



## Situation overview

- The district recorded 29 mm of rainfall for an average of 4 wet days during the month. This was slightly less than expected and also less than the 80mm recorded last month.
- Both livestock and humans had to walk a shorter distance this month to access water compared to last month. However, with the cessation of the rains the distances are bound to get longer and access of water will prove a challenge.
- Pasture and natural vegetation improved slightly, although a few areas in the district had very scarce pasture for livestock. Of note were Mwahera, Tsangatsini, Mnagoni and Ndigiria locations. Livestock in these areas had particularly poor body condition, especially cattle, and were traded at quite low prices despite the Christmas festivities.
- Distances to grazing areas, however, generally reduced from 8.7km to 3.5km although they are likely to get longer as the dry spell persists.
- Land preparation activities mainly included weeding for the late-planted crop. The acreage planted was, however, very low as most households had given up hope on the rains after successive failed seasons. This is likely to result in much lower yields than expected and also have destructive effects on the environment as they turn to alternative ways of acquiring food, such as the sale of charcoal.
- The expenses for food could only be met by a handful in the district as cereal-legume prices continued to sky-rocket. A bag of maize retailed at Ksh2,970, up from Ksh 2,783 last month, while beans traded at Ksh7,128 a bag from Ksh7,089 last month.
- The average daily wage rate was Ksh126.8, which was still quite low given the prices of food commodities. The common practice in most households was to spend 80 to 100 per cent on food alone, other needs notwithstanding. Most also did away with some nutritious food commodities because their prices were way beyond the pockets of many.
- The nutrition status of children below five years declined during the month. The number of children rated as being at the risk of malnutrition (based on the MUAC<135mm measurement) rose to 5.9 per cent from 5.3 in November. Poorly-balanced meals and unsanitary conditions due to an acute shortage of water contributed to the increase in the number of children at risk during the month.
- Casual labour was the most reliable source of income in the two districts, seconded by the sale of charcoal, similar to last month.
- The food situation in the two districts is worsening and both are in the alert stage.

## Current interventions

### Food aid

- World Vision, which is the lead agency running the EMOP activities in the district, distributed food as follows:

District/Division	Cereals	Pulses	Vegetable Oil
	Maize meal (bags)	(Mt)	(Mt)

Kaloleni	7167	31.6	9.457
Vitengeni	1635	7.2	2.16
Bamba	4821	21.25	6.393
Ganze	1283	5.65	1.697
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14906</b>	<b>65.7</b>	<b>19.707</b>

- The DC's office distributed the following food commodities in the month of December 2008.

District/Division	Cereals
	Maize meal (bags)
Bahari	50
Vitengeni	140
Bamba	210
Ganze	100
<b>Totals</b>	<b>500</b>

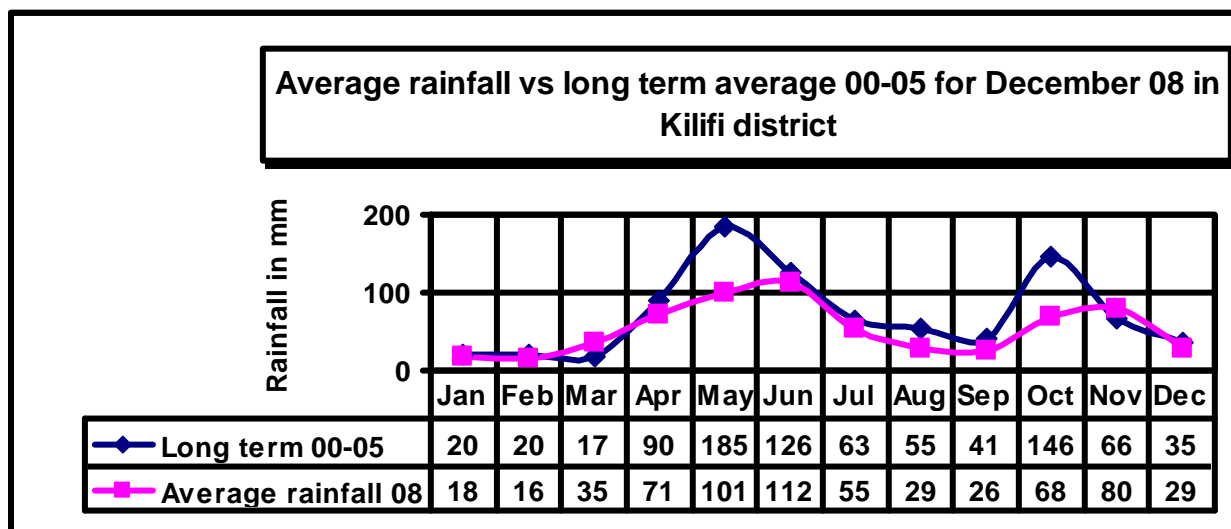
- The bags of maize allocated to Kaloleni district for relief were yet to be distributed since the colour of the cereals changed as a result of a long storage, raising concerns. Samples had been taken to the Government chemist for analysis.

