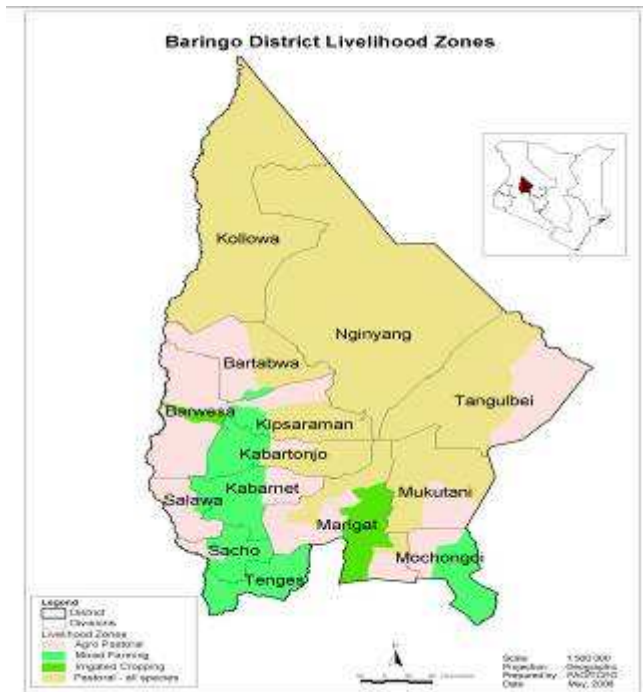




**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR JUNE, 2008

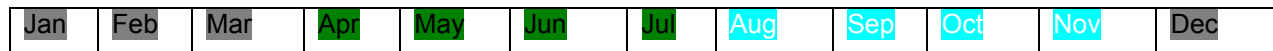
EAST POKOT/BARINGO DISTRICT



WARNING STAGES

Livelihood Zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Pastoral	Alarm	Worsening
Agro pastoral	Alarm	Worsening
Irrigated Cropping	Alarm	Worsening
Mixed farming	Alarm	Worsening

TIME LINE



- Dry season :- (Land preparation, minimal calving, lambing & kidding)
- Long rains :- (Planting, most kidding & lambing and minimal calving & honey harvesting)
- Short rains :- (Most calving & honey harvesting and minimal kidding & lambing, pre-harvest & harvesting)

Situation Overview

- Insignificant showers were received sporadically during the month; this resulted in little impact on the grazing resources (browse) in some areas. A total of 42.8 mm average rainfall was received from 3- ALRMP recording stations.
- As a result the quality and quantity of forage remained worse due to lack of sufficient rainfall. Water availability for both human and livestock generally worsened. Body condition of livestock is worse for cattle, while is poor for Goats & Sheep. Milk production decreased greatly during the month. This is attributed to poor rejuvenation of forage and poor body condition of the animals.
- The average prices of livestock decreased in all the species owing to poor body condition as a result of lack of pasture & browse coupled with closure of shoats' markets in early February 2008 due to outbreak of Peste Des Petits Ruminant disease (PPR); hence households are forced to sell goats & sheep at throw away prices at off markets in order to get the basic needs. Prices in poultry decreased more than in last month due to low demand.
- The average prices of food crops and other commodities increased during the month owing to scarcity of the supplies in the markets within the District and the neighboring districts; also demand for the foods is high at the moment though pastoralists don't have money as they cannot sell their animals legally due to closure of goats & sheep markets in East pokot district. Sale of Sandalwood (Marmar), Casual labour, petty trade (local beer brewing e.t.c.) and sale of charcoal & sale of wood products was the other alternative sources of income for most sampled households during the month after the sale of livestock (cattle).
- The general nutritional status of children MUAC % worsened more from 19 % in the previous month to 28.1 % during the month. Households are currently employing restriction of consumption of food by adults to allow more for children and reduction of the number of meals per day as a coping mechanism.

