

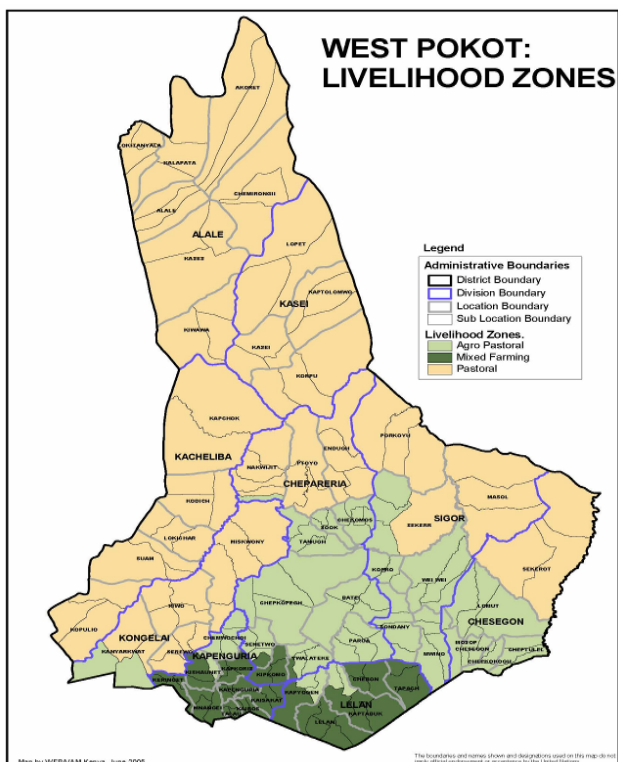


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, AUGUST 2009

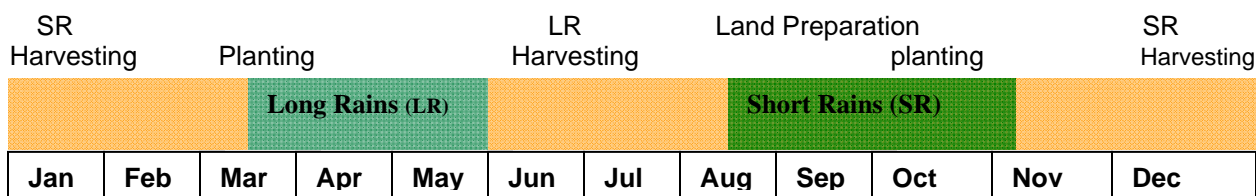
**Pokot West, Central and North
Districts**

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Agro pastoral	Alarm	Worsening
Mixed farming	Alert	No Change
Pastoralist	Alarm	Worsening
District	Alert	Worsening

Seasonal Calendar



Situation overview

- Rainfall performance during the month was poor compared to the long term average, with most of the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods receiving rainfall below 10% of the normal. The rainfall had a temporal distribution of 2 days in the upper areas, but this had insignificant improvement on the food security status.
- Water flow in the rivers reduced greatly and most of the rivers were not flowing or had reduced water volumes. Traditional river wells were the major water source, which was a deviation from the normal where natural rivers acted as the major water sources at this time of the year.
- Boreholes also acted as important water sources for the communities.
- Pasture and browse was poor in all the areas, but worse in the agro-pastoral areas. In areas with livestock, the large population of concentrated animals worsened the situation. There was increased livestock migration in the last three months to the dry season grazing areas in places like Kiwawa and Alale where animals had not moved much.
- Cases of CCPP (*Contagious Caprine Pleuro Pneumonia*) and CBPP (*Contagious Bovine Pleuro Pneumonia*) are still on the increase in North Pokot and this calls for an intervention.
- Agro-pastoral livelihoods remained the most affected, with over 90% crop failure in some parts. In the lower parts of Sigor where most livestock is, there was increased diminishing of pasture, reducing the livestock survival rate there.
- Crop production yield is expected to be between 60% - 80% in the mixed farming areas as a result of erratic rainfall in the beginning of the season. In the agro pastoral areas, total crop failure is anticipated. This is because most animals were not within the household, and the ones taken to the market were from the areas where animals migrated to, hence their body condition was fair. The average price of cattle was Ksh 7,420.
- The price of maize continued to rise and the average price was Ksh48 compared to Ksh43 recorded last month. There was a significant reduction in price for beans compared to the last few months. There was, however, scarcity of the commodity in the markets with the price averaging at Ksh60 per kilo compared to Ksh 80 recorded last month.
- There was an improvement in the nutrition status of children below five years, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition dropping to 7.1 from 8.8% in July.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- There is an urgent need for intervention in areas affected by Cases of CCPP (*Contagious Caprine Pleuro Pneumonia*) and CBPP (*Contagious Bovine Pleuro Pneumonia*)- (DVO, ALRMP).
- More strategic boreholes ought to be rehabilitated as they are playing important role as water sources during this period (DWO).
- Mechanisms to resolve pasture and water related conflicts ought to be put in place.
- Provision of Unimix to areas with high malnutrition rates (ALRMP/MOH).

