



## Situation overview

- The district recorded 70mm of rainfall for an average of 6 rainy days. This was slightly higher than the 66mm expected for the time of the year. The increased rainfall is likely to have a positive effect on the current on-farm crop.
- Distances to water sources for both livestock and households decreased slightly, a situation that was likely to continue if the rains do not stop unexpectedly.
- Pasture and natural vegetation benefited positively from the rains received, resulting in a reduction of the distances to grazing areas for livestock from 9.3km to 8.7km. This led to improved body condition of livestock although several pockets in the Ranching and Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zones still spotted livestock with poor body condition.
- Land preparation activities included weeding and planting during the month. However, acreage planted remained low as households complained of lack of seeds for planting since they had consumed the seed stock for planting as a coping strategy for food security. They also had insufficient financial resources to procure the seeds as most of these had been channeled towards the purchase of food, whose prices continued to sky-rocket.
- Cereal-legume prices remained way beyond the reach of most residents in the district. The price of beans more than doubled compared to the long-term average. Given the meagre average daily wage rate, food security remained an illusion for many. The ranching livelihood zone, whose daily wage rate was recorded at Ksh 68, remained the most food-stressed.
- The percentage of children at risk increased slightly by 0.8 per cent from 4.5 per cent last month to 5.3 per cent.
- Casual labour was the most preferred source of income in the two districts, followed by sale of charcoal.
- The nutrition status of children below five years deteriorated slightly by 0.8 per cent. The number of those rated as being at the risk of malnutrition rose to 5.3 per cent from 4.5 in October.
- The warning stage for the district was 'alert' with a stable trend.

## Current interventions

### Food aid

- The beneficiaries of the School Feeding Programme during the month was as follows:

Division	Pre-primary		Primary	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Ganze	1622	1635	4860	4561
Bamba	931	916	2874	2709
Vitengeni	1669	1624	4656	4472
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4222</b>	<b>4175</b>	<b>12390</b>	<b>11742</b>

- The lead agency, World Vision, running the EMOP activities in the district distributed food as shown in the table below.

District/Division	Cereals	Pulses	Vegetable Oil
	Maize (bags)	(Mt)	(Mt)
Kaloleni	1791	31.6	9.457
Vitengeni		7.2	2.160
Bamba	1008	21.25	6.393
Ganze	321	5.65	1.697
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3120</b>	<b>65.7</b>	<b>19.708</b>

### Non-food interventions

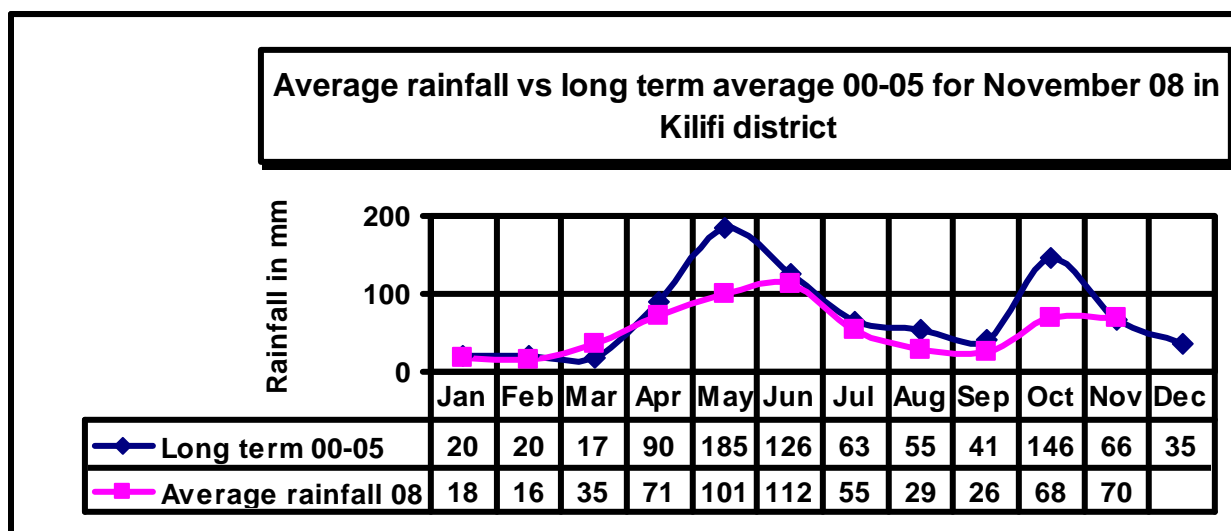
- Water-trucking facilitated by Arid Lands from the DCF kitty was on-going to schools, dispensaries and public places in the food-stressed areas of Vitengeni, Bamba, Ganze divisions and part of Kaloleni district.

