



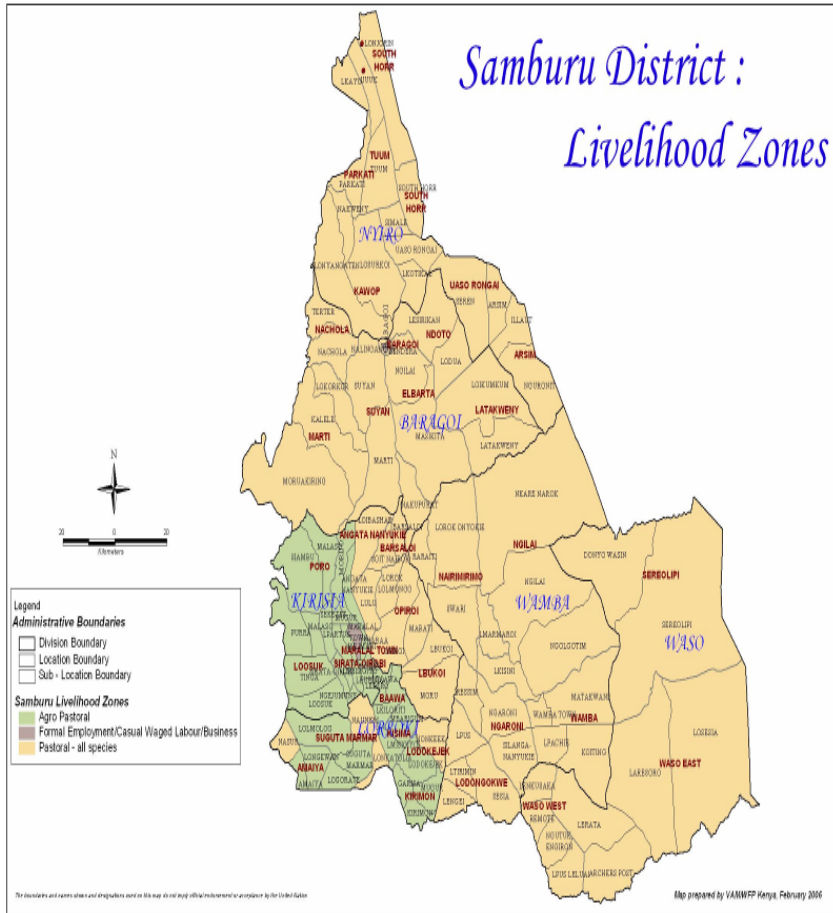
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

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

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, NOVEMBER 2009

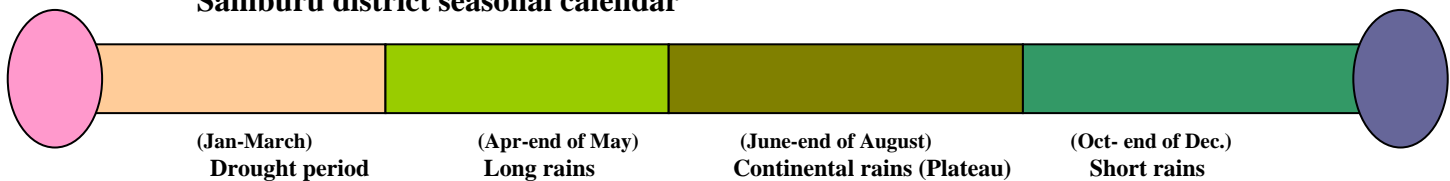
Samburu District

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Agro Pastoral	Alarm	Improving
	Alarm	Improving
Pastoral-All species	Alarm	Improving
	Alarm	Improving
District	Alarm	Improving

