

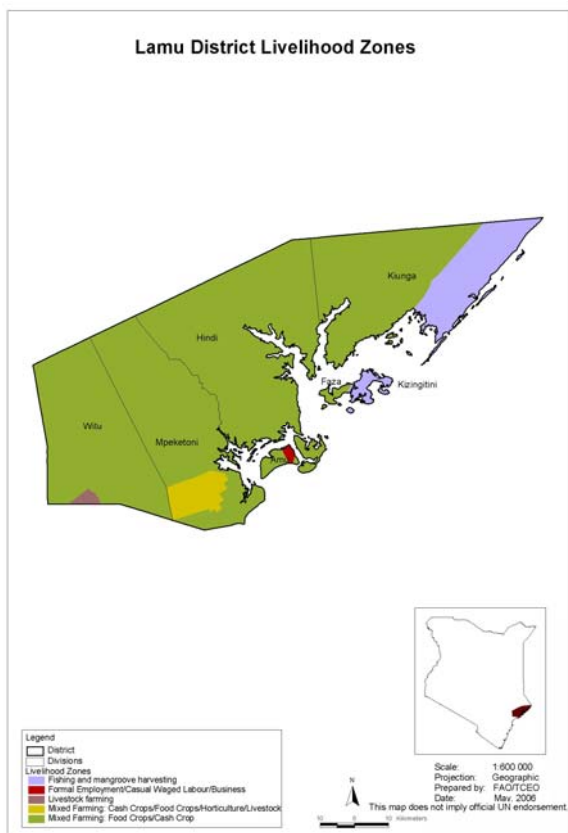


OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

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

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, JULY 2009

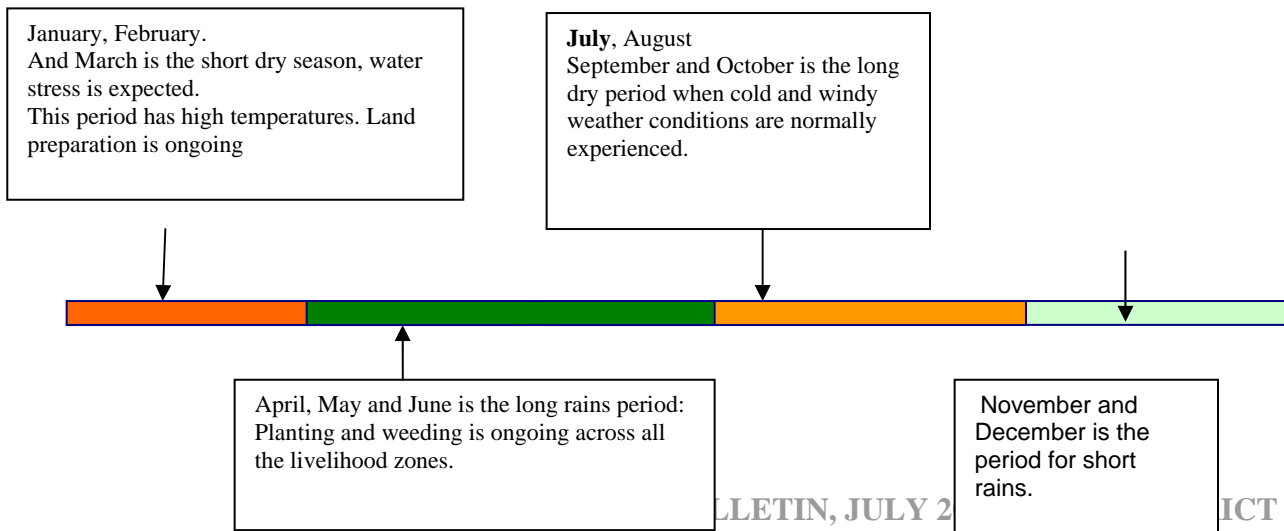
Lamu Districts



Warning Stages

Livelihood Zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Mixed Farming: Cash crops/food crops/horticulture	Normal	Improving
Mixed Farming:/food crops/Cash crops /	Alert	Improving
Livestock farming	Normal	Improving
District	Normal	Improving

Seasonal Calendar



Situation overview

- The long rains continued to pour in reduced intensities across the district this month, though sparsely distributed and in very low amounts compared to the long term average.
- The quality of forage and pasture is improving and is getting to average quantities.
- Cattle prices decreased by 20.57% compared to long term average for the year 2006-08.
- Goat prices decreased compared to long term average for the year 2006-2008 by 11.05%.
- Maize prices increased by 41.94 % while beans went up by 20 % compared to the long term average of year 2006-2008.
- The percentage of children in the district with mid upper arm circumference levels of less than 135mm was 6.0%, down from 7.4% previous month, showing improving nutrition status.

