

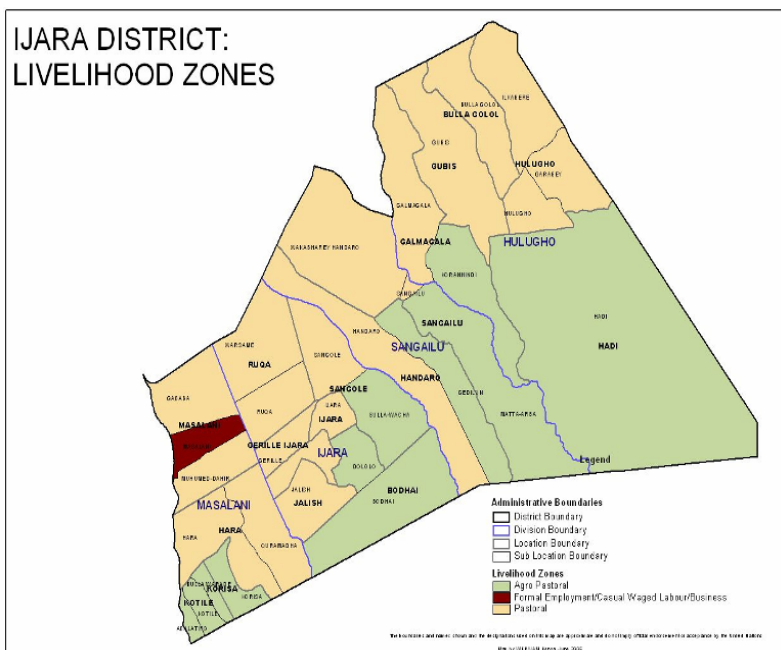


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**  
**MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS**  
**ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

**DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, NOVEMBER 2009**

**Ijara District**

**Warning stages**



Livelihood Zone	Stage	Trend
Pastoral	Alert	Improving
Agro pastoral	Normal	No change
Formal employment/ Casual labor	Alert	Improving
District	Alert	Improving

**Seasonal Calendar**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milk yield drops</li> <li>Livestock moves towards dry season grazing zones</li> </ul> <p><u>Lean period for the pastoralists</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High milk yield</li> <li>Livestock moves towards the traditional wet grazing areas</li> <li>High calving, kidding and lambing rates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low milk availability</li> <li>Livestock moves towards the fall back dry seasons grazing areas (Boni forest)</li> <li>Increased human-wildlife conflicts</li> </ul> <p><u>Lean period for the pastoralists</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High milk yield</li> <li>Livestock moves towards traditional wet seasons grazing areas</li> <li>High mating rates</li> </ul>								
<b>Short Dry Spell</b>			<b>Long rains</b>			<b>Long dry spell</b>				<b>Short rains</b>	
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

## Situation overview

- Low intensity rainfall of fair distribution was received in all the sentinel sites during the last week of month under review and weather of high humidity continued to prevail across the entire district.
- The browse and pasture status exhibited great improvement both in quality and quantity in most parts of the district with exception of some land pockets lying in the northern and central rangelands of the district that still suffered low pasture levels caused by poor rainfall.
- Most of the medium and large water pans in all of the livelihood zones got adequately recharged with water and are expected to serve consumers for the coming couple of months.
- Increase in average prices of all categories of livestock was observed in all the livelihood zones with exception of that of sheep that was recorded at Ksh1,002 in October but dropped to an average of Ksh993. Cattle prices appreciated from Ksh 8,792 in October to Ksh 9,947.
- The livestock body condition and health improved and was rated generally fair for all categories in all the livelihood zones, with goats exhibiting the best body condition and sheep exhibiting the poorest body condition in the entire district.
- Compared to last reporting period, the nutrition status of children under fives (5 years) (based on MUAC<135mm measurement) rose from 26.7% to 28.3% . This was attributed to lack of supplementary feeds for children for the last four months under the ongoing EMOP. The situation may have been exacerbated by increased malaria, bilharzia infections, diarrhoea and low milk production that still affected most of the livelihood zones. The most affected sentinel sites in this case were Aballatiro, Koranhindi and Sangailu. The lack of SFP in the district was caused by a breakdown of communication between district medical authorities and WFP but is currently being resolved.
- There was inward migration of livestock into the district during the month following the good progress of the rains and resultant migration back into the district of livestock from areas in Lamu and Tana delta districts.
- The water situation improved, resulting in decrease of household distance to water sources compared with preceding month. Average trekking distance for households to water sources was recorded at 1.1km compared to the 4 km recorded in October while average distance between grazing areas and water sources was recorded at 8 Km for November against 11.1 km in October.
- Cases of CCPP that affected goats combined with cases of CBPP and Blank quarter anthrax that affected cattle were reported in Hulugho ,Sangailu, Kotile, Dololo, Sangole and Bulto Hama areas that lie within both the agro-pastoralist and pastoralist livelihood zones. Trypanosomiasis remained a chronic problem in all livelihood zones just as in the past months due to the endemic presence of the tse tse fly in the area and affected all categories of livestock at will.
- The mortality rate of cattle increased to 4.8% compared with 3.7 in October while that of sheep and goats was recorded at 4.6 and 3.8% respectively as opposed to 2.5 and 2.6% in October. The average birth rate for cattle during the reporting period was recorded at 9.7% while that of sheep and goats recorded 7.5% and 8.5% respectively.
- The availability of milk for consumption in all the livelihood zones remained low.

