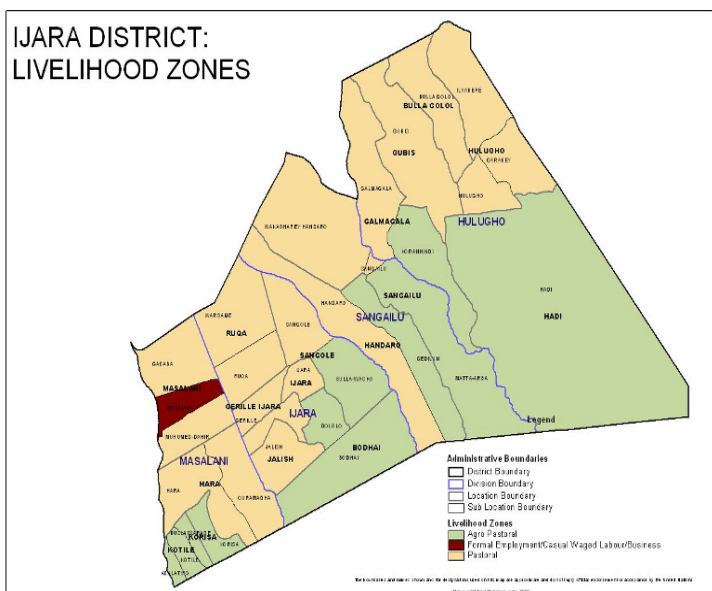




MINISTRY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
Arid Lands Resource Management Project II
Early Warning System

Drought Monitoring Bulletin: IJARA DISTRICT
Period: MAY 2008



WARNING STAGES		
Livelihood Zone	Stage	Trend
Pastoral	Alert	Improving
Agro pastoral	Alert	Improving
Formal employment/ Casual labor	Alert	Improving

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Milk yield drops Livestock moves towards dry season grazing zones 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High milk yield Livestock moves towards the traditional wet grazing areas High calving and lambing rates 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low milk availability Livestock moves towards the fall back dry seasons grazing areas (Boni forest) Wildlife-human conflicts 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High milk yield Livestock moves towards traditional wet seasons grazing areas High mating rates 		
Short Dry Spell			Long Rains			Long Dry Spells			Short Rains		
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Situation Overview

- ✓ Rainfall of light intensity was received across the entire district. However, effect of this coastal tropical shower that have started in the second week of the month was more pronounced in the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods of Ijara, Hulugho, Sangailu, and Kotile.
- ✓ The quality and quantity of browse and pasture had improved as a result of the rains triggering movement of satellite herd's north wards.
- ✓ All categories of water pans (small, medium, and large) and natural ponds impounded adequate quantities of water. This has ensured freedom from water-related stress for communities and their livestock in almost all of the sentinel sites although quality of water remained poor and communication by road to the divisions of Sangailu, Hulugo and parts of Ijara division was seriously disrupted.
- ✓ The average prices of all categories of livestock had improved in the entire district with cattle fetching highest prices in pastoral livelihood zone followed by formal/informal employment (peri-urban) livelihood zone. Average prices recorded for cattle for the month under review stood at ksh11, 857 as compared with ksh.9, 765 in the preceding month of April,2008.
- ✓ The livestock body condition and health was rated fair for cattle but poor for shoats in both pastoral and agro-pastoralist livelihood zones.
- ✓ The nutritional status of the under fives (5 years) based on the MUAC measurement generally indicated some improvement in comparison with preceding month. The rate for those at risk was recorded at 14 %. This could be attributed to increased milk yield brought about by the rains and supplementary feeding provided at health centers.
- ✓ Confirmed cases of PPR and CCPP were reported in pastoralist livelihood zones of Jalish, Hulugho, Matta arba, Korahindi, Gerrille, Bodhai and Ijara locations.
- ✓ The availability of milk had slightly increased virtually in all the divisions.
- ✓ Generally, the drought situation in the entire district was at alert stage and improving.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO DISTRICT AUTHORITIES AND KFSSG BY DSG

- Continue to encourage and support crop farming in the agro-pastoralist zones in order to enhance food security in the district through programs such as Njaa marufuku, provision of seeds and other inputs.
- Reducing levels of malnutrition in pregnant and lactating women and children under five years through provision of supplementary food, medical and awareness programs
- Construction of pit latrines/toilets in settlements and schools and provision of safe drinking water to prevent outbreaks diarrhoeal disease.
- Sensitize the community on nutritional and commercial value of fish.
- Strengthen out reach clinics and organize for medical camps with other actors.
- Measures to curb wildlife should be put in place.
- Surveillance combined with intermittent armed operation of the Boni Forest to curb illegal logging should continue to be conducted.
- PPR and CCPP vaccination campaigns to continue across the district.

ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS (STABILITY)

1.1 Rainfall

- The long rains which started in late April continued into the first week of the month . However, coastal tropical showers started from the second week of the month and continued to fall up to end month in all the sentinel sites though more intensified in areas that lie or are adjacent to the Boni forest, namely Bodhai ,Hulugho, Sangailu and Kotile.
- The trend was normal when compared with same period of previous years as the district usually receives rains in such period of the year.

1.2 Condition of natural Vegetation and Pasture.

- The browse and pasture conditions in the entire pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones depicted an improving trend both in terms of quantity and quality impacting positively on body condition of all categories of livestock across the district, save for those affected by diseases such as PPR and CCPP.
- The trend was generally normal when season is compared to others of previous years and had a positive impact on household food security since the body condition of livestock; especially cattle had improved and attracted traders. Production in terms of milk had also improved.

1.3 Water sources

1.3.1 Use of water sources

- Pans and river Tana remained the major water sources during the period.
- There was no stress reported in the month in the entire district as all the medium and large water pans contained substantial volumes of water that were anticipated to sustain pastoralists and their livestock for the next four to five weeks.
- It was observed that the trend was normal when compared with same period in previous years as the coastal showers enhanced improvement in the availability of water on a large scale in most parts of the district.

1.3.2 Average distance (Kms) to water sources

- The average distance to water sources from grazing areas and domestic households was recorded at (3km –5km) almost the same as last month.
- The trend was normal for such season of the year as the average distance is supposed to be less than 5km and had positive impact on food security because the commodity could still be accessed within a reasonable distance saving time for other social-economic activities.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Conflicts/ insecurity/human displacement

- Increased human-wildlife conflict has been observed with communities suspecting that swelling numbers of wildlife is as a result of displacement from Somalia and encroachment on wildlife habitats by increasing settlements.

1.5 Implication on food security.

The above conditions are expected to positively affect food security situation.

1.3.2 Migration

- Most of the satellite herds are still camping within the dry season grazing areas inside the Boni forest and parts of Lamu district, notably, around Witu division, although movements northwards have began on a small scale.

2.0. RURAL ECONOMY INDICATORS (FOOD AVAILABILITY)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- The livestock body condition and health status for all categories was fair in all livelihood zones. However there was outbreak of CBPP and isolated cases of LSD reported in pastoral livelihood zone and cases of CCPP, Helminthiasis and trypanomiasis observed in the agro pastoral livelihood zones.
- In addition to the livestock production prices have in turn improved following the rains.
- The trend had a positive impact on household food security as milk was available to children under five years while rise in livestock prices had increased the purchasing power of the pastoralist., consequently majority of households could afford sufficient food prices.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases.

Diseases that are prevalent and affect livestock in all the livelihoods are as indicated below: -

- Cattle – LSD, CBPP, Trypanosomiasis and black quarter anthrax.
- Sheep-Helthminthiasis, sheep enterotoxaemia, pulpy kidney disease, etc
- Goats-CCPP, Helminthiasis

