

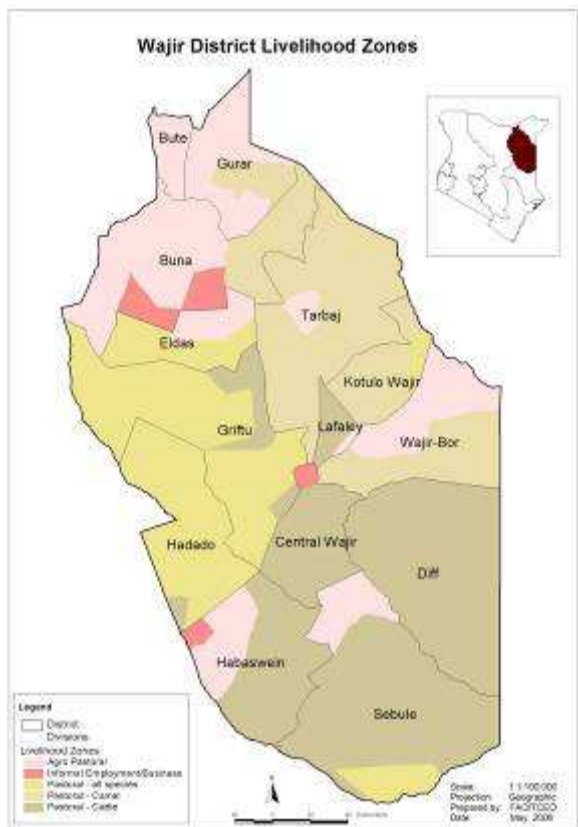


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, DECEMBER 2008

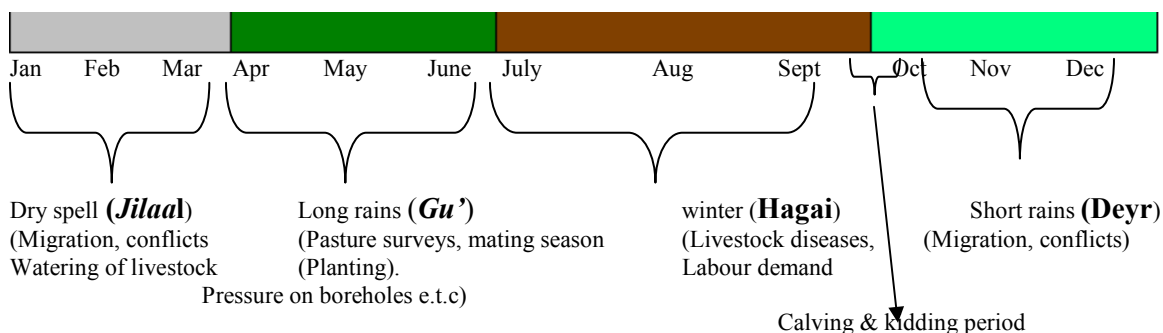
Wajir District

Warning Stages



LIVELIHOOD ZONE	WARNING STAGE	TREND
Pastoral – All Species	ALERT	Worsening
Pastoral – Cattle	ALERT	Worsening
Pastoral – Camel	ALERT	Worsening
Agro – Pastoral	ALERT	Worsening
Informal Employment/Business	ALERT	Worsening

TIMELINE ACTIVITIES



Situation overview

- No rainfall was received in the district and the dry spell persisted, with high temperatures.
- Most of the dams and pans dried up and people and the livestock turned to shallow wells and boreholes.
- Migration of livestock was high in some parts of the district. Water trucking was done in areas such as Haragal, Ogorale, Lolkuta North, Anole, Qudama, Ingirir, Konton and Shimbirbul.
- The quantity and quality of pasture, forage and the vegetation cover deteriorated in most parts of the districts.
- Milk production decreased slightly in quantity as pasture and browse deteriorated in quantity and quality. The average market price of milk per 750ml bottle was Ksh 45 to 50 at Wajir Central market. Production was lower in areas under water trucking.
- Generally the livestock body condition was good but was expected to reduce during the dry spell due to the long distance between the grazing areas and watering points.
- Farmers in Wajir central practiced small garden farming using small irrigation pumps.
- Prices of cereals increased as a result of food shortage in the country and further compounded by high transport cost and poor infrastructure.
- No cases of insecurity were reported despite high military presence at the Kenya-Somali border.
- Lumpy skin disease in camels, PPR in goats and ticks were reported during the month.
- The nutrition status of children under five years improved slightly during the month under review. The percentage of those rated as being at the risk of malnutrition (based on MUAC <135mm measurement) dropped to 30.5 from 32.3 in November. The improvement was attributed to the intervention by Merlin and MOH.
- However, the presence of kalazaar (leishmaniasis) in Wajir West was still alarming and over 76 cases were reported. The affected areas were Eldas, Griftu and Arbajahan.
- The district was at alert stage and the trend was worsening.

