

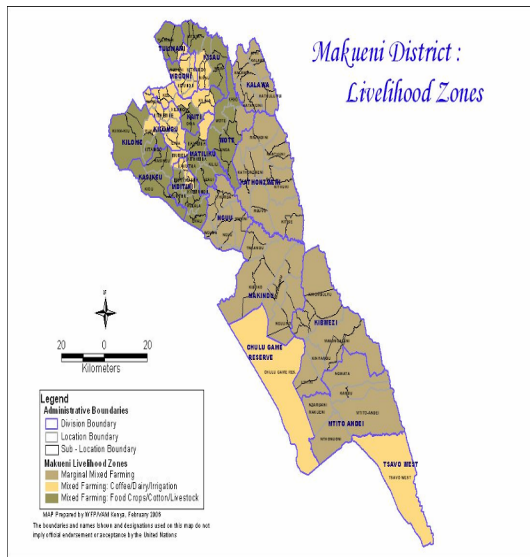


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**  
**MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS**  
**ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

**DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, JULY 2009**

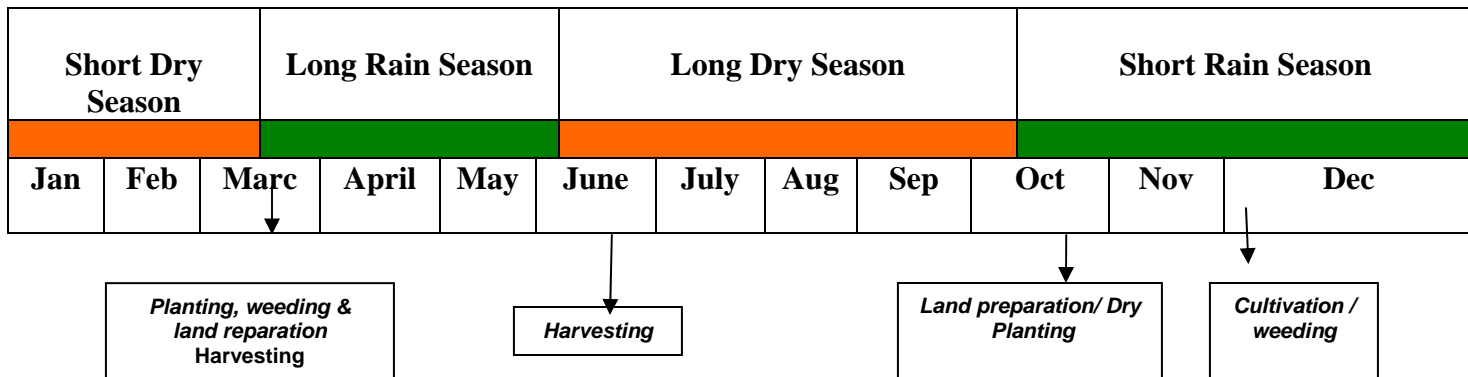
**Makueni District**

**Warning Stages**



Livelihood Zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Mixed farming coffee/dairy	Alarm	Worsening
Mixed farming food crops (Agro Pastoral Zone I)	Alarm	Worsening
Marginal mixed farming (Agro Pastoral Zone II)	Alarm	Worsening
District	Alarm	Worsening towards emergency

