

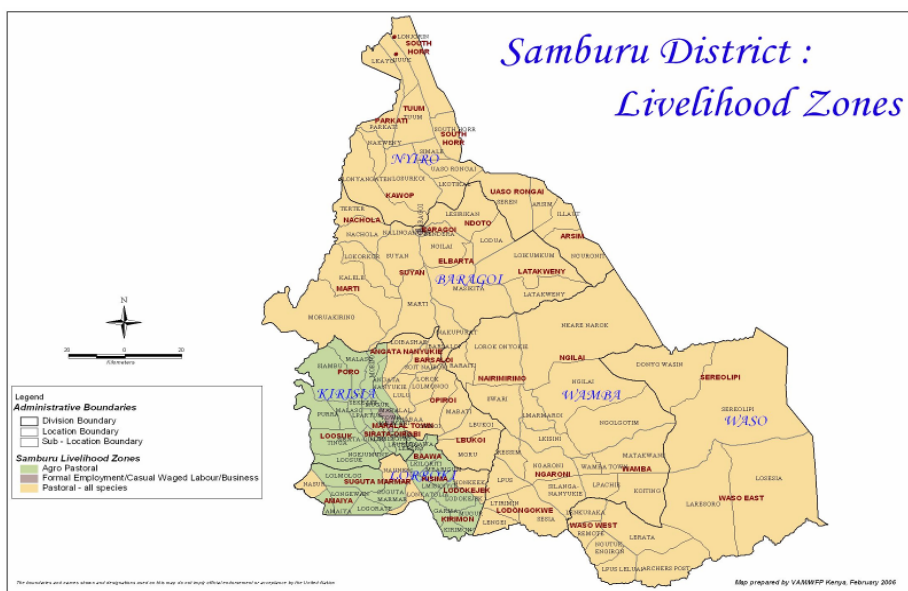


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, JUNE 2009

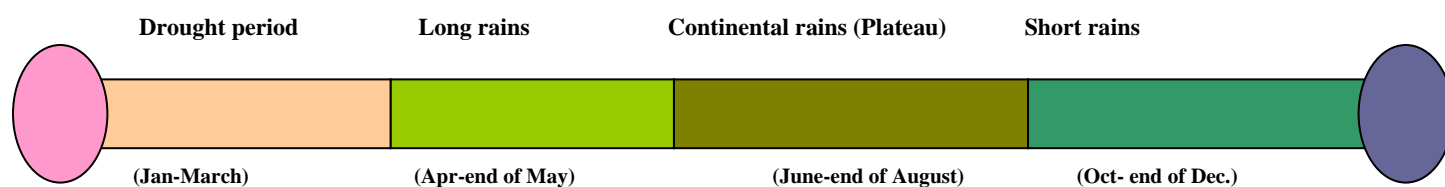
Samburu District

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Pastoral-all species	Emergency	No change
	Emergency	No change
Agro pastoral	Emergency	No change
	Emergency	No change
Formal Employment/ Casual labour/ Business	Alarm	Worsening
	Alarm	Stable

Seasonal calendar



Situation overview

- The district received 5.3mm of rainfall on average compared to 36.5 mm received in May. The amount was 72.6 per cent below the long-term mean average of 19.3 mm.
- Drought stress bit hard across the district due the meagre performance of the long rains and apparent failure of the continental rains in the plateau.
- Existing water sources dried up due to enhanced rates of evaporation, leading to increased distances to water points by households and livestock.
- Livestock body conditions ranged from fair to poor and prices fell substantially compared to May.
- Milk availability remained scarce at the household level across the district.
- Malaria and upper respiratory tract infections continued to dominate the district human disease profile, but within manageable levels. Cases of cholera outbreak were reported in parts of Baragoi and Nyiro divisions.
- Below normal livestock prices and high prices of essential food commodities eroded pastoralists' purchasing power, and hence enhanced food insecurity at the household level.
- Insecurity continued to destabilise the western borders of the district, constraining access to forage resources and human settlement in the affected areas.
- The nutrition status of children below five years worsened, with the percentage of those considered at risk of malnutrition (based on MUAC<135mm measurement) increasing to 30 from 29.4 last month.

