

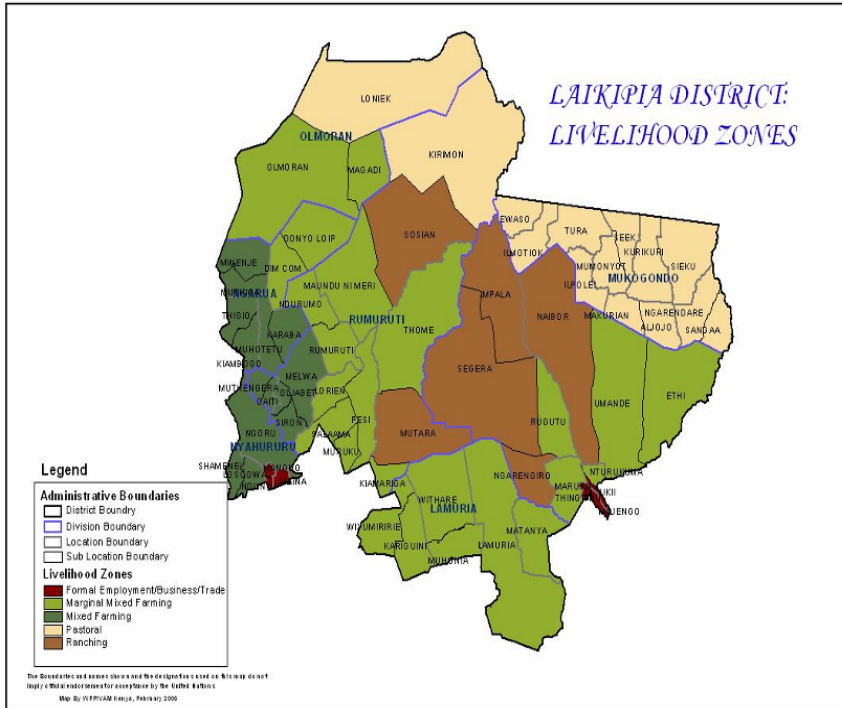


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, OCTOBER 2009

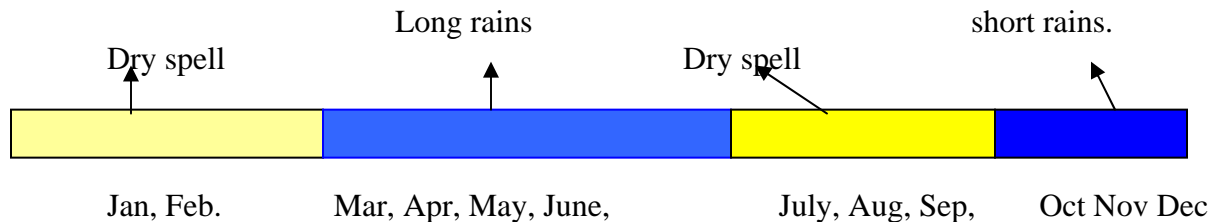
Laikipia East, West and North Districts

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Pastoral All Species	Alarm	Improving
Agro – Pastoral	Alarm	Improving
Mixed Farming	Alarm	Improving
Marginal Mixed Farming	Alarm	Improving

Seasonal Calendar



Situation overview

- The short rains started in the districts towards the middle of October and the rains the amount was fairly good.
- Rivers, dams and pans impounded water.
- Farmers started planting crops but prices of seeds and fertilizers were a big challenge.
- The cattle and sheep which had camped on Mt Kenya started moving back home in Laikipia north, Samburu and Isiolo districts as the rains continue and look promising. A big number of cattle died on the mountain during the start of the rains due to cold with unconfirmed estimates of more than 60%. This left most pastoralists with no or depleted herds.
- The nutrition status of children below five years started declining, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition rising to 12 from 11% in September.
- Increased cases of cold-related diseases were reported in hospitals as the rains continue to pound. There is need to carry out close monitoring for disease outbreaks such as cholera and other water-borne diseases.

