

Situation overview

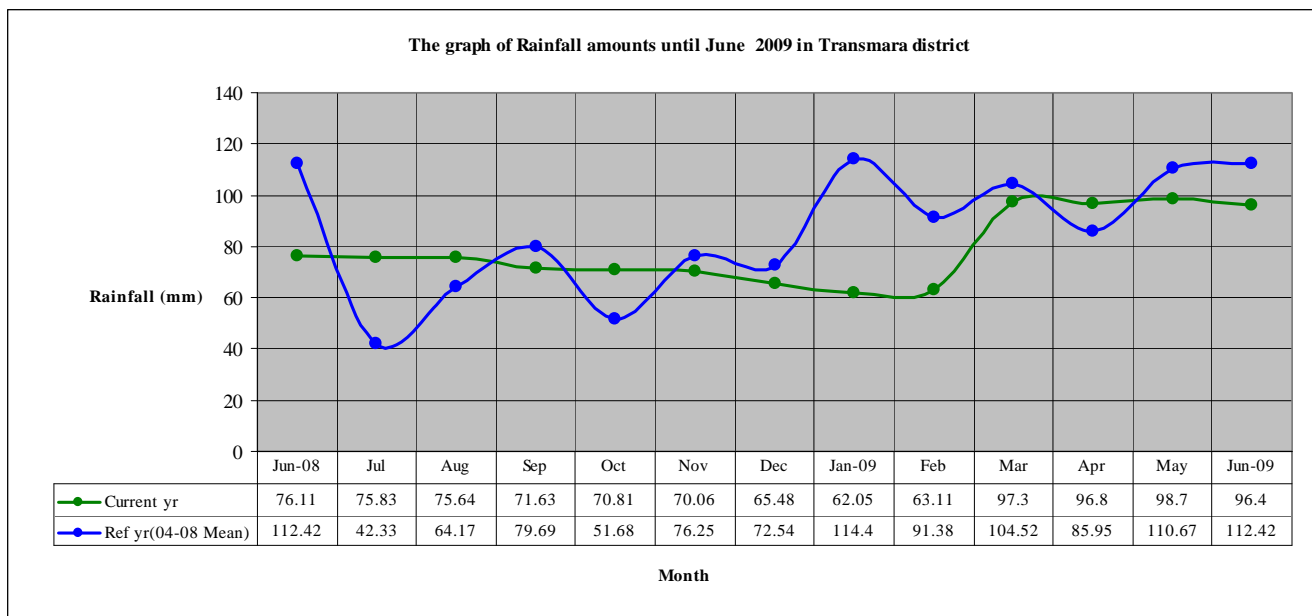
- The district recorded 6 rainy days, similar to the previous month. Rainfall was not well spread in time and space.
- The water situation was declining and milk production fair but on downward trend.
- Pasture quantity and quality were low, livestock body condition was fair. Livestock prices decreased due to closed markets on FMD outbreak and the general attention on cereals.
- Maize was at ripening and harvesting stages and prices were still increasing. Middlemen were buying green maize with lorries from farms. Beans price as well increased. Beans was scarce.
- The nutrition status of children under five years remained stable owing to the coping strategy where household members reserved milk for children.
- The situation was generally better than in the pastoral areas above. The water situation worsened and milk production as well dropped but was available for children.
- Maize was at harvesting stage, nevertheless, poor harvests were expected. Maize prices were increasing.
- The general food situation was bad.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Water projects should be implemented at areas that are frequently hard hit by water shortages and long distances to water sources during extended dry spells. ACTION: Water & ALRMP II.
- Sensitization on post-harvest crop management to be done to farmers during harvesting so as to minimize wastage and improve on 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 was 96.4mm, a decrease from 98.7mm during the previous month.
- The trend was downward as opposed to that of the reference year.
- Rainfall amount was lower than the norm for such a month of the year. The water levels generally decreased but not significantly.
- Onset – The rainfall has been on going 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 month. Pastoral, Agro-pastoral and Casual waged labour/ tourism livelihoods, received an average of about 20% coverage, which was also similar to the previous months. The behavior in spacial distribution for both livelihoods was maintained.
- This spatial distribution was below normal for such a 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/pasture was fair.
- The quality of the vegetation status in the pastoral livelihood zones was of less quality compared to that of the previous month. These areas (Kirindon and South Eastern parts of Lolgorian division) were affected by reduced rainfall amounts than the rest.
- The quantity of pasture was available but in low levels.
- The pasture quantity was as well less than that of the same month for a normal year.
- The quantity of the vegetation in the Mixed farming livelihood zones was higher than that of other livelihoods. This was attributed to differences in soil potentials between the two.

