



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

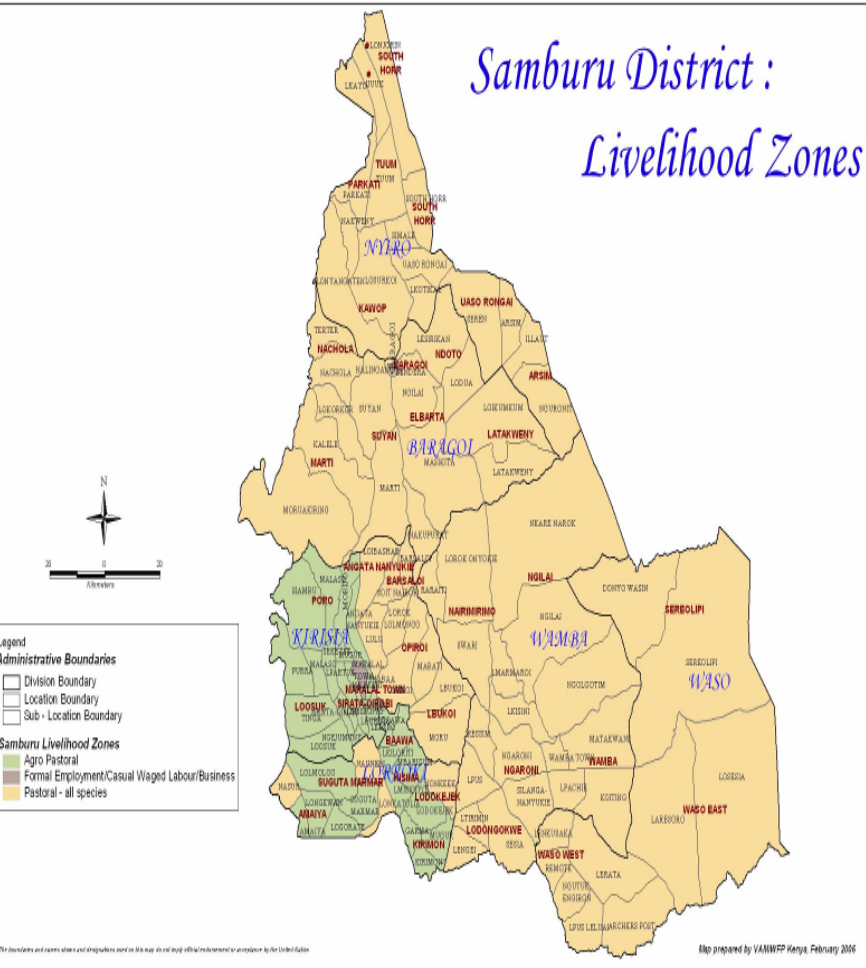
**DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, JUNE 2010**

**Samburu District**

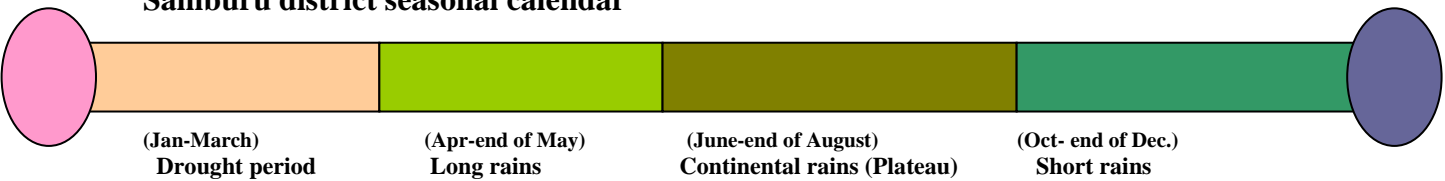
**Warning stages**

*Samburu District :  
Livelihood Zones*

Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
<b>Agro Pastoral</b>	Alert	Improving
	Alert	Improving
<b>Pastoral-All species</b>	Alert	Improving
	Alert	Improving
<b>District</b>	Alert	Improving



**Samburu district seasonal calendar**



### **Situation overview**

- On average the district received 27.3 mm of rainfall compared to 157.4 mm received in May. The amount was 54.8 per cent above the long-term mean average of 17.64 mm. The entire district received heavy, continuous rains during the course of the reporting month with good temporal and spatial distribution.
- Wet season watering points dried up in the lowlands, leading to slight distance increase to water points by households and livestock.
- Livestock body conditions were generally good and prices remained stable for the last three months.
- Milk availability improved 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 were countered by highly priced essential food commodities hence minimal impact on pastoralists' purchasing power and consequently their access to food.
- Insecurity destabilized 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 slightly with the percentage of those considered at risk of malnutrition (based on MUAC measurements) decreasing to 22 from 25.8 in May.

