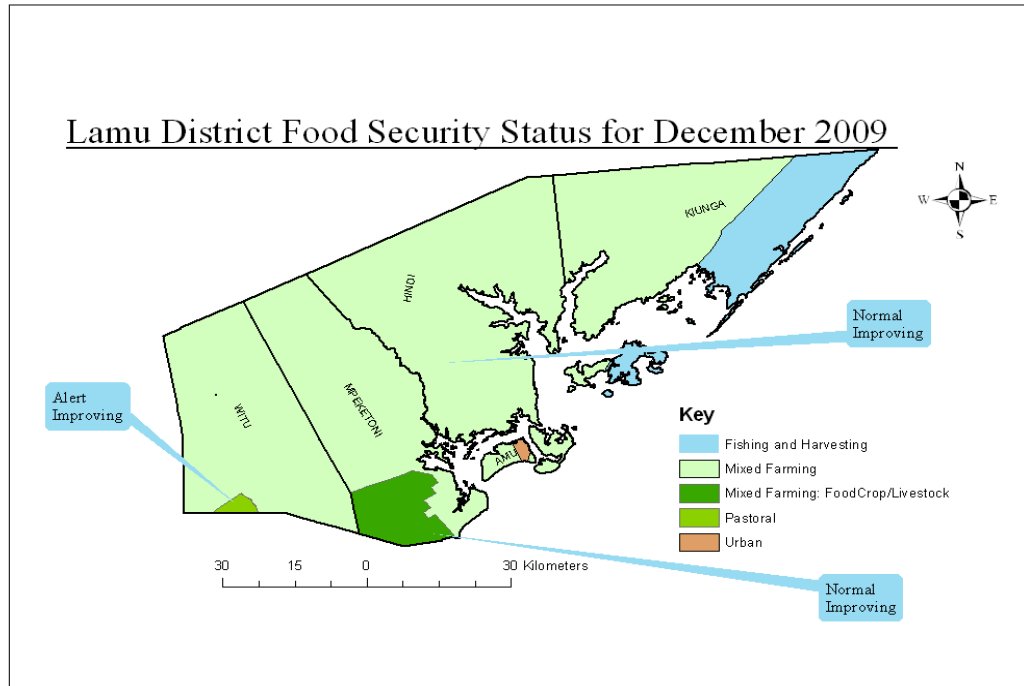




**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

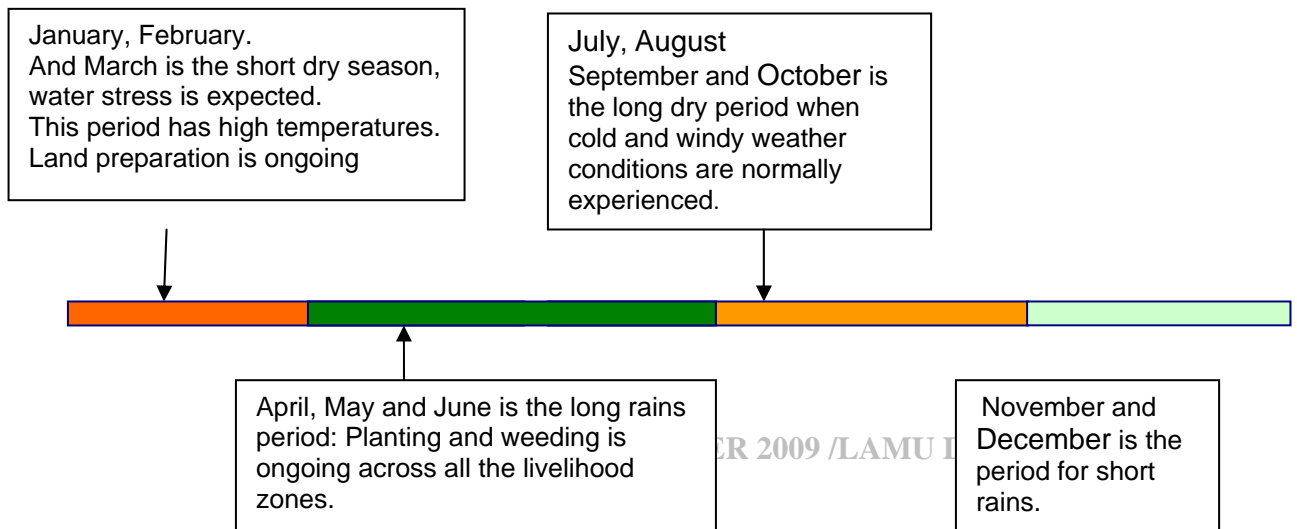
DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, DECEMBER 2009

Lamu District



* - some livelihood zones not covered in the REWAS Programme Like the fishing livelihood zone

Seasonal calendar



Situation overview

- The district received an average 126mm of rainfall up from 46 mm previous month, this more than triples compared to same time long term average of 34.95mm. The short rains continued to pour and are within the normal quantities though sparsely distributed across the district.
- Cattle prices increased by 18% compared to long term average of year 2006-08, this month unlike previous month's increase at 6%. Goat prices increased compared to long term average of year 2006-2008 by 29% unlike previous month's increase of 14%.
- Maize prices increased by 16% compared to the long term average of year 2006-2008 way above last month's increase of 10.3%, while that of beans went up by 29.3 % up from 22.7 % previous month.
- The quality of forage and pasture was stable and quantities are stabilizing.
- The percentage of children in the district with mid upper arm circumference levels of less than 135mm was 5% lower than previous month's of 6.5% and also higher than the 2006-8 long term average of 2.05%.