- Generally, the drought situation in the entire district was at alert stage and improving.

#### **Recommendations to DSG and KFSM**

- Strengthen outreach clinics and organise medical camps with other actors.
- Measures to curb wildlife menace should be put in place and be strengthened through community development projects by KWS as part of its corporate responsibility
- CCBP and other vaccination campaigns to continue across the district. Treatment of other diseases should accompany the exercise.
- Provision of safe drinking water to prevent outbreaks of diarrhea and other communicable diseases.
- Continue to encourage and support crop farming in the agro-pastoralist zones to enhance food security in the district through programmes such as Njaa Marafuku, provision of seeds and other inputs.
- Reducing levels of malnutrition in pregnant and lactating mothers and children under five years through provision of supplementary food and medical awareness programmes should be properly rolled out in the district.
- Continue to encourage implementing activities aimed at safe disposal of waste including human faecal matter across the entire district.
- Measures to combat malaria and implement good governance of water.
- Continuing vaccination/treatment efforts should be coupled with effective disease surveillance system by the veterinary department.
- Promote community wildlife/environmental conservancies.
- Conduct nutritional survey and house hold food security assessments.
- Introduce Food For Asset(FFA) programme.
- Provide livestock drugs subsidy for farmers.
- Launch Tsetse fly control programme in the district and capacity build communities in best animal health practices.

## 1.0 Environmental indicators (stability)

### 1.1 Rainfall

- Low intensity rainfall of fair distribution was recorded in several parts of the district during the period under review and the accompanying high humidity weather was being positively interpreted by many district residents as sign of more rains for the district in the coming weeks. Therefore, it was predicted that the rainy season will fully entrench itself across the entire district in the first half of December if the current weather pattern is anything to by.

### 1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

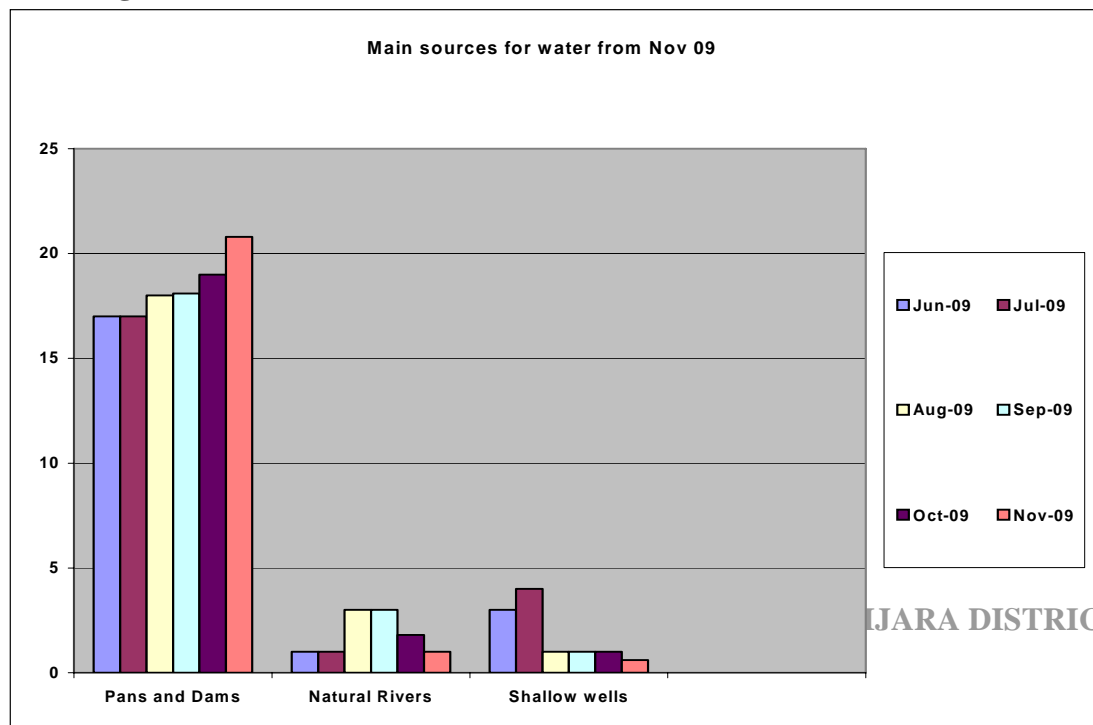
- Browse and pasture regenerated well both in quality and quantity in the entire livelihood zones but pasture levels were still low, albeit on an improving scale, in the major pastoralist livelihood zones lying to the north of the district.
- Body condition of goats in the district was good while the body condition of cattle in all the livelihood zones improved to fair levels as opposed to the status of this category of livestock in the preceding month of October. The observed trend was normal at the time of year as pasture, browse and water were supposed to be available in abundant quantities across all livelihood zones while livestock body condition was supposed to be good. The trend had no impact on household food security as both livestock prices and milk yields were still low.