### **Ongoing interventions (Food and Non -food)**

- Supplementary feeding programme at 32 health facilities targeting 8,144 pregnant/lactating mothers and malnourished children below five years of age.
- District wide general relief food distribution targeting approximately 40% of the population.
- Protective food rations programme executed by MOH targeting 3000 recipients within Maralal municipality.

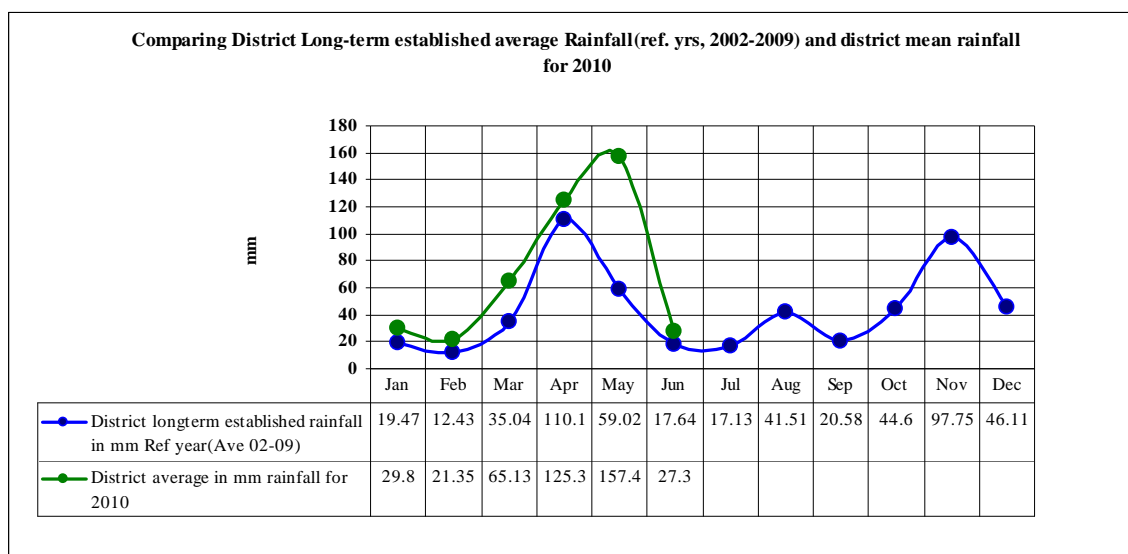
### **Recommendations to KFSSG and DSG**

- KFSSG and other stakeholders to play a lead role in promoting conflict resolution initiatives among warring communities through facilitation of professionals from warring groups to reach their communities for dialogue.

## 1.0 Environmental Indicators

### 1.1 Rainfall

- The district lowlands experienced a dry spell throughout the reporting month, while the plateau continued to receive continental rains though, temporal and spatial distribution was poor.
- On average the rainfall amount received was 27.3 mm from last month's 157.4 mm. The amount was higher than the long-term established mean by 54.8 per cent.
- The long term established threshold normally received during this period of the year is 17.64 mm.



**Source: District Agriculture/ALRMP II weather station**

### 1.2 Conditions of natural vegetation and pasture

- The quantity of forage resources' remained plenty across the district but quality slightly declined compared to May following this month's dry spell especially in the lowlands.
- Insecurity subsided as major constraint in accessing and utilization of forage resources in the western and Eastern borders of the district following peace talks facilitated by Laikipia Peace Caravan at the beginning of the year.
- Forage resources remained above average compared to normal times during this period of the year.

