

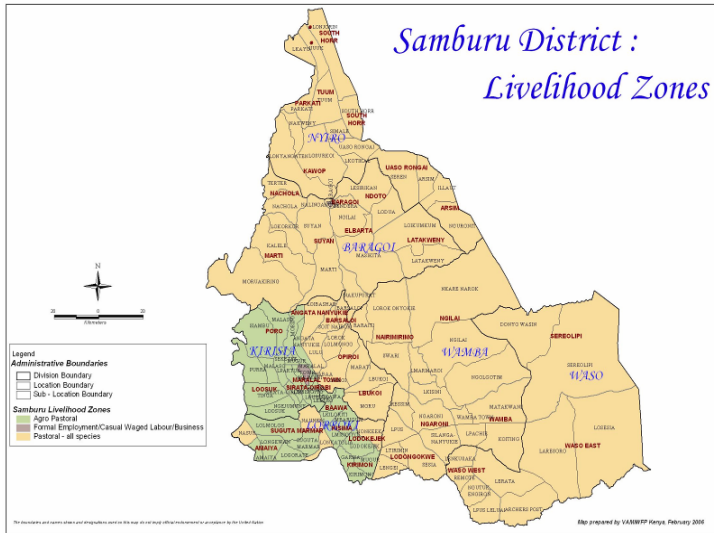


**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR MARCH 2007

SAMBURU DISTRICT

WARNING STAGES



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Pastoral-all species	Alert	Improving
	Alert	Improving
Agro pastoral	Alert	Improving
	Alert	Improving
Formal Employment/ Casual labour/ Business	Alert	Stable
	Alert	Stable

Situation Overview

❖ **Stability**

- The long rains season set in late, characterized by poor temporal distribution across the district, thus bearing minimal impact in reversing the already felt drought stress. Most of the livestock herds are yet to move back to their settlement to utilize wet season grazing areas.
- Forage conditions experienced marginal changes from last month due to minimal vegetation regeneration impacted by registered rains. Parts of the plateau remain inaccessible for pastures utilization due to insecurity.
- Water sources recharged and available in catchment pools and natural ponds distances are also expected to reduce. Recent rainy conditions were however counteracted by high rate of evaporation in all the available water sources within short period.

❖ **Availability**

- Livestock body conditions range between good and fair across all species. Feeds situation that facilitate recovery in body conditions are yet to stabilize across the district.
- Livestock prices slightly appreciated in cattle while both sheep and goats registered marginal fluctuation as compared to last month's prices.
- Milk production remains low. Livestock herds remained in dry season grazing areas where the little available milk is only accessible to herders and not to other household members.
- Displaced households in parts of the plateau are struggling to access their fields for cultivation and planting. All livestock herds in this zone were moved out due to upsurge of attacks by cattle rustlers in this zone.

❖ **Access**

- Malaria and upper respiratory tract infections were the common human ailments reported. The effects were however within manageable levels.
- Nutrition status rates of children under five years of age slightly worsen to 24.8% from last months 21.1% for **At Risk** category.

- Food deficits at the household level may persist beyond this season if the current trends of rains continue, coupled with escalating insecurity in food producing areas of the district. Access to local markets and sustained high cereal prices in other parts of the district also remain a concern to the local economy.

