



**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

Turkana North, Central and South districts

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Pastoral-all species	Alarm	No Change
Agro-Pastoral	Alarm	No Change
Fisheries	Alarm	Improving
Formal Employment/Casual Labour	Alarm	No Change
DISTRICT	Alarm	No Change

SEASONAL CALENDAR

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 Greater Turkana district received no rainfall during the month under review. For instance, Lodwar meteorological station recorded a value of 0.00mm, which is much lower than the value (31.2mm) recorded in November'08. This is also much lower than the 8.0mm of rainfall recorded for the same period of referenced year (2004).
- The quality and quantity of pasture and browse in wet season grazing areas deteriorated, especially in the lowland areas of the larger Turkana district. However, there was adequate in the dry grazing areas.
- The distance to and from water sources increased from 2 km in November to 2.9km. This was attributed to the grazing areas being far from water sources.
- The body condition of most livestock species was much better than the previous month.
- The mortality rate of shoats dropped from 6.1 per cent recorded in November to 4.55 per cent. Similarly, the mortality rates for the large stock (cattle and camels) dropped from 19.5 per cent in November to 2.0.
- The average birth rate of livestock declined from 16.8 per cent in November to 12.4. The birth rates recorded were: 19.9 per cent, 10.3, 6.8 and 12.6 for cattle, sheep, goats and camels respectively.
- Livestock sales rate decreased from 2.25 per cent in November to 1.33.
- Household milk production across the three districts increased marginally from 18.1 per cent in November to 18.2.
- The nutrition status of children below five years improved slightly during the month, with the percentage of those rated as being at the risk of malnutrition dropping to 20.6 from 21.4 in November.
- The most common human diseases were malaria and upper respiratory tract infections (URTIs). Cases of diarrhea and eye infections were also reported in most parts of larger Turkana.
- Numerous conflict incidences were reported during the month in all the cross border zones of Turkana North, Central and South districts.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSSG

- Every effort must be made to contain nutrition rates of vulnerable groups such as children under five years, pregnant and lactating mothers, the sick and the elderly from worsening.
- The Veterinary department and other partners must continue with PPR vaccination campaigns. Vaccination of livestock against CCPP is also required. Other interventions required include deworming and treatment of mange and camel tryps.
- Conflict early warning and rapid response should be strengthened.
- Cross border peace and community dialogue meetings should be held in areas affected by insecurity.
- Recruiting more Kenya Police Reservists (KPR) in all the areas affected by insecurity and supplying them with enough ammunition to lend hand to the government security agencies in place.
- The food for assets (FFA) and cash for work (CFW) programs should be up-scaled to take care of those left out of the targeting, so as to build their assets and resilience to drought.

- Provision of fishing gear to the fisher folk communities along Lake Turkana.
- Immediate resettlement of internally displaced persons and subsequent closure of the camps in the district.
- Introduce solar dryers and cages to reduce the massive post harvest losses in the fisheries sector.

Current interventions

Non-food interventions

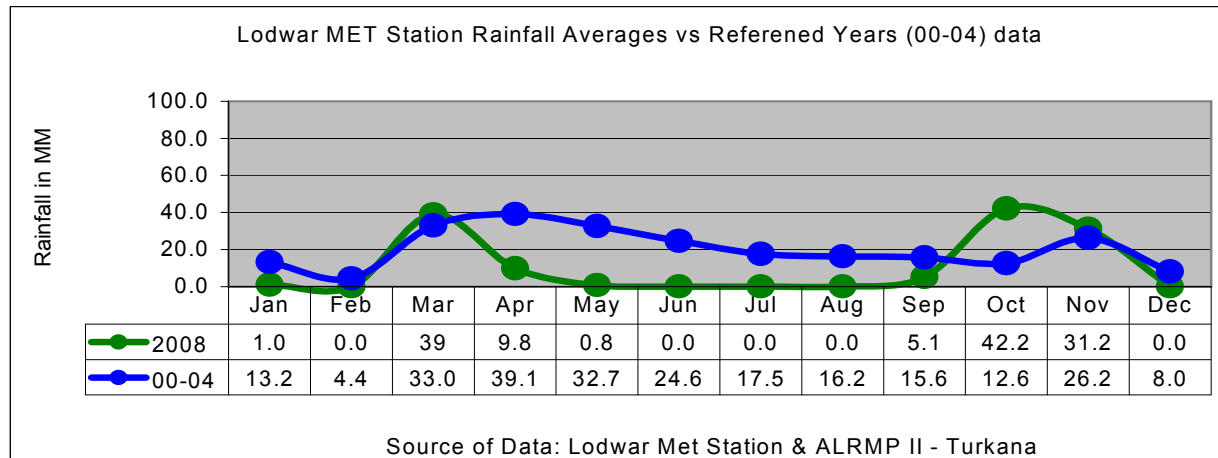
- Njaa Marufuku Kenya project and National Agriculture and livestock extension programme (NALEP) by Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.
- Water resources development by Practical Action; ALRMP, OXFAM-GB and Diocese of Lodwar.
- Conflict resolution and peace-building initiatives by different stakeholders.
- PPR vaccination.
- Elections of the District Peace Committees.
- UNDP Host Community Projects in Kakuma, Oropoi and Lokichoggio divisions.

