

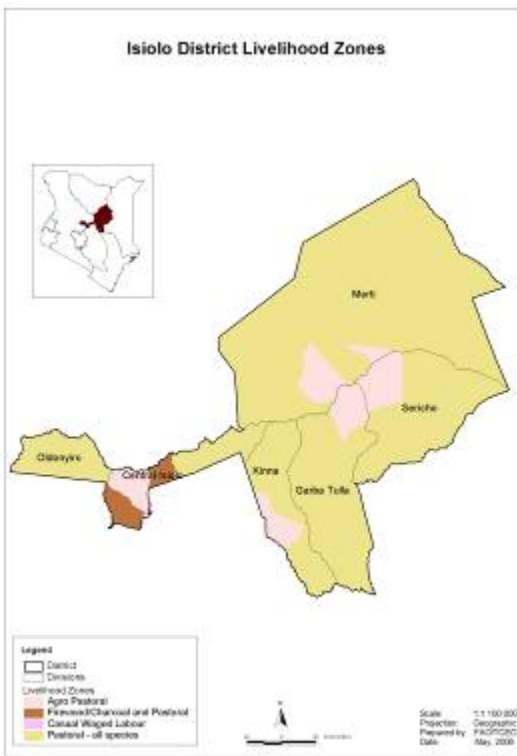


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**  
**MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS**  
**ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

**DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, DECEMBER 2008**

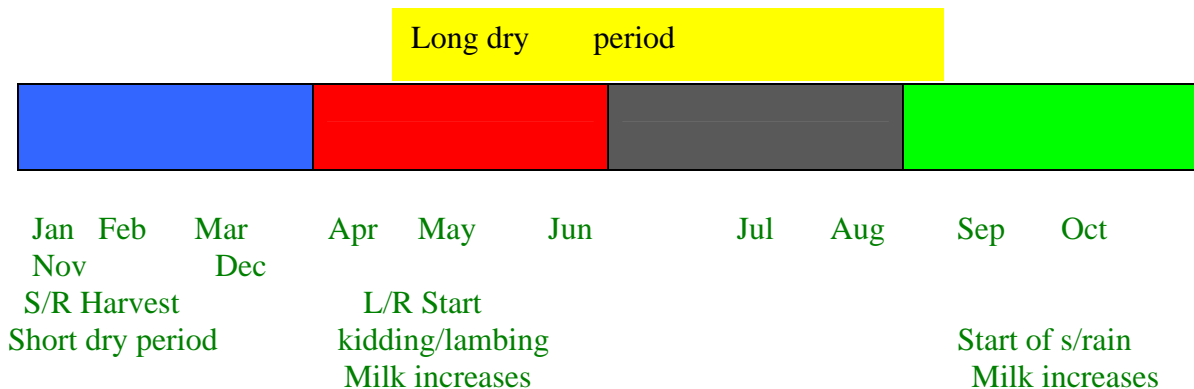
**Isiolo District**

**Warning Stages**



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Pastoral- all species	Alert	worsening
Agro pastoral	Alert	worsening
Casual waged labour	Alarm	worsening
Firewood/ Charcoal	Alert	worsening
District	Alert	Deteriorating

**SEASONAL CALENDAR**



### **Situation overview**

- The short rains stopped early in the district and did not extend to the month of December. Only 2.8mm of rainfall was recorded in the district on average and the dry spell worsened the drought status in all livelihood zones. This was not normal compared to previous seasons.
- There was a high influx of livestock to areas that received some rainfall from neighbouring divisions and districts.
- Water stress deepened further as the main rivers dried up, while shallow wells remained the main source of water in Merti, Cherab, Kipsing, Sericho and parts of Garbatulla divisions.
- The resource-based conflicts worsened in central districts and are likely to increase in the coming months.
- 90 per cent of crops (maize, beans) in the rain-fed areas dried up, while the ones in the irrigated zones were at risk due to drying up of water sources in places such as central Merti and Gafarsa.
- The nutritional status of children below five years (based on MUAC<135mm measurement) was still poor during the month under review. However, the percentage of those rated as being at the risk of malnutrition dropped slightly to 19 from 20.3 in November. Merti and Cherab divisions had the highest rates at 35 and 16.4 per cent respectively.

