

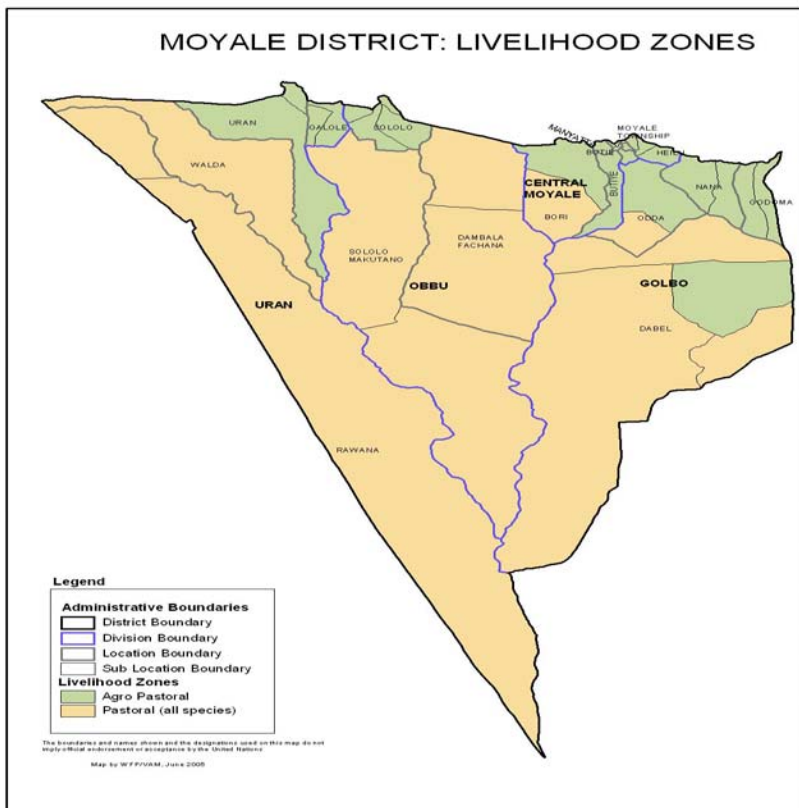


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS  
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

**DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, OCTOBER 2009**

**Moyale District**

**Warning Stages**



Livelihood Zones	Warning Stage	Trend
Pastoral Zones	Alarm	Slightly Improving
Agro-Pastoral Zones	Alarm	Slightly Improving
Casual Labour, Small Businesses	Emergency	Slightly Improving
District	Emergency	Slightly Improving

**Seasonal calendar**



## **Situation overview**

- The rains started within the second week of the month and continued until the end of the month. Quantity received varied from one zone to the other but a total of 78.4mm was recorded for the month.
- All vegetation stratas improved immediately with the onset of rains. Earlier in the month pastoralists in the district started to destroy large trees to supplement their dying herds. The worst affected tree species were balanites and Lannea stuh/manniii which were palatable to all livestock species.
- Water availability, which deteriorated to the lowest level earlier in the month, improved was available in large ponds accessible to both livestock and humans.
- Livestock mortality was too high, especially among grazers while browsers like camels had very low mortality. This is expected during extreme stress periods as grasses get depleted faster than browse. Mortality rate of cattle was 32.8% while that of sheep was 34.7%.
- Most of the herds which migrated to Ethiopia in July and August had returned and moved into southern part of the District. Amball settlement and its environs, which were abandoned during the drought were resettled.
- Livestock prices improved over the month as cattle were sold at an average of Ksh7,500 compared to previous month's Ksh 6,694.40. Goats sold at a higher price of Ksh1,309, up from last month's Ksh1,250.
- The nutrition status of children below five years improved during the month, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition reducing from 38.6% to 35.1%. The main reason was availability of rice as relief food (for September) and some supplements provided for isolated centres for children under five.

## **Current interventions**

### **Non-food interventions**

- Several centres and schools were receiving water from the ALRMP truck and Department of Water. Some range rehabilitation activities were being carried out in Obbu Division, where land was cleared, fenced and planted with grass seeds.

