



**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

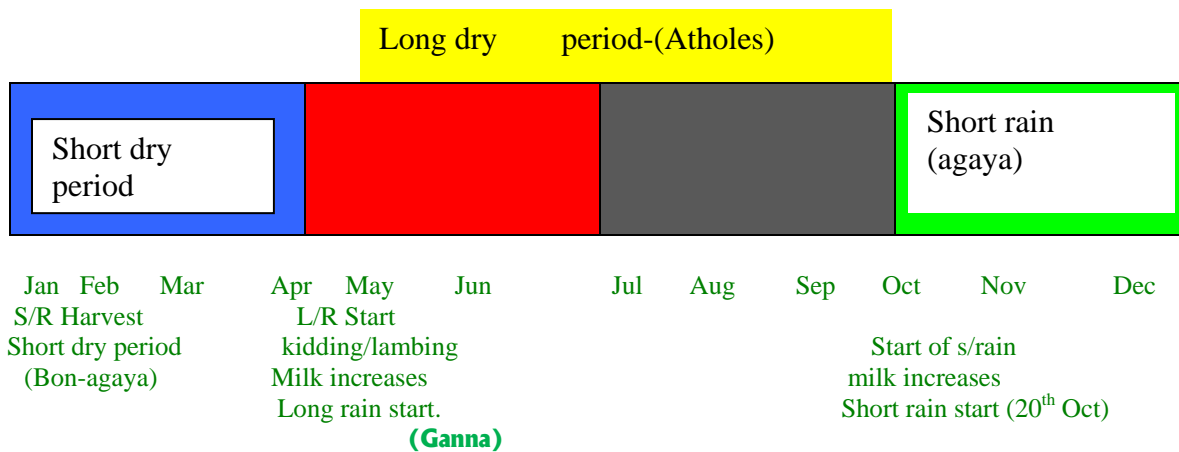
Isiolo and Garbatulla Districts

Warning Stage



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Pastoral- all species	Emergency	No change
Agro pastoral	Alarm	Deteriorating
Casual waged labour	Alarm	worsening
Firewood/ Charcoal	Alarm	Deteriorating
District	Alarm/ Emergency	worsening

Seasonal calendar



Situation overview

- The two districts of Garbatulla and Isiolo remained and no rainfall was recorded. The drought situation continued to be severe in all livelihood zones.
- The quantity of pasture and natural vegetation continued to diminish in dry season grazing areas of Duma Yamicha, Dogogicha and Hawaye rangelands. The distance to grazing fields increased from an average of 20km (June 09) to 25km (July 09) in Hawaye, Dogogicha and Duma. Pasture condition was fair and distances shorter in Escort and Korbesa as pastoralists grazed in the Bisanadi game reserves.
- The distance from livestock concentration points to water sources widened further as pasture diminished, coupled with drying of deep wells. Distances were higher in Dogogicha, Duma and Hawaye rangelands at an average of 30km one way, translating to about 48 hours travel. One night rest between water source and grazing fields was a common coping strategy among majority of the pastoralists.
- A total of eight (8) people were killed in Gambella and Bulesa Dima centre, 3,600 displaced while learning in primary school was disrupted in the affected area.
- Average food prices continued to increase as scarcity of the basic food commodities as maize and beans persists. Average prices of beans and maize increased by 1.1% and 1.25% respectively this month (July 09).
- Diarrhea was common in areas that experienced cholera outbreaks last month including Kipsing and Gafarsa. Two (2) children died of Kalaazar in Mataaba and Saleti of Merti division.
- The nutrition status of children below five years continued to deteriorate mostly in pastoral livelihood zone. However, the average district percentage of children rated at risk of malnutrition reduced slightly to 30% from 31% in June. Merti, Sericho and Garbatulla divisions recorded highest rates at 50.6%, 33.9% and 31.4% respectively.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- The EMOP food target beneficiary numbers should be increased in all livelihood zones. (DSG/ WFP).
- Livestock off-take exercise should be considered for especially Merti and Sericho divisions (DSG/KFSSG/Livestock Department).
- Fuel subsidy to be considered for all borehole and deep wells (DSG/Stakeholders).
- Supplementary and therapeutic feeding for less than five years children, pregnant, lactating mothers and old-aged people should be considered urgently- DSG/MOH.
- The pastoral communities should be sensitized on the benefits of hides/skin so that they derive benefits from the dying herds. (Livestock Department).

