

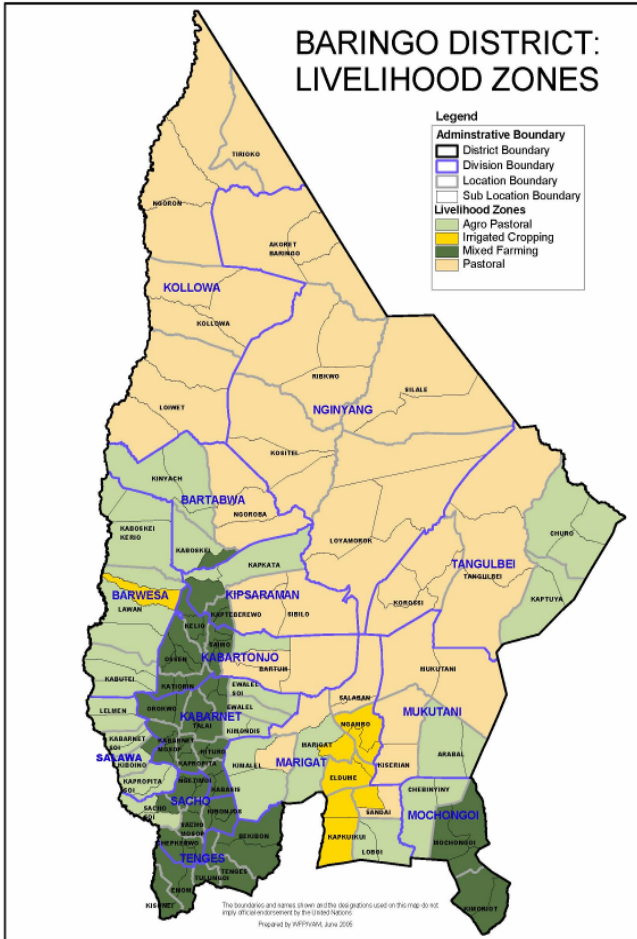


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, JANUARY 2010

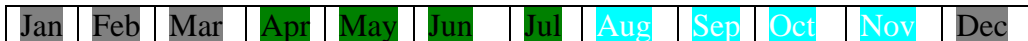
**Baringo: - Central/ North/
East Pokot/ Marigat Districts**

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Pastoral	Alarm	No change
Agro pastoral	Alarm	No change
Irrigated Cropping	Alarm	No change
Mixed farming	Alarm	No change
Project area	Alarm	No change

Seasonal Calendar



- Dry season :- (Land preparation, minimal calving, lambing & kidding)
- Long rains :- (Planting, most kidding & lambing and minimal calving & honey harvesting)
- Short rains :- (Most calving & honey harvesting and minimal kidding & lambing, pre-harvest & harvesting)

Situation overview

- Little amount of rainfall was received in the month and temporal distribution was poor. A total of 70 mm average rainfall was received from 2 – stations, an average of 2 days.
- The rainfall had little impact on the grazing and water resources in the areas reported rainfall. The quality and quantity of forage deteriorated in all the livelihood zones.
- Water availability for both human and livestock was sufficient in all the livelihood zones.
- Body condition of livestock was poor despite the favorable forage and deaths were reported due to post effects of drought in the pastoral, irrigated cropping and agro-pastoral livelihood zones.
- Milk production was low and mainly obtained from camels. This was attributed to poor body condition of the animals.
- The average prices of livestock decreased in sheep while it insignificantly increased in cattle and goats. The increase in price of cattle and goats was attributed to availability of buyers and less number of animals in the markets during the month. Poultry prices also increased compared to the previous month due to high demand.
- The average prices of food crops and other commodities increased during the month, especially for maize owing to high demand, coupled with unavailability of supplies in the markets within the district and the neighbouring districts.
- Sale of fish, casual labour, petty trade (local beer brewing e.t.c.) and sale of charcoal and sale of wood products were the alternative sources of income for most sampled households during the month after the sale of livestock.
- Cholera outbreak that reported in Kapnyunguny along the border of East Pokot and Turkana East districts in November was contained and no cases were reported in the reporting month.
- The nutrition status of children below five years (based on MUAC<135mm measurement) improved during the month. The percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition decreased to 22.6 % from 27.4 % the previous month.. This was attributed to distribution of little relief food though without supplementary food for the children during the month. This was also boosted by improvement on milk production from the animals following improvement of forage after the December rains.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- The veterinary department / agencies should step up support to the livestock health sub sector through vaccinations and treatment of clinical cases. In particular, more efforts should be directed to investigate cases of LSD outbreak in cattle; heart water disease in goats, ECF upsurge and mange outbreak in goats in the areas mentioned.
- The GOK and other aid agencies to put more efforts to ensure that communities in East Pokot, North Baringo, Marigat and Baringo central districts are given continuous relief food supplies (GFD) and supplementary food for children and the elderly until the stress situation normalises as malnutrition cases are rising, prices of food commodities are rising, animals are dying due to drought effects hence people cannot cope with the stresses, also milk production from animals is low due to the drought effects that persisted for a long period.

