

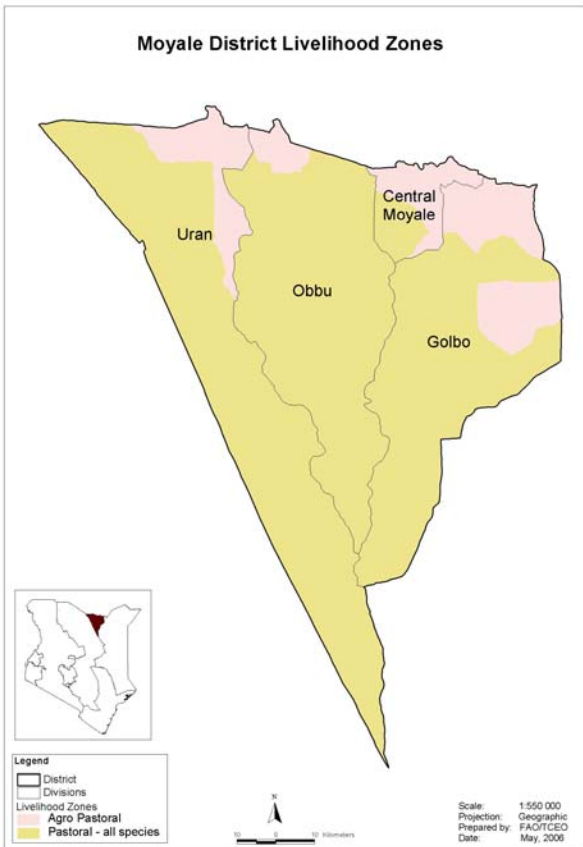


OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, NOVEMBER 2008

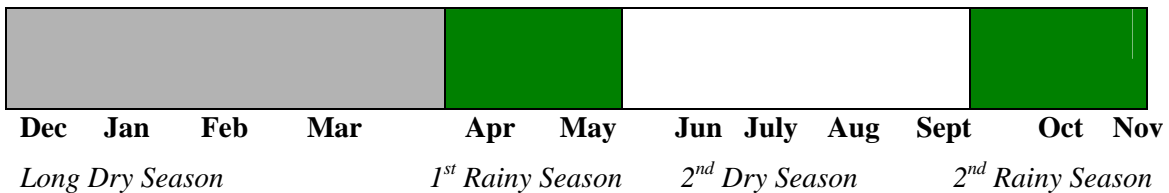
Moyale District

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zones	Stage	Trend
PASTORAL ZONES	<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>SLIGHTLY IMPROVING</i>
AGRO-PASTORAL ZONES	<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>SLIGHTLY IMPROVING</i>
<i>CASUAL LABOUR, SMALL BUSINESSES</i>	<i>ALARM</i>	<i>SLIGHTLY IMPROVING</i>

SEASONAL CALENDAR



Situation overview

- The short rains stopped abruptly within the first week of November. 6mm of rainfall was recorded in Heilu sample area for 2 rainy days.
- The downpours recorded earlier destroyed roads and disrupted communication. Spatial distribution was varied within the district, with the extreme lowland receiving very little rainfall.
- The low rainfall will drastically reduce pasture availability over the season. However availability was fairly good over the month.
- No pasture constraints were reported over the month except for minor cases of diseases in Heilu and Mado Adhi sample areas of Central Division and Obbu Division respectively.
- Water availability was fairly good and the main sources were pans/dams and shallow wells. However, Godoma sample area was using boreholes as a result of poor rainfall.
- Most of the crops in the fields wilted as soon as the rains stopped due to extremely hot weather. The crop failure could affect the morale of the farming community and affect farming within the district in future.
- Some communities in the district including Adhada in Central Division, Amballo in Obbu and several villages in Dabel requested for water trucking.
- Prices of cereals were still very high, with maize costing as much as Ksh 35 per kilo in Moyale Central market and beans Ksh70 per kilo.
- Milk prices dropped to Ksh20 per litre due to improved livestock productivity following improved availability of pasture.
- Herd growth in the district was as follows;

