

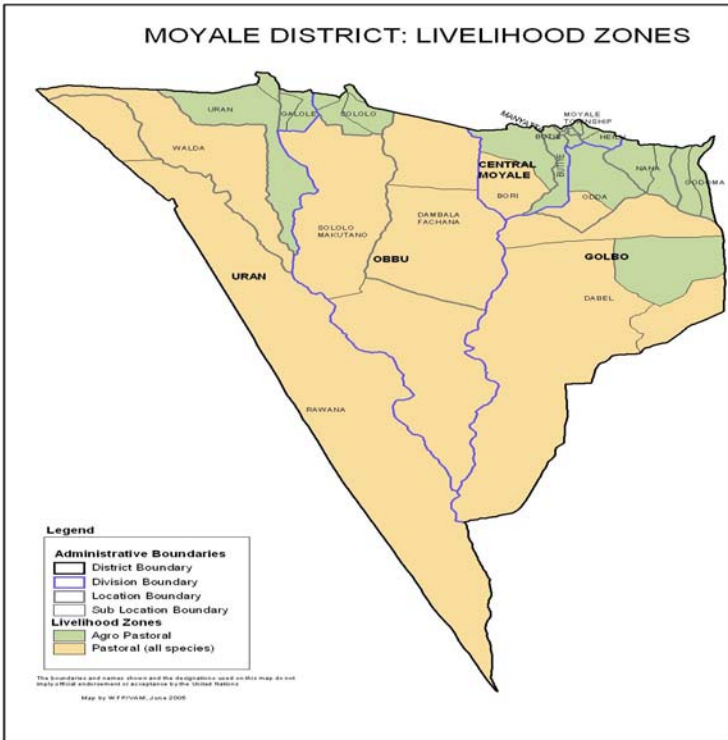


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, JULY 2009

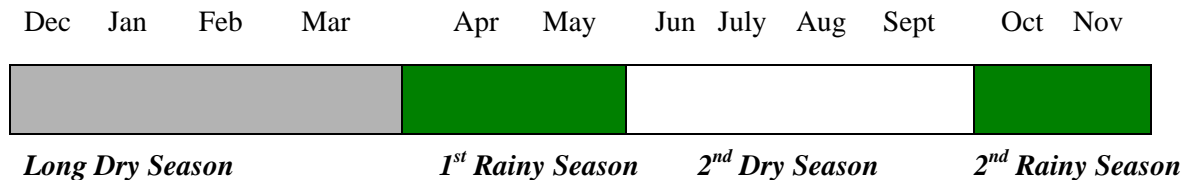
Moyale District

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zones	Stage	Trend
Pastoral Zones	Emergency	No change
Agro-Pastoral Zones	Alarm	Deteriorating
Casual Labour, Small Businesses	Emergency	No change
District	Emergency	No change

Seasonal Calendar



Situation overview

- The District received no rainfall over the month and the weather was quite chilly, especially during early morning hours and at night.
- Vegetation was quite poor in every eco-zone of the district. Forage was extremely scarce and pastoralists moved their livestock into Ethiopia, where the herds were exposed to a lot rustling.
- Water available was very poor for both livestock and humans. Herds spent long hours at boreholes due to low yield caused by retreating aquifers.
- Livestock body conditions continued to deteriorate and several deaths were recorded in cattle and sheep. Grazers are the worst affected by this year's drought than any other livestock.
- Several settlements within the district were completely abandoned as a result of water shortages. These were Amballo, Badan Rero, and other smaller settlements in Central and Golbo divisions.
- Livestock prices were not stable during the month though cattle prices seemed to have improved from Ksh6,688.60 to Ksh8,025. Prices of goats and sheep remained stable at Ksh1,424.50.
- Livestock mortality was quite high, especially sheep (at 15.7%) and 2.6% for goats.
- Livestock birth rose slightly, with cattle rates improving to 5.8% from 5.2% while goats went up to 9.7% from 11.2%. This was not an indication of herd increase as mortality and off take was much higher than birth rates.
- The nutrition status of children below five years declined during the month, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition rising to 34.3% from 33.3 last month. This was an indication of the negative impact of the drought on the district's food security.

