



**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS  
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

**DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, DECEMBER 2008**

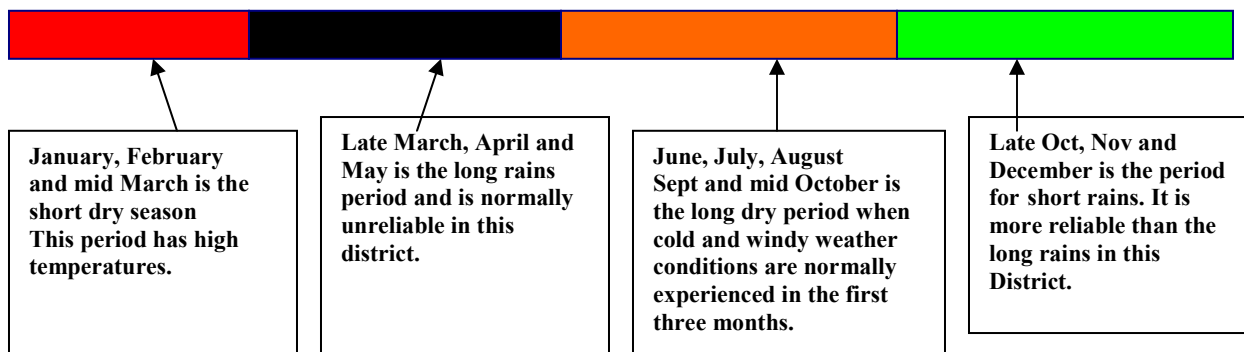
**Garissa District**

**Warning Stages**



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Alert	Improving
Formal employment/ Casual labor.	Alert	No Change
Pastoral- Cattle/Sheep.	Alert	Improving
Pastoral- all species	Alert	Improving
Pastoral: Camels and Goats	Alert	Improving
District	Alert	No change

**SEASONAL CALENDAR**



## **Situation Overview**

- No rainfall was recorded in the district and high temperatures prevailed throughout the month under review.
- The inadequate rainfall retarded pasture and browse growth, resulting in the drying up of forbs and herbs before maturity. The available pasture may not last till the next rains.
- Most of the small and medium water pans dried up, while large water pans such as Ashadini, Rethab, Dujis twin pans, Ohio and Dogob pans contained substantial amounts of water. All these water pans are located in the Northern divisions of larger Garissa District.
- Access to water was poor for pastoral households.
- Livestock access to water declined compared to the preceding month. Most of the small water pans dried up and livestock got water from boreholes, large water pans or shallow wells of Gallan Gof of Modogashe. Average trekking distance to water sources was 5-6kms.
- No conflict or human displacements were reported in the course of the month under review. However, there was tension along the Kenya/Somalia border.
- Livestock body condition improved compared to the preceding month. This may be attributed to improved browse availability compared to last month.
- Generally, livestock health improved after the November rains but worm infestations and ticks posed a threat to pastoral communities.
- Milk availability improved with the onset of the rains but continued to diminish after rains receded. However, milk was still available in pastoral camel and goat zones.
- Cattle prices increased compared to the preceding month. The average price was Ksh11, 750 in November and Ksh1, 667 in December. The price improved by 19 per cent compared to the preceding month.
- The price of goats improved compared to the preceding month. The average price was Ksh1,597 in November and Ksh1,667 in December. Sheep prices also improved from Ksh1,350 in November to Ksh1,370. The increment in livestock prices was due to the month of Thul-Hajj in which major Islamic festivities take place.
- The nutrition status of children below five years continued to deteriorate. The percentage of children rated as being at the risk of malnutrition rose to 9.3% from 8.5 % in November. The decline was due to increased food prices and reduced milk production in most parts of the district.

## **Current interventions**

### **Non-food interventions**

- Action against hunger continued supporting both pastoral and agro-pastoral communities.
- Veterinary department continued disease surveillance and vaccination in different parts of the district.
- Capacity building of rural communities by ALRMP.
- Mobile outreach services conducted in Garissa and Lagdera districts by the Ministry of Health and supported by ALRMP.

