

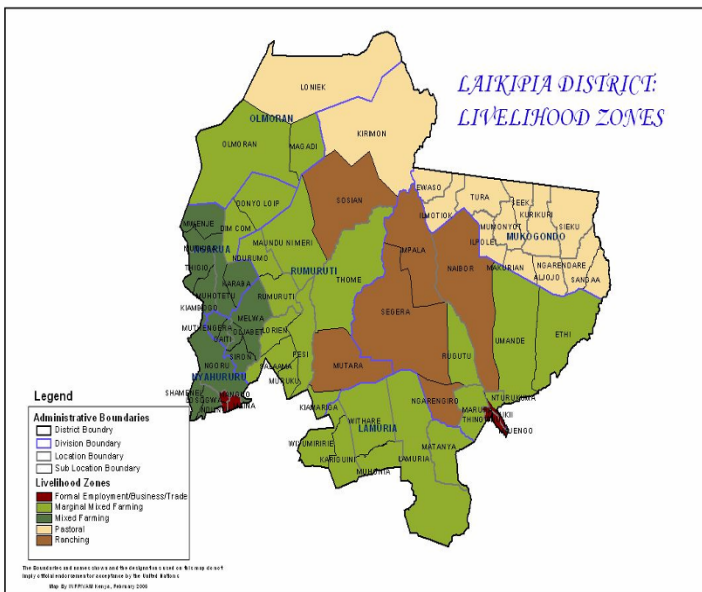


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, JUNE 2009

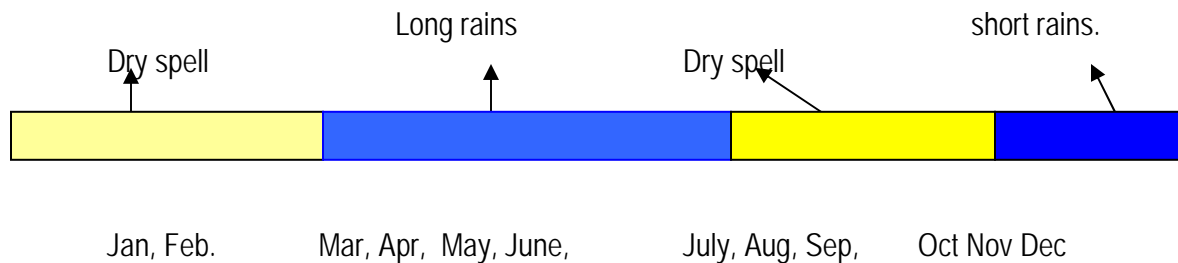
Laikipia East, West and North Districts

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Pastoral All Species	Emergency	No change
Agro – Pastoral	Emergency	No change
Mixed Farming	Emergency	No change
Marginal Mixed Farming	Emergency	No change

Seasonal Calendar



Situation overview

- The district did not receive any rainfall during the month under review.
- There was no pasture in the pastoralist areas of Mukogodo and parts of the Laikipia East were completely depleted, forcing pastoralists to move to Mt Kenya.
- Animals were dying in hundreds on their way to Mount Kenya, especially the sheep and cattle.
- Almost all the dams in the districts were dry and the few that had water it was of poor quality.
- Crops performed poorly even the high potential areas of Nyahururu and Ngarua, expect about 80 to 90 % crop failure. This grain basket of the districts was now importing maize from as far as Busia. The situation is comparable to the drought of 1984 according to the farmers.
- The livestock prices were very poor and markets in Mukogodo and Rumuruti that used to register over 500 cattle per day sold less.
- The authorities on the Meru side of the mountain denied the pastoralists entry into the mountain while they were charged an entry fee on the Nyeri side of the mountain, which was out of reach for most of the poor pastoralists.
- There was major shortage of food stuff in the markets and the households were not expecting any food crops from the farms.
- Human welfare was threatened as most livestock moved to Mt Kenya.