Recommendations to District Authorities/ DSG and National KFSSG

- The Veterinary Department / Agencies should step up support to the livestock health sub sector through vaccinations and treatment of clinical cases. In particular, more efforts should be directed to complete the vaccination of goats and sheep against Peste des petits Ruminant (PPR) disease outbreak; upsurge of CCPP in Endao (Marigat Division); upsurge of ECF in Kerio Valley and upsurge of LSD disease in Ng'ambo (Marigat Division) and baiting of stray dogs killing sheep and goats in Ng'ambo (Marigat Division).
- The GoK should ensure that the pastoralists communities in both East Pokot and Baringo Districts are fed continuously with relief supplies and supplementary foods for children as goats and sheep markets were closed down in early February due to the outbreak of Peste des petits Ruminant disease in East Pokot District hence depriving them their livelihoods through sale of their animals, this was aggravated further by the poor rejuvenation of forage for the animals a factor that cut down milk production and worsened body condition of the animals.
- There is need to strengthen conflict prevention and peace building initiatives to maintain the already achieved level of peace and further reduce it to the lowest level along the

borders of East Pokot, Baringo, Turkana and Samburu Districts to enhance peaceful co-existence.

Current interventions

Non-food interventions

- Construction of two classrooms each for Chesitet, Orontokrese and Natan communities in East Pokot District - *ALRMP/ Community*.
- Construction of tank and installation of pump for Kolowa water project - *ALRMP*.
- Construction of roof rain harvesting tank for Kamurio primary school - *ALRMP*.
- Laying pipes for Tangelbei borehole – *ALRMP / Ministry of Water*.
- Solar fencing of farms in Salabani and Tilingwo (Kerio farmers) communities in Baringo District – *ALRMP*
- Laying of pipes and tank construction for Karimadow borehole in Churo Division – *ALRMP*.
- Purchase of boarding facilities for Kamurio primary school - *ALRMP/ Community*.
- Equipping of Kapturo dispensary in Bartabwa Division - *ALRMP/ Community*.
- Excavation of Patipat, Koloruk, Karimodow and Kanapus water pans in East Pokot District – *CDF*.
- Installation of water hand pumps in Sowo and Mokongwo villages in East Pokot District – *CDF*.
- Vaccination of Shoats against PPR disease (already 42,000 shoats vaccinated) – *ALRMP/ DVO/ CDF/ World Vision/ Action Aid/ African network for animal welfare/ world wide veterinary services*.
- Peace building initiatives within the Districts’ of the project area by various stakeholders i.e. the *PSC, DPC, DSC, World vision, Community Elders, Youth groups, Political leaders, Pastors and ALRMP*.

Food aid

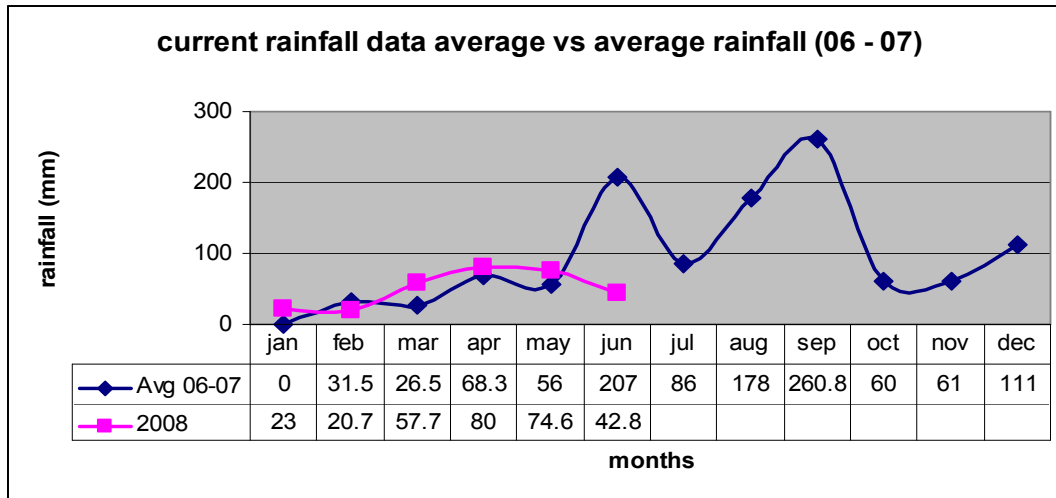
- Relief food (received 135 tones; 1500 bags, 90 Kg of maize) – *DC East Pokot*.

DSG meeting and Recommendations

The DSG held their meeting on 25th June 2008. They made the following recommendations:

- Relief foods are supplied to the residents of the Districts to combat the impact of the drought. More than 50 % of the Districts population is food insecure.
- The DSG to carry out a thorough assessment of food security situation in East Pokot and Baringo Districts in July 2008.
- More vaccines for the control of PPR are availed by the DVO.
- The dry season livestock watering points are rehabilitated.
- The school feeding programme is strengthened to sustain pupil retention in schools.
- Capacity building for Agro-pastoralists is carried out in the project area on drought resistant crops

1. Stability
1.1 Rainfall



Source: ALRMP rain gauge data stations

- 42.8 mm average rainfall was received sporadically during the month from 3- stations compared to the previous month where there was 74.6 mm from the same stations. This was not normal at this time of the year when it is known to be the long rains season. This made no impact at all on water sources.

