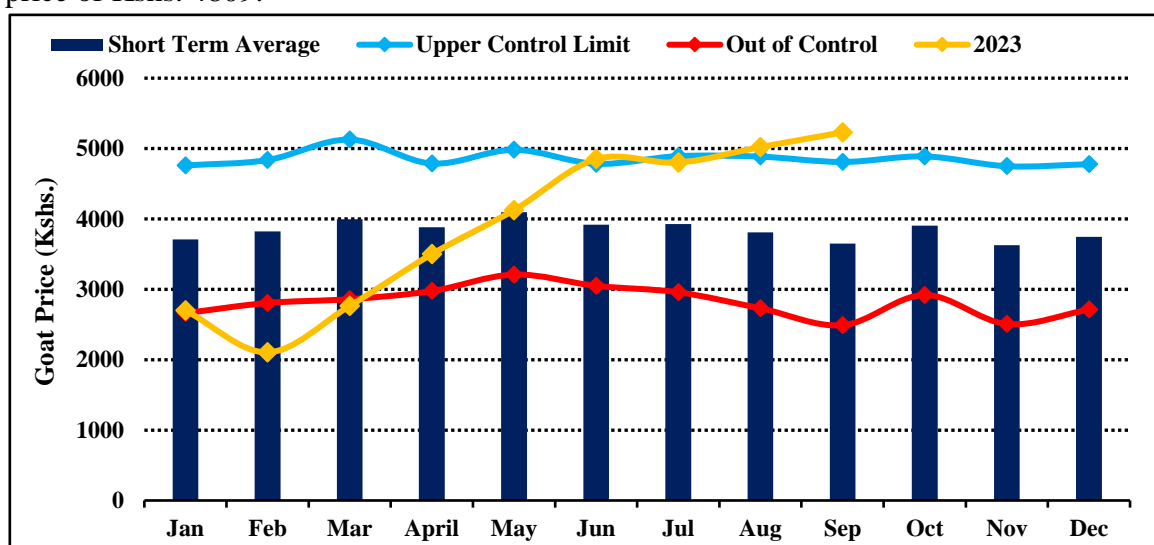


Figure 12: Goats Prices Trends in Marsabit County

- Factors leading to the increase in goat prices in the reporting period across the livelihood zones were good body condition, scarcity due to low livestock population and hoarding in by livestock keepers with a view to grow their herds and the projected OND rains.
- Moyale, Jirime and Dukana livestock markets posted the highest livestock prices averaging between Kshs. 5,000- 6000. Moyale and Dukana markets are boosted by traders from the neighboring Ethiopia.
- The recorded goat prices are expected to improve further across the County due to continued good body condition and elevated chance of forecasted highly enhanced OND.

4.1.3 Sheep Prices

- For the month under review, the average sheep price remained stable at Ksh 3750. The stability of the price was mainly attributed to good body condition and the constant supply at the markets across all livelihood zones.
- The September sheep price of Kshs.3,750 is above normal when compared to the short-term average price of Kshs. 2,705 and surpasses the upper control limit price.
- In terms of markets, Dukana and Moyale markets posted the highest prices of Kshs 4,200. The high price in both markets were attributed to extremely good body condition and the inflow of buyers from Ethiopia.

- The sheep prices are expected to be on the increase in the coming months as grazing resources remain readily available.

