

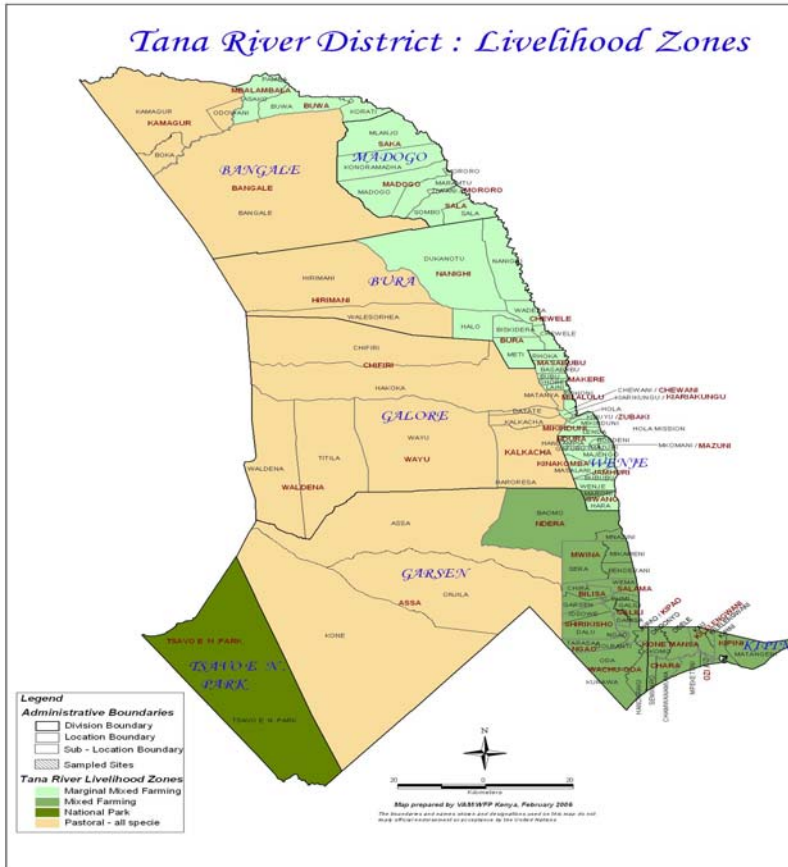


OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, MAY 20

Tana River District

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Pastoral	Alert	Stable
Marginal Mixed Farming	Alert	Stable
Mixed Farming	Alert	Stable
District	Alert	Stable

Seasonal Calendar

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Milk yield drops Livestock move towards dry season grazing areas Decline in livestock prices water stress in the traditional grazing areas 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased milk yield Livestock move towards the traditional wet season grazing areas. High Calving and lambing rates. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low milk availability Livestock move towards the fall back dry seasons grazing areas (riverine and delta) Water and pasture stress experienced in the hinterland pastoral dominated areas. High incidence of conflicts between farming and pastoral communities. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased milk yield Livestock move back to the traditional wet season grazing areas. Calving rates increases Decline in livestock prices 		
Lean period for the pastoralists						Lean period for the pastoralists					
Short dry spell			Long rains			Long dry spell			Short rains		
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Short rains harvest		Land Preparation	Planting/weeding		Crops at green maturity	Long rains harvest		Land Preparation.	Planting/Weeding		Crops at green maturity
			Lean period for farmers						Lean period for farmers		

Situation overview

- Rains subsided slightly in the northern parts. However, showers continued to be reported in the coastal areas.
- The water situation was fair in all livelihood zones as most of the pans/dams; water catchment areas had adequate capacities of water. The flooding zone of the marginal mixed and mixed farming zones experienced some flash floods after River Tana burst its banks due to release of the dams upstream.
- The condition of natural vegetation was still fair as pasture and browse was available in all the livelihood zones, especially in the wet season grazing areas of the hinterland pastoral dominated areas.
- Livestock body and health continued to be rated fair with no outstanding disease incidences reported.
- During the month livestock continued to fetch fair prices in all the divisions.
- Milk production and consumption recorded a slight decline. No significant change was, however, observed in the milk prices.
- Maize crop was at different stages of development with some at weeding and others at tussling stage. Farmers in the flood prone areas of the marginal mixed and mixed farming zones had their crop destroyed in the flash floods after River Tana burst its banks. (acreage loss is estimated at 1521 hectares of various crops).
- No human disease outbreaks reported. However, malaria remained the most prevalent disease reported.
- The nutrition status of children below five years. The trend was worsening as during the month the percentage of under-fives categorised at risk of malnutrition based on the MUAC<135mm measurement slightly rose to 12.3% compared to 11.8% observed during the last reporting period.
- Human/wildlife conflict continued to be reported especially along the riverine farming areas.
- The pastoral food security situation is currently stable however expected to be undermined by the flood situation and expected deteriorating range resources.
- The district was at alert stage of the drought cycle and stable.

Recommendations to District Steering Group and Kenya Food Security Meeting

- Provision of seeds to farmers to take advantage of the receding floods.
- Be on the alert for eventualities of diseases outbreak during the ongoing flood situation.
- Continue with malaria control activities (supply of ITNs and larvicide's)
- Initiate flagship projects in the dry land through harnessing water from the seasonal rivers (lagas).
- Provision of seeds to farmers to take advantage of the receding floods.

