

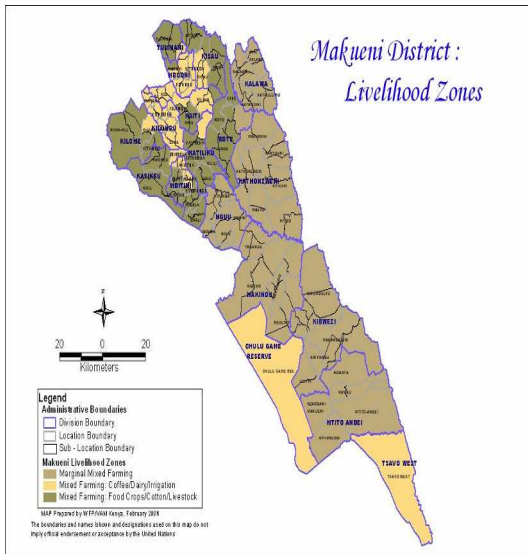


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS  
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

**DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, JULY 2008**

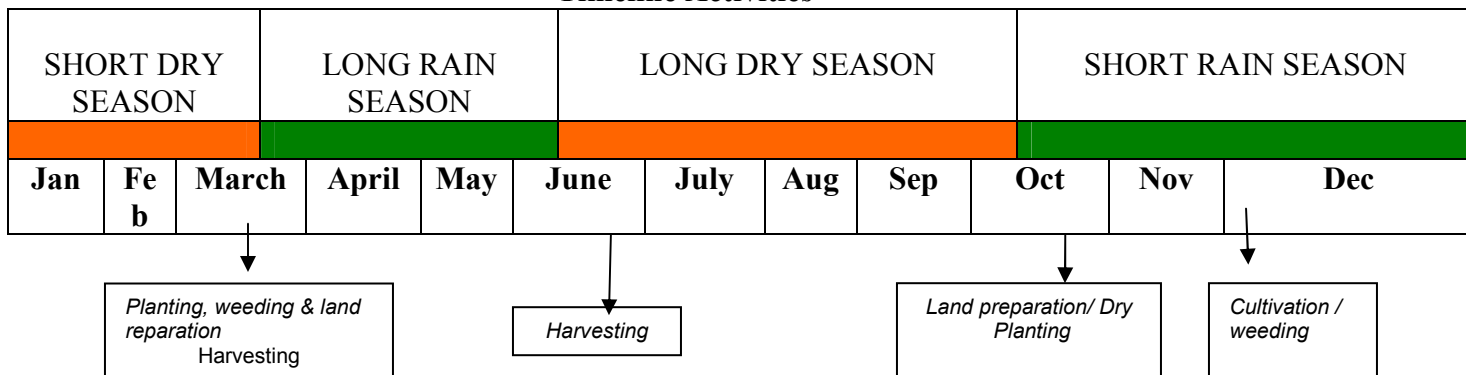
**Makueni District**

**Warning Stages**



Livelihood Zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Mixed farming coffee/dairy	Alert	Worsening
Mixed farming food crops (Agro Pastoral Zone I)	Alarm	Worsening
Marginal mixed farming (Agro Pastoral Zone II)	Alarm	Worsening
<b>District</b>	<b>Alarm</b>	<b>Worsening</b>