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

- The resource-based conflicts in Central and Sericho division of Isiolo and Garbatulla districts needs greater attention in order to save lives and livelihoods of the population. **ACTION: DSG/Provincial Administration.**
- Urgent vaccination exercise against the foot and mouth diseases in Omara rangelands of Sericho division. **Action; DSG/District veterinary office.**
- Increased provision of Unimix and light diet to be considered for all sampled areas as the nutritional status of children and other vulnerable groups sustained declining trends for the last three consecutive months. **Action; DSG/MOH.**
- Nutritional surveys needs to be undertaken in both Isiolo and Garbatulla districts.
- Mosquito nets and other vector control measures to be considered in all areas, especially for Merti, Sericho and parts of Garbatulla. **ACTION: DSG/KECG.**
- Mobile out-reach services should be initiated and supported in both districts as people migrate far away from the health facility during this dry period. **Action;DSG/MOH.**
- Water trucking should be initiated in stressed areas and in schools.
- Peace and conflict resolution mechanism should be urgently instituted in central, Merti, Modogashe and Oldonyiro divisions.
- Livestock off take should be considered for both Garbatulla and Isiolo districts before situation deteriorates further.

### **Current interventions**

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

- Training of community health workers was undertaken in Garbatulla District.

- Mobile outreach services initiated in Garbatulla District with support from Red-cross organisation.
- Series of peace meetings conducted in Kip sing Ngaremara and Modogashe locations to strengthen peaceful co-existence among pastoralists.
- Arid Lands Resource Management Project supported the rangeland boreholes with fuel and spare parts.

### Food aid

- Food rations for December were not dispatched but expected to be done in first week of the month.

### Previous DSG meeting and recommendations

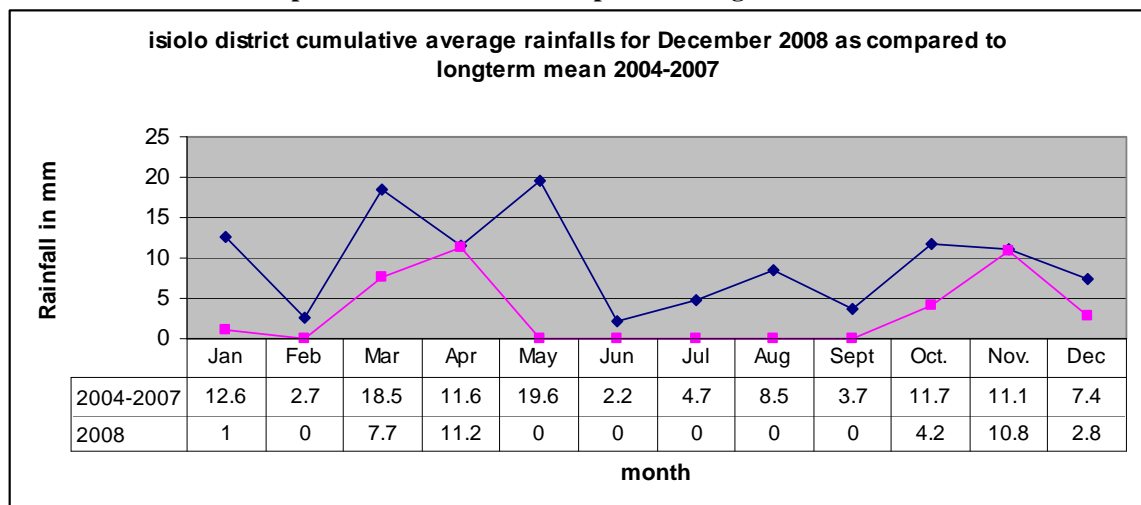
The DSG meeting was held in the first week of December and members deliberated and distributed GOK relief food including 2, 000 bags of maize, 200 bags of rice and 600 bags of beans.

