



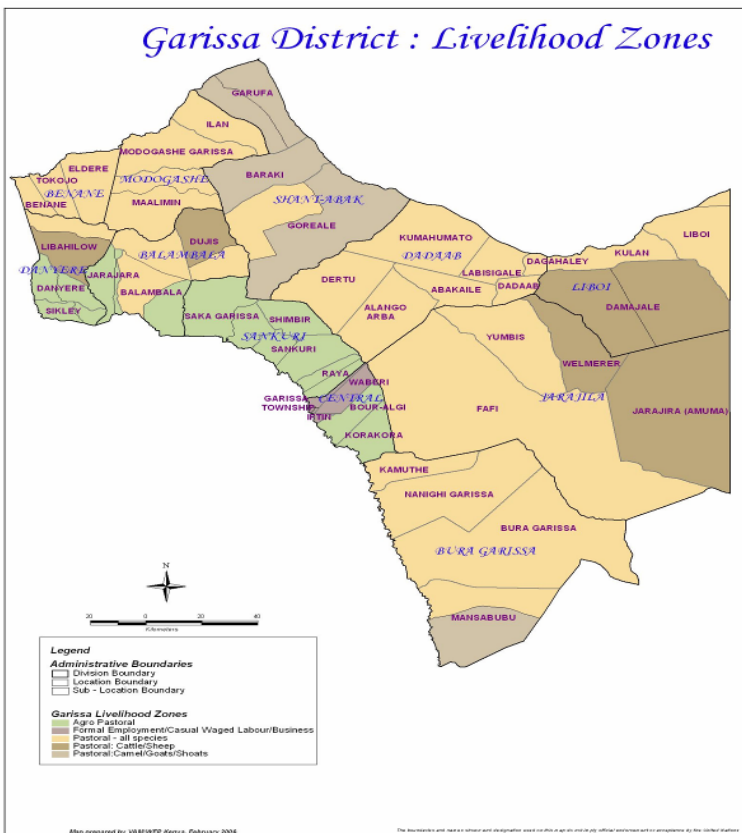
**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS  
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

**DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, JUNE 2010**

**Garissa District**

**Warning stages**

*Garissa District : Livelihood Zones*



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Alert	Worsening
Pastoral-Cattle/Sheep.	Alert	Worsening
Pastoral- all species	Alert	Worsening
Pastoral: Camels and Goats	Alert	Worsening
District	Alert	Worsening

**Seasonal calendar**



**Dry period (Jilal) consisting of January, February, & March. Temperatures are high; activities carried out include,**

- migration of livestock for pasture & water search,
- Herd separation
- Livestock marketing
- Pressure on boreholes
- Conflicts

**Long rainy season (Guu), starts late March and continues in, April and May. Activities carried are-**

- Selection & breeding of livestock
- weeding ceremonies
- weaving
- male circumcision
- restocking of livestock
- planting for rain fed crops
- deworming of livestock
- Forage survey

**Dry and cold period (Hagaa) in the months of June, July, August, Sept. and mid October. The activities performed are:**

- High rate of livestock and household migration
- High labour demand
- Destocking /culling
- Surveillance for pasture /browse
- Caravan water

**Short rainy season (deer) of Oct, Nov and December. Activities for this period are:**

- Restocking of livestock.
- Breed improvement
- Planting for rain fed crops
- Crafts and weaving
- Calving and kidding period

