

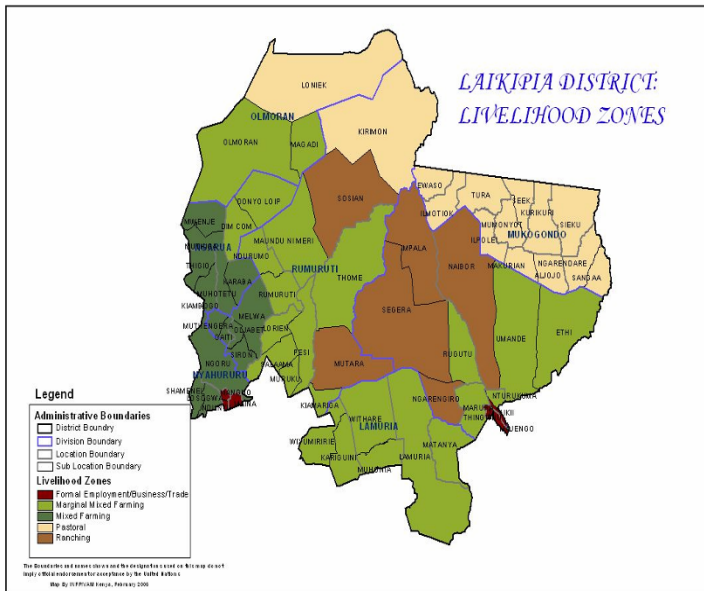


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**

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

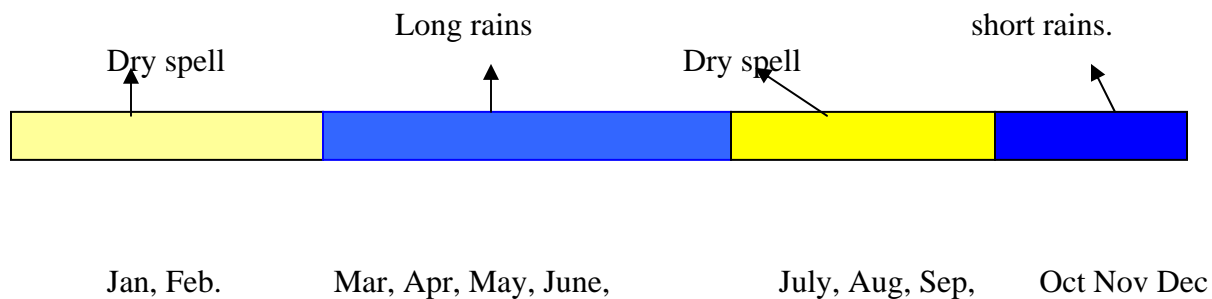
**DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN, SEPTEMBER 2009**

**Laikipia East, West and North Districts  
Warning Stages**



Livelihood Zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Pastoral All Species	Emergency	Worsening
Agro – Pastoral	Emergency	Worsening
Mixed Farming	Emergency	Worsening
Marginal Mixed Farming	Emergency	Worsening

