



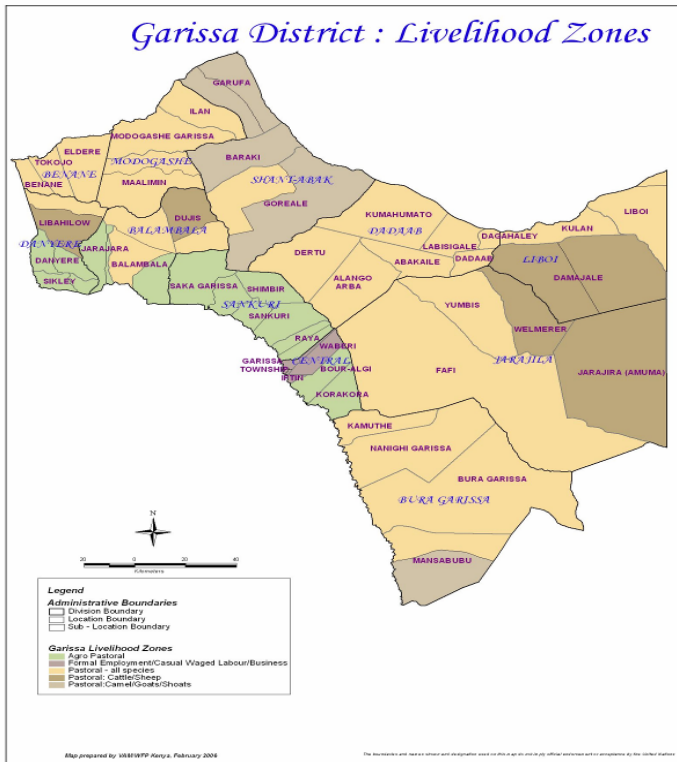
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

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

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, SEPTEMBER 2009

Garissa District

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral-Cattle/Sheep.	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral- all species	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral: Camels and Goats	Alarm	Worsening
District	Alarm	Worsening

Seasonal Calendar



<p>Dry period (Jilal) consisting of January, February, & March. Temperatures are high; activities carried out include,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • migration of livestock for pasture & water search, • Herd separation • Livestock marketing • Pressure on boreholes • Conflicts 	<p>Long rainy season (Guu), starts late March and continues in, April and May. Activities carried are-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection & breeding of livestock • weeding ceremonies • weaving • male circumcision • restocking of livestock • planting for rain fed crops • deworming of livestock 	<p>Dry and cold period (Hagaa) in the months of June, July, August, Sept. and mid October. The activities performed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High rate of livestock and household migration • High labour demand • Destocking /culling • Surveillance for pasture /browse • Caravan water trekking 	<p>Short rainy season (deer) of Oct, Nov and December. Activities for this period are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restocking of livestock. • Breed improvement • Planting for rain fed crops • Crafts and weaving • Calving and kidding period
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Situation overview

- The district did not record any rainfall during the month. The month moved towards the end the dry period, which is normal for the time of year but was worsened by the failure of long rains (March-May).
- The quality and quantity of forage for livestock was diminishing, leading to poor growth and development and livestock deficiency diseases due to lack of essential minerals and vitamins.
- The main water sources available to the pastoralists in the district were boreholes, River Tana and the Benane springs.
- Water accessibility for households continued to diminish. The estimated distances between the water sources and the households was over 40km, giving a hard time to the beasts of burden (camels and donkeys) used by pastoralists. This resulting in some households resorting to depend on water trucking from line department and other stakeholders.
- Livestock accessibility to water worsened, with livestock trekking for more than 45 km before reaching any water source, thus livestock owners continued to water the weak and young stock at household level. There was no livestock migration reported during the month but livestock was concentrated on the eastern side of the district.
- The body condition of livestock continued to worsen, with some cases of deaths reported, especially in cattle and sheep.
- Cases of multiple infections in the small stock (sheep and goats) were reported and this was suspected to be contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP), PPR and helminthiasis plus deficiencies of minerals and vitamins.
- No cases of conflict/human displacement / insecurity were reported in the course of the month under review.
- Milk production in the district was on decline compared with the preceding month. This was exacerbated by loss of livestock body condition and poor quality and quantity of pasture/browse.
- Cattle prices were stable price compared with preceding month. This was, however, below the long term average price. Cattle traded at Ksh6,500 in August and Ksh6,500 in September. The prices of goats continued to decline when compared with the preceding month. It was Ksh1,211 in August and Ksh1,200 in September.
- Sheep prices continued to show a declining trend when compared with the preceding month. This was due to their susceptibility, coupled with depleted pasture and disease incidences. Sheep traded at Ksh850 in August and Ksh835 in September.
- The nutrition status of children below five years remained constant but was above the long term mean. The percentage of children rated at risk of malnutrition was 13.4%.

