

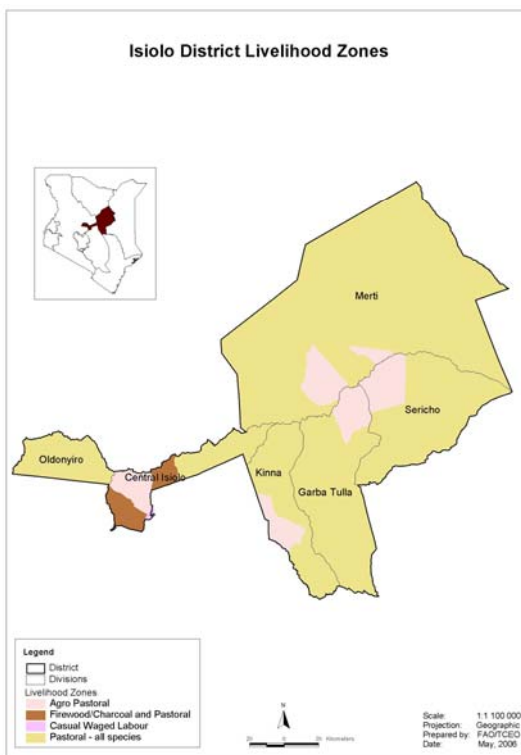


OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, NOVEMBER 2008

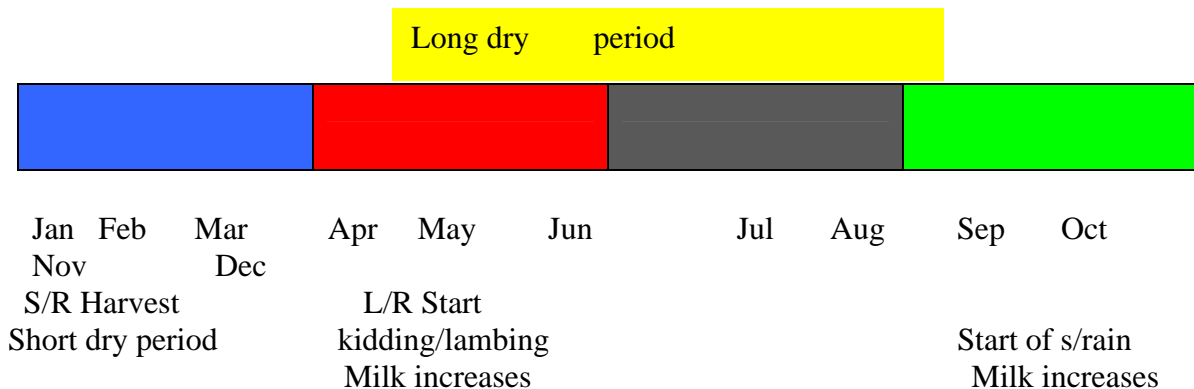
Isiolo District

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Pastoral- all species	Alert	Improving
Agro pastoral	Alarm	Improving
Casual waged labour	Alert	improving
Firewood/ Charcoal	Alarm	improving
District	Alert	improving

SEASONAL CALENDAR



Situation overview

- The district recorded an average of 10.8mm of rainfall during the month. The distribution was poor and rainy days were less compared to previous season.
- However, Merti and Cherab divisions received very little rainfall ranging from 10-15mm and Mata-arba, Dololo Dakiye, and DadachaBasa water pans were not replenished, leading to massive livestock migration.
- The water and forage condition improved, apart from the two divisions of Merti and Cherab.
- However, stress may set in within 3 to 4 weeks as the performance of the season's rainfall was below normal.
- The livestock body condition improved in all sample sites.
- There was migration of livestock from Merti/Cherab divisions to Sericho and parts of Wajir districts during the month.
- The security situation continued to worsen, especially in central division where six people were killed and several heads of livestock driven away by raiders.
- Chances of crop failure were high unless some rainfall is received in the coming days.
- The nutrition status of children below five years continued to worsen, with the number of those rated as being at the risk of malnutrition (based on MUAC<135mm measurement) rising to 20.3 per cent from 16.6 in October. Merti and Sericho divisions were the most affected divisions.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSSG

- Peace-building initiatives should be undertaken both at the community and inter-district level. Modogashe/Garissa Declaration to be activated and leaders to be made aware of the same. **Action; Provincial administration/DSG.**
- There is need to continue activating Rapid Response Team and monitor situations in Merti/Cherab division:- **Action:/DSG.**
- Vaccination and treatment should be exercised against persistent foot and mouth diseases, lumpy skin, sheep pox and contagious caprine pleuropneumonia in Sericho, Garbatulla and Oldonyiro divisions. **Action: District Veterinary Officer.**
- Urgent baiting of rabid/stray dogs and livestock deworming to be undertaken in central and Merti divisions to control rabies and diarrhoea among livestock **Action: District Veterinary Officer.**
- The rangeland borehole in Merti/Cherab divisions should be rehabilitated and put on standby. **Action:/DSG.**

Current interventions

Non-food interventions

- District health management team responded to outbreak of respiratory tract infections in Oldonyiro division.
- Treatment of Kalaazar was ongoing at Merti Health centre. One case was detected in Escort location of Garbatulla district.
- One inter-district peace meeting was hold at Sarova –Isiolo district.
- Blood compensation was paid to Modogashe residents by Garissa community.

- 517 shoats recovered, out of 1,250 shoats, 49 camels, 121 cows and 14 donkeys taken through raids from Central division of Isiolo district.
- Rehabilitation of Urura borehole was undertaken and completed by water department.

Food aid

- EMOP: dispatched the food for work rations and general distribution to the beneficiaries.

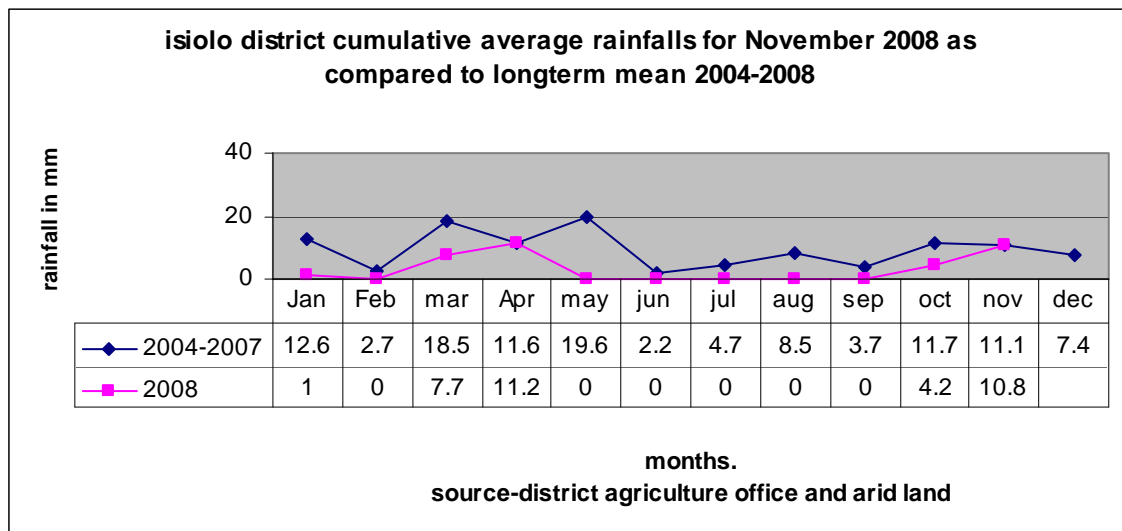
Previous DSG meeting and recommendation

- The November DSG meeting adopted RAPID Assessment reports.
- The DSG recommended inter-district peace meetings to be conducted between Isiolo and Samburu districts.

