

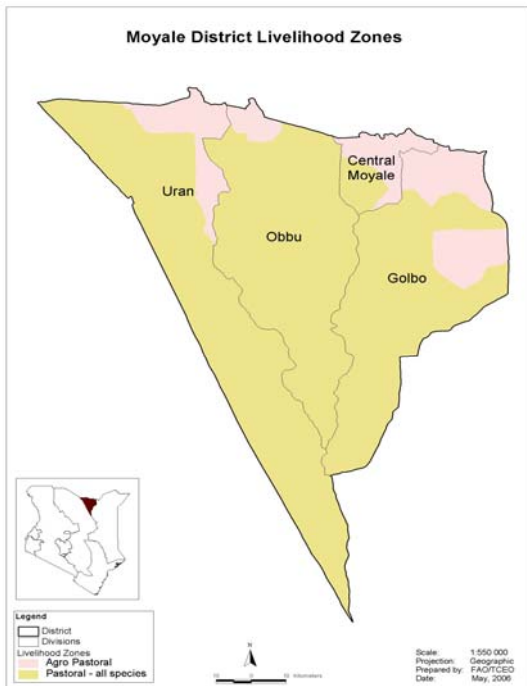


OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
 MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
 ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR MAY, 2008

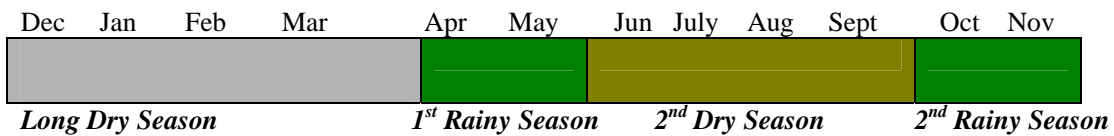
MOYALE DISTRICT

WARNING STAGES



Livelihood Zones	Warning Stage	Trend
Pastoral	Alert	Worsening
Agro-pastoral	Alert	Worsening
DISTRICT	Alert	Worsening

TIME LINE



Situation Overview

- The rains stopped early in the month, though some showers were received in the last week of the month.
- Pasture growth was fair in the agro-pastoral livelihood zones but regeneration is below the normal potential in the pastoral zones.
- Livestock body condition recovered well especially, cattle and camel. Goats are experiencing problems due to the cold weather. Most of the herds had been moved into the extremely wet season grazing areas towards the border of Isiolo & Wajir to save forage for the expected lengthy dry season.
- Water availability is fairly good and in most of the centres livestock and humans are utilising surface ponds and pans.
- Livestock prices have not been stable. There are higher cattle and camel prices but lower for shoats.
- Food prices are at an all time high. Maize is being sold at approx. Kshs. 35.00 to 45.00 per kilogram depending on the area and distance from the central market of Moyale. The price of beans is at Kshs. 70.00 and rice at Kshs. 85.00 per kilogram.
- Few farms were tilled and planted as a result of the shortage in seedlings for planting as well as poor oxen body condition.
- A few beans may be harvested, though most crops were destroyed by the infestation of caterpillars and army worms.
- The nutritional trend remained similar to that of last month. The situation might deteriorate as food prices have increased, and families are reducing their meal sizes or eating less number of meals in a day.

Current interventions

- Maize, rice and oils have been distributed in the entire District during the month of May.
- Food supplements were distributed in May; however the quantities were small leading to very little effect.
- There was a late response by the Agriculture department in stopping the army worms invasion, resulting in crop and pasture damage.

Recommendation by DSG to

- Relief food ratio should be increased and quality improved.
- Malaria outbreaks are imminent due to the increased number of mosquitoes and biting flies. More anti-malarial and mosquito are required.

1. Stability

1.1 Rainfall

- Very little rainfall was recorded during the month of May. The seasons total is less than 250mm and the lowest records were in Godoma (156mm).

