



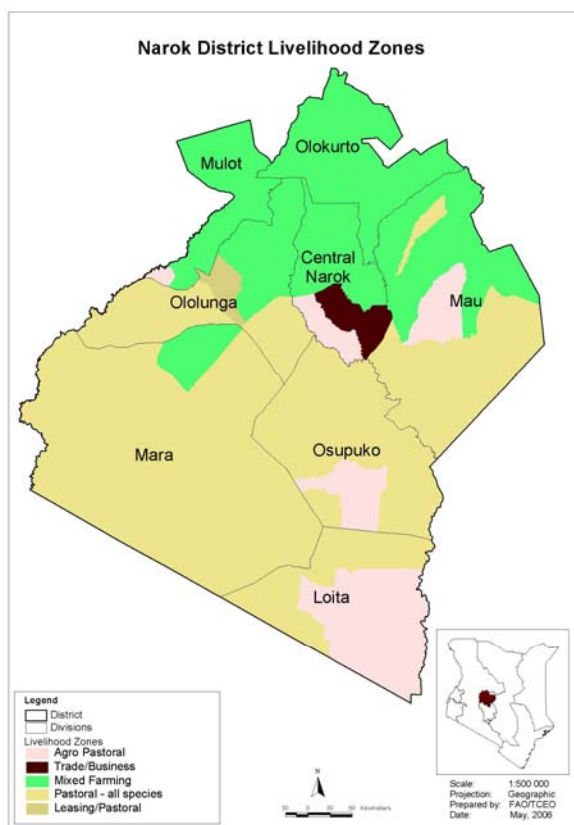
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

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

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, NOVEMBER 2008

Narok District

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Agro Pastoral	Alert	Improving
Entasekera, Naroosura, Suswa		
Mixed Farming	Alert	No Change
Nairragi-Enkare, Mulot		
Pastoral	Alert	Improving
Olmesutie, Ntuka, Mosiro, Koyiaki, Oletukat		
Trade	Normal	No Change
Narok Town		
Leasing/ Pastoral	Alert	No Change
Lemek, Ololulunga, Ntulele		
Pastoral Tourism	Alert	Improving
Koyiaki, Siana		

TIMELINE ACTIVITIES



<p>January/February March – short rains harvest, long rains planting, livestock breeding (Cattle).</p>	<p>April, May/June Long rains – weeding, shoats mating.</p>	<p>July/August Cold dry season, long rains harvest.</p>	<p>Sept/October Dry & hot-migration of livestock.</p>	<p>November/Dec - short rains – calving lambing and kidding.</p>
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Situation overview

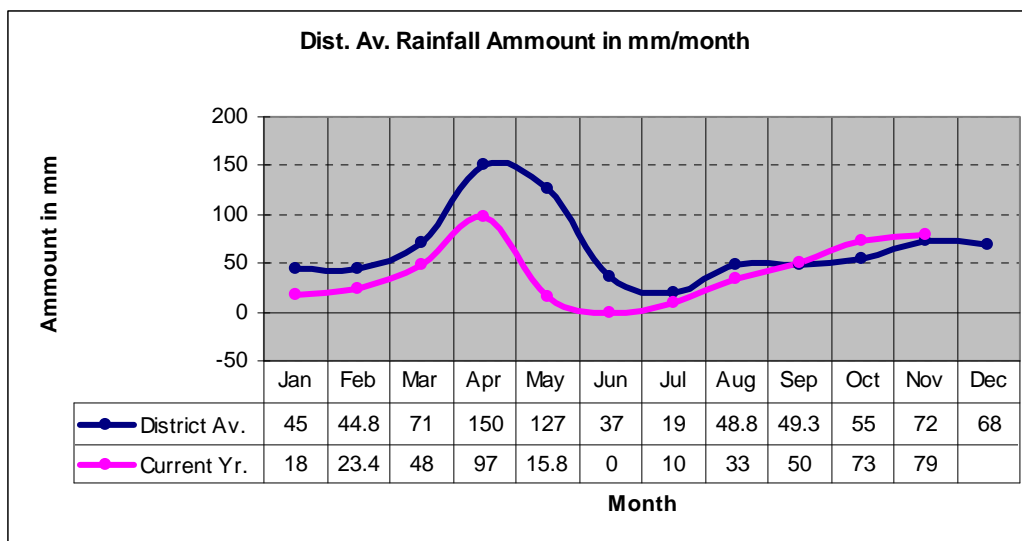
- The district received an average of 79mm of rainfall during the month, which was moderately distributed. The rainfall was of medium to low density in most parts of the district.
- The main sources of water for the review period remained major rivers, dams and springs/wells.
- Pasture and browse quality and quantity improved slightly following the rainfall received. The pasture was, however, still too short and scanty for the larger stock.
- Livestock body condition improved slightly in Mara, Mulot, Ololulung'a and Loita, especially for the shoats and calves.
- The prevalent livestock diseases remained Peste des petits ruminants (PPR), which affecting shoats in large numbers in all the divisions, and East Coast Fever (ECF). However, vaccination campaigns were ongoing to contain the problem.
- Milk production remained low, and the product was mainly reserved for children.
- Livestock prices improved slightly compared to the previous month, with cattle selling at an average of Ksh11,000 compared to Ksh9,000 during the previous month. However, prices of shoats remained the same as last month. This was mainly attributed to improved body condition and a demand for restocking in all the pastoral livelihoods.
- Food prices remained the same as last month, with maize selling at an average of Ksh 35 per kilo, while beans and posho sold at Ksh88 and 45 respectively. This was attributed to a slight increase in availability of maize from imports, while scarcity of beans in markets pushed the prices up.
- There was no major human diseases reported during the review period
- The nutritional status for children less than five years declined during the month. The percentage of children rated as being at risk of malnutrition (based on MUAC measurement) rose to 23 from 18 the previous month. This was mainly attributed to an increased milk stress and higher incidences of common cold and malaria following the rains.

