

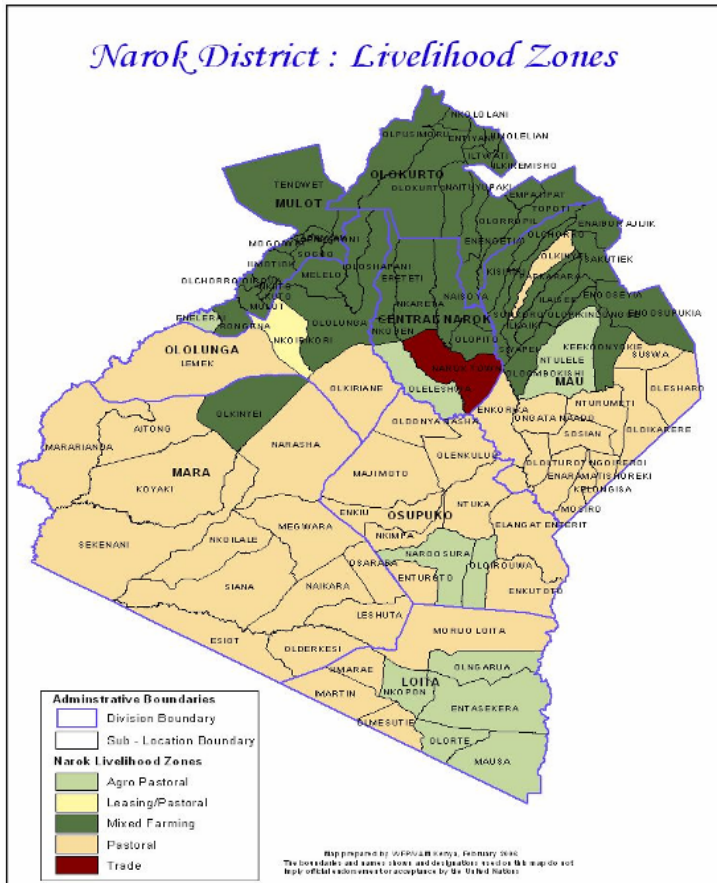


OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, JULY 2009

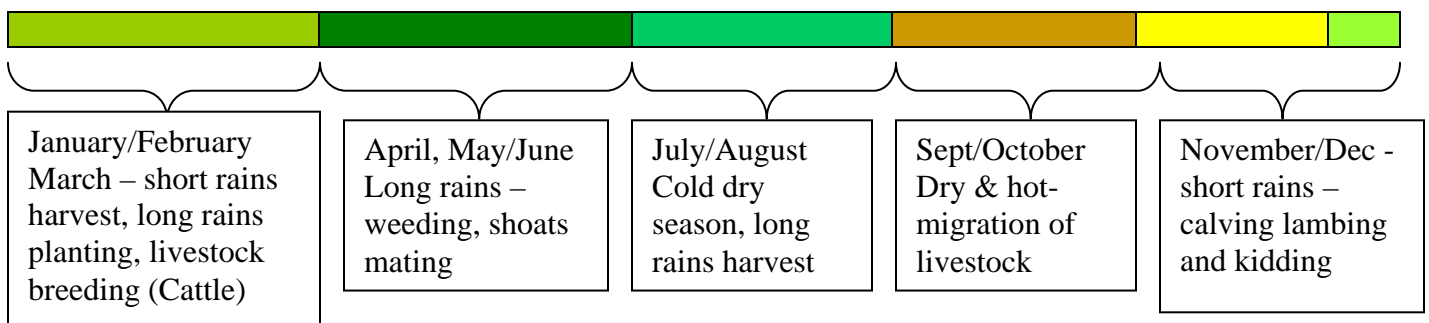
Narok District

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Agro Pastoral	Alarm	Worsening
Entasekera, Naroosura, Suswa		
Mixed Farming	Alert	Worsening
Nairragi-Enkare, Mulot		
Pastoral	Alarm	Worsening
Olmesutie, Ntuka, Mosiro, Oletukat		
Leasing/ Pastoral	Alarm	No Change
Lemek, Ololulunga, Pastoral Tourism	Alert	Worsening
Koyiaki		

