



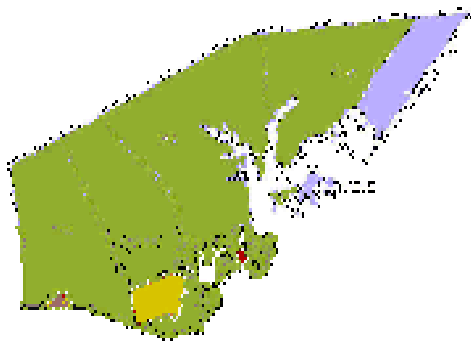
**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONITORING MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR APRIL 2008 LAMU DISTRICT

Lamu District Livelihood Zones

Warning Stages for Livelihood Zones

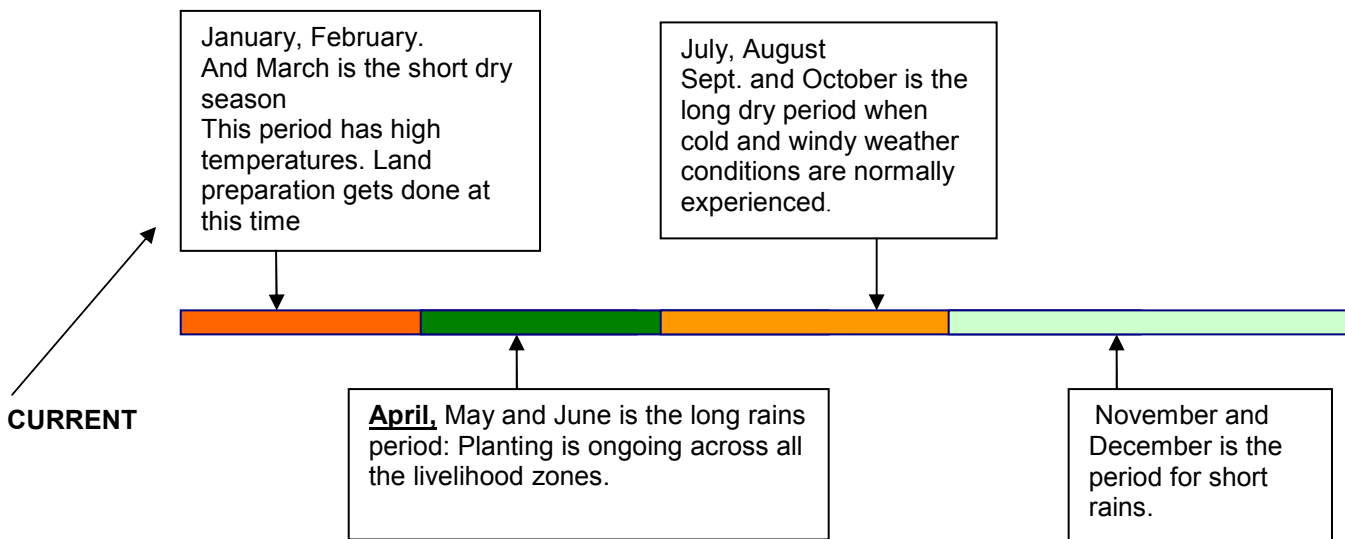
* - Livelihood zone not covered in the EWS Programme.



Livelihood Zone	Stage	Trend
Mixed Farming: Cash crops/food crops/ horticulture	Alert	worsening
Mixed Farming:/food crops/Cash crops /	Alert	worsening
Livestock farming	Alert	Worsening
*Fishing		
*Formal employment/casual waged labour/business		
District	Alert	Worsening



TIME LINE ACTIVITIES



Situation Overview

- The Long rains season has just started with rainfall reported across the District.
- The quality and quantity of forage and pasture is improving with the oncoming wet season.
- The prices of cattle have gone up by 17.3% compared to long term average of year 2006-07.
- Goat prices have gone up by 9.4% compared to long term average of year 2006-2007.
- Maize prices increased by 44 % and that of beans went up by 43.3 % compared to the Long term average of year 2006-2007.
- Food prices have gone up, rainfall and forage conditions still under average making food accessibility difficult. The situation in the District is therefore on **Alert**, and the trend is **Worsening**.

1.0 Current Interventions Measures

- The Ministry of health is doing disease surveillance across the District and is distributing anti-malaria nets.
- Water trekking to Bargoni and Kiunga is ongoing.
- The Ministry of Agriculture is conducting training's round the district on high value crops
- Food relief is ongoing with Kenya Red cross as lead agency. The Distribution was 1200 (90kg) bags of maize, 600 (90kg) bags of beans and 11 Tons of other assorted foodstuffs.

