

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, AUGUST 2008

**Turkana North, Central
and South districts**

Warning Stages

SEASONAL CALENDER

Dry Season			Long Rains			Dry Cool Season			Short Rains		
Jan-08	Feb-08	Mar-08	Apr-08	May-08	Jun-08	Jul-08	Aug-08	Sep-08	Oct-08	Nov-08	Dec-08

Situation Overview

- The district received negligible rainfall during the month in review. No rainfall was recorded at the Lodwar meteorological station same as the previous month. However, Lopur station recorded 23.0mm while Kakuma police station recorded 5mm. This was poor compared to the long term mean of 16.2mm during the 2000-2004 period.
- The quality and quantity of pasture and browse was poor and deteriorating.
- The levels of water in both surface and underground sources declined significantly.
- Fish production in Lake Turkana declined because of receding water level in Ferguson Gulf.
- The distance to water sources increased to 3.4km from 3.3km in July.
- The body condition of most livestock species was poor in most parts of Turkana due to prevalence of livestock diseases and drought.
- The most common livestock diseases remained *Peste des Petits Ruminants* (PPR) in shoats, mange in camels, CBPP in cattle, and CCPP, diarrhoea and worms in goats.
- Milk production declined from 8.5 per cent in July to 6.0 during the month, hence little was available for consumption at household level.

Livelihood Zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Pastoral-all species	Alarm	Worsening
Agro-Pastoral	Alarm	Worsening
Fisheries	Alarm	Worsening
Formal Employment/Casual Labour	Alarm	Worsening
District	Alarm	Worsening

- The mortality rate of shoats decreased from 13.8 per cent in July to 8.1, while mortality rates for cattle and camels dropped from 15.3 per cent in July to 10.9 per cent.
- The average birth rates for livestock increased from 10.1 per cent in July to 13.02 in August. The birth rates were 23.7, 8.7, 6.6 and 13.1 for cattle, sheep, goats and camels respectively.
- The nutritional status of children below five years dropped, with those rated as being at risk of malnutrition rising from 16.3 per cent in July to 20.2. The status in the district is at 'Alarm' phase and well above the WHO threshold of 15 per cent.
- Malaria and upper respiratory tract infections (URTI) remained the most common human ailments. Other diseases were eye infections, which were reported in most parts of Turkana district.
- Cases of insecurity rose in all the border zones of Turkana North, Central and South districts due to conflicts over natural resources following failure of the long rains.
- Raids against the Turkana community by their neighbours escalated. Most affected areas were Lomelo and Lokori.
- Outward migration by pastoralists to neighbouring countries was reported.
- There were no crops in farms (both in irrigation schemes and rain-fed shambas), therefore no harvests were expected.
- High prices of cereals and low livestock prices resulted in unfavourable terms of trade for pastoralists.
- The district has been hosting about 15,000 people who were internally displaced during the post-election violence that rocked parts of the Rift Valley province earlier in the year.
- The food security situation in the district deteriorated significantly yet there was no sign of rains.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSSG

- Measures should be put in place to check worsening levels of malnutrition among children under five years, pregnant and lactating mothers, the sick, elderly and other vulnerable groups.
- Water trucking and provision of water storage facilities to affected communities should be scaled up.
- Rehabilitation of water points.
- Provision of fuel subsidy to communities using motorised water points.
- Capacity building of water users associations to improve management of water schemes.
- Urgent PPR and CCPP vaccination campaign by veterinary department and other partners. Treatment of other reported livestock disease should also be done.
- Strengthening of conflict early warning and rapid response.
- Cross-border peace meetings and dialogue between communities affected by insecurity.
- Recruitment and arming of more Kenya Police Reservists (KPR) in all the areas affected by insecurity to assist GoK security agencies.
- Food For Assets (FFA) and Cash For Work (CFW) programmes should be scaled up.
- Provision of the fishing gear to fishing communities around Lake Turkana.