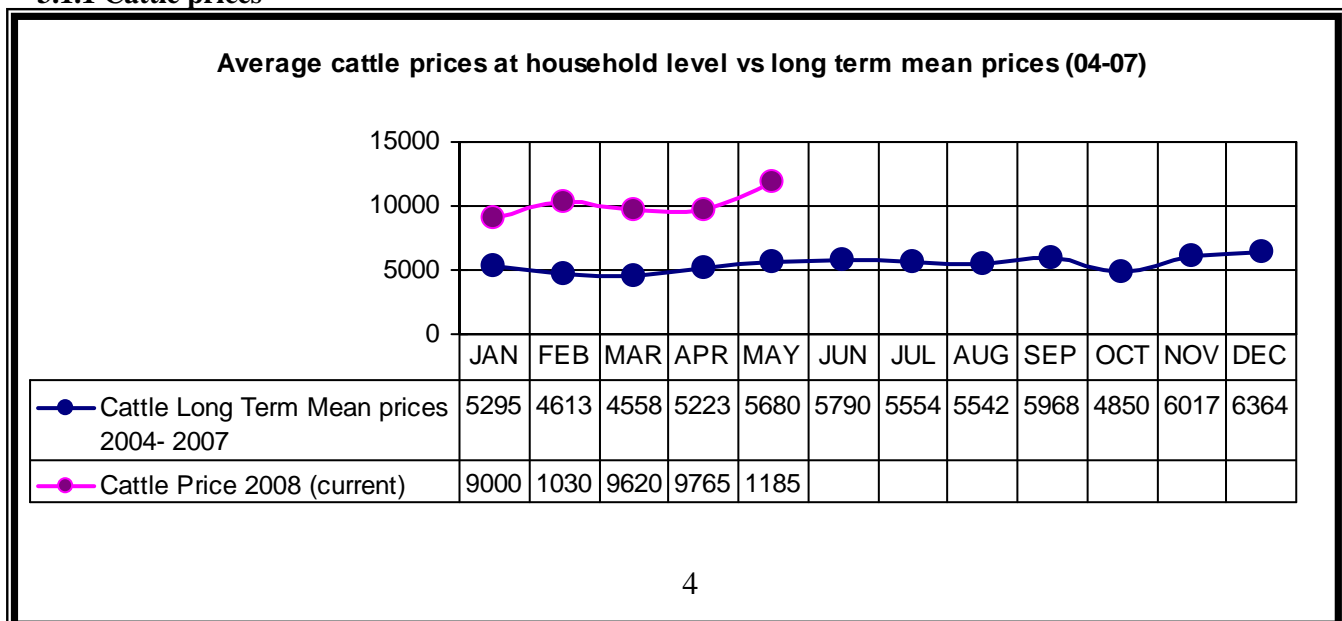
2.1.3 Milk Production.

- Milk yield was recorded to have increased in all the livelihood zones in comparison with the preceding month and this is attributed to the early arrival of the rains.

3.0 ACCESS TO FOOD

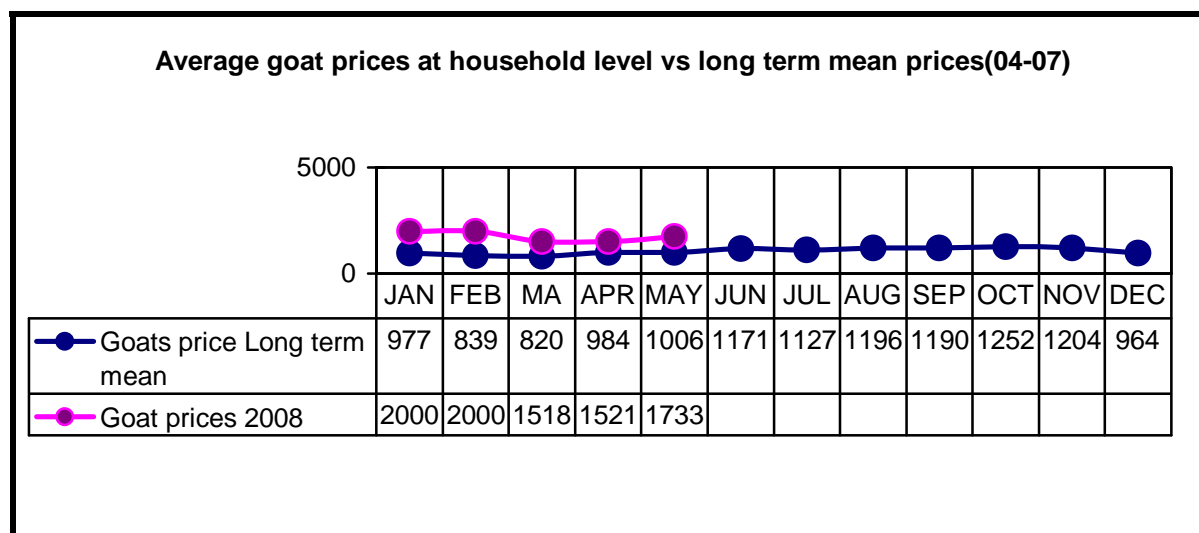
3.1. Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices



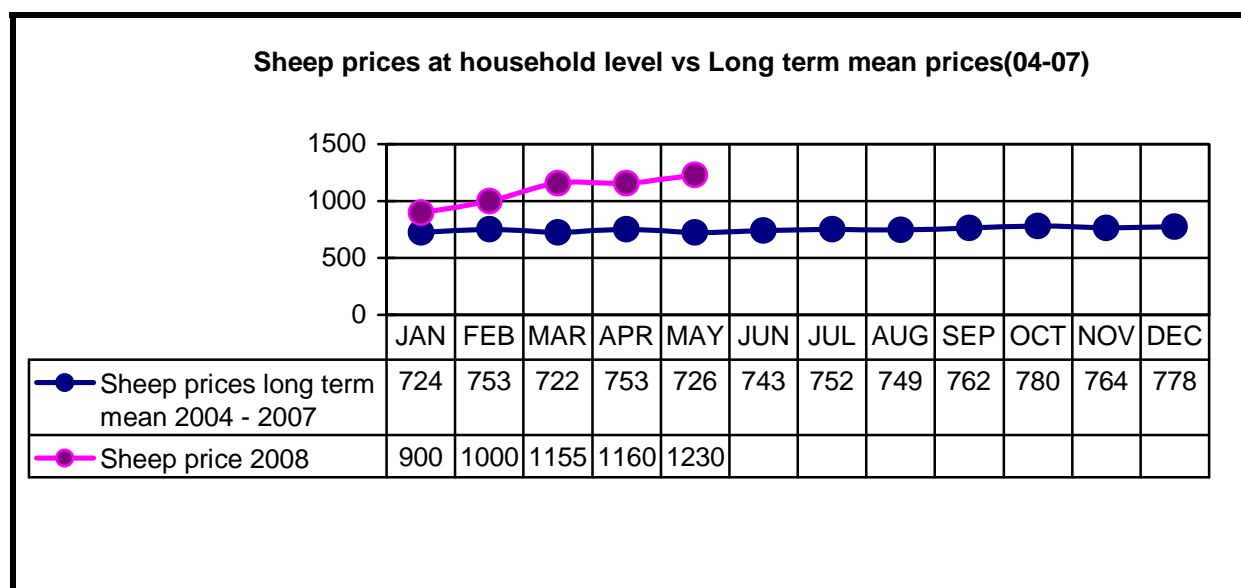
- Cattle prices increased from Ksh 9765 to Ksh 11857. The rise is normal for this time of the year and has even recorded above the long term mean price.
- Pastoral and agro pastoral livelihood zones recorded the highest cattle prices at Ksh 13262.5 and Ksh 11,777/= respectively while formal/ casual pastoralist livelihood had the lowest.

3.1.2 Goat prices



- The average goat prices in all the livelihood zones had increased when compared to last reporting period from Ksh 1521/- to Ksh 1733/- with the prices still remaining above the long-term average.
- The trend is normal for such a period of the year and had positive impact on household food security due to improved animal body condition following the rains and due to the fact that few animals were presented to the market for the month as the pastoralist maintained their culture of conserving their animals in this period for the household herd growth. This led to competition among the traders hence resulting in price increase.

3.1.3 Sheep prices



- The prices of sheep showed an increase from Ksh 1,160 to Ksh1,230/=.
- Pastoralist and agro pastoralist livelihood zones in Hulugho and Masalani areas had recorded the highest prices at ksh.1, 536/- and ksh1, 200/- respectively.
- The trend was normal as the prices of sheep usually shoot up during this time of the season and had positive impact on food security, and reason for the trend is as of that explained for goats above.

3.2 Livestock sales

- The rate of livestock sales has decreased when compared to last reporting period except for goats.
- This was a normal trend and had positive impact on household food security since it has improved the purchasing power of the pastoralist while also ensuring the conservation of household herds.

