

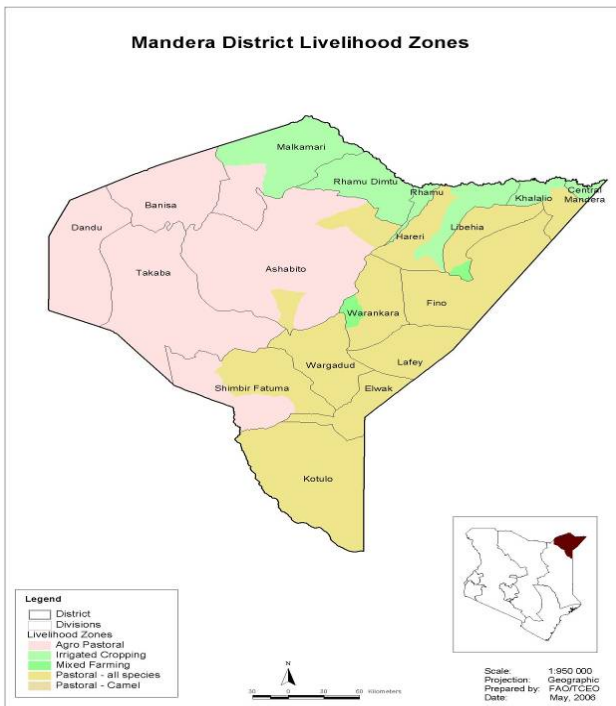


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, NOVEMBER 2008

Mandera District

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Pastoral- all species	Normal	Improving
Agro pastoral	Normal	Improving
Irrigated Cropping	Normal	Improving

TIMELINE ACTIVITIES

Short Dry Spell (Jilaal)		Long Rainy Reason (Gu')			Long Dry Spell (Hagai)				Short Rainy Season (Deyr)		
January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December

Situation Overview

- Rainfall was received in all parts of the district during the reporting period. Mandera station recorded 27mm, Rhanu 42.8mm and Elwak 0.6mm.
- The main sources of water during the month were River Daa, earth pans, underground water tanks, boreholes and shallow wells.
- Most of the earth pans and underground water tanks in the larger Mandera district impounded during the reporting month.
- The quality and quantity of pasture was good in most of the divisions in the district and continued to improve compared to the preceding month.
- Livestock body conditions were good and this was attributed to improved pasture and browse in most parts of the district.
- The average prices of livestock increased compared to the preceding month and this was due to good body conditions.
- The main sources of income for the month of November were sales of livestock and casual labour.
- Cases of Pneumonia and CCPP in goats were reported in the entire district.
- The average daily wage for the month of November was Ksh 180, a Ksh 6 increase compared to last month.
- Floods destroyed most of the crops in the farms along the irrigated cropping zone of River Daa and pump sets were submerged but the waters were receding.
- The nutrition status of children below five years stabilised during the month under review. The percentage of children rated as being at risk of malnutrition was 15.5 compared to 15.6 recorded in October. Takaba division recorded the highest rate at 18.9 per cent, while lowest was recorded in Banissa division at 12.6 per cent.
- The drought situation in the district was normal, while trends were improving.

Current interventions

Non-food aid

- The Ministry of Health conducted a Tetanus campaign in the districts.

Food aid

- Supplementary feedings by Action Against Hunger.
- Therapeutic feeding centers (TFC) in Mandera district hospital by AAH.
- Distribution of relief food by (EMOP) WFP and COCOP with 102,101 total beneficiaries for the month of November.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSSG

- Provision of adequate drugs at rural dispensaries and health services to counter outbreaks of water borne diseases and provision of treated nets to poor households in the affected areas mostly along the riverine (Action Ministry of Health, Ministry of Water and other actors.)
- Supplementary feeding to continue to reduce the high rates of malnutrition (Action MOH, AAH, Islamic Relief and Save the Children (UK).
- Advice farmers along the irrigated cropping zone on best ways of controlling recurrent floods that affect their farms and measures to be put in place on early warning of the floods (Action-DIOs, DAOs and Other Actors).