Food aid

- General food distribution.
- Supplementary feeding.
- Food for Assets.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall



- The Greater Turkana district received no rainfall during the month under review.
- The Lodwar meteorological station recorded 0.00mm, which was much lower than the 31.2mm recorded in November. This was also much lower than the 8.0mm of rainfall recorded for the same period of referenced year (2004).

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- The quality and quantity of pasture and browse in Turkana areas deteriorated.

- However, pasture was adequate in the dry season grazing areas. Moreover, wild fruits (for human consumption) and acacia pods (for livestock) were available in wet season grazing areas.

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Use of water sources

- Surface water sources decreased in most parts of the district.
- Underground water sources yielded moderate amounts of water for both human and livestock consumption.
- Turkwel and Kerio rivers, which are seasonal, discharged low amounts of water during the month.

1.3.2 Access to water

- The average walking distance to and from water sources increased from 2km in November to 2.9km.
- Consequently, this also saw an increase in the return time.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Conflicts and human displacement

- Incidences of conflicts between the Turkana and their neighbours were high.
- In the Northwest, cattle rustlers from southern Sudan raided Nanam Division and killed Turkana herdsman and drove their livestock away.
- A new dimension to the conflict was the collusion of Pokot and Turkana traders in Nakwamoru area to purchase and sell stolen livestock at Lorogon trading centre.
- The conflict between the Turkana and pastoralists from Chalbi district became violent, resulting in retaliatory attacks across Lake Turkana.

1.4.2 Migration

- Most pastoral herders moved to the dry season grazing areas in search of water and pasture.
- About 10,000 internally displaced persons as a result of the post-election violence were still camped in the district.

1.5 Implications on food security

- The inward and outward migrations 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

- Livestock body condition for all livestock species was better than at any other time of the year.
- Shoats were healthy due to availability of pasture and water in the larger Turkana district.
- Mortality rate of shoats decreased from 6.1 in November to 4.55. The mortality rate for the large stocks (cattle and camels) decreased from 19.5 per cent in November to 2 per cent.

- The main causes of death in shoats were PPR and drought. However, CCPP (goats), CBPP (cattle), mange (camels), diarrhoea and internal parasites (worms) also contributed to deaths.
- Livestock birth rates declined slightly from 16.8 per cent in November to 12.4 per cent especially, small stock (8.55 per cent) and large stock (16.25 per cent). The specific birth rate recorded for each of the species was 19.9 per cent, 10.3, 6.8 and 12.6 for cattle, sheep, goats and camels respectively.

2.1.2 Livestock health

- The common diseases and pests affecting livestock in the district were: Contagious Caprine Pleural Pneumonia (CCPP) and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) in shoats; Contagious Bovine Pleural Pneumonia (CBPP) in cattle, Haemorrhagic septicaemia and mange in Camels, leptospirosis, ticks and lice.
- The PPR menace aggravated the food security situation in the district since it had been devastating shoats systematically.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Household milk production increased marginally during the month under review, from 18.1 per cent in November to 18.2 per cent.