Current Interventions

Non-food Interventions

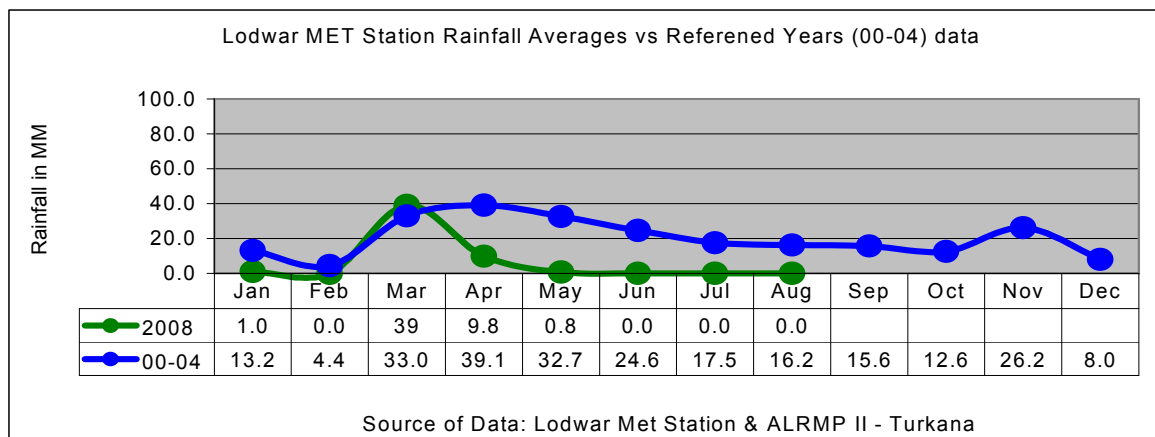
- Njaa Marufuku Kenya project and national agriculture and livestock extension programme (NALEP) by Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.
- Water resources development by Practical Action; ALRMP, Oxfam-GB and Diocese of Lodwar.
- Public health and hygiene capacity building by UNICEF in partnership with MoH.
- Re-stocking of livestock.
- Conflict resolution and peace-building initiatives by different stakeholders.

Food aid

- Relief food distribution.
- Supplementary feeding.
- Food For Assets.

1 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall



- The district received negligible rainfall. Lodwar meteorological station recorded 0.0mm. This was much lower than the 16.2mm long term average.
- Lopur station recorded 23.0mm, while Kakuma police station recorded 5mm.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Availability of pasture and browse in wet season grazing areas deteriorated.
- The quality and quantity of pasture and browse in the lowland areas remained poor and inadequate.
- Average grazing distance increased from 6.2km in July to 6.8km.

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Use of water sources

- Surface water sources dried up in most parts of the district.
- However, underground water sources provided little amounts of water for human and livestock consumption.
- River Turkwel was the main source of water, while Kerio River remained dry.

1.3.2 Access to water

- The average walking distance to water points for households increased from 3.3km in July to 3.4km.
- This meant that household members spent more time in search of water compared to July.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Conflict/human displacement

- Cases of cross-border conflict along the Kenya/Uganda/Sudan/Ethiopia borders increased. The most affected areas were Koyasa, Napak and Lokamarinyang in Kibish division.
- Other conflicts were in Liwan and Meyan in Lapur division (Turkana-South Omo zone) between the Nyangatom of Ethiopia, the Toposa of Sudan and Turkana respectively.
- Other cases were reported in Oropoi division, Lokiriama, Lorengippi and Kotaruk in the western region and Katilu, Kainuk, and Lomelo areas. The rising insecurity was attributed to shortage of natural resources due to failure of the long rains.

1.4.2 Migration

- Pastoralists moved out of the usual rangelands to other areas within and outside Turkana district in search of pasture and water. Some of the pastoralists moved to more secure areas and to neighbouring countries such as Ethiopia and Uganda in search of pasture.
- The district is host to 15,000 people who were displaced during the post-election violence at the beginning of the year.