Current interventions

Non food intervention

- Water and sanitation hygiene activities carried out by Oxfam.
- Credit scheme used as revolving fund by Aldef Kenya (NGO).
- Support to mobile school education through ALRMP and MOEST.

Food Aid

- EMOP relief food distribution by WFP through lead agency, Oxfam and implementing partners (ALDEF & WASDA) was ongoing.

- Outpatient therapeutic feeding and supplementary feeding Programme (TFC) by Merlin at Wajir district hospital and all the thirteen Divisions.
- Basic relief support from OOP, especially to vulnerable groups.
- FFA-food for asset program.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSSG

- Vector indoor spraying of households.
- Distribution of ITN.
- Medical outreach camp services .
- Drilling of boreholes to centers without reliable water source and water treatment.
- Strengthen livestock disease surveillance and management system.
- Increase the number of extension services providers, staffing level at Ministry of health and Education.
- Strengthening of early warning system to help detect and prepare for possible outbreaks, drought and mitigation measures.
- Mass chlorination of water wells and Disinfecting of swamps with larvicide's.
- Community awareness on mass hygiene and sanitation.

1.0 Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall

No rainfall was received in the district and the dry spell persisted, with high temperatures.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- The quantity and quality of pasture, forage and vegetation covers deteriorated in most parts of the districts.
- The situation was compounded by high overgrazing and few grazing areas as the result of un planned settlements and water points.

1.3 Water source and availability

- The availability of water deteriorated since most of the pans and dams were drying up.
- Trekking distances to water sources increased considerably to over 20km for both human and livestock sources.

1.4 Emerging issues

- Influx of pastoral communities from Mandera District due to military operation and clan conflicts was a concern to the pastoralist in Wajir.
- High increase of essential commodity prices including cereals and commercial goods.
- Outbreak of PPR disease in goats and sheep was reported, though vaccination was done by veterinary department with support from ALRMP.

1.4.1 Insecurity

- No cases of insecurity were reported in the district, although conflicts resulting from water resources were expected.

1.4.2 Migration

- Migration of animals towards water sources was reported, especially Qarseqoftu, Arbajahan, Dambas, Sarman, Biyamathow and Sebue, which have permanent water sources.

1.5 Implications on food security

- Over-grazing and depletion of pasture and browse impacted negatively on food security.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

- The availability of food deteriorated in the district due to escalating prices of food and cereals in the country.

2.1 Livestock production

- Production of livestock was fair and livestock breeding was evident despite the presence of PPR disease.

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Generally, the livestock body conditions were fair following the improvement of pasture and browse.
- However, the pastures quantities are on declining trends a situation that will bear negative impact to livestock body condition.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- Lumpy skin disease in camels and PPR were still a menace in the district.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk production is slightly reducing in quantity as pastures and browse are deteriorating.

2.2 Crop production

- There were no crops in farms but kitchen farming was still practiced in a small irrigation scheme in Wajir central.

2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of various crop production activities

- Farmers in Bute, Gurar, Sarman, Khorofharar and Habaswein had planted but there were no harvests as a result of poor rainfall.

2.2 Pests and diseases

No pest or crop diseases were reported.

2.2.3 Harvest

There was no harvest as the result of inadequate rain in the districts.

