

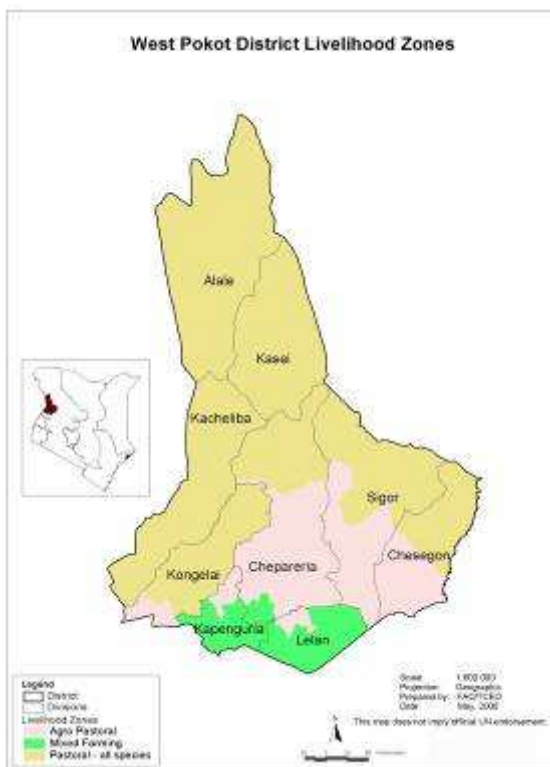


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR JUNE, 2008

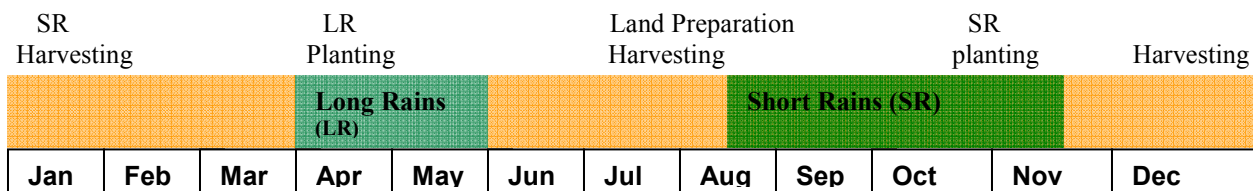
WEST POKOT DISTRICT

WARNING STAGES



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Agro Pastoral	Alert	Worsening
Mixed Farming	Normal	Stable
Pastoralist	Alert	Worsening

SEASONAL CALENDAR



Situation Overview

- Little rainfall was received in the District.
- The recorded amount at KVDA Kapenguria Station (Kishaunet) was 161.8 mm against the long term average of 165mm for 13 rain days.
- Temporal and spatial distribution however was not normal across the livelihood zones.
- Pastures in the pastoral livelihoods have not improved much despite the rains due to the low amounts received previously in April and May, which were below the normal averages.
- Current pasture available cannot last for more than a month if the rains continue to be erratic.
- Most animals are still or have retreated back to the dry season grazing grounds.
- Browse is fair and can last for the next one month.
- Crops situation has been sustained by the rains in the mixed farming livelihoods.
- In the agro pastoral zone, condition for crops is worse. Most people did not plant, others planted late but crop failures could be experienced since rainfall has been unpredictable here.
- Distances to water sources for domestic use have remained normal after the rains were received, for people depending on rivers.
- The distances are however longer for people depending on dams and water pans since most of them never recharged, or have run dry again.
- The major water sources are rivers and sub- surface dams followed by boreholes (where available).
- Grazing distances have increased in the pastoral livelihoods, from an average of 5 to 5.7 Km. the longest distances are in Konyao 13.7 Km (pastoralists moving to Kenya-Uganda border)
- The livestock body condition for cattle has moved from good to fair. The condition of goats is still good
- Cases of Pestes Petis Ruminants (PPR) disease continue to be reported across the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral Livelihoods
- There are upcoming cases of diarrhea for cattle and a disease affecting camels in North Pokot (Konyao, Kiwawa and Alale)
- Livestock prices have gone down. Price for cattle has reduced from Ksh. 7,045 to Ksh 6,791. Due to the worsening body condition
- Average price for goats has also reduced from Ksh 826 to Ksh 815. these prices are low for this particular time of the year due to the existing movement quarantine as a result of the PPR disease
- Price for cereal and legumes has significantly gone up. Maize price has risen from Ksh 23 per Kg to Ksh 26 per Kg
- Price for beans has risen from Ksh 60 per Kg to Ksh 75 per Kg on average
- Sales at the household level are very low with only Konyao sentinel site reporting selling of beans
- The percentage of children MUAC below 135mm has improved from 9.1% to 6.4%
- These percentages have been inconsistent as the response to the rainfall has been different since April (where 4.6% was recorded when rains had began)
- The current situation in the Pastoral and agro pastoral livelihoods is Alert and on a Worsening trend. In the mixed farming livelihoods it is stable, but will depend on the progress of the current rains

