

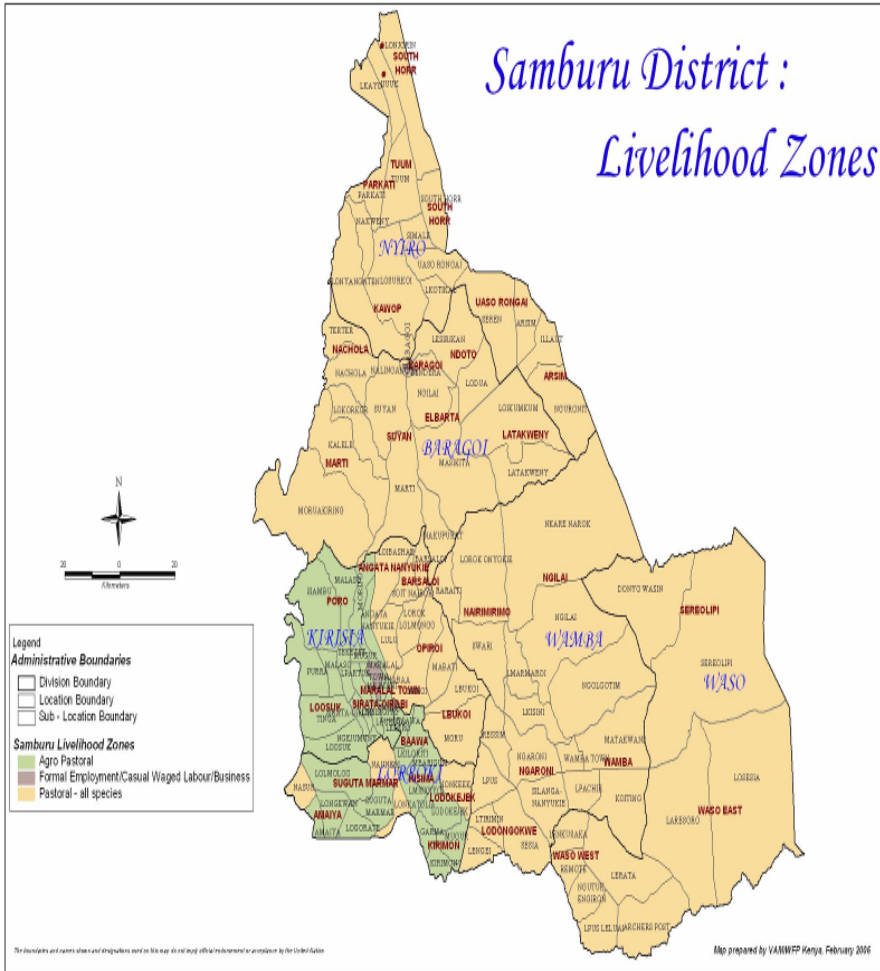


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, JANUARY 2010

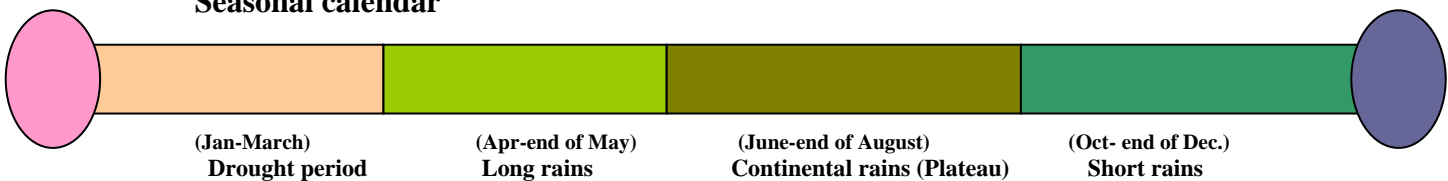
Samburu District

Warning stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Agro Pastoral	Alert	Improving
	Alert	Improving
Pastoral- All species	Alert	Improving
	Alert	Improving
District	Alert	Improving

Seasonal calendar



Situation overview

- On average the district received 29.8 mm of rainfall compared to 67.7 mm received in December. The amount was 53.05 per cent above the long-term mean average of 19.47 mm. The rains reversed drought impact for many households across the district.
- Water sources used this season recharged fully following the rains received, leading to decreased distances to water points for households and livestock.
- Livestock body conditions ranged from fair to good and prices improved substantially compared to December.
- Milk remained unavailable at the household level across the district.
- Malaria and upper respiratory tract infections continued to dominate the district human disease profile, but within manageable levels.
- Improved livestock prices was countered by highly priced essential food commodities hence minimal impact on pastoralists' purchasing power.
- Insecurity continued to destabilise the western and eastern borders of the district, constraining utilisation of forage resources and human settlement in the affected areas.
- The nutrition status of children below five years improved, with the percentage of those considered at risk of malnutrition (based on MUAC<135mm measurement) decreasing to 21.4 from 29.7 in December.

