



## **Situation overview**

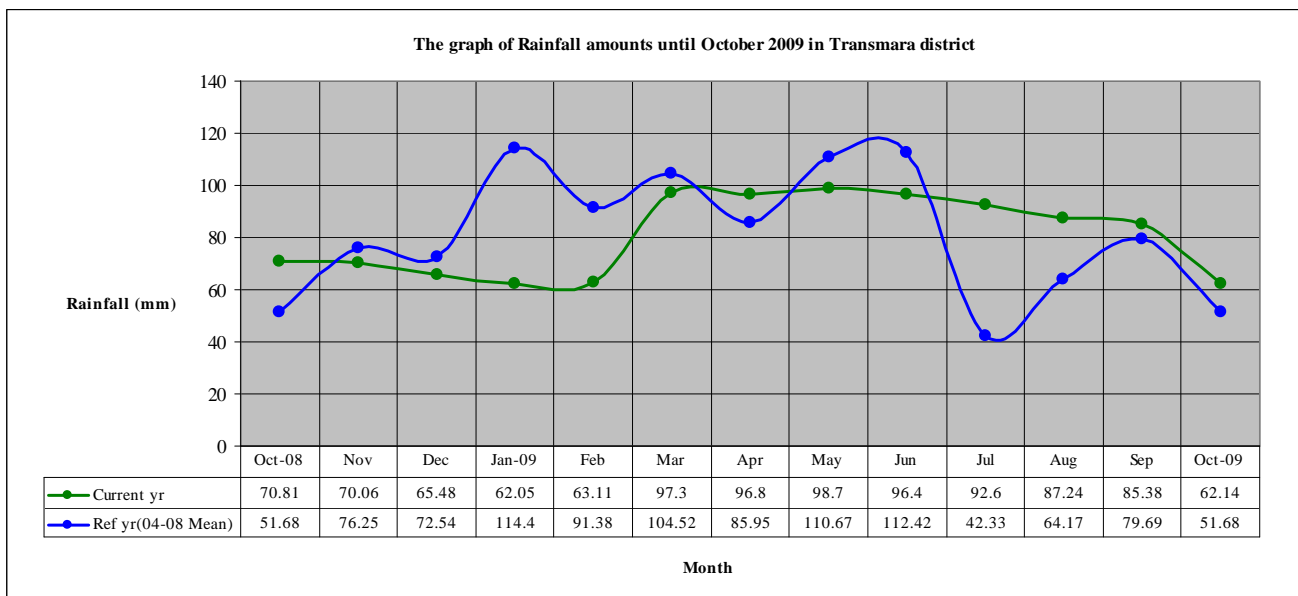
- The district recorded 4 rainy days, similar to the previous month. The average rainfall amount was 62.14mm, a decrease from 85.38mm during the previous month. The rainfall was not well spread in time and space.
- Pasture quantity and quality were low, especially in pastoral zone, leading to poor and declining livestock body condition. Livestock markets were flooded since many people wanted to sell their animals because of drought and lack of pasture. This made prices to decrease.
- The water situation was declining and milk production decreasing. Milk was however available for children in Mixed farming livelihood zones but less than the previous month.
- Maize in Mixed farming livelihood zones was at post harvest; nevertheless, poor yields had been realized. Maize was at post harvest and prices had started increasing. Harvests were poor and not as expected. Beans price increased and the commodity was barely available in markets.
- The nutrition status of children under five deteriorated, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition rising marginally to 4.3 from 4.2 in September. This was attributed to drought and subsequent milk scarcity.
- The general food situation in the district was fair but likely to worsen.

## **Recommendations to DSG and KFSM**

- More water projects need to be implemented in areas that face frequent water shortages and long distances to water sources during dry spells. Action: Water & ALRMP II.
- Sensitisation on post-harvest crop management to be done for farmers to minimize food wastage and improve storage/preservation. Action: MoA & ALRMP II.
- There is need to improve poor road condition as well as security access bridges and drifts in conflict areas. Action: Public Works, ALRMP II & CDF.

