

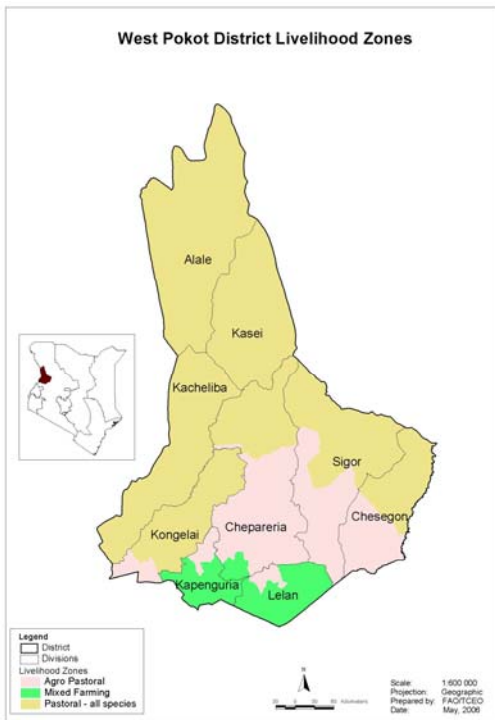


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS  
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

**DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, NOVEMBER 2008**

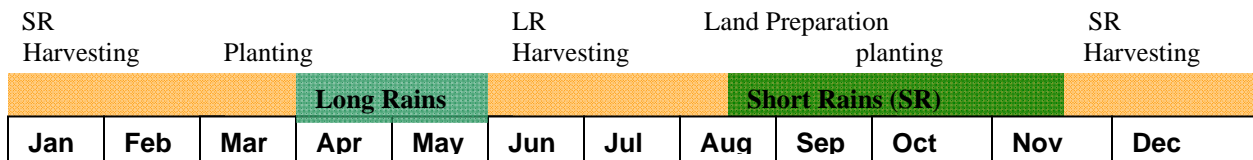
**West Pokot District**

**Warning Stages**



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Agro pastoral	Normal	Stable
Mixed farming	Normal	Stable
Pastoralist	Normal	Worsening <sup>1</sup>

**SEASONAL CALENDAR**



<sup>1</sup> The worsening situation in the pastoral livelihoods applies to specific areas as flagged in the bulletin

