

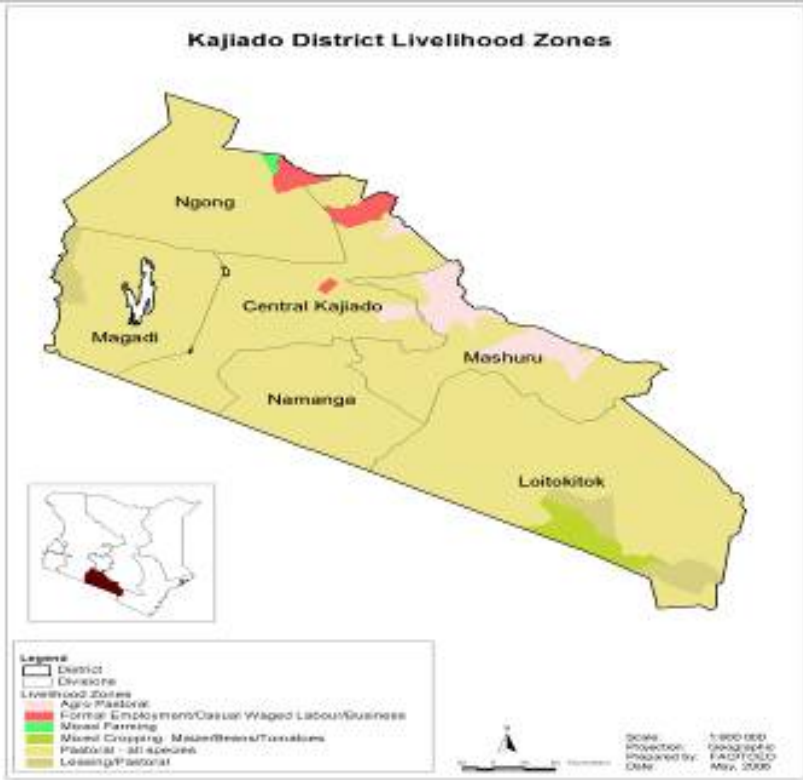


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, JUNE 2010

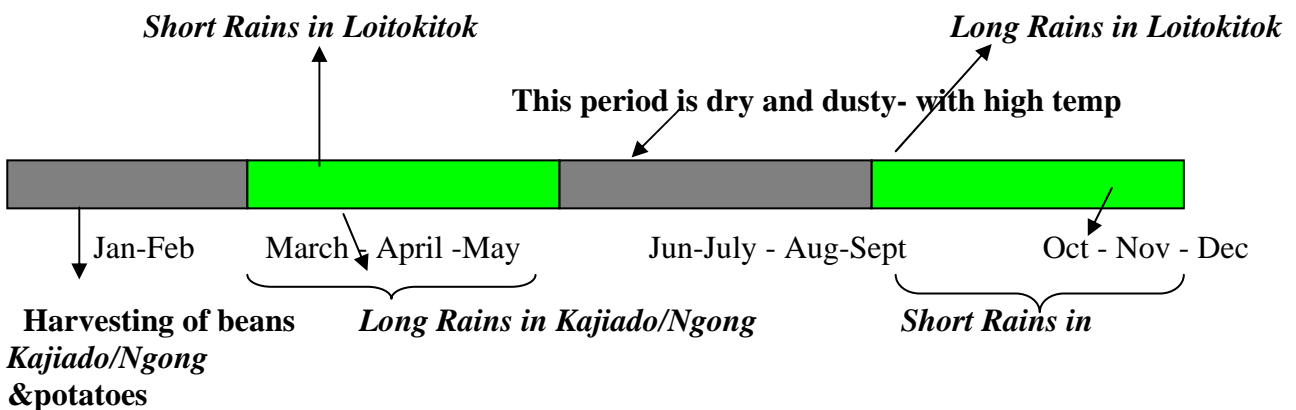
Kajiado Central, North and Loitokitok districts

Warning stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Pastoral-All Species	Normal	Stable
Agro Pastoral	Normal	Stable
Mixed Farming	Normal	Stable
Casual/Waged labour/Business /trade	Normal	Stable
District	Normal	Stable

Seasonal Calendar



Situation overview

- Dry and hot sometime cold weather condition prevailed. No rainfall was recorded district wide.
- Water availability for agriculture, livestock and domestic remained good. All temporary surface water points such as water ponds, dams and pans had adequate water.
- Distance to and from watering points ranged between 3kms to 5kms in most areas, reducing household stress and improving livestock body condition.
- Pasture and browse condition was available in good condition, owing to sufficient/sustained rainfall realized in most areas in the previous months.
- There was improved household income as a result of improved livestock prices. Food prices were still high in most areas. Most food stuff is sourced outside the district. Sale of Asian vegetables from irrigation areas was ongoing.
- Average cattle prices increased by 1.74 per cent from Ksh13,210 in May to Ksh13,440 in June 2010. The current price is 25.6 per cent per cent above the long term average.
- Shoats' prices were within the normal season average.
- The nutrition status of children 12-59 months has progressively improved over the last three months, the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition stabilized at 9.6 in June 2010, attributed to nutrition emergency interventions and availability of vegetables and milk.
- Demand for labour in crop growing areas improved; rates ranged between Ksh150 and 200.