- There is need to strengthen conflict prevention and peace building initiatives along the borders of East Pokot, Baringo, Marakwet, Turkana, Laikipia west and Samburu districts to enhance peaceful co-existence.
- The Moh/ Mphs/ Stakeholders should put more efforts to supply more anti-malarial drugs in all the rural health facilities that are far from the district hospitals to cope with malaria upsurge and investigate cases of enteric fever upsurge and URTI disease in affected areas.
- The District Game Warden to put more efforts to ensure that hunting dogs preying on the livestock in the mentioned areas are contained to save the pastoralists who are losing their animals daily. This has been an alarming scenario for some months now.
- The District Public Works Engineer should put more efforts to ensure that the roads washed away in the areas mentioned by the recent torrential rains are rehabilitated to permit food and other logistics reach communities.

Current interventions

Non-food interventions

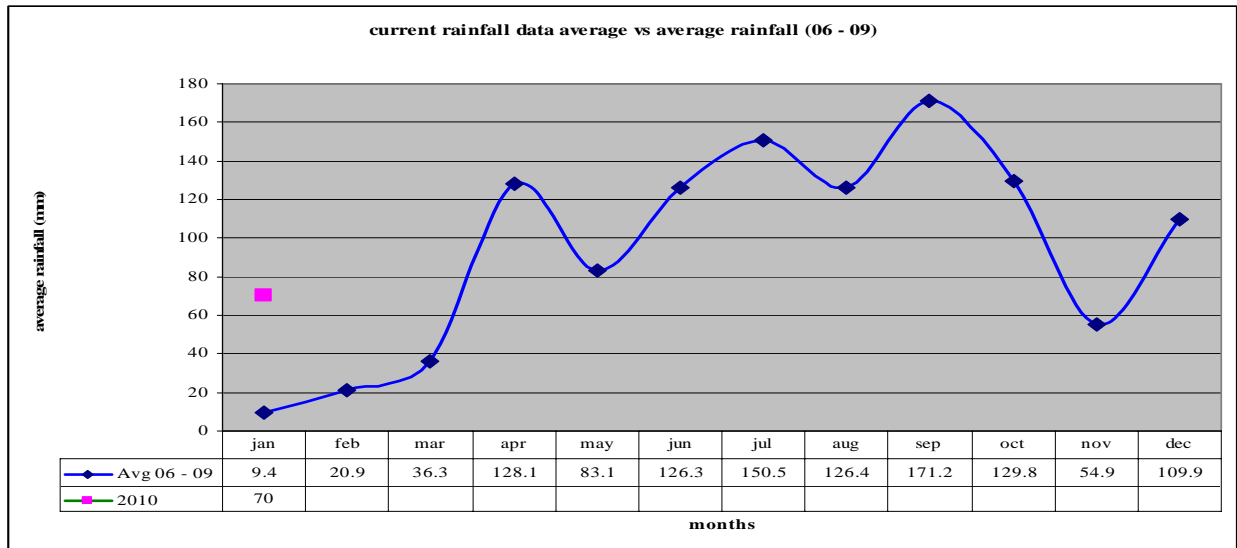
- Rehabilitation of Kapau (Nginyang division), Sintaan (Marigat division) and Chemorongion (Mochongoi division) boreholes – ALRMP.
- Excavation of water pans in anticipation of El-nino rains in the project area: Katikit (Nginyang division), Riongo (Mondi division), Sumutwo (Bartabwa division) and Ramacha (Mukutani division) – ALRMP.
- Peace building initiatives within the districts' of the project area by various stakeholders i.e. the PSC, DPC, DSC, World vision, Community Elders, Youth groups, Political leaders, Pastors and ALRMP.

Food aid

- The WFP/ RED CROSS distributed relief food to East Pokot district during the month. However, the number benefitting from the relief food was less compared to the projections of the provisional district population census conducted recently. Also the relief food distribution delayed for the last three months in Baringo Central, North and Marigat districts.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall



Source: ALRMP rain data stations

70 mm average rainfall was received from 2- stations, 2 days average during the month compared to the previous month where there was 328.5 mm from 5- stations, average 5 days. This was not normal at this time of the year as shown on the graph where the average was above the long term mean by 644.7 %.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

The quantity of forage in all the livelihood zones worsened during the month due to insufficient rain with poor temporal distribution. Quality of the available pasture was poor and the average distance to grazing areas reduced to 8.7 km from 10 km the previous month.

1.3 Water sources and availability

- There was a decrease in water availability during the month following poor temporal distribution of showers. The water sources in use were pans, dams, natural rivers, traditional river wells, boreholes, springs and lakes.
- Distance to the nearest water source during the month reduced to an average of 3 km from 4.9 km the previous month for most of the households.

1.4 Emerging issues

- The little showers received during the month made little impact on the browse and pasture condition in the areas reported rainfall and the distances to water sources and pastures also reduced. 70 % of the satellite herds were still held up in the dry season grazing points (Marakwet, Turkana East, Pokot central, Samburu and Laikipia west districts).
- Goats, cattle and sheep continue to die owing to post effects of the ended drought in pastoral, Agro-pastoral and irrigated cropping livelihood zones.
- Hunting dogs preying on cattle in Kinyach community (Bartabwa division).

