



**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

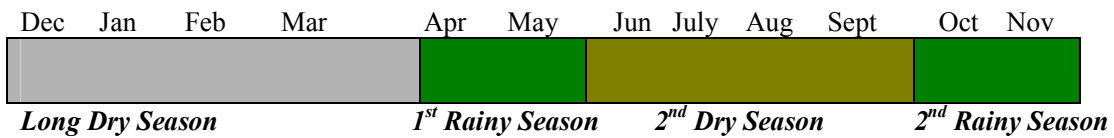
MOYALE DISTRICT



WARNING STAGES

Livelihood Zones	Warning Stage	Trend
Pastoral	Emergency	Deteriorating
Agro-pastoral	Emergency	Deteriorating
DISTRICT	Emergency	Deteriorating

TIME LINE



Situation overview

- Very little rainfall was received during the reporting period around the border escarpment, the Heilu rain gauge (Central Division) received 5.3mm of rainfall.
- Pasture and browse have started to dry up and the quality is fast reducing due to high in-migration from Southern Ethiopia.
- Water availability has reduced in the pastoral lowlands as lagga poundings and road side excavations are used up by large herds coming into these areas.
- Accessibility to water for livestock has reduced as most of the ephemeras starts to dry up. Watering distances from pasture has gone up to 7km for livestock.
- Security situation in the pastoral areas has improved and there was free movement of herds both across the border and across the District.
- As a result of fast deteriorating forage biomass, pastoralists from the District have started to search for pasture ground and elders have gone to Wajir (Arbjahan in Wajir West) to seek fresh grazing grounds and water holes.
- Livestock body conditions are quite good at the moment and most of them have compensated fully from the drought.
- Some small quantities of maize have ripened in Mansile area of Central Division but people have started to consume while still green.
- No major diseases of livestock were reported over the reporting period.
- Milk production and consumption seems to be going down when compared to the month of May. The situation also has caused the price of milk to go up in the urban centres of Moyale and Sololo.
- Livestock prices seem to be going down especially for cattle and sheep. Cattle prices are Kshs. 8,111.10 compared to last month's average of Kshs. 8,875. Goats prices have improved to Kshs. 1,247.20 from May's figure of Kshs. 1,193.
- Nutritional trend of the District among children of under five seems to be going down for the worst. It stands at an average of 23.3% over the preceding months at 25.1%.

Current interventions

Non-food

- Capacity building on creation of fall-back areas (Pasture reserves) and conflict resolution were carried out in several locations in the District by the District Deedha Association (Councils of Elders).
- Clearing of overgrown farmlands by Kenya Red Cross Society were carried out in Mansile in Central Division. This activity was carried out in order to encourage crop production and reduce dependency on handouts.
- Some togenburg bucks were distributed by ALRMP II through the Department of Veterinary Services to boost milk production. It seems some of these bucks are dying probably due to fatigue from the long journey.
- Distribution of water storage tanks were carried out in about 8 centres to help or avert water shortage during the dry/drought spells.

Food aid

- Relief food were distributed both in pastoral and agro-pastoral zone. Some of the foods were given as Food for Assets (FFA). Percentage targeted beneficiaries are 70% for rural centres and 30% for urban centres like Moyale.

Coping strategies

- Most of the poor and the poorest households have averted to reduction of number of meals in a day or skipped meals even for an entire day.

- To cope with the expected shortage of pasture and water (which seems to be eminent as a result of extreme high influx of livestock from Ethiopia).

Recommendations to the KFSSG

- Food for Asset to continue in the District since it has done very magnificent work. Impassable roads have been made passable for motor vehicles eg. Heilu – Mansile road.

1. Stability

1.1 Environmental indicators

1.1.1 Rainfall

- Most areas of the District remained dry since the first or second week of May.
- Only the border hilly escarpments received some rains over the month, a quantity of 5.3mm.

1.1.2 Natural vegetation and pastures

- During the month regeneration have been inhibited by dry spell and heat stress. In fact all natural vegetation and standing forage have shown heat stress and browning up situation have started since May.
- There are a lot of livestock migrations into the District from Ethiopia. The number is estimated to be around 170,000 cattle. These cattle will have a major effect on the natural vegetation in the District. Soon there will be a major shortage of pasture before the expected time.

