

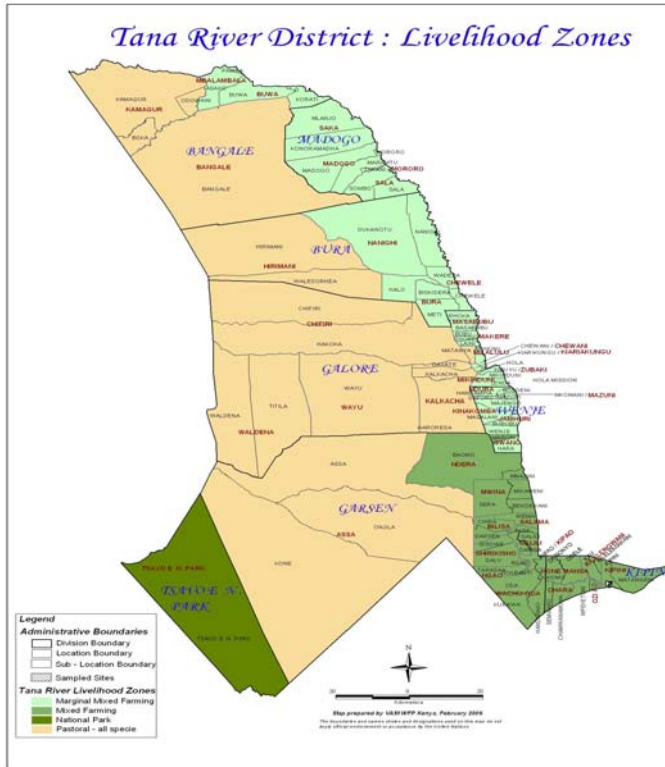


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**  
**MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS**  
**ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

**DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, DECEMBER 2009**

**Tana River District**

**Warning Stages**



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Pastoral	Alert/Alarm	Improving
Marginal Mixed Farming	Alert/Alarm	Improving
Mixed Farming	Alert	Improving
<b>District</b>	<b>Alert/ Alarm</b>	<b>Improving</b>

**Seasonal Calendar**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milk yield drops</li> <li>Livestock move towards dry season grazing areas</li> <li>Decline in livestock prices</li> <li>water stress in the traditional grazing areas</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased milk yield</li> <li>Livestock move towards the traditional wet season grazing areas.</li> <li>High Calving and lambing rates.</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low milk availability</li> <li>Livestock move towards the fall back dry seasons grazing areas (riverine and delta)</li> <li>Water and pasture stress experienced in the hinterland pastoral dominated areas.</li> <li>High incidence of conflicts between farming and pastoral communities.</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased milk yield</li> <li>Livestock move back to the traditional wet season grazing areas.</li> <li>Calving rates increases</li> <li>Decline in livestock prices</li> </ul>		
Lean period for the pastoralists						Lean period for the pastoralists					
Short dry spell			Long rains			Long dry spell			Short rains		
<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>
Short rains harvest		Land Preparation	Planting/weeding		Crops at green maturity	Long rains harvest		Land Preparation.	Planting/Weeding		Crops at green maturity
			Lean period for farmers						Lean period for farmers		

## **Situation overview**

- The general drought condition across all the livelihood zones is rated alert/alarm and improving.
- The district continued to receive some erratic showers reported in all the livelihood zones.
- The water condition remained favorable as most of the traditional water sources continued to hold adequate amounts of water.
- The condition of natural vegetation continued to be favourable as most of the areas across the livelihood zones reported improved pasture and browse conditions.
- The livestock body and health conditions recovered from the effects of the drought and were rated fair, especially in the Marginal Mixed and Pastoral zones. They were, however, still poor in the Mixed farming zone. This could be due to effects of high incidence of tsetse infections.
- High incidences of trypanosomiasis, pneumonia and worms remained the most common livestock diseases reported during the month.
- The pastoral trading terms continued to be favourable as during the month the prices of all livestock species increased.
- The milk production and consumption indicator recorded an improvement as during the month both production and consumption increased.
- Maize crop planted in the Hola Irrigation Scheme under the economic stimulus programme is fairly good and at harvest stage. Peasant farmers depending on rain fed agriculture have nothing much to expect due to the erratic nature of the rains. However, those doing pump fed irrigation along the riverine had their crop doing well and high hopes of harvests.
- Continued improvement of livestock health and livestock products is expected to impact positively on the food security situation in the pastoral livelihoods. The agro-pastoral livelihoods may also register some improvement due to expected harvests from the irrigated fields and the economic stimulus program.
- During the month, there was a general upsurge of malaria related and diarrhoeal cases reported in all the livelihoods, outbreaks were reported in parts of Madogo, Bura and Galole (Abakik, Hakoka, Sabukia, Titila and Chifiri).
- There was a general improvement in the nutrition status of children below five years (based on MUAC<135mm measurement). The percentage of those categorized at risk of malnutrition dropped to 12.8% from 15.2% observed during the last reporting period.
- The security situation improved and reports of insecurity incidences minimized. This could be due enhanced peace building initiatives and security surveillance being carried out in the hot spot areas.