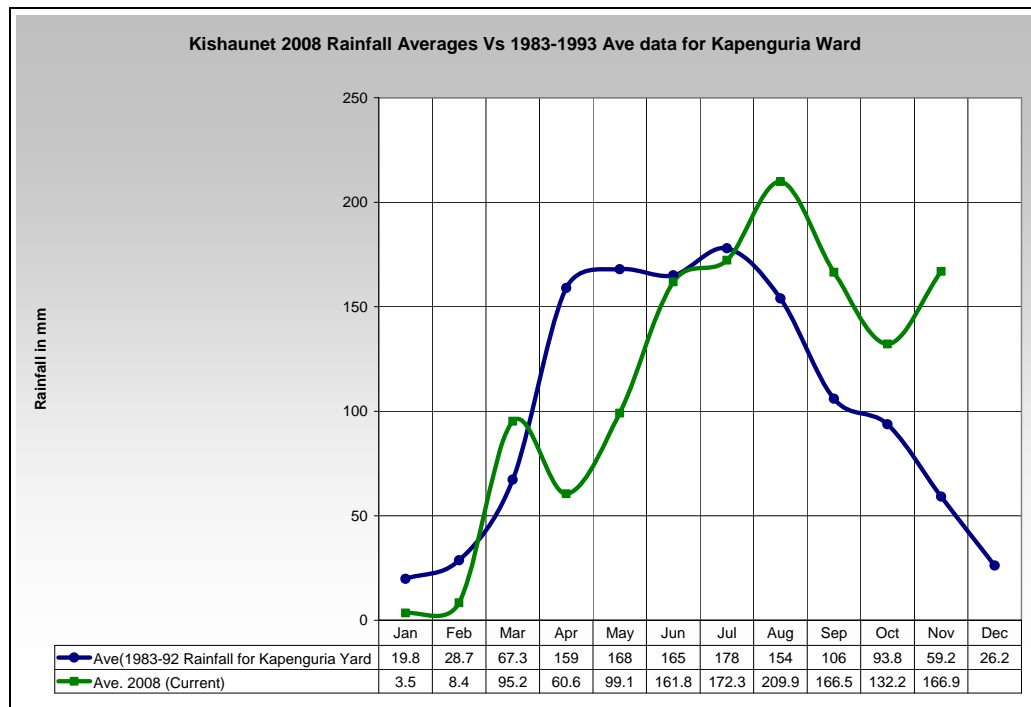
## **Situation Overview**

- The district recorded above normal rainfall at the beginning of the month under review. Kishaunet station recorded 166.9mm for 10 days compared to 132.2mm recorded for 20 days in October, while Kapsait station recorded 1390.7mm for 13 days. The rainfall had adverse effects, including loss of 12 lives in Central Pokot district. However, the rains stopped from mid November.
- Pasture either improved or was sustained by the rains in most areas, except the low lying areas of Sigor including Masol, Orwa and Chepnyal.
- Most of the animals that would have moved to the dry season grazing areas did not move due to the sustained situation.
- The average trekking distance for livestock in search of pasture reduced significantly from 4.6km in October to 3.6km.
- Goat prices remained high at Ksh 1,223 but price variation was marginal during the month.
- Maize prices fell compared to the last few months from Ksh 24 to Ksh 21 at the household level but market prices remained at Ksh 24. Only four sample areas reported sale of maize at household level, while all others except Poole reported sales at the market level.
- Price of beans increased, indicating a worsening situation. The recorded price at household level was Ksh 55 compared to Ksh 52 in October. However, the market prices were higher at Ksh 67. Only one sample area reported sales at the household level, compared to three sample areas the previous month. This was an indication of declining food stocks at the household level. Eight sample areas reported sales at the market level, an indication of import of cereals from the outside districts.
- The nutrition status of children below five years stabilized, with percentage of those rated as being at the risk of malnutrition (based on MUAC measurement) remaining at 6 per cent. The stabilisation was attributed to the rainfall received earlier in the month. With indicators such as access to food showing constraints and rainfall having receded, the situation is likely to worsen.
- The situation in the districts was 'Normal' and on a 'Worsening Trend', especially in the low lying areas.

## **1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)**

### **1.1 Rainfall**

- Rainfall was received across the district at the beginning of the month.
- Most livelihood zones recorded above normal rainfall, with a temporal distribution of about 15 days in all the areas.
- However, no area recorded substantial rainfall towards the end of the month but the situation was normal for the time of the year.
- However, some pockets of the district did not receive enough rainfall. These include parts of Kongelai, lower parts of Sigor (including Masol) and lower parts Chesegon including Nyangaita within the pastoral and agro pastoral livelihood zones.



*Source: Kerio Valley Development Authority (KVDA), Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)*

- Kishaunet station recorded 166.9mm for 10 days compared to 132.2mm recorded for 20 days in October, while Kapsait station, which is in the mixed farming zone, recorded 1390.7mm for 13 days.
- The rainfall had adverse effects, including loss of 12 lives in Central Pokot district.
- This was not a normal trend at the time of the year.
- The situation normalised towards the end of the month, allaying fears that the next rains season would be affected if the heavy rains continued.

## 1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

### 1.2.1 Quality and quantity

- Pasture quality and quantity was good across the livelihood zones in most parts of the district.
- The rains received early in the month improved and sustained pasture, especially in the pastoral and agro- pastoral livelihoods.
- The pasture and fodder was good and normal in the mixed farming areas.
- The flagged areas where there is little pasture include lower parts of Chesegon, Orwa and some parts of Kongelai.
- This was an improved because most of the animals, however, would have moved to the dry area grazing areas.
- The situation was normal at the time of the year, except for the flagged low lying areas.

