



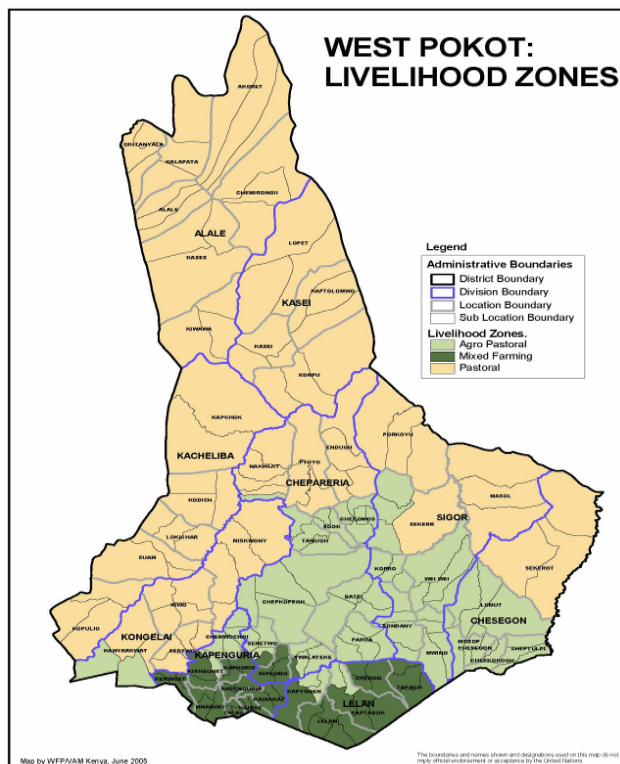
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

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

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, SEPTEMBER 2009

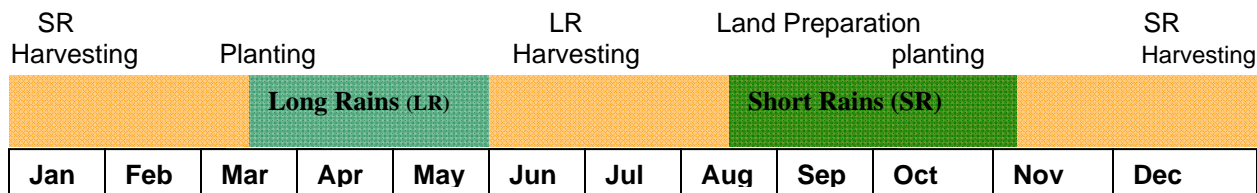
Pokot West, Central and North Districts

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Agro pastoral	Alarm	No Change
Mixed farming	Alert	No Change
Pastoralist	Alarm	No Change
District	Alert	No Change

Seasonal Calendar



Situation overview

- Some rainfall was received in the month of September, but it was still below the normal long term average. Most of the pastoral areas in Pokot North received rainfall below 40% of the normal while the mixed farming areas received rainfall about 80% of the normal. The Rainfall temporal distribution was for about two days
- Some rainfall was received in the low lying areas where livestock was concentrated but this was not sufficient enough to improve pasture conditions. Animals were still in the dry season grazing areas and distances to grazing areas increased from 6.3km to 7.3 Km.
- Flow of water in the rivers remained low and only natural rivers were flowing. Traditional river wells remained the major water sources as most water pans and dams remained dry. Distances traveled by households to access water increased from 3.4km to 4km with the longest being 8.3 km.
- In the mixed farming areas, the estimated production yield is expected to be between 60% - 80% in these areas for maize according to WRSI estimates.
- Cattle prices reduced, with the current recorded average price being Ksh 6,565 compared to Ksh7,420 recorded in August. Prices of goats increased from Ksh912 to Ksh1,012. This increase was attributed to the fact that goats were not affected by the drought as much as cattle since browse was available. There was a steady increase in goat prices since the lifting of the quarantine of movement against PPR disease.
- There was no major livestock migration and animals remained in the dry areas grazing zones.
- Prices of beans remained high at Ksh60 per kilo at the household level and Ksh80 in the markets. The highest recorded market price was Ksh100 per kilo in Kangoletiang.
- The nutrition status of children sampled below five years worsened, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition rising to 8.0% from 7.1% last month.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- Some rainfall was recorded in the district during the month, which was an improvement compared to August where most of the areas received no rainfall at all. Despite the rains, all the areas had rainfall below normal compared to the long term average. Rainfall received in Alale and Kasei divisions, whose livelihoods are predominantly pastoral, was below 40% of the normal.
- Other divisions, including the pastoral and Agro-pastoral livelihood areas, received rainfall that was about 80% of the normal. The temporal distribution was for about two days. The rainfall came after a prolonged dry spell and its impact on various livelihoods will depend on how it progresses.
- In the mixed farming areas, the rainfall had no significant effects on food security, since crops were in the pre-harvest stages. In the pastoral and agro pastoral areas, continuity of the rain will improve pasture conditions .
- Flow of water in the rivers was still low, and only major rivers were flowing. The rains were not sufficient enough to recharge the seasonal rivers.

