

Situation overview:

- The long rain season was almost drawing to a close in the two Districts. An average 112 mm of rainfall was recorded for 9 wet days. It was characterized by heavy downpours and occasional showers which were evenly distributed across most livelihood zones. However, the parts of the Ranching livelihood zone received little rainfall.
- Minimal harvesting is on-going for the early-planted maize crop. However, low yields have been reported because the crop faced significant moisture stress at a critical time in its growth. Weeding is also under-way for the late-planted crop. Crops in Vitengeni and Bamba Divisions have been destroyed by roving elephants. Yields in this zone are going to be considerably reduced. Cowpeas, sorghum, sweet potatoes and green grams are currently being planted.
- Pasture, browse and forage had improved significantly this month and is likely to meet the district requirements for the next 2 to 3 months. Distances to grazing areas had reduced by 11.6% and are bound to continue decreasing in the coming months. However, elephants pose a menace to their availability in Vitengeni and Bamba Division.
- Access to water by livestock and households had improved this month as most water sources filled up with water from the rains. Chances of shortened distances to water sources for both livestock and domestic use are bound to occur in the foreseeable future.
- The body condition of the smaller stock greatly improved this month which made them fetch higher prices compared to last month. This went a long way to increase domestic incomes. However, cattle prices dropped this month this could be attributed to increased influx of livestock from northern District of Garissa and Tana River. Livestock body condition is likely to improve due to improved pasture and so will their products.
- Milk production increased by this month and so did its consumption at household level. A positive outcome of this trend was the improvement in the nutritional status of the under five from 7.5% in May to 6.6% this month.
- Bean prices remained similar to last month although those of maize rose from Kshs 2,132 in May to Kshs 2,266 this month. Maize was quite scarce as most farmers had long exhausted their domestic food stock. This heightened demand and increased transportation cost led to an increase in prices though they are likely to come down during harvesting time in a month or two.
- The average daily wage rate rose up 54% from Kshs 119.30 in May to Kshs 184.50 this month. This meant that households' purchasing power had risen compared to last month which augurs well with food security.
- The warning stage for the district is at normal with an improving trend similar to last month.

Current interventions

Food aid

- World Vision distributed 275.7MT of cereals, 48.9MT of pulses and 14.6 MT of vegetable oil to 6,758 beneficiaries (6,145 female-headed households and 613 male-headed households). These were start-up rations to provide energy to beneficiaries prior to the commencement of the rehabilitation of selected 16 water pans, 9 roads and 1 community farm.

- The DC's office distributed 734 bags of maize and 36 bags of pigeon peas to the vulnerable groups in Kilifi District i.e. the widowed, the orphaned, the sick and people living with HIV/AIDS.
- The DEO's office distributed 371 bags pulses, 1335 bags of rice and 515 tins of oil this month to the 38 schools targeted for feeding programme.

Non-food interventions

- Njaa Marufuku Kenya has funded long-term projects in various farmer groups in both Kaloleni and Kilifi. Funds are aimed at promoting dairy farming, purchase of ox-ploughs and cashew nut rehabilitation.
- National Agricultural Accelerated Input Access Programme (NAIAAP) funded by GoK has supported 500 farmers each in Kikambala and Chonyi Divisions with farm inputs (certified seeds and fertilizers).
- ALRMP, Kilifi distributed 34 Galla goats bought last month to livestock farmers in both Kaloleni and Kilifi Districts. There were 30 beneficiaries in Bamba Division, 224 beneficiaries in Vitengeni Division and 20 beneficiaries in Mariakani Division in a bid to promote meat goat up-grading.
- World Vision distributed 3001 assorted tools to 3505 beneficiaries in Bamba, Vitengeni and Ganze Divisions in preparation for the rehabilitation of the above-mentioned 16 water pans, 9 roads and 1 community farm. It is also involved in rehabilitating the Magogoni water pan in Mitangani Location of Bamba Division for which there are 603 beneficiaries. This is done through Food For Work.
- The Livestock production office together with other stakeholders held a field day where farmers were trained on dairy management, meat-goat upgrading and indigenous poultry improvement.
- PCCS has funded an on-going project on promotion of grain amaranth in 13 FFS and 6 organized groups.
- CDA is supporting FFSs in both Kilifi and Kaloleni in cashew nut enhancement and coconut improvement.

Recommendations to District authorities/national KFSSG

- The Ranching livelihood zone should be closely monitored as most indicators point towards a strain on food security in the area.
- More households in the Ranching livelihoods need to be considered for relief food following the ongoing food stress.
- The Kenya Wildlife Service ought to be more vigilant on the control of elephants in Bamba and Vitengeni Divisions where they have wrecked havoc on food crops.
- There is need for the expansion of watering points both for livestock and humans in the Marginal mixed farming and Ranching zones of the District.

