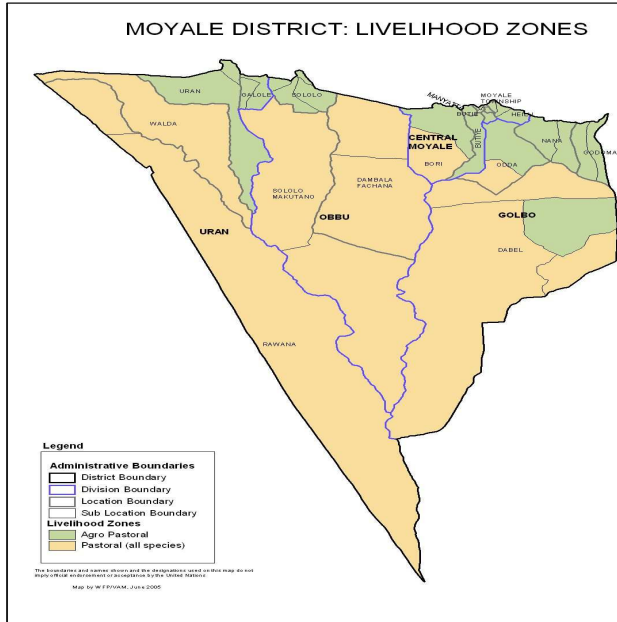


# DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, AUGUST 2008

## Moyale District

## Warning Stages



Livelihood Zones	Stage	Trend
PASTORAL ZONES	ALARM	WORSENING
AGRO-PASTORAL ZONES	ALARM	WORSENING
CASUAL LABOUR, SMALL BUSINESSES	ALARM	STATIC

### SEASONAL CALENDER

Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May  
Jun July Aug Sept Oct Nov



### Situation overview

- Only light showers were recorded in the district during the first ten days of the month under review. The month was mainly characterised by hot and dry weather.
- The quality and quantity of pasture and browse continued to decline, which saw herds leave wet season grazing areas earlier than expected. The situation was worsened by herds that migrated from neighbouring Ethiopia. Pastoral livelihood zones were more affected compared to the agro-pastoral.

- The main sources of water during the month were larger pans (used during dry season) and boreholes. All wet season watering pans and early post-rainy season water sources dried up due to overuse.
- The district experienced an acute water shortage following the influx of livestock from Ethiopia in July. This caused a strain on resources in the dry season grazing areas as most surface pans and laggas dried up. Worst hit areas were Ambalo, Garba, Laagi, Banale, Funanyata and Ele Bor.
- Distance to water points for households increased as pans dried up. The pans that have already dried up include Banale, Lataka, Guyo Timo, Laaqi, some parts of Ambalo, Garba and Golla. Residents in the areas relied on water trucking.
- Urban centres such as Moyale and Sololo were also affected and congestion was reported in nearby boreholes at Odda and Ramole.
- Livestock body condition remained fairly good for all species, though the outbreak of foot and mouth and longer distances to watering points affected some herds.
- Cattle sales rose due to demand by traders, who supply them to the Kenya Meat Commission and prices ranged between Ksh 11,763.70 and 11,528.40 over the month.
- Spread of foot and mouth disease dropped due to the hot weather..
- The nutritional status of children below five years improved, with percentage of those at the risk of malnutrition dropping from 27.3 in July to 24.7.

### **Current interventions**

#### **Non-food interventions**

- Distribution of drip irrigation materials by Arid Lands Resource Management Project II (ALRMP II) in all division of the district.
- CIFA (a local NGO) distributed camel heifers in all divisions to increase drought-tolerant livestock in the district.
- Water trucking ongoing in several places.

#### **Food aid**

- Relief food was distributed in most centres in the District as Food For Assets (FFA).

#### **Recommendation To KFSSG**

- Distribution of Food For Assets to be continued.
- Farmers who have prepared farms for planting to be assisted with seeds.

## **1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)**

### **1.1 Rainfall**

- Only light showers were recorded in parts of the district during the month under review.

### **1.2 Natural vegetation and pasture**

- The quality and quantity of forage remained poor. The situation was worsened by the influx of animals from Ethiopia.
- Pastoral areas were most affected and are facing pasture shortage.

### **1.3 Water sources and availability**

#### **1.3.1 Use of water sources**

- The main sources of water during the month were larger pans (used during dry season) and boreholes.
- All wet season watering pans and early post-rainy season water sources dried up due to over exploitation.
- Areas already facing water shortage include Ambalo, Garba, Laagi, Banale, Funanyata and Ele Bor. Most herds moved away from the areas to dry season grazing zones, where there are permanent water sources.

