

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, AUGUST 2008

Isiolo district

Warning stages

Long dry period

SEASONAL CALENDER

Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Pastoral- all species	Alarm	Deteriorating
Agro pastoral	Alarm	worsening
Casual waged labour	Alarm	worsening
Firewood/ Charcoal	Alarm	Deteriorating
District	Alarm	worsening



Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Nov	Dec								
S/R Harvest			L/R Start						
Short dry period			kidding/lambing						
			Milk increases						
						Start of s/rain			
						Milk increases			

Situation overview

- No rainfall was recorded in the district during the month under review.
- Quality and quantity of pasture and browse continued to decline, especially in Kom, Nyachis and Urura areas.
- Livestock influx into the district continued and distances to pasture increased to over 15km almost in all areas.

- Water stress increased in Kipsing, Kom and parts of Sericho division due to drying up of shallow wells. However, water availability improved in Merti division after Waso Nyiro River resumed flow.
- Livestock mortality rose due to disease prevalence. An upsurge of livestock diseases was reported in Merti, Sericho, Garbatulla and Kinna divisions. The most prevalent diseases were foot and mouth, lumpy skin among shoats, black quarter and sheep/goat pox in Ngaremara and Merti.
- The nutritional status of children below five years declined, with percentage of those rated as being at risk of malnutrition rising to 12 from 9.9 in July. Merti and Kinna were the most affected divisions.
- The food security situation worsened due to the prevailing dry spell and livestock deaths arising from diseases prevalent in the districts.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSSG

- Urgent vaccination against foot and mouth, lumpy skin and black quarter diseases in all areas. **(Action; District Veterinary Officer)**
- Surveillance and mass vaccination against PPR. **(Action: District Veterinary Officer)**
- Peace-building initiatives to be strengthened in Kom, Nyachis and Koya in Merti division. **(Action; Peace committee/Provincial Administration)**
- Water trucking in Badana, Sericho division and Dadachalafe in Cherab division. **(Action; DSG/Water officer)**

Current interventions

Non-food interventions

- Three children were undergoing treatment for Kalaazar at Merti health centre.
- 5,000 cattle were vaccinated against black quarter in Malkagalla.
- Samples were taken from foot and mouth infected cattle to determine strain.
- Shoats were vaccinated in Oldonyiro against PPR (one boma).
- Al-falah (an Islamic organization) built 80 houses for needy members in Kambi juu in central location.

Food aid

- Food distribution in Merti, Garbatulla, Kinna, Oldonyiro and parts of central division under Emop.
- Food distribution by (GoK) to 2,719 households in central, east and west locations of central division. Total food distributed was 770 bags (90kg) of maize, 231 bags (50kg) of rice, 233 bags (50kg) of beans and 251 cartons (18 cans) of vegetable oil.
- Al- falah (Islamic organisation) distributed food aid to 5,000 households to help them over the month of Ramadan.

Previous DSG meeting and recommendation

- The DSG met on July 24 to plan for food distribution in Isiolo and Garbatulla districts.
- It recommended that peri-urban centres be considered for food aid.

1 Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- No rainfall was received during the reporting period.
- This was normal compared to previous seasons.

The graph below represents the rainfall pattern for the month compared to previous seasons

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Quality and quantity of vegetation and pasture continued to diminish in the dry season grazing areas.
- This left livestock concentrated in Kom, Nyachis, Urura, Yamicha and Haw aye areas of Sericho division.
- Constraints to access to forage were livestock influx from other areas, long distances and insecurity.
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1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Water sources

- The main sources of water were shallow wells and boreholes.
- The depth of shallow wells in Kipsing, Iresaboru and Haw aye increased, while water volume declined.
- Availability of water improved in Merti and Korbesa after Waso Nyiro River resumed flow.
- Severe water stress was reported in Yaqbarsadi and Kachuru areas, where a (20lt) drum went for Ksh 50.

The table below indicates water sources and percentage of households using them compared to normal situation.

Water source					
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% of household normally depending on the source					
% of household depending on the sources for current month					

1-river, 2-boreholes, 3-shallow wells, 4-piped system, others pans, dams

1.3 Emerging issues

- Depletion of vegetation and pasture in Oldonyiro and Cherab division. Distances to grazing areas stood at more than 20 km.
- Shallow wells continued to register low water volume, while others in such areas as Kipsing, Iresaboru, Haw aye and Kom dried up.
- Cases of conflicts over natural resources increased in Kom, Nyachis and Koya areas of Merti division.