3.3 Milk consumption

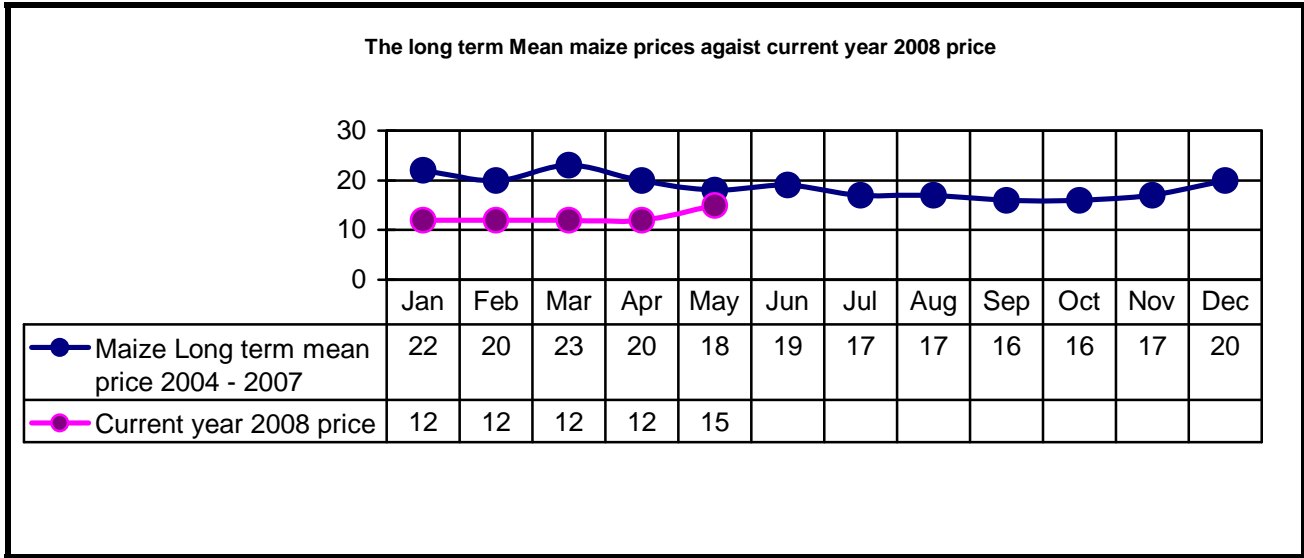
- Milk consumption in the rural household was recorded to be still low, though showing an increasing trend during the month with percentage of households that were able to feed milk to their young ones rising. However, consumption across the entire district continued to be low since only an average of 10% of the household members consumed milk for the every one category.

Food prices

- Prices of foodstuffs had hiked during the month under review with comparison to previous month.

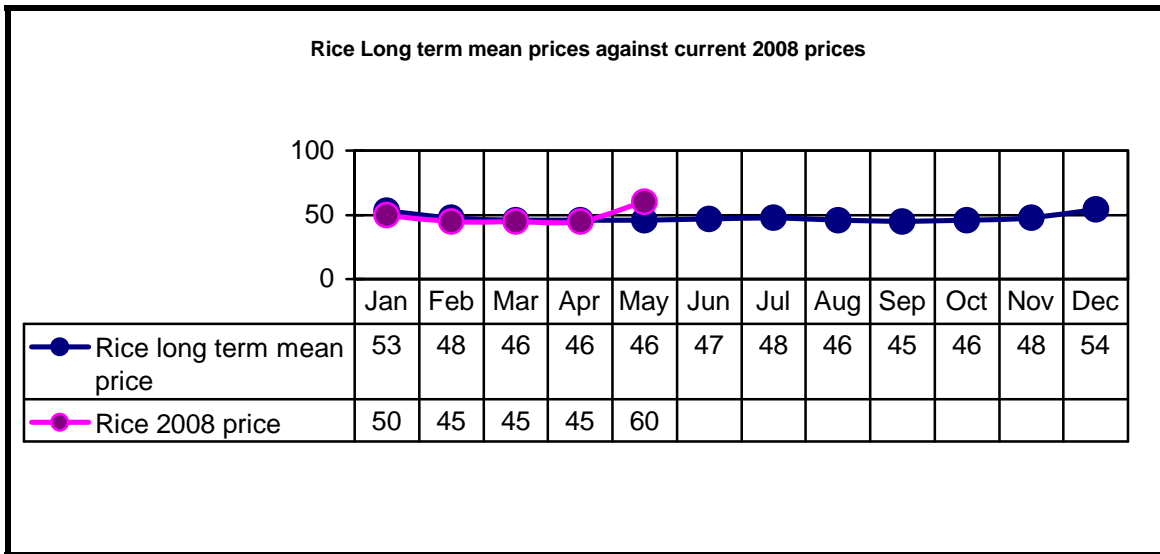
3.4.1 Maize

- The average price of maize in the entire district had gone up in almost all the sentinel sites. This is attributed to the presence of the coastal showers currently observed in the district
- The observed trend had negative impact on household food security and may be attributed to the ongoing rains rendering roads impassable.



3.4.3 Rice

The average prices of rice had tremendously increased in the entire district in all the livelihood zones.

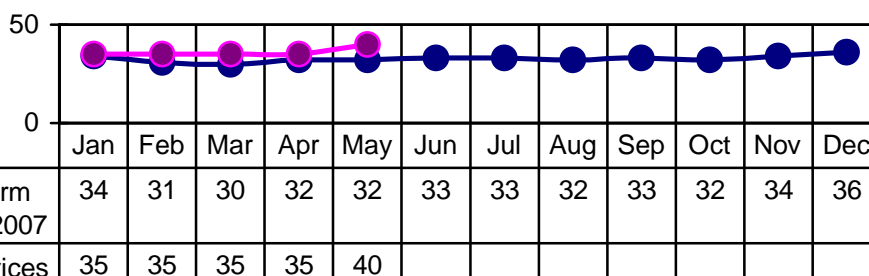


3.4.2. Sifted maize meal

The average price of sifted maize meal had considerably increased from Ksh 35 per kg to ksh40 during month under review . This could be attributed to the ongoing rains rendering roads impassable hence increase in cost of transportation.

