



## Situation overview

- During the month, dry, hot and sometimes cold and chilly weather condition prevailed in the three districts of Kajiado Central, North and Loitokitok and no rainfall was recorded.
- Strategic dry season grazing boreholes and shallow wells were the main water sources for livestock and domestic use. Boreholes worked for longer hours 18-24 hours, requiring repairs and diesel subsidy. Water sources were characterised by long queues and high concentration of livestock and wildlife. Use of borehole water for livestock was at a fee (Ksh20-50 per head per month). Water trucking for weak, calves and domestic use was at Ksh 300 to Ksh 500 for a 200 liter drum. Livestock accessed water after 2-3 days in most pastoral areas.
- Return distance to water points remained at 20-40km for cattle and increasing in most parts. All temporary water sources (dams and pans) were dry.
- Pasture availability and accessibility remained poor in all areas. Pastoralists purchased hay (Ksh 250-300), bran and other feed supplements to augment the shortfall.
- Livestock (cattle) body condition in the three districts was poor, with increasing cases of home slaughter of weak and recumbent cattle and deaths. Sheep and goats body condition was fair to poor.
- Cattle prices were on downward trend compared to long term average. Average cattle prices declined by 10.27 per cent from Ksh 5,530 in July to Ksh 4,962 in August 2009. The price was below long term mean by 54%. Weak and recumbent cattle that were delivered on vehicles for sale to Kenya Meat Commission ( Athi River), Kiserian (Ngong), M.46 (Loodokillani), Bissell (Namanga), Ewaso Kedong and Kitengela markets were sold at Ksh 1,500-2,500. Average goat prices declined by 1.25%, from Ksh1,278 to Ksh1,261 between.
- There was food deficit, resulting in imports of cereals and pulses in these areas outside the district. Maize and beans prices were at Ksh40 and Ksh80 per kg respectively. The ban on maize exports by the Tanzania government is still in place.
- Tension over water use between crop farmers and pastoralists was reported in Namelok, Isinet, Olorika, Rombo and Njukini irrigation scheme in Loitokitok as a result of over abstraction up stream causing reduced water flow on the low lands.
- High mortality rates of wildlife (zebras, wildebeest and buffalos) were reported in most pastoral areas and most importantly Amboseli National park.
- Human/wildlife conflicts continued as farmers had to battle with elephants, gazelles and zebras that had migrated outside the Amboseli park to farms along the upper zone of Loitokitok (Sompet, Ntonet, Njoro, Murtot and Nkama). Conflict between KWS and pastoralists was high due to grazing in the Tsavo Parks as the KWS tried to bar them from grazing in the Parks.
- The nutrition status of children 12-59 months worsened in all livelihood zones. The percentage of children rated at the risk of malnutrition (based on the Mid Upper Arm Circumference -MUAC < 135mm) increased to 14.6% compared to long term mean (9.35%).
- The just ended crop season was marked by 100% crop failure attributed to intermittent and poorly distributed rainfall. Households depended on cereals and pulses constituting 90-100% of household food needs.
- Charcoal burning was on the upward trend as an alternative source of income while demand for labour was low and rates were Ksh 70to 100.
- **Food security status:** As the drought persisted, the food security situation remained unstable and the districts were at 'Alarm' and tending to 'emergency' in most divisions. Generally, it can be rated as borderline food insecure with high likelihood of worsening.