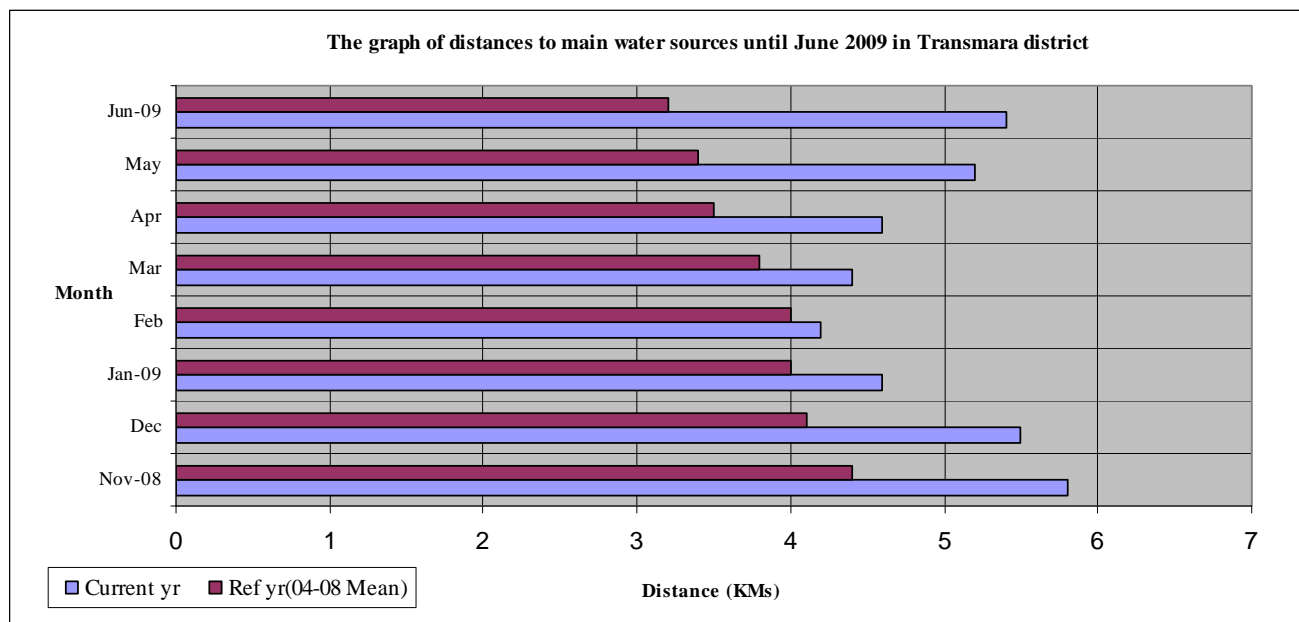
1.2.1 Distance to grazing areas

- The average distance from livestock concentration points to main grazing areas in the district was 5 Kms. This was above normal (3.38kms) and 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 congested due to a high population of users.
- Other sources dried up following low rainfall amounts received over an extended period of time. The water situation was still worse in all livelihoods.

1.3.1 Household and livestock access to water



- 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 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

2.2 Livestock Body Condition

- The body condition of cattle, sheep and goats was fair, similar to that of the previous month.
- There were no marked variations in the body condition of livestock between pastoral/Agro-pastoral zones and the Mixed farming ones.
- Livestock was generally being sustained by the limited pasture and water that may not last long unless rains improve.

2.2.2 Livestock diseases

- The Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak was still prevalent in most of the pastoral areas, but fewer cases than the previous month.

2.2.3 Milk production

- The average milk production per household was same and 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 such a time of the year.
- Mixed farming livelihoods recorded higher milk production per animal than pastoral zones.

