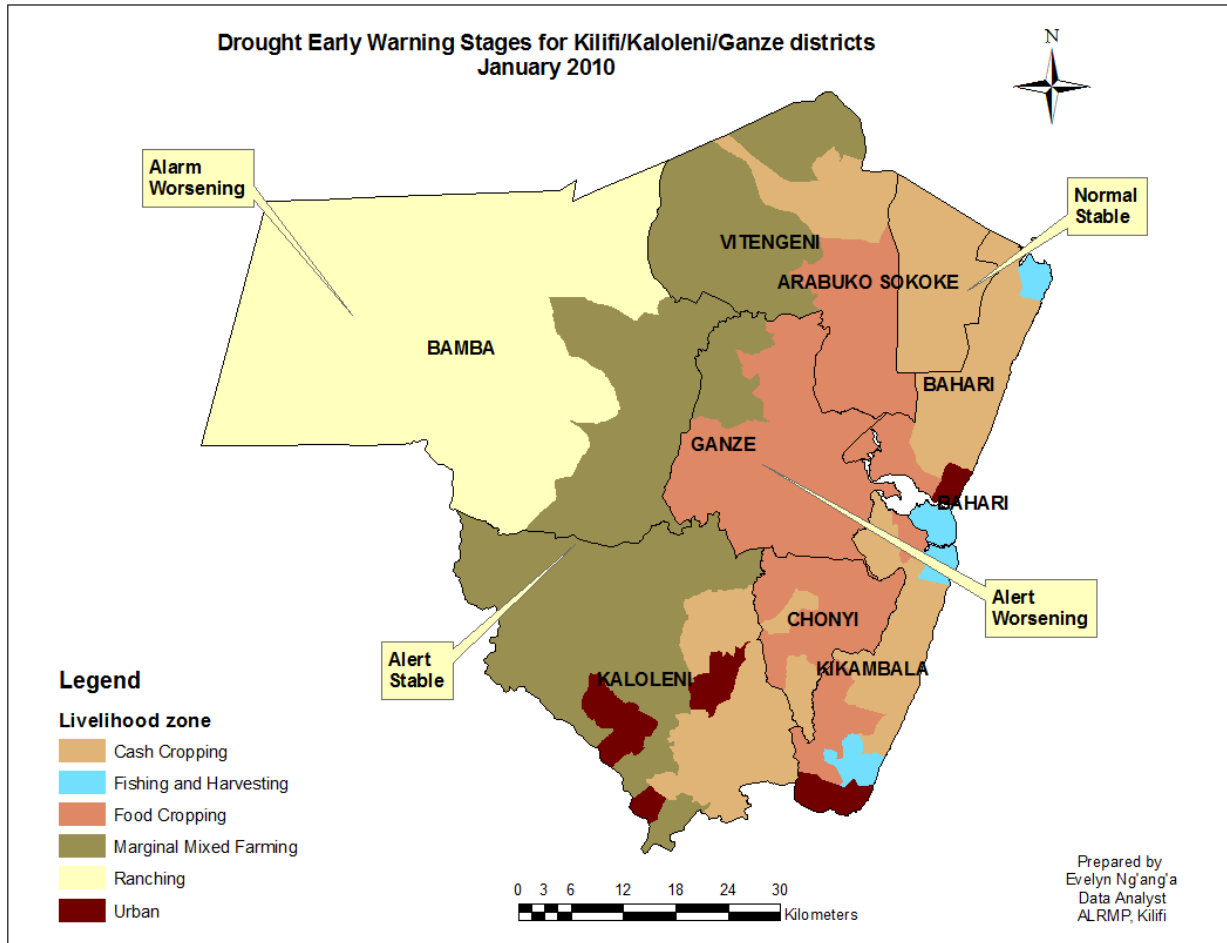




**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, JANUARY 2010

Kilifi/Kaloleni/Ganze Districts



Seasonal Calendar

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains harvests ▪ Short dry spell 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planting/Weeding ▪ Long rains 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long rains harvests ▪ A long dry spell 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains ▪ Planting/weeding 		
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Situation overview

- The districts recorded 36.3 mm of rainfall for 4.3 rainy this month, which was characterised by slight downpours at the beginning of the month. Towards the end, however, the month was cool and dry. This amount of rainfall was lower than the 73.9 mm recorded last month.
- Pasture remained almost the same this month at a fair condition. However, in some parts of the food cropping and marginal mixed farming zones, the pastures have deteriorated. This led to the doubling of distances to grazing areas from 1.3km last month to 2.6 km.
- Pans and dams were the main sources of water this month as approximately 50% of the households relied on them for water. Distances to water sources for humans increased from 1.3km to 1.6km due to the drying up of some water sources as the dry period sets in.
- Livestock prices fell this month as those of goats fell by 5.8% from Ksh1327 last month to Ksh 1250 this month while those of cattle fell by 7.5% from Ksh 6450 last month to Ksh 6000 this month. This was owed to the decreasing availability of pasture and water this month which may be resulting in less-than-competitive market prices.
- Maize prices reduced by 9.1% from Ksh 32.9 last month to Ksh 29.9 this month. Those of beans remained almost the same at Ksh78.2 from Ksh 77.1 last month. These prices although remaining quite similar to the previous months, were still much higher than their long-term averages making households dig dipper into their pockets to buy food.
- The average daily wage rate was Ksh140.5, down by 4.3% from Ksh 146.8. The main source of income for the 3 districts was casual labour on which close to 50% of the population relied on followed by the sale of charcoal at 15%.
- The percentage of children at risk of malnutrition was 9.4% this month down from 10.2% recorded last month. The ranching zone posted an exceptionally high percentage of children at risk for malnutrition at 19.6%. This was also the case last month and requires close monitoring.
- The early warning stage for the three districts is alert with a deteriorating trend.

Current interventions

a) Food aid

World Vision distributed the following food commodities under PRRO.

i) Kaloleni district

Division	Cereals	Pulses	Vegetable Oil		Total
	Maize (Mt)	(Mt)	(Mt)	(Mt)	(Mt)
Kaloleni	18.10	2.650	0.485	0.520	21.755
Mariakani	75.30	11.100	0.265	3.740	90.405
Total	93.40	13.75	0.75	4.26	112.160

ii) Kilifi/Ganze districts

Division	Cereals	Pulses	Vegetable Oil	Total
	Maize (Mt)	(Mt)	(Mt)	(Mt)
Ganze	107.50	15.800	5.666	128.966
Vitengeni	106.80	15.700	5.621	128.121

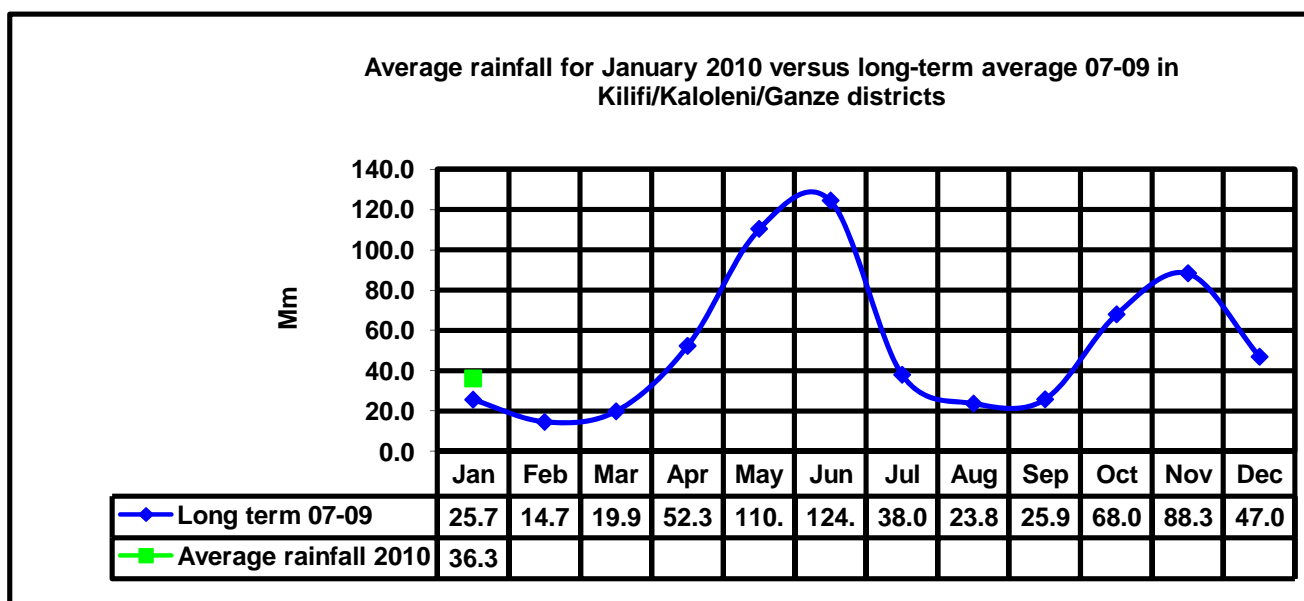
Bahari	15.50	2.300	0.816	18.616
Bamba	112.000	16.500	5.9301	134.430
Totals	341.80	50.30	18.03	410.133

Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Close monitoring of the water situation in the water-stressed areas of the ranching and marginal mixed farming.
- Monitoring of the pupil retention rate in schools.
- Monitoring of the livestock movement across borders to avoid conflicts and spread of diseases.
- A survey for the increased malnutrition rates in the ranching, marginal mixed farming and food cropping zones.
- Conduct a rapid food security assessment to ascertain the extent to which the short rains have failed.

