

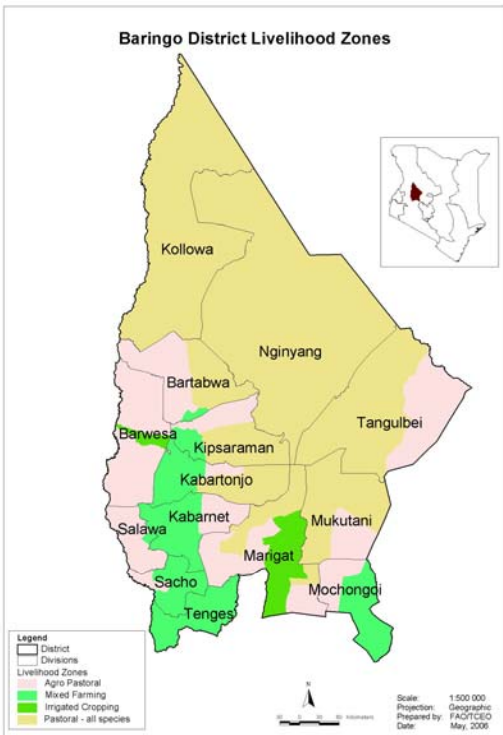


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS  
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

**DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, NOVEMBER 2008**

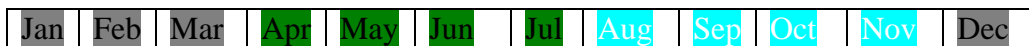
**East Pokot/ Baringo Districts**

**Warning Stages**



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Pastoral	Alarm	Worsening
Agro pastoral	Alarm	Worsening
Irrigated Cropping	Alarm	Worsening
Mixed farming	Alarm	Worsening

**Timeline**



- Dry season :- (Land preparation, minimal calving, lambing & kidding)
- Long rains :- (Planting, most kidding & lambing and minimal calving & honey harvesting)
- Short rains :- (Most calving & honey harvesting and minimal kidding & lambing, pre-harvest & harvesting)

### **Situation overview**

- The district recorded a total of 79.7 mm of rainfall from three ALRMP stations. The rainfall was in form of light and sporadic showers.
- The rainfall resulted in little impact on the grazing and water resources.
- Quality and quantity of forage improved slightly due to the light showers received.
- Water availability for both human and livestock generally improved.
- Body condition of livestock was good for all the species.
- Milk production improved slightly during the month due to minimal kidding of goats.
- The average prices of livestock decreased for all the species. The decrease in livestock prices was attributed to inadequate buyers and influx of animals in the market. Poultry prices increased slightly compared to the previous month following improved demand.
- The average prices of food crops and other commodities increased during the month owing to scarcity of the supplies in the markets within the district and the neighbouring districts.
- Sale of honey, casual labour, petty trade (eg local beer brewing) and sale of charcoal and wood products were the alternative sources of income for most sampled households during the month after the sale of livestock.
- The nutritional status of children below five years stabilised at 20.7 per cent same as the previous month. This was attributed to inadequate availability of food at the household level during the month.

### **Recommendations to DSG and KFSSG**

- The veterinary department /agencies should step up support to the livestock health sub-sector through vaccinations and treatment of clinical cases. In particular, more efforts should be directed to the upsurge of CCPP in the district and upsurge of ECF in Kerio valley.
- Continuous relief food supplies and supplementary foods for children in pastoralist communities in both East Pokot and Baringo districts until the stress situation normalises.
- Strengthen conflict prevention and peace-building initiatives to maintain the already achieved level of peace and further reduce conflicts along the borders of East Pokot, Baringo, Turkana and Samburu districts.
- The Road Works Engineer should ensure that the roads linking Marigat to Mukutani; Marigat to Yatya; Marigat to Chemolingot and the Kerio Valley roads that were destroyed by the rains are repaired to facilitate transportation of foods to these areas.
- Supply of more anti-malarial drugs in all the rural health facilities that are far from the district hospitals.

### **Current interventions**

#### **Non-food interventions**

- Construction of two classrooms each for Chesitet and Natan communities in East Pokot district - ALRMP/ Community.
- Laying of pipes for Tangelbei Borehole – ALRMP / Ministry of water.