### Recommendations

- Households in the Ranching and Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zones to be provided with relief seeds to enable them plant early and take advantage of the rains.

## 1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

### 1.1 Rainfall



#### 1.1.1 Amount of rainfall

- 70 mm of rainfall was recorded for an average of 6 rainy days during the month.
- This was relatively similar to 68 mm collected last month but higher than the expected amount in the long term average 00-05.

### **1.1.2 Temporal distribution**

- All livelihood zones received some amount of rainfall, with most of it concentrated along the shore line and the Cash Cropping and Dairy livelihood zone.

### **1.1.3 Spatial distribution**

- All livelihood zones experienced some rainfall.

## **1.2. Condition of natural vegetation and pasture**

### **1.2.1 Quality and quantity**

- The short rains experienced during the month resulted in improved quality and quantity of pasture, forage and natural vegetation compared to last month's poor condition of the same.
- This trend was expected to continue for the duration of the rains.

### **1.2.2 Distance to grazing areas**

- Distances to grazing areas decreased by 3.2% from 9.3 km to 8.7 km during the month. Livestock had to trek the longest distance in the Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone at 15.5 km, while the least distances were recorded in the Cash Cropping and Dairy one at 2.5km.
- The decrease was expected as the short rains led to improved quantity and quality of pasture and forage in the two districts.

## **1.3 Water sources and availability**

### **1.3.1 Water sources**

- The main water sources such as pans and dams dried up by during the month, which led households to use other sources of water for their sustenance such as the water trucking that was facilitated from ALRMP's DCF kitty. This was however, not a sustainable source of water for the two districts.
- Pans and dams came second, followed by traditional river wells, natural rivers and shallow wells.
- Most water sources recharged following the rains.

### **1.3.2 Household access to water**

- As was predicted last month, access to water by households was slightly better, with average distance recorded at 4.6km compared to 4.8km last month. A further decrease was likely if the rains keep up.
- The Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone recorded the highest distance at 9.0km, while the Cash Cropping and Dairy zone recorded the least at 1.4km.

### **1.3.3 Livestock access to water**

- Access to water by livestock was slightly easier during the month as most water points got replenished due to the rains, a situation that was likely to continue with the continuing rains.

#### **1.4. Implications on food security**

- Although the short rains season started late, it picked up and brought with it many positive results including reduced distances to water sources for both livestock and households, and better livestock access to pasture.
- The rains were quite well distributed across most livelihood zones, which will likely lead to a positive trend in food security.

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

#### **2.1 Livestock production**

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

- Livestock body condition for Kilifi and Kaloleni ranged from poor to average but with an improving trend.
- The positive change was owed to improved feed in the districts, a trend expected to continue with the continuing rains.

##### **2.1.2 Livestock diseases**

- No major livestock diseases were reported during the month, save for New Castle disease in poultry in a few isolated areas in the food cropping livelihood zone.

##### **2.1.3 Milk production**

- Milk production decreased slightly compared to last month.
- The highest production was recorded in the Cash Cropping and Dairy livelihood zone and the least in the Ranching one.

#### **2.2 Crop production**

##### **2.2.1. Timeliness and status of crop production activities**

- Most crops were doing well on the farms, except those in drier areas of the district.
- Weeding was the main activity going on in the farms.