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- Rainfall performance during the month continued to be poor in all the livelihoods, with the agro-pastoralists being the most affected and conditions in the pastoral areas worsening rapidly.
- The upper areas of the district, which are predominantly mixed farming, received rainfall with a temporal distribution of between one to two days.
- Most of the pastoral and agro pastoral areas did not receive any rainfall during the month.
- In Chepareria, which is an agro pastoral livelihood, there was rainfall for one day but this had little effect on the environmental conditions on this area which is already affected by previous rainfall failures.
- Alale, Kasei, Sook, Sigor and Cheseгон divisions, which lie in the pastoral and agro pastoral livelihoods, received rainfall that was below 10% of the normal seasonal range. Tapach Division with mixed farming livelihood received rainfall below 10% of the normal as well (*Fig 1. below*).
- Parts of Kapenguria, Kacheliba and Kongelai received rainfall below 50% of the normal compared to the long term averages.

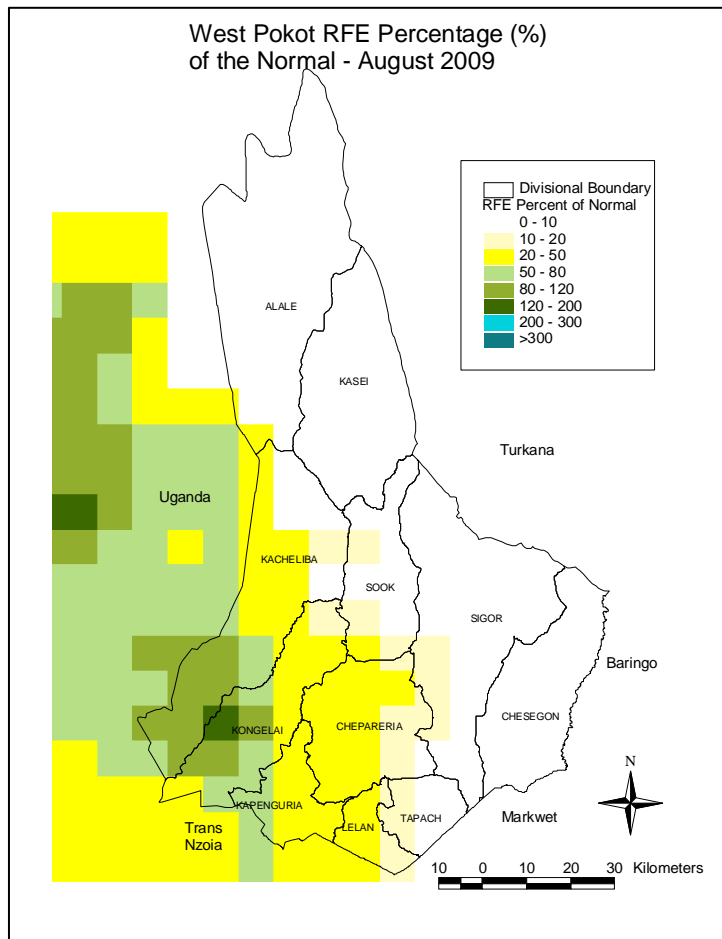


Fig 1. A representation of percentage of the normal Rainfall Estimate (RFE) computed from cumulative Satellite Imagery for August 2009 compared to August long term average

**(Image source
NOAA/USGS/FEWS/USAID)**

Fig 2. Comparison of the current rainfall distribution against long term estimates for August (Image Source: NOAA/USGS/FEWS/USAID)

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Pasture and browse conditions in the pastoral areas were still below normal, with the most affected areas being the lowlands.
- The rainfall received for about two days during the month was not sufficient to improve on this condition
- In Kacheliba and around Kanyerus area, there was rainfall for about two days, which sustained availability of pasture. The major challenge in this area, however, was increasing population of livestock, especially influx of cattle.
- The prevailing conditions were not normal at the time of the year.