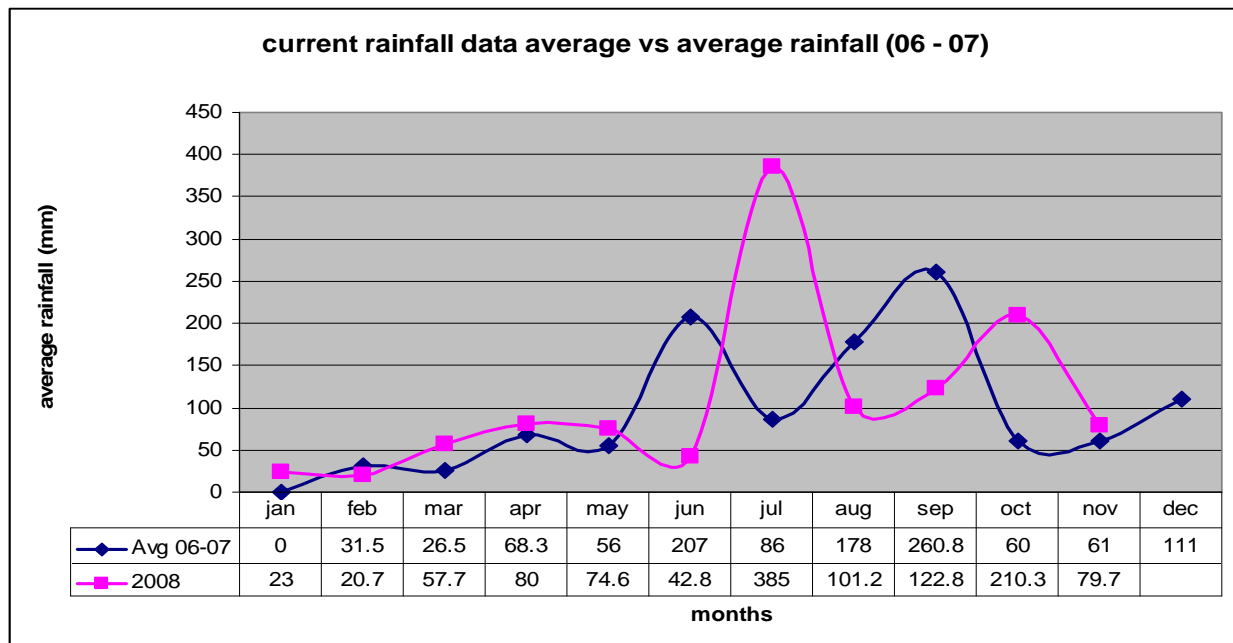
- Construction of girls' dormitory in Chepkesin primary school - ALRMP/ Community.
- Equipping of Rotu health centre and construction of pit latrines – ALRMP/ Barpello Catholic mission.
- Equipping of Kapturo dispensary in Bartabwa division - ALRMP/ Community.
- Peace-building initiatives within the districts of the project area by various stakeholders i.e. the PSC, DPC, DSC, World vision, Community Elders, Youth groups, Political leaders, Pastors and ALRMP.

### Food aid

- Relief food distribution to Baringo district residents – World Vision/ WFP.

## 1.0 Environmental indicators (stability)

### 1.1 Rainfall



**Source: ALRMP rain gauge data stations**

- 79.7 mm average rainfall was recorded during the month from three stations compared to the previous month where there was 210.3 mm from 5- stations.
- However, the rainfall was sporadic.
- This was normal at the time of the year compared to the long term mean.
- However, this had little impact on pasture and water resources.

### 1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- The quantity of forage in most parts of the district improved slightly owing to the showers received.

- The quality of the available pasture was fair. However, there was a general poor rejuvenation of pasture due to the long dry spell earlier experienced.
- The average distance to grazing areas decreased during the month owing to slight rejuvenation of pasture and browse in the wet season grazing areas.
- The distance to grazing fields decreased to an average of 4.7 km from 5.2 km the previous month.

### **1.3 Water sources and availability**

- There was some recharge of water sources during the month following the showers received in parts of the district.
- The main water sources were pans and dams, natural rivers, traditional river wells, shallow wells, springs, boreholes and lakes.
- Distances to water sources decreased to an average of 2.3 km from 2.4 km the previous month for most households.

### **1.4 Emerging issues**

- The showers received improved the condition of browse and pasture.
- However, a general poor rejuvenation was noted compared to the previous seasons and the distances to water sources and pasture decreased.
- Some of the satellite herds moved back to the wet season grazing points in search of pasture.
- Roads linking Marigat to Mukutani; Marigat to Yatya; Marigat to Chemolingot and the Kerio Valley roads were destroyed during the short rains period. Ng'ambo dispensary was closed down due to floods.

### **1.5 Implications on food security**

- Improving browse and pasture conditions and reduced distances to water points led to improved livestock body condition, hence contributing to good prices and giving a boost to household food security for the pastoralists.
- Food could not reach areas destroyed by the rains.

## **2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)**

### **2.1 Livestock production**

#### **2.1.1 Livestock body condition**

- Livestock body condition was good for all the species in all the livelihood zones following the slight rejuvenation of browse and pasture after the showers received.
- This was normal at the time of the year.

#### **2.1.2 Livestock diseases**

- There was an upsurge of CCPP and ECF in the district.

#### **2.1.3 Milk production**

- Milk production improved slightly in the district owing to minimal kidding of goats during the month.
- This was normal at the time of the year as this was the time of minimal kidding and lambing of goats and sheep.

