



**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

SAMBURU DISTRICT

WARNING STAGES



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Pastoral-All Species	Alert	Worsening
Agro Pastoral	Alert	Worsening
Formal Employment/ Casual labour/ Business	Alert	Stable

TIME LINE



Situation Overview

- The District is experiencing drought stress following the failure of the two successive rain seasons
- Existing water sources in the District registered drastic yield decline particularly in natural ponds, catchment pools, springs and seasonal streams leading to a slight increase in distances to water points for both households and livestock.
- Livestock body conditions particularly cattle slightly deteriorate compared to last month.
- PPR epidemic engulfs the whole district, despite spirited efforts by the veterinary department to contain the disease.
- Livestock prices slightly drop compared to last month's.
- Milk availability dwindles at the household level as grazing distances to water points increase and compounded by mediocre forage resources in most areas.
- Malaria, diarrhea and upper respiratory tract infections continue to dominate the district human disease profile but at manageable levels.
- Nutrition status rates of children less than five years slightly improve compared to last months.
- Good livestock prices are countered by hiked prices of cereals, other food and non-food commodities thus impacting insignificantly on the pastoralists' economy and food security.
- Insecurity continues to destabilize most parts of the District constraining access and utilization of forage in these areas.

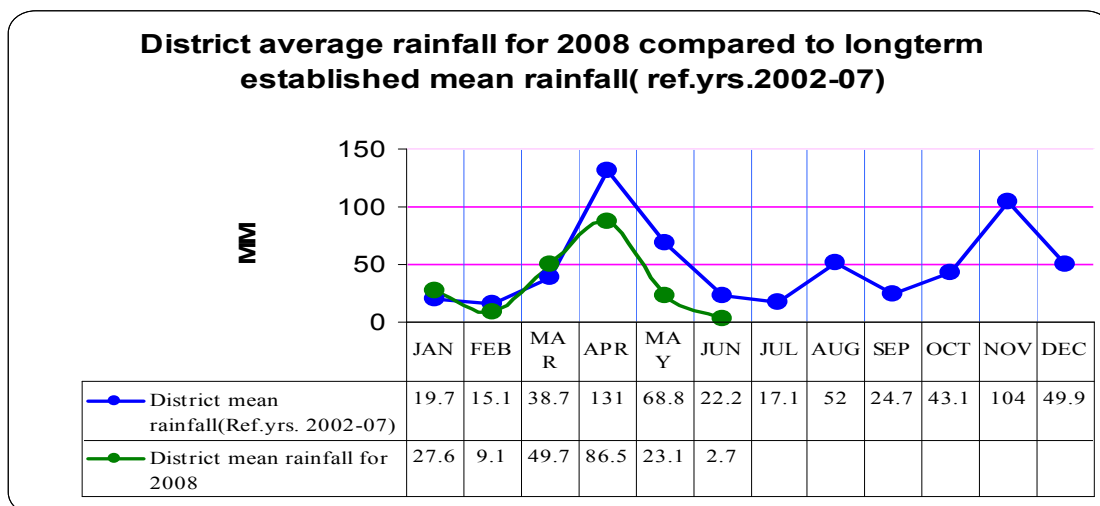
Recommendations to KFSSG and DSG

- There is a need to prepare for an eminent food shortage in the District both by the concerned GOK/donor agencies and the pastoral population.
- Neighboring districts should be on high alert of the PPR disease and should put the necessary measures in place to ensure that the disease is easily contained in case of any outbreak.
- KFSSG and other donors should move in quickly to support efforts to control further spread of PPR within and without the District borders i.e. through provision of more vaccine doses.
- Facilitation of peace committees in conflict management initiatives to reach warring communities.
- ASTU police unit should be settled in Baragoi/Nyiro Divisions to contain any violence outbreaks.

1. Environmental indicators

1.1 Rainfall

- Drought stress sets across the District following a failure of two successive rain seasons and an eminent failure of the continental rains normally received in the plateau. This is a great threat to both the pastoral and agro pastoral livelihoods.
- Average rainfall received is 2.7mm from last month's 23.1mm. The rainfall amount received is lower than normal by 87.8%, against a long term established threshold 22.2mm averagely received this period of the year



Source: District agriculture office field weather stations

1.2 Forage (pasture and browse)

- The hot and dry weather conditions that persisted throughout the reporting month lead to scarcity and poor quality of forage resources in most parts of the District inducing mass livestock migrations to dry season grazing zones and areas where insecurity severely constrains access to pastures.
- Forage situation across the District is slightly lower than normal apart from areas where insecurity continues to constrain access and utilization to pastures.