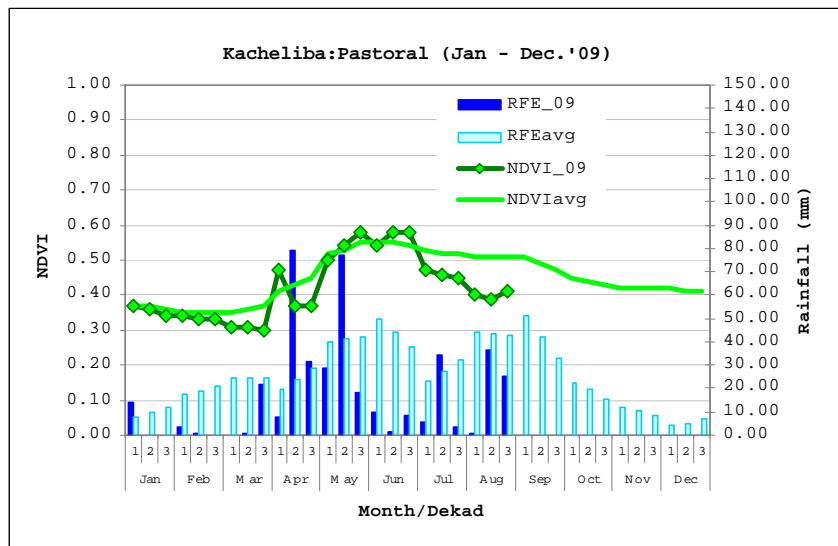


Fig 3. Graph Showing RFE and NDVI time series analysis for the Pastoral Livelihood (Kacheliba)

- Conditions in the agro pastoral livelihood continued to worsen as very little rainfall was received in the area.
- The most affected areas were the dry season grazing areas including lower parts of Sigor, Turkwell Chepareria and Chesegeon where there were livestock concentrations and no rainfall was experienced there.
- Livestock mortality was on the increase in these areas.
- This was not a normal situation, since these animals have been in the area longer than usual.

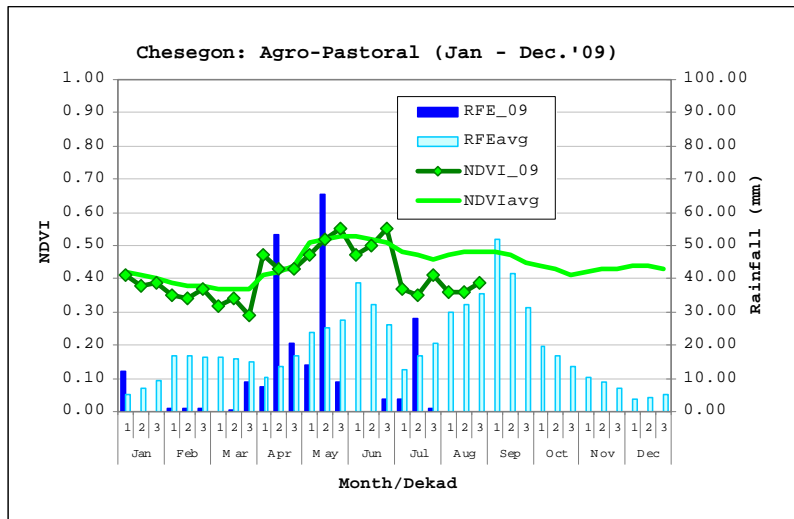


Fig 4. Graph Showing RFE and NDVI time series analysis for the Agro-Pastoral Livelihood (Chesegon)

- Parts of Kapenguria in the mixed farming livelihood zone received some rainfall during the month, which stabilized the condition.
- Despite the improvement in vegetation, most crops like maize were healthy but crop failure is expected as a result of the previous rainfall shortage at the beginning of the season.
- The rainfall received in the first and third dekads of August however was far below the normal seasonal range.

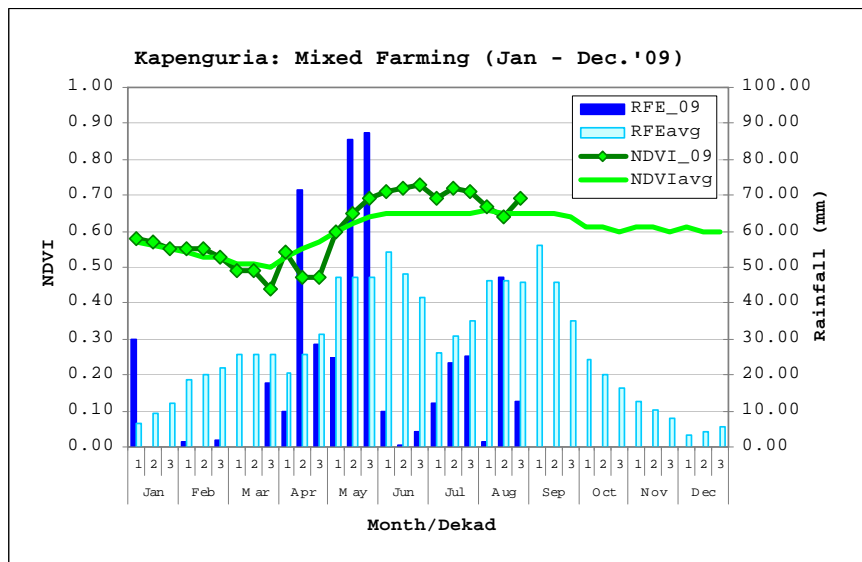


Fig 5. Graph Showing RFE and NDVI time series analysis for the Mixed Farming Livelihood (Kapenguria)

