

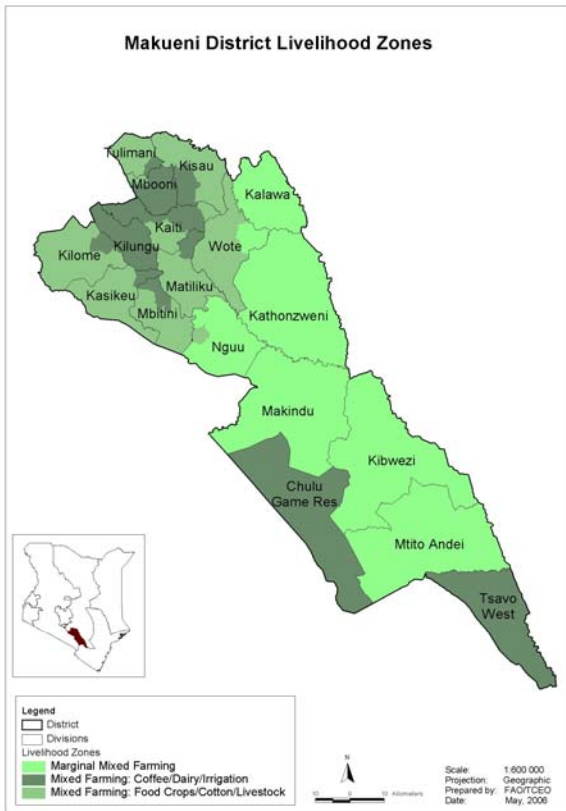


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS  
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

**DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, NOVEMBER 2008**

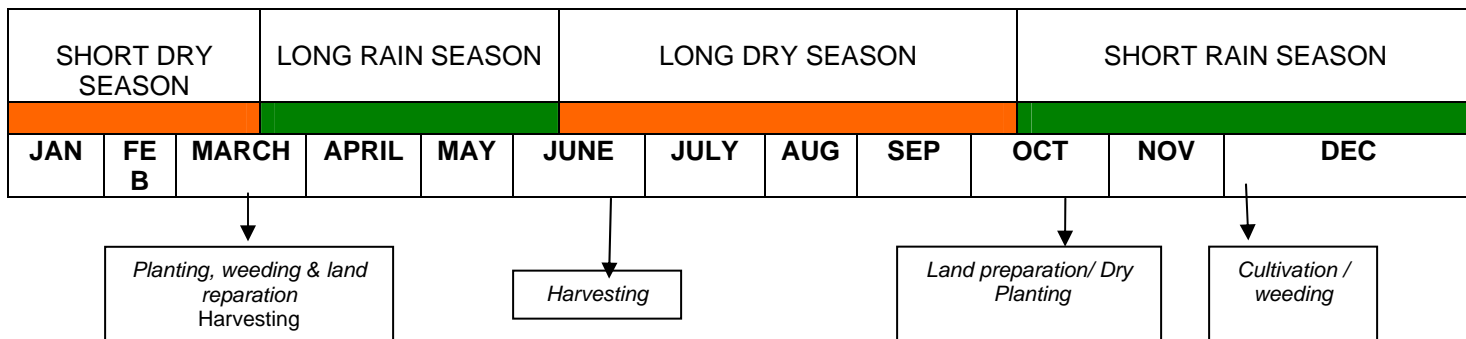
**Makueni District**

**Warning Stages**



Livelihood Zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Mixed farming coffee/dairy	ALARM	Improving
Mixed farming food crops (Agro Pastoral Zone I)	ALARM	Improving
Marginal mixed farming (Agro Pastoral Zone II)	ALARM	Worsening
<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>ALARM</b>	<b>Improving</b>