- Vaccination and mass treatment of CCPP disease in the entire district (Action –DVOs Mandera East, Central and West).
- Promote peaceful co-existence and sharing of the local available resources between communities in Lafey, Wargadud, Gari and Elwak triangle- Action-Provincial Administration Mandera Central and East Districts.
- Provisions of certified seeds to farmers in the irrigated cropping zone as their crops were destroyed by floods Action (DAOs Mandera West, East and Central & Other Actors).

DSG meeting and recommendations

Agenda

- October Drought Bulletin
- Distribution of food aid.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall

Station	Actual Amount	Normal Rainfall Expected	Trend
Mandera	27.0mm	37.2mm	Below Normal
Rhamu	42.8mm	49.2mm	Below Normal
Elwak	0.6mm	8.4mm	Below Normal

Source: Metrological station- Mandera

- The districts recorded below normal rainfall during the month.
- Mandera station recorded 27mm, Rhamu 42.8mm and Elwak 0.6mm.
- The Mandera and Rhamu stations received near normal amount of rainfall, while Elwak performed poorly as the amount received during the month was too little compared to long term amount.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Quality and quantity of pasture was good in Eastern and Western divisions and continued to improve compared to previous month.
- The condition in Central divisions, Elwak, Kutulo, S/Fatuma and Wargadud was fair to good, while the rest of the divisions had good pasture and browse.
- The average distance to grazing areas was 5.3km while average distance for households was 3.4km. Compared to last month, the average grazing distance decreased by 1.5kms.

1.3 Water sources and availability

- The main water sources for the district livelihoods were boreholes, River Daua, shallow wells, underground water tanks, and earth pans.
- In Eastern flanks, almost all earth pans impounded, except Gari earth pan, but boreholes were the main water sources.

- Western part: All pans in Takaba, Banissa, Dandu and Malkamari divisions impounded enough water that could last for at least two to three months.
- In Central part, Wargadud, Ashabito divisions earth pans impounded enough water but S/fatuma earth pan impounded very little water that could last for the month.

1.4 Emerging issues

- There was flooding along the irrigated cropping zone of River Daua, where most of the crops in the farms were destroyed and pump sets were submerged into the water but the water later receded.
- The flooding was the worst in the recent past.

1.4.1 Insecurity/ migration/human displacement

- Two Nuns were abducted at Elwak town by Militia during the month under review and three government vehicles were also hijacked at the same place.
- Livestock that had migrated to Wajir during the last season returned during the month under review.

1.5 Implications on food security

- Availability of water, pasture and browse improves the body conditions of livestock and this will have positive impact on pastoral return and economy hence positive impact on food security.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Availability of food)

2.1 Livestock production

- The main livestock species reared by the pastoralists are camels, cattle, goats and sheep. Camel & cattle being long term assets while shoats are short term assets/current assets.

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- The livestock body conditions were good during the month under review and expected to improve further following availability of pasture and browse in the district.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- Cases of CCPP and Pneumonia were still reported in the districts during the month under review.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk was moderately available in all the divisions.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timelines and status of crop production activities

- Most of crops along the irrigated cropping zone were destroyed by floods.
- In the agro-pastoral zone, crops such as maize and sorghum were at knee height stage.

