



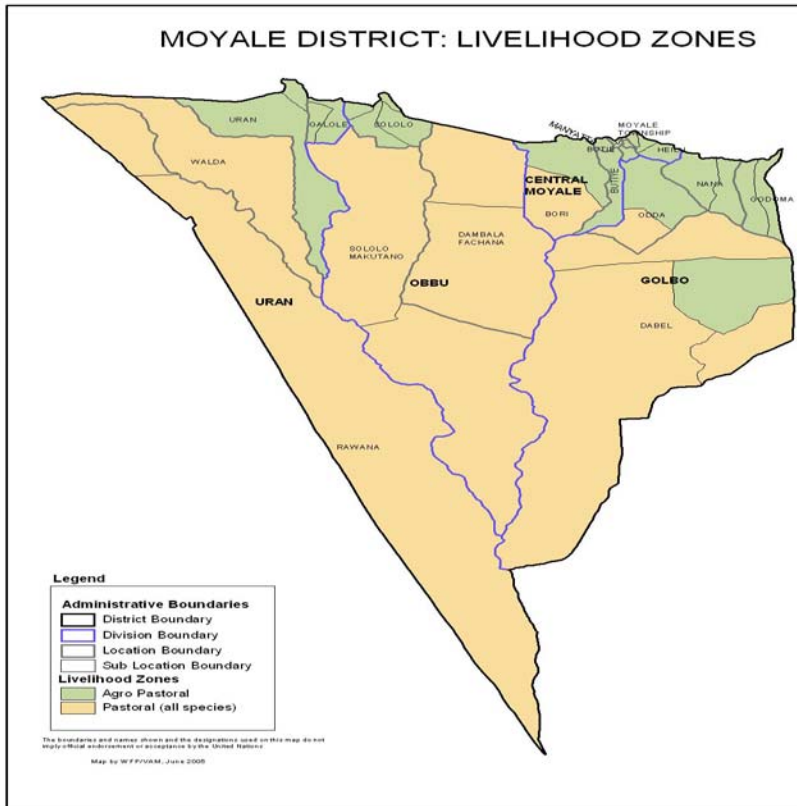
**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**

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

**DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, NOVEMBER 2009**

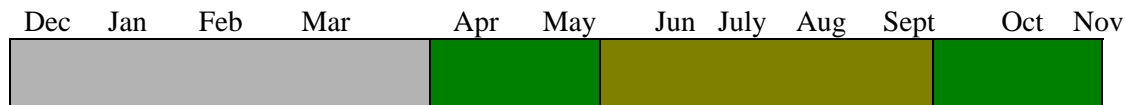
**Moyale District**

**Warning Stages**



Livelihood Zone	Stage	Trend
Pastoral Zones	Alarm	Slightly Improving
Agro-Pastoral Zones	Alarm	Slightly Improving
Casual Labour, Small Businesses	Alarm	Slightly Improving
District	Alarm	Slightly Improving

**Seasonal Calendar**



### **Situation overview**

- Moyale and Sololo districts remained dry for most of the month of November. Rains that had stopped on 4<sup>th</sup> November restarted on 27<sup>th</sup> November and the highest quantity was received along the border was 27.3 mm.
- The quality and quantity of pasture improved, with much of the browse recovering and improving but the grass layer was quite poor and may not improve till the next onset of rains.
- Water availability improved much and was available in large ponds and accessible to both livestock and humans. However, water trucking started in Amballo to the south of Sololo District.
- Most of the herds which migrated into Ethiopia in July and August returned and moved into southern part of the district.
- Livestock prices varied among the different species over the month. Cattle were sold at an average of Ksh5,000 compared to previous month's Ksh7,500 while goats sold at a higher price of Ksh1,350 compared to Ksh1,309 last month.
- The nutrition status of children below five years improved during the month under review, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition reduced to 28% from 35.1% the previous month.

### **Current interventions**

- Only a few centres reported to have received food and children's supplement.
- World Concern (CIFA) continued to give food rations to disadvantaged families.

