



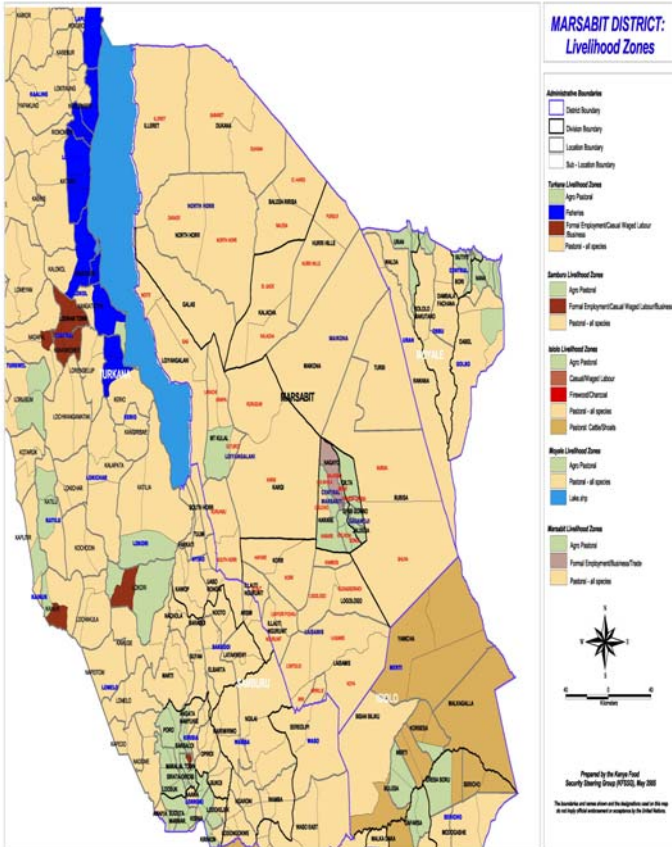
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

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

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, SEPTEMBER 2009

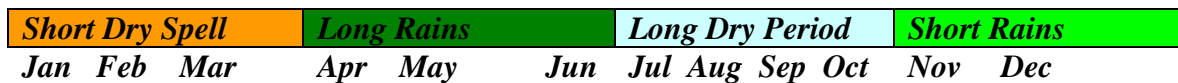
Marsabit, Laisamis and Chalbi Districts

Warning Stages



Livelihood zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Agro-Pastoralist	Alarm/Emergency	No change
Pastoral-All species	Emergency	No change
Fishermen/Pastoralist	Emergency	No change

Seasonal calendar



Situation overview

- The weather was mainly sunny, windy and dusty and no rainfall was recorded in the greater Marsabit district.
- The quality and quantity of forage was dry, scarce and depleted in most parts of the district, resulting into heavy and far flung livestock concentrations at few insecure areas.
- Existing water sources both in lowlands and highlands parts registered significant low yields particularly in boreholes, traditional wells and the few natural springs. All seasonal water sources were depleted.
- Body conditions of all livestock species deteriorated further leading to increase in mortality rates of shoats, cattle and donkeys' species, especially among lactating, pregnant, new born and mature ones.
- Cattle prices decreased by 37.82 percent compared to long term mean averages of 2000 to 2008 while shoats' prices also declined as a result of deteriorating body conditions and depressed sales rates at terminal markets. The situation could lead to total market collapse for livestock sector.
- Unavailability of milk was reported in greater Marsabit district due to failed rains, and far off livestock concentration points.
- EMOP relief allocation continued in all 97 food distributing centres in six divisions targeting 52 percent of the neediest households in greater Marsabit district. The general view is that the targeting is inadequate and household hunger remains a serious challenge.
- Malaria and diarrhea cases continued to be reported among children and few adults, which was normal at the time of the year. Cholera outbreaks were reported in Moite sub location, El Molo Bay sub location and Loiyangalani sub location (fisher folk community) of Loiyangalani division. 20 deaths were reported in three sub locations, which are still under quarantine.
- Insecurity restricted livestock movement between Kenya and Ethiopia and also in Samburu district. Cases of insecurity and human killings continued to be reported in some areas, including Marsabit central district, Laisamis divisions of Marsabit south district.
- EMOP and GoK food relief was distributed to all centres of greater Marsabit district.
- The nutrition status of children below five years declined during the month, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition rising to 23.1 from 20.8 in August.