Current interventions**Food aid**

- EMOP was underway and the lead agency has reported distribution plans.

Non-food interventions

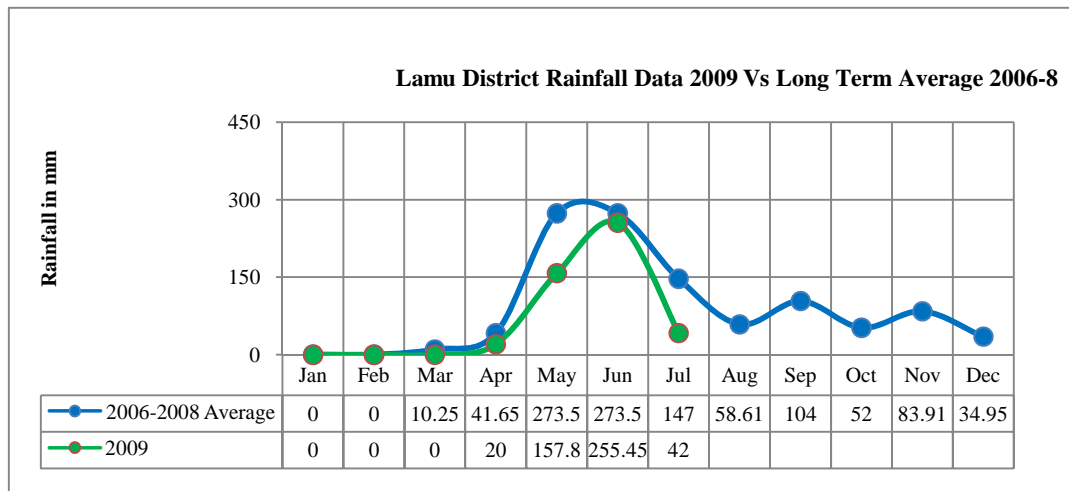
- KWS helped farmers ward off wildlife that posed a threat to crops in the fields.
- Livestock vaccination against notifiable diseases was ongoing in the district.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- The DLPO and DVO to address issues of livestock diseases and pastures by incoming livestock from neighboring Ijara and Tana River Districts.
- KWS to assist in controlling wildlife that turned to eating crops.
- MOH to address rising cases of iodine deficiency.
- KRCS as lead agency to retarget their relief food beneficiaries list to reflect the current harvest season.

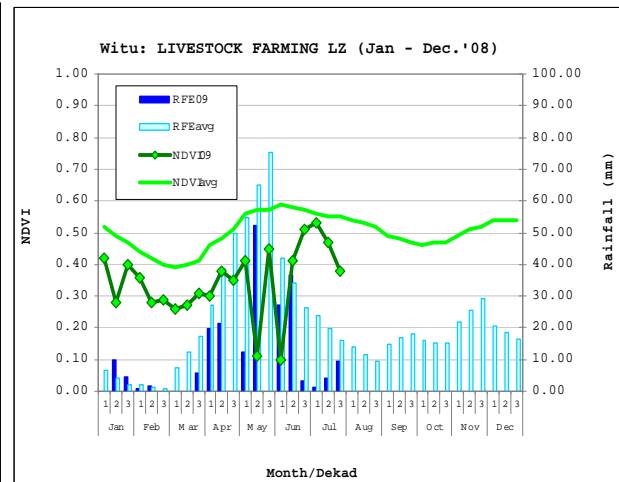
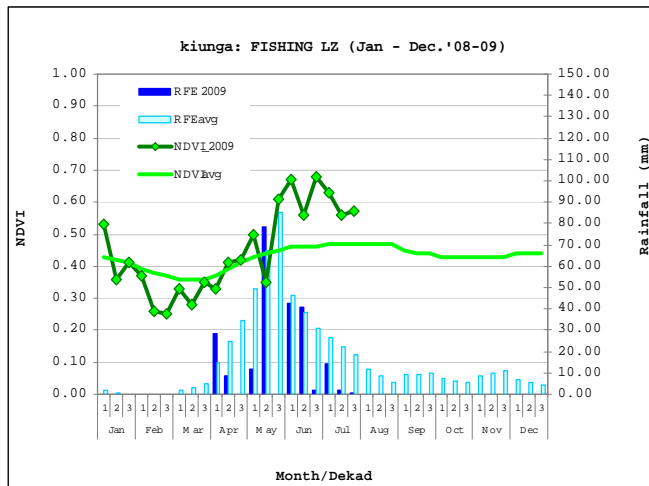
1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall

