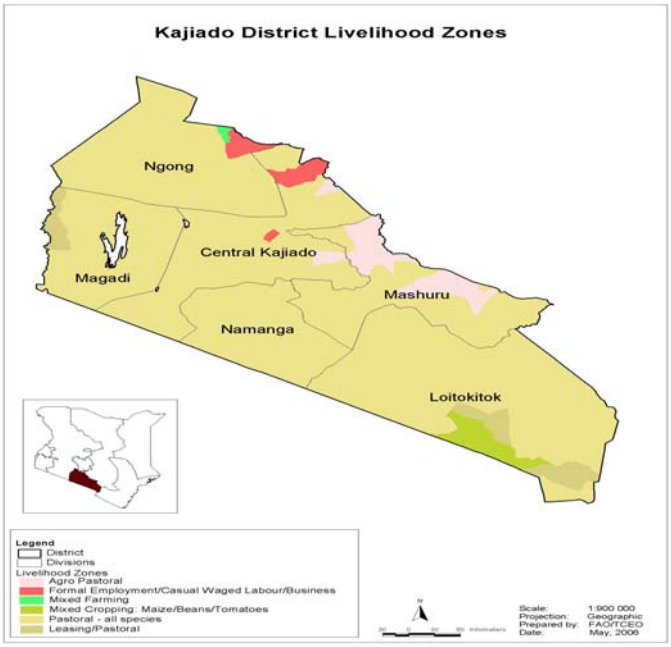
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

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

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, JULY 2009

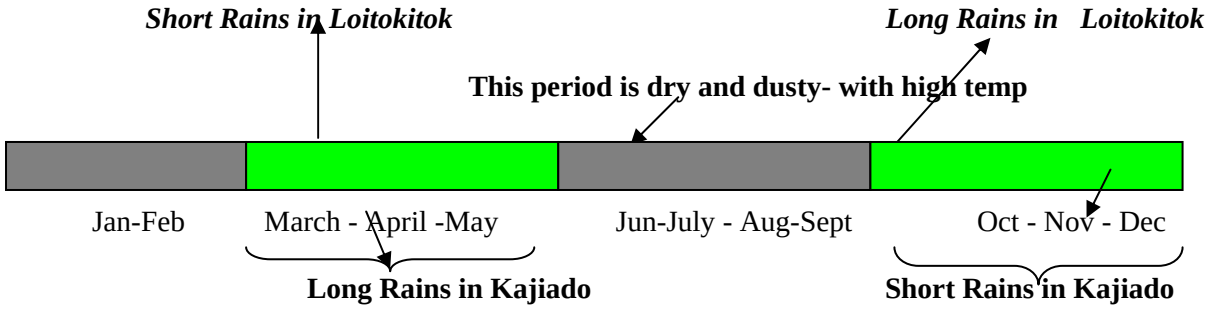
Kajiado Central, North and Loitokitok districts



Warning stages

Livelihood Zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Pastoral-All Species	Alarm	Worsening
Agro Pastoral	Alarm	Worsening
Mixed Farming	Alarm	Worsening
District	Alarm	Worsening

Seasonal Calendar



Situation overview

- Dry, hot and sometimes cold and chilly weather condition prevailed in the three districts of Kajiado Central, Kajiado North and Loitokitok. No rainfall was recorded.
- All temporary water sources (dams and pans) were dry. Strategic dry season grazing boreholes and shallow wells were the main water sources for livestock and domestic use. Boreholes worked for longer hours 18-24 hours requiring repairs and diesel subsidy. Water sources were characterized by long queues and high concentration of livestock and wildlife. Use of borehole water for livestock was at a fee (Ksh 20-50 per head per month).water trucking for weak, calves and domestic use was at - 200 liters drum for Ksh300 to Ksh 500. Livestock accessed water after 2-3 days in most pastoral areas.
- Water availability and accessibility remained poor. Return distance to water points remained at 20-40km for cattle and increasing in most parts.
- The MAM Long rain performance was below normal with insignificant results on pasture and water availability. Pasture availability and accessibility ranged from fair to poor and available in its driest form in most areas. Pastoralists purchased hay, bran and other feed supplements to supplement the shortfall.
- Livestock (cattle) body condition in the three districts was poor, with increased cases of home slaughter of weak and recumbent cattle and deaths. Sheep and goats body condition was fair.
- Cattle prices were on downward trend compared to long term average, cattle prices declined by 13.86 per cent from Ksh6,420 to Ksh5,530 between June and July. Weak and recumbent cattle that were delivered on pick ups for sale to Kiserian (Ngong), M.46 (Loodokillani), Bissell (Namanga), Ewaso Kedong and Kitengela markets were sold at Ksh1,500-2,500. Average goat prices declined by 1.25%, from Ksh1, 278 to Ksh1, 261 between June and July.
- There was food deficit resulting in imports of cereals and pulses in these areas outside the district. Maize and beans prices were Ksh40 and Ksh80 per kilo respectively.
- As was reported in the previous month, the ban on maize imports from Tanzania was still in place, and further exacerbated availability of the same in Namanga and Loitokitok. National Cereal Producer Board (NCPB) in Kajiado and Loitokitok depots had not replenished their stocks and maintained low stock levels.
- Tension on water use between crop farmers and pastoralist was reported in Namelok, Isinet, Olorika, Rombo and Njukini irrigation scheme in Loitokitok as result of over abstraction up stream causing reduced water flow on the low lands.
- Human/wildlife conflicts as farmers had to contend with elephants, gazelles and zebras that had migrated outside the Amboseli park to farms along the upper zone of Loitokitok(Sompet, Ntonet, Njoro, Murtot and Nkama); Grazing in the Tsavo Parks; conflict between KWS and pastoralists was high, as the KWS was not allowing them into the parks.
- The nutrition status of children below five years was on the decline as children increasingly fed on cereals (maize and maize flour) than on their traditional diet of milk. During the month under review, children rated at risk of malnutrition (based on the Mid Upper Arm Circumference -MUAC < 135mm) increased to 14.4% compared to long term mean (9.35%).
- The just-ended crop season was marked by 100% crop failure attributed to intermittent and poorly distributed rainfall. Household are depending on cereals and pulses constituting 90-100% of household food needs.
- Charcoal burning was on the upward trend as an alternative source of income while demand for labour was low and rates were Ksh70 to 100.