Current interventions

Non food interventions

- Livestock of- take programme by Ministry of Livestock Development was carried out. The livestock were bought by Kenya Meat Commission.
- Community mobilisation for destocking programme on smallstock was carried out by VSF Belgium.

- Provision of fuel subsidy to boreholes continued during the month.
- Repair, servicing and procurement of livestock boreholes equipment continued throughout the month.
- Water trucking continued in centres with water shortage.
- Disease surveillance, vaccination and livestock treatment continued throughout the month supported by ALRMP.
- Njaa marufuku Kenya project and national agriculture and livestock extension programme by Ministry of Agriculture continued to be implemented in the district.
- Mobile outreach services were carried out by the Ministry of Health.

Food aid

- EMOP relief food distribution covers a population of 106,000 beneficiaries.
- School feeding programme provided by W.F.P targeting 42,069 children continued during the month.
- Supplementary feeding targeting 10,200 children under five, pregnant and lactating mother continued.
- GOK relief food was distributed throughout the district (Greater Garissa).
- Livestock feeds (hay) were distributed during the month.

Recommendations DSG and KFSM

- Increase food aid as more pastoralists dropped out of the system.
- Provide and support borehole repair, servicing and maintenance to enhance water supply.
- Support the rapid response teams to attend to any emergencies.
- Provide stand-by generating sets and repair old sets.
- Support water trucking to centres that had acute water scarcity.
- Initiate livestock destocking programme to safeguard the economic life line of the pastoralist.
- Continue to capacity build pastoral communities on peace building and conflict resolution.
- Provide livestock feeds and supplementary to the worst affected areas.
- Support small-scale farms along River Tana in terms with farm inputs and value addition activities.
- Set up contingency fund across the departments in a coordinated structure before the anticipated floods.
- Support the veterinary investigation laboratories on disease surveillance before the anticipated El nino rains.
- Continue to finance micro-projects for youth, women groups and communities in the urban and pastoral zones respectively.
- Mobilise and sensitise communities on diversification of livelihoods.
- Continue to provide mobile outreach services for centre with no health facilities.
- Increase supplementary feeding to counter the increasing malnutrition rates.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- There was no rainfall realised during the month. The month moved towards the end of the dry period and is normal for this period of year, but has been worsened by the failure of long rains (March-May).
- Temperatures increased relatively when compared to the previous month, however it was in the normal range.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- The quality and quantity of pasture and browse declined considerably with hardly any pasture and browse available for the livestock in almost all parts of the district. The worst affected areas include areas around the boreholes which are completely devoid of any vegetation.
- This consequently resulted in poor livestock growth and development and deficiency diseases of livestock due to lack of essential minerals and vitamins were noted.

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Use of water sources

- The main water sources available to the pastoralists in the district were boreholes, River Tana and the Benane springs. This led to continued congestion of livestock in borehole sites along the eastern part of the district (Liboi division), creating water scarcity. The livelihood of the pastoralists was in danger due to water scarcity.

1.3.2 Household accessibility to water

- Water accessibility for households continued to diminish when compared with the preceding month.
- The distances covered by pastoralists continued to increase, with the estimated distances between the water sources and the households standing at over 40km and giving a hard time to the beast of burden (camels and donkeys). This led to some households resorting to depend on water tankering from line departments and other stakeholders.
- The waiting time at the boreholes also increased considerably from 3 hours to 5 hours due to heavy congestion around the borehole.