**Seasonal Calendar**



### **Situation overview**

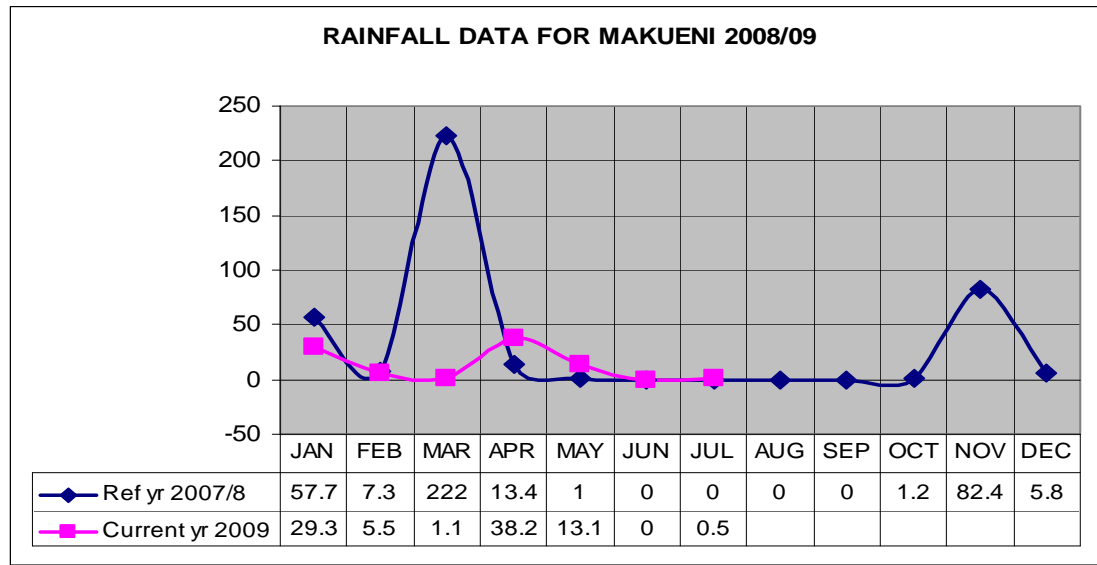
- The district remained hot and dry with no rainfall recorded.
- There was total crop failure except on a small strip on hilly areas (Kaiti division).
- Pasture was available both in quality and quantity in hilly areas but scarce, poor in quality and quantity in lower zones.
- Livestock health and body condition continued to deteriorate in lower zones and this is expected to worsen if the trend continues.
- There were mass livestock sales reported in all the major markets in hardest hit divisions like Kathonweni , Matiliku, Makindu, Kambu and Kalawa livestock markets.
- Water scarcity was evident in lower parts of the larger Makueni district. The distances to and from water sources stagnated at over 6kms.
- The main water sources remained natural rivers, springs, traditional river wells and boreholes.
- The increased food prices caused some families to skip and reduce meals, affecting mostly children under five years.
- Livestock prices significantly decreased in prices except for goats. These prices were way below the same period last year.
- Milk and its products decreased slightly in supply but increased in prices to Ksh48 per litre.
- Most food prices stagnated within the month.
- Casual labour, sale of firewood, sale of livestock, sale of sisal products, charcoal burning and other degrading jobs were the main sources of income for most households during the month.
- The nutrition status of children under five years remained stable, with 17 percent rated at risk of malnutrition same as last month.
- No major disease outbreak was reported during the month, but malaria and respiratory tract infections were commonly reported among children below five years.

### **Recommendations to DSG and KFSM**

- All primary schools in the district should be put under the regular school feeding programme.
- Supplementary feeding for the under fives to be intensified in all health facilities.
- Capacity building on feeding methods for lactating mothers to avoid kwashiorkor and other related diseases.
- Increase the number of beneficiaries covered in the relief programme. .

## 1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

### 1.1 Rainfall



*Courtesy of Makindu meteorological weather station*

- No rain fall was the recorded in the district during the month under review.

### 1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Pasture was scarce and of poor quality and quantity in all the divisions.

### 1.3 Water sources and availability

#### 1.31 Water sources

- There was drying of water sources, especially pans, earth dams, natural ponds, boreholes and natural rivers in lower zones.
- The distance to the watering points increased for both cattle and domestic use.
- The major water sources were natural rivers, traditional river wells and boreholes.
- This was due to poor performance of both short and long rains.

### 1.4 Emerging issues

#### 1.4.1 Livestock migration

- Mass livestock migrations were reported mostly in search of pastures. The migration was mostly from lower Kajiado district into the Chyullu region of Kathonzweni and Kibwezi districts.
- Livestock deaths were suspected in the divisions along the way due to poor body conditions and other hunger-related diseases.

#### 1.4.2 Insecurity /conflict /human displacement.

- Livestock theft was reported in the divisions along the Mombasa highway.
- Petty theft increased, especially in the food stores.

## 2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

### 2.1 Livestock body condition

- Livestock health and body condition deteriorated and this is expected to worsen and further affect the market prices.
- The farmers were forced to dispose more than three goats to enable them purchase a bag of maize worth Ksh3,300.
- This was an abnormal occurrence at the time of the year.

### 2.2 Livestock health

- Livestock deaths were reported in the lower zones of larger Makueni districts.
- There were mass livestock sales reported in all the major markets in hardly hit divisions like Kathonzweni , Matiliku, Makindu, Kambu and Kalawa livestock markets.
- Scanty, poor in quality and quantity of livestock feeds led to this.

