

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, AUGUST 2008

Mandera District

Warning Stages

Timeline Activities

												Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
												Pastoral- all species	ALARM	WORSENING
												Agro pastoral	ALARM	WORSENING
												Irrigated Cropping	ALERT	NORMAL
Short Dry Spell (Jilaal)			Long Rainy Reason (Gu')			Long Dry Spell (Hagai)			Short Rainy Season (Deyr)					
January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December			

Situation overview

- Apart from isolated showers received in Elwak town and parts of Wargadud and Warankara, other parts of the district did not record any rainfall during the month under review. The trend was unusual since the short rains normally fall in mid-October.
- The main sources of water were River Daa, earth pans, underground water tanks, boreholes and shallow wells.

- The number of centres relying on water trucking rose to 45, including Takaba and Malka Mari towns, as most earth pans and underground water tanks dried up. Livestock and human congestion was reported at boreholes.
- Pasture quality and quantity declined, especially in Eastern divisions where it was very poor, and fair to poor in western and central divisions.
- Livestock body conditions deteriorated due to inadequate pasture. While livestock in western and central divisions had fair to poor body condition, the condition was poor for those in eastern.
- Average household prices of livestock dropped compared to the previous month due to the poor body conditions.
- Contagious Caprine Pluro Pneumonia (CCPP) was reported in goats in the district.
- The main sources of income during the month were livestock sales and casual labour.
- Cereal and legume prices rose compared to the previous month.
- The average daily wage was Ksh 164 compared to Ksh 154 in July.
- The number of children below five years at risk of malnutrition remained stable at 17 per cent.
- The situation in the district was at 'alarm' stage and needs to be closely monitored since it is worsening.

Current interventions

The following interventions were carried out during the month;

Non-food aid

- ALRMP and MW&I conducted water trucking in Mandera West, Central, and East districts.
- Red Cross constructed 0.4km of gabions along the river bank in Rhamu.
- Red Cross conducted mobile health outreach at Ola, Garse, Malka Rugha, Bulla Barwaqo, Malka Mari, Chorogo, Awar, Kubi, Guticha, Chir Chir and Galicha.
- MOH held mobile outreach clinics in Mandera west district, especially in Dandu division.

Food aid

- Supplementary feedings by Action Against Hunger.
- Therapeutic feeding centres (TFC) in Mandera district hospital by AAH.
- Distribution of relief food by WFP & COCOP targeting 110,740 beneficiaries.

Recommendations to DSG

- Continued water trucking to 45 centres with acute water stress -Action-DWOs- Mandera West, Central, East, Arid lands and other actors.
- Immediate RAT assessment in Mandera Central and East to identify gaps and areas that need urgent attention; Action-ALRMP and other actors.
- Mass treatment and vaccination of goats against CCPP in the entire district; Action-DVOs in Mandera West, East and Central.
- Provision of a fuel subsidy and fast moving spares for all livestock boreholes to reduce the water fee burden; Action-ALRMP, DWOs and other actors.
- Need to restart supplementary feeding programme(SFP) in Mandera central district; Action- Save the Children (UK).

- Promote peaceful co-existence and sharing of the local resources between communities in Lafey, Wargadud, Warankara and Elwak triangle; Action-Provincial Administration Mendera Central and East Districts.

1. Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- Only isolated showers were received in Elwak town, parts of Wargadud and Warankara. The showers had very little impact on regeneration of pasture and vegetation.
- The trend was unusual as the short rains normally fall in mid-October.

1.2 Natural vegetation and pasture condition

- Pasture quality and quantity was very poor in eastern divisions, fair to poor in Central and West divisions and the situation was worsening.
- The little pasture available was too far from water sources, with average distance to grazing areas rising to 12 kms from 3.1kms in July. The average distance to water points for households was 9 kms.

