

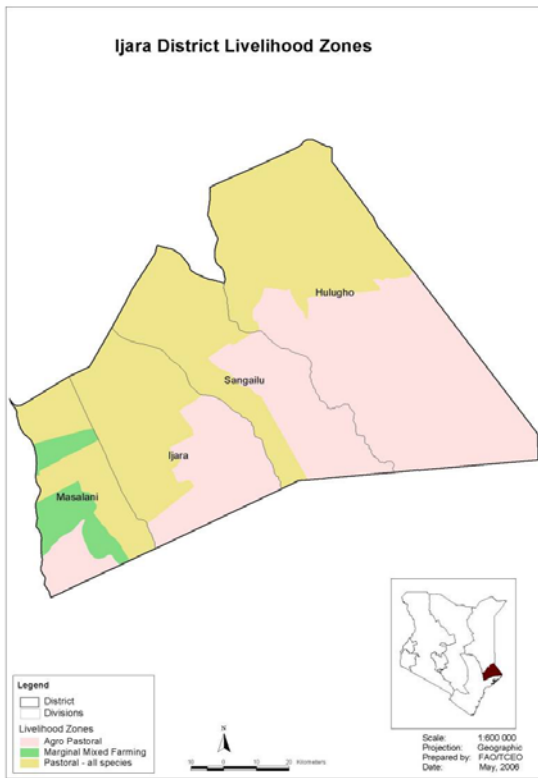


OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, NOVEMBER 2008

Ijara District

Warning Stages



Warning Stages		
Livelihood Zone	Stage	Trend
Pastoral	Alarm	Slightly Improving
Agro pastoral	Alert	Improving
Formal employment/ Casual labor	Alarm	Slightly improving

Seasonal Calendar

<i>-Milk yields drop -Livestock moves towards dry season grazing zones</i>			<i>-High milk yields -Livestock moves to the traditional wet grazing areas. -High calving, kidding and lambing rates.</i>			<i>-Low milk availability -Livestock moves towards the fall back dry seasons grazing areas (Boni forest) -Wildlife-human conflicts</i>			<i>-High milk yield -Livestock moves towards traditional wet seasons grazing areas -High mating rates</i>		
Short Dry Spell			Long rains			Long dry spell			Short rains		
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Situation overview

- The short rains started in the first week of November in all livelihood zones in the district with varied intensity and distribution. However, the rainfall was recorded for only one week and ceased thereafter.
- Browse and pasture condition improved slightly following the rains.
- Few small and medium sized water pans had captured substantial volumes of water in the pastoralist livelihood zones of Sangailu, Hulugho, Handaro and Ijara, which is expected to sustain pastoralists and their livestock for the next two weeks.
- The livestock body condition and health was rated fair for cattle but remained poor for shoats in all livelihood zones.
- The average prices of all categories of livestock increased slightly in all the livelihood zones. However, cattle fetched the highest prices. Average prices recorded for cattle for the month under review was Ksh9, 935 compared with Ksh9, 680 in October.
- There was no inward migration into the district during the month. However, outward migration to Tana Delta District and Lamu increased, with satellite herds still camped at Witu, Boni forest and Tana Delta just as in the preceding month.
- Household access to water remained same as that of preceding month and distance to water points was recorded at 10km compared with 9.7 km for October.
- Livestock access to water showed no significant change, with distance from grazing areas to water sources being recorded at 12 km on average.
- PPR and CCPP continued to affect shoats, while there were reported cases of CBPP in cattle in agro-pastoralist zones especially in Hulugho, Sangailu, Kotile, Bodhai Jalish and Bulito Hama. In addition Trypanosomiasis remained endemic, forcing pastoralists to spend most of their income on its control.
- The availability of milk for consumption in all the livelihood zones continued to decline as most of the lactating herds were still camping in the Boni forest dry grazing belt.
- The nutrition status of children under five years (based on MUAC measurement) was stable and showed no significant change, with the number of those rated as being at risk of malnutrition standing at 16.9 per cent from 17 last month. This was attributed to decrease in milk yields and minor incidences of malaria, diarrhoea and upper respiratory tract infections. The most affected sentinel sites were Koran Hindi, Aballatiro Masalani and Ijara.
- Generally, the drought situation in the entire district was at alarm stage but slightly improving.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSSG

