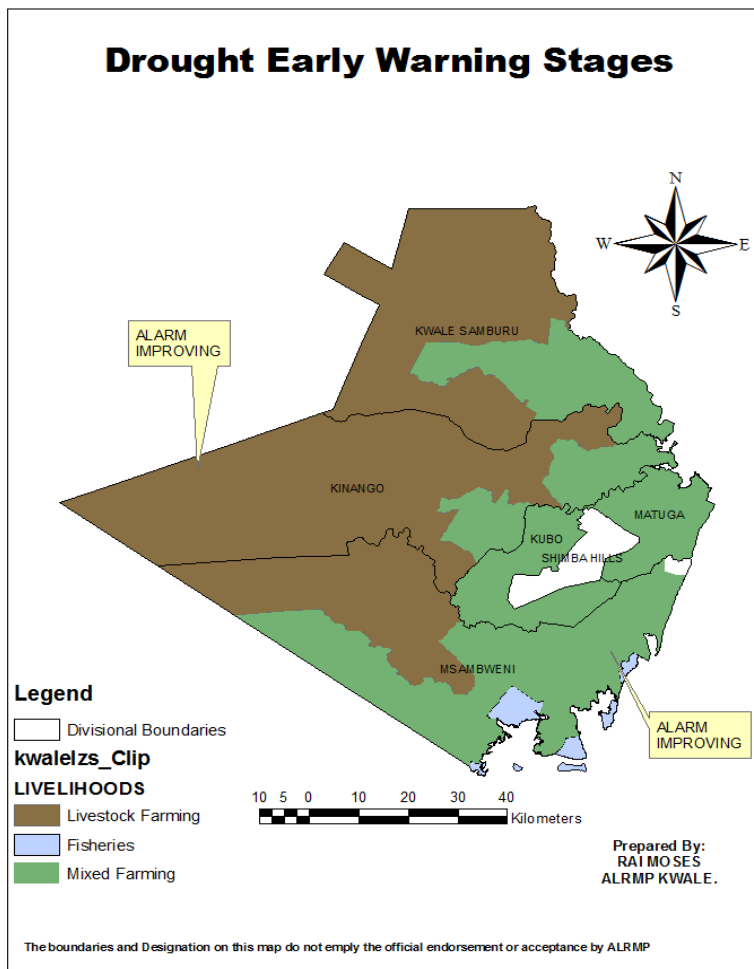




OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, JANUARY 2010

Kwale, Kinango & Msambweni 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 district recorded an average of 116mm of rainfall during the month. Matuga and Kinango recorded 101 mm in 5 days and 183.3mm for 3 days respectively while Msambweni recorded 116mm in 4 days.
- The pasture quality and quantity was good due to the light showers received.
- The livestock body condition was good because the pasture condition was good and water is available.
- Most pans, dams and boreholes, which are the main sources of water, impounded some water following the rains received.
- Most farmers, especially in mixed farming livelihood zone, started harvesting.
- The nutrition status of children under five years declined during the month, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition rising to 12.4% from 9.2%.last month.
- Human/ wildlife conflicts were reported mainly due to elephant menace in the mixed farming livelihood area.

Recommendations to District Steering Group and Kenya Food Security Meeting

- Conflicts over natural resource use reduced but support to the District Peace Committee should continue to address any emerging issues.
- The Kenya Wildlife Services to control wildlife destroying crops.
- Ministry of Health to put effort to control human disease outbreaks, especially cholera outbreaks reported in some parts of the district.
- Veterinary department to undertake livestock disease control measures in livestock livelihood zones which didn't receive adequate rains.
- Communities to be advised to engage in water harvesting structures.

Current interventions

Non-food interventions

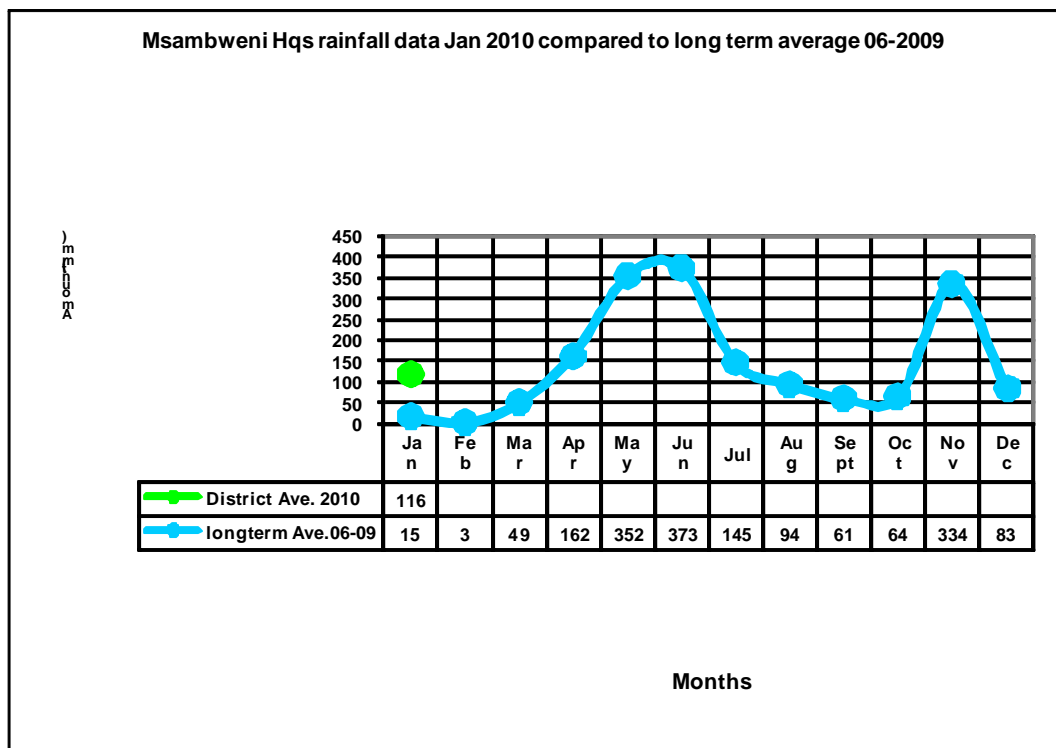
- Training of farmers groups in Kubo on drought-tolerant crops.
- District MOH – Kinango (Nutritionist) facilitated to address high nutrition rate in Mtaa and Vigurungani.