1.3.3 Livestock accessibility to water

- Livestock access to water worsened when compared with the preceding month. Increasing livestock grazing distances due to diminishing forages increased the water trekking distances.
- Livestock trekked for more than 45 km before reaching any water source, thus livestock owners continued to water the weak and young stock at household level.
- The waiting time for watering livestock at boreholes was on the increase with the time ranging between 8 to 12 hours.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity/Conflict/ Human displacement

- No conflict over natural resource utilisation and human displacement was reported in the course of the month under review.
- However, the security situation remained tense along the Kenya/Somalia border and security surveillance was high.

1.4.2 Migration

- There was no livestock migration reported during the month. However, livestock was concentrated on the eastern side of the district. The high livestock population created pressure, resulting in water shortages and increased time taken at the watering points and also creating environmental degradation due to livestock exceeding the carrying capacity of the land.

1.4.3 Implications on food security

- Reducing water availability, increasing distances and time taken to water stock, high cost of fuel for boreholes and depleted pasture/browse led to deteriorating livestock body condition. This had negative implications on food security in the greater Garissa district.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- The body condition of livestock continued to worsen, with increased cases of death reported especially among grazers when compared with the preceding month. This was due to depleted forage and the resultant lack of minerals and vitamins and trekking of long distances for water.
- The worsening situation led to weaker livestock body condition which led to inability of some livestock to reach water sources and grazing areas, calling for zero grazing for those pastoralists with capacity.

2.1.2 Livestock health

- There were reported cases of multiple infections in the small stock (sheep and goats) and this was suspected to be contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP), PPR and helminthiasis plus deficiencies of minerals and vitamins. The most affected areas of the district were Modogashe and Shanta Abak divisions.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk production in the entire district was on decline compared with the preceding month. This was exacerbated by loss of livestock body condition, poor quality and quantity of pasture/browse.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and status of various crop production activities

- Irrigation farming was practiced along River Tana and the main crops grown under this system of production were bananas, pawpaws, melon, lemons, onions and tomatoes.

- Irrigation farming was constrained by lack of good market prices, high fuel costs and high cost of farm inputs.

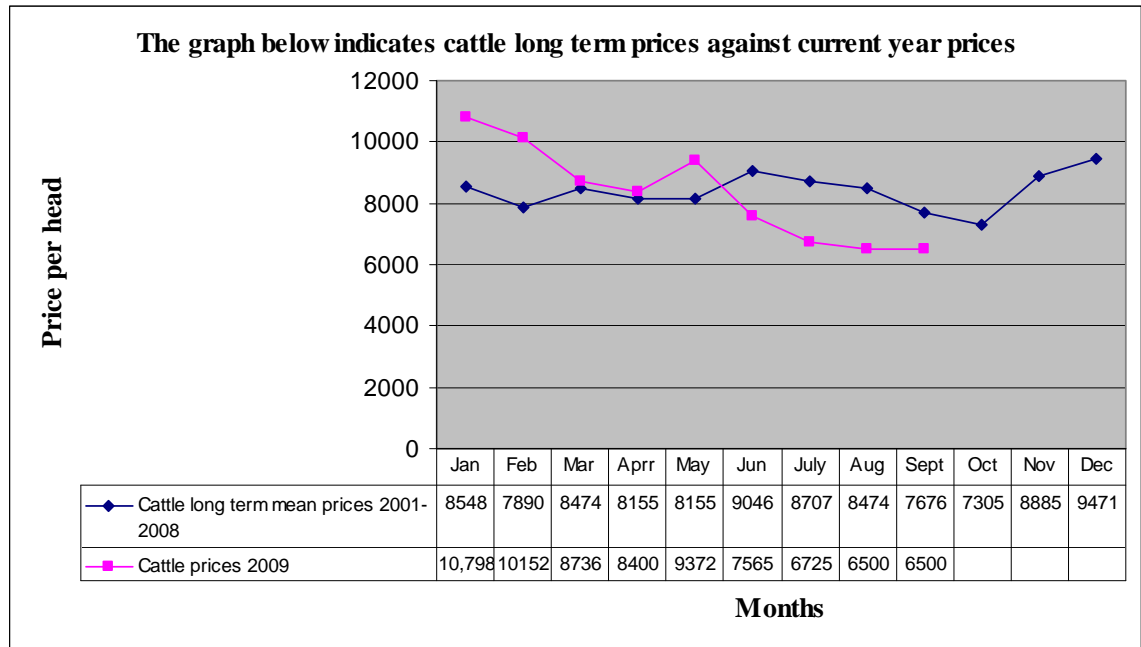
2.2.2 Pests and crop diseases

- No crop pests or diseases were reported in the course of the month under review.