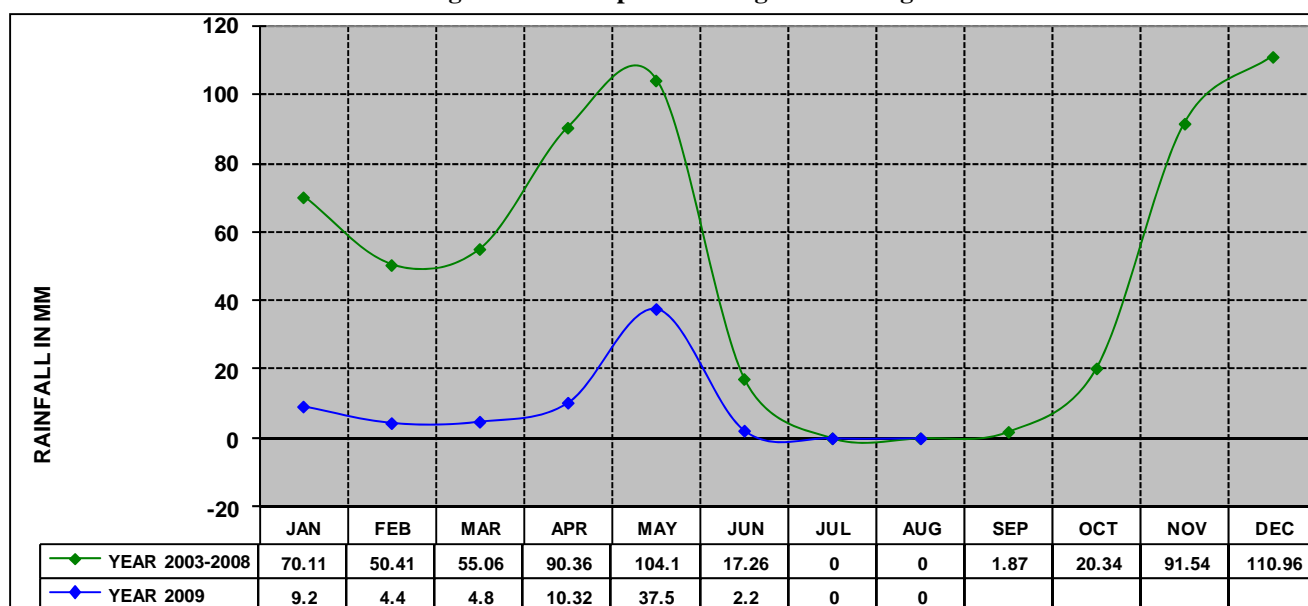
### **Recommendations to DSG and KFSM**

- Kenya Meat Commission livestock off -take to commence immediately and target 30-40% Of livestock population.
- Continued and close monitoring of food and drought security situation (through ALRMP EWS).
- Up scaling of population under GOK/WFP EMOP relief food operation-from 14% to 20-30% of the population.
- Water development;
  - Rehabilitation of strategic boreholes
  - Fuel (diesel) subsidy for strategic community boreholes.
  - Water tankering to schools and community that is vulnerable.
- Supplementary and therapeutic feeding for under five, lactating and pregnant mothers and elderly in flagged areas (MOH/NIA, MPIDO, Mercy USA/Concern World Wide).
- Provision of seeds (DTC) to farmers in Loitokitok district and other marginal crop growing areas of Namanga, Mashuru, Isinya and Ngong before the onset of OND rains.

## 1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

### 1.1 Rainfall

Rainfall data as at August 2009 compared to long term average 2003-08



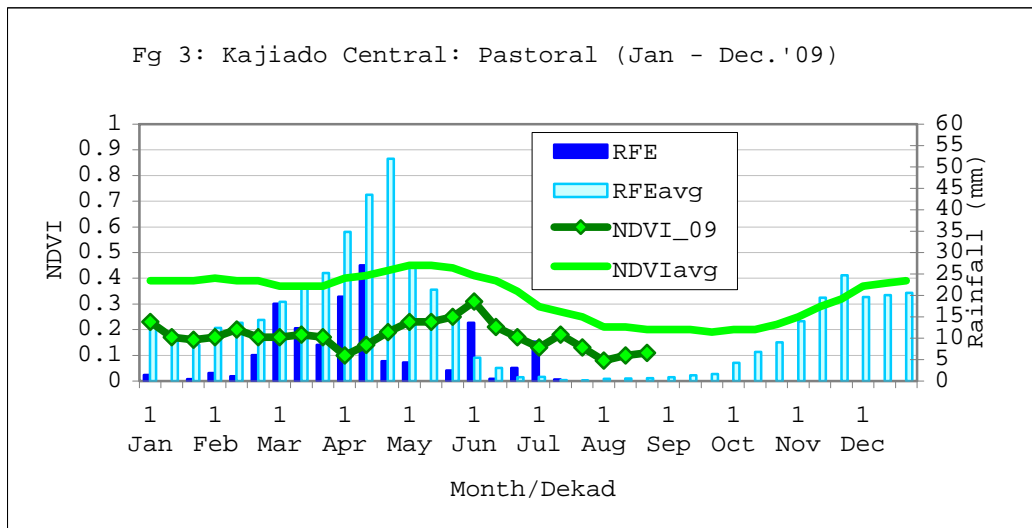
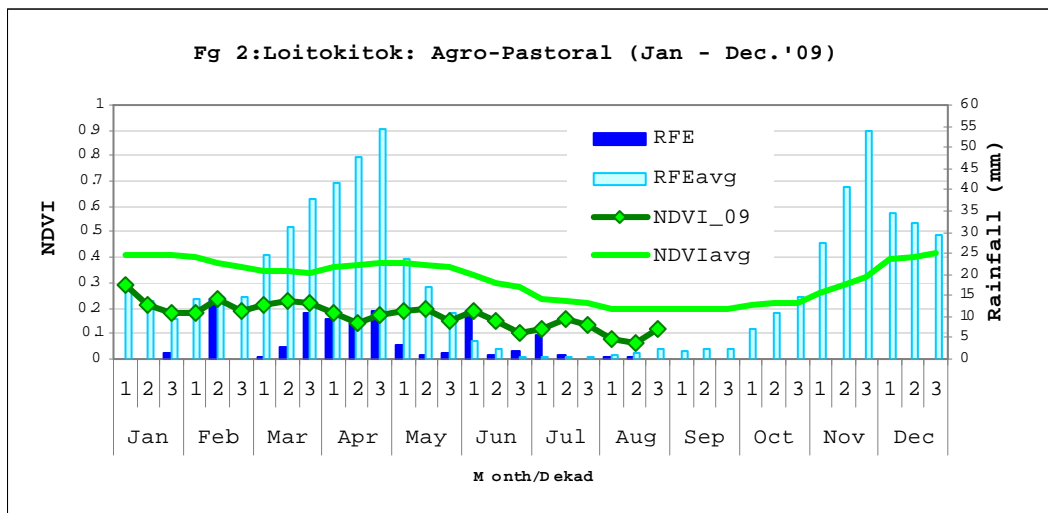
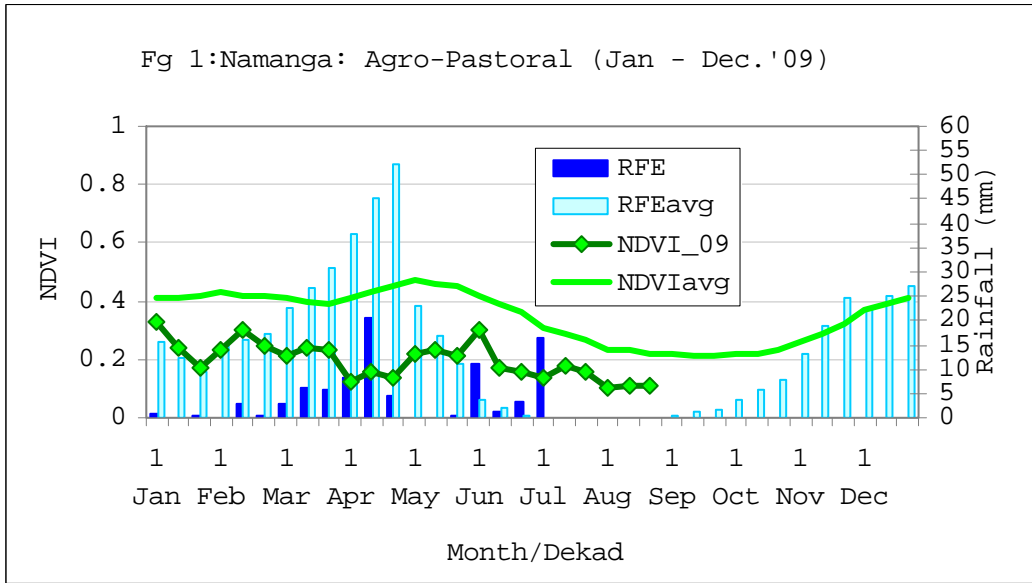
Source: ALRMP sample sites. Total sample size (n)-11 sites