Food aid

The Drought Emergency Operation Programme (EMOP) targeting 94,700 beneficiaries for Kinango, 42,200 beneficiaries for Msambweni and Matuga 9,100 beneficiaries is ongoing.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall



Source: Fig 1. District Agriculture office, Msambweni

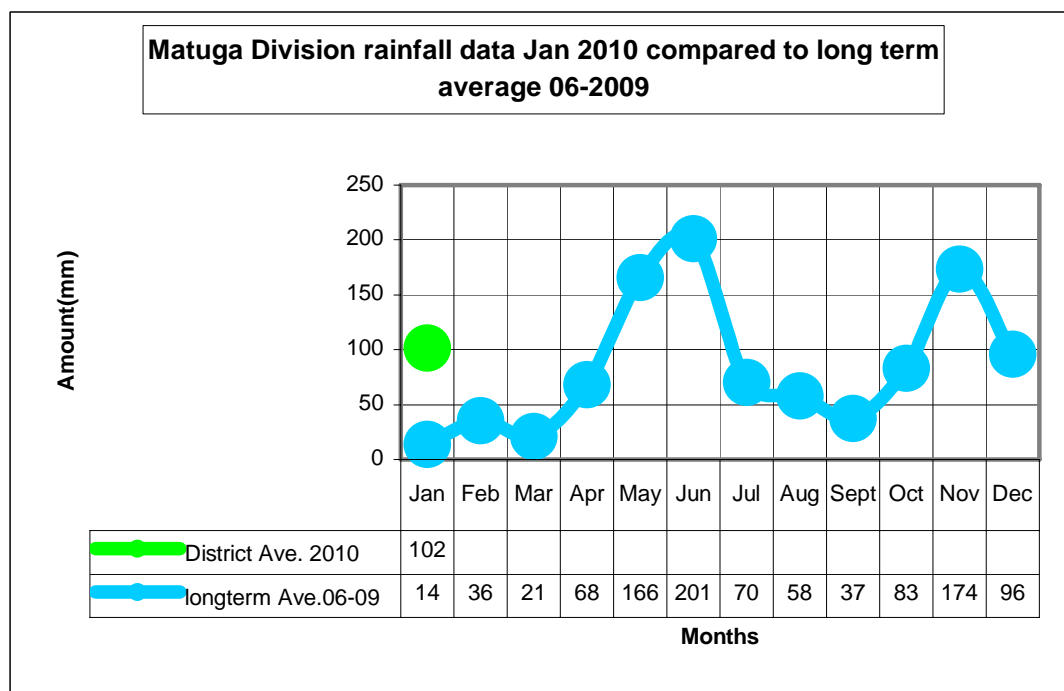
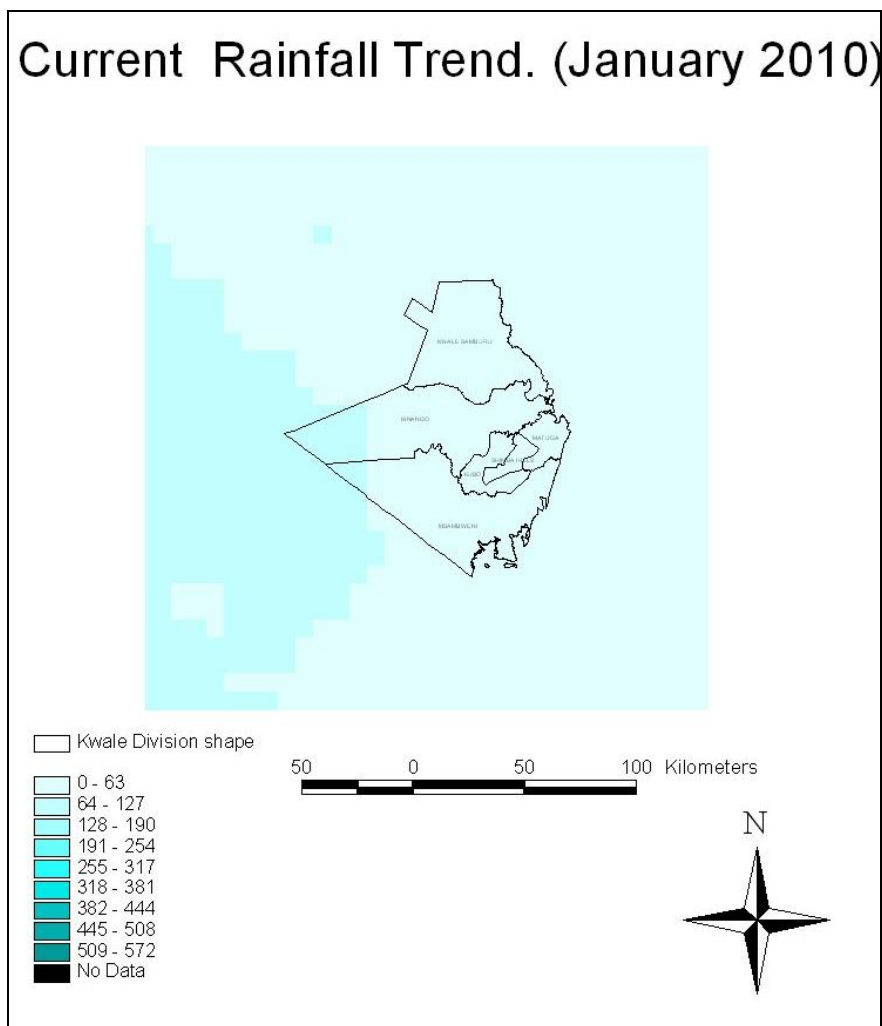


