

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, AUGUST 2008

Kajiado and Loitokitok districts

Warning stages

LIVELIHOOD ZONE	WARNING STAGE	TREND
Pastoral-all species	Alert	Declining
Agro pastoral	Alert	Declining
Casual/waged labour/business /trade	Alert	No Change
Mixed farming	Alert	Declining
District	Alert	Declining

Seasonal Calendar

Short Rains in

Loitokitok

Long Rains in

This period is dry with high temp

Jan-Feb March - April -May Jun-July - Aug-Sept Oct - Nov - Dec

Long Rains in other divisions

Short Rains in other divisions

NB:

- Kajiado district has bimodal rainfall pattern.
- The long rains fall between March and May, while short rains fall between October and December.

Situation overview

- The month under review was characterised by dry and hot weather, and sometimes cold conditions. Scattered showers were recorded in Central and Magadi divisions towards the end of the month. However, no rainfall was recorded in most divisions.

- Availability and accessibility of water for livestock, agriculture and domestic use was fair to poor.
- Most temporary water sources including pans and natural water ponds dried up.
- Main sources of water for domestic and livestock use in Loitokitok and Kajiado districts were boreholes, shallow wells and springs. Use of boreholes for livestock and domestic use was at a Ksh 20-40 fee per head of cattle per month.
- There was heavy concentration of livestock and wildlife around water points, forcing them to be operated for longer hours (12-18 hours).
- Return distance from grazing points to water points ranged between 10-15 kms. The distance was higher in Ewaso Kedong, Magadi, Mashuru, Lenkism, Entonet and Imbirikani.
- Pasture was available in form of standing hay and was declining rapidly in all livelihood zones.
- Livestock body condition was fair to good for all species but deteriorating owing to progressive decline in availability of pasture and water, and increasing distance to pasture and water points.
- Livestock prices dropped, with average cattle prices declining from Ksh 11,212 in July to Ksh 10,737. Goat prices dropped from Ksh 1,494 to Ksh 1,490, while sheep prices fell from Ksh 1,1493 in July to Ksh 1,436. However, the prices were within the long term average.
- Cases of foot and mouth disease were reported in the pastoral areas, which was attributed to internal migration. Tick-borne diseases and trypanosomiasis in cattle were reported in most pastoral areas as livestock moved to dry season grazing areas. CCPP was reported in goats and pox in sheep in parts of Magadi, Central and North Keekonyokie.
- Crop production was poor across the district, with total crop failure due to water stress in most crop growing areas.
- Food prices remained high compared to long term average as a result of the previous season failure. Prices of maize, beans and posho rose to Ksh 30, Ksh 60 and Ksh 35 per kilo respectively. Most households in crop growing areas had no carry-over stocks, having depleted their food stocks.
- The number of children under 5 years rated as being at the risk of malnutrition rose by 0.2 per cent from 7.8 in July to 8.0. The nutrition status was within the accepted seasonal ranges. The high rate of malnutrition was attributed to declining availability and accessibility of food and milk at household level as livestock productivity declined owing to pasture and water stress. The trend was expected to worsen as the dry period progressed.
- Wildlife menace increased in the irrigation areas of Magadi and Loitokitok, which are close to national parks, as elephants moved upstream and into farms.
- Though food security in the pastoral livelihood zones remained stable, livestock movement in search of pasture and water, low livestock prices and high food prices posed a threat.
- Pastoralists' terms of trade were fair compared to long term mean but depressed by high food prices and harsh weather.
- The general food security trend in the districts was expected to remain stable for the next two months in all livelihood zones.

Current interventions

- DSG training on community disaster preparedness to enhance sustainability and ownership of the processes : World Vision in partnership with ALRMP.
- Community meetings on livelihood support for Agriculture, Livestock and water development.
- Kajiado EWS drought monitoring.

