



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

**DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, JULY 2008**

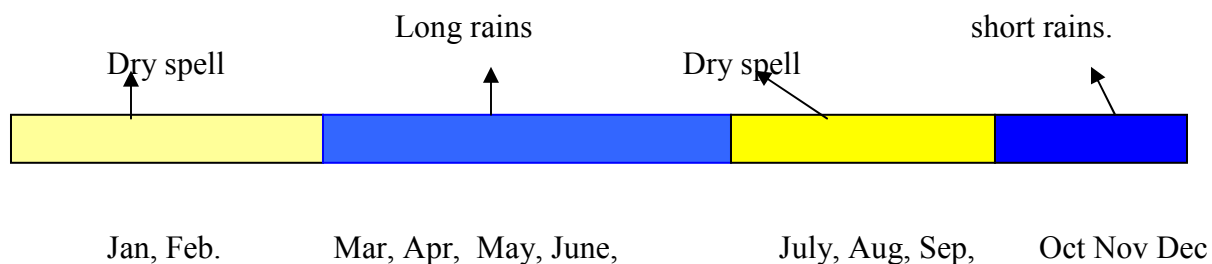
**Laikipia East, West and North districts**

**Warning Stages**



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Pastoral all species	Alarm	Worsening
Agro –pastoral	Alarm	Worsening
Mixed farming	Alert	Worsening
Marginal mixed farming	Alert	Worsening

**Seasonal calendar**



## Situation overview

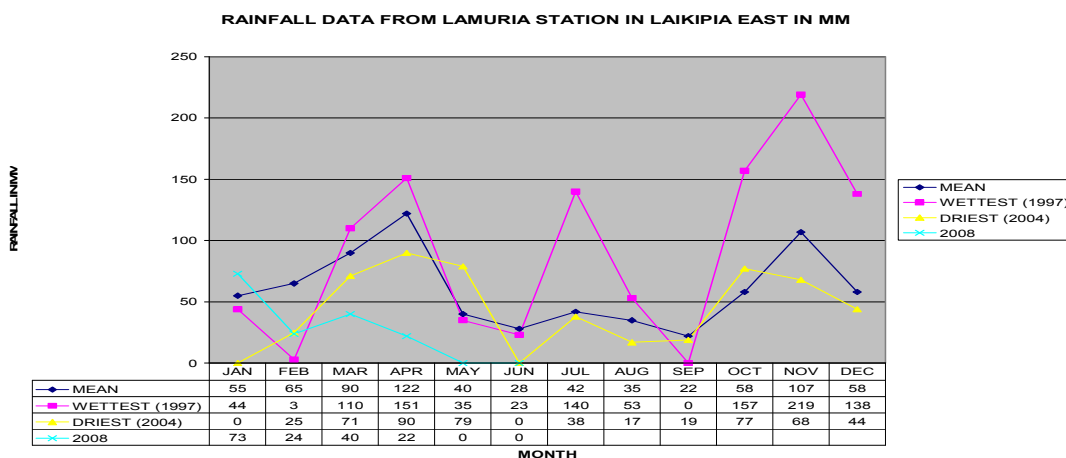
- Insignificant showers were recorded during the month under review.
- Crops failed in most parts of the three districts, except in Nyahururu and Ngarua, where maize had signs of survival and eventually tussled at knee level.
- Livestock body condition remained poor in all the three districts and most of the cattle moved to Mt Kenya and Aberderes.
- Cases of foot and mouth disease were reported in Laikipia East and Laikipia North.
- Food prices soared, making it inaccessible for poor households.
- Cases of human/animal conflict were reported in the three districts, especially cases of elephant invasion.

## Recommendation to DSG and KFSSG

- Relief food to affected populations in all the three districts.
- Need to repair various boreholes and hand pumps incase rains fail again.
- Need to control elephant invasions to stop human wildlife conflict.
- Veterinary department to control foot and mouth disease in Laikipia East.
- Farmers in the pastoral and marginal agricultural areas to be given relief food.
- Livestock off-take to cushion pastoralists against losses.

## 1. Environmental indicators

### 1.1. Rainfall



*Rainfall data provided by WRMA (water resource management authority. July data not available)*

### 1.2. Natural vegetation (Browse and pasture).

- Browse and pasture are completely depleted in all three districts.
- Most of the pastoralists have migrated to the forest in search of pasture.
- Though a little rainfall was recorded in some parts, the quality of pasture has not improved.

