

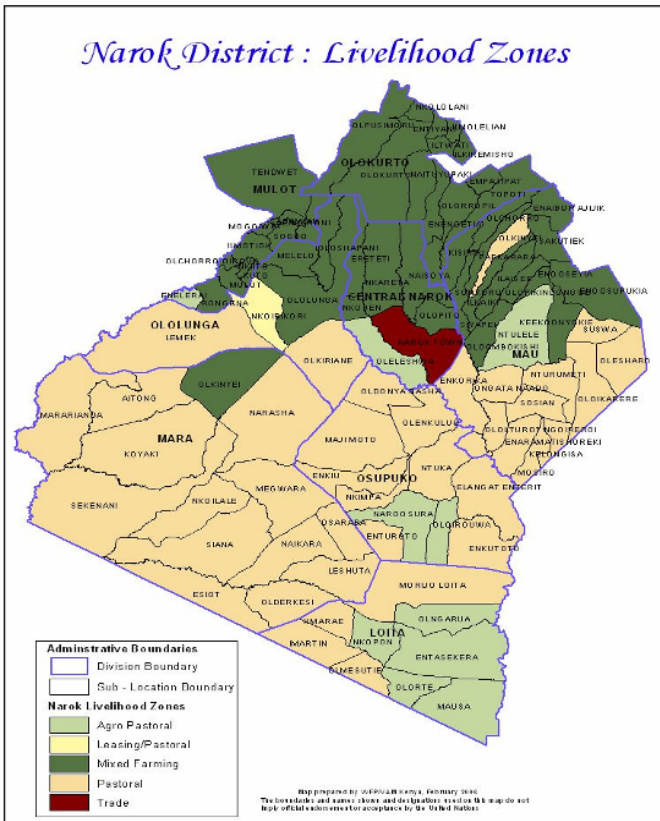


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR AUGUST 2009

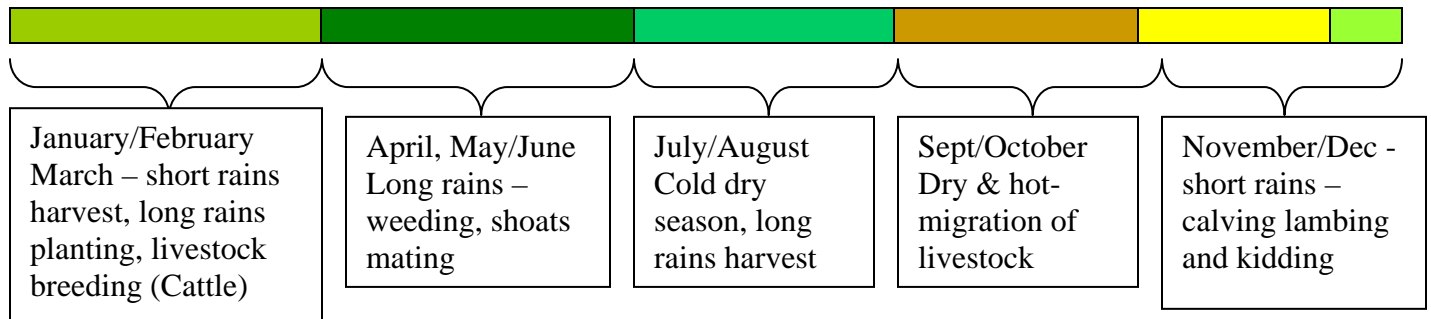
Narok District

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Agro Pastoral	Alarm	Worsening
Entasekera, Naroosura, Suswa		
Mixed Farming	Alert	Worsening
Nairragi-Enkare, Mulot		
Pastoral	Alarm	Worsening
Olmesutie, Ntuka, Mosiro, Oletukat		
Leasing/ Pastoral	Alarm	No Change
Lemek, Ololulunga, Pastoral Tourism	Alert	Worsening
Koyiaki		