- The month of August 2009 was characterised by dry, hot and sometimes cold weather conditions.
- No rainfall was recorded in most parts of Loitokitok, Kajiado and Ngong districts.
- Generally the long rains (MAM) season 2009 was below normal, erratic and scantily distributed.
- Poor performance of the long rains (MAM) had negative implications on food security in all livelihood zones.

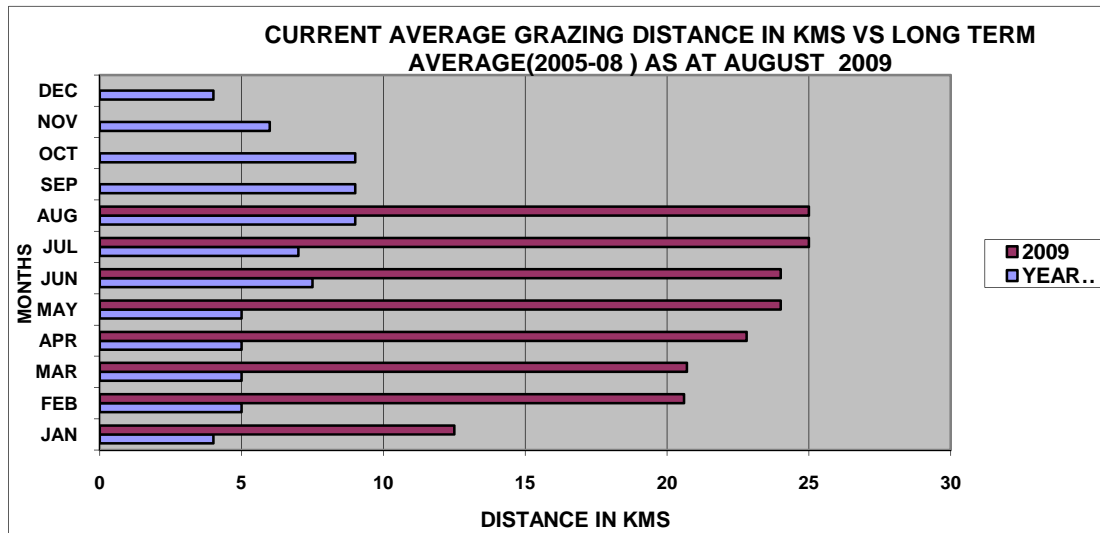
### 1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Quantity and quality of pasture has persistently remained poor in all livelihood zones. Most areas and in particular dry season grazing areas were dry and bare. Poor range condition was occasioned by insufficient rainfall.
- Farmers continued to purchase hay, bran and other feed supplements. A bale of hay costs between Ksh200-300 and most of it was imported from other districts. The observed range condition had corresponding negative impact on livestock productivity and subsequently negative impact on food security status.
- Pasture availability and accessibility remained poor in all livelihood zones and the rainfall did not trigger meaningful pastures regeneration during the MAM 2009 season.

**Figure 1, 2& 3: In Namanga and Loitokitok there was progressively decline in pasture quality and quantity in June, July and August. Most areas remained dry and bare.**



### 1.2.1 Distance to grazing areas



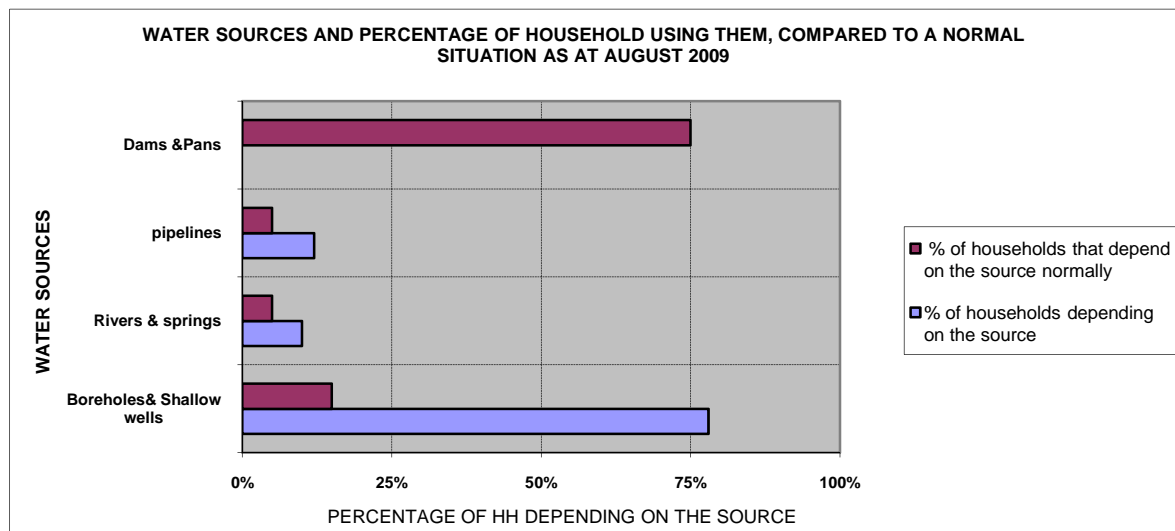
Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size(n) 270 households

- Return distances to grazing areas ranged from 20-25 Kames in most pastoral areas and are expected to increase. The normal range is usually 5 Km.
- The observed situation was below normal.

