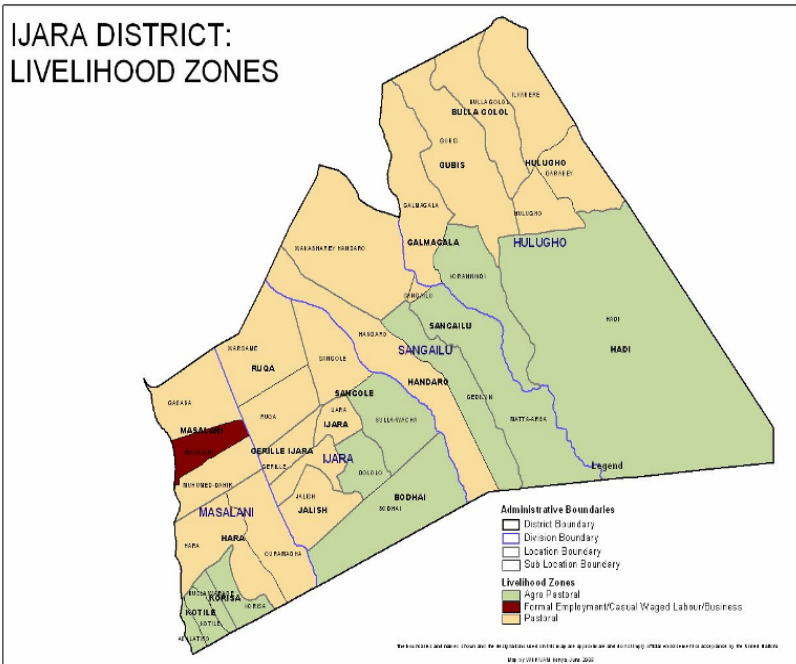




**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, JULY 2009

Ijara District



Warning Stages

Livelihood Zone	Stage	Trend
Pastoral	Alarm	Worsening
Agro pastoral	Alert	Worsening
Formal employment/ Casual labor	Alarm	Worsening
District	Alert/Alarm	Worsening

Seasonal Calendar

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Milk yield drops Livestock moves towards dry season grazing zones <p><u>Lean period for the pastoralists</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High milk yield Livestock moves towards the traditional wet grazing areas High calving, kidding and lambing rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low milk availability Livestock moves towards the fall back dry seasons grazing areas(Boni forest) Increased human-wildlife conflicts <p><u>Lean period for the pastoralists</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High milk yield Livestock moves towards traditional wet seasons grazing areas High mating rates 								
Short Dry Spell			Long rains			Long dry spell				Short rains	
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Situation overview

- No rains were received in all livelihood zones in the month under review. Therefore, dry and hot weather conditions prevailed in the district.
- Browse and pasture diminished in quantity and further deteriorated in quality in tandem with the menacingly spreading drought situation. Therefore, livestock (especially cattle) was retained in satellite camps that have been put up within the Boni forest during previous months with no indication of movement northwards.
- Medium and large water pans contained minimal quantities of water of poor quality and are expected to serve consumers for about two weeks in most areas monitored.
- Insignificant improvement in average prices of all categories of livestock was noted in all the livelihood zones. Cattle fetched the highest prices at Ksh 7,388, up from Ksh 7,100 in June.
- The livestock body condition and health was rated fair for goats but poor for sheep and cattle in all the livelihood zones.
- There was inward migration of livestock from Fafi, Tana River and Garissa districts during the month, while outward migration to Lamu district that lies to the south of Ijara was sustained.
- The water situation remained as poor as the previous month. Trekking distance for households to water sources was recorded at 7km while average distance between grazing areas and water sources was recorded at 26 Kms compared to 25km in June.
- Cases of CCPP that affected goats were reported while there were reported cases of CBPP and Blank quarter anthrax that affected cattle in agro-pastoralist zones especially in Hulugho, Sangailu, Kotile, Dololo, Sangole , Bulto Hama and in satellite camps in Boni forest . Trypanosomiasis remained a common problem in all livelihood zones and affected all categories of livestock.
- The mortality rate of cattle decreased insignificantly, recording 5% for July compared to 6% in June, while that of shoats was recorded at 7.3 % for July as opposed to 8.3% in June. The average birth rate for cattle during the reporting period was recorded at 14%.
- The availability of milk for consumption in all the livelihood zones remained low.
- Compared to last reporting period, the nutrition status of children under five years (based on MUAC < 135mm measurement) worsened, with the rate for those at risk of malnutrition rising to 29.9% from 22% in June. This was attributed to worsening drought situation and accompanying deteriorating household food security. The most affected sentinel sites during the month remained Aballatiro, Koranhindi and Sangailu.
- The drought situation in the district was at alarm stage and worsening.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Strengthen outreach clinics and organise medical camps with other actors.
- Measures to curb wildlife should be strengthened by KWS.
- CCBP vaccination campaigns to continue across the district. Treatment of other diseases should accompany the exercise.
- Portable and safe drinking water should be supplied to communities in order to prevent outbreaks of diarrhea and other communicable diseases.
- Intensify extension services on crop farming in the agro-pastoralist zones in order to enhance food security in the district.
- Increase EMOP beneficiaries from the current 26,000 people to 60,000 in view of worsening household food security.
- Reducing levels of malnutrition in pregnant and lactating women and children under five years through provision of supplementary food and medical awareness programmes.
- Continue to encourage implementing activities aimed at safe disposal of waste including human faecal matter across the entire district.
- Measures to combat malaria and implement good governance of water should be strengthened.
- Water trucking to institutions such schools,dispensary,security posts that lie in areas hit hard by water scarcity should continue.
- Continuing vaccination/treatment efforts should be coupled with effective disease surveillance system by the veterinary department.
- Mainstream general natural resource management issues into the district development plans in order to cushion residents against drought and other forms of adversities accompanying climate change.
- Promote community conservancies.
- Conduct district-wide nutritional survey.