Current interventions

Non-food interventions

- Support to flood displaced victims with non-food items in Tana Delta.
- Support food security initiatives through supply of certified seeds
- Dry land farming through water harvesting techniques.
- Breed improvement and introduction of drought tolerant species.
- Capacity building of farmers on modern farming techniques.
- Support to peace initiatives through the District Security Intelligence and District Peace Committees

Food aid

- Supplementary, therapeutic feeding program and Protection ration system for children aged 6 – 59 months, pregnant and lactating mothers ongoing in 22 health facilities.
- EMOP/PRRO scaled down to 58,400 from 104,454 beneficiaries (9,500 beneficiaries in Bura, 8,600 in Madogo, 7,800 in Bangale, 11,500 in Galole, 4,200 in Wenje, 3,200 in Kipini, 8,570 in Tarasaa and 5,030 in Garsen).
- Food aid from GOK kitty (mainly prepositioned food).
- School feeding program in all primary schools.

1.0 Environmental indicators (stability)

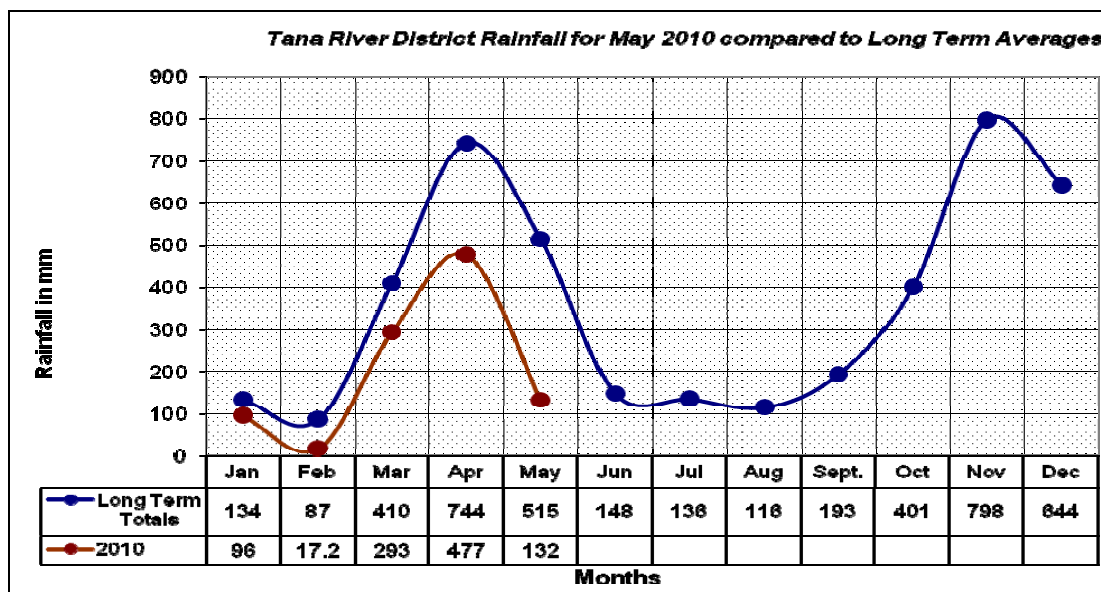
1.1 Rainfall

- Rains have generally subsided however showers continued to be reported in the coastal areas and parts of the marginal mixed farming zones and negligible in the pastoral zone.

The below table shows rainfall figures availed from respective livelihood zones.

Livelihood Zone	Station	Rainfall in mm
Mixed Farming	• Garsen	• 55.00mm
Marginal Mixed Farming	• Hola	• 66.00mm
Pastoral	• Wayu • Bangale	• 12.40mm • 00.00mm

- Temperatures remained within the range of 26°C to 32°C.