1.3 Water sources and availability

- The main water sources for the district livelihoods were boreholes, River Daua, shallow wells, underground water tanks, and earth pans.
- The number of centres relying on water trucking rose to 45 as most earth pans and underground reservoirs dried up, while boreholes got congested. There was need for urgent intervention to avert an acute water shortage.
- 19 centres were under water trucking in the western part of the district. These included Takaba town, Didkuro, Duduble, Wangaidahan, Ardahalo, Choroqo, Malkamari, Hullo and Malkaroqa Gagaba. Others were Billow Manur village, Allo Kona, Karsahama, Kubdishan, Kob-adhadhi, Kotkoto, Burduras, Hawacho Sambur and Bachile.
- Areas experiencing water stress and being water trucked in the eastern part were Kabo, Karo, Kamor Liban, Sarohindi, Farey, Oda and Omar Jillow.
- Central parts experiencing water shortage included Garse, Ola, Barwaqo, Waldiri, Bosnia, Jabibar, Gofa, ChirChir, Ogorwein, Sukela Tinfu, Elele, Chachabole, Qarsa Damo, Dawader, Boji, Kobadhadi and Dololo.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Security

- Calm returned in the district as the two rival clans ceased hostilities after security personnel were deployed.

1.4.2 Migration

- No livestock migration was reported during the month under review.

1.5 Implication on food security

- Low livestock prices coupled with high cereal prices impacted negatively on the pastoral community's food security. There is need for mitigation.

2. Rural indicators (food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

- The pastoralist communities usually keep camels, cattle, goats and sheep. Camels and cattle are the long term assets, while shoats are short term.

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Livestock body conditions were fair to poor in Western and Central districts.
- However, the condition of cattle and shoats in Mandera East district was poor, while camels were fair.
- Cattle in Khalalio division were in very poor condition, thus susceptible to diseases.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- CCPP outbreak in shoats and diarrhea were reported in the entire district.
- Diarrhoea and a disease which caused swelling in camels were reported in the western district.
- Increased cattle deaths were reported in Khalalio town due to nutritional deficiency diseases resulting from lack of pasture.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk was moderately available in the district during the month under review.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timelines and status of crop production

- Maize was at different stages of production along the riverine.
- Horticultural crops were in supply in Mandera town.

2.2.2 Pest and diseases

- Stalk-borer was reported in maize along the riverine during the month under review.

2.2.3 Harvest

- Though some harvesting was done during the month, farmers preferred to sell the green maize crop as fodder since there was a ready market.

2.3 Implications on food security

- Low livestock prices, poor harvests and high cereal prices impacted negatively on household food security, thus need for mitigation.

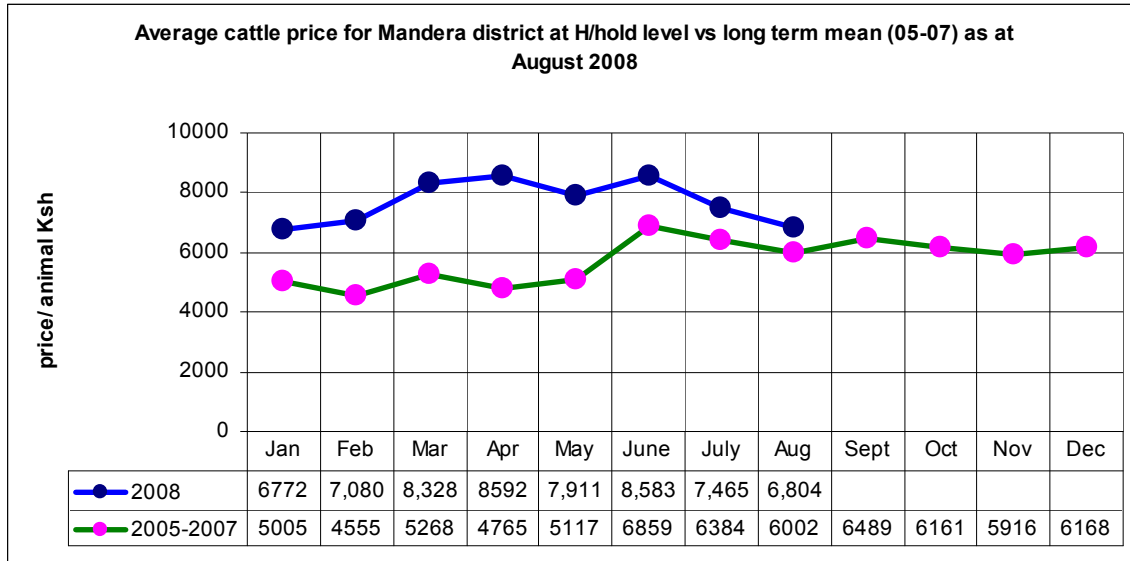
3. Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices

- Cattle prices dropped to Ksh 6,804 from Ksh 7,465 in July due to poor body condition.

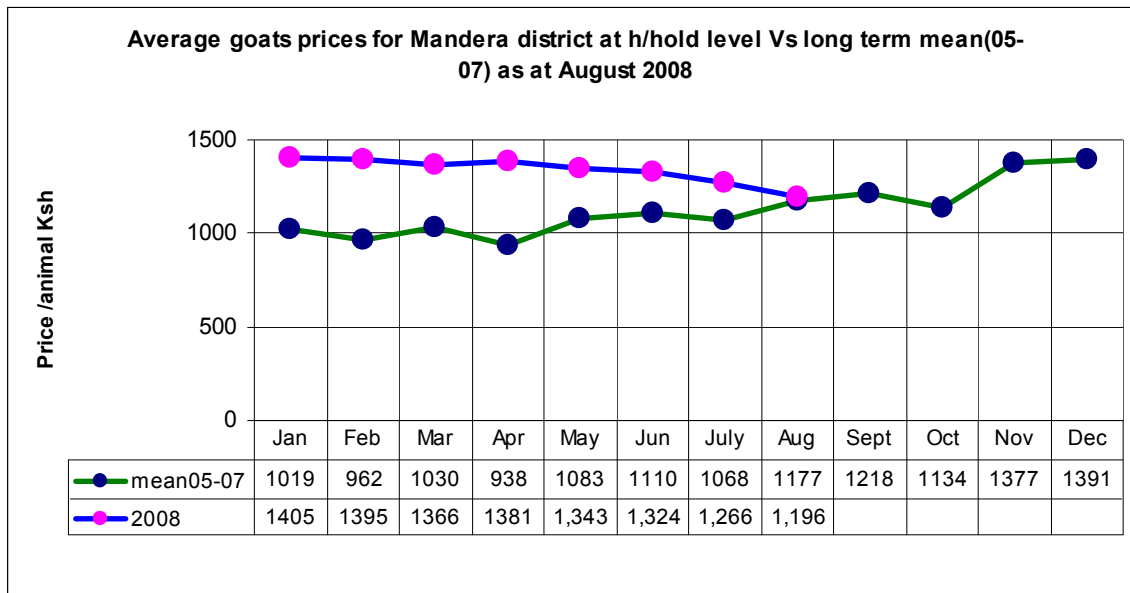
- The average price was higher by Ksh 802 compared to long term mean.
- The highest price was recorded in irrigated cropping livelihood zone at Ksh 7,018, Ksh6,818 in agro-pastoral and Ksh 6,575 in the pastoral zone.