Current interventions

Non-food interventions

- Both DVO's for Lamu west and Lamu east in collaboration with ALRMP are carrying out a district wide livestock vaccination against notifiable diseases.
- Public health officers are busy tackling the recent cholera outbreak and has been contained, in collaboration with ALRMP.
- Provincial administration is going on with peace meetings in the livestock livelihood zone in the district.

Recommendations

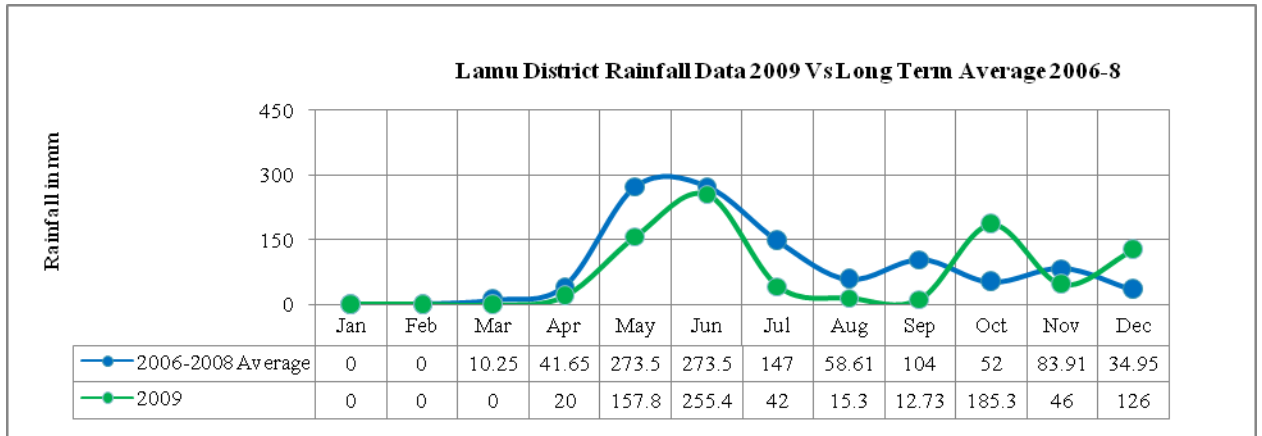
- The DLPO and DVO to continue addressing issues of livestock diseases and pastures by incoming livestock from neighboring Ijara and Tana River Districts.

Warning phase

Access to water through decreasing distances has improved alongside pasture availability and quality, food and livestock prices have decreased and are on a stabilizing trend. Milk production is improving and nutrition status has improved slightly. The situation in the District is still on Normal, and the trend is improving.

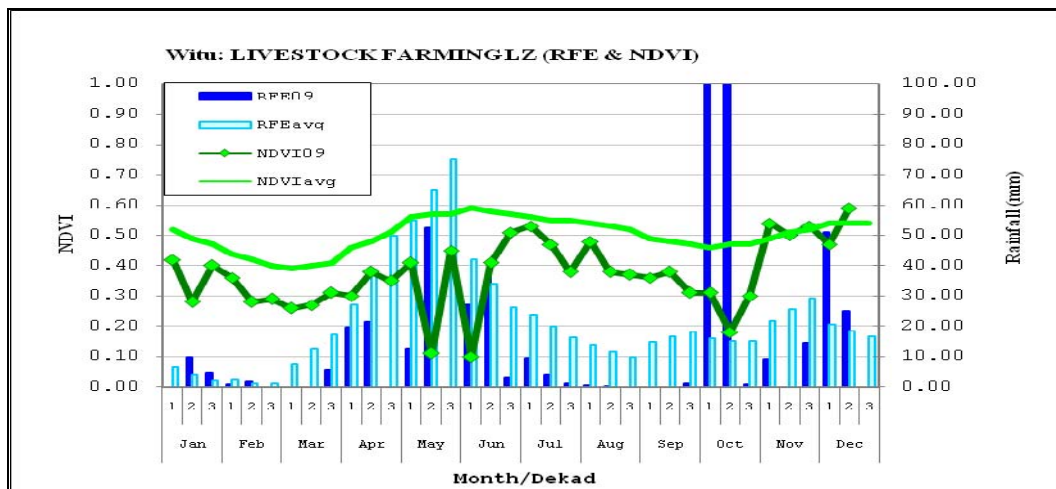
1.0 Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall

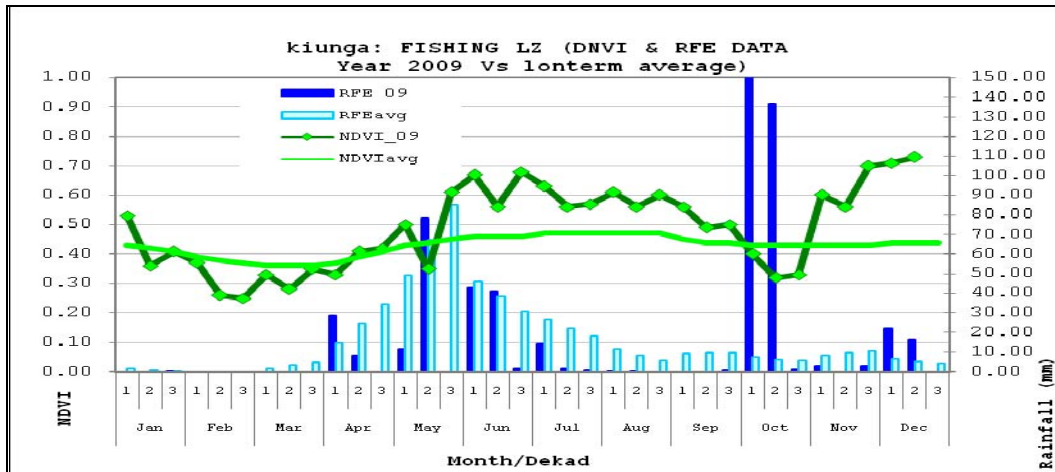


N=3 (i.e 3 rain gauges across the District)

The short rains continued to pour and increased compared to previous month. The rains were, however, within the normal quantities, but unevenly distributed across the district with the livestock Livelihood zone receiving the most as shown in the graph and maps below. The district received an average 126mm of rainfall up from 46 mm previous month, this more than triples compared to same time long term average of 34.95mm.



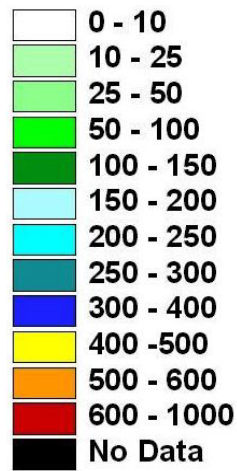
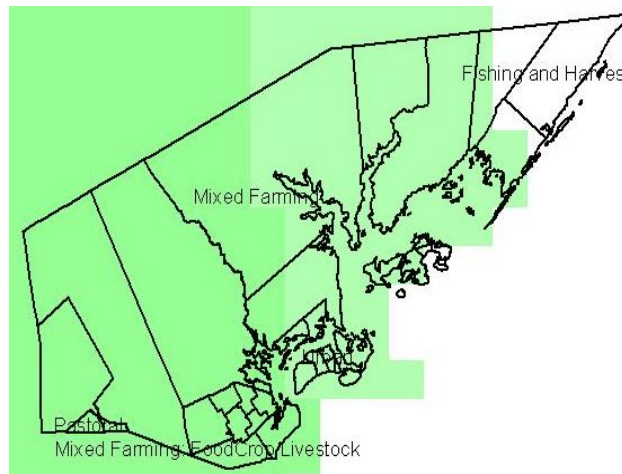
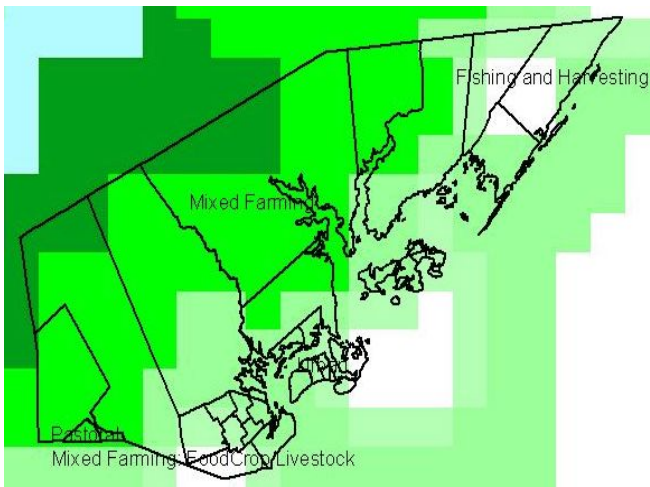
Witu and Kiunga are divisions in the extreme south and north parts of the larger Lamu district. Above and below is the RFE and NDVI distribution chart. This however covers only the first two dekad of December 2009 because the third dekad data was unavailable online at the time of this bulletin production.



