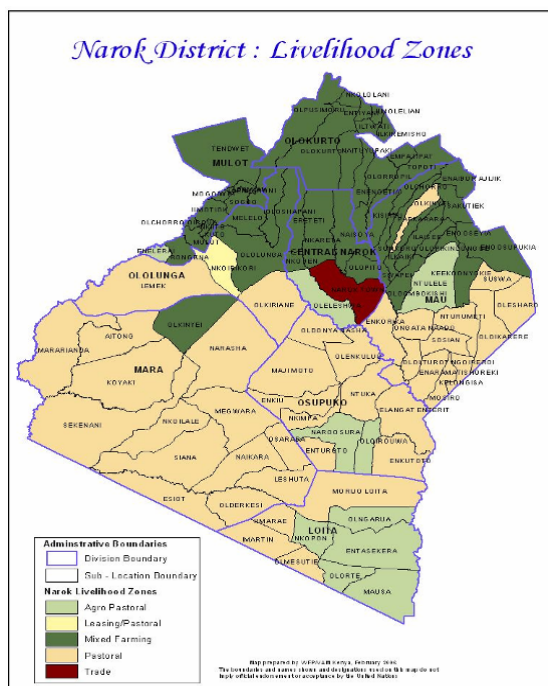




**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR SPECIAL PROGRAMMES
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR MAY 2008

NAROK DISTRICT WARNING STAGES



LIVELIHOOD ZONE	WARNING STAGE	TREND
AGRO PASTORAL	ALERT	Worsening
Entasekera, Naroosura, Suswa		
MIXED FARMING	NORMAL	Worsening
Nairragi-enkare, Mulot		
PASTORAL	ALERT	NO CHANGE
Olmesutie, Ntuka, Mosiro, Koyiaki, Oletukat		
TRADE	NORMAL	NO CHANGE
Narok Town		
LEASING/ PASTORAL	ALERT	Worsening
Lemek, Ololulunga		



January/February
March – short rains
harvest, long rains
planting, livestock
breeding (Cattle)

April, May/June
Long rains –
weeding, shoats
mating

July/August
Cold dry
season, long
rains harvest

Sept/October
Dry & hot-
migration of
livestock

November/Dec -
short rains –
calving lambing
and kidding

Situation overview

- Except for light scattered rainfall mainly in Mara of Narok South district and Mau division in North, the review month was characterised by cold and dry conditions with sunny intervals.
- On average 15.8mm of rainfall were received this is far below normal during this time of the year
- Livestock body conditions have remained good for all categories. This is mainly attributed to the relatively good pastures and water conditions.
- Water conditions in the district is still relatively good but is fast declining both in quality and quantity in most parts especially the lower rangelands of Osupuko, Mosiro Loita and Mara divisions.
- The main sources of water have remained natural rivers, dams and pans
- Pasture and browse conditions have remained fairly good but also fast declining both in quality and quantity in most parts of the district. This is mainly due to lack of precipitation and high competition for the same between livestock and wildlife.
- Cases of CBPP and CCPP have continued to be reported in areas of Mara, Loita, Osupuko and Central division.
- Milk production has gone down due to low calving and kidding rates. Declining water and pasture conditions in the district also contribute to this.
- Livestock prices for all species registered marginal depreciation compared to the previous months ranges (Ksh. 11,000, 1,500 and 1,500 for cattle, sheep and goats respectively compared to 12,000, 1,900 and 1,500 for the same during the previous month).The likelihood is however that the prices will go down as the body conditions are predicted to get worse during the anticipated dry and cold season.
- Food prices have continued to go up significantly compared to the previous reporting period. On average a Kg of Maize is selling at Ksh. 34.00, 75.00 and 45.00 for beans and posho respectively compared to Ksh. 32.00, 70.00 and 39.00 for the same during the previous month
- There were no major human diseases reported during the review period
- The nutritional status for the children under five years has improved compared to the previous reporting period.
- The change is attributed to the cumulative impact of the previous months of relatively good food security situation. This is also attributed to the low disease prevalence. On average 11% of the sample measured below 135mm of the MUAC compared to 18% last month.