#### **1.3.2 Household access to water**

- Some water pans set aside for household use dried up. These included Banale, Lataka, Guyo Timo, Laaqi, some parts of Ambalo, Garba, Golla. Several others are also expected to dry up soon.
- People had to walk very long distances to water points and some areas had to be put under water trucking.
- Residents of Moyale, Sololo and other urban centres had to walk to nearby boreholes at Odda and Ramole to access water and congestion was reported in these places.

#### **1.3.3 Livestock access to water**

- Livestock access to water declined and some areas such as Amballo turned away migrant herds to ease congestion.
- There were fears of boreholes breaking down, which saw some committees call on residents to raise funds for standby generators or repair of existing ones.
- Distances from pasture to water points stood between 18 to 22 km.

### **1.4 Emerging Issues**

- Large herds moved into the district from Ethiopia in June and early July due to drought. The pastoralists are at liberty to roam anywhere in the district since cross-border migration is normal.
- The herds pose a threat to resources and often lead to environmental degradation.
- Food prices, especially rice and sugar, continued to rise. The purchasing power of households that rely entirely on pastoralism was affected since goats and sheep fetched lower prices.

#### **1.4.1 Implication on food security**

- The inadequate rainfall, shortage of pasture and water, low livestock prices and soaring food prices impacted negatively on food security. The purchasing power of most household, especially those that rely on livestock, was weakened since animals fetched low prices while food prices escalated.

## **2.0 Rural economy indicators**

### **2.1 Livestock production**

#### **2.1.1 Livestock body conditions**

- Livestock body conditions deteriorated as a result of rapid pasture depletion.

#### **2.1.2 Livestock health and diseases**

- Foot and mouth disease started to fizzle out and no other disease outbreak was reported.

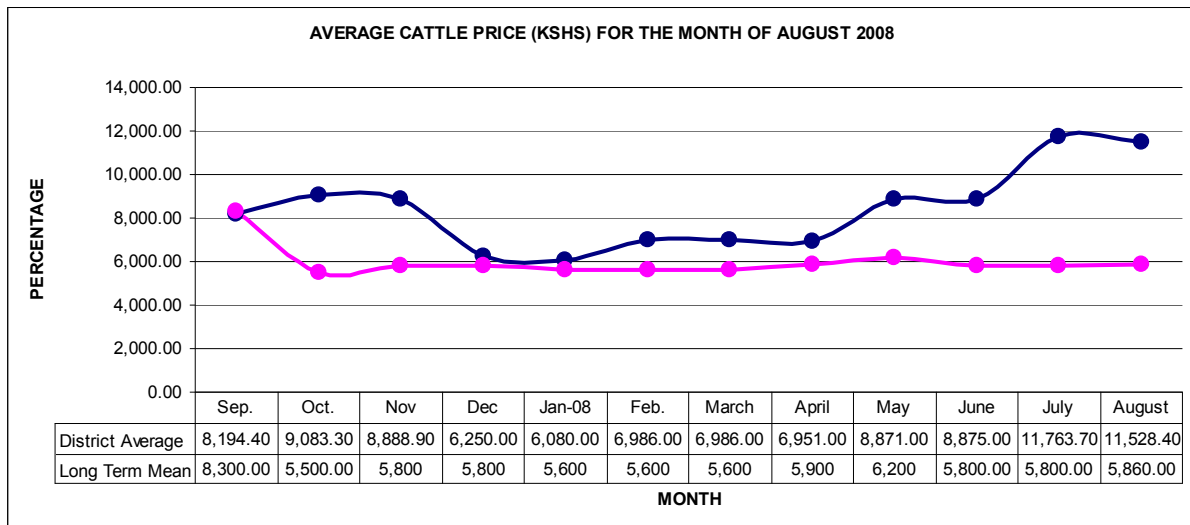
#### **2.1.3 Milk production**

- Milk production over the month stood at 116.5 bottles (750 ml).
- 74.0 bottles were consumed at household level, while 44.5 were sold at an average of Ksh 23.8 per litre

