

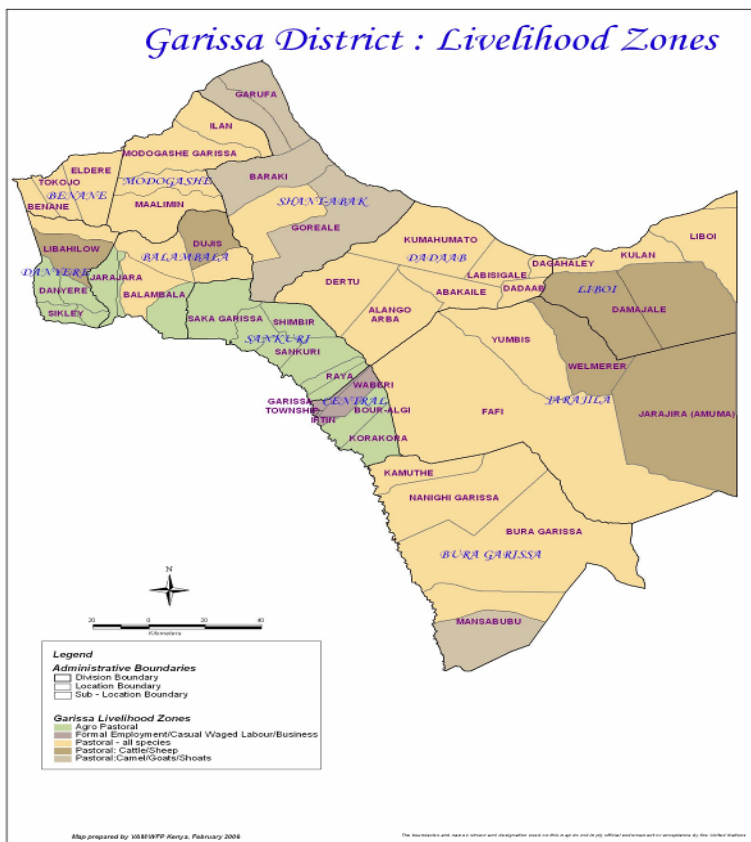


OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, JANUARY 2010

Garissa District

Warning stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Alert	Improving
Pastoral-Cattle/Sheep.	Alert	Improving
Pastoral- all species	Alert	Improving
Pastoral: Camels and Goats	Alert	Improving
District	Alert	Improving

Seasonal Calendar



Dry period (Jilal) consisting of January, February, & March. Temperatures are high; activities carried out include,

- migration of livestock for pasture & water search,
- Herd separation
- Livestock marketing
- Pressure on boreholes
- Conflicts

Long rainy season (Guu), starts late March and continues in, April and May. Activities carried are-

- Selection & breeding of livestock
- weeding ceremonies
- weaving
- male circumcision
- restocking of livestock
- planting for rain fed crops
- deworming of ..

Dry and cold period (Hagaa) in the months of June, July, August, Sept. and mid October. The activities performed are:

- High rate of livestock and household migration
- High labour demand
- Destocking /culling
- Surveillance for pasture /browse
- Caravan water

Short rainy season (deer) of Oct, Nov and Restock December. Activities for this period are:

- Breed improvement
- Planting for rain fed crops
- Crafts and weaving
- Calving and kidding period

Situation overview

- There was no rainfall realised during the month and the entire district remained largely dry.
- The quality and quantity of pasture and browse remained stable compared to the previous month but the trend is expected to change due to high transpiration rate caused by prevailing high temperature conditions.
- The main water sources in the district were boreholes, River Tana, Benane springs and water pans. Water in some earth pans dried up, leading to temporal congestion on water pans.
- Water accessibility for households remained stable compared to the preceding month. The distances covered by pastoralists remained stable, with an estimated average distances of less than 8 km covered.
- Livestock access to water decreased compared with the preceding month. The distances covered were within the livestock grazing points. However, water was available at certain points within the grazing areas less than a kilometre.
- No cases of conflict/human displacement / insecurity were reported in the course of the month under review. There were also no cases of livestock migration reported during the month.
- The body condition of livestock continued to improve with the availability of water and pasture/browse. This had an impact on production and sales of livestock in the short term.
- There were suspected and reported cases of diseases such as contagious caprine pleura pneumonia and foot and mouth. The diseases were confirmed by the veterinary department and action needs to be taken to control the spread of the same.
- Milk production in the entire district increased compared with the preceding month. The positive indication was due to improved livestock body condition, state of health of livestock and breeding of most species.
- Cattle prices continued to increase when compared with preceding month. The increasing trend was attributed to increased demand of cattle in the markets with external market setting the base. Cattle were traded at Ksh9,500 in December and Ksh10,500 in January.
- The prices of goats showed an increasing trend when compared with the preceding month. It was Ksh1,326 in December and Ksh1,351 in January. Sheep prices continued to increase compared with the preceding month. This was attributed to the improvement in body condition and market demand. Sheep traded at Ksh1,063 in December and Ksh1,150 in January.
- The nutrition status of children below five years continued to improve compared with the preceding month. The percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition improved slightly from 10.8% in December to 10.4%. This may be attributed to the availability of milk in the households.

