



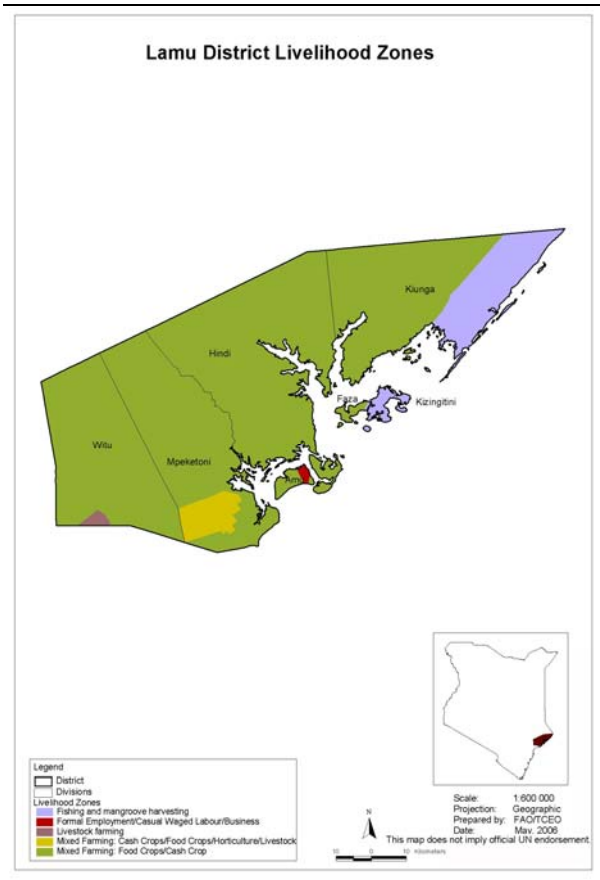
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

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

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, SEPTEMBER 2009

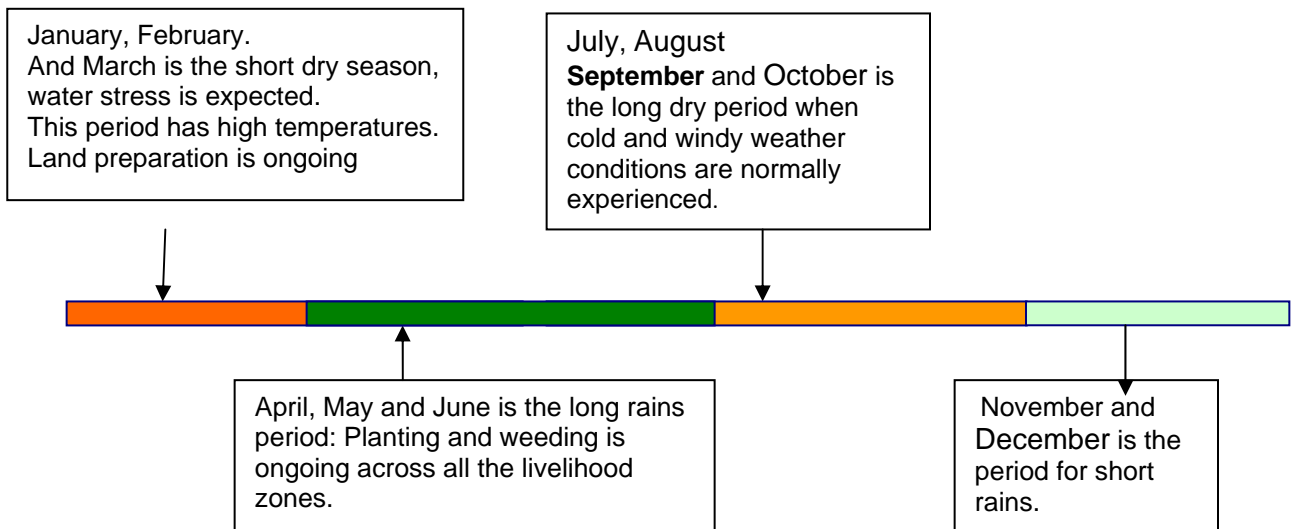
Lamu District

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Stage	Trend
Mixed Farming: Cash Crops/Food Crops/ Horticulture	Normal	Improving
Mixed Farming:/Food Crops/Cash Crops /	Alert	Worsening
Livestock Farming	Alert	Worsening
District	Alert	Worsening

Seasonal calendar



Situation overview

- The district recorded rainfall amounts less than 10mm during the month under review and it was sparsely distributed. The short rains are expected in October.
- The quality of forage and pasture deteriorated and quantities diminished too.
- Cattle prices increased by 29% compared to long term average of year 2006-08 this month, unlike previous month's decrease at 4.6% . Goat prices increased by 15.5% compared to long term average of year 2006-2008.
- Maize prices increased by 36% compared to the long term average of year 2006-2008, which was way above last month's increase of 7.6 % , while that of beans went up by 11.7 % up from 10% previous month.
- The percentage of children in the district with mid upper arm circumference levels of less than 135mm was 4% down from 5.7% previous month, showing improving food availability and quality.
- Access to water and pasture is deteriorating, with distances beginning to increase for water, while food prices have decreased. However, milk production and nutrition status declined alongside the livestock body condition. The situation in the District has therefore entered alert, and the trend is worsening.

