

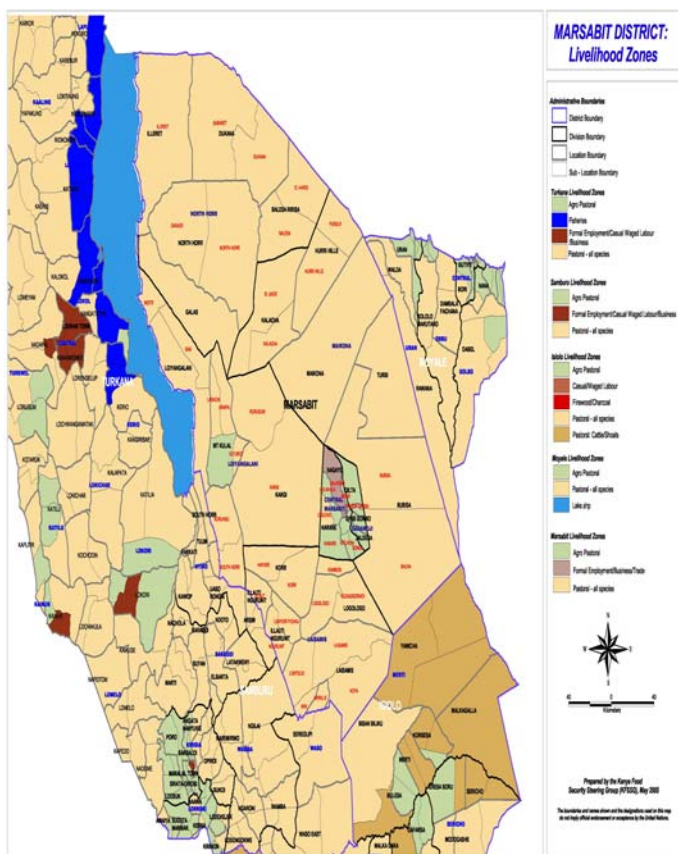


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, AUGUST 2009

Marsabit, Laisamis and Chalbi Districts

Warning Stages



Livelihood zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Agro-Pastoralist	Alarm/Emergency	No change
Pastoral-All species	Emergency	No change
Fishermen/Pastoralist	Emergency	No change

Seasonal calendar



Situation overview

- No rainfall was recorded in the larger Marsabit district and the prevailing weather was characterised by common sunny, windy and dusty days.
- The quality of forage condition was dry, scarce and depleted in most parts of the district, resulting in heavy livestock concentrations in few areas.
- Existing water sources both in lowlands and highlands registered significant decline in yields particularly the boreholes, traditional wells and the few natural springs that represent the permanent sources in largely water scarce region.
- Significant increase in cereals prices by 57.1% against decrease of cattle prices by 33.77% when compared to similar period's long term averages indicates emergency drought situation.
- Body conditions of all livestock species continued deteriorating, leading to high mortality rates among shoats, cattle and donkeys, particularly the lactating and their new-borns. This situation is far from the normal situation of this time of the years.
- Cattle price averages decreased by 33.77% compared to long term mean averages of 2000 to 2008 while shoats' prices also declined as a result of deteriorating body conditions and depressed sales at terminal markets. The situation was moving towards total market collapse for the livestock sector.
- Unavailability of milk was reported in greater Marsabit district due to failed rains, and migration that kept livestock away from their homesteads.
- EMOP relief allocation continued in all 97 food distributing centers in six divisions of larger Marsabit district targeting 52% of the neediest households. The general view is that the targeting is inadequate and hunger remains a serious challenge.
- GoK relief food distribution was reported, especially in Marsabit Central where DC office has effectively targeted large number of households which were not covered by EMOP.
- Malaria, diarrhoea and upper respiratory tract infections were reported among children and adults are normal for this time of the year.
- Decreasing livestock prices coupled with huge increase of 102% in grain commodity prices compared to this time of long term averages, impacted negatively on the pastoralist and fishermen economy and seriously threatened household food security situation in greater Marsabit district.
- All areas around permanent water sources experienced depleted forage availability, resulting in increasing trekking distances for livestock at an average of 30 to 60 kms, especially in Maikona division of Marsabit north district.
- As a result of severe water stress experienced in Maikona division, cattle stayed without water for up to 8 to 9 days (from usual 3-4 days), and shoats for (12) twelve days (from 4 to 5 days for normal watering regime) compared to similar time of the district long term averages.
- Insecurity restricted livestock movement around Kenyan and Ethiopian countries. Cases of insecurity (raids, tribal clashes etc) continued to be reported in some areas including Marsabit central district, Laisamis divisions of Marsabit south district and in Illeret location where five deaths and several injuries were reported when Dasenatch raided Gabra community in Marsabit north district.

