

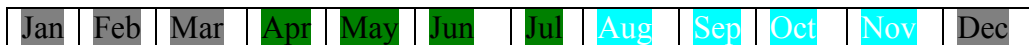
DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, AUGUST 2008

East Pokot/ Baringo Districts

Warning Stages

Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Pastoral	Alarm	Improving
Agro pastoral	Alarm	Improving
Irrigated Cropping	Alarm	Improving
Mixed farming	Alarm	Improving

Timeline



Dry season :- (Land preparation, minimal calving, lambing & kidding)

Long rains :- (Planting, most kidding & lambing and minimal calving & honey harvesting)

Short rains :- (Most calving & honey harvesting and minimal kidding & lambing, pre-harvest & harvesting)

Situation overview

- 101.2 mm of rainfall was recorded in the districts during the month under review.
- Though sporadic, the rainfall impacted positively on grazing and water resources.
- Quality and quantity of forage improved, resulting in better livestock body condition due to the slight rejuvenation of forage.
- Water availability for households and livestock improved.
- Milk production slightly improved during the month.

- The average prices of cattle and goats improved slightly but remained low for sheep. The slight increase in livestock prices was attributed to demand. However, poultry prices remained low due to low demand.
- The average prices of food and other non-food commodities rose during the month due to scarce supplies in markets within the district and in neighboring districts. The price increase was also attributed to high demand for food.
- Casual labour, petty trade such as brewing of local beer and sale of charcoal and wood products were the alternative sources of income for most households during the month.
- The nutritional status of children below five years improved slightly, with those rated as being at the risk of malnutrition dropping from 24.4 per cent in July to 22.1. The improvement was attributed to relief food distribution by the Red Cross Society during the month.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSSG

- The veterinary department / agencies should step up support to the livestock health sub sector through vaccinations and treatment of clinical cases. More effort should be directed to the upsurge of CCPP in Endao (Marigat division), ECF in Kerio valley and LSD in Ng'ambo (Marigat division).
- GOK and other aid agencies to ensure that the pastoralist communities in East Pokot and Baringo districts are given continuous relief food supplies and food supplements for children until the stress situation normalises.
- There is need to strengthen conflict prevention and peace-building initiatives to enhance peaceful co-existence along the borders of East Pokot, Baringo, Turkana and Samburu districts.

Current interventions

Non-food interventions

- Construction of 2 classrooms each for Chesitet and Natan communities in East Pokot district - ALRMP/ Community.
- Construction of tank and installation of pump for Kolowa water project - ALRMP.
- Construction of roof rain harvesting tank for Kamurio primary school - ALRMP.
- Laying of pipes for Tangelbei borehole – ALRMP / Ministry of water.
- Solar fencing of farms in Salabani and chain-link fencing of Tilingwo (Kerio farmers) communities in Baringo district – ALRMP.
- Laying of pipes and tank construction for Karimadow Borehole in Churo division – ALRMP.
- Construction of girls' dormitory in Chepkesin primary school - ALRMP/ Community.
- Equipping of Kapturo dispensary in Bartabwa division - ALRMP/ Community.
- Excavation of Koloruk and Kanapus water pans in East Pokot district – CDF.
- Installation of water hand pumps in Sowo and Mokongwo villages in East Pokot district – CDF.
- Peace-building initiatives in the by various stakeholders- PSC, DPC, DSC, World Vision, community elders, youth groups, political leaders, pastors and ALRMP.