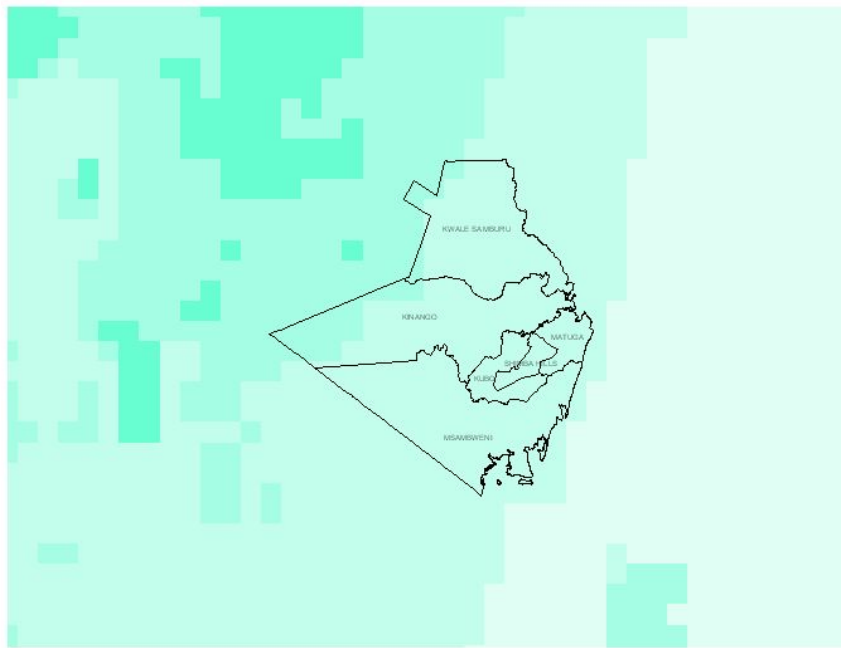
Fig 2. District Agriculture office, Kwale

Matuga and Kinango recorded 101 mm in 5 days and 183.3mm for 3 days respectively, which was far above the long term trend of 06-09. Msambweni recorded 116mm in 4 days.

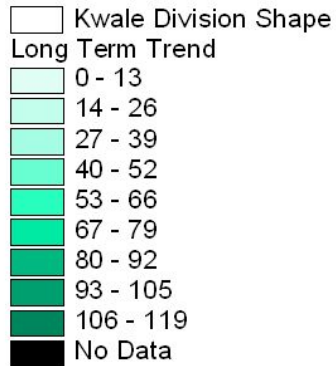
Below are rainfall and vegetation trends for January 2010 in Kwale



LONG TERM RAINFALL TREND



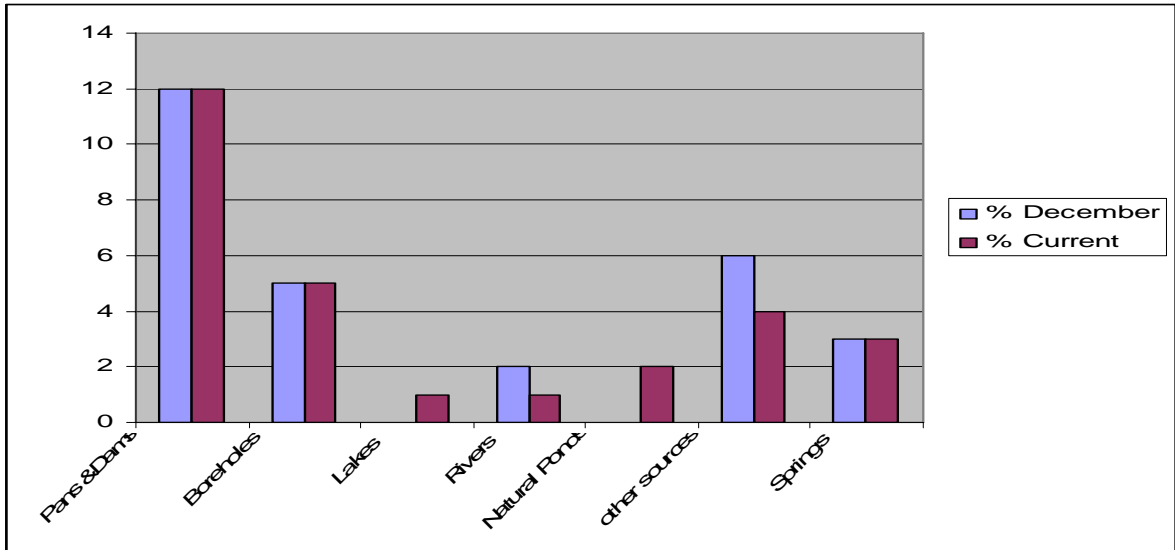
30 0 30 60 Kilometers



1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

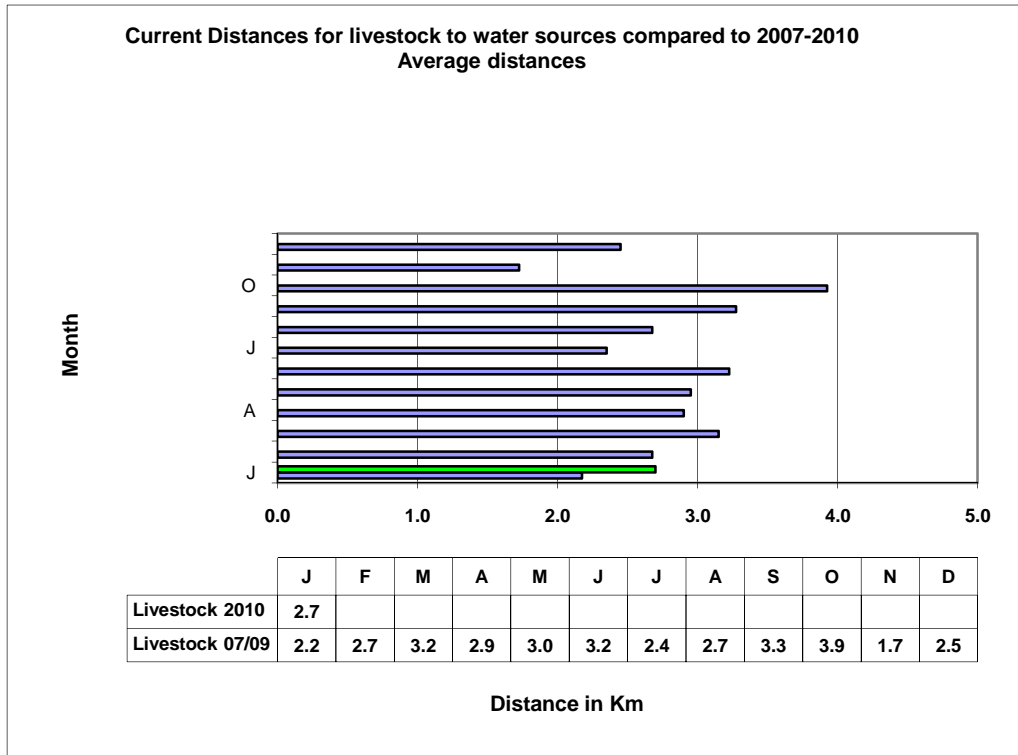
The pasture quality and quantity was good because of the rains received in all the livelihoods.