Current interventions

- Measles campaign was minimally conducted in all locations of greater Marsabit district as a result of lack of GoK/MOH funding for traveling and subsistence for the intended exercise.
- District-wide (EMOP) general relief food distribution continued targeting 80,442 direct beneficiaries out of the approximately 160, 747 population in greater Marsabit district.

- Supplementary feeding programs continued at 22 health centres in all six divisions targeting approximately 3,440 beneficiaries among severe malnourished children < 5years, lactating and pregnant mothers- *MOH/FH*.
- Water trucking continued on Mt Marsabit, Hurri hills, El Hade, Torbi, Burgabo, Namarei, Farhakoren and Manyatta Lengima among other water stressed parts of greater Marsabit district.-*ALRMPII, MOW, PISP*.
- Borehole drilling at Manyatta Lengima at Korr division of Laisamis district.
- Control of the cholera outbreak in three sublocations which includes Moite , El-Molo Bay, and Loiyangalani.- *Medicine San Frontiers MSF/MOH*
- Water engineering continued on Mt Marsabit, fuel and lubricants and other water stressed parts of greater Marsabit district. *Ministry of Northern Kenya*.
- De-stocking programs are continued in most parts of Marsabit north district and Arapal sub location as a shoat's are sold between ksh. one thousand and one thousand two hundred. *PISP*
- Two weeks training of twenty three participants being community animal health workers from greater Marsabit district – *Food for the Hungry*.

Recommendations to KFSSG and DSG

- Close monitoring of household food security situation in the coming month with a view of mitigating adverse effects caused by the prevailing drought.
- Scale up supplementary and therapeutic relief assistance in all affected areas especially Loiyangalani division with ARM of 68%.
- Scale up EMOP relief food to 75 to 80% of the population in greater Marsabit district.
- Continue to support for water trucking to water stressed areas of Central, Gadamoji divisions of Marsabit central district, Namarei, Afharen in Marsabit south district and Turbi, El Beso and several water points around Hurri hills and its surrounding in Marsabit north district to avert the chronic shortages.
- Repair and maintenance of community boreholes should be given a first priority.
- Increase School feeding Program (SFP) for schools as a way to revert significant food shortages at household level.
- GoK relief food should be consistent to support needy households who are not targeted under EMOP food targeting.
- Promote rain water harvesting techniques.
- Continuous disease surveillance should be emphasized to contain disease outbreaks, especially PPR, CCBP, CCPP and Anthrax incidence to areas where livestock are currently affected or concentrated.
- De-stocking program should be initiated to help pastoralist recoup some losses due to prevailing drought situation as it is leading to massive losses of livestock.
- Provision of hay and other livestock feeds for at least lactating stock in greater Marsabit district.
- Support the Loiyangalani, El-Molo and Illeret communities with fishing gears through credit provision and promote marketing of the fish.

- Organise a district wide rapid assessment to assess the current surge of livestock mortalities.
- Scale up supplementary and therapeutic wet and dry feeding program.
- Intensify disease surveillance.
- Construction and equipping of health facilities and recruitment of personnel.
- Need for posting of more medical personnel's to community dispensaries and health sectors in greater Marsabit district.
- Ministry of Health should rapidly respond to outbreaks such as cholera wherever it is reported.
- Fostering of peace should be encouraged within and without district boundaries.
- Cross-border peace meetings should be emphasized by all stakeholders to enable free movements of livestock.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- There was no rainfall reported in any ecological zone thus the weather remained sunny, windy and harsh condition. However, rain clouds were observed, a positive indication of the short rains season.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- The quality and quantity of forage remained dry, scarce and depleted in most parts of larger Marsabit district. Laisamis division in Marsabit south district was the most affected as a result of experiencing rainfall failure in the previous four seasons.
- Relatively, forage available was expected to sustain livestock not beyond next month and about 22-27 percent of cattle and shoats may die of starvation.
- The few and isolated areas with pasture were faced with water scarcity and insecurity situation, therefore Marsabit north and south districts experienced heavy livestock concentration within and without their administrative districts. For instance, livestock from Korr, Ngurunit, Farakoren and other parts of Laisamis division migrated to Samburu district and Loiyangalani location of Laisamis district in search of pasture.

