

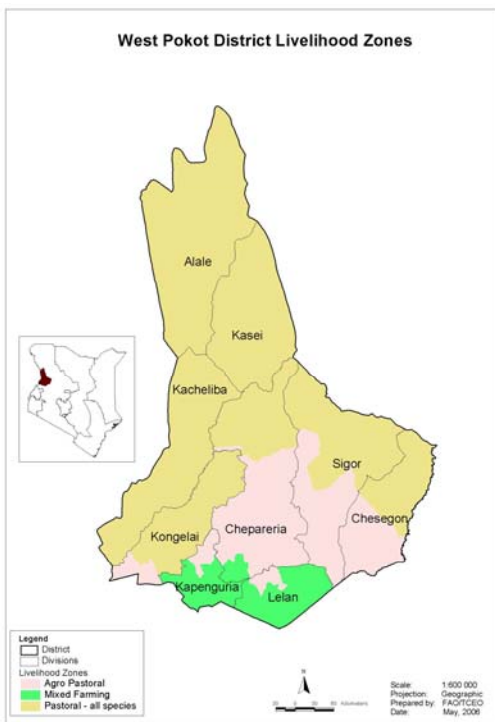


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, OCTOBER 2008

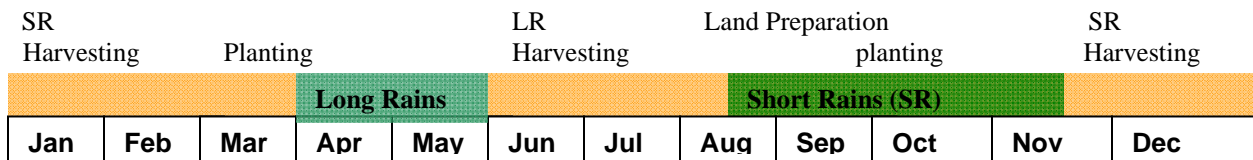
West Pokot District

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Agro pastoral	Normal	Stable
Mixed farming	Normal	Stable
Pastoralist	Normal	Stable

