

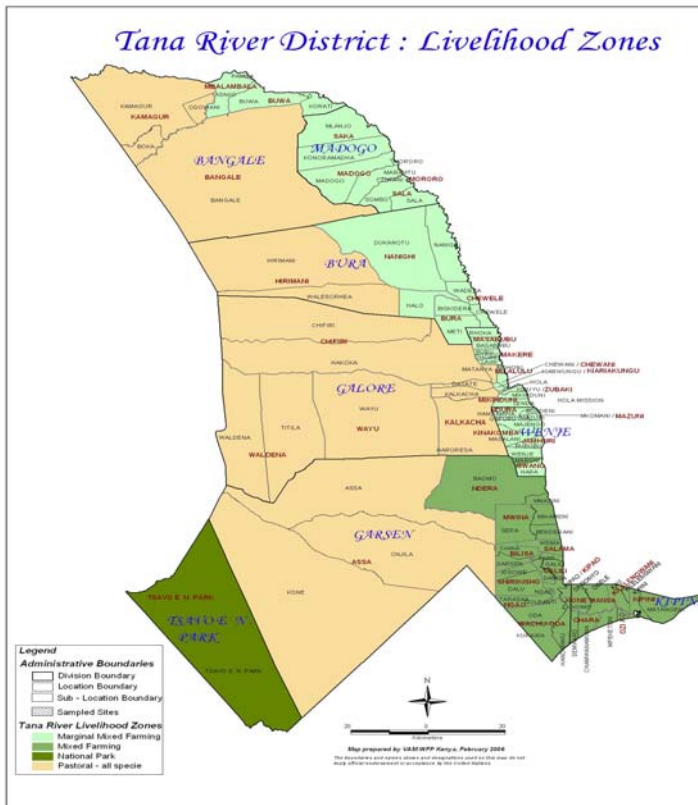


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, OCTOBER 2009

Tana River District

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Pastoral	Alarm	Improving
Marginal Mixed Farming	Alert/Alarm	Improving
Mixed Farming	Alert	Improving
District	Alert/Alarm	Improving

Seasonal Calendar

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Milk yield drops Livestock move towards dry season grazing areas Decline in livestock prices water stress in the traditional grazing areas 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased milk yield Livestock move towards the traditional wet season grazing areas. High Calving and lambing rates. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low milk availability Livestock move towards the fall back dry seasons grazing areas (riverine and delta) Water and pasture stress experienced in the hinterland pastoral dominated areas. High incidence of conflicts between farming and pastoral communities. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased milk yield Livestock move back to the traditional wet season grazing areas. Calving rates increases Decline in livestock prices 		
Lean period for the pastoralists						Lean period for the pastoralists					
Short dry spell			Long rains			Long dry spell			Short rains		
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Short rains harvest		Land Preparation	Planting/weeding		Crops at green maturity	Long rains harvest		Land Preparation.	Planting/Weeding		Crops at green maturity
			Lean period for farmers						Lean period for farmers		

Situation overview

- Most parts of the district experienced two days of heavy rains during the 2nd dekad, which continued in the coastal areas leading to flooding that affected physical infrastructure.
- Due to the experienced rains the water situation experienced a drastic improvement as most of the pans and catchment areas recharged.
- The condition of natural vegetation also improved, with pasture, large trees and browse regenerating.
- The livestock body and health conditions were still rated poor. This led to loss of high numbers of livestock at the onset of the rains. The condition of the survivors is expected to improve in the next one to two weeks. No livestock disease outbreaks reported but pneumonia related cases occurred in all livelihood zones.
- The livestock trading terms were favourable as the prices of almost all livestock species slightly stabilised over the month compared to last reporting period.
- The milk production and consumption indicators continued to worsen as both production and consumption at household level dropped while prices also rose.
- The main farming activities were land preparation and most farmers have not planted due to mix up of the weather predictions.
- Of the 450 households interviewed during the month, 2% were classified as “Better Off”, 22% ‘Middle”, 59% “Poor” and 17% “Poorest” compared to 3%, 18%, 58% and 21% of last month.
- The food security situation was generally rated poor as the number of households rated as food insecure was still high in all livelihood zones.
- During the month, malaria, upper respiratory tract infections, skin diseases, diarrhoea and pneumonia were the most common diseases reported.
- There was a general improvement in the child nutrition status based on the MUAC<135mm measurement as the percentage of children rated at risk of malnutrition dropped to 14.7% during the month from 15.8% of last reporting period.
- Increased incidences of highway banditry, human/wildlife conflicts in terms of crop destruction and attacks on human beings were reported during the month.