1.0 Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- No rains were received in the entire district during the period under review.
- The trend was not normal at the time of the year as conventional coastal showers are usually received in all parts of the district in all previous years.

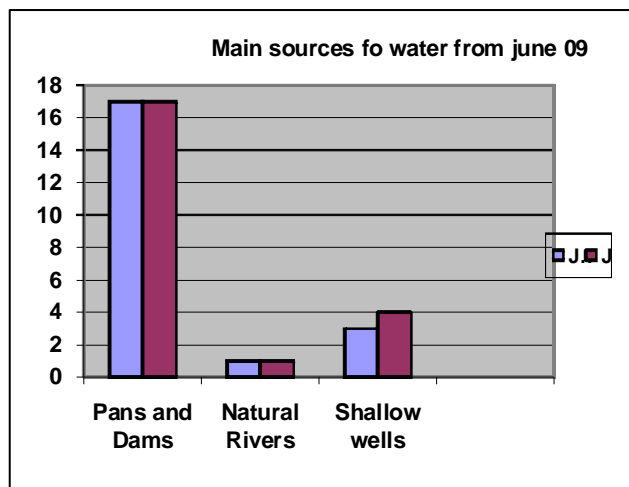
1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Browse conditions showed a deteriorating trend both in quality and quantity in all the livelihood zones.
- Similarly, pasture levels severely diminished remained scarce and lost all nutritional quality in all livelihood zones save for some pockets lying within the Boni forest.
- Positive impact on body condition for goats in the district was observed while there was no improvement for body condition of cattle in pastoral livelihood zone. Of all livestock categories in the district, sheep exhibited the poorest body condition and this is attributed to inadequate pasture combined with diseases.
- The observed trend was not normal and had negative impact on household food security since the poor body condition of livestock, especially cattle, had resulted in poor production of milk and meat.

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Use of water sources

- Pans and River Tana were the major water sources for both domestic and livestock use.
- Most of the medium and large water pans had minimal volumes of brackish water that is predicted to sustain pastoralists and their herds for the coming two weeks if rains fail to resume.
- The observed trend was not normal when compared with the same period in previous years as both benefits of the long rains of April-May 2009 and Conventional coastal showers of July were not available for the inhabitants of the district this time round. In addition, the deteriorating quality of water in most parts of the district continued to draw concern.



1.3.2 Distance to water sources

- The average distance to water sources from grazing areas was recorded at 26 km for July'09 and 25 km for June'09 while that of domestic households was 7km on average for July'09 as compared with 4 km for June'09.
- Generally, the observed situation was beyond normal as the distance between water sources and households was supposed to be less than 3km in such period of the year. Similarly, the distance between pasture and water was far apart and has negatively impacted on food security as too much time was spent on collection of water at the expense of other socio-economic engagements while livestock was weakened by fatigue and heat.
- During the month the main water sources being accessed included Pans/Dams while Tana River remained the undisputed major source for all the consumers in the district.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Conflicts/ insecurity/human displacement

- Increased human/wildlife conflict continued to be observed with communities and authorities suspecting that swelling numbers of animals and accompanying problems is, perhaps, attributed to encroachment on wildlife habitats and migration routes by increasing human activities in the area coupled with current change in climatic conditions.
- High encroachment rates of undesirable bushes on rangelands.
- Increased tsetse fly infestation.
- Increased illegal logging activities in the Boni forest.
- Displacement of pastoralist households and pressure created on the pasture and water resources by huge influxes of livestock from Ijara into Lamu and Tana Delta Districts are already causing disputes and raising suspicion hence conflicts are looming over natural resource use in that Biodiversity rich triangle.

