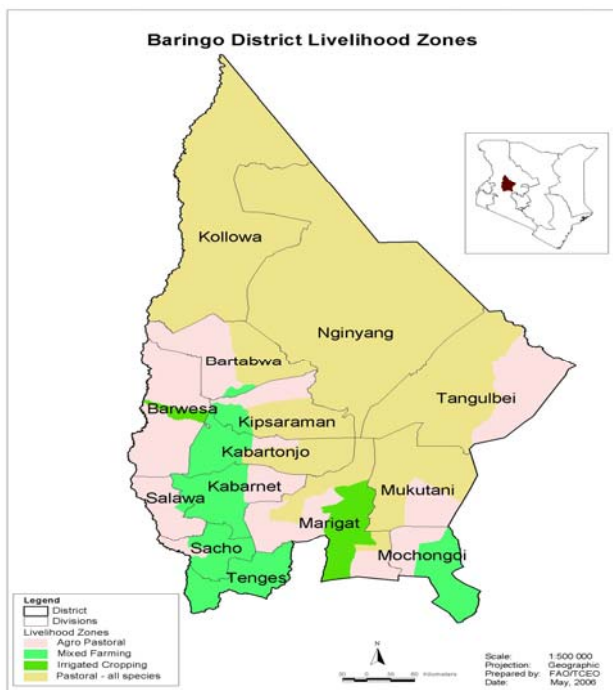




OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
 MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
 ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR MAY, 2008

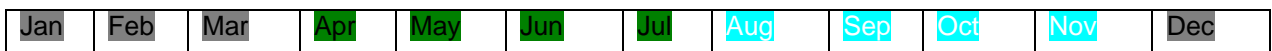
EAST POKOT/BARINGO DISTRICT



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 rainfall was received during the month of May, resulting in little impact on the grazing areas and water sources. An average of 74.6 mm of rainfall was received from the four ALRMP recording stations.
- The quality and quantity of forage was worsening.
- Water availability worsened for both human and livestock use.
- Livestock body condition is poor in cattle, goats and sheep. Milk production decreased during the month, this is attributed to poor rejuvenation of forage and poor body condition of the animals.
- The average prices of livestock decreased, owing to poor body condition coupled with closure of the shoats' markets in early February 2008 as a result of the Peste Des Petits outbreak. Forcing them to sell their goats and sheep at throw away prices. Poultry prices decreased due to low demand.
- The average food crop prices and other commodities increased owing to the scarcity of supplies in the markets within the District and the neighboring Districts.
- Other sources of income included: casual labor, petty trade (local beer brewing e.t.c.) and sale of charcoal and wood products.
- The general nutritional status of children (MUAC<135mm %) worsened from 18% in the previous month to 19% in May.
- Households are currently restricting the consumption of food by adults for children.

Recommendations to district authorities/ DSG and national KFSSG

- Vaccinations and treatment of goats & sheep against the peste des petits outbreak in the District, CCPP in Komolion (Tangulbei Division), ECF in Kerio Valley and diarrhea in goats in Kinyach (Bartabwa Division).
- Relief supplies and supplementary food for children in both East Pokot and Baringo District.
- Need to strengthen conflict prevention, resolution and peace building initiatives, to maintain the already achieved level of peace and further reduce its impact along the borders of East Pokot, Baringo, Turkana and Samburu Districts.

Current interventions

Non-food interventions

- Construction of 2 classrooms in each of Chesitet, Orontokrese and Natan communities in East Pokot District - ALRMP/ Community.
- Construction of tank and the installation of pump for Kolowa water project - ALRMP.
- Construction of roof rain harvesting tank for Kamurio primary school - ALRMP.
- Laying of pipes for the Tangulbei, Karimadow boreholes – ALRMP / Ministry of Water.
- Excavation of Kapsipeiwa water pan in Kipsaraman Division and Cheporuswo water pan in Marigat division – ALRMP.
- Solar fencing of farms in Lemuye community in East Pokot – ALRMP.
- Water harvesting, spreading and irrigation in Chesirimion, Mondri Division - ALRMP.
- Soil conservation measures in Seretion community - ALRMP/ Community.
- Boarding facilities for Kamurio and Kipnai primary schools - ALRMP/ Community.
- Equipping of Kapturo dispensary in Bartabwa Division - ALRMP/ Community.
- Vaccination of shoats against PPR disease (26,000 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, Community Elders, and Youth groups, Political leaders, Pastors and ALRMP.