Current interventions

Non –food interventions

- Ministry of water facilitated operationalisation of Dogogicha borehole in Merit division.
- Water trucking exercise was extended to cover additional centre's of Dogogicha rangelands (borehole water is not fit for human consumption).
- DSG approved 800Lts of Diesel for water trucking in Oldonyiro and Kipsing.

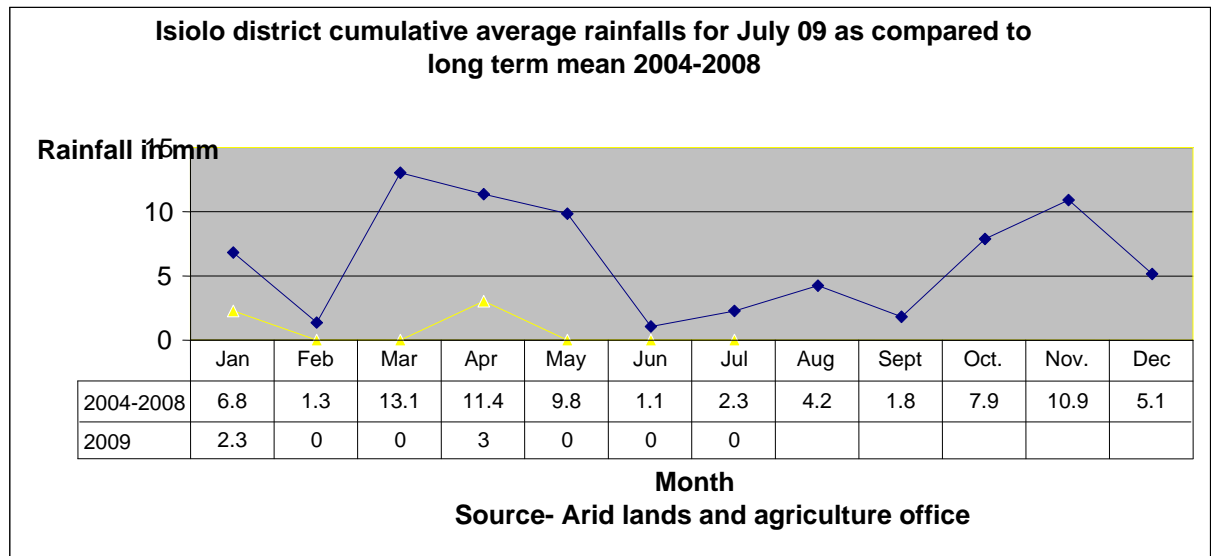
Food aid

- 1000 bags of 90 kg maize and 200 bags of 50kg beans (Gok Food) was distributed to internally displaced persons(IDPS) ,secondary schools and Non – EMOP areas of East and west locations.
- EMOP made food distribution to 43,110 beneficiaries in the two districts. Food items include- 129.33kg of salts, cornmeal- 17848 bags (25kg each), 846.68 bags pulses (each 50kg) ,768 kg vegetable oil and 2032 bags of CSB (each 25kg).

1.0 Environment indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall

The graph below represent rainfall pattern for July 2009 compared to longterm mean 2004-2008.



Source; ALRMP sample sites

- No rainfall was received over the month in the districts of Garbatulla and Isiolo.
- This was normal compared to previous seasons in a normal year.
- The dry period is expected to last up to the late October when rainfalls are likely to be received according to previous normal times.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- The vegetation and pasture continued to diminish in the dry season grazing reserves, as such distances increased tremendously in Dogogicha, Duma, Yamicha and Hawaye to an average of 30km.
- Forage condition and distance to the same remained fair in Escort and Korbasa locations of Kinna divisions due to proximity to the Bisanadi game reserves. However, restrictions and arrests from Kenya wildlife service officers remained major constraints to forage access.
- Insecurity /conflicts in Kom and Ngaramara locations are similar constraints that have hampered pastoralist's access to the rangelands. As a result, pastoralists from Ngaramara and Kom migrated to Meru North and Tharaka districts.
- Conflicts were reported between immigrant's herders and agro-pastoralists farmers in Meru North are also on increase.

