



## Situation overview

- No rainfall was recorded in the district and the month was completely dry and windy and characterised by high temperatures.
- Forage was limited and pastoralists moved their herds into conflict-prone areas along the Chalbi/Moyale districts border. Others moved to Wajir North and as far as Jaldessa Holding ground in Marsabit to avoid conflicts, especially in Central Division of Moyale where camels are stolen and driven to Ethiopia.
- Incidences of foot and mouth disease were still prevalent and several herds in Bori and Dabel areas were affected.
- Body conditions of the livestock deteriorated during the month.
- Livestock deaths were very high compared to the previous month. The worst hit area was Mado Adhi in Obbu Division.

Species	Total death	Mado Adhi (by species)
Cattle	12	10
Goats	75	52
Sheep	15	14
Camels	40	40

- Herd growth was negligible over the month compared to deaths and off-take. Average birth stood at 1.9 per cent in cattle and 7.5 in goats. Most of the births were reported in Godoma area in Golbo division. Average mortality rate stood at 3.3 per cent for cattle and 4.7 per cent for goats.
- Livestock prices declined further, with cattle fetching Ksh 9,914.30 down from Ksh11,528.40 in August due to uncertainty over the onset of rains and continued stress as a result of lack of pasture and water points. However, Goat prices improved slightly to Ksh 1,332.70 from Ksh1,110.4.
- Availability of food declined, with cereal prices rising. The average price of maize was Ksh 40 during the month from Ksh 32.50 in August.
- Milk prices doubled over the month, with a bottle (300ml) going for Ksh30 in Central and Golbo divisions.
- The nutrition status of children below five years deteriorated during the month, with the percentage of those rated as being at risk of malnutrition rising to 25.6 per cent from 24.7 in August. Mado Adhi sample area in Obbu division was the worst affected with 42.0 per cent followed by Sololo Makutano location.
- The district is becoming more food insecure and requires drastic and aggressive measures to reduce poverty level and improve food security.

## Current interventions

### Food aid

- Relief food distribution (rice and beans) in the district, though the quantity was small.

### **Non-food interventions**

- Water trucking by ALRMP II to worst hit areas of Banale, Guyo Timo, Nana and Garba Sub-location of Damballa Fachana.

### **Coping strategies**

- Reducing the size and quantities of meals.

### **Recommendations to KFSSG**

- Request for relief food and increase allocation to curb rising rates of malnutrition.
- Farmers should be encouraged to plant more and on time as the onset of the short rains approaches.

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

### **1.1 Rainfall**

- The short rains were expected in early to mid-October.
- There were fears that the rains would be inadequate, resulting in more conflicts in the volatile district.

### **1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture**

- The condition of forage remained very poor.
- Amballo and Bori areas, which experienced high pasture growth during the past rainfall season, were invaded by pastoralists from Ethiopia, resulting in overgrazing and degradation.
- The quality of pasture was poor and could not meet needs of livestock.

### **1.3 Water source and availability**

#### **1.3.1 Water sources**

- The main sources of water for communities in the district were boreholes, pans and dams and shallow wells. Boreholes were the main most commonly used as pans and dams dried up in most settlement centres.
- The use of boreholes has been rising since the long rains ended in May.

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

- Most households relied on boreholes and pans.
- The average time spent by households in search of water was about 3 hours.
- Households in Godoma spent 6 hours fetching a 20 litre jerrican of water, an indication of increased water stress.

#### **1.3.3 Livestock access to water**

- The main sources of water for livestock over the month were boreholes, followed by pans and dams.
- There was a lot of congestion, soil erosion and livestock disappearances at the main watering points in the district.

- The average grazing distance in the district was 15.6km, with Uran Lataka being the most affected with 18.3km.

#### **1.4 Emerging issues**

##### **1.4.1 Livestock theft**

- Though the local administration put a lot of effort in containing livestock theft, the menace escalated, sometimes across the border.
- Though most of the stolen livestock is usually recovered, rustling constrained movement and herds migrated to other districts.

##### **1.4.2 Increased milk and food prices**

- Increased food prices exerted a lot of stress on households.
- Milk also became too expensive and hard to come by and this is expected to result into accelerated malnutrition rates in the district.