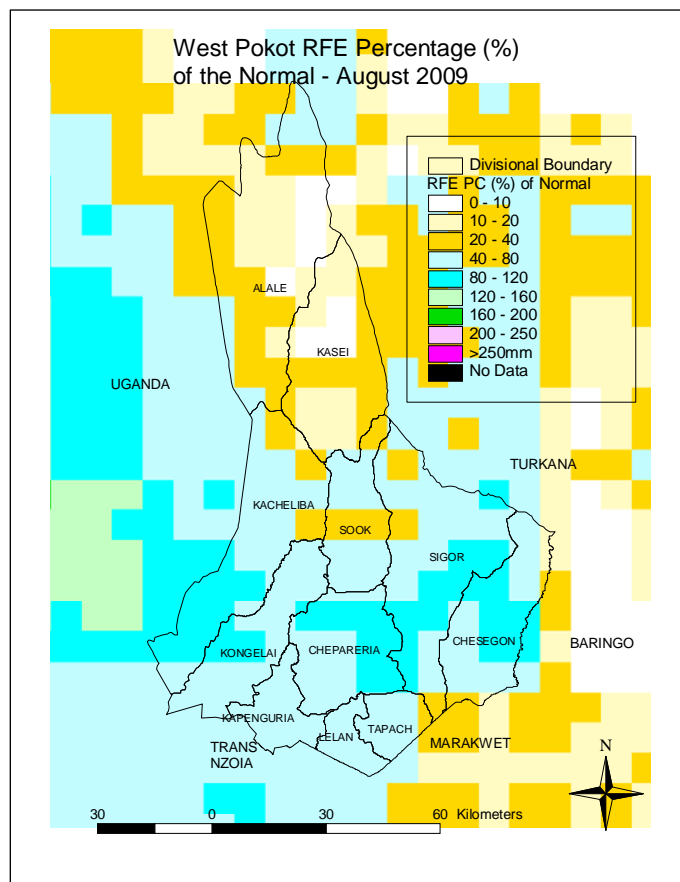


Fig 1. A representation of percentage of the normal Rainfall Estimate (RFE) computed from cumulative Satellite Imagery for September 2009 compared to August long term average.

(Image source OAA/USGS/FEWS/USAID)

- Across the neighbouring districts, rainfall in Trans Nzoia was near normal, close to 80% of the seasonal range.
- In Marakwet and Baringo districts (East Pokot), rainfall was below 40% of the normal an indication that pastoral livelihoods in these areas may be under duress.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Condition of vegetation in the pastoral livelihood areas remained poor and below the normal seasonal range.
- Rainfall was received in the pastoral livelihood but the amounts were not sufficient to improve the range conditions much.
- There was still shortage of pasture and browse in these areas and animals have not yet returned from the areas they had migrated to.
- The conditions were not normal at the time of the year.

