



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

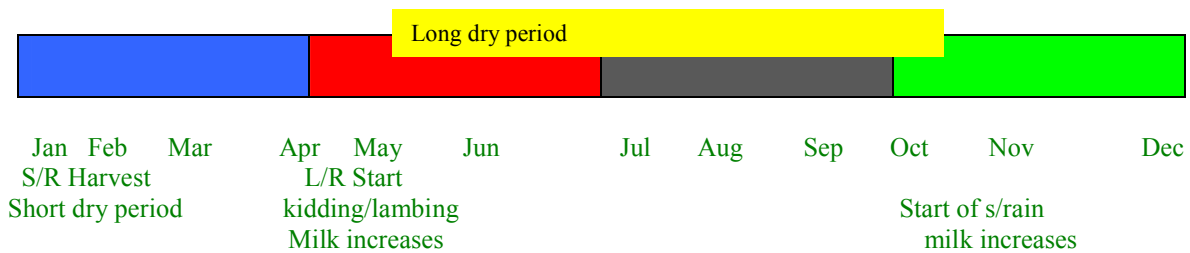
DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETINS, JULY 2008

Isiolo and Garbatulla Districts

Warning stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Pastoral- all species	Alarm	Worsening
Agro pastoral	Alarm	Deteriorating
Casual waged Labour	Alert	Worsening
Firewood/ Charcoal	Alarm	Worsening
District	Alarm	Deteriorating



Situation Overview

- Food security continued to deteriorate in all livelihood zones due to the prevailing dry spell.
- Quantity and quality of pasture and browse continued to decline, leading to poor livestock body conditions.
- Cases of insecurity rose in areas such as Kom, Nyachis, Modogashe and Eldera.
- Availability of water dwindled in Malkagalla, Sericho and Iresaboru.
- Incidences of disease outbreaks such as foot and mouth, blackquarter, lumpy skin disease and contagious bovine Pleuro pneumonia led to high average mortality rates for cattle (6.6 per cent) and 2.6 per cent for goats. Most affected areas were Malkagalla, DadachaBasa, Boji, Badana, Barambate and Sericho divisions.
- Kalaazar is still prevalent in Korbesa and Malkagalla divisions.
- The nutritional status of children at risk of malnutrition stood at 9.5 per cent. Kinna and central divisions recorded the highest number of children at risk.

Current interventions

Non-food interventions

- Distribution of drugs to all dispensaries and health centers.
- Monitoring and treatment of Kalaazar patients at Merti health centre.
- Livestock vaccination against Blackquarter disease was done in Malkagalla and DadachaBasa. The exercise was marred by poor turnout and the disease continues to threaten the livestock population.
- Several peace meetings were held at Archers Post between communities drawn from Samburu, Isiolo, Garbatulla and Laisamis districts to curb insecurity along borders.
- A blood compensation agreement was reached between the Boran of Garbatulla District and Somali of Lagdera District over a boy killed last month. This led to calm in the district.
- Water tracking initiated at Dadachalafe trading centre in Cherab division.

Food interventions

- Emop gave food, including food for assets, in all divisions during the month in review.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSSG

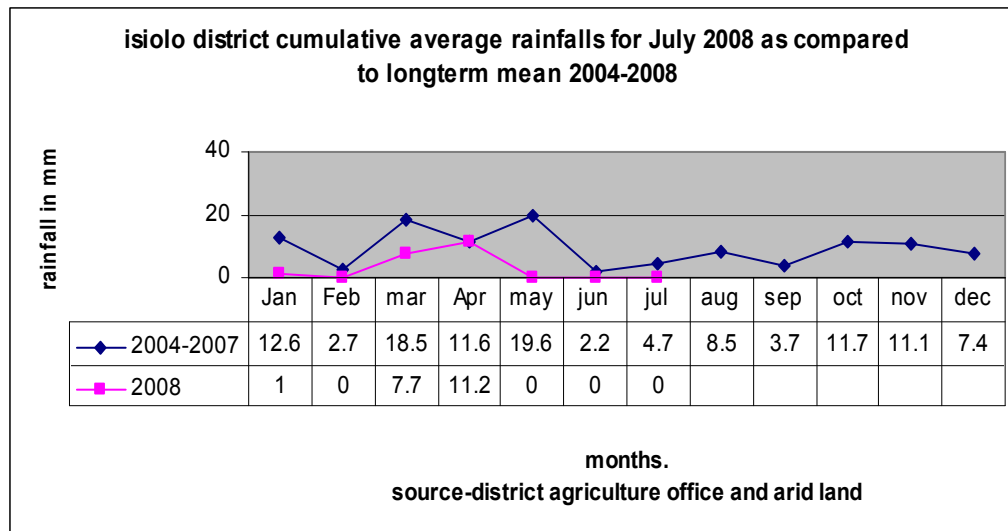
- Urgent measures need to be taken to control livestock diseases.
- Continuous mass screening and treatment of Kalaazar in children to be carried out in Merti, Cherab and Sericho divisions. Action: medical officer of health.
- Security measures to be strengthened in Kom and Nyachis area of Merti division. Action: Provincial Administration/Peace committees.

