



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

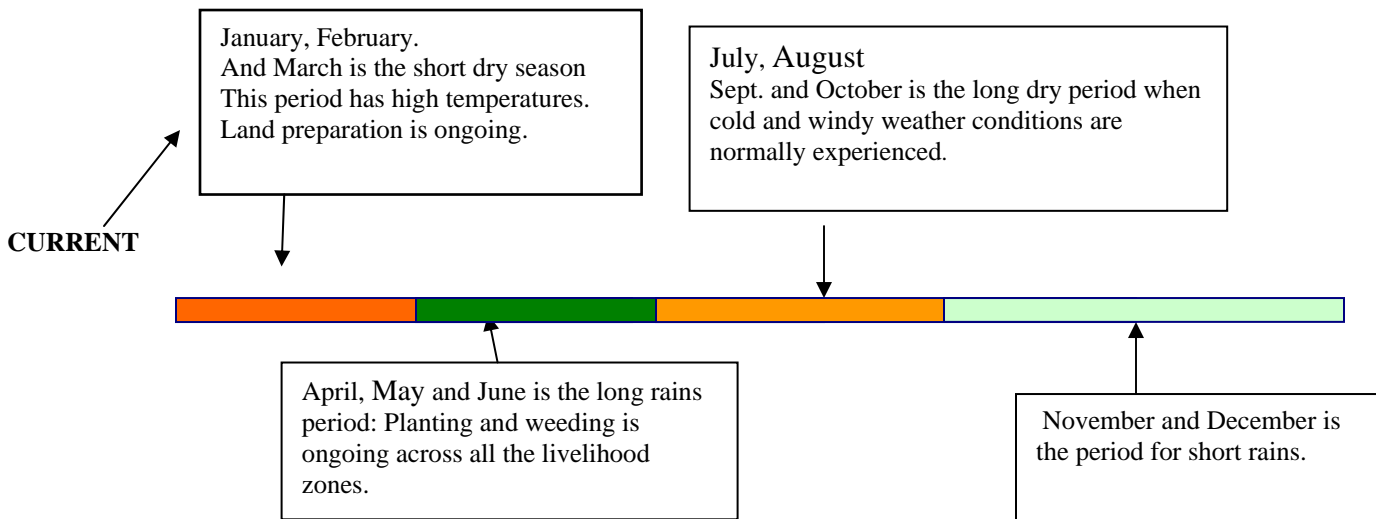
Lamu District

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Stage	Trend
Mixed Farming: Cash crops/food crops/ horticulture	Normal	stable
Mixed Farming:/food crops/Cash crops /	Alert	improving
Livestock farming	Alert	improving
*Fishing		
*Formal employment/casual waged labour/business		
District	Alert	Improving

TIMELINE ACTIVITIES



Situation Overview

- The district recorded 86.32 mm of rainfall. However, the rains were scattered across the district.
- Some pockets of the district reported water stress, especially Kiunga and Islands due to the inadequate long rains received last season.
- The quality and quantity of forage and pasture was average and improving with continued short rains.
- Cattle prices rose by 21% compared to long term average of year 2006-07. The average cattle price was Ksh 8,99, compared to the previous month's Ksh 6,953.30. Goat prices rose by 13.0% compared to long term average of year 2006-2007.
- Maize prices increased by 94 % , while that of beans went up by 58.0 % compared to the long term average of year 2006-2007. The price rise was attributed to inflation.
- There were no major disease incidences reported but cases of iodine deficiency were reported across the district.
- The nutrition status of children below five years dropped during the month under review. The percentage of children rated as being at risk of malnutrition (based on the MUAC < 135mm measurement) was 2.4 compared to 1.4 per cent recorded in October.

