



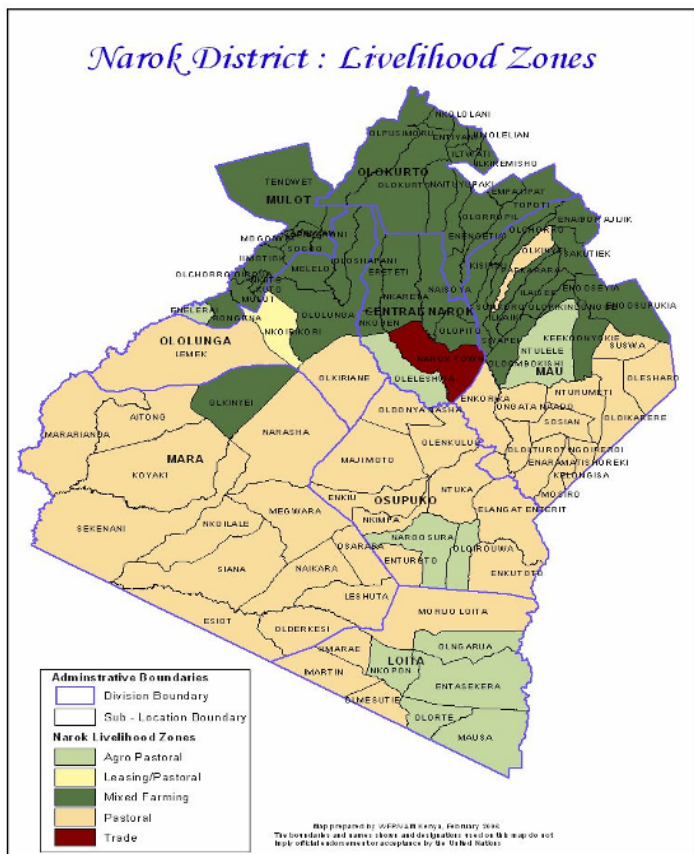
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

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

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, SEPTEMBER 2009

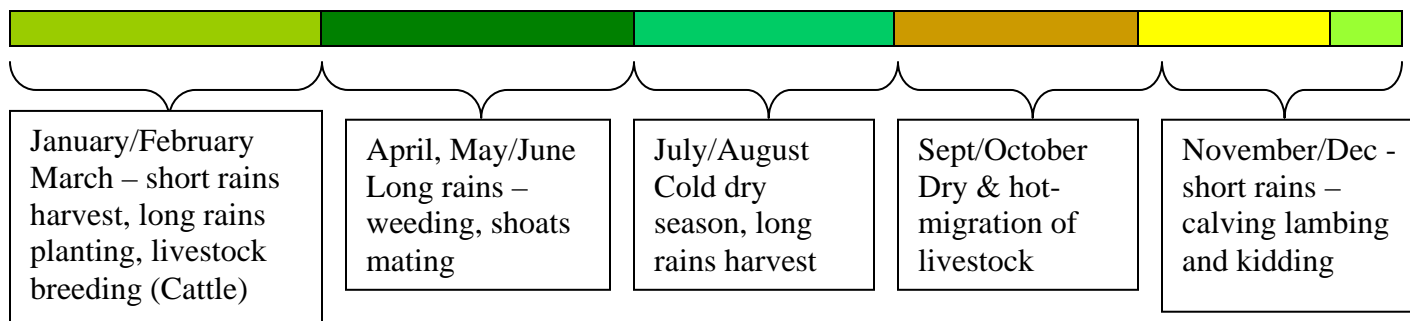
Narok District

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Agro Pastoral	Alarm	No Change
Entasekera, Naroosura, Suswa		
Mixed Farming	Alert	No Change
Nairragi-Enkare, Mulot		
Pastoral	Emergency	Emergency
Olmesutie, Ntuka, Mosiro, Oletukat		
Leasing/ Pastoral	Alarm	No Change
Lemek, Ololulunga,		
Pastoral Tourism	Alert	Worsening
Koyiaki		