1.0 Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall

The graph below represents the rainfall pattern for the month compared to long-term mean



- The two districts received fairly below normal rainfall, except Merti and Cherab divisions in Isiolo districts that received little rainfall.
- An average of 10.8mm of rainfall was recorded.
- This resulted in livestock outward migration to Sericho divisions and Dusot Rangelands bordering Wajir district.
- The poor performance of rainfall for the season concurred with earlier prediction of traditional forecasters.
- The distribution was also poor in Kipsing, Gafarsa and Boji areas.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Condition of vegetation and pasture improved during the month due to rejuvenation following rainfall received.
- The rejuvenation was poor in Merti and Cherab divisions due to less rainfall. Generally, the rejuvenation was below normal compared to previous seasons.

- However, distances of access improved as expected in all sampled sites except for the two divisions.
- Constraints to forage access were increased conflicts in central division, Burat location and Biliqo location of Merti division.

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Water sources in use

- The main water sources were rivers and boreholes. Pans were also in use in Oldonyiro, Sericho and Garbatulla divisions.
- However, Mataarba, Dakiye and DadachaBasa pans in Merti and Cherab divisions were still dry as rainfall was not enough to replenish them.
- The Waso Nyiro River had little water volume and was expected to dry up within the next two weeks, an indication of early water stress.

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

Water source	1	2	3	4	Others
% of HH depending on the source	25	30	-	40	5
% of HH normally depending on the sources for current month.	25	30	2	40	3

1-river, 2-boreholes, 3-shallow wells, 4-piped system, others pans, dams

1.4 Emerging issues

- The pasture and water situation improved following rainfall, except in Merti/Cherab division, where the rainfall received was inadequate for pasture growth.
- Increased conflicts in Central and Merti divisions were major constraints in access to forage.

1.4.1 Implications on food security

- The food security situation is set to improve in all livelihood zones.
- This may not be so for Merti and Cherab divisions, where livestock migrated to other divisions.
- Increased conflicts and high food commodity prices were a major hindrance to food security among pastoral households.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Availability of food)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Livestock body condition improved in all sampled areas for all animal species.

- The improvement was due to rejuvenation of pasture.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- Foot and mouth and lumpy skin diseases were persistent in Sericho and Merti divisions, while contagious caprine pleuropneumonia and sheep pox erupted in Kipsing, Barambate and Boji.
- Increased cases of rabies were reported in central division and Biliqo location of Merti division.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk production increased to 73 bottles (750ml) during the month from last month's 31 bottles.
- The production was likely to improve in all sites due to improved environmental conditions, except for the two divisions of Merti and Cherab.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and status of crop production activities

- This season's crops were planted on time. Beans and Maize are doing well at the moment though squirrels uprooting maize at early stages was experienced in central division. Beans are now flowering while maize is past knee heights.
- Chances of this crop reaching harvesting stage are minimal as rains have stopped.

2.2.2 Pest and diseases

- No pests or diseases were reported over the month.
- However, farmers in Bules Dima, KambiGarba and Gambela reported squirrels menace. The animal uprooted most of the maize seedlings.