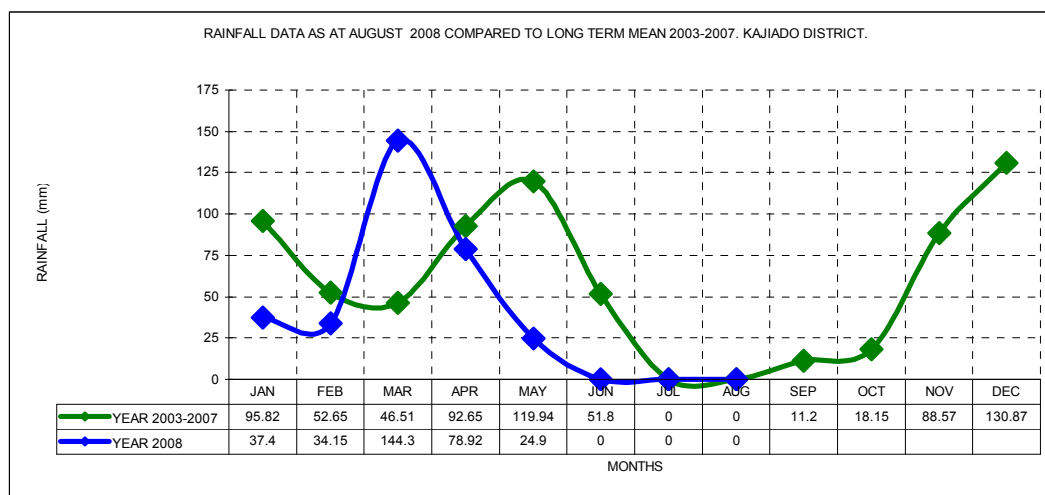
Recommendation to DSG and KFSSG

- Continued EWS monitoring of food and drought situation especially in the rain-fed crop growing areas that registered low crops yields in Namanga, Mashuru, Central, Isenya, and the marginal crop growing areas of Ngong and Loitokitok. Monitoring also needed in the pastoral areas of Ewaso Kedong, Magadi, Mashuru (Kajiado) and the pastoral areas of Lenkism, Entonet and Imbirikani.
- Rehabilitation of strategic boreholes, where livestock started concentrating.
- Livestock disease surveillance and vaccinations against FMD, CCPP, LSD, and CBPP. Also tick and trypanocidal control.

1.0 Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- The districts received only scattered showers in parts of Magadi and Central divisions during the month under review.
- The observed trend was normal for the month.



* Source: ALRMP sample area data stations.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- The quantity and quality of pasture and browse was on downward trend during the month under review.
- Pasture (in form of standing hay) was comparatively dry across the two districts, while browse was available as dry leaves and pods.
- Return distances to grazing areas ranged from 10-15kms in most pastoral areas and was increasing.

- The situation was below normal.

1.3.0 Water availability and accessibility

1.3.1 Water sources

- Water availability and accessibility for livestock, agriculture and domestic use ranged from fair to poor.
- Use of boreholes, shallow wells and springs for domestic and livestock was evident in all pastoral areas of Loitokitok and Kajiado districts.
- Use of boreholes for livestock and domestic use was at a Ksh 20-40 fee per head of cattle per month.
- There was heavy concentration of livestock and wildlife around water points, forcing them to be operated for longer hours.
- The observed situation was below normal at the time of the year.

Table 2: Water sources and percentage of household using them, compared to a normal situation.

Water source	Boreholes & Shallow wells	Rivers & springs	pipelines	Dams & Pans
% of households depending on the source	82%	3	15%	Nil
% of households that depend on the source normally	50%	10%	25%	15%

Table 3: Average return distances to water sources, compared to a normal situation

	Boreholes & Shallow wells	Dams and Pans	springs	pipelines
Average Kms to the source	15 Kms	Not in use	15 Kms	15Kms
Normal Kms to the source	3 Kms	3Kms	3Kms	3 Kms

1.3.2 Household access to water

- The average distance to water sources for households was 15kms and increasing.
- Time spent in search of water for domestic use ranged between 1-3 hours. The time is expected to increase as the dry period progresses.

