

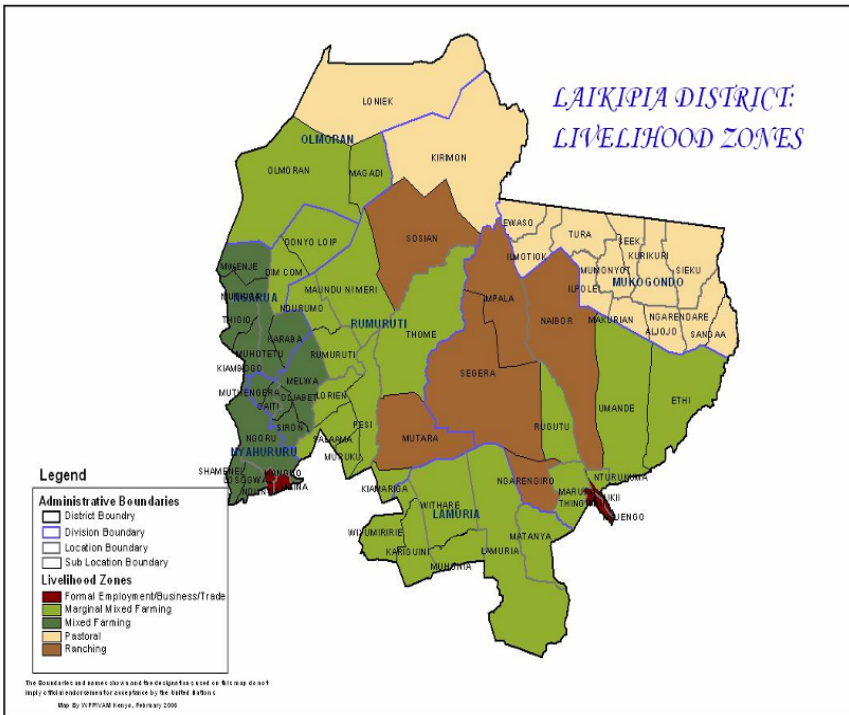


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS  
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

**DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, JANUARY 2010**

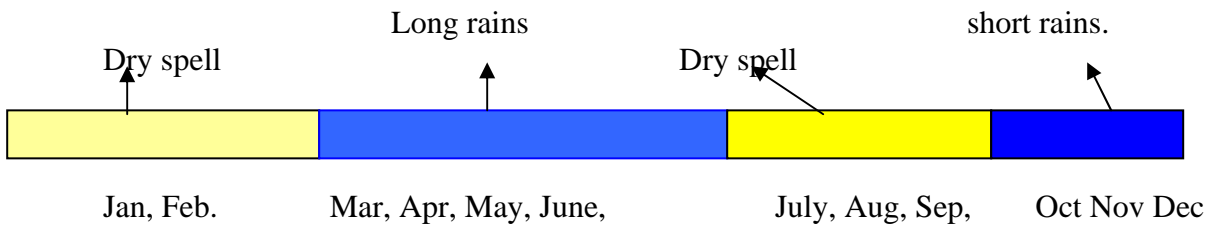
**Laikipia East, West, Central,  
Nyahururu and North Districts**

**Warning Stages**



Livelihood Zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Pastoral All Species	Alert	Improving
Agro – Pastoral	Alert	Improving
Mixed Farming	Alert	Improving
Marginal Mixed Farming	Alert	Improving

