

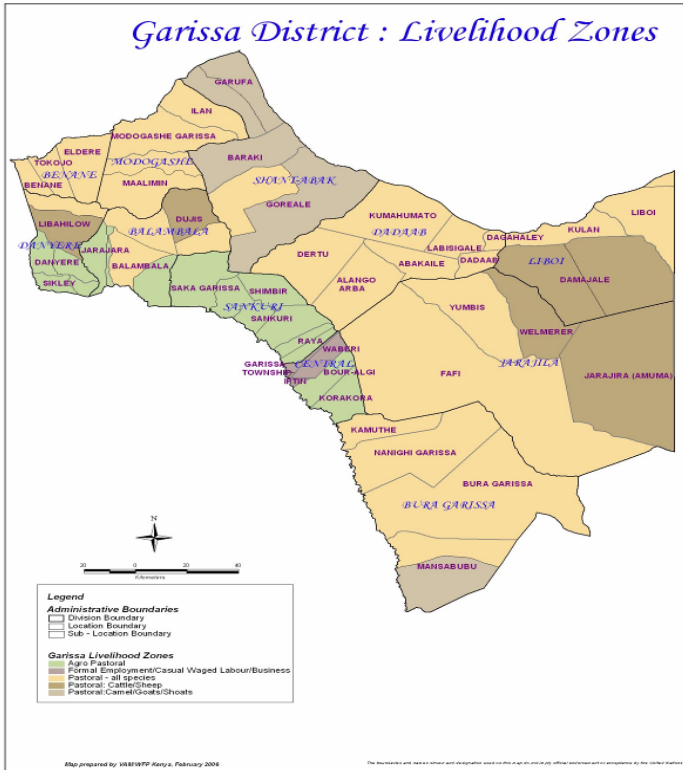


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, JULY 2009

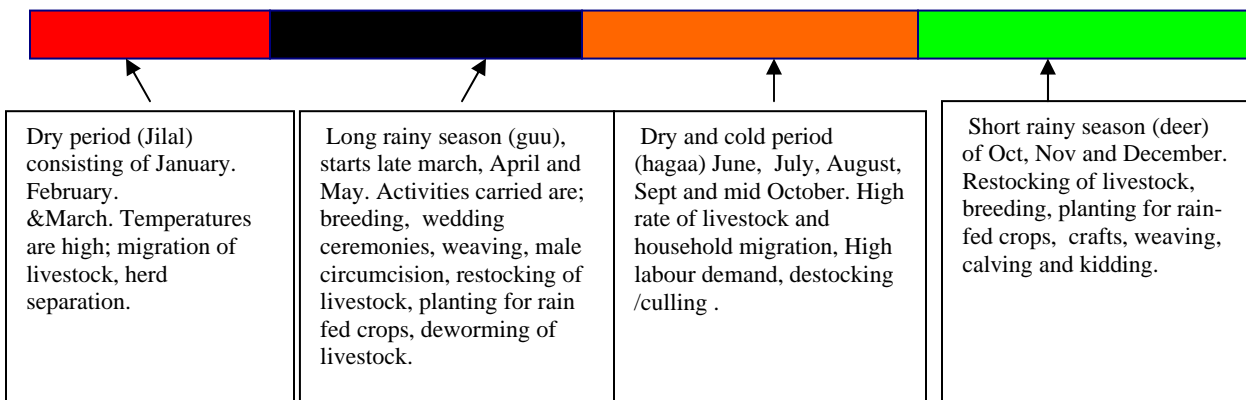
Garissa District

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral-Cattle/Sheep	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral- all species	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral: Camels and Goats	Alarm	Worsening
District	Alarm	Worsening