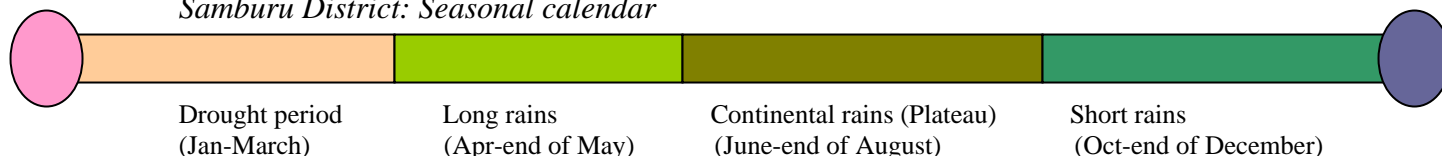
❖ **Utilization**

- If the current trends continue, the rains situation remains poor and the impacts to food security may totally be undermined. Food insecurity will therefore be evident to high percentage of household in the district. Acute water shortages and other drought related effects will also be inevitable. Agro-pastoralists are currently engaged in planting their fields. Insecurity has impacted negatively on food production in grain basket part of the district. Failure in adequate food production for two consecutive seasons means total jeopardized food production process in the plateau. High percentages of household in these areas are already destitute and unable to access their basic needs. Meaning a need to revise targeting levels for humanitarian interventions in the affected areas.
- Fears of attacks remain notable in Amaiya, Suguta Marmar, Poro and Loosuk locations despite frequent community meetings in pursue of peace. Peace committees therefore need to be strengthened in order to facilitate dialogue process between the warring communities and restore trust and confidence for co-existence.

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Samburu District: Seasonal calendar



1. ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

1.1 Rainfall

- Long rains season sets in late and characterized by poor temporal distribution across the district, thus bearing minimal impact in reversing the already felt drought stress. Most of the livestock herds are yet to move back to their settlement to utilize wet season grazing areas. Average of 37.3mm of rainfall for 5 rainy days was registered around Maralal town
- Forage conditions experiences marginal recovery from the long rains both in terms of quantities and qualities parts of the plateau remain in accessible for pastoralists to utilize for grazing.
- All livestock herds in insecurity affected areas of Longewan, Lorukoti, Pura, and Tinga were moved to more secure parts of the district for grazing.
- Unstable forage conditions have minimal effects on improving livestock body conditions.

1.3 Water Sources

1.3.1 Use of Water Sources

- Water sources recharged and are available in catchment pools and natural ponds. Distances are also expected to reduce. Recent rainy conditions were however counteracted by high rate of evaporation in all the available water sources within short period.

1.3.2 Average distance (Kms) to Water Sources

- Average distances to water sources increased to 3.4km from 3km. The change implies drying up of the available water sources that are commonly utilized during the wet season. This translates to the increase in time spent in search of water by working members of the household especially women and children.

2. RURAL ECONOMY INDICATORS

2.1. Livestock body condition

- Livestock body conditions range between good and fair across all species. Feeds situation that facilitate recovery in body conditions are yet to stabilize in most parts of the district. Insecurity contributed significantly to unstable livestock body conditions particularly in agro-pastoral areas due to frequent movements induced by cattle rustling menace.
- Stabilized livestock body conditions, facilitated recovery in pastoralist's economy. Current livestock body conditions empower pastoralists to access food stuffs and other basic needs in local markets.

2.2 Livestock Health

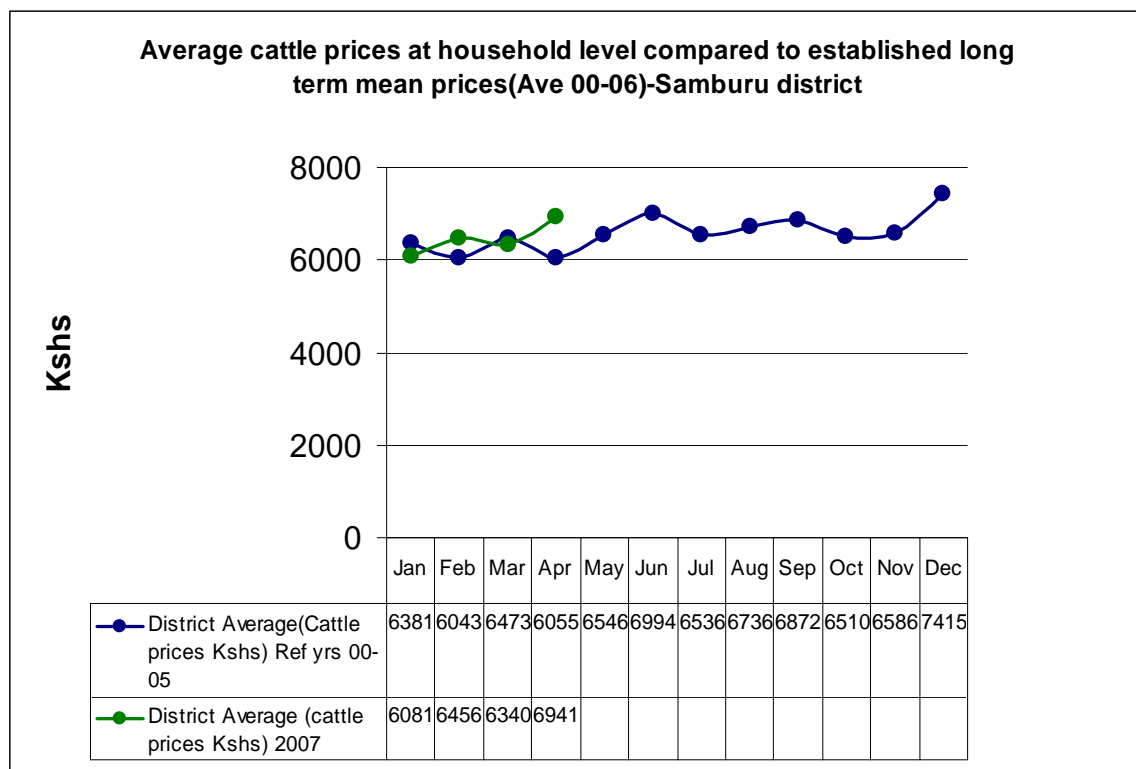
- Incidences of CCPP in goats, Helminthiasis in sheep and ECF in cattle persisted during the month. Recent vaccinations of all species across the district contained the spread of diseases especially notifiable ones.