### **Recommendations to DSG and KFSM**

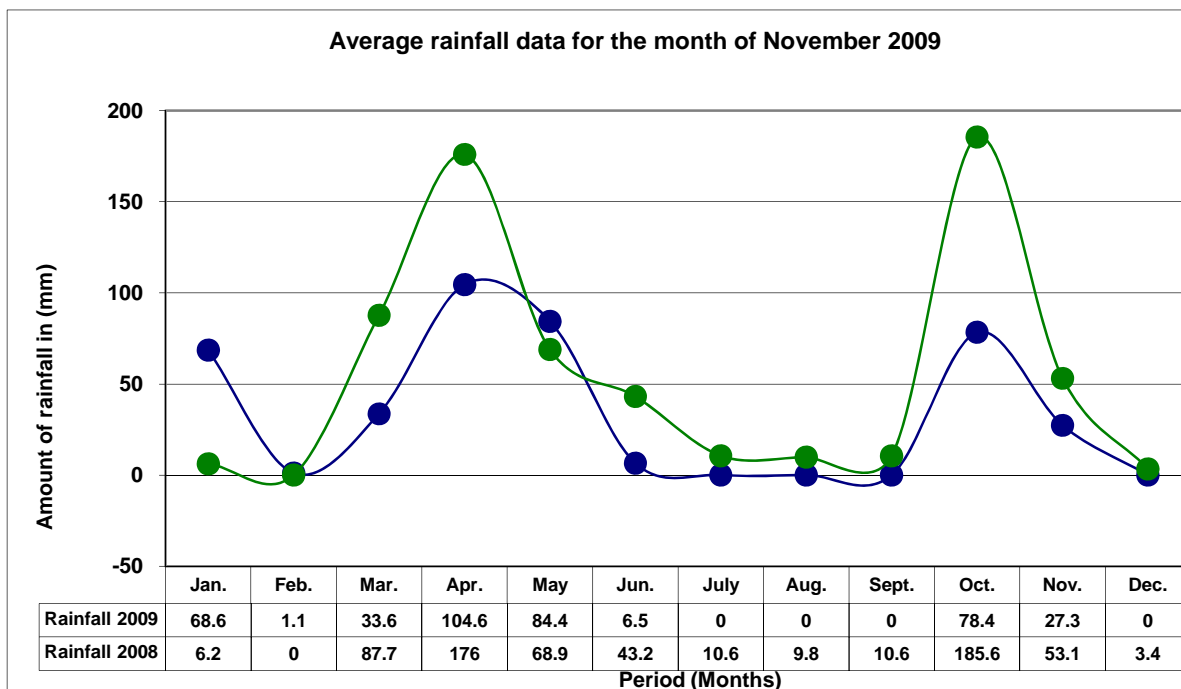
- More food relief is required and distribution should include more people.
- Food supplements should be increased to reverse the worsening malnutrition status.
- The communities in the region, especially those in agro-pastoral area require a lot of capacity building in natural resource and environmental protection to improve their resource base.
- Destruction of catchments was rampant and needs to be discouraged as several streams and aquifers are getting dry.
- There is need to have contingency for expected long dry period between December 2009 and April 2010.

## 1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

### 1.1 Rainfall

Rains in the district stopped around 4<sup>th</sup> November and restarted around 27<sup>th</sup> November. Spatial distribution was not good and though it was adequate in some areas, others received rains during the last week of the month.

The following was the rainfall data at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009



The rainfall was so far below normal despite prediction of El Nino rains earlier in the season.

### 1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- The district was green with lush vegetation in the upper northern part. The lower part of the district improved only slightly due to below normal rains. The shrub layer improved far much better than the undergrowth, benefitting browser animals.
- The forage quality improved, with green and lush ephemerals which built up more nutritive values. Forage biomass increased in the northern part of the district with less improvement in southern part of the district.

#### 1.2.1 Distances to grazing areas

Average distance to grazing areas reduced to 11.8Kms compared to last month's 13.1 Km. The trend was normal for the rainy period when pasture and water is available.

### 1.3 Water sources and availability

Most of the sample areas reported to be using water from pans and roof catchments by the end of the month. Average household distance to water sources was 3.7 km and time spent about 1.9 hours.

## 1.4 Emerging issues

### 1.4.1 Cases of malaria, coughs and bloody diarrhoea

Cases of malaria, coughs and pneumonia became common in children and the aged due to cold weather.

## 2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

### 2.1 Livestock production

#### 2.1.1 Livestock body condition

Livestock body condition improved slightly due to availability of browse and pasture.

