

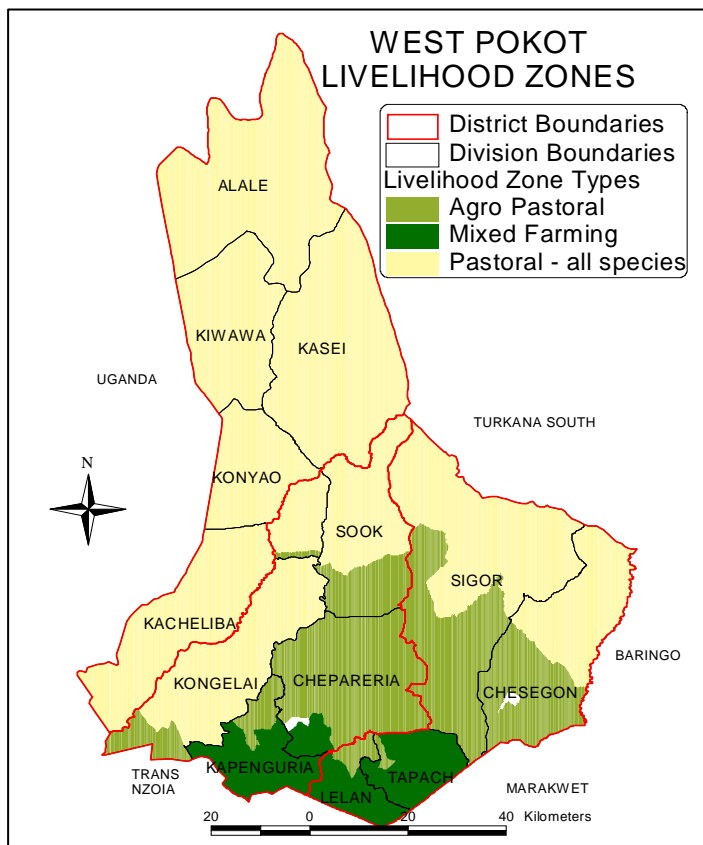


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, JUNE 2010

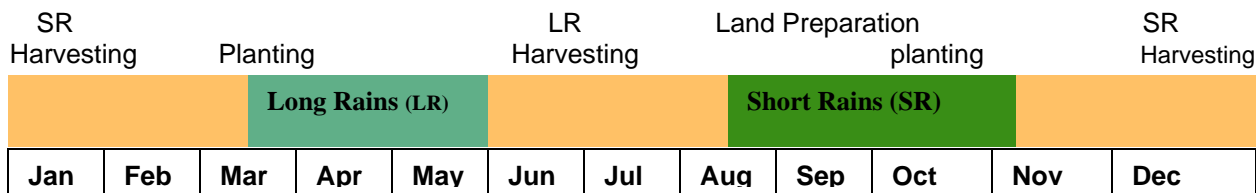
West, Central and North Pokot Districts

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Agro pastoral	Normal	Stable
Mixed farming	Normal	Stable
Pastoralist	Normal	Stable
District	Normal	Stable

Seasonal Calendar



Situation overview

- Low rainfall was recorded at the beginning of the month which normalized towards the mid month but reduced towards the end of the month. Spatial distribution was fair for all the livelihoods though reduced as compared to the previous month, with all the areas receiving between 50% to 80% of the normal while a few in the pastoral livelihoods received above normal rainfall of between 80% to 120%
- Pasture and browse conditions improved as a result of the rains.
- Distances to grazing areas slightly increased from 4.3 km in May to 4.5 km in June. However, this is normal at this time of the year.
- The major water sources were natural rivers, traditional river wells and boreholes respectively. Most of the dams and pans and shallow wells are filled up and rivers flowing. This situation remained the same as of previous month. Distances traveled by households in search of water slightly increased from 2.3 km to 2.4 km this month.
- Livestock body condition improved in all the livelihood areas.
- Camel disease outbreak was reported in Pokot North including suspected cases of rabies has so far been contained.
- The average goat price recorded was Ksh1,377 compared to Ksh1,164 recorded in April, an 18.3% increase.
- Maize prices decreased from previous month's Ksh 32 to Ksh 21 this month while stocks at the household reduced, but commodity remained readily available at markets. The price of beans remained high and increased from previous month's Ksh76 to Ksh80 this month. There was also shortage of this commodity both at the market and household level.
- The nutrition status of children below five years improved during the month, with the percentage of children with Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) below 135mm significantly decreasing from 12.3% to 10.0%.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Interventions on peace and reconciliation are required urgently especially in Ompolion and Nauyapong areas where provincial administration has reported high incidents of insecurity.
- Cases of CCPP were reported in Pokot north and surveillance should be done by veterinary department.