1.4.2 Migration

- Most of the Livestock stayed within satellite camps of the dry season grazing areas inside the Boni forest and parts of Lamu district, notably, around Witu division..
- Close to 300 households have migrated and pitched camp with their livestock at Pangani, Malele and Korini in Lamu district while others such as those from Gababa migrated and settled elsewhere within the district. Migration and displacement of such large number of households has not occurred in this district since 1992 and the underlying problem is related to food insecurity sparked off, perhaps, by unreliability of rainfall in recent years.

1.5 Implications on food security

The above conditions are expected to negatively affect food security situation.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- The livestock body condition and health status for goats showed an improvement.
- However, there was no significant improvement of cattle to warrant comment in the month while the physical status of sheep deteriorated.

- Isolated cases of CBPP and black-quarter anthrax were reported in pastoral livelihood zone while cases of CCPP, Helminthiasis and Trypanosomiasis were reported in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone of the district.
- Mortality rates was minimal. However, no significant positive herd growth was recorded for all species as the mating season delayed and, stillbirths and abortions went on the increase.
- No significant increase in milk yield was realized across the entire district when compared with preceding month and this is attributed to diminished pasture levels.
- This condition negatively impacted on the nutritional status of children under five years and below besides undermining household incomes.
- The adverse impacts of Tsetse fly infestation continued to be felt in most of the pastoralists' livelihood zone triggering negative economic implications for households because of the cost of treating livestock.
- The trend was not normal when compared with same period of previous years where the body condition and production of livestock used to be good and had a positive impact on household food security.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

Diseases that were prevalent and affected livestock in all the livelihood zones are as indicated below:

- Cattle: LSD, CBPP, Trypanosomiasis and black quarter anthrax.
- Sheep: Helminthiasis, sheep introtoxicimea, pulpy kidney disease,
- Goats: CCPP, Helminthiasis and Trips.
- FMD: This affected cattle that had migrated from Ijara to Lamu district