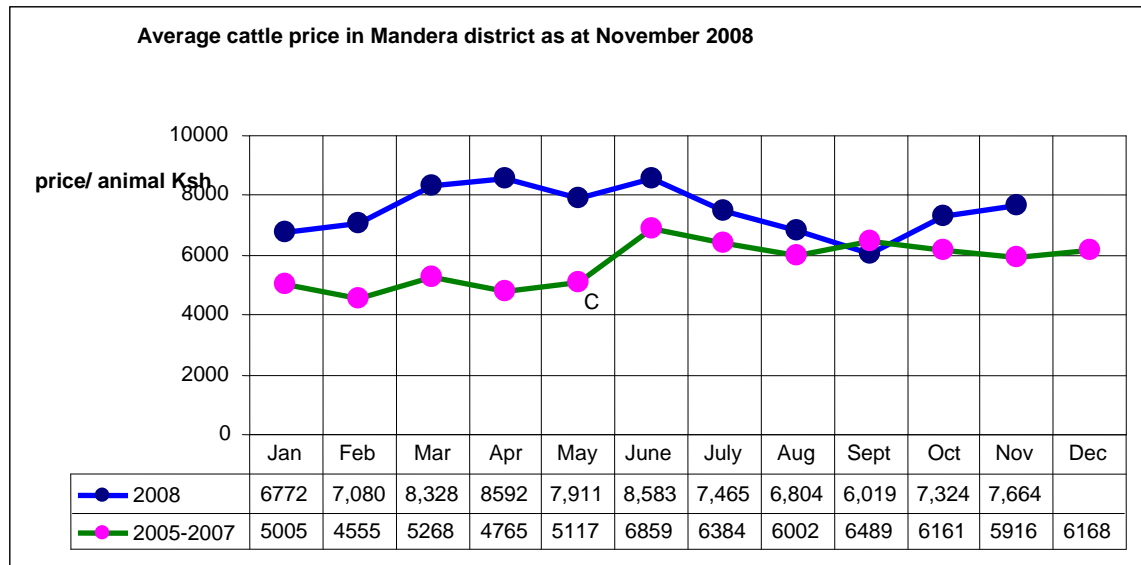
2.3 Implications on food security

- The destruction of crops by floods in the irrigated farming zone impacted negatively on food security in the district.

3. Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

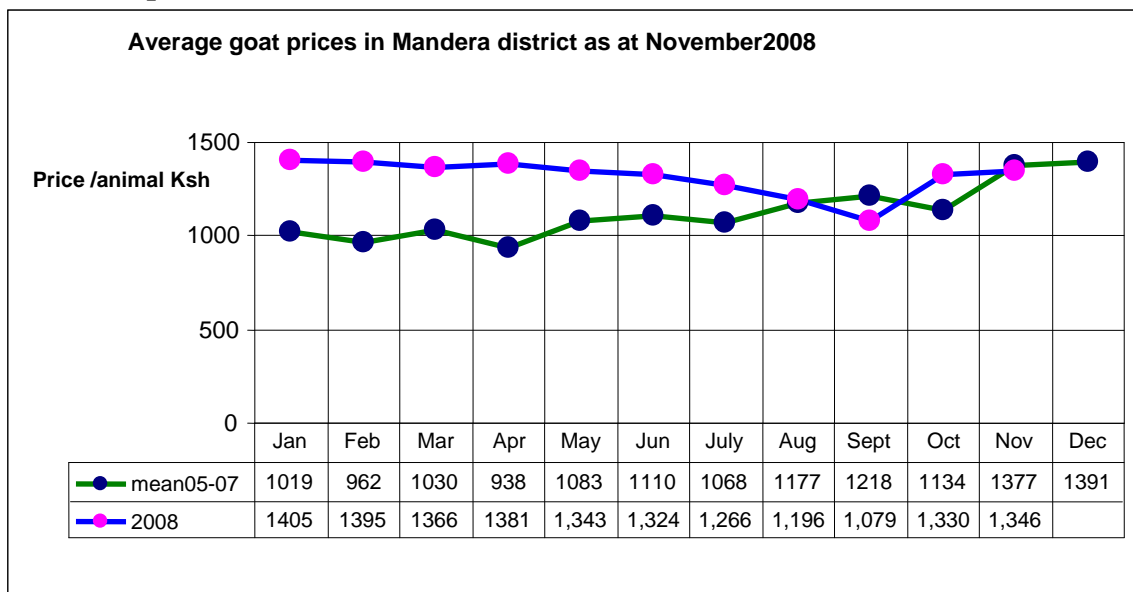
3.1.1 Cattle prices



NB: No of Households: 419

- Average cattle prices increased from Ksh7,324 in October to 7,664.
- The increase was attributed to good body condition and increased demand.
- Compared to long term mean, the average price was higher by Ksh1748.
- The highest price was recorded in pastoral all species zone at Ksh 8,825, followed by Irrigated cropping zone at Ksh7, 500 and agro-pastoral zone at Ksh6, 668.

