

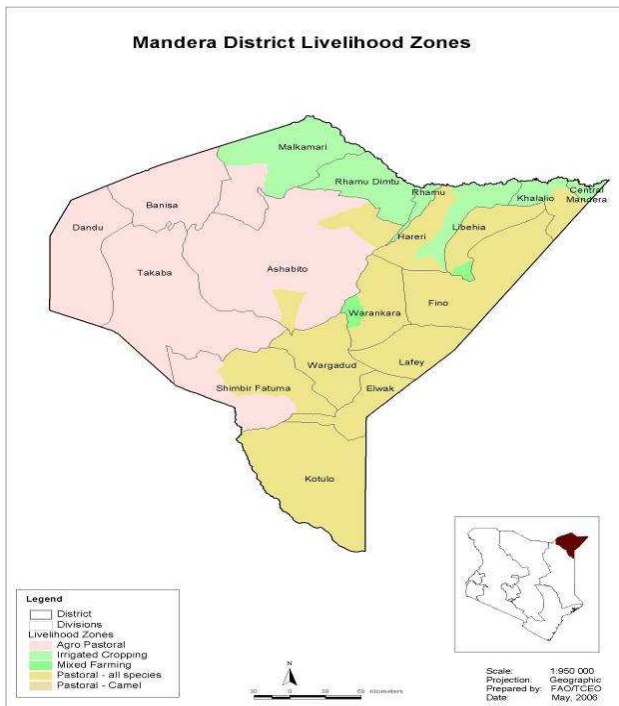


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, OCTOBER 2008

Mandera District

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Pastoral- all species	Alert	Improving
Agro pastoral	Alert	Improving
Irrigated Cropping	Normal	Improving

TIMELINE ACTIVITIES

Short Dry Spell (Jilaal)			Long Rainy Reason (Gu')			Long Dry Spell (Hagai)			Short Rainy Season (Deyr)		
January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December

Situation Overview

- The short rains started earlier than expected in most parts of the district. Mandera station recorded 69mm of rainfall, Rhanu 58.3mm and Elwak 11.2mm. The rainfall was above normal except in Elwak, where the trend was below normal.
- The rainfall reversed the drought stress experienced the previous month.
- Quality and quantity of pasture and browse improved following the rainfall received.
- Livestock body condition was fair due to regenerated pasture and browse in the district.
- The main sources of water for the month of October were River Daua, earth pans, underground water tanks, water trucking, boreholes and shallow wells.
- Most of the earth pans and underground water tanks in Mandera East and West recharged sufficiently, although a few areas in Mandera Central and West still reported water stress.
- The average prices of livestock increased due to fair body conditions.
- The main sources of income for the month of October were sale of livestock and casual labour. The average daily wage for the month was Ksh180 compared to Ksh 174 in September.
- Cases of pneumonia and CCPP in goats were reported in the entire district.
- Cereal and legume prices rose compared to the previous month.
- Floods in Mandera town displaced at least 1,000 households but the Government, Red Cross and other actors intervened and assisted them with food and non-food items.
- Inter-clan fighting left at least seven people and a military officer dead. However, the situation normalised following a military operation in Lafey, Elwak, Wargadud and Warankara divisions, in which illegal fire arms were seized.
- The nutrition status of children below five improved slightly, with percentage of those rated as being at risk of malnutrition falling to 15.6 from 16.4 in September.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSSG

- Continue water trucking to 18 centres with water stress.
- Health education for communities on water purification and provision of chlorine for treatment, especially earth pans and underground water tanks to curb outbreak of diarrheal and other water borne diseases.
- Provision of treated nets to poor households along the riverine.
- Promotion of peaceful co-existence and sharing of available resources between communities in Lafey, Wargadud, Gari and Elwak triangle.
- Provision of certified/drought-tolerant seeds to farmers in the rain-fed and irrigated cropping zone and assist DAO Mandera East to transport seeds from Garissa.

Current interventions

Non-food aid

The following interventions were carried out in the district during the month;

- ALRMP facilitated peace dialogue meeting between the warring communities in Mandera town.

- Red Cross in conjunction with AAH, Ministry of Water distributed buckets, utensils, aqua tabs, tarpaulins, collapsible jerricans and blankets to flood victims in Mandera town.

