

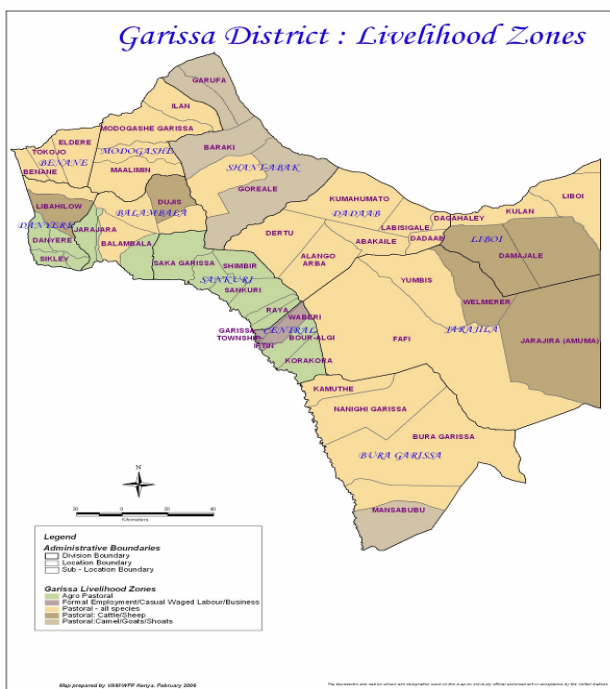


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS  
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

**DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, JULY 2008**

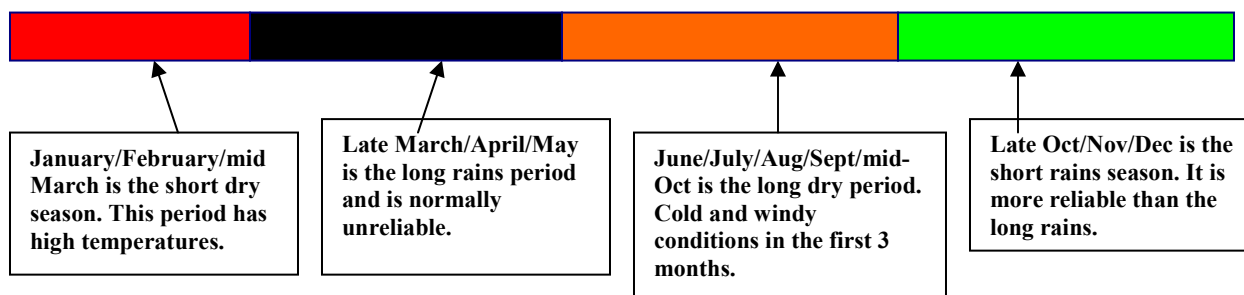
**Garissa District**

**Warning stages**



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Alert	Worsening
Formal employment/ Casual labor.	Alert	No change
Pastoral-Cattle/Sheep.	Alert	Worsening
Pastoral- all species	Alert	Worsening
Pastoral: Camels and Goats	Alert	Worsening
District	Alert	Worsening

**Timeline**



## **Situation overview**

- There was no rainfall in most parts of the district but temperatures remained low with windy conditions, which is normal for this time of the year.
- Quality and quantity of pasture and browse was poor due to inadequate rainfall and families were forced to move with their livestock in search of forage.
- Modogashe division, which did not record any rainfall in the two previous seasons, had little showers, hence vegetation regeneration was better compared to other divisions.
- Most water pans in the district contain substantial amounts of water. These include; Ohio, Ashadin, Rethab, Hagarjarer, Rik, Gohh, Dujis water pans, Awliya, Guba Kibir, Egge and Amuma water pans. Also Liboi and Galmagalla hand dug water pans are filled to capacity.
- Accessibility to water for households dropped compared to the previous month. Distance to water sources for households rose from 5 to 10 km.
- Livestock trekking distance to pasture and watering points increased from 10 to 12km in most parts of the district. This was a result of inadequate rainfall and poor distribution.
- No cases of insecurity or human displacement were reported during the month under review.
- Livestock in the northern regions, especially Shanta-abak, Benane and Modogashe divisions, is concentrated in the northern part of Modogashe.
- There was slight movement of livestock from Liboi and Jarajilla into parts of Somalia following the recent extension of the coastal showers. Some livestock from Danyere and Benane divisions moved into parts of Isiolo district.
- Livestock body conditions deteriorated compared to the previous month. This is normal during the long dry season but the situation may worsen in the next two months.
- Livestock health remained stable following vaccination of small stock against *peste de petit ruminant* in most parts of the district the previous month.
- Milk production continued to diminish compared to the preceding month but the trend is normal for this time of the year.
- Cattle prices fell to Ksh11,167 from Ksh11,750 the month before.
- Prices of goats dropped to Ksh1,491 compared to Ksh1,596 in June, a normal trend during the dry season.
- Sheep prices stood at Ksh1,339 compared to Ksh1,237 in June and in July.
- The nutritional status of children above one year and below five rose to 6.4 per cent from 4.6 per cent the month before. The rise in number of children at risk of malnutrition was attributed to disease and declining milk availability.