1.3 Water sources

1.3.1 Use of water sources

- The main sources of water utilized by both livestock and household during the course of this month change slightly compared to last month's and include: traditional river wells; natural rivers, pans and dams, shallow wells and boreholes
- Existing water sources in both the lowlands and the plateau register a drastic yield decline particularly in natural ponds, catchments pools, springs and seasonal streams due to enhanced rates of evaporation experienced in the course of the month.

1.3.2 Average distance (Kms) to water sources

- Average house distance to nearby water sources increases to 4.7 Kms from last month's 4.2 Kms. The change implies drying up of the available water sources utilized during the wet season, translating to more time spent in search for water by household members particularly women and children.
- Average grazing distance to main sources of water also increases slightly to 9.4 Kms from last month's 7.9 Kms, implying that water sources utilized during the wet season by livestock are drying up.

1.4. Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity/conflict

- Insecurity in the western parts of the plateau disintegrates to fresh violence that saw at least three herders dead and one ASTU police man seriously injured. This was instigated by scramble for the scarce pasture resources by both conflicting groups.
- Fresh violence breaks in Baragoi and Nyiro Divisions between the two warring communities. Approximately 600 heads of cattle were stolen in Suyan and Loruko areas and two people killed in each of the above cattle rustling incidents.

1.4.2 Migration (livestock and human migration)

- Scarcity of pasture resources induces mass cattle migration in the Lowlands of Wamba and Waso Divisions to dry season grazing areas of Naishamunye and Losesia areas, and in Baragoi towards Marti and Lokorri areas.
- Cattle move to the upper parts of the plateau encroaching to insecure areas.
- Families remain displaced in parts of Baragoi and Nyiro Divisions following fresh outbreak of violence between Turkana and Samburu communities.
- Households in the western parts of the Agro pastoral livelihood zone too remain displaced and concentrations are still mainly in the lower parts of the plateau. This is especially a permanent wound to their previous major livelihood source-subsistence farming reducing a large number to pastoral destitute.

1.5 Implications on food security

- The failure of the two successive major rain seasons impacted adversely on household food security across the District.
- Insecurity continues to frustrate efforts to attain a food secure society in the affected areas within the District.

2. Rural economy indicators

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body conditions

- Cattle body conditions range from good-fair in most areas across the District. Shoats' body conditions remain stable across the District.
- Birth rate in cattle remains at 7.4 % as last month's.
- Compared to a normal year livestock body conditions are slightly below normal.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- Peste Des Petit Ruminants (PPR) first reported in the western parts of Baragoi Division that borders Turkana, engulfed the whole District despite spirited efforts by the veterinary department to contain the deadly viral disease.
- The major diseases affecting livestock species include:-

Species

Cattle:

Sheep:

Goats:

Diseases

ECF, Anaplasmosis, and Trypanosomiasis

Diarrhoea, Enterotoxaemia, PPR

PPR, Diarrhoea, Helmenthiasis and CCPP.

