

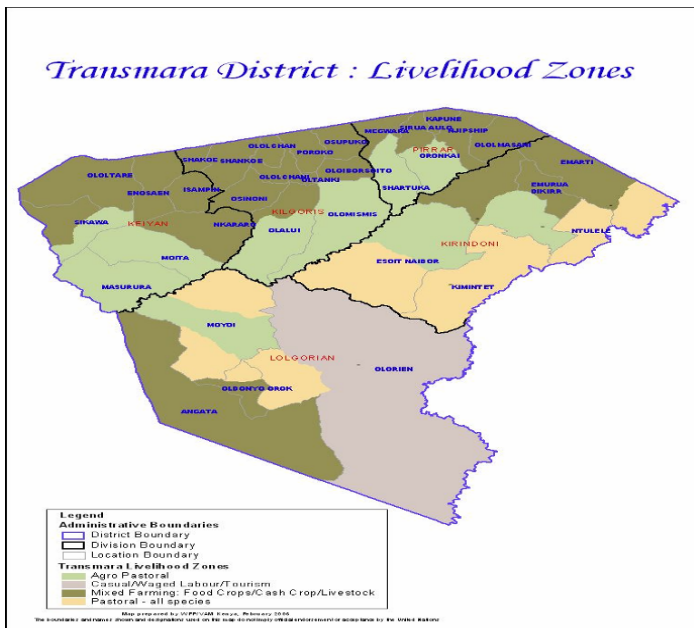


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, JULY 2009

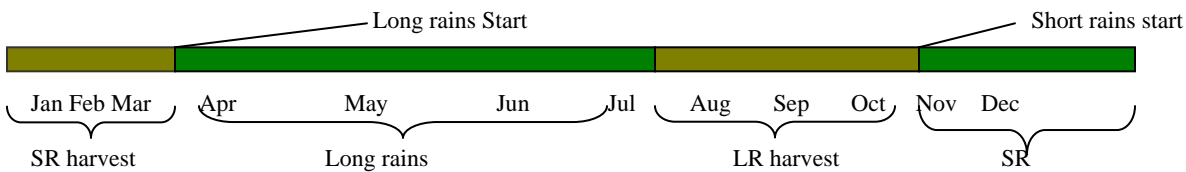
Transmara District

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Mixed farming	Alert	Improving
Agro Pastoral	Alert	No change
Pastoral	Alert	Worsening
Casual waged labour/ tourism	Alert	Worsening