**Seasonal Calendar**



## **Situation overview**

- During the month there were no rains recorded in the district but this is normal and the month is usually dry.
- Pasture was still good following the October to December short rains.
- All the rivers had water and even the seasonal rivers were still flowing.
- Though the pasture was enough for the existing livestock, the rangeland is degraded and requires rehabilitation and pans and dams have silted and require desilting.
- Following the good short rains the crops in marginal agriculture and Agropastoralists areas were good. Most of the farmers are expecting to harvest the beans by February and maize crop in March since they planted the quick maturing variety.
- In the mixed farming zones the crops were not as good as the marginal farming agriculture zones as the rains were inadequate in these areas.
- The livestock sector improved due to the good pasture and the livestock population reduced due to the previous drought, thus reducing competition for fodder. Body condition of livestock was fair to good and improving.
- Cases of goat and sheep pox were reported by farmers around Nanyuki and Endana areas.
- Cases of cattle rustling were on the increase in all the Laikipia districts, especially in the Agropastoralists areas.
- Following the prolonged drought, the pastoralists lost a lot of livestock and thus require to be restocked. Majority of them are now depending 100% on relief food.
- The nutrition status of children below five improved, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition dropping to 11 percent from 14 in December. This was attributed to improved milk production. The rate was still on the higher side and there is need for supplementary feeding, especially in Laikipia North.