- Sensitise the community on nutritional and commercial value of fish.
- Strengthen out reach clinics and organise medical camps with other actors.
- KWS should strengthen Measures to curb wildlife.
- PPR and CCPP vaccination campaigns to continue across the district. Treatment of other diseases should accompany the exercise.
- Provision of safe drinking water to prevent outbreaks of diarrhoea and other communicable diseases.
- Continue to encourage and support crop farming in the agro-pastoralist zones in order to enhance food security in the district through programmes such as Njaa Marafuku, provision of seeds and other inputs.
- Reducing levels of malnutrition in pregnant and lactating women and children under five years through provision of supplementary food and medical awareness programmes.
- Continue to encourage construction of pit latrines/toilets in settlements and schools and provision of safe drinking water to prevent outbreaks Diarrhoeal disease. Increase and enhance supply of portable water for human consumption in urban areas and in particular, Masalani.
- Measures to combat malaria and improve sanitation should be strengthened.
- Resolve impending conflicts over access to River Tana by pastoralists from Ijara.

- Water trucking to institutions such as schools, dispensaries, security posts that lie in areas hit hard by water scarcity should continue.
- Departmental heads to continue mainstreaming disaster risk reduction measures in planning for development activities in the district as agreed in the Malindi Workshop of April'08.
- Continue and strengthen extension services through NALEP.
- Continuing vaccination/treatment efforts should be coupled with effective disease surveillance system by the veterinary department.
- Mainstream general natural resource management issues into the district development plans in order to cushion residents against drought and other forms of adversities accompanying climate change.
- De-silting and protection of earth pans/dams in areas identified through participatory manner.
- Reseeding of denuded rangeland.

1.0 Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- The short rains started in the first week of November in all the livelihood zones with varied intensity and distribution.
- Pastoralist livelihood zones of Hulugho, Sangailu and Ijara received moderate rains, while Masalani and Kotile received light and poorly distributed rains..
- Generally, the rains were not only poorly distributed but received late in the season and lasted for a very short duration- only one week to be specific.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- The quality and quantity of pasture and browse improved slightly though inadequate, especially in the pastoralist livelihood zones following the rains that were received in the month.
- Diminishing levels of milk were sustained in the pastoralist livelihood zones of Koranhindi, Sangailu, Ijara and the formal/casual employment livelihood zones of Masalani. This resulted from inadequate pasture and browse regeneration.
- The observed trend was not normal at the time of year and season since browse and pasture were supposed to be adequately available. It impacted negatively on food security

1.3 Water sources

1.3.1 Use of water sources

- The rains received during the month caused only a few water pans to impound inadequate quantities of water in the pastoral livelihood zones.
- However, there were no cases of severe water stress reported during the month apart from Masalani district headquarter and its environs, which suffer almost perennial shortage due to huge influxes of people and small stock. The water demand cannot be adequately addressed by the existing water supply scheme.
- Generally, the water sources recharged by the rainfall impacted positively on food security as areas previously under water trucking were relieved of the shortage though temporal.
- The poor quality of water in most parts of the district remained an issue of concern.

1.3.2 Average distance (Kms) to water sources

- The average distance to water sources from grazing areas and domestic households was recorded at 13km and 8km respectively, almost same as last month.
- The trend was not normal for the time of the year as the average distance is usually 3km.
- This impacted negatively on food security as too much time was spent on collection of water at the expense of other socio-economic activities.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Conflicts/ insecurity/human displacement

- Increased human/wildlife conflict continued to be observed, with communities suspecting that swelling numbers of wildlife was as a result of displacement from Somalia and encroachment on wildlife habitats and migration routes by increasing human activities in the area.
- Increased illegal logging activities and bushfires in the Boni forest.
- Displacement of pastoralist households from Ijara to Witu area of Lamu district started creating suspicion and disputes over grazing rights with the indigenous residents.

1.5 Implication on food security

The above conditions were expected to impact negatively on food security in the district.

1.3.2 Migration

- Most of the livestock stayed within satellite camps of the dry season grazing areas inside the Boni forest and parts of Lamu district, notably, around Witu division, and lower Tana River basin.
- Migrations were limited to movements within the district, notably in the sentinel sites of Koranhindi, Hulugho, Handaro and Sangailu and a few households that moved out of the district to settle at Korini area of Witu division, Lamu district.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- The livestock body condition and health status was poor for all categories in all livelihood zones and showed a decline because of insufficient pasture and browse, while some succumbed to diseases and inadequate feeding.
- The trend was not normal when compared with same period of previous years, which registered better body condition and production of livestock.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases.