NB: No of Households: 414

3.1.2 Goat prices

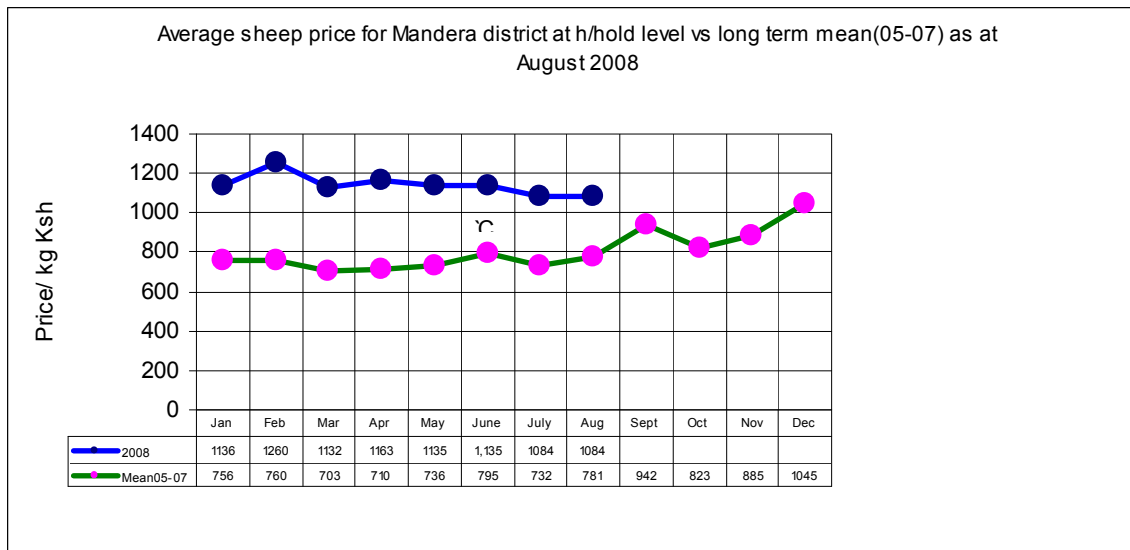
- The average goat price for the month was Ksh1,196, down from Ksh 1,266 in July.
- The drop was attributed to poor body condition, increased supply and low market demand.
- The low goat prices impacted negatively on household purchasing power and food security since goat sales enable many rural households meet their daily needs.
- Compared to long term mean, the average price was higher by Ksh 19 in the month of August.
- The prices were highest in the agro-pastoral zone at Ksh 1,257, Ksh 1,201 in irrigated cropping and Ksh 1,129 in the pastoral livelihood zone.



NB: No of households: 414

3.1.3 Sheep prices

- The average sheep price for the month was Ksh1, 084.
- The average price of sheep was stable compared to the previous month.
- Compared to long term mean, the average price was higher by Ksh 303.
- The highest price was recorded in the agro-pastoral zone at Ksh 1,230, Ksh 1,075 in the irrigated cropping and Ksh946 in the pastoral livelihood zone.
- The trend is normal for this time of the year.

