



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

SAMBURU DISTRICT

WARNING STAGES



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Pastoral-All Species	Alert	Worsening
Agro Pastoral	Alert	Worsening
Formal Employment/ Casual labour/ Business	Alert	Stable

TIME LINE



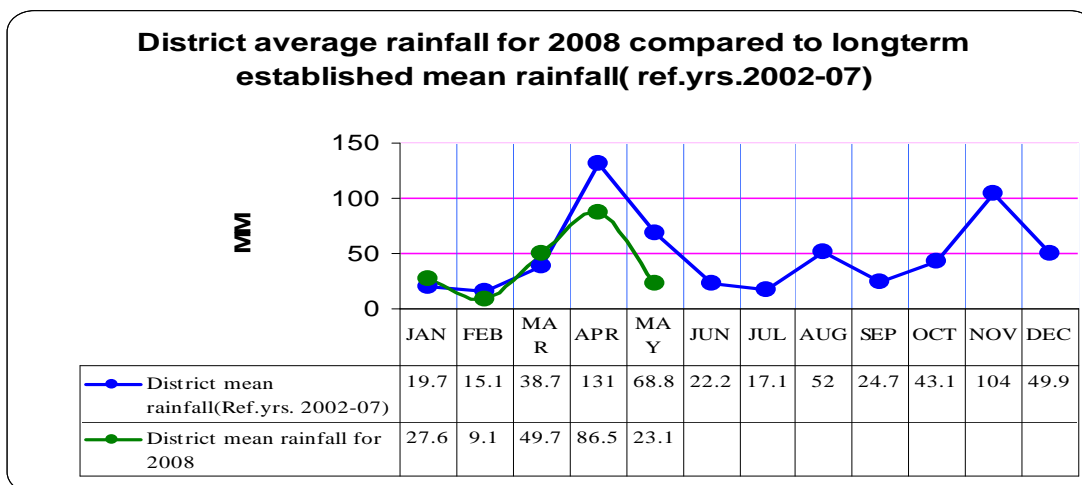
Situation Overview

- The long rains season that set in early, ended unexpectedly. The District experienced hot and dry weather conditions that impacted negatively on the quantity and quality of forage resources and farming activities.
- Existing water sources in the district register yield decline particularly in natural ponds, catchments pools, springs and seasonal streams leading to a slight increase in distances to water points for both households and livestock.
- Livestock body conditions remain stable as last month.
- The PPR epidemic engulfs the whole District after cases of the deadly viral disease were in all the six Divisions.
- Livestock prices slightly improved in comparison with last month's.
- Milk availability dwindles at the household level as forage resources decline in most areas.
- Malaria, diarrhea and upper respiratory tract infections continue to dominate the district human disease profile but at manageable levels.
- Nutrition status rates of children less than five years worsen compared to last month's rates.
- Good livestock prices are countered by hiked food prices and other basic household commodities thus impacting insignificantly on the pastoralists' economy and food security.
- Insecurity continues to destabilize most parts of the district constraining access and utilization of forage in these areas and farming activities for the agro pastoralist.

1. Environmental indicators

1.1 Rainfall

- The long rains' season ends unexpectedly leaving the whole District in the midst of hot and dry unusual weather conditions. A few areas in the lowlands received light erratic amounts of rainfall characterized by poor temporal and spatial distribution.
- Average rainfall received drastically declines to 23.1mm from last month's 86.53mm. The rainfall amount received is far below the long term established threshold of approximately 68.8mm normally received this period of the year.



Source: District Agriculture Office field weather stations

1.2 Forage (pasture and browse)

- The hot and dry weather conditions that persisted throughout the reporting month exacerbated a decline in quality and quantity of natural vegetation in most parts of the District.
- Insecurity remains a major constraint in accessing forage in the Western parts of the District. Quality and quantity of forage in the insecure areas such as Marti, Purra, Longewan etc remain intact.
- Forage situation in both the lowlands and the lower parts of the plateau is below normal. The situation in the western parts of the plateau remains above normal due to insecurity that continues to constrain access to pastures in these areas.

1.3 Water sources

1.3.1 Use of water sources

- The main sources of water utilized by both livestock and household during the course of this month slightly change compared to last month's and include: traditional river wells; natural rivers, pans and dams, springs, ponds, shallow wells and boreholes.
- Existing water sources in both the lowlands and the plateau register yield decline particularly in natural ponds, catchments pools, springs and seasonal streams due to high rates of evaporation experienced in the course of the month.