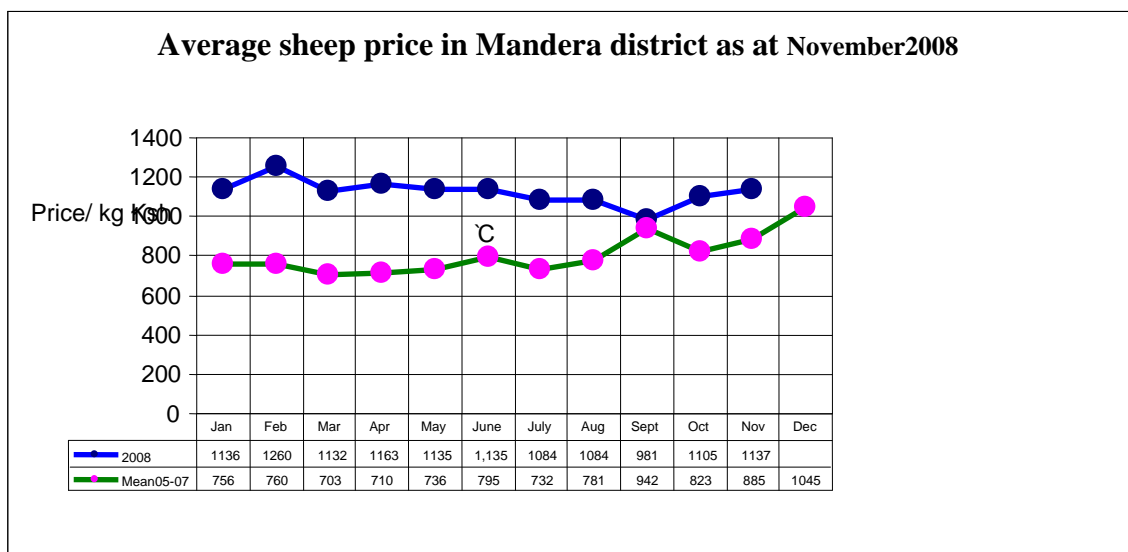
3.1.2 Goat prices



NB: No of Households: 419

- The average goat price increased from Ksh1, 330 in October to Ksh1,346.
- The increased price was attributed to good body condition and increased market demand.
- The higher prices boosted the purchasing power and food security of the households as goats are the main livestock sold to meet every day needs for rural households.
- Compared to long term mean, the average price was lower by Ksh 31.
- The pastoral all species zone recorded the highest average prices at Ksh1,454, followed by irrigated cropping zone at Ksh1,311 and agro-pastoral zone at Ksh 1,269.