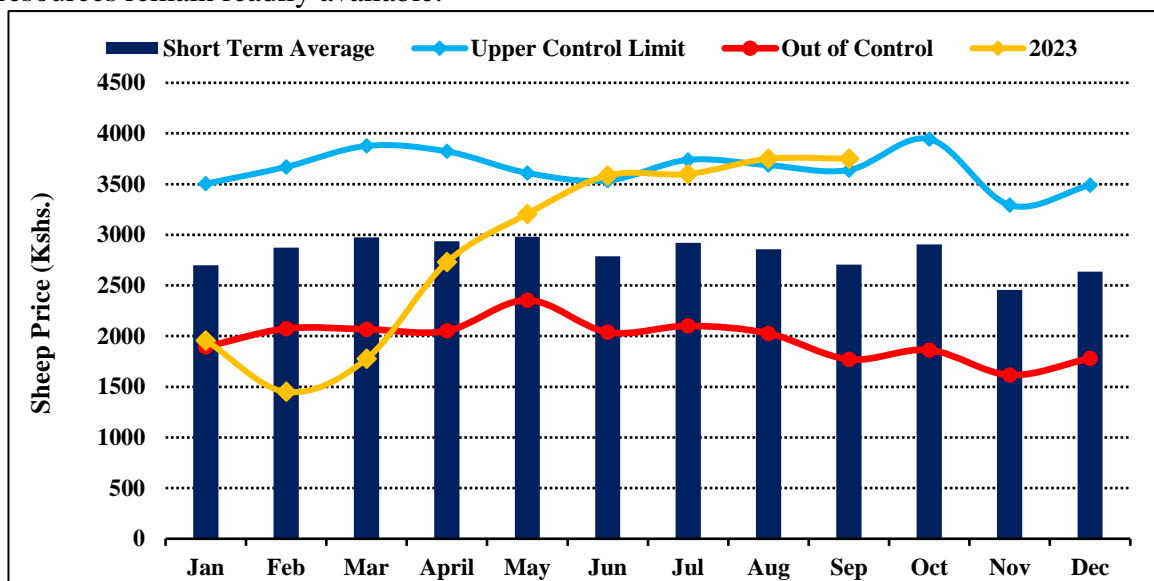


Figure 13: Sheep Prices Trends in Marsabit County

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

- With reference to the figure below, the current average maize price across the County is Kshs. 87/kg, which is 61 percent above the short-term average price of Kshs.54/Kg. when compared to the previous month, the current maize price is higher by 5 percent. The slight increase in maize price for the month is attributed to a sharp price increase of cereal prices along the border towns of Dukana and Forole after the closure of the borders with Ethiopia.
- The current above average maize prices are attributed to factors such as low crop yield, reduced market supplies as a result of low supplies from the external sources and other macro-economic challenges.

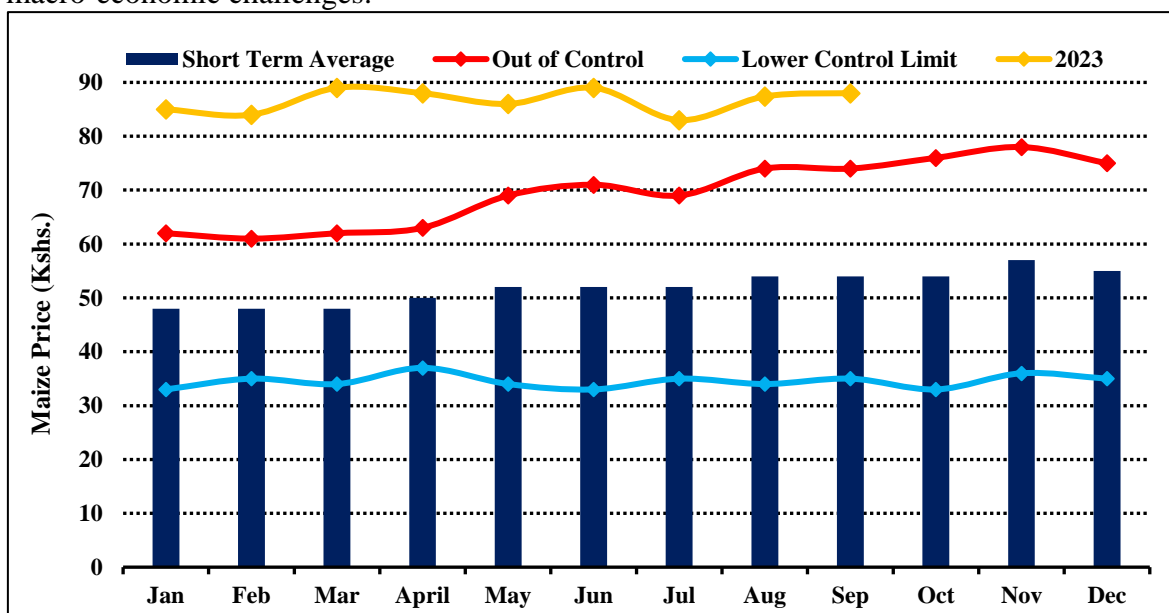


Figure 14: Maize Prices Trends in Marsabit County

- Commodity markets with the least maize prices were Moyale and Sololo, with prices ranging between Kshs.60-70/kg, boosted by supplies from the neighboring Ethiopia market. The highest maize prices were recorded at North Horr, Merille, Dukana and Turbi markets with a price range of Kshs. 90 to 100/kg.