Lamu District Current Rainfall Distribution for December 2009 in mm

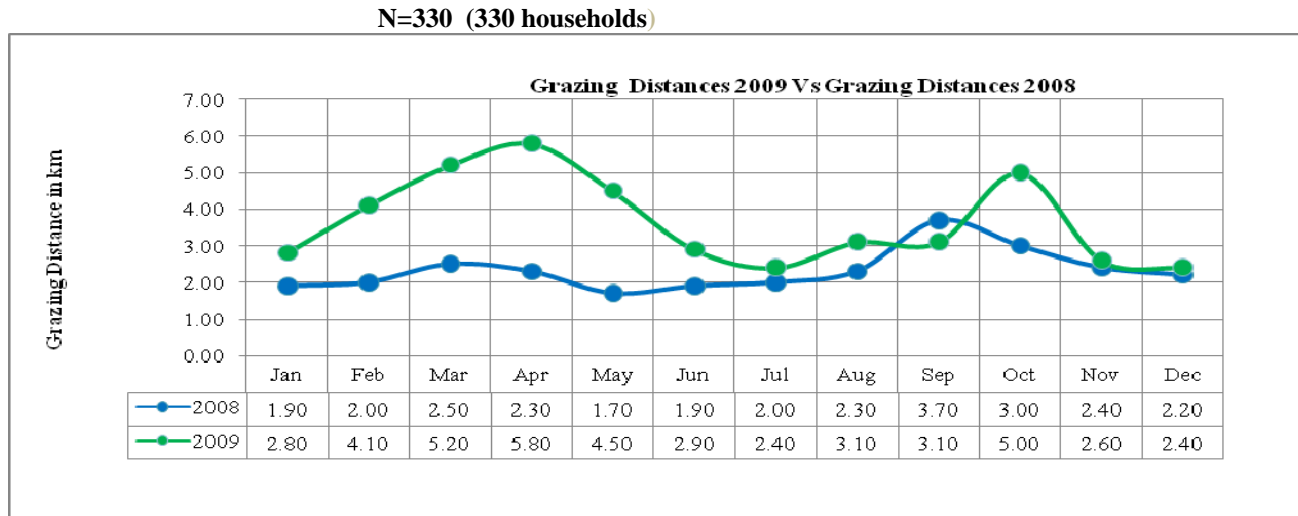
Lamu District Long-term Rainfall Distribution for December 2009 in mm

Key mm



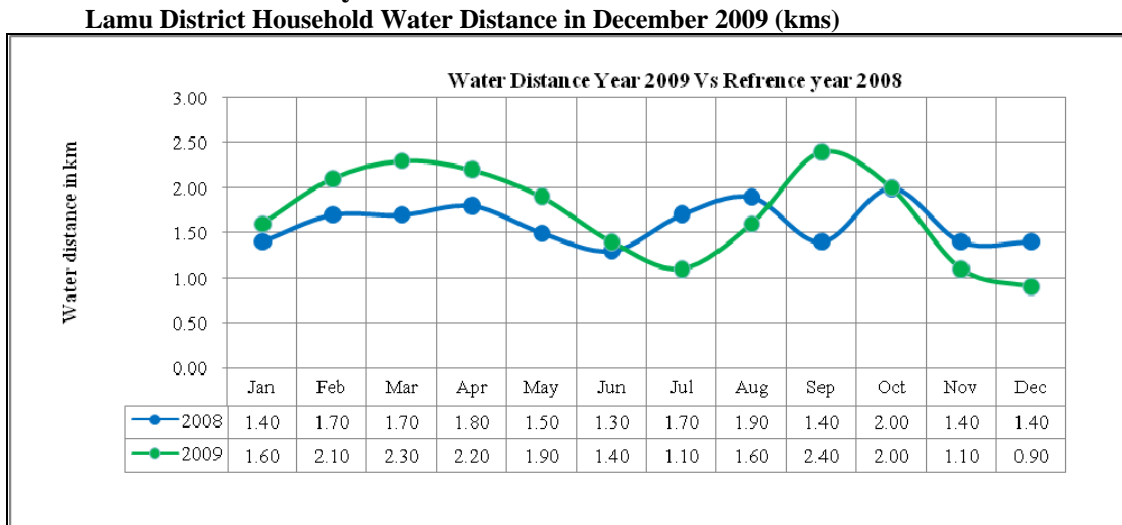
The rainfall distribution in relation with the long-term is as shown above, rainfall has increased by over 75% compared to normal long-term average.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture



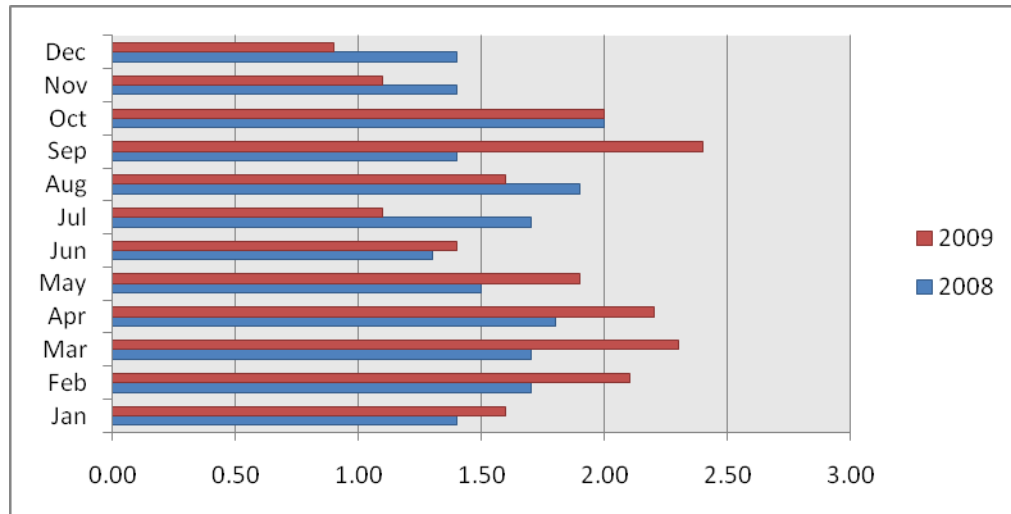
Pasture and forage availability has improved from previous month. Average distances to grazing areas have decreased to 2.4 km down from 2.6 km previous month signifying stabilizing trend, and is so across the district.

