

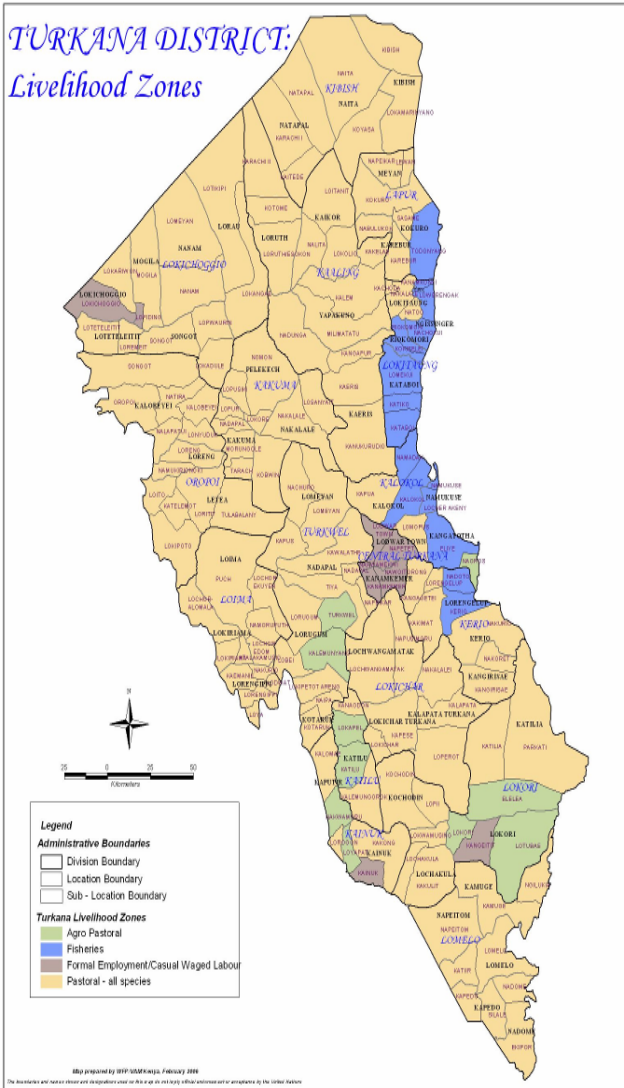


OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, JULY 2009

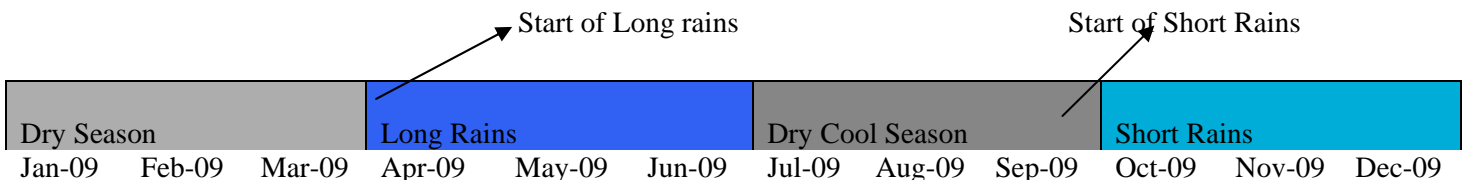
Turkana North, Central and South districts

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Pastoral-all species	Alarm	Worsening
Agro-Pastoral	Alarm	Worsening
Fisheries	Alarm	Worsening
Formal Employment/Casual Labour	Alarm	Worsening
District	Alarm	Worsening

Seasonal calendar



- Decline in the quality and quantity of pasture and browse.
- Decrease in milk production.
- Drop in number of livestock newborns.