- As the drought bites the food security situation remains unstable and the districts were at alarm stage and tending to emegency in most division. The districts can therefore be rated as borderline food insecure with high likelihood of further deterioration.

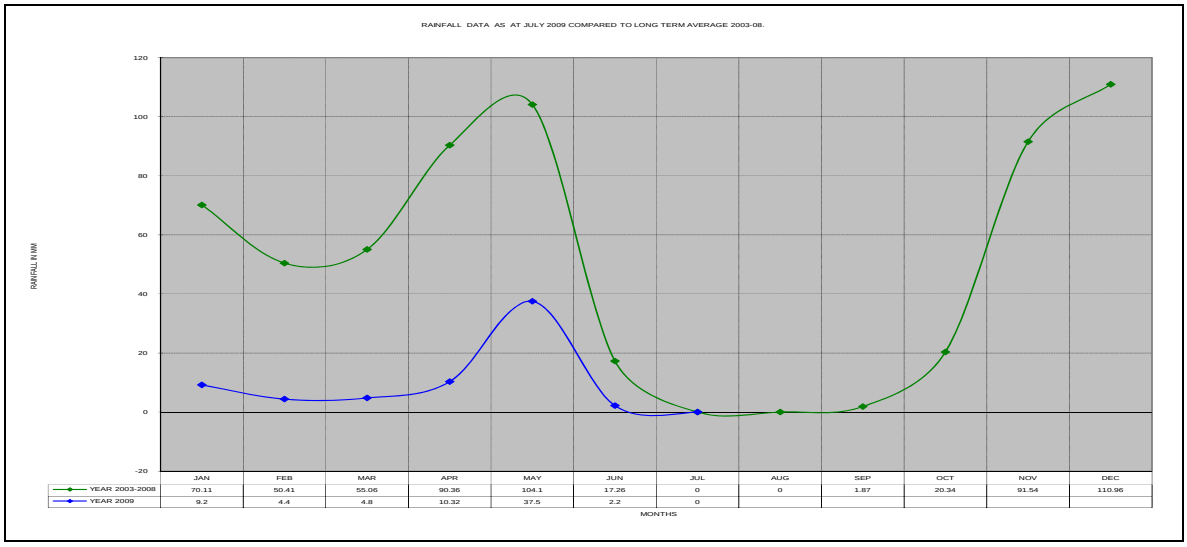
Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

KFSSG long rains performance (MAM 2009) assessment was conducted in July. The following interventions were recommended by Kajiado and Loitokitok DSGs.

- Continued and close monitoring of food and drought security situation.
- Continued /up scaling of the current population under EMOP/PRRO-from 14.6%(82,825) to 30-40% of the 56,8254 population (Action-WFP/GOK).
- Supplementary and therapeutic feeding for under five, lactating and pregnant mothers and elderly in flagged areas (MOH/Mercy USA/Concern World Wide).
- School feeding programme in pastoral schools (DEO/WFP).
- Livestock off-take and livestock vaccination.
- Provision of certified drought-tolerant seeds before the onset of OND rains.
- Fuel subsidy for community borehole and drilling /rehabilitation of strategic boreholes.
- Rehabilitation of strategic water sources(boreholes/shallow wells and pans).

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall



Source: ALRMP sample sites. Total sample size (n)-11 sites

- The month was characterised by dry, hot and sometimes cold weather condition.
- No rainfall was recorded in most parts of Loitokitok, Kajiado and Ngong districts.
- Generally the long rains (MAM) season 2009 was below normal -erratic and scantily distributed.
- Poor performance of the long rains (MAM) had negative implications on food security.

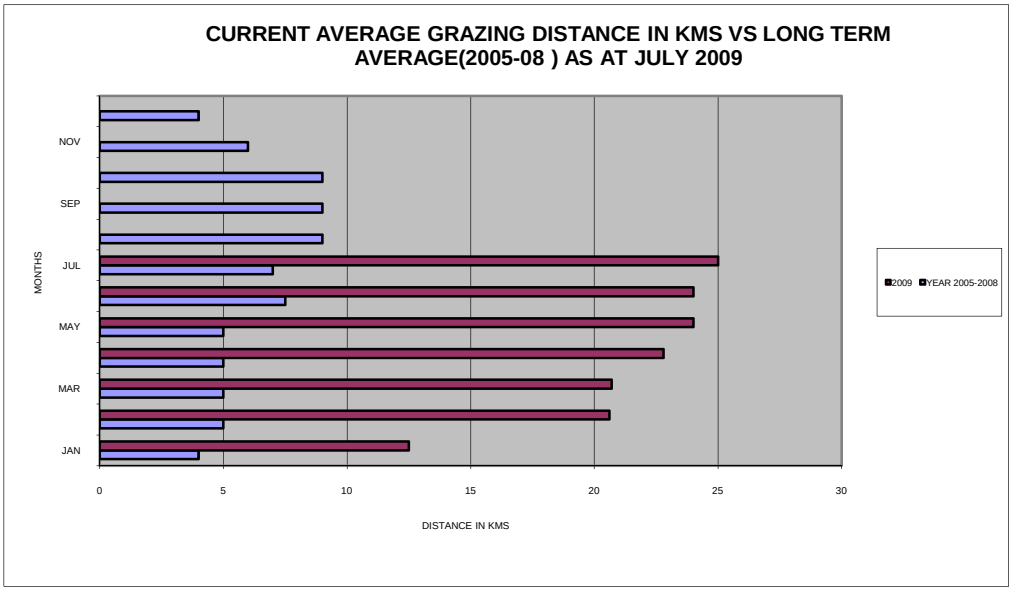
1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Pasture situation has persistently remained poor. Most areas were dry and bare. Poor range condition was occasioned by insufficient rainfall.
- Quantity and quality of pasture was poor and was on downward trend district wide except in swampy areas, water deficient areas and the hills.