1.2 Natural vegetation and pasture condition

- The quantity of forage in most parts of the project area worsened though it received some insignificant showers. The quality of the available pasture is worsening. This was attributed to lack of adequate rainfall which led to poor rejuvenation of forage in the season.
- The average distance to grazing areas increased during the month owing to worsening conditions of pasture and browse in the grazing areas. The distance to grazing fields increased to an average of 10 Km. from 8.9 Km the previous month.

1.3 Water sources and availability

- During the last four weeks there was no recharge of water sources following the insignificant showers received in some parts of the project area.
- The water sources currently in use are a few pans and dams, natural rivers, traditional river wells, shallow wells, boreholes and lakes.
- Distance to the nearest water source increased to an average of 5.6 Km from 4.5 Km in the previous month for most of the households.

1.4 Emerging issues

- The showers received did not improve the browse and pasture conditions in the project area, a general poor rejuvenation was noted and the distances to water sources and pastures increased more. Satellite herd have moved to the neighboring Districts (Turkana, Samburu, Laikipia, Marakwet and Keiyo) in search of pasture and water.

- Inaccessible pasture at Kapeddo area due to insecurity threats by Turkana living in Kapeddo Village.
- Cattle getting stuck in mud until they die while looking for pasture along Lake Baringo marsh land in Kiserian area.
- Logumgum community are facing water shortage following Molo River drying up, people are forced to walk 20 Km return distance to fetch water for household use.

1.5 Implications on food security

- Poor rejuvenation of browse and pasture and long distances to grazing areas & water has made livestock body condition deteriorate badly cutting down milk production and prices offered during the sales hence posing a threat to household food security for the pastoralists.

2. Food availability

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Livestock body condition is poor for all the species (but worsening in cattle) in all the livelihood zones following the poor rejuvenation of browse and pasture during the season caused by lack of rainfall.
- This is not normal at this time of the year.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- Confirmed cases of Peste des petits Ruminant disease in the project area.
- Upsurge of CCPP and ECF diseases in the project area.
- Sudden death to sheep and goats caused by unknown disease in Nginyang and Kolowa Divisions.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk production decreased a great deal in the project area owing to poor health of the animals caused by lack of sufficient browse and pasture. This was attributed to poor rejuvenation of forage in the season due to lack of rainfall.
- This is not normal at this time of the year as this is the long rains season.

2.2 Crop production

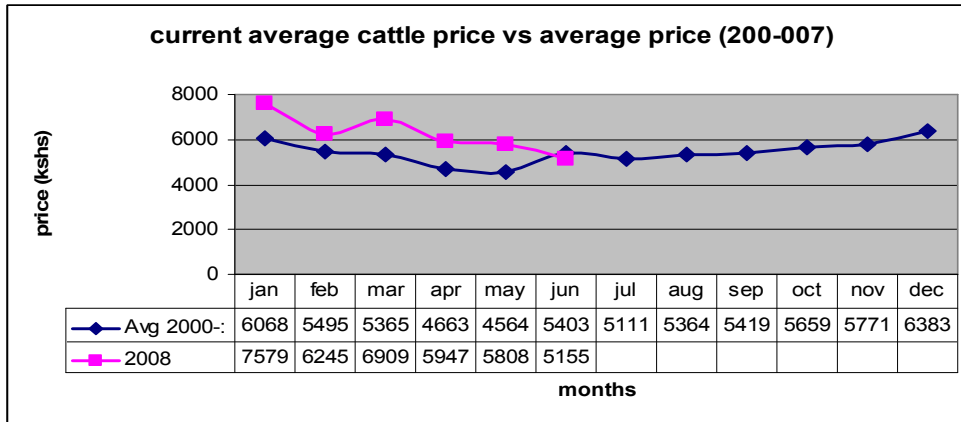
2.2.1 Timeliness and status of crop

- Crops planted in the Agro-pastoral livelihood zones of the project area have dried up due to lack of rain. This is a looming threat to food security in the project area.
- This is not normal at this time of the year as Agro-pastoralists should be weeding their crops and preparing for pre-harvesting by now.