The major diseases affecting livestock species include:-

Species	Diseases
Cattle	ECF, blot
Sheep	Helminthiasis and enterotoxaemia
Goats	CCPP and Helminthiasis,
Camels	Trypanosomiasis and orf

2.3. Livestock Prices (Kshs)

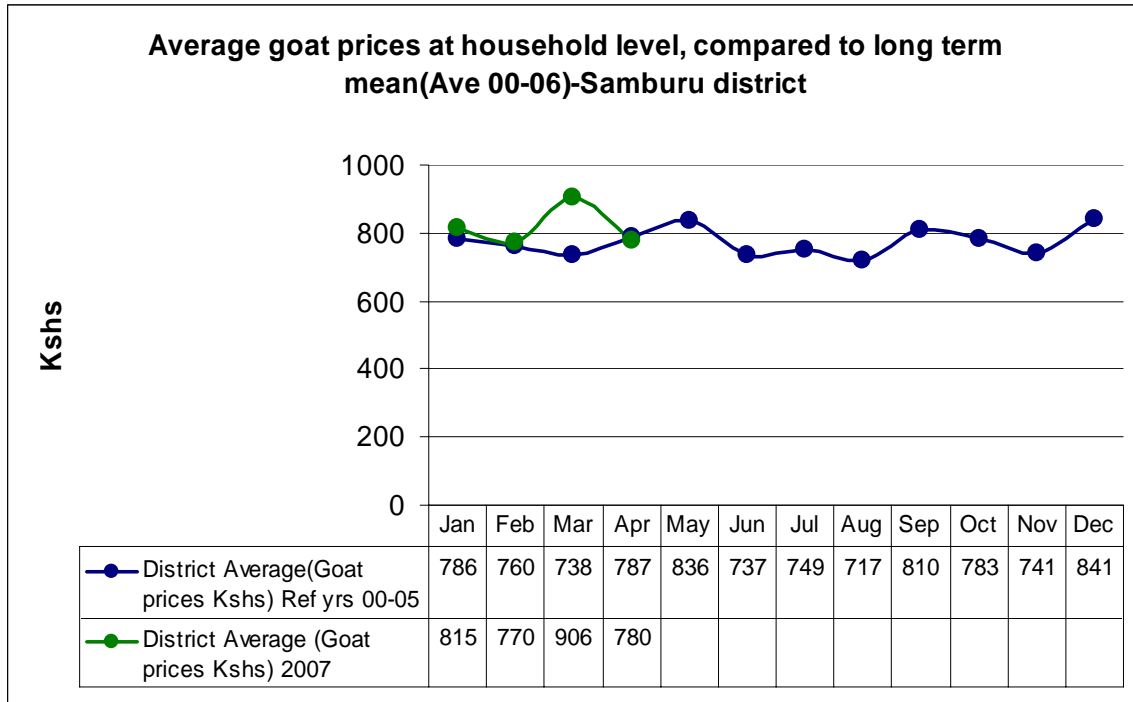
2.3.1 Cattle.



