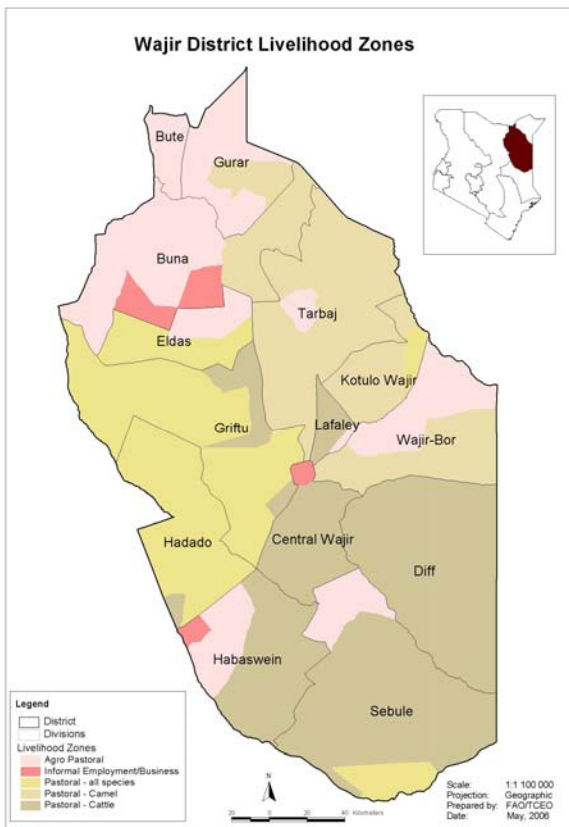




**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, NOVEMBER 2008

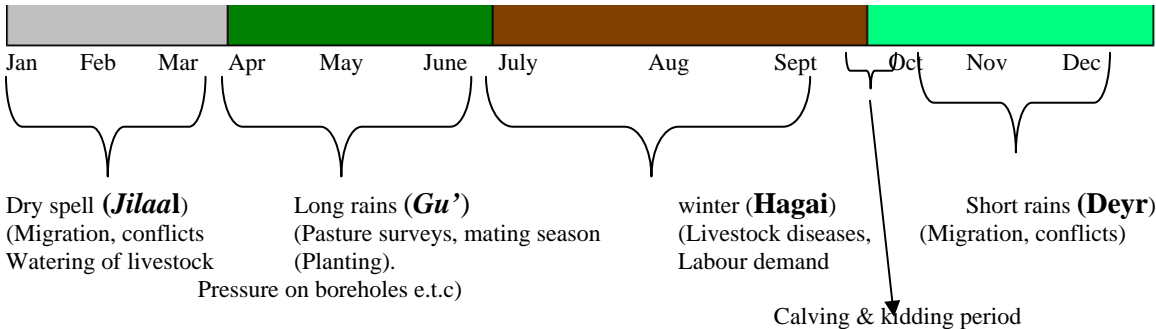
Wajir District



Warning Stages

Livelihood Zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Pastoral – All Species	ALERT	Improving
Pastoral – Cattle	ALERT	Improving
Pastoral – Camel	ALERT	Improving
Agro – Pastoral	ALERT	Improving
Informal Employment/Business	ALERT	Improving

