

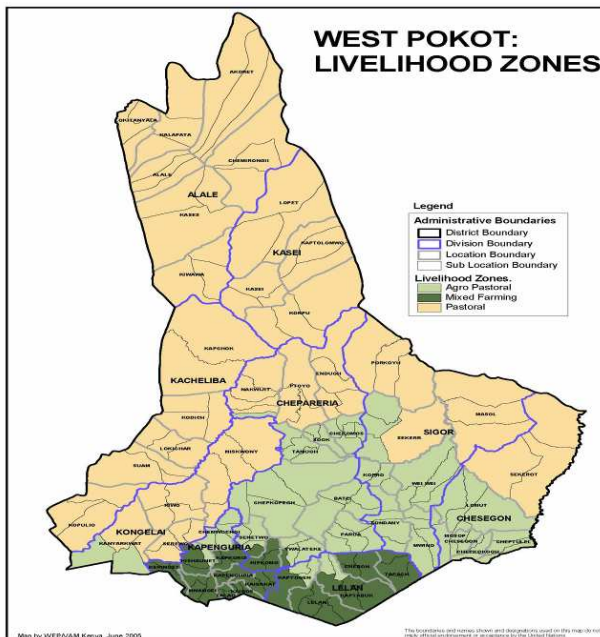


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, SEPTEMBER 2008

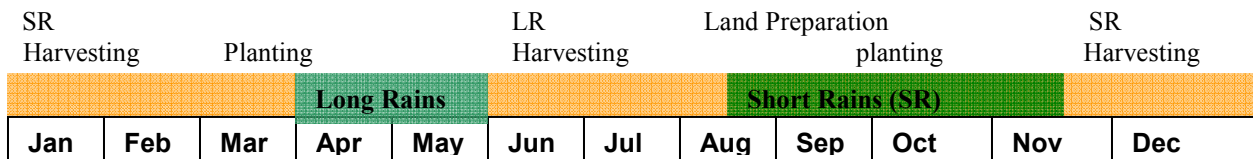
West Pokot District

Warning Stages



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

SEASONAL CALENDAR



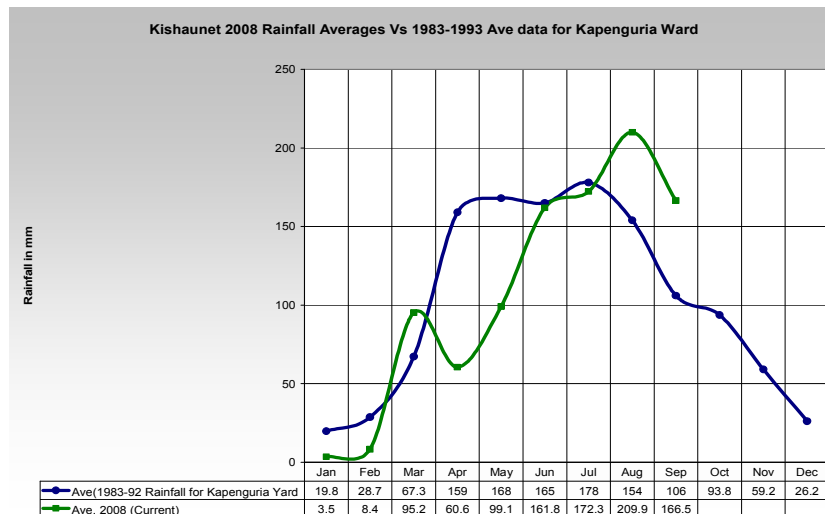
Situation Overview

- The average rainfall recorded at KVDA Kapenguria Station (Kishaunet) was 166.6 mm compared to 209.9 mm last month. However, varying amounts were recorded in different livelihood zones across the district. The amount of rainfall was normal for the time of the year.
- The quality and quantity of pasture remained good, but deteriorated in some low lying pastoral areas in Sigor and Orwa. The available pasture is expected to last between two to three months.
- Milk production stabilised during the month due to availability of pasture.
- Natural rivers remained the major water sources across the livelihood zones.
- There was no significant change in the distances to water sources by households compared to last month.
- Livestock body condition ranged from fair to good across different livelihood zones due to varied rainfall amounts in different livelihood zones.
- Cases of *Peste des petits ruminants* (PPR) continued to be reported across the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones. However, this is expected to be contained during the ongoing national vaccination campaign.
- A disease affecting camels continued to be reported in North Pokot district, especially in Kangoletiang.
- Prices of cattle improved in most areas compared to the previous month. The average price rose to Ksh 8,770 from Ksh 6,256 in August. Average goat prices stood at Ksh 1,098 compared to Ksh 1,021 last month.
- Food prices rose during the month with maize selling at Ksh 30 per kilo, while beans traded at Ksh 50. Most of the cereals and legumes were sourced from the neighboring districts.
- The nutrition status of children below five improved during the month under review, with percentage of those rated as being at risk of malnutrition (using the MUAC <135mm) dropping from 8 per cent in August to 5.9.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- The average rainfall recorded at KVDA Kapenguria Station (Kishaunet) was 166.6 mm compared to 209.9 mm last month.
- However, varying amounts were recorded in different livelihood zones across the district.
- The agro pastoral areas and lower parts of the mixed livelihood zones received lower amounts of rainfall compared to last month, while distribution in the other livelihood zones was fair, especially North Pokot.
- Water volume in rivers remained high with the continued rainfall in the upper catchment areas.
- The amount of rainfall was normal for the time of year.



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

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Pasture quality and quantity decreased in some low lying areas, especially in Orwa and Masol.
