

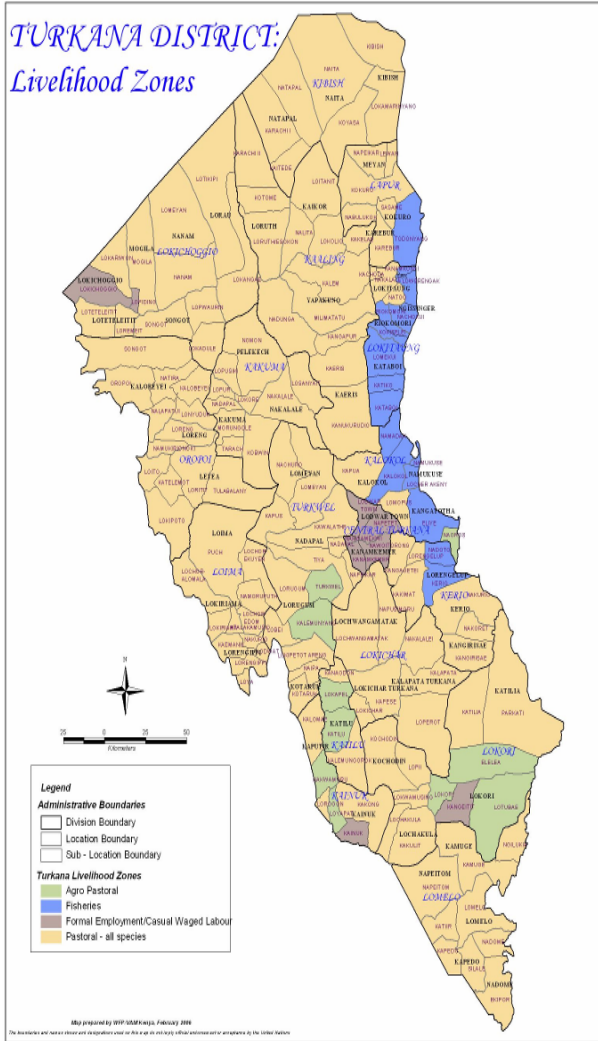


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, SEPTEMBER 2009

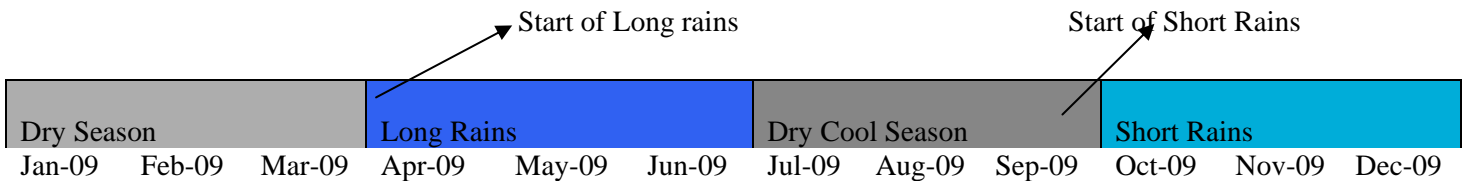
**Turkana North, Central, West,
East, South and Loima Districts**

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Pastoral-All Species	Emergency	No change
Agro-Pastoral	Emergency	No change
Fisheries	Emergency	No change
Formal Employment/Casual Labour	Emergency	No change
District	Emergency	No change

Seasonal calendar



- Decline in the quality and quantity of pasture and browse.
- Decrease in milk production.
- Drop in number of livestock newborns.