Seasonal Calendar



Situation overview

- There were 2 days of rains of moderate intensity mainly in the upper parts of Mau and parts of Mara and Central divisions. On average 7.8mm of rainfall were recorded during the review period. This was far below normal during the year and had a negative impact on the food security situation in the district.
- Pasture and browse conditions drastically changed for the worse due to water related stress. Livestock body conditions continued to decline due to deteriorating pasture conditions, impacting negatively on the market prices.
- Water conditions also declined compared to the previous month, with most pans already drying up to lack of precipitation. The main sources of water included dams, major rivers, strategic boreholes and springs/wells. The distances to and from watering points increased, thus impacting negatively on the food security situation from an average of 4-5 Kms in June to an average of 5-10 kms during the reporting period. The increased distances to water points led to reduced consumption of water at the household level, which compromises hygiene status.
- The yields of crops of maize and wheat in the district were too low compared to normal. On average 2-3 bags of maize were being harvested compared to 10-15 bags under normal circumstances.
- Wheat harvesting is ongoing but the yields are poor due to moisture related stress as a result of inadequate long rains. The harvest is ranging from one to ten bags per acre depending on the time of planting and the agronomic practices employed as opposed to the normal 15- 25 bags per acre.
- Cases of enterotoxaemia, heart water and CCPP have been reported in areas of Osupuko, Loita, Mau and Central divisions. Suspected cases of FMD have also been reported in areas of Mara and Parts of Loita divisions.
- Milk production declined drastically and the available milk was mainly reserved for the young children.
- Livestock prices declined due to poor declining body conditions and poor market conditions. On average a mature cow sold at Ksh7,000 compared to 15,000 under normal situation. Goat's prices did not change during the reporting period. On average the prices remained at Ksh1,400 and 1,300 for goats and sheep respectively.
- Prices of cereals remained stable within the previous month's rates, with maize selling at Ksh45 while legumes sold at an average of Ksh80 per kilo. The prices were above normal and this impacted negatively on the food security situation in the district.
- The nutrition status of children under five declined and on average 18% of 970 children sampled were rated at risk of malnutrition.
- The situation is likely to deteriorate further if the current weather conditions prevail. The district is currently at 'alarm' stage in terms of food security.

Recommendation to DSG and KFSM

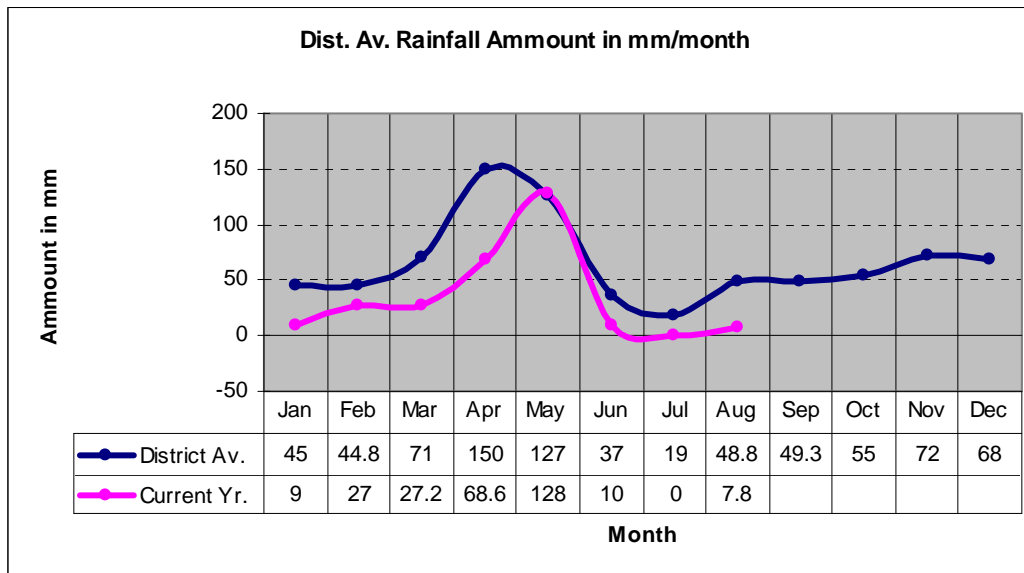
- There is need for close monitoring of the food security situation in the district. This is due to the prevalence of a serious food crisis following the prolonged drought and the mass crop failure during the season.
- Key stakeholders including WFP and Red Cross to consider relief food and other emergency interventions (non food) to the affected population approximately numbering 120,000.
- The few farmers lucky to have gotten a crop of maize should be encouraged to store their harvests and be trained on proper storage techniques.
- Water harvesting technologies should also be up scaled in the district.
- Supplementary feeding of children under five should be done to improve on their nutrition status.
- Livestock disease surveillance should also be strengthened especially with the likelihood of uncontrolled livestock movements in and out of the district.
- Livestock farmers should be encouraged to destock their herds to reduce the impacts of losses in the event of a drought which is imminent.
- Support to schools feeding programme is also recommended, especially for the affected schools that are not currently in the WFP Expanded school feeding programme.

