

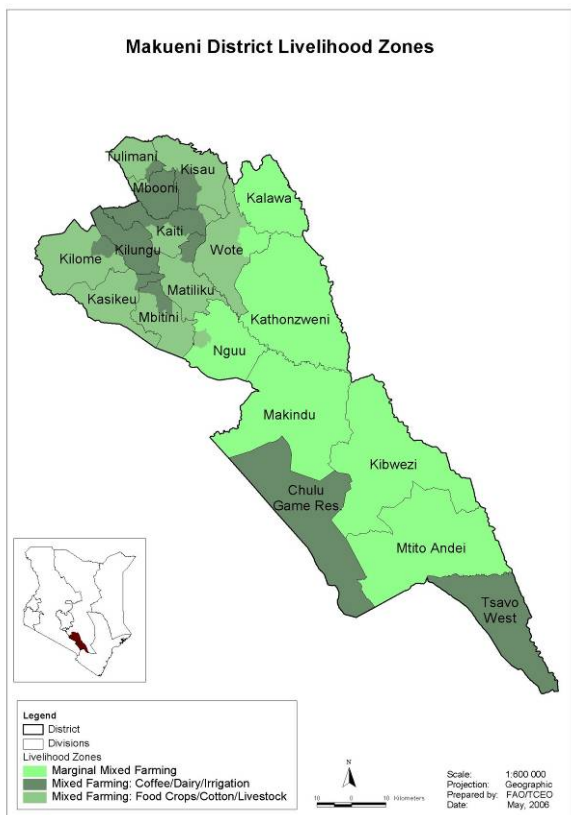


OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, DECEMBER 2008

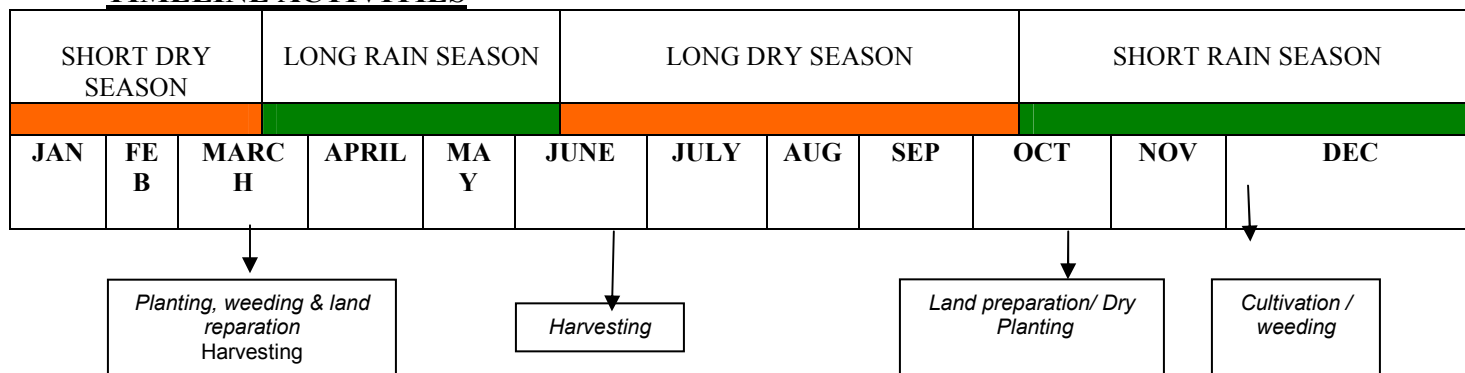
Makueni District

Warning Stages



LIVELIHOOD ZONE	WARNING STAGE	TREND
Mixed farming coffee/dairy	ALARM	Worsening
Mixed farming food crops (Agro Pastoral Zone I)	ALARM	Worsening
Marginal mixed farming (Agro Pastoral Zone II)	ALARM	Worsening
DISTRICT	ALARM	Worsening