2.2.4 Implications on food security

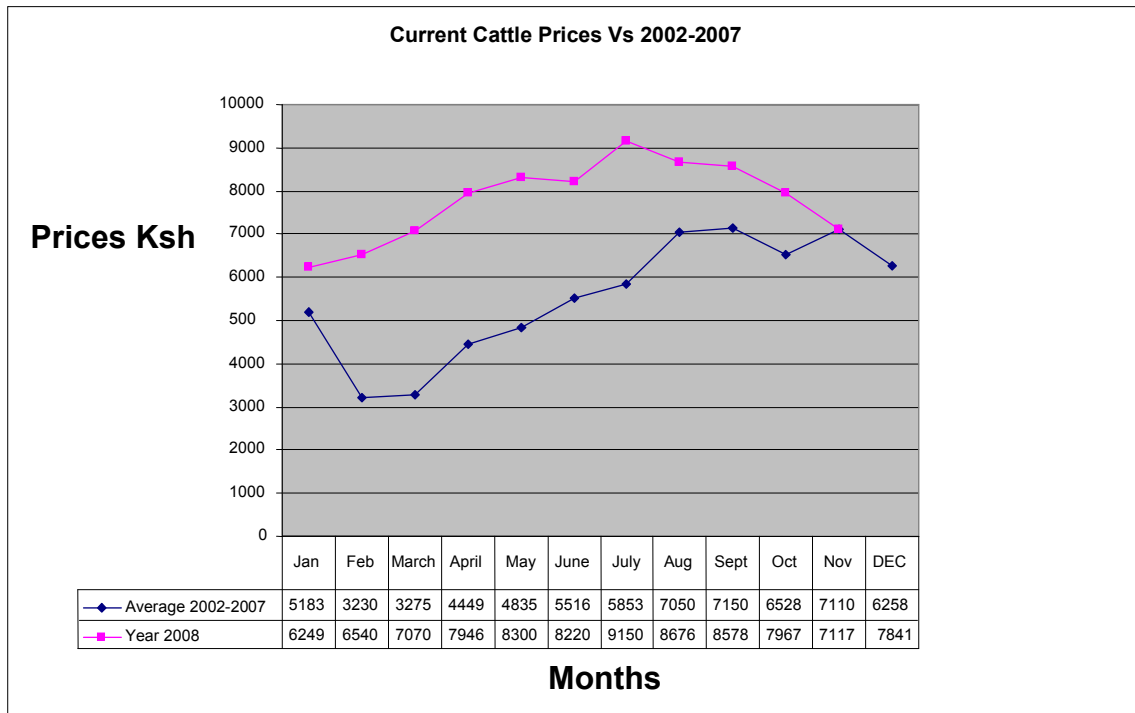
Failure of rainfall and lack of harvesting impacted negatively on food security in the district.