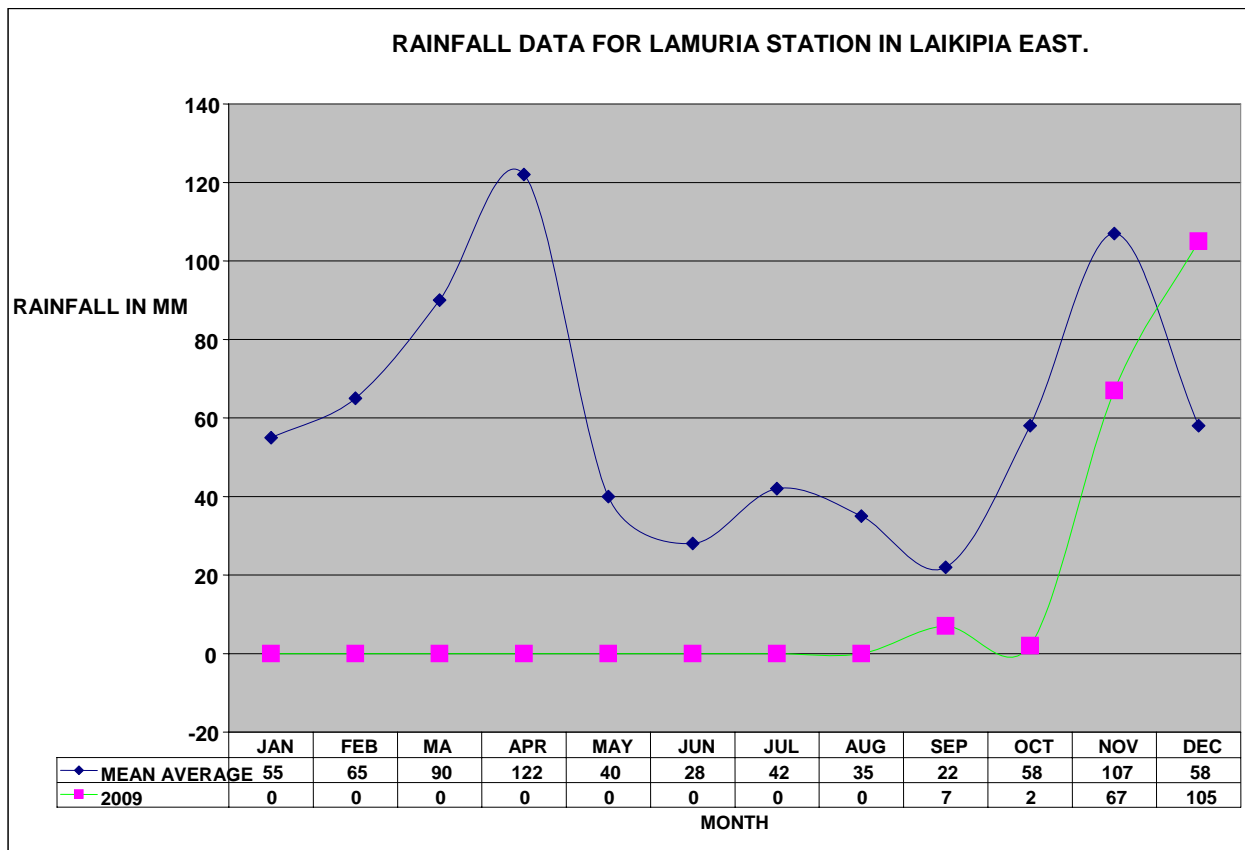
## **Recommendations to DSG and KFSM**

- Continued relief food.
- Range rehabilitation as result of extreme degradation.
- Restocking of livestock.
- Rehabilitation of Dol-Dol dam.
- Security teams to be boosted around the Agropastoralists areas. to combat cattle rustling.

## 1.0 Environmental indicators

### 1.1 Rainfall

During the month of January there were no rains but this is normal and the month is usually dry.



Rainfall data provided by (Ewaso Nyiro River Catchment Authority) from Matanya station in Lamuria division this data does not cover the entire district Matanya is an Agropastorlists zone but the situation is different in the rest of the livelihood zones.

### 1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Pasture improved significantly owing to the good short rains. The pasture showed signs of improvement but they were still very weak.

### 1.3 Water sources and availability

- Rivers were flowing with water following the good short rains. Most of the dams silted up among them was Dol-Dol dam, which serves a very big number of livestock and human population. The dam broke its banks and the amount of water remaining was very little. This over flow caused the trench in Dol-Dol to worsen and threaten to cut Dol-dol town into two.

### 1.4 Emerging issues

#### 1.4.1 Insecurity / human wildlife conflicts

Human/wildlife conflicts subsided slightly during the month.

#### 1.4.2 Migration /human displacement

No major movement was reported during the month.

## 2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

### 2.1 Livestock production

The livestock sector improved owing to the good pasture. This sector was seriously affected by the previous drought that hugely reduced the number of livestock.

#### 2.1.1 Livestock body condition

The general body condition of livestock all species improved owing this to the improved pasture in the fields. Though the general number of livestock was reduced by the drought, the few that remained are still to calve.

#### 2.1.2 Livestock diseases

So far no major diseases outbreak has been reported.

### 2.2 Crop production

#### 2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of various crop production activities

- Following the good short rains, the crops in marginal agriculture and Agropastoralists areas were good. Most of the farmers are expecting to harvest the beans by February and maize in March since they planted quick maturing maize.
- In the mixed farming zones the crops were not as good as the marginal farming agriculture zones as the rains were not as good in October and December in these areas.