Current interventions

Non-food interventions

- Provision of generating sets for farmers along Tana River was carried out during the month.
- Disease surveillance, vaccination and livestock treatment continued throughout the month.
- Repair and construction of canals for farmers along Tana River.
- Community capacity building on participatory development of community assets.
- Support on microfinance for communities continued during the month.
- Njaa marufuku Kenya project and National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Programme by Ministry of Agriculture continued to be implemented in the district.
- Mobile outreach services were carried out by the Ministry of Health through the logistic support of ALRMP.
- Afforestation programme was carried out during the month to improve the vegetation cover.

Food aid

- Emergency Operation (EMOP) relief food distribution covering a population of 150,000 beneficiaries. The same was distributed during the month.
- School feeding programme provided by W.F.P targeting 42,069 children continued during the month.
- Supplementary feeding targeting 10,200 children under five, pregnant and lactating mother continued.

Recommendations to District Steering Group and Kenya Food Security Steering Group

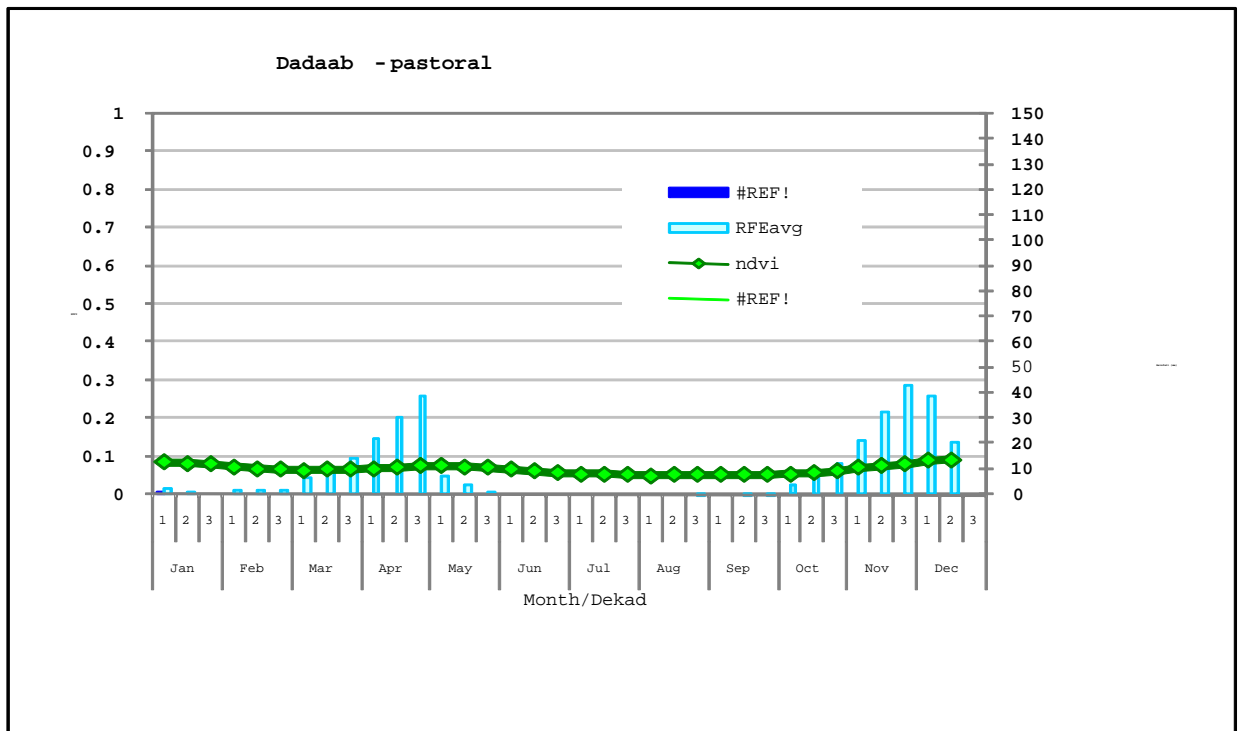
- Stabilise food aid until full recovery from the drought is achieved.
- Drill new boreholes to increase water resources in the district.
- Give full support to boreholes repair, servicing and maintenance to enhance water supply during the dry spell.
- Support and equip the rapid response teams to attend to any emergencies.
- Improve infrastructure to facilitate access to markets.
- Excavate and desilt shallow wells.
- Construct and rehabilitate social amenities i.e. schools, dispensary.
- Create market information system and market linkages to both livestock and agricultural farmers.
- Train communities on crop and livestock husbandry practices.
- Support communities on financing micro-enterprise development to enhance their livelihoods.
- Continue to capacity build pastoral communities on peace building and conflict resolution.
- Support small scale farms along River Tana in terms with farm inputs, construction of watering canals and value addition activities.
- Set up contingency fund across the departments in a coordinated structure.
- Support the veterinary department on disease surveillance treatments and vaccinations.