Current interventions (Food and Non -food)

- Supplementary feeding programme at 9 health facilities in all divisions targeting approximately 49,991 beneficiaries.
- District-wide general relief food distribution targeting approximately 40% of the population in the lowlands and 20% in the plateau.
- Community Management of acute malnutrition nutrition project by World Vision Lorroki ADP targeting 1,024 beneficiaries.

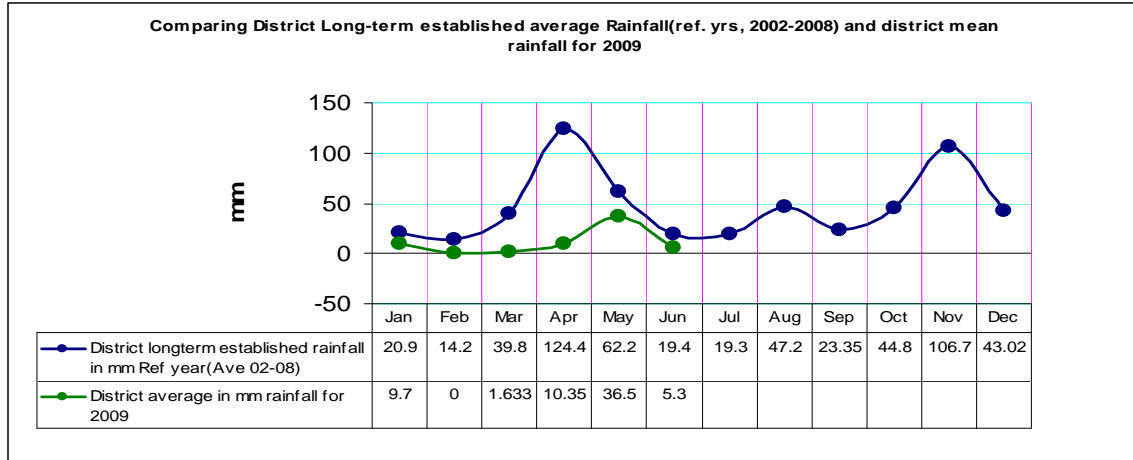
Recommendations to DSG and KFSSM

- General food distribution to target more beneficiaries (80% of the population) across the district to cushion them from the impacts of the currently experienced drought.
- KFSSG and other stakeholders to play a lead role in promoting conflict resolution initiatives among warring communities through facilitation of district peace committees to reach warring communities for dialogue.
- Supplementary feeding programme to target more beneficiaries that are at risk of Malnutrition in Samburu North district both under and over five years of age.

- Cholera outbreak reported in various parts of Nyiro and Baragoi divisions requires immediate attention to contain the disease spread before it engulfs the whole district.

1.0 Environmental indicators

1.1 Rainfall



Source: District Agriculture/ALRMP II weather station

- The long rains performed poorly across the district and the continental rains normally received in the plateau (Kirisia/Lorroki divisions) failed, aggravating the drought situation.
- The entire district experienced hot and dry weather conditions apart from the surroundings of Maralal town that received two day rains towards the end of the reporting month.
- On average the rainfall amount received was 5.3mm from last month's 36.5 mm. The amount was below normal by 72.6 per cent.
- The long term established threshold normally received during this period of the year is 19.4 mm.

1.2 Conditions of natural vegetation and pasture

- The condition of natural vegetation deteriorated compared to last month in the district.
- Weather conditions that prevailed, coupled with livestock concentrations in areas that received light showers in May reversed slight improvement in quality and quantity of natural vegetation.
- Quantity and quality of natural diminished completely in areas that did not receive the season's rains.
- Insecurity remained a constraint in access and utilization forage resources in the western parts of the district.
- Forage resources were far below average compared to normal times during this period of the year.

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Use of water sources

- The main sources of water for livestock and household during the course of this month changed compared to last month and included: traditional river wells; natural rivers, Boreholes and pans/dams.
- Existing water sources dried up due enhanced rates of evaporation leading to increased distances to water points by households and livestock.
- Acute water shortage continued to hit parts of wamba and waso divisions that constitute the newly established Samburu East district. The specific areas include Lpus, Sessia, Muruangai, Ndonyo-nasipa, Nkare-narok, Naimaral, Resim, Silango Nanyukie, remot, ngaroni, and Lorrok Onyokie among others.

