

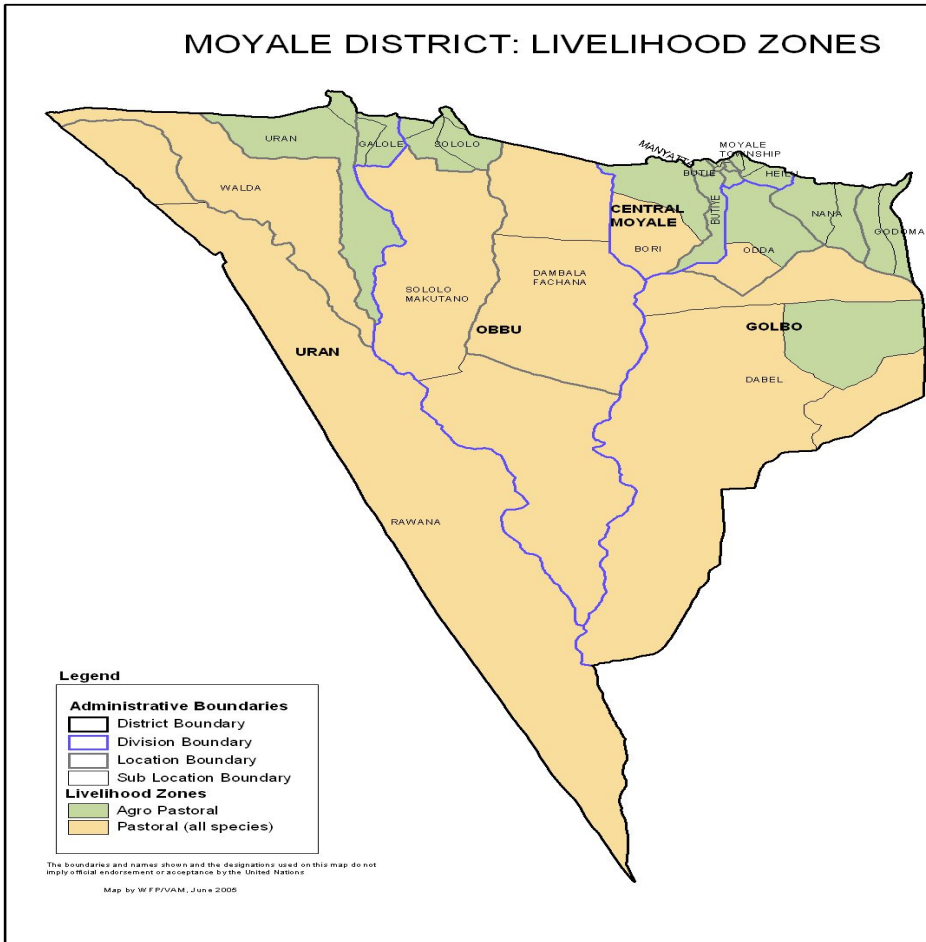


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, JANUARY 2010

Moyale District

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zones	Stage	Trend
Pastoral Zones	Alarm	Slightly Improving
Agro-Pastoral Zones	Alarm	Slightly Improving
Casual Labour, Small Businesses	Alarm	Slightly Improving
District	Alarm	Slightly Improving

Seasonal calendar



Situation overview

- There were no rains all through the month of January and the weather was extremely hot, drying up all the vegetation.
- Water was available in most of the pastoral areas but the border escarpment started to experience stress, especially for human consumption.
- Most of the crops in small-scale farms dried up due to hot weather. Only some dozen farmers who planted the Mansille valley areas harvested some little maize. The rest of the district lost everything they planted.
- Grasses and forages have not generated much over the rainy season as heat stress was also extremely high. Shrubs and larger trees did well over the season and provided good fodder for browsers.
- Livestock mortality is high than last month in goats and sheep. Death in goats stands at 9.8% and sheep mortality is 7.4% for the month.
- Prices of cattle have risen of Ksh8,833.30 from last month's price of Ksh7,166.70. Prices of goats came down by a large margin from Ksh1,533.30 to Ksh1,169.40. This was mainly due to high influx of goats from Wajir West and Wajir North Districts into Moyale market.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- More food relief is required and distribution should include more people.
- Food supplements should be increased to reverse the worsening malnutrition status.
- The communities in the region, especially those in agro-pastoral area require much capacity building in matter of Natural Resource and Environmental protection to improve their resource base.
- Catchments destruction is rampant and needs to be discouraged as several streams and aquifers are getting dry.
- There is need to have contingency for expected long dry period between December 2009 and April 2010