## **Current interventions**

### **a) Non-food interventions**

- ALRMP and other partners continued to support small-scale irrigation farms along River Tana.
- ALRMP continued to finance community micro-projects in the district.
- Disease surveillance and treatment continued in the district.
- Repair, servicing and equipping of boreholes continued during the month.
- Support to conflict resolution in areas where there was tension continued.
- Equipping of Gurufa borehole was successfully completed.

## **b) Food aid**

- Distribution of food aid continued in nine divisions. Galmagalla, Jarajilla and Liboi are exempted from relief food.
- Total number of relief food beneficiaries stood at 45, 905.

## **Coping strategies**

- Separation of livestock herds.
- Petty trade in most parts of the rural settlements.

## **Recommendations**

- Continued support to small-scale farms along River Tana to procure farm inputs.
- Continued support for livestock disease surveillance and treatment in the district.
- Need to continue financing micro-projects for youth, women groups and communities in the urban and pastoral zones.
- Mobilise communities and create awareness on the looming drought.
- More support should be given to extension services in health, agriculture and livestock development in the district.

## **1.0 Environmental condition (Stability)**

### **1.1 Rainfall**

- No rainfall was recorded in most parts of the district, with temperatures remaining low and conditions windy. This is normal for this time of year.

### **1.2 Natural vegetation and pasture condition**

- Due to poor rainfall, vegetation regeneration was poor hence low availability of pasture and browse for livestock consumption.
- Modogashe division, which did not record any rainfall during the last two seasons, had little showers during the long rains, hence vegetation regeneration was better compared to other divisions.
- Jarajilla, Liboi and parts of Sankuri and Balambala divisions got some rain but vegetation regeneration was very poor.

## **1.3 Water sources and availability**

### **1.3.1 Use of water sources**

- Most of the water pans in the district contain substantial amount of water. These are Ohio, Ashadin, Rethab, Hagarjarer, Rik, Gohh, Dujis water pans, Awliya, Guba Kibir, Egge and Amuma water pans.
- Liboi and Galmagalla hand dug water pans are filled to capacity. Other reliable water sources in the district are Benane spring, boreholes, River Tana and shallow wells in Galana Golf of Modogashe.

### **1.3.2 Household accessibility to water**

- Accessibility to water for households dropped compared to the previous month. Rural households moved far from water sources in order to be close to their herds.

- Household distances to water sources increased from 5 to 10km. Pasture and browse decreased significantly and families were forced to move with livestock in search of forage.

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

- Livestock distances to watering points rose from 10 to 12 km in most parts of the district.
- Inadequate rainfall and poor distribution led to depletion of pasture and browse, which led to increased trekking distances.

## **1.4 Emerging issues**

### **1.4.1 Insecurity/conflict/ human displacement**

- No cases of conflict/human displacement and insecurity were reported during the month under review.

### **1.4.2 Migration**

- Livestock in the northern region is concentrated in the northern part of Modogashe division.
- There is slight movement of livestock from Liboi and Jarajilla into parts of Somalia following the recent extension of the coastal showers. A few animals from Danyere and Benane divisions have moved to parts of Isiolo district.

### **1.4.3 Implication on Food Security**

- Poor rains resulted in deterioration of livestock body conditions, hence a drop in prices. This impacted negatively on food security.