### **1.3 Water Availability**

- Though most rivers are flowing as a result of rains on Mt Kenya, most pans in the interior of the region are still dry.
- Most boreholes and hand pumps need to be repaired in case the short rains fail.

## **2. Rural economy indicators**

### **2.1 Livestock production**

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

- Livestock in Laikipia North is mostly emaciated and there is movement to Mukogodo and Mt Kenya forest.
- Markets have registered few cattle offered for sale due to the poor body conditions.

#### **2.1.2 Livestock diseases**

- Cases of foot and mouth disease have been reported, especially in Laikipia East.

### **2.2 Crop production**

#### **2.2.1 Condition of various crops**

- A little maize harvest is expected from Laikipia West since Nyahururu and Ngarua registered some rain in July.
- No harvest is expected from Laikipia East farms.

#### **2.2.2 Pests and disease**

- No cases of pests or disease outbreak were reported.

#### **2.2.3. Harvest**

- There was no harvest during the last season and the crop in the fields is very insignificant.

### **2.3 Implication on food security**

- The poor rains and emaciated animals pose a threat to food security in the three districts.
- The pastoralists cannot afford food commodities since their livestock fetches very little money.

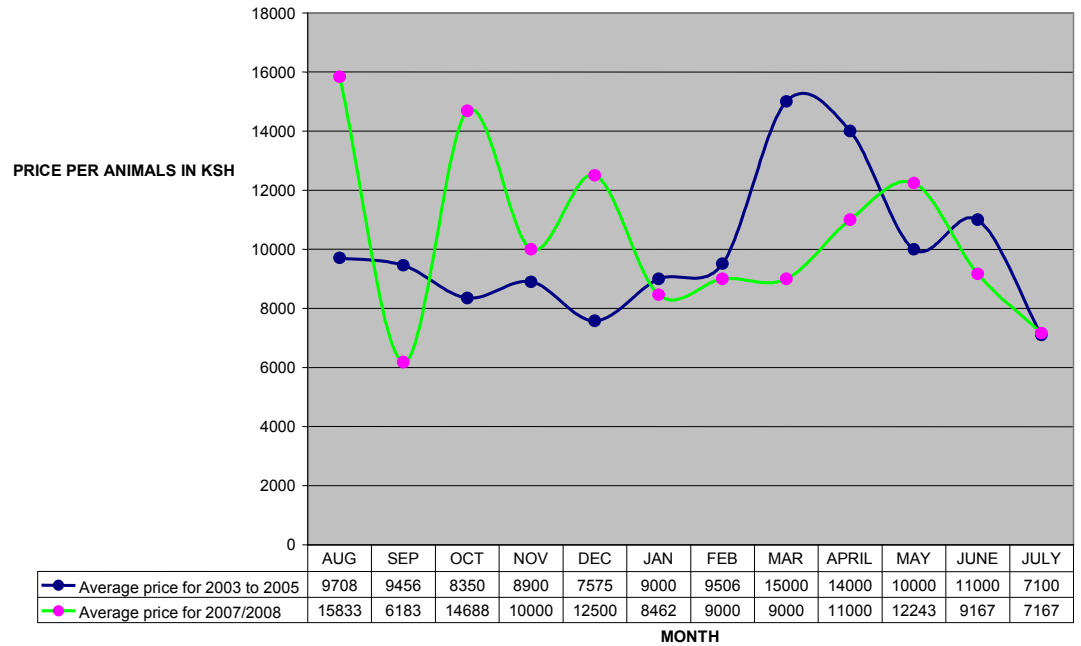
## **3. Access to food**

### **3.1 Livestock marketing**

- There are very few animals on offer in the markets and they fetch very little money due to their poor body condition.