Current interventions

- Capacity building trainings for communities undertaken by various stakeholders.
- Peace meetings for communities vulnerable to resource based conflicts.
- Distribution of relief seeds to farmers by through the Ministry of Agriculture (D.A.O).
- Protection and development of Loita, Sakutiek, and Kimogoro springs (ALRMP II, M.W&I, W.R.M.A).
- Integrated medical outreach alongside the anti jigger campaign at Enaramatishoreki and Isinon Locations. (D.M.O.H, A.C.K, Red Cross and ALRMP II).
- tree planting and water development project by various groups supported by ALRMP II, K.F.S and ENSDA mainly through the Kazi kwa Vijana initiatives.
- MoH, Operation Eye Sight International drilled more boreholes in a district-wide trachoma eradication programme.
- World Vision, World Concern, APHIAII, Kenya Red Cross and other institutions are supplementing the GoK activities in provision of water and capacity building support in various divisions.

1.0 Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall



SOURCE: ALRMP, WRMA

- There were 2 days of rains of moderate intensity mainly in the upper parts of Mau and parts of Mara and Central divisions. On average 7.8mm of rainfall were recorded during the review period.
- This was far below normal during the year and is a negative pointer to the food security situation in the district.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Pasture and browse conditions were very poor, with some parts, especially in the lower rangelands of Osupuko, Central and parts of Mau, being bare. This was mainly due to lack of precipitation and overgrazing.
- Most pastoralists moved their herds to the wheat growing areas to feed on the straws but the same is fast depleting due to overcrowding and most farmers also harvested the straw for sale.

1.3 Water sources and availability

- Water conditions were also fast declining, with approximately 20% of water pans and dams already drying up due to lack of rainfall and concentration of livestock around the water sources.
- The main sources of water for the last month remained as dams, major rivers, strategic boreholes and springs/wells. The situation is, however likely to worsen if the current weather conditions prevail. This will impact negatively to the food security situation.

The table indicates water sources and percentage of households using them, compared to a normal situation.

Water source	1	2	3	4	Others
% Of h/holds depending on the source	40	20	25	10	5
% Of h/holds normally depending on source	25	50	15	8	2

1. Natural rivers 2. Catchment pools/dams 3. Constructed shallow wells/functional
4. Boreholes (functional)

1.3.1 Distances to water sources

- The distances to and from watering points significantly increased following the drying up of pans and streams during the month. An average of 5-10 Kms was covered for livestock as well as for domestic use. The distances to the watering points were not normal during the time of the year.
- This impacted negatively on the food security situation as more time was spent looking for water for domestic use as well as for livestock.

