

Situation overview

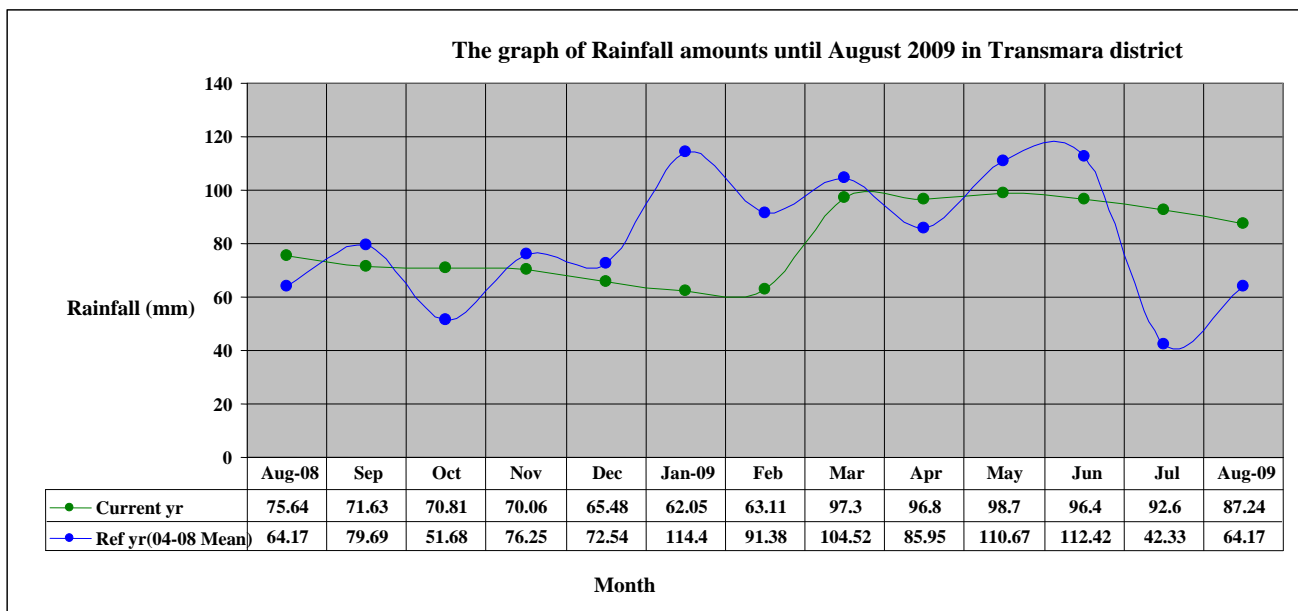
- The district recorded 87.24mm of rainfall during the month, down from 92.60mm the previous month. The trend was downward as was expected during such times of the year. However, the rainfall amount was higher than the norm for such a month of the year.
- Pasture quantity and quality were low and livestock body condition only fair. Livestock prices increased due to free markets after ceasing of FMD outbreak in several parts of the district.
- Water levels in the district started reducing.
- Maize was under harvest and prices were decreasing. Middlemen were buying maize at a very high rate. On the other hand, beans were hardly available in local markets and prices increased.
- The nutrition status of children under five improved during the month, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition dropping to 5.05 from 5.38 in July. This was attributed to the coping strategy where household members reserved milk for children and the harvest season.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Water projects (including storage facilities) should be implemented in areas that are frequently hard hit by water shortages and long distances to water sources during dry spells. **Action: Water & ALRMP II.**
- Sensitisation on post-harvest crop management to be done to farmers at harvesting so as to minimize wastage and improve on food security. **Action: MoA & ALRMP II.**
- There is need to improve poor roads condition, as well as security access bridges and drifts in conflict areas. **Action: Public Works, ALRMP II & CDF.**

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall



Rainfall data from Kilgoris rainfall station

- The rainfall amount was 87.24mm, a decrease from 92.60mm during the previous month. The trend was downward as was expected during such times of the year.