- There was outbreak of CBPP in Sangailu sentinel site and cases of PPR were reported in pastoral livelihood zone.
- Tsetse fly infestation remained a challenge to pastoralists because of the economic implications due to highly priced drugs compared to low income of the pastoralist households.
- Trypanomiasis remained endemic.
- Other prevalent diseases were;
 - Cattle: LSD, CBPP, Trypanosomiasis and black quarter anthrax.
 - Sheep: Helminthiasis, sheep introtoxicimea, pulpy kidney disease.
 - Goats: CCPP, Helminthiasis and Trips.
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2.1.3 Milk production

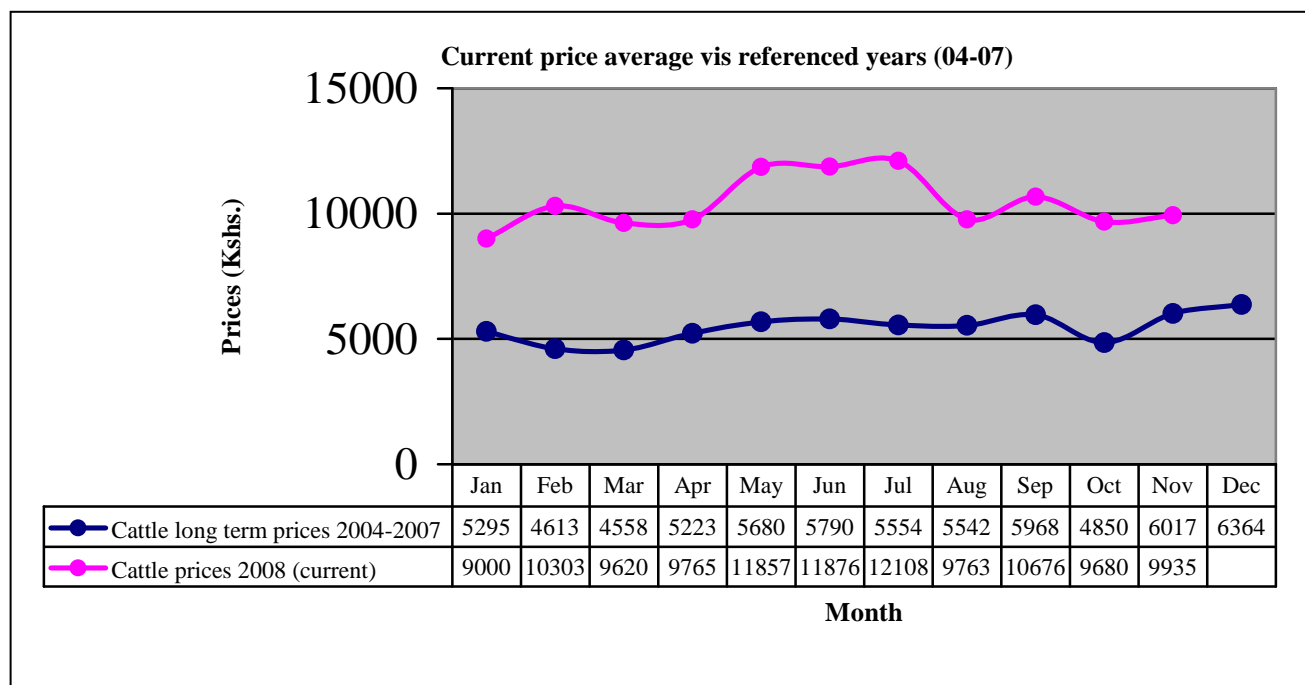
- Milk yields decreased in all the livelihood zones compared to the preceding month.
- This was attributed to inadequate rainfall which degenerated into a sort of dry, humid weather.
- The reduced milk production affected the household security since the pastoralists mostly depend on milk for consumption and as an income source.

