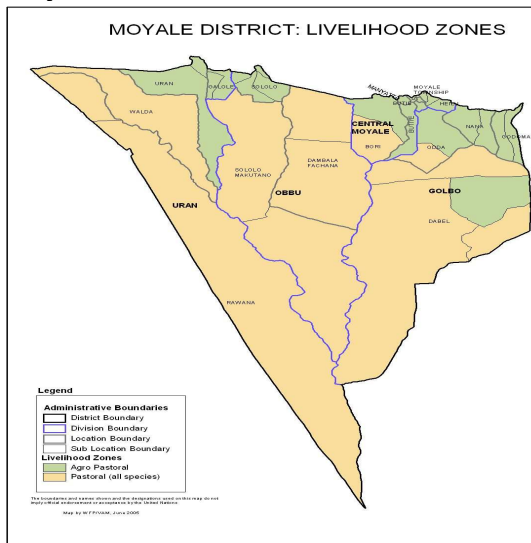




**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**  
**MINISTRY OF STATE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS**  
**ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

**DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, JULY 2008**

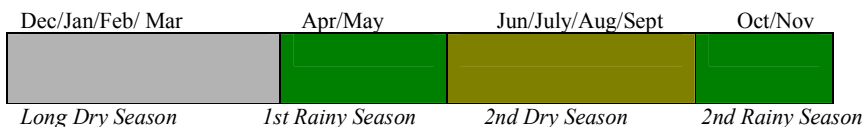
**Moyale District**



**Warning Stages**

Livelihood Zones	Stage	Trend
Pastoral zones	<i>Alarm</i>	<i>worsening</i>
Agro-pastoral zones	<i>Alarm</i>	<i>worsening</i>
Casual labour, small businesses	<i>Alarm</i>	<i>worsening</i>

**Timeline:**



**Situation overview**

- The district experienced chilly weather throughout the month, which impacted negatively on livestock and humans, especially children and other vulnerable groups.
- Forage volumes are declining fast following an influx of livestock from southern Ethiopia, which is experiencing drought. An estimated 200,000 heads of cattle, camels and shoats have moved into Moyale district.
- Water sources, especially pans and lagga craters, have dried up and livestock is moving back to dry season watering points. This scenario is unfolding too early in the season and might have adverse effects on catchment areas.
- There are reports of foot and mouth disease in Uran, Obbu and parts of Central (Bori location), which is attributed to the animal influx from Ethiopia.

- Livestock prices improved over the month, except for camels, which fetched lower prices. Cattle prices rose from Ksh 8,875 in June to Ksh 11,763.70. Prices of goats improved from Ksh 1, 247.20 last month to Ksh 1,343.30.
- Livestock body conditions deteriorated slightly, especially in the areas affected by foot and mouth disease. This has been attributed to the chilly weather and inadequate pasture.
- Cases of malnutrition are on the rise, with 27.3 per cent of children reported to be at risk compared to 25.1 in June.

## **Current interventions**

### **Non-food**

- Arid Lands Resource Management Project distributed bucket irrigation materials in all divisions.
- CIFA (a local NGO) distributed camel heifers in all divisions to increase drought tolerant livestock in the district.

### **Food aid**

- Relief food was distributed in all areas of the district in form of Food For Asset (FFA).

### **Coping strategies**

- Most households have reduced their number of meals.
- There are many cases of begging and some families send children to eat elsewhere.
- Many children are seeking domestic jobs in Moyale town to supplement household income.

### **Recommendation to KFSSG**

- Food for Asset has had positive impact in some areas, especially Heilu location where a road has been built. This should be encouraged in future.

## **Stability**

### **1.0 Environmental Indicators**

#### **1.1 Rainfall**

- There was no rainfall recorded during the month in review.

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

- There is an acute shortage of pasture. Grass and trees have dried up and the situation is worsening as a result of influx of livestock from Ethiopia.