0BSituation overview

- The Greater Turkana district received depressed and erratic rainfall. For example, Lodwar meteorological station, recorded 0.0 mm no change from previous month of June 2009.
- The quality and quantity of pasture and browse in wet season grazing areas continued to get worse.
- The distance to and from water sources increased from 3.4 km recorded in June to 4.2 Km. This was attributed to the grazing areas being far from water sources.
- The body condition of most livestock species declined compared to the previous month.
- The mortality rate of all livestock species decreased from 4.0 % in June to 3.38 %. For the large stock it decreased from 3.8% in June to 2.25%. The mortality rate of small stock increased from 4.2 % in June to 4.5%.
- The average birth rate for livestock decreased from 12.28% in June to 11.13%. The birth rates recorded were: 14.1%, 13.2%, 9.7% and 7.5% for cattle, sheep, goats and camels respectively.
- The livestock sales rate increased from 1.7% recorded in June to 3.28%.
- The household milk production across the districts increased from 13.07% in June to 11.24%.
- The nutrition status of children below five years improved slightly, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition dropping from 25.9% in June to 25.5%.
- On human health, most health centres continued recording cases of malaria and upper respiratory tract infections (URTI). Some cases of diseases such as diarrhoeal, skin and eye infections were reported in most parts of larger Turkana.
- Numerous conflict incidences were reported during the month in all the cross border zones of Turkana North, Central and South districts.

1BRecommendations to DSG and KFMS

- Increase the number of persons benefiting from general food distribution.
- Transport subsidy for livestock traders.
- Every effort must be put in place to reduce the worsening levels of malnutrition in vulnerable groups such as children under five years, pregnant and lactating mothers, the sick and the elderly.
- Provide fuel subsidy for the WUAS that run motorised systems.
- Water trucking to communities and institutions that are water stressed.
- Repair broken down pumps and flush boreholes across the district.
- The Veterinary Department and other partners must continue with PPR vaccination campaigns. Other forms of supportive treatments like CCPP vaccination, de-worming, mange and camel trips can be done in combination.
- Support livestock off-take (destocking) in the district.
- Conflict early warning and rapid response should be strengthened.
- Cross-border peace meetings and community dialogue should be held in areas affected by insecurity.
- Recruiting of more Kenya Police Reservists (KPR) in all the areas affected by insecurity and supplying them with enough ammunition to lend hand to the government security agencies in place.
- The food for assets (FFA) and cash for work (CFW) programs should be up-scaled to take care of those left out of the targeting, so as to build their assets and resilience to drought.
- Provision of the fishing gear to the fisher folk communities found along Lake Turkana.
- Provide mobile health care services to pastoralists.
- Introduce solar fish dryers and cages to reduce the massive post harvest losses in the fisheries sector.
- Conduct emergency polio campaign to wipe out the reported cases.

Current interventions

Non-food interventions

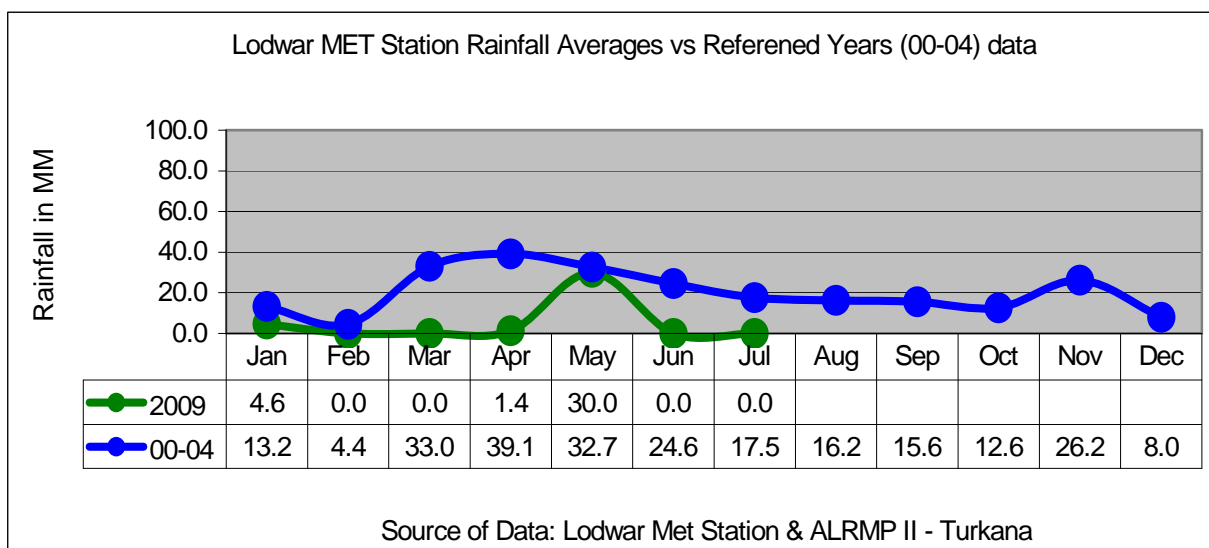
- The Hunger and Safety Net Programme(HSNP)-Pilot Phase.
- Njaa Marufuku Kenya project.
- The Drought Management Initiative Projects implemented by OXFAM GB and VSF- B.
- Water resources development by Practical Action; ALRMP, OXFAM-GB and Diocese of Lodwar.
- Conflict resolution and peace building initiatives by different stakeholders.
- Water trucking by ALRMP II and the Ministry of Water.
- UNDP Host Community Projects in Kakuma, Oropoi and Lokichoggio divisions of Turkana west district.
- Emergency Livestock off-take and slaughter by VSF –Belgium and AMREF.