Seasonal calendar



Situation overview

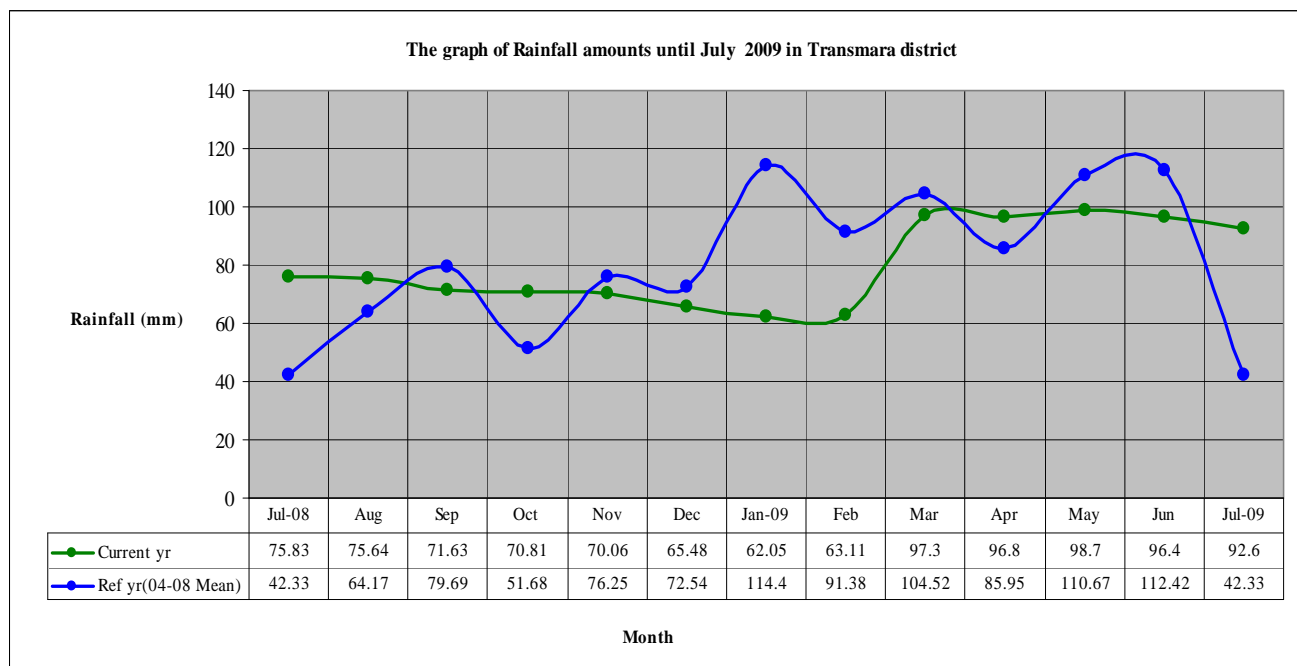
- The district recorded 92.6mm of rainfall during the month compared to 96.4mm the previous month.
- The quantity and quality of pasture was low and reducing, compared to the previous month.
- Livestock body condition was fair. Livestock prices decreased due to closed markets on FMD outbreak.
- Maize was at harvesting stage but poor harvests were expected. This led to a decline in maize prices.
- Beans prices increased since the commodity was not easily available.
- The nutrition status of children below five years improved. This was attributed to the coping strategy where household members reserved milk for children.
- The general food situation improved from bad to fair.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Water projects should be implemented in areas that are frequently hard hit by water shortages and long distances to water sources during extended dry spells. **Action: Water & ALRMP II.**
- Sensitisation on post-harvest crop management for farmers during harvesting to minimise wastage and improve food security. **Action: MoA & ALRMP II.**
- There is need to improve poor roads condition, as well as security access bridges and drifts in conflict areas. **Action: Public Works, ALRMP II & CDF.**

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall



Rainfall data from Kilgoris rainfall station

- The rainfall amount received was 92.6mm, a decrease from 96.4mm the previous month.
- The trend was downward as expected during such times of the year.
- Rainfall amount was higher than the norm for such a month of the year. Water levels did not reduce significantly.
- The rainfall has been ongoing, with some periods of dry spell. The district had 6 rainy days averagely, similar to the previous month.
- In mixed farming livelihoods, about 25% of the areas received rainfall, compared to 30% during the previous months. Pastoral, Agro-pastoral and Casual waged labour/ tourism livelihoods received an average of about 15% coverage, compared to 20% of the previous month.
- This spatial distribution was below normal for the time of the year, where it is usually expected that majority of the areas receive rainfall.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- The quality of vegetation and pasture was fair.
- The quality of the vegetation in the pastoral livelihood zones was of lower quality compared to that of the previous months. These areas (Kirindon division and South Eastern parts of Lolgorian division) were affected by reduced rainfall amounts than the rest.
- The quantity of pasture was low and reducing, compared to the previous month.
- The pasture quantity was less than that of the same month for a normal year.
- The quantity of the vegetation in the Mixed farming livelihood zones was, however, higher than that of other livelihoods. This was attributed to differences in soil potentials between the two.