#### **1.3 Water source and availability**

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

- The main sources of water during the month were larger pans (used during dry season) and boreholes.
- All wet season watering pans and early post-rainy season water sources have dried up as a result of over-use by large herds.
- Areas experiencing acute shortage of water for livestock are Ambalo, Garba, Laagi, Banale, Funanyata and Ele Bor. Most herds have moved away from these areas into dry season grazing zones, where there are permanent water sources.

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

- Some of the water pans used by households have dried up, especially in Banale, Uran, Kombole, Laagi and smaller ones in Golole and Funanyatta.
- Urban areas such as Moyale town are experiencing water shortage, with residents buying water at Kshs 80 per donkey load.

### **1.3.3 Livestock accessibility to water**

- Livestock is moving to dry season grazing zones earlier due to shortage of water and pasture. The problem has been accelerated by herds from outside the district.
- The district will face an acute water shortage by the end of August. This is mainly as a result of high influx of livestock into the district.

## **1.4 Emerging Issues**

### **1.4.1 Livestock influx into Moyale**

- The influx of livestock from southern Ethiopia, which has the highest concentration of cattle in Africa, is unprecedented.
- Livestock deaths are likely before the next rainy season since the pasture and water in the district cannot support herds of this magnitude.

### **1.4.2 Migration of people**

- The drought in the neighbouring Borena province of Ethiopia has seen many households shift to Moyale.
- Most of the families have settled in Bori, Uran, Golole, Damballa Fachana, Rawana and Odda locations, while others have settled on both sides of the common border.

### **1.4.3 Outbreak of foot and mouth disease**

- Foot and mouth was reported in Golole, Uran division in May among in-coming livestock. Efforts to isolate the herds were futile and it spread fast to other areas.

## **1.5 Implication on food security**

- All the emerging issues will have a negative impact on food security in the district.
- The incidence of this disease may force market closure and livestock will be sold at poor prices in central band markets.

## **2.0 Rural Economy Indicators (food availability)**

### **2.1 Livestock production**

#### **2.1.1 Livestock body conditions**

- Livestock body conditions have been deteriorating since mid-June due to shortage of pasture and water, and overstocking.

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

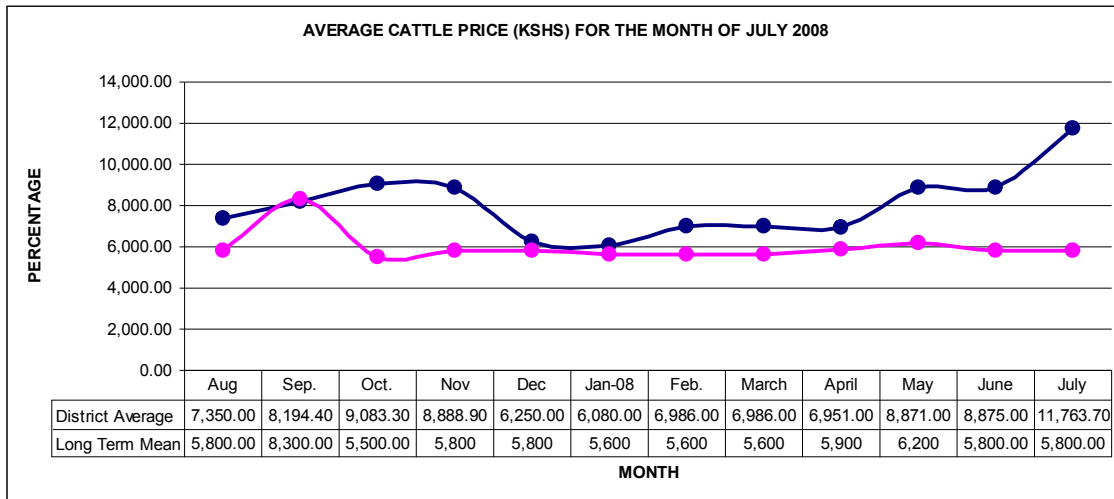
- Foot and mouth outbreak spread to almost all parts of the district. Efforts to isolate the affected herds were frustrated by high influx of herds into the district.