1.2.1 Distances to grazing areas

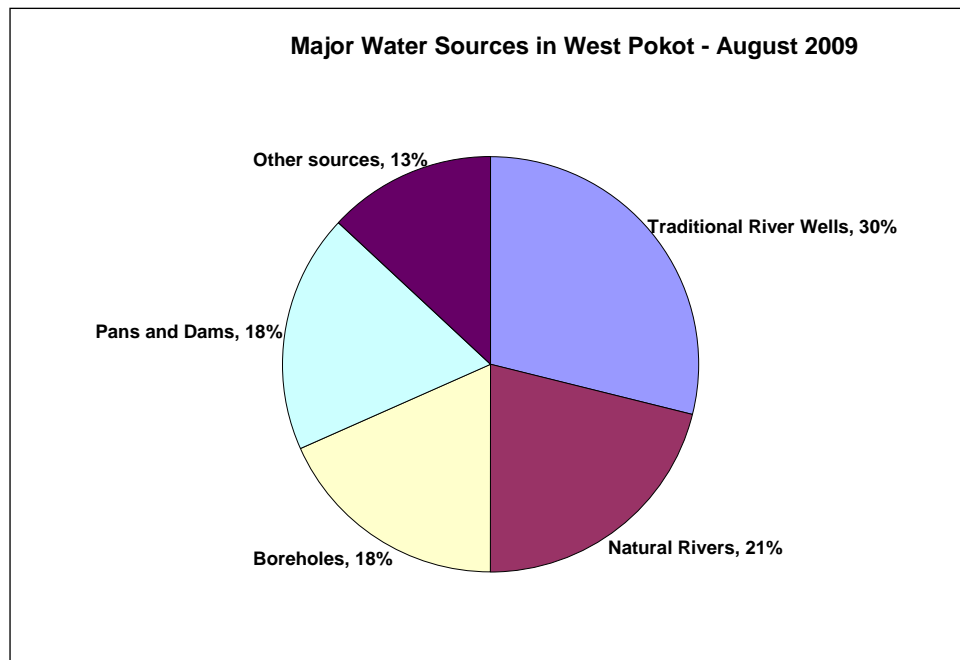
- The distance to grazing areas did not change significantly compared to last month.
- The recorded distance was 6.3 km compared to 6.4 km recorded last month.
- This was as a result of the animals remaining in the dry season grazing areas, hence the change in distance was not significant.

- The distances were, however, long compared to previous months trends of 5.0km, 5.4km, 5.9 km and 6.4km from April to July respectively. The condition in the areas where animals were concentrated continued to worsen.
- The longest distances were recorded in Konyao (13km and Nyangaita (10.3km) respectively. This was not a normal situation at the time of the year.

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Water sources

- Traditional river wells continued to be the major water sources to 30% of the sampled communities. This was followed by natural rivers being used by 21% of the sampled communities.
- This was a significant difference compared to August last year where rivers were major water sources serving 42% of the communities. Most of the rivers which serve as the major water sources for the communities during this time were not flowing.
- Boreholes were also significant as the major water source at this time of the year, and these are the strategic ones in areas where household and livestock are concentrated. This was not normal situation at this time of the year.



1.3.2 Household access to water

- There was no significant change in household distances to water sources compared to last month. The average distance was 3.4 Km as it was in July, which was high compared to 3.2 km recorded in June. There is also a possibility that these distances have been stabilized by interventions by Arid Lands Project and other actors which included rehabilitation of strategic boreholes to supply communities with water
- In Nyangaita for example which had recorded 8km in July, recorded 6km in August. A strategic borehole intervention was done for this community.

1.4 Emerging issues

- Livestock remained in the dry season grazing areas, which was not normal at this time of the year. This led to strain on pasture conditions in these areas.
- In the lower parts of sigor and Turkwell where some animals were concentrated, there was no rainfall recorded during the month, hence there was no pasture regeneration. Livestock mortality was on the increase here, as pasture continued to reduce.
- In North Pokot, around Kiwawa and Alale where there was pastures last month, most of it got exhausted and animals started moving to Uganda.
- In parts of Kacheliba and Kongelai along Uganda and Trans Nzoia border, rainfall of about 120mm was recorded in August. This is likely to sustain the pastures but the challenge is that the livestock populations may increase as more animals come in this area
- Conditions here may improve if the rains continue and pastures sustain the animals until maize is harvested in Trans Nzoia and pastoralists cross there with their animals to utilize farm remains. The animals concentrated here had fair body condition.