- Road network linking Marigat – Mukutani, Marigat – Chemolingot and the Kerio valley roads were destroyed by the December rains making it difficult for transportation of food and other supplies.

1.5 Implications on food security

Dying livestock as a result of wild animals and post drought effects had a negative impact to household food security for the pastoralists.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

Livestock body condition was fair for both small stock and cattle respectively in mixed farming but poor in pastoral, Agro-pastoral and irrigated cropping livelihood zones. Goats, cattle and sheep continued dying in the latter zones due to the effects of the ended drought. This was not normal at this time of the year owing to the extended period of the recent drought.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

LSD outbreak in Kinyach (Bartabwa division), prompting closure of cattle market, heart water disease upsurge in goats in Kamrio community (Nginyang division) and Ngoron community (Kolloa division), mange outbreak in Yatya community (Kipsaraman division) and ECF upsurge following the recent rains in Kaptuya community (Churo division).

2.1.3 Milk production

Milk production improved slightly following the recent rains that made forage improve. This was normal at this time of the year.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and status of various crop production activities

Agro-pastoralists were engaged in pre-planting activities and this was normal at this time of the year as this is the pre-planting season.

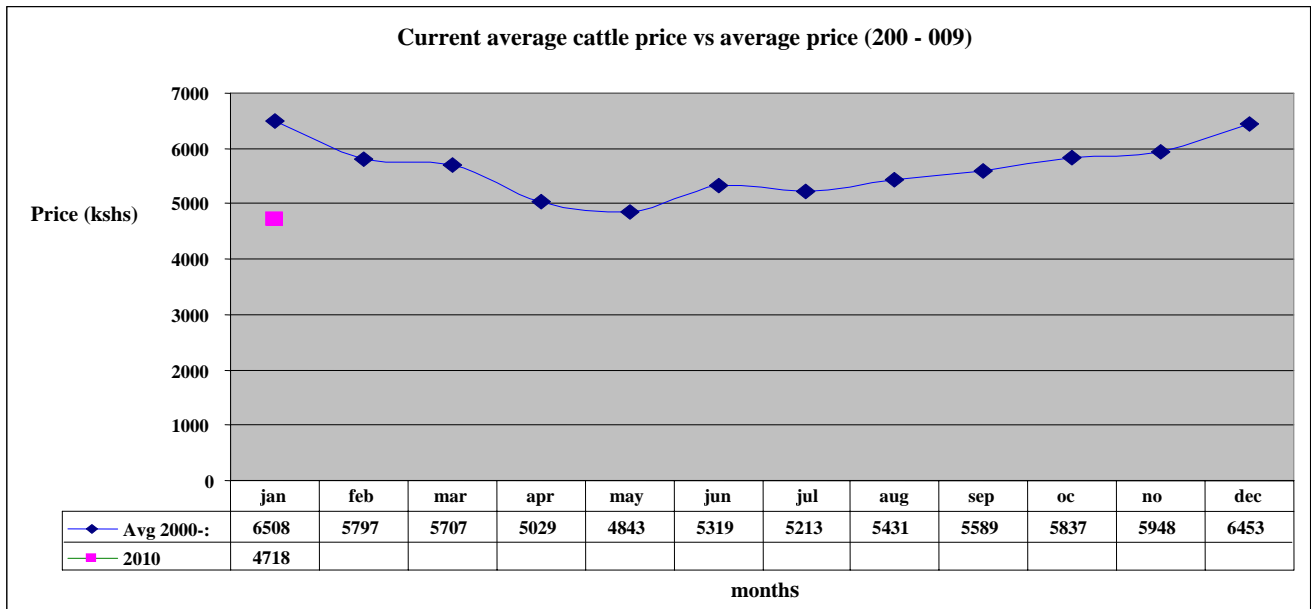
2.3 Implications on food security

- Milk production at household level was still low yet this is the food depended upon by the pastoralists and children.
- Goats, cattle and sheep were dying due to the just ended drought stress. This is a major threat to food security at the household level. Relief foods need to be given to the population continuously until the situation normalises.
- Market prices of cereals and legumes remain high in the project area and availability in the markets remains scarce.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices (From household level)



N = 480 HH

- The average price of cattle increased from Ksh4,322 the previous month to Ksh 4,718 in January.
- The increase was normal at the time of the year when the price of cattle is expected to go up at this time of the season. The price was, however, lower than the long term mean by 27.5 % as shown on the graph.
- The low price was attributed to the poor body condition of the livestock owing to insufficient pasture during this period. This was not good for household food security.
- Marigat division had the highest average cattle price of Ksh7,000. This was attributed to fair body condition and accessing peri-urban prices. Nginyang division had the lowest average price of Ksh3,150 due to poor body condition.

