



NATIONAL DROUGHT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

National Drought Early Warning Bulletin

December 2024

1. Drought Situation Overview

The drought situation remained normal across majority of the ASAL counties. The stable trend was attributed to the light showers experienced in December that aided in sustaining the impact of the good rainfall received in November. Three (3) counties, Wajir, Mandera and Kilifi were in Alert drought phase while the remaining twenty (20) ASAL counties were in Normal drought phase (Figure 1). Four (4) counties including Tana River, Embu, Taita Taveta, Tharaka Nithi were classified to be at “Normal” and on an improving trend, ten (10) counties including Garissa, Isiolo, Samburu, Turkana, Kitui, Kwale, Laikipia, Makueni, Narok, Nyeri at “Normal” and on a stable trend while six (6) counties including Baringo, Marsabit, Kajiado, Lamu, Meru, West Pokot at “Normal” and on a worsening trend. The classification was based on the range of environmental, production, access and utilization indicators monitored that fell within their usual seasonal ranges except for the counties at Alert drought phase.

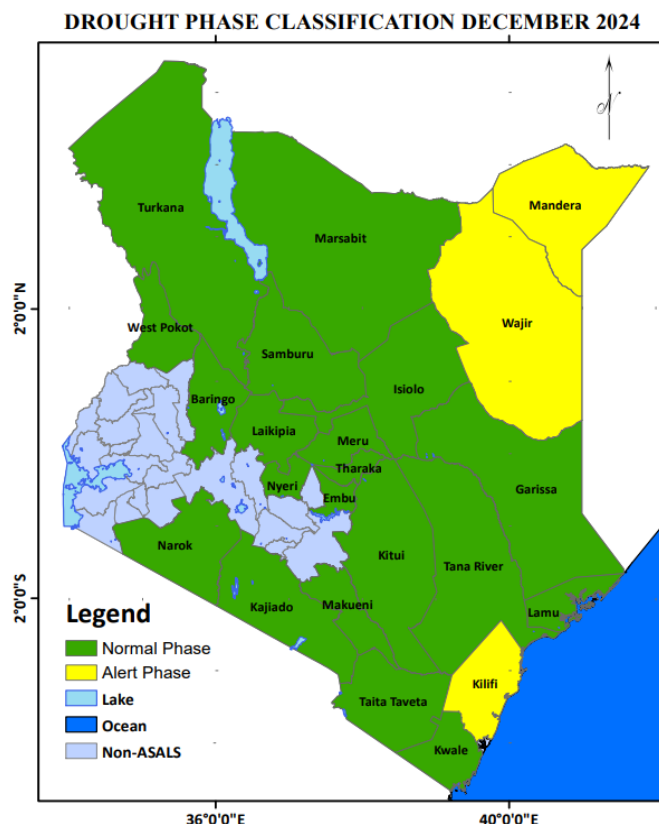


Figure 1. December Drought Phase

The classification was based on the range of environmental, production, access and utilization indicators monitored that fell within their usual seasonal ranges except for the counties at Alert drought phase.

The trend of food insecurity among populations has been on the rise since July 2024. The Current number of food insecure population is approximately 1.8 persons in ASAL counties. The Counties of Wajir, Garissa, Turkana, Marsabit, and Mandera have the highest proportions of food insecure populations. Despite the improvements from the previous season, levels of acute malnutrition have still remained elevated in some arid counties such as Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Baringo (Tiaty) and Turkana. The total caseload for children aged 6-59 months as well as pregnant and breastfeeding mothers currently acutely malnourished and in need of urgent treatment is estimated at 479,498 and 110, 169 respectively.

1.1 Observed Drought Indicators

1.1.1 December 2024 Rainfall Performance

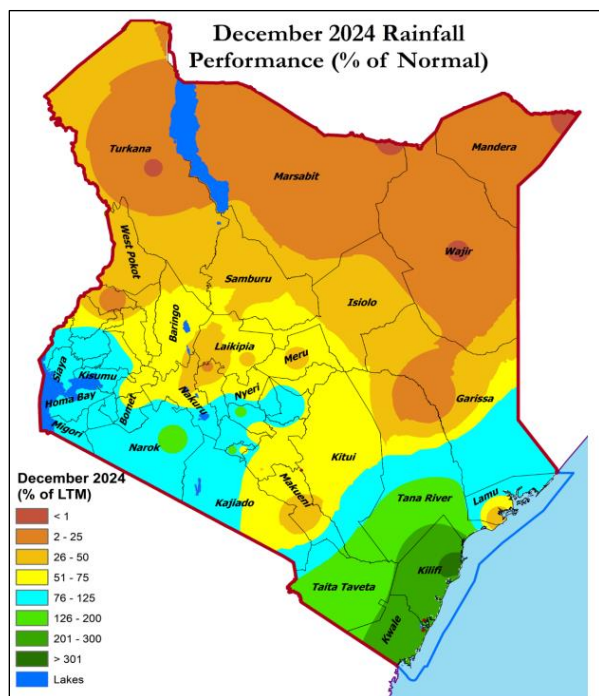


Figure 2. December Rainfall Performance (source: KMD)