Food aid

- Supplementary feeding by Action Against Hunger.
- Therapeutic feeding centers (TFC) in Mandera district hospital by AAH.
- Distribution of relief food by WFP and COCOP, with 15,892 beneficiaries.
- GOK distributed food to flood victims in Mandera town.

DSG meeting and recommendations

Agenda;

- September EWS Bulletin
- Echo food aid.
- Number of Long Rains assessment beneficiaries.

1.0 Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall

Station	Actual Amount	Normal Rainfall Expected	Trend
Mandera	69.0mm	41.7mm	Above Normal
Rhamu	58.3mm	34.9mm	Above Normal
Elwak	11.2mm	44.5mm	Below Normal

Source: Metrological station- Mandera

- The stations in Mandera and Rhamu recorded above normal rains, while Elwak station recorded below normal rainfall.
- The short rains started earlier than usual in most parts of the district.
- Mandera Central received limited rainfall compared to Eastern and West during month under review.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Pasture quality and quantity was poor in all divisions during the first week of the month but started regenerating after start of the short rains.
- The eastern and western parts had more pasture compared to central part.
- The average distance to grazing areas was 6.8km, while average distance for households was 4km.
- Compared to September, the average grazing distance decreased by 6.1 kms.

1.3 Water sources and availability

- The main water sources for the district livelihoods during the month were boreholes, River Daua, shallow wells, underground water tanks and earth pans.
- Almost all earth pans in eastern flanks had recharged but boreholes remained the main sources of water.

- The areas experiencing water stress in the western part included Dandu location, Kob Adhadi, Gotgot and Sukhela Qore. The other areas had water which was expected to last one to two months.
- Areas with water stress in Central were Ashabito, Garse, Ola, Barwaqo, Kubi, Jabi bar, Chir chir, Ogorweyne, Elele Cha chabbole, Dawader, Boji, Burmayo and Garsa Damo.

1.4 Emerging issues

- There were floods in Mandera town during the month, which displaced at least 1, 000 households.
- However, the Government, Red Cross and other actors intervened assisted the victims with food and non-food items.

1.4.1 Insecurity/conflict

- Inter-clan fighting left at least seven people and a military officer dead.
- However, the situation normalised following a military operation in Lafey Elwak, Wargadud and Warankara divisions, in which illegal fire arms were seized.

1.5 Implications on food security

- Availability of water, pasture and browse improved body conditions of livestock and this impacted positively on pastoral returns and economy, hence positive impact on food security.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (availability of food)

2.1 Livestock production

- The main livestock reared by the pastoralists are camels, cattle, goats and sheep.
- Camels and cattle are long term assets, while shoats are short term assets/current assets.

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- The body condition of livestock was fair during the month under review and expected to improve further.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- Cases of CCPP were reported in the districts.
- Pneumonia in goats was also reported in the district.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk availability increased compared to previous month due to better availability of pasture and water.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timelines and status of crop production activities

- The main crops were horticultural crops such as pawpaw, kales and bananas, were supplied in Mandera town.

- Farmers in the agro-pastoral and irrigated zones started planting crops such as maize, sorghum and cowpeas at the onset of the short rains season.

2.2.2 Pest and diseases

- Aphids in tomatoes and citrus fruits were reported during the month under review.

2.2.3 Harvest

- A few farmers harvested maize and cow peas along the riverine during the month under review.