- High livestock mortality among cattle and sheep has been recorded in Dogogicha, Yamicha, Gafarsa, Malkadaka and Kipsing. Average district mortalities are 11% for cattle and 15% for sheep.
- As the little forage available will not last for the next two months, coupled with increased distance of access, livestock populations are likely to die in mass unless urgent Intervention are instituted.

1.3 Water sources and availability

- Boreholes, deep wells and piped system were the main sources over the month.
- Deep wells in Belgesh, Modogashe, Kipsing and Merti continued to dry while the one in Hawaye continued to increase in depths requiring standing height of 10 persons.
- Boreholes experienced high concentration from human and weak livestock. Low yields and frequent breakages due to long hours of use are major constraint in Sericho, Iresaboru, Duma, Yamicha, Yaqbarsadi and Dogogicha boreholes.

The table below indicates water sources and percentage of household using them during the month compared to normal situation

Water source	1	2	3	4	Others
% of HH normally depending on the source	25	30	-	40	5
% of HH depending on the source for current month	1	43	20	35	1

1- River, 2-boreholes, 3-shall wells, 4- piped system, others- pans.

1.4 Emerging issues

- Water shortages both for livestock and human are severe in Merti, Sericho and Oldonyiro division.
- The security situation was worse in Ngaramara and Kom location, 8 people were killed over the month, this forced herders to migrate to Meru North, Meru central and Tharaka.

1.4.1 Insecurity/conflict/displacement

- Eight people were killed when armed raiders attacked Gambella village of Isiolo district.
- A total of 3,600 people from gambella, bulesdima, and kambi juu were displaced while learning in schools was disrupted for few days.
- More than 1,000 sheep and goats were forcefully driven away by the raiders.

1.4.2 Migration

- An estimated 50% of livestock from Sericho, Merti, Modogashe, Garbatulla, Kulamawe and Kina migrated to Bisanadi game reserve due to lack of pasture and forage.
- An estimated 40 % are concentrated in dry season grazing areas of Hawaye, Duma and Yamicha rangelands.

- Livestock in central division and Ngaramara migrated to Igembe North and Igembe south districts due to increased conflicts over the month.

1.5 Implication on food security

- Food security stress is severe in pastoral livelihood zones.
- Immediate food beneficiary number increases and off take exercise should be considered while more water sources as boreholes to be urgently explored in Hawaye and Dogogicha rangelands.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1. Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- The livestock body weight continued to deteriorate in all livelihoods zones due to lack of forage. The worst affected areas are Dogogicha, Urura,
- Korbessa and Malkagalla of Merti/Cherab division, Sericho, Badana, Iresaboru of
- Sericho division, Gafarsa, and Malkadaka of Garbatulla divisions.
- The Livestock deaths among cattle, sheep and goat are high in Merti and Sericho divisions.
- Cutting down of Trees and collection of bird nests are coping strategies adopted to feed the weak animals in Sericho and Merti Divisions.
- The weak, emaciated livestock are being cared for by the owners at the household level. This has constrained the domestic water sources as in Iresaboru, Sericho and Duse.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- Emaciation due to drought is a common problem in all samples sites, and it accounts for 90% of livestock mortalities.
- Lumpy skin diseases and contagious caprine pleuropneumonia were experienced in Duse, and Rapsu of Kinna divisions.
The conditions have subsided this month.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk production reduced drastically this month from an average of 28.7 bottles of 750mls in June 09 to an average of 20 bottles of the same quantity in July 09.
- Decline in productions are expected as livestock body conditions continues to deteriorate due to lack of forage.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and status of various crop production activities

- No major crops were planted over the month.
- Weeding and Transplanting of vegetables in irrigated areas of Gambella, Bules Dima and Maili nane.
- Harvesting and Marketing of irrigated green leafy vegetables as onions, Kales and Tomatoes in Gambella and Bules Dima.
- The above crop management was disrupted after raiders killed seven people in Gambella and Bules Dima. Farms were turned into grazing fields.