Samburu district seasonal calendar



Situation overview

- The district received an average of 35.2 mm of rainfall compared to 42.85 mm received in October. The amount was 63.17 per cent below the long-term mean average of 106.7 mm. The rains received minimally reversed the severity of drought impact to many households across the district.
- Water sources utilized this season recharged following the rains received, leading to decreased distances to water points for households and livestock.
- Livestock body conditions generally ranged from fair to good and prices improved substantially compared to October.
- Milk remained unavailable 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.
- Improved livestock prices were countered by high prices of essential food commodities, hence minimal impact on pastoralists' purchasing power and access to food.
- Insecurity continued to destabilise the western and eastern borders of the district, constraining utilization of forage resources and human settlement in the affected areas.
- The nutrition status of children below five years improved during the month, with the percentage of those considered at risk of malnutrition (based on MUAC measurements) decreasing to 30.6 from 35.3 in October.

Ongoing interventions

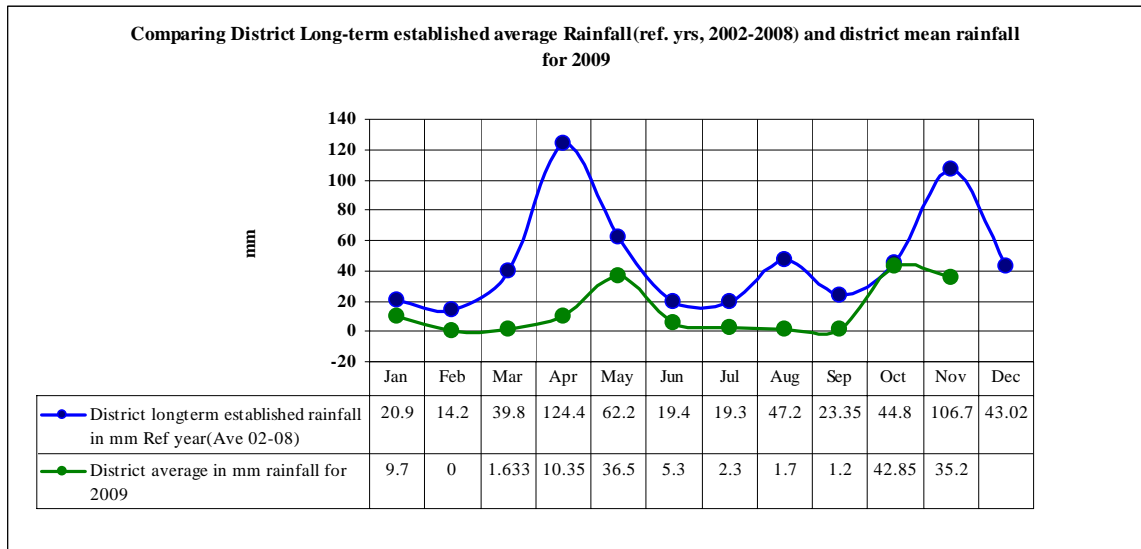
- Supplementary feeding programme by the Ministry of Health, World Vision-Lorroki ADP, Catholic Diocese, SAIDIA and International Medical Corps at 32 health facilities in all divisions targeting approximately 7,786 beneficiaries.
- District-wide general relief food distribution targeting approximately 60% of the population.
- Water trucking to Maralal town residents by District Water Office and Maralal Water and Sanitation Company (MAWASCO).

Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- 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 other population groups at risk of malnutrition above five years age bracket.

1.0 Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall



Source: District Agriculture/ALRMP II weather station

- The short rains season that set early in October ended unexpectedly and most parts of the district experienced hot and dry weather conditions throughout the reporting month. The lowlands of Samburu East and north district received light, erratic, and poorly distributed (both temporally and spatially) rains during the month under review.
- On average the rainfall amount received was 35.2 mm from last month's 42.85 mm. The amount was below the long-term established mean by 63.17 per cent.
- The long term established threshold normally received during this period of the year is 106.7 mm.

1.2 Conditions of natural vegetation and pasture

- Forage resources' quality and quantity declined slightly across the district due the weather conditions that prevailed during the month of November.
- Insecurity remained a constraint in access and utilisation of forage resources in the western and eastern borders of the district.
- Forage resources were still below average compared to normal times during this period of the year.

