

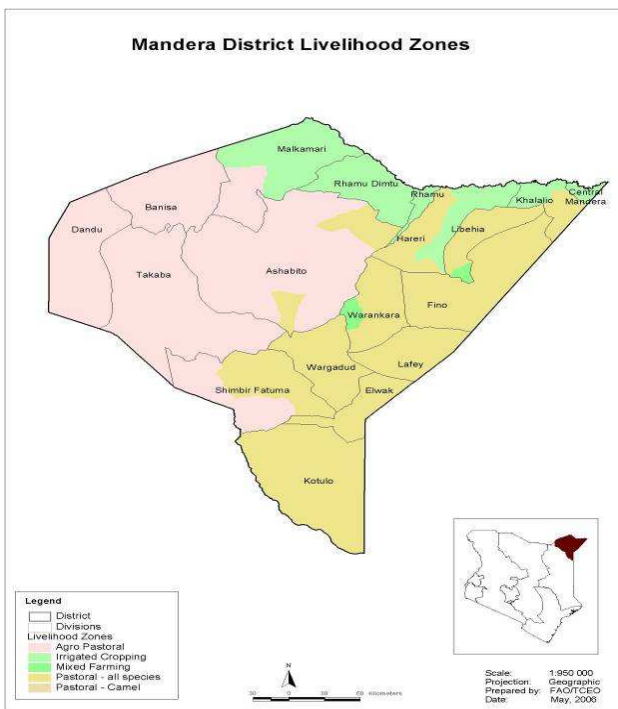


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, SEPTEMBER 2008

Mandera District

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Pastoral- all species	ALARM	WORSENING
Agro pastoral	ALARM	WORSENING
Irrigated Cropping	ALERT	NORMAL

Timeline Activities

Short Dry Spell (Jilaal)		Long Rainy Reason (Gu')			Long Dry Spell (Hagai)			Short Rainy Season (Deyr)			
January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December

Situation overview

- No rainfall was received during the month under review.
- The main sources of water during the month were River Daua, earth pans, underground water tanks, boreholes and shallow wells.
- The number of centres relying on water trucking continued to increase, while boreholes were congested and over utilized, leading to frequent breakdown of generating sets.
- Pasture quality and quantity continued to deteriorate compared to last month, especially in Eastern divisions. Pasture condition ranged from fair to poor in Western and Central divisions.
- Livestock body conditions deteriorated as pasture diminished. However, condition of livestock in western and central districts was fair to poor and poor in eastern district.
- The average prices of livestock fell compared to the previous month due to poor body conditions.
- The main source of income during the month was sales of livestock and casual labor.
- Contagious Caprine Pluro Pneumonia (CCPP) in goats, sheep and goat pox were reported in the district.
- Cereal and legume prices rose compared to the previous month.
- Cases of insecurity escalated, with two administration police officers and 15 people reported killed in a conflict between two communities.
- The nutrition status of children under five improved slightly.
- Percentage of those rated as being at risk of malnutrition was 16.4 compared to 17 per cent in August.
- The drought situation in the district was at alarm stage and the trend was worsening. The situation needs to be closely monitored, especially if the short rains expected in October fail or are below normal.

Recommendations to DSG

- Over 48 trading centres were experiencing acute water stress, hence water trucking should be continued-:Action-DWOs-Mandera West, Central, East, Arid lands and other Actors.
- Emergency funds will required to facilitate de-stocking/livestock off-take for pastoral communities if the short rains fail or are below normal as these may lead to total collapse of pastoral economy. Action-DSGs Mandera West, East and Central
- Mass treatment and vaccination of CCPP, sheep and goat pox in the district-Action-DVOs,COOPI and other actors.
- Provision of calcium ammonium nitrate (CAN) to farmers affected by blossom and rot in tomatoes along the riverine-: Action-DAOs and other actors.
- Promote peaceful coexistence and sharing of resources between communities in Lafey, Wargadud, Gari and Elwak triangle-: Action-Provincial Administration Mandera Central and East Districts.
- Provision of adequate drugs at rural dispensaries and health services with focus on riverine communities during the coming short rains-Action- Ministry of Health.