Food Aid

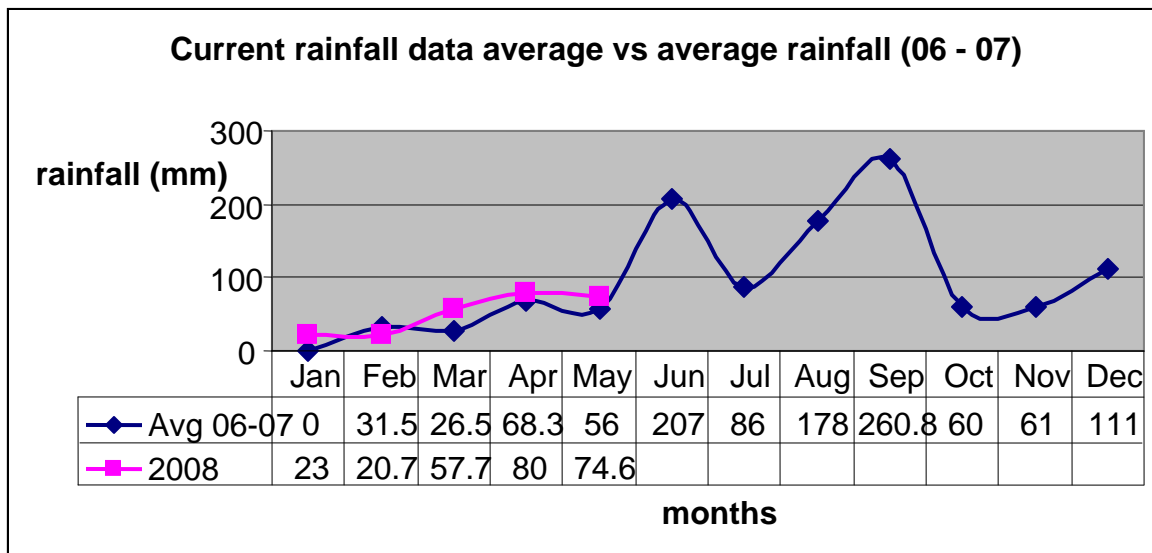
- Ongoing relief support to few number of beneficiaries through – DC East Pokot/ Baringo

DSG meeting and Recommendations

- The DVO to intensify campaign for PPR vaccinations.
- The DSG to carry out an assessment of the food security situation in East Pokot and Baringo Districts.
- Enhancement of various peace building initiatives by stakeholders in the Districts.
- Building of the Nginyang Bridge.

1. Stability

1.1 Rainfall



Source: ALRMP rain gauge data stations

- The average rainfall (74.6 mm) was received sporadically during the month from 4-stations compared to the previous month where there was 80 mm. This had little impact on water sources in a few areas.

1.2 Natural vegetation & pasture condition

- The quantity of forage in most parts of the District worsened. The quality of the available pasture was also poor. This was attributed to poor rejuvenation of forage in the season.
- The distance to grazing areas remained similar to the month of May. The distance to grazing fields remained at an average of 8.9 Km, similar to the previous month.

1.3 Water sources & availability

- Following the inadequate rainfall, the water sources did not replenish.
- The water sources currently in use are a few pans and dams, natural rivers, traditional river wells, shallow wells, boreholes and lakes.

- Distance water source remained at an average of 4.5 Km as in the previous month for most of the households.

1.4 Emerging Issues

- Owing to the poor performance of the rains browse and pasture did not improve.
- Distances to water sources and pastures remained far.
- Animals have moved to the neighboring Districts (Turkana, Samburu, Laikipia, Marakwet and Keiyo) in search of pasture.
- The security situation along the East Pokot and Baringo borders has calmed following a series of peace meetings.