3.0 Access to food

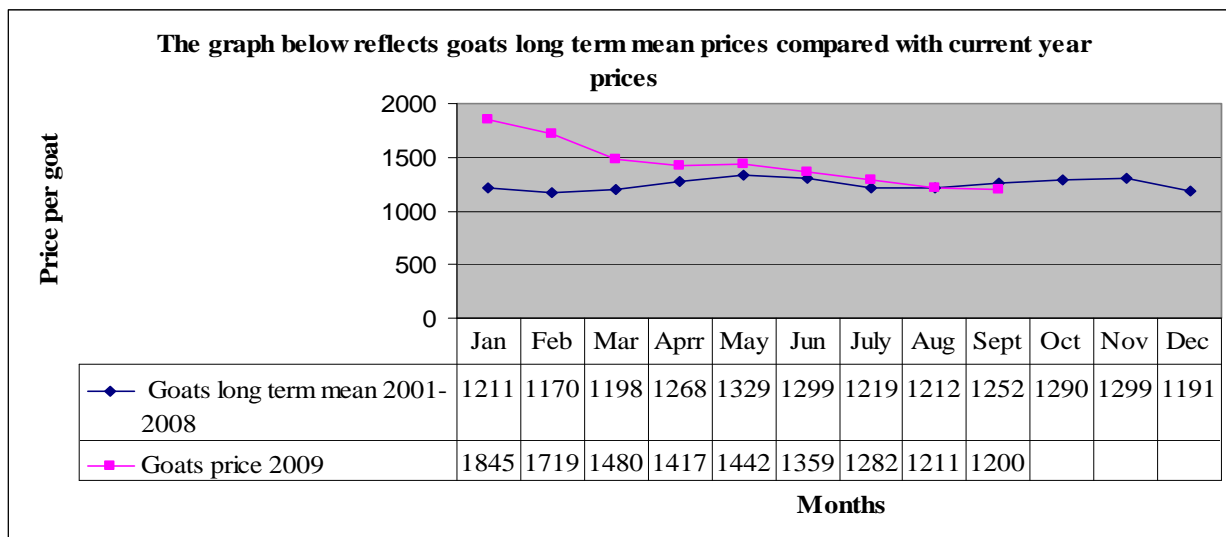
3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices



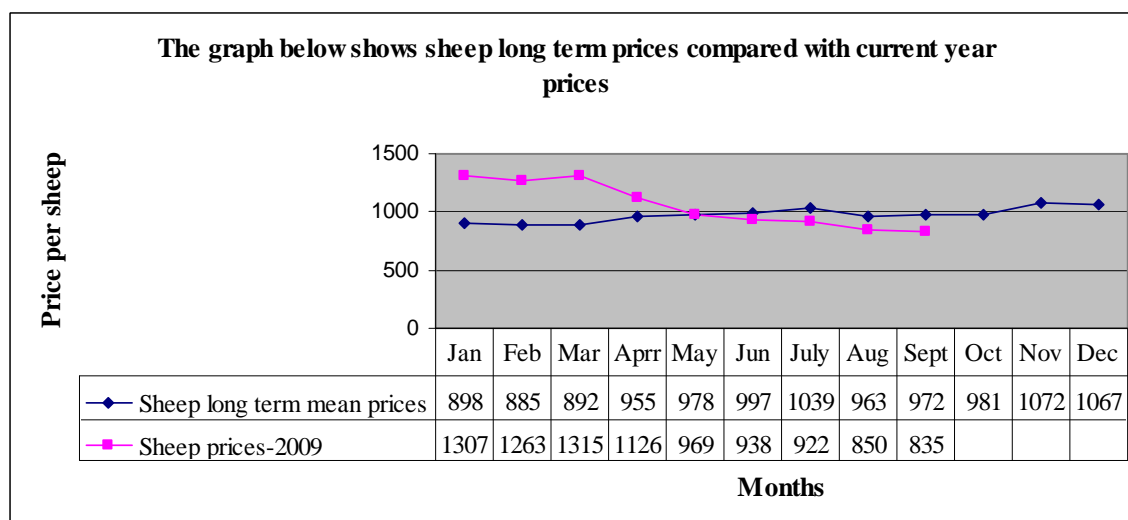
- Cattle prices were stable at Ksh6,500, same as the previous month. This was, however, below the long term average price and was attributed to the prevailing drought, leading to poor cattle body condition and reduced demand due to economic crisis affecting most livestock business.