- Provision of certified/drought-tolerant seeds to farmers in the rain-fed and irrigated cropping zones before the short rains season to boost crop production and enhance food security:-Action Ministry of Agriculture and other actors.

Current interventions

Non-food aid

The following interventions were carried out in the district during the month;

- Water trucking in Mandera West, Central, and East districts by ALRMP and MW&I.
- Peace meeting between the communities in Elwak and Lafey triangle facilitated by ALRMP.
- Mass treatment and vaccination in parts of Mandera east and West districts by COOPI in conjunction with District Veterinary Office Mandera East and West.
- Rehabilitation of GOK demonstration farm and planting of fodder grass species, drought-tolerant crops such as NERICA rice and sweet potatoes and maize by ALRMP.

Food aid

- Supplementary feedings by Action against Hunger.
- Therapeutic feeding centers (TFC) in Mandera district hospital by AAH.
- Distribution of relief food by WFP & COCOP with 110,740 beneficiaries.

DSG meeting and recommendations

Agenda

- August Drought Bulletin
- Echo food aid.
- Long Rains Assessment Beneficiaries members.

1. Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- No rainfall was received in the entire district during the month under review.
- However, the short rains are expected to fall in mid October.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- The condition of pasture continued to deteriorate due to lack of rains.
- Average grazing distances increased.
- Pasture quality and quantity was very poor in eastern divisions, fair to poor in Central and West divisions and the situation was worsening.
- The average distance to grazing areas was 12.9km from 12km last month, while average distance to water sources for households rose to 10km.

1.3 Water sources and availability

- The main water sources were boreholes, River Daua, shallow wells, underground water tanks and earth pans.
- The number of centres relying on water trucking continued to rise and boreholes were congested and over utilised, leading to frequent breakdown of generators.

- Centres under water trucking were Takaba town, Didkuro, Duduble, Wangaidahan, Arda-halo, Choroqo, Malkamari, Hullo, Malkaroqa, Gagaba, Billo Manur village, Allo Kona, Karsahama, Kubdishan, Kob-adhadhi, Kotkoto, Burduras, Hawacho sambur and Bachile.
- In Mandera East District; Kabo, Karo, Kamor Liban, Sarohindi, Farey, Oda and Omar Jillo are areas with water stress and being water trucked.
- In Central District:
Garse, Ola, Barwaqo, Waldiri, Bosnia, Jabibar, Gofa, ChirChir, Ogorwein, Sukela Tinfa, Elele, Chachabole, Qarsa damo, Dawader, Boji, Kobadhadi and Dololo were under water trucking.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Security issues

- Two administration police officers and 15 other people were killed in a conflict between two communities.
- Calm returned after the Minister for Defence and Minister for Development of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands, area MPs and other Government visited the districts to promote peace and dialogue between the warring communities.

1.4.2 Migration

- No livestock migration was reported during the month under review.

1.5 Implication on food security

- Low livestock prices coupled with high cereal prices impacted negatively on the pastoral community food security, hence need for food aid intervention.

2. Availability of food

2.1 Livestock production

- The main livestock reared by pastoralists include camels, cattle, goats and sheep.
- Camels and cattle are long term assets, while shoats are viewed as short term/current assets.

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Livestock body condition was fair to poor in Western and Central districts.
- The condition of livestock in Mandera East district was poor during the reporting month.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- CCPP outbreak was reported in the districts.
- Sheep and goat pox was also reported in the three districts.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk was scarce in the district during the month under review.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timelines and status of crop production

- Horticultural crops did well and were in supply in Mandera town.
- Farmers prepared land for planting as the short rains were expected to fall in mid October.

2.2.2 Pest and diseases

- Blossom end rot disease in tomatoes (Cal J) was reported along the riverine.

2.2.3 Harvest

- Most farmers harvested maize and cow peas for fodder due to ready market.
- However some maize was harvested in one scheme in Border point.