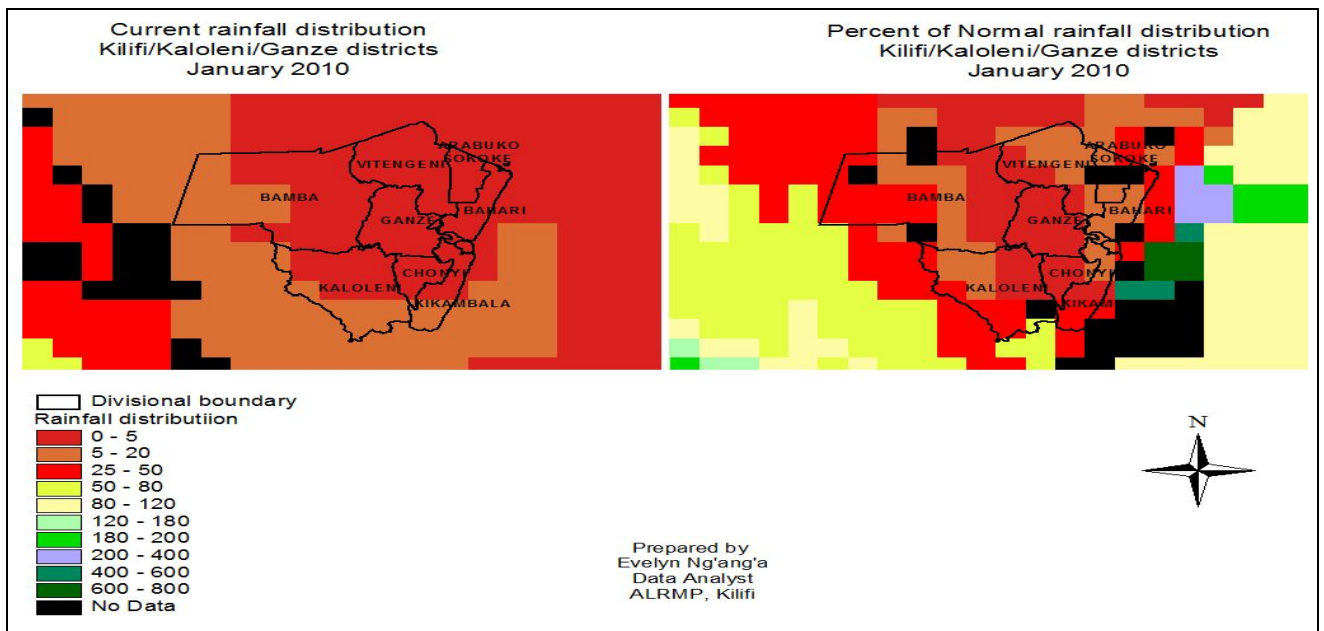
1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall.



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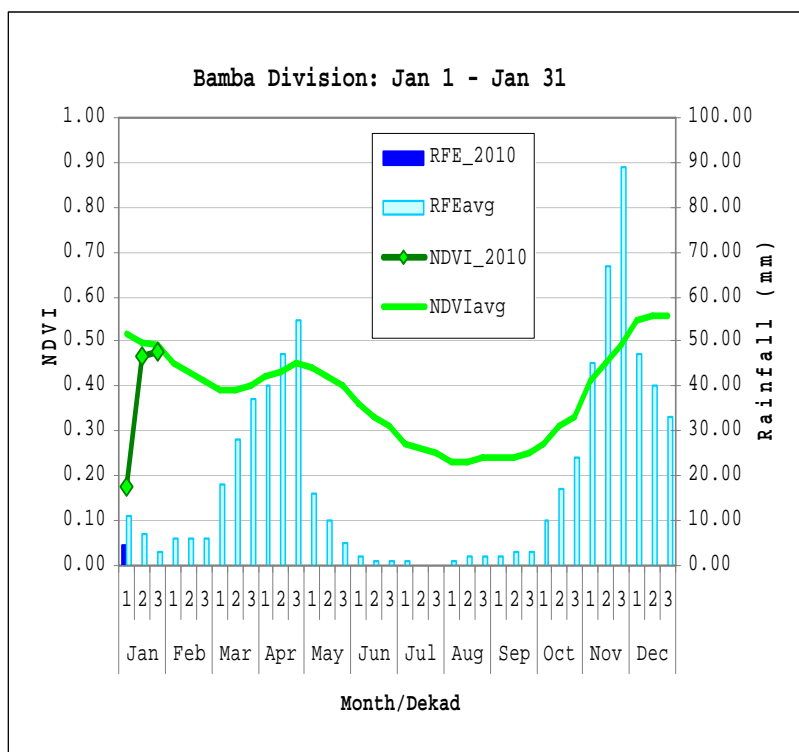
- An average of 36.3 mm of rainfall was recorded for an average 4.3 rainy days, which was lower than last month's average of 73.9 mm.
- This amount was slightly higher than the 25.7 mm expected in the long-term average 07-09. It was mainly characterized by slight downpours at the beginning of the month which fizzled out towards the end of the month.
- The highest rainfall was recorded in the marginal mixed farming zone at 45.3 mm and the least was in the cash cropping and dairy one at 19.6 mm. Given below are the rainfall estimates for the current and percent of normal rainfall distribution for this month.