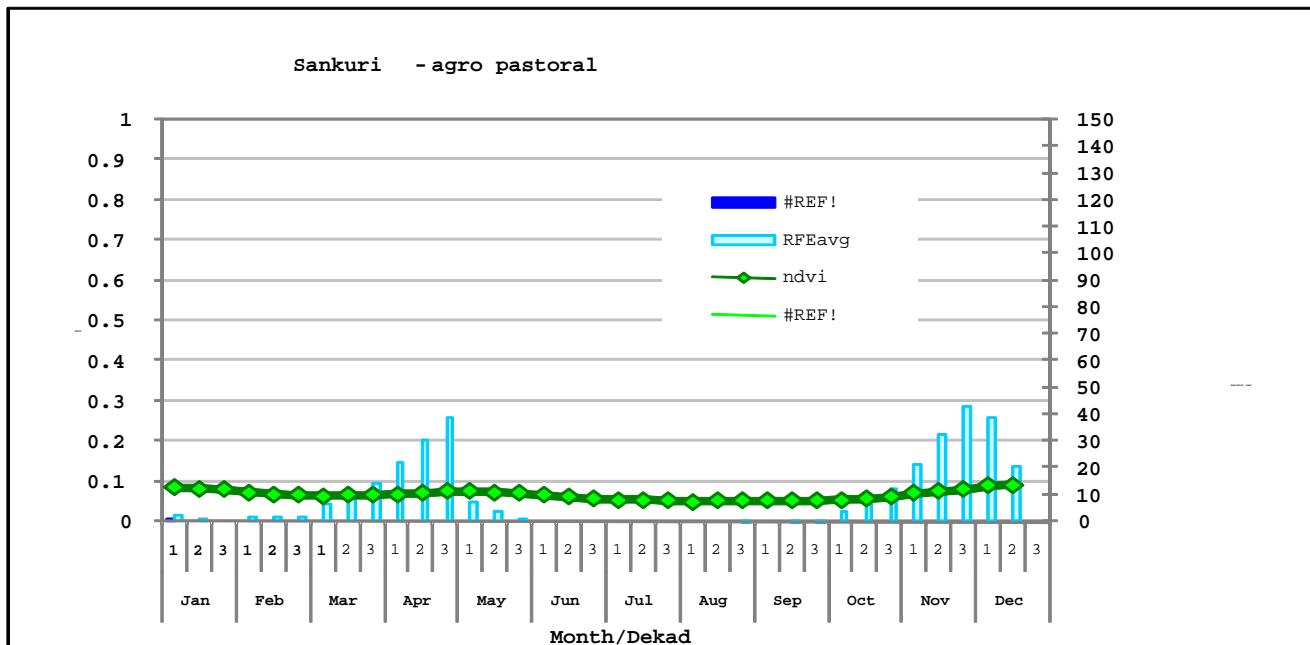
- Train communities on small-scale business development.
- Continue to provide mobile outreach services for centre with no health facilities.
- Strengthen stakeholder's co-ordination and participation in development activities.
- Provide support on natural resource management.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- There was no rainfall realised during the month and the entire district remained largely dry. Hence the start of the short dry spell.
- Temperatures continued to increase compared to the previous month but were within the normal range. The information on rainfall in the district is summarised by the graph showing agro- pastoral and pastoral divisions.





Normalized vegetation difference index and rainfall estimates graphs for January

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

The quality and quantity of pasture and browse remained stable compared to the previous month but the trend is expected to change due high transpiration rate caused by prevailing high temperature conditions. The pasture is expected to last in the next two months in most parts of the district.

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Use of water sources

The main water sources in the district were boreholes, River Tana, Benane springs and water pans. Water in some water holes dried up, leading to temporal congestion on water pans. Galmagala division, which had water pans as main source of water, faced water shortage, hence water trucking in the area.