- Rainfall amount was higher than the norm for such a month of the year. Water levels started reducing. The district had about 4 rainy days averagely, compared to 6 during the previous month.
- In mixed farming livelihoods, about 20% of the areas received rainfall, compared to 25% during the previous months. Pastoral, Agro-pastoral and Casual waged labour/ tourism livelihoods received an average of about 15% coverage, similar to the previous month.
- This spatial distribution was below normal for such a time of the year, where it is usually expected that majority of the areas receive rainfall.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- The quality of vegetation/pasture was fair, but deteriorating compared to last month.
- The quality of the vegetation status in the pastoral livelihood zones was of lower quality compared to that of the previous months. These areas (Kirindon division and South Eastern parts of Lolgorian division) were affected by significant rain reduction than the rest.
- The quantity of pasture was low and reducing, compared to the previous month. The pasture quantity was less than that of the same month for a normal year.
- The quantity of the vegetation in the Mixed farming livelihood zones was however higher than that of other livelihoods. This was attributed to differences in soil potentials and physical limitations between the two livelihoods.

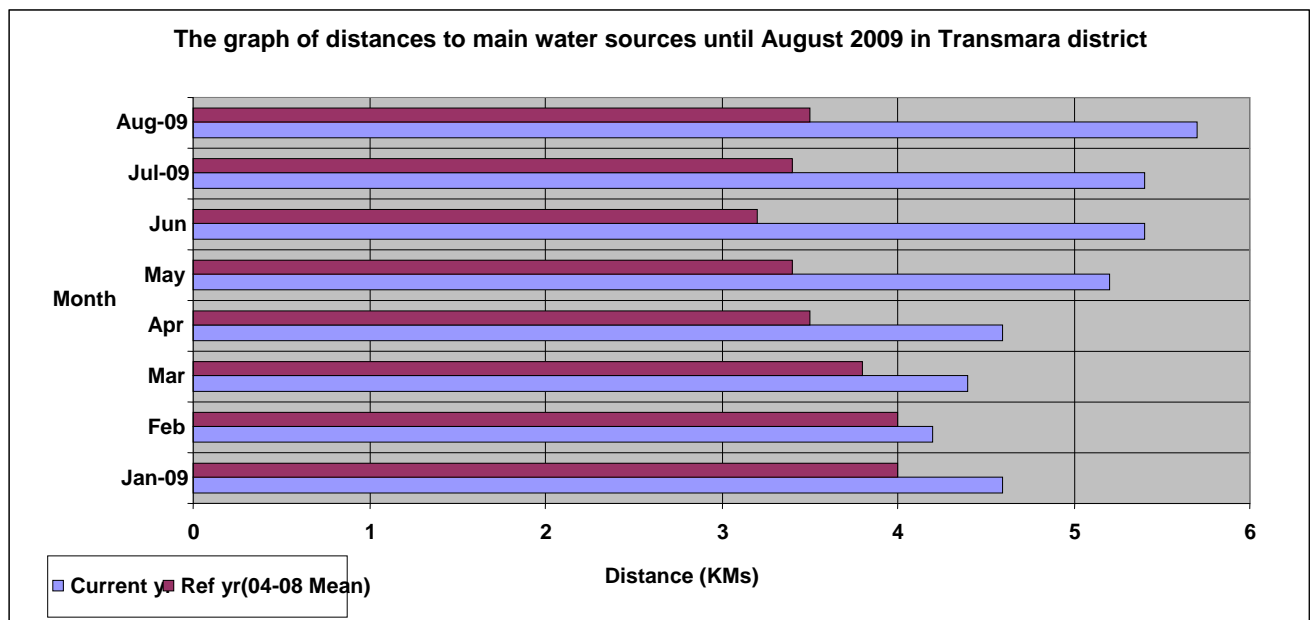
1.2.1 Distance to grazing areas

The average distance from livestock concentration points to main grazing areas in the district was 5 Km. This was above normal (3.38kms) and was as a result of inadequate rains received. The situation is similar to the previous month and is likely to worsen if rains fail to resume.

1.3 Water sources and availability

Rivers, pans and dams were main sources of water for both people and livestock. These sources were under pressure due to a high population of users. Other sources had dried up following low rainfall amounts received over an extended period of time. The water situation was worse in all livelihoods. The situation is likely to persist as the dry spell extends.