Recommendations to District Steering Group and Kenya Food Security Meeting

- Continue with food aid in terms of supplementary feeding, school feeding and PRRO.
- Enhance security measures to curb rising incidences of highway banditry and measures of dealing with the human/wildlife conflicts.

Current interventions

Non-food interventions

- Food production in the dry land areas by use of water harvesting technology.
- Support food production by capacity building and provision of pumps to farming groups.
- Desilting of Koticha and Bangale dam as preparedness mechanism.
- Interventions under the Economic Stimulus Program including;
 - Rehabilitation of the Hola Irrigation Scheme – a total of 1250ha of land already prepared and allocated to 650 farmers with 1.5 acres plot each and planting is going on.
 - Bura Irrigation - cropping is going on and farmers have also realized the first harvest.

- Revival of Tana Delta Irrigation Program by TARDA – land preparation is going on and about to start planting however progress affected by the rains.
- Emergency livestock off-take –137 heads of cattle were delivered to KMC out of the 300 allocated for Tana Delta.
- Livestock vaccination against CBPP, LSD, CCPP, PPR and routine veterinary support – a total of 5,690 heads of cattle were vaccinated against CBPP and LSD, 9,528 goats against CCPP and 16,779 sheep against PPR.
- Support with non-food items to flood affected victims in Tana Delta. (Tarpaulins, family kits and chlorine aqua tabs)
- Support communities to recover from the effects of the drought through capacity building and funding of micro projects.
- Support peace committees to carry out peace building meetings.

Food aid

- School feeding program in all primary schools.
- Supplementary and therapeutic feeding program for children aged 6 – 59 months, pregnant and lactating mothers ongoing in health institutions
- EMOP/PRRO – after the long rains assessment, beneficiary population was increased to 104,722 from 73,960 people both in Tana River and Tana Delta districts.
- Food aid by the GOK kitty.

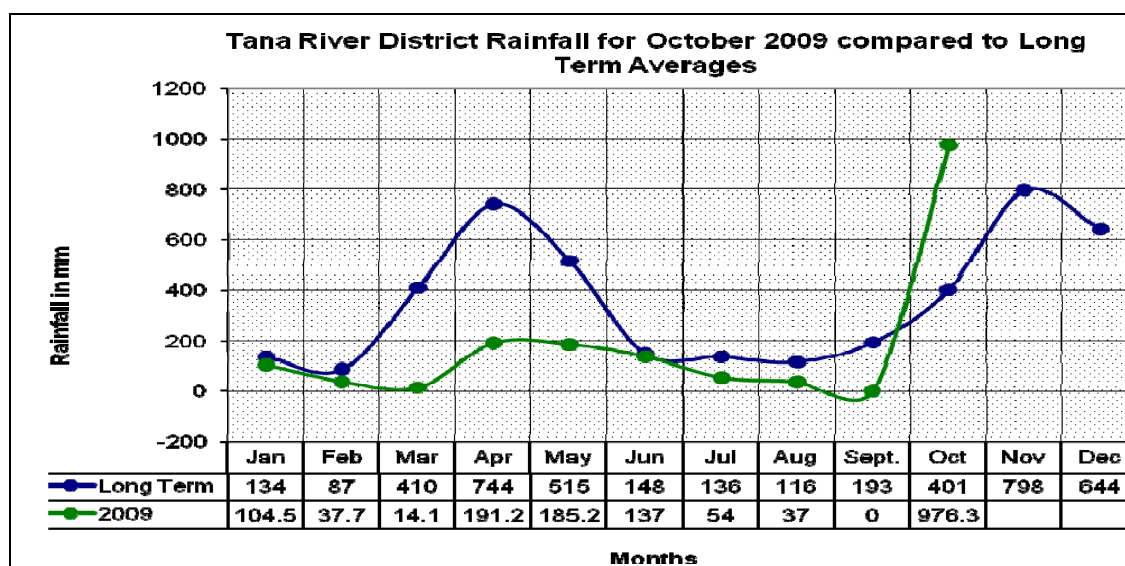
1.0 Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- Most parts of the district experienced two days of heavy rains during the 2nd dekad and this continued in the coastal areas, leading to flooding that affected physical infrastructure. However, most of the hinterland pastoral zones reported very low amounts of rains.

Livelihood Zone	Station	Rainfall in mm
Mixed Farming	• Kipini	• 382.3mm
	• Garsen	• 341.2mm
Marginal Mixed Farming	• Hola	• 148.5mm
Pastoral	• Wayu	• 25.3mm
	• Bangale	• 104.0mm

- Temperatures remained within the range of 25°C to 30°C.



