

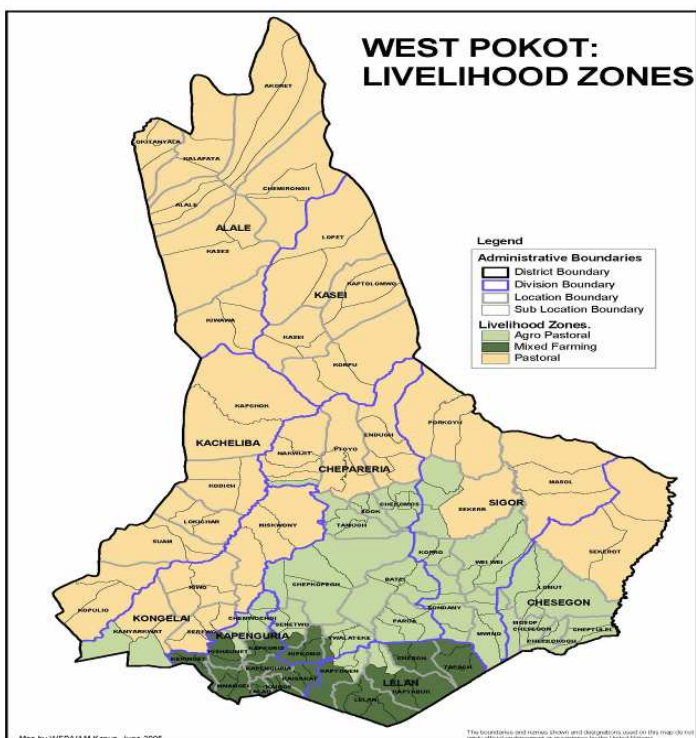


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS  
ARID LANDS RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

**DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, JULY 2008**

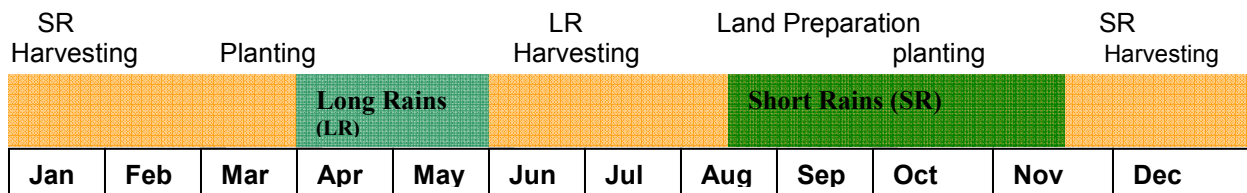
**West Pokot District**

**Warning Stages**



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Agro pastoral	Normal	Stable
Mixed farming	Normal	Stable
Pastoralist	Normal	Stable