Current interventions

Food aid

EMOP was underway and the lead agency reported distribution.

Non-food interventions

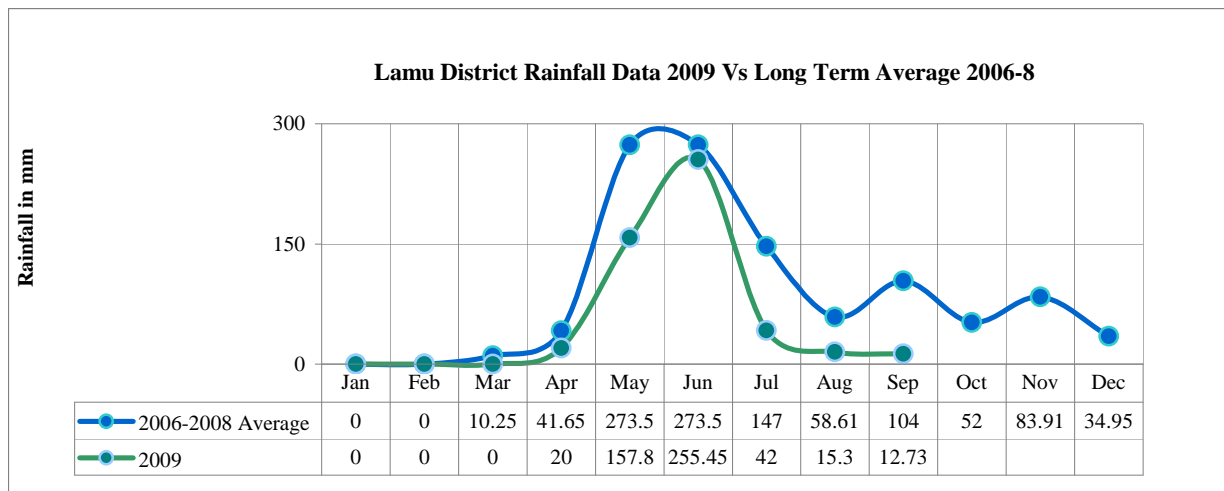
- KWS is helping farmers ward off wildlife that poses a threat to standing crop.
- Water trucking was ongoing for Barigoni and Faza.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- The DLPO and DVO to address issues of livestock diseases and pastures by incoming livestock from neighbouring Ijara and Tana River Districts.
- All members of DSG to inform the communities through their relevant fields of the incoming El-nino rains and to do adequate preparations.

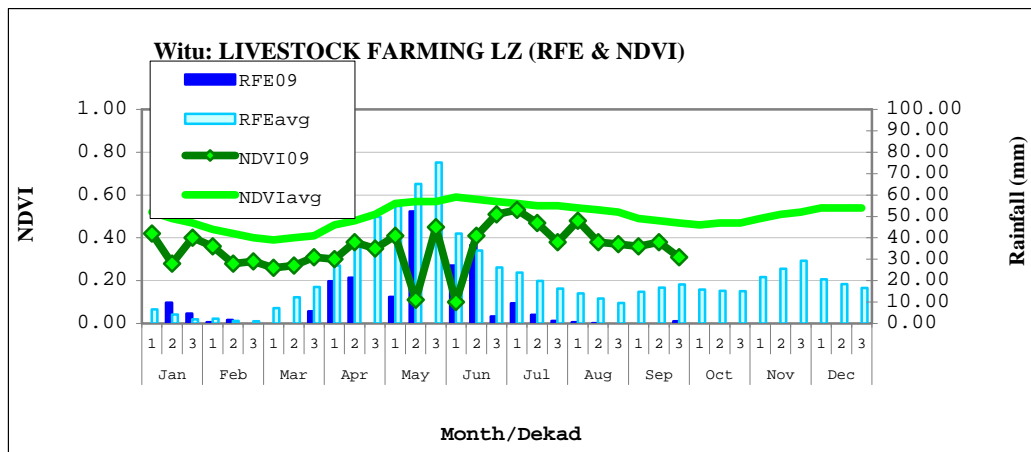
1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall



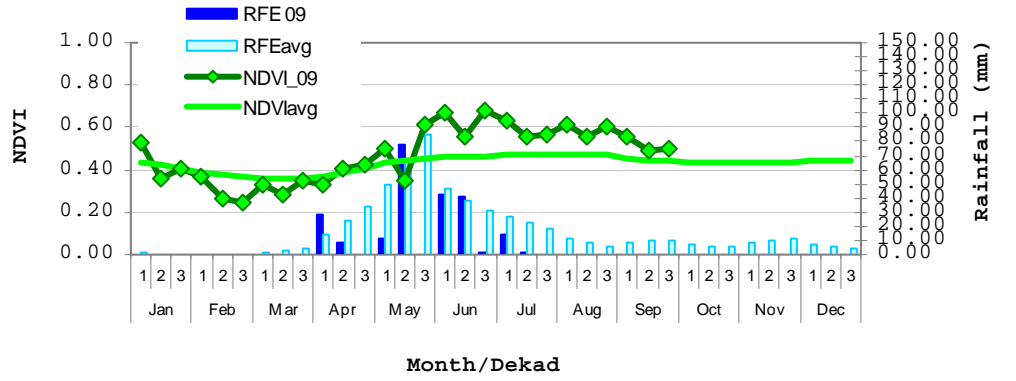
N=4 (i.e 4 rain gauges across the District)

- The long rains have ceased but the short rains are expected soon. The district received very little rainfall, which was sparsely distributed. An average of 12.73 mm of rainfall was recorded, down from 15.3mm previous month and lower compared to same time long term average of 104 mm.
- This was not a normal trend.

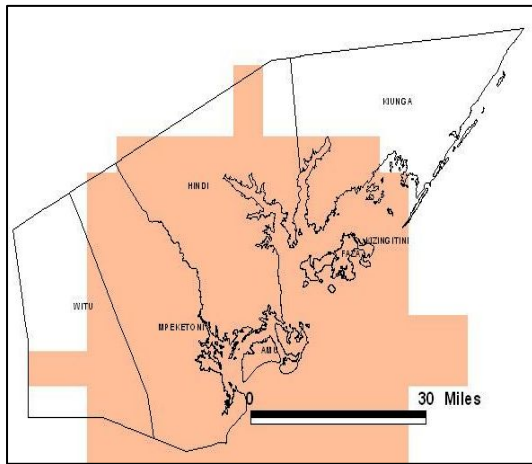


- Witu and Kiunga divisions in the extreme south and north parts of the district received little rainfall below 10mm for the three dekads of September as shown in the graph.
- The region receives between 50-75 mm at this time of the year.

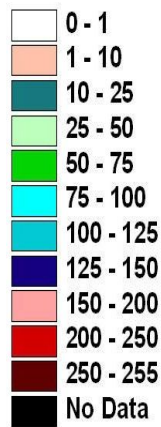
kiunga: FISHING LZ (DNVI & RFE DATA
Year 2009 Vs lonterm average)



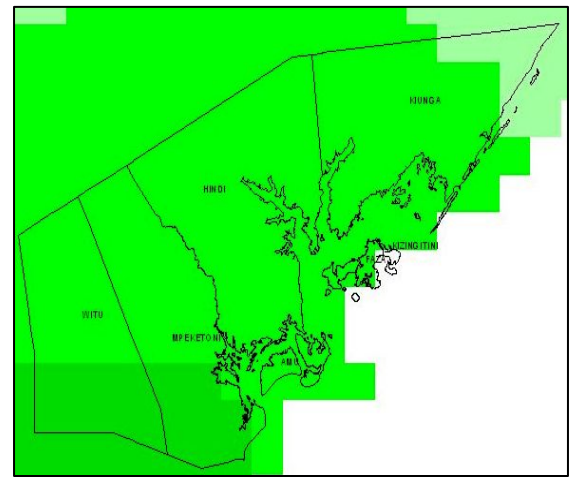
Lamu District Current Rainfall Distribution for September 2009



