



**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 MONITORING BULLETIN, AUGUST 2009**

**Isiolo and Garbatulla Districts**

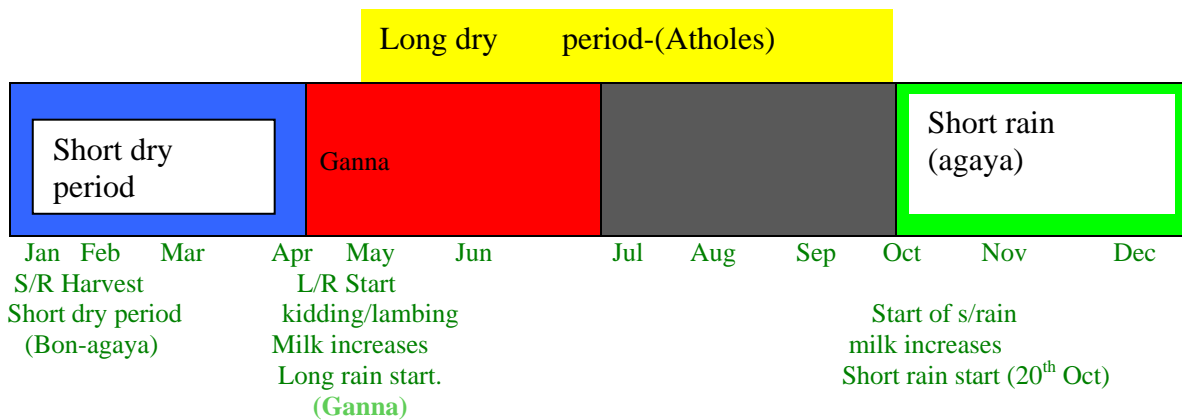
*Isiolo District : Livelihood Zones*



**Warning Stage**

Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Pastoral- all species	Emergency	No change
Agro pastoral	Emergency	No change
Casual waged lab our	Alarm	Deteriorating
Firewood/ Charcoal	Alarm	Worsening
District	Emergency	No change

**Seasonal Calendar**



### **Situation overview**

- No rainfall was received over the month in the two districts of Garbatulla and Isiolo. This was normal compared to previous period in a normal year. The drought situation continued to be severe in all livelihood zones.
- The quantity of pasture and natural vegetation continued to diminish in dry season grazing areas of Yamicha, Duma, Dogogicha and Hawaye. The distances to grazing fields increased from an average of 25km in July to 30km one way.
- The livestock mortality rate was 29.1% for cattle, 7.9% for sheep and 3.5% for goat during the month. This represents an increase of 10%, 3% and 2% for cattle, sheep and goat respectively. The increased mortalities were due to lack of forage and increased distances to water and grazing areas. The most affected divisions were Oldonyiro, Merti and Sericho.
- The distances from livestock concentration points to water sources increased further with the highest being recorded in Dogogicha, Duma, Hawaye and Oldonyiro at an average of 30km one way. One night's rest between the settlements, grazing fields and water sources was still a preferred coping strategy among Hawaye, Boji and Duma rangeland users.
- The nutrition status of children below five years (based on MUAC<135mm measurement) continued to deteriorate, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition increasing to 33.1% from 30% in July. The most stressed divisions remained Merti, Sericho and Garbatulla. Merti and Sericho divisions increased from 50.6% and 33, 9% in July to 70.5% and 37.5% respectively while Garbatulla recorded an increase from 31.4 % in July to 40.7%.

### **Recommendations to DSG and KFSM**

- The EMOP food target beneficiaries should be increased by at least 40% from the current 43,110. (DSG/WFP/KFSSG)
- Emergency livestock off take to be considered for all pastoral areas. (MOLD/ KFSSG)
- Emergency livestock hay provision to be considered (MOLD/KFSSG) .
- Emergency livestock slaughter and relief meat distribution needs to be considered (NGO'S /MOLD/KFSSG).
- Supplementary and therapeutic feeding for vulnerable groups especially to non-EMOP target areas be considered urgently (MOH/DSG/KFSSG) .

### **Current interventions**

#### **Non –food interventions**

- Ministry of Water responded to frequent borehole breakdown in Merti and Sericho Divisions boreholes.
- DWO Garbatulla provided fuel for water trucking in Sericho division frequently and on timely basis.
- Water trucking exercise was extended to additional centres of Belgesh in Garbatulla district supported by Arid Lands Resource Management Project.
- MID-P (Merti) purchased /slaughtered 300 cattle for distribution as relief meat in Merti and Sericho divisions funded by CORDAID (NGO) and benefited 35,660 people.
- VSF slaughtered 3,600 sheep and goats and supplied relief meat to residents of Merti and Cherab division.