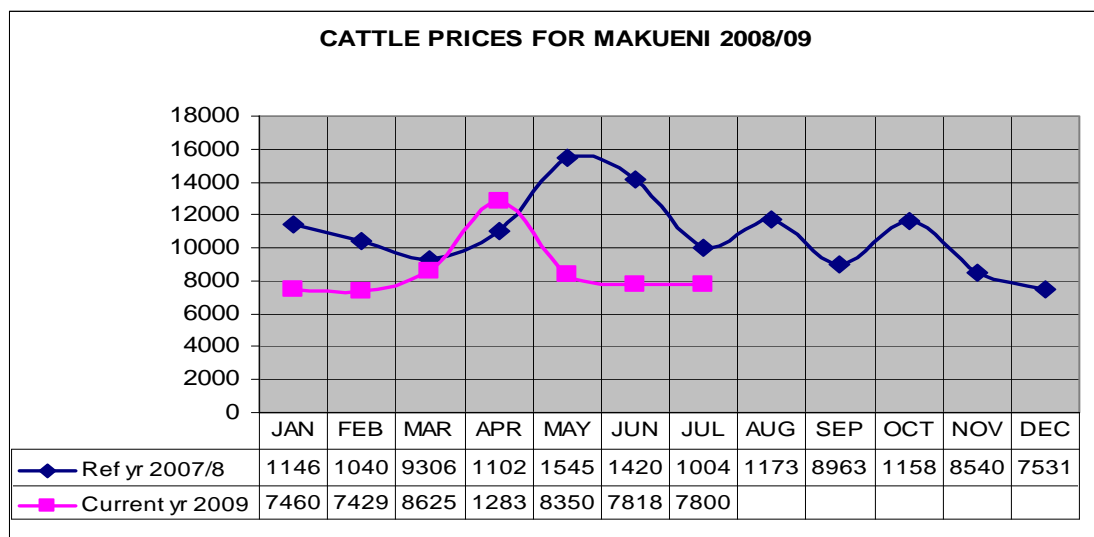
### 2.3 Milk production

- Milk and its products significantly increased in prices at Ksh52 perlitre but decreased in supply.
- This was an abnormal occurrence at the time of the year.

## 3.0 Access to food

### 3.1 Livestock marketing

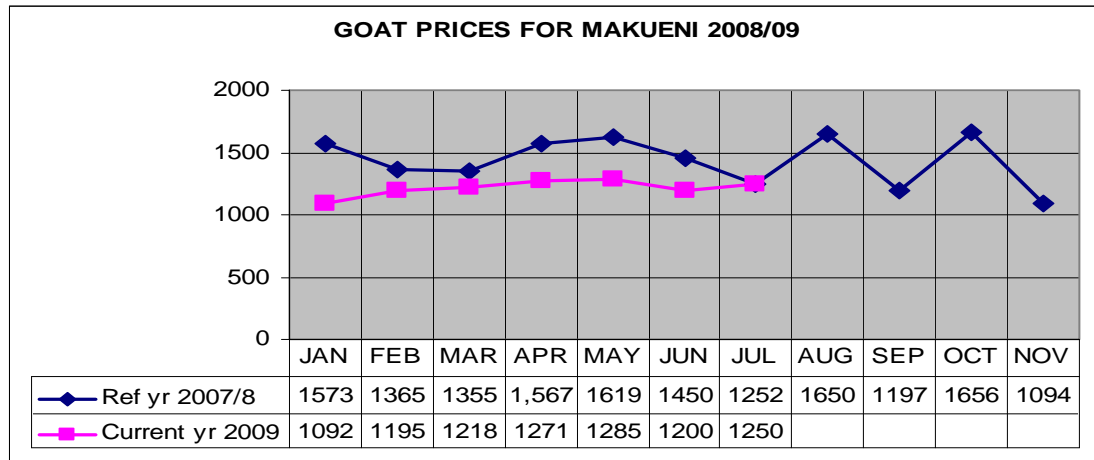
#### 3.1.1 Cattle prices



\*N=360

- Cattle prices decreased over the month and they were way below the same period last year.
- This was as a result of poor body condition and high supply in the local markets since most farmers fear livestock death following worsening conditions.
- This was an abnormal trend at the time of the year.