Food aid

- General Food Distribution.
- Supplementary feeding.
- Food for Assets.
- School feeding Programme

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall



- The Greater Turkana district received depressed and erratic rainfall. For example, the Lodwar meteorological station, recorded 0.0 mm no change from previous month of June.
- This was also much lower than the 17.5 mm of rainfall recorded for the same period of referenced year (2004).

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- The quality and quantity of pasture and browse in Turkana areas worsened in the lowlands (wet grazing areas).

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Use of water sources

- Surface water was only found in areas which received some showers in two previous months. On the same note, the underground water sources yielded modest amounts of water for both human and livestock consumption.
- In addition, the two seasonal rivers of Turkwel and Kerio had diminished flows, therefore could not fully support schemes located downstream.

1.3.2 Return distance to water sources

- The average walking distance to and from water sources increased marginally from 3.4 km in June to 4.2 km.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Conflicts and Human Displacement issues

- The conflict incidences between the Turkana and their neighbours were still high.
- In Turkana South District a number of raids were reported in Kainuk Division. For example on 6th July 2 people were killed and 200 goats were taken by raiders.
- In Turkana North, many incidences were reported for instance on 13th July 2009, The Toposa raided Lokewaan (Nanam) near Mogila hills.

1.4.2 Migration

- Most pastoral herders moved towards the wet grazing areas (within Turkana) in search of water and pasture.

1.5 2B Implication on food security

- The inward and outward migrations had a negative effect on household food security.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Livestock body conditions for all livestock species deteriorated but might worsen if the prevailing conditions do not change.
- During this month, the district mortality rates for all domestic livestock species greatly decreased from 4.0% in June '09 to 3.38 % in July 2009. The mortality rates in shoats increased from 4.2% in June 2009 to 4.5% in July '09. The mortality rates for the large stocks (cattle and camels) decreased from a value of 4.2% in June 2009 to 2.25% in July 2009.
- The main causes of death in livestock were drought, PPR (Lomoo), CCPP, Helminthiasis (goats), CBPP (cattle) and mange (camels). Diarrhoea and internal parasites (worms) also contributed to livestock death.
- The livestock birth rates decreased from 12.28% in June '09 to 11.13% in July 2009. The small stock decreased from 12.0% to 11.45% and large stock decreased from 12.55% to 11.45%. The specific birth rates recorded for each of the species were: 14.1%, 13.2%, 9.7% and 7.5% for cattle, sheep, goats and camels respectively.

2.1.2 Livestock health

- The common diseases and pests affecting livestock in the district were Contagious Caprine Pleural Pneumonia (CCPP), *Peste des Petits Ruminants* (PPR), Foot and Mouth disease, Red Water and Helminthiasis in shoats, Contagious Bovine Pleural Pneumonia (CBPP) in cattle, Haemorrhagic septicaemia and mange in Camels, leptospirosis, ticks and lice.

2.1.3 Milk production

- In July 2009, the household milk production rate decreased from 13.07% in June to 11.24%.

3B2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and status of various crop production activities

- Some farmers in irrigation schemes were able to plant during this month.
- Agricultural crop production was below normal due to the failure by most farmers to plant at the start of long rains season. This was due to little rains received in the greater Turkana.

2.2.2 Harvest

- Some farmers were expected to harvest in the next one month.