1.0 Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall

No rainfall was received during the month. The situation is normal compared to previous seasons.

The graph below represents the rainfall for July 2008 compared to long-term mean.



1.2 Natural vegetation and pasture

- Availability of forage and pasture continued to dwindle in all sampled areas, leading to livestock concentrations in Kom, Nyachis, Bulle, Urura of Merti and Cherab divisions. In Sericho division, livestock is concentrated in Modogashe and Eldera areas.
- Insecurity and influx of animals from Wajir, Samburu, Garissa and Marsabit continued to pose a threat to access to pasture.

1.3 Water source and availability

1.3.1 Water source in Use

- Water sources, mainly shallow wells and boreholes, remained constant.
- However shallow wells are facing constraints such as drying up, increased depth, and increased bird and monkey populations. Most affected are wells in Kipsing, Iresaboru, Sericho and Malkagalla.

1.3.2 Access to water

- Access remained stable for borehole users, while it worsened for those that depend on shallow wells especially in Malkagalla and Sericho divisions.
- Access improved slightly in Merti town, Bulesa and Gafarsa as River Uaso Nyiro resumed flow.

The table below indicates water sources and percentage of households using them compared to normal situation.

Water source	1	2	3	4	Others
% of HH normally depending on the source	25	30		40	5
% of HH depending on the sources for current month	5	30	25	40	

1.3 Emerging Issues

- The condition of vegetation and pasture continued to decline especially in Oldonyiro, Merti and Cherab divisions.
- Conflict over grazing resources continued to heighten in Kom, Nyachis, Urura and Modogashe rangelands.
- Water stress increased compared to last month as pans dried up in DadachaBasa, Dololodakiye and Badana.

1.3.1 Implication on food security

- Scarcity of water and insecurity are posing a threat to food security.

2.0 Availability

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Livestock body condition is deteriorating due to diminishing pasture.
- Blackquater and foot and mouth diseases affected cattle body weight in Malkagalla and DadachaBasa, while lumpy skin disease and contagious caprine Pleuro pneumonia affected livestock in Garbatulla and Sericho divisions.

2.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Contagious caprine Pleuro pneumonia and lumpy skin diseases are rampant in Boji, Tanna, Barambate and Badana, while Blackquater and foot and mouth disease have caused cattle deaths in Malkagalla and DadachaBasa areas.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk production was recorded at 63.8 bottles (750ml), down from 78 bottles produced last month. This is due to poor rangeland conditions and decreasing cattle birth rates (9.6 per cent) compared to 13.3 per cent last months 13.3.
- Milk production was fair in Garbatulla (83 bottles) and Kinna (89 bottles). Production was, however, poor in Oldonyiro at only 34 bottles.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and status of crop

- No major crops were planted over the reporting period. This is normal compared to previous seasons.
- Small scale vegetable farming through irrigation is still practiced in Gambela, Kinna and Elsa communities of central division.

2.2.2 Pest and diseases

- No pest or diseases were reported in vegetable growing areas of Kinna, Gambela and Elsa.