Situation overview

- The Greater Turkana district received no rainfall during the month under review. For example, the Lodwar meteorological station, recorded 0.0 mm, same as the previous month.
- The quality and quantity of pasture and browse in wet season grazing areas continued to worsen. The body condition of most livestock species declined further compared to the previous month.
- The average walking distance to and from water sources increased from 4.2 km the previous month to 4.9 Km.
- The mortality rate for all livestock species increased from 6.48 % in August to 13.65 % in September. For the large stocks it increased from 7.05 % in August to 18.1 %. In that respect, the mortality rate of small stock increased from a value of 5.9 % in August 2009 to 9.2 % recorded in September 2009.
- The average birth rate for livestock decreased from 8.4% in August to 3.68%. The birth rates recorded were: 3.3%, 6.5%, 4.4% and 0.5% for cattle, sheep, goats and camels respectively.
- The livestock sales rate increased from 1.93% in August to 3.65% in September.
- Household milk production across the six districts decreased from 9.66% in August to 4.62% in September.
- Numerous conflict incidences were reported during the month of September in all the cross border zones of Turkana districts.
- Most health centres recorded cases of malaria and upper respiratory tract infections (URTI). Cholera outbreak was reported in various parts of the greater Turkana District and two measles cases were also reported.
- The nutrition status of children below five years improved marginally during the month, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition dropping to 28 from 28.2% in August.
- Considering the general overview, the prevailing food security situation in the district can be classified as being at the “Emergency” phase.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Increase the number of persons benefiting from general food distribution.
- Transport subsidy for livestock traders.
- Every effort must be put in place to reduce the worsening levels of malnutrition in vulnerable groups such as children under five years, pregnant and lactating mothers, the sick and the elderly.
- Provide fuel subsidy for the Water Users Association (WUAS) with motorized systems.
- Water trucking to communities and institutions under water stress.
- Repair broken down pumps and flush boreholes across the district.
- The Veterinary department and other partners must continue with PPR vaccination campaigns. Other forms of supportive treatments like CCPV vaccination, deworming, mange and camel trypan can be done in combination.
- Support livestock off-take (destocking) in the district.
- Conflict early warning and rapid response should be strengthened.
- Cross-border peace meetings and community dialogues should be held in areas affected by insecurity.
- Recruiting more Kenya Police Reservists (KPR) in all the areas affected by insecurity and supplying them with enough ammunition to lend hand to the government security agencies in place.
- The food for assets (FFA) and cash for work (CFW) programs should be up scaled to take care of those left out of the targeting, so as to build their assets and resilience to drought.

- Provision of fishing gear to the fisher folk communities along Lake Turkana.
- Provide mobile health care services to pastoralists.
- Introduce solar fish dryers and cages to reduce the massive post harvest losses in the fisheries sector.
- Conduct emergency cholera treatment and Public health education in affected areas.

Current interventions

Non-food Interventions

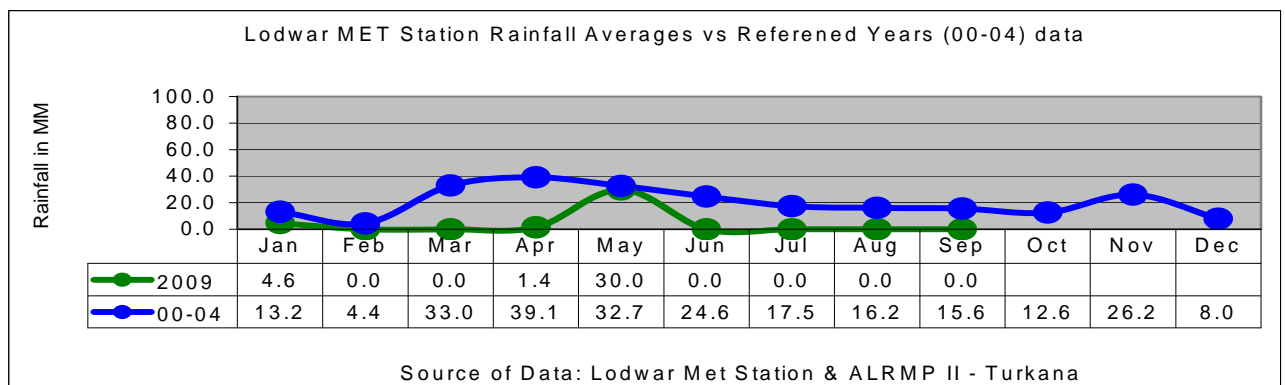
- The Hunger and Safety Net Programme(HSNP)-Pilot Phase.
- Njaa Marufuku Kenya project.
- The Drought Management Initiative Projects implemented by OXFAM GB and VSF- B.
- Water resources development by Practical Action; ALRMP, OXFAM-GB and Diocese of Lodwar.
- Conflict resolution and peace building initiatives by different stakeholders.
- Water trucking by ALRMP II and the Ministry of Water.
- UNDP Host Community Projects in Kakuma, Oropoi and Lokichoggio divisions of Turkana West district.
- Emergency Livestock off-take and slaughter by VSF –Belgium and AMREF.
- Increase of refugee in Kakuma refugee camp.
- Emergency cholera treatment.