DSG Recommendations

- Sectoral mid and long term preparedness activities to be enhanced in water , agriculture and livestock
 - Pasture conservation (stock piling of hay a drought preparedness strategy)
 - Livestock restocking the households that lost close to 70% (*DLPO- Kajiado North and Loitokitok, Post drought livestock mortalities assessment, 2010*)
 - Livestock disease surveillance/ disease control: vaccination and provision of FMD, CBPP, LSD, trpanocidal drugs and CCPP, sheep and goat pox vaccines (action: DVS/DVO)
- Expansion of school feeding program to cover more schools in the pastoral areas

Ongoing interventions

Institution	Intervention (on going)
Relief Food EMOP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The population requiring food assistance (EMOP) downscaled from 184,000 (32%) to 46,000 ((8%) from March- August 2010 for the larger Kajiado districts • Home grown school feeding program
Nutrition and Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cholera surveillance, control and community awareness campaign (Disaster Management Committee : OoP/ DPHO/OCC/NIA/ALRMP/MoH/Red Cross /Medicines San frontiers) – concluded • Implementing an Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) Programme (NIA/Mercy – USA and Concern Worldwide)
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of PCEA Upper Matasia science lab (Ksh.2,500,000) in Kajiado North, Pilewa Primary dormitory (Ksh.3,000,000) in Kajiado Central and a classroom at Inkoisuk Primary School, Loitokitok (Ministry for Development Of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands)- ongoing

1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

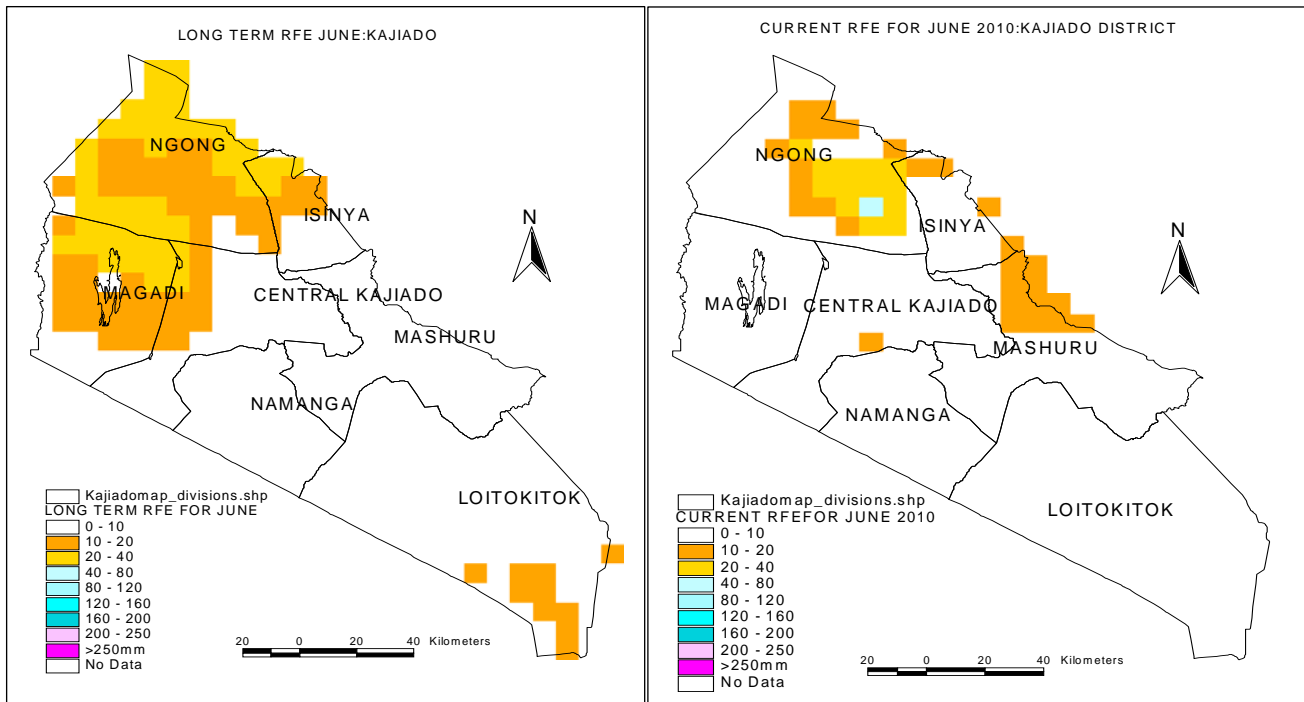
1.1 Rainfall

- Dry, hot and sometimes cold weather condition prevailed. Nil rainfall was recorded in most areas of Kajiado Central, Kajiado North and Loitokitok districts.
- The month is usually characterized by low rainfall amounts across all livelihoods.