2.3 Implication on food security

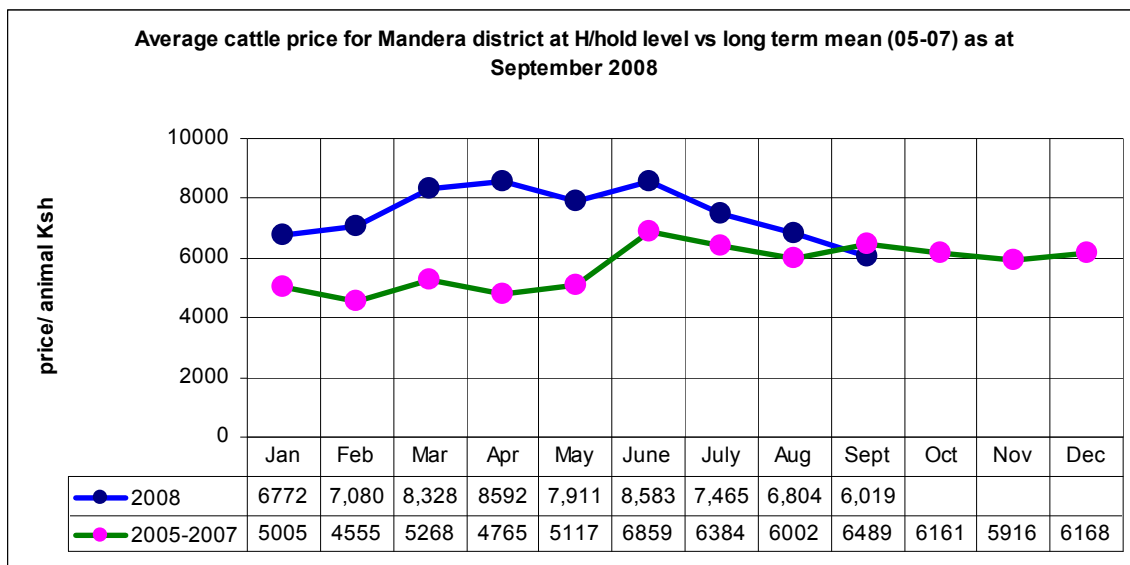
- No harvest in Agro and Pastoral zones coupled with high cereal prices and decreased livestock prices impact negatively on food security of the household thus food aid intervention.

3. Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices

- Average cattle prices dropped to Ksh6,019 from 6,804 in August due to poor body condition.
- Compared to long term mean, the average price was lower by Ksh 470.
- The highest price was noted in pastoral all species at Ksh 6,200, followed by irrigated cropping at Ksh5, 667 and agro-pastoral at Ksh5, 891.

