

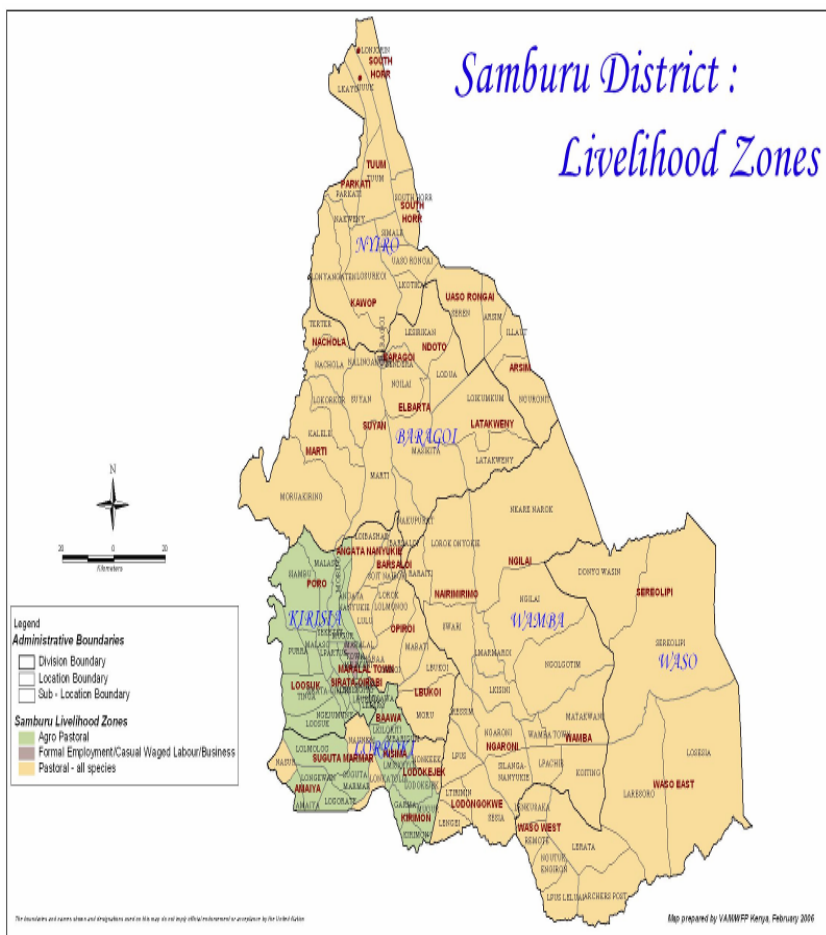


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, OCTOBER 2009

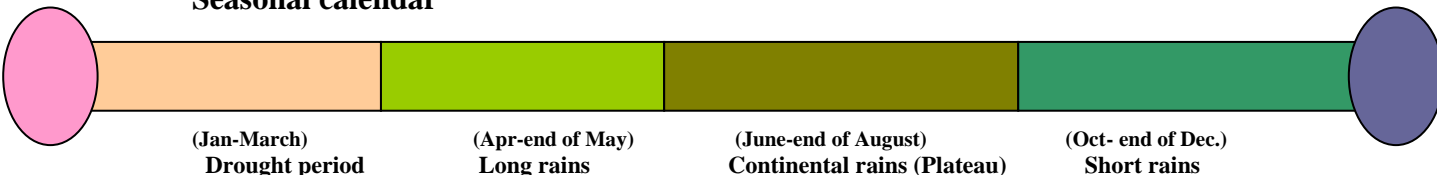
Samburu District

Warning stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Agro Pastoral	Alarm	Improving
	Alarm	Improving
Pastoral- All species	Emergency	No change
	Alarm	Improving
District	Alarm	Improving

Seasonal calendar



Situation overview

- On average the district received 42.85 mm of rainfall compared to 1.2 mm received in September. The amount was 4.35 per cent below the long-term mean average of 44.8 mm. The rains received minimally reversed the severity of drought impacts to many households across the district.
- Water sources usually utilised during this season recharged following the rains received, leading to decreased distances to water points for households and livestock.
- Livestock body conditions ranged from fair to poor and prices remained substantially below the long term mean range.
- 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.
- Below normal livestock prices and hiked prices of essential food commodities eroded pastoralists' purchasing power and hence enhanced food insecurity at the household level.
- Insecurity continued to destabilise the Western and Eastern borders of the district, constraining utilisation of forage resources and human settlement in the affected areas.
- The nutrition status of children below five years worsened during the month, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition (based on MUAC measurements) increasing to 35.3 from 31.7 in September.