- Cattle prices appreciated to Kshs. 6941 from last months Kshs 6340.
- Compared to established long term mean, cattle prices are slightly above normal. Improvement in livestock body conditions are among the factors behind such improvements in cattle prices. However cattle sales are low as compared to small stock in local markets.

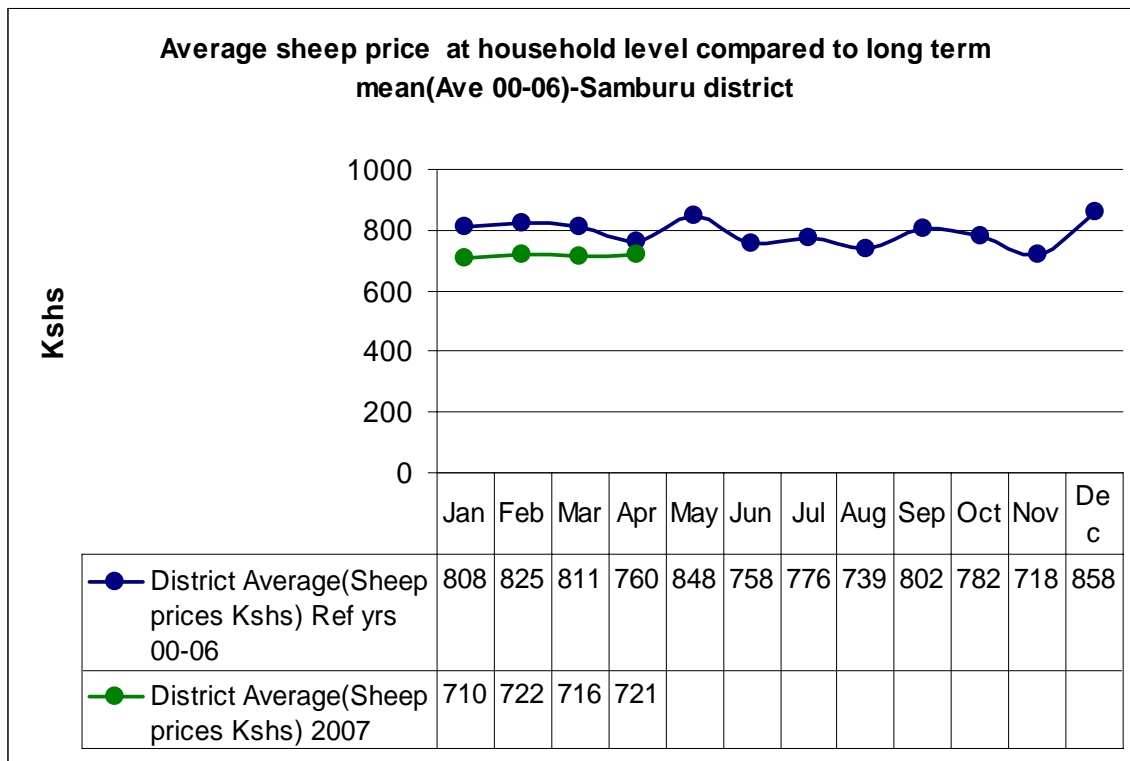
- Stable cattle prices favoured pastoralist’s economy and improved access to food and other basic requirements. Despite the recovery in prices, herd sizes remain very low at the household level meaning few household have cattle for sale. Decline in herd’s sizes may be attributed to frequent cattle rustling activities, droughts and livestock diseases.

2.3.2 Goats



- Average goat prices fluctuate to Kshs 780 from last months Kshs 906.
- Compared to established long term mean prices, average prices are normal bearing a positive impact to pastoralist’s economy. Access to local markets and registered high number of goats’ buyers in local livestock markets outlets may be attributed to favorable goat prices.
- Normalized goat prices empower pastoralists purchasing power hence improved access to food commodities.