Recommendation to DSG and KFSSG

- Promotion of quick maturing crops and drought-tolerant crops to improve food security in rural households.
- Upscale the ongoing capacity building exercise to enlighten farmers and pastoralists on the importance of Natural Resources Management (NRM).
- Measures to eradicate PPR in the pastoral areas.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall



- The district received an average of 79mm of rainfall, which was moderately distributed.
- The rainfall was of medium to low density in most parts of the district, especially during the first two weeks. However, some pockets did not receive any rains including some areas of Mara, Loita and Mau divisions.
- This was normal during the time of the year.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Pasture and browse condition improved slightly following the rains received, resulting in increased availability.
- The pasture was, however, still too short and scanty for the larger stock.

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Use of water sources

- Water conditions in the district improved both quality and quantity in both districts following the recent rains.
- The main sources remained mainly major rivers, catchments pools, pans/dams, traditional wells and seasonal streams.

Water sources and % of households depending on them

Water source	1	2	3	4	Others
% Of h/holds depending on the source	33	45	15	5	2
% Of h/holds normally depending on source	25	50	15	8	2

1. Natural rivers
2. Catchment pools/dams
3. Constructed shallow wells/functional
4. Boreholes (functional)

1.3.2 Average distances (kms) to water sources

- Distances to and from watering points for livestock and domestic use decreased slightly following the compounding of water in most pans and dams during the short rains season.
- This impacted positively on the food security situation.

Average distances to water sources compared to normal situation

Water sources	1	2	3	4	Others
Average Kms to the source	5	4	5	8	2
Normal Kms to the source	4	3	5	8	2

1. Traditional rivers/wells
2. Catchment pools/dams
3. Constructed shallow wells/functional
4. Boreholes (functional)

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity/conflicts/human migration/displacement

- No major movement of humans was reported during the review period.
- This was normal during the time of the year.
- Conflicts were reported in Mulot and Ololulunga divisions, pitting the Maasai against the Kipsigis. This was triggered by cattle theft and pasture.
- Cases of conflict were also reported in Olokurto, pitting the same communities on the same issues during the reporting period. The situation is however calm after security intervention.
- The problem of human wildlife conflict has also gone up especially in areas of Loita, Osupuko and parts of central divisions. This is mainly in form of predation and human attacks.

1.5 Migration

- Movement of livestock within the district continued as herders moved their livestock away from the wildlife migration corridors, especially in Mara and Osupuko.
- More herders also moved from Osupuko and parts of Central divisions to Ololulunga and Upper parts of Central and Mau divisions. This was mainly in search of water and pasture.
- The movement was normal during the time of year.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- The livestock body condition improved slightly in Mara, Mulot, Ololulung'a and Loita especially among shoats and calves.

- The better shoats' body condition was due to adequate pasture and browse available for them in most parts of the district.

2.1.2 Livestock health

- The most prevalent livestock disease was peste des petits ruminants (PPR), which affected shoats in large numbers in all the divisions.
- However, campaigns were ongoing to contain the menace.
- Several cases of East Coast Fever (ECF) and eye infections among the larger stock were also reported.