**Seasonal Calendar**



### **Situation overview**

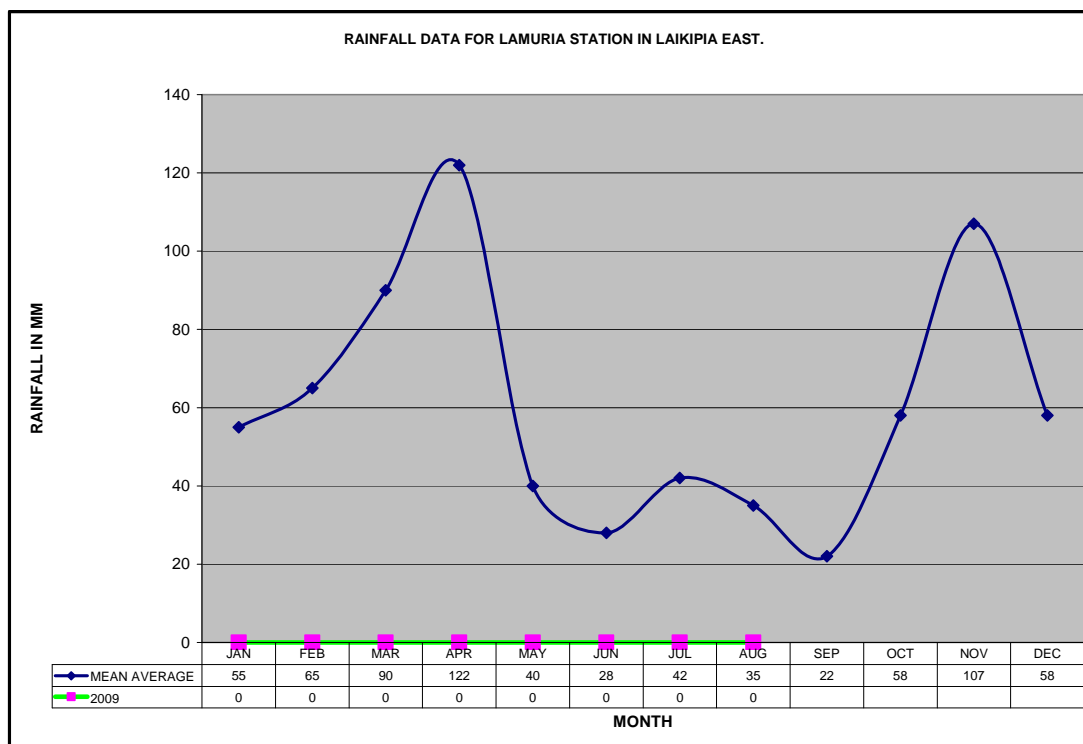
- Signs of rains started showing in all in the districts, with scattered showers reported in Laikipia central district and parts of Nyahururu district.
- All cattle moved to Mt Kenya from the pastoral and marginal zones. However, they were dying in hundreds on Mt Kenya due to disease and some farmers lost all their stock.
- Buffaloes released from ranches due to scarcity of pasture caused havoc in Mukogodo division and Rumuruti. It was reported that they killed one person in Endana in central division and injured several others.
- There were no crops in the rain-fed farms and farmers in Laikipia East were preparing their farms awaiting rains. The situation is expected to worsen as the expected rains are said to be heavy the current status of cattle is so bad that they might be wiped out by the rains.
- Following the announcement of the El-nino rains expected, the demand for cattle grew as people started rushing for the cheap cattle, hoping that they will fatten them in the coming rainy season and this raised the price of the animals slightly.
- Demand for livestock increase due to the Government off-take exercise and demand from brokers who transport them to Nairobi.
- The nutrition status of children below five years remained stable during the month under review. The percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition was 11%. The status did not improve due to the worsening drought status.

### **Recommendation to DSG and KFSM**

- The KWS to ensure that wildlife is controlled and the stray buffaloes are returned to their rightful conservancies as they pose a major threat to humans outside the conservancy.
- Ministry of Roads to be on the standby as the rains expected might disrupt the food distribution plans, especially in Mukogodo and Rumuruti division.
- Chiefs and sub-chiefs to be used to identify the areas not covered by EMOP as some areas such as Pesi and many others are not covered and yet there are needy people in the areas.
- Plans to restock the pastoralists immediately the rains start to be put in place.
- Plans to support the livestock on the mountain should be taken into consideration as the rains are expected to be very heavy and this might increase the death toll.

## 1.0 Environmental indicators

### 1.1 Rainfall



*Rainfall data provided by (EWASO NYIRO RIVER CATCHMENT AUTHORITY) from Matanya station in Lamuria division this data does not cover the entire district Matanya is an Agropastoralists zone but the situation is different in the rest of the livelihood zones.*

- Signs of rains started showing in all the districts and some scattered showers were experienced but did not have any impact on the pasture.
- The metrological department predicted heavy rains in October likely to be El-nino.

### 1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- There was no pasture in the fields in pastoral areas and the marginal agriculture zones. Livestock from these areas was on the Mt Kenya for pastures.