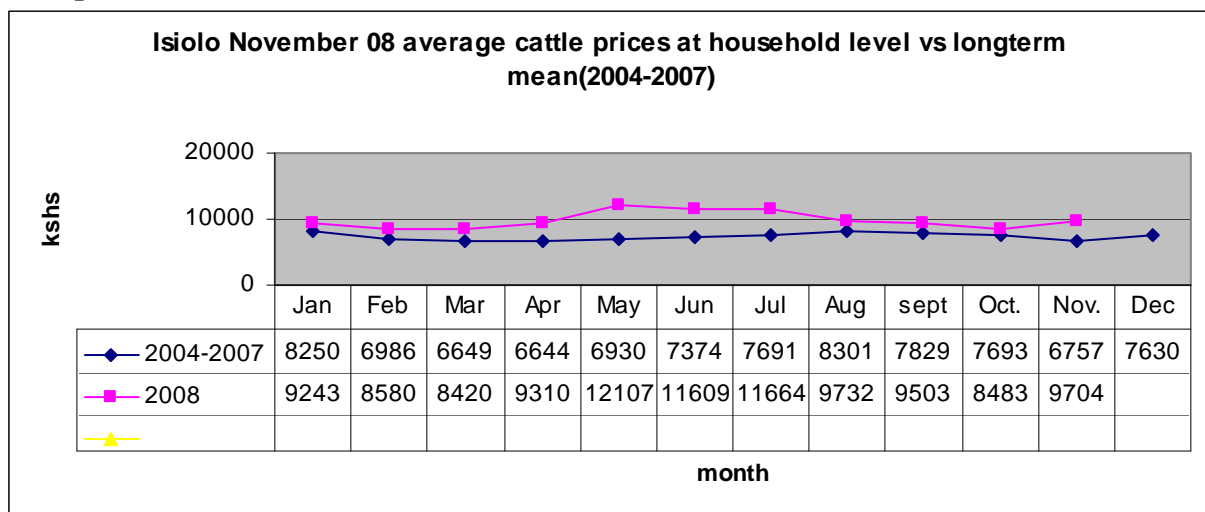
2.2.3 Harvest

- Harvests were not expected during the month as crops were in early stages of maturity.

3.0 Access to food

3.1. Livestock marketing

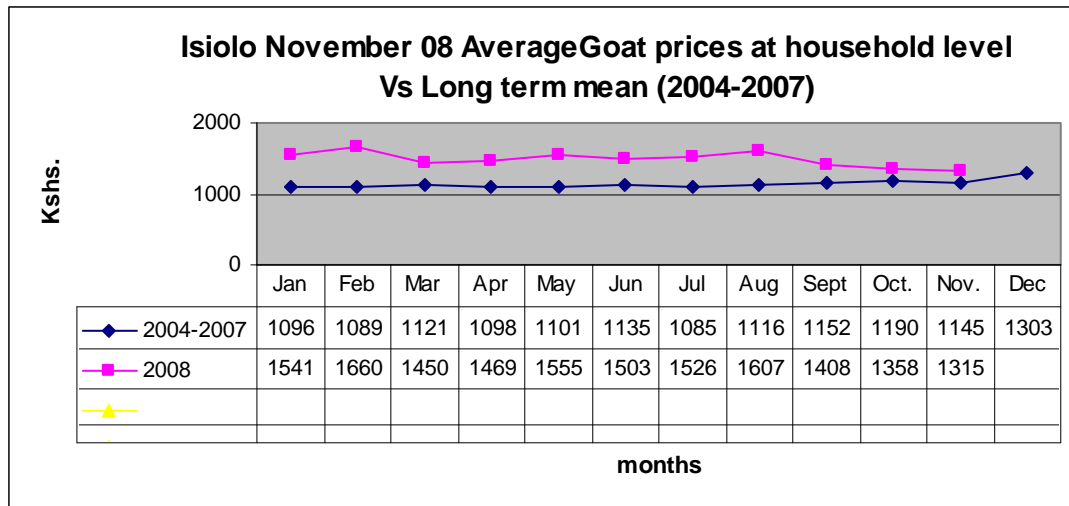
3.1.1. Cattle prices



N=15 x30

- The average cattle price was Ksh 9,704, up from Ksh 8,483 in October.
- This was a 14.3% increase.
- The prices were better in Oldonyiro and Central at Ksh12,620 and Ksh 12,000 respectively.
- The price increase was due to less supply as conflicts hindered access to markets.