1.5 Implication on food security

The migration of livestock in and out of the district impacted negatively on household food security.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production and marketing

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Body conditions worsened for all livestock species.
- Shoats exhibited poor health and stress due to inadequate pasture, water and diseases.
- Some succumbed to disease and starvation.
- The same is true of emaciated donkeys especially in Kaeris resulting from poor pasture due to failure of long rains.

2.1.2 Livestock health

- The common diseases and pests affecting livestock in the district were CCPP and PPR in shoats, Contagious Bovine Pleural Pneumonia (CBPP) in cattle, mange in camels, leptospirosis, ticks and lice.
- Cases of the diseases were reported during the month under review.
- The PPR outbreak, especially, exacerbated the food security situation in the district since it decimated the shoat significantly.

2.1.3 Milk production

Milk production declined from 8.5 per cent in July to 6.0 at household level. This was attributed to the failure of the long rains.

2.2.0 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and status of crop production activities

Crops planted in anticipation of the start of the long rains season dried up after the rains failed.

2.2.2 Pests and diseases

No disease or crop pests were reported.

2.2.3 Harvest

No harvests are expected due to crop failure.

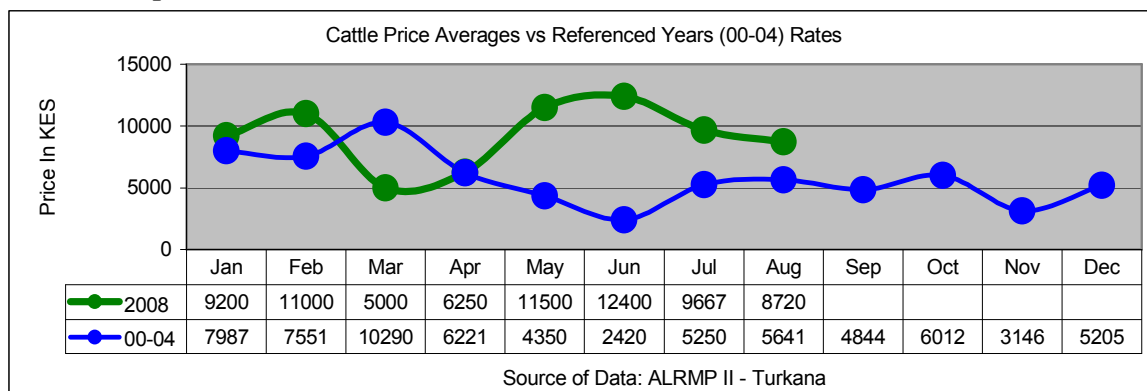
2.2.4 Implication on food security

The food security situation in the district declined due to crop failure and the subsequent lack of harvests.

3.0 Access to food

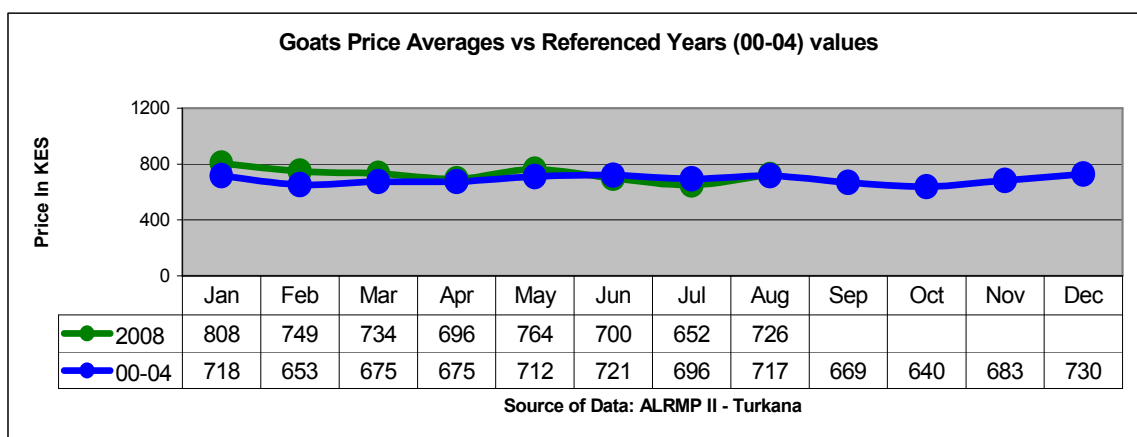
3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices



- Average cattle prices dropped to Ksh 8,720 from Ksh 9,667 in July.
- However, the price was higher than the long term mean of Ksh 5,641 recorded in 2000-2004.

3.1.2 Goat prices



- The average goat prices rose from Ksh 652 in July to Ksh 726.

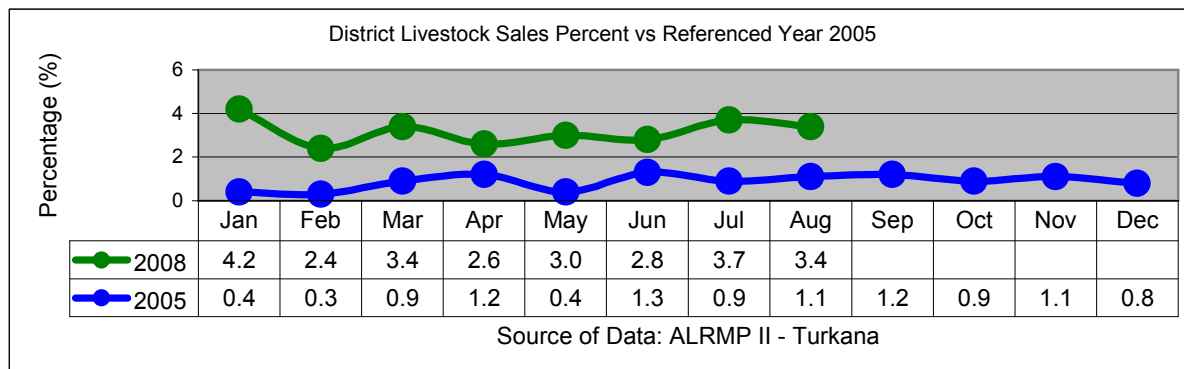
3.1.3 Sheep prices

- The price of sheep dropped from Ksh 839 in July to Ksh 705.

3.1.4 Camel prices

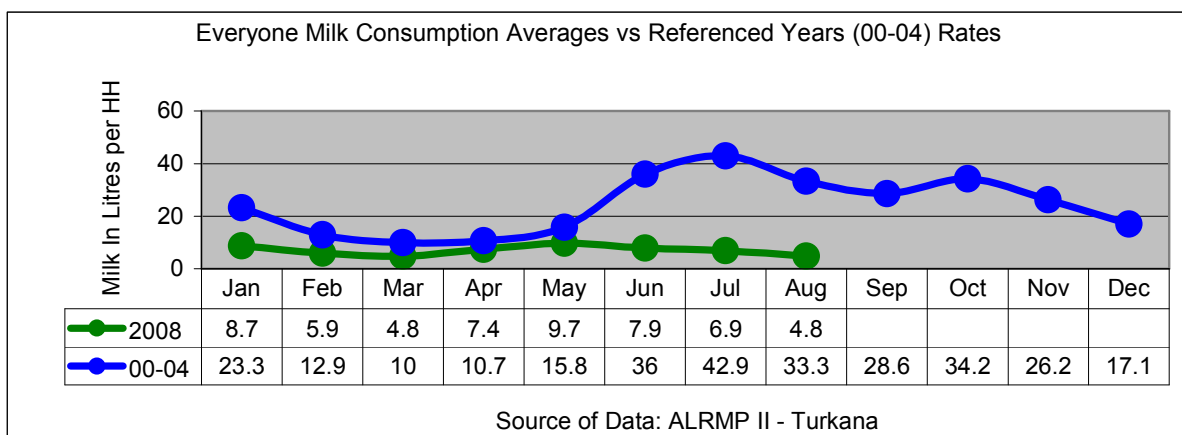
The prices of camels dropped significantly to Ksh.8, 083 from Ksh11, 375 in July.