Previous DSG meeting and recommendations (05/05/08')

- Vaccination for livestock in areas surrounding Mariakani auction yard should be considered to reduce the risk of disease outbreak following increased livestock sales from outside the District.
- Interventions under the EMOP program are late and food flow to the targeted groups should start as soon as possible.

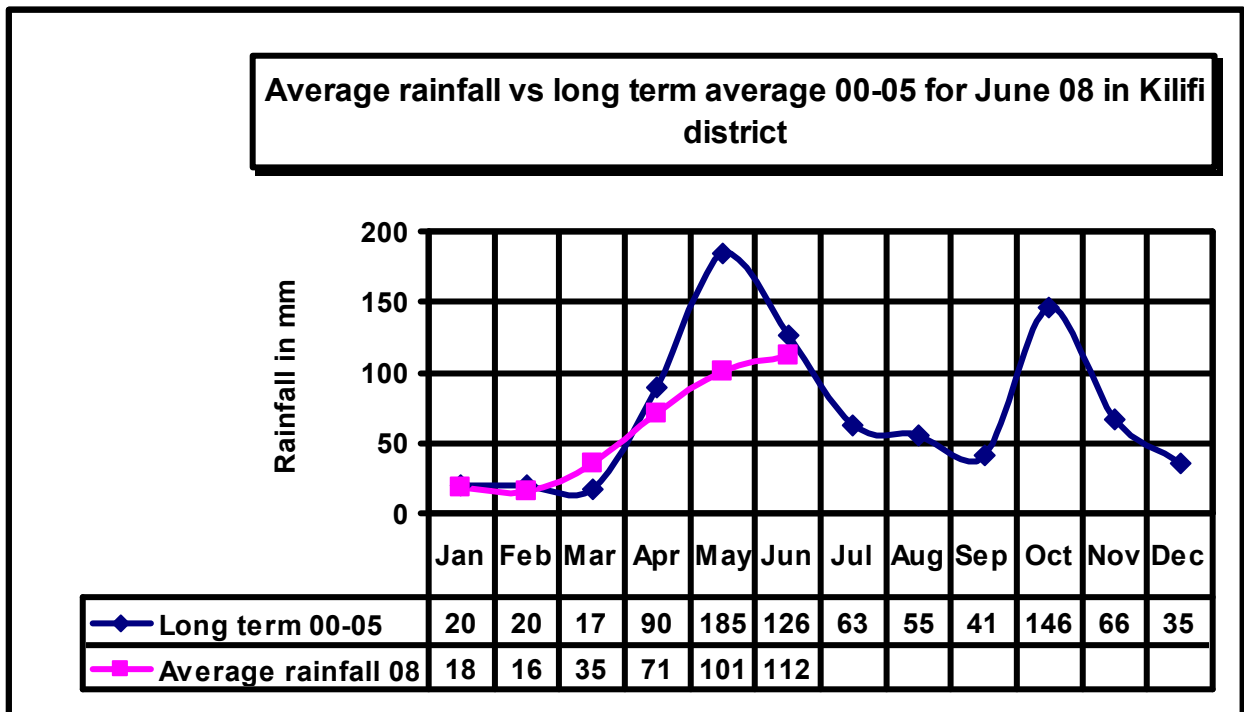
- Project targeted under EMOP should focus on enhancing livelihood food security and not just infrastructural development.
- Distribution of food meant for school feeding should be hastened to avoid cases of children dropping out of school.

DSG meeting and recommendations

- To involve the youth in all food security interventions.
- Enhance adoption of alternative livelihoods e.g. bee keeping, silk worm farming and irrigated agriculture.
- Incorporate food security related activities in adult education initiatives.
- Areas of fish production potential to be explored as an income generating and food security undertaking.

1. Stability

1.1 Rainfall



1.1.1 Amount of rainfall

- Heavy rainfall was experienced in the district and an average 112 mm of rainfall for 9 days was recorded this month. Heavy downpours are normal at this time of the year although the amount collected was below the expected compared to the long-term average (00-05).

1.1.2 Temporal distribution

- The rains began on time and have been characterized by a combination of heavy downpours and slight showers. They have been fairly continuous with no long breaks in between except a dry spell experienced earlier in the year. This attributes to an expectation of better crop yield compared to the same season last year.

1.1.3 Spatial distribution

- Most livelihood zones received sufficient rainfall during the month with the exception of the Ranching livelihood zone which received minimal amounts.

1.2. Natural Vegetation and Pasture condition

1.2.1 Quality and quantity

- The condition of pasture and natural vegetation has generally improved in the district compared to last month.
- This is expected in a normal year since increased precipitation has resulted in pasture re-growth in most parts of the districts. However, the condition of pasture in the Ranching livelihood zone is relatively poorer than other livelihood zones mainly due to delayed rains in the area. The rainy season also started late in the zone.