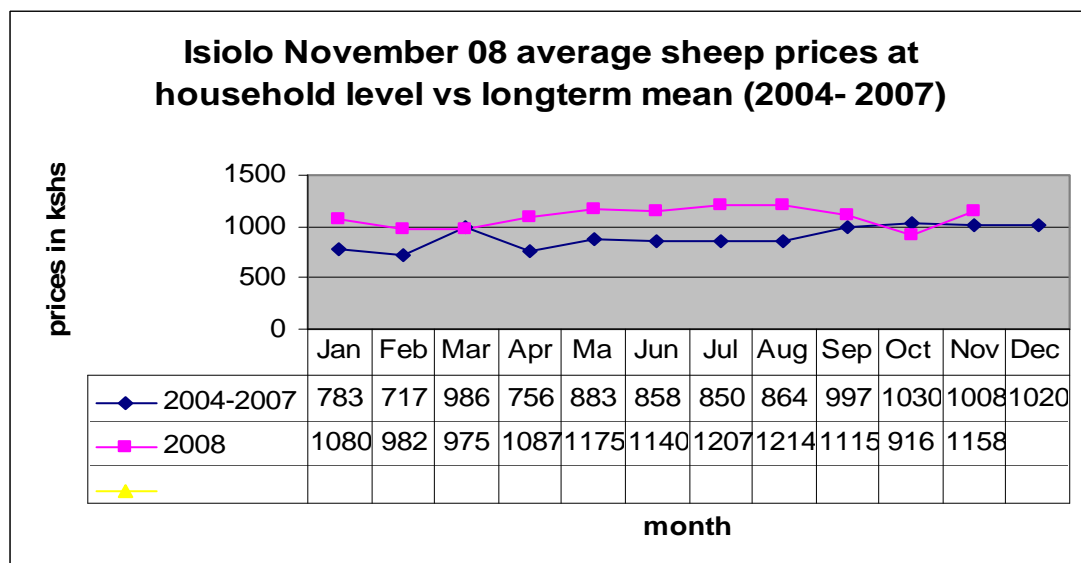
3.1.2 Goat prices



N= 15 x 30

- The average price of goats reduced slightly to Ksh1,315 from last month's Ksh1,358.
- This represented a 3.1% reduction.
- The prices were fair in central at Ksh1,370 and poor in Oldonyiro at Ksh1,159.
- The price reduction was due to reduced goat body weight.

3.1.3 Sheep prices



N= 15 x 30

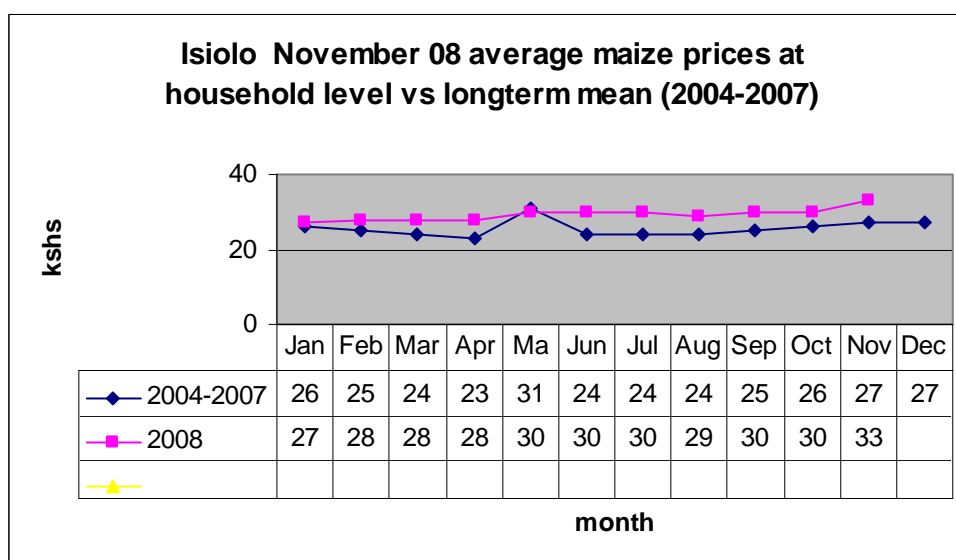
- The average price of sheep increased to Ksh1,158 from Ksh916 in October.
- This represented an increase of 26%.
- Prices were fair in Central and poor in Oldonyiro at Ksh1,521 and Ksh 907 respectively.
- The price increase was due to less supply of sheep in markets.

3.1.4 Camel prices

- The prices of camels remained constant at Ksh 17,000.

