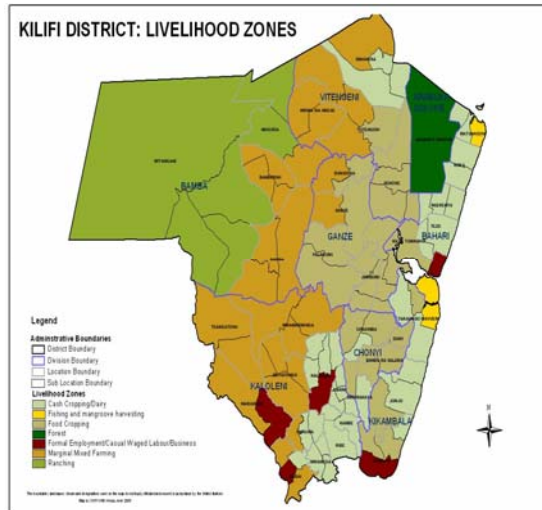


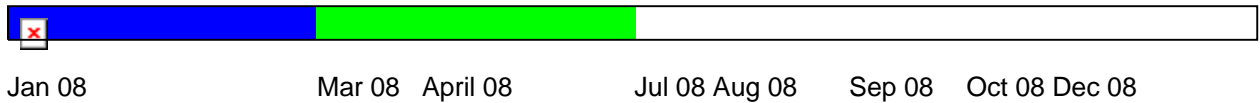
DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, AUGUST 2008

Kilifi/Kaloleni Districts

Warning Stages



Timeline activities



Situation overview

- An average of 29 mm of rainfall (for six rainy days) was recorded during the month. This was a considerable decrease from last month's 55 mm. August was mainly characterised by erratic drizzles in most parts of the districts.
- Distances to water sources for livestock and domestic use continued to increase with shrinking watering points.
- A general decline in water quality was observed, especially in the marginal mixed-farming and the ranching zone.

- Access to water for both livestock and domestic use was a challenge as more sources continued to dry up. Available water in affected areas was expected to last less than a month.
- Livestock body conditions remained stable in the cash crop and dairy and the food cropping livelihood zones but a gradual decline was observed in the marginal mixed-farming and the ranching zones.
- Harvesting was on-going for maize, cowpeas and green grams. Food stores had some stocks, although they were not likely to last long because yields were generally low.
- There was an improvement in the nutritional status of children below five years due to improved access to diverse foods and milk. The percentage of children at risk of malnutrition dropped from 6.6 in July to 5.6.
- Cereal and legume prices continued to soar, with a 90 kg bag of maize trading at Ksh 2,222 and beans Ksh 2,868. The price was likely to rise further due to country-wide fluctuations in transport costs. The hiked prices were out of range of a normal year, making household access to food more difficult.
- Casual labour was the most favoured source of income for most households in the district. The average daily wage did not change much, recording Ksh 111.8 compared to Ksh 111.5 in July. However, fewer people engaged in it during the month since major agricultural activities declined.
- Elephants continued posing a threat to food security in Bamba and Mariakani divisions through crop destruction and contamination of watering points. This forced many households to harvest their crop pre-maturely to avoid total loss.
- Poor turn-out in schools was recorded in Tsangatsini as children feared attacks by elephants on their way to school.
- Wild pigs and monkeys also posed a threat to food crops in Mwahera location in Vitengeni.
- The warning stage for the district was normal and the trend stable. However in Mitangani, Mwahera, Ndigiria, Mrima Wa Ndege and Tsangatsini areas, the situation was at 'alert' phase and worsening.

Current interventions

Non-food interventions

- Public meetings, demonstrations and aflatoxin and Great Grain Borer surveillance by Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) geared towards post-harvest campaigns.
- Cashew-nut improvement programme being implemented by KARI, Bayer and K-Rep Bank in collaboration with the MoA. Farmers sensitised on loan schemes.
- Demonstrations and promotions by ABEC (African Bird's Eye Chilli) in Vitengeni, Bamba, Ganze and Bahari divisions in collaboration with Equator products, Mace Foods, KHDP and MoA.
- DASS (Decentralised Agriculture Support Systems) are facilitating training of agri-business farmer groups and soil conservation activities.
- Njaa Marufuku Kenya funded several groups with ox-ploughs in the district.