1.5 Implications on Food Security

- Poor rejuvenation of browse and pasture, the long distances to grazing areas has resulted in poor livestock body conditions, leading to lower milk production, hence posing a threat to household food security in the District.

2. Food availability

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Livestock body condition is poor in all species following the poor rejuvenation of browse and pasture.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- Confirmed cases of Peste des petits disease in the District.
- Upsurge of CCPP, Diarrhoea and ECF diseases in the District.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk production decreased owing to poor health of livestock caused by insufficient browse and pasture.
- This is not normal at this time of the year.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness & status of crop

- Crops planted in the agro-pastoral livelihood zones have dried up due to lack of rain. This is posing a threat to food security.
- This is not normal at this time of the year as agro-pastoralists should be weeding their crops by now.

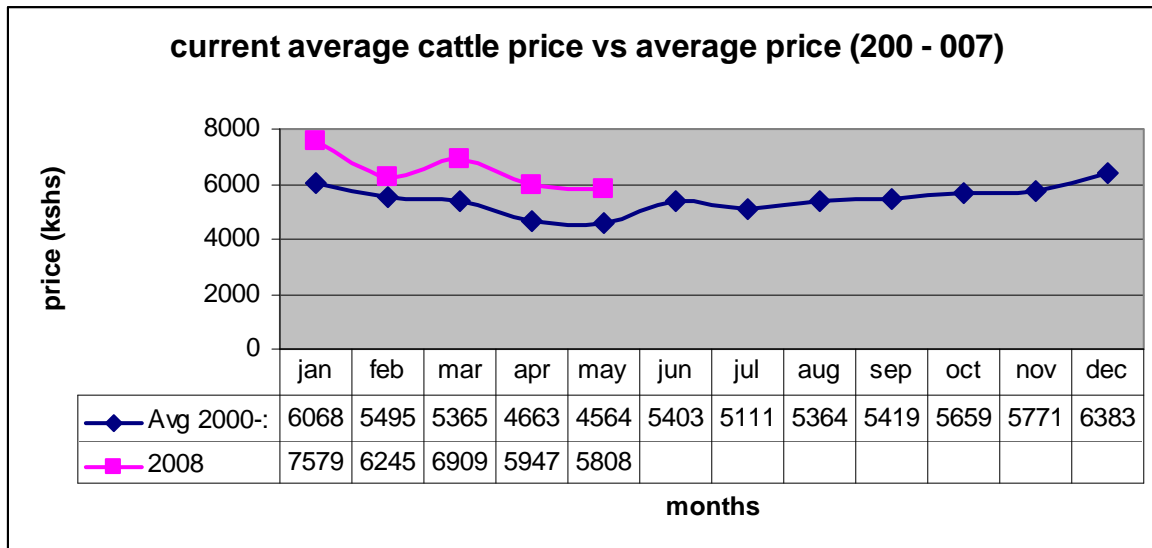
2.3 Implications on food security

- Milk production at household level declined, affecting the children's dietary needs.
- No crop yields will be realized due to lack of rain, posing a major threat to food security at the household level.

3. ACCESS TO FOOD

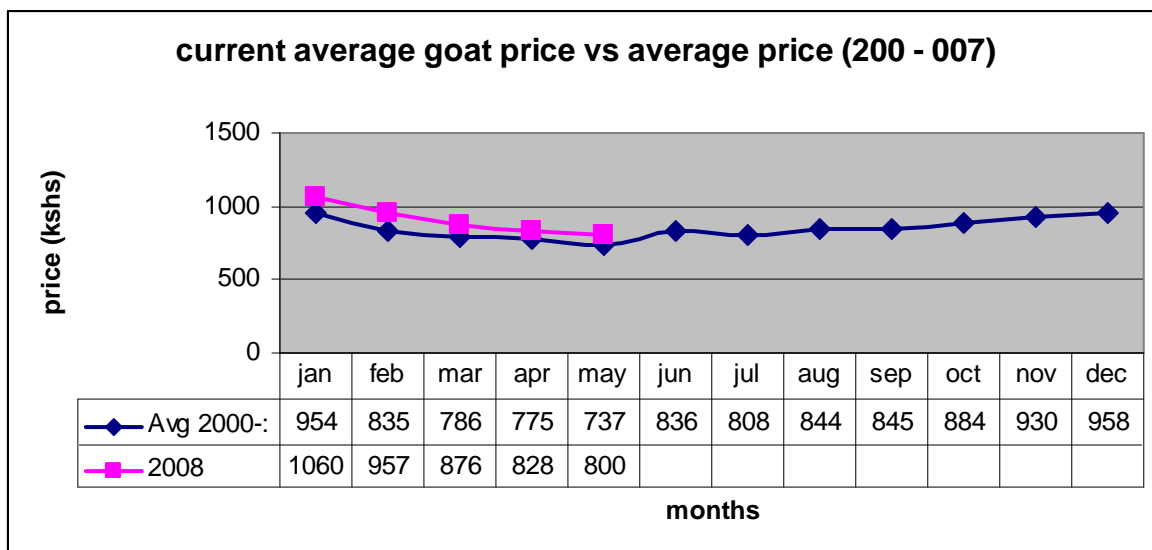
3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices (From household level)