2.2 Crop production

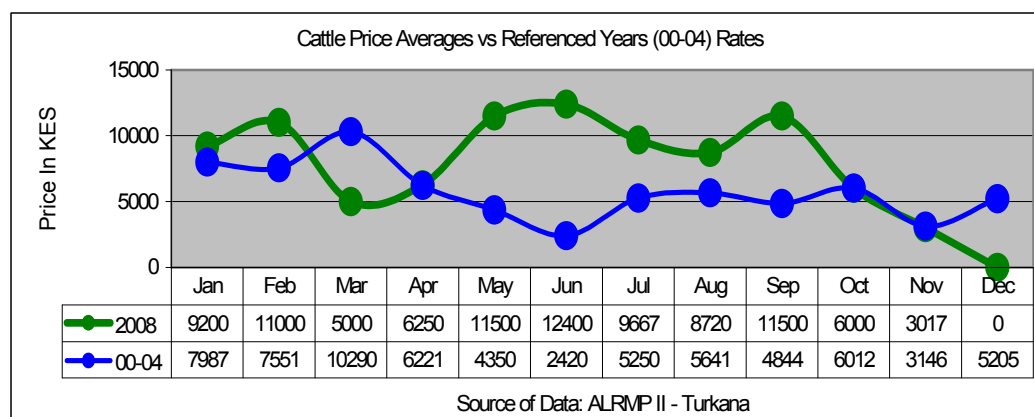
2.2.1 Timeliness and status of crop production activities

- Few farmers along the riverine areas of Turkwel and Kerio had planted some crops.

3.0 Access to food

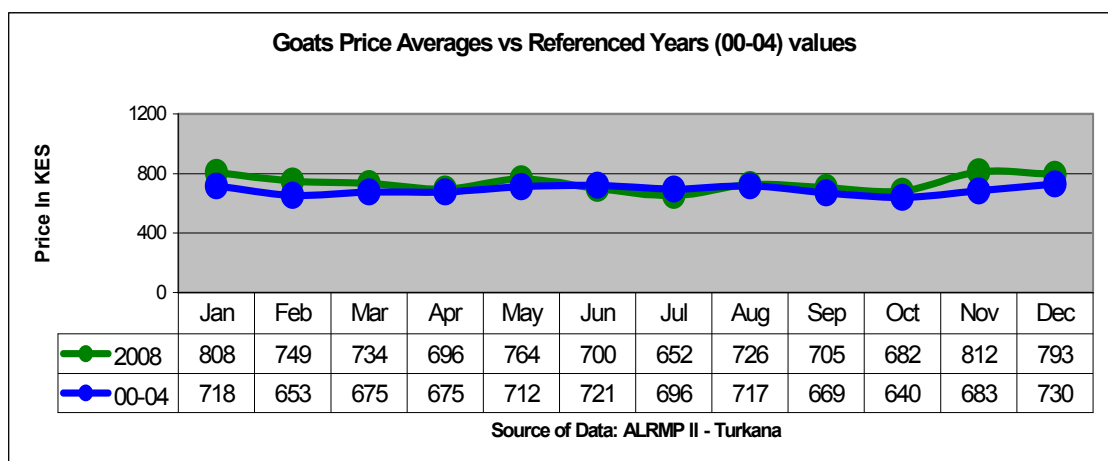
3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices



- No cattle sales were recorded in the livestock markets during the month.

3.1.2 Goat prices



- The average goat price dropped slightly from Ksh812 in November to Ksh793.
- However, the price was still higher than the reference year's value of Ksh730.