2.3 Crop production

2.3.2 Timeliness and condition of various crop production activities

- In farming areas, maize was generally ripening and tending to harvest.
- The crop had been affected by low rainfall amounts and the yields are expected to be low.

2.3.3 Pests and diseases

- No major crop pests and diseases were reported.

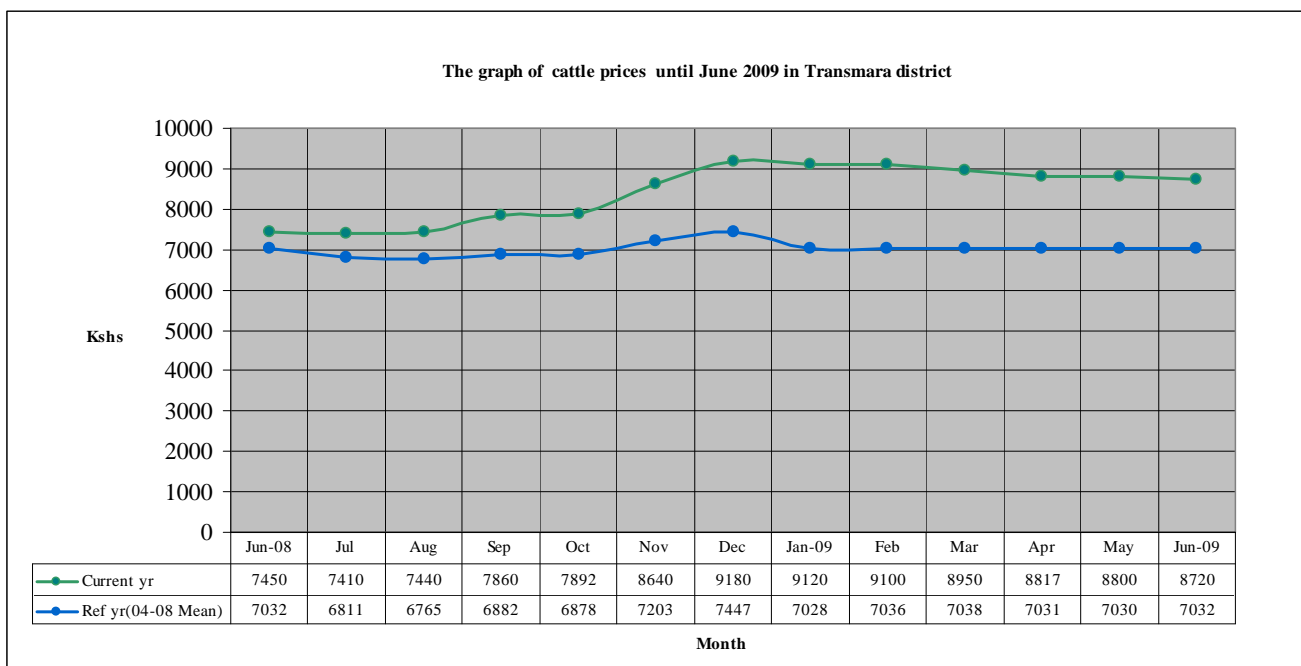
2.3.4 Implications on food security

- Since in most areas, maize had been affected by insufficient rains, there shall be poor yields that might not suffice the cereal need for the season.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices



n=330

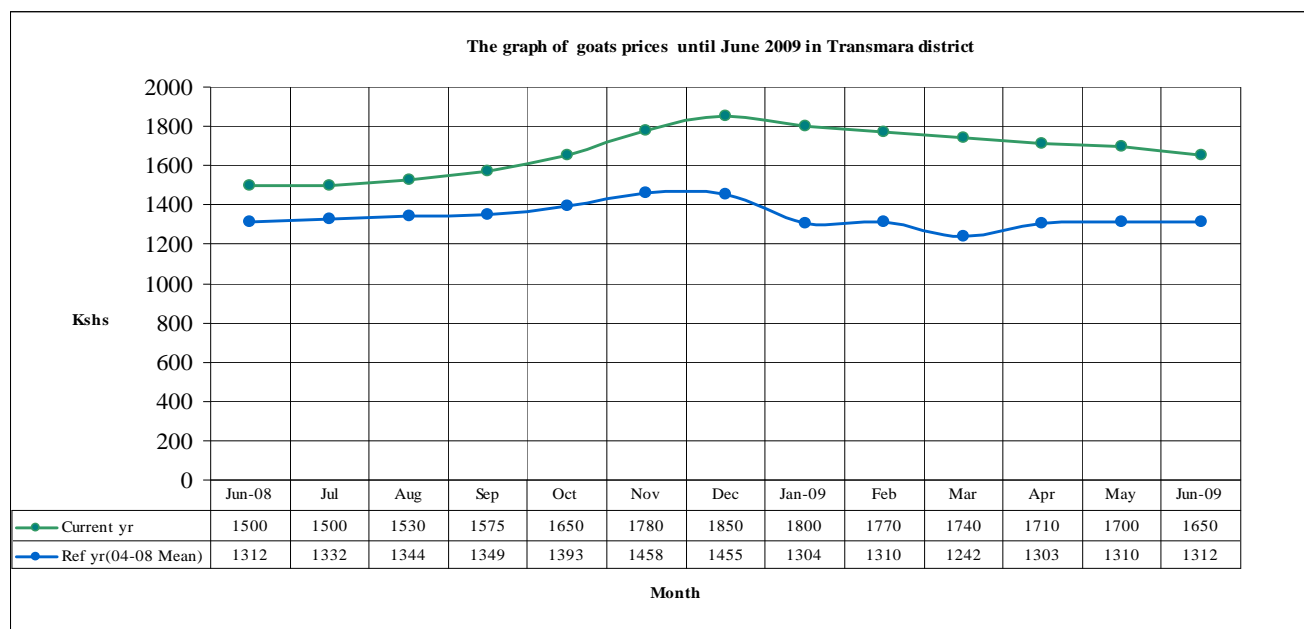
- The average price for cattle was Ksh8,720, less than that of the previous month (Ksh8,800). There has been a steady decrease in cattle prices since December 2008 in the district.

- The prices decreased because of the closed livestock markets owing the FMD outbreak in various parts of the district. In addition, fewer people engaged in livestock trade, as cash was diverted to maize and food purchases since cereals were still limited and costly.
- The cattle price was however still higher than normal, but in downward trend.

3.2 Implications on food security

- This was a threat to food security as less cash was fetched from cattle sales to purchase the cereals and pulses, whose prices were increasing.

3.2.1 Goats prices



n=330

- The average price of a goat decreased from Kshs 1,700 to Kshs 1,650.
- 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 was still higher than normal for such a time of the year.
- The trend was downward and is expected to remain until FMD is eliminated and livestock markets opened.