##### **1.4.3 Livestock migration**

- Some communities migrated to other districts as a result of conflict over pasture and water.
- The migration also contributed to the high milk prices as camel herds moved away from settlements

#### **1.5 Implication on food security**

- Increased distances to water impacted negatively on food security situation.
- Uncertainty in the grazing areas, which led to increased migration, resulted in increased food insecurity.
- Though the entire district was affected, Uran was worst hit.

### **2.0 Rural economy indicators (food availability)**

#### **2.1 Livestock production**

##### **2.1.1 Livestock body conditions**

- Body conditions of livestock continued to worsen over the month. Cattle were the worst hit, especially in Amballo and Bori areas in Obbu and Central divisions. Goats were also very poor in Mado Adhi and Ramata locations of Obbu Division, while condition of camels was very poor in Odda and Heilu locations due to fear of venturing far in search of pasture.
- The poor body condition was attributed to overgrazing and influx of livestock into the district earlier in the year.
- The condition was comparatively worse than August.

##### **2.1.2 Livestock health and diseases**

- There were no major disease outbreaks in the district, though Foot and Mouth had not completely cleared.
- Deaths in sheep and goats were reported and need to be investigated.
- Although plant poisoning normally happens during the time of stress but the magnitude of camel death in Mado Adhi raises eyebrows.

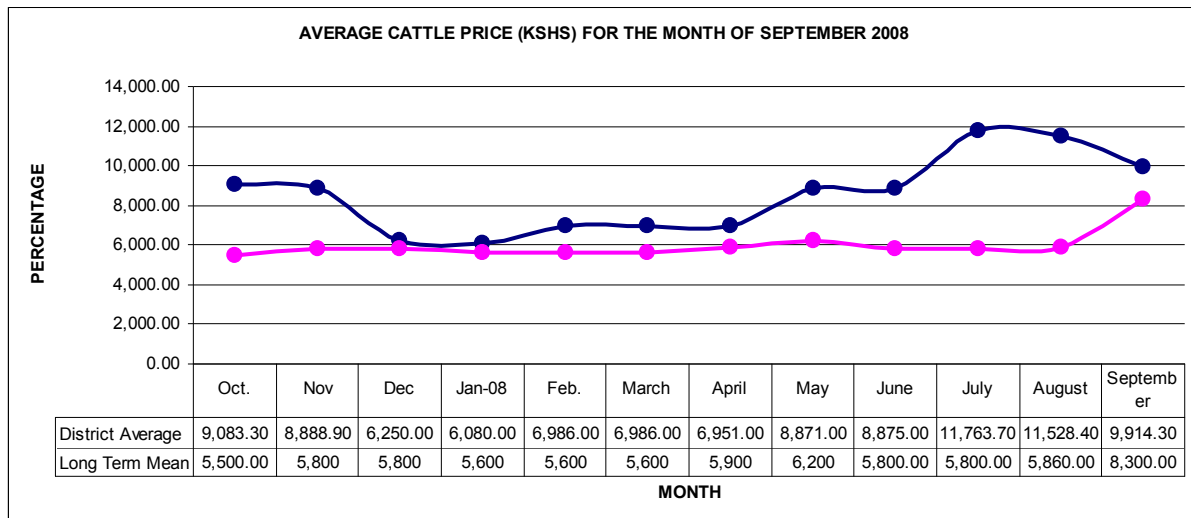
### 2.1.3 Milk production

- Total milk produced in the sampled households was about 174 bottles for the total human population of 1,454 people.
- The production was too low compared to last month.
- Milk prices were very high for the month and a 300ml bottle was sold for Ksh24.60.