## 1.0 Environmental indicators (stability)

### 1.1 Rainfall

- The short rains stopped early and did not extend to the month of December.
- Most parts of the district remained dry.
- However, Sericho division received 74mm of rainfall spread over 5 days. This led to an influx of livestock from neighbouring divisions and Districts.
- The influx posed a security threat and possible conflicts. One person was killed on December 22.

**Rainfall pattern for the month compared to long-term mean**



### 1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Most areas did not experience pasture growth following below normal rainfalls.
- There was pasture growth in Merti and Cherab divisions and 80 per cent of livestock migrated to Sericho Division.

- Due to high influx of livestock from Merti, Lagdera Habaswein and Garbatulla, conflicts and disease outbreaks were looming in Sericho division.

### 1.3. Water sources and availability

#### 1.3.1 Water sources

- The water sources in use were shallow wells and boreholes.
- The main rivers dried up earlier than usual, prompting people to turn to shallow wells as the main source.
- Pans in Sericho division still had some water but this did not have any impact as forage got depleted due to increased livestock influx over the month.

**Water sources and percentage of households using them compared to normal situation.**

Water source	1	2	3	4	others
% of HH normally depending on the source	25	30	-	40	5
% of HH depending on source for current month	10	30	19	40	1
1 -river, 2_boreholes	3 – shallow wells,	4 – piped system,	Others-pans/dams		

#### 1.4 Emerging issues

- Forage and pasture diminished in all sampled areas.
- Water stress worsened as main rivers dried up.
- Resource-based conflicts increased in central division of Isiolo district and Sericho division of Garbatulla.

#### 1.5 Implications on food security

- The food security situation was expected to worsen in all sample sites.
- The vulnerable groups are likely to suffer due to lack of milk, which is usually available during such times in a normal year.

### 2.0 Rural economy indicators (Availability of food)

#### 2.1 Livestock production

##### 2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- The livestock body condition deteriorated in all sample sites due to inadequate forage.
- Long trekking distances in search of water and pasture and diseases in such areas as Sericho division also contributed to the poor body conditions.

### **2.1.2 Livestock diseases**

- Sericho division continued to experience foot and mouth disease outbreaks among all livestock species.
- Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia was still persistent in Boji, Barambate and Kip sing areas.

### **2.1.3 Milk production**

- Milk production was low in the district and the little production did not contribute to the households food security as most of the livestock migrated away from homes to far areas in search of pasture.
- This was mainly evident in Merti and Cherab divisions, which were among the worst hit divisions due to rainfall failure.

## **2.2 Crop production**

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

- The rain-fed crops wilted due to the lack of rain. This translated into 90 per cent crop failure this season.
- This was an indication that commodity shortages and price hikes experienced in 2008 will extend into 2009, further deteriorating food security in the district.

### **2.2.2 Pest and diseases**

Pest and diseases were not a major contributing factor to this season's crop failure.