**TIMELINE ACTIVITIES**



## **Situation Overview**

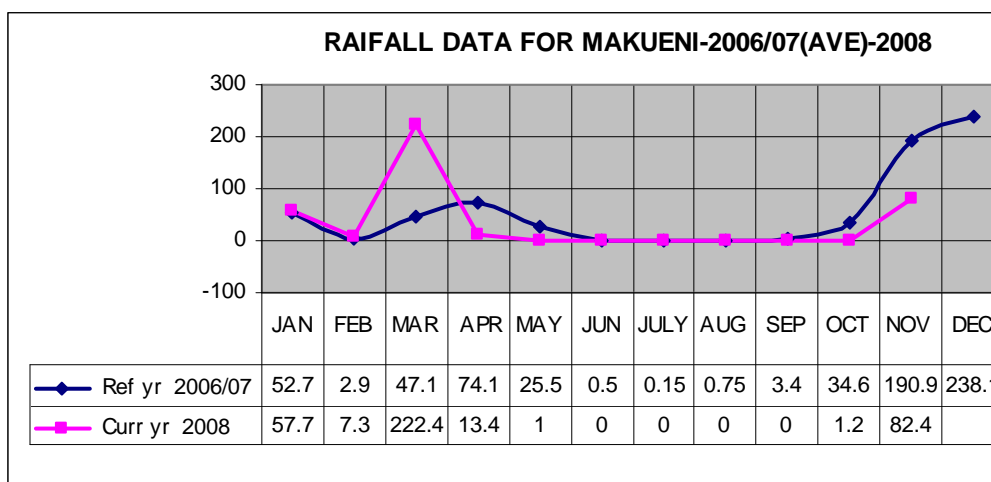
- The district recorded 82.4 mm of rainfall during the month of November. The weather was hot and wet but with low rainfall towards the end of the month.
- In both Mixed farming food crops (Agro Pastoral Zone I) & Agro Pastoral Zone II, showers were received thrice within the month (9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Nov). Farmers in the two zones were waiting for the rains to resume so that they can replant on their farms.
- The poor rains resulted in poor germination of all crops and wilting was evident on the crops that managed to germinate.
- In Mixed farming coffee/dairy, light evenly distributed showers were received during the month. Maize crop within this zone was below knee level.
- Pasture was scarce and poor in quality and quantity in Agro Pastoral Zone I and Agro Pastoral Zone II.
- Livestock health and body condition was improving and this was expected to worsen if the rains do not resume.
- Water scarcity had ceased in most parts of the district. The distances to and from water sources decreased from 5.9kms to 3.5kms (average).
- Main water sources were natural rivers, shallow wells, traditional river wells, boreholes, natural ponds and springs.
- The nutrition status children below five years deteriorated from 13.7% to 15.4% within the month (with lower divisions badly hit).
- Livestock prices decreased over the month and were way below the same period last year.
- Milk and its products increased slightly in supply but the price stagnated at Ksh.40/litre.
- Most food prices stagnated over the month but were way above the long term mean.
- Casual labour, sale of firewood and charcoal burning were the main sources of income in most households during the month.
- No major disease outbreaks were reported during the month.

## **Recommendations to DSG and KFSSG**

- All primary schools in worst-hit areas of the district should be put under the school feeding programme.
- The hard hit divisions such as Mtito Andei, Kibwezi, Makindu, Nguu, Kee, Kathonzweni, Kalawa, Wote and parts of Mbitini and Matiliku divisions should be considered for relief food supply.

## **1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)**

### **1.1 Rainfall**



*Courtesy of Makindu meteorological weather station*

- The district recorded 82.4 mm of rainfall during the month of November.
- The rainfall was lower than the long term mean of 190.9mm.
- This adversely affected both food crops and pasture in most parts of district.
- This was an abnormal situation in the district since November is expected to be wet all through.

## 1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Pasture was scarce and of poor quality and quantity following the inadequate rainfall.

## 1.3 Water sources and availability

### 1.3.1 Water sources

- Water scarcity had eased in most parts of the district.
- The distances to and from water sources decreased from 5.9kms to 3.5kms (average).
- Main water sources were natural rivers, shallow wells, traditional river wells, boreholes, natural ponds and springs.