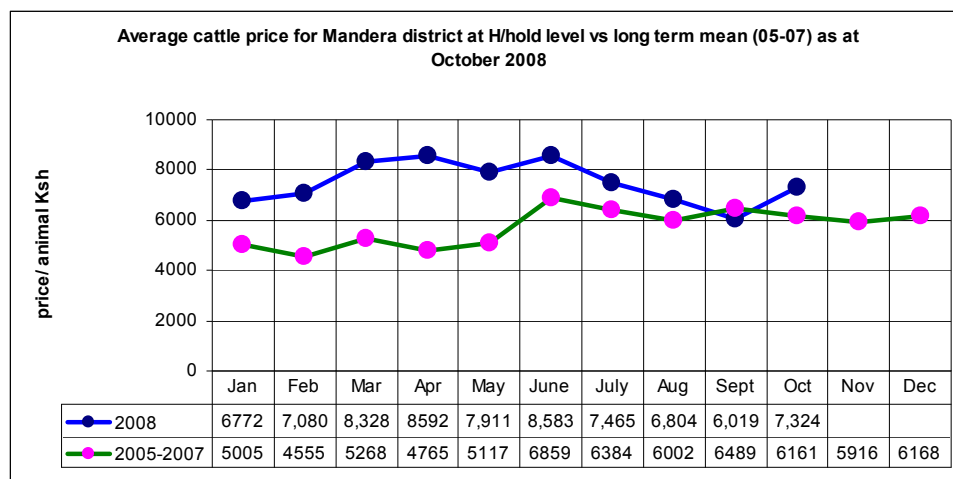
2.3 Implications on food security

- Most farmers in the irrigated and agro-pastoral zones started planting crops, which was a positive sign for food security in the district.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices



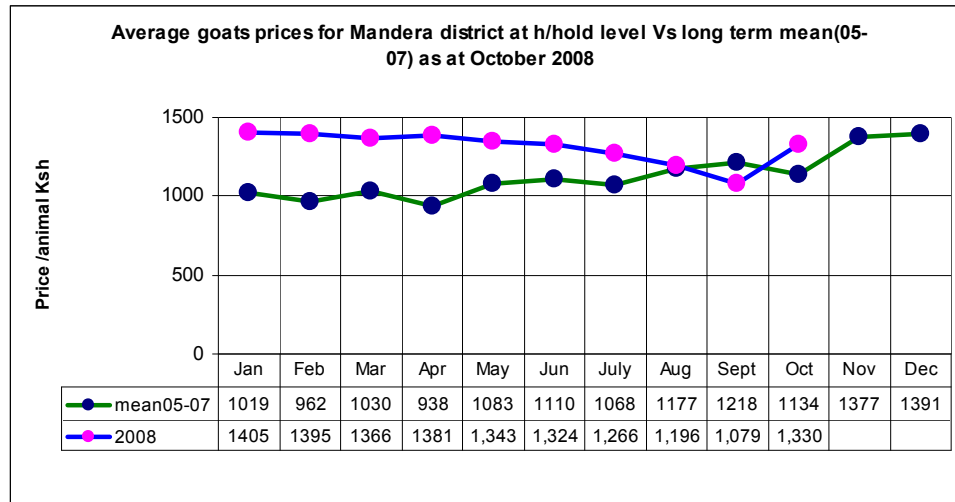
NB: No of Households: 416

- Average cattle prices increased from Ksh6,019 in September to 7,324.
- The increased was attributed to fair body condition and increased demand.
- Compared to long term mean, the average price was higher by Ksh1163.
- The highest price was recorded in pastoral all species zone at Ksh 8,000. The highest price in the Irrigated cropping zone was Ksh7,000, while the agro-pastoral zone recorded Ksh6, 971.

3.1.2 Goat prices

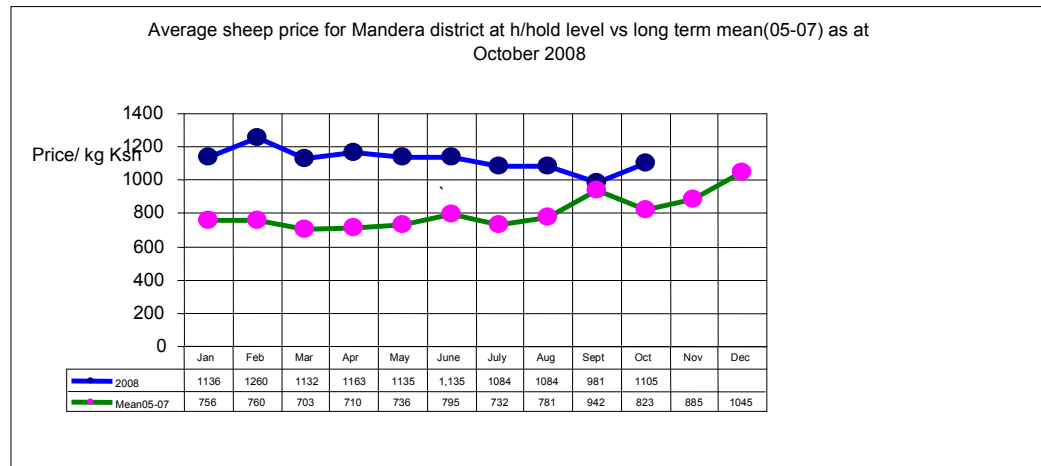
- Goat prices rose to Ksh 1,330 from Ksh1,079 in September.
- The price increase was attributed to fair body condition and increased market demand.
- The high prices increased the purchasing power and food security of households as most rural households rely on goat sales to meet every day needs.