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

- Water-trucking should continue in the ranching and marginal-mixed farming livelihood zones since the water situation in these regions continues to be deplorable.
- This exercise should also target the schools to be included in the school feeding programme since most schools will get the food but will not have water for preparing it. This will curb the impending increased rate of school drop-outs if checks are not put in place in time.
- Cattle dips should be constructed in the major livestock-farming zones in the districts in order to combat common livestock diseases and tick control.
- Livestock farmers should be trained on supplementary feeding for their livestock to feed on alongside the natural vegetation, pasture and forage.

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

#### **1.1 Rainfall**



- 29 mm of rainfall was recorded for an average 4 rainy days in December.
- This was slightly lower than the expected at the time of the year.

### 1.1.2 Temporal distribution

- Most livelihood zones received some rainfall, with the most being in the cash cropping and dairy livelihood zone.

## 1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

### 1.2.1 Quality and quantity

- Pasture and natural vegetation registered a slight improvement in the past few months, especially in areas such as Ndigiria in the ranching zone.
- However, a slight deterioration was noted due to the setting in of an extremely dry and hot phase that largely affected some areas which including Tsangatsini in Kaloleni and Mrima wa Ndege and Mwahera in Vitengeni.
- This trend is likely to worsen in the coming months.

### 1.2.2 Distance to grazing areas

- A decrease of 59.8 per cent in distance to grazing areas was registered, from 8.7 km last month to 3.5 km this month.
- Though distances to grazing areas were considerably shortened, increases in the same were expected as the districts enter a very hot and dry spell in the coming months.
- Distances were shortest in the cash-cropping and dairy livelihood zone at 1.8km while longest in the marginal mixed farming livelihood zone at 7.0km.

## 1.3 Water sources and availability

### 1.3.1 Water sources

- 50 per cent of the households sampled relied on pans and dams for their water needs, while 8.3 per cent relied on traditional river wells and shallow wells.

- Most water sources, however, held minimal water volumes that will hardly sustain the two districts in the coming month.

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

- Access to water by households improved considerably compared to last month as a 69.6 per cent decrease was noted in the distance walked to water sources.
- However, accessing water for households will soon prove difficult as water sources continue to dry up due to the scorching heat.
- Distances walked by households did not vary much, variations being in the range of 0.1 of a km.
- Both the food cropping and the ranching livelihood zones recorded 1.3 km, while the marginal mixed farming and the cash cropping and dairy one recorded 1.4km and 1.5km respectively.

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

- Access to water by livestock proved slightly more difficult as most water sources either held no or very little water after the abrupt cessation of the rains.
- This trend is likely to continue to aggravate for the next two or three months as the dry spell is likely to persist.

### **1.3.4 Emerging issues/conflict**

- Several bags of maize distributed for relief in Kaloleni district were reported unsuitable for human consumption. Samples were taken for investigation but results had not been received by the end of the month.

### **1.4 Implications on food security**

- Access to water by both livestock and humans improved, although this will not last as many water sources were on the verge of drying up.
- This is likely to affect both livestock and human production as most will be forced to spend most of their waking hours in search of the liquid commodity.
- Pasture for livestock is also likely to suffer a similar fate as natural vegetation will be affected by the heat.