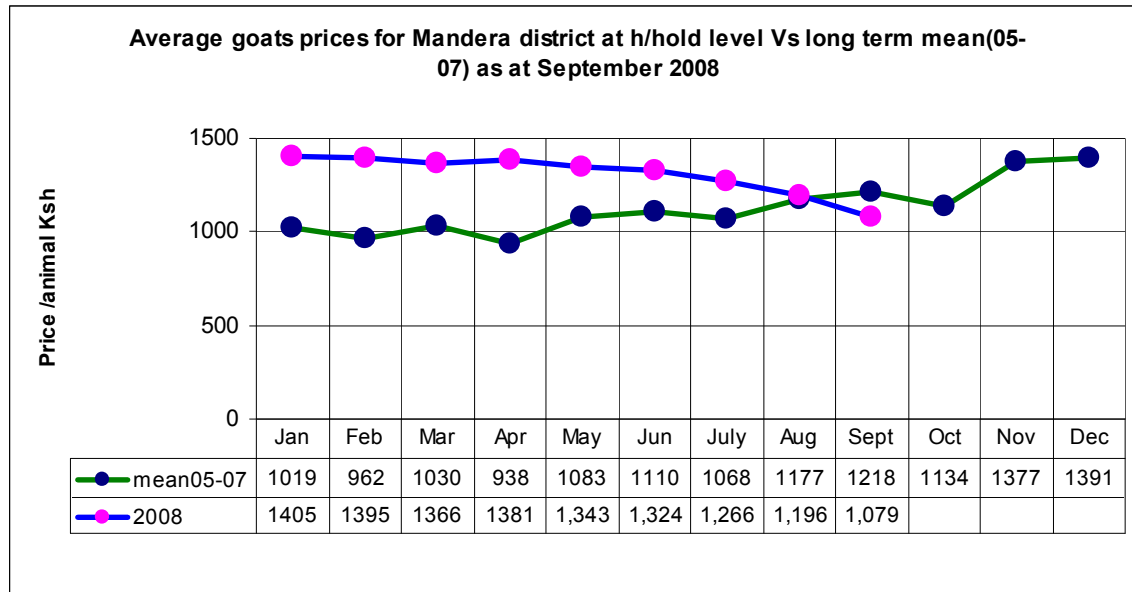


NB: No of Households: 417

3.1.2 Goat prices

- Average goat price dropped to Ksh1,079 from Ksh1,196 in August. The decline was due to poor body condition.

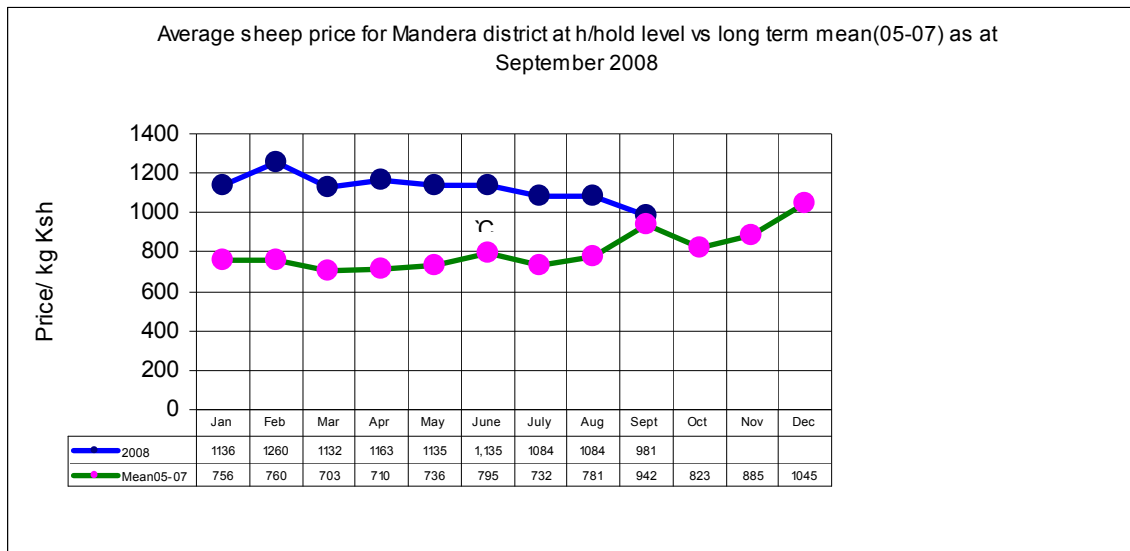
- The low goat prices decreased the purchasing power and food security of households since goats are often sold to meet every day needs of rural households.
- Compared to long term mean, the average price was lower by Ksh 139.
- The agro-pastoral zone recorded the highest average price at Ksh 1,213, followed by irrigated cropping at Ksh1,057 and the pastoral all species at Ksh 1,049.