Seasonal Calendar



Situation overview

- There were no rains received in the district during the month in review.
- Pasture and browse conditions changed drastically due to water related stress.
- Water availability declined compared to the previous month, with some pans already drying up due to lack of precipitation.
- The main sources of water for the last month were dams, major rivers and strategic boreholes and springs/wells. The distances to and from watering points increased from an average of 4-5 Kms last month to an average of 5-10 kms during the reporting period.
- Livestock body conditions continued to decline due to deteriorating pasture conditions. This impacted negatively on the market prices.
- Livestock prices remained low due to poor market conditions. On average a mature cow sold at Ksh8,000 compared to 15,000 under normal situation. However, shoat's prices did not change during the reporting period. On average the prices remained at Ksh1400 and 1,300 for goats and sheep respectively.
- Cases of enterotoxaemia heart water and CCPP were reported in Osupuko, Loita, Mau and Central divisions.
- Milk production declined drastically and the available milk was mainly reserved for young children.
- Prices of cereals remained within the previous month's rates, with maize selling at Ksh45, while legumes sold at an average of Ksh80 per kilo.
- The prices were above normal and this impacted negatively on the food security situation in the district.
- The anticipated relief from maize and wheat harvesting in the mixed farming and agro-pastoral areas has not yielded any better situation. There was mass crop failure for both maize and wheat and farmers continued counting losses due to drought. This was true for both Narok North and South.
- Only a few maize farmers were lucky to get harvests, especially in the upper parts of the district including Mulot and some parts of the agro pastoral areas of Loita, which also recorded far below normal quantities.
- The nutrition status of children under five declined compared to the previous month. On average 18% of 970 children sampled were rated at risk of malnutrition. This was in comparison to a low of 16% of 800 recorded last month.
- The situation is likely to deteriorate further if the prevailing weather conditions continue. This was mainly attributed to the declining food security situation.
- The district was at alert stage of drought and it was moving towards alarm stage in terms of food security situation.

Recommendation to DSG and KFSM

- There is need for close monitoring of the food security situation in the district. This is due poor pasture regeneration and the prevalence of a serious food crisis following the prolonged drought and the mass crop failure during the season.
- Key stakeholders including WFP and Red Cross to consider relief food and other emergency interventions (non food) to the affected population approximately numbering 120,000.
- The few farmers lucky to have gotten harvest of maize crop should be encouraged to store their harvests and be trained on proper storage techniques.

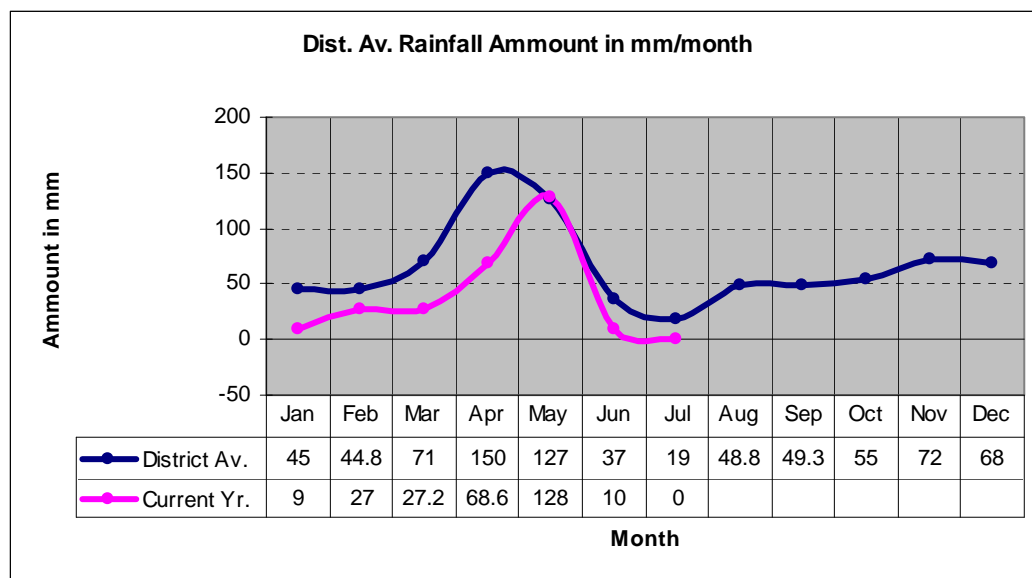
- Water harvesting technologies should also be up-scaled in the district.
- Supplementary feeding of children under five should be done to improve their nutrition status.
- Livestock disease surveillance should also be strengthened, especially with the likelihood of uncontrolled livestock movements in and out of the district.
- Livestock farmers should be encouraged to destock their herds to reduce the impacts of losses in the event of a drought which is imminent.
- Support to schools feeding programme was also recommended, especially for the affected schools that are not currently in the WFP Expanded school feeding programme.

