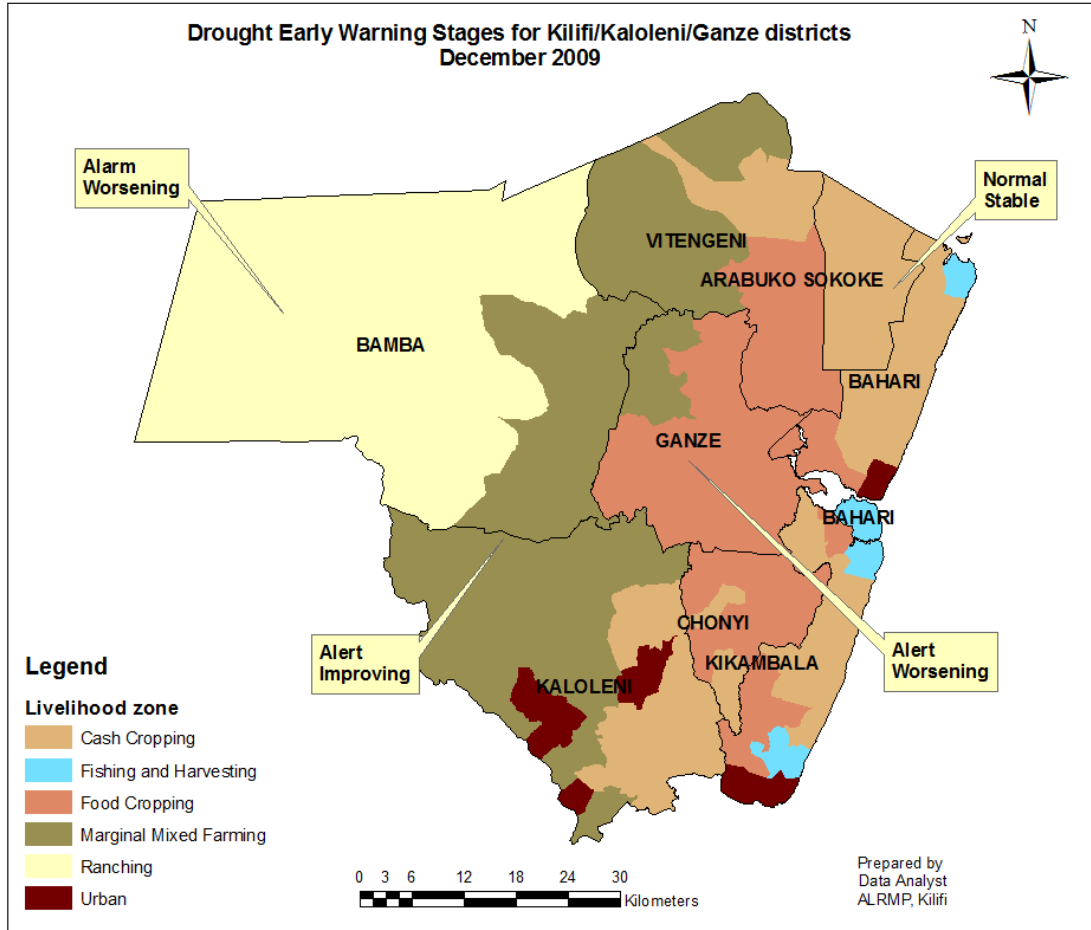




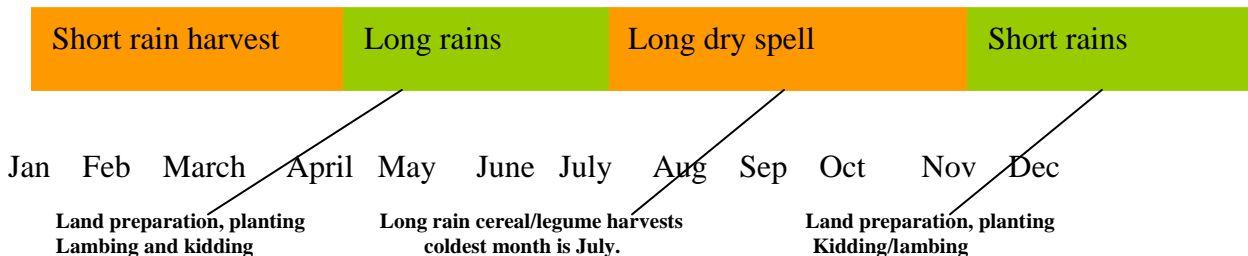
**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, DECEMBER 2009

Kilifi/Kaloleni/Ganze Districts



SEASONAL CALENDAR



Situation overview

- Heavy downpours characterised this month's rainfall in the district, resulting in an average amount of 73.9mm of rainfall being recorded for an average 6.2 days compared to last month's 115.9 mm.
- Pasture improved greatly due to the rains, making distances to grazing areas also reduce by 38.1%. Livestock trekked shorter distances to graze, improving their body condition.
- Household access to water remained relatively easy compared to last month as they only had to walk a distance of 1.3km compared to last month's distance of 1.2km. This reduced the time taken to obtain water which greatly increased during the drought.
- Livestock trade continued to stabilise a little this month as goats fetched a price of Ksh1,327, up by 6.9% compared to last month's Ksh1,241. This was due to Christmas celebrations. However, those of cattle dropped by 12.4% from Ksh7363 to Ksh6450 as they take long to recover from the effects of the drought.
- There was minimal change in food commodity prices this month recorded as Ksh32.9 per kilogram of maize and Ksh77.1 per kilogram of beans. Although the prices were relatively higher than their long-term averages of Ksh29 and Ksh63 respectively, they are decreasing compared to earlier in the year showing an improving positive trend.
- The average daily wage rate was Ksh146.8 down by 14.3% from Ksh171.3 last month. The reduction in rate was due to the reduced activity on the farms as most land preparations were complete. The main source of income was casual labour which employed 52% of the population this month.
- The percentage of children at risk of malnutrition was 10.2% up from 8.3% last month. This was largely due to the poor diversity of diet coupled with factors of poor hygiene in the months during the drought. The ranching zone was particularly affected, posting as high as 20% of children at risk.
- The early warning stage for the three districts is alert with a stable trend.

Current interventions

Food aid

World Vision distributed the following food commodities under PRRO;

i) Kilifi and Ganze districts

Division	Cereals	Pulses	Vegetable Oil	Total
	Maize (Mt)	(Mt)	(Mt)	(Mt)
Ganze	115.80	17.00	6.12	138.970
Vitengeni	116.90	17.20	6.20	141.500
Bahari	17.125	2.55	0.90	20.775
Bamba	127.45	18.70	6.757	152.907
Totals	377.33	55.45	19.977	454.152

ii) The Kaloleni DC distributed the following food commodities in Tsangatsini location.