Current interventions

Food aid

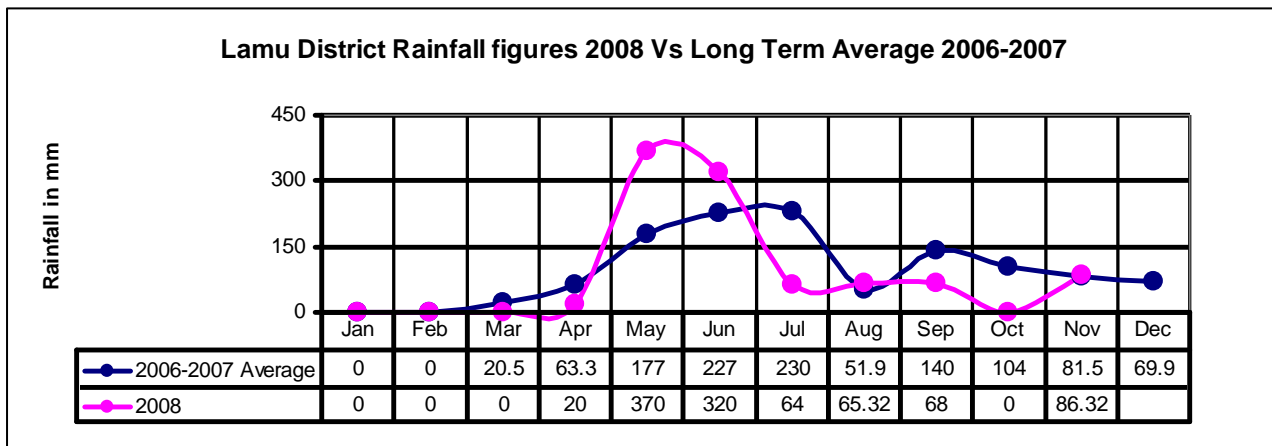
- 1000 (90kg) bags each of maize, 600 (50kg) bags of rice and 300 (50kg) bags of beans were distributed across the district as relief food.

Recommendations

- MoH to carry out sensitisation activities in areas affected by iodine deficiency.
- DSG, through Ministry of Water to look for a permanent source of water for the affected livelihood zones.
- Ministry of Agriculture to sensitise communities on crop production, especially the Boni community that does not value crop production.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall



- Short rains were reported across the livelihood zones in the district.
- However, some divisions just received showers.
- The district recorded 86.32 mm of rainfall unlike none the previous month.
- The rainfall was normal going by the 2006-7 average.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Pasture and forage availability and quality improved.
- Average distances to grazing areas decreased from 3.0 km to 2.4 km.

1.3 Water sources and availability

- Boreholes and shallow well were the main sources of water for households at 36% each followed by natural ponds, natural rivers and pans each at 9%.
- Previous month's water strain eased due to incoming short rains, with distances to water sources falling from 2.0 km in October to 1.4km and return time reduced from 1.2hours previous month to 0.9 hours.

1.4 Emerging Issues

1.4.1 Migration

- No livestock or human migration was reported during the month.

1.5 Implications on food security

- With ongoing rains and good pasture availability, the food situation in the district was expected to improve, especially in the short rains cropping areas.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- The body condition of cattle and shoats was average.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- No major livestock diseases were reported across the district.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk production averaged 1.08 litres per household per day up from last month's production of 0.94 litres.
- Households in the livestock livelihood zone produced the highest amount of milk at 2.75 litres per household per day, up from 2.2 litres previous month.
- The mixed farming: Cash crops/food crops/ horticulture livelihood zone produced the lower at 0.55 litres per household per day.
- That was, however, normal at the time of the year.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and status of various crop production activities

- The main farming activity was planting for the short rains.

2.2.2 Pests and diseases

- Main crop pests were weevils that affected harvested crops.
- However, wildlife menace has become an issue of concern as animals continue to destroy crops.