## **2.0 Rural economy indicators (food availability)**

### **2.1 Livestock production**

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

- The livestock body conditions are fair but weaker compared to the preceding month. It is normal for livestock body conditions to deteriorate during the dry season but the situation may worsen in the next two months.

#### **2.1.2 Livestock health and diseases**

- Livestock health in most parts of the district remained stable and showing improvement following vaccination of small stock against PPR in June.

#### **2.1.3 Milk production**

- Milk production continues to diminish compared to the previous month. Low milk yields are expected during this time of year.

### **2.2 Crop production**

#### **2.2.1 Crop production activities along River Tana**

- Improved production of vegetables and fruits was recorded on farms along River Tana.

#### **2.2.2 Pests and crop diseases**

- No diseases or pests were reported during the month under review.

### 2.2.3 Crop harvest

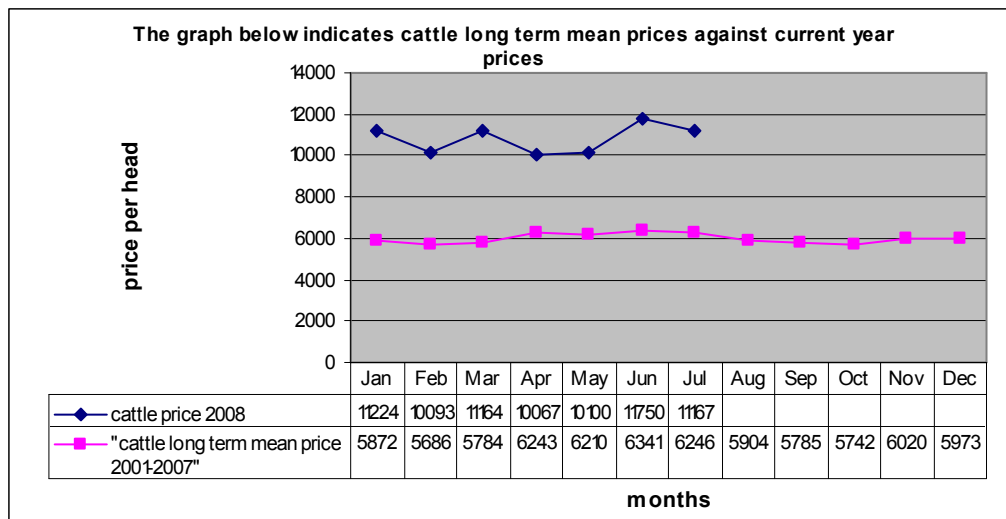
- There was a maize and beans harvest on rain-fed farms in Gurufa.
- Only vegetables and fruits were produced on farms along River Tana.