1.0 Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- There was a general reduction in precipitation recorded in the month and the situation is normal at this time of the year. However rainfall received was well distributed in all the livelihoods zones.
- Most the livelihoods received rainfall between 50% to 80% of the normal, whereas others zones received rainfall between 80% to 120% which was sparsely distributed.
- There was general improvement in the pasture conditions in all the areas as a result of the previous evenly distributed rainfall.
- Currently the district is in the normal rain season and the rainfall is expected to reduce in the next months.
- Parts of Kacheliba, Chepareria and Konyao received rainfall that was above 80% of the normal.

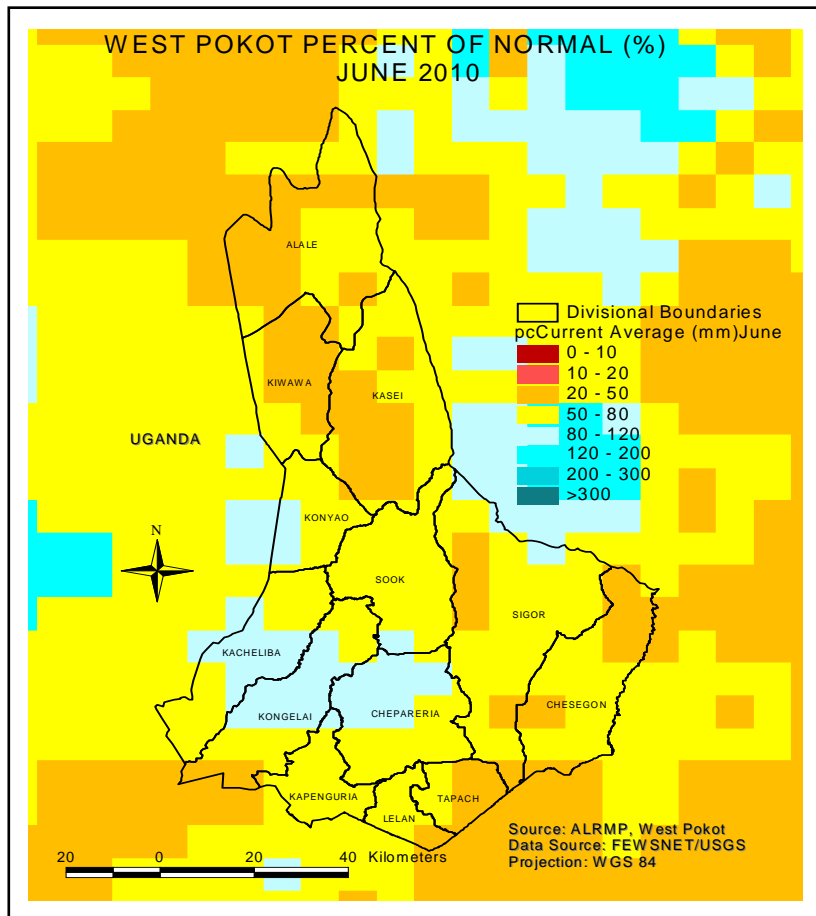


Fig1. A representation of percentage of the normal Rainfall Estimate (RFE) computed from cumulative Satellite Imagery for June 2010 compared to the month's long term average

Current season performance

- The progress has so far been good though many places received near normal rainfall across the district.
- Following the rains received, crops farmers are already through with weeding while animals are migrating back from the dry season grazing areas they had migrated to.
- The mixed farming livelihoods received rainfall between 50 mm – 80 mm which is normal at this time of the year.
- The pastoral livelihoods received rainfall between 20 mm - 50 mm while other parts received between 50 mm to 80 mm which is also normal at this time of the year
- It is however still early in the season hence early to predict weather there will be a good harvest for farmers or not, however, crops that were planted early are doing well in most parts of the livelihood zones.
- Those farmers who practiced early planting however stand a chance of getting a better harvest