The table indicates average distances to water sources compared to normal situation

Water sources	1	2	3	4	Others
Average Kms to the source	6	10	5	8	4
Normal Kms to the source	4	3	5	8	2

1. Traditional rivers/wells 2. Catchment pools/dams 3. Constructed shallow wells/functional
4. Boreholes (functional)

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity/conflicts

Apart from a few cases of predation, there were no major security concerns in the district.

1.4.2 Migration

(a) Livestock migration

- No in-migration was reported in the district during the review period.
- There have been no reports of out migration during the reporting period
- Movement of livestock within the district reportedly continued as herders moved their livestock away from the wildlife migration corridors especially in Mara and Osupuko

(b) Human Migration/displacement

- No major movement of humans reported during the review period. Cases of a few people moving into the district in search of casual labor and charcoal burning
- This was also normal during the time of the year

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Livestock body conditions declined drastically due to water and pasture related stress. This impacted negatively on the food security situation.

2.1.2 Livestock health

- Cases of enterotoxaemia heart water and CCPP were reported in Osupuko, Loita, Mau and Central divisions. Suspected cases of FMD were also reported in of Mara and parts of Loita and Osupuo divisions.
- The drought situation may trigger an uncontrolled movement of livestock in search of pasture and water thereby increasing the prevalence of disease outbreaks
- The department of veterinary is however monitoring the situation closely.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk availability has gone down following the poor weather conditions and is far below normal due to the low calving rates and the impacts of the recent drought.

- Where milk is available consumption is mainly reserved for the young children.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and status of various crop production activities

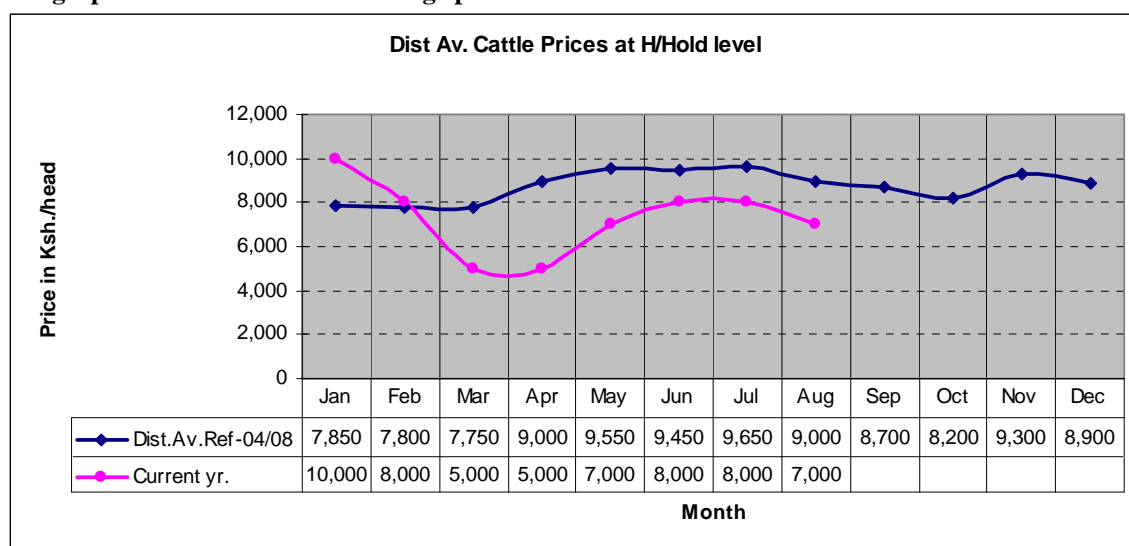
- The wheat crop being harvested was very poor and in some areas there were no yields. Most farmers were harvesting as low as 2 bags per acre compared to the normal 15-18 bags. This drove a number of households to serious food insecurity problems.
- Maize farmers also recorded very low yields to zero, with most farmers not harvesting at all due to the effects of drought. For those who got some harvest it was far much below normal most of them getting 1-3 bags per acre compared to 10-15 bags under normal circumstances.
- Crops under irrigation in Naroosura and Mosiro were in good condition but the acreage was very low due to most farmers leaving the areas with their livestock in search of water and pasture.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices