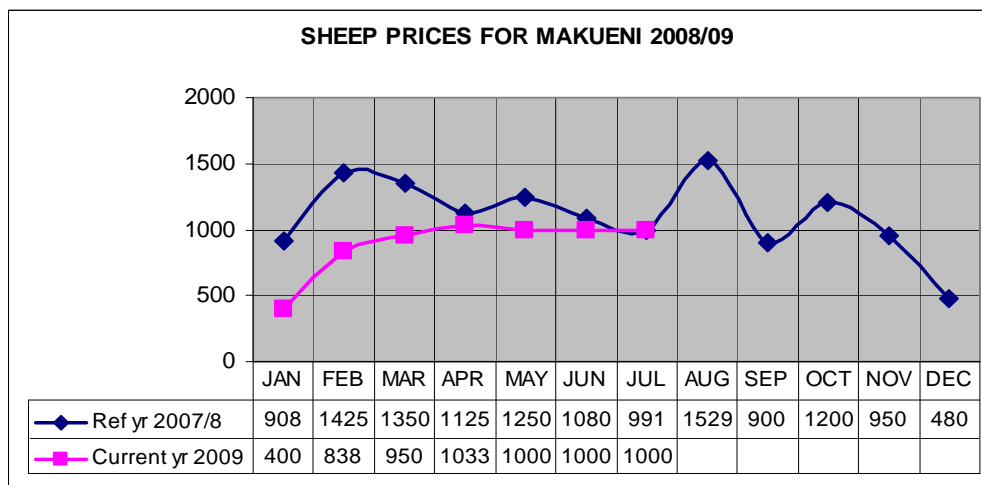
#### 3.1.2 Goat prices



\*N=360

- Goat prices considerably increased over the month and they were way below the same period last year.
- This was as a result of low supply in the local markets and improvement of body condition due to the rejuvenation of shrubs from the little rains received at the end of April and start of month

### 3.1.3 Sheep prices

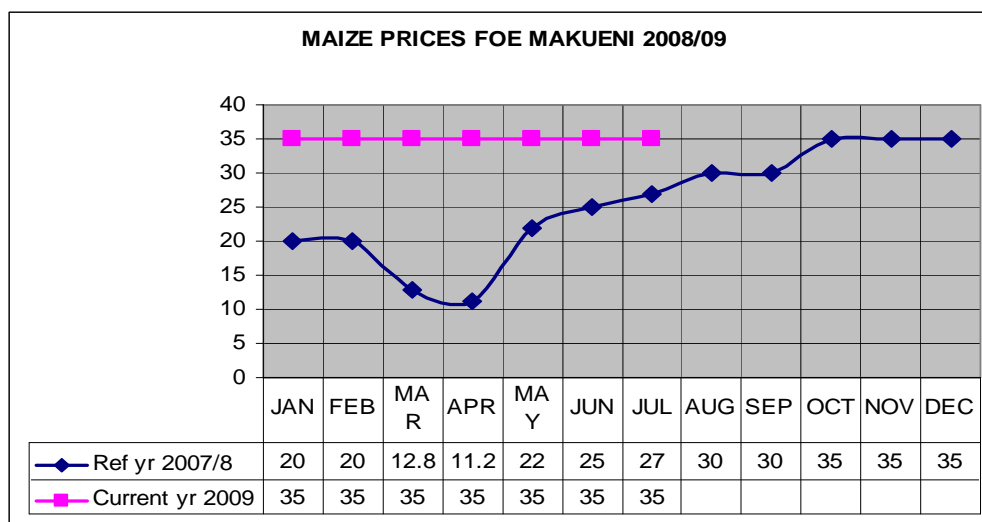


\*N=360

- Sheep prices increased slightly over the month and they were much lower than the same period last year but within the district average.
- This was as a result of high supply in the local markets since the weather condition was unreliable and unpredictable.