1.3.1 Distance to water sources



1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity/conflict/human displacement

There were incidences of insecurity in the district during the month. Intra-tribal conflicts arose over land disputes at Shartuka in Pirrar division, where there was tension for some time. The situation was being managed.

1.5 Implications on Food Security

The decreasing rainfall amount reduced water and pasture availability. Milk production will eventually go down and affect livelihoods if the trend continues.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- The body condition of cattle, sheep and goats was fair, similar to that of the previous month. There were no marked differences in the body condition of livestock between pastoral/Agro-pastoral zones and the Mixed farming ones. Livestock was being sustained by little pasture and water available and the situation was bleak.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

The Foot and Mouth Disease that had been prevalent in most of the pastoral areas had ceased. Pastoralists had problems in vaccinating their stocks because of hard economic times.

2.1.3 Milk production

The average milk production per household was low, less than the previous month. This was because of the low water and pasture levels. The quantity of milk production was less than normal for such a time of the year. Mixed farming livelihoods had higher milk production per animal than pastoral areas.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of various crop production activities

Maize in farming areas was under harvest. The crop had been affected by low rainfall amounts and the yields are low, compared to previous harvests.

2.2.2 Implications on food security

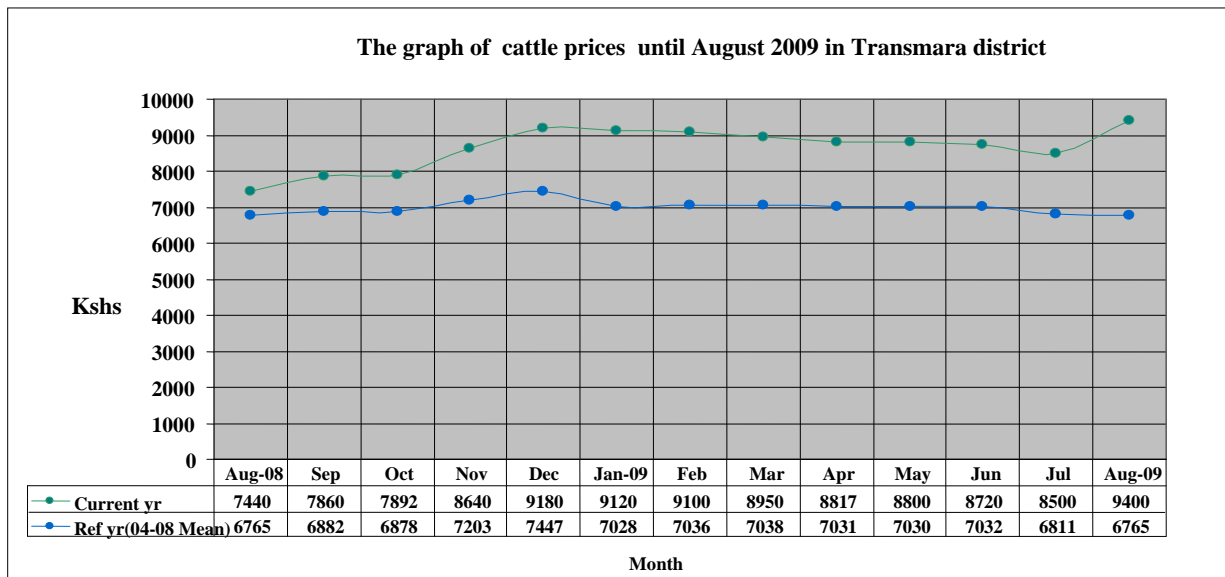
The district realized poor yields this year that may not last for long. This posed a threat to food security.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