2.2 Implications on food security

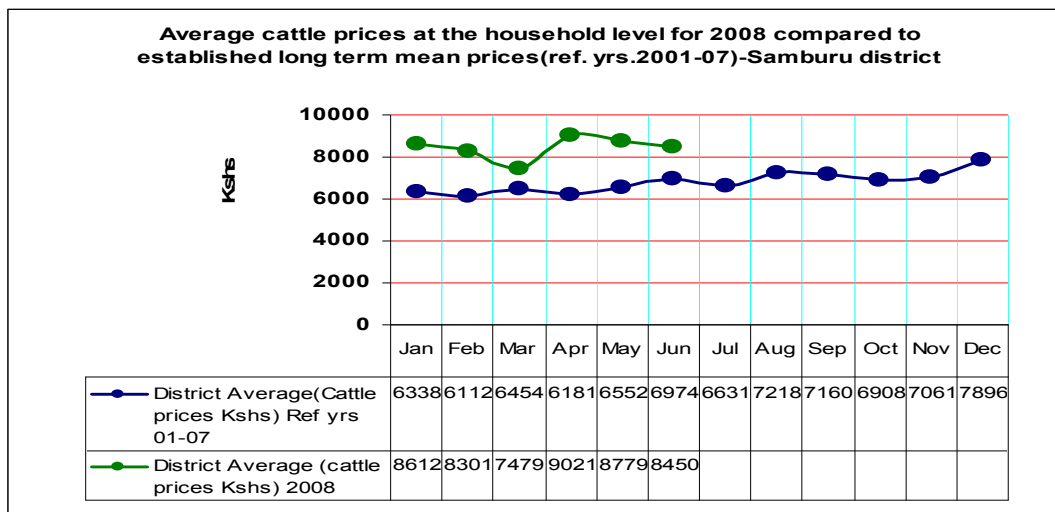
- Good livestock body conditions impacts positively on pastoralists' returns and economy.
- Shoats form the backbone of the pastoralists' local economy and rural livelihood, thus the outbreak of PPR if not thoroughly controlled, may very adversely impact negatively on the livelihoods and food security of the District residents. The indigenous population is over 90% dependent on small stock for their daily basic requirements and 80% of the shoats' population of about 2 million within the district is threatened by the epidemic.

3. Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices

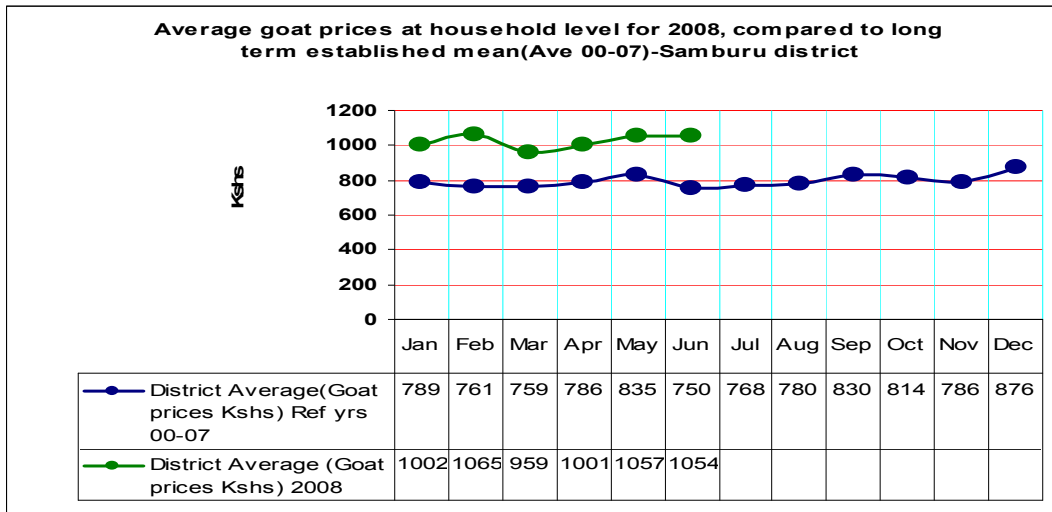
- The average cattle prices slightly declined to Kshs. 8,450 from last month's Kshs. 8,779.
- This is higher than normal by 21%. This situation is attributable to good-fair cattle body conditions coupled with favourable marketing conditions.
- The inter-livelihood zone cattle price difference i.e. higher in the plateau and lower in the lowlands is brought about by disparity in marketing conditions at the two zones.