Seasonal Calendar



Situation overview

- No rainfall was recorded in the district during the month. The trend in the rainfall calendar for the district shows it was normal for the time of the year.
- Pasture and browse condition declined in most parts of the district, while vegetation dried up, forcing livestock to wonder around during all day and ending up with nothing to eat.
- The main water sources in the district were boreholes, River Tana and Benane springs.
- Water accessibility for household continued to diminish when compared with the preceding months. Most of the households had to trek long distances for water. The average distance to water sources was more than 30km.
- Livestock access to water worsened when compared with the preceding month. The condition was worsened by the increasing distances of the grazing areas due to diminishing forage, leading to poor livestock body conditions.
- No cases of conflict/human displacement / insecurity were reported in the course of the month under review.
- Most of the district livestock migrated towards the eastern side (liboi division), degrading the available resources. Some livestock therefore moved to the interior of Somalia.
- The body condition of livestock continued to worsen, especially cattle and sheep when compared with the preceding month. This was due to poor quality, depleted forage in the entire district and trekking of long distances for water.
- Cases of contagious caprine pleuropneumonia were reported in goats, while tick-borne disease was reported in all livestock species. The effect of the disease was complicated by reduced resistance due to weak livestock body conditions brought about by the looming drought in the district.
- Milk production in the entire district continued to reduce compared with the preceding month. This goes along with the condition of livestock, with pasture/browse deficiency playing a major role.
- Cattle prices continued to show a declining trend compared with preceding month. This was due to worsening cattle body conditions and reduced demand brought by the economic crises and lack of export market. Cattle were selling at Ksh7,565 in June and Ksh6,725 in July.
- The prices of goats reflected a decline when compared with the preceding month. It was Ksh1,359 in June and Ksh1,282 in July. This was attributed to diminishing browse and reduced access to water.
- Sheep prices continued to decline compared with the preceding months. This was due to depleted pasture. Sheep sold at Ksh938 in June and Ksh922 in July.
- The nutrition status of children below five years continued to deteriorate compared with the preceding month. The percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition was 12.4% , up from 12.2% in June. The most affected division was Benane.

Current interventions

Non-food interventions

- Repair, servicing and procurement of livestock boreholes equipment continued throughout the month.
- Water trucking continued in some centers that had acute water shortages.
- Disease surveillance, vaccination and livestock treatment continued throughout the month supported by ALRMP.
- Njaa marufuku Kenya project and national agriculture and livestock extension programme by Ministry of Agriculture continued to be implemented in the district.
- Mobile outreach services were carried out by the Ministry of Health.
- Capacity building and funding of community micro-projects continued throughout the month.

Food aid

- EMOP relief food distribution targeting 106,000 beneficiaries.
- School feeding programme provided by WFP targeting 42,069 children continued during the month.
- Supplementary feeding targeting 10,200 children under five, pregnant and lactating mother continued.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Give more attention to livestock boreholes repair, servicing and procuring of equipment for this is the most critic period in which to save lives.
- Food aid to be increased as the drought progresses.
- Provide stand-by generating sets and repair old sets.
- Cross-border peace meetings and community dialogue should be encouraged because of the many pastoralists who crossed over to Somalia.
- Support small-scale farms along River Tana with satisfied seeds and equip them with the modern technologies in production.
- Continue to support livestock disease surveillance, treatment and vaccination activities in the district.
- Continue to support training and financing micro-project for youth and women groups in the district.
- Pay more attention to support agricultural and livestock extension services.
- Support water trucking to centers with acute water scarcity.
- Continue to capacity build pastoral communities on peace building and conflict resolution.
- Food to be stretched to cater for more beneficiaries as the effects of the drought are felt by most of the population.
- Provide livestock feeds and supplementary food to the worst affected areas.
- Continue supporting small-scale farms along River Tana in terms of procuring farm inputs.
- Continue to support livestock diseases surveillance and treatments in the district.
- Continue to finance micro-projects for youth, women groups and communities in the urban and pastoral zones respectively.
- Mobilize the communities or create awareness of the current looming drought

- More support should be given to extension services both in health, Agriculture and Livestock Development in the district.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- There was no rainfall realised during the month. The trend in the rainfall calendar for the district was normal for the time of the year.
- Temperatures were relatively low, with a lot of wind blowing during the month.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Pasture and browse continued to get depleted in most parts of the district, with the vegetation having dried up.
- The quality and quantity of forage for livestock diminished, leading to poor growth and development of livestock and consequently on production.