SEASONAL CALENDAR



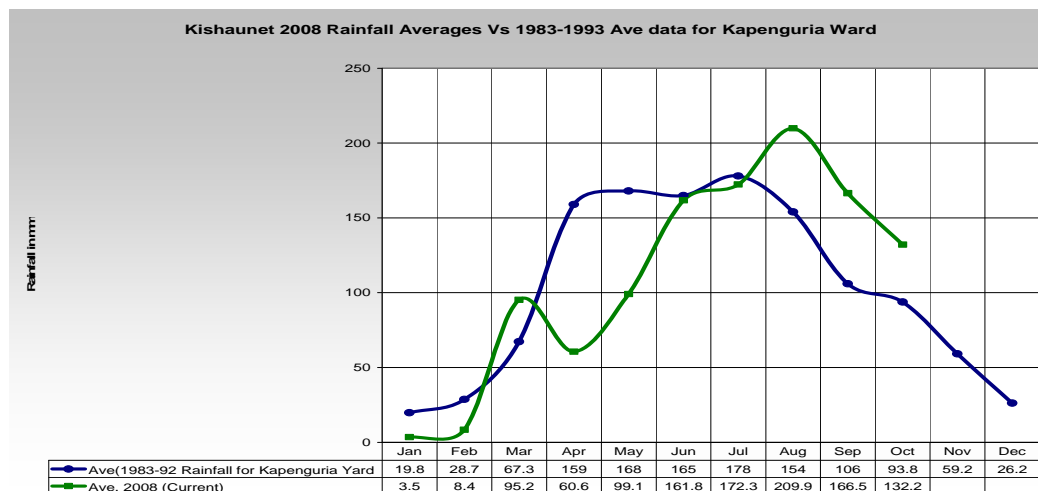
Situation Overview

- Most parts of the district received rainfall for an average of 15 days. Though the amounts varied, distribution was fair across the livelihood zones. Kishaunet station recorded 132.2mm for 20 days compared to 166.6mm recorded for 15 days in September. However, the amount was above the normal long term average
- Pasture quality and quantity improved, resulting in improved livestock body condition and milk production. The pasture was expected to last between two to three months.
- There was an insignificant change in distances to grazing fields, which stood at 4.6Km compared to 4.7 Km in September.
- Natural rivers remained the main water source during the month. However, dams and pans refilled following the rains received.
- The main livestock disease reported during the month was mange in camels, which was reported in North Pokot district.
- The price of cattle continued to increase in the last month due to improved body condition following the rains. The average price stood at Ksh 8,909 compared to Ksh 8,770 in September.
- Maize prices fell from Ksh 30 to Ksh 24 as harvesting of the crop continued, while prices of beans remained high at Ksh 52 due to crop failure in the last season.
- The nutrition status of children below five years stabilized during the month. The percentage of those at risk of malnutrition was 6.0 from 5.9 in September. The stabilization was attributed to improvement in pasture, hence milking animals did not travel far and thus children could get milk.
- The food security situation in the district improved compared to the last few months.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- Rainfall was received across all livelihood zones in the district.
- The total rainfall recorded at Kishaunet was 132.2mm for 20 days compared to 166.6mm recorded for 15 rain days in September.
- The highest recorded reading at Kishaunet was 16.5 mm while the lowest was 1.2 mm compared to 36.5mm highest and 1.5mm lowest recorded last month.
- Konyao in the pastoral livelihood zone received 98.5mm compared to 58.1mm in September.
- Water volume in permanent rivers increased.
- Though the rainfall was lower than the previous month, the amount was above the long term average.



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

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Pasture quality in the pastoral livelihood improved because of the rainfall received during the month.
- Pasture started improving in areas where it had been very poor, especially Orwa.
- However, the situation was below normal in some low lying areas of Masol, while the condition in other areas that received rainfall remained stable.
- The pasture in the pastoral zone was expected to last between two to three months.
- Availability of browse was good across all livelihood zones and fewer animals remained in the dry season grazing areas and the neighbouring Uganda.
- There was no significant change in distances from households to the grazing areas, with the average distance recorded during the month being 4.6km compared to 4.7 km last month.
- Konyao recorded the longest distance at 10km, this being for the pastoralists moving to Uganda.

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Water Sources

- Natural rivers were the major water sources in all livelihood zones.
- Dams and water pans also acted as important sources of water, since they refilled following the rains.
- Shallow wells and boreholes were the other major water sources in the district.
- The situation was normal at the time of the year.

1.3.2 Household access to water

- There was no significant change in the distances traveled by household in search of water. The average recorded distance was 2.5km.
- The longest distance was recorded in Orwa sample area at 4.8km, which was an improvement to the previous record of 5.8km in the area.
- The situation was normal at the time of the year.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity and conflict

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

1.4.2 Migration

- There was no immigration or out-migration of animals at the time of the year
- This was a normal situation.

1.5 Implications on food security

- There was some improvement in food security in the district compared to the last few months.
- The improvement was as a result of ongoing harvests, especially in the upper areas and the mixed farming livelihood zones.
- Milk production improved in the pastoral livelihood zones, making the situation better.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Livestock body condition improved across all livelihood zones.
- This was as a result of the rainfall received in various areas in the district.
- The situation was expected to remain good for at least three months.
- This was a normal situation at the time of the year.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- No new cases of disease outbreak were reported in the district.
- However, cases of PPR continued to be reported across the district, affecting mostly goats and sheep. The situation was expected to improve once the area is covered by the ongoing national campaign.
- A disease affecting camels was still reported in North Pokot, especially in Kangoletiang and Alale.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of various crop production activities

- Harvesting was ongoing in the upper livelihood zones and the yields were expected to be good, especially for maize.
- Maize failed in most areas across the livelihood zones due to late onset of rains.
- In the agro-pastoral areas, some crop failure was anticipated and yields were not expected to be as high as in the mixed farming zone.