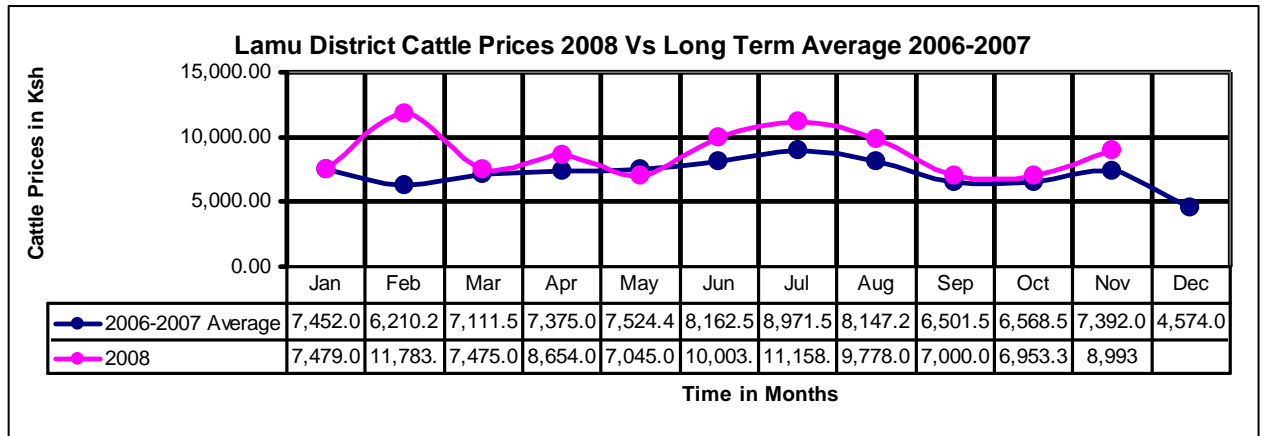
2.3 Implications on Food Security

- Improvement of milk production was an indication of improving trend in milk availability.
- The little harvest was an indication of no food stocks in households, hence low food security.

3.0 Access to food

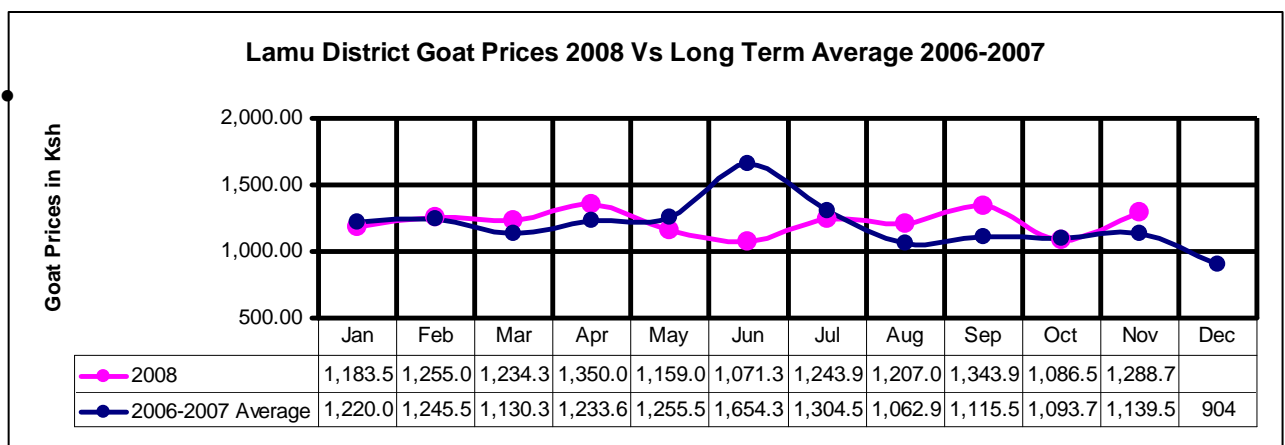
3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices



- The average cattle price was Ksh 8,99, compared to the previous month's Ksh 6,953.30.
- The price was above the price at same time of the long term average years 2006/07 of Ksh 7,392.
- Highest cattle prices were recorded in the mixed farming: food crops /cash crops livelihood zone at Ksh 9,000, while the livestock farming livelihood Zone recorded the highest at Ksh.8,985.
- This, however, was a normal trend at the time of the year going by 2006/7 average.