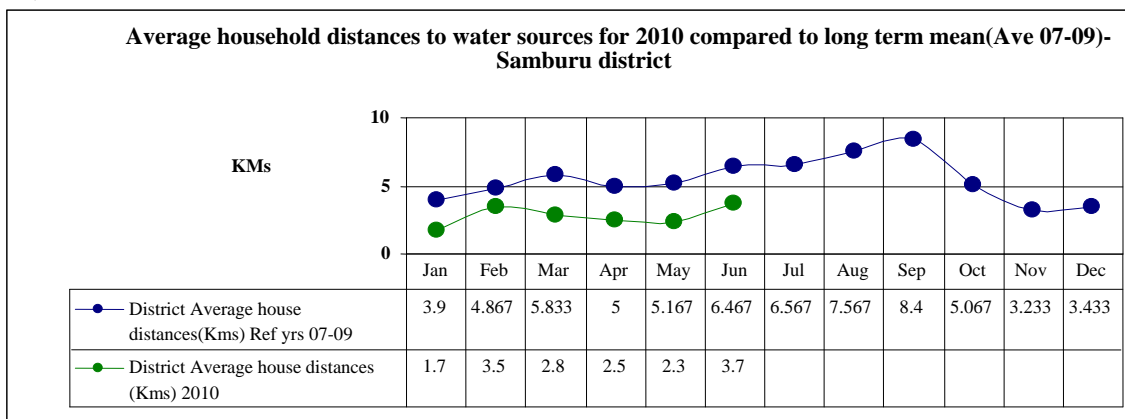
### 1.3 Water sources and availability

#### 1.3.1 Use of water sources

The main sources of water for livestock and household during the course of this month changed compared to May and included: Natural Rivers, traditional river wells; pans/dams, shallow wells, boreholes, natural ponds and springs.

### 1.3.2 Distance (Kms) to water sources

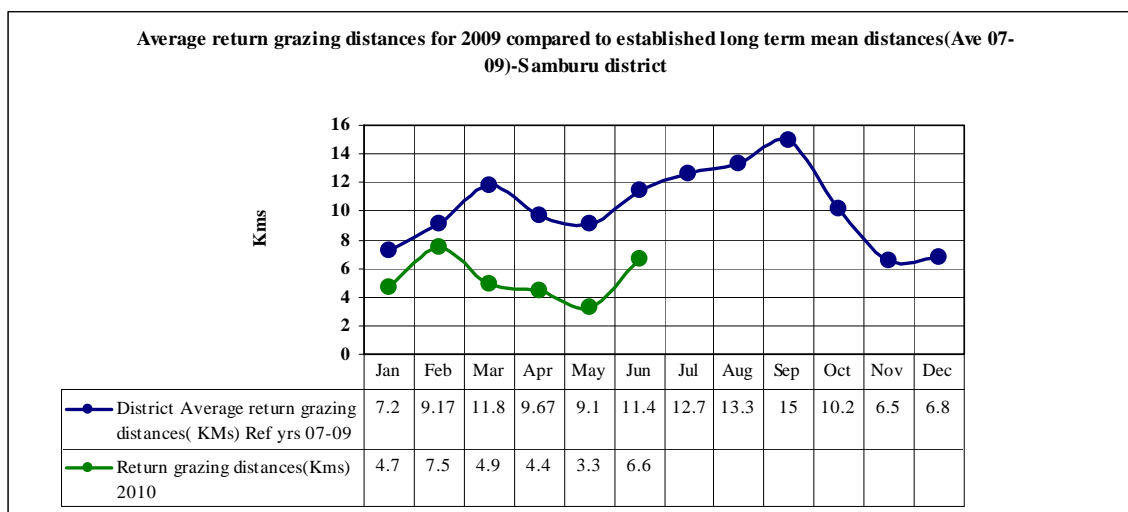
#### a) Household distances



Number of communities (N) =37

- Average household distance to nearby water sources increased to 3.7 KMs from last month's 2.3 kms. Household distance to main sources was less than the long term average by 42.9 per cent
- Existing wet season water points recorded minor recharge decline during the course of the reporting month.

#### b) Livestock distances



Number of communities (N) =37

- Average return grazing distance to main sources of water increased to 6.6 Km from 3.3 Km in May.
- Return grazing distance was lower than the long term mean by 42.2 per cent.
- Wet season watering points normally utilized by livestock this season dried up in the lowlands hence the cause of distance increase.

### 1.4. Emerging issues

#### 1.4.1 Insecurity/ conflict

The entire district remained calm with no cases of insecurity reported.

## **1.4.2 Migration**

### **a) Livestock migration**

There were no any major livestock migrations reported during the month under review.