## **Situation overview**

- The district received no rains during the month. The dry wind period/season has started which has depleting effect to water and forage. The situation is normal for this period of the year.
- The quality and quantity of pasture and browse has shown declining trend when compared with the previous month. Some parts of the district has trees shading their leaves, the availability of forage tends to deteriorate forcing livestock to increase distances of search which has a negative impact on livestock condition.
- The main water sources available to the pastoralists in the district were boreholes, River Tana, Benane springs and some water pans. Most of the water pans in the district have or are drying up in the next few weeks.
- Water accessibility for household has relatively declined when compared to the preceding month. The distances covered by household have shown an increase due to most of the water pans drying up leading pastoralist to depend on the other permanent water sources. This has in turn increased the time taken to draw water from the sources which have some significant effect to the pastoralist. Household cover a distance of 6-8km to draw water.
- Livestock accessibility to water has slightly deteriorated when compared with the preceding month. This is due to most of the water pans drying up leading to increase in the gap between the water sources and grazing zones. The distances covered are within a range of 8-10km.
- No cases of conflict/human displacement / insecurity reported in the course of the month under review.
- There was no livestock migration reported during the month. The body condition of livestock remained stable with most species body condition standing good when compared with the previous month. This has considerably improved on the marketing and production.
- Occurrence of livestock diseases were reported in the district. The suspected and reported diseases were of tick bone diseases, contagious caprine pleura pneumonia, small stock foot and mouth and sheep enterotoxaemia and helminthiasis.
- Milk production in the district was stable when compared with the preceding month. This was due to most of the livestock being in lactating state during the month.
- Cattle prices remained stable when compared with preceding month. The increase was been associated with good livestock body condition and improved market demand by traders. Cattle prices improved from Ksh12100 in May to Ksh12100 in June.
- Goats' prices continue to improve when compared with the preceding month. The increase in price has been attributed to excellent body condition of goats. Goats were costing Kshs. 1470 in May and Ksh1500 in June. The price of goats is above the long term mean price.
- The prices of Sheep remained stable when compared with the preceding month. The price is above the long term mean price for the month. Sheep was costing Kshs.1210 in May and 1220 in June.
- The nutrition status of children above one (1) and below five (5) declined when compared with the preceding month. The margin fall below the long term mean, this is due to change of climatic condition to windy and dusty increasing chances of illness in children. The nutritional status of those at risk in the district was 8.5% in May and 8.9% in June.

## **Current interventions**

### **Non- food interventions**

- Seeds for planting were made available to the communities under hot community project.
- Borehole repair and maintenance.
- Restocking of pastoralist who lost their livestock during the drought.

- Support to livestock treatment, vaccination and disease surveillance.
- Provision of generating set to farmers.
- Provision of breeding bulls of sahiwal and goats were provided to communities.
- Repair and construction of irrigation infrastructure for farms along tana river
- Community capacity building was carried out by Arid lands management project
- Support on microfinance for communities continued during the month.
- Mobile outreach services were carried out by the ministry of health

### **Food aid**

- EMOP relief food distribution was reduced to 101,600 beneficiaries.
- School feeding programme provided by W.F.P targeting 42,069 children continued during the month.
- Supplementary feeding targeting 10,200 children under five, pregnant and lactating mother continued.

### **Coping strategies**

- Reliance on remittances
- Credit and borrowing is a major part of coping strategy.
- Livelihood diversification(cattle rearing to camel)
- Change of lifestyle.

### **Recommendations to District Steering Group and Kenya Food Security Meeting**

- Rehabilitate and excavate shallow wells along the river and the streams.
- Support borehole repair and maintenance in the district.
- Provide capacity building to water users association on management skills to enhance efficiency in the water availability and accessibility.
- Support the rapid response teams to attend to any emergencies.
- Continue providing breeding stocks to livestock keepers to improve on quality of breeds.
- Train communities on crop and livestock husbandry practices.
- Conduct nutritional survey in the district
- Support communities on financing micro-enterprise development to enhance their livelihoods.
- Establish fodder production along the river
- Continue to capacity build pastoral communities on peace building and conflict resolution
- Initiate new farms and provide land survey and cultivation.
- Support small scale farms along River Tana in terms with farm inputs, construction of watering canals and value addition activities.
- Improve on road infrastructure in the district to enhance development.
- Support the veterinary investigation laboratories on disease surveillance before any outbreaks are reported.
- Mobilize and sensitize communities on diversification of livelihoods.
- Continue to provide mobile outreach services for centre with no health facilities.
- Strengthen stakeholder's co-ordination and participation in development activities.
- Continue to support on natural resource management.

## **1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)**

### **1.1 Rainfall**

The district received no rains during the month. The dry wind period/season has started which has depleting effect to water and forage. The situation is normal for this period of the year. Temperatures have reduced when compared with the previous month but lies within the normal range.

### **1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture**

The quality and quantity of pasture and browse showed declining trend when compared with the previous month. Some parts of the district has tress shedding their leaves while the availability of forage tends to deteriorate forcing livestock to increase distances of search which has a negative impact on livestock condition.

### **1.3 Water sources and availability**

#### **1.3.1 Use of water sources**

The main water sources available to the pastoralists in the district were boreholes, River Tana, Benane springs and some water pans. Most of the water pans in the district have or are drying up in the next few weeks.