Current interventions

- Capacity building trainings for communities undertaken by various stakeholders.
- Peace meetings for communities vulnerable to resource-based conflicts.
- Distribution of relief seeds to farmers through the Ministry of Agriculture (D.A.O).
- Protection and development of Loita, Sakutiek, and Kimogoro springs (ALRMP II, M.W&I, W.R.M.A).
- Integrated medical outreach alongside the anti-jigger campaign at Enaramatishoreki and Isinon Locations. (D.M.O.H, A.C.K, Red Cross and ALRMP II).
- Tree planting and water development project by various groups supported by ALRMP II, K.F.S and ENSDA mainly through the Kazi kwa Vijana initiatives.
- MoH, Operation Eye Sight International drilled more boreholes in its district-wide trachoma eradication programme.
- World Vision, World Concern, APHIAII, Kenya Red Cross and other institutions supplemented the GoK activities in provision of water and capacity building support in various divisions.

1.0 Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall



SOURCE: ALRMP, WRMA

- Narok district is currently on the alert stage tending towards alarm in terms of food security situation. The situation is however likely to deteriorate if the prevailing weather conditions persist.
- The month was dry and cold with no rainfall recorded.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Pasture and browse conditions were very poor, with some parts, especially in the lower rangelands of Osupuko, Central and parts of Mau being bare. This was mainly due to lack of precipitation.

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Use of water sources

- Water availability was fast declining, with approximately 20% of water pans and dams already drying up due to lack of rainfall and concentration of livestock around the water sources.
- The main sources of water for the month included dams major rivers, strategic boreholes and springs/wells. The situation is however likely to worsen if the current weather conditions prevail.
- This will impact negatively on the food security situation.

The table below indicates water sources and percentage of households using them, compared to a normal situation.

Water source	1	2	3	4	Others
% Of h/holds depending on the source	40	20	25	10	5
% Of h/holds normally depending on source	25	50	15	8	2

1. Natural rivers 2. Catchment pools/dams 3. Constructed shallow wells/functional 4. Boreholes (functional)

1.3.2 Distance (kms) to water sources

The table below indicates average distances to water sources compared to normal situation

Water sources	1	2	3	4	Others
Average Kms to the source	6	10	5	8	4
Normal Kms to the source	4	3	5	8	2

1. Traditional rivers/wells 2. Catchment pools/dams 3. Constructed shallow wells/functional 4. Boreholes (functional)

- The distances to and from watering points increased significantly following the drying up of pans and streams during the month.
- The average distance was 5-10 Kms to water sources for livestock and domestic use. The distances to the watering points were not normal during the time of the year.
- This impacted negatively on the food security situation as more time was spent looking for water for domestic use as well as for livestock.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity/conflicts

- Apart from a few cases of predation, there were no major security concerns in the district.

1.4.2 Livestock migration

- No in-migration was reported in the district during the review period.
- There have been no reports of outmigration during the reporting period.
- Movement of livestock within the district have reportedly continued as herders move their livestock away from the wildlife migration corridors especially in Mara and Osupuko.

1.4.3 Human migration/displacement

- No major movement of humans reported during the review period
- Cases of a few people moving into the district in search of casual labour and charcoal burning
- This is also normal during this time of the year

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Livestock body conditions declined drastically due to water and pasture related stress.
- This impacted negatively on the food security situation.