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1-Use of water sources

- The main sources of water for both livestock and domestic use failed to recharge at low and highland areas, leading to severe water stress on hilly parts i.e. Mt Marsabit at Marsabit central district, Hurri hills, Balesa, El Hadi and Burgabo of Marsabit north district and Namarei, Farakoren and Manyatta Lengima in Laisamis division of Marsabit south district leading to trucking and sustainability.
- The existing water sources in both low and highlands parts were boreholes, traditional wells, springs, shallow wells, the Lake Turkana while all seasonal ones were depleted.

- Severe water stress was experienced in Torbi division (Burgabo) where cattle went for 9 days from 4 days and shoats go for 12 days from 4- 5 days for watering compared to this time of the years.

1.3.2 Distances (kms) to water sources

- Average distances to water sources for domestic use increased significantly from an average of 8 kms the previous month to 18 kms while for livestock use increased from 22 kms to 55kms. This indicated a notable increase between water and pasture at 38 kms compared to similar time of long term average.
- Water shortages remained on emergency situation at Hurri hills and its surroundings (distances averaging sixty to seventy kms in Marsabit north district while for Namarei, Arge, Afharen, Manyatta Lengima and Ngurunit location of Marsabit south district averaging twenty seven to thirty five kms, and Marsabit central district averaging thirty three kms as was in the previous month.
- Generally, livestock water stress in larger Marsabit district is expected to be more emergent. The increasing distances to water sources for livestock use was a negative indication for livestock body conditions.
- Some livestock mortalities, especially among shoats' species, were reported in many areas including Ngurunit, Farakoren, Afharen in Marsabit south district and Torbi, Bubisa of Marsabit north district while few death among lactating cattle species in Marsabit central district. Livestock carcasses were evident between water and grazing areas.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity/ Conflict

- The security situation improved in most parts of the greater district, though isolated cases of raids and killing of one person was reported in Gadamoji division of Marsabit district by Rendille raiders.
- Raids, banditry and tribal clashes are expected in far flung areas within and without administrative boundaries as soon as the short rains start.

1.4.2 Migration

1.4.2.1 Livestock migration

- Failure of the long rains occasioned an early and outward migration of over 90% of all livestock species in the last four months. In the pastoral livelihood of Marsabit south district, livestock from Laisamis and Korr divisions migrated to Baragoi in Samburu district and Koom in Isiolo district while those from Kargi and Loiyangalani division moved around El Molo Bay sublocation in Loiyangalani division and toward Koobi Fora of Illeret location of Marsabit north district.
- In the pastoral livelihood of North horr division, livestock was concentrated in the north of Dukana along Ethiopian border and Koobi Fora while those from Maikona division are currently around Hurri hills and towards Arbijaan in Wajir west district.
- Livestock from Agro/pastoral livelihood of Marsabit central and Gadamoji divisions have been transported to Moyale district and others to Arbijaan in Wajir

west district where there are some pasture. Despite the heavy livestock migrations for search of water and pasture has led to congestion, vulnerable to diseases and will soon attribute to depletion of resources.

- In some parts of pastoral livelihood zone of Laisamis division (Ngurunit, Illaut and Mayatta Lengima), Maikona division (Bubisa, Torbi and Shurra) thus lack of pasture for livestock led to residents resorting to digging tubers and collecting acacia pods and feed for ten percent of lactating stocks left at homesteads.

