

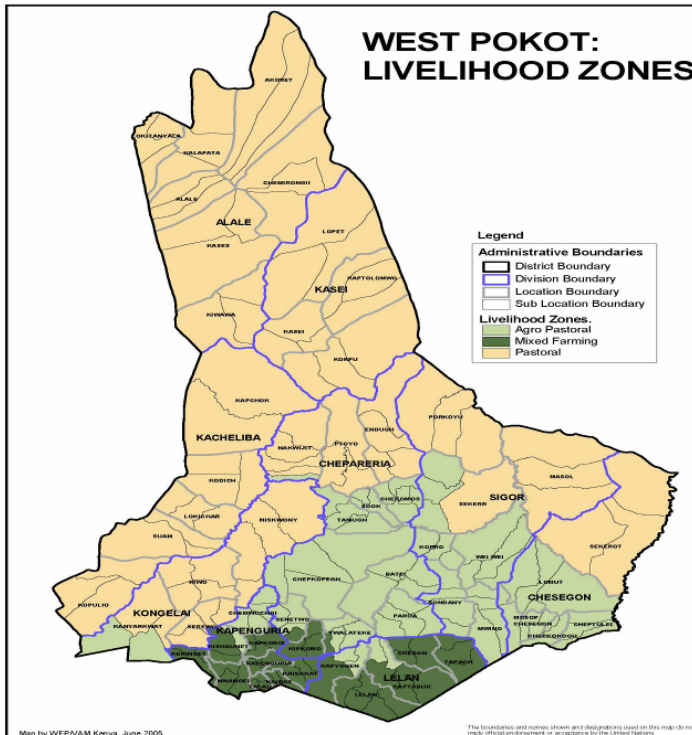


**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES  
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

**DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR MAY 2007**

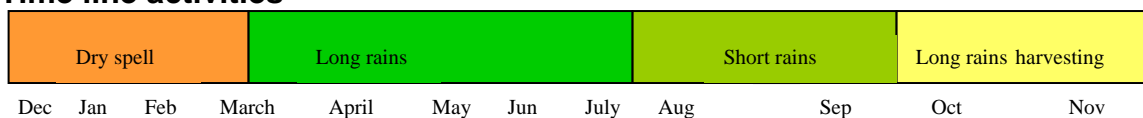
**WEST POKOT DISTRICT**

**WARNING STAGES**



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Agro pastoral	Normal	Stable
Mixed farming	Normal	Stable
Pastoral	Normal	Stable

**Time line activities**



- Situation Overview**
- Most regions received moderate rainfall throughout the month.
  - Forage development and crop production currently at knee height for sorghum and maize is good.
  - Livestock body conditions for all species are good.
  - Water accessibility and availability both for livestock and household consumption has stabilized.
  - Livestock prices are stable.
  - Cereal prices are on an upward trend as small scale farmers begin exhausting their food reserves.
  - Nutrition status of under fives in all economy zones is within normal range.
  - New cases of cholera outbreak have been reported in Kongelai and Kacheliba divisions.

### **Recommendations to the district authorities.**

- Concerted efforts should be put in place by all stakeholders so as to arrest the current spread of Cholera outbreak in the region which has so far led to unwarranted human deaths.

### **Current interventions**

#### **Non food intervention:**

- No major interventions are ongoing.

#### **Food aid**

No food aid is currently ongoing in the district.

## **1. Stability**

### **1.1 Rainfall**

- The district has been experiencing good rains though not continuous but adequate for crop and pasture development in all economy zones although the onset was late.

### **1.2 Natural vegetation and pasture condition.**

- With the onset of long rains throughout the district, there is a significant improvement both in forage quality and quantity but evidently lacking in most pastoral and agro pastoral regions is pasture due to range degradation. No major constraints to forage accessibility have so far been reported apart from livestock diseases, insecurity and lack of water which are at an insignificant scale.

