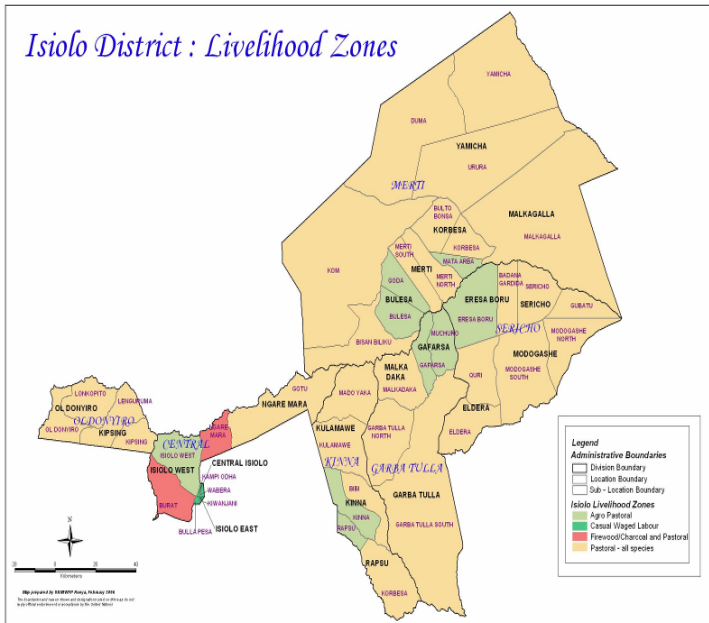




**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, JUNE 2009

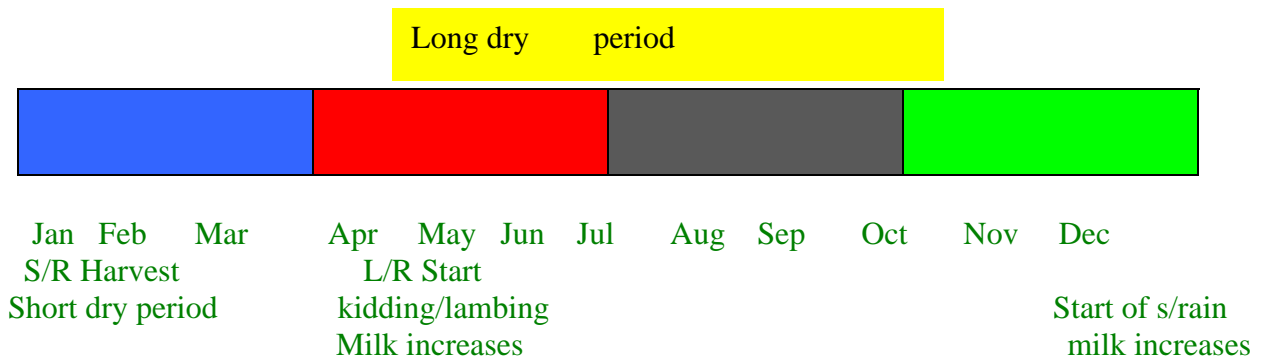
Isiolo District



Warning Stages

Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Pastoral- all species	Emergency	No change
Agro pastoral	Alarm	Worsening
Casual waged labour	Alarm	No change
Firewood/Charcoal	Alarm	Deteriorating
District	Alarm/Emergency	Deteriorating

Seasonal calendar



Situation overview

- The drought situation remained severe in all livelihood zones but more pronounced in pastoral zones.
- Pasture and forage got completely depleted and livestock was concentrated in three dry season grazing blocks of Kom, Yamicha and Bisanadi game reserves.
- Acute water shortage was experienced in Badana, Biliqi and Modogashe of Sericho division. Livestock was forced to keep migrating as shallow wells, which were the only sources of water, continued to dry up one after another.
- Cattle, sheep and calves continued dying in Sericho, Merti, Cheraab and Oldonyiro divisions due to drought related emaciation.
- The cholera outbreak spread to more centres. Two hundred eighty (280) people got infected within a span of 3 weeks in Gafarsa location, Garbatulla district while 5 others died while undergoing treatment. Two more people died in Biliqi sub-location of Cheraab division. Suspected cases were reported in Dadachalafe, Basa Biliqi and Kipsing.
- Insecurity was still rampant in Shaba game reserves, Kom and Boji Dera rangelands. Seven people were killed in Shaba game reserve after they were engaged in counter attacks with cattle rustlers.
- The nutrition status of children below five years worsened during the month. The percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition rose to 31% from 19.2% last month. The rate in Merti and Sericho divisions deteriorated from an average of 30% last month to 59.3% and 50% respectively.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Immediate livestock off -take with favorable prices should be considered. **Action-DSG.**
- Vigorous prevention and control measures against cholera should be instituted in all locations while all health facilities adequately equipped with drugs. Movement of people from affected centres to be controlled and prophylactic treatments availed at times of burials. **Action-DSG/medical officers/public health officers.**
- Fuel subsidy should be considered for all boreholes and shallow wells. **Action – DSG/stakeholders**
- More nutritious light rations as Unimix and milk need to be considered for under five years children and vulnerable in all sample areas. **Action-DSG/Emop/Stakeholders.**