Seasonal calendar



Situation overview

- The district received 4 days of rainfall of moderate intensity mainly in the upper parts of Mau and parts of Mara and Central divisions. On average 13mm of rainfall were recorded during the review period. This was far below normal during the year and a negative pointer to the food security situation in the district.
- Water conditions also declined compared to the previous month, with most pans already drying up as a result of prolonged drought. The main sources of water for the month include dams, major rivers and strategic boreholes and springs/wells. The distances to and from watering points increased from an average of 4-5 Kms in June to an average of 5-15 kms during the reporting period, impacting negatively on the food security situation. Water trucking to schools and other affected communities was a priority intervention during the last two weeks.
- The increased distances to water points led to reduced consumption of water at the household level, which compromised hygiene status.
- Pasture and browse conditions changed drastically due to water related stress.
- Livestock body conditions continued to decline due to deteriorating pasture conditions and this impacted negatively on the market prices. Cases of enterotoxaemia heart water and CCPP were reported in Osupuko, Loita, Mau and Central divisions. Suspected cases of FMD were also reported in Mara and Parts of Loita divisions.
- Milk production declined drastically and the available milk was mainly reserved for the young children.
- Livestock prices remained within the previous months rates due to poor body conditions and poor market conditions. On average a mature cow sold at Ksh 7,000 compared to 15,000 under normal situation. The shoa's prices did not change during the reporting period. On average the prices remained at Ksh 1,400 and 1,300 for goats and sheep respectively.
- The yields of maize and wheat crops in the district were too low compared to normal. On average 2-3 bags of maize were being harvested compared to 10-15 bags under normal circumstances. This was mainly affected by the poor performance of the long rains in the district. This will impact negatively on the food security situation in the district and the country at large.
- Prices of cereals remained stable within the previous month's rates with maize selling at Ksh 45 per kilo while legumes sold at an average of Ksh80 per kilo. The prices were above normal and this impacted negatively on the food security situation in the district.
- The nutrition status of children under five declined. On average 21.5% of 645 children sampled were rated at risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135mm). This rate was high compared to a low of 18.8% of 960 recorded last month.
- The district remained in the alarm stage in terms of food security.

Current interventions

- Capacity building trainings for communities undertaken by various stakeholders
- Peace meeting barazas for communities vulnerable to resource based conflicts.
- Distribution of relief seeds to farmers by through the Ministry of Agriculture (D.A.O)
- Protection and development of Loita, Sakutiek, and Kimogoro springs (ALRMP II, M.W&I, W.R.M.A)