Throughout December 2024, the rainfall performance across the Arid and Semi-Arid (ASAL) counties displayed significant spatial variation, with notable disparities between clusters. The Pastoral North East (PNE) cluster, encompassing Isiolo, Garissa, Wajir, Mandera, and Tana River, experienced predominantly below-average rainfall, with large areas receiving less than 50 percent of the long-term mean (LTM), and isolated zones falling below 25 percent. In contrast, the pastoral north west (PNW) cluster, which includes Turkana, Samburu, and Marsabit, also faced deficits, with most areas recording amounts below 50 percent

of LTM, particularly in Turkana and Marsabit. The coastal marginal agriculture (CMA) cluster, comprising Kilifi, Kwale, Lamu, and Taita Taveta, generally experienced average to above-average rainfall, with coastal regions such as Kilifi and Kwale receiving 101–200 percent of the LTM. The south eastern marginal agriculture (SEMA) cluster, which includes Meru, Embu, Tharaka Nithi, Makueni, and Kitui, recorded mixed performance, with southern parts receiving slightly above-average rainfall (76–125 percent of LTM) while northern areas received below average rainfall. Lastly, the Agro-pastoral (AGP) cluster, that consistutes Baringo, Narok, Kajiado, Laikipia, West Pokot, and Nyeri, demonstrated heterogeneous rainfall distribution, with Narok and Kajiado receiving above-average rainfall (101–200 percent of LTM), while Baringo and Laikipia experienced deficits, with some areas falling below 50 percent of the LTM.

1.1.2 January 2025 Rainfall Outlook

The rainfall forecast for January 2025 across the ASAL counties indicates predominantly dry conditions with significant spatial variation among the clusters. The PNE cluster is expected to experience generally sunny and dry conditions, consistent with climatological norms, with little to

no rainfall anticipated. Similarly, the PNW cluster is also forecasted to have predominantly dry conditions under the same climatological patterns.

The CMA cluster is forecasted to experience mainly sunny and dry conditions with occasional rainfall, particularly in coastal areas where isolated showers might occur. Sunny and dry conditions are forecasted for the SEMA cluster, with sporadic rainfall possible in some locations. Lastly, the AGP cluster is anticipated to follow a similar pattern of mainly dry conditions with occasional rainfall particularly in the southern and western areas such as Narok and Kajiado.

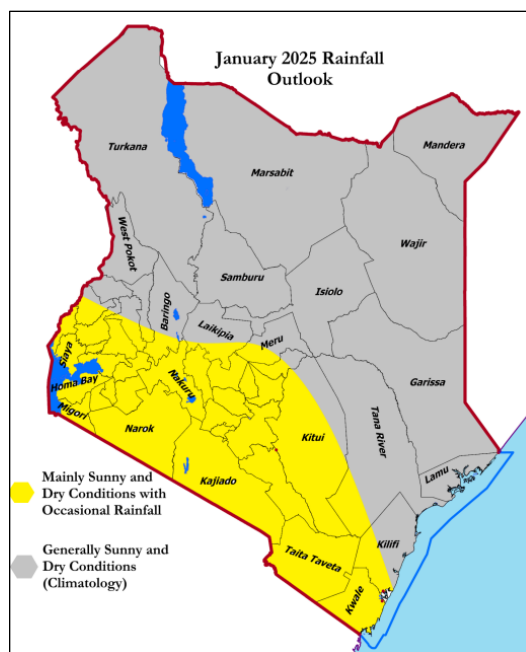


Figure 3. January Rainfall forecast (Source: KMD)

1.2 Vegetation Condition

Figure 4 compares the vegetation condition index (VCI) in December 2024 with that of the previous month of November 2024. Generally, the vegetation condition in the month of December was above normal vegetation greenness compared to that of the month of November in most counties, however with a deteriorating trend. Kilifi and Kwale counties maintained at moderate vegetation deficit. Wajir county deteriorated to moderate vegetation deficit from normal vegetation greenness. Marsabit, Mandera, Isiolo and Tharaka Nithi counties deteriorated to normal vegetation greenness from above normal vegetation greenness when compared to November.

The month of December 2024 showed huge deterioration in vegetation condition in most Arid Counties. Deterioration in vegetation was due to the impact of poor performance of OND rains which did not have a positive improvement in terms of vegetation regeneration. None of the counties recorded either extreme or severe vegetation deficit. Fourteen (14) ASAL counties including; Turkana, Samburu, Lamu, Meru, Embu, Makueni, Kitui, Baringo, Narok, Kajiado, Laikipia, West Pokot, Tana River and Nyeri recorded Above normal vegetation greenness. Six counties (6); Marsabit, Isiolo, Tharaka Nithi, Garissa, Mandera and Taita Taveta recorded normal vegetation greenness, while three counties (3); Kilifi, Kwale and Wajir recorded moderate vegetation deficit. A summary of the vegetation condition across ASAL counties at end of December 2024 is provided in figure 4. The situation for each county disaggregated by sub-county is provided in Table1.