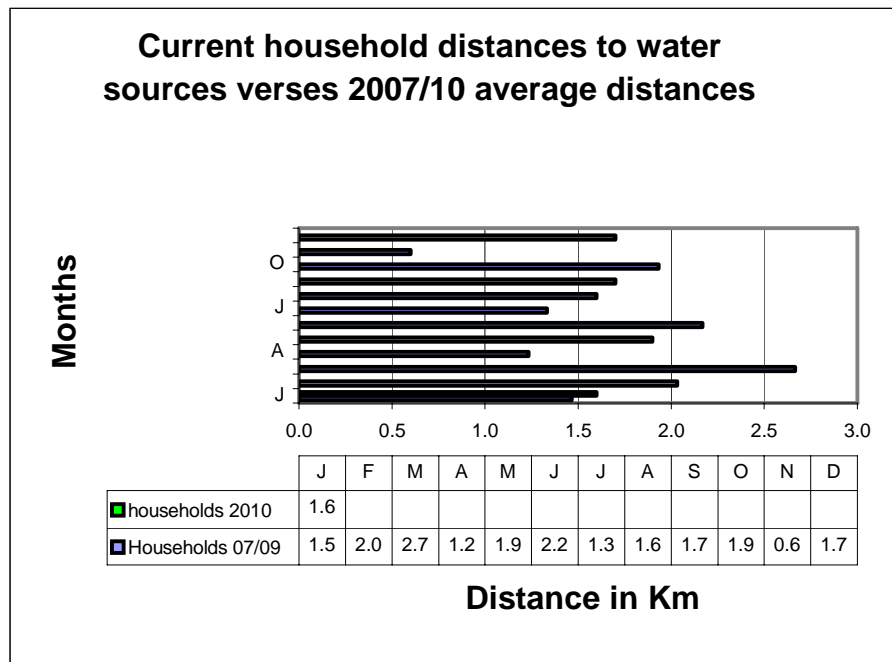
1.3 Water sources and availability



The water situation in the district improved, with the water distances slightly reduced. Pans and dams remained the main source of water for the district. Following the rains received the water distances in both livestock and mixed farming livelihoods have slightly reduced in most parts of the district.

1.3.1 Distances to water sources





The average water distances for households reduced to 1.6 km from 1.9km and 2.7 km from 3.1km in the grazing areas. This was because the rains received filled some of the dams and pans.

1.4 Emerging issues

The little rains received in both the livestock and mixed farming livelihoods areas should continue if the crops in farms are to reach maturity.

1.4.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human displacement

Human/wildlife conflict in form of crop destruction reported in Kubo, Matuga, Mtaa and Gulanze.

1.4.2 Migration

Movement of people in search of casual labour in order to buy food as a coping mechanism continued.

1.5 Implications on food security

Rainfalls received may change the current food situation in both livelihoods if it continues.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

Livestock body condition was good following the availability of water and good pasture in all the livelihoods zones.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

Cases of foot and mouth, lumpy skin disease have been reported in Mbegani. The Veterinary dept is undertaking vaccination against rift valley fever.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of crop production activities

Harvesting begun in most parts of the mixed farming zones but there were few crops in the livestock livelihood zones.

2.2 Implications on food security

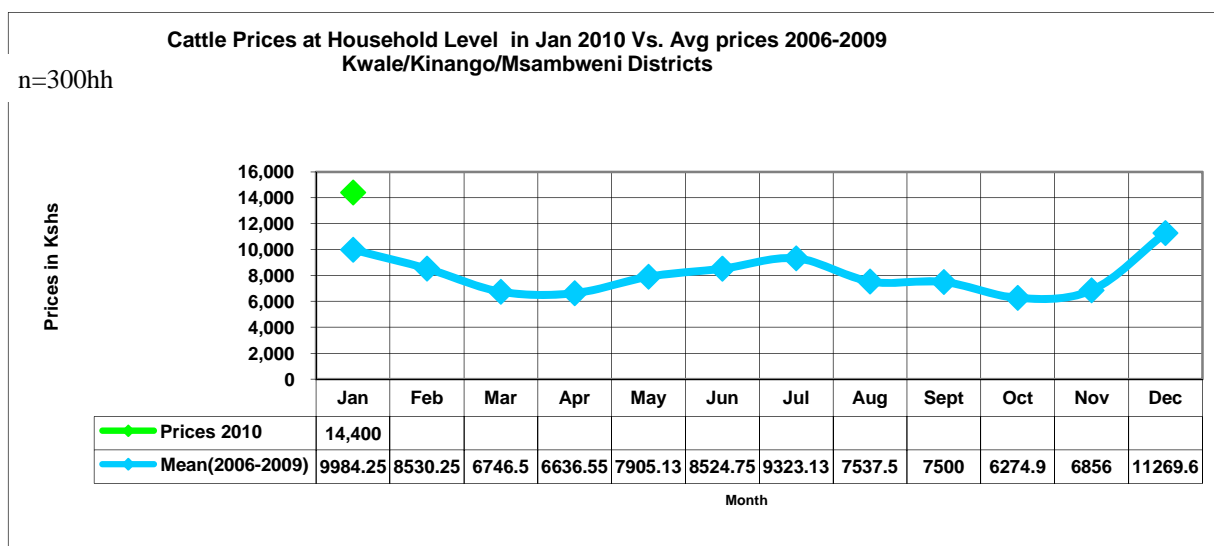
Most households in the mixed farming livelihood have food to sustain them for two months.