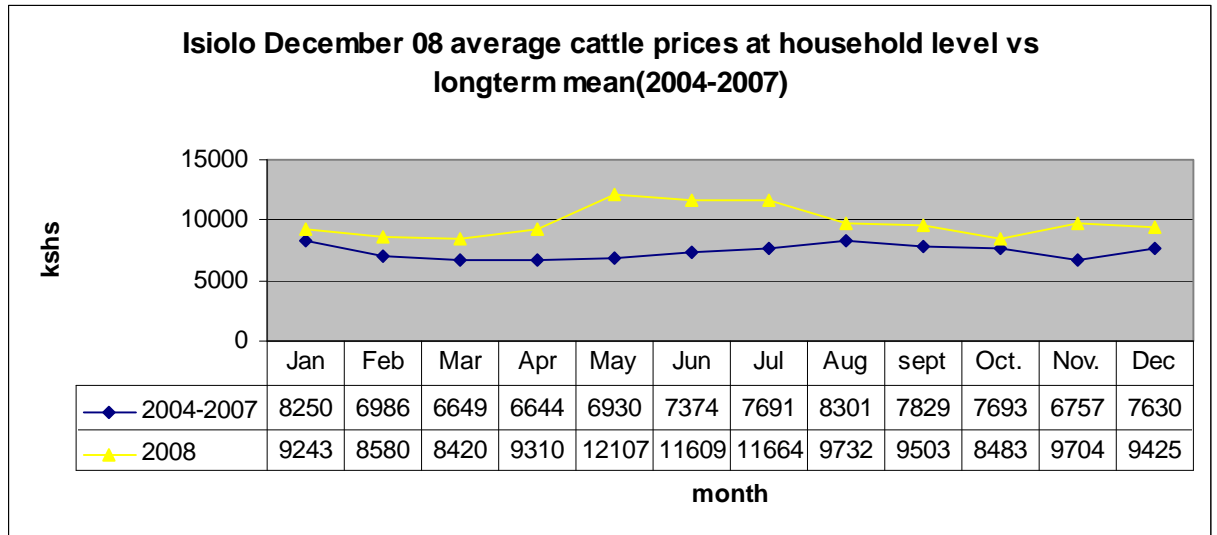
### **2.2.3 Harvest**

- No major harvest was realised over the month as the main crops (maize and beans) dried up.
- Limited legume harvest only catered for household consumption in central division.
- This scenario was not normal compared to same season in a normal year.

## **3.0 Access to food**

### **3.1. Livestock marketing**

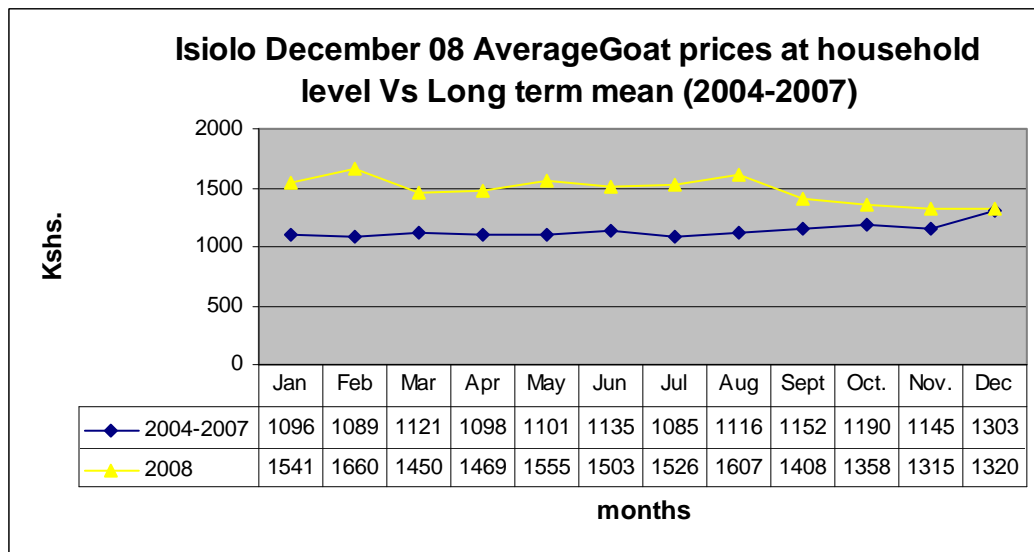
#### **3.1.1 Cattle prices**



**N=15 x30**

- The average cattle price was Ksh9,425, a 2.8 per cent reduction compared to the previous month.
- Prices were better in Oldonyiro and Garbatulla at Ksh10,000 and Ksh10,250 respectively.
- The price reduction was attributed to hindered access to markets due to insecurity.