1.4 Implication on food security

- The conflict over natural resource base, depleted pastures and long distances will continue to worsen food security.

2.0. Rural economy indicators (availability of food)

2.1. Livestock production

2.1.1. Livestock body condition

- The body weight of livestock deteriorated among all species due to multiple diseases and long trekking distances to pasture.
- The body weight of cattle in Cherab and Sericho divisions was adversely affected by foot and mouth and black quarter diseases, while shoats in Barambate were affected by lumpy skin disease.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- Outbreaks of foot and mouth disease and black quarter were reported in parts of Cherab and Sericho divisions.
- While vaccination against black quarter was done, there was no intervention in the case of foot and mouth disease.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk production dropped during the month, with 51.8 bottles (750ml) recorded, down from 78 bottles in July.
- Production was better in Garbatulla and Merti, which recorded 80 and 62 bottles respectively. Milk prices rose as a result of low yields, with a litre going for Ksh 40 in Merti, Sericho and Modogashe.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and status of crop production activities

- No major crops were planted over the month.
- Only about 5 farmers undertook onion growing in Gambella and tomatoes in Central along Isiolo River.

2.2.2 Pests and diseases

No pests or diseases were reported over the month.

2.2.3 Harvest

- No major harvest was expected over the month since there was no planting undertaken. A few farmers in Gambella harvested about 2,000 kilos of onions.
- Crop income dropped by 8.5 per cent compared to last month.

3.0 Access to food

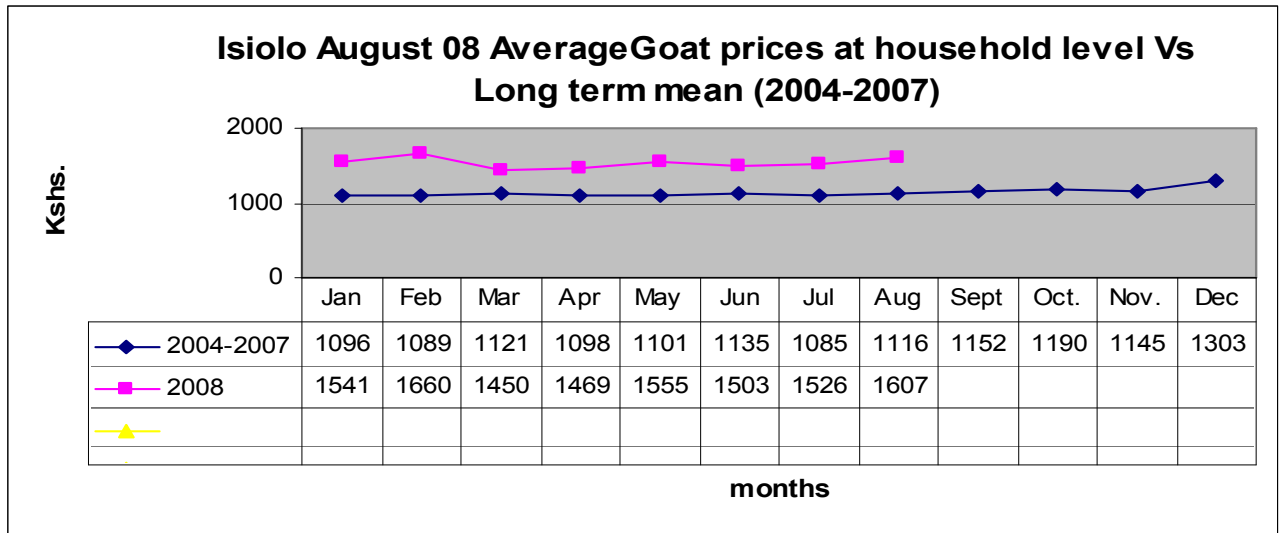
3.1. Livestock marketing

3.1.1. Cattle prices

N= 15 x30

- The average cattle price during the month was Ksh 9,732.
- The price dropped by 16 per cent compared to the previous month.
- The drop was attributable to disease outbreaks such as black quarter and foot and mouth in Merti, Cherab and Sericho divisions.
- Prices were fair in Oldonyiro and Central divisions at Ksh 11,612 and 10,500 respectively.