TIMELINE ACTIVITIES



Situation Overview

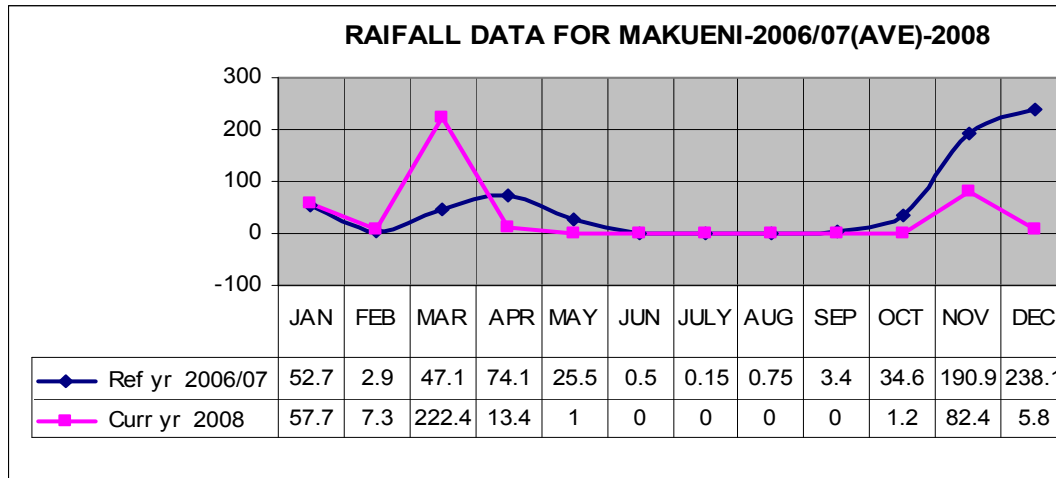
- The month remained hot and dry in the larger district and only 5.8mm of rainfall was recorded.
- Legumes dried up prematurely in all the zones, while cereals suffered moisture stress and showed stunted growth. Total crop failure is expected in the district.
- Pasture was scarce and poor in quality and quantity in all the zones.
- Livestock health and body condition deteriorated and this is expected to worsen if the rainfall situation isn't reversed.
- Water scarcity was evident in most parts of the district. The distances to and from water sources increased from 3.5kms to 4.2kms (average).
- Main water sources were natural rivers, shallow wells, traditional river wells, boreholes, natural ponds and springs.
- Nutritional status of children below five years deteriorated, with the percentage of those rated as being at the risk of malnutrition rising to 17.3 from 15.4 in November. The most affected were the with agro pastoral zones.
- Livestock prices significantly dropped within the month and were way below the same period last year.
- Milk and its products decreased slightly in supply but the price stagnated at Ksh.40/litre.
- Most food prices stagnated within the month.
- Casual labour, sale of firewood, sale of sisal products, charcoal burning and other manual jobs were the main sources of income for most households during the month.
- No major human disease outbreak was reported during the month, but malaria was commonly reported among the underage.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSSG

- All primary schools in worst hit areas of the district should be put under the school feeding programme.
- All the divisions within the districts should be considered for the relief supply with the rations being increased from 25 per cent to 75 per cent and the target population to 75 per cent.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall



Courtesy of Makindu meteorological station

- 5.8mm of rainfall was recorded in the month.
- This adversely affected both food crops and pastures in all parts of district.
- This was an abnormal situation in the district since December is expected to be wet all through.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Pasture was scarce and poor in quality and quantity in all the zones.

1.3 Water sources and availability

- Water scarcity was evident in most parts of the district.
- The distances to and from water sources increased from 3.5kms to 4.2kms (average).
- Main water sources were natural rivers, shallow wells, traditional river wells, boreholes, natural ponds and springs.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Livestock migration

- Livestock migration was reported mostly in search of pasture.

