

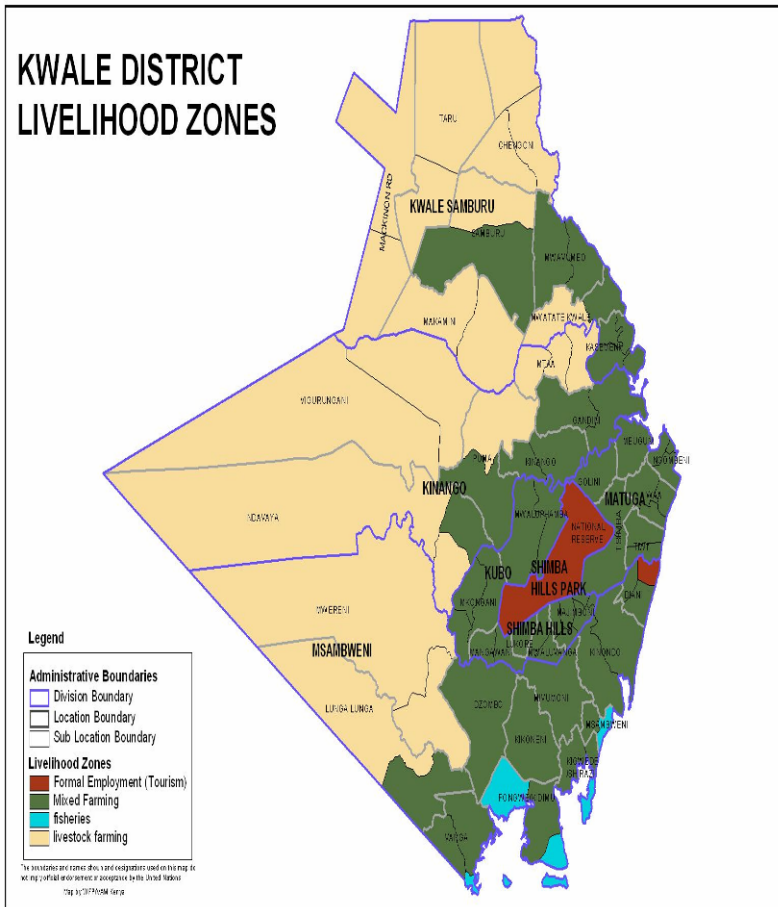


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, DECEMBER 2009

Kwale, Kinango & Msambweni Districts

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Livestock Farming	Alarm	Improving
Mixed Farming	Alarm	Improving
District	Alarm	Improving

Seasonal Calendar

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains harvests Short dry spell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting/Weeding Long rains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long rains harvests A long dry spell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains Planting/weeding 								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Situation overview

- The district received some rains, with Matuga recording 89 mm in 9 days, Msambweni recording 43.1mm in 7 days while Kinango received 86mm for 4 days. This was lower than the average expected trend of 2006 – 2008.
- The pasture quality and quantity was good due to the light showers received often.
- The livestock body condition was good because the pasture condition was good and water was available. No livestock from neighboring provinces was in the district.
- Pans, dams, other sources and boreholes remained the main sources of water in the district. Some impounded water following the rains received.
- Most of the crops especially in mixed farming livelihood zone had cobs.
- An increase in the percentage of children under 5 years at risk of malnutrition based on the MUAC<135mm measurement was recorded at 9.2 % this month from 8.6% of last month. Very high increase in malnutrition was reported in Sega at 16.2%, Kiteje at 9.3% and Vigurungani at 25.8%.
- Human/ wildlife conflict was reported mainly due to elephant menace in the mixed farming livelihood area.
- Currently the district is at alarm stage, with an improving trend due to the rains received.

Recommendations to District Steering Group and Kenya Food Security Meeting

- Conflict over natural resource use has reduced however the Supporting District Peace Committee should help address any emerging issues.
- The Kenya Wildlife Services to control wild life destroying crops.
- Ministry of health to get prepared for disease out breaks that may occur due to anticipated enhanced short rains and specifically cholera outbreaks reported in other parts of the district.
- Veterinary department to undertake livestock disease control measures in Kinango, Kwale and Msambweni districts.
- Communities to be advised to engage in water harvesting structures.

Current interventions

Non food interventions

District veterinary office Kinango and Msambweni facilitated foot and mouth and lumpy skin vaccination.