1.3.2 Household accessibility to water

Water accessibility for households remained stable compared to the preceding month in most parts of the district. The distances covered by pastoralist remained the same, with an estimated average distances of less than 8 km covered.

1.3.3 Livestock access to water

Livestock access to water decreased relatively compared with the preceding month. The distances covered were within the livestock grazing points. However, water was available at certain points, thus increasing the trekking distance to an average of 6km.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity/Conflict/ Human displacement.

No conflict over natural resource utilization and human displacement reported in the course of the month under review. However, the security situation remained tense along the Kenya/Somalia border. There was high cross-border surveillance.

1.4.2 Migration

There was no livestock migration reported during the month. This was attributed to the rain coverage in most parts of the district.

1.4.3 Implications on food security

Adequate water availability and accessibility, adequate forage cover and reduced cost of livestock management had a positive food security implication in the district.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

The body condition of livestock improved considerably when compared with the preceding month. The livestock was in good body condition. This was due to the availability of water and pasture/browse. The continuous improvement in livestock body conditions will also influence on the market prices and demand leading to better household income.

2.1.2 Livestock health

There were suspected and reported cases of diseases such as contagious caprine pleura pneumonia and foot and mouth. The diseases were confirmed by the veterinary department and action needs to be taken to control their spread.

2.1.3 Milk production

Milk production in the entire district increased when compared with the preceding month. The increase was attributed to improved livestock body condition, good state of health of livestock and breeding of most species.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and status of various crop production activities

Farming was practiced along River Tana and the main crops grown under irrigation system of production were bananas, pawpaws, melons, lemons, onions and tomatoes. Irrigation farming was constrained by high cost of production and low returns due to poor market prices, poor /lack of technical knowhow, poor market research and information system leading reduction of capacities of the farmers hence ending up in losses.

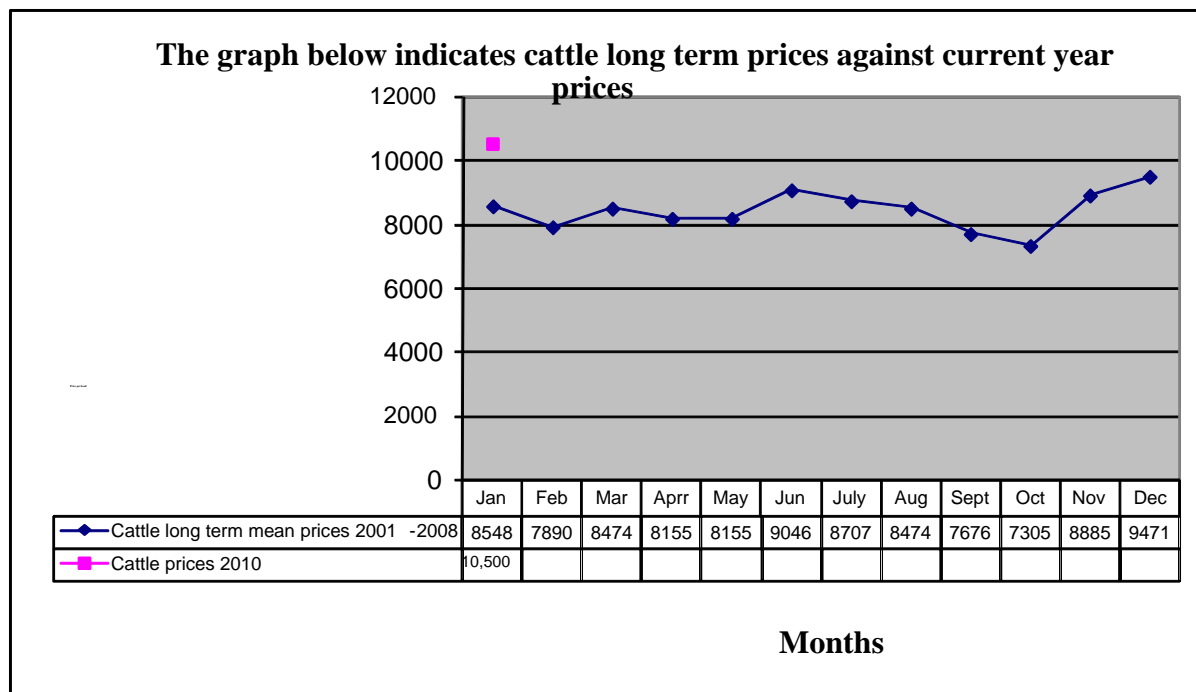
2.2.2 Pests and crop diseases

- Rice disease report from jarajara community farm. The disease need to be confirmed and treated so that production continues as normal.