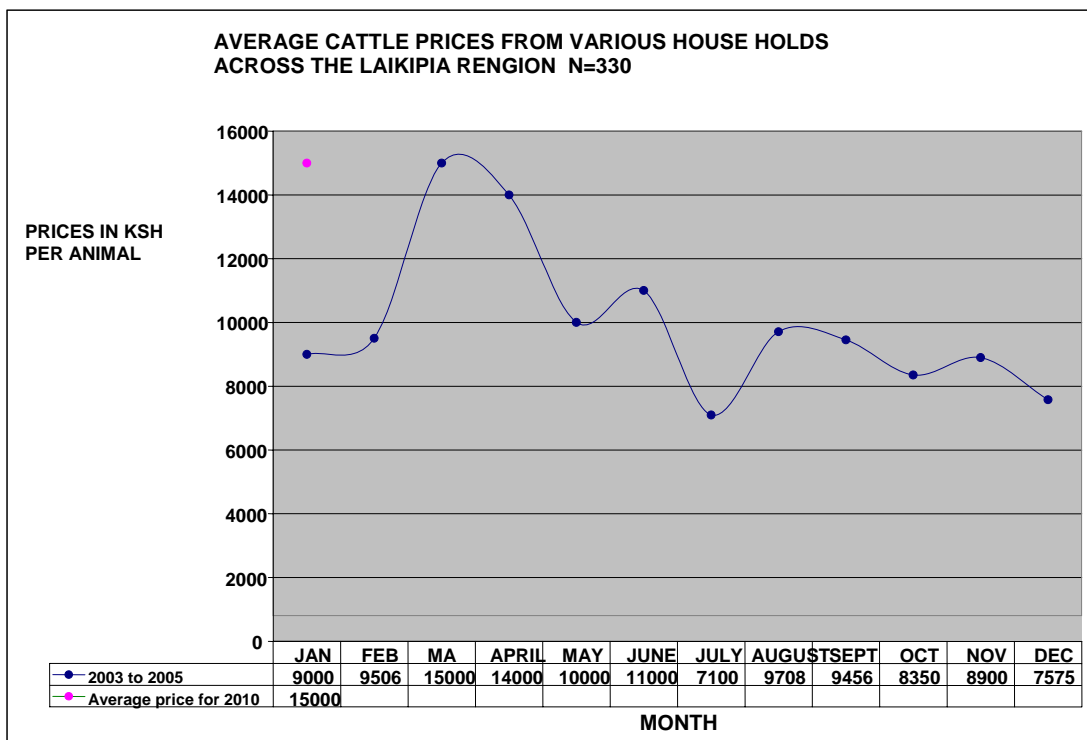
#### 2.2.2 Harvests

- The closest expected harvest will be for beans that are expected to mature in February.
- The maize might be ready in March if the rains continue as expected.

### 3.0 Access to food

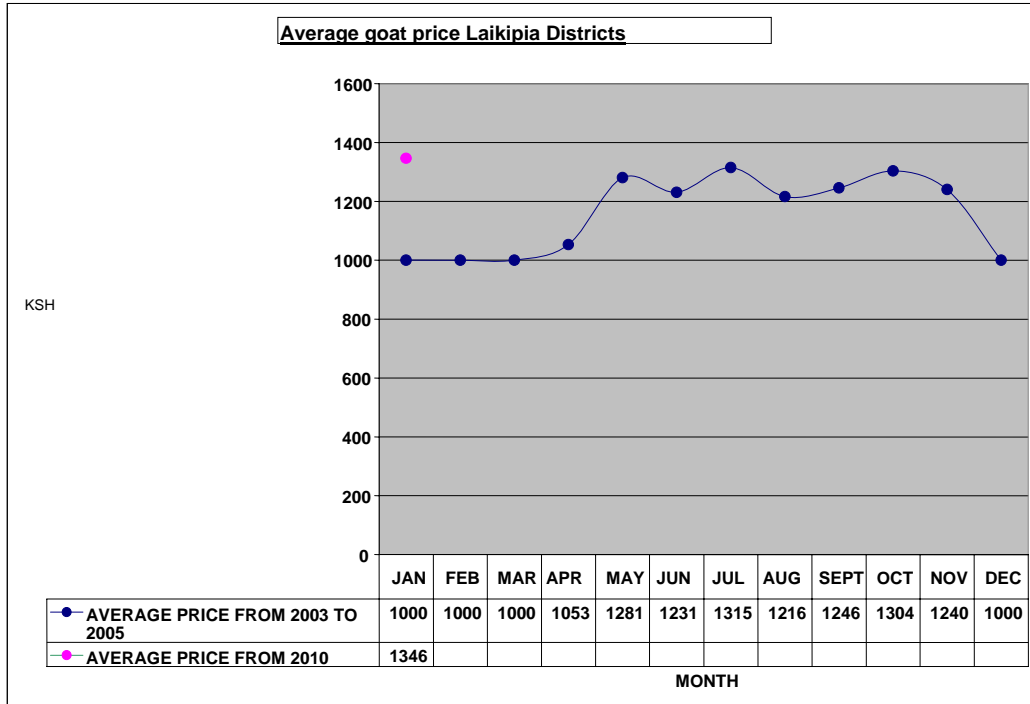
#### 3.1 Livestock markets

##### 3.1.1 Cattle prices



Cattle prices improved due to low supply in the market and improving body condition. The average price was Ksh15,000.

