

Situation overview

- The month under review was mainly characterised by light drizzles and infrequent downpours.
- An average 55 mm of rainfall was recorded, which was low compared to the month before especially in view that the long rains were ending.
- Distances to grazing areas dropped to 3.8 km from 4.6 km in June. This was due to improved browse and pasture following the rains. The available pasture and browse is likely to last for about two months.
- Pans, dams, shallow wells and rivers were the main sources of water. The water volume, though having declined following the end of the long rains, will last for about two to three months.
- Distances to water sources for households remained at 2.2 km.
- Livestock had good access to water and their body condition improved.
- Milk production rose by 43 per cent, leading to increased sales and better household incomes.
- CCPP was reported in goats in Vitengeni and Bamba divisions (Kilifi) and Kayafungo (Kaloleni). The animals were vaccinated and treated.
- Harvesting of the early-planted crop is on-going. However, yields are lower than expected as moisture stress affected crop maturity at a critical stage of development. The harvests, however, relieved food stress at household level albeit for a short time.
- Livestock prices remained stable but much lower than expected at this time of the year.
- Livestock sales rose during the month, stripping households of their assets to buy food. This is unusual for this time of year, when sales are expected to decline with onset of crop harvests.
- About 36.6 per cent of total milk produced was consumed at household level, which indicates better nutrition for children less than five years.
- Cereal and legume prices dropped due to ongoing harvest, hence increased supply in the market. The price drop is, however, likely to be short-lived due to low yields. The next few months might see price increases after domestic stocks get exhausted.
- Maize prices stood at Ksh 2,200 per bag, while beans sold at Ksh 5,675. The prices were above the long-term averages, making the food unaffordable for most households.
- Casual labour and sale of charcoal were the most popular sources of income. The average daily wage stood at Ksh 111.5, down from Ksh 184.5 in June. The drop was attributed to more numbers seeking casual labour.
- The percentage of children at risk for malnutrition remained stable at 6.6 per cent, with the food cropping livelihood zone registering 12 per cent while marginal mixed farming recorded 2.8 per cent.
- Elephants invaded Mitangani and Bandari locations in Bamba, destroyed crops and left one person dead. Elephant menace was also reported in Mwawesa, Kaloleni district.
- The situation in the district is normal.

Current interventions

Food-aid

- World Vision distributed 275.73 mt of cereals, 48.66 mt of pulses and 14.6 mt of vegetable oil to 40,534 beneficiaries. The distribution per division was as follows;

District/Division	Beneficiaries	Cereals	Pulses	Vegetable Oil	Total (Metric Tonnes)
Kaloleni	19,518	132.72	23.42	7.03	163.17
Bamba	13,157	89.52	15.8	4.74	110.05
Ganze	3,490	23.75	4.19	1.26	29.19
Vitengeni	4,369	29.74	5.25	1.57	36.57
Total	40,534	275.73	48.66	14.60	338.98

Non-food interventions

- KARI is working on a mango improvement project in Mavueni and Bahari in Chonyi and cashew-nut rehabilitation in Vitengeni division.
- CDA is carrying out activities in cashew-nut enhancement and coconut improvement in all divisions in Kilifi district.
- PCCS is supporting 13 FFS's and 6 organized groups in Bamba division to promote grain amaranth.
- KEFRI is working on aloe vera production and mulberry and mushroom farming in a location adjacent to the Arabuko Sokoke forest.
- World Vision is working on organic farming initiatives in 20 groups in Vitengeni and Bamba divisions.
- ALRMP is collaborating livelihood support promotion of beekeeping, meat goat upgrading and promotion of agro-forestry and natural resource management at the divisional level.

Previous DSG meeting and recommendations

- The ranching livelihood zone should be closely monitored as most indicators point towards a strain on food security in the area.
- More households in the Ranching livelihoods need to be considered for relief food following the ongoing food stress.
- The Kenya Wildlife Service ought to be more vigilant on the control of elephants in Bamba and Vitengeni divisions where they have wrecked havoc on food crops.
- There is need for the expansion of watering points both for livestock and humans in the Marginal mixed farming and Ranching zones of the district.