2.3 Implications on food security

- Milk production at household level declined giving fear to the fact that it is the only food depended upon by the pastoralists and children also crops planted have failed due to lack of rain this is a major threat to food security at the household level. Relief foods need to be given to the population continuously until the situation normalizes.

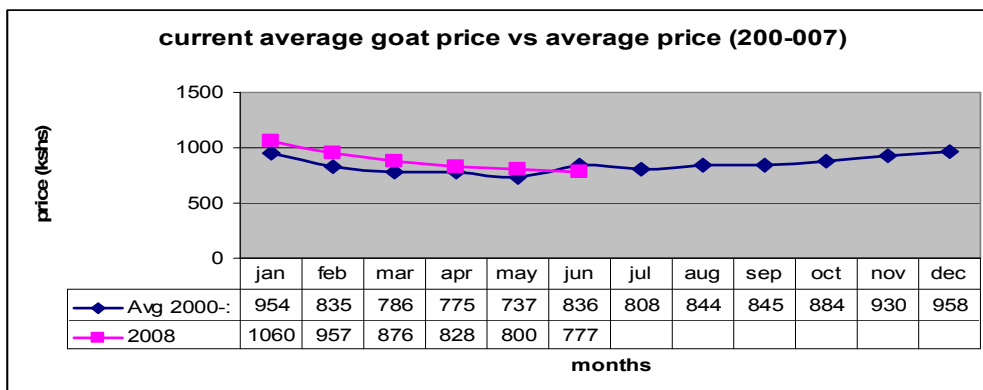
3. Access to food
3.1 Livestock marketing
3.1.1 Cattle prices (From household level)



N = 480 hh

- The average price showed a decrease in the price of cattle from Kshs. 5,808 in the previous month to Kshs. 5,155 in June.
- The decrease is below normal at this time of the year, compared to established long term average prices.
- This was attributed to poor health of the animals as a result of insufficient pasture caused by poor rejuvenation. This is a negative impact to household food security.
- Marigat Division had the highest average cattle prices of Ksh. 6,925. This was attributed to fair body condition of the animals and accessing peri-urban prices. Nginyang Division had the lowest average price of Ksh. 4,000 due to lack of buyers and poor body condition of the animals.

3.1.2 Goats prices (From household level)



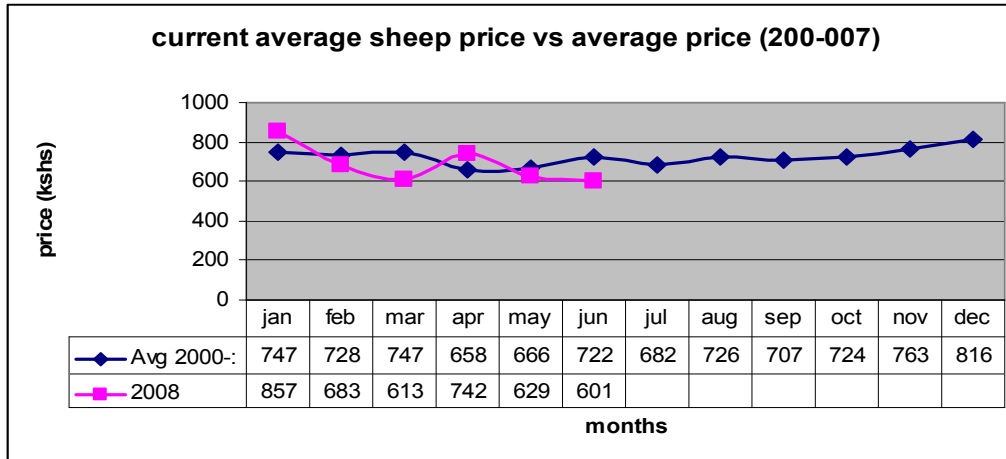
N = 480 hh

- The average goat price decreased more from Kshs. 800 in May to Ksh. 777 in June showing a down ward trend price. The price is below the long term average, as shown on the graph. The low prices are attributed to poor body condition of the animals and closure

of all goats markets in the project area (East Pokot District) due to the outbreak of Peste des petits Ruminant disease. Pastoralists had to sell the animals illegally at off markets at throw away prices. This is posing a threat to household food security.