1.3.2 Average distance (Kms) to water sources

- Average house distance to nearby water sources increased to 9.0 Kms from last month's 6.7 Kms.
- Average return grazing distance to main sources of water also increased to 14.6 Kms from last month's 11.6 Kms.
- Wet season watering points dried up in various parts that received the rains in May, leading to increased distance for households and livestock.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity/ conflict

- Tension amongst warring communities heightened in Samburu North district as livestock from the two warring communities' approach the insecure dry season grazing fields.
- In Samburu Central district, four herders were killed and approximately 300 heads of cattle stolen at Logorate area by bandits from the neighbouring district of East Baringo.

1.4.2 Migration

a) Livestock migration

- Massive livestock migration towards the upper parts of the plateau (Kirisia/Lorroki divisions), Marti, Baragoi, and Morijo areas from Samburu East and parts of Samburu Central district was witnessed throughout the reporting month.
- Livestock influx into Nyiro division of Samburu North district from the neighbouring district of Laisamis was also reported during the month.

b) Human migration/displacement

- Many families remained displaced in parts of Samburu North district as tension amongst warring communities remained high.

- Households in the western parts of the Agro pastoral livelihood zone too remained displaced and concentrations are still mainly in the lower parts of the plateau and cluster villages in Lolmolog, Logorate and Longewan sub-locations. Residents of this livelihood zone were unable to till their original farms during this planting season.

1.5 Implications on food security

- The meagre performance of the long rains and the apparent failure of the continental rains in the plateau, impact gravely on household food security.
- Insecurity continued to frustrate efforts to attain a food secure society in the affected areas within the district.

2.0. Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body conditions

- Livestock body conditions for cattle and sheep were generally poor across the district. Goats' body conditions ranged from fair to poor.
- Deaths of cattle and sheep due to drought continued across the district.
- Long trekking distances to watering points and grazing areas, susceptibility to diseases such as FMD and the poor quality of forage resources for the last four months were factors that contributed to poor cattle and sheep body conditions.
- Compared to a normal year livestock body conditions were far below normal across the district.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- The major livestock diseases reported were FMD, ECF, and Anaplasmosis in cattle; Sheep pox, diarrhoea, and enterotoxaemia in sheep; Goat pox, PPR and diarrhoea in goats.
- FMD disease outbreak was reported from various areas of the larger Samburu district from 8th June 2009. The areas include Ngilai in Baragoi division, Bukoi and Barsaloi in Kirisia division. The affected cattle population was approximately 50,000 while the cattle population at risk of disease infection in the district was 200,000.

2.2 Implications on food security

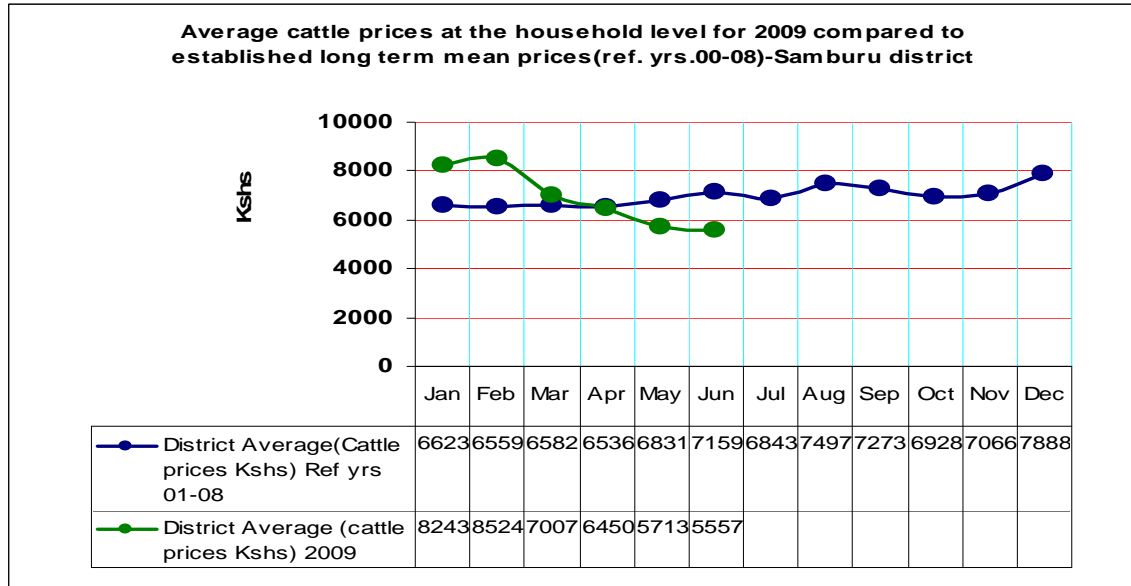
- Poor livestock body conditions undermined pastoralists' returns and economy and hence their food security.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