1.3.2 Average distance (Kms) to water sources

- Average house distance to nearby water sources increases to 4.2 Kms from last month's 3.4 Kms. The change implies drying up of the available water sources utilized during the wet season, translating to more time spent in search for water by household members particularly women and children.
- Average grazing distance to main sources of water also increases slightly to 7.9 Kms from last month's 7.2 Kms, implying that water sources utilized during the wet season by livestock are drying up.

1.4. Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity/ conflict

- Insecurity in the western parts of the District remains precarious, and is a major challenge to the resident local communities. Two herders died and about 100 heads of cattle stolen in Marti area of Baragoi Division by Pokot bandits early this month.
- Tension remains high in Baragoi and Nyiro Divisions between the two warring communities.

1.4.2 Migration

Livestock Migration

- No major mass livestock migration was reported in the course of May 2008.

Human migration/displacement

- Families remain displaced in parts of Baragoi and Nyiro Divisions following fresh outbreak of violence between Turkana and Samburu communities.
- Households in the western parts of the agro pastoral livelihood zone too remain displaced and concentrations are still mainly in the lower parts of the plateau.

1.5 Implications on food security

- The eminent failure of the long rains season is expected to impact negatively on household food security across the District.
- Insecurity continues to frustrate efforts to attain a food secure society in the affected areas within the District.

2. Rural economy indicators

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body conditions

- Livestock body conditions remain stable across the district as last month.
- Birth rate in cattle appreciates to 7.4 % as compared to last month's 7.3 %.
- Compared to a normal year livestock body conditions are normal.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- Peste Des Petit Ruminants (PPR) first reported in the western parts of Baragoi Division that borders Turkana. Cases of the deadly viral disease were reported in all the six Divisions during the course of the month under review.

The major diseases affecting livestock species include:-

Species	Diseases
Cattle:	ECF, Anaplasmosis, and Trypanosopmiasis
Sheep:	Diarrhoea, Enterotoxaemia, PPR
Goats':	PPR, Diarrhoea, Helmenthiasis and CCPP.
Camels':	Orf and mange

2.1.2 Implications on food security

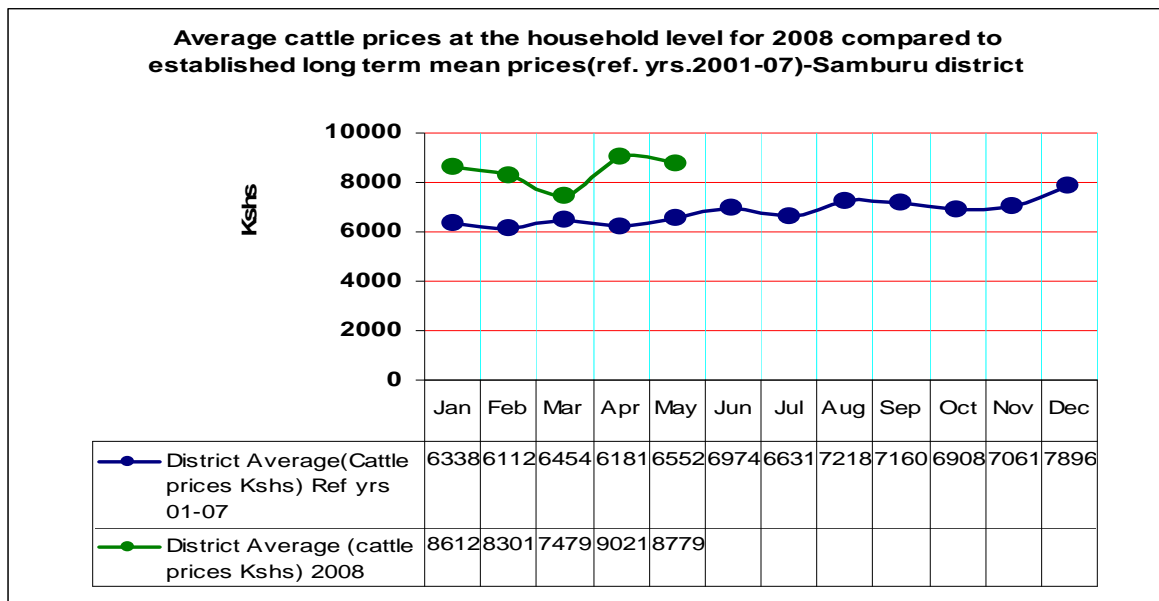
- Good livestock body conditions impacts positively on pastoralists' returns and economy.
- Shoats form the backbone of the pastoralists' local economy and rural livelihood, thus the outbreak of PPR if not thoroughly controlled, may very adversely impact on the livelihoods and food security of the District residents. The indigenous population is over 90% dependent on small stock for their daily basic requirements and 80% of the shoats' population of about 2 million within the district is threatened by the epidemic.

3. Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices

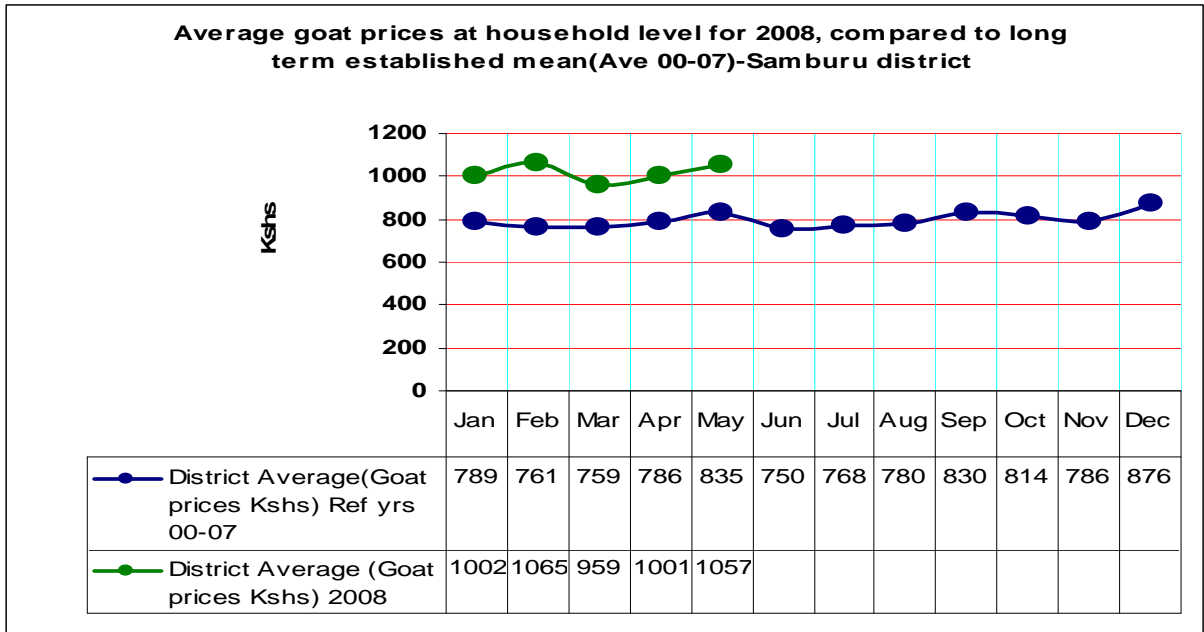
- Average cattle price slightly declined to Kshs. 8,779 from last month's Kshs. 9,021.
- Average cattle price is above normal as compared to the long-term established mean price. This situation is attributed to good-fair cattle body conditions across the District coupled with good market.
- The inter-livelihood zone cattle price difference i.e. higher in the plateau and lower in the lowlands is brought about by disparity in marketing conditions at the two zones.