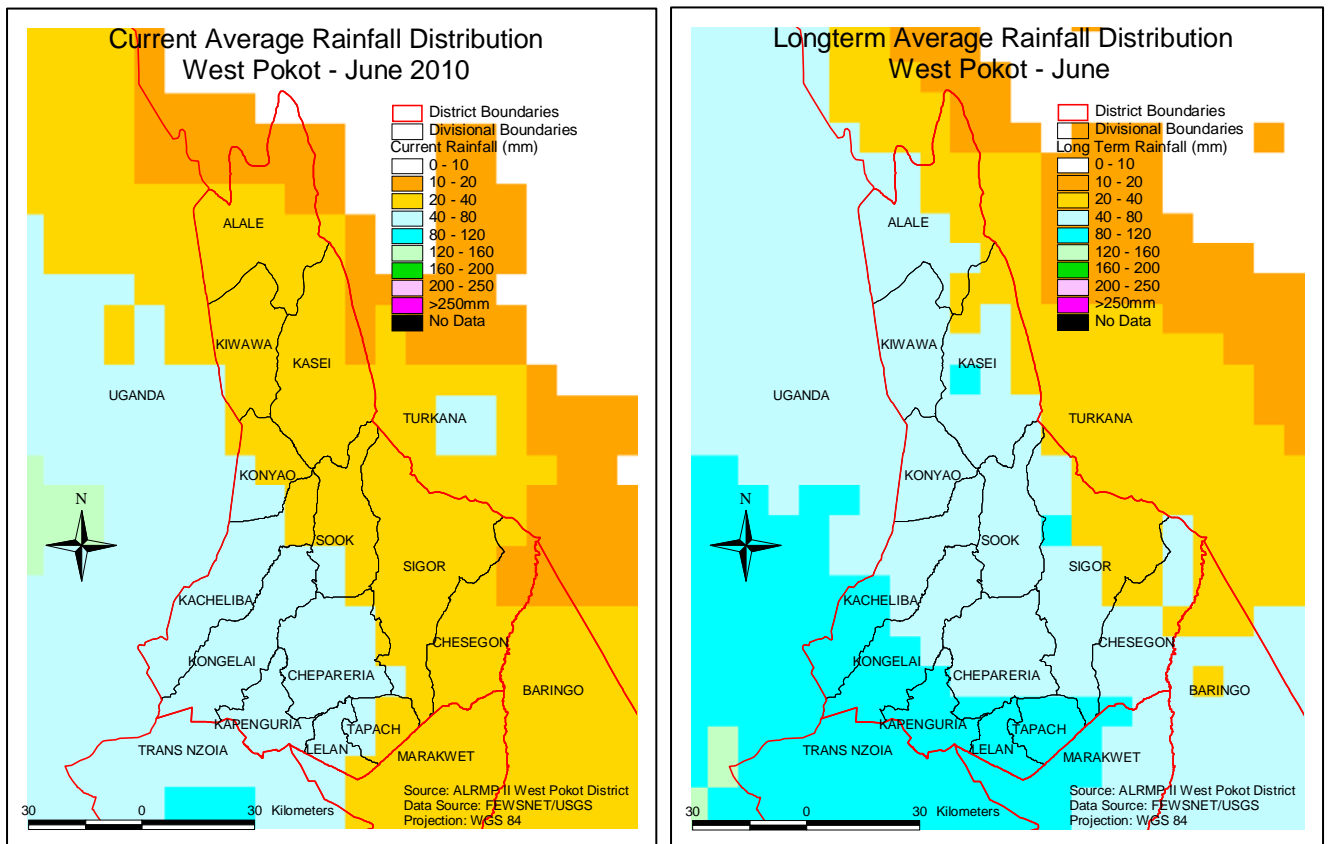
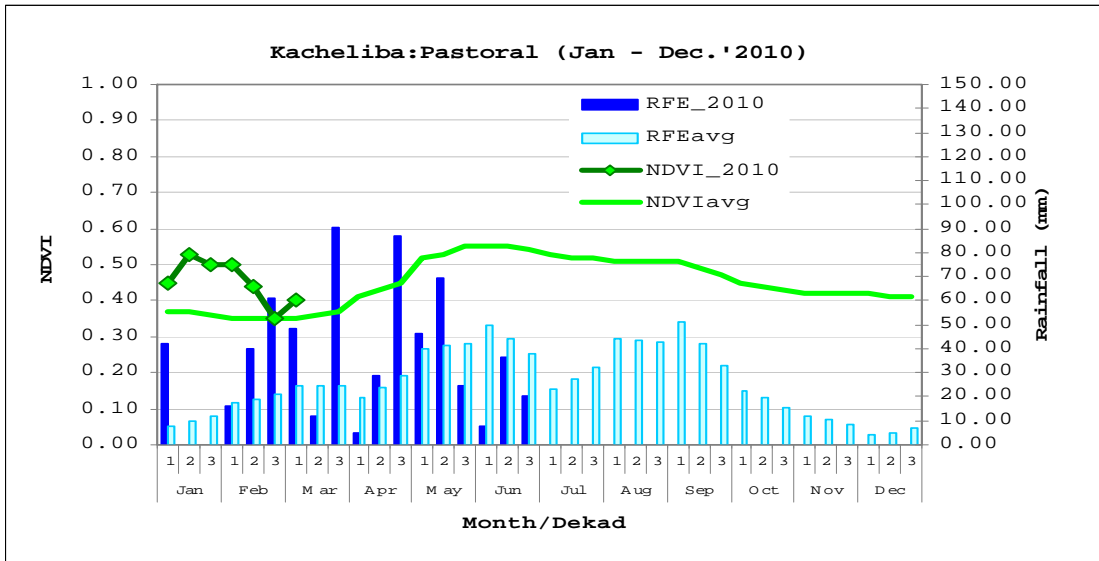