2.1.2 Livestock health

- Cases of enterotoxaemia heart water and CCPP have been reported in areas of Osupuko, Loita, Mau and Central divisions.

- The drought situation may trigger an uncontrolled movement of livestock in search of pasture and water thereby increasing the prevalence of disease outbreaks.
- The department of veterinary was however monitoring the situation.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk availability dropped following the poor weather conditions and was far below normal due to the low calving rates and the impacts of the recent drought.
- Where milk was available, consumption was mainly reserved for young children.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and status of various crop production activities

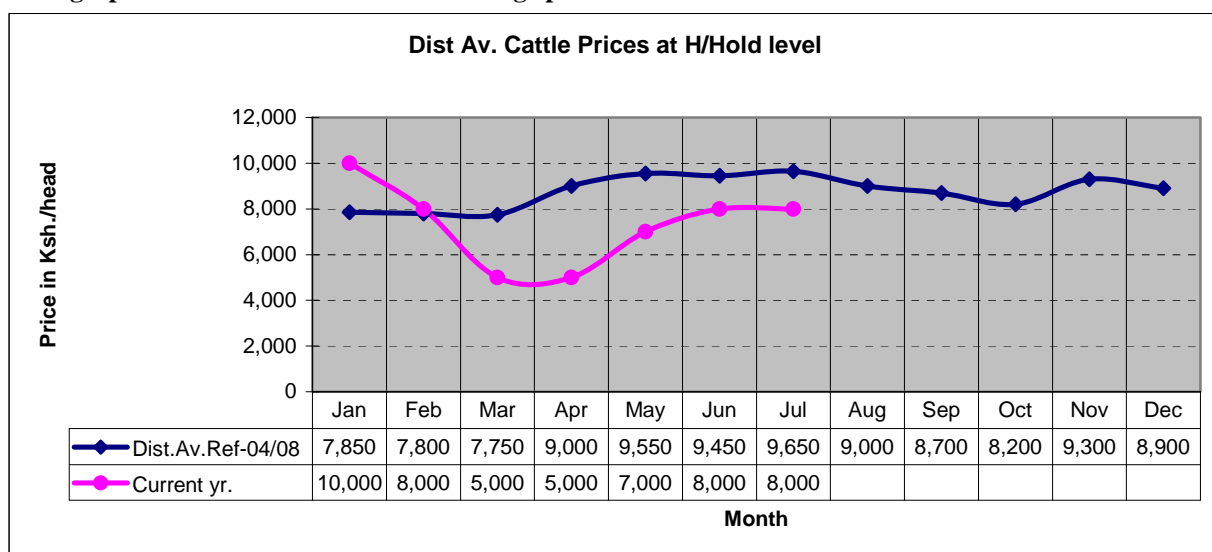
- The crop of wheat which is currently being harvested is very poor and in some areas the yields are nil. Most farmers are harvesting as low as 2 bags per acre compared to the normal 15-18 bags. This has driven a number of households to serious food insecurity problems.
- Maize farmers have also recorded very low yields to Zero with most farmers not harvesting at all due to the effects of drought. For those who got some harvest it was far much below normal most of them getting 1-3 bags per acre compared to 10-15 bags under normal circumstances.
- Crops under irrigation in Naroosura and Mosiro are in good condition but the acreage is very low due to most farmers leaving the areas with their livestock in search of water and pasture.

3.0 Access to food

3.1.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices (Kshs)

The graph below shows district cattle average prices in Ksh. At the household level