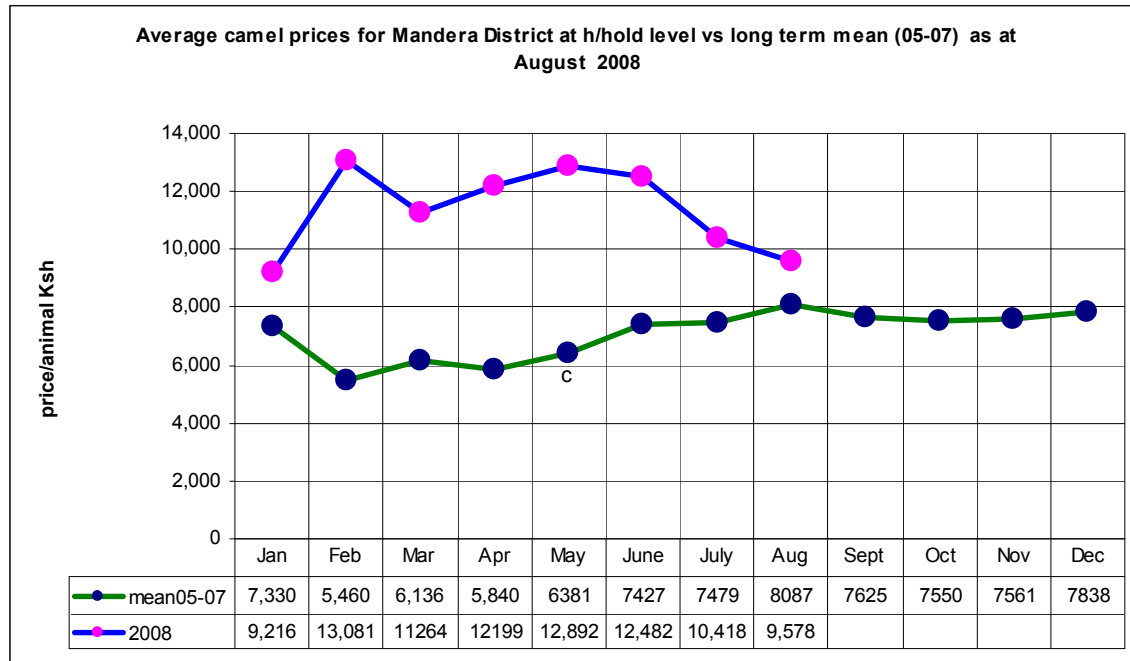


No of households: 414

3.1.4 Camel prices

- Average camel price for the month was Ksh 9,578.

- The price dropped by Ksh 840 compared to July.
- The price drop was due to increased supply and low market demand.
- However, the price was higher than the long term average.
- The highest price was in the agro-pastoral zone.



No of households: 414

3.2 Livestock sales

- The average sales of goats, cattle, camels and sheep were 276, 43, 39 and 55 respectively, totaling 411 during the month.
- The sale volume in July was 460 for all animal species, which indicates a drop compared to the month in review.
- The highest cattle sales were registered in the agro-pastoral zone, followed by the irrigated livelihood zone. The agro-pastoral zone recorded the highest sheep sales followed by pastoral, while more goats were sold in the pastoral followed by agro-pastoral and more camels in agro-pastoral followed by pastoral zone.
- Most households depend on livestock sales to meet their basic essential needs.

3.3 Milk consumption

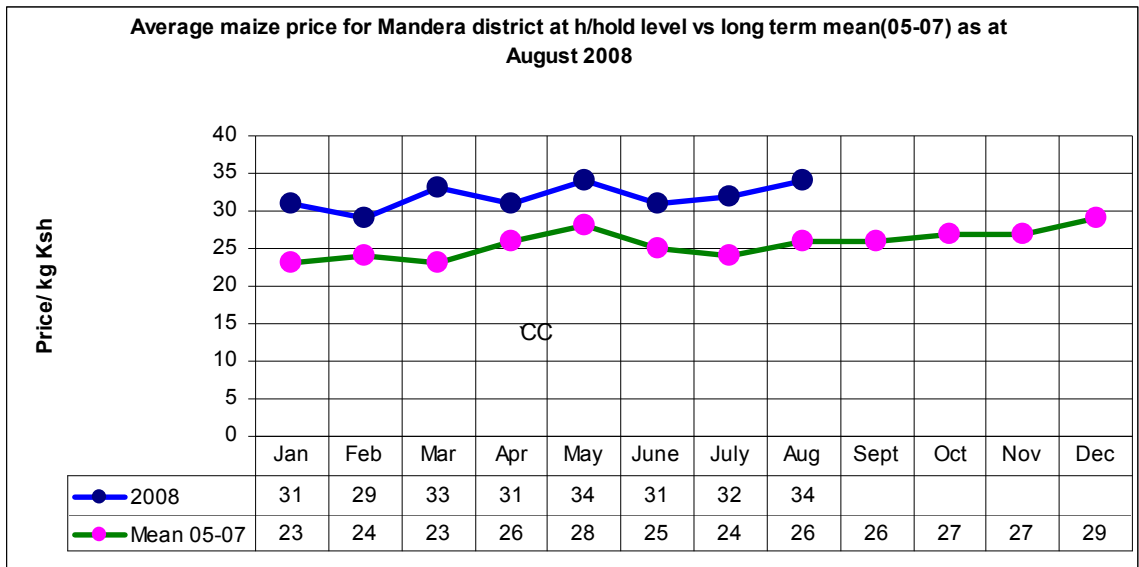
- Milk was consumed in most households, though it was scarce.