Key



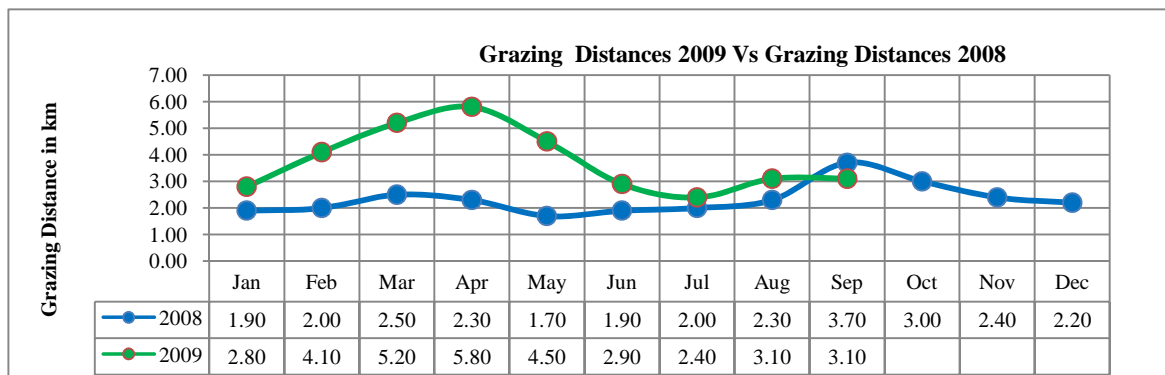
Lamu District Normal average Rainfall Distribution for September 2009



- As shown in the charts, the long term average was between 50-75mm or above for the months of September while the current amount is between 1-10mm for most parts of the District.

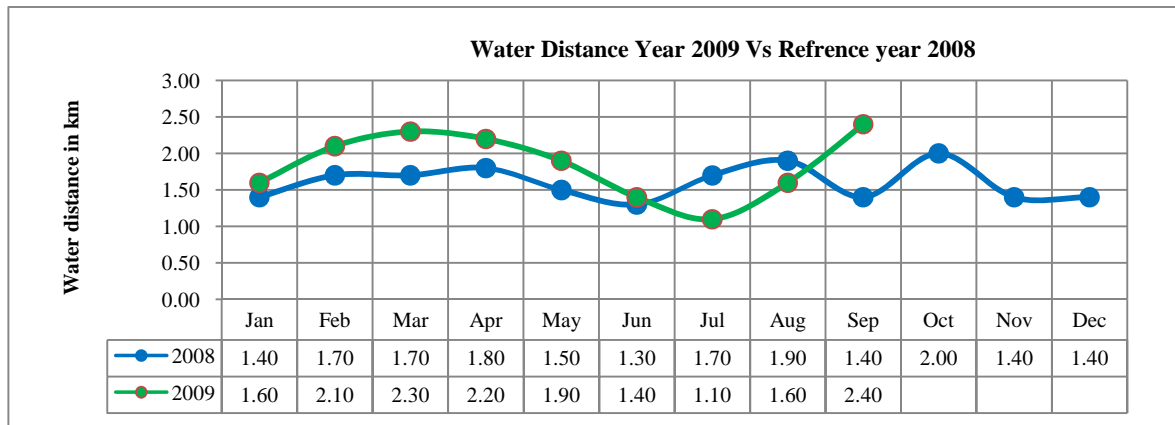
1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Pasture and forage availability deteriorated and was on a downward trend.
- Average distances to grazing areas remained at 3.1 km this month same as previous month.



N=300 (300 households)

1.3 Water sources and availability



N=300 (respondents from 300 households)

- The average distance to water sources was 2.4 km, up from 1.6 km the previous month, and is increasing due to diminishing rainfall showing strain in water accessibility.

- Shallow wells and boreholes were the major household water sources at 33.3% each, followed by natural ponds and rivers each at 10%.. This was, however, normal at the time of the year.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Livestock migration

- The unreliability of the long rains season in neighboring districts made most immigrated livestock keepers to continue staying in the district and others still come in.

1.5 Implications on food security

- Pasture and forage conditions began to deteriorate, leading to declining animal body condition.
- Distances to water sources also started to increase within the long term average, indicating that water accessibility was facing a strain.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