##### **2.2.2. Pests and diseases**

- No major pests or diseases were reported during the month under review.

##### **2.2.3. Crop harvests**

- Harvesting of perennial crops such as coconuts, cashew nuts and citrus fruits was ongoing.
- Vegetables grown under irrigation such as kales, ABEC and tomatoes were also being harvested. No major harvesting was on-going for other food crops as they were still at young developmental stages.

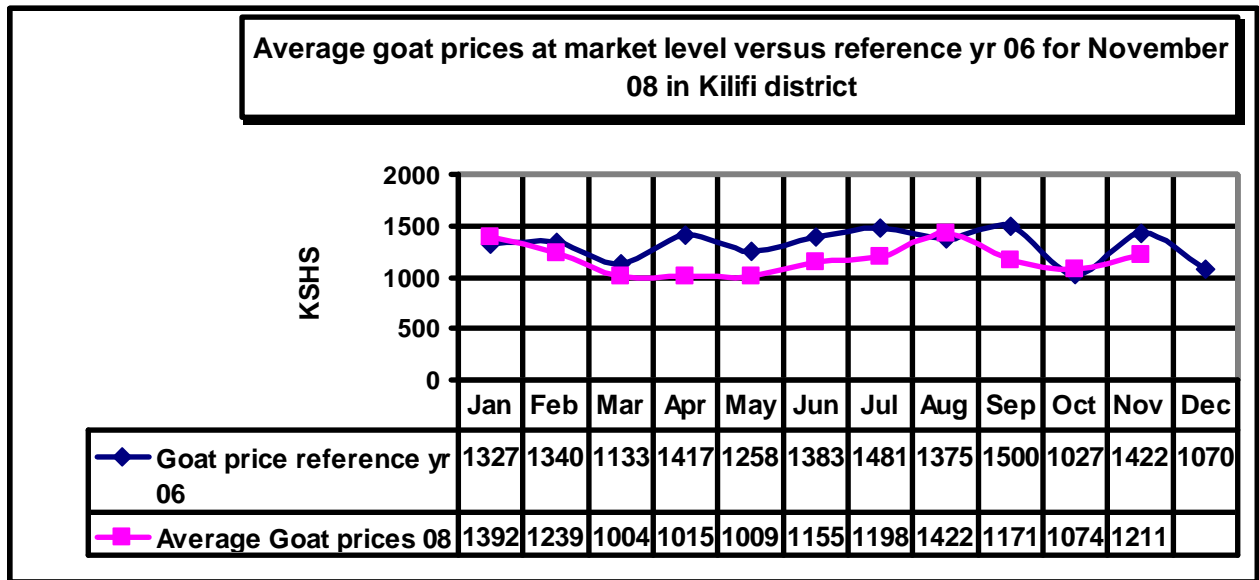
#### **2.3 Implications on food security**

- Improved livestock body condition and increased milk production impacted positively on food security at household level.
- Crop harvests were also likely to witness an increase if the rains continue to fall in sufficient amounts.