Recommendation to DSG and KFSM

- Continued support of relief food to the affected population.
- Close monitoring of human diseases.
- Start of preparedness projects.
- Close monitoring of disease outbreak by the Veterinary department as the rains seem heavy and rift valley fever and Foot and mouth diseases are imminent.
- A survey to estimate the remaining livestock as unconfirmed reports estimate that more than 60% of cattle died during this period.
- Vaccines or treatment medicines for Rift valley fever should be on standby.
- Plans to restock the pastoral communities to be done as majority lost livestock during the drought period.
- Funds to carry out a livestock survey to estimate the remaining livestock as unconfirmed reports estimates that more than 60% of cattle have died.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- The awaited heavy rains started in all the three districts towards the middle of the month.
- All the seasonal rivers, dams and pans impounded water and the distance to watering points reduced.
- The quality of water was not very good following the prolonged drought and land was dry, thus the water washed off a lot of loose soil, making it very dirty.
- Most of the roads were impassable due to the rains and this might hamper the EMOP (Emergency operations) transporters moving food to the affected areas.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Following the heavy rains the pasture started sprouting and though not enough for cattle, shoats were getting enough.
- Most of the cattle were lodged on the mountain but a good number started moving back home. The pasture was not enough to sustain the cattle though the pastoralists lost very many animals on the mountains due to the harsh climate.

1.3 Water sources and availability

- The rivers started flowing following rains but most of the dams started silting due to the long drought that has left the soil bare and thus the first rains carried a lot of loose soils to the dams and pans.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity / human wildlife conflict

Cases of theft were reported in Olmoran and a few cases of human/wildlife conflict in Iingwesi.

1.4.2 Migration /human displacement

Exodus of livestock started as the pastoralists started moving the remaining cattle back home from Mt Kenya.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

- The livestock sector faced a major blow following the prolonged drought that made them lose thousands of livestock. Some of the pastoralists lost hundreds of cattle and a big number of house holds will be affected.
- Need to carry out a household survey to see the number of households that have lost their livelihood and give them the necessary support including restocking.

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- The body condition of livestock was very poor and reports indicate that pastoralists have lost more than 60% of their livestock to drought and cold climate on the mountain.

- The livestock was not able to fetch enough money due to their body condition.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- The veterinary department needs to monitor the situation on the mountain as the remaining livestock is at risk of getting wiped out.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Condition of various crop production activities

The farmers started to plant though there was a major confusion on the type of crops to plant ie six months maturing maize or three month maize.

2.2.2 Pest and diseases

Cases of army worms are likely to come up following the heavy rains in Umande and Withare areas.