1.3.3 Livestock access

- The distance from grazing points to water points ranged between 10-15 kms. The distance was expected to increase as the dry season progresses.
- Livestock from Kuku, Kimana and Mbirikani group ranches, which had migrated to Chyullu hills, trekked for over 15 km (one way) to water points.
- Water trucking is ongoing for livestock in Chyullu hills. Livestock bordering Amboseli National Park watered within the park.
- Dry season strategic boreholes were in use in the pastoral areas since most pans/dams dried up.
- There was heavy concentration of livestock and wildlife around water points, putting them under strain.

- The situation was below normal for the time of the year.

1.4 Emerging issues

- Human/wildlife conflicts were reported in the irrigation areas as wildlife moved upstream for water.
- There was increased internal migration of livestock.
- High food prices impacted negatively on the purchasing power of pastoralists.
- Poor performance of crops in the rain-fed crop growing areas of Namanga, Mashuru and Central division
- Increased disease incidences due to migration: eg Foot and mouth disease and prevalence of trypanosomiasis in Magadi and Loitokitok in cattle, CCPP in goats and sheep pox in sheep in pastoral livelihood zones of Loitokitok and Kajiado.
- Conflict between pastoralists and farmers in Loitokitok over resources and cross-district conflicts in Makueni and Kajiado.
- Environmental degradation including continued charcoal burning and sand harvesting in Central, Namanga and Mashuru divisions.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Cattle maintained fair body and health conditions while goats and sheep registered good to fair body condition.
- Livestock production was low and declining, compared to the previous month. This was attributed to insufficient forage and water and long trekking distances to water and pasture.
- The worst affected areas were North Keekonyokie in Ngong, Olkeri and Oldonyonyukie in Magadi, Lenkism, Entonet and Imbirikani (Loitokitok).
- The body condition of cattle was below normal in most areas, impacting negatively on food security at household level.

2.1.2 Livestock health

- Tsetse fly menace reported along Ewaso Ngiro River in Magadi and Chyullu Hills predisposed livestock to trypanosomiasis.
- Trypanosomiasis in cattle was reported in Nguruman, Magadi division and Chyullu, Loitokitok.
- There were suspected incidences of B/Q, FMD and tick-borne diseases in cattle.
- Suspected cases of CCPP in goats and sheep pox were reported in all pastoral areas.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Availability and accessibility of milk in the pastoral households was on downward trend due to declining availability of pasture and browse and increasing distances to water points.
- Total amount of milk produced declined from four bottles (750ml) in July to two per household.
- The trend had negative implication on food security at rural household level, especially the nutritional status of children below five years.

2.1.4 Livestock migration

- Intra-division livestock movement commenced, notably in Mbirikani, Lenkisim and Kuku towards Chyullu hills and Risa. Other movement was reported in Mashuru, Ewaso Kedong, Magadi and Central.
- Minimal out-migration was reported in divisions bordering Makueni, Machakos and Naivasha. There was no cross-border migration.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and status of crop production activities

- Land preparation for the next season was the main activity in the rain-fed crop growing areas.
- Overall crop performance was below normal compared to a normal year. The dismal performance had a negative implication on the household food security.

2.2.2 Pests and diseases

- Crop pests and diseases such as red spider mites, early and late blight on tomatoes, aphids and diamond black moth in kales and cabbages, and Nematodes on okra were reported in irrigation areas of Magadi, Loitokitok and along River Olkeriai in Mashuru division.