- Kenya Red Cross Society distributed tools, farm implements, irrigation pumping sets and seeds to various farms under the flood mitigation project.

### **Food aid**

- Food aid (relief food) continued to be distributed during the month.
- Kenya Red Cross Society supervised food aid distribution in the larger Garissa district with 44,000 of population under EMOP targeted.

### **Recommendations to DSG and KFSSG**

- Continued support to small-scale irrigated farms along River Tana to make them food secure.
- Continue to support mobile health clinics for rural pastoral communities.
- Support for small and major projects in rural communities, particularly those contributing to their food security or improving their livelihoods.
- Encourage the pastoralists to sell livestock in view of the imminent drought.
- Constant livestock disease surveillance.
- Maintenance of boreholes and strengthen the borehole maintenance unit.

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

### **1.1 Rainfall**

- No rainfall was recorded in the entire district.
- High temperatures prevailed during the day and night throughout the month under review.

### **1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture**

- Pasture/browse growth got retarded due to inadequate rainfall throughout the district. This led to forbs and herbs drying up before maturity.
- The quality and quantity of pasture and browse continued to decline as there was no sufficient regeneration of the same due to insufficient moisture.

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

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

- Most of the small and medium water pans dried up, while large water pans such as Ashadini, Rethab, Dujis twin pans, Ohiyo and Dogob contained substantial amounts of water.
- The shallow wells of Galana gof in Modogashe were an important source of water.
- All the water pans mentioned above are located in the Northern divisions of larger Garissa District.
- Boreholes and Tana River were also other important sources of water.

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

- Pastoral households in most parts of the district had access to water.

- In the East, households concentrated in areas close to boreholes, while in the south pastoral households moved to either River Tana or individually owned water pans. (Hand dug).
- In the north, households moved close to large water pans, Benane springs, shallow wells and Gallana Gof of Modogashe.
- Trekking distance to water sources for households was less than 5km.

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

- Livestock access to water reduced compared with the previous month. Most of the small water pans dried up and livestock got water from boreholes, large water pans or shallow wells of Galana Gof of Modogashe.
- Trekking distance to water sources was 5-6kms.

## **1.4 Emerging issues**

### **1.4.1 Insecurity/Conflict/ Human displacement**

- No conflict or human displacement was reported in the course of the month under review.
- However, there was tension along the Kenya-Somalia border.

### **1.4.2 Migration**

- There was no out or in migration of livestock in the district but movement of livestock from one grazing area to another within the same division or from one division to another was noted.

### **1.4.3 Implication on food security**

- Lack of adequate pasture/browse, rising costs of food commodities and reduced water availability reflects negative food security implications.

## **2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)**

### **2.1 Livestock production**

#### **2.1.1 Livestock body condition**

- Livestock body condition has improved when compared with the preceding month. This may be attributed to availability of pasture / browse and water.
- The goats and camel body condition was expected to improve further due to availability of browse.

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

- Livestock health improved after the November rains but worms infestations and ticks posed a threat to pastoral communities.

#### **2.1.3 Milk production**

- Milk availability improved with the onset of the rains but continued to diminish after rains receded. However, milk was still available in pastoral camel and goat zones.

### **2.2 Crop production**

### 2.2.1 Timeliness and status of various crop production activities

- Crop production activities along river Tana continued.
- Farmers continued working on their farms after the rains receded.
- Fruits and vegetables were supplied to Garissa Municipal market.

### 2.2.2 Pests and crop diseases

- No pests or crop diseases were reported in the entire district.