## **Recommendations to District Steering Group and Kenya Food Security Meeting**

- Food aid to continue but as an exit strategy, to mostly target asset creation projects.
- Continue ensuring that supplementary feeding program targets the intended beneficiaries.
- Continue with peace initiatives and security surveillance in the conflict hot spot areas.
- In order to increase incomes from the agricultural sector, there is need to enhance capacities of the farmers and their institutions through participatory integrated approach.

## **Current interventions**

### **Non-food interventions**

- Support food security initiatives through

- Capacity building of farmers on modern farming
- Dry land farming through water harvesting technologies
- Provision of pumping sets
- Supply of certified seeds
- Revival of Hola, Bura and Tana Delta Irrigation Schemes under the economic stimulus programme.
- Support MOH rapid response teams to reach areas with reported disease outbreaks
- Livestock vaccination against trade sensitive diseases.
- Peace building initiatives and security surveillance in the hot spot areas through support to Peace Committees and District Security and Intelligence Committees.

#### **Food aid**

- School feeding program targeting all primary schools .
- Supplementary and therapeutic feeding program for children aged 6 – 59 months, pregnant and lactating mothers ongoing in 22 health facilities – a new system (protection ration) has been introduced to safeguard the intended target group.
- EMOP/PRRO – benefiting a population of 104,722 from Tana North, Tana River and Tana Delta districts.
- Food aid to 3,500 households in Galole and Wenje supported by World Vision.
- Food aid by the GOK kitty ongoing.

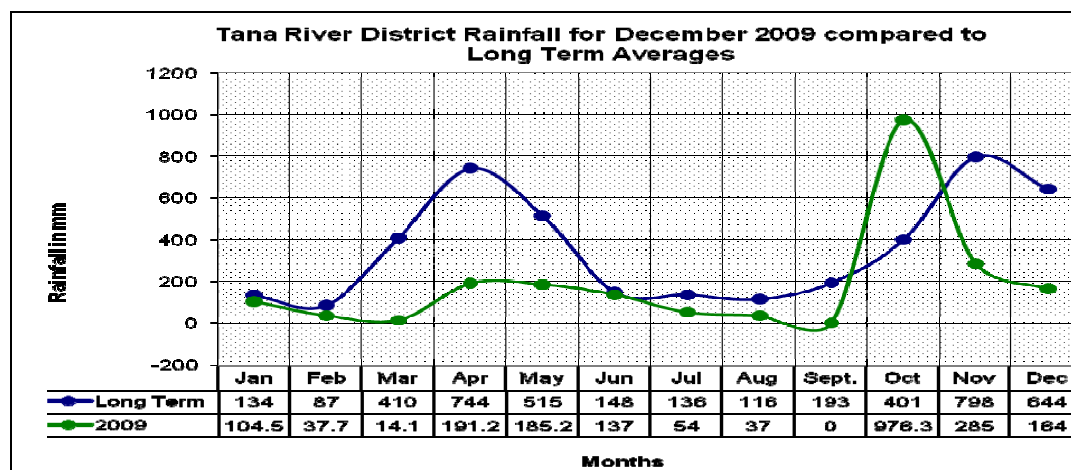
## 1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

### 1.1 Rainfall

The district continued to receive some erratic showers reported in all the livelihood zones. The rains were, however, rated below normal for this time of the year.

Livelihood Zone	Station	Rainfall in mm
Mixed Farming	• Garsen	• 79.1mm
Marginal Mixed Farming	• Hola	• 18.0mm
Pastoral	• Wayu • Bangale	• 11.8mm • 55.0mm

Temperatures remained within the range of 30°C to 34°C.