DSG meeting and recommendations

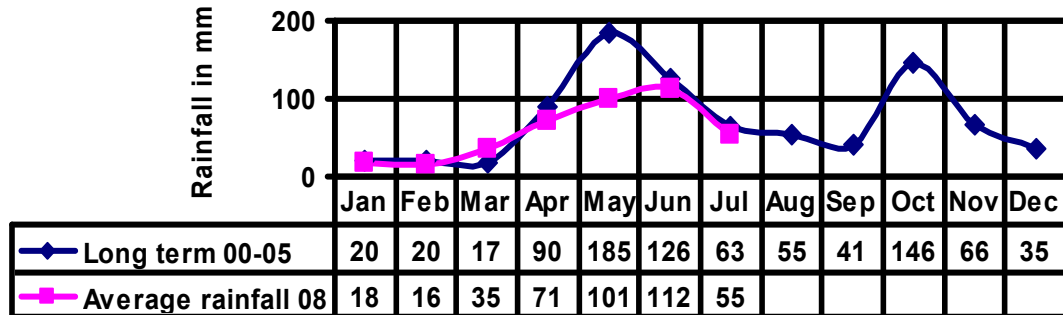
The long rains assessment on food security was carried out and the team recommended the following:

- Non-rain fed livelihoods such as bee-keeping and silk-worm farming should be promoted and strengthened to cushion households from food insecurity and provide a sustainable income.
- Expansion or initiation of food-aid interventions including, but not limited to, FFA (Food for Assets) and school feeding programs in the ranching, food cropping and marginal mixed farming livelihood zones.
- Expansion of surface water sources and construction of new surface and underground water sources.
- Provision of water to schools in the ranching and marginal mixed farming livelihood zones.
- Increased promotion of drought-resistant crops such as pigeon peas and cow peas.
- Promotion of fodder conservation (hay-making) methodologies.
- Revival of ranching schemes.
- Initiation of credit schemes for farmers.

1. Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall

Average rainfall vs long term average 00-05 for July 08 in Kilifi district



- An average 55 mm of rainfall was recorded for 5 wet days in the two districts.
- This amount was lower than the long term average of 63 mm.
- The long rains, which started on a low note in late March, are ending.
- The month was characterised by showers and infrequent downpours.
- Adequate and timely rains were received in the cash cropping and dairy livelihood zones.
- However, the rains were erratic in ranching and marginal mixed farming livelihood zones.

1.2. Natural vegetation and pasture condition

- Pasture and natural vegetation improved compared to owing to the continued showers.
- The cash cropping and dairy livelihood zone had the best quality and quantity of pasture and vegetation, closely followed by the marginal mixed farming. Mitangani, Bandari and Ndigiria locations in Bamba division and Mrima Wa Ndege location in Vitengeni division recorded significantly lower quality and quantity pasture. The same case was witnessed in Mwanamwinga and Kayafungo locations in Mariakani division (Kaloleni).
- The ranching livelihood zone received minimal rainfall, which led to reduced pasture and browse.
- Distances to grazing areas dropped to 3.8 km from 4.6 km last month. However, distances in the ranching livelihood zone remained as high as 13km.
- Showers continued in the district even as the rainy season drew to an end, impacting positively on pasture re-growth.
- The positive trend is expected at this time of the year.

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Water sources

- Pans, dams, natural rivers, shallow wells and traditional river wells were the main water sources in the district.
- Water volumes dropped slightly as the rainy season drew to an end. The capacities are however, likely to sustain livestock and households for a month or two. The two districts could, however, do with additional water sources to adequately cater for their populations.

1.3.2 Household access to water

- Household access to water was stable at 2.2 km during the month under review.