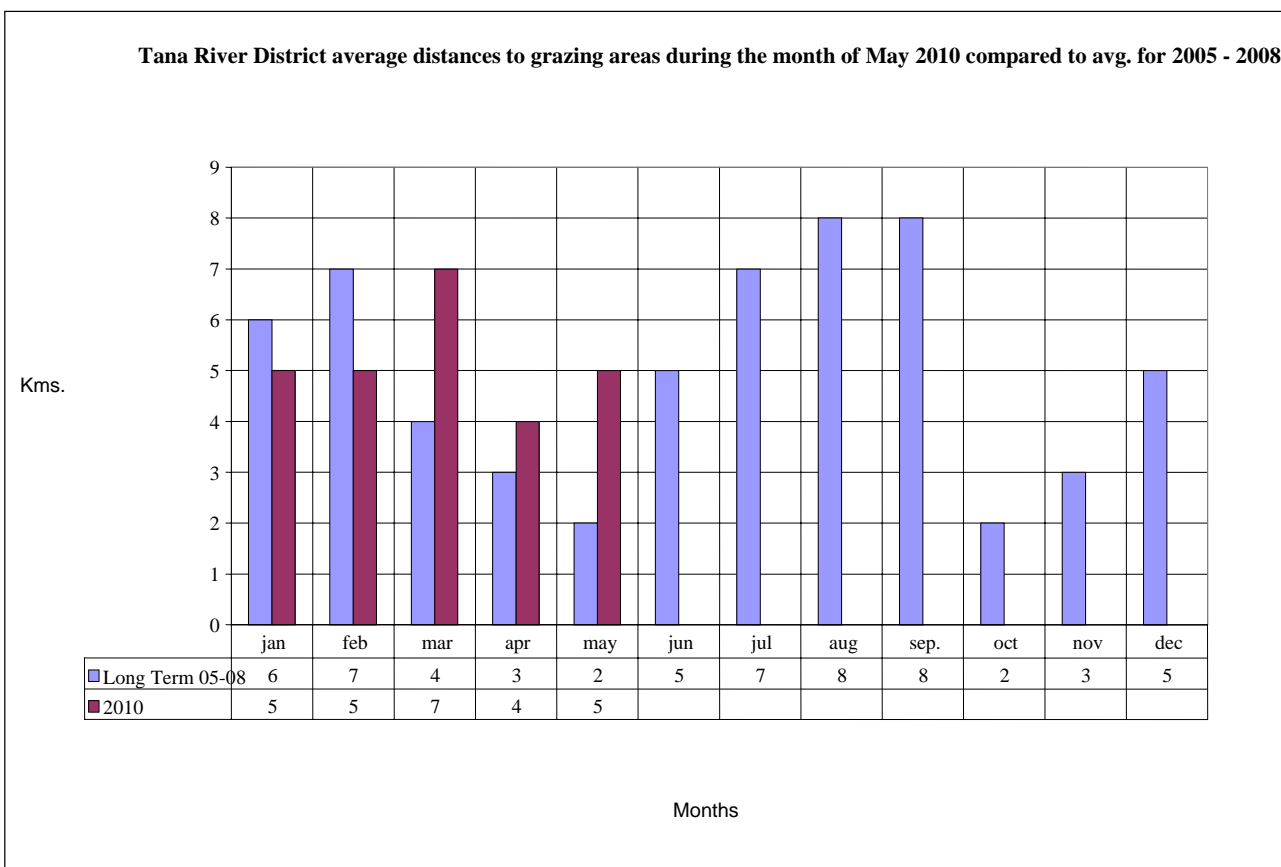
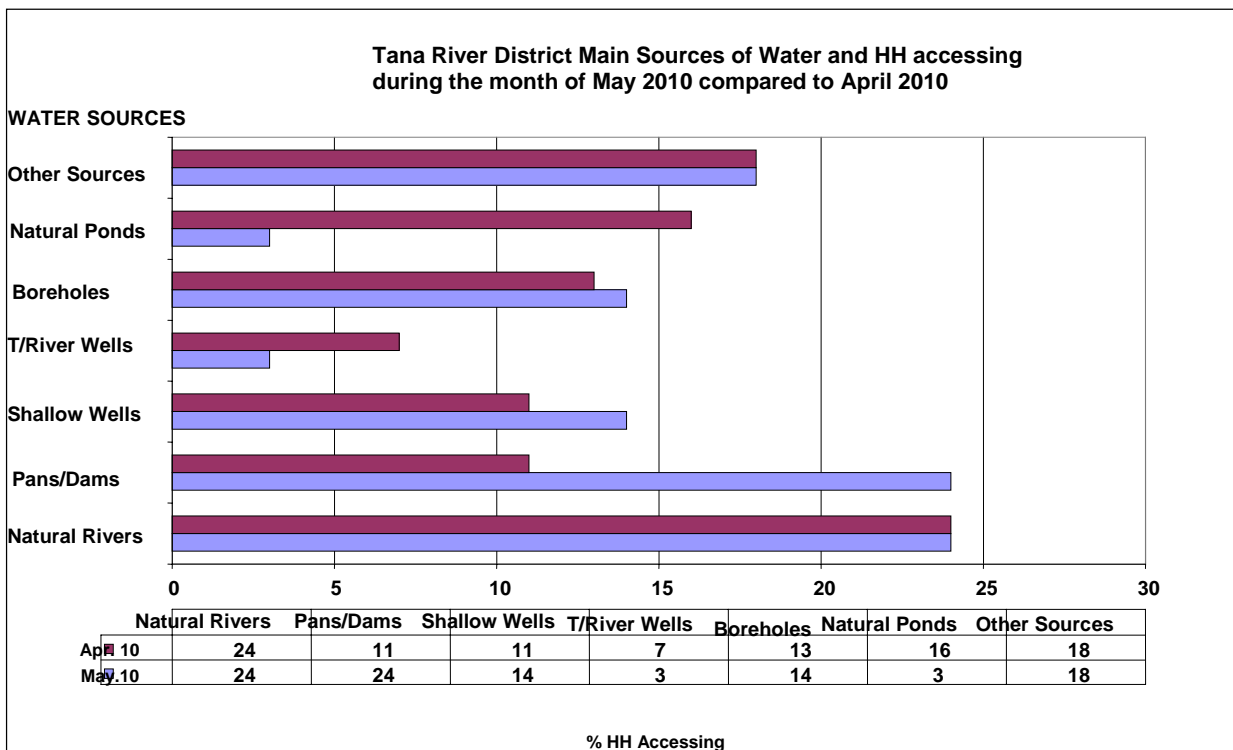


1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

The condition of natural vegetation was fair as pasture and browse was available in all the livelihood zones more or so in the wet season grazing areas of the hinterland pastoral dominated areas. No significant change was reported on the average distances to grazing areas as it remained within the range of 2 – 5kms which is recorded as normal for such time of the year.