## 1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

### 1.1 Rainfall



#### Rainfall data from Kilgoris rainfall station

- The rainfall amount was 62.14mm, a decrease from 85.38mm during the previous month.
- The trend was downward, against the expected during such times of the year (short rains).
- Rainfall amount was higher than normal for such a month of the year. Water levels continued reducing. The rainfall has been on-going but with breaks of dry spells.
- The district had about 4 rainy days averagely, similar to the previous two months. Mixed farming livelihoods maintained 20% rainfall coverage, as the previous months. Pastoral, Agro-pastoral and Casual waged labour/ tourism livelihoods received an average of about 10% coverage, similar to the previous month.
- This spatial distribution was below normal for such a time of the year, where it is usually expected that a greater percentage of the district receives rainfall as the short rains are awaited.

### 1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- The quality of vegetation/pasture was still fair but deteriorating, same trend as last month.
- The quality of the vegetation in the pastoral livelihood zones was lower compared to that of the previous months. These areas (Kirindon and Lolgorian divisions) were affected by significant rain scarcity than the rest.
- The quantity of pasture was low compared to the previous month. This was less than that of the same month for a normal year.
- The vegetation quantity in Mixed farming livelihood zones was better than that of other livelihoods.

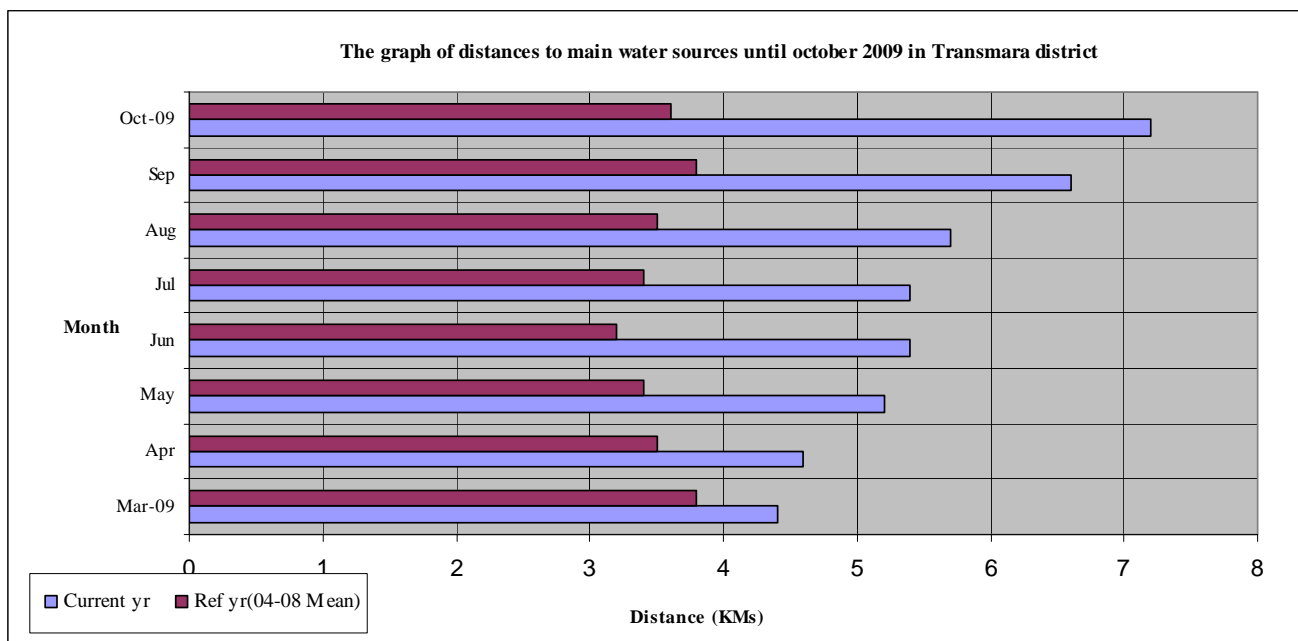
#### 1.2.1 Distance to grazing areas

- The average distance from livestock concentration points to main grazing areas in the district was 5 Kms. This was above normal (3.38kms) and was as a result of inadequate rains in the area. The situation is similar to the previous months and worsening with time.