#### **1.3.2 Household accessibility to water**

Water accessibility for households declined when compared to the preceding month. The distances covered by household showed an increase due to most of the water pans drying up, leading pastoralists to depend on the other permanent water sources. This in turn increased the time taken to draw water from the sources which have some significant effect to the pastoralist. Households covered a distance of 6-8km to draw water.

#### **1.3.3 Livestock accessibility to water**

Livestock accessibility to water has slightly deteriorated when compared with the preceding month. This is due to most of the water pans drying up leading to increase in the gap between the water sources and grazing zones. The distances covered are within a range of 8-10km. some of the boreholes in the district are operational for livestock use.

### **1.4 Emerging issues**

#### **1.4.1 Insecurity/Conflict/ Human displacement**

No conflict over natural resource utilization and human displacement reported in the course of the month under review. However, the security situation remains tense along the Kenya/Somalia border. There was high cross border surveillance.

#### **1.4.2 Migration**

There was no livestock migration reported during the month. This is related to the rain coverage of the entire district.

#### **1.4.3 Implications on food security**

Reduced water availability and accessibility, reducing quality and quantity of forage cover, increasing cost for watering livestock was an indication of negative food security implication in the district.

## 2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

### 2.1 Livestock production

#### 2.1.1 Livestock body condition

The body condition of livestock remained stable with most species body condition standing between good and fair when compared with the previous month. This has been influenced by forage and water availability.

#### 2.1.2 Livestock health and diseases

Sporadic occurrence of livestock diseases were reported in the district. The suspected and reported diseases are contagious bovine pleura pneumonia, contagious caprine pleura pneumonia, small stock foot and mouth, helminthiasis tick borne diseases.

#### 2.1.3 Milk production

Milk production in the district is stable when compared with the preceding month. This is due to most of the livestock are in lactating state during the month.

## 2.2 Crop production

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

- Farming was ongoing along River Tana and the main crops grown under irrigation system of production were bananas, pawpaw, melon, lemon, onions and tomatoes.
- Irrigation farming was constrained by lack of good market prices and over production, poor /lack of technical knowhow, poor market research and information system, leading to some farmers capacities reduced and ending up in losses.

