

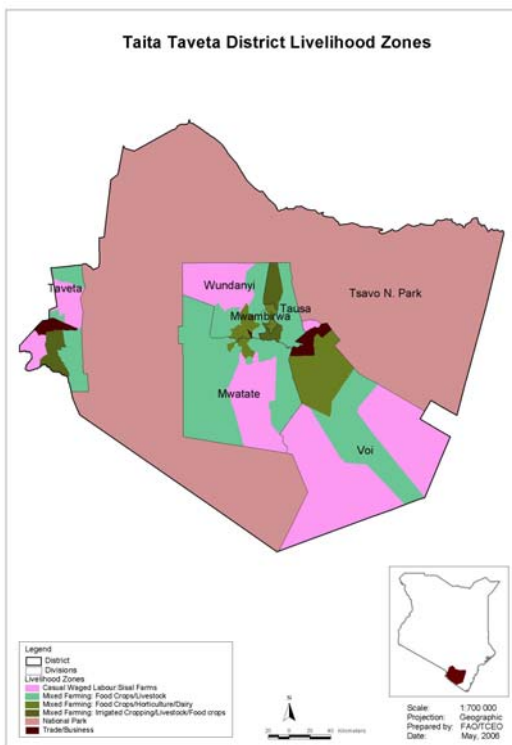


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, NOVEMBER 2008

Taita/Taveta Districts

Warning Stages



| Livelihood zone | Warning Stage | Trend |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Casual Waged Labour: Sisal Farms | Normal | Stable |
| Mixed Farming: Food Crops/Livestock | Alert | Deteriorating |
| Mixed Farming: Food Crops/Horticulture/Dairy | Normal | Stable |
| Mixed Farming: Irrigated Cropping/Livestock/Food Crops | Normal | Stable |
| National Park | Normal | Stable |
| Trade/Business | Normal | Stable |
| DISTRICT | Normal | Stable |

TIMELINE ACTIVITIES

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------|------------|----------|----------------|---------|-----|-------------------------|--------------|----------|------------|----------------|---------|-----|
| Maize | Harvesting | Planting | Weeding | | | | Harvesting | Planting | Weeding | | | |
| Beans | Harvesting | | Planting | Weeding | | Harvesting | | | | Planting | Weeding | |
| Vegetables | | | | | | Sowing Transplanting | Top dressing | | Harvesting | | | |
| Cattle | Milking | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Goats | Weaning | | Mating/Kidding | | | | | Weaning | | Mating/Kidding | | |
| Rainfall | | | Long rains | | | | | | | Short rains | | |

Situation Overview

- The two districts recorded 621.6 mm of rainfall in the month of November compared to 100.6 mm in October. The short rains were erratic, with heavy down pours reported for two days after which the rains subsided for a week.
- Flash floods were reported in Abori, Eldoro and Kimorigho due to heavy down pours realised in both Taveta district and Mt. Kilimanjaro region in Tanzania.
- The rains were of great benefit to both crops and livestock.
- There was notable recharge of rivers, shallow wells and water reservoirs.
- All livelihood zones received rainfall and condition of natural vegetation and pasture improved.
- Access to water improved significantly.
- Compared to the long term average for 2000-2007, the trend was normal but rainfall amount low.
- Compared to the previous month, the average grazing distance from sampled sentinel sites reduced significantly to 5.5 km from 10.1 km.
- Condition of natural vegetation and pasture was good due to rainfall received in the two districts. The quantity increased and was expected to sustain livestock and wildlife for two months.
- National park livelihood zone had dense heavy thickets of forest cover and grass sprouted even in areas that were extremely dry.
- In the month under review some household members got water from roof catchments, tap water, springs, natural rivers, water pans, dams and boreholes as a source of water for both human and livestock.
- Water situation improved and compared to the previous month, the average distance and time to and from the water sources decreased to 3.1 km and 1.7 hrs from 4.8 km and 2.0 hrs respectively.
- Human/wildlife conflict was not intense compared to the previous month. Elephants, which had been a major threat to both human and livestock accessed water, pasture and browse inside the national park.
- Most areas that continued to report cases of human/wildlife conflict even during the rainy season lie on the elephant corridors between Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Park. These areas include Kajire, Talio, Rahai, Paranga, Kishushe, Mwachabo, Mwakitau, Tausa and Kasigau in Taita district.
- In Taveta district, areas that reported cases of human/wildlife conflict were Mata, Challa and Njukini due to lack of solar electric wire fence.
- According to FAO forecast, the entire coast region was likely to receive above normal rains resulting in possible outbreak of Rift Valley Fever.
- District Veterinary Officer Taveta district undertook sero-surveillance activities and found that Eldoro and Abori were positive for RVF in livestock.
- In both districts, livestock body condition improved especially for cattle. This was attributed to availability of natural vegetation and pasture and