**Timeline Activities**



## Situation overview

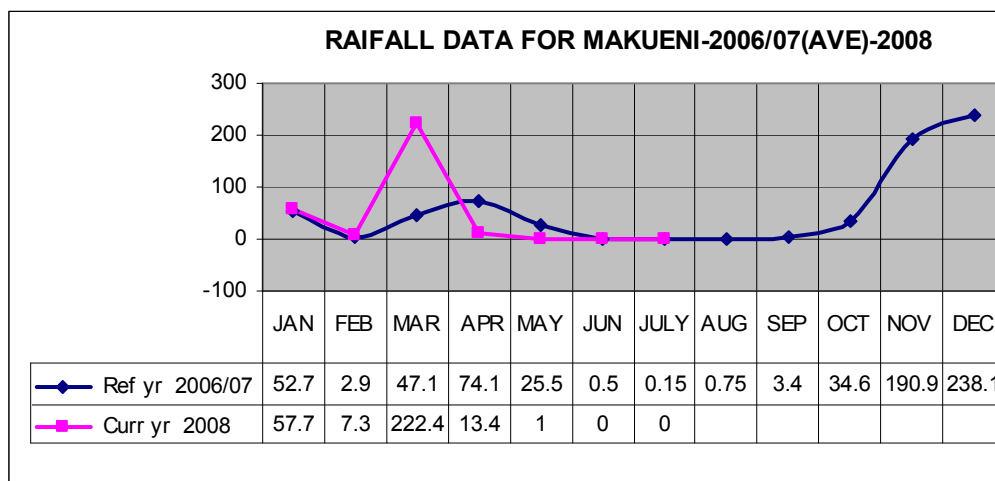
- No rainfall was recorded in the district.
- The weather was cold and dry during the month under review.
- Quality and quantity of pasture continued to decline.
- Main water sources were natural rivers, traditional river wells, springs, boreholes, shallow wells, water pans and dams.
- Signs of water scarcity were evident in most parts of the district and average distance to and from water sources increased from 3.8 km in June to 4.2km.
- Livestock health and body condition was fair and prices dropped over the month.
- The prices were, however, higher compared to the same period last year, except for sheep.
- Supply of milk and its products declined, pushing the price to Ksh40 per litre.
- Harvesting of pigeon peas is in progress in various parts of the district.
- Most food prices remained to be high over the month.
- Nutritional status of children below five years dropped, with the percentage of those at risk of malnutrition rising to 13.3 per cent from 12 per cent in June.
- Colds and flu were very common during the month in review.
- Casual labour was the main source of income in many households.

## Recommendations from DSG and KFSSG

- There is need to put all primary schools under the regular school feeding programme.
- Food-for-work should be introduced in the hardest hit divisions such as Mtito Andei, Kibwezi, Makindu, Nguu, Kee, Kathonzweni, Kalawa, Wote and parts of Mbitini and Matiliku.
- The said divisions should be put under relief operations (EMOP).
- Available pasture and fodder need to be conserved for use during the long dry season.

## 1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

### 1.1 Rainfall



*Courtesy of Makindu meteorological weather station*

- No rainfall was recorded in the district.
- This adversely affected pasture and other fodder crops in the district.
- The situation is normal in the district.

## **1.2 Vegetation cover (pasture and browse)**

- Pasture deteriorated in quality and quantity.
- Vegetation cover ranged between 25-30 per cent across the district.

## **1.3 Access to water**

### **1.3.1 Water sources**

- Signs of water scarcity were evident in most parts of the district.
- Main water sources were natural rivers, traditional river wells, springs, boreholes, shallow wells, water pans and dams.
- The distances to and from water sources rose from 3.8 km in June to 4.2 km.

### **1.3.2 Implications on food security**

- Increased distances to water points are likely to impact negatively on food security since more time is spent in search of water.

## **2.0 Rural economy indicators**

### **2.1 Livestock production**

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

- Livestock body conditions were fair in most parts of the district.
- This is normal at this time of the year.

#### **2.1.2 Livestock health**

- No major livestock disease was reported.

#### **2.1.3 Livestock migration**

- No livestock migration was reported in the district, but movement is expected in coming months.