- Cumulative maize yield from the just ended harvest in the agro-pastoral areas of Moyale and Saku sub- counties is projected to be depressed due to fall army worm disease hence significant drop in maize price may not be realized. However, maize prices are likely to remain stable in the next 1-2 months.

4.2.2 Beans

- From the figure 15 shown below, beans prices traded at Kshs 160 per kg in the month under review hence didn't change when compared to the previous month's beans price.

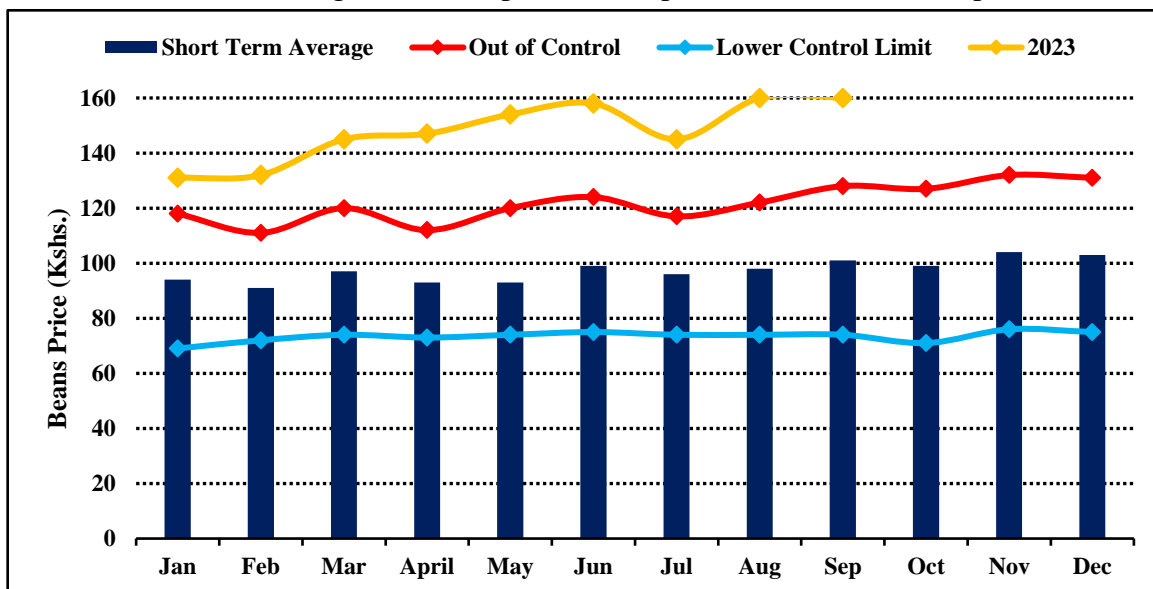


Figure 15: Beans Prices Trends in Marsabit County

- The current price of beans is above the short-term average price of Kshs.101 by 61 percent and has surpassed the out-of-control price limit of Kshs.128/kg. This is attributed to low availability at the markets as a result of macroeconomic influences.
- Commodity markets along the Ethiopian border i.e. Moyale, Sololo and Dukana recorded the lowest price of beans ranging from Kshs. 130-150 per kg due to supplies from the Ethiopian side. The highest bean prices range from Kshs. 180-200 were recorded in North Horr and Loiyangalani markets, largely influenced by market location.
- The ended harvest of beans in the agro pastoral livelihood zone has done little to stem the tide of high prices, as high demand and other micro economic challenges take effect. The pastoral areas of North Horr and Laisamis continue recording surged beans prices above the out of control limit due to poor market functions.