3.0 Access to food

3.1. Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices

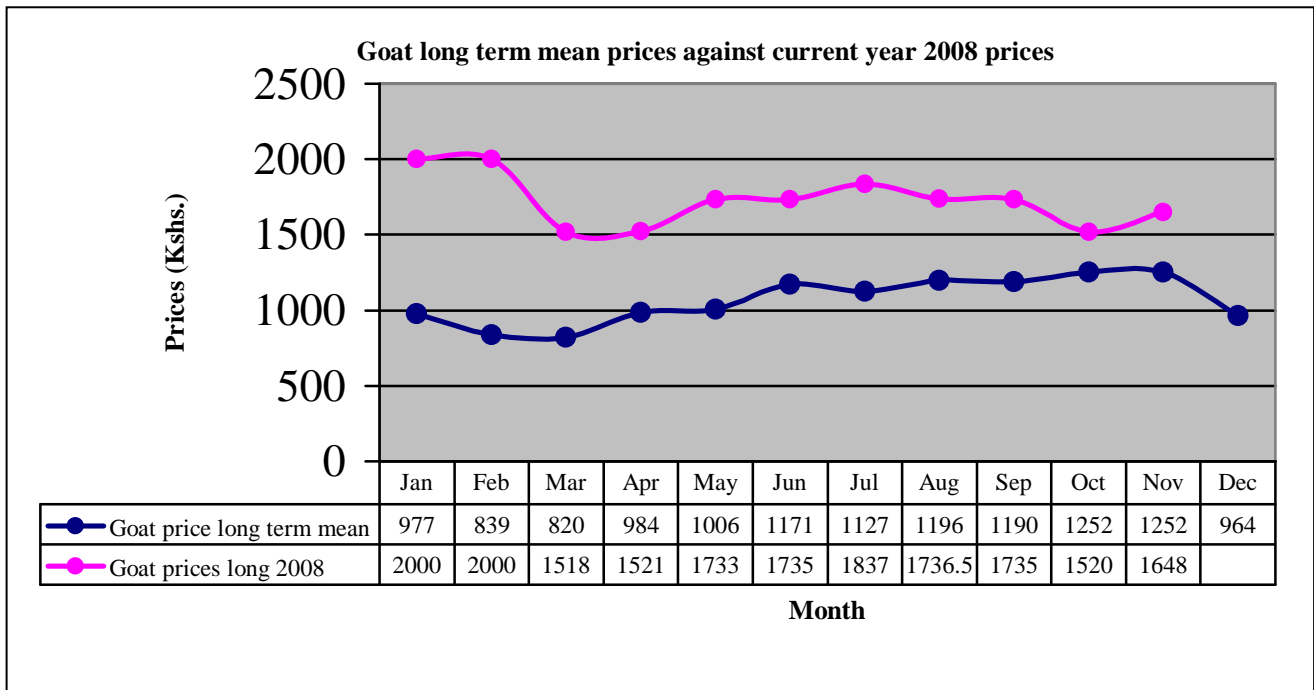
Cattle long term mean prices compared to 2008 prices



- Cattle prices increased from Ksh9, 680 to Ksh 9,935.
- However, the trend was not normal during the time of the year and had a negative effect on food security.
- Agro-pastoral and formal/casual employment livelihood zones recorded the highest cattle prices at Ksh 11,833 and Ksh 12,000 respectively, while the pastoralist livelihood had the lowest.