3.2 Crop prices

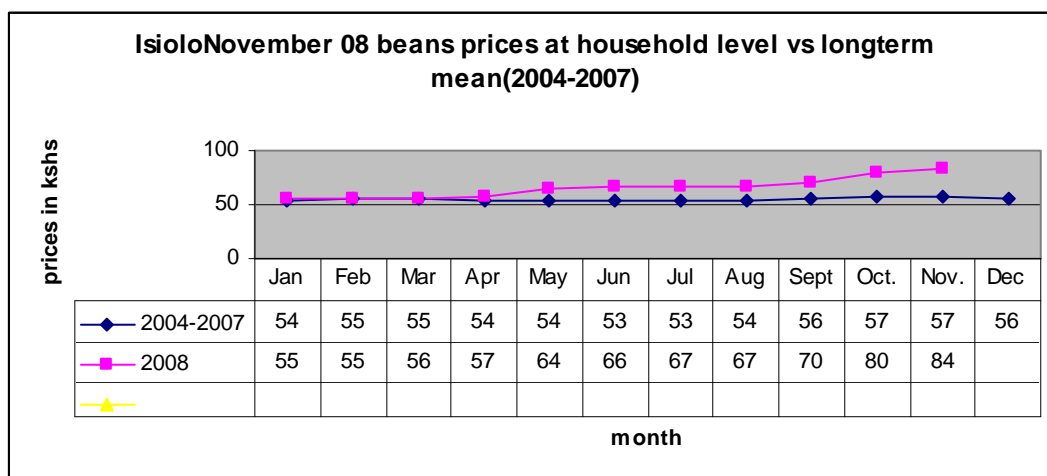
3.2.1 Maize prices



N= 15 x 30

- The average price of maize increased to Ksh 33 per kilogram from Ksh 30 in October.
- The price was higher in Merti and Serichodivisions, where a kilogram traded at Ksh 35.
- The price increase was due to shortage in the markets.

3.2.2 Beans prices



N= 15 x 30

- The average price of beans increased to Ksh 84 per kilogram from Ksh 80 in October.
- The prices were higher in all outside locations and divisions, where a kilogram traded at Ksh100.
- The prices were higher by 47.3% compared to the long-term mean.
- The price increase was due to the shortage of beans in local markets and it is in tandem with global food price increases.

3.5 Income

3.5.1 Crop income

- Income from crops represented 2.7% of the total household income during the month.
- The income was derived from small-scale irrigation produces in central division.

3.5.2 Livestock income

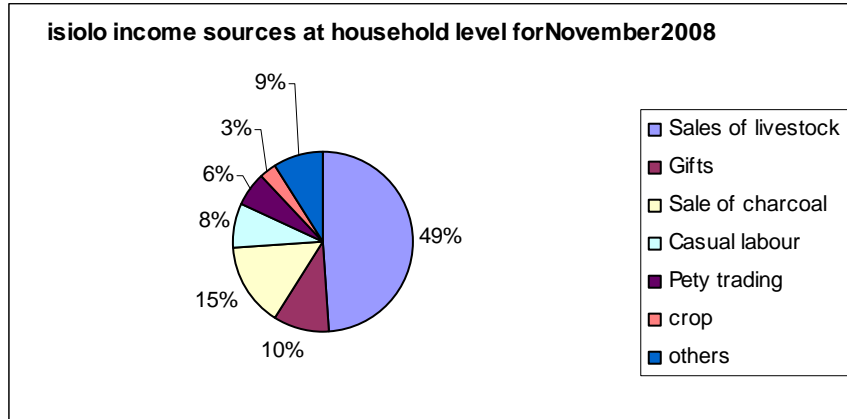
- Income earned from livestock represented 50% of the total income.
- This was a reduction by 1 % from last month's income.

3.5.3 Other income

- Other income included sale of charcoal (14.4%), casual labour (7.7%), petty trade (5.8%) and gift items (10.2%).
- The sale of charcoal increased by 1.0% from previous month while casual labour and petty trading reduced by 1.2% and 3.6% respectively.