- Distances were furthest in the ranching livelihood zone at 9.8 km and shortest in the cash cropping and dairy zones at 1.6 km. The food cropping and marginal mixed farming livelihood zones posted 2.5 km and 2.0 km respectively.
- The inter-livelihood differences followed the prevailing rainfall patterns, whereby the livelihood zones that reported the highest rainfall also had the easiest access to water and vice versa.
- This trend was expected at this time of the year.

1.3.3 Livestock access to water

- Access to water for livestock remained good, save for some access constraints in the ranching livelihood zone.

1.4. Emerging Issues

1.4.1 Insecurity / conflict / human displacement

- Cases of elephants destroying food crops and posing a threat to humans were reported in Mitangani and Bandari locations in Bamba division and Mwawesa location in Rabai division of Kaloleni district.

1.5. Implication on food security

- Although water sources have had their capacities slightly reduced, natural vegetation generally improved and so did distances to grazing areas.
- Access to water by both livestock and humans also improved, impacting positively on food security.

2 Availability

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Shoats and larger stock maintained a fair-to-good body condition across most livelihood zones.
- Increased heat stress in parts of the ranching livelihood zones led to poorer body condition.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- CCPP was reported in goats in Kayafungo in Kaloleni and Vitengeni and Bamba divisions of Kilifi district. However, animals were vaccinated and treated to curb spread of the disease.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Average milk production increased by 43 per cent at household level from 19.3 bottles (750 ml) in June to 27.3.
- The trend was attributed to improved access to forage as distances to grazing areas continued to decrease.
- Production was highest in the cash cropping and dairy zone and lowest in food cropping livelihood zone.
- A slight dip of 4 per cent in the average price per bottle of milk was recorded as a result of increased supply at household level.
- Milk sales increased, the highest sales being recorded in the ranching livelihood zone (39 bottles per household) and the least in the food cropping zone (7 bottles per household).
- The increased sales went a long way in improving domestic incomes and negating the effects of the failed crop across most livelihood zones.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and status of crops

- Harvesting of last season's crop is on-going, while planting and weeding are also current on-farm activities.
- Maize, the district's staple food, is at different stages of development ranging from germination to mature stage.
- Planting is on-going for cowpeas and green grams.
- Bananas, mangoes, paw paws, cashew nuts, coconuts and citrus are doing well.
- Rain-fed and irrigated vegetables are also doing well, with the early-planted crop flowering.

2.2.2 Pests and diseases

- There were no major pests or diseases reported during the month under review.

2.2.3 Crop harvests

- Harvesting is on-going for cowpeas and maize, though on a small scale.
- Kales, African Bird's Eye Chilli (ABEC), bananas, mangoes, and coconuts are also being harvested.
- Crop yields realised during the month are projected to be much lower than targeted as most crops failed. The worst hit areas were Ndigeria, Mitangani and Bandari locations in Bamba division, Dungicha location in Ganze division and Mrima wa Ndege location in Vitengeni division.

