

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, AUGUST 2008

Narok District

Warning Stages

TIMELINE ACTIVITIES

Livelihood Zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Agro Pastoral Entasekera, Naroosura, Suswa	Alert	Worsening
Mixed Farming Nairragi-Enkare, Mulot	Alert	No Change
Pastoral Olmesutie, Ntuka, Mosiro, Koyiaki, Oletukat	Alert	Worsening
Trade Narok Town	Normal	Declining
Leasing/ Pastoral Lemek, Ololulunga, Ntulele	Alert	Declining
Pastoral Tourism Koyiaki, Siana	Alert	No Change



Situation overview

- The district recorded 35mm of rainfall during the month under review. The rains were received mainly in the upper zones of Mau, Olorkurto area of Mara and Mulot division. Other than the five days of rainfall, the month was mainly characterised by dry, cold and intervals.
- Livestock body conditions declined for all species, especially for the larger stock.

- The main sources of water for livestock and domestic use were major rivers, dams and springs. However, availability declined in all livelihood zones compared to July.
- Pasture conditions declined in all zones except for pockets of relatively good standing hay in Mara and Loita areas, which could be inaccessible due to heavy tsetse fly infestation.
- Cases of CBPP and CCPP continued to be reported in Mara, Loita, Osupuko and Central division. Suspected cases of PPR were also reported, necessitating urgent intervention, especially in Narok South district.
- Milk production remained low due to poor livestock conditions and low calving and kidding rates.
- Livestock prices dropped for all species. Cattle prices fell to Ksh10,000 from Ksh11,300 in July, while sheep prices dropped to Ksh 1,300 from Ksh1,500 in July. Goat prices remained stable at Ksh 1,400.
- The livestock prices were expected to drop further as body conditions deteriorate due to unfavourable weather. The closure of abattoirs in Dagoretti in Nairobi also affected the livestock markets significantly.
- Food prices remained stable. A kilo of maize traded at Ksh 40 per kilo, up from Ksh 35 in July. Prices of beans rose to Ksh 64 from Ksh 60 and posho prices to Ksh 44 from 40.
- There were no major human diseases reported during the review period.
- Livestock migration continued within the district as herders moved livestock away from the wildlife migration corridors, especially in Mara and Osupuko.
- More herders moved from Osupuko and parts of Central divisions to Ololulunga and Upper parts of Central and Mau divisions in search of water and pasture and to access wheat straw, which was abundant in wheat growing zones following the harvesting season.
- The nutritional status of children under five years continued to decline, with 21 per cent rated as being at the risk of malnutrition compared to 19.7 in July.
- This is mainly attributed to the declining food security situation in the district.

Current interventions

- Development and protection of Kimogoro springs in Mulot division.
- Support to free primary education through construction of classrooms in Nkokolani, Nailogilog, Enturoto and Olonini primary schools in Oloruro, Mau, Mara and Ololulunga divisions.
- Construction of Eor Esimu water pan in Central Division.
- Construction of Enkerende Curio market for women groups in Mara division.
- Support to extension of Narasha water project pipeline to benefit more communities.
- Support to Ololepo irrigation scheme and development and protection of Iltarara shallow well.
- Support to agriculture and livestock sector.
- Bee keeping: provision of hives to communities in Central, Osupuko, Ololulung'a and Mara divisions and training of the beneficiaries.
- Support to camel rearing through provision of camels and training of beneficiaries.
- Support to livestock upgrading by providing dairy goats to pastoralists.
- Community training in environmental conservation, animal traction, and utilisation of drought-tolerant crops.
- Training District Steering Groups on natural resource management.
- Training District Peace Committees.

- Drilling more boreholes by MoH and Operation Eye Sight International in a trachoma eradication programme.
- Provision of humanitarian support to internally displaced persons by World Vision, World Concern, APHIA II and other institutions.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSSG

- There is need for a food security assessment in the district to establish the levels of stress attributed to the season's crop failure.
- Need for more contingency funds for use in emergency water, disease and other food security-related programmes.
- Continuous disease surveillance to contain disease outbreaks especially in areas where livestock are concentrated.
- Activation and enhancement of drought contingency plans and funds. Though the Arid Land Resource Management Project has established a contingency fund for livestock disease control and other issues such as rehabilitation of boreholes, it is inadequate.
- Expansion of school-feeding programme especially to schools in areas where crop failure was recorded and other vulnerable marginal areas both in Narok North and Narok South.
- Vaccination against foot and mouth disease and control of CBPP and CCPP in Mosiro, Central, Mara, Loita and Osupuko areas.
- Support to vulnerable groups in form of cash transfers and other recovery measures especially in the pastoral and marginal rain-fed crop growing areas.