### 1.3 Water sources and availability

- Water was very scarce in all areas and Mukogodo, Lamuria and Central were being supplied by the bowsers sources dried up.

### 1.4 Emerging issues

#### 1.4.1 Insecurity/human wildlife conflict

- Buffaloes were wrecking havoc in Mukogodo Rumuruti and central division. The buffaloes were previously in conservancies.

#### 1.4.2 Migration /human displacement

- Most of the livestock was on Mt Kenya where pasture was available.

## **2.0 Rural economy indicators**

### **2.1 Livestock production**

- Pastoralists lost thousands of livestock to the effects of drought and diseases and for those who managed to reach Mt Kenya thousands more were lost to diseases. The major killer diseases on the mountain were ECF and other cold-related diseases.
- Following the announcement of the rains expected, the demand for cattle grew and people started rushing for the cheap cattle. This rush raised the price of the animals slightly.
- The Government off-take and demand by brokers also made the demand for livestock rise.

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

- Livestock body condition was poor and yet there was an increase in the price due to the fact that the demand for livestock increased following the announcement that there will rains next month.

#### **2.1.2 Livestock diseases**

- Despite the fact that demand for cattle increased, the death rate was extremely high due to diseases. Cattle were dying on the mountain due to diseases such as ECF and other cold-related diseases.
- The Veterinary department needs to monitor the situation on the mountain as the livestock risks getting wiped out.

## **2.2 Crop production**

### **2.2.1 Condition of various crops.**

- Farmers in Laikipia East were preparing their land for the rains.

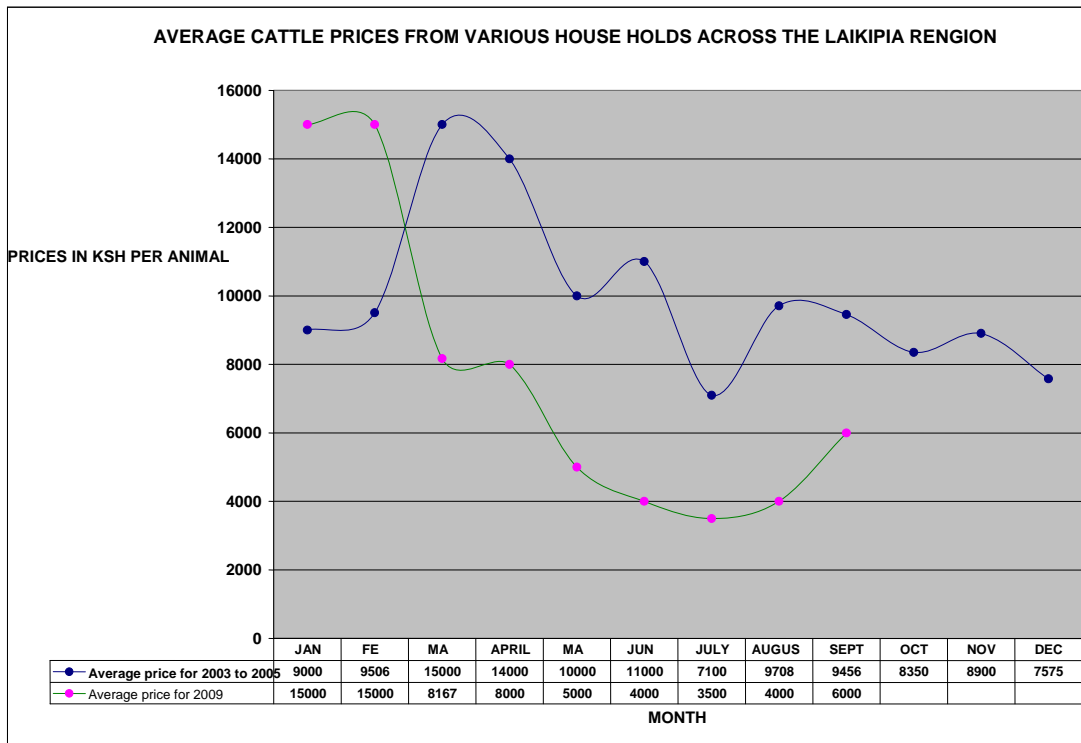
## **2.3 Implication on food security**

- Maize in the shops was imported from Narok the stocks from Busia got depleted.