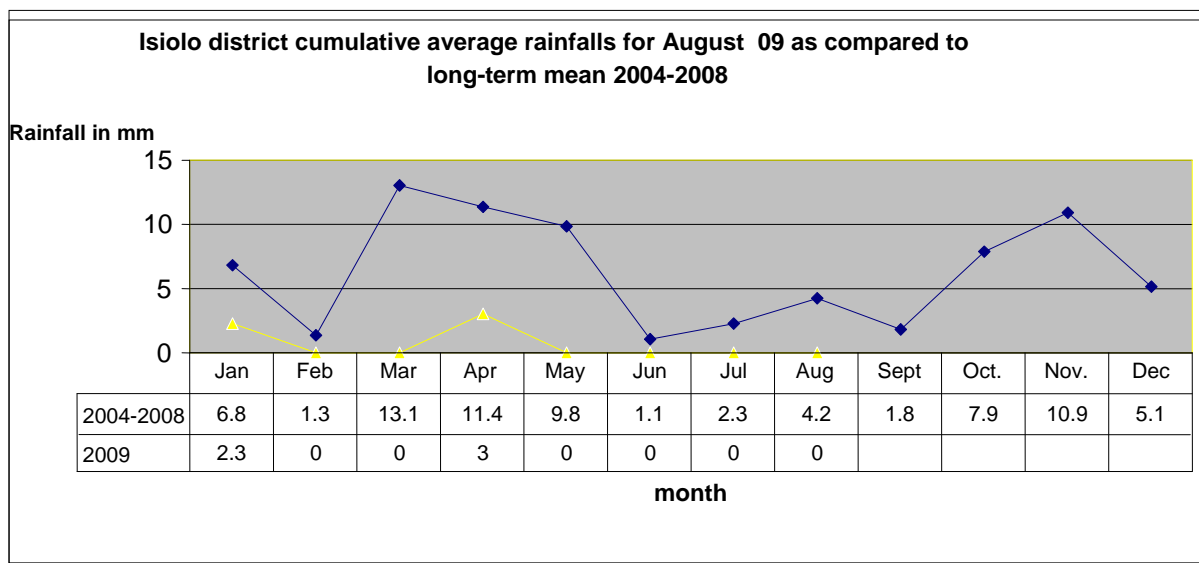
## Food aid

- 1,000 bags of maize (90kg), 1,200 bags of rice (50kg), 250 bags of beans (50kg) edible oil ( GOK food) were distributed to internally displaced persons (IDPS) secondary schools and Non – EMOP target areas of East and West locations.
- EMOP made August food distribution to 43,110 beneficiaries in the two districts including 8,896 bags maize (50kg) , 56 bags of cornmeal, 862 bags of pulses (50kg each) , 862 tins of vegetable oil (20kg), csb20 bags (25kg) and 270kgs salts.

## 1.0 Environment indicators (Stability)

### 1.1 Rainfall

The graph represents rainfall pattern for the August 2009 compared to long-term mean 2004-2008.



Source; ALRMP sample site

- No rainfall was received in the districts of Garbatulla and Isiolo over the month. This was normal compared to previous period in a normal year. However, the deaths of livestock, severe water shortages and conflicts experienced over the month were not normal and calls for urgent mitigation measures to be instituted.

### 1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Vegetation and pasture continued to get depleted in dry season grazing areas. The distances of access increased from an average of 25km in July to 30 km in Dogogicha, Duma, Yamicha and Hawaye.
- The forage conditions and distances were better in Escort and Korbesa locations of Kinna divisions due to their proximity to Bisanadi game reserve and Meru National Park.
- Livestock mortality increased for all species in all livelihood zones due to lack of forage. Merti emerged highest in divisional ranking in terms of livestock mortalities, whereby 19.1% and 16.6% was recorded for cattle and sheep respectively.

### 1.3 Water source and availability

- Boreholes, deep wells and piped system were the main water sources for the month. Deep wells in Belgesh, Quri and Modogashe dried up and water was now being provided by a lorry from Arid Lands office.
- Hawaye shallows wells continued to increase in depth from an average of about 56ft in July to 60-65ft.
- Frequent breakage due to long hours of usage was common in Yamicha, Duma, Iresaboru and Sericho borehole.