Current and long term rainfall distribution

During the month of June 2010, most areas were characterized by hot, dry and some time cold weather conditions. High potential areas of Ngong and pockets of Mashuru division received less than 20mm. The observed situation is slightly below normal. The month usually marks the onset of the dry period.

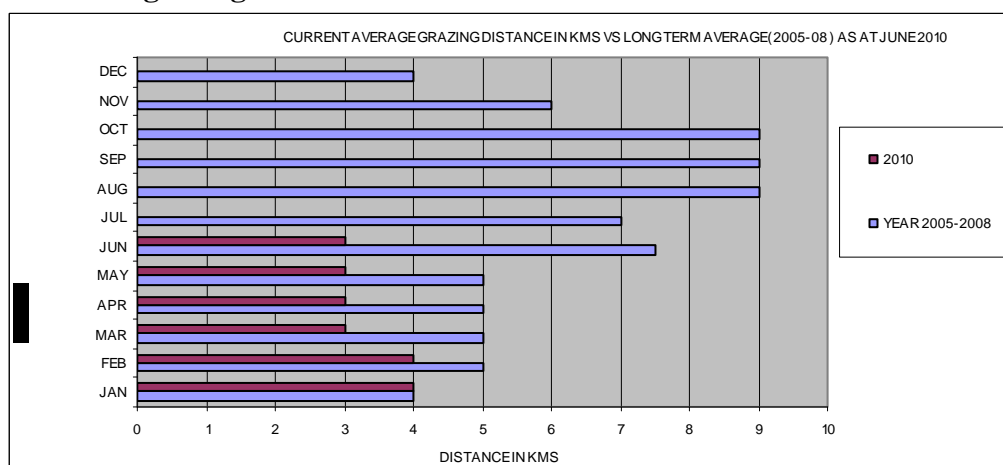
The images below show rainfall distribution and amount received in Kajiado district.



1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

Pasture and browse was available in good condition across all livelihood zones. Availability of good pasture and browse condition in all livelihood zones impacted positively on household food security as livestock in good body condition fetched better prices.

1.2.1 Distance to grazing areas

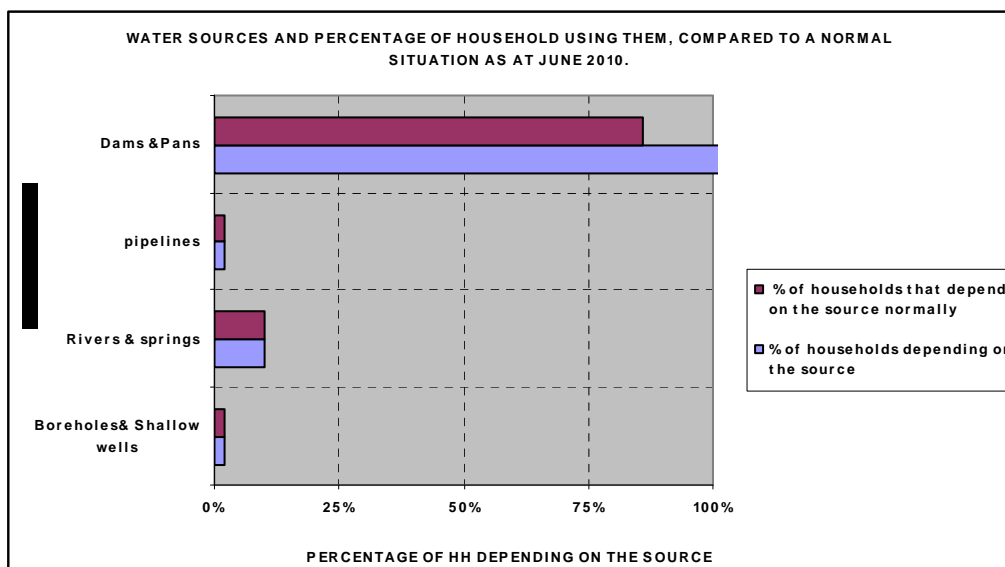


Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

Distance to grazing areas remained at 3kms in most areas owing to abundant pasture and browse. The observed situation was normal.

1.3 Water sources and availability

Table 2: Water sources and percentage of household using them, compared to a normal situation.

