

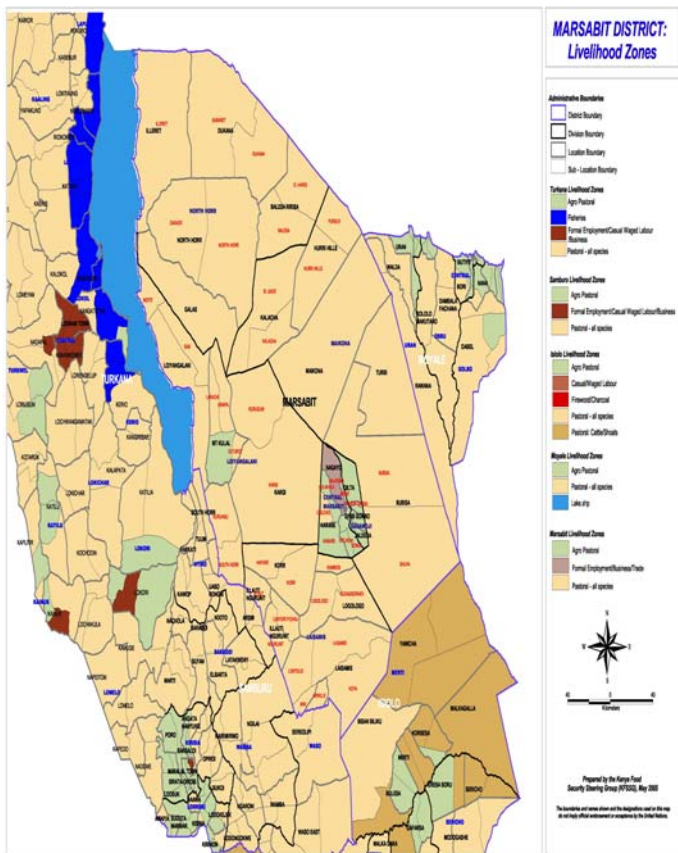


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, OCTOBER, 2009

Marsabit, Laisamis and Chalbi Districts

Warning stages



Livelihood zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Agro-Pastoralist	Alarm	Improving
Pastoral-All species	Emergency	No change
Fishermen/Pastoralist	Emergency	No change

Seasonal calendar

Short Dry Spell			Long Rains		Long Dry Period				Short Rains		
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

Situation overview

- Rainfall was recorded during the 2nd to 3rd week of the month on all hilly parts of greater Marsabit district. These high elevated areas include Mt Marsabit in Marsabit central district, Hurri hills in Marsabit north district, Mt Kulal and Mathew ranges in Marsabit south district. The lowlands had scattered showers in a few areas. Mt Marsabit recorded a total of 205.3mm in twelve days.
- The quality and quantity of forage improved in the highland areas while the low lying areas still had poor quality and quantities.
- Water sources were fairly recharged on hilly parts of Mt Marsabit, Mt Kulal, Hurri hills and around Mathew ranges at Ngurunit, Namarei and Manyatta Lengima. Most parts of the district being lowlands, little impact is expected from the prevailing season.
- Water availability was variedly registered on highland parts (Mt Marsabit, Hurri hills, Mt Kulal and Mathew ranges) which is expected to sustain livestock and domestic use for the coming two months.
- Forage availability on mountainous areas recharged as Mt Marsabit reported fair to good quality and quantities, while Mt Kulal recorded inadequate quantities.
- Body conditions of all livestock species deteriorated further, especially in lowland areas, leading to increased mortality rates among shoats, cattle and donkeys' species.
- Cattle prices decreased by a margin of 53.73 compared to long term averages of the years 2000 to 2008, while goat prices reduced by 63 percent as a result of deteriorating body conditions and depressed sales rates at terminal markets. The situation is tending towards total market collapse for livestock sector.
- Unavailability of milk was reported in greater Marsabit district due to the failed rains and far flung livestock concentration from their homesteads. 2.24 percent average milk availability of one to half a litre per day was reported among camel herders at Marsabit in north district.
- EMOP relief allocation continued in all 97 food distributing centres in six divisions targeting 52 percent of the neediest households in greater Marsabit district as were in the previous months. The general view is that the targeting is inadequate and household hunger remains a serious challenge..
- Malaria and diarrhea cases continued to be reported among children and few adults while cholera outbreaks were reported in Moite sub-location, El Molo Bay sublocation and Loiyangalani sublocation (fisher folk community) of Loiyangalani division. Three deaths were reported in the three sublocations and cases were attended to by Medicin San Frontiers (MSF), MoH and other two community volunteers.
- Cases of insecurity including raids, tribal clashes over resources and human killings continued to be reported in some areas, including Marsabit central district and Laisamis divisions of Marsabit south district.
- The nutrition status of children below 5 years deteriorated during the month, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition rising to 34.1 from 23.1 in September. This reflects significant food shortages at household level despite the prolonged drought.