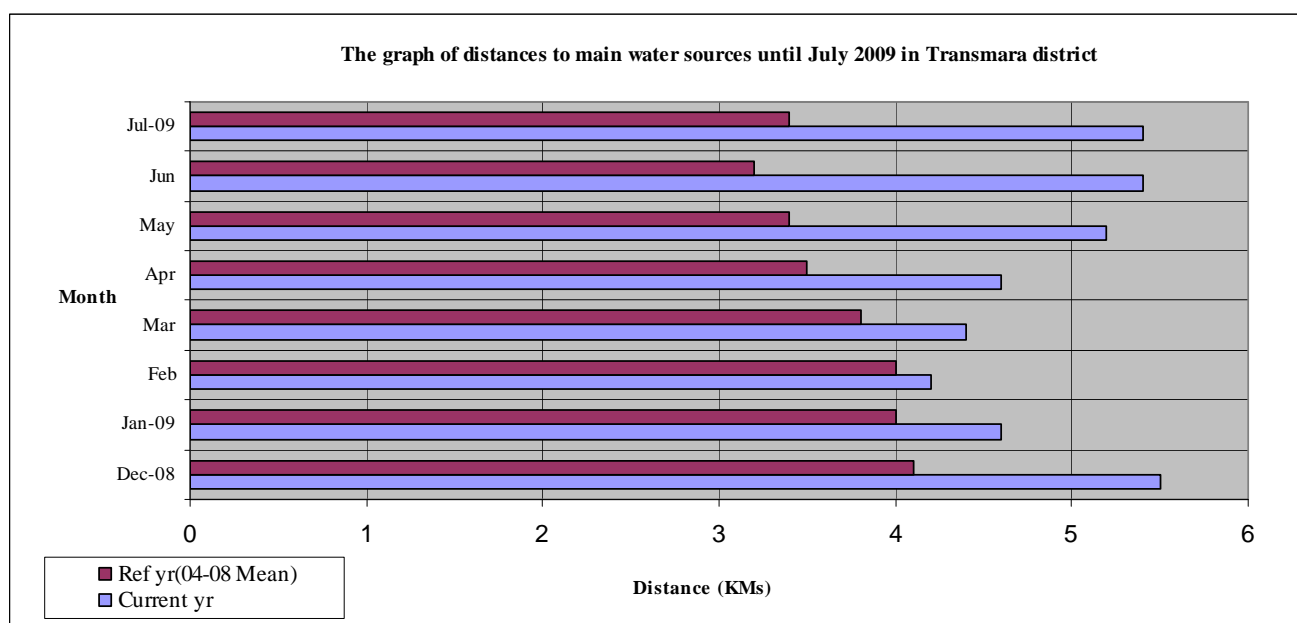
1.2.1 Distance to grazing areas

- The average distance from livestock concentration points to main grazing areas in the district was 5 Kms.
- This was above normal (3.38kms) and was as a result of inadequate rains received.

1.3 Water sources and availability

- Rivers, pans and dams were still the main sources of water for both people and livestock.
- These sources were under pressure due to a high population of users. Other sources had dried up following low rainfall amounts received over an extended period of time. The water situation was still worse in all livelihoods. The situation is likely to persist.

1.3.1 Distances to water sources



- The average distance (in kms) to main water sources ranged between 5 and 6, similar in range to that of the previous month. The trend was upward.
- This distance was higher compared to that of the same month for the long term average.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity/conflict/human displacement

- There were no incidences of insecurity in the district during the month.

1.5 Implications on food security

- The decreasing rainfall amount is likely to reduce water and pasture availability.
- Milk production will eventually go down and affect livelihoods if the trend continues.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- The body condition of cattle, sheep and goats was fair, similar to that of the previous month.
- There were no marked differences in the body condition of livestock between pastoral/Agro-pastoral zones and the Mixed farming ones.

- Livestock was generally being sustained by the little pasture and water that may not last long unless the rains improve.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- The Foot and Mouth disease outbreak was still prevalent in most of the pastoral areas.
- The situation has lasted for over three months, which is quite unusual.

2.1.3 Milk production

- The average milk production per household was low, similar to the previous month. This was because of the low water and pasture levels.
- The quantity of milk production was less than normal for the time of the year.
- Mixed farming livelihoods recorded higher milk production per animal than pastoral zones.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of various crop production activities

- In farming areas, maize was generally under harvest. The crop had been affected by low rainfall amounts and the yields are low.