2.2.3 Harvest

- Harvesting of tomatoes, onions and kales in Gambella and Bules Dima Location.
- The above vegetable crops were mainly grown under irrigation.

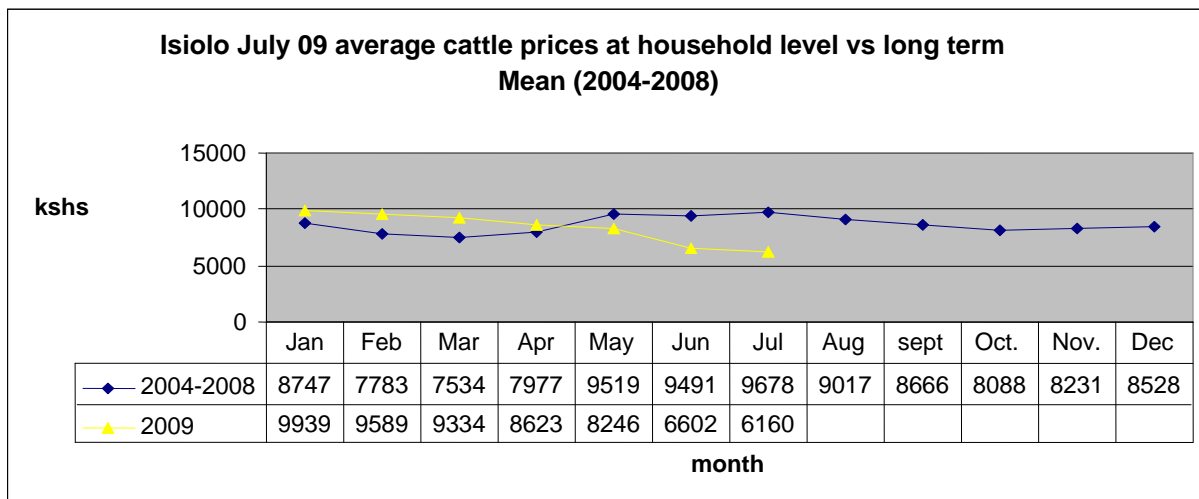
2.3 Implications on food security

- Poor livestock body condition coupled with deaths of all species will impact negatively on household food security in pastoral zones.
- Livestock raids and killing of people in agro-pastoral zones that has necessitated displacement of 3600 people in Gambella and Bules Dima areas will worsen food security.