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Use of water sources

- The main water sources in the district were boreholes, River Tana and Benane springs.
- This led to congestion of livestock in borehole sites along the eastern part of the district (Liboi division), leading to cross border search of water at the nearby border town of Doble in Somalia.
- The water scarcity endangered the livelihoods of the pastoralist.

1.3.2 Household access to water

- Water access for households continued to diminish compared with the preceding months.
- Most of the household had to trek long distances for water. The distances between households and water sources continued to increase.
- Pastoralists covered over 30km to get to water source.

1.3.3 Livestock access to water

- Livestock access to water worsened compared with the preceding month. The condition has been worsened by the increasing distances of the grazing areas due to diminishing forage leading to poor livestock body conditions.
- Livestock trek for more than 35 km before reaching any water source, thus forcing some livestock owners to develop mechanism of watering weak and young stock at household level.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity/conflict/human displacement

- No conflict over natural resource utilisation and human displacement were reported in the course of the month under review.
- However, the security situation remained tense along the Kenya/Somalia border.
- Security surveillance was high at the border.

1.4.2 Migration

- Most of the district livestock migrated towards the eastern side (liboi division), degrading the available resources, resulting in some animals moving to the interior of Somalia.
- The most affected livestock were cattle and sheep.

1.4.3 Implications on food security

- Reduced water availability and depleted pasture/browse led to deteriorating livestock body condition. This was an indication of deteriorating food security in the greater Garissa district.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- The body condition of livestock continued to worsen, especially cattle and sheep when compared with the preceding month.
- This was due to poor quality, depleted pasture/browse in the entire district and long trekking distances in search of water.
- The continuous decrease in livestock body condition had a negative impact on the production and the market prices, leading to food insecurity in the pastoral set up.

2.1.2 Livestock health

- There were reported cases of contagious caprine pleuropneumonia affecting goats and tick-borne in all livestock species.
- The effect of the diseases was further aggravated by reduced resistance due to weak body conditions.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk production in the entire district continued to reduce compared with the preceding month. This can be attributed to the condition of livestock and deficiency of pasture/browse.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and status of various crop production activities

- Irrigation farming was practiced along River Tana and the main crops grown were beans, paw paws, melons, lemons, onions and tomatoes.
- Irrigation farming was constrained by lack of good market prices, high fuel costs and high cost of farm inputs.