- Due to prolonged drought and related stress in most areas, livestock migration is bound to increase which often result to resource based conflicts that are expected to occur.
- The nutrition status of children below five years improved during the month, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition dropping to 20.8 from 26.1 in July.

Current interventions

- The Government launched the Drought Emergency Response Interventions in the district on 18th August 2009 at Loiyangalani and North Horr centres. The President and the Prime Minister officially launched livestock destocking, relief food distribution, water trucking, and borehole drilling as government supported interventions as response to the prevailing drought situation. Loiyangalani has population which is continuously badly affected by drought.
- National census was conducted in all parts of greater Marsabit district.
- District-wide (EMOP) general relief food distribution continued targeting 84,747 direct beneficiaries out of the current population of approximately 160,000 people in the larger Marsabit district.
- Supplementary feeding programs continued at 24 health centres in all divisions targeting approximately 3,860 beneficiaries among severe malnourished children < 5years, lactating and pregnant mothers- MOH/FH.
- Water trucking continued on Mt Marsabit, Hurri hills, El Hade, Torbi, Burgabo, Namarei, Farhakoren and Manyatta Lengima among other water stressed parts of greater Marsabit district.
- Borehole drilling at Manyatta Lengima at Korr division of Laisamis district.

Recommendations to KFSM and DSG

- Scale up EMOP relief food aid to cover eighty percent of the neediest households in greater Marsabit district to curb the prevailing food insecurity situation.
- Scale up supplementary (therapeutics) feedings with dry feeding centres from the current three thousand eight hundred and sixty beneficiaries (< 5 years children, lactating, pregnant and the aged from 3,860 in 24 centres to 7,800 including the HIV patients in the community dispensaries and the district health facility.
- GoK relief food should be consistently distributed.
- De-stocking programme should be implemented to avert or minimize increasing mortality rates among shoats and cattle species to rescue the diminishing herd sizes in greater Marsabit district and community harmonization be made clear for the auctioneer dates- MNK
- Provision of fuel, maintenance, lubricants for community boreholes and water trucking to communities, institutions on Mt. Marsabit in Marsabit central district, Hurri hills, Burgabo, El Hadi in Marsabit north, Namarei, Manyatta Lengima, Afharen in Marsabit south district - MOW,ALRMP, CDF,PISP.
- Livestock sector should initiate de-worming and vaccination campaigns.
- Fostering of peace should be encouraged within and without district borders as livestock movement are increasing beyond their normal dry season grazing areas.

- Immediate implementation on recommendations of the Long Rains Assessment (LRA) Team report.
- Promote rain water harvesting techniques before the short rains.
- Provision of seven water bowsers to minimize water stress in greater Marsabit district.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- No rainfall was recorded in the larger Marsabit district and this was not unusual for the month under review.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- The quality and quantity of forage remained dry, scarce and depleted in most parts of larger Marsabit district.
- Forage availability is expected to sustain livestock not beyond September, when mass mortality of cattle and shoats is feared.
- The few isolated areas with pasture were faced with water scarcity and insecurity situation. Marsabit north and south districts experienced heavy livestock concentrations within and without their administrative districts. For instance, livestock from Korr, Ngurunit, Farakoren and other parts of Laisamis division migrated to Samburu district and Loiyangalani location of Laisamis district in search of pasture.