3. Access to food

3.1. Livestock Marketing

3.1.1. Cattle prices

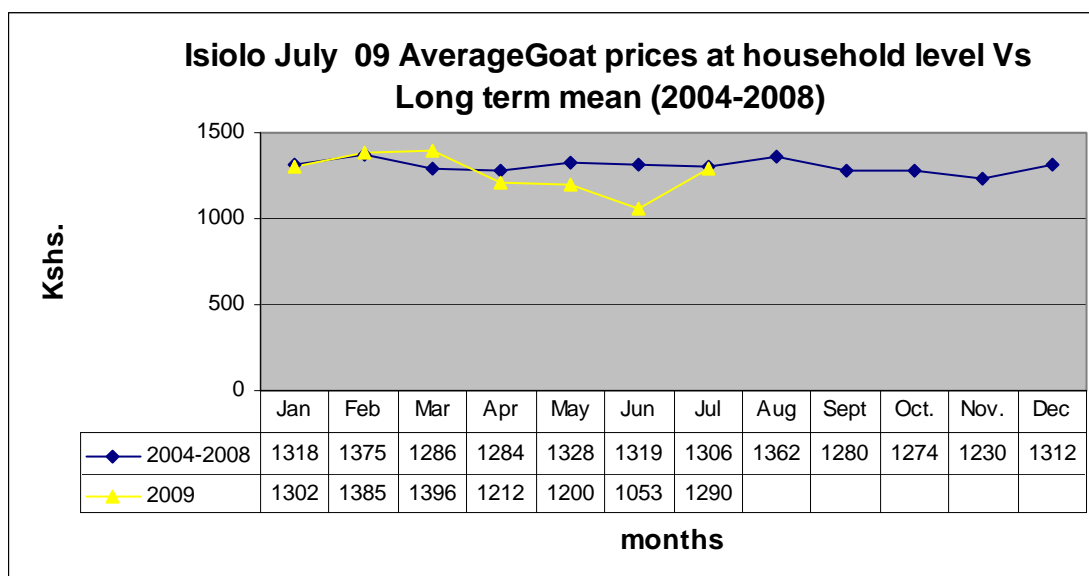


Source; ALRMP sample sites

N=450Households

- There was a reduction in average price of cattle during the month.
- The average price reduced from Ksh6,602 in June to Ksh6,160, representing a depreciation of 6.7%.
- The decrease was due to the reducing body weight of cattle in all livelihood zones as a result of depleted pastures
- Prices were highest in Garbatulla and lowest in Sericho at Ksh10,182 and 5,500 respectively.
- The price was less by 36% compared to long term, same period therefore the decrease was not normal.

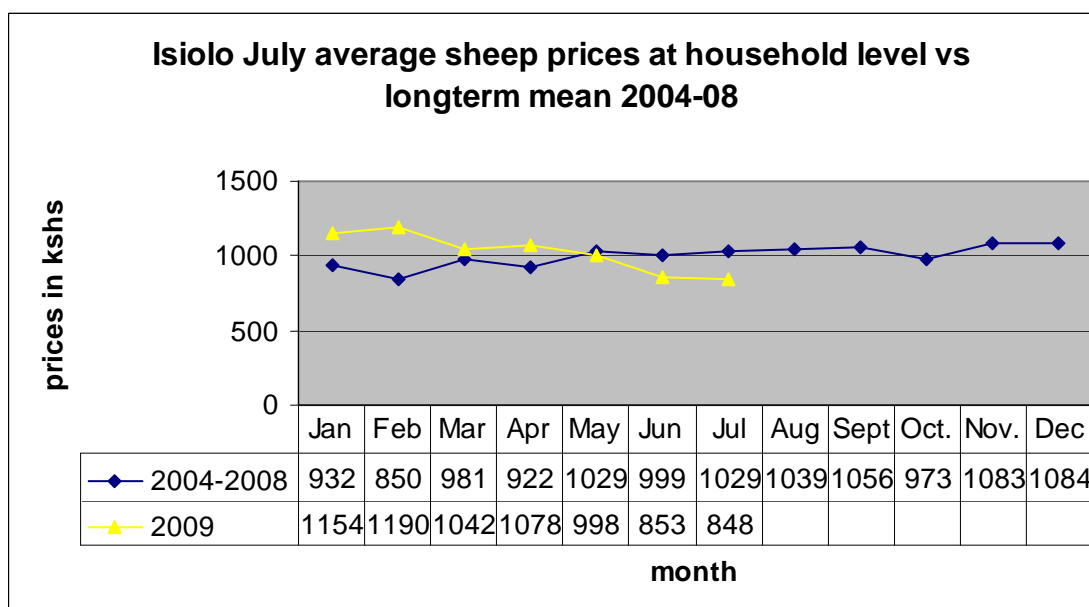
3.1.2 Goat prices



Source; ALRMP sample sites N=450 Households.

- The district average goat price increased from Ksh 1,053 in June to Ksh1,290.
- This represents 22% increase from last month's price. The price was less by 1.2. % compared to the long term mean.
- The observed changes in price may be attributed to the customary practices where pastoralists sold goats of fair body condition out of the large emaciated herds. The price was lower in Merti at Ksh950 respectively.

3.1.3. Sheep prices



Source; ALRMP sample sites N=450Households

- The average sheep prices reduced from Ksh853 in June to Ksh848. This represents a decline of 0.5% in the average price.
- The decrease was due to the reducing body weight of sheep in all livelihood zones.
- Sheep in Modogashe, Kipsing, Gafarsa and Malkadaka are the most severely affected by the current drought.

- The price of sheep was high in central division, central location and lower in Kinna at Ksh900 and Ksh857 respectively.