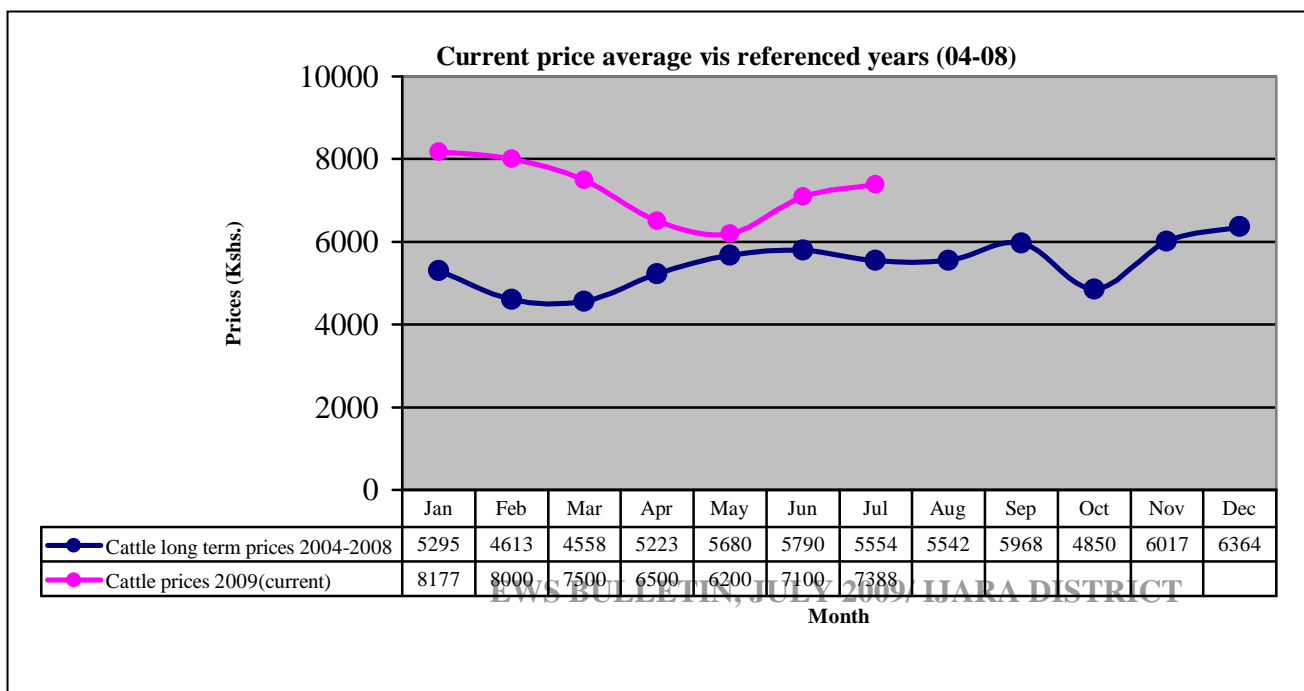
2.1.3 Milk production

- No significant increase in milk yield was observed and the number of household that could afford for “Everyone” decreased from 9% June to 8 % in July.
- The decreased milk production negatively affected the household food security.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

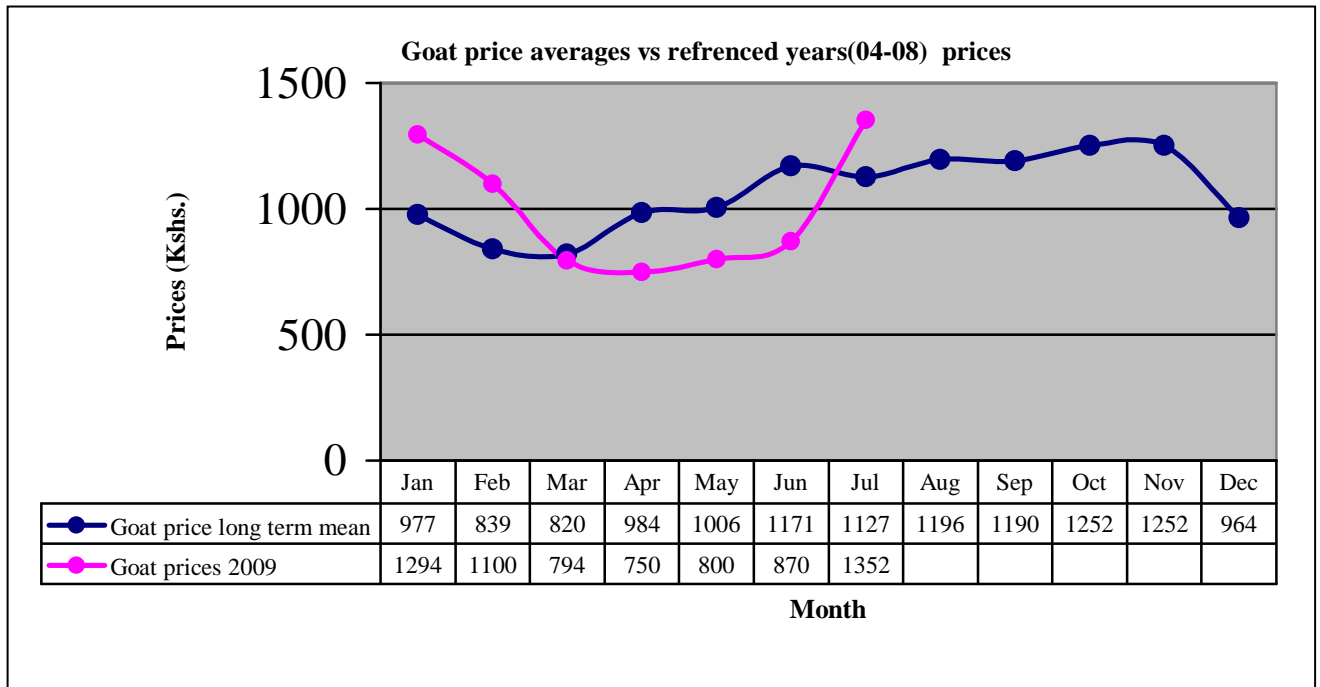
3.1.1 Cattle prices



N-189

- Cattle prices registered an insignificant increase from Ksh7,100 to Ksh7,388.
- The trend was not normal at the time of the year and had negative effect on food security.
- Agro-pastoralist and pastoralist livelihood zones recorded the highest cattle prices at Ksh 10,750 and Ksh8,009 respectively.
- The price was higher than the Ksh5,554 recorded for the same period of the reference year (04-08).