access to water within their grazing areas due to recharge of traditional and seasonal rivers.

- Though all livelihood zones received rainfall, the two districts were still showing indicators of food stress especially in the lowlands.
- Milk was available for sale and consumption due to the rains received.
- Cereals and legumes were readily available at market level but still at very high prices. For instance maize traded at Ksh 45 per kilo and beans at Ksh 90. The high prices depleted household savings and most farmers were languishing in poverty.
- Areas that were adversely affected by effects of prices and need particular attention in regard to food security are Mwakine and Riata in Kimorigho division, Jipe division, Challa division and parts of Njukini location in Taveta district.
- Others were Kajire, Marapu, Rahasi, Ndara, Bungule, Bachuma, Marungu, parts of Rukanga in Voi division, Mwakitau, Kamtonga, Chunga Unga and Mukuki in Mwatate division, Mbulia, Ndome and parts of Mbololo in Tausa division and Wongonyi in Mwambirwa division, Paranga, Sangenyi, Nyache, Mwaroko, Mbale and Kishushe in Wundanyi division of Taita district.
- Based on the MUAC measurement, the nutrition status of children below five years decreased, with percentage of those rated as being at risk of malnutrition increasing to 4.1 from 3.8 in October. Out of 1,282 children under-five sampled in 15 sample sites areas, 59 were found with MUAC < 135mm.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSSG

- Revive colonial drainage canals to divert flood waters in Taveta district.
- DVO Taveta district to launch a massive vaccination campaign on RVF in areas left out.
- Food for Assets projects to target rain-fed lowlands of both districts to enhance food security.
- Encourage roof catchment technology on the hilly areas to reduce volume of water flowing downhill.
- Rehabilitate and excavate water pans in the rain fed lowlands, ranches and the park, construct sand dams across dry river beds and promote catchment conservation measures through planting of indigenous trees.
- Increase small-scale irrigation, protect water springs by fencing to reduce degradation and construct water harvesting structures in the lowlands to enhance crop production.
- Electric fencing of the national park next to farming areas to safeguard food crops from destruction.
- Expansion of area under irrigation through desilting of canals and opening of new ones in Taveta district and Tausa and Mwatate in Taita district.

- Promotion of drought-tolerant crops such as cassava, sorghum, sweet potatoes, cowpeas, green grams and millet.
- Capacity building on modern farming technologies and assurance of adequate certified seeds. Farmers to be discouraged from use of fire as a method of land preparation since it destroys organic matter and friendly micro-organisms that promote plant growth.