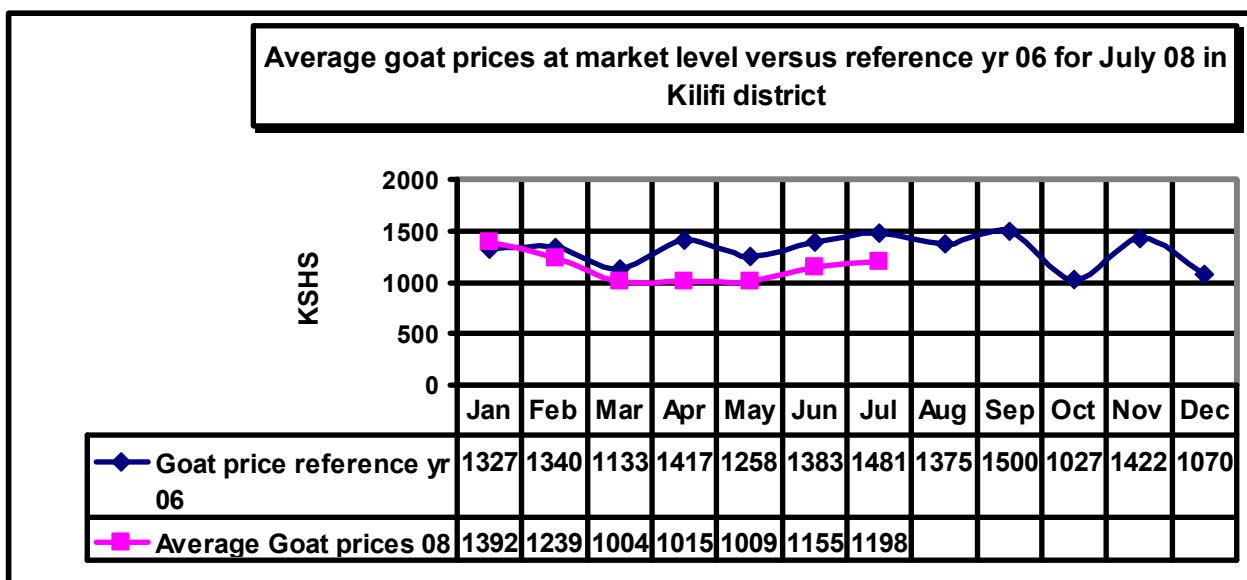
2.3 Implication on food security

- With the current harvesting on-going on a small scale, households in the district have some food in stores.
- Yields have, however, been very low, with total crop failure being recorded in some areas. The scenario is detrimental to household food security.
- The harvests, though well below the targeted yield, will alleviate food stress though on a short-term.
- With the increased milk production, most households are likely to rely more heavily on livestock production than crop production for sustenance.

3. Access

3.1 Livestock marketing

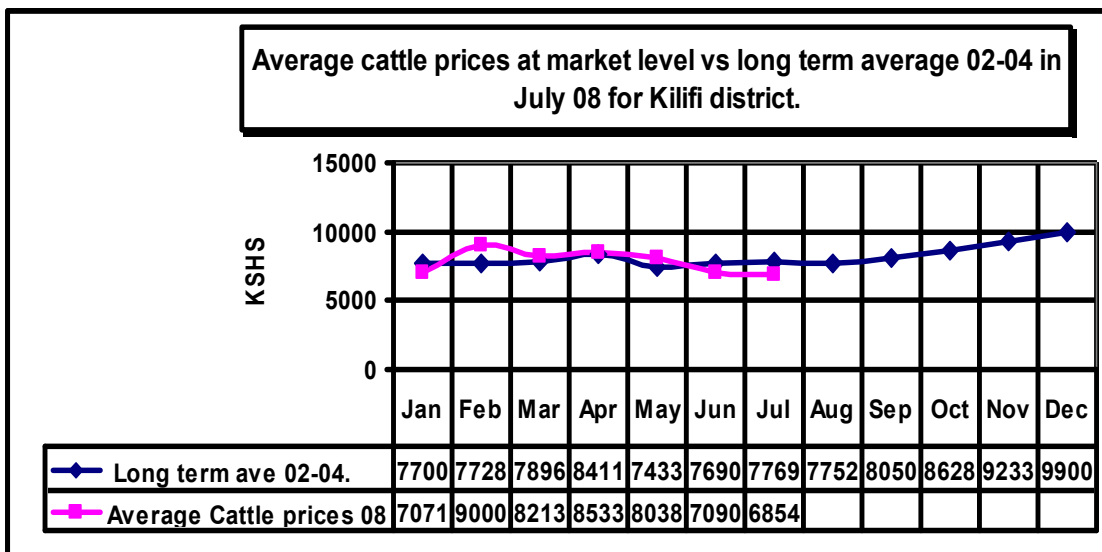
3.1.1 Goat prices



- The average price of a medium-sized buck was Ksh 1,198 from Ksh 1,155 in June.