## 3.0 Access to food

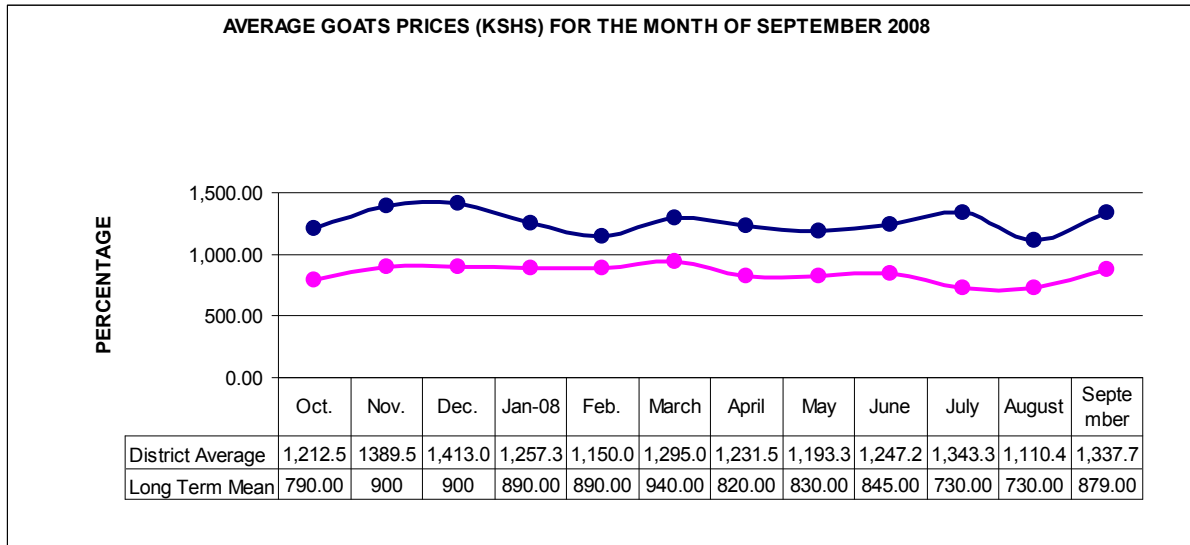
### 3.1 Livestock marketing

#### 3.1.1 Cattle prices



- Cattle prices dropped over the month due to poor body conditions and high supply.
- The average price during the month was Ksh9,914.30 from Ksh11,528.40 in August.
- Prices were very low in the agro-pastoral zones of Golbo and Uran Divisions compared to the pastoral zones of Sololo Makutano. The differences were due to long distances to markets and poor body conditions.
- Prices of cattle in Uran Lataka were Ksh6,750 and Ksh11,000 in Sololo Makutano. The average price in Heilu agro-pastoral zone, which is close to Moyale Livestock market, was Ksh12,000.

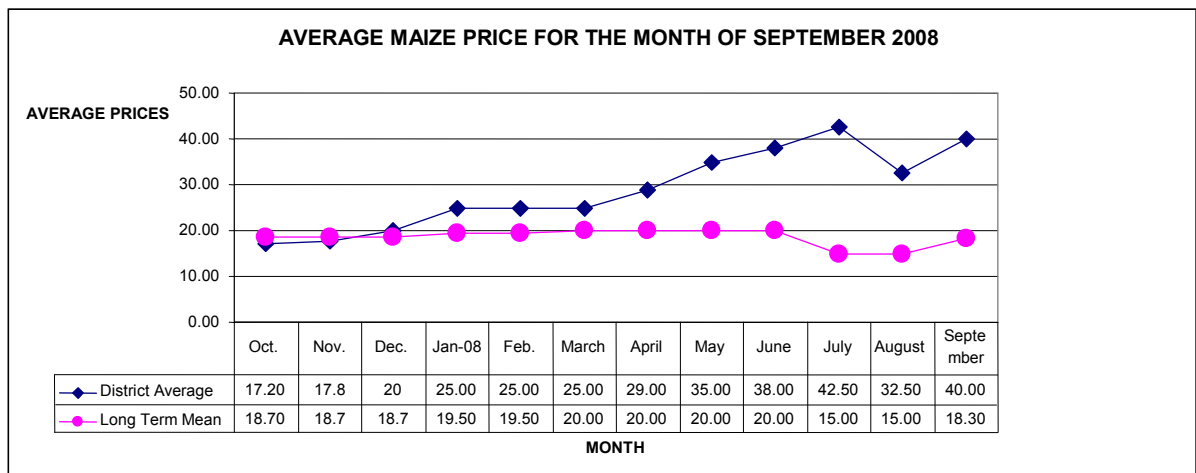
#### 3.1.2 Goat prices



- Goats prices increased over the month from Ksh 1,110.40 in August to Ksh1,337.70.
- Prices improved in the agro-pastoral zone compared to the pastoral areas of Sololo Makutano.
- The differences were attributed to more animals offered for sale in pastoral areas than the agro-pastoral livelihood zone.