Current interventions

Non-food interventions

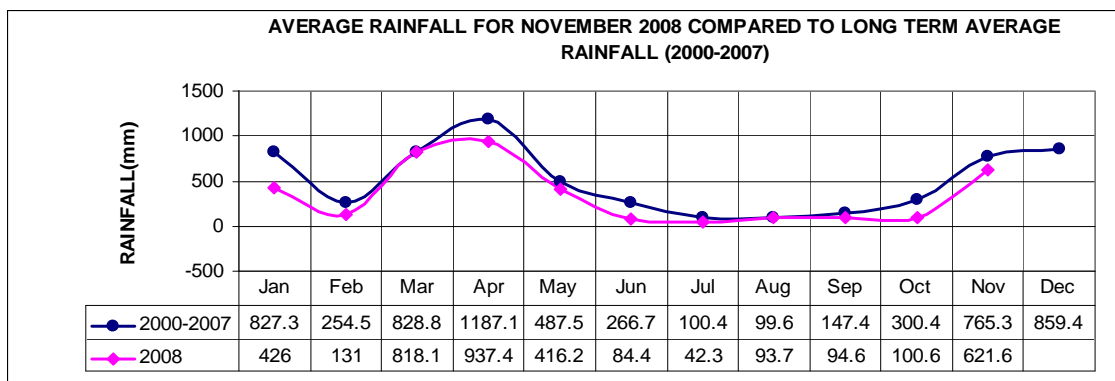
- Environment and Natural Resources sector projects.
 - 30 rain gauges to be installed in sentinel sites to enable recording of reliable rainfall data in both districts- ALRMP.
 - Catchment conservation measures on the hill masses where 22,200 tree seedlings have been planted during the short rains in Bura forest Mwatate division -ALRMP.
- Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Sector projects.
 - Due to prolonged drought DSG agreed that 128,000 litres of water be distributed to thirteen water stressed institutions that is; ten primary schools, one secondary school and two health facilities. ALRMP spent Ksh 600,000 of Drought contingency fund (DCF) to facilitate Daily subsistence allowances for officers, fuel, tyres and minor services, KWS provided staff and two water bowzers and MOW coordinated the water trucking exercise.
 - ALRMP delivered 30 draught animal powers (ox-ploughs) to Mbololo, Ngolia, Mbulia and Kajire women and youth group.
 - 225 kg of NERICA rice and one rice dehusker delivered to rice farmers in Kimorigho, Taveta district -ALRMP.
- Livestock Sector projects.
 - 50 langstroth bee hives delivered to Common Interest Group in Mwatate and Kitughi youth Group -ALRMP.

Food aid

- Taveta district received 200 bags (beans) of 50 kgs, 600 bags of (Rice) of 50 kgs and 100 cartons (cooking oil) of 6 x 3 litres as relief food from the Office of the President Ministry of State for Special Programmes department of Relief and Rehabilitation.
- DSG-Taveta district agreed to hold the food while monitoring the rains so as to address emergency floods that may result to displacement of households in Kimorigho, Eldoro, Gotini and Lotima.
- However, the DSG approved 50 bags of rice, 10 cartons of vegetable oil and 30 bags of beans to be delivered to PLWHAs vulnerable support groups in the district.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall



- In the month of November the two districts recorded 621.6 mm of rainfall compared to 100.6 mm in October.
- The short rains were erratic. Heavy down pours were reported for two days and then the rains disappeared for a week.
- Flash floods were reported in areas of Abori, Eldoro and Kimorigho due heavy down pours realized in both Taveta district and Mt. Kilimanjaro region in Tanzania.
- These rains were of great assistance to both crops and livestock farmers. Notable recharge of rivers, shallow wells and water reservoirs has been observed.
- All livelihood zones received rainfall and condition of natural vegetation and pasture improved and access to water improved.
- Compared to the long term average for 2000-2007 the trend was normal but at a low amount of rainfall.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Condition of natural vegetation and pasture was good due to rainfall received in the two districts.
- The quantity increased and was adequate to sustain livestock and wildlife for two months.
- National park livelihood zone had dense heavy thickets of forest cover and grass sprouted even in areas that were extremely dry.
- Compared with the same month in a normal year the quality and quantity of natural vegetation and pasture was good.
- Compared to the previous month, the average grazing distance from sampled sentinel sites significantly reduced to 5.5 km from 10.1 km.