1.5 Implications on food security

- Water scarcity is likely to impact negatively on livestock body condition and food crops.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock body condition

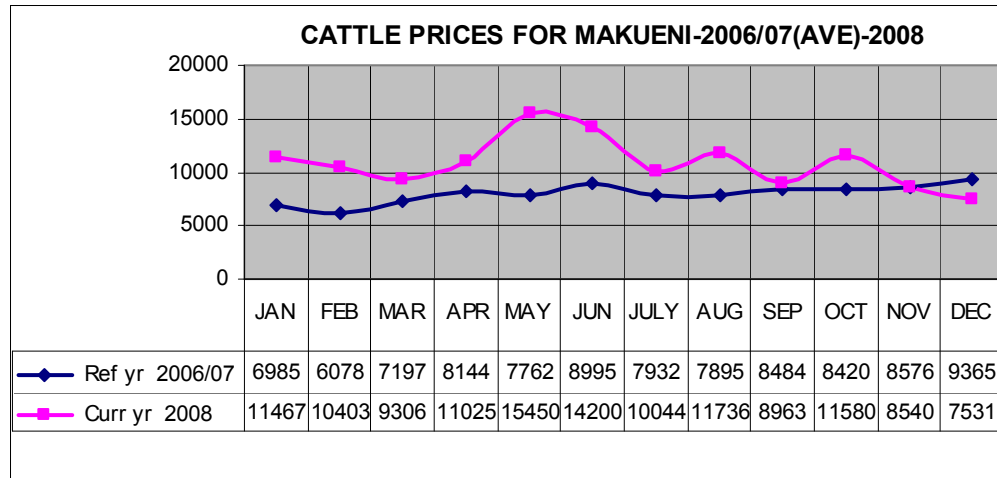
- Livestock health and body condition deteriorated and this is expected to worsen if the rainfall situation isn't reversed.
- This was not a normal occurrence at the time of the year.

2.2 Livestock health

- No major livestock disease outbreak was reported within the month.

3.0 Access to food
3.1 Livestock marketing
3.1.1 Cattle prices

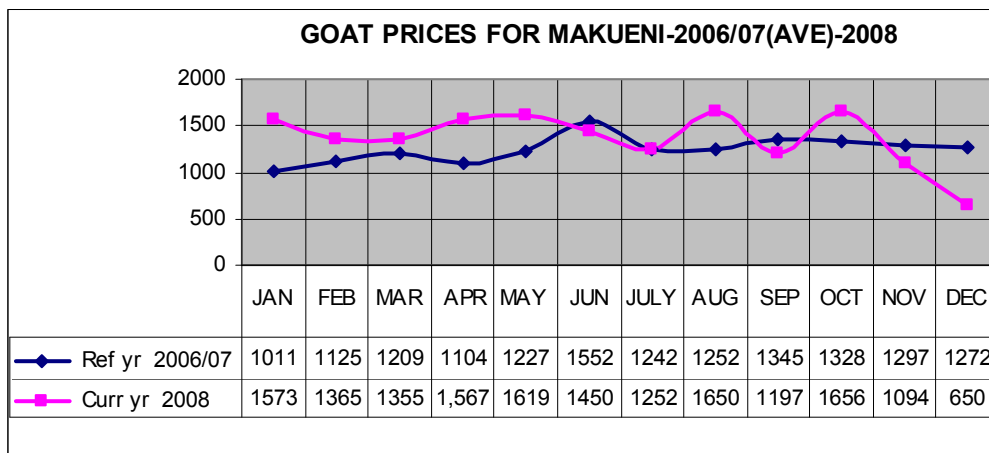
Cattle prices at household level (December 2008)



*N=360

- Cattle prices decreased significantly over the month and they were lower than the reference period 2006-2007.
- The average price was Ksh7531 from Ksh 8540 in November.
- This was as a result of high supply in the local markets to purchase food commodities and as a destocking method.
- This was not a normal trend at the time of the year.