### **b) Human Migration/Displacement**

- Many families remained displaced in parts of Samburu North district as result of serious tribal clashes witnessed throughout 2009.
- Households in the western parts of the Agro pastoral livelihood zone too remained displaced and are concentrated in cluster villages in Lolmolog, Angata Rongai, Logorate and Longewan sub-locations.

## **1.5 Implications on food security**

The early onset of the long rains (March) and the enhanced amounts received in April and May impacted positively on pastoralists' food access and availability.

## **2.0 Rural Economy Indicators**

### **2.1 Livestock production**

#### **2.1.1 Livestock body conditions**

- Livestock body conditions for all species were good across the district. Shorter trekking distances to water points and grazing areas coupled with plenty and good quality of forage impacted well on livestock body conditions.
- Compared to a normal year livestock body conditions were above 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.

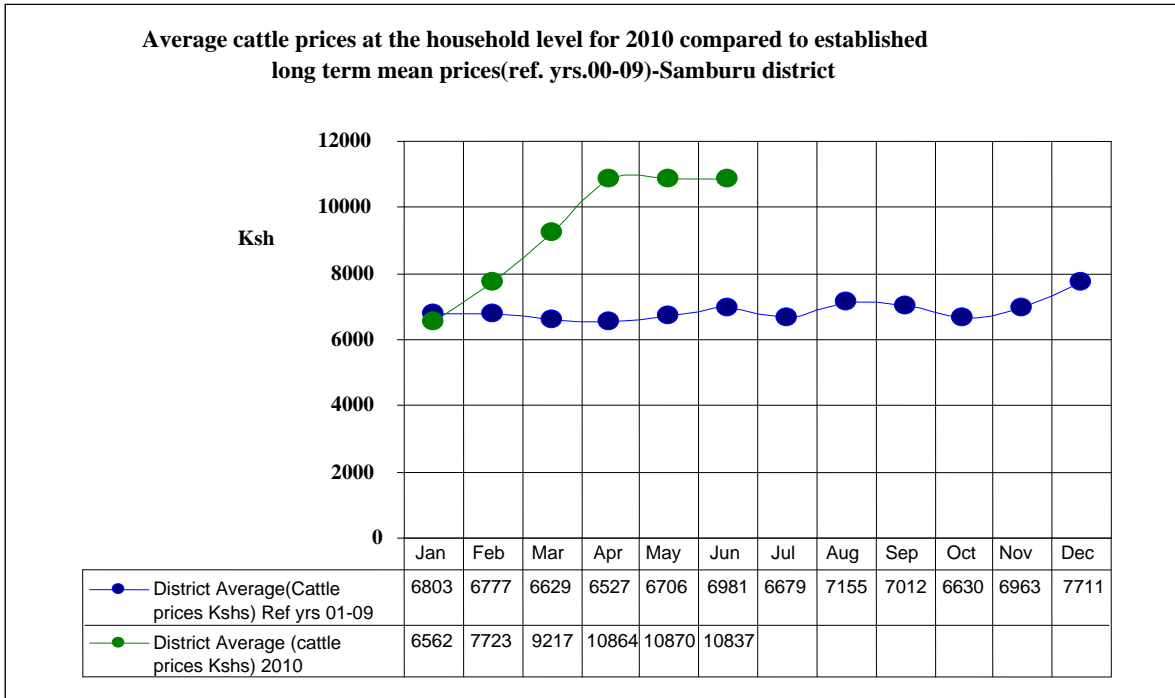
## **2.2 Implications on food security**

Good livestock body condition was a boost to the pastoralists' terms of trade and consequently their access to food.