Number of households (N) =402

3.1.2 Goats prices

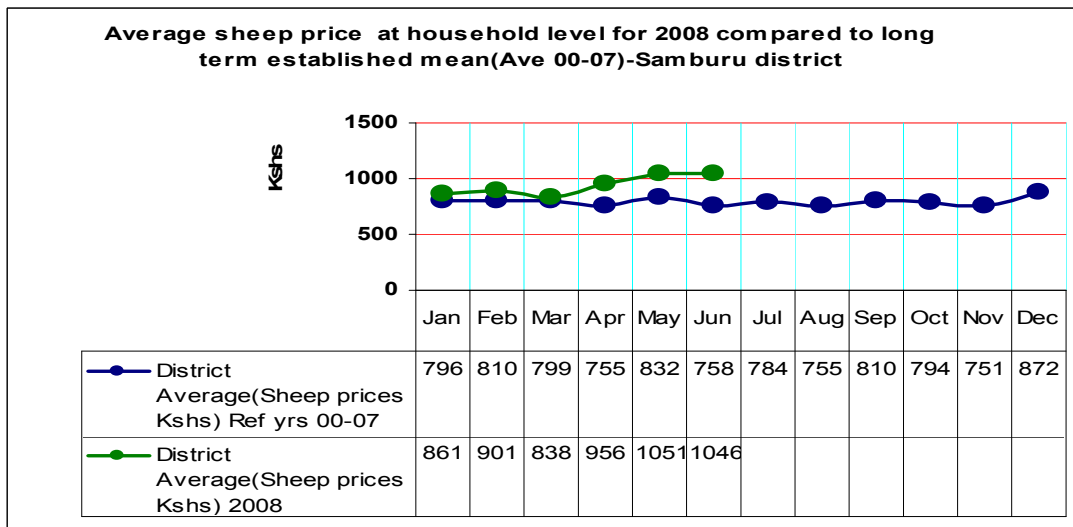
- The average goat prices slightly declined to Kshs 1,054 from last month's Kshs. 1,057.
- The goat price situation is above normal by 41%. Good body conditions and marketing impact positively on goat prices.



Number of households (N) =402

3.1.3 Sheep prices

- The average sheep prices also dropped to Kshs. 1,046 from last month's Kshs 1,051.
- The sheep price is higher compared to long term average mean prices by 37%. Improved access to common livestock markets coupled with good body conditions are among the factors affecting sheep prices positively.



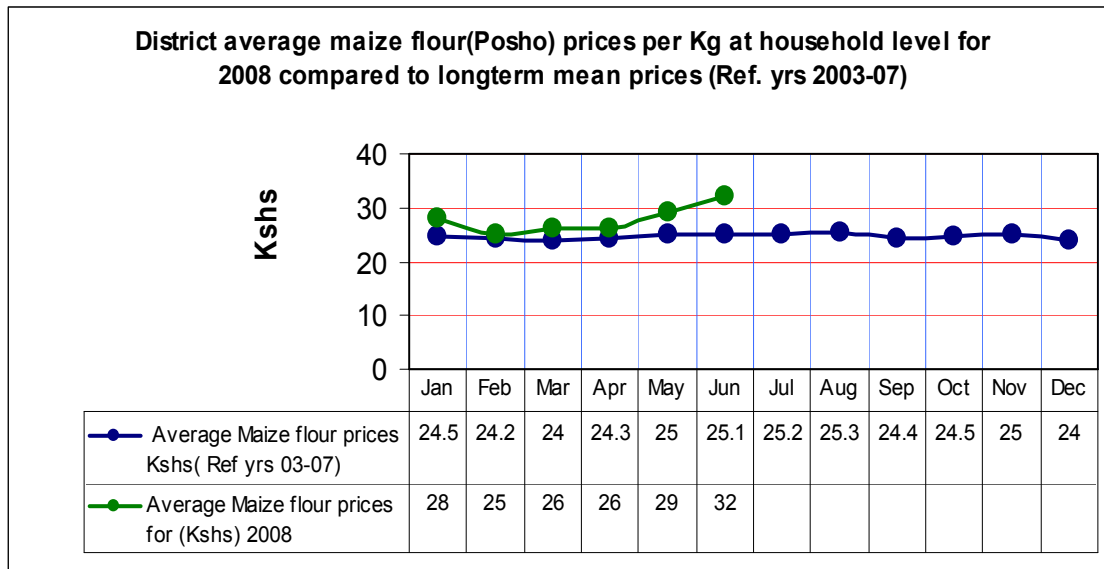
Number of households (N) =402

3.2 Milk consumption

- Milk availability at the household level dwindles both in the plateau and the lowlands. Diminishing forage resources impact negatively on livestock production particularly in cattle despite improved birth rates.