1.1 Recommendations

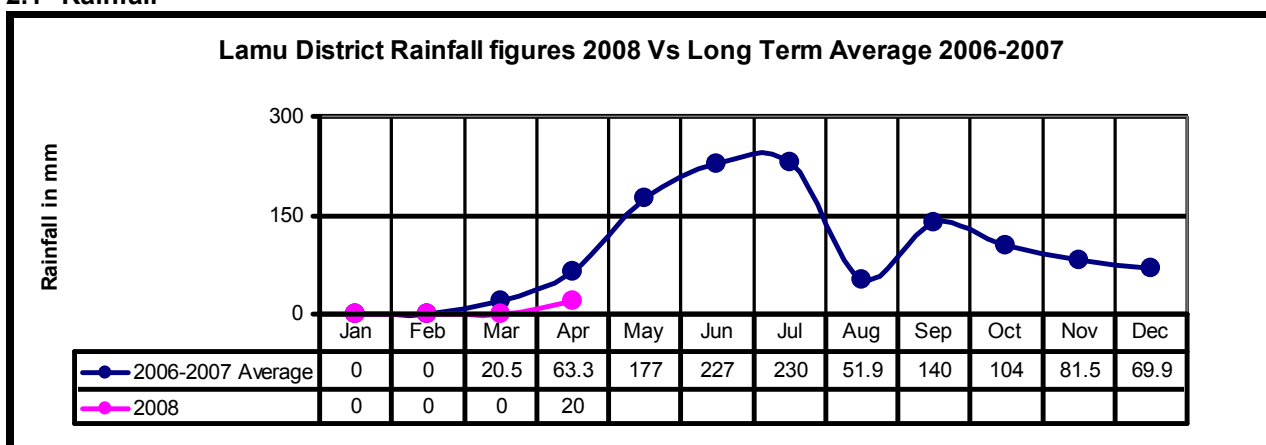
- More food for relief services to be availed for residents of parts of hindi and Kiunga divisions
- Ministry of agriculture to carryout more trainings to local farmers on pest management at this time.
- Kenya wildlife service to help the community in overcoming human wildlife conflict across the District to reduce crop damages.
- A call to all stakeholders in the water sector to find a lasting water solution in the Kiunga, Faza and parts of Hindi divisions.

1.3 Warning Phase

- Food prices have gone up, rainfall and forage conditions still under average making food accessibility difficult. The situation in the District is therefore on **Alert**, and the trend is **Worsening**.

2. Stability

2.1 Rainfall



- Rainfall has been reported across the district and is on an average of 20mm for this month across the livelihood zones.
- This is a normal trend at this time of the year as the long rains are expected in few areas of the district.

2.2 Natural Vegetation and Pasture Condition

- The quality of forage and pasture is poor and is also available in average quantities. Livestock pests, and wildlife pose a major constraint to access of forage.
- Average distances to grazing were still at 2.5km similar to previous month's
- The distances are higher for the mixed farming: food crops/cash crop livelihood zone as compared to the other two livelihood zones. This could be attributed to the ongoing cultivation activities making farmland inaccessible for grazing, but is normal at this time of the year.

2.3 Water Sources and Availability

- Shallow wells were the major house hold water source at 45.5% followed by Bore holes and Natural ponds at 18.2%.
- Other water sources including natural rivers and lakes supplied water at 9% each respectively.
- House hold water access is average. Distance to water sources is still at 1.7 km which is higher similar last month. The distances to water sources for households in the mixed farming: food/cash crop livelihood zone are the highest at 1.7 km, but within the normal range at this time of the year.

3. Emerging Issues

Livestock Migration

- Small scale farmers across the District are facing a problem of crop pests mainly at their planting time.
- Migration of livestock from neighbouring Ijara and Tana River districts in search of pasture and water has been reported in the district.

Implications on Food Security

- The increased migration of livestock into the district will affect the health of livestock in the district due to increased disease incidences.
- If left unchecked, the crop pest cases may put farmers' efforts to plant into waste.

4. Food Availability

Livestock Production

Livestock Body Condition.

- The livestock body condition for cattle and shoats appear average, but is expected to improve with oncoming rainfall season

Livestock Diseases

- Endemic Trypanosomiasis has been the norm across the three livelihood zones. This is normal for this time of the year.