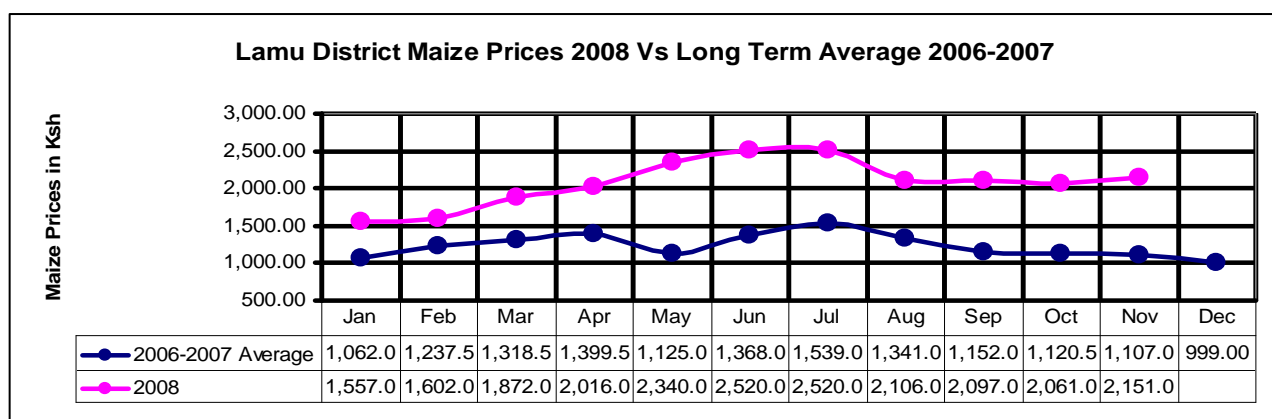
3.1.2 Goat prices



- The average goat price was Ksh1, 288.70, which was higher than last month's Ksh1,086.50.
- The price was also higher than that of same time in the year 2006/07 average of Ksh 1, 139.50.
- This was, however, normal at the time of the year going by the 2006/07 long term average.
- Lowest prices were recorded in the livestock farming livelihood zone at Ksh687.50 while highest prices were recorded in the mixed farming: food crops /cash crops livelihood zone at Ksh 1625.

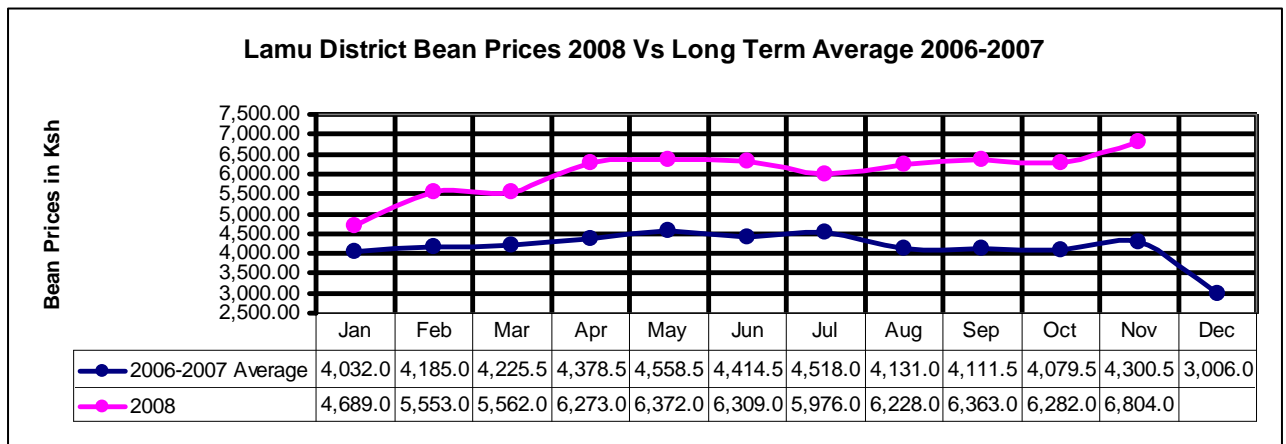
3.2 Crop prices

3.2.1 Maize prices



- The average maize price was Ksh 2,151 per 90kg bag, higher than last month's price of Ksh 2, 061 despite the recent harvest.
- This was above the price at the same time of the long term average of year 2006/07 of Ksh1,107 due to inflation but was a normal trend and could be attributed to low harvests.
- Maize prices were recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/cash crop livelihood zone at Ksh 2,151.
- This was a normal trend at the time of the year compared to the long term trend.

3.2.2 Beans prices



- Average price of beans at market level was Ksh 6,804.00 per 90Kg bag, which was higher than that of last month at Ksh6,282 and higher than the long term average of year 2006/07 at Kshs 4,300.50.
- This was not a normal trend at the time of the year going by 2006-7 average.
- The high prices were attributed to inflation and rising food prices countrywide.
- The prices were recorded only in the mixed farming: food crops/cash crop livelihood zone.