NB: No of Households: 417

3.1.3 Sheep prices

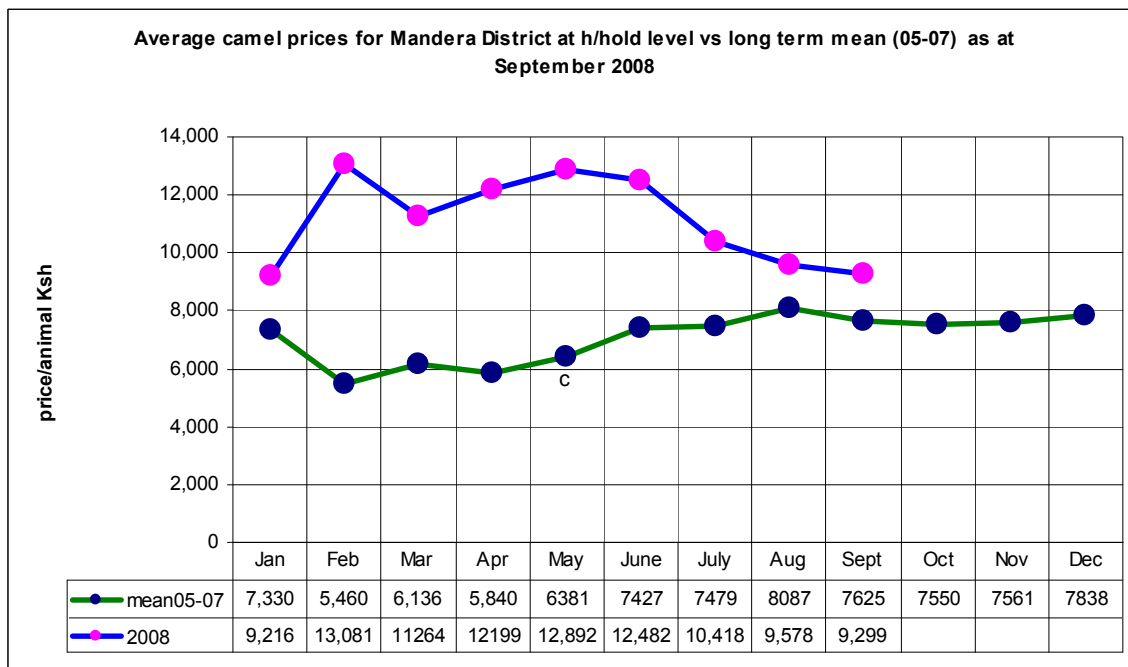
- Average sheep prices dropped to Ksh981 from Ksh1, 084 in August due to poor body conditions following inadequate pasture.
- Compared to the long term mean, the average price was higher by Ksh39.
- The trend was normal for the time of the year.
- The highest average price was recorded in the agro-pastoral zone at Ksh 1,213, followed by pastoral all species at Ksh 998 and irrigated cropping at Ksh 833.



: No of households: 417

3.1.4 Camel prices

- Average camel price dropped to Ksh9, 299 from Ksh 9,578 in August.
- The price decrease was due to increased sale of camels and low market demand.
- The average price was higher than the long term mean by Ksh 1,674.



: No of households: 417

3.2 Livestock sales

- The average sales of goats, cattle, camel and sheep were 287, 37, 27 and 55 respectively, with total sales of 406 during the month of September.
- Sales volume in the previous month was higher at 411 animals.

- Most households depended on livestock sales to meet their basic needs.