- 78 bags of rice, 17 90-kg and 9 50-kg bags of beans and 9 cartons of cooking oil.

Non-food interventions

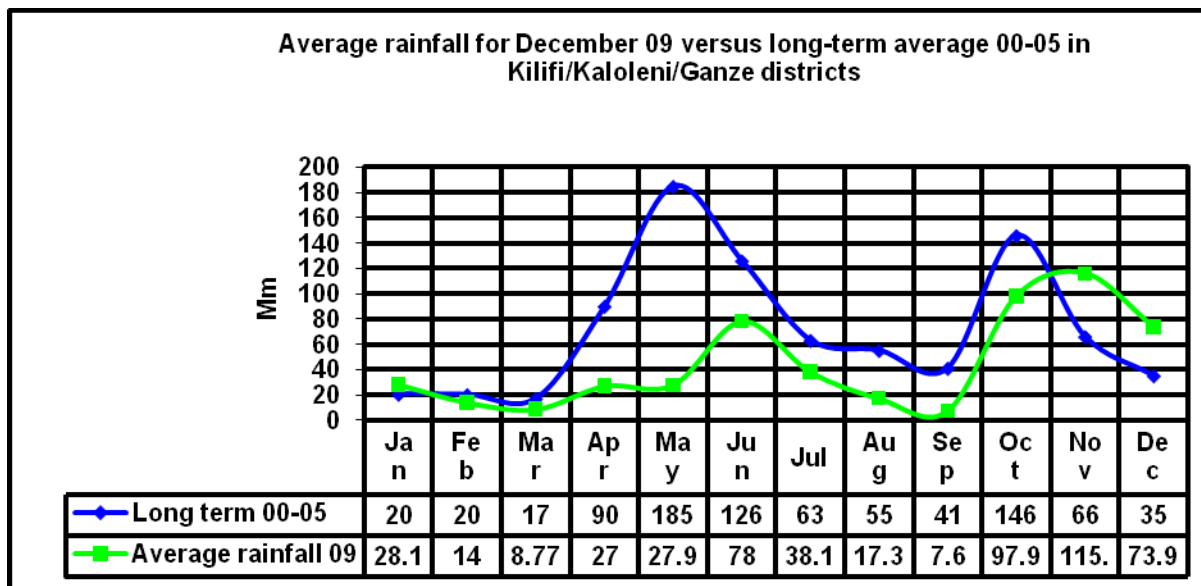
- ALRMP supplied 10 Kenya Top Bar Hives, catcher box and smoker to Ririkana Self Help group in Ndatani.
- ALRMP also supported the distribution of galla goats to farmers in Bamba, Kaloleni and Vitengeni divisions.
- KARI supported farmers with quality protein maize, a variety of maize with a double content of protein.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- A nutrition survey should be conducted in the ranching zone which has shown a high prevalence of malnutrition for children aged below five years.
- The food cropping zone was on a deteriorating trend and should be monitored closely.

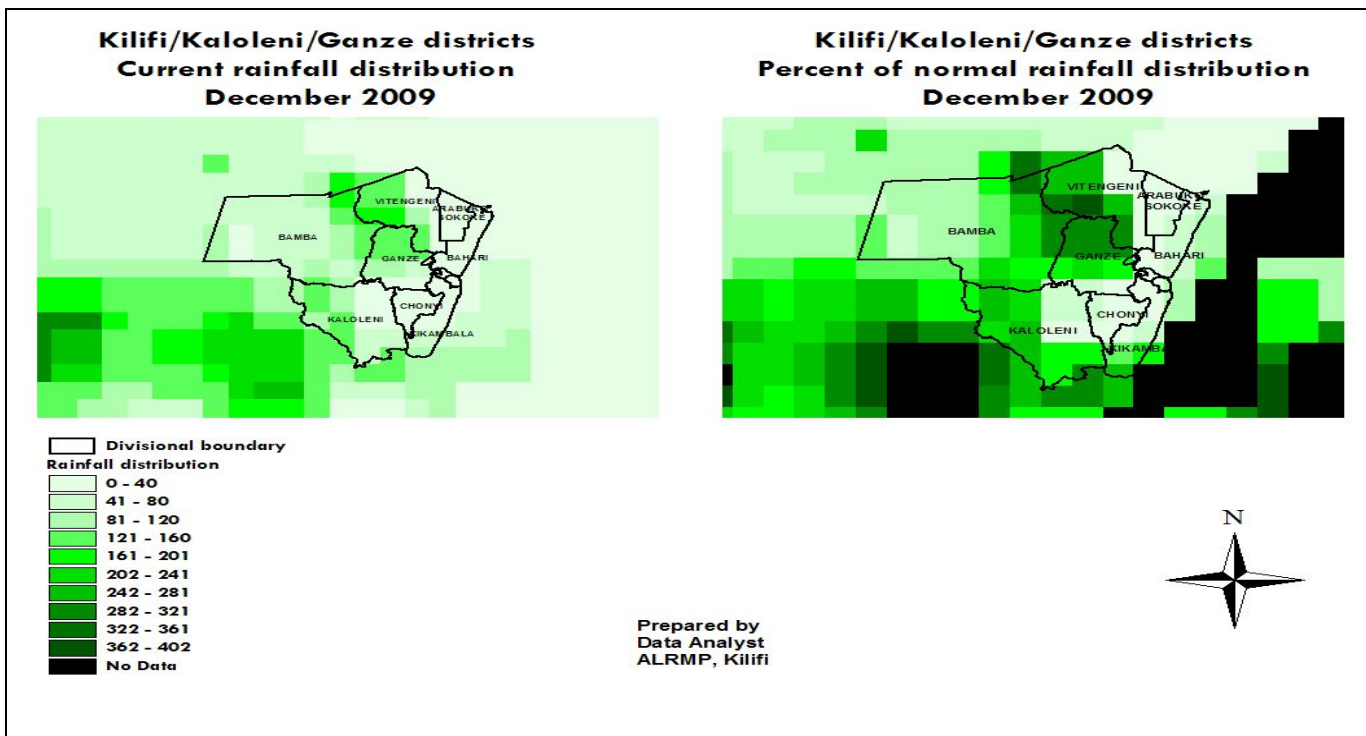
1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall



n=12

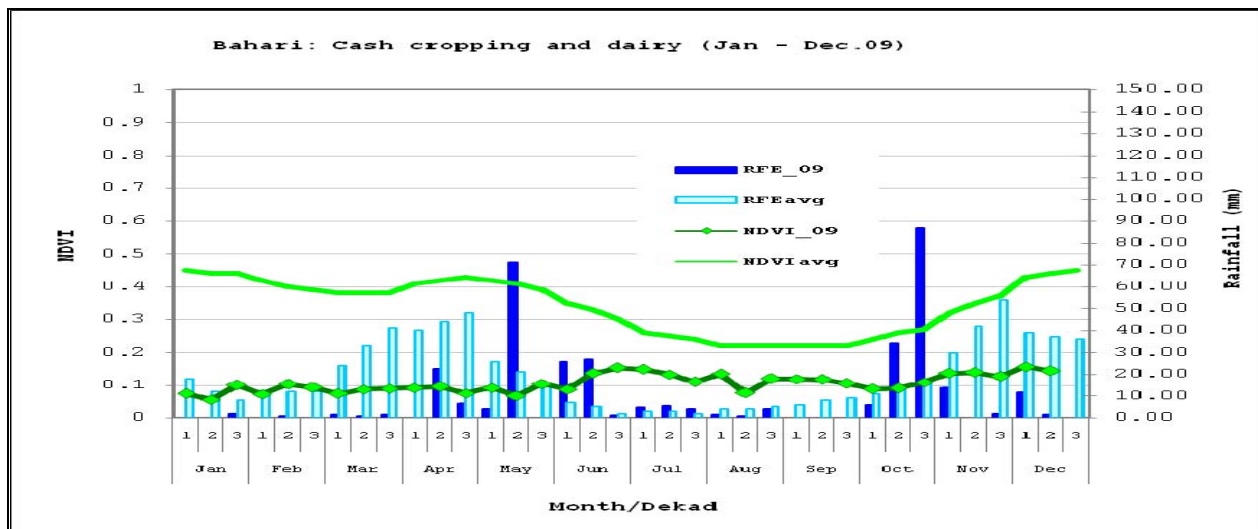
- An average of 73.9 mm of rainfall was recorded for 6.2 wet days. This was lower than the 115 mm collected last month as the short rains season started coming to an end. It was characterised by heavy downpours in all livelihood zones with most receiving more than normal rainfall.
- The highest rainfall was collected in the cash cropping and dairy at 86.4 mm while the least was collected in the food cropping one at 63.3 mm. The amount collected was more than double that of the long-term average as shown above and in the RFE images below.



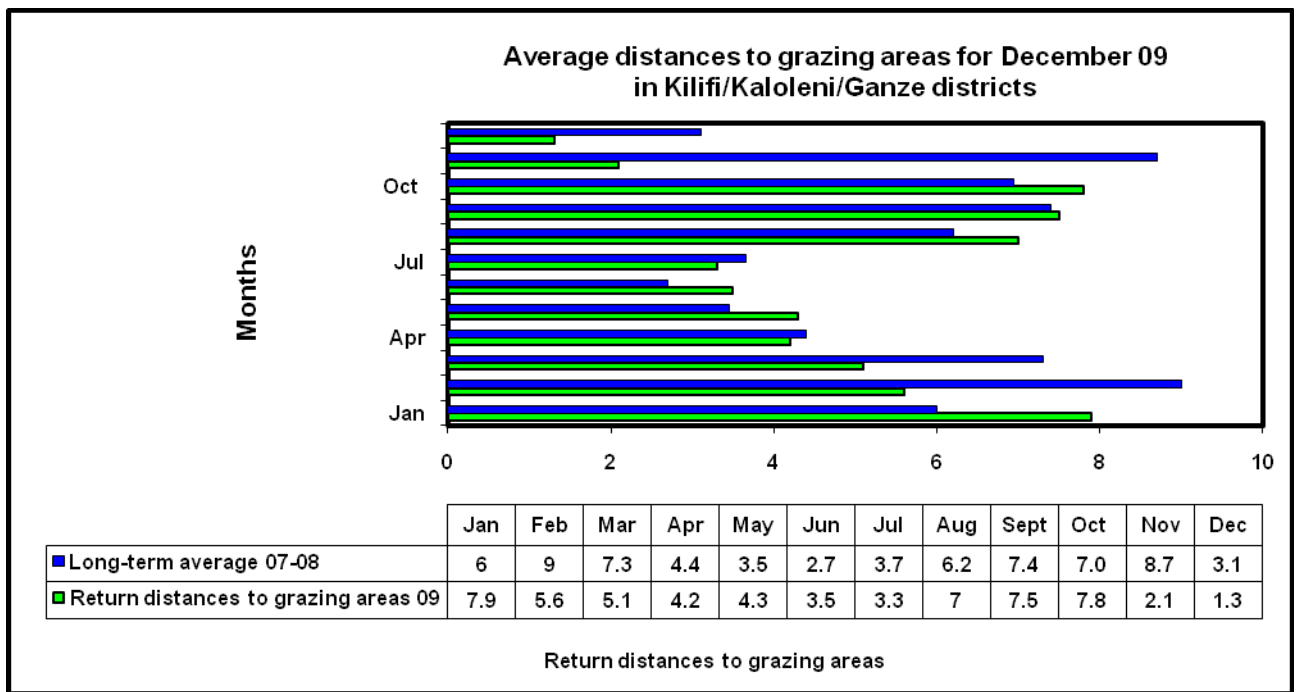
1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

1.2.1 Quality and quantity

Natural vegetation and pasture continued to improve this month mainly due to the rains. The NDVI images are given below.



1.2.2 Distance to grazing areas



n= 360

- The distances to grazing areas reduced further this month by 38.1% from 2.1 km last month to 1.3km this month. The rains received in late October and November continued to see this decrease, hence the increased availability of pasture.
- The longest distances were recorded in the food cropping zone at 1.93km, while the shortest were found in the marginal mixed farming at 0.95km. This was expected as the food cropping received lower than normal rainfall this season. These distances were well within the normal for this time of the year.

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Main sources of water

More than 55% of the households relied on water pans and dams this month. This was normal for this time of the year. Other sources of water included boreholes, traditional river wells, lakes, and natural ponds.

1.3.2 Household access to water

Household access to water was similar to last month at 1.3km. This distance was normal for this time of the year. This translated to shorter periods of time spent by households to look for water. The longest distance to water sources for households was recorded in the food cropping zone at 1.73km while the shortest was in the marginal mixed farming one 0.65km. The food cropping zone continued to suffer the effects of lower than normal rainfall hence the longer distance.

1.3.3 Livestock access to water

Livestock access to water improved this month as most water sources were replenished. This was normal for this time of the year.