#### 2.1.2 Livestock health

No livestock disease was reported to be a threat during the period under review.

#### 2.1.3 Milk production

Milk yield improved with improved livestock body condition.

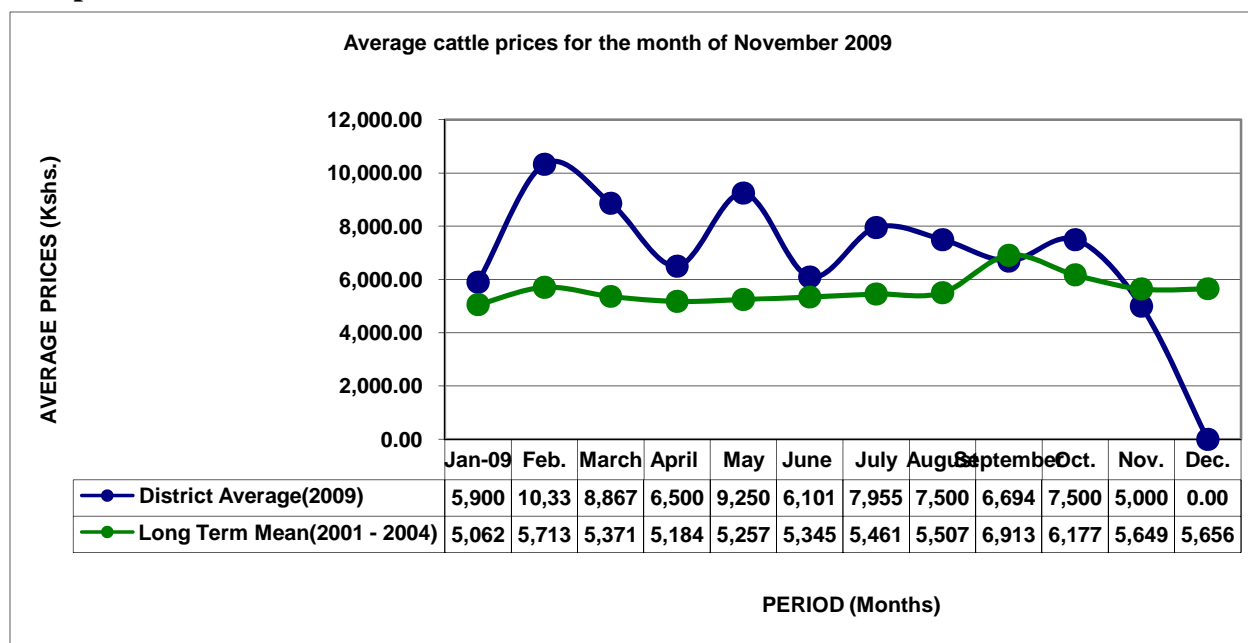
#### 2.1.4 Crop production

All crops planted including maize, beans and sorghum got stunted in most parts of the district due to prolonged dry period. Harvest are expected to be below normal.