3.1.2 Goats prices



- The prices of goats continued to decline when compared with the preceding month. The average price was Ksh1,211 in August and Ksh1,200 in September. This was mainly attributed to the poor body condition, lack of readily available markets and reduced consumption rate of end products.

3.1.3 Sheep prices



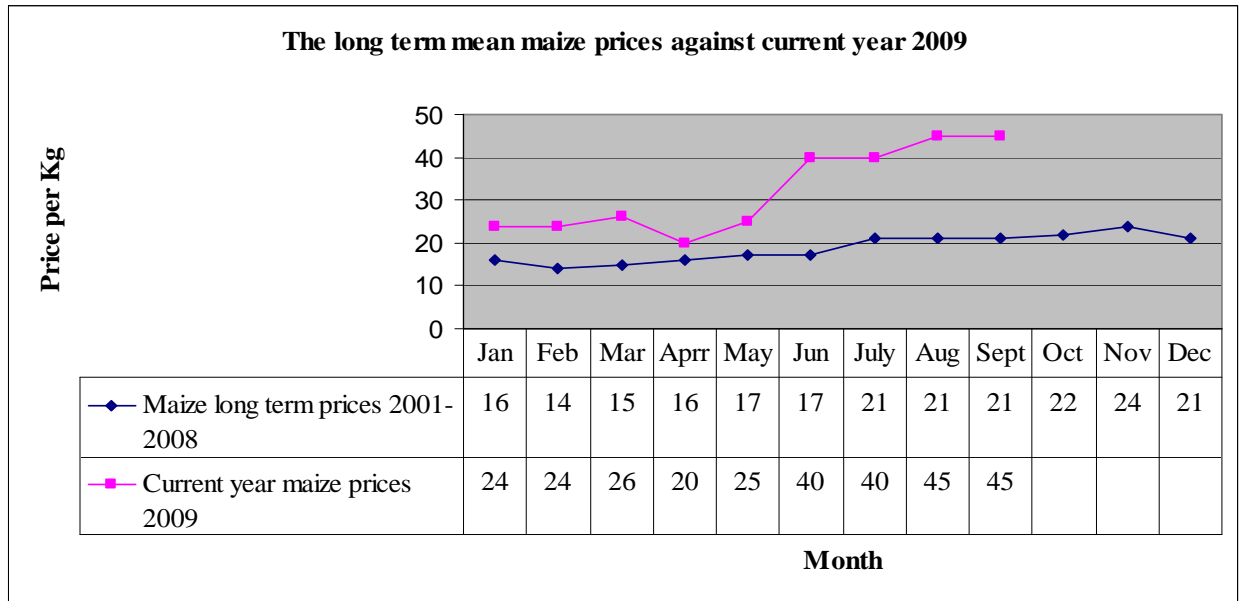
- Sheep prices continued to show a declining trend when compared with the preceding month. This was due to their susceptible nature to depleted pasture and disease incidence. Sheep traded at Ksh850 in August and Ksh835 in September.

3.2 Livestock sales

- The livestock sales rate decreased when compared with the preceding month. This was due to reducing livestock prices, lack of ready market for livestock. Families were faced with the task of purchasing food on credit and in exchange with livestock.