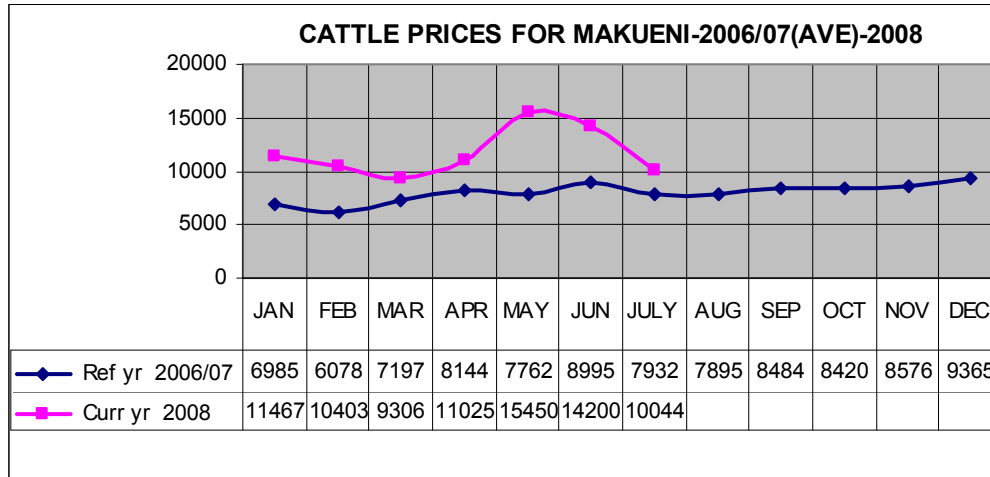
#### **2.1.4 Milk production**

- Milk production and supply dropped.
- This is a normal occurrence at this time of the year.

## **3.0 Access to food**

### **3.1 Livestock marketing**

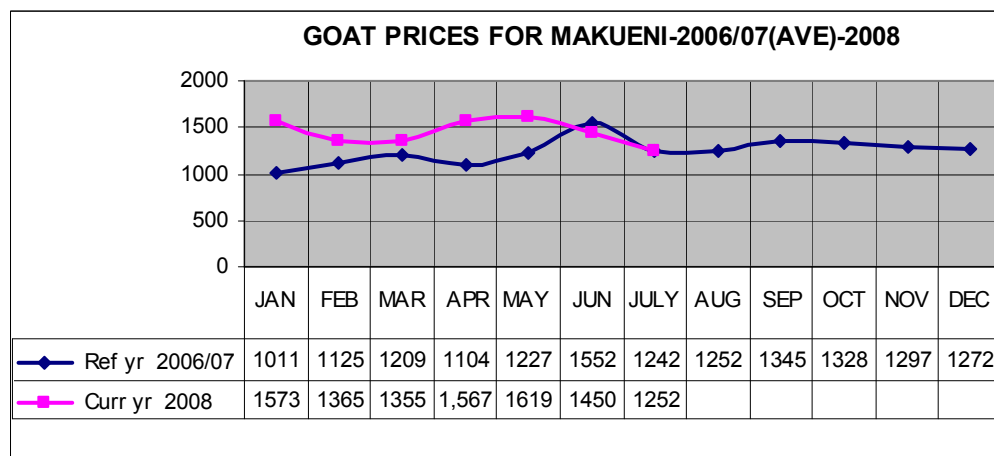
#### **3.1.1 Cattle prices**



\*N=360

- Cattle prices dropped compared to last month.
- The prices were higher than the same period last year.
- The scenario impacted negatively on food insecurity in the district.
- This is a normal trend at this time of the year.