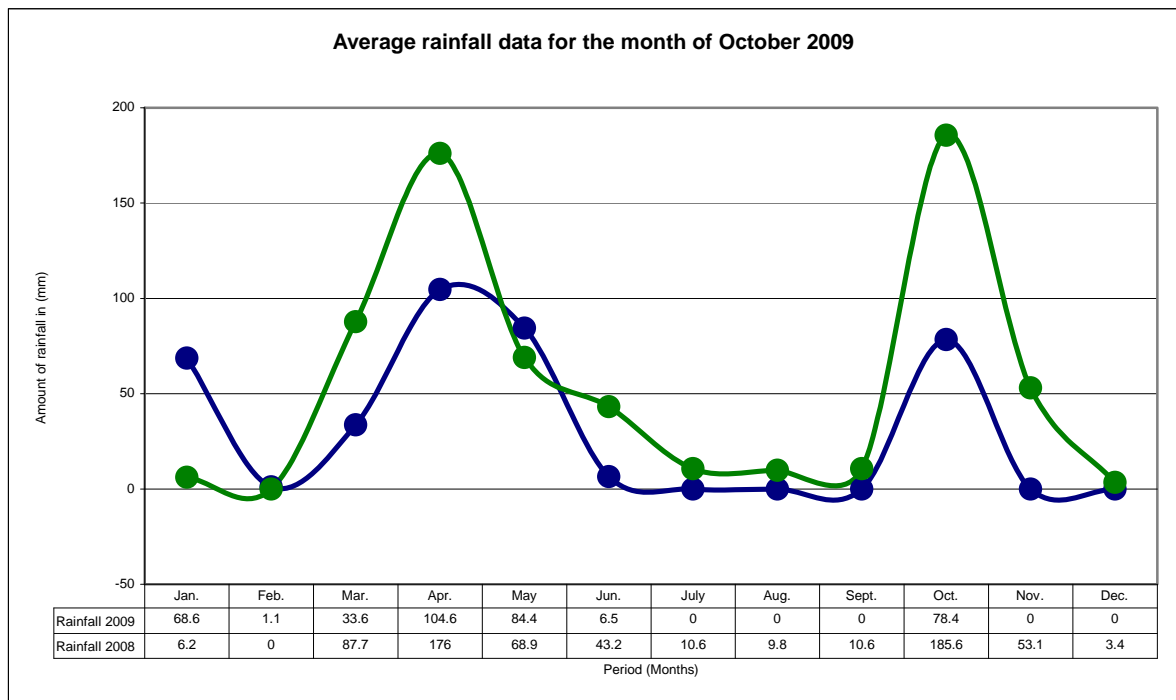
### **Food aid**

- Only some few centres reported to have received food and children's supplement. World Concern (CIFA) continued to give food rations to disadvantaged families.

## 1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

### 1.1 Rainfall

The following was the rainfall data at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2009



- The rains came within the second week of October as forecasted. Spatial distribution was quite good though some areas received rains during the last week of the month.

### 1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- By mid month the vegetation of the district was extremely poor, with much limited forage available to livestock but improved well with the coming of rainfall. At the moment the district is green with lush vegetation. The shrub layer improved far much better than the undergrowth, benefitting browser animals.
- Forage quality improved and instead of the dry brittle and less nutritive scrubs of the drought period, the district had green and lush ephemerals, which have yet to build up more nutritive values.
- Forage biomass has increased tremendously in the upper and mid shrub layer with limited improvement in the herb layer. Though the ravaging drought has stripped the District of much decreased plant species there is substantial compensatory improvement seen over the last 2 weeks.

#### 1.2.1 Distances to grazing areas

- Average distance to grazing areas reduced to 13.1kms compared to last month's high of 27.6km. Uran-Lataka had highest return distance of 18.5kms. The trend was normal for the rainy period when pasture and water is available.

### 1.3 Water sources and availability

- Most of the sample areas reported use of boreholes at the time of data collection but turned back to surface water sources and roof catchments by the end of the month.
- Average household distance to water decreased to 2.1km and time spent reduced to 1.9 hours.

## **1.4 Emerging issues**

### **1.4.1 Emergence of CBPP and CCPP**

- These contagious diseases were reported in most parts of the district and accelerated livestock mortality. The Veterinary Department started to vaccinate livestock though most of the herds were yet to return from Ethiopia.

### **1.4.2 High livestock mortality**

- Cattle and sheep almost reduced by a third during this drought period.
- Average mortality for cattle was 32.8 while sheep was 34.7. This was quite high and may require longer time to build.

### **1.4.3 High cases of malaria, coughs and bloody diarrhoea**

- Cases of malaria, coughs and pneumonia became common in children and the aged as food intake (quantity and nutritive) reduced and cold rainy weather started. Few cases of bloody diarrhoea were reported as dead livestock carcasses were swept into ponds and more flies bred.