1.4.2.2 Human migration/ displacement

- Human displacement remained minimal in most areas thus being within normal situation of the year. Few cases of in-migration from grazing areas to urban settlement for search of labor were reported.

1.5 Implications on food security

- Depleted milk availability at household level has consequently compounded food insecurity among pastoral households at remarkable level.
- The failed long rainy season continues to frustrate efforts to attain a food secure society in the Pastoral/ fishermen thus being the most affected livelihoods in the greater Marsabit district.
- The hiked food commodities prices by 61.33 percent compared to similar time of the long term averages which has aggravated to food shortages across the district.
- Inadequate beneficiaries (fifty two %) targeted by (EMOP) general relief foods has negatively affected food security situation at household level.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Livestock health in all hilly and lowland areas was poor to emaciated body condition, particularly for cattle and shoats while it was good to fair for camel species. The poor body condition was attributed to long trekking distances in search of water and pasture. The lactating shoats and cattle were emaciated and dying. Generally, the deteriorating body condition among shoats and cattle resulted in high mortalities of 30 percent in the next month due to starvation.
- Distances to pasture and water increased across all livelihood zones, with the average distances estimated at between 40 to 70 kms for all species. In Laisamis division, distance to water source was estimated at 22 kms and as a result, shoats watered after seven days and five days compared to normal of two to three days respectively.
- In Maikona division of Marsabit north district, the average trekking distance was 85 kms and the most affected areas were Burgabo, Bubisa, El Hadi, Balesa and watering interval for shoats was 12 twelve days while cattle for nine days compared to a normal of three to four days respectively. In the Agro- pastoral livelihood zone of Marsabit central and Gadamoji divisions' average distances estimated at 50kms and watering interval for cattle and shoats has increased to five to seven days compared to normal of two days.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- Contagious Caprine Pleural pneumonia (CCPP) and worm infestations became endemic among shoats and few cases of Contagious Bovine Pleuro Pneumonia (CBPP) were reported in the greater district and remain a threat to livestock production.
- Livestock deaths were reported among cattle. The most affected areas were in the pastoral livelihood zones of Ngurunit location in Marsabit south district and Burgabo, Torbi and Bubisa areas of Marsabit north district.
- In Marsabit north, as in most parts of the district, it is estimated that 28% of shoats and 20 percent of cattle died while in the agro- pastoral livelihood zone of central and Gadamoji division, shoats and cattle mortalities was estimated at 10 percent.

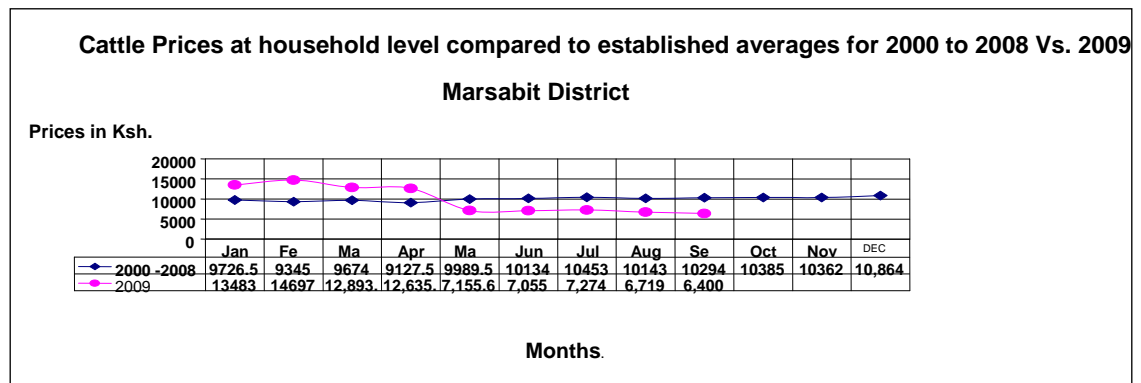
2.2 Implications on food security

- The food security situation worsened further with failure of long rains season as livestock concentration has been far away from homesteads for over seven months and over one and half years for Laisamis division, hence no milk availability was reported.
- Decreasing livestock prices as a result of poor body condition and collapsing terminal market negatively affected food security at household level, especially among pastoralist and fisher folk communities.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices

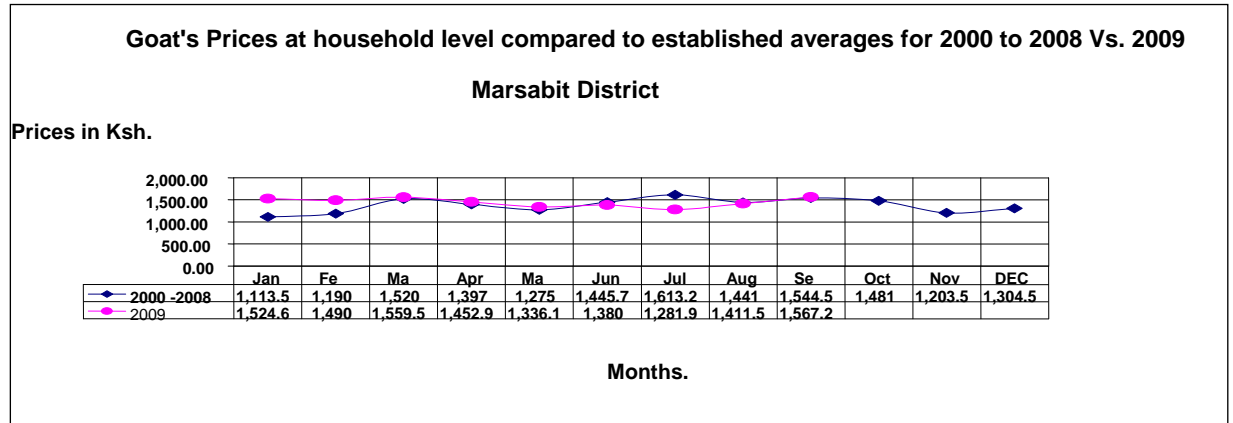


Ref: N =4 (No. of the sold cattle) x 13 Sentinels x 30 Households

- Cattle prices at household level decreased slightly from Ksh6,719 in August to 6,400.
- The price drop was due to deteriorated body condition and the collapsing prices at terminal market. Sales rates also dropped sharply by 68.3% percent compared to long term averages.

- Central division in Marsabit central district (Agro/pastoral Lv.) was the only division reporting sale of four cattle at Ksh6,400. The prices are expected to decrease further with stressed body condition.