2.2.3 Implication on food security

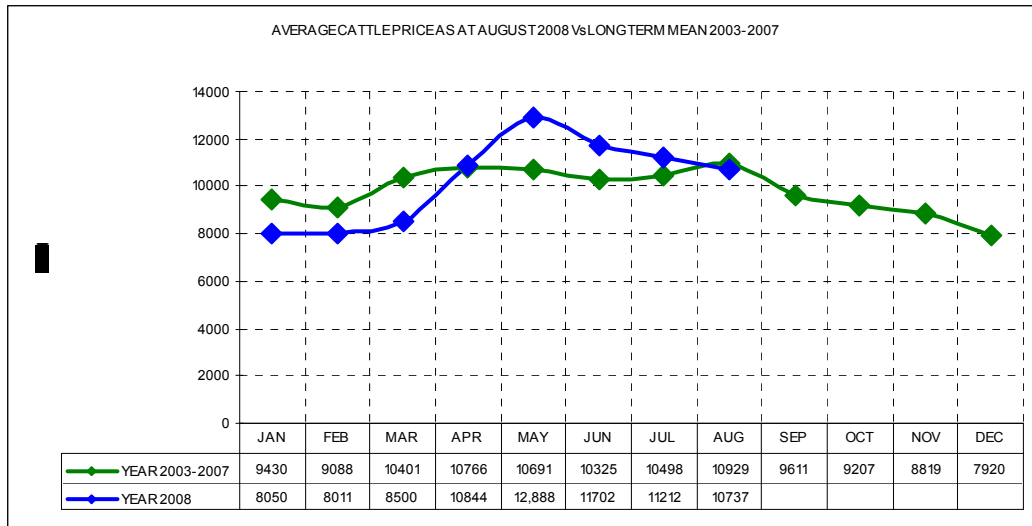
- General increase in food prices impacted negatively on food security at household level. However, the overall food security at household level remained fair (stable).
- Crop performance in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone was poor and below normal, with negative implications on food security.
- Livestock prices were above the long term mean of 2003-2007, while availability of milk at rural household level declined with negative implications on food security.
- 50 per cent of household food needs were met by purchases, especially in the pastoral areas. Availability and accessibility of milk at household level was constrained by livestock migration.
- Over 50 per cent of households in the rain-fed crop growing areas depended on food purchases due to depleted food stocks and poor crop prospects and previous failed seasons.
- CCPP in goats and sheep pox had negative implications on overall livestock performance.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

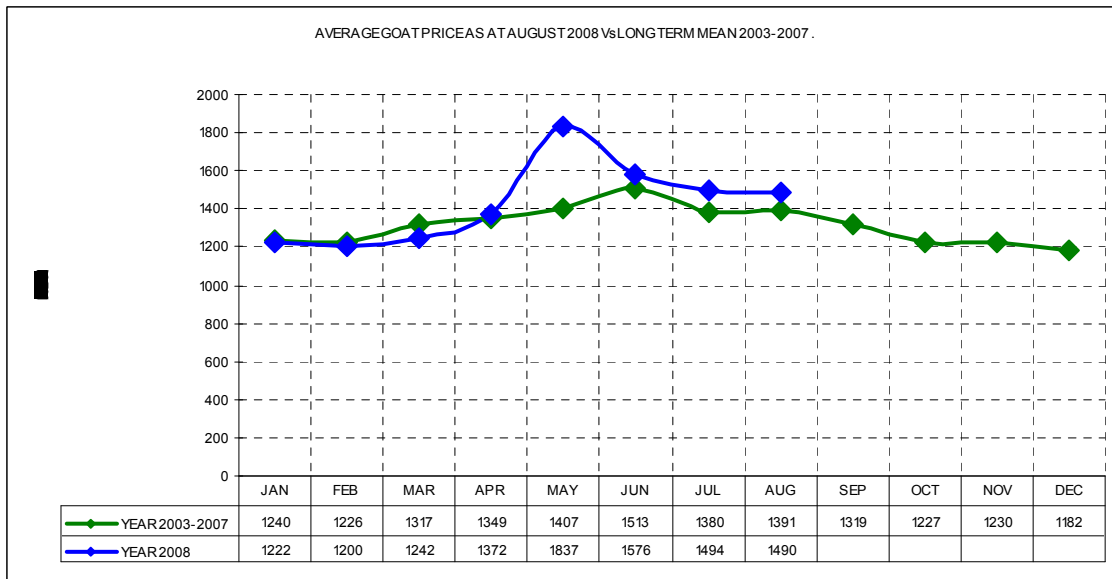
3.1.1 Cattle prices

- Average cattle prices declined by 4.2 per cent from Ksh 11,212 in July, to Ksh 10,737.
- However, the prices were still above the long term average.