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Use of water sources

- The main sources of water for both livestock and domestic declined significantly in low and highland areas, leading to severe water stress in hilly parts i.e. Mt Marsabit in Marsabit central district, Hurri hills, Balesa, El Hadi and Burgabo of Marsabit north district and Namarei, Farakoren and Manyatta lengima in Laisamis division of Marsabit south district leading to water trucking.
- The main water sources in both low and highlands parts were boreholes, traditional wells, springs, shallow wells, the Lake Turkana.
- Severe water stress was experienced in Torbi division (Burgabo) where cattle went for 9 days from 4 days without water and shoats went for 12 days from 4- 5 days.

1.3.2 Distances (kms) to water sources

- Average distances to domestic water sources increased significantly from an average of eight kms the previous month to 18 kms and 22 kms to 55kms for livestock use. This indicates a notable increase between water and pasture at 38 kms compared to similar time on long term mean coverage.
- Water shortage remained an emergency situation in Hurri hills and its surroundings (distances averaging sixty to seventy kms in Marsabit north district while for Namarei, Arge, Afharen, Manyatta Lengima and Ngurunit location of

Marsabit south district averaging twenty seven to thirty five kms, and Marsabit central district averaging thirty three kms as was in the previous month.

- Generally, livestock water stresses in larger Marsabit district is expected to worsen. The increasing distances to water sources for livestock use is a negative indication that livestock situation have deteriorating and becoming more vulnerable thus leading to increasing mortalities. High livestock mortalities especially among shoats' species are already reported in many areas, Ngurunit, Farakoren, Afharen in Marsabit south district and Torbi, Bubisa of Marsabit north district and among lactating cattle species in Marsabit central district.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity/ Conflict

- The security situation remained as last month, with incidences of conflicts being reported in parts of the greater district resulting to raids and deaths.

1.4.2 Migration

a) Livestock migration

- Failure of the long rains occasioned an early and outward migration of over ninety percent of all livestock species in the last four months. In the pastoral livelihood of Marsabit south district, livestock from Laisamis and Korr divisions have migrated to Baragoi in Samburu district and Koom in Isiolo district while those from Kargi and Loiyangalani division have moved toward Moite in Loiyangalani location and toward Koobi Fora of Illeret location of Marsabit north district.
- In the pastoral livelihood of North horr division, livestock are concentrated in the north of Dukana along Ethiopian border and Koobi Fora while those from Maikona division are currently around Hurri hills are towards Arbijaan in Wajir west district.
- Livestock from Agro/pastoral livelihood of Marsabit central and Gadamoji divisions have been transported to Moyale district and others to Arbijaan in Wajir west district where there are some pasture. Despite the heavy livestock migrations for search of water and pasture has led to congestion, vulnerability to diseases and rapid depletion of pasture resources.
- In some parts of pastoral livelihood zone of Laisamis division (Ngurunit, Illaut and Mayatta Lengima), Maikona division (Bubisa, Torbi and Shurra) lack of pasture for livestock has led residents resort to digging tubers and collecting acacia pods to feed lactating stocks left at homesteads.

1.4.3 Human migration/ displacement

- Human displacement remained minimal in most areas, thus being within normal situation of the year.

1.5 Implications on food security

- Depleted milk availability at household level compounded food insecurity among pastoral households.

- The failed long rainy season continued to frustrate efforts to attain a food secure society in the (Pastoral/ fishermen), thus being the most affected livelihoods of the greater Marsabit district.
- The high food prices (by 58.23% compared to similar time of the long term averages) aggravated to food shortages across the district.
- Inadequate beneficiaries (52%) targeted by (EMOP) general relief food impacted negatively on food security situation at household level.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Livestock body conditions in all hilly and lowland areas were poor, particularly for cattle and shoats but good to fair for camels. The poor body condition was attributed to long trekking distances in search of water and pasture. The lactating shoats and cattle were emaciated and dying. Generally, the deteriorating body condition among shoats and cattle is likely to lead to high mortalities between twenty two to twenty seven percent due to starvation.
- Distances to pasture and water increased across all livelihood zones, with the average distances estimated between 40 to 70 kms for all species. In Laisamis division, distance to water sources was estimated at 22 kms and as a result, shoats were watered after seven days and five days compared to normal of two to three days respectively. In Maikona division of Marsabit north district, the average trekking distances was 85 kms. The most affected areas were Burgabo, Bubisa, El Hadi and Balesa and watering interval for shoats was twelve days and nine days for cattle compared to a normal of three to four days respectively. In the Agro-pastoral livelihood zone of Marsabit central and Gadamoji divisions' average distance was 35kms and watering interval for cattle and shoats has increased to five to seven days compared to normal of two days.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- Contagious Caprine Pleuro –pneumonia (CCPP) and worm infestations became endemic among shoats and few cases of Contagious Bovine Pleuro Pneumonia (CBPP) were reported in the greater district and remain a threat to livestock production.
- Livestock deaths were reported among cattle and shoats. The most affected areas were mainly in the pastoral livelihood zones of Ngurunit location in Marsabit south district and Burgabo, Torbi and Bubisa Hurri hills areas of Marsabit north district.
- In Marsabit north as in most parts of greater Marsabit district, it is estimated that 28 % shoats and 20% cattle succumbed while in the agro- pastoral livelihood zone of central and Gadamoji division, deaths were estimated at six percent. The situation is deteriorating and it is estimated that most of the cattle and shoats will succumb before the onset of the next season unless livestock are moved to areas with pasture and water.