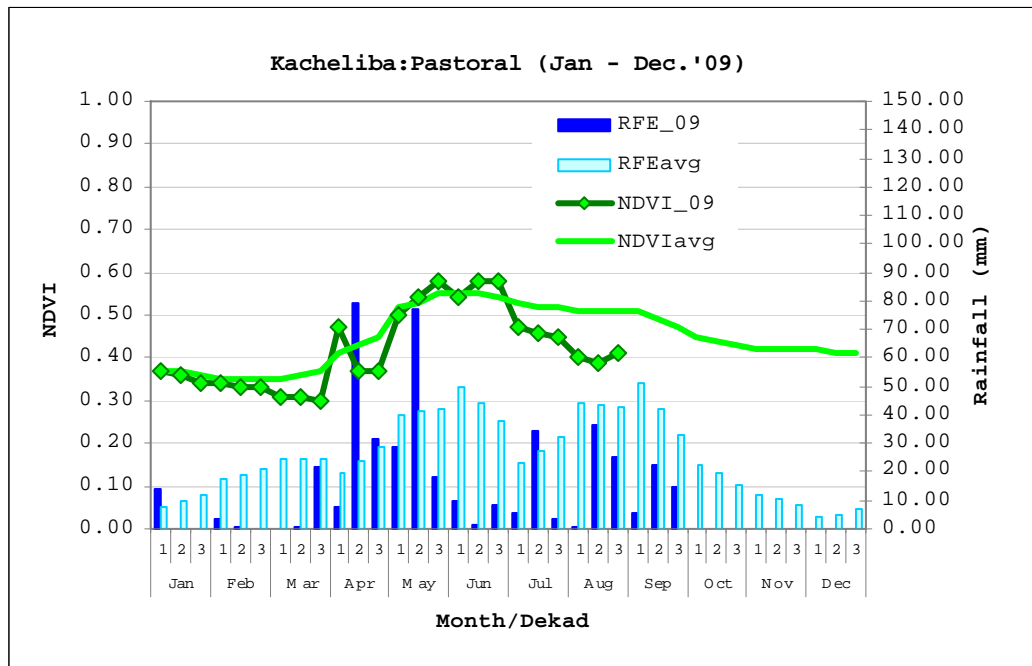


Fig 3. Graph Showing RFE and NDVI time series analysis for the Pastoral Livelihood (Kacheliba)

- Rainfall received in the agro-pastoral areas was below the normal seasonal range, hence pasture conditions were still very poor.
- These areas experienced more prolonged dry spell compared to the pastoral areas, hence recovery will take longer.
- Some rains were, however, received in the lowland areas where most livestock was concentrated and this is expected to sustain the situation.
- The situation was still below normal.

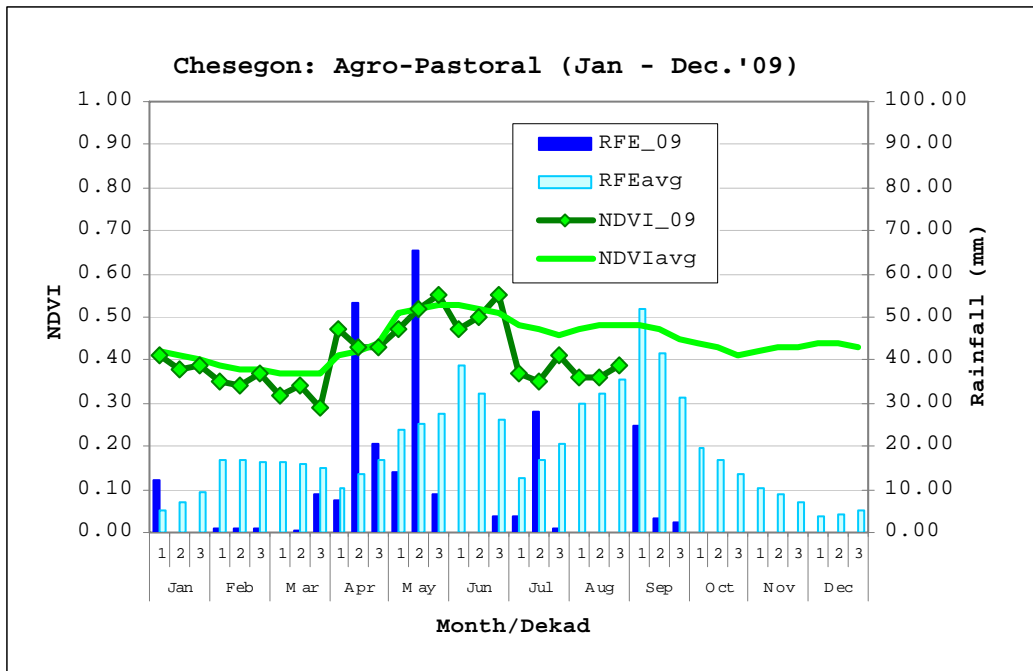


Fig 4. Graph Showing RFE and NDVI time series analysis for the Agro-Pastoral Livelihood (Chesegon)