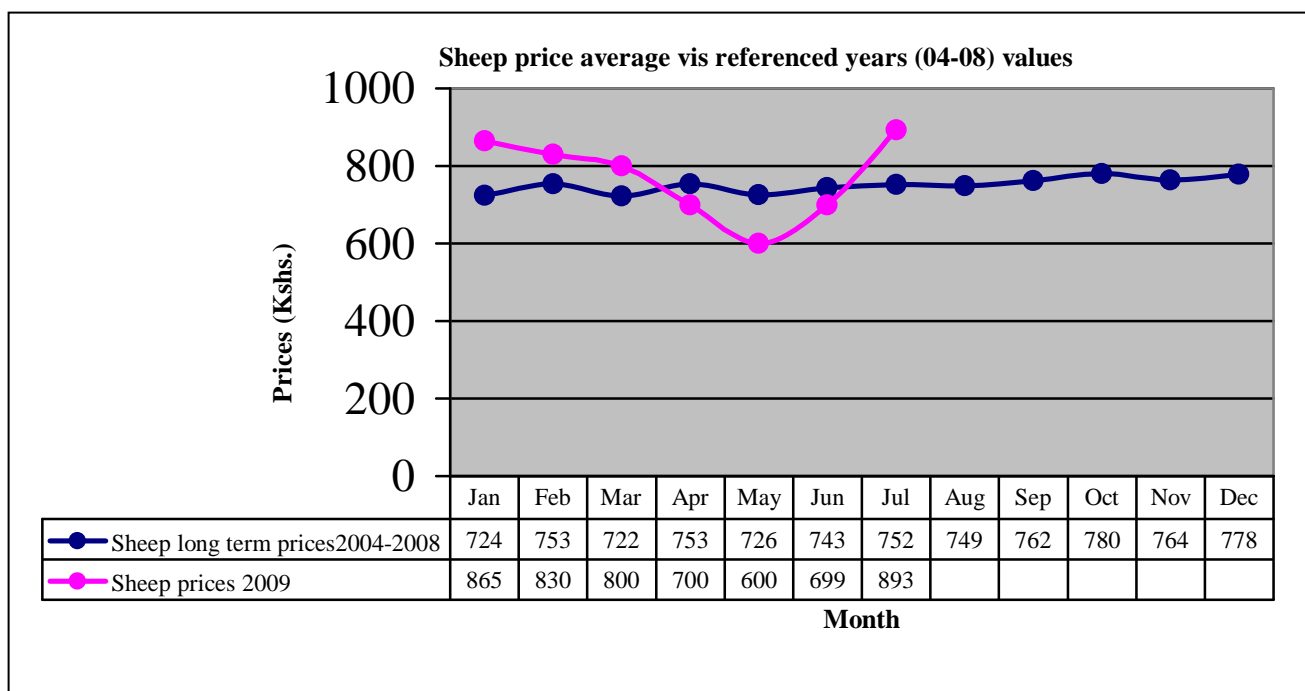
3.1.2 Goat prices



N- 50

- Average goat prices appreciated from Ksh870 in June to Ksh1,352.
- The agro-pastoralist livelihood zones recorded the highest price at Ksh1,850 while pastoralist livelihood zone recorded the lowest at Ksh1,100.
- The price was much higher than the reference year's Ksh1,127 but had no impact on household food security owing to the prevailing runaway inflation.

3.1.3 Sheep prices



N-320

- The prices of sheep increased from Ksh 699 to Ksh 893
- Agro-pastoralist livelihood zones recorded the highest price at Ksh 1,133 while pastoralist livelihood zone recorded the lowest at Ksh 666
- The price was lower than Ksh 752 recorded for the same period of the reference year (04-08)
- The trend had negative impact on household food security as the positive change in price remained minimal

3.2 Livestock sales

- The rate of livestock presented for sale had generally increased when compared to last reporting period for all categories of livestock. However, there were no traders who were prepared to purchase livestock.
- This trend was not normal at this time of year and had a negative impact on household food security.