## 3.2 Food prices

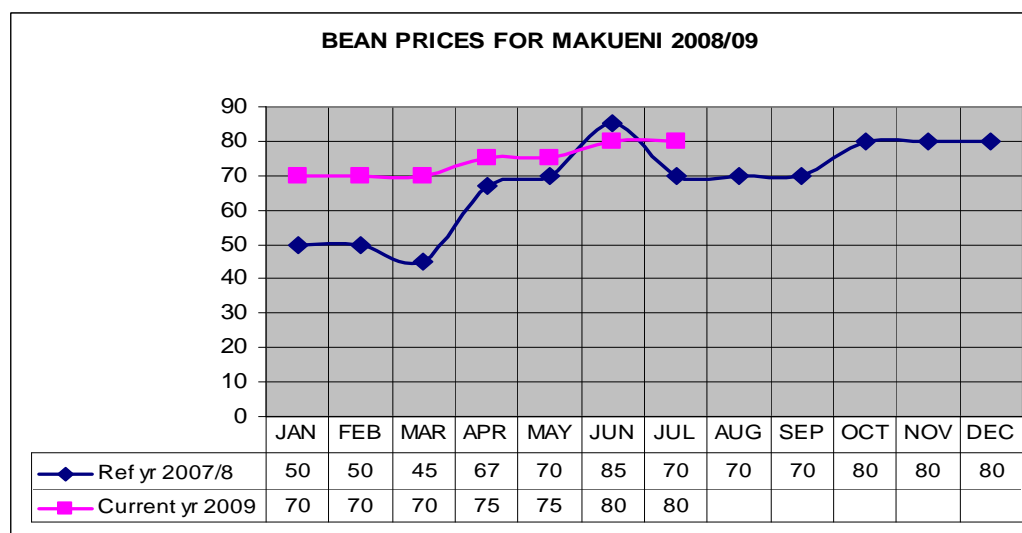
### 3.2.1 Maize prices



\*N=360

- Maize prices stagnated at Ksh35 during the month but this was way above the price at the same period last year.
- This was an abnormal occurrence but the phenomenon can be attributed to low supply in the local markets following subsequent crop failures.
- The cost was projected to increase further in the coming months if there is no change in the trend of supply of the commodity.

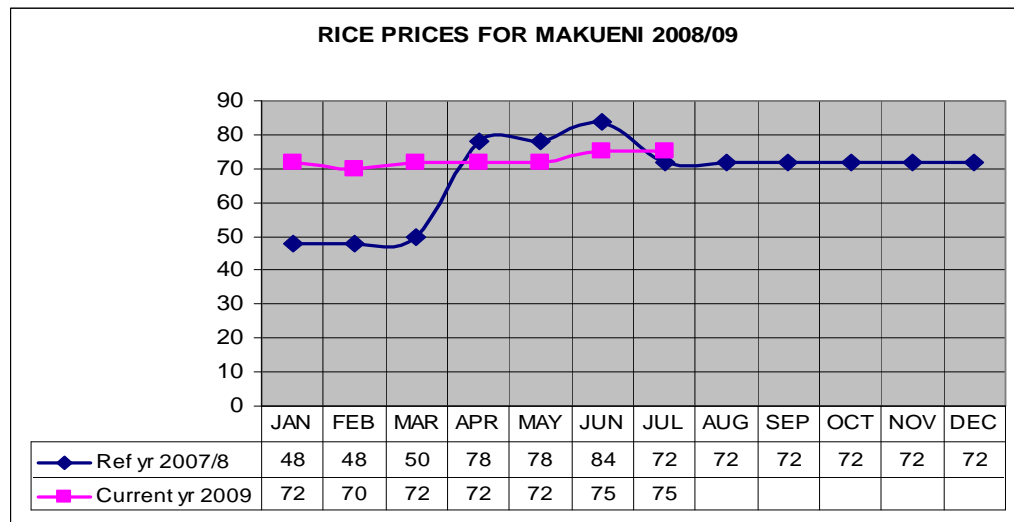
### 3.2.2 Beans prices



\* N=360

- Bean prices stagnated over the month at Ksh80 per kilo.
- This price was, however, way above compared to the same period last year .
- This was an abnormal occurrence at the time of the year.