- Marigat Division had the highest goat prices average of Ksh. 1,128 due to high demand and taking advantage of closure of shoats' markets in East Pokot District and accessing peri-urban prices while Tangelbei Division had the lowest price average of Ksh. 618 owing to sale of goats at off markets.

3.1.3 Sheep prices (From household level)



N = 480 hh

- The average sheep price decreased from Ksh. 629 in May to Ksh. 601 in June showing a downward trend. This price drop was attributed to poor body condition and illegal sale of sheep at off markets at the moment in East Pokot District. The prices were however lower than the long average as shown on the graph term. This is a threat to household food security.
- Kipsaraman Division had the highest sheep price of Ksh. 706 owing to fair demand coupled with fair body condition while Tangelbei Division had the lowest price of Ksh. 400 as a result of illegal sale at off market.

3.2 Livestock sales

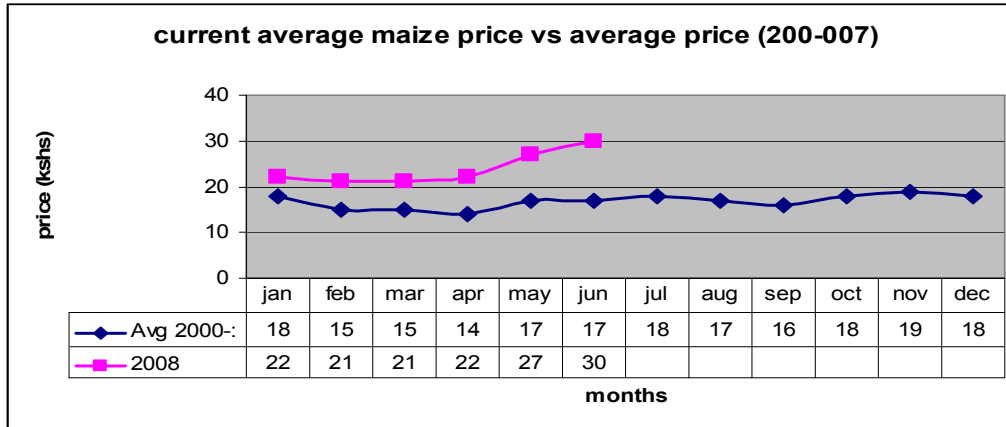
- The volume of livestock sales decreased in the month compared to the previous months as a result of closure of sheep and goats markets in the project area.
- Goats, Sheep, Poultry and Cattle were the main livestock offered for sale at the markets (goats and sheep were sold at off markets in East Pokot District).
- Pastoral livelihood zone had the highest sales as they depend on their livestock sales as the sole means of getting household needs while agro-pastoral and irrigated cropping livelihood zones had the lowest sales owing to having other sources of income e.g. business, food stock, and casual labor e.t.c. to depend on.
- The level of sales is not normal at this time of the year.

3.3 Milk consumption

- Milk consumption by household members declined in all livelihood zones.
- Compared with the previous month the milk consumption at household level decreased drastically owing to poor body condition of the animals caused by insufficient browse and pasture. This posed a threat to food security at household level especially for the under five year's children.