3.1.3 Sheep prices

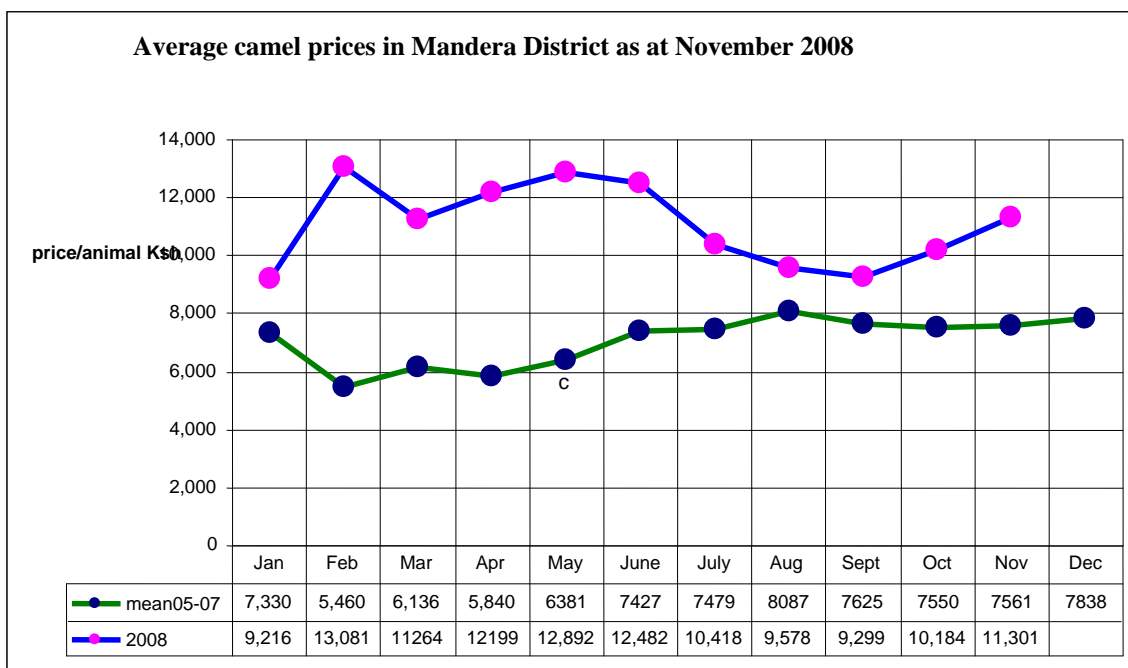


: No of households: 419

- Sheep prices increased from Ksh1,105 in October to Ksh1,37.
- This was attributed to good body condition and increased demand.
- Compared to long term mean, the average price was higher by Ksh252.
- The highest average price was recorded in the irrigated cropping zone at Ksh 1,178, followed by the agro-pastoral zone at Ksh 1,142 and pastoral all species at Ksh1,091.
- The trend was normal for the time of the year.

3.1.4 Camel prices

- Average camel prices increased to Ksh 11,301 from Ksh10, 184 in October.
- The price increase was due to high market demand and good body condition.
- The average price was highest in the agro-pastoral zone followed by pastoral all species zone.
- The average price was higher than the long term mean by Ksh 3,740.



: No of households: 419

3.2 Livestock sales

- The average sales of goats, cattle, camels and sheep were 275, 60, 48 and 105 respectively, with total sales of 488 during the month of November.
- In the previous month, sales volumes were 414 for all species of animals.
- The trend increased during the month compared to previous month.
- The highest cattle sales were recorded in the agro- pastoral followed by pastoral, sheep in pastoral all species followed by agro- pastoral and goats in pastoral all species followed agro-pastoral and camels in agro-pastoral followed by pastoral all species.
- Most households depended on livestock to meet their basic essential needs.

3.3 Milk consumption

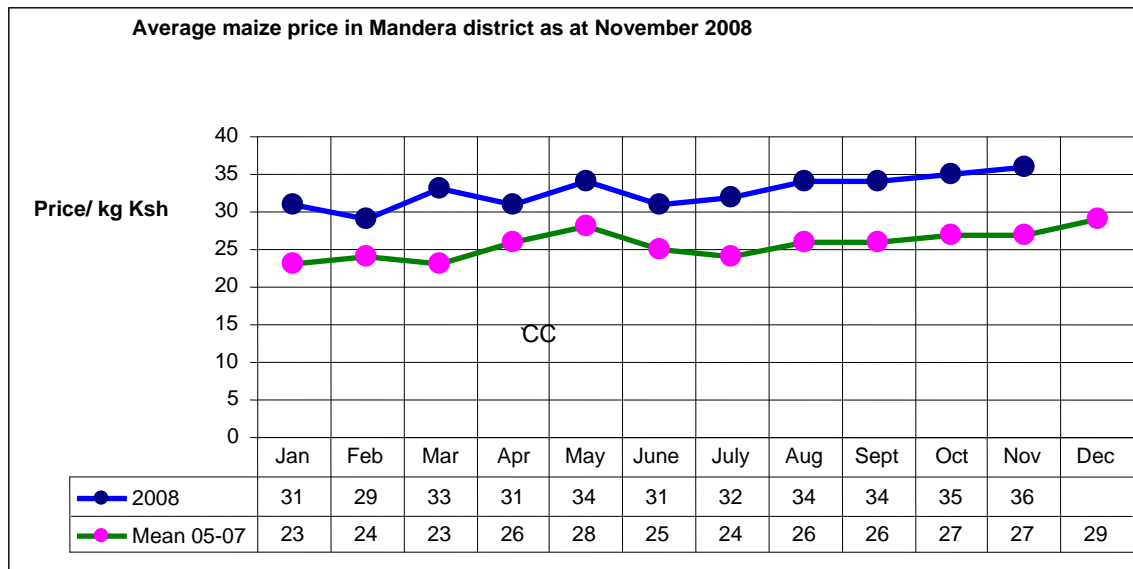
- Milk consumption increased compared to last month.