The graph shows district cattle average prices in Ksh. At the household level

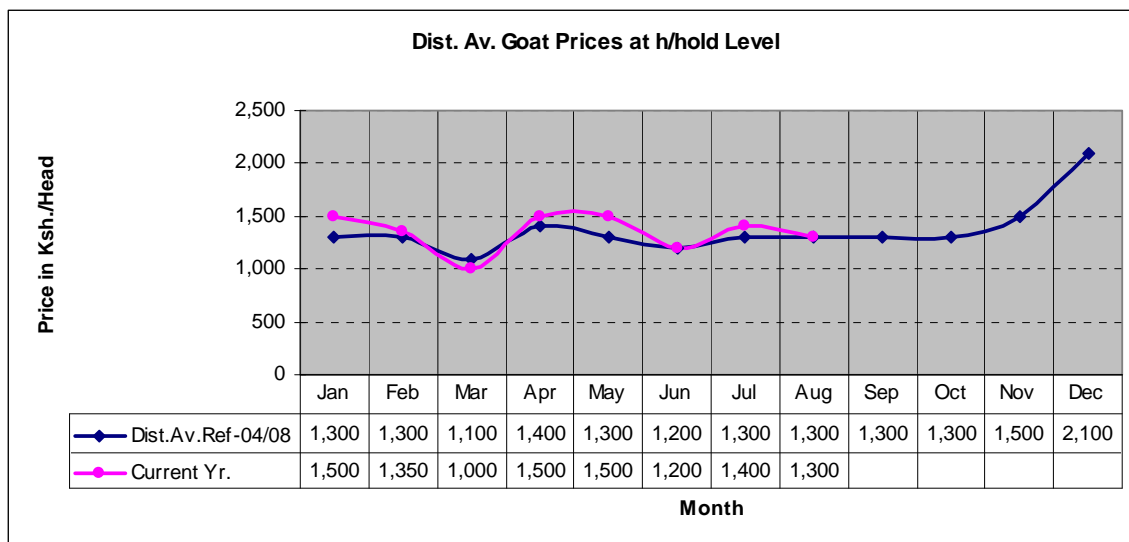


Source: ALRMP II NAROK

- Livestock prices declined further with the declining body conditions. Mature cows sold at an average of Ksh7,000 compared to Ksh8,000 last month. The prices are likely to go down further if the prevailing drought conditions persist.
- This impacted negatively on the food security situation in the district.

3.1.2 Goats prices

The graph shows the district average prices of goats at the h/hold level (Ksh.)