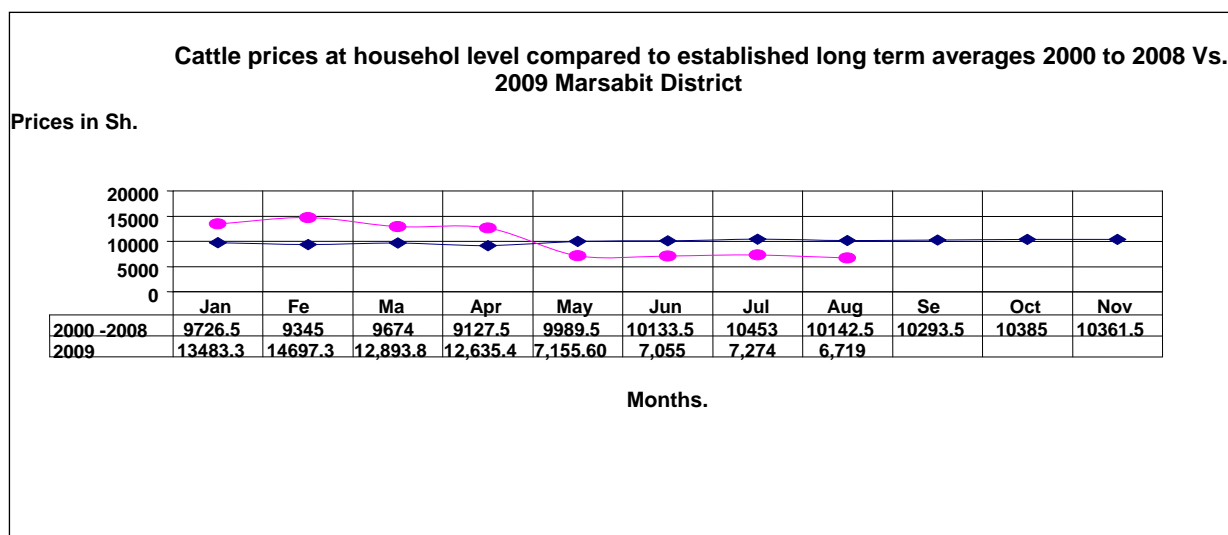
2.2 Implication on food security

- Food security situation has worsened further with failure of long rains season as livestock concentration are far away from their homesteads for over seven previous months.
- Decreasing livestock prices as a result of poor body condition and collapsing terminal market negatively affected food security situation at household level especially among pastoralist and fisher folk communities. Pastoralist and fisher folk communities were in emergency situation and Agro/Pastoral livelihood at Alarm/emergency stages of the drought cycle.
- Insecurity due to resource-based ethnic animosity compelled the residents to abandon some rangelands.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