Ongoing interventions

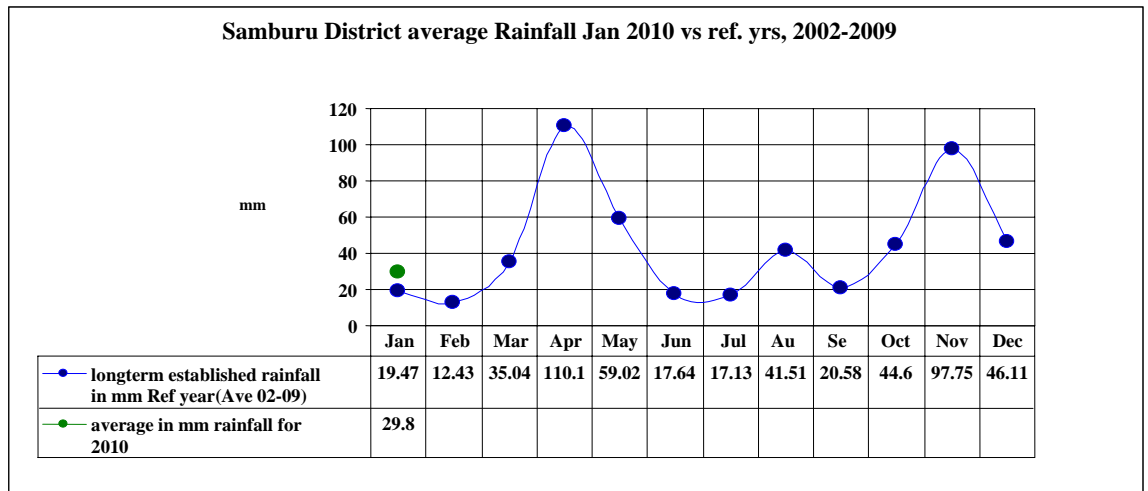
- Blanket supplementary feeding programme by World Vision-Lorroki ADP and International Medical Corps (IMC) targeting children under five years, lactating and pregnant mothers.
- District-wide general relief food distribution targeting approximately 60% of the population.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- KFSM and other stakeholders to play a lead role in promoting conflict resolution initiatives among warring communities through facilitation of district peace committees to reach warring communities for dialogue.
- Supplementary feeding programme to target other population groups at risk of Malnutrition above five years age bracket.

1. 0 Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall



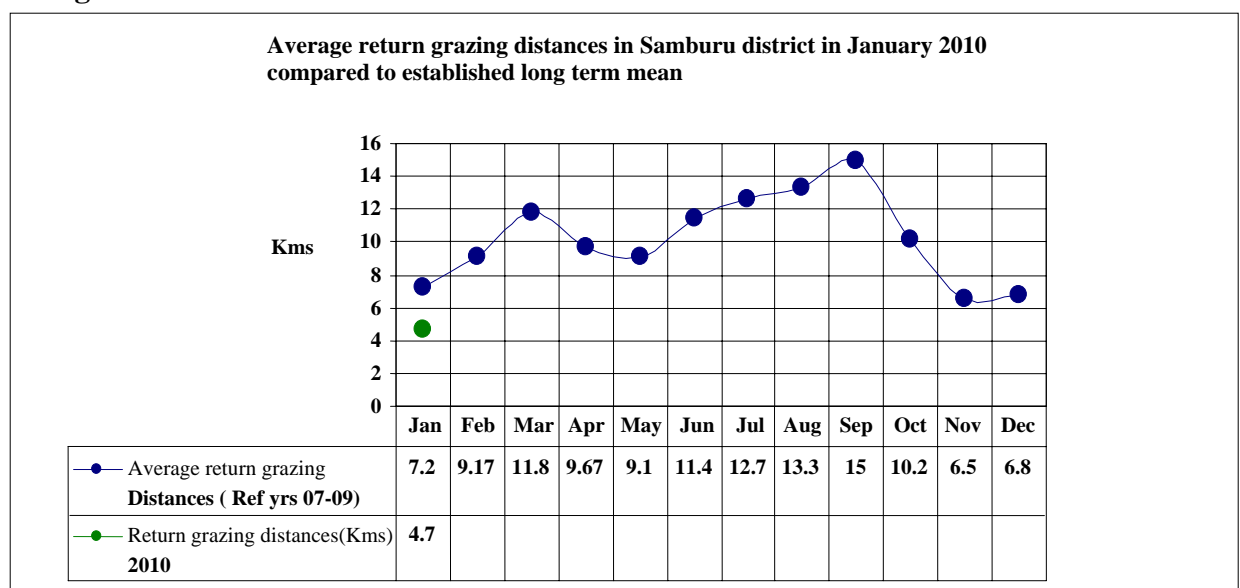
Source: District Agriculture/ALRMP II weather station