## 3.0 Access to food

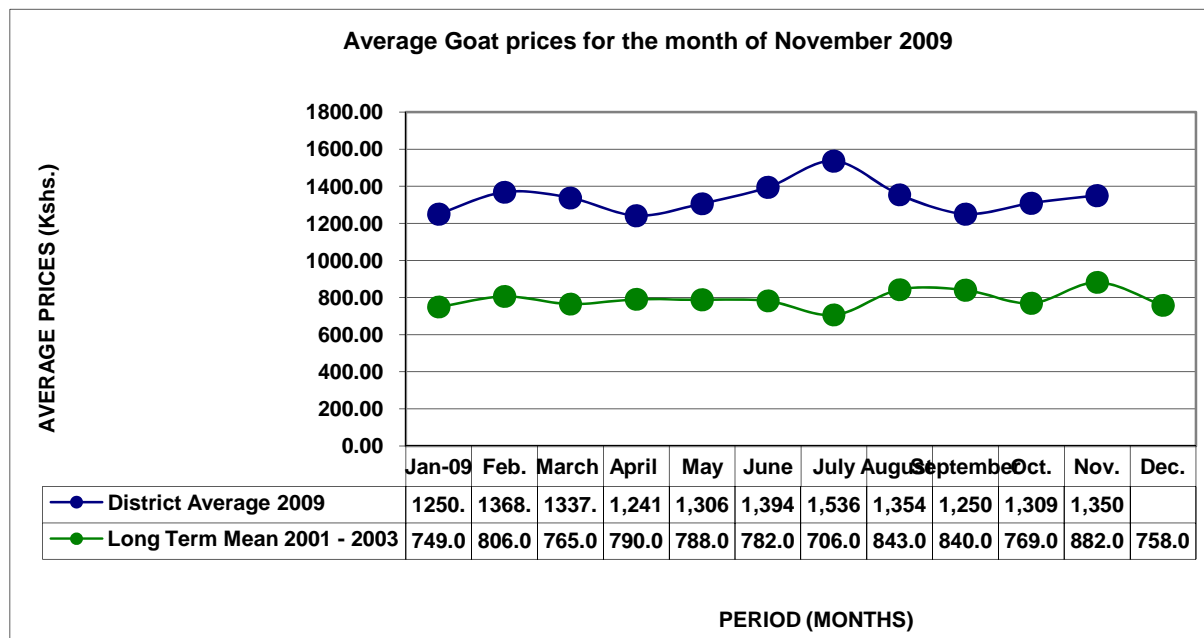
### 3.1 Livestock marketing

#### 3.1.1 Cattle prices



Prices of cattle decreased from Ksh7,500 in October to ksh5,000. This was attributed to decreased demand as the rains stopped for most of November. Most of the sales were to purchase cereal foodstuffs.

### 3.1.2 Goats prices



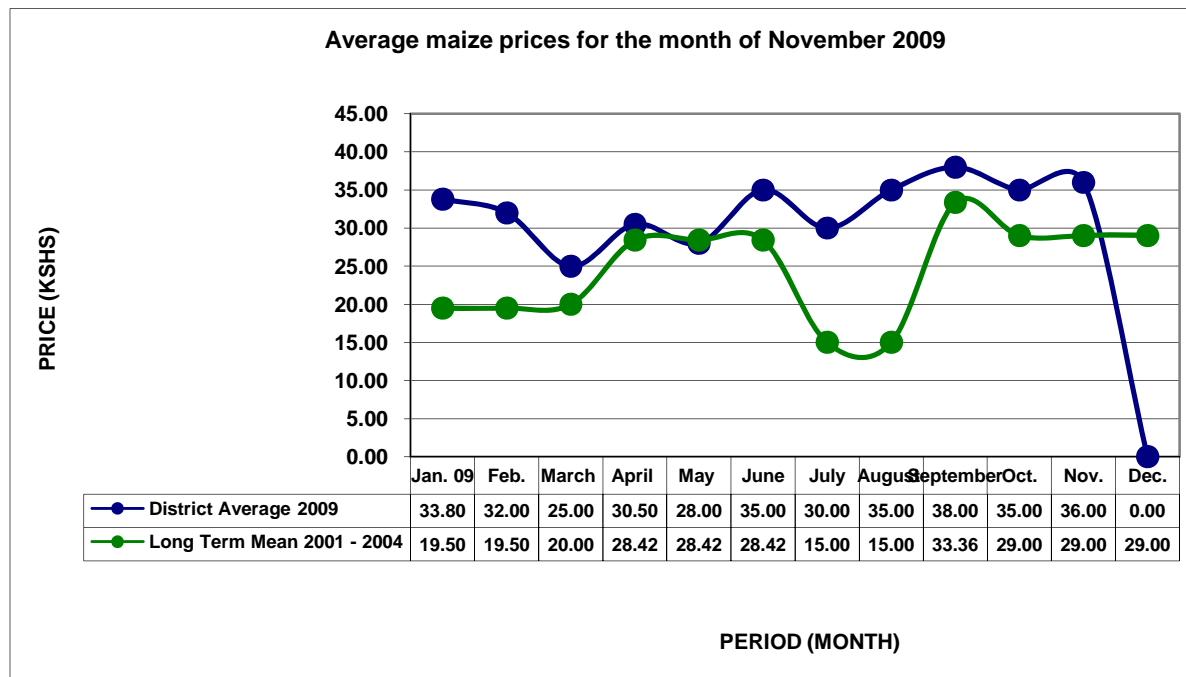
Goats' prices improved slightly when compared to the month of October 2009. The average price was Ksh1,350 compared to Ksh1,309 in October. The price increase was attributed to reduced demand. The price was also way above the mean average of 2001 to 2003.