3.6 Implications on food security

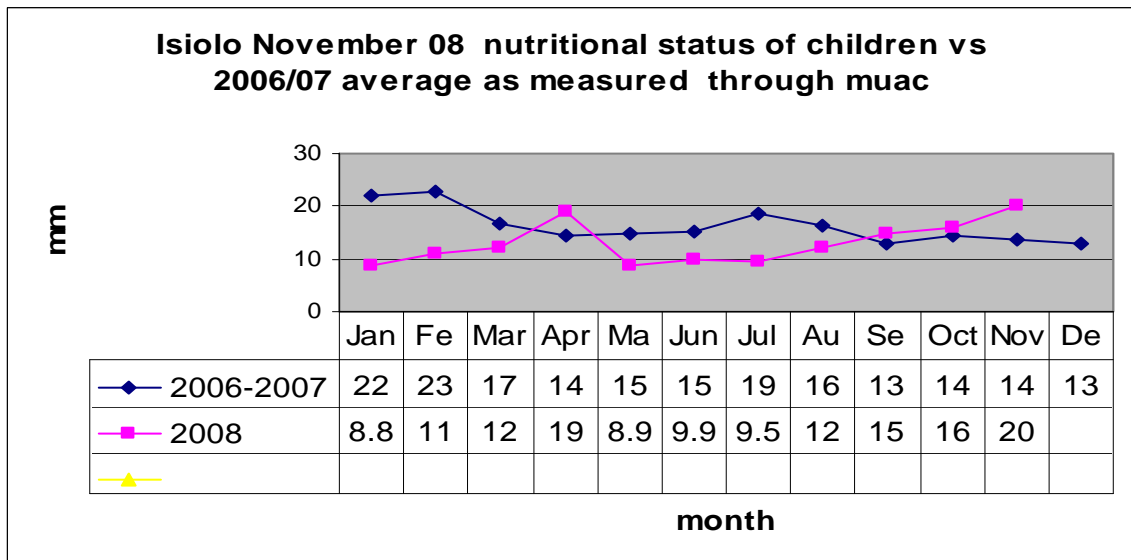
The pie-chart below represents ISIOLO incomes source at Household level for November, 2008



- The food security situation at household level was likely to improve following fair rainfall in most centres of the two districts.
- High food commodity prices were one hindering factor.

4.0 Welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



- The nutrition status of children below five years continued to worsen, with the number of those rated as being at the risk of malnutrition (based on MUAC<135mm measurement) rising to 20.3 per cent from 16.6 in October.
- Merti and Sericho divisions were the most affected divisions at 36% and 27% respectively.

4.2 Human health

- The health situation of the population in Isiolo and Garbatulla was fair, though increased cases of respiratory tract infections were treated and controlled in Oldonyiro.

- New cases Kalaazar were treated at Merti health centre, while one case from escort sub-location was detected and treated at Garbatulla District Hospital.

5.0 Current intervention

5.1 Non—food interventions

- District health management team responded to outbreak of respiratory tract infections in Oldonyiro division.
- Treatment of Kalaazar was ongoing at Merti Health centre. One case was detected in Escort location of Garbatulla district.
- One inter-district peace meeting was hold at Sarova –Isiolo district.
- Blood compensation was paid to Modogashe residents by Garissa community.
- 517 shoats recovered, out of 1,250 shoats, 49 camels, 121 cows and 14 donkeys taken through raids from Central division of Isiolo district.
- Rehabilitation of Urura borehole was undertaken and completed by water department.

5.2 Food aid

- EMOP: dispatched the food for work rations and general distribution to the beneficiaries.

6.0 Recommendations

- Peace-building initiatives should be undertaken both at the community and inter-district level. Modogashe/Garissa Declaration to be activated and leaders to be made aware of the same. **Action; Provincial administration/DSG.**
- There is need to continue activating Rapid Response Team and monitor situations in Merti/Cherab division:- **Action:/DSG.**
- Vaccination and treatment should be exercised against persistent foot and mouth diseases, lumpy skin, sheep pox and contagious caprine pleuropneumonia in Sericho, Garbatulla and Oldonyiro divisions. **Action: District Veterinary Officer.**
- Urgent baiting of rabid/stray dogs and livestock deworming to be undertaken in central and Merti divisions to control rabies and diarrhoea among livestock **Action: District Veterinary Officer.**
- The rangeland borehole in Merti/Cherab divisions should be rehabilitated and put on standby. **Action:/DSG.**