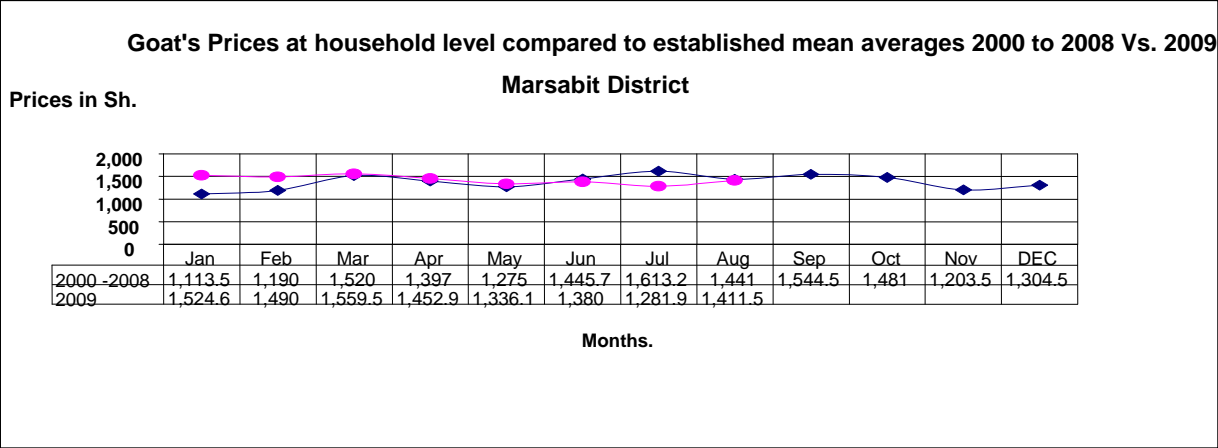
3.1.1 Cattle prices



Ref: N =10 (No. of the sold cattle) x 12 Sentinels x 30 Households

- Cattle prices at household level decreased from Ksh7,274 to Ksh 6,719. Comparatively, cattle prices dropped by 33.77 percent compared to the time of long term averages. This decrease could be linked to the poor body condition and the collapsing prices at national market.
- Sales rates dropped sharply by 38 percent compared to long term averages.
- During the month under review, Gadhamoji division in Marsabit central district of (Agro/Pastoralist Lv.) registered the highest price at Ksh8,157.10, followed by Maikona division of Marsabit north district (pastoral livelihood) at Ksh7,000 and Laisamis division of Marsabit south district (Pastoralist Lv.) at Ksh 5,000.
- Generally, cattle prices are expected to decrease further with stressed body condition.