TIMELINE ACTIVITIES



Situation Overview

- The district received fair amount of rainfall though some areas were reported to be dry. The areas that were worst affected include Habaswein division and Sabule division, Western part Arbajahan, Athbohol, Basir, Gunana and Ogorale. Wajir town received a continuous three days of heavy rainfall, leading to flooding.
- The quantity and quality of pasture and browse improved in most of the divisions. However, due to the military operation and Gare and Murule clan conflicts in Mandera, many pastoralists migrated to Wajir East District, resulting in over stretching of pasture and water resources and environmental degradation.
- Water sources and availability improved in all the divisions with the onset of the short rains. Pans impounded water, which saw pastoralists moved to wet season grazing areas.
- Milk production increased slightly as pasture and browse improved in quantity and quality due to the short rains received. The average market price of milk per 750ml bottle was Ksh35 to 40 in Wajir market.
- Livestock production was fair and livestock breeding was evident despite the presence of *Peste des petits ruminants* (PPR). Lumpy skin disease in Camels and PPR were the prevalent livestock diseases.
- The Ministry of Agriculture distributed seeds and farmers planted crops, including sorghum and maize. Farmers in Wajir Central practised small garden farming using small irrigation pumps.
- The prices of goats and cattle dropped compared to previous months, while prices of cereals increased due to the ongoing food shortage in the country.
- High migration of pastoralist from Mandera was expected to reduce pasture resources, hence low milk production and high milk prices. Similarly, livestock body conditions will be affected, hence reduced prices and low purchasing power of pastoralists, leading to negative impact on food security.
- No cases of insecurity were reported but there were security concerns over the presence of Alshabab and Kenyan military along the border with Somalia. The recent incidence of abduction and seizing of government vehicles in Elwak triggered an alert.
- 350 cases of kalazaar were reported in the districts but worst affected areas were Eldas, Griftu and Arbajahan. The district was also on alert following a cholera outbreak in Mandera district.
- The nutrition status of children under five years remained poor during the month. The percentage of those rated as being at the risk of malnutrition (based on MUAC <135mm measurement) dropped slightly to 30.5 from 32.3 in October. The high rates were attributed to escalating prices of milk and cereals. The worst hit areas Eldas, Griftu and Arbajahan due to the kalaazar outbreak.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSSG

- Mass chlorination of water wells.
- Community hygiene and sanitation awareness creation.
- Disinfecting of swamps with larvicides.
- Vector indoor spraying of households.

- Distribution of ITN.
- Medical outreach services.
- Emergency cholera kit.
- Drilling of boreholes in centres without reliable water sources and treatment.
- Strengthen livestock disease surveillance and management system.
- Increase the number of extension service providers, staffing level at Ministry of Health and Education.
- Strengthening of early warning system to help detect and prepare possible outbreaks, drought and mitigation measures.

Current interventions

Food aid

- EMOP program by world food program through the implementing agencies Oxfam, Aldef-Kenya and Wasda.
- Supplementary feeding program to under fives by Merlin (Ngo), SFP and support to other vulnerable children.
- School feeding program and therapeutic feeding program by Merlin.
- Support to grannies by Catholic missions.
- GOK relief food distribution by lead agency KRCS.

Non -food interventions

- Ad hoc vaccination against PPR.
- De-silting of some of existing pans through FFA program.
- Mobile VCT services supported by APHIA II.
- Water and sanitation activities by Oxfam/ALDEF/WASDA.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- The short season started in the 4 districts and fair rains were received in many areas though some areas were reported to be dry.
- The worst affected areas were Habaswein division and Sabule division, Western part Arbajahan, Athbohol, Basir, Gunana and Ogorale.
- Wajir town received a continuous three days of heavy downpour, causing flooding. Over 500 households were partly submerged in water mainly due to the unplanned construction of houses that blocked the natural drainage system.
- However, the town does not have flash floods drainage channels and roof rain water harvesting structures.
- The water submerged homesteads, water wells and bucket latrines posing a health hazard.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- The quantity and quality of pasture and vegetation cover improved in most of the divisions.
- However, the military operation and clan fighting between the Gare and Murule in Mandera resulted in migration of many pastoralists to Wajir East District hence

overstretching the pasture and the water resources and causing environmental degradation.

1.3 Water source and availability

- The sources of water and availability improved in all the divisions with the on-set of the short rains.
- Water sources during the dry season were mainly shallow wells and deep boreholes but many pans impounded water due to the rains, hence the pastoralists moved to wet season grazing areas.
- The trekking distances reduced to an average of 5-10km for both Human and livestock.

1.4 Emerging issues.

- Influx of pastoral communities from Mandera district due to military operation and clan conflict was an issue of concern to the pastoralists in Wajir.
- High increase of essential commodity prices including cereals and commercial goods.
- Outbreak PPR in goats and sheep was reported, though vaccination was done by veterinary department. ALRMP responded and vaccinated 17,000 goats and sheep.

1.4.1 Insecurity

- No cases of insecurity were reported but there were fears/security concerns over the presence of Alshabab and Kenyan military along the border with Somalia and the recent incidence of abduction and seizing of government vehicles in Elwak.