Ongoing interventions

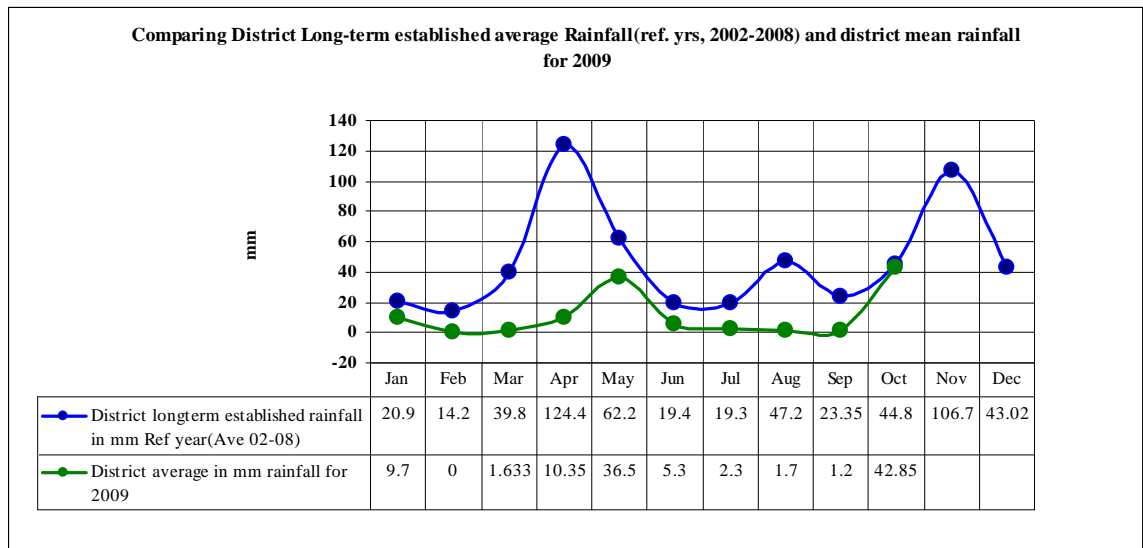
- Supplementary feeding programme by the Ministry of Health, World Vision, Catholic Diocese, SAIDIA and International Medical Corps at 32 health facilities in all divisions targeting approximately 7,786 beneficiaries.
- District-wide general relief food distribution targeting approximately 60% of the population.
- District-wide mass slaughter and distribution of beef purchased through livestock emergency off-take programme by GOK.
- Purchase and distribution of livestock feeds (1,000 bales of Hay grass) by ALRMP II.
- Fuel subsidy for boreholes by ALRMP II (22,000 liters diesel) and CODES(14,000 liters diesel).
- District-wide mass livestock vaccination campaigns by Veterinary department.

Recommendations to KFSSM and DSG

- 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 set in early and most parts received medium erratic showers apart from Baragoi division that continued to experience hot and dry weather conditions throughout the reporting month. The season's rains were characterised by fair temporal and spatial distribution.
- On average the rainfall amount received was 42.85 mm from last month's 1.2 mm. The amount was below the long-term established mean by 4.35 per cent.
- The long term established threshold normally received during this period of the year is 44.8 mm.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- The quality and quantity of forage resources improved slightly in most parts of the district that received the rains.
- Insecurity remained a constraint in access and utilisation 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.