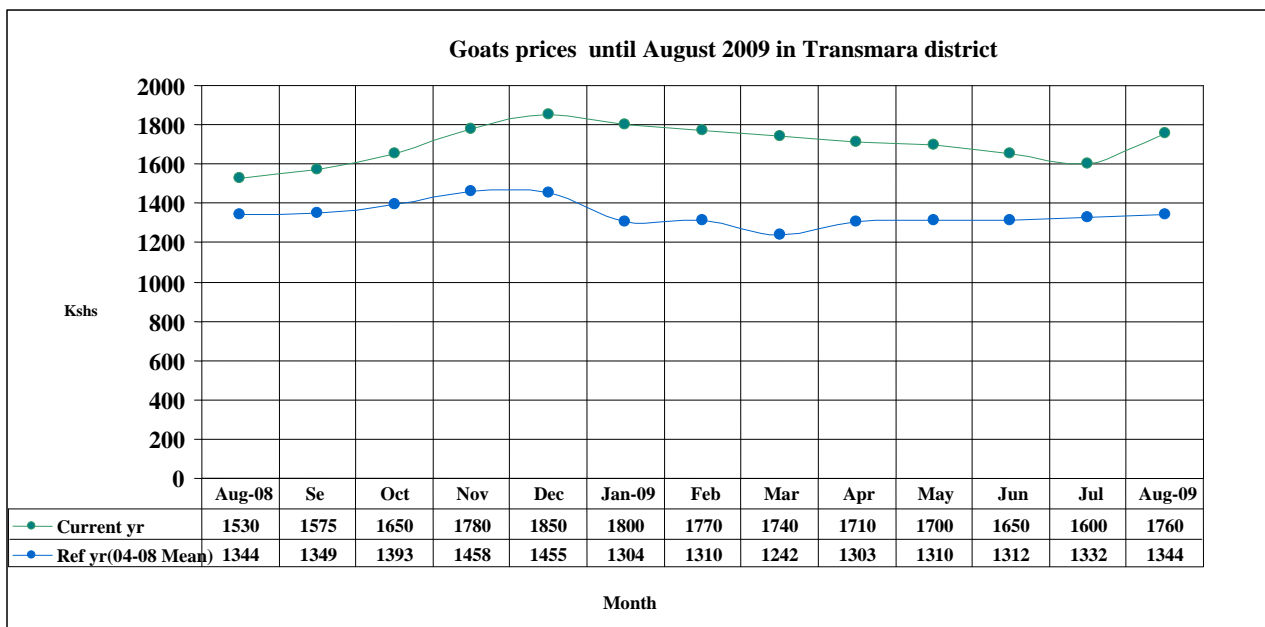
3.1.1 Cattle prices

- The average price of cattle was Ksh9,400, more than that of the previous month (Ksh8,500). There was an increase and reversed trend in cattle prices in the district. The prices increased because of free livestock markets that had been closed for over four months following the FMD outbreak in various parts of the district. Trade in livestock was gaining.
- The cattle price was higher than normal and in upward trend. This had a positive impact on food security as more cash was fetched from cattle sales.



n=330

3.1.2 Goats prices



n=330

- The average price of goats decreased from Ksh1,600 to Ksh1,760. Prices increased because of the improved purchasing power of households. Cereals were available since it was harvest season. Closed livestock market (due to FMD outbreak) had been opened.
- The price of goats remained higher than normal for such a time of the year. The downward trend reversed and is expected to remain this way until opening of schools.