- In the mixed farming areas, rainfall received was below normal, but this was inconsequential to crop production since most of the major crops were about to be harvested.
- The pasture condition in these areas was good. This was as result of rains that were received in August, which were below normal but higher in amounts compared to the other areas.
- The pasture conditions in these areas were normal.

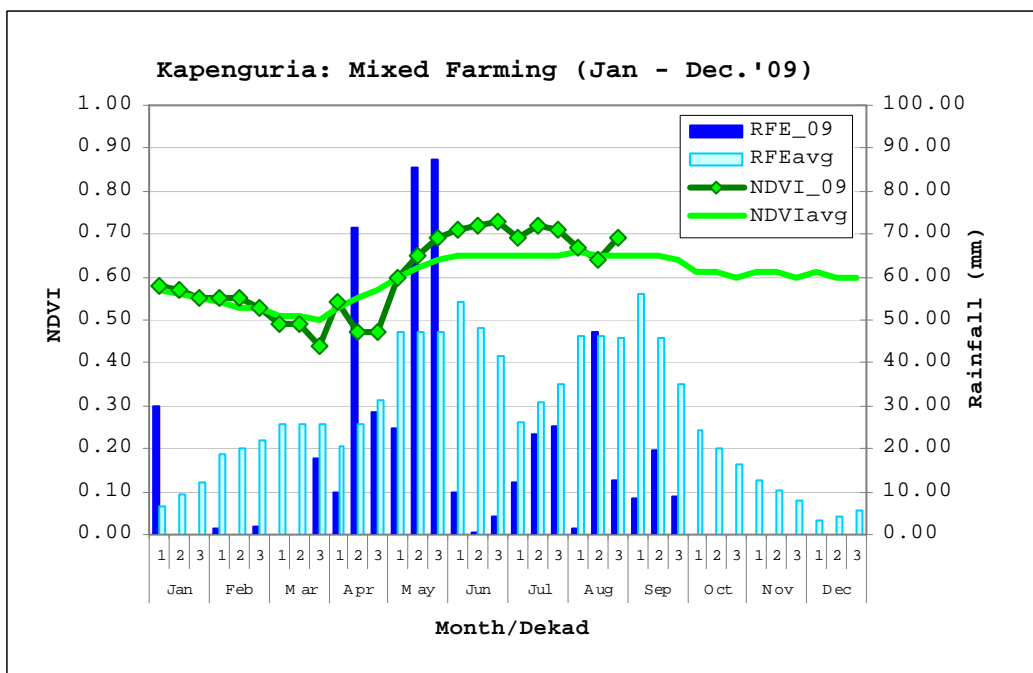


Fig 5. Graph Showing RFE and NDVI time series analysis for the Mixed Farming Livelihood (Kapenguria)

1.2 Distances to grazing areas

- The distance to grazing areas was 7.3 km compared to 6.3Km recorded last month. This was as a result of the conditions in the pastoral livelihoods where pasture conditions have not improved greatly.
- The longest distances were recorded on Orwa and Konyao at 14.3 Km and 15Km respectively. In Konyao, this was an increase compared to 13km recorded last month.
- This was not a normal situation at the time of the year.

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Water sources

- There was no significant change in terms of water sources compared to the month of August. This was because the rainfall received had little impact on in the way households and livestock accessed water.
- Traditional river wells continued to be the major water sources since most water pans and dams were still dry and had not yet recharged.
- The major natural rivers which were flowing also acted as critical water sources for both domestic and livestock use.

1.3.2 Household access to water

- There was an increase in the average distances traveled by households to access water from 3.4 to 4 km.
- The longest distances were recorded in Orwa at 8.3 km followed by Nyangaita and Sasak at 6.3 Km each. This was an indication of diminishing water resources within the communities.
- This situation is expected to improve if only there is rainfall received within the livelihoods.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Migration

- There was no major livestock migration compared to last month. Livestock remained in the dry season grazing areas which was not normal at the time of the year.
- The pasture conditions in these areas continued to diminish as livestock body condition continued to worsen. Cases of livestock mortality were also reported where these animals were concentrated.