Food aid

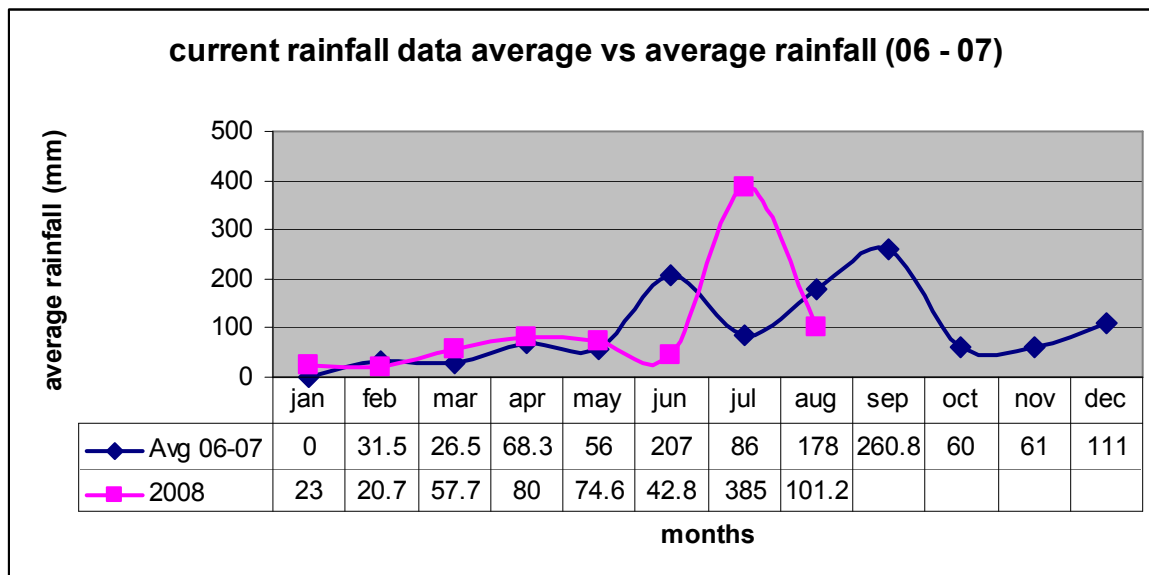
Distribution of relief food by the Red Cross Society. RSC distributed 1,152 metric tones of cereals, 60 metric tones of pulses, 15 metric tones of vegetable oil and 20 metric tones of corn soya blend (CSB) in Baringo and East Pokot districts during the month.

DSG meeting and recommendations

The DSG held a meeting on August 1, 2008, with the team that was assessing the long rains impact in the two districts.

1 Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall



Source: ALRMP rain gauge data stations

- 101.2 mm average rainfall was received during the month compared to 385 mm in July.
- The rainfall was normal at the time of the year and it impacted positively on pasture and water resources.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- The quality and quantity of forage in most parts improved slightly due to the showers received. However, there was general poor rejuvenation of pasture in the season due to the long dry spell experienced earlier.
- The average distance to grazing areas increased during the month due to depleted pasture and browse following influx of animals from the dry season grazing areas.
- The distance to grazing fields increased to an average of 8.3 km from 7.4 km in July.

1.3 Water sources and availability

- There was significant recharge of water sources following the showers received in parts of the district during the month.

- The main water sources were pans and dams, natural rivers, traditional river wells, shallow wells, springs, boreholes and lakes.
- Distance to water sources for most of the households decreased to an average of 2.6 km from 3.5 in July

1.4 Emerging issues

- The showers received improved the quality and quantity of browse and pasture but general poor rejuvenation was noted compared to previous seasons.
- Distances to water sources and pasture decreased during the month and some satellite herds moved back to wet season grazing areas.

1.5 Implications on food security

- Livestock body condition improved due to availability of browse and pasture and reduced distances to water.
- This contributed to better livestock prices, which boosted household food security for the pastoralists.

2. Food availability

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Livestock body condition improved in all livelihood zones following the slight rejuvenation of browse and pasture due to showers received during the month.
- This was normal at the time of the year.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- Cases of CCP, LSD and ECF were reported in the district during the month under review.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk production increased slightly due to improved health of animals as a result of improving browse and pasture conditions.
- This was normal at the time of the year since it was the long rains season.