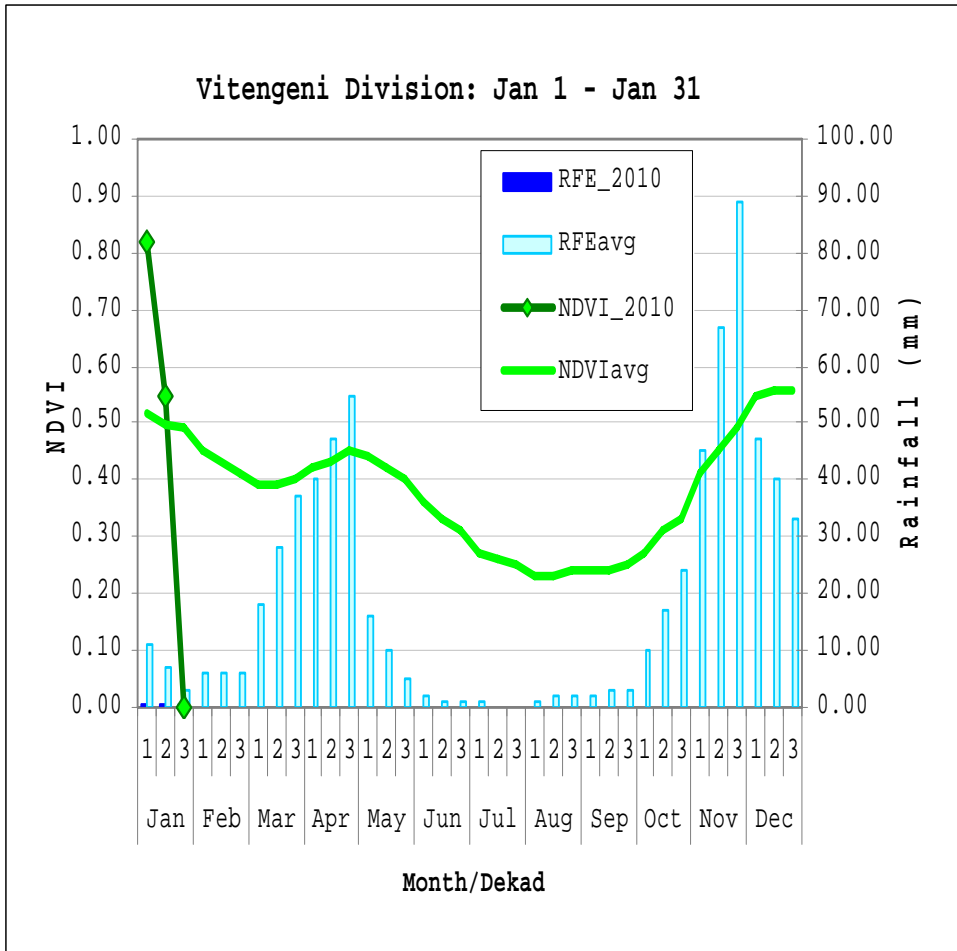


1.2. Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

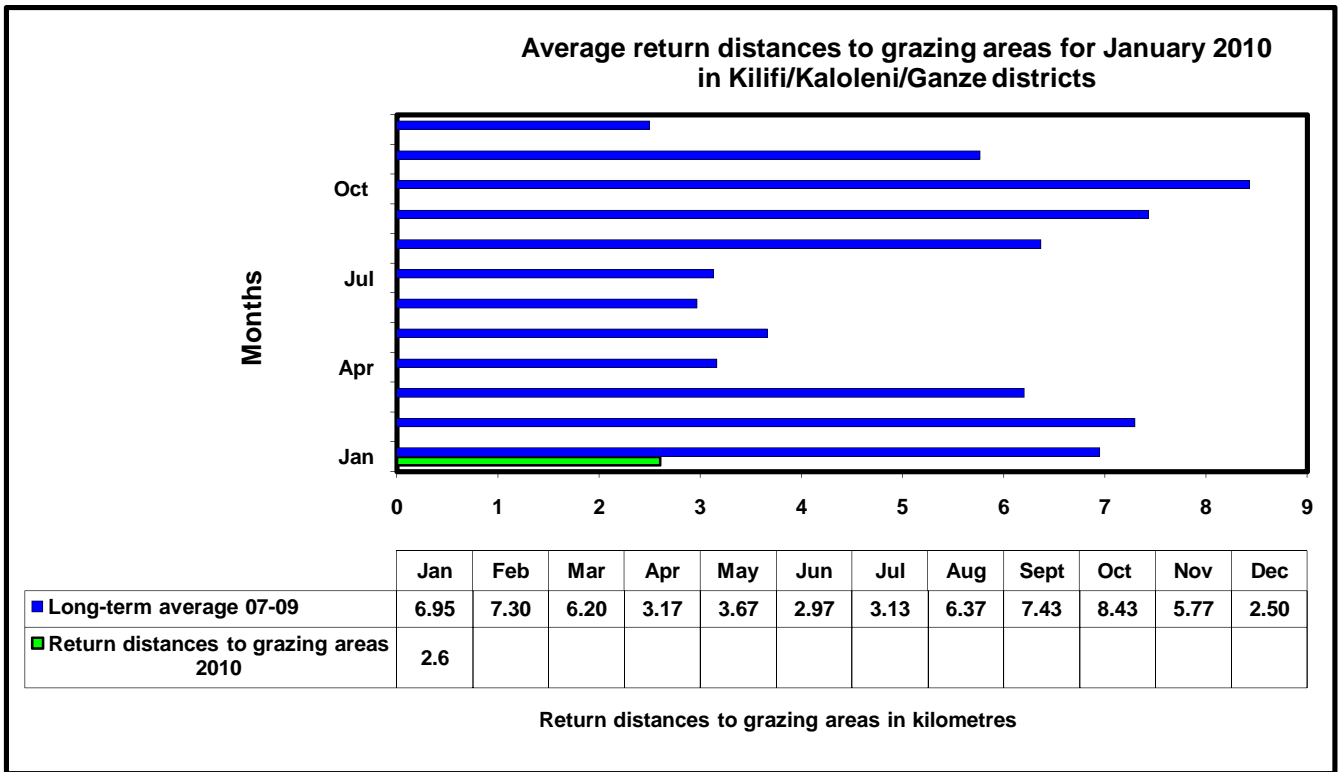
1.2.1 Quality and quantity

- Natural vegetation and pasture remained almost the same as the previous month. It improved in the marginal mixed farming and ranching livelihood zones where there was quite some rainfall reported. However, pasture decreased quite a bit in the food cropping areas such as Mwahera and Dida in Vitengeni division. The NDVI images below for this month demonstrate this.





1.2.2 Distance to grazing areas

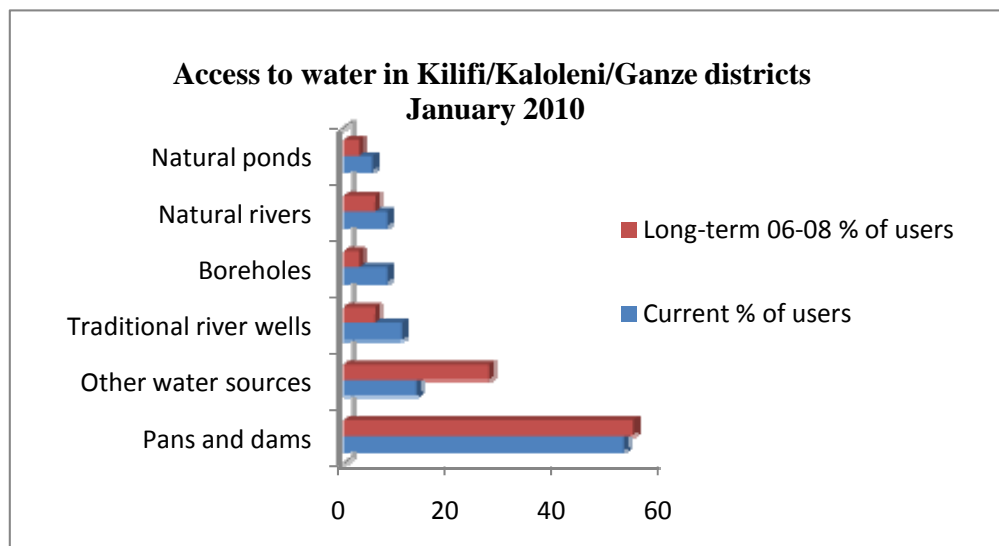


n= 360

- The distances to grazing areas doubled this month from 1.3 km last month to 2.6km this month. This was owed to the end of the rainy season as the region enters the short dry spell at the beginning of the year.
- The longest distances were recorded in the cash cropping and dairy zone at 3.125km while the least was in the marginal mixed farming one. The distances were much lower than normal for this time of the year which averaged 6.95km.

1.3 Water sources and availability

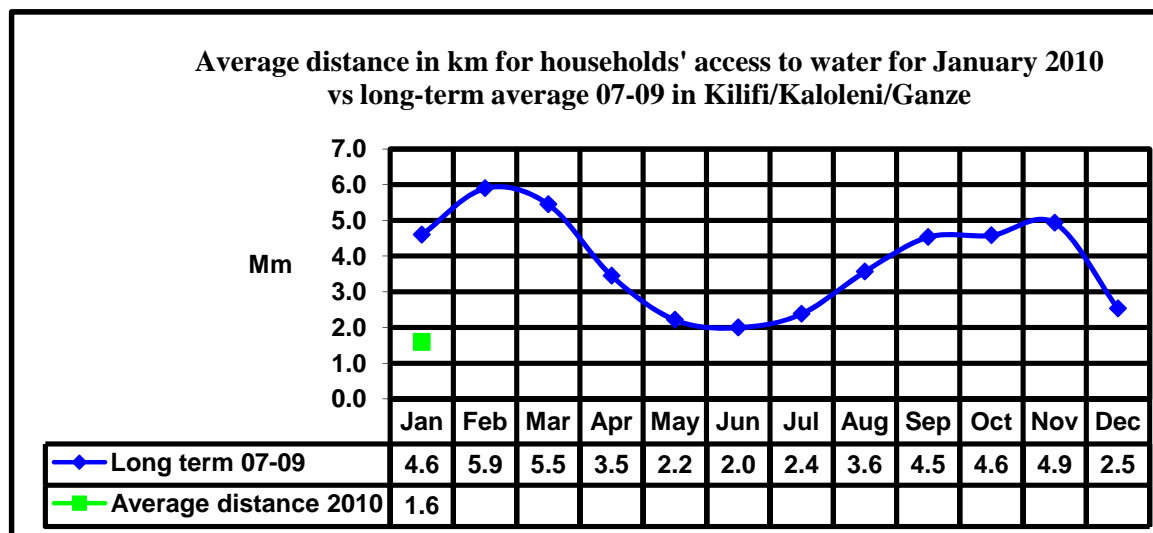
1.3.1 Main sources of water



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- 55% of households relied on water pans and dams this month similar to last month. This was mainly due to the replenishment of most of these water sources following the good rains received during the short rains. This was therefore normal for this time of the year.
- Other water sources included traditional river wells, natural rivers and ponds and boreholes.