#### **2.1.3 Milk production**

- Milk production continued to drop and prices went up due to scarcity.

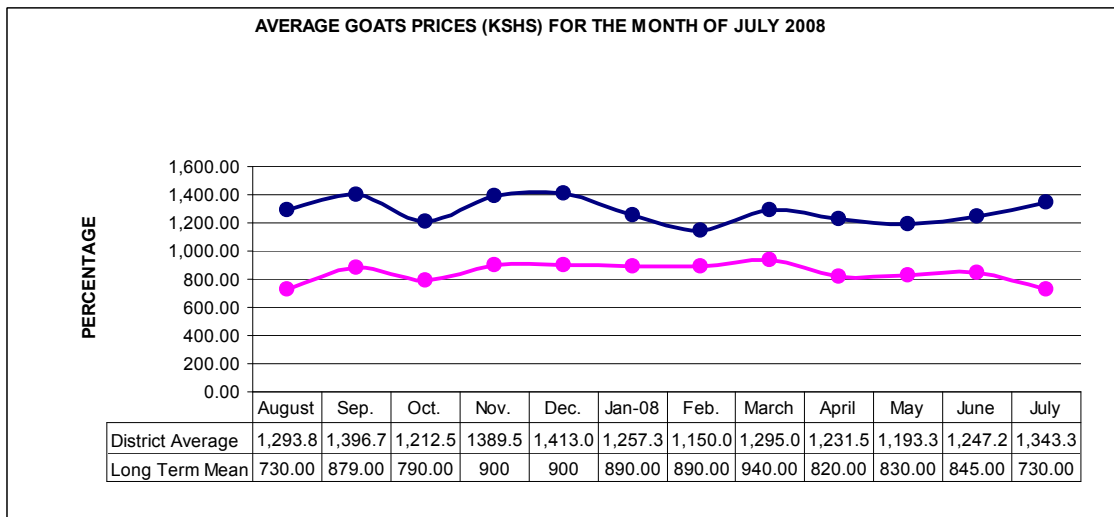
3.0 Access to food  
 3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices



- Prices of cattle went up significantly due to entry of Ethiopian traders, who are targeting young bulls.

**Average Goats price**



- Goat prices went up by almost Ksh 100 and compared to long term mean prices the prices are above normal, due to increased trucking to upcountry markets for slaughter.

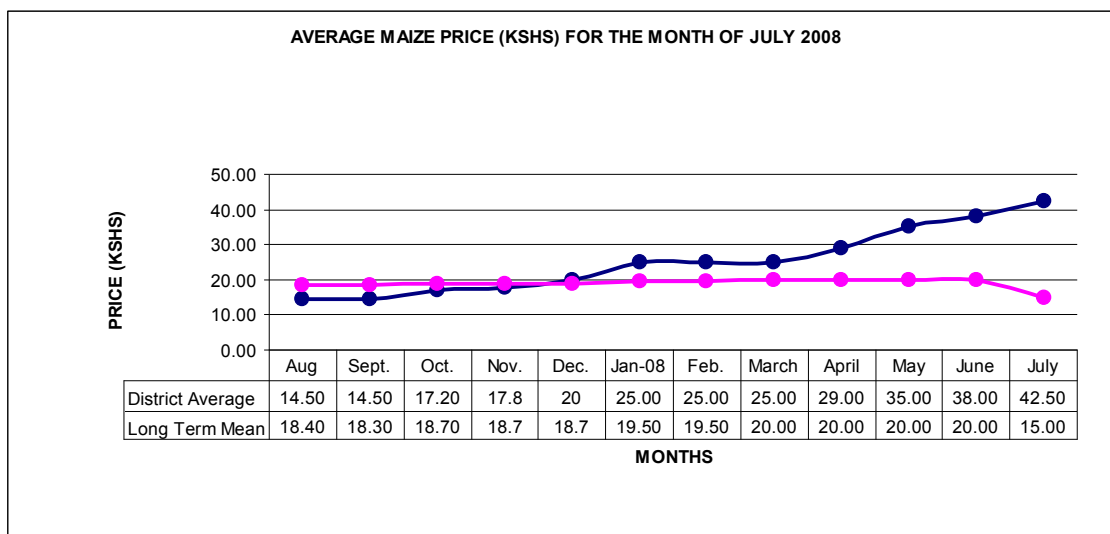
3.1.2 Livestock sales

- Number of livestock presented for sale on a daily basis is rising but at times middlemen and brokers buy animals at throw away prices and sell them later at a profit.