Current interventions

Non-Food interventions

- Water trucking resumed as some areas did not receive much rain in the past season.
- Several workshops were conducted by Small Arms proliferation Co-ordinator have had some fruits as elders involved in these workshop have influenced some bandits to surrender thus making our border more peaceful.
- Some water tanks were also distributed to centres with water shortages.

Food aid

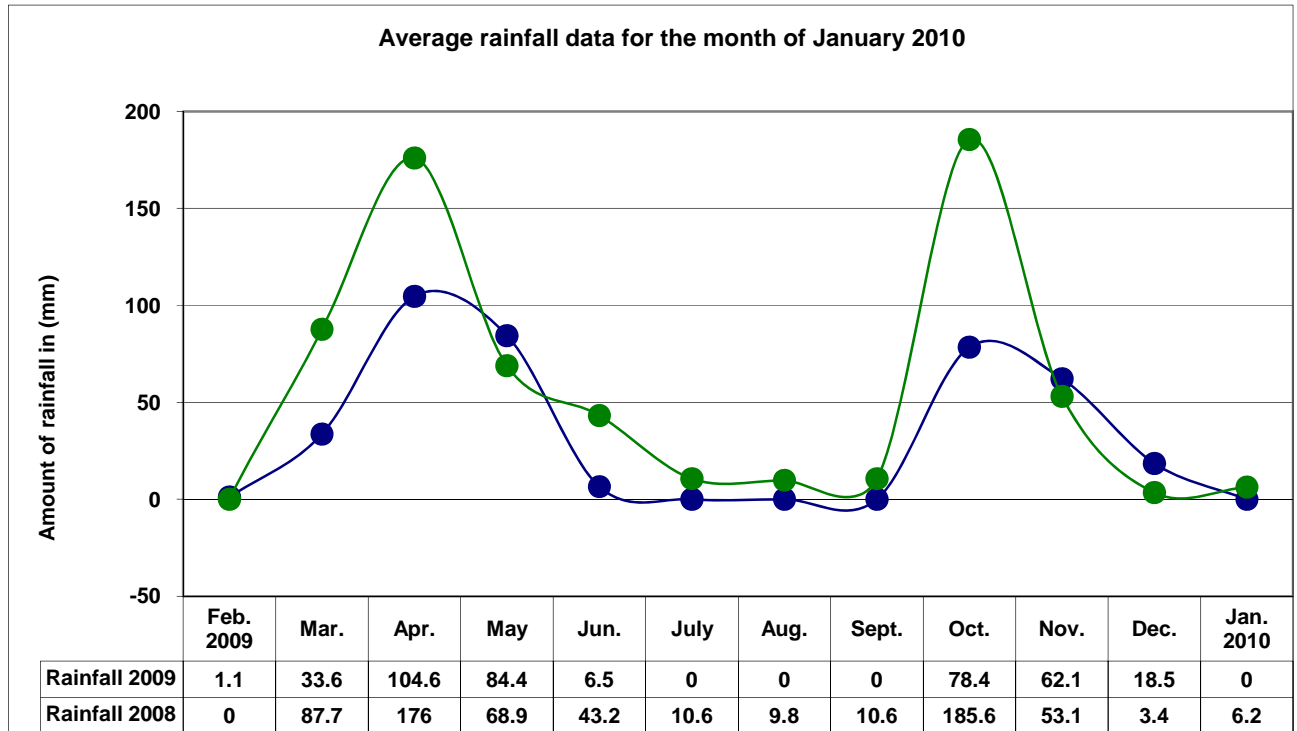
- Food supplements were received in some centres of Moyale.
- Concern Worldwide also provided supplements to every centre in the District.