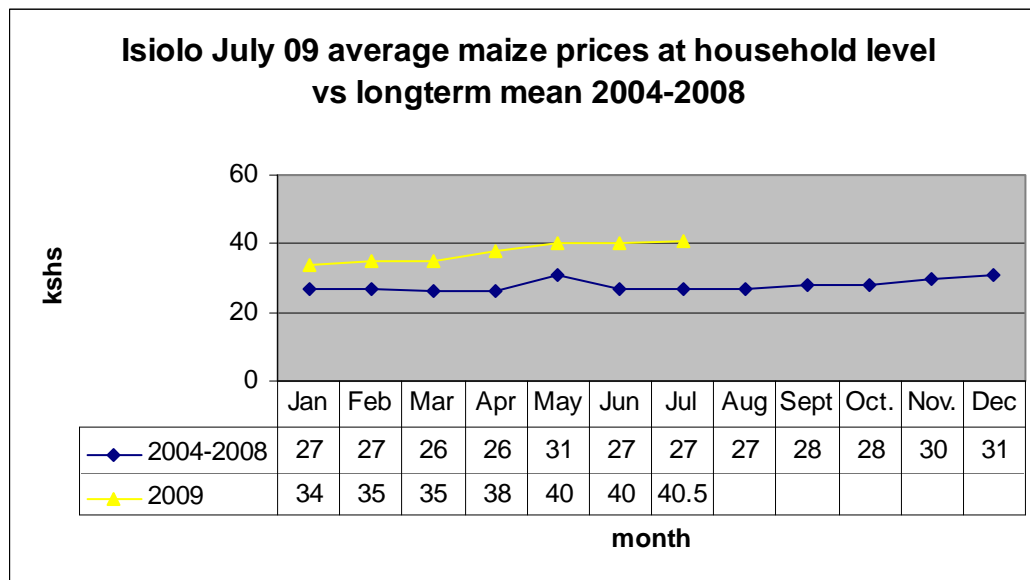
3.1.4 Camel prices

- The average camel price increased from Ksh11,4250 in June to Ksh18,000, representing an increase of 26%.
- The observed increase in price was attributed to the limited supply of camels in the local market as the demand was high in the neighboring markets of Meru, Habaswein and Lagdera.

3.2 Food prices

3.2.1 Maize prices

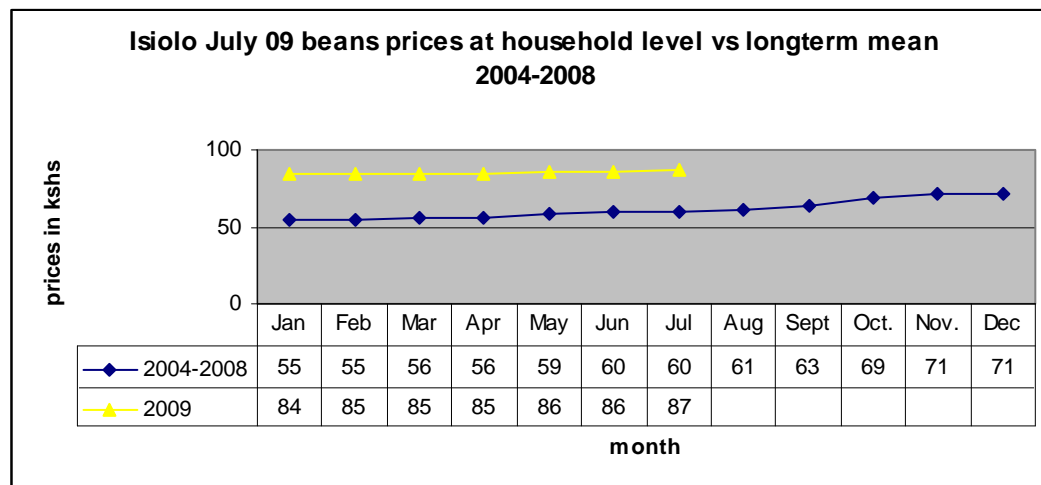
3.2.2



Source; ALRMP sample sites N=450 Households

- The district average maize price increased from Ksh40 per kilogram to Ksh 40.5 per kilogram. This presents an increase of 1.25% of the average price.
- The price was high compared to long term mean, the same period by 50%.
- The shortage of maize persisted in the local markets while in the pastoral zones markets did not have maize stocks.