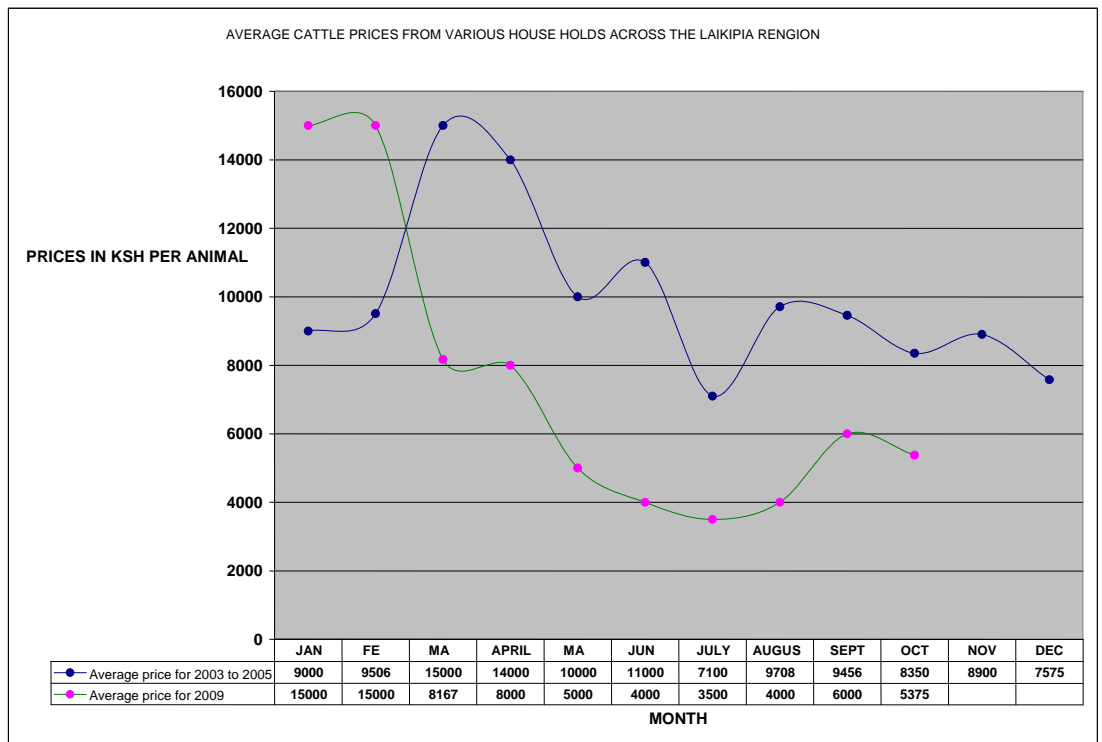
2.2.3 Harvests

- The closest expected harvest will be for beans, which are expected to mature in January. The maize might be ready in March if the rains continue as expected.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

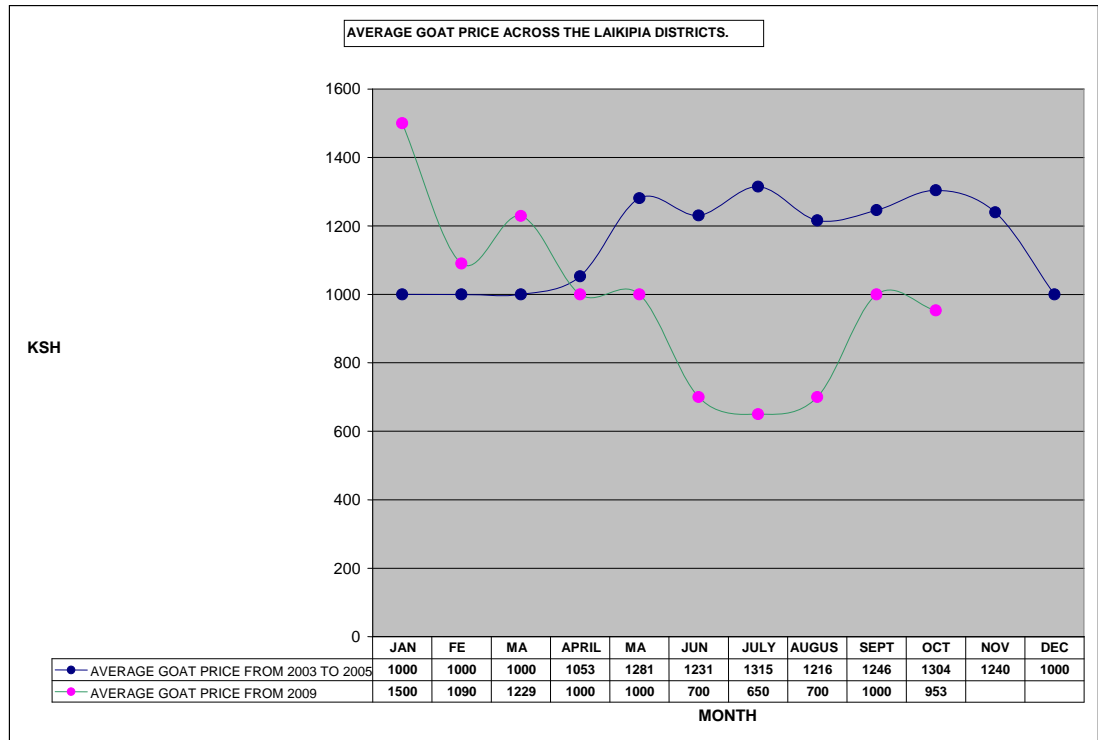
3.1.1 Cattle prices



- Cattle body condition was very poor and they were not able to fetch enough money.