### 1.3 Water sources

#### 1.3.1 Use of water sources

- Pans, natural pools and *lagas* were the major water sources in the district for both domestic and livestock use. Small, medium and large water pans were recharged by the rains thus relieving inhabitants and their livestock from water stress in many parts of the district and quality of water has somehow improved.
- The observed trend was normal because the short rains season was expected to recharge *lagas* (seasonal streams) to flow to the extent where they in turn recharge natural pools and other wetlands.

#### 1.3.2 Average distance (KMs) to water sources



- The average distance to water sources from grazing areas significantly reduced and was recorded at 8 km compared to 11.6 km in October while that of domestic households was recorded at 1.1 km as opposed to 4.1km in October.
- Generally, the observed situation was normal as exemplified by the shortened distance between water sources and households. On average household members spent about 1½ hrs return distance per water drawing session thus spending less time daily in meeting domestic water requirements. This translated into saving good time for other socio-economic engagements by the community and had positive impact on household food security.
- During the month the main water sources were pans/dams and natural pools.

#### **1.4 Emerging issues**

##### **1.4.1 Conflicts/ insecurity/human displacement.**

No human-human conflicts or any form of insecurity encountered. In addition human/wildlife conflicts have significantly reduced. Illegal logging activities by timber poachers continued unabated in the Boni forest. Tsetse fly menace became unbearable in view of increasing/spreading bush cover in the district.

##### **1.4.2 Migration**

Most of the Livestock has started their northward migrations from the satellite camps in the Boni forest to the traditional wet season grounds following the rains.

#### **1.5 Implications on food security**

The above conditions are expected to negatively affect food security situation.

### **2.0 Rural economy indicators (food availability)**

#### **2.1 Livestock production**

##### **2.1.1 Livestock body condition**

- The livestock body condition and health status for goats and cattle improved significantly while body of sheep slightly improved when compared with its physical status of October. Isolated cases of CBPP were reported in pastoral livelihood zone while cases of CCPP were reported in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone of the district. Tsetse fly menace remained widespread, seriously undermining local economies because pastoralists are always under pressure to source for funds to treat their livestock against trips.
- However, mortality rate was minimal but with no much change herd growth for individual households because this is largely a mating season rather than a calving/kidding season for most livestock categories owned.
- No significant increase in milk yield was realized across the entire district when compared with preceding month and this attributed to the reduced number of lactating animals per household because of the mating season that has just been ushered following the rains. This condition impacted negatively on the nutrition status of children under five years and below besides undermining household incomes.

### 2.1.2 Livestock diseases

Diseases that were prevalent and affected livestock in all the livelihood zones are as indicated below:

- Cattle: CBPP, Trypanosomiasis.
- Sheep: Helminthiasis, sheep introtoxicimea, trips.
- Goats: CCPP and Trips.