1.5 Implications on food security

- Food security status in the pastoral and agro pastoral livelihoods has worsened.
- Milk production reduced, while livestock body condition continued to deteriorate.
- Availability of cereals and legumes in the markets was limited and prices were high. However, green maize was available in the mixed farming areas which boosted food security in the area.
- The food security situation was not normal at the time of the year, especially in the pastoral and agro pastoral livelihoods.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

- Livestock body condition was fair in the pastoral livelihoods. However, if rainfall is not received soon to sustain the pasture conditions, this situation is likely to worsen.
- In the pastoral livelihoods, animals which were accessing fodder from the grazing areas in Uganda had good body condition.
- Animals which were within the households however have their body condition worsening especially in the agro pastoral livelihoods.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- Cases of CCPP (*Contagious Caprine Pleuro Pneumonia*) and CBPP (*Contagious Bovine Pleuro Pneumonia*) continued to be reported, especially in North Pokot.
- Suspected cases of Foot and mouth disease were also reported in Pokot North and vaccination by the livestock department was ongoing.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of various crop production activities

- Harvesting of maize started in some of the upper areas and green maize was also available in some of the other areas. This is expected to improve the food security within the mixed farming areas.
- Within the agro-pastoral areas, there were no crops since rainfall here was not enough and most farmers didn't plant. For those who planted, crop failure was close to 100%, especially for maize and beans.
- In the mixed farming areas, the estimated production yield is expected to be between 60% - 80% in these areas for maize according to WRSI estimates.
- In the agro pastoral areas growing maize, production is expected to be below 50%.
- The food status was not normal at this time of the year due to rainfall failure in most areas.

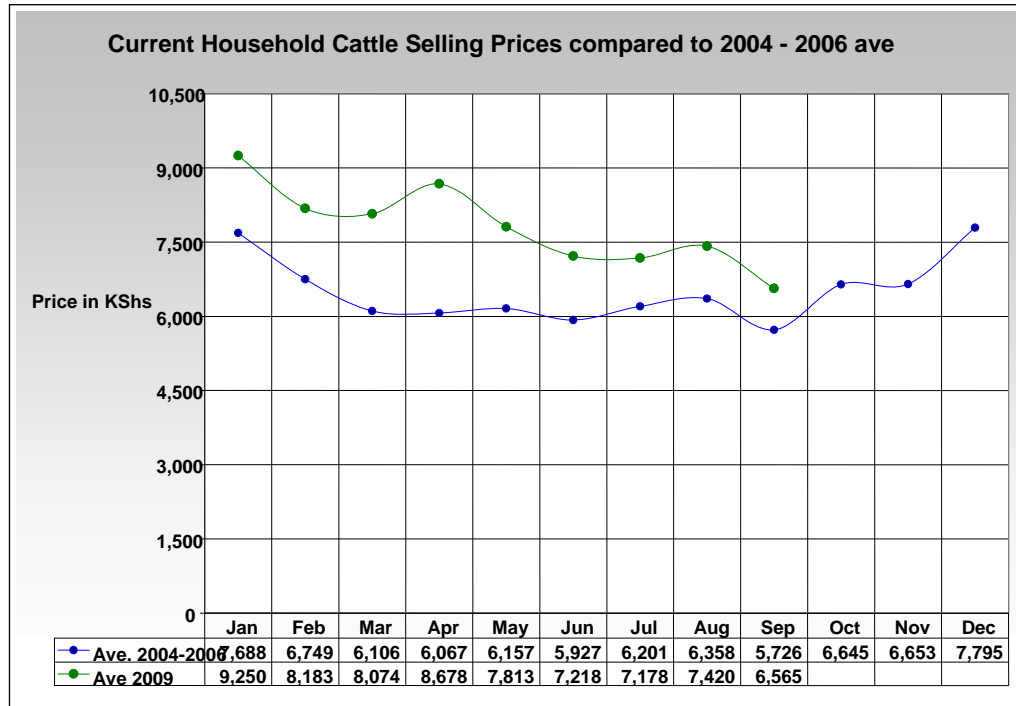
2.2.2 Pest and diseases

- There were no cases of crop pests and diseases reported out of the normal.