1.2 Condition of Natural Vegetation and Pasture

- Forage quality continued to improve over the month. The areas with less rain like Godoma, Dabel and the Southern lowlands have started to show heat stress in forage.
- Forage quantity has slightly increased over the previous month in the agro-pastoral areas. Both the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas experienced army worm infestations affecting the grass species. The main areas affected are to the west of the District towards Wajir North Districts. Army worms are now successful contained through interventions by Ministry of Agriculture.

- The distance to and from grazing areas/pasture continued to decrease in comparison with the previous month. The western part of the District may experience pasture shortage in two to three weeks to come.

1.3 Water Source and availability

- Currently the main source of water in the District is surface water and roof catchments.
- A few areas like Godoma and Dabel are mainly depending on boreholes due to lack of sizeable pans.
- Moyale town is currently depending on shallow wells and Odda borehole.

1.4 Emerging Issues

1.4.1 Exorbitant food Prices

- The prices of all food stuff have more than doubled. Expenditure within each household on food had also doubled. In addition maize and beans are not readily available in the market.

1.4.2 Crop and forage destruction

- Much of our pasturelands and some crops were destroyed by army worms and caterpillars. Caterpillars preferred the commiphora Trees.

1.5 Implication on food security

- High food prices will mean less people affording enough food at the household level.
- The District will also require more food aid: cereals, pulses and food supplements for children and the aged.

2. Food availability (Rural indicators)

2.1 Livestock

2.1.1 Livestock body conditions

- Livestock body condition continued to improve. Small stocks seem to be affected by the cold and chilly weather prevailing at the moment.

2.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- There are reports of haemorrhagic septicaemias in Bori Location; about 10 heads of cattle were reported dead. The rest of the District reported no incidences of diseases.

2.1.3 Milk Production

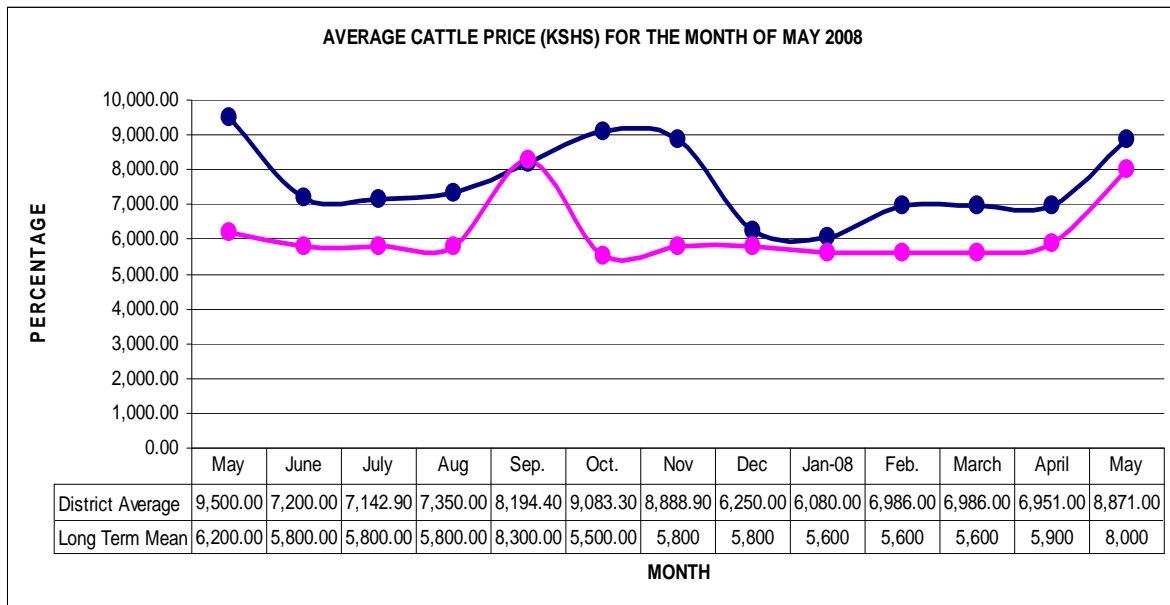
- The quantity of milk produced has increased District wide and prices of raw milk have subsequently decreased.