### 1.3 Water sources and availability

- Rivers, pans and dams were main sources of water for both people and livestock.
- The sources were characterised by overpopulation of users. Other sources dried up due to low rainfall amounts received over an extended period of time. The water situation was worse in all livelihoods. The situation has persisted for long.

### 1.3.1 Household and livestock access to water



- The average distance (in kms) to main water sources (range) increased from the previous 6 and 7, to 7 and 8. The trend was upward due to the drought situation.
- This distance was higher compared to that of the same month (3 to 4) for the long term average for such a time of the year.

## 1.4 Emerging issues

### 1.4.1 Insecurity/conflict/human displacement

- Incidences of insecurity prevailed in the district over several months and during the month as well. There were intra-tribal conflicts over land disputes at Shartuka in Pirrar division. The situation was being managed as serious conflict resolution workshop followed, by the District Peace Committee.

### 1.5 Implications on food security

- The low and decreasing rainfall amount reduced water and pasture availability. Milk levels went down. Livelihoods are being affected by decreased milk levels in their households.

## 2.0 Rural indicators (food availability)

### 2.1 Livestock production

#### 2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- The body condition of cattle, sheep and goats was poor and deteriorating, unlike the previous months where it was fair. The condition of livestock in pastoral zones was worse than in other areas and livestock was being sustained by little pasture.

### 2.1.2 Livestock health

- There were no alarming cases of livestock disease incidences. The vaccination against Rift Valley Fever (RVF) was on in anticipations of El Niño.

### 2.1.3 Milk production

- The average milk production per household was low, less than the previous month. This was because of the low water and pasture levels. Livestock moved for long distances in search of water.
- The quantity of milk production was less than normal for the time of the year.
- Mixed farming livelihoods had higher milk production per animal than pastoral areas.

## 2.2 Crop production

### 2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of various crop production activities

- This was a post harvest period and some households were preparing their farms for planting. The harvests were poor compared to the normal ones.