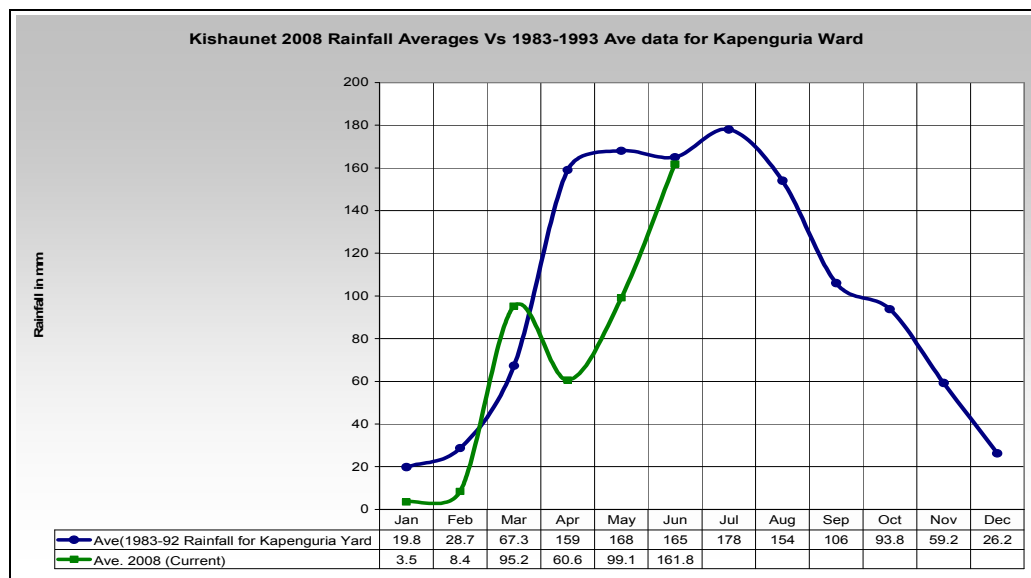
Recommendations

- The District Steering Group has approved an assessment of the current long rains to be done in various livelihoods

1. Stability

1.1 Rainfall

- Below normal, erratic rains were experienced in various parts of the District.
- In the mixed farming livelihoods, some rainfall was received and the crops growth has stabilized.
- The rainfall received here was however near normal hence more is anticipated to fall for proper harvest to be realized
- Within the agro pastoral livelihoods, the condition for livestock is fair but crops condition is poor. Here most of the farmers never planted due to the delay in the rainfall. Others planted late when the rains were received but later ceased. This leaves the crops planted here with a slim possibility of maturing
- Rainfall in the pastoral livelihoods as well as been erratic. Most of the animals that had been brought back from the dry season grazing areas have retreated back there.
- This has had implication on food security since this is not normal and there is shortage of milk in the households
- Most of the seasonal rivers are dry and sub surface dams are serving as the major water sources downstream
- The total rainfall recording at Kishaunet was 161.8mm for 13 rain days in the month of June.
- This is a normal average at this time of the year
- However this rainfall was heavy for a few days hence distribution was not normal
- Spatial distribution also varies in other livelihood zones. (Kishaunet is located in a transition zone between Pastoral livelihoods and Mixed farming Livelihood)