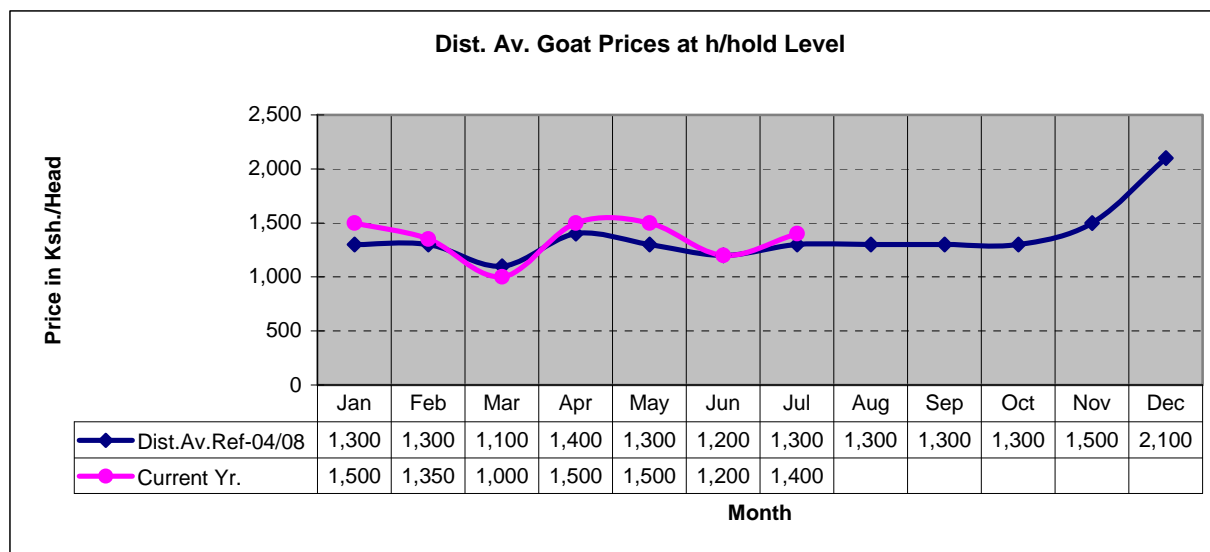
Source: ALRMP II NAROK

- Cattle prices remained stable during the month.
- Mature cows sold at an average of Ksh8,000 compared to the normal of Ksh15,000.

- However, the price was lower than the Ksh9,650 long term average.

3.1.2 Goat prices

The graph below shows the district average prices of goats at the h/hold level (Ksh.)

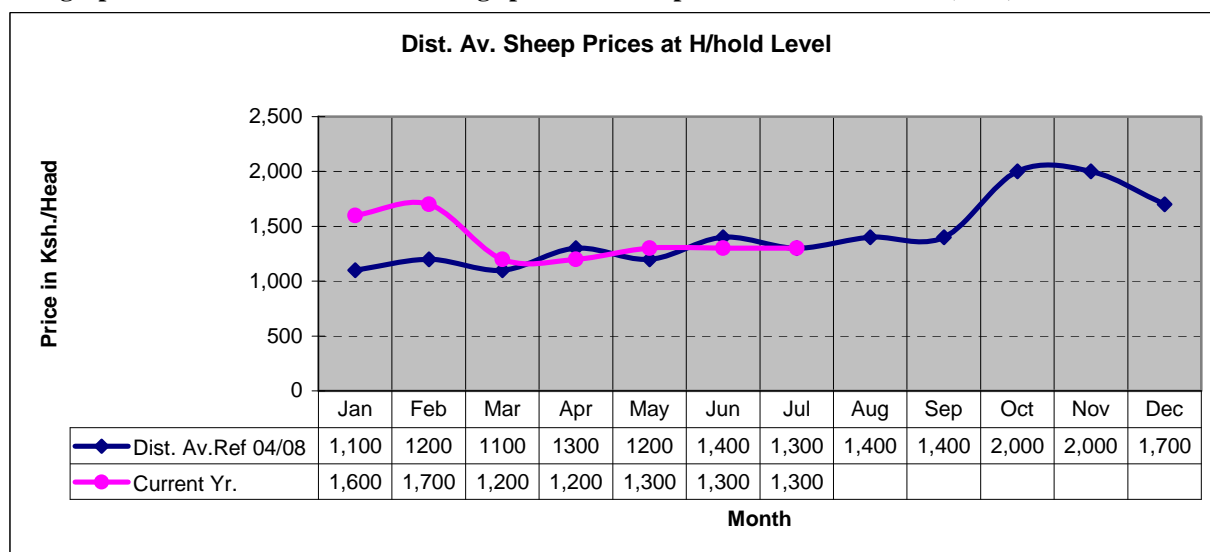


Source: ALRMP II NAROK

- Goat prices remained within the previous month's ranges, selling at an average of Ksh 1,400.00 per head.
- This was, however, within the normal rates during the time of the year. Most households relied more on the sales of shoats for survival.
- This impacted positively on the food security situation.