### **1.3 Water sources and availability.**

- Households are currently relying on Natural Rivers, water pans, boreholes, natural ponds, traditional river wells, streams, sub surface dams and hand dug shallow wells along seasonal river course in pastoral and agro pastoral zones. Congestions in most of these water sources have reduced significantly with the onset of rains as water levels improve in most water holding grounds throughout the district.
- Average return distance to water sources is within normal range at 3.7 kms to grazing areas and 1.9 kms from households with an average return time of an hour on average.

### **1.4 Emerging issues.**

- Poor hygienic and sanitary standards in various parts of the district have led to outbreak of cholera in Marich, Sigor division during the previous three months and currently being observed in other regions i.e Kongelai and Kacheliba divisions, a situation that requires concerted effort from all stakeholders as current loss of lives being registered are avoidable.

### **1.5 Implication on food security.**

- Water is within reach for most households at reduced distances and time to water sources. Forage accessibility in the region has remained stable thus leading to retention of most animals at the wet season grazing areas near the homesteads hence household accessibility to milk and other animal products.

## **2. Availability.**

### **2.1 Livestock production.**

#### **2.1.1 Livestock body condition.**

- Livestock body conditions for all species are good in all economy zones.

#### **2.1.2 Livestock diseases.**

- There has been no major disease outbreak in the district apart from cases of PPR (PESTE DES PETITS RUMINANTS) alert in goats which has been raised by Department of Veterinary a situation that requires close monitoring as no major intervention have been done on the same.

#### **2.1.3 Milk production.**

- Milk production was within normal range during the month under review with an average of 47.1 (750ml) bottles daily production per sample area up from 43 bottles recorded last month.
- Birth rate is within normal range at 10.3% cattle, 14.3% sheep, 14.4% goats and 3.6% camels respectively.
- Kapenguria had the highest daily milk production of 154 (750ml) bottles on average i.e 5.1 (750ml) bottles average daily production per household. Whereas the lowest was recorded in Alale of 1 bottle on average i.e 33ml daily productions per household on average.

## **2.2 Crop production.**

### **2.2.1 Timeliness and status of crop.**

- Food crops are currently at knee height in most farms.

### **2.2.2 Pests and diseases.**

- No cases of pests or diseases were reported during the month under review.

### **2.2.3 Harvests.**

- No major activities are ongoing.

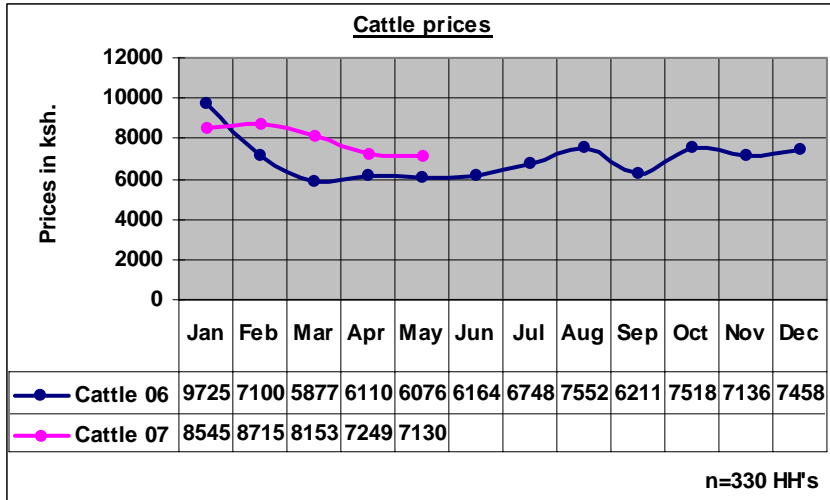
## **2.3 Implication on food security.**

- Livestock products are within reach in most households thus supporting food security status at household level as livestock have been retained at wet season grazing areas.
- In mixed and agro pastoral livelihood zones, households are currently relying on food reserves from their previous harvest as well as from green vegetables both domestic and wild currently doing very well as a result of the ongoing rains.