1.4.2 Migration

- Pastoralists migrated from Mandera district to Wajir during the last long rain season and they went back to Mandera at the on-set of the short rains season.
- However an influx was during the month following a military operation in Mandera and inter-clan conflicts.
- The influx of pastoralists will have a negative impact, especially on the scarce resources of pasture and water. The worst affected areas were areas bordering Mandera including Tarbaj, Kotulo and Wajir-bor division.

1.4 Implications on food security

- High migration of pastoralists from Mandera district was expected to put pressure on pasture and water resources, hence low milk production and high milk prices.
- Similarly, livestock body conditions will be affected, hence reduced prices and low purchasing power of pastoralists.
- This will impact negatively on food security.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

- Production of livestock was fair and livestock breeding was evident despite the presence of PPR disease.

- Camels and the cattle were doing well though rejuvenation of pasture was low due to inadequate rains.

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Generally, the livestock body conditions are fair following the improvement of pastures and browse however, the livestock body condition is expected to deteriorate due to the high migration of pastoralist from Mandera and if the short rains will be inadequate.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- Lumpy skin diseases in camels and outbreak of PPR were reported.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk production increased slightly as pasture and browse improved in quantity and quality due to the short rains received.
- The average market price of milk per 750ml bottle was Ksh35 to 40 at Wajir market.

2.2 Crop production

- The Ministry of Agriculture distributed seeds and farmers planted crops, including sorghum and maize.
- Farmers Wajir central practised small garden farming using small irrigation pumps.

2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of crop production.

- Farmers in Bute, Gurar, Sarman, Khorofharar and Habaswein planted and crops were doing well but more rains are required for them to mature fully.

2.2.4 Implications on food security

- The district food security situation is expected to improve if the harvest is good.

3.0 Access to food

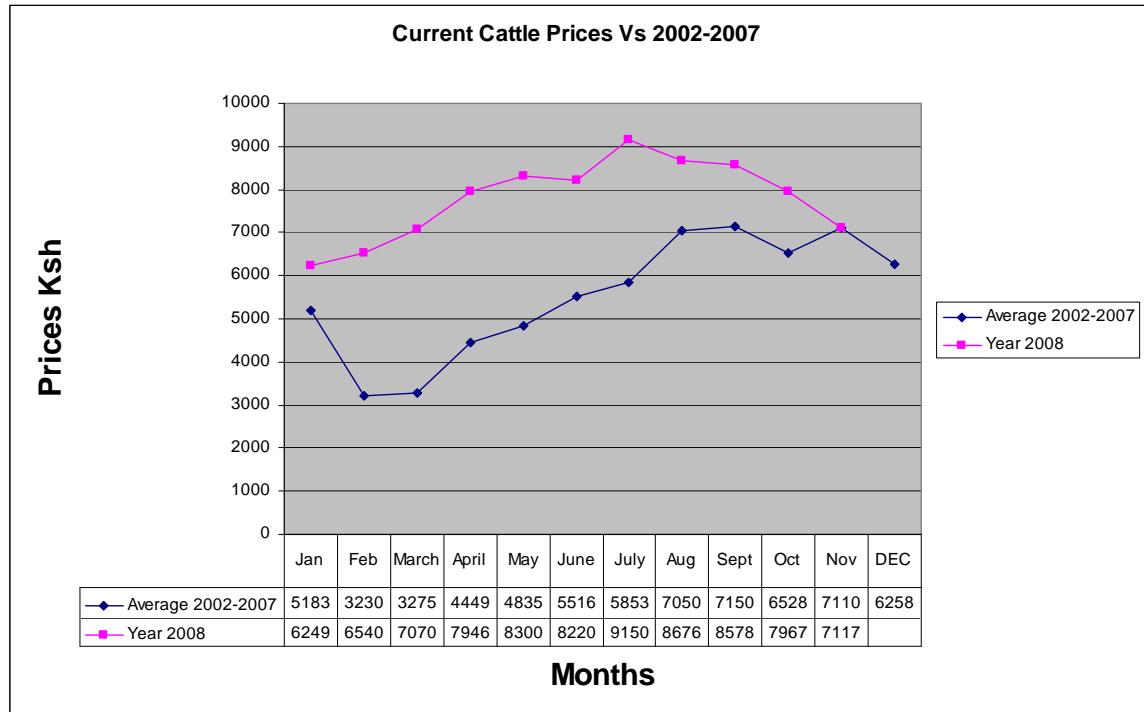
3.1 Livestock marketing

- The prices of livestock increased, except for cattle.
- The fall in cattle prices was attributed to inaccessibility of markets due to the conflict in El-wak.