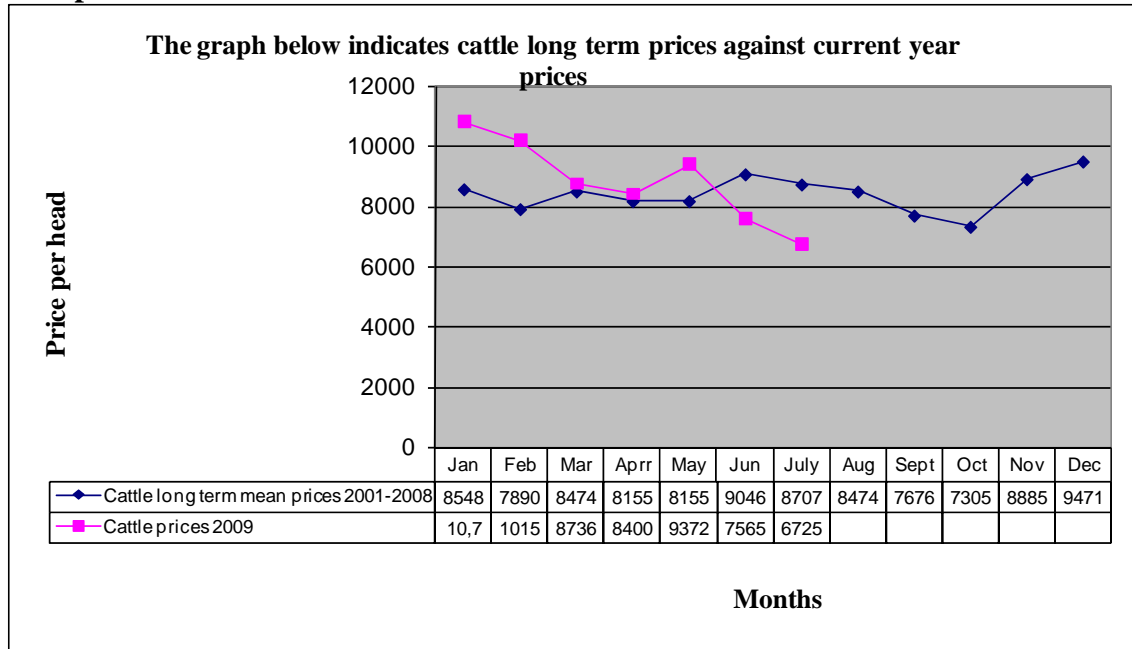
2.2.2 Pests and crop diseases

- No crop pests or diseases were reported in the course of the month under review.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

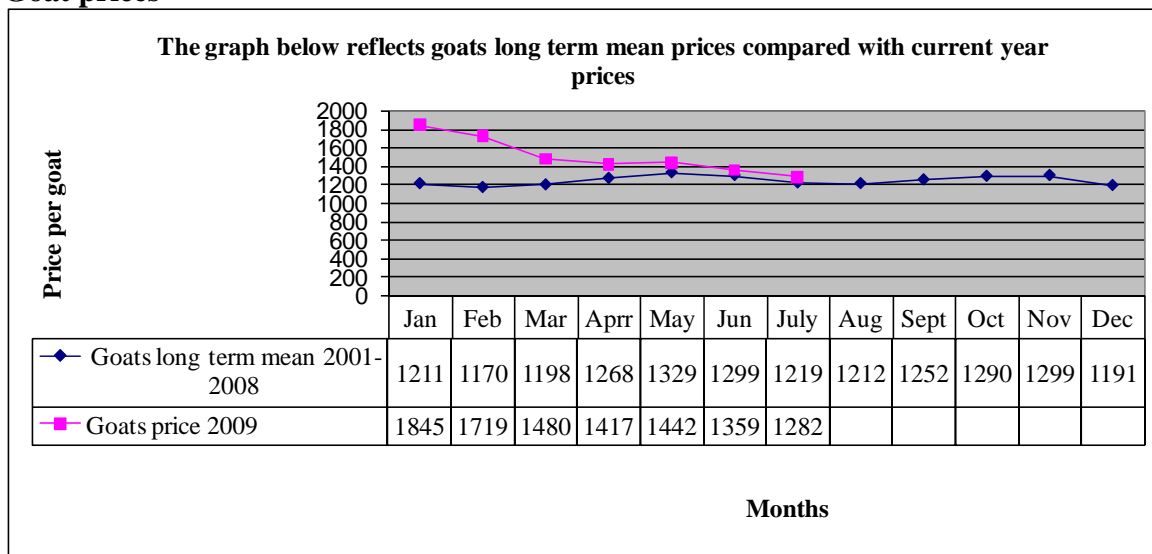
3.1.1 Cattle prices



Number of cattle sold: 12

- Cattle prices continued to show a declining trend compared with preceding month.
- Cattle traded at an average of Ksh7,565 in June and Ksh6,725 in July.
- The price decline was due to worsening cattle body conditions and reduced demand brought by the economic crisis and lack of export market.
- This negative trend affected the lifeline of the pastoralists as most livestock owners depended on livestock sales as their economic main stay.