1.2.2 Distance to grazing areas

- A decrease of 11.6% was recorded in the average distances to grazing areas from 4.3 km in May to 3.8 Km this month.
- The increased rainfall in the district contributed to improved pasture making grazing areas more accessible to livestock.
- This positive trend is normal at this time of the year during the long rain season. However, distances in the Ranching livelihood zone average as high as 10 km due to minimal rain in some areas of the zone.

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Water sources

- Water pans, dams and shallow wells were the main sources of water for both livestock and humans this reporting month.
- The capacities had gone up this month following the rains received and are likely to suffice for both livestock and domestic use for up to 2 months after the conclusion of the rainy season. This is expected at this time of the year.
- The quality of most of these water sources is average with a fair number in need of desiltation. Contamination has also resulted due to the sharing of the same water sources by both livestock and humans. This is however, bound to change since more water sources are currently filled up with water lessening the pressure on already existing ones.

1.3.2 Household access to water

- The current average distance to water sources for domestic consumption stands at 2.2 Km, a trifling increase from 2.0 Km last month.
- Although slightly out of range for this time of the year, the distances are likely to decrease as time goes by.
- However, inter-livelihood differences were noted as households in the Ranching livelihood zone walked up to 8 Km in search of water compared to their counterparts in the Cash Cropping and Dairy who only had to walk an average of 2.2 Km.

1.3.3 Livestock access to water

- Access to water for livestock was generally good this month. However, livestock farmers in Ndigiria Location in the Ranching livelihood zone reported some constraints in accessing water as the area had received little rainfall.

1.4. Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity / Conflict / Human Displacement

- Elephants pose a great security threat to residents and livestock in Mitangani and Bandari Locations of Bamba Division and Mwahera Sub-Location in Vitengeni Division and Mariakani Location of Mariakani Division. They have ravaged the on-farm crops, destroyed water sources and limited access to pasture due their presence.

1.5. Implication on food security

- The rains have resulted in improved feed and shortened distances to pasture for livestock. Water sources have also had their volumes topped up improving access to water by for both domestic and livestock use. Combined, these two factors will go a long way in enhancing food security at household level. However, the constraints in accessing forage experienced in the Ranching livelihood zone is likely to impact negatively on food security due to competition for the same with elephants. The situation is likely to be aggravated because forage and pasture are already in short supply in the said zone.

2 Availability

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1. Livestock body condition

- Most livestock maintained a good body condition owing to good forage in most of the livelihoods. With some in the Ranching livelihoods however showing fair to poor body condition owing to the prevailing moisture stress.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- No major livestock diseases were reported this month.

2.1.3 Milk production

- The average milk production increased this month. This positive trend was expected as livestock had access to improved forage in the reporting month compared to last month.
- Production was highest in the Cash Cropping and Dairy and lowest in the Food cropping. The Ranching zone too recorded substantial milk production.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1. Timeliness and status of crops

- Early-planted maize is ready for consumption in green state, a normal event at this time of the year. However, both its quality and quantity are wanting as maturation was interfered with early in their development. This was as a result of the dry spell that affected normal growth two months ago.
- The on-farm crop is at various stages of development varying from weeding, knee high to flowering stage. However, the elephants menace in some parts of the Food cropping and

Ranching livelihood zones of Vitengeni and Bamba Divisions respectively has greatly affected on-farm activities. That greatly compromises food security at household level.

- Planting is on-going for cowpeas, sorghum, sweet potatoes and green grams. This is normal as these crops are planted after the staple food crop (maize) has been planted.
- Both rain-fed and irrigated vegetables are doing well.

2.2.2. Pests and diseases

- There were no major pests or diseases reported in plants this month same as last month.

2.2.3. Crop harvests

- Harvesting is on-going for sweet potatoes, cassava, African Bird’s Eye Chilli (ABEC), bananas, mangoes, coconuts, water melons and cashew nuts. This is normal for this time of the year.
- Farmers who planted in April can expect fair harvests this season. However, those who planted earlier are currently harvesting maize although yields are low as this early-planted crop experienced some moisture stress just before the rainy season began.