The table indicates water sources and percentage of households using them during the month compared to normal situation.

Water source	1	2	3	4	Others
% of HH normally depending on the source	25	30	-	40	5
% of HH depending on the source for current month	1	48	15	36	

1- River, 2-boreholes, 3-shallow wells, 4- piped system, others- pans.

### 1.4 Emerging issues

- Water shortage for livestock and human was severe in Merti, Sericho and Oldonyiro division.
- Additional centers of Belgesh in Garbatulla district were included in water trucking exercise.

#### 1.4.1 Insecurity/conflict/displacement

- Insecurity and conflict was bad in Ngaremara, Shaba and Boji Dera rangelands as frequent raids are undertaken by armed people against herders.
- About 3600 people in Gambella and Bulesdima, who were affected by insecurity last month (July'09), are still displaced.

#### 1.4.2 Migration

- Livestock was concentrated in dry season grazing rangelands.
- No migration happened over the month as no areas of fair forage to migrate to be not available.

#### 1.4.3 Implications on food Security

- Food insecurity stress was severe in all livelihood zones.
- Urgent EMOP food beneficiaries increased and measures to mitigate water shortages should be explored.

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

### **2.1 Livestock production**

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

- The livestock body weight continued to reduce drastically due to limited forage and increased distances to water. The livestock mortalities increased to 29.1% for cattle and 18% for sheep due to reduced body weight as a result of depleted pasture. The worst affected areas were Merti, Cherab, Sericho and Oldonyiro divisions.

#### **2.1.2 Livestock diseases**

- Mild cases of lumpy skin disease, worm infestations and contagious caprine pleuropneumonia were common diseases reported in Kinna, Rapsu and Garbatulla.

#### **2.1.3 Milk production**

- Milk production reduced from an average of 20 bottles (750ml) in July to an average of 11.8 bottles. The highest production was recorded in Kinna and central division being 15 bottles and 14 of 750mls respectively.
- The lowest production was in Merti division, which recorded 2 bottles of 750 mls and no production was recorded in Sericho division. The reduced production was due to reduced body weight of livestock in all livelihood zones as a result of depleted forage.

## **2.2 Crop production**

### **2.2.1 Timeliness and status of crop**

- No major crops were planted over the month, being a dry season. However, weeding and transplanting of vegetables was ongoing in irrigated areas of Gambella and harvesting and selling of tomatoes, onions and kales on small-scale in Gambella irrigation.

### **2.2.3 Harvests**

- Harvesting of tomatoes, onions and kales in Gambella, which were mainly grown under irrigation.

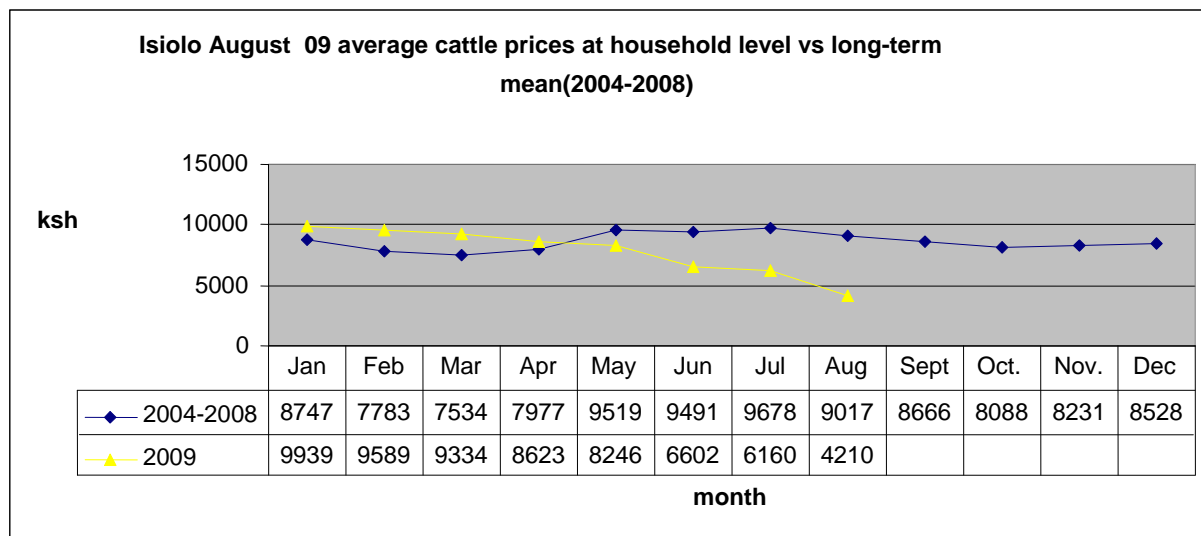
## **2.3 Implications of food security**