1.3 Water sources and availability

- In the month under review some household members got water from roof catchments, others were used tap water, springs, natural rivers, water pans, dams and boreholes as a source of water for both human and livestock.
- Water situation improved and compared to the previous month, the average distance and time to and from the water sources decreased to 3.1 km and 1.7 hrs from 4.8 km and 2.0 hrs respectively.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity/conflict/human displacement

- In both districts human/wildlife conflict was not intense compared to the previous month.
- Elephants, which had been a major threat to both human and livestock, accessed water, pasture and browse inside the national park.
- Most areas that continued to report cases of human/wildlife conflict even during the rainy season lie on the elephant corridors between Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Park.
- These areas are Kajire, Talio, Rahai, Paranga, Kishushe, Mwachabo, Mwakitau, Tausa and Kasigau in Taita district.
- In Taveta district areas that reported cases of human/wildlife conflict were Mata, Challa and Njukini due to lack of solar electric wire fence.
- According to FAO forecast, entire coast region is likely to receive above normal rains resulting in possible outbreak of RVF.
- DVO Taveta district undertook sero-surveillance activities and found that Eldoro and Abori were positive for RVF in livestock.

1.4.2 Migration

- In the month under review no major human or livestock migration was reported in the two districts though members of the Somali community continued to lease vast pieces of land in the ranches to graze their livestock.
- In Taveta herders from Salaita and Mahandakini, especially the pastoral Maasai still grazed their animals in the national park.

1.4.3 Implications on food security

- Though all livelihood zones received rainfall, the two districts were still showing indicators of food stress, especially in the lowlands.
- The rains were a sigh of relief to farmers, since the rains came late. However, due to the mode of rainfall prevailing farmers were in a dilemma and had low morale to weed.
- Household members in the lowlands of Taita district and rain-fed areas of Taveta were still requesting for food assistance to sustain them until they harvest.

- Areas still facing acute food shortage and require immediate attention were Mwakitau in Mwatate division, Kasigau and lower Sagalla in Voi division, Tausa division, Wongonyi in Mwambirwa, Paranga, Sangenyi, Nyache, Mwaroko, Mlechi, Choke, Wanganga, Irido and Saghasa in Wundanyi division, Taita district.
- Others were Nakurto, Kasokoni, Chokaa, Kidong'u, Challa kati, Uthiani, Kijijini, Vikwatani, Chumvini A & B, Langata, and Ulawani in Challa division, Njoro, Mtakuja, Kazamoyo, Kachero, Mata village, Nasaini in Jipe division and Lessessia, Kasarani, parts of Mjini, Langata, Chewa, Mahoo, Salaita, parts of Vikwatani, Mwakine, Riata, Madarasani, Lotima A & B, Riata Ndogo/Kubwa in Bomeni division of Taveta district.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1. Livestock body condition

- In both districts livestock body condition improved, especially for cattle.
- This development was attributed to availability of natural vegetation and pasture and access to water within their grazing areas due to recharge of traditional river wells and seasonal rivers.
- Compared with a normal year the livestock body condition was normal at the time of the year.

2.1.2. Milk production

- In the month under review total milk production from sampled households decreased to 9,017 litres from 9,056 litres recorded in October.
- This decrease in milk production could be attributed to the prolonged drought situation in the two districts.
- Casual waged labour: sisal farms and mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zones recorded the lowest amount of milk production due to livestock trekking long distances in search of water and pasture.
- Mixed farming: food crops/horticulture/dairy livelihood zone remained the leading producer of milk recording 82% situated in the wetlands, mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone 17% and casual waged labour: sisal farms 1% found in the rain fed lowlands.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1. Timeliness and condition of various crop production activities