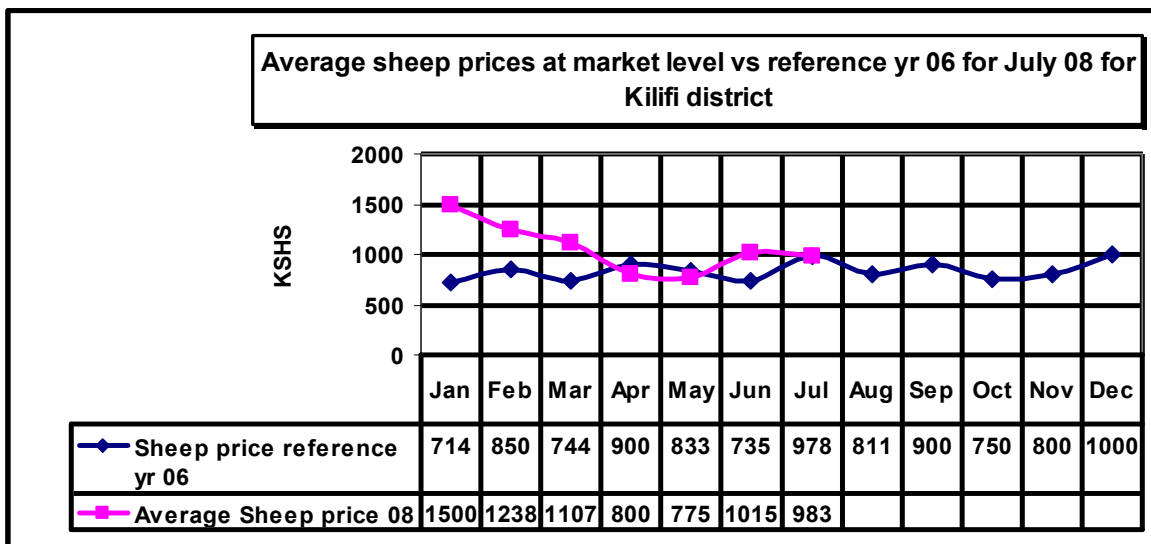
- The food cropping livelihood zone posted the highest prices at Ksh 1,666.70, while the marginal mixed farming posted the least at Ksh 600.
- The price was 19 per cent lower than expected at this time of the year as many households disposed off assets to buy food. This was a fall-back measure as several households faced total crop failure from their long rain season crop.

3.1.2 Cattle prices



- The price of a medium-sized bull stood at Ksh 6,854 compared to Ksh 7,090 last month.
- Livestock traders from the northern corridor used some parts of the district as fattening grounds for cattle en-route to markets in Mombasa. This created an over supply of cattle, hence the price drop.
- The highest prices were posted in the cash cropping and dairy livelihood zone at Ksh 9, 500, while the lowest was recorded in the marginal mixed farming livelihood zone at Ksh 6, 500.

3.1.3 Sheep prices



- The price of a medium-sized 3-year-old sheep dipped to Ksh 983 from Ksh 1,015 last month.
- Highest sheep prices were posted in the food cropping livelihood zone at Ksh 1,233 and the lowest in the marginal mixed farming livelihood zone at Ksh 500.