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

### **2.1 Livestock production**

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

- Livestock body condition deteriorated to the point of death for cattle and sheep before the rains started. Within the first week of the rains mortality was highest for all livestock species. Some limited improvements in body status are being seen at the moment as forage intake improved.

#### **2.1.2 Livestock health**

- What was reported as coughs and pneumonia last month in sheep and goats turned out to be Caprine Pleuropneumonia and bovine was also reported. Several livestock deaths were associated with these dangerous contagious diseases for the month.

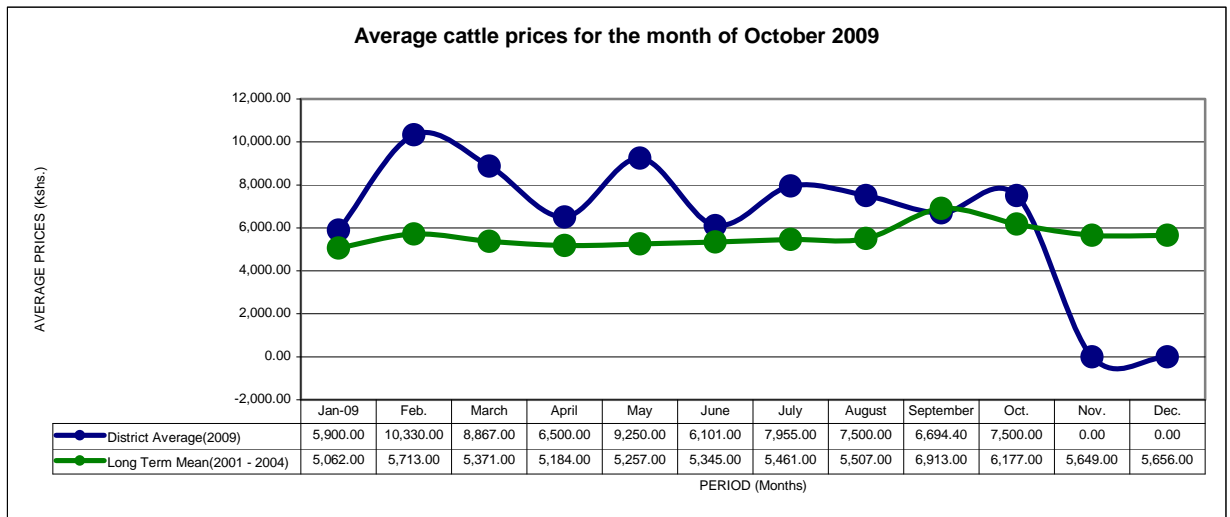
#### **2.1.3 Milk production**

- Milk yields are yet to improve as compensatory body growth was taking off. Most cows and goats lost their young ones to drought and might dry out, decreasing the milk yield for the district.

## **2.2 Crop production**

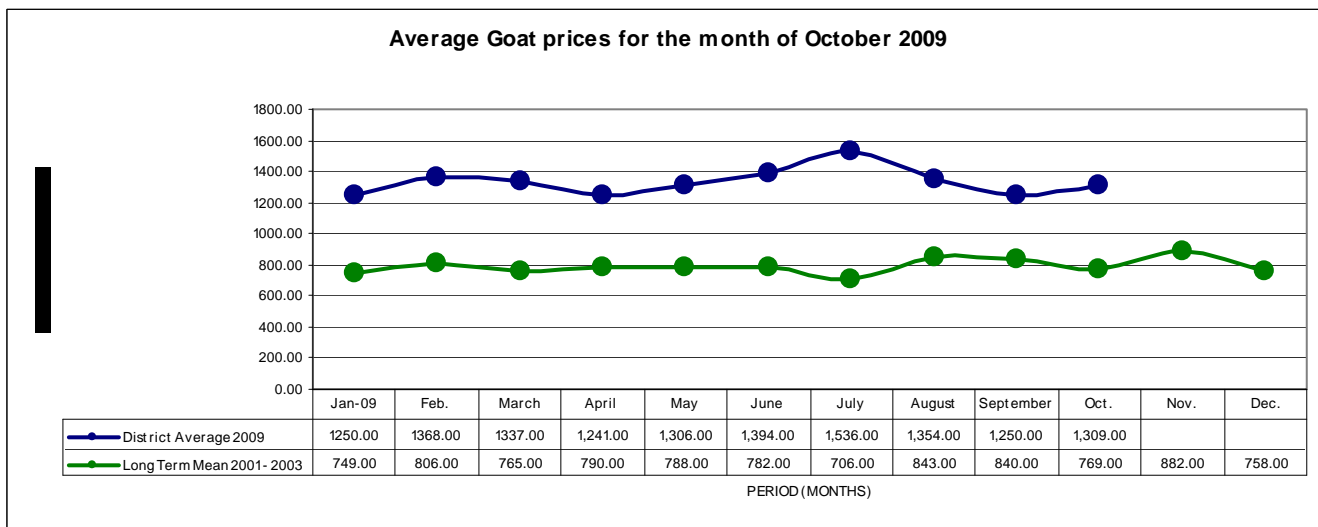
- All crops planted including maize, beans and sorghum were at germination stages.