## 2.2 Crop production

### 2.2.1 Timeliness and status of crop production activities

- Some of the crops planted in the agro-pastoral livelihood zones managed to survive the dry spell and there was some harvest.
- However, the harvests were too little and inadequate, leaving a looming food shortage in the district.
- This was not normal at the time of the year.

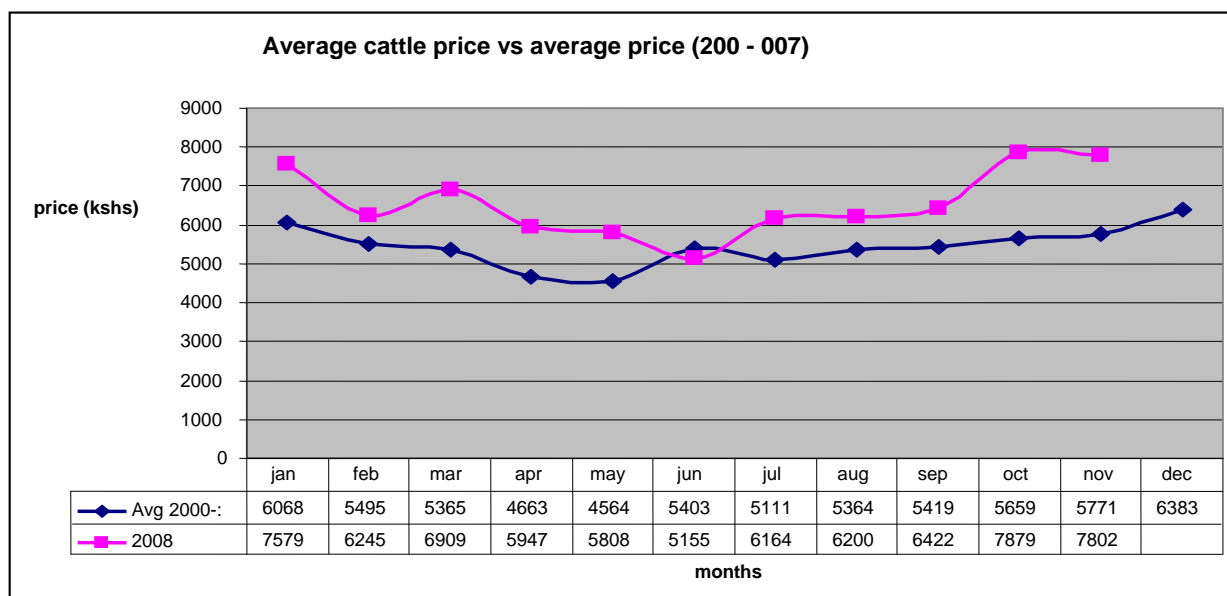
### 2.3 Implications on food security

- Milk production at household level was not sufficient to support the households as this is the main food depended upon by the Pastoralists and children.
- Crops failed due to lack of rain during the season. This was a major threat to food security at the household level.
- The population needs continuous relief food distribution until the situation normalises.