4.2.3 Terms of Trade (TOT)

- In the month under review the terms of trade (TOT) were at 59 kilograms of maize in exchange for a medium sized goat. The current ToT falls below the short term average by 23% but falls above out of control limits.
- When compared in terms of livelihood zones, the Terms of trade for the pastoral livelihood zone has shown improvement due to the rise in livestock prices but is still low as cereal prices have remained high. In agropastoral zones, the terms of trade also remain poor due to low crop yield hence crop farmers have not taken full advantage of high cereal prices except in some few areas of Moyale which recorded considerable harvests.
- The terms of trade are expected to improve for pastoral livelihood zones as livestock continue to fetch good prizes whereas the agro-pastoral zone's ToT is projected to improve over three to six months as a result of the expected above normal OND rains.
- Persistent factors such as poor market integration will however limit possible improvement.

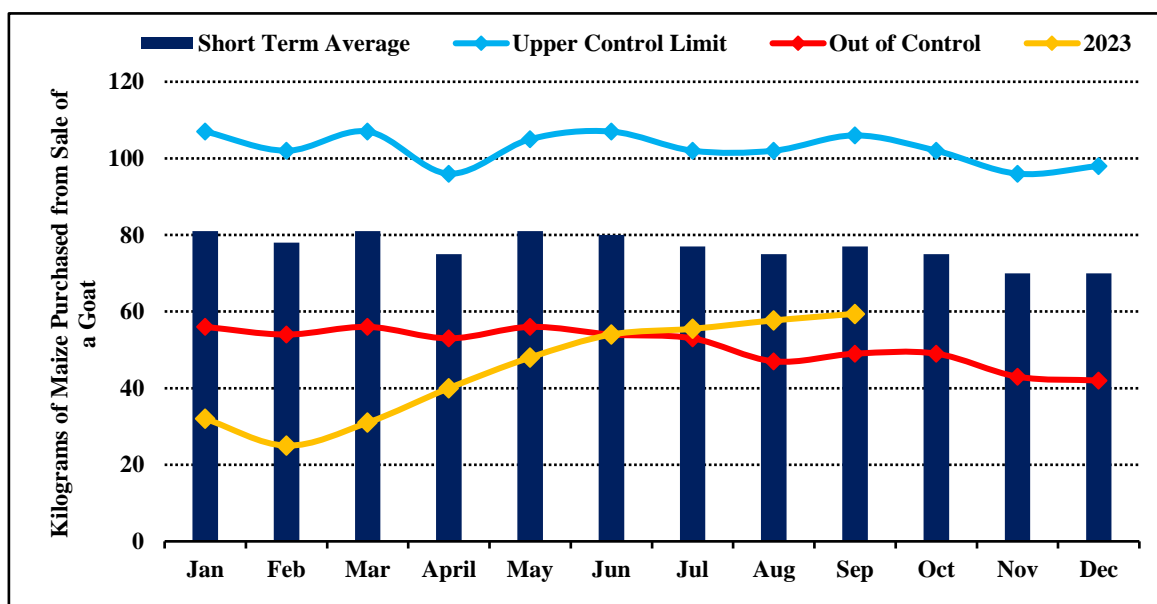


Figure 16: Current Terms of Trade versus Short Term Average

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 Milk Consumption

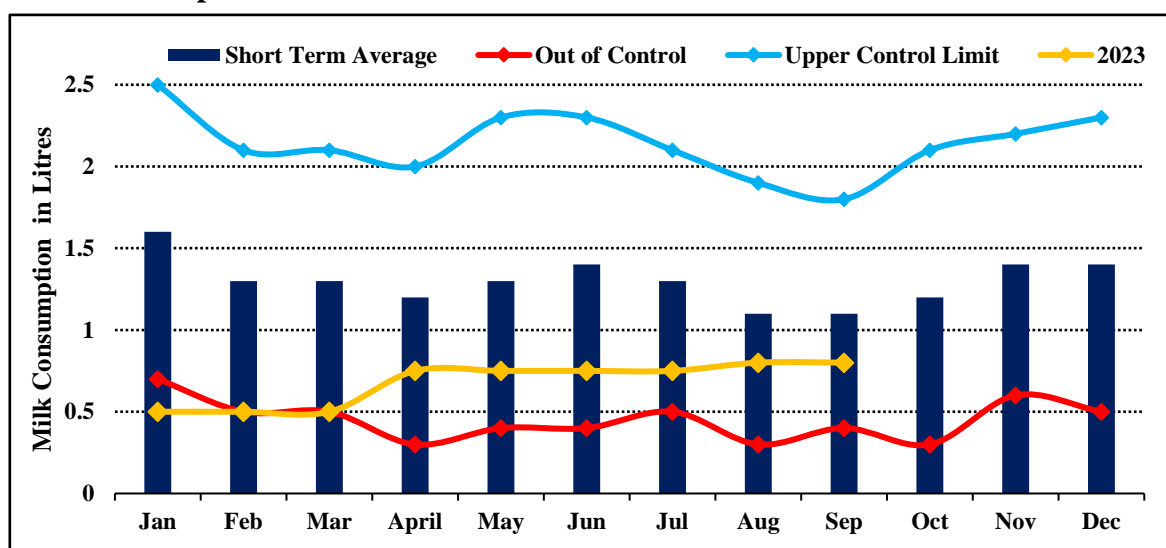


Figure 17: Milk consumption at household level in Litres