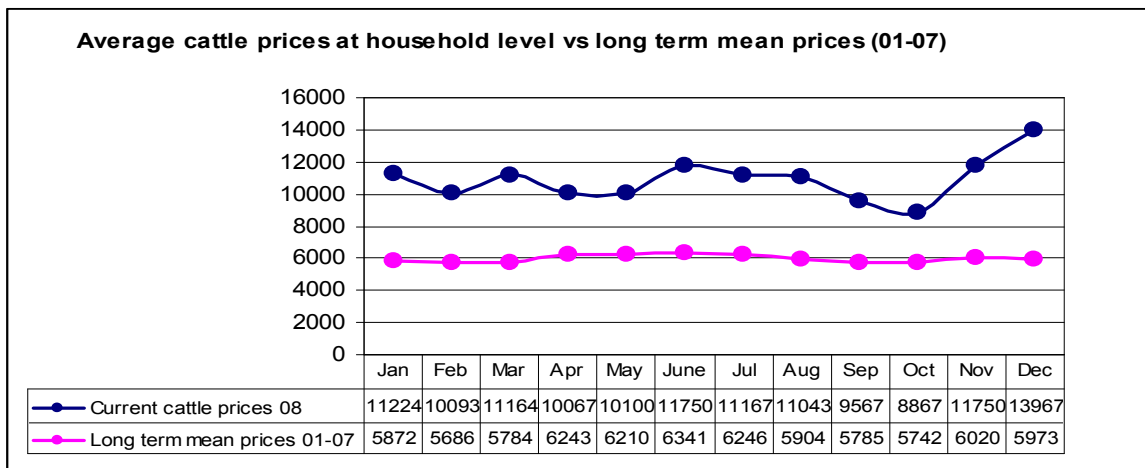
### 2.2.3 Crop harvests

- There was continued production of vegetables and fruits from irrigated farms along the River Tana.

## 3.0 Access to food

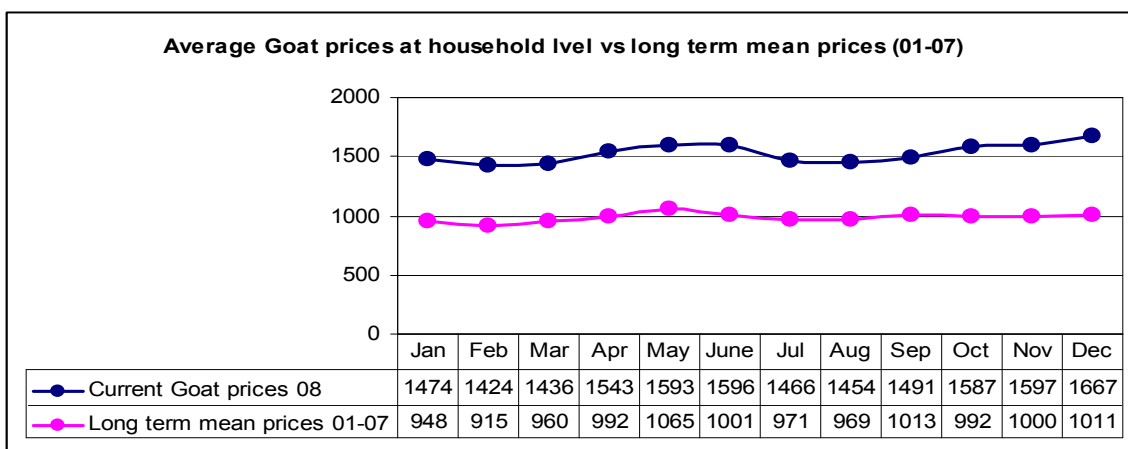
### 3.1 Livestock marketing

#### 3.1.1 Cattle prices



- Cattle prices continued to increase compared to the preceding month.
- The average price rose to Ksh13,967 from Ksh11,750 in November.
- The price improved by 19 per cent compared the preceding month.

#### 3.1.2 Goat prices



- Goat prices improved compared to the preceding month.
- The average price rose to Ksh1,667 from Ksh1,597 in November.
- The increment in livestock prices was due to the month of Thul-Haji, during which major Islamic festivities take place.