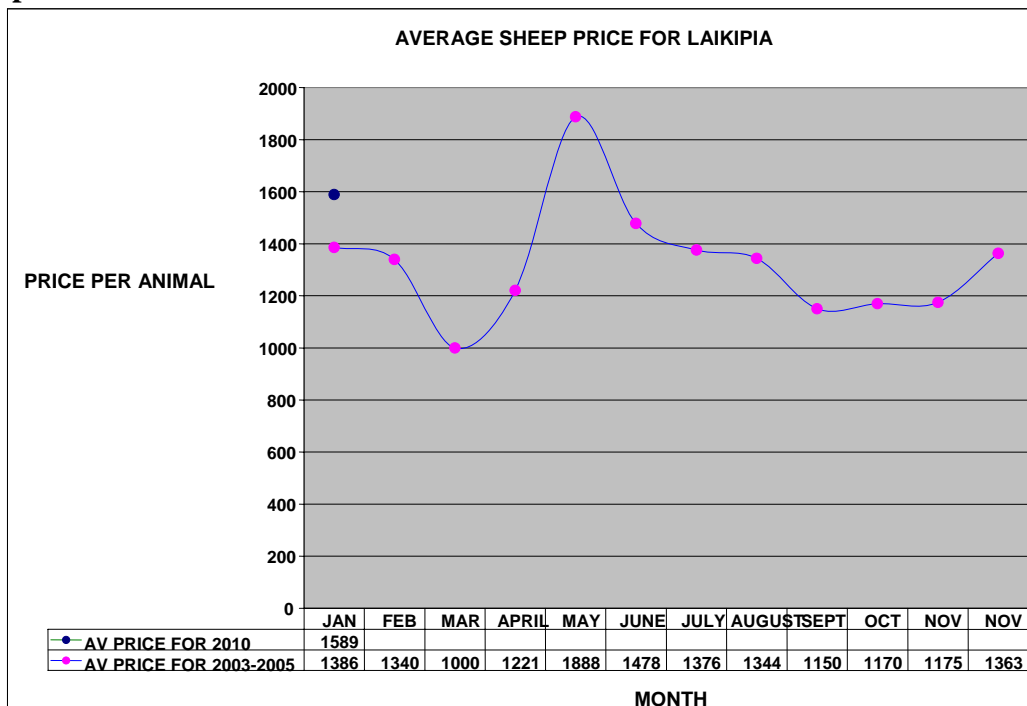
### 3.1.2 Goat prices



N= 330

The body condition of shoats improved significantly due to the good pasture. Livestock sales improved as household tried to raise money for school fees.