- Tissue culture banana bulking being promoted by MoA in five groups in Kikambala and Bahari divisions.

Food aid

- The District Commissioner's office distributed various food commodities in August as illustrated in the table below.
- World Vision distributed 338.67 MT of cereals, pulses and vegetable oil as shown in the table below.

Previous DSG meeting and recommendations

The long rains assessment on food security was carried out during the month and the team recommended the following:

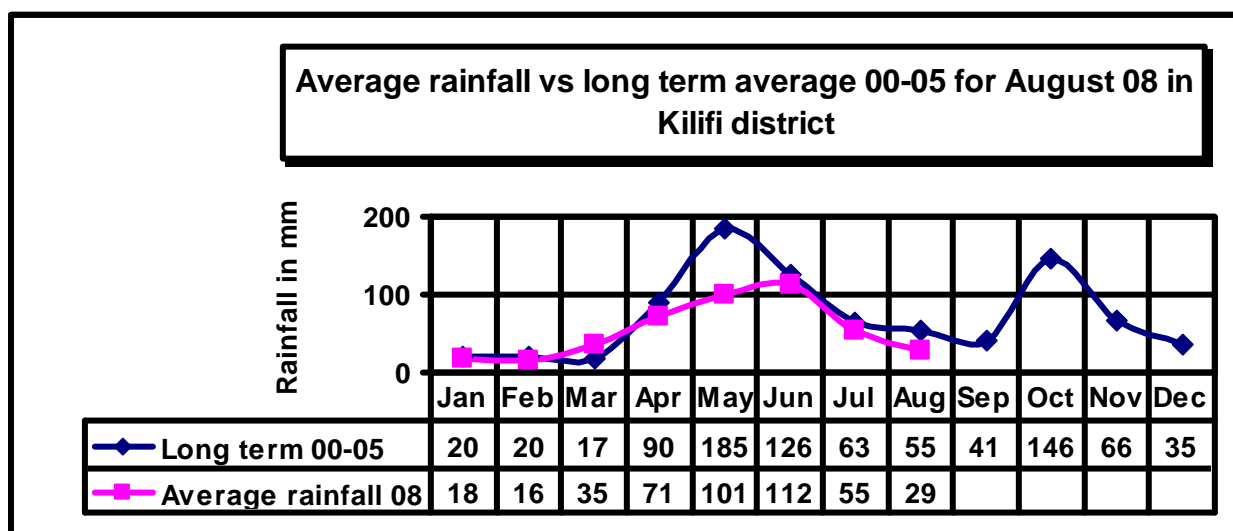
- Non-rain fed livelihoods such as bee-keeping and silk-worm farming should be promoted and strengthened to cushion households from food insecurity and provide a sustainable income.
- Expansion or initiation of food aid interventions including, but not limited to, Food For Assets (FFA) and school-feeding programs in the ranching, food cropping and marginal mixed-farming livelihood zones.
- Expansion of surface water sources and construction of new surface and underground water sources.
- Provision of water to schools in the ranching and marginal mixed-farming livelihood zones.
- Increased promotion of drought-resistant crops such as pigeon peas and cow peas.
- Promotion of fodder conservation (hay-making) methodologies.

DSG meeting and recommendations

- Need for closer monitoring of the flagged areas in terms of food and water availability at household level.
- Monitoring of the nutritional status of children below five years, and enrolment and retention of school-going children.
- Enhance food support to primary schools not included in the regular school-feeding program.
- Need for re-targeting of affected households to ensure that genuine cases are addressed.
- Water-trucking to schools and institutions in affected areas with support from Coast Water Board, Red Cross, Arid Lands Resource management Project, among other stakeholders.
- Enhance livestock disease surveillance and vaccination in the flagged livelihood zones.

1. Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall



- 29 mm of rainfall was recorded for an average of 6 days during the month.
- The amount was lower compared to the 55mm expected at the time of the year.
- The district experienced intermittent showers, which was usual at the time of the year.
- Most livelihood zones continued to experience some rainfall, except the ranching zone, which remained extremely dry.