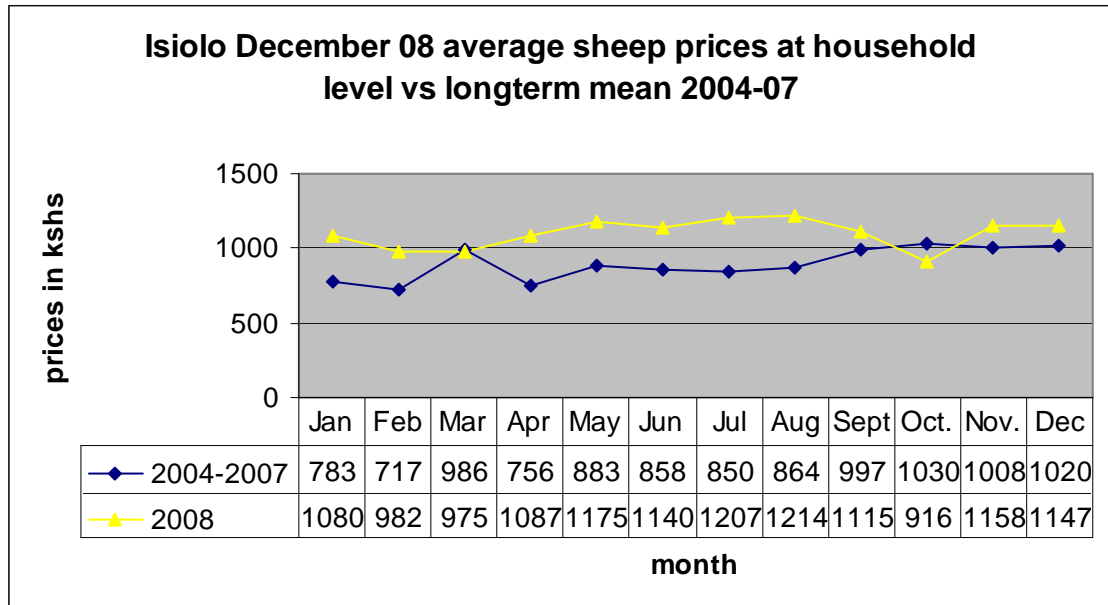
### 3.1.2 Goat prices



**N = 15x30**

- The average goat price increased slightly to Ksh1,320 from last month's Ksh1,315.
- The prices were better in central and Oldonyiro at Ksh1,500 and Ksh1,250 respectively.

### 3.1.3 Sheep prices



**N = 15x30**

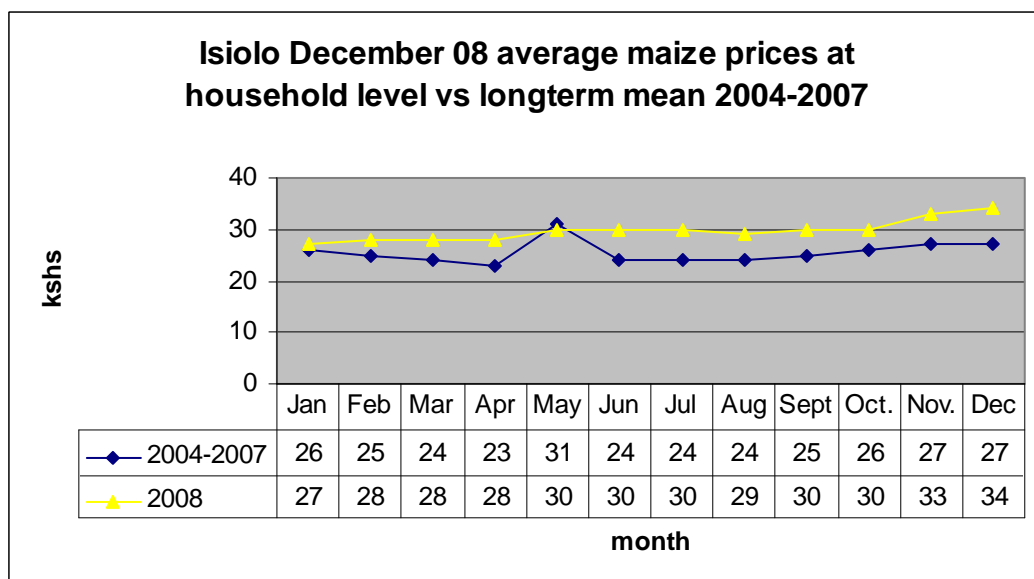
- The average sheep price slightly reduced to Ksh1,147 from last month's Ksh1,158.
- The prices were better in central and Oldonyiro at Ksh1,600 and Ksh1,260 respectively.
- The price reduction was due to fluctuation in the markets.