3.4 Crop prices (Market prices)

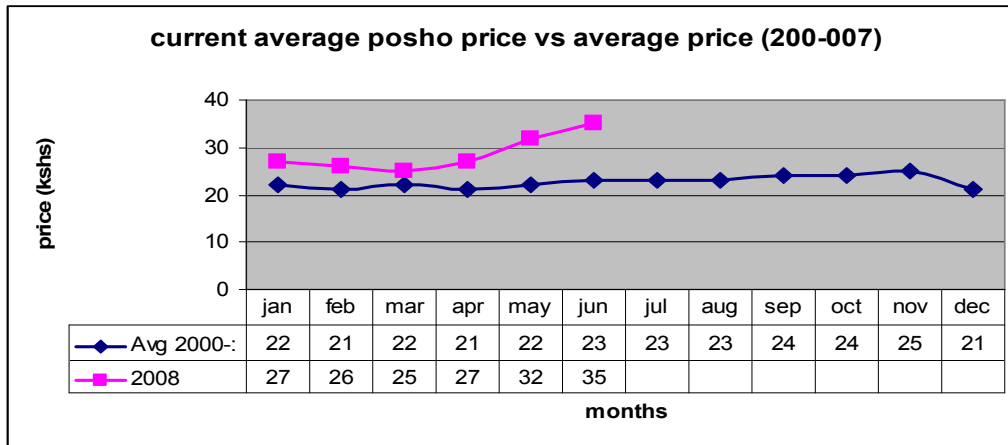
3.4.1 Maize prices



N = 480 hh

- The average maize price per Kg during the month was Kshs. 30, Kshs. 3 more than the previous month (highest price in the market is Ksh 40 per Kg).
- The average price was almost double the long term mean owing to scarcity of the food at the markets coupled with high demand by the people.
- Lack of adequate supply of maize to the local markets from agro- pastoralists within the District and also neighboring Districts caused the increase in price.
- As in the previous month, maize prices were much higher in the pastoral livelihood zone than in the agro-pastoral and irrigated farming livelihood zones.
- The average maize price per Kg is not normal at this time of the year owing to the scarcity of the food in the project area at the moment.

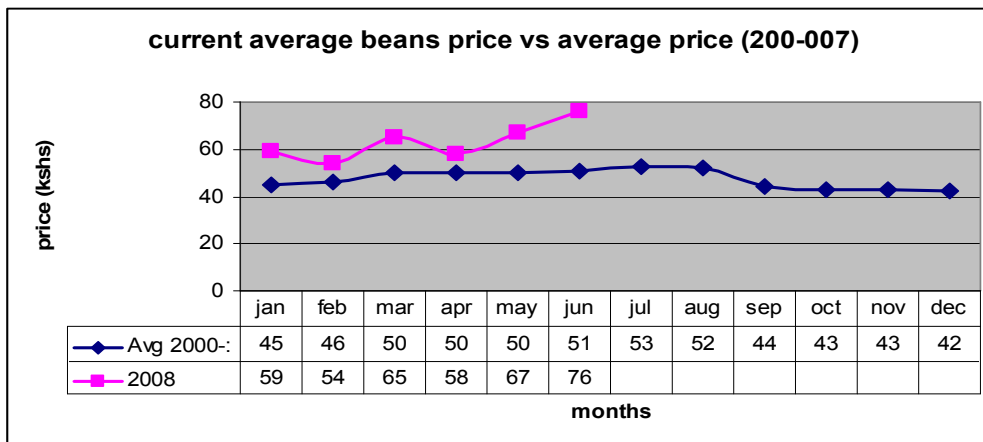
3.4.2 Posho (maize meal)



N = 480 hh

- The average price of posho per Kg during the month increased to Ksh. 35 from Ksh. 32 in the previous month (highest price in the market is Ksh. 50 per Kg).
- The average price hiked due to scarcity in the local markets.
- The price has hiked more than the long term average as shown on the graph than never before and this is eroding the purchasing power of the pastoralists.
- Posho prices were much higher in the pastoral livelihood zone than in the agro-pastoral and irrigated cropping zones because the pastoral communities depend only on purchasing the commodity from their local markets which normally is dictated by its availability unlike the others who are the producers and access it easily.
- The price of posho is not normal at this time of the year.

3.4.3 Beans prices



N = 480 hh

- The average price of beans per kg during the month was Ksh. 76, Ksh. 9 more than the previous month, highest price in the market is Ksh. 100 per Kg.
- The price is higher than the long term mean as shown on the graph.

- The average price increased due to scarcity of the commodity in the markets within the district and also from the neighboring Districts; however the prices are too high at the moment to cope with the purchasing power of the people yet pastoralists do not have money at the moment as they can't sell sheep and goats. This is really a threat to household food security.
- Beans prices were higher in the pastoral livelihood zone than in the irrigated cropping and agro- pastoral zones.
- Beans prices are not normal at this time of the year.

3.5 Income

3.5.1 Crops income

- Crops planted at the onset of the long rains season have dried up due to lack of rain. The agro-pastoralists should have been weeding crops and preparing for pre-harvesting by now.