1.0 Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- An average of 35mm of rainfall was recorded in the district. Five days of scattered rainfall were recorded in the upper zones of Mau and Olokurto, parts of Mara and Mulot divisions.
- The month was characterised by dry, cold and intervals.
- This was normal during the time of the year.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation

- The condition of pasture and browse remained fair but declining fast due to dry weather conditions and competition between livestock and wildlife.

- Herders in the wheat growing zones of Ololulunga, Mau and Central divisions benefited from hay following the wheat harvesting season.
- However, this might not last long as some farmers export the wheat and hay out of the district.

1.3 Water sources and availability

- The dry weather conditions affected the availability of water in the district. Distances to watering points for livestock use remained the same as July.
- Competition for water was high between livestock and wild animals.
- The main sources of water remained rivers, catchments pools, pans/dams and traditional wells.
- However, water volumes are declining g fast due to low precipitation.
- This impacted negatively on household food security, especially in the pastoral and agro pastoral communities.

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

Water source	1	2	3	4	Others
% Of h/holds depending on the source	35	45	13	5	2
% Of h/holds normally depending on source	25	50	15	8	2

1. Natural rivers 2. Catchment pools/dams 3. Constructed shallow wells/functional 4. Boreholes (functional)

- Distances to and from watering points remained the same as July for both livestock and domestic use in Narok North and South districts. The situation is likely to worsen if the prevailing weather conditions persist.
- This impacted negatively on food security since household members, especially women and children spent more time searching for water.

The table below indicates average distances to water sources compared to normal situation

Water sources	1	2	3	4	Others
Average Kms to the source	8	6	5	10	2
Normal Kms to the source	4	5	5	8	2

1.Traditional rivers/wells 2.Catchment pools/dams 3.Constructed shallow wells/functional 4. Boreholes (functional)

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Livestock body condition continued to deteriorate among all species, especially larger stock.
- This was mainly attributed to the declining pasture and water in the district.
- The trend impacted negatively on food security.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- Cases of CCPP, CBPP and suspected cases of PPR were reported in Mara Osupuko and Loita divisions.

- This could mean that the areas were not reached during the vaccination campaign. It could also be attributed to the movement of livestock through markets from neighbouring Tanzania.
- There was an ongoing vaccination campaign by VSF-Germany in Loita and Mara divisions.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk production remained low throughout the district due to declining availability of pasture and water and low calving and kidding rates.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of crop production activities

- Maize harvesting was ongoing in the agro-pastoral and the mixed-farming zones.
- However, the yields were more than 50 per cent below normal.
- Most farmers lost their crop to the prevailing harsh weather, while others were lost crop to wildlife invasions.
- Wheat harvesting was ongoing in Narok North and South. The yields were also very poor compared to the long term mean. On average, farmers got 10 bags per acre, compared to the normal 20-25.
- The low yields were attributed to the rain failure and late planting following social commotion preceding the planting season. The situation was further aggravated by high costs of agricultural inputs, especially fertilizers.
- This impacted negatively on food security in Narok North and South districts.