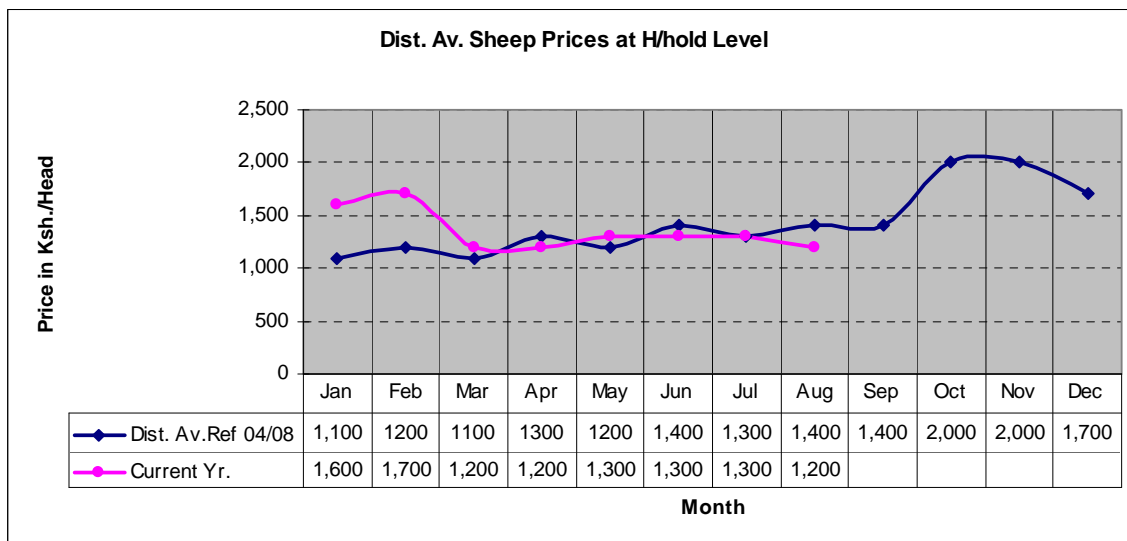


Source: ALRMP II NAROK

- Goats prices declined slightly compared to the previous months rates. On average a mature goat sold at Ksh1,300 compared to last month's rates of Ksh1,400. This was however within the normal rates during the time of the year.
- Most households were relying more on the sales of shoats for survival. This impacted positively on the food security situation

3.1.3 Sheep prices

The graph shows the district average prices for sheep at the household level (Ksh.)



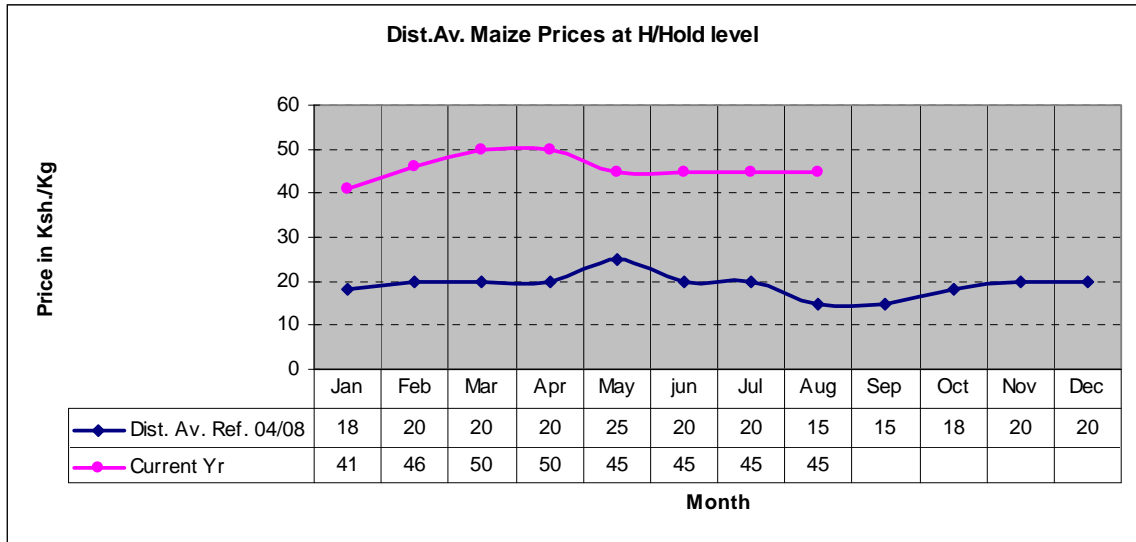
Source: ALRMP II NAROK

- Sheep prices continued to decline, selling at an average of Ksh1,200 compared to 1,700 in February.
- The shoats were mainly the only source of income as they supplement the household source of food and cash as the prices for the larger stock were far much below the long term thresholds.