Food aid

The Drought Emergency Operation Programme (EMOP) targeting 94,700 beneficiaries for Kinango, 42,200 beneficiaries for Msambweni and Matuga 9,100 beneficiaries is ongoing.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall

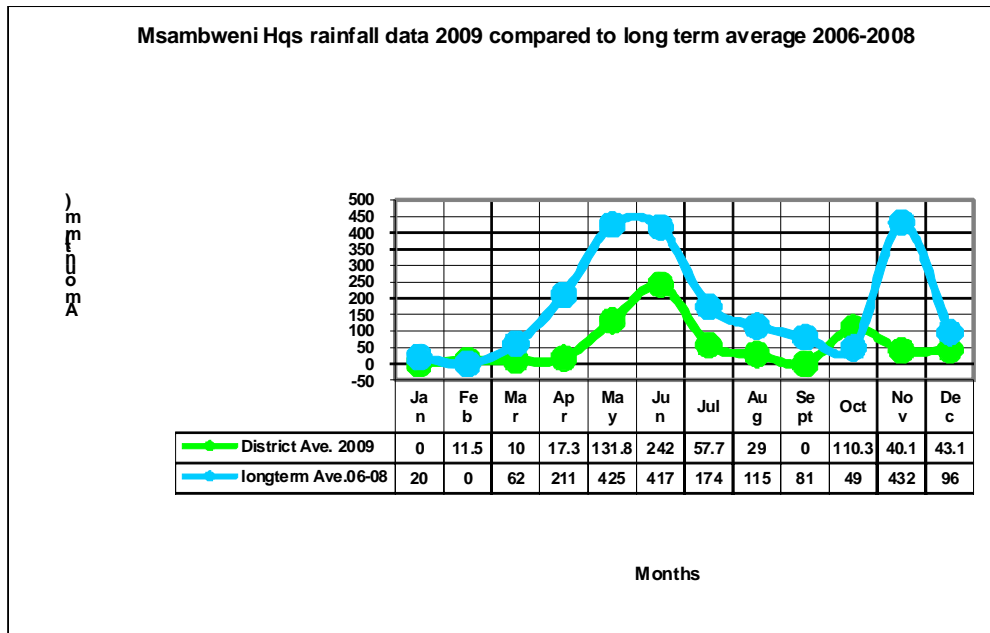


Fig 1. Source: District Agriculture office, Msambweni

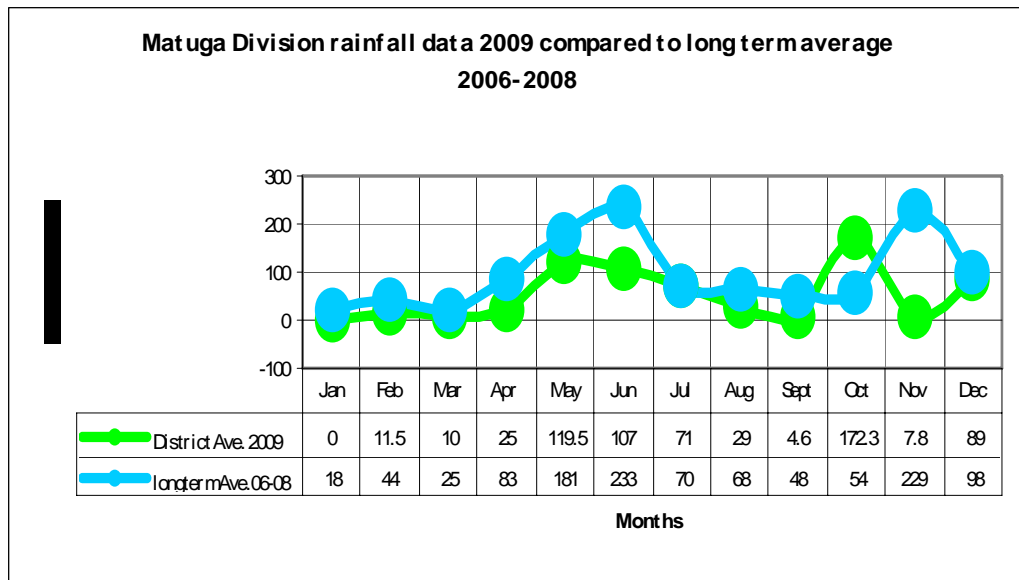
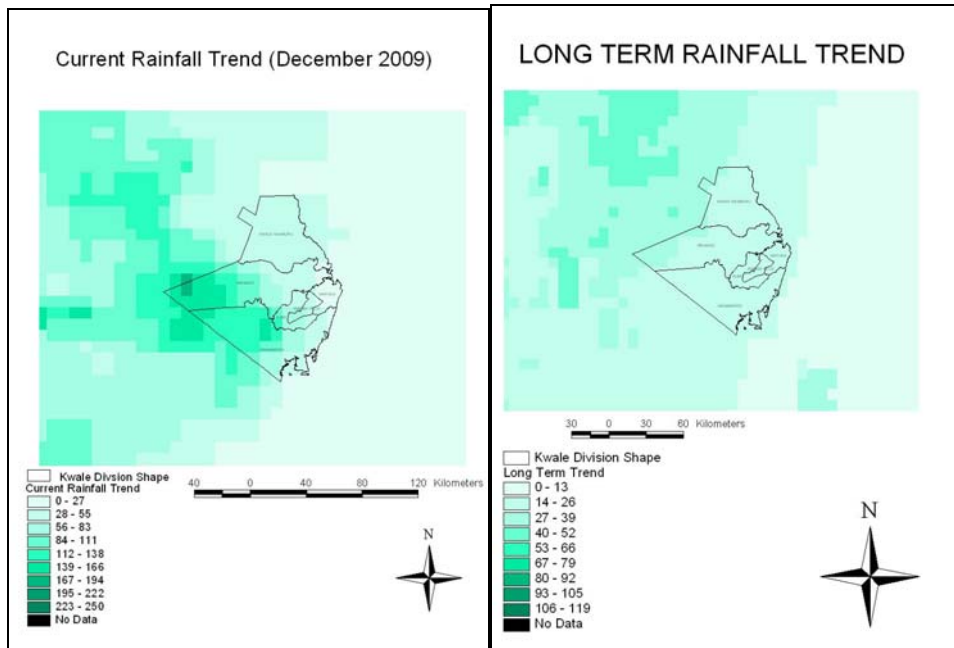