### 3.0 Access to food

### 3.1 Livestock marketing

#### 3.1.1 Cattle prices



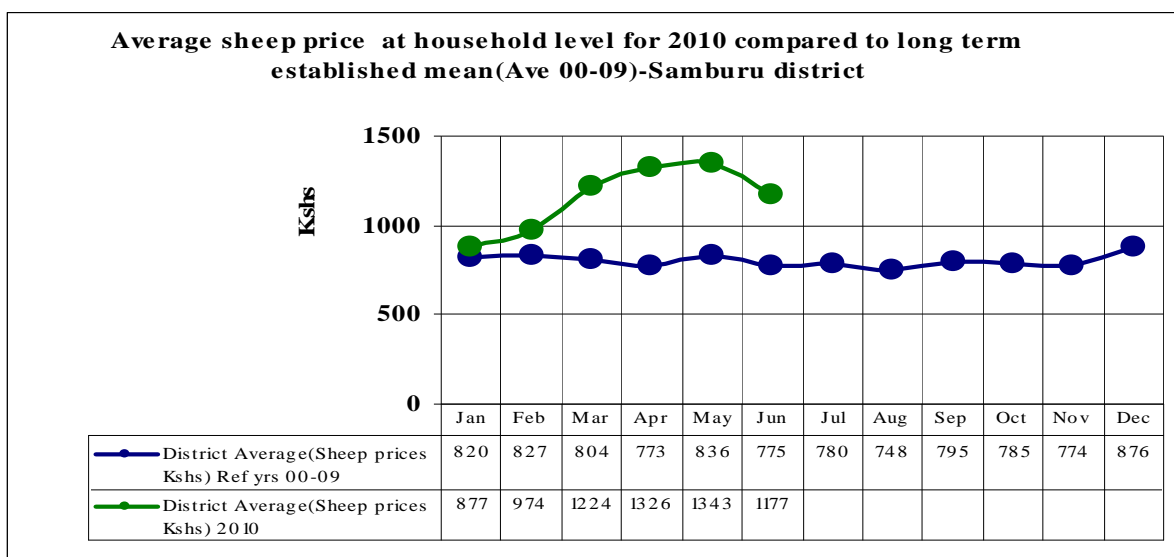
**Number of households (N) =407**

Average cattle price fell marginally to Kshs. 10,837 from Kshs. 10,870 in May. The price was higher than normal by 55.23 %. Sustainably high cattle price was accredited to good cattle body conditions and the limited supply in the local markets.

#### 3.1.2 Goats prices

Average goat price dropped slightly to Ksh1393 from last month’s Ksh1466. However, the price was greater than the long-term average by 78.6 per cent. Excellent goats’ body condition was a key factor behind the prolonged high prices.

#### 3.1.3 Sheep prices



Number of households (N) =407

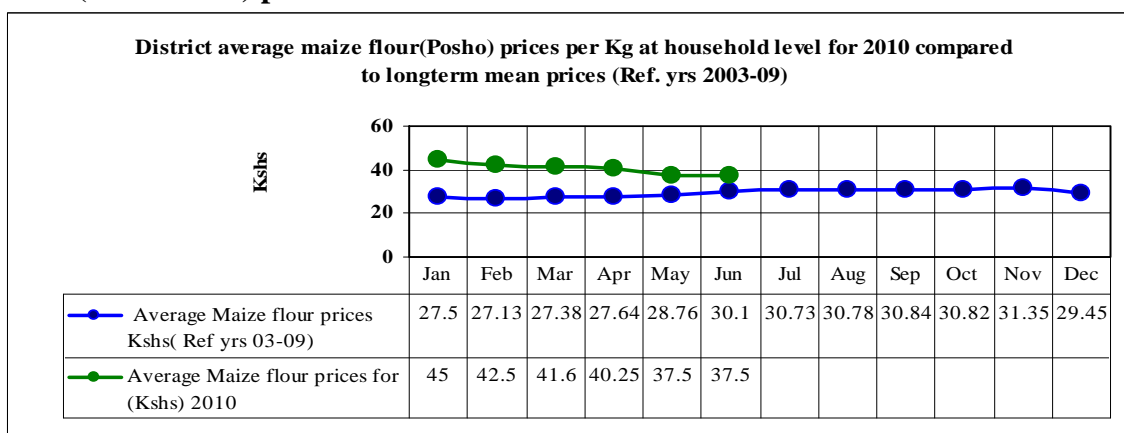
Average sheep price diminished to Ksh1177 from Ksh1343 in May. Nevertheless, the price was above the long term average by 51.9 per cent. Good sheep body condition was a key factor that maintained high price.

### 3.2 Milk consumption

Milk availability improved at the household level across the district. This was ascribed to enhanced livestock birth rates especially goats and sheep at 13.6 and 14.6 per cent respectively.