### 3.0 Accessibility.

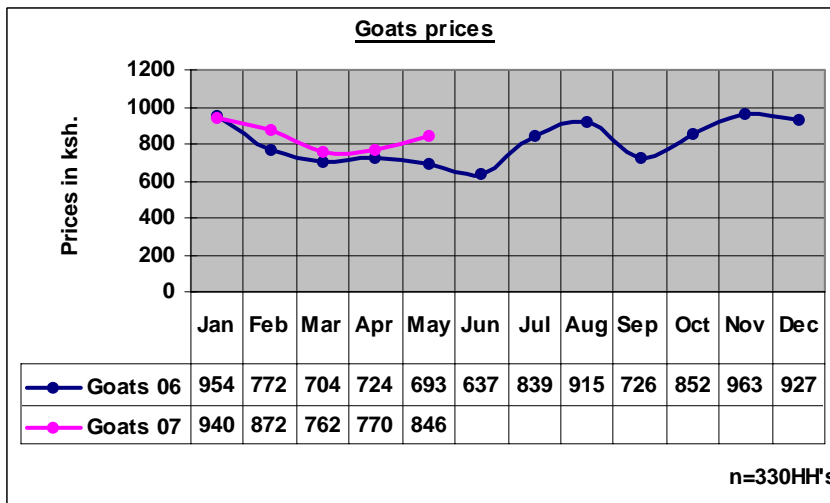
#### 3.1 Livestock marketing.

##### 3.1.1 Cattle prices.



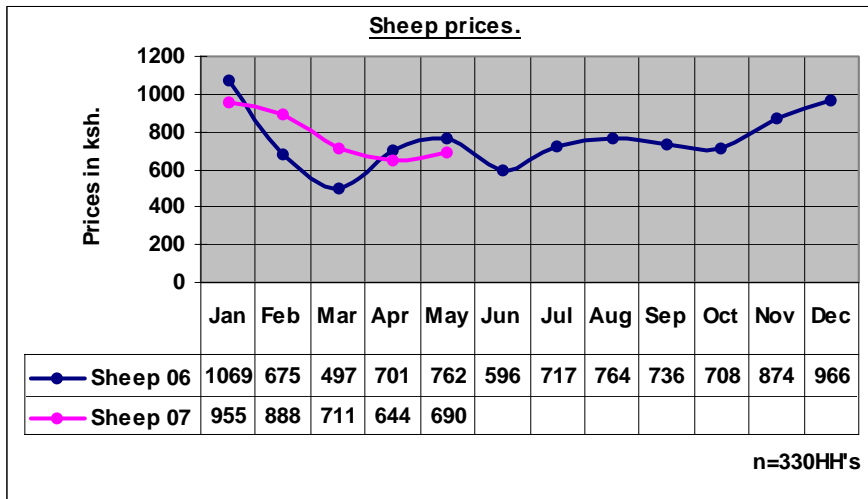
- Cattle's marketing is good in all economy zones. Market prices are within normal range at ksh.7,130 from ksh.7,249 registered last month. During the month under review, Kasei registered the highest cattle prices of Ksh.8,727 where as Sigor and Chesezon had the lowest of ksh5,750.

##### 3.1.2 Goats' prices.



Average goat price registered during the month was ksh.846. These prices are within normal range. During the month under review, Chesezon division recorded the highest goat prices in the district on average of ksh.1,089 per animal. Where as Alale recorded the lowest of ksh.550 on average.

### 3.1.3 Sheep prices.



- Average sheep prices recorded during the month was ksh.690. Chesegon division recorded the highest of ksh.750 where as the lowest was registered in Kacheliba and Sigor divisions of ksh.650.