### 3.0 Access to food

#### 3.1 Livestock marketing

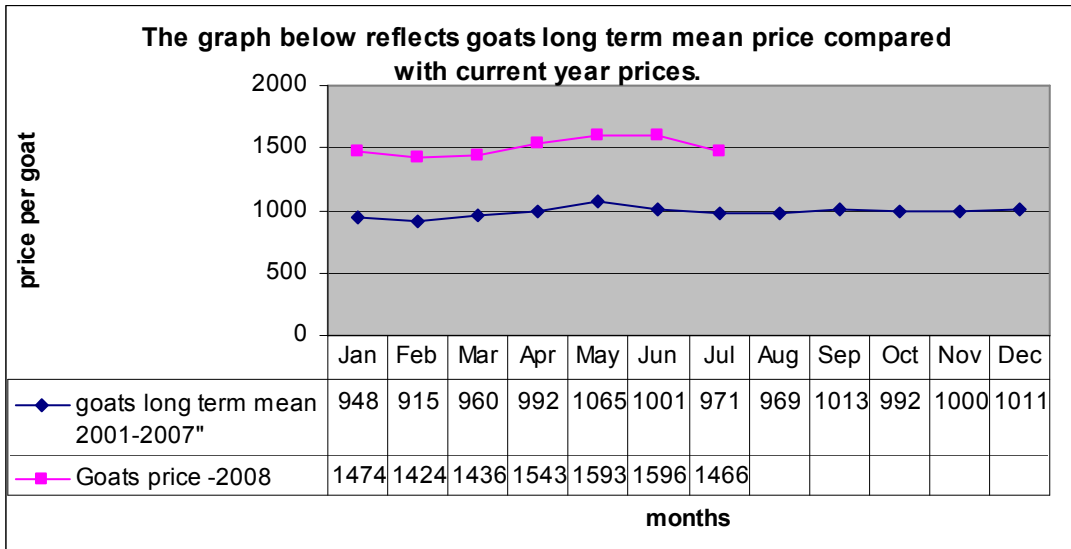
##### 3.1.1 Cattle prices

- Cattle prices dropped compared to the previous month. The prices stood at Ksh 11,167, down from Ksh11, 750 in June.
- The price drop could be attributed to deteriorating body condition but is normal during the dry season.



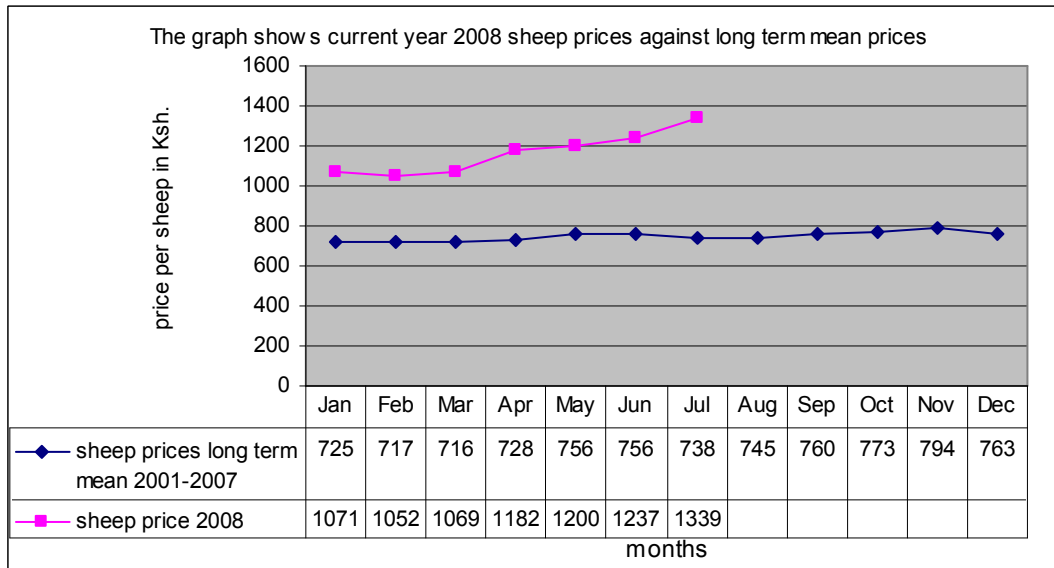
##### 3.1.2 Goats prices

- The price of goats dropped from Ksh 1,596 in June to Ksh 1,491.



### 3.1.3 Sheep prices

- Sheep prices appreciated from Ksh1, 237 in June to Ksh1, 339.