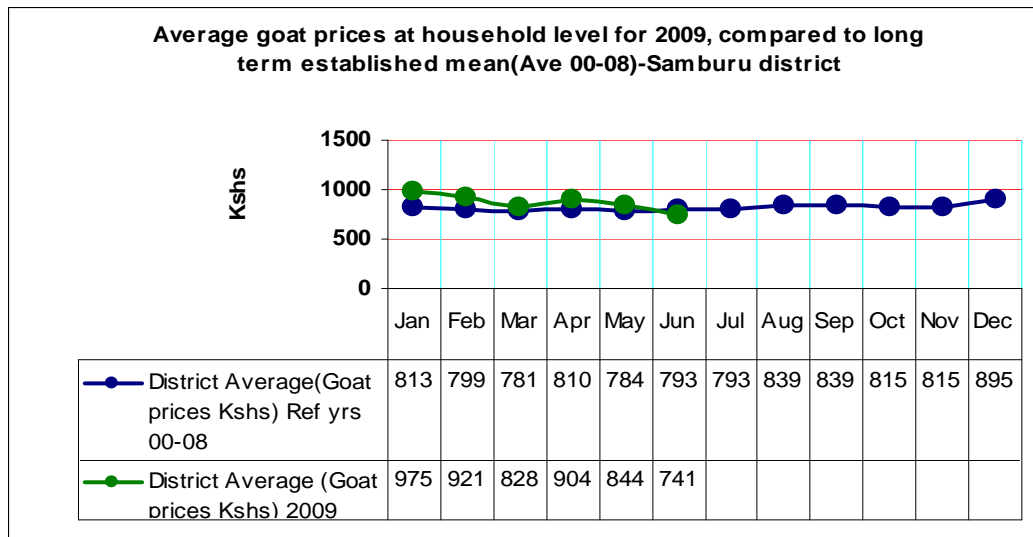
3.1.1 Cattle prices

- Average cattle price fell to Ksh5, 557 from Ksh5713 in May.
- The price was below normal by 22.37%.
- Below normal average cattle price was attributable to poor cattle body conditions across the district.