**Seasonal calendar**



## **Situation overview**

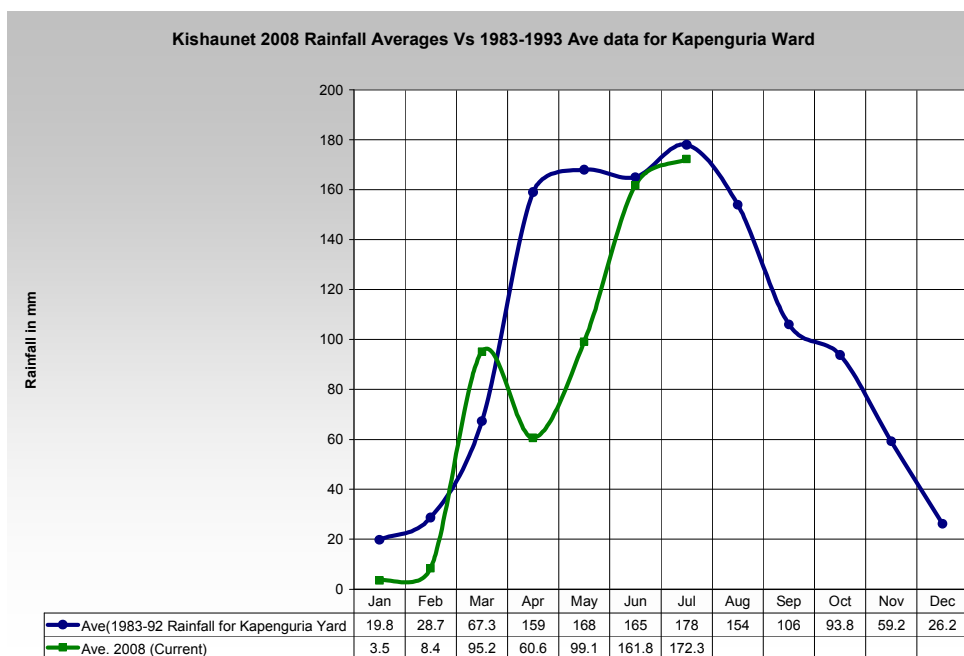
- Rainfall, which had subsided in the middle of the season, resumed in all the livelihood zones during the month under review.
- The rainfall recorded at KVDA Kapenguria Station (Kishaunet) was 172mm compared to 161.8 mm the previous month. It rained for 16 days, with the long term average for the month being 178mm.
- Pasture improved significantly due to the rains, and what is currently available could run for the next 3 months.
- Milk production and prices rose due to the availability of pasture.
- The progress of crop production is good and normal in the mixed-farming livelihoods.
- Normal harvests are expected in Lelan, Tabach and Kapenguria following the rains, though below normal, received in the areas.
- Most farmers planted early in the agro-pastoral livelihoods but the crops failed due to erratic rains.
- Traditional wells and natural rivers remained the major water sources across the livelihood zones, while boreholes and shallow wells acted as supplementary sources. Dams and water pans are expected to refill to major water source as the rains progress.
- Cases of Pestes Petis Ruminants (PPR) were reported across the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods. Cases of mortality were, however, low in areas where vaccination had been carried out.
- Cases of diarrhea in cattle and a disease affecting camels were reported in North Pokot (Konyao, Kiwawa and Alale).
- Cattle prices rose to Ksh 7,424 from Ksh 6,791 the month before. This increase was attributed to improved body condition.
- Average goat prices increased to Ksh 862 compared to Ksh the previous month. The prices were affected by quarantine on goats following a PPR outbreak.
- Prices of cereals and legumes remained high. Maize prices rose from Ksh 23 per kg to Ksh 27, while prices of beans rose from Ksh 60 per kg to Ksh 75 per kg.
- Food stocks at the household level are very low and most of the cereals and legumes on sale in markets are imported from neighboring districts.
- The percentage of children under five at the risk of malnutrition (using the MUAC measurement) fell to 4.8 per cent from 6.4.
- The current situation in the district is normal and stable.

## **1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)**

### **1.1 Rainfall**

- The amount of rainfall received across all livelihood zones was better compared to the beginning of the season.
- The rainfall, was erratic at the beginning of June, was stable and reliable, thus improving food security in the district.
- The situation has been stable and crops are progressing well in the mixed farming livelihood zones.

- The situation improved in the agro-pastoral livelihood zones since crops planted late were beginning to mature.
- Situation has also improved with
- Pasture and fodder were available in the pastoral livelihood zones, which led to improved milk production and overall food security.
- All natural rivers were flowing and dams and pans recharged, especially in the upper catchments
- The total rainfall recorded at Kishaunet was 172.3mm for 16 rain days in the month of July, which is within the normal average at this time of the year.
- The highest recorded rainfall reading was 30mm, while the lowest was 0.6mm.



*Source: Kerio Valley Development Authority (KVDA), Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)*

## 1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- There was an improvement in pasture quality and quantity compared to the previous month due to the rains.
- The situation improved in the pastoral livelihood zone, where pasture quantity was too low, hence livestock body conditions and milk production improved.
- Most animals are returning from the dry season grazing areas, where they had gone in search of pasture and water. This was a clear indication of improved conditions and all livestock species benefited.
- The current quarantine on goats posed a challenge to many households since they are a main source of income.
- Most affected divisions include Kongelai, Kangoletiang and Konyao, where cattle moved to the Kenya- Uganda border.
- The average grazing distances dropped from 5.7 km last month to 4.1 km.

- Konyao, which had recorded the longest distance of 13.7km, saw grazing distance drop to 7km. The distance is expected to drop further as animals get closer to households falling improved rainfall and pasture.
- The situation is not normal at this time of the year since some animals have not yet left dry season grazing areas.