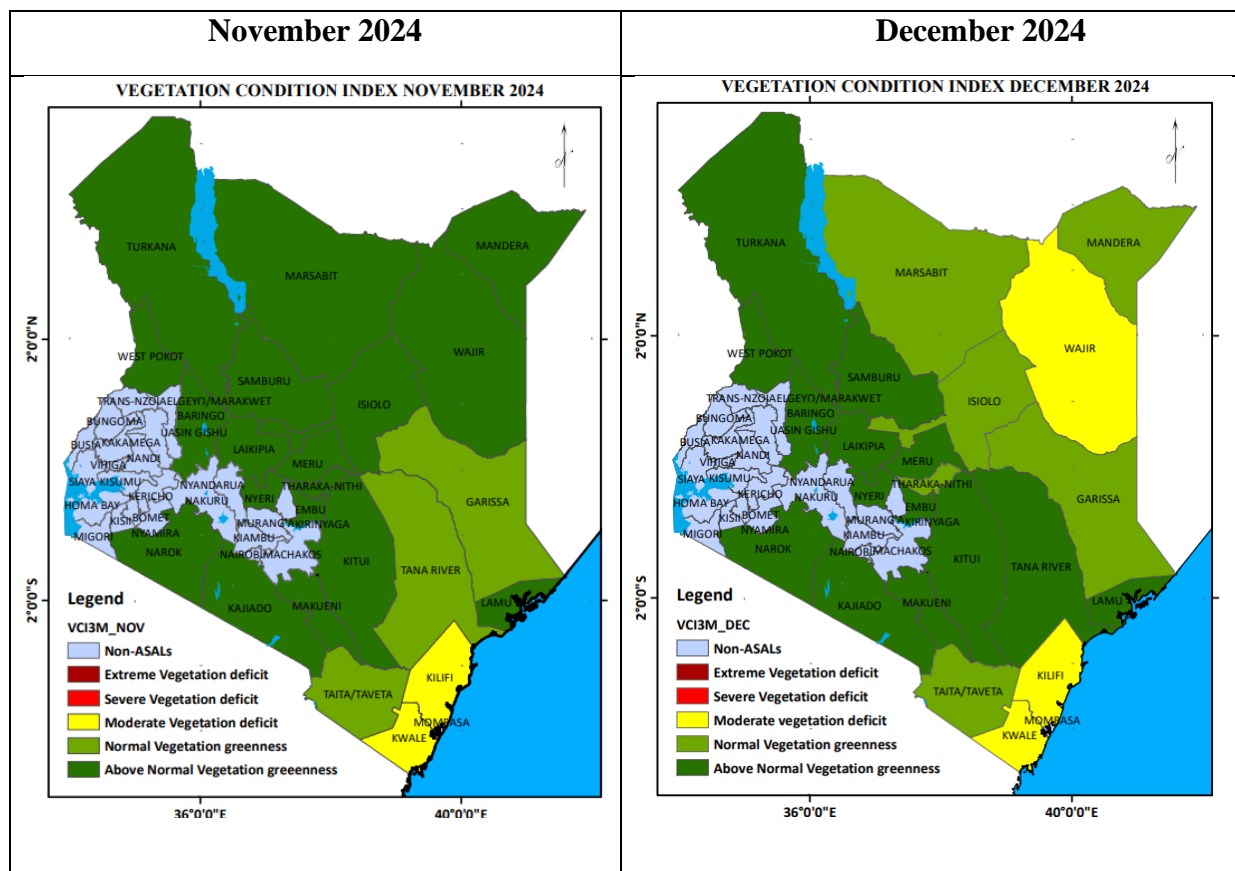


Figure 4: Maps comparing Vegetation Conditions (VCIs) of November and December 2024

Table1: Vegetation Condition Index (VCI), December 2024

Category	County	Sub Counties (No)
Extreme	(0)	(0)
Severe vegetation deficit	(0)	(1) Wajir (West)
Moderate vegetation deficit	(3) Wajir, Kilifi, Kwale	(9) Isiolo (North), Kilifi (Ganze, Kaloleni, South, Rabai), Wajir (Eldas, South), Kwale (Kinango, Lunga Lunga)
Normal vegetation greenness	(6) Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera, Marsabit, Taita Taveta and Tharaka Nithi	(23) Garissa (Lagdera, Daadab) Isiolo (South), Kilifi (North, Magarini, Malindi), Kwale (Matuga, Msambweni), Mandera (West, South, East, Banissa), Marsabit (Laisamis, Moyale, North Horr, Saku), Taita Taveta (Mwatate, Voi), Tana River (Bura), Tharaka Nithi (Tharaka) Wajir (Tarbaj, North, East)

Above normal Vegetation greenness	(14) Turkana, Samburu, Lamu, Meru, Embu, Makueni, Kitui, Baringo, Narok, Kajiado, Laikipia, West Pokot, Tana River and Nyeri	(80) Baringo (Central, North, Ravine, South, Mogotio, Tiaty), Embu (Manyatta, Mbeere North, Mbeere South, Runyenjes), Garissa (Balambala, Township, Ijara, Fafi, Ijara), Kajiado (Central, East, North, South, West), Kitui (Central, East, Rural, South West, Mwingi Central, Mwingi North, Mwingi West), Laikipia (East, West, North), Lamu (East, West), Makueni, (Kaiti, Kibwezi East, Kibwezi West, Kilome, Makueni, Mbooni), Mandera (Lafey, North, Banissa, West, South, East), Mandera (Lafey, North), Meru (Buuri, Central Imenti, Igembe Central, Igembe North, Igembe South, North Imenti, South Imenti, Tigania East, Tigania West), Nyeri (Kieni, Mathira, Mukurweini, Nyeri Town, Othaya, Tetu), Samburu:(East, North, West), Taita Taveta (Taveta, Wundanyi), Tharaka Nithi (Chuka/Igamba ng'ombe, Maara), Tana River (Galole, Garsen), Turkana:(East, South, Central, North, Loima, West), West Pokot (Pokot South, Sigor, Kapenguria, Kacheliba), Narok (Emurua Dikirr, Kilgoris, East, North, South, West),