Fig 2. Comparison of the current rainfall distribution against long term estimates

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

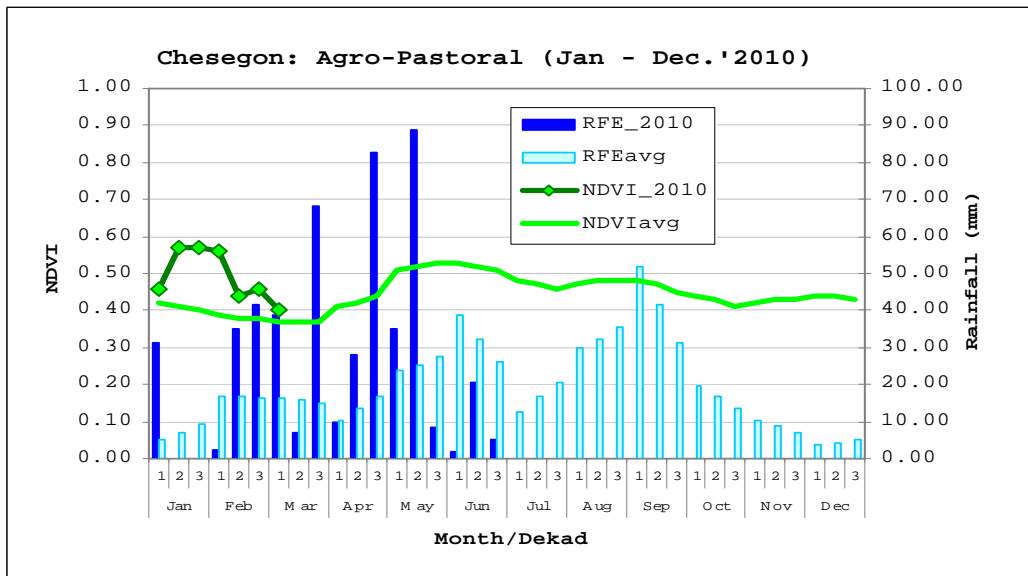
- There is a general improvement of pasture in most parts across the district
- This follows the rainfall received between March to June which was evenly distributed improving the pasture conditions, though this month saw a general reduction in precipitation.
- This month precipitation reduced, but the more reduction is expected to pasture and browse to mature.