### **1.3 Water sources and availability**

#### **1.3.1 Water sources**

- Traditional wells and natural rivers remain the major water sources across all livelihood zones. Boreholes and shallow wells supplement the next major water sources
- Dams and water pans are expected to refill as the rains progresses.
- The current situation is normal at this time of the year

#### **1.3.2 Household access to water**

- The average return distance for households dropped to 2.7km from 3.6km.
- The distances had improved from 3.6km to 3.1km by the time the rains started in June.
- The improvement in the distances to water sources was a result of the rains received in the district.

### **1.4 Insecurity and conflict**

- Cases of insecurity were common along the Pokot/Turkana border.
- The situation was made worse by animals that had moved to dry season grazing areas (which are conflict-prone) at an unusual time of the year.
- There are cases of human/wildlife conflict in Kangoletiang and Konyao, where loss of livestock especially goats were reported.

#### **1.4.1 Migration**

- There was livestock migration from dry season grazing areas to normal pasture, especially in pastoral and agro-pastoral.
- This is a normal situation at this time of the year.

### **1.5 Implications on food security**

- Food security improved slightly compared to the previous month due to improved in the district.
- Milk production also improved due to availability of pasture and consequent better livestock body condition.
- Availability of green vegetables in farms improved access to cereals and legumes, whose prices are still high, still remains a challenge.
- The food situation is not normal for the time of year.

## **2.0 Food Availability**

### **2.1 Livestock production**

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

- Livestock body condition improved for all categories across the livelihood zones. This was attributed to the rains, and hence quality and quantity of pasture.
- Livestock prices in the market improved for all species following better body condition. This situation is expected to get better if the current rains persist.
- This is a normal situation at the time of the year.

#### **2.1.2 Livestock diseases**

- Cases of PPR (Pestes Petis Ruminants) were reported across the district, affecting mostly goats and sheep.
- Vaccination was conducted in some areas, including Orwa and Sigor, which resulted in reduced mortality.
- A disease affecting camels was reported in North Pokot, especially Konyao and Alale.

## **2.2 Crop production**

### **2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of various crop production activities**

- Progress of crop production was good and normal in mixed-farming livelihood zones.
- Sufficient rainfall, though below normal, was received in Lelan, Tabach and Kapenguria, hence normal harvest is expected.
- Though most farmers planted early in the agro-pastoral livelihoods, the crops failed due to erratic rains. However, they replanted when rains stabilized in early June, and the crops are doing well.
- The current situation in the mixed-farming livelihoods is normal but below normal in the agro-pastoral livelihoods.

### **2.2.2 Pest and diseases**

- Termites attacked crops in the agro-pastoral livelihoods, which was attributed to late planting.
- This is not normal and can be attributed to late rains, hence late planting.

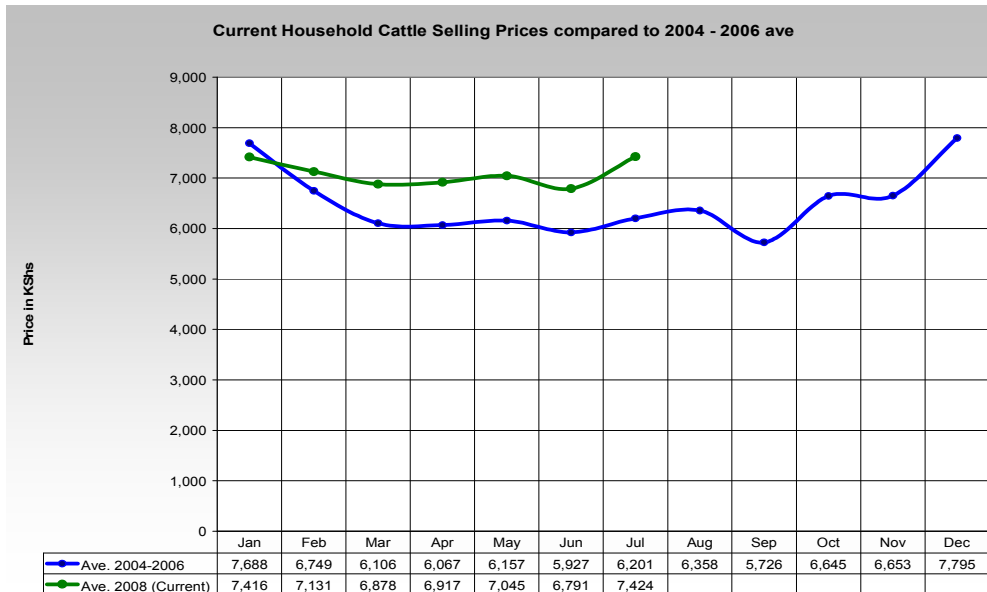
### **2.2.3 Implication on food security**