3.0 Access to food.

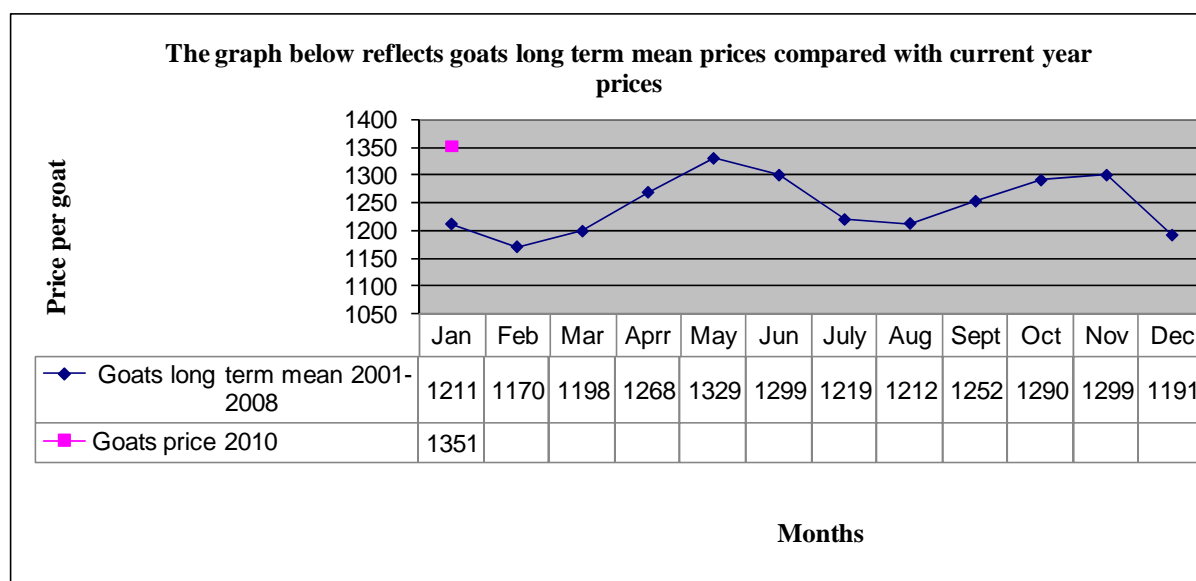
3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices



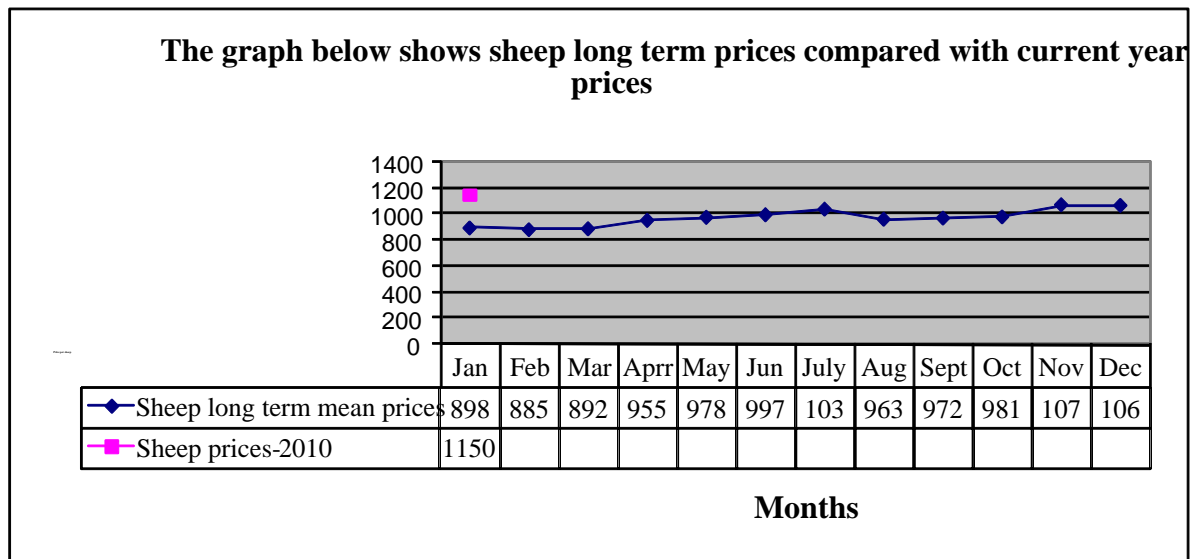
Cattle prices continued to increase compared with preceding month. The increasing trend was attributed to increased demand of cattle in the markets with external market setting the base. Cattle traded at Ksh10, 500 from Ksh9500 in December.