### 1.3 Water sources and availability

#### 1.3.1 Water sources

Table 2: Water sources and percentage of household using them, compared to a normal situation.



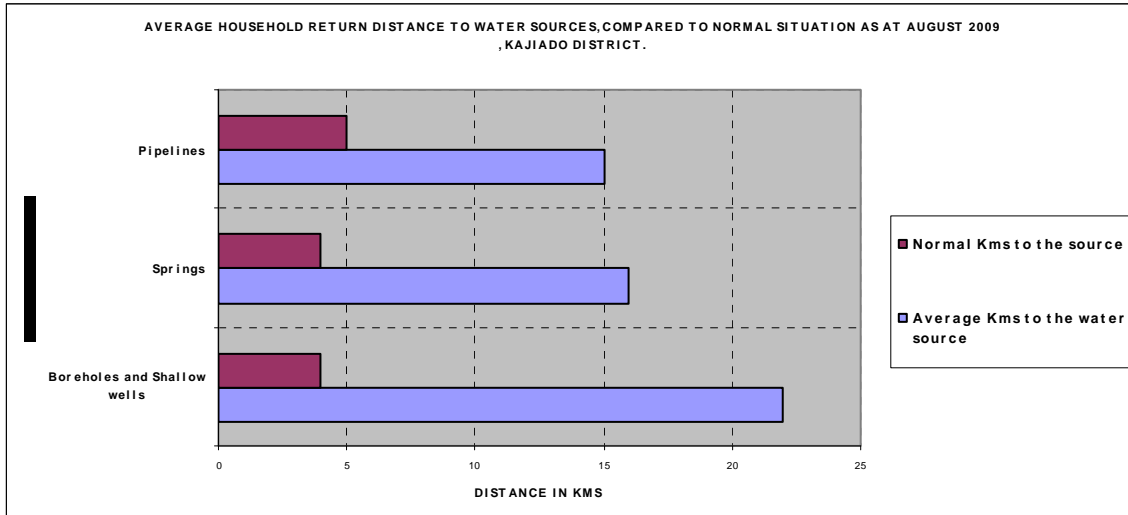
Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

- Water availability and accessibility for agriculture (irrigation areas), livestock development and domestic use remained poor and on downward trend as most temporary surfaces water points were dry.
- The major sources of water during the month were boreholes, springs, pipeline and shallow wells. As was in the previous month, the traditional hand dug wells had water but levels were dropping and recharging was at an increased time frame of 12-24 hours. Boreholes were working for about 12 -18 hours a day and some broke down while others had very low output.

- The observed situation had negative implications on food security.
- All temporary water sources (seasonal rivers, dams and pans) were dry. This was abnormal because during normal years dams and pans are usually the main source of water for domestic and livestock use.

### 1.3.2 Household access to water

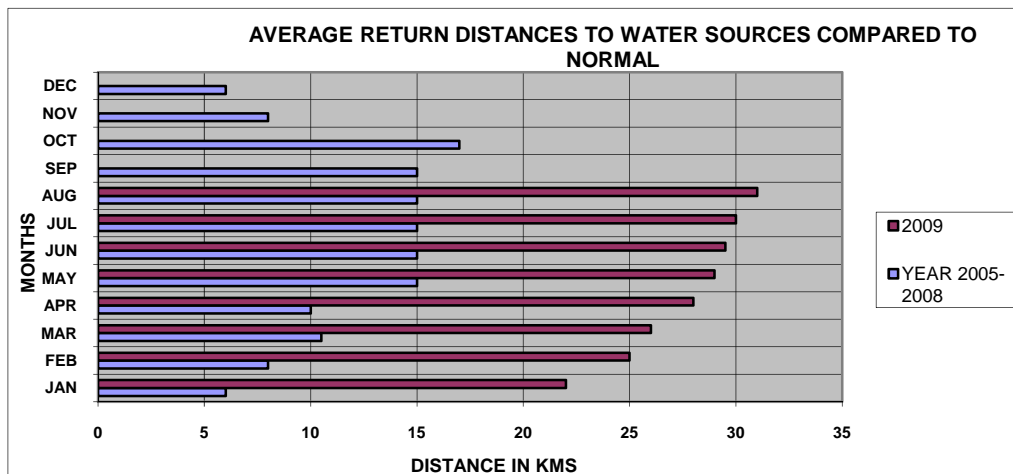
**Table 3: Average return distances to water sources, compared to a normal situation**



**Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households**

- Return time for fetching water for domestic use ranged between 8-10hours in all areas.
- Water points were characterised by heavy concentration of livestock and long waiting hours. Livestock was given first preference to domestic use.
- Household members accessed water from strategic dry season boreholes, shallow wells and springs, which are far away from residential areas. In hard hit areas women started fetching water as early as 3.00am.

### 1.3.3 Livestock access to water



**Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households**

- During the month, the average distance to water sources for livestock averaged 20-40 Kames in most areas.
- Livestock watered for 2-3 days per week, as most temporary water sources dried up.

- Water trucking for weak and young livestock in dry season grazing areas continued. The cost increased to Ksh 600- for 200litr –drum in most areas.
- Return distances for livestock averaged 20-40 kames.