3.1.1 Cattle prices

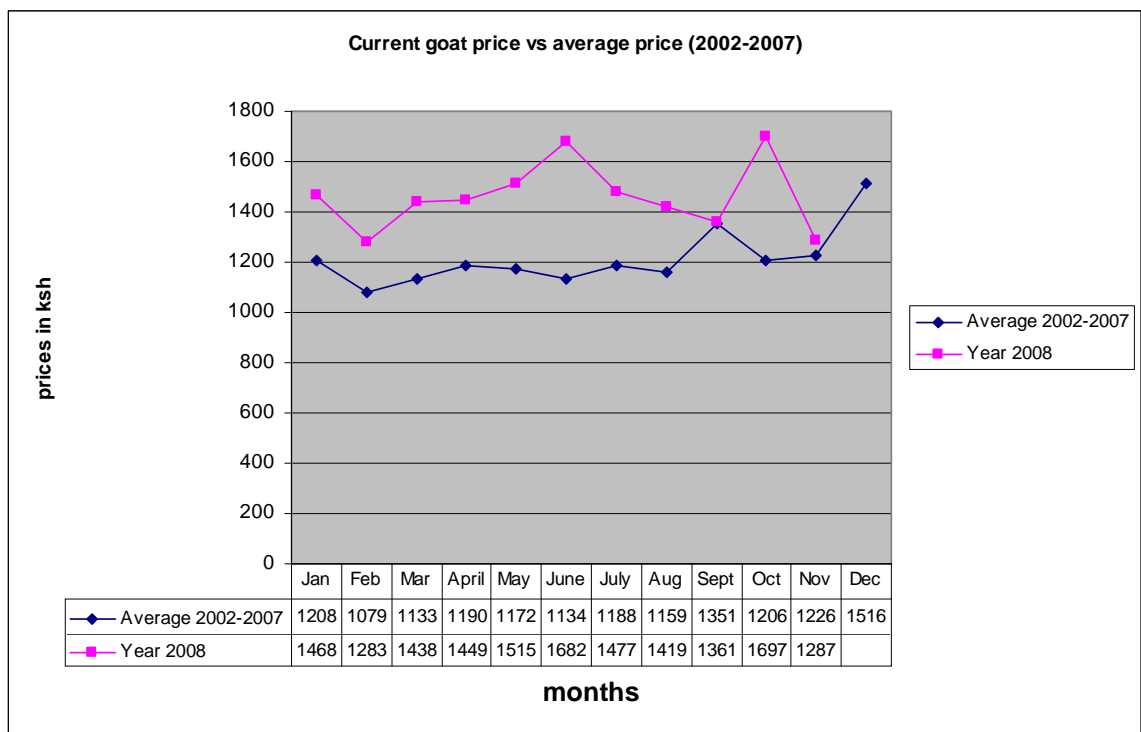
- The price of cattle dropped significantly from Ksh7,967 in October to Ksh7,116.6.
- The drop was attributed to clan fighting and military operation at El-wak since cattle were being trekked to El-wak Somalia, which was closed to pastoralists from Wajir.