1.3.2 Household access to water



n=360

- Household access to water rose slightly to 1.6km compared to 1.3km last month. This was owed to the drying up of some water sources as the dry season in the region's seasonal calendar begins. The lengthening of the distance is likely to get longer in the next two months.
- The longest distances were recorded in the food cropping zone at 2.2km while the shortest was recorded in the marginal mixed farming one 1.35km. The marginal mixed farming zone had received a good amount of rainfall hence some sources still held sufficient water for use.
- Compared to the long-term average 07-09, the distances travelled to access water were less.

1.3.3 Livestock access to water

Access to water by livestock was slightly more difficult this month as some water sources had begun to dry up. This was likely to worsen in the coming months just before the long rain season in April.

1.4 Emerging issues/conflicts

- Elephants still roamed the dry areas in Mariakani division making security in the area a challenge. Conflicts over pasture still remained as residents in the area fought over pasture and water with Somali herders from neighboring districts.
- The hippopotamus spotted in Giriama ranch previously was still present there posing a security threat to locals in Goshi/Mnagoni areas.

1.5 Implications on food security

With the rains ceased, water sources begun drying up, with distances to water sources beginning to inch upwards signifying a deteriorating trend. Areas in Vitengeni division are particularly hot and dry making residents walk quite long distances to access water. However, most parts of the

district still portray signs of sustaining themselves with sufficient water and pasture due to the good short rain season in most areas.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

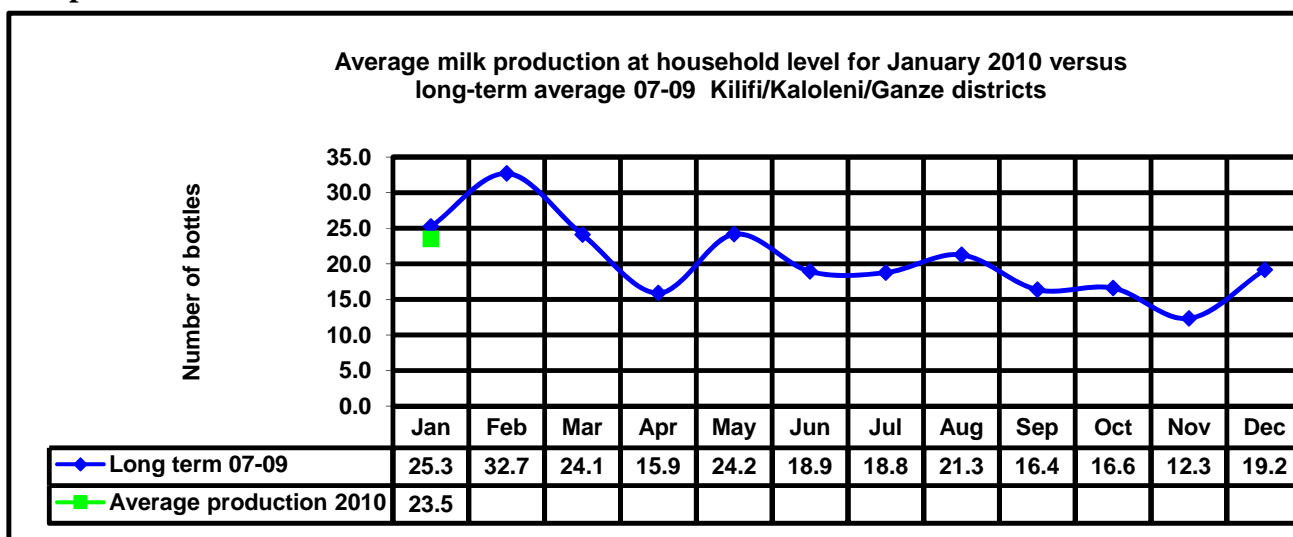
2.1.1. Livestock body condition

Livestock body condition ranged between fair and good this month. This was owed to the ease with which pasture and water were available for most livestock, thereby reducing stress on their bodies. They are slowly recovering from the crippling effects of the drought.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

No major livestock diseases were reported last month.

2.1.3 Milk production



n=360

- The average milk production reduced slightly by 13.9% from a recorded 27.3 bottles last month to 23.5 bottles this month. This was expected with the decreasing availability of livestock feed during this short dry season.
- The highest production was found in the cash cropping and dairy zone at an average of 36 bottles while the least was found in the ranching one at 6.0 bottles. On average the production was slightly less than the normal.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and status of crops

Most of the crops were badly affected by the drought just before the short rain seasons hence they may not yield much. This was the case for both cereals and pulses as most wilted at their early stages. However, households that planted during the short rains will obtain a pretty good harvest, but this is only the case in a few selected areas.

2.2.2 Pests and diseases

No major pests were reported this month.

2.2.3 Crop harvests

Harvesting was on-going for bananas, coconuts and irrigated crops such as tomatoes and kales. Harvests were generally not good this season due to crop failure with the exception of a few areas in Chonyi division.

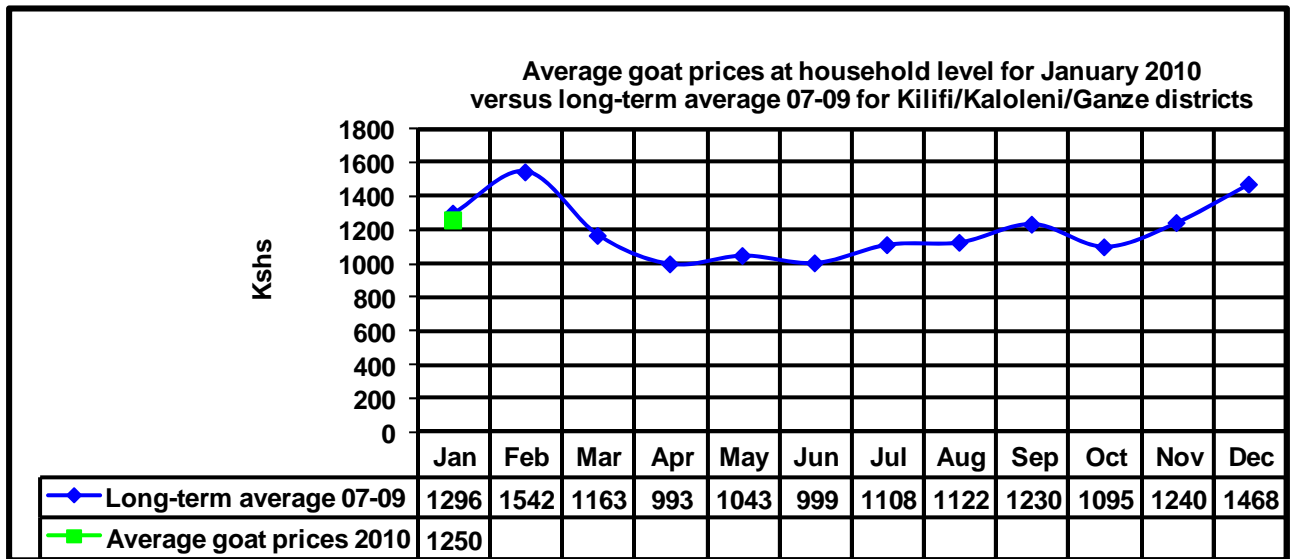
2.3 Implications on food security

Harvests fared poorly this season and most households have got to purchase their food from the stores as a result. Livestock production was also on the way to a deteriorating trend as the dry season sets in. This is likely to worsen in the months to come.