#### **1.4 Emerging issues**

- Increasing wildlife (zebras, wildebeests and buffalos) mortality owing to the current drought.
- Stress related abortions in livestock (cattle) were high in all Livelihood zones.
- Massive Livestock deaths associated with the current drought (evident in all divisions).
- Increasing incidences of livestock deaths associated with ECF as most livestock moved to dry season areas which have high tick challenge. Foot and Mouth disease (FMD) was reported in all divisions and even for those that had migrated outside the district.
- High food prices impacted negatively on purchasing power of pastoralists. Weak cattle were disposed at Ksh 1500-2000 in most markets.
- Natural Resource Use Conflicts: Grazing livestock in restricted areas- Gazetted forests, National Parks and Nairobi suburbs; conflict between irrigation farmers and pastoralists attributed to over abstraction of water upstream, human- wildlife conflicts as farmers had to contend with elephants that had migrated outside the Amboseli and Tsavo National park to farms along the upper zone of Loitokitok and irrigation schemes of Rombo, Kimana, Elangata Enkema, Olorika and Ilchalai.
- There were reported case of conflict between residents of Ukunda, Msambweni and Kilifi in coast province and pastoralists who had moved into these areas in search of pasture.
- 100% crop failure in the rain-fed crop growing areas of Loitokitok district, Namanga, Mashuru and Central divisions associated with water stress.
- Overcrowding of livestock and wildlife at water sources.
- Increased charcoal burning and sand harvesting as alternative sources of income.
- Watering fee at dry season strategic boreholes soared to Ksh 20-50per cow and Ksh 20 per shoat.

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

#### **2.1 Livestock production**

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

- Generally, cattle maintained poor body and health conditions. Livestock (cattle and sheep) performance in terms of productivity was very poor. This was attributed to insufficient forage and long trekking to water and pasture.
- Increased cases of home slaughter of weak and recumbent cattle and deaths. The body condition of goats was fair in most locations attributed to availability of acacia totillis pods and dry leaves.
- The observed trend had negative implications on food security as livestock in poor body condition fetched low prices.

##### **2.1.2 Livestock health**

- Stress-related abortions in livestock (cattle) were high in all pastoral areas while high mortality rates in small stock as a result of contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP) was reported in all the pastoral areas of the three districts.
- Trypanosomiasis was reported on livestock that had moved to coast province and along Ewuaso Ngiro River in Magadi.
- Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) was reported both in livestock that migrated to other areas and those that were left at home.

- Incidences of tick-borne diseases, especially ECF, Anaplasmosis and Babesiosis, were evident in dry season grazing areas attributed to inadequate water for spraying and movement of livestock into areas with high tick challenge.

### 2.1.3 Milk production

- Owing to the prevailing drought, availability and accessibility of milk was below normal. Households accessed milk from small stock and this was inadequate for children under five years.
- The milk consumption trend had serious food security implication at household level.

### 2.1.4 Livestock migration

- During the month under review it was evident that a few farmers desperately returned home with very weak livestock having faced harsh conditions in areas of migration. Over 70% of cattle have migrated out of the district in search of pastures. The migration was both external and within the district.
- Externally: To Nairobi (suburbs), private farms in Kiambu, Thika, Nakuru, Naivasha, Nyahururu Makueni, Tsavo East and West National Parks and areas around Lake Chyalla. Coast province (Ukunda, Kilifi, Maungu, Kinango, Voi).
- Cross border migration in search of pastures is evident along Loitokitok/Namanga, Taita-Taveta/Tanzania border.

## 2.2 Crop production

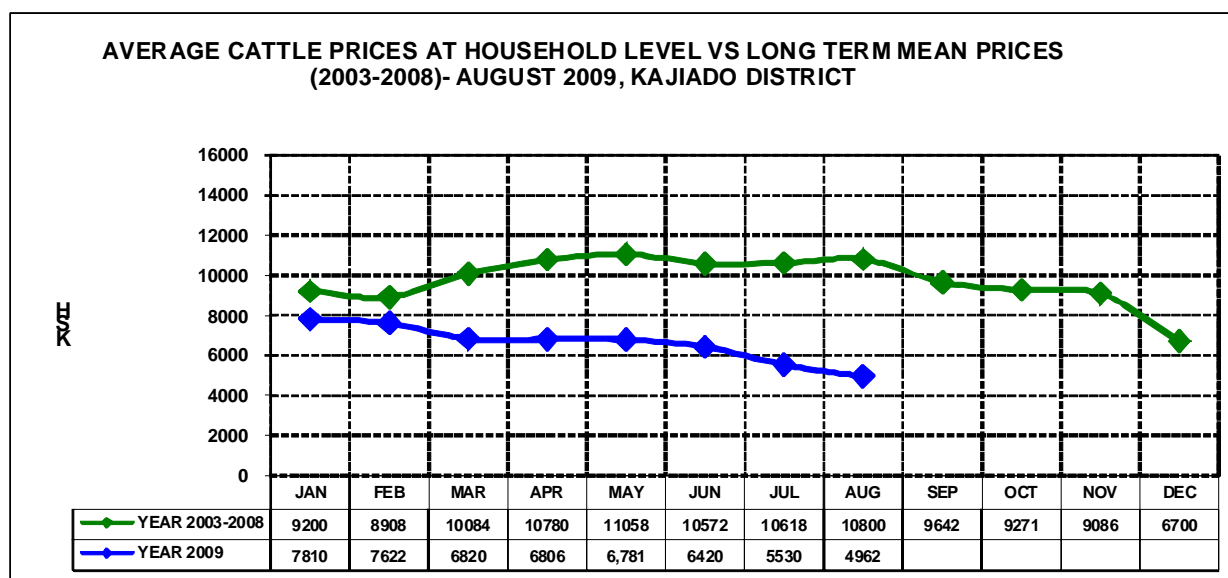
### 2.2.1 Timeliness and status of crop production activities

- The just ended crop season (MAM) was marked by 100% crop failure in the rain fed crop growing areas of Loitokitok district, Mashuru, Isinya, Central, Namanga divisions in Kajiado and upper zones of Ngong as crops succumbed to serious water stress at critical growing stage.