1.2 Water source and availability

1.2.1 Use of water sources

- The main source of water during the month was pans (for livestock and humans).
- The major surface water source of Garba which is in Obbu Division has started to dry up. There is also major water contamination.
- The Southern parts of the District is facing early water shortage as high concentration of livestock from both within the District and outside used up the water so fast. The areas are Amballo, Dirbsei, Laaqi, Garba, Banale, Funanyatta, Rawana and Ele Bor.

1.2.2 Household accessibility to water

- Most of the pans constructed for household/human use still contain water which can be used for the next one to one and half month.
- Those water sources in Amballo locations especially pan will soon dry up and cause quite unexpectedly early water tankering process.

1.2.3 Livestock accessibility to water

- Water for livestock in the lowland areas has already started to be a problem. Pans in Diribsei, Kobole, Banale and Funan Qumbi have dried up. Garba water which is the largest surface water the District has is said to be contaminated by millions of weaver birds building their nests.
- Soon the only alternative is early retreating into the dry season grazing areas which has less pasture but good water sources.

1.3 Emerging issues

1.3.1 High livestock influx into Moyale

- As said earlier in this report, the influx of livestock from Southern Ethiopia (which has the highest concentration of cattle in Africa) is unprecedented. Due to drought and extremely poor situation this population of skinny herds to be accommodated at the

expense of the local herds. Since the pasture and water can not support herds of this magnitude unexpected demise of livestock may be eminent before the next rainy season takes off.

1.3.2 In-migration of people in to the District

- The drought in the neighbouring (Borena Province) in Ethiopia has caused many households to move completely into Moyale. Many of them have settled in Bori, Uran, Golole, Damballa Fachana, Rawana and Odda Locations. Some people are occupying both sides of the common border and culturally they will say the land is theirs and settle anywhere in their communal land without any hindrance.

1.3.3 Implication on food security

- The above two emerging issue will have a depleting effect on forage, water and trees in the area. These large numbers of livestock will need forage and water while people will require trees to build their homes with. Some of them will burn charcoal to support them. Thus they will make the District more insecure.

2. Availability

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body conditions

- Livestock body condition seems to be quite good as the rains in April caused good pasture growth and improved livestock food situation up to Mid-June.

2.1.2 Livestock health and diseases

- No major outbreaks of diseases are reported yet but the in-migrating herds are said to be having foot & mouth diseases. This is reported in the extreme West of the District in Uran & Golole Locations.

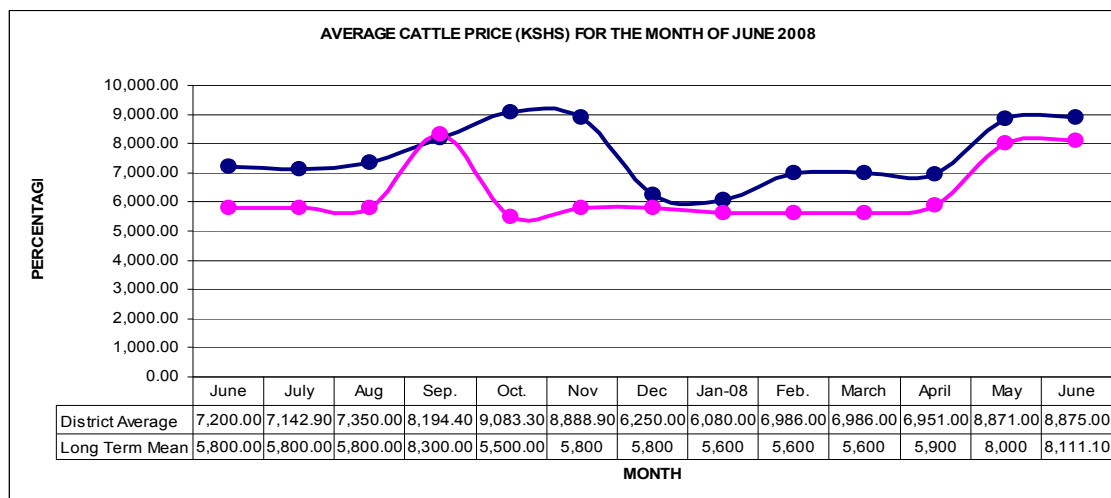
2.1.3 Milk production

- During the month milk productions have gone down and prices went up. This is due to herds moving away from households and increasing forage & water trekking distances.