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

### **2.1 Livestock production**

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

- Livestock body condition still ranged from poor to average similar to last month.
- However, effects of lack of pasture and forage begun being felt, especially in the marginal mixed farming, ranching and food cropping livelihood zones, which spot livestock of very poor body condition with a few livestock deaths being reported.
- This could also be because most livestock farmers have poor feeding regimes for their livestock.
- The trend is likely to tilt towards the negative in the coming months as the two districts enter a dry phase in their seasonal calendar.

#### **2.1.2 Livestock diseases**

- New castle disease still posed the greatest threat to poultry, especially in the food cropping and a few isolated areas in the cash cropping and dairy livelihood zone. However, no other diseases were reported.

### **2.1.3 Milk production**

- A 35 per cent increase in milk production was recorded from an average 11.5 bottles last month to 17.7 bottles this month.
- The increase could be due to the improved pasture registered last month.
- The cash cropping and dairy livelihood zone recorded the highest production of 24 bottles, while the ranching zone recorded nil.
- Highest production was registered in the most rainfall-abundant zone and vice versa.

## **2.2 Crop production**

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

- Most households planted the short rains season crop quite late when the rains were already underway.
- Consequently, the crop dried up and farmers face a total crop failure in areas such as Dungicha, Tsangatsini, Mnagoni, Midoina and Ndigiria.
- Acreage tilled was also very low, with most farmers practicing poor farming methods. This resulted in depletion of important nutrients due to soil erosion, hence low yields are expected.

### **2.2.2 Pests and diseases**

- No major pests or diseases were reported in crops this month.

### **2.2.3 Crop harvests**

- Sweet potatoes, vegetables, amaranthus, banans, mangoes, coconuts and citrus fruits were harvested during the month.

## **2.3 Implication on food security**

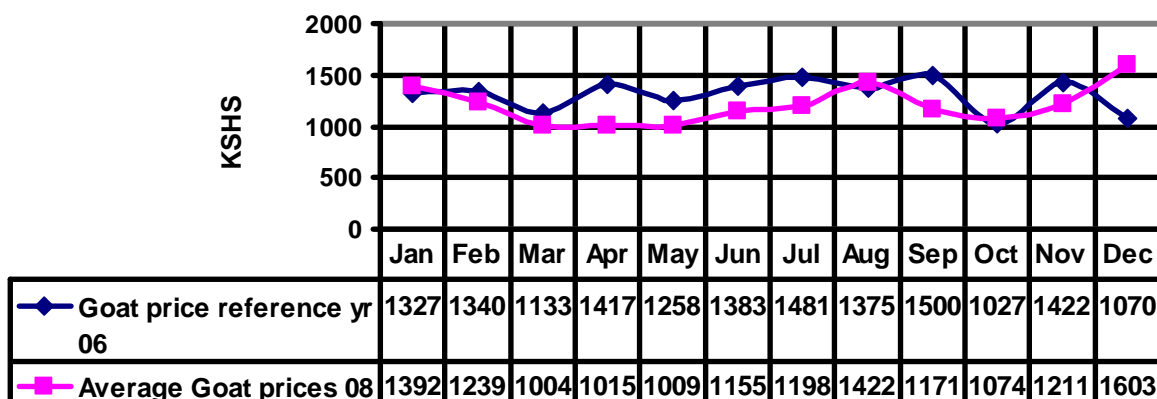
- An impending crop failure looms in the larger part of the two districts and households are likely to face a severe food shortage in the months to come.
- This situation is likely to worsen as livestock production is not likely to sustain the population in the two districts. Moreover, livestock feed is also likely to decrease.