1.3 Water sources and availability



N=330

The average distance to water sources was at 0.9 km down from 1.1 km the previous month, and is decreasing due to ongoing rainfall.



Shallow wells and boreholes were the major household water source at 45% and 27% each, followed by natural ponds and rivers each at 10%. Same as previous month. This was, however, normal at the time of the year.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Livestock migration

- The ongoing short elnino type rains have caused a variety of livestock diseases, cholera outbreak and break down in road transport. This has however been mitigated. There is still an accumulated amount of huge herd of cattle from neighboring districts.

1.5 Implications on food security

Reducing water and grazing distances imply stability and ready availability. Pasture and forage conditions have continued to improve with the rainfall. Ongoing harvest has ensured availability of food stocks in the households

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

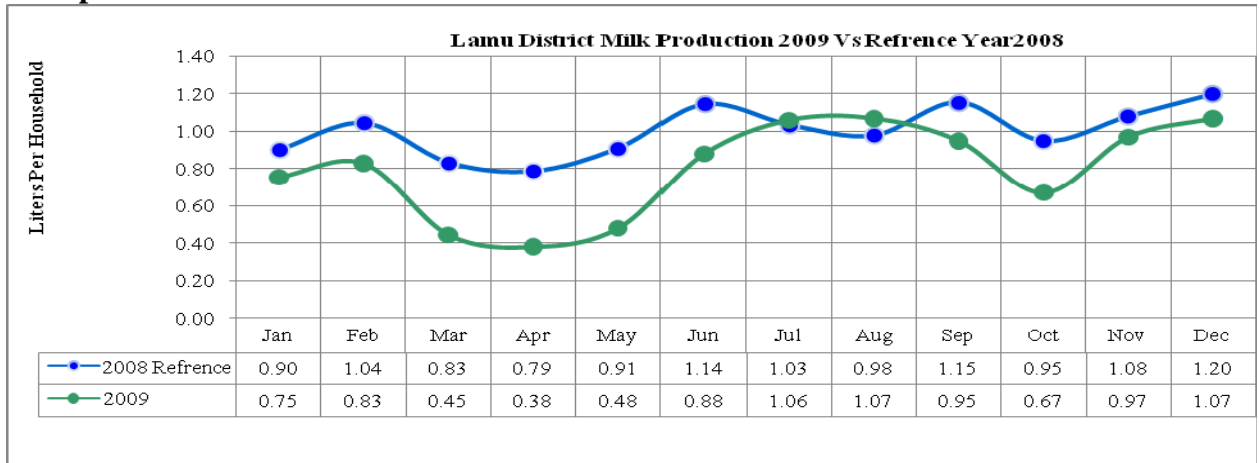
2.1.1 Livestock body condition

The livestock body condition for cattle, goats and sheep is on an improving trend and on a recovery path though more attention towards animal health is recommended.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

There was no major outbreak of livestock disease reported, though vaccination for notifiable disease was ongoing.

2.1.3 Milk production



n=330 households

- Milk production averaged 1.07 liters per household per day higher than last month's production of 0.97 liters per household per day, and is on an increasing trend. This was due to improved pasture availability and quality. That was, however, normal at this time of the year.

2.2 Crop production

Harvesting of both cereals and legumes is ongoing though others are at the weeding stage. Crops harvested have been stored and others sold to cater for household use.

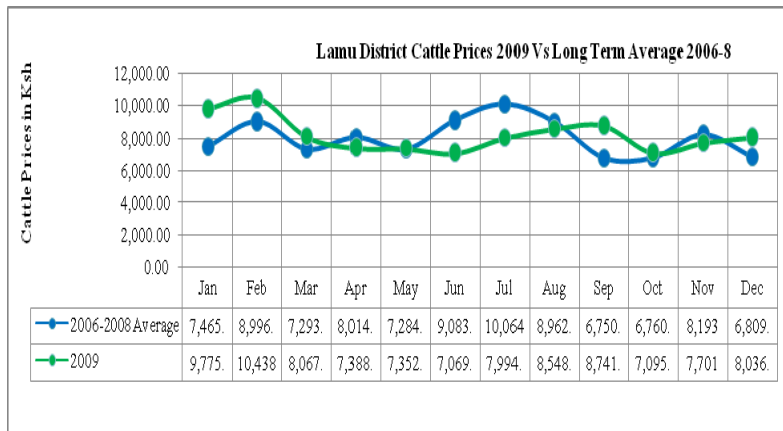
2.2.1 Implications on food security

- The increase in milk production is an indicator of stabilizing milk. The stop of flooding and improving pasture condition indicates improving food security situation. Decreasing water and grazing distances point to a stabilizing food security situation across the district.