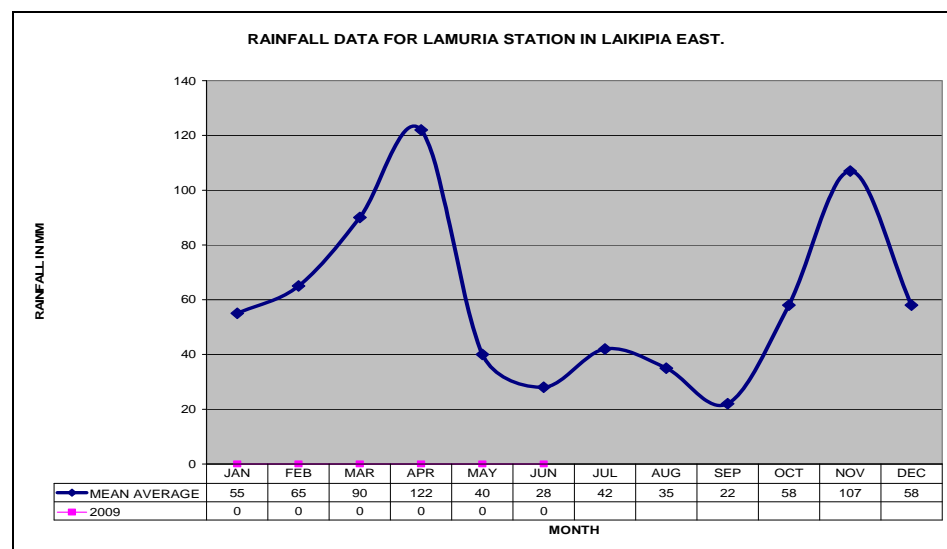
Recommendation to DSG and KFSM

- The authority of Meru side to consider opening up to the pastoralist as the Nyeri side of the mountain pastures are being depleted due to the large population of livestock.
- The authorities of Nyeri to consider opening up for the pastoralists without charging as they are facing a hard time with very weak animals that have no market value.
- The EMOP to increase the food ration as the little milking animals in the household have also moved to the mountain leaving nothing for the children and elderly. Also in the marginal agricultures areas of the mountain.
- Most of the hand pumps in Muruku are not functioning and the existing dams are now dry.
- Clean water supplies for consumption and use at the hospitals is required especially in Laikipia North and parts of the Laikipia East i.e. Endana and Daiga.
- Urgent update of the food register for the needy people is required in the entire district.
- Even the urban dwellers are in need of food aid especially those who rely on petty trade as they usually trades on farm produce.
- The contingency funds to be increased as the emergency situation worsening.
- Urgent reassessment of the food security situation in the entire Laikipia.

1.0 Environmental indicators

1.1. Rainfall

- The district did not receive any rainfall.



Rainfall data provided by (EWASO NYIRO RIVER CATCHMENT AUTHORITY) from Matanya station in Lamuria division this data does not cover the entire district Matanya is an Agropastoralists zone but the situation is different in the rest of the livelihood zones.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- There was no pasture in the normal grazing fields and the livestock moved to Mount Kenya for pastures.
- Even the milking lot that is usually left behind had nothing to eat.
- Even goats and camels that normally don't experience the strength of the drought were now in the danger as most the trees are now shedding leaves as a coping strategy.

1.3 Water sources and availability

- Water was a major stress in the all the division of the districts including the urban areas the majority of the dams and pans dried up in the districts and the few that are having water are very dirty for consumption.
- The demand for water in Mukogodo increased as the dams and rivers dried up. The Arid Lands office gave clean water for the households in Laikipia North though the coverage was still very poor.
- The shallow wells and spring dried up in Laikipia West as the drought progressed.
- The distance to water sources increased.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity/ human-wildlife conflict

- There were reported cases of human/wildlife conflict in Laikipia North.

- The rivers and most of the dams and pans are dry and the few watering points are centre of conflicts between the elephants and human beings.