3.2 Milk Consumption

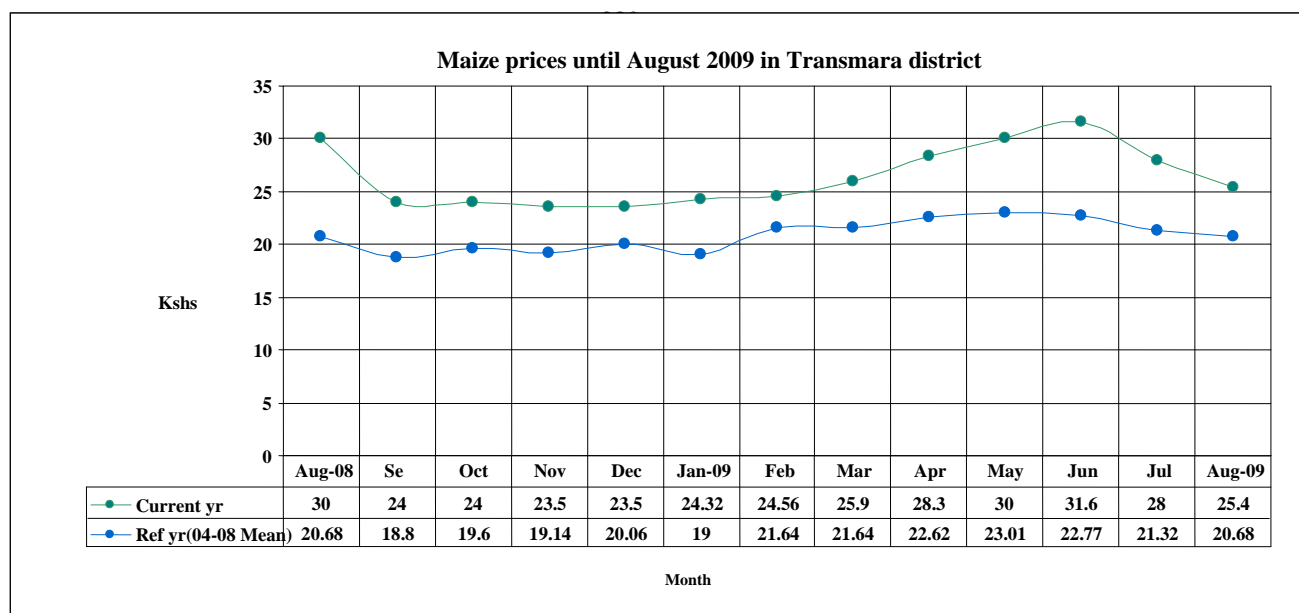
Table for milk consumption

	2008												2009
	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Everyone	18.40	18.31	18.24	18.15	18.11	18.05	18.01	17.94	17.60	17.48	17.20	17.20	17.08
Only children	35.60	35.75	35.83	36.44	36.52	36.83	36.92	36.97	37.20	37.50	37.80	37.83	37.96
None	4.12	4.20	4.33	4.38	4.43	4.55	4.61	4.68	4.88	5.20	5.44	5.43	5.52

Milk availability decreased and significantly affected accessibility of household members. The trend of milk consumption-pattern remained decimating; similar to previous months. This situation is not supportive food security.