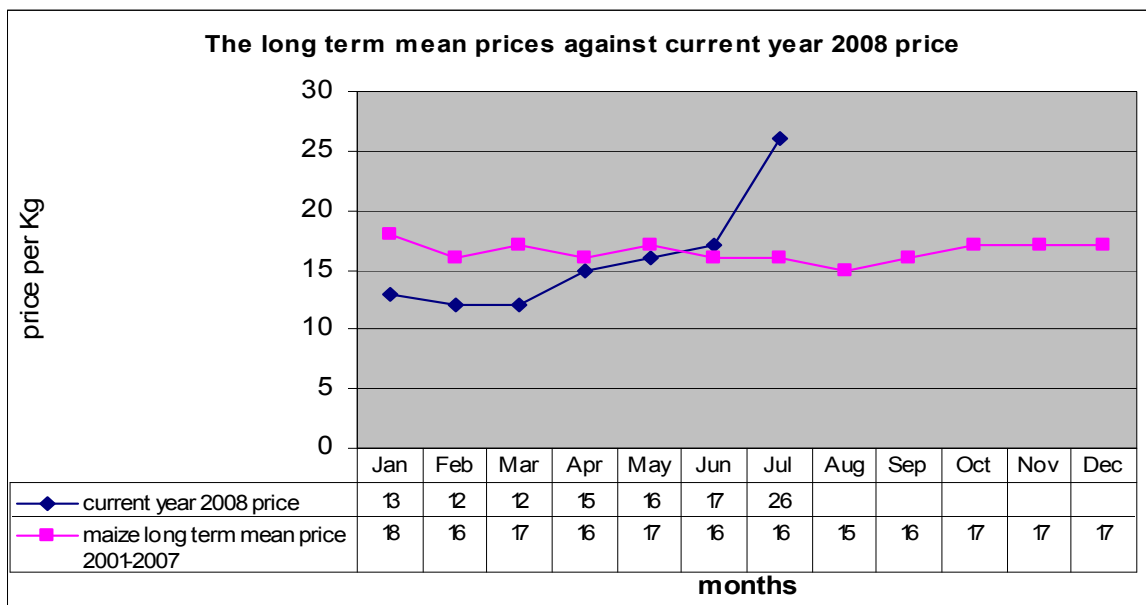
### 3.2 Livestock sale

- The livestock sales remain very low compared to the previous month.

#### 3.2.1 Purchase price of food commodities

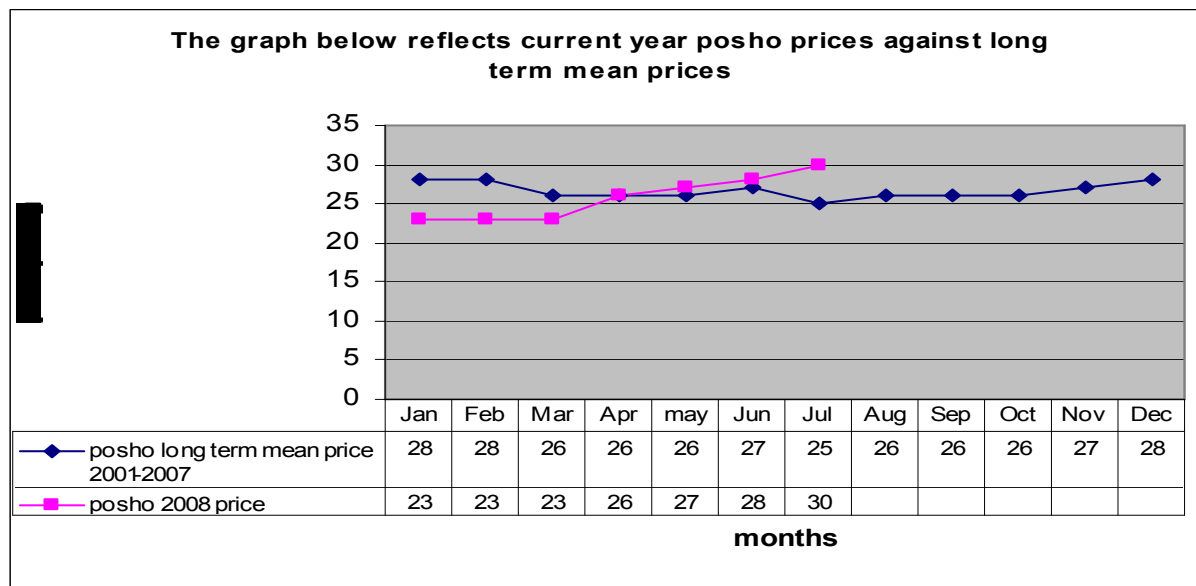
#### 3.2.2 Maize price

- The price of maize rose from Ksh 17 in June to Ksh 26. This price is higher than the 2001-2007 long term mean. The price hike is posing a threat to pastoral food security.



### 3.2.3 Posho (locally milled maize meal)

- Maize meal prices rose compared to the preceding months. Posho prices stood at Ksh 30 and Ksh 40 for a kilogram of packaged flour (Jogoo). This is beyond the reach of the pastoral communities.



### 3.2.4 Purchase price of other food commodities

- The three essential foods for pastoral communities, other than cereals, are beans, sugar and cooking oil.