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

1.1 Rainfall

There was only tress rainfall recorded by Meteorological Department over the month.

The following was the rainfall data at 31st January 2010



1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

Natural pasture deteriorated very fast due to hot conditions not experienced before in Moyale. Soon there will be shortage of pasture as fodder dries up.

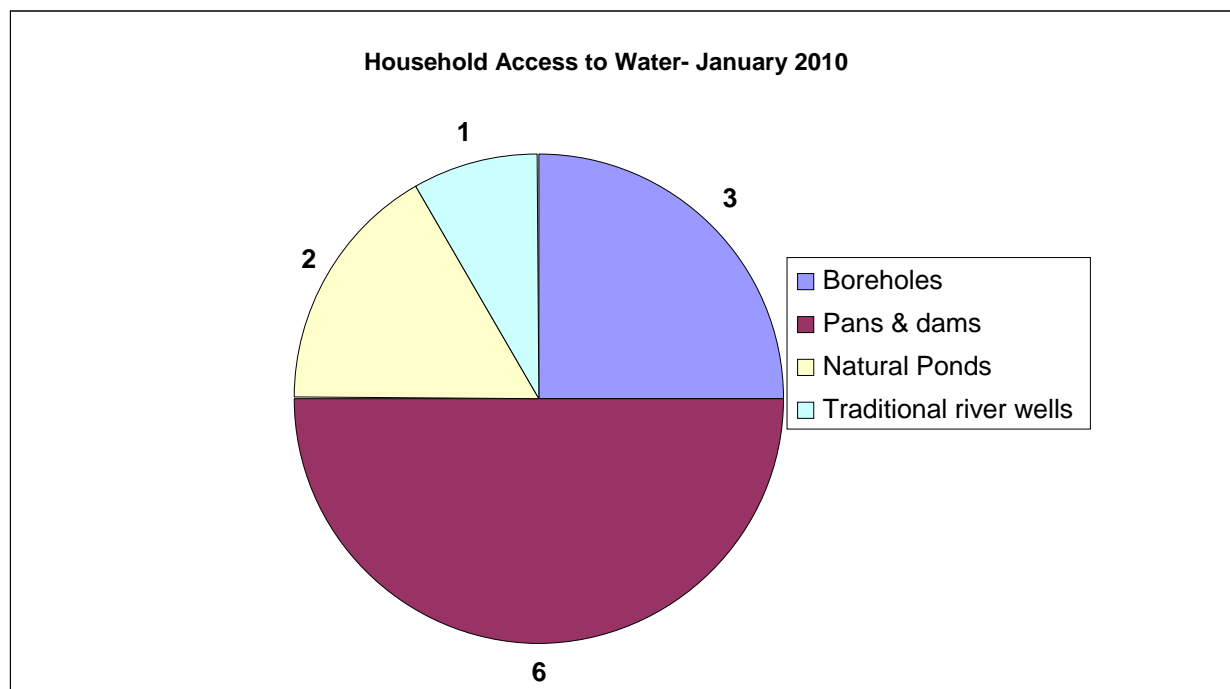
Pasture quality degenerated fast lowering all nutritive values. Quantity of pasture also got less and less, causing alarm to all livestock herders.

1.2.1 Distances to grazing areas

Average grazing distance to water has risen to 17.9km from 12.1km of last month showing accelerated level of stress to both livestock and herders. The distance is outside the normal range average of 15km to and from.

1.3 Water sources and availability

Distance of fetching water was 2.3km on average, an increase from last month's 1.6km. The distance was within the average normal distance of 2.5km.



1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Increased cases of malaria and pneumonia

Cases of malaria and coughs were very high among children in all areas of Moyale. There were several cases of hospitalisation recorded at health centres and the general hospital.

1.4.2 Chronic food shortage at household level

Food prices were quite high and not accessible to poor households. The situation affected almost 70% of the district as relief food slowly decreased over the last two months.