1.3 Water sources and availability

- The water situation was fair in all livelihood zones as most of the pans/dams; water catchment areas are still holding adequate capacities of water. The flooding zone of the marginal mixed and mixed farming zones experienced some flash floods after the river Tana burst its banks due to release of the dams upstream. The situation is however expected to deteriorate as the rains continue to subside.
- No unusual change was observed in the access to water sources however during the month enhanced usage of dams and shallow wells was observed, meanwhile usage on natural ponds and traditional river wells declined. Distances to water from the households were estimated at 2km to 3km compared to 1km to 2.5km reported during the past reporting period.



1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity/conflict /human displacement

Flash floods experienced during the month after river Tana burst its banks was reported to have affected crops at various stages of development however, most of it being maize at tussling stage. A total of 480

hectares of crops were affected in Tana Delta, 668 hectares in Tana River and 373 hectares in Tana North.

1.4.2. Migration

No unusual incidences of migrations reported.

1.5 Implications on food security

The pastoral food security situation is currently reflecting signs of stability however expected to be undermined by the expected deteriorating range and declines in livestock products.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

Livestock body and health conditions continued to be rated fair.

2.1.2. Livestock diseases

No disease outbreak apart from normal incidences of trypanosomiasis, pneumonia and worms reported in almost all livelihood zones.

2.1.3. Milk production

During the month milk production recorded a decline of about 5% compared to last reporting period.

2.2.0 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of various crop productions

- Maize crop was at different stages of development as while some are weeding, others are at tussling stage. Farmers in the flood prone areas of the marginal mixed and mixed farming zones had their crop destroyed in the flash floods after river Tana burst its banks.
- It is estimated that about 1,521 hectares of various crops (mostly maize) were destroyed in the floods. The most affected areas include; the flood prone areas of Garsen division, Golbanti and Chara in Tarasaa division and Ozi in Kipini, the riverine areas of Wenje, Galole, Bura and Madogo divisions.

2.2.2 Pests and diseases

No outstanding incidences of pests/diseases reported.

2.2.3 Harvests

Pocket mango harvesting is currently going on in the mixed farming zone.

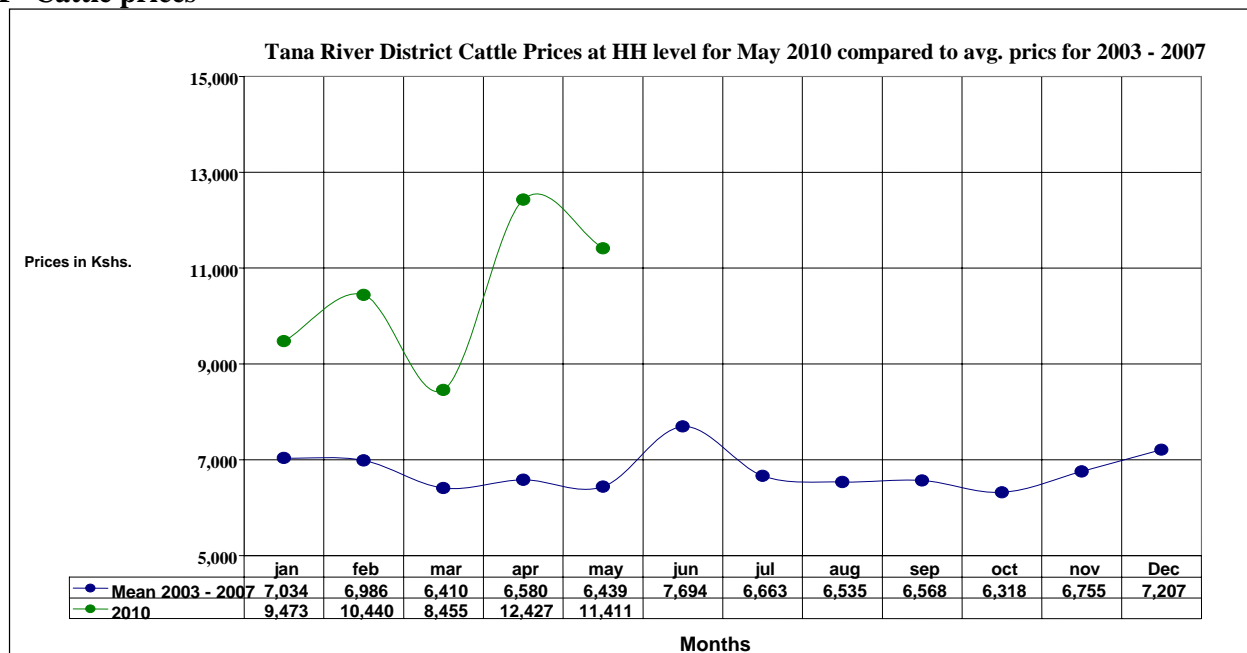
2.3 Implications on food security

Effects of the floods will certainly to draw back the agro-pastoral food security situation which was expected to improve in the next 1 month time.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