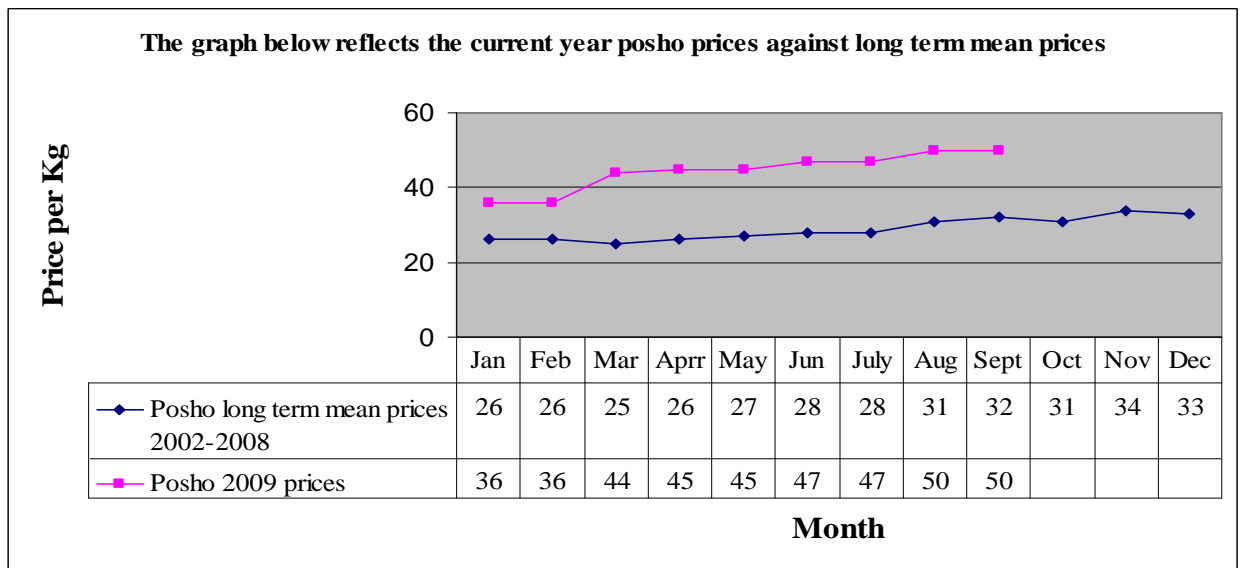
3.2.1 Purchase price of food commodities

3.2.2 Maize price



- Maize prices remained stable when compared with the preceding month. The price was Ksh45 per kilo, same as in August. However, this is above the long term mean prices.
- This was due to acute shortages of maize at household level.

3.2.3 Posho (locally milled maize meal) prices



- The prices of posho and jogoo which are both end products of maize, remained stable when compared with the previous month but were above the long term mean. This

was attributed to the price of parent product (maize) which was Ksh45 in August and Ksh 45 in September. . The increase in price of essential food commodities and decrease in livestock prices has an impact on the purchasing powers of households.