Current interventions

Non-food interventions

- Stakeholders-Ministry of Health, Kenya Red Cross, World Health Organisation (Garissa) responded to cholera outbreaks in Gafarsa, Muchuro and Kombola locations of Garbatulla district where five people died and about 300 were affected.
- Rapid response team responded to genset breakdowns in Sericho, Iresaboru, and Yamicha.
- Arid Lands Resource Management Project completed construction of Badana water pan with a capacity of 15,000 litres.
- Action-Aid Sericho provided 3,000ltrs of fuel subsidy to boreholes in Sericho division.
- A total of 74,776 goats and 51,889 sheep were vaccinated by Veterinary Department in Merti, Oldonyiro and central against pestis des petit ruminants (PPR) and contagious caprine pleuropneumonia.

Food aid

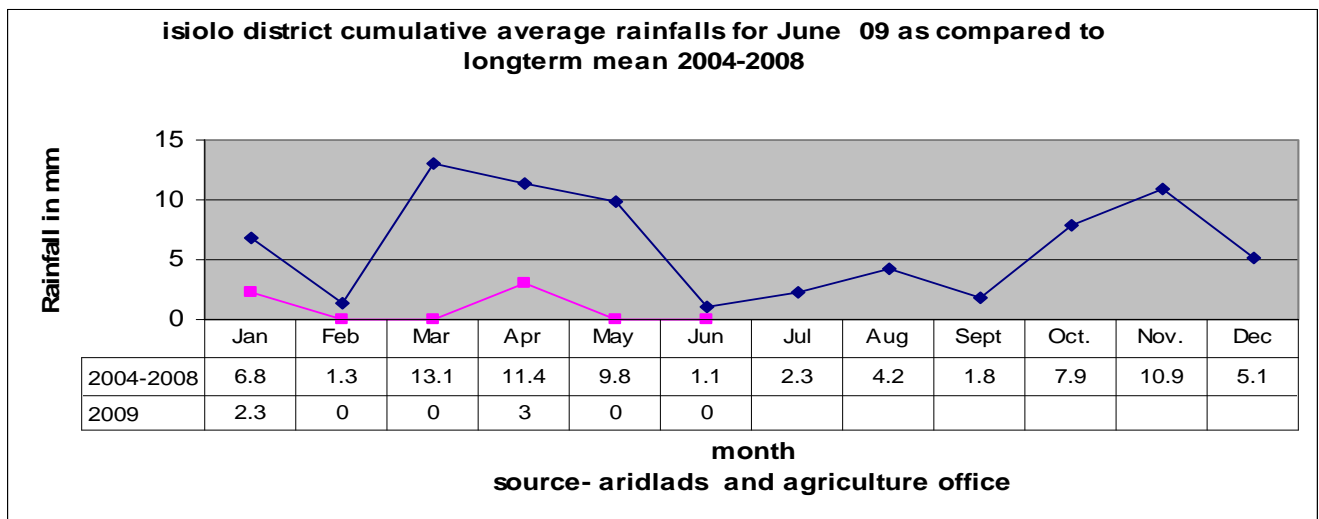
Relief food under EMOP was distributed to all target areas during the month.

1.0 Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- Both districts remained dry during month and this was normal compared to previous seasons. However, the prevailing drought is not a normal scenario as it was necessitated by failure of last season's long and short rainfalls.
- The coming rainfall season is expected from October to December this year.

The graph below represent rainfall pattern for the month of June 2009 compared to long term mean 2004-2008.