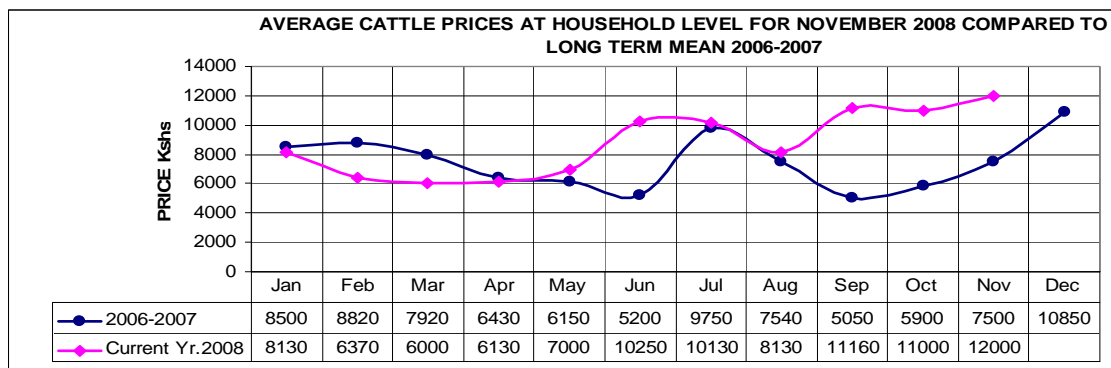
- Most farmers in the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone are busy weeding while those who planted late are waiting for maize to sprout.
- However, in the casual waged labour: sisal farms livelihood zone casual waged labourers are busy harvesting while others are planting the sisal crop.
- In the mixed farming: food crops/horticulture/dairy livelihood zone some farmers are harvesting vegetables while others are weeding maize crop.

- In the mixed farming: irrigated cropping/livestock/food crops livelihood zone most farmers are busy harvesting maize, bananas and sugarcane, while others were weeding maize crop and kales. This was normal at the time of the year.

3.0 Access to food

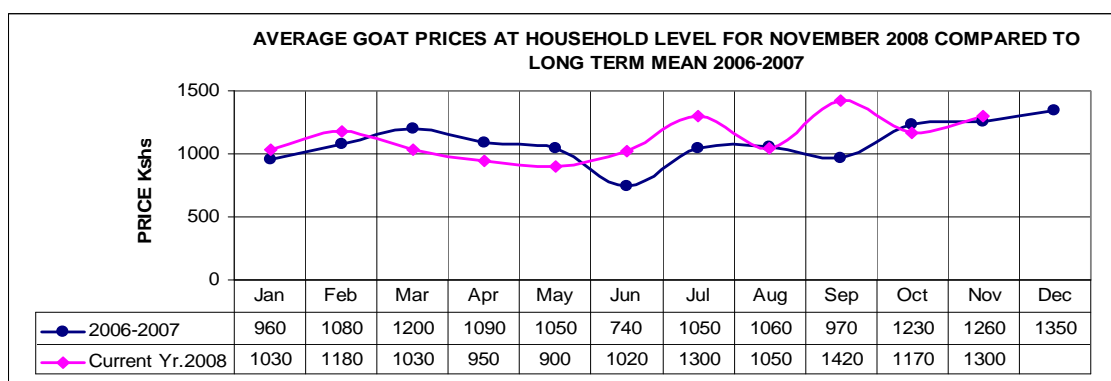
3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices



- The average cattle price rose to Ksh 12,000 from Ksh 11,000 in October.
- This rise could be attributed to the availability of natural vegetation and pasture and access to water within their grazing areas, resulting in improved cattle body condition.
- However, high prices were experienced in the mixed farming: food crops/horticulture/dairy livelihood zone at Ksh 13,500 due to good livestock body condition.
- Low prices prevailed in the casual waged labour: sisal farms at Ksh 9,000 and Ksh 10,000 in the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zones.
- Compared to the long term mean the trend was normal but the price high.