Ongoing interventions

- Shoa't's de-stocking program continued in isolated parts of the greater Marsabit district at between Ksh1,000 and 1,200 –PISP/CIFA.
- District-wide (EMOP) general relief food distribution continued, targeting 80, 442 direct beneficiaries out of the current population of approximately 160, 757 (52%) in greater Marsabit district.
- Supplementary feeding programs continued at 22 health centres in all six divisions targeting approximately 3,440 beneficiaries among severely malnourished children < 5years, lactating and pregnant mothers- MOH/FH.
- Water trucking minimally continued around Maikona division (El Hade, Torbi, Burgabo, of greater Marsabit district.-ALRMPII, MOW, PISP, CDF.
- Construction of water sources continued on Mt. Marsabit. Provision of fuel and lubricants continued in stressed parts of greater Marsabit district.-Ministry of Northern Kenya, MOW, ALRMPII.
- Community health workers training was conducted in isolated parts of Loiyangalani and North Horr divisions-Food for the Hungry.
- A six-day training workshop for all 14 Field Monitors was conducted to build capacity on the current prevailing measures and strategies on Early Warning System. ALRMPII/MOA.
- A one-day peace meeting was conducted at Sereolipi location in Samburu district between communities of the greater Marsabit district and the neighboring Samburu and Moyale district to curb the flaring up highway banditry compared to recent past. The teams of sixty participants were composed of DPC's, DSIC's, Chief's and Elders –ALRMP & other stakeholders.
- Provision of veterinary services including vaccination of 5.564 cattle (CBPP), 11,000 shoa't's as only 13,850 doses are in stock.- Veterinary services.

Recommendations to KFSM and DSG

- Close monitoring in all food sectors in the coming month with a view of mitigating adverse effects on household food access in most parts of the greater Marsabit district.
- Monitoring of livestock, water sectors and socio welfare indicators to avert possible loss of lives and livelihoods.
- Scale up EMOP relief food aid to cover 80-90% of the neediest households in greater Marsabit district to curb the prevailing food insecurity situation, especially among pastoral and fisher folk livelihoods whose still stand at emergency trend.
- Scale up supplementary (therapeutics) feeding with dry feeding centres from the current 3,440 beneficiaries (< 5 years children, lactating, pregnant mothers and the aged) in 22 centres to 8,400 including HIV patients in the community dispensaries and district health facilities.
- GoK relief food should be consistently continued to subsidise the emergency food insecurity in greater Marsabit district.
- De-stocking program should be implemented to avert or minimize increasing mortality rates among shoats and cattle species to rescue the diminishing herd sizes in greater Marsabit district and community mobilization be made clear for the auctioneer dates- MNK & DA's.

- Provision of fuel, maintenance, lubricants for community boreholes and water trucking to communities, El Hadi and Balesa in Marsabit north - MOW, ALRMP, and PISP.
- Livestock sector should initiate de-worming and vaccination campaigns with prevailing wet season and coming livestock from cross border i.e. Ethiopian country, Samburu district and Arbijaan district.
- Fostering of peace should be encouraged within and without district borders as livestock movement are increasing beyond their normal dry season grazing areas.
- Immediate implementation of the Long Rains Assessment (LRA) report recommendations for the greater Marsabit district.
- Promote rainwater harvesting techniques besides existing drilling of boreholes in greater Marsabit district.
- Improve sanitation, especially to cholera prone areas and as an intervention measure during wet seasons.
- Provision of seeds and seedling should be availed to farmers to capture the current prevailing short rains.- MOA, ALRMP and Forest department.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- The short rains season set in on the first week of the month in highland parts of the district which include Mt. Marsabit, Mt. Kulal, Hurri hills and around Ndoto ranges. These rains were fairly recorded on Mt Marsabit with a total of 205.3mm in twelve days while Mt. Kulal and other high elevated areas recorded insufficient in terms of quantities and time space.
- Lowlands, which occupy over 85 to 90% of the greater Marsabit district, received no rainfall which is normal for this time of the year. Despite this, there were isolated cases of livestock swept off by floods reported at Illeret location in Marsabit north district and Moite sub-location of Loiyangalani division reporting hundreds of shoats and donkeys.
- Promising signs of continuation of the season are evident on highland areas while lowland parts remain dry.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Forage condition in Mt Marsabit, Hurri hills, Mt Kulal and Mathew ranges was fairly recharged with prevailing short rains though varying by quality and quantities. Mt Marsabit received fair to good amount, thus sufficiently recharged forage availability while Mt Kulal and other high elevated parts received minimal quantities compared to this time of season.
- Available forage is not expected to sustain livestock beyond next month and about 22 to 27 percent of cattle and shoats will die of starvation if situation prevails.
- The few and isolated areas experiencing short rains faced influx of livestock, water scarcity and insecurity situation, therefore Marsabit central and south districts experienced heavy livestock concentration within and without their administrative districts.