## 3.0 Access to food

### 3.1 Livestock marketing

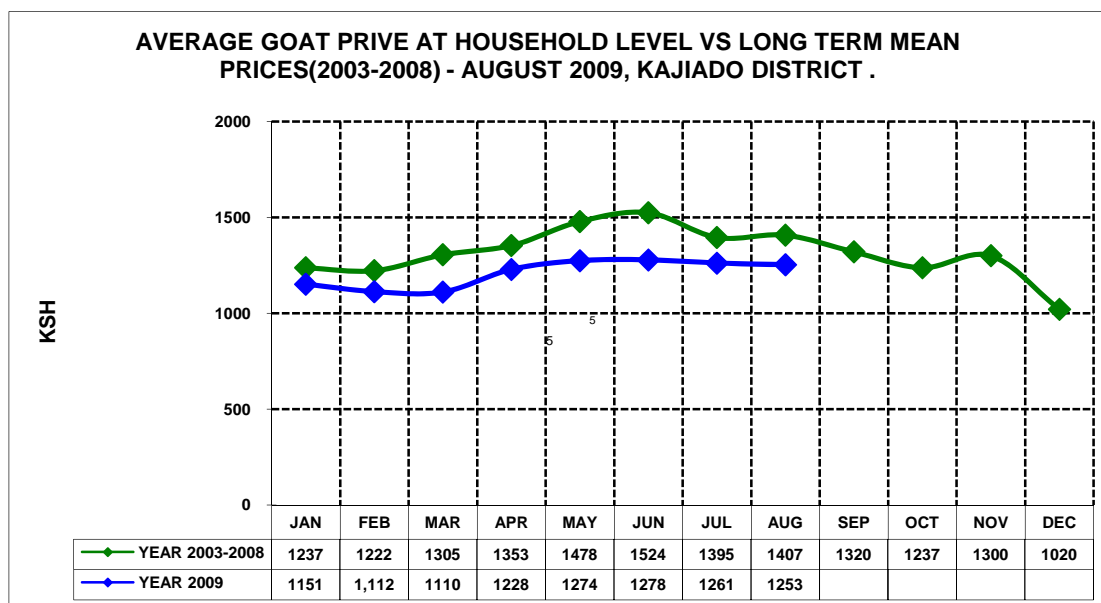
#### 3.1.1 Cattle prices



Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

- Average cattle prices declined by 10.27 per cent, from Ksh5,530 in July to Ksh 4,962. The price was below long term average by 54%. The trend was attributed to poor body condition as a result of the prevailing drought in most areas.
- The observed price trend had negative implications on food security.

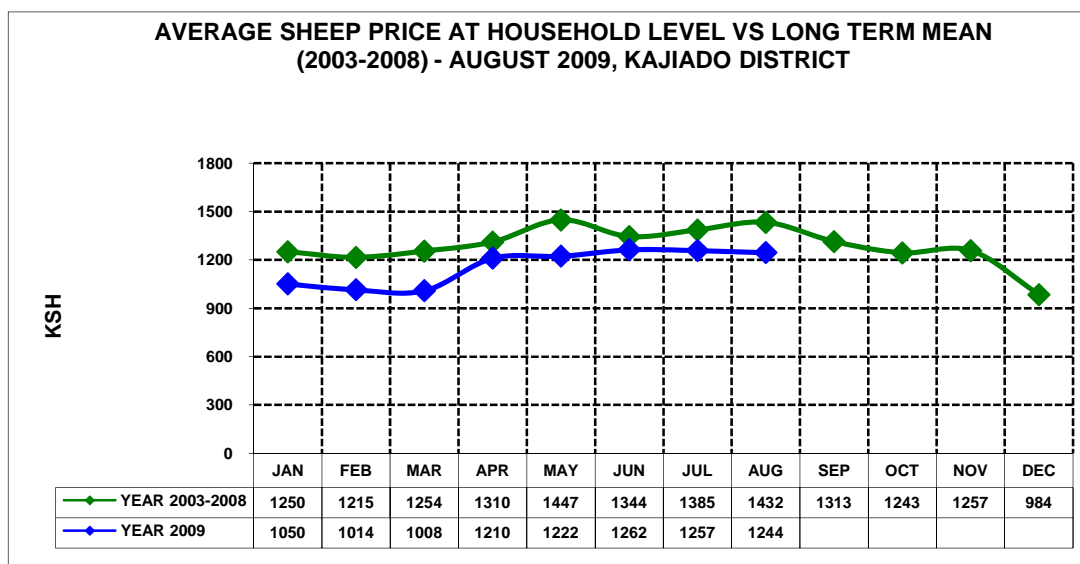
### 3.1.2 Goats prices



Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

- Average goat prices declined slightly by 0.63 percent from Ksh1,261 in July to Ksh1,253.

### 3.1.3 Sheep prices



Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size(n) 270 households

- Sheep prices declined by 1.03 percent during the month.
- The decline in shoat's prices can largely be attributed to the poor range condition.

### 3.1.4 Milk consumption

- Over 90 percent of households interviewed reported no milk availability. As was in the previous month, availability was constrained by poor livestock body condition and internal and external migration in search of pasture.
- Unavailability of milk at household level had negative implications on food security, especially nutrition status of children under five.