## **3.0 Access to food**

### **3.1 Livestock marketing**

#### **3.1.1 Goat prices**

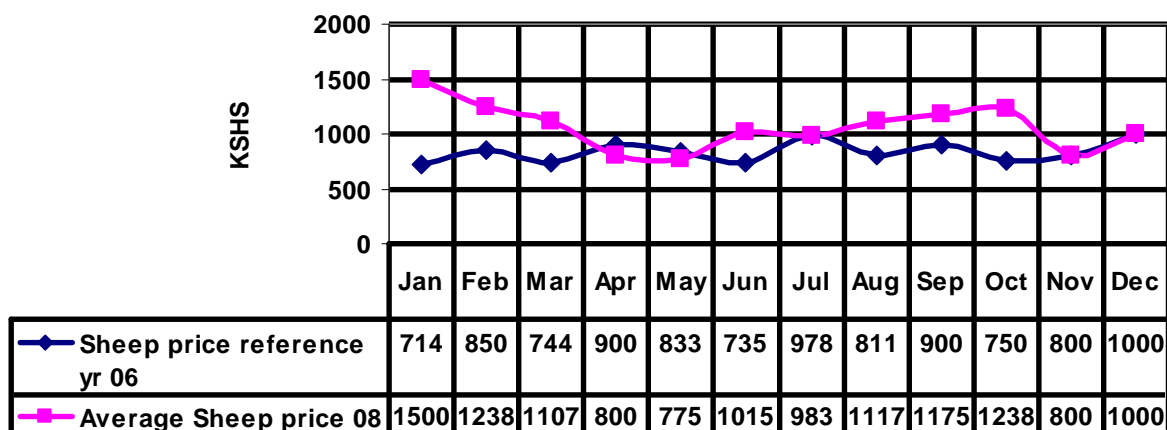
**Average goat prices at market level versus reference yr 06 for December 08 in Kilifi district**



- A medium-sized goat retailed at Ksh1,603, up by a 32.4 per cent margin in comparison to last month's retail price of Ksh1, 211. The price increase had been predicted last month due to the Christmas celebrations.
- Highest prices were recorded in the marginal mixed farming livelihood zone at Ksh2,666.7, while the least was in the ranching zone at Ksh968.2.
- At Ksh1,603, the price was higher than expected compared to the reference year 06.

### 3.1.2 Sheep prices

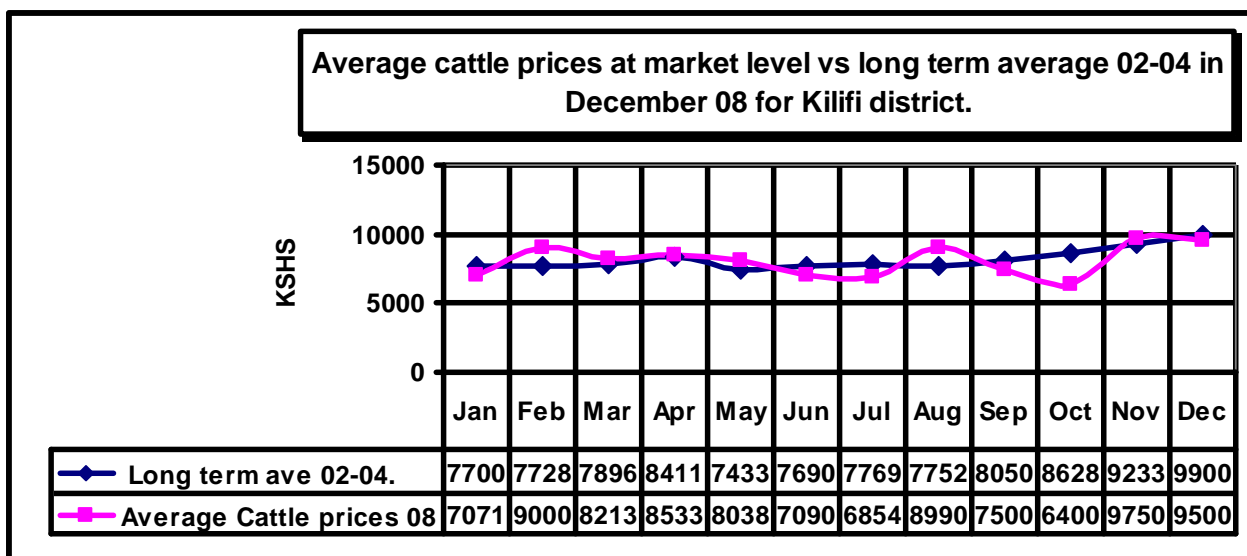
**Average sheep prices at market level vs reference yr 06 for December 08 for Kilifi district**



- The price of a medium-sized sheep was Ksh1,000 compared to Ksh800 last month.