1.4 Emerging issues/conflicts

There were elephants in the marginal mixed farming in Mariakani. Somali herders were also present fighting over pasture with the locals in the same locality. A hippopotamus was spotted in the ranching areas of Goshi, posing a threat to the residents there.

1.4. Implications on food security

Greater than normal rainfall in most livelihood zones saw improvement in pasture and access to water by both livestock and humans. This was a positive trend, which is likely to go on until early next year when the dry season sets in. However, the food cropping zone that harbours the region's food basket has not done well and should be monitored closely.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1. Livestock body condition

The body condition of livestock improved and many began to recover from the negative effects of the drought in earlier months.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

No major livestock diseases were reported this month.

2.1.3 Milk production

- The average milk production increased significantly by 46% from an average 18.7 bottles last month to a recorded 27.3 bottles this month. This was due to the improved rainfall in the months of October and November.
- The highest production was recorded in the cash cropping and dairy at an average 41.0 bottles where the highest rainfall had been experienced. The least was found in the food cropping one at 11.0 bottles.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1. Timeliness and status of crop production activities

Most of the households were involved in weeding, while others were still preparing their land for planting to take advantage of the on-going rains. Most of the on-farm crop was doing fairly well although some parts in the marginal mixed farming and food cropping have wilted crops as they did not receive enough rainfall.

2.2.2. Pests and diseases.

No major pests were reported this month. Army worms present last month were destroyed through concerted efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture.

2.2.3. Crop harvests

Harvesting is on-going for bananas, tomatoes and kales.

2.3 Implications on food security

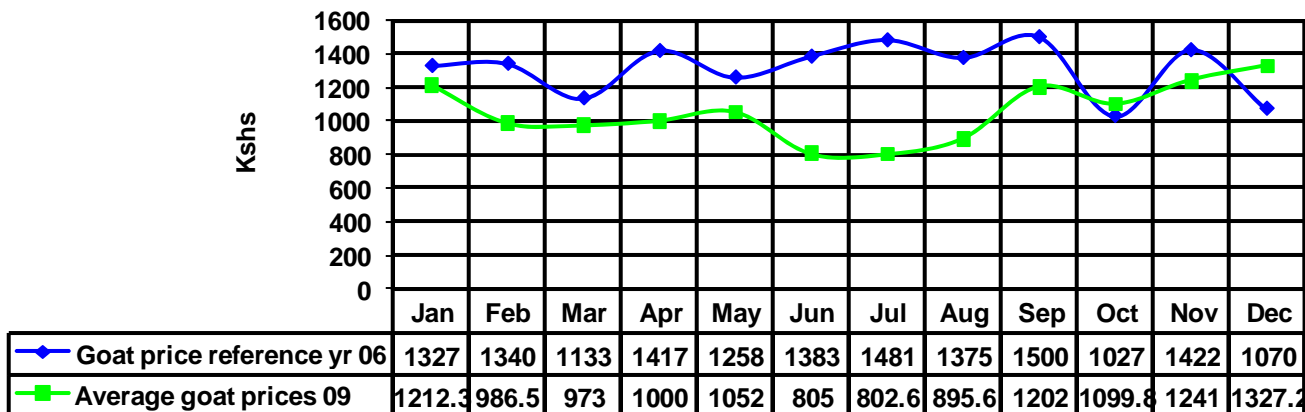
Improved livestock body condition and increased milk production will have a positive impact in food security. A bumper harvest is also expected in most livelihood zones as the on-farm crop is doing well, which will ensure increased availability of food for households.

3.0 Access to food

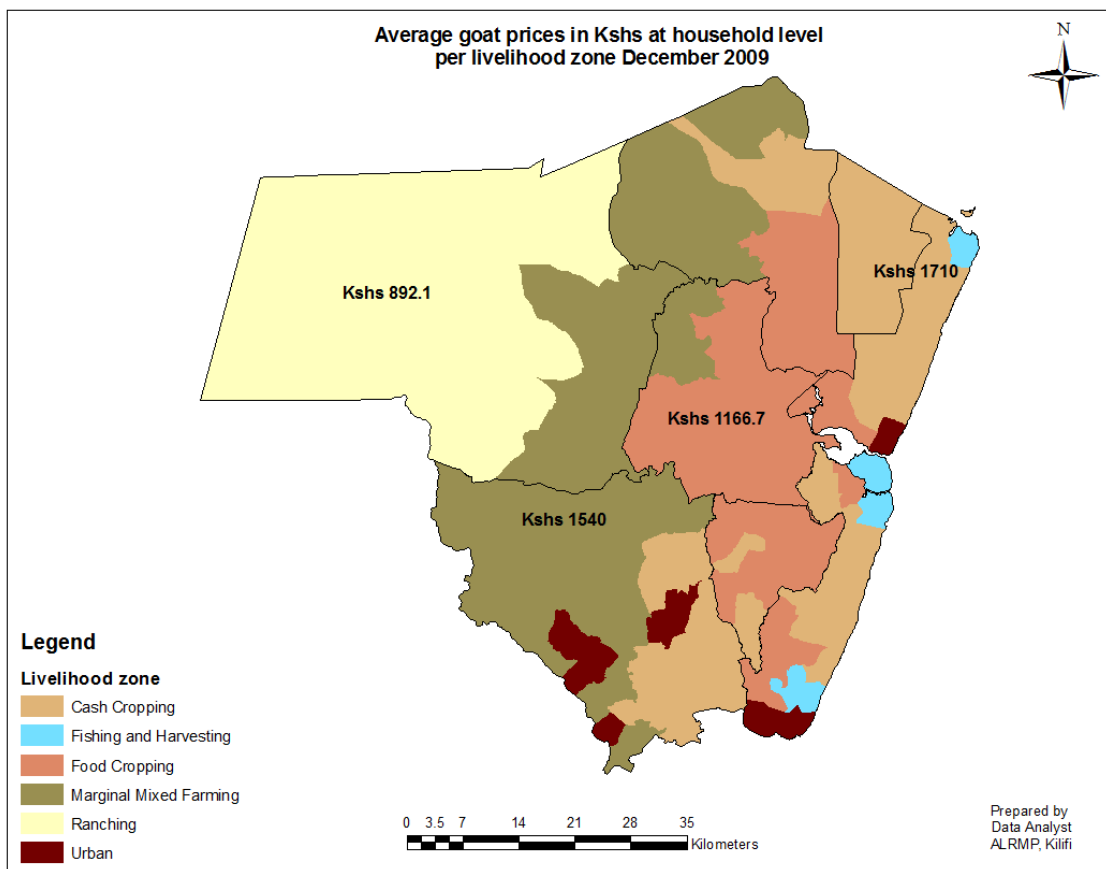
3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Goat prices