- Compared to long term mean, the average price was higher by Ksh196.
- The Pastoral all species zone recorded the highest average prices at Ksh 1,414, followed by agro-pastoral at Ksh1,349 and irrigated cropping at ksh1,228.



NB: No of Households: 416

3.1.3 Sheep prices

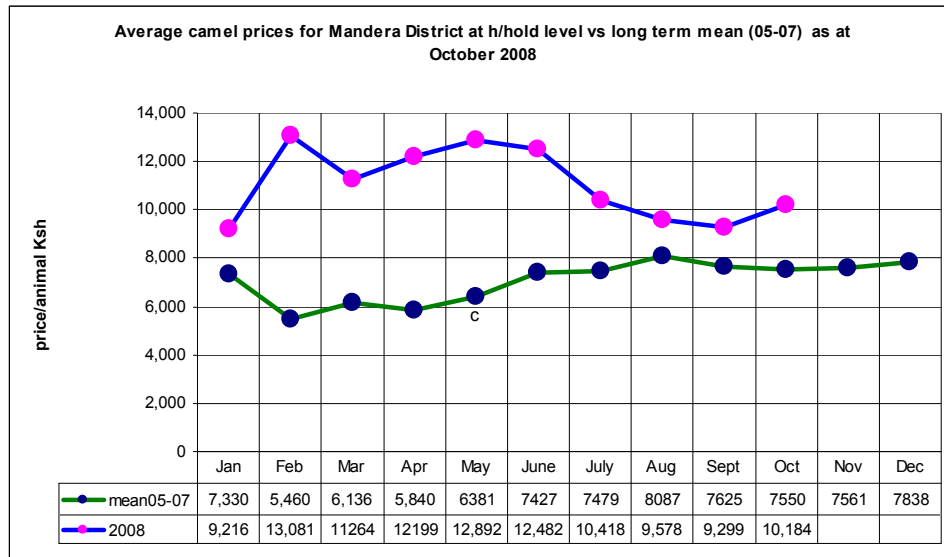


: No of households: 416

- Average sheep prices rose from Ksh981 in September to Ksh1,105.
- The price increase was attributed to fair body condition and increased demand.
- Compared to long term mean, the average price was higher by Ksh282.
- The trend was normal for the time of the year.
- The highest average price was recorded in the agro-pastoral zone at Ksh1,289, followed by Pastoral all species zone at Ksh1,021 and irrigated cropping at Ksh 1,006.

3.1.4 Camel prices

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: No of households: 416

- Average camel price rose from Ksh9,299 in September to Ksh10,184 in the month of October.
- The price increase was due to high market demand and fair body condition.
- The highest price was recorded in pastoral all species followed by agro-pastoral.
- The price was higher than the long term mean Ksh 2,634.