3.1.2 Goats prices

- Average goat prices dropped from Ksh 1,494 in July to Ksh 1,490.



3.1.3 Sheep prices

- The average price of sheep in the district dropped by 3.8 per cent from Ksh 1,493 in July to Ksh 1,436.
- The drop was attributed to decline in livestock body condition following increasing distances to water and pastures and reduced water regime (skip a day, 2-3 times a week). The trend was normal at the time of the year.

3.2 Livestock sales

- The decline in livestock prices had negative implications on food security at household level. The situation was further exacerbated by high food prices.

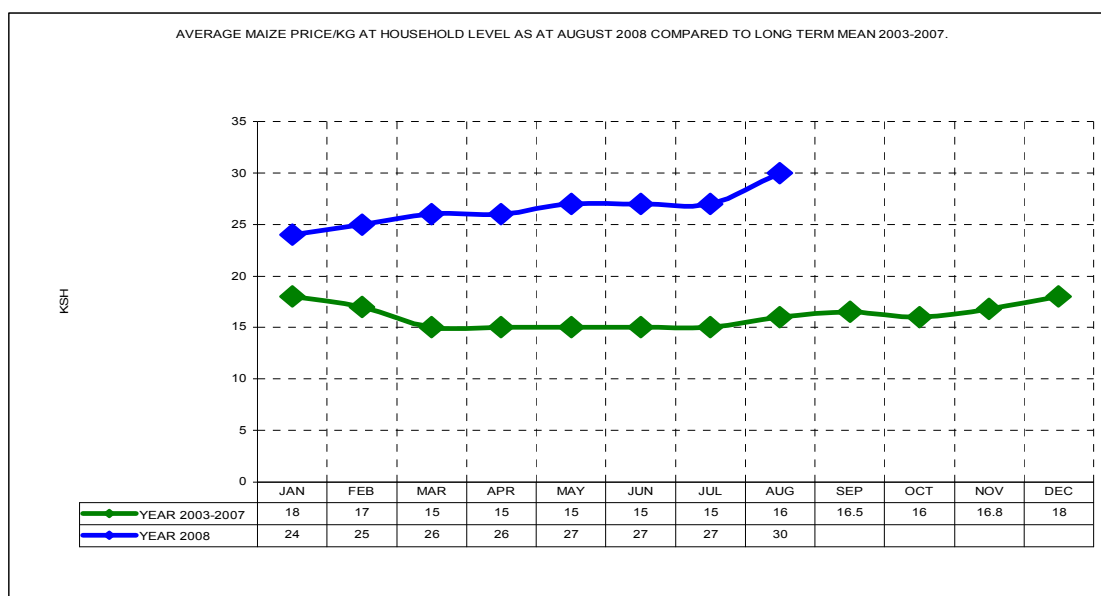
3.3 Milk consumption

- The number of households that could give milk to ‘children only’ decreased across the pastoral livelihood zone. 65 per cent of interviewed households indicated having no milk at all.
- The decline in milk consumption was attributed to decline in production due to insufficient forage and water, long trekking distances to water and pasture and migration of livestock to dry season grazing areas far from homesteads.