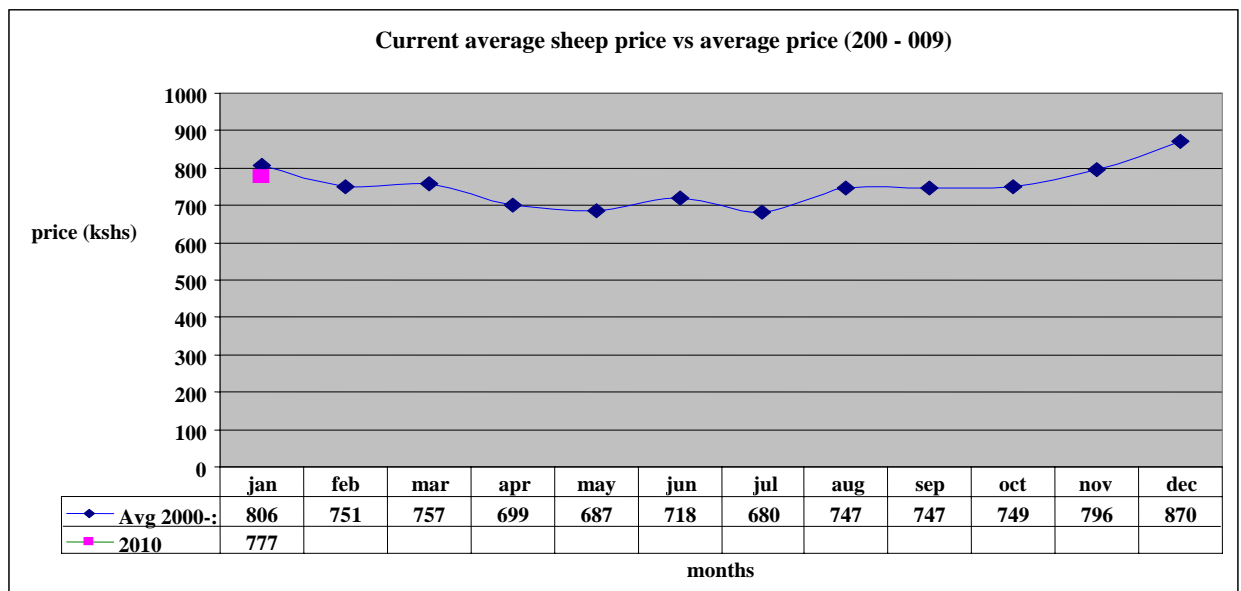
3.1.2 Goats prices (From household level)



N = 480 HH

- The average goat price increased from ksh. 1,051 in December to ksh. 1,156 in January showing appreciation. The price is however slightly above the long term mean by 16.2%. The increase is attributed to less number of goats in the markets causing sales to go up owing to competition. This was a positive impact to household food security.
- Bartabwa division had the highest goat price average of ksh. 1,812 due to accessing external buyers while Kipsaraman division had the lowest price average of ksh. 591 owing to poor body condition and lack of external buyers.

3.1.3 Sheep prices (From household level)



N = 480 HH

- The average sheep price decreased from Ksh925 in December to Ksh777 in January, showing depreciation. The price decrease was attributed to low demand. The price was,

however, lower than the long term mean by 3.6 %. This had a negative impact on household food security.

- Mukutani division had the highest sheep prices at Ksh1,100 owing to fair demand while Kipsaraman division had the lowest price of Ksh430 as a result of poor body condition of the animals coupled with low demand.

3.2 Livestock sales

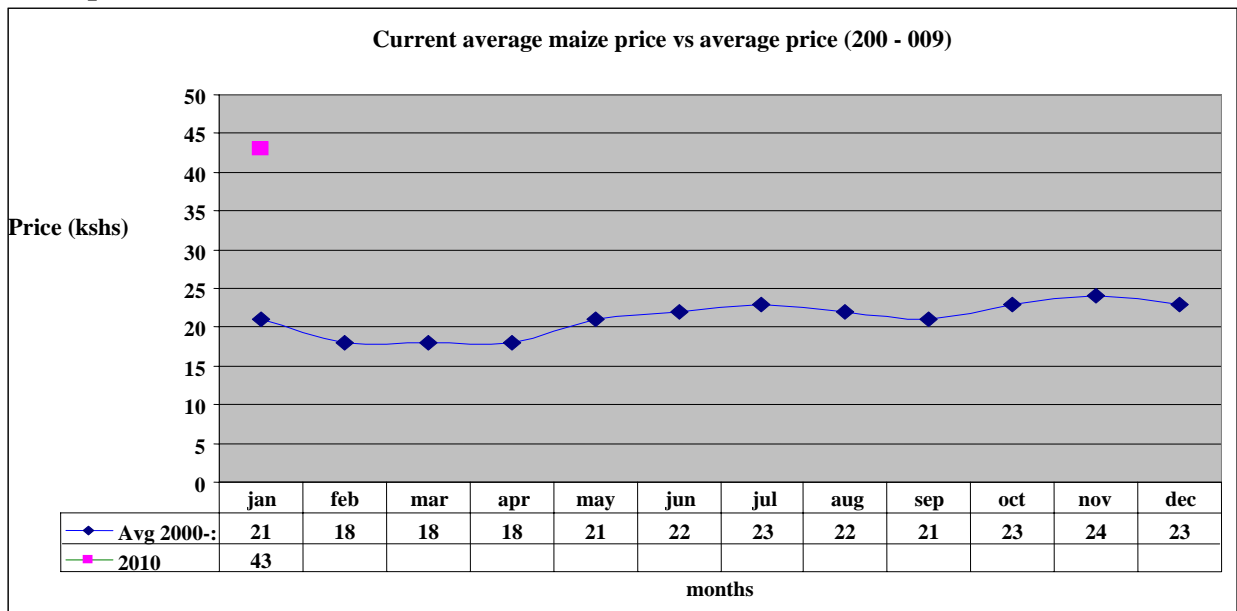
- The volume of livestock sales increased in the month compared to the previous months as a result of demand for food in the markets during the month.
- Goats, sheep, poultry and cattle were the main livestock offered for sale in markets.
- Pastoral, agro-pastoral and Irrigated cropping livelihood zones had the highest sales as they depend on their livestock sales as the sole means of getting household needs while mixed farming livelihood zone had the lowest sales owing to having other sources of income e.g. business, food stock, employment and casual labor e.t.c. to depend on.
- The level of sales was not normal at this time of the year owing to high demand for food during the ended drought period.