1.3 Livestock production

1.3.1 Pasture and browse condition

The condition of forage was generally fair to good across the counties during the period under review with deterioration being noted across majority of them. About 65 and 43 percent of the ASAL counties reported the condition of pasture and browse respectively as being fair (Table 2), while Mandera reported the condition as being poor. Forage availability was sustained in December as a consequence of the light showers received coupled with the cumulative effect of the good rainfall received in November. However, moderate land surface temperatures prevailing in some areas contributed towards the slight deterioration witnessed in some pocket zones.

Table 2.0: Forage Condition, December 2024

Pasture			Browse		
Poor	Fair	Good	Poor	Fair	Good
Mandera	Baringo, Embu Garissa, Isiolo Kajiado, Kilifi Kitui, Makueni Marsabit, Meru Samburu, Wajir Tharaka Nithi Turkana, West Pokot	Laikipia Lamu, Narok Nyeri, Kwale Taita Taveta Tana river	Mandera	Garissa, Isiolo Kajiado, Meru Makueni Marsabit Samburu Tharaka Nithi Turkana, Wajir	Baringo, Embu Kilifi, Kitui Kwale, Laikipia Lamu, Narok Nyeri Taita Taveta Tana River West Pokot

1.3.2 Livestock body condition

The body condition of livestock remained relatively stable in relation to the previous month of November ranging from fair to good (Table 3). Among the drivers of the observed trend included: forage and water availability in sites adjacent to households across most counties. Additionally, availability of crop residues sufficed in supplementing the livestock feed. Improved provision of livestock health services such as vaccination by different stakeholders equally aided in promoting the stable livestock body condition observed.

Table 3.0: Livestock Body Condition, December 2024

Cattle			Goats/Sheep		
Poor	Fair	Good	Poor	Fair	Good
	Baringo Garissa, Lamu Kitui, Wajir Makueni Mandera Tana River Tharaka Nithi	Embu, Isiolo Kajiado, Kilifi Kwale, Laikipia Marsabit, Meru Narok, Nyeri Samburu, Turkana Taita Taveta West Pokot		Baringo, Garissa Makueni, Mandera Marsabit, Kitui Tana River, Lamu Tharaka Nithi Wajir	Embu, Isiolo Kajiado, Kilifi Kwale, Laikipia Meru, Narok Nyeri, Taita Taveta, Samburu Turkana West Pokot

1.3.4. Livestock diseases

Poultry farmers in Tharaka Nithi and Kwale (Gulanze and Ndavaya in Kinango subcounty) faced isolated cases of Newcastle disease. Persistent cases of endemic East Coast Fever (ECF) were recorded in Narok. The dominant syndrome reported in Marsabit was Respiratory at 26.9 percent, Gastrointestinal at 20.4 percent, and Abortion at 13.6 percent. Equally, incidents of Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) were widespread in Marsabit especially around Butiye, Golbo, Korr/Ngurunit, Laisamis, North Horr, Sololo, Turbi, Heillu/Manyatta and Moyale Township and Garissa (Balambala sub county). Foot rot associated with the cold conditions in December was recorded in Embu. Suspected cases of foot and mouth disease (FMD) were reported in Kajiado, Meru (Amwathi in Igembe North), Samburu, West Pokot (Chepareria ward), Tana River and southern parts of Garissa. Rabies and goat pox presented the highest prevalence of 50.1 and 42.9 percent and mortality rate of 24 and 14.3 percent respectively in Turkana. An unknown disease-causing paralysis and death in lambs and kids was reported in Masol and Lomut wards while 36,302 cattle were vaccinated against Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in West Pokot.

1.3.5 Cattle prices

Majority of the counties constituting 78 percent reported an improving trend in the price of cattle in relation to the previous month with only Mandera, Wajir and Tharaka Nithi reporting a negative trend (Table 5). The decline in price in the aforementioned counties was occasioned by distress stress hence over supply driven by the poor performance of the short rains and drop in demand for cattle with a high preference for camels in December. Notably, the improving trend in the other areas was driven by the good cattle body condition that enabled pastoralists fetch more. Noteworthy, the recorded prices across all the counties were above the corresponding usual prices for the period with good body condition, vibrant market participation, scarcity at the markets due to hoarding and low volumes in some areas, and high demand for cattle meat during the festive season being cited as factors sustaining the above normal prices.