3.1.2 Goat prices

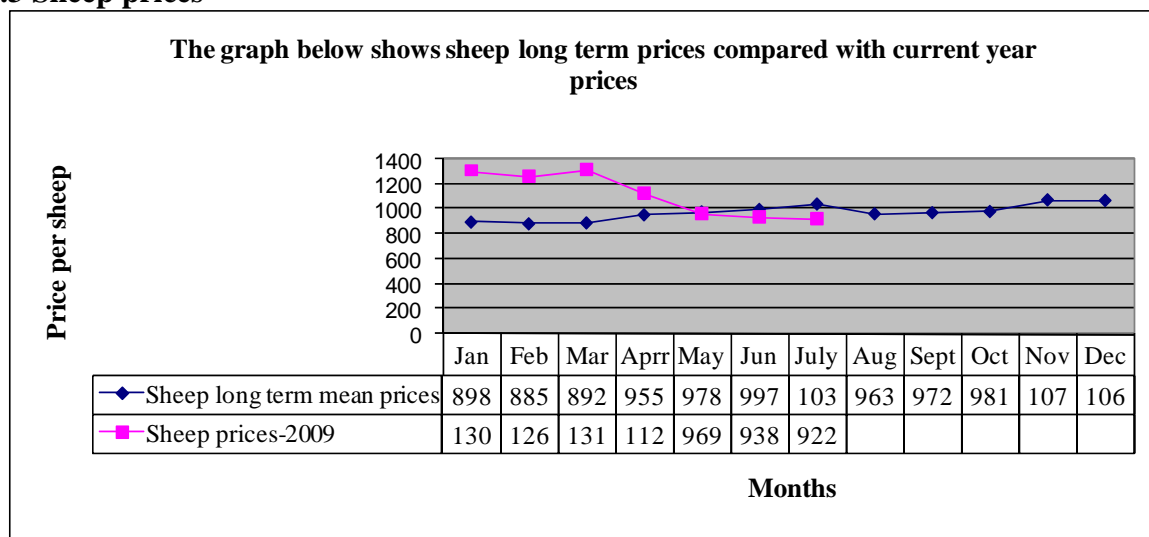


Number of goats sold: 231

- The prices of goats reflected a decline when compared with the preceding month.

- The average price was Ksh1,359 in June and Ksh1,282 in July.
- The price was attributed to diminishing browse and reduced water availability.

3.1.3 Sheep prices



Number of sheep sold: 165

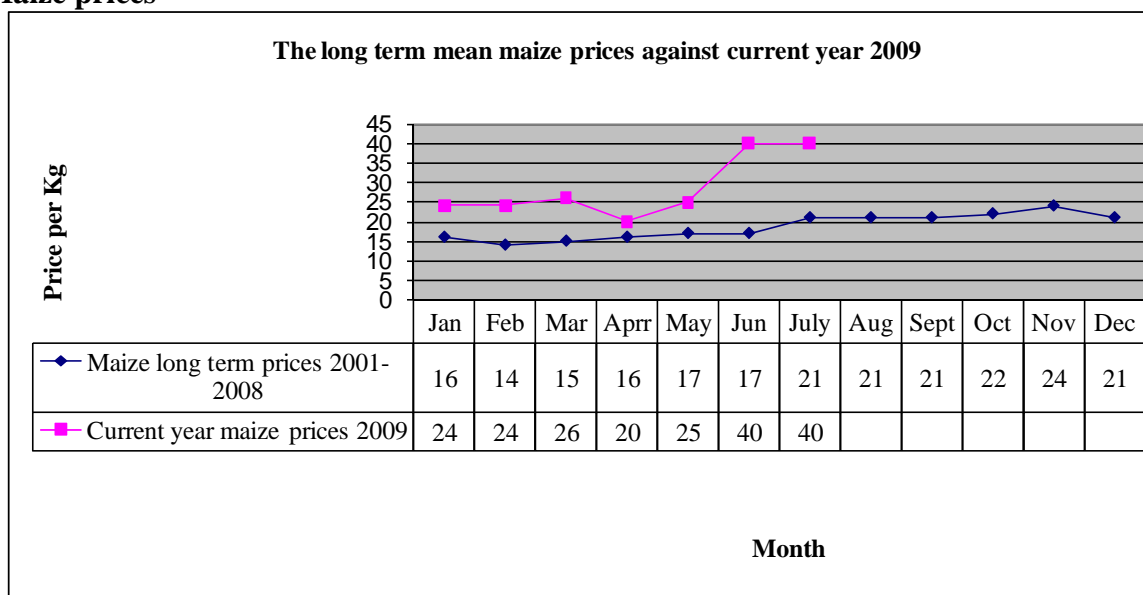
- Sheep prices continued to decline compared with the preceding months.
- The average price was Ksh938 in June and Ksh922 in July.
- This is due to depleted pasture.