The graph below indicates cattle long term mean prices against current year 2008



3.1.2 Goat prices

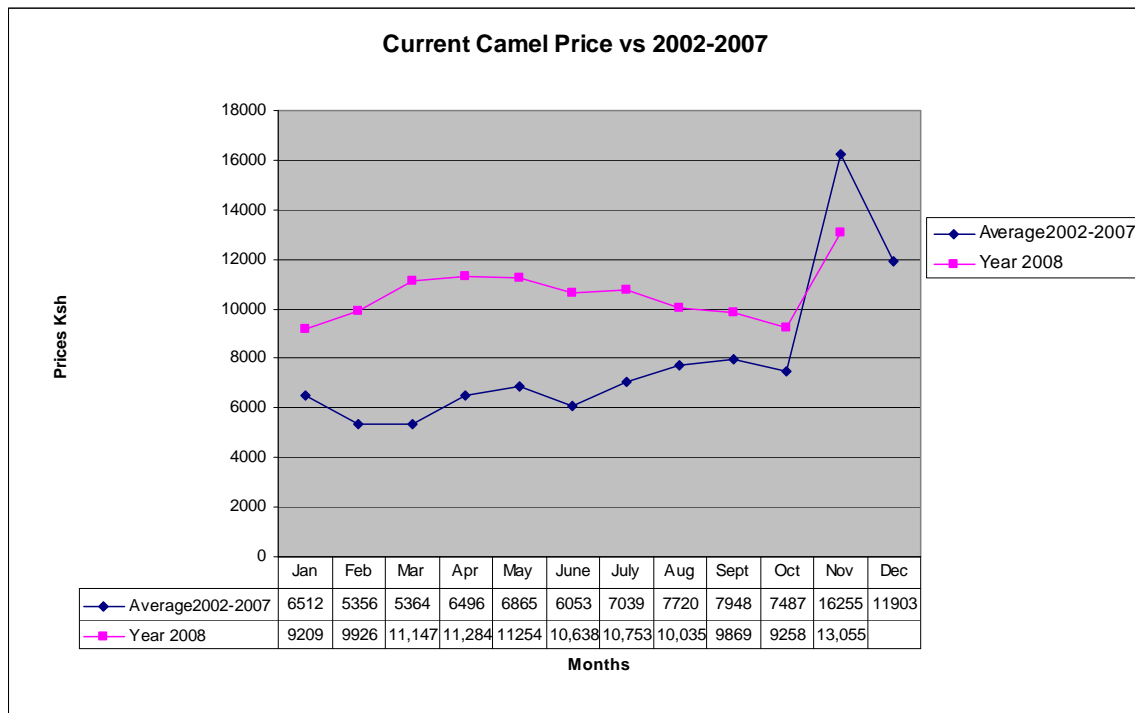
The graph indicates Goat long term mean prices against current year 2008.



- The price of goats dropped from Ksh 7,967 in October to Ksh 7,117.
- The drop was attributed to supply as pastoralists sold their animals to meet other daily food needs.
- This posed a threat to household food security.

3.1.3 Camel prices

The graph below indicates Camel long term mean prices against current year 2008.



- The price of camels increased to Ksh 13,055 from Ksh 9258 in October.
- The price increase was attributed to improved body condition.

3.2 Livestock sales

Generally, the sale of livestock was poor as a result of poor body condition.