- From Figure 17 shown above, household milk consumption is 0.8 liters/ household/ day in the month under review. Very low milk consumption across all the livelihood zones was occasioned by an all-time low milk production attributed by reduced household flock size and low livestock birth rates across all the livelihood zones.
- When compared to the short-term average milk consumption of 1.1 liters/household/ day, the current milk consumption is significantly lower by 27 percent. The common source of milk for majority of households remains purchase of packaged milk from shops across all the livelihood zones. Across the livelihood zones, milk consumption is likely to remain below average in next month given the prevailing low milk production levels coupled with limited household purchasing power due to slow recovery of the livelihood assets.

5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE (FCS)

- For the month under review, the average food consumption score (FCS) across the County is 29.9 as shown in Figure 18 below with 26 percent of households having poor consumption

score whereas those with borderline and acceptable food consumption score were 58.3 percent and 15,7 percent respectively across the livelihood zones

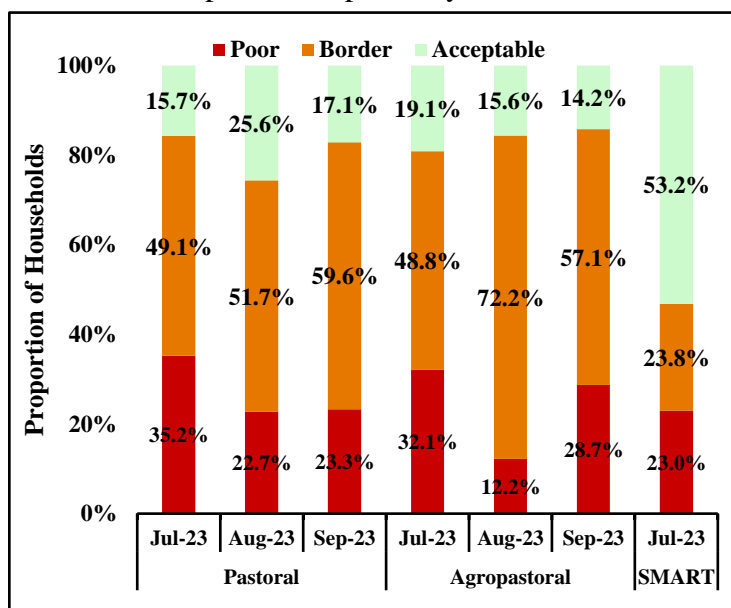


Figure 18: Food Consumption Trends in Marsabit

Table 2.0: Food Consumption Score by Ward

Area/ Ward	FCS Mean	Area/Ward	FCS Mean
County	31.72	Loiyangalani	24.8
Dukana	22.7	Merille	37.2
Golbo	24.4	North Horr	46.7
Karare	23.4	Sagante	29,0
Kinisa	26.2	Turbi	28.6
Korr	27.2	Uran	29.4