The trend had negative impact on household food security.

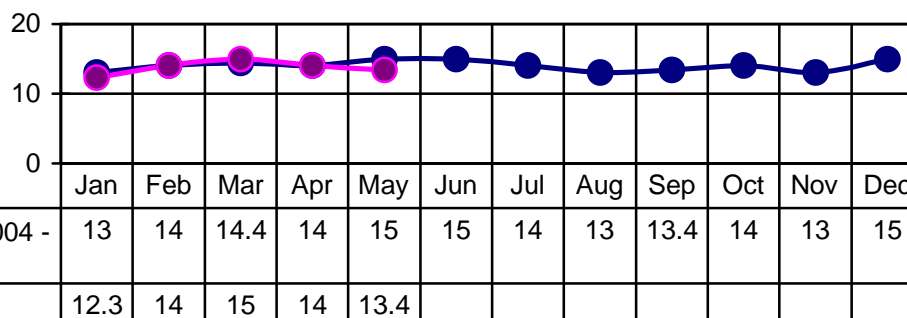
Current sifted maize meal prices against Long term mean prices



HUMAN WELFARE INDICATORS

4.1. Malnutrition (MUAC) rates

Nutrition status for children under five years MUAC<135mm compared to long term mean rates (04-07)



- There was a slight improvement noted on the child nutritional status based on the MUAC measurement as the percentage of children rated “AT RISK” of malnutrition decreased from 14% to 13.4% during the month.
- Areas recording high percentages of children at risk of malnutrition still remain as Pastoralist livelihood zone which stood at 18%
- The above trend could be attributed to increased availability of milk brought about across the district by the rainfall.

4.2 Human Health.

- No outstanding outbreaks however Malaria and upper respiratory tract infections were the common ailments reported, though at manageable levels.

4.3 FLAGGED AREAS (AFFECTED AREAS)

- Pastoralist livelihood zones of Jalish and Sangole in Ijara, koranhindi and Sangailu areas are most affected

5.0 Current intervention measures and coping strategies.

5.1. Non- food Interventions.

- ✓ Construction of water harvesting structures for crop production by Ministry of Agriculture
- ✓ Water hyacinth removal from pans in Hulugho by water dept/ALRMP
- ✓ Seeds distribution to crop farmers by ministry of Agriculture
- ✓ Conducting of mobile outreach clinics by MoH/ALRMP
- ✓ Distribution of Unimix and Vitamin A supplementation by MoH/UNICEF
- ✓ Vaccination against CCBP and PPR, already 6410 cases of CBPP and 7027 of PPR has been vaccinated.
- ✓ Establishment of tree nurseries—a total of 10,000 seedlings are in nurseries.

5.2. Food Aid

- ✓ Relief food distribution to vulnerable households

5.3. Coping strategies

Among the coping measures adopted during the month were: -

- ✓ Collection and sale of bush products
- ✓ Herding and other casual work
- ✓ Sales of quarry products

5.4.0. OTHER GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS BY DSG

5.4.1 Livestock diseases

- Disease surveillance should be sustained by veterinary department and other stake holders in order to contain any disease outbreaks. All stake holders to support vaccination through the vet department so as to contain any would be outbreaks.
- Action: Vet department, ALRMP11, Womankind and Oxfam GB.

5.4.2 Human health

- The MOH should strengthen and sustain disease surveillance in order to avert increase in malaria incidences. Rural health facilities to be stocked with sufficient drugs for easy access by pastoralists. Anti-malarial campaigns should also be strengthened.
- Action: MOH, DPHO and CBOs.

5.4.3 OTHERS

- Agricultural extension services should be strengthened by DAO

- Impeding conflicts over the three mile strip along the Tana River to be resolved by the concerned authorities. Action :District Peace Committees, Local Authorities and the DSCs
- Control measures on wildlife menace to be put in place.
- ing conflicts over the three mile strip along the Tana River to be resolved by the concerned authorities. Action :District Peace Committees, Local Authorities and the DSCs
- Control measures on wildlife menace to be put in places