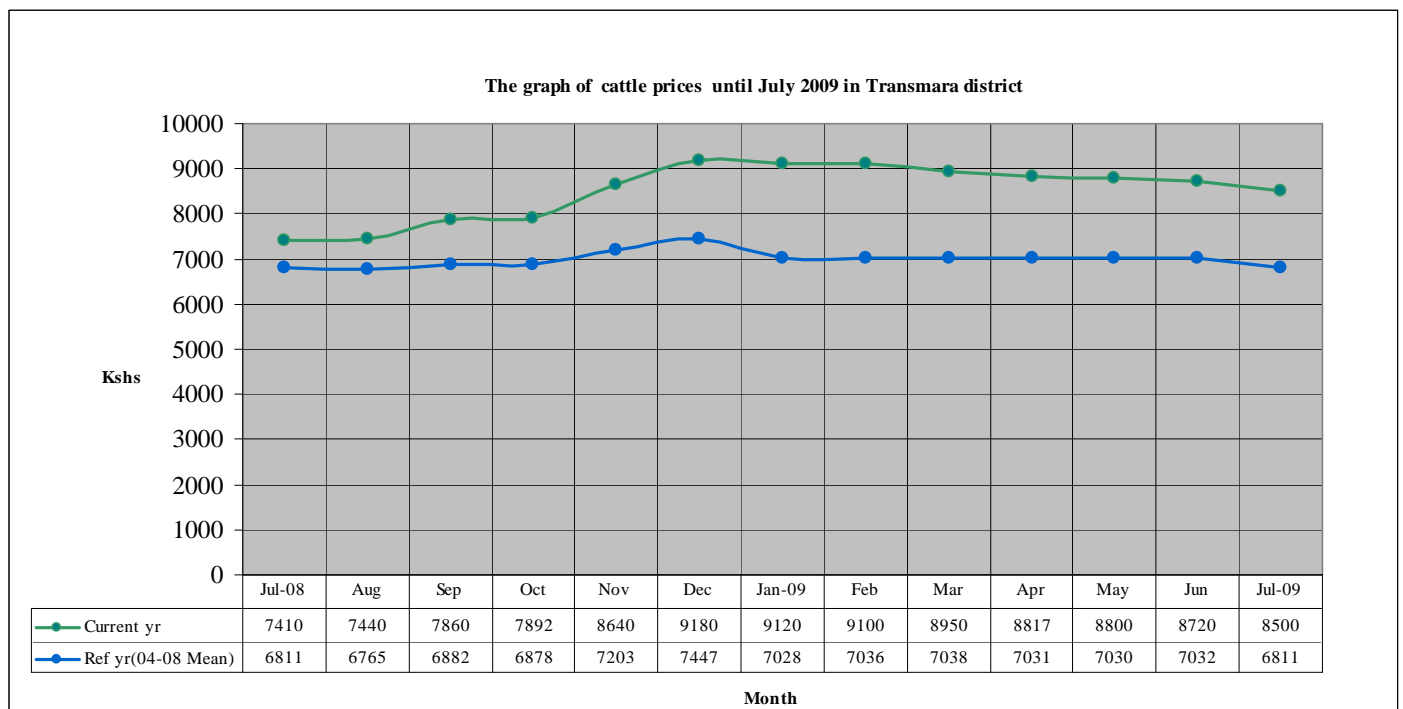
2.3 Implications on food security

- Since in most areas, maize was affected by insufficient rains, the harvests were low and are not expected to last long.
- This had a negative impact on the food security situation.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