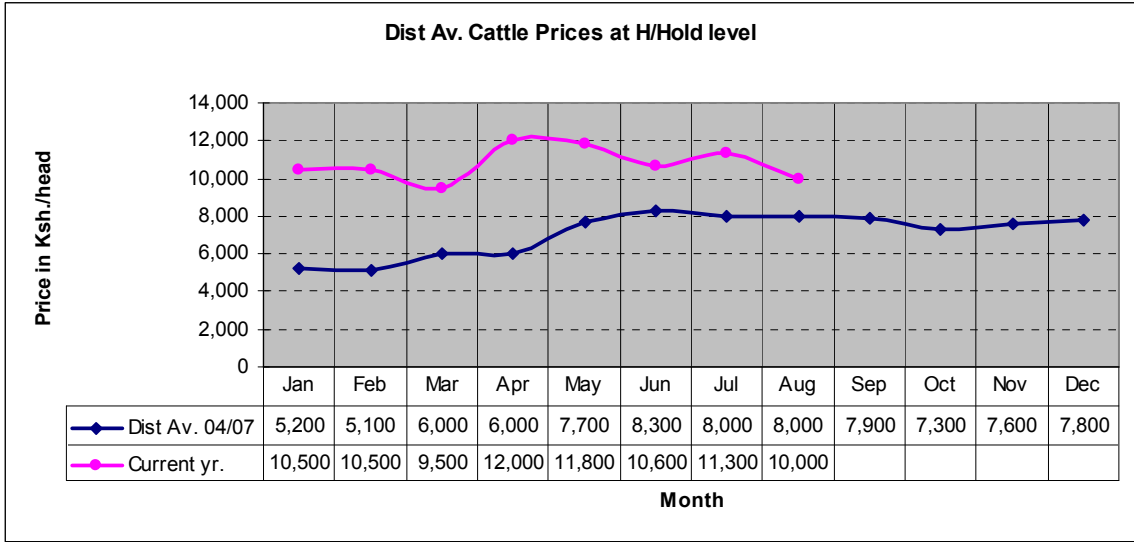
3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices

- Cattle prices dropped compared to the previous month due to high supply. The average price fell to Ksh10,000 from Ksh11,300 in July.
- The closure of slaughter houses by the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) during the review month also contributed to the poor prices as there were no other outlets for the high number of livestock on offer.
- This was aggravated further by crop failure, leaving most households with livestock sale as the only means of sustenance.

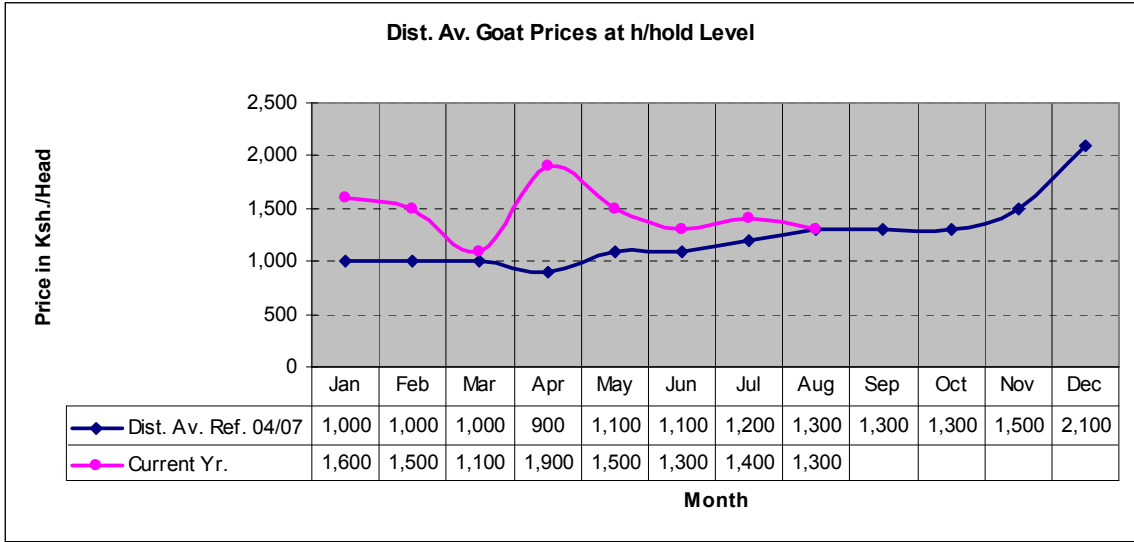
The graph below shows district cattle average prices in Ksh at the household level



3.1.2 Goats prices

- Goat prices remained stable at Ksh 1,400 due to relatively good body condition.
- The prices were normal for the time of the year.