## **3.0 Access to food**

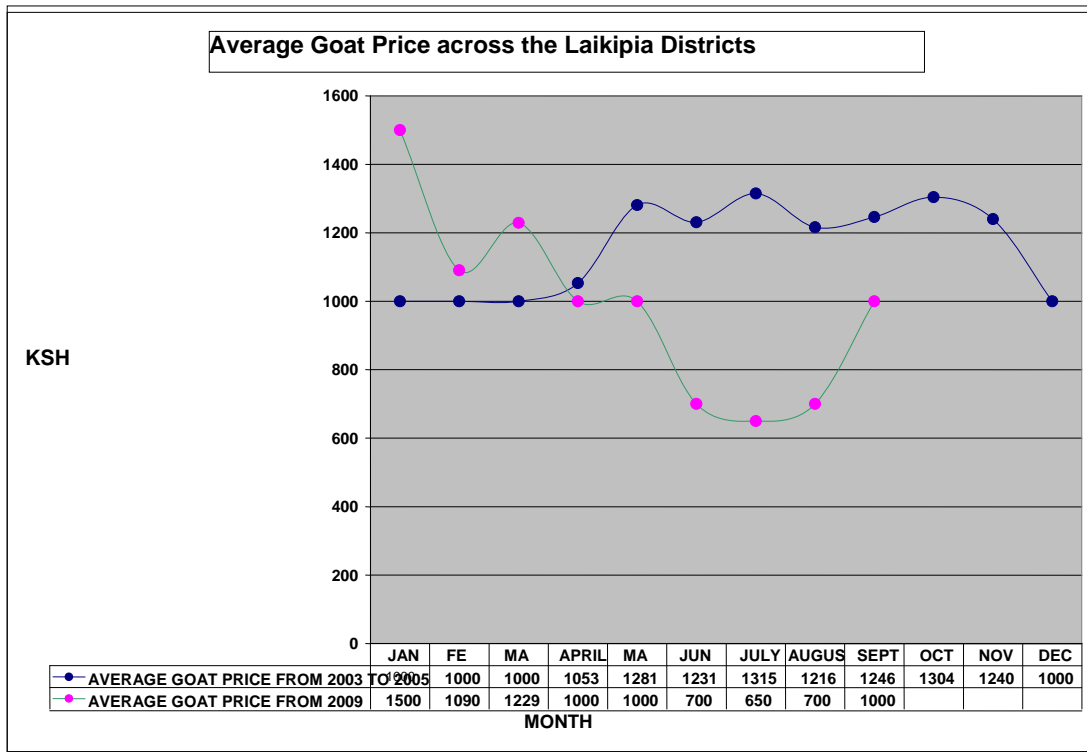
### **3.1 Livestock marketing**

#### **3.1.1 Cattle prices**



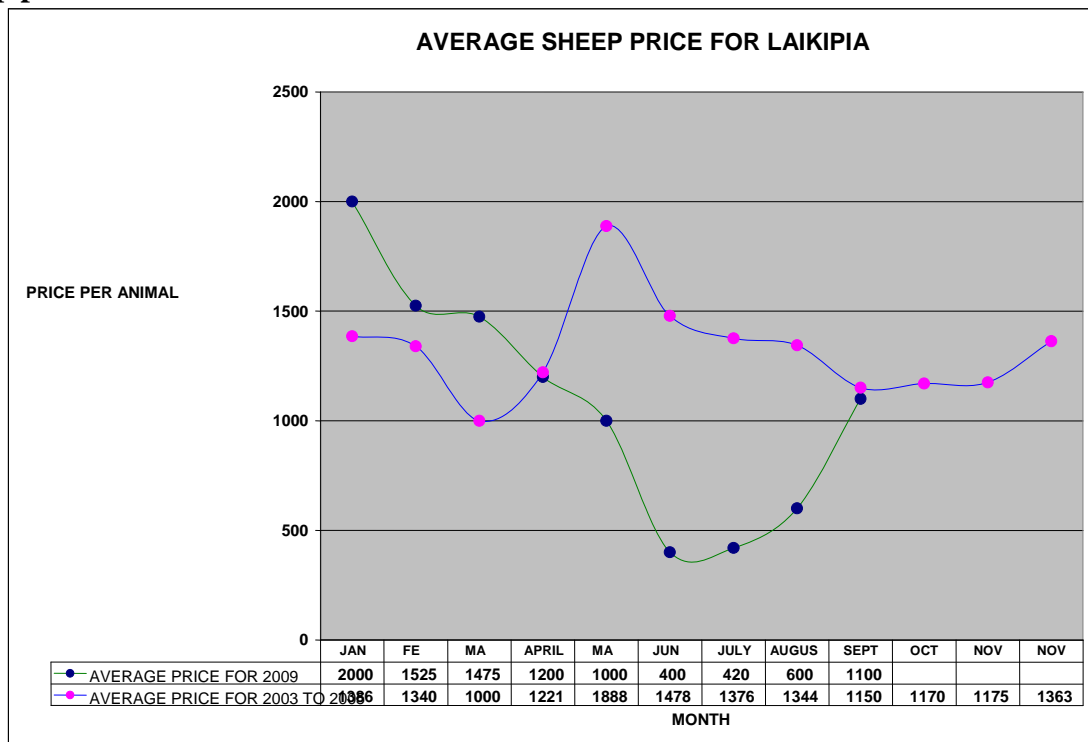
- Cattle prices rose during the month to Ksh 6,000 from Ksh4,000 in August.
- The price increase was due to the fact that the demand for livestock increased because of the expected El-nino rains next month.
- However, the total number of cattle being sold was small despite the demand.

### 3.1.2 Goat prices



- Goat price rose during the month to Ksh1,000 from Ksh 700 in August.
- The increase was due to fair body condition. Goats were the only animals that remained at home as they are browsers and thus prices.