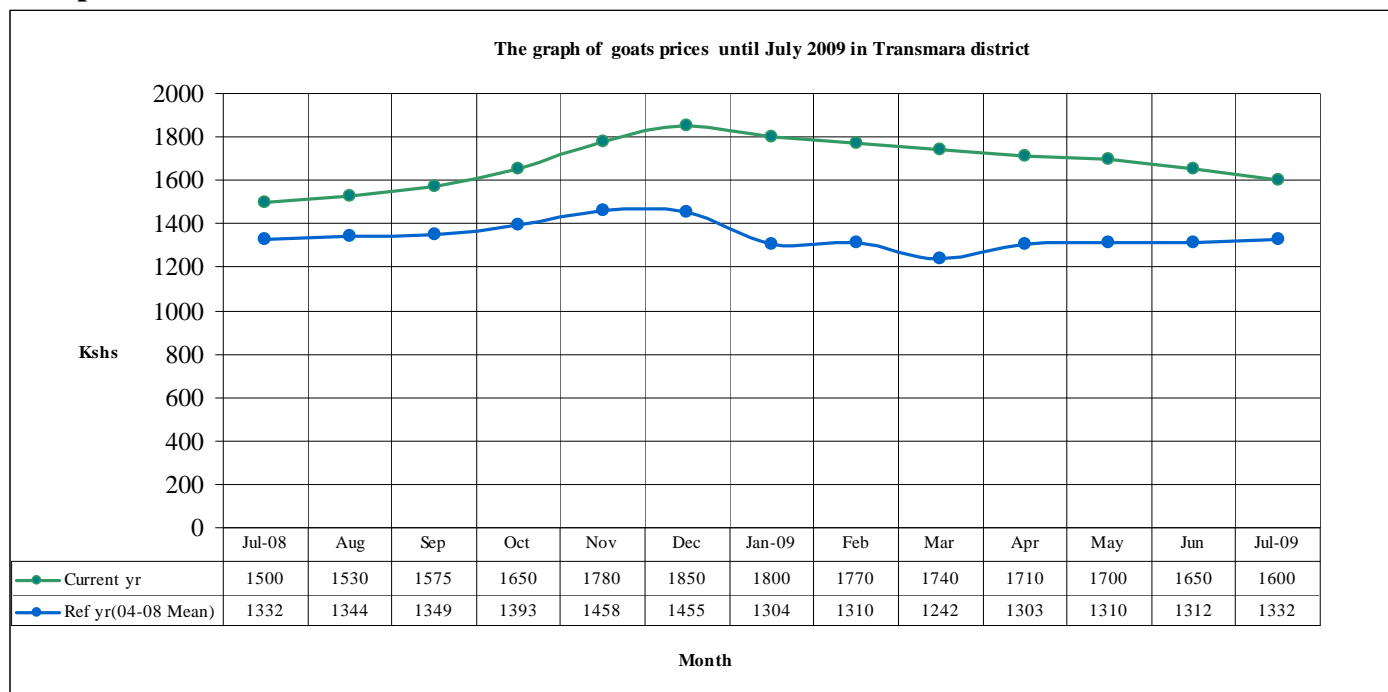
3.1.1 Cattle prices



n=300

- The average price of cattle was Ksh8,500, less than that of the previous month (Ksh8,720). There has been a steady decrease in cattle prices in the district.
- The price decline was attributed to the closed livestock markets following the FMD outbreak in various parts of the district. Trade in livestock was low during the month.
- The cattle price was, however, still higher than normal, but on downward trend.
- This was an indirect threat to food security as less cash was fetched from cattle sales yet livestock was the economic mainstay.

3.1.2 Goat prices



n=300

- The average price of goats decreased from Ksh1,650 to Ksh1,600.
- Prices decreased because of the low purchasing power of households. Cereals were in demand than other commodities. Closed livestock market (due to FMD outbreak) was another cause.
- The price of goats remained higher than normal for such a time of the year. The trend was downward and is expected to remain until FMD ceases and livestock markets opened.

3.2 Milk consumption

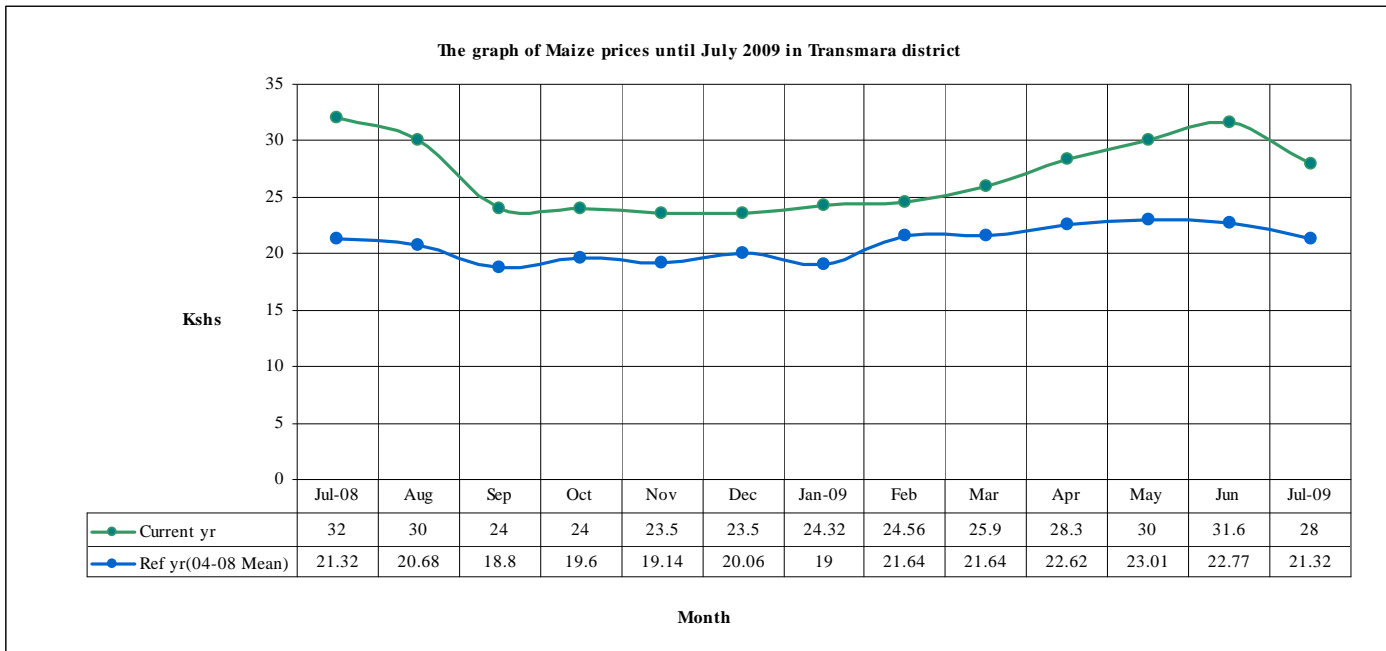
Milk consumption in Transmara District in July 2009