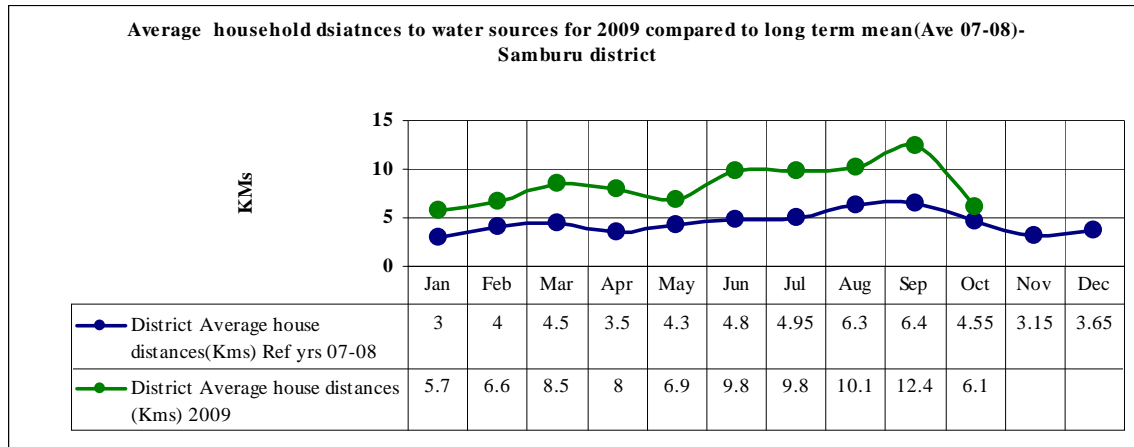
1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Use of water sources

- The main sources of water for livestock and households during the course of the month changed compared to last month and included: traditional river wells; natural rivers, boreholes, pans/dams and natural ponds.
- Existing water sources recharged fully in areas that received rainfall, leading to reduced distances to water points by households and livestock.
- Acute water shortage that hit various communities across the district was reversed.

1.3.2 Distance to water sources

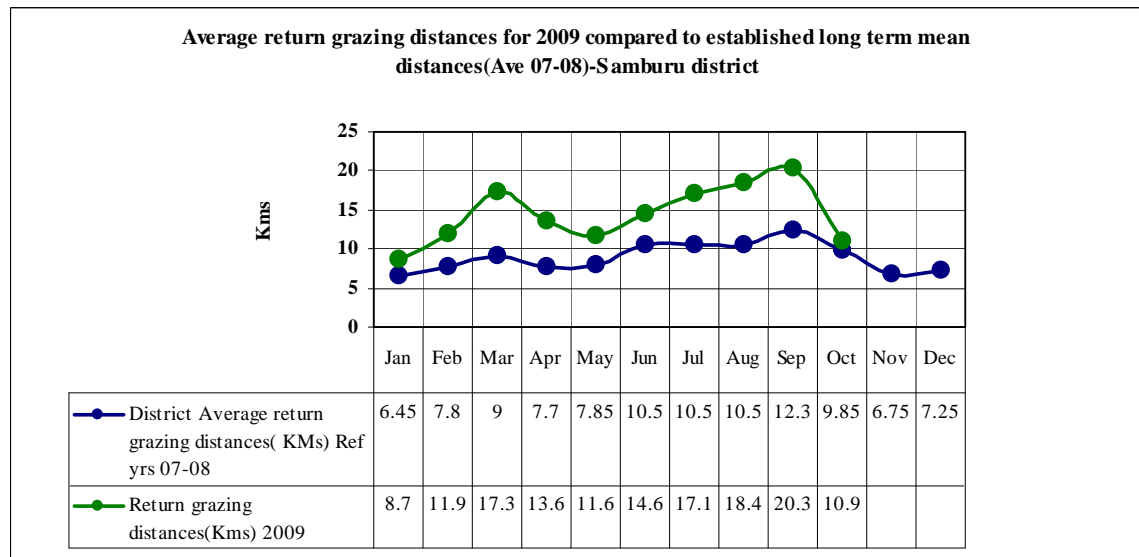
1.3.2.1 Household distances



Number of communities (N) =33

- Average house distance to nearby water sources decreased to 6.1 kms from last month's 12.4 kms.
- However, the distance was above the long term average by 34.1 per cent.
- Wet season watering points recharged following the rains received hence decreased household distances. This implied that less time was spent in search of water by household members particularly women and children.

1.3.2.2 Grazing distances



Number of communities (N) =35

- Average return grazing distance to main sources of water also decreased to 10.9 KMs from last month's 20.3 KMs.
- Return grazing distance was above the long term mean by 10.65 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/ conflicts

- Tension eased slightly amongst warring communities in Samburu north district following livestock migration 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 reporting month.