## 3.0 Access to food

### 3.1 Livestock marketing

#### 3.1.1 Cattle prices

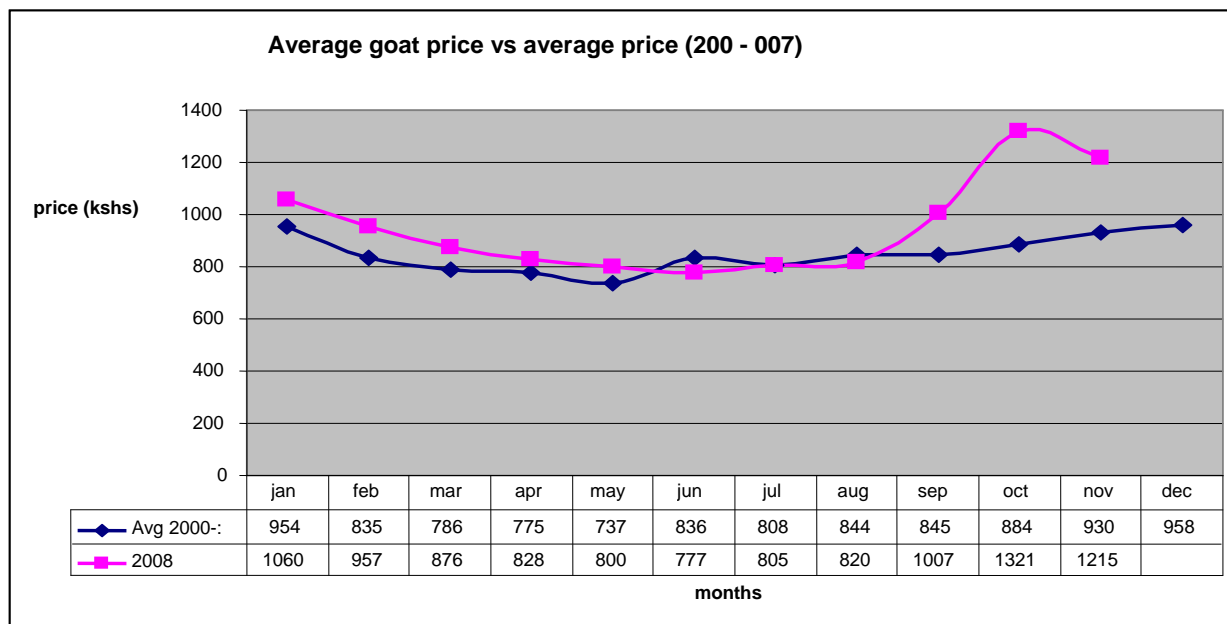


N = 450 HH

- The average price of cattle dropped slightly from Ksh 7,879 in October to Ksh 7,802 in November.
- The decrease was not normal at the time of the year when the price of cattle is expected to be high. The price was, however, higher than the long term average.
- This was attributed to unavailability of buyers and influx of cattle in the markets.
- This had a negative impact on household food security.

- Kolowa division had the highest average cattle price at Ksh10,120. This was attributed to fair body condition of the animals and access to adequate buyers.
- Kipsaraman division had the lowest average price of Ksh6,367 due to poor body condition of the animals.

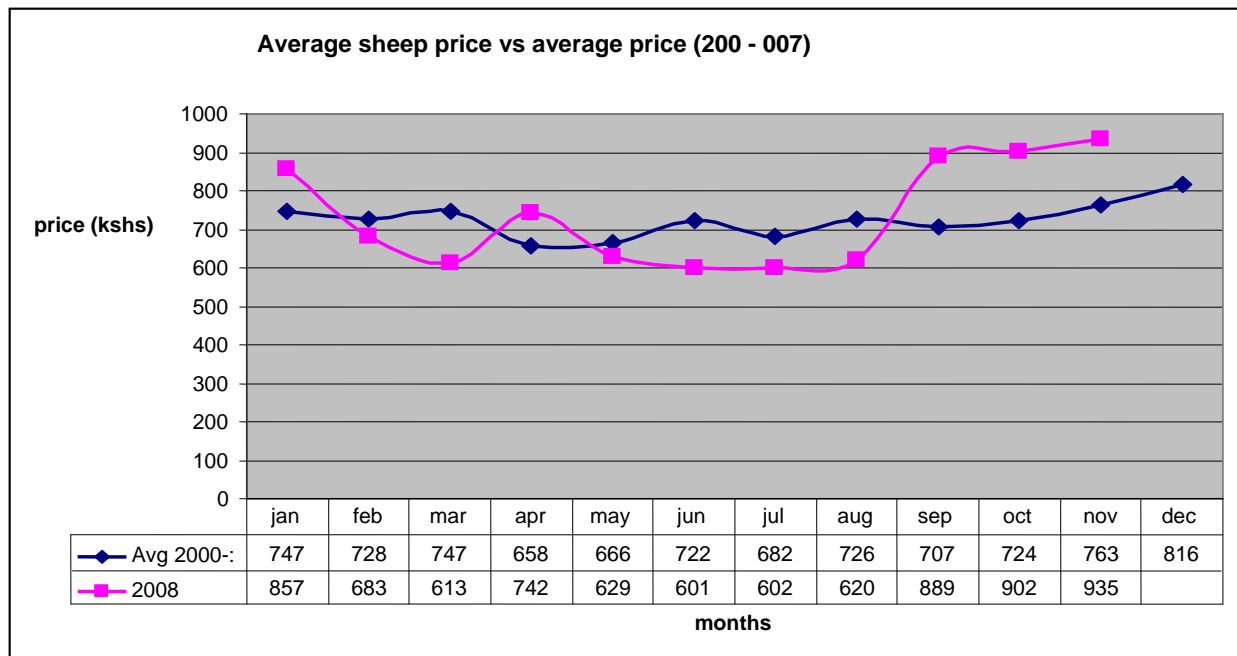
### 3.1.2 Goat prices



**N = 450 HH**

- The average goat prices decreased from Ksh1,321 in October to Ksh1,215.
- The price was, however, above the long term average, as shown on the graph.
- The decrease was attributed to unavailability of buyers and influx of goats in the markets. This impacted negatively on household food security.
- Bartabwa division had the highest price at Ksh1,447 due to high demand and access to adequate buyers, while Kipsaraman division had the lowest price average of Ksh988 owing to poor body condition and lack of buyers.