#### **3.1.1.Cattle prices**

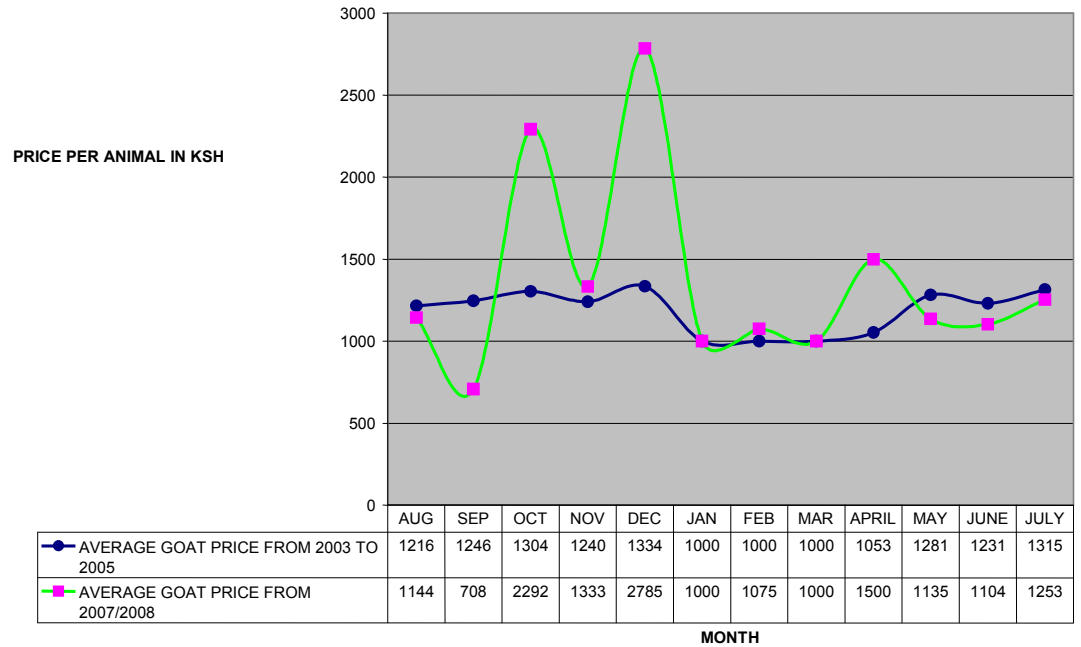
**AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD CATTLE PRICES ACROSS THE DISTRICT**



- The average prices of cattle dropped due to poor body conditions. This means that food commodities are out of reach of most pastoralists because their livestock fetches very little money.

### 3.1.2. Goat prices

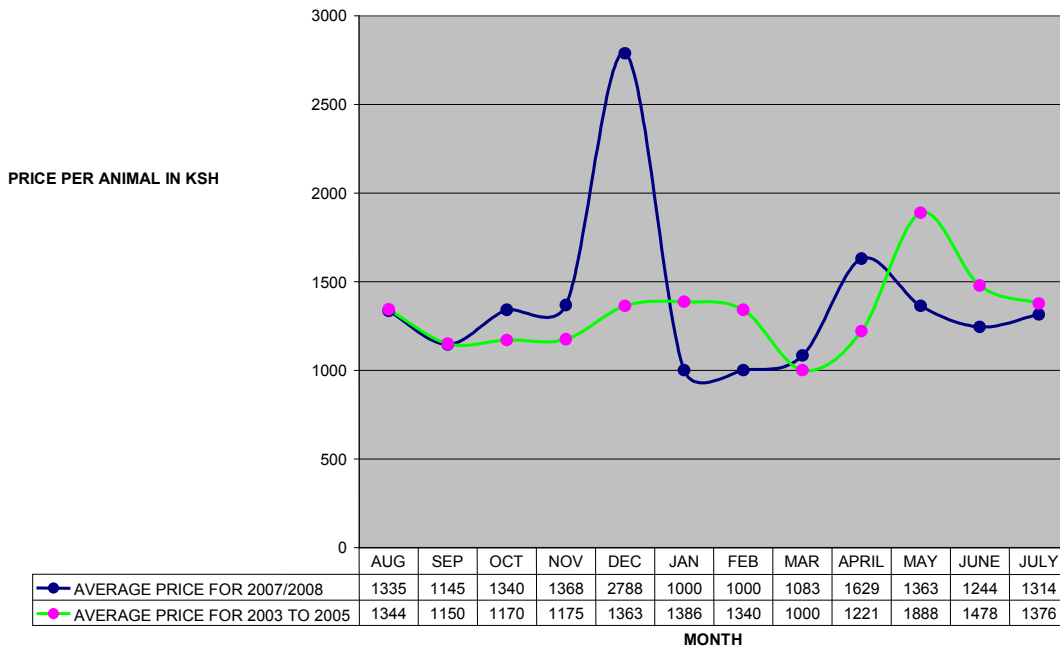
**AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD GOAT PRICES ACROSS THE DISTRICTS**



- Goat prices have risen slightly but this has very little significance.