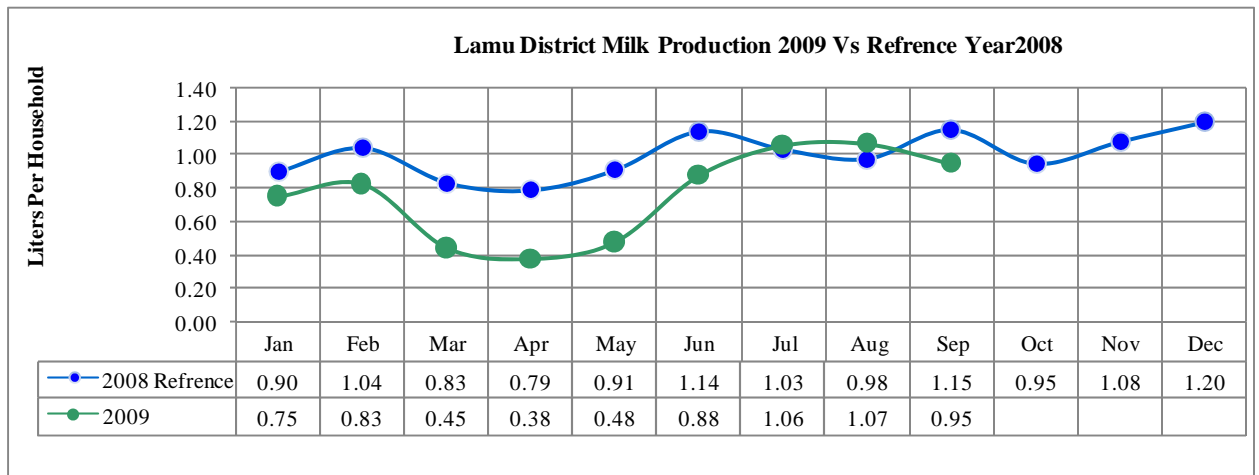
2.1 Livestock body condition

- The livestock body condition for cattle, goats and sheep has begun to deteriorate, and the trend is expected to worsen with the stop of the long rainfall season, and may worsen further with the beginning of the expected Elnino rains.

2.1.1 Livestock diseases

- Foot and mouth disease outbreak was reported in the district but was contained and vaccination was ongoing for other notifiable diseases.

2.1.2 Milk production



n=300 households

- Milk production averaged 0.95 liters per household per day, which was lower than last month's production of 1.07 liters per household per day.
- This was due to congested livestock causing pasture availability and quality to drop.
- Households in the mixed farming: food crops /cash crops livelihood zone produced the least amounts at 0.36 liters per household per day, while the livestock livelihood zone produced the highest amount of milk at 2.61 liters per household per day up from 3.06 liters previous month.
- This was, however, normal at the time of the year.

2.2 Crop production

- Harvesting of both cereals and legumes was ongoing, though others were at the weeding stage.

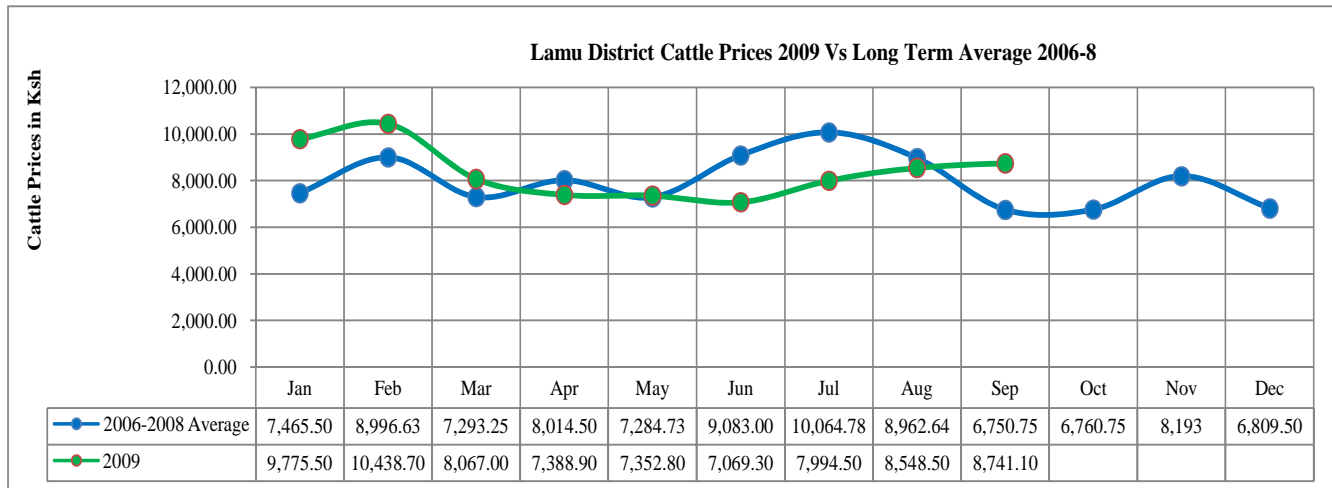
2.2.1 Implications on food security

- The drop in milk production was an indicator of decreased milk availability and raised concerns of food insecurity, especially for the pastoral/livestock livelihoods.
- The increase in water distances reduced its accessibility and may increase household vulnerability.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