3.1.2 Goat prices

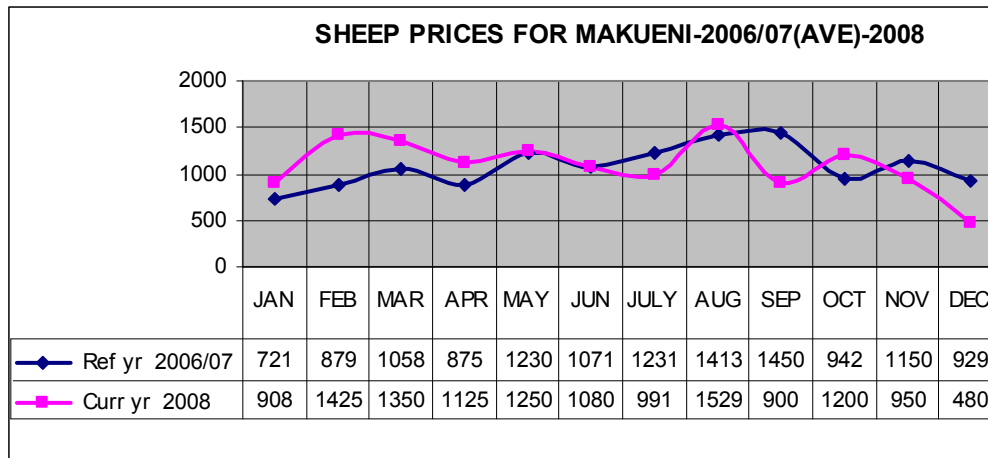


*N=360

- Goat prices dropped significantly over month.

- The average price fell to Ksh 650 from Ksh 1094 in November.
- The prices were way below the same period last year.
- This was due to high supply in the local markets.

3.1.3 Sheep prices



*N=360

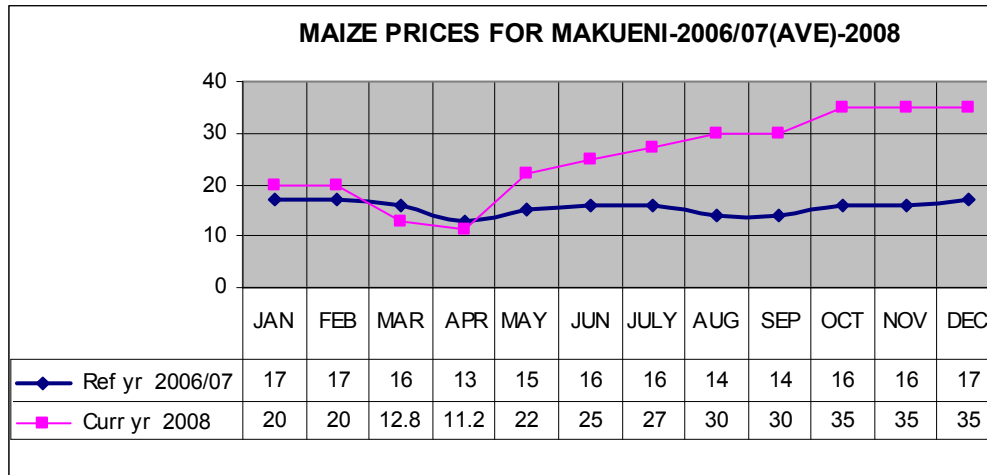
- Sheep prices decreased significantly over the month from Ksh 940 in November to Ksh480.
- The prices were lower than the same period last year.
- This was as a result of high supply in the local markets as an alternative source of income to purchase food.

3.2 Milk consumption

- Milk and its products increased slightly in supply and the price remained constant at Ksh40 per litre.
- This was a normal occurrence at the time of the year.