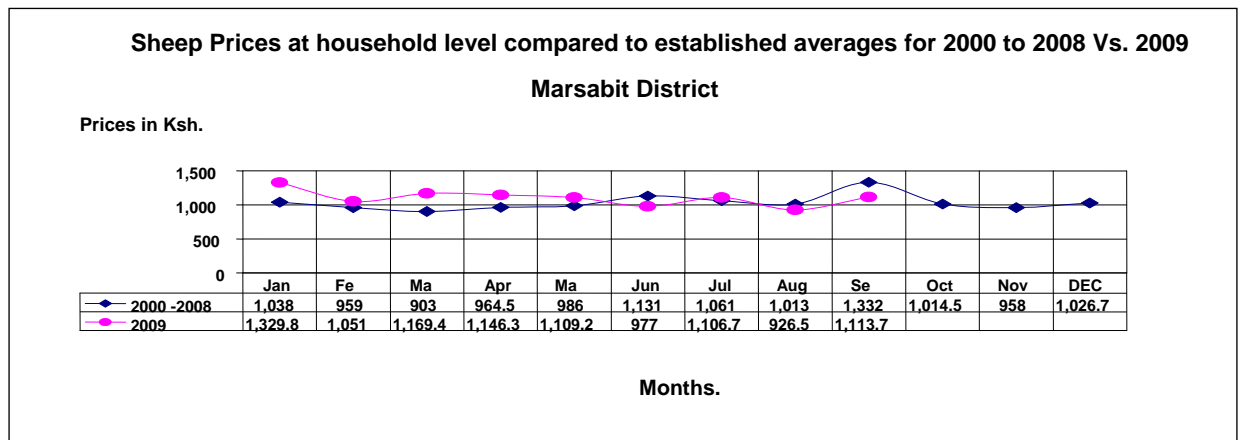
3.1.2 Goats prices



Ref: N =136 (No. of sold goats') x 13 Sentinels x 30 Households

- Goat prices increased to Ksh1567.2 during the month from Ksh1,411.5 in August. The price was slightly higher than the Ksh1,533 long term mean.
- Higher goat prices were recorded in Central division of pastoral livelihood zone of Marsabit central district at Ksh2,225, Laisamis division (Pastoral livelihood) at Ksh1,766.70 and North Horr division in Marsabit north district of pastoral livelihood zone had the least at Ksh1,210. These differences could be linked to limited access to markets in many lowland areas and deteriorated body condition.

3.1.3 Sheep prices



Ref: N =30 (No. of Sheep sold) x 11 Sentinels each by 30 Households

- Sheep prices at household level increased to Ksh 1,113.7 from Ksh926.5 in August. The price was however, lower than the Ksh1.332 long term mean.

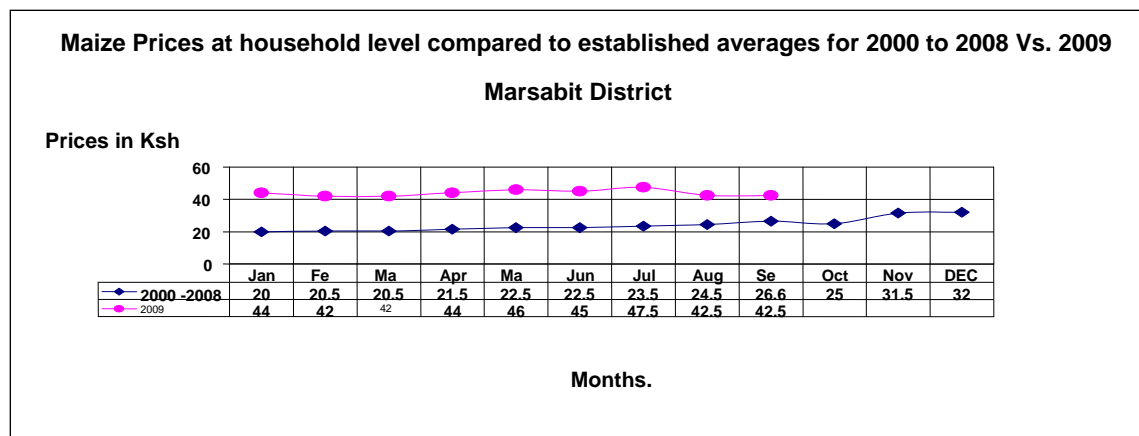
- Higher sheep prices were registered at Laisamis division (pastoral livelihood) of Marsabit south district at Ksh1,375 while Maikona division of Marsabit North district had the least at Ksh980.

3.2 Milk consumption

- There was no milk availability reported in either part of greater Marsabit district. This abnormality is attributed to prolonged drought situation which has resulted to deteriorated body condition and emaciated livestock body conditions besides distant livestock concentration.
- With depleted milk availability especially among pastoralist households in the greater Marsabit district, has aggravated to increasing food shortages at household level.

3.3 Food prices

3.3.1 Maize prices



Ref: N =368 Households purchasing out of 13 sentinel each by 30 households.