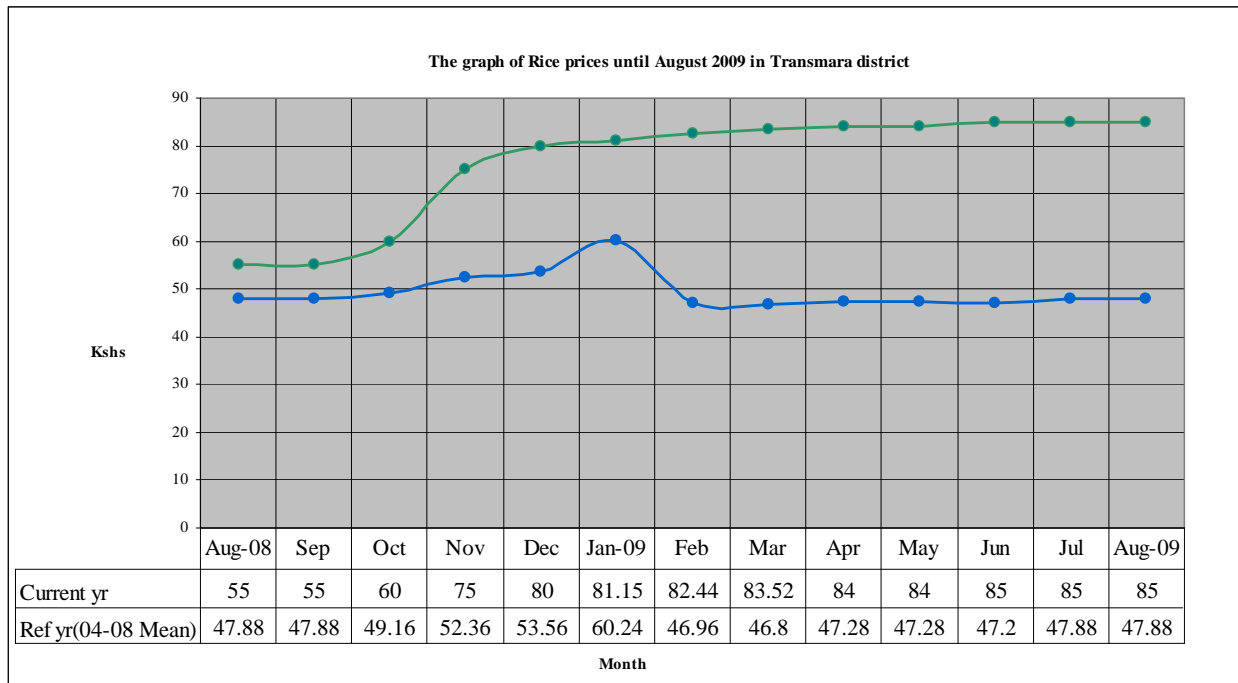
3.3 Crop prices

3.3.1 Maize prices



The average price of maize decreased from Ksh28 per kilo to Ksh25.40. Prices decreased because of the harvest period. The trend shall continue until the end of the harvesting season. The maize price level was above that of the month's long term mean.

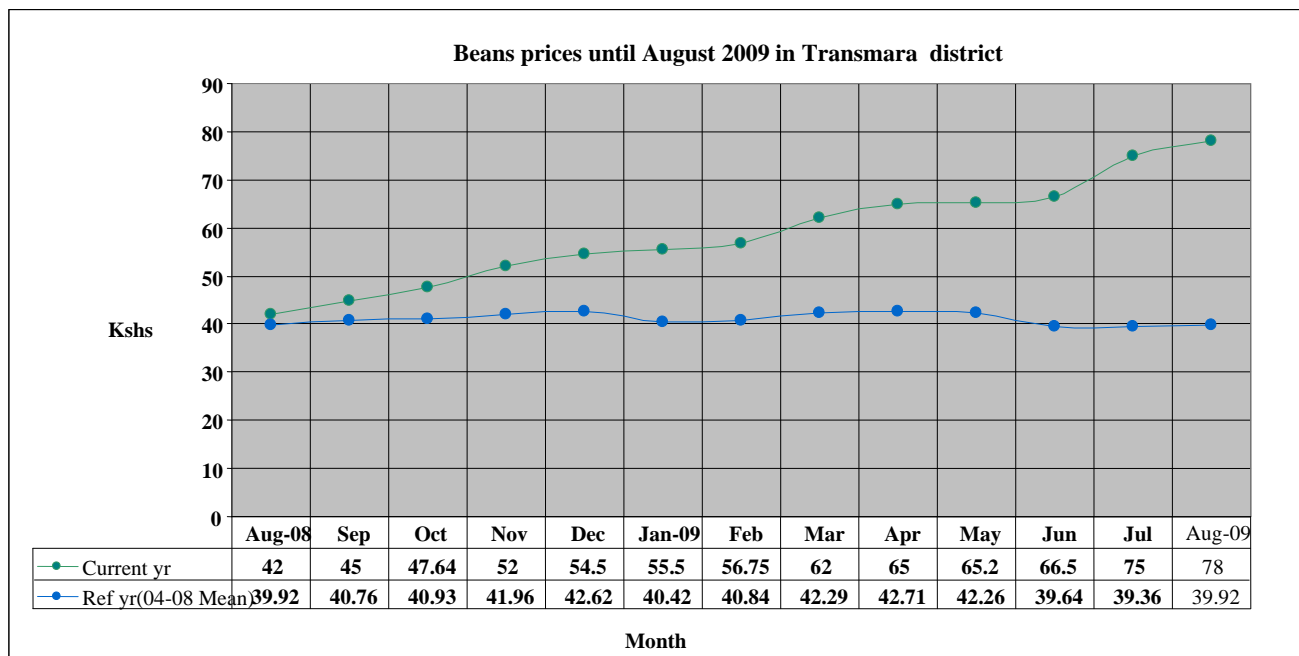
3.3.2 Rice prices



N=330

The average price of rice remained Ksh85 per kilo. Rice price was normal for the season. The high level was attributed to inflation countrywide and the increasing demand for cereals during the previous months. Very few people purchased rice.

3.3.3 Beans prices



n=330

The average price of beans increased from Ksh75 in July to Ksh78. This was the case in all livelihoods. The price went up because beans were not available in markets. The upward price trend is likely to last long as the harvest for beans is still far. This is considered normal for such a time of the year.