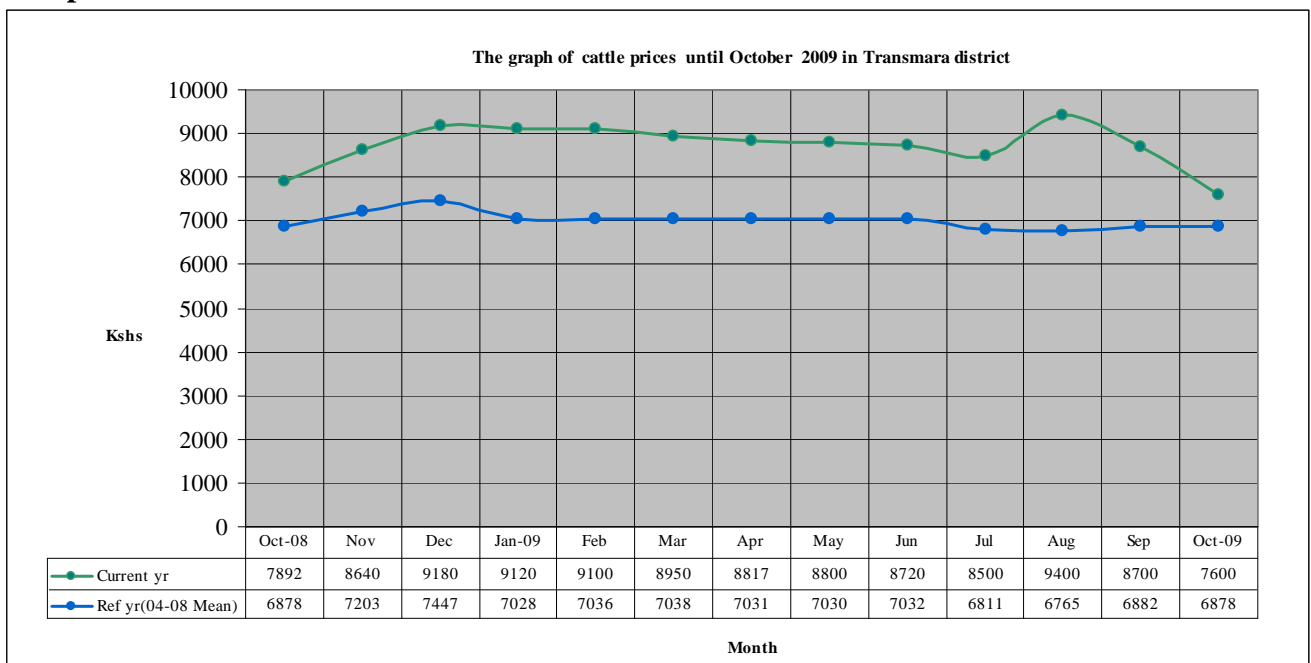
### 2.2.2 Implications on food security

- The district realised poor yields this year that may not last for long, threatening food security.

## 3.0 Access to food

### 3.1 Livestock marketing

#### 3.1.1 Cattle prices

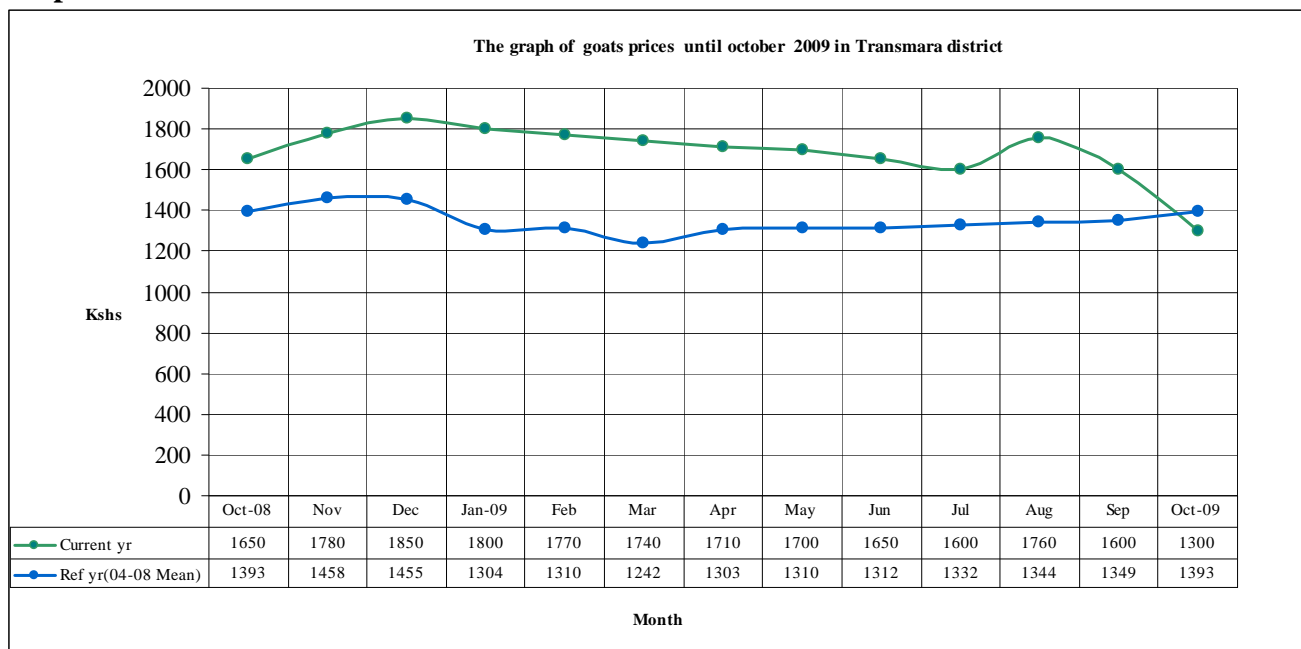


**n=330**

- The average price of cattle was Ksh7,600, compared to Ksh8,700 the previous month. The decrease was because of the prevailing drought, which led to deteriorating livestock body conditions. Many people were disposing their animals in fear of extended drought, making markets to flood and prices to decrease.

