

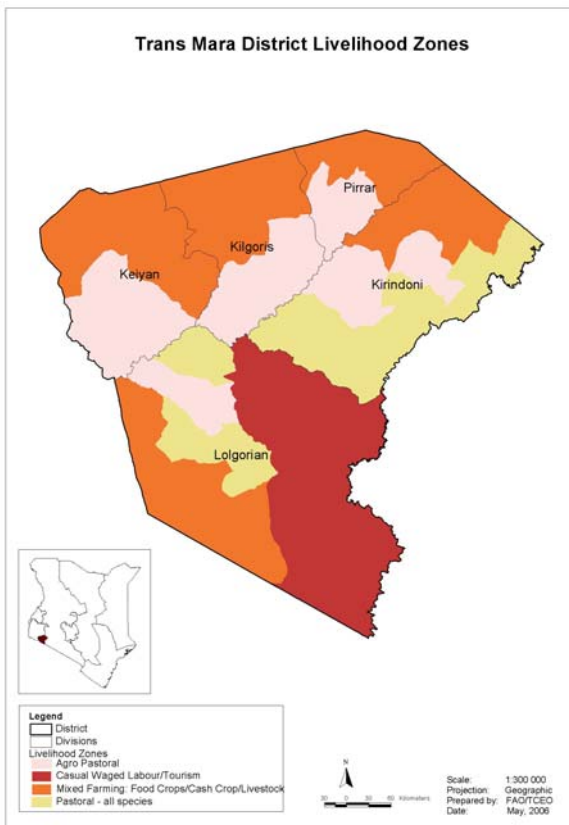


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, NOVEMBER 2008

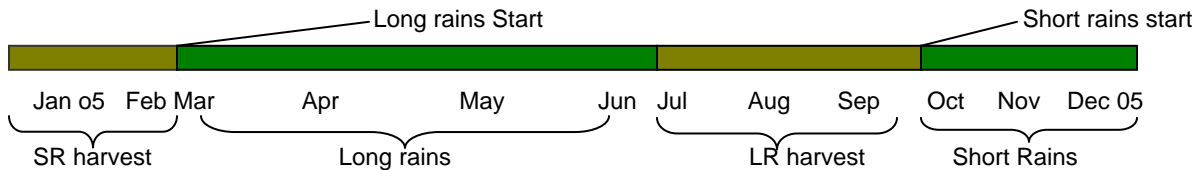
Transmara District

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Mixed farming	Alert	No change
Agro Pastoral	Alert	No change
Pastoral	Alarm	Worsening
Casual waged labour/ tourism	Alarm	Worsening