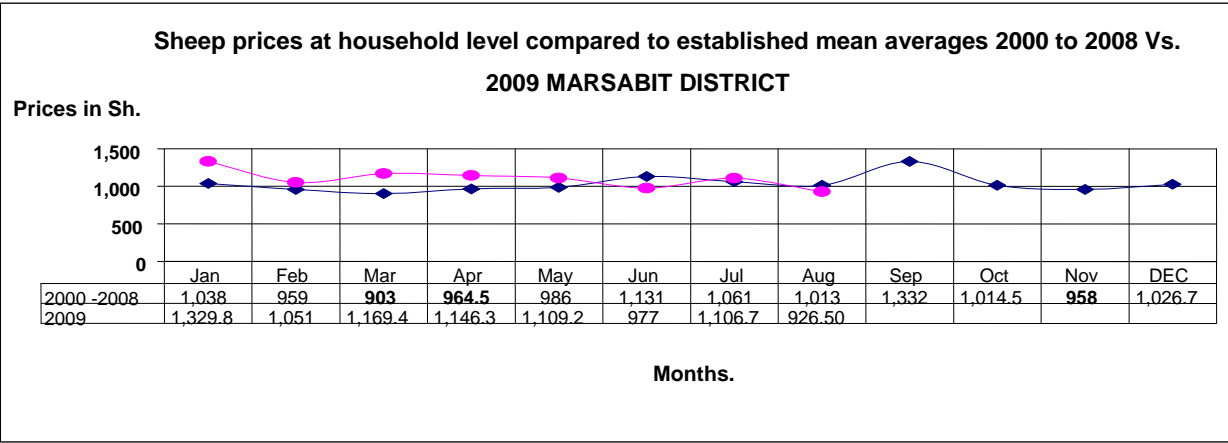
3.1.2 Goats prices



Ref: N =30 (No. of sold goats') x 12 Sentinels x 30 Households

- Average goat prices at household level remained fairly stable at Ksh1,411.50 as to the time of the year.
- Indeed, goat sale rates decreased marginally by 42% compared to long term averages. However, price rates were minimized by thin body condition. Comparatively, goat mortalities were increasingly reported in Torbi and Kalacha divisions of Marsabit north district, where an average of 8 goats per household died of starvation. Goat prices are expected to decrease further with prevailed drought situation.
- Higher prices was recorded in Central division of pastoral livelihood zone of Marsabit central district at Ksh2,742.90, Laisamis division (Pastoral livelihood) at Ksh1, 350 and Maikona division in Marsabit north district of pastoral livelihood zone had the least at Ksh860. These differences could be linked to limited access to market in many lowland areas beside collapsed market and thin body condition.

3.1.3 Sheep prices



Ref: N =30 (No. of Sheep sold) x 11 Sentinels each by 30 Households

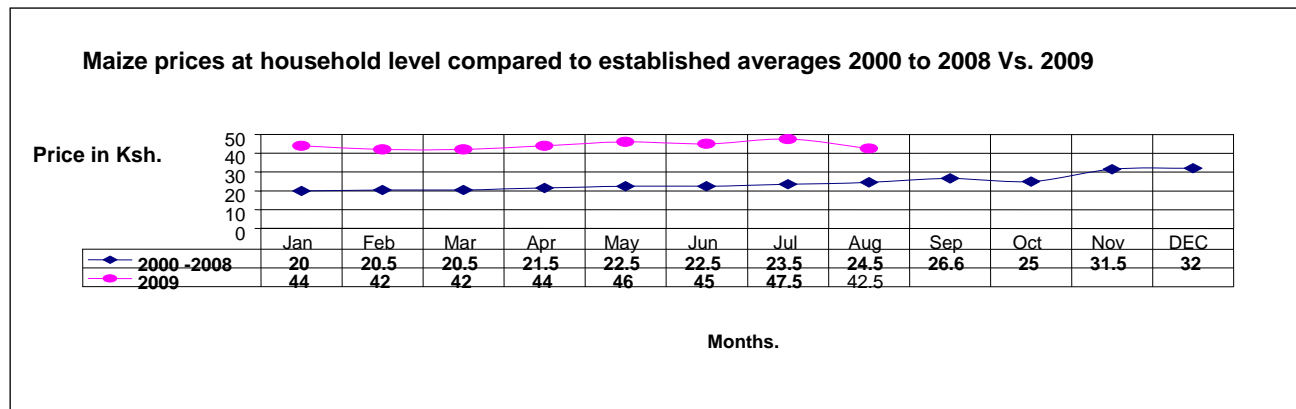
- Sheep prices at district level remained minimally low compared to the long term averages. This was negated by poor body condition (Sheep body condition was the second most affected after cattle species) and lack of markets.
- The average price was Ksh 926 compared to Ksh 1,106 in July. Higher sheep prices were registered in Laisamis division (pastoral livelihood) of Marsabit south district at Ksh1,255.60 followed by North Horr division of Marsabit north district (pastoralist livelihood) at Ksh824 and Maikona division at Marsabit north district at Ksh700.
- Sales rate reduced by 32.6% compared to similar time of the previous three years, thus its' expected to reduce further with related to famine situation and collapsing prices at national market.

3.2 Milk consumption

- There was no milk availability reported in either part of greater Marsabit district. This abnormality is attributed to prolonged drought situation.
- With depleted milk availability especially among pastoralist households in the greater Marsabit district, has aggravated to increasing food shortages at household level.

3.3 Food prices

3.3.1 Maize prices



Ref: N =330 Households purchasing out of 11 sentinel each by 30 households.

- Maize prices at household level increased by 58.23% compared to the time of the years 2000 to 2008. Indeed, maize prices have consistently been increasing as a result of poor rainfall performance in the previous two seasons. This was a reflection of the collapsing meat ratio and hence a threat to purchasing power of pastoralist livelihood at 80% of the estimated 160,000 in greater Marsabit district.
- Similarly, higher maize prices at household level were recorded in Loiyangalani division of fisher folk livelihood (Marsabit south) at Ksh55 per kilo, Laisamis division of pastoral (Marsabit south) at Ksh40 and agro-pastoral livelihood zone on Mt Marsabit in of Marsabit central district reporting the least at Ksh32.50.