- The average cattle prices were still higher than normal for such a time of the year.

### 3.1.2 Goats prices



**n=330**

- The average price of a goat decreased from Ksh1,600 to Ksh1,300. Prices decreased because of drought, which made pasture limited and body conditions poor.
- The downward trend might persist but is expected to reverse after a few months on resumption of rains. The price of goats was lower than normal (Ksh1,393) for such a time of the year.

### 3.2 Milk consumption

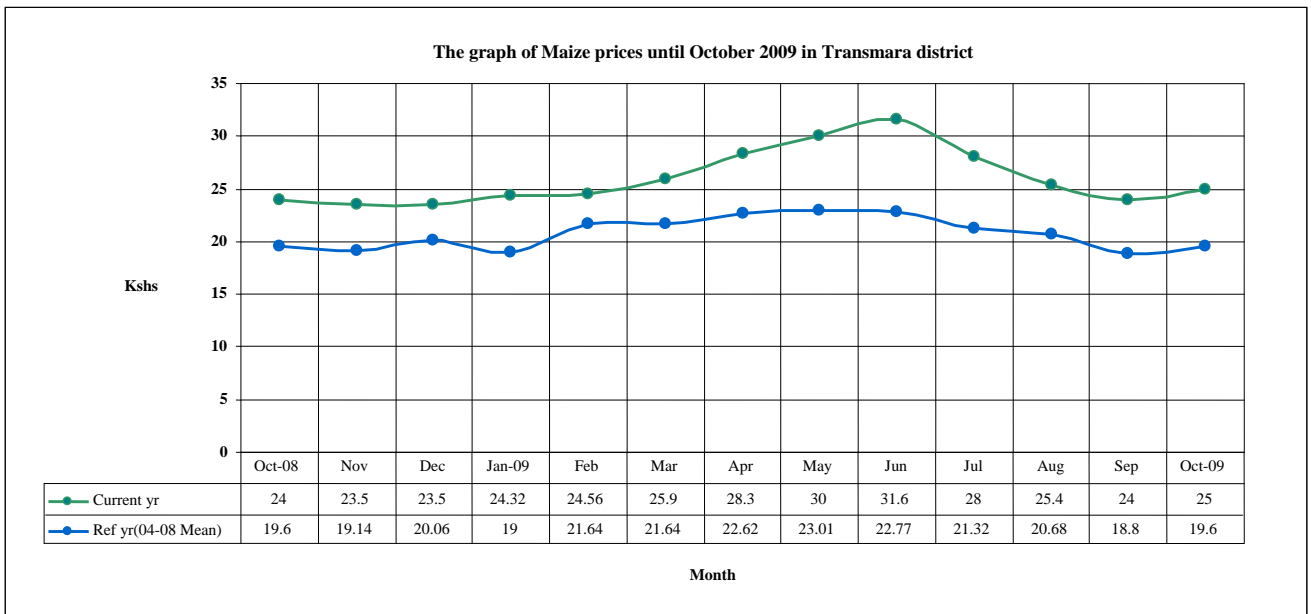
**Milk consumption in Transmara district in October 2009**

	2008			2009									2009
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
<b>Everyone</b>	18.2 4	18.1 5	18.1 1	18.0 5	18.0 1	17.9 4	17.60	17.4 8	17.20	17.2 0	17.0 8	16.0 0	14.0 0
<b>Only children</b>	35.8 3	36.4 4	36.5 2	36.8 3	36.9 2	36.9 7	37.20	37.5 0	37.80	37.8 3	37.9 6	40.0 0	42.0 0
<b>None</b>	4.33	4.38	4.43	4.55	4.61	4.68	4.88	5.20	5.44	5.43	5.52	6.50	7.50

- Milk availability decreased during the month and significantly affected accessibility of household members. The trend of milk consumption-pattern was downward, similar to previous months. This situation had a negative impact on food security and was attributed to the drought situation in the district.