Current interventions

Non-food interventions

- ALRMP II supported boreholes with fuel subsidies to offload fuel costs for pastoralists much affected by drought.
- Several settlements received water through ongoing water trucking intervention from the department of water. These were Guyo Timo, Dir Dima, Garba, Amballo, and other smaller centres on the main road to Sololo.
- Gen-sets repairs were done in Dabel, Godoma and Walda as engines were running almost day and night.

Food aid

- Food aid was given to many settlements such as relief (Uran Lataka, Manyatta Burji, Moyale Town).
- Many communities conducted food for work activities in form of constructing village roads, digging *fanya juus* in plots and shambas and clearing bushes off their shambas. This should be discouraged during this time of drought stress as it reduces the much needed time for other activities such as fetching water.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- More relief food is required and distribution should include more people.
- Food supplements should be increased to reverse the worsening malnutrition status.

- Pastoralists should be aided with hay and other livestock feeds as pasture availability continues to diminish.
- The district requires more water bowsers as the one in the district cannot support the district needs.
- The much denuded areas in the district require some form of rehabilitation to avoid erosion and destruction during the next rainy season.
- The communities in the region, especially those in agro-pastoral areas require much capacity building in natural resource and environmental protection to improve their resource base.
- Catchment destruction is rampant and needs to be discouraged as several streams and aquifers are drying up.

1.0 Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- The district did not receive any rainfall over the month, though the weather was much cooler over the reporting period.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pastures

- The condition of pasture and other forage was only limited to few fenced small shambas. The remaining vast rangeland was completely denuded and devoid of pasture.
- Forage quality was worst than any time of the year as drought period continued to extend.
- Quantity also decreased to the lowest ever seen as pastoralists gave up the land and migrated out of the district.

1.2.1 Distances to grazing areas

- The average grazing distances worsened and increased to 21.9 km compared last month's average of 14.0 km.
- The highest grazing distances was in Dabel at 30 km and Uran Lataka at 19.7 km. This was an indication of acceleration of drought stress.
- The situation was completely not normal as July is the month of abundance and crop harvests during normal years.

1.3 Water sources and accessibility

- The average household distance to water sources was 2.4 km, though the time at water sources increased to 3.6 hours. This was due to congestion and poorer yield of boreholes as a result of retreating aquifers.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Livestock migration

- The continued stay of livestock in far away pastures in Ethiopia exposed livestock to theft. Several livestock owners reported loss of their camels and cattle. The lost animals are not normally recovered and the complaints are being handled by elders in Ethiopia.

1.4.2 Livestock death

- Several cattle were reported to have died in Golbo division as lack of pasture and longer distances to water caused stress especially to young stock. Some herders opted to slaughter the new-borns to save their mothers.

1.4.3 Chronic malnutrition

- Malnutrition trend seems to worsen from month to month and the situation might worsen in the next few months. The district requires much need supplements than at any time of the year to reverse this trend.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock Production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Deterioration of livestock body condition accelerated as distances to pasture and water increased.
- The livestock that migrated might survive up to September or October but those in Moyale will soon perish unless moved away in time.

2.1.2 Livestock health and diseases

- Mortality in livestock was not as a result of any diseases but drought stress and predation.

2.1.3 Milk production

- The total milk produced in the district was 23.6 in 750 m/s bottles. This was very low as livestock migrated.