### 1.2.2 Distance to grazing areas

- The average trekking by livestock in search of pasture reduced significantly compared to the previous month.
- The average distance recorded was 3.6km compared to 4.6km in October.
- The longest distance was recorded in Nyangaita at 7.5 km compared to 10km recorded in Konyao the previous month.
- In Konyao, where the longest distance was recorded in October, the distance reduced from 10km to 4.5km.
- The improvement was as a result of rainfall received earlier in the month.
- In most of the areas across the livelihood where distribution was good, the situation was normal, except in some low lying areas.

### **1.3 Water sources and availability**

#### **1.3.1 Water sources**

- Traditional river wells were the main water sources.
- Other sources were surface dams and other runoff catchments.
- This was a change from normal rivers, which serve as the main water sources in most times of the year. The situation changed due to the rains received, hence impounding more water in the reservoirs.
- The situation was expected to change gradually as the rains following receding rains.
- This was normal at the time of the year.

#### **1.3.2 Household access to water**

- There was a slight improvement in the distances travelled in search of water by households.
- The average distance was 2.3 km compared to 2.5 km last month. The longest distance remained in Orwa at 5.8km.
- The slight improvement could be attributed to the rains received in the areas, hence either improving or sustaining access to water.
- The current situation was normal at the time of the year.

### **1.4 Insecurity/conflict/human displacement**

- Cases of human/wildlife conflict continued to be reported in most areas of the pastoral livelihoods.

#### **1.4.1 Migration**

- There was no immigration or out-migration of animals during the month under review.
- In a normal period in the year, animals and pastoralists would have started moving out of their areas to dry season grazing areas.
- The situation was, however, different due to above normal rains received in most areas.

### **1.5 Implications on food security**

- Food security improved compared to the previous month, especially for mixed farming livelihoods.

- However, the improvement was at household level, with slight changes at the market level. Therefore, pastoralists who mostly depend on markets for their food supplements were disadvantaged.
- Harvesting in the upper areas was, however, interrupted by the heavy rains but there were no adverse negative effects.
- Milk production improved in the pastoral livelihoods, making the situation better.
- The harvesting of potatoes in the mixed farming livelihood zones and cereals also impacted positively on food security.

## **2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food Availability)**

### **2.1 Livestock production**

#### **2.1.1 Livestock body condition**

- Livestock body condition was good across all livelihood zones.
- Pasture condition improved due to rainfall received in most parts of the livelihood zones.
- Though in a normal year animals would have been moving to the dry season grazing areas, they could stay a month longer due to availability of pasture.
- This was an improvement at the time of the year.

#### **2.1.2 Livestock diseases**

- No new cases of disease outbreak were reported in the district and vaccination against Pestes Petis Ruminants (PPR) was completed.
- The situation in terms of loss of animals to PPR was, therefore, expected to improve.

### **2.2 Crop production**

#### **2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of various crop production activities**

- Harvesting of cereals in the mixed farming livelihood was ending, while harvesting of potatoes was ongoing in some areas.
- The performance of the crops in the last season, however, was not as good as expected.
- This was because there was a delay of rains at the beginning of the season.
- The situation was normal in the pastoral livelihoods.