- The district received heavy continuous rains at the beginning of the reporting month. Spatially, the rains received were well distributed. On average the rainfall amount received was 29.8 mm from last month's 67.7 mm.
- The amount was above the long-term established mean by 53.05 per cent. The long term established threshold normally received during this period of the year is 19.47 mm.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- Quality and quantity of forage resources rejuvenated substantially following the heavy and well distributed rains received towards the end of December and early January.
- Insecurity remained a constraint in accessing and utilization forage resources in the western and Eastern borders of the district. Forage resources remained above average compared to normal times during this time of the year.

1.2.1 Grazing distances



Number of communities (N) =29

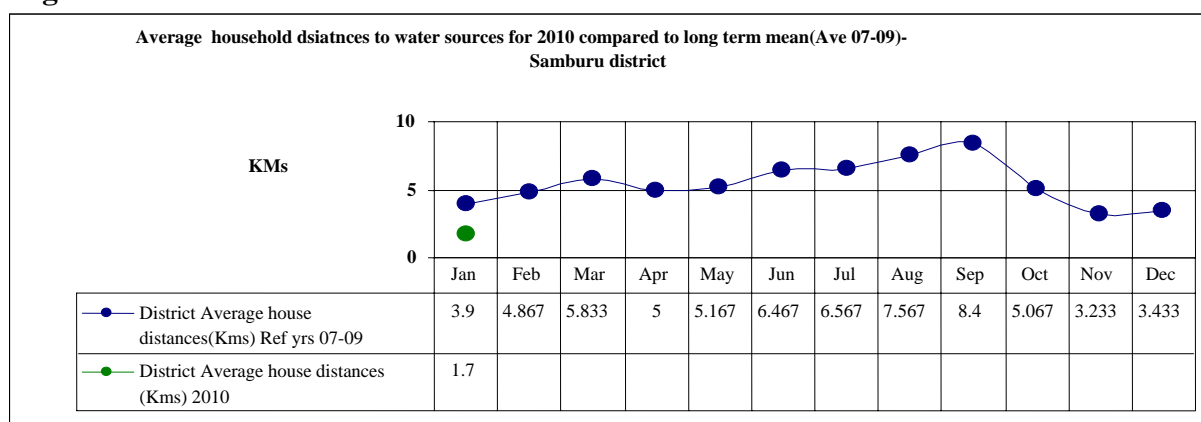
Average return grazing distance to main sources of water also decreased to 4.7 kms from 5.9 in December. Return grazing distance was below the long term mean by 34.7 per cent. Wet season watering points normally utilized by livestock this season recharged across district.

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Use of water sources

- The main sources of water for livestock and households during the course of this month changed compared to December and included traditional river wells, natural rivers, shallow wells, pans/dams, boreholes and natural ponds.
- Existing water sources remained fully recharged following the rains received hence reduced distances to water points by households and livestock.

1.3.2 Average distance to water sources



Number of communities (N) =29

- Average household distance to nearby water sources decreased to 1.7 kms from last month's 3kms. The distance was below the long term average by 56.4 per cent.
- Wet season watering points recharged fully following the rains received this season hence decreased household distances. This implied that less time was spent in search of water by household members particularly women and children

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity/ conflict

Tension eased out slightly amongst warring communities in Samburu north district following livestock migration away from the dry season Grazing zones. In Samburu Central district, banditry attacks also reduced compared to the previous months.