1.4.3 Loss of planted crops

Farmers lost all their crops as a result of poor distribution of rains. The rains came on time at the beginning of October but stopped in November and December, causing permanent damage on most crops. The second onset of December did not regenerate growth.

1.4.4 Foot and Mouth disease in Godoma

Cases of Foot and Mouth disease were reported in Godoma. This has not been confirmed and will be done soon during the monthly monitoring exercise.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

Most livestock species were in good body condition except for some herds which had not been moved and were still staying around Moyale town (cattle and camels).

2.1.2 Livestock health

There were high cases of deaths in sheep and goats as a result of pneumonia. Cases of cattle diseases were reported both in Uran Lataka and Godoma (Uran & Golbo Division).

2.1.3 Milk production

Average milk price was Ksh30 per 300ml cup. Camel milk production was lower for the month as herds moved into neighbouring Ethiopia.

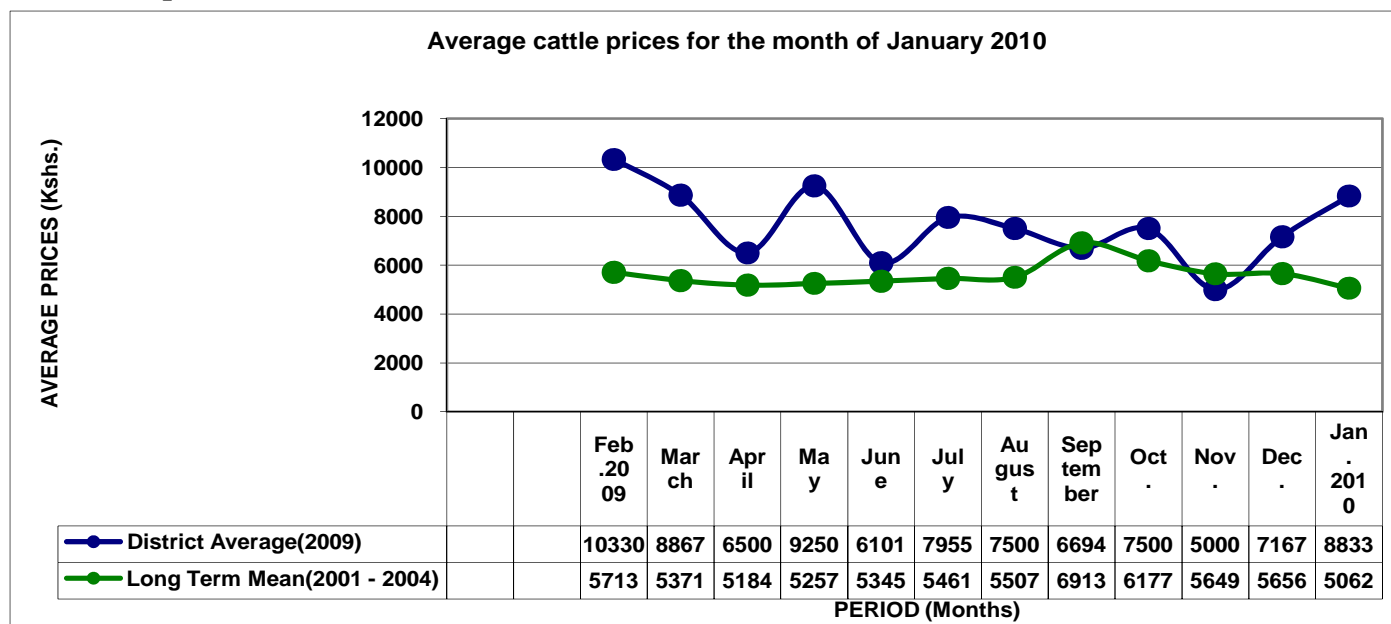
2.1.4 Crop production

Most of the crops failed, except for the small valley area of Mansille where few farmers partially harvested some of their planted fields. This will not improve food security at all in the district.