Table 5.0: Cattle prices, December 2024

Current status			Trend		
Above LTA	At LTA	Below LTA	Improving	Stable	Worsening
Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo Mandera, Marsabit, Lamu Samburu, Tana River Turkana, Wajir, Embu Kajiado, Kilifi, Kitui Kwale, Laikipia, Makueni Nyeri, Taita Taveta Tharaka Nithi, Narok West Pokot, Meru			Baringo, Garissa Isiolo, Samburu Tana River, Embu Turkana, Kajiado Kilifi, Kwale, Lamu Laikipia, Makueni Meru, Narok, Nyeri Taita Taveta West Pokot	Marsabit Kitui	Mandera Wajir Tharaka Nithi

1.3.6 Goat Prices

Save for Mandera and Wajir that reported a negative trend in the price of goat attributed to deteriorating body condition, majority of the counties constituting 91 percent reported a stable to improving trend across December (Table 6). The positive trend in these counties was influenced by the high demand over the festive season and browse availability following the rainfall received hence good body condition. The prevailing market price of goat across all the counties was above the usual prices for the period and that could be attributed to sustained improvement in the body condition of goat following the rainfall received that promoted availability of quality palatable browse in majority of the areas.

Table 6.0: Goat prices, December 2024

Current status			Trend		
Above LTA	At LTA	Below LTA	Improving	Stable	Worsening
Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo Mandera, Marsabit, Meru Samburu, Tana River Turkana, Wajir, Embu Kajiado, Kilifi, Kitui, Lamu Kwale, Laikipia, Makueni Narok, Nyeri, Taita Taveta Tharaka Nithi, West Pokot			Samburu Tana River Turkana, Lamu Kajiado, Kitui Kwale, Meru Laikipia Narok, Nyeri Taita Taveta	Baringo Garissa Isiolo Marsabit Kilifi, Embu Makueni Tharaka Nithi West Pokot	Mandera Wajir

1.4 Crop production

Agricultural activities entailing food and horticultural crops production usually take place in the Agro-pastoral, Coastal Marginal Agriculture, and South East Marginal Agriculture clusters. However, within the other clusters, a notable proportion of households practice crop production along the riverine areas of River Tana, Daua, Turkwel among others. The summary table below illustrates the situation across the ASAL counties.

Table 7.0: Current status of crop production

Cluster	Counties	Current state of crop production
CMA	Taita Taveta	Crops were above knee-high and others at knee high stage in the Mixed Farming: Food Crop/ Livestock and Horticulture/ Dairy livelihood zones. Maize crop was at tasselling stage in the Mixed Farming: irrigated/livestock livelihood zone.
	Kilifi	Early planted maize in parts of the Marginal Mixed zone was at knee-high and in good condition. In addition, cassava crop was in good condition. However, most farms remained bushy as farmers were reluctant to prepare and plant following the forecasted poor rainfall season.
	Lamu	Rainfall recorded during the month prompted successful germination especially in areas where dry planting was done. Most of the crops were at different stages including germination, knee high to and above Knee high.

	Kwale	The major activities carried out by majority of the farmers were weeding and harvesting of some of the early planted crops.
SEMA	Meru	Legumes were at growth stages ranging from tussling to podding, with their condition being poor to fair. Cereal crops were at varying stages of development: knee-high in the lower zones of Tigania East, Tigania West, Igembe North, Igembe Central, and parts of Buuri, while in the upper zones of Tigania East and Tigania West, crops are flowering for farmers who planted earlier in the season. Overall, crop conditions were rated as poor to fair, largely due to below-average OND rainfall and with the current rainfall outlook, below-average harvest is expected.
	Tharaka Nithi	Farmers were actively ploughing and planting key crops such as green grams, sorghum, millet, maize and beans. Early planting, led to notable germination in the Mixed Farming zones of Mukothima and Nkondi.
	Kitui	Most crops were at weeding stage while others were at leaf development stage. The condition of the crops was fair across the livelihood zones having faced water stress during the second week of December apart from Kitui Central, Kitui West and Kitui Rural Sub-counties, that by then continued receiving light showers (<10 mm).
	Makueni	Crops were at knee high and flowering stage and in fair condition. Farmers were mainly engaged in weeding activities to support crop growth. However, presence of fall army worm, spread of invasive weeds and poor rainfall distribution were among the factors hindering crop production across December.
	Embu	Maize in the mixed farming zone was at tussling stage while in the marginal mixed farming zone it was at the second weeding stage with the condition being fair. Beans, green grams and cowpeas were all at the podding stage across both livelihood zones. The condition of legumes was equally fair.

Agro-pastoral	Kajiado	Crop development was behind schedule. Beans were blooming while maize were 8-10 leaves compared to podding and tussling in that sequence normally. Delayed rainfall onset affected the planting period but generally the condition was good.
	Narok	Rain-fed crops were in good condition and likely to retain their state up to maturity owing to the extremely high soil moisture during the month under review.
	Nyeri	Maize was at knee high and beans were at flowering stage. The main on-farm activity taking place in December was first weeding.
	West Pokot	In the Mixed Farming livelihood zone, maize crop was above knee high and in fair to poor condition.

1.4.1 Maize prices

Increase in the price of maize was observed in estimated 61 percent of the counties while the price remained unchanged in about 30 percent of the areas (Table 8). The reported price increase was as a result of the dwindling household stocks hence increased demand (market over reliance) more so over the festive season, limited relief food distribution by humanitarian agencies and increased cost of transportation from the external source areas. However, the prevailing price over December was below the respective long-term average price for majority of the counties and that could be attributed to the previous good harvests and market injections through cross border imports.