### 3.3 Crop prices

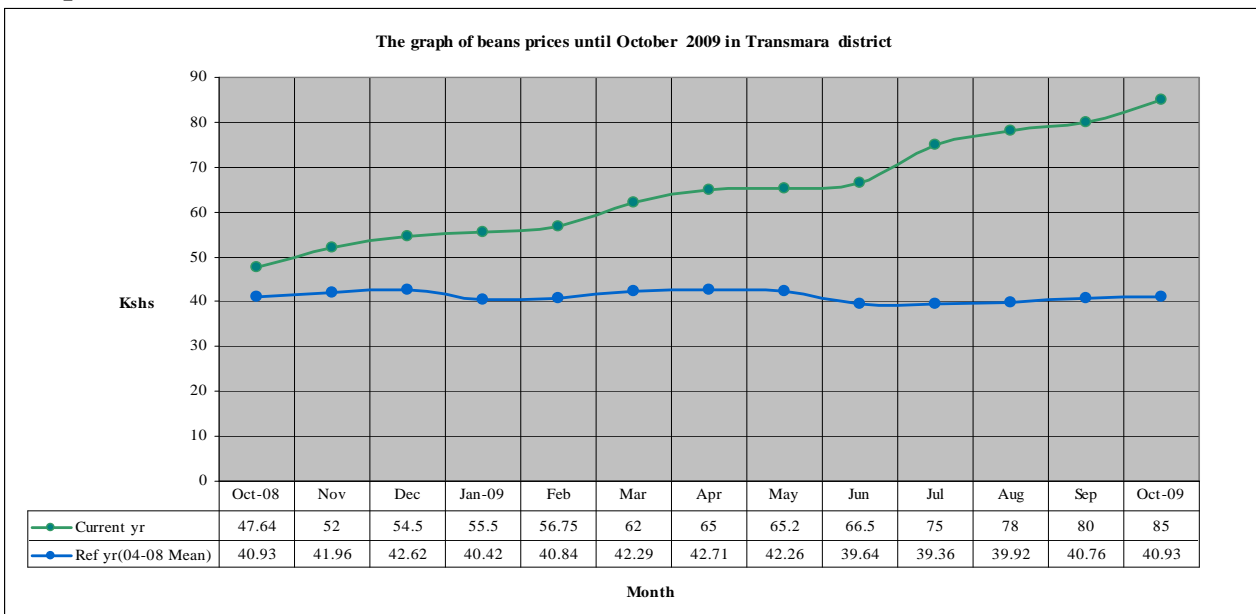
#### 3.3.1 Maize prices



**n=330**

- The average price of maize increased from Ksh24 per kilo to Ksh25. Prices increased because of the high rate of cereal demand, despite the recently ended harvesting season.
- The trend is expected to continue since maize is becoming scarce. The price was above that of the long term mean for the month.

### 3.3.2 Beans prices



**n=330**

- The average price of beans increased from Ksh80 to Ksh 85 per kilo. The scarcity of beans in markets. The trend is expected to continue as the harvest of beans is still not expected soon.
- This is considered normal for such a time of the year.

### 3.4 Income

### 3.4.1 Crop income

Income from crops was not significant since there were no sales from households/farms.

### 3.4.2 Livestock income

- During the month, income from livestock sales was less than for the previous month.
- Livestock prices were low in all livelihoods because of drought. The trend was not normal and impacted negatively on food security.

### 3.5 Other income

- Households pursued income sources from other activities such as charcoal burning and casual wages. Efforts to reduce charcoal burning and forest destruction were on. The situation was getting tough for many households, especially from the casual waged livelihoods.