	2008												2009
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Everyone	18.40	18.40	18.31	18.24	18.15	18.11	18.05	18.01	17.94	17.60	17.48	17.20	17.20
Only children	35.60	35.60	35.75	35.83	36.44	36.52	36.83	36.92	36.97	37.20	37.50	37.80	37.83
None	4.12	4.12	4.20	4.33	4.38	4.43	4.55	4.61	4.68	4.88	5.20	5.44	5.43

- Milk availability decreased slightly and did not significantly affect accessibility of household members to milk.
- The milk consumption pattern remained similar to the previous month. This situation was not stable and needs to improve.

3.3 Crop prices

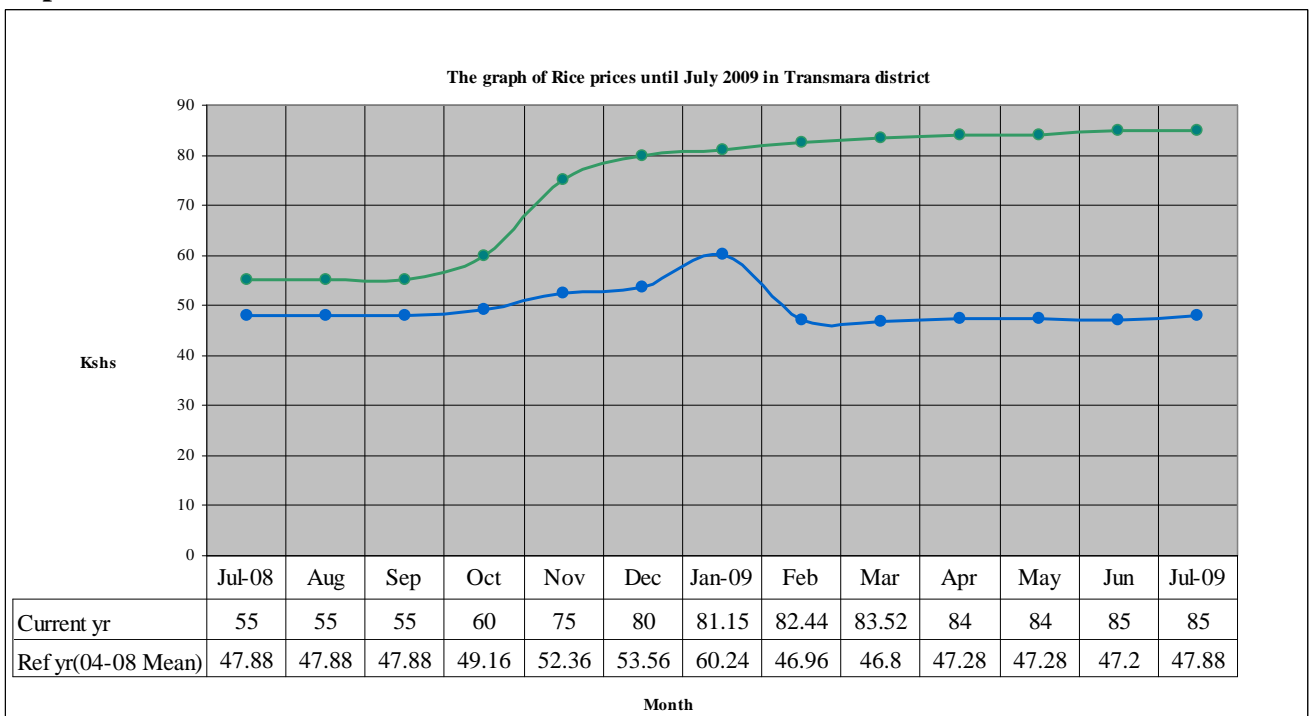
3.3.1 Maize prices



n=300

- The average price of maize increased from Ksh31.60 per kilo to Ksh28.
- Prices decreased because of the harvest period.
- The trend is expected to continue since this was only the beginning of the harvesting season.