3.3 Milk consumption

- Milk consumption by household members improved a little in all the livelihood zones after the recent rains that made forage improve.
- Compared with the previous month the milk consumption at household level picked a little after the recent rains made the forage better. This had a positive impact on food security at household level, especially for children under five years.

3.4 Crop prices (Market prices)

3.4.1 Maize prices

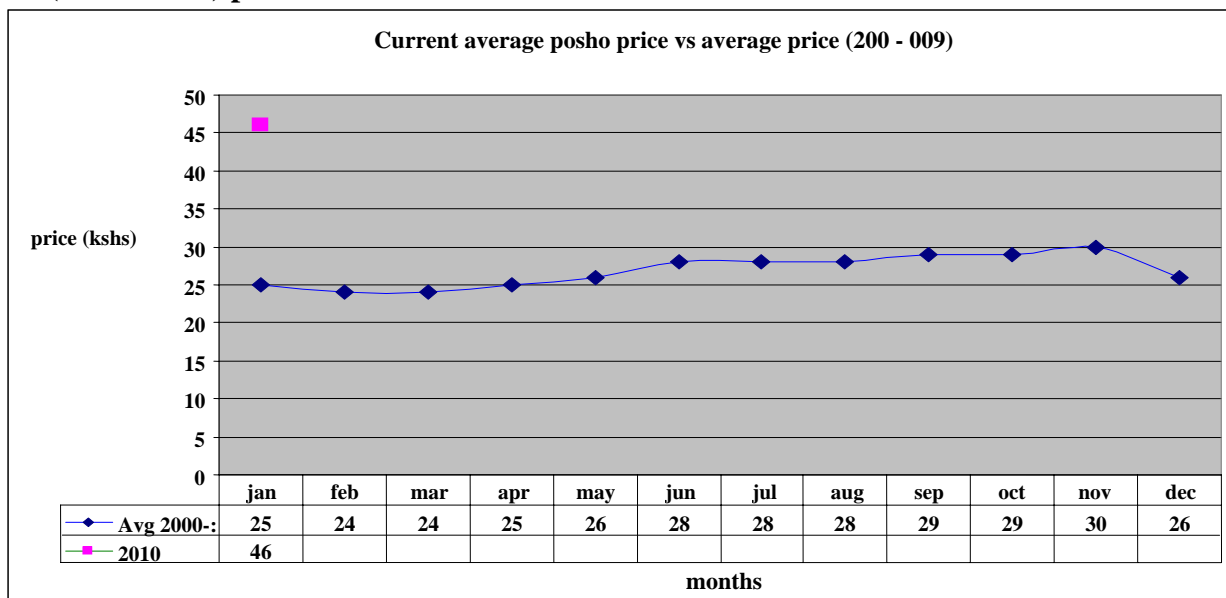


N = 480 HH

- The average maize price during the month was Ksh43 per kilo, Ksh2 more than that of the previous month (highest price in the market was Ksh70 per kg).

- The average price was more than the long term mean by 105 % owing to scarcity of the food at the markets. However, the demand picked up in the markets because of famine stress that has affected more of the population in the project area.
- Inadequate supply of maize to the local markets from Agro-pastoralists within the project area and also neighboring districts is the cause of high prices.
- As in the previous month, maize prices were much higher in the pastoral, Agro-pastoral and irrigated cropping livelihood zones than in the mixed farming livelihood zone.
- The average maize price was not normal at the time of the year owing to the scarcity of the food.