3.1.2 Goats prices

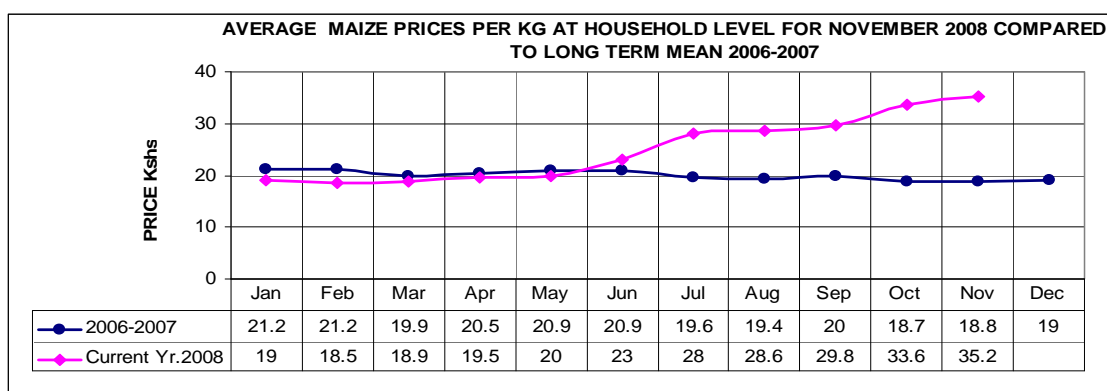


- The average goat price rose to Ksh 1,300 from Ksh 1,170 in October.
- The price rise could be attributed to increase in demand for goat meat as the festive season approaches.

- Prices remained higher in the mixed farming: food crops/horticulture/dairy livelihood zone at Ksh 1,500 than in both the casual waged labour: sisal farms livelihood zone at Ksh 1,200 and Ksh 1,000 in the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone.
- Compared to the long term mean, the trend was normal but the price higher.

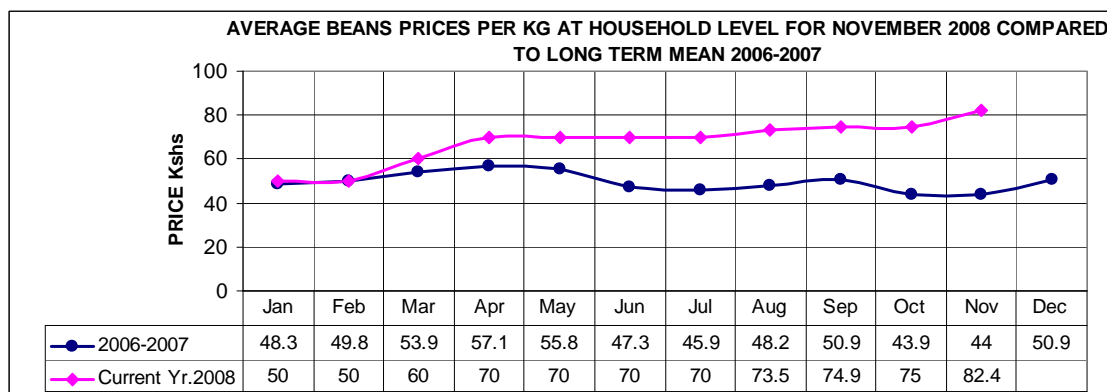
3.2 Crop prices

3.2.1 Maize prices



- The average maize price increased to Ksh 35.2 from Ksh 33.6 recorded in October.
- The gradual increase in price could be attributed to depleted maize stocks at national level.
- Low prices were recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone (Ksh28 per kg) while higher prices were realized in the mixed farming: food crops/horticulture/dairy livelihood zone (Ksh38 per kg) and mixed farming: irrigated cropping/livestock/food crops (Ksh30 per kg) livelihood zone situated in the wetlands.
- Compared to the long term mean the trend was rising and average maize price per kilo at household level was very high.

3.2.2 Beans prices



- The average beans price increased to Ksh 82.4 per kilo from Ksh 75 recorded in October.
- The high price in both districts could be attributed to depletion of bean stocks at household and market level, therefore increasing demand which resulted in increase in prices.
- In the mixed farming: food crops/horticulture/dairy livelihood zone average beans prices at household level were high (Ksh 90 per kg) due to decreased stocks of pulses after harvests.
- Prices were lower in mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone at Ksh 80 per kg and at Ksh 70 per kg in the mixed farming: irrigated cropping/livestock/food crops livelihood zone.
- Compared to the long term mean, the trend was normal but the price very high.