*NDVI time series analysis up to March dekad 1, 2010

Fig 3. Graph Showing RFE and NDVI time series analysis for the Pastoral Livelihood (Kacheliba)

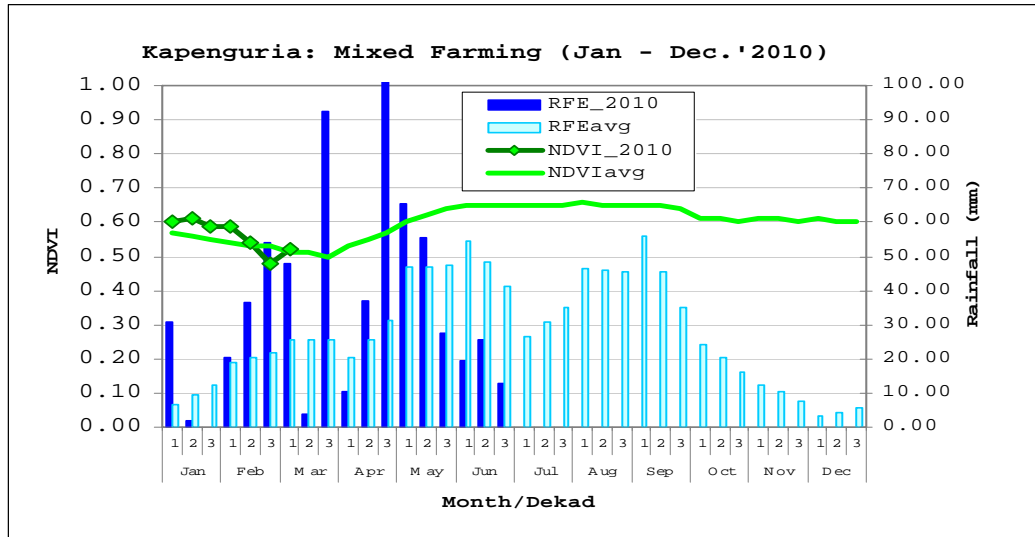
- Similarly, pastoral livelihoods and the agro pastoral areas received rainfall that was above normal, with June recording a significant drop in precipitation. This is a continuation of the rainfall that had been recorded in previous month.
- Planting in the agro pastoral areas was done late; however, most farmers are through with their weeding.
- Milk production and livestock body condition is greatly improving; the improvement in body conditions and production is attributed to improved pasture and browse.



*NDVI time series analysis up to March dekad 1, 2010

Fig 4. Graph Showing RFE and NDVI time series analysis for the Agro-Pastoral Livelihood (Chesegon)

- Mixed farming areas received rainfall that was about 50% to 80% above normal but lower compared to the previous month which saw, high above 120% above normal.
- Milk production in these areas has as well increased in these areas while there has also been general improvement in livestock body condition.
- The improvement was attributed to well developed and improved pasture and browse in this parts of the livelihood zones.



*NDVI time series analysis up to March dekad 1, 2010

Fig 5. Graph Showing RFE and NDVI time series analysis for the Mixed Farming Livelihood (Kapenguria)

1.2.1 Distances to grazing areas

- The average distance traveled to grazing areas further reduced from 4.3 km recorded in May to 4.0 km which is a 7% decrease in distances traveled to the grazing areas. The improvement was as a result of the rainfall received across the livelihoods, hence improving the pasture and browse conditions.
- Most of the animals have returned back to their normal grazing zones. The longest distance was recorded in Konyao at 10 km this month compared to 13km previously traveled in May. This is however a normal condition at this time of the year

1.3 Water sources and availability

- Natural rivers and traditional river wells are major sources of water followed by water Boreholes; this remained the same as of the previous month.
- Due to the rainfall received in the district, most of the natural, seasonal rivers are full and flowing whereas pans and dams have filled up, making this a more common water source.
- This is a normal situation at this time of the year

1.3.1 Household access to water

- There was slight improvement in the distances traveled by households to access water.

- The average recorded distance this month was 2.4 km compared to 2.3 km recorded last month. However, the difference is within the normal limit at this time of the year
- These distances were sustained by the ongoing rains in the district. This situation is stable at this time of the year as long as the current rains remain normal.
- This is a normal situation at this time of the year.

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity

There were cases of insecurity in Pokot north district especially in Alale and Ompolion area between the residents and the neighboring communities across the border.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

Livestock body condition was good in all the livelihoods. This follows improvements in the pasture and browse conditions and accessibility to water for the livestock. This is a normal situation at this time of the year

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- There were no major livestock diseases cases reported during this month. However the cases of Contagious Caprine PleuroPneumonia (CCPP) reported last month was contained this was done by the veterinary department in partnership with arid lands.