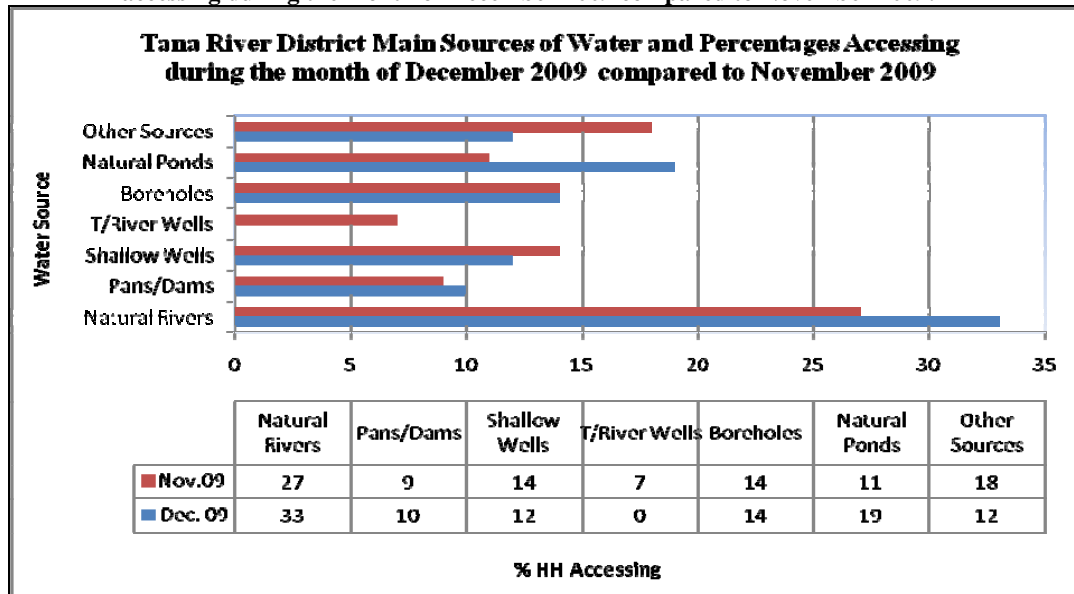
### 1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

The condition of natural vegetation continued to be favourable as most of the areas across the livelihood zones reported improved pasture and browse conditions. Improved pasture conditions in the traditional grazing areas had a direct bearing on the distances to grazing grounds as during the month, average distances were between 2km – 4km compared to 3km – 5km reported in November. Long term average recorded during the period 2005 – 2008 is 5kms. This was a normal situation for such seasons of the year.

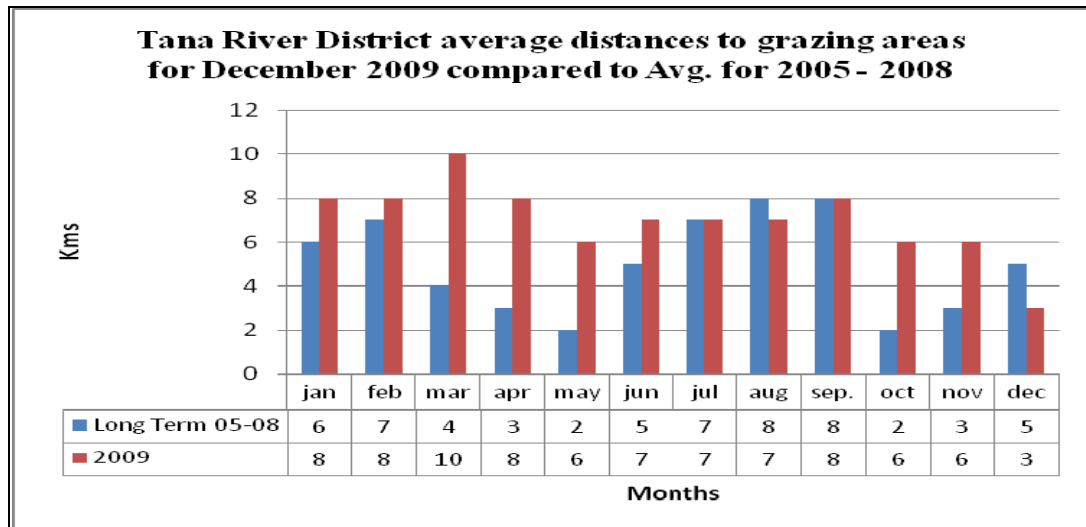
### 1.3 Water sources and availability

- The water condition remained favorable as most of the traditional water sources continued to hold adequate amounts of water. As expected, during the month the percentage of households accessing the natural rivers, pans/dams and natural ponds/catchments pools increased while usage on traditional river wells, shallow wells and taps declined.
- Average distance to water sources was recorded to near normal of 2km to 3km. (Normal distances at this time of the year are recorded at 0.5km – 1km.)

The table below shows the main water sources in use and percentage of households accessing during the month of December 2009 compared to November 2009.



n = 450



n = 450

#### 1.4 Emerging issues

##### 1.4.1 Insecurity/conflict /human displacement.

Most of the households displaced by the floods at the onset of the rains in Tana Delta have returned to their normal settlements as the floods have receded.

##### 1.4.2. Migration

No unusual migrations reported. Currently livestock concentration is towards the traditional wet season grazing areas.

#### 1.5 Implications on food security

The Food security situation is expected to slightly improve as the food stability indicators are showing some positive trends.

## **2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)**

### **2.1 Livestock Production.**

#### **2.1.1 Livestock body condition**

The livestock body and health conditions recovered from the effects of the drought and were rated fair, especially in the Marginal Mixed and Pastoral zones. Conditions were, however, still poor in the Mixed farming zone. This could be due to effects of high incidence of tsetse infections.