1.3 Water sources and availability

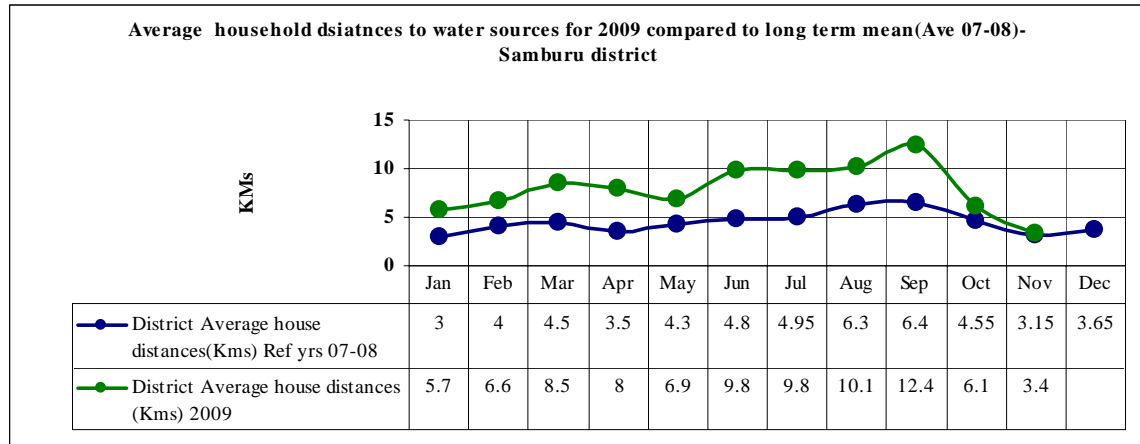
1.3.1 Use of water sources

- The main sources of water for livestock and households during the course of this month changed compared to last month and included: traditional river wells, natural ponds, natural rivers, pans/dams and Boreholes. Existing water sources remained fully recharged in areas that received the rains in October, hence

- reduced distances to water points by households and livestock.
- Acute water shortage was reported in Maralal town following the drying up Nontoto dam that supplies water to the town.

