

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, AUGUST 2008

Ijara District

Warning Stages

Livelihood Zone	Stage	Trend
Pastoral	Alert	Worsening
Agro pastoral	Alert	Worsening
Formal employment/ Casual labor	Normal	No change

Seasonal Calender

<i>-Milk yields drop -Livestock moves towards dry season grazing zones</i>			<i>-High milk yields -Livestock moves to the traditional wet grazing areas. -High calving, kidding and lambing rates.</i>			<i>-Low milk availability -Livestock moves towards the fall back dry seasons grazing areas (Boni forest) -Wildlife-human conflicts</i>				<i>-High milk yield -Livestock moves towards traditional wet seasons grazing areas -High mating rates</i>	
Short Dry Spell			Long rains			Long dry spell				Short rains	
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Situation overview

- No rainfall was received in the district and the month under review was mainly characterised by dry and hot weather.
- The quality and quantity of browse and pasture started deteriorating due to prevailing high temperatures.
- Satellite herds remained in Boni forest with no indication of movement northwards.
- Main sources of water were medium and large water pans, which contained fair quantities of water. However, the quality of the water remained poor.
- The average prices of all livestock species dropped. Cattle fetched the highest prices at Ksh9,763 compared to Ksh12,108 in July.
- The livestock body condition and health was fair for cattle but remained poor for shoats in all livelihood zones. The veterinary department continued carrying out vaccinations and treatment.
- The nutritional status of children below five years (based on MUAC measurement) declined, with those rated as being at the risk of malnutrition rising to 14.2 per cent from 13.5 in July. This was attributed to diseases such as malaria and respiratory tract infections (RTIs). The most affected areas were Handaro, Koranhindi and Sangailu.
- There was no outward migration of livestock in the district during the month. However, satellite herds remained camped at Witu, Boni forest and Tana Delta as in July.
- Household accessibility to water declined, with distance to water points rising to 7km from 6km in July. Livestock accessibility to water remained at 7km-13km.
- PPR and CCPP continued to affect shoats and cases of CBPP were reported in cattle in agro-pastoralist zones especially in Hulugho, Sangailu, Kotile, Bodhai Jalish and Bulto Hama.
- The availability of milk declined in all the livelihood zones as herds migrated to dry grazing areas in Boni forest and the riverine in search of pasture and water.
- The drought situation in the district was at 'alert' stage and worsening.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSSG

- Sensitise the community on nutritional and commercial value of fish.
- Strengthen outreach clinics and organise medical camps.
- Put in place measures to curb human/wildlife conflicts.
- PPR and CCPP vaccination campaigns to continue across the district.
- Provision of safe drinking water to prevent outbreak of communicable disease.
- Promote crop farming in the agro-pastoralist zones to enhance food security in the district through programmes such as Njaa Marufuku, provision of seeds and other inputs.
- Reducing levels of malnutrition in pregnant and lactating women and children under five years through provision of supplementary food, medical and awareness programmes.
- Encourage construction of pit latrines/toilets in settlements and schools and provide safe drinking water to prevent outbreak of diarrhoeal diseases.
- Enhance water supply for human consumption in urban areas, particularly Masalani.
- Strengthen measures to combat malaria and improve sanitation.
- Resolve impending conflicts over access to River Tana by pastoralists from Ijara.

1 Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- No rains were received in the entire district.
- The month was mainly hot and dry in all the livelihood zones.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- The quality and quantity of browse and pasture deteriorated during the month under review. Due to the prevailing dry spell.
- The trend was normal at such time of the season since browse and pasture are supposed to be on a diminishing scale.

1.3 Water sources

1.3.1 Use of water sources

- Most of the water ponds dried up, leaving only medium and large water pans as main sources of water.
- However, River Tana remained the main source of water for residents at the district headquarters in Masalani.
- Water pans had substantial volumes of water that were expected to sustain pastoralists for one more month. No water stress was reported in any of the livelihood zones.
- The situation was normal for the time of year as natural ponds and laggas usually dry up.
- The easy access to water had a positive impact on food security in the district. However, the poor quality in most parts of the district remained as an issue of concern.

1.3.2 Average distance (kms) to water sources

- The average distance to water sources stood at 7km, up from 6km in July.
- The trend was normal for the time of year since distances increase with progressing dry weather.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Conflicts/ insecurity/human displacement

- Cases of human-wildlife conflict rose. This was attributed to displacement of wildlife from Somalia and encroachment on wildlife habitats and migration routes by increasing human activities in the area.

1.5 Implication on food security

The above conditions were expected to positively affect food security in the district.

1.3.2 Migration

- Most satellite herds remained camped within the dry season grazing areas inside the Boni forest and parts of Lamu district, notably, around Witu division, and as much no movements was realized.

2.0. Rural economy indicators (food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- The livestock body condition and health status was fair for all species in all livelihood zones.
- However, an outbreak of CBPP was reported in Sangailu sentinel site and cases of PPR in the pastoral livelihood zone. Trypanomiasis remained endemic in the district.
- Milk production declined.
- Tsetse fly infestation posed an economic challenge to pastoralists because of the high prices of drugs.
- The trend was normal compared to the same period in previous years.
- The low milk yields and livestock diseases had a negative impact on household food security.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

Prevalent livestock diseases included;

- Cattle – LSD, CBPP, Trypanosomiasis and black quarter anthrax.
- Sheep-Helminthiasis, sheep introtoxicimea, pulpy kidney disease.
- Goats-CCPP, Helminthiasis.