### 3.1.3 Sheep prices



N = 450 HH

- Sheep prices increased from Ksh902 in October to Ksh935.
- The price was attributed to high demand of the animals and was higher than the long term average. This was a boost to household food security.
- Kolowa division had the highest sheep price at Ksh1,028 owing to fair demand, while Kipsaraman division had the lowest price of Ksh850 as a result of influx of the animals into the market and poor demand.

### 3.2 Livestock sales

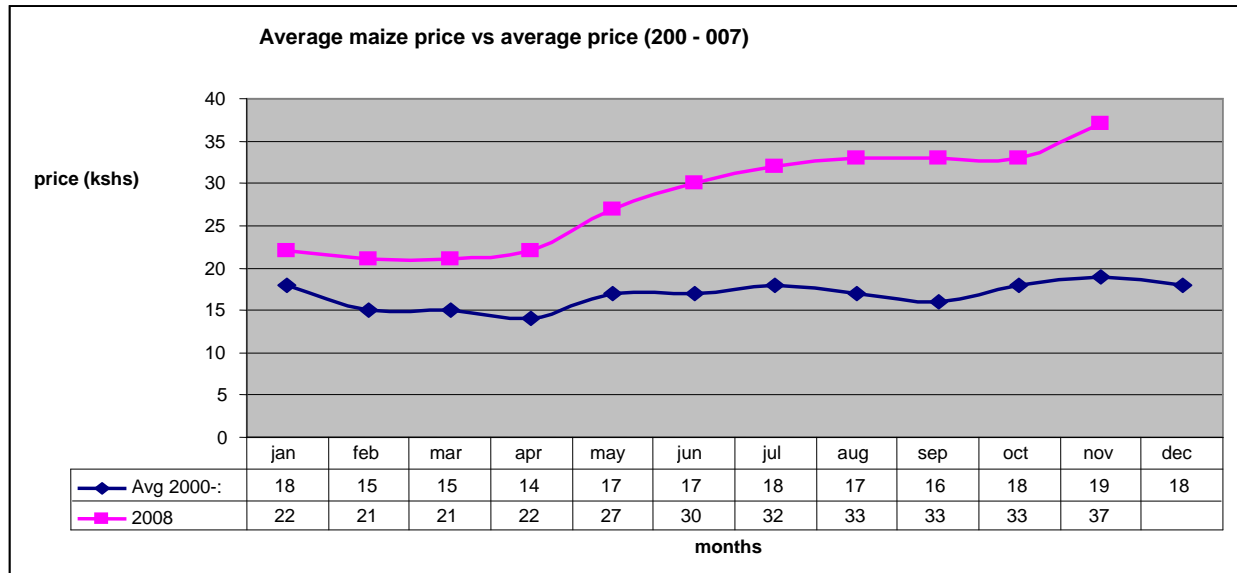
- The livestock sales volume increased in the month compared to the previous months as a result of more demand for food in households.
- Goats, sheep, poultry, donkeys and cattle were the main livestock offered for sale at the markets.
- The pastoral livelihood zone had the highest sales as livestock sales are the sole means of meeting household needs, while the agro-pastoral and irrigated cropping livelihood zones had the lowest sales since they had alternative sources of income such as business, food stock, and casual labour.
- The level of sales was not normal at the time of the year as people sold a lot of animals in order to meet the demand of high prices of food in the markets.

### 3.3 Milk consumption

- Milk consumption by household members was still low in all livelihood zones.
- Compared with the previous month, the milk consumption at household level increased slightly owing to minimal kidding of goats during the month.
- This impacted positively on food security at household level, especially for children under five years.