Number of households (N) =338

3.1.2 Goats prices

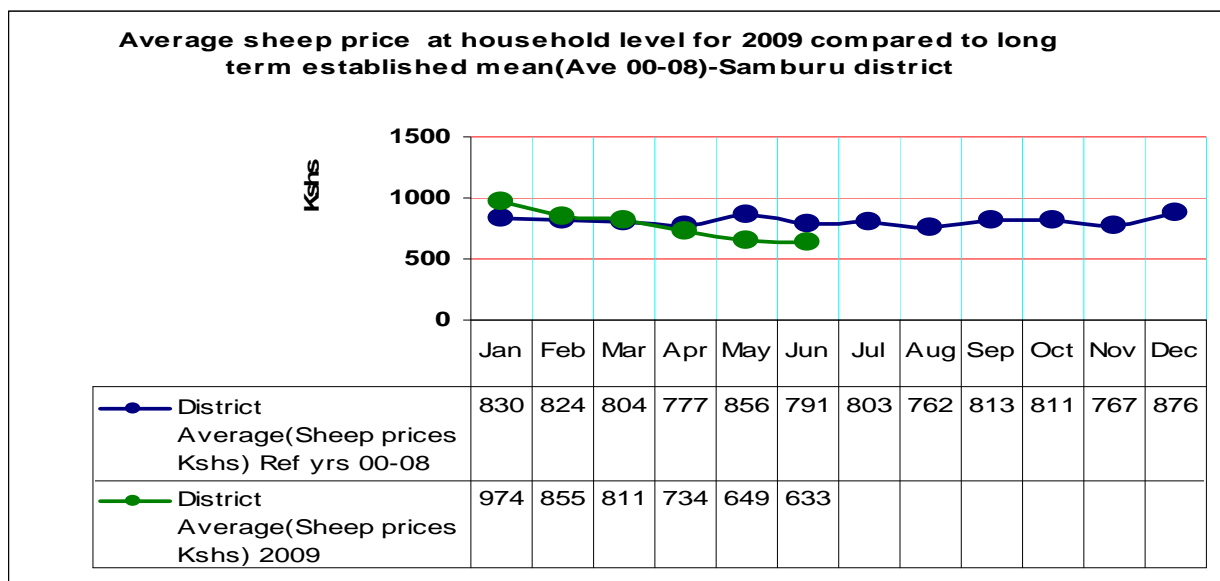


Number of households (N) =338

- Average goat price fell to Ksh741 from last month's Ksh844.
- Goats' price was below the long-term average by 6.56 per cent.
- Fair to poor goats' body condition was a factor behind the price fall.

3.1.3 Sheep prices

- Average sheep prices fell to Ksh633 from Ksh649 in May.
- However, the price was below the long term average by 20 per cent.
- Poor sheep body condition was a key factor that contributed to the price fall.



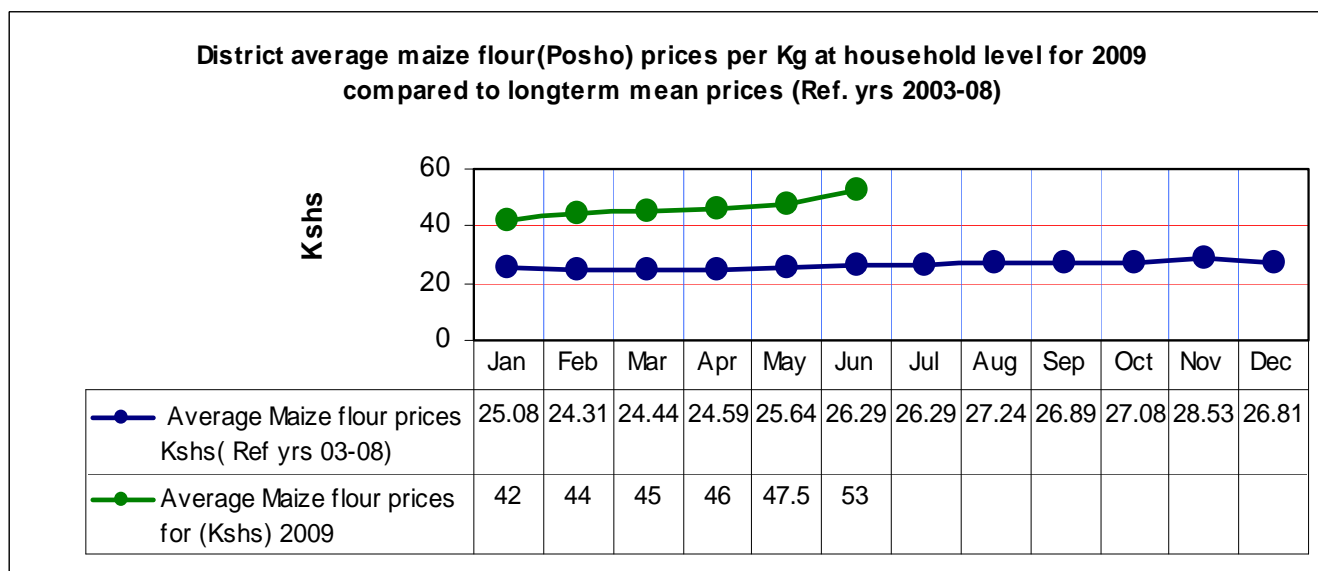
Number of households (N) =338

3.2 Milk consumption

- Milk availability at the household level remained scarce as drought stress bit hard across the district.
- This was attributable to poor livestock body conditions and low birth rates.