3.1.2 Goats prices



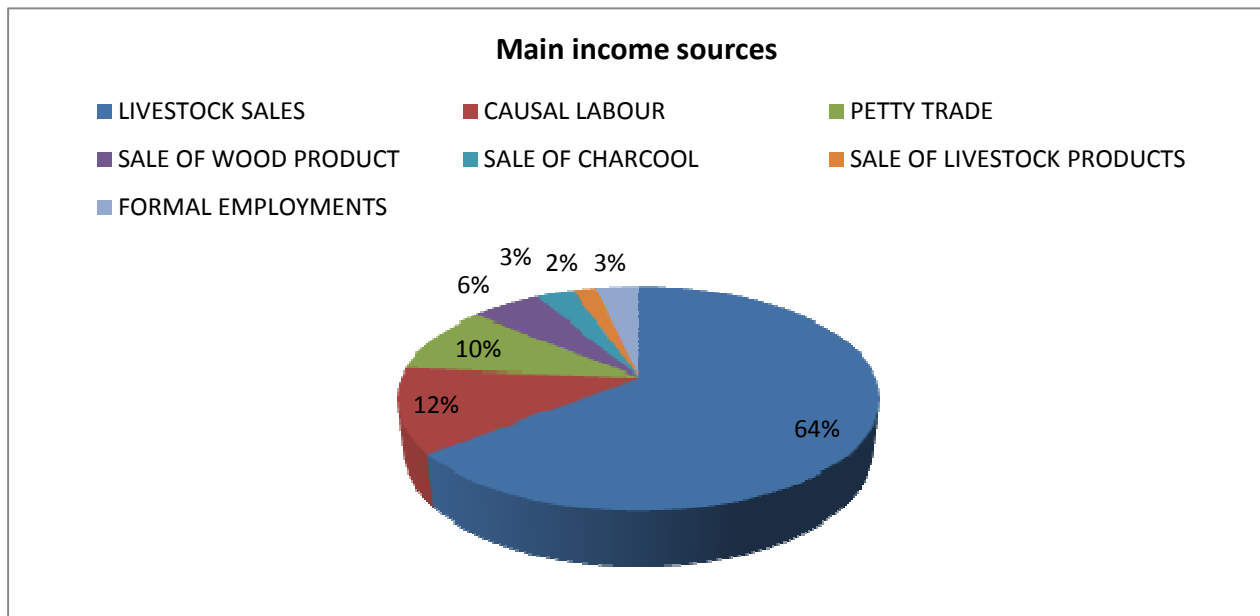
The prices of goats showed an increasing trend compared with the preceding month. The average price was Ksh1351 from Ksh1326 in December. The price was above the long term mean for the month and an indication of better household economy.

3.1.3 Sheep prices



Sheep prices continued to show an increase in trend when compared with the preceding month. The improvement in price was attributed to the improvement in pasture and water availability. Sheep traded at Ksh1150 from Ksh1063 in December.. The price was, however, above the long term mean for the month.