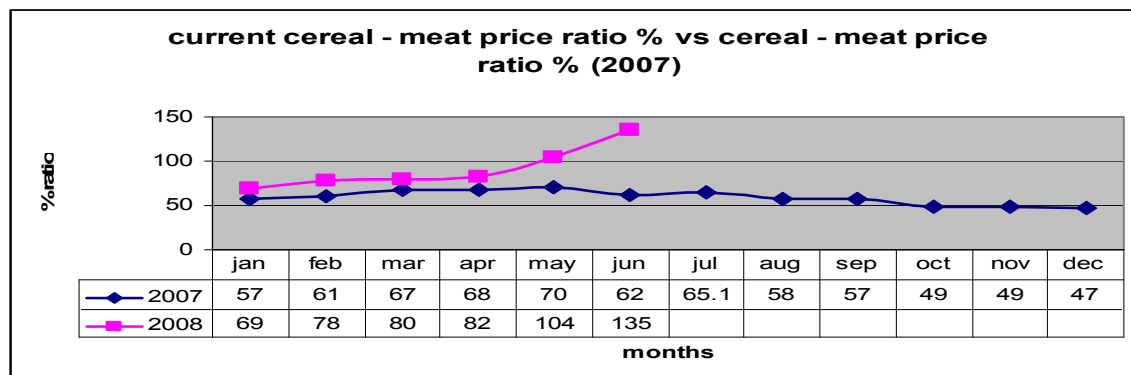
3.5.2 Livestock income

- Livestock sales income decreased more than in the previous month.
- The livestock sales income decreased due to the closure of goats and sheep markets in East Pokot District.
- The income obtained from the livestock is not normal at this time of the year.

3.5.3 Other income

- Sale of Sandalwood (Marmar) was a major source of income engaging nearly 2/3 of the households, Casual labor was also another major source of income during the month with approximately 1/3 of the household's members engaged as casual laborers, followed by sale of charcoal, sale of wood products and petty trade (local beer brewing).
- The average daily wage rate per casual for the month was Ksh. 85 less than that of the previous month, something so meager to meet the daily household's needs.
- Most of the trade in charcoal, wood products and petty trading was recorded in Pastoral and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones. This reflects unavailability of livestock and farm incomes for the households in these zones.

3.6 Terms of trade (cereal: meat price ratio) (market based)



N = 480 hh

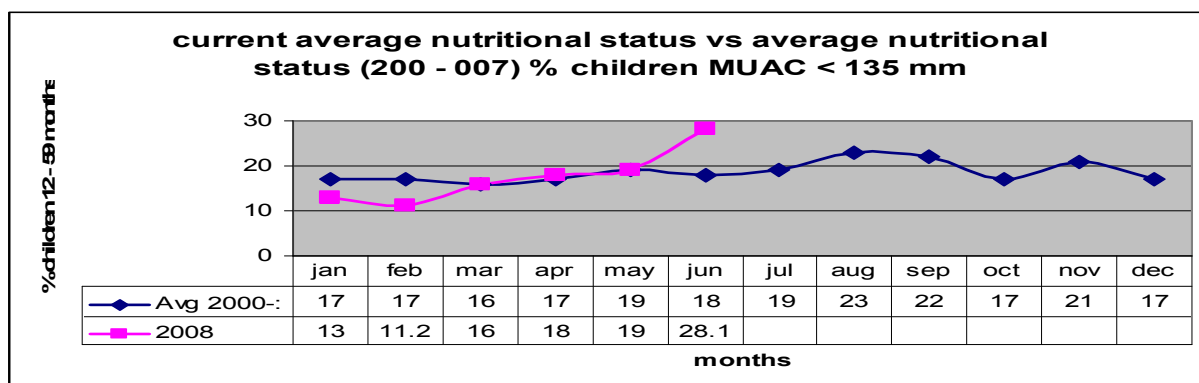
- Terms of trade worsened more than in the previous month.
- The ratio % worsened due to high prices of cereals compared to low prices of sheep and goats offered during the month. The communities have to purchase a unit measure of cereals with approximately forty five units of meat.
- The price ratio was highest in pastoral livelihood zone because of low prices offered for the livestock sales by the traders as compared to high prices to purchase cereals while it was lowest in irrigated cropping livelihood zone owing to production of cereals and better livestock prices in this area.
- The current cereal: meat price ratio is not normal at this time of the year; this has completely eroded the purchasing power of the people hence depleting the asset level of the pastoralists.

3.7 Implications on food security

- The low prices of livestock offered coupled with the erosion of the peoples' purchasing power in the project area has depleted the asset level of the pastoralists hence a threat to the household food security.