3.3 Food prices

3.3.1 Posh (maize flour) prices



Number of communities (N) =29

- Averagev maize flour price rose to Ksh53 per kilogram of locally milled maize from Ksh 47.50 in May.

- Compared to the long term mean, the posho price was above normal by 101.6 per cent.
- The district remained an importer of maize and it experienced constant supply shortages, which led to hiked prices.
- Added transport costs also contributed to high posho prices in many lowland areas compared to the plateau.

3.4 Income

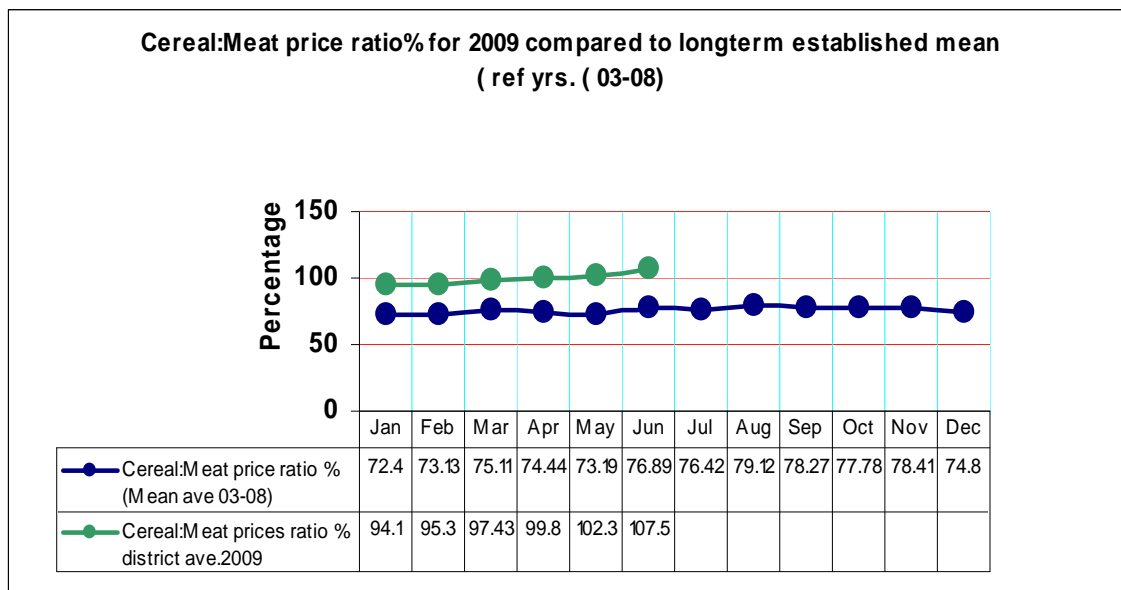
3.4.1 Livestock income

- Sale of livestock remained the major source of income for many households across all the livelihood zones.

3.4.2 Other income

- Casual labour, sale of charcoal, petty trade, sale of wood products, remittances and formal employment were the other income sources for many households within the district.

3.5 Cereal/ meat price ratio (%)



Number of households (N) = 338

- Pastoralists' households required 0.1075 kilogram of meat in exchange of a kilo of cereals.
- The exchange rate remained exorbitant as the established long-term mean average is 0.76 kg of meat against a Kilogram of cereals.
- Pastoralists' purchasing power soared to 107.5 per cent from 102.3 per cent in May and was below the long-term mean by 39.81 per cent.