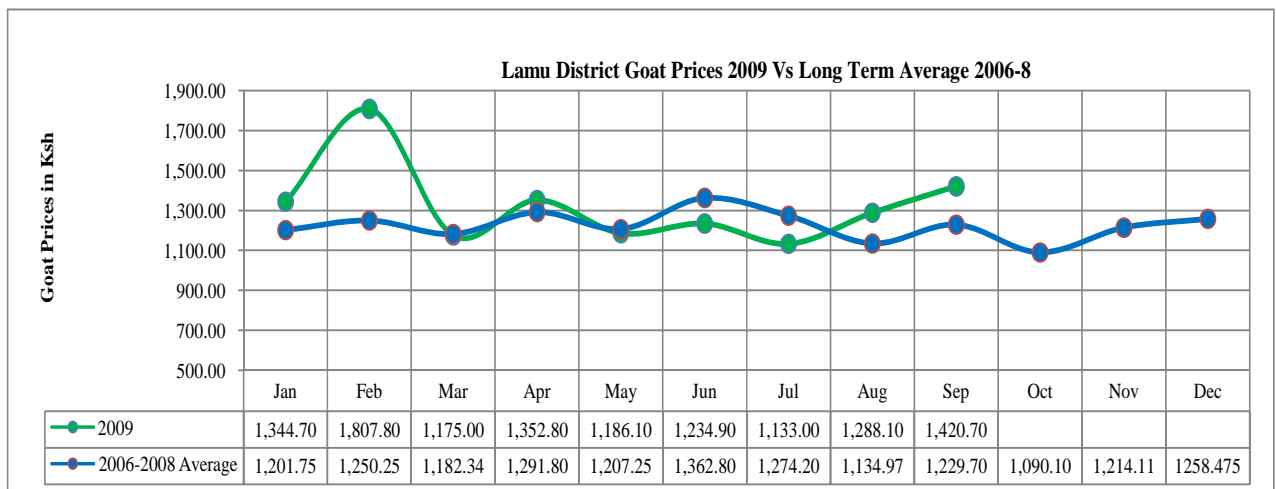
3.1.1 Cattle prices



n=300

- The average cattle price at farm-gate level was Ksh8,741.10, which was higher than previous month's price of Ksh 8,548.50. This was also higher compared to the price at same time of the long term average price of Ksh 6,750.75.
- The difference could be attributed to the period normally being a harvest season so livestock keepers tend to sell less, but due to the influx of animals, many were still disposing of their stock.
- Highest cattle prices were recorded in the mixed farming: food crops /cash crops livelihood zone at Ksh10,000, while the livestock farming livelihood zone recorded the lowest at Ksh6,473.30 previous month. This was, however, not a normal trend at the time of the year, going by 2006-8 average.

3.1.2 Goat prices



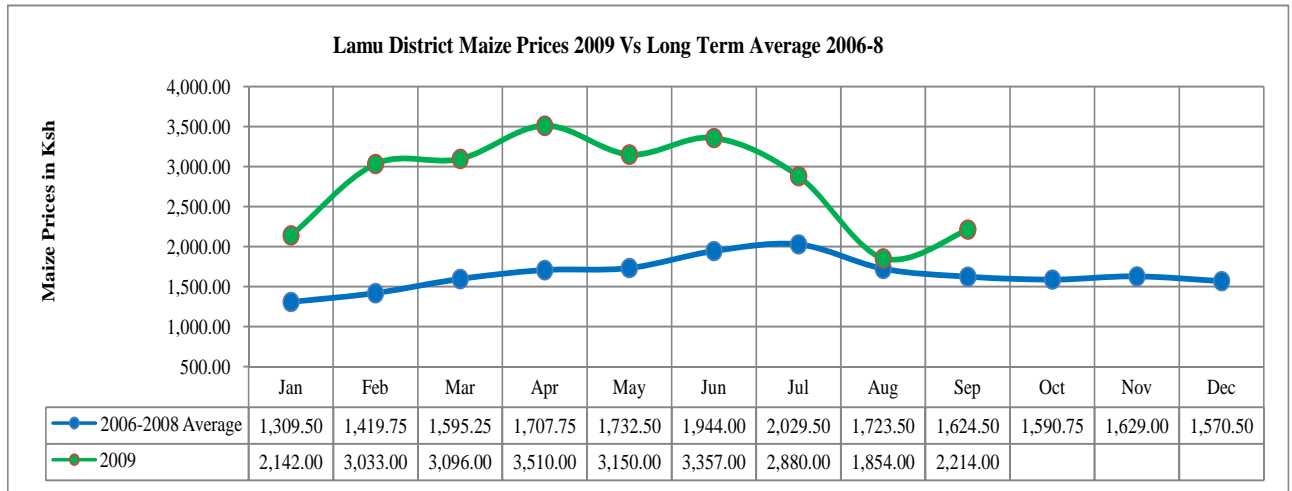
n=300

- The average goat price at farm-gate was Ksh1,420.70, which was higher than that of last month at Ksh1,288 and also higher than that of same time in the year 2006-8 average of Ksh1,229.70.