1.2. Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Quality and quantity of pasture and natural vegetation continued to decline across livelihood zones.
- However, the trend was much worse in the marginal mixed-farming and ranching livelihood zones.
- The available pasture was likely to meet the districts' requirements for a month or two.
- However, Ndigeria, Mitangani and Bandari locations in the ranching livelihood zones registered very poor pasture and suffered an acute shortage, affecting the livestock condition.
- Distances to grazing areas continued to increase owing to shrinking watering points. The ranching livelihood zone recorded distances as high as 12.3 kms.
- Distances were likely to increase in a few months' time as the dry spell persists and before the short rains begin.

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Water sources

- 41.7 per cent of community water needs in the two districts were catered for by pans and dams.
- Natural rivers, shallow wells and traditional river wells each addressed 8.3 per cent of the domestic needs while 33.3 per cent were addressed by other water sources.

- The capacities of the water sources will meet the districts' needs for about a month.
- However, water sources continued to decrease during the month owing to the ongoing dry spell and contamination by wildlife.

1.3.2 Household access to water

- Household distances to water continued to rise from 2.2 km in July to 3 km during the month.
- Distances were furthest in the marginal mixed farming livelihood zone at 6 km and shortest in the cash cropping and dairy livelihood zone at 0.9 km.
- Distances to water sources by households were likely to increase in the coming months as more watering sources dried up.

1.3.3 Livestock access to water

- Access to water by livestock remained the greatest challenge across most livelihood zones, except in the cash cropping and dairy and part of the food cropping livelihood zone.
- Ndigiria, Mwahera, Mitangani and Tsangatzini locations faced a severe water shortage that forced livestock keepers to move their herds in search of water.

1.4. Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity / conflict / human displacement

- Elephant menace persisted in Mitangani location in Bamba division, Mwahera location in Vitengeni division and Tsangatsini location in Kaloleni district.
- A high drop-out rate was reported in schools in Tsangatsini as a result of the elephant attacks.
- Wild pigs and monkeys destroyed food crops on farms in Vitengeni, forcing members to harvest crops immaturity to prevent total loss.

1.5. Implications on food security

- Domestic and livestock access to water remained a challenge during the month, with severe water scarcity evident in the ranching livelihood zone, which experienced rain failure for several months.
- The situation impacted negatively on household food security, especially in Ndigiria and Mitangani locations.
- Livestock trekked longer distances in search of pasture. However, the trend was not likely to last.

2 Rural economy indicators (Availability of food)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1. Livestock body condition

- On average both large and small stock maintained a good body condition this month across most livelihood zones.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- No livestock diseases were reported during the month.
- The CCPP cases reported last month have since been treated to prevent the disease from spreading.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Average milk production increased by 35.5 per cent from 27.3 (750-ml) bottles in July to 37. This was attributed to improved access to water sources and pasture, a trend that was likely to remain stable for a few months.
- The increase in production was a plus as the districts' did not meet their crop target yields for the long rains season. There was, therefore, heavy reliance on livestock products as a source of food and income.
- The ranching livelihood zone reported the highest production at 76 (750ml) bottles while the food cropping zone trailed at 18 (750ml) bottles.
- The average price per bottle was Ksh 17.3, a negligible drop from Ksh 17.4 last month.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1. Timeliness and status of crops

- Land preparation was on-going for the short rains season.
- Crops were in various stages of development. Weeding was on-going for sweet potatoes, while green grams were flowering.
- Vegetables grown under irrigation were doing well.

2.2.2. Pests and diseases

- No major pests or diseases were reported during the month.

2.2.3. Crop harvests

- Green grams, kales, ABEC chilies, coconuts and citrus fruits were being harvested and readily available in the local markets.
- However, their prices continued to rise, making them unaffordable for majority of households.
- Although harvesting was on-going, yields were poor, making many households in the food-stressed livelihood zones to struggle to access food.
- Similar to last month, Ndigiria and Bandari locations in Bamba division faced serious food shortage.
- The situation was equally bad in Mitangani location in the same division, but improved marginally in the marginal mixed-farming livelihood zone.