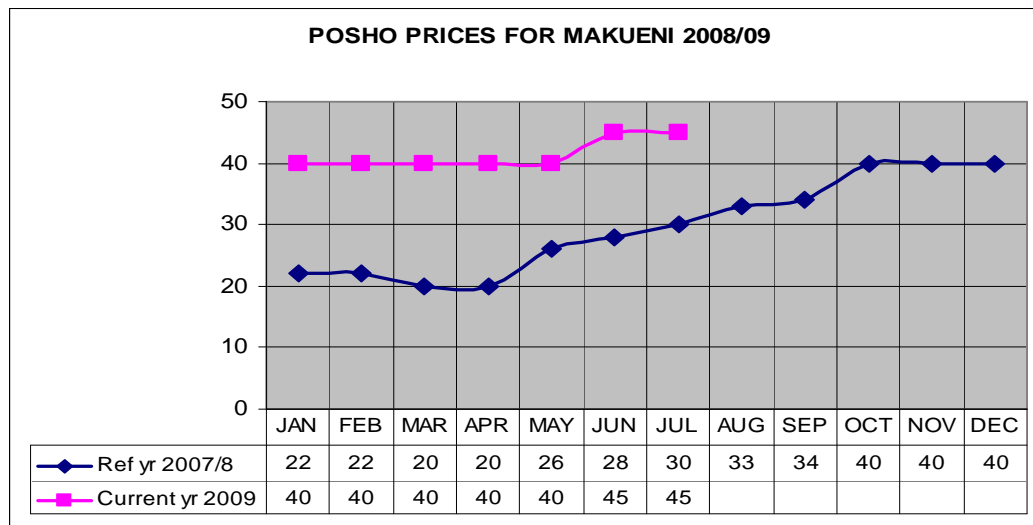
### 3.2.3 Rice prices



\* N=360

- Prices of rice stagnated over the month at Ksh75 per kilo.
- However, the price was lower than the long term mean.
- This was an abnormal occurrence at the time of the year and could be attributed to low supply of the commodity in the market.

### 3.2.4 Posho prices

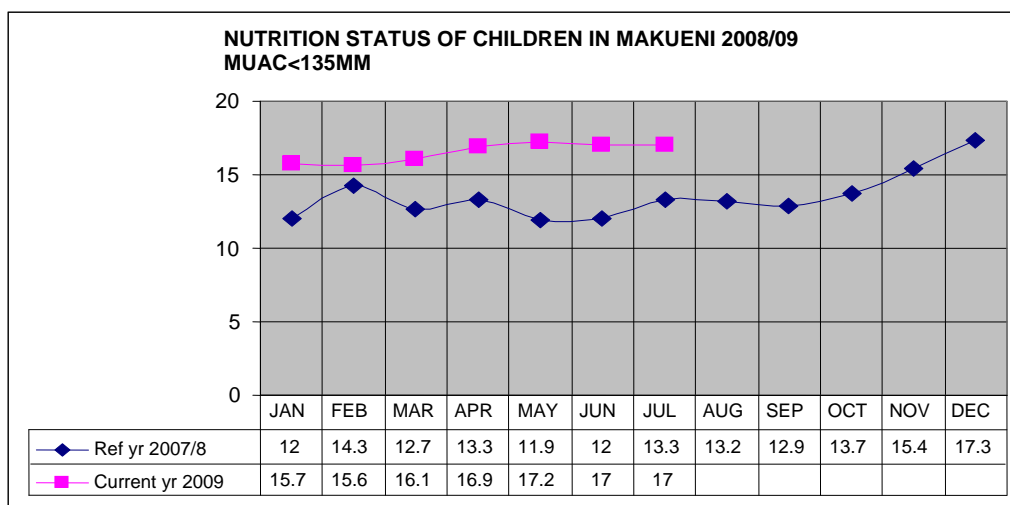


\* N=360

- Prices of posho stagnated compared to last month.
- The average price was Ksh45 per kilo.
- This was a bit higher than the same period last year.
- The stable prices were attributed to stagnation of whole maize prices.

## 4.0 Human welfare indicators (Food availability)

### 4.1 Nutrition status



\*N =1502

- The nutrition status of children under five years remained stable, with 17 percent rated at risk of malnutrition same as last month.
- The rate was however higher than the 13.3% long term mean.
- The nutrition status is expected to deteriorate due to increased food prices, leading to some families skipping and reducing the quality and quantity of meals and lack of vegetables and fruits.

#### 4.2 Human health

- The number of the sick reported in health facilities increased due to HIV/ Aids and malnutrition.

#### 5.0 Current interventions

- Relief food supplies were reported in hardest hit divisions in the larger Makueni district by G.O.K.
- Livestock off-take by the Ministry of Livestock Development to the larger Makueni district through the local traders to reduce livestock deaths.
- Vaccination against lumpy disease ,black quarter and foot and mouth diseases was done in Kibwezi, Nzaui and Mbooni Districts.