- Maize prices at household level were stable during the month. However, the prices increased by 91% compared to the long term mean of the years 2000 to 2008.
- The price increase has been attributed to poor rainfall performance in the previous two seasons. This was a reflection of the collapsing meat ratio and hence a threat to purchasing power of pastoral livelihood.
- Similarly, higher maize prices at household level were recorded in Loiyangalani division of fisher folk livelihood (Marsabit South) reporting Ksh55 per kilo, Laisamis division of pastoral (Marsabit south) at Ksh45 and agro/pastoral livelihood community on Mt Marsabit in Central and Gadhamoji divisions of Marsabit central district reporting the least at Ksh32.50.
- Maize prices are expected to remain high as result of poor performance of the previous failed short and long rain seasons.

3.4 Income

3.4.1 Livestock income

- Sale of livestock remained the leading source of income as 14 percent of 390 interviewed household reporting it.
- Livestock sales decreased by 47 percent compared to similar time of years 2005 to 2009 especially, among shoat species.
- There was no milk availability reported in either part of larger Marsabit district due to prevailing drought stress.
- Livestock income and productivity collapsed hence it's expected to worsen further with prevailing weather situation.

3.4.2 Other income

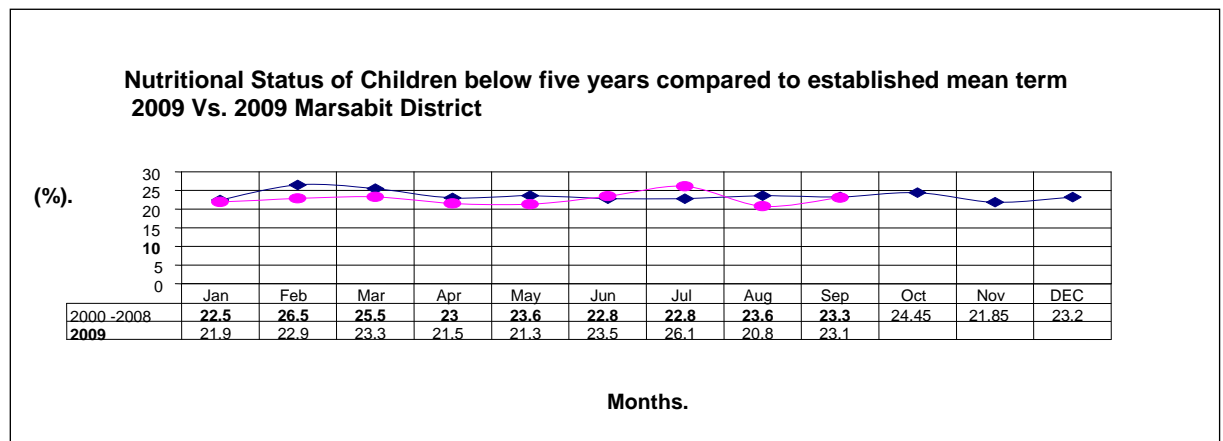
- Other income sources include; casual labour where 12% of sampled households stated so, few others reported sale of charcoal, sale of Khat (Miraa), formal employment between Ksh200 to 700 per day and engaging in degrading jobs that fetched between Ksh 40 to 200 per day.

3.5 Implication on food security

- Increased food commodity prices throughout the previous year to current year impacted negatively on food situation and term of trade in all three main livelihoods.
- Increasing livestock movement to far dry season grazing areas also affects food situation especially among pastoralist livelihood.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



Ref: N=3.2 (Avg. No. of children) x 11 Sample sites x 30 Households.

- The nutrition status of children below five years declined during the month, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition rising to 23.1 from 20.8 in August.
- The numbers of sampled children was 1,250, out of which 611 were girls and 639 boys. However, the status was fairly stable compared to the long term mean. This

stability was sustained by supplementary feeding program from EMOP/KRCS and FH relief foods.

- Relatively, higher rates were recorded in Loiyangalani division of fisher folk livelihoods in Marsabit South district at 47.1% from 46% the previous month, followed by North Horr division in Marsabit North district of Pastoral livelihood at 23.9% from 20% while Laisamis division in Marsabit South district of pastoral livelihood had the least at 12.7%.
- Generally, malnutrition rates among children are expected to increase in near future with prolonged drought stress in greater Marsabit district.