#### **2.1.2. Livestock diseases**

High incidence of trypanosomiasis, pneumonia and worms remained the most common livestock diseases reported during the month.

#### **2.1.3. Milk production**

The milk production trends at the household level recorded some improvement. During the month production rose by approximately 20% compared to last reporting period. This is an expected trend as the range resources have become favourable leading to improved livestock body and health conditions. However, production is still rated below normal due to poor calving and high calf mortality experienced at the onset of the rains.

## **2.2.0 Crop production**

### **2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of various crop productions**

Maize crop planted in the Hola Irrigation Scheme under the economic stimulus programme is fairly good and at harvest stage. Peasant farmers depending on rain fed agriculture have nothing much to expect due to the erratic nature of the rains. However those doing pump fed irrigation along the riverine have their crop doing well and high hopes of harvests.

### **2.2.2 Pests and diseases**

No outstanding incidences of crop pests reported during the month.

### **2.2.3 Harvests**

Maize harvesting was ongoing in the Hola Irrigation Scheme. Pocket mango harvesting was still going on in parts of the marginal mixed farming and mixed farming zones.

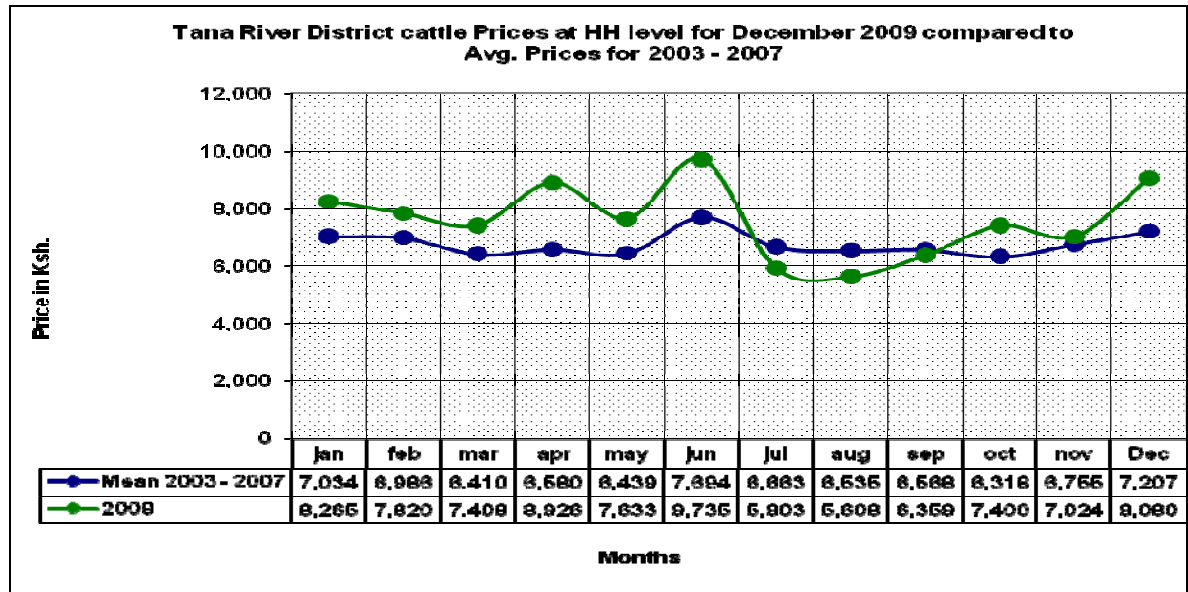
## **2.3 Implications on food security**

Continued improvement of livestock health and livestock products is expected to impact positively on the food security situation in the pastoral livelihoods. The agro-pastoral livelihoods may also register some improvement due to expected harvests from the irrigated fields and the economic stimulus programme.