However, the larger part of the district, which is livestock livelihood zone, is still food insecure following the successive poor rains.

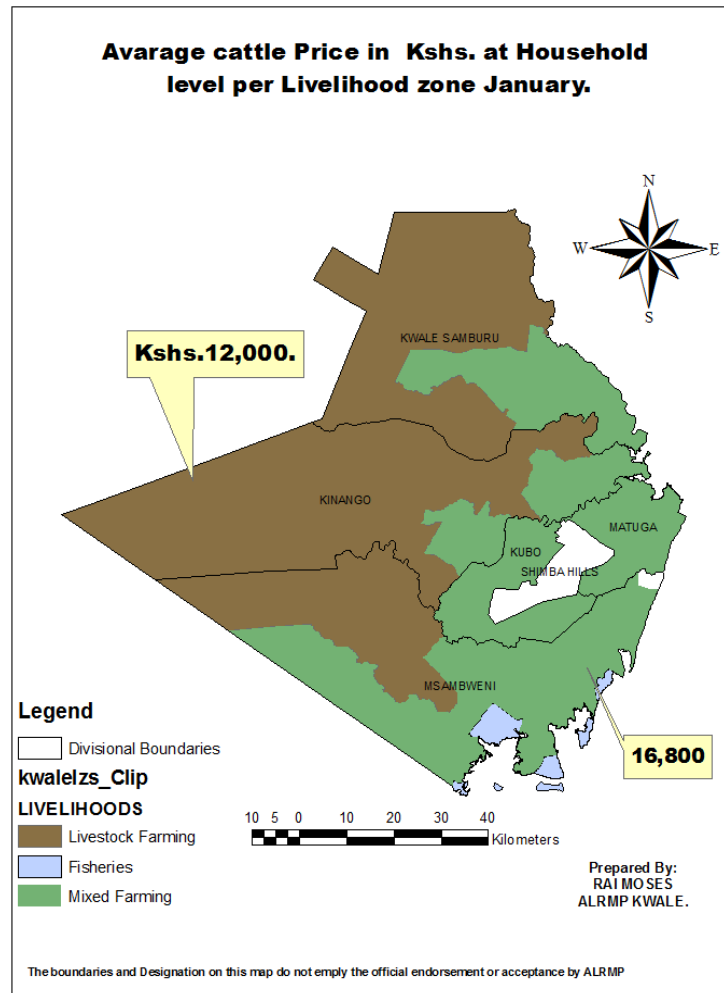
3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices

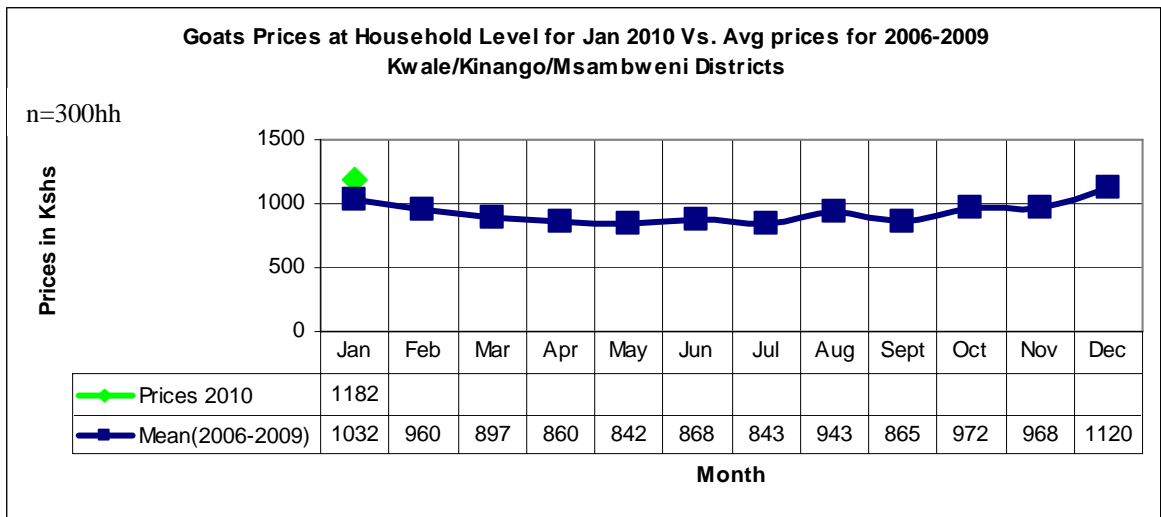


- The average price of cattle remained steady at Ksh14, 400. This price was above the long term mean recorded in 2006-2009 of Ksh9984. This was due to the good body condition of cattle as a result of the good pasture and availability of water.
- This situation is expected to continue following availability of water and pasture.