4.2 Human health

- Cholera outbreak was reported in Moite, El molo Bay and Loiyangalani sub locations during the month under review. 20 deaths were reported most of them children.
- The leading causes of morbidity for the general population in the greater Marsabit district were malaria, respiration infections and diarrhea among children below five years and few adults.
- Human health condition was compounded by lack of food, which made people susceptible to diseases.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non-food interventions

- Water trucking to communities and schools in Central, Gadamoji divisions, Burgabo, Torbi, Namarei, Farakoren and Hurri hills by Arid Lands Resource Management Project, Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Kenya Wildlife Services, PISP, and CDF.
- Repair works on community boreholes in Burgabo, Kubi Qalo, Namarei, Gobbore, and Dirib Gombo – NWSB, ALRMP.
- Provision of fuel to all community boreholes and other community water schemes –ALRMP, the NGO PISP, CIFA and M.o.Water and Irrigation.
- Provision of hay to community on Mt. Marsabit- ALRMPII.
- Provision of food seeds for Agriculturalist community for the anticipated short rains season- ALRMPII/ MOA.

5.2 Food aid

- Supplementary feeding program (SFP) in 22 out of 24 health centres in larger Marsabit district targeting 1,440 direct beneficiaries among severely malnourished children, pregnant and lactating mothers was undertaken. Ministry of Health and Food for Hungry.
- 52% of the direct neediest beneficiaries (80,442) of the total population are under emergency relief operation program. Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS).
- No GoK relief allocation was reported in any part of greater Marsabit district.

5.3 Other coping strategies

The coping strategies mainly applied among households include;

- Households skipping meals,
- Sharing of relief food.
- Purchasing food on credit.

The Agro /pastoral livelihood zone reported increasing sales of firewood/charcoal to urban dwellers. This was an indication of a serious inadequacy of food compared to similar period of the previous years.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Close monitoring of household food security situation in the coming month with a view of mitigating adverse effects caused by the prevailing drought.
- Scale up supplementary and therapeutic relief assistance in all affected areas especially Loiyangalani division with ARM of 68%.
- Scale up EMOP relief food to 75 to 80% of the population in greater Marsabit district.
- Continue to support for water trucking to water stressed areas of Central, Gadamoji divisions of Marsabit central district, Namarei, Afharen in Marsabit south district and Turbi, El Beso and several water points around Hurri hills and its surrounding in Marsabit north district to avert the chronic shortages.
- Repair and maintenance of community boreholes should be given a first priority.
- Increase School feeding Program (SFP) for schools as a way to revert significant food shortages at household level.
- GoK relief food should be consistent to support needy households who are not targeted under EMOP food targeting.
- Promote rain water harvesting techniques.

Action- WFP, KFSSG, ALRMPII and other DAs

- Continuous disease surveillance should be emphasized to contain disease outbreaks, especially PPR, CCBP, CCP and Anthrax incidence to areas where livestock are currently affected or concentrated.
- De-stocking program should be initiated to help pastoralist recoup some losses due to prevailing drought situation as it is leading to massive losses of livestock.
- Provision of hay and other livestock feeds for at least lactating stock in greater Marsabit district.
- Support the Loiyangalani, El-Molo and Illeret communities with fishing gears through credit provision and promote marketing of the fish.
- Organise a district wide rapid assessment to assess the current surge of livestock mortalities.
- Scale up supplementary and therapeutic wet and dry feeding program.
- Intensify disease surveillance.
- Construction and equipping of health facilities and recruitment of personnel.
- Need for posting of more medical personnel's to community dispensaries and health sectors in greater Marsabit district.
- Ministry of Health should rapidly respond to outbreaks such as cholera wherever it is reported.
- Fostering of peace should be encouraged within and without district boundaries.

- Cross-border peace meetings should be emphasized by all stakeholders to enable free movements of livestock.