- This was a normal trend at the time of the year going by the 2006-8 long term average.
- Lowest prices were recorded in the livestock livelihood zone at Ksh1,133.30 while the highest were recorded in the mixed farming: cash crops/food crops/ horticulture at Ksh1,658.50.

3.2 Crop prices

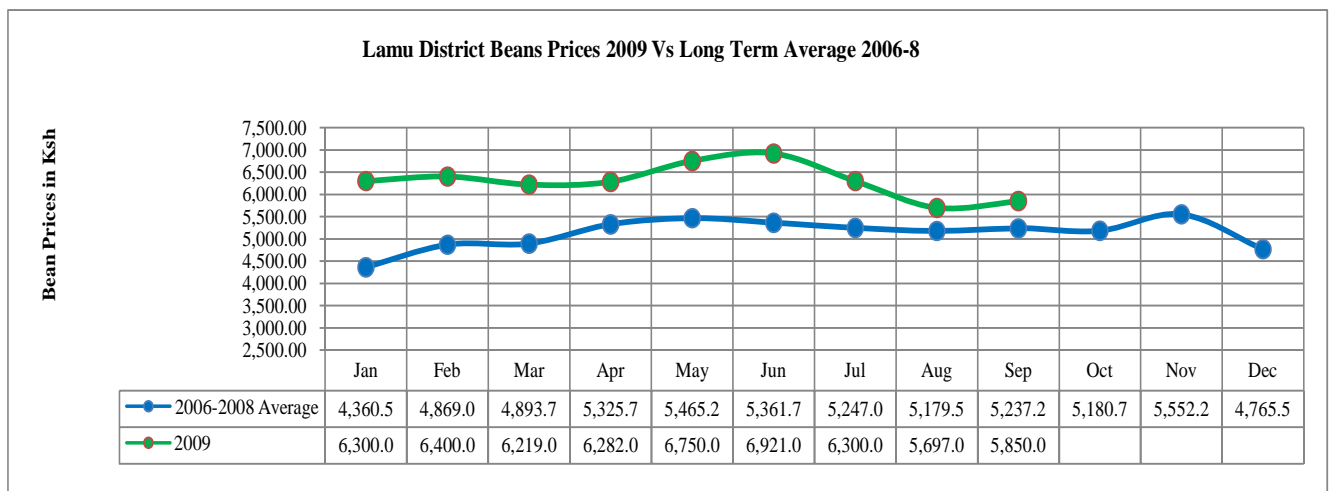
3.2.1 Maize prices



n=300

- Maize prices at market level averaged Ksh2, 214 per 90kg bag, higher than last month's price of Ksh1, 854. This price was also higher than the price at the same time of the long term average of year 2006-8 of Ksh1, 624.50.
- Highest maize prices were recorded in the mixed farming: food crops /cash crops livelihood zone at Ksh 2,682, while the lowest were recorded at the mixed farming: cash crops/food crops/ horticulture livelihood zone at Ksh1,746.

3.2.2 Beans prices



n=300

- Average price of beans at market level was Ksh5,850 per 90Kg bag, which was higher than that of last month at Ksh5,697 and higher than the long term average of year 2006-8 of Ksh 5,237.20.
- This was, however, a normal trend at the time of the year going by 2006-8 average.
- The prices were recorded only in the mixed farming: cash crops/food crops/ horticulture livelihood zone.

3.3 Income

3.3.1 Crop income

- Income from crops accounted for 14.33% of total house hold income, higher than last month's rate of 12%. This was however normal at the time of the year.
- The highest rate was recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/cash crop livelihood zone and the lowest recorded in the livestock livelihood zone.

3.3.2 Livestock income

- Sale of livestock accounted for 8.7% of total household income higher than previous month's rate of 5.2% while livestock products accounted for 4.54% down from 4.8 % previous month.
- The increase was attributed to the dry season and more animals being offered for sale.
- This was, however, not normal at the time of the year.
- Incomes were mainly realised from livestock livelihood zone, with least sales realised in the mixed farming: cash crops/food crops/ horticulture livelihood zone.