Food aid

- General Food Distribution.
- Supplementary feeding.
- Food for Assets.
- School feeding Programme.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall



- The Greater Turkana district received no rainfall during the month under review. For example, the Lodwar meteorological station recorded 0.0 mm, same as the previous month. This was also much lower than the 15.6 mm of rainfall recorded for the same period of referenced year (2004).

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- The quality and quantity of pasture and browse in Turkana areas worsened in the lowlands (wet grazing areas).

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Use of water sources

- Most surface water sources dried up completely and underground water table went down drastically therefore cannot support water for both human and livestock consumption. In addition, the two seasonal rivers of Turkwel and Kerio had diminished flows, hence they could not fully support schemes located downstream.

1.3.2 Access to water

- The average walking distance to and from water sources increased from 4.2 km the previous month to 4.9 Km. This was attributed to the grazing areas being very far from water sources.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Conflicts and human displacement issues

- The conflict incidences between the Turkana and their neighbours were still high. For example, in Turkana South District a number of raids were reported in Kainuk Division, which resulted in many lives and livestock being lost.
- In Turkana North, a number of incidences were reported, for instance on 16th September two Merrile raiders from Ethiopia were killed by Turkana kralls settlement as they drove away 332 herds of cattle in Nalemesekon.
- In Turkana west, cases of cattle rustling were very high. Each day dawns with an attack from Toposas from Sudan. For instance, from 1st to 9th September the total number of livestock stolen were 2,800 herds of cattle and 750 shoats. 13 people were killed and 9 injured in the attacks.

1.4.2 Migration

- Most pastoral herders moved towards the dry season grazing areas along the borders of Turkana and neighbouring communities/countries) in search of water and pasture.

1.5 Implications on food security

- The inward and outward migrations had a negative effect on household food security.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production & marketing

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Livestock body conditions for all livestock species deteriorated and the livestock became emaciated. Drought-related deaths were reported.
- The mortality rates for all domestic livestock species greatly increased from 6.48 % in August to 13.65 % in September. The mortality rates in shoats increased from 5.9 % in August to 9.2 % . The mortality rates for the large stock (cattle and camels) increased from 7.05 % in August to 18.1% in September. These deaths were attributed to the starvation and lack of water resulting from the prolonged drought.
- The main causes of livestock deaths were prolonged drought, PPR (Lomoo), CCPP (Shoats), helminthiasis (goats), CBPP (cattle) and mange (camels). Predators, diarrhoea and internal parasites (worms) also contributed to the deaths.
- The livestock birth rates decreased from 8.43% in August to 3.68% in September. The small stock decreased from 9.1% to 1.9% and large stock decreased from 7.75% to 5.45%. The specific birth rates recorded for each of the species were: 3.3%, 6.5%, 4.4% and 0.5% for cattle, sheep, goats and camels respectively. This trend was explained by the effects of the devastating drought on livestock production.