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

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

Quality and quantity

- Pasture quantity has continued to worsen across the livelihoods but the quality has slightly improved in the last four weeks due to the rains that were received at the beginning of the month
- In the pastoral livelihoods, the quantity is too low that cattle have moved back to the dry season grazing area, a situation that is not normal at this time of the year
- The next affected species are the sheep. They are however able to utilize the sprouting pastures hence not as affected as the cattle
- Goats are the least affected as availability of browse so far is good across all the livelihoods.
- The only challenge facing goats as a source of household income is the existing quarantine of movement in the district
- The reduction in pasture at this time of the year is due to the poor response of the rainfall in the season
- The most affected division is Kongelai. Kangoletiang and Konyao where cattle have moved to the Kenya- Uganda border
- This is not a normal situation at this time of the year

Distance to Grazing Areas

- The average grazing distances is 5.7km with Konyao the highest 13.7km. this is an increase from the previous average of 5.0 km
- Most of the livestock have moved to the dry season grazing area especially for North Pokot district
- This is not a normal situation at this time of the year
- As the pastures continue to reduce on the Kenyan border side, the livestock is expected to move further inside Uganda, which may pose a security challenge to both the animals and the herders.

1.3 Water sources and availability

Water sources

- Natural rivers are the major water sources across the district
- Despite the fact that most rivers are not flowing, people are still scooping from the sub surface dams to get water for domestic use and livestock
- Boreholes (where they exist) are the next major water source
- Most of the dams and water pans are dry. This is either because enough water was not impounded or the little that had been impounded has been exhausted.
- At this time the dams and pans could have filled up, if the rains responded normally.
- However due to lack of sufficient rainfall across the livelihoods, dams and pans have remained dry
- This is not a normal situation at this time of the year

Household access to water

- The average return distances to water source have consistently increased in the last two months from 2.5km to 3.6km in April and May respectively.
- At the beginning of June when some rains were received, these distances improved to 3.1 km. however as the little reserve that had gathered reduce, these distances may widen further.
- The increase in the distances results from the inconsistent rainfall that has left most of the water pans that act as water sources during the rain season dry
- This situation has not normalized so far.

1.4 Insecurity and conflict

- Cases of insecurity are still common along the Pokot - Turkana border
- There are cases of loss of animals that have gone to graze near the Kenya – Uganda border
- The situation has been worsened by the animals that have moved to the dry season grazing areas (which are conflict prone) at an abnormal time of the year.
- There are cases of human – wildlife conflict in Kangoletiang and Konyao, where loss of livestock especially goats have been reported.

1.4.1 Migration

- Livestock migration has been experienced due to pasture shortage in the district
- Most of the pastoralist especially in Kongelai have moves as they look for pasture
- There is however no in migration reported in the District
- This is not a normal situation at this time of the year

1.5 Implications on food security

- Food security situation in the distinct has worsened further compared to last month
- This is because the food stocks have continued to reduce in the households.
- The last season’s short rains performed poorly and this did not make the situation any better
- Milk production in the household has reduced as most animals have moved out to look for pasture
- People are currently relying of goat milk for consumption within the households
- Availability of green vegetable supplements is also low compared to last month
- Availability of food stuff in the market has also reduced and prices as well are quite high
- The current food situation is not normal at this time of the year.

2.0 Food Availability

2.1 Livestock Production

2.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- The livestock body condition across the district is fair but on a worsening trend
- The most affected are cattle. Those which did not move to grazing areas have little pasture and milk production has gone down
- The next affected are sheep. However these have been able to utilize the little available grass that sprouted with the rainfall that was experienced at the beginning of this month
- Goats are less affected and the body condition is good. This is as a result of the availability of browse in most areas
- However the prices in the market don’t reflect the same due to the existing quarantine in the district
- This is a worsening situation compared to last month for cattle
- Affected areas remain Kongelai, Kacheliba and Kangoletiang
- The is also notable reduction in milk production, in all the livelihood zones, an indication that livestock body condition may begin to deteriorate soon
- This is not a normal situation at this time of the year