1.3.2 Distance to water sources

a) Household distances

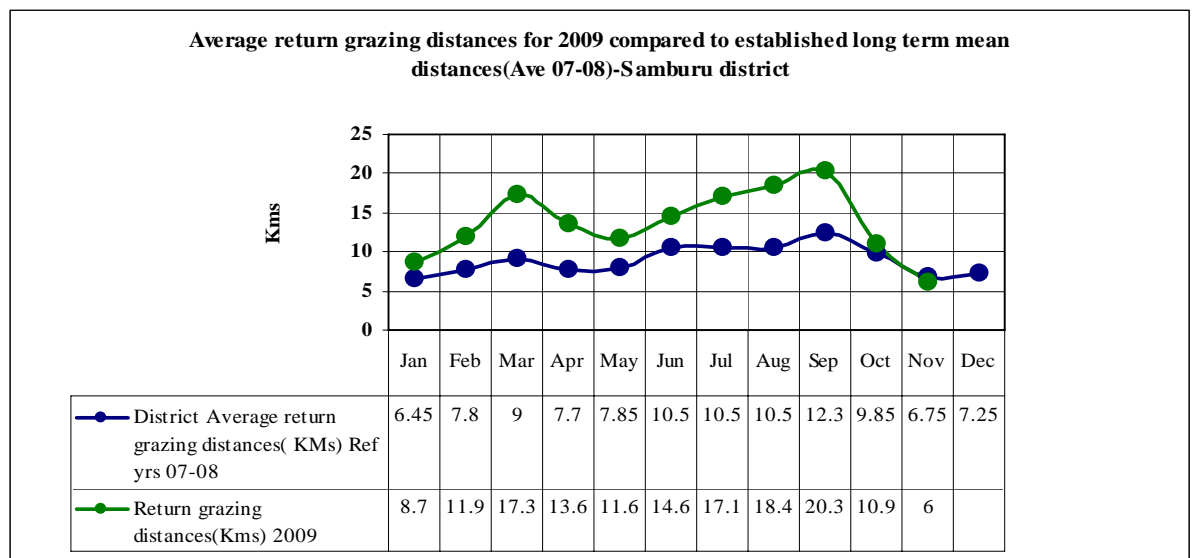


Number of communities (N) =35

Average house distance to nearby water sources decreased to 3.4 kms from last month's 6.1 kms. Return grazing distance was below the long term average by 8 per cent.

Wet season watering points recharged following the rains received in October , hence decreased household distances. This implied that less time was spent in search of water by household members particularly women and children.

b) Grazing distances



Number of communities (N) =35

Average return grazing distance to main sources of water also decreased to 6 KMs

from last month's 10.9 kms. Return grazing distance was below the long term mean by 11.1 per cent. Wet season watering points normally utilized by livestock this season recharged in most parts of the district that received the rains.

1.4. Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity/ conflict

Tension eased slightly amongst warring communities in Samburu north district following livestock migration away from the dry season Grazing zones. In Samburu Central district, bandits from Baringo East continued to terrorise residents with increased stock theft at night witnessed during the course of the last two months.

1.4.2 Migration

a) Livestock migration

Cattle from Lorroki plateau and Baragoi migrated towards Samburu East district, which received the bulk of the short rains in October.

b) Human Migration/Displacement

Many families remained displaced in parts of Samburu North district as result of tribal clashes witnessed the previous months. Households in the western parts of the Agro pastoral livelihood zone too remained displaced and are concentrated in cluster villages in Lolmolog, Angata Rongai, Logorate and Longewan sub-locations.

1.5 Implications on food security

The impacts of the short rains reversed severe drought effects experienced in the previous months, but minimal on household food security. Insecurity continued to undermine efforts to attain food security in areas affected within the district.

2.0. Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body conditions

Livestock body conditions ranged from fair to good across the district. Shortened trekking distances to water points and grazing areas impacted positively on livestock body conditions.

Livestock deaths due to drought related effects subsided during the course of the reporting month. Compared to a normal year livestock body conditions remained slightly below normal across the district.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

The major livestock diseases reported were ECF, and anaplasmosis in cattle; sheep pox, diarrhoea, and elmenthiasis in sheep; goat pox, and CCPP in goats.