2.1.3 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of crop production activities

- There was no crop in the fields but land preparation for the next planting next season was ongoing in some divisions, including central.
- Crops under irrigation were doing well in Naroosura but banditry affected markets, with traders losing huge amounts to the bandits who mainly target the horticultural farmers.

2.3 Milk production

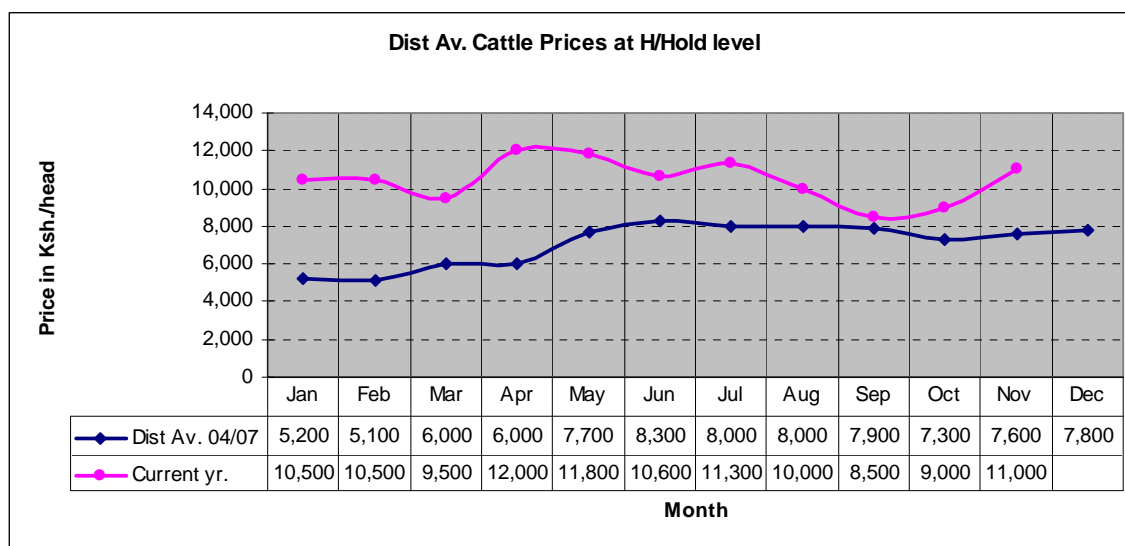
- Milk production remained low throughout the district due to declining pasture and water conditions and low calving and kidding rates.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices

Average district cattle prices (Ksh).

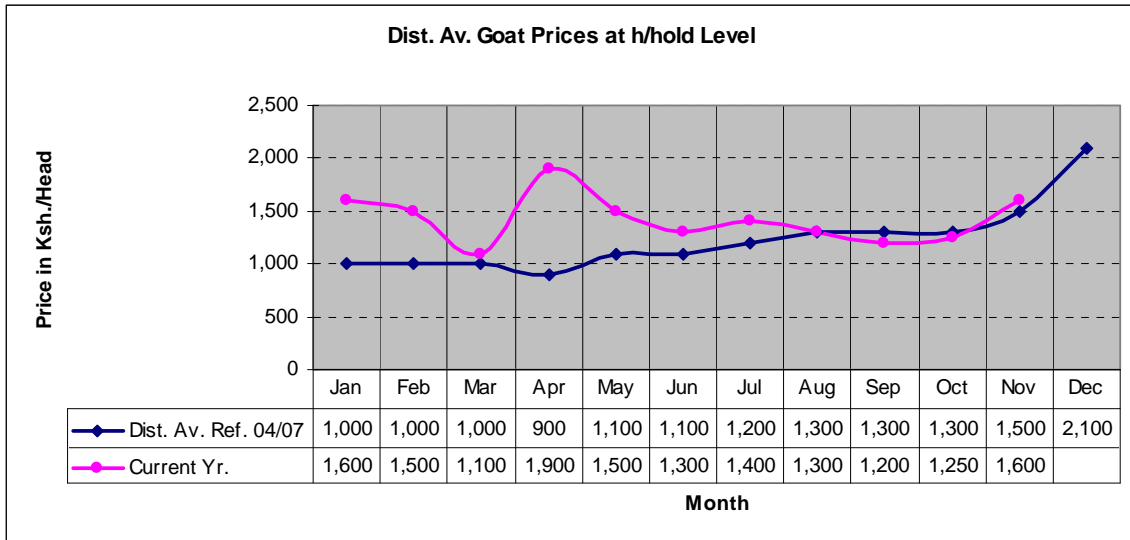


- Cattle prices improved compared to the previous reporting period.
- The average price rose to Ksh 11,000 from Ksh9,000 in October.