Average goat prices at household level for December 09 versus reference year 06 for Kilifi/Kaloleni/Ganze districts

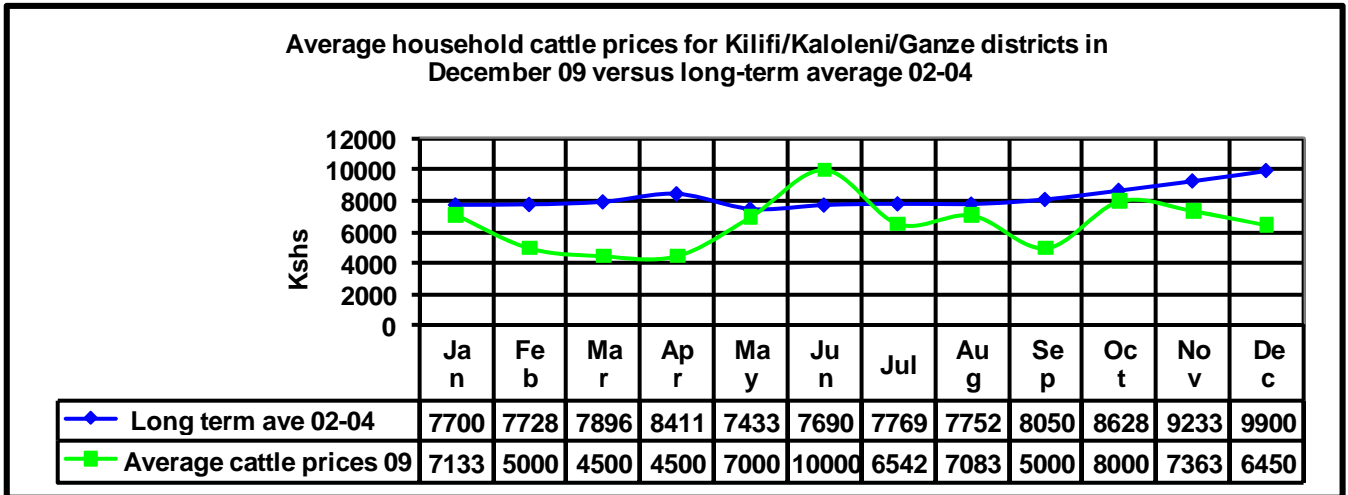


n=270

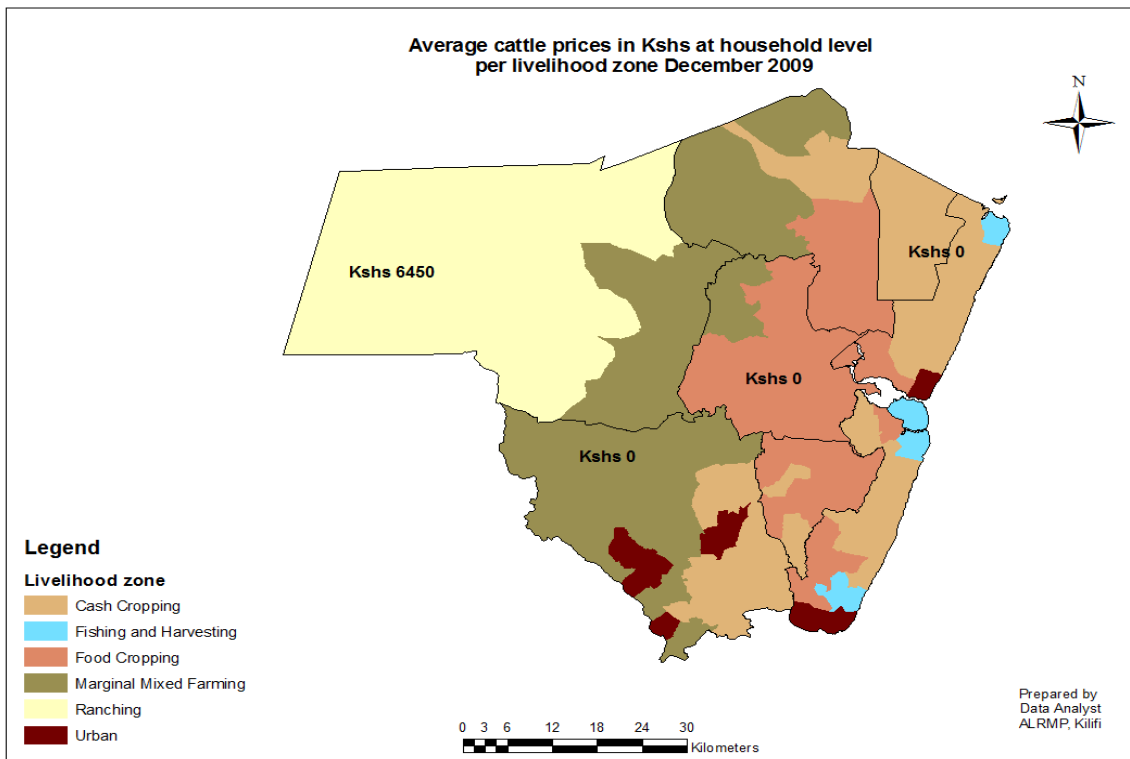


The price of a goat was Ksh1327 this month, up by 6.9% from Ksh1241 recorded last month. The price increase was largely due to the Christmas festivities soon to be held. The inter-livelihood differences in price are shown in the map above. Compared to the reference year 06, the price was slightly above normal but within the range expected.

3.1.2 Cattle prices



n=30



A medium-sized bull traded at Ksh6,450 this month down by 12.4% from Ksh7,363 last month. The inter-livelihood differences in price are indicated above. Compared to long-term average 02-04, the prices were lower than normal. This was mainly due to the fact that cattle were taking longer to recover from the devastating effects of the drought earlier in the year and are yet to fetch more competitive prices.