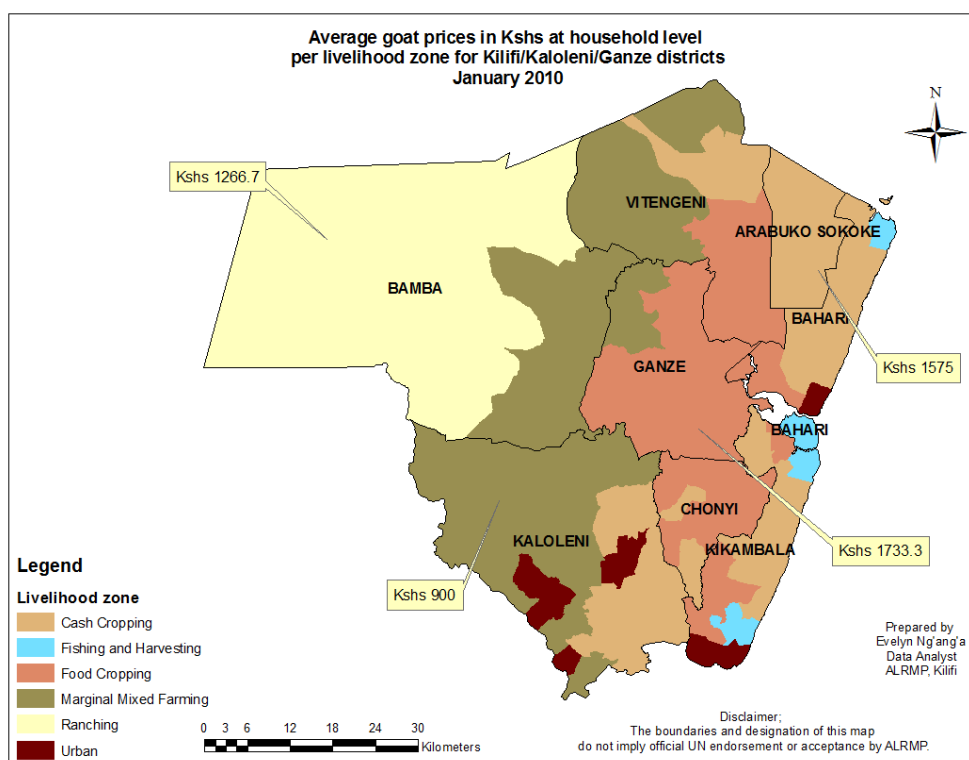
3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Goat prices

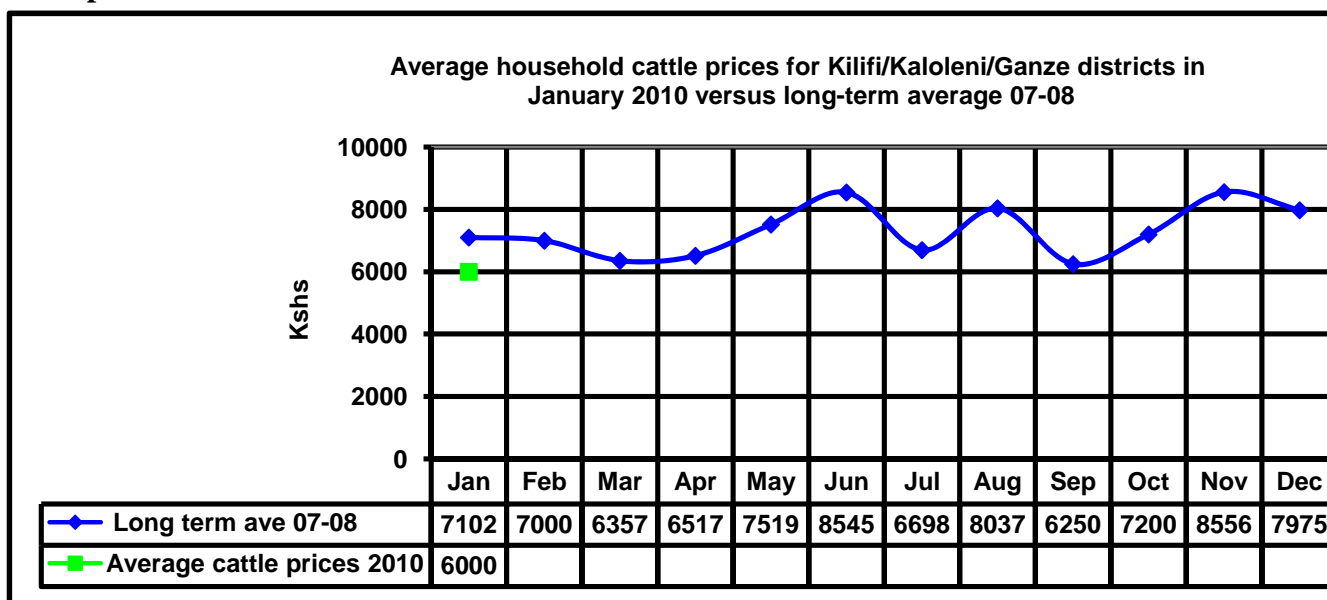


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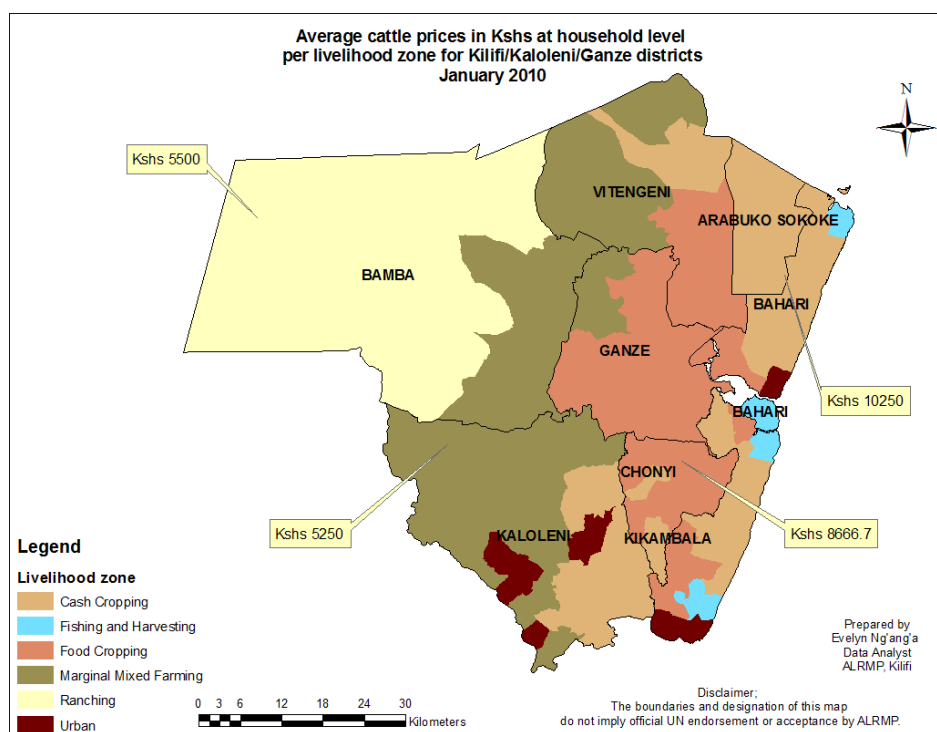


- The average price of a goat was Ksh1250, down by 5.8% from Ksh1327 last month. The inter-livelihood disparities in price are as shown in the map above.
- The highest prices were in the cash cropping and dairy zone at Ksh1575 while the least were in the marginal mixed farming at Ksh900.
- The goat prices were well within the range for this time of the year compared to the long-term average 07-09.