3.0 Access to food

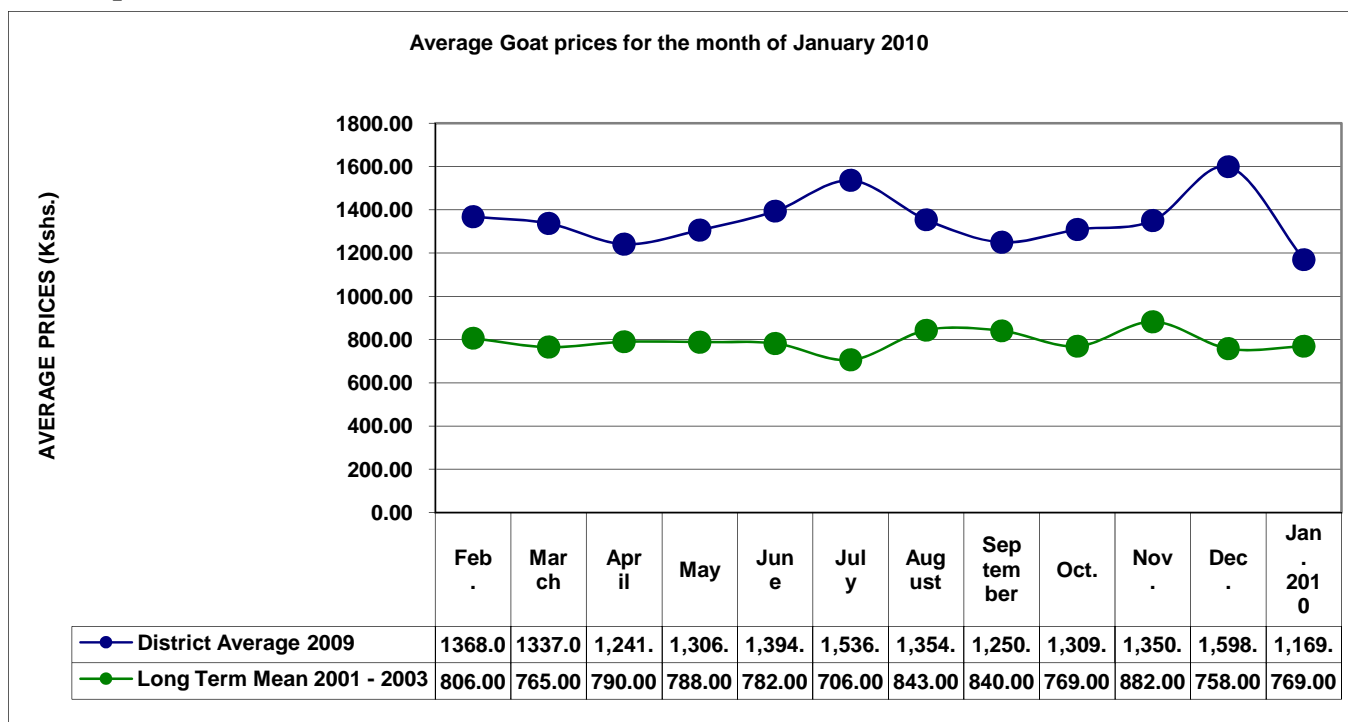
3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices



Cattle prices increased from Ksh7,166.70 to Ksh8,833.30. Prices in Moyale market for steers were over Ksh21,000. Prices were extremely high over the month following demand of steers and bulls in terminal markets.