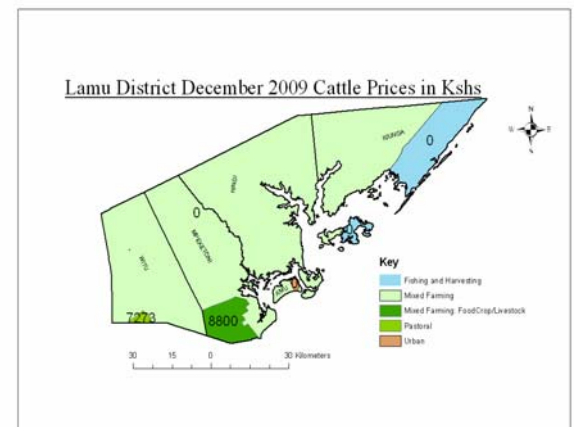
3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices

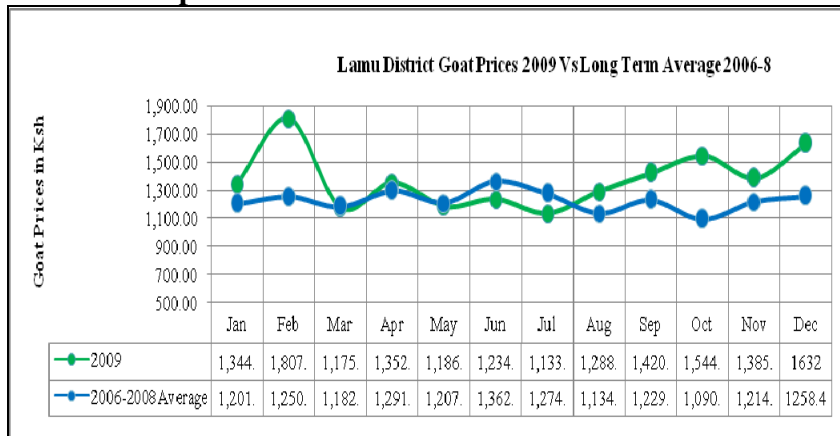


n=330

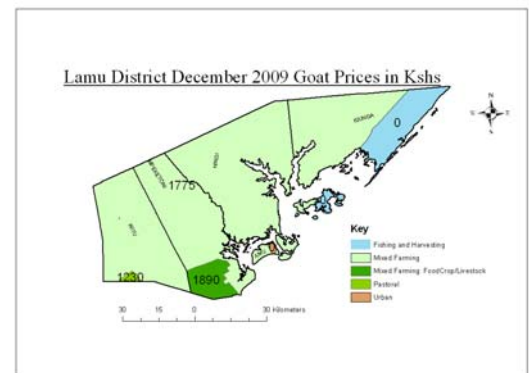


- The average cattle price at farm-gate level was Ksh8,036 as shown in the graph above, while the inter-livelihood zone difference is as shown in the map alongside.
- Highest cattle prices were recorded in the mixed farming: food crops /cash crops livelihood zone at Ksh8,800, up from Ksh9,350 previous month, while the livestock farming livelihood zone recorded the lowest at ksh.7, 273 up from Ksh6,053 previous month. This was however not a normal trend at this time of the year, going by 2006-8 average.

3.1.2 Goat prices



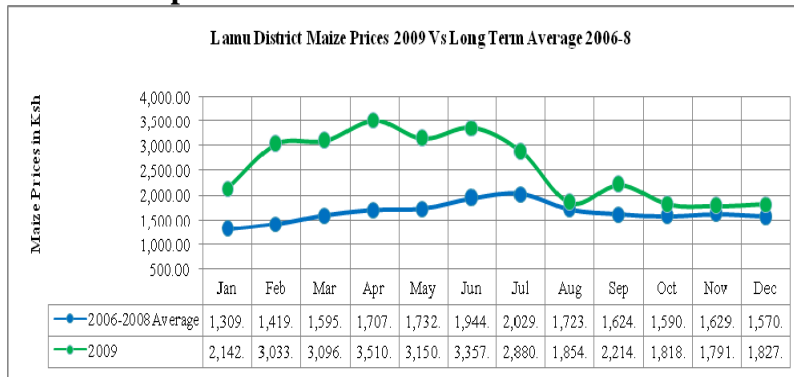
n=330



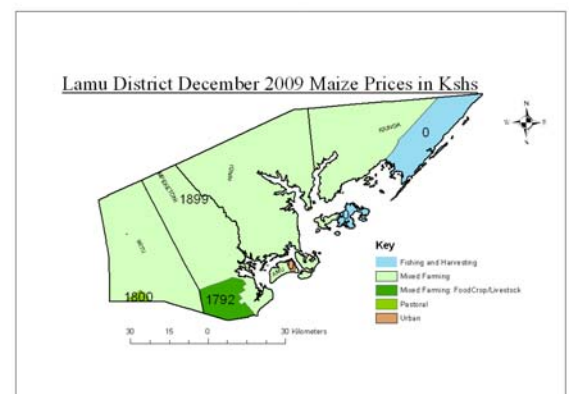
The average goat price at farm-gate was Ksh1,632, which is higher than that of last month of Ksh1,385 and is on an increasing trend. This is normal trend at this time of the year going by the 2006-8 long term average. Price distribution and long-term trends are as shown in the chart graph and map alongside.