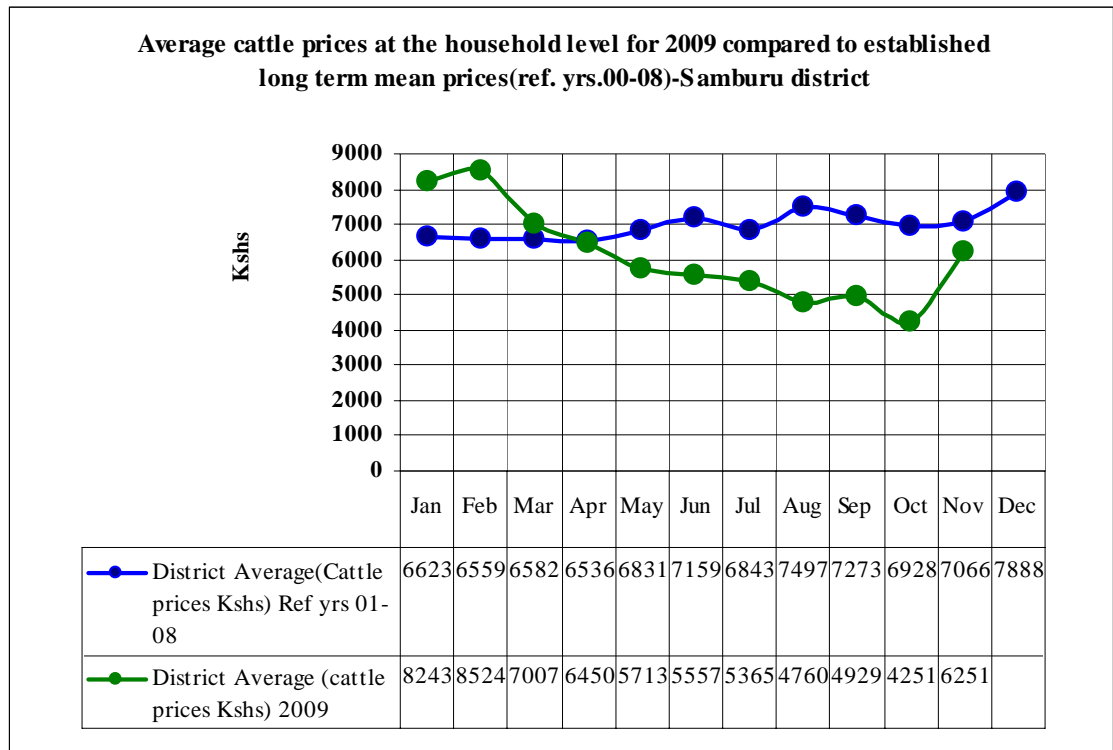
2.2 Implications on food security

Improved livestock body condition was good for the pastoralists' economy and impacted positively on their access to food.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices

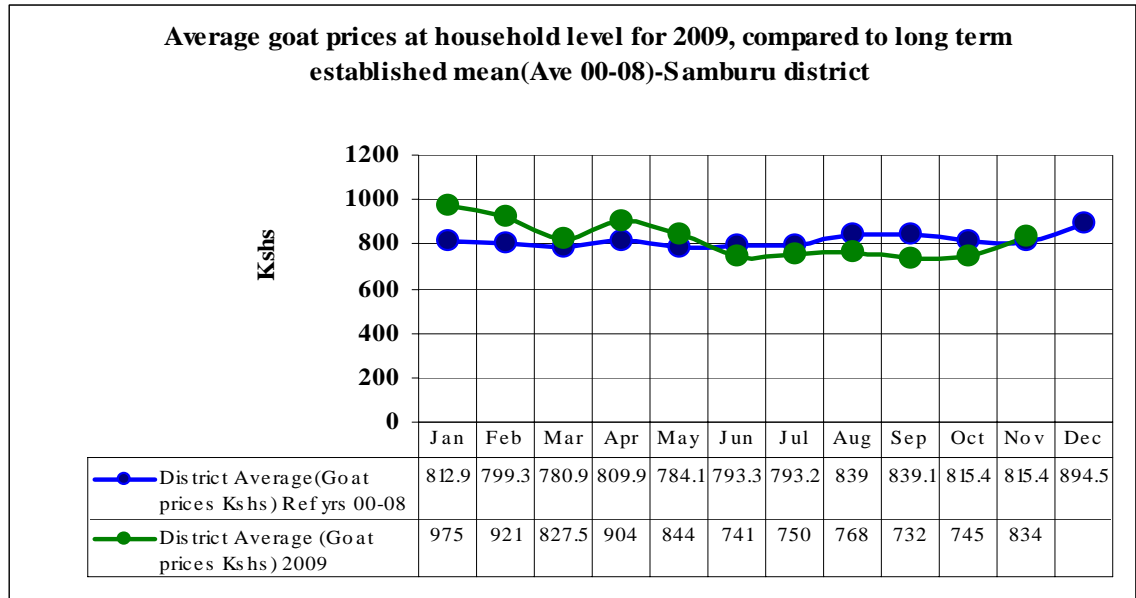


Number of households (N) =373

Average cattle prices rose to Ksh6, 251 from Ksh4, 929 in October. However, the price was below normal by 11.53 %. The rise in cattle price was attributable to improved cattle body conditions.