### 3.2 Livestock sales.

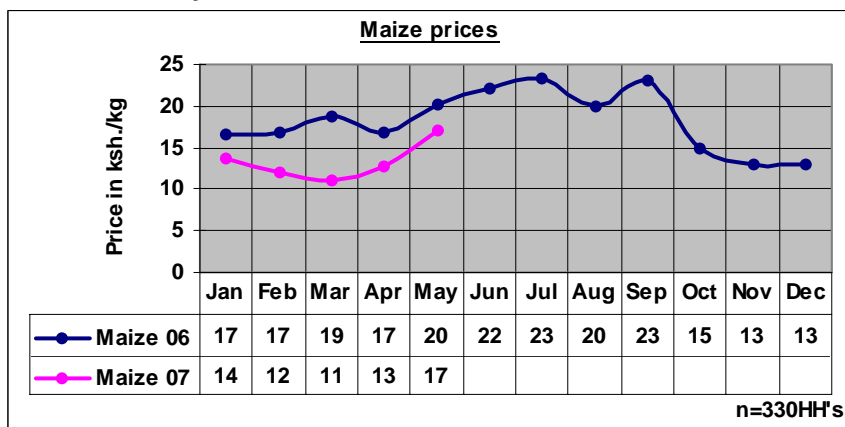
Livestock sales are within normal range in all economy zones with an average percentage livestock selling rate of 4.3%, 4.7% and 2.4% summing up to a total of 23 cattle, 6 sheep and 74 goats respectively per sample area. There has been increased goat turnover in the district as farmers dispose off their animals to purchase seedlings as well as land preparation and tendering.

### 3.3 Milk consumption.

Milk consumption at household level is good in all economy zones with at least 72.4% of the daily production being consumed at household level i.e 1(750 ml) bottles. A 750ml bottle of milk is currently fetching ksh.16 at household level on average with Kacheliba, Sigor and Chepareria divisions registering the highest of ksh.20 and the lowest of ksh.10 in Alale.

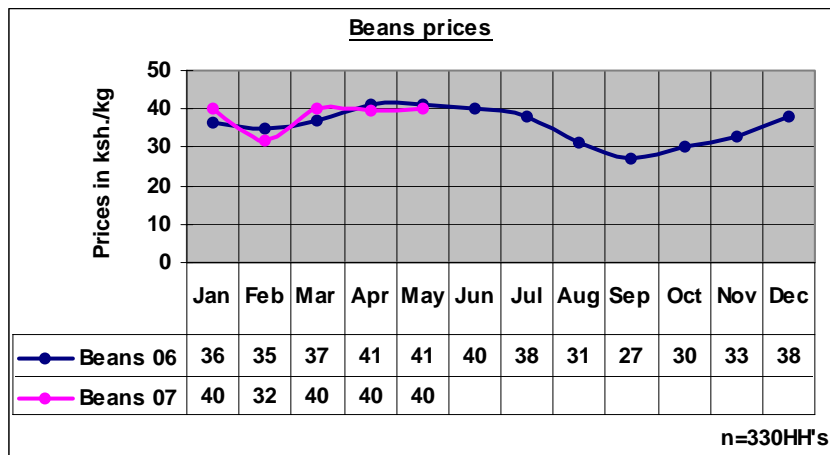
### 3.4 Crop prices.

#### 3.4.1 Maize prices.



Cereal prices are stable in all zones though on an upward trend as household exhaust their cereal reserves for the small scale farmers. A kilo of maize is costing ksh.16.9 per kilo on average a normal occurrence at these times of the year. Chepareria recorded the highest of ksh.18.8 per kilo whereas Kapenguria recorded an increase in cereal prices from ksh 10 in the previous months to ksh 15 this time round.

### 3.4.2 Beans prices.



Legumes accessibility and availability is stable in all economy zones with an average of ksh.40 per kilo on average. These prices are within normal range as they were only recorded in Kapenguria division.

### 3.5 Income.

#### 3.5.1 Crops income.

Most household have already exhausted their cereal reserves as only posho mills are actively engaging in bulk cereal sales.