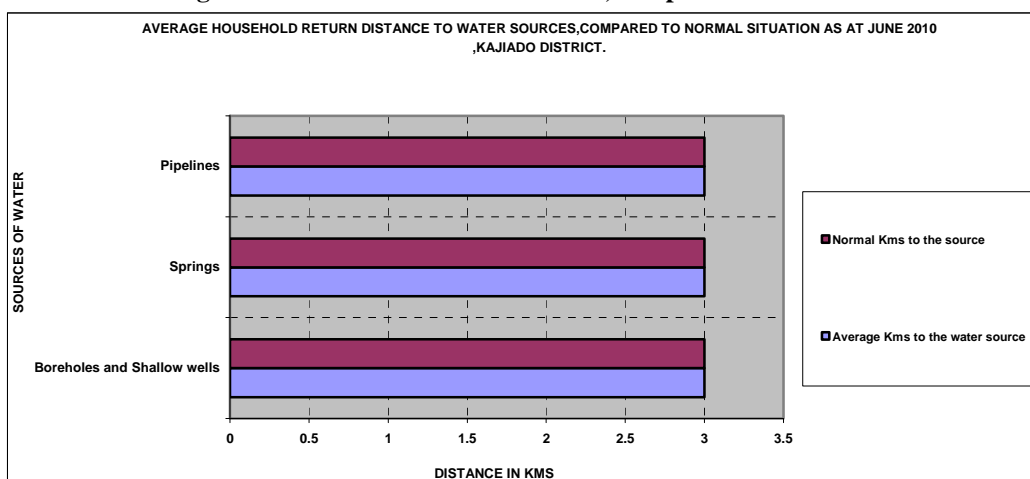


Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

- Most temporary water sources (dams and pans) had adequate water. Natural springs had adequate water. Most boreholes and shallow wells were rested.
- Generally, water availability and accessibility was good across the three districts.
- The observed situation was normal.

1.3.1 Household access to water

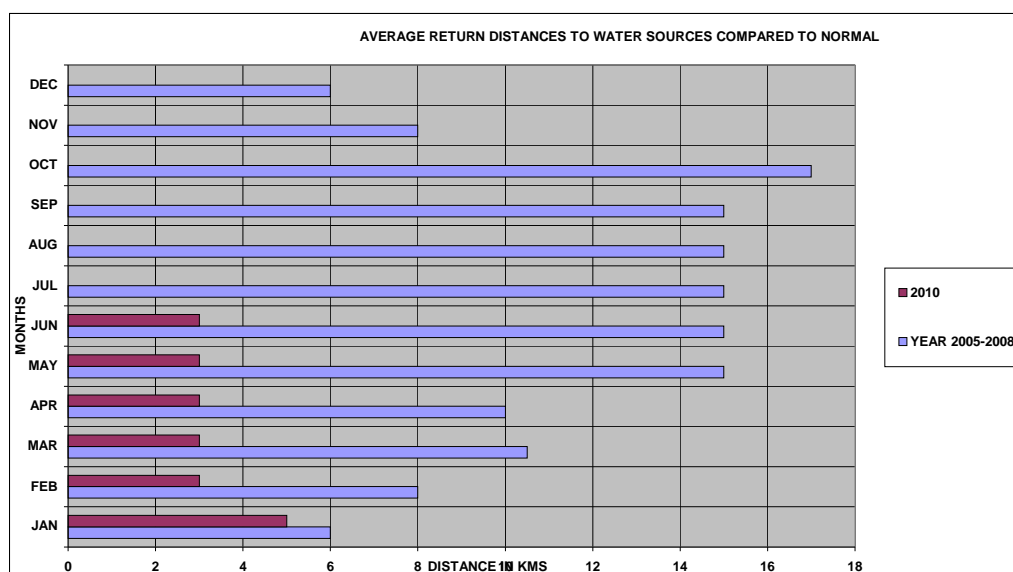
Table 3: Average return distances to water sources, compared to a normal situation



Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

- The average distance to water sources remained 3kms.
- Return time for fetching water for domestic use was less than 1hour in most areas.

1.3.2 Livestock access to water



Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

Distance from grazing points to water points remained 3kms (one way) and the observed situation was normal and within the acceptable seasonal ranges.

1.4 Emerging issues

- High food prices (Maize), owing to the current veto by the government as a result of Aflatoxin threat. Neighbouring districts were affected. Low livestock households holdings as result of high cattle deaths during the recent drought.
- Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP) were reported by most household's members.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

All livestock species maintained good body condition district wide. This is mainly attributed to reduced walking distance, pasture and water availability in most parts of the district. The observed trend had positive implications on food security as livestock in good body condition fetched good prices.

2.1.2 Livestock health

As was the previous month, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP) were reported by most household's members in Mashuru, Namanga, and Loitokitok.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk production slightly improved in the pastoral areas. Kidding and lambing was on upward trend in most households visited.
- Milk production and sales was on upward trend in all livelihood zones. An average of 3.6 liters was recorded across all sentinel sites. The current milk consumption trend had positive food security implications at household level.

2.1.4 Livestock migration

No out migration reported, as all livestock were in their wet season grazing areas.