- Other areas that received rainfall remained stable.
- Pasture in the pastoral livelihood zone is expected to last between two to three months. However, browse was available in all areas.
- Some animals were still grazing in the dry season areas, including the Kenya Uganda border.
- The average return distance to grazing areas rose to 4.7 km from 4.4 km last month. Konyao recorded the longest distance at 9km and this was because of the pastoralists moving towards the Kenya/Uganda border.

1.3 Water sources and availability

- Natural rivers remained the main water sources across the livelihood zones due to continued rainfall in the catchment areas.
- Boreholes, water pans and dams were the next major water sources in the district.
- The current situation was normal at this time of the year.
- There was no significant change in the distances to water sources for households. The average recorded time in search of water was 2.5km. The longest distance was recorded in Orwa area at 5.8km.
- The situation was normal at the time of the year.

1.4 Insecurity and conflict

- Cases of human/wildlife conflict were reported in most parts of the pastoral livelihoods.

1.5 Implications on food security

- Late arrival of rains in the agro-pastoral livelihood zones resulted in poor performance of crops. However, food was available in the mixed farming areas and farmers were about to start harvesting.
- Most livestock in the pastoral livelihood zones had not returned to the normal grazing areas, which meant that milk was not readily available in households.

2.0 Food availability

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Livestock body condition ranged from fair to good across the various livelihood zones due to varied amounts of rainfall received in the areas.
- However, body condition was poor in Orwa and Sigor and on a worsening trend.
- Though pasture was available in some parts of Orwa, they were inaccessible due to insecurity.
- This is a normal situation at this time of the year.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- Cases of PPR continued to be reported across the district, affecting mostly goats and sheep.
- The situation was expected to improve after the ongoing national vaccination campaign.
- A disease affecting camels continued to be reported in North Pokot, especially in Kangoletiang and Alale. Six more camels were reported to have succumbed to the disease.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of various crop production activities

- Harvesting started in parts of the mixed farming livelihood zone.
- However, the agro-pastoral zone is likely to experience crop failure due to late planting.
- The situation in the mixed farming livelihoods was normal at the time of the year, but below normal in the agro-pastoral zone.
- The situation in the pastoral zone was normal, except for a few pockets.