Number of households (N) =374

3.1.2 Goats prices

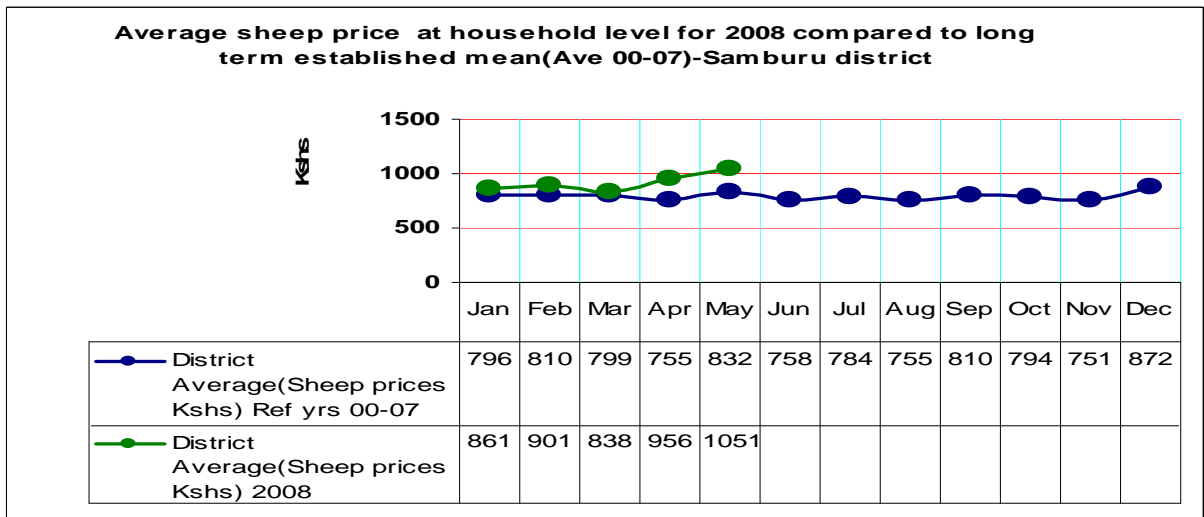
- Average goat price appreciated to Kshs 1,051 from last month's Kshs. 1,001.
- The goat price situation is above normal when compared to the long-term established mean. Good body conditions and marketing impact positively on goat prices.



Number of households (N) =374

3.1.3 Sheep prices

- Average sheep price shot to Kshs. 1,057 from last month's Kshs 956.
- When compared to established long-term mean, sheep price is above normal. Improved access to common livestock markets coupled with good body conditions are among the factors affecting sheep prices positively.



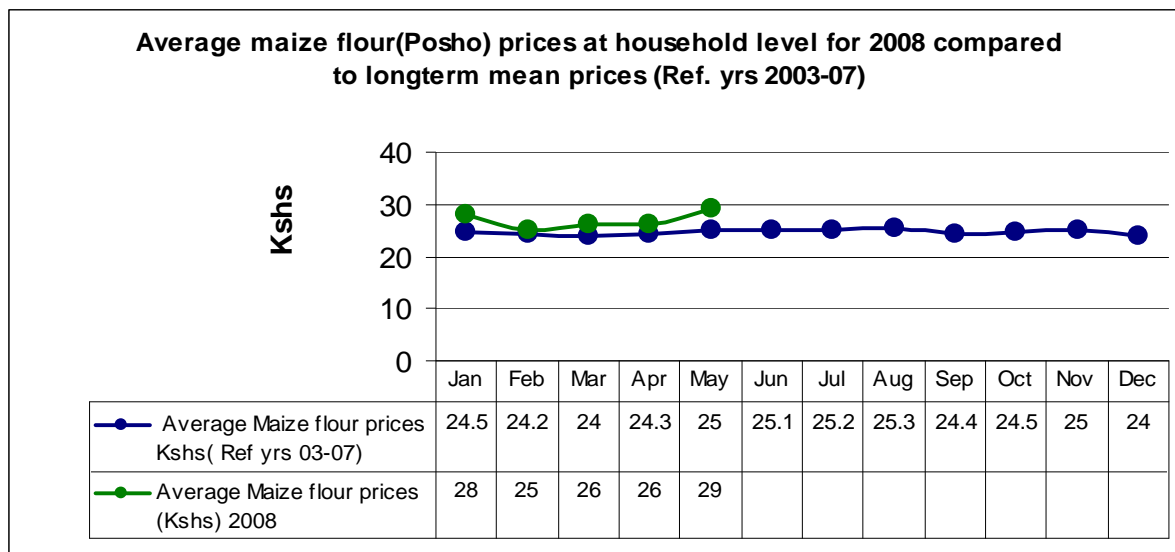
Number of households (N) =374

3.2 Milk consumption

- Milk availability at the household level dwindles both in the plateau and the lowlands. Diminishing forage resources impact negatively on livestock production particularly in cattle despite improved birth rates.

3.3 Food prices

3.3.1 Posho (maize meal)



Number of communities (N) =31

- Maize flour prices skyrocketed to Kshs 29 from last months' Kshs. 26.
- Compared to the long term mean, Posho prices are far below normal. The abnormal posho price situation is resulting from limited supply and high demand of maize in the local markets across the District.
- Added transport costs lead to hiked cereal prices in many lowland areas compared to the plateau.