- Farm preparation was minimally exercised by Agro/pastoral livelihoods on Mt Marsabit for the anticipated short rain comes mid October.
- Overall, available data from the Ministry of Agriculture indicates a food deficient district with an annual requirement of 222,800 against annual maize production of 2000 bags accounting for less than one percent.
- Comparatively, drought tolerant crops grow well in the agro climatic condition but adoption rate remains low as only 15 % of farmers embrace it.

3.4 Income

3.4.1 Livestock income

- Sale of livestock remained the leading source of income as twenty two point four two percent out of the three hundred and thirty interviewed household reporting it.
- Livestock sales decreased by 47% compared to similar time of years 2005 to 2009, especially among shoat species.
- During the reviewing month, there was no milk availability in either part of larger Marsabit district due to drought stress.
- Nonetheless, livestock income and productivity collapsed, hence its' expected to worsen further, with prevailing weather situation.

3.4.2 Other income

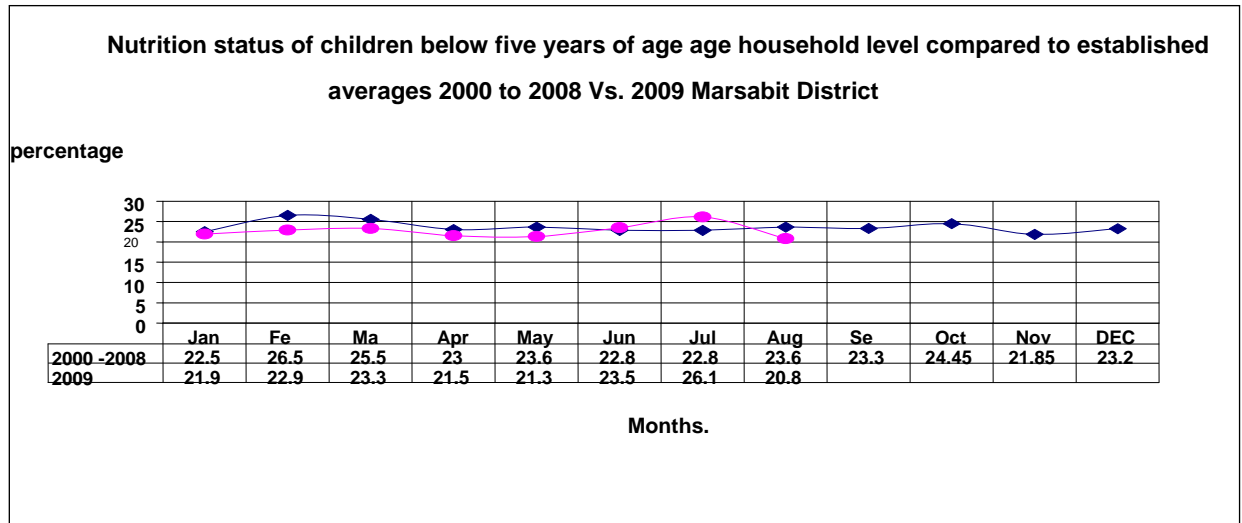
- Other income sources include, casual labor where nine percent of sampled households stating so, few others reporting sale of charcoal, sales of Khat (Miraa), formal employment between at Ksh200 to 700.00 per day and engaging in degrading jobs that fetched between Ksh40 to 195.00 per day.

3.6 Implications on food security

- Consistently increasing food prices throughout the previous year to the current year impacted negatively on food situation and terms of trade in all three main livelihoods.
- Increasing livestock movement to far off dry season grazing areas also affected the food situation, especially among pastoralist livelihoods.
- Failure of the long rains season threatened food security situation in the greater Marsabit district.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



Ref: N=3.5 (Avg. No. of children) x 11 Sample sites x 30 Households.