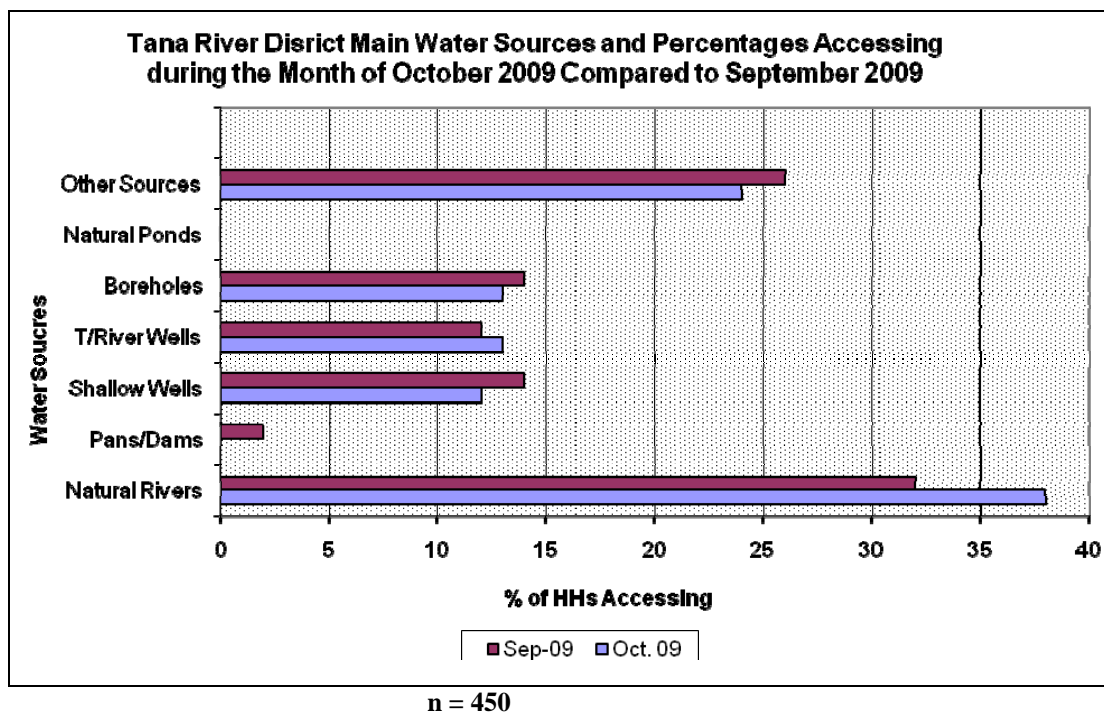
1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- The condition of natural vegetation improved with pasture regenerating, large trees and browse turning green. This situation was observed in almost all livelihood zones but a few areas of the pastoral zone that received negligible amounts of rain were still dry. These areas include parts of Wayu in Galole and Assa in Garsen.
- Average distances to grazing areas were still reported at more than 15kms at the beginning of the month but this is expected to reduce due to improved range resources in the traditional wet season grazing areas.

1.3 Water sources and availability

- Due to the rains experienced the water situation experienced a drastic improvement as most of the pans and catchment areas recharged.
- The only areas whose water situation did not improve include Wayu Duka and Assa where the rains are still negligible.
- Average distance to water sources recorded an average of between 8km to 10km compared to 0.5km – 1km observed during normal times. Distances were, however, expected to reduce owing to the current improved water situation.

The table below shows the main water sources in use and percentage of households accessing during the month of October 2009



1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity/conflict /human displacement

- High incidences of livestock deaths were reported at the onset of the rains. More than 1,000 heads of cattle are estimated to have died in Kipini, Tarasaa and Garsen while over 700 sheep and goats in the northern marginal mixed farming areas of Mlanjo, Korati, Buwa and Mbalambala are feared dead. More livestock deaths are expected as the rains continue to pound in the mixed farming zone.
- As the rains continue to pound in the coastal areas of the mixed farming zone, there are increased incidences of displacements. More than 500 households are estimated to have been displaced by the floods and more are expected to be affected as the rains continue.
- Incidences of banditry along the highway and in the urban centers continued to be reported and remained the main cause of insecurity.

1.4.2. Migration

- Livestock moved from the dry season grazing to the wet season grazing areas.

1.4.3. Implications on food security

- Food insecurity was still high in both pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods as the food stability indicators are still pointing towards stress.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- The livestock body and health conditions were still rated poor. This led to loss of high numbers of livestock at the onset of the rains. The condition of the survivors is expected to improve in the next one to two weeks.

2.1.2. Livestock diseases

- No livestock disease outbreaks were reported. However, pneumonia related cases occurred in all livelihood zones.

2.1.3. Milk production

- The milk production and consumption indicators continued to worsen. During the month both production and consumption at household level dropped while prices also rose.