Milk Production

- Milk production averaged 0.8 litres per household per day which is above last month's production of 0.3 litres and is improving owing to incoming rainfall.
- Households in the livestock livelihood zone produced the highest amount of milk at 1.8 litres per household per day down from 3.7 litres per day the previous month, while the mixed farming: food/cash crop livelihood zone produced the lower of 0.58 litres per household per day. It is however normal at this time of the year.

Crop Production

- Currently, farmers are in the planting stage at the start of the long rains.
- Mango harvesting is ongoing alongside vegetables.

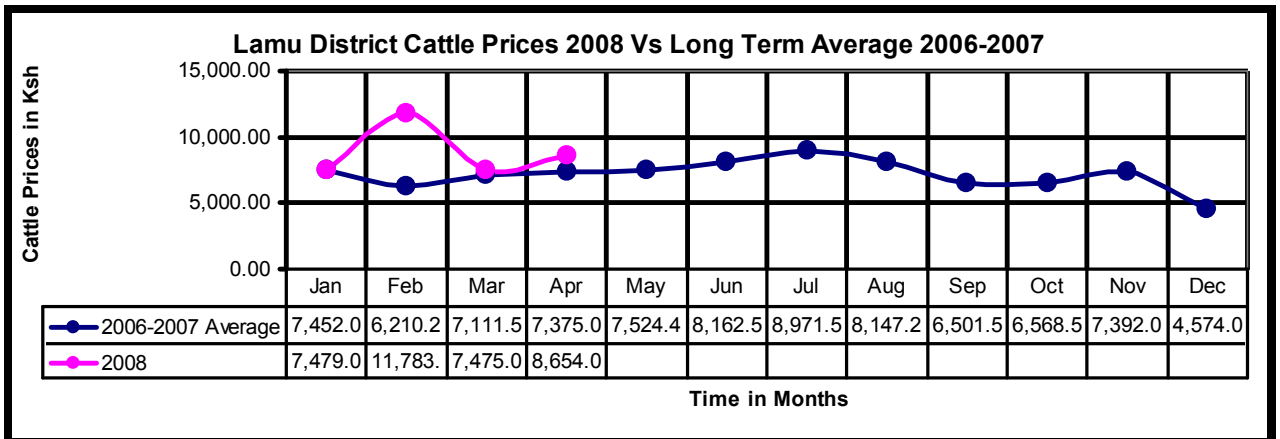
Pests and Diseases

- There are crop pests reported across the District especially immediately after planting.
- The main crop pests are rodents and wildlife and are normal at this time of the year.

Implications on Food Security

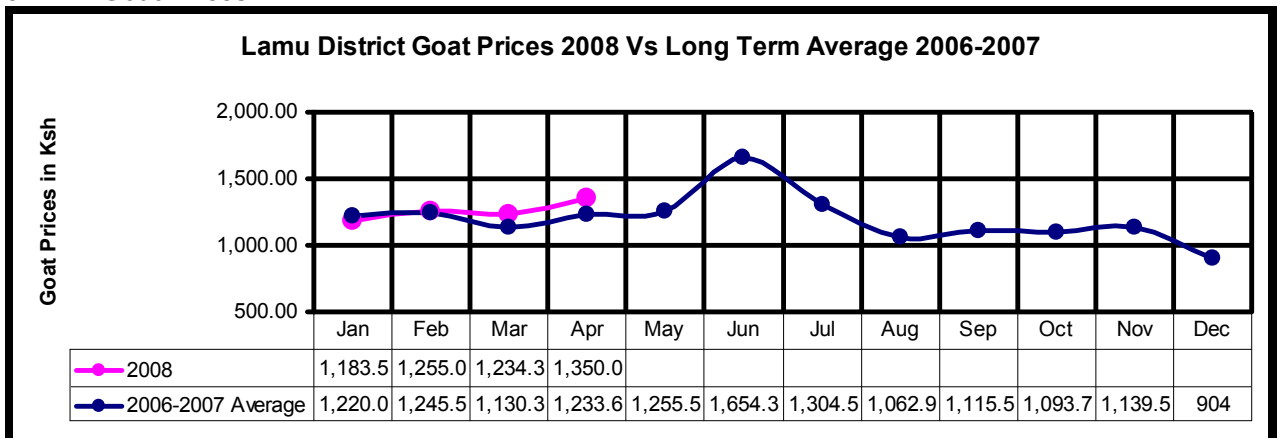
- The downward trend on milk production is deepening and could imply impending shortage in coming months
- The continued reduction in milk and crop production shows a deteriorating trend in food security.
- The current stock is not expected to last long due to low yield received.