2.1.2 Livestock health

- The common diseases and pests affecting livestock in the district were; Contagious Caprine Pleural Pneumonia (CCPP), Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), Foot and Mouth disease, Red Water and Helminthiasis in shoats, Contagious Bovine Pleural Pneumonia (CBPP) in cattle, haemorrhagic septicaemia and mange in camels, leptospirosis, ticks and lice.

2.1.3 Milk production

- The household milk production rate decreased from 9.66% in August to 4.62% in September.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and status of various crop production activities

- Some farmers in irrigation schemes were able to plant during this month. However, army worm infestation was reported in Kerio, Nanyee and Kabulokor irrigation schemes.

2.2.2 Harvest

- Some farmers are expected to harvest in the next one month.

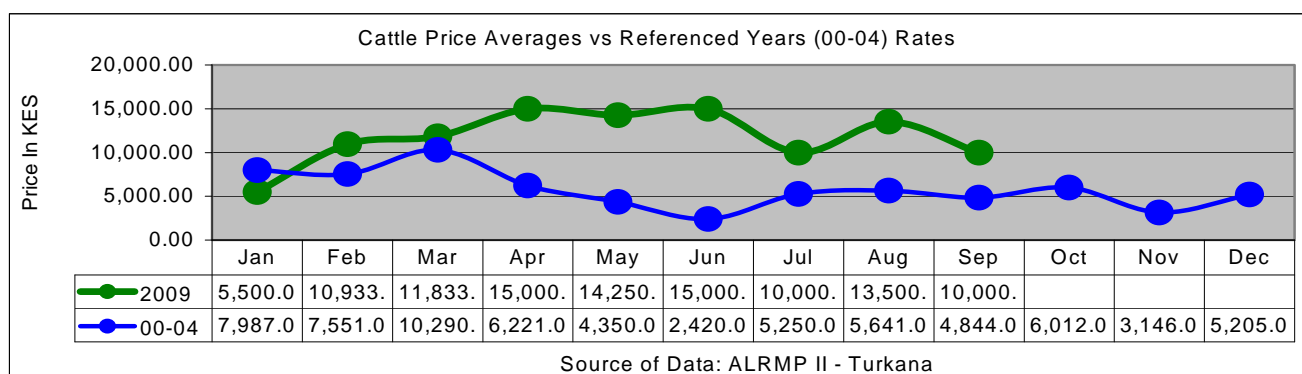
2.2.3 Implications on food security

- The food security situation has not yet improved owing to the cumulative effects of the above conditions.

3.0 Access to food

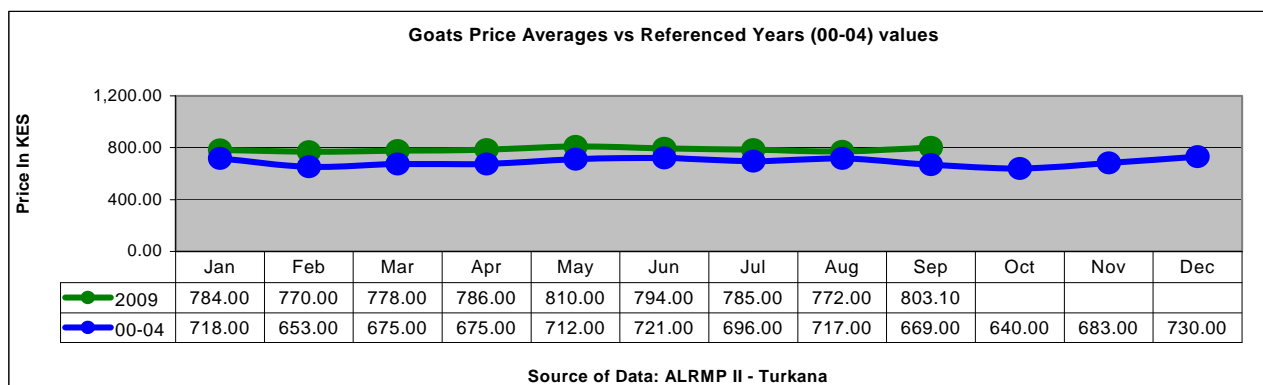
3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices



- The average cattle prices decreased from Ksh13,500 in August to Ksh10,000.
- Relative to reference year (2004), the value of Ksh10,000 recorded was much higher than that of Ksh4,844 recorded in the same period of the reference (2004).