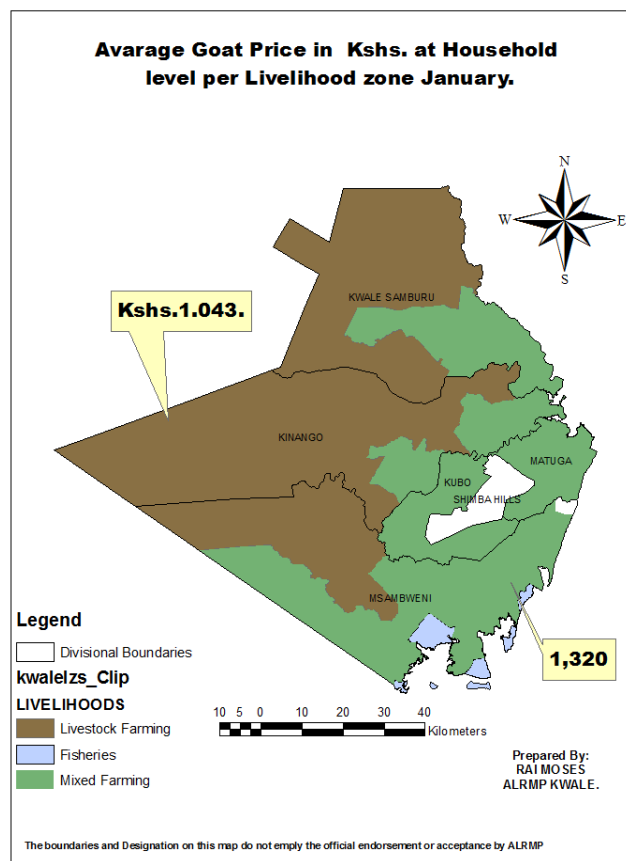


The map above shows the average cattle prices at livelihood level. The prices at the livestock livelihood zones were at Ksh12,000 and 16,800 at the mixed farming livelihood.

3.1.2 Goat prices



The average price of goats was Ksh1, 181.8, which was slightly above the long term ranges of 2006-2009.



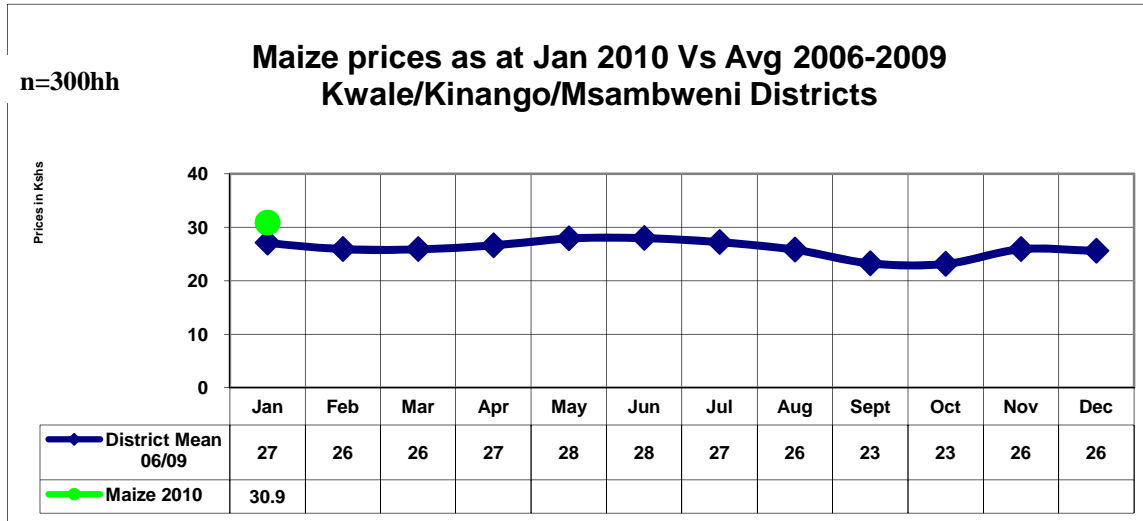
The map above shows the average goat prices.

3.2 Livestock sales

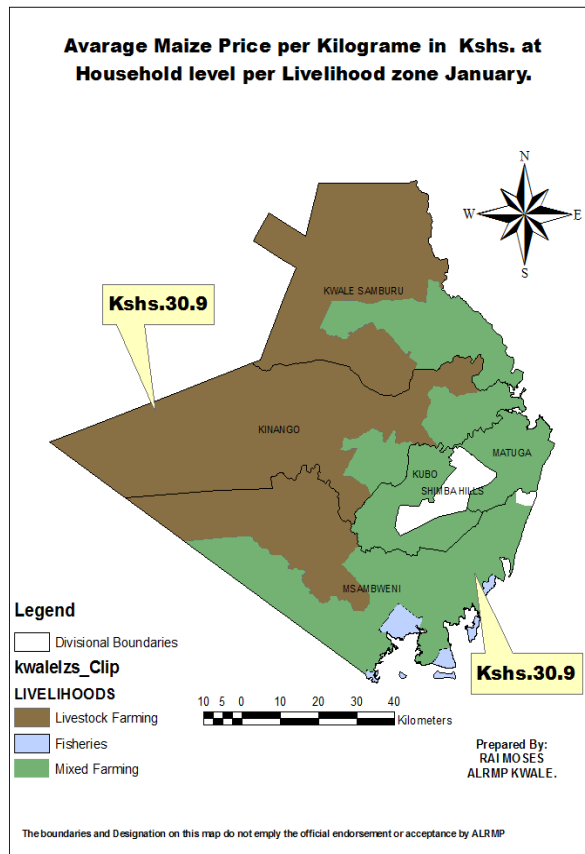
The livestock sales numbers and rate for the month increased mostly because most of the livestock had good body condition and therefore fetched good prices.