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- Cases of PPR (Pestes Petis Ruminants) continue to be reported across the district, affecting mostly goats and sheep
- Vaccination have been done in some areas, though few parts have been covered so far
- People have not responded well to the calls for them to take the animals for vaccinations
- The quarantine is still on and this has affected the sale at the market
- Cases of diarrhea for cattle have been reported across the district. This could be attributed to shortage of pasture hence animals feeding on inferior weeds which may cause the diarrhea.
- Low quality pasture could also be suppressing the natural immunity of the animals
- Disease affecting camels has also been reported in North Pokot especially Konyao and Alale.
- This is not a normal situation in the year

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of various crop production activities

- In the mixed farming livelihoods, crop production has progressed well with the rains that were received at the beginning of the month.
- These areas include Lelan, Tabach and Kapenguria. However harvesting especially of cereals will depend on how rains progress in the next few months
- In the agro pastoral livelihood zones, crops have performed poorly due to inconsistency in the rainfall
- In these areas most people planted late and these crops might not mature, judging on how the rains have progressed
- Other people in these livelihood zones are still planting
- This is not a normal situation at this time of the year

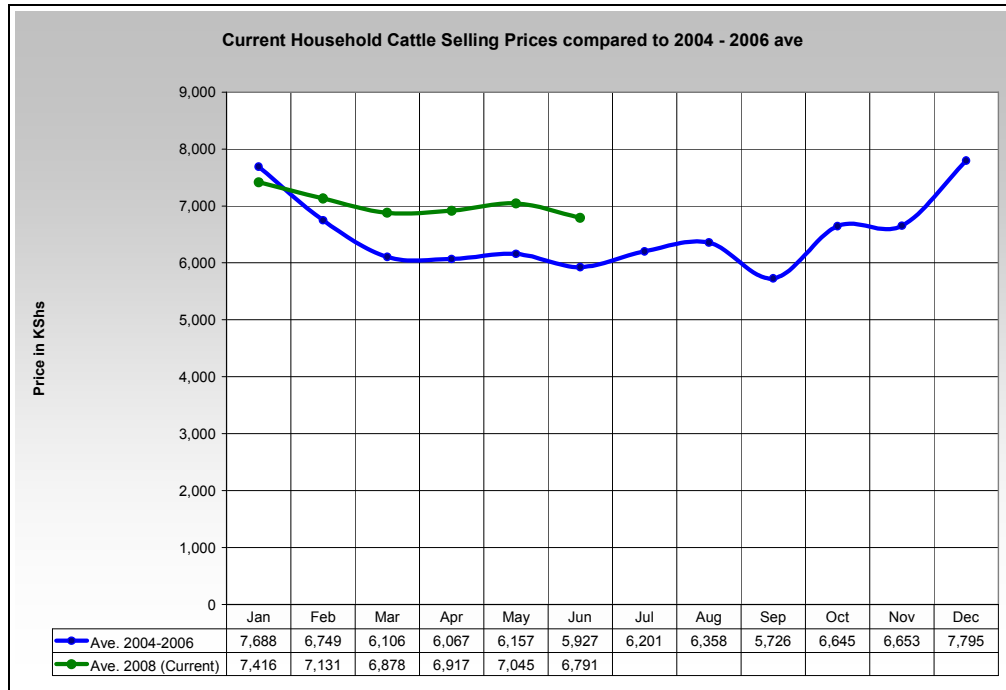
2.2.2 Pest and diseases

- Crop pests have been reported in the agro pastoral livelihoods
- These have come up as a result of people planting late hence the crops are being attacked by termites
- This is not normal and can be attributed to the lateness of the rainfall hence late planting

2.2.3 Implications on food security

- The current rainfall which had started on time didn't progress well especially in the pastoral and agro pastoral livelihoods.
- Livestock have moved to dry season grazing zones at a very abnormal time of the year.
- This has reduced the amount of milk available in the households
- Availability of green vegetables in the farms have also gone down.
- The areas that are likely to be affected much are Kongelai, Kacheliba, Orwa and Kangoletiang