3.2 Crop prices

3.2.1 Maize prices



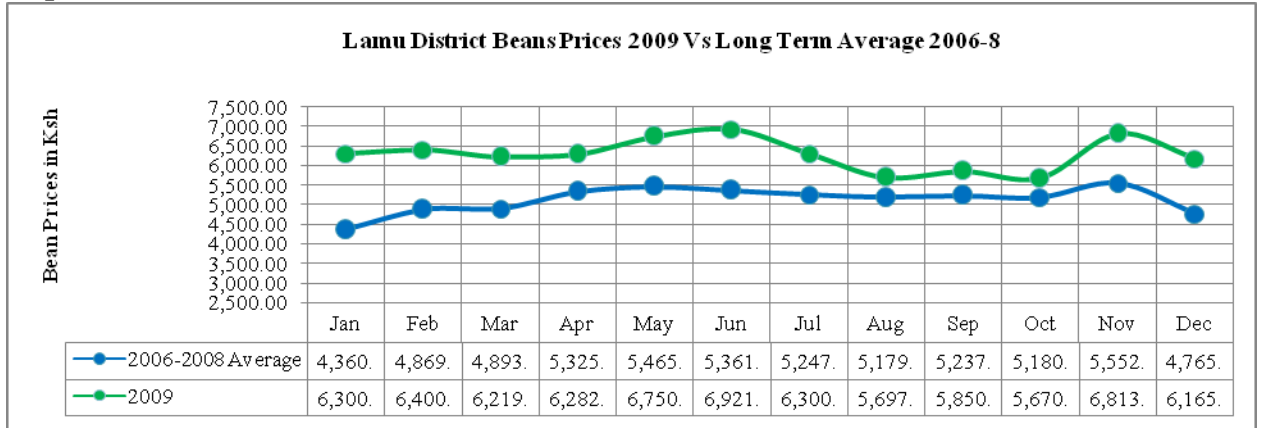
n=330



The average market maize price was Ksh1,827 per 90kg bag up from Ksh1791 previous month. Highest prices were recorded in the mixed farming: cash crops/food crops/ horticulture livelihood zone at Ksh1899 as shown in the map. The prices are however within the normal going by year 2006-08 long-term average. The drop is due

to recent harvest.

3.2.2 Beans prices

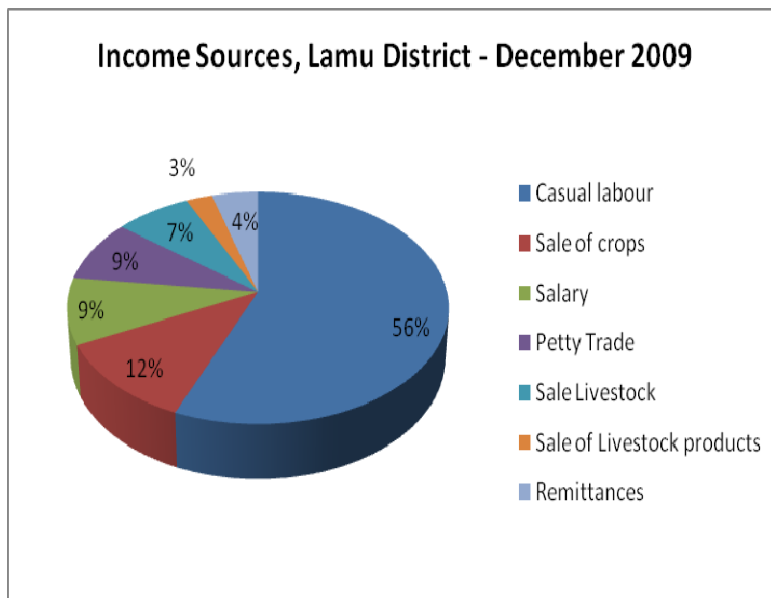


n=330

- Average price of beans at market level was Ksh6,165 per 90Kg bag which is lower than that of last month at Ksh6,183 and higher than the long term average of year 2006-8 of Ksh4,765. This is however normal trend at this time of the year in the District going by 2006-8 average. The prices were recorded only in the mixed farming: cash crops/food crops/ horticulture livelihood zone.

3.3 Income

3.3.1 Crop income



Income from crops accounted for 12% of total house hold income, lower than last month's rate of 17.29% and is increasing. This was however normal at this time of the year. The highest rate was recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/cash crop livelihood zone and the lowest recorded in the livestock livelihood zone.