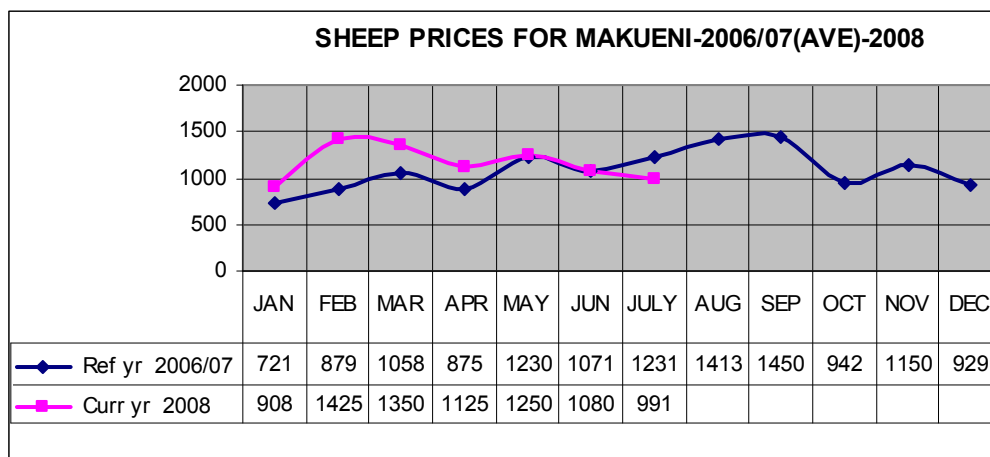
### 3.1.2 Goat prices



\*N=360

- Goat prices dropped compared to last month but were higher than the same period last year.
- The trend is normal occurrence and could be attributed to increasing food insecurity in the district.

### 3.1.3 Sheep prices

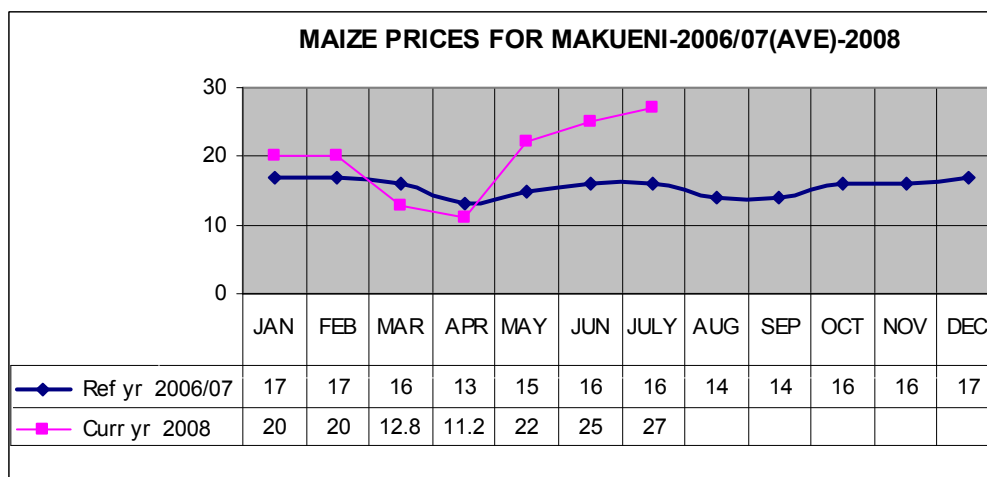


\*N=360

- Sheep prices decreased compared to last month, but were lower than the same period last year.
- The price fluctuation is normal since food insecurity is evident.