1.4.2 Migration/ human displacement

- Movement of pastoralists to Mount Kenya has been ongoing for the last three months from Samburu, Isiolo and Laikipia districts.
- Marginal agriculture farmers moved to the towns in search of labour.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Livestock body condition was very poor, and pastoralists moved to the mountain with the few livestock. The livestock died in hundreds on the way.
- The body condition was so weak that the animals were not able to fetch any good prices the average selling prices of cattle was Ksh4,000 but you can get a cow for less than Ksh1,000.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- Livestock from Samburu and Isiolo also moved to the mountain for pasture.
- The chances are high of diseases outbreak i.e. foot and mouth and PPR for the sheep among other drought related diseases.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Condition of various crops

- Usually the maize in Nyahururu and Ngarua the maize starts to ripen at the time of the year was but it had not gone grown than one foot and crop failure was already evident.
- The farmers are expecting 80 to 90 % crop failure and only those who rely on irrigation might harvest.

2.2.2 Harvests

- The expected harvest is less than 10 percent in Laikipia West. But in the Laikipia east no harvest is expected for rain fed crops.
- This means a review of the dependants on food relief need to be reassessed.

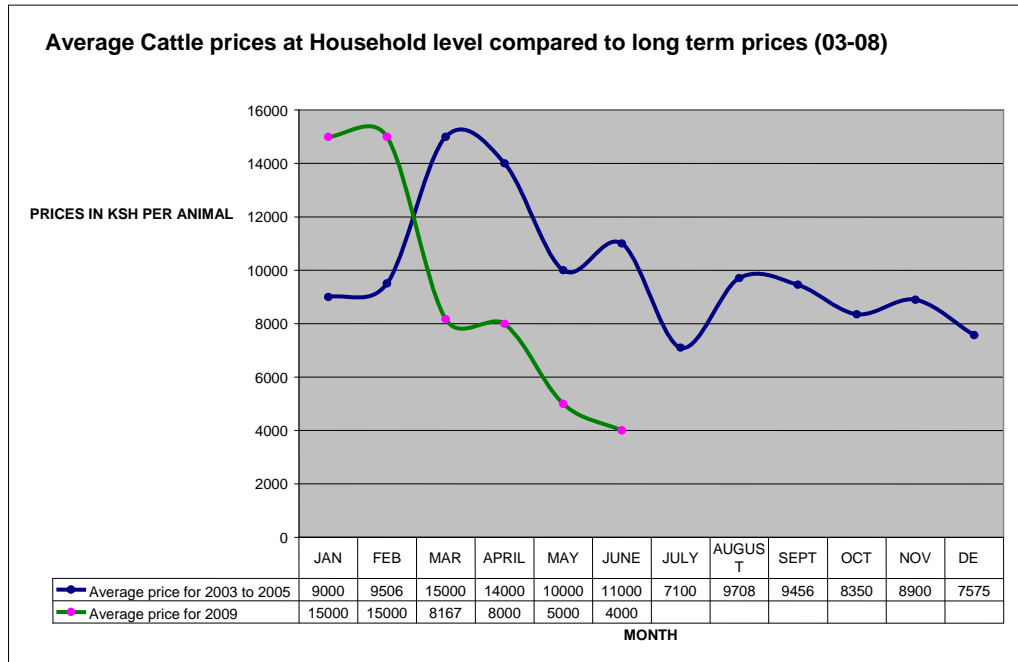
2.3 Implications on food security

- Ngarua businessmen were importing maize from as far as Busia. Ngarua is located in the high potentials area of the Laikipia it is actually one of the grain baskets for the country. This was an indication of bleak food security situation in the district.