- Pastoralists continued to purchase hay, bran and other feed supplements. Bale of hay costs between Ksh200-300 and most of it was imported from other districts.
- Livestock in higher zones of Loitokitok and Ngong divisions were using stalks of failed maize crop. The range condition had a negative impact on livestock productivity and subsequently negative impact on food security status**.**

1.2.1 Distance to grazing areas

- Return distances to grazing areas ranged from 20-25 Kms, in most pastoral areas and is expected to increase. The normal range is usually 5 Km.
- The observed situation was below normal.

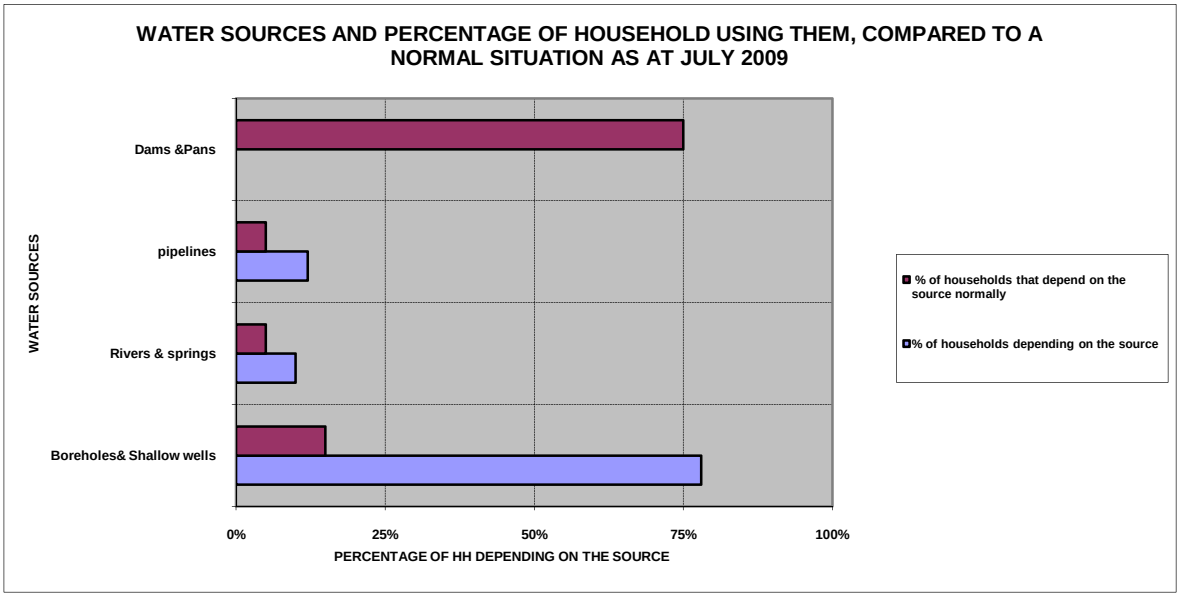


Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size(n) 270 households

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Water sources

Table 2: Water sources and percentage of household using them, compared to a normal situation.

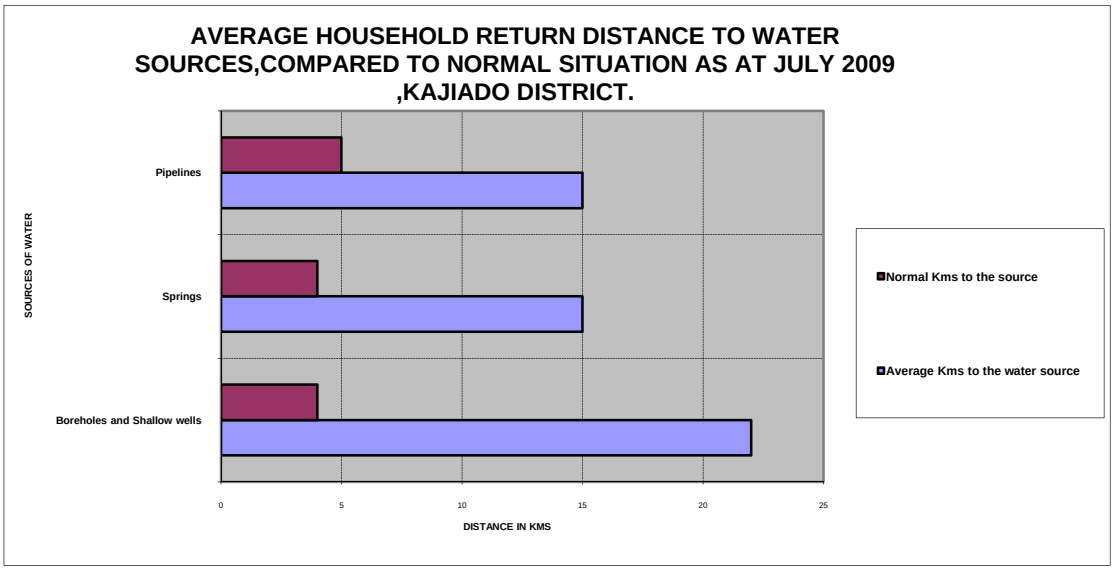


Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size(n) 270 households

- Water availability and accessibility for agriculture, livestock development and domestic use remained poor and on downward trend as most temporary surfaces water points were dry. Water tankering for weak and young livestock in dry season grazing areas continued at Ksh 250-500- for 200litre –drum.
- Water was available from permanent water sources such as boreholes, springs, pipeline and shallow wells. Return distances for livestock averaged 20-40 km and 15- 5-15km for domestic use. In hard hit areas women started fetching water as early as 3.00am.
- The traditional hand dug wells have water but levels are going down; recharging is at an increased time frame of 12-24 hours. Boreholes are working for about 12 -18 hours a day and some have broken drown while others have very low output.
- The observed situation had negative implications on food security.
- All temporary water sources (seasonal rivers, dams and pans) are dry. This was abnormal because during normal years dams and pans are usually the main source of water for domestic and livestock use.