## 3.2 Crop prices

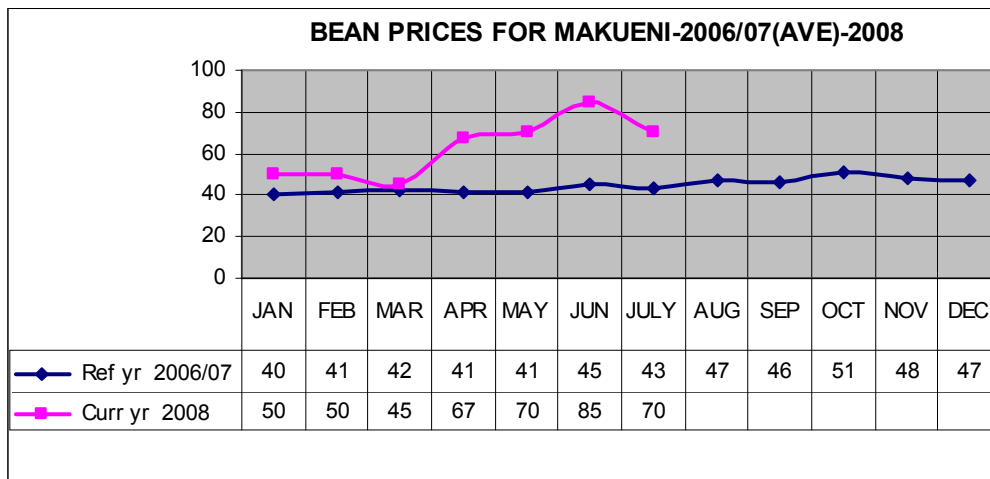
### 3.2.1 Maize



\*N=360

- A sharp rise in maize prices was recorded over the month and this was way above the same period last year.
- This is an abnormal occurrence but the phenomenon could be attributed to low supply in the market.
- The prices are projected to rise further in coming months if there is no change in the supply.

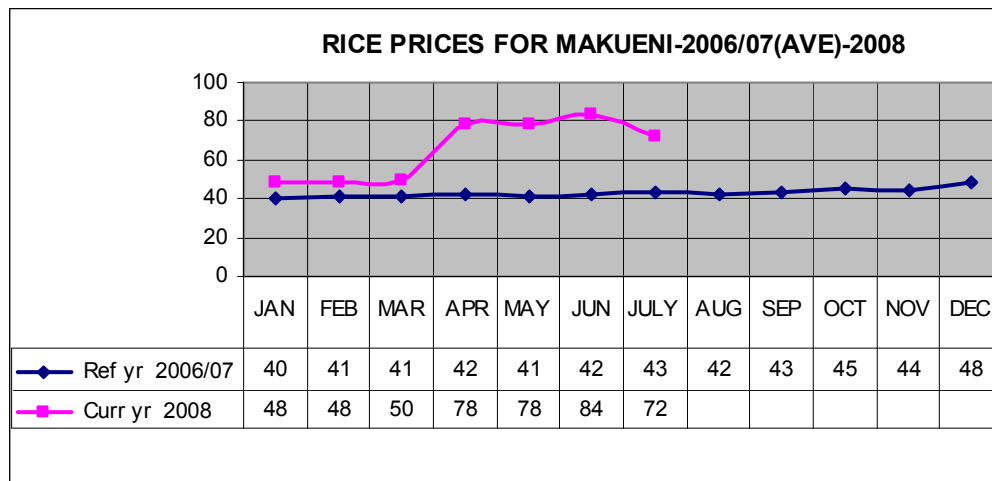
### 3.2.2 Beans



\* N=360

- Bean prices decreased compared to June due increasing supply in the local markets.
- The prices were way above the same period last year and the situation is normal at this time of the year.