3.0 Access to food

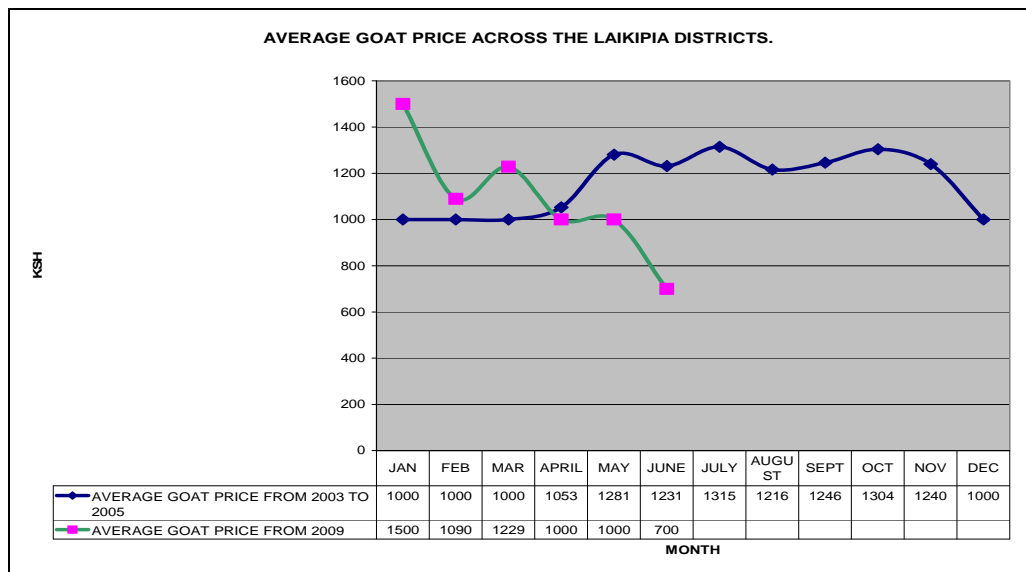
3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1. Cattle prices



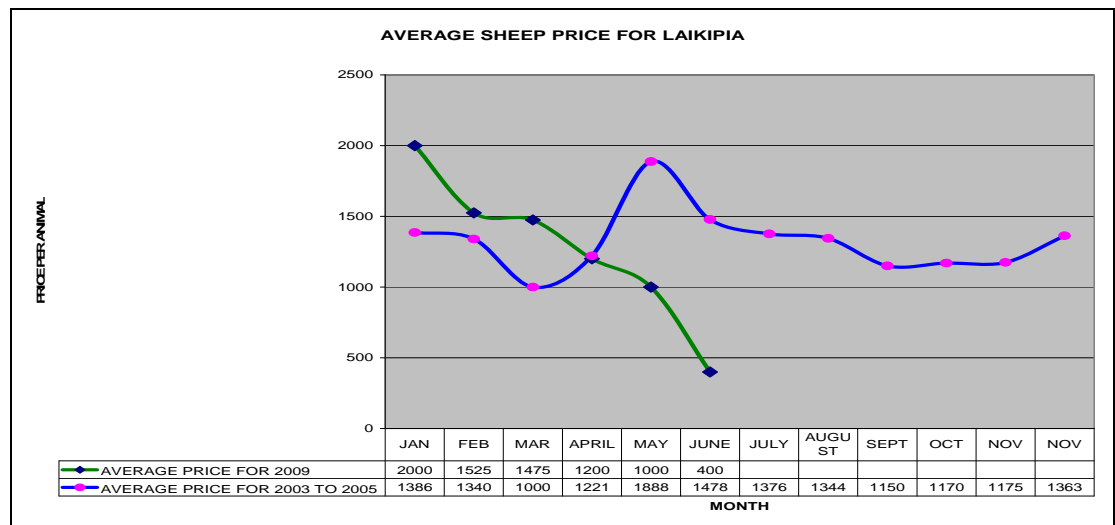
- Cattle prices dropped during the month.
- The average price was Ksh4000 compared to Ksh5000 in May.
- This was attributed to poor body condition as pasture got depleted.
- Pastoralists sold weak animals for even less than Ksh1000 to enable them pay the forest authorities and buy food.

3.1.2 Goat prices



- Goat prices fell to Ksh700 from ksh1000 in May.
- The drop was attributed to poor body condition caused by the prevailing drought.