### 3.1.3 Camel prices

Prices of the dromedaries continued to improve as buyers and exporters flooded the local border market. The average price was about Ksh17,500.

## 3.2 Food prices

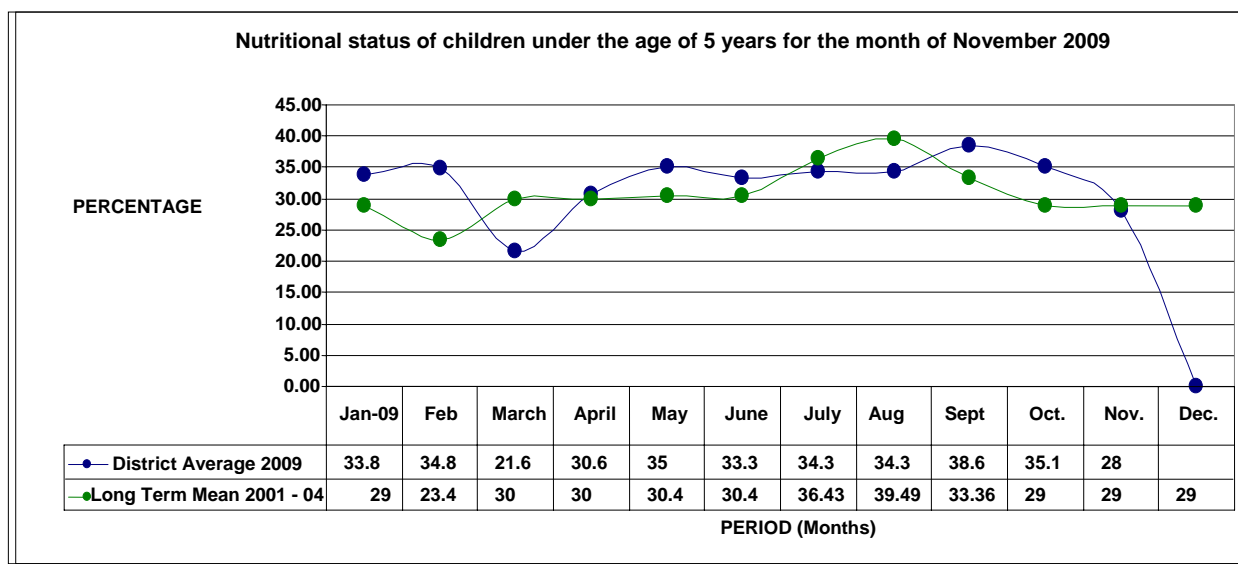
### 3.2.1 Maize prices



Maize prices were slightly higher than last month. The average price was Ksh36 per kilo, up from Ksh35 in October. This was attributed to unavailability of relief food.

#### 4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

##### 4.1 Nutrition status



- The nutrition status of children below five years improved during the month under review, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition reduced to 28% from 35.1% the previous month. This was attributed to availability of milk for children under five. The hard hit areas were Sololo Makutano in Obbu Division and Dabel in Golbo Division.

#### **4.2 Human health**

Cases of malaria, coughs and diarrhoea were reported in some centres. This was caused by increased breeding grounds for mosquitoes and drinking of pan water.

#### **4.3 Flagged areas**

Locations with high malnutrition levels such as Sololo Makutano and Dabel.

#### **5.0 Current interventions**

- Relief foods were distributed to several centres in the District. However, only few centres benefited from food supplements to children under five years.
- Vaccination against pleuropneumonia was ongoing.

#### **5.1 Coping strategies**

- Some of the herds were moved into the wet-season grazing areas by the Deedha elders in order to preserve the dry season zones.
- Petty trade.
- Casual jobs

#### **6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM**

- More food relief is required and distribution should include more people.
- Food supplements should be increased to reverse the worsening malnutrition status.
- The communities in the region, especially those in agro-pastoral area require a lot of capacity building in natural resource and environmental protection to improve their resource base.
- Destruction of catchments was rampant and needs to be discouraged as several streams and aquifers are getting dry.
- There is need to have contingency for expected long dry period between December 2009 and April 2010.