### 3.0 Access to food

#### 3.1 Livestock marketing

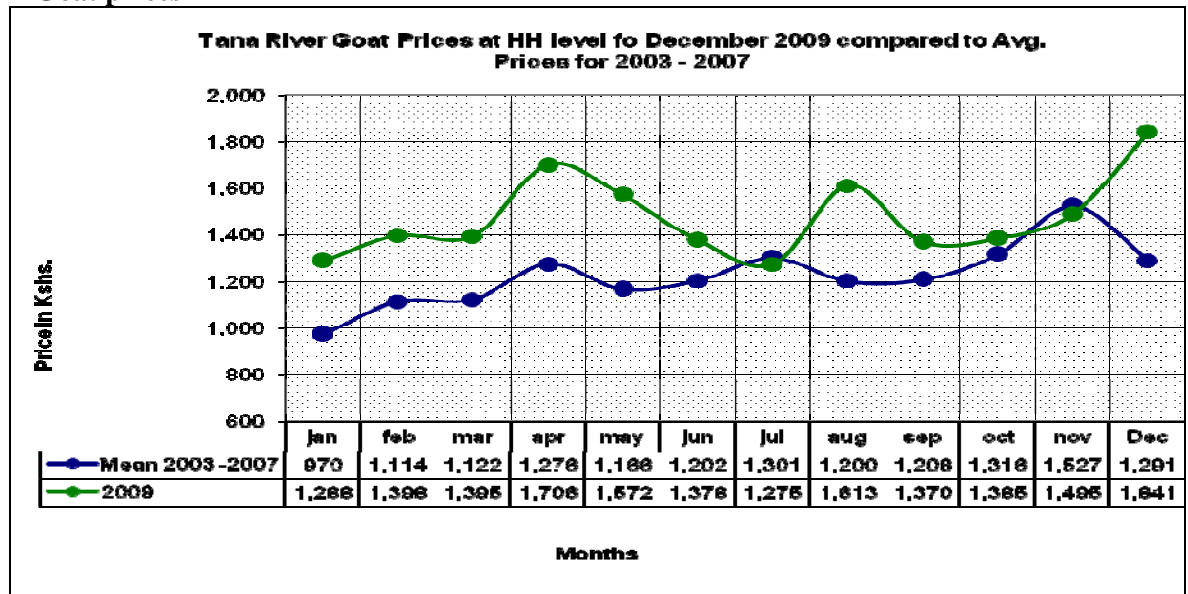
##### 3.1.1 Cattle Prices



n = 450

- During the month the average price of cattle rose to Ksh9,080/= from Ksh7,024/= of last month
- The prices so observed are above the long term seasonal average of Ksh7,207/= recorded during the period 2003 -2007.
- High livestock prices are expected as the body conditions have improved.

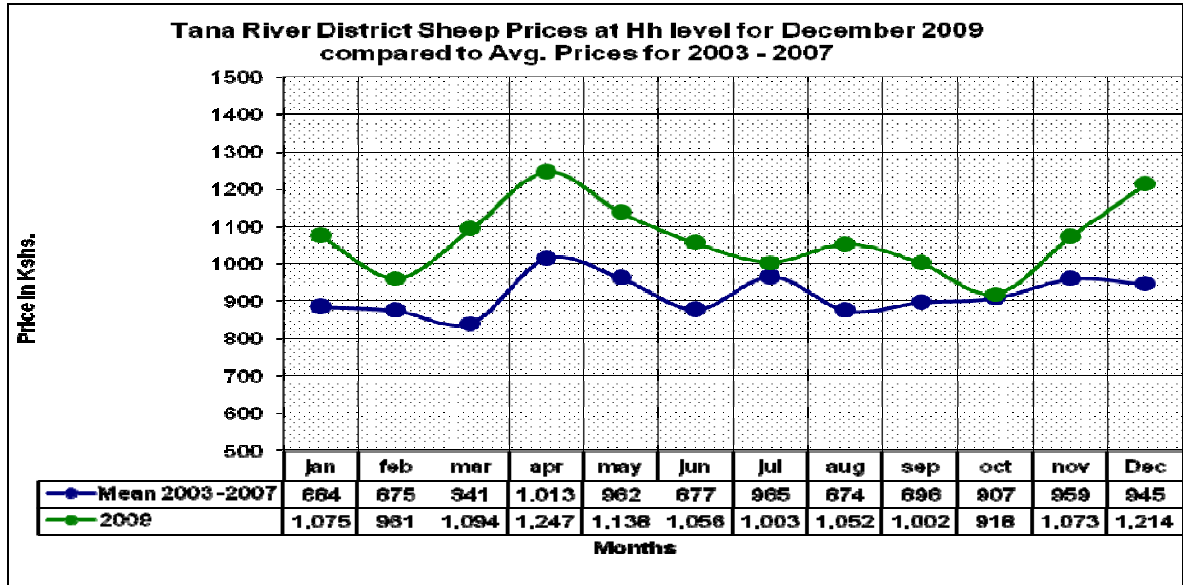
##### 3.1.2 Goat prices



n = 450

During the month, the prices of goats rose to Ksh1,841 compared to Ksh1,495 of last month. This price so recorded is also higher than the long term seasonal average of Ksh1,291 observed during the period 2003 – 2007. Rise in prices at this time of the year are anticipated owing to the improved environmental and livestock body conditions.