1.4.2 Migration

Cattle from parts Lorroki plateau and Baragoi remained within Samburu East district, which received the bulk of the short rains in October and December.

1.4.3 Human Migration/Displacement

Many families remained displaced in parts of Samburu North district as result of tribal clashes witnessed the course of last year. Households in the western parts of

the Agro-pastoral livelihood zone also remained displaced and were concentrated in cluster villages in Lolmolog, Angata Rongai, Logorate and Longewan sub-locations.

1.5 Implications on food security

The last phase of the short rains season performed well and may impact positively on pastoralists' access to food. Insecurity continued to undermine efforts to attain food security in areas affected within the district.

2.0. Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body conditions

- Livestock body condition ranged from fair to good across the district. Shortened trekking distances to water points and grazing areas coupled with good forage resources impacted well on livestock body conditions.
- Compared to a normal year livestock body conditions were within the normal range across the district.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

The major livestock diseases reported were ECF and Anaplasmosis in cattle; Pox, and elmenthiasis in sheep; Pox and CCPP in goats.

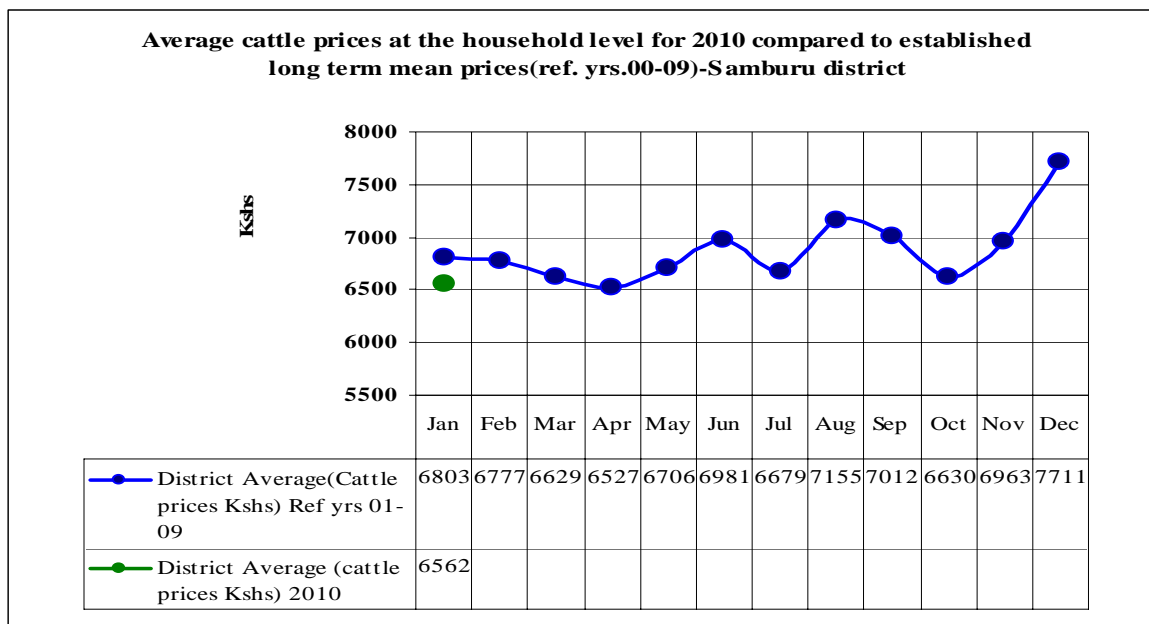
2.2 Implications on food security

Fair to good livestock body condition was good to the pastoralists' economy and impacted positively on their access to food.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices

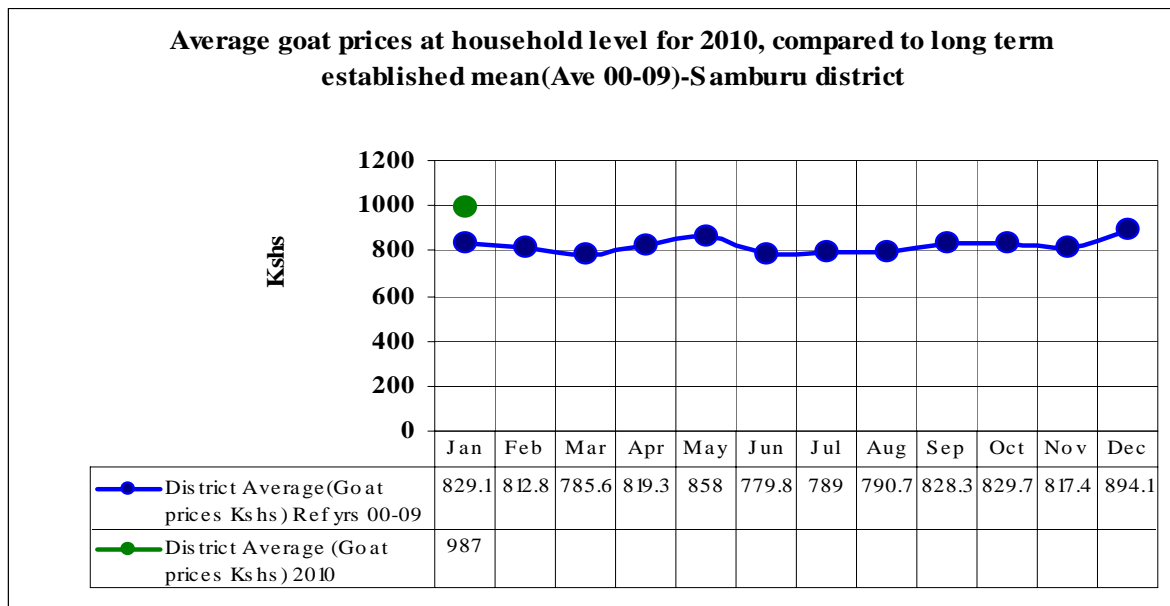


Number of households (N) =314

Average cattle price rose to Ksh6,562 from Ksh6,296 in December. However, the

price remained below normal by 3.5 %. The rise in cattle price was attributable to improved cattle body conditions.

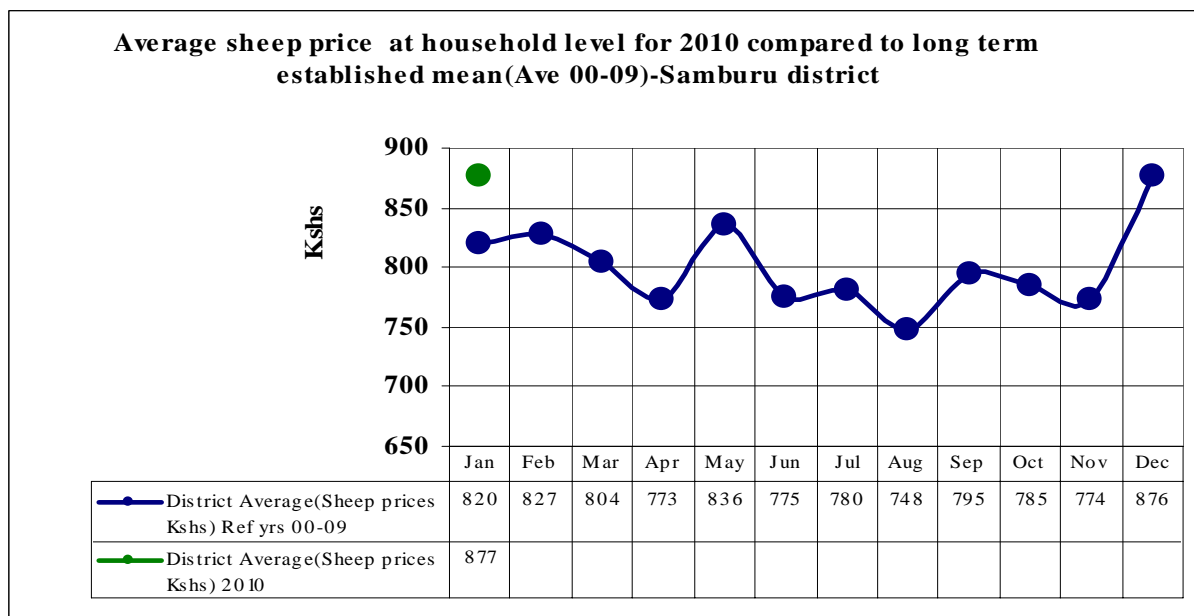
3.1.2 Goat prices



Number of households (N) =314

Average goat price rose to Ksh987 from last month's Ksh890. The price was above the long-term average by 19.04 per cent. Good to fair goats' body conditions was a key factor behind the upward price trend.