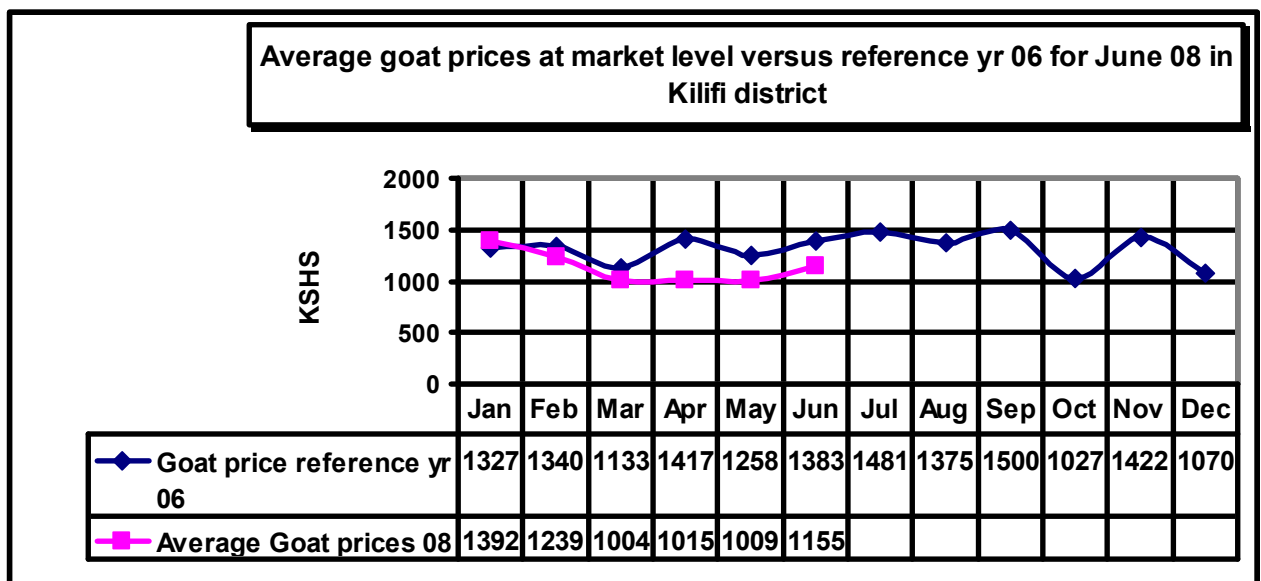
2.3 Implication on food security

- Increases in milk production are expected to continue and so are increases in the availability of milk for sale and consumption at household level.
- Crop yield is also likely to increase in the next 2 or 3 months during the harvesting of the late season planted crop. Moderate yields are expected from most livelihood zones. However, yields from Vitengeni and Bamba divisions are likely to be considerably reduced owing to erratic rains and wildlife menace. This will severely reduce food security at household level.

3. Access

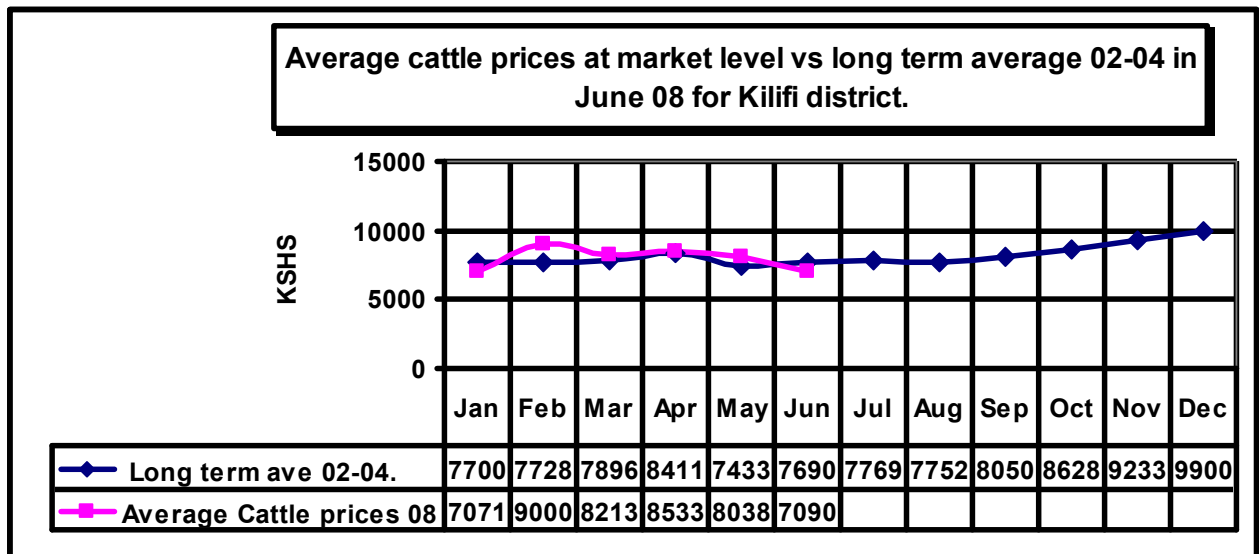
3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Goat prices