5. Access to Food
5.1 Livestock Marketing
5.1.1 Cattle Prices



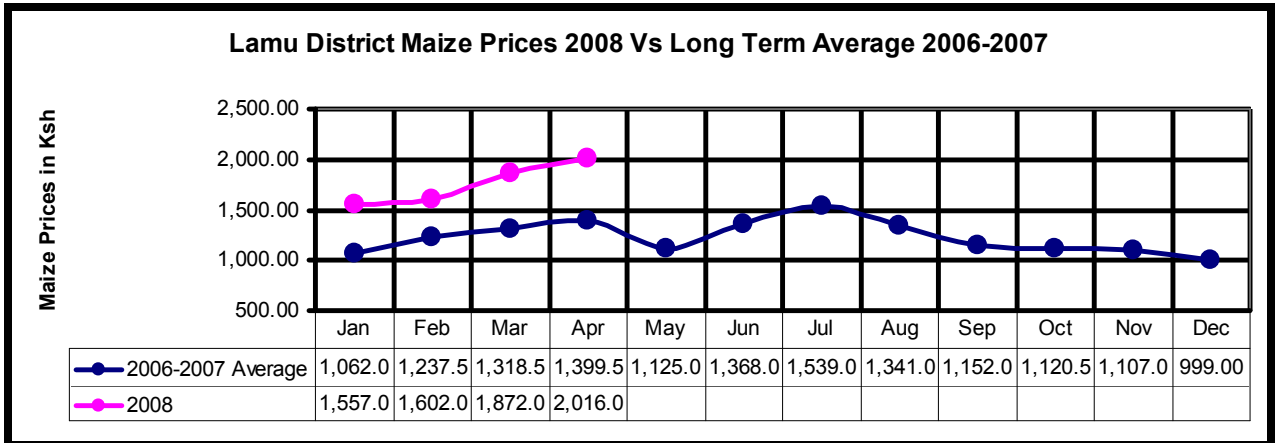
- The average cattle price at farm-gate level was Ksh 8,654 higher than previous month's price at Ksh. 7,475. This is slightly above the price at same time of the long term average year's 2006/07 of Ksh 7,375.
- Highest cattle prices were recorded in the mixed farming: food crops /cash crops livelihood zone at Ksh 8,920 while the livestock farming livelihood Zone recorded the lowest at Ksh.8,388
- This is however a normal trend at this time of the year, going by long term average.

5.1.2 Goat Prices.



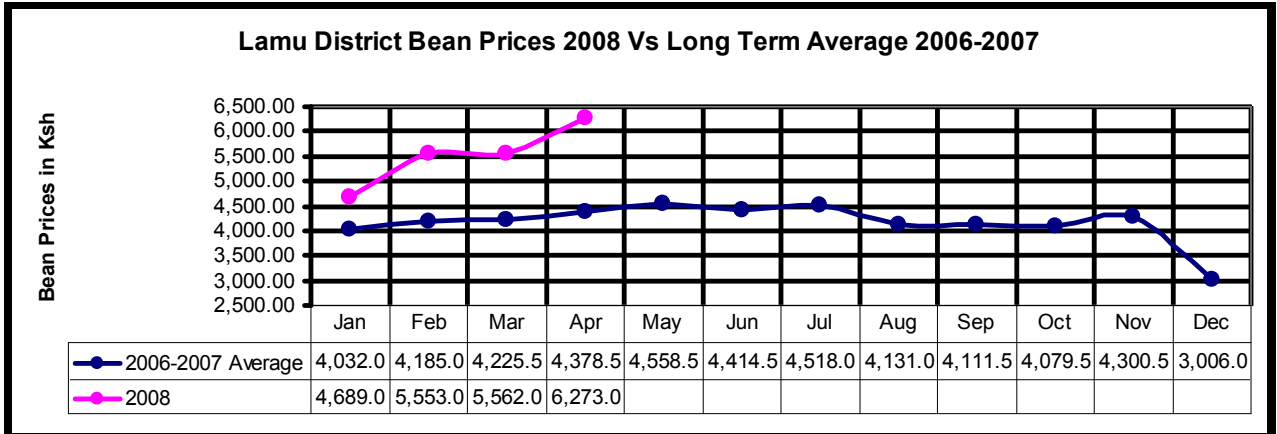
- The average goat price at farm-gate was Kshs.1, 350 which is slightly higher than that of last month of Ksh. 1,234 and lower to that of same time in the year 2006/07 average of Ksh 1,233. This is normal at this time of the year going by the long term average.
- Higher prices were recorded at the mixed farming: Cash crops/cash crop livelihood zone at Ksh 1,413 and lowest recorded at the mixed farming: food crops /cash crops livelihood zone at Ksh. 1,288.