- This was mainly attributed to increasing demand as most pastoralists were restocking and improved body condition in some parts of the district.

3.1.2 Goat prices

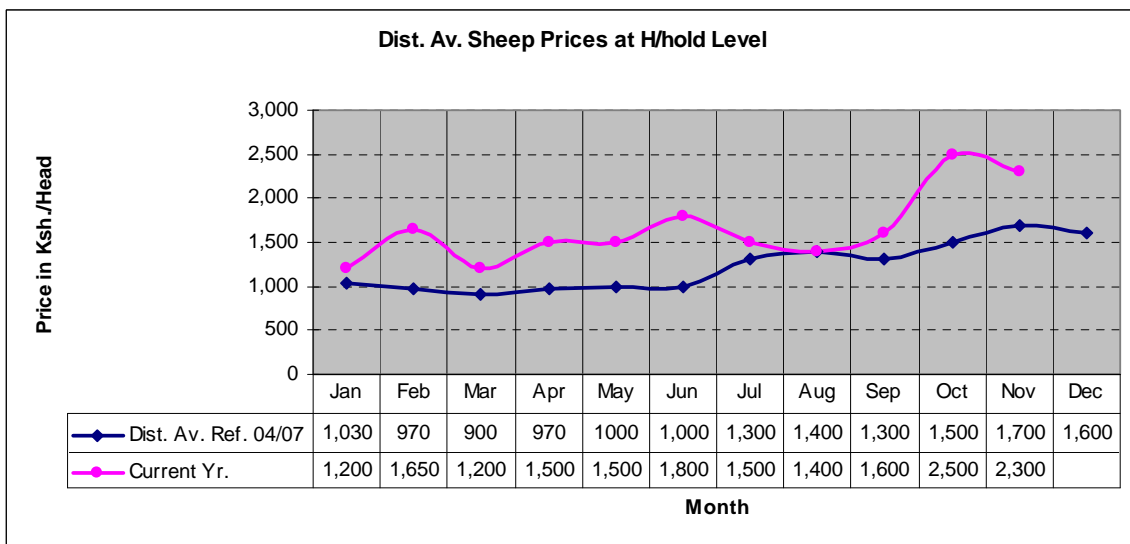
Average district goat prices (Ksh)



- Goat prices increased slightly compared to the previous month.
- The average price rose to Ksh 1,600 from Ksh 1,250 in October.
- This was attributed to improved body condition and increased demand in markets.

3.1.3 Sheep prices

Average district sheep prices (Ksh.)



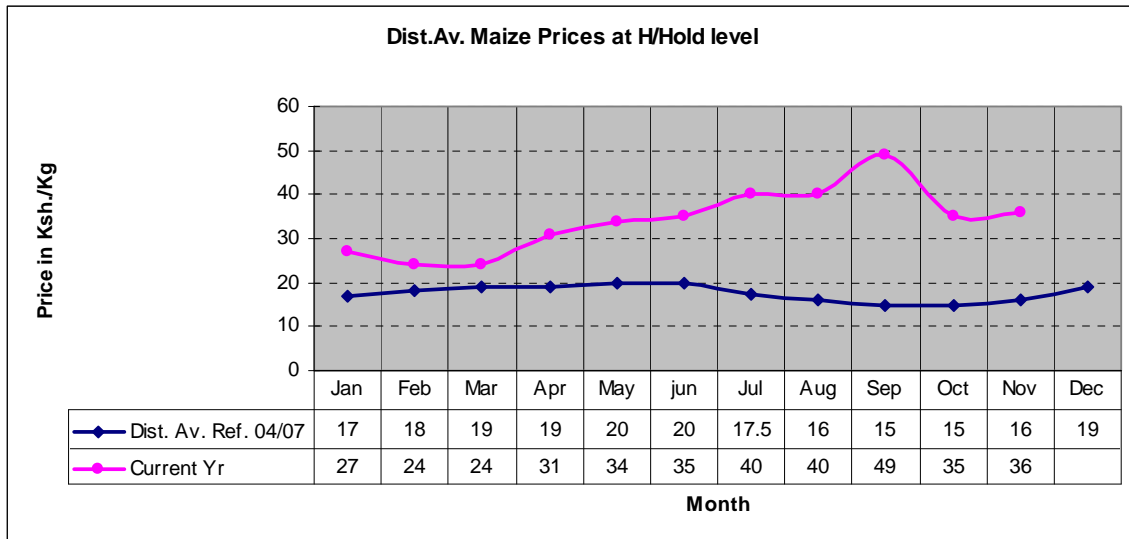
- Sheep prices remained within the previous month's range.