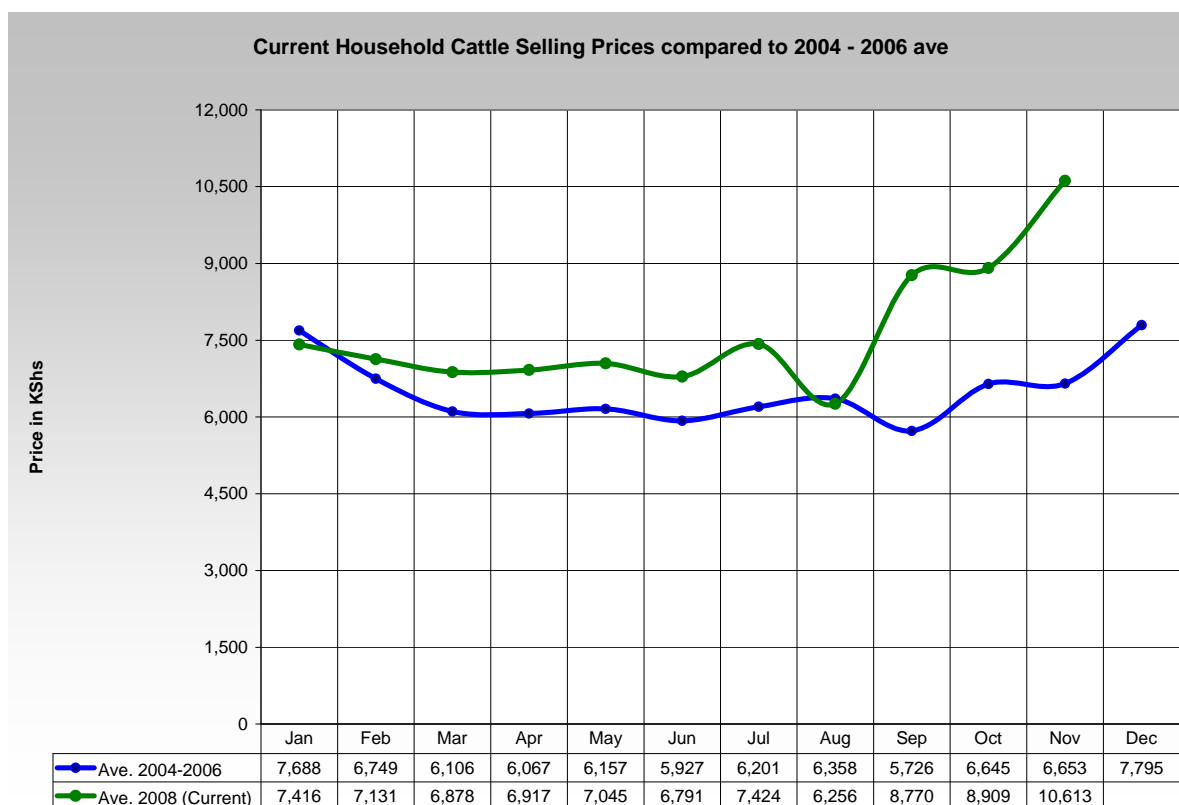
#### **2.2 Implications on food security**

- High food prices, even after the recent harvests, impacted negatively on food security.
- However, the situation improved at the household level in the mixed farming livelihood zone following harvests.
- Availability of milk in the pastoral livelihoods impacted positively on food security.