TIMELINE ACTIVITIES



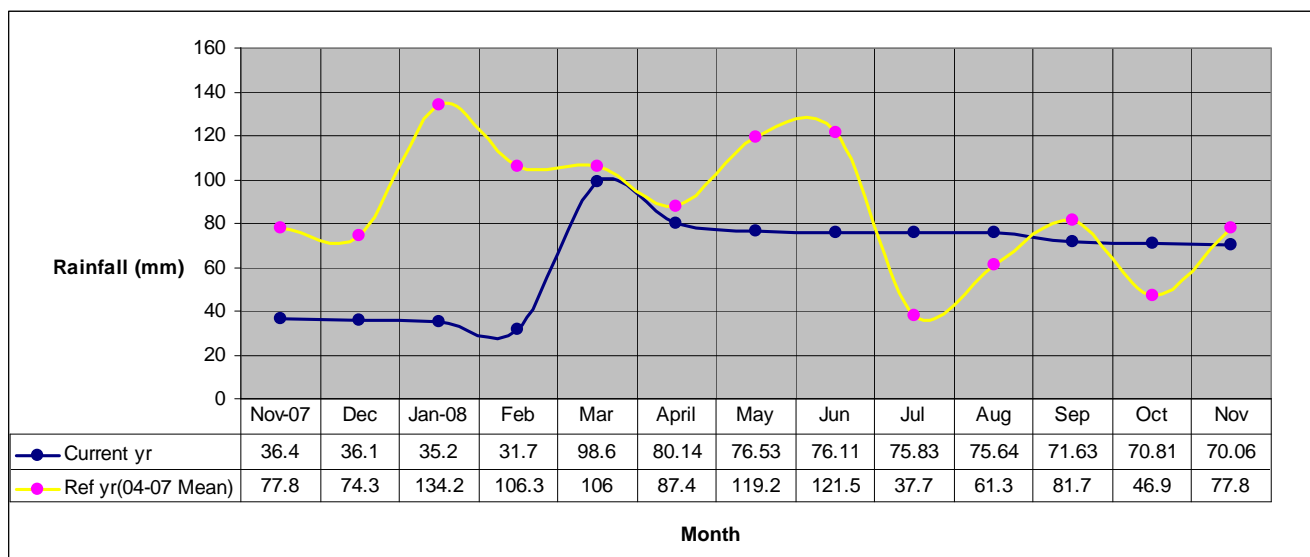
Situation Overview

- The rainfall amount recorded in the district decreased from 70.81mm in October to 70.06mm. The rainfall was recorded for 6 rainy days on average (similar to the previous month) and was not well spread in time and space.
- The water situation for both livestock and domestic use continued to worsen.
- Milk production was fair but on downward trend due to low levels of water and pasture, but was available for children.
- Pasture quantity was low and livestock body condition was still fair.
- Livestock prices increased due to a smaller number of people selling, as there were no much pressing needs (such as fees) for cash as Christmas approached.
- Maize prices were decreasing since maize crop was at various stages, from tussling to milk stage. Beans crop was at post-harvest and its price was increasing.
- The nutrition status of children below five years improved slightly. The number of children rated as being at risk of malnutrition (based on MUAC<135mm measurement) was 4.6 per cent compared to 4.64 in October. The improvement was attributed better nutrition in households due to stability and reduced conflicts in the district.
- Cereal availability also contributed to improved nutrition in most households.
- The food situation was generally getting stable as maize crop advanced to ripening in the district.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall

Rainfall amounts until November 2008 in Transmara district



- The rainfall amount decreased from 70.81mm during the previous month to 70.06mm.

- Rainfall amount and trend were not normal for such a time of the year. Both were on a downward trend, contrary to the expected scenario for the district during short rain.
- The rainfall was a continuation of the previous months that prevailed with intermittent dry spells.
- The district received 6 rainy days on average, similar to the previous month.
- The trend was been downward and has been consistent.
- In mixed farming livelihoods, about 30% of the areas received rainfall. This was same as the previous months.
- Pastoral, Agro-pastoral and Casual waged labour/ tourism livelihoods, received an average of 35% coverage, less than the previous month (40%).
- This spatial distribution was below normal for such a time of the year.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- The quality of vegetation/pasture in the district deteriorated from fair during the previous month to poor.
- The amount of vegetation/pasture was still fair, similar to the previous month.
- Vegetation status in the pastoral livelihood zones decreased more in quality compared to that of the previous month.
- The quantity available was less than that of the previous month. This was because of the low and reducing rainfall in the district over the months.
- The level of pasture quantity was less than that of the same month during a normal year.
- The quantity of the vegetation in the Mixed farming livelihood zones was however higher than that of the other livelihoods as the areas received better rainfall amount than the rest.
- The trend was downward due to low and decreasing rainfall amounts.

1.2.1 Distance to grazing areas

- The average distance from livestock concentration points to main grazing areas varied from 3.46kms to 5.2 Kms and 3.02 kms to 3.5 kms in Agro-pastoral / Pastoral and Mixed farming livelihoods respectively.
- The distance was above normal and was attributed to scarcity of pasture due to inadequate rainfall over a number of months.

1.3 Water sources and availability

- During the month, water sources that were mainly in use by both livestock and people were Rivers, Pans and Dams.
- Seasonal rivers and catchment pools were not in use any longer as most had dried up.
- The water situation was worsening.
- All the livelihoods were unstable in terms of water situation.

1.3.1 Household access to water

- The average distance (in kms) from households to main water sources ranged between 4.5 and 5 in the district. This was same as for the previous month.

- This distance was higher compared to that of the same month during a normal year.
- The distance in the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral livelihoods zones exceeded that of other zones by more than 3kms.

1.3.2 Livestock access

- The average distance (in kms) from livestock concentration points to main water sources ranged between 6.0 and 8.0 in the district, similar to that of the previous months.
- The low variation was because of the nature of the water sources, which were permanent and relied on by majority.
- This distance was higher compared to that of the same month during the normal year.
- In the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones, the distance was higher than other areas by over 4.3 Kms than other zones.
- Pastoralists continued to cope with the situation as there was no other alternative.