### 2.1.3 Milk production

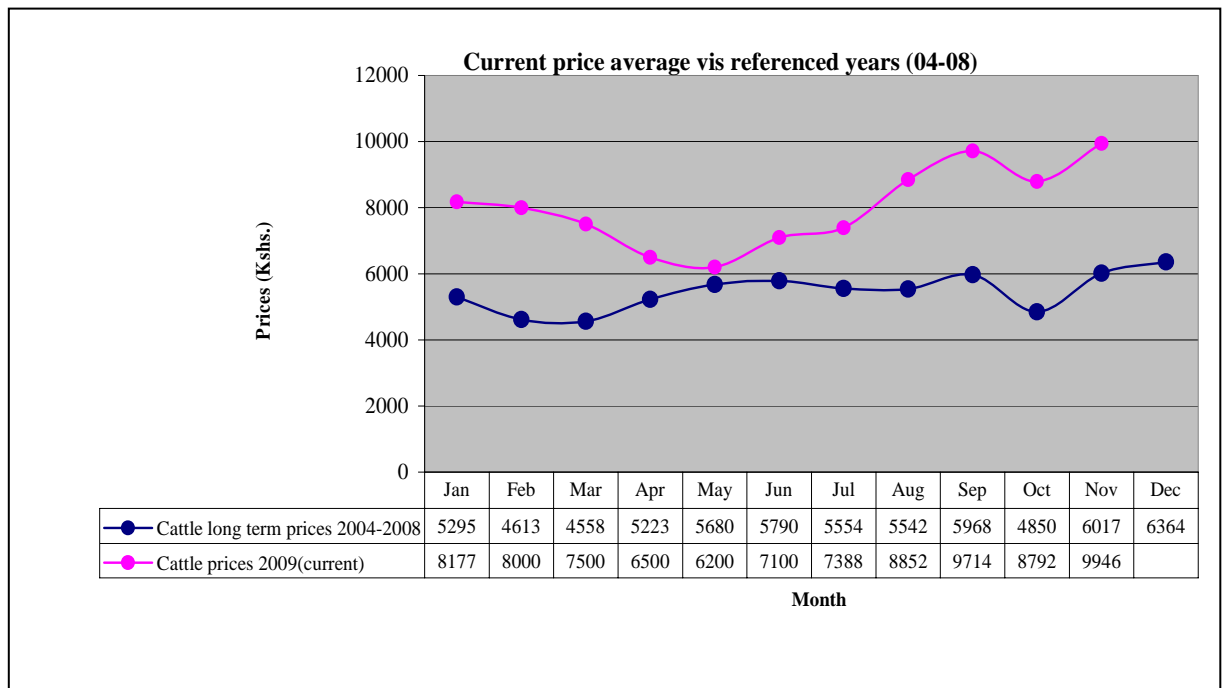
No significant increase in milk yield was observed and the number of household that could afford for “Everyone” had changed for better but no significant recovery in terms of production has been recorded up to now when compared with previous months. This is, perhaps, attributed to the few numbers of lactating animals available to households.

The decreased milk production has negatively affected the household food security.

## 3.0 Access to food

### 3.1 Livestock marketing

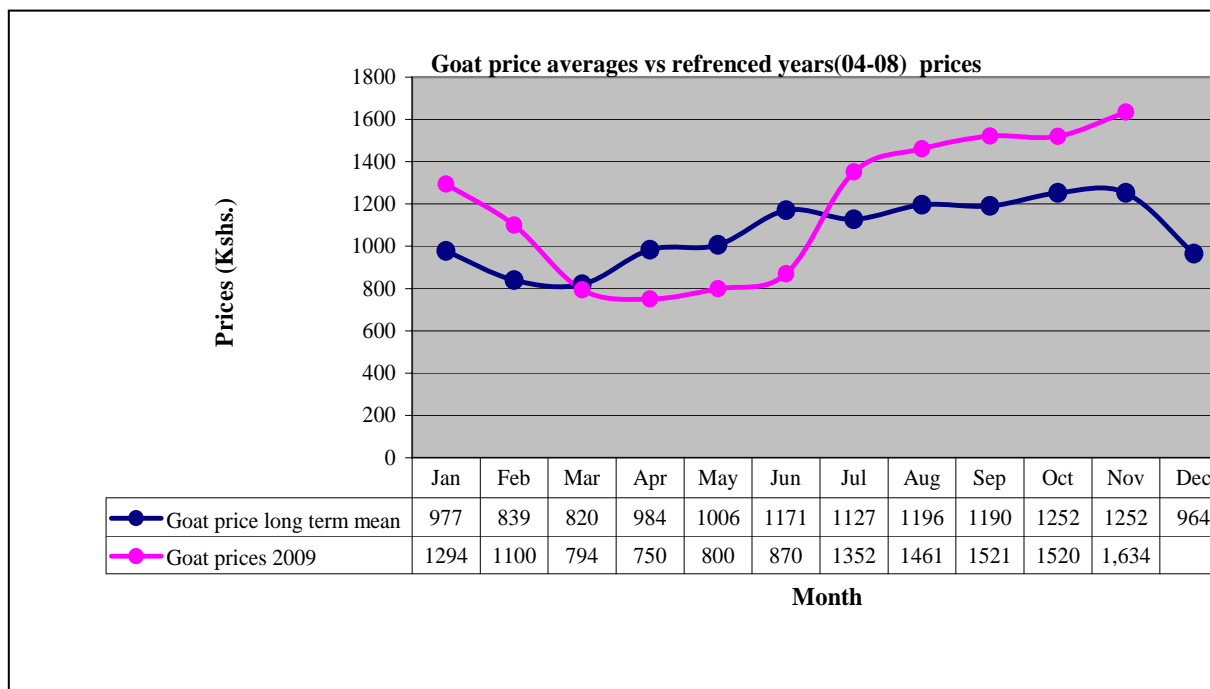
#### 3.1.1 Cattle prices



N-189

Average prices of cattle increased nominally from Ksh8,792 in October to Ksh 9,946. The trend was not normal in such season of the year and had no impact on food security. Agro-pastoralist and pastoralist livelihood zones recorded the highest cattle prices at Ksh14,000 and Ksh12,338 respectively. The price was, however, still higher than the Ksh6,017 recorded for the same period of the reference year (04-08).