3.4 Income

3.4.1 Livestock income

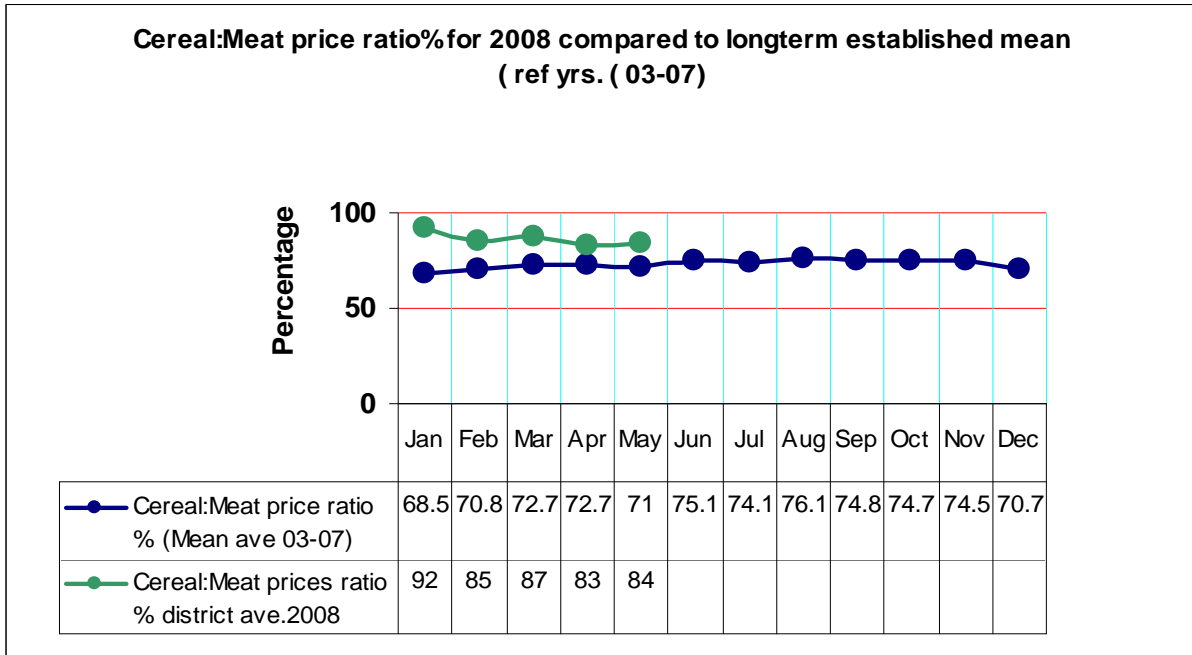
- Sale of livestock remains the major source of income for many households across all the livelihood zones. Other livestock income is generated through the sale of livestock products e.g. milk.

3.4.2 Other income

- Casual labour, sale of charcoal, petty trading, formal employment and remittances follow livestock income as other income sources for many households within the District in that order.

3.5 Cereal: meat price ratio

- Pastoralists' purchasing power slightly sours to 84% from last month's 83%. This may be a consequence hiked cereal prices.
- Cereal/meat price ratio is far below normal as a pastoralist's household requires 0.84 Kgs of meat in exchange of a Kilogram of cereals. The exchange rate remains exorbitant as the established long-term mean average is 0.71Kg against a Kg of cereals.



Number of households (N) =374

3.6 Implications on food security

- Good livestock prices are countered by highly priced cereals and other basic household commodities impacting negatively on the pastoralists' economy and food security.