3.0 Access to Food
3.1 Livestock marketing
3.1.1 Cattle prices



- Unlike the previous month when livestock prices had started to increase, the trend has gradually changed and these prices are now reducing
- This reduction is as a result of the reducing pasture and the worsening body condition
- Despite the fact that it had earlier rained in the district, pasture has not improved much unlike for browse.
- The current average price recorded for cattle is Ksh. 6791 a reduction from Ksh 7045 recorded in May.
- The lowest recorded price was in Kangoletiang at Ksh 5900 which is lower than the last months Ksh 600 in Poole.
- The prices in Poole have still remained low as well (Ksh 6000) and most animals in these area have moved out.
- The highest recorded price was in Lelan at Ksh. 16,000. Here being a mixed farming zone, the rains have so far responded well and there are improved livestock breeds being sold in this area as well.
- The situation is normal only in the mixed farming livelihoods (in the highlands) but worsening in the agro- pastoral and pastoral livelihoods including Poole (Kongelai and Kacheliba)

3.1.2 Goat prices

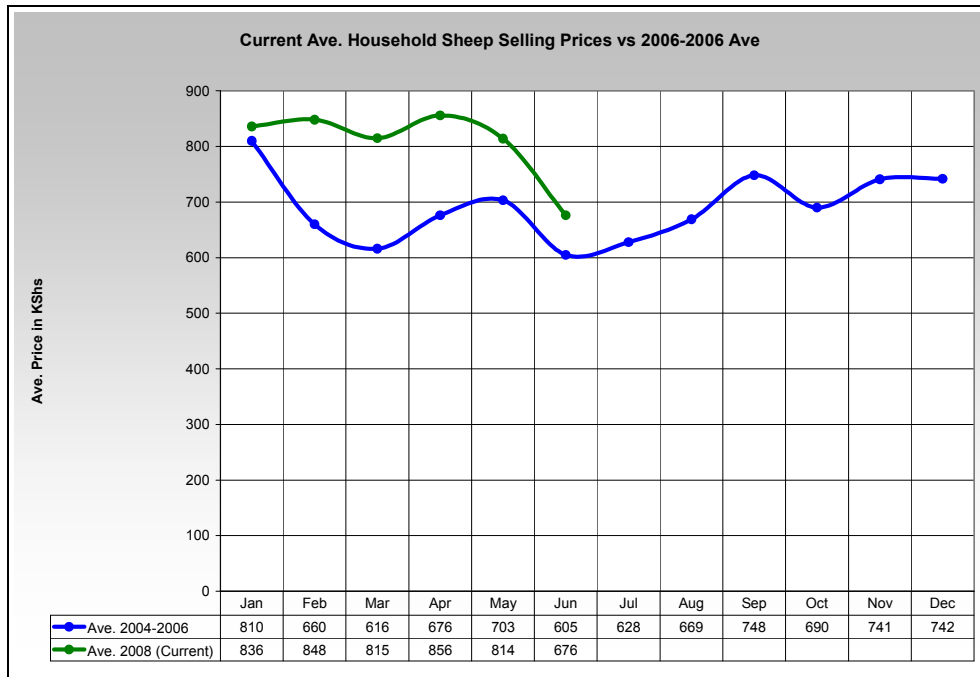
- Like cattle, price for goats has gone down in the pastoral livelihoods
- The average price recorded was Ksh 815 compared to Ksh 825 recorded last month
- The lowest recorded prices were in Kangoletiang at Ksh 700, this being lower than the previous record of Ksh 750 last month
- The highest was recorded at Kaibos (Ksh 1,500) which is a mixed farming zone.

- Normally the highest prices could be higher at this time of the year, but this has not happened because of the current quarantine in the district due to PPR (Pestes Petis Ruminants) disease
- The current situation is not normal at this time of the year