3.3.2 Livestock income

Sale of livestock accounted for 7.23% of total household income similar to previous month's rate of 7.5%. This was, however, normal at this time of the year. Incomes were mainly realized from livestock livelihood zone with least sales realized in the mixed farming: cash crops/food crops/ horticulture livelihood zone.

3.3.3 Other income

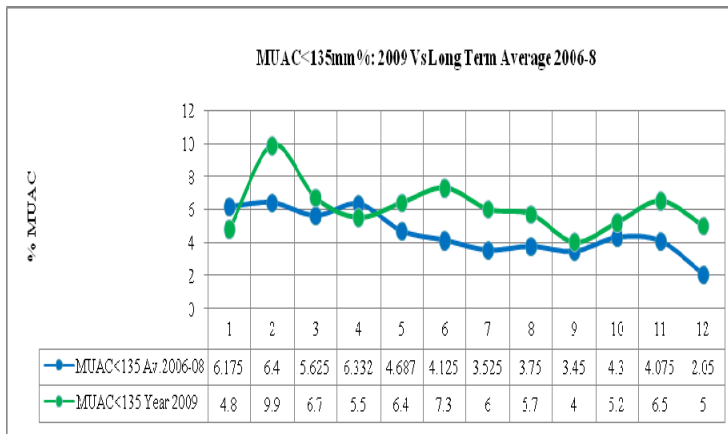
- Casual labour was main source of income during the month at 56% up from 50.9% previous month. Petty trade accounted for 9% of the total household income emerging as livelihood source.
- The highest rate was recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/cash crop livelihood zone and the lowest recorded in the livestock livelihood zone. This was, however, normal at this time of the year.

3.4 Implications on food security

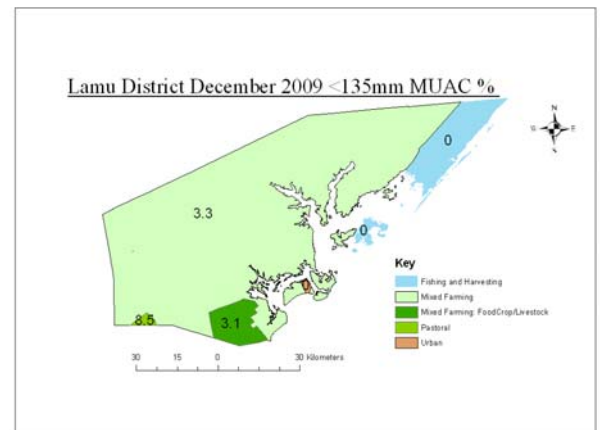
- The increase in crop sales dependency shows its availability has improved.
- The increase in livestock sales dependency indicates a disposal trend for fear of lack of pastures especially in the overstocked areas.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status

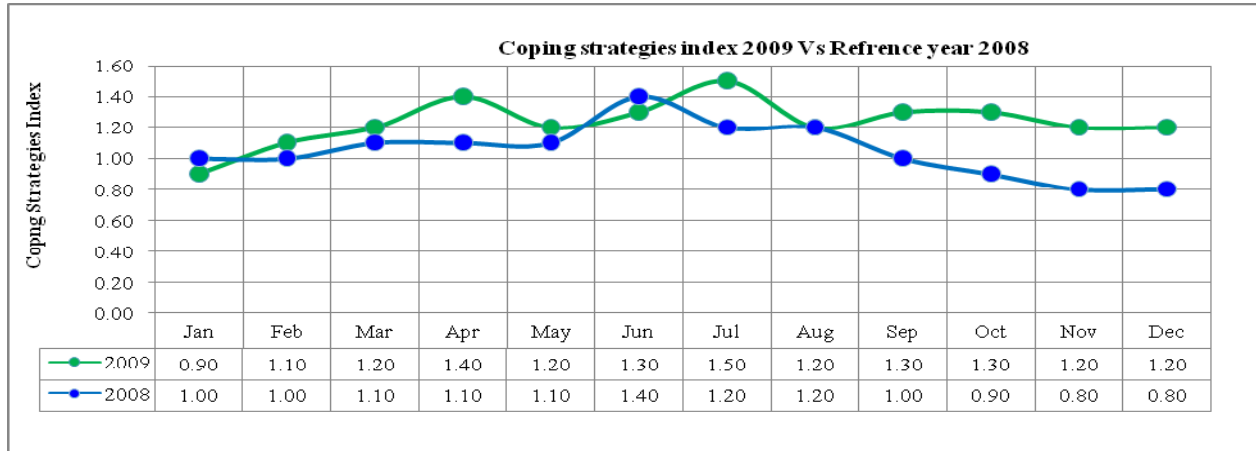


n= 1151



The percentage of children in the district with mid upper arm circumference levels of less than 135mm was 5% lower than previous month's of 6.5% and also higher than the 2006-8 long term average of 2.05%. The slight increase is within the normal. The inter livelihood zone distribution is as shown in the map alongside.

5.0 Coping strategies



n=330

The coping strategy index is at 1.2 same as previous month's 1.2. The highest index of 1.7 was recorded at the mixed farming: Cash crops/food crops/ horticulture livelihood zone while the lowest of 0.8 was recorded in the livestock farming livelihood zone.