2.2 Crop production

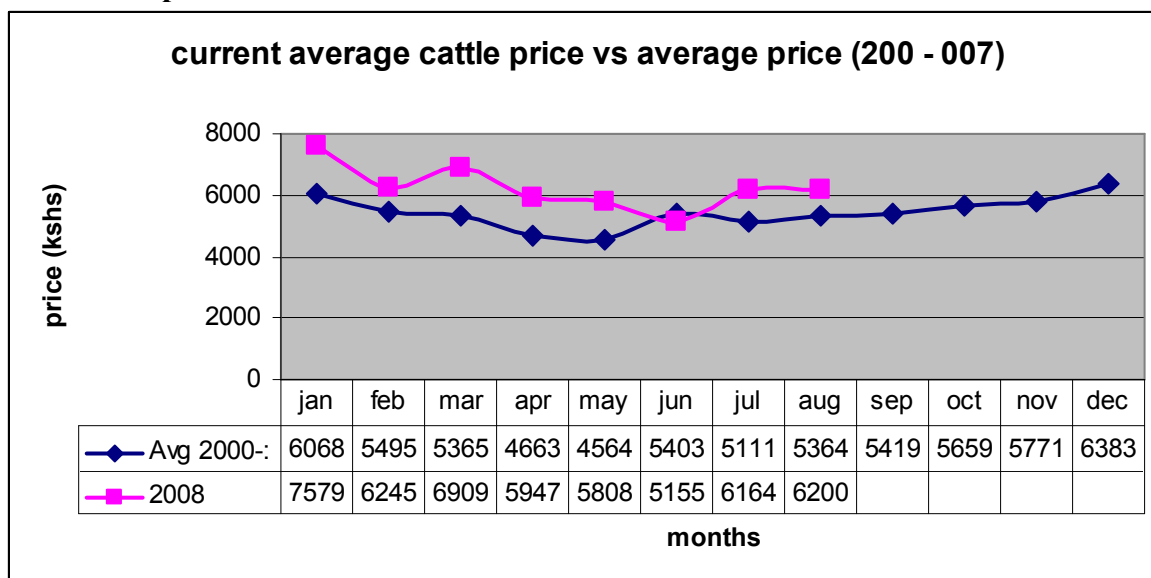
2.2.1 Timeliness and status of crop production activities

- Crops planted in the agro-pastoral livelihood zones dried up due to lack of rain, threatening food security in the area.
- The situation was not normal since weeding and pre-harvest preparations are the main farming activities for agro-pastoralists at the time of the year.

2.2.2 Implications on food security

- Milk production at household level was insufficient.
- This was a major threat to food security at the household level since most pastoralist households depend on milk. The situation was compounded further by crop failure due to inadequate rainfall
- Relief food distribution is needed in the area until the situation normalises.

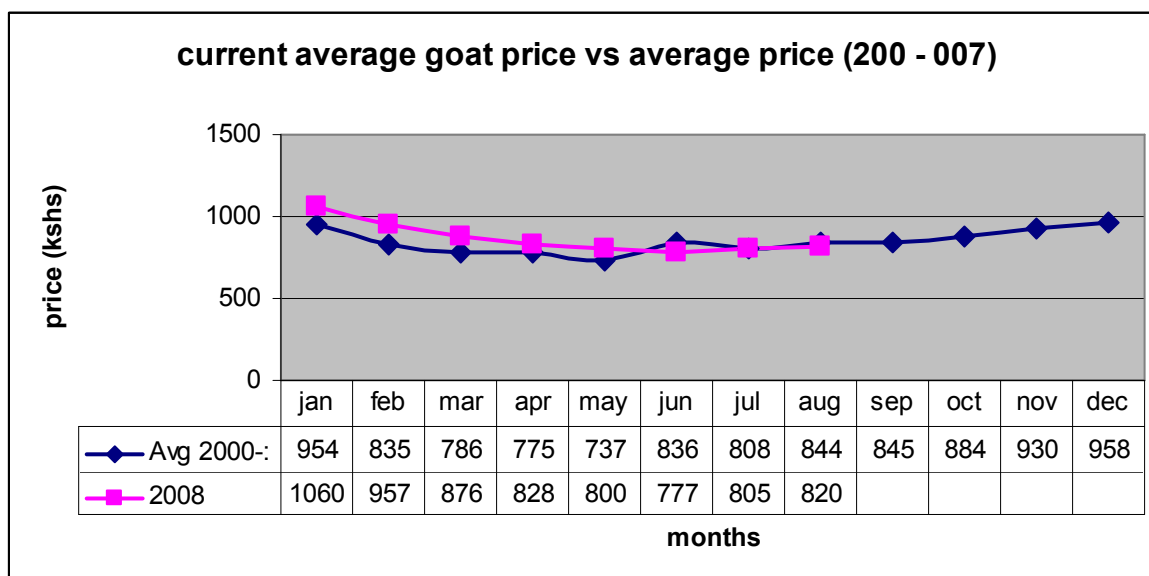
3 Access to food
3.1 Livestock marketing
3.1.1 Cattle prices



N = 480 hh

- Average cattle prices rose to Ksh 6,200 from Ksh 6,164 in July.
- The increase was expected at the time of the year but higher than the long term average.
- The rise in cattle prices was attributed to demand, which impacted positively on household food security.
- Marigat division recorded the highest average prices at Ksh 9,800 owing to fair body condition of the animals and peri-urban prices.
- Nginyang division had the lowest average price at Ksh 4,000 due poor body condition of the animals.