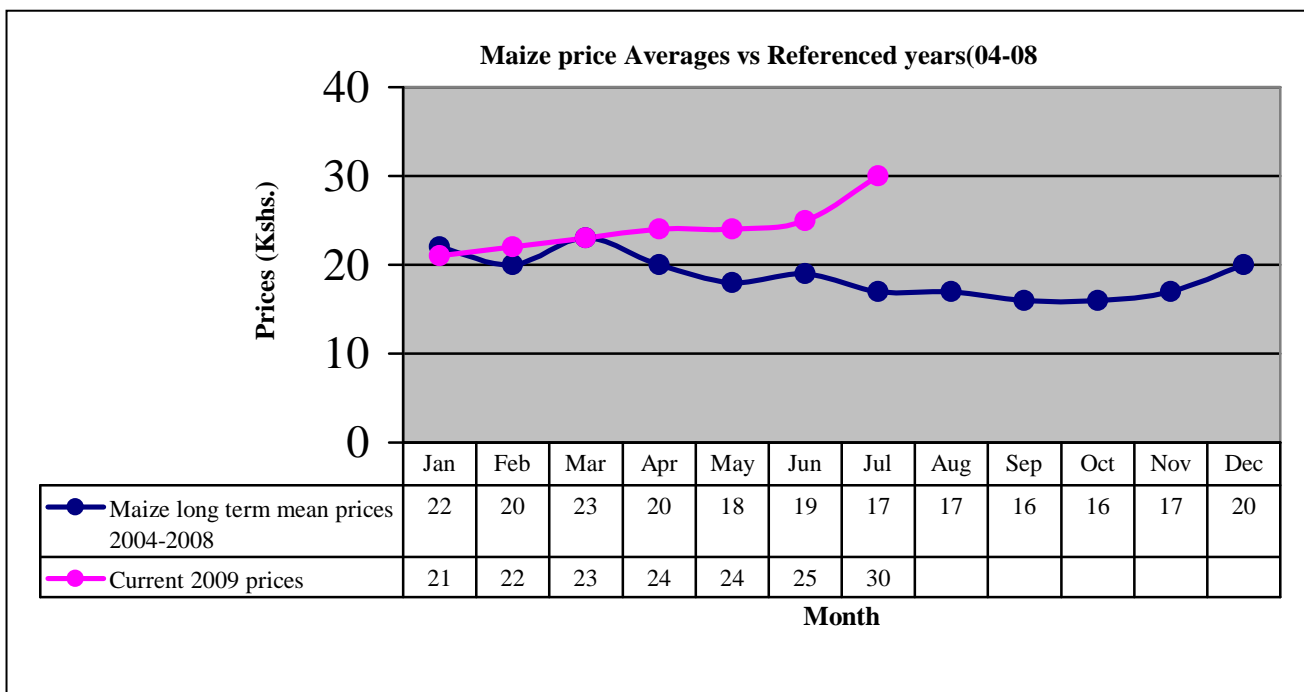
3.3 Milk consumption

- Milk consumption was recorded to be still very low.
- On average 10% of all household in the district could provide milk for their members.

3.4 Food prices

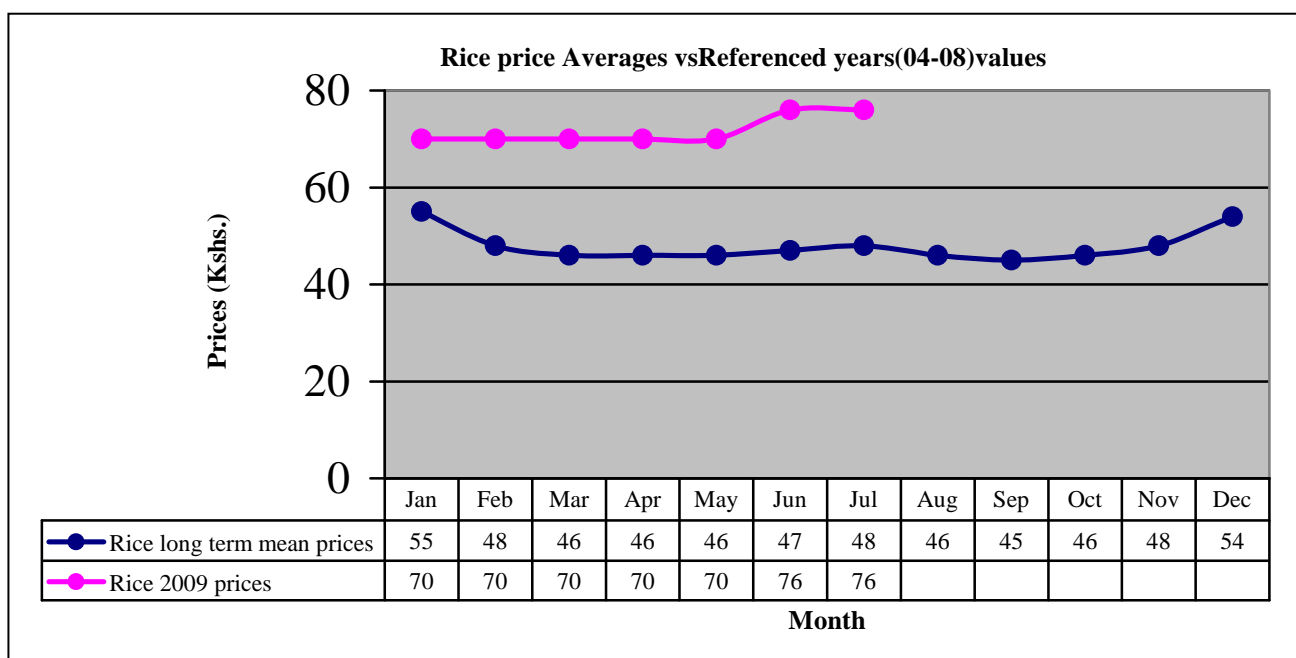
Prices of foodstuff had remained high during the month under review with no change from previous month levels.