3.2 Food prices

3.2.1 Maize prices

The graph shows the average district maize prices at the household level (Ksh./Kg)

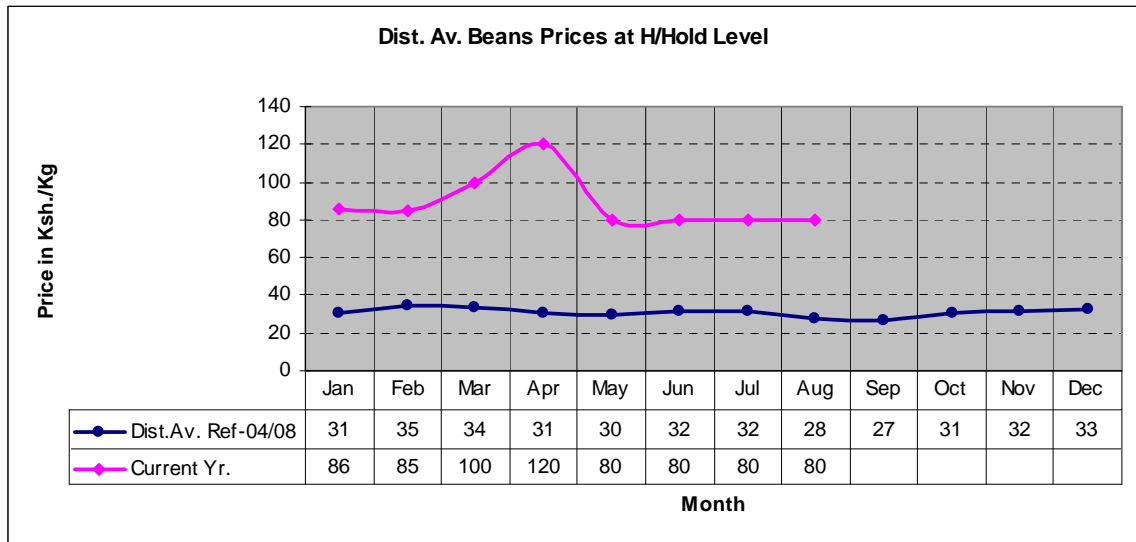


Source: ALRMP II NAROK

- The prices of food items remained stable compared to the previous month.
- Maize sold at an average of Ksh45 per kilo compared to the normal price around this time of Ksh25.
- The general relative high prices were attributed to the scarcity of maize and beans locally and nationally. The situation was aggravated by the fact that most farmers in the agricultural areas have a tradition of selling their crop of maize while still green.
- This impacted negatively on the household food security.

3.2.2 Beans prices

The graph shows district average beans prices at the household level (Ksh /kg)