### 3.0 Access to food

#### 3.1 Livestock marketing

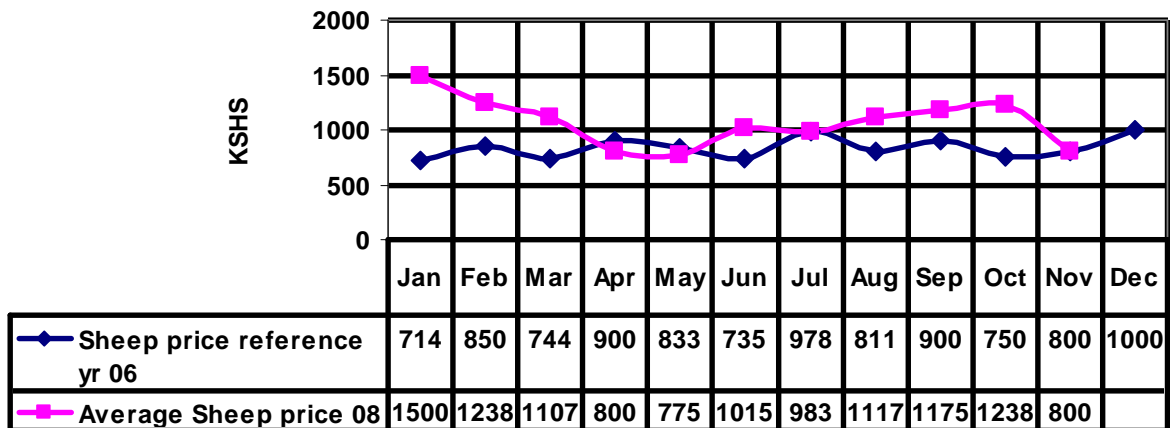
##### 3.1.1 Goat prices



- The retail price of a medium-sized goat was Ksh1, 211 during the month, same as what was posted last month.
- The price was, however, likely to go up with the Christmas festivities drawing near, thereby increasing demand for livestock.
- Most goats were sold in the Ranching and Cash Cropping and Dairy livelihood zones at Ksh1,566.7 and Ksh854.2 respectively.
- The Ranching zone continued to suffer from distressed prices owing to poor livestock body condition due to poor quality and quantity of pasture, while the Cash Cropping and Dairy maintained pretty competitive prices.
- The price of sheep was 14.8% lower than the expected price of the reference year (06) of Ksh1,422. This meant that goats were retailing at lower prices than normal at the time of the year, which pointed towards decreased demand for goats.

##### 3.1.2 Sheep prices

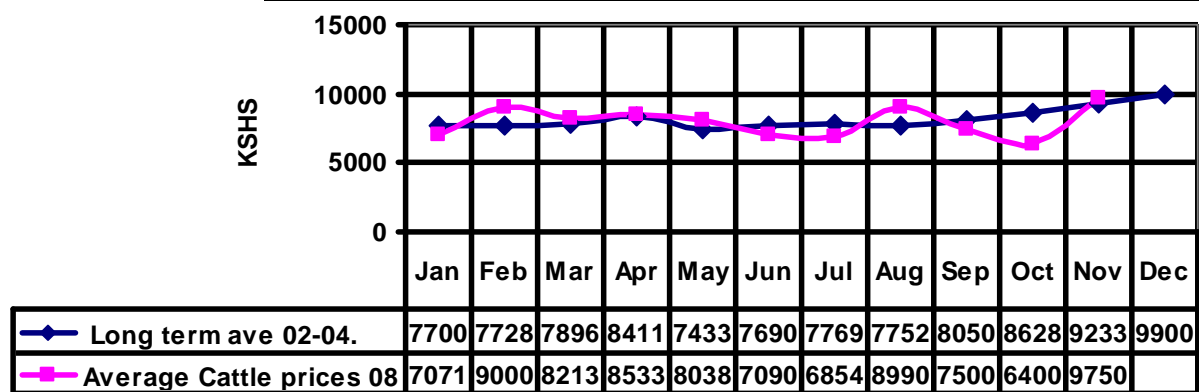
**Average sheep prices at market level vs reference yr 06 for November 08 for Kilifi district**



- The retail price of a medium-sized sheep was Ksh 800, although the sales were limited to the Ranching livelihood zone only.
- The decreased price could be attributed to the relative lack of livestock feed in the Ranching livelihood zone.
- The situation was, however, getting back to a positive trend with the rains received in the area.

### 3.1.3 Cattle prices

**Average cattle prices at market level vs long term average 02-04 in November 08 for Kilifi district.**



- The retail price of a medium-sized bull was Ksh9,750, indicative of a hefty 52.34% increase from Ksh 6,400 recorded in October.
- The high price may largely be due to the approaching Christmas festivities that increase demand for livestock.