3.2 Livestock sales

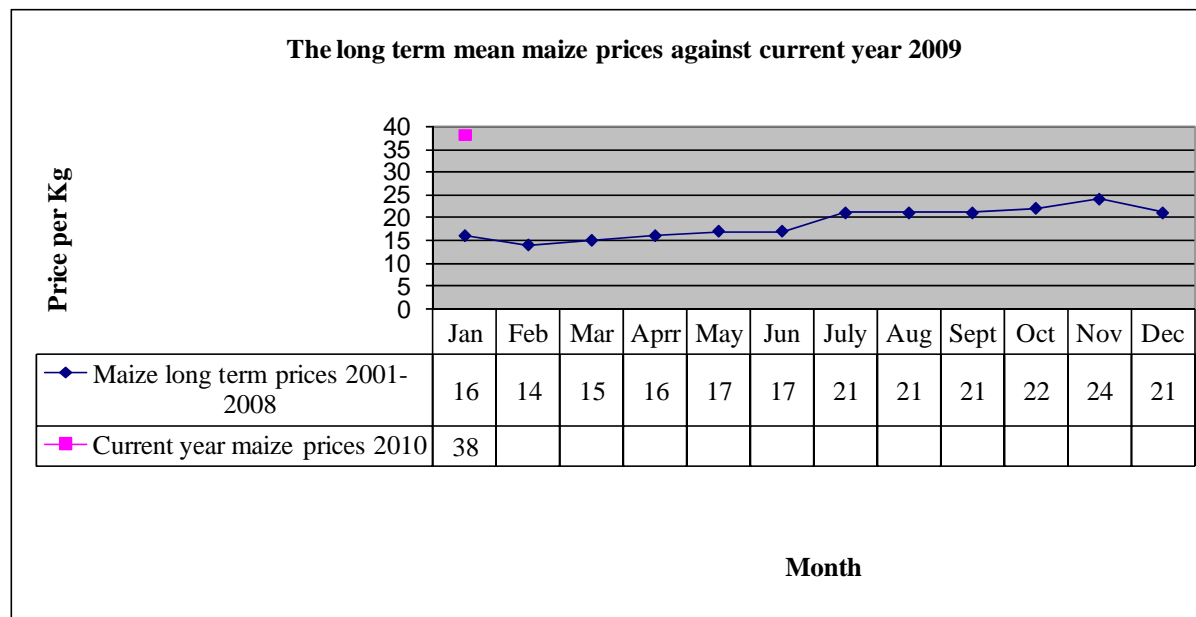


The livestock sales rate increased when compared with the preceding month. This was due to improving livestock prices, increasing demand and some livestock owners

starting livestock trade. Livestock sales were high at household level in the district. The chart above summarises the percentage of different household income for the month.

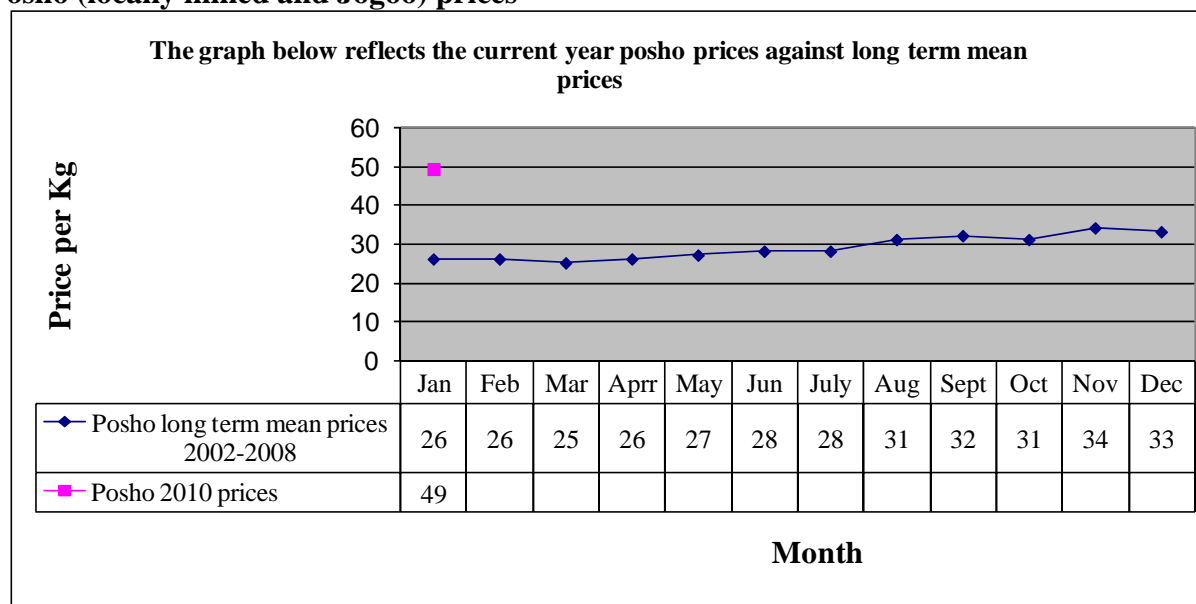
3.3 Food prices

3.3.1 Maize prices



Maize prices reduced when compared with the preceding month. However, this was still above the long term mean prices. The reduced price was attributed to reduced demand of maize due to availability of milk and increased household income from better livestock sales. The price of maize was Ksh36 per kilo compared to Ksh38 in December.

3.3.2 Posho (locally milled and Jogoo) prices



The prices of posho and jogoo (locally milled and sifted maize meal) which are both end products of maize, remained relatively stable when compared with the previous month but was above the long term mean. This was attributed to the price of parent product (maize) being high. The price was Ksh49 compared to Ksh 50 in December.