### 3.3 Food prices

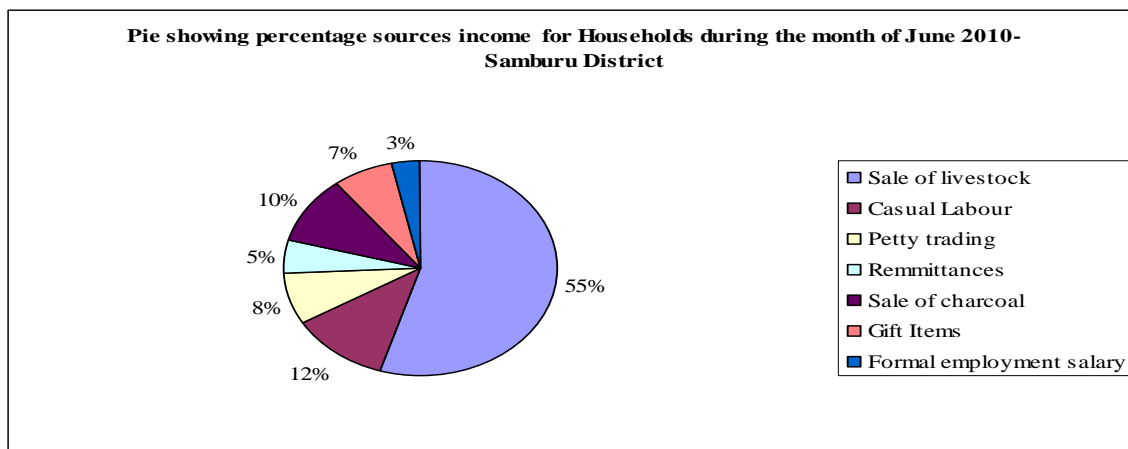
#### 3.3.1 Posh (maize flour) prices



Number of communities (N) =36

- Maize flour prices remained as last month at Ksh37.50 per Kilogram of locally milled maize from. Compared to the long term mean, Posho price was above normal by 24.6 per cent.
- The district remained an importer of maize and increased supply in the local markets lead to price fall. Added transport costs contributed to high posho prices in many lowland areas compared to the plateau.

### 3.4 Income



Number of households (N) = 407

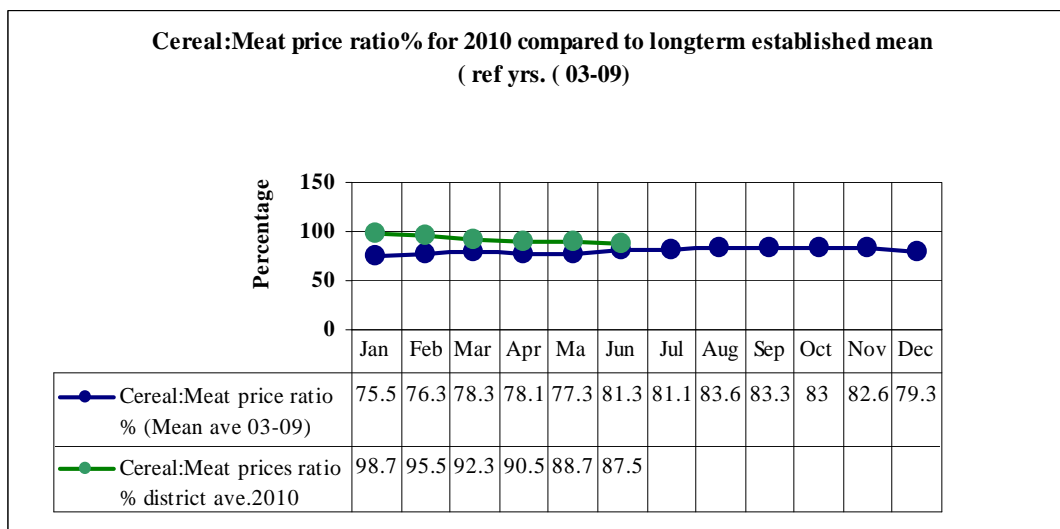
#### 3.4.1 Livestock income

Sale of livestock remains the major source of income for many households across all the livelihood zones at 55 per cent.

#### 3.4.2 Other income

Casual labour, sale of charcoal, petty trading, gift items, remittances and formal employment salary were the other income sources for many households within the district at 12, 10, 8, 7, 5 and 3 per cent respectively.