2.2.3 Implications on food security

- There was no significant change in the food security status, especially in the agro pastoral and pastoral livelihoods compared with last month. This is because there were no major harvests in these areas.
- In the mixed farming areas, maize was available, improving the food situation. Beans were however not available in most of the areas.

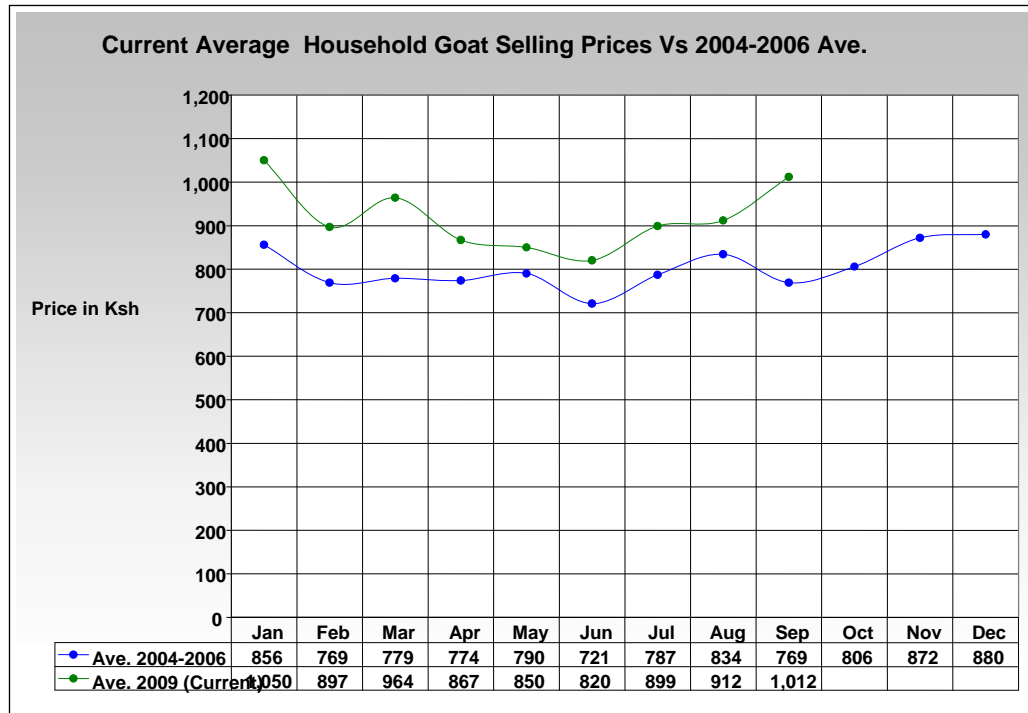
3.0 Access to food
3.1 Livestock marketing
3.1.1 Cattle prices



- Cattle prices reduced compared to last month. The recorded average price was Ksh 6,565 compared to Ksh 7,420 recorded in August. This reduction in price was attributed to continued decline of pasture conditions which worsened animal body conditions.
- The lowest price of Ksh4,000 was recorded in Chepnyal and Kangoletiang which was low compared to Ksh 6,550 recorded in Nyangaita last month. This was an indication of worsening conditions, especially in pastoral areas such as Kangoletiang.
- This was not a normal situation at the time of the year.