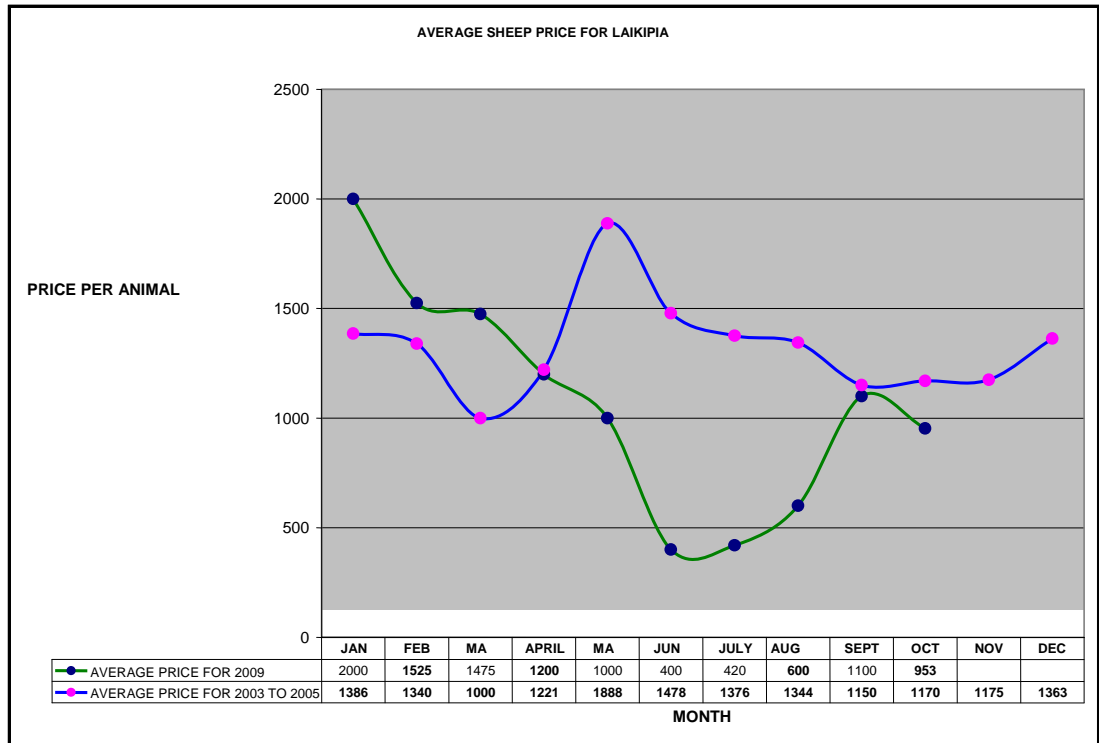
- The average price was Ksh5375 compared to ksh6000. Cattle in the ranches and mixed farming zones, which were a little better, fetched better prices.

3.1.2 Goat prices



- Livestock body condition was affected by the cold weather following the rains and thus they did not fetch good prices. Goat average price was Ksh953 from Ksh1,000 in September.