Crop Prices
5.1.3 Maize



- Maize prices at market level averaged Kshs.2, 016 per 90kg bag, higher compared to last month's price at Ksh 1,872 and are on an upward trend.
- This is way above the price at the same time of the long term average of year 2006/07 of Ksh.1, 399 due to reducing stock implying food shortage across the District.
- Higher Maize prices were recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/cash crop livelihood zone at Ksh 2,016 and the livestock farming livelihood zone reported nil sales.
- This is not a normal trend at this time of the year as compared to the available long term trend since the prices have been very high.

5.1.4 Beans



- Average prices of beans at market level were Kshs 6,273 per 90Kg bag which is above that of last month at Kshs 5,562 and long term average of year 2006/07 and Kshs 4,378,
- This is not a normal trend at this time of the year in the District and is attributed to the growing difficulty in accessing food due to scarcity.
- The prices were recorded only in the mixed farming: food crops/cash crop livelihood zone

6.0 Income

6.1. Crops

- Income from crops accounted for 6.5% of the total household income lower than last months rate of 3.0 %, High crop incomes were recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/cash crop livelihood zone and lowest in the livestock farming livelihood zone.
- This is normal compared to the same period last year.

6.2 Livestock

- Sale of livestock and livestock products accounted for 2.9 % of total household income sources in the district, which is lower compared to last month at 4.8%. Livestock products accounted for 3.9 % of household income similar to last month.
- Livestock sales were experienced in the mixed farming: food crops/cash crop livelihood zone. This is a normal trend at this time of the year for this District.

6.3 Other Income

- Casual labour was the main source of income during the month accounting for 61% of the total household income which is higher than last month's at 52%.
- The highest rate was recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/cash crop livelihood zone and the lowest recorded in the livestock livelihood zone.
- This is normal at this time of the year.

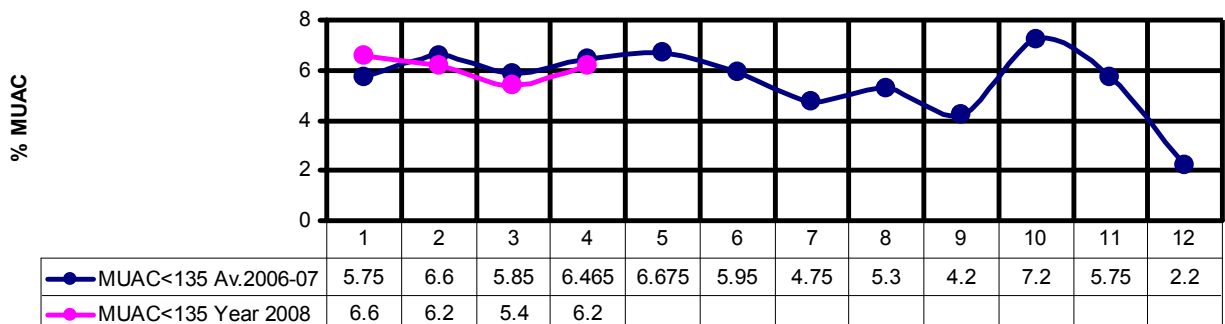
6.4 Implication on Food Security

- The high crop prices indicate a major shortage of these foods and the District is food insecure. District.

7 Utilization

7.1 Nutrition Status.

MUAC<135 Percentages: 2008 Vs Long Term Average 2006-2007



- The percentage of children in the District with MUAC levels of < 135mm is 6.2% higher than last month's of 5.4%.
- This is however within the long term average of 6.5% for years 2006-2007 at this time of the year
- The mixed farming: food crops/cash crop livelihood zone reported the highest percentage of MUAC levels at 9.0% with the mixed farming: Cash crops/cash crop livelihood zone reporting the lowest at 3.4 %.

7.2 Health

- No major incidences reported in the District.

8.0 Current Interventions Measures

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8.1 Recommendations

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