1.4 Insecurity/conflict/human displacement

- The situation was calm. There were normal intercommunity movements (Kipsigis/Maasai).
- The situation had improved from that of the previous months and there was peace during the month.
- Peace barazas and meetings were being held at the district level in search of a lasting solution.

1.5 Implications on food security

- Low rains impacted negatively on production; pastures, water situation and livestock in general.
- Milk production was lower than the previous month, and the trend kept downward.

2.0 Rural indicators (food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- The body condition of cattle, sheep and goats was fair, similar to that of the previous months.
- The low pasture and rainfall amounts had not seriously impacted on the body condition of livestock.
- There were no significant variations in the body condition of livestock between pastoral/Agro-pastoral zones and the Mixed farming zones.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- There were no serious livestock disease cases reported during the month.

2.1.3 Milk production

- The average milk production per household declined.

- This was because of the decrease in water and pasture levels due to low and reducing rainfall amounts.
- The trend and quantity of milk production was less than normal for such a time of the year.
- The mixed farming livelihoods recorded a relatively higher milk production than pastoral zones.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.2 Timeliness and condition of various crop production activities

- In farming areas, Maize was at various growth stages, from tussling to milk stage.
- The rainfall insufficiency posed no danger to the crop in the fields, although there is likely to be poor yields as the low rains had negatively affected the crop during some stages.

2.2.3 Pests and diseases

- No major crop pests and diseases were reported.

2.2.4 Implications on food security

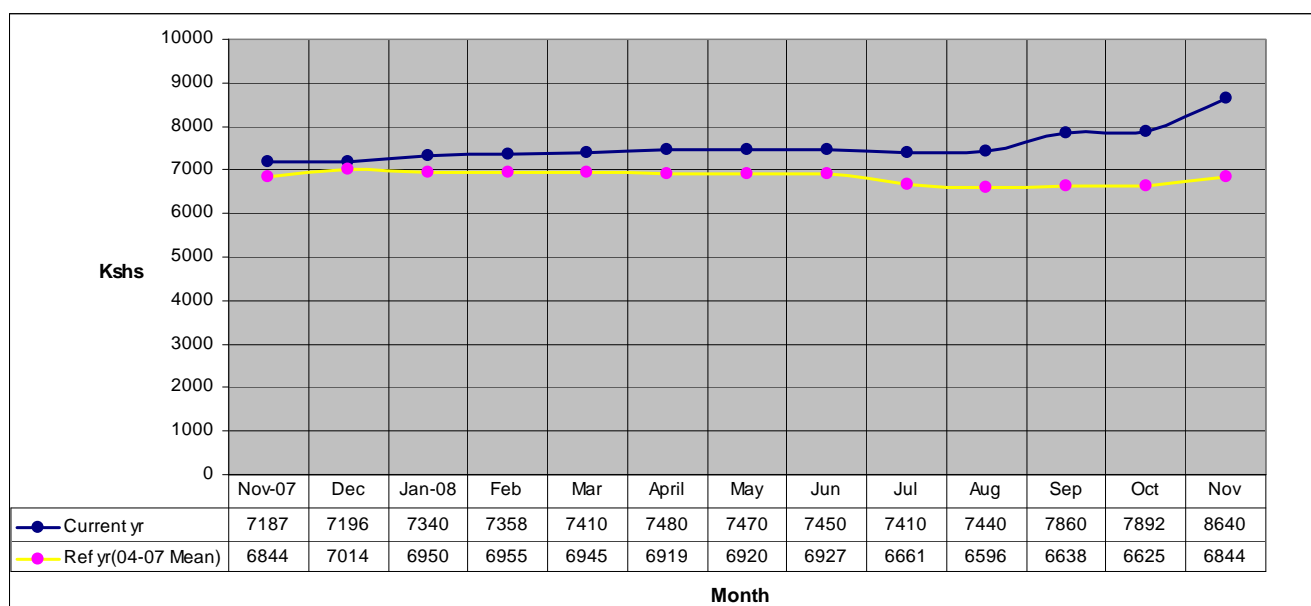
- In areas where maize had been affected by low rain falls, there was likely to be low yields, especially as the rainfall intensity persistently reduced during the crucial stages of the crop.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices