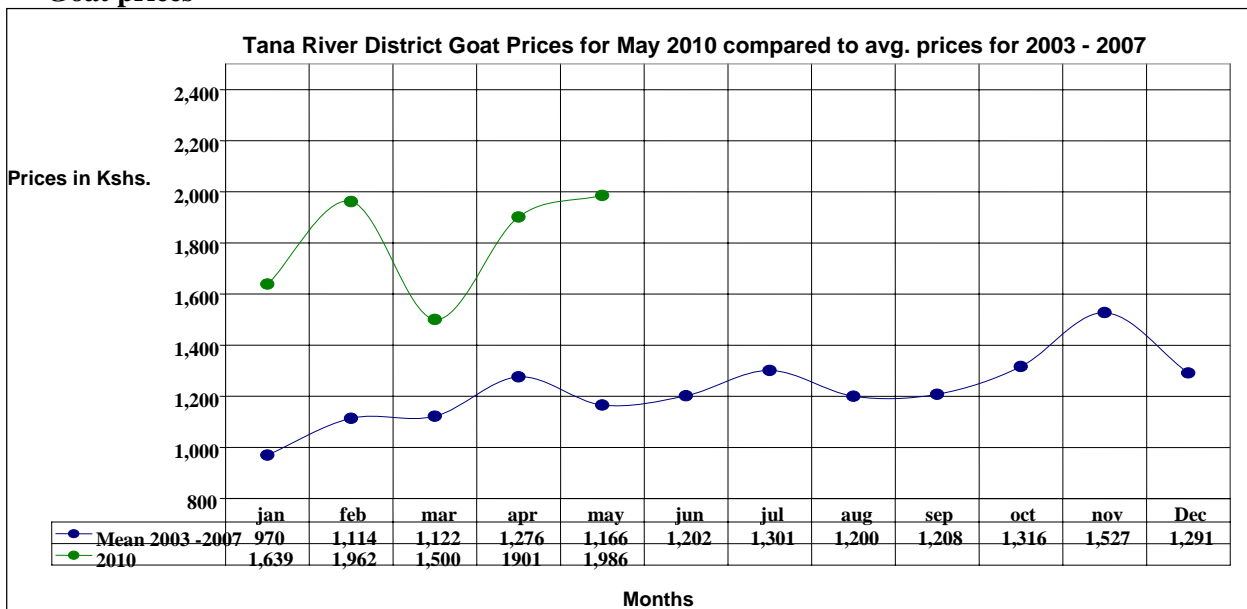
3.1.1 Cattle prices



n = 450

During the month the average price of cattle slightly dropped to Ksh11,411 from Ksh12,427 of last month. The prices so observed are still above the long term seasonal average of Ksh6, 439 recorded during the period 2003 -2007. Fluctuation in the prices of cattle could be due to market dynamics however, generally the trading terms are reported favourable in all livelihood zones.

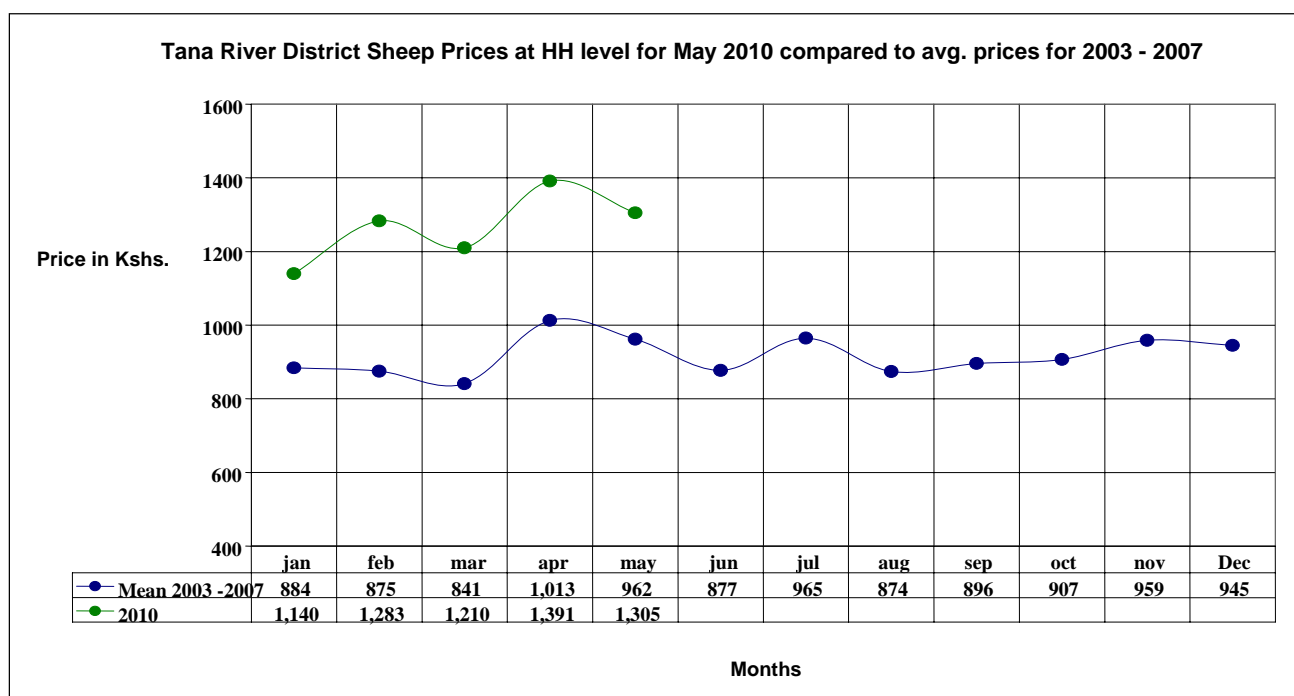
3.1.2 Goat prices



n = 450

During the month, the prices of goats rose to Ksh1, 986 from Ksh1,901 last month. This price was higher than the long term seasonal average of Ksh1,166 observed during the period 2003 – 2007. The above scenario is anticipated due to the current healthy body conditions of the specie.