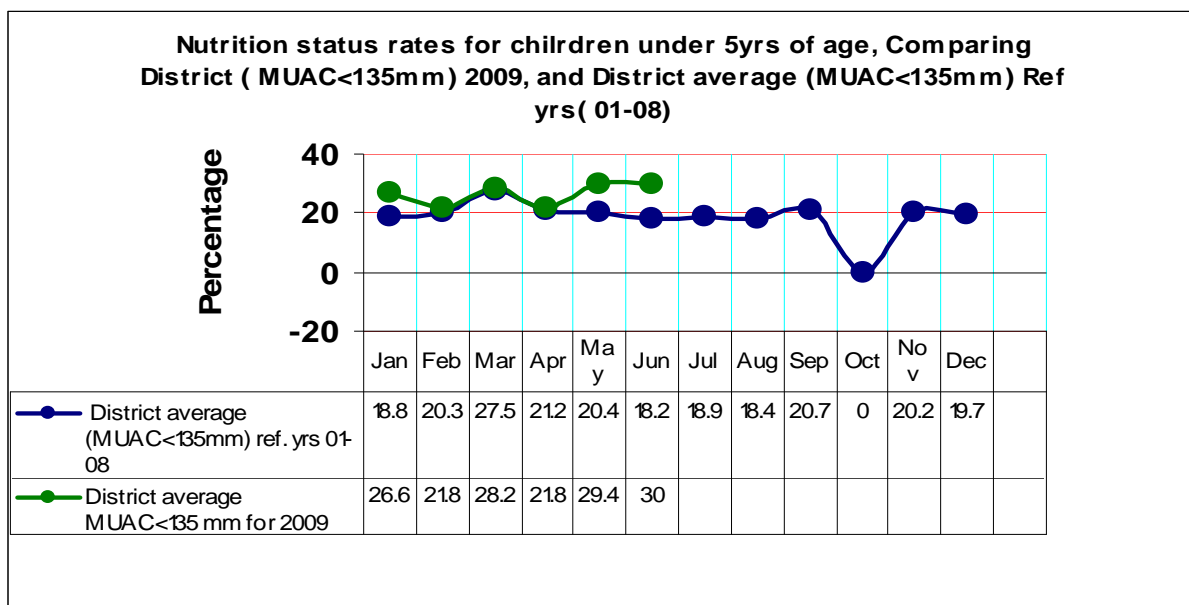
- This was pegged to below normal livestock prices coupled with highly priced cereals, particularly maize.

3.6 Implications on food security

- Below normal livestock prices, coupled with highly priced essential food household commodities adversely eroded pastoralists' purchasing power and hence their food security at the household level.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



Number of children (N) =1,445 from 338 households

- The nutrition status of children below five years worsened, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition (based on MUAC<135mm measurement) increasing to 30 from 29.4 last month.
- Nachola, Kawop, Tuum, West Gate and South Horr sentinel sites portrayed alarming trends with the percentage of those at risk increasing to 74.5, 65.2, 65, 41.4, and 40.3 respectively.

4.2 Human health

- Malaria, upper respiratory tract infections and diarrhoea were the major human ailments reported in various parts of the district but within manageable levels.
- Cases of cholera outbreak were reported in Latakweny and Arsim areas of Baragoi and Nyiro division during the course of the reporting month. The disease killed four in Archers post in May.

- The ailments were countered at the household level through medical assistance sought from public health centres/ dispensaries, private clinics and use of local herbs/ concoctions.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non-food interventions

- District-wide livestock disease surveillance.
- Quarantine imposed to curb spread of FMD.

5.2 Food-aid

- Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP) in 9 health facilities in all divisions targeting approximately 4,991 beneficiaries.
- District-wide general relief food distribution targeting 20% of the population in the plateau and 40% of the population in the lowlands.
- Community Management of acute malnutrition nutrition project by World Vision Lorroki ADP, targeting 1024 beneficiaries.

5.3 Coping strategies

- The household coping mechanisms worsened compared to the previous months.
- Sentinel sites (Kawop and West Gate) portrayed abnormal trends at 4.5, and 3.8 respectively against a coping strategy index (0 to 10), depicting the devastating impacts of the current drought situation to many households.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSSM

- Cholera outbreak reported in various parts of Baragoi and Nyiro divisions requires immediate attention to contain the disease spread before it engulfs the whole district. (*Action: MoH, SAIDIA, Catholic Mission, ALRMP, and other donors*).
- Re-targeting of beneficiaries of general relief food aid to be done to include more beneficiaries (approx. 80%) across the district in dire need of food, this will cushion them from the impacts of the currently experienced drought and famine situation.
- Supplementary feeding programme to target more beneficiaries at risk of malnutrition in the district under and over five years of age.
- KFSSG and other stakeholders to play a lead role in promoting conflict resolution initiatives among warring communities through facilitation of district peace committees. (*Action: DSC, District Peace committees, Pastoral associations, KFSSG and Communities*).
- Massive vaccination campaigns against FMD should be rolled out immediately in areas that cattle have not contracted the disease.