2.2.2 Implications on food security

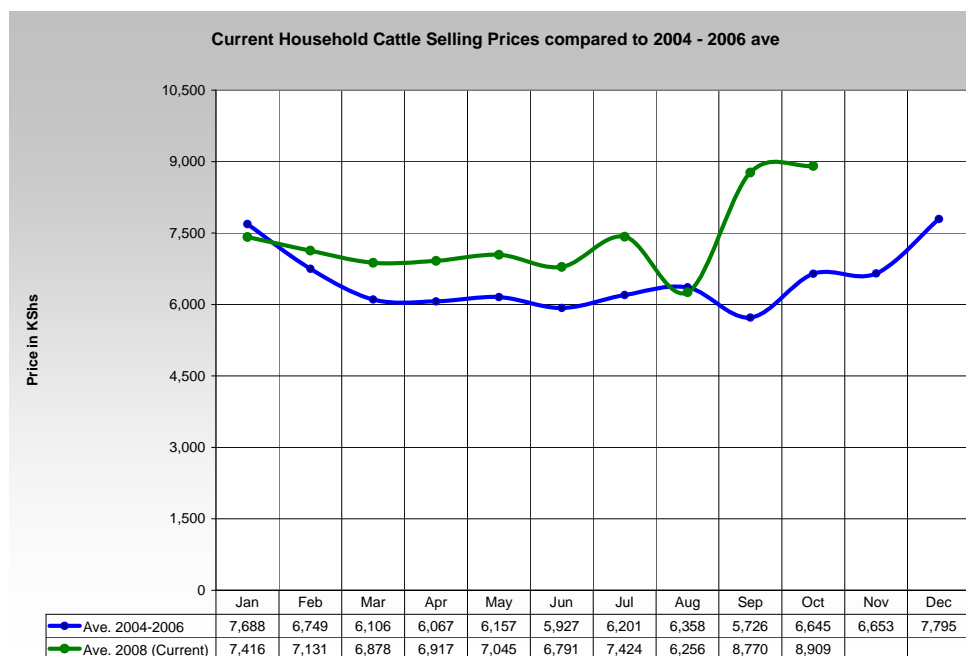
- The food security situation improved in different livelihood zones, though on varying scales.

- In the mixed farming livelihood zone, the situation improved following ongoing harvests.
- In the agro-pastoral livelihoods, the situation improved slightly but there was still shortage of beans due to crop failure last season.
- Availability of pasture and browse and improved livestock body condition, resulted in improved milk production and thus improved food security.
- The situation was normal at the time of the year.

3.0 Access to food

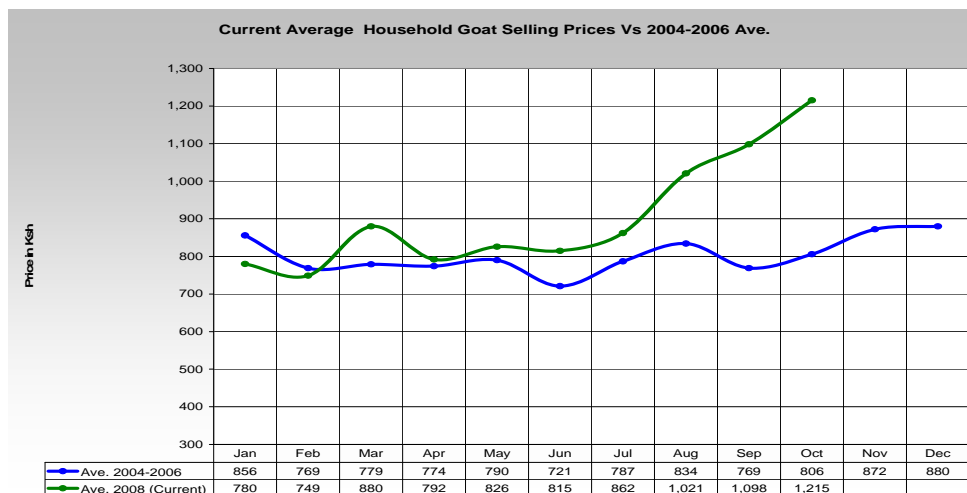
3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices



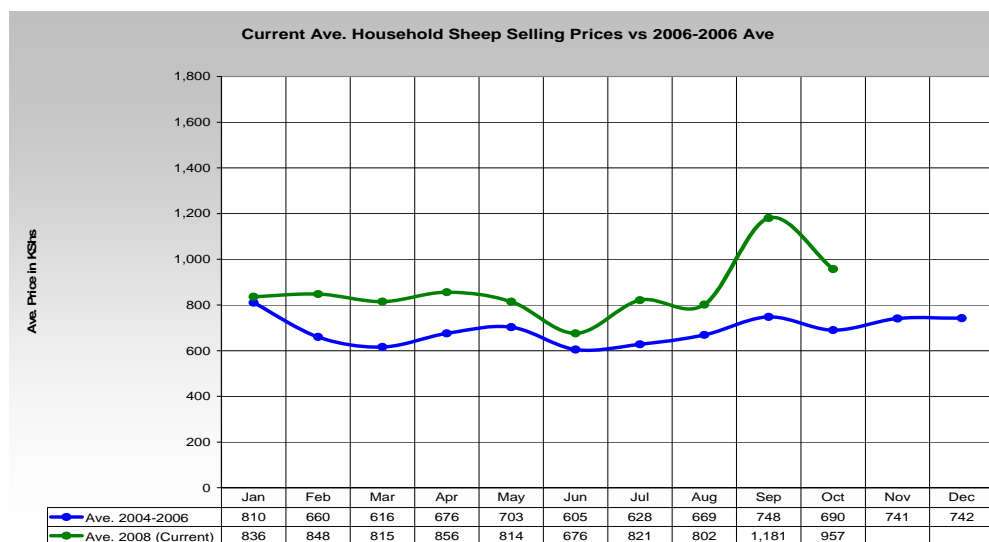
- Cattle prices continued to rise during the month, with the average price standing at Ksh 8,909 compared to Ksh 8,770 in September.
- The improvement was as a result of the rainfall, which improved the body condition, hence better prices.
- The high prices and demand boosted the purchasing power of the pastoralists.
- The lowest price was still recorded in Poole at Ksh 6,460. However, the price rose from Ksh 6,000 reported in Ptokou last month.
- The highest price recorded was Ksh14,666 in Kapsait (mixed farming zone) followed by Ksh11,200 in Pserum (Agropastoral livelihood).
- The prices were within the normal range at the time of the year.