Average cattle prices until November 2008 in Transmara district

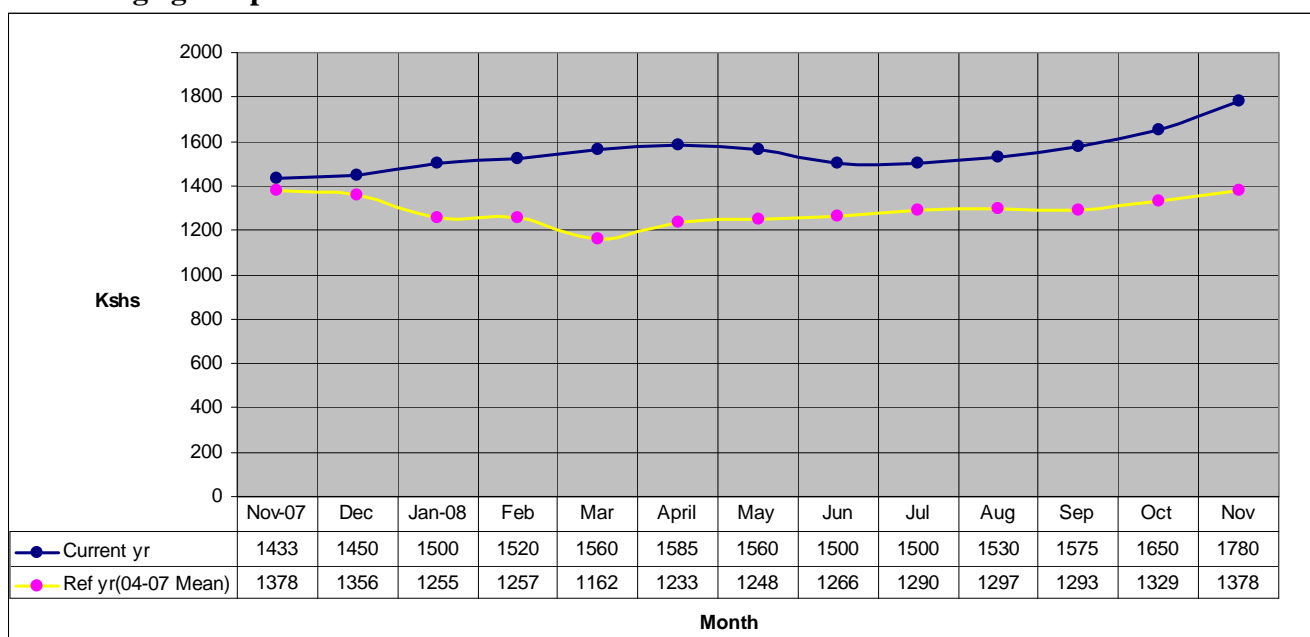


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- The average price for cattle was Ksh8,640, more than that of the previous month which was Ksh7,892.
- The price increased because of the competitive livestock market.
- Few households sold their animals, compared to other times of the year because of little pressure for cash.
- Trade in livestock started, as there were more cases of intercommunity movements.
- The cattle price was still higher than normal.
- This was positive to food security as more cash was fetched from cattle sales to purchase the cereals and pulses for household survival.

3.1.2 Goats prices

Average goats prices until November 2008 in Transmara district



n=360

- The average price of a goat increased from Ksh1,650 to Ksh1,780.
- The price was stable and went up because goats were the appropriate option for most households in the district to trade with.
- The price of goats was, however, still higher than normal for such a time of the year.
- This was a downward trend.