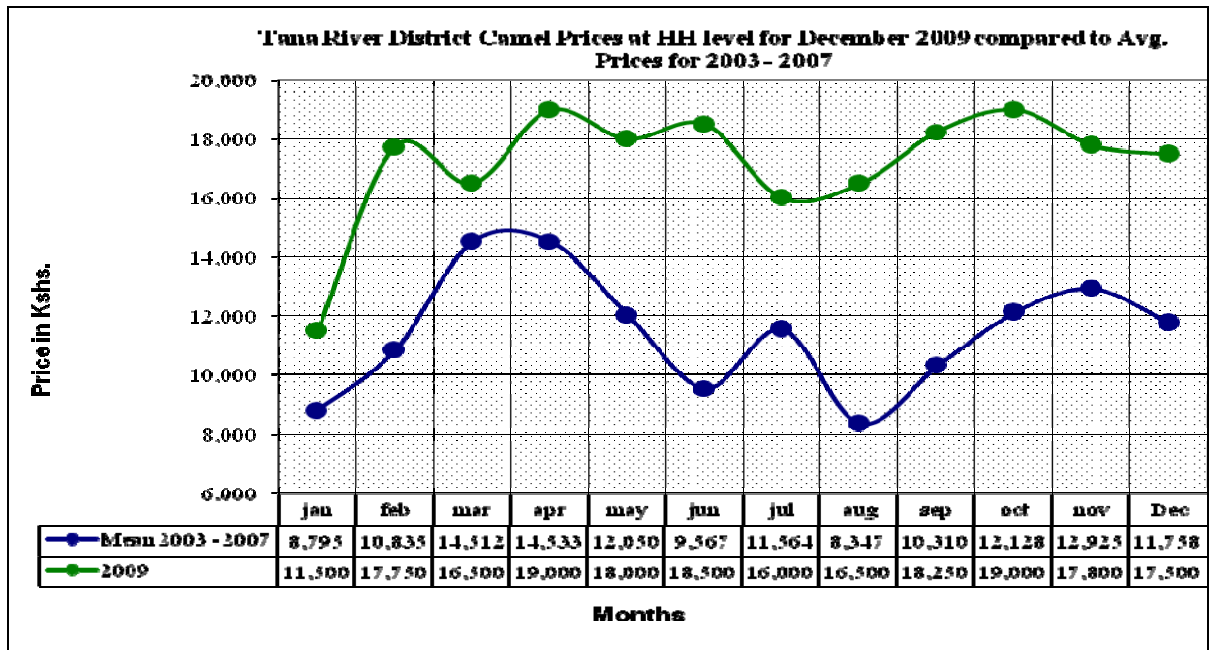
### 3.1.3 Sheep prices



n = 450

During the month the price of sheep also rose to Ksh1,214 from Ksh1,073 last month. The prices so recorded are above the seasonal average of Ksh945 observed during the period 2003 – 2007. This is a normal trend and expected to increase further as the range resources continue to be favourable.

### 3.1.4 Camel prices



n = 450

An insignificant change was observed on the price of camel as during the month, the average price of camel was recorded at Ksh17, 500 from Ksh17,800 of last reporting period. The price so reported is also above the long term seasonal average price of Ksh11, 758 recorded during the period 2003 – 2007.

### 3.1.5 Livestock sales

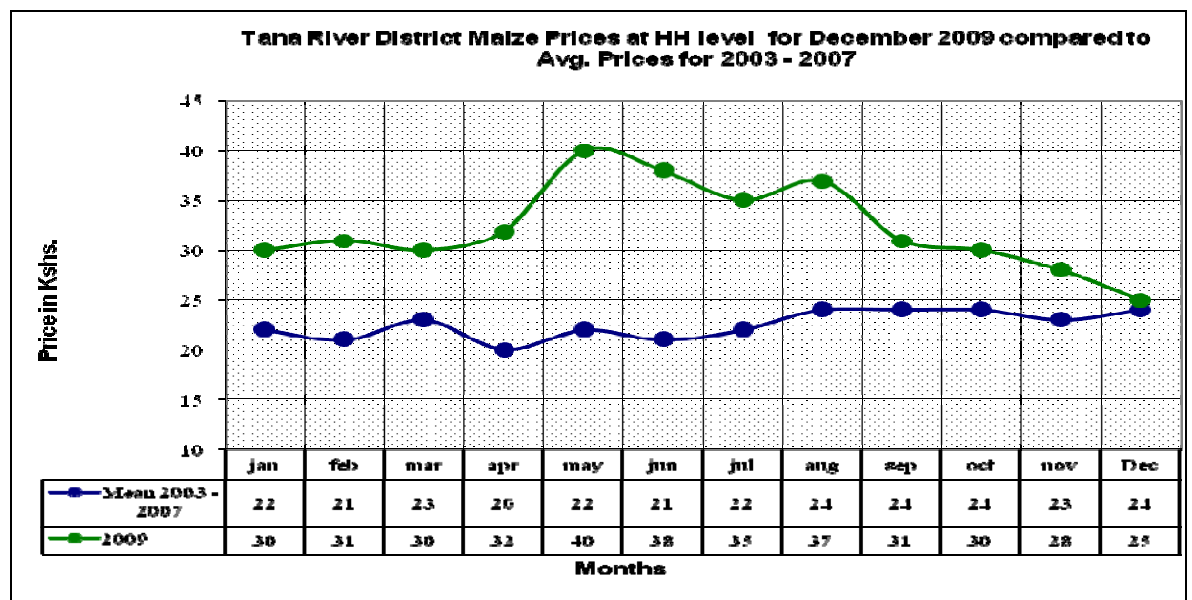
During the month, there was a general rise in the sales rate of cattle but decline in the other species. Decline in sales of livestock at such times of the year is anticipated as under normal conditions pastoralists withhold livestock when the range resources become favourable. However, rise in sales of cattle could be due to prices rises and high demand.