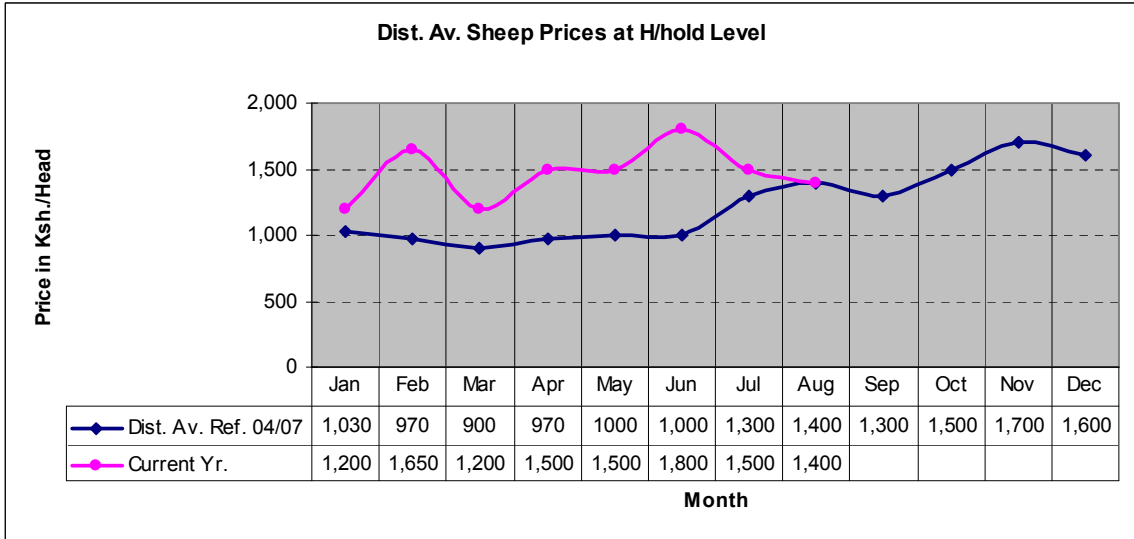
The graph below shows the district average prices of goats at the h/hold level (Ksh)



3.2 Sheep prices

- Sheep prices dropped to Ksh 1,300 from Ksh1,500 in July.
- This was mainly attributed to the declining body conditions due to harsh weather conditions.

The graph below shows the district average prices for sheep at the household level (Ksh.)

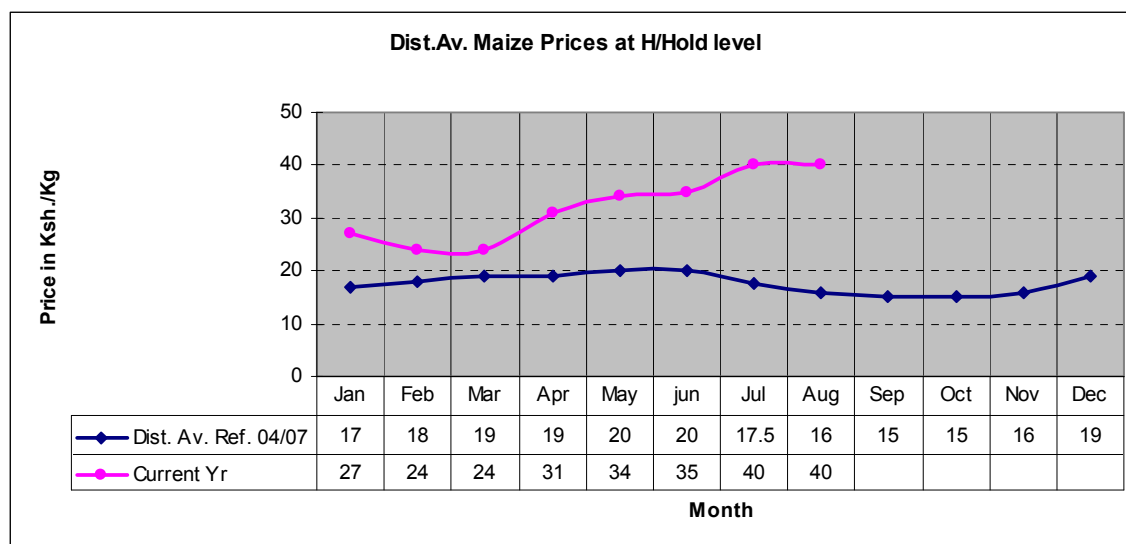


3.1 Crop prices

3.2.1 Maize prices

- Maize prices continued to rise compared to the previous reporting period. A kilo of maize traded at Ksh 40 per kilo, up from Ksh 35 in July.
- This was attributed to low supply of the commodity in the markets.
- This impacted negatively on food security.