2.3 Implications on food security

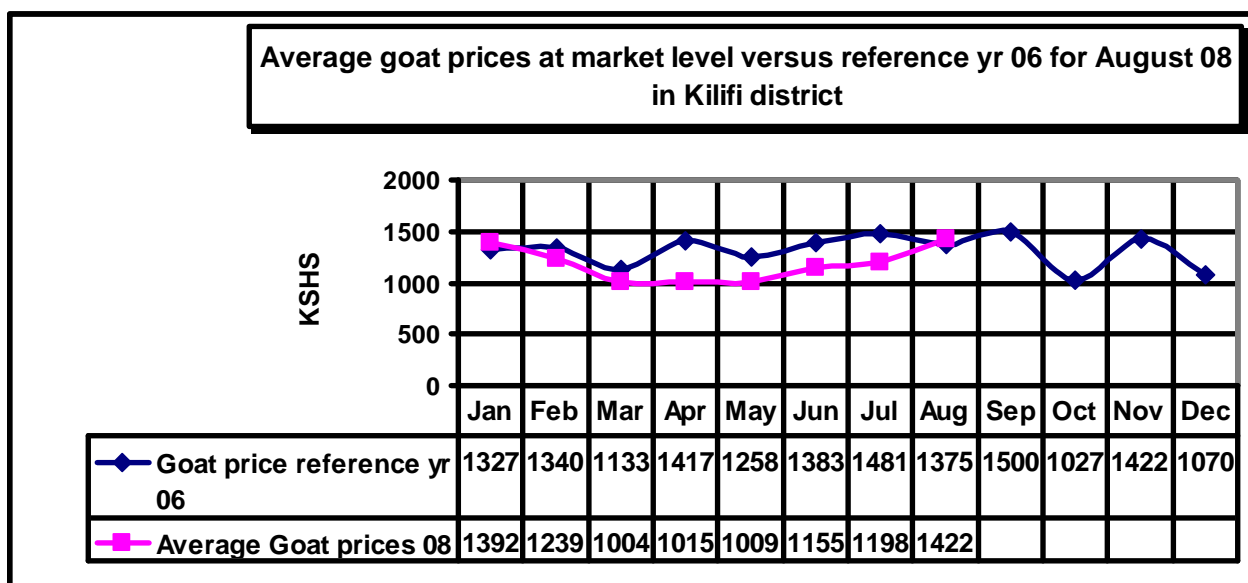
- With crop harvests going on in the food cropping, part of the marginal mixed-farming and the cash crop and dairy zones, food was likely to improve security in the livelihood zones.

- However, for areas that registered any harvests, the trend on food security was expected to worsen.

3. Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

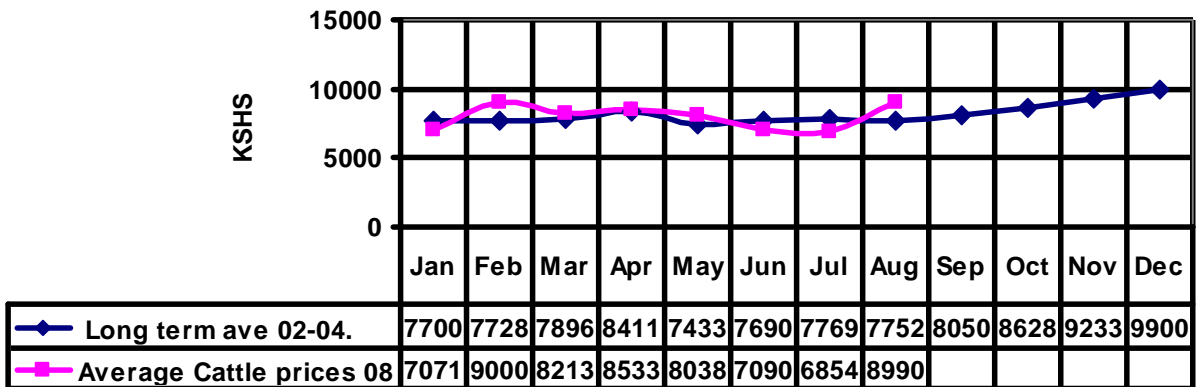
3.1.1 Goat prices



- A medium-sized goat was selling at Ksh 1,422, up from Ksh 1,198 last month.
- The highest goat prices were recorded in the food cropping and the marginal mixed farming livelihood zone at Ksh 1,500 while the ranching one reported the least price at Ksh 1,287.5.
- Lower sales prices were registered in the hard areas as more households sought to dispose off livestock in exchange for food.
- Compared to the reference year (06), the prices were negligibly higher.