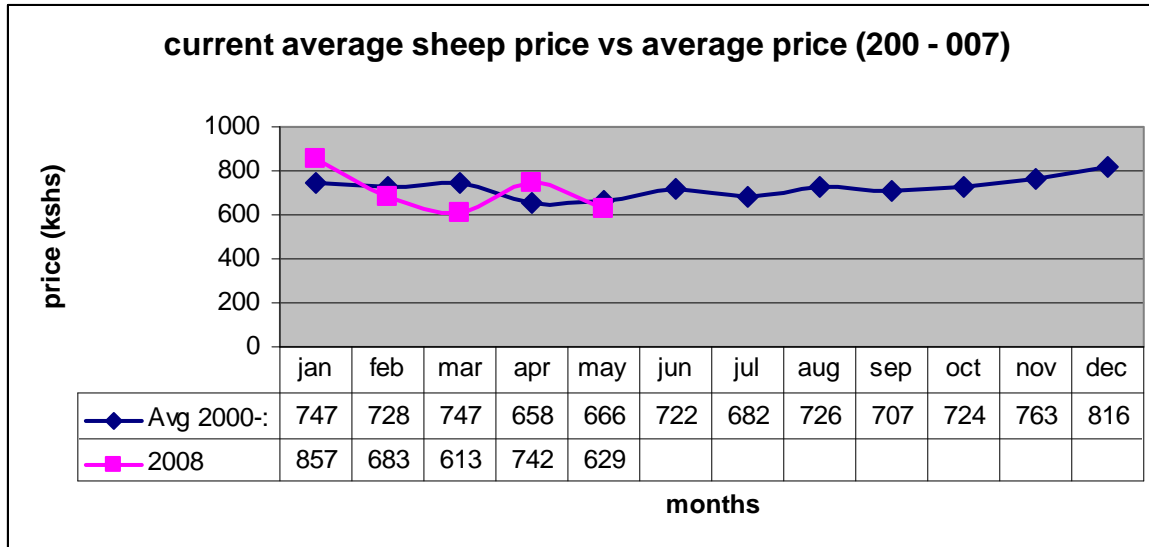
- The average cattle price decreased from Ksh. 5,947.00 in April to Ksh. 5,808.00 in May.
- Cattle prices are normally high at this time of the year; however, they are higher than the long term average as shown on the graph.
- This was attributed to poor health of the animals as a result of insufficient pasture caused by poor rejuvenation. This is a negative impact to household food security.
- Marigat Division had the highest average cattle price (Kshs. 10,750.00), attributed to fair body condition and access to the peri-urban prices. Mukutani Division had the lowest average price (Kshs. 4,200.00).

3.1.2 Goats prices (From household level)



- The average goat price decreased more from Kshs. 828.00 in April to Kshs. 800.00 in May. Though the price is above the long term average, the price of goats is usually higher at this time of the year. The low prices are attributed to poor body condition of the animals and closure of all goats markets in East Pokot District, due to the outbreak of Peste des petits disease.
- Marigat Division had the highest goat prices averaging Kshs. 1,061.00 while Tangelbei Division had the lowest price averaging Kshs. 720.00.