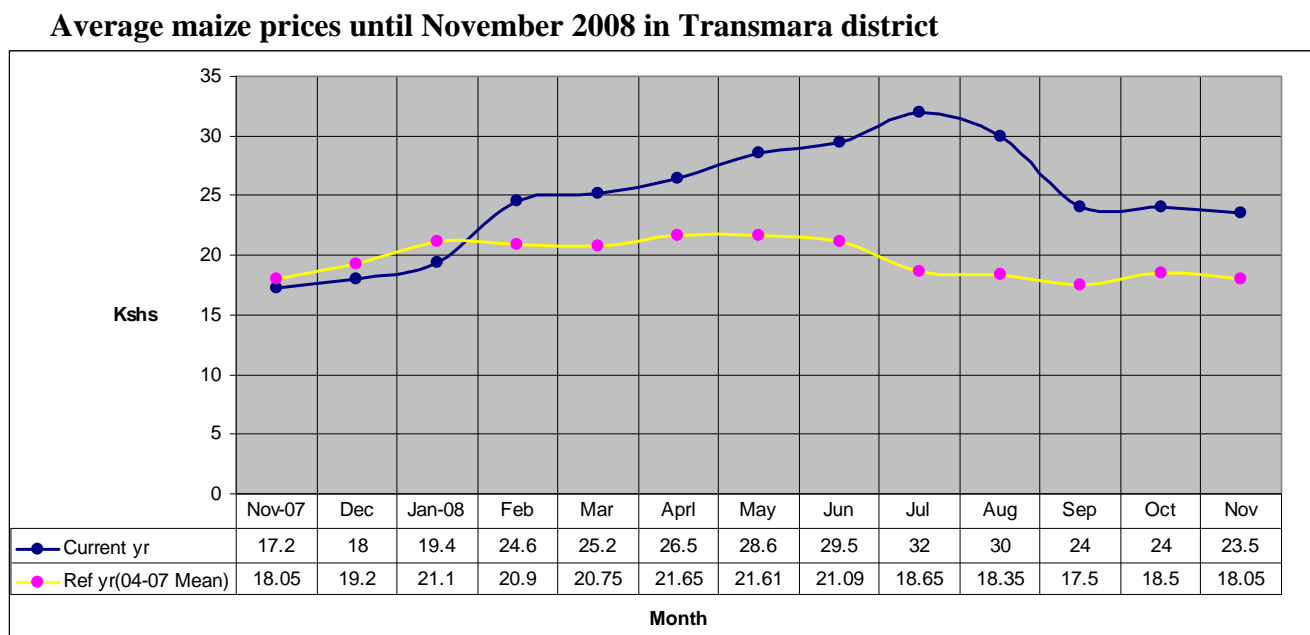
3.2 Milk Consumption

- Milk availability was low.
- The consumption pattern maintained the trend.
- Fewer members consumed milk and more milk was reserved only for children.
- The % for everyone decreased from 18.24 to 18.15.

- The % for only children increased from 35.83 to 36.44. A higher number of members of the household accessed no milk and more was reserved for children.