3.2 Livestock sales



- Livestock sales in the district dropped from a value of 3.7 per cent in July to 3.4.
- The value was higher compared to 1.1 per cent recorded in the same period in 2005.

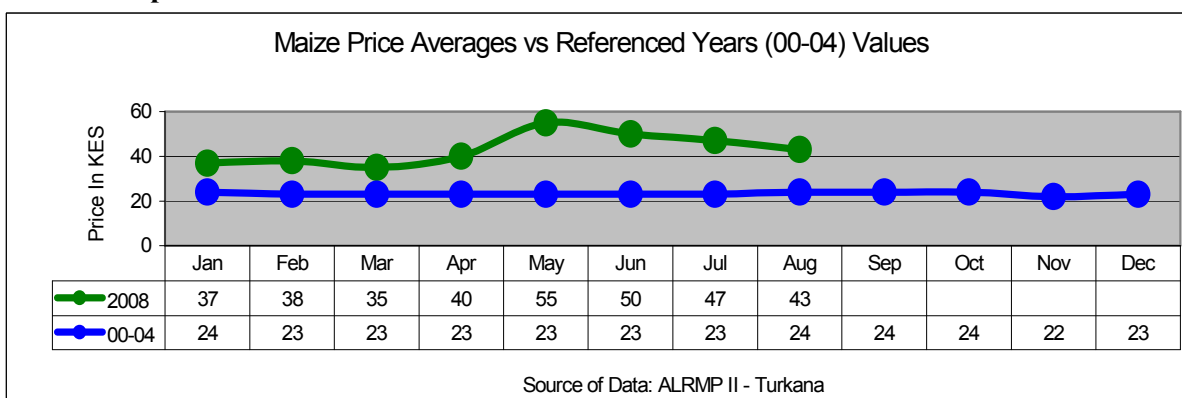
3.3 Milk consumption



Milk consumption dropped by 2.1 per cent to 4.8 from 6.9 in July. The consumption rate was 28.5 per cent lower than the value of 33.3 pper cent recorded during the same period in 2004.

3.4.0 Crop prices

3.4.1 Maize price



- The cereal prices in the district ranged from Ksh 34 to Ksh 52 per kilo. The average price was Ksh 43 per kilo. Lokitaung division registered the highest average price of Ksh 52 per kg each followed by Kalokol division (Ksh 48), Turkwel and Katilu (Ksh 40), Lokori division (Ksh 35) and Kakuma (Ksh 34). All other divisions recorded an average price of Ksh 41per kilogram.
- The prices were higher than the Ksh 24 mean recorded during the 2000-2004 period. The high prices were attributed to inflation driven by the high food and oil prices.
- The prices were also due to low supply of cereals from irrigation schemes and other agricultural areas outside Turkana.

3.4.2 Posho prices

- Average posho price was Ksh 25 per kilogram, down from Ksh 55 in July.

- The price had risen to an average of Ksh 39 per kilo outside the urban centres, where they ranged between Ksh27-52 per kg.

3.4.3 Sorghum prices

- Sorghum prices dropped slightly to Ksh40 per kilo.

3.5.0 Income

3.5.1 Livestock income

Income from livestock dropped from 2.5 per cent in July to 2.2 per cent.

3.5.2 Crop income

- Crops planted at the beginning of the season dried up due to failure of the long rains.
- Consequently, no harvests were realised or expected, hence no income from crops.