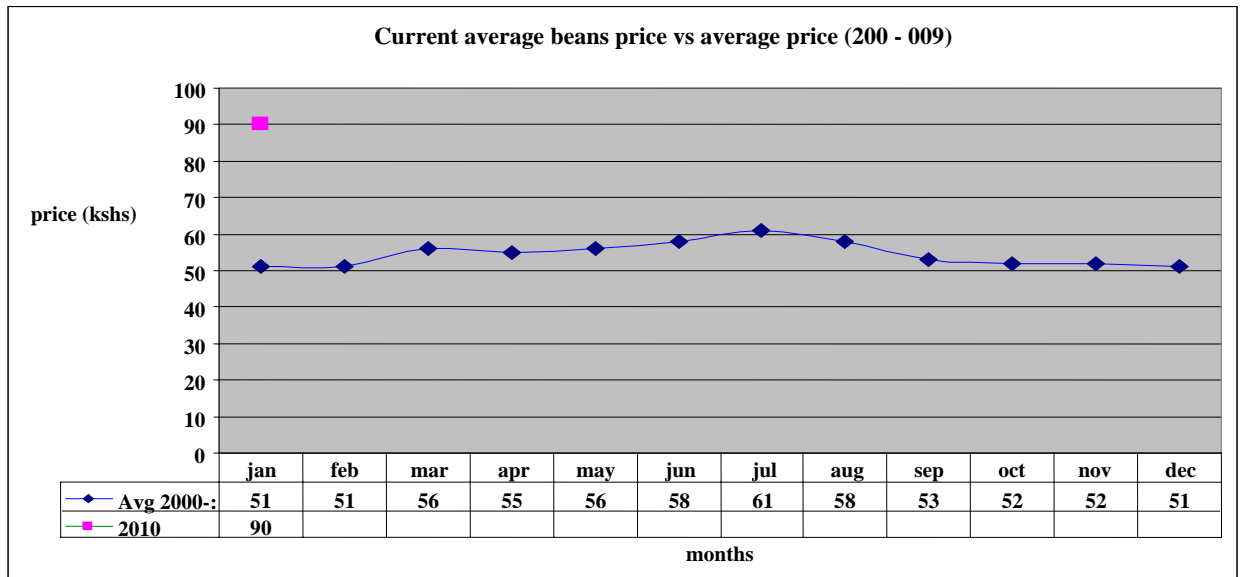
3.4.2 Posho (maize meal) prices



N = 480 HH

- The average price of Posho during the month was Ksh46 per kilo, same as that of the previous month (highest price in the market was Ksh80 per kg). The average price did not change due to stable supply of maize in the local markets.
- The price was more than the long term mean by 84 %, eroding the purchasing power of the pastoralists as they have to sell a lot of animals to meet the food demand.
- Posho prices were much higher in the pastoral, Agro-pastoral and Irrigated cropping livelihood zones than in the mixed farming zone because the three zones were depending on purchasing the commodity from their local markets which is normally dictated by it's availability unlike the mixed farming who are producers and access it easily.
- The price of posho was not normal at this time of the year owing to erratic availability of maize in the markets.

3.4.3 Beans prices (market price)

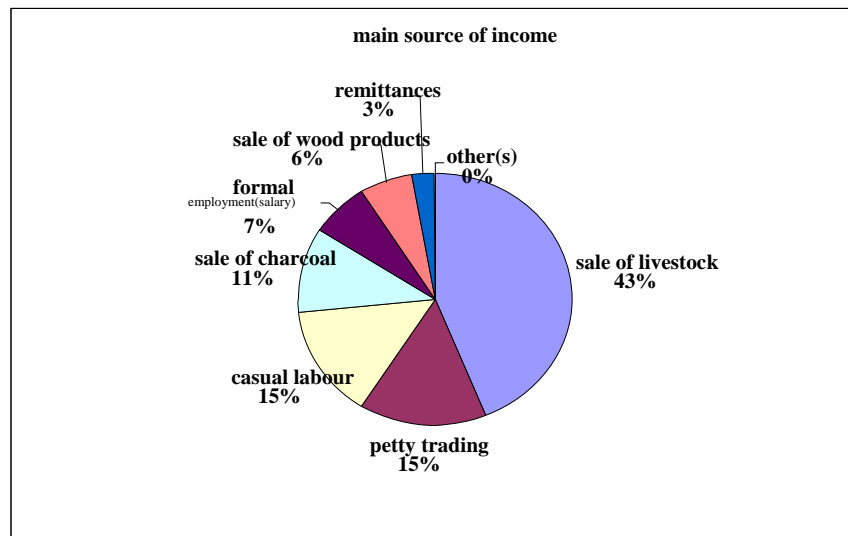


N = 480 HH

- The average price of beans during the month was Ksh90, Ksh1 less than that of the previous month. The highest price in the market was Ksh120 per kg.
- The price was more than the long term mean by 76.5 %. The average price decreased due to stable availability of the food commodity in the markets within the project area and also from the neighboring districts. However, the prices were too high to cope with the purchasing power of the pastoralists. This posed a threat to household food security.
- Beans prices were higher in the Pastoral livelihood zone than in the irrigated cropping and Agro- pastoral zones.
- Beans prices are not normal at this time of the year owing to its erratic availability in the markets.