### 1.3.2 Implications on food security

- Short distances to water points are likely to impact positively on livestock body condition and food security.

## 2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

### 2.1 Livestock body condition

- Livestock health and body condition improved and this was expected to worsen if the rainfall do not resume.
- This was a normal occurrence at the time of the year.

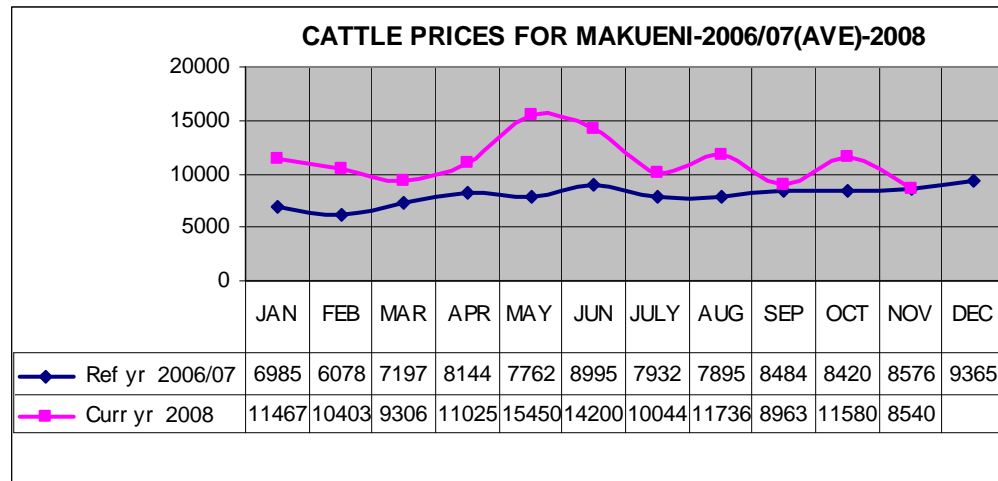
### 2.2 Livestock health

- No major livestock disease outbreaks were reported within the month.

## 3.0 Access to food

### 3.1 Livestock marketing

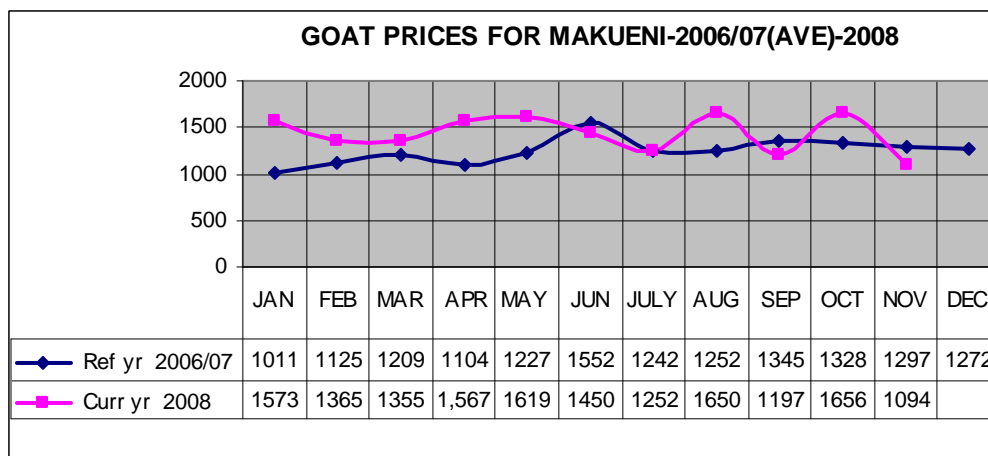
#### 3.1.1 Cattle prices



\*N=360

- Cattle prices decreased over month and they were lower than the same period last year.
- The average price fell to Ksh8540 from ksh 11,580 in October.
- This was as a result of high supply in the local markets to purchase food commodities (cereals).
- This was a normal trend at the time of the year.