3.4 Income

3.4.1 Crop income

Income from crops was not significant since no sales were reported from households/farms.

3.4.2 Livestock income

- During the month, income from livestock sales was more than for the previous month. The livestock market improved as markets opened after ceasing of FMD disease.
- All livelihoods experienced better prices for their livestock. This trend was normal and impacted positively on food security.

3.4.3 Other incomes

There were no significant incomes from other activities such as charcoal burning and casual wages. Efforts to reduce charcoal burning and forest destruction were on. The situation was normal.

3.5 Cereal: Meat price ratio

Aug 08	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 09	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug 09
106.70	106.40	106.34	106.25	106.18	106.22	106.26	106.38	106.45	106.53	106.85	106.70	106.50

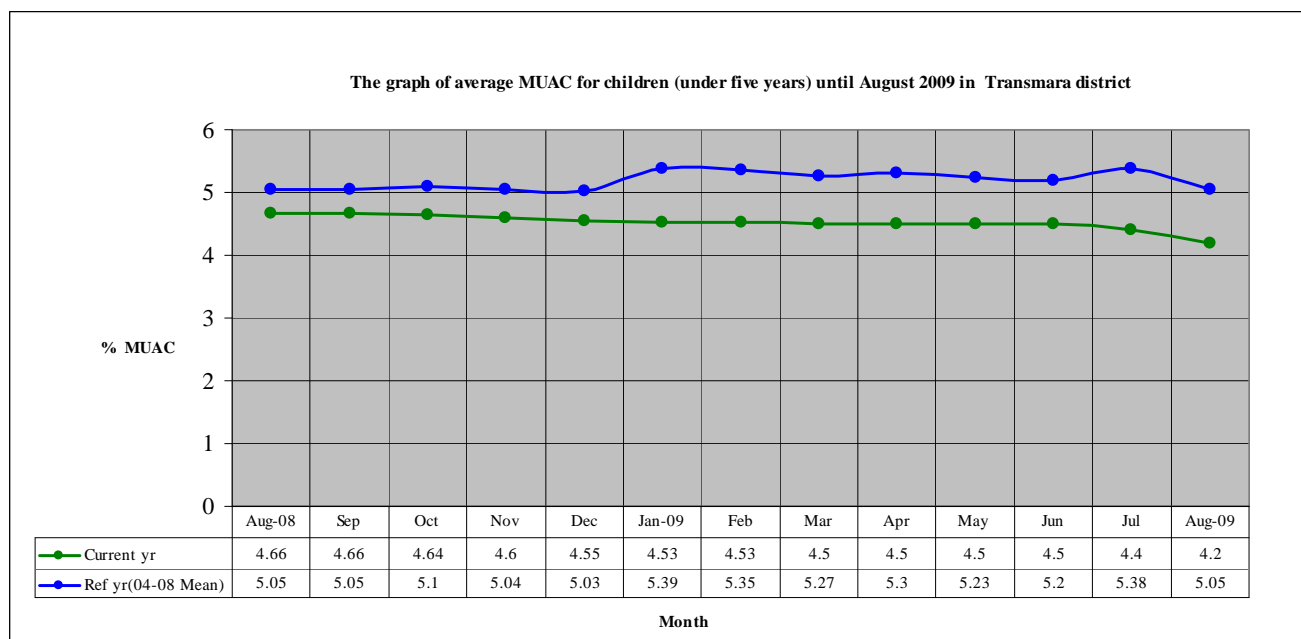
- The cereal/meat price ratio decreased from 106.70 to 106.50. This was because of the decreasing cereal prices against increasing livestock prices. This had a positive implication on food security as there was improved access to food, than before. The situation is likely to get better as the harvest season heightens.

3.6 Implications on food security

- In this respect, the implications of the above on food security is positive

4.0 Human welfare indicators (utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



n=1,013

- The nutrition status of children under five improved during the month, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition dropping to 5.05 from 5.38 in July.
- This was attributed to the coping strategy where household members reserved milk for children and the harvest season.
- The rate was below normal and was stabilised by increased availability of cereals in the harvesting season.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non-food interventions

- Peace building meetings and workshops were on-going at the district level. The District Peace Committee is actively working, being supported by the District Security Team and ALRMP II.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

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