2.1.3 Milk production

Milk yields dropped in all the livelihood zones compared to the preceding month. The drop was attributed to the hot dry spell.

3.0 Access to food

3.1. Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices

The graph below indicates cattle long term mean prices against current year (for august) 2008 prices.

- Cattle prices decreased from Ksh12,108 to Ksh 9763. However the trend was normal in such season of the year and had no effect on food security.
- Pastoral and formal/casual employment livelihood zones recorded the highest cattle prices at Ksh 11,750 and Ksh 11,360 respectively. The agro-pastoralist zone had the lowest prices.

3.1.2 Goat prices

The graph below indicates goat's long term mean prices against current 2008 year prices.

- Average goat prices decreased to Ksh 1,736.5 from Ksh 1,837. The decrease was not normal for the time of the year.
- The price drop was attributed to deteriorating body condition and lack of proper markets in the district.
- The trend was not normal as prices are expected to be higher at the time of the year. This impacted negatively on food security.

3.1.3 Sheep prices

The graph below indicates sheep long term mean prices against current 2008 year prices.

- The prices of sheep dropped from Ksh1,241 to Ksh 1,167. This was above the long term mean.
- The trend was not normal as higher prices were expected. The drop may be attributed to lack of market in the district.
- The highest prices were recorded in the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones at Ksh 1,225 and Ksh1,175 respectively.

3.2 Livestock sales

- Livestock sales volumes dropped for all species compared to the last reporting period.
- This was normal and but negative impact on household food security.

3.3 Milk consumption

- The availability of milk for consumption in all the sentinel sites declined due to the prevailing dry spell and livestock diseases.
- This had a negative impact on household food security since only 9 per cent of children under five could access milk.

3.4 Crop prices

3.4.1 Maize prices

- Maize prices dropped slightly in all the sentinel sites compared to July. The prices stood at Ksh 16 compared to Ksh 17 per kilo in July.

- This may be attributed to recent harvests in agro-pastoralist zones of Bothay, Tana basin, Kotiley and Hulugho, coupled with distribution of relief food to vulnerable households by the government.
- The observed trend had a positive impact on food security.

The graph below reflects maize long term mean prices against current 2008 year prices.

3.4.2 Rice prices

- The average prices of rice remained stable at Ksh 70 per kilo but were still higher than the long term mean.
- This may be attributed to the high cost of transportation caused by increased fuel prices.
- The trend was not normal as the prices were expected to be lower.

The graph below shows the long term mean prices of rice against current 2008 year.

3.4.3 Posho prices

The average price of posho stabilised at Ksh40 per kilo but was still high compared to the long term mean.

The trend was normal for the season since prices were expected to rise due to increased demand.

The graph below reflects sifted maize meal long term mean prices against current 2008 year.

4.0 Human welfare indicators

4.1. Nutrition status

- The nutritional status of children below five years (based on the MUAC measurement) declined, with the percentage categorised as being at risk of malnutrition rose to 14.2 compared to 13.5 in July.
- The decline was attributed to limited access to milk and other foods as a result of prevailing dry spell.
- Sangailu and Khoranhidi areas recorded the highest percentages at 18.

4.2 Human health

No disease outbreaks were reported. The common ailments reported were malaria and upper respiratory tract infections, though they were at manageable levels.

4.3 Flagged areas

The pastoralist livelihood zones of Khoranhidi, Handaro and Sangailu areas were the most affected.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non- food interventions

- Construction of water harvesting structures for crop production by Ministry of Agriculture
- Water hyacinth removal from pans in Hulugho by water dept/ALRMP
- Seeds distribution to crop farmers by ministry of Agriculture
- Conducting of mobile outreach clinics by MOH/ALRMP
- Distribution of Unimix and Vitamin A supplementation by MOH/UNICEF
- Vaccination against CCBP and PPR, already 9,600 cases of CBPP and 9,000 of PPR has been vaccinated.
- Establishment of tree nurseries—a total of 15,000 seedlings are in nurseries
- Water pan protection measure- ALRMP, Ministry of Water, Global Concern Fund.

5.2 Food aid

- Relief food distribution to vulnerable households.

5.3 Coping strategies

The coping mechanisms adopted during the month were;

- Collection and sale of bush products including honey and Aloe extracts.
- Herding and other casual work.
- Sale of quarry products.

6.0 Recommendations by DSG

- Sustained disease surveillance and vaccination by veterinary department and other stake holders. (Action: Vet department, ALRMP11, Womankind and Oxfam GB).
- The MOH should strengthen and sustain disease surveillance to avert increase of malaria incidences.
- Rural health facilities to be stocked with sufficient drugs for easy access by pastoralists.
- Anti-malarial campaigns should also be strengthened. (Action: MOH, DPHO and CBOs).
- Agricultural extension services should be strengthened by DAO.
- Conflict over the three mile strip along Tana River to be resolved by the concerned authorities. (Action :District Peace Committees, Local Authorities and the DSCs)
- Need for measures to control wildlife menace.- KWS, Local Authority, IPAD, conservation groups, Provincial Administration and MPs