### 3.5 Cereal/ meat price ratio (%)



Number of households (N) = 407

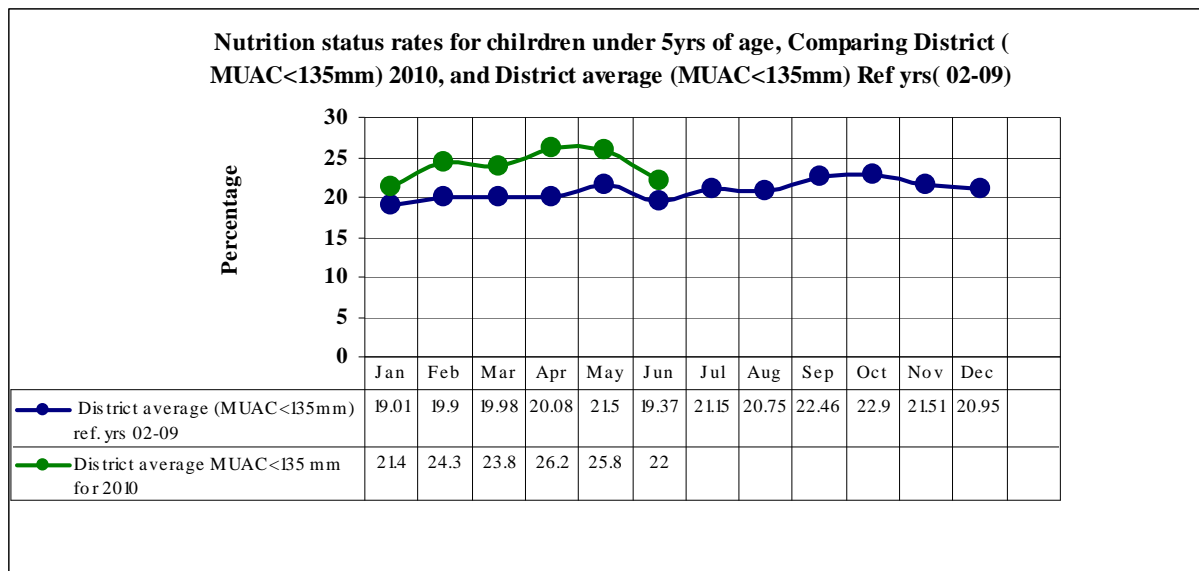
- Pastoralists' households needed 0.875 kilogram of meat in exchange of a kilo of cereals. The exchange rate remained exorbitant as the established long-term mean average is 0.773 kg of meat against a Kilogram of cereals.
- Pastoralists' purchasing power improved to 87.5 per cent from 88.7 per cent in May and was lower than the long-term mean by 7.63 per cent. This was pegged to the rise in livestock prices and fallen cereals prices.

### 3.6 Implications on food security

Sustainably high livestock prices had a positive bearing to pastoralists' access to food. Nevertheless, highly priced essential household food commodities, adversely countered livestock prices hence minimal effect on the pastoralists' purchasing power.

## 4.0 Human welfare indicators (utilization of food)

### 4.1 Nutrition status



**Number of children (N) =1774 from 407 households.**

- The nutrition status of children below five years improved with the percentage of those considered at risk of malnutrition (based on monthly MUAC measurements) decreasing to 22 from 25.8 in June.
- Apparently, better nutritional status rates for children less than five years of age for the last five months was attributed to supplementary feeding programme ongoing at 32 health facilities within the district and improved milk availability at household level.

### 4.2 Human Health

- Malaria and upper respiratory tract infections were the major human ailments reported from 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 by Veterinary department.

### 5.2 Food-aid

- Supplementary feeding programme at 32 health facilities targeting 8,144 pregnant and lactating mothers with MUAC of less than 210 mm and children under five years of age who are malnourished below -2SD implemented by MOH on behalf of UNICEF and WFP who provide the technical backstopping and food donations respectively.
- Protective food rations programme also executed by MOH targeting 3000 recipients within

Maralal municipality.

- District-wide general relief food distribution targeting approximately 40% of the district population.

### **5.3 Coping strategies**

The district average coping strategies index remained at 2.3. This signified stability in coping compared to the previous months.

### **6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSSM**

- KFSSG and other stakeholders to play a lead role in promoting conflict resolution initiatives among warring communities through facilitation of professionals from the warring groups to reach their communities for dialogue.(Action: DSC, District Peace committees, Pastoral associations, KFSSG and Communities).