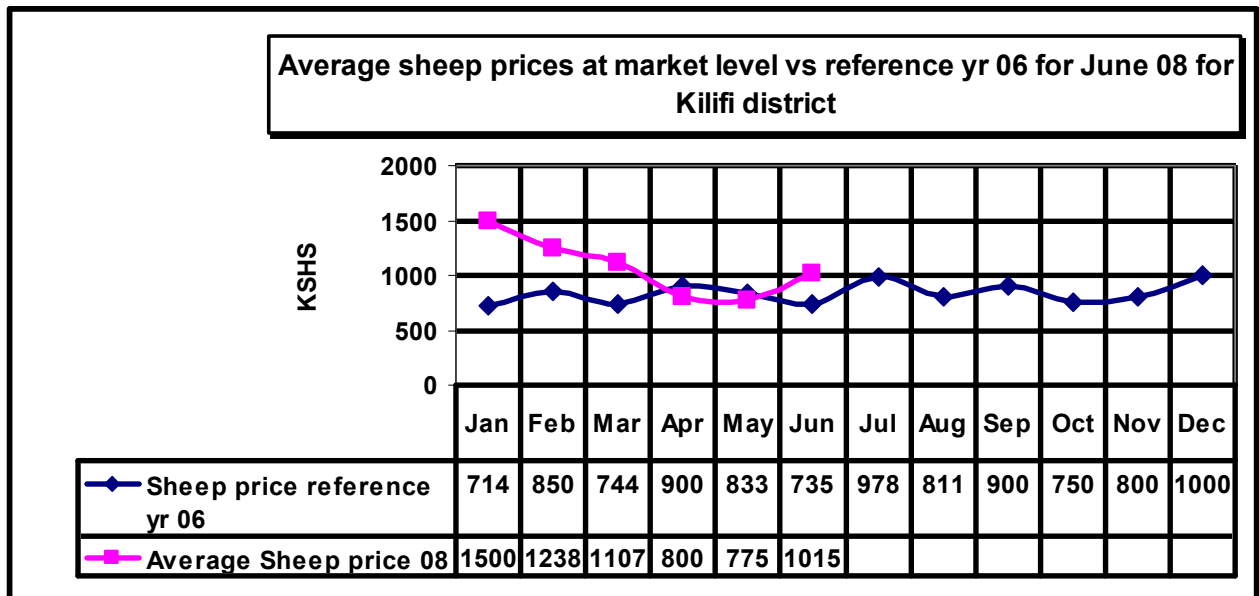
- A medium-sized buck was selling at Kshs 1,155 this month, up by a 14.5% margin compared to Kshs 1,009 last month. The price increase was attributed to the improved body condition as a result of improved browse in the District.
- The Cash cropping and Dairy livelihood zone posted the highest price at Kshs 1,433 while the Marginal Mixed Farming one posted the lowest at Kshs 600. The Food cropping and the Ranching ones posted Kshs 1,400 and Kshs 1,187.5
- The increase in price is expected at this time of the year although with improving on farm food production, the prices were however 16% lower than for the same month in the reference yr (06).

3.1.2 Cattle prices



- A medium-sized bull was selling at an average price of Kshs 7,090 in June, down by an 11.8% margin compared to Kshs 8,038 last month.
- The decrease in price could be pegged on influx of cattle from the northern District of Garissa and Tana River that depress local market prices. However, this is bound to change with improving pasture in the coming months.
- The Cash cropping and Dairy livelihood zone posted the highest cattle prices at Kshs 9,375 while the least was found in the Marginal Mixed Farming one at Kshs 6,000. The Food cropping and Ranching livelihood zones posted almost similar average prices at Kshs 6333, and Kshs 6,650 respectively.
- The selling price was lower than expected at this time of the year.

3.1.3 Sheep prices



- The price of a medium-sized 3 yr-old sheep was posted at Kshs 1,015 compared to Kshs 775 last month.
- This translated to a 30% increase in the prices of sheep at the market level that could be attributed to improved body condition and improving food security situation
- Inter-livelihood differences were noted in the prices, where both the Food cropping and the Cash Cropping and Dairy led at Kshs 1,267, with the Marginal Mixed Farming trailing at Kshs 500. The Ranching livelihood zone posted Kshs 1,187.5.
- The increase in prices is slightly out of range with the expected although they were higher than expected for this month in the reference yr (06).