Species	Birth	Mortality	Remarks
Cattle	4.8%	0.0%	Herd growth upwards
Sheep	12.6%	8.0%	Upwards
Goats	7.1%	4.5%	Upwards
Camels	11.0%	4.4%	upwards

- Livestock body condition was good and prices fairly good, especially for sheep and goats. Cattle prices went down to Ksh7,350 from last month's high of Ksh 9,660, while goat prices improved to Ksh1,725.
- The nutrition status of children below five years improved during the month, with the percentage of those rated as being at the risk of malnutrition falling to 30.5 from 33 in October. However the rates were higher in Dabel and Mado Adhi sample areas.

Current interventions

Food aid

- There was distribution of cereal, pulses and small quantities of oil all over the district.
- The quantity has also slightly improved though oil quantities were very small.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSSG

- The DSG needs to assess the impact of short rains in order to pick out the focal areas for action.
- Movement of pastoralists, especially from Wajir district, is expected and may cause conflict over the minor resources in the district and an early assessment is necessary.
- The district requires more help in form of food aid and children supplements as malnutrition will affect child growth and food shortages may cause school dropout.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- Little rainfall was received over the month (first week only). 6mm was recorded in Heilu sample area for 2 rainy days.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Forage growth was inhibited by high temperatures and lack of rainfall.
- The already grown fodder wilted and foliage started falling off.
- The quality of pasture went down as a result of heat stress and growth stopped prematurely.
- Pasture biomass was quite small compared to the average year. Average growth was only achieved around the border hills and barely germinated in the lowlands.
- The situation will drastically affect the pastoral livelihood zones and force them to move into dry season grazing zones earlier than normal time.

1.2.1 Distances to grazing areas

- Average distance to grazing was about 8.9km. The longest grazing distance is in Uran Lataka sample area where herds were moving about 13.7kms to and from pasture.
- The distance was higher than last month, which may show there was stress as compared to late last month.
- The condition was not normal as en forage is usually available in November.

1.3.0 Household access to water

- The average household distance to water was about 2.8km.
- This shows there was a slight decrease over the last month.
- Improved distances occurred mostly in agro-pastoral areas and less in pastoral zones.

1.3.1 Livestock access to water

- The average watering distance was about 13-15kms for most pastoral zones, while the distance was shorter in agro-pastoral livelihood areas.

1.4.0 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Shortage of water

- The district was faced with water shortage in parts of pastoral zones as rainfall distribution was very poor.
- Some communities approached the DSG for water bowser to assist them. The situation may soon get worst as the dry season progresses.

1.4.1 Chronic lack of sustainable food for the families

- The district was faced once again by crop failure, which will worsen the already stressful household situation. This will call for more food aid and supplements for children.

1.5 Implication on food security

- The above factors will accelerate the poor food security situation in the district as families will spend more time to look for water or forced to pay more for water.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body conditions

- Livestock body conditions recovered well and were still good.
- The condition may start to deteriorate by mid-December as the hot weather will cause dry-up of the little forage biomass and water stress hits pastoralists.

2.1.2 Livestock health and diseases

- No disease outbreak was reported during the month.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Production of milk improved slightly as a result of increased birth rates.