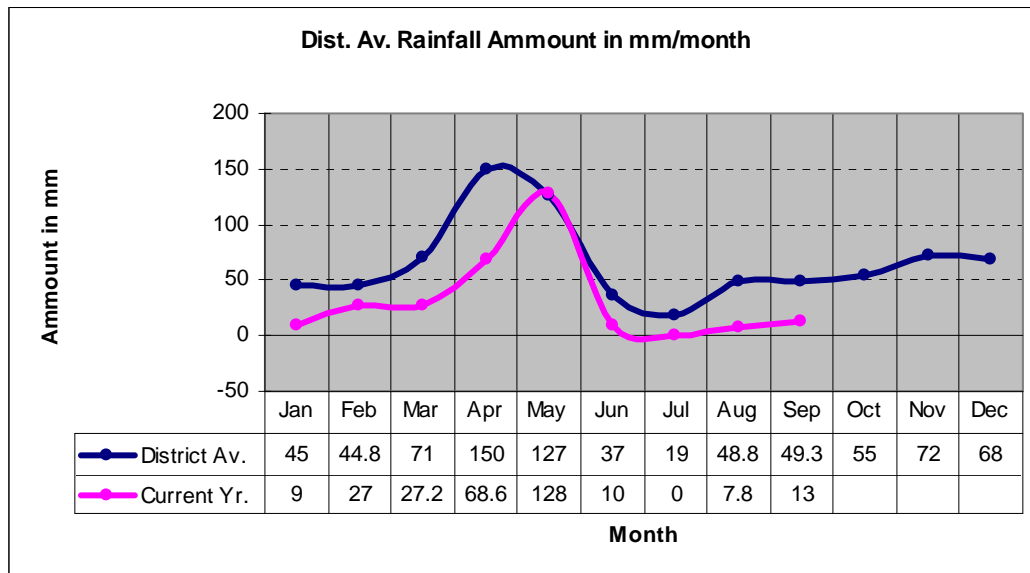
- Integrated medical outreach alongside the anti jigger campaign at Enaramatishoreki and Isinon Locations. (D.M.O.H, A.C.K, Red Cross and ALRMP II)
- Tree planting and water development project by various groups supported by ALRMP II, K.F.S and ENSDA mainly through the Kazi kwa Vijana initiatives.
- MoH, Operation Eye Sight International is currently drilling/servicing boreholes in its district wide trachoma eradication programme.
- World Vision, World Concern, APHA II, Kenya Red Cross and other institutions are supplementing the GoK activities in provision of water and capacity building support in various divisions.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- There is need for a close monitoring of the food security situation in the district. This is due to the prevalence of a serious food crisis following the prolonged drought and the mass crop failure during the season.
- Key stakeholders including WFP and Red Cross to consider relief food and other emergency interventions (non food) to the affected population approximately numbering 120,000
- The few farmers lucky to have gotten a crop of maize should be encouraged to store their harvests and be trained on proper storage techniques.
- Water harvesting technologies should also be up-scaled in the district.
- Supplementary feeding of children under five should be done to improve on their nutritional status.
- Livestock disease surveillance should also be strengthened, especially with the likelihood of uncontrolled livestock movements in and out of the district.
- Livestock farmers should be encouraged to destock their herds to reduce the impacts of losses in the event of a drought which is imminent.
- Support to school feeding programme is also recommended, especially for the affected schools that are not in the WFP Expanded school feeding programme.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall



SOURCE: ALRMP,WRMA

- There were 4 days of rains of moderate intensity mainly in the upper parts of Mau and parts of Mara and Central divisions. On average 13mm of rainfall were recorded during the review period.
- This was far below normal during the year and is a negative pointer to the food security situation in the district.

1.2 Condition of vegetation and pasture

- Pasture and browse conditions were very poor, with some parts especially in the lower rangelands of Osupuko, Central and parts of Mau being bare. This was mainly due to lack of precipitation and overgrazing.
- Most pastoralists moved their herds to the wheat growing areas to feed on the straws but the same is fast depleting due to overcrowding and most farmers have also harvested the straw for sale.

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Use of water sources

The table below indicates water sources and percentage of households using them, compared to a normal situation.

Water source	1	2	3	4	Others
% Of h/holds depending on the source	50	10	25	10	5
% Of h/holds normally depending on source	25	50	15	8	2

1. Natural rivers 2. Catchment pools/dams 3. Constructed shallow wells/functional 4. Boreholes (functional)

- Water conditions were also fast declining, with approximately 50% of water pans and dams already drying up due to lack of rainfall and concentration of livestock around the water sources.

- The main sources of water for the last month remained dams, major rivers, strategic boreholes and springs/wells. The situation is however likely to worsen if the current weather conditions prevail. This will impact negatively to the food security situation.

1.3.2 Distances (kms) to water sources

- The distances to and from watering points increased significantly following the drying up of pans and streams during the month. An average of 5-15 Kms was covered for livestock as well as for domestic use. The distances to the watering points was not normal during the time of the year.
- This impacted negatively on the food security situation as more time was spent looking for water for domestic use as well as for livestock.