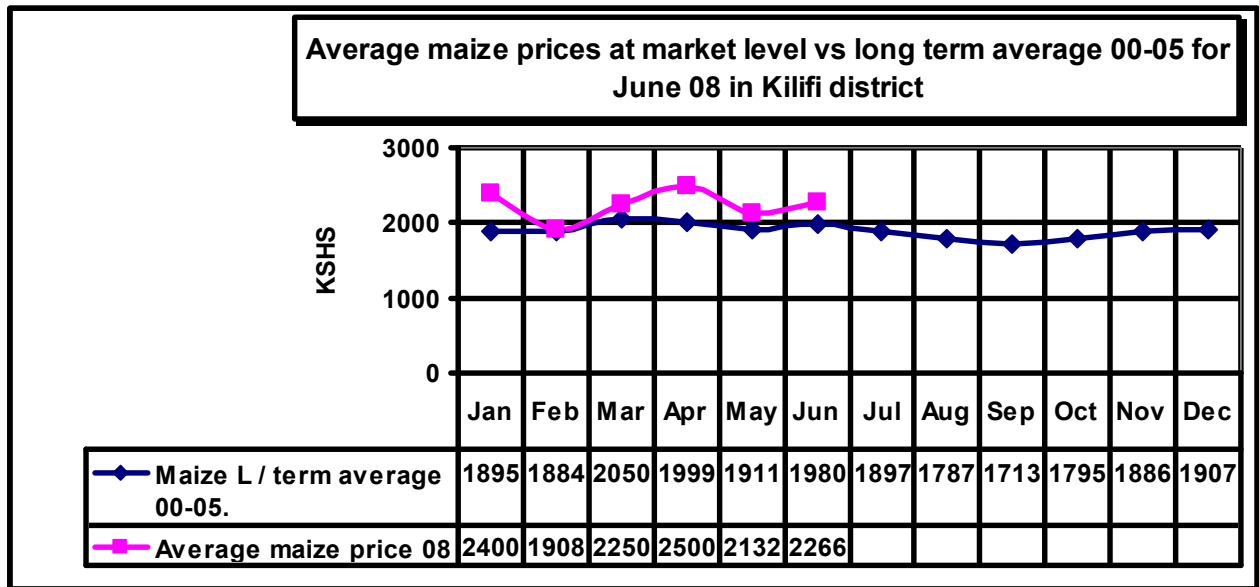
3.2 Livestock sales

- Livestock trade was most vigorous in the Ranching livelihood zone with the Cash Cropping and Dairy reported almost nil sales.
- This situation is normal at this time of the year.

3.3 Milk consumption

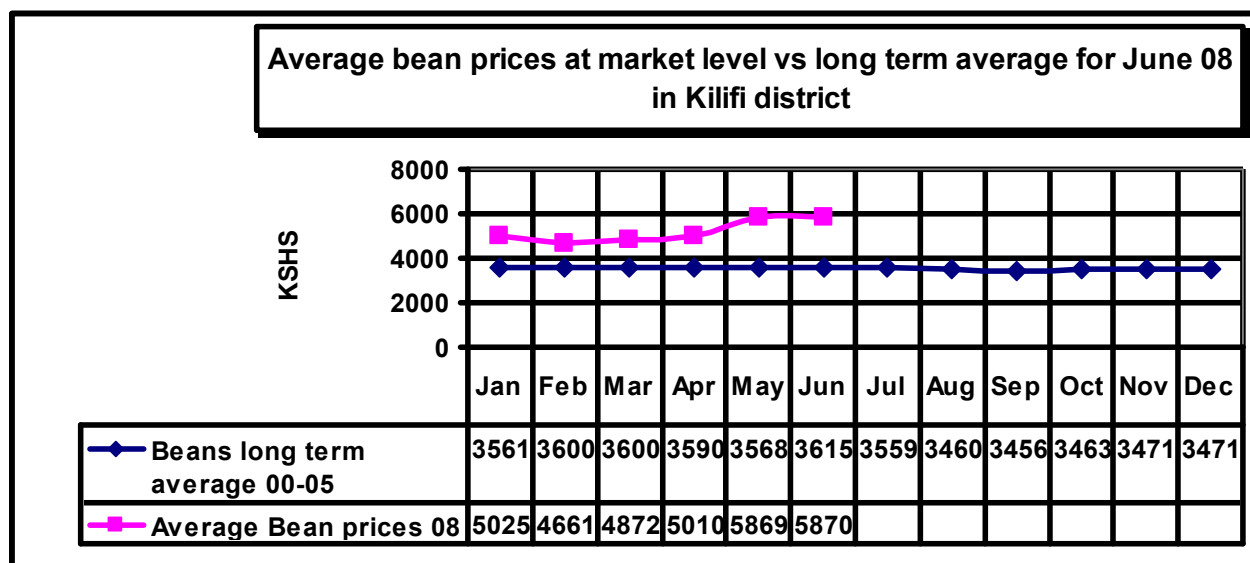
- There was a slight increase in milk consumed at household level where 31% of the milk produced was consumed.
- This is expected in a normal year when milk production increases making more milk available for domestic consumption.
- The price per bottle increased negligibly by 2% from Kshs 17.8 last month to Kshs 18.2 this month. This means that households were still able to purchase milk for consumption which was of particular benefit to the under 5's whose nutritional status improved.