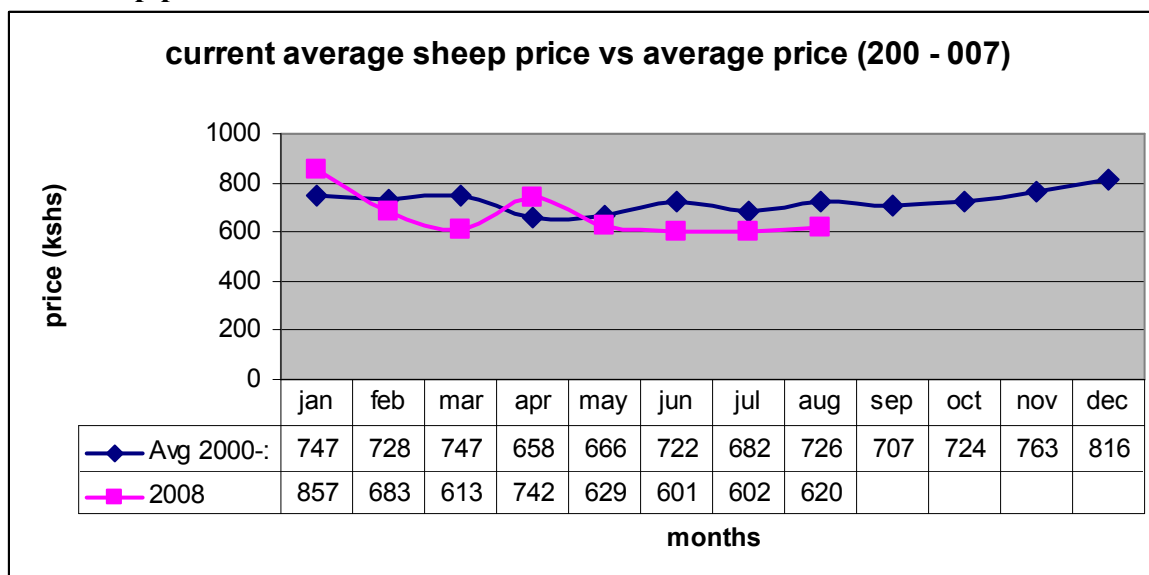
3.1.2 Goats prices



N = 480 hh

- The average goat price rose slightly to Ksh 820 from Ksh 805 in July. The price was, however, below the long term average and the slight increase was attributed to demand after the re-opening of markets in East Pokot district, which had been closed due to a PPR outbreak in February.
- The trend had a positive impact on household food security.
- Marigat division had the highest prices at Ksh 1,100 due to high demand and peri-urban prices, while Kolowa division had the lowest price at Ksh 600 owing to poor demand.

3.1.3 Sheep prices



N = 480 hh

- The average sheep price rose from Ksh 602 in July to Ksh 620. The price was attributed to low demand.
- The prices were, however, lower than the long term average, posing a threat to household food security.
- Mukutani division had the highest price at Ksh 760 owing to fair demand coupled with fair body condition, while Tangulbei division had the lowest price of Ksh 480 due to low demand.

3.1.4 Camel prices

Camels are rarely sold and are reared only in the pastoral livelihood zone.