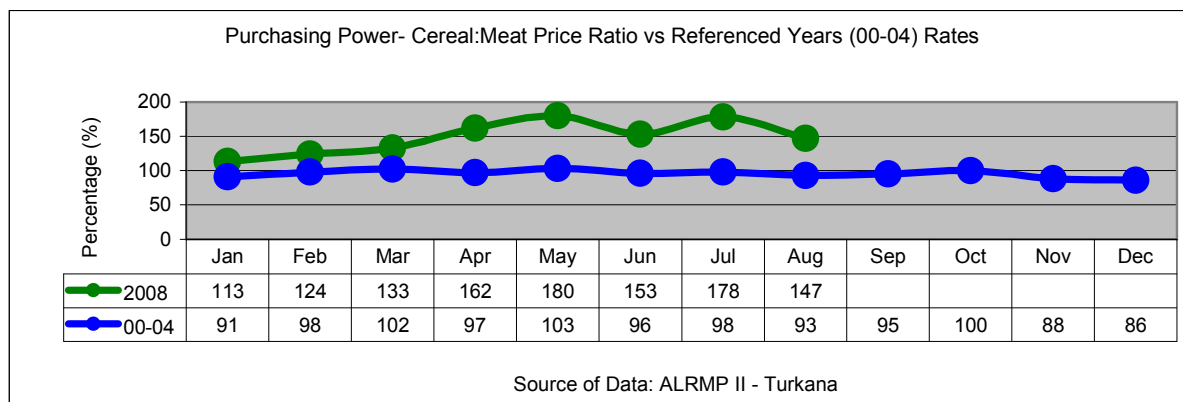
3.5.3 Other income

The percentage of people seeking casual labour decreased from 7.2 in July to 5.0.

The number of people engaged in small-scale trading in most urban and peri-urban centres rose to 14.0 per cent from 11 per cent in July.

The daily wage dropped from Ksh 205 in July to Ksh171.

3.6 Cereal: Meat price ratio



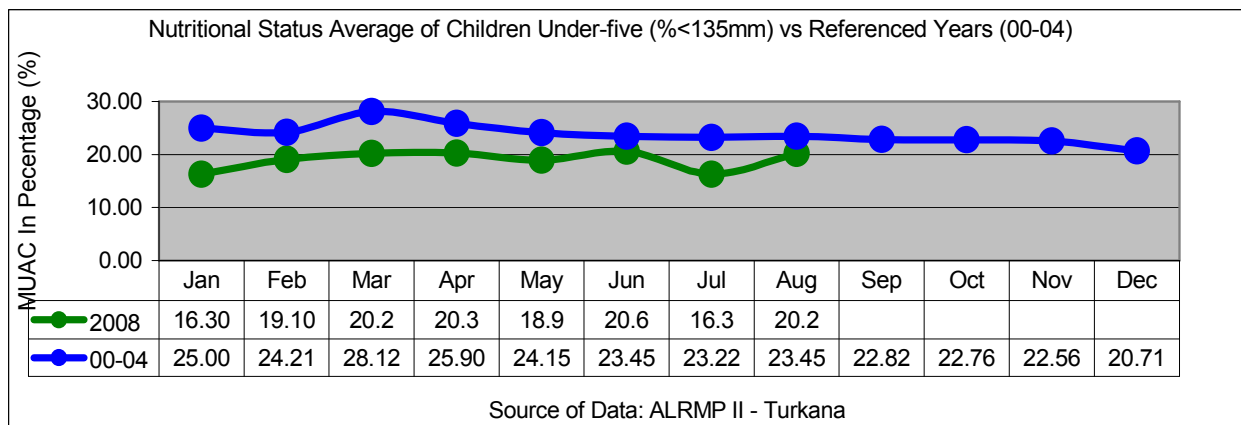
The district cereal: meat price ratio was an indication that terms of trade for pastoralists worsened, impacting negatively on household food security.