3.3 Crop prices

3.3.1 Maize prices

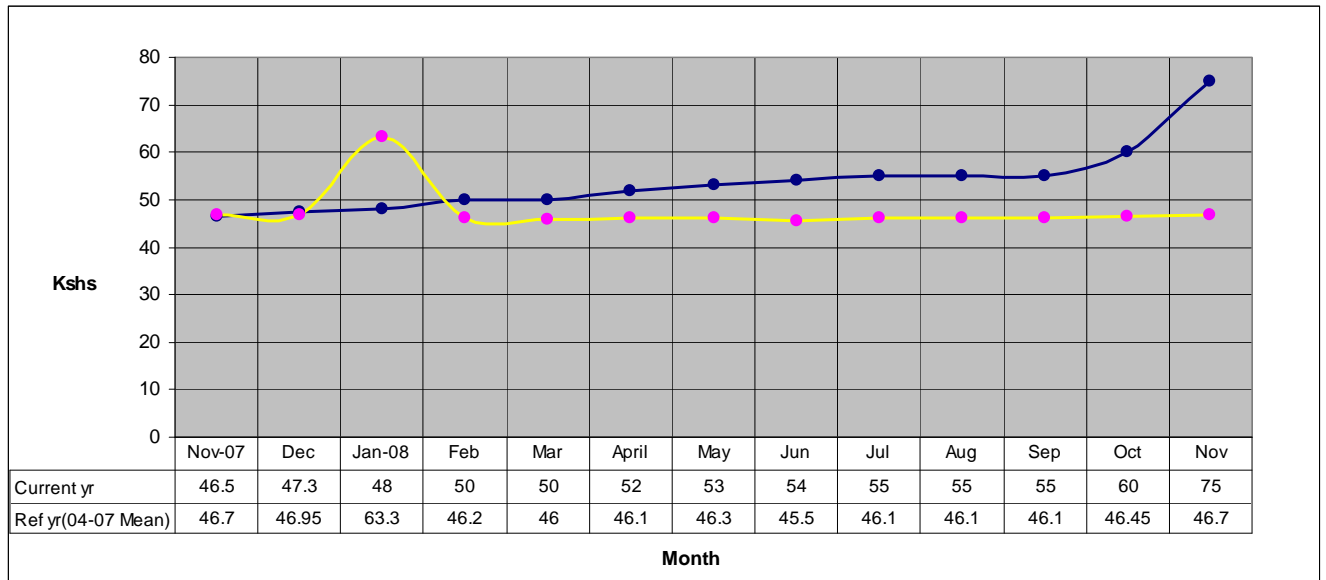


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- The average price of maize remained Ksh 23.50, less than for the previous month, which was Ksh24.00.
- Maize price started decreasing in the whole district. This was because the crop was at harvest stage in some areas and was getting more available.
- The price trend of maize was normal for such a time of the year.
- The level of maize price was normal for such a time of the year.

3.3.2 Rice prices

Rice prices until November 2008 in Transmara district

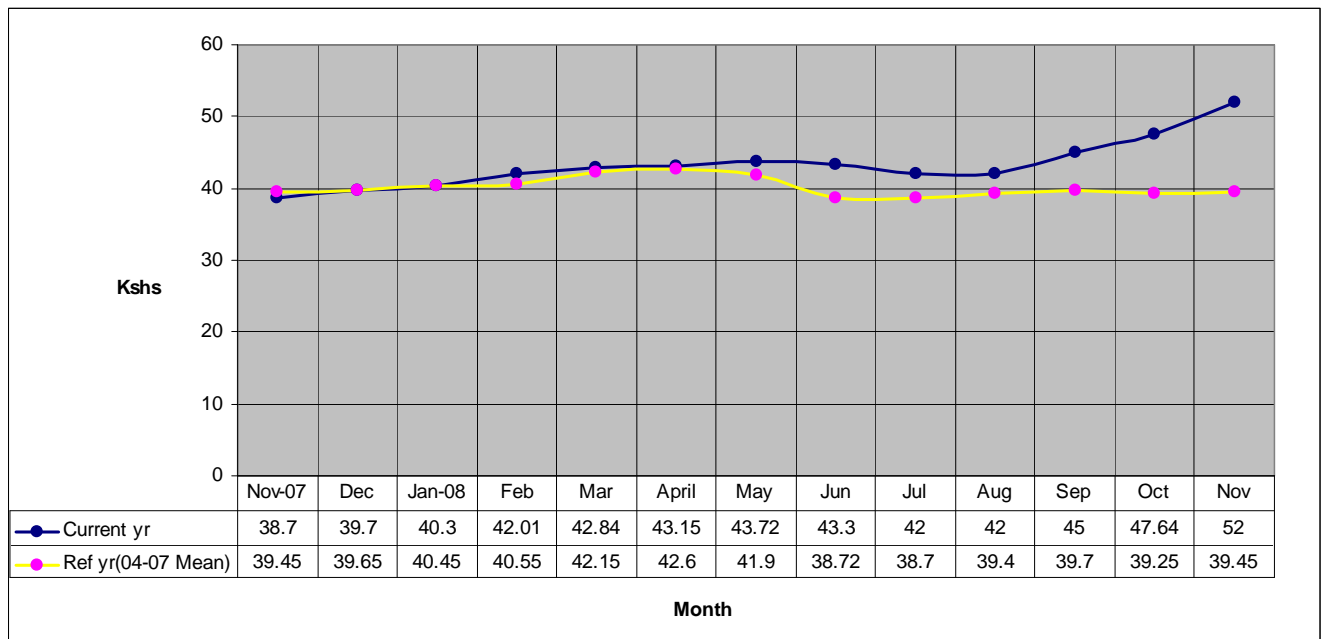


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- The average price of rice was Ksh75, more than that of the previous month at Ksh 60. This was the case in all the livelihoods.
- Both price level and trend were normal for the season.
- The level was attributed to the general effect of increased transportation costs countrywide.
- The situation is likely to prevail since transportation costs are still high due to high fuel costs.

3.3.3 Beans prices

Beans prices until November 2008 in Transmara district



n=360

- The average price beans was Ksh52 per kilo, higher than Ksh47.64 during the previous month.
- This was the case in all livelihoods. The prices were attributed to the fact that beans crop had long been harvested and was scarce.
- The trend was likely to prevail and this is considered normal for the time of the year.