- The food insecurity stress was high in all livelihood zones due to emaciation of livestock, deaths of all livestock species and shortage of water for domestic, livestock and farming.
- Poor market prices of livestock and escalating prices of food stuff (cereals, beans) made it difficult for households to feed themselves.

### 3.0 Access to food

#### 3.1 Livestock marketing

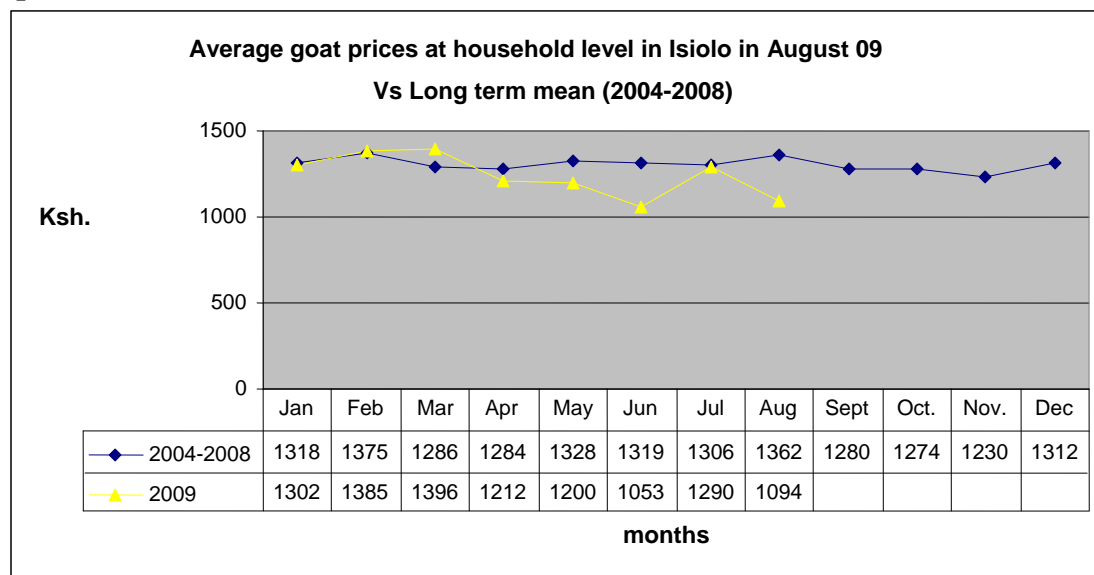
##### 3.1.1 Cattle prices



Source; ALRMP sample sites      N=450

- The district average cattle price reduced from Ksh6,160 in July to Ksh 4,210, representing a depreciation of 31.6%. The decrease was due to the reducing body weight of cattle in all livelihood zones as a result of depleted forage.
- The price was high in Garbatulla and lower in central at Ksh7,193 and 3,016 respectively.