Recommendation to District Authorities/DSG and National KFSSG

- There is need for more contingency funds for use in emergency water, disease and other food security related programs.
- Close monitoring of rain performance in dry grazing areas of Mara, Loita, Osupuko and Mau with a view to upscale livestock disease control mechanisms as preparedness to the looming drought following the poor performance of the long rains.
- Activation and enhancement of drought contingency plans and funds respectively. ALRMP – Narok has activated DCF (though inadequate) as a respond to livestock disease control and water related issues in the district such as rehabilitation of boreholes.
- Expansion of school feeding programme to especially schools in areas where crop failure has been recorded and other vulnerable marginal areas both in Narok North and Narok South.
- FMD vaccination and control of CBPP and CCPP especially in Mosiro, Central, Mara, Loita and Osupuko areas where there is heavy concentration of livestock.
- There is also need for an internal rapid assessment of food security to establish the proper position of the impacts of the poor rains both in crop and livestock production livelihoods.
- Livelihoods support in the medium term for vulnerable groups – cash transfers and other recovery measures especially in the pastoral and marginal rain fed crop growing areas.

Current drought / concluded interventions

ALRMP- Narok

- Construction of Eor Esimu Water Pan in Central Division
- Construction of Enkerende Curio market for women groups in Mara division
- Support to Narasha water project extension of pipeline to benefit more communities
- Construction of classrooms and provision of desks in Enturoto, Naserian, Nkokolani and Nailoglog primary schools through the World Bank/GoK Support to Free Primary Education.
- Provision of water tanks to schools and tree nurseries growing groups in all the divisions
- Support to Agriculture and livestock Sector
 - Bee keeping: provision of hives to Central, Osupuko, Ololulung'a and Mara divisions community and training of the beneficiaries
 - Support to camel rearing through provision of camels and training of beneficiaries.
 - Community trainings in environmental conservation, animal traction, and utilization of drought tolerant crops (DTC)

Other partners

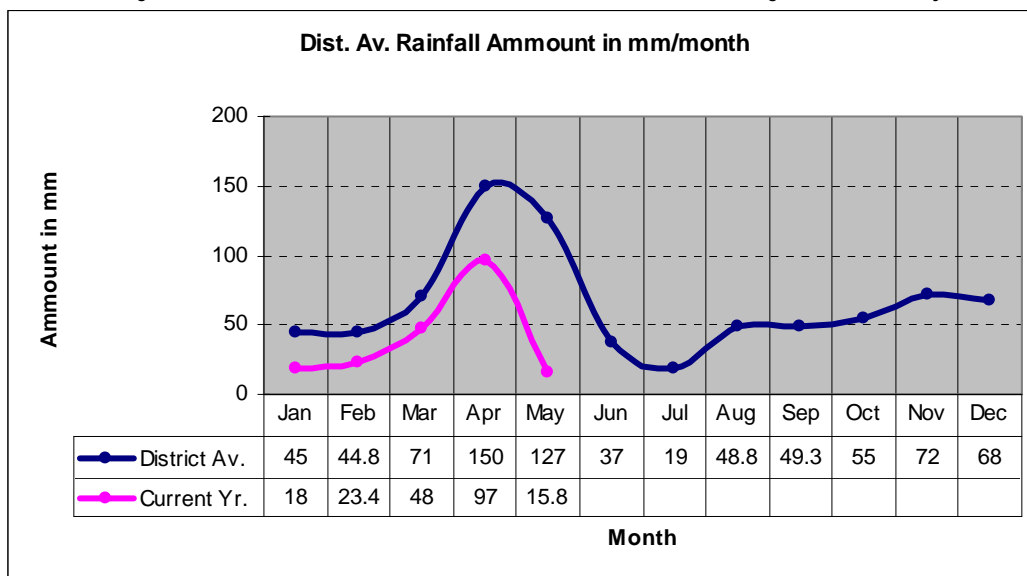
Operation Eye Sight International is currently drilling more boreholes in its district wide trachoma eradication program.

World Vision, World Concern, APHIAII and other institutions are supporting on the humanitarian services to the internally displaced persons currently in IDP camps.

1. ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

1.1 Rainfall

- Except for light scattered rainfall mainly in Mara in Narok South district and Mau division in North, the review month was characterised by cold and dry conditions with sunny intervals.
- On average 15.8mm of rainfall were received this is far below normal during this time of the year



1.2 Vegetation cover (pasture and browse)

- Pasture and browse conditions have remained fair but fast declining both in quality and quantity. This is mainly due to dry weather conditions and the high level of competition for the same between livestock and wildlife.
- The situation is likely to degenerate if the prevailing weather conditions persist. This will impact negatively to the food security in the district.

1.3 Water sources

1.3.1 Use of water sources

- Water conditions have also been affected by the weather conditions both in quality and quantity. Water especially for livestock use is widening.
- Competition for water however, is still high between livestock and wild animals
- The main sources of water have remained mainly major rivers, Catchments pools, pans/dams and traditional wells.
- The situation is fast declining due to low precipitation.
- This will also impact negatively to the food security in the households especially the pastoral and agro pastoral communities.

The table below indicates water sources and percentage of households using them, compared to a normal situation.

Water source	1	2	3	4	Others
% Of h/holds depending on the source	28	53	15	2	2
% Of h/holds normally depending on source	25	50	15	8	2

1. Natural rivers 2. Catchment pools/dams 3. Constructed shallow wells/functional 4. Boreholes (functional)

1.3.2 Average distances (kms) to water sources

- Distances to and from watering points have slightly increased both for livestock and domestic use in both Narok North and South districts. The situation is likely to worsen if the prevailing weather conditions persist.
- This will impact negatively to the food security situation as more time is used searching for water other than for other productive work especially for women and the children.

The table below indicates average distances to water sources compared to normal situation

Water sources	1	2	3	4	Others
Average Kms to the source	3	2	2	5	2
Normal Kms to the source	4	5	5	8	2

1. Traditional rivers/wells 2. Catchment pools/dams 3. Constructed shallow wells/functional 4. Boreholes (functional)

2. RURAL ECONOMY INDICATORS

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Livestock body conditions have remained good for all categories. This due to the relatively good pastures and availability of water
- The trend is however likely to reverse if the current weather conditions prevail
- This is going to impact negatively to the food security situation.

2.1.2 Livestock health (in terms of diseases affecting all species)

- There are still suspected cases of CCPP and CBPP in areas of Loita, and parts of Mara divisions. This could be attributed to areas which were not reached during the vaccination campaign and also to the movement of livestock from the neighbouring republic of Tanzania through markets.
- The prices at the markets have remained stable and the sales are high.
- This contributes fairly to the food security situation.

2.1.6 Milk production

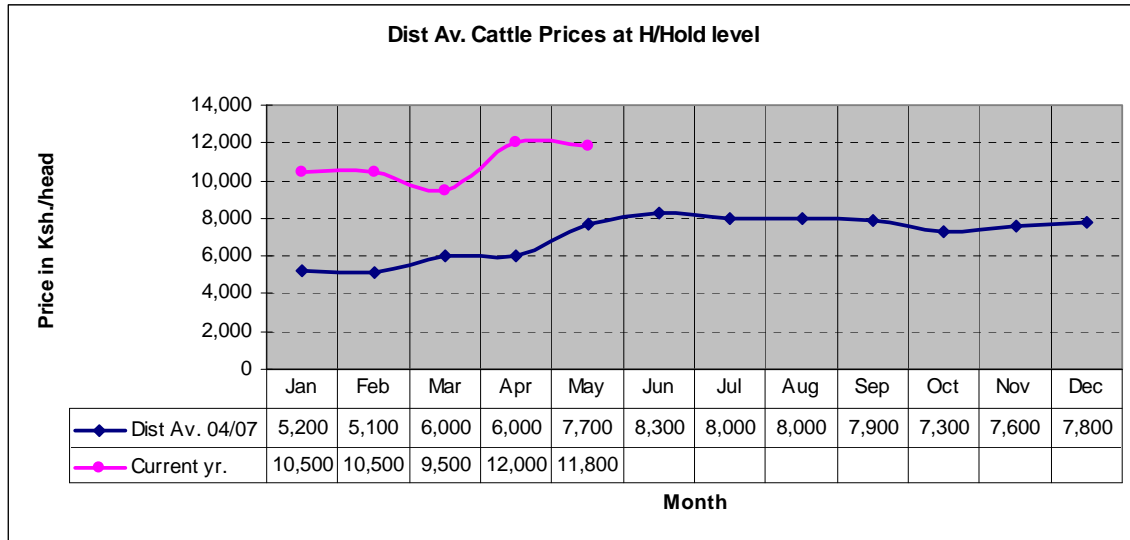
- Milk production has gone down due to the prevailing situation of low precipitation and declining pastures. This may also be attributed to the decline in calving rates among all species. This is likely to reverse the relatively good nutritional status of the under five and the aged.