3.2.1 Beans prices



Source; ALRMP sample sites N=450Households

- There was slight increase in the average price of beans from Ksh86 per kilogram in June to Ksh87. This represents an increase of 1.1. %.
- However, the price was higher by 45% compared to the long term mean the same period.
- The price increases are due to the shortages of beans in the district and the neighboring market.

3.3 Income

3.3.1 Crop income

- Household's income from crop represented 2% of the total district income earned from different sources this month.
- The income was derived from sale of vegetables in the irrigated areas of Gambella and Kinna respectively.
- The larger parts of the districts both pastoral and agro-pastoral zones remained dry.

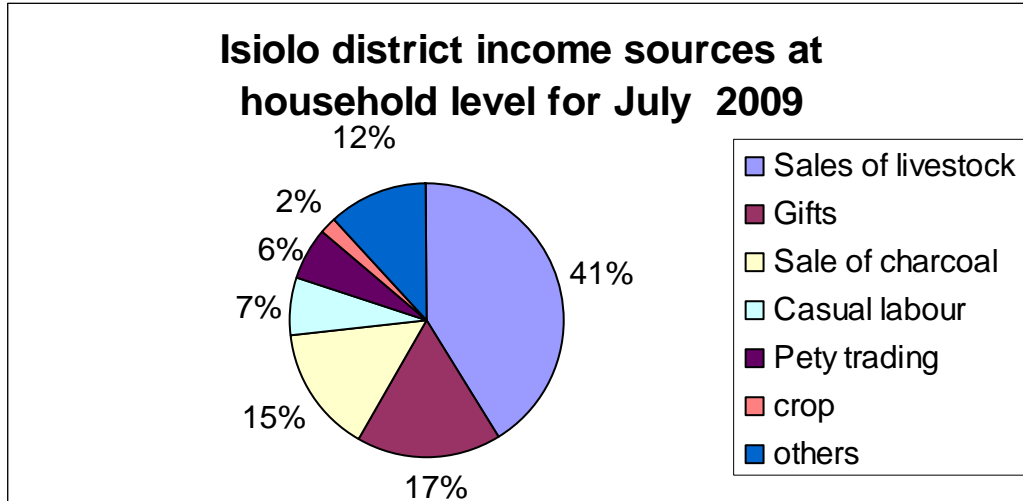
3.3.2 Livestock Income

- The livestock income to households this month represented 41% of the total incomes. The income from this source reduced by 5% compared to the last month's percentages.
- Income reduction was due to the reduction of livestock body weights as a result of current drought.

3.3.3 Other income

- Other incomes to households this month was from charcoal 15%, casual labour 7%, Petty trade 5.7% and gift items 16.8%

The pie-chart below represents Isiolo incomes source at Household level for July 2009



Source; ALRMP sample sites N=450 Households

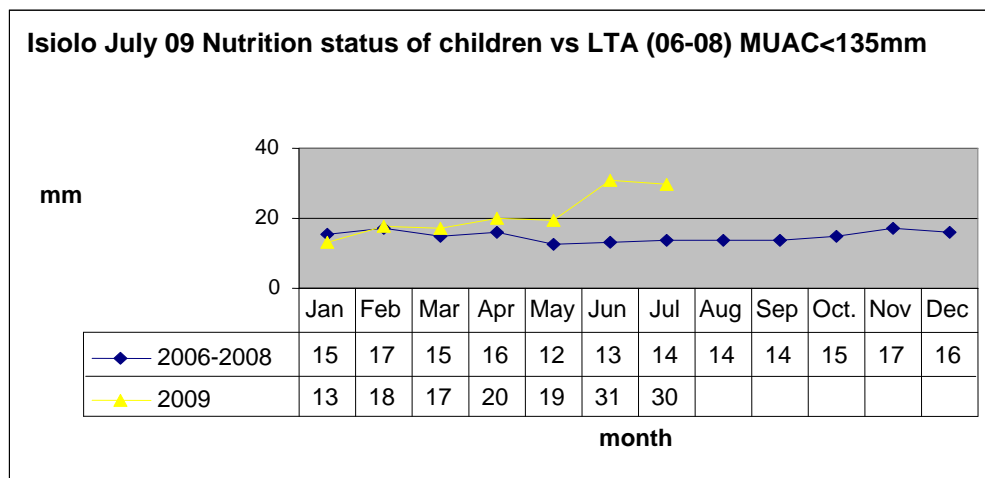
- Income from livestock reduced by 5% compared to last month. This was due to the reducing body weight of livestock.
- The income from charcoal remained constant at 15% in may, June and July.
- Incomes from casual labour and petty trade increased by 3.5% and 2.3% respectively compared to 7% (casual labour) and 3.4 (petty trade) in June 2009.
- Income from Gift items reduced by 1.6%.