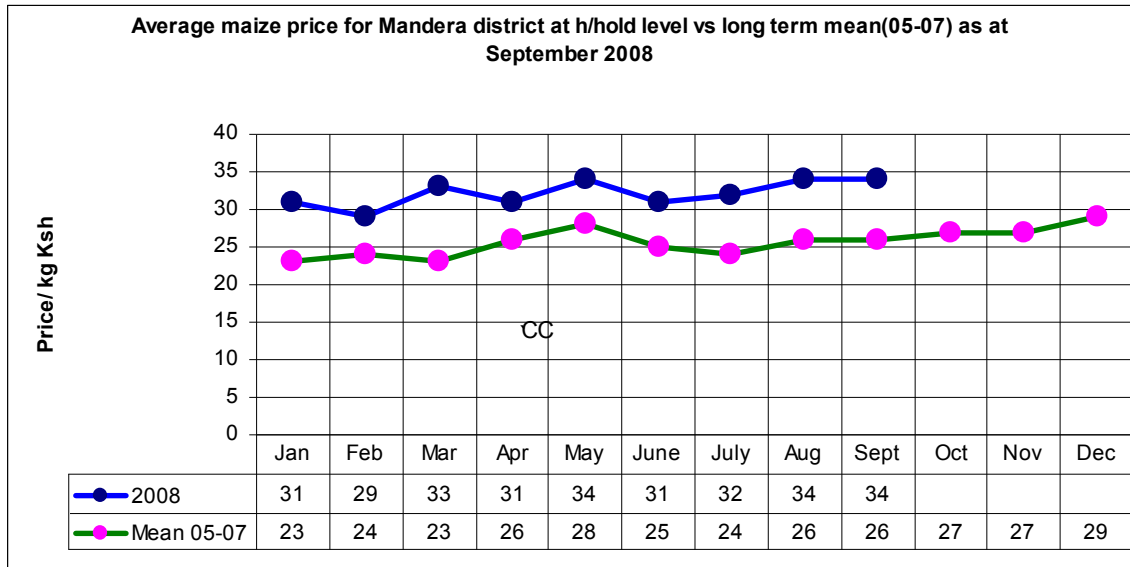
3.3 Milk consumption

- Milk consumption was very low in the district due to scarcity.

3.4 Crop prices

3.4.1 Maize prices

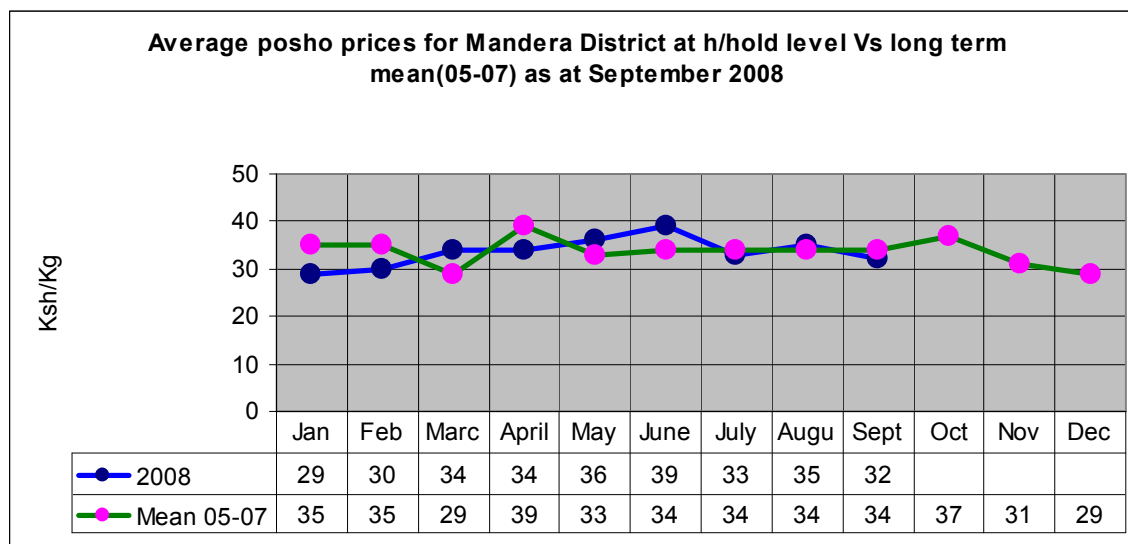
- Average maize price was Ksh34 per kilo during the month.
- The price was stable compared to the previous month.



: No of households: 417

3.4.2 Posho prices

- The average Posho price was Ksh 32 per kilo compared to Ksh 35 in August.
- The average price was lower than the long term mean.



: No of households: 417

3.4.4 Other major food crops/ major purchased food

- Other foods purchased by the communities were oil, rice and sugar.
- Sugar traded at Ksh 70, Rice Ksh 68 and oil Ksh 138.

3.5 Income

3.5.1 Livestock income

- The main source of income for all livelihoods was sale of livestock and casual labour. The sales rate of camels, cattle, sheep and goats was average.

3.5.2 Crops income

- Most farmers got income from sale of maize and cow peas as fodder since they had ready market.
- Other crop income was from sale of vegetables such as tomatoes, kales and onions.