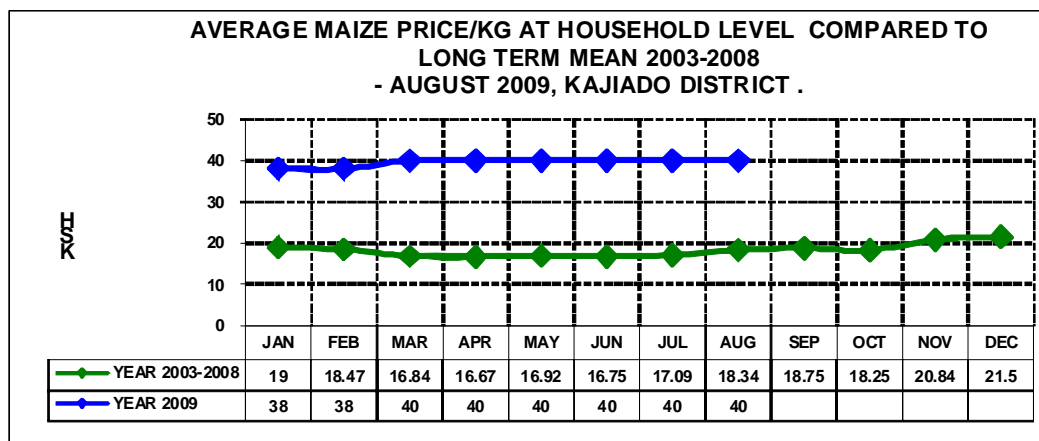
### 3.2 Implications on food security

The following impacted negatively on food security in the district:

- High food prices, coupled with declining livestock prices, especially cattle.
- Poor body condition of cattle and deaths with corresponding low prices (Ksh2000-5000).
- Unavailability of milk for the U5s. During the month under review, children rated as being at the risk of malnutrition (based on the Mid Upper Arm Circumference -MUAC < 135mm) increased to 14.6% compared to long term mean (9.35%).
- Migration of livestock that exacerbated unavailability of milk at rural household level,.
- Late commencement of rains: portend poor crop performance in the rain fed crop growing areas: the expected good crop is expected in April 2010.

### 3.3 Food prices

#### 3.3.1 Maize prices

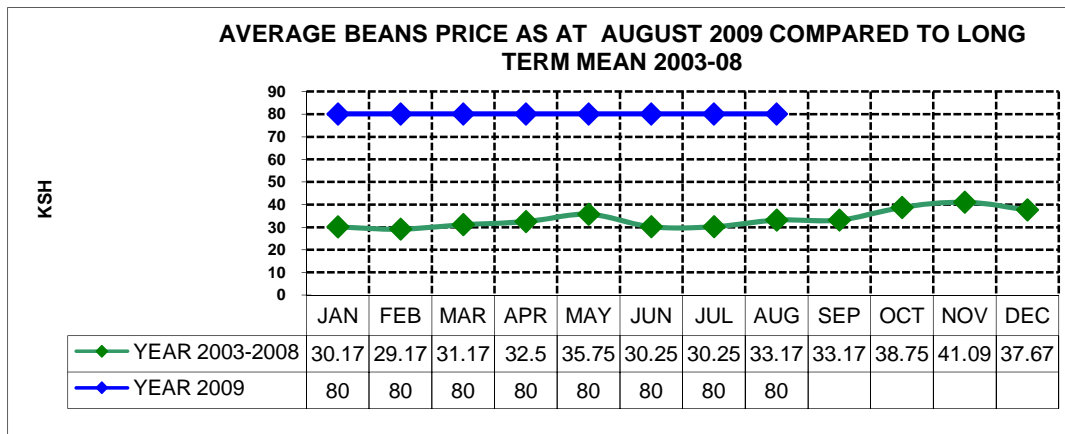


Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

During the month under review, the average maize price stabilized at Ksh40 per kilo compared to long term average of Ksh18.

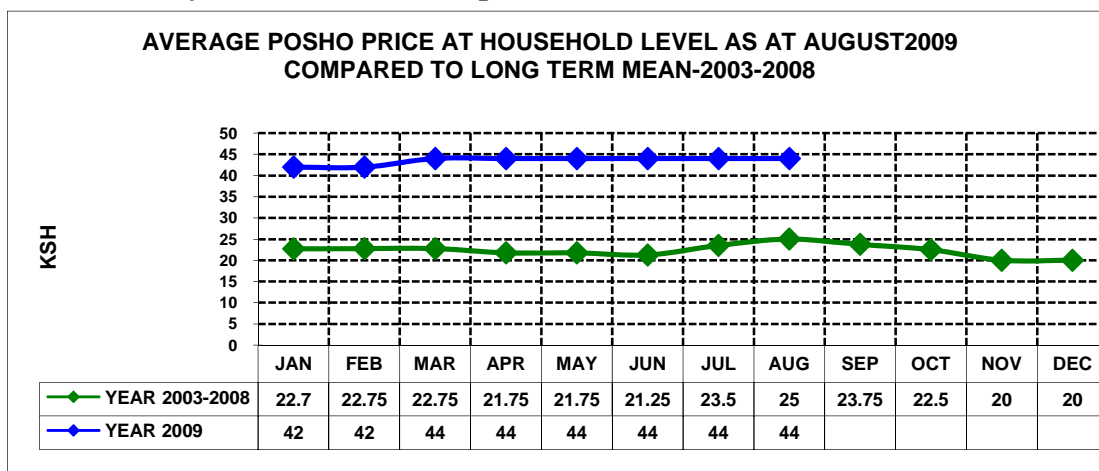
#### 3.3.2 Beans prices

- The average beans price stabilised at Ksh80 per kilo.
- The prices were abnormal compared to long term mean of Ksh33 per kilo.



Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

### 3.3.3 Posho (locally milled maize meal) prices



Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

- The average price of posho stabilised at Ksh44 per kilo.
- The price was above normal compared to the long term mean of Ksh25 per kilo.