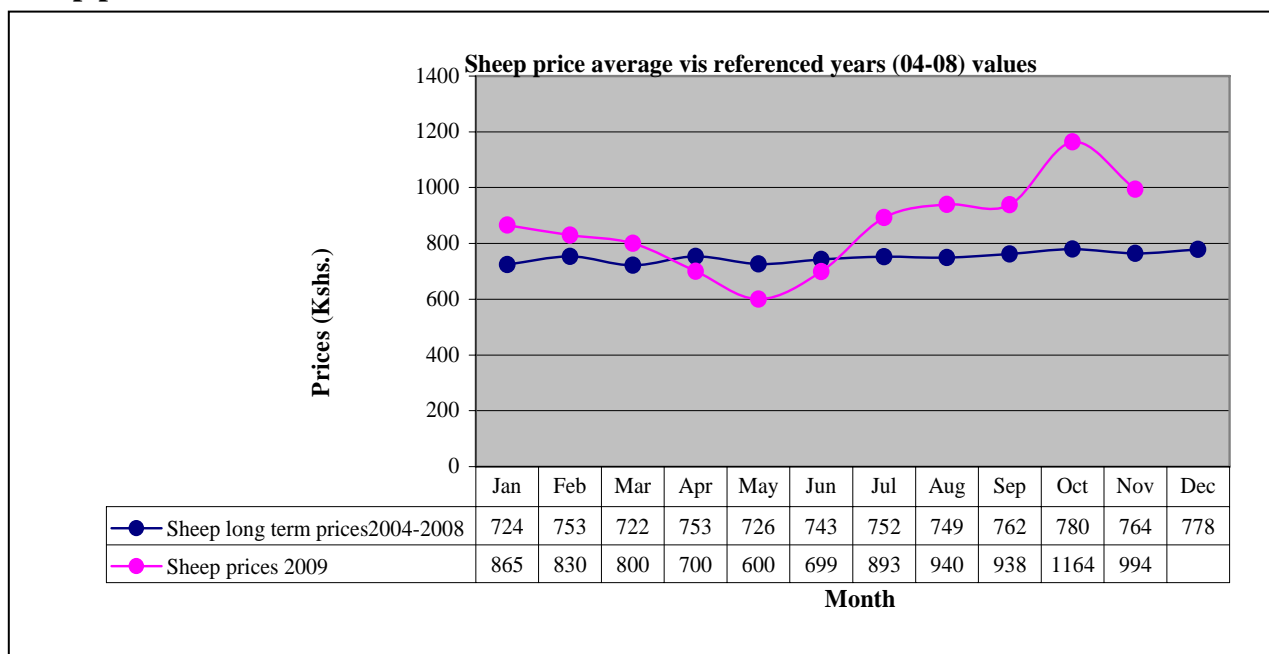
### 3.1.2 Goat prices



**N- 50**

Average goat prices slightly increased from Ksh1,520 in October to Ksh 1,634. Agro-pastoralist livelihood zones recorded the highest prices at Ksh 2,000 while pastoralist livelihood zone recorded the lowest at Ksh 1,675. The price was much higher than the reference year's Ksh1, 252.

### 3.1.3 Sheep prices



**N-320**

Sheep prices reduced from Ksh1,164 in October to Ksh994. Agro-Pastoralist livelihood zones recorded the highest price at Ksh1200 while pastoralist livelihood zones recorded the lowest at Ksh742. The price was higher than Ksh 764 recorded for the same period of the reference year (04-08). The trend had negative impact on household food security.

### 3.2 Livestock sales

Livestock sales increased compared to last reporting period for all categories of livestock. This trend was not normal at the time of year and had negative impact on household food security.