3.3 Income

3.3.1 Crop income

- Income from crops accounted for 14.1% of total house hold income, higher than last month's rate of 10.0% due to post harvest sales.
- This was, however, normal at the time of the year.
- The mixed farming: food crops/cash crop livelihood zone recorded high crop sales at 45% compared to 28% for the mixed farming: Cash crops/food crops/horticulture livelihood zone.
- This was a normal trend at the time of the year.

3.3.2 Livestock

- Sale of livestock and livestock products accounted for 13.1% of total household income, which was higher than last month's rate of 6.1% and was, however normal at the time of the year.
- Incomes were mainly realised from livestock farming livelihood zone, with least sales realised in the mixed farming: Cash crops/food crops/ horticulture livelihood zone.

3.3.3 Other income

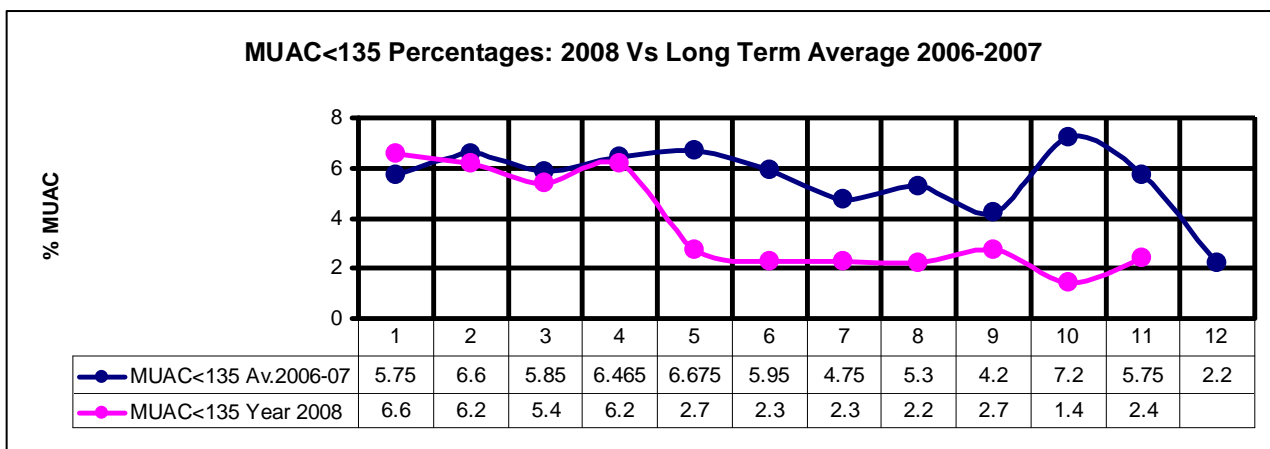
- Casual labour was the main source of income during the month, accounting for 51.3% of the total household income, which was lower than last month's 53.8%.
- This was an indication of less dependency on casual labour.
- The highest rate was recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/cash crop livelihood zone and the lowest recorded in the livestock livelihood zone.
- This was, however, normal at the time of the year.

3.4 Implications on food security

- High livestock prices were countered by high food prices.

4.0 Welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



- The nutrition status of children below five years dropped during the month under review.
- The percentage of children rated as being at risk of malnutrition (based on the MUAC < 135mm measurement) was 2.4 compared to 1.4 per cent recorded in October.
- The livestock farming livelihood zone reported the highest percentage of at 4.9%, while the mixed farming: Cash crops/cash crop livelihood zone reported the lowest at 1.1%.

4.2 Human health

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Food aid

- 1000 (90kg) bags each of maize, 600 (50kg) bags of rice and 300 (50kg) bags of beans were distributed across the district as relief food.

6.0 Recommendations

- MoH to carry out sensitisation activities in areas affected by iodine deficiency.
- DSG, through Ministry of Water to look for a permanent source of water for the affected livelihood zones.
- Ministry of Agriculture to sensitise communities on crop production, especially the Boni community that does not value crop production.