3.4 Crop prices

3.4.1 Maize prices

- The average maize price during the month was Ksh36 per kilo.
- Compared to last month, the average price increased by Ksh1.

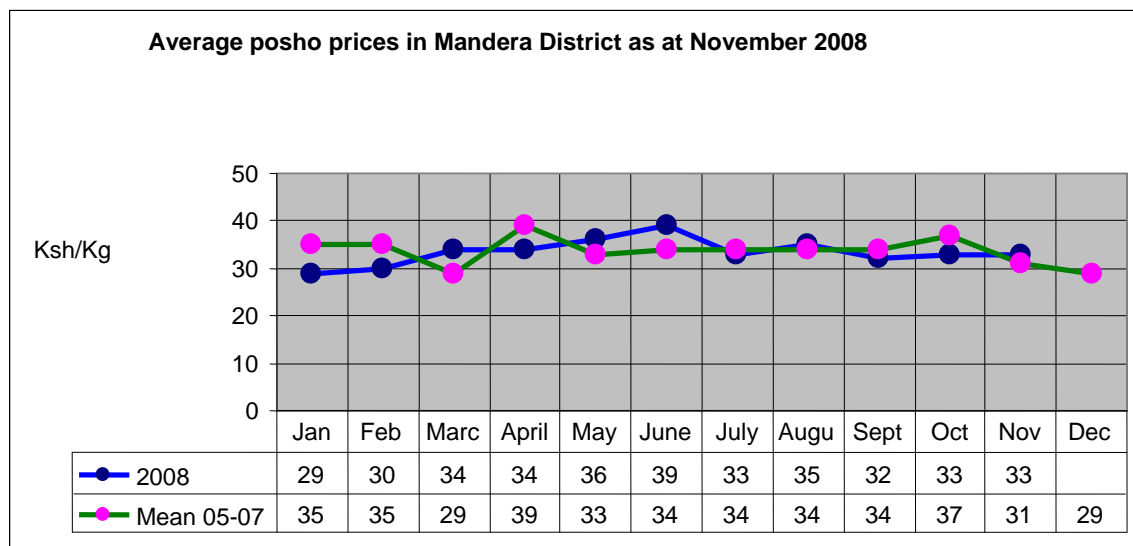
- Compared to the long term mean price, the average price was higher by Ksh9.



: No of households: 419

3.4.2 Posho prices

- The average posho price was Ksh 33 per kilo and compared to last month the price was stable.
- Compared to long term mean, the average price was higher by Ksh2.



: No of households: 419

3.4.4 Other major food crops/ major purchased food

- The main foods purchased by the communities were oil, rice and sugar

- The observed price for Sugar for the month of November was Ksh 77/= (Oct-76/=), Rice was Ksh 75/= for November (Oct- 68/=), Oil price was 147/=for November (Oct- 114=).

3.5 Income

3.5.1 Livestock

- The main source of income for all livelihoods during the month under review was sale of livestock and casual labour.
- The sales rates for camels, cattle, sheep and goats were average.

3.5.2 Crops income

- Agro pastoral-Sorghum and maize are at knee height of crop production
- Irrigated cropping zone-most of crops along the riverine were destroyed by floods.