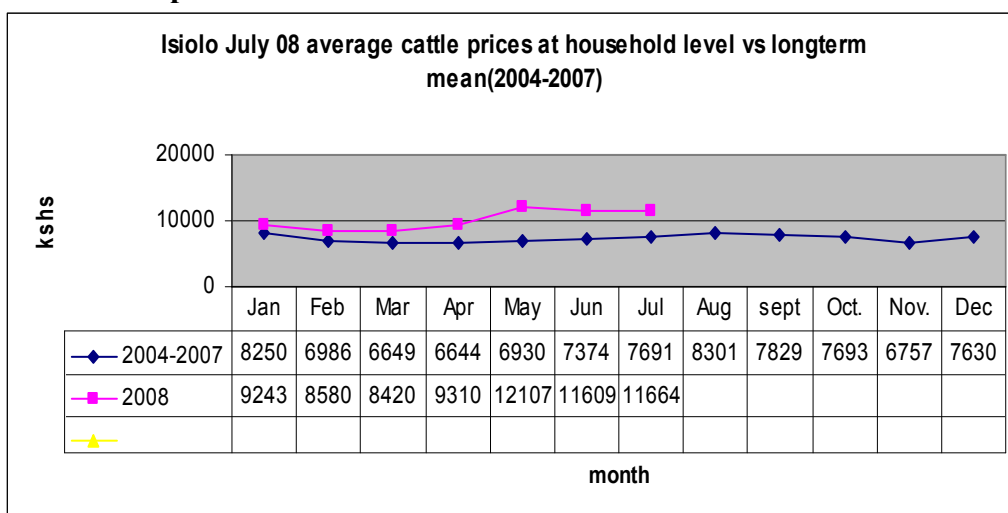
2.2.3 Harvest

- There was no harvest expected this month. However, crops represented 3 per cent of household income. This was mainly from vegetable growers in Kinna (2 per cent) and central (1 per cent).

3.0 Access to food

3.1. Livestock marketing

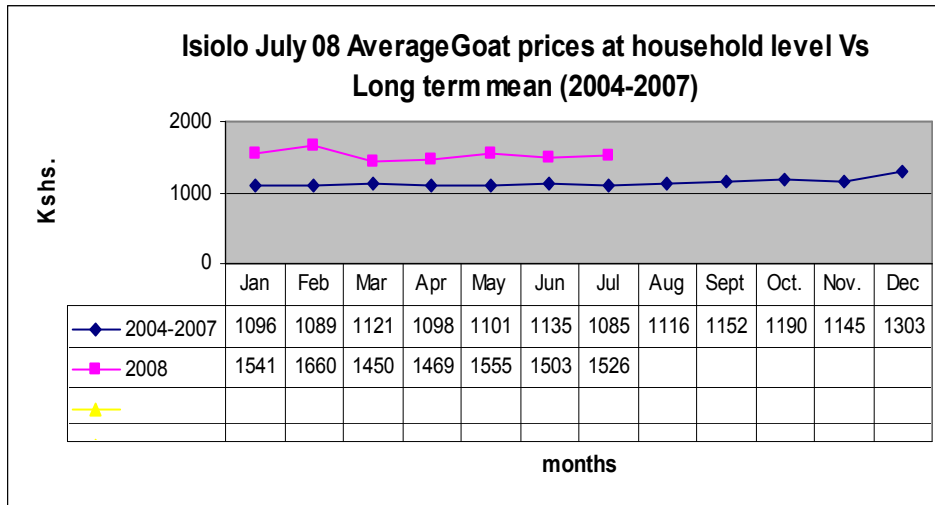
3.1.1. Cattle prices



N =15 sentinel sites x30 households per site(450HH)

- The average cattle prices remained almost constant at Kshs11, 664, with a slight increase of only 0.47 per cent.
- Cattle body weight remained poor following an upsurge of disease outbreaks.
- Prices were higher in central and Oldonyiro, standing at Kshs14, 000 per animal.