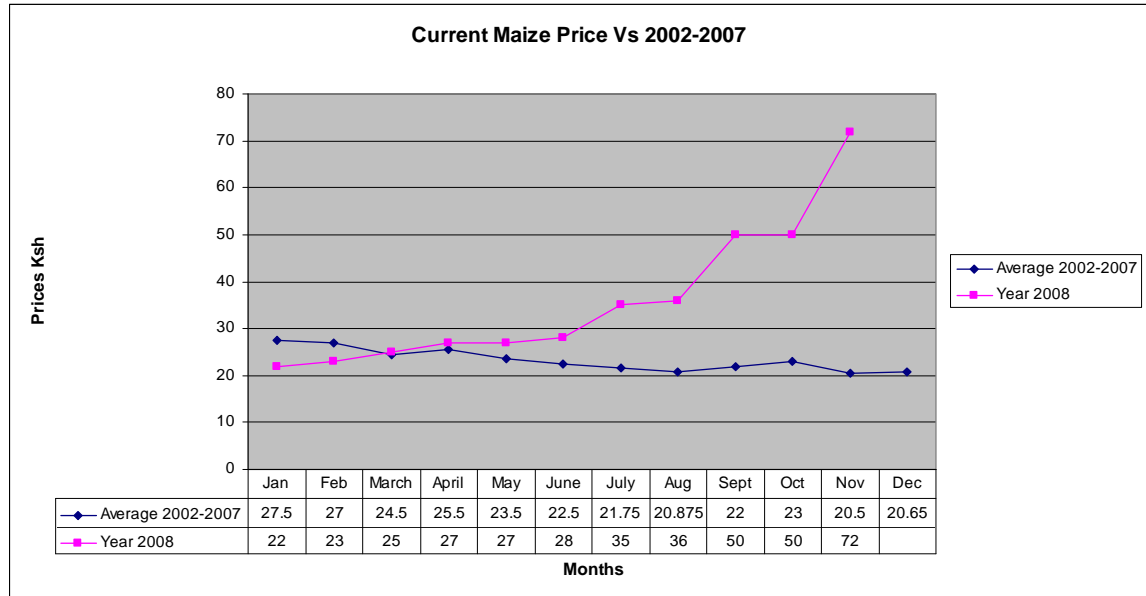
3.3 Milk consumption

- Milk consumption was low compared to other seasons in the same period.
- This was as a result of inadequate pasture and browse.

3.4 Crop prices

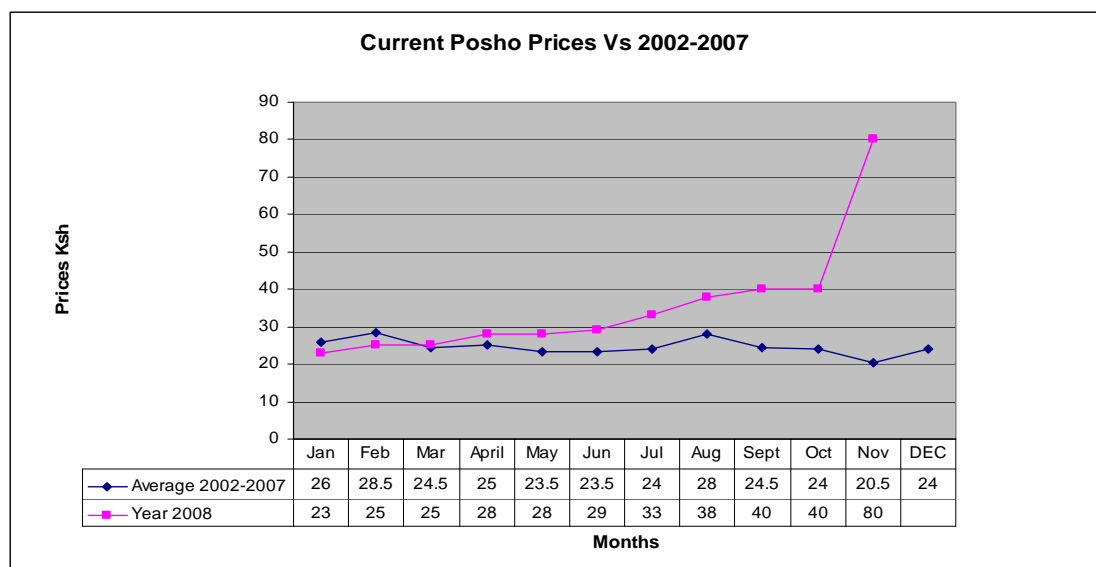
3.4.1 Maize prices

The graph below indicates maize long term mean prices against current year 2008.



- The average maize price during the month was Ksh72 per kilo, up from Ksh 50 in October.
- The average price was not normal at the time of the year.