1.4.2 Migration

- Livestock from various regions within and without the district migrated back to their wet season grazing zones towards the end of the reporting month.
- 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 remained displaced and concentrated in cluster villages in Lolmolog, Angata Rongai, Logorate and Longewan sub-locations.

1.5 Implications on food security

- The early onset of the short rains season may reverse the severe drought effects experienced in the previous months and impact positively 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

- Cattle and sheep body conditions remained poor across the district despite the rains received. Goats' body conditions ranged from fair to poor.
- Cattle and sheep succumbed to starvation and massive deaths were reported across the district at onset of the rains.
- Compared to a normal year livestock body conditions remained far 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.
- FMD spread completely subsided and there were no new cases reported during the course of the reporting month.

2.2 Implications on food security

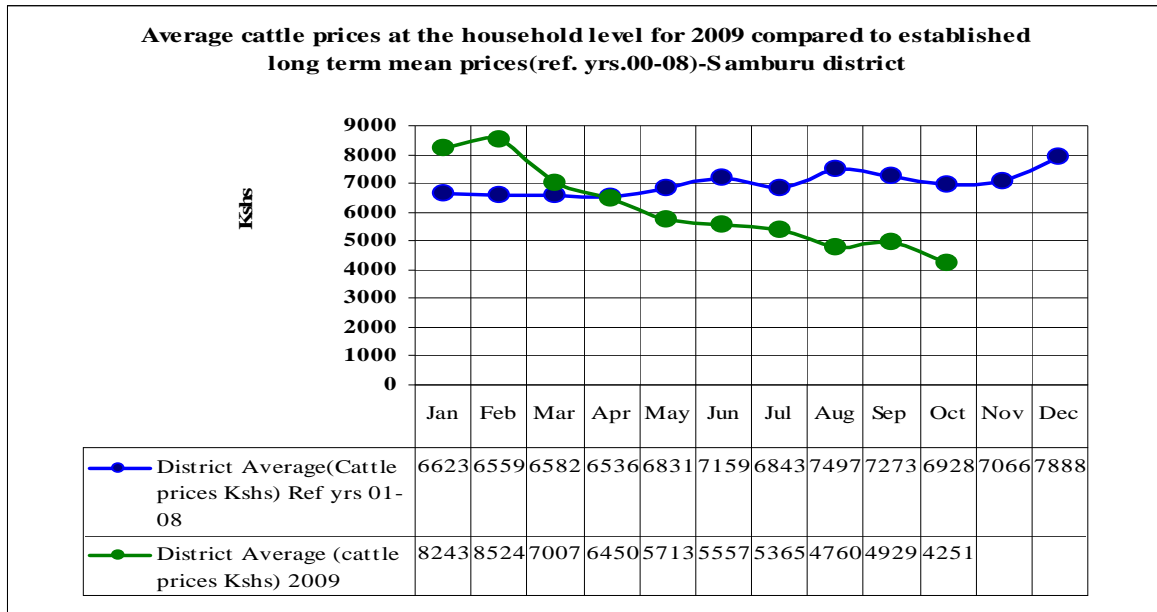
- Poor livestock body condition was detrimental to the pastoralists' economy and impacted negatively on their food security.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