3.1.2 Cattle prices

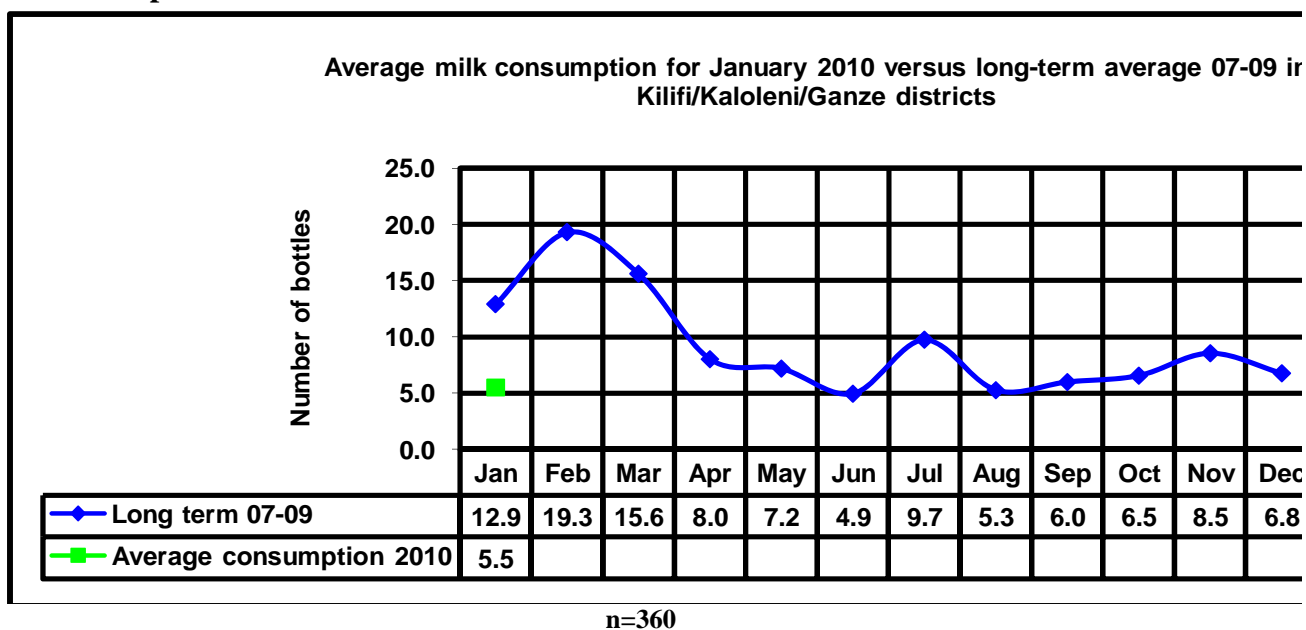


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- The retail price for a medium-sized bull was Ksh6000 this month down from Ksh 6450, down by a 7.5% margin. Inter-livelihood variations in price are shown in the map above.
- Cattle were extremely affected by drought last year and are taking longer to pick up from its effects. As a result they maintained a comparatively poor body condition this month hence the lowering in price.
- The highest price was recorded in the cash cropping and dairy zone at Ksh10,250 while the least was in the marginal mixed farming at Ksh5250.

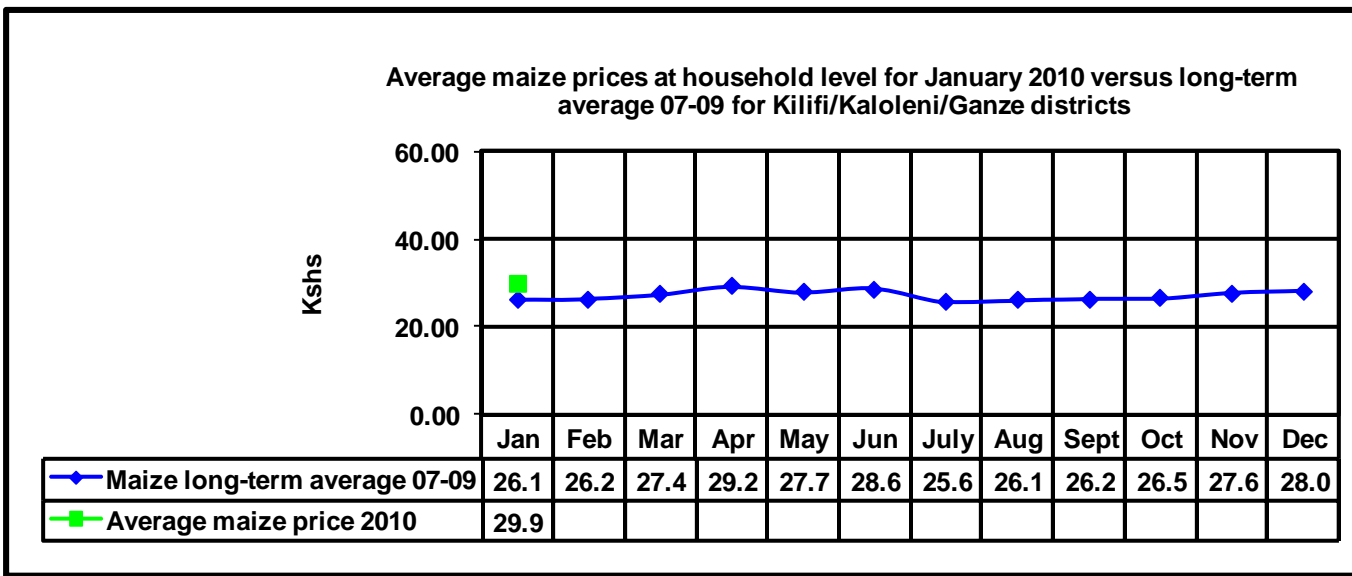
3.2 Milk consumption



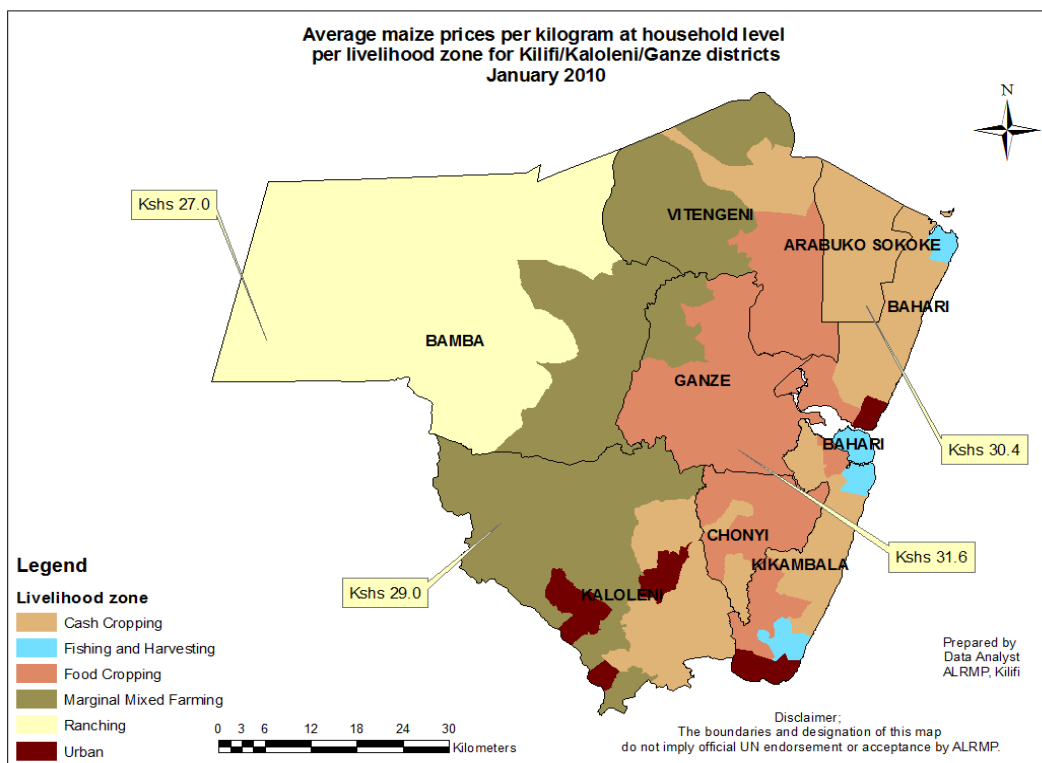
- Milk consumption at household level remained the same at 5.5 bottles this month similar to last month. Both the food cropping and the marginal mixed farming zones posted the highest consumption at an average of 7.0 bottles while the ranching zone produced the least at 2.0 bottles. This could have caused the high number of children at risk for malnutrition in the 3 districts.
- With an average consumption of 5.5 bottles, this was approximately 57.4% lower than the expected 12.9 bottles for this time of the year.