- The average price dropped slightly to Ksh2,300 from Ksh 2,500 in October.
- This was attributed to the relatively good body conditions and the low volumes in markets.

3.2 Crop prices

3.2.1 Maize prices

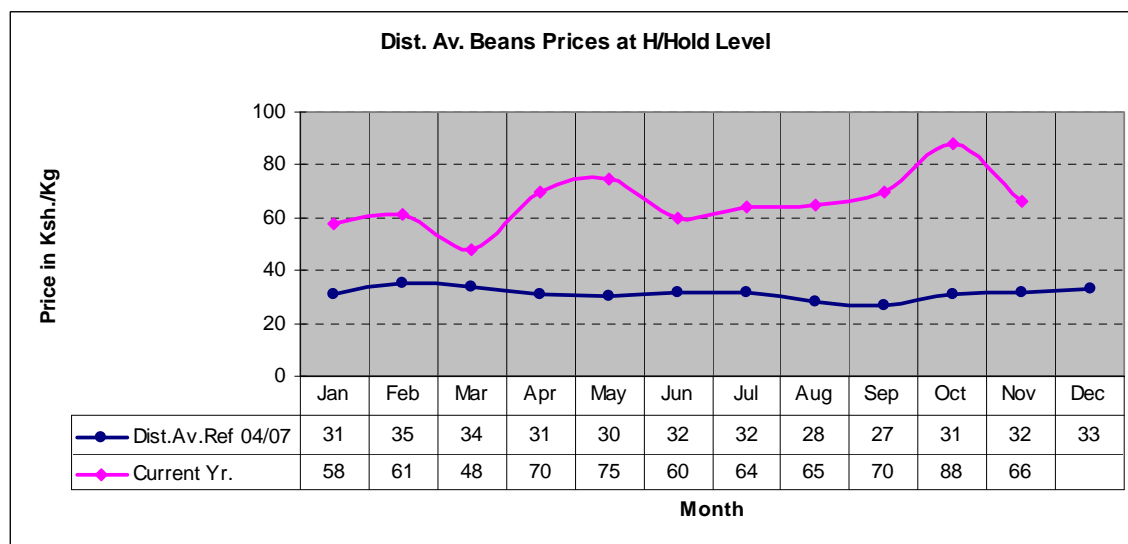
Average district maize prices (Ksh)



- Maize prices remained the same as last month.
- The average price was Ksh 36 per kilo compared to Ksh 35 in October.
- This was attributed to an improved supply of the commodity in markets from outside the district, including Tanzania.

3.2.2 Beans prices

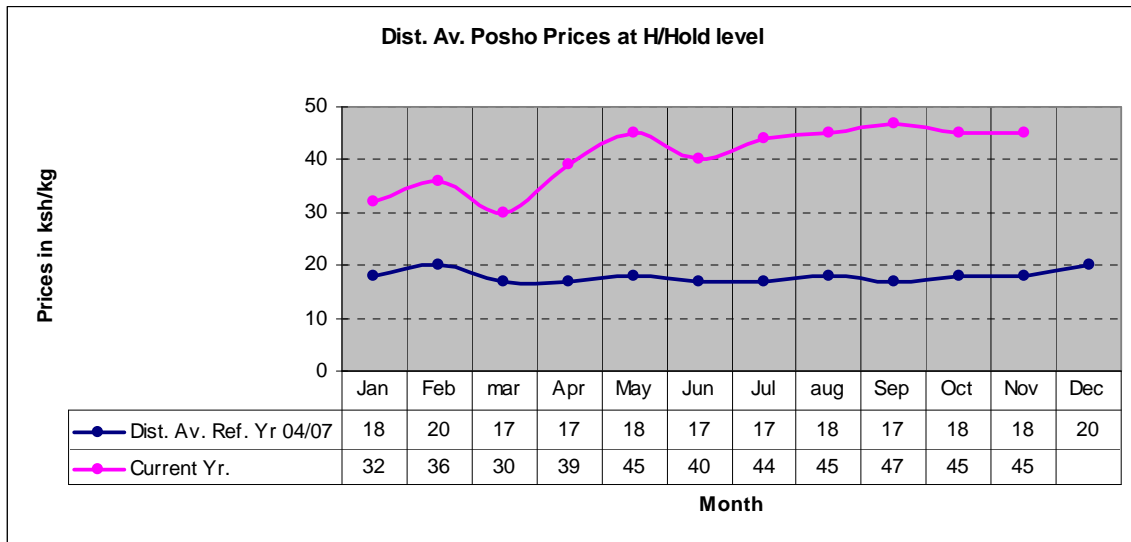
Average beans prices (Ksh /kg)



- Beans prices dropped slightly compared to the last month's rates.
- The average price fell to Ksh 66 per kilo from Ksh 88 in October.
- This was attributed to an increased supply in markets from outside the district.