Fig 2. Source: District Agriculture office, Kwale

The district received some rains, with Matuga recording 89 mm in 9 days, Msambweni recording 43.1mm in 7 days while Kinango received 86mm for 4 days. This was lower than the average expected trend of 2006 – 2008.

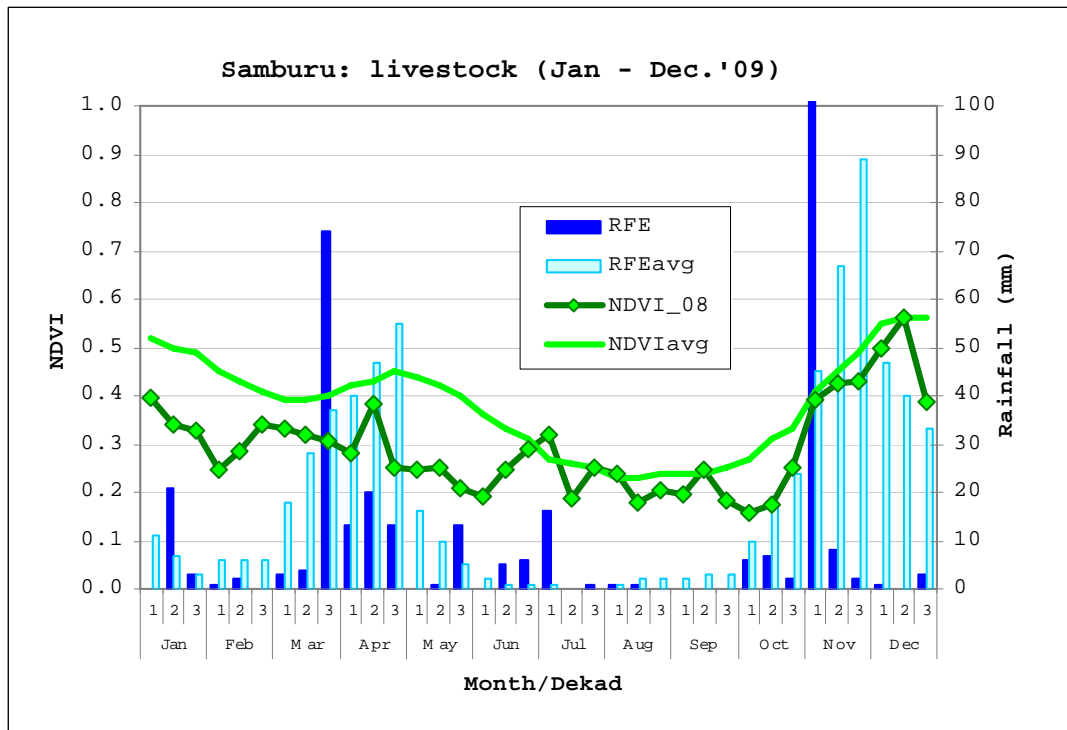
Below are rainfall and vegetation trends for December 2009 in Kwale