3.1.3 Sheep prices

The graph below shows the district average prices for sheep at the household level (Ksh.)



Source: ALRMP II NAROK

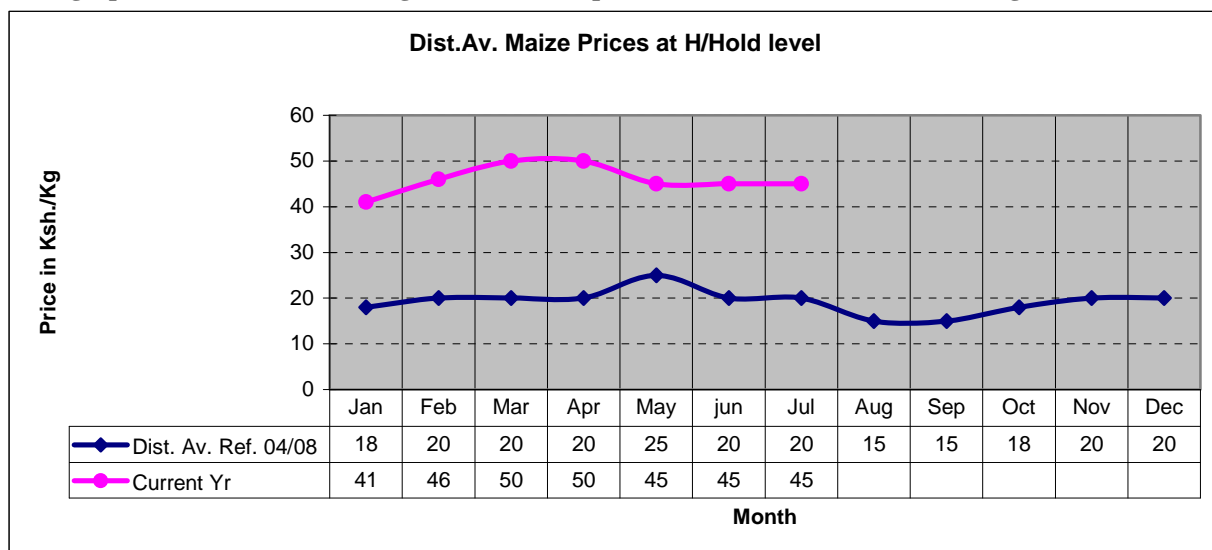
- Sheep prices remained stable at Ksh1,300.
- The price was still stable compared to the long term mean but low compared to Ksh 1,700 recorded in February.

- The shoats were the only source of income as they supplemented the households source of food and cash as the prices for the larger stock were far much below the thresholds.

3.2 Food prices

3.2.1 Maize prices

The graph below shows the average district maize prices at the household level (Ksh./Kg)