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Use of water sources

- The main sources of water for both livestock and domestic use failed to recharge in lowlands as a result of the failed short rains in the areas. But sources in highlands of Mt Marsabit, Hurri hills and around Mathew ranges which normally experience acute water shortages were fairly recharged by prevailing short rains. However, water stress was reported in Balesa, El Hadi and around Maikona division of Marsabit north district.
- The existing water sources in both low and highlands were boreholes, traditional wells, water pans, springs, shallow wells and Lake Turkana.

1.3.2 Distances to water sources

- Average distances to water sources for domestic water increased significantly from an average of 5kms the previous month to 18kms while for livestock use increased from 22kms to 28kms. This indicates a significant decrease in livestock water use compared to previous months.
- Water shortage remained at emergency around Maikona division which includes, Balesa, El Hadi and around Burgabo area.

- Livestock water stress in larger Marsabit district is expected to increase in lowland parts which did not receive any notable short rains. Some livestock mortalities, especially among shoats species were reported in many areas including Ngurunit, Farakoren, Afharen in Marsabit south district and Torbi, Bubisa of Marsabit north district and hundred of cattle mortalities in Marsabit central district.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity/ Conflict

- Security situation improved in most parts of the greater district, though there were isolated cases in Loiyangalani location of Laisamis district as bandits from Samburu west district and frequent highway banditry between Laisamis and Samburu west district and cattle raided at central Marsabit district (Borana) by Samburu/Rendille bandits.
- Cases of insecurity (raids/banditry and tribal clashes) are expected in far flung areas within and without administrative boundaries the soonest the short rains start. Conflicts over resources are expected to increase as normal during wet season.

1.4.2 Migration

a) Livestock migration

- Livestock migration was on increasing trend as result of the current short rains which were mainly experienced on highland parts of the district.
- In the pastoral livelihood of North horr division, livestock was concentrated in the north Dukana along Ethiopian border and Koobi Fora while those from Maikona division were around Hurri hills and towards Arbijaan in Wajir west district.
- Livestock from Agro/pastoral livelihood of Marsabit central and Gadamoji divisions were transported to Moyale district and others to Arbijaan in Wajir west district where there was some pasture. Heavy livestock migrations in search of water and pasture led to congestion and vulnerability to diseases.
- In some parts of pastoral livelihood zone of Laisamis division (Ngurunit, Illaut and Mayatta Lengima) and Maikona division livestock was concentrated around Bubisa, Torbi and Shurra areas.
- Livestock migration, especially from lowland parts, is expected to increase toward high elevated areas for search in greener pastures.

b) Human migration/ displacement

- Human displacement remained minimal in most areas and few in-migration from grazing areas to urban settlement for search of labour were reported.

1.5 Implications on food security

- Depleted milk availability at household level compounded food insecurity among pastoral households at remarkable level.
- The failed long rains season continues to frustrate efforts to attain a food secure society in the Pastoral/ fishermen thus being the most affected livelihoods in the greater Marsabit district.