3.2 Livestock sales

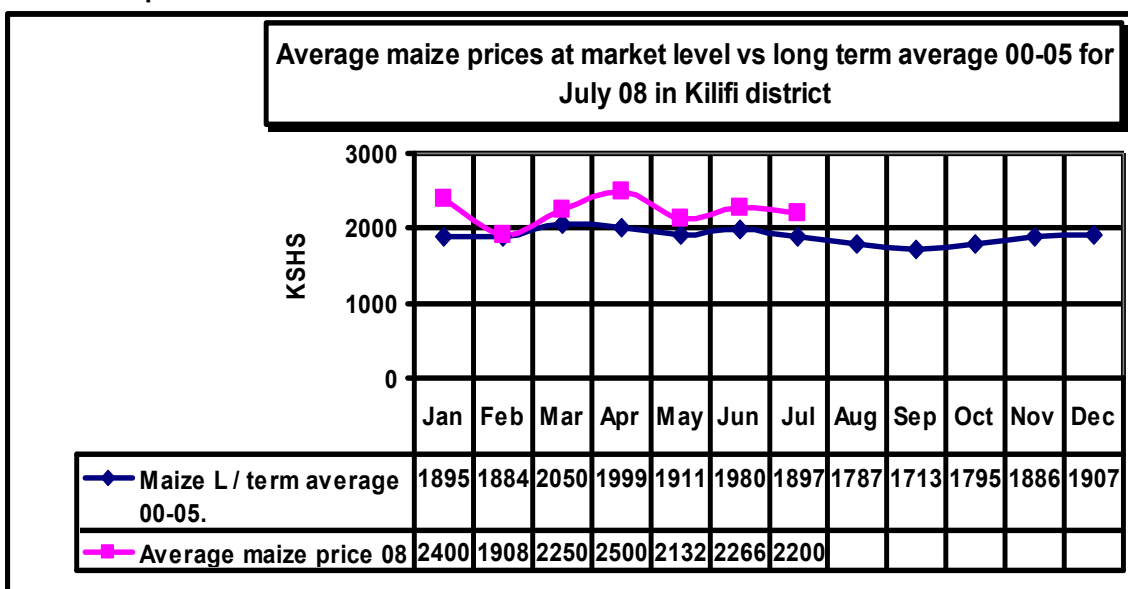
- Livestock sales rose compared to the previous month. Most households relied mainly on livestock production and marketing to access food following crop failure.
- Goats were the most traded, followed by cattle while sheep reported minimal sales.
- Livestock trade was most vigorous in the ranching livelihood zone.
- The trend indicated that most households relied on livestock production for sustenance as crop yields were poor. This was not in line with the expected scenario at this time of the year.

3.3 Milk consumption

- Milk consumption at household level increased by 40 per cent this month from average 6 bottles (750ml) last month to 10 bottles this month with an approximate 36.6 per cent of the total milk produced consumed.