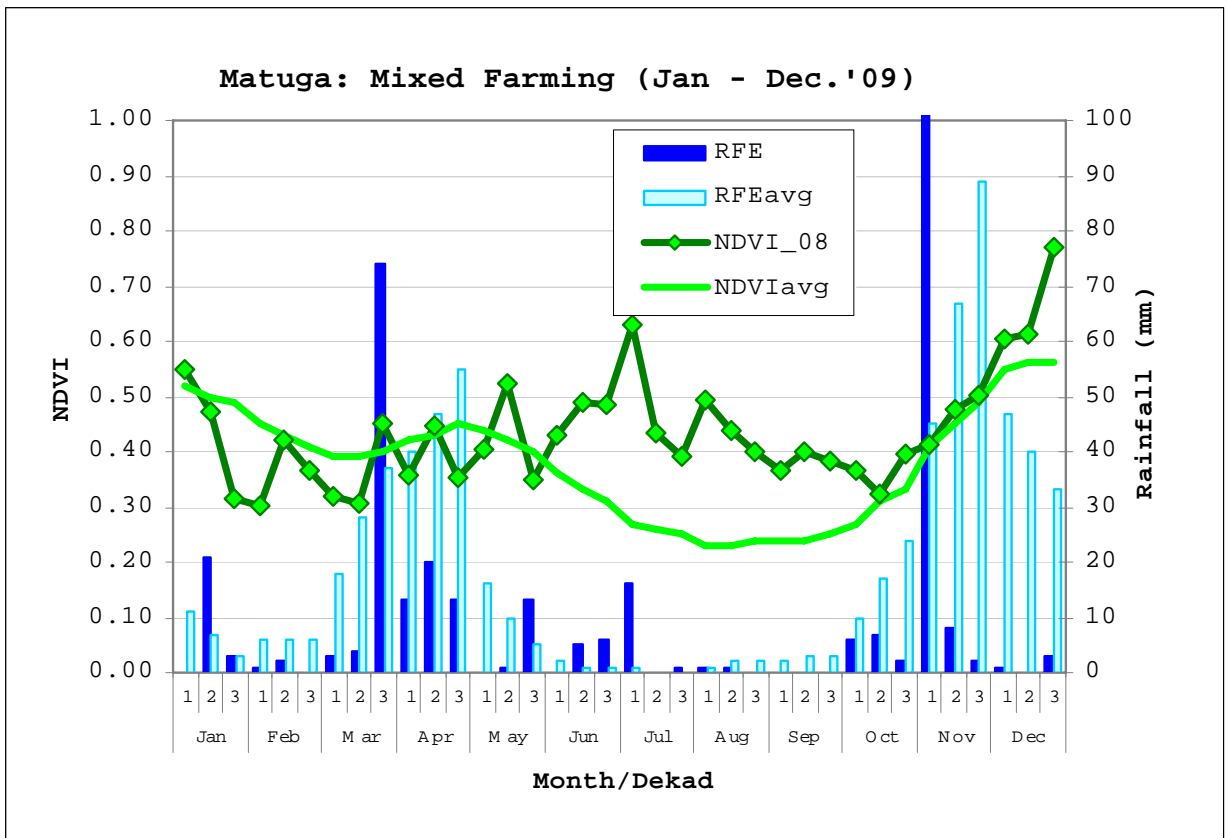


1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

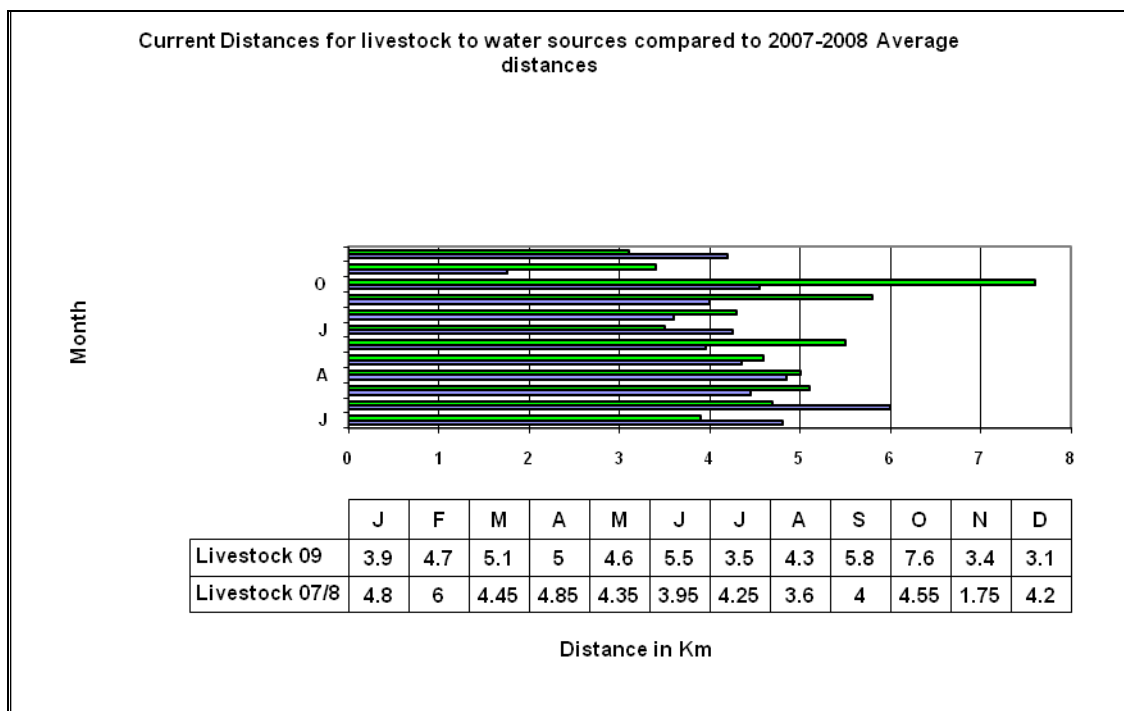
The pasture quality and quantity was good because of the rains received in all the livelihoods. There was no pressure coming from livestock from neighboring districts since they have moved back to their respective districts.