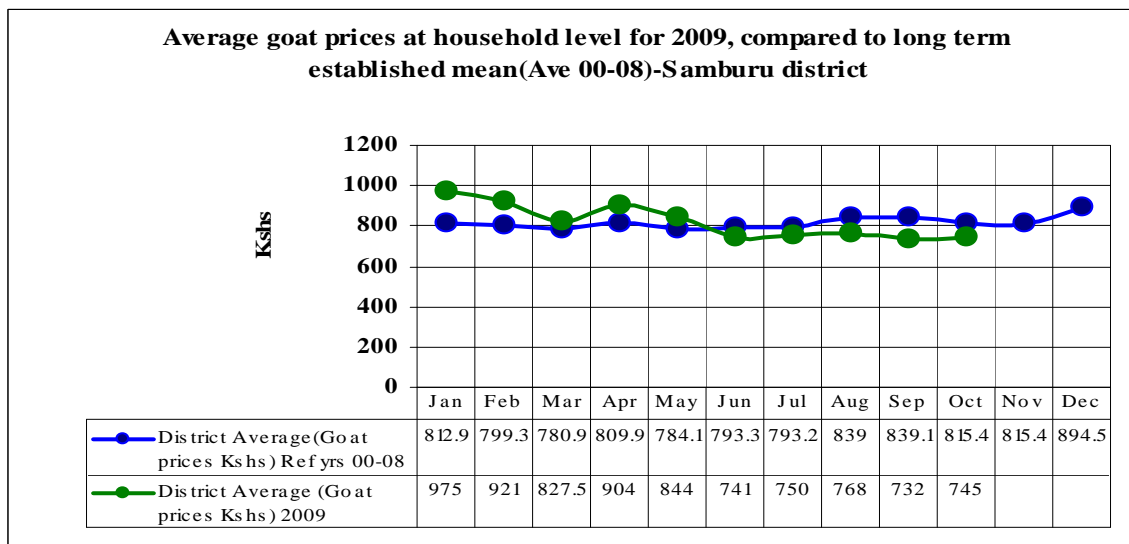
3.1.1 Cattle prices

- Average cattle prices fell to Ksh4,251 from Ksh4, 929 in September. The price was below normal by 38.8 %.
- Below normal average cattle price was attributable to poor cattle body conditions.



Number of households (N) =407

3.1.2 Goats prices



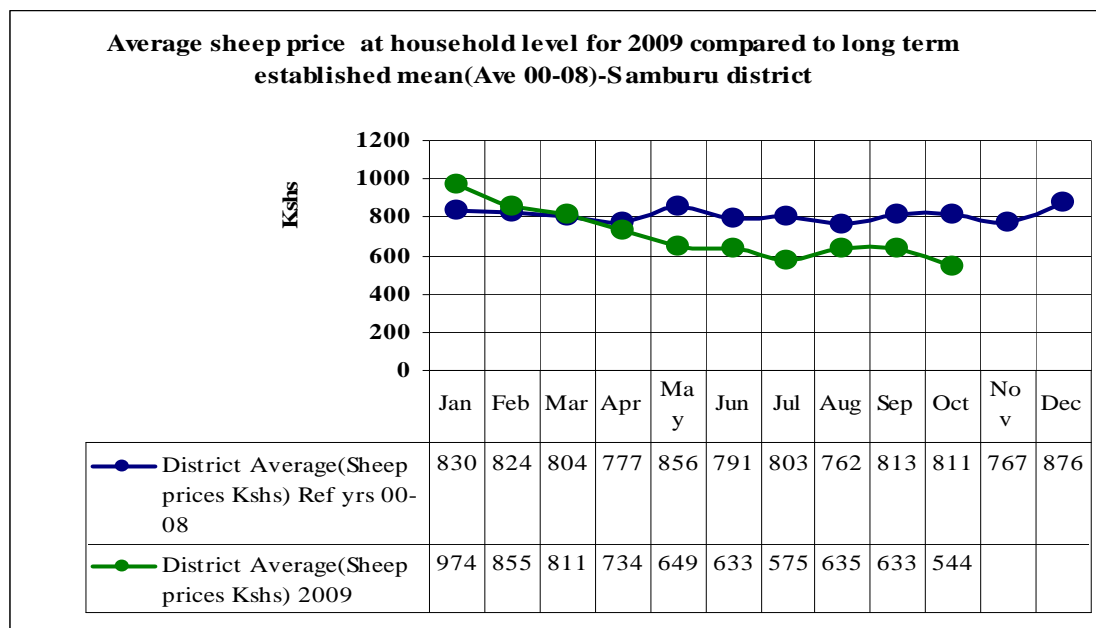
Number of households (N) =407

- Average goat prices slightly rose to Ksh745 from last month's Ksh732.

- The price remained below the long-term average by 8.63 per cent.
- Fair goats' body condition was a factor behind the upward price trend.

3.1.3 Sheep prices

- Average sheep price dropped to Ksh544 from Ksh633 in September.
- The price was also below the long term average by 33.1 per cent.
- Poor sheep's body condition was a key factor that contributed to downward price trend.