## **3.0 Access to food**

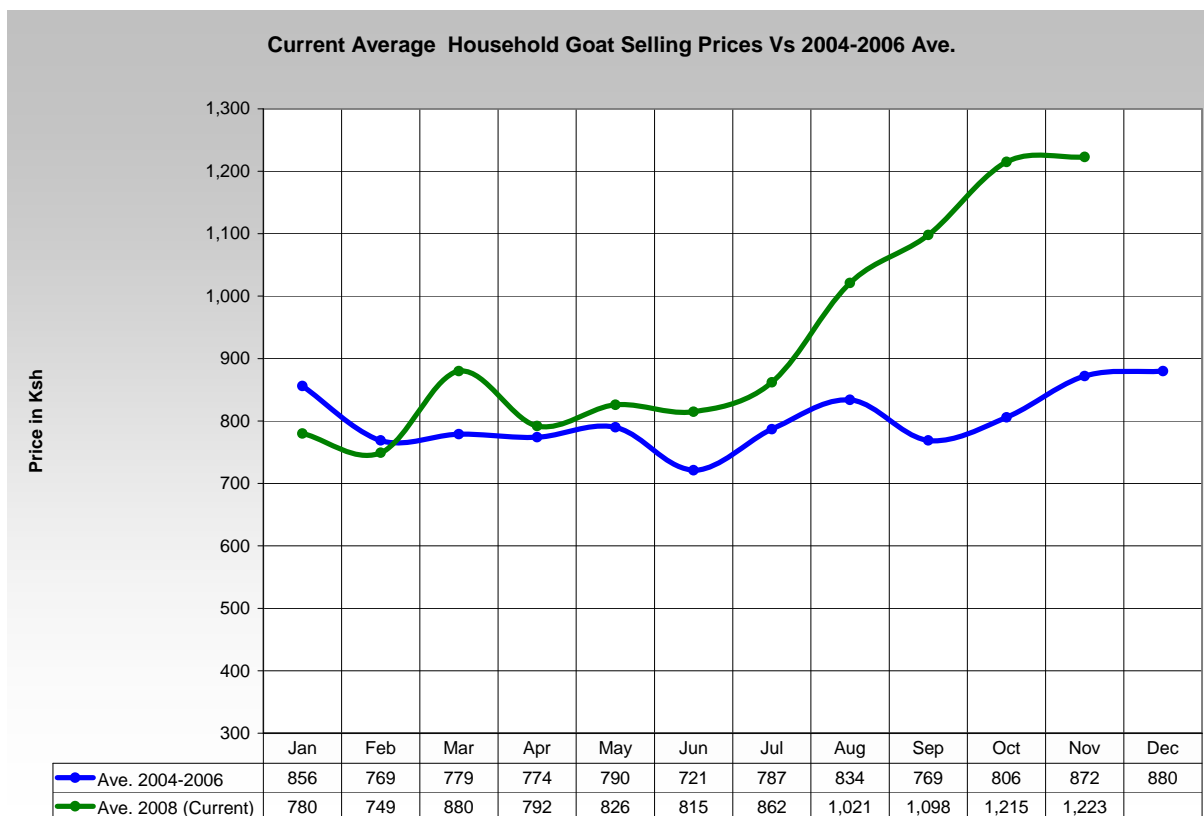
### **3.1 Livestock marketing**

#### **3.1.1 Cattle prices**



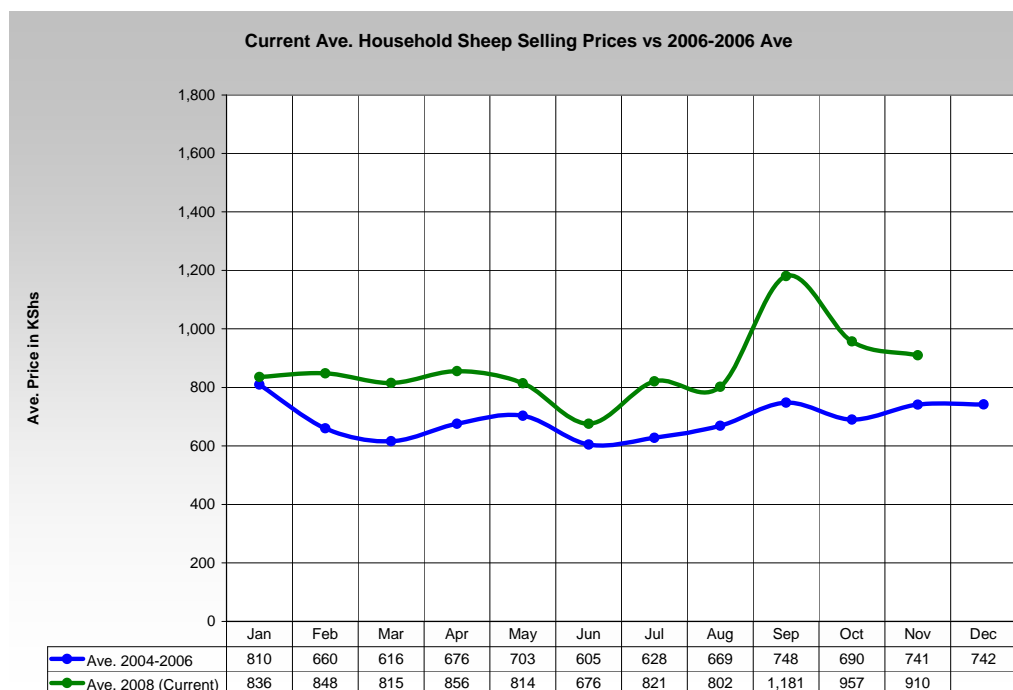
- Cattle prices continued to rise due improved livestock body condition and increase in demand as the festive season approaches.
- The average price recorded in the month was Ksh 10,613 compared to Ksh 8,909 in October.
- The increase in prices favoured the terms of trade for pastoralists since the price of cereals remained high.
- The lowest price of Ksh 8,166 was recorded in Nyangaita, one of the low lying areas that received below normal rainfall.
- The lowest recorded price was higher than the Ksh 6,460 recorded in Poole last month. The average price in Poole during the month was Ksh 11,500.
- The prices indicated improved or stable conditions and were within the normal range at the time of the year.