3.4 Crop prices

3.4.1 Maize

- The average price of maize was Ksh 34 per kilo, up from Ksh 32 in July.
- The price was higher by Ksh8 compared to long term mean price.

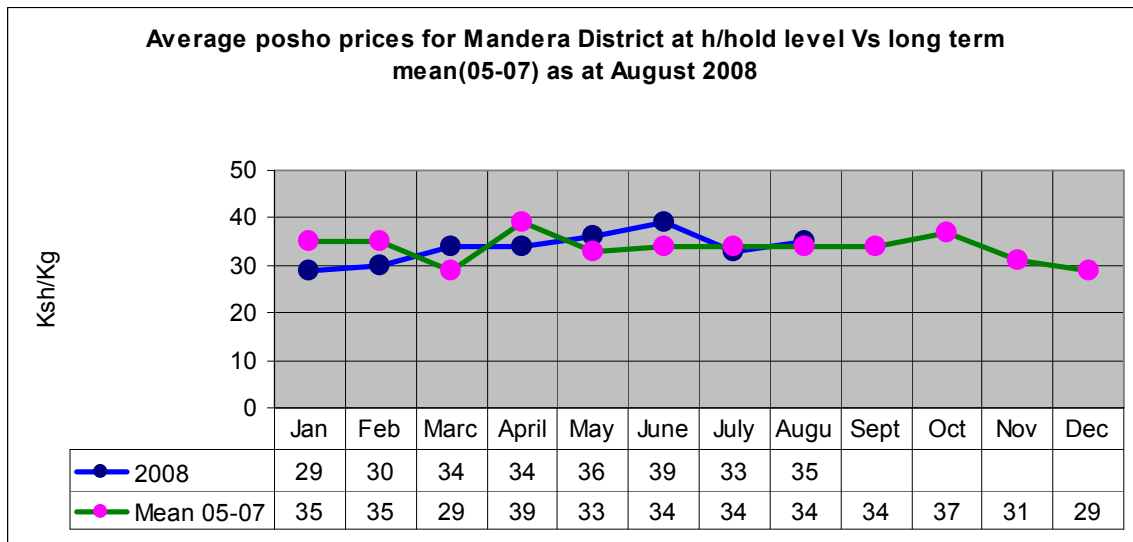
The graph below illustrates:



No of households: 414

3.4.2 Posho prices

- The average price of posho during the month was Ksh 35 per kilo compared to Kh 33 in July.
- The price was higher by Ksh 1 compared to long term mean.



No of households: 414

3.4.4 Other major food crops/ major purchased food

- Other food items purchased by the communities were oil, rice and sugar.

- The price of sugar was Ksh 72 per kilo compared to Ksh 60 in July, Rice Ksh 77, up from Ksh 75 in July and oil Ksh 127 from Ksh 105 in July.

3.5 Income

3.5.1 Livestock

- The main source of income for all livelihoods for the month under review was livestock sales casual labour. The sales volume of camel, cattle, sheep and goats were average.

3.5.2 Crops

- Though maize was at different stages of production in the irrigated cropping zone, farmers preferred disposing of the crop as fodder due to demand.

3.5.3 Casual labour

- The average daily wage was Ksh 174 down from Ksh 184 in July.
- The highest average wage was noted in irrigated cropping zone, followed by pastoral and agro-pastoral zones.