3.1.3 Sheep prices (From household level)



- The average sheep price decreased from Kshs. 742.00 in April to Kshs. 629.00 in May. This price drop was attributed to poor body condition and illegal sale of sheep at markets in East Pokot District. The prices were however lower than the long term average, which is a threat to household food security.
- Kipsaraman Division had the highest sheep prices (Kshs. 634.00) while Tangelbei Division had the lowest price (Kshs. 623.00).

3.2 Livestock sales

- The volume of livestock sales decreased as compared to the previous months as a result of closure of sheep and goats markets in the District.
- Goats, sheep, poultry and cattle were the main livestock sold in the markets, goats and sheep are sold at off markets in East Pokot District.
- The pastoral livelihood zone had the highest livestock sales while the 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
- The level of sales is not normal for this time of the year.

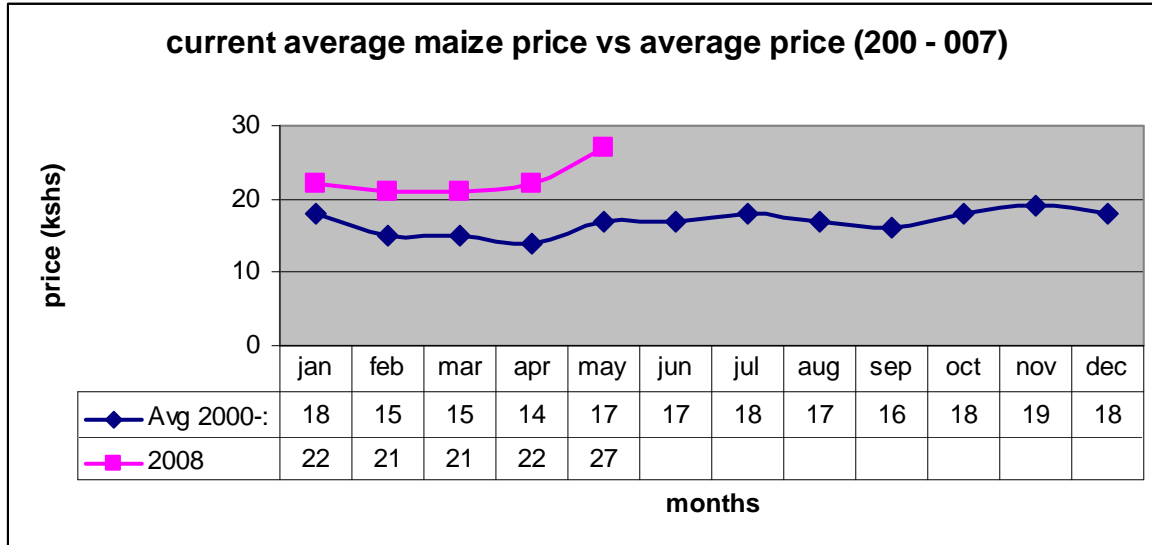
3.3 Milk consumption

- Milk consumption by households declined in all livelihood zones, compared with the previous month.
- This was due to poor body condition caused by insufficient browse and pasture.

- This posed a threat to food security at household level especially for the under five year's children.