### 3.1.3 Sheep prices

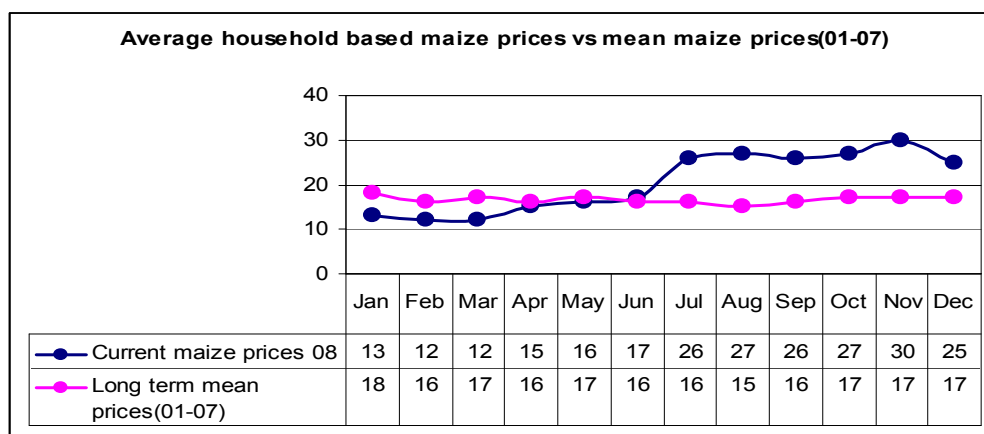
- Sheep prices improved compared with the preceding month.
- The price was Ksh1,350 in November and Ksh1,370 in December.
- The improvement was attributed to improved body condition and the Idd festivities.

### 3.2 Livestock sales

- Livestock sales increased compared to the preceding month.
- The increase was attributed to the Islamic festivities during the month, in which livestock prices normally improve.

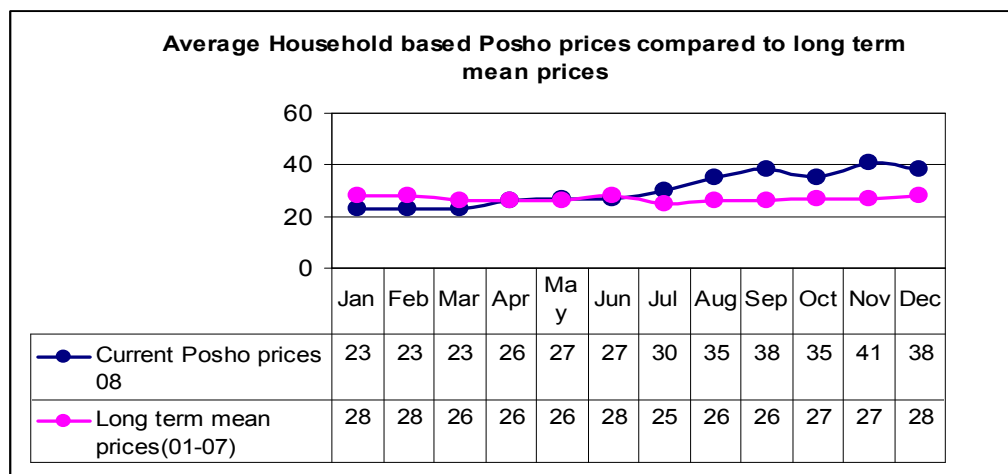
#### 3.2.1 Crop prices

#### 3.2.2 Maize price



- Maize prices dropped during the month under review.
- The average price was Ksh 25, down from Ksh 30 per kilo in November.
- The price was, however, still higher than the long term mean of Ksh17 per kilo.

### 3.2.3 Posho (locally milled maize) prices



- Posho prices dropped slightly compared to the preceding month.
- The average price was Ksh 38 per kilo, down from Ksh42 in November.
- However, the price was still higher than the long term mean of Ksh 28.

### 3.2.4 Purchase price of other food commodities

- Generally, the prices of essential food items reduced slightly compared with the preceding month.
- A kilo of beans traded at Ksh 85, sugar Ksh77 and cooking oil Ksh142 in November and Ksh82, Ksh77 and Ksh137 respectively in December.
- The drop in prices was due to improvement in accessibility to rural or pastoral areas compared with the preceding month when the roads were impassable.