- The hiked food commodity prices by 61.33% compared to similar time of the long term averages was attributed to food shortages across the district.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Livestock health in all areas was poor and emaciated body condition, particularly for cattle and shoats while it was good to fair for camel species. The poor body condition was attributed to long trekking distances in search of water and pasture. The deteriorated body condition among shoats and cattle resulted to about 22% mortalities at the onset of the prevailing season.
- Distances to pastures and water fairly decreased by eight kms on hilly parts while in lowland slightly reduced to between 26 and 30 kms.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- Contagious Caprine Pleural –pneumonia (CCPP) and worm infestations became endemic among shoats and few cases of Contagious Bovine Pleuro Pneumonia (CBPP) were reported in the greater district and remain a threat to livestock production.
- Livestock deaths were reported among cattle while shoats were the most affected. The most affected areas were in pastoral livelihood zones of Ngurunit location in Marsabit south district and Burgabo, Torbi and Bubisa areas of Marsabit north district.
- In Marsabit north, as in most parts of the district, it is estimated that 28% of shoats and 20% of cattle succumbed while in the agro- pastoral livelihood zone of central and Gadamoji division, shoats and cattle mortalities are estimated at 10%.
- Livestock disease such as enterotoxaemia, worms, bloat and PPR among shoat's and bloat, CBPP, RVF, Tripanosomiasis and FMD diseases among cattle and camel species were reported.

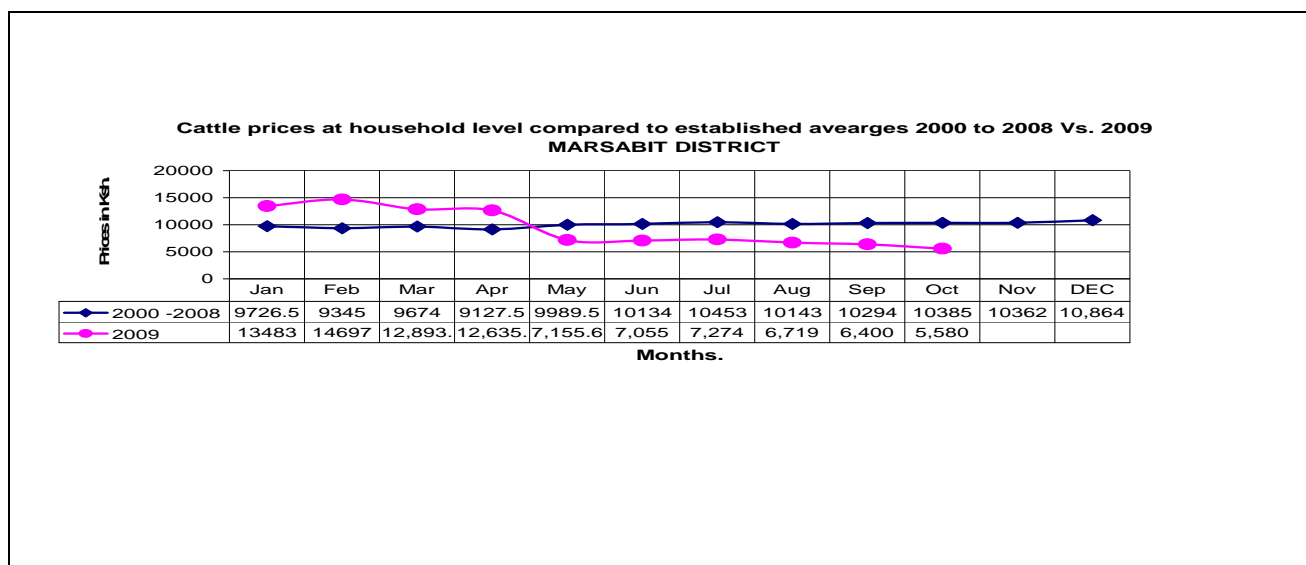
2.2 Implications on food security

- Food insecurity situation remained at alarming and emergency situation in all three main livelihoods of greater Marsabit district.
- Collapsed livestock prices as a result of poor body condition and collapsing terminal market negatively affected food security situation at household level, especially among pastoralist and fisher folk communities.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