3.0 Access to Food

3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices

Cattle long term mean prices against current year 2008

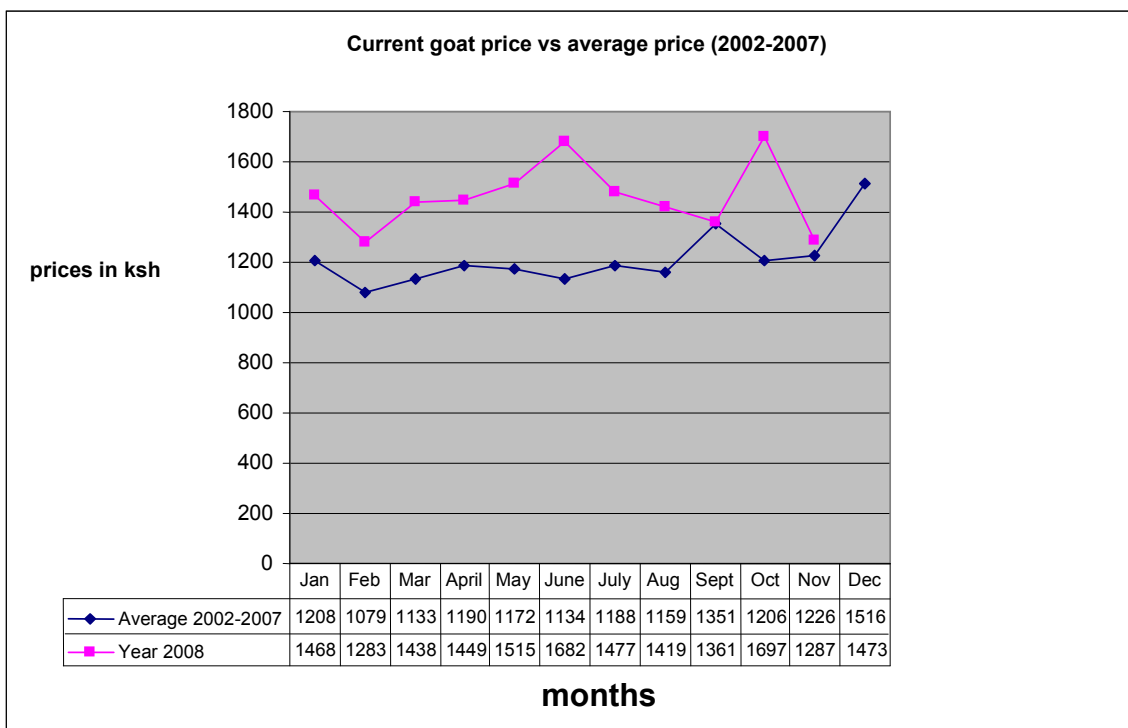


- Cattle prices rose during the month.
- The average price was Ksh 7,841, up from Ksh7,117 in November.
- The price was higher than the long term mean of Ksh 6,258.

3.1.2 Goats prices

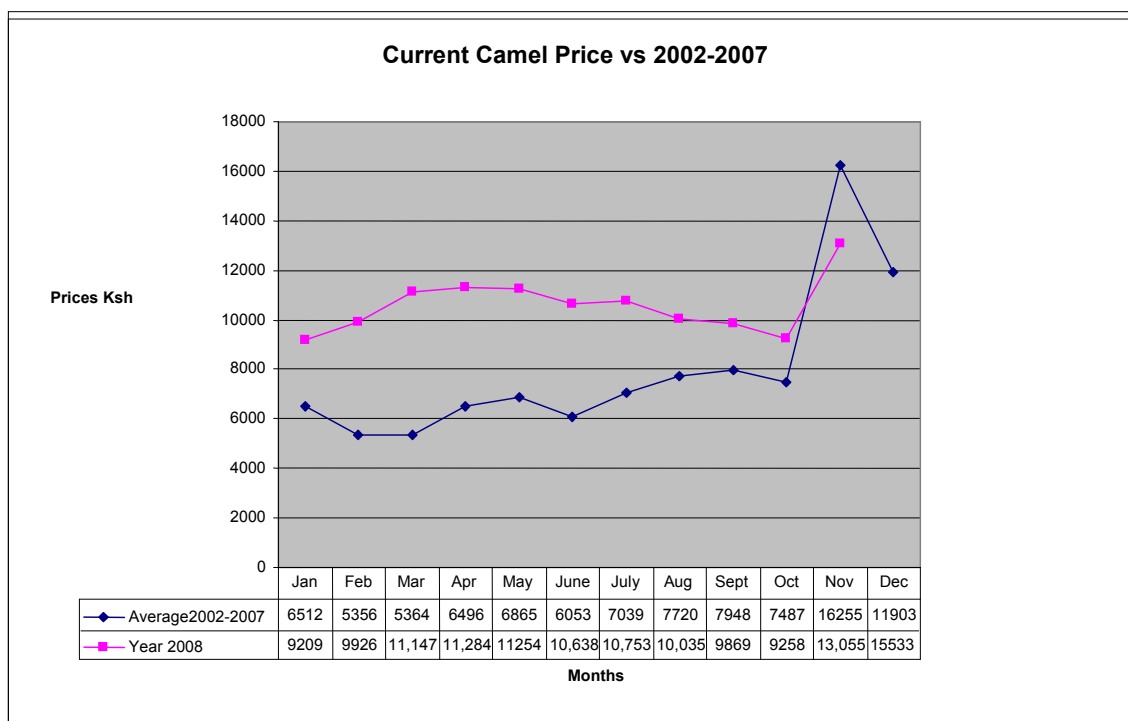
- Goat prices increased compared to last month, showing a an upward trends.
- The average price rose to Ksh 1,473 from Ksh1,287 in November.
- However, the price was lower than the long term mean.

Goat long term mean prices against current year 2008.



3.1.3 Camel prices

Camel long term mean prices against current year 2008.



- The prices of camels also increased compared to the previous month. The price rose to Ksh 15,533 from Ksh 13,055 in November.
- The price was higher than the long term mean for the year 2002-2007.
- The increase was due to the improvement of the body condition.

3.2 Livestock sales.

Livestock sales during the month were average.