### 3.1.3. Sheep prices

AVERAGE FARM GATE SHEEP PRICES ACROSS THE DISTRICT

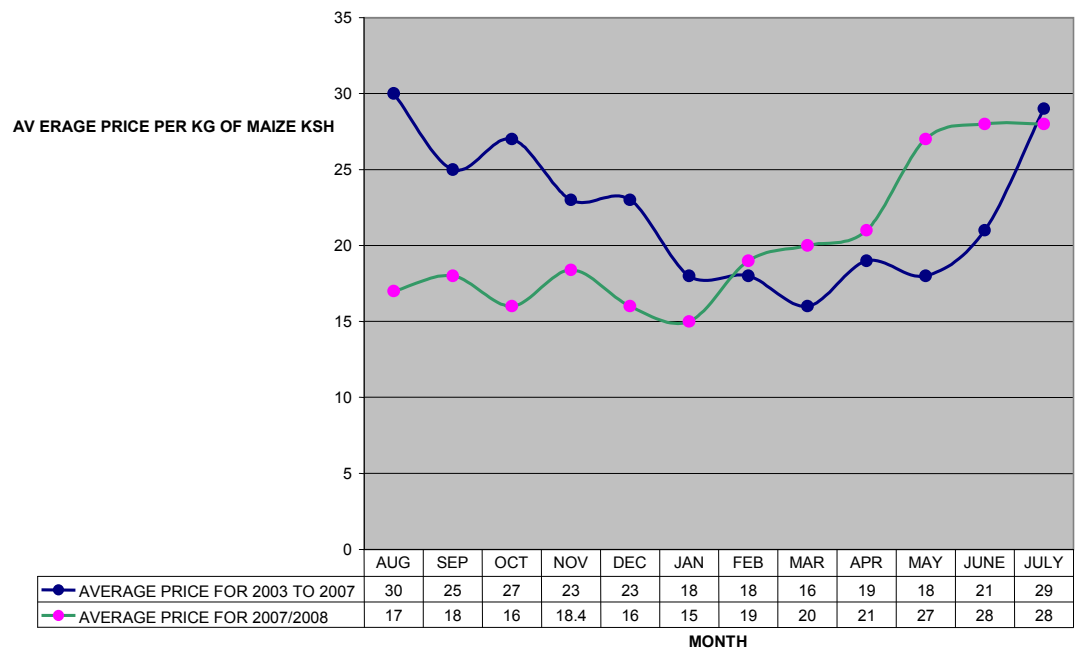


## 3.2 Food prices

### 3.2.1 Maize

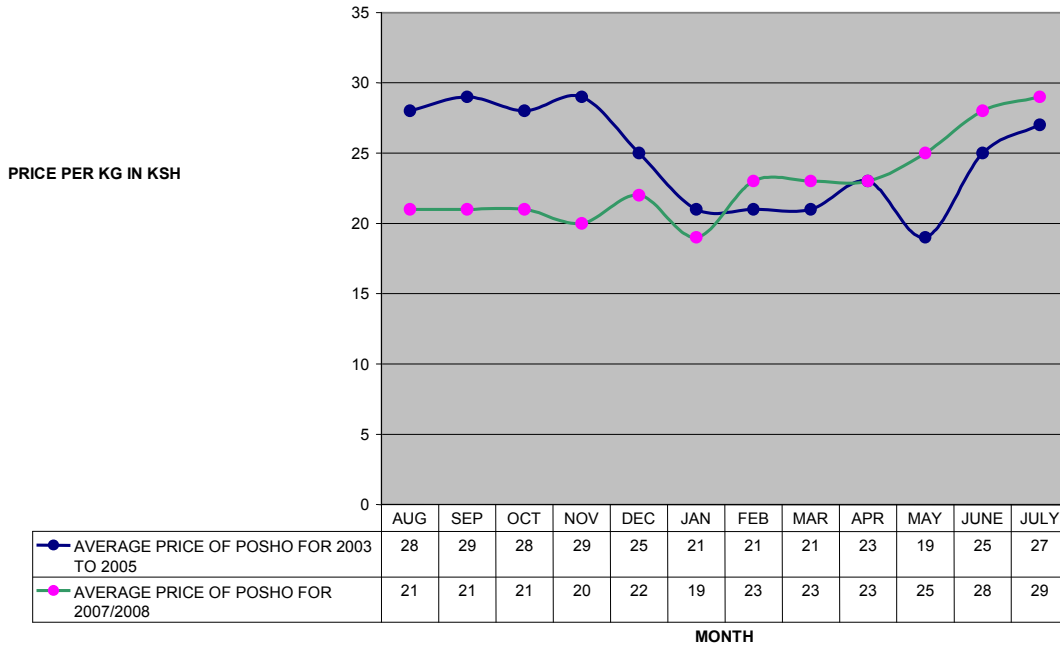
- Maize prices have stabilised but are on the higher side. Maize is becoming scarce it there might be an acute shortage in the market.