- Just as was the case for goats, sheep were in demand due to the Christmas celebrations hence the price hike.
- Sheep were, however, sold in the ranching livelihood zone only.
- In comparison to a normal year, it was similar to the expected in the reference year 06.

### 3.1.3 Cattle prices



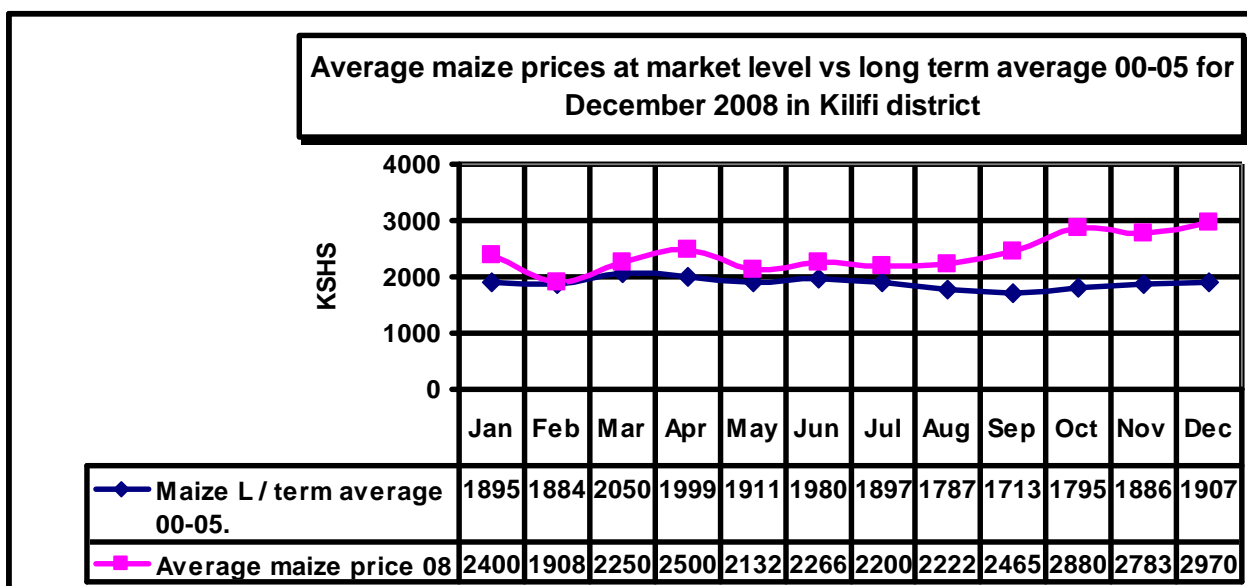
- The average price of a 3-year old bull was Ksh9,500, an insignificant 2.6 per cent increase compared to Ksh9,750 last month.
- The sales were mainly in the marginal mixed-farming livelihood zone.
- Compared to the long-term average 02-04, the price was lower than expected.

### 3.2 Milk consumption

- Milk consumption increased by 27.5 per cent from an average 5.8 bottles last month to an average 8 bottles.
- Production of milk increased considerably at household level, making milk more available.
- The average price of a bottle had also seen a 5.3 per cent decrease from Ksh 20.4 per bottle to Ksh15.1, making it more pocket-friendly for most households.