3.1.2 Goat prices



- Average goat prices rose in all the livelihood zones.
- Goats traded at Ksh1,215 compared to Ksh1,098 recorded last month.
- The lowest average price of Ksh 722 was recorded at Kangoletiang compared to Ksh704 recorded in the same area last month.
- The highest price was recorded in Kaiboss at Ksh2,400 compared to Ksh1,500 recorded in the same place last month.
- The increase in prices was attributed to the increased demand for goats.
- Price increases are normal during the time of the year until December, but the demand seemed higher this year.
- The situation was normal at the time of the year.

3.1.3 Sheep prices

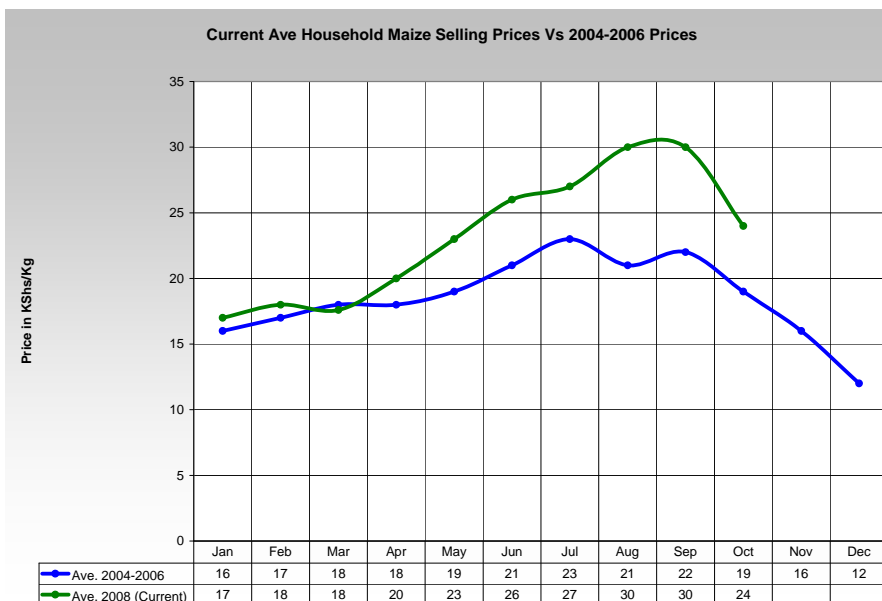


- Unlike other livestock, the price of sheep did not increased.

- The sheep fetched Ksh 957 during the month, compared to Ksh 1,181 recorded last month.
- The lowest recorded price was Ksh570 in Nyangaita compared to Ksh740 recorded in the same area last month.
- The highest recorded price was Ksh 2,100 in Kapsait compared to Ksh1,600 recorded in Sasak last month.
- The situation was normal at the time of the year.