### 3.4 Crop prices (Market prices)

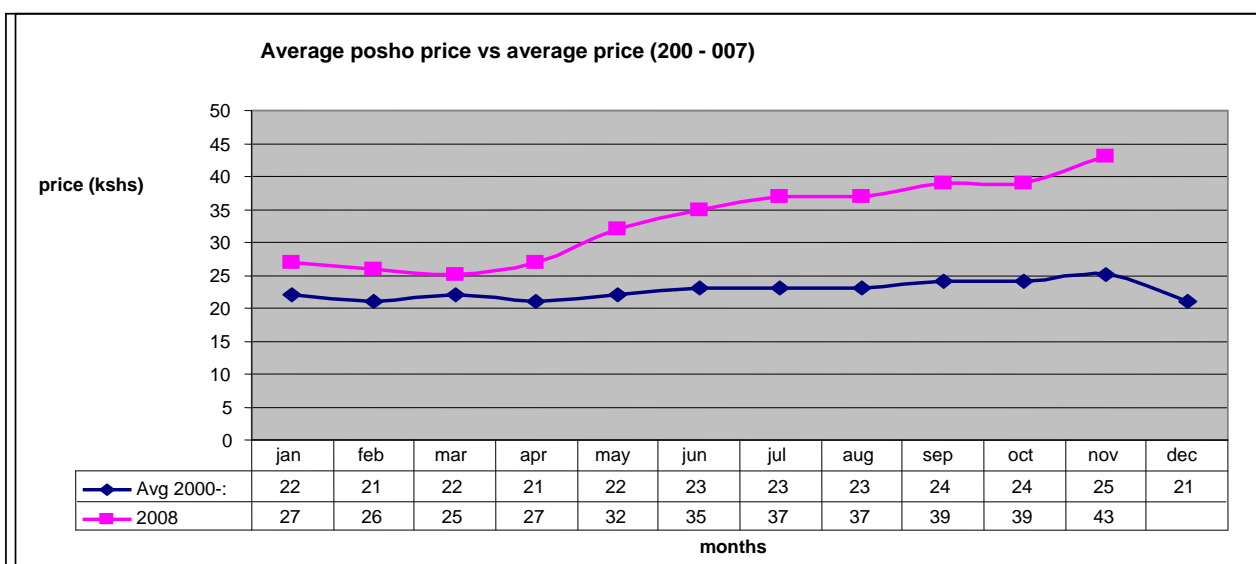
#### 3.4.1 Maize prices



**N = 450 HH**

- The average maize price during the month was Ksh37 per kilo, which was Ksh 4 more than the previous month.
- The average price was almost double the long term mean owing to scarcity of the commodity in markets and high demand.
- The high prices were also attributed to lack of adequate supply of maize in local markets from agro- pastoralists within the district and also neighbouring districts.
- As in the previous month, maize prices were much higher in the pastoral livelihood zone than in the Agro-pastoral and Irrigated farming livelihood zones.
- The prices were not normal at the time of the year owing to shortage in the district.

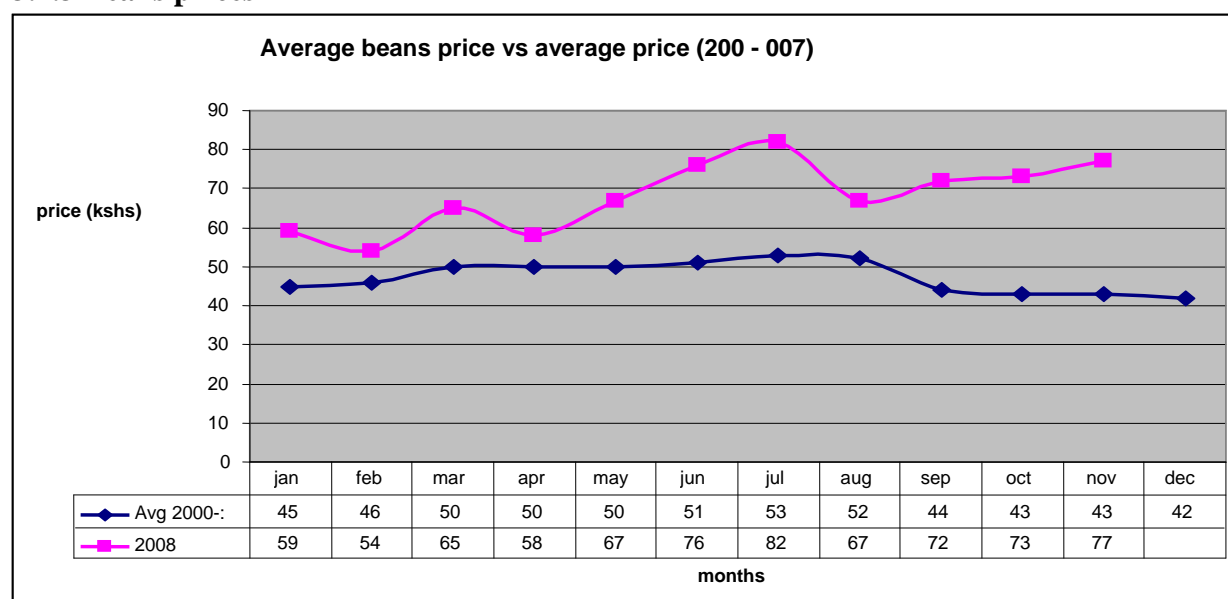
#### 3.4.2 Posho (maize meal) prices



**N = 450 HH**

- Posho prices rose to Ksh 43 per kilo from Ksh 39 in October.
- The price increase was due to severe scarcity of the commodity.
- The price was more than the long term average and this eroded the purchasing power of pastoralists.
- Posho prices were much higher in the pastoral livelihood zone than in the agro-pastoral and irrigated cropping zones because pastoral communities depend only on purchases of the commodity.
- The price of posho was not normal at the time of the year owing to scarcity of maize in the markets.