3.3 Crop prices

3.3.1 Maize prices

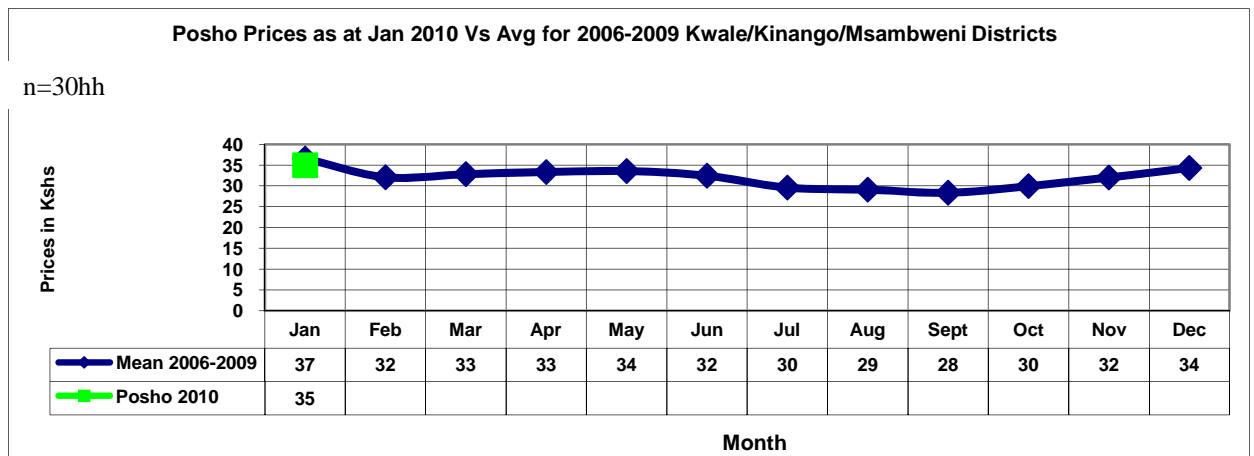


- Maize prices reduced to Ksh31 from Ksh35.4 the previous month. The reduction in prices was due to availability of food in some parts of the mixed farming zones.
- This was however above the long term mean of 2006 – 2009 of Ksh 27.
- This trend was not normal for this season since most of the farmers are expected to have food in their stores.



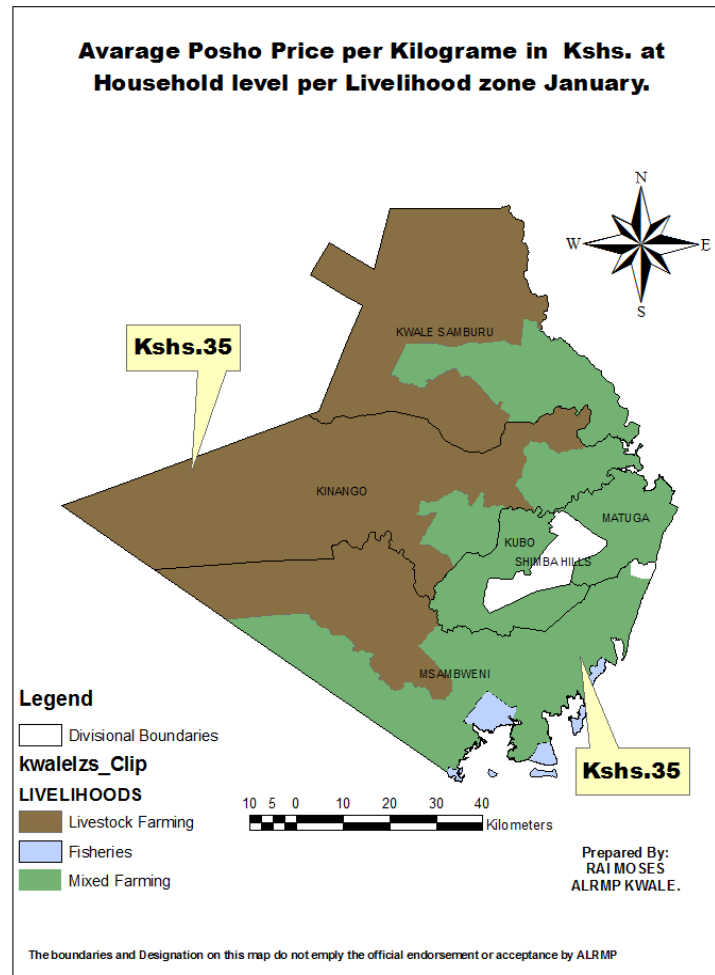
The map above shows the average maize prices at livelihood level. The average price in both the livestock and the mixed farming livelihoods was Ksh30 per kilo.

3.3.2 Posho prices



- There was a slight decrease in price of Posho from Ksh39.1 recorded last month to Ksh 35. The price was also slightly lower the long team mean average 2006-2009 of Ksh37.

- The decrease was due to availability of food in the mixed farming zone.



The map above shows the average posho prices at livelihood level. The prices in both the livestock and the mixed farming livelihoods was Ksh35 per kilo.

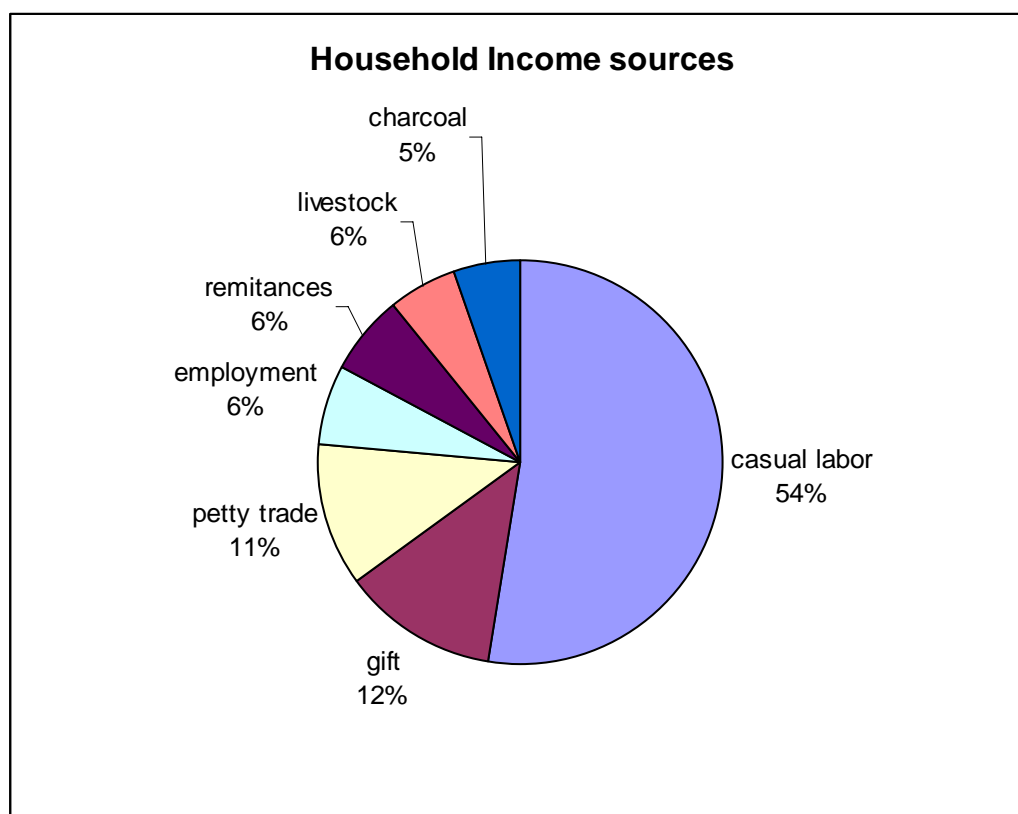
3.4 Crops income

There was very little income from crops. However, there was some income from the sale oranges and mangoes.