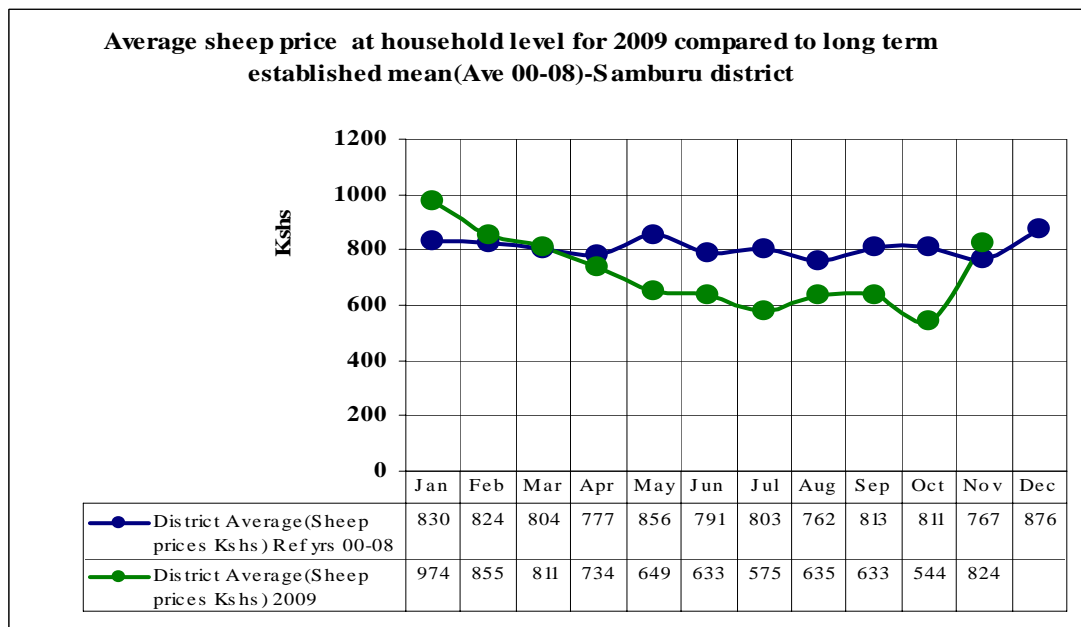
3.1.2 Goats prices

Average goat price rose to Ksh834 from last month's Ksh745. The price was above the long-term average by 2.28 per cent. Good to fair goats' body conditions was a key factor behind the upward price trend.



Number of households (N) =373

3.1.3 Sheep prices



Number of households (N) =373

The average sheep price rose to Ksh824 from Ksh544 in October. The price was above the long term average by 7.43 per cent. Fair-good sheep's body condition was a factor that contributed to upward price trend.