3. Access to food

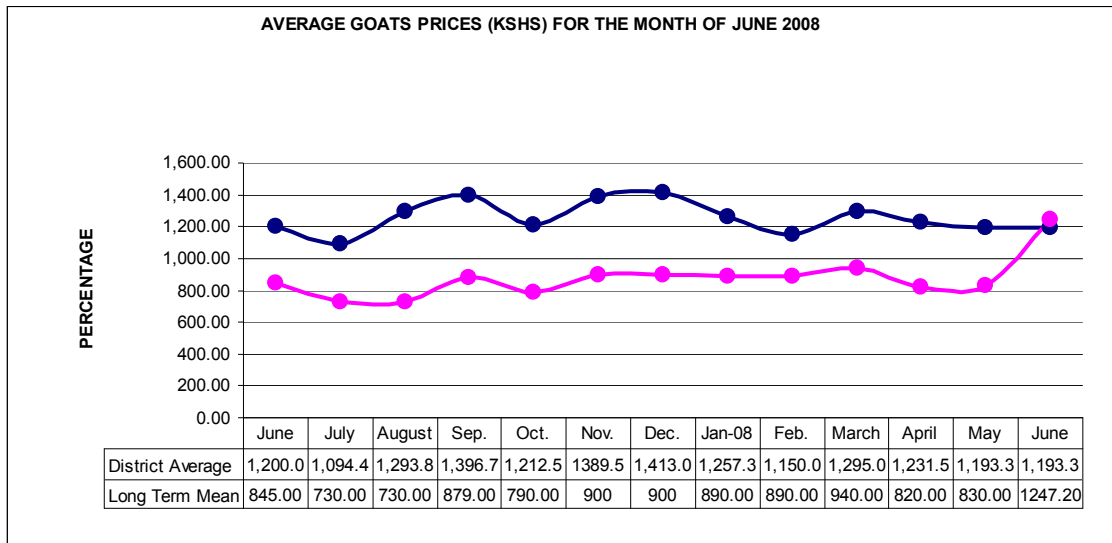
3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices



- Cattle prices have gone down over the month of June from Kshs. 8,875 to 8,111.10. This reduction is caused by speculation of impending forage shortages and high sales by migrating pastoralists.

3.1.2 Goats prices



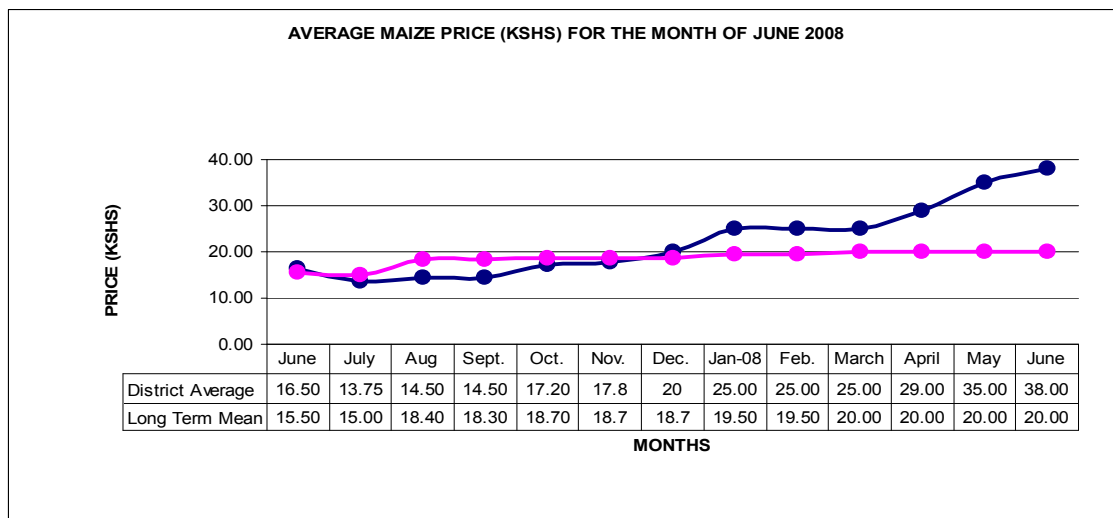
- Prices of goats have improved during the month from Kshs. 1,193.30 in May to Kshs 1,247.20 in June.