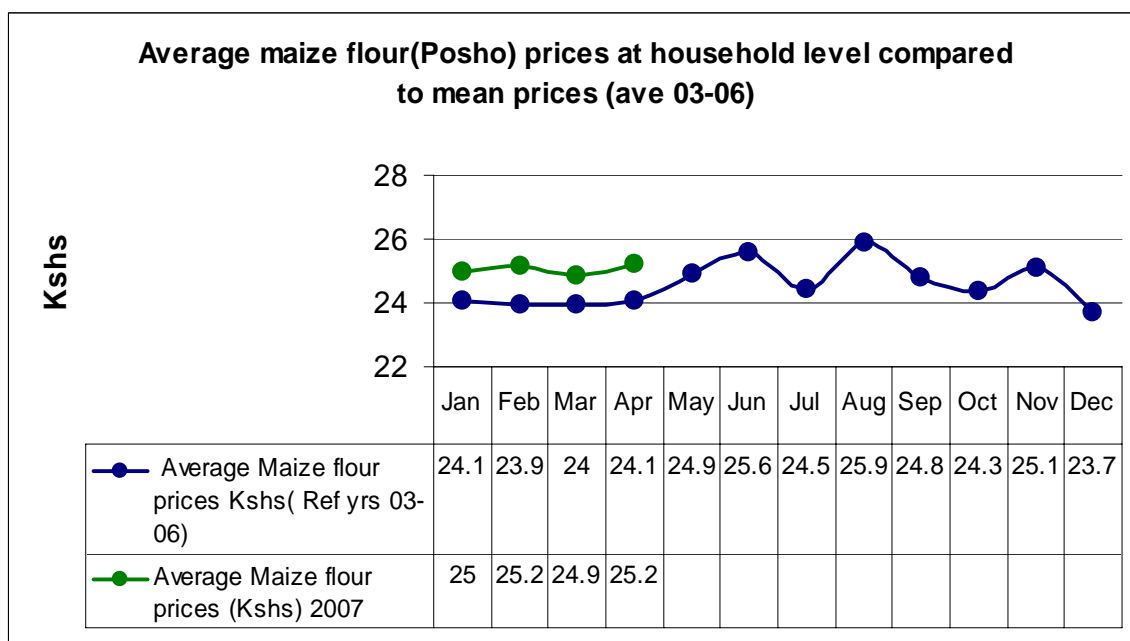
2.3.3 Sheep prices



- Sheep prices witnessed marginal increase to Kshs 721 from last months Kshs 716. Sheep prices remain slightly below normal compared to established long term mean prices.
- Stabilized sheep prices triggered recovery in local economy and improved food security particularly in households in the plateau where sheep keeping dominates.

2. 4 Food Prices

2.4.1 Maize and Maize flour (Posho)



- Maize prices slightly increase to Kshs 25.20 from last months Kshs 24.90
- Access to cereals in the district is predominantly through imports from the neighbouring districts meaning high costs of transportation.
- Compared to mean prices, cereal prices remain high. High cereal prices have had a negative impact to pastoralist's purchasing power.