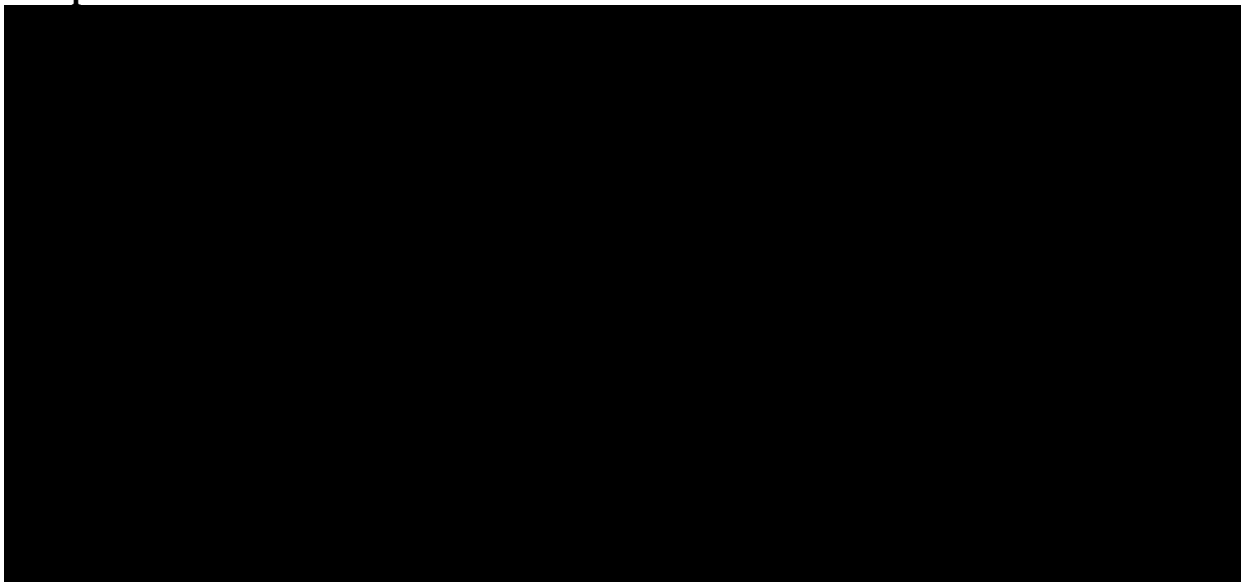
2.2.3 Implications on food security

- The food security situation has not yet improved.

3.0 Access to food

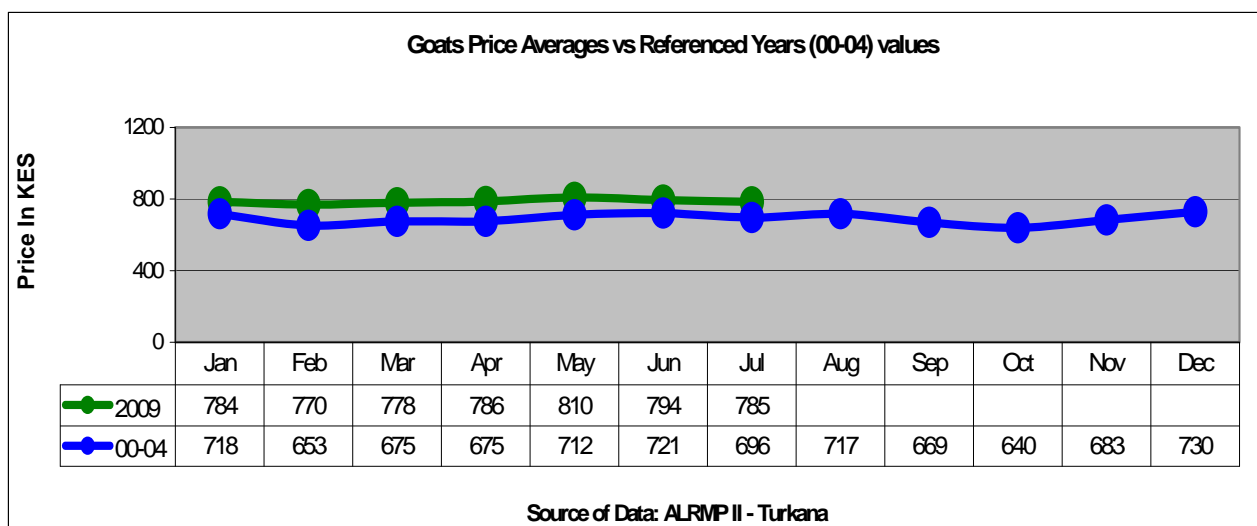
3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices



- The average cattle prices decreased from Ksh15, 000 in June to Ksh10, 000.
- This was attributed to drought situation since most regions received erratic rains in previous month.
- Relative to reference year (00-04), the value of Ksh 5,250 recorded during July, was much higher by Ksh4,750.