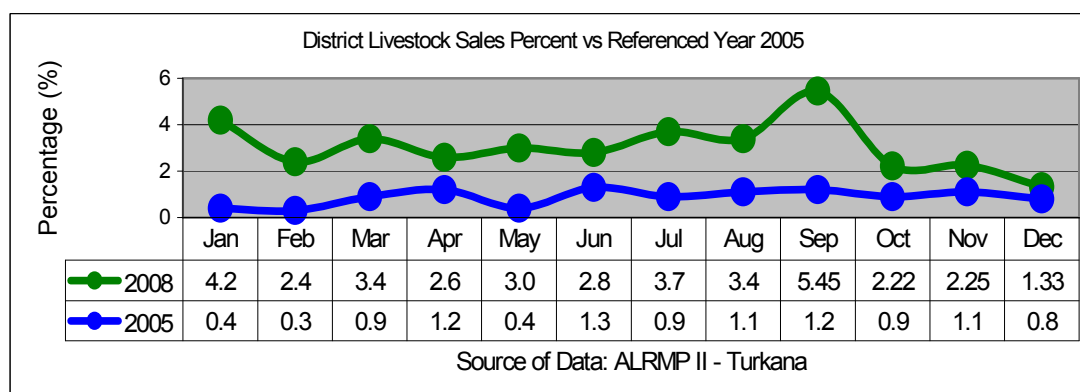
3.1.3 Sheep prices

- Sheep prices decreased by Ksh77, from Ksh865 in November to Ksh788.

3.1.4 Camel prices

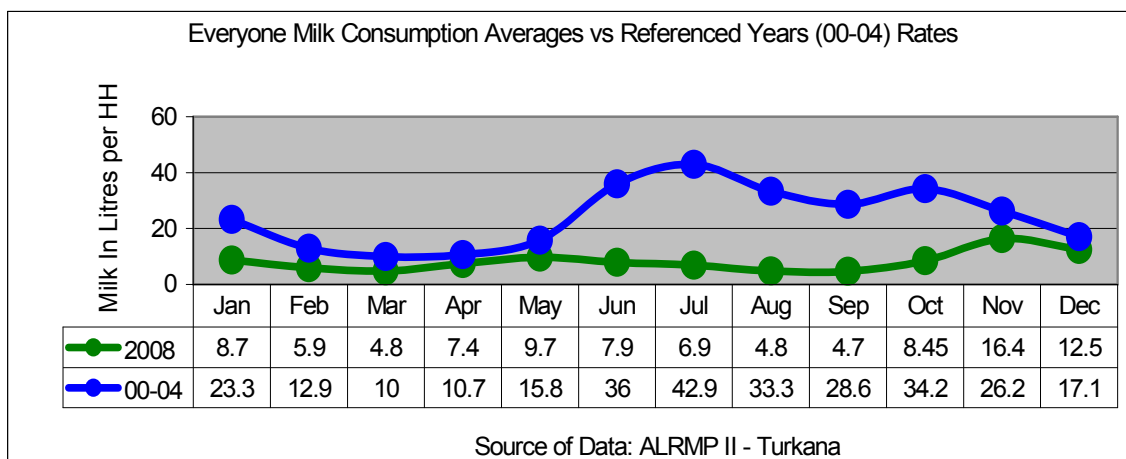
- The average camel price was Ksh9,000.

3.2 Livestock sales



- The district saw a drop in livestock sales rate from 2.25 per cent recorded in November to 1.33 per cent.
- This value was higher than the 0.8 per cent recorded in the same period of the reference year (2005).

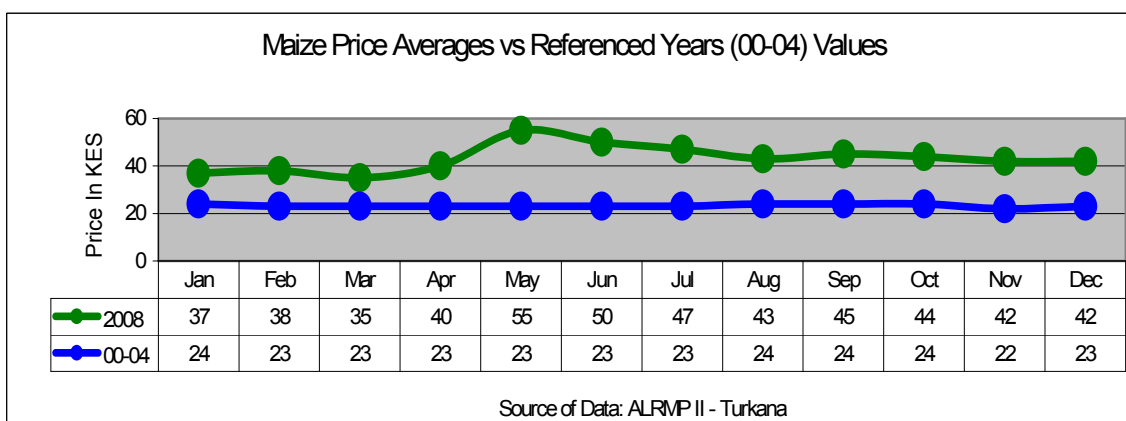
3.3 Milk Consumption



- Milk consumption rate decreased by 3.9 per cent to 12.5 per cent compared to 16.4 per cent recorded in November.
- This was 4.6 per cent lower than the value of 17.1 per cent recorded for the same period of the reference year (2004).