3.2 Livestock sales

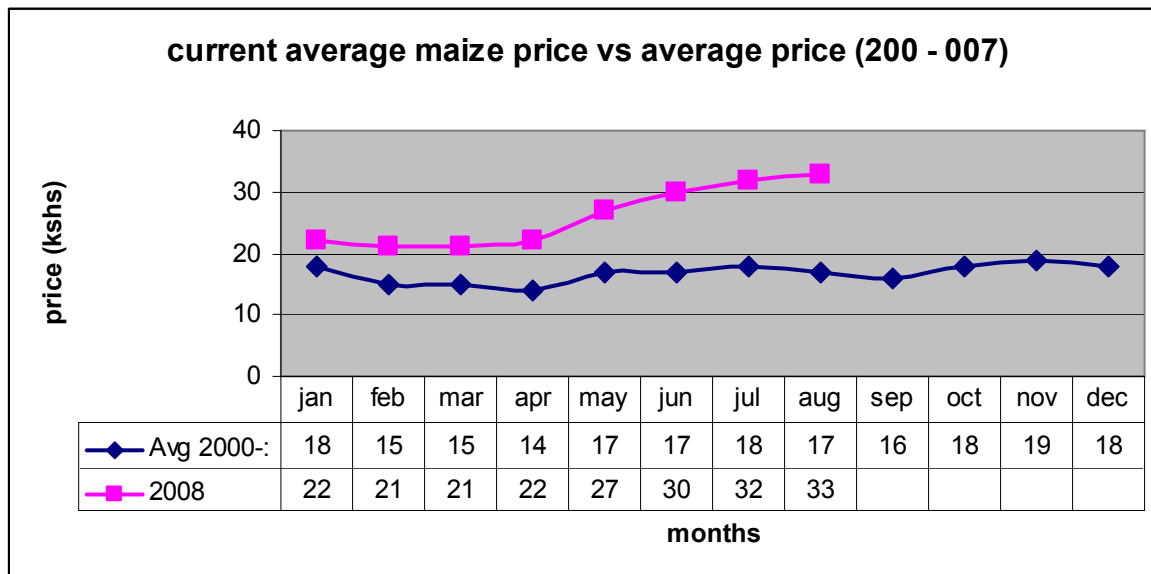
- The volume of livestock sales increased in the month compared to the previous months due to re-opening of sheep and goats markets in East Pokot district.
- Goats, sheep, poultry and cattle were the main livestock offered for sale.
- The pastoral livelihood zone had the highest sales since they depend on livestock for household needs, while the agro-pastoral and irrigated cropping livelihood zones had the lowest sales since they had other sources of income such as business, food stocks, and casual labour.
- The level of sales is not normal at this time of the year.

3.3 Milk consumption

- Milk consumption by household members was low in all livelihood zones.
- Compared to the previous month, milk consumption at household level increased slightly owing to improved body condition of livestock. This impacted positively on food security at household level, especially for children under five years.

3.4 Crop prices (market prices)

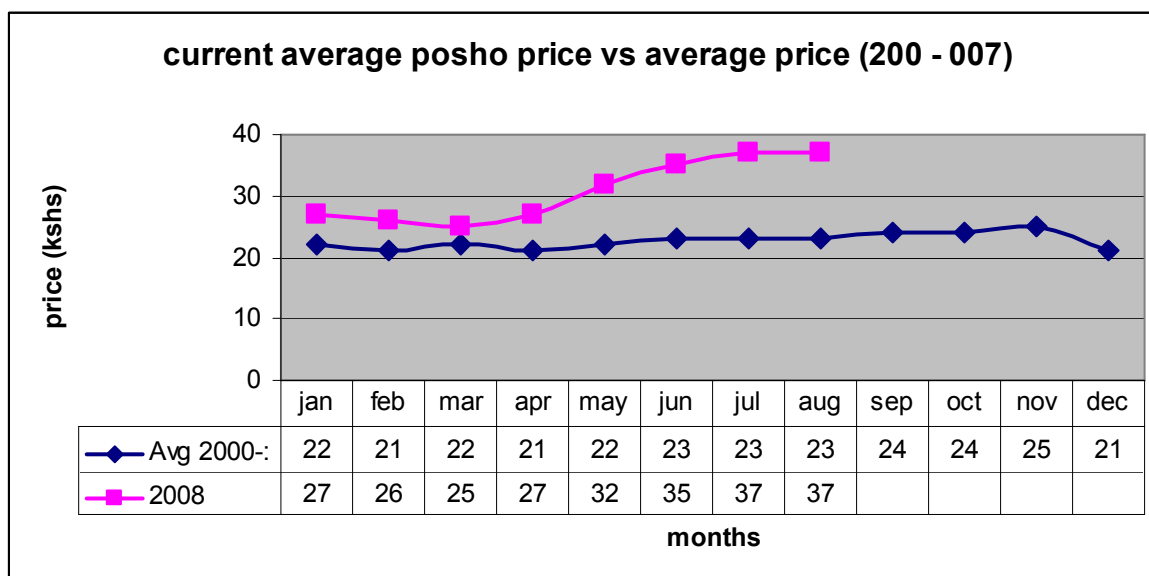
3.4.1 Maize prices



N = 480 hh

- The average maize price during the month was Ksh 33 per kilo. This was Ksh 1 more than the previous month. The highest price in the market was Ksh 55 per kg.
- The average price was almost double the long term mean due to scarcity of the food at the markets, coupled with high demand.
- The price increase was attributed to lack of adequate maize supplies from agro-pastoralists within the district and neighboring districts.
- As in the previous month, maize prices were much higher in the pastoral livelihood zone than in the agro-pastoral and irrigated farming livelihood zones.
- The average maize price per kg was not normal at the time of the year owing to the scarcity.