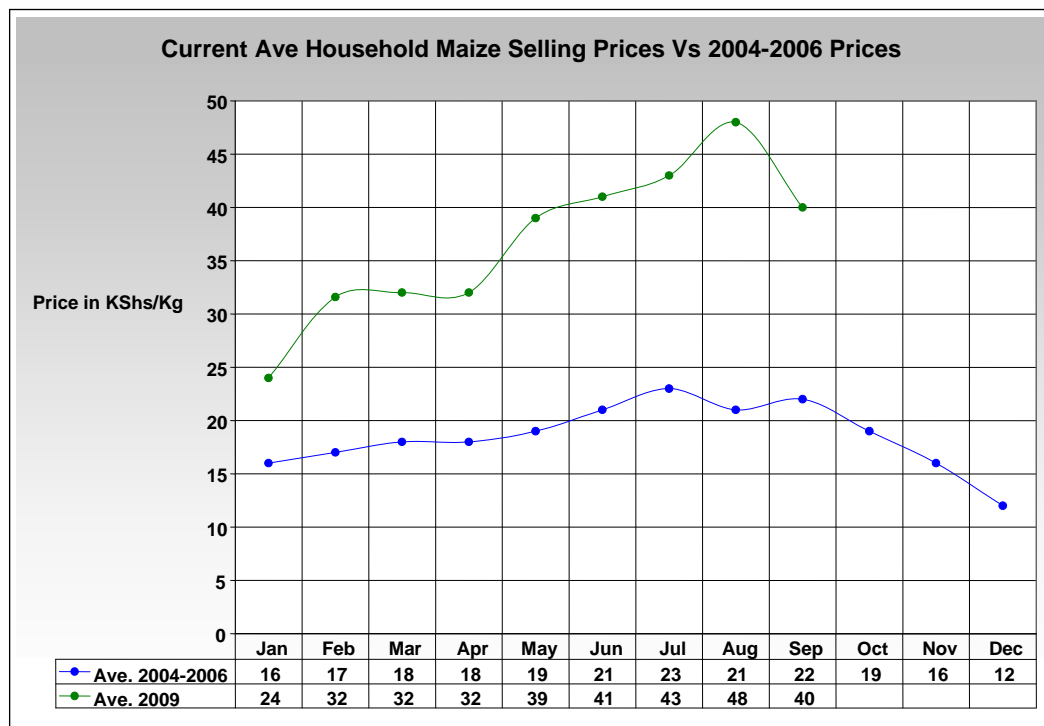
3.1.2 Goat prices

- Like the trend has been in the last few months, prices of goats showed an upward trend. The average price was Ksh 1,012 compared to Ksh 912 recorded last month.
- This increase was due to the fact that goats were not affected by the drought like cattle since there was availability of browse unlike pasture.
- The other possible reason for increase in goat prices was the lifting of the quarantine against PPR disease. This improved the markets and prices of goats as well.
- The lowest price was recorded in Orwa at Ksh628, while the highest was in Kapsait at Ksh1,400.
- This was a normal situation at the time of the year.