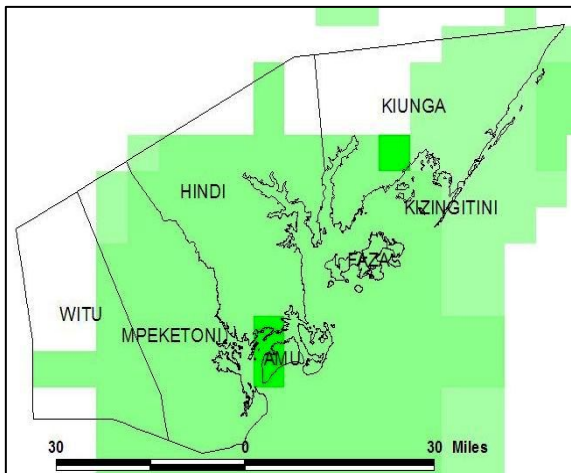


N=5 (i.e 5 rain gauges across the District)

- The long rains continued to pour in reduced intensities across the district, though sparsely distributed and in very low amounts compared to the long term average. The district received an average of 42mm of rainfall compared to same time long term average of 147 mm.
- This was not a normal trend across all the livelihood zones as shown by the long term average.

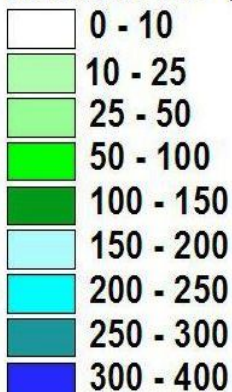


Lamu District Current Rainfall Distribution for the month of July 2009

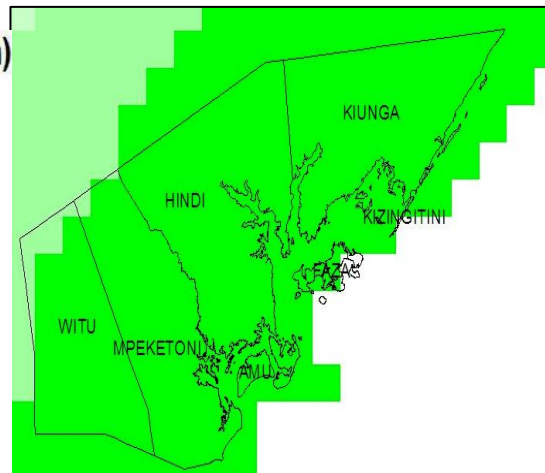


Key

Rainfall Data (mm)