3.1.2 Goat prices

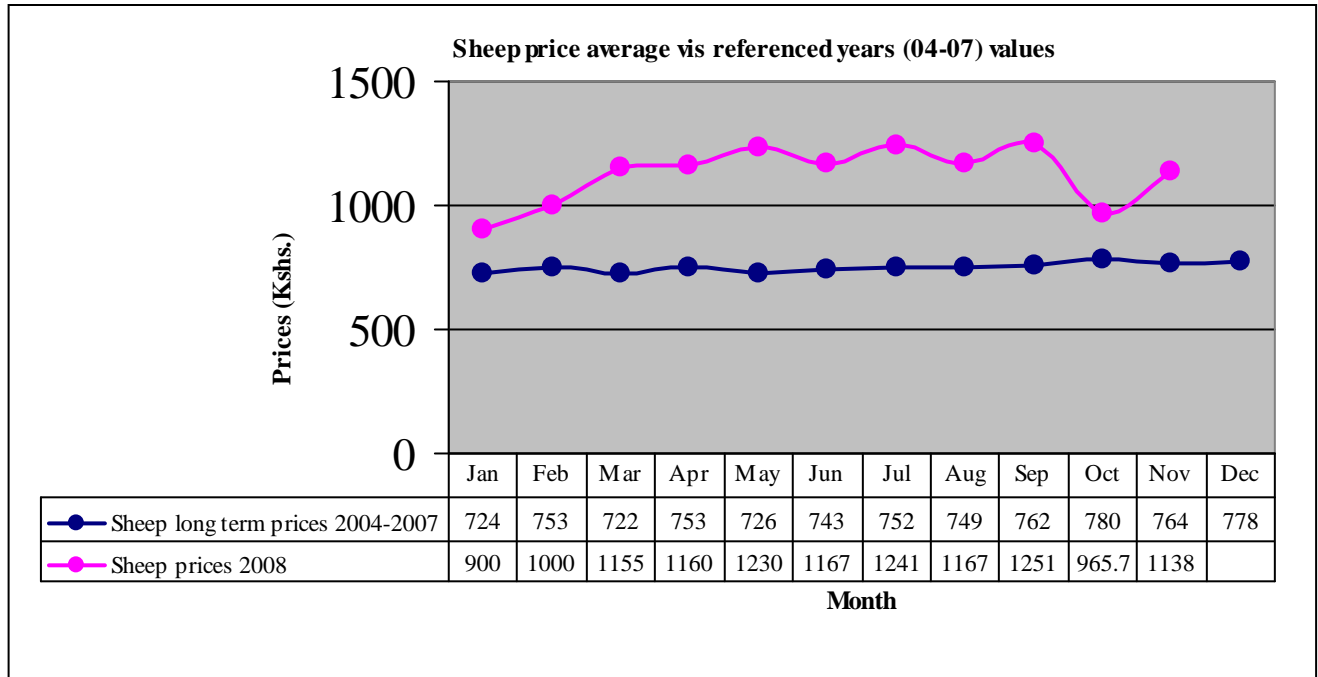
Goat long term mean prices compared to 2008 prices



- Average goat prices appreciated from Ksh1,520 to Ksh 1,648 during the month.
- The prices were still low despite the insignificant increase and may be attributed to reduced body condition due to the prolonged dry spell and effects of PPR.
- The trend was not normal as prices were low and impacted negatively on food security.

3.1.3 Sheep prices

Sheep long term mean prices compared to 2008 prices



- The prices of sheep slightly increased from Ksh965.7 to Ksh 1,138 and recorded above the long term mean.
- Pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones had the highest prices recorded at Ksh1,466 and Ksh887 respectively.
- The trend had a positive impact on household food security.

3.2 Livestock sales

- The rate of livestock sales decreased for all categories of livestock.
- This was a normal trend and had positive impact on household food security as herd units per household increased through this mode of conservation.

3.3 Milk consumption

- The availability of milk for consumption in all the sentinel sites declined because of the effects of the dry spell and prevailing diseases.
- This had a negative impact on household food security since only 8 per cent of children under five could access milk.

3.4 Crop prices

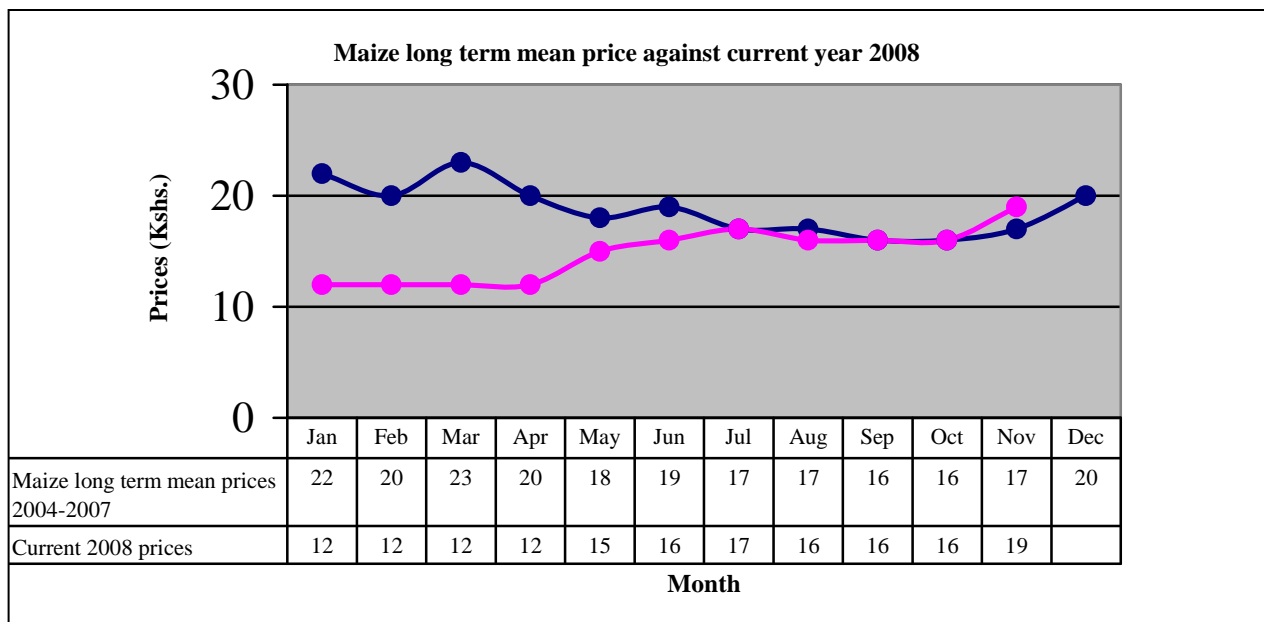
Prices of foodstuffs remained high during the month under review compared to the previous month.