3.4.2 Posho (maize meal) prices

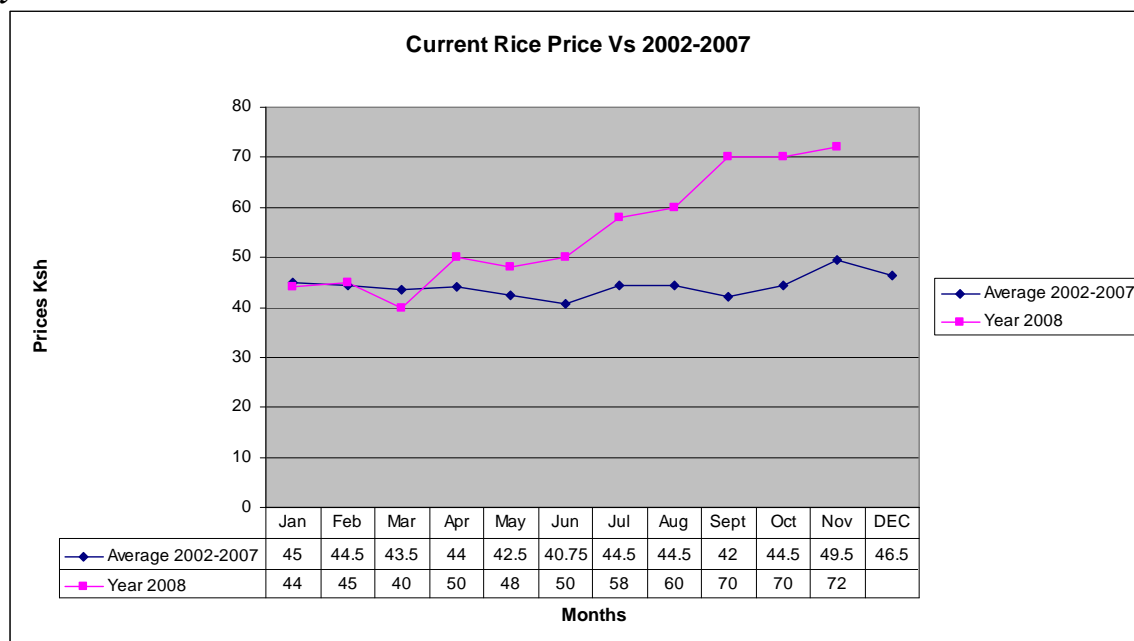


- The price of posho increased by Ksh 40 compared to previous month.

- The price was Ksh 80 per kilo, up from Ksh40 in October.
- This was due to the food shortage in the country.

3.4.3 Rice prices

The graph below indicates long term mean prices of rice against the current year 2008.



- The price of rice also increased compared to the previous month.
- The average price was Ksh 72 per kilo, up from Ksh 70 in October.
- The price was expected to increase further since the demand was higher than the last month and rice is commonly used.

3.5 Income

3.5.1 Crop income

- Income from crops was derived through kitchen farming using small irrigation pumps, especially in Wajir Central.
- The crops were sold in the local market.
- Drought resistant crops were also grown in small-scale farms.

3.5.2 Livestock income

- Income from sale of livestock was minimal.
- However, in small business livelihood zone, most people engaged in livestock trade as brokers, middlemen or small scale traders and sale of quarry products.
- Hides and skin were also transported to outside markets.
- Animals were also traded across the border in markets in Ethiopia.

3.5.3 Other income

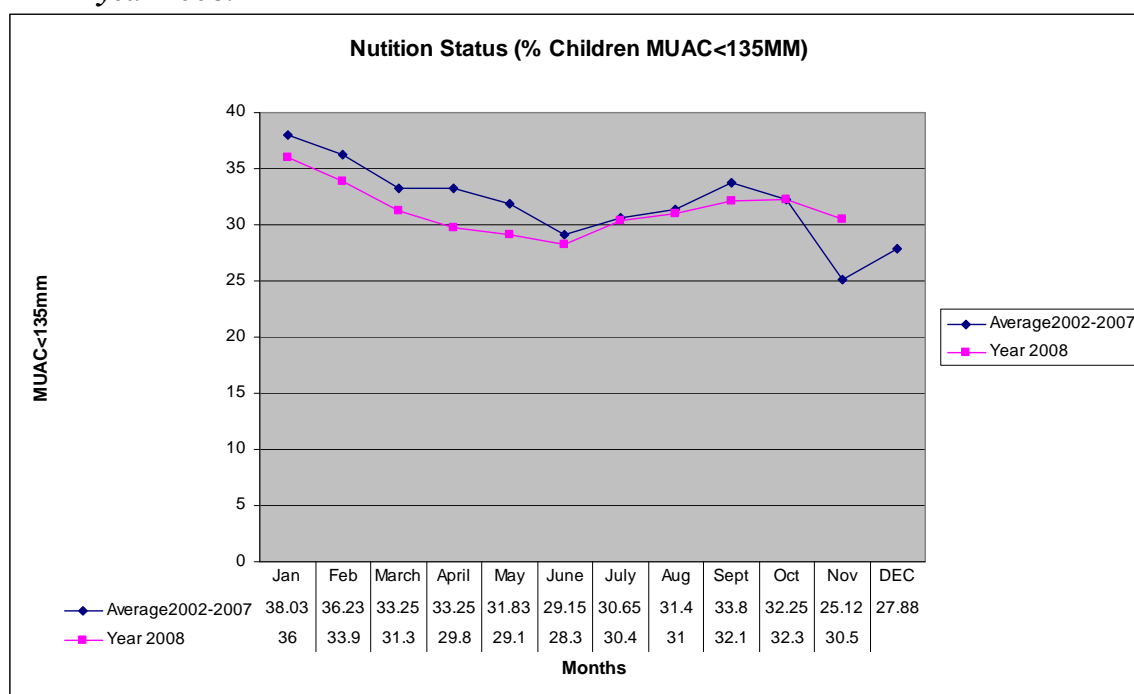
- Hawking, sale of miraa (khat), quarrying, daily casual labour and fetching of firewood were alternative sources of income, especially in Small business/informal livelihood zone though the general income was still low.
- Production and sale of gum and resin were also commonly practiced.