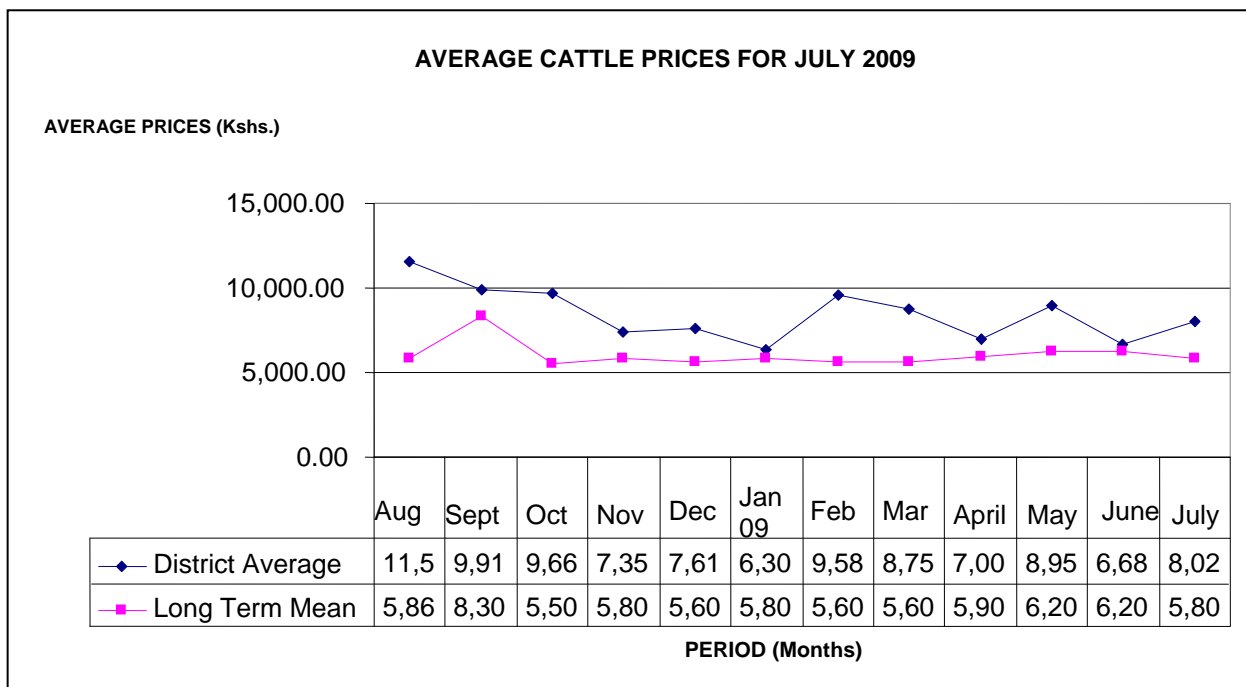
2.2 Crop production

- There were no crops in the field and even crop residues have all been used up.

3.0 Access to food

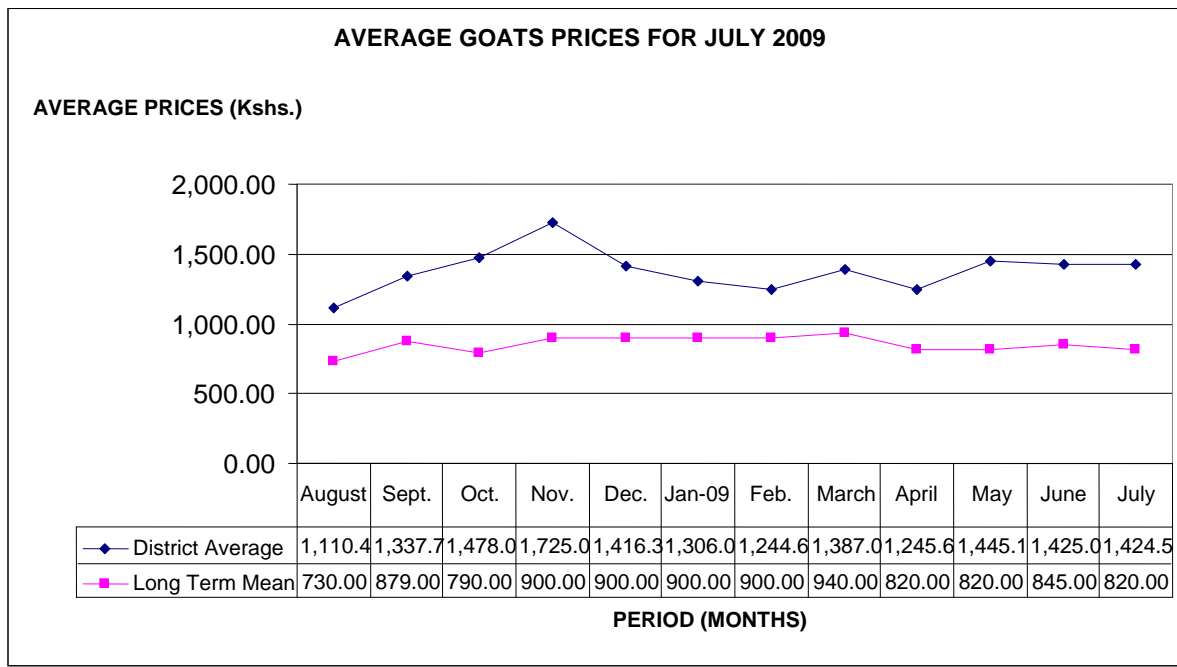
3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices



- Cattle prices improved to Ksh8,025, up from Ksh6,688.60.
- Most of the sales were conducted in order to purchase much needed cereal foodstuffs.