NDVI Graphs showing vegetation Trends



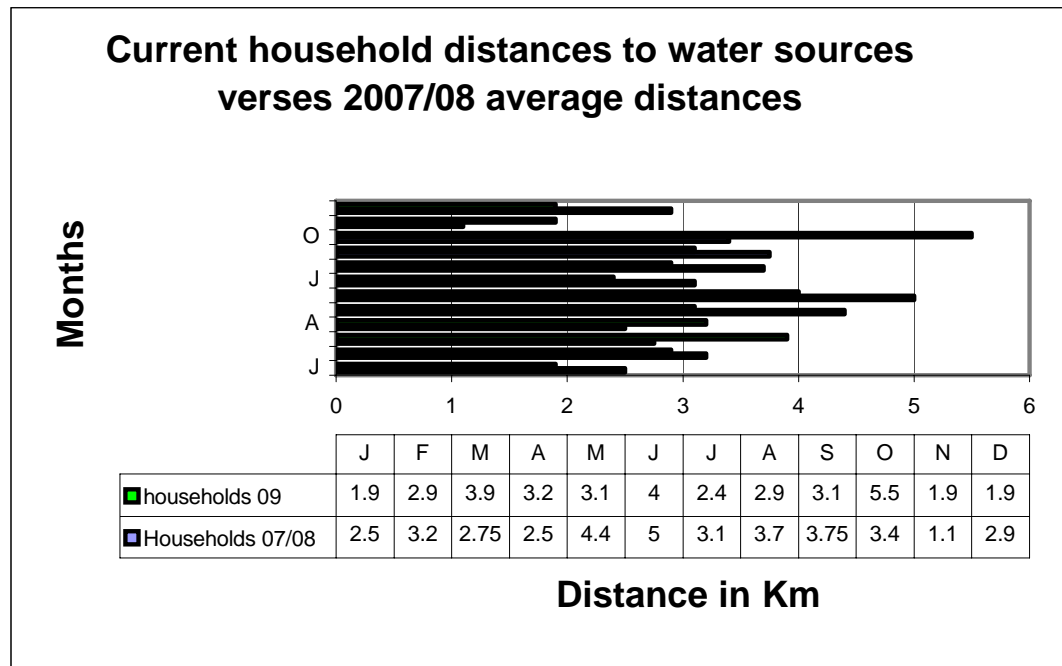


1.3 Water sources and availability



The water situation in the district improved with the water distances reduced. Water distances in both the livestock and mixed farming livelihood zones reduced

following the rains in most of the water deficit areas e.g. Vigurungani, Nyango, Gulanze, Mtaa, Mbita, Kilibasi, Gozani and Vinyunduni.



The average distances to water sources for households was 1.9km and reduced from 3.4 Km to 3.1km in the grazing areas. This is because the rains received filled some of the dams and pans.

1.4 Emerging issues

The little rains received currently in both the livestock and mixed farming livelihoods areas should continue if the crops in farms are to reach maturity.

1.4.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human displacement

Human/wildlife conflict in form of crop destruction reported in Kubo, Matuga, Mtaa and Gulanze. Most of the livestock from other districts moved back and this reduced pressure on the natural resource.

1.4.2 Migration

Livestock from neighboring provinces have moved back to their respective provinces. Movement of people for search of casual labor and food as a coping mechanism however continues.

1.5 Implications on food security

Rainfall received may change the current food situation in both livelihoods if it continues.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

Livestock body condition is good following the availability of water and good pasture in all the livelihoods zones.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

No livestock disease was reported across all the livelihood zones. However, veterinary department was undertaking rift valley vaccination.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of crop production activities

Most of the crops in the mixed farming zones have cobs. However, discontinuous rain caused some stress on the crops. There were also few crops in the livestock livelihood zones.