3.4.1 Maize prices

- The average price of maize rose in all the sentinel sites.
- The average price stood at Ksh 19 per kilo , up from Ksh 16 in October.
- The trend was not normal for the time of the year as the prices were expected to go down.
- The observed trend had a negative impact on food security.

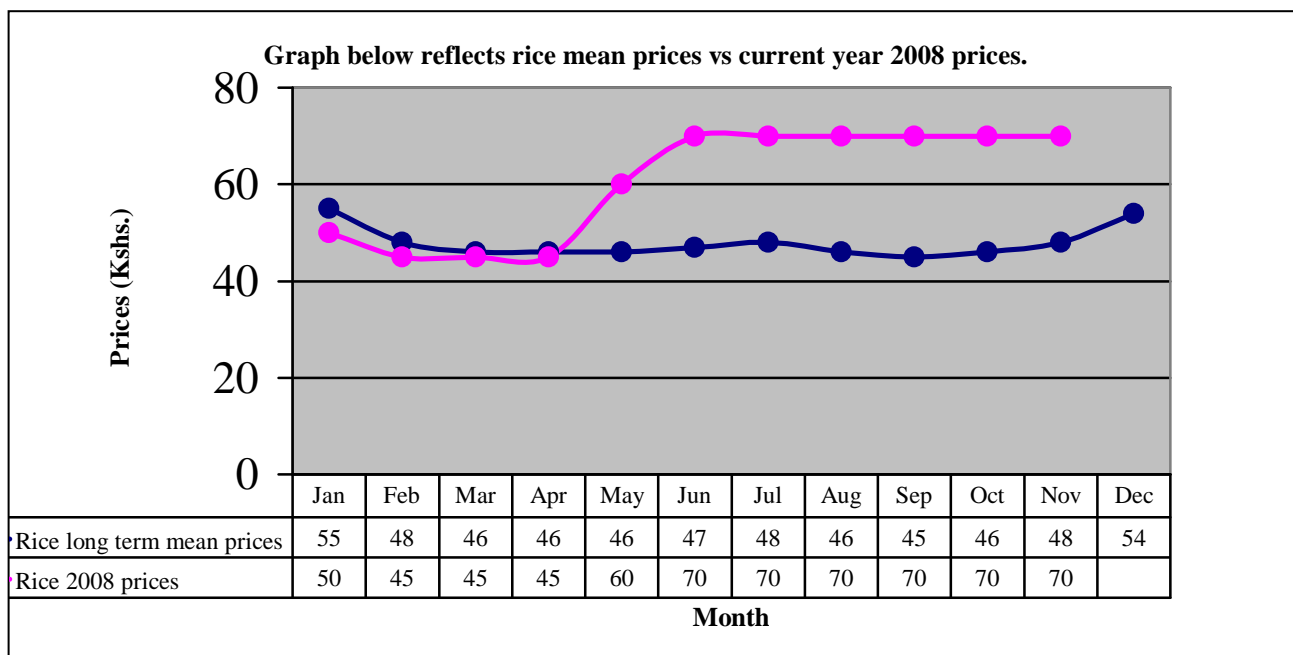
- The escalating prices were attributed to crop failure in the main grain baskets of Kenya due to post election violence, subsequent successive rainfall failures and high transportation costs.