### 3.1.6 Milk consumption

During the month the percentage of households reported to be affording milk rose to 46% from last month's 34%. This could be attributed to rise in production earlier reported. Milk consumption trends at household level are however still rated low compared to normal.

## 3.2 Crop prices

### 3.2.1 Maize prices



There was a general drop in the prices of maize during the month. The average price was Ksh25 per kilo from Ksh28 last month. The price almost corresponded to the seasonal average price of Ksh24 recorded during the period 2003 – 2007. Maize prices are expected to drop as the same become available due to ongoing harvests.

## 3.3 Income

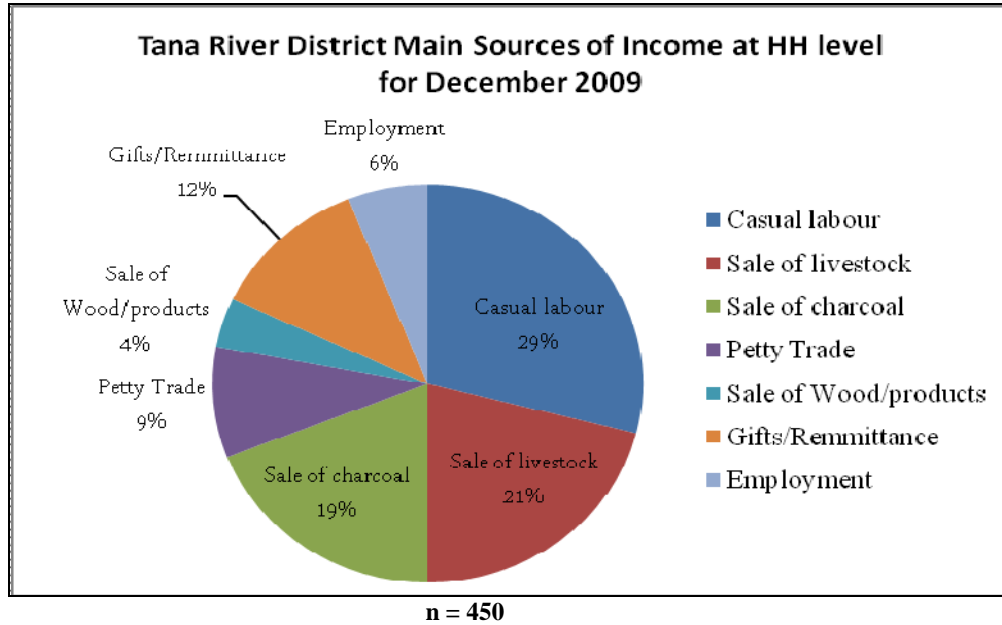
### 3.3.1 Crop income

During the month, incomes from sale of crops were negligible as mango sales declined.

### 3.3.2 Livestock income

Incomes derived from the sale of livestock and livestock products dropped to 22% from 28% realized last month. This could be due to decline in livestock sales earlier reported.