3.4.1 Maize prices



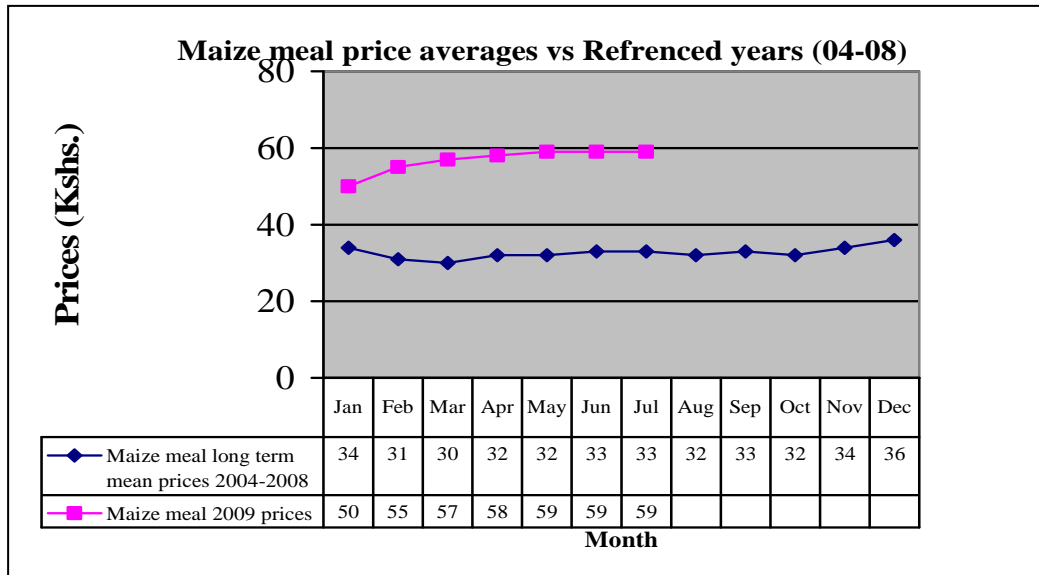
- The average price of maize appreciated upwards from Ksh25 per kilo in June to Ksh30 kg.
- The price increase starkly compares negatively to the preceding month.
- The trend was not normal and had negative impact on food security.

3.4.2 Rice prices



- The average prices of rice remained stable and recorded at Ksh76 per kilo.
- This was much higher when compared to the ksh48 per kg recorded during the same period of the reference year (04-08).
- The trend was not normal and had negative impact on food security.