1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Natural vegetation and pasture got depleted in all sample areas as no rejuvenation took place for three consecutive rainy seasons.
- Livestock was concentrated in Hawaye, Kom, Yamicha and Bisanadi Rangelands where poor quality forage was available.
- Acute water shortage for both human and livestock was a major constraint in Hawaye, Bassa, Modogashe and Kom, while serious insecurity hampered access to little forage in Chaffa, Gotu, Kom and Sabarwawa.
- Seven people were killed in chaffa/shaba rangelands while three were killed in Kom rangelands and several hundreds of cattle, sheep and Goat were driven away by armed raiders from neighbouring districts.

1.3 Water sources and availability

- Boreholes and shallow wells remained the main source of water over the month.
- Shallow wells continued to dry up as in Kipsing and Malkagalla while the rest became deeper in Hawaye and Moliti.
- Boreholes experienced a high concentration of herds.

- Weak and emaciated animals were watered around settled areas, while stronger ones being concentrated in rangeland areas depends on rangeland shallow wells or boreholes.
- Frequent breakdown of gensets was experienced in Duse, Yamicha and Yaqbarsadi due to long hours of usage.

The table below indicates water sources and percentages of household using them during the month compared to normal situation.

Water sources	1	2	3	4	5
% of HH normally depending on the source	25	30	-	40	5
% of HH depending on the source for the current month	2	37	23	38	
1 – River, 2 - boreholes	2- boreholes	3- shallow wells	4 – piped system	Others- pans, dams	

1.4 Emerging issues

- There was no rainfall, therefore drought situation will worsen.
- Water sources such as shallow wells continued to dry up.
- Modogashe infiltration galleries dried up and residents depended on hand dug shallow wells.
- The security situation was tense in Kom, Gotu and Shabba/ Chaffa Gafarsa rangelands.

1.4.1 Implications on food security

- Food insecurity was experienced as livestock continued dying, while markets collapsed and insecurity, raids by armed rustlers were frequent in dry season grazing areas of Shabba Kom, Sabarwawa and Nyachis.

2.0. Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1. Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- The livestock body weight remained poor and emaciated in all sample sites for all species except camels.
- Cattle and sheep were the most affected and continued to succumb to drought-related nutritional deficiencies in Gafarsa, Sericho, Hawaye, Korbasa and Kipsing.
- The weak livestock was concentrated in settlement centres. These stressed the domestic boreholes meant for human consumption. Owners, mostly women, continued working overtime as they travelled long distances searching for leaves, bird nests and broken pieces of grass to feed the weak animals.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- Livestock deaths in both districts were mainly due to physiological causes rather than pathological.
- However, cases of lumpy skin diseases, contagious caprine pleuropneumonia and high tick infestations were experienced in Merti, Kulamawe, Kinna, Hawaye and Malkagalla. Mass vaccination exercise was undertaken by Veterinary department in Merti, Oldonyiro and central divisions.
- A total of 74,776 and 51,889 sheep and goats were vaccinated against pestis des petit Ruminates respectively and 130,674 vaccinated against contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP).

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk production remained low during the month at 27.8 bottles (750ml).
- This production was recorded among camel keepers in central and Oldonyiro divisions. The production was low in Merti division at 8 bottles and high in central divisions at 30 bottles (750 ml).

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and status of various crop production activities

No major crops planted over the last three months. Therefore the farms are bare with no crops as those planted earlier wilted.