#### 3.5.2 Livestock income.

Livestock sales are stable in various markets within the district with sales rate being high in most agro and pastoral livelihood zones for various species. Kasei division had the highest livestock turnover with an average of 11 and 16 cattle and goats respectively a turnover rate of 9.2% and 4% respectively.

#### 3.5.3 Other income.

Other sources of income were;

- Sale/charcoal burning especially in Sigor and Cheseгон.
- Sale of livestock and livestock products highest in Kasei.
- Sale of aloe extracts in Kacheliba as well as sale of wood.
- Petty trade in Chepareria and Sigor.
- Casual labour at an average wage rate of ksh.75.4 highest in Alale.
- Sale of crops in Kapenguria.

#### 3.5.4 Cereal: meat price ratio.

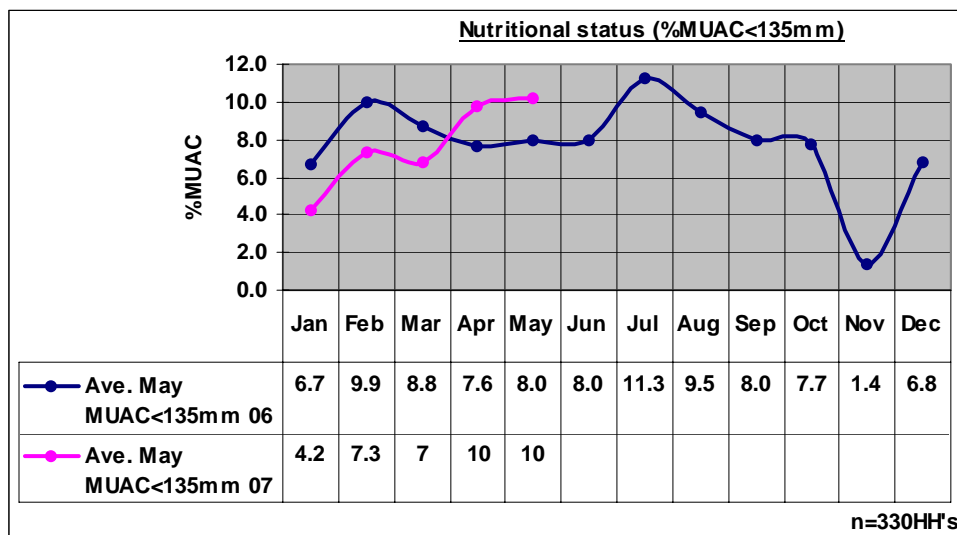
Pastoralists terms of trade is favorable as cereals prices are low and livestock marketing improves estimated at one goat to one bag of maize.

### 3.6 Implication on food security.

Crops are at knee height hence food reserves and shoats are being disposed off to purchase farm inputs as well as top dressing.

#### 4. Welfare (utilization of food)

##### 4.1 Nutrition status.



The average %ARM level of children under five years (MUAC<135mm) is within normal range. An average of 4 children had an Upper Arm Circumference <135mm i.e 6 in Sasak, and 2 in Ptokou sample areas representing 10.2% of the total number monitored.

A total of 309 children were monitored from 240 households and beyond.

##### 4.2 Health.

There has been an outbreak of cholera in the district for the fourth month now at Marich in Sigor division to Kongelai and Kacheliba divisions of late.

#### 5. Current intervention measures.

- No major interventions are being carried out.

##### 5.2 Food aid.

No food assistance currently being distributed in the district.

##### 5.3 Coping strategies.

Households are currently employing the following coping mechanisms so as to substitute their income but at a smaller scale as indicated by coping strategies index which stand at 1.7 to an average of 177.1 population sampled;

- Charcoal burning.
- Sale of Aloe extract
- Sale of firewood.
- Sand harvesting.
- Sale livestock and livestock products
- Farming along river lines & in catchment's areas
- Consumption of wild vegetables (Sokoria)

It's an indication that communities are not experiencing severe food stress as well as the domestic assets have stabilized.

#### 5. Conflicts and migration.

No major cases were reported.

# West pokot livelihood zone map