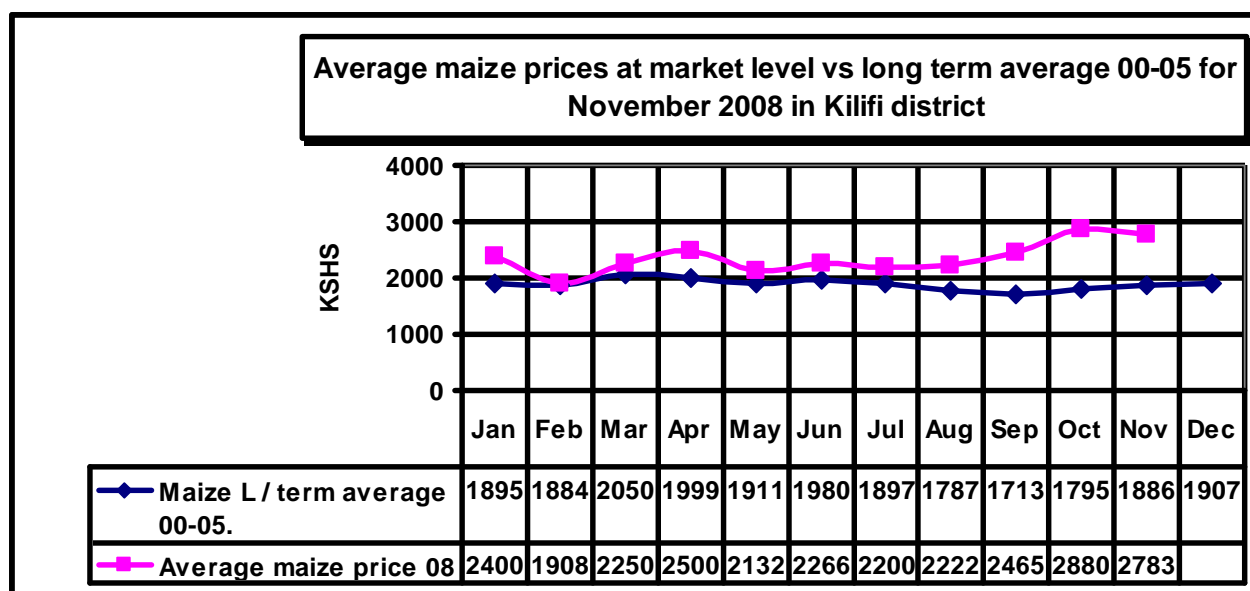
- Cattle body condition also improved, thereby, making them fetch higher prices than before.
- Sales were, however, mainly in the Cash Cropping and Dairy and Ranching livelihood zones where Ksh12,500 and Ksh7,000 were posted respectively.
- The Ranching livelihood zone still posted quite low prices, pointing towards food insecurity for its residents, who largely rely on livestock production for their livelihood.
- Cattle prices were slightly higher than expected compared to the long-term average 02-04.

### 3.2 Milk consumption

- Milk consumption decreased by 8.6% compared to last month. A possible reason for the increase is the rise in the price of milk by 12.7% from Ksh18.1 per bottle last month to Ksh20.4.
- For the food and water stressed livelihood zones of Ranching and Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zones, even minimal changes in milk prices affect its availability at household level. This made it unaffordable for most households who had over-stretched their financial resources owing to their paltry wage rates.