3.1.2 Goats prices



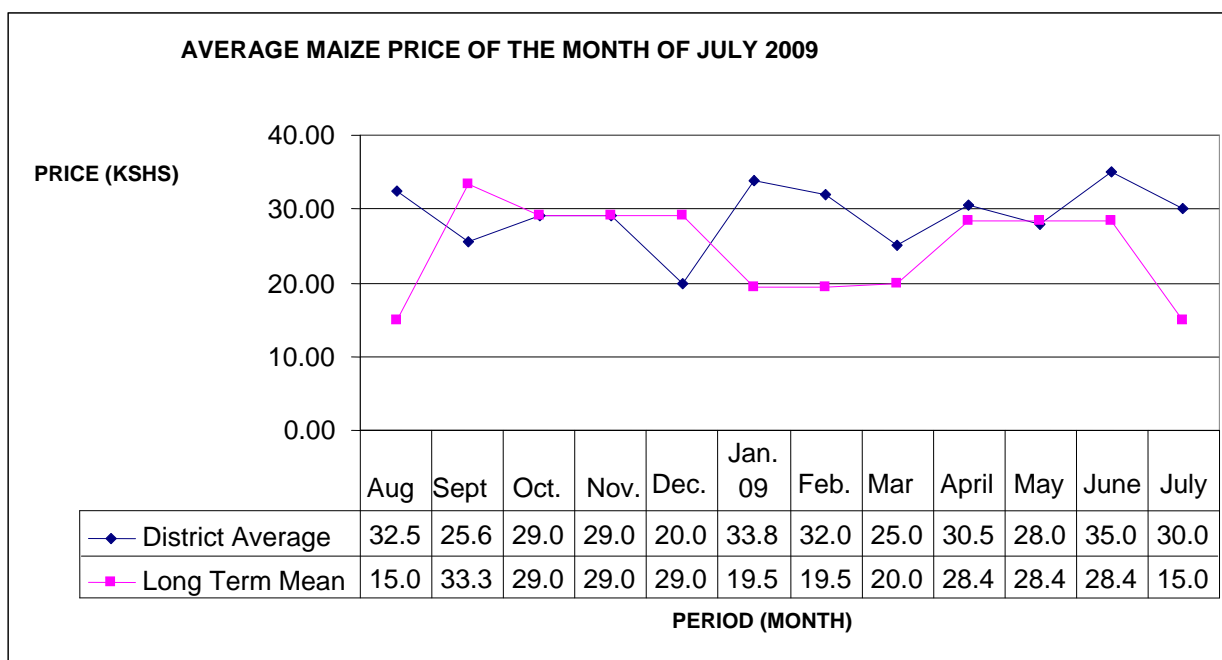
- Goat prices remained the same as last month at Ksh1,424.50.
- Most of the sales were done in order to pay water bills at boreholes and pay for cereals.

3.1.3 Camel prices

- Camel prices have improved as buyers from Ethiopia taking camels to the Gulf Region have come back. Mature bull can be sold at between Ksh45,000 to 50,000. The price of an immature bull was about Ksh12,000 at household level.