3.1.2 Goat prices



- The average goat prices increased marginally from Ksh772 in August to Ksh803.10. The price was much higher than the reference year's Ksh669.

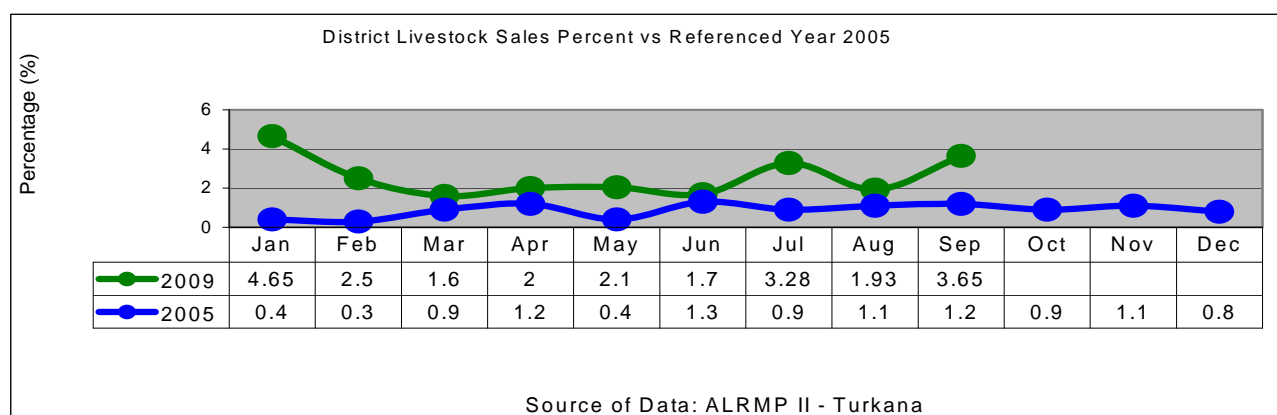
3.1.3 Sheep prices

- The price of sheep decreased by Ksh99.50 from Ksh902.80 in August to Ksh803.30 per animal.

3.1.4 Camel prices

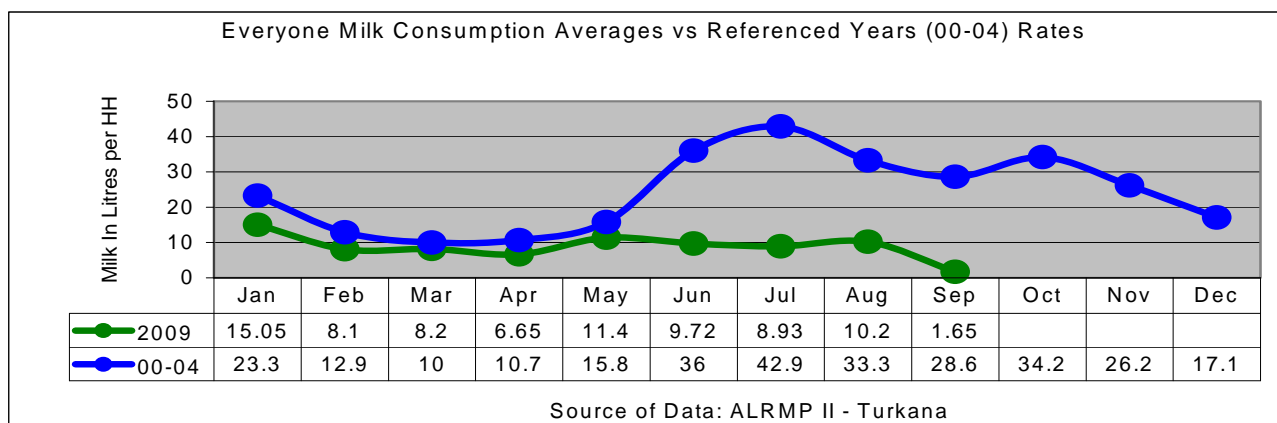
- The camel sales price recorded in September increased to Ksh14,400 from 14,325 in August.