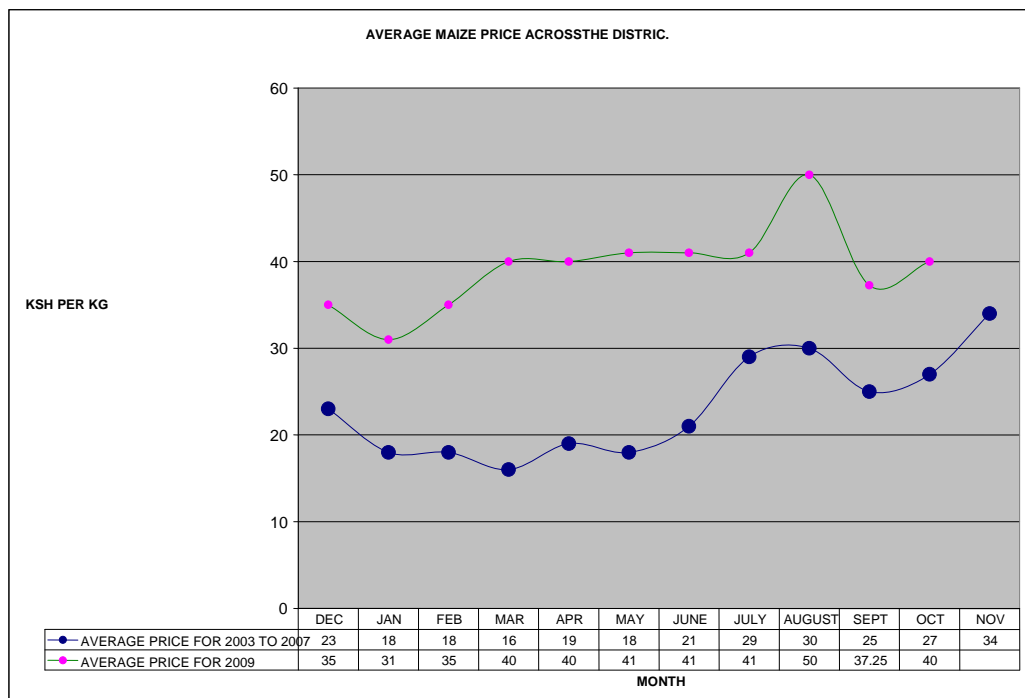
3.1.3 Sheep prices



- Sheep prices dropped to Ksh853 from Ksh1,100 in September.
- Just like cattle, sheep were also affected by the drought and thousands died but due to the cold prevailing they were not able to fetch good prices.