1.3.2 Household access to water

Table 3: Average return distances to water sources, compared to a normal situation

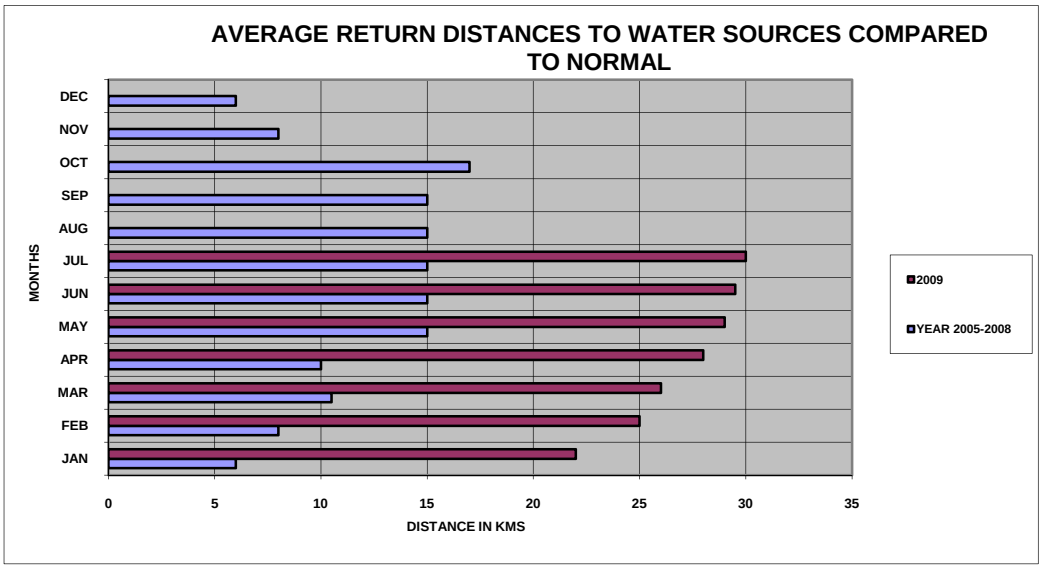


Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size(n) 270 households

- Return time for fetching water for domestic use ranged between 8-10hours.
- Water points were characterised by heavy concentration of livestock and long waiting hours; livestock were given first preference to domestic use.
- Household members accessed water from strategic dry season boreholes, shallow wells and springs which are far away from residential areas.

1.3.3 Livestock access to water

Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size(n) 270 households



- The average distance to water sources for livestock averaged 20-40 Kms.
- Livestock watered for 2-3 days per week, as most temporary water sources dried up.
- Livestock bordering Tsavo NP were not allowed into the Park; however Amboseli National Park allowed livestock to water in the park.

1.4 Emerging issues

- Conflicts over natural resource use: Grazing livestock in restricted areas- Gazetted forests, National Parks and Nairobi suburbs; Conflict between irrigation farmers and pastoralists attributed to over abstraction of water upstream, human/wildlife conflicts as farmers had to contend with elephants that had migrated outside the Amboseli and Tsavo National park to farms along the upper zone of Loitokitok and irrigation schemes of Rombo, Kimana, Elangata Enkema, Olorika and Ilchalai.
- There were reported case of conflict between residents of Ukunda, Msambweni and Kilifi in coast province and pastoralist who had moved into these areas in search of pasture.
- High food prices impacted negatively on purchasing power of pastoralists. Weak cattle were disposed at Ksh 2000 in most markets.
- Livestock deaths associated with the prevailing drought. This was evident in all divisions.
- 100% crop failure in the rain-fed crop growing areas of Loitokitok (Sompet, Nkama, Lower Kuku) Namanga, Mashuru and Central division associated with water stress.
- High food prices impacted negatively on purchasing power of pastoralists.
- Over crowding of livestock and wildlife at water sources.
- Increasing incidences of livestock deaths associated with ECF as most livestock moved to dry season areas which have high tick challenge. Foot and Mouth disease (FMD) was reported in all divisions and even for those that had migrated outside the district.
- Increased charcoal burning and sand harvesting as alternative source of income
- Watering fee at dry season strategic boreholes soared to Ksh 20-50per cow and Ksh 20 per shoat.
- Human/wildlife conflicts in the irrigation areas.

1.4.1 Livestock migration

- Over 70% of cattle have migrated out of the district in search of pastures. The migration was both external and within the district.

- Externally: To Nairobi (suburbs), Makueni, Tsavo East and West National Parks and areas around Lake Chyalla. Kiambu, Nakuru, Naivasha, Nyahururu Coast province (Ukunda, Kilifi, Maungu, Kinango, Voi), Nairobi and Thika.
- Cross border migration in search of pastures is evident along Loitokitok/NamangaTaveta-Tanzania border.
- There was massive migration/clustering of livestock in areas that had some pastures(e.g Ewuaso and Isinya).

2.0 Rural economy indicators (food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Cattle maintained poor body and health conditions. Livestock (cattle and sheep) performance in terms of productivity was low and poor; Attributed to insufficient forage and water; long trekking to water and pasture.
- Increased cases of home slaughter of weak and recumbent cattle and deaths. The body condition of goats was fair in most locations attributed to availability of acacia totillis pods and dry leaves.
- The observed trend had negative implications on food security as livestock in poor body condition fetched low prices.

2.1.2 Livestock health

- Trypanosomiasis was reported on livestock that had moved to coast province and along Ewuaso Ngiro River in Magadi.
- Stress-related abortions in livestock (cattle) were high in all pastoral areas. Foot and Mouth (FMD) was reported both for livestock that migrated to other areas and those that were left at home. Malignant catarrhal fever (MCF) and black quarter were reported in Central and Isinya Divisions.
- Incidences of tick-borne diseases, especially ECF, Anaplasmosis and Babesiosis, were evident in dry season grazing areas attributed to inadequate water for spraying and movement of livestock into areas with high tick challenge.
- In small stock, cases of sheep and goat pox (S&GP), and contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP) were also reported in all the pastoral areas of the three districts.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Availability and accessibility of milk was constrained by poor pastures and water conditions and migration of livestock far afield.
- Households accessed milk from the small stock and was not adequate for children under five years.
- The trend on milk consumption had serious food security implication at household level.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and status of crop production activities