3.2 Livestock sales

- The livestock sales rate continued to increase compared with the preceding month.
- This was due to reducing prices of livestock, livestock products hence the demand for cereals and other essential food commodities whose prices kept on rising.

3.2 Food prices

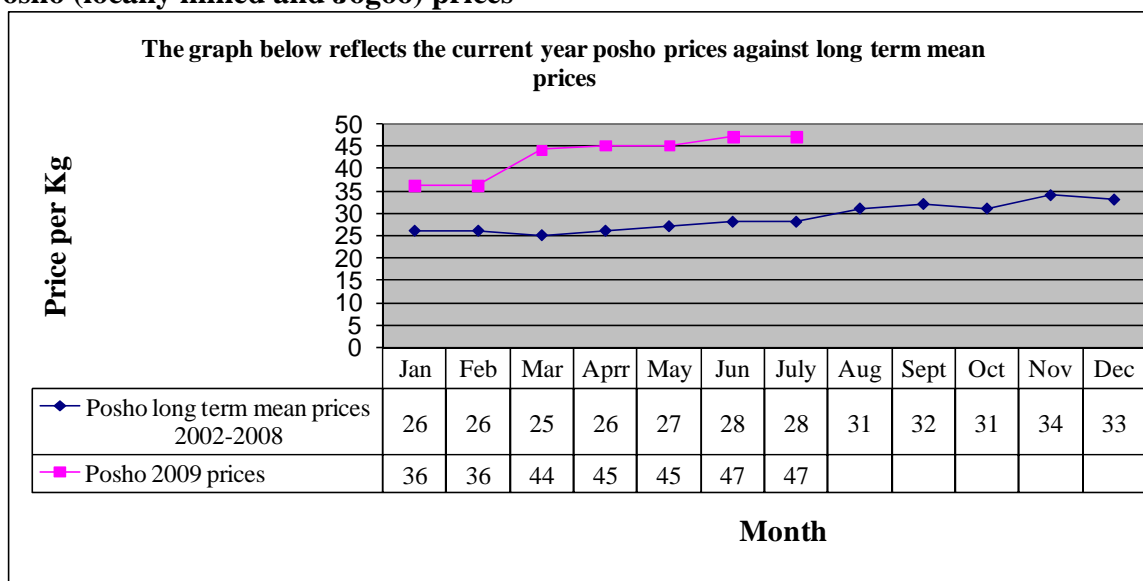
3.2.1 Maize prices



- The price of maize remained stable but above the normal long term mean prices when compared with the preceding month.

- This was due to acute shortages of maize at household level.
- The average price of maize was Ksh40 in June and Ksh40 in July.

3.2.3 Posho (locally milled and Jogoo) prices



- The prices of posho and refined maize flour (jogoo), which are both end products of maize, remained stable.
- The average price was Ksh47 in June and Ksh47 in July.
- The increase in price of essential food commodities and decrease in livestock prices impacted negatively on the purchasing power of households, thus communities adapted some strategies to overcome.