3. HUMAN WELFARE INDICATORS

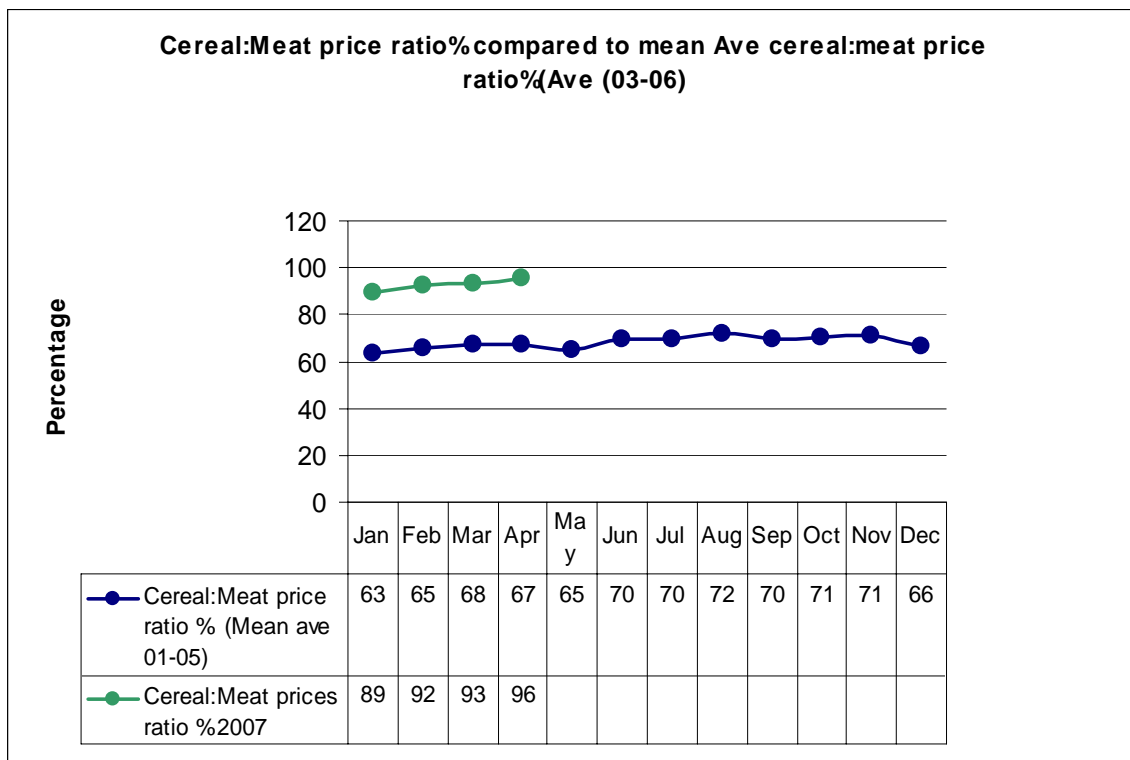
3.1 Human Health

- Malaria and upper respiratory tract infection were the common human ailments reported. The effects were however within manageable levels.
- Malaria incidences are at increase due current wet conditions that favor breeding sites for mosquitoes. Rural health facilities are equipped with the drugs access to these facilities remain a concern in most areas forcing local communities to utilize herbal medicine as curative measure.

3.2 MILK CONSUMPTION

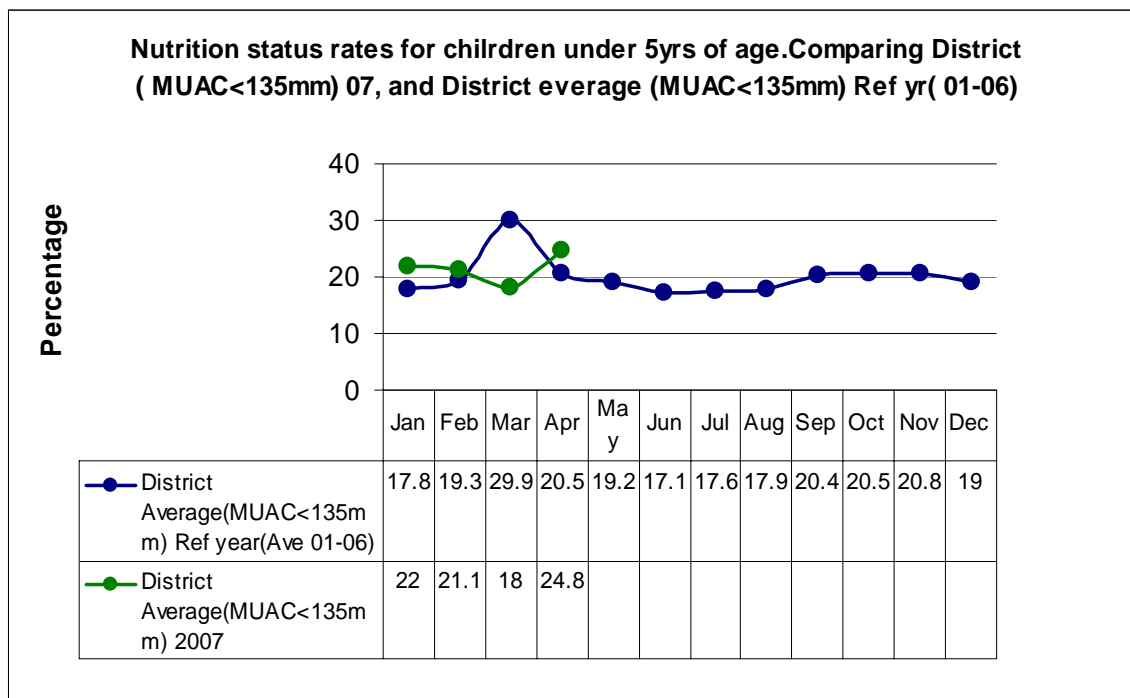
- Milk production remains low due to diminished livestock feeds. The little available milk is only accessed by herders who accompany livestock herds to dry season grazing areas.