3.3.3 Other income

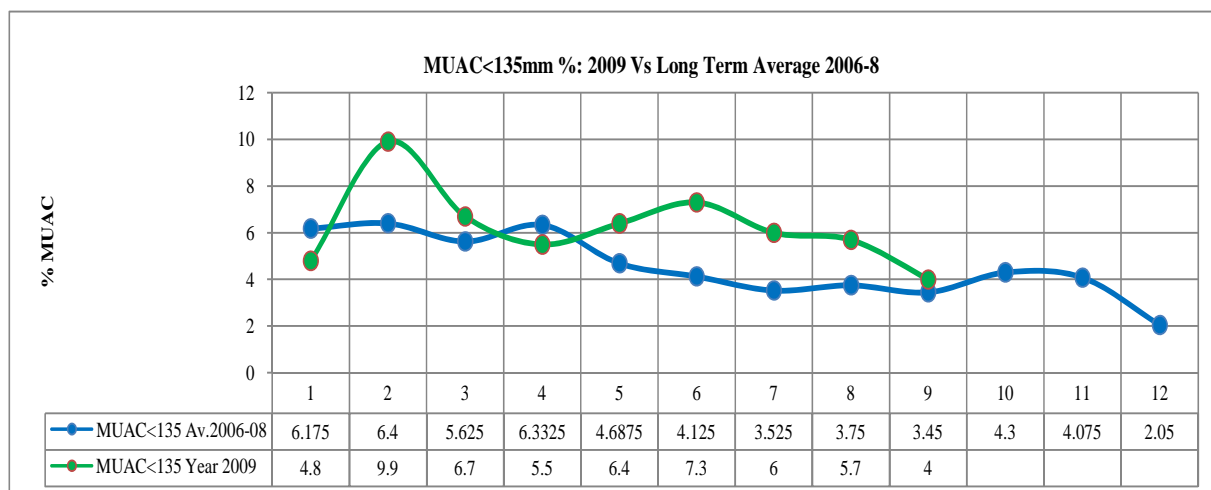
- Casual labour was the main source of income during the month accounting for 44.75% down from 51% previous month of the house hold income.
- Petty trade accounted for 12.93 % of the total household income emerging as livelihood source.
- The highest rate was recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/cash crop livelihood zone and the lowest recorded in the livestock livelihood zone.
- This was, however, normal at the time of the year.

3.4 Implications on food security

- The increase in crop sales dependency shows its availability has improved.
- The increase in livestock sales dependency indicated a disposal trend for fear of lack of pasture, especially in the overstocked areas.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilization of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



n= 987

- The percentage of children in the district with mid upper arm circumference levels of less than 135mm was 4.0% , which was lower than previous month's 5.7% but higher than the 2006-8 long term average of 3.45%. This was an indication of improving nutrition status due to ongoing harvests.

- The livestock farming livelihood zone reported the highest rate at 5.9%, which was lower than previous month's level of 11.5%. The farming: food crops/cash crop livelihood zone reported the lowest at 2.8% up from 2.4 % previous month, indicating slight drop in nutrition status, but a stable food security situation across all livelihood zones, except the livestock livelihood zone that is still recovering from effects of the drought.
- This was, however, a normal trend.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Food aid

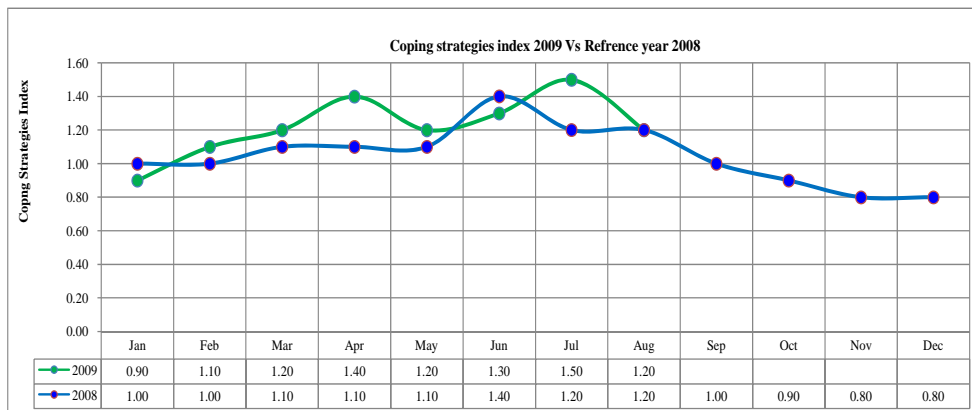
EMOP was underway and the lead agency reported distribution.

5.2 Non-food interventions

- KWS is helping farmers ward off wildlife that poses a threat to standing crop.
- Water trucking was ongoing for Barigoni and Faza.

5.3 Coping strategies

- The coping strategy index was 1.3, up from previous month's 1.2. The highest index of 1.9 was recorded at the mixed farming: Cash crops/food crops/ horticulture livelihood zone while the lowest of 0.7 was recorded in the livestock farming livelihood zone.



n=1802

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- The DLPO and DVO to address issues of livestock diseases and pastures by incoming livestock from neighbouring Ijara and Tana River Districts.
- All members of DSG to inform the communities through their relevant fields of the incoming elnino rains and to do adequate preparations.