Lamu District Normal average Rainfall Distribution for July 2009

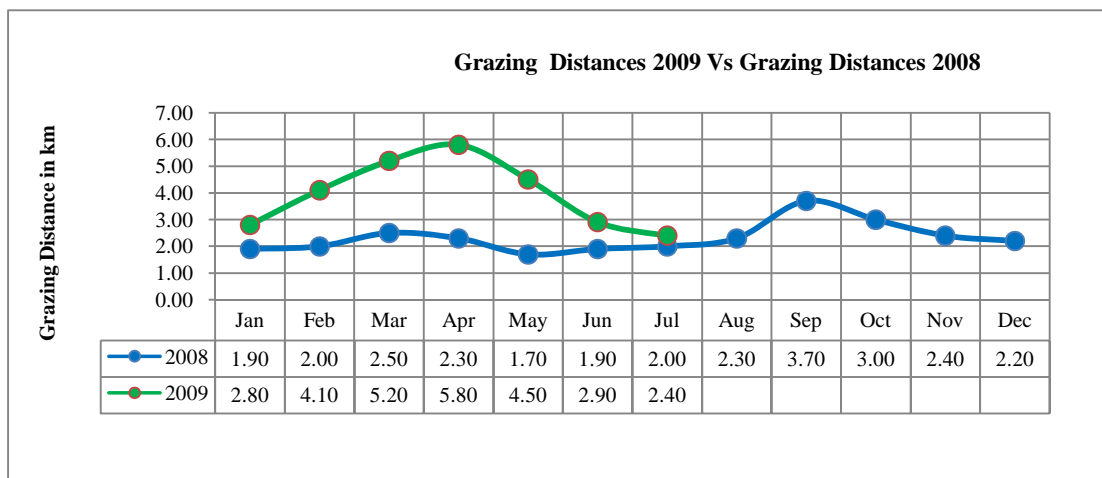


Source: FewsNet

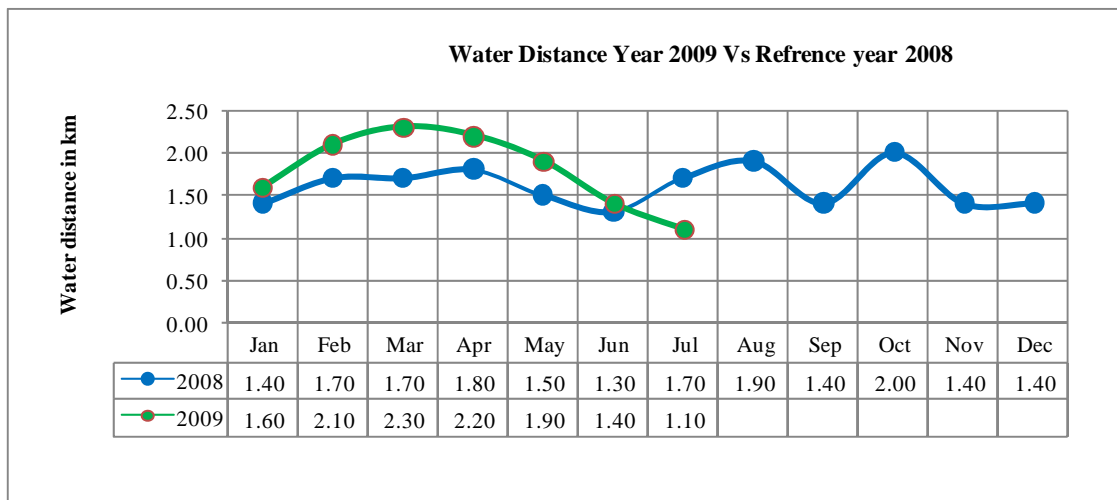
1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Pasture and forage availability was good and doing well with the ongoing rainfall.
- Average distances to grazing decreased from 2.9 km previous month to 2.4 km this month and decreasing due to ongoing rainfall indicating good accessibility of forage and pasture.

N=11 (respondents from 11 field sites)



1.3 Water sources and availability



N=11 (respondents from 11 field sites)

- The average distance to water sources was 1.1 km, down from 1.4 Km the previous month, and was decreasing due to ongoing rainfall showing improved water accessibility.
- Shallow wells and boreholes mainly contributed to household water sources at 36% and 27% respectively, showing a reversed trend from previous month where boreholes were leading source.
- This was normal at the time of the year.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Livestock migration

- The unreliability of the just long rains season in neighboring districts made most livestock keepers who had moved in stay on in the district while others continued streaming in.

1.4.2 Implications on food security

- Pasture and forage conditions continued to improve, leading to improved animal body condition.
- Distances to water sources also decreased, indicating that water accessibility improved remarkably.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

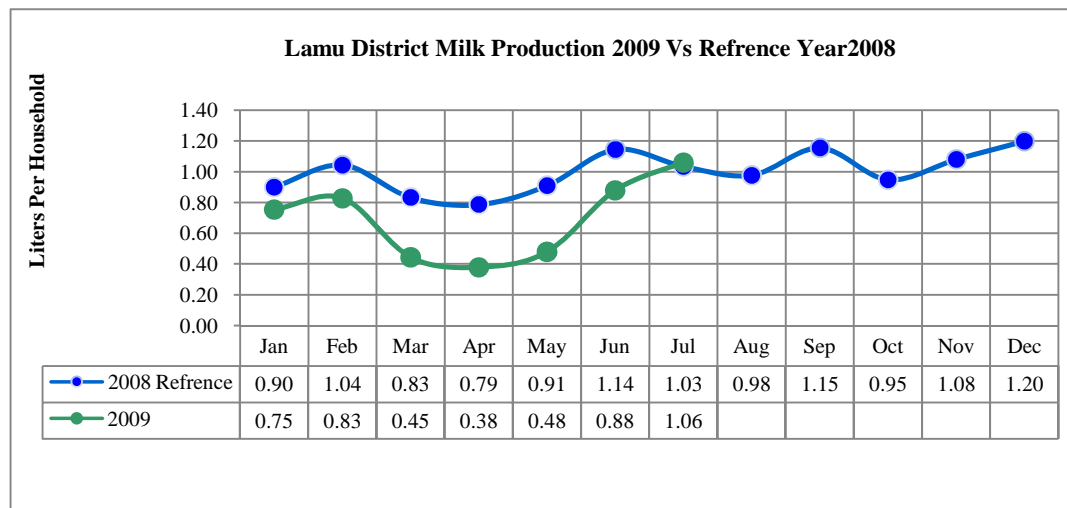
- The livestock body condition for cattle, goats and sheep is improving with the rain season, and the trend is expected to continue with the ongoing rainfall season.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- There were no major livestock diseases reported in the district, though vaccination was ongoing for notifiable diseases.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk production averaged 1.06 liters per household per day up from last month's production of 0.88 liters per household per day and was on an increasing trend.
- This was due to improved access to water and improved pasture availability and quality.
- Households in the mixed farming: food crops /cash crops livelihood zone produced the least amounts at 0.7 liters per household per day, while the livestock livelihood zone produced the highest amount of milk at 2.8 liters per household per day up from 2.59 liters previous month.
- That was, however, normal at the time of the year.