3.5 Income

3.5.1 Main source of income

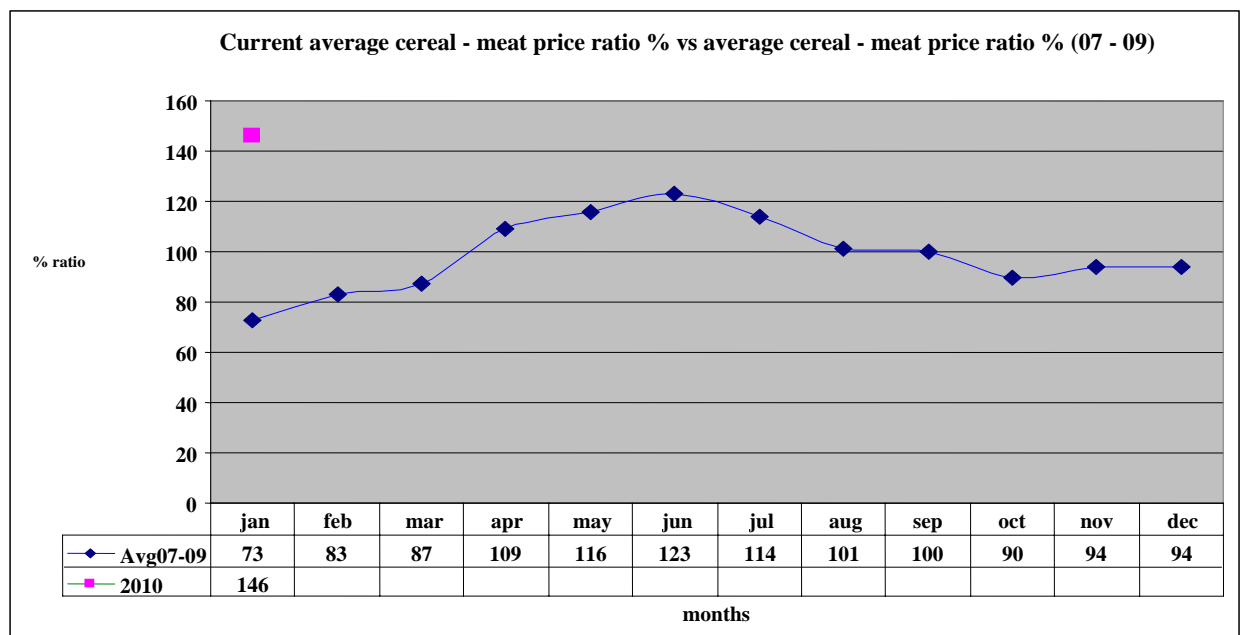


- Livestock income remained same as that of the previous months due to fair availability of external buyers during the month who normally purchase large number of animals and offer better prices.
- The income obtained from the livestock was not normal at the time of the year because of the less number of animals sold at the markets owing to the effects of the just ended drought stress.
- The average daily wage rate per casual for the month was Ksh84, Ksh6 less that of the previous month, something so meager to meet the daily household's needs.
- Most of the trade in charcoal, wood products and petty trading was recorded in Pastoral, irrigated cropping and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones. This reflects unavailability of livestock and farm incomes for the households in these zones.

3.5.2 Other income

Sale of fish was another source of income during the month with approximately a fraction of the household's members sampled engaged as fish traders' around Lake Baringo (Komolion community).

3.6 Terms of trade (cereal - meat price ratio % - purchasing power) - (market based)



N = 480 HH

- Terms of trade improved by 3.3 % during the month from that of the previous month, however it was above the long term mean by 100 %.
- The price ratio worsened in pastoral, Agro-pastoral and irrigated cropping livelihood zones because of low prices offered for the livestock sales by the traders as compared to high prices to purchase cereals while it was lower in mixed farming livelihood zone owing to fair accessibility of cereals and better livestock prices in this area.

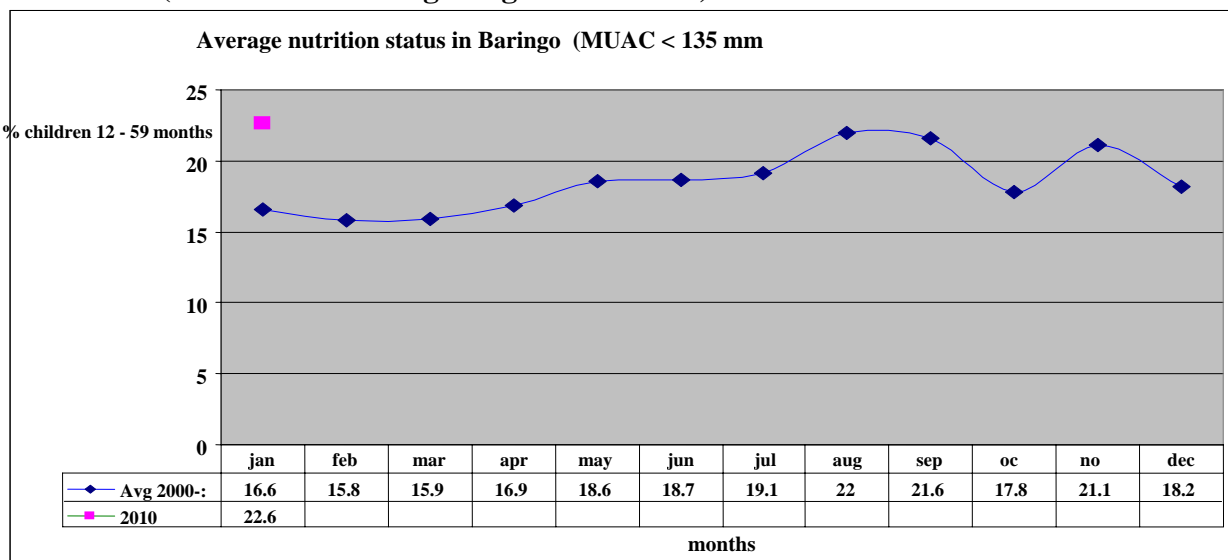
- The current cereal: meat price ratio was not normal at this time of the year. For a pastoralist to purchase 90 kg sack of Posho, which goes at an average price of Ksh 4,500 market price, he/ she has to sell 5 (five) goats, that goes for an average of Ksh1,000 at the moment to meet the price and the sack cannot last for even a month. This eroded the purchasing power of the people hence depleting the asset level of the pastoralists each time animals are sold.