3.2 Cereal /Meat Price Ratio (%)



- Pastoralist’s purchasing power sours to 96% from last months 93%.
- Sustained high cereal prices have continuously undermined pastoralist’s purchasing power limiting access to food stuffs.
- Cereal: Meat ratio remains below normal compared to established long term mean. Current exchange rate stands at 0.96 Kg of meat in exchange of a Kg of cereal. The exchange rate remains exorbitant as the established mean average is 0.67Kg of meat against a Kg of cereals.

3.4 Nutrition (MUAC) Rates



- Nutrition status rates for children under five years of age worsen to 24.8% from last months 18% for at risk category.
- These trends may be attributed to current malarial incidences that affect the vulnerable categories.
- Nutrition status rates are slightly below normal as compared to established long term average rates.

3.5 MIGRATIONS

a) Livestock Migration

- Livestock herds that move to areas of Lorukoti, Pura, Poro and other parts of the plateau that were abandoned due to insecurity, were forced again to relocate as insecurity situation proves unstable. Livestock herds in the lowlands however remain within their dry season grazing areas and are yet to move back to their settlements.

b) Human Migration/Displacement

- Displaced households in parts of Lorroki and Kirisia Divisions, few of them were also forced to move back to resettle back in their former settlements.

4.0 Insecurity

- Insecurity situation escalated in Poro, Loosuk, and Amaiya locations and were mainly as a result of cattle rustling. Peace talks between the warring communities in conflict prone areas are ongoing.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Food Situation

- Food deficits at the household level in all livelihood zones remain evident in all livelihood zones. High potential areas of Lorroki and Kirisia are already food deficit and these trends may persist beyond current season. Taking into account that these zone hosts 52% of district population. Food aid support in form of relief distribution and food for work should therefore be supported in order to reduce food shortage especially to the vulnerable categories. Supplementary feeding to the vulnerable categories should go along with the support.

Action: WFP, GoK, Lead Agency and Donors.

5.2 Agriculture

- Extension services should be made available to Agro-pastoralists in terms of land preparation, right varieties of seed, timeliness in planting, and other essentials of crop production. Mechanized land tillage services should also be accessible to all farmers.

Action: MoA, ALRMP II, FAO, and other Donors

5.2 Livestock diseases

- Disease surveillance should be sustained by vet department in order to contain any disease out breaks. Other stakeholders should support vaccination through the vet department, to contain disease out breaks.

Action: Vet department, ALRMP II, COOPI, ITDG, and other DA's

5.3 Human Health

The MOH should sustain disease surveillance mechanisms in order to avert increase in malaria incidences. At the same time stock all the rural health facilities with adequate drugs in order to improve access to services by pastoralists. Awareness creation should also be sustained on the dangers of utilizing drugs and herbal medicine at the same time.

Action: MoH, SAIDIA, Catholic Mission, ALRMP and other donors

5.4 Security

Inter-communities peace building initiatives should be sustained in order to minimize insecurity problems. Meanwhile district security committee should ensure that joint patrols that bring on board the local police reservists from the warring communities is a routine practice in all conflict prone areas. This will distort planned cattle rustling activities.

Action: DSC, District Peace committees, Pastoral associations and Communities.

Samburu District : Livelihood Zones