### 3.1.4 Camel prices

- The average camel price during the month was Ksh16,750, a 1.47 per cent reduction compared to last month's price.

## 3.2 Crop prices

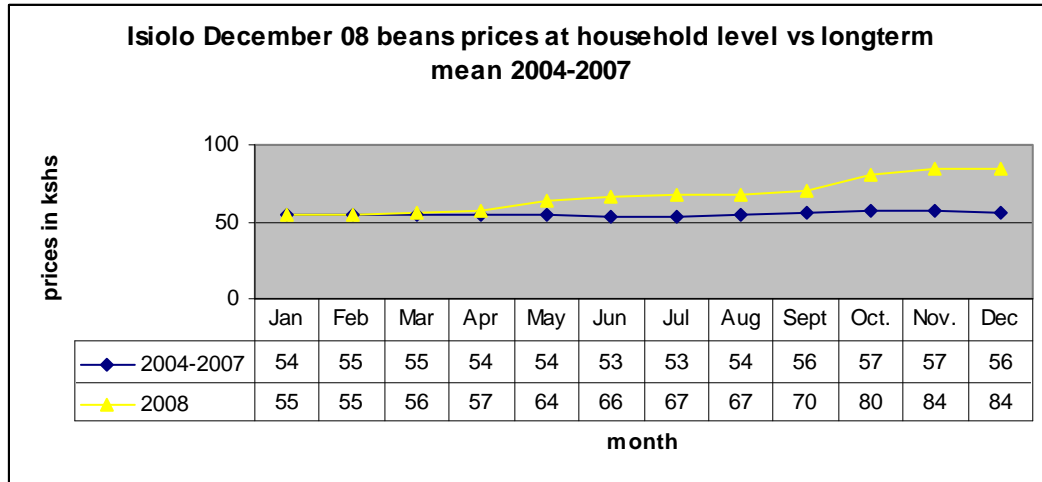
### 3.2.1 Maize prices



N =15x30

- The average price of maize increased slightly to Ksh34 per kilogram compared to Ksh 33 in November.
- The prices were higher in Merti and Sericho, where a kilogram traded at Ksh35.
- The price increases are due to shortage of maize in the market.
- The prices are likely to rise further due to lack of harvest this season.

### 3.2.2 Beans prices



N =15x30

- The average price of beans stabilized at Ksh84 per kilogram.
- The prices were high in all outside locations and divisions, where a kilogram traded at Ksh100.
- The price was high compared to the long term mean of Ksh56 .
- The prices of beans will further worsen in the coming months since no harvest was realised. This will worsen food security situation.

### 3.3 Income

#### 3.3.1 Crop income

- Income from crops represented 2.9 per cent of the total household incomes during the month.
- The income was derived from small-scale irrigation horticultural produce in Gambela, Elsa and BulesDima.