3.1.2 Cattle prices

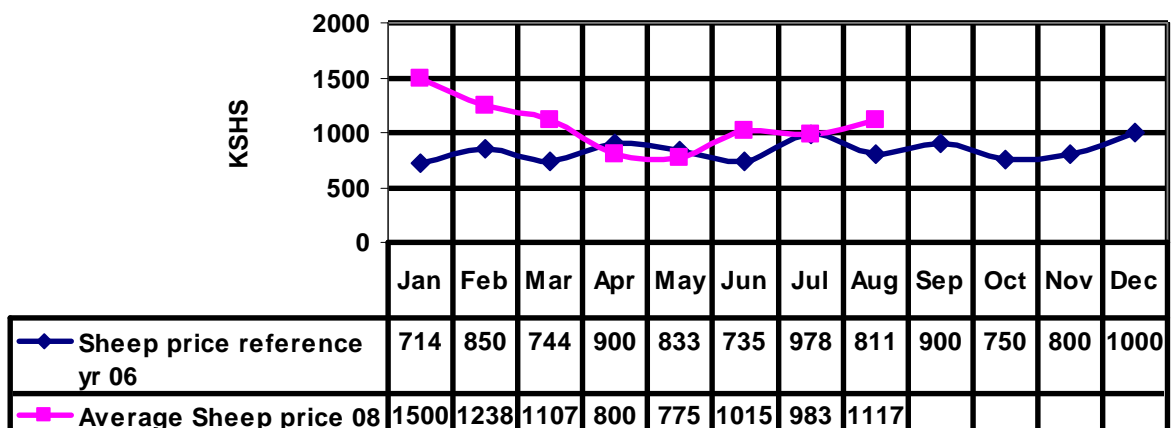
Average cattle prices at market level vs long term average 02-04 in August 08 for Kilifi district.



- A medium-sized bull retailed at an average price of Ksh 8,990 this month compared to last month's price of Ksh 6,854.
- This was a 31 per cent increase in price. Cattle also benefited from improved access to water and forage during the last few months, leading to improved body condition. The cattle, therefore, fetched higher prices in local retail markets.
- The cash cropping and dairy livelihood zone recorded the highest cattle price at Ksh 11,875 while the lowest prices were in the food cropping livelihood zone at Ksh 6,833.
- The increased prices were an indication of improved food security in the livelihoods.

3.1.3 Sheep prices

Average sheep prices at market level vs reference yr 06 for August 08 for Kilifi district



- A medium-sized sheep retailed at Ksh 1,117 during the month, up from Ksh 983 last month. The price increase was attributed to improved body condition.
- The highest price was recorded in the food cropping livelihood zone at Ksh 1,266.7, with the least posted in the marginal mixed-farming livelihood zone at Ksh 1,000.
- The sale price was slightly higher than the reference year's (06).