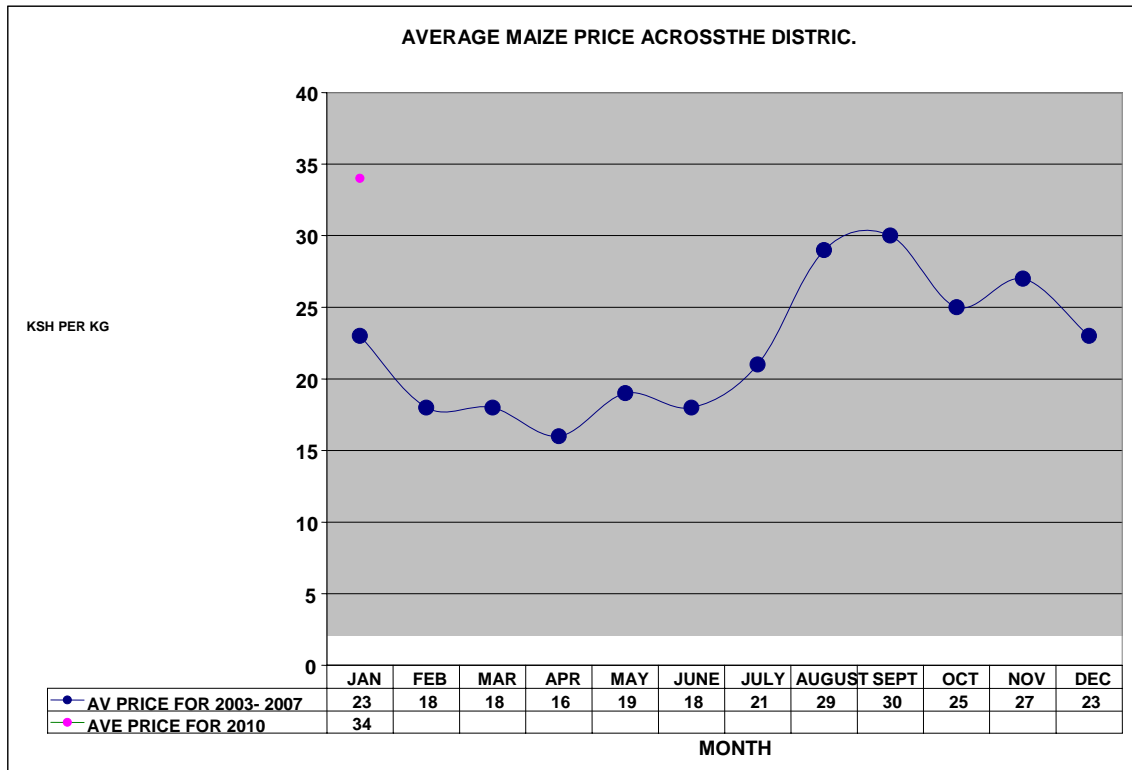
### 3.1.3 Sheep prices



The average price of sheep was Ksh1589 compared to the long term mean of Ksh1386.

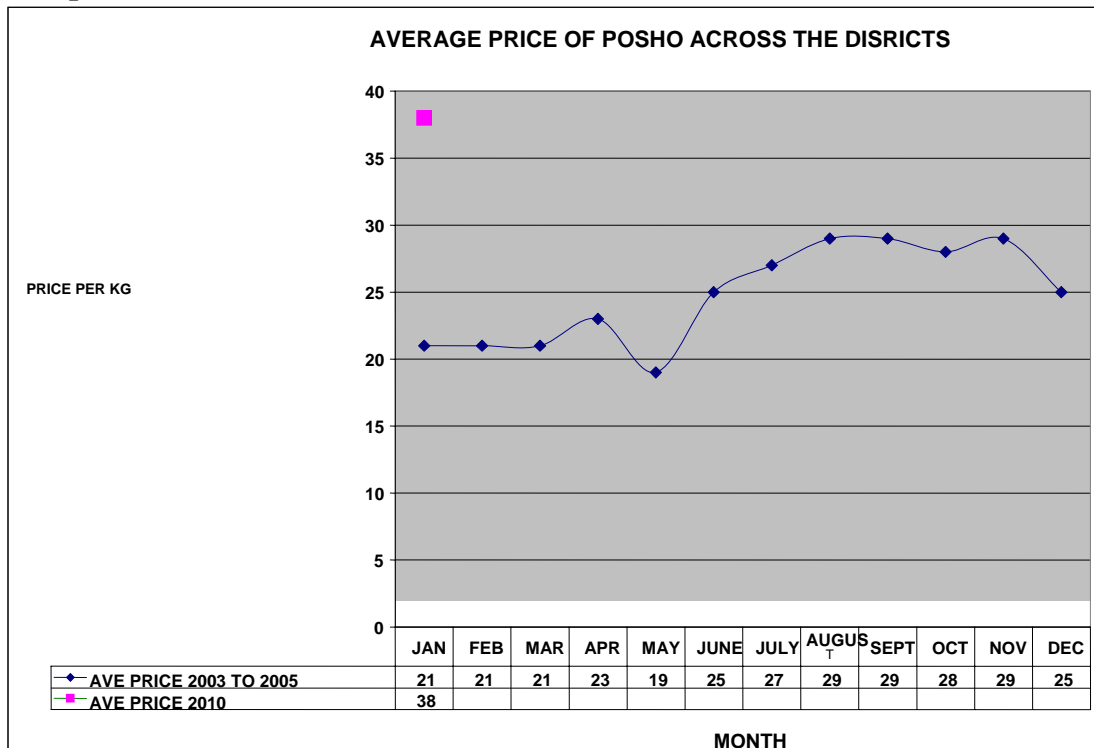
### 3.2 Food prices

#### 3.2.1 Maize prices



The average price of maize was Ksh34 per kilo, which was too high compared to the long term mean of Ksh23. Maize and posho prices are expected to drop in March if there are any harvests of the quick maturing variety of maize.