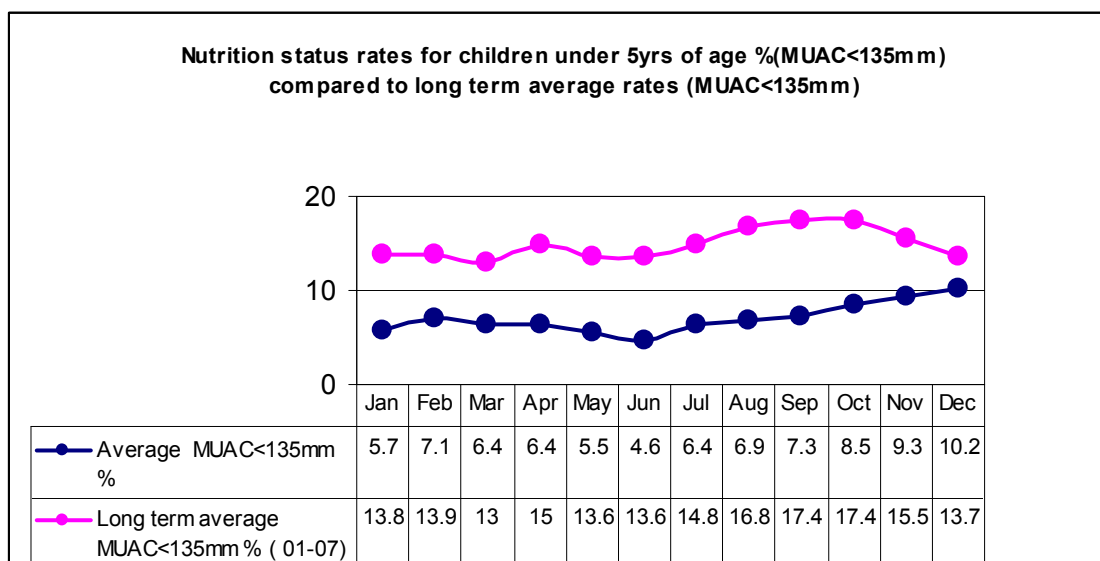
### 3.3 Implications on food security

- Despite reduced prices of cereals and other essential food items and good livestock prices, many pastoral communities could not afford foodstuffs. This had a negative impact on food security in the district.

## 4.0 Human welfare indicators

### 4.1 Nutritional status

- The nutritional status of children below five years continued to deteriorate.
- The percentage of children rated as being at the risk of malnutrition rose to 10.2% from 9.3% in November.
- This was due to increased food prices, affecting most of the pastoral communities, and reduced milk production in most parts of the district.



## 4.2 Human health

- There was no human disease outbreak in the district during the month under review.
- However, the refugee camps had sanitation problems and more people continued to arrive daily from troubled Somalia.

## 4.3 Flagged areas (affected areas)

- There were no flagged or affected areas but an outbreak of human diseases in the refugee camps could spread very fast to the neighbouring locations.

## 5.0 Current interventions

### 5.1 Non-food interventions

- Action against hunger continued supporting both pastoral and agro-pastoral communities.
- Veterinary department continued disease surveillance and vaccination in different parts of the district.
- Capacity building of rural communities by ALRMP.
- Mobile outreach services conducted in Garissa and Lagdera districts by the Ministry of Health and supported by ALRMP.
- Kenya Red Cross Society distributed tools, farm implements, irrigation pumping sets and seeds to various farms under the flood mitigation project.

### 5.2 Food aid

- Food aid (relief food) continued to be distributed during the month.
- Kenya Red Cross Society supervised food aid distribution in the larger Garissa district with 44,000 of population under EMOP targeted.

### 5.3 Coping strategies

- Pastoralists prepared their animals for the short and hot dry season ahead by selecting best sites for both pasture/browse and water.

## **6.0 Recommendations**

- Continued support to small-scale irrigated farms along River Tana to make them food secure.
- Continue to support mobile health clinics for rural pastoral communities.
- Support for small and major projects in rural communities, particularly those contributing to their food security or improving their livelihoods.
- Encourage the pastoralists to sell livestock in view of the imminent drought.
- Constant livestock disease surveillance.
- Maintenance of boreholes and strengthen the borehole maintenance unit.