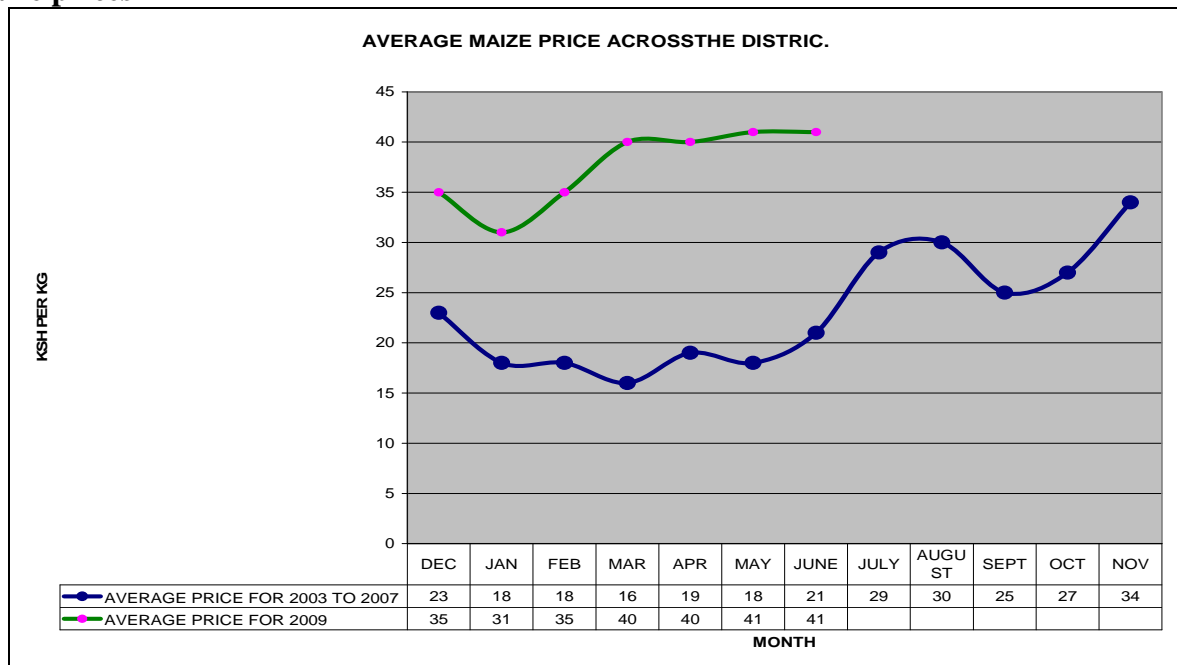
3.1.3 Sheep prices



- Sheep prices dropped drastically from Ksh1000 in May to Ksh400.
- The sheep were weak and dying in hundreds due to the drought.
- Very few sales were registered in Laikipia East.