4.0 Welfare indicators (utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status

- The nutrition status of children under five years remained poor during the month.
- The percentage of those rated as being at the risk of malnutrition (based on MUAC <135mm measurement) dropped slightly to 30.5 from 32.3 in October.
- The high rates were attributed to escalating prices of milk and cereals.
- The worst hit areas Eldas, Griftu and Arbajahan due to the kalaazar outbreak.

The graph below indicates long term muac<135mm against the current year 2008.



4.2 Human health

- Main cause of morbidity and mortality in the district remained malaria, upper respiratory tract infections, diarrhea and malnutrition.
- The most affected areas were Wajir West District with over 36 cases admitted.
- The district was on alert following reported cases of cholera in Mandera district and migration due to the military operation in the area.
- 350 cases of kalaazar were reported in the district and worst affected was Wajir West district, especially Griftu, Abajahan and Eldas.

4.3 Flagged areas

Upsurge of Kalazaar may undermine nutrition status of children less than five years. Worst affected areas were Arbajahan, Griftu and Eldas.

5. Current interventions

5.1 Non-food interventions

- Water and sanitation hygiene activities carried out by Oxfam.
- Credit scheme used as revolving fund by Aldef Kenya (NGO).
- Support to mobile school education through ALRMP and MOEST.

5.2 Food aid

- EMOP relief food distribution by WFP through lead agency, Oxfam and implementing partners (ALDEF and WASDA) was ongoing.
- Outpatient therapeutic feeding and supplementary feeding Programme (TFC) by Merlin at Wajir district hospital and all the thirteen divisions.
- Basic relief support from OOP, especially to vulnerable groups.
- FFA-food for asset program.

5.3 Other coping strategies

- Restricting of specific watering points close to settlements for human use, especially dams and ponds.
- Sale of quarry products for income generating activities.
- Reduction of number of meals per day.
- Most of the communities borrow non-food items on credit from shops as a coping strategy.
- Natural resources such as gum and resins were sold in the market as a source of alternative livelihood.
- Sale of animals, especially the burden animals to pay for subsidiary expenses such as fuel.

6.0 Recommendations

- Mass treatment and vaccination against livestock diseases, especially PPR in shoats.
- Improved sanitation and hygiene promotion activities.
- Conflict early warning and peace-building initiatives to be strengthened due to migration from Mandera.
- More hand pumps and solar assisted water supply systems for shallow wells for schools and institutions.
- Provision of vector control chemicals and equipments i.e. LLTNs, Icons, Spray pumps and protective gears.
- Mass chlorination of water wells and disinfecting of swamps with larvicides.
- Vector indoor spraying of households and distribution of ITN.
- Medical outreach camp services and provision of emergency cholera kit.
- Drilling of boreholes in centres without reliable water source and treatment.
- Strengthen livestock disease surveillance and management system.

- Increase the number of extension service providers, staffing level at Ministry of Health and Education.
- Strengthening of early warning system to help detect and prepare possible outbreaks, drought and mitigation measures.