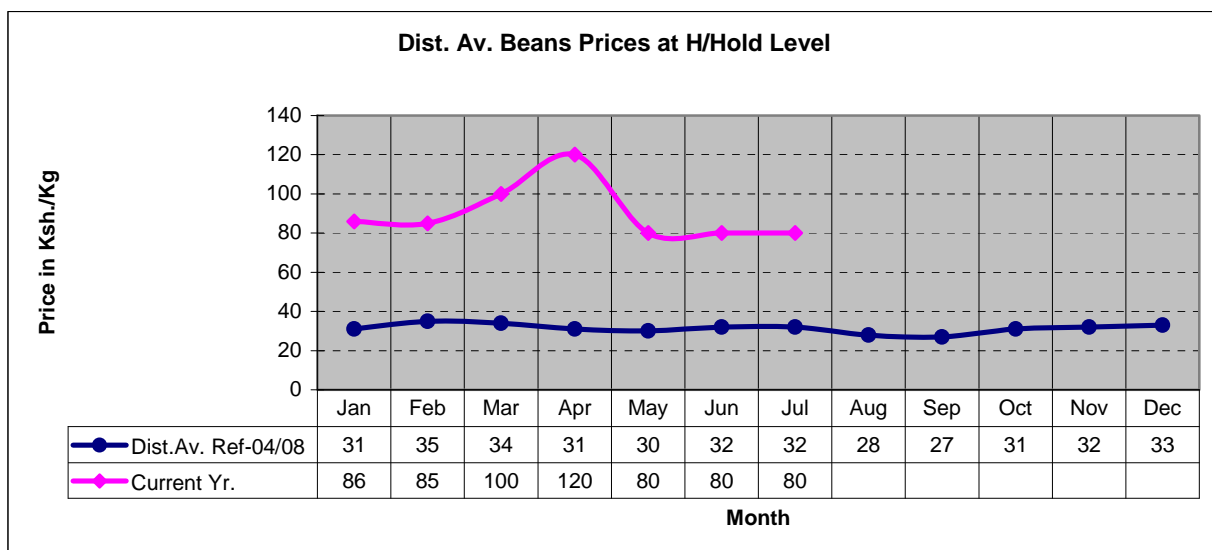


Source: ALRMP II NAROK

- Maize prices remained stable at Ksh 45 per kilo.
- The price was much higher than the Ksh20 long term mean.
- This was mainly attributed to scarcity of the same in the market. There is also a national outcry on the shortage of maize and this could impact negatively on the commodity prices at the market and household levels.
- The slight decrease was, however, a relief to households and was mainly attributed to the prevailing weather conditions where there was improved milk production and crops such as maize and beans were being consumed in their green stages.
- However, in the long run it will impact negatively on the food security level.

3.2.2 Beans prices

The graph below shows district average beans prices at the household level (Ksh /kg)

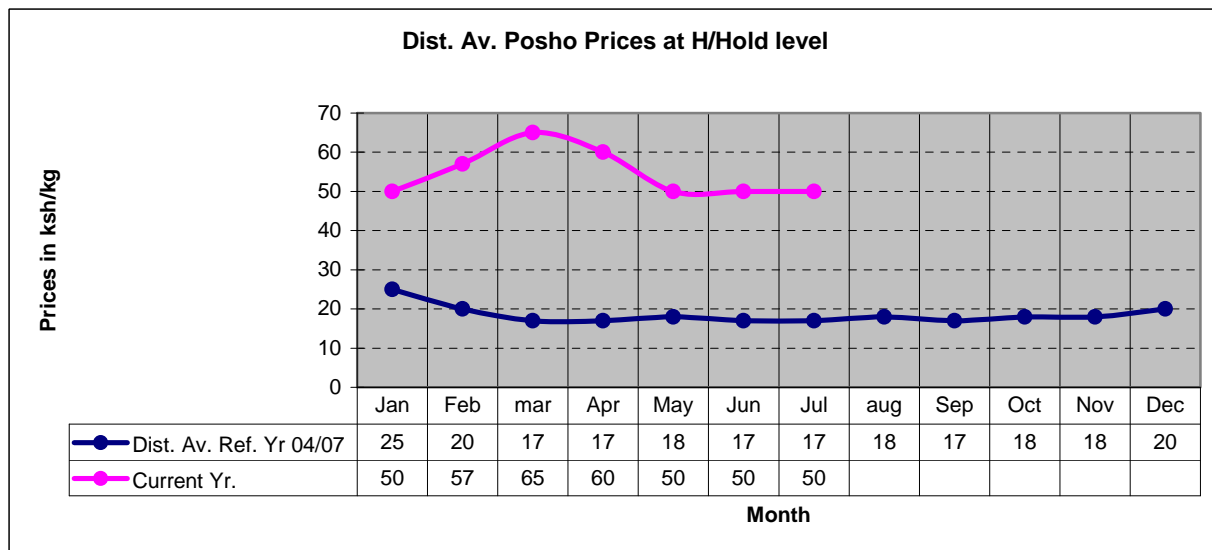


Source: ALRMP II NAROK

- Beans prices remained within the previous months range of Ksh80 per kilo.
- This was far beyond normal during the time of the year.
- The situation is likely to remain the same as very few farmers harvested beans.
- The prices are likely to rise further if the conditions prevail.