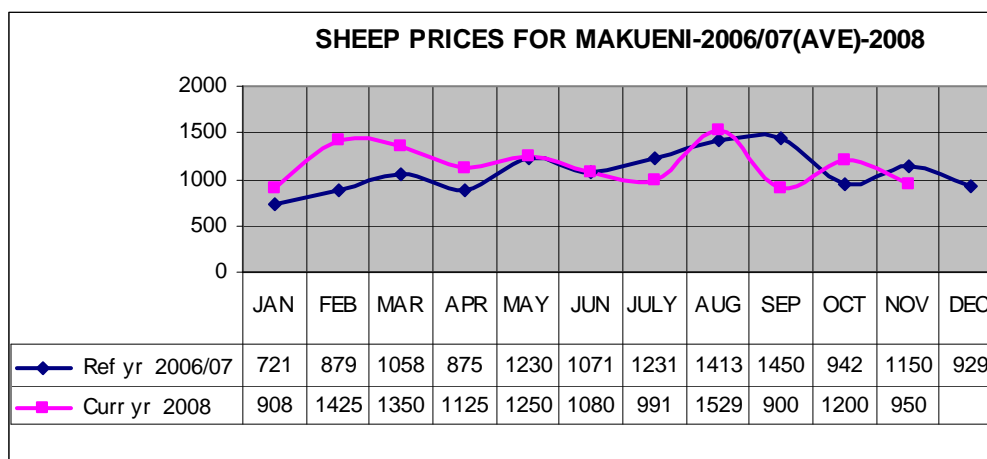
#### 3.1.2 Goat prices



\*N=360

- Goat prices decreased over month from Ksh 1656 in October to ksh 1094.
- The price was lower than the same period last year.
- This was as a result of high supply in the local markets.

### 3.1.3 Sheep prices

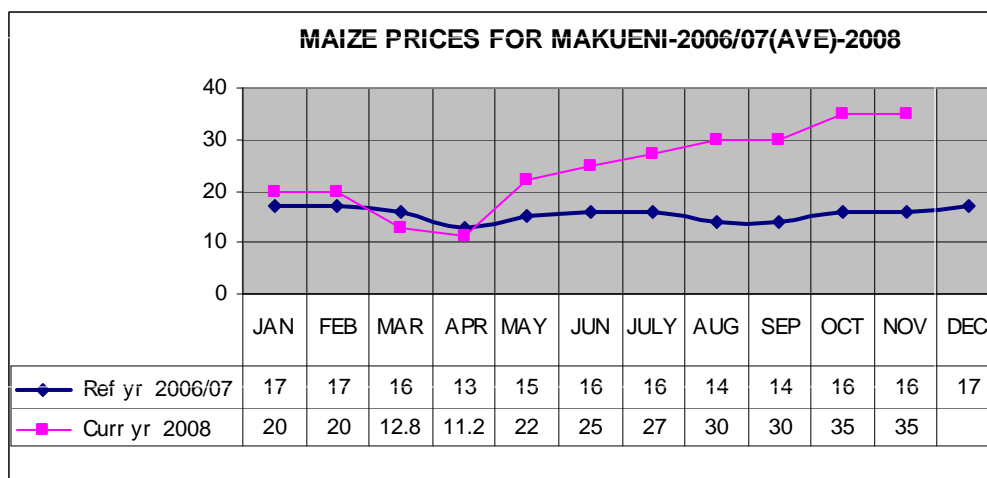


\*N=360

- Sheep prices decreased over the month to Ksh950 from Ksh1,200 in October.
- The prices were lower than the same period last year.
- This was as a result of high supply in the local markets as households sought alternative sources of income to purchase food.