3.7 Implications on food security

The increase in cereal prices impacted negatively on food security in the three districts. It is also likely to affect livestock off-take.

4 Utilization of food

4.1 Nutritional status



- The nutritional status of children below five years dropped, with those rated as being at risk of malnutrition rising from 16.3 per cent in July to 20.2.
- The status in the district is at 'Alarm' phase and well above the WHO threshold of 15 per cent.
- The malnutrition rate in Lokori and Lomelo was 29.3 per cent; Kakuma, Lokichoggio and Oropoi (25.9); Lokitaung, Kibish, Kaaleng and Lapur (20.3); Kalokol, Central and Kerio (17.8); Turkwel and Loima (14.2); and Katilu, Kainuk and Lokichar (13.5).

4.2 Health

- Human health in Turkana North, Central, and South districts remained unstable.
- Cases of malaria were reported across the three districts, while an outbreak of mumps was reported in Loima division.
- Other diseases reported were upper respiratory tract infections (URTI), diarrhoeal diseases, intestinal worms, typhoid, measles, skin diseases and eye infections.
- Poor Sanitation remained a major problem in all three districts, especially in urban centres and settlements along River Turkwell and Lake Turkana.
- Lack of public toilets in the communities and pit latrines in schools worsened the situation.
- Inaccessibility of safe drinking water was also a major challenge, leaving many people to rely on water from riverbeds.

5.0 Current interventions

Non-food interventions

- Provision of general health services by the Ministry of Health and other district development partners.
- Njaa Marufuku Kenya project and National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Programme (NALEP) under the Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock Development.
- Public health and hygiene capacity building by UNICEF in partnership with MoH.

- Drilling of boreholes in strategic zones by Ministry of Water, Diocese of Lodwar, ALRMP and other organizations.
- Construction of rock water catchments, sand dams, sub surface dams and water pans in various parts of the district.
- Improvement of traditional shallow wells and sinking of modern shallow wells in different areas by Practical Action, Turkana Rehabilitation Project, OXFAM GB and ALRMP
- Conflict resolution and peace-building meetings by different actors within the three districts.

Food aid

- Food distribution by WFP through the lead agencies (Oxfam GB & World Vision-Kenya).
- Supplementary feeding for the severely malnourished children below five years, pregnant and lactating mothers, aged and disabled groups (Merlin, etc).
- Food for Assets supported by WFP and ALRMP II through TRP for the host communities in Kakuma, Oropoi and Lokichoggio divisions. This was extended from the initial 25 km to an 80 km radius.

5.1 Coping strategies

- Petty trade in urban and peri-urban centres
- Sale of fish (dry & fresh), wood products, handcrafts.
- Sale of charcoal
- Reduction of number of meals per day.
- Consumption of wild foods (fruits and meat) and taboo foods.

6.0 Recommendations

- Food for assets (FFA), cash for work (CFW) and IGAs programs should be up scaled up.
- Capacity building/extension services should be improved especially in agricultural potential areas like Kapelbok, Kaputir, Katilu, Lokubae, Morulem, Nakurio, Kerio, Kangatotha and Naotin so as to make the people food secure.
- Farm tools and inputs should also be provided to agricultural potential areas to boost food production.
- Assistance to be provided to improve the non-conventional irrigation schemes found along the riverine.
- Scaling up of water trucking and provision of water storage facilities to affected communities.
- Rehabilitation of broken down water points.
- Provision of fuel subsidies to communities using motorised water points.
- The Veterinary department and other partners should conduct PPR and CCPV vaccination campaigns and treatment for the other livestock diseases reported.
- Ministry of Health and partners to scale up integrated outreach services in areas without health facilities.
- Ministry of health and partners should promote disease prevention and control by promoting use of insecticide treated nets (ITN), household treatment of water in areas with suspicious water use.

- Need to strengthen conflict early warning and rapid response.
- Cross-border peace meetings and dialogue between communities affected by insecurity.