2.2 Crop production

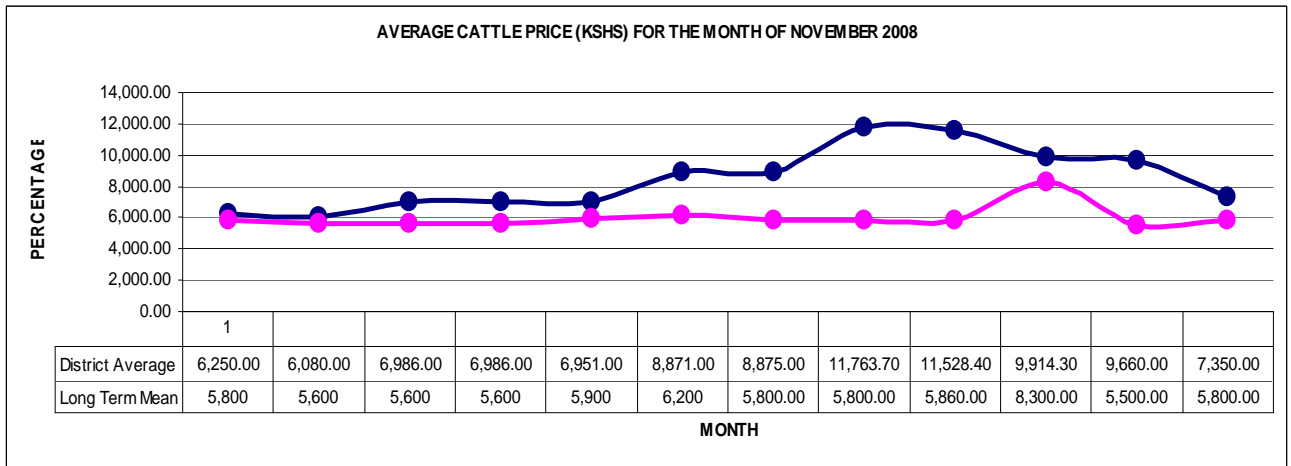
2.2.1 Condition of various crops

- Most of maize crop in farms wilted and leaf blades yellowed.
- Beans were slightly better and some little crop may be available in green state but nothing much to be stored.
- The little acreage under Teff (*Eragrostis teff* (origin of Ethiopia) was doing well. The grass grows with minimal rainfall. The farming communities in the district had not taken it up well in the district and some do not like to plant it because of intensive land preparation work required.

3.0 Access to food

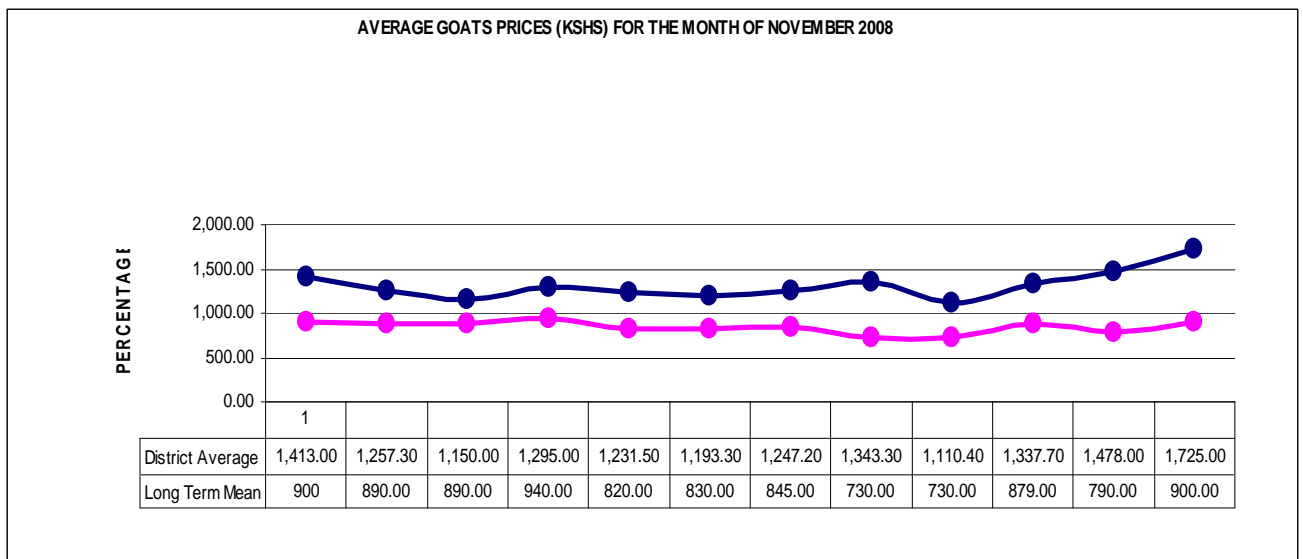
3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices



- Cattle prices at the household level dropped significantly over the month from Ksh 9,660 to Ksh7,350.
- The high prices may be caused by over exploitation by butchers and middlemen.
- This price was very low compared to prices at Moyale livestock yard.