The table below indicates average distances to water sources compared to normal situation

Water sources	1	2	3	4	Others
Average Kms to the source	10	15	5	8	4
Normal Kms to the source	4	3	5	8	2

1. Traditional rivers/wells 2. Catchment pools/dams 3. Constructed shallow wells/functional 4. Boreholes (functional)

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity/conflicts

- Apart from a few cases of predation, there were no major security concerns in the district.

1.4.2 Migration

(b) Livestock migration

- No in-migration was reported in the district during the review period.
- There were no reports of out migration during the reporting period.
- Movement of livestock within the district reportedly continued as herders moved their livestock away from the wildlife migration corridors, especially in Mara and Osupuko.

(b) Human Migration/displacement

- No major movement of humans reported during the review period.
- Cases of a few people moving into the district in search of casual labour and charcoal burning.
- This was also normal during this time of the year.

2.0 Rural economy indicators

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Livestock body conditions have declined drastically due to water and pasture related stress.
- This impacted negatively on the food security situation.

2.12 Livestock health

- Cases of enterotoxaemia heart water and CCPP have been reported in areas of Osupuko, Loita, Mau and Central divisions. Suspected cases of FMD were also reported in areas of Mara and parts of Loita and Osupuo divisions.
- The drought situation may trigger an uncontrolled movement of livestock in search of pasture and water thereby increasing the prevalence of disease outbreaks
- The department of veterinary is however monitoring the situation closely.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk availability has gone down following the poor weather conditions and is far below normal due to the low calving rates and the impacts of the recent drought.
- Where milk is available consumption is mainly reserved for the young children.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of various crop production activities

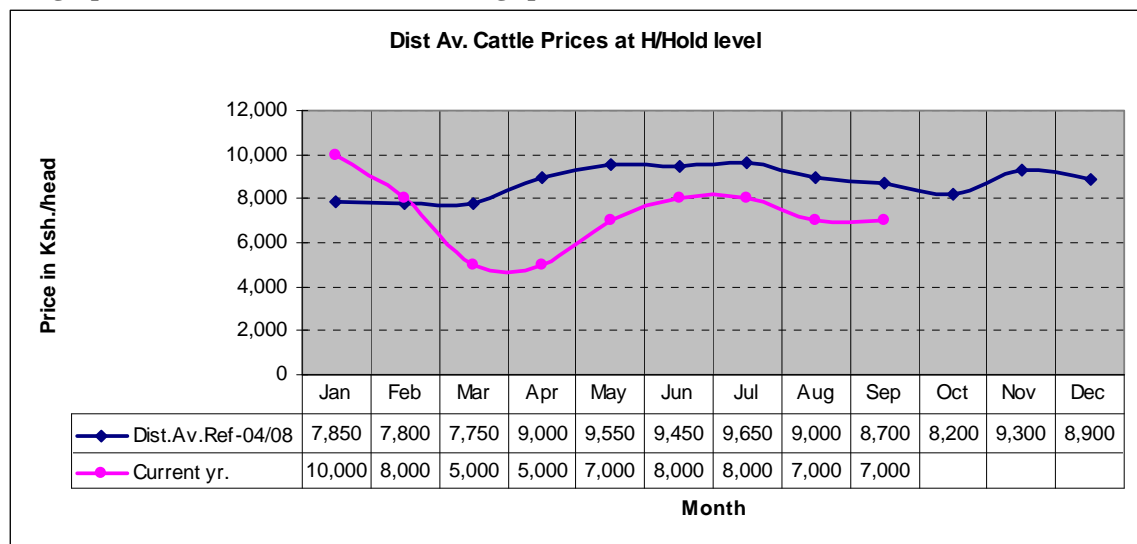
- The wheat crop being harvested was very poor and in some areas there were no yields. Most farmers harvested as low as 2 bags per acre compared to the normal 15-18 bags. This compromised the food security of a number of households.
- Maize farmers recorded very low yields, with most farmers not harvesting at all due to the effects of drought. For those who got some harvest it was far below normal, with most of them getting 1-3 bags per acre compared to 10-15 bags under normal circumstances.
- Crops under irrigation in Naroosura and Mosiro were in good condition but the acreage was very low due to most farmers leaving the areas with their livestock in search of water and pasture.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices

The graph below shows district cattle average prices in Ksh (household level)



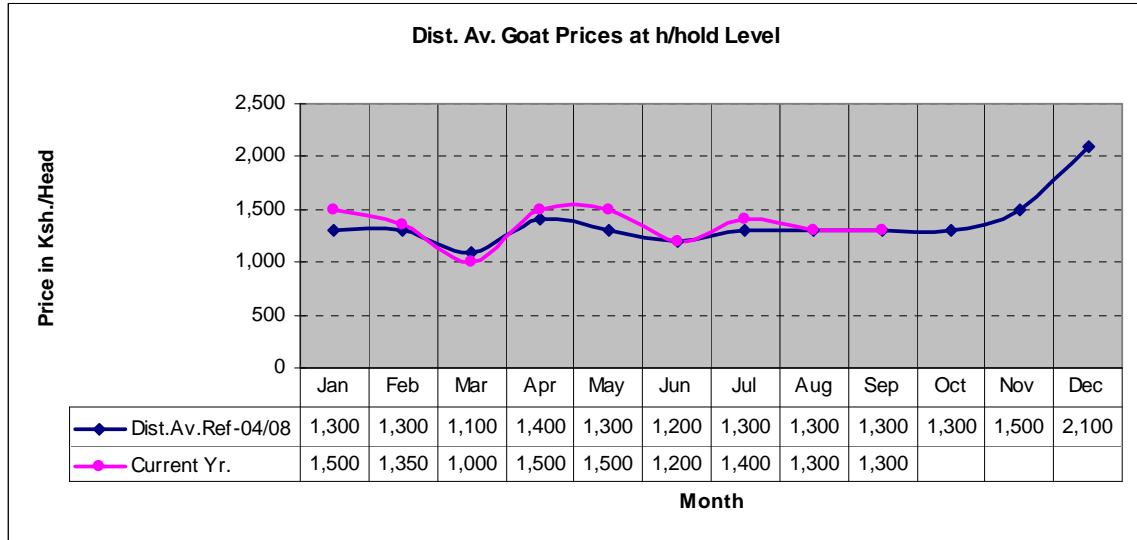
Source: ALRMP II NAROK

- Cattle prices declined further during the month with the declining body conditions. Mature cows sold at an average of Ksh7,000.

- The prices are likely to go down further if the prevailing drought conditions persist.
- This impacted negatively on the food security situation in the district.

3.1.2 Goats prices

The graph below shows the district average prices of goats at the h/hold level (Ksh.)