3.2 Livestock sales

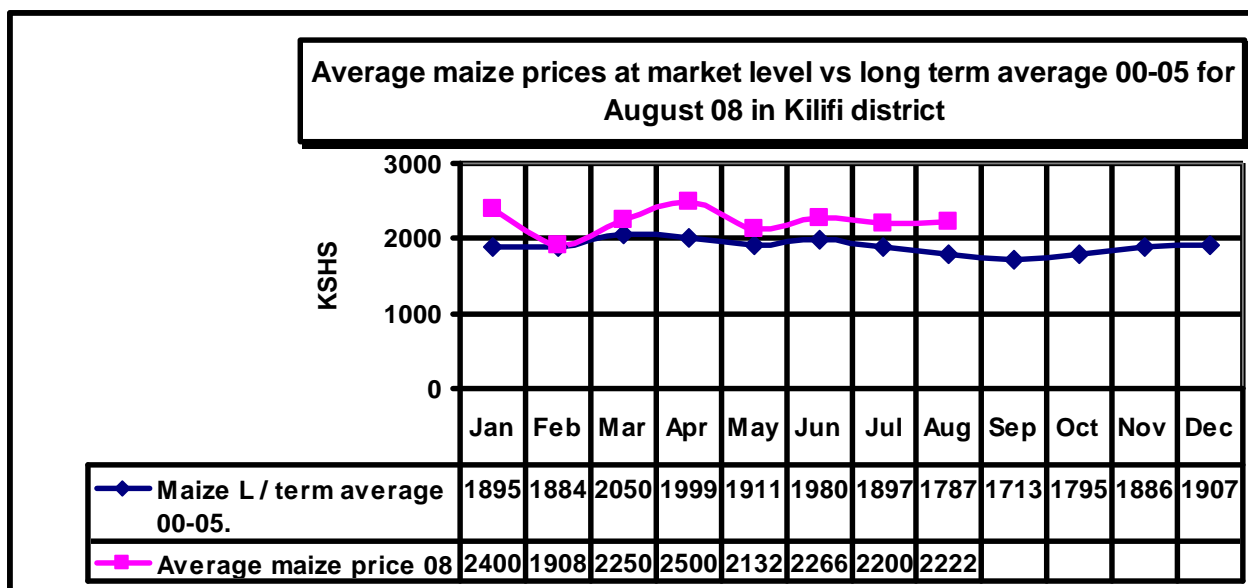
- Livestock sales declined compared to July. This was an indication of improved food security at household level as most households had some food stocks from the recent harvests.
- The most traded livestock were goats, followed by cattle, while sheep trailed. Livestock trade was most vigorous in the ranching livelihood.
- Households in the area depended mostly on livestock for sustenance following a total crop failure last season.

3.3 Milk consumption

- Average milk consumption increased at household level this month owing to improved production.

3.4 Crop prices

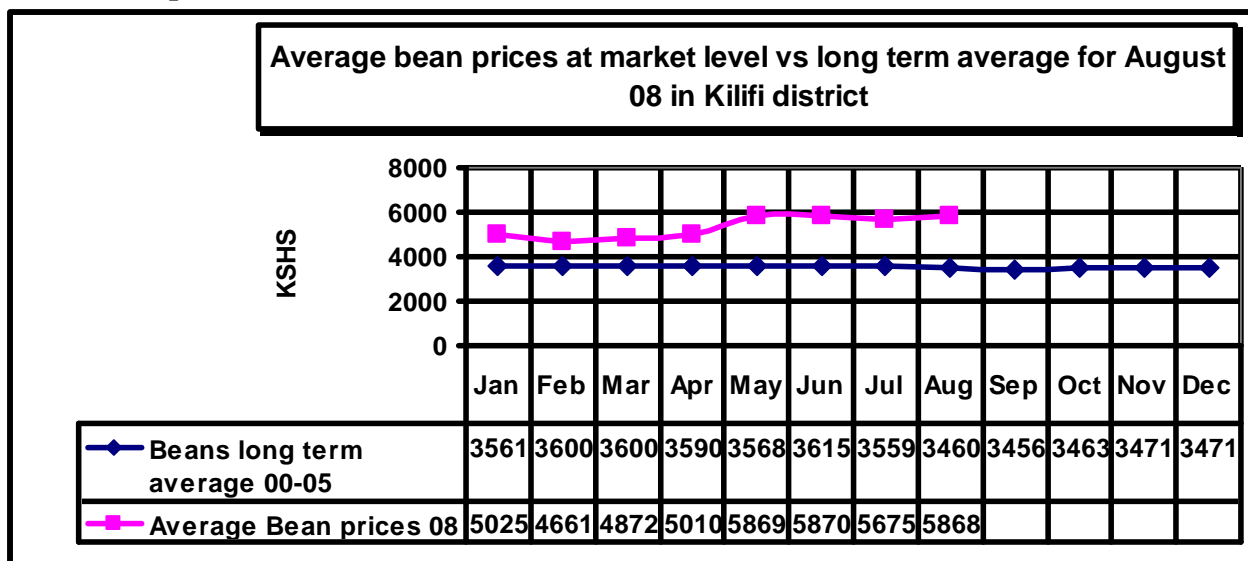
3.4.1 Maize prices



- Maize prices rose to Ksh 2,222 per bag (90kg) from Ksh 2,200 in July.
- Although harvesting was on-going in the two districts, yields were quite low, resulting in high demand for maize.
- Maize prices were highest in the ranching livelihood zone at Ksh 2,462.5 and lowest in the cash cropping and dairy zone at Ksh 2,075.