2.2 Crop production

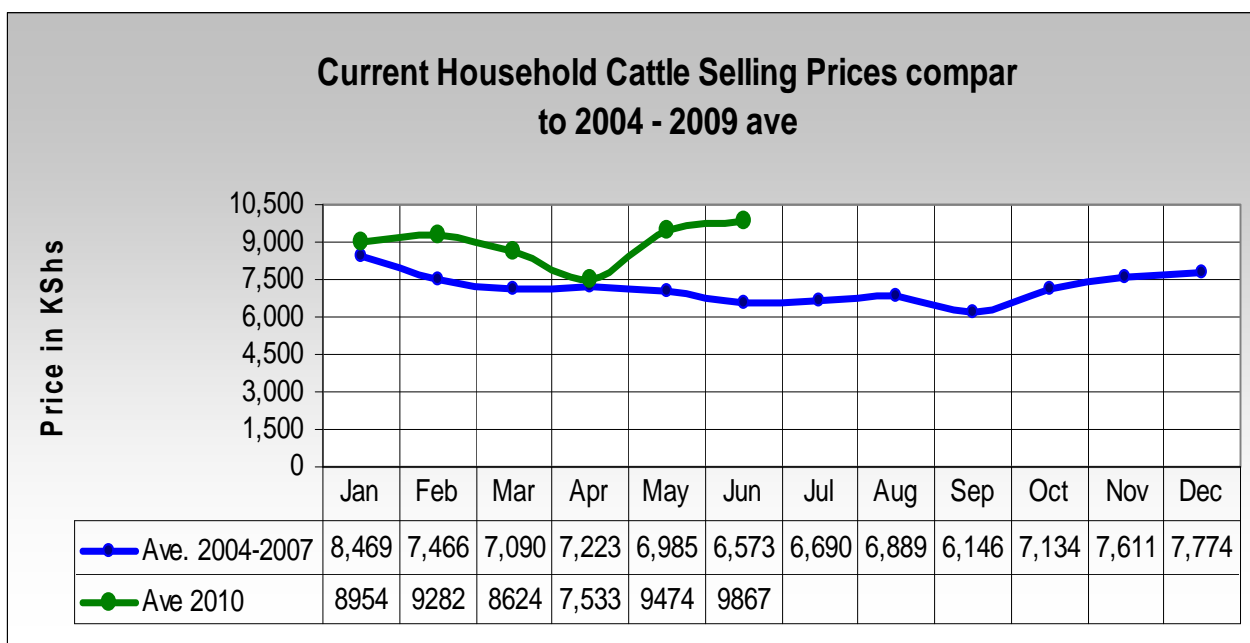
2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of various crop production activities

- Most farmers especially in the mixed farming areas are through with their second weeding.
- In the agro pastoral livelihoods where planting was done late in the season, the crops are still maturing while. There is still expectation that the yield will be good if the current rain season progresses. This is a normal situation at this time of the year

2.2.2 Pest and diseases

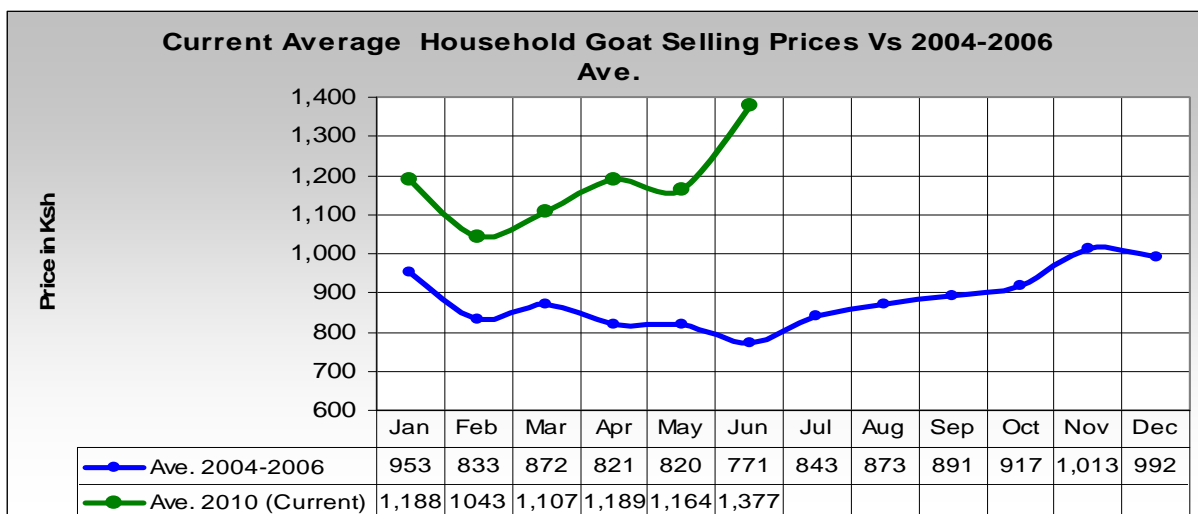
There are no cases of crop pest and diseases reported out of the normal since there are no crops in the field. Storage pests were also not common at this time of the year.