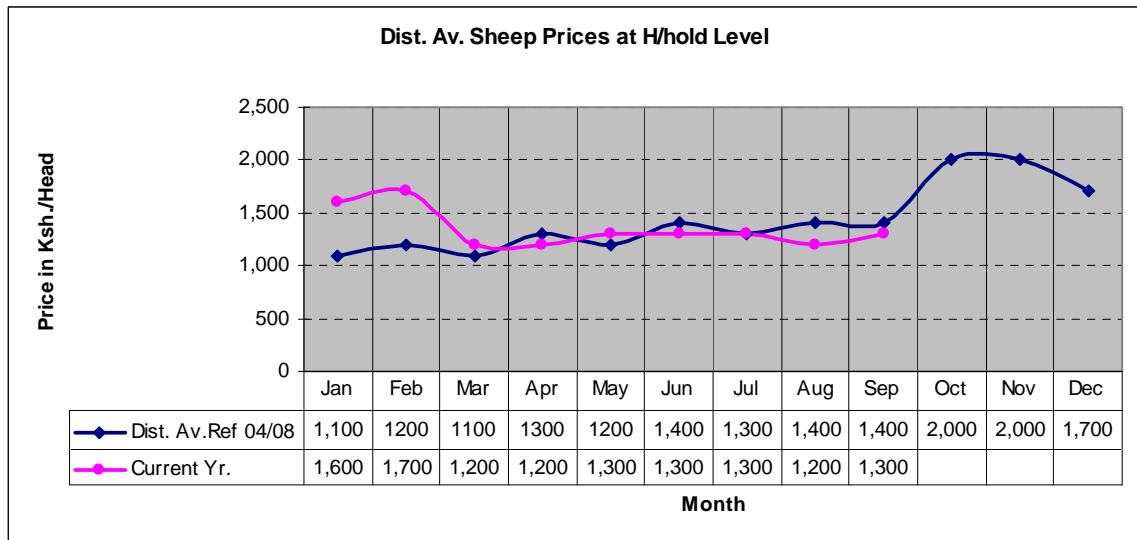


Source: II NAROK ALRMP

- Goat prices declined slightly compared to the previous month's rates. On average a mature goat sold at Ksh1,300 compared to 1,400 in July.
- This was, however, within the normal rates during the time of the year. Most households relied on the sales of shoats for survival.
- This impacted positively on the food security situation.

3.1.3 Sheep prices

The graph below shows the district average prices for sheep at the household level (Ksh.)



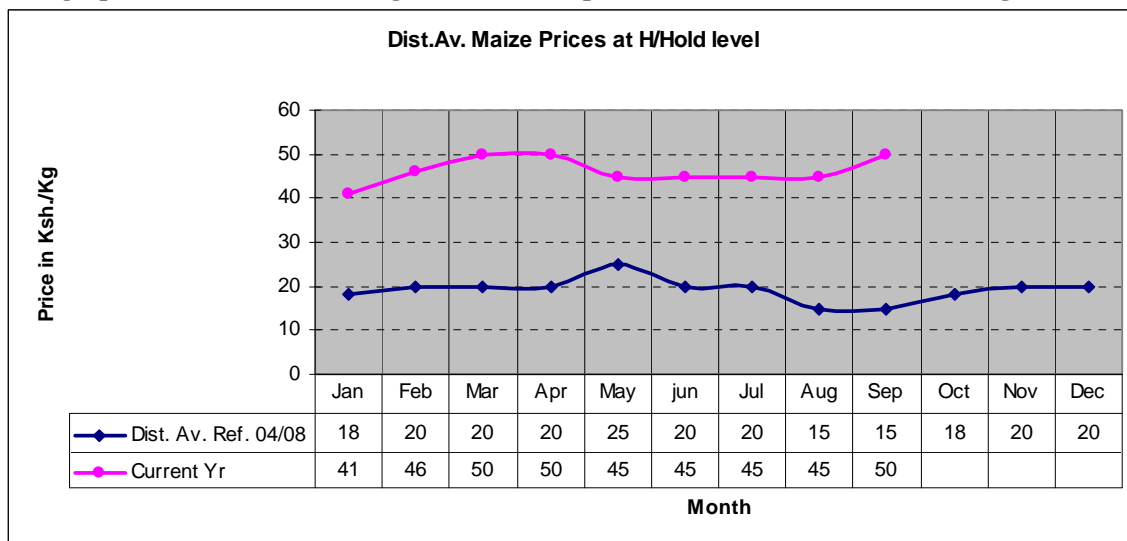
Source: ALRMP II NAROK

- Sheep prices continued to decline compared to last month's rates, selling at an average of Ksh1,300 compared to 1,700 in February.
- The shoats were mainly the only source of income as they supplement the household's source of food and cash as the prices for the larger stock are far much below the long term thresholds.