3.4 Crop prices

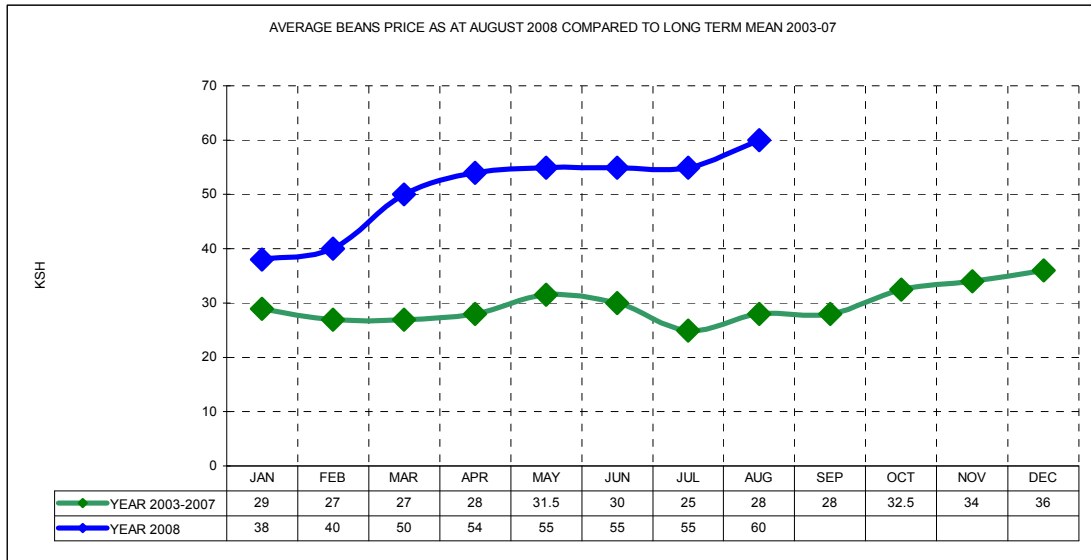
3.4.1 Maize prices

- The average maize price increased by 11 per cent from Ksh 27 in July to Ksh 30 per Kg.
- Prices are expected to rise as the dry season progresses.
- The prices were 100 per cent higher than the long term mean.



3.4.2 Beans prices

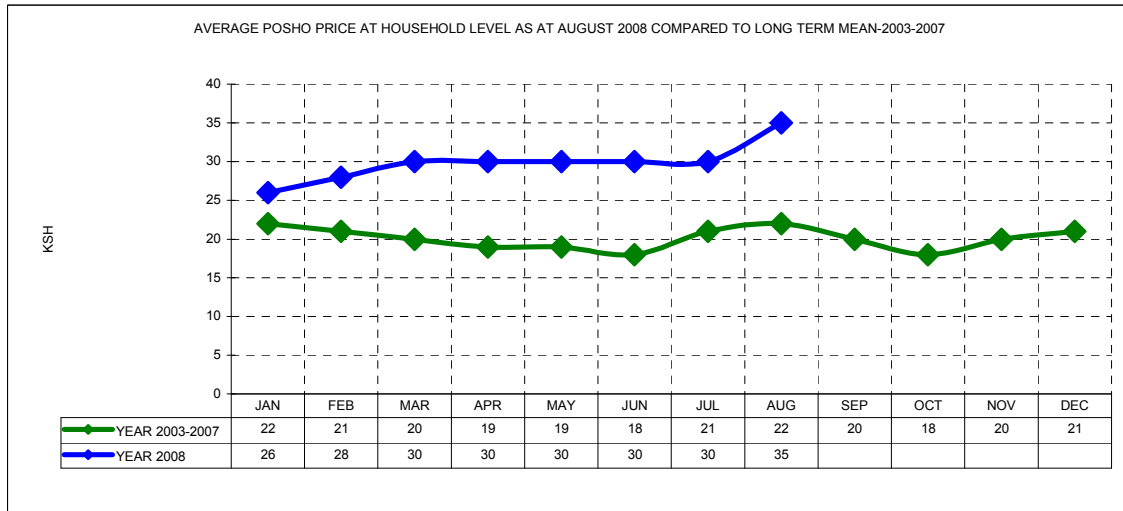
- Average beans prices increased by 9 per cent during the review period, from Ksh 55 per kg in July to Ksh 60. The current average price was above normal.
- Most divisions in the two districts depend on imports from neighbouring districts.



3.4.3 Purchase of other food commodities

3.4.4 Posho prices

- The average price of posho increased from Ksh 30 per kilo in July to Ksh 35.
- The trend was above normal compared to long term mean.



- The price increase was attributed to scarcity of the produce due to poor crop production across the district and limited supply from external sources. The district has experienced four successive seasons of crop failure.
- High cereal prices and general increase in food prices impacted negatively on food security at household level, negating the gains from improved livestock prices in the pastoral livelihoods.