**3.0 Access to food**  
**3.1 Livestock marketing**  
**3.1.1 Cattle prices**



- Prices of cattle improved from Ksh6,694.40 in September to Ksh7,500 due to expectation of rains which attracted several buyers who were willing to fatten weak animals to resell later. Most of the sales were to purchase cereals.

**3.1.2 Goat prices**



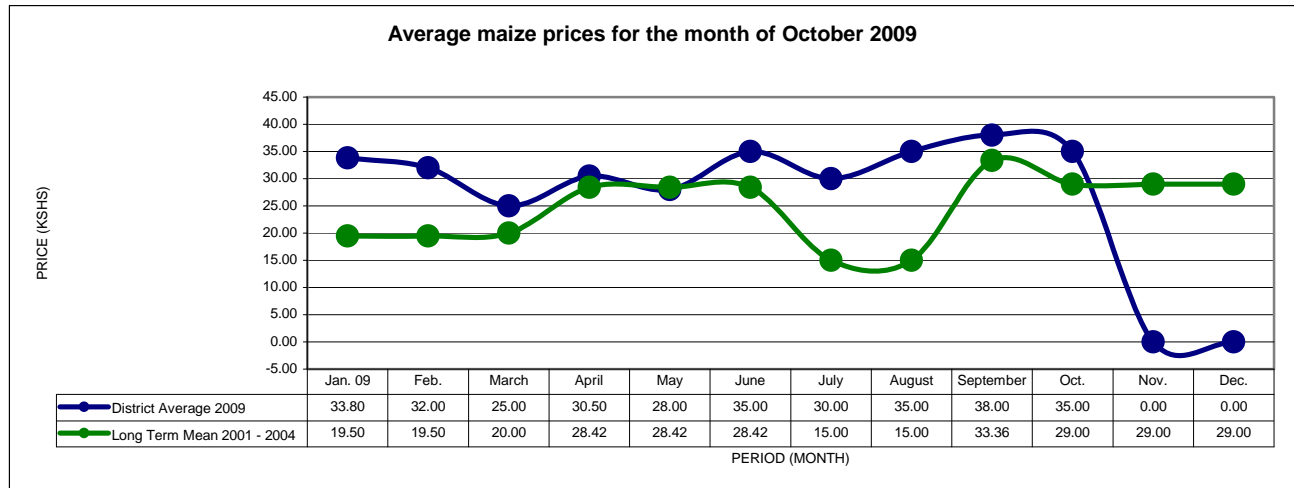
- Goats prices improved slightly when compared to the month of September. The average price was Ksh1,309 compared to Ksh1,250 the previous month. The increase was due to the expected improvement of condition of vegetation with the start of the short rains.
- The price is way above the mean average of 2001 to 2003.

**3.1.3 Camel prices**

- Prices of the dromedaries continued to improve as buyers and exporters flooded the local border market. A mature animal in good condition sold at Ksh70,000 while a fairer one at Ksh45,000. An immature or female in poor condition sold cheaply at about Ksh18,000 to Ksh12,000.