3.1.2 Goat prices

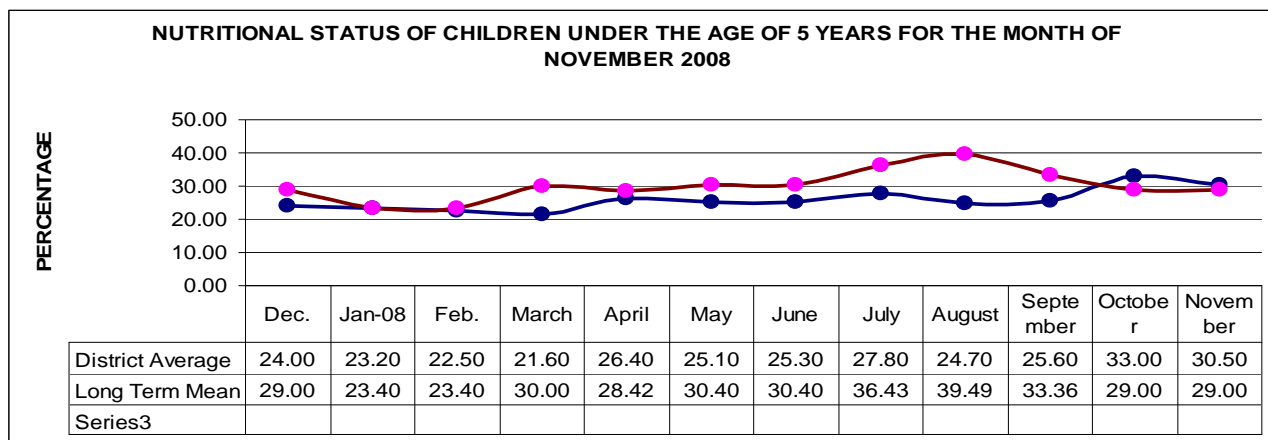


- Prices of goats continued to increase during the month.

- The average price was Ksh 1,725 up from Ksh 1,478 in October.
- The price was too high compared to any past year.

4.0 Welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutritional status



- The nutrition status of children below five years improved during the month.
- The percentage of those rated as being at the risk of malnutrition falling to 30.5 from 33 in October.
- However, the rate was still higher than the long term mean of 29 per cent.
- Higher rates were recorded in Dabel and Mado Adhi sample areas.

4.2 Human health

- Malaria and coughs were the most common ailments, though at manageable levels.

4.3 Flagged Area

- Areas with high rates of malnutrition were Dabel in Golbo, all areas of Obbu Division and Uran Lataka.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Food aid

- There was distribution of cereal, pulses and small quantities of oil all over the district.
- The quantity has also slightly improved though oil quantities were very small.

5.1 Coping strategies

- Most of the households reduced meal sizes or skipped some meals to cope with higher prices of food.
- Most herders moved their livestock to far away pastures to avoid continuous environmental degradation. Others fenced off some land to allow pasture growth for use in time of stress.

6.0 Recommendations

- Malaria prevention measures to be continued.
- Curb influx of animals from other districts as the existing herds have already put pressure on the available resources. Conflict may flare up if more herds are allowed into the district.
- Natural resource management awareness should be continued, especially along the riverside areas, to sensitise communities on need for conservation.
- Food aid in form of cereals, pulses and supplements for children are required urgently in the district.
- More water bowsers are required in the district and the DSG should solicit more contingency fund to help the communities during the expected water shortage.