2.2.2 Pest and diseases

No pest and diseases reported

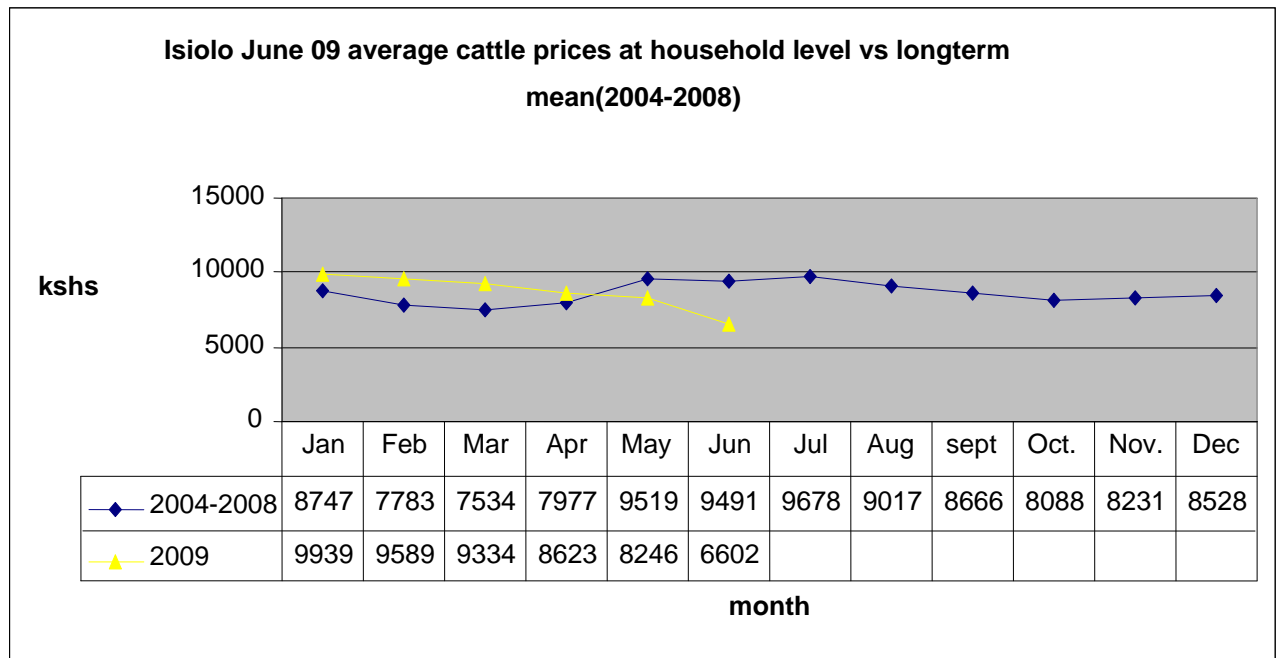
2.2.3 Harvest

- The crops planted over previous months of April/May, wilted due to lack of enough water, therefore no harvest expected this months. These means households will continue experiencing high food insecurity stresses while prices of main food commodities continue to rise.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

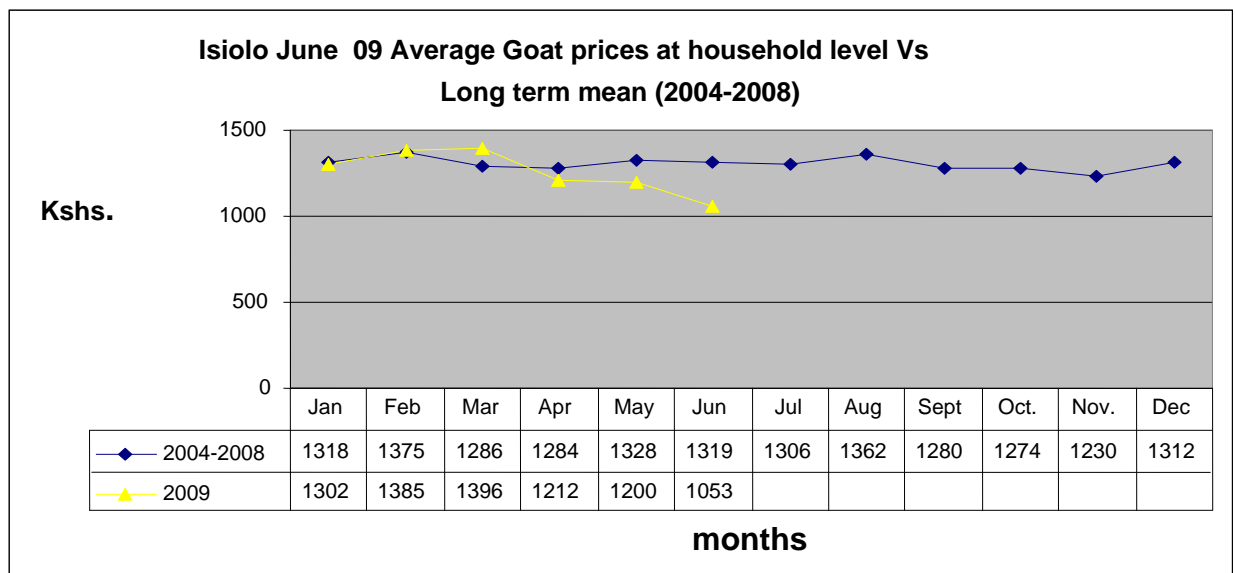
3.1.1 Cattle prices



N = 15 x 30

- Average price of cattle reduced to Ksh6,602 during the month.
- This represents 19.9% reduction compared to previous month's Ksh 8,246.
- The price reduction was due to severe reduction of cattle body weight as a result of the prevailing drought.
- Prices were higher in central and lower in Oldonyiro at Ksh 8,500 and Ksh3,666 respectively.