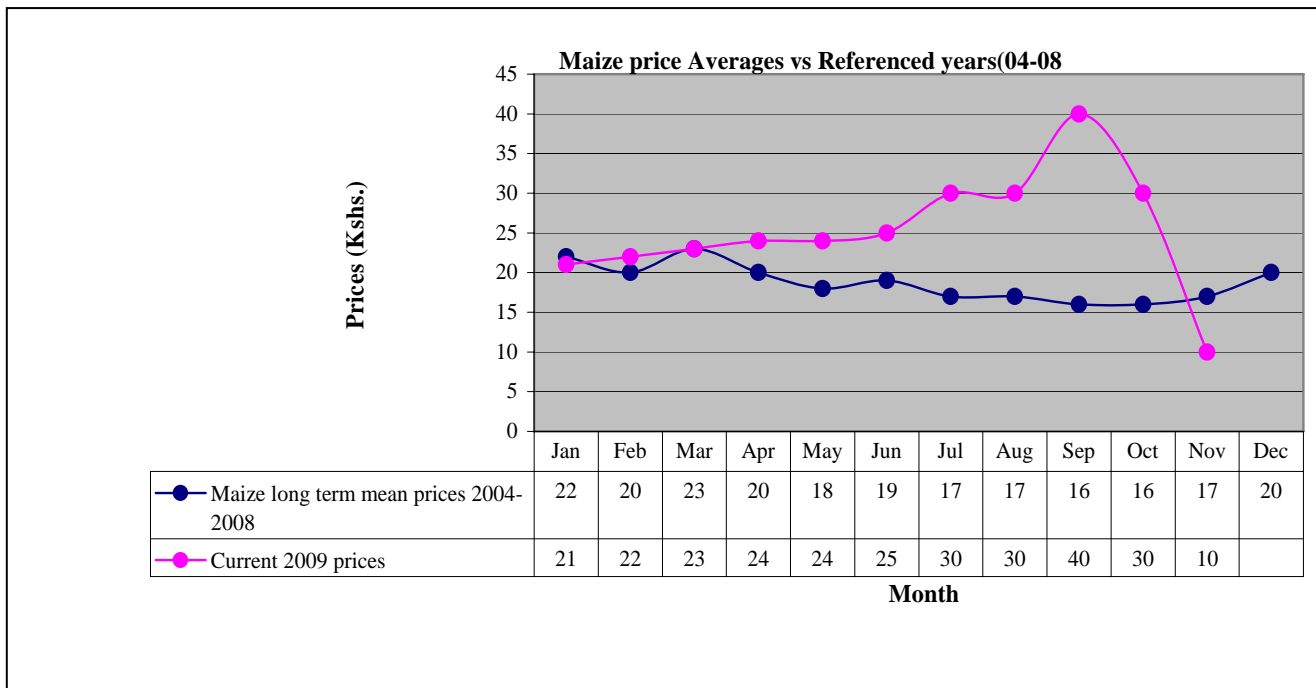
### 3.3 Milk consumption

Milk consumption was recorded to be still low. On average 10% of all household in the district could provide milk for their members.

### 3.4 Food prices

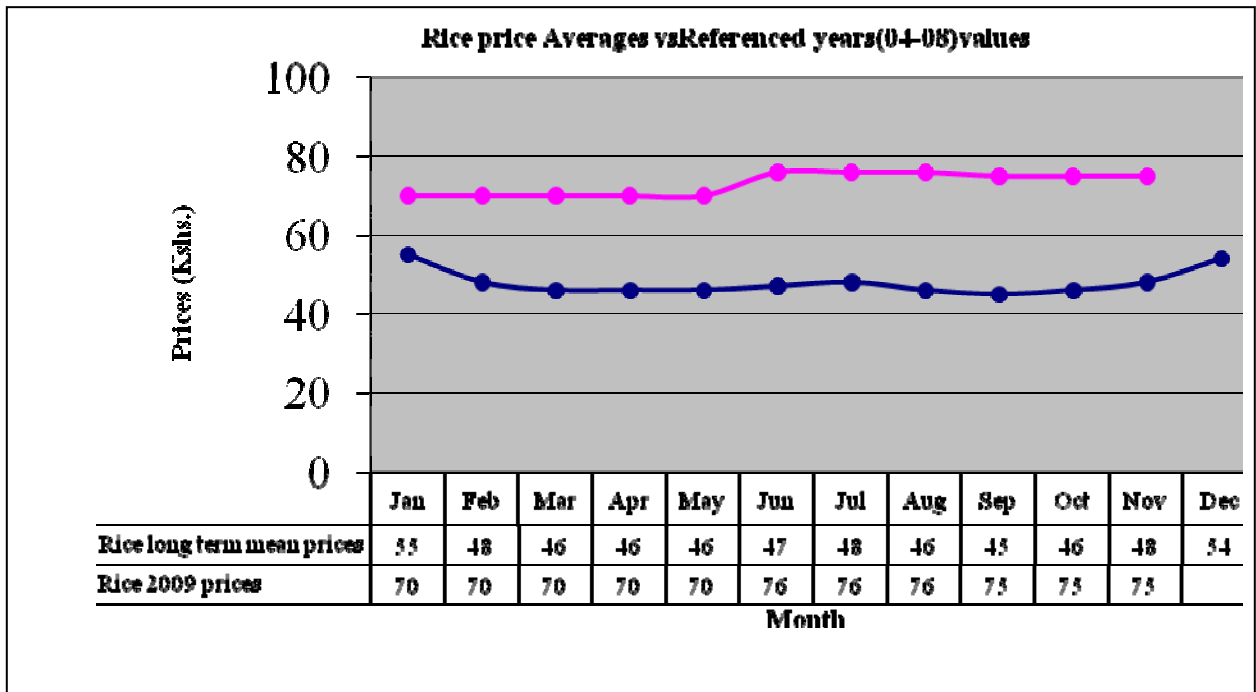
Prices of most foodstuffs remained stable during the month under review with no change from previous month levels.