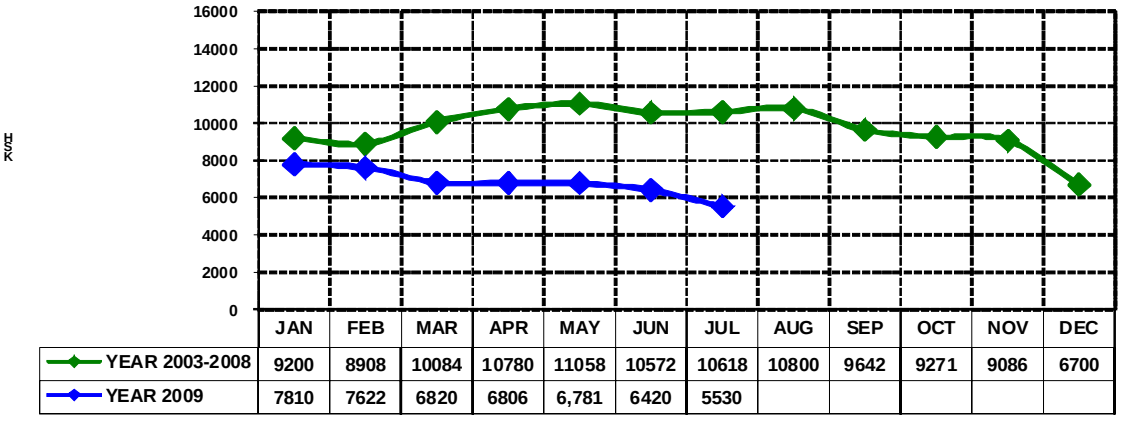
- The just ended crop season (MAM) was marked by 100% crop failure in the rain fed crop growing areas of Mashuru, Isinya, Central, Namanga divisions in Kajiado and upper zones of Ngong and Loitokitok districts as crops succumbed to serious water stress at critical growing stage.

3.0 Access to food

3 .1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices

AVERAGE CATTLE PRICES AT HOUSEHOLD LEVEL VS LONG TERM MEAN PRICES (2003-2008)- JULY 2009, KAJIADO DISTRICT

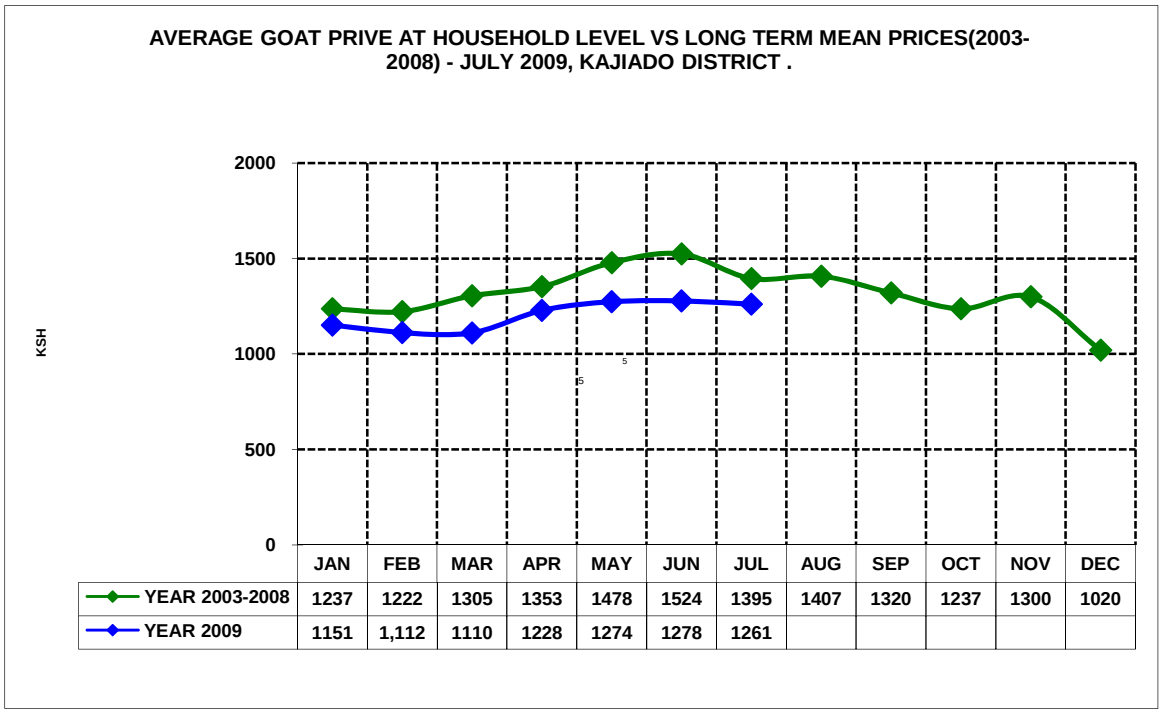


	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
YEAR 2003-2008	9200	8908	10084	10780	11058	10572	10618	10800	9642	9271	9086	6700
YEAR 2009	7810	7622	6820	6806	6,781	6420	5530					

Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

- Average cattle prices declined by 13.86 per cent, from Ksh 6,420 in June to Ksh 5,530 in July.
- The price was below long term average by 47.9%. The trend was attributed to poor body condition as a result of the prevailing drought in most areas.
- The observed price trend had a negative implication on food security.