3.2.3 Posho prices

The graph below shows the average prices of posho at the district (Ksh/Kg)



Source: ALRMP II NAROK

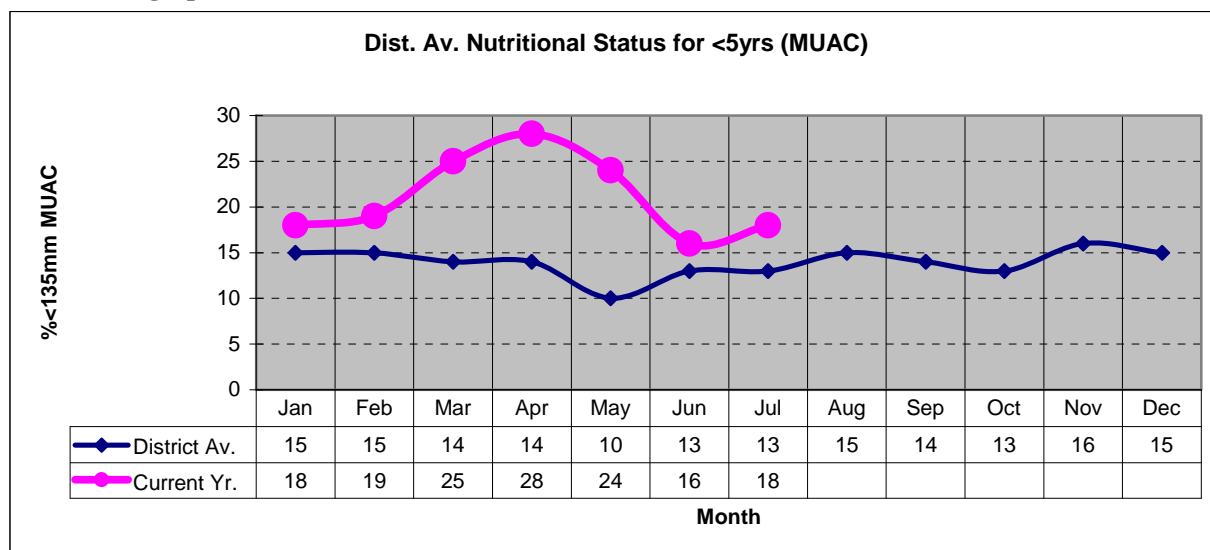
- Posho prices have remained within the last month's average rate of ksh. 50.00
- This is still far above normal and is mainly attributed to the scarcity of food in the household level.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status

- The nutritional status of children under five has declined from the previous month. On average **18%** of **970** children sampled measuring <135mm of the MUAC. This is in comparison to the high of 16% of 800 recorded last month.
- The situation is likely to deteriorate if the current weather conditions prevail. This is mainly attributed to the declining food security situation.

The graph below shows the MUAC malnutrition rates (% <135mm)



Source: ALRMP II NAROK

4.2 Human health

- There were no major cases of human disease in both districts during the review period.

5.0 Current interventions

- Capacity building trainings for communities undertaken by various stakeholders.
- Peace meetings for communities vulnerable to resource-based conflicts.
- Distribution of relief seeds to farmers through the Ministry of Agriculture (D.A.O).
- Protection and development of Loita, Sakutiek, and Kimogoro springs (ALRMP II, M.W&I, W.R.M.A).
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6.0 Recommendation to DSG and KFSM

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- Key stakeholders including WFP and Red Cross to consider relief food and other emergency interventions (non food) to the affected population approximately numbering 120,000
- The few farmers lucky to have gotten a crop of maize should be encouraged to store their harvests and be trained on proper storage techniques.
- Water harvesting technologies should also be up scaled in the district.
- Supplementary feeding of children under five should be done to improve on their nutritional status.
- Livestock disease surveillance should also be strengthened especially with the likelihood of uncontrolled livestock movements in and out of the district.
- Livestock farmers should be encouraged to destock their herds to reduce the impacts of losses in the event of a drought which is imminent.
- Support to schools feeding programme is also recommended especially for the affected schools that are not currently in the WFP Expanded school feeding programme.