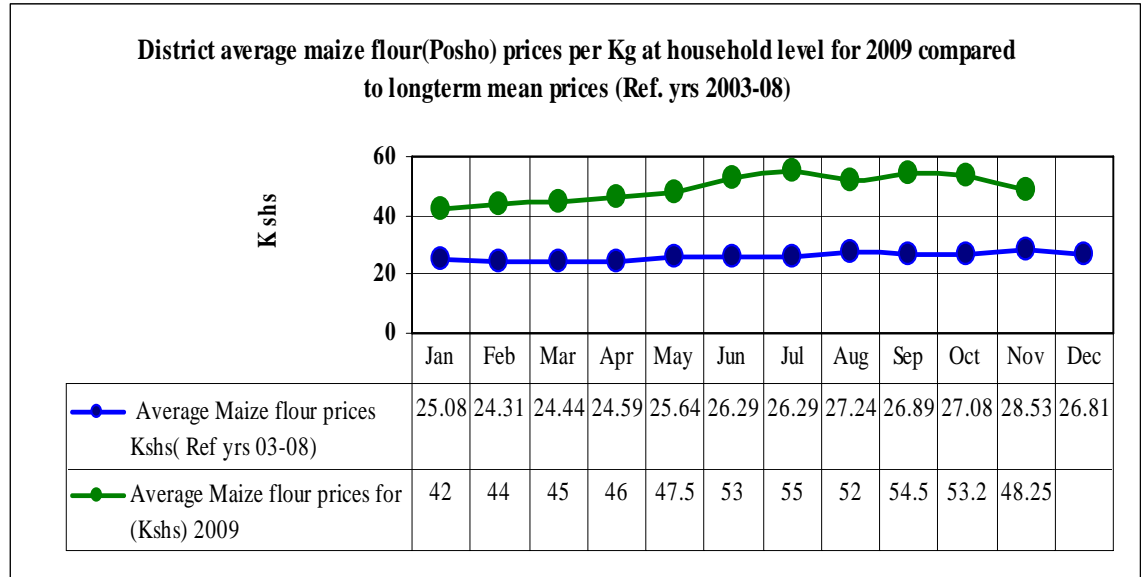
3.2 Milk consumption

Milk remained unavailable at the household level across the district and this was

attributed to record low livestock birth rates.

3.3 Food prices

3.3.1 Posh (maize flour) prices



Number of communities (N) =35

- Maize flour price on average fell to Ksh48.25 per kilogram of locally milled maize from Ksh53.20 in October. Compared to the long term mean, the price was above normal by 72.63 per cent. The district remained an importer of maize and increased supply in the local markets led to a slight price fall.
- 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.

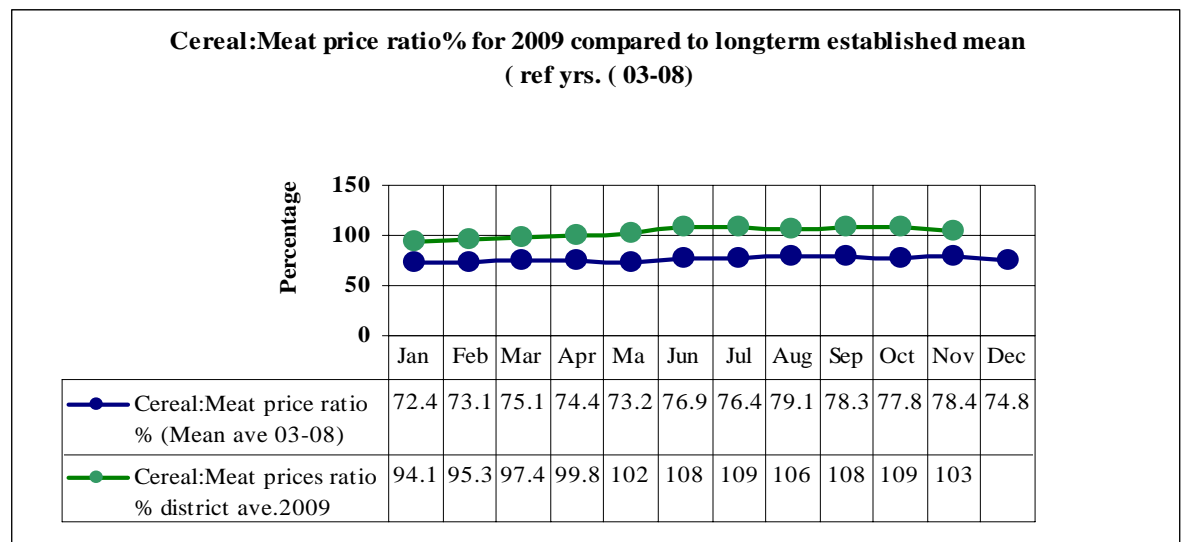
3.4.2 Other income

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 (%)

- Pastoralists' households required 0.1033 kilogram of meat in exchange of a kilo of cereals. The exchange rate remained exorbitant as the established long-term mean average is 0.783 kg of meat against a kilogram of cereals.
- Pastoralists' purchasing power improved to 103.3 per cent from 109.4 per cent in October and was below the long-term mean by 31.8 per cent. This was pegged to the rise in livestock prices. Highly priced cereals, particularly maize

which was the major pastoralist diet during this post drought period undermined pastoralists' purchasing power.