### 3.4 Crop prices

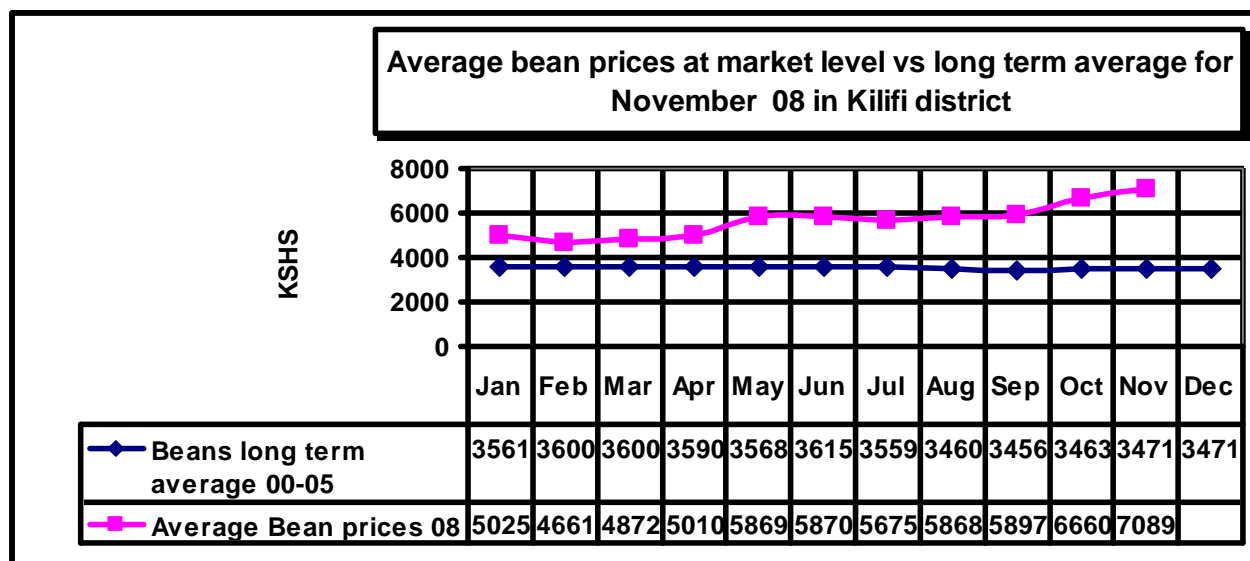
#### 3.4.1 Maize prices



- A bag of maize was trading at an average price of Ksh 2,783, down from Ksh 2,880 last month.
- Although the price decreased slightly, it still remained way higher than expected in the long-term average 00-05. This implied there was still considerable stress at household level, indicating that households were still struggling with the exorbitant prices of maize.

- The highest prices were recorded in the Food Cropping livelihood zone at Ksh 3,270, while the least were posted in the Cash Cropping and Dairy livelihood zone at 2,385.

### 3.4.2 Beans prices



- The cost of a bag of beans continued to rise and recorded an average price of Ksh 7,089. This was a 6.4% increase compared to Ksh 6,660 posted last month.
- Highest prices were recorded in the Ranching at Ksh7,950, while the lowest was recorded in the Cash Cropping and Dairy livelihood zone at Ksh 6,531.8.
- The price of beans continued to rise in the most food and water stressed livelihood zone of Ranching, thus aggravating food insecurity. The average price was even more than double the long-term average of Ksh3,471.
- This threatened the food security of majority of households in the district.

### 3.5 Income

The following were the percentages for the various sources of income in the two districts:

No.	Source of income	%
1.	Casual labour	46.9
2.	Sale of charcoal	16.1
3.	Petty trade	14.4
4.	Remittances	11.8
5.	Formal employment	6.1
6.	Sale of wood products	3.1
7.	Sale of livestock	1.4
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

#### 3.5.1 Casual Labour

- Income from casual labour ranked the highest during the month, representing 46.9% of the total population that relied on it.
- Casual labour was the most reliable source of income in the Cash Cropping and Dairy livelihood zone but the least reliable in the Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone.
- The average daily wage rate of Ksh114.5 was similar to last month's Ksh114.8. The highest wage rate was recorded in the Food Cropping livelihood zone at Ksh 143, while the lowest was Ksh 68 in the Ranching one.
- The wage rate was higher in the former livelihood zone mainly due to the ongoing activities of weeding and planting, hence increased demand for casual labour.
- Wages in the Ranching zone remained exceedingly low, eroding the purchasing power of most households.