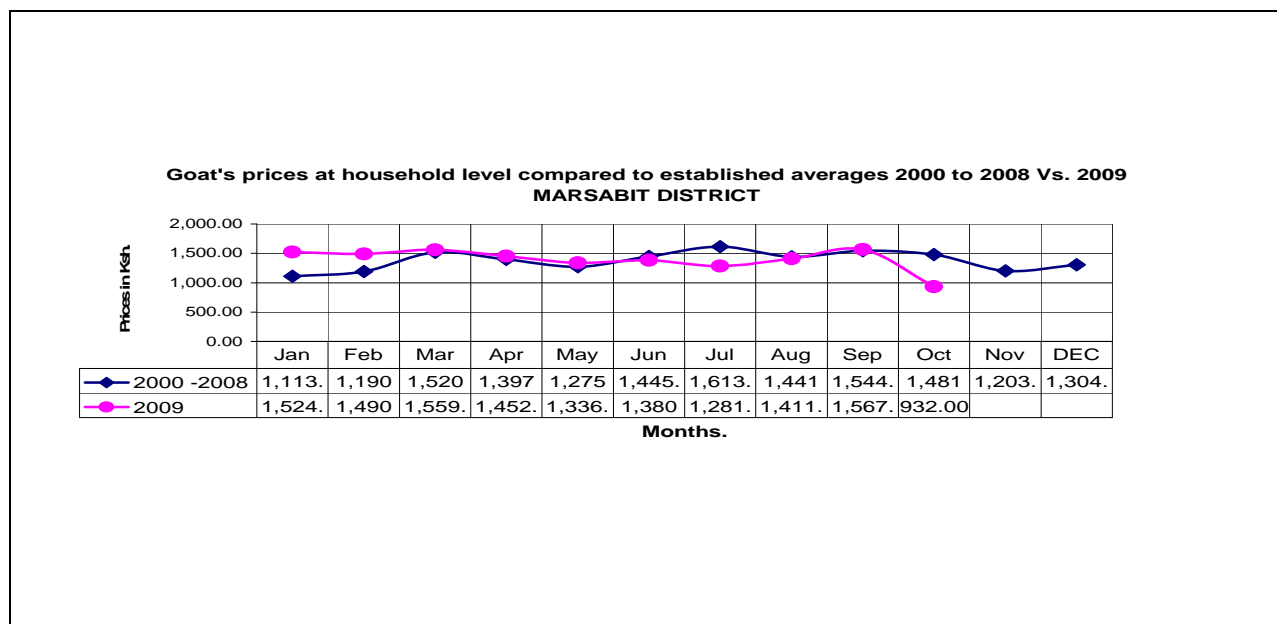
3.1.1 Cattle prices



Ref: N =36 (No. of the sold cattle) by 12 Sentinels x 30 Households

- Cattle prices at household level decreased marginally from the long term mean of Ksh10,385 to Ksh5,580. The low prices were attributed to emaciated body condition.
- Sales rates increased by 28% compared to the long term averages. However, livestock prices are expected to increase in the next two months as body condition improves following the rains.
- Laisamis division (pastoral livelihood zone) in Laisamis district registered highest prices at Ksh6,642.90 and Karare location (Agro/pastoral livelihood zone) in central division of Marsabit central district registering the least at Ksh4,513.