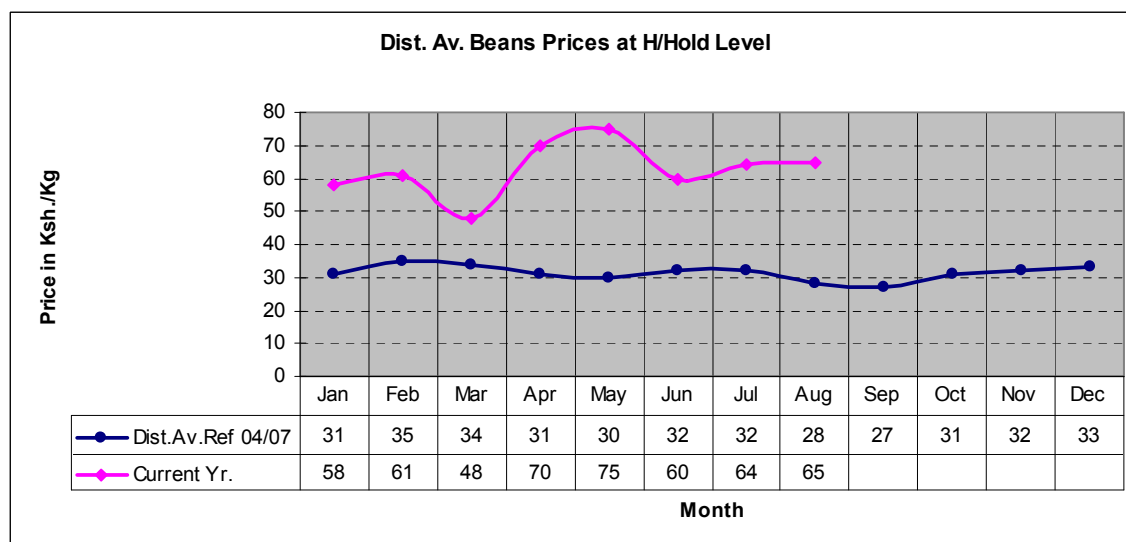
The graph below shows the average district maize prices at the household level (Ksh/Kg)



3.2.2 Beans prices

- Beans prices rose compared to the previous month. The average price rose to Kh 64 from Ksh 60 in July.
- This was attributed to the scarcity of the produce in the market and low levels of production at the household level.
- Most households that had harvested beans exhausted stocks by selling as a result of attractive market prices.
- The price hike impacted positively on food security in the district.

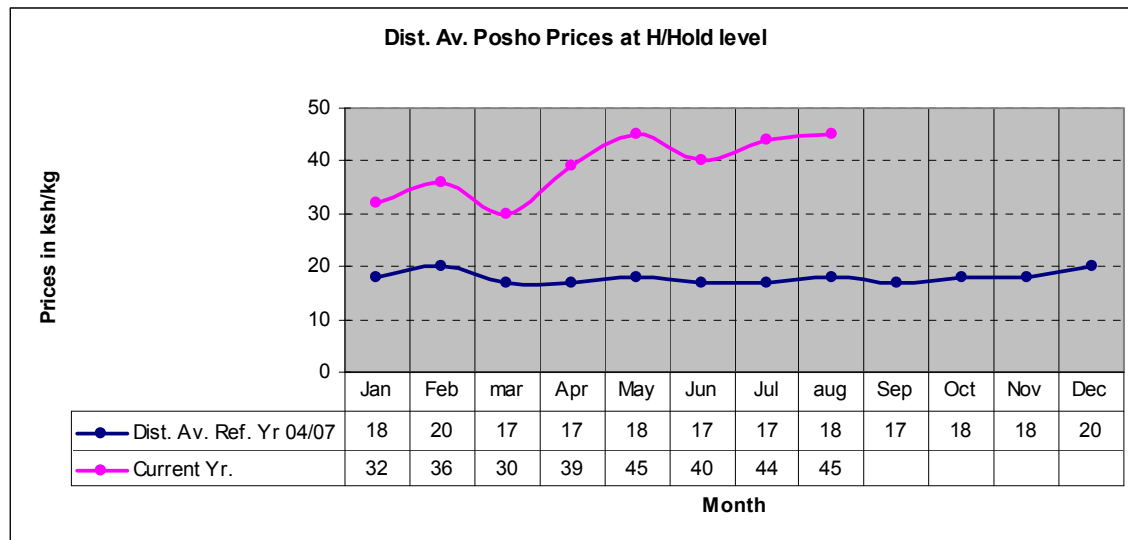
The graph below shows district average beans prices at the household level (Ksh /kg)