3.3 Food prices

3.3.1 Posho (maize meal)



Number of households (N) =402

- Maize flour prices steadily rise to Kshs.32 per Kg of locally milled maize from last months' Kshs. 29.
- Compared to the long term mean, Posho prices are below normal by 37.5%. The lower than normal posho price situation is resulting from limited supply and high demand of maize in the local markets across the District.
- Added transport costs lead to hiked cereal prices in many lowland areas compared to the plateau.

3.4 Income

3.4.1 Livestock income

- Sale of livestock remains the major source of income for many households across all the livelihood zones. Other livestock income is generated through the sale of livestock products e.g. milk.

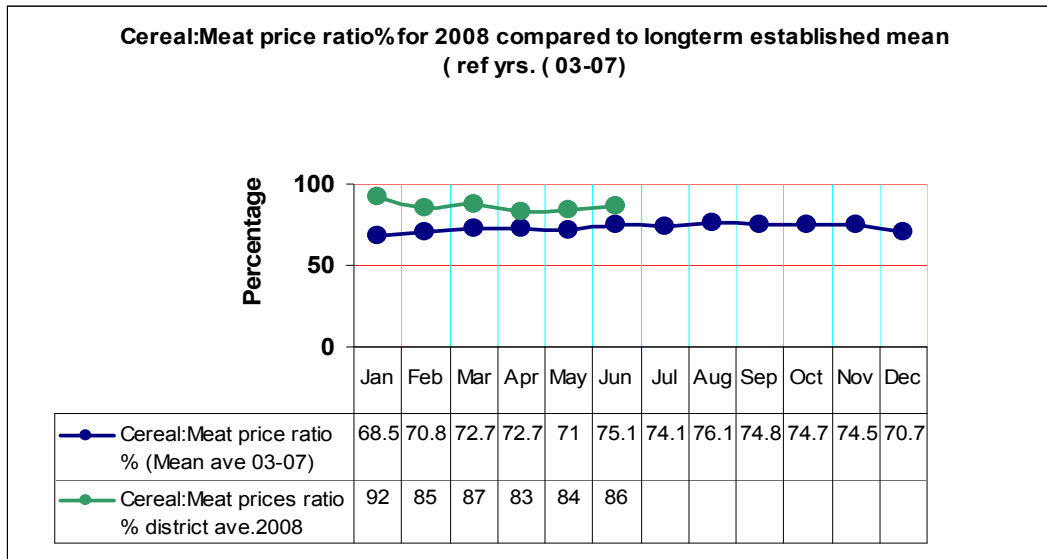
3.4.2 Other income

- Casual labour, petty trading, sale of charcoal, sale of wood products, formal employment and remittances follow livestock income as other income sources for many households within the District in that order.

3.5 Cereal/ meat price ratio (%)

- Pastoralists' purchasing power slightly fluctuates to 86% from last month's 84%. This may be a consequence hiked cereal, other food and non-food commodity prices at the household level.
- Cereal/meat price ratio is below normal by 11.9% since a pastoralists' household requires 0.86 kgs of meat in exchange of a kg of cereals. The exchange rate

remains exorbitant as the established long-term mean average is 0.75kg against a Kg of cereals.



Number of households (N) =402

3.6 Implications on food security

- Higher than normal livestock prices are countered by highly priced cereals, other food and non-food commodities, impacting insignificantly on the pastoralists' economy and food security.