3.2 Livestock sales



- The six districts of Turkana realised an increase in livestock sales rate from 1.93% in August to 3.65% in September. This was higher compared to 1.2% recorded in the same period of the reference year (2005). This was due to the emergency livestock off-take programme implemented by OXFAM GB and VSF-Belgium.

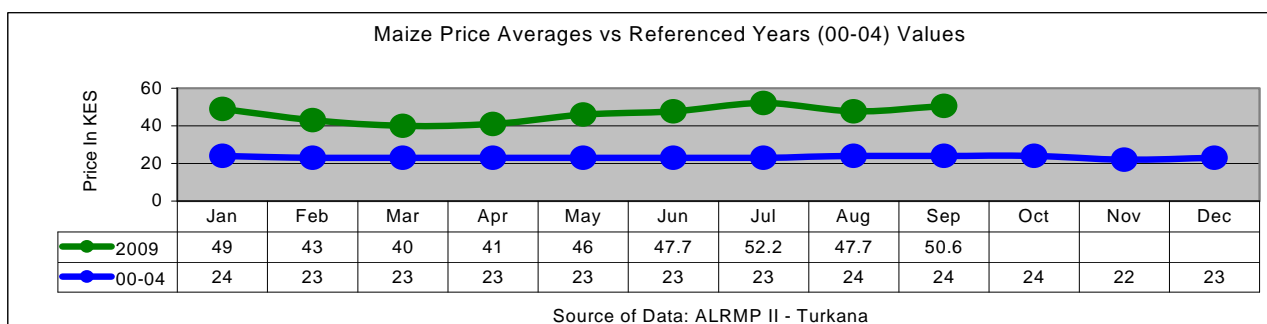
3.3 Milk consumption



- There was a decrease in milk consumption rate. The actual average value for September was 1.65% compared to 10.2% recorded in August. This was 27.05% lower than 28.6% recorded for the same period of the reference year (2004).

3.4 Food crop prices

3.4.1 Maize prices



- During the month, the average maize across the greater Turkana district was Ksh50.60 per kilogram (ranging from Ksh20 to 60).
- This was much higher compared to the Ksh24 recorded during the same period of the referenced year (00-04).

3.4.2 Posho (maize meal flour) prices

- The average posho price was Ksh51.90 per kilogram (ranging between 28 and 60).

3.4.3 Sorghum prices

- In the month of September 2009, the average sorghum price recorded was Ksh62.50 per kilogram (ranging from Ksh24 to 64 per kilogram in different parts of the Greater Turkana District).

3.5 Income

3.5.1 Livestock income

- The livestock sales rate increased from 1.93 % in August to 3.65 % recorded in September.