3.2.4 Purchase of other food commodities

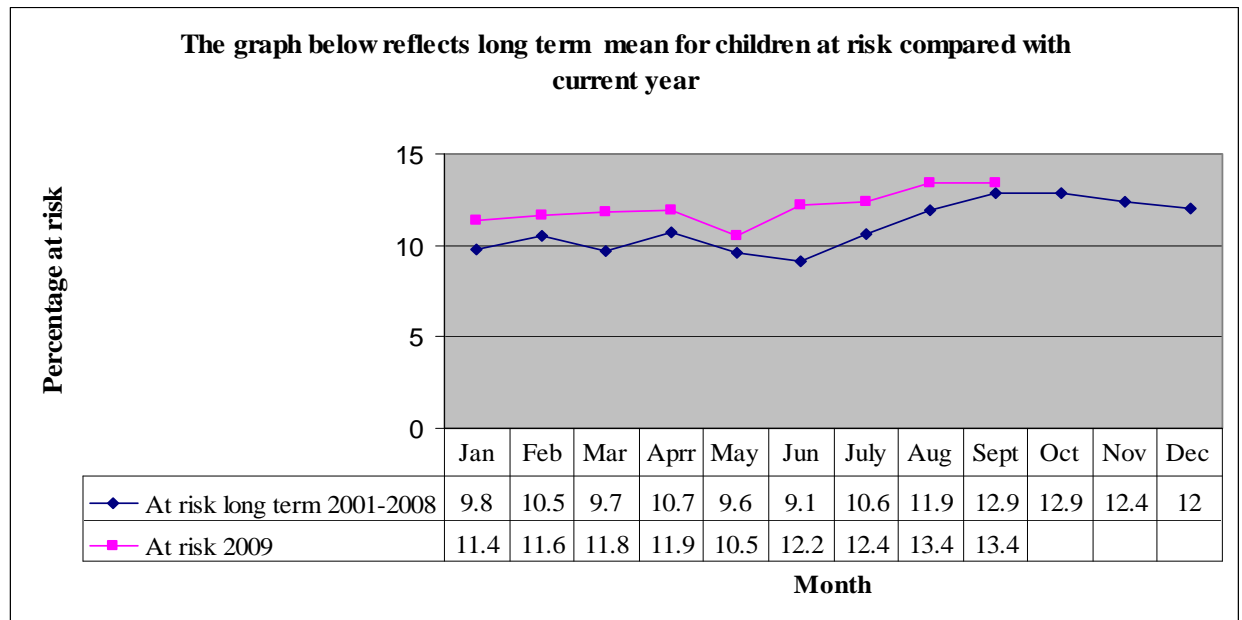
- The prices of other essential food products remained the same when compared to the preceding. However, the price was above the normal and was due to inflation of food commodities in the country.

3.2.5 Implications on food security

- High food price (cereal and other food items), declining livestock prices, livestock disease incidences and reduced livestock products in the district reflects a negative food security implications.

4.0 Human welfare indicators

4.1 Nutrition status



Number of children=1386

- The nutrition status of children below five years remained constant but was above the long term mean. The percentage of children rated at risk of malnutrition was 13.4%.
- The high rates were attributed to decline in livestock products (milk), which is the basis of nutrition for pastoralist children, coupled with low availability and accessibility of essential food commodities.

4.2 Human health

- There were suspected and reported cases of malaria and respiratory tract infections in areas with a lot of dust.

4.3 Flagged areas

- There were no flagged areas but due to continuous malnutrition and poor sanitation in the pastoral setup, some diseases may arise and cause damage to the population.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non-food interventions

- Repair, servicing and procurement of livestock borehole equipment continued throughout the month.
- Water trucking continued in centres with acute water shortage.
- Disease surveillance, vaccination and livestock treatment continued throughout the month supported by ALRMP.
- Njaa marufuku Kenya project and national agriculture and livestock extension programme by Ministry of Agriculture continued to be implemented in the district.
- Mobile outreach services were carried out by the Ministry of Health.
- Capacity building and funding of community micro project continued throughout the month
- Community mobilisation for destocking programme on smallstock was carried out by VSF Belgium.
- Livestock of- take programme by Ministry of Livestock was carried out. The livestock were purchased by the Kenya Meat Commission.

5.2 Food aid

- EMOP relief food distribution covers a population of 106,400 beneficiaries.
- School feeding programme provided by W.F.P targeting 42,069 children continued during the month.
- Supplementary feeding targeting 10,200 children under five, pregnant and lactating mother continued.
- GOK relief food was distributed throughout the district(greater Garissa)
- A livestock feed (hay) was distributed during the month.

5.3 Coping strategies

- Practicing of petty trade has become an option to diversify livelihood.
- Reliance on remittances.
- Credit and borrowing continued to become popular.
- Households dropped pastoral and opted for sedentary settlement.

6.0 Recommendations DSG and KFSM

- Increase food aid as more pastoralists are dropping out of the system.
- Provide and support boreholes on repair, servicing and maintenance to enhance water supply.
- Support the rapid response teams to attend to any emergencies.
- Provide stand-by generating sets and repair old sets.
- Support water trucking to centers that have acute water scarcity.
- Initiate livestock destocking programme to safeguard the economic lifeline of the pastoralists.

- Continue to capacity build pastoral communities on peace-building and conflict resolution.
- Provide livestock feeds and supplementary to the worst affected areas.
- Support small-scale farms along River Tana in terms of farm inputs and value addition activities.
- Set up contingency fund across the departments in a coordinated structure before the anticipated floods.
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