## **3.0 Access to food**

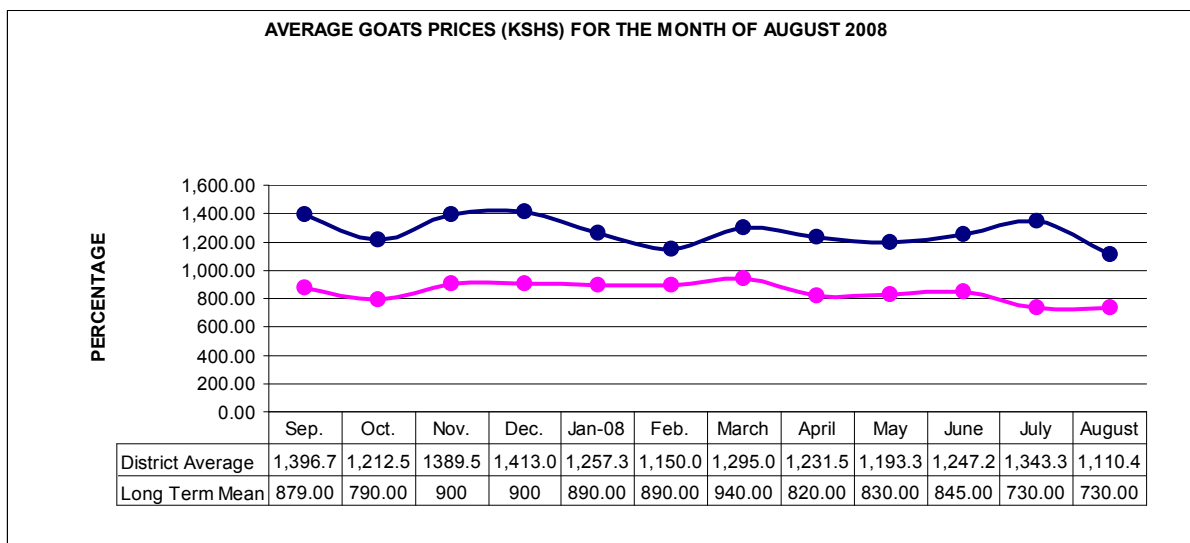
### **3.1 Livestock marketing**

#### **3.1.1 (a) Cattle prices**



- Cattle prices dropped slightly due to immature or smaller stocks being offered for sale. Prices are usually higher in the district during the month.

### (b) Goat prices



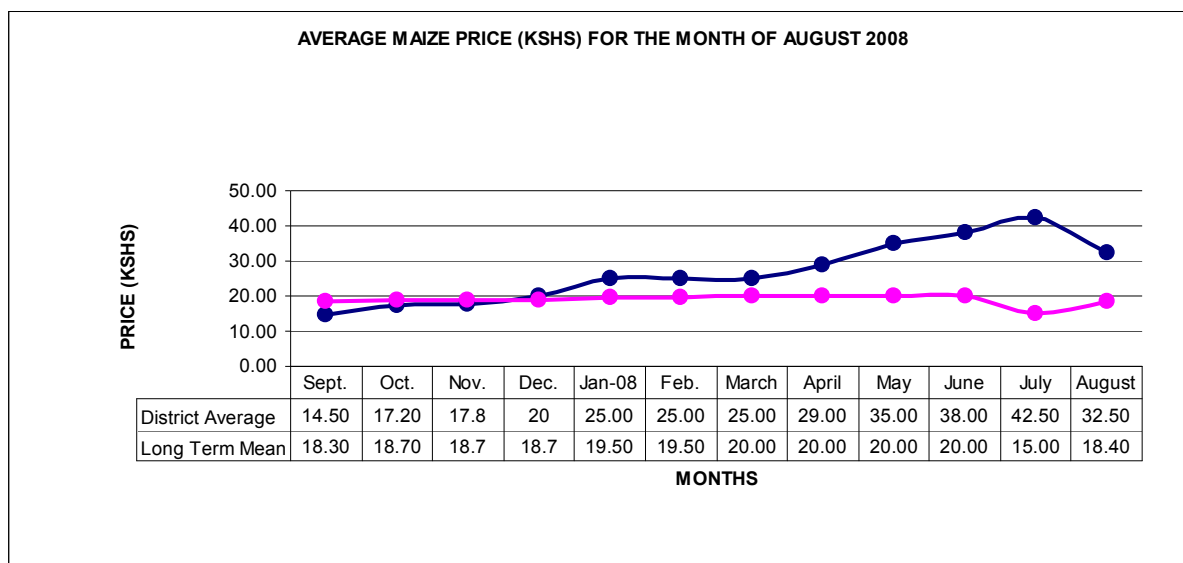
- Goat prices dropped due to an influx of sheep and goats from Wajir and surrounding areas of Ethiopia.