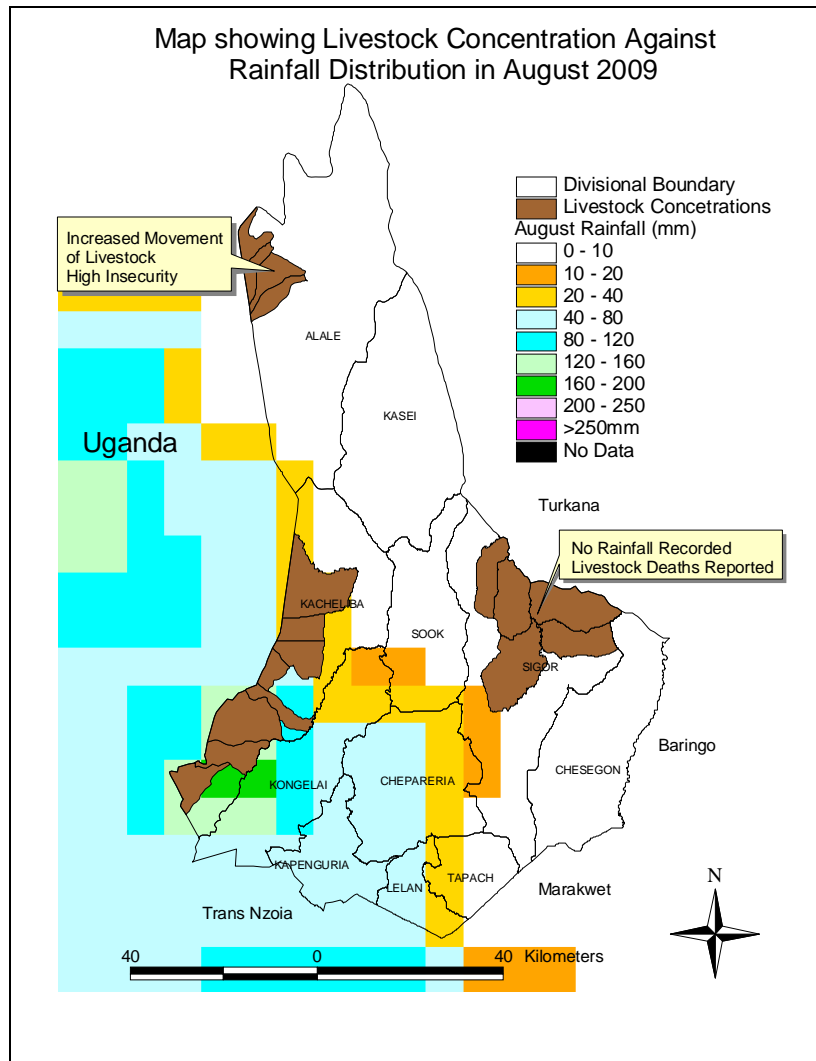


Fig 5. Map showing Livestock Concentrations and Movements as well as other underlying risk factors

1.5 Implications on food security

- There is no significant improvement in the food security status especially in the pastoral and the agro pastoral livelihoods
- Milk production has continued to reduce and a result of pasture deterioration while crop failures have continued to be experienced in the low lands especially in the agro pastoral livelihoods
- There is however availability of green maize in the mixed farming areas which has boosted food security status for this area
- The current food situation is not normal at this time of the year especially in the pastoral and agro pastoral livelihoods

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Livestock body condition varied in various zones from fair to poor. In the lower parts of the pastoral livelihoods where there was no rainfall, the body condition for cattle was poor. In most of the agro pastoral areas the livestock body condition was also very poor, but most of the animals migrated to other areas.
- The body condition of animals accessing fodder along the Kenya/Uganda border was good, but is likely to worsen as the populations there increase and pasture gets more scarce. In the mixed farming areas, the livestock body condition was good while the body condition of goats was good in all the areas.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- Cases of CCPP (*Contagious Caprine Pleuro Pneumonia*) and CBPP (*Contagious Bovine Pleuro Pneumonia*) continued to be reported, especially in North Pokot, Chepareria. Suspected cases of foot and mouth disease were also reported in Pokot North. Cases of PPR reduced and the quarantine was lifted.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of various crop production activities

- Maize was still in the fields in the mixed farming areas and almost mature. Green maize was available in the maize growing areas in the uplands. However, crop failure is expected due to the erratic rainfall during the season. The estimated production yield is expected to be between 60% - 80% in these areas for maize according to WRSI estimates. Production in the agro pastoral areas is expected to be below 50%.
- In some agro pastoral areas such as Chepareria, there were healthy stalks in the farms but no yields were expected. In the neighbouring trend Nzoia, the yield will be around 80% of the normal and this is likely to affect prices and availability in West Pokot.
- The food security situation was not normal at the time of the year due to rain failure in most areas.

2.2.1 Pest and diseases

- There were no cases of crop pests or diseases reported out of the normal.