2.1.7 Livestock Prices (Kshs)

(a) Cattle

- Livestock prices have remained within the previous months rates (see graph). However the situation is likely to decline due to the anticipated dry conditions and the likely spread of diseases associated with livestock and wildlife movement.

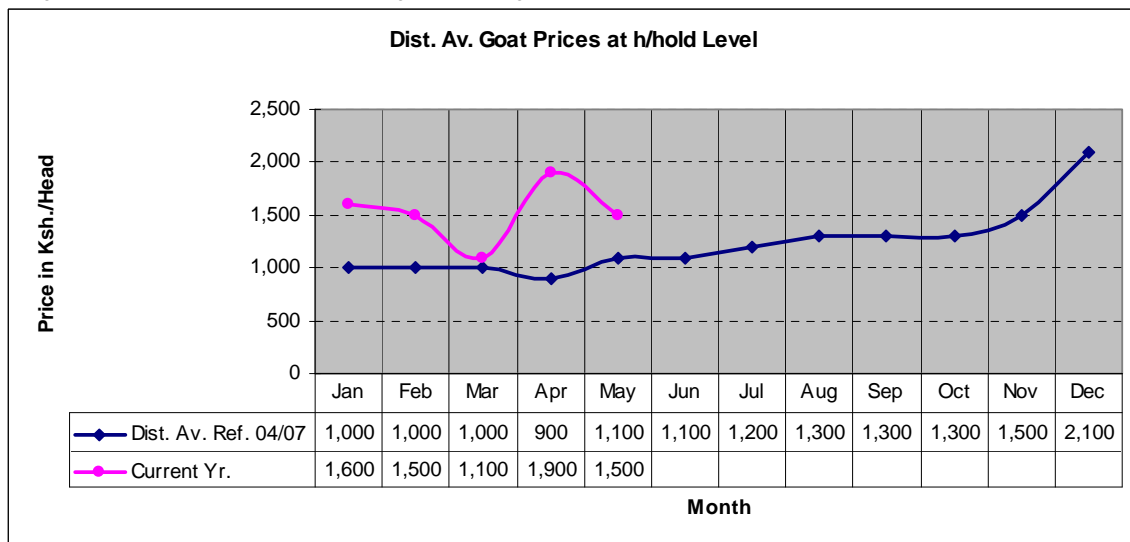
The graph below shows district cattle average prices in Ksh. At the household level



(b) Goats

- Goat prices have also remained the same as last reporting period.
- The same factors come into play as for cattle