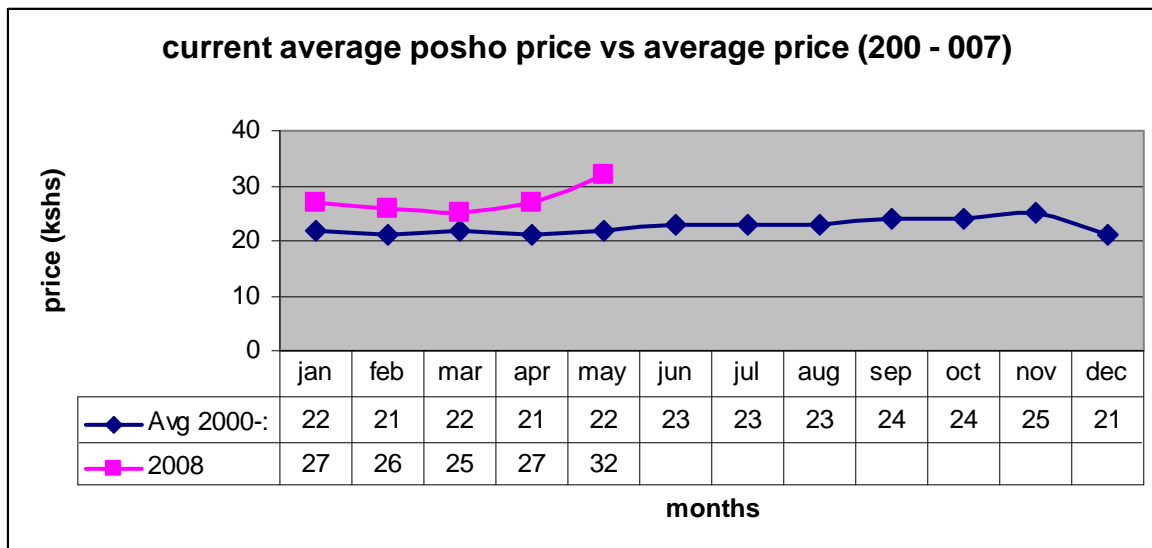
3.4 Crop prices (Market prices)

3.4.1 Maize



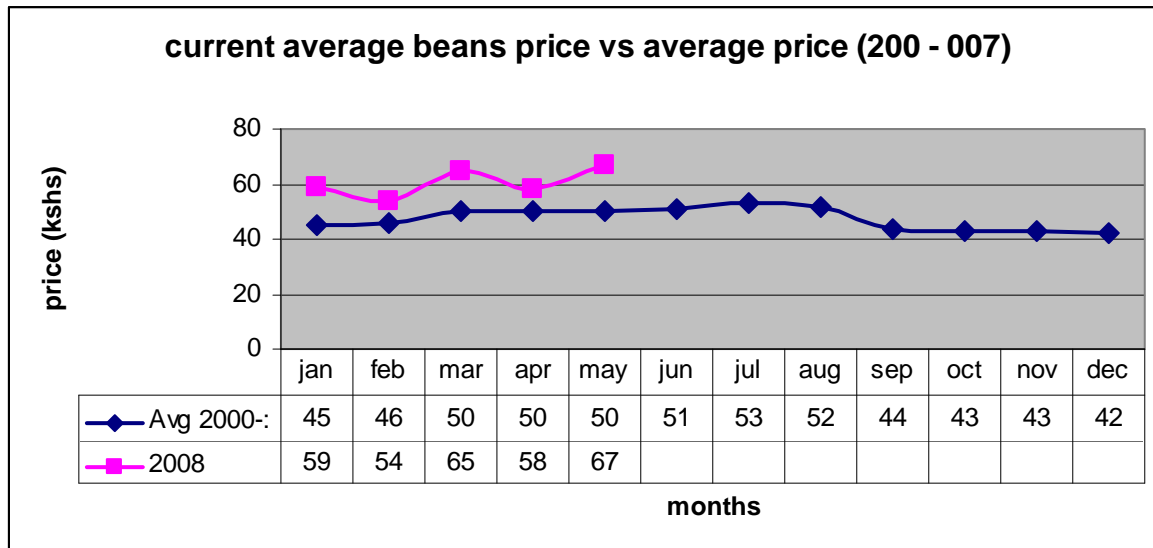
- The average maize price in May per Kg was Kshs. 27.00, Kshs. 5.00 more than the previous month. The highest price in the market is Kshs 35.00 per Kg, the average price was higher than the long term mean.
- Lack of adequate supply of Maize to the local markets from agro- pastoralists within the District 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.

3.4.2 Posho (maize meal)



- The average price of posho per Kg increased to Kshs. 32.00 from Kshs. 27.00 in April, the current price was higher than the long term average.
- 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.
- The price of posho is not normal for this time of the year.