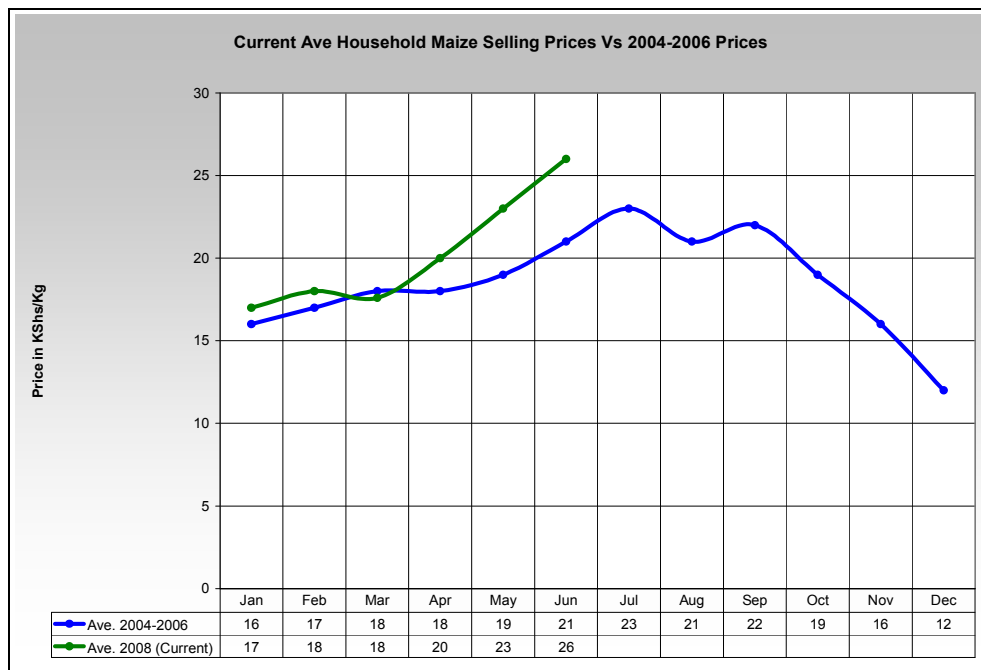
3.1.3 Sheep prices

- The current prices recorded for sheep was Kshs 676 compared to Ksh 814 the previous month.
- Like other livestock prices, these have reduced with the reduced pastures especially in the pastoral and agro pastoral livelihood zones
- The highest recorded price was Ksh 1600 in Kapsait while the lowest was Ksh 550 in Kangoletiang
- The change in price margins have not significantly changed compared to last month.
- The highest recorded last month was Ksh 10,00 in Kapsait and lowest was Ksh 560 in Konyao
- Prices in the mixed farming livelihood have remained high due to better response of rainfall and pasture in this area unlike the agro pastoral areas