3.2 Food prices

3.2.1 Maize prices

The graph below shows the average district maize prices at the household level (Ksh./Kg)

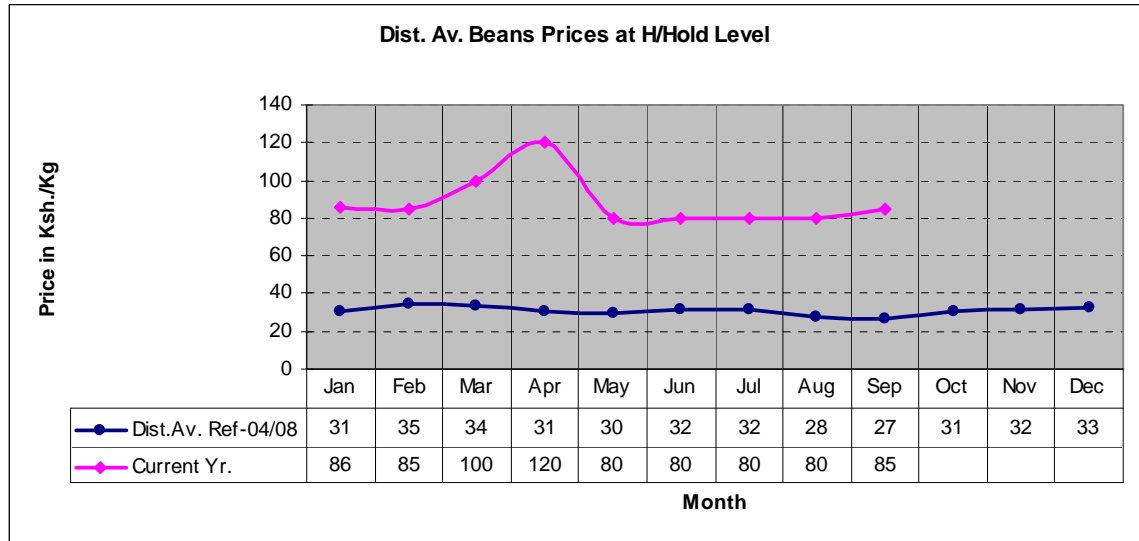


Source: ALRMP II NAROK

- The prices of food have not changed much compared to last month.
- Maize traded at an average of Ksh50 per kilo compared to the normal price around this time of Ksh25.
- The relatively high prices were attributed to the scarcity of maize locally.
- The slight decrease was, however, a relief to households and was mainly attributed to the prevailing weather conditions where there is improved milk production and also some farmer's' crops of maize and beans is now being consumed at their green stages.
- This is, however, a relief in disguise because in the long run it will impact negatively on the food security level.

3.2.2 Beans prices

The graph below shows district average beans prices at the household level (Ksh /kg)