- The rainfall, which stabilised in June, continued to improve food security in the district.
- Milk production improved in the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods compared to the previous month.
- Livestock that had moved dry season grazing areas started returning, hence increased milk availability in households.
- Green vegetables were more available in the farms but commodity prices, especially cereals and legumes, remained high.

## **3.0 Access to food**

### **3.1 Livestock marketing**

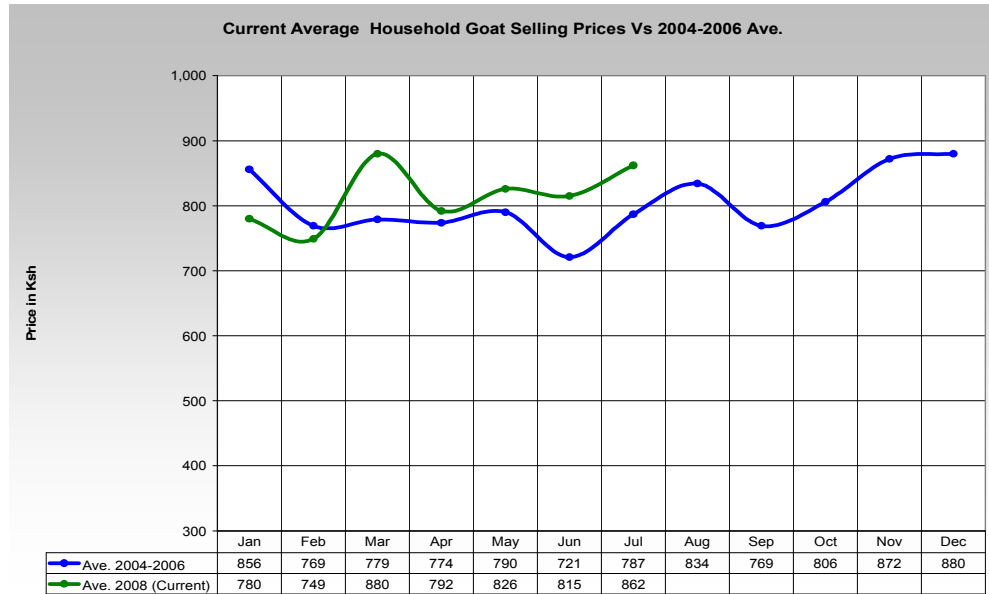
### 3.1.1 Cattle prices



- Cattle prices increased compared to the previous month.
- The increase was as a result of the rainfall received, hence good body conditions and better prices.
- The average price recorded was Ksh 7,424 compared to 6,791 the previous month.
- Kangoletiang, which had recorded the lowest price of Ksh 5,900, improved to Ksh 7,000. The lowest price was recorded in Orwa at Ksh 6,000 and the highest Ksh 10,000 in Poole.
- The current situation is normal at this time of the year.