3.0 Access to food
3.1 Livestock marketing
3.1.1 Cattle prices



- Cattle prices improved from Ksh 9,474 the previous month to 9,867. The prices have normalized and were above the normal long term average.
- Lowest price of Ksh5,600 was recorded at Kangoletiang while the highest price of Ksh15,000 was recorded in Kapsait . The prices were above normal at this time of the year.

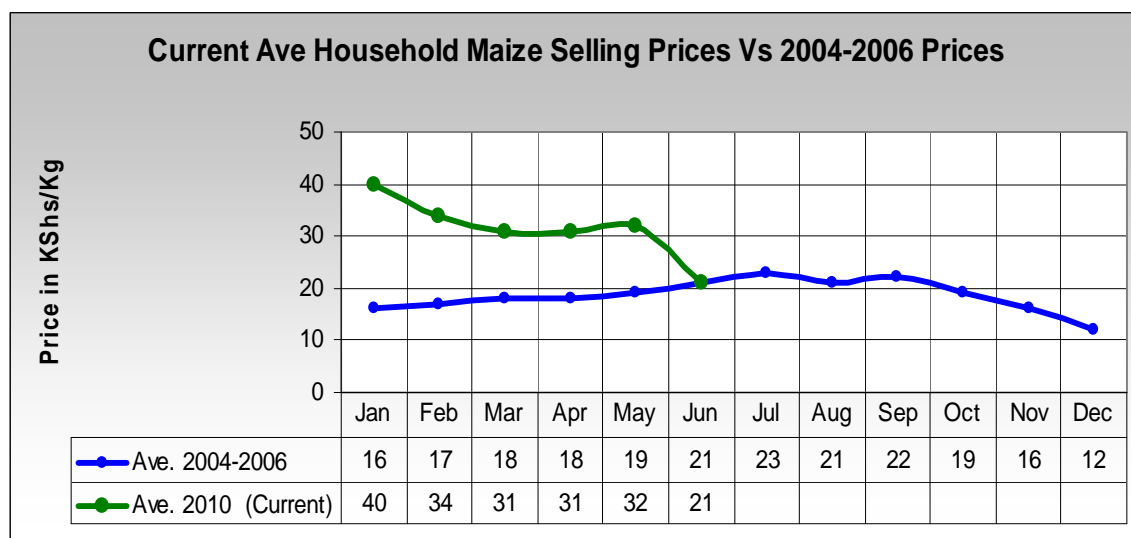
3.1.2 Goat prices



- This month saw 18.3% increase in goat price compared to last months' price, with the current recorded price being at Ksh1,377 compared to Ksh1,164 recorded in May.
- This increase was as a result of opening up of market in the district and improved body conditions due to improved browse at this time of the year
- The situation was normal at this time of the year and is expected to improve once the markets are opened.