Number of households (N) = 373

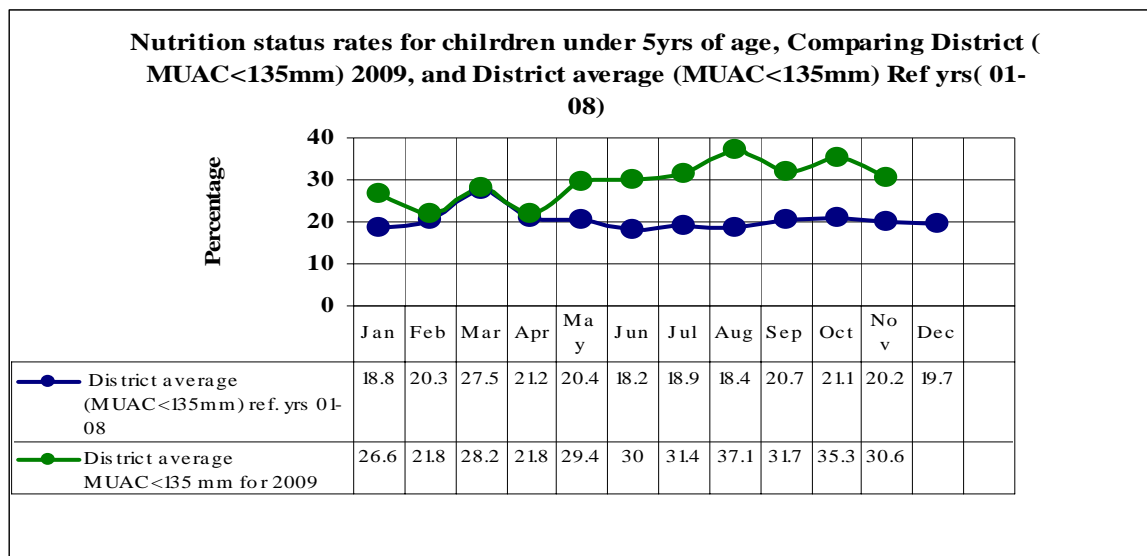
3.6 Implications on food security

An improvement in livestock price was positive to the pastoralists' access to food. However, highly priced essential household food commodities, adversely eroded pastoralists' purchasing power and impacted negatively on access to food by many households.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status

- The nutrition status of children below five years improved during the month, with the percentage of those considered at risk of malnutrition (based on monthly MUAC measurements) dropping to 30.6 from 35.3 in October. Kawop, West Gate, and Nachola sentinel sites still portrayed alarming trends with 88.5, 69.6 and 64.7% respectively.
- The alarming trends can be attributed to unavailability of adequate and nutritionally balanced food at the households.



Number of children (N) =1628 from 373 households

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. 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.
- Water trucking to Maralal town residents by District Water Office and Maralal Water and Sanitation Company (MAWASCO).

5.2 Food-aid interventions

- Supplementary feeding programme by the Ministry of Health, World Vision-Lorroki ADP, Catholic Diocese, SAIDIA and International Medical Corps at 32 health facilities in all divisions targeting approximately 7,786 beneficiaries.
- District wide general relief food distribution targeting approximately 60% of the district population.

5.3 Coping strategies

The household coping mechanisms slightly improved, but sentinel sites Kawop, and West Gate portrayed abnormal coping indices of 4.7 and 4.1 respectively against a coping strategy index (0 to 10).

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Supplementary feeding programme to target other population groups at risk of

malnutrition above five years age bracket. (Action: MOH, SAIDIA, Catholic Diocese, WVK and IMC).

- 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).