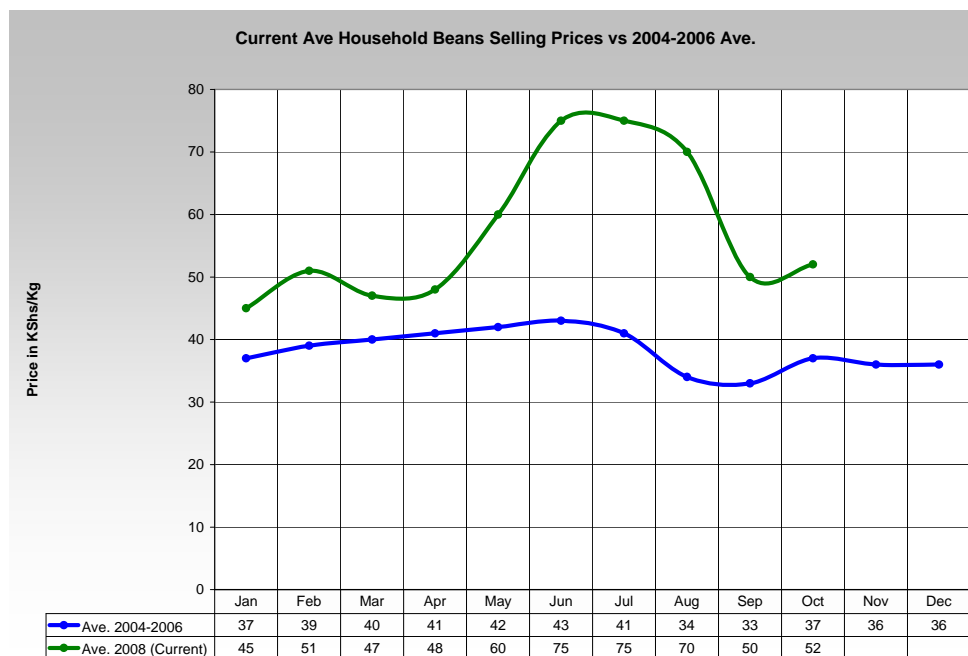
3.2 Crop prices

3.2.1 Maize prices



- The average price of maize dropped compared to last month.
- Maize traded at Ksh24 per kilo compared to Ksh 30 last month.
- The change was as a result of the ongoing harvests in the upper areas.

3.2.2 Beans prices

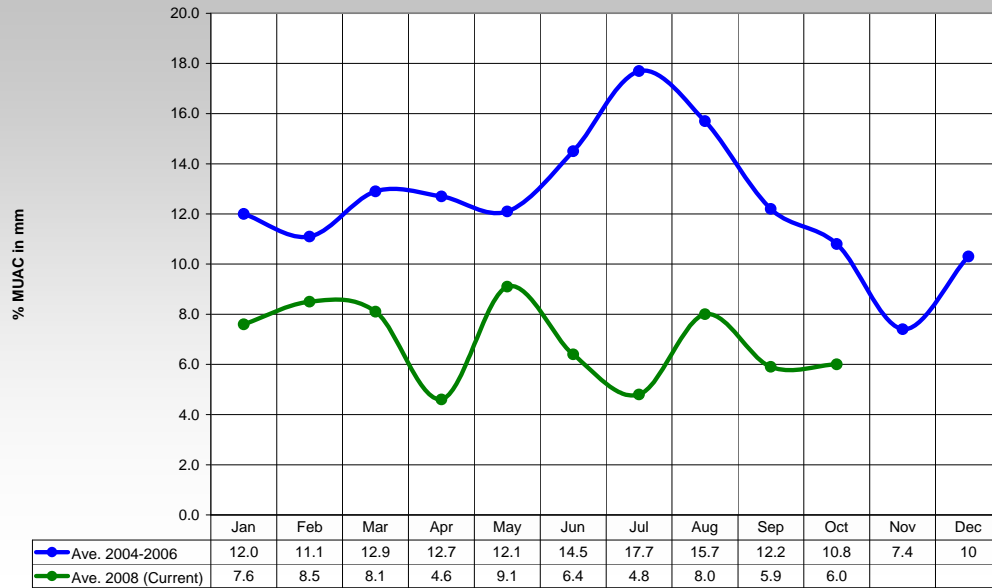


- Average beans prices remained high during the month.
- The increase was as a result of the beans failure, which was experienced in most areas.
- The average price was Ksh 52 compared to Ksh 50 recorded in September.
- The number of people selling beans was still very low and sales were only reported only in two sample areas, a reduction from three sample areas last month.
- This was an indication that household stocks continued to be exhausted.
- This was not a normal situation at the time of the year and the situation was expected to get worse.

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 stabilised during the month.
- The percentage of those at risk of malnutrition stood at 6.0 from 5.9 in September.
- The stabilisation was attributed to improvement in pasture, hence milking animals did not travel far, and thus children could get milk.
- The rate was within the normal range and was expected to get better as the situation improves.