3.1.2 Goat prices



- The average goat price decreased marginally from Ksh794 in June to Ksh785. The value realised this month was higher than the reference year's Ksh696.

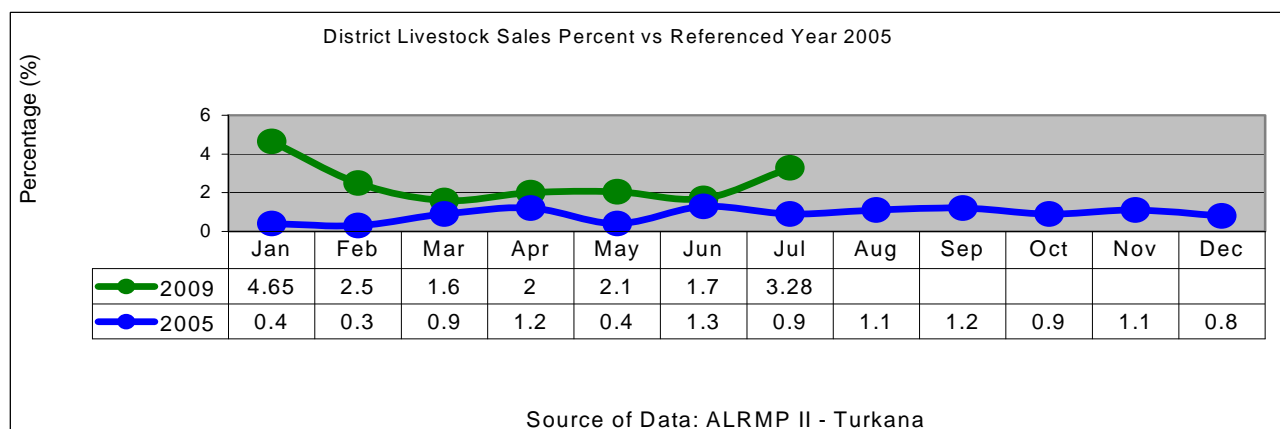
3.1.3 Sheep prices

- The price of sheep decreased by Ksh45.1, from Ksh842 in June to Ksh796.9 per animal.

3.1.4 Camel prices

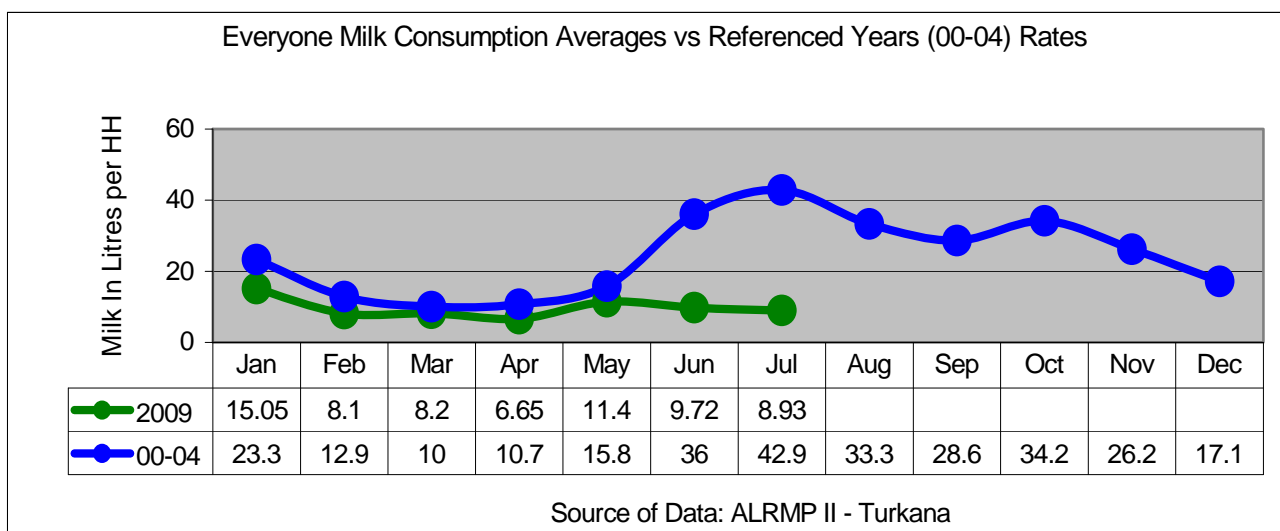
- The camels' sales price recorded in July 2009 decreased to Ksh.14, 325/= from 25,000/= in June 2009.