3.2 Crop prices

3.2.1 Maize prices

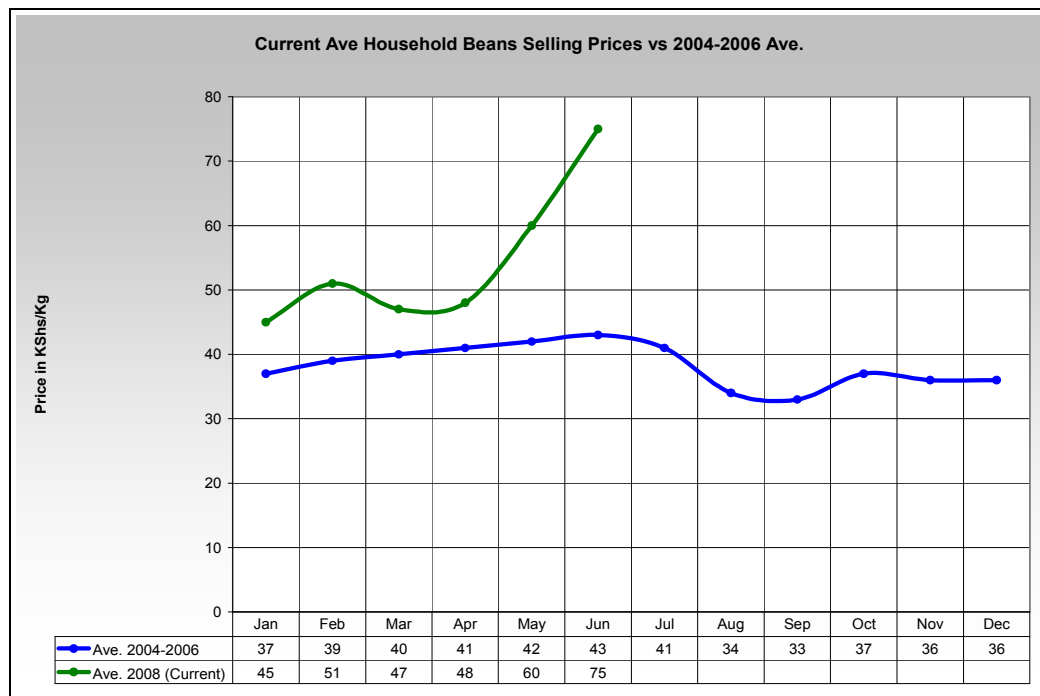


- Price of maize has increase in all the livelihood zones as availability in the market also reduces.
- The price recorded was Ksh 26 per Kg (Ksh. 52 per 2kg tin) compared to Ksh 23 the previous month.
- Price for maize has increased for the last 4 months, and this is because there are no external supplies coming from the neighboring districts, and where available the cost is high.

- The failure of the last short rains also contributed to shortage of the crop in the region.
- The highest recorded market price was Ksh 45 in Kangoletiang.
- For household prices, the lowest recorded was Ksh 20 in Kapsait.
- In most of the sentinel sites, there were no sales at the household level.
- The only household sales recorded were Kapsait (Ksh 20) Kaiboss and Chepnyal (Ksh 25) and Konyao Ksh 35.
- This is not a normal situation at this time of the year.

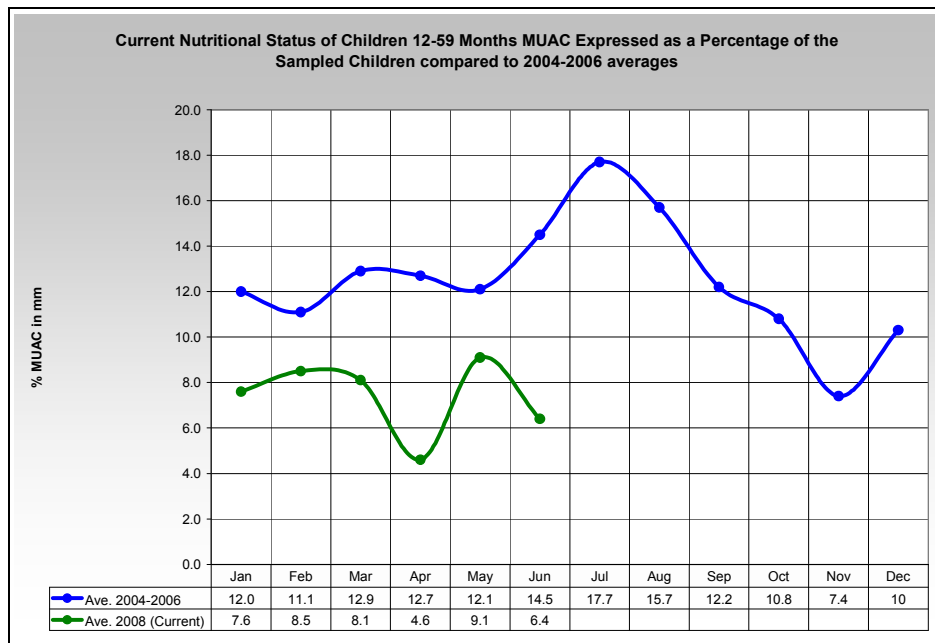
3.2.2. Beans prices

- The average prices at the household level are Ksh 75 compared to Ksh 60 the previous month. (Ksh 150 per 2Kg tin)
- Only one sentinel site (Konyao) where sale for beans at the household level was reported
- The average market price for beans at the market level is Ksh 79 per Kg
- This is not a normal situation at this time of the year



4. Utilization of food

4.1 Nutrition status



- Percentage of sampled children MUAC below 135mm has reduced compared to last month
- The current record is 6.4% compared to 9.1% recorded last month
- The MUAC percentages have been inconsistent across the district in the last three months
- This situation had improved in April when the first rains were received and the recordings were 4.6%. in may after the rains ceased, the percentage increased to 9.1%. at the beginning of July some rains were received again. These improved the situation for browse and goat milk has been available supplementing the feeding for children