3.3 Milk Consumption

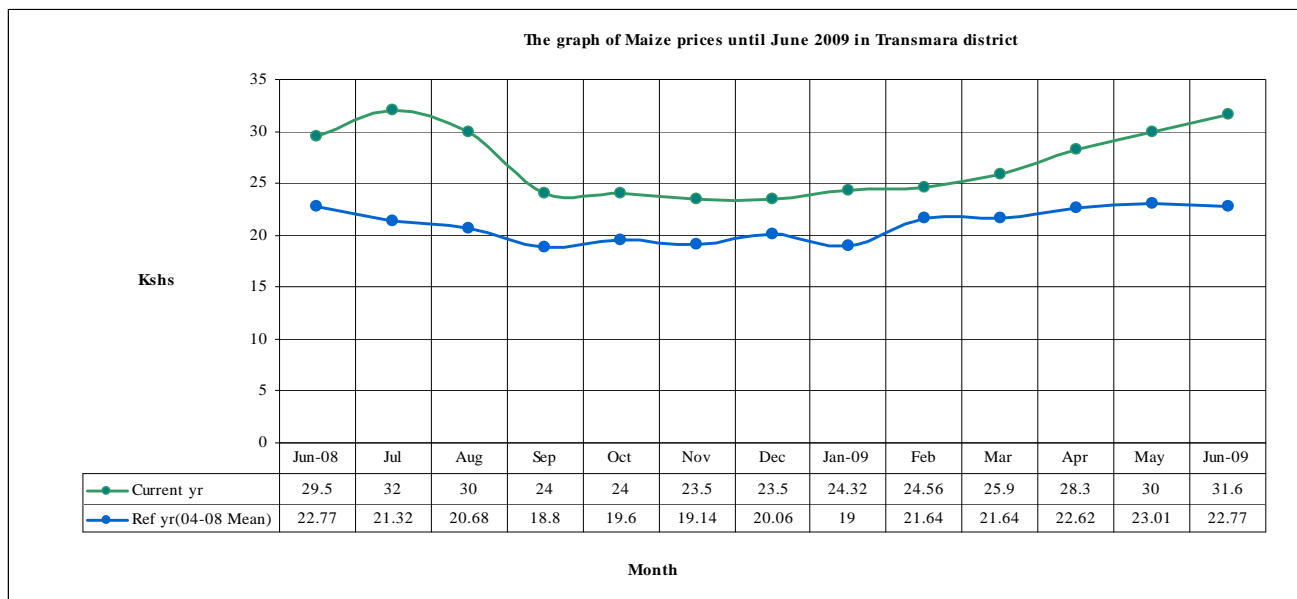
Table for milk consumption

	2008												2009
	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Everyone	18.42	18.40	18.40	18.31	18.24	18.15	18.11	18.05	18.01	17.94	17.60	17.48	17.20
Only children	35.50	35.60	35.60	35.75	35.83	36.44	36.52	36.83	36.92	36.97	37.20	37.50	37.80
None	4.01	4.12	4.12	4.20	4.33	4.38	4.43	4.55	4.61	4.68	4.88	5.20	5.44

- Milk availability decreased. Fewer members accessed milk and more milk was reserved for children as a coping strategy. The % for **everyone** decreased (17.48 to 17.20).
- The % for **only children** increased (37.50 to 37.80). A higher number of members of the household had **no access** to milk as it was scarce and most of it was reserved for children.