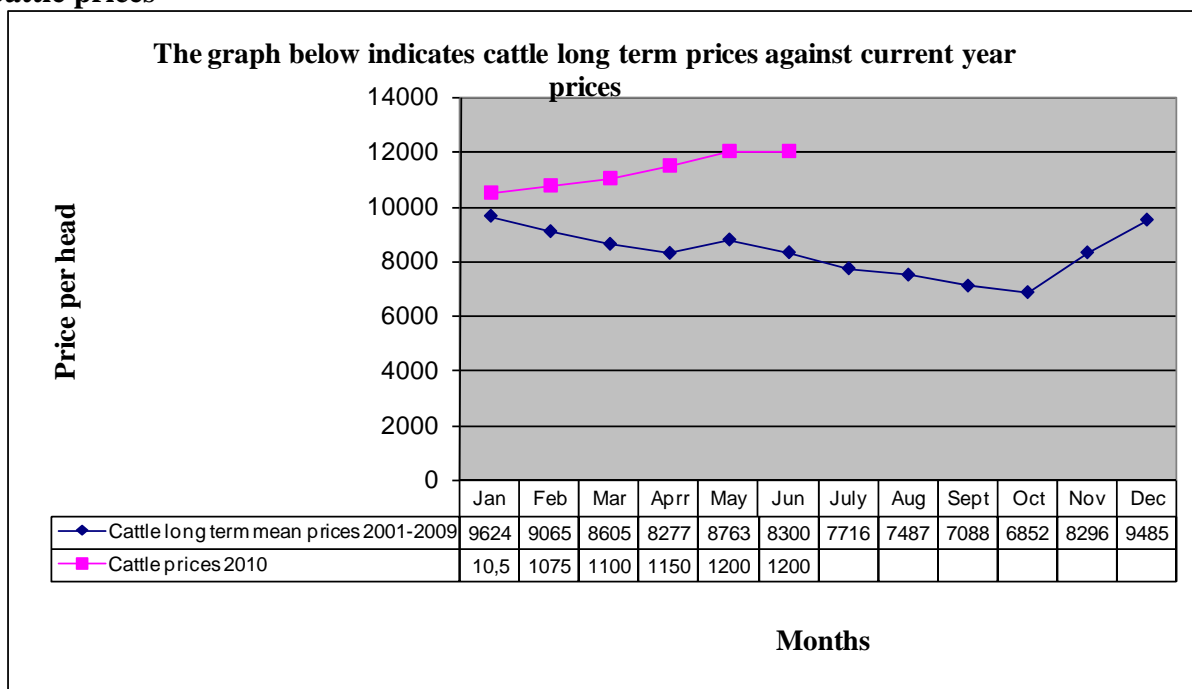
### 2.2.2 Pests and crop diseases

No crop pests or diseases were reported in the course of the month under review.