3.4 Crop prices

3.4.1 Maize prices



- The average maize price across the greater Turkana was Ksh42 per kilogram. The price ranged from Ksh30 to Ksh54.
- This was a much higher price compared to the value of Ksh23 recorded during the same period of the referenced year (00-04).

3.4.2 Posho (maize meal) prices

- The average posho price was Ksh45 per kilogram.
- The price was relatively higher compared to the Ksh 25 recorded during the referenced year (2004).

3.4.3 Sorghum prices

- Sorghum traded at an average of Ksh47 per kilogram. The price ranged from Ksh40 to Ksh54 per kilogram in different parts of larger Turkana district.

3.5 Income

3.5.1 Livestock income

- Income from livestock sales (small stock) reduced from 1.5 per cent in November to 1.1 per cent.

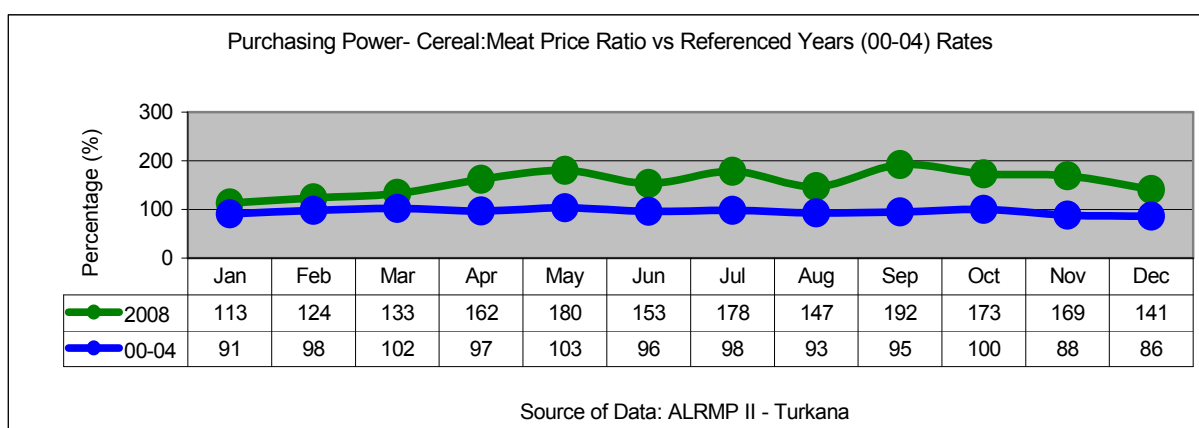
3.5.2 Crops

- Crop income was minimal since most farmers did not plant.

3.5.3 Other income (Trade, Wages, etc.)

- The percentage of people employed decreased, from 28.2 per cent recorded in November to 16 per cent.
- The population engaged in small-scale trading in most urban and peri-urban centres decreased to 13.0 per cent from 41 per cent in November.
- Daily rates for casual work increased from Ksh129 in November to Ksh154.