### **3.5.2 Sale of charcoal**

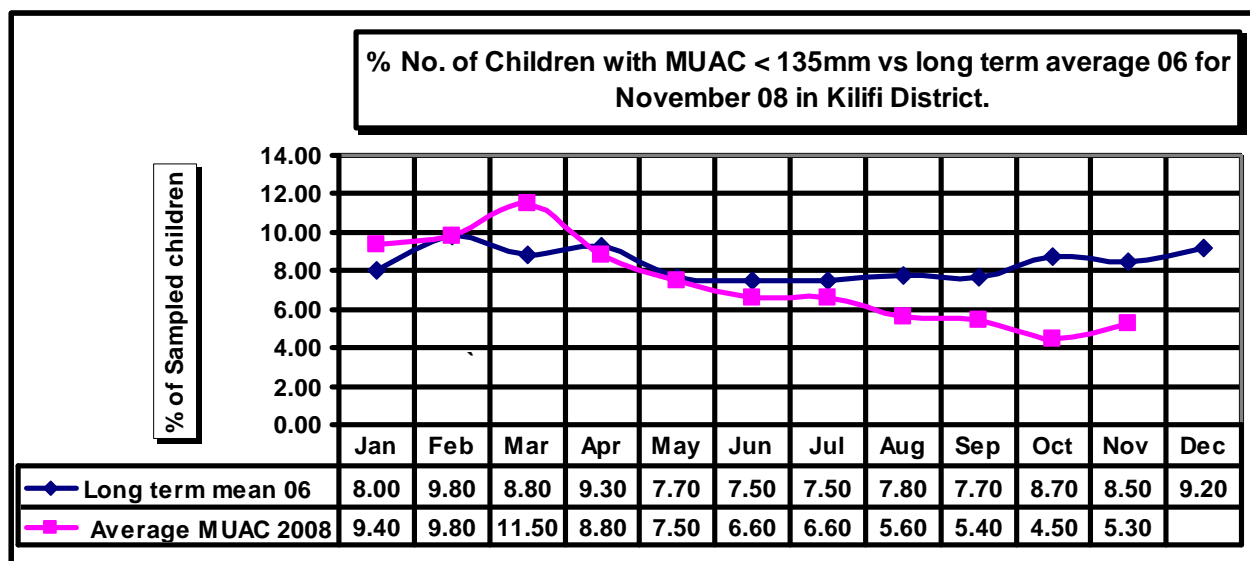
- Income from the sale of charcoal ranked second to casual labour as 16.1% relied on it for income.
- It was the main source of income for the Ranching livelihood zone but the least reliable for the Cash Cropping and Dairy one. It is evident that residents in the latter livelihood zone continued to rely heavily on the destructive practice of the sale of charcoal as a coping mechanism to curb food insecurity as crop and livestock production had earlier failed.

### **3.6 Implications on food security**

- Food commodity prices continued to be far higher than normal forcing households to stretch their resources beyond limits in order to access food. Wage rates remain very low especially in the Ranching livelihood zone, although most other livelihood zones do not fare any better. Food security then remains an illusion to many in these two districts.

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

### **4.1 Nutrition status**



- The nutrition status of children below five years deteriorated slightly by 0.8 per cent.
- The number of those rated as being at the risk of malnutrition rose to 5.3 per cent from 4.5 in October.
- The Food Cropping livelihood zone recorded the highest rate at 7.4% while the least was recorded in the Marginal Mixed Farming livelihood zone at 2.7%.
- The decline was attributed to reduced consumption of milk at household level and the fact that most financial resources went to the purchase of seeds for the planting period.
- However, the rate was lower than the long term mean of 8.5 per cent for the year 2006.

#### 4.2 Health

- No major human diseases were reported during the month under review.

#### 5.0 Current interventions

##### 5.1 Food aid

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### 5.2 Non-food interventions

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### 5.3 Other coping strategies

- The coping strategy index increased by 0.3 percentage point from 1.9% to 2.2%. This was an indication a slight worsening of the food security trend, although by a small margin.
- The main coping strategies remained largely the same to include early marriages, engaging in degrading jobs such as working as prostitutes or beach boys, skipping food consumption for an entire day, purchasing food on credit, food consumption of seed stock and the sale of charcoal.