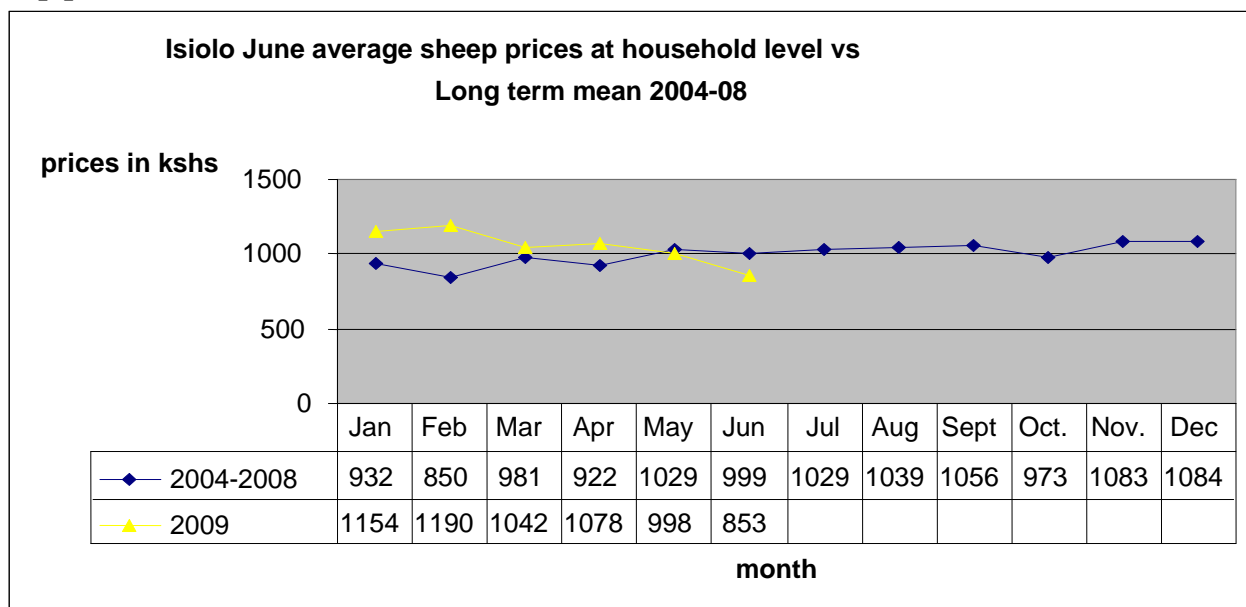
3.1.2 Goat prices



N = 15 x 30

- The average goat price dropped to Ksh1,053 during the month under review.
- This was a 12.2% reduction compared to last month's Ksh 1,200.
- The price reduction was due to reduced body weight of goats as a result of depleted forage and diseases.
- The prices were lower in Sericho at Ksh785 and high in central at Ksh1,566.

3.1.3 Sheep prices



N= 15 x 30

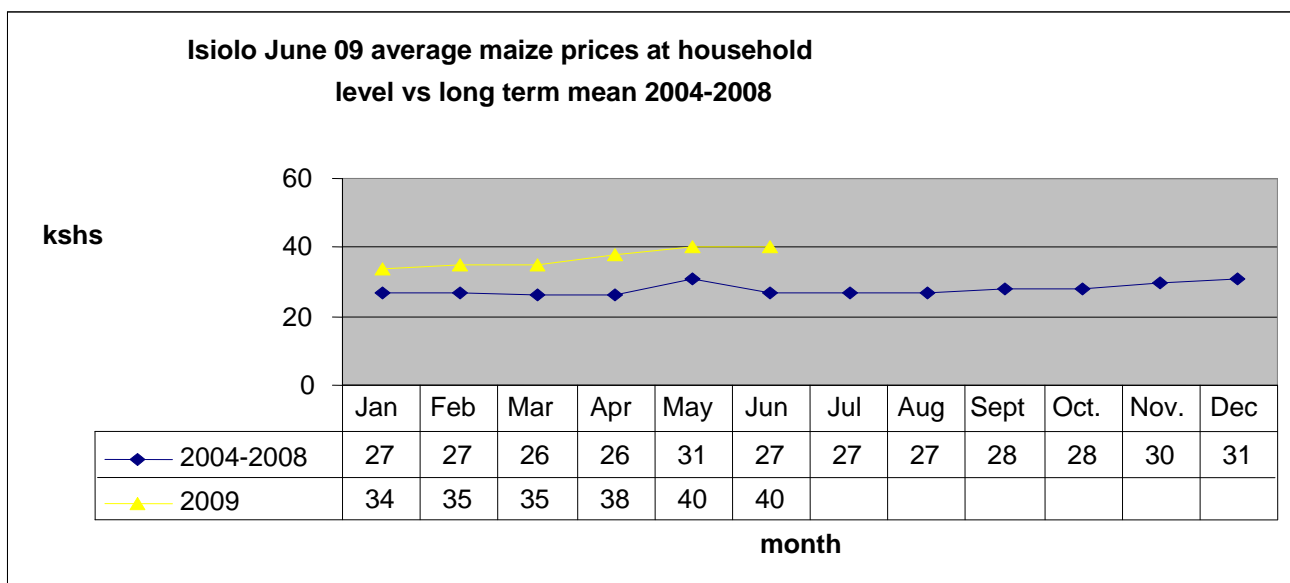
- The average sheep prices reduced to Ksh853 this month.
- This translates to 14.5% reduction in prices due to the prevailing drought. The body weight of sheep reduced severely compared to other livestock.
- The average mortality rate for sheep was 4.8%, with the highest recorded in Oldonyiro at 13.8%.