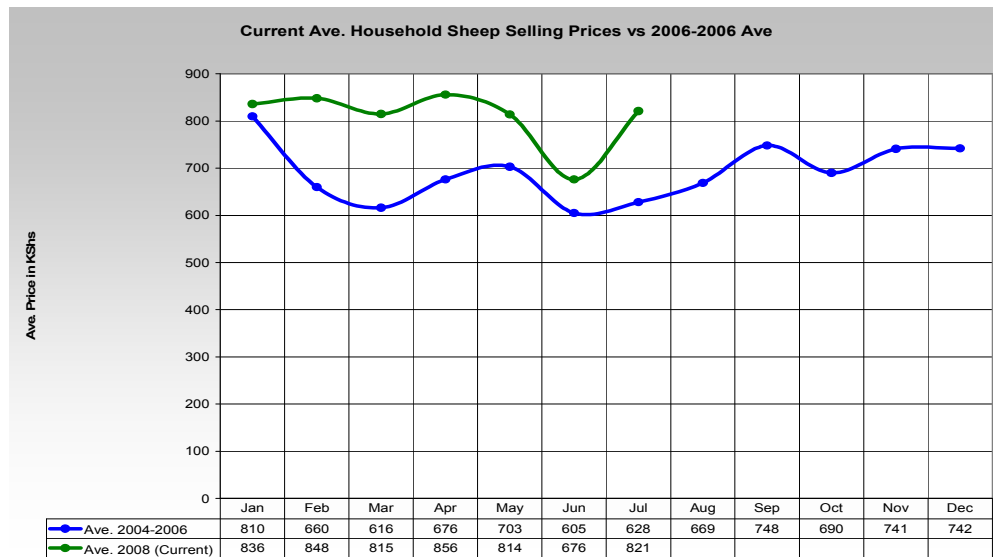
### 3.1.2 Goat prices

- Goat prices increased compared to the previous month due to availability of pasture and browse, hence better body condition and more money.
- The prices rose to Ksh 862 compared to Ksh 815 the previous month.
- The lowest price of Ksh 716 was recorded at Kangoletiang, while the highest was Ksh 1,000 in Kapsait. This is, however, lower than the Ksh 1,500 recorded in Kaibos the previous month.
- The quarantine imposed following PPR outbreak remains a challenge for farmers.



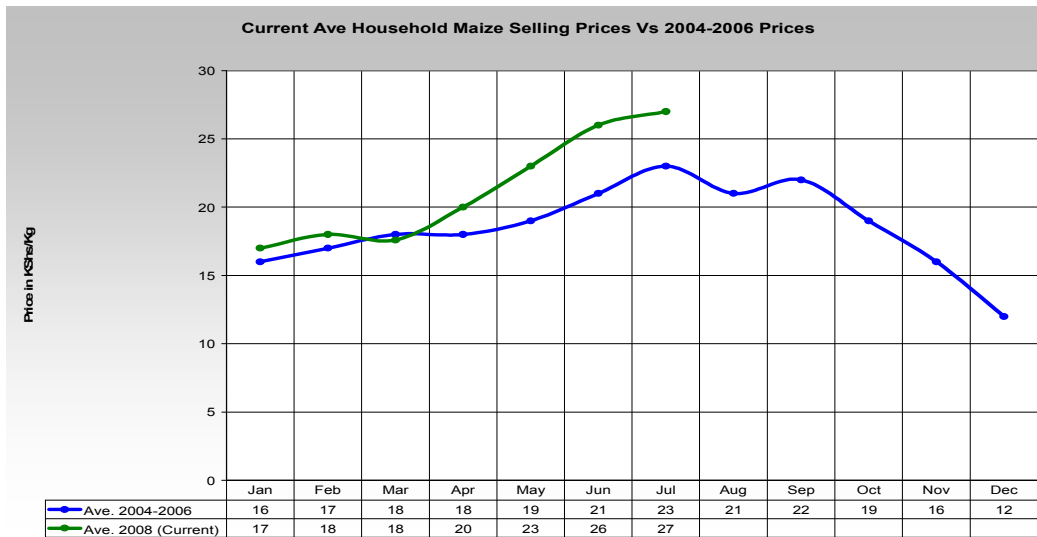
### 3.1.3 Sheep prices

- Sheep prices stood at Ksh 821 compared to Ksh 676 the previous month.
- The prices rose due to increased pasture, especially in the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones.
- The highest recorded price was Ksh1500 in Kapsait, while the lowest was Ksh 560 in Konyao.
- Kangoletiang, which recorded lowest prices in June, registered no sheep sales. Sale of sheep in the area is, however, rare unlike for goats.