3.2 Crop prices

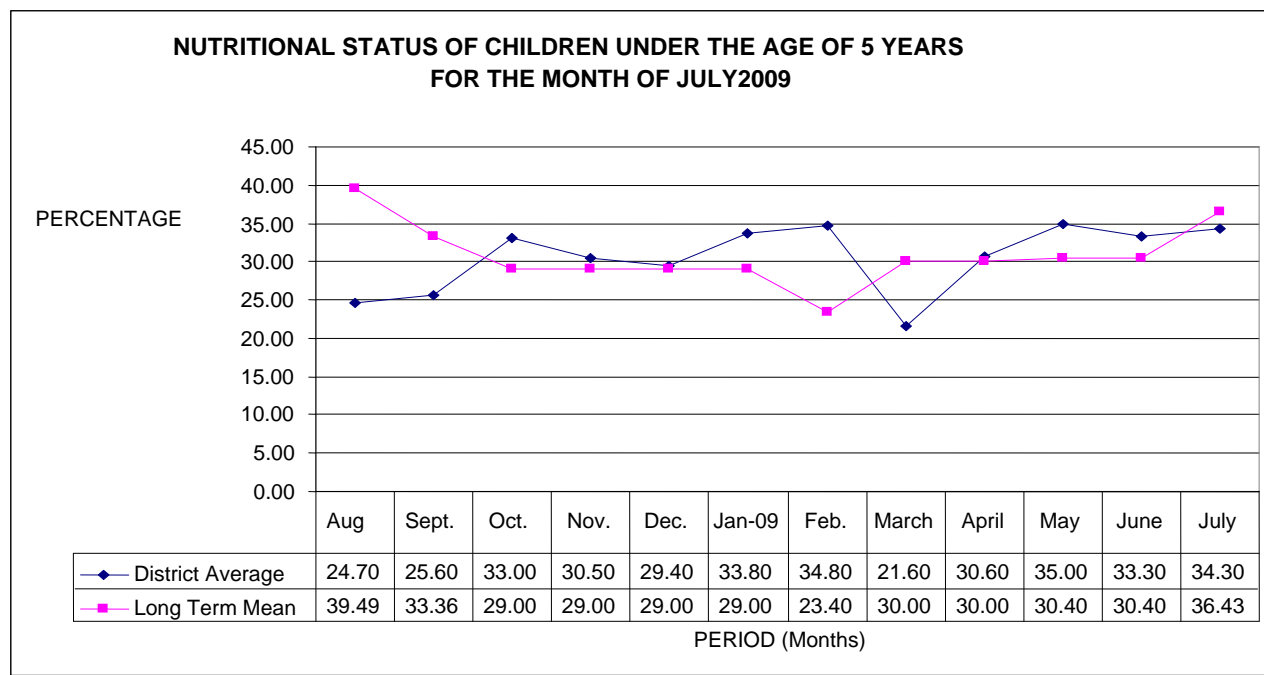
3.2.1 Maize prices



- Prices of maize remained very high at Ksh 30 per kilo.
- Prices dropped slightly as a result of slightly improved availability.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutritional status



- The nutrition status of children below five years declined during the month.
- The percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition rose to 34.3% from 33.3 last month.
- This was an indication of the negative impact of the drought on the district's food security.
- The trend is worsening and quite unstable given the conditions in the district.
- The most affected areas were Dabel in Golbo division, which recorded 51.0% children at risk of malnutrition and Mado Adhi at 47.0%. These are areas also affected by much water shortages.

4.2 Human health

- Malaria and common colds affected most areas of the district due to cold and chilly weather.
- The situation was worst among young children as food availability and balanced diet intake reduced to very low levels.

4.3 Flagged areas

- Almost all parts of the district are food insecure though the situation is worse in Dabel, Uran Lataka, Mado Adhi and Godoma.

5.0 Current interventions

- Relief food and food for work ongoing at all settlement centres.

- Several bush clearing sites were being improved through fencing to rehabilitate the rangelands and improve seed bulk.
- Water trucking and fuel subsidies were also being carried out to reduce the drought effect in pastoral livelihood zones.

5.1 Coping strategies

- Most of the herds which migrated into Ethiopia remained there as conditions were much better in the rangelands of Southern Boran Region.
- Some livestock owners tried to buy dry hay and fallow lands to sustain their livestock.
- Several households reduced number of meals and size as food became very scarce.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- More relief food is required and distribution should include more people.
- Food supplements should be increased to reverse the worsening malnutrition status.
- Pastoralists should be aided with hay and other livestock feeds as pasture availability continues to diminish.
- The district requires more water bowsers as the one in the district cannot support the district needs.
- The much denuded areas in the district require some form of rehabilitation to avoid erosion and destruction during the next rainy season.
- The communities in the region, especially those in agro-pastoral areas require much capacity building in natural resource and environmental protection to improve their resource base.
- Catchment destruction is rampant and needs to be discouraged as several streams and aquifers are drying up.