- The high prices were also attributed to total crop failure in the ranching livelihood zone.
- A bounty harvest in the cash cropping and dairy livelihood zone led to low prices compared to July.
- The increase in the average price of maize was unusual compared to the expected trend at the time of the year. At Ksh 2,222, the price was higher than the long term average of Ksh 1,787.

3.4.2 Beans prices



- A 90-kg bag of beans traded at Ksh 5,868 during the month, up from Ksh 5,675 in July.
- The slight price change was attributed to the recent harvests in the two districts, which provided alternative sources of proteins such at household level.
- The yields were low, hence the negligible change in price.
- The highest price was recorded in the cash cropping and dairy livelihood zone at Ksh 6,450, while the least was Ksh 5,400 in the marginal mixed farming livelihood zone.
- The prices were expected to drop as more food became available at household level following harvests.
- The price was higher than the normal range.

3.5 Income

The percentage of households relying on various income sources were as follows; Casual labour (39.9), sale of charcoal (22.2), petty trade (13.3), formal employment (10.7), remittances (9.0), sale of wood products (2.9) and sale of livestock (2.0).

3.5.1 Casual labour

Demand for casual labour decreased during the month since it was harvesting time and land preparation for the short rains season had not begun in earnest.

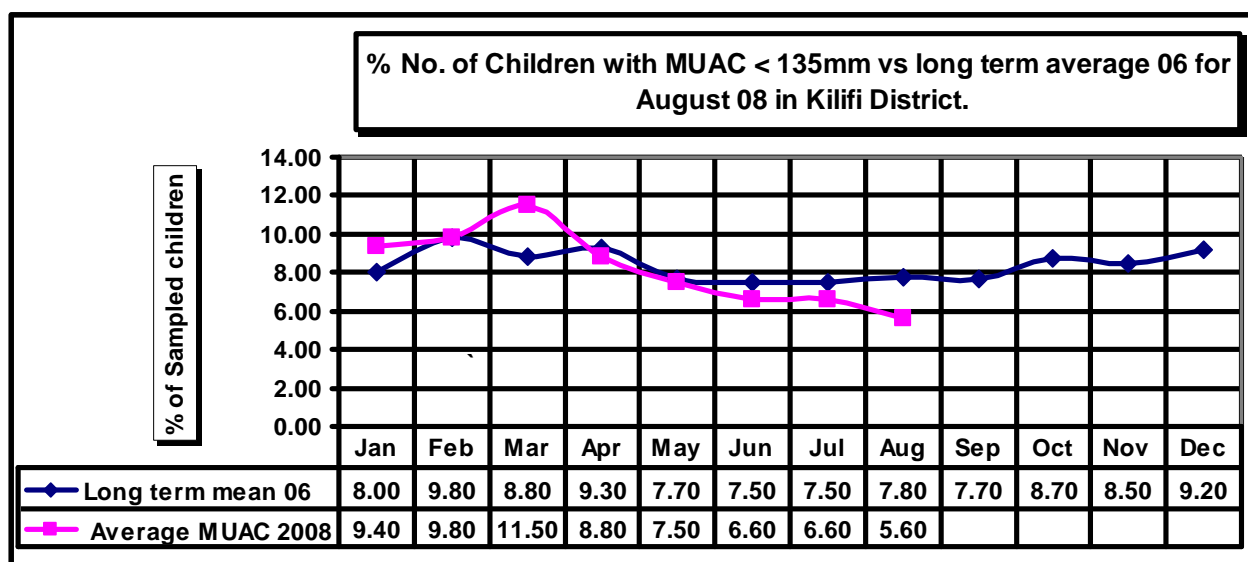
- This was also evident in the average daily wage rate, which increased insignificantly to Ksh 111.80, up from Ksh 111.5 last month.
- The highest wage rate was recorded in the food cropping livelihood zone at Ksh 149, where most on-farm activities took place, while the lowest was recorded in the ranching zone at Ksh 69.
- 22.2 per cent of households relied on sale of charcoal as a source of income, up from 19.1 per cent in July. Households were compelled to resort to charcoal-selling as a fall-back measure since crops did not do well last season. The trend was likely to increase in the coming months before harvests from the short rains season.