- The cost of beans and sugar remained stable while the cost of cooking oil continues to rise.

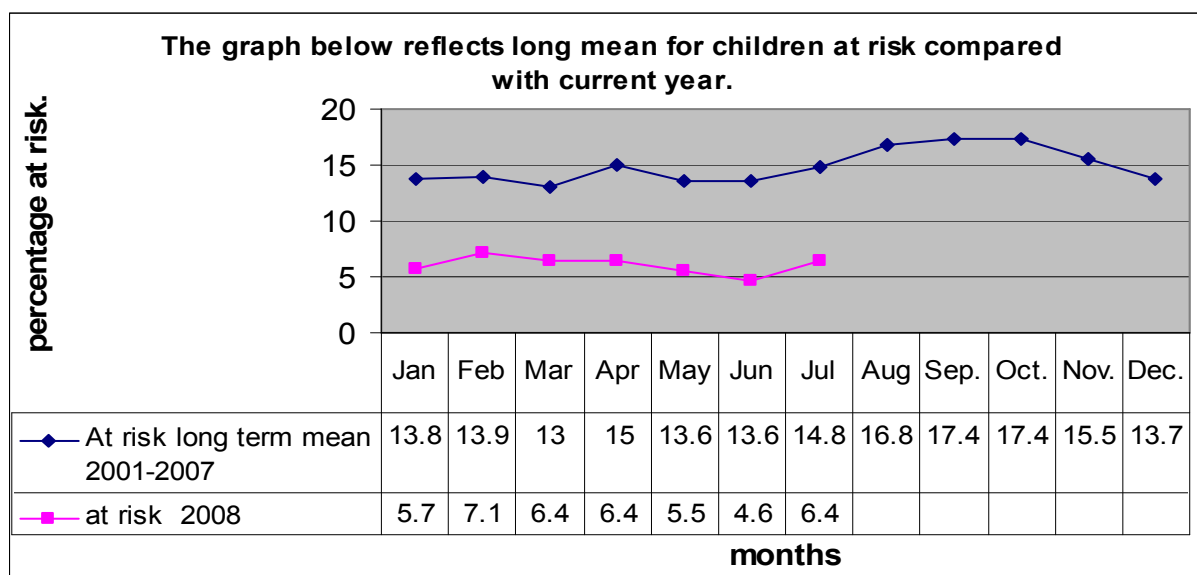
### 3.2.5 Food security implications

- Increase in food prices and a drop in livestock prices has made cereals and other essential commodities inaccessible for most in rural communities, impacting negatively on food security.

## 4.0 Human welfare indicators

### 4.1 Nutritional status

- The nutritional status of children above one year and below five years shows levels of malnutrition. The percentage of children at risk of malnutrition rose to 6.4 from 4.6 per cent in June. This was attributed to diseases and declining milk availability.



### 4.2 Human health

- There are reported cases of measles and whooping cough reported in Alikune but adult health continue to improve.

### 4.3 Flagged areas

- The affected areas are Alikune location in Dadaab.

## 5.0 Current interventions

### 5.1 Non-food interventions

- ALRMP and other partners continued to support small scale irrigation farms along river Tana.
- ALRMP continued to finance community micro-projects in the district.
- Disease surveillance and treatment continued in the district.

- Repair, servicing and equipping of boreholes continued during the month.
- Equipping of Gurufa borehole is about to be completed.

### **5.2 Food aid**

- Food aid continued to be distributed to the nine divisions in the district. However, Galmagalla, Jarajilla and Liboi divisions are exempted from relief food.
- Relief food beneficiaries in the district stood at 45, 905.

### **5.3 Coping strategies**

- Separation of livestock herds
- Practicing petty trade in most parts of the rural settlement sites.

### **6.0 Recommendations**

- Continued support to small scale farms along River Tana to procure farm inputs.
- Need to continue livestock disease surveillance and treatment in the district.
- Continue to finance micro-projects for youth, women groups and communities in the urban and pastoral zones.
- Mobilise communities and create awareness on the looming drought.
- More support should be given to extension services in health, agriculture and livestock development in the district.
- Repair and servicing of borehole equipment should be given priority.