3.1.2 Goat production and marketing

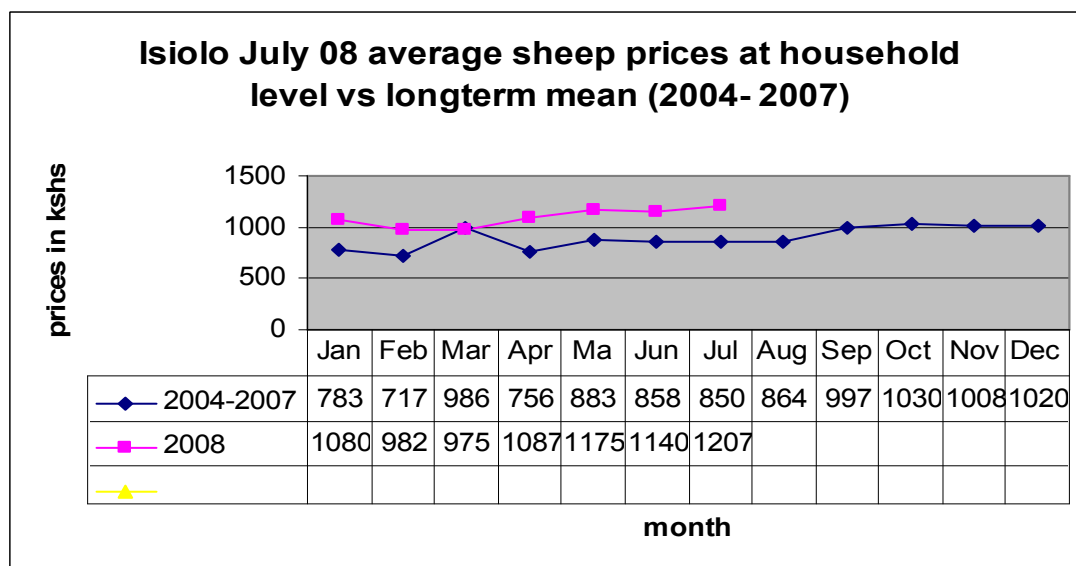


N=15 sentinel sites x30 household per site (450HH)

- The average price of goats stood at Kshs 1, 526, representing a 1.5 per cent increase. The price rise was caused by limited supply.
- Prices were better in Central and Garbatulla, where goats fetched Ksh 1, 650 and Ksh 1,800 respectively.

3.1.3. Sheep prices

- The average price of sheep stood at Kshs 1, 207.
- Prices were poor in Oldonyiro and Boji, where sheep went for Kshs 993. This was as a result of disease outbreaks.



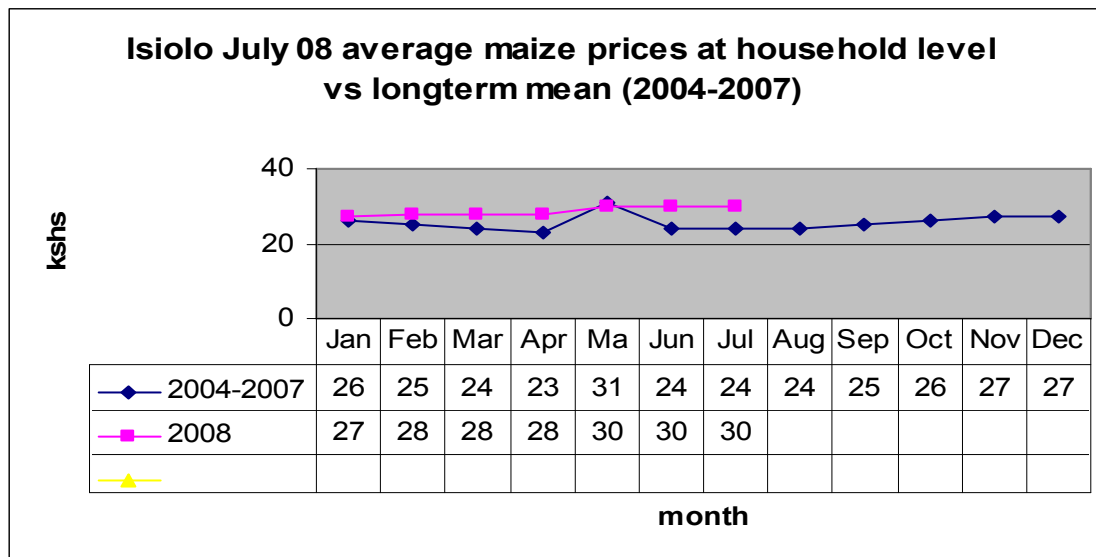
N=15 sentinel sites x30 household per sites(450HH)

3.1.4. Camel prices

- Average camel prices stood at Kshs18, 000 for mature females of between 4 to 5 years.
- This represents an 18 per cent drop from last month’s Kshs 22,000.