3.5 Income

3.5.1 Crop income

- There was no crop income in rain-fed crop areas during the month.
- Sale of farm produce such as tomatoes, cabbages, sukumawiki (kale), onions and Asian vegetables from irrigation schemes in Magadi and Loitokitok was ongoing.

3.5.2 Livestock income

- Income from sale of livestock dropped during the month under review due to migrations far afield and decline in body condition.

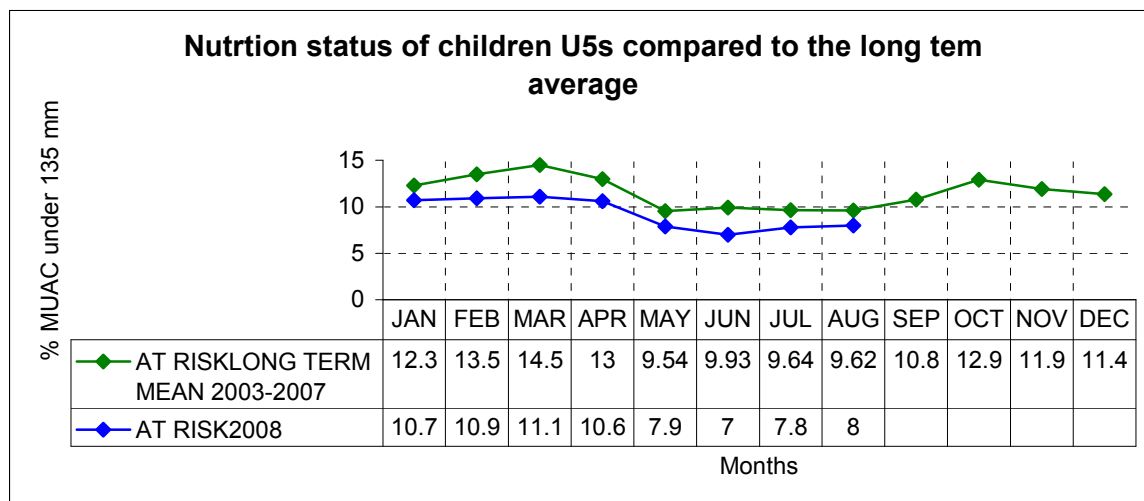
3.5.3 Terms of trade

- The terms of trade for pastoralists remained relatively stable.
- Though livestock prices were above long term average, they were countered by high food prices.

4.0 Welfare (utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status

- The nutrition status of children under 5 years was within the accepted seasonal ranges. The number of children rated as being at the risk of malnutrition rose by 0.2 per cent from 7.8 in July to 8.0.
- The high rate of malnutrition among children below five years was attributed to declining availability of food and milk at household level. The trend was expected to worsen as the dry period progressed.
- Magadi and Namanga divisions reported the highest rates.



4.2 Health

- The diseases reported during the month were malaria, diarrhoea and respiratory tract infections (RTI).
- Malaria was common in the pastoral areas.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Coping strategies

Some of the coping mechanisms used by households in view of the food deficit include;

- Livestock sales to purchase cereals.
- Seeking employment and casual labour.
- Charcoal burning.
- Sand harvesting.
- Migration of livestock to dry season grazing areas.

5.1 DSG recommendations

- Continued EWS monitoring of food and drought situation especially in the rain-fed crop growing areas that registered low crops yields in Namanga, Mashuru, Central, Isenya, and the marginal crop growing areas of Ngong and Loitokitok. Monitoring also needed in the pastoral areas of Ewaso Kedong, Magadi, Mashuru (Kajiado) and the pastoral areas of Lenkism, Entonet and Imbirikani.
- Increase the regular school-feeding programme coverage to improve nutritional status and retention in school.
- Rehabilitation of strategic boreholes, where livestock started concentrating.
- Construction and de-silting of water pans/dams before the next rains season.
- Livestock disease surveillance and vaccinations against FMD, CCPP, LSD, and CBPP. Also tick and trypanocidal control.
- Monitoring of nutritional status and provision of supplementary feeding to children under five years. Need for a nutritional survey especially in Magadi and Namanga.