3.2 Livestock sales

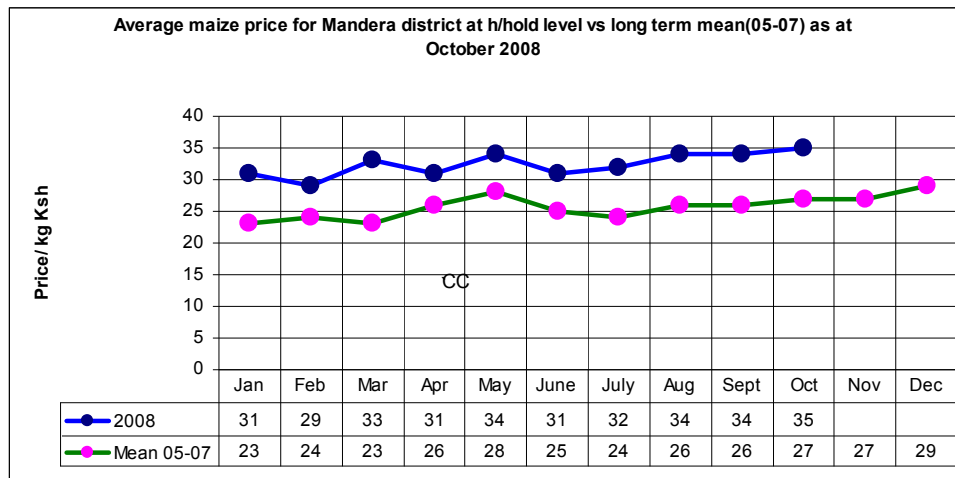
- The average sales of goats, cattle, camel and sheep were 244, 61, 39 and 70 respectively with total sales of 414 during the month of October.
- In the previous month, total sales for all animal species were 406.
- The highest cattle sales were recorded in the agro-pastoral zone, followed by pastoral, while highest sheep sales were recorded in agro-pastoral zone followed by Pastoral all species.
- Highest goat sales were recorded in the pastoral all species followed agro-pastoral zone and camels in the agro-pastoral followed by pastoral all species zone.
- Most households depended on livestock to meet their basic essential needs.

3.3 Milk consumption

- Milk consumption increased compared to last month.

3.4 Crop prices

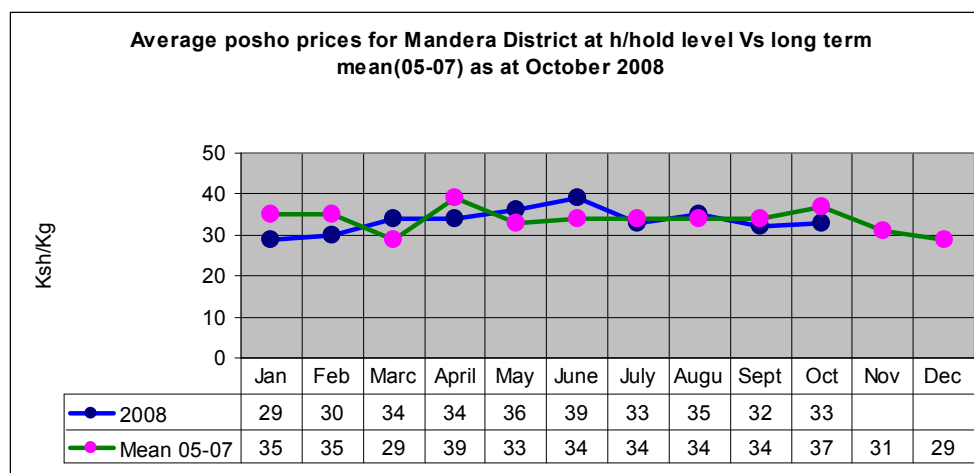
3.4.1 Maize prices



: No of households: 416

- The average maize price during the month was Ksh35 per kilo.
- Compared to last month, the price rose by only a shilling.
- However, the price was higher by Ksh8 compared to the long term mean.

3.4.2 Posho (maize meal) prices



: No of households: 416

- The average posho price during the month was Ksh33 per kilo.
- Compared to last month, the average price increased by only a shilling.
- The price was lower than the long term mean by four shillings.

3.4.4 Other major food crops/ major purchased food

- Other foods purchased by the communities were oil, rice and sugar.
- The price of sugar was Ksh 76, Rice Ksh 68 and Oil Ksh114.

3.5 Income

3.5.1 Livestock income

- The main source of income for all livelihoods during the month under review was livestock sales and casual labour.
- The sales rate of camels, cattle, sheep and goats was average.

3.5.2 Crops income

- The main income from crops was realized from sale of vegetable such as tomatoes, kales, and onions, which were supplied to markets in the urban centres.