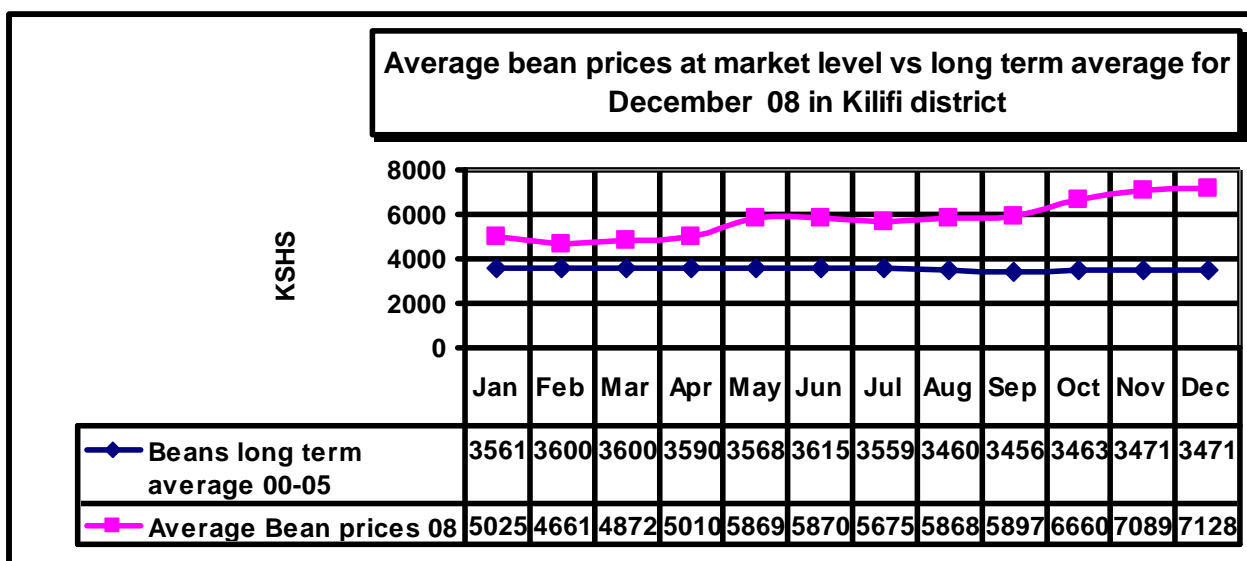
### 3.3 Crop prices

#### 3.3.1 Maize prices



- A 90-kg bag of maize retailed at Ksh2,970, up by a 6.7 per cent margin compared to last month's Ksh2783.
- The increase in the commodity's price was attributed to hiked fuel prices in the transport sector, coupled with lower production in the major maize-producing areas of the country.
- The highest prices were recorded in the food cropping livelihood zone at Ksh 3,360, while the least were recorded in the marginal mixed farming one.
- Maize prices continued to be much higher than expected at the time of the year and were likely to increase further due to scarcity following a poor harvest last season.

### 3.3.2 Beans prices



- The average price of a bag of beans was Ksh7,128 compared to Ksh7,089 last month.
- Although the increase was quite insignificant compared to last month, the retail price still remained exorbitantly high compared to the long-term average.
- At more than double the expected price, access to beans by the majority was almost impossible due to the price.
- The highest prices were posted in the marginal mixed farming livelihood zone at Ksh8,100, while the lowest were recorded in the cash cropping and dairy zones at Ksh8,100.

### 3.4 Income

The percentages for the various sources of income in the two districts are listed here below:

No.	Source of income	% Dec 08	% Jan 09
1.	Casual labour	46.9	42
2.	Sale of charcoal	16.1	24
3.	Petty trade	14.4	10.9
4.	Remittances	11.8	10.6
5.	Formal employment	6.1	9.1
6.	Sale of wood products	3.1	2
7.	Sale of livestock	1.4	1.4
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

#### 3.4.1 Casual labour

- The main source of income for most of the households sampled was casual labour. However, there was a decreased demand for it as most households had given up tilling their land after successive failures of the previous seasons.
- The average daily wage rate increased slightly by 12.3 per cent from Ksh114.5 to Ksh126.8.
- The cash cropping and dairy livelihood zone recorded the highest wage rate at Kshs 197, while the least was to be found in the ranching one at Ksh77. The wage rate in the latter livelihood zone remained dismally low, making most households incapable of purchasing enough food given that their last season had failed.
- The marginal mixed-farming livelihood zone fared no better at an equally meager wage rate of Ksh89.