3.1.2 Goats prices

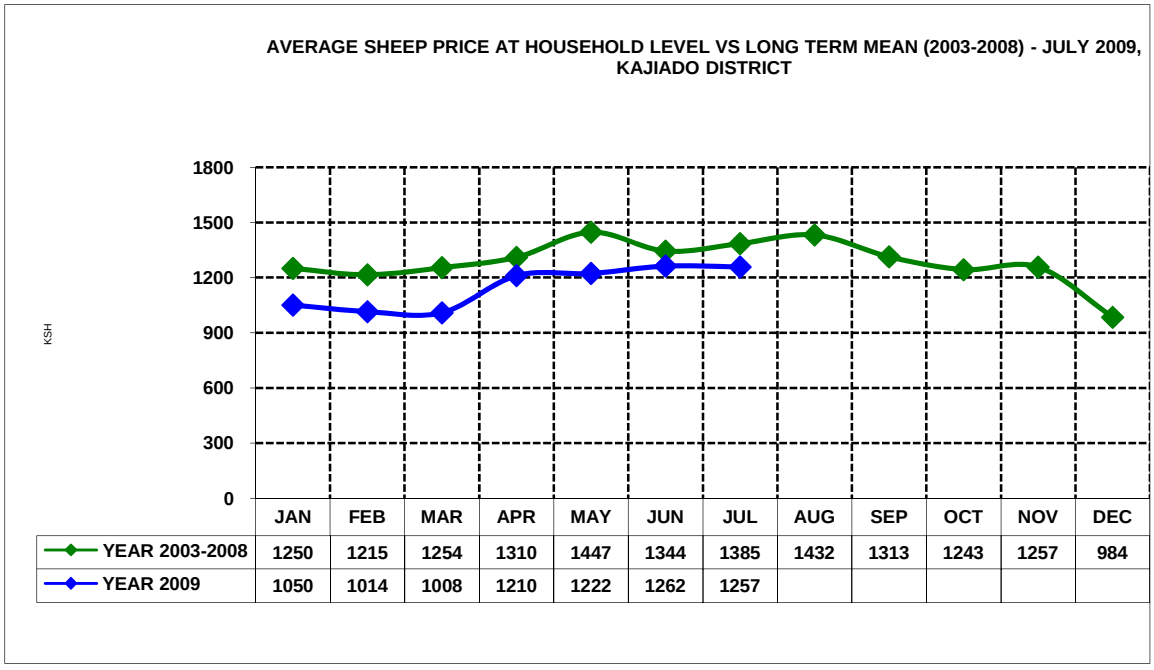


	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
YEAR 2003-2008	1237	1222	1305	1353	1478	1524	1395	1407	1320	1237	1300	1020
YEAR 2009	1151	1,112	1110	1228	1274	1278	1261					

Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

- Average goat prices slightly declined by 1.25% from Ksh1, 1278 in June to Ksh 1,261.

3.1.3 Sheep prices



	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
YEAR 2003-2008	1250	1215	1254	1310	1447	1344	1385	1432	1313	1243	1257	984
YEAR 2009	1050	1014	1008	1210	1222	1262	1257					

Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

- Sheep prices increased by 0.39% during the month.
- The decline in shoat's prices can largely be attributed to the current poor range condition.

3.1.4 Milk consumption

- Over 90% of households interviewed reported no milk.
- As was in the previous month, availability was constrained by poor livestock body condition, internal and external migration in search of water and pasture.
- Unavailability of milk at household level has negative implications on food security especially nutrition status of children under five.

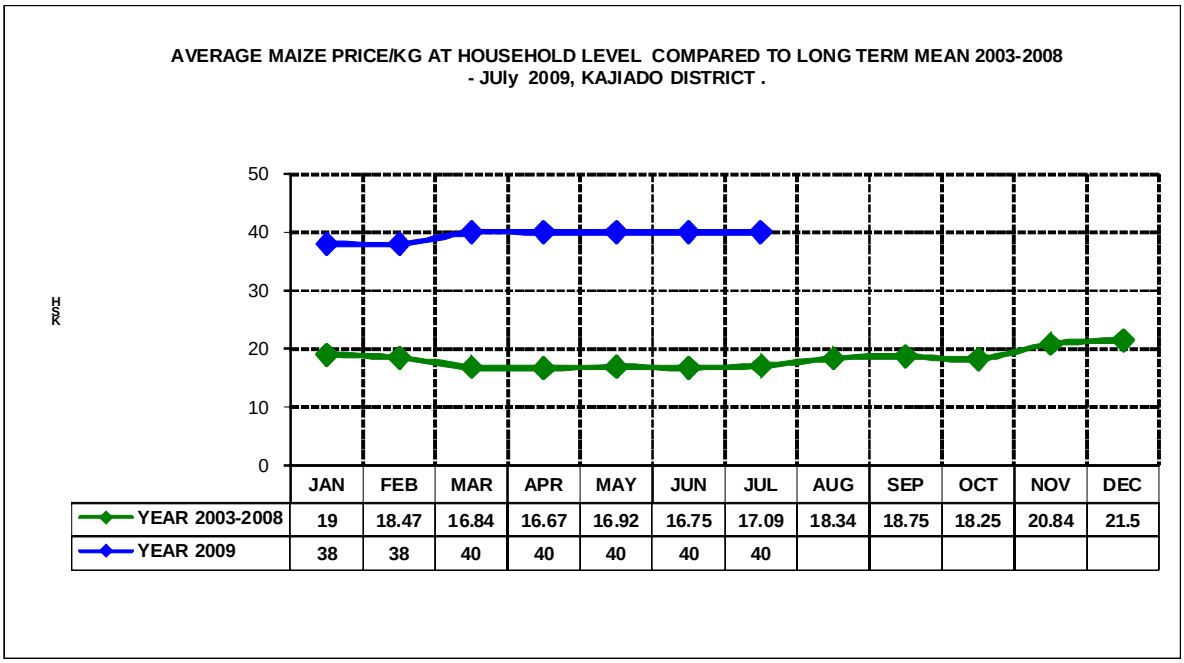
3.2 Implications on food security

The following impacted negatively on food security in the district;

- Poor body condition of cattle and deaths with corresponding low prices in cattle.
- High food prices, coupled with declining livestock prices, especially cattle.
- Unavailability of milk for children under five years.
- Migration of livestock.
- Late commencement of rains: portend poor crop performance in the rain fed crop growing areas: the expected good crop is expected in April 2010.