3.2 Grain marketing

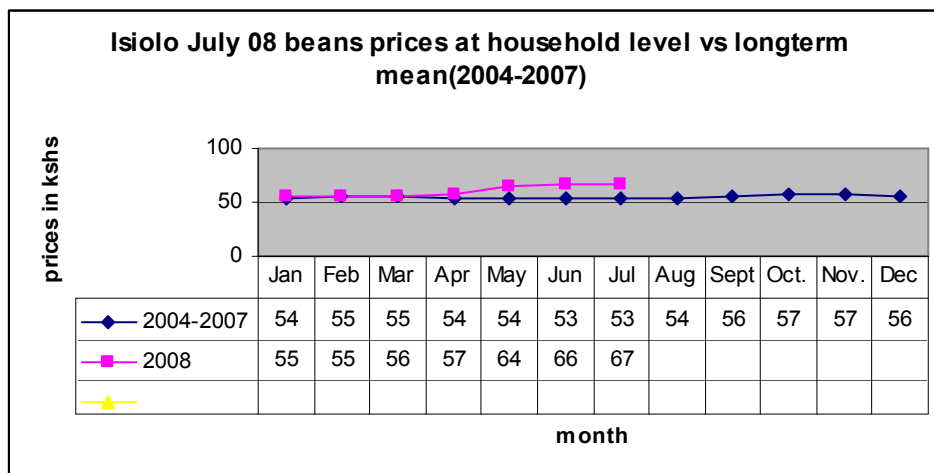
3.2.1. Maize prices



N =15 sentinel sites x30 household per sites

- Average maize price was Ksh 30 per kg.
- The price remained constant compared to last month’s but indicates a 25 per cent increase compared to long term prices.

3.2.2. Beans prices



N=15 sentinel sites x 30household per sites

- The average price of beans increased to Ksh 67 per kilogram.
- Prices were higher in Sericho and Merti at Kshs 80 per kilogram.
- The prices represented a 26 per cent increase compared to long-term mean.

3.3 Incomes

3.3.1. Crop income

- Crop represented 3.7 per cent of household incomes. This was mainly from agro-pastoral areas of Kinna (2 per cent) and central (1 per cent).
- This was a significant drop compared to 8.3 per cent last month.

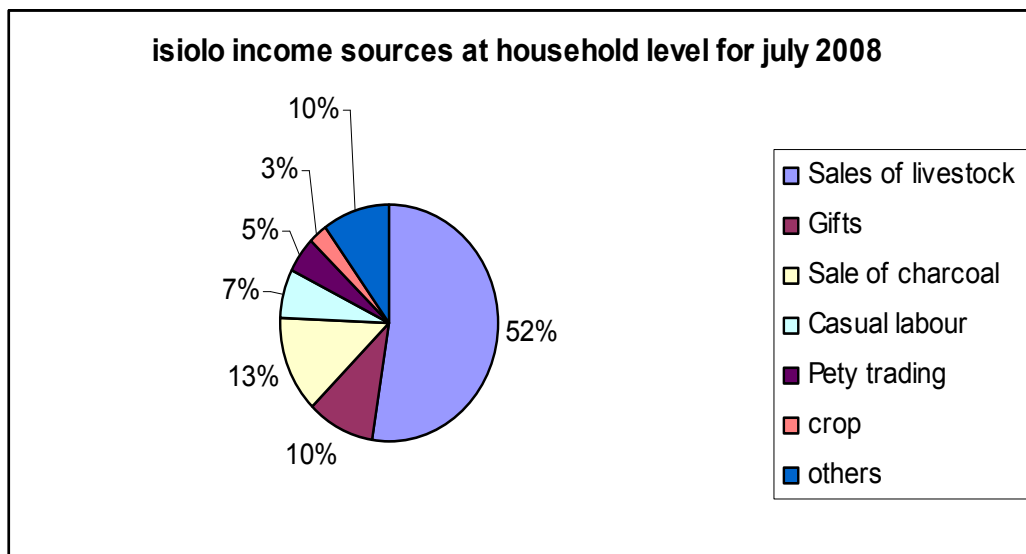
3.3.2. Livestock income

- Household income from livestock was 52 per cent, down by 2 per cent compared to last month.

3.3.3. Other incomes

- Other income to households was from sale of charcoal (13 per cent), casual labour (7), petty trading (4.6) and gift items (10).
- Household incomes from charcoal fell by 1 per cent, casual labour (1.7) and gift items (2) compared to last month.