3.4.3 Beans prices



- The average price of beans in May per kg was Kshs. 67.00, Kshs. 9.00 more than the previous month; this price is higher than the long term mean.
- The average price increased due to scarcity of the commodity in the markets.
- Beans prices were higher in the pastoral livelihood zone than in the irrigated cropping and agro- pastoral zones.

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 by now.

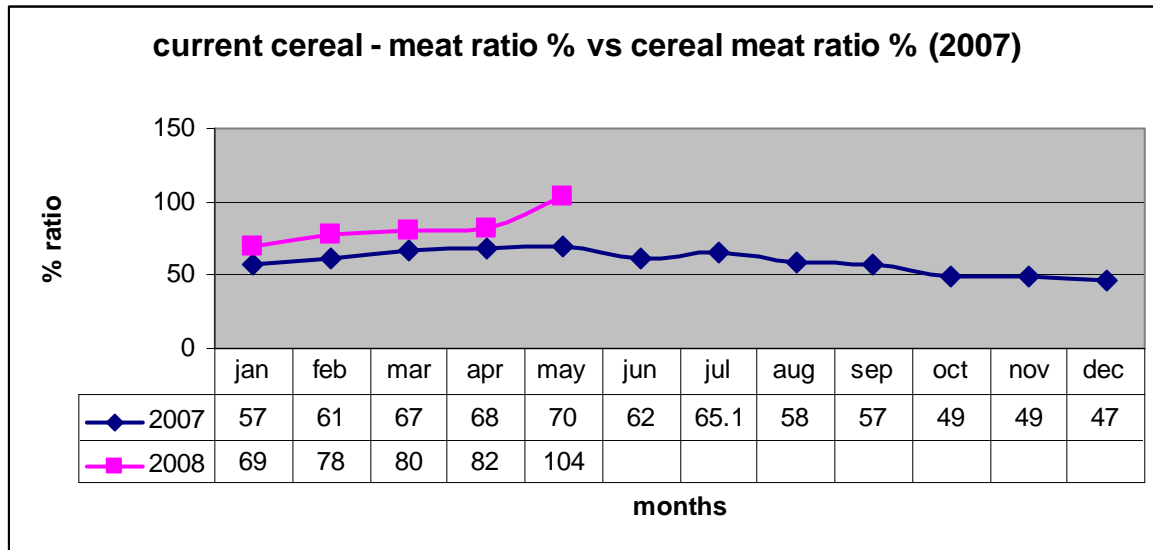
3.5.2 Livestock income

- Livestock sale income decreased in comparison to the previous month.
- The livestock sales income decreased due to the closure of goats and sheep markets.
- The income obtained from the livestock is not normal for this time of the year.

3.5.3 Other income

- Casual labor was the other 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 rate per casual for the month was Kshs 119.00 more than that of the previous month.

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



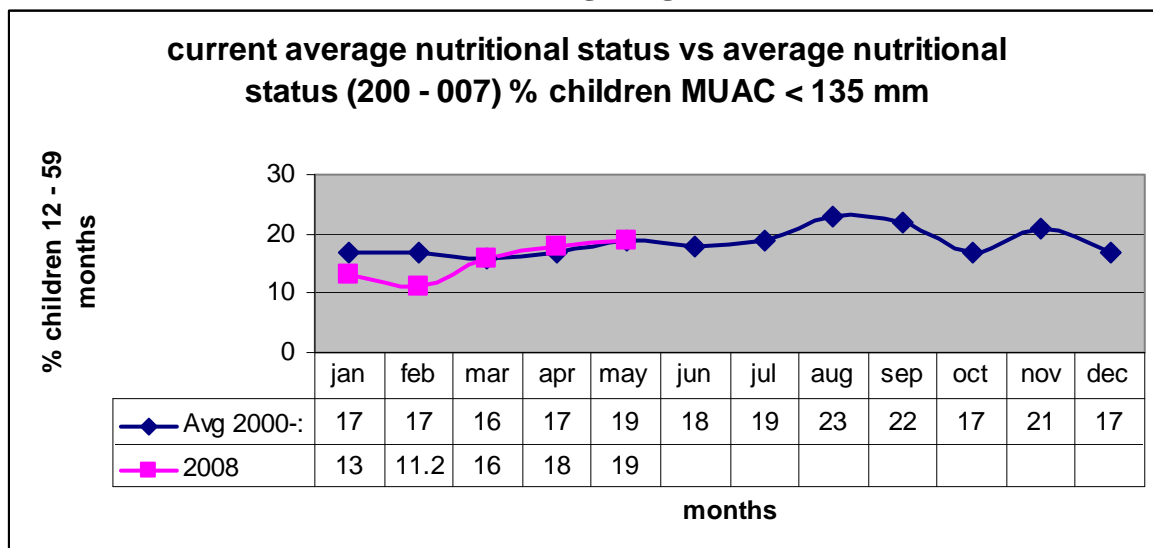
- Terms of trade worsened than in the previous month, the ratio % worsened due to high cereal prices, the communities have to purchase a unit measure of cereals with approximately thirty units of meat.
- The price ratio was highest in pastoral livelihood zone, due to low prices offered for the livestock and high cereal prices, while it was lowest in the 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 for this time of the year.