3.3 Income

3.3.1 Livestock income

- Income from livestock sales obtained from 360 sampled households in the month under review decreased significantly.
- Sale of one cow at Ksh 12,000, 21 goats at Ksh 1,300 and 80 chickens at Ksh 190 realised Ksh54,500 compared to Ksh 120,110 realised in the month of October.
- The fall could be attributed to drop in sales of cattle given that their body condition had deteriorated.
- Mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone recorded the highest sales since most farmers depend on livestock sales for income.

3.3.2 Other income sources

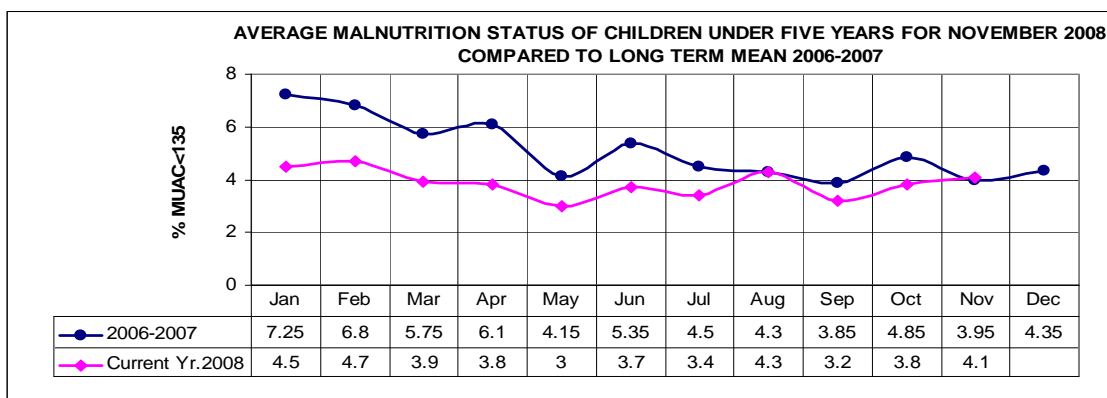
- In the month under review other income sources remained casual labour, petty trade, formal employment, remittances, sand and brick selling, charcoal selling, miraa selling, fishing and small scale mining.
- Income obtained from these sources remained the same and this was normal for the time of the year.

3.4 Implications on food security

- Milk was available for household members to sell and for consumption due to the rains received.
- Cereals and legumes were readily available at market level but still at very high prices for instance maize at Ksh 45 per kilo and beans Ksh 90.
- The high prices depleted household savings and most farmers were languishing in poverty.

4.0 Welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



- Based on the MUAC 135mm measurement, the nutrition status of children below five years decreased.
- The percentage of those rated as being at risk of malnutrition increased to 4.1 from 3.8 in October.
- Out of 1,282 children under-five sampled in 15 sample sites areas, 59 were found with MUAC < 135.
- Though the trend was increasing, the rate was not alarming given that it was still below 4.85.
- The low levels could be attributed increased awareness by Ministry of Health at district level.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non-food interventions

- Environment and Natural Resources sector projects.
 - 30 rain gauges to be installed in sentinel sites to enable recording of reliable rainfall data in both districts- ALRMP.
 - Catchment conservation measures on the hill masses where 22,200 tree seedlings have been planted during the short rains in Bura forest Mwatate division -ALRMP.
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6.0 Recommendations

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- DVO Taveta district to launch a massive vaccination campaign on RVF in areas left out.
- Food for Assets projects to target rain-fed lowlands of both districts to enhance food security.
- Encourage roof catchment technology on the hilly areas to reduce volume of water flowing downhill.
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- Expansion of area under irrigation through desilting of canals and opening of new ones in Taveta district and Tausa and Mwatate in Taita district.
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