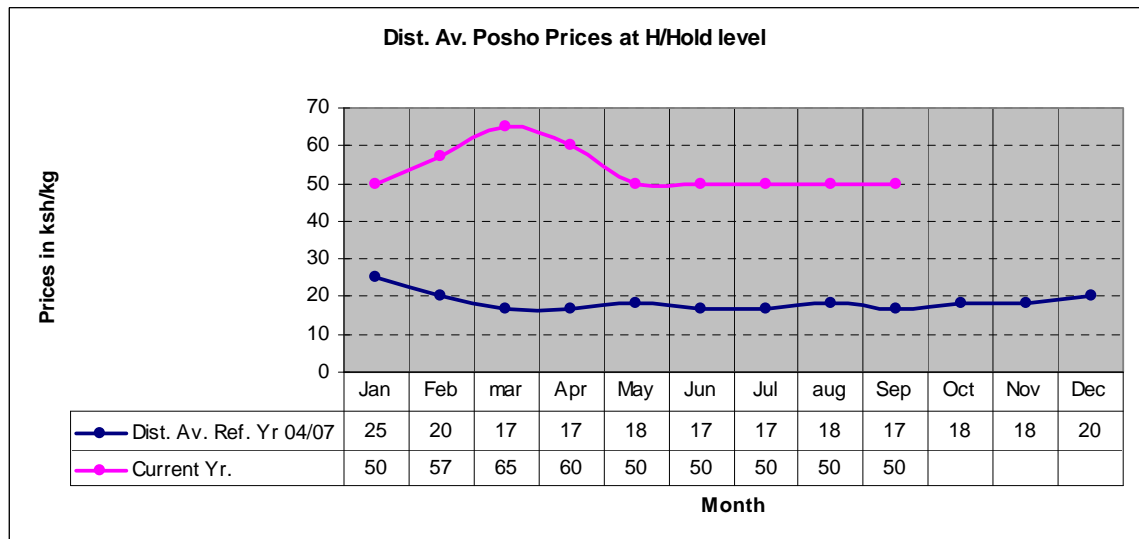


Source: ALRMP II NAROK

- Beans prices went up to sell at Ksh85 per kilo compared to Ksh80 last month. This was far beyond normal during this time of the year.
- The situation is likely to go up as very few farmers got a crop of the same.
- If the current conditions prevail the prices are likely to go up.

3.2.3 Posho prices

The graph below shows the average prices of posho at the district (Ksh/Kg)



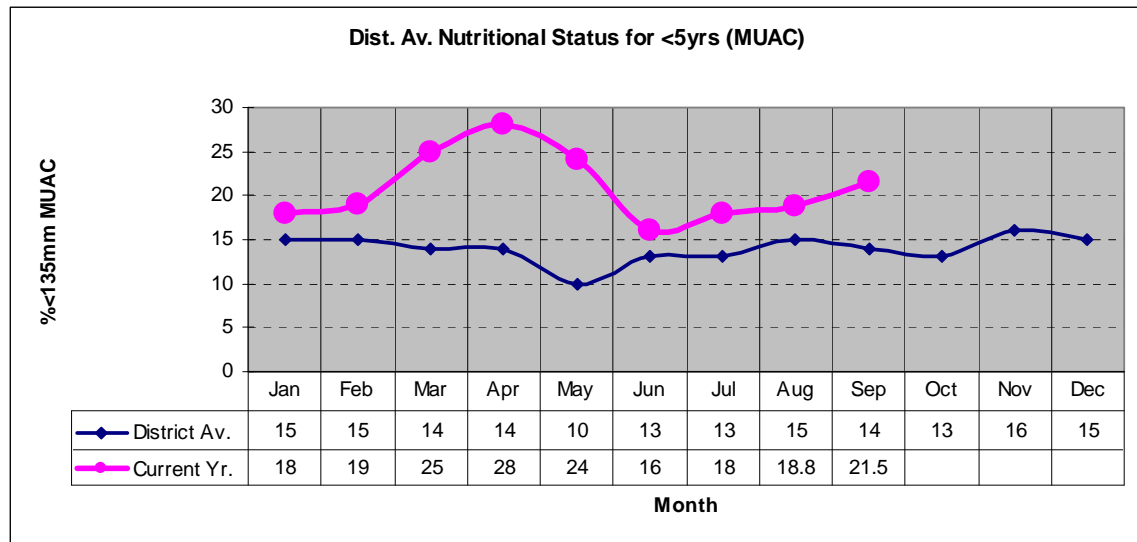
Source: ALRMP II NAROK

- Posho prices remained within the last month's average rate of Ksh50 per kilo.
- This was still far above normal and was mainly attributed to the scarcity of food in the household level.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status

The graph below shows the nutrition rates (MUAC<135mm)



Source: ALRMP II NAROK

- The nutrition status of children under five declined. On average 21.5% of 645 children sampled were rated at risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135mm). This rate was high compared to a low of 18.8% of 960 recorded last month.
- The situation is likely to deteriorate if the current weather conditions prevail. This was mainly attributed to the declining food security situation.

4.2 Human health

There were no major cases of human disease in both districts during the review period.

5.0 Current interventions

- Capacity building trainings for communities undertaken by various stakeholders
- Peace meeting barazas for communities vulnerable to resource based conflicts.
- Distribution of relief seeds to farmers by through the Ministry of Agriculture (D.A.O)
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