4. Utilization of food

4.1 Nutrition status (children at risk of getting malnutrition)



N = 1,411 children

- The average June MUAC level was 28.1 % up from 19 % in May. This therefore means that the nutritional status of the children shown by the percentage, in the sampled areas worsened more during the month than in the previous months. This has forced communities to employ restriction of food consumption by adults to allow more for children as a coping mechanism.
- The level of malnutrition at this time of year is more than the long term average owing to lack of supplementary foods at the household level for the under five years children.
- The level of malnutrition was highest in pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones and was lowest in irrigated cropping livelihood zone.
- The level of malnutrition has worsened at this time of the year because of lack of milk and insufficient other foods at the household level. Poor rejuvenation of forage & poor body condition of the animals resulted in lack of milk while closure of goats & sheep markets resulted in insufficient food at the household level.

4.2 Health

- The major disease reported during the month was chicken pox and mumps outbreak, reported in Churo Division (Kaptuya area) in East Pokot District.
- Diarrhea cases reported in Kolowa Division (Kapenguria area) among the under five years' children.
- Malaria reported the highest incidences during the month.

4.3 Flagged areas

- Pastoral livelihood zone reported the highest malnutrition rates and Malaria disease. These areas require particular attention.

5. Current intervention measures and coping strategies

5.1 Non-food interventions

The following programs are currently on-going in the project area and are meant to effect positive changes on food security and the general welfare of the communities.

- Construction of two classrooms each for Chesitet, Orontokrese and Natan communities in East Pokot District - *ALRMP/ COMMUNITY*.
- Construction of tank and installation of pump for Kolowa water project – *ALRMP/ Ministry of Water*.
- Construction of roof rain harvesting tank for Kamurio primary school – *ALRMP*.
- Laying pipes for Tangelbei borehole – *ALRMP / Ministry of Water*
- Solar fencing of farms in Salabani and Tilingwo (Kerio farmers) communities in Baringo District - *ALRMP*.
- Laying of pipes and tank construction for Karimodow borehole in Churo Division – *ALRMP*.
- Purchase of boarding facilities for Kamurio primary school - *ALRMP/ COMMUNITY*.
- Equipping of Kapturo dispensary in Bartabwa Division - *ALRMP/ COMMUNITY*.
- Excavation of Patipat, Koloruk, Karimodow and Kanapus water pans in East Pokot District – *CDF*.
- Installation of water hand pumps in Sowo and Mokongwo Villages in East Pokot District – *CDF*
- Vaccination of shoats against PPR disease (already 42,000 shoats vaccinated) – *ALRMP/ DVO/ CDF/ World Vision/ Action Aid*.
- Peace building initiatives within the Districts' of the project area by various stakeholders i.e. *the PSC, DPC, DSC, World Vision, Community Elders, Youth groups, Political leaders, Pastors and ALRMP*.

5.2 Food aid

- General relief distribution (received 135 tones; 1500 bags, 90 Kg of maize) – *DC East Pokot*.

5.3 Other coping strategies

- The coping mechanisms employed by the vulnerable population in all the livelihood zones during the month were, migration of livestock in search of pasture and water, sale of honey (for those who have bee hives) in place of sale of livestock that their market was

closed owing to PPR outbreak, restrict consumption of food by adults to allow more for the children, consumption of wild foods (Loma and Sorich), borrowing food from relatives, Reduction in size of meals and skipping some and performing casual labour & petty trade. This was employed by majority of the sampled households while a few of the households sold their livestock (those whose markets were not closed in Baringo) and utilizing their stock from harvests to make the ends meet.

- Compared to previous months, the situation is worsening.

6. Recommendations

- The Veterinary Department / Agencies should step up support to the livestock health sub sector through vaccinations and treatment of clinical cases. In particular, more efforts should be directed to complete the vaccination of goats and sheep against Peste des Petits Ruminant disease outbreak (PPR) in the project area; upsurge of CCPP in Endao (Marigat Division); upsurge of ECF in Kerio Valley and upsurge of LSD disease in Ng'ambo (Marigat Division) and baiting of stray dogs killing sheep and goats in Ng'ambo area (Marigat Division).
- The GoK should ensure that the pastoralists communities in both East Pokot and Baringo Districts are fed continuously with relief food supplies and supplementary foods for children as goats and sheep markets were closed in early February due to the outbreak of peste des petits Ruminant disease in East Pokot District hence depriving them their livelihoods through sale of their animals, this was aggravated further by the poor rejuvenation of forage for the animals a factor that cut down milk production and worsening body condition of the animals.
- There is need to strengthen conflict prevention and peace building initiatives to maintain the already achieved level of peace and further reduce it to the lowest level along the borders of East Pokot, Baringo, Turkana and Samburu Districts to enhance peaceful co-existence.