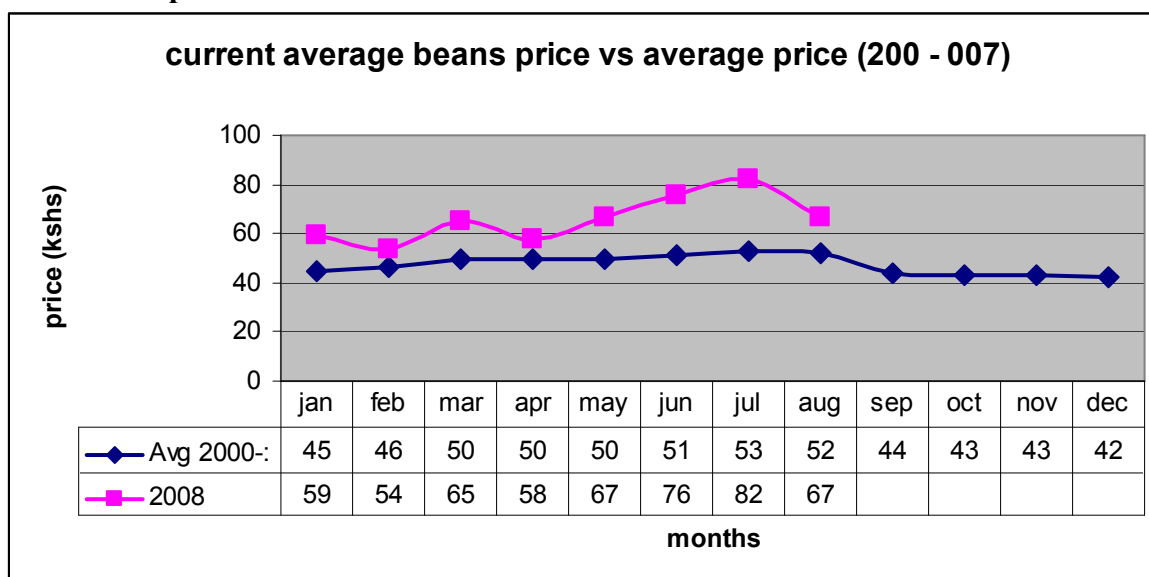
3.4.2 Posho (maize meal)



N = 480 hh

- The average price of posho during the month remained at Ksh 37 per Kg. The highest price in the market was Ksh 60 per kg.
- The average price remained stable due to low demand resulting from high price of the commodity.
- The price was however higher than the long term average, posing a threat to the purchasing power of the pastoralists.
- Posho prices were much higher in the pastoral livelihood zone than in the agro-pastoral and irrigated cropping zones. This was because the pastoral communities depend on purchases from local markets, and prices are normally dictated by supply.
- The price of posho was not normal at the time of the year.

3.4.3 Beans prices



N = 480 hh

- The average price of beans during the month was Ksh.67 per kg, which was Ksh 15 less than the previous month. The highest price in the market was Ksh 80 per kg.
- The price drop was due to supply of the commodity in the markets within the district and also from the neighboring districts. However, it was higher than the long term mean.
- The prices were too high compared to the purchasing power of the pastoralists, posing a threat to household food security.
- Beans prices were higher in the pastoral livelihood zone than in the irrigated cropping and agro- pastoral zones.
- The prices were not normal at this time of the year.

3.5 Income

3.5.1 Crops income

- Crops planted at the onset of the long rains season dried up due to lack of rain, hence little or no income was expected from crops.
- Weeding and pre-harvest preparations would have been the main farm activities.