2.2.0 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of various crop production activities

- The main farming activities include land preparation. A few farmers had planted at the onset of rains but most had not planted due to mix up of the weather predictions.

2.2.2 Pests and diseases

No crop pests were reported during the month.

2.2.3 Harvests

- Harvesting of pocket mangoes started in parts of the marginal mixed farming zone.

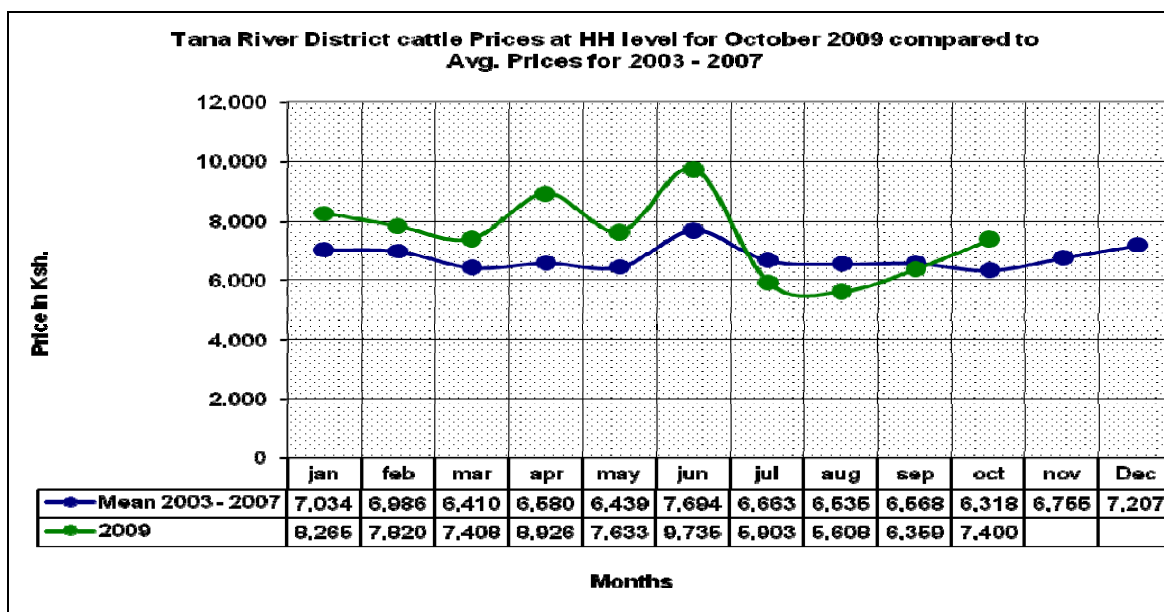
2.3 Implications on food security

- Food insecurity is still expected to continue as the resilience of communities was badly eroded by the effects of the drought coupled with the ongoing enhanced rains.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