3.2.3 Posho prices

- Posho prices rose to Ksh 44 from Ksh40 in July.
- This was attributed to scarcity of maize and increased demand since most households rely on either maize or posho for their meals.
- The scarcity of maize impacted negatively on food security in the district.

The graph below shows the average prices of posho at the district (Ksh/Kg)



4.0 Human welfare indicators

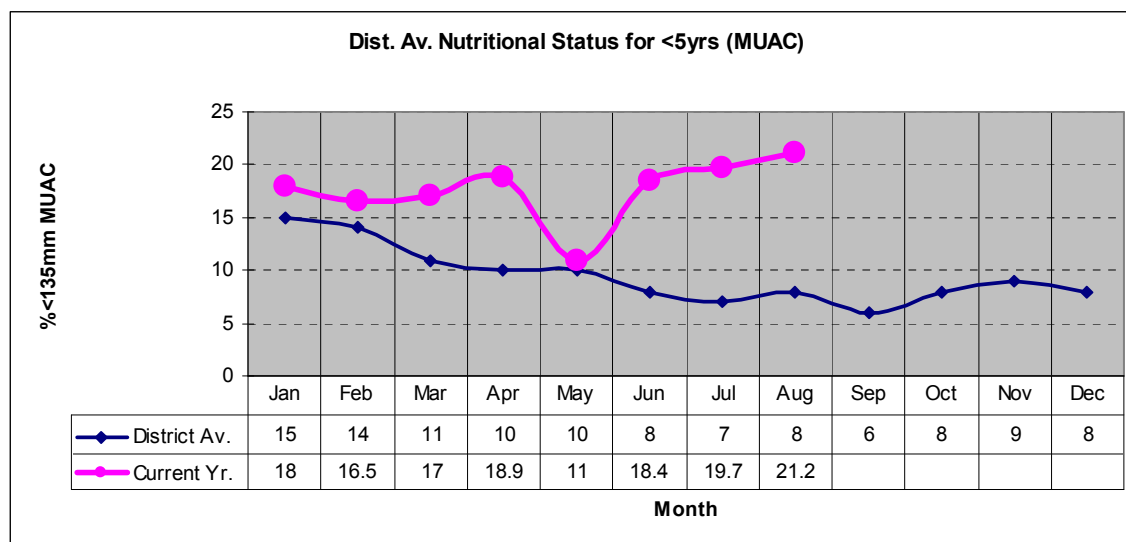
4.1 Human health

- No major human disease incidences were reported during the review period.

4.2 Nutritional status

- The nutritional status of children under five years continued to decline, with 21 per cent rated as being at the risk of malnutrition compared to 19.7 in July.
- This is mainly attributed to the declining food security situation in the district.

The graph indicates the MUAC malnutrition rates (% <135mm)



4.3 Insecurity/conflicts

- No major case of conflict was reported in the district.
- The previous volatile situation in Narok North and South.
- However, internally displaced people were still living in camps in central Narok, awaiting resettlement.

4.4 Migration

- Herders from Suswa, Oletukat and Mosiro in Mau division continued moving towards Naivasha and Gilgil in Nakuru district in search of pasture and water.
- Other herders moved from Loita and Mara to neighbouring Tanzania.
- However, this was a normal situation during the time of the year.
- No major movement of humans was reported during the review period .

5.0 Current interventions

- Development and protection of Kimogoro springs in Mulot division.
- Support to free primary education through construction of classrooms in Nkokolani, Nailogilog, Enturoto and Olonini primary schools in Olokurto, Mau, Mara and Ololulunga divisions.
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6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSSG

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- Need for more contingency funds for use in emergency water, disease and other food security-related programmes.
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