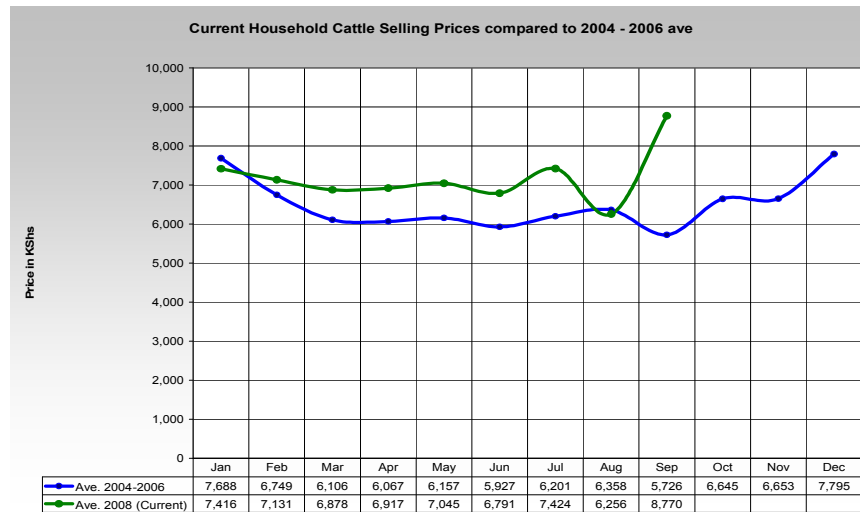
2.2.2 Pest and diseases

- There were no outstanding cases of crop pests reported.

2.2.3 Implications on food security

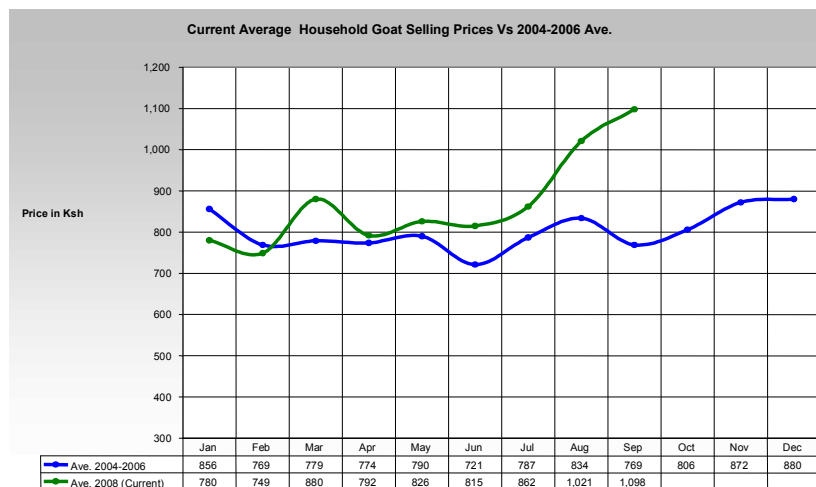
- Food security situation was varied across different livelihood zones.
- While the situation was good in the mixed farming zone and harvesting started, the situation was below normal in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone.
- The situation was fair in the pastoral livelihood zone, except in Orwa and lower parts of Sigor which received inadequate rainfall.
- High food prices posed a threat to food security in the district.

3.0 Access to food
3.1 Livestock marketing
3.1.1 Cattle prices



- Cattle prices improved in most areas compared to last month. Average price rose to Ksh 8,770 compared to Ksh 6,256 in August.
- The high prices were attributed to good livestock body condition and demand.
- The terms of trade for pastoralists were compromised by high food prices.
- The lowest price was recorded in Ptokou. However the lowest price increased from Ksh 5,333 last month to Ksh 6,000.
- The highest price was recorded in Kapsait at Ksh 15,000 (mixed farming zone) followed by Poole (pastoral livelihood) at Ksh 10,000.
- The prices were within the normal range at the time of the year.

3.1.2 Goat prices

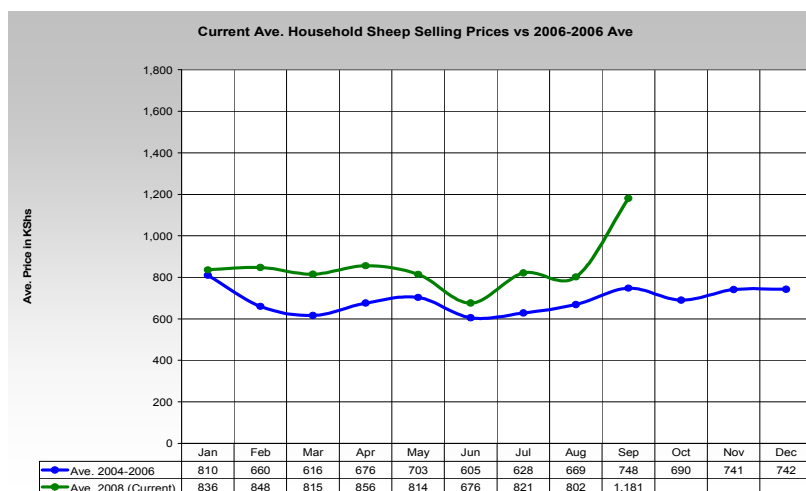


- Goat prices rose to Ksh 1,098 compared to Ksh 1,021 last month.