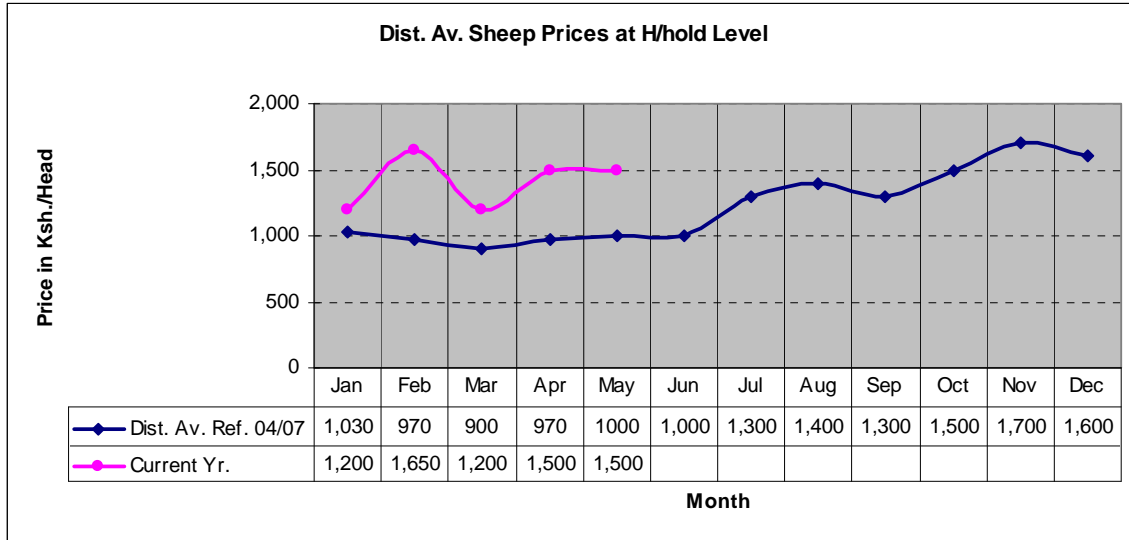
The graph below shows the district average prices of goats at the h/hold level (Ksh.)



(c) Sheep

- Sheep prices have gone down compared to the previous month. This is mainly attributed to the declining pasture and water conditions and diseases (CCPP)
- This is impacting negatively to the food security situation at the household level.

The graph below shows the district average prices for sheep at the household level (Ksh.)

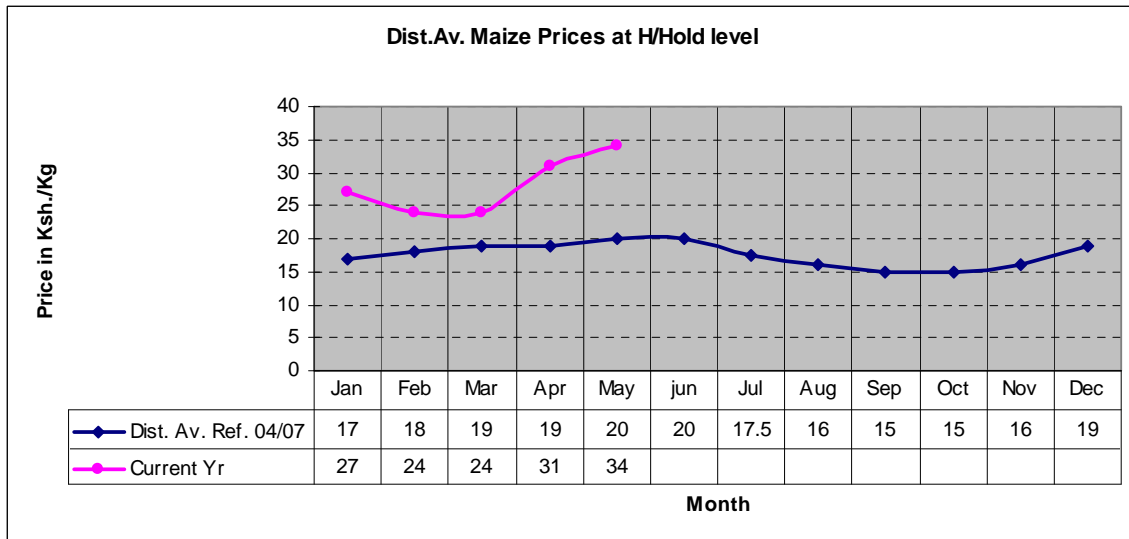


2.2 FOOD PRICES (PURCHASES)

2.2.1 Maize

- Maize prices have continued to go up significantly as compared to the previous reporting period.
- This is attributed to a fast decline in the supply of the commodity in the market and also low levels at the community stores.
- This is impacting negatively to the food security level.