### 3.2 Crop prices

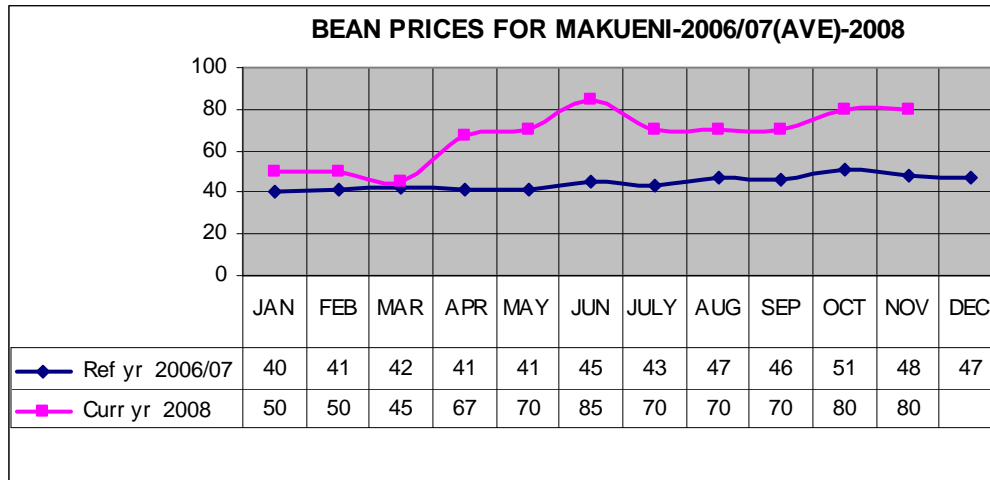
#### 3.2.1 Maize prices



\*N=360

- Maize prices stagnated at Ksh35 per kilo during the month but this was way above the same period last year.
- The high prices were attributed to low supply in the local markets.
- The price is projected to increase further in the coming months if there is no change in the trend of supply.

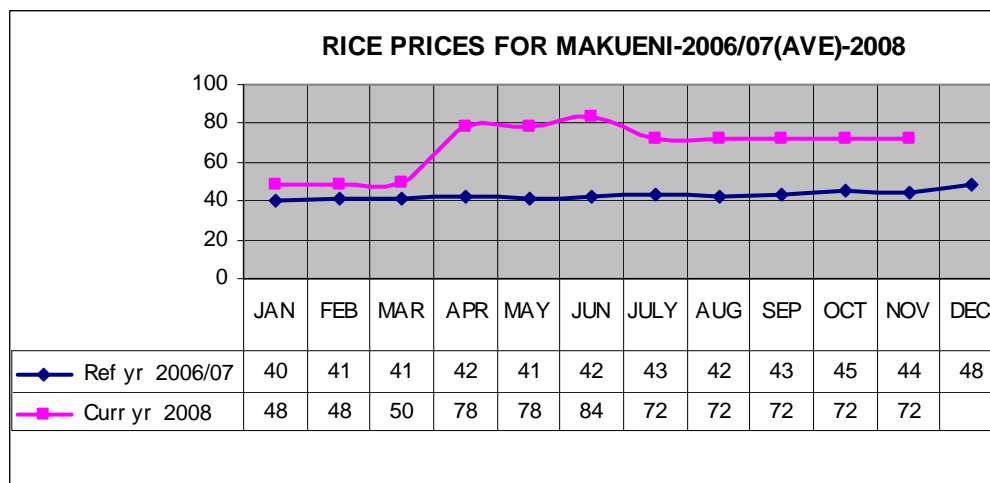
#### 3.2.2 Beans prices



\* N=360

- Bean prices stagnated at Ksh80 per kilo within the month.
- However, the price was way above the same period last year.
- This was not a normal occurrence at the time of the year.