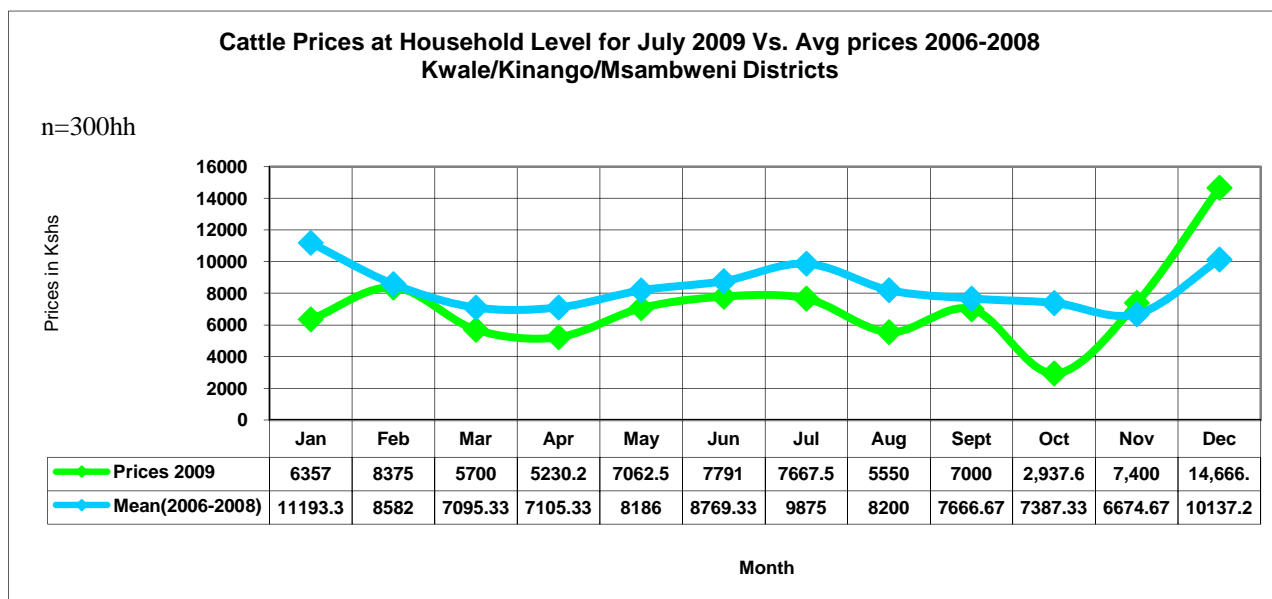
2.3 Implications on food security

Some parts of the mixed farming zones are weeding. Larger part of the district was still food insecure following the successive poor rains

3.0 Access to food

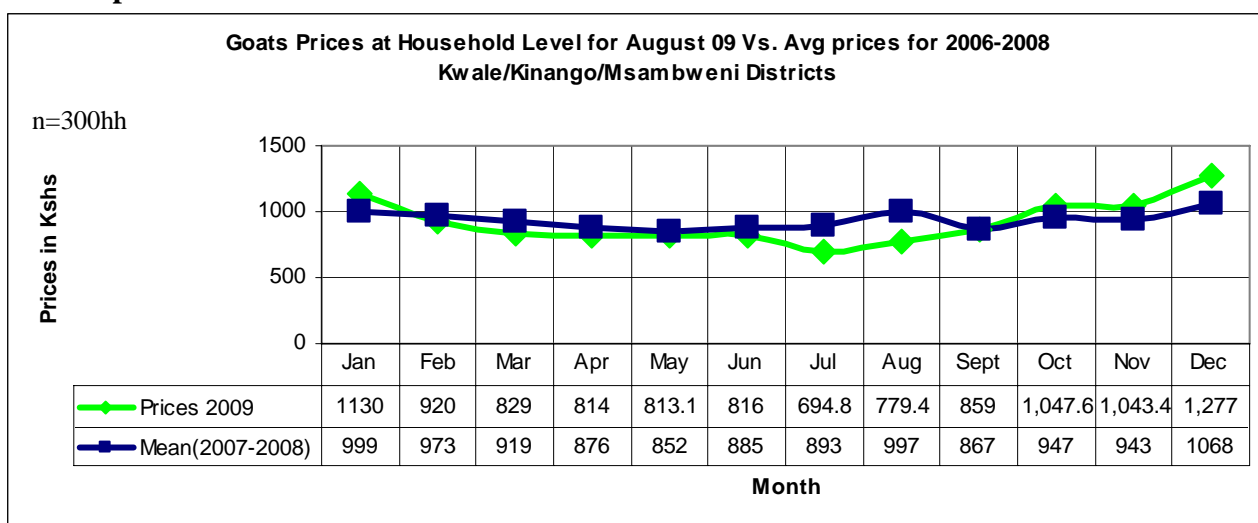
3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices



The average price of cattle increased tremendously to Ksh14,666.7 during the reporting period from Ksh7,400 in November. This price was above the long term mean recorded in 2006-2008 of Ksh10,137. This resulted from the good body condition of the cattle as a result of the good pasture and availability of water. This situation is expected to continue following the onset of the rain season.

3.1.2 Goat prices



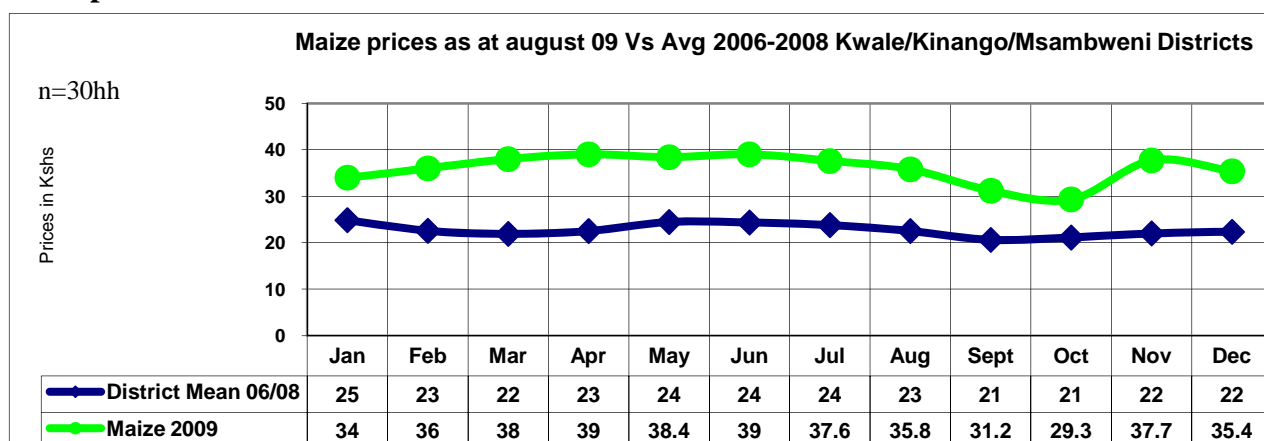
The average price of goats increased to Ksh1, 277. This was above the long term ranges of 2006-2008.