2.2 Crop production

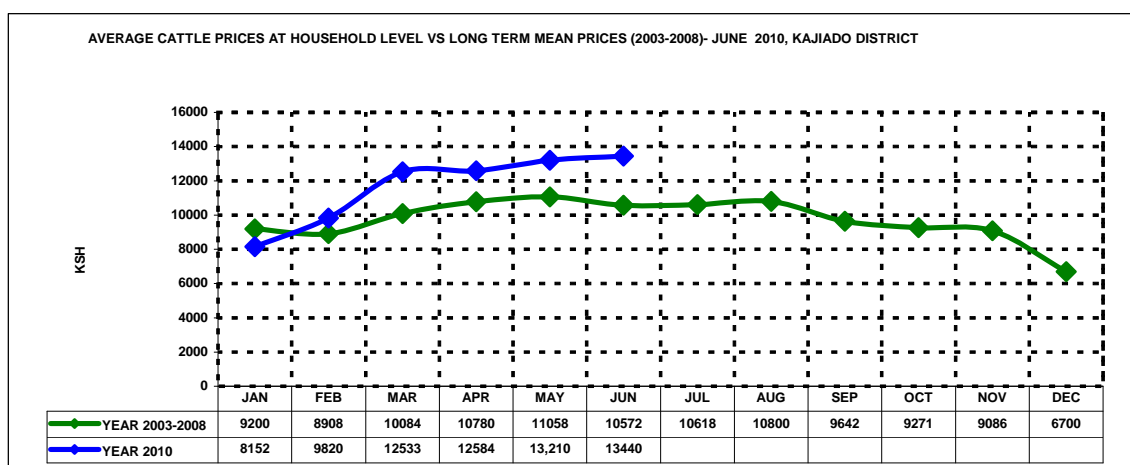
2.2.1 Timeliness and status of crop production activities

- The month of June 2010 was characterized by dry, hot and sometimes cold weather condition.
- Low yields are predictable as crops were water stressed at critical growing stage. Farmers in most rain fed crop growing areas of Namanga, Ngong and Loitokitok will harvest 2 to 3bags(90kg) of beans per acre.
- In the rain fed crop growing areas, harvesting of beans was on going. Crop production activities were also on-going in the irrigation areas of Magadi (Ngurman and Pakase) and Loitokitok irrigation fields. Regular control of minor pests and diseases on horticultural crops was on going.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

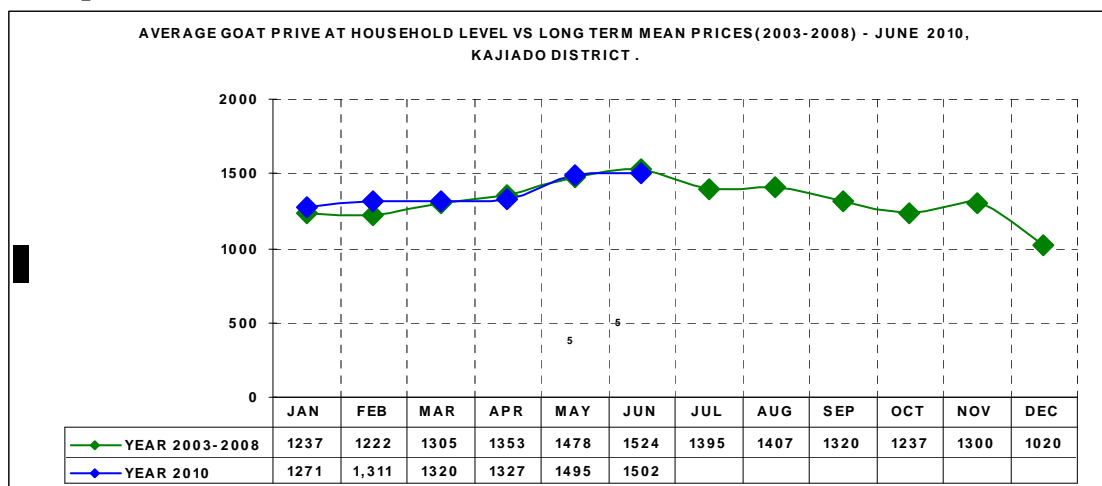
3.1.1 Cattle prices



Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

- Average cattle prices increased by 1.74 per cent from Ksh13,210 in May to Ksh13,440 in June 2010. The current price was 25.6 per cent above the long term average.
- The observed trend in June 2010 is mostly attributed to improved body condition and decline in supply to the markets as farmers were holding back their livestock anticipating reproduction. Most cows were calving.