## 3.0 Access to food

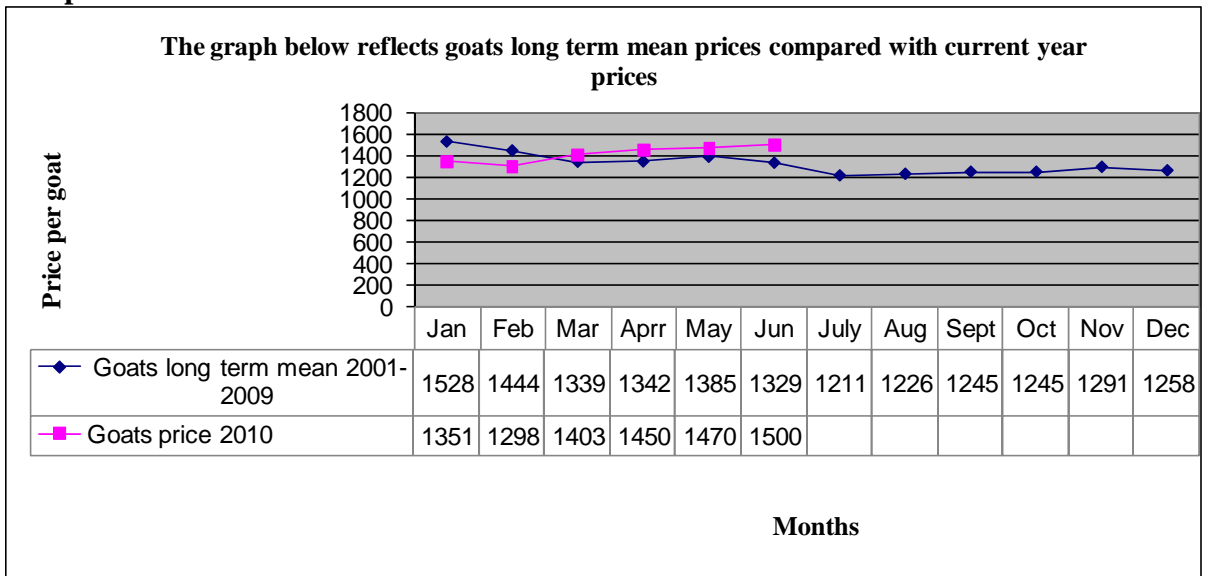
### 3.1 Livestock marketing

#### 3.1.1 Cattle prices



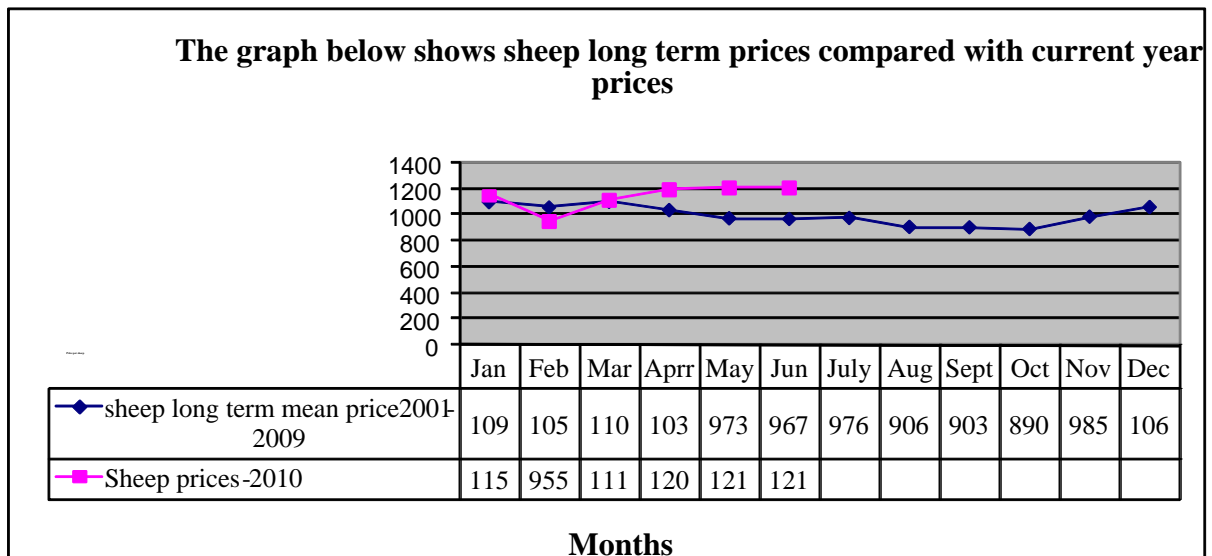
Cattle prices remained stable when compared with preceding month. The increase has been associated with good livestock body condition and improved market demand by traders. Cattle prices improved from Ksh12,000 in May to Ksh12,000 in June.

### 3.2 Goats prices



Goats' prices continue to improve when compared with the preceding month. The increase in price has been attributed to excellent body condition of goats. Goats were costing Ksh1470 in May and Kshs1500 in June. The price of goats was above the long term mean price.

### 3.1.3 Sheep prices



The prices of sheep remained stable when compared with the preceding month. The price was above the long term mean price for the month. Sheep traded at Ksh1210 in May and 1210 in June.

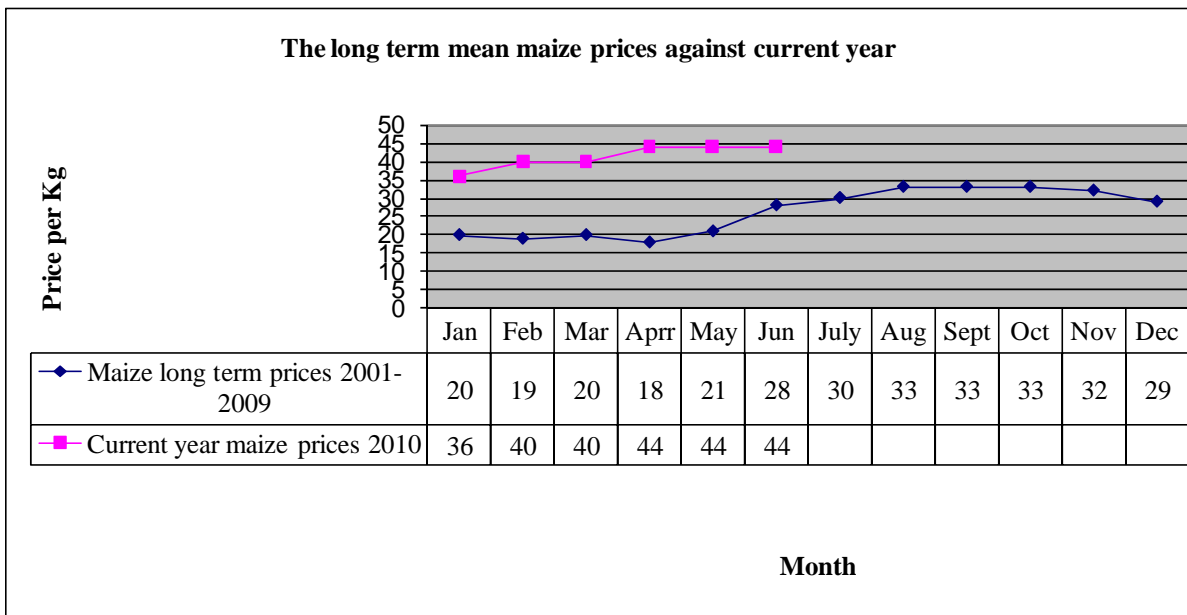
### 3.2 Livestock sales

The livestock sales rate decreased when compared with the preceding month. This is due to reducing livestock prices and demand.