3.2 Livestock sales

The livestock sales numbers for the month increased mostly because most of the livestock have good body condition and can fetch good price. The sales rate for livestock has, however, reduced due to livestock good body condition.

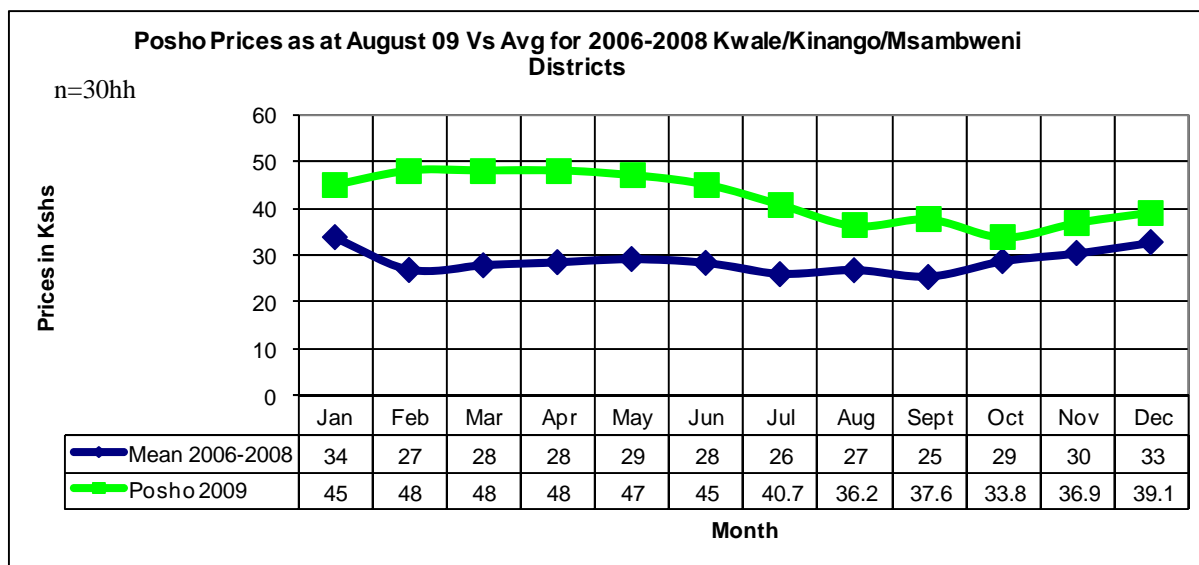
3.3 Crop prices

3.3.1 Maize prices



The average maize price reduced to Ksh35.4 from Ksh37.7 in November. The reduction in prices was due to increase in supply of the commodities from other districts. This was above the long term mean of 2006 – 2008 of Ksh22. This trend was not normal for this season since most of the farmers are expected to have food in stores. Most of the maize was sourced from the market outside the district.

3.3.2 Posho prices



A slight increase in price of posho was recorded at Ksh39.1 from Ksh36.9 recorded last month. This was above the long term mean average 2006-2008 of Ksh30. The increase was brought about by increase in demand.