### 3.2 Food prices

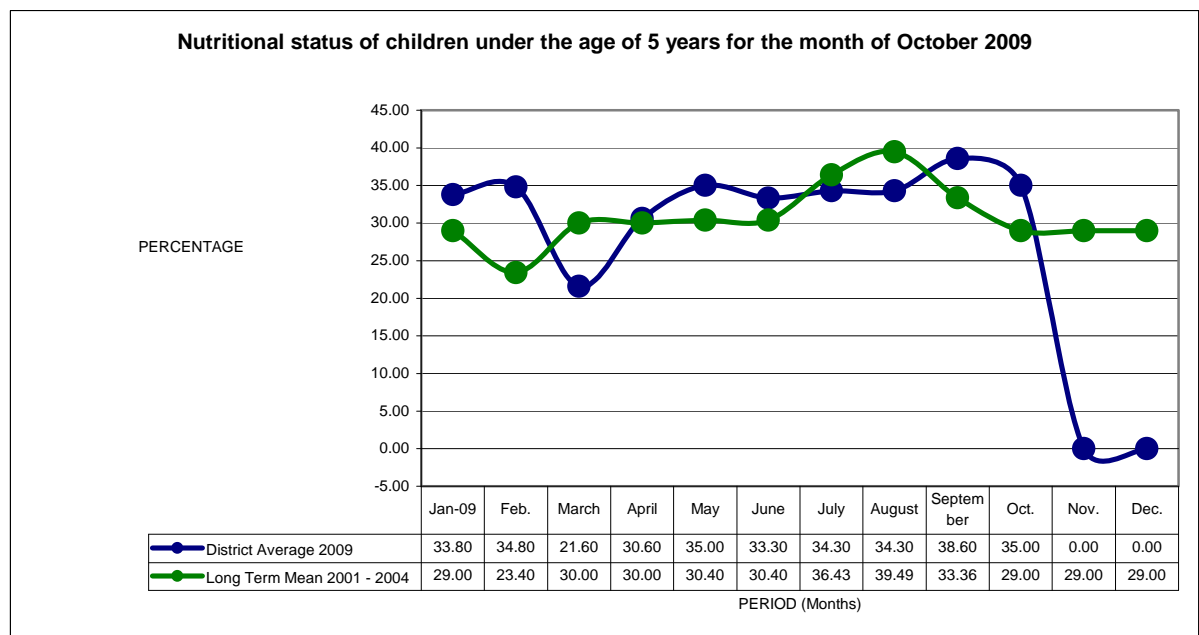
#### 3.2.1 Maize prices



- The price of maize was slightly lower than last month mainly due to availability of relief food and in the markets of Moyale. The average price was Ksh 35 per kilo, down from Ksh38 in September.

### 4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

#### 4.1 Nutritional status



- The nutrition status of children below five years improved during the month, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition reducing from 38.6% to 35.1%.
- The main reason was availability of rice as relief food (for September) and some supplements provided for isolated centres for children under five.
- The hardest hit areas by malnutrition were Sololo Mkutano in Obbu Division and Dabel in Golbo Division.

#### **4.2 Human health**

- Cases of malaria, coughs and bloody diarrhoea were reported in some centres.
- This was caused by increased breeding grounds for mosquitoes and livestock carcasses, which also increased the number of flies in the area.

#### **4.3 Flagged areas**

- Areas with high livestock mortalities were Dabel, Godoma and Mado Adhi.
- Locations with dangerously high malnutrition level were Sololo Makutano, Dabel and Bori.

### **5.0 Current interventions**

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

- Water trucking which was done earlier in the month stopped due to the rains.
- Livestock off-take was done at the onset of rains.
- Vaccination against pleuropneumonia was underway.
- Some range rehabilitation activities were being carried out in Obbu Division, where land was cleared, fenced and planted with grass seeds.

#### **5.2 Food aid**

- Relief foods were distributed to several centres in the district. However, only a few centres reported to have received food and children's supplement.
- World Concern (CIFA) continued to give food rations to disadvantaged families.

#### **5.3 Coping strategies**

- Some of the herds which were in the district and some few which came back were moved into the wet-season grazing areas by the Deedha elders in order to preserve the dry season zones.
- Most of the camel herders who migrated into the district over the drought period were asked to leave since all the surrounding districts received similar quantities of rainfall.
- Many households opted to reduce their meal sizes while others opted for cheaper foodstuffs.
- Some families sent their children to eat elsewhere or begged for alms especially in Sololo Makutano and Dabel.

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

- More food relief is required and distribution should include more people.
- Food supplements should be increased to reverse the worsening malnutrition status.

- The district requires more water bowsers as the ones in the district cannot support the district needs.
- The much denuded areas in the district require some form of rehabilitation to avoid erosion and destruction during the next rainy season.
- The communities in the region, especially those in agro-pastoral area require much capacity building in matter of natural resource and environmental protection to improve their resource base.
- Catchment destruction is rampant and needs to be discouraged as several streams and acquifers are getting dry.