3.2 Crop prices

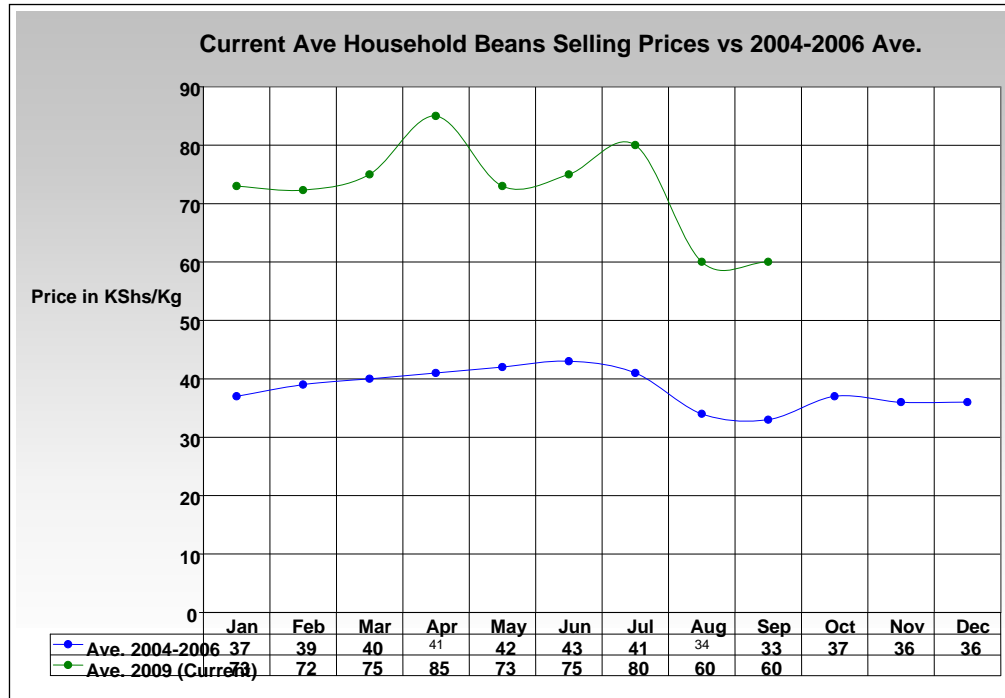
3.2.1 Maize prices



- The average of maize was Ksh 40 per kilo compared to Ksh48 recorded last month.
- However, only two sentinel sites namely Kaiboss and Pserum recorded sale of maize at Ksh 40 and Ksh 35 respectively.
- The highest price was recorded in Kangoletiang at Ksh 52 per kilo.

- The reduction in maize prices was due to harvesting of the crop which started in some maize growing areas and neighbouring districts.
- The prices were, however, high and above the normal range.

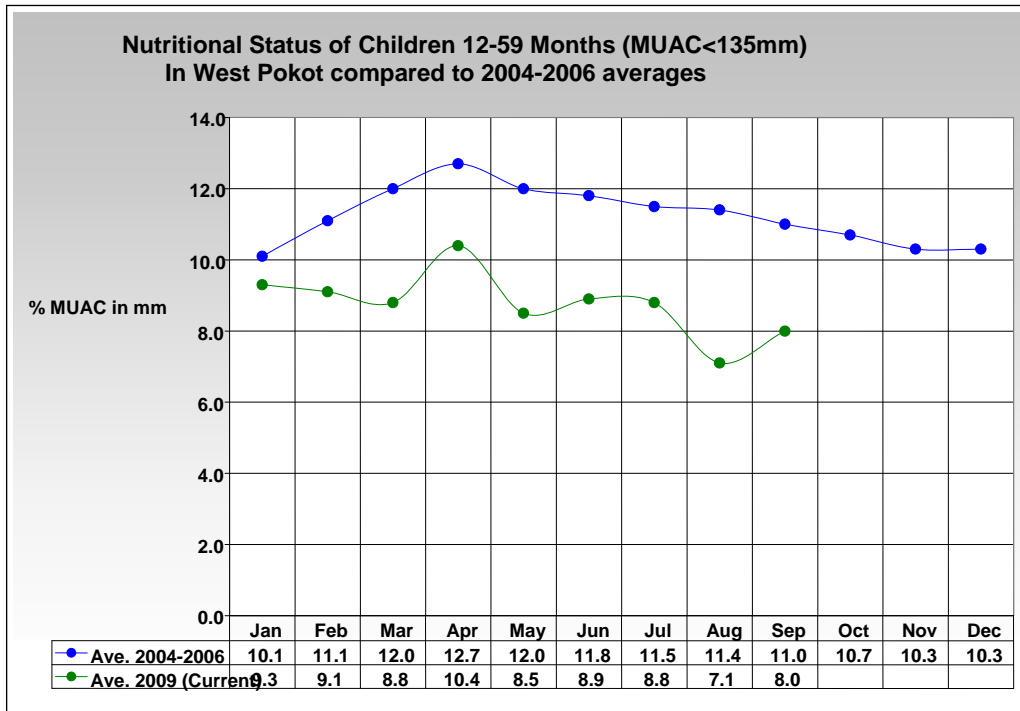
3.2.2 Beans prices



- There was no significant change in beans prices compared to last month. The average price was Ksh60 per kilo and only two sentinel sites (Chepnyal and Sasak) recorded sales at the household level.
- The market prices of beans remained high at an average price of Ksh74. The highest price was recorded in Kangoletiang at Ksh100 followed by Konyao at Ksh 80.
- Accessibility was also poor and the commodity was rarely available in most markets.
- This was not a normal situation at the time of the year.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



- The nutrition status of children below five years worsened, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition rising to 8.0% from 7.1% the previous month.
- This could be attributed to the fact that milk production reduced due to worsening pasture condition, hence less children taking milk.
- Food accessibility, especially beans, was poor and this has most likely compromised the situation.
- This situation is expected to improve if only there will be rainfall in the month, hence availability of food supplements like green vegetables.