### 3.3.3 Other income



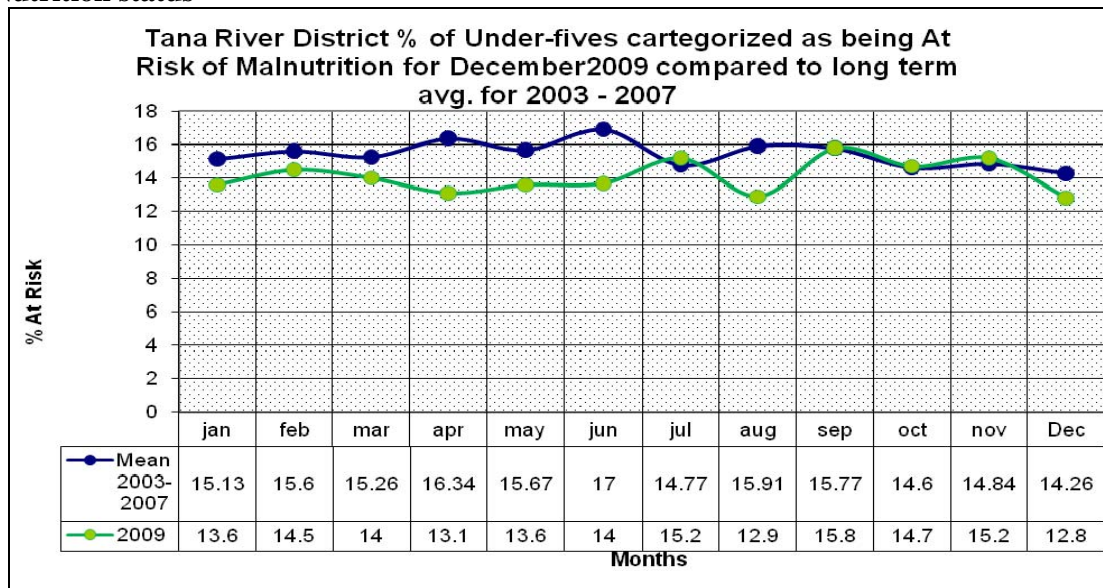
Other sources of income at the household level included casual labour contributing 29% down from 32%, sale of charcoal 19%, petty trade 9%, wood/products 4%, Gifts/Remittances 12%.

### 3.4 Implications on food security

- There was evidence of reduced incomes from livestock/livestock products and crops during the month, which form the basis of survival across all the livelihood zones. Meanwhile increased incomes from sale of labour, Charcoal and gifts/remittance were recorded. The above scenario reflects some stress as this indicates a shift from the normal means of survival.

## 4.0 Human welfare indicators (utilization of food)

### 4.1 Nutrition status



- There was a general improvement in the nutrition status of children below five years ( based on MUAC<135mm measurement). The percentage of those categorized at risk of malnutrition dropped to 12.8% from 15.2% observed during the last reporting period.
- The rates were below the long term seasonal mean of 14.2% observed during the period 2003 – 2007. Flagged areas in the district include; Galole 14%, Madogo 14%, Bura 19% and Bangale 15 %.
- Malnutrition trends are expected to drop further owing to increase in milk consumption and enhanced supplementary feeding interventions.

#### **4.2 Human health**

During the month, there was a general upsurge of malaria related and diarrhoeal cases reported in all the livelihoods, outbreaks were reported in parts of Madogo, Bura and Galole (Abakik, Hakoka, Sabukia, Titila and Chifiri).

#### **5.0 Current interventions**

##### **5.1 Non-food interventions**

- Support food security initiatives through
  - Capacity building of farmers on modern farming
  - Dry land farming through water harvesting technologies
  - Provision of pumping sets
  - Supply of certified seeds
  - Revival of Hola, Bura and Tana Delta Irrigation Schemes under the economic stimulus programme.
- Support MOH rapid response teams to reach areas with reported disease outbreaks
- Livestock vaccination against trade sensitive diseases.
- Peace building initiatives and security surveillance in the hot spot areas through support to Peace Committees and District Security and Intelligence Committees.

##### **5.2 Food aid**

- School feeding program targeting all primary schools .
- Supplementary and therapeutic feeding program for children aged 6 – 59 months, pregnant and lactating mothers ongoing in 22 health facilities – a new system (protection ration) has been introduced to safeguard the intended target group.
- EMOP/PRRO – benefiting a population of 104,722 from Tana North, Tana River and Tana Delta districts.
- Food aid to 3,500 households in Galole and Wenje supported by World Vision.
- Food aid by the GOK kitty ongoing.

##### **5.3 Coping strategies**

During the month, of the 450 households interviewed; 4% were classified as “Better Off”, 21% ‘Middle”, 53% “Poor” and 22% “Poorest” compared to 3% classified as “Better Off”, 21% ‘Middle”, 58% “Poor” and 18% “Poorest” compared to 2%, 22%, 59% and 17% of last month . The coping strategy index was therefore rated at 2.1% compared to 2.5% of last month.

The main coping strategies engaged during the month remained;

- Livestock Migration to wet season grazing areas and higher grounds.
- Charcoal burning and forest products.
- Migration for labour.
- Reduced number of meals.

- Remittances and gifts.
- Petty trade.

#### **6.0 Recommendations TO DSG and KFSM**

- Food aid to continue but as an exit strategy, to mostly target asset creation projects.  
*Action: KFSSG/District Steering Group/Partners/Communities*
- Continue ensuring that supplementary feeding program targets the intended beneficiaries.  
*Action: MOH/District Steering Group/Partners/Communities*
- In order to increase incomes from the agricultural sector, there is need to enhance capacities of the farmers and their institutions through participatory integrated approach.  
*Action: KFSSG/District Steering Group/Partners/Communities*
- Continue with peace initiatives and security surveillance in the conflict hot spot areas.  
*Action: DSIC/District Steering Group/Partners/Communities*