3.4 Crop prices

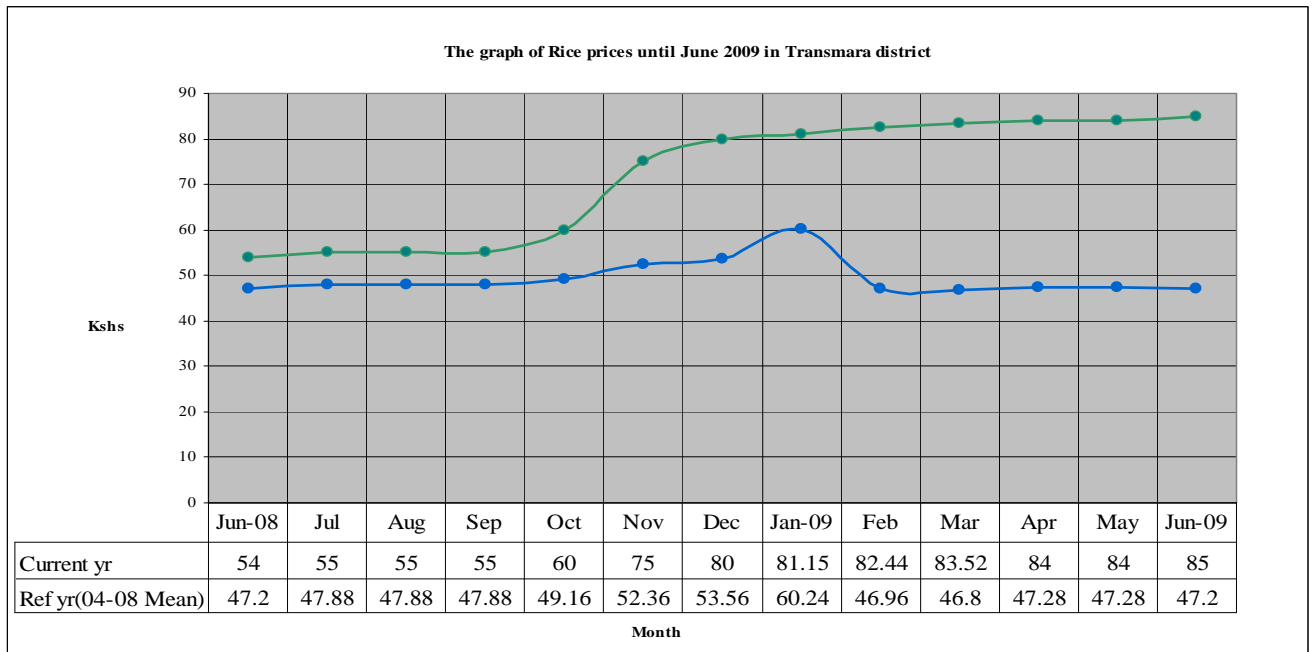
3.4.1 Maize prices



n=330

- The average price per kilo of maize increased from Ksh30 to Ksh31.60.
- Prices increased because of the high demand of the crop as it ripens. The middlemen with lorries from outside the district have contributed to the high price level. In some cases, the crop is being disposed while green, from fields.
- The price trend for maize was not normal for such a time of the year. The level of maize price was higher than the one expected during such a time of the year.
- This situation shall last until after the harvesting season, as this shall be the only supply of maize then.

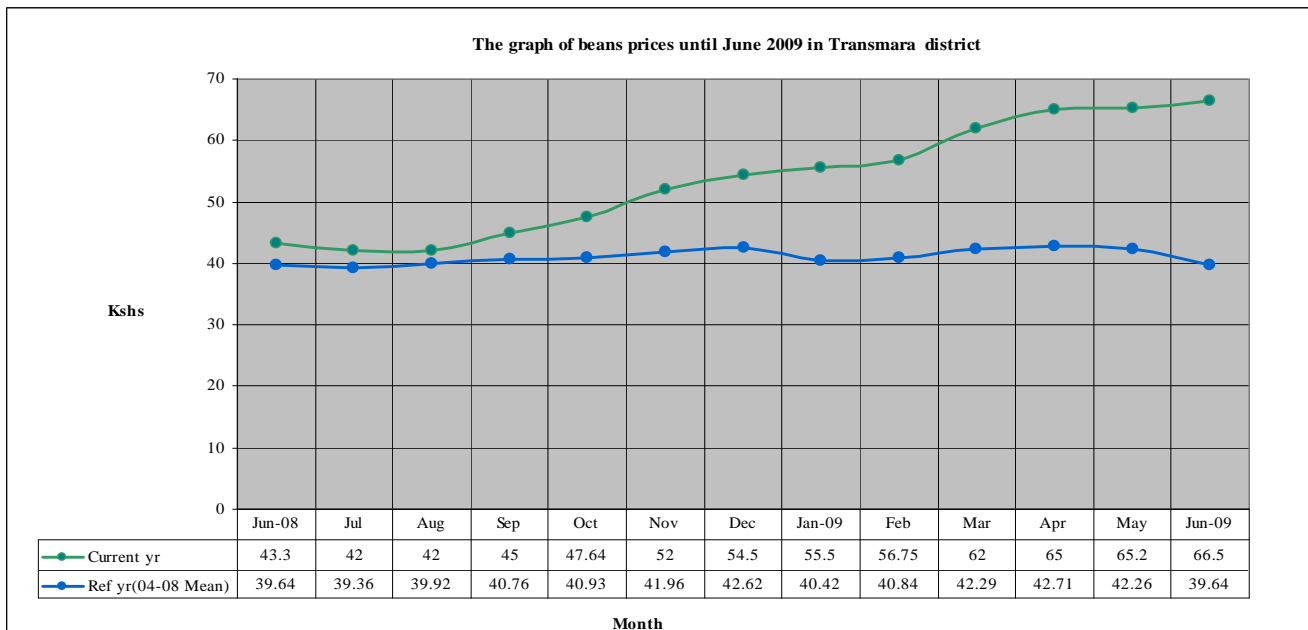
3.4.2 Rice prices



n=330

- The average price/Kg of Rice was Kshs 85.00, an increase from Kshs 84.00.
- Rice price trend was not normal for the season and also, the level was high. The high level is attributed to inflation countrywide and the increasing demand for cereals.
- The prices are likely to continue increasing since the cereals are still scarce whereas the demand is upward.