### 3.5 Terms of trade (Cereal: Meat Price Ratio)

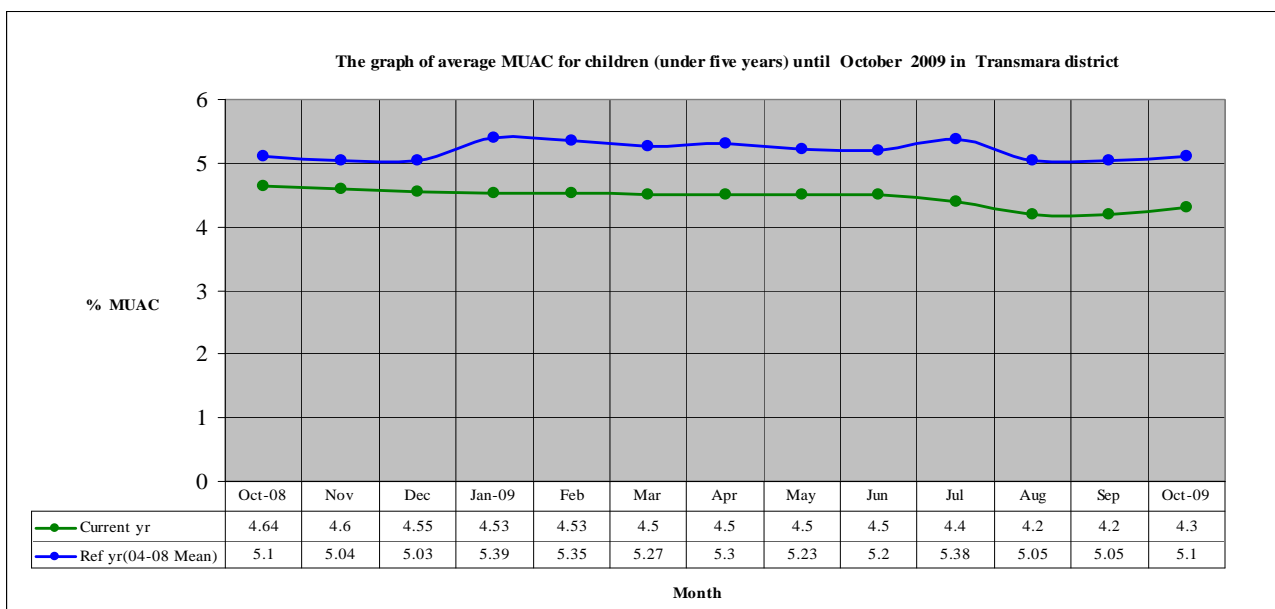
**Cereal: Meat Price Ratio in Transmara district in October 2009**

Oct 08	Nov	Dec	Jan 09	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct 09
106.34	106.25	106.18	106.22	106.26	106.38	106.45	106.53	106.85	106.70	106.50	106.50	106.70

- The cereal/meat price ratio increased from 106.50 to 107.00. This was because the price of cereals went up whereas that of livestock dropped. This had a negative implication on food security as there was difficulty in accessing food than before. The situation might continue as maize prices keep on increasing.

## 4.0 Human welfare indicators (utilisation of food)

### 4.1 Nutrition status



n=985

- The nutrition status of children under five deteriorated, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition rising marginally to 4.3 from 4.2 in September. This was attributed to drought and subsequent milk scarcity.
- The situation might continue worsening if the drought situation persists.

## **5.0 Current interventions**

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

- Peace meetings were ongoing, with the intention of attaining a lasting solution. The district peace committee was actively working. The District Security Team and ALRMP II were revising approaches on more peace sessions and meetings in the district.

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

- More water projects need to be implemented in areas that face frequent water shortages and long distances to water sources during dry spells. Action: Water & ALRMP II.
- Sensitisation on post-harvest crop management to be done for farmers to minimize food wastage and improve storage/preservation. Action: MoA & ALRMP II.
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