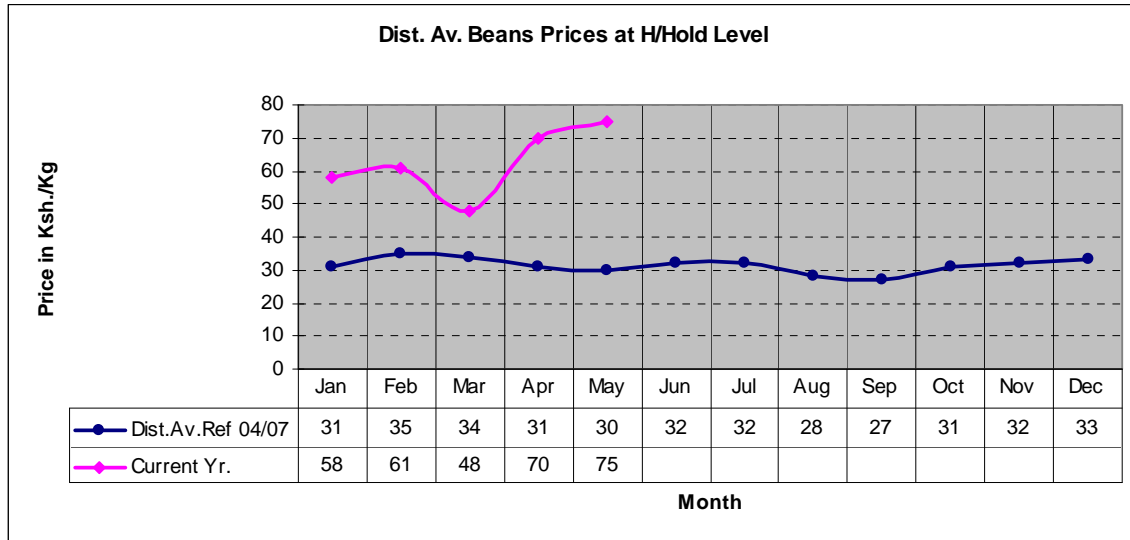
The graph below shows the average district maize prices at the household level (Ksh./Kg)



2.2.3 Beans

- Beans prices too have gone up significantly as compared to the previous month. Selling at an average of Ksh. 75.00/kg the prices compare negatively to the previous months rates of Ksh. 70.00/kg. The same conditions are blamed for this as for the maize.
- This is impacting negatively to the food security situation in the district.

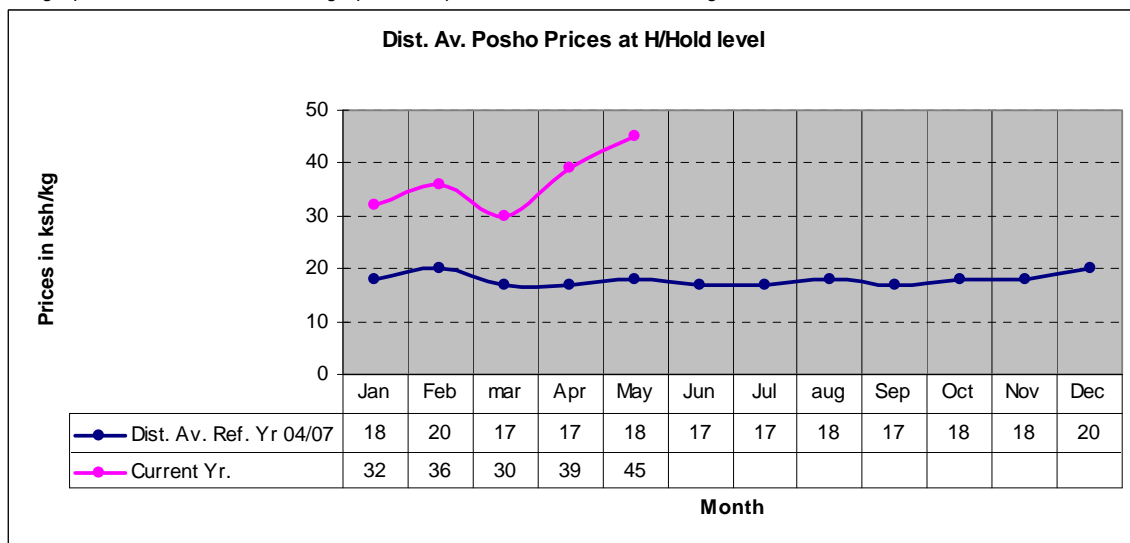
The graph below shows district average beans prices at the household level (Ksh /kg)



2.2.4 Posho

- Posho prices have also gone up during the reporting month due to the same factors.
- This is impacting negatively to the food security situation in the district.