3.4 Implications on food security

- Reduced income from livestock coupled with diminished milk yields will impact negatively to pastoral zones of Oldonyiro, Merti, Sericho and Garbatulla divisions
- More people are likely to divert to charcoal burning and casual labour as the source of income as livestock body weights continued to deteriorate and die.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilization of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



Source: ALRMP sample sites N=1794 children

- The nutrition status of children below five years improved slightly during the month.
- The percentage of children rated at risk of malnutrition dropped to 30% of the total 1,794 children sampled across 15 sites from 31% in June.
- The slight improvement in the nutrition status was as a result of unimix distribution by Arid Lands and other stakeholders to non-targeted hotspots in June.
- The stressed divisions were Merti with at risk percentage children of 50.6%, Sericho 33.9% and Garbatulla 31.4%..

4.2 Human health

- The human health situation was poor in all livelihood zones due to food insecurity and water shortages. However, increased diarrhea diseases are reported mostly in areas of Kipsing, Gafarsa, Kombola and Muchuro, that experienced cholera outbreaks last month (June'09)
- Kalazar disease related deaths have been reported at Mataarba and Saleti centres of Korbesa Location, Merti division. Two children died in the two centres early this month (July'09).

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non –food interventions

- Ministry of water facilitated operationalization of Dogogicha borehole in Merit division.
- Water trucking exercise was extended to cover additional centre's of Dogogicha rangelands (borehole water is not fit for human).
- DSG approved 800Lts of Diesel for water trucking is Oldonyiro and Kipsing.

5.2 Food aid

- 1000 bags of 90 kg maize and 200 bags of 50kg beans (Gok Food) was bags distributed to internally displaced persons(IDPS) secondary schools and Non – EMOP areas of east /west locations.
- EMOP made food distribution to 4.3.110 beneficiaries in the two districts. Food items include- 129.33kg of salts, cornmeal- 17848 bags (25kg each) 846.68 bags pulses (each 50kg) 768 kg vegetable oil and 2032 bags of CSB (each 25kg).

5.3 Coping strategies

- Migration from one place to another is still common.
- Slaughtering of calves and weak animals(common for cattle, sheep and goat).
- Cutting down of trees to feed the weak animals.

5.0 Recommendations for DSG and KFSM

a) Food aid

Type of intervention	Action
Continued EMOP/GOK food distribution, Increased the beneficiary numbers.	Gok/WFP

Supplementary and the therapeutic feeding for under fives and vulnerable groups in pastoral zones.	DSG/MOH/ALRMP
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b) Non – food interventions

Type of intervention	Actors.
Urgent off take exercise with favorable prices, Hay provision for pastoral livelihood zones	DSG/MOLD
Continued support for water trucking in Merti, sericho and cherab divisions.	DSG/MOW
Support drilling of strategic boreholes in Hawaye, and Dogogicha	DSG/MOW/stakeholders.
Peace restoration/Recovery of stolen animals	Chiefs/DPC/Provincial Administration.
Displaced persons support in Gambela, Bulesdima, Kambi Juu, and Atiir with food, clothings, utensils and farming items.	DSG/stakeholders