3.1.2 Goat prices



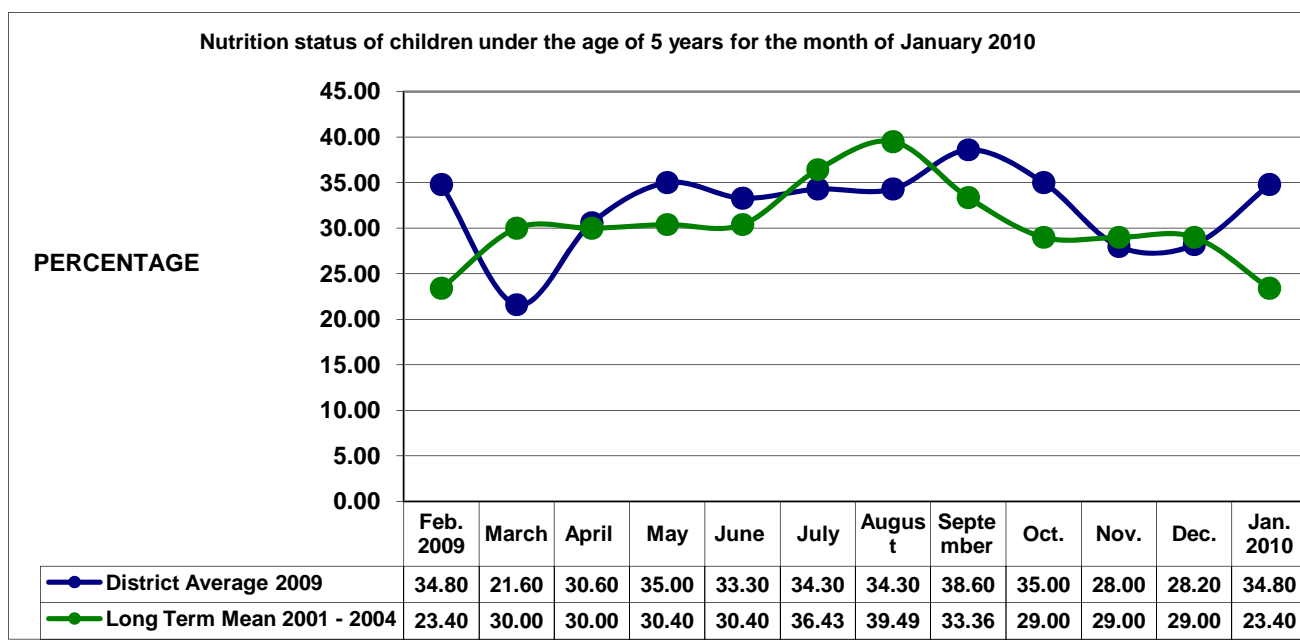
- Prices of goats dropped over the month from Ksh1,598.96 to Ksh1,169.40. This was an alarming decrease of Ksh400. This was mainly due to high influx of goats from Wajir West and Wajir North Districts into Moyale market.

3.1.3 Camel prices

The prices of slaughter camels were very high. A mature bull traded for over Ksh 50,000. This price depended on some external factors such as importers from Arabian peninsula and border exchange rates.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutritional status



The nutrition status of children below five years declined during the month. The percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition rose to 29.10 compared to 28.20 in December last year. This was attributed to decreased milk production and reported cases of malaria and coughs.

4.2 Human health

There are several cases of diarrhoea and coughs associated with the rains reported from our sample areas.

4.3 Flagged areas

Areas affected by high malnutrition levels and livestock deaths were Mado Adhi in Obbu Division. Sololo Makutano sample area also reported some drastic coping mechanism of begging along the highways and withdrawing children from school.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non-food interventions

- Water trucking resumed as some areas did not receive much rain in the past season.
- Several workshops were conducted by Small Arms proliferation Co-ordinator have had some fruits as elders involved in these workshop have influenced some bandits to surrender thus making our border more peaceful.
- Some water tanks were also distributed to centres with water shortages.

5.2 Food aid

- Food supplements were received in some centres of Moyale.
- Concern Worldwide also provided supplements to every centre in the District.

5.3 Coping strategies

- Most livestock moved into the extreme wet season grazing areas to exploit opportunistic pastures and water. Soon they will move back as evaporation and millions of weaver birds destroy the weather during the hatching season.
- Lots of people moved into urban centres to seek casual jobs to supplement their families as relief food dwindled and food shortage is rampant.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- More food relief is required and distribution should include more people.
- Food supplements should be increased to reverse the worsening malnutrition status.
- The communities in the region, especially those in agro-pastoral area require much capacity building in matter of Natural Resource and Environmental protection to improve their resource base.
- Catchments destruction is rampant and needs to be discouraged as several streams and aquifers are getting dry.
- There is need to have contingency for expected long dry period between December 2009 and April 2010.