3.1.3 Sheep prices



Number of households (N) =314

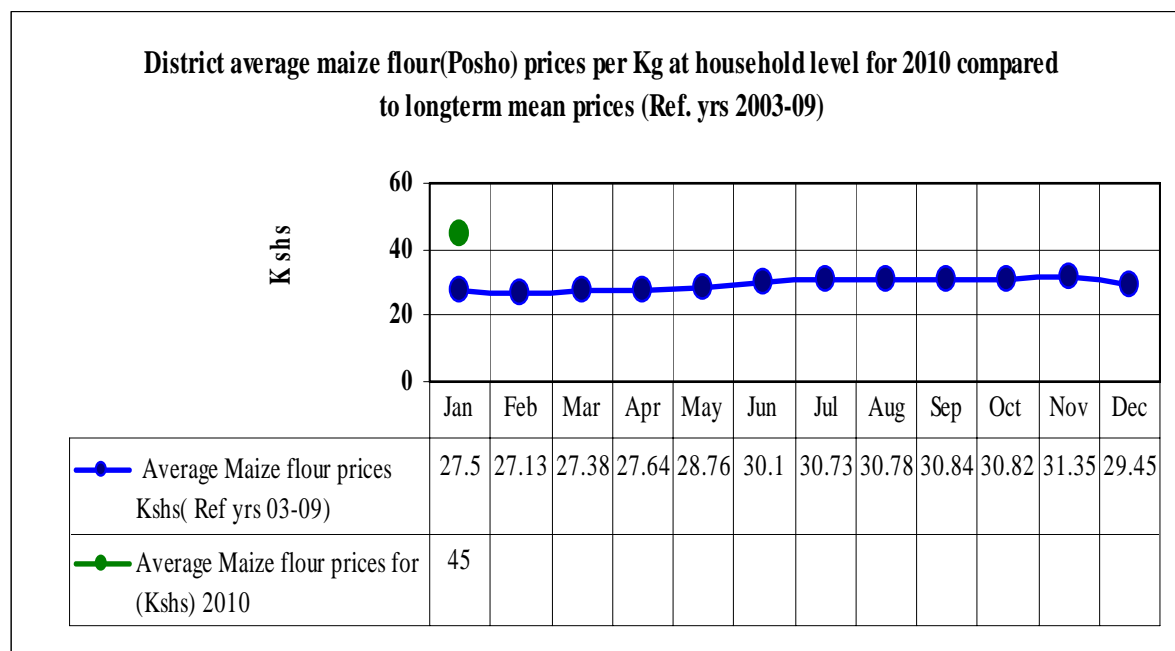
Average sheep prices rose to Ksh987 from Ksh877 in December. The price was above the long term average by 6.95 per cent. Fair-good sheep body condition was a factor that contributed to upward price trend.

3.2 Milk consumption

Milk remained unavailable at the household level across the district. This was attributed to record low livestock birth rates especially cattle.

3.3 Food prices

3.3.1 Posho (maize flour) prices



Number of communities (N) =29

- Maize flour prices slightly fell to Ksh45 per kilogram of locally milled maize from Ksh45.25 in December. Compared to the long term mean, Posho prices were above normal by 63.64 per cent.
- The district remained an importer of maize and increased supply in the local markets led to a slight price fall. Added transport costs also contributed to high posho prices in many lowland areas compared to the plateau.