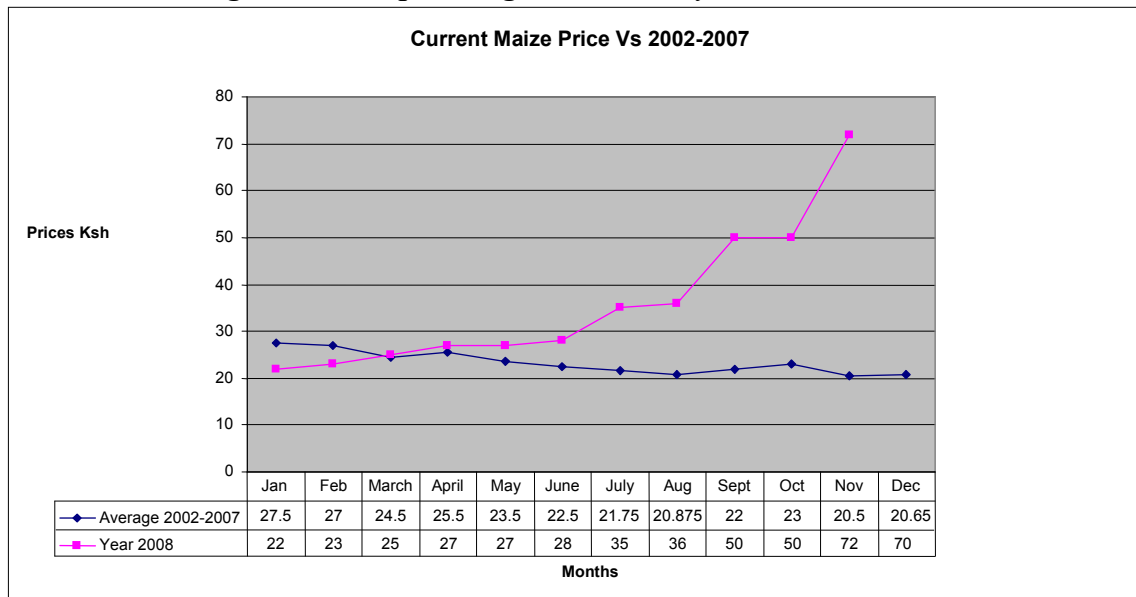
3.3 Milk consumption

- Milk consumption was low compared to other seasons in the same period.
- The scenario was as the result of inadequate pasture and browse.

3.4 Crop prices

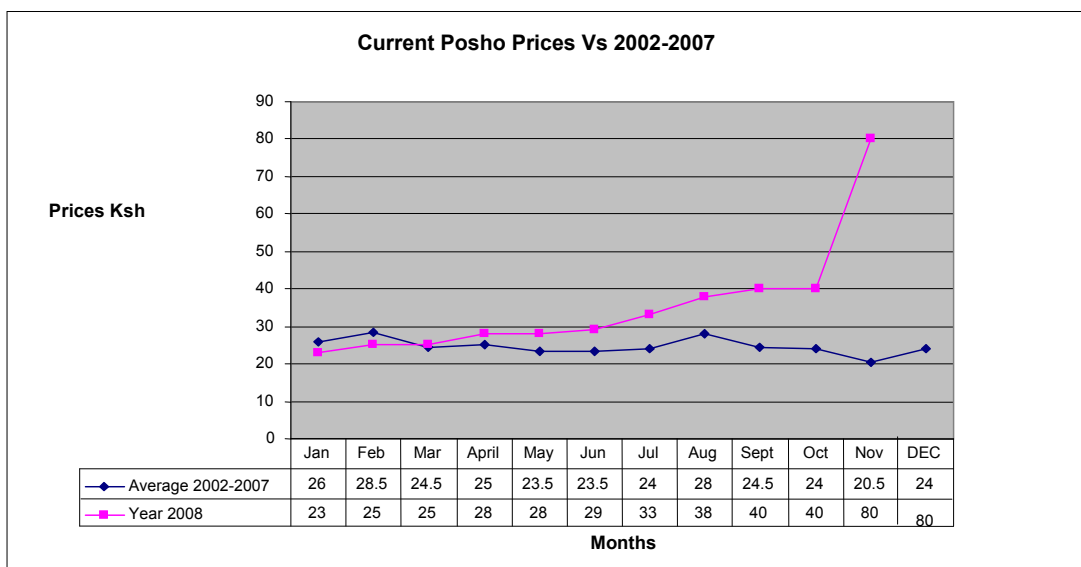
3.4.1 Maize prices

Maize long term mean prices against current year 2008.



- The average maize price during the month was Ksh70 per kilo.
- The price dropped slightly by Ksh2 from previous month's price due to inaccessibility of the roads.