3.3.2 Rice prices

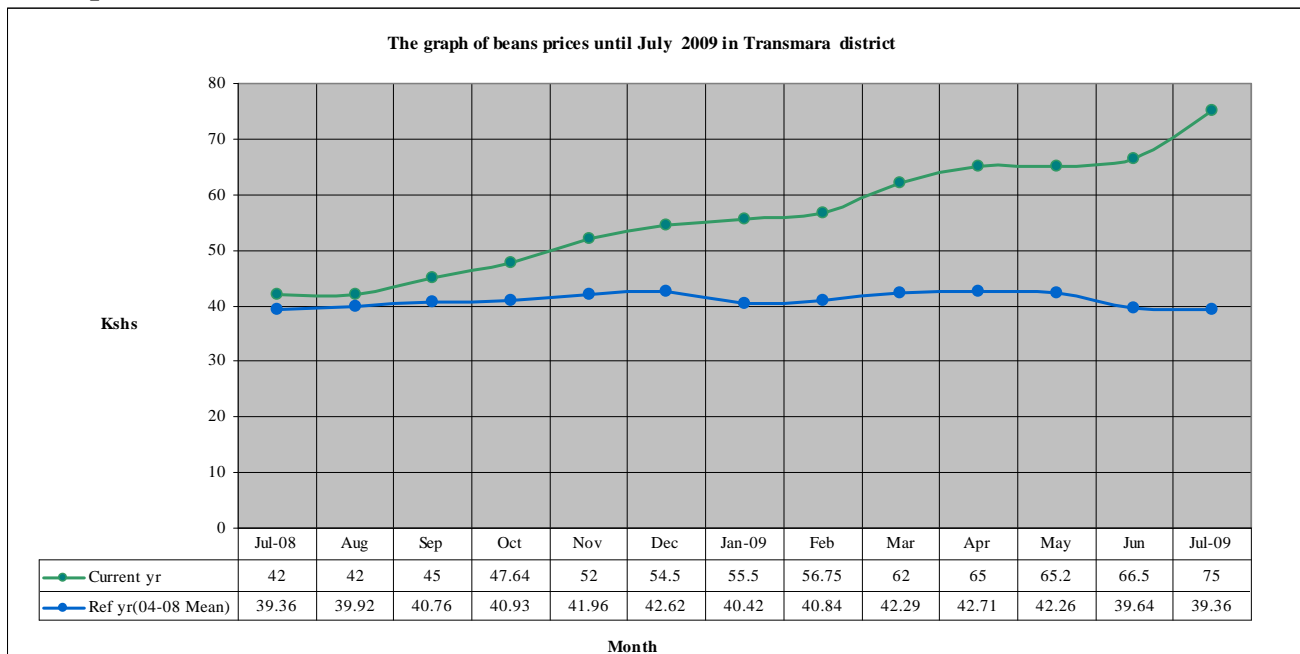


n=300

- The average price of Rice was Ksh85 per kilo, similar to the previous month.

- The price was normal for the season though too high compared to the long term mean of Ksh 47.88.
- The high level was attributed to inflation countrywide and the increasing demand for cereals.

3.3.3 Beans prices



n=300

- The average price of beans was Ksh75 per kilo, which was higher than Ksh 66.50 (for last month).
- This was the case in all livelihoods. The price went up because beans were hardly available at local markets.
- The upward price trend is likely to continue for long, because the harvest for beans is still far.
- This was normal for the time of the year.

3.4 Income

3.4.1 Crop income

- Income from crops was insignificant since there were no sales from households/farms.