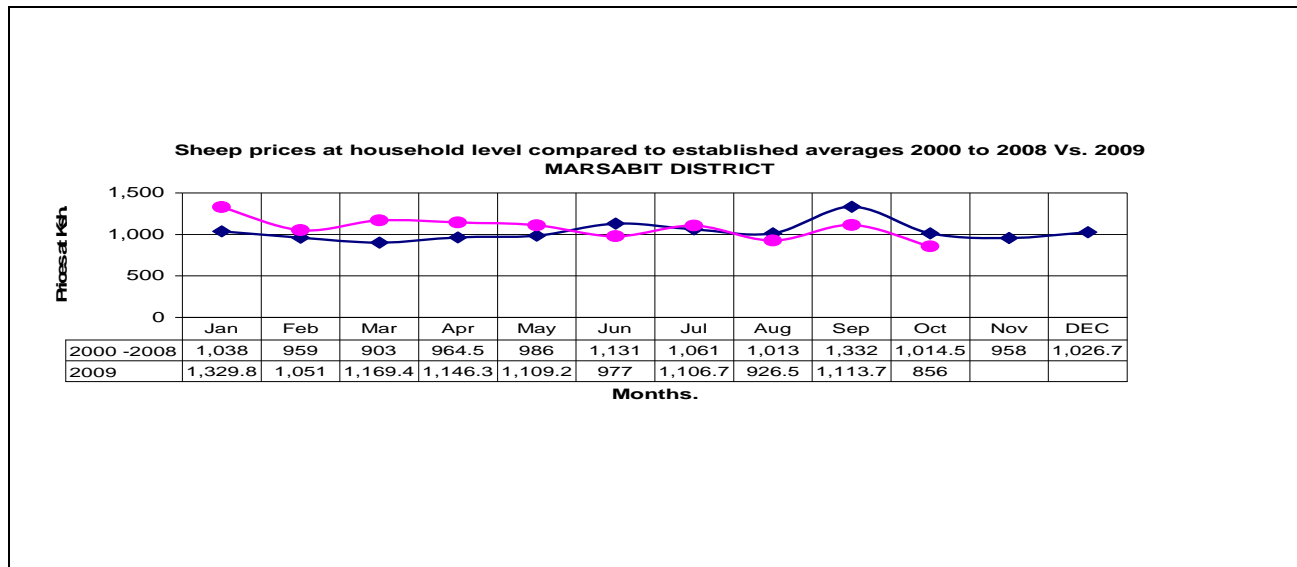
3.1.2 Goats prices



Ref: N =77 (No. of sold goats') by 12 Sentinels x 30 Households

- Goat price averages decreased by 63.6% compared to the long term mean. The average price was Ksh 932, down from Ksh1,567 the previous month.
- The price decline was attributed to poor body condition and collapsed market. Goat mortalities were increasingly reported in most parts of the greater district due to starvation and prices are expected to decrease further.
- Highest goat prices were recorded in Maikona division of pastoral livelihood zone in Marsabit north district at Ksh1,050, followed by Central division (Agro/pastoral livelihood zone) at Ksh955 and least in North Horr division in Marsabit North district of pastoral livelihood zone at Ksh826.70. These differences can be linked to limited access to market in many lowland areas besides deteriorated body condition.

3.1.3 Sheep prices



Ref: N =37 (No. of Sheep sold) x 11 Sentinels each by 30 Households

- Sheep price averages reduced by 16.67% compared to the long term mean. The decline was due to deteriorated body condition and lack of markets. Sheep body condition was the most affected compared to other livestock species.
- Highest sheep prices were registered in Maikona division (pastoral livelihood) of Marsabit north district at Ksh1,000 followed by Laisamis division of Marsabit south district (pastoralist livelihood) at Ksh908.30 while North Horr division of Marsabit north district had the least at Ksh732.70.

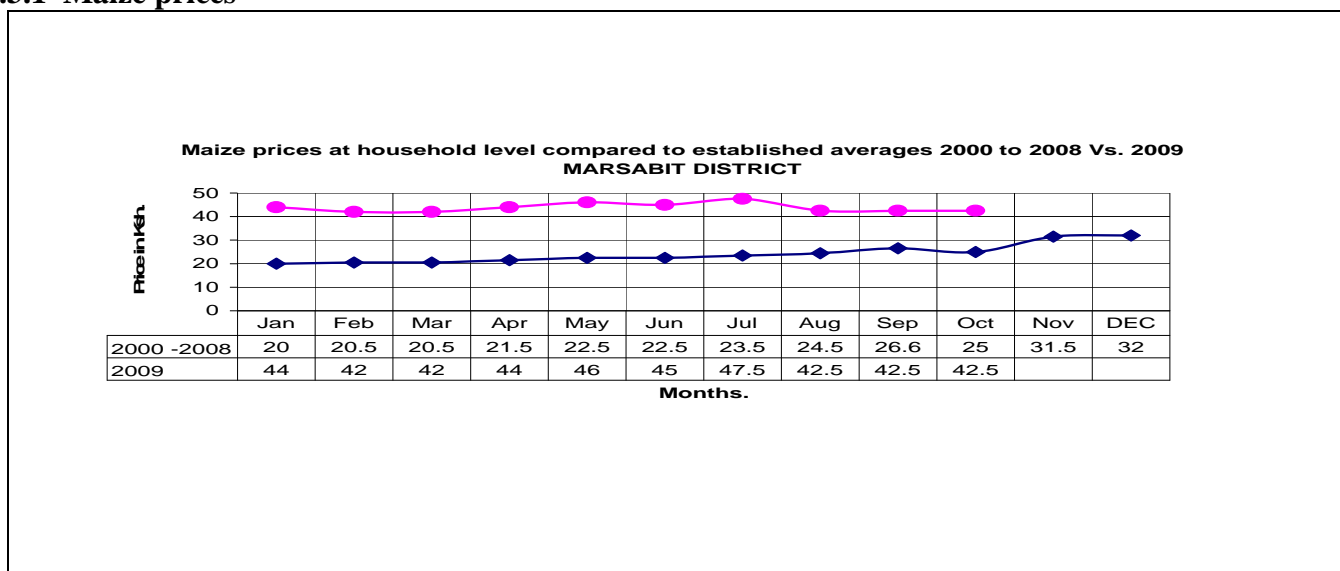
- Sales rates decreased significantly by 18% compared to similar time of the previous three years thus, it's expected to reduce further.