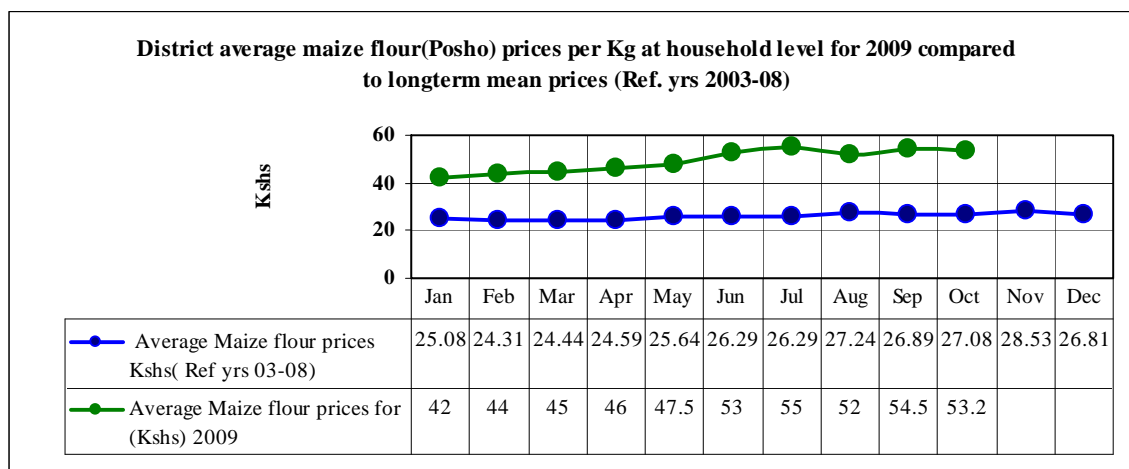
Number of households (N) =407

3.2 Milk consumption

- Milk remained unavailable at the household level across the district.
- This was attributable to poor livestock body conditions and record low birth rates.

3.3 Food prices

3.3.1 Posh (maize flour) prices



Number of communities (N) =33

- Maize flour price fell to Ksh53.20 per kilogram of locally milled maize from Ksh54.50 in September.
- Compared to the long term mean, the price was above normal by 96.45 per cent. The district remained an importer of maize and decreased supply in the local markets led to hiked price.
- Added transport costs also contributed to high posho prices in many lowland areas compared to the plateau.

3.4 Income

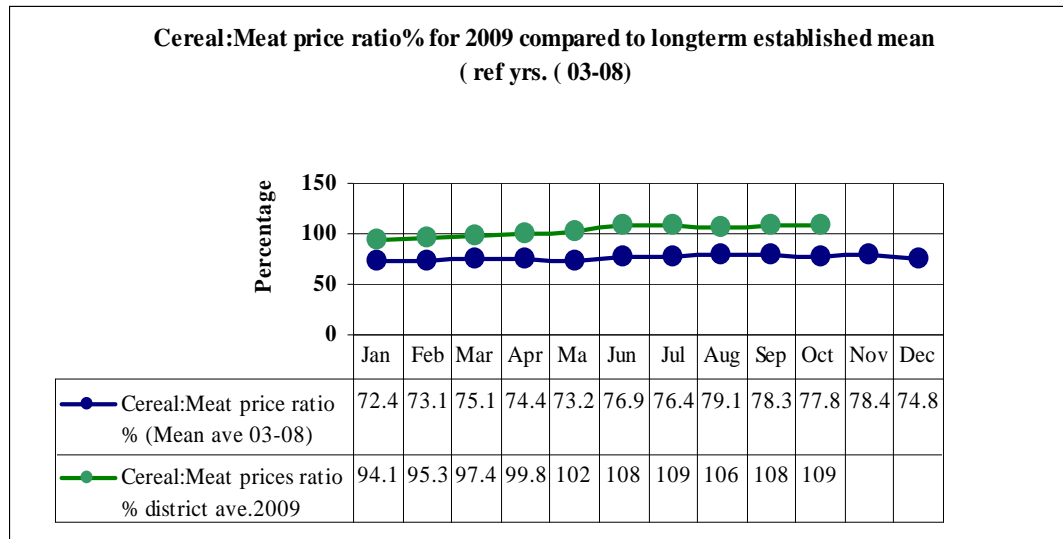
3.4.1 Livestock income

- 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 (%)



Number of households (N) = 407

- A pastoralist's household required 0.109 kilogram of meat in exchange of a kilo of cereals.
- The exchange rate remained exorbitant as the established long-term mean average was 0.778 kg of meat against a kilogram of cereals.
- The pastoralists' purchasing power soared to 109.4 per cent from 108.1 per cent in September and was below the long-term mean by 40.62 per cent.
- This was linked to far below normal livestock prices coupled with highly priced cereals, particularly maize which was the major pastoralist diet during this post drought period.