3.3 Crop prices

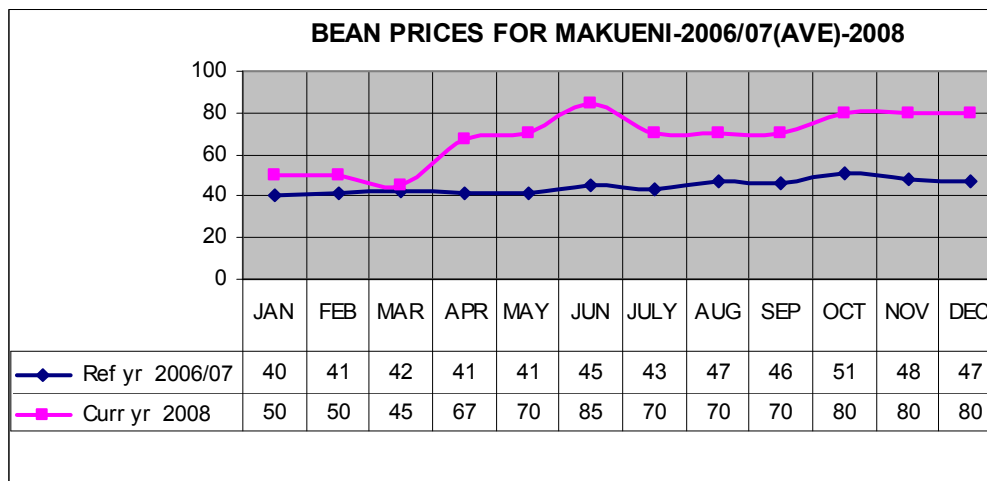
3.3.1 Maize prices



*N=360

- Maize prices stagnated at Ksh35 per kilo during the month but this was way above the same period last year.
- This was not normal at the time of the year and could be attributed to low supply in the local markets.
- The price is projected to increase further in the coming months if there is no change in the trend of supply of the commodity.

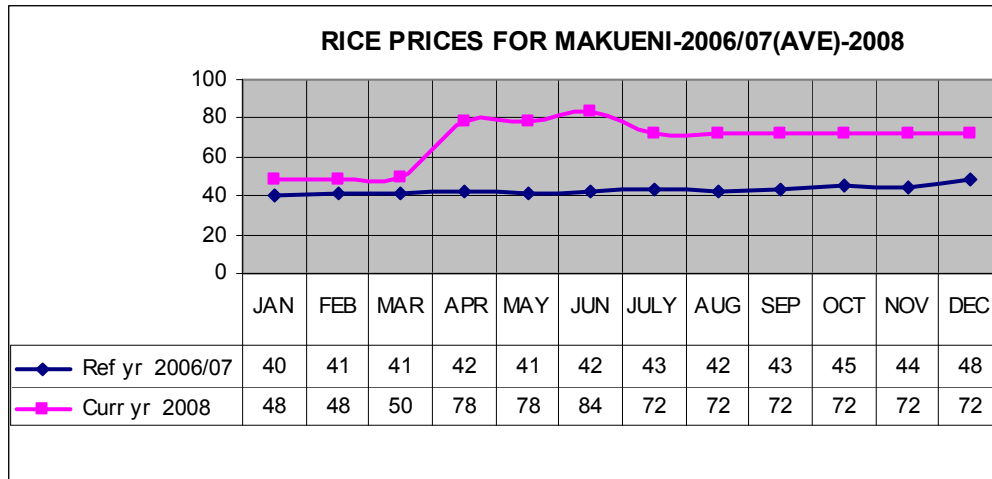
3.3.2 Beans prices



* N=360

- Bean prices stagnated at Ksh80 per kilo within the month.
- This was way above the same period last year.
- This was an abnormal occurrence at the time of the year.