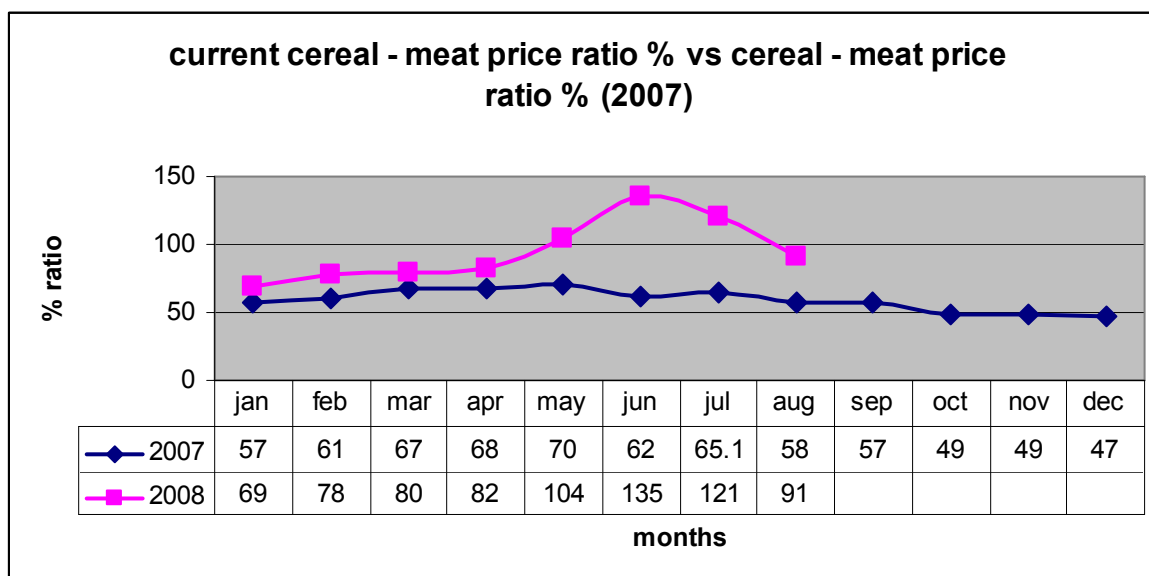
3.5.2 Livestock income

- Income from livestock sales rose slightly compared to the previous month.
- The increase was attributed to the re-opening of the goats and sheep markets in East Pokot district.
- The livestock income was not normal at this time of the year.

3.5.3 Other income

- Another major source of income during the month was casual labour, with approximately a third of the household members engaged as casual laborers.
- Other sources were sale of charcoal, sale of wood products and petty trade (brewing of local beer).
- The average daily wage for the month was Ksh110, which was slightly higher than the previous month. However, it was too little to meet the daily needs of household.
- Most of the trade in charcoal, wood products and petty trading was recorded in pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones.

3.6 Terms of trade (cereal: meat price ratio) (market based)



N = 480 hh

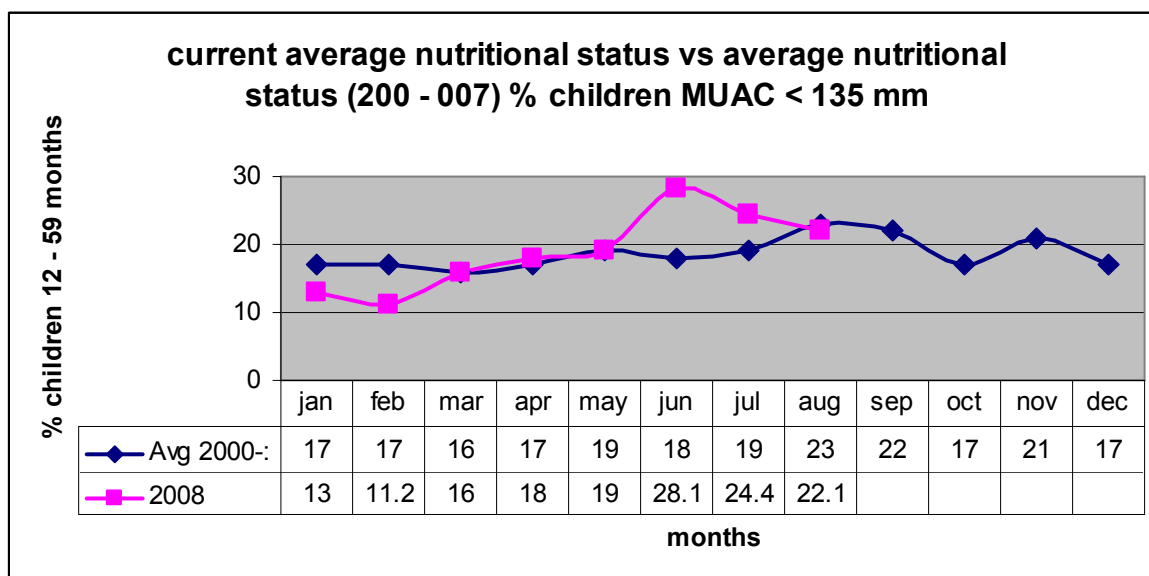
- Terms of trade improved slightly than in the previous month.
- The ratio improved due to fair prices of sheep and goats during the month. The price ratio was highest in pastoral livelihood zone due to the contrast between low livestock prices and high cereal prices to purchase cereals. It was lowest in the irrigated cropping livelihood zone owing to production of cereals and better livestock prices in the area.
- The cereal: meat price ratio was not normal at the time of the year. The ratio eroded the purchasing power of households and depleted the asset level of the pastoralists.