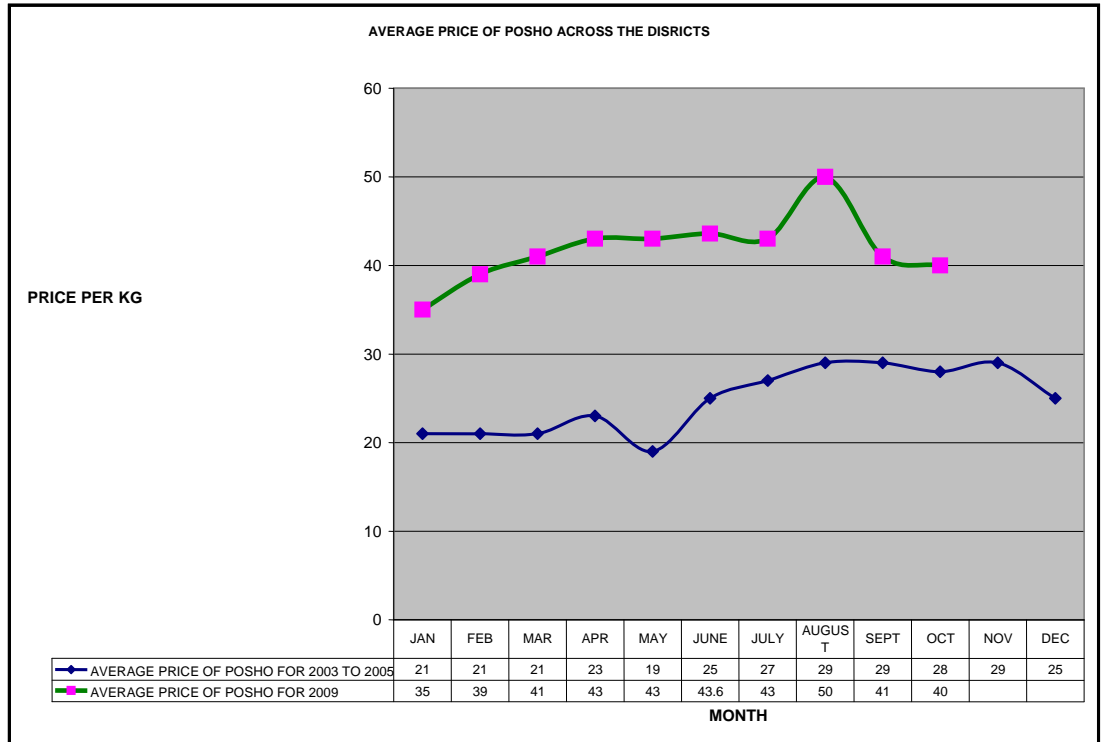
3.2 Food prices

3.2.1 Maize prices



- The prices of maize rose to Ksh 40 per kilo as families tried to stock up due to the rainy season ahead and some were using the maize seeds for planting.

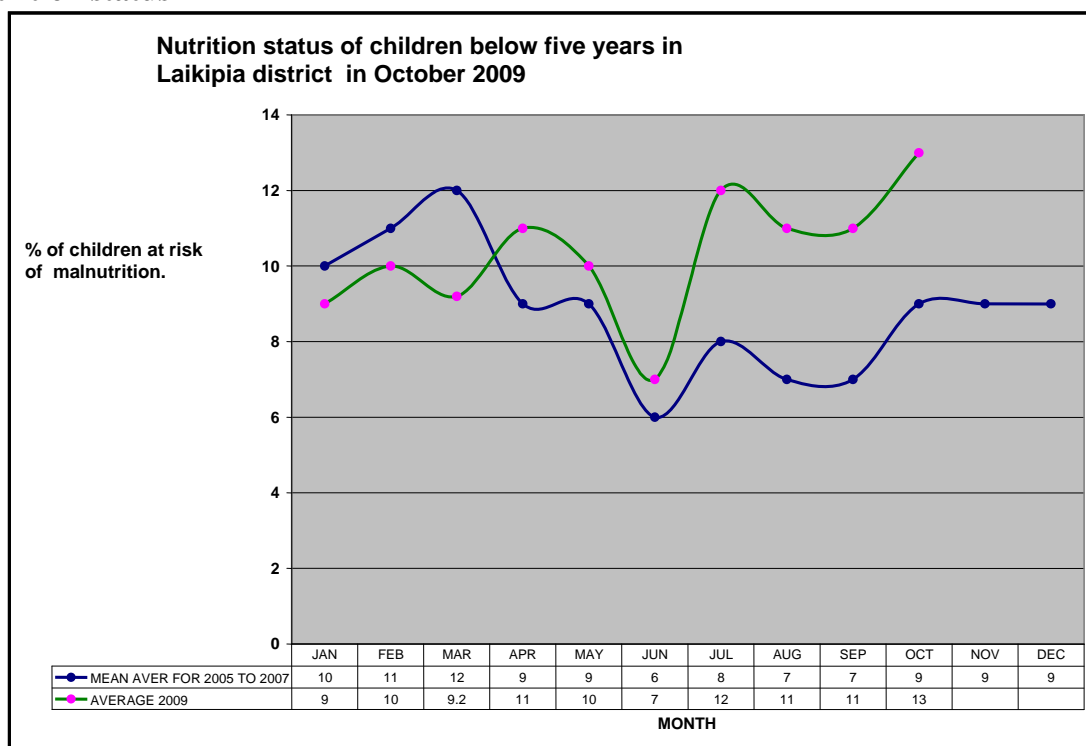
3.2.2 Posho prices



Posho prices dropped slightly to Ksh40 per kilo from Ksh41 in September.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (utilization of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



- The nutrition status of children below five years started declining, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition rising to 12 from 11% in September.
- There is need for close monitoring for disease outbreaks as this is very possible due to rains after a prolonged drought, i.e cholera and other water borne diseases that might crop up.

4.2 Human Health

- Cases of cold related disease were on the increase in health centres.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Food aid

The EMOP was ongoing and should continue till the expected harvests in March.

6.0 Recommendation to DSG and KFSM

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