3.2.4 Price of other food commodities

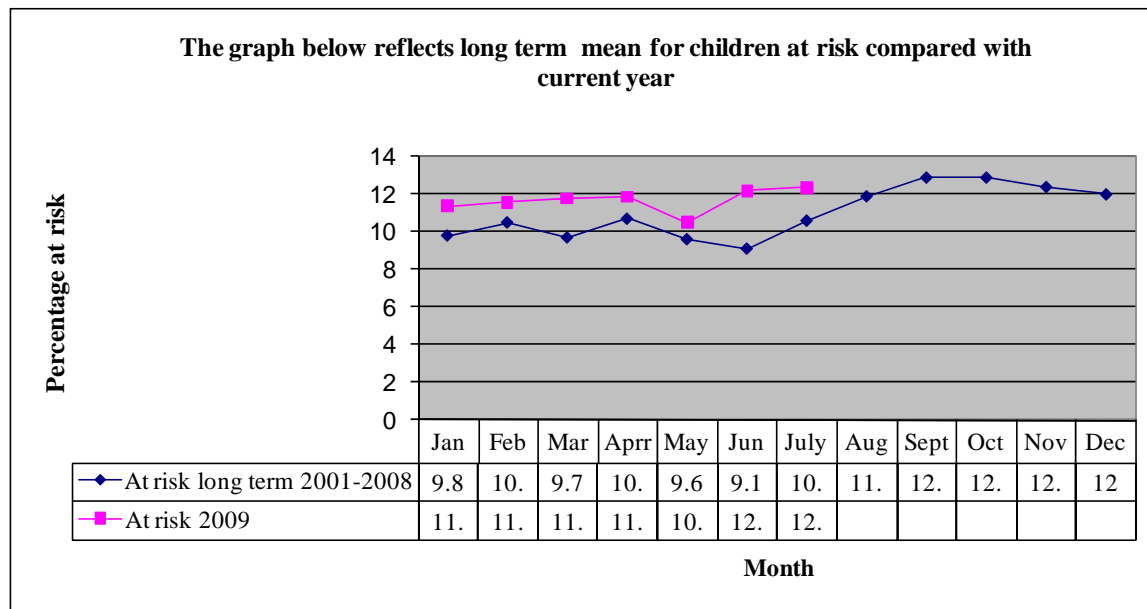
- The prices of other essential food products remained the same compared to the preceding month.
- However, the price was above the normal due to prevailing escalation of food commodity prices in the country.

3.2.5 Implications on food security

- High food prices (cereal and other food items), declining livestock prices and reduced livestock products in the district impacted negatively on the food security situation.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



Number of children= 1198

- The nutrition status of children below five years continued to deteriorate compared with the preceding month.
- The percentage of those at risk of malnutrition in the district was 12.2% in June and 12.4% in July.
- This was due to continuous reduction in livestock products (milk) which is the basis of nutrition for pastoralist children and food becoming inaccessible for most of the pastoral households.
- The most affected division was Benane.

4.2 Human health

- No outbreak of human diseases was reported in the entire district.
- However, malaria remained the most prevalent disease in the district.

4.3 Flagged areas

- There were no flagged areas but locations around the refugee camps are likely to be affected due to recent influx from Somalia, leading to high population which results to poor hygiene.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non-food interventions

- Repair, servicing and procurement of livestock boreholes equipment continued throughout the month.
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- Njaa marufuku Kenya project and national agriculture and livestock extension programme by Ministry of Agriculture continued to be implemented in the district.
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5.2 Food aid

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5.3 Coping strategies

- Petty trade to diversify livelihood.
- Reliance on remittances.
- Migration of herd for pasture/browse.
- Credit and borrowing continued to be popular.
- Households shifting from pastoralism to sedentary settlement.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Give more attention to livestock boreholes repair, servicing and procuring of equipment for this is the most critical period in which to save lives.
- Food aid to be increased as the drought progresses.
- Provide stand-by generating sets and repair old sets.
- Cross-border peace meetings and community dialogue should be encouraged because of the many pastoralists who crossed over to Somalia.
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- Mobilize the communities or create awareness of the current looming drought
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