3.7 Implications on food security

- The low prices of livestock coupled with the erosion of the peoples' purchasing power depleted the asset level of the pastoralists, posing a threat to household food security.

4 Utilisation of food

4.1 Nutrition status (children at risk of malnutrition)



N = 1,382 children

- The nutrition status of children below five years improved, with 22.1 per cent rated as being at risk of malnutrition compared to 24.4 in July. The improvement was attributed to issuance of food supplements to the children under five by the Red Cross Society.
- The level of malnutrition was highest in pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones and lowest in irrigated cropping livelihood zone.
- Malnutrition in children was due to insufficient food and lack of milk and at the household level.

4.2 Health

- The major diseases reported during the month were chicken pox in Kolowa division (Kapenguria area) and tonsillitis in Nginyang division (Nakoko area) in East pokot district.
- Cases of diarrhoea were reported in Kolowa division (Kapenguria area) among children under five years.

4.3 Flagged areas

- The pastoral livelihood zone reported the highest rates of malnutrition and malaria cases. These areas require particular attention.

5.0 Current interventions

The following programmes are currently on-going.

Non-food interventions

- Construction of 2 classrooms each for Chesitet and Natan communities in East Pokot district - ALRMP/ Community.
- Construction of tank and installation of pump for Kolowa water project – ALRMP/ Ministry of Water.
- Construction of roof rain harvesting tank for Kamurio primary school – ALRMP.
- Laying of pipes for Tangelbei Borehole – ALRMP / Ministry of Water
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- Construction of girls’ dormitory in Chepkesin primary school - ALRMP/ community.
- Equipping of Kapturo dispensary in Bartabwa division - ALRMP/ Community.
- Excavation of Koloruk and Kanapus water pans in East pokot district – CDF.
- Installation of water hand pumps in Sowu and Mokongwo villages in East pokot district – CDF .
- Peace building initiatives within the districts’ of the project area by various stakeholders i.e. the PSC, DPC, DSC, World Vision, Community Elders, Youth groups, Political leaders, Pastors and ALRMP.

5.2 Food aid

Distribution of relief food – The Red Cross Society distributed 1,152 metric tones of cereal, 60 metric tones pulses, 15 metric tones vegetable oil and 20 metric tones of Corn Soya Blend (CSB) in Baringo and East Pokot districts during the month.

5.3 Other coping strategies

- Moving of livestock in search of pasture and water.
- Sale of honey.
- Consumption of wild foods (loma and sorich).
- Borrowing food from relatives.
- Reducing size of meals and skipping some.
- Casual labour.
- Petty trade.
- The situation during the month under review was worse compared to previous months.

6 Recommendations

- The veterinary department/agencies should step up support to the livestock health sub sector through vaccinations and treatment of clinical cases. In particular, more effort should be directed to CCPP in Endao (Marigat division), upsurge of ECF in Kerio valley and upsurge of LSD disease in Ng’ambo (Marigat division).
- The GOK and other aid agencies to ensure that pastoralist communities in East Pokot and Baringo districts are given continuous relief food supplies and supplementary foods for children until the stress situation normalises to check cases of malnutrition.

- Need to strengthen conflict prevention and peace-building initiatives to enhance peaceful co-existence along the borders of East Pokot, Baringo, Turkana and Samburu districts.