AVERAGE MAIZE PRICES IN VARIOUS MARKETS IN THE DISTRICTS



### 3.2.2 Posho prices

AVERAGE POSHO PRICES IN VARIOUS MARKETS IN THE DISTRICTS

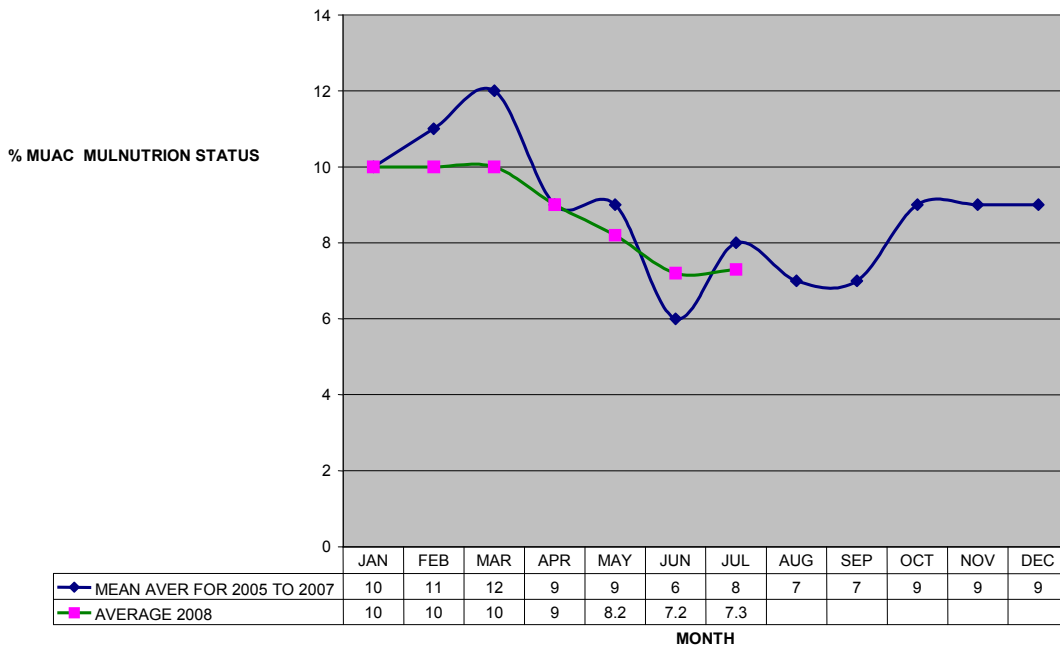


## 4.0 Human welfare indicators

### 4.1 Nutrition status of children

*The Graph below shows nutritional status of Children 12-59 months of Mid Upper Arm Circumference in Millimeters (MUAC)*

#### NUTRITION STATUS OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YRS ACROSS THE DISTRICTS



- There was very little change in the nutrition status of children.

#### 4.2 Health

- No major disease outbreak was reported during the month under review.

#### 5.0 Current Interventions

##### 5.1 Food aid

- Although some relief food was distributed in the three districts, this was not enough.

##### 5.2 Coping strategies

- Pastoralists are still camping in forests with their livestock in search of pasture.
- Search of labour in the marginal agricultural zones, especially in large farms.
- Charcoal burning.
- Relying on other families and well-wishers.

#### 6.0 DSG Recommendations for Action

- Relief food to affected populations in all the three districts.
- Need to repair various boreholes and hand pumps incase rains fail again.
- Need to control elephant invasions to stop human wildlife conflict.
- Veterinary department to control foot and mouth disease in Laikipia East.
- Farmers in the pastoral and marginal agricultural areas to be given relief food.
- Livestock off-take to cushion pastoralists against losses.