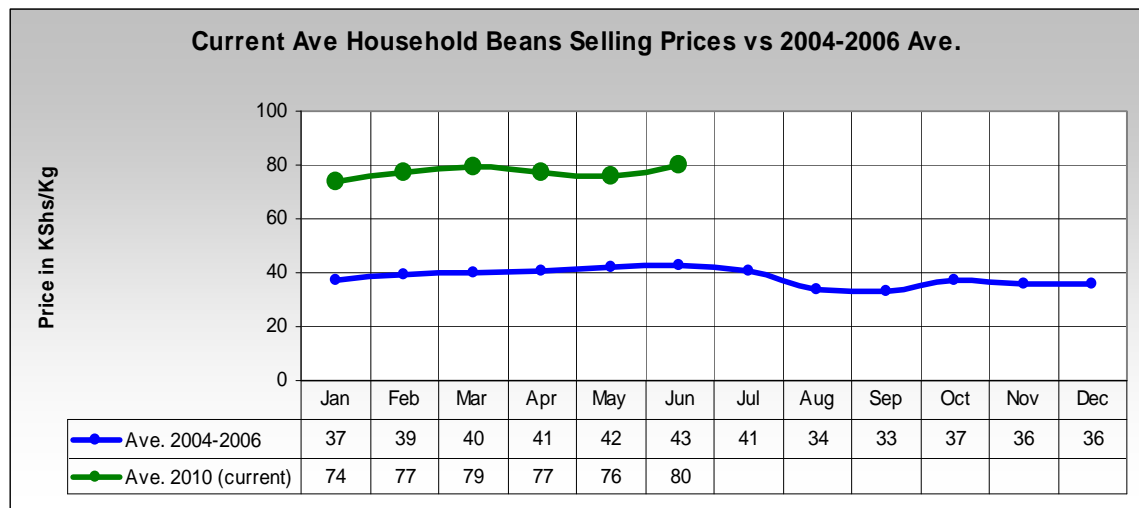
3.2 Crop prices

3.2.1 Maize prices



- There was a significant decrease in prices of maize compared to last month. The average recorded price was Ksh 21, a decrease from Kshs 32 recorded last month. The price is normal and within normal long term average.
- Most of the cereals in the market were from outside the district. The cereals available in the markets were outsourced from major towns and markets outside the district. This situation is normal at this s time of the year.

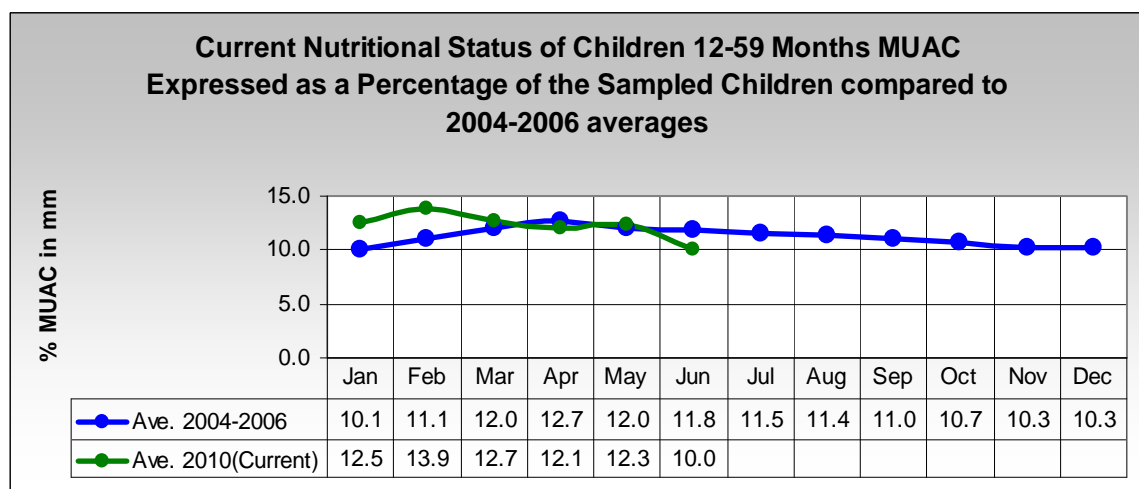
3.2.3 Beans prices



The prices of beans remained high at Ksh80 per kilo. This was however, an increase in price compared to Kshs 76 reported last month. This increase in price for beans can be attributed to demand for the commodity and occasional availability of the commodity. There is also a shortage of the commodity at the local market level.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilization of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



- The nutrition status of children below five years improved during the month.
- The percentage of children with Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) below 135mm significantly decreased from 12.3% to 10.0%.
- This was also an improvement beyond the average normal situation at this time of the year in the district.
- Konyao recorded high percentages of 25.6, while Pserum recorded 19.0% . Despite Konyao and Pserum, this is normal at this time of the year

4.2 Human health

Recently reported cases of Cholera outbreak have been fully contained.