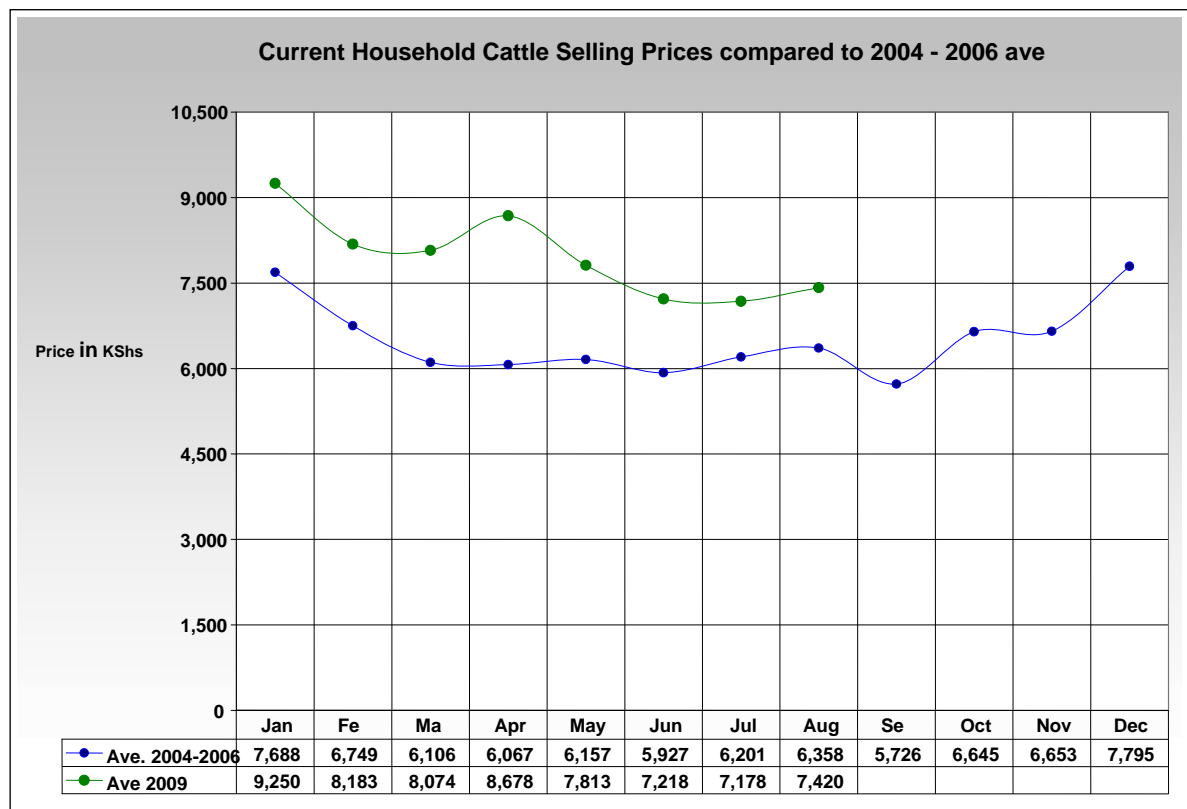
2.3 Implications on food security

- The food security situation did not change significantly, especially with the rain failure reported last season.
- Market prices of cereals remained high. There was a slight reduction in price for legumes in some markets but the average remained above the normal.
- Availability of green maize in mixed farming areas improved the situation there, but the effects are yet to be felt in the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods.
- This was not a normal situation at the time of the year.

3.0 Access to food

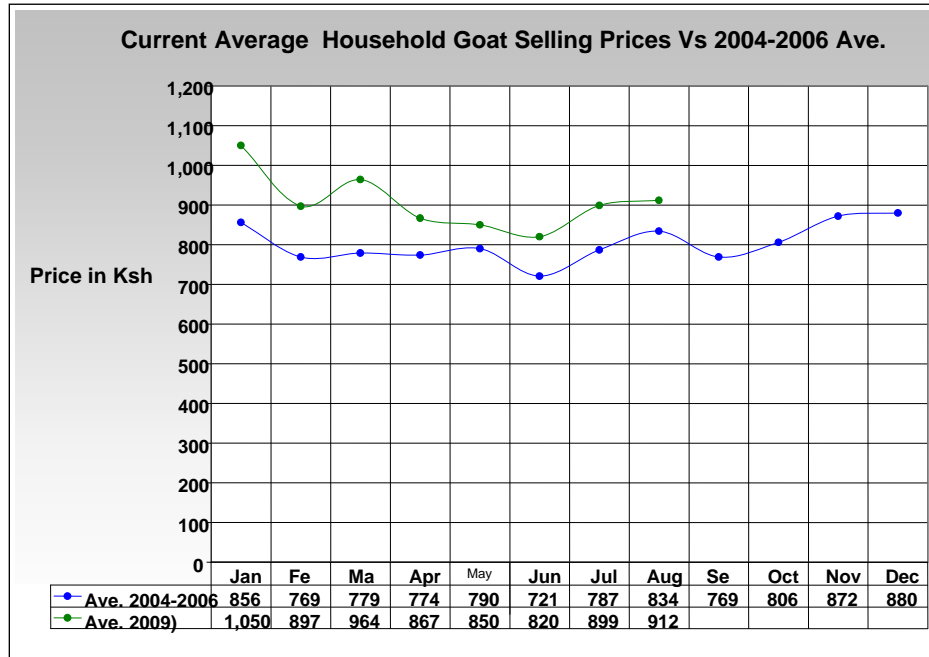
3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices



- The price of cattle did not show a significant change compared to last month. This is because most animals were not within the household and the ones being brought into the markets were from the areas where animals migrated to, hence their body condition was fair.
- The average price was Ksh 7,420 compared to Ksh 7,178 recorded last month. The lowest price of Ksh 6,550 was recorded in Nyangaita compared to Ksh 5,200 recorded in Konyao last month.
- There were, however, few people selling their animals at this time as they anticipate rainfall.

3.1.2 Goat prices

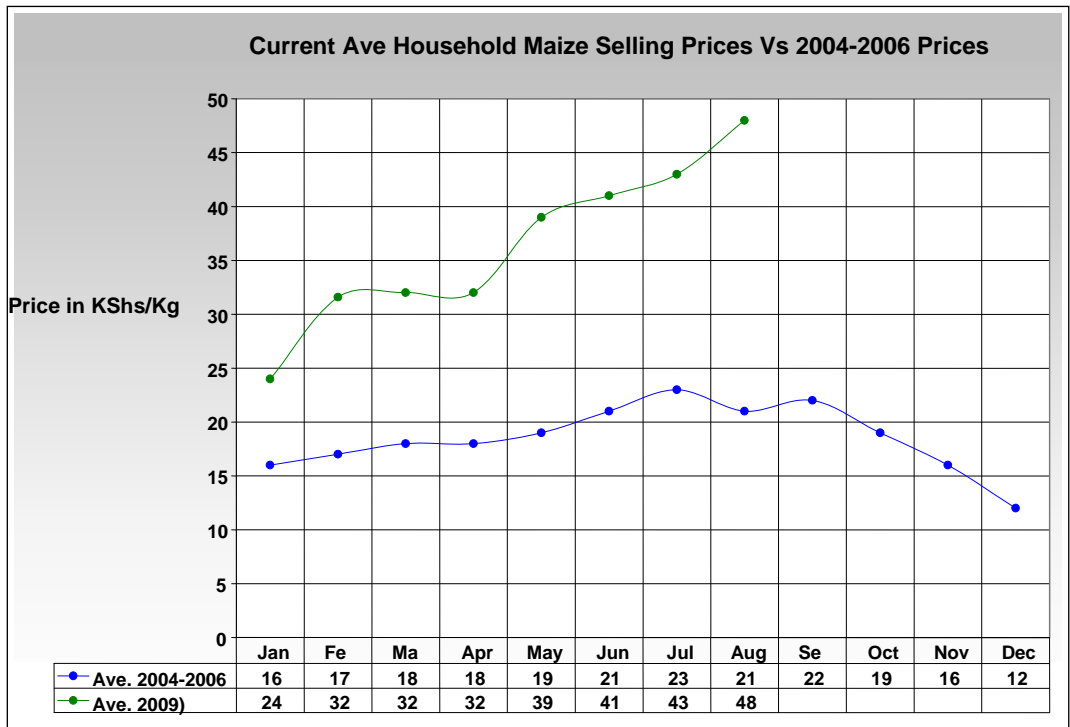


- Prices for goats in most areas have been good and stable while in other areas the prices showed an increase. The average price was Ksh 912 compared to Ksh 889 recorded last month.
- There has been a steady increase in goat prices in the last two months, which is possibly due to the lifting of the quarantine as a result of PPR. Also, goats have not been affected by drought so far since browse was available.
- The lowest price of Ksh 647 was recorded in Nyangaita and this was an improvement compared to Ksh 687 recorded in the same area last month.