3.6 Terms of Trade (Cereal: Meat Price Ratio)



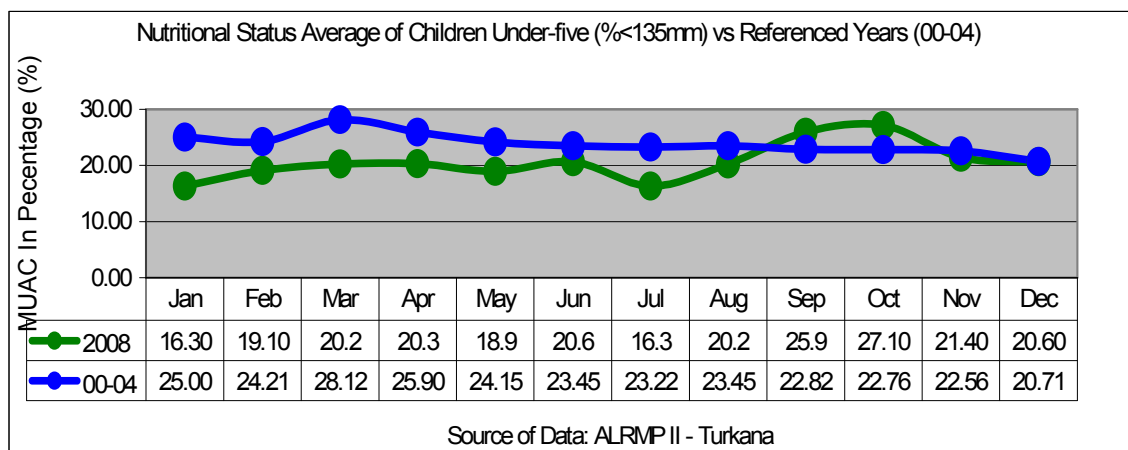
- The district cereal: meat price ratio in December was 141 per cent compared to 169 per cent recorded the previous month.
- The Cereal: Meat price ratio was still higher compared to the referenced year (2004).
- The terms of trade impacted negatively on the purchasing power of the pastoralists.

3.7 Implications on food security

- The increase in cereal prices negatively affected the food security situation in the three districts of Greater Turkana. It also affected livestock off-take (Destocking).
- In regards to the coping strategies index (0 to 10), the month recorded a downward value of 1.9 per cent compared to a value 2.2 per cent reported in the previous month.

4.0 Welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutritional status



- The nutrition status of children below five years improved slightly during the month.
- The percentage of those rated as being at the risk of malnutrition dropped to 20.6 from 21.4 in November.
- The rate was within the seasonal range compared to the long term mean.

4.2 Human Health

- The human health conditions in Turkana North, Central, and South districts were still unstable.
- Cases of malaria were continuously reported across the greater Turkana three districts, while measles and cholera were reported in Lorugum Location (Lobei Community) of Turkwel division.
- Many cases of Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI), diarrhoeal diseases, internal parasites (worm infestation), typhoid, measles, mumps, skin diseases (body rashes) and eye infections were reported in various parts of the entire Turkana.
- Poor sanitation was still a major problem in all three districts, especially in centres and the settlements along River Turkwell and Lake Turkana. The problem was compounded by lack of public toilets in the communities and pit latrines in schools.
- Moreover, inaccessibility of safe drinking water was a major challenge because many people still relied on water from riverbeds.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 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.
- Conflict resolution and peace-building initiatives by different stakeholders.
- PPR vaccination.
- Elections of the District Peace Committees.
- UNDP Host Community Projects in Kakuma, Oropoi and Lokichoggio divisions.

5.2 Food aid

- General food distribution by WFP through the lead agencies (Oxfam GB and World Vision-Kenya).
- Supplementary feeding for the severely malnourished under-fives, pregnant and lactating mothers, aged and disabled groups (Merlin, etc).
- Food for Assets supported by WFP and ALRMP II through TRP and World Vision Kenya.

5.3 Other coping strategies

Petty trade in urban and peri-urban centres such as Lokitaung, Kaaleng, Kakuma, Lokichoggio, Kalokol, Kainuk and Lokichar. The commodities included fish (dry and fresh), wood products (firewood), handcrafts and livestock products.

- Small-scale irrigation farming was practiced along Turkwel and Kerio rivers.
- Charcoal burning and selling.
- Reduction in the number of meals per day and consumption of wild foods (fruits and meat) and taboo foods.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSSG

- Every effort must be made to reduce the worsening nutrition status of vulnerable groups such as children under five years, pregnant and lactating mothers, the sick and the elderly.
- The Veterinary department and other partners must continue with PPR vaccination campaigns. Vaccination of livestock against CCPP is also required. Other interventions required include deworming and treatment of mange and camel trypanosomiasis.
- Conflict early warning and rapid response should be strengthened.
- Cross border peace and community dialogue meetings should be held in areas affected by insecurity.
- Recruiting more Kenya Police Reservists (KPR) in all the areas affected by insecurity and supplying them with enough ammunition to lend hand to the government security agencies in place.
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