n=330 (from 330 households)

2.2 Crop production

- Most farmers started harvesting green maize while others were weeding and others still doing planting.
- Dry cereals and legumes were not in farmers stores but available in the markets.

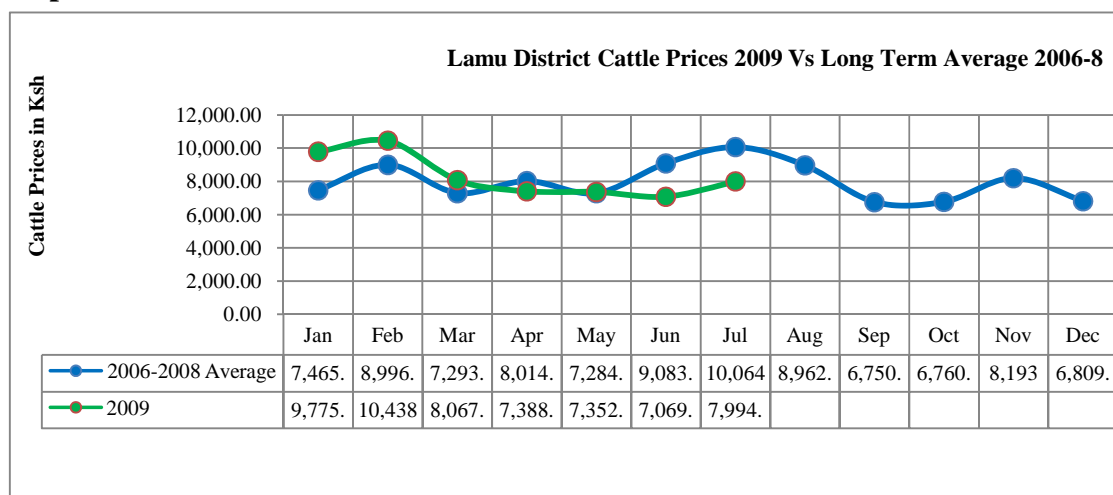
2.3 Implications on food security

- Increase in milk production was an indicator of improved milk availability and increase in food security, especially for the pastoral/livestock livelihoods.
- Harvest of green maize was an indicator of stabilising food source.
- Reduction in water distances improved its accessibility and reduced household vulnerability.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices

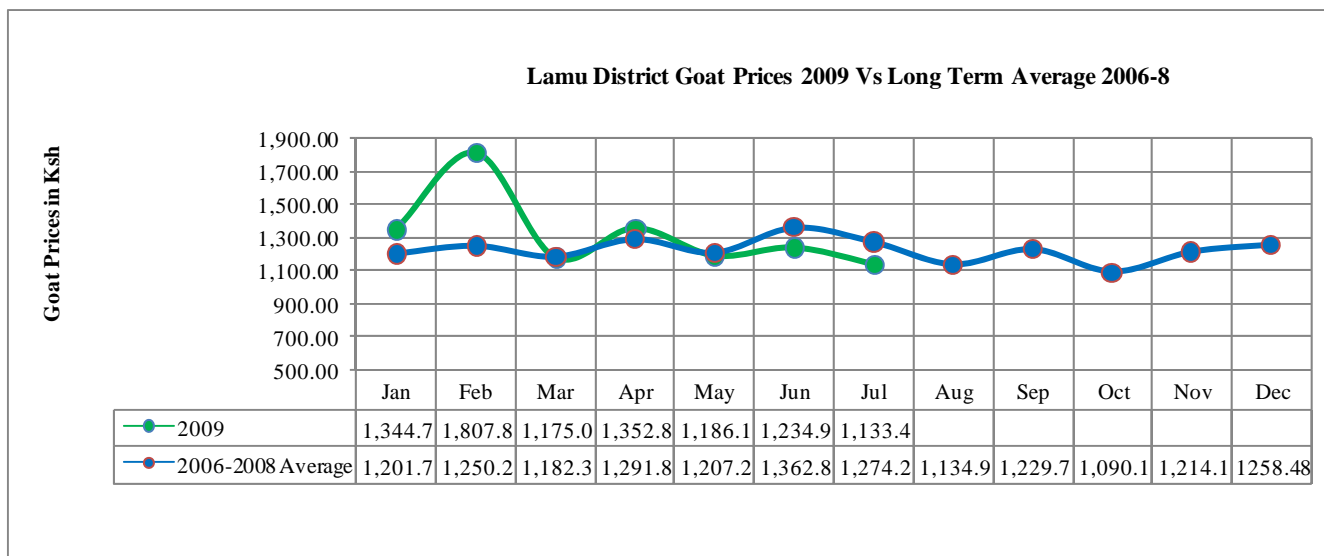


n=330 (from 330 households)

- The average cattle price at farm-gate level was Ksh7,994.50 higher than previous month's price at Ksh7,069.
- This was, however, lower than the price at same time of the long term average year's 2006-08 of Ksh10,064.

- This was attributed to farmers offering stock for sale to make up for cropping activities.
- Highest cattle prices were recorded in the mixed farming: food crops /cash crops livelihood zone at Ksh9,208 up from Ksh8,500 previous months, while the livestock farming livelihood zone recorded the lowest at Ksh6, 780 up from Ksh5,638 the previous month, showing an improving trend.
- This was due to improved livestock body condition and onset of harvest season.
- This was, however, a normal trend at the time of the year, going by 2006-8 average.

3.1. 2Goat prices

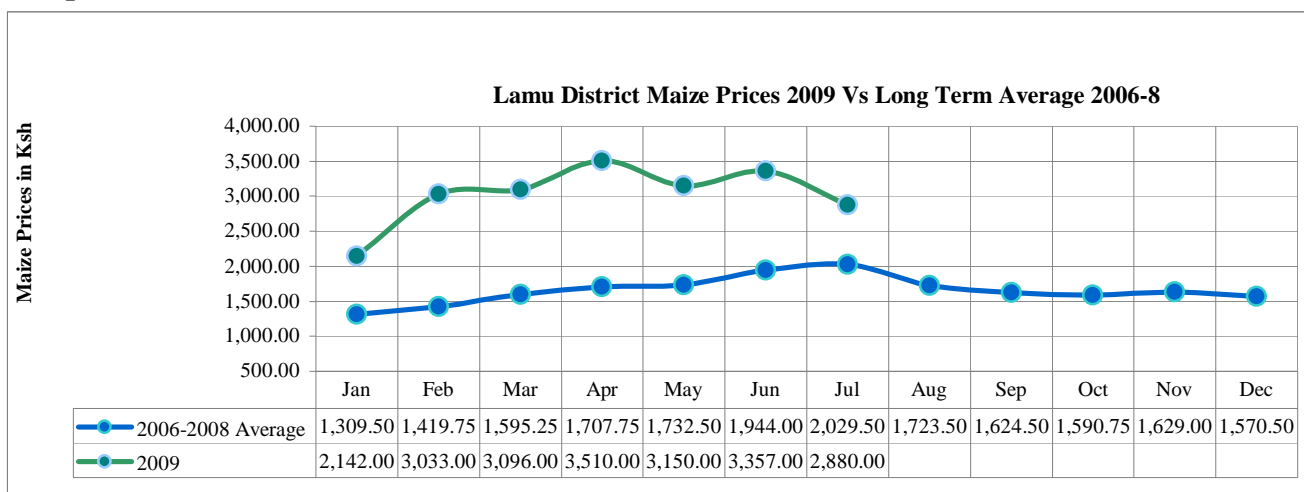


n=330 (from 330 households)

- The average goat price at farm-gate was Ksh1,334, which was higher than that of last month at Ksh1,234 and also higher than that of same time in the year 2006-8 average of Ksh1,274.
- This was attributed to farmers offering stock for sale to make up for cropping activities.
- This was a normal trend at the time of the year going by the 2006-8 long term average.
- Lowest prices were recorded in the livestock livelihood zone at Ksh787.50 while the highest were recorded in the mixed farming: food crops /cash crops livelihood zone at Ksh1,334.60.