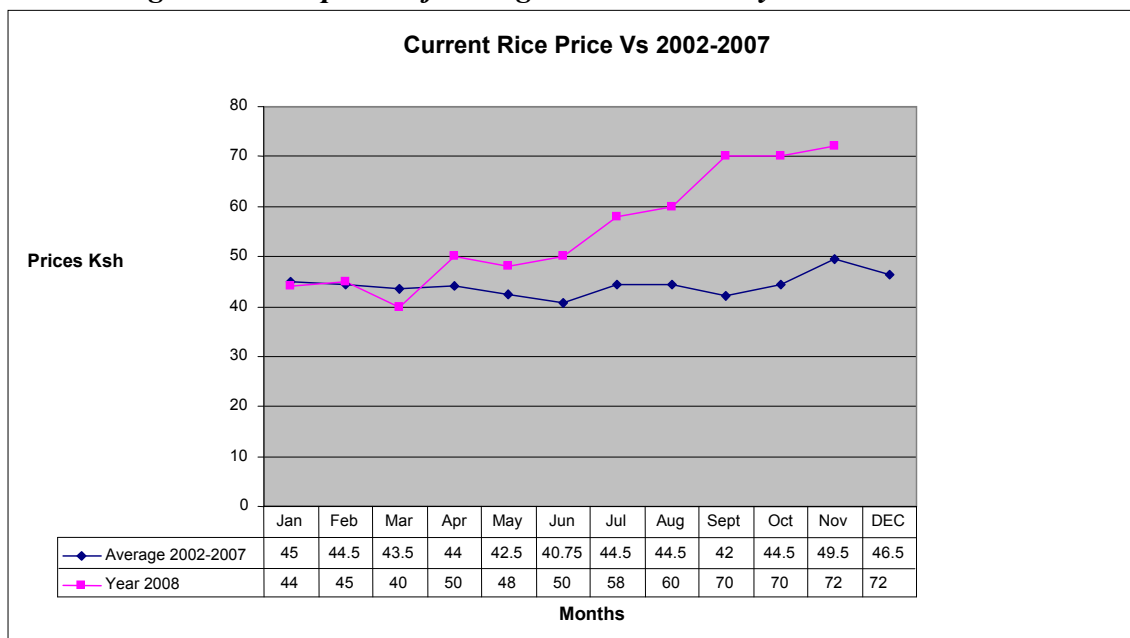
3.4.2 Posho (maize meal) prices



- The prices of posho remained stable compared to last month.
- The average price was Ksh 80 per kilo.
- However, the price was too high compared to the long term mean of Ksh24 for the 2002-2007 reference year.

3.4.3 Rice prices

Long term mean prices of rice against the current year 2008.



- The price of rice remained stable during the month under review.
- The average price was Ksh 72 per kilo but was much higher than the long term mean recorded in the 2002-2007 reference year.

- The price increase was due to general price increases in the country.

3.5 Income

3.5.1 Crop income

- Kitchen farming using small irrigation pumps, especially in Wajir Central was the alternative source of income.
- The produce was widely sold in the local market.
- Drought resistant crops were also grown through small-scaling farming.

3.5.2 Livestock income

- The income source from livestock was generally minimal.
- However, in the small business livelihood zone, most people engaged in livestock trade as brokers, middlemen or small-scale traders and sale of quarry products.
- Hides and skin were also transported to outside markets.
- Animals were traded across the border in Ethiopian markets.