3.7 Implications on food security

- The low livestock prices coupled with the erosion of the peoples' purchasing power in the District has posed a threat to the household food security situation.

4. Utilization of food

4.1 Nutrition status (children at risk of getting malnutrition)



- The average MUAC in the month of May was 19% up from 18 % in April. This shows that the nutritional status worsened forcing communities to employ food consumption restriction by adults for children.
- The level of malnutrition was highest in the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones and was lowest in irrigated cropping livelihood zone.
- Worsening malnutrition levels were due to the lack of milk and inadequate food stuffs at the household level.

4.2 Health

- The major disease reported in May was chicken pox, reported among the under fives' children in the District.
- Malaria had the highest incidences during the month.

4.3 Flagged areas

- Pastoral livelihood zone reported the highest malnutrition rates, as well as cases of malaria.

5. Current intervention measures and coping strategies

5.1 Non-food interventions

- Construction of 2 classrooms each for Chesitet, Orontokrese and Natan communities in East Pokot district - ALRMP/ COMMUNITY.
- Construction of water tank and installation of a pump for Kolowa water project – ALRMP/ Ministry of Water.
- Construction of roof rain harvesting tank for Kamurio primary school – ALRMP.
- Laying pipes for the Tangelbei and Karimadow Boreholes – ALRMP / Ministry of Water.
- Excavation of Kapsipeiwa in Kipsaraman Division and Cheporuswo in Marigat Division water pans – ALRMP.
- Solar fencing of farms in Lemuye community in East Pokot – ALRMP.
- Water harvesting, spreading and irrigation in Chesirimion, Mondri Division - ALRMP/ COMMUNITY.
- Soil conservation measures in Seretion community - ALRMP/ COMMUNITY.
- Boarding facilities for Kamurio and Kipnai primary schools - ALRMP/ COMMUNITY.
- Equipping of Kapturo dispensary in Bartabwa Division - ALRMP/ COMMUNITY.
- Vaccination of shoats against PPR disease (26,000 vaccinated) – ALRMP/ DVO/ CDF/ World Vision/ Action Aid.
- Peace building initiatives by various stakeholders i.e. the PSC, DPC, DSC, Community Elders, and Youth groups, Political leaders, Pastors and ALRMP.

5.2 Food aid

- Insignificant amounts of relief foods being distributed – DC East Pokot/ Baringo

5.3 Other coping strategies

- Sale of honey in place of sale of livestock because of the PPR outbreak, restrict consumption of food by adults for children, consumption of wild foods (Loma and

Sorich), borrowing food from relatives, reduction in meal sizes as well as skipping some meals, casual labour and petty trade.

6. Recommendations

- Vaccinations and treatment of goats & sheep against the peste des petits outbreak in the District, CCPP in Komolion (Tangulbei Division), ECF in Kerio Valley and diarrhoea in goats in Kinyach (Bartabwa Division).
- Relief supplies and supplementary food for children in both East Pokot and Baringo District.
- Need to strengthen conflict prevention, resolution and peace building initiatives, to maintain the already achieved level of peace and further reduce its impact along the borders of East Pokot, Baringo, Turkana and Samburu Districts.