#### 3.4.2 Sale of charcoal

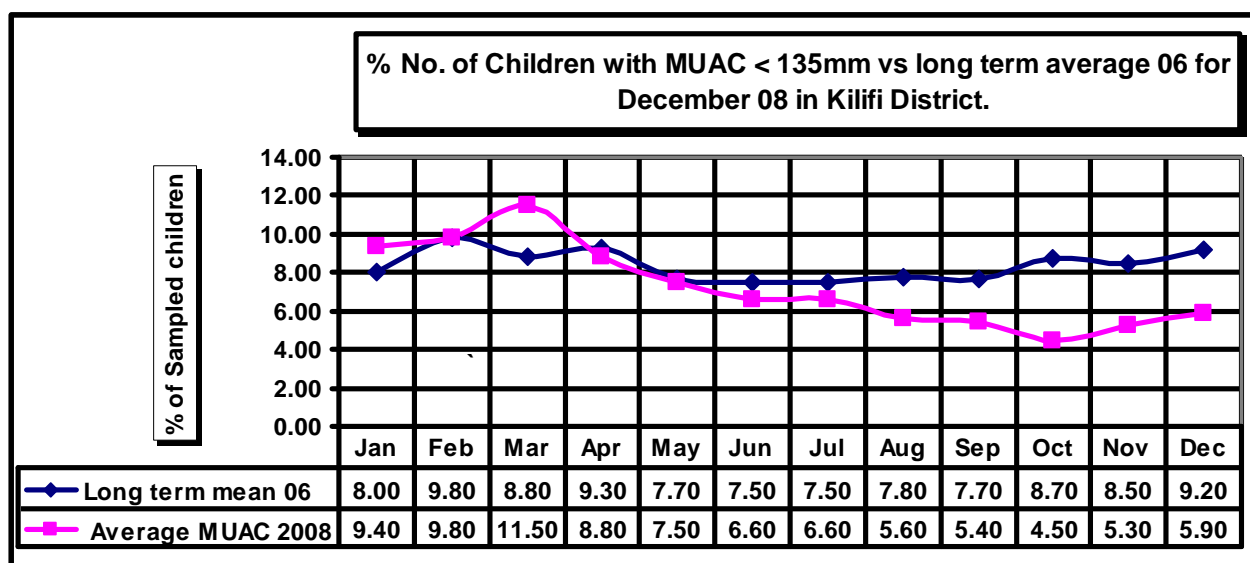
- The sale of charcoal was the second main source of income, which substantially increased from 16.1 per cent last month to 24 per cent this month.
- As households faced an acute food shortage, charcoal-burning was a coping strategy to earn an income to be able to buy food. Residents of the ranching livelihood zone were the main culprits as most relied on this as the main source of income.
- It was, however, the least reliable source of income in the cash cropping and dairy livelihood zone where no sale of charcoal was reported.

### 3.5 Implications on food security

- The ever-increasing food commodity prices continued to batter residents of Kilifi and Kaloleni as the demand for casual labour, their main source of income, continued to be scarce.
- Wage rates also remained low, leaving most households hardly able to afford food.
- The marginal mixed farming and ranching zones were most affected.

## 4. Welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

### 4.1 Nutrition status



- The nutrition status of children below five years declined during the month.
- The number of children rated as being at the risk of malnutrition (based on the MUAC<135mm measurement) rose to 5.9 per cent from 5.3 in November.
- The increase could be due to the increased difficulty of accessing food and extremely low wage rates.
- Poorly-balanced meals and unsanitary conditions due to an acute shortage of water also contributed to the increase in the number of children at risk during the month. Common meals consisted of largely carbohydrates with no much supplements for a balanced meal.
- The ranching livelihood zone recorded the highest rates, while the least was in the marginal mixed farming one.
- The percentage was, however, much lower than the reference year 06.

### 4.2 Human Health

- No major human diseases were reported during the month of December.

## 5.0 Current interventions

### 5.1 Food Aid

- The lead agency World Vision running the EMOP activities in the district made a distribution of food as shown in the table below.

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### 5.3 Other coping strategies

- The coping strategy index increased by 0.2 per cent margin from 2.2 per cent last month to 2.4 per cent this month. This translates to aggravation of the food security situation at household level as households seek ways to combat food shortage.
- The main coping strategies included skipping food consumption for an entire day, opting for low-nutrient, cheaper foods and the sale of charcoal.

### 6. Recommendations

- Water-trucking should continue in the ranching and marginal-mixed farming livelihood zones since the water situation in these regions continues to be deplorable.
- This exercise should also target the schools to be included in the school feeding programme since most schools will get the food but will not have water for preparing it. This will curb the impending increased rate of school drop-outs if checks are not put in place in time.
- Cattle dips should be constructed in the major livestock-farming zones in the districts in order to combat common livestock diseases and tick control.

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