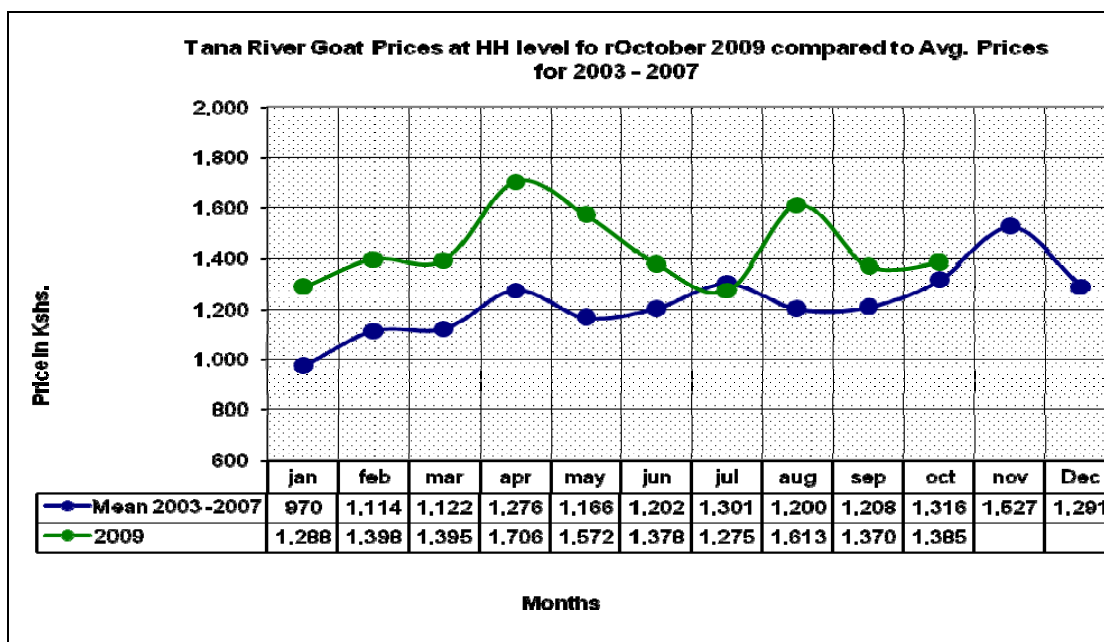
3.1.1 Cattle prices



n = 450

- During the month the average price of cattle slightly rose to Ksh7,400 from Ksh6,359 last month.
- The prices so observed were also higher than the long term seasonal average price of Ksh6, 568 recorded during the period 2003 -2007.
- Though generally livestock condition was still rated poor and expected to fetch low prices, rise in price experienced during the month could be due to offer of emergency livestock off-take coupled with market demand.

3.1.2 Goat prices

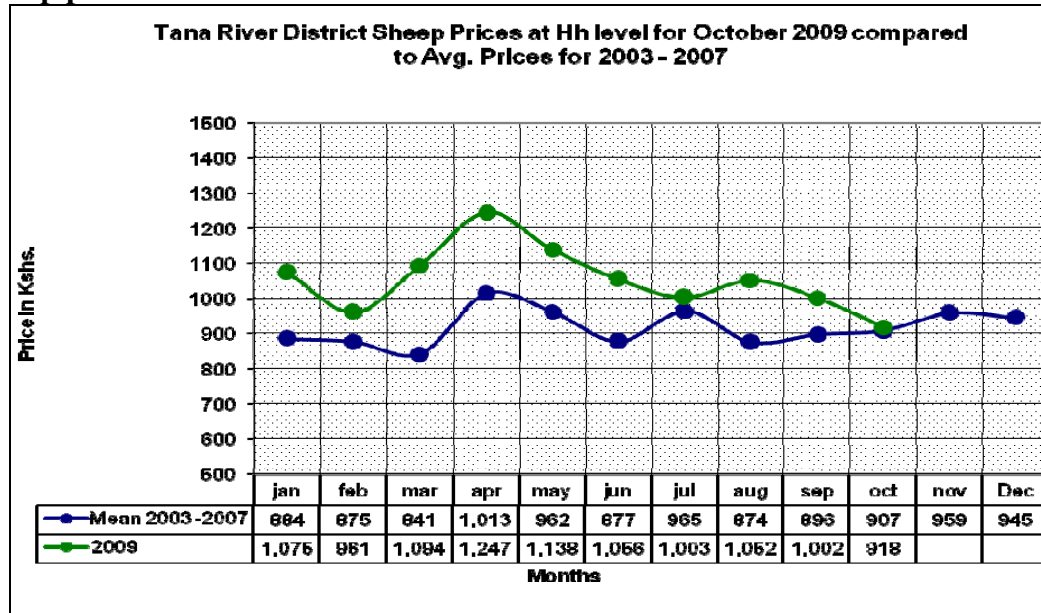


n = 450

- During the month, the prices of goats slightly rose to Ksh1, 385 compared to Ksh1, 370 last month.

- This price was also slightly higher than the long term seasonal average of Ksh.1, 316 observed during the period 2003 – 2007.
- Rise in prices at this time of the year are anticipated and may continue to rise as the environmental conditions continue to be favourable.