3.1.4 Camel prices

- The average camel price during the month was Ksh14,250.
- Camels were fairly stable compared to other livestock and no deaths were reported. However, frequent raids by armed raiders in Gotu, Shaba and Chaffa Gafarsa where camels were concentrated will negatively affect their body weight.

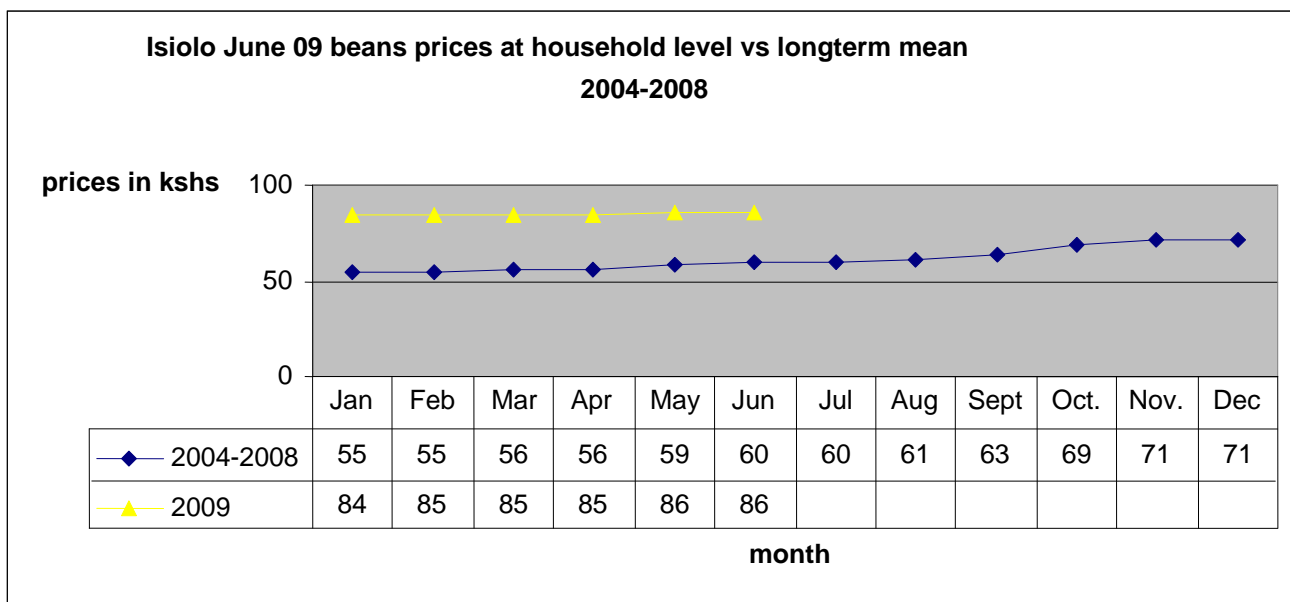
3.2 Crop prices

3.2.1 Maize prices



- The average prices of maize remained at Ksh 40 per kilogram.
- The prices were higher in Merti , Cheraab and Sericho divisions, where a kilogram traded at Ksh 45.
- The prices are likely to increase further due to the prevailing drought.