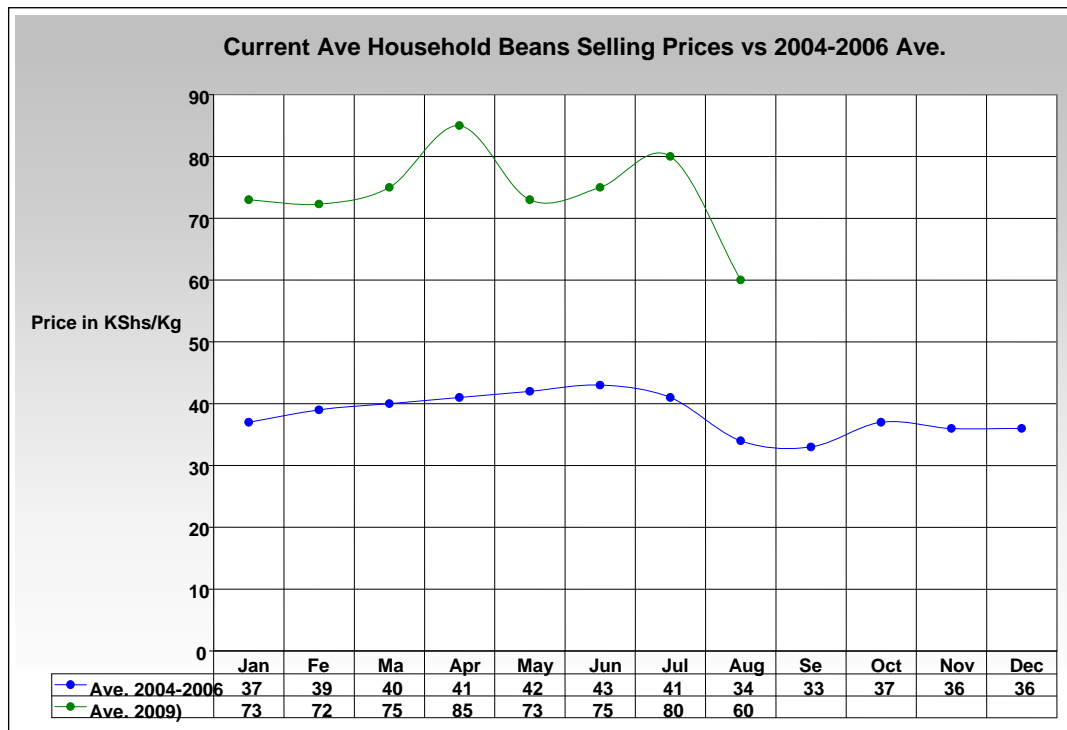
3.2 Crop prices

3.2.1 Maize prices

- Household price for maize has continued to rise in all the livelihoods.
- The current recorded price was KSh 48 compared to KSh 43 recorded last month
- However very few households were reported to sell maize, and these records were only in three sample areas namely Chepnyal, Kaiboss and Pserum
- The prices were very high and not normal at the time of the year.

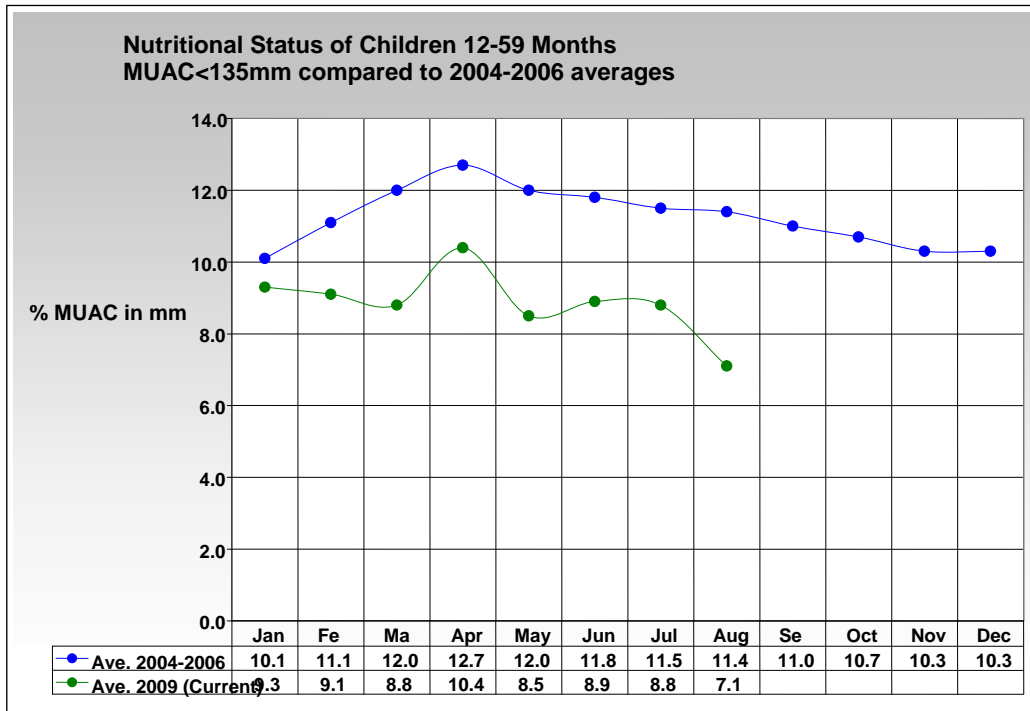


3.2.3 Beans prices



4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



- There was an improvement in the nutrition status of children below five years. The percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition was 7.1% compared to 8.8 % recorded last month. This improvement, however, varied in the livelihood zones. In the mixed farming livelihoods where milk and green maize were available, the situation improved.
- In the pastoral and the agro pastoral areas, the nutrition status was still bad.
- In Konyao a pastoral area, the rate was 15.7%, while in Pserum one of the drought hit agro-pastoral areas, the rate was 12.7%.