3.7 Implications on food security

- The low prices of livestock offered coupled with the erosion of the peoples' purchasing power depleted the asset level of the pastoralists through high number of animals sold to purchase foods hence a threat to the household food security.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status (children at risk of getting malnutrition)



N = 2,061 children

- The nutrition status of children below five years (based on MUAC<135mm measurement) improved during the month. The percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition decreased to 22.6 % from 27.4 % the previous month. This was attributed to distribution of some relief food though without supplementary food for the children during the month.
- The level of malnutrition was highest in pastoral, irrigated cropping and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones and was lower in mixed farming livelihood zone.
- The level of malnutrition was worse at this time of the year as shown by the current MUAC % which is above the long term mean.

4.2 Human health

- Cholera outbreak reported in Kapnyunguny along the border of East Pokot and Turkana East districts, where East Pokot pastoralists were grazing their cattle in November, was contained and no cases were reported during the month.
- Enteric fever upsurge was reported in Nginyang, Marigat and Churo divisions as a result of consuming dirty pools of water while malaria upsurge was reported in Marigat, Mukutani and Kolloa divisions and URTI upsurge in Endao / Salabani communities.

4.3 Flagged areas

- Pastoral, Agro-pastoral and irrigated cropping livelihood zones reported the highest malnutrition rates. These areas require particular attention.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non-food interventions

The following programmes were ongoing in the districts;

- Rehabilitation of Kapau (Nginyang division), Sintaan (Marigat division) and Chemorongion (Mochongoi division) bore-holes – ALRMP.
- Excavation of water pans in anticipation of El-nino rains in the project area: Katikit (Nginyang division), Riongo (Mondi division), Sumutwo (Bartabwa division) and Ramacha (Mukutani division) – ALRMP.
- Peace building initiatives by various stakeholders i.e. the PSC, DPC, DSC, World Vision, Community Elders, Youth groups, Political leaders, Pastors and ALRMP.

5.2 Food aid

- The WFP/ RED CROSS distributed relief food to East Pokot district during the month. However the number that benefits from the relief food currently is so less as compared to the number that is supposed to benefit according to the provisional district population census recently done. Also the relief food distribution has delayed for the last three months in Baringo: Central, North and Marigat districts.

5.3 Coping strategies

The coping mechanisms employed by the vulnerable population in all the livelihood zones during the month were;

- Migration of livestock in search of pasture and water.
- Borrowing food from relatives.
- Reduction in size of meals and skipping some.
- Eating wild foods, casual labour and petty trade.

These were employed by majority of the sampled households while a few of the households sold their livestock. Compared to previous months, the situation was worse and a higher population needs to be put under the Emergency Operation relief food distribution.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- The veterinary department / agencies should step up support to the livestock health sub sector through vaccinations and treatment of clinical cases. In particular, more efforts should be directed to investigate cases of LSD outbreak in cattle; heart water disease in goats, ECF upsurge and mange outbreak in goats in the areas mentioned.

- The GOK and other aid agencies to put more efforts to ensure that communities in East Pokot, North Baringo, Marigat and Baringo central districts are given continuous relief food supplies (GFD) and supplementary food for children and the elderly until the stress situation normalises as malnutrition cases are rising, prices of food commodities are rising, animals are dying due to drought effects hence people cannot cope with the stresses, also milk production from animals is low due to the drought effects that persisted for a long period.
- There is need to strengthen conflict prevention and peace building initiatives along the borders of East Pokot, Baringo, Marakwet, Turkana, Laikipia west and Samburu districts to enhance peaceful co-existence.
- The Moh/ Mphs/ Stakeholders should put more efforts to supply more anti-malarial drugs in all the rural health facilities that are far from the district hospitals to cope with malaria upsurge and investigate cases of enteric fever upsurge and URTI disease in affected areas.
- The District Game Warden to put more efforts to ensure that hunting dogs preying on the livestock in the mentioned areas are contained to save the pastoralists who are losing their animals daily. This has been an alarming scenario for some months now.
- The District Public Works Engineer should put more efforts to ensure that the roads washed away in the areas mentioned by the recent torrential rains are rehabilitated to permit food and other logistics reach communities.