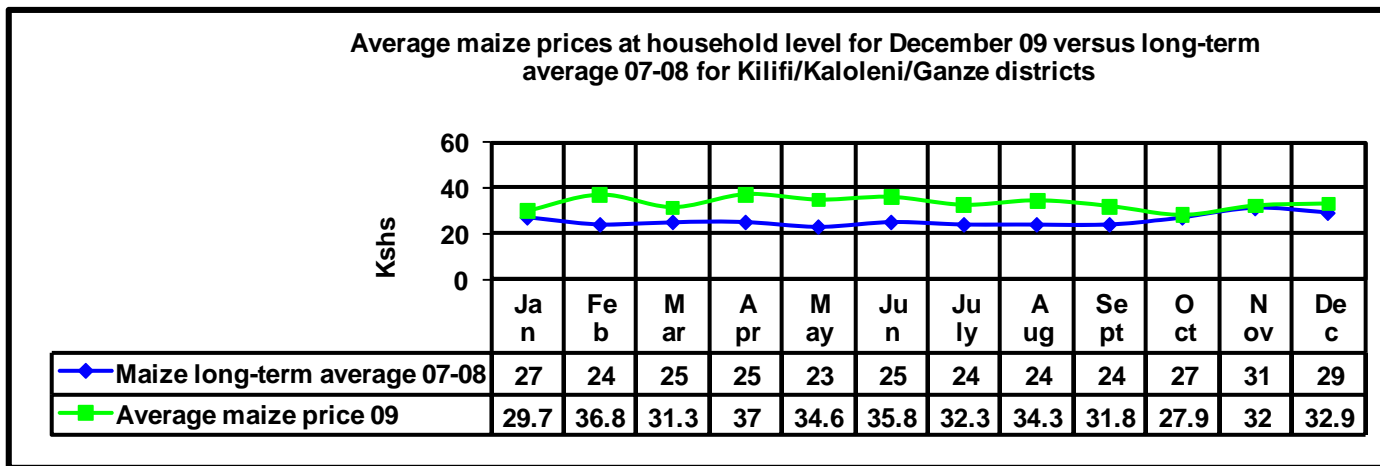
3.2 Milk consumption

Milk consumption at household level reduced by 52% this month as some of the milk produced was offered for sale. The ranching zone recorded the highest consumption at an average of 8.0

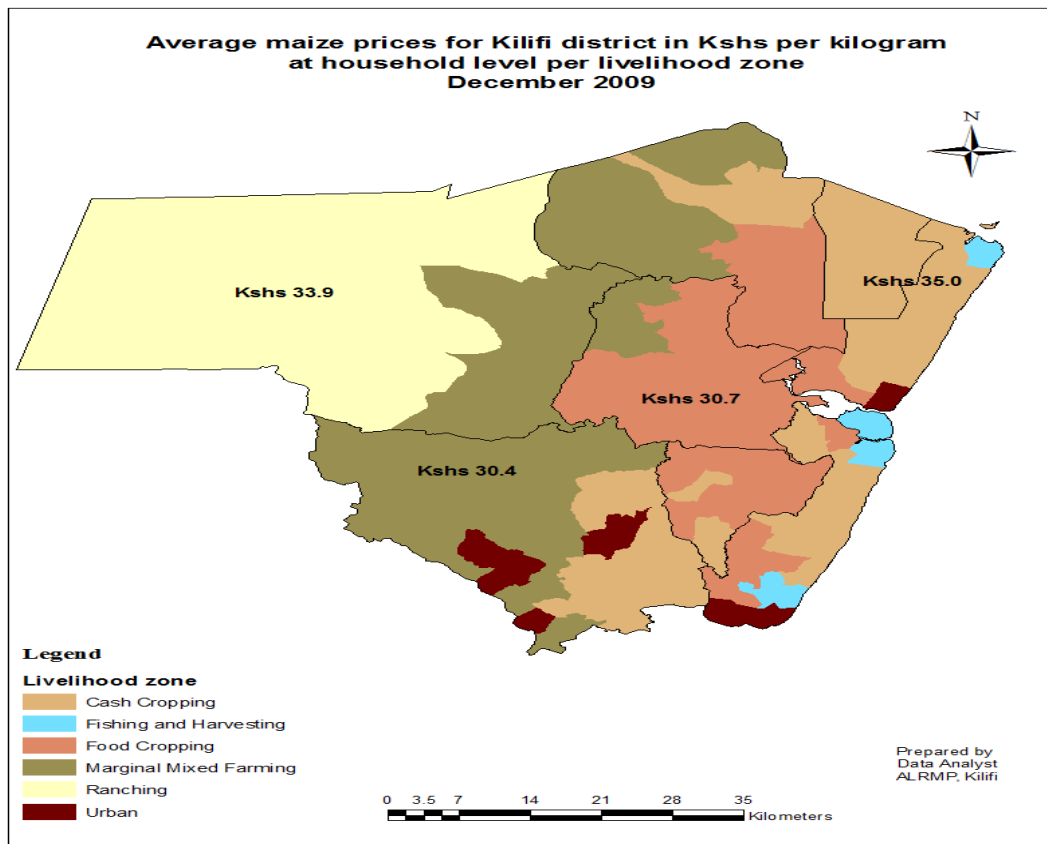
bottles while the least was in the food cropping zone at 5.0 bottles. This was, however, within the normal range for this time of the year.