3.5.3 Casual labour

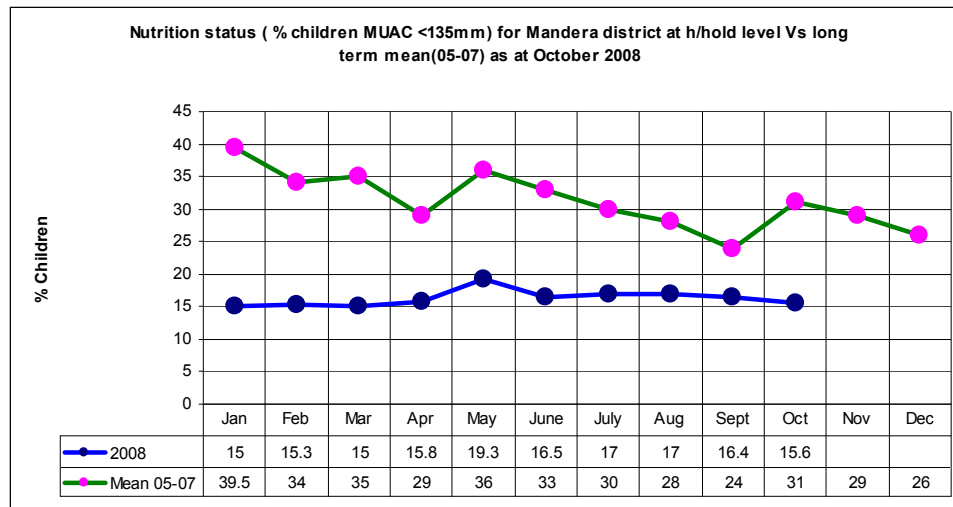
- The average daily wage from sampled divisions was Ksh 180 but generally ranged between Ksh150 and Ksh 200 per day.
- Compared to the preceding month, the average daily wage fell by Ksh6.
- The highest average income was noted in the irrigated cropping zone, followed by pastoral all species and agro-pastoral zones.

3.6 Implications on food security

- The insignificant rise in food prices impacted positively on food security in the district, while high livestock prices boosted the pastoralists' purchasing power.

4.0 Welfare indicators (utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



: Total No of Children: 1,303

- The nutrition status of children below five improved slightly, with percentage of those rated as being at risk of malnutrition falling to 15.6 from 16.4 in September.
- Compared to long term mean, the rate was down by 15.4 percent.
- Ashabito division reported the highest rate at 18.2 per cent, while Hareri division recorded 13.4.

4.2 Health

- There was no out break of diseases reported during the month under review.

4.3 Flagged Areas

- Water trucking should be continued to areas with water stress.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non-food aid

The following interventions were carried out in the district during the month;

- ALRMP facilitated peace dialogue meeting between the warring communities in Mandera town.
- Red Cross in conjunction with AAH, Ministry of Water distributed buckets, utensils, aqua tabs, tarpaulins, collapsible jerricans and blankets to flood victims in Mandera town.

5.2 Food aid

- Supplementary feeding by Action Against Hunger.
- Therapeutic feeding centers (TFC) in Mandera district hospital by AAH.
- Distribution of relief food by WFP and COCOP, with 15,892 beneficiaries.
- GOK distributed food to flood victims in Mandera town.

5.3 Other coping strategies

The current coping strategies used by most households during the month were;

- Causal works by the Agro-pastorals and pastorals.
- Sharing of relief food with pastoral relatives.

6.0 Recommendations

- Continue water trucking to 18 centres with water stress. -Action-DWOs-Mandera West, Central, Arid lands and other Actors.
- Health education for communities on water purification and provision of chlorine for treatment, especially earth pans and underground water tanks to curb outbreak of diarrheal and other water borne diseases.-Action Ministry of Health.
- Provision of treated nets to poor households along the riverine.-Action Ministry of Health and other actors.
- Promotion of peaceful co-existence and sharing of available resources between communities in Lafey, Wargadud, Gari and Elwak triangle.- Action-Provincial Administration in Mandera Central and East Districts.
- Provision of certified/drought-tolerant seeds to farmers in the rain-fed and irrigated cropping zone and assist DAO Mandera East to transport seeds from Garissa-Action-All actors and Ministry of Agriculture.