- The lowest average price of Ksh 704 was recorded at Kangoletiang compared to KSh 807 recorded in Kongelai last month.
- The highest price was recorded in Kaiboss at Ksh 1,500 compared to Ksh 1,200 recorded in Orwa last month.
- The overall average increase in prices was attributed to the increased demand for goats.
- Though it is normal for prices of goats to increase between September and December, the demand seemed higher during the month under review.
- The situation was normal at this time of the year.

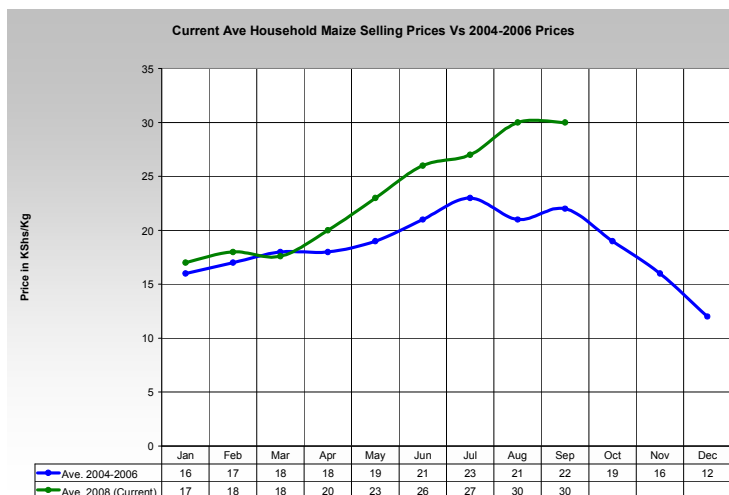
3.1.3 Sheep prices

- Sheep prices rose to Ksh 1,181 compared to Ksh 802 recorded last month. The increase was attributed to availability of pasture and demand.
- The lowest recorded price was Ksh740 in Kongelai, while the highest was recorded in Sasak at Ksh 1600.
- The situation was normal at this time of the year.



3.2 Crop prices

3.2.1 Maize prices



- Maize prices remained stable at Ksh 30 per kilo. The prices were high compared to the long term mean.
- The situation is yet to improve despite start of harvesting in some areas.
- There are no maize stocks in households, hence only traders are selling the commodity.
- However, green maize was available in some areas.
- This is not a normal situation at this time of the year.

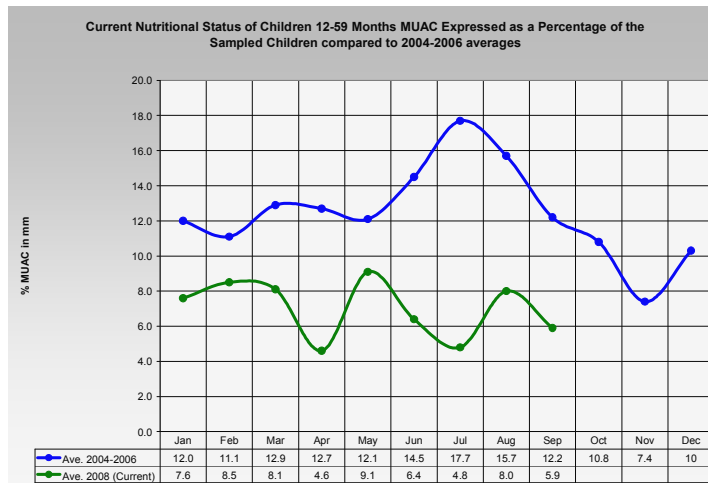
3.2.2. Beans prices

- Average beans price was Ksh 50 compared to Ksh 70 recorded in August. Though the price drop was significant, the price was still high.
- The number of people selling beans was very low and only three sample areas were reported to be trading in beans. These include Chepnyal, Kaiboss and Sasak.
- This was an indication that household beans stocks were getting exhausted.
- This is not a normal situation at the time of the year.



4. Utilisation of food

4.1 Nutrition status



- The nutrition status of children below five improved during the month under review, with percentage of those rated as being at risk of malnutrition (using the MUAC <135mm) dropping from 8 per cent in August to 5.9.
- The improvement could be attributed to the availability of milk in households following the rains received in most of the pastoral livelihoods.
- The status was expected to get better once harvesting is done.