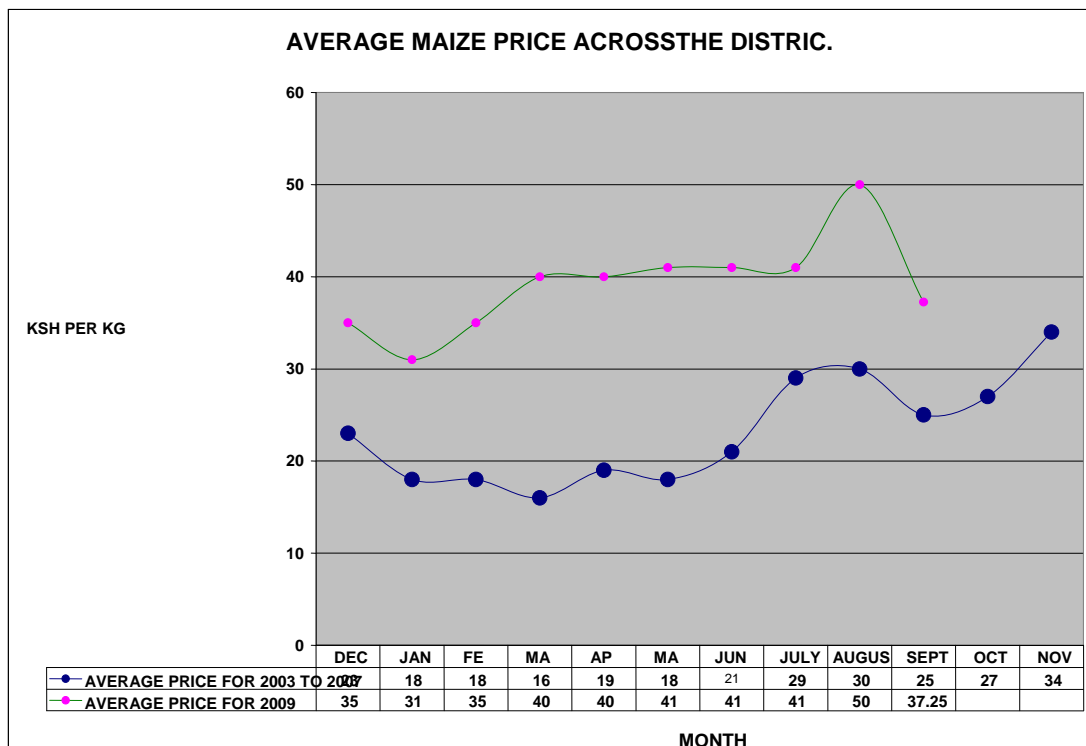
### 3.1.3 Sheep prices



- Sheep prices rose during the month to Ksh 1,100 from Ksh600 in August.
- Unlike cattle, the body condition of sheep slightly improved on the mountain and thus they were able to fetch better money than the previous months.

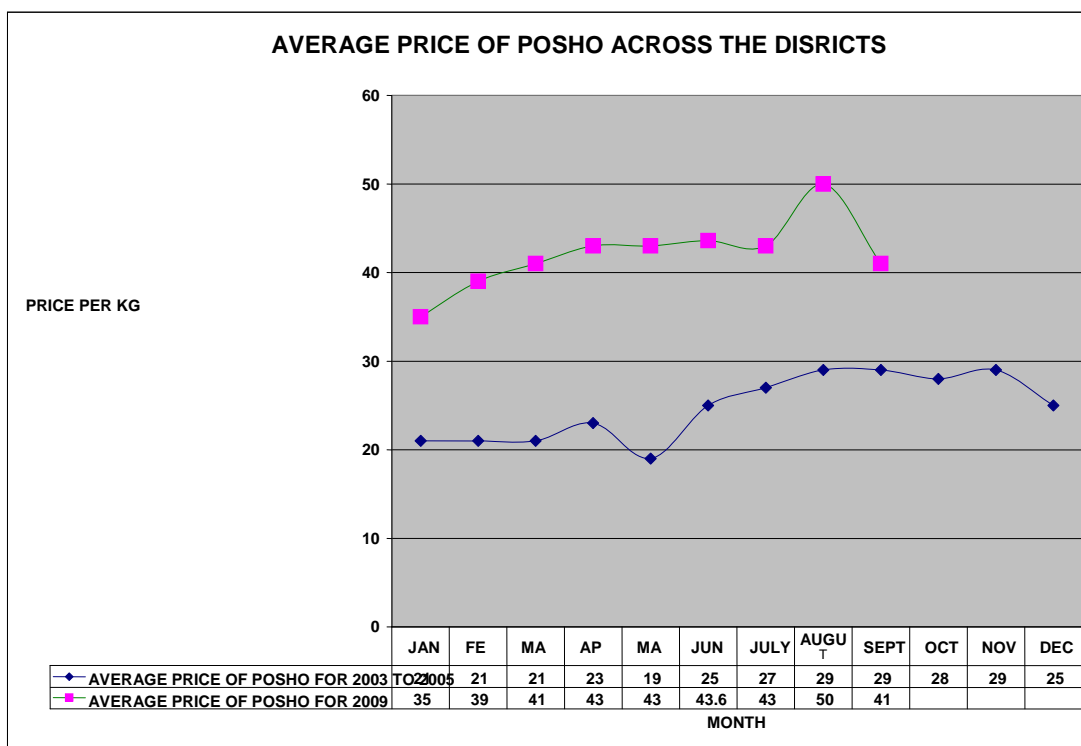
### 3.2 Food prices

#### 3.2.1 Maize prices



- Maize prices dropped during the month to Ksh 37.25 from Ksh50 in August.
- The districts imported maize from Narok and Mombasa. Imported stocks from South Africa flooded the market and reduced the prices. Previously available stocks were only from Busia and they could not meet the demand, thus increased prices.