#### 3.4.1 Maize prices



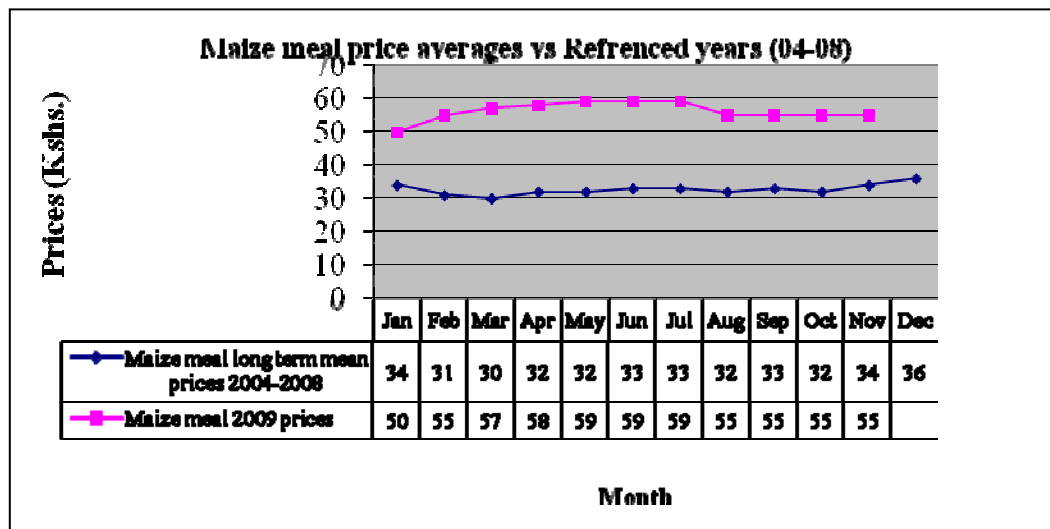
The average price of maize was stable and recorded at Ksh15 per kilo for the month. The price dropped compared to that of the preceding month probably due to the stabilisation effect of the maize being currently distributed under the EMOP in the district.

### 3.4.2 Rice prices



The average prices of rice remained high at Ksh75 per kilo. This was much higher compared to the Ksh48 recorded during the same period of the reference year (04-08). The trend was not normal and had negative impact on food security.