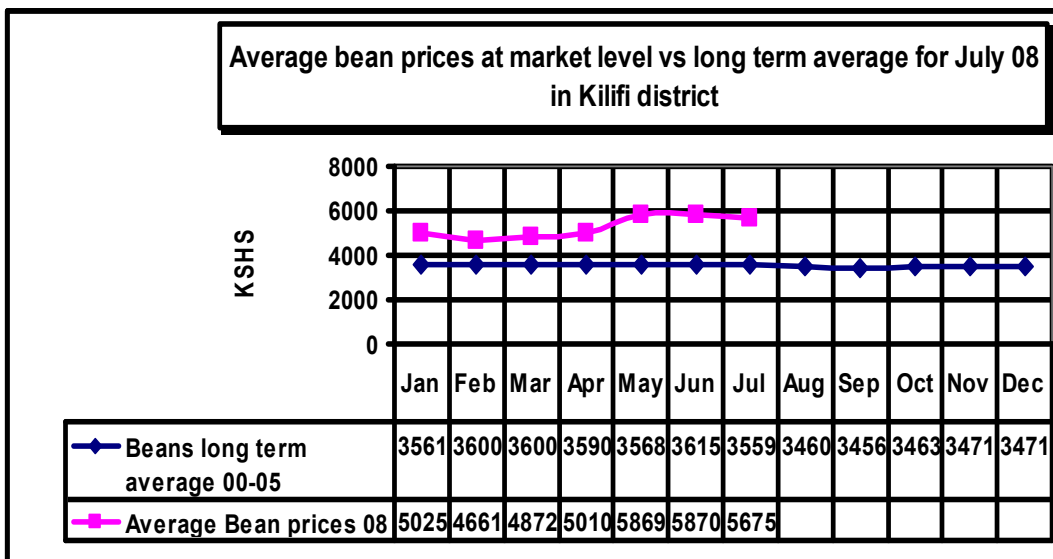
3.4 Crop prices

3.4.1 Maize prices



- A 90-kg bag of maize sold at Ksh 2, 200, down from Ksh 2, 266 in June.
- Maize harvesting is on-going in the district, though not extensively, increasing supply and a likely drop in prices.
- The ranching livelihood zone posted the highest price Ksh 2,500 while the marginal mixed farming livelihood zone recorded Ksh 2,000. The ranching livelihood zone suffered total crop failure in most areas, and households in the zone relied on local retail shops for food.
- The drop in maize prices is expected in a normal year, although the average price was 16 per cent higher than the long-term average.

3.4.2 Beans prices



- A 90-kg bag of beans sold at Ksh 5,675 but alternative sources of protein, such as cowpeas, were available following long rain season crop harvests.
- Yields were low, hence the slight price drop of 3 per cent. Further price drops are anticipated as harvesting peaks next month.
- The food cropping livelihood zone posted the highest at Ksh 6,000 and the ranching livelihood zone trailing at Ksh 5,200. The cash cropping and dairy and marginal mixed farming livelihood zones recorded Ksh 5,700 and Ksh 5,800 respectively.
- Although the price drop was in tandem with the expected trend, it was still much higher than the long-term average.
- Beans were unaffordable for most households.

3.5. Income

3.5.1 Casual labour

- 45.7 per cent of the sampled households depended on casual labour as a source of income. The average daily wage decreased by 40 per cent from Ksh 184.5 last month to Ksh 115 this month.
- The food cropping livelihood zone registered the highest wage at Ksh 142, while the ranching zone registered the lowest at Ksh 70.
- This rendered the ranching livelihood zone more vulnerable to food insecurity as commodity prices remained quite high and above the reach of most households.

3.5.2 Sale of charcoal

- 19.1 per cent of the households sampled relied on the sale of charcoal as a source of income.
- It was the most reliable source in the ranching livelihood zone and the least reliable in the cash cropping and dairy zone.

3.5.3 Other income sources

- 12.1 per cent, 10.4 and 9 per cent of the sampled households relied on casual labour, the sale of charcoal and petty trading respectively.
- Other income sources included remittances, the sale of wood products and the sale of livestock, which accounted for 9 per cent, 2.6 and 2.3 of total household income respectively.

3.6 Implications on food security

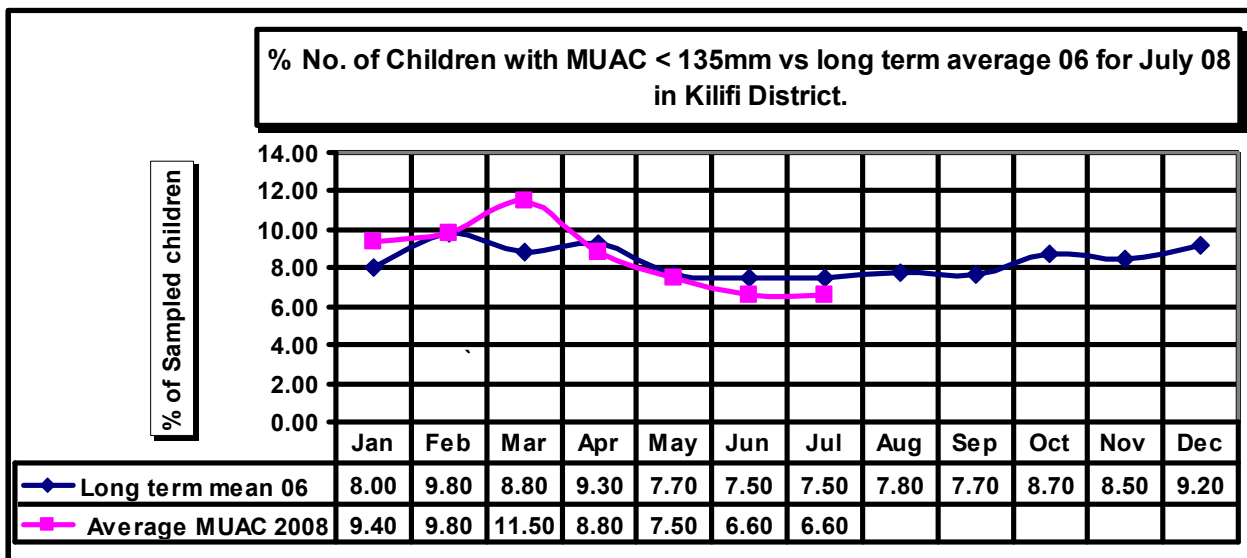
- Although minimal changes were witnessed in both livestock and food commodity prices, the prices still remained way higher than expected at this period of the year.