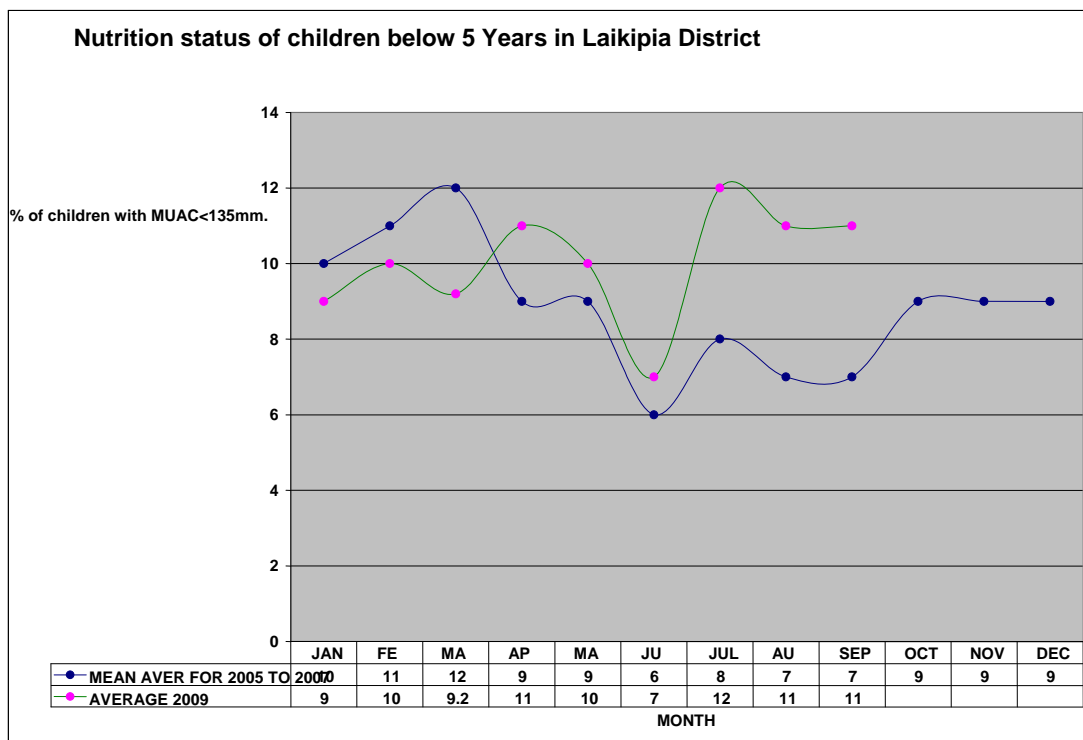
#### 3.2.2 Posho prices



- Just like maize, posho prices dropped to Ksh 41 from Ksh50 in August.
- The price increase was due to availability of maize in markets.

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

##### 4.1 Nutrition status



- The nutrition status of children below five years remained stable during the month under review. The percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition was 11%.
- The status did not improve due to the worsening drought status.

#### **4.2 Human health**

- Cases of cold-related disease increased at the health centres.

#### **5.1 Current interventions**

##### **5.1 Food aid**

- The EMOP was ongoing though it needs to be increased following the increase of the needy cases.

##### **5.3 Coping strategies**

- Charcoal burning.
- Camping on Mt Kenya for pasture.

#### **6.0 Recommendation to the district DSG**

- The KWS to insure that Wildlife is controlled and the stray buffaloes to be returned to their rightful conservancies as they pose a major threat human being outside the conservancy.
- Ministry of roads to be on the stand by as the rain expected might disrupt the food distribution plans especially in Mukogodo and Rumuruti division.
- Chiefs and sub chiefs to be used to identify the areas that are not being covered by the Emop as some areas like pesi and many others are not being covered and yet their are needy people in this areas even the urban centers are getting tough as some people relied on farm produce.
- Plans to restock the pastoralists immediately the rains start to be put in place as many will not have.