3.3 Food prices

3.3.1 Maize prices

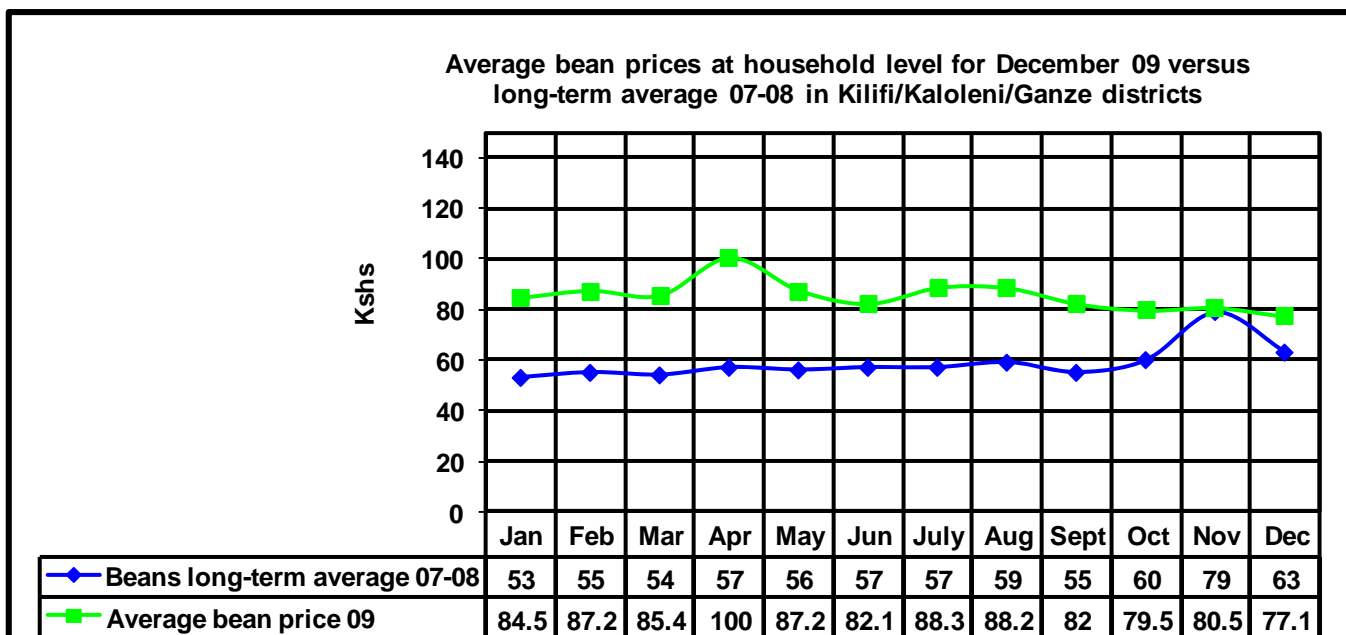


n=360

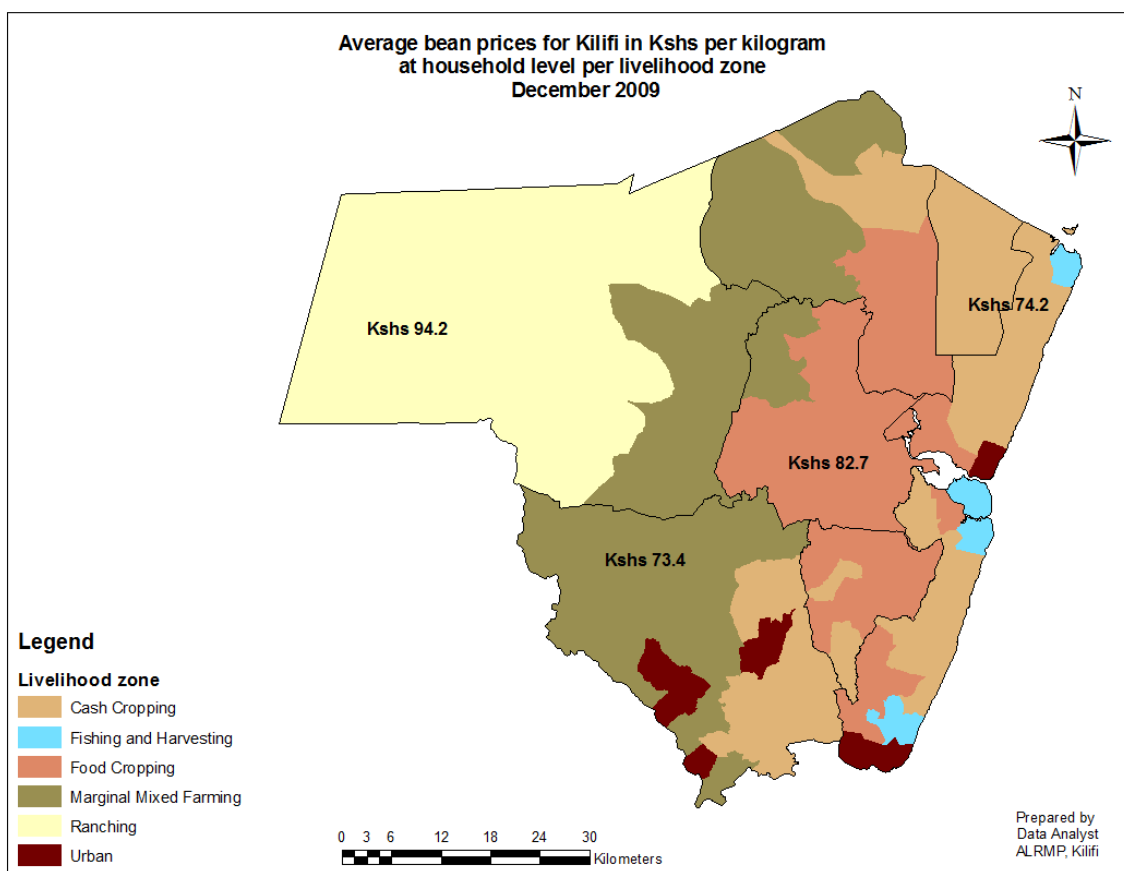


- The price of a kilogram of maize remained almost similar to last month at Ksh32.9. The highest prices were recorded in the cash cropping and dairy at Ksh35 while the lowest were recorded in the marginal mixed farming one at Ksh30.4.
- Compared to the long-term average 07-08, the price was slightly higher than expected at this time of the year.

3.3.2 Beans prices

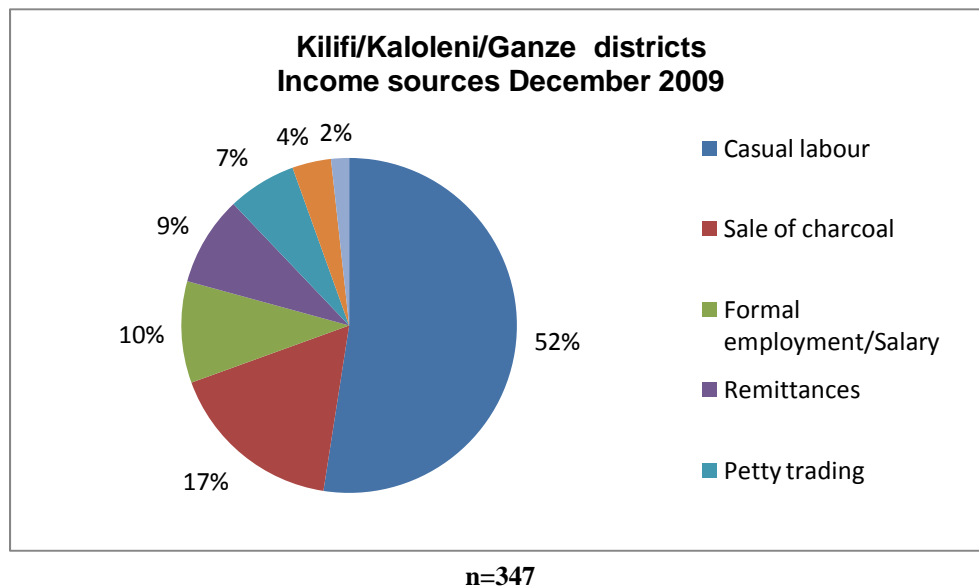


n=360



- A kilogram of beans traded at Ksh77.1 this month compared to Ksh80.5, a 4.2% increase. The highest prices were recorded in the ranching zone at Ksh94.2 while the least were recorded in the cash cropping and dairy one at Ksh73.4.
- This price was significantly higher than that expected at this time of the year although it is likely to reduce as harvesting of pulses begins soon.