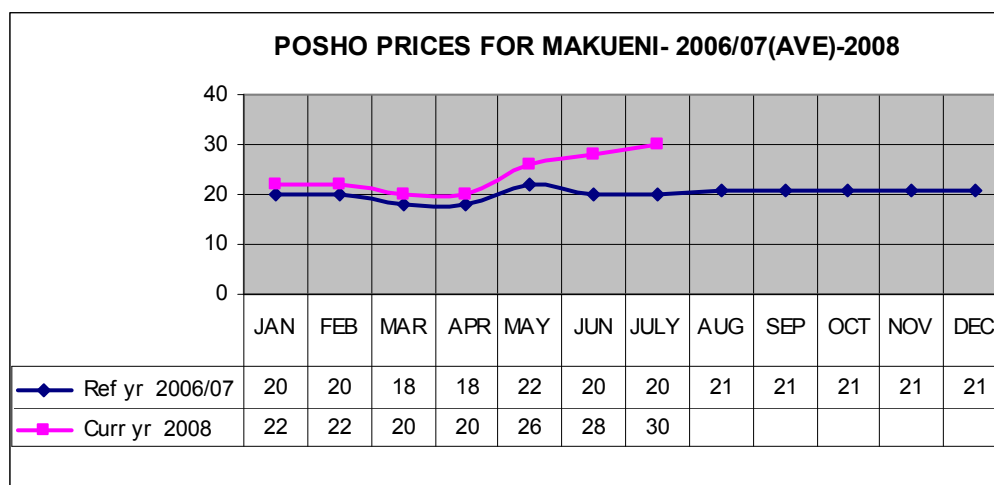
### 3.2.3 Rice



\* N=360

- Rice prices fell compared to the previous months but they were way above last year's.
- The situation was not normal and could be attributed to fluctuations of food prices in the national /international markets.

### 3.2.4 Posho



\* N=360

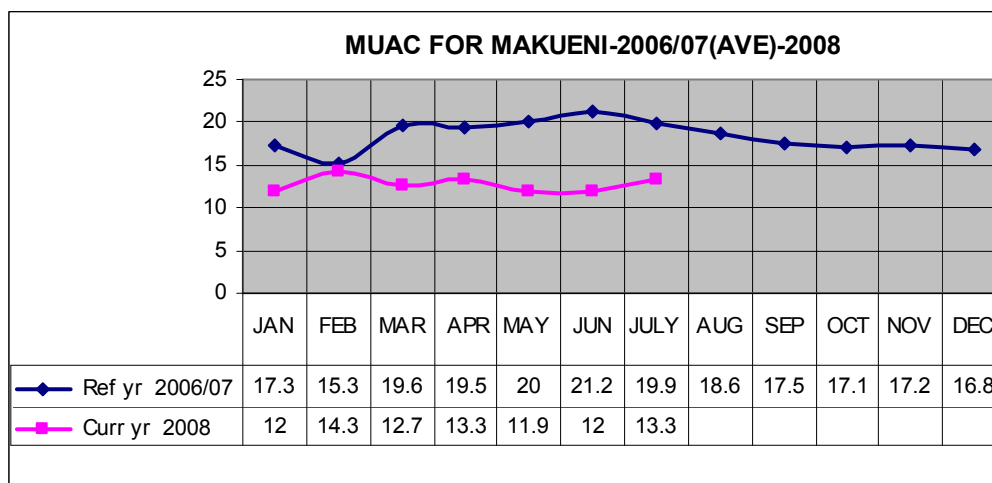
- Posho prices rose considerably compared to last month.
- Though the prices were slightly higher than the same period last year, the situation was not normal and could be attributed to rising prices of whole maize.

#### 4.0 Human welfare indicators

##### 4.1 Milk consumption

- Supply of milk and its products dropped, raising prices to Ksh 40 per litre.
- The price hike posed a threat to nutrition in households and was an indication that fewer members consumed milk.
- This is a normal occurrence during the time of the year.

##### 4.2 Nutritional status (MUAC measurements)



\*N =1502

- Nutritional status of children below five years deteriorated compared to last month. Areas worst hit were Kee, Kalawa and Kathonzweni divisions.
- However, the situation was better than the same period last year.

- This could be attributed to failure of both short and long rains in the district, scarcity of milk and its products and lack of green vegetables and fruits at this time of the year.

#### **4.0 Human welfare indicators**

##### **4.1 Health**

- No cases of disease outbreak were reported in the district.

##### **4.2 Insecurity /conflict /human displacement**

- No major cases reported in the district.

#### **5.0 Current intervention**

- Relief food distribution in Kathonzweni, Kalawa and Kee divisions by G.O.K.

#### **6.0 Recommendations**

- There is need to put all primary schools under the regular school feeding programme.
- Food-for-work should be introduced in the hardest hit divisions such as Mtito Andei, Kibwezi, Makindu, Nguu, Kee, Kathonzweni, Kalawa, Wote and parts of Mbitini and Matiliku.
- The said divisions should be put under relief operations (EMOP).
- Available pastures/fodder crops need to be conserved for use during the long dry season.