Table 8.0: Maize prices, December 2024

Current status			Trend		
Above LTA	At/close to LTA	Below LTA	Improving	Stable	Worse-ning
Garissa Mandera Marsabit Wajir Lamu	Turkana Kilifi Kwale	Baringo, Isiolo Samburu, Tana River Embu, Kajiado Kitui, Laikipia, Meru Makueni, Narok Nyeri, Taita Taveta Tharaka Nithi West Pokot	Garissa Kajiado	Isiolo Mandera Wajir Kilifi Laikipia Lamu Taita Taveta	Baringo, Marsabit Samburu, Embu Tana River, Kwale Turkana, Kitui Makueni, Meru Narok, Nyeri Tharaka Nithi West Pokot

1.5 WATER ACCESS

1.5.1 Access to water for households

During the period under review, a stable to improving trend in trekking distance for households was noted in about 82 percent of the ASAL counties (Table 9). The decrease in trekking distance could be ascribed to improved water availability through recharge of open water sources that were in close proximity to households across December. On the other hand, increase in distance in some counties like Isiolo, Baringo, Mandera and Wajir could be attributed to the high evaporation rate that resulted to drying up of some sources and depletion of harvested water due to early cessation of the short rains. Notably, the longest distance of 9.3 and 8.8 kilometres was recorded in Mandera and Wajir respectively among the Arid counties while Lamu and Kitui reported the longest distance of 5.6 and 4.5 kilometres accordingly among the semi-arid counties. Save for Wajir, Kitui, Nyeri and Tana River, the reported trekking distance across all the counties was below the respective long-term average. Lower than normal trekking distance was boosted by recharge of water facilities especially in December.

Table 9.0: Distance from Households to Main Water Sources, December 2024

Current status			Trend		
Above LTA	At LTA	Below LTA	Improving	Stable	Worsening
Wajir Kitui Nyeri Tana River	Mandera, Kwale Turkana, Embu Kilifi, Laikipia Narok, Makueni Garissa, Isiolo Samburu, Lamu	Baringo, Kajiado, Meru Taita Taveta Tharaka Nithi West Pokot Marsabit	Samburu, Kilifi Kwale, Lamu Makueni, Meru Nyeri Taita Taveta Tharaka Nithi	Garissa, Kajiado Marsabit Tana River Turkana, Kitui Laikipia West Pokot	Baringo Isiolo Mandera Embu Narok Wajir

1.5.2 Access to water for livestock

Trekking distance to water source from grazing areas declined in about 48 percent of the counties over the subject reference period under analysis with stability being noted in 22 percent of the areas (Table 10). Decrease in trekking distance in the aforementioned areas could be attributed to forage regeneration and improved water availability following the recharge that took place. However, the negative trend in some counties was as a consequence of movement of livestock from sites near farmlands as crops matured and dwindling forage levels in sites adjacent to water sources. The longest return trekking distance of 16.4 kilometres was reported in Marsabit among

the arid counties with Lamu equally recording the longest distance of 5.1 kilometres among the semi-arid counties. In reference to the usual trekking distance for the month of December, only Mandera and Kwale reported a distance that was outside the normal range. Recharge of water facilities over December period was the major factor that influenced the lower than usual trekking distance across the month under review.

Table 10.0: Distance from Grazing area to Main Water Sources, December 2024

Current status			Trend		
Above LTA	At LTA	Below LTA	Improving	Stable	Worsening
Mandera Kwale	Samburu, Embu Makueni, Narok West- Pokot Marsabit, Nyeri Tana River Wajir, Kitui Laikipia	Baringo, Garissa Isiolo, Turkana Kajiado, Kilifi Lamu, Taita Taveta Meru, Tharaka Nithi	Garissa, Lamu Turkana Tana River, Kwale, Narok Kajiado, Kilifi Makueni Taita Taveta Tharaka Nithi	Samburu Kitui Meru Nyeri West Pokot	Baringo Isiolo Mandera Marsabit Wajir, Embu Laikipia

1.6 Terms of trade

Approximately 57 percent of the counties recorded stability in the terms of trade attributable to minimal shifts in the price of goat relative to the previous month (Table 11). Decline in terms of trade noted in some areas could be ascribed to the increase in price of maize witnessed over the subject month under review. The lowest terms of trade of 39.5 and 97 was reported in Turkana and Nyeri among the arid and semi-arid counties respectively and thus pastoral households in these counties remained disadvantaged due to the unfavorable terms of trade implying low purchasing power. Generally, the terms of trade recorded over the month under review were above the long-term average in all the counties. The observed scenario could be attributed to the maize prices that remained moderate and within the seasonal range coupled with the slightly elevated goat prices driven by the good body condition.