3.4 Income

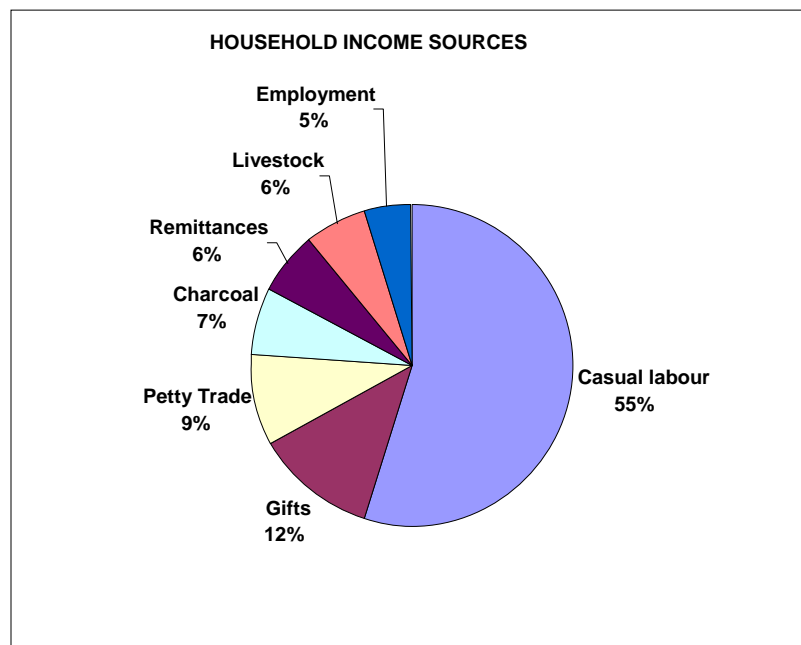
3.4.1 Crop income

There are no sales of crops from the households since most households are purchasing their food items from shops.

3.4.2 Livestock income

Income from livestock has reduced due to promising situation because of availability of water and good pasture hence farmers are not worried of losing their livestock anymore.

3.4.3 Other income



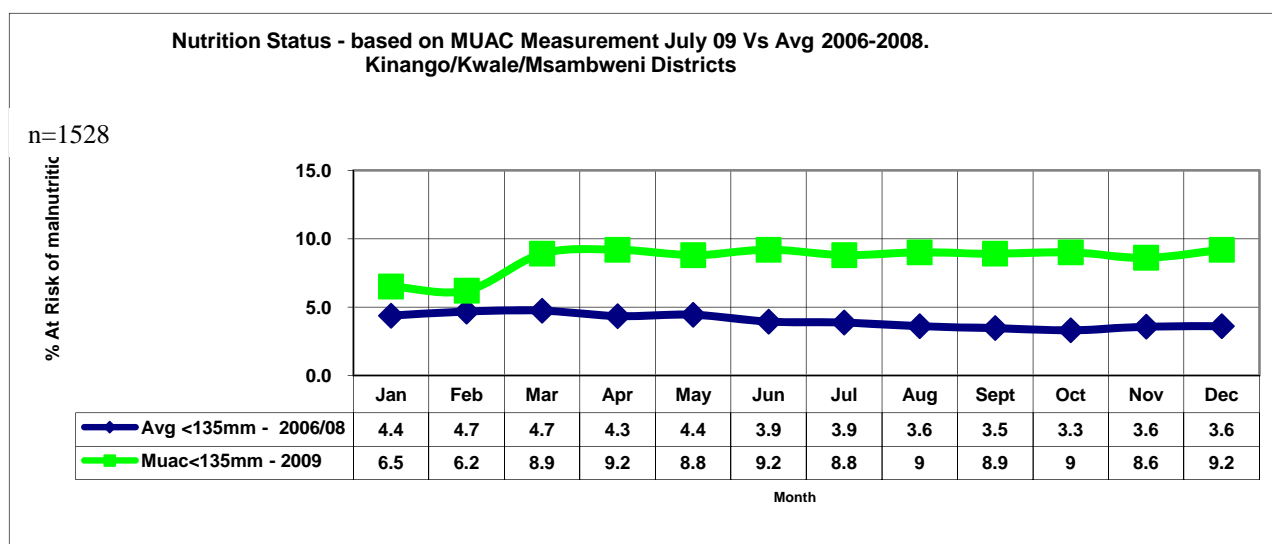
Casual labor has remained the main district source of income which is 55%. Incomes from sale of charcoal have slightly increased to 7% from 6% recorded last month.

3.5 Implications on food security

Improving pasture condition lead to improved livestock body conditions, hence low sales leading to less income thus contributing to households' low purchasing power since most food commodities prices are very high.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilization of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



An increase in the percentage of children under 5 years at risk of malnutrition based on the MUAC<135mm measurement was recorded at 9.2 % this month from 8.6% of last month. Very high increase in malnutrition was reported in Sega at 16.2%, Kiteje at 9.3% and Vigurungani at 25.8%.

4.2 Human health

Cases of diarrhoea and cholera disease were reported in Mivumoni and Lukore.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non food interventions

District veterinary office Kinango and Msambweni facilitated foot and mouth and lumpy skin vaccination.

5.2 Food aid

The Drought Emergency Operation Programme (EMOP) targeting 94,700 beneficiaries for Kinango, 42,200 beneficiaries for Msambweni and Matuga 9,100 beneficiaries is ongoing.

5.3 Coping strategies

Some of the coping strategies employed during the month included:

- Casual labour
- Remittance and gifts from relatives
- Charcoal burning
- Migration for labour
- Petty trade
- Change in feeding patterns , quantities and frequencies.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Conflict over natural resource use has reduced however the Supporting District Peace Committee should help address any emerging issues.
- The Kenya Wildlife Services to control wild life destroying crops.
- Ministry of health to get prepared for disease out breaks that may occur due to anticipated enhanced short rains and specifically cholera outbreaks reported in other parts of the district.
- Veterinary department to undertake livestock disease control measures in Kinango, Kwale and Msambweni districts.
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