3.5.3 Other sources of income

- Casual labour was a major source of income during the month. The average daily wage from sampled divisions was Ksh 180.
- Compared to the preceding month, the average daily wage decreased by Ksh6.
- The highest average income was noted in irrigated cropping zone, followed by pastoral all species and agro-pastoral zones.

3.6 Implication on food security

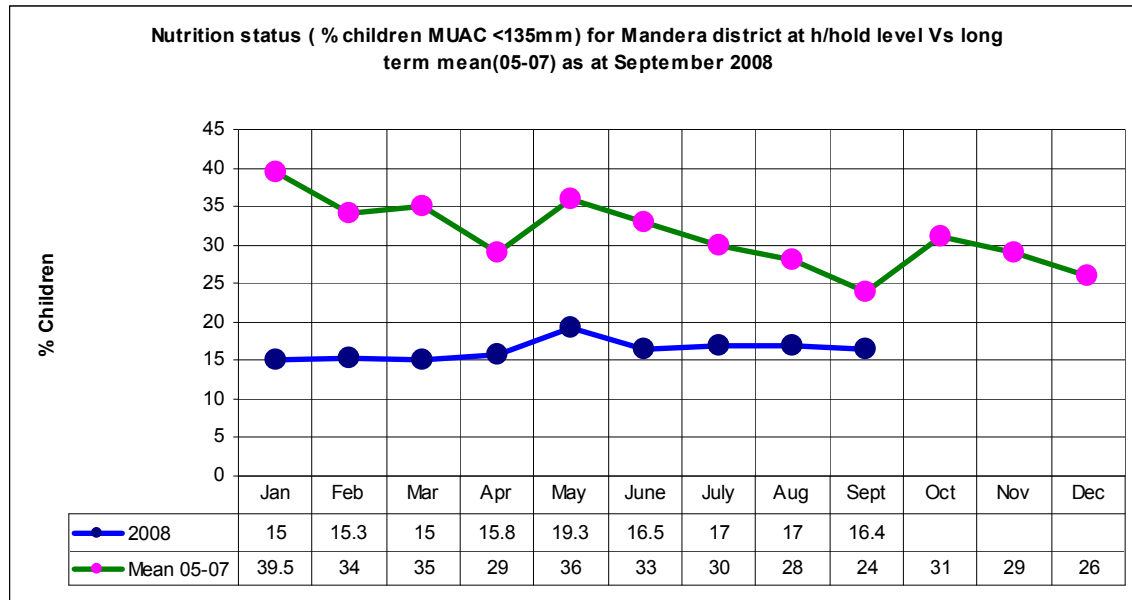
- Low livestock prices coupled with high cereal prices impacted negatively on household food security.

4. Utilisation of food

4.1 Nutrition status

- The nutrition status of children under five improved slightly.

- Percentage of those rated as being at risk of malnutrition was 16.4 compared to 17 per cent in August.
- The status was an improvement compared to the long term mean of 24 per cent.
- Malka Mari division reported the highest rate at 17.9 per cent, while lowest was recorded in Rhamu Dimtu division at 13.6.



: Total No of Children: 1,335

4.2 Health

- No disease out was reported during the month under review.

4.3 Flagged Areas

- Over 48 trading centres were experiencing water stress, hence water trucking should be continued to mitigate the crisis.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non-food aid

The following interventions were carried out in the district during the month;

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5.2 Food aid

- Supplementary feedings by Action against Hunger.
- Therapeutic feeding centers (TFC) in Mandera district hospital by AAH.

- Distribution of relief food by WFP & COCOP with 110,740 beneficiaries.

5.3 Other coping strategies

- Other coping strategies included casual labour and sharing relief food with pastoral relatives.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG

- Over 48 trading centres were experiencing acute water stress, hence water trucking should be continued-:Action-DWOs-Mandera West, Central, East, Arid lands and other Actors.
- Emergency funds will required to facilitate de-stocking/livestock off-take for pastoral communities if the short rains fail or are below normal as these may lead to total collapse of pastoral economy. Action-DSGs Mandera West, East and Central
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