3.4.2 Livestock income

- Income from livestock sales was less than for the previous month. The livestock market was poor due to closed markets following the FMD outbreak in the district.
- All livelihoods experienced low prices for their livestock.
- This trend was normal yet impacted negatively on food security.
- The situation is likely to last, as long as FMD prevails.

3.5 Cereal: Meat price ratio

Cereal: Meat Price Ratio in July 2009

Jul 2008	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 09	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul 09
106.71	106.70	106.40	106.34	106.25	106.18	106.22	106.26	106.38	106.45	106.53	106.85	106.70

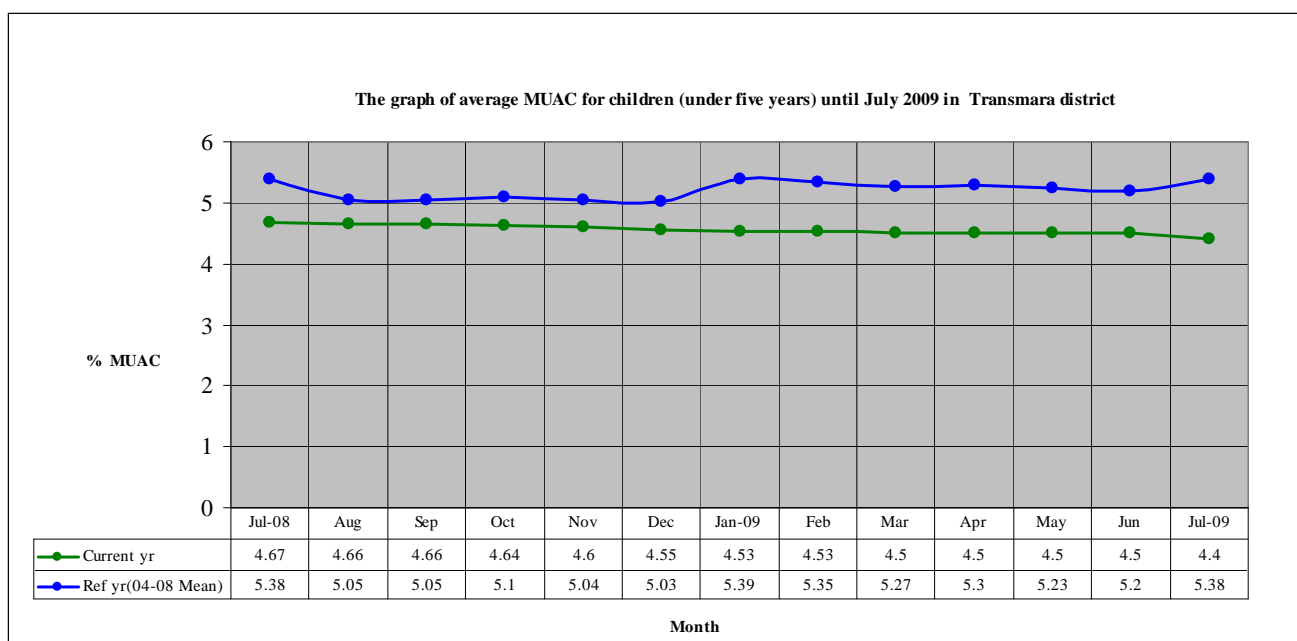
- The cereal/meat price ratio decreased from 106.85 to 106.70. This was because of the marked decrease in cereal prices.
- This had a positive implication on food security as there was improved access to food, than before. The situation is likely to get better as the harvest season heightens.

3.6 Implications on food security

- In general, the implications of the above on food security was positive.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (utilization of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



n=1,008

- The nutrition status of children below five years was stable during the month.
- The percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition (with MUAC below 135mm) decreased from 4.5 to 4.4.
- This improvement was attributed to the adopted coping strategy in households by reserving milk for only children.
- This will further be stabilised by the increased cereals during the harvesting period.

4.1 Human health

No notifiable human diseases were reported during the month.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non-food interventions

- One peace meeting was undertaken at border conflict hotspot.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Water projects should be implemented in areas that are frequently hard hit by water shortages and long distances to water sources during extended dry spells. **Action: Water & ALRMP II.**
- Sensitisation on post-harvest crop management for farmers during harvesting to minimise wastage and improve food security. **Action: MoA & ALRMP II.**
- There is need to improve poor roads condition, as well as security access bridges and drifts in conflict areas. **Action: Public Works, ALRMP II & CDF.**