3.2 Milk consumption

- There was no milk available in the greater Marsabit district. This abnormality was attributed to prolonged drought situation which resulted to deteriorated livestock body condition, besides distant livestock concentration.
- Depleted milk availability, especially among pastoralist households in the greater Marsabit district, was aggravated by increasing food shortages at household level.

3.3 Food prices

3.3.1 Maize prices



Ref: N =354 Households purchasing out of 12 sentinels each by 30 households.

- Maize prices at household level increased by 59.5% compared to the long term mean of the years 2000 to 2008. The prices have been consistently increasing as a result of poor rainfall performance in the previous two seasons. These reflect the collapsing meat ratio and hence threaten purchasing powers of pastoral and fisher folk livelihoods.
- Higher maize prices were recorded in Loiyangalani division of fisher folk livelihood (Marsabit south) at Ksh55 per kilo, Laisamis division of pastoral (Marsabit south) at Ksh45 while agro/pastoral livelihood in Mt Marsabit in Central and Gadhamoji divisions of Marsabit central district reported the least at Ksh32.50.
- Maize prices are expected to remain high in the next two months.

3.4 Income

3.4.1 Livestock income

- Livestock income continued decreasing with only nine percent of the 360 interviewed household reporting it.

- Livestock sales decreased by 47% compared to similar time of years 2005 to 2009 especially among shoat species and cattle.
- There was no milk availability reported in either part of larger Marsabit district due to prevailing drought stress.
- Nonetheless, livestock income and productivity collapsed and its' expected to worsen with prolonged drought in all lowland areas.

3.4.2 Other income

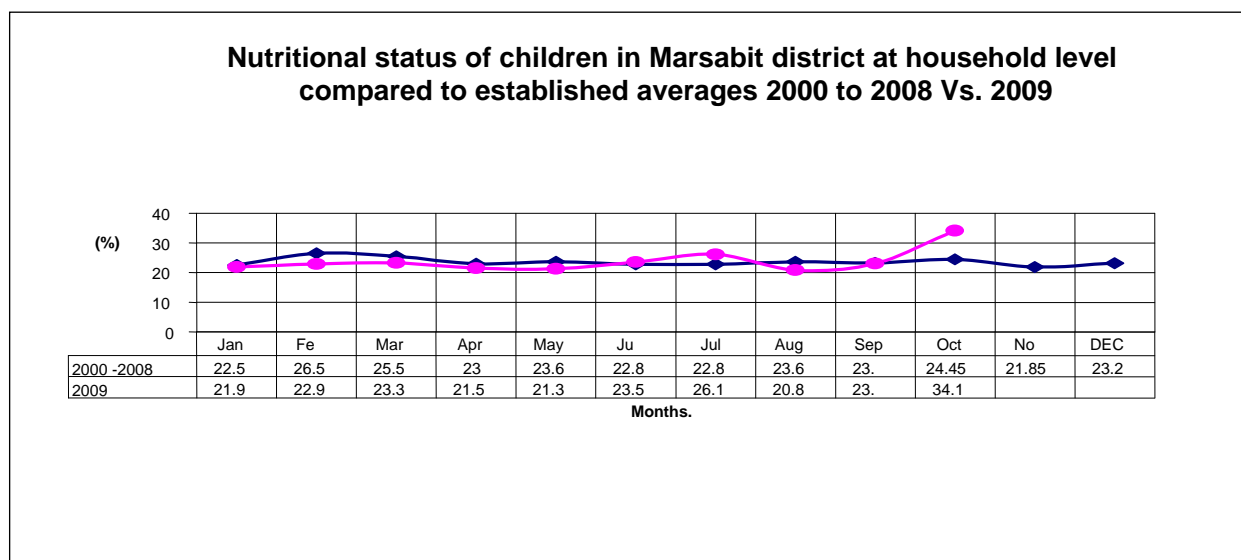
- Other income sources include casual labor, where four percent of sampled households stated so, sale of charcoal, sales of khat (miraa), formal employment and menial jobs at between Ksh40 to 200 per day.

3.5 Implications on food security

- Increasing livestock movement to far flung areas of dry season grazing areas also affected food security, especially among pastoralist livelihoods.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status (MUAC)



- The nutrition status of children below 5 years deteriorated during the month, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition rising to 34.1 from 23.1 in September. This reflects significant food shortages at household level despite the prolonged drought.
- Higher rates were recorded in North horr division (Agro/pastoral livelihood) in Marsabit north district at 64.7% followed by Loiyangalani division of fisher folk livelihoods in Marsabit south district at 50.5% and central and Laisamis divisions at 17.4% each.
- Malnutrition rates among children are expected to increase in near future with prolonged drought stress in most lowland areas of greater Marsabit district.