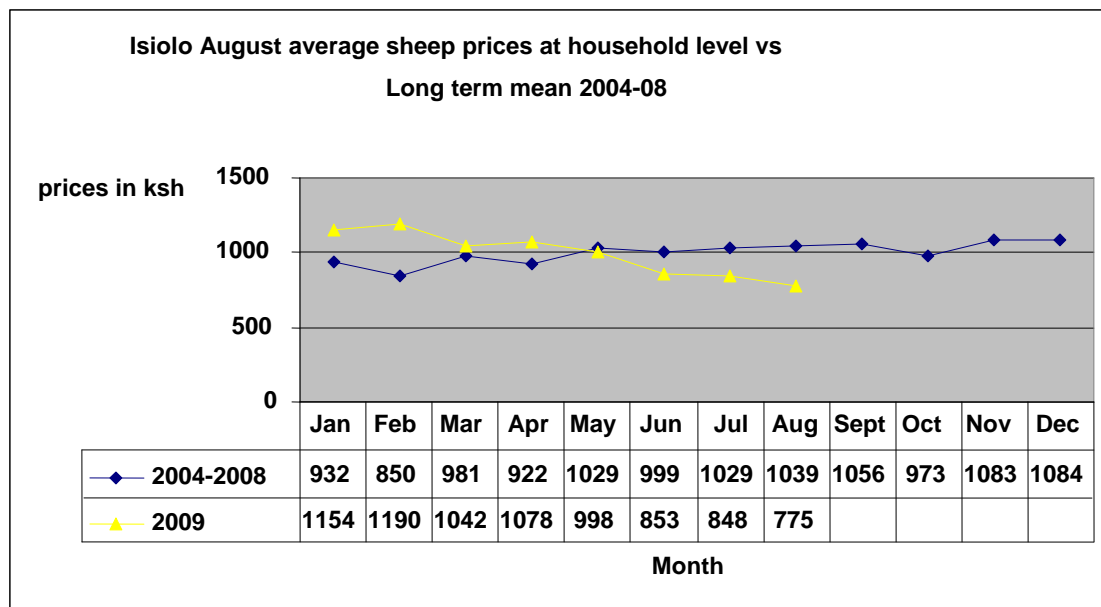
##### 3.1.2 Goat prices



Source; ALRMP sample sites      N=450

- The average goat price reduced from Ksh1,290 in July to Ksh1,094. This represents a 15% decrease from last month's price. This month price was also less by 19.6% compared to long term mean of the same period. The observed changes were due to the reducing body weight of goats in all livelihood zones.

##### 3.1.3 Sheep prices



Source; ALRMP sample sites

N=450

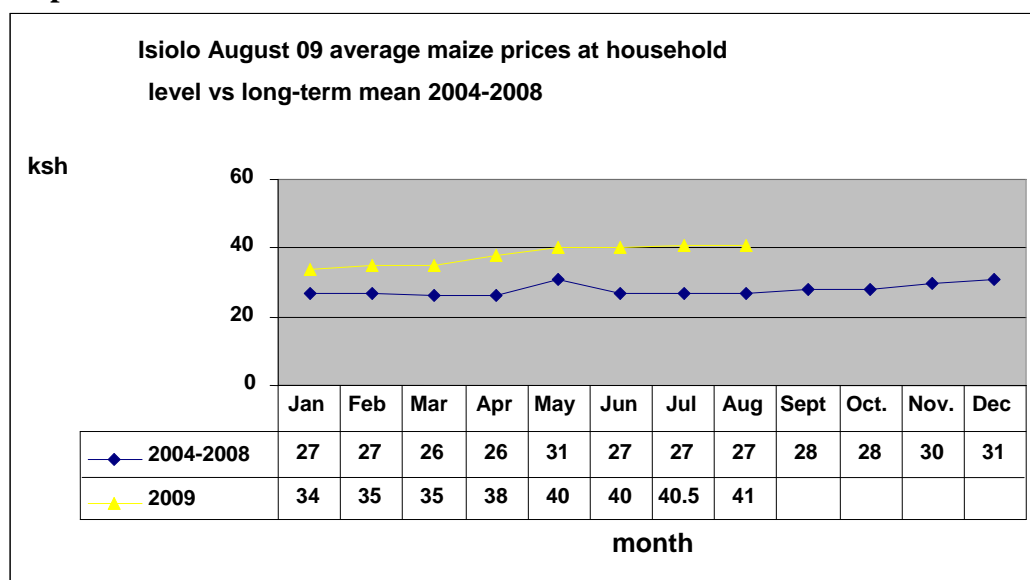
- There was a reduction in the district average price of sheep from Ksh848 in July to Ksh775, representing a 8.6% depreciation. The average price was also 25.4% less than the long term mean of the same period in 2004-2008. The decline was due to the reducing body weight of sheep.

### 3.1.4 Camel prices

- The average camel price reduced from Ksh18,000 in July to Ksh15,850, representing a decrease of 11.9%. The observed decrease in price was due to the reducing body weight of camels as a result of depleted forage.