Table 11.0: Terms of Trade, December 2024

Current status			Trend		
Above LTA	At LTA	Below LTA	Improving	Stable	Worsening
Baringo, Garissa, Isiolo Mandera, Marsabit Samburu, Tana River Turkana, Wajir, Embu Kajiado, Kilifi, Kitui Kwale, Laikipia, Lamu Makueni, Meru, Narok Nyeri, Taita Taveta Tharaka Nithi			Garissa Kajiado Laikipia Lamu Meru Taita Taveta	Isiolo Samburu Tana River Turkana Kilifi Kitui Narok	Baringo, Mandera Marsabit, Wajir Embu, West Pokot Kwale, Makueni Nyeri, Tharaka Nithi

1.7. Health and nutrition

Nutrition situation remained stable in roughly 65 percent of the counties (Table 12). Notable factors cited for the observed trend included: good terms of trade that translated to improved access to diverse foods via the market and availability of milk, green vegetables and fruits at household level out of own production. The nutrition situation was however on a worsening trend in select counties such as Mandera, Wajir and Marsabit ascribed to inadequate and unbalanced food intake due to high poverty rates, and high disease prevalence. The reported malnutrition rates remained within the seasonal ranges in approximately 78 percent of the counties with the only exceptions being Baringo, Lamu, Meru, Mandera and Turkana. The positive situation could be attributed to availability of milk, expanded mass screening and medical outreaches. On the contrary, poor feeding and child care practices was driving the negative situation in the prior mentioned counties.

Table 12.0: Children at risk of malnutrition (MUAC), December 2024

Current status			Trend		
Above LTA	At LTA	Below LTA	Improving	Stable	Worsening
Baringo, Meru Lamu Mandera Turkana	Kajiado Tharaka- Nithi Garissa, Embu Marsabit Kitui West Pokot	Isiolo, Samburu Tana River Wajir, Kilifi Kwale, Laikipia Makueni Narok, Nyeri Taita Taveta	Samburu Tana River Kwale Laikipia Makueni	Garissa, Isiolo Turkana, Narok Kajiado, Kilifi Kitui, Nyeri Taita Taveta West Pokot	Baringo, Wajir Mandera, Meru Marsabit, Embu Lamu Tharaka Nithi

2.0 Drought phase classification

Based on the range of early warning indicators monitored through the drought early warning system, 20 ASAL counties are at the ‘Normal’ phase while three Counties including Wajir, Mandera and Kilifi are at ‘Alert’ drought phase as shown in table 13.

Table 13.0: Drought phase classification, December 2024

Drought status	Trend		
	Improving	Stable	Worsening/ Deteriorating
Normal	Tana River, Embu, Taita Taveta, Tharaka Nithi	Garissa, Isiolo, Samburu, Turkana, Kitui, Kwale, Laikipia, Makueni, Narok, Nyeri	Baringo, Marsabit, Kajiado, Lamu, Meru, West Pokot
Alert	Kilifi	Mandera, Wajir	
Alarm			
Emergency			
Recovery			

Table 14: Vegetation Condition Index (VCI-3 month) as at 29th December 2024

ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT		VEGETATION GREENNESS		DROUGHT CATEGORIES/REMARKS		
County	Sub County	VCI-3 month as at 24th November 2024	VCI-3 month as at 29th December 2024	Colour	VCI values (3-month)	Drought Category
					≥50	Vegetation greenness above normal
					>=35 - <50	Normal vegetation greenness
					>=20 - <35	Moderate vegetation deficit
					>=10 - <20	Severe vegetation deficit
					<10	Extreme vegetation deficit
Baringo	County	80.31	71.25	The county recorded above normal vegetation greenness in December.		
	Central	85.99	75.59			
	North	73.05	66.28			
	South	80.94	72.4			
	Ravine	84.32	77.22			
	Mogotio	86.09	79.88			
	Tiaty	79.42	68.31			
Mandera	County	73.35	48.7	The county and majority of its sub counties recorded normal vegetation greenness in		
	Lafey	78.45	54.2			

	North	81.83	54.32	December. Lafey and Mandera North remained stable at above normal vegetation greenness.
	Banissa	61.46	46.52	
	West	67.68	42.69	
	South	74.52	47.81	
	East	68.37	39.55	
Turkana	County	76.24	72.66	The county recorded above normal vegetation greenness during the month under review.
	East	66.91	57.61	
	South	77.79	72.09	
	Loima	87.86	83.02	
	Central	83.62	74.92	
	West	84.13	84.59	
	North	67.02	66.7	
Marsabit	County	62.81	48.04	The county declined to normal vegetation greenness in December which is low when compared to previous month of November.
	Laisamis	64.18	47.5	
	Moyale	52.62	41.89	
	North Horr	64.05	49.9	
	Saku	73.41	48.27	
Wajir	County	57.03	34.15	The county declined at moderate vegetation deficit in December. However, two sub counties Wajir (North and East) and Tarbaj recorded Normal vegetation greenness. Wajir West recorded the worst at severe vegetation deficit.
	Tarbaj	66.43	37.97	
	North	71.16	48.02	
	South	49.67	33.56	
	West	45.49	19	
	Eldas	58.79	24.6	
	East	62.69	38.55	
Samburu	County	68.73	62.26	The County maintained stability with vegetation greenness levels remaining above normal throughout the month under review.
	East	62.11	55.64	
	North	72.95	66.42	
	West	81.28	75.02	
Garissa	County	49.91	49.31	The county and its two sub counties (Lagdera and Dadaab) recorded Normal Vegetation greenness in the month of December.
	Balambala	59.34	54.24	
	Township	45.98	53.41	
	Ijara	51.44	54.77	
	Fafi	44.99	52.25	
	Lagdera	58.51	42.34	
	Dadaab	45.88	39.29	
Isiolo	County	63.38	38.14	The County declined to normal vegetation greenness levels. While Isiolo North declined to moderate vegetation deficit.
	North	63.48	31.86	
	South	63.22	47.74	
Tana River	County	42.54	51.49	The county and all its sub counties improved to above normal vegetation greenness levels throughout the month of December. Bura recorded normal vegetation greenness.
	Bura	49.78	49.5	
	Galole	37.58	56.42	
	Garsen	39.49	50.11	
Kajiado	County	84.97	76.12	The county recorded stability in vegetation greenness at above normal vegetation greenness in the month of November.
	Central	87.05	79.55	
	East	87.42	69.2	
	North	89.27	82.96	
	South	70.79	69.3	
	West	94.15	82.53	