### 3.3 Food prices

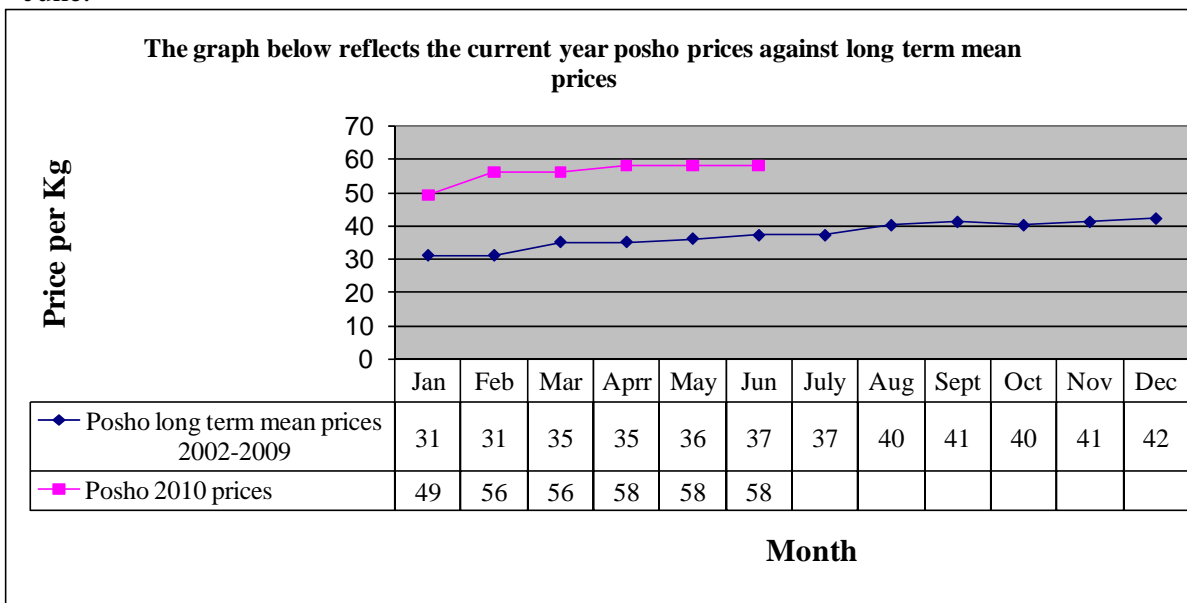
#### 3.3.1 Maize prices

Maize price remained stable when compared with the preceding month; the price is above the long term mean price. This is attributed to scarcity of maize at household level and mode of eating of the pastoralist. The price of a Kg of maize was Kshs.44 in may and Kshs.44 in June.



#### 3.3.2 Posho (locally milled and Jogoo) prices

The prices of posho and jogoo which are both end products of maize have remained stable. The price of the product is above the long term mean. The price was Kshs.58 in May and Kshs.58 in June.



### 3.3.3 Purchase of other food commodities

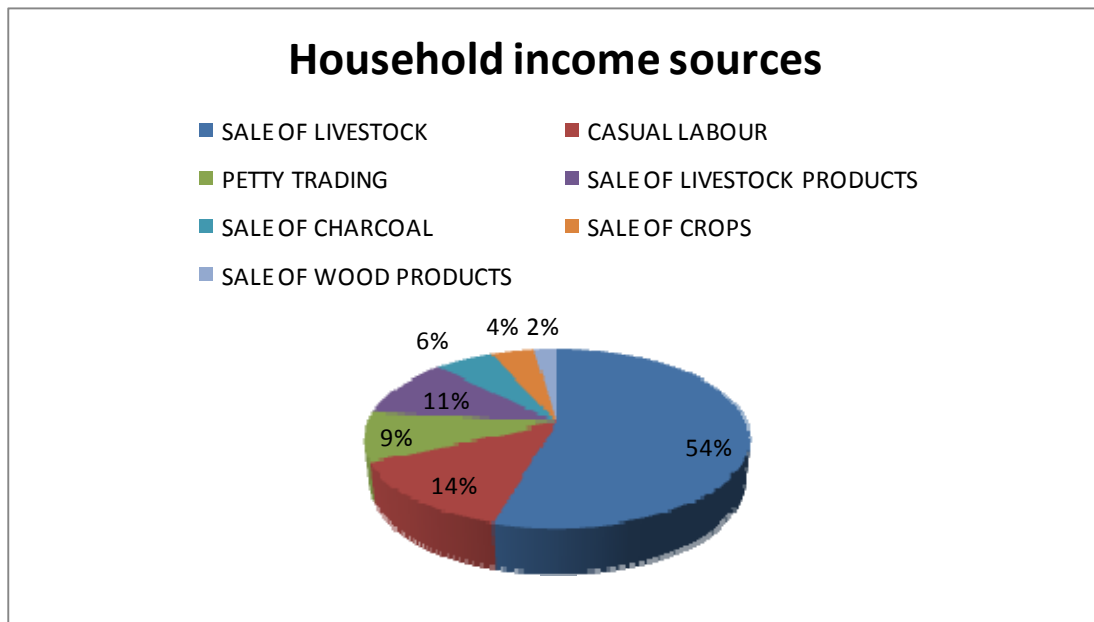
Prices of other essential food products have remained stable when compared to the preceding and it is above the normal. This is brought about by the current inflation of food commodities in the country and due to market liberalization.