4.2 Human health

- During the month under review, cholera outbreak was reported in Moite, El-Molo Bay and Loiyangalani sublocations where three deaths were reported in which all were children between 12 to 16 years.
- The leading causes of morbidity for the general population were malaria, respiratory infections, diarrhea/dysentery among children below five years and few adults.
- Human health condition was affected by lack of food, conditions that make people susceptible to diseases. Cold weather infections are expected to increase with prevailing wet season.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non-food interventions

- Water trucking continued, though minimally, among communities around Torbi, Balesa, El Hade and neighbouring areas of Marsabit north district.- Arid Lands Resource Mgt Project, Ministry of Water and irrigation and PISP.
- Repair works on community boreholes in Burgabo, Kubi Qalo, Namarei, Gobbore, and Dirib Gombo – NWSB, ALRMPII.
- Provision of fuel to all community boreholes and other community water schemes –ALRMP, the NGO PISP, CIFA and M.o.Water and Irrigation.
- Provision of planting seeds for Agriculturalist community for the anticipated short rains season- ALRMPII/ MOA
- Provision of tree seedlings for planting during the prevailing short rains season.- Forest dept.
- A one-day joint peace meeting was conducted between Marsabit central, south and north districts at Sereolipi of Samburu east district to curb the highway banditry. District Security teams, Elders and ALRMP.
- Training of the community health workers in Loiyangalani and North horr divisions – FH.
- One-month research on livestock insurance in greater Marsabit district- ILRI.

5.2 Food aid

- Supplementary feeding program (SFP) in 24 health centers in larger Marsabit district targeting 8,400 direct beneficiaries among them severely malnourished children, pregnant and lactating mothers was undertaken- Ministry of Health and Food for Hungry.
- Fifty two percent of the direct neediest beneficiaries (80,442) of the total population are under emergency relief operation program. Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS).
- GoK relief allocation was reported in any part of greater Marsabit district where a household reported the least of 3 to 4% of the total population thus being uneven.

5.3 Other coping strategies

The coping strategies applied among households include;

- Increased number of households skipping meals, sharing of relief food and purchasing food on credit across all the three main livelihoods, which was an indication of a serious inadequacy of food compared to similar period of the previous years.
- Agro /pastoral livelihood zone reported increasing sales of firewood/charcoal to urban dwellers.

6.0 Recommendations to KFSM and DSG

- Close monitoring in all food sectors in the coming month with a view of mitigating adverse effects on household food access in most parts of the greater Marsabit district.
- Monitoring of livestock, water sectors and socio welfare indicators to avert possible loss of lives and livelihoods.
- Scale up EMOP relief food aid to cover 80-90% of the neediest households in greater Marsabit district to curb the prevailing food insecurity situation, especially among pastoral and fisher folk livelihoods whose still stand at emergency trend.
- Scale up supplementary (therapeutics) feeding with dry feeding centres from the current 3,440 beneficiaries (< 5 years children, lactating, pregnant mothers and the aged) in 22 centres to 8,400 including HIV patients in the community dispensaries and district health facilities.
- GoK relief food should be consistently continued to subsidise the emergency food insecurity in greater Marsabit district.
- De-stocking program should be implemented to avert or minimize increasing mortality rates among shoats and cattle species to rescue the diminishing herd sizes in greater Marsabit district and community mobilization be made clear for the auctioneer dates- MNK & DA's.
- Provision of fuel, maintenance, lubricants for community boreholes and water trucking to communities, El Hadi and Balesa in Marsabit north - MOW, ALRMP, and PISP.
- Livestock sector should initiate de-worming and vaccination campaigns with prevailing wet season and coming livestock from cross border i.e. Ethiopian country, Samburu district and Arbijaan district.
- Fostering of peace should be encouraged within and without district borders as livestock movement are increasing beyond their normal dry season grazing areas.
- Immediate implementation of the Long Rains Assessment (LRA) report recommendations for the greater Marsabit district.
- Promote rainwater harvesting techniques besides existing drilling of boreholes in greater Marsabit district.
- Improve sanitation, especially to cholera prone areas and as an intervention measure during wet seasons.
- Provision of seeds and seedling should be availed to farmers to capture the current prevailing short rains.- MOA, ALRMP and Forest department.