3.4 Income

3.4.1 Livestock income

- Income from livestock sales was less than for the previous month but the trend was rising.
- All livelihood zones experienced relatively low sales. This was because livestock was hardly sold, a situation that had prevailed during the previous month.
- This trend was normal and impacted negatively on food security in the district. On the other hand, it was positive due to the improved purchasing power of households since prices were high.

3.4.2 Trade

- There were no significant income from other activities. The situation was normal.

3.5 Cereal: Meat Price Ratio

- The cereal/meat price ratio decreased from 106.34 to 106.25. This was because of the decreasing cereal prices versus increasing meat prices.
- This had a positive implication on the food security as there was an enhanced purchasing power for cereals because more income was fetched from livestock.

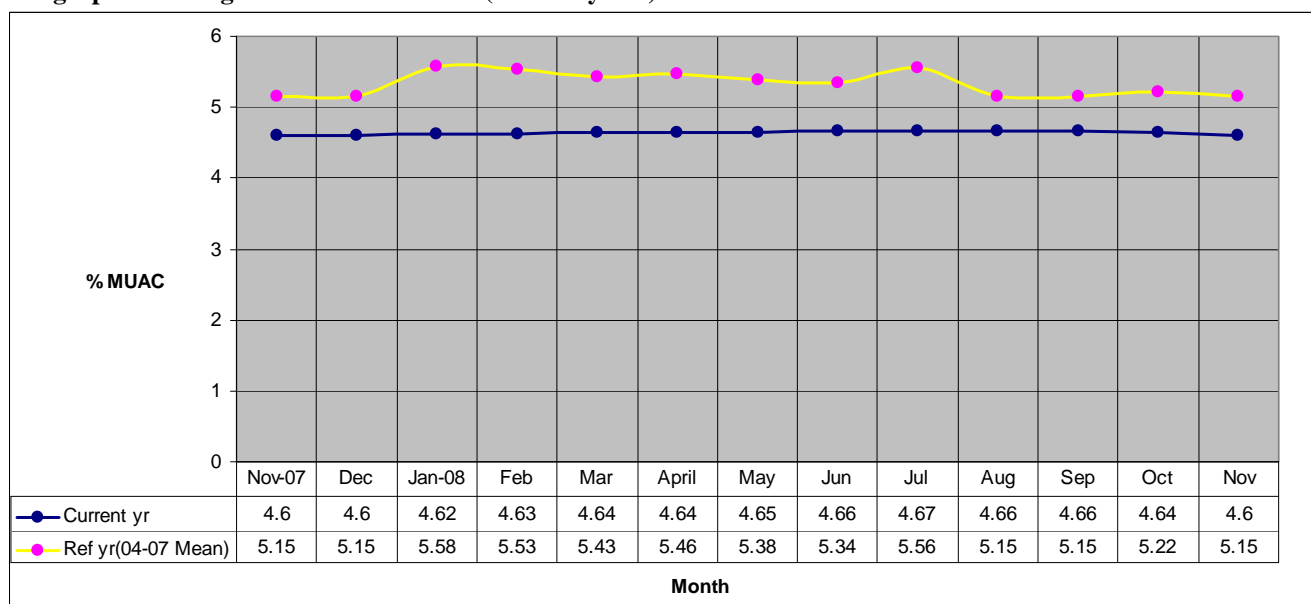
3.6 Implications on food security

- In general, the implications of the above situations to food security were positive.

4.0 Welfare indicators (utilization of food)

4.1 Nutritional status

The graph of average MUAC for children (under 5 years) until November 2008 in Transmara district



n=1,082

- The nutrition status of children below five years improved slightly.
- The number of children rated as being at risk of malnutrition (based on MUAC<135mm measurement) was 4.6 per cent compared to 4.64 in October.
- The improvement was attributed better nutrition following availability of milk in households, stability and reduced conflicts in the district.
- The rate was better than the long term mean of 5.15 per cent.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non-food interventions

- Strengthening of the district peace committees and the district conflict resolution forum.

6.0 Recommendations

- In order to strengthen conflict management, more institutions should be established by the District peace Committees at divisional and community levels.
- There is need to consider strengthening of community based policing. More peace workshops should be held during this festive period when more members of the communities, including students are available. **ACTION: Provincial Administration, Kenya Police and ALRMP II.**
- There is need to improve poor roads condition in the district, including security access bridges. More players to be sought, e.g. TCC. **ACTION: Public Works, ALRMP II.**