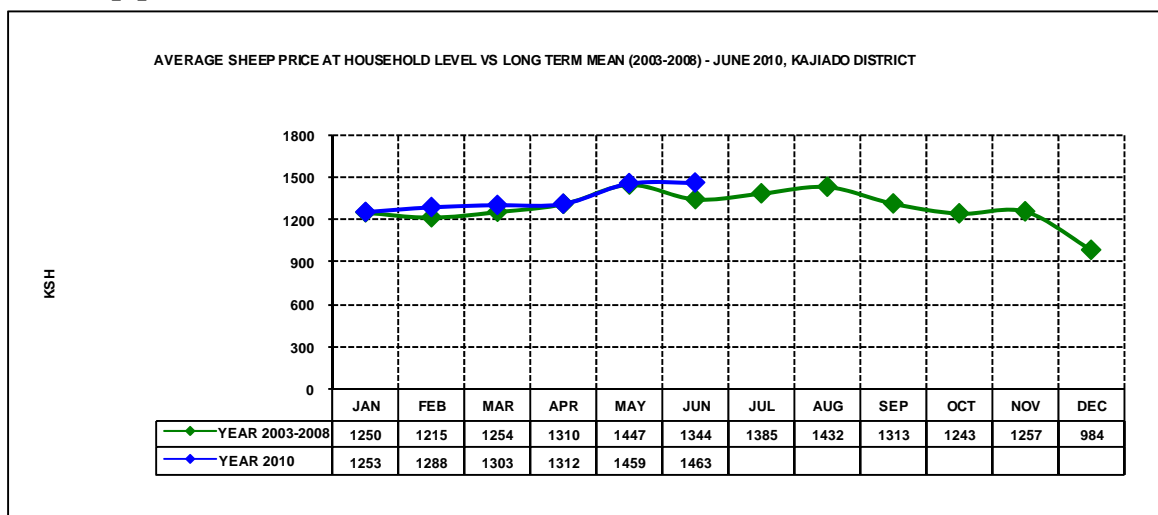
3.1.2 Goats prices



Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

Average goat prices increased slightly from Ksh1,495 in May to Ksh1,502 in June 2010. The current price is within the normal seasonal ranges. The observed trend reflects a normal situation.

3.1.3 Sheep prices



Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

Sheep prices increased from Ksh1,459 to 1,463 in May and June respectively. The increase in price is attributed to high demand in most markets and good body condition. Most farmers are restocking their herd.

3.1.4 Milk consumption

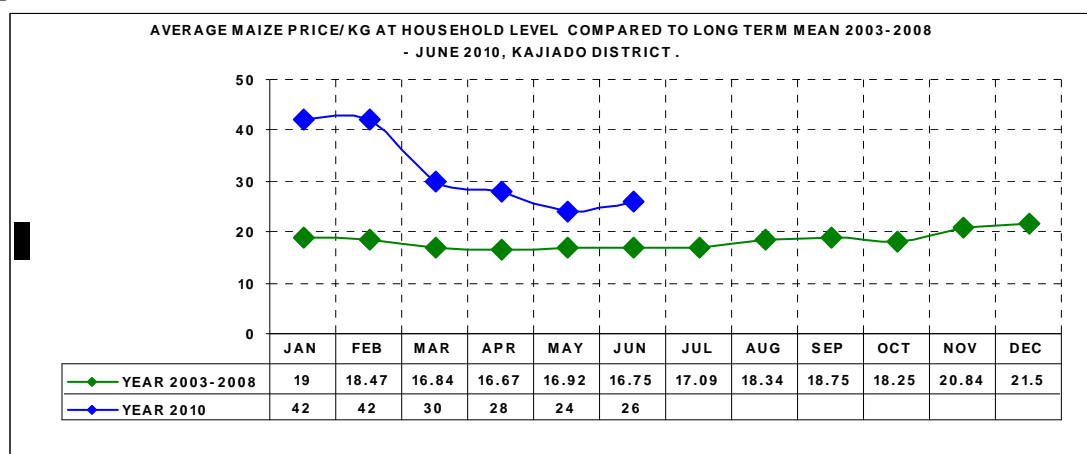
Availability of milk in the rural pastoral has slightly improved owing to improved calving and kidding. Improved access to milk has positive implications on food security, especially for children under five years.

3.2 Implications on food security

- Improved livestock body condition as a result of enhanced pasture and browse impacted positively on household food security.
- Availability of vegetables (cabbages, sukumawiki, spinach etc) at affordable prices has generally reduced the burden of purchasing highly priced cereals. The prices of pulses are still high, maize prices have reduced.
- Improved livestock prices had positive implication on purchasing power and on food security at household level.

3.3 Food prices

3.3.1 Maize prices

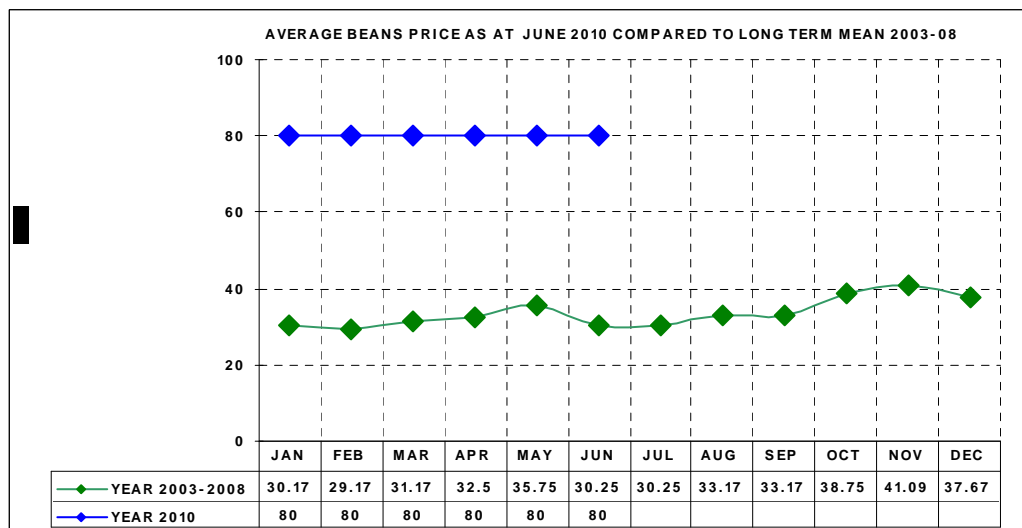


Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

The average maize price increased from Ksh 24 to 26 per kilo. The observed trend can mostly be attributed to reduced cereal inflow from neighbouring district attributed to the recent Aflotoxin threat and imposed ban on movement and sale of the produce by the government across the affected districts.