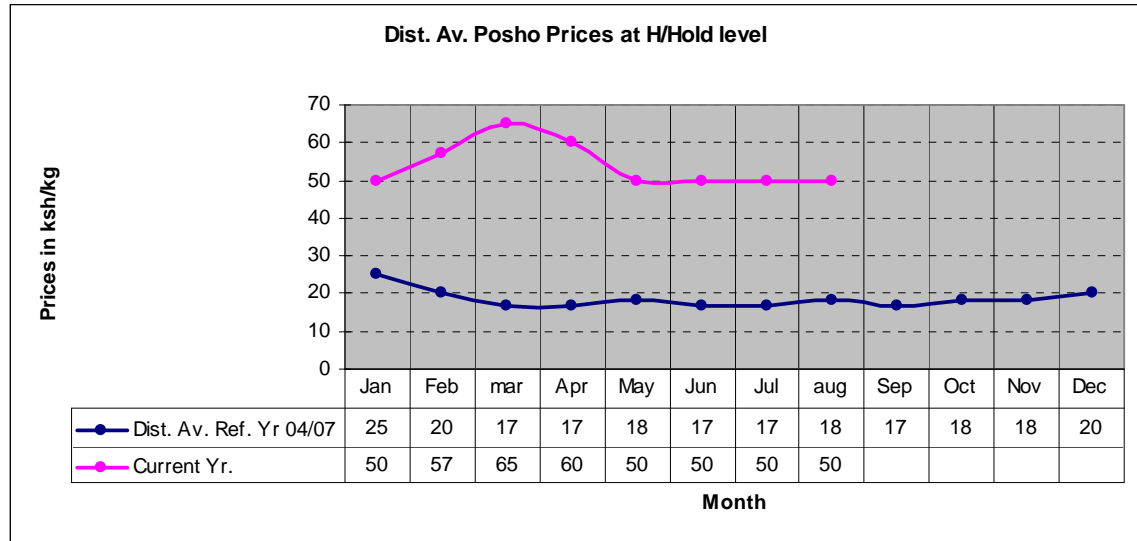


Source: ALRMP II NAROK

- Beans prices remained within the previous months average rates of Ksh80. This was far beyond normal during the time of the year.
- The situation is likely to remain the same as very few farmers got a crop of the same . If the current conditions prevail the prices are likely to go up.

3.2.3 Posho prices

The graph shows the average prices of posho at the district (Ksh/Kg)



Source: ALRMP II NAROK

- Posho prices have remained stable at average rate of ksh. 50.00
- This is still far above normal and is mainly attributed to the scarcity of food in the household level.

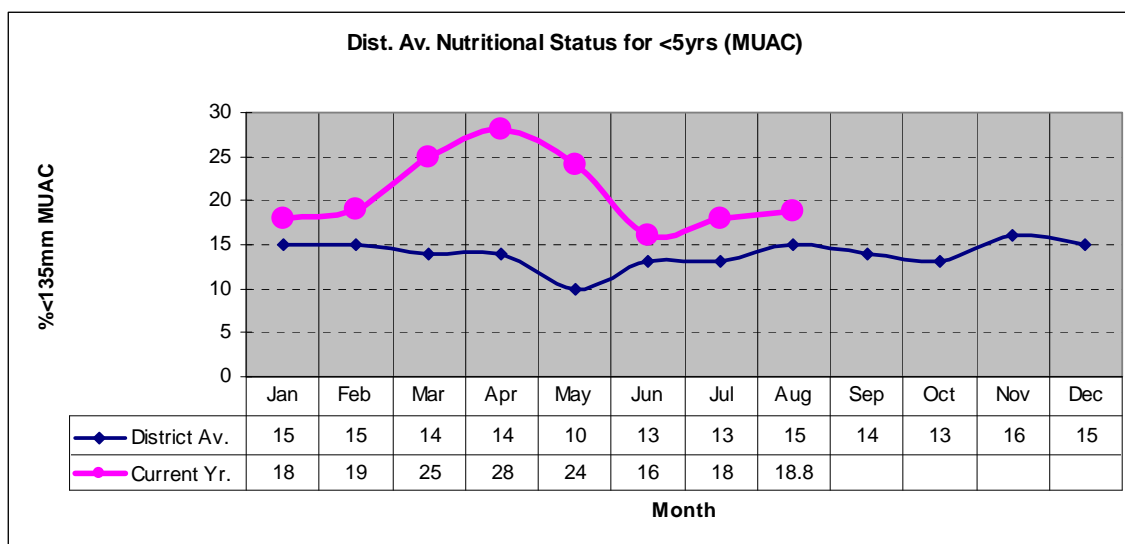
4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status

The nutrition status of children under five declined compared to the previous month. On average, 18.8% of 875 children sampled were rated at risk of malnutrition (based on MUAC<135mm) compared to 16% of 800 recorded in July.

- The situation is likely to deteriorate if the current weather conditions prevail. This was mainly attributed to the declining food security situation.

The graph shows the MUAC malnutrition rates (% <135mm)



Source: ALRMP II NAROK

4.2 Human health

- There were no major cases of human disease in both districts during the review period.

5.0 Current interventions

- Capacity building trainings for communities undertaken by various stakeholders.
- Peace meetings for communities vulnerable to resource based conflicts.
- Distribution of relief seeds to farmers by through the Ministry of Agriculture (D.A.O).
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6.0 Recommendation to DSG and KFSM

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