3.4.3 Beans prices



n=330

- The average price of beans was Ksh66.50, higher than Ksh65.20, for last month.
- This was the case in all livelihoods. The price went up because beans crop had been harvested after a long time and it was hardly available at local markets.

- The upward price trend is likely to continue for long, since the harvest for beans is still far.
- This was considered normal for such a time of the year.

3.4 Income

3.4.1 Crop income

Not significant, 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 since most people concentrated on cereals as households had difficulties in accessing food, including pulses district-wide.
- All livelihoods experienced low prices for their livestock in the district.
- This trend was normal and impacted negatively on food security.
- The situation is likely to last, as long as the cereal availability problem remains.

3.4.3 Trade

- There were no significant income sources from other activities that prevailed like charcoal burning and casual wages. The situation was normal.

3.5 Cereal: meat price ratio

Table for Cereal: Meat Price Ratio

Jun 08	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 09	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun 09
106.66	106.71	106.70	106.40	106.34	106.25	106.18	106.22	106.26	106.38	106.45	106.53	

- The cereal/meat price ratio increased from 106.53 to 106.85. This was because of the increasing cereal prices versus decreasing livestock prices.
- This had a negative implication on the food security as there was weak purchasing power for cereals. Less income was fetched from livestock sales whereas more cash was required to buy cereals.
- This situation is likely to continue and could worsen, since the harvests might not last for long. The situation is not very promising, event on post harvest.

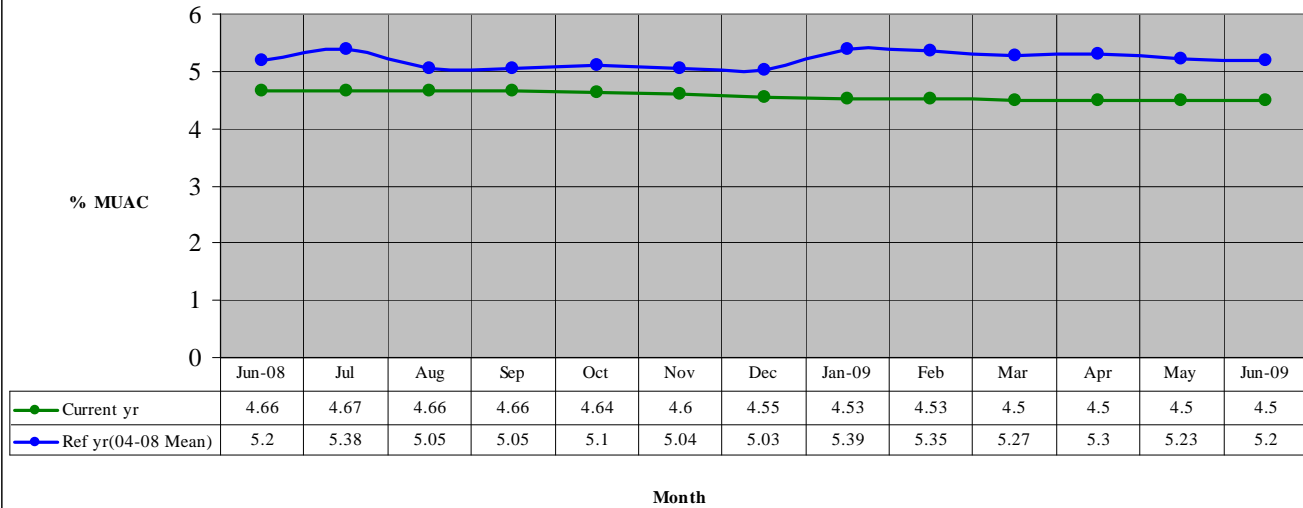
3.6 Implications on food security

- In general, the implications of the above situations on food security are **negative** and the combined situation is decimating to all livelihoods and general survival in the district.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutritional status

The graph of average MUAC for children (under five years) until June 2009 in Transmara district



n=1,045

- The % of children with MUAC below 135mm remained 4.5.
- This stability was attributed to the adopted coping strategy in households by reserving milk for only children.
- The malnutrition level was below normal.
- This might only be affected if the milk availability worsens beyond the current level for a number of months.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non-food intervention

- Various peace meetings were on mainly in border conflict hotspots.