### 3.1.2 Goat prices



- Goat prices remained high, though the price variation was marginal.
- The average price was Ksh1,223 compared to Ksh 1,215 recorded last month.
- The situation was likely to get better, especially after the positive effects of the PPR vaccinations.
- The lowest recorded price was Ksh 759 in Kangoletiang, where the lowest price of Ksh 722 was recorded last month. The highest recorded price was Ksh1,400 in Ptokou sample area.
- It is normal for goat prices to rise from this period until December, but the demand is higher this season.
- The situation was normal at the time of the year.

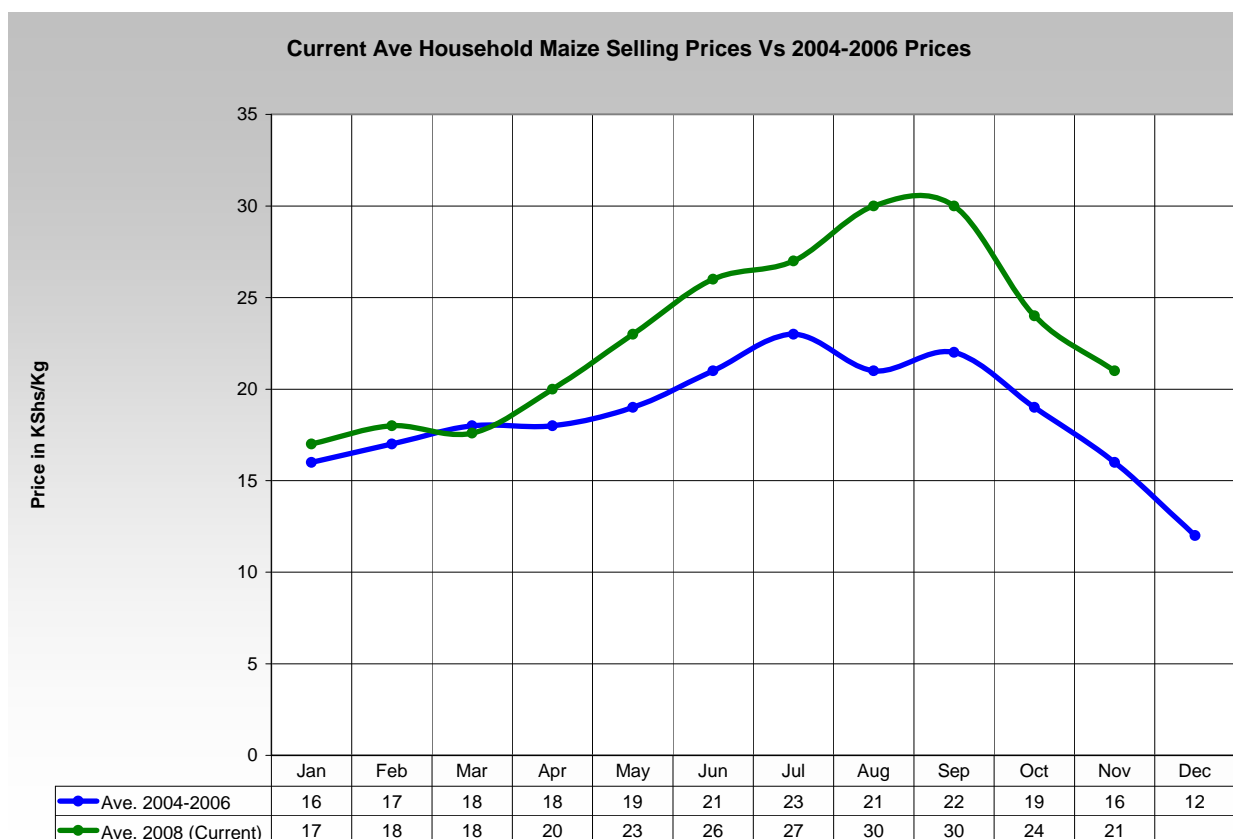
### 3.1.3 Sheep prices



- Sheep prices did not change significantly compared to the previous month. The price recorded were Ksh 910 compared to Ksh 957 recorded last month.
- The lowest recorded price was Ksh 750 in Pserum compared to Ksh 957 recorded in Nyangaita last month.
- The situation was normal at the time of the year.