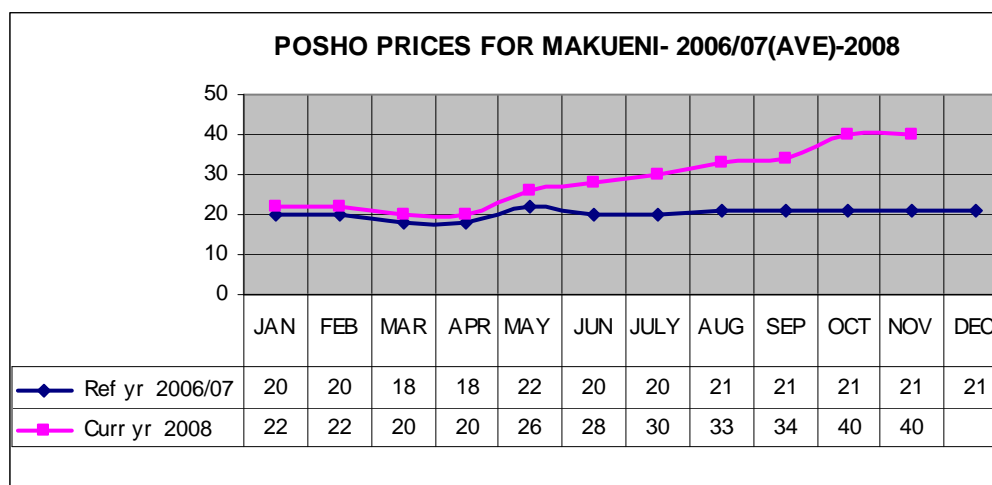
### 3.2.3 Rice prices



\* N=360

- Prices of rice stagnated at Ksh 72 per kilo.
- The prices were, however, way above what was recorded last year.
- This was an abnormal occurrence at the time of the year and could be attributed to food shortages in the country.

### 3.2.4 Posho prices



\* N=360

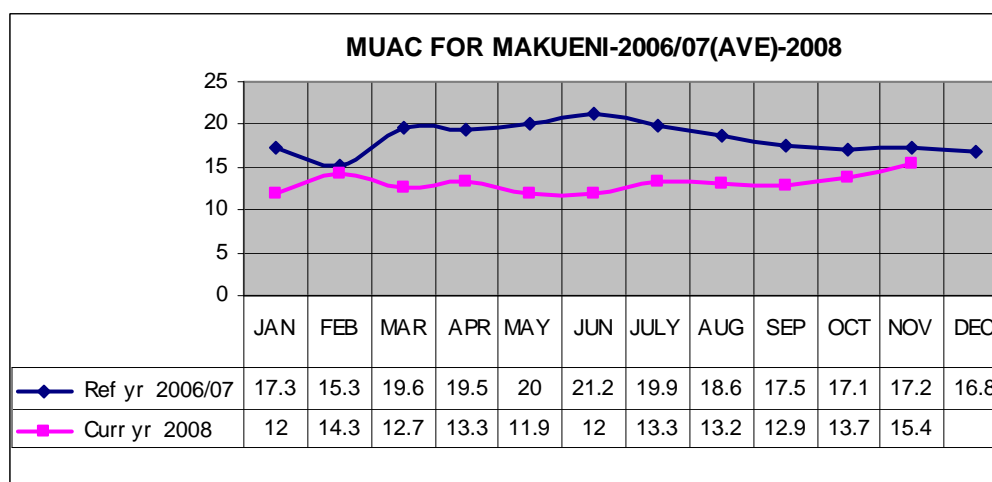
- Posho prices stagnated at Ksh40 per kilo.
- The prices were however still higher than the Ksh21 recorded during the same period last year.

### 3.3 Milk consumption

- Milk and its products increased slightly in supply and the price remained constant at Ksh.40 per litre.
- This was a normal occurrence at the time of the year.

## 4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

### 4.1 Nutrition status



\*N =1502

- The nutrition status children below five years deteriorated from 13.7% to 15.4% within the month.

- The decline could be attributed to increased food prices, which caused some families to skip and reduce the quantity and quality of meals.
- This could also be attributed to lack of greens and vegetables.

### **5.0 Current interventions**

- Relief food supplies by government were reported in all the divisions in the larger district.

### **6.0 Recommendations**

- All primary schools in worst-hit areas of the district should be put under the school feeding programme.
- The hard hit divisions such as Mtito Andei, Kibwezi, Makindu, Nguu, Kee, Kathonzweni, Kalawa, Wote and parts of Mbitini and Matiliku divisions should be considered for relief food supply.