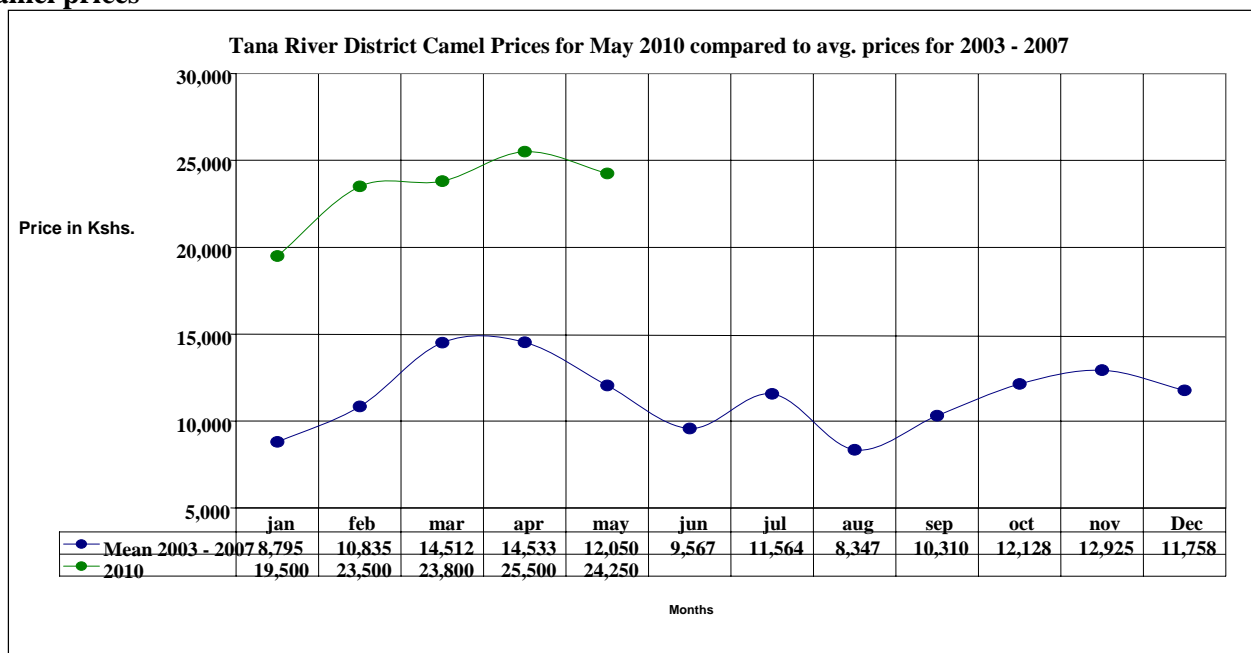
3.1.3 Sheep prices



n = 450

- During the month the price of sheep slightly dropped to Kshs1, 305/= compared to Ksh1, 391/= of last month.
- The prices so recorded are however still above the seasonal average of kshs962/= observed during the period 2003 – 2007.

3.1.4 Camel prices



n= 450

There was a slight drop in price of camel, as during the month it was recorded at Ksh24, 250 compared to Ksh25,500 of last reporting period. The price so reported is also still significantly above the long term seasonal average price of Ksh12,050 recorded during the period 2003 – 2007. Prices of camel are

expected to continue being favourable due to the present demand coupled with the healthy body conditions of the specie.

3.1.5 Livestock sales

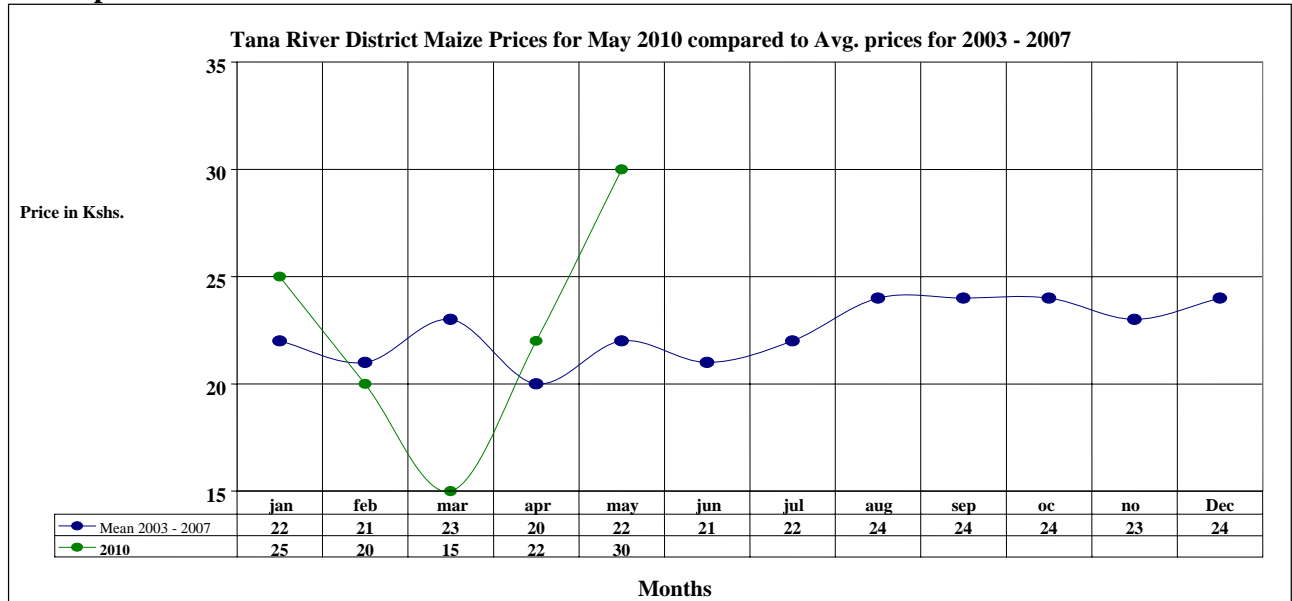
There was a general rise in the sales rate of cattle and drop in other species. This is not an anticipated scenario at this time of the year however, could be due to low production of livestock products and lack of other means of livelihoods.