3.2 Crop prices

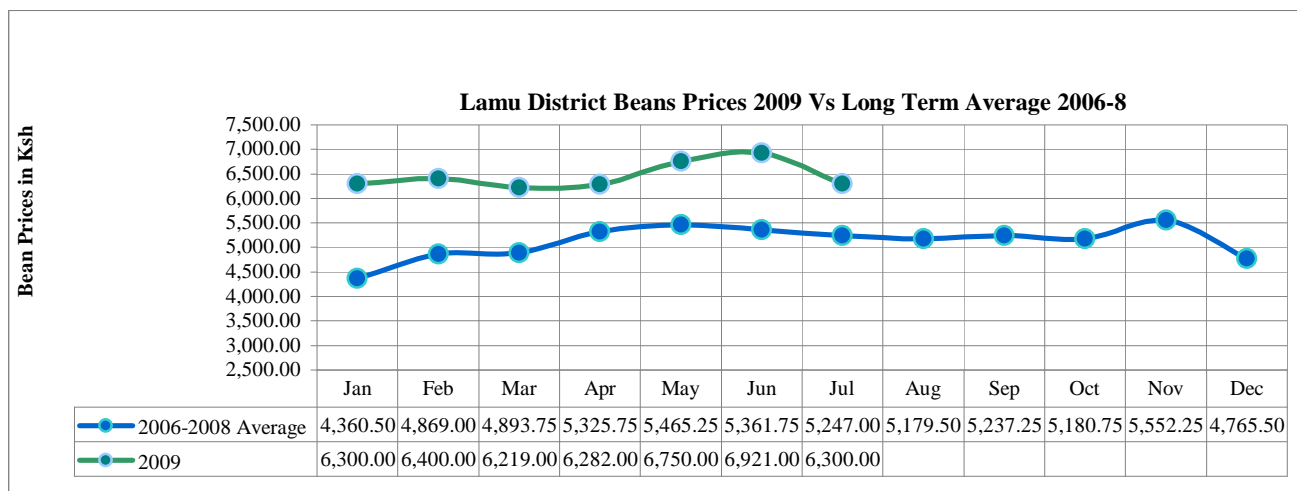
3.2.1 Maize prices



n=330 (from 330 households)

- Maize prices at market level averaged Ksh2,880 per 90kg bag, higher than last month's price of Ksh3,357 due to availability of green maize and ongoing harvest season.
- This was near similar to the price at the same time of the long term average of year 2006-8 of Ksh2, 029, showing a stabilising trend.
- Maize prices were only recorded in the mixed farming: Cash crops/food crops/ horticulture livelihood zone.

3.2.2 Beans prices



n=330 (from 330 households)

- Average price of beans at market level was Ksh6,300 per 90Kg bag, which was lower than that of last month at Ksh6,921 and higher than the long term average of year 2006-8 at Ksh 5,247.
- This was, however, a normal trend at the time of the year in the district going by 2006-8 average.
- The prices were recorded only in the mixed farming: Cash crops/food crops/ horticulture livelihood zone.

3.4 Income

3.4.1 Crop income

- Income from crops accounted for 10.5% of total house hold income, higher than last month's rate of 6.56 %.
- This was, however, normal at this time of the year.

3.4.2 Livestock income

- Sale of livestock accounted for 9.7% of total household income near similar to last month's rate of 9.06%, while livestock products accounted for 6.4% up from 2.8 % previous month.
- This was, however, normal at the time of the year
- Incomes were mainly realised from livestock farming livelihood zone with least sales realized in the mixed farming: Cash crops/food crops/ horticulture livelihood zone.

3.4.3 Other income

- Casual labour was the main source of income during the month accounting for 49.51% down from 53.75% of the total household income which is lower than last month's indicating drop on casual labour dependency.
- Petty trade accounted for 11.97 % of the total household income, emerging as livelihood source.