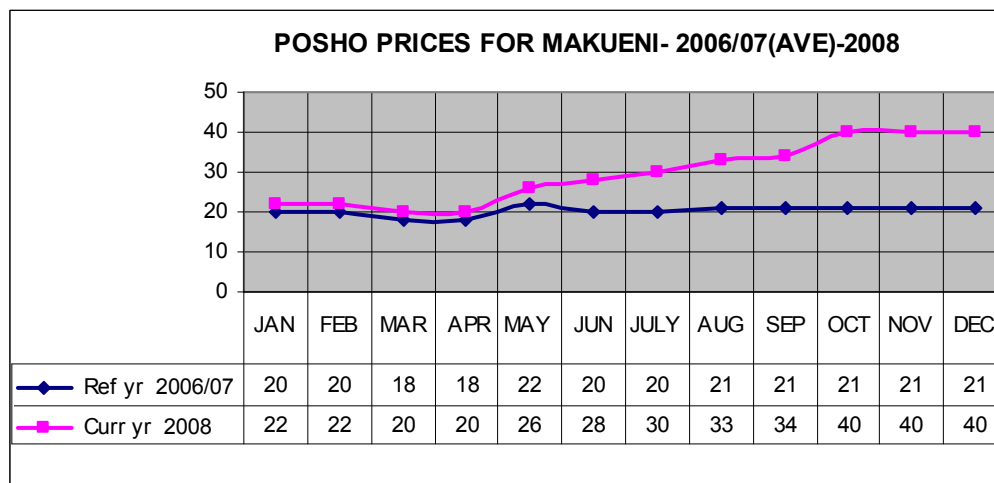
3.3.3 Rice prices



* N=360

- Prices of rice stagnated compared to the previous month, and it was way above that of last year.
- This was an abnormal occurrence at the time of the year and could be attributed to food shortages in the country.

3.3.4 Posho prices

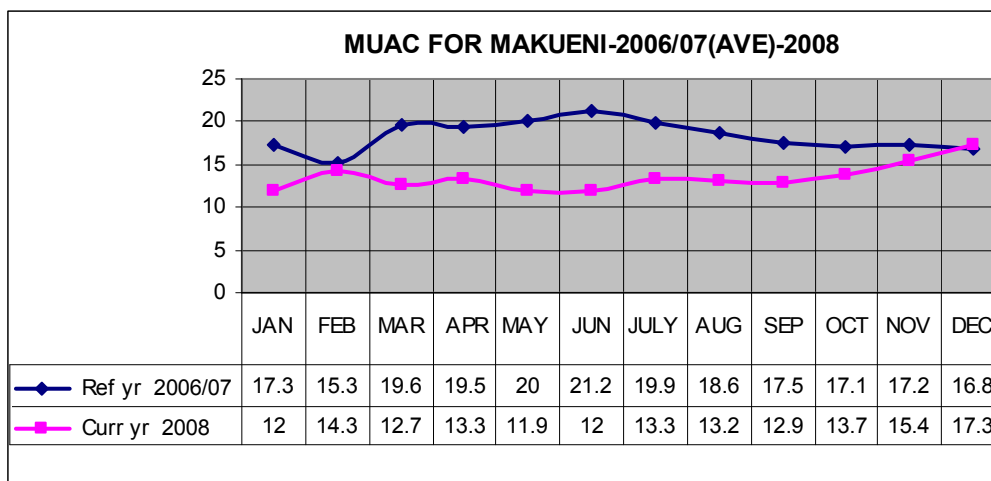


* N=360

- Prices of Posho stagnated compared to last month.
- However, the prices were higher than the same period last year.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition Status (Based on MUAC measurement)



*N =1502

- Nutritional status of children below five years deteriorated.
- The percentage of those rated as being at the risk of malnutrition rising to 17.3 from 15.4 in November.
- The most affected were the agro pastoral zones.
- This situation was attributed to the increased food prices which caused some families to skip and reduce the quantity and quality of meals.
- This could also be attributed to lack of greens and vegetables.

5.0 Current interventions

- Relief food supplies by G.O.K in all the divisions in the larger district.

6.0 Recommendations

- All primary schools in worst hit areas of the district should be put under the school feeding programme.
- All the divisions within the districts should be considered for the relief supply with the rations being increased from 25 per cent to 75 per cent and the target population to 75 per cent.