3.1.3 Livestock sales

- According to Moyale Market sales, the number of livestock presented for sale in cattle, sheep and goats are very high. Most of them might not be sold on the same day and has to be taken back several times without a proper releasing time for grazing. The effect is poor body condition which causes poor price in the end.
- The high number of livestock into the market also shows there is a problem at the household level to force people to sell their stock.

3.2 Crop prices

3.2.1 Maize prices



- Maize prices range from Kshs. 30 to Kshs 38 in the remote market of the District. The prices seem to be stable probably due to FFA distribution in the District.

3.2.2 Other food items

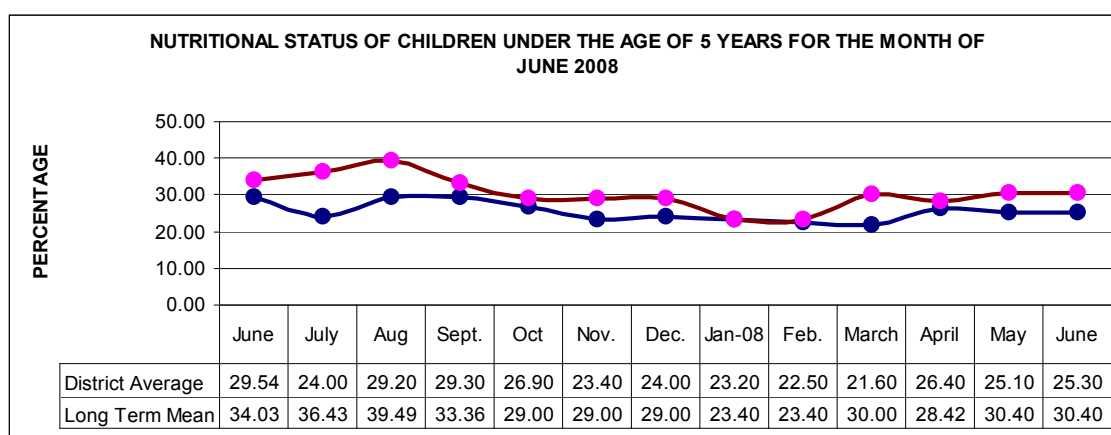
- Other essential food items like beans and rice are sold at the following prices.

	Beans (Kshs/Kg)	Rice (Kshs/Kg)
Central (Heilu)	60.00	80.00
Obbu (Mado Adhi)	80.00	100.00

- The above prices are extremely high compared to the prices of the same commodity last year. Beans were sold at average price per kilogramme at Kshs. 30 while rice was Kshs. 40 to 45.

4. Utilization of food

4.1 Nutritional status



- Malnutrition trend seems to increase for the last four to five months as a result of high food prices. Pastoral zones and agro-pastoral livelihood zones seems to suffer the same way. The most affected areas are Golbo and Obbu Divisions which has malnutrition rates of 34.9% for 282 children and 31.1% for 265 children.

4.2 Human health

- No diseases outbreaks were reported in the District though coughs and malaria are reported in children.

4.3 Flagged area

- Golbo and Obbu are facing more malnutrition than other Division and require more relief and supplementary foods.

5. Current interventions

- Capacity building on creation of pasture results to support livestock in times of stress.
- Cutting and clearing of shambas by KRCS.
- Distribution of Togenburg bucks by ALRMP II.
- Distribution of water storage tanks to most needy settlements.
- Relief food distribution continued over the month.
- Food for Assets has also continues during the month.

6. Recommendations

- Farmers should be supported with planting seeds before the rains and given more extension education to plant in time in order to reduce food insecurity situation.
- More disease surveillance is required as large herds entering the District may come in with some diseases.
- Provincial Administration should assist livestock owners in searching for pasture outside the District as we expect acute pasture shortage.
- More capacity building in areas like Somare Butiye, Heilu and Odda as trees are being destroyed to support household food requirements.
- Food for Assets and Relief should be increased and distribution checked to stop stealing by Relief Committees.