### 3.4.3 Beans prices



**N = 450 HH**

- The average price of beans rose to Ksh 77 per kilo from Ksh 73 in October.
- The highest price recorded in the market was Ksh100 per kilo.
- The price was higher than the long term mean of Ksh 43 per kilo.
- The price increased due to inadequate supply of the commodity to the markets within the district and neighbouring districts.
- However, the prices were too high, eroding the purchasing power of the pastoralists. This was really a threat to household food security.
- Beans prices were higher in the pastoral livelihood zone than in the irrigated cropping and agro-pastoral zones.
- Beans prices were not normal at the time of the year owing to scarcity in the markets.

### **3.5 Income**

#### **3.5.1 Crops income**

- No crops income obtained as crops dried up due to lack of rain in the long rains season. The Agro-pastoralists should have been harvesting by now.

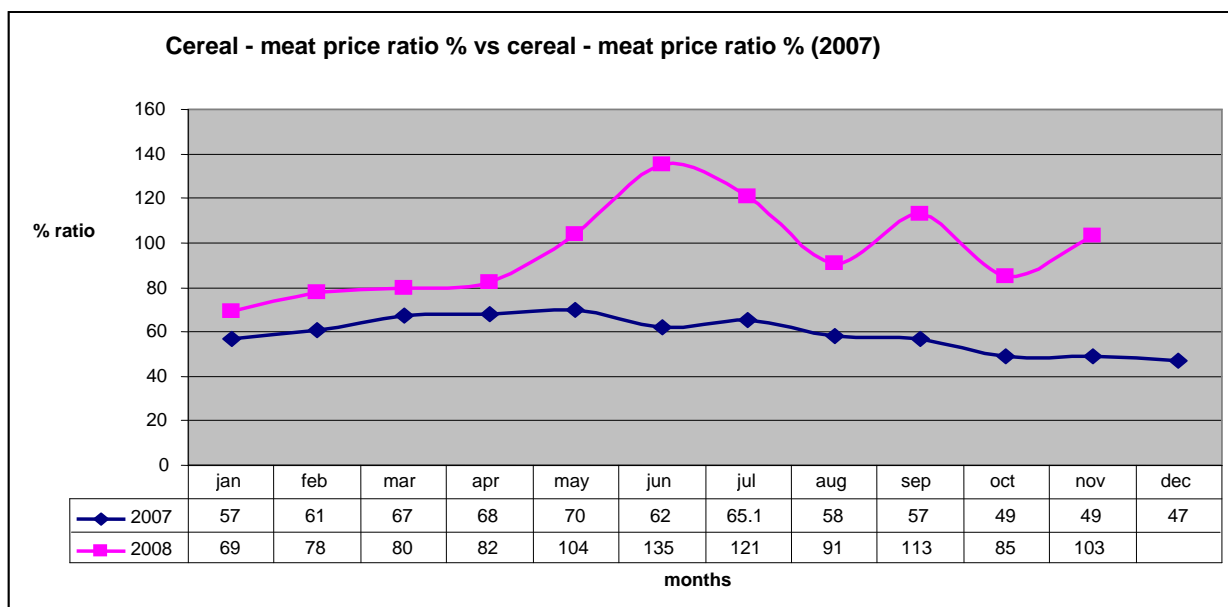
#### **3.5.2 Livestock income**

- Livestock sales income slightly increased more than the previous month.
- The livestock sales income increased due to the high prices of food in the markets necessitating sale of high number of animals to meet the demand for food at the household level.
- The income obtained from the livestock is not normal at this time of the year.

#### **3.5.3 Other income**

- Casual labour was another major source of income during the month with approximately 1/3 of the household's members engaged as casual labourers, followed by sale of honey, charcoal, sale of wood products and petty trade (local beer brewing).
- The average daily wage rate per casual for the month was ksh. 78 much lower than that of the previous month, something so meagre to meet the daily household's needs.
- Most of the trade in charcoal, wood products and petty trading was recorded in Pastoral and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones. This reflects unavailability of livestock and farm incomes for the households in these zones.