3.3.3 purchase price of other food commodities

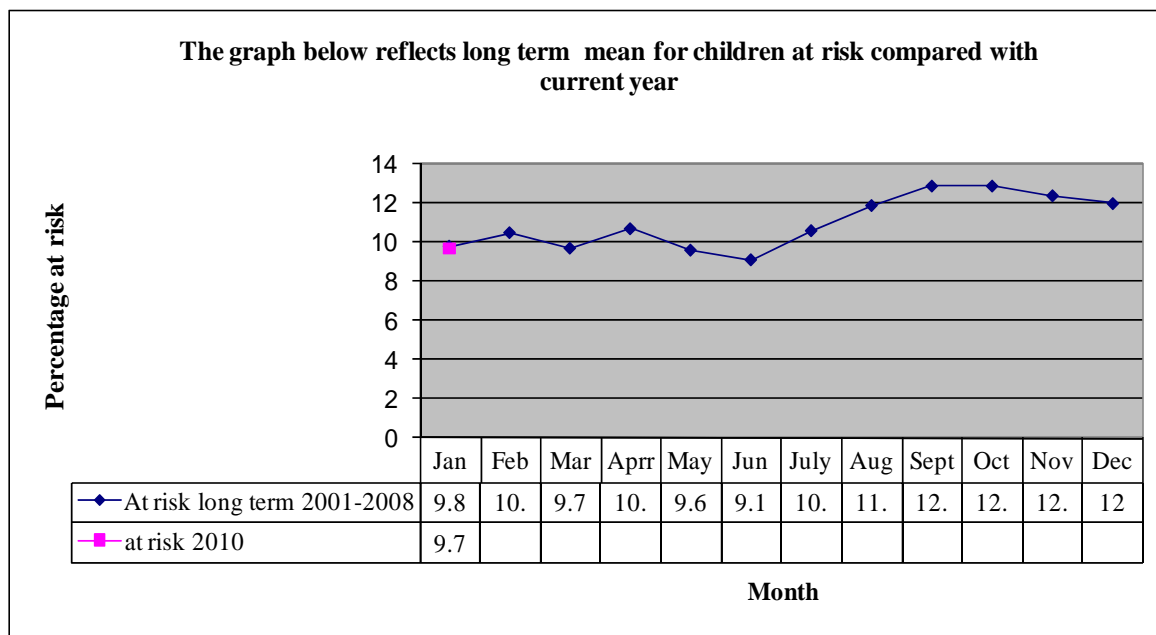
The prices of other essential food products showed a stable trend when compared to the preceding month and it was above normal. This was brought about by the prevailing inflation of food commodity prices in the country and market liberalisation.

3.2.5 Implications on food security

- Improving livestock prices, availability of livestock products, reduced cost of livestock management and availability of human and vet services to pastoralist is an indication of positive food security implications.

4.0 Human welfare indicators

4.1 Nutrition status



Number of children=1365

- The nutrition status of children below five years continued to improve compared with the preceding month.
- The percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition improved slightly from 10.8% in December to 10.4%. The improving situation was attributed to availability of livestock products and improved household income through sale of livestock.

4.2 Human health

There were reported cases of malaria in the district and the disease needs to be attended to reduce the risk posed to pastoralists.

4.3 Flagged areas

There were no flagged areas reported in the district, except Galmagalla centre which is facing water shortage.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non-food interventions

- Provision of generating sets for farmers along Tana River was carried out during the month.
- Disease surveillance, vaccination and livestock treatment continued throughout the month.
- Repair and construction of canals for farmers along Tana River.
- Community capacity building on participatory development of community assets.
- Support on microfinance for communities continued during the month.
- Njaa marufuku Kenya project and National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Programme by Ministry of Agriculture continued to be implemented in the district.
- Mobile outreach services were carried out by the Ministry of Health through the logistic support of ALRMP.
- Afforestation programme was carried out during the month to improve the vegetation cover.

5.2 Food aid

- Emergency Operation (EMOP) relief food distribution covering a population of 150,000 beneficiaries. The same was distributed during the month.
- School feeding programme provided by W.F.P targeting 42,069 children continued during the month.
- Supplementary feeding targeting 10,200 children under five, pregnant and lactating mother continued.

5.3 Coping strategies

- Petty trade.
- Reliance on remittances.
- Cheap food commodities.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Continue to provide relief food to the most vulnerable among communities.
- Conduct food security assessment in the district.
- Support fodder production along River Tana.
- Facilitate and conduct research on the best technologies to adopt for better production.
- Give full support to boreholes repair, servicing and maintenance to enhance water supply during the dry spell.
- Support and equip the rapid response teams to attend to any emergencies.
- Train communities on crop and livestock husbandry practices.
- Support communities on micro-enterprise development to enhance their livelihoods.

- Continue to capacity build pastoral communities on peace building and conflict resolution.
- Support small scale farms along River Tana in terms with farm inputs, construction of watering canals and value addition activities.
- Support the veterinary department on disease surveillance treatments and vaccinations.
- Conduct periodic district nutritional survey.
- Train communities on small scale business development.
- Continue to provide mobile outreach services for centre with no health facilities.
- Provide support on natural resource management and conservation of dry period grazing area.