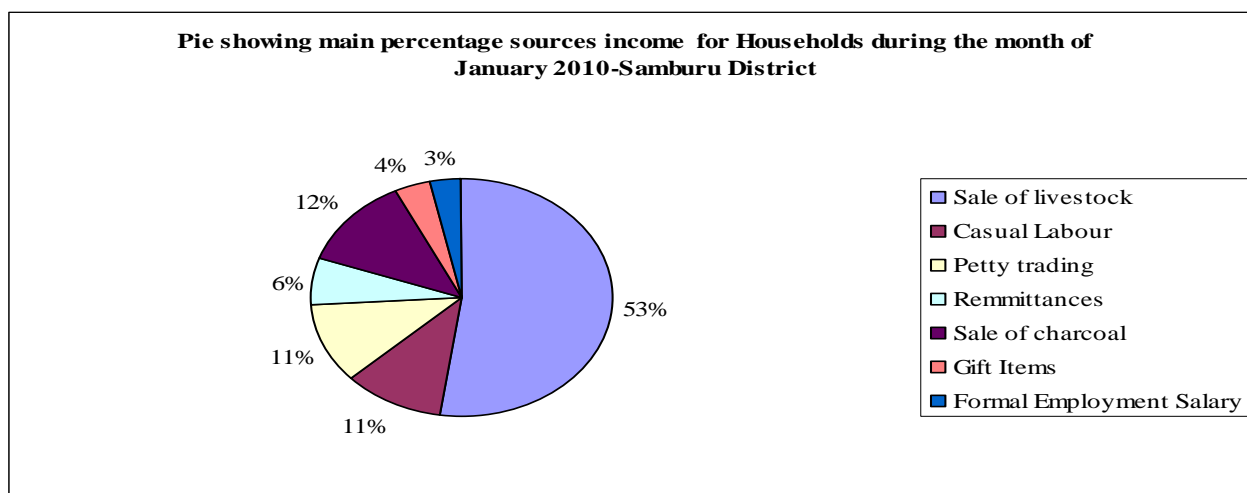
3.4 Income

3.4.1 Livestock income

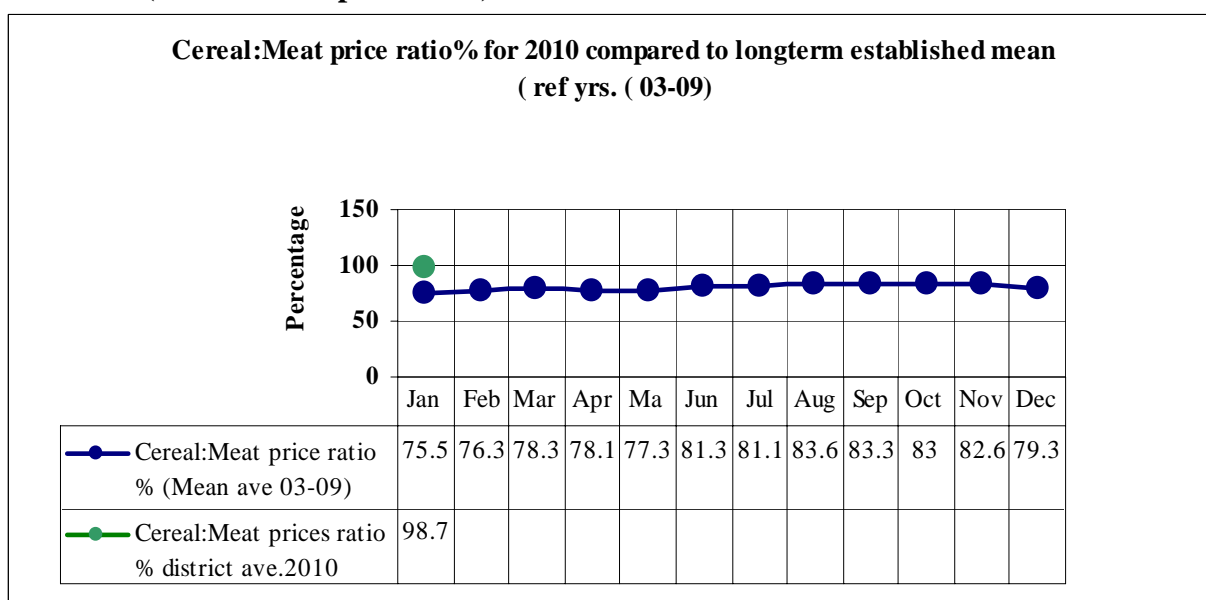
Sale of livestock remains the major source of income for many households across all the livelihood zones at 57 per cent.

3.4.2 Other income

Casual labour, petty trade, sale of charcoal, remittances, gift items and formal employment salary were the other income sources for many households within the district.