- The high number of livestock presented for sale is an indication of the hard times pastoralists are experiencing.

## 3.2 Crop prices

### 3.2.1 Maize



- Maize prices range from Ksh 35 in Moyale market to Ksh 50 in Uran. Prices are higher in such areas as Golole, Uran, Mado Adhi and Sololo due to high demand in neighbouring Ethiopia.

### 3.2.2 Other Food Items

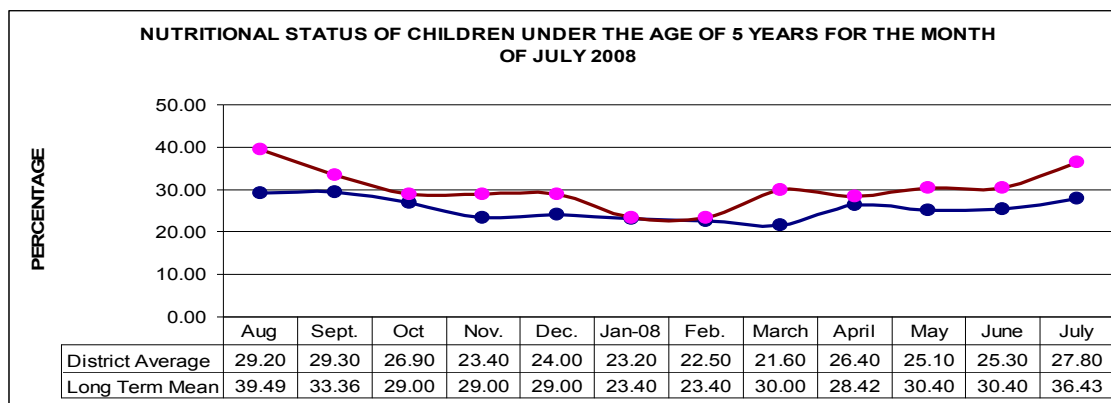
Other essential food items such as beans and rice were sold as follows;

	Beans (Kshs/Kg)	Rice (Kshs/Kg)
Central (Heilu)	50.00	80.00
Uran (Uran Lataka)	70.00	85.00

- All prices have doubled compared to those of 2006-2007.
- However, livestock prices have remained constant. A 20kg goat goes for Ksh 1,200, translating into Ksh 60 per kilogramme of meat.

## 4.0 Utilisation of food

## 4.1 Nutritional Status



- Lack of adequate food has put more children at the risk of malnutrition. Percentage of children at risk rose to 27.8 from 25.30 last month. The pastoral areas Obbu and Golbo were worst hit.

## 4.2 Human Health

- Many cases of malaria and respiratory tract infections were reported, which is a normal trend during the cold-chilly spell.

## 4.3 Flagged Area

- Obbu and Golbo are still the most affected areas of the district and they require more assistance in form of food supplements for children.

## 5.0 Current interventions

- Only Food for Asset is being distributed in the District and the work done is light and communal.
- ALRMP II has distributed drip irrigation kits and watering cans.

## 6.0 Recommendations

- Foot and mouth vaccines should be given urgently.
- Farmers should be supported with planting seeds before the rains and be sensitised to plant in time to reduce food insecurity.
- More disease surveillance is required, especially in regard to the large herds entering the district.
- With the expected acute shortage of pasture, the Provincial Administration should assist livestock owners seeking pasture outside the district.
- More capacity building in areas such as Somare Butiye, Heilu and Odda to curb destruction of trees to support household food requirements.
- Relief food and Food for Assets should be increased and distribution monitored to ensure it is not diverted.