3.2.2 Beans prices



N =15 x 30

- The average price of beans remained constant at Ksh86 per kilogram.
- The prices were higher by 30.2% compared to long term mean 2004-2008, the same period.
- The prices were high in Merti, Sericho and Cheraab divisions where a kilogram traded at Ksh100.

3.3 Income

3.3.1Crop income

No income was earned from crops during the month. This was due to the failure of last season's rainfall.

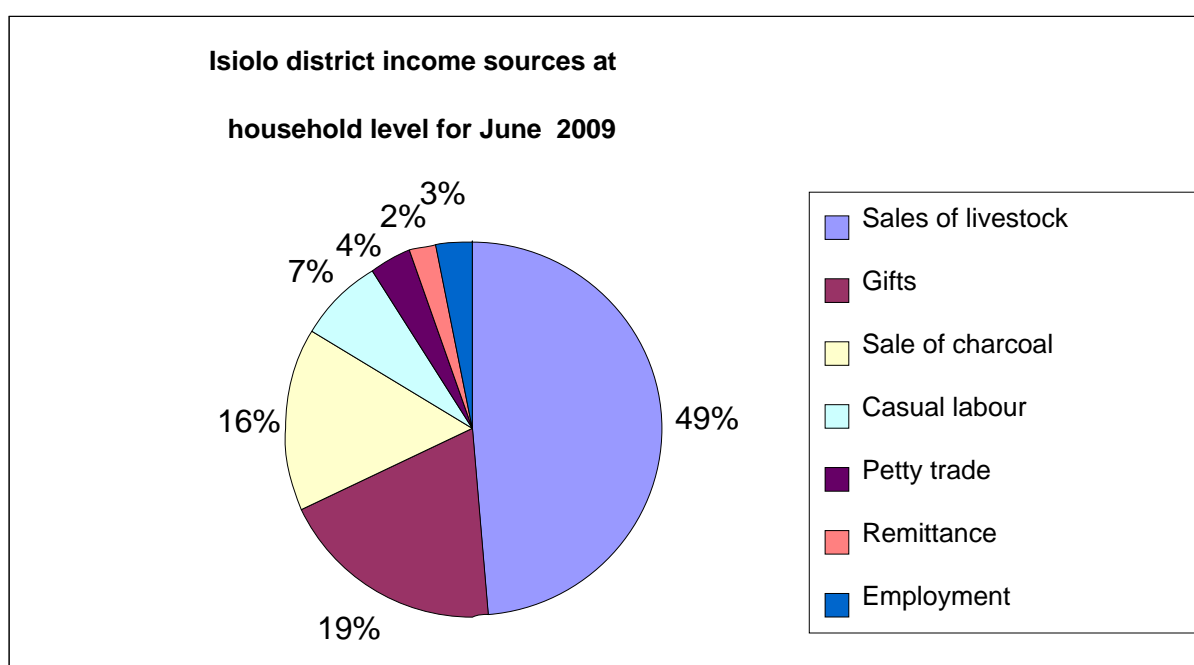
3.3.2 Livestock income

- The livestock income to households represented 46% of the total incomes.
- The income from this source reduced by 5% compared to the last month's percentages. The income reductions were due to the severe reduction of livestock body weight as a result of drought.

3.3.3 Other income

Other incomes to households were from charcoal 15%, casual Labour 35%, petty trade- 3.4%, gift items 18.4% and remittance 7%.

The pie-chart below represents Isiolo income sources at household level for June 2009.