- From the FCS means shown in the table above, Dukana had the lowest food consumption scores whereas North Horr had the highest. Most of the wards fell within the borderline band with only Merille and North Horr in the acceptable band. Poor dietary outcomes are likely to persist due to slow or non-recovery of the livelihood assets losses, pre-existing macro-economic challenges and the lapse of humanitarian aid.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The graph (Figure 19) shown above indicates that 13.5percent of children aged below 5 years are at risk of malnutrition, which is below the short term average of 18.5 percent for the period. Additionally, the recorded MUAC fell below the lower control limit of 15.6percent.
- A decline in percentage of risk of malnutrition amongst the under-fives is attributed to the impact of blanket supplementary feeding programme in North Horr and Laisamis sub-counties, upscale of outreaches among other food/cash interventions.

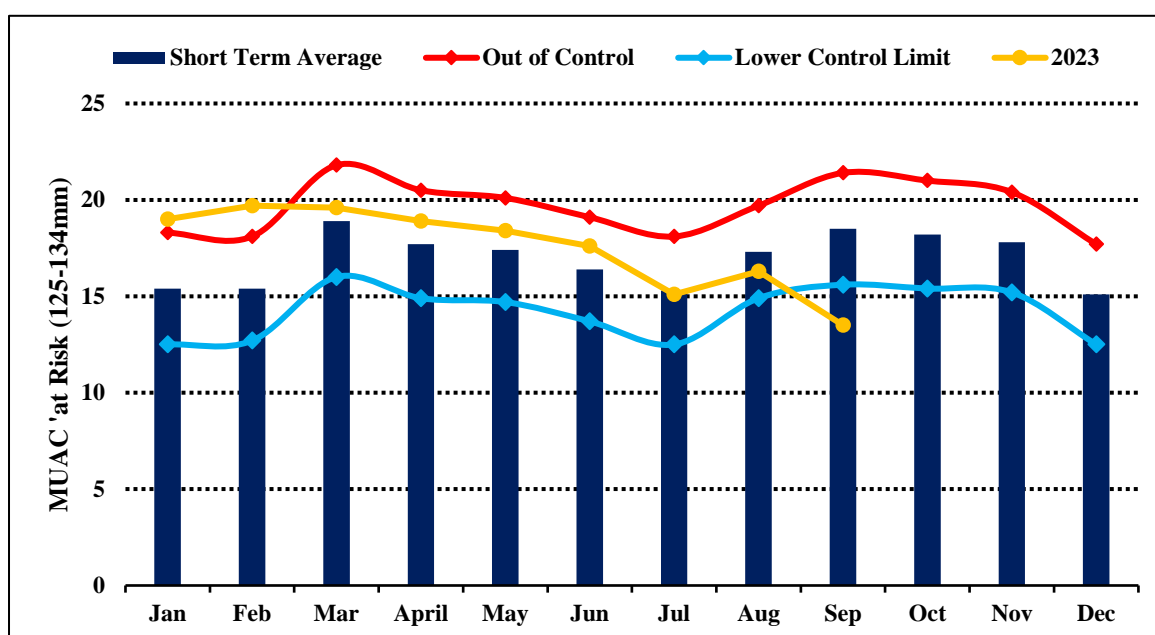


Figure 19: Proportion of Children < 5 Years at Risk of Malnutrition in Marsabit County

5.4 COPING STRATEGIES

- The mean coping strategy index (CSI) of consumption based coping strategies for the month