## 3.4 Income

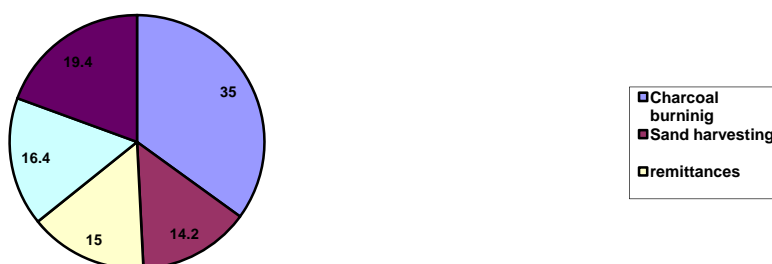
### 3.4.1 Crop income

- The month of August was characterized by below normal income from the irrigation areas attributed to decline in water levels and human wildlife conflict.
- There was nil crop income in rain-fed crop growing areas owing to the current drought in the three districts.

### 3.4.2 Livestock income

- Below normal livestock prices dominated all livestock markets. Low prices are mainly attributed to poor body condition.
- Other sources of income were sale of charcoal, sand harvesting, petty trade and remittances.
- Charcoal burning remained the main source of income for many households across all livelihood zones followed by sale of livestock. The observed trend can largely be attributed to the current drought and migration of livestock in search of pasture and water. One bag of charcoal sells at Ksh300-350.

**SOURCES OF INCOME AT HOUSEHOLD LEVEL AS A PERCENTAGE AS AT AUGUST 2009,KAJIADO DISTRCT**



Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

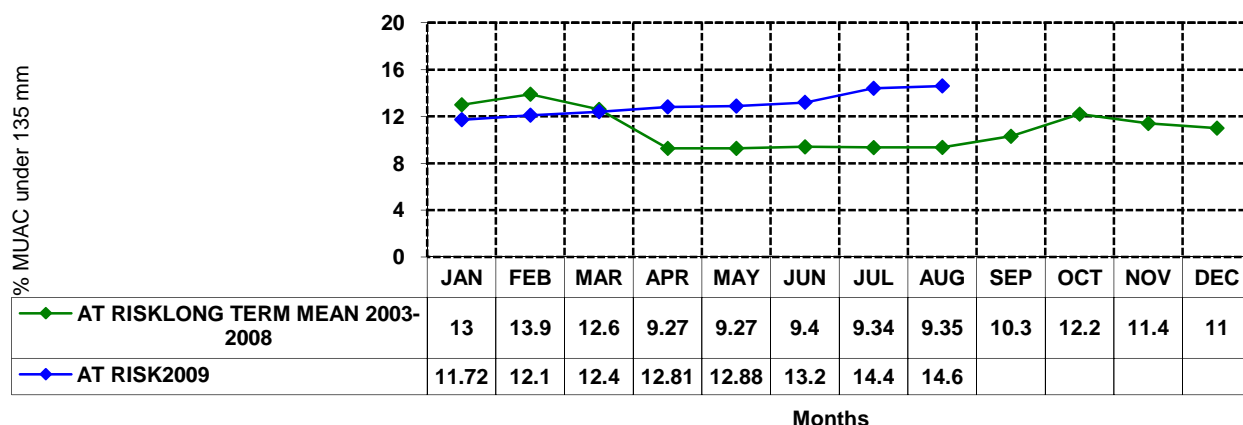
### 3.4.3 Terms of trade for pastoralists

- During the month of August 2009, pastoralist’s terms of trade remained poor, with high food prices and 54% decrease on livestock prices below the long term mean.
- High cereal prices, coupled with declining livestock prices had negative implication on household food security.

## 4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

### 4.1 Nutrition status

**Nutrition status of children under five years (MUAC<135mm) in Kajiado District.**



Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households-1,346 children were examined.

- The nutrition status of children 12-59 months worsened in all livelihood zones.
- The percentage of children rated at the risk of malnutrition (based on the Mid Upper Arm Circumference -MUAC < 135mm) increased to 14.6% compared to long term mean (9.35%).

- This can largely be attributed to declining availability of milk at rural household level, attributed to livestock migration in search of pastures and water and the recent 100% crop failure. Most children were on maize flour porridge instead of their traditional milk diet.

#### **4.2 Human health**

- The most common diseases reported during the month were malaria, diarrhoea and respiratory tract infections (RTIs). As reported, rural health centres were providing insecticide treated nets.

#### **5.0 Coping strategies**

- Purchase of hay and concentrates.
- Disposal of weak livestock.
- Hiring of grazing /pastures.
- Sharing of EMOP relief food.
- Reduce frequency of livestock watering 2-3 days per week.
- Pastoralists purchased hay (at Ksh 250- 300) to supplement the shortfall from Bissell, Namanga and Karen.
- Community water trucking to the dry season grazing areas.
- Migration of household heads to urban areas in search of employment.
- Dependence and/or receiving remittances.
- Reduced ration and number of meals per day.
- Increased charcoal burning and Sand harvesting.
- Livestock migration in search of pastures and water.

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

- KMC livestock off -take commence immediately and target 30-40% Of livestock population.
- Continued and close monitoring of food and drought security situation.
- Up-scaling of population under GOK/WFP EMOP relief food operation-from 14% to 20-30% of the population.
- Water development;
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- Supplementary and therapeutic feeding for children under five, lactating and pregnant mothers and elderly in flagged areas (MOH/NIA,MPIDO,Mercy USA/Concern World Wide).
- Provision of seeds (DTC) to farmers in Loitokitok district and other marginal crop growing areas of Namanga, Mashuru, Isinya and Ngong before the onset of OND rains.