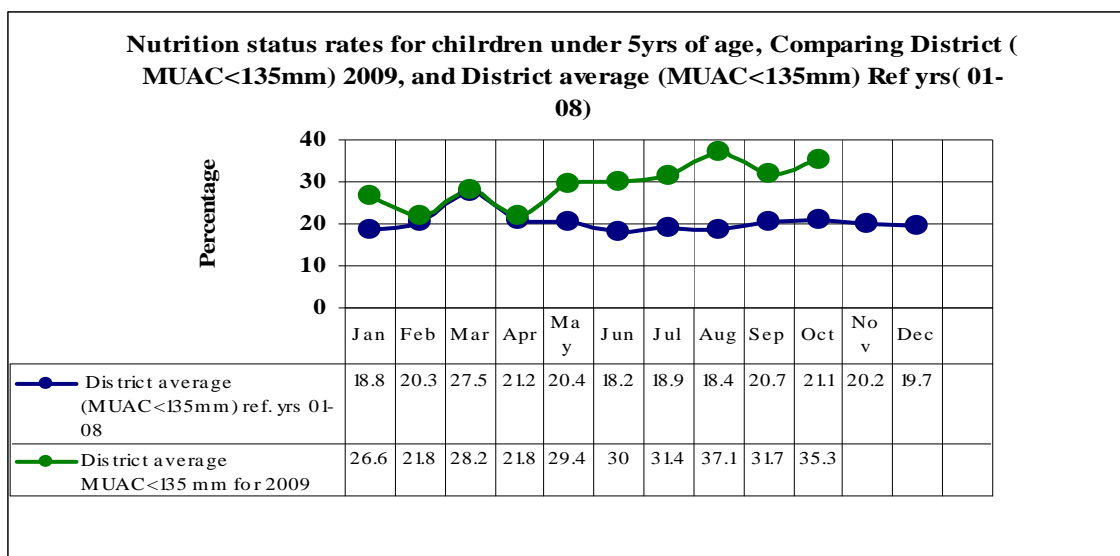
3.6 Implications on food security

- Below normal livestock prices compounded by highly priced essential household food commodities, adversely eroded pastoralists' purchasing power and impacted severely on food security at the household level.

4.0 Human Welfare indicators (utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition (MUAC) Rates

- The nutrition status of children below five years slightly worsened during the month, with the percentage of those considered at risk of malnutrition (based on monthly MUAC measurements) increasing to 35.3 from 31.7 in September.
- Kawop, Nachola, West Gate, Tuum and South Horr sentinel sites portrayed alarming trends with the percentage of those at risk increasing to 96.9, 82.3, 59.9, 44.1, and 43.7 respectively. The alarming trends can be attributed to unavailability of adequate and nutritionally balanced food at the households.



Number of children (N) =1746 from 407 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.
- Quarantine imposed to curb spread of FMD.
- District-wide mass slaughter and distribution of meat of cattle purchased through the GOK livestock emergency off-take programme.
- Purchase and distribution of livestock feeds (1000 bales of Hay grass) by ALRMP II.
- Fuel subsidy for boreholes by ALRMP II (22,000 liters diesel) and CODES(14,000 liters diesel).
- District-wide mass livestock vaccination campaigns by Veterinary department.

5.2 Food-aid

- Supplementary feeding programme by the Ministry of Health, World Vision, 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 remained unchanged despite the rains received.
- Kawop, and Swaari sentinel sites portrayed abnormal trends of 5.0 and 5.1 respectively against a coping strategy index (0 to 10), depicting the devastating impacts of the drought situation to many households.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSSM

- 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).