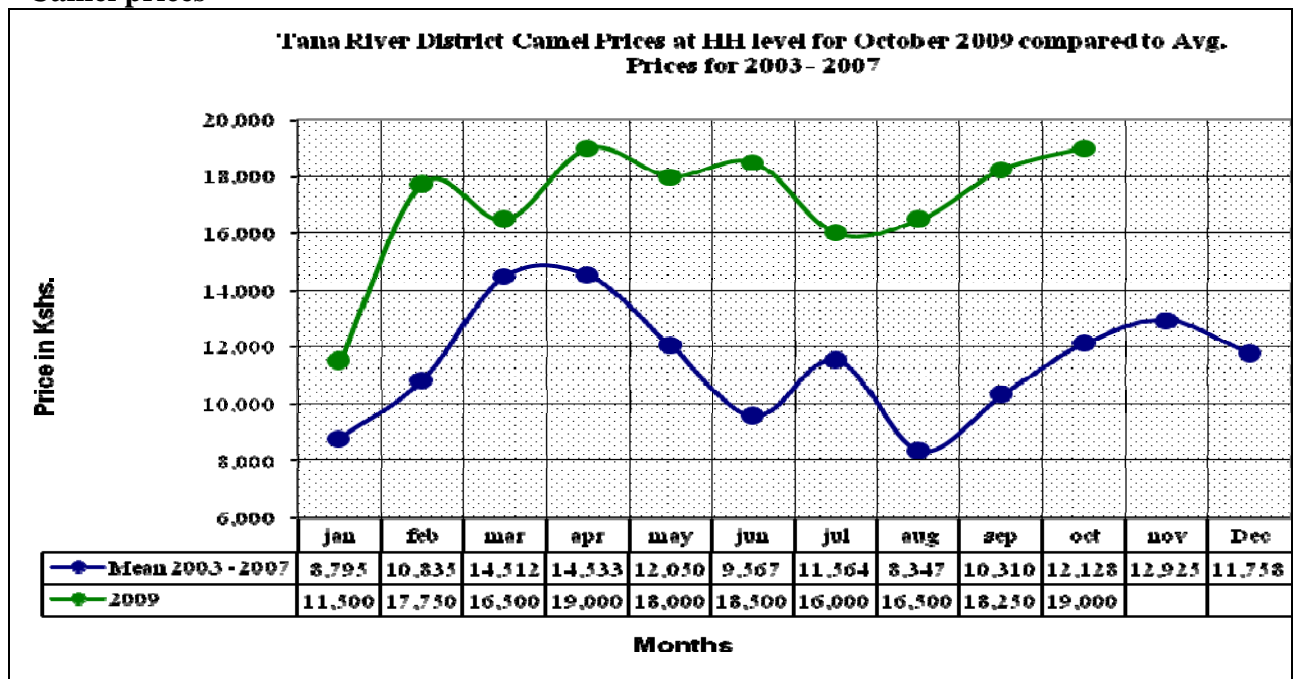
3.1.3 Sheep prices



n = 450

- During the month the price of sheep dropped to Ksh918 from Ksh1,002 last month.
- The price almost corresponded to the seasonal average prices of Ksh908 observed during the period 2003 – 2007. The prices are however expected to rise as the range conditions begin to be favourable.

3.1.3 Camel prices



n = 450

- The average price of camels rose to Ksh19,000 from Ksh18,250 last month.
- The price was above the long term seasonal average price of Ksh12,128 recorded during the period 2003 – 2007.

3.2 Livestock sales

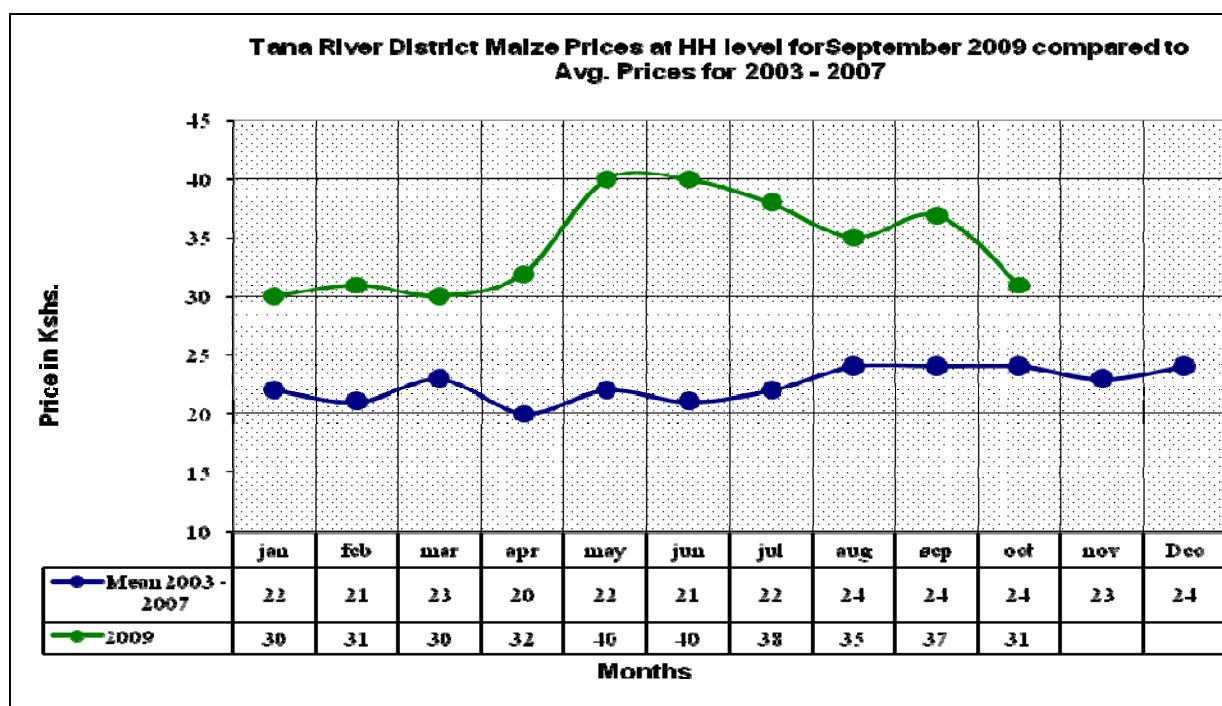
- During the month, sales rate of almost all livestock species rose except for cattle which realised a slight decline. This could be due to decline in sales in anticipation of the rains.