### 3.2 Crop prices

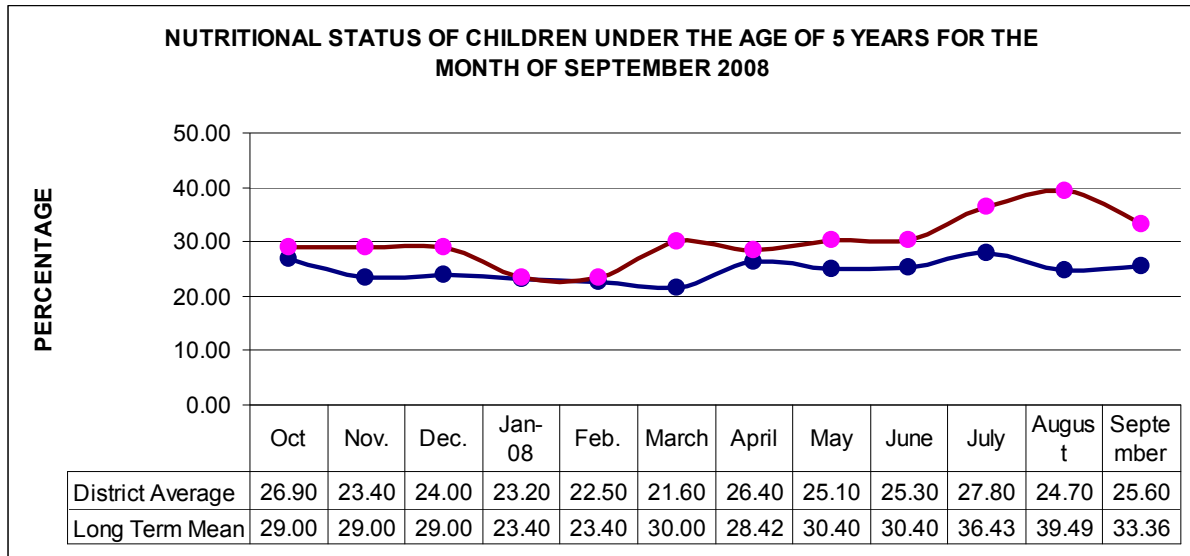
#### 3.2.1 Maize prices



- Maize was too expensive over the month and needed to be subsidized through relief food distribution.
- The prices were above the long term mean due to drought and global food crisis.

### 4.0 Welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

#### 4.1 Nutrition status



- The nutrition status of children below five years deteriorated during the month, with the percentage of those rated as being at risk of malnutrition rising to 25.6 per cent from 24.7 in August.
- Mado Adhi sample area in Obbu division was the worst affected with 42.0 per cent, followed by Sololo Makutano location.

#### 4.2 Human Health

- Malaria and coughs were the most common diseases in the district during the month.

#### 4.3 Flagged areas

- Obbu and Golbo were the worst-hit areas in the district and require more assistance in form of food supplements for children.

#### 5.0 Current interventions

- Only Food For Assets was distributed in the district. The work done was quite light and communal.
- Water trucking was on-going.
- De-silting of some pans was on-going through NGOs.

#### 6.0 Recommendations

- Assist farmers with seeds for planting before the short rains start.
- Sensitise farmers to plant in time to reduce food insecurity.
- Urgent disease control measures, especially PPT among goats and sheep.
- Provincial Administration should assist livestock owners searching for pasture outside the district as an acute pasture shortage is expected.
- More capacity building in hilly areas, where trees were being destroyed as households sought alternative means of meeting food requirements.
- Increased Food for Assets and relief food.