## 3.2 Crop prices

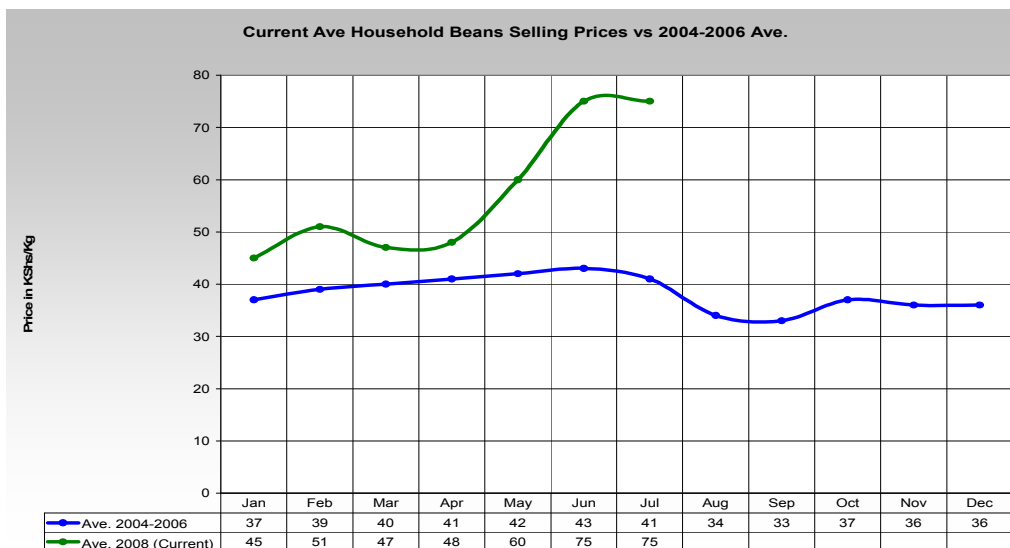
### 3.2.1 Maize



- Maize prices remained abnormally high across all the livelihood zones during the month in review.
- The price rose to Ksh 27 compared to the previous month's Ksh 26.
- Market supply dropped and little was brought in from neighboring districts
- Sales in households dropped significantly, with only Chepnyal, Kaiboss and Pserum sentinel sites reporting sales.
- The highest price was recorded in Pserum at Ksh 29, while Kaibos and Chepnyal reported Ksh 25 and Ksh 28 respectively.

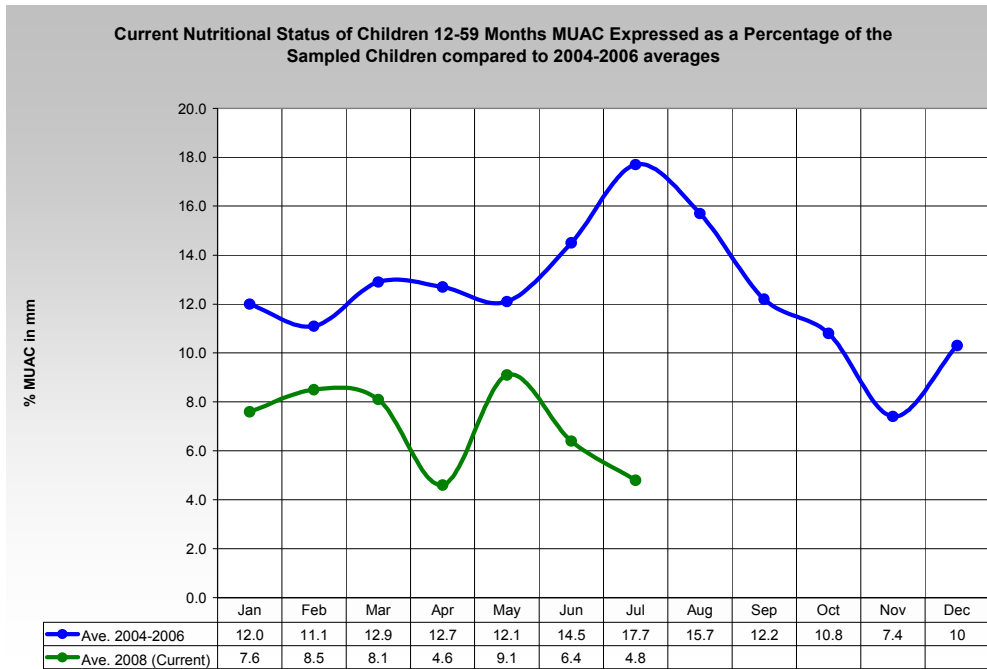
### 3.2.2 Beans prices

- Prices of beans remained very high at Ksh 75 per kilo.
- There were no sales reported in sentinel sites.



## 4. Utilization of food

### 4.1 Nutrition status



- The percentage of children under five at the risk of malnutrition (using the MUAC measurement) fell to 4.8 per cent compared to 6.4 per cent last month and 9.1 in May.
- The improvement was attributed to rainfall received in all the livelihood zones, hence availability and larger number of children consuming milk.
- Availability of green vegetables in the market also improved nutrition in households.