3.2 Food prices

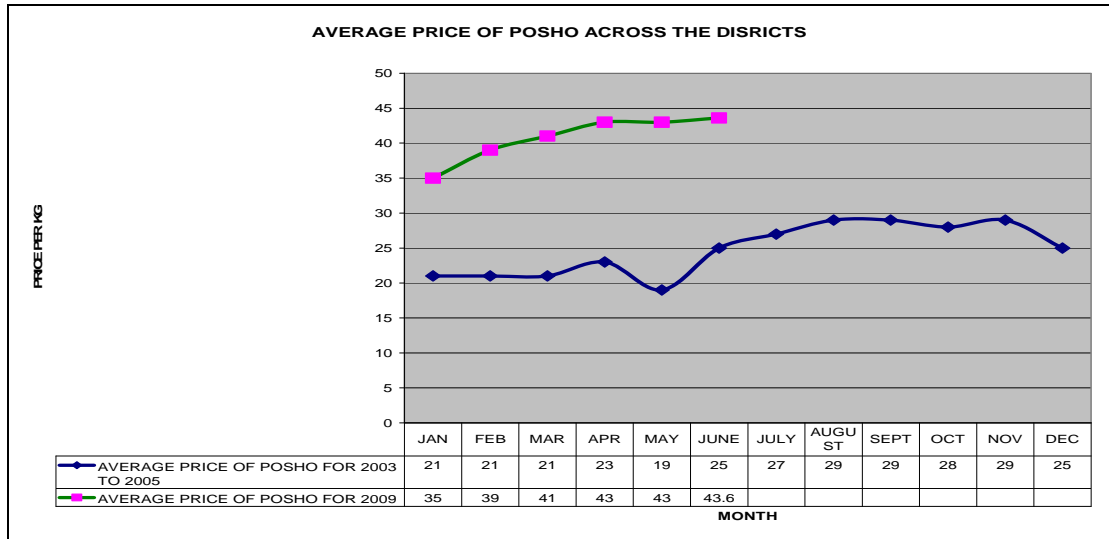
3.2.1 Maize prices



- Maize prices remained stable at Ksh41 per kilo.
- However the price was too high compared to the Ksh21 long term mean for the year 2003-2007.
- In Ngarua and Nyahururu maize was being imported from as far as Busia.

- The prices are likely to worsen since no harvest is expected.

3.2.2 Posho prices



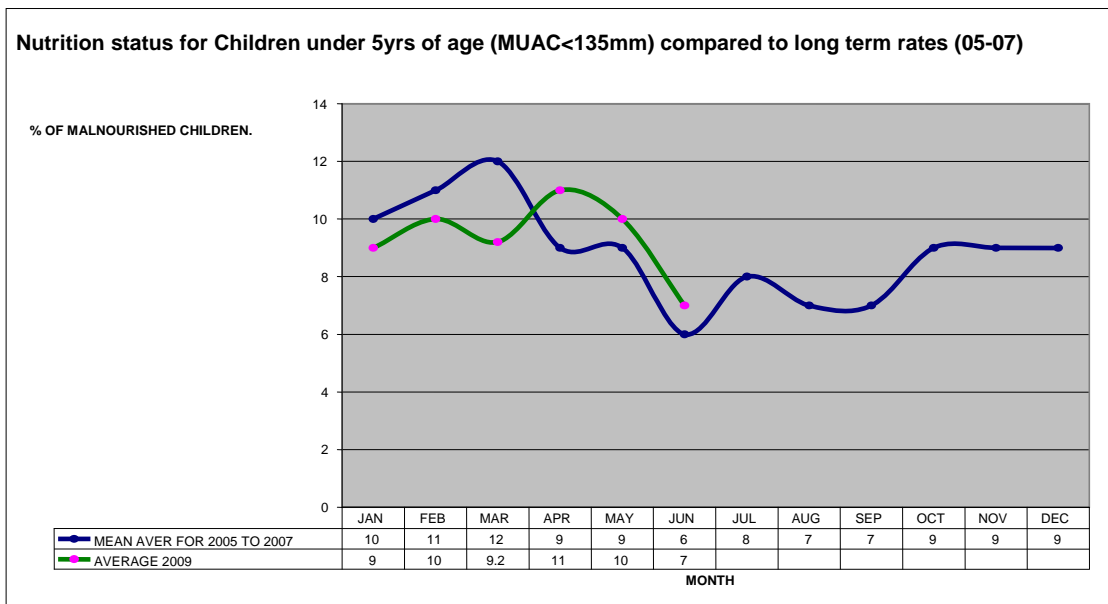
- The price of posho was stable at Ksh43 per kilo but expected to worsen as the drought persists.

3.3 Implications on food security

- There was major shortage of food stuff in the markets and the households are not expecting any food crops from the farms. This poses a serious threat to food security in the district.
- The food security situation was further aggravated by movement of livestock to Mt Kenya in search of pasture, leaving households with no source of milk.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



- There was a slight improvement in the nutrition status of children below five years during the month.
- The percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition fell to 7% from 10% in May.

4.2 Human health

- There is likelihood in increased cases of pneumonia as the pastoralists move to Mt Kenya in search of pasture for their animals.
- Cholera was still major threat to the residents of Laikipia.

5.0 coping strategies

- Charcoal burning.
- Pastoralists moved to Mt Kenya in search of pasture.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

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