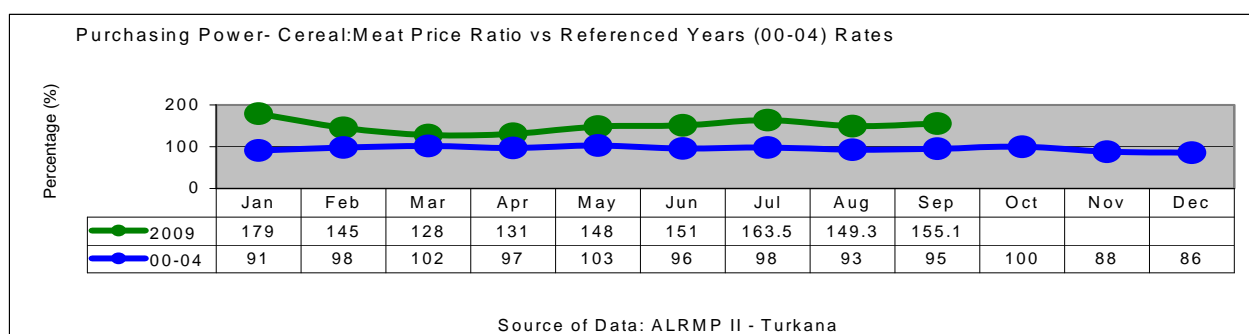
3.5.2 Crop income

- Agricultural crop production was below normal due to the failure by most farmers to plant at the start of Long rains season. This was due to little rains received in the greater Turkana. In addition army worms infested some of the farms, destroying planted crops.

3.5.3 Other income

- The percentage of people employed decreased from a value of 10.2% recorded the previous month to 7.0% in the month under review.
- The population engaged in small-scale trade in most urban and peri-urban centres was 22.0%.
- At this period of the year, the rate of casual work wages decreased from Ksh698.8 in August to Ksh144.20.

3.6 Terms of trade (Cereal: Meat Price Ratio)



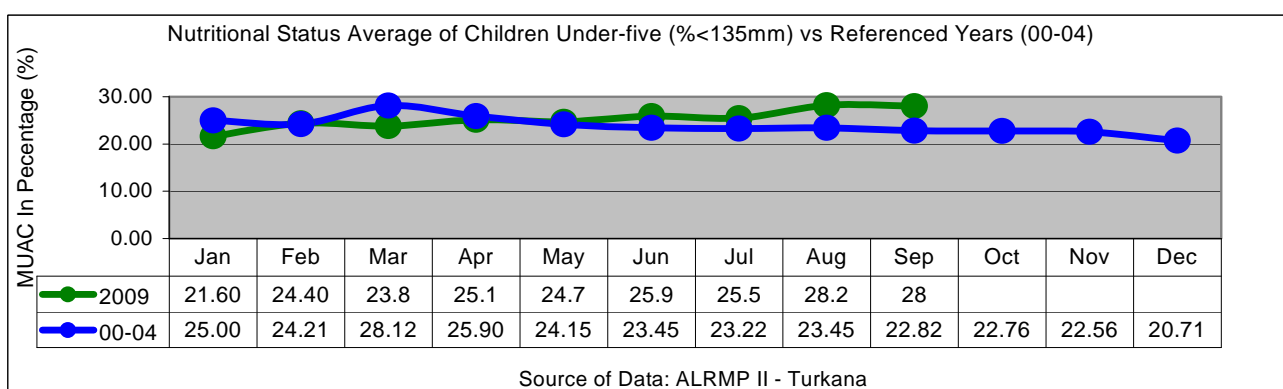
- The district cereal: meat price ratio was 155.1%, which was an increase from what it was the previous month. In other words, during the month the Cereal: Meat price ratio was very high compared to the referenced year's (2004) percentage of 95%.
- This value was indicative of the fact that terms of trade were increasingly becoming adverse to the herders.

3.7 Implications on food security

- The increase in cereal prices negatively affected the food security situation in the three districts of the Greater Turkana district. It also affected livestock off-take (destocking) by the pastoralists themselves.
- In regards to the coping strategies index (0 to 10), the month recorded a value of 1.9% compared to a value of 2.0% reported in the previous month.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (utilization of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



- The nutrition status of children below five years improved marginally during the month, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition dropping to 28 from 28.2% in August.

- This rate indicates a worsening trend, placing the whole of Turkana at the “Emergency” stage. This value was higher than that recorded during the same period of the referenced year (2004).