### 3.4 Implications on food security

Good livestock prices, availability of livestock products (milk) and reduced cost of livestock management is an indication of positive food security implications.

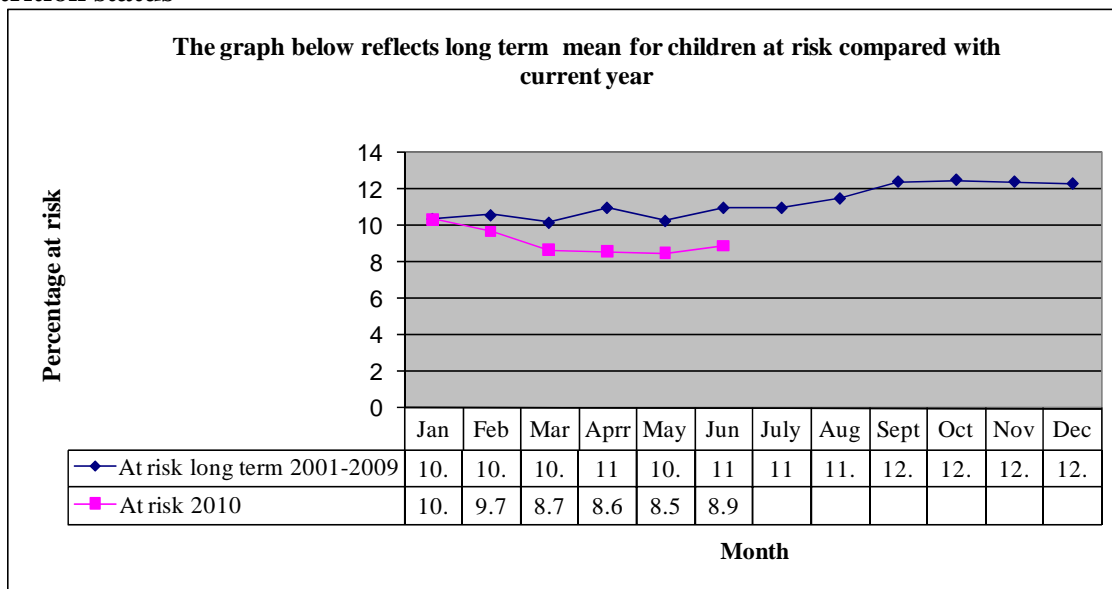
### 3.5 Income sources

Pastoralists sell livestock and livestock product to sustain their way of living, thus livestock forms the main economic backbone of the pastoralists. The current income sources of the pastoralist at household level are illustrated in the pie chart below.



## 4.0 Human welfare indicators (utilization of food)

### 4.1 Nutrition status



## **Number of children=1376**

The nutrition status of children above one (1) and below five (5) have reduced when compared with the preceding month. The margin fall below the long term mean, this is due to change of climatic condition to windy and dusty increasing chances of illness in children. The nutritional status of those at risk in the district was 8.5% in May and 8.9% in June.

### **4.2 Human health**

No major disease outbreaks and incidences were reported during the month but cases of pneumonia and chest infections were reported.

### **5.0 Current interventions**

#### **5.1 Non- food interventions**

- Seeds for planting were made available to the communities under hot community project.
- Borehole repair and maintenance.
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### **6.0 Recommendations to District Steering Group and Kenya Food Security Meeting**

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