3.5 Terms of trade (Cereal/ meat price ratio)



Number of households (N) = 313

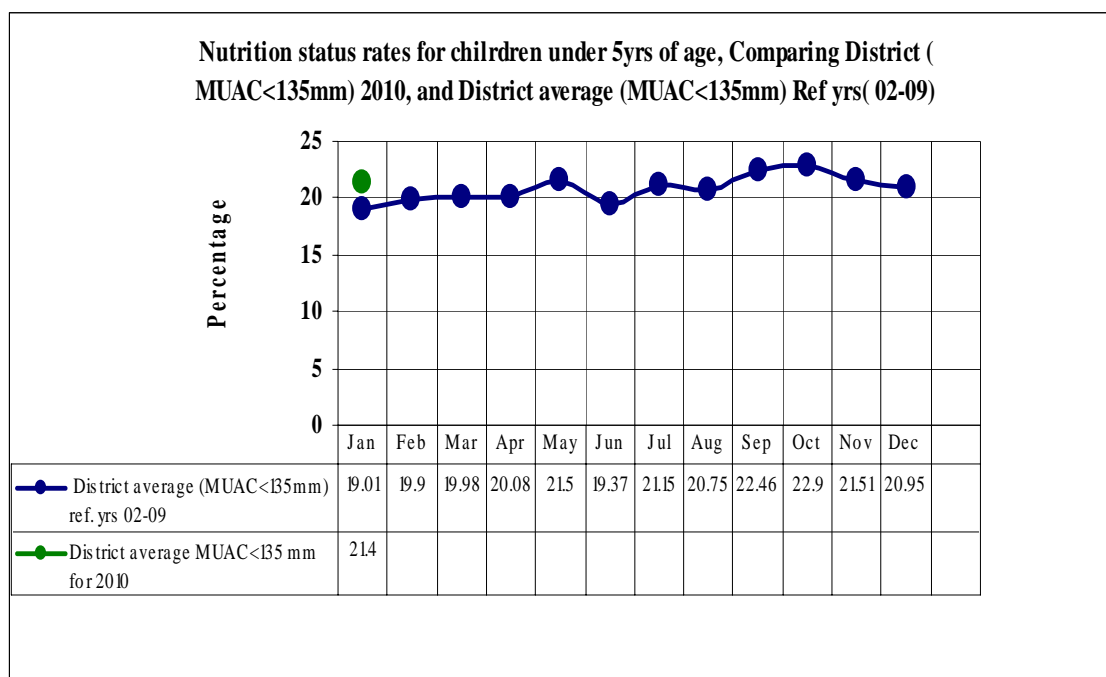
- A pastoralist's household required 0.987 kilogram of meat in exchange for a kilo of cereals. The exchange rate remained exorbitant as the established long-term average was 0.755 kg of meat against a kilogram of cereals.
- Pastoralists' purchasing power improved to 98.734 per cent from 101.2 per cent in December and was below the long-term mean by 30.73 per cent.
- This was pegged to the rise in livestock prices. Highly priced cereals, particularly maize which was the major pastoralist diet during this post drought period undermined pastoralists' purchasing power.

3.6 Implications on food security

An improvement in livestock prices was positive to pastoralists' access to food. However, highly priced essential household food commodities, adversely eroded pastoralists' purchasing power.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



Number of children (N) =1355 from 314 households.

- The nutrition status of children below five years improved, with the percentage of those considered at risk of malnutrition (based on MUAC<135mm measurement) decreasing to 21.4 from 29.7 in December.
- The improved nutritional status was attributed to blanket supplementary feeding programme rolled out by WV-Lorroki ADP and IMC during the course of the reporting month across the district.

4.2 Human health

Malaria, upper respiratory tract infections and diarrhoea were the major human ailments reported in various parts of the district but within manageable levels. The ailments were countered at the household level through medical assistance sought from public health centres/ dispensaries, private clinics and use of local herbs/ concoctions.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non-food interventions

District-wide livestock disease surveillance.

5.2 Food-aid

- Blanket supplementary feeding programme by MOH, World Vision-Lorroki ADP, and International Medical Corps (IMC) targeting under fives, lactating and pregnant mothers.
- District-wide general relief food distribution targeting approximately 60% of the

district population.

5.3 Coping strategies

The district average coping strategies index was 2.9. This was an indication of a slight decline compared to the December 2009.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- KFSM and other stakeholders to play a lead role in promoting conflict resolution initiatives among warring communities through facilitation of district peace committees. (Action: DSC, District Peace committees, Pastoral associations, KFSSG and Communities).