### 3.1.2 Livestock sales

- A large number of livestock were presented for sale (all species) daily but sales were poor and middlemen took advantage and bought to sell when demand outstrips supply.

## 3.2 Crop prices

### 3.2.1 Maize



- Prices of maize dropped during the month due to available supplies from other parts of the country.

### 3.2.2 Other food items

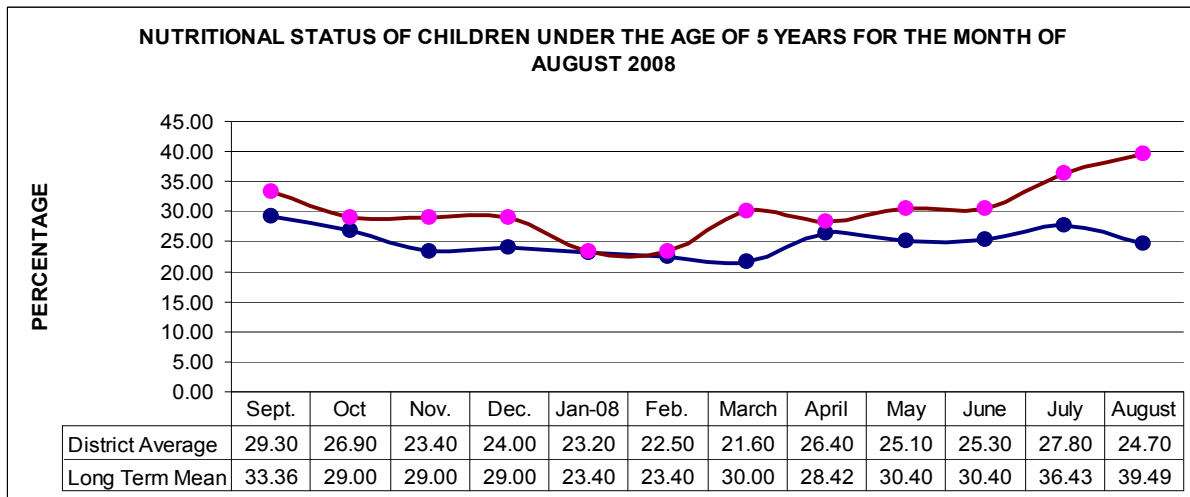
Other essential food items such as beans and rice were sold at the following prices.

	Beans (Kshs/Kg)	Rice (Kshs/Kg)
Central (Heilu)	50.00	80.00
Uran (Uran Lataka)	70.00	85.00

- The prices were very high compared to those of 2006-2007. While prices of all these commodities doubled, those of livestock remained almost the same.
- A 20kg goat sold at an average price of Ksh 1,200, translating into Ksh 60 for a kilogramme of meat.
- Cereal:meat price ratio was 42.50:60 or 1:1.4. This means that a fully grown goat or sheep could only purchase 20 kilos of maize in the district.
- The ratio is the worst recorded in Moyale, diminishing the purchasing power of pastoralists.

## 4.0 Utilisation of food

### 4.1 Nutritional status



- The nutritional status of children below five years improved, with the percentage of children at the risk of malnutrition falling from 27.80 in July to 24.70.

#### 4.2 Human Health

- Malaria and coughs were the most common ailments, which is normal during this time of year.

#### 4.3 Flagged Area

- Obbu and Golbo are still the most affected worst areas in the district. The two areas require more assistance in form of food supplements for children.

#### 5.0 Coping strategies

- Most households reduced the number of meals per day to only one due to high food prices.

#### 5.1 Current interventions

- Food for Asset ongoing in the district. The work done is quite light and communal.
- Distribution of drip irrigation kits and watering cans by ALRMP II during the month.
- CIFA (a local NGO) distributed camel heifers in all divisions to increase drought-tolerant livestock in the district.
- Water trucking ongoing in several places.

#### 6.0 Recommendations

- Urgent livestock vaccination against for foot and mouth disease.

- Farmers should be supported with planting seeds before the rains and sensitized on need to plant in time to reduce food insecurity.
- More disease surveillance required as large herds entering the district may bring in diseases.
- An acute pasture shortage is looming and the Provincial Administration should assist livestock owners search for pasture outside the district.
- More capacity building in areas such as Somare Butiye, Heilu and Odda to stop destruction of trees as households seek ways of meeting food requirements.
- Food for Assets and relief food should be increased and distribution checked to curb theft by relief committees.