3.3 Food prices

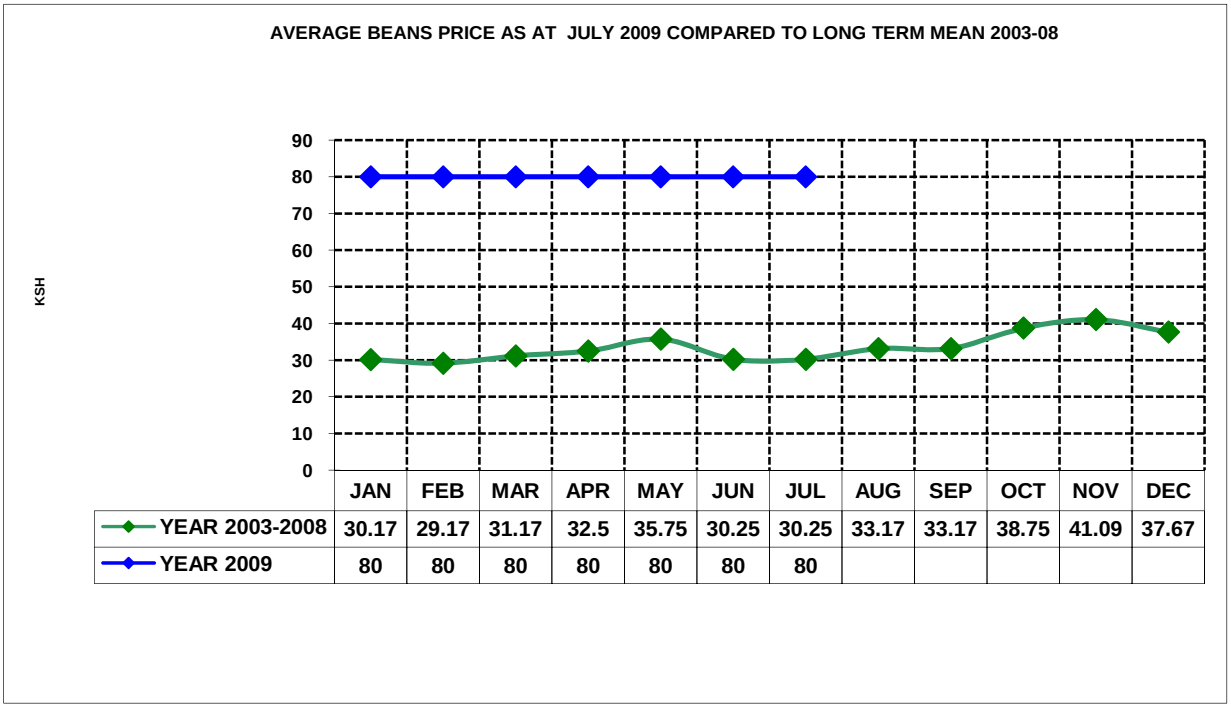
3.3.1 Maize prices



Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size(n) 270 households

- During the month under review, the average maize price stabilised at Ksh40 per kilo compared to long term average of Ksh17.

3.3.2 Beans prices

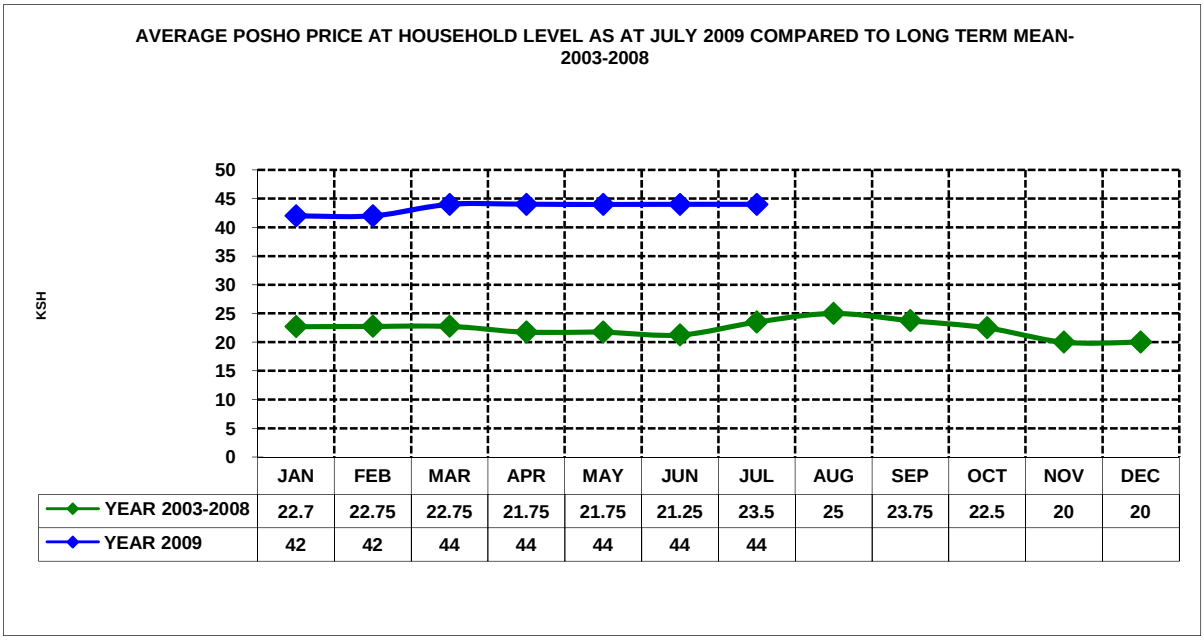


	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
YEAR 2003-2008	30.17	29.17	31.17	32.5	35.75	30.25	30.25	33.17	33.17	38.75	41.09	37.67
YEAR 2009	80	80	80	80	80	80	80					

Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

- The average beans price stabilised at Ksh80 per kilo during the month under review.
- The prices were abnormal compared to long term mean of Ksh30.25 per kilo.

3.3.3 Posho prices



	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
YEAR 2003-2008	22.7	22.75	22.75	21.75	21.75	21.25	23.5	25	23.75	22.5	20	20
YEAR 2009	42	42	44	44	44	44	44					

Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

- The average price of posho stabilised at Ksh44 per kilo during the month under review.
- The price was above normal compared to the long term mean of Ksh23.5 per kilo.