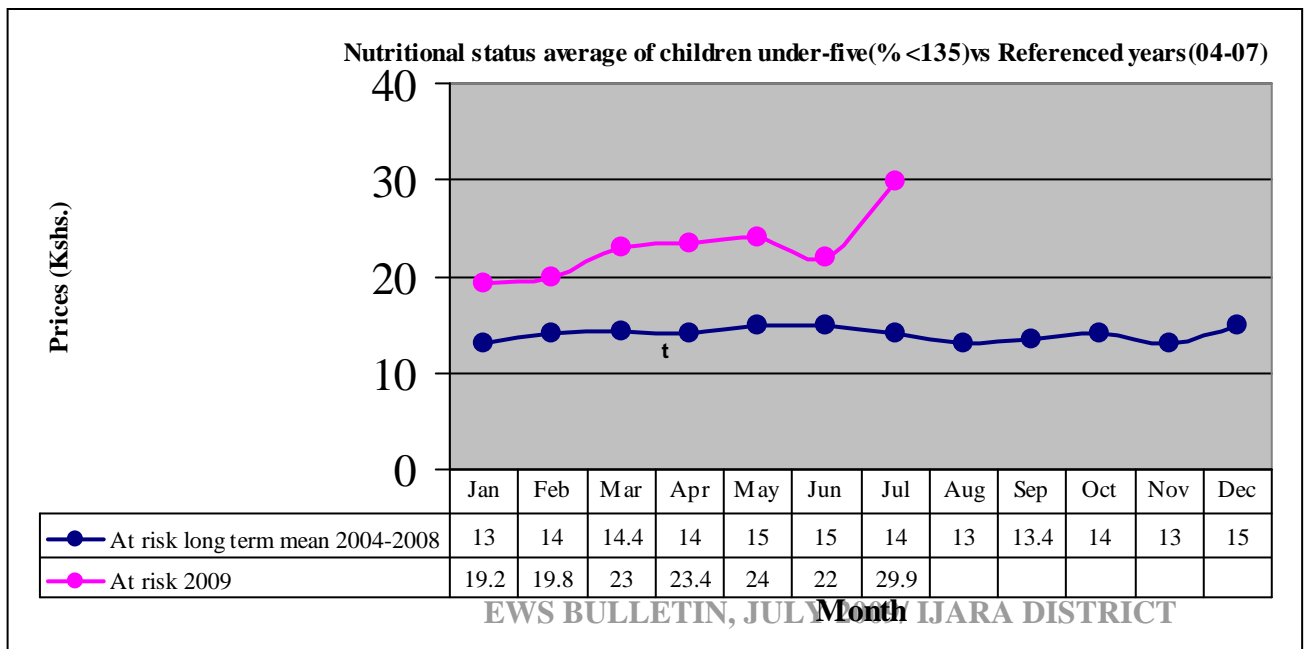
3.4.3 Posho (maize meal) prices



- The average price of sifted maize meal remained stable and recorded at Ksh59 per kilo.
- This was much higher compared to the Ksh33 recorded during the same period of the reference year (04-08).
- The trend had negative impact on household food security, as most households could not access this staple food of choice during these difficult times.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



N-1200

- During the month, the child nutritional status based on the MUAC measurement has worsened when compared with previous month with the percentage of children categorized as being “at risk” of malnutrition recorded at 29.9% of total assessed up from last months’ 22%.
- The trend could be attributed to the deteriorating household food security occasioned by the spreading drought.
- Areas recording high percentages of children at risk of malnutrition were recorded as Pastoralist and agro-pastoralist livelihood zone of Aballatiro, Koranhindi, Sangailu and Ijara. Pastoralist livelihood zone recorded 35.2% on average of all children at risk while agro pastoral livelihood recorded 40%.

4.2 Human health

- No alarming disease outbreaks were reported. However Malaria, diarrhoea and upper respiratory tract infections were the common ailments reported.

4.3 Flagged areas (affected areas)

Pastoralist and agro-pastoralist livelihood zones of Koranhindi, Sangailu, Ijara and Abalatiro areas are most affected

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non- food interventions

- Construction of water harvesting structures for crop production by Ministry of Agriculture.
- Seed distribution to crop farmers by Ministry of Agriculture.
- Conducting of mobile outreach clinics by MOH/ALRMP 11.
- Distribution of Unimix by MOH/UNICEF.
- Vaccination against CBPP combined with livestock disease surveillance was ongoing.
- “Kazi kwa vijana” activities.
- Outreach health services and nutritional assessments.

5.2. Food aid

- Relief food being distributed under EMOP by KRCS.

5.3 Coping strategies

Among the coping measures adopted during the month were: -

- Collection and sale of bush products including honey and Aloe extracts.
- Herding and other casual work.
- Sales of quarry products.
- Petty trade.

- Collection and sales of firewood.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Disease surveillance should be sustained by veterinary department and other stake holders in order to contain any disease outbreaks. All stake holders to support vaccination and treatment of animals. **Action: Vet department, ALRMP11, Womankind and DLMC.**
- The MOH should strengthen and sustain disease surveillance in order to avert increase in malaria incidences, cholera and RVF. Rural health facilities to be stocked with sufficient drugs for easy access by pastoralists. **Action: MOH, DPHO, ALRMP11, CDF and CBOs Agricultural extension services should be strengthened by DAO.**
- Impeding conflicts over the three mile strip along the Tana River to be resolved by the concerned authorities. **Action: District Peace Committees, Local Authorities and the DSCs.**
- Control measures on wildlife menace to be put in place. - **Action KWS, Local Authority, IPAD, Conservation groups, Provincial administration and legislators.**