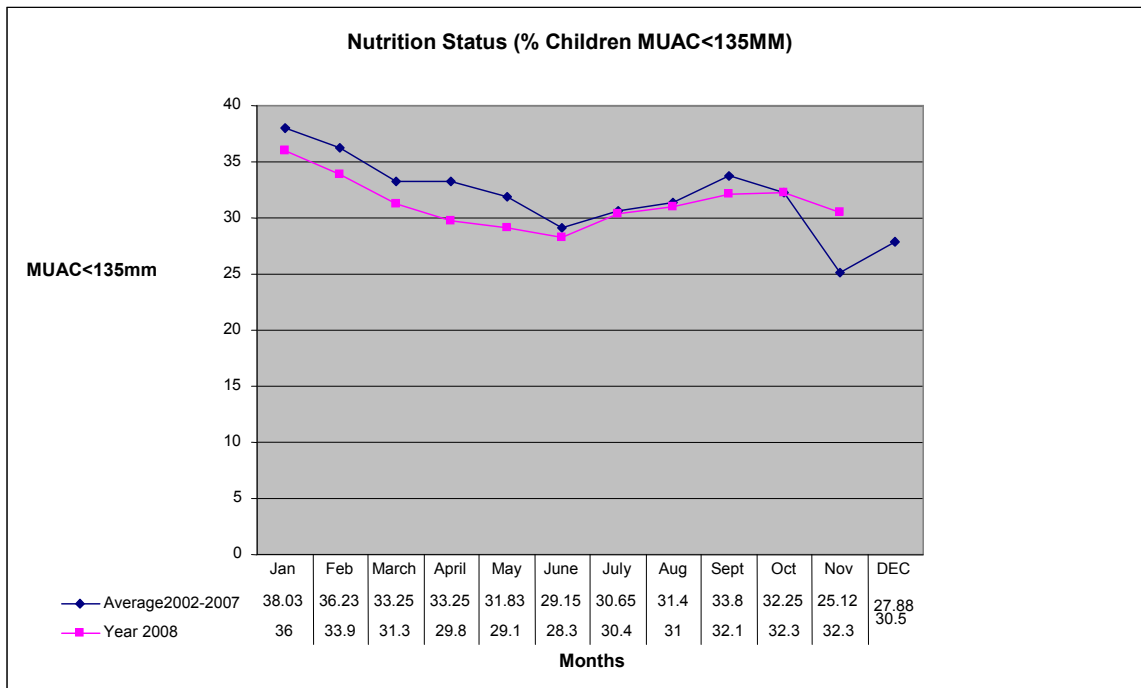
3.5.3 Other income

- Hawking, selling of Miraa, quarrying, daily casual labour, fetching of firewood were the alternative sources of income, especially in small business/informal livelihood zones. However, the general income was still low.
- Production and sale of gum and resin was also commonly practiced.

4.0 Welfare indicators (utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition Status

Long term muac<135mm against the current year 2008.



- The nutrition status of children under five years improved slightly during the month under review.
- The percentage of those rated as being at the risk of malnutrition (based on MUAC <135mm measurement) dropped to 30.5 from 32.3 in November.
- The improvement was attributed to the interventions by Merlin and MOH.

4.2 Health

- Malaria, upper respiratory tract infections (URTIs), diarrhoea and malnutrition remained the main causes of morbidity and mortality in the district.
- The most affected areas was Wajir West district.

4.3 Flagged areas

- Upsurge of Kalazaar may undermine nutrition status of children less than five years.
- Worst affected areas were Arbajahan, Griftu and Eldas.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non food intervention

- Water and sanitation hygiene activities carried out by Oxfam.
- Credit scheme used as revolving fund by Aldef Kenya (NGO).
- Support to mobile school education through ALRMP and MOEST.

5.2 Food Aid

- EMOP relief food distribution by WFP through lead agency, Oxfam and implementing partners (ALDEF & WASDA) was ongoing.
- Outpatient therapeutic feeding and supplementary feeding Programme (TFC) by Merlin at Wajir district hospital and all the thirteen Divisions.
- Basic relief support from OOP, especially to vulnerable groups.
- FFA-food for asset program.

5.3 Other coping strategies

- Restricting of specific watering points that are close to settlements for human use, especially dams and ponds.
- Sale of quarry products for income generating activities.
- Reduction of number of meals per day.
- Most of the communities borrow non-food on credit from shops as a coping strategy.
- Natural resources like gum and resins were sold in the market as a source of alternative livelihood.
- Sale of animals, especially the burden animals, to pay for subsidiary expenses like fuel.

6.0 Recommendations

- Medical outreach camp services.
- Drilling of boreholes to centers without reliable water source and water treatment.

- Strengthen livestock disease surveillance and management system.
- Increase the number of extension services providers, staffing level at Ministry of Health and Education.
- Strengthening of early warning system to help detect and prepare for possible outbreaks, drought and mitigation measures.
- Mass treatment and vaccination of livestock against diseases, especially the shoats for PPR.
- Improve sanitation and hygiene promotion activities.
- Conflict Early warning and peace building initiatives.
- More hand pumps and solar assisted water supply system for shallow wells for schools and institutions.
- Provision of vector control chemicals and equipments i.e. LLTNs, Icons, Spray pumps and protective gears.
- Mass chlorination of water wells.
- Community awareness on hygiene and sanitation.
- Vector indoor spraying of households.
- Distribution of ITN.