3.2 Livestock sales



- The district realised an increase in livestock sales rate from 1.7% in June to 3.28%.
- This was higher compared to 0.9% recorded in the same period of the reference year (2005).

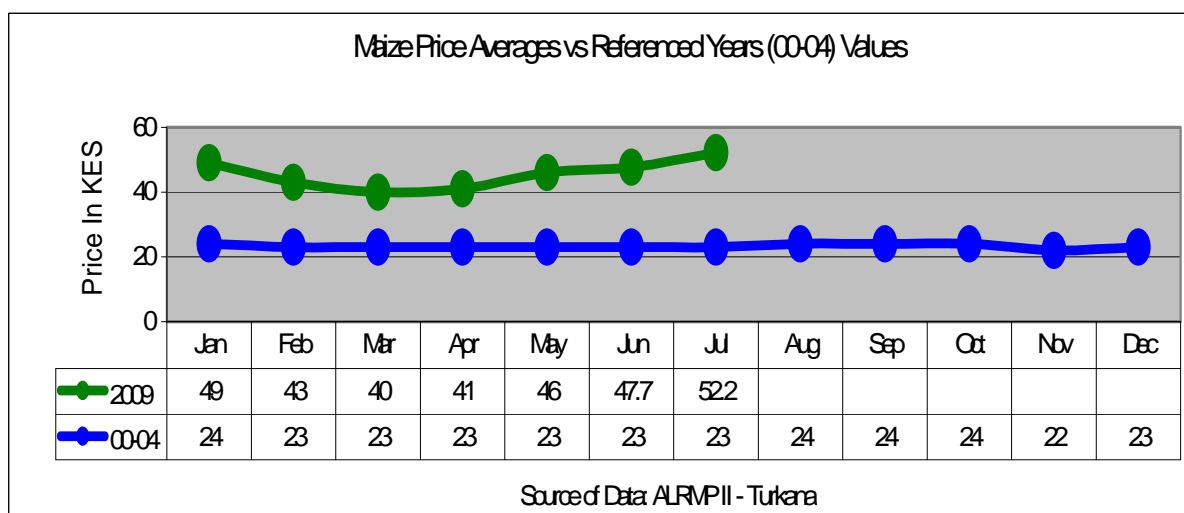
3.3 Milk consumption



- There was a decrease in milk consumption rate, with an average of 8.93% recorded during the month compared to 9.72% in June.
- This was 33.97% lower than the value of 42.9% recorded for the same period of the reference year (00-04).

3.4 Crop prices

3.4.1 Maize prices



- During the month, the average cereal prices for maize across the greater Turkana was Ksh.52.20/= per kilogram (ranged from Ksh.20/= to 60/=).
- This is a much higher price compared to the value of Ksh.23/= recorded during the same period of the referenced year (00-04).

3.4.2 Posho (maize meal flour) prices

- The average posho price was Ksh53.50 per kilo (ranging from Ksh28 and 60).

3.4.3 Sorghum prices

- The average sorghum price was Ksh56 per kilogram (ranging from Ksh24 to 64 per kilogram in different parts of the Greater Turkana District).