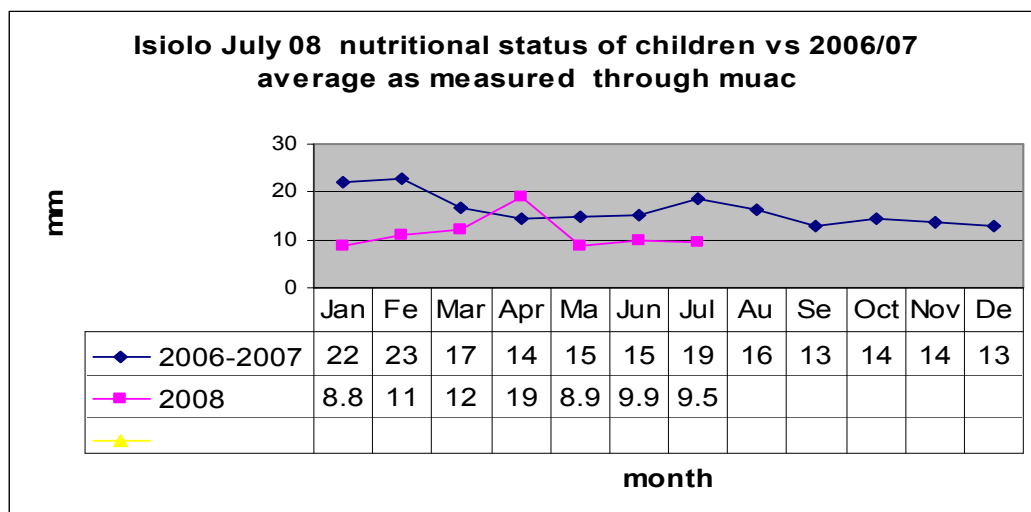
The pie-chart below represents Isiolo income sources at household level in July 2008



3.6 Implication on food security

- Food security status set to worsen as livestock, which contributes 52 per cent of all household income, was affected by disease, insecurity and lack of pasture.

4. Utilization of food (Welfare Indicators)



N =5 x 15 sentinel sites x 30 households per sites

- The nutritional status of children measured using MUAC dropped to 9.5 per cent (at risk).
- The worst hit divisions include Kinna with 16.6 per cent of children at risk of malnutrition and Central with 10.6 per cent.
- Malkagalla, Korbasa and Merti locations are still reeling from the effects of Kalaazar outbreak.

4.1 Health

- Kalaazar outbreak has not yet been contained in Merti and Cherab divisions. Three more children were diagnosed with the disease and are treated at Merti Health centre.

4.2 Flagged areas

- Merti and Cherab divisions due to Kalaazar outbreak among children, while blackquarter and foot and mouth have been reported in livestock. The livestock diseases are more severe in Cherab division.
- Black quarter has been persistent for the last two months, while foot and mouth broke out this month, causing high calf mortality in Malkagalla and DadachaBasa.

5.0 Current interventions/coping strategies

5.1 Non-food interventions

- Distribution of drugs to all dispensaries and health centres.
- Disease monitoring and treatment of Kalaazar patients at Merti Health centre.
- Livestock vaccination against blackquarter carried out in Malkagalla and DadachaBasa.
- The exercise was unsuccessful due to poor turnout and the disease continues to threaten the livestock population.

- Several peace meetings were held at Archers Post between communities drawn from Samburu, Isiolo, Garbatulla and Laisamis districts to curb insecurity along borders.
- A blood compensation agreement was reached between the Boran of Garbatulla District and Somali of Lagdera District over a boy killed last month, leading to calm in the district.
- Water tracking was initiated in Dadachalafe trading centre in Cherab division.

5.2 Food interventions

- Emop gave food (including food for assets) in all divisions.
- Food for assets was distributed in Gafarsa, Mokori, Badana, Biliqi, Eldera, Garba Tulla, Gubatu, Iresaboru, Lengwenyi, Modogashe, Nantudu, Oldonyiro, Sericho, Bulesa, Goda and Awarsitu.

5.3 Coping strategies

- Frequent migration in search of water and pasture.
- Sale of livestock to purchase food.

6.0 Recommendations

- Scaling up of food aid to 75 per cent for all divisions due to current food insecurity status.
- Peace meetings bringing together warring factions from all neighboring districts.