- The nutrition status of children below five years improved during the month, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition dropping to 20.8 from 26.1 in July.
- The number of sampled children was 1,151- 608 girls and 543 boys. However, 232 compared to 270 children the previous month had MUAC below 135mm. The slight improvement with nutritional status is sustained by continued supplementary feeding from EMOP relief food.
- Relatively, higher rates were recorded Loiyangalani division of fisher folk livelihoods in Marsabit south district registering (emergency) 46.0% from 68% in previous month, followed by North Horr division in Marsabit north district of Pastoral livelihood with 21% from 20.8% while Central division in Marsabit central district of Agro/pastoral livelihood has the least at 7.0%.
- Generally, malnutrition rates among children are expected to increase in near future with prolonged drought stress in greater Marsabit district.

4.2 Human health

- The leading causes of morbidity for the general population in the greater Marsabit district were Malaria, upper respiration infections and diarrhea among children below five years and few adults which is within manageable level.
- Relatively, human health condition has been compounded by lack of food, conditions that make people susceptible to diseases.
- Diarrhea incidents are reported in Moite sub location of the Loiyangalani location.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non-food interventions

- Water trucking to communities and schools in central, Burgabo, Torbi, Namarei, Farakoren and Hurri hills by Arid Lands Resource Mgt Project, Ministry of Water and irrigation and Wild life services, the NGO PISP and CDF.

- Repair works on community boreholes in Burgabo, Kubi Qalo, Namarei, Gobbore, and Dirib Gombo – *NWSB, ALRMP*
- Provision of fuel to all community boreholes and other community water schemes –ALRMP, the NGO PISP, CIFA and M.o.Water and Irrigation.
- Provision of hay to community on Mt. Marsabit- *ALRMP II*.

5.2 Food aid

- Supplementary feeding program (SFP) in 18 out of 24 health centres in larger Marsabit district targeting 1356 direct beneficiaries among severely malnourished children, pregnant and lactating mothers was undertaken. Ministry of Health and Food for Hungry.
- Fifty two percent of the direct neediest beneficiaries (80,442) of the total population are under emergency relief operation program. Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS).
- GoK relief allocation was not received in the previous three weeks in any part of greater Marsabit district.

5.3 Other coping strategies

The currently applied coping strategies among households include;

- Increased number of households skipping meals, sharing of relief, and purchasing food on credit was reported across all the three main livelihoods, which is an indication of a serious inadequacy of food compared to similar period previous year.
- In the Agro-pastoral livelihood zone reported increasing sales of firewood/charcoal to urban dwellers.
- Generally, the applied coping strategies are more stressful than normal compared to this time of the year.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFMS

- Close monitoring of household food security situation in the coming month with a view of mitigating adverse effects caused by the prevailing drought.
- Scale up Supplementary and therapeutic relief assistance in all affected areas especially Loiyangalani division with ARM of 68%.
- Scale up EMOP relief food to 75 to 80% of the population in greater Marsabit district.
- Continue to support for water trucking to water stressed areas of Central, Gadhamoji divisions of Marsabit central district, Namarei, afharen in Marsabit south district, and Turbi, El Beso, several dropping points around Hurri hills and its surrounding in Marsabit north district to avert the chronic shortages.
- Repairs and maintenance of community boreholes should be priority.
- Increase School feeding Programme (SFP) as schools open for the third term.
- GoK relief food should be consistent to support needy households not targeted under EMOP food aid.
- Promote rain water harvesting techniques.

Action- WFP, KFSSG, ALRMP II and other DAs

- Continuous disease surveillance should be emphasized in order to contain disease outbreaks especially PPR, CCBP, CCPP and Anthrax incidence to areas where livestock are currently affected or concentrated.
- De-stocking program should be initiated to help pastoralist recoup some losses due to prevailing drought situation will lead to massive losses of livestock.
- Provision of hay and other livestock feeds for at least lactating stock in greater Marsabit district.
- Support the Loiyangalani, El-Molo and Illeret communities with fishing gears through credit provision and promote marketing of the fish.
- Organise a district-wide rapid assessment to assess the current surge in livestock mortalities.
- Scale up supplementary and therapeutic wet and dry feeding program.
- Intensify disease surveillance
- Construction and equipping of health facilities and recruitment of personnel's.
- Need for posting of more medical personnel's to community dispensaries and health sectors in greater Marsabit district.
- Fostering of peace should be encouraged within and without district boundaries.
- Cross border peace meetings should be emphasized by all stakeholders to enable free movements of livestock.