3.6 Cereal: Meat price ratio

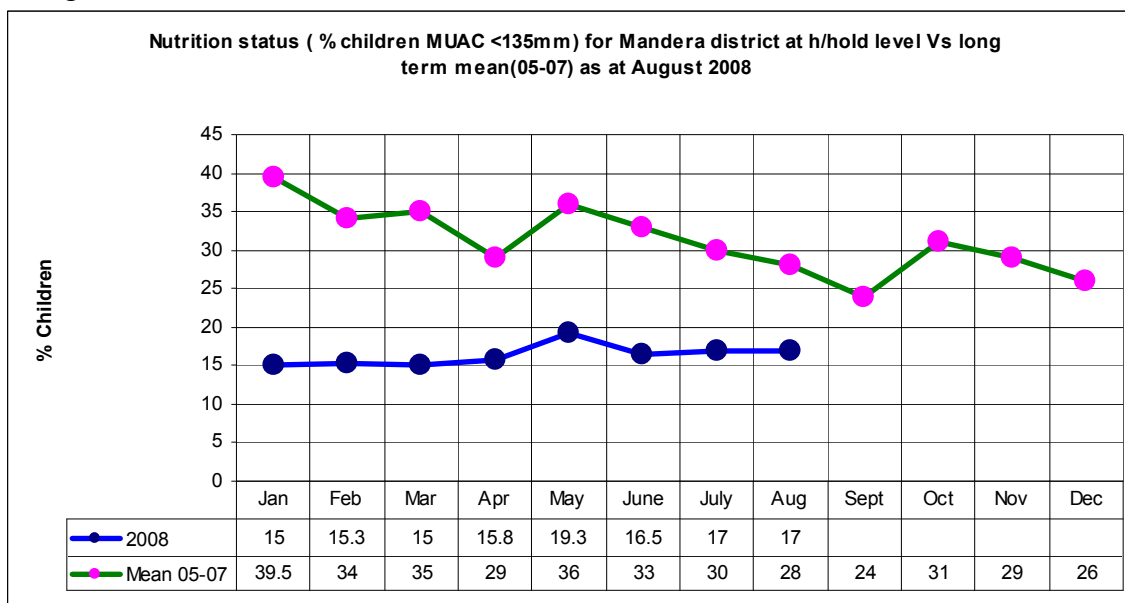
3.7 Implications on food security

- Low livestock prices coupled with high cereal prices impacted negatively on food security of households.

4. Welfare (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status

- The number of children under five years rated as being at risk of malnutrition remained stable at 17 per cent.
- The rate of malnutrition was lower by 11 per cent compared to long term mean.
- Central division reported the highest rate at 19.8 per cent while Hareri division registered the lowest at 14.8.



: Total No of Children: 1,329.

4.2 Health

- There was no disease outbreaks reported during the month under review.

4.3 Flagged areas

- Over 45 trading centres were in water stress, hence, water trucking should be continued to mitigate the water crisis.

5.0 Current interventions

The following interventions were carried out during the month.

Non-food aid

- ALRMP and MW&I conducted water trucking in Mandera West, Central, and East districts.
- Red Cross constructed 0.4km of gabions along the river bank in Rhamu.
- Red Cross conducted mobile health outreach at Ola, Garse, Malka Rugha, Bulla Barwaqo, Malka Mari, Chorogo, Awar, Kubi, Guticha, Chir Chir and Galicha.
- MOH held mobile outreach clinics in Mandera west district, especially in Dandu division.

Food aid

- Supplementary feedings by Action Against Hunger.
- Therapeutic feeding centres (TFC) in Mandera district hospital by AAH.
- Distribution of relief food by WFP & COCOP targeting 110,740 beneficiaries.

5.3 Coping strategies

- Causal labour.
- Sharing of relief food
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6.0 Recommendations to DSG

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- Immediate RAT assessment in Mandera Central and East to identify gaps and areas that need urgent attention; Action-ALRMP and other actors.
- Mass treatment and vaccination of goats against CCPP in the entire district; Action-DVOs in Mandera West, East and Central.
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- Need to restart supplementary feeding programme(SFP) in Mandera central district; Action- Save the Children (UK).
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