Laikipia	County	76.8	66.08	The county recorded stability in vegetation greenness at above normal vegetation greenness during the month under review.
	East	57.53	57.8	
	North	81.18	66.57	
	West	77.9	69.17	
Tharaka Nithi	County	56.27	45.32	The county recorded above normal vegetation greenness. Tharaka sub county recorded Normal vegetation greenness in the month under review.
	Chuka	73.32	56.94	
	Maara	72.63	62.07	
	Tharaka	44.63	35.59	
West Pokot	County	81.14	74.01	The county recorded stability in vegetation greenness in above normal vegetation greenness during the month of December.
	Kacheliba	79.23	71.94	
	Kapenguria	82.57	76.57	
	Pokot south	91.62	83.68	
	Sigor	77.19	69.9	
Embu	County	74.65	60.33	The county and its sub counties recorded above normal vegetation greenness during the month under review.
	Manyatta	79.62	65.66	
	Mbeere north	70.63	56.98	
	Mbeere south	73.2	60.12	
	Runyenjes	83.65	62.67	
Kitui	County	55.99	57.28	The county and all sub counties recorded a stability in vegetation greenness at above normal vegetation greenness during the month of December.
	Kitui central	79.31	60.73	
	Kitui east	52.36	57.06	
	Kitui rural	87.03	61.94	
	Kitui south	49.06	56.82	
	Kitui west	79.32	62.27	
	Mwingi central	56.64	56.99	
	Mwingi north	56.93	53.76	
	Mwingi west	83.53	68.94	
Makueni	County	80.06	66.91	The county recorded above normal vegetation greenness in December, which was stable when compared to previous month of November.
	Kaiti	101.13	82.67	
	Kibwezi east	57.81	52.19	
	Kibwezi west	72.8	65.9	
	Kilome	92.78	70.12	
	Makueni	94.42	75.63	
	Mbooni	105.84	80.59	
Meru	County	73.16	59.5	The county recorded above normal vegetation greenness across the sub-counties during the month of December.
	Buuri	84.88	67.24	
	Central Imenti	76.62	60.48	
	Igembe central	66.65	56.8	
	Igembe north	68	53.07	
	Igembe south	60.05	55.64	
	North Imenti	81.82	53.71	
	South Imenti	81.47	70.92	
	Tigania east	65.03	54.65	
	Tigania west	74.09	54.25	
Nyeri	County	81.42	72.29	The county remained stable recording above normal vegetation greenness in December.
	Kieni	81.61	71.28	
	Mathira	86.2	77.39	

	Mukurweini	74.28	70.13	
	Nyeri town	74.3	65.01	
	Othaya	80.09	74.14	
	Tetu	82.7	73.9	
Kilifi	County	26.44	34.57	The county recorded moderate vegetation deficit in the month of December. Kaloleni, Ganze and Kilifi south, recorded moderate vegetation deficit while Kilifi North, Magarini and Malindi sub counties recorded an improvement to normal vegetation greenness.
	Ganze	22.1	27.52	
	Kaloleni	32.43	31.03	
	Kilifi north	33.97	40.67	
	Kilifi south	35.95	25.89	
	Magarini	25.67	37.63	
	Malindi	30.33	40.27	
	Rabai	35.48	22.89	
Kwale	County	31.04	31.5	The vegetation condition index recorded was moderate vegetation deficit in December which was a stable when compared to last month. Kinango and Lungalunga sub counties recorded moderate vegetation greenness while Msabweni and Matuga recorded normal vegetation greenness.
	Kinango	26.09	28.16	
	Lunga Lunga	31.73	31.45	
	Matuga	47.69	42.98	
	Msambweni	43.97	42.22	
Lamu	County	57.06	54.59	The county recorded stability in vegetation condition at above normal vegetation greenness condition while Lamu West sub county recorded Normal vegetation greenness during the month of December.
	Lamu east	71.04	60.42	
	Lamu west	48.98	51.22	
Taita Taveta	County	49.56	44.44	The county and two sub counties (Mwatate and Voi) remained in Normal vegetation greenness compared with the previous month of November.
	Mwatate	40.75	37.86	
	Taveta	64.03	52.51	
	Voi	44.27	41.22	
	Wundanyi	70.12	64.6	
Narok	County	76.98	79.01	The County remained at above normal vegetation greenness in the month of December which was stable when compared to the last month of November.
	Emurua Dikirr	73.95	82.1	
	Kilgoris	70.22	71.36	
	Narok east	75.42	77.17	
	Narok north	65.14	69.89	
	Narok south	83.45	83.59	
	Narok west	83.76	83.58	