The graph below shows the average prices of posho at the district (Ksh/Kg)



2.3 Crop condition

- The maize crop condition is bad especially for the lower rangelands of Loita, Central, Mara and Mulot. The crop is drying up prematurely due to water related stress.
- The bean crop is however, relatively good though the crop acreage is insignificant compared to other crops such as maize and wheat. The wheat condition is also fair but under water related stress and most farmers cannot afford to buy pesticides/fungicides due to high prices in the market. The use of fertilizer had also gone down due to high costs and this is expected to affect the crop yields. There is also a significant destruction by wild animals.
- This will negatively affect the food security level both in Narok North and South districts.

3 HUMAN WELFARE INDICATORS

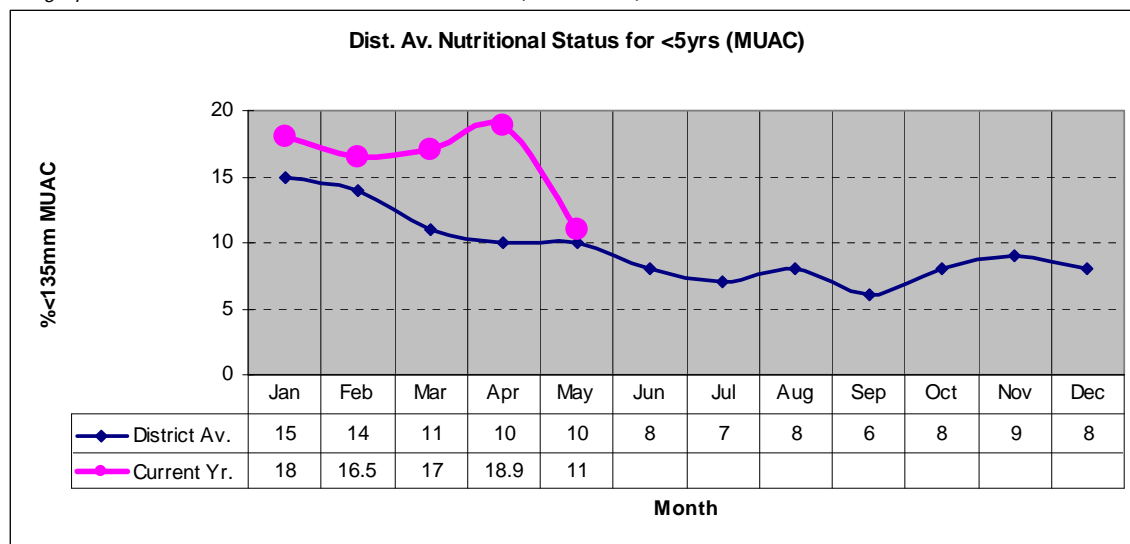
3.1 Human health

- There were no major incidences of human diseases during the review period

3.2 Malnutrition (MUAC) rates

- The nutritional status for the children under five years has improved compared to the previous reporting period.
- The change is attributed to the cumulative impact of the previous months of relatively good food security situation. This is also attributed to the low disease prevalence.

The graph below shows the MUAC malnutrition rates (% <135mm)



3.3 Insecurity/conflicts

- There were no major conflict issues reported in the district. The situation has stabilised both in the North and South districts of Narok.
- There are however still people living in the internally displaced peoples' camps in central Narok awaiting resettlement.

3.4 Migration

(a) Livestock migration

In-migration:

- No in-migration was reported in the district during the review period

Out-migration:

- No out migration reported during the review period. This is however normal during this time the herders still have relatively good pastures as well as watering points for their livestock.

Migration within the district:

- Movement of livestock within the district have been reported as herders move their livestock away from the wildlife migration corridors and others in search of saltlicks for their livestock.
- This is however normal during this period.

(b) Human Migration/displacement

- No major movement of humans reported during the review period
- Movement of a few individuals into and out of the district in search of labour were also reported during the review period. This is however normal.

Recommendation to District Authorities/DSG and National KFSSG

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