3.3.2 Beans prices

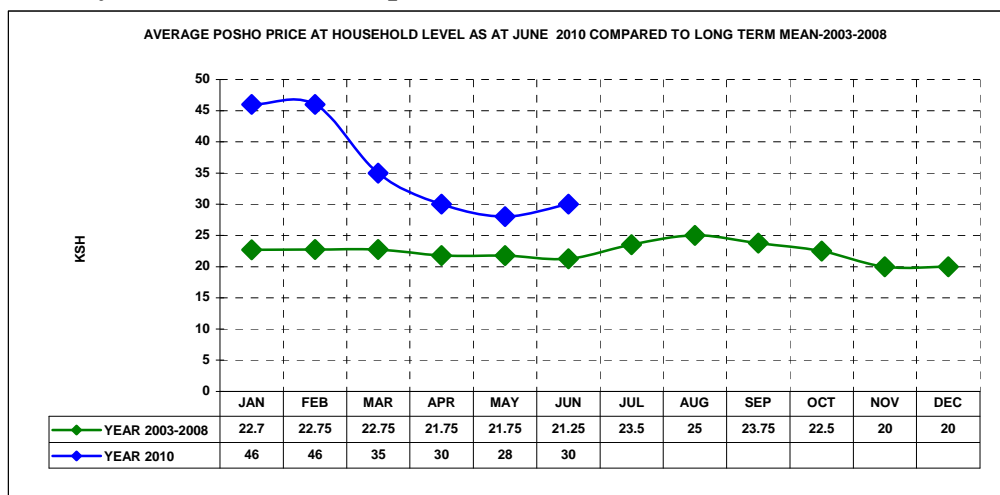
The average beans prices remained high but stabilized at Ksh80 per kilo. The prices were abnormal compared to long term mean of Ksh 30 per kilo.



Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

The districts remain dependent on external supplies from neighboring districts and Tanzania. The scarcity at district level was exacerbated recent crop rotting as a result of prolonged rain season and below normal harvest during the current year long rains season.

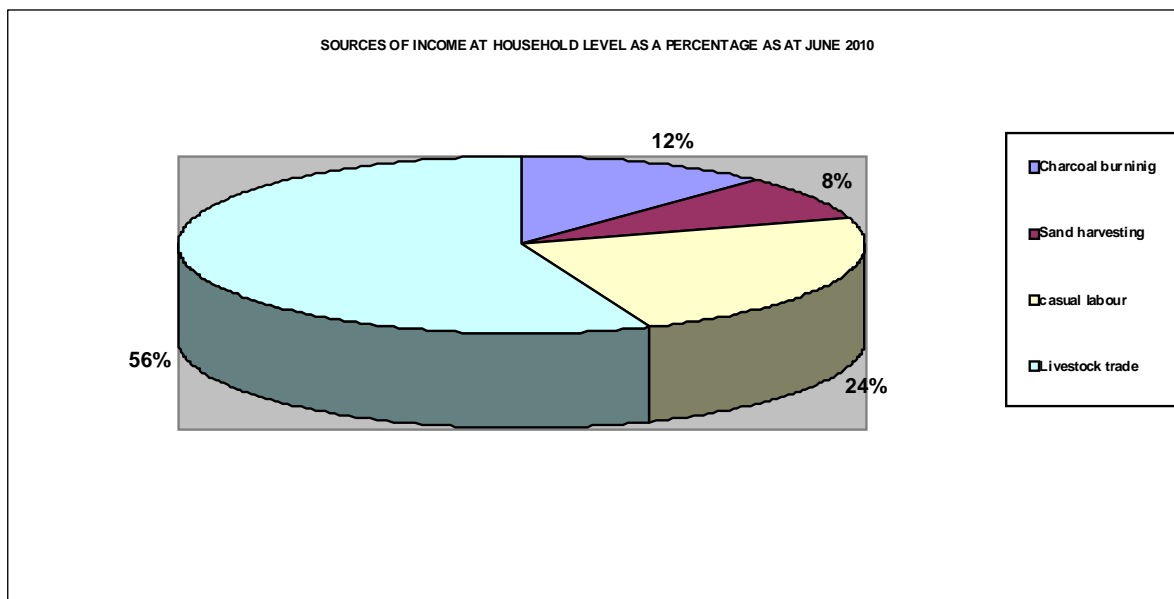
3.3.3 Posho (locally milled maize meal) prices



Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

The average price of Posho increased from Ksh 28 to Ksh30 per kilo as a result of increase in maize prices.