3.1.6 Milk consumption

There was a general decline in the milk consumption indicator as during the month the percentage of households reported to be consuming milk dropped to 57% compared to 59.7% of last month. Drop in milk consumption at the household level could be a direct effect of declined milk yield earlier reported.

3.2 Crop prices

3.2.1 Maize prices



The prices of maize rose to Ksh30 per kilo from Ksh22 last month. The price was also significantly higher than the long term seasonal average price of Ksh22 recorded during the period 2003 – 2007.

3.3 Income

3.3.1 Crop income

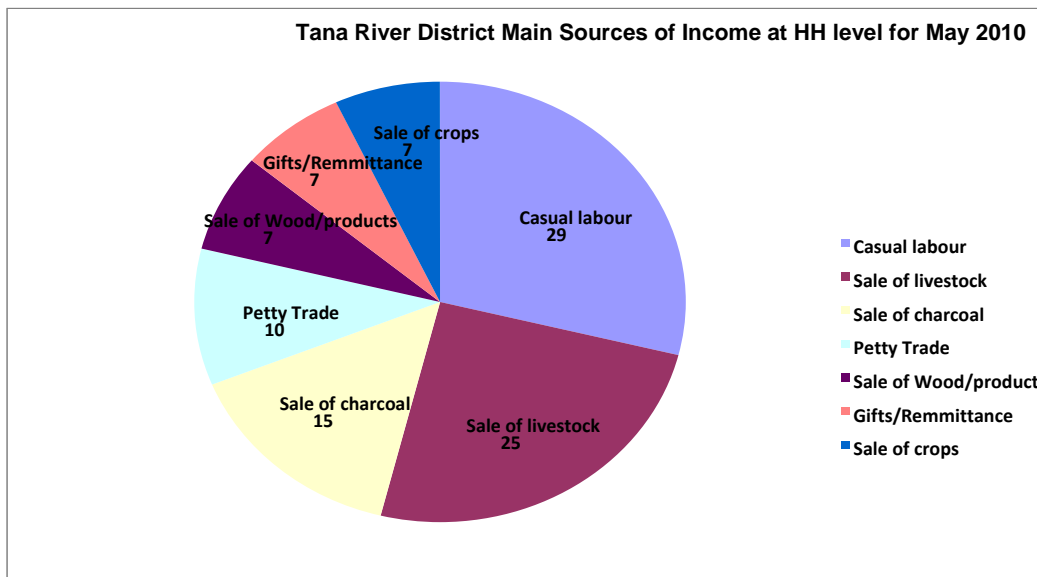
During the month, sale of crops contributed 7% of the total household income. This could be due to enhanced sale of mangos reported in parts of the district.

3.3.2 Livestock income

No significant change was reported in the percentage of incomes derived from the sale of livestock and livestock products which was recorded at 25% compared to 26% of last month. This is slight drop could be due to slight declines in livestock prices realized during the month.

3.3.3 Other income

Other sources of income at the household level included; casual labour 29%, sale of charcoal 15%, petty trade 10%, wood/wood products 7% and Gifts/Remittances 7%.