3. Access to food

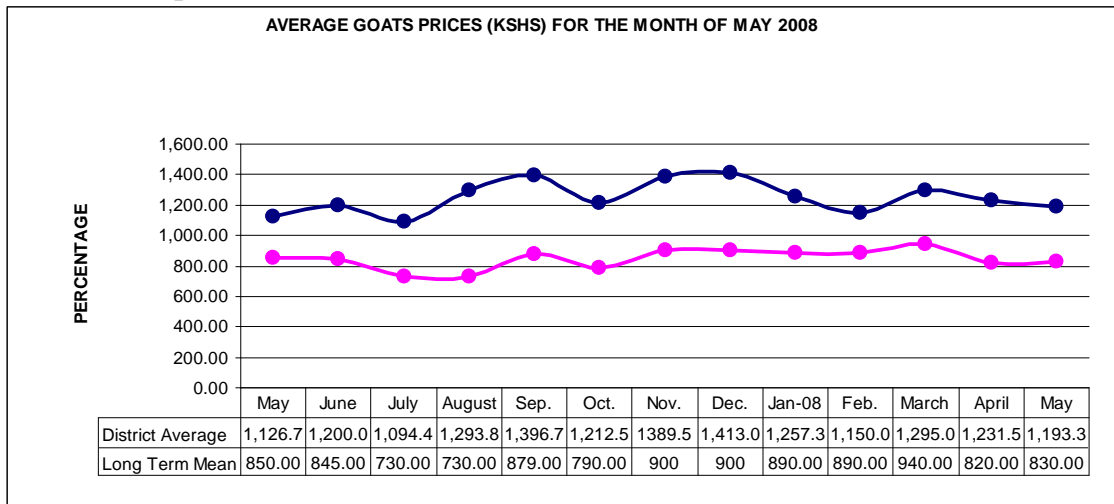
3.1 Livestock Marketing

3.1.1 Cattle Prices

- There was an increase in the average cattle price from Kshs. 6,951.00 in April to Kshs. 8,871.00 in May. In the Central market of Moyale mature female cattle fetch lower prices than the male.



3.1.2 Goats prices



- Goat prices have reduced from an average of Kshs. 1,231.00 to Kshs. 1,193.30. This is because traders are selling sheep and goats to purchase cereals and pulses, whose prices continue to rise.

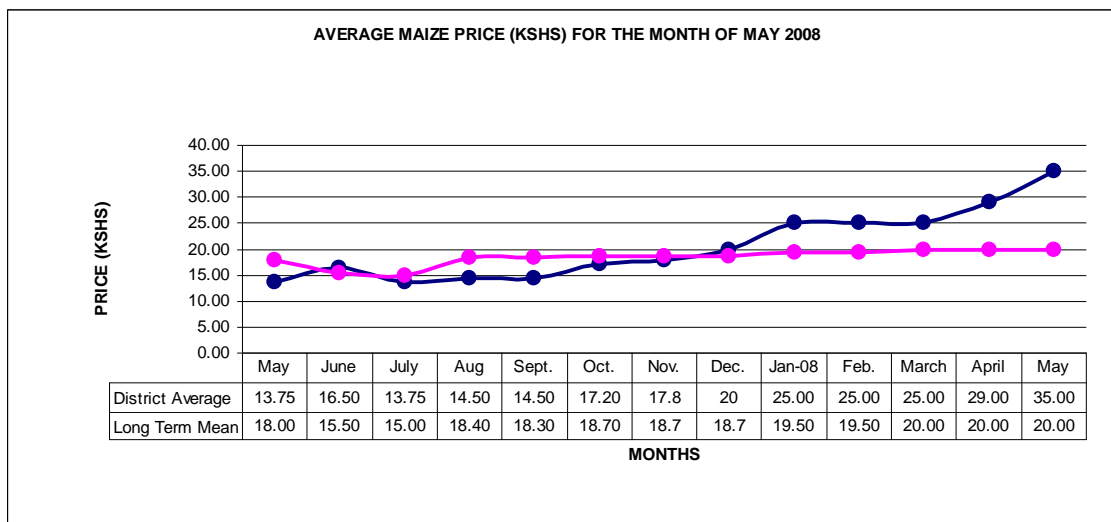
3.1.3 Camel prices.