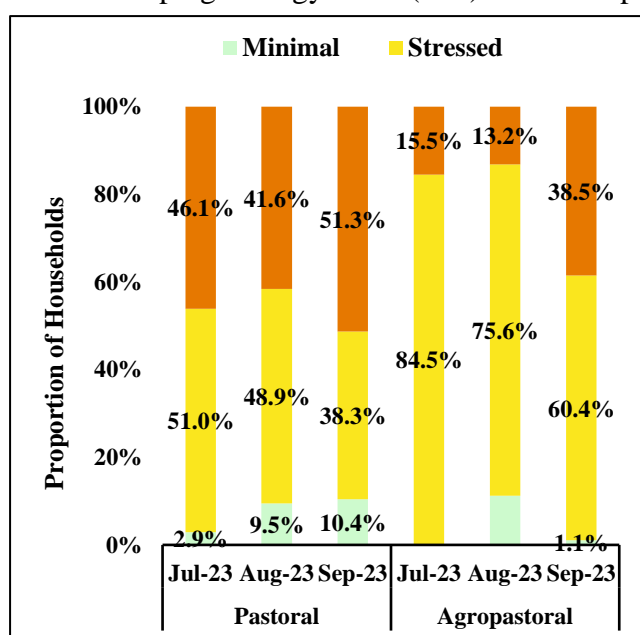


Figure 21: Consumption Based Coping Strategies

of September was recorded at 16.7. Figure 21 indicates that 38.3% and 51.3% of the households in the pastoral livelihood zone employed stressed and crisis food consumption based coping strategies respectively. In the agro pastoral zone, 60.4% and 38.5% of the households employed stressed and crisis consumption based coping mechanisms respectively.

- Consequently, households across the livelihood zones employed consumption-coping strategies indicative of (IPC Phase 3) or worse off to address existing household food consumption gaps.

- Households are likely to continue applying crisis++ coping strategies to address persisting food consumption gaps in an effort to mitigate against limited food availability.

Table 3.0: Consumption Based Coping Strategy Index by Wards

Ward	rCSI	Ward	rCSI
Sagante	22.3	Turbi	22.9
Karare	10.4	Dukana	21.1
Korr	20.5	Uran	19.8
Loiyangalani	24.7	Golbo	25.6
Laisamis	14.3	Heillu Manyatta	7.7
North Horr	9.1		

- From table 3 shown above, households in Sagante, Korr, Loiyangalani, Turbi, Dukana, Uran and Golbo wards applied crisis or worse off food consumption-based coping strategies. However, households in Heillu Manyatta, Karare, North Horr and Laisamis wards employed stressed coping mechanisms to address food shortages at the household level.
- Notable reduced consumption based coping strategies applied by the households were reduction in frequency of food consumption, restriction of food access to adults for children consumption and borrowing food.

5.5 Livelihood Coping Strategies

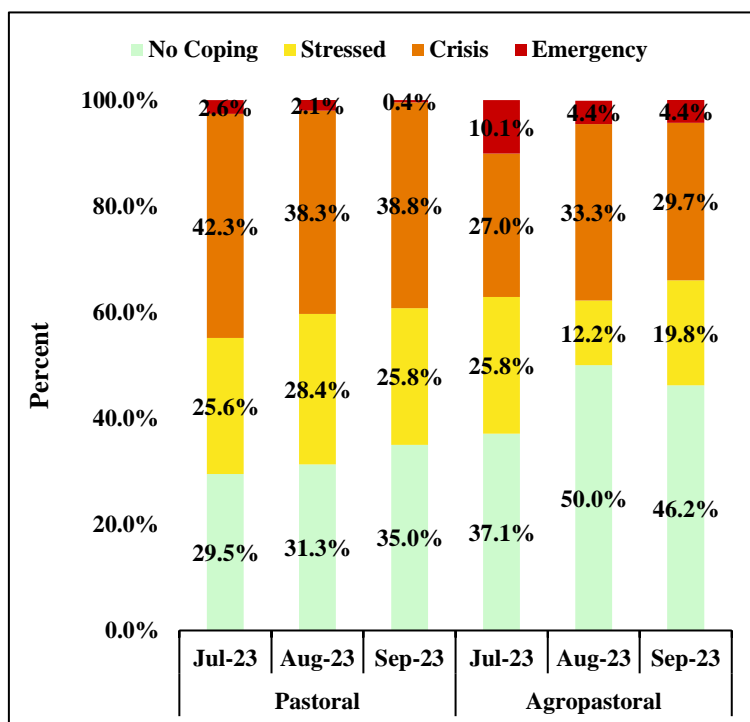


Figure 22: Livelihood Coping Strategies

0.4percent and 4.4percent of households in the pastoral and agro pastoral livelihood zones respectively applied emergency livelihood coping mechanisms.