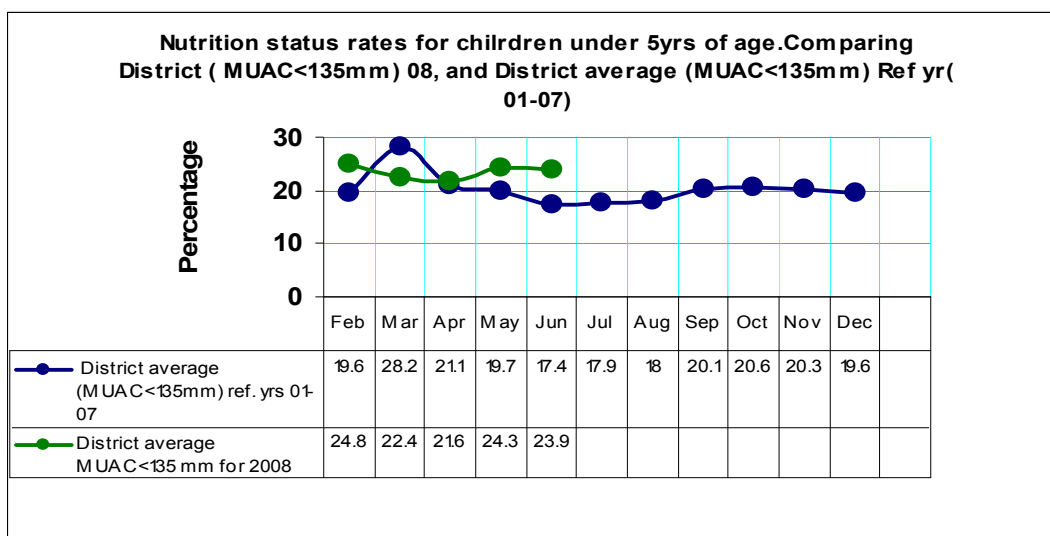
4. Welfare indicators (utilization of food)

4.1 Human health

- Malaria, diarrhoea and upper respiratory tract infections (RTIs) remain the major human ailments reported in various parts of the District but within manageable levels.
- The ailments are countered at the household level through medical assistance sought from public health centres/ dispensaries, private clinics and use of local herbs/ concoctions.

4.2 Nutrition (MUAC) rates

- Nutritional status rates for children less than five years measured using the middle upper arm circumference criteria (MUAC) slightly improve to 23.9% from last months 24.3% for at risk category (MUAC < 135mm). The situation is below normal by 37.3% compared to long term average rates.



Number of children (N) =1618 from 402 households

5. Current interventions and coping strategies

5.1 Non-food interventions.

- District wide livestock disease surveillance, Vaccinations of 50,000 shoats and strict quarantine imposed by the Vet. Department.

5.2 Food-aid interventions

- Supplementary feeding Programme (SFP) in 9 health facilities in all Divisions targeting approximately 1,400 beneficiaries.
- District wide general relief food distribution targeting 30% of the District population both in the lowlands and the plateau.

5.3 Other coping strategies

- The household coping mechanisms are generally normal ranging from 0 to 4 in all sentinel sites against a coping strategies index (0 to 10), apart from kawop that demonstrates a slightly higher than normal deviation of 4.3.

6. Recommendations to KFSSG and other DA's

6.1. Food Situation

- The GOK, donor agencies and the pastoral population should put measures in place to prepare for an eminent food shortage in the District.
- The newly introduced FFA programme should target more beneficiaries both in the lowlands and the plateau to avert the eminent food shortage in many households.
- Supplementary feeding to the vulnerable categories should be increased to target more beneficiaries particularly in the lowlands and in areas facing insecurity crisis to combat the increased rates of Malnutrition.

Action: WFP, KFSSG, ALRMP II, UNICEF and other donors.

6.2 Livestock diseases

- The Vet. Department should immediately embark on massive Small stock Vaccination Campaigns before PPR disease spills over to neighboring district and the rest of the country.
- Neighboring Districts should be on high alert of the PPR threat and should put all necessary measures in place to counter the deadly viral disease.
- KFSSG and other donors should move in quickly to support massive small stock PPR vaccination campaigns within the District.

Action: Vet department, ALRMP II, KFSSG and other DA's.

6.3 Human Health

- Malaria, diarrhoea and RTIs incidences continue to be reported across the District. The MOH should staff and continue to stock all the rural health facilities with adequate drugs in order to improve access to basic health services by pastoralists.

Action: MoH, SAIDIA, Catholic Mission, ALRMP, and other donors.

6.4 Security

- Insecurity in the Plateau and Baragoi/ Nyiro Divisions yet again escalates to the peak and requires immediate attention by all stakeholders particularly GOK. District security committee should identify all the relevant stakeholders and forge a way forward towards restoring calm in areas currently facing insecurity crisis. KFSSG should continue to play a role in facilitating peace committees to reach warring communities for dialogue.
- ASTU police should be settled in Baragoi to contain any violence outbreak between the two warring communities.

Action: DSC, District Peace committees, Pastoral associations, KFSSG and Communities.