3.4 Income

3.4.1 Crop income

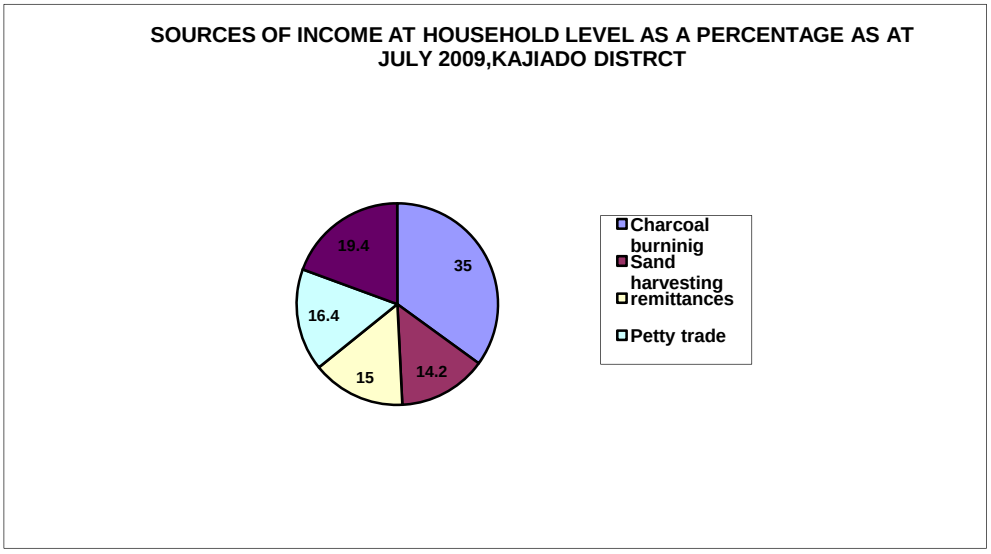
- During the month under review farmers in the irrigation areas gained from the sale of farm produce such as tomatoes, cabbages, kales, onions and Asian vegetables from irrigation schemes in Magadi and Loitokitok.
- However, crop production in these areas was constrained by diseases, pests and low water levels.
- There was nil crop income in rain-fed crop growing areas as the previous season was characterized by total crop failure in the three districts.

3.4.2 Livestock income

- There were below normal livestock income to most households: attributed to livestock migrations far a field, poor body condition and deaths that constrained livestock marketing activities resulting in low prices.

3.4.3 Other sources of income

- Charcoal burning remained the main source of income for many households across all livelihood zones followed by sale of livestock.
- The observed trend can largely be attributed to the current drought and migration of livestock in search of pasture and water. One bag of charcoal sells at Ksh300.



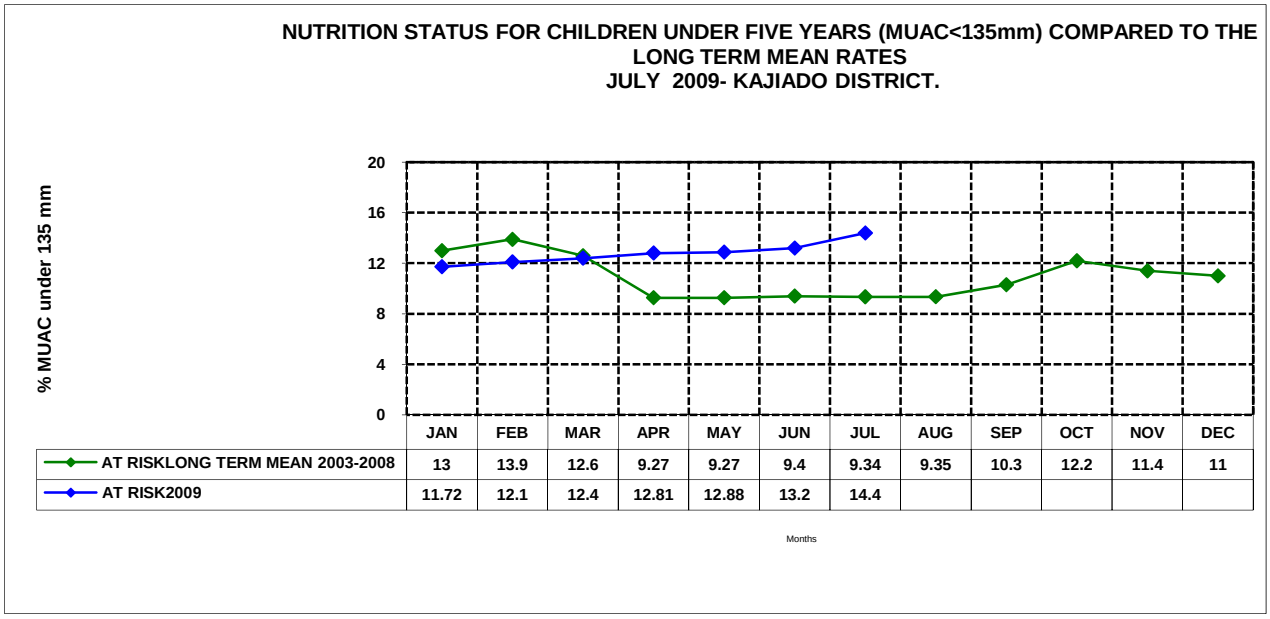
Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

3.5 Terms of trade for pastoralists

- During the month of July 2009, pastoralist's terms of trade remained poor, with high food prices and reducing (48% decrease) livestock prices below the long term average.
- High cereal prices, coupled with declining livestock prices had negative implication on household food security.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
AT RISKLONG TERM MEAN 2003-2008	13	13.9	12.6	9.27	9.27	9.4	9.34	9.35	10.3	12.2	11.4	11
AT RISK2009	11.72	12.1	12.4	12.81	12.88	13.2	14.4					

Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households-1,346 children were examined.

- The nutrition status of children below five years deteriorated during the month.
- The percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition was 14.4%, up from 13.2 in June.
- This was attributed to declining availability of milk at rural household level due to livestock migration in search of pasture and water and the recent 100% crop failure.
- The rate was also higher than the 9.35 long term mean.
- Higher rates were attributed to unavailability of milk in rural households in the last four months. Most children were on maize flour porridge than on their traditional milk diet.

4.2 Human health

- The most common diseases reported during the month were malaria, diarrhoea and respiratory tract infections (RTIs).As reported, rural heath centres were providing insecticide treated nets.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Coping strategy

- Reduce frequency of livestock watering 2-3 days per week.
- Pastoralists purchased hay (at Ksh 250- 300) to supplement the shortfall from Bissell, Namanga and Karen.
- Community water trucking to the dry season grazing areas.
- Migration of household heads to urban areas in search of employment.
- Dependence and/or receiving remittances.
- Reduced ration and number of meals per day.
- Increased charcoal burning and Sand harvesting.
- Increased sand harvesting .
- Livestock migration in search of pastures and water.

- Disposal of weak livestock.
- Hiring of grazing /pastures .
- Purchase of hay and concentrates .
- Sharing of EMOP relief food.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

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