N =15 x30

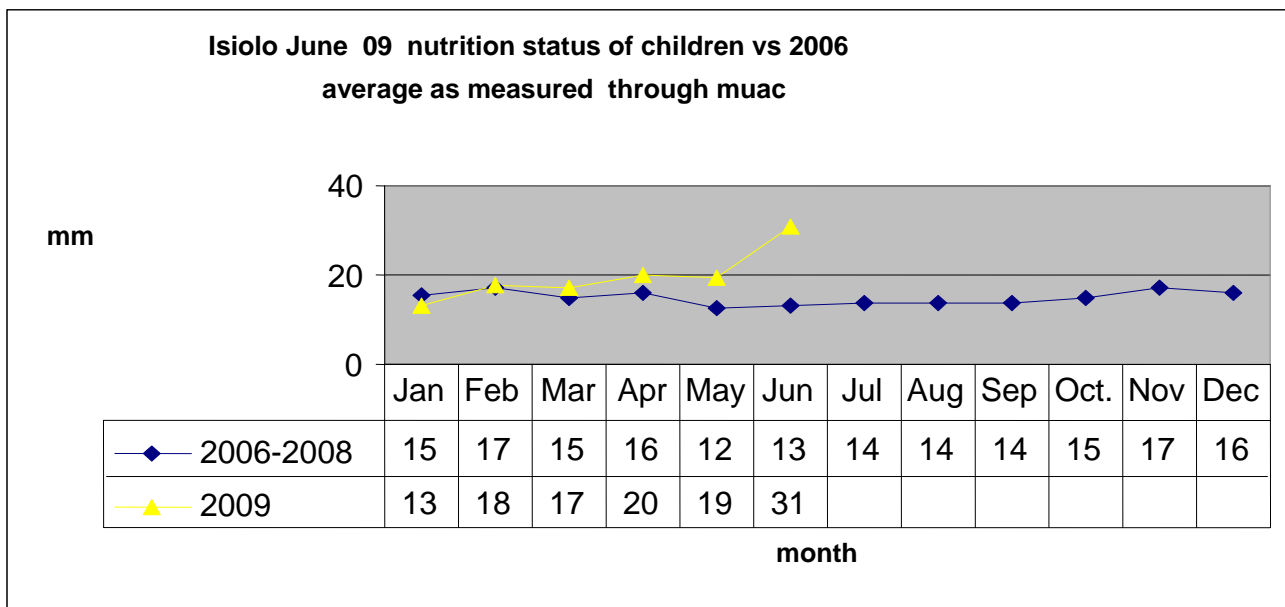
- Income from livestock and casual Labour reduced by 5% and 0.8% respectively. Other sources petty trade, gift items and remittance increased by 0.6%, 4.4% and 5.7% respectively.
- The income from charcoal remained constant at 15% same as last month.

3.4 Implication on food security

The food security situation will worsen due to livestock deaths, drought, livestock diseases, human diseases such as cholera and insecurity.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (utilization of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



N =5 x 15 x 30

- The nutrition status of children below five years worsened during the month.
- The percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition rose to 31% from 19.2% last month.
- The rate in Merti and Sericho divisions deteriorated from an average of 30% last month to 59.3% and 50% respectively.
- The decline was attributed to lack of light meals, cholera outbreaks and diarrhea diseases due to water shortages.

4.2 Human health

- The health situation of people in Isiolo and Garbatulla worsened due to outbreaks of cholera in Gafarsa and parts of Merti division.
- Suspected cases of diarrhea were still rampant in Kipsing, Kambi Juu and Ariment and Kom areas. Five people died in Gafarsa while over 300 people were affected, among them 120 children.
- Two people were also reported to have died in Biligi of Malkagalla Location of Cheraab divisions. The disease seems to be spreading faster in all locations and sub locations as people interact through burials and weddings. Vigorous control and prevention measures should be enforced at all levels.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non-food interventions

- Stakeholders-Ministry of Health, Kenya Red Cross, World Health Organisation (Garissa) responded to cholera outbreaks in Gafarsa, Muchuro and Kombola locations of Garbatulla district where five people died and about 300 were affected.
- Rapid response team responded to genset breakdowns in Sericho, Iresaboru, and Yamicha.
- Arid Lands Resource Management Project completed construction of Badana water pan with a capacity of 15,000 litres.
- Action-Aid Sericho provided 3,000ltrs of fuel subsidy to boreholes in Sericho division.

- A total of 74,776 goats and 51,889 sheep were vaccinated by Veterinary Department in Merti, Oldonyiro and central against pestis des petit ruminants (PPR) and contagious caprine pleuropneumonia.

5.2 Food aid

Relief food under EMOP was distributed to all target areas during the month.

5.3 Coping strategies

- Migration was common.
- Slaughtering of calves to save the mother cows was still a preferred coping strategies.
- Cutting of trees to feed the weaker animals.
- Collection of bird nests by women in an effort to save their emaciated herds.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Immediate livestock off -take with favorable prices should be considered. *Action-DSG.*
- Vigorous prevention and control measures against cholera should be instituted in all locations while all health facilities adequately equipped with drugs. Movement of people from affected centres to be controlled and prophylactic treatments availed at times of burials. *Action-DSG/medical officers/public health officers.*
- Fuel subsidy should be considered for all boreholes and shallow wells. *Action – DSG/stakeholders.*
- More nutritious light rations as Unimix and milk need to considered for under five years children and vulnerable in all sample areas. *Action-DSG/Emop/Stakeholders.*