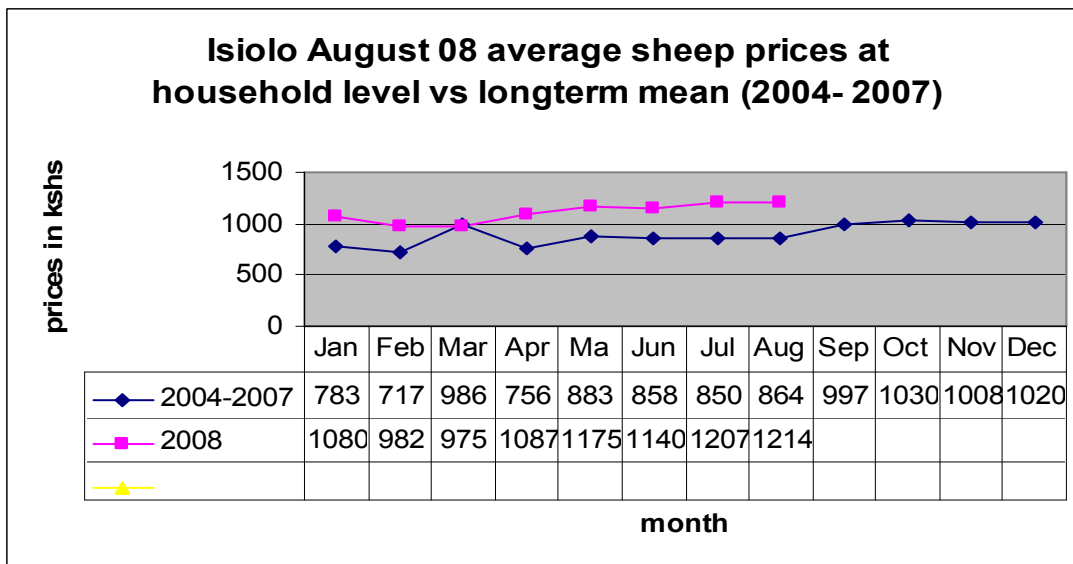
3.1.2 Goat prices



N= 15 x 30

- Average goat prices stood at Ksh 1,607 during the month.
- The prices rose slightly by 5 per cent due to low market supply.
- Body weight of goats in Barambate and Boji was affected by lumpy skin diseases, which affected prices.

3.1.3. Sheep prices



N=15x30

- The average price of sheep stood at Ksh 1207
- The prices are poor in Oldonyiro, Boji being 993. This is due to presence of diseases.

3.1.4 Camel prices

- Camel prices averaged at Ksh 18,000 for mature females (4-5 years), while young females fetched Ksh 15,666 during the month.
- The prices dropped compared to last month.

3.2. Crop prices

3.2.1. Maize

- The average maize prices dropped slightly to Ksh 29.
- However, the prices remained constant for outside divisions of Merti, Sericho and Garbatulla at Ksh 30 per kilogram.
- The price remained constant compared to July.

3.2.2. Beans prices

N=15x30

- The average price of beans was Ksh 67 per kilo, which was 24 per cent higher than the long-term mean over the same period.
- However, prices were higher in Merti and Sericho at Ksh 80.
- The price trend was not normal.

3.5 Income

3.5.1. Crop income

- Household income from crops was 3.5 per cent during the month.

3.5.2. Livestock income

- Income earned from livestock represented 50 per cent of the total incomes. This was a 2 per cent decline from the previous month's 52 per cent.

3.5.3. Other incomes

- Other income was earned from sale of charcoal (10 per cent), casual labour (8.4), petty trade (6.9) and gift items (10.9).
- Compared to July, income from charcoal dropped by 3 per cent, while casual labour and petty trade rose by 1.4. Per cent.

- The trend indicated that more people in peri-urban centers engaged in casual labour to supplement income as the dry spell progressed.