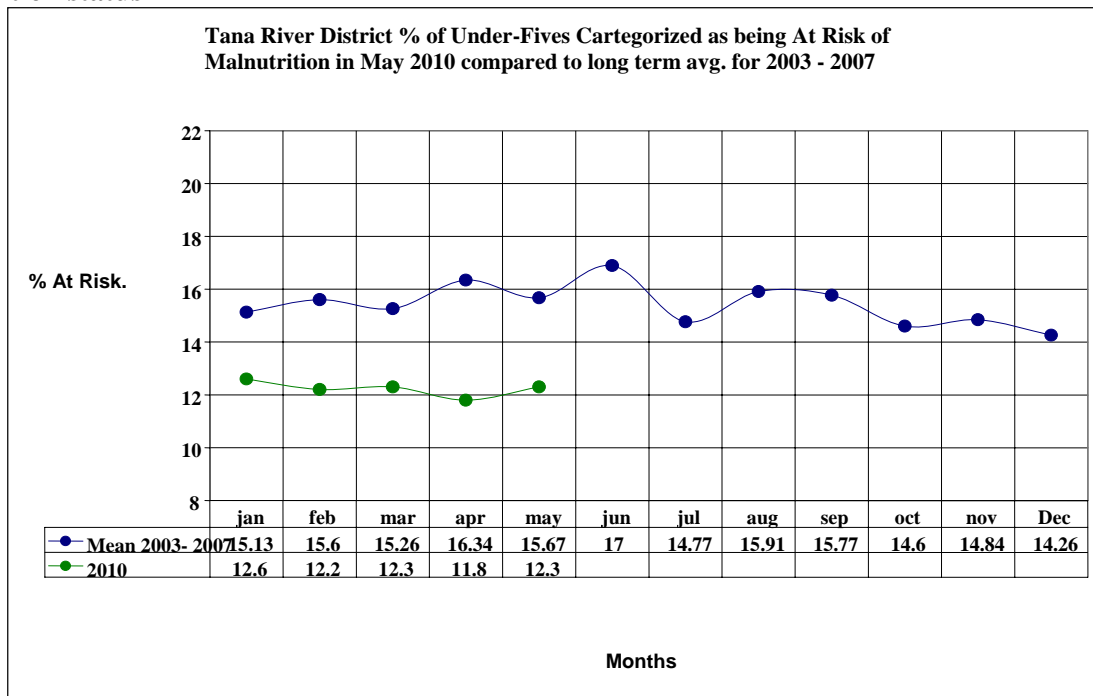
n = 450

3.4 Implications on food security

The above indicators are currently reflecting signs of stable pastoral food security situation however expected to be undermined by the expected deteriorating range and declines in livestock products.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



n = 2,096

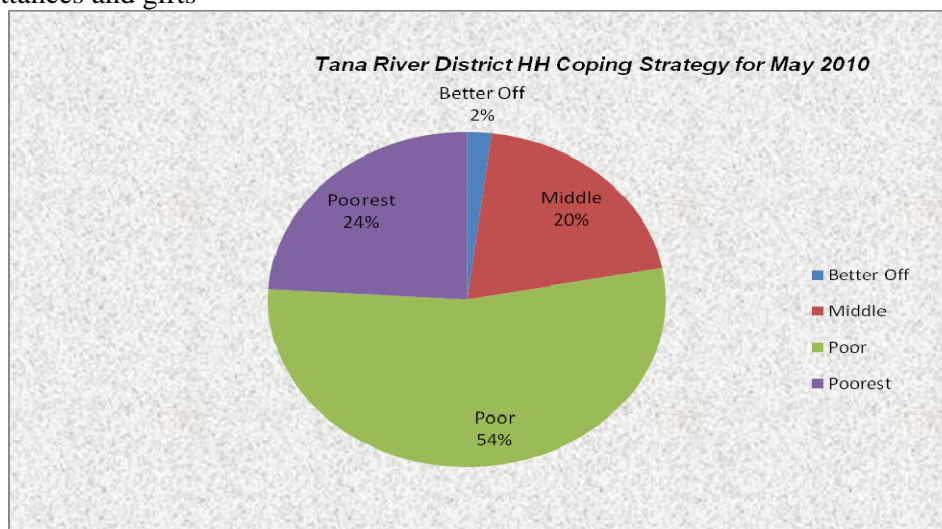
- The nutrition status of children below five years. The trend was worsening as during the month the percentage of under-fives categorised at risk of malnutrition based on the MUAC<135mm measurement slightly rose to 12.3% compared to 11.8% observed during the last reporting period.
- The rate was better than the long term seasonal mean of 15.67% observed during the period 2003 – 2007. Rise in malnutrition rates could be due to low decline in earlier reported. Flagged areas remain Bangale 20.6%, Madogo 19.4% and Bura 14.8%.

4.2 Human health

No human disease outbreaks reported however malaria remained the most prevalent disease reported. Other diseases conditions were high infection of skin disease observed in most pastoral areas. Incidences of water bone diseases and malaria are likely to be on the rise owing to the ongoing flood situation.

5.0 Coping strategies

- During the month, of the 450 households interviewed; 2% were classified as “Better Off”, 24% ‘Middle”, 54% “Poor” and 20% “Poorest” compared to 5% classified as “Better Off”, 23% ‘Middle”, 55% “Poor” and 17% “Poorest” compared to 2%, 20%, 58% and 20% of last month. The coping strategy index was therefore rated at 2.1% compared to 2.0% of last month.
- The main coping strategies engaged during the month included;
 - Migration from flood prone areas to higher grounds.
 - Charcoal burning and wood products
 - Labour
 - Remittances and gifts



6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Provision of seeds to farmers to take advantage of the receding floods.
Action: DAO/DSG/Partners/Communities
- Be on the alert for eventualities of diseases outbreak during the ongoing flood situation.
Action: MOH/DSG/Partners/Communities
- Continue with malaria control activities (supply of ITNs and larvicide's)
Action: MOH/DSG/Partners/Communities.
- Initiate flagship projects in the dry land through harnessing water from the seasonal rivers (lagas).
Action: KFSSG/District Steering Group/Partners/Communities