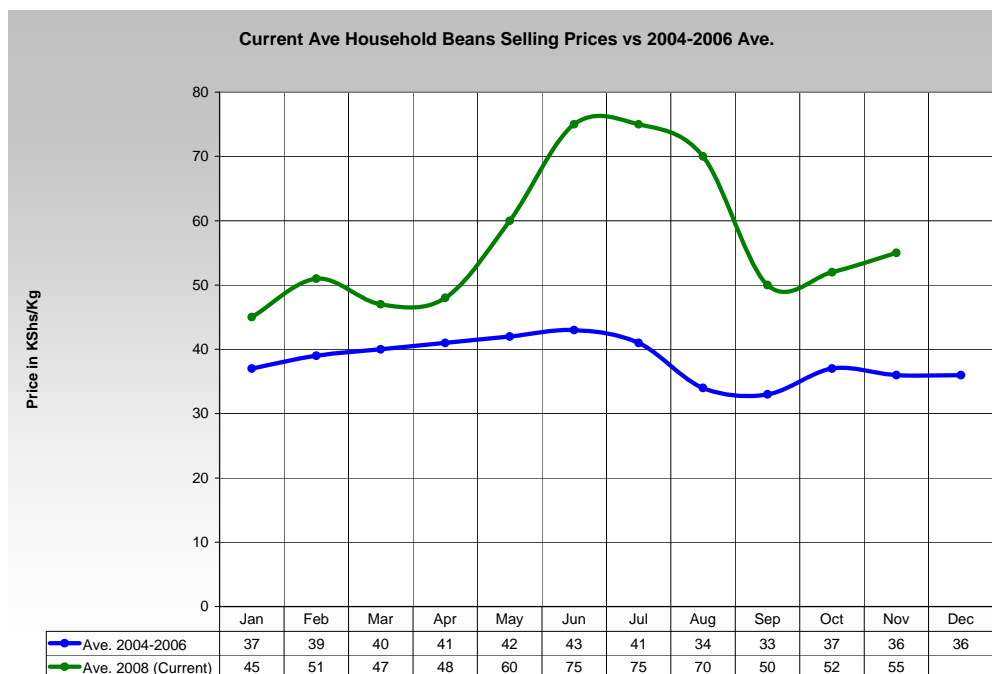
## 3.2 Crop prices

### 3.2.1 Maize prices



- Maize prices continued to fall compared to the last few months.
- The average price dropped from Ksh 24 in October to Ksh 21 at the household level but market prices remained at Ksh 24.
- The highest price was recorded in Kaibos at Ksh 25, while the lowest was in Chepnyal at Ksh 18.
- Only four sample areas reported sale of maize at household level, while all others except Poole reported sales at the market level. The four include Chepnyal, Kaiboss, Pserum and Sasak.
- For the markets, all the sample areas, except Poole, reported sale of maize.
- This was an indication that most households either had little or no stocks and most of the maize in the markets was from the neighbouring districts.
- The overall situation improved due to the harvesting done in the mixed farming and some agro pastoral livelihood zones as well as the neighbouring districts.