3.4 Grain marketing
 3.4.1 Market price of maize



- The average price of a 90-kg bag of maize was Kshs 2,266, up from Kshs 2,132 last month that could be attributed to declining domestic stocks and a general increase in market prices due high cost of transportation.
- However with maturity of the long rain season crop prices are expected to drop in a month or two during harvesting.
- Prices were almost the same in all livelihood zones. The Ranching livelihood zone posted the highest price at Kshs 2,537.5 while the Cash cropping and Dairy one posted the least at Kshs 2,127.5.
- Livelihood zones found in the hinterland such as the Ranching one reported higher prices of maize because of the cost of transportation while those on the shore line where the major roads to the district headquarters were found such as the Cash cropping and Dairy one reported lower prices. The Food cropping and Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zones recorded prices of Kshs 2,150 and Kshs 2,250 respectively per bag.
- The increase in maize prices is expected at this time of the year, but the price was above that of the long-term average.

3.4.2. Beans prices



- A bag of 90 Kg of beans was selling at a similar price this month similar to last month.
- Prices of beans were highest in the Cash cropping and Dairy livelihood zone at Kshs 6,625 and lowest in the Marginal Mixed Farming at Kshs 5,400 also similar to last month.
- This stable trend of the prices was slightly out of tune with the long-term average and way above the expected at this time of the year.

3.5. Income

3.5.1 Casual labour

- 45.7% of the sampled households depended on casual labour as a source of income. The average daily wage rate increased by 54% from Kshs 119.3 last month to Kshs 184.5 in June. Many households were generally involved in casual labour as land preparations were rife in the district as planting and weeding were on-going. This positive trend is expected at this time of the year.
- Highest wage rates were recorded in the Cash cropping and Dairy livelihood zone at Kshs 403 while the least was found in the Ranching livelihood zone at a paltry Kshs 71. Households in the Ranching livelihood zone did not do much land preparation as several parts of the area had received little rainfall. Therefore, casual labour was quite scarce in this zone.

3.5.2 Sale of charcoal

- Income from the sale of charcoal was second to casual labour. There generally was a decreasing trend in the sale of charcoal this month as has been registered in the past months. This was owed to the decreased number of suitable trees for burning charcoal.
- The sale of charcoal was the most reliable source of income for households in the Marginal Mixed Farming and Ranching livelihood zones.

3.5.3 Other income sources

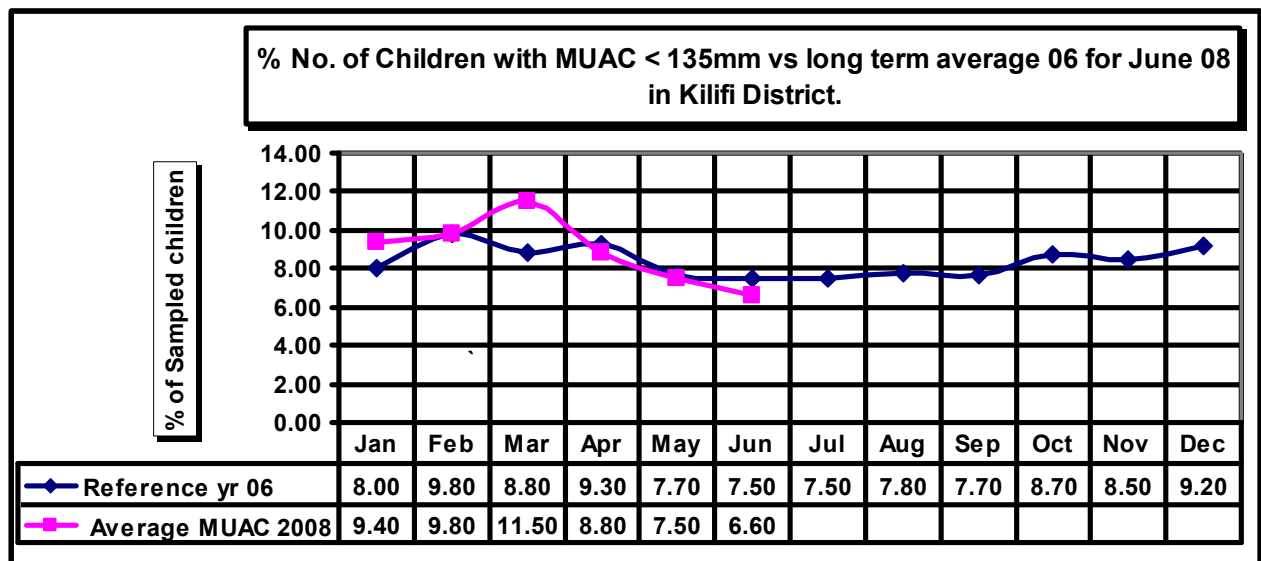
- 12.4%, 11.3% and 6.4% of the sampled households relied on formal employment, petty trading and remittances respectively as their main source of income. The sale of wood products and livestock sale accounted for 2.9% and 2% of total household incomes respectively.