3.4 Income



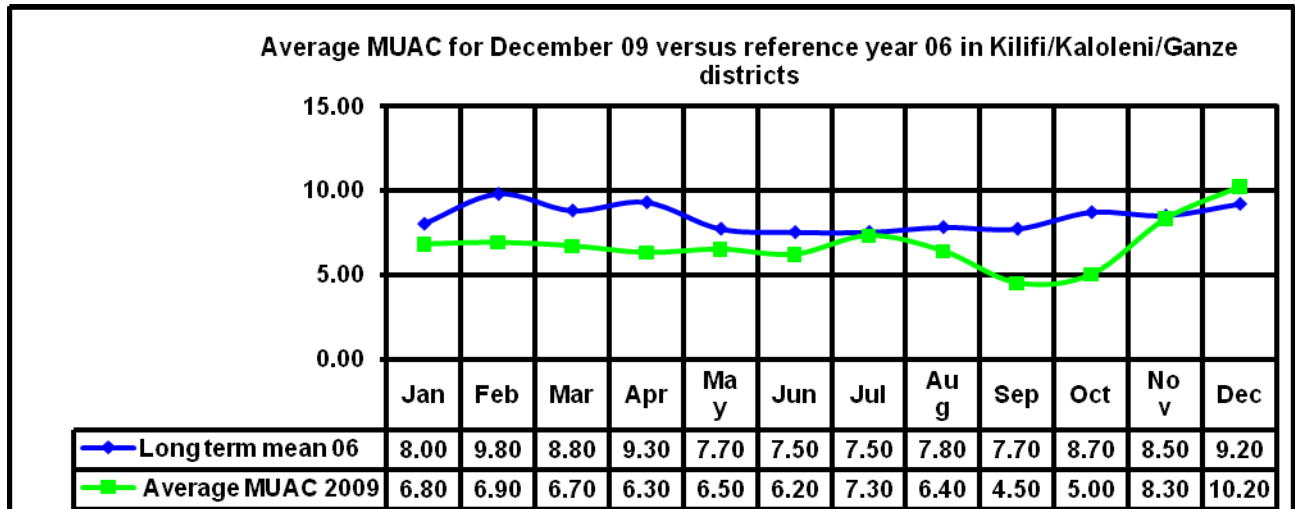
- The most relied upon source of income this month was casual labour, accounting for 52% of the total population. Most households were still involved in various on-farm activities hence the continued reliance on this source for income although its availability was decreasing as these activities draw to a close.
- The average daily wage rate was Ksh146.8 decreasing by 14.3% from Ksh171.3 last month. The highest wage rate was Ksh181 recorded in the cash cropping and dairy zone while the least was in the ranching zone at Ksh100.

3.5 Implications on food security

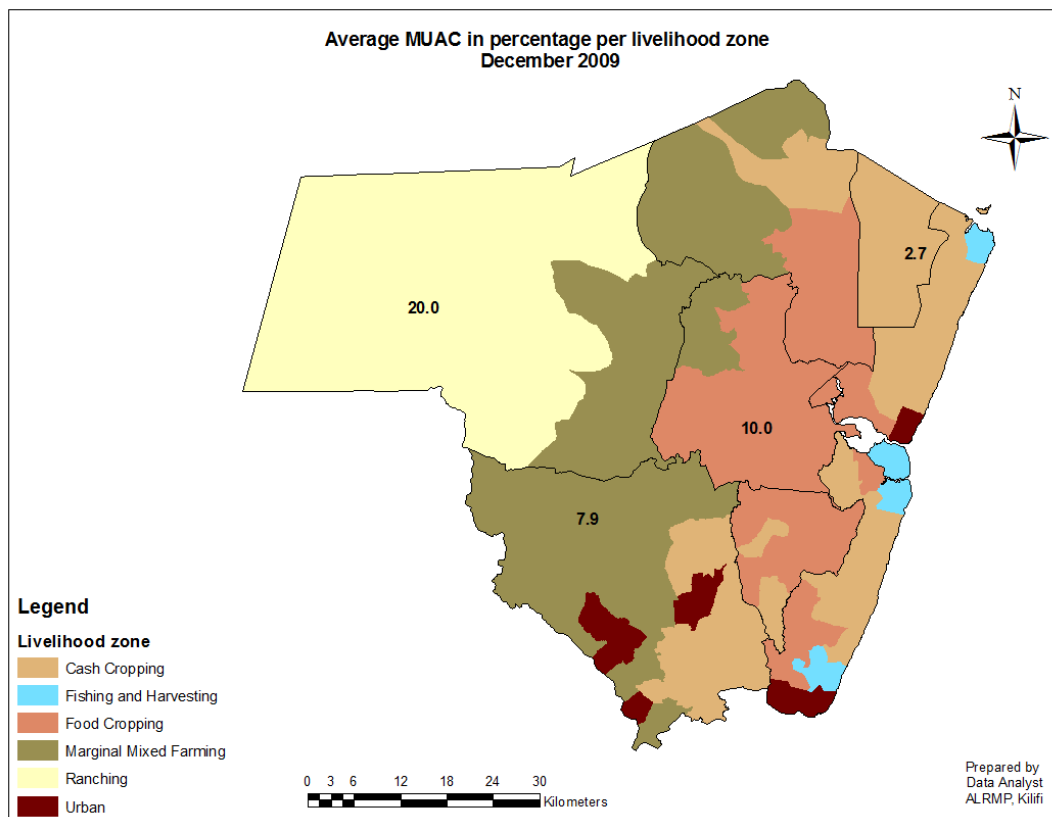
The livestock market is slowly getting back to its feet and the food commodity prices are also beginning to show a decreasing trend. This will impact positively on food security.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



n = 1828



- There was a 1.9% increase in the number of children at risk for malnutrition from 8.3% last month to 10.2% in December. This was largely due to poor feeding habits especially during the drought whose effects are now evident in children aged below five years.
- The ranching zone posted the highest number of children at risk at 20% while the least was recorded in the cash cropping and dairy one at 2.7%. Compared to the reference year 06, this number was slightly higher than that expected.

4.2 Human health

No diseases were reported in the district this month.

4.3 Flagged areas

The food cropping zone was on a deteriorating trend and should be closely monitored. The ranching zone showed a high rate of malnutrition, which should be closely looked into.

5.0 Coping strategies

The coping strategy index this month was 1.9 similar to last month. The highest index was recorded in the ranching zone at 2.4 while the least was in the food cropping at 1.4.