3.3 Food prices

3.3.1 Maize prices

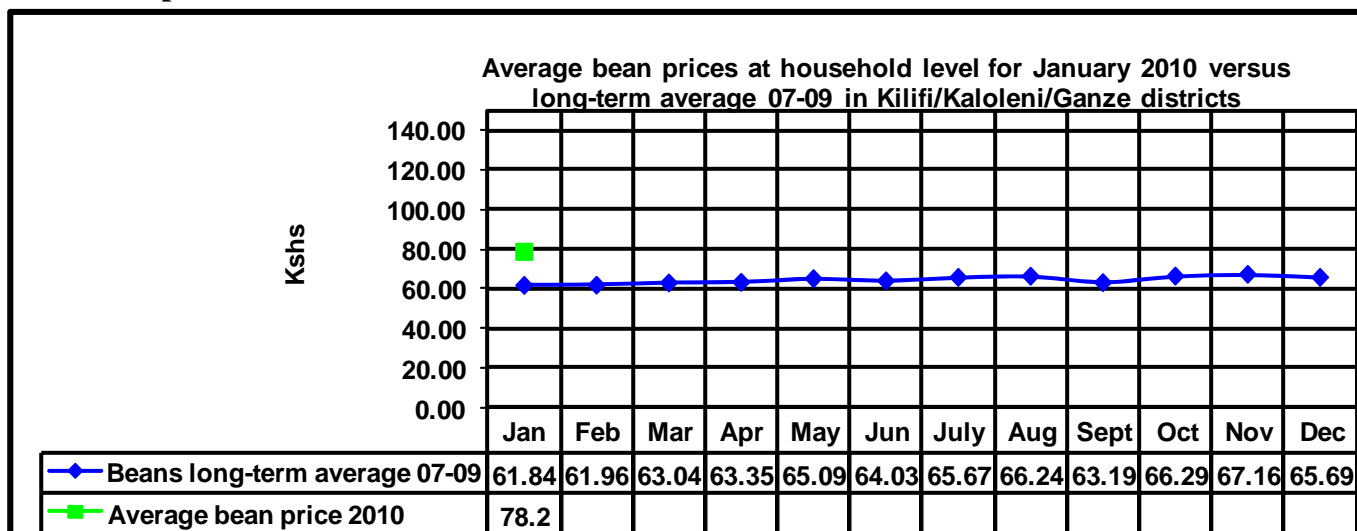


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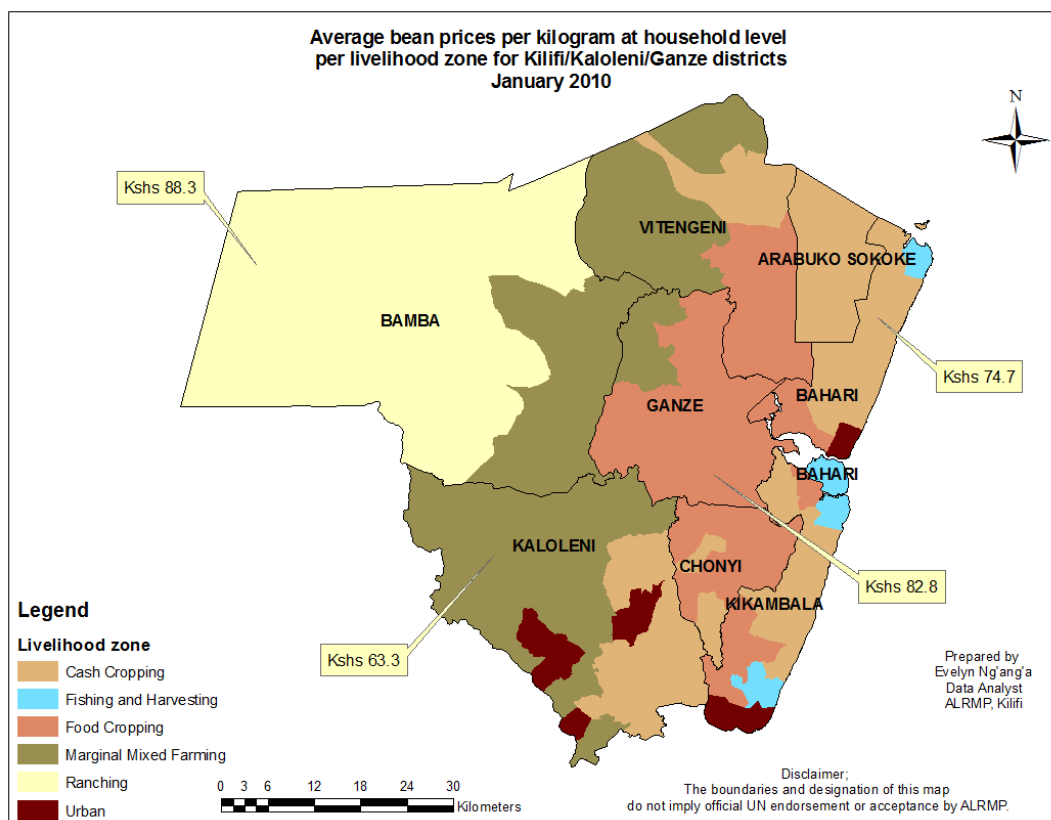


- A kilogram of maize was selling at Ksh 29.9 indicating a drop of 9.1% compared to the previous month's Ksh 32.9. This was likely due to the recent harvests in the region. The highest maize prices were recorded in the food cropping at Ksh31.6 while the least was found in the ranching zone at Ksh27.0.
- The prices were higher than the long-term average of 26.1, which could mean that households were still finding it difficult to buy food especially at this time when most of them had depleted most of their food stores.

3.3.2 Beans prices

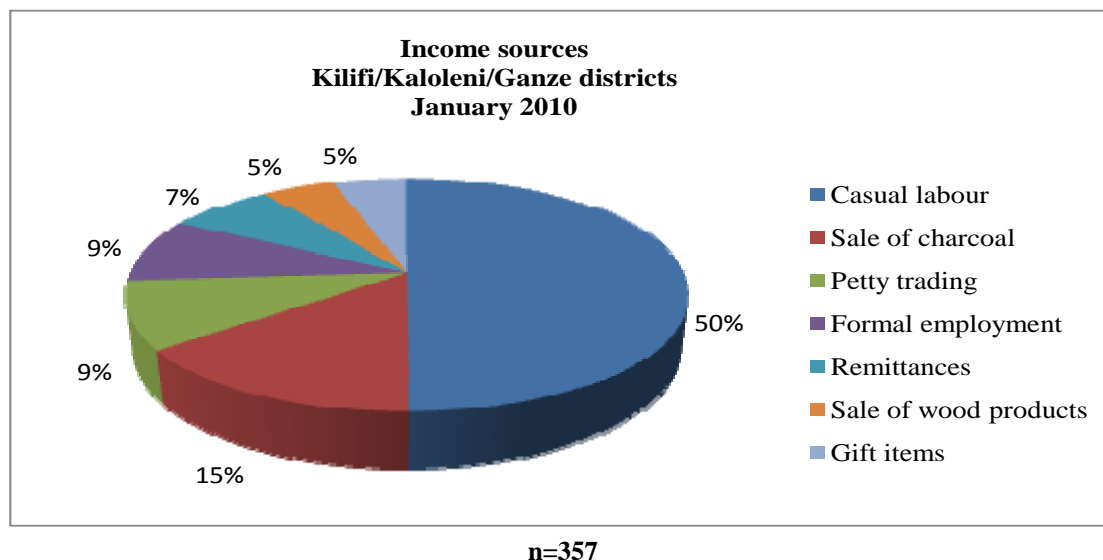


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- A kilogram of beans was trading at Ksh78.2 this month compared to Ksh77.1 last month, indicating a negligible drop in price. Other pulses and legumes having been harvested, although not to a large extent due to the failure of the short rains, had resulted in the slight decrease. Prices are however, likely to rise as good harvests were not realized this season.
- The highest prices were recorded in the food cropping zone at Ksh88.3 while the least was recorded in the food cropping zone at Ksh63.3.
- Compared to the long-term average 07-09, the price was 26.5% higher than that expected at this time of the year of Ksh61.84.