The pie-chart below represents Isiolo income sources at household level for August 2008

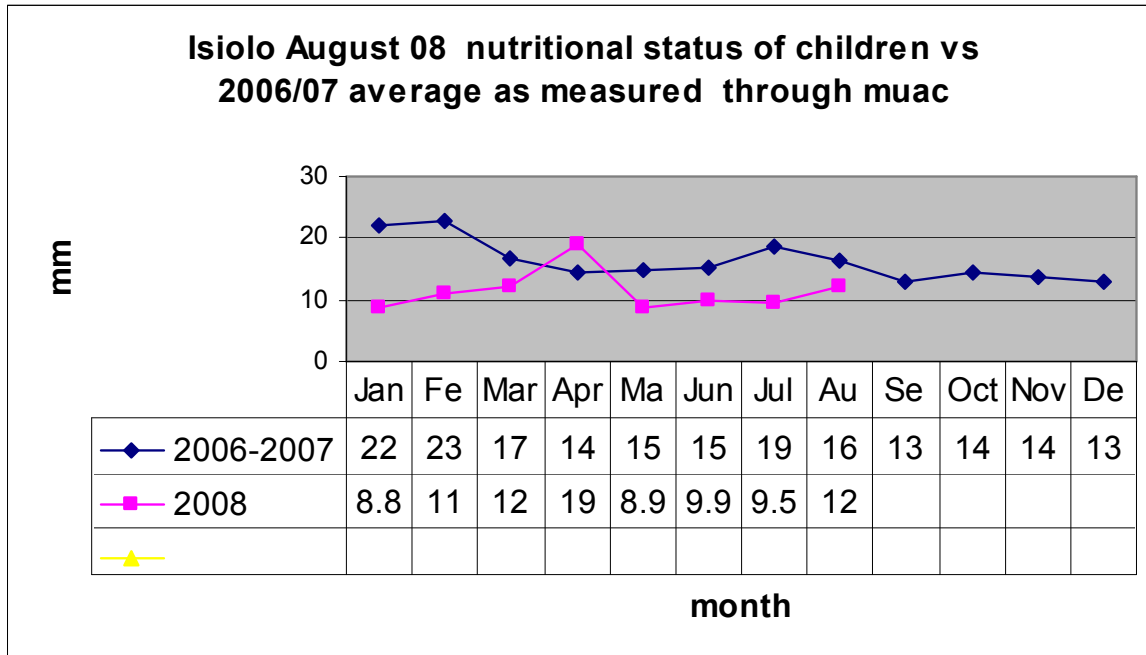
N=15x30

3.6 Implication on food security

- Multiple disease outbreaks that affected the livestock sector over the month impacted negatively on food security in the district.

4.0 Utilisation of food (Welfare indicators)

4.1 Nutritional status



N= 5x15x30

- The nutritional status of children below five years declined to 12.0 per cent from 9.5 in July.
- Though the decline was observed in all sampled areas, it was more pronounced in Kinna and Merti at 17.2 and 19.9 per cent respectively.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non—food intervention

- Three children are undergoing treatment for Kalaazar at Merti health centre.
- 5,000 heads of cattle vaccinated against black quarter in Malkagalla.
- Sample taken from foot and mouth affected cattle to determine the strain.
- Shoats vaccinated in Oldonyiro against PPR (one boma).
- Maanisha baseline survey conducted in Isiolo and Garbatulla districts by Amref.
- 80 houses built for needy members in Kambi Juu centre location by Al-falah Islamic organisation.

5.2 Food aid

- Food distribution through Emop to Merti, Garbatulla, Kinna, Oldonyiro and parts of central division.
- Food distribution by GoK to 2,719 households in central, east and west locations of central division. Total food includes 770 bags (90kg) of maize, 231 bags (50kg) of rice, 233 bags (50kg) of beans and 251 cartons (18 pieces) of vegetable oil.
- Al-falah (Islamic organisation) distributed food aid to 5,000 households to help them over the month of Ramadhan.

5.3 Coping strategies

- Frequent migration in search of water and pasture.
- Opening of strategic reserve borehole.
- Digging of several shallow wells to cope with low yields.

6.0 Previous DSG meeting and recommendation

- The District Steering Group (DSG) met on July 24 to plan for food distribution in Isiolo and Garbatulla districts.
- The committee recommended that peri-urban centres be considered for food aid.