This made food inaccessible in most households, with the ranching livelihood zone being hardest hit.

- Poor yields only aggravated the situation and the crop in the fields is expected to register poor yields due to moisture stress.
- Food security is, therefore, likely to be on the decline especially for Mwanamwinda and Kayafungo locations in Mariakani division of Kaloleni, Mrima wa Ndege location in Vitengeni division, and Mitangani and Ndigeria locations in Bamba division of Kilifi district.

4. Utilisation

4.1 Nutrition status



- The level of malnutrition in the two districts remains stable, with the percentage of children at risk remaining at 6.6 per cent.
- This was attributed to children accessing alternative foods as households began harvesting on a small-scale. The number of children at risk is likely to continue decreasing as harvesting continues until next month.
- The food cropping livelihood zone recorded the highest percentage of children at risk at 12.1 per cent, while the lowest percentage was registered in the marginal mixed farming zone at 2.8 per cent. The disparity noted between the two livelihood zones was attributable to milk prices per bottle, which were highest in the food cropping livelihood zone at Ksh 20. This was beyond most households' purchasing power.
- The cash cropping and dairy and ranching livelihood zones registered 5.7 per cent and 6 respectively.

4.2 Health

- There were no major human diseases reported during the month under review.

5. Current interventions

5.1 Non-food interventions

- KARI is working on a mango improvement project in Mavueni and Bahari in Chonyi and Cashew-nut rehabilitation in Vitengeni division.
- CDA is carrying out activities in cashew-nut enhancement and coconut improvement in all divisions in Kilifi district.
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5.2 Food-aid

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5.3 Coping strategies

- The coping strategy index remained the same at 2.6 per cent similar to the previous month.
- Major coping strategies included;
 - Charcoal burning
 - Selling of firewood
 - Hunting and poaching
 - Casual labour
 - Skipping of meals
 - Consumption of wild fruits (roots, tubers)
 - Early marriages
 - Commercial sex
 - Working as beach boys.

6.0 Recommendations

Recommendations made by the food security assessment team on food security include:

- Non-rain fed livelihoods such as bee-keeping and silk-worm farming should be promoted and strengthened to cushion households from food insecurity and provide a sustainable income.
- Expansion or initiation of food-aid interventions including, but not limited to, FFA (Food for Assets) and school feeding programs in the ranching, food cropping and marginal mixed farming livelihood zones.
- Expansion of surface water sources and construction of new surface and underground water sources.
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- Increased promotion of drought-resistant crops such as pigeon peas and cow peas.
- Promotion of fodder conservation (hay-making) methodologies.
- Revival of ranching schemes.
- Initiation of credit schemes for farmers.

7 Warning phase

- The early warning stage for July is normal for the District with an improving trend similar to last month. However areas in the ranching livelihood zones require close monitoring on the drought situation as well as direct intervention as indicated by consistent stress over the reporting period.