## 3.2 Crop prices

### 3.2.1 Maize prices

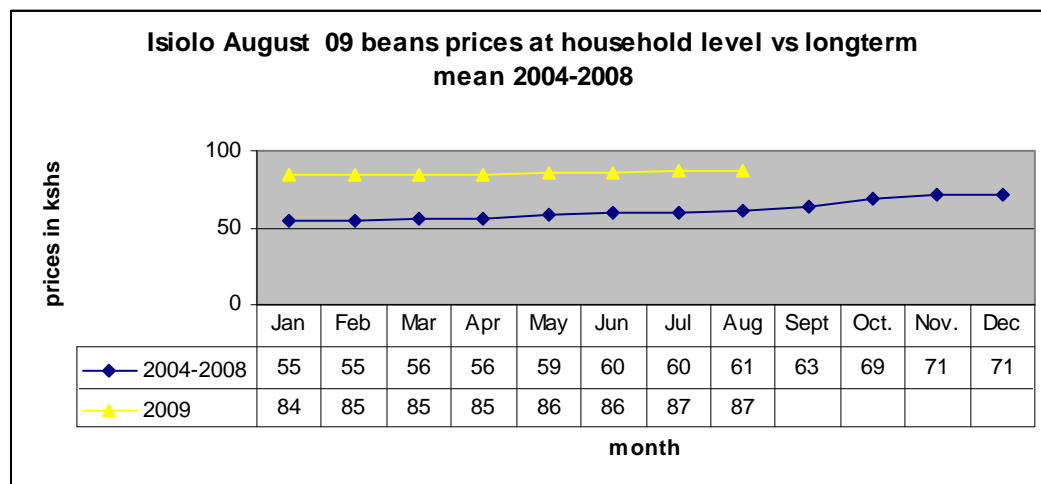


Source; ALRMP sample sites

N=450

- The district average maize price increased from Ksh40.5 per kilogram in July to Ksh 41, representing a 1.23% increase. The price was 51.8% higher compared to long term mean.
- The shortage of maize persisted in the local markets, while in the pastoral zones markets did not have maize stocks.

### 3.2.2 Beans prices



Source; ALRMP sample sites N=450

- The average price of beans remained constant compared to last month's at Ksh87 per kilo. The same commodity was being traded at Ksh100 in the hinterland divisions of Merti and Sericho, where there were massive shortages.
- The average price was 42.6% higher than the long-term mean and the price increase was due to shortage of beans in the markets as no harvests were realized for two consecutive rainy seasons.

### 3.3 Income

#### 3.3.1 Crop income

No income was earned from crops during the month.

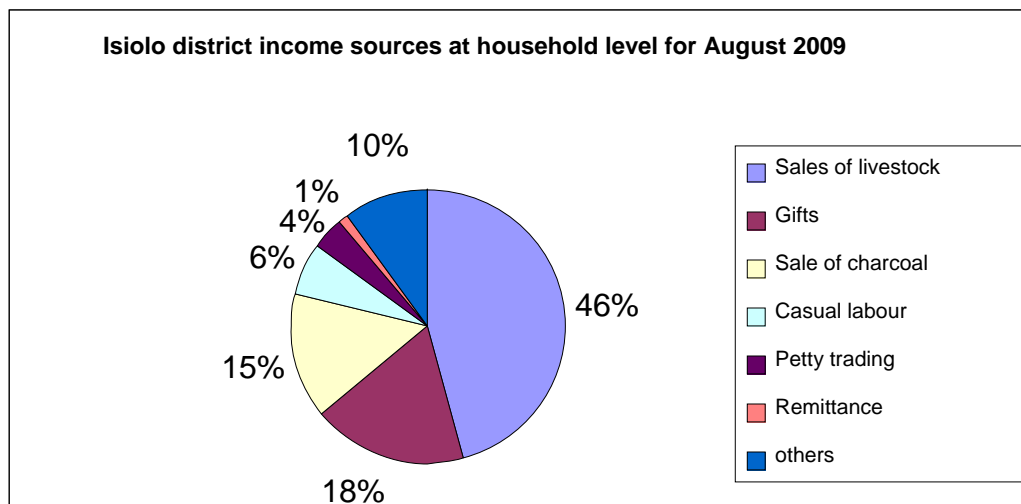
#### 3.3.2 Livestock income

The livestock income to households this month represented 45.5% of the total incomes. The income from this source increased by 4.5% compared to the last month.

#### 3.3.3 Other incomes

Other sources of incomes to households during the month were charcoal 15%, casual labour 6.3%, petty trade 4.4%, gift items 17.9% and remittances 1%. The income from charcoal remained constant at 15% during the months of May, June, July and August. Incomes from casual labour and petty trade reduced by 0.7% and 1.3% respectively compared to 5.7% (casual labour) and 3.4 (petty trade) of July. Income from gift items increased by 16.8% (July'09) to 17.9% (Aug'09).