3.5 Income

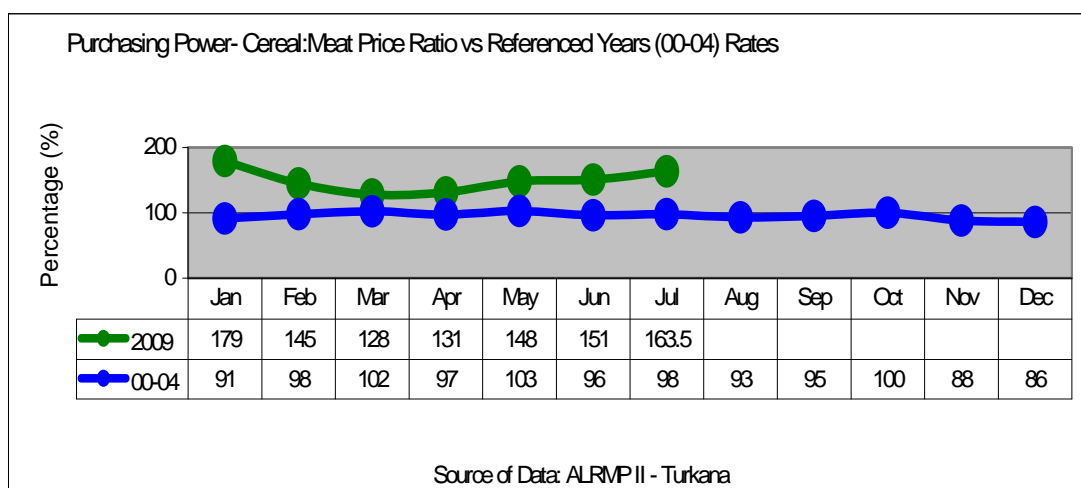
3.5.1 Livestock sales

- The livestock sales rate increased from 1.7% recorded in June to 3.28%.

3.5.2 Other income (Trade, Wages, etc.)

- The percentage of people employed decreased from a value of 9.8% recorded during June 2009 to 6.5% in the month under review (July 2009).
- In the month of July 2009, the population engaged in small scale trading in most urban and peri-urban centres was 9.0%
- At this period of the year, the rate of casual work wages increased from Ksh 110.5 in June to Ksh170.80.

3.6 Terms of trade



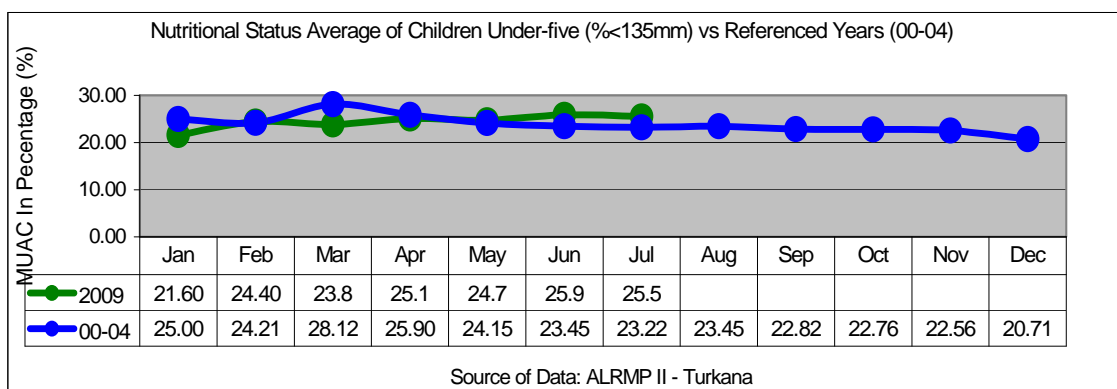
- The district cereal: meat price ratio for July was 163.5%, which was an increase from what it was in June. During the month, the Cereal: Meat price ratio was still higher compared to the referenced year's (00-04) percentage of 98%.
- This value of Cereal: Meat price ratio was indicative of the fact that terms of trade were not only worse, but still extremely adverse to the herders.

3.7 Implications on food security

- Increase in cereal prices negatively affects the food security situation in the three districts of the Greater Turkana. It also affects livestock off-take (Destocking).
- In regards to the coping strategies index (0 to 10), the month of July 2009 has recorded a value of 1.9% compared to a value 2.1% reported in the previous month of June 2009.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (utilization of food)

4B4.1 Nutritional status



- The nutrition status of children below five years improved slightly.
- The percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition dropped from 25.9% in June to 25.5%.
- This was an improvement in the trend of the nutritional status.
- This placed the three-districts at “Alarm” stage.
- This value was higher than that recorded during the same period of the referenced year (00-04).