### 3.4.3 Sifted maize meal

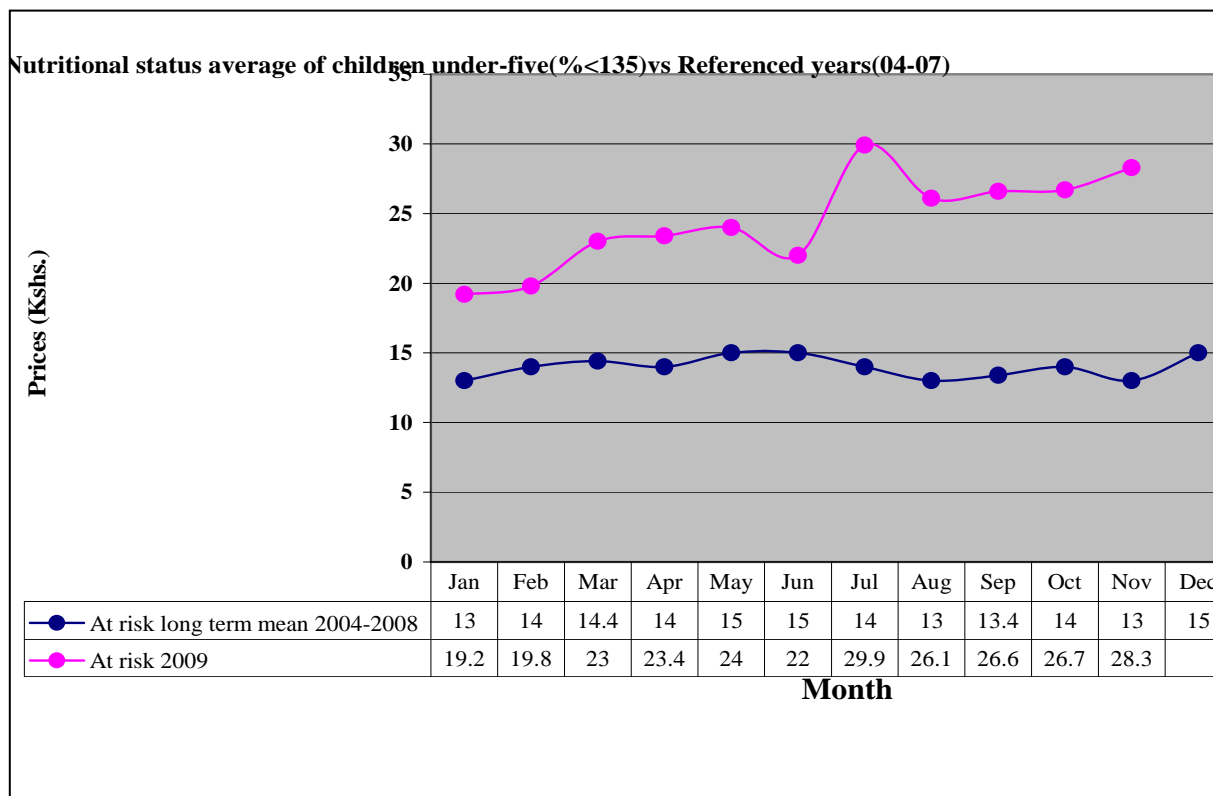


The average price of sifted maize remained high but stable at Ksh55 per kilo. Relief maize distribution in all the sentinel areas could not even influence to drop the rising price of this premium staple food. The price was much higher than the Ksh 34 recorded during the same period of the reference year (04-08). The trend had negative

impact on household food security, as most households could not easily access this staple food.

#### 4.0 Human welfare indicators

##### 4.1 Nutrition status



N-1200

- The nutrition status of children below five years (based on the MUAC<135mm measurement) declined slightly compared with that of the previous month as the percentage of children categorised at risk of malnutrition was recorded at 28.3% compared to last months' 26.7%.
- The trend could be attributed to lack unimix distribution under EMOP programme coupled with malaria infections, diarrhoea diseases and milk scarcity.
- Areas recording high percentages of children at risk of malnutrition were recorded as Pastoralist and agro-pastoralist livelihood zone of Aballatiro, Koranhindi, Handaro, Sangailu and Ijara. Pastoralist livelihood zone recorded 39.7% of all children at risk while agro pastoral livelihood recorded 24.3%.

##### 4.2 Human health

No disease outbreaks were reported. However, malaria, bilharzia and upper respiratory tract infections were the common ailments reported.

##### 4.3 Flagged areas (affected areas)

Pastoralist and agro-pastoralist livelihood zones of Koranhindi, Handaro, Sangailu, Ijara and Abalatiro areas were most affected.

## **5.0 Current interventions**

### **5.1 Non-food interventions**

- Construction of water harvesting structures for crop production by Ministry of Agriculture.
- Seeds distribution to crop farmers by Ministry of Agriculture.
- Conducting of mobile outreach clinics by MOH/ALRMP 11.
- Distribution of Unimix by MOH/UNICEF.
- Vaccination against CBPP is currently ongoing.

### **5.2 Food aid**

Relief food being distributed under EMOP by KRCS.

### **5.3 Coping strategies**

Among the coping measures adopted during the month were: -

- Collection and sale of bush products including honey and Aloe extracts.
- Herding and pan excavations
- Sales of quarry products
- Petty trade.
- Remittances from relatives

## **6.0 recommendations to DSG and KFSM**

- Disease surveillance should be sustained by veterinary department and other stake holders in order to contain any disease outbreaks. All stake holders to support vaccination and treatment of animals. Tsetse fly control program should be launched in the district immediately.
- Disease surveillance should be strengthened by the Ministry Of Health in order to avert increase in malaria incidences, cholera and other water borne diseases. Rural health facilities to be stocked with sufficient drugs for easy access by pastoralists.
- Bilharzia control measures should be put in place by the medical authorities in the district.
- Agricultural extension services should be strengthened by DAO.
- Desilting/rehabilitation of water pans.
- Speeding up of hydro-geological surveys in the district to establish level of groundwater potential
- Road Murraming programmes in the district should be up scaled
- Electrification program of the district headquarters should be speeded up
- Efforts to link the district headquarters to Hola through Masalani bridge should be effectively and efficiently accomplished once for all.