3.4.1 Livestock income

The livestock market was slowly getting back to its feet and the food commodity prices were also beginning to show a decreasing trend. This will impact positively on food security.

3.4.2 Other income



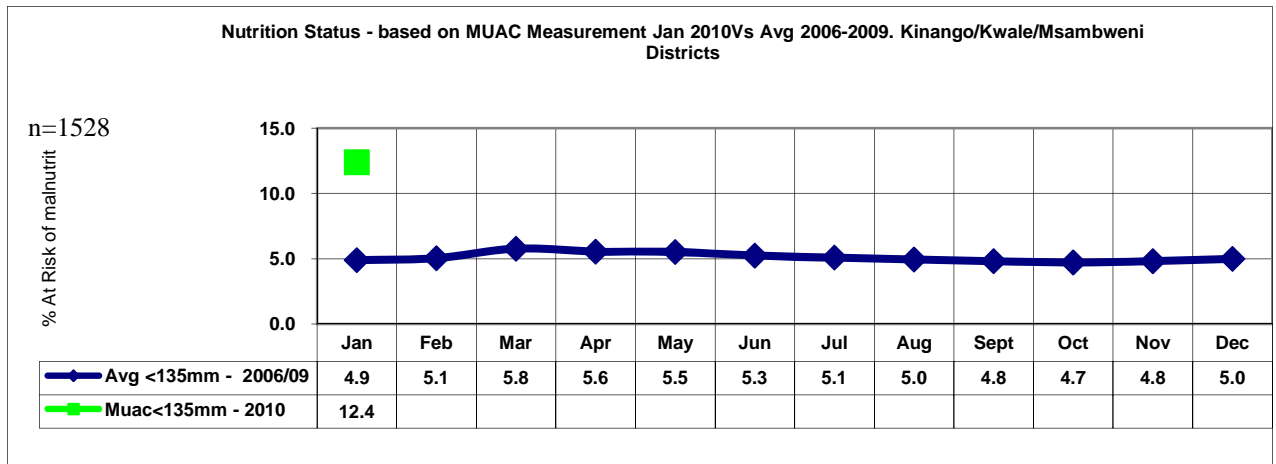
Casual labour remained the main district source of income at 54%. Income from sale of charcoal slightly decreased to 5% from 7% recorded last month.

3.5 Implications on food security

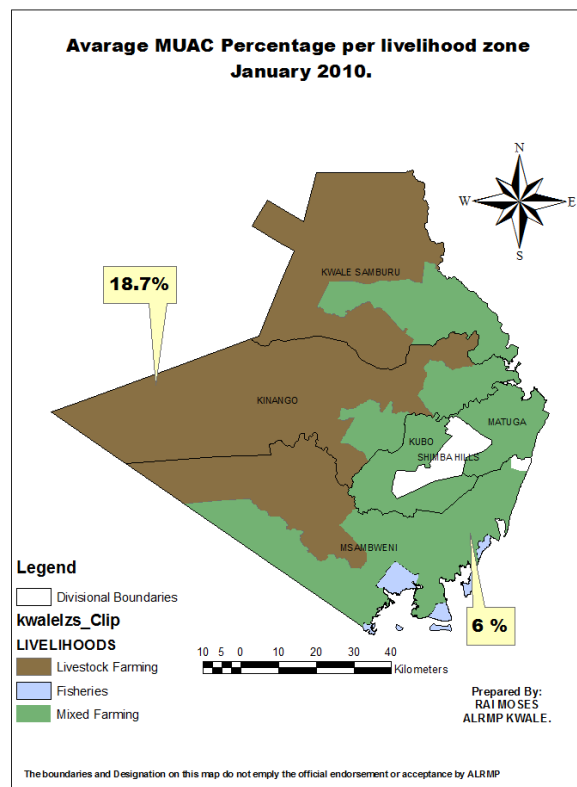
Improved pasture condition led to improved livestock body conditions, hence high sales and income. This contributed to households' high purchasing power since most food commodities prices were very high.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



- The nutrition status of children below five years declined during the month. The percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition rose to 12.4 % from 9.2 % last month.
- Very high rates were reported in Sega at 16.7%, Kiteje at 9.3% and Mtaa at 12.1% and Vigurungani at 25.7%.



4.2 Human health

- Cases of diarrhoea and cholera were reported in Mivumoni and Lukore.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non-food interventions

- Training of farmers groups in Kubo on drought-tolerant crops.
- District MOH – Kinango (Nutritionist) facilitated to address high nutrition rate in Mtaa and Vigurungani.

5.2 Food aid

The Drought Emergency Operation Programme (EMOP) targeting 94,700 beneficiaries for Kinango, 42,200 beneficiaries for Msambweni and Matuga 9,100 beneficiaries is ongoing.

5.3 Coping strategies

Some of the coping strategies employed during the month included:

- Casual labour.
- Remittances and gifts from relatives.
- Charcoal burning.
- Migration in search of labour.
- Petty trade.
- Change in feeding patterns, quantities and frequencies.



6.0 Recommendations to District Steering Group and Kenya Food Security Meeting

- Conflicts over natural resource use reduced but support to the District Peace Committee should continue to address any emerging issues.
- The Kenya Wildlife Services to control wildlife destroying crops.
- Ministry of Health to put effort to control human disease outbreaks, especially cholera outbreaks reported in some parts of the district.
- Veterinary department to undertake livestock disease control measures in livestock livelihood zones which didn't receive adequate rains.
- Communities to be advised to engage in water harvesting structures.