4.2 Human health

- The human health conditions in Turkana were very unstable. Cases of malaria and cholera continued to be reported across the greater Turkana district, while those of measles and polio were reported in Kibish division and Loima division and parts of Turkana south.
- There were also many cases of diseases such as Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI), diarrhoeal diseases, internal parasites (worm infestation), measles, mumps, skin diseases (body rashes), and eye infections being reported in various parts of Turkana.
- Most of water-borne diseases such as typhoid, cholera and diarrhoea would still affect the areas under water stress since they share water with animals.
- Poor Sanitation was still a major problem in all six districts of Turkana, especially in Loboolo, Lopur and in centres along River Turkwel and Lake Turkana. This problem was compounded by lack of public toilets in the communities and pit latrines in schools in those areas. Most latrines were made of temporary structures. The walls were made of soil, which can easily be washed away by rain water. Moreover, inaccessibility of safe drinking water was a major challenge because many people still relied on water from riverbeds. This explains why in most cases there were outbreaks of water-borne diseases in Turkana such as cholera, dysentery and typhoid.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non-food interventions

- The Hunger and Safety Net Programme(HSNP)-Pilot Phase.
- Njaa Marufuku Kenya project.
- The Drought Management Initiative Projects implemented by OXFAM GB and VSF- B.
- Water resources development by Practical Action; ALRMP, OXFAM-GB and Diocese of Lodwar.
- Conflict resolution and peace building initiatives by different stakeholders.
- Water trucking by ALRMP II and the Ministry of Water.
- UNDP Host Community Projects in Kakuma, Oropoi and Lokichoggio divisions of Turkana West district.
- Emergency Livestock off-take and slaughter by VSF –Belgium and AMREF.
- Increase of refugee in Kakuma refugee camp.
- Emergency cholera treatment.

5.2 Food aid

- General food distribution by WFP through the lead agencies (Oxfam GB & World Vision-Kenya).
- Supplementary feeding for the severely malnourished under-fives, pregnant and lactating mothers, aged and disabled groups (Merlin, etc).
- Food for Assets supported by WFP and ALRMP II through TRP and World Vision Kenya.
- Food distributed by Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC), Share International and Kenya Red Cross Society.

5.3 Coping strategies

- Petty trade was mainly done in urban and peri-urban centres like Lodwar, Kokuro, Kakuma, Lokichoggio, Kalokol, Kainuk and Lokichar. The commodities sold were fish (dry & fresh), wood products (firewood), handicrafts and livestock products to mention but a few.
- Small-scale irrigation farming was practised along rivers Turkwel and Kerio.

- Sale and slaughter of livestock was mainly practised in most parts of the three districts as an alternative coping strategy.
- Poor pastoralists were also engaged in charcoal burning and selling.
- Provision of general health services by the Ministry of Health and other development partners in the district.
- During the month under review, most household coping strategies and mechanisms were: reduction in the number of meals per day, consumption of wild foods (fruits and meat) and taboo foods, among others.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Increase the number of persons benefiting from general food distribution.
- Transport subsidy for livestock traders.
- Every effort must be put in place to reduce the worsening levels of malnutrition in vulnerable groups such as children under five years, pregnant and lactating mothers, the sick and the elderly.
- Provide fuel subsidy for the Water Users Association (WUAS) with motorized systems.
- Water trucking to communities and institutions under water stress.
- Repair broken down pumps and flush boreholes across the district.
- The Veterinary department and other partners must continue with PPR vaccination campaigns. Other forms of supportive treatments like CCPP vaccination, deworming, mange and camel tryps can be done in combination.
- Support livestock off-take (destocking) in the district.
- Conflict early warning and rapid response should be strengthened.
- Cross-border peace meetings and community dialogues should be held in areas affected by insecurity.
- Recruiting more Kenya Police Reservists (KPR) in all the areas affected by insecurity and supplying them with enough ammunition to lend hand to the government security agencies in place.
- The food for assets (FFA) and cash for work (CFW) programs should be up scaled to take care of those left out of the targeting, so as to build their assets and resilience to drought.
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