- The graph below indicates that during the month under review, 46.2percent and 35 percent of households didn't apply any of the livelihood coping strategies when they lacked food or money to buy food in the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones respectively. Approximately 19.8-25.8percent of households in all the livelihood zone employed stressed coping mechanisms whereas 29.7 and 38.8 percent of households in the agro pastoral and pastoral livelihood zones correspondingly applied crisis livelihood coping mechanisms. In addition,

6.0 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- The month of September recorded negligible offseason showers with near nil effect on water and soil moisture levels, hence generally a hot and dry month. The vegetation conditions showed a slight decline but largely remained good and within the normal vegetation band except for some pockets in North Horr and Laisamis sub counties. With the prevailing hot and dry conditions, vegetation condition will likely record a slight decline in the short term but will largely remain in the average vegetation condition band up to the next rain season.
- On water availability and accessibility, there was a notable shift from surface to sub-surface water sources in the month under review, which is indicative of the negative effect of the prevailing hot and dry conditions are having on water sources. Some water pans in North Horr, Laisamis and Moyale have completely dried up but most pans retain fairly good water levels, given the below normal usage as a result of reduced livestock numbers. Distances to water sources indicated a 15% increase for households and 19% increase for livestock. Nevertheless, the noted increase remains below the short term average for the month at 14 percent and 109 percent respectively. The watering intervals for all livestock species across the livelihood zones are likely to relatively remain the same up to next season.

- Livestock abortions across species noted in Moyale Sub County and parts of North Horr are likely to have a negative effect on the livelihood recovery. Rain-fed crop performance was generally acceptable in Moyale but the yield for maize was compromised by crop disease.
- In the Pastoral zone, the terms of trade are expected to improve given the rising livestock prices. However, households may not be able to take full benefit given the high commodity prices and poor market integration. For the agro-pastoral zone, the terms of trade are also expected to improve given the prevailing high prices for cereal. However, most farmers may not be able to gain given the depressed yield as a result of late planting and crop disease.
- Majority of households in the two major livelihood zones employed consumption-coping strategies indicative of stress (IPC Phase 2) to crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse off to address existing household food consumption gaps.
- Kidding and lambing is ongoing whereas calving is expected to commence in January 2024. Livestock abortion is threatening the speed of recovery of livestock assets. The high commodity prices are also hindering household food stability as most households have been rendered poor due to the prolonged drought.
- Projected enhanced (above-normal) 'OND' rain season is expected to have a positive effect on household food security. However, the 'El Nino' conditions said to likely characterize the rain season may wreak havoc on already weakened socio-economic systems.

ANNEX 2: Recommended Drought Response Interventions

Food Security Sector			
Intervention	Objective	Target	Cost
Relief food supplies to 206,000 food-insecure individuals	To provide relief food to targeted population	40% of the population	580,000,000
Livestock Sector			
Restocking.	To increase the tropical livestock units of the pastoral communities.	Countywide	200,000,000
Livestock disease management	To reduce livestock disease incidences, contain outbreaks and convey risk messaging for rabies	Countywide	6,000,000
Water Sector			
Water treatment chemicals	Provide water treatment chemicals to households across the County.	Countywide	3,000,000
Rehabilitation of 10 water pans	To increase water availability in light of the projected above-normal OND rains	Countywide	50,000,000
Agriculture Sector			
Provision of certified farm inputs	To increase the area planted and increase yields in light of the projected above-normal OND rains	Agro-pastoral zones	20,000,000
Health and Nutrition Sector			
High Impact Nutrition Interventions	Reduce vulnerability of children under the age of five and pregnant and lactating women.	75%	7,000,000
Provision of an integrated outreaches packages.	To increase coverage by reaching all the target groups with health and nutrition services	50%	4,000,000
Education Sector			
Provision of food to low-cost boarding primary and secondary schools.	-Enhance enrolment, attendance, retention and transition in schools. Enhance syllabus coverage and performance.	3,500 learners	25,000,000