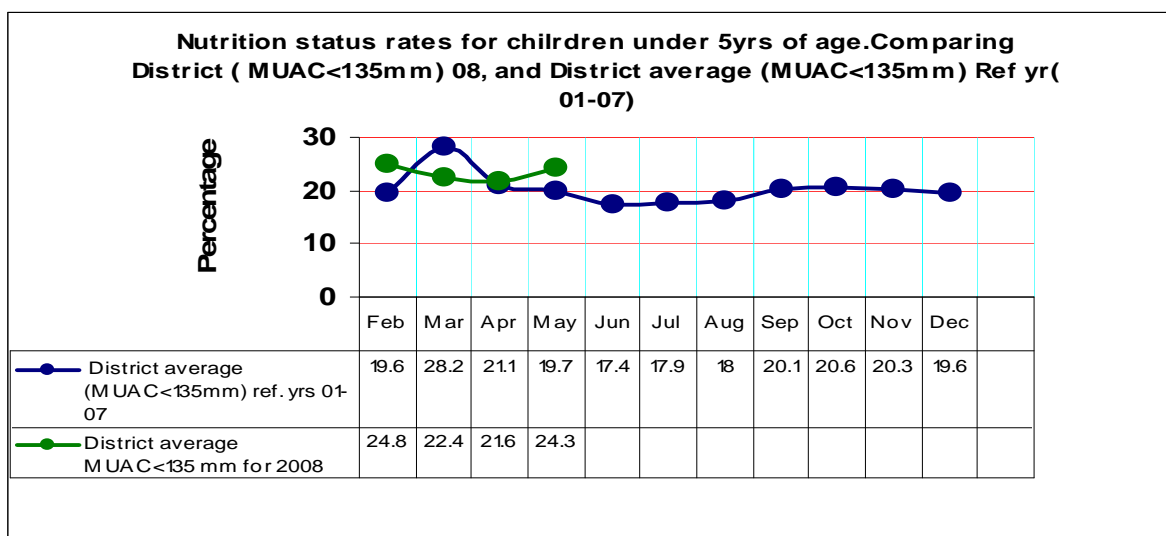
4. Welfare indicators (utilization of food)

4.1 Human health

- Malaria, diarrhoea and upper respiratory tract infections (RTIs) remain the major human ailments reported in various parts of the district but within manageable levels.
- The ailments were mainly countered at the household level through medical assistance sought from public health centres/ dispensaries, private clinics and use of local herbs/ concoctions.

4.2 Nutrition (MUAC) Rates

- Nutritional status rates for children less than five years of age worsen to 24.3% from last months 21.6% for at risk category and when compared to established long-term mean the situation is below normal.
- The highest percentage of children at risk of malnutrition remains in the lowland areas of Nachola, Tuum, and Southhorr.



Number of children (N) =1447 from 374 households

5. Current interventions and coping strategies

5.1 Non-food

- District wide livestock disease surveillance by the vet. Department.
- Enhanced patrols comprising KPR, and ASTU in the Western parts of the plateau.
- Daily Nyahururu –Maralal highway police patrol.

5.2 Food-aid

- Supplementary feeding Programme (SFP) in 9 health facilities in all Divisions targeting approximately 1,400 beneficiaries.
- District wide general relief food distribution targeting 30% of the District population both in the lowlands and the plateau.

5.3 Other coping strategies

- The household coping mechanisms are generally normal ranging from 0 to 4 according to the coping strategies index 0 to 10. Nachola and Kawop sentinel sites demonstrate an abnormal deviation of the coping strategies index that is above 4.0.

6. Recommendations to KFSSG and other DA's

6.1. Food Situation

- The District GOK/donor agencies and the pastoral population should put measures in place to prepare for an eminent food shortage in the District.
- The newly introduced FFA programme should target more beneficiaries both in the lowlands and the plateau.
- Supplementary feeding to the vulnerable categories should be increased to target more beneficiaries particularly in the lowlands and in areas facing insecurity crisis to combat the increased rates of malnutrition.

Action: WFP, KFSSG, ALRMP II, UNICEF and other donors.

6.2 Livestock diseases

- The Vet. Department should immediately embark on massive Small stock Vaccination Campaigns before **PPR** disease spills over to neighboring district and the rest of the country
- Neighboring Districts should be on high alert of the **PPR** threat and should put all necessary measures in place to counter the deadly viral disease.
- KFSSG and other donors should move in quickly to support massive small stock PPR vaccination campaigns within the district.
Action: Vet department, ALRMP II, KFSSG and other DA's

6.3 Human Health

- Malaria, diarrhea and RTIs incidences continue to be reported across the district. The MOH should staff and continue to stock all the rural health facilities with adequate drugs in order to improve access to basic health services by pastoralists.
Action: MoH, SAIDIA, Catholic Mission, ALRMP, and other donors.

6.4 Security

- Insecurity in the Plateau and parts of Baragoi division is still at the peak and requires immediate attention by all stakeholders. District security committee should identify all the relevant stakeholders and forge a way forward towards restoring calm in areas currently facing insecurity crisis. KFSSG should continue to play a role in facilitating peace committees to reach warring communities for dialogue.
- ASTU police should be settled in Baragoi to contain any violence outbreak between the two warring communities.
Action: DSC, District Peace committees, Pastoral associations, KFSSG and Communities.