### 3.2.2 Beans prices

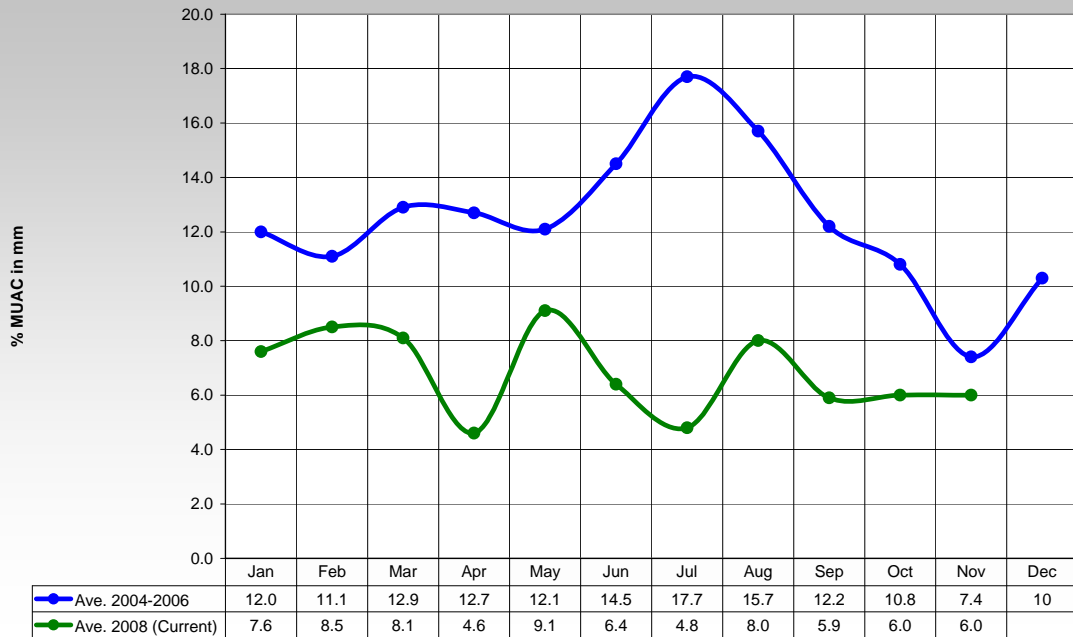


- Price of beans increased, indicating a worsening situation.
- The recorded price at household level was Ksh 55 compared to Ksh 52 in October.
- However, the market prices were higher at Ksh 67. Only one sample area reported sales at the household level, compared to three sample areas the previous month.
- This was an indication of declining food stocks at the household level.
- Only Chepnyal sample area reported the sale of beans at the household level compared to last month where three areas (Chepnyal, Pserum and Sasak) reported sales.
- Eight sample areas reported sales at the market level, an indication of import of cereals from the outside districts.
- Crop failure was experienced in most areas and the situation was not expected to get better until the next harvest. The situation may even get worse as the rains recede since supplementary foods such as green vegetables and traditional vegetables are expected to become scarce
- The current recorded price was KSh 55 compared to KSh 52 recorded last month
- This was not a normal situation at the time of the year and the situation was expected to worsen.

#### **4.0 Welfare Indicators (Utilisation of food)**

##### **4.1 Nutrition Status**

**Current Nutritional Status of Children 12-59 Months MUAC Expressed as a Percentage of the Sampled Children compared to 2004-2006 averages**



- The nutrition status of children below five years stabilized during the month under review.
- The percentage of those rated as being at the risk of malnutrition (based on MUAC measurement) remained at 6 per cent.
- The stabilisation was attributed to the rainfall received earlier in the month. With indicators such as access to food showing constraints and rainfall having receded, the situation is likely to worsen.
- The nutrition rate was within the normal range.