3.3 Milk consumption

- The milk consumption indicator recorded declining trends as during the month, the percentage of households reported to be affording milk dropped to 33% from last month's 37%.
- At the divisional level, Garsen still recorded the highest percentage of milk consumption. This could be due to high influx of livestock in the zone.

3.4 Crop prices

3.4.1 Maize prices



n = 450

- The price of maize dropped slightly during the month to Ksh31 from Ksh37 last month. The price was still higher than the seasonal average price of Ksh24 recorded during the period 2003 – 2007.

3.5 Income

3.5.1 Crop income

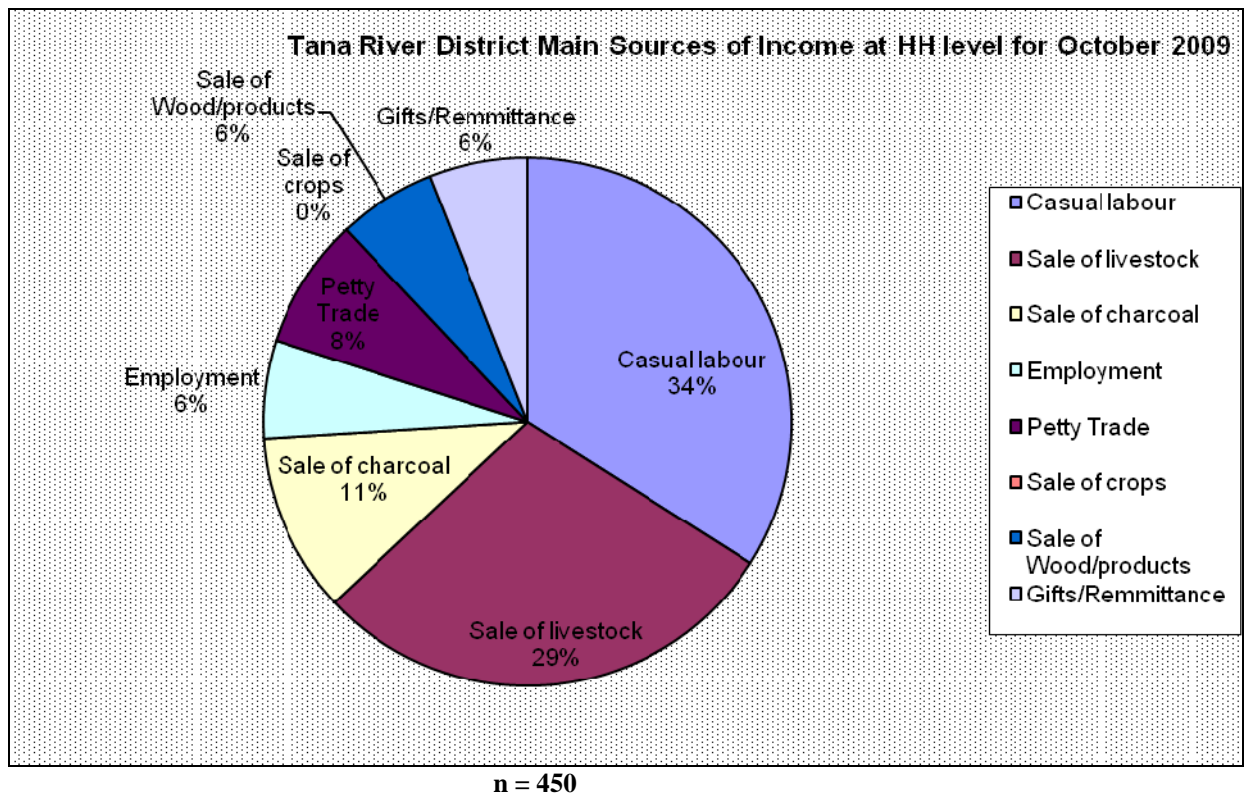
- During the month, income from crops was negligible. This could be due to low harvests realised during the short rains harvest and poor agricultural activities during the drought spell.

3.5.2 Livestock income

- Incomes derived from the sale of livestock rose to 29% from 22% of last month. This is could be due to rise in prices and sales rate earlier reported.

3.5.3 Other income

- Other sources of income at the household level included; casual 34% from 33%, sale of charcoal 11%, petty trade 8%, wood/products 6% , Gifts/Remittances 6% and Wage/employment 6%.