3.6 Implications on food security

- Livestock prices are bound to go up given the improvement in body condition expected. This is likely to boost household incomes which will have a positive effect on food security.
- Although bean prices have remained largely the same, they are still well above the expected at this time of the month and households can ill afford them. Maize prices have also gone up due to increased demand. With households having exhausted all their domestic stocks, a rise in prices will result in a decrease in their purchasing power. However, an increase in the average daily wage rate was recorded which is likely to counteract this situation. Moreover, cereal-legume prices are expected to decrease in a month or two when harvesting will be on-going which will make food more affordable.

4. Utilization

4.1 Nutrition status



- The malnutrition status in the Districts under review is stable with an improving trend. The percentage of children at risk for malnutrition went down from 7.5% in May to 6.6% this month. This translates to a 12% reduction which was mainly attributed to the improved availability of milk at household level owing to increased production across most livelihood zones in the District.
- The improving trend in decreased malnutrition is in line with the expected in the reference year (06) although the percentage of children at risk is much lower this month compared to the same month in the reference year.

- Inter-livelihood zone differences in malnutrition were also posted with the Food Cropping livelihood zone recording the highest number of children at risk at 13.1% while the lowest was in the Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone at 1.9%. This could be due to unavailability of milk in the Food cropping livelihood zone mainly because prices of milk per bottle were highest at Kshs 20.4. Milk prices were considerably lower in the Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone at Kshs 16.4 hence more affordable to a larger population.

4.2 Health

- There were no major diseases in humans for the month under review. However, Malaria was reported in most livelihood zones due to the rains.

5. Current intervention measures and coping strategies

5.1 Non-food interventions

- Njaa Marufuku Kenya has funded long-term projects in various farmer groups in both Kaloleni and Kilifi. Funds are aimed at promoting dairy farming, purchase of ox-ploughs and cashew nut rehabilitation.
- National Agricultural Accelerated Input Access Programme (NAIAAP) funded by GoK has supported 500 farmers each in Kikambala and Chonyi divisions with farm inputs (certified seeds and fertilizers).
- ALRMP, Kilifi distributed 34 Galla goats bought last month to livestock farmers in both Kaloleni and Kilifi Districts. There were 30 beneficiaries in Bamba Division, 224 beneficiaries in Vitengeni Division and 20 beneficiaries in Mariakani Division in a bid to promote meat goat up-grading.
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- PCCS has funded an on-going project on promotion of grain amaranth in 13 FFS and 6 organized groups.

5.2 Food aid

- World Vision distributed 143 MT of cereals, 25 MT of pulses and 7.57 MT of vegetable oil to 3505 beneficiaries (3168 female-headed households and 337 male-headed households). These were start-up rations to provide energy to beneficiaries prior to the commencement of the rehabilitation of selected 16 water pans, 9 roads and 1 community farm.
- The DC's office distributed 734 bags of maize and 36 bags of pigeon peas to the vulnerable groups in Kilifi District i.e. the widowed, the orphaned, the sick and people living with HIV/AIDS.

5.3 Other coping strategies

- The major coping strategies this month included purchase of food on credit, skipping food consumption for an entire day, reduction in size and number of meals a day and relying on social networks for food. Most households in Bamba and Vitengeni Divisions consumed

their crop before maturity to avoid consumption by elephants. The coping strategy index however, decreased slightly from 2.6% last month to 2.5% in June. Children were also withdrawn from school in order to engage in casual labour to increase the household's daily wage rate. Decreases were noted in all livelihood zones except the Food cropping whose index had gone up 28%.

6. Recommendations

- The Ranching livelihood zone should be closely monitored as most indicators point towards a strain on food security in the area.
- The KWS ought to be vigilant in the control of elephants in Bamba and Vitengeni Divisions where the beasts have wrecked havoc on food crops.
- More HHs in the Ranching zone need to be considered for relief food assistance as their food security situation has continued to deteriorate.
- Communities living around water pans should be assisted with water pumps to aid in irrigation so as to take advantage of the increased volumes of water in these water sources.
- Planting of drought tolerant crops e.g. Cassava, Sorghum and Green Grams need to be enhanced especially in livelihoods registering good weather condition.

7. Warning Phase

- The early warning stage for June is normal with an improving trend similar to last month.