5B4.2 Human health

The human health conditions in Turkana were still unstable. Cases of malaria are continuously being reported across the greater Turkana district, while cases of measles and polio have been reported in Nanam region and in the South.

There were also many cases of the diseases such as Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI), diarrhoeal diseases, internal parasites (worm infestation), measles, mumps, skin diseases (body rashes), and eye infections being reported in various parts of Turkana.

Poor Sanitation was still a major problem in all districts of Turkana, especially in areas of Loboole, Lopur and in centres found along the River Turkwel and Lake Turkana. This problem was compounded by lack of public toilets in the communities and pit latrines in schools found in those areas. Most latrines are made of temporary structures. The walls are made of soil, which can easily be washed away by the rain water.

Moreover, inaccessibility to safe drinking water was a major challenge because many people rely on water from riverbeds. This explains why in most cases there are outbreaks of water-borne diseases in Turkana.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non-food interventions

- The Drought Management Initiative project.
- Njaa Marufuku Kenya project.
- Water resources development by Practical Action; ALRMP, OXFAM-GB and Diocese of Lodwar.
- Emergency Livestock off-take and slaughter by VSF-Belgium.
- Conflict resolution and peace building initiatives by different stakeholders.
- Water trucking by ALRMP II, and Ministry of Water.
- UNDP Host Community Projects in Kakuma, Oropoi and Lokichoggio divisions in Turkana West district.
- The Hunger and Safety Net programme.

5.2 Food aid

- General food distribution by WFP through the lead agencies (Oxfam GB & World Vision-Kenya).

- Supplementary feeding for the severely malnourished under-fives, pregnant and lactating mothers, aged and disabled groups (Merlin, etc).
- Food for Assets supported by WFP and ALRMP II through TRP and World Vision Kenya.
- Food distributed by Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC), Share International and Kenya Red Cross Society.

5.3 Coping strategies

- Petty trade was mainly done in urban and peri-urban centres like, Loima, Kokuro, Kakuma, Lokichoggio, Kalokol, Kainuk and Lokichar. The commodities sold are: fish (dry & fresh), wood products (firewood), handcrafts and livestock products to mention but a few.
- Small-scale irrigation farming was practised along Rivers Turkwel and Kerio.
- Sale and slaughter of livestock was mainly practised in most parts of the three districts as an alternative coping strategy.
- Poor pastoralists are also engaged in charcoal burning and selling.
- Provision of general health services by the Ministry of Health and other district development partners in the district.
- During the month under review, most households' coping strategies and mechanisms were: reduction in the number of meals per day; consumption of wild foods (fruits and meat) and taboo foods, among others.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Increase the number of persons, benefiting from general food distribution under the emergency operations.
- There is need for immediate interventions to stem down the high malnutrition rate among children aged under- fives, especially in areas still experiencing severe drought stress.
- Provide fuel subsidy for Water Users Associations (WUAS) operating motorized systems.
- Water trucking to communities and institutions which are water stressed.
- Provide adequate water storage facilities to communities.
- Repair broken down pumps /system and flush boreholes across the district.
- Continued support to the livestock health sub-sector through vaccination and treatment of clinical cases to enhance recovery of livestock body conditions.
- There is need to beef up security in the conflict prone areas of Turkana district by increasing KPRs and encourage conflict prevention and peace building initiatives to stop the frequent livestock raids and innocent people's death.
- Government and partners to consider de-stocking (off-take) to salvage livestock from drought stress in areas where this is intense especially in Central District and some parts of Lokichar division in the South. This will minimize impact of this dry season.
- The local farmers should be supported with seeds and tools, in order to enhance agricultural production in the larger district.
- Provide mobile health care services to nomadic pastoralists.
- Rehabilitation and establishment of reliable water sources in the grazing areas needs to be supported so as to enhance faster recovery of the pastoralists' livelihoods.
- Introduce solar fish dryers and cages to reduce the massive post harvest assets in the fisheries sector.
- Conduct emergency polio vaccination campaign to wipe out the reported cases.