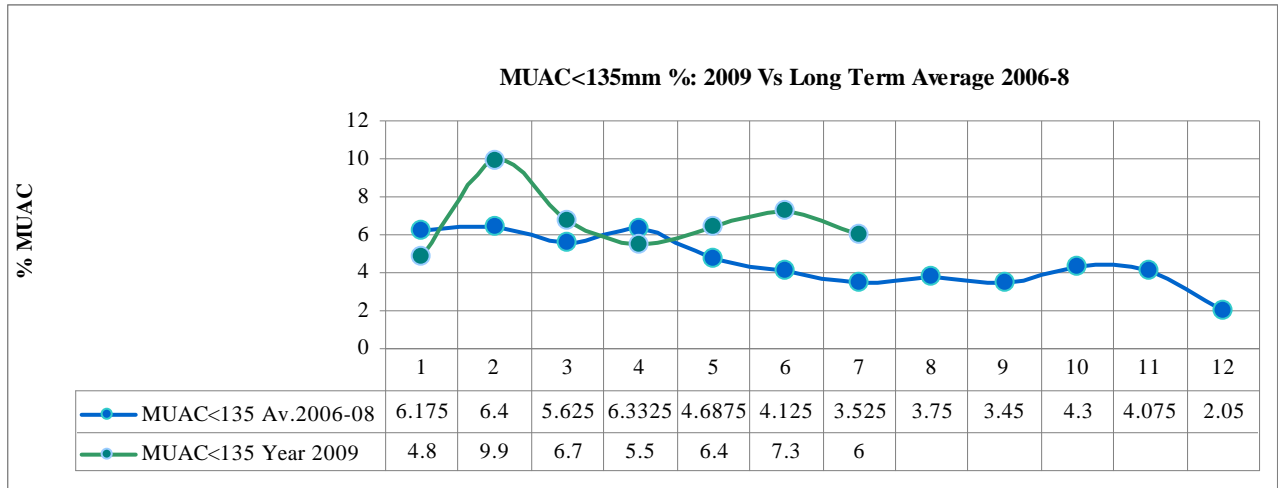
- The highest rate was recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/cash crop livelihood zone and the lowest recorded in the livestock livelihood zone.
- This was, however, normal at the time of the year.

3.5 Implications on food security

- The increase in crop sales dependency shows its availability has improved.
- The continued increase in livestock sales dependency indicates low value for livestock and probable lack of alternative.
- It also shows that farmers are offering their stock for sale to cover for cropping activities.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilization of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



n= 1189

- The nutrition status of children below five years improved slightly during the month.
- The percentage of children rated at risk of malnutrition (with MUAC < 135mm) was 6.0%, which was lower than last month's of 7.3%.
- This was an indication of an improving nutrition status due to incoming harvest.
- However, the rate was higher than the 2006-8 long term average of 3.5%.
- The livestock farming livelihood zone reported the highest rate at 10%, same as previous month's level of 9.2%.
- The farming: food crops/cash crop livelihood zone reported the lowest at 1.6%, indicating improved food security across all livelihood zones, except the livestock livelihood zone that is still recovering from effects of the drought.
- This was, however, a normal trend.

5.0 Current interventions

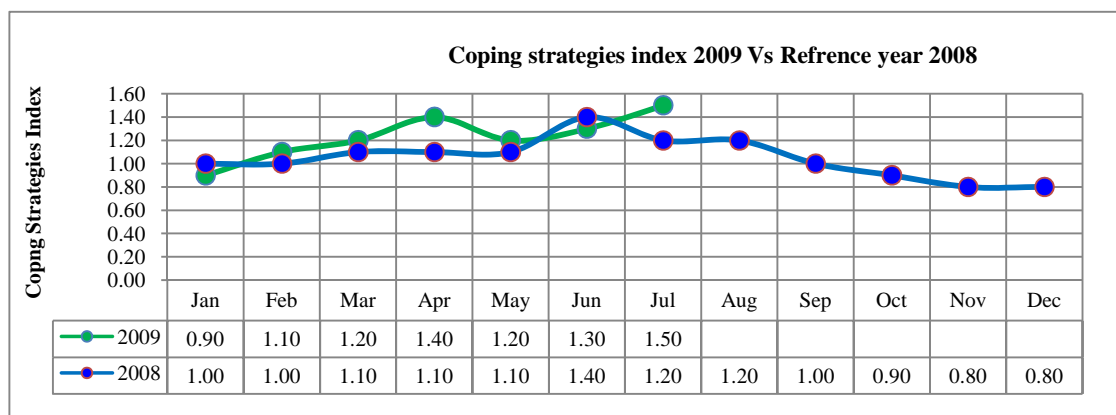
5.1 Food aid

- EMOP was underway and the lead agency has reported distribution plans.

5.2 Non-food interventions

- KWS helped farmers ward off wildlife that posed a threat to crops in the fields.
- Livestock vaccination against notifiable diseases was ongoing in the district.

5.3 Coping strategies



n=2002

- The coping strategy index was 1.5, up from previous month's 1.4.
- The highest index of 1.9 was recorded at the mixed farming: Cash crops/food crops/horticulture livelihood zone while the lowest of 1.0 was recorded in the livestock farming livelihood zone.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- The DLPO and DVO to address issues of livestock diseases and pastures by incoming livestock from neighboring Ijara and Tana River Districts.
- KWS to assist in controlling wildlife that turned to eating crops.
- MOH to address rising cases of iodine deficiency.
- KRCS as lead agency to retarget their relief food beneficiaries list to reflect the current harvest season.