3.6 Implications on food security.

- Food security at district level is on an upward trend following improved on farm harvests.
- However harvests below the expectation have continued to sustain relatively high retail prices for both cereal and pulses thus compromising inter livelihood food security.
- Low wage rates erode the purchasing power of those engaged in casual labour making them more vulnerable owing to increased retail commodity prices especially in the Ranching livelihood zone.

4. Utilisation of food

4.1 Nutrition status



- The nutrition status of children below five years improved, with percentage of those rated as being at risk of malnutrition status dropping to 5.6 per cent from 6.60 in July.
- The improvement was attributed to increased access to alternative foods due to ongoing harvests and improved availability of milk availability at household level following increased production.

- Compared to the reference year (06), the recorded 5.6 per cent was lower indicative of a positive trend on food security.

4.2 Health

- There were no major diseases in humans for the month under review.

5. Current interventions

5.1 Non-food interventions

- Public meetings, demonstrations and aflatoxin and Great Grain Borer surveillance by Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) geared towards post-harvest campaigns.
- Cashew-nut improvement programme being implemented by KARI, Bayer and K-Rep Bank in collaboration with the MoA. Farmers sensitised on loan schemes.
- Demonstrations and promotions by ABEC (African Bird's Eye Chilli) in Vitengeni, Bamba, Ganze and Bahari divisions in collaboration with Equator products, Mace Foods, KHDP and MoA.
- DASS (Decentralised Agriculture Support Systems) are facilitating training of agri-business farmer groups and soil conservation activities.
- Njaa Marufuku Kenya funded several groups with ox-ploughs in the district.
- Tissue culture banana bulking being promoted by MoA in five groups in Kikambala and Bahari divisions.

5.2 Food aid

- World Vision distributed 338.67 MT of cereals, pulses and vegetable oil as shown in the table below.

District/Division	Cereals (Mt)	Pulses (Mt)	Vegetable Oil	Total (Mt)
Kaloleni	66.36	23.45	7.0103	163.2
Vitengeni	14.88	5.25	1.5652	36.57
Bamba	44.58	15.85	4.6956	109.70
Ganze	11.85	4.25	1.2566	29.21
Totals	137.67	48.80	14.5277	338.67

- The District Commissioner's office distributed various food commodities in August as illustrated in the table below.

Division	Rice	Maize	Green grams	Total
Chonyi	17		13	30
Bamba		771	30	801
Vitengeni	18	350	30	398

Bahari	220	13	119	352
Kikambala	45		12	57
Total	300	1,134	204	1,638

5.3 Other coping strategies

The coping strategy index declined slightly to 2.5 per cent from 2.6, although the strategies remained similar. The strategies included;

- Hunting and poaching
- Sale of firewood
- Charcoal-burning
- Consumption of wild fruits
- Early marriages
- Engaging in commercial sex
- Working as beach boys.

6. Recommendations

- Need for closer monitoring of the flagged areas in terms of food and water availability at household level.
- Monitoring of the nutritional status of children below five years, and enrolment and retention of school-going children.
- Enhance food support to primary schools not included in the regular school-feeding program.
- Need for re-targeting of affected households to ensure that genuine cases are addressed.
- Water-trucking to schools and institutions in affected areas with support from Coast Water Board, Red Cross, Arid Lands Resource management Project, among other stakeholders.
- Enhance livestock disease surveillance and vaccination in the flagged livelihood zones.

7. Warning phase

- The early warning stage for August was normal but with an unstable trend.