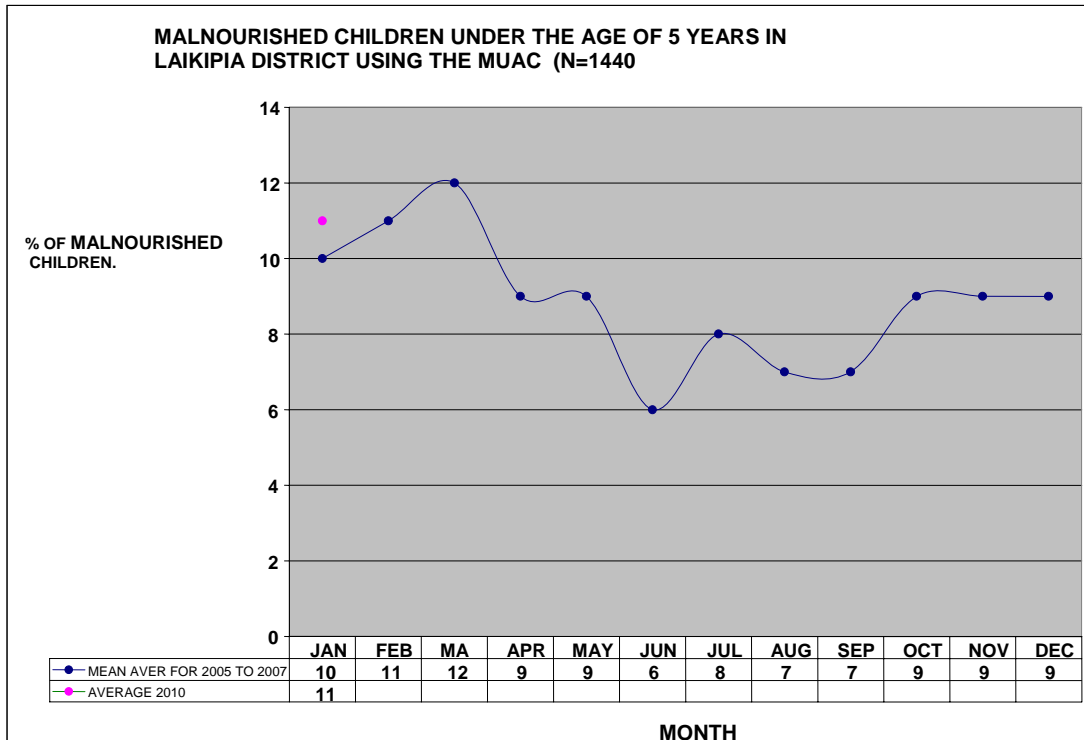
#### 3.2.2 Posho prices



Just like maize, the posho price improved to Ksh38 compared to Ksh21 long term mean. This was attributed to the high price of whole maize.

#### 4.0 Human welfare indicators

##### 4.1 Nutrition status



The nutrition status of children below five improved, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition dropping to 11 percent from 14 in December. This was attributed to improved milk production. The rate was still on the higher side and there is need for supplementary feeding, especially in Laikipia North.

#### 5.0 Current interventions

Food aid resumed in the districts.

#### 6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Continued relief food.
- Range rehabilitation as result of extreme degradation.
- Restocking of livestock .
- Rehabilitation of Dol-Dol dam.
- Security teams to be boosted around the Agropastrolists areas to combat cattle rustling.