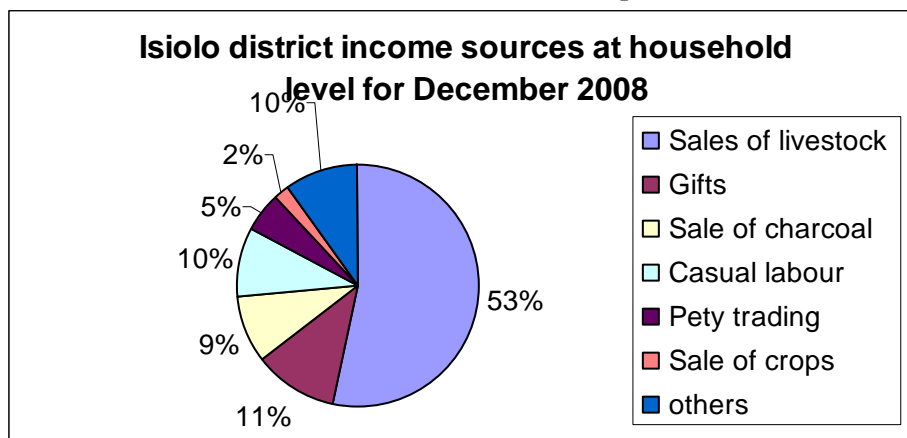
#### 3.3.2 Livestock income

- Income earned by households from livestock represented 53 per cent of the total incomes.
- This was a 3 per cent increase compared to the previous month.

#### 3.3.3 Other income

- Other income during the month under review included sale of charcoal (8.8%) casual labour (9.5%), petty trade (5.1%), and gift items (11.2%).
- Incomes gift items, sale of charcoal and casual labour increased by 1%, 5.6% and 1.8% respectively.

Isiolo income sources at household level for September, 2008

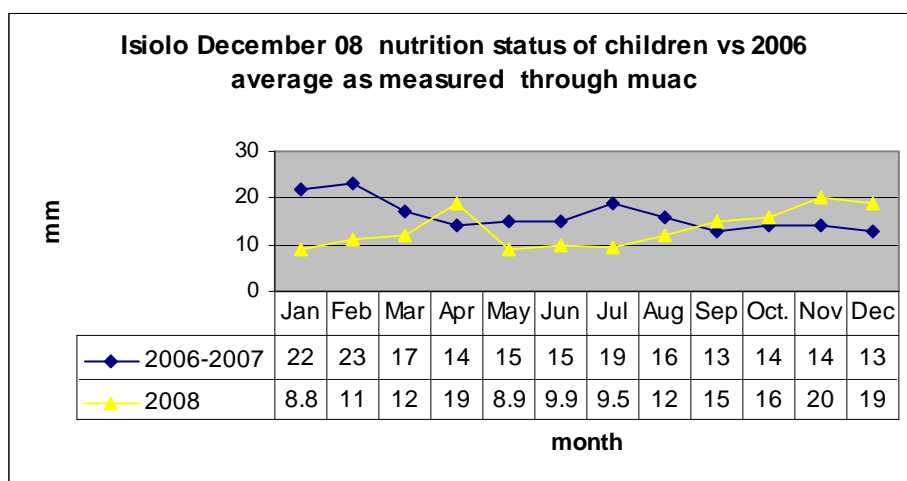


N =15x30

### 3.4 Implications on food security

- The food security situation is expected to worsen further in all livelihood zones following below normal rainfall and 90 per cent crop failure.
- Livestock prices may also drop as body weight reduces due to limited forage.

### 4.0 Welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)



N =5x15x30

- The nutritional status of children below five years (based on MUAC<135mm measurement) was still poor during the month under review.

- However, the percentage of those rated as being at the risk of malnutrition dropped slightly to 19 from 20.3 in November.
- Merti and Cherab divisions had the highest rates at 35 and 16.4 per cent respectively.

#### **4.1 Human Health**

- The health situation was fair in all districts, though it was expected to worsen in coming months due to migration of people from settled areas to dry season grazing rangeland.

#### **4.2 Flagged areas**

- Merti division due to lack of rainfall and Sericho division following influx of livestock into the division.

### **5.0 Current interventions**

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

- Training of community health workers was undertaken in Garbatulla District.
- Mobile outreach services initiated in Garbatulla District with support from Red-cross organisation.
- Series of peace meetings conducted in Kip sing Ngaremara and Modogashe locations to strengthen peaceful co-existence among pastoralists.
- Arid Lands Resource Management Project supported the rangeland boreholes with fuel and spare parts.

#### **5.2 Food aid**

- Food rations for December were not dispatched but expected to be done in first week of the month.

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

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- Urgent vaccination exercise against the foot and mouth diseases in Omara rangelands of Sericho division. **Action; DSG/District veterinary office.**
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