### **3.6 Terms of trade (cereal: meat price ratio)**



**N = 450 HH**

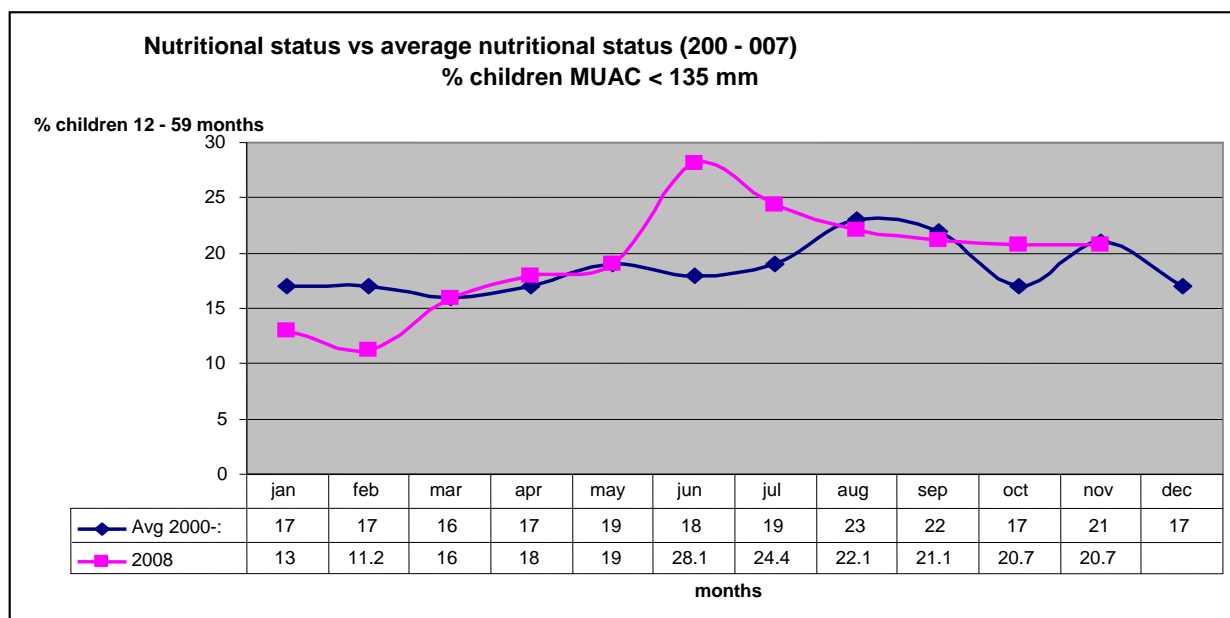
- Terms of trade for pastoralists worsened compared to the previous month due to low animal prices offered during the month.
- The price ratio was worst in the pastoral livelihood zone because of low prices offered for livestock compared to high food prices, while it was lowest in irrigated cropping livelihood zone owing to production of cereals and better livestock prices in the area.
- A pastoralist needed to sell four goats at an average of Ksh1,200 to purchase a 90 kg sack of posho at Ksh4,000. This completely eroded the purchasing power of the people, hence depleting the asset level of the pastoralists.
- The cereal: meat price ratio was not normal at the time of the year.

### **3.7 Implications on food security**

- The low livestock prices and erosion of people's purchasing power depleted the asset level of pastoralists through high number of animals sold to purchase food.
- This posed a threat to household food security.

## **4.0 Welfare indicators (utilisation of food)**

### **4.1 Nutrition status**



**N = 1,247 children**

- The nutrition status of children below five years stabilized during the month.
- The percentage of those rated as being at the risk of malnutrition (based on the MUAC measurement) was 20.7 same as October.
- This was attributed to unavailability of adequate foods (milk) for the children at the household level.
- The level of malnutrition was highest in pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones and lowest in irrigated cropping livelihood zone.

#### 4.2 Health

- Malaria reported highest incidences which were severe during the month.

#### 4.3 Flagged areas

- The pastoral livelihood zone reported the highest malnutrition rates and malaria cases and the areas require particular attention.

#### 5.0 Current interventions

##### 5.1 Non-food interventions

- Construction of two classrooms each for Chesitet and Natan communities in East Pokot district - ALRMP/ Community.
- Laying of pipes for Tangelbei Borehole – ALRMP / Ministry of water.
- Construction of girls' dormitory in Chepkesin primary school - ALRMP/ Community.
- Equipping of Rotu health centre and construction of pit latrines – ALRMP/ Barpello Catholic mission.
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- Peace-building initiatives within the districts of the project area by various stakeholders i.e. the PSC, DPC, DSC, World vision, Community Elders, Youth groups, Political leaders, Pastors and ALRMP.

## **5.2 Food aid**

- Relief foods distribution to Baringo district residents – World Vision/ WFP

## **5.3 Other coping strategies**

- The coping mechanisms employed by the vulnerable population in all the livelihood zones during the month were;
  - Migration of livestock in search of pasture and water.
  - Sale of honey.
  - Borrowing food from relatives.
  - Reducing meal sizes and skipping some.
  - Casual labour and petty trade.

The mechanisms were employed by majority of the sampled households while a few of the households sold their livestock and compared to previous months, the situation was worsening.

## **6.0 Recommendations**

- The veterinary department /agencies should step up support to the livestock health sub-sector through vaccinations and treatment of clinical cases. In particular, more efforts should be directed to the upsurge of CCPP in the district and upsurge of ECF in Kerio valley.
- Continuous relief food supplies and supplementary foods for children in pastoralist communities in both East Pokot and Baringo districts until the stress situation normalises.
- Strengthen conflict prevention and peace-building initiatives to maintain the already achieved level of peace and further reduce conflicts along the borders of East Pokot, Baringo, Turkana and Samburu districts.
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