Maize long term mean prices compared to 2008



3.4.3 Rice prices

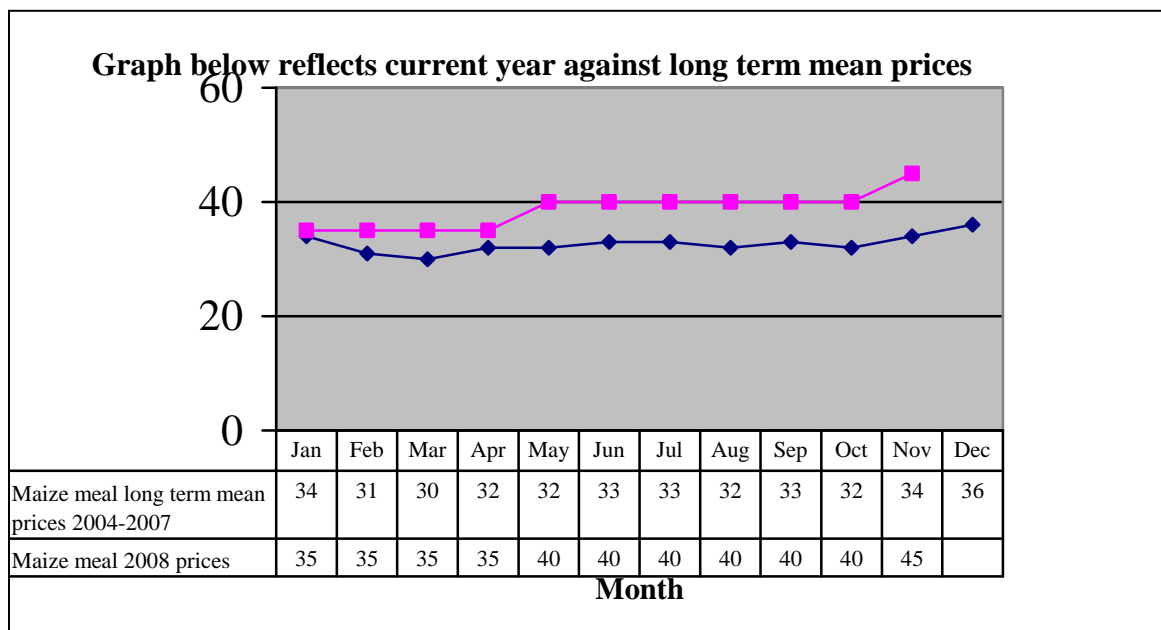
Rice long term mean prices against 2008 year



- The average price of rice remained stable at Ksh 70 per kilo.
- However, the price was still high compared to the long term mean and was attributed to the high cost of transportation following increased fuel prices.
- The trend was not normal as the prices were expected to be lower than what was recorded for the month.