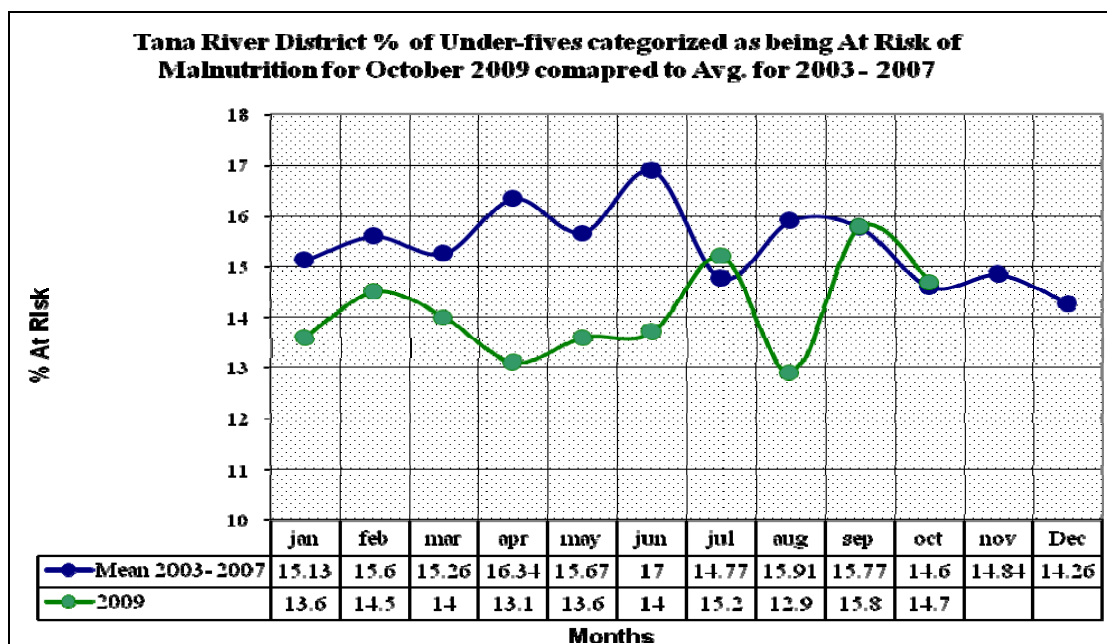


3.6 Implications on food security

- No positive impact is expected on the food security situation in the short run as the just ended drought and ongoing enhanced rains had multiple effects on the livelihoods.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



n = 2,242

- There was a general improvement in the child nutrition status based on the MUAC<135mm measurement.
- The percentage of children rated at risk of malnutrition dropped to 14.7% during the month from 15.8% of last reporting period.
- The rates almost corresponded with the long term seasonal mean of 15.7% observed during the period 2003 – 2007.
- Flagged areas with higher rates include; Galole with 20.1%, Bura 19% and Bangale 18.9 %.
- High malnutrition rates in the flagged areas could be due to poor sanitation, feeding practises and food insecurity.

4.2 Human health

- During the month, malaria related diseases and diarrhoea were the most common diseases reported.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non-food interventions

- Food production in the dry land areas by use of water harvesting technology.
- Support food production by capacity building and provision of pumps to farming groups.
- Desilting of Koticha and Bangale dam as preparedness mechanism.
- Interventions under the Economic Stimulus Program including;
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- Emergency livestock off-take –137 heads of cattle were delivered to KMC out of the 300 allocated for Tana Delta.
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- Support communities to recover from the effects of the drought through capacity building and funding of micro projects.
- Support peace committees to carry out peace building meetings.

5.2 Food aid

- School feeding program in all primary schools.
- Supplementary and therapeutic feeding program for children aged 6 – 59 months, pregnant and lactating mothers ongoing in health institutions
- EMOP/PRRO – after the long rains assessment, beneficiary population was increased to 104,722 from 73,960 people both in Tana River and Tana Delta districts.
- Food aid by the GOK kitty.

5.3 Coping strategies

The main coping strategies engaged during the month remained,

- Migration to wet season grazing areas and higher grounds
- Charcoal burning and forest products
- Remittances and gifts
- Petty trade.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Continue with food aid in terms of supplementary feeding, School Feeding and PRRO. **Action: KFSSG/District Steering Group/Partners/Communities**
- Enhance community support in terms of capacity building and micro projects to support livelihood resilience against negative natural occurrences. **Action: KFSSG/District Steering Group/Partners/Communities**
- Enhance security measures to curb rising incidences of highway banditry and measures of dealing with the human/wildlife conflicts. **Action: KWS/District Steering Group/Partners/Communities**