The pie-chart below indicates the sources of incomes in terms of % households in Isiolo during the month of August 2009.



Source; ALRMP sample sites

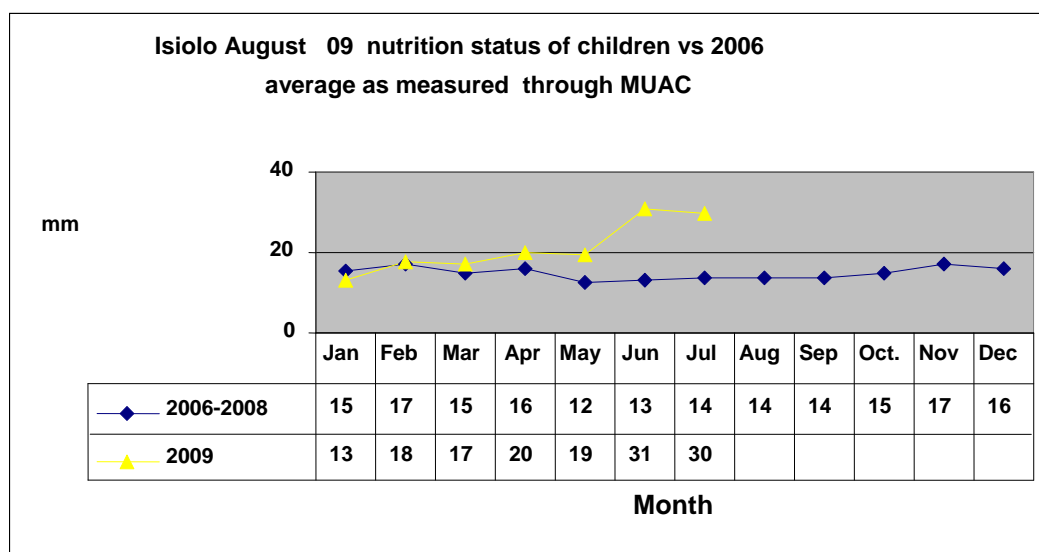
N=450

### 3.4 Implications on food security

The food insecurity will be high as the livestock sector could not provide adequate income to the household due the reduced body weight and collapsed markets.

## 4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

### 4.1 Nutrition status



Source; ALRMP sample sites N=1350

- The nutrition status of children below five years (based on MUAC<135mm measurement) continued to deteriorate, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition increasing to 33.1% from 30% in July.
- A total of 1,847 children were sampled across 15 sites and the rate was higher by 19% compared to the long term mean the same period. The increased rate was due to the lack of enough dietary intakes among children.
- The most stressed divisions remained Merti, Sericho and Garbatulla. Merti and Sericho divisions increased from 50.6% and 33, 9% in July to 70.5% and 37.5% respectively while Garbatulla recorded an increase from 31.4 % in July to 40.7%.

## 4.2 Human health

- There were no major health problems reported during the month but cases of diarrhoea related to water shortage were reported in Kipsing, Dadachalafe, Malkagalla and Bassa.

## 5.0 Current interventions

### 5.1 Non –food interventions

- Ministry of Water responded to frequent borehole breakdown in Merti and Sericho Divisions boreholes.
- DWO Garbatulla provided fuel for water trucking in Sericho division frequently and on timely basis.
- Water trucking exercise was extended to additional centres of Belgesh in Garbatulla district supported by Arid Lands Resource Management Project.
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### 5.2 Food aid

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### 5.3 Coping strategies

- Migration from one place to another among pastoralists.
- Slaughtering of calves and weak animals.
- Cutting down of trees to feed weak animals.

## 6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

### Food aid

Type of intervention	Action
Increased the Emop beneficiary numbers of 43110 persons by 40%.	Gok/WFP
Supplementary and the therapeutic feeding for children under five and vulnerable groups in pastoral zones.	DSG/MOH/ALRMP

### Non-food interventions

Type of intervention	Actors
Urgent off take exercise with favorable prices, Hay provision for pastoral livelihood zones	DSG/MOLD
Continued support for water trucking in Merti, sericho and cherab divisions.	DSG/MOW

Displaced persons support in Gambela, Bulesdima, Kambi Juu, and Atiir with food, clothings, utensils and farming items.	DSG/stakeholders
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