3.2.3 Posho prices

Average posho prices (Ksh/Kg)

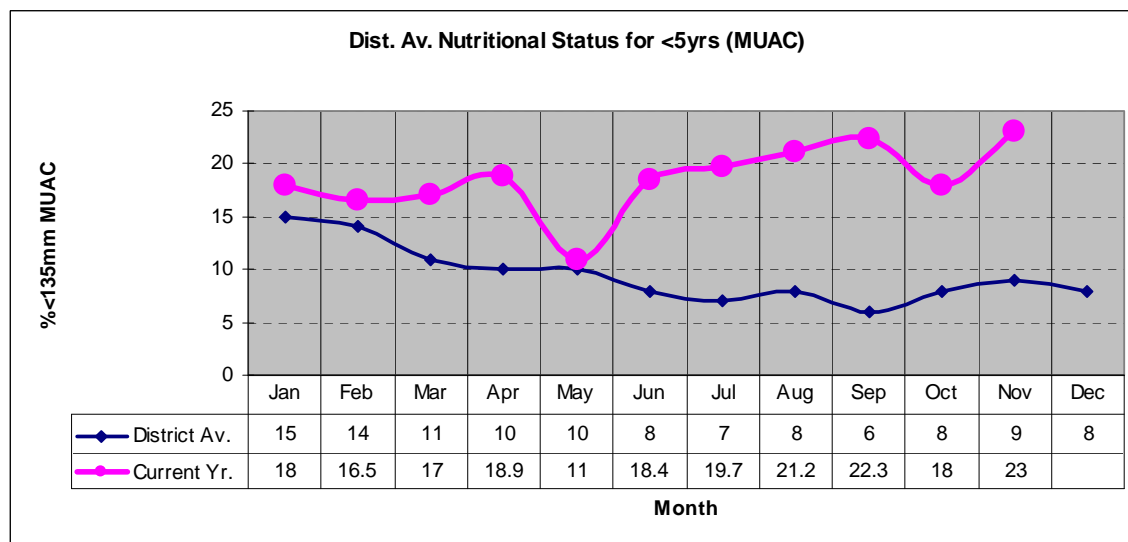


- Posho prices remained within the previous months rates.
- The average price was Ksh 45 per kilo.
- This was mainly attributed to the slight decrease in the prices of maize.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status

Nutrition status (based on MUAC <135mm)



- The nutritional status for children less than five years declined during the review month.
- The number of children rated as being at risk of malnutrition (based on MUAC measurement) rose 23 per cent from 18 per cent in October.
- The decline was attributed to low availability of milk and increased incidences of common colds and malaria following the recent rains.

4.2 Human health

- There were no major incidences of human diseases during the review period.

5.0 Current interventions

ALRMP- Narok

- Development and protection of Kimogoro springs in Mulot division.
- Construction of Ilpopong' water pan, Olkiriaine water pan.
- Support to Agriculture and livestock Sector.
 - Bee keeping: provision of hives to groups from Central, Osupuko, Ololulung'a and Mara divisions and training of the beneficiaries.
 - Support to livestock upgrading by providing dairy goats to pastoralists.
 - Community trainings in environmental conservation, animal traction, and utilization of drought tolerant crops (DTC).
 - Training WRUAs in Mulot and Loita divisions.
 - Training District Peace Committees.

Other partners

- Ongoing drilling of boreholes in a district-wide trachoma eradication programme by MoH and Operation Eye Sight International.
- Supplementing of GoK activities in provision of water and capacity building support in various divisions by World Vision, World Concern, APHIAII and other institutions.

6.0 Recommendations

- Promotion of quick maturing crops and drought-tolerant crops to improve food security in rural households.
- Upscale the ongoing capacity building exercise to enlighten farmers and pastoralists on the importance of Natural Resources Management (NRM).
- Measures to eradicate PPR in the pastoral areas.