3.4 Income



Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

3.4.1 Crop income

- The month of June 2010 characterized by improved sale of maize, vegetables and potatoes in high potential areas of Ngong and Loitokitok. Other areas remained dependent on these areas as neighbouring districts were banned from trading maize owing to aflatoxin threat.
- Farmers in the irrigation areas of Magadi and Loitokitok earned considerable income from sale of tomatoes, cabbages, sukumawiki, onions and Asian vegetables.

3.4.2 Livestock income

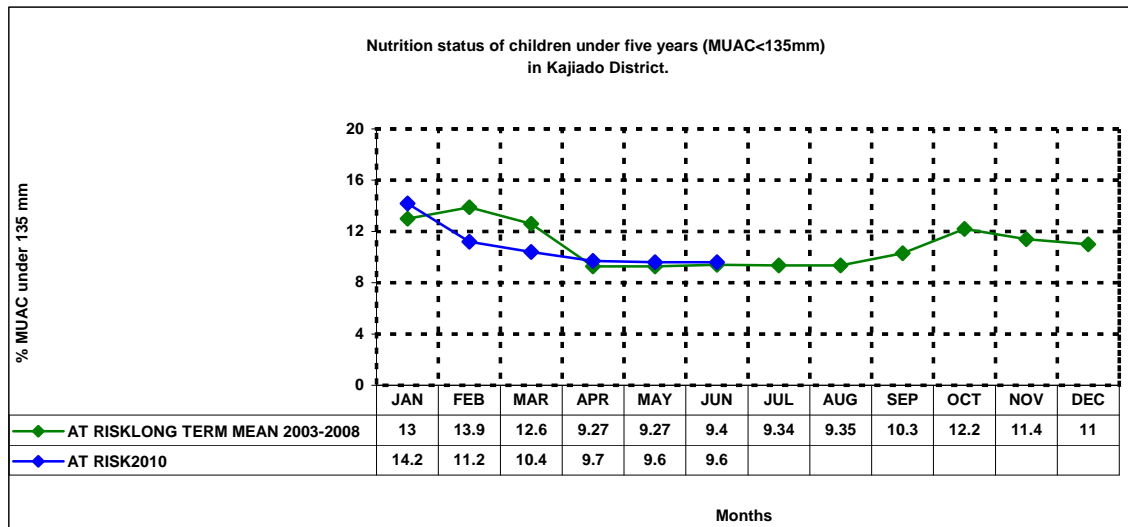
- The month of June 2010 indicated significant increase in number of sampled households which traded on livestock. Livestock prices remained high and so was the income. Most pastoralists continued to purchase livestock for breeding from terminal market like Njiru in Nairobi.
- Other sources of income were sale of charcoal, sand harvesting, petty trade and remittances. Other sources of income were charcoal burning, casual labour and sand harvesting. One bag of charcoal sold between Ksh 700-1000. Good prices offered for charcoal and sand has amplified charcoal burning and sand harvesting.

3.5 Terms of trade for pastoralists

Pastoralists' terms of trade improved as livestock prices increased compared to the previous month. Improved terms of trade have positive implications on food security at household level.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilization of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households-1,343 children were examined.

- The nutrition status of children 12-59 months has progressively improved over the last three months. The percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition remained at 9.6 during the month under review.
- The stability was attributed to nutritional interventions by development partners, IMAM (Mercy USA, Concern World Wide and WFP) and improved availability milk, and vegetables.
- The status is expected to improve owing to on going nutritional interventions and improved food security.

4.2 Human health

Most households reported incidences of malaria.

5.0 Current /ongoing interventions

5.1 Non-food interventions

- Sectoral mid and long term preparedness activities to be enhanced in water , agriculture and livestock
 - Livestock restocking the households that lost close to 70% (*DLPO- Kajiado North and Loitokitok, Post drought livestock mortalities assessment, 2010*)
 - Livestock disease surveillance/ disease control: vaccination and provision of FMD, CBPP, LSD, trpanocidal drugs and CCPP, sheep and goat pox vaccines (action: DVS/DVO)
 - Pasture conservation (stock piling of hay a drought preparedness strategy)
- Expansion of school feeding program to cover more schools in the pastoral areas

5.2 Coping strategies

Charcoal burning and sand harvesting; for pastoralist who lost over 70 per cent of their herd size during the last drought. Seeking employment in urban centre and casual labors (fencing).

6.0 Recommendations

- Expansion of school feeding program to cover more schools in the pastoral areas
- Sectoral mid and long term preparedness activities to be enhanced in water , agriculture and livestock

- Pasture conservation (stock piling of hay a drought preparedness strategy)
- Livestock restocking the households that lost close to 70% (*DLPO- Kajiado North and Loitokitok, Post drought livestock mortalities assessment, 2010*)
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