3.4.2. Posho (maize meal) prices

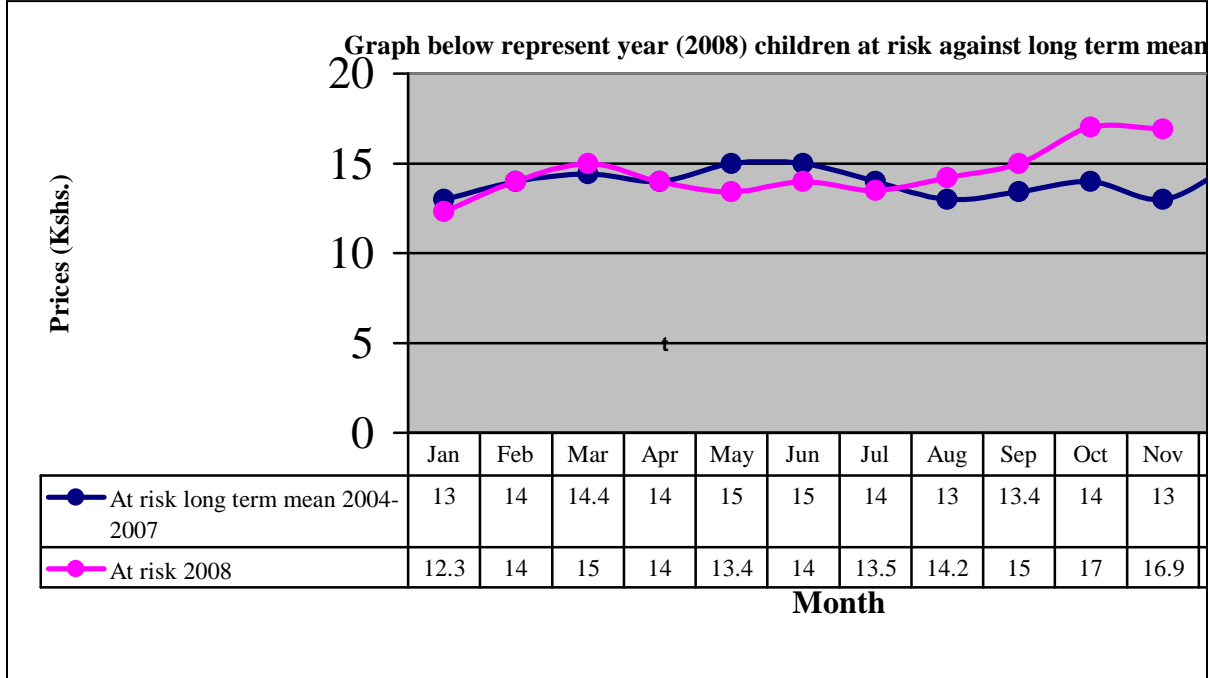
Sifted maize meal prices



- The average price of sifted maize meal rose from Ksh40 per kilo to Ksh 45 during the month under review.
- The trend was not normal during the time of the year since the prices were expected to be lower than what was recorded.
- This had a negative impact on household food security.

4.0 Human welfare indicators

4.1 Nutrition status



Nutrition status of children under five years

- The nutrition status of children below five years (based on the MUAC measurement) stabilised during the month.
- The percentage of children categorized as being “AT RISK” of malnutrition stood at 16.9 compared to last months’ 17.
- However, the trend was still worse compared to the long term mean.
- The trend was not normal and was due to the food security situation triggered by the on set of the dry spell.
- The pastoralist and agro-pastoralist livelihood zones of Ijara, Korahindi and Abalatiro areas recorded high percentages of children at risk of malnutrition at 22 per cent.

4.2 Human health

- No alarming disease outbreaks were reported.
- However, malaria and upper respiratory tract infections were the common ailments reported, though at manageable levels.

4.3 Flagged areas (affected areas)

- Pastoralist and agro-pastoralist livelihood zones of Khoranhidi, Handaro, Sangailu, Ijara and Abalatiro areas were most affected.

5.0 Current intervention measures and coping strategies

5.1 Non- food interventions

- Construction of water harvesting structures for crop production by Ministry of Agriculture.
- Water hyacinth removal from pans in Hulugho by Water Dept/ALRMP.
- Distribution of seeds to crop farmers by Ministry of Agriculture.
- Conducting of mobile outreach clinics by MOH/ALRMP.

- Distribution of Unimix and Vitamin A supplementation by MOH/UNICEF.
- Vaccination against CCBP and PPR, already 9,600 cases of CBPP and 9,000 of PPR has been vaccinated.
- Establishment of tree nurseries—a total of 15,000 seedlings are in nurseries.
- Water pan protection measure- ALRMP,MINISTRY OF WATERGLOBAL CONCERN FUND.
- Cash for work.

5.2 Food aid

- Relief food to be provided to vulnerable households

5.3. Coping strategies

Among the coping measures adopted during the month were: -

- Collection and sale of bush products including honey and Aloe extracts.
- Herding and other casual work
- Sales of quarry products
- Petty trade.

6.0 Recommendations

- Disease surveillance should be sustained by veterinary department and other stake holders in order to contain any disease outbreaks. All stake holders to support vaccination through the vet department so as to contain any would be outbreaks. (Action: Vet department, ALRMP11, Womankind and Oxfam GB).
- The MOH should strengthen and sustain disease surveillance in order to avert increase in malaria incidences. Rural health facilities to be stocked with sufficient drugs for easy access by pastoralists. Anti-malarial campaigns should also be strengthened. (Action: MOH, DPHO and CBOs.)
- Agricultural extension services should be strengthened by DAO.
- Impeding conflicts over the three mile strip along the Tana River to be resolved by the concerned authorities. Action :District Peace Committees, Local Authorities and the DSCs.
- Control measures on wildlife menace to be put in place.- KWS, Local Authority, IPAD,Conservation groups, Provincial administration, MPs.