3.4 Income



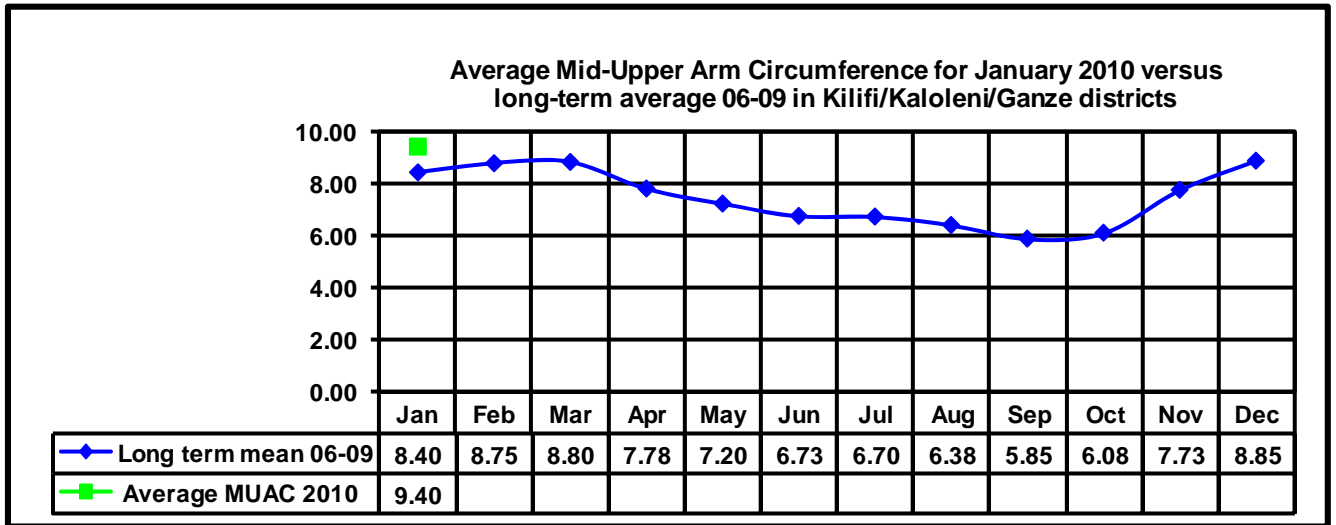
- Casual labour was the most relied upon source of income this month similar to last month with approximately 50% of the households depending on it. Harvesting was the main on-farm activity as those whose crops did well engaged in the exercise.
- The average daily wage rate was Ksh140.5 this month down by 4.3% from Ksh146.8 last month. The highest wage rate was recorded in the cash cropping and dairy zone at Ksh199 and the least was in the ranching zone at Ksh68. Residents of the ranching were especially vulnerable to inability to buy food due to the exceedingly low wage rate.

3.5 Implications on food security

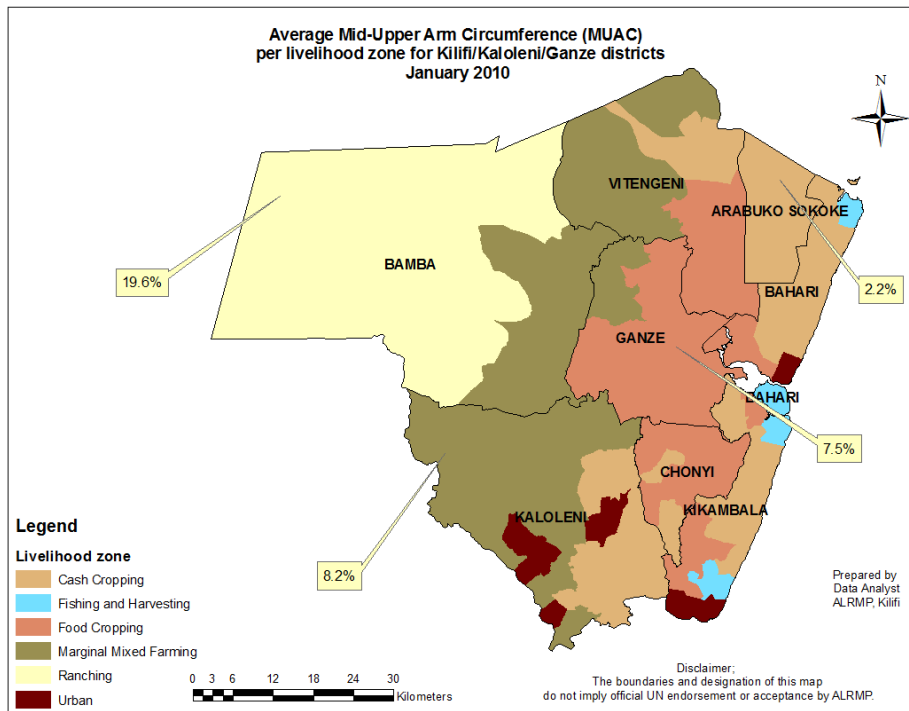
With reduced livestock prices and higher-than-normal food commodity prices, the food security trend in the district is deteriorating and is likely to worsen in the coming months. The lowered milk production may have resulted in the lowered milk consumption which has taken a toll on the nutritional status in the ranching zone.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



n =1827



- There was a slight decrease in the number of children at risk of malnutrition from 10.2% last month to 9.4% this month. The decrease is likely due to the recent harvests in the area which led to a diversification of diet.
- The highest number of children at risk was found in the ranching zone at 19.6% while the least was found in the cash cropping and dairy zone at 2.2%. The ranching zone also posted the lowest milk consumption which could be a likely reason for the persistently high rate of malnutrition.
- Compared to the long-term average 06-09, this month was higher than the expected 8.4% which shows a deterioration in the rate of malnutrition.

4.2 Human health

No diseases were reported in the district this month.

4.3 Flagged areas

- The food cropping zone is worsening and requires close monitoring. The ranching zone has consistently displayed a high rate of malnutrition that warrants a survey into the matter.

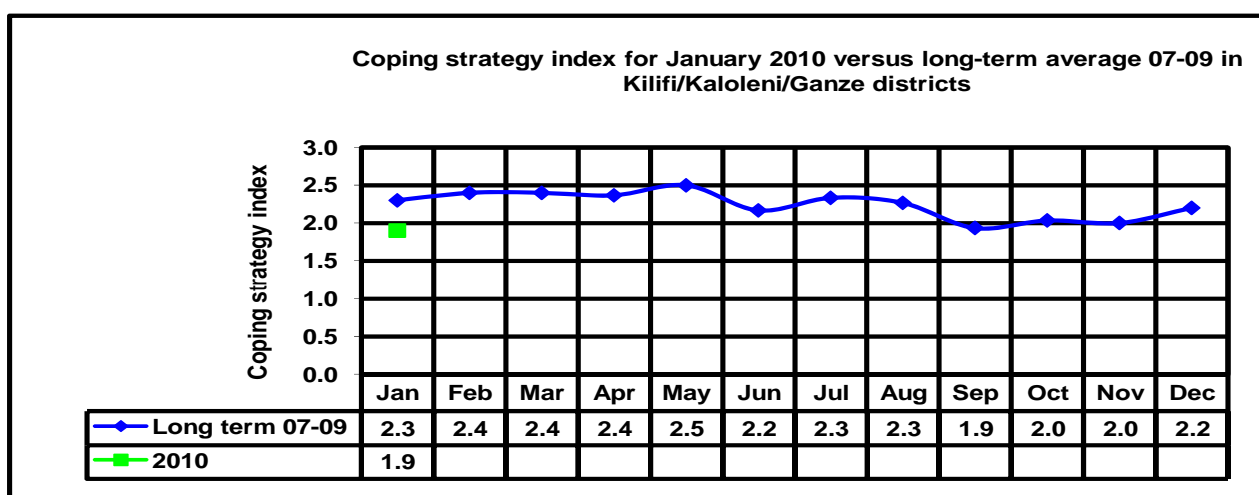
5.0 Ongoing interventions

i) Food aid

The following food commodities were distributed by World Vision under PRRO.

- 21.755 and 90.405 metric tonnes of maize, pulses and vegetable oil to Kaloleni and Mariakani divisions in Kaloleni district respectively.
- 410.133 metric tonnes of cereals pulses and vegetable oil in Kilifi district.

5.1 Coping strategies



n=360

- The coping strategy index this month was 1.9 similar to last month. The highest index was recorded in the marginal mixed farming zone at 2.2 while the least was found in the cash cropping and dairy one at 1.8.
- The main coping strategies included reduction in the number and size of meals, purchase of food on credit, swapped to cheaper foods, consumption of immature crop and begging of food from relatives and friends.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- The water situation in the water-stressed areas of Jila, Tsangatsini, Guruguru, Kayafungo and Midoina should be assessed.
- Pupil retention rate in schools should be monitored to find out the effects of the drought that was in the 3 districts.
- The livestock movement across borders should be monitored to avoid conflicts and spread of diseases.
- High malnutrition rates in the marginal mixed farming, ranching and food cropping should be surveyed to ascertain the underlying factors that cause malnutrition in the areas.
- Conduct a rapid food security assessment to ascertain the extent to which the short rains have failed.