3.5.3 Casual Labour

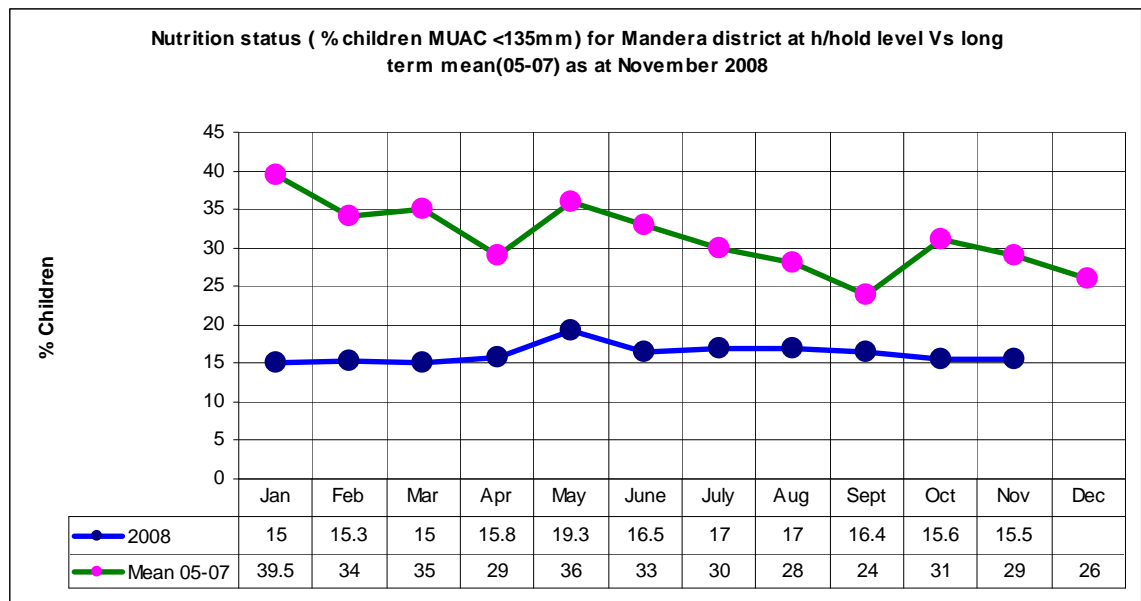
- The average daily wage from sampled divisions was Ksh 182 per day but from general observations it ranged between Ksh100 to Ksh250 per day.
- Compared to the preceding month, the average daily wage increased by Ksh2.
- The highest average income was recorded in irrigated cropping zone followed by pastoral all species and agro-pastoral zones.

3.6 Implications on food security

- Farmers in the irrigated cropping zone suffered losses after their crops and vegetables were destroyed by floods.
- There is need for urgent food aid and seeds for replanting.

4. Welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



: Total No of Children: 1,303

- The nutrition status of children below five years stabilised during the month under review.
- The percentage of children rated as being at risk of malnutrition was 15.5 compared to 15.6 recorded in October.
- Compared to long term mean, the rate was down by 13.5 per cent.
- Takaba division recorded the highest rate at 18.9 percent, while lowest was recorded in Banissa division at 12.6 per cent.

4.2 Human health

- There was no out break of diseases reported during the month under review.

4.3 Flagged Areas

- Irrigated farmers require food aid as their crops were destroyed by floods.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non-food aid

- The Ministry of Health conducted a Tetanus campaign in the districts.

5.2 Food aid

- Supplementary feedings by Action Against Hunger.
- Therapeutic feeding centers (TFC) in Mandera district hospital by AAH.
- Distribution of relief food by (EMOP) WFP and COCOP with 102,101 total beneficiaries for the month of November.

5.3 Other coping strategies

- Causal works acted as secondary coping strategy for the Agro-pastorals and pastorals.
- Sharing of relief food with pastoral relatives.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG

- Provision of adequate drugs at rural dispensaries and health services to counter outbreaks of water borne diseases and provision of treated nets to poor households in the affected areas mostly along the riverine (Action Ministry of Health, Ministry of Water and other actors.)
- Supplementary feeding to continue to reduce the high rates of malnutrition (Action MOH, AAH, Islamic Relief and Save the Children (UK).
- Advice farmers along the irrigated cropping zone on best ways of controlling recurrent floods that affect their farms and measures to be put in place on early warning of the floods (Action-DIOs, DAOs and Other Actors).
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- Promote peaceful co-existence and sharing of the local available resources between communities in Lafey, Wargadud, Gari and Elwak triangle- Action-Provincial Administration Mandera Central and East Districts.

- Provisions of certified seeds to farmers in the irrigated cropping zone as their crops were destroyed by floods Action (DAOs Mandera West, East and Central & Other Actors).