- High camel prices were similar to last month's. The market preferred fattened males of over 7 years.

3.3 Crop prices

3.3.1 Maize

- Maize prices continue to rise, as a result of the low availability at the market. There was complete unavailability in the rural centres and people rely on relief food.

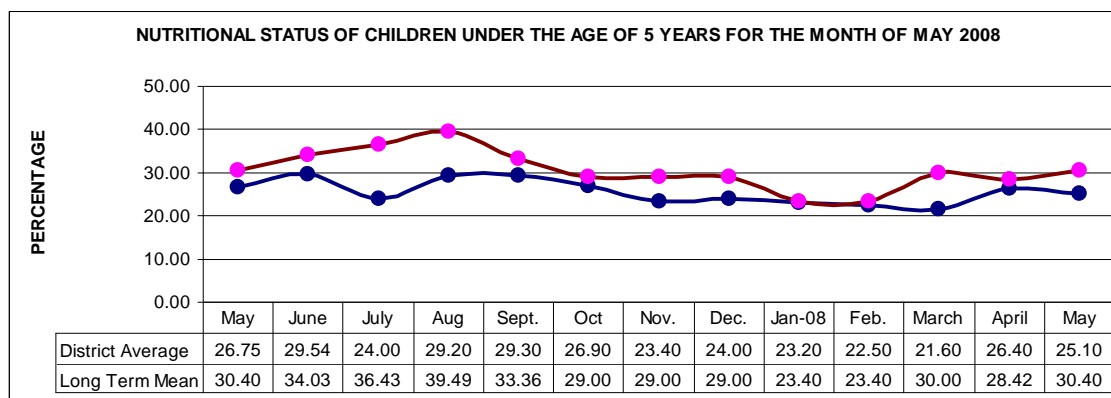


3.4 Livestock Income

- Livestock income did not improve despite an increase in cattle prices.
- This was due to the reduction in milk prices and goat prices.

4.0 Utilization of food

4.1 Nutritional Status



- The malnutrition rates for children under five years through MUAC<135mm slightly improved to 25.10% from last months 26.40%. This may be attributed to improved milk availability. Despite the improvement the trends may be reversed by the reported increase in cereal prices where food access at the household level may be limited.

4.2 Human Health

- There is malaria and bloody diarrhoea outbreak in most parts of the District. This is as a result of the increased in mosquitoes during the rainy season. In addition, the usage of pan water had contributed to diarrhoea.

4.3 Flagged Area

- Obbu, Uran and Golbo Divisions were the areas worst hit by the high cereal and pulses prices. This is as a result of inadequate supplies of these commodities in the market. The people in these areas are mainly relying on relief food. In the Central Divisions, market prices are lower due to its proximity to Ethiopian markets.

5. Recommendations

- Government efforts, through the NCPB, in availing food commodities in the market to stabilise the situation.
- The provision of more relief food in form of cereals pulses and oils.
- Supplementary foods are recommended for children under five, the elderly, pregnant and lactating mothers to avoid deterioration in their malnutrition status.
- Intensive conflict resolution campaigns to support the District Deedha Elders Council (Traditional Natural Resource Management Committees) and District Peace and Reconciliation Committee, to avoid conflicts during the movement of people and livestock in the District in search of pasture.
- Provision of treated mosquito nets to prevent malaria outbreaks.
- Chlorination of water pans and shallow wells in the District to reduce diarrhoea incidences.
- Health education to the general population on water and sanitation issues.