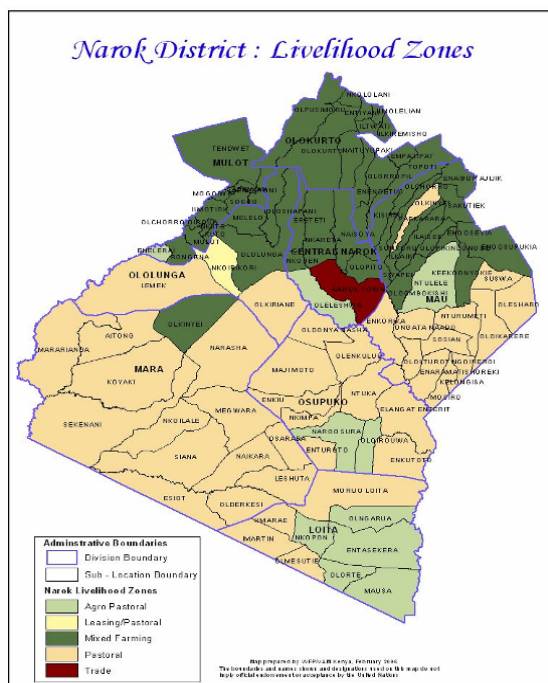




**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES  
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

**DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR APRIL 2007**

**NAROK DISTRICT WARNING STAGES**



LIVELIHOOD ZONE	WARNING STAGE	TREND
AGRO PASTORAL Entasekera, Naroosura, Suswa	NORMAL	STABLE
MIXED FARMING Nairragienkare, Muloit	NORMAL	STABLE
PASTORAL Olmesutie, Ntuka, Mosiro, Koyiaki, Oletukat	ALERT	NO CHANGE
TRADE Narok Town	NORMAL	STABLE
LEASING/ PASTORAL Lemek, Ololulunga	ALERT	NO CHANGE



January/February  
March – short rains  
harvest, long rains  
planting, livestock  
breeding (Cattle)

April, May/June  
Long rains –  
weeding, shoats  
mating

July/August  
Cold dry  
season, long  
rains harvest

Sept/October  
Dry & hot-  
migration of  
livestock

November/Dec -  
short rains –  
calving lambing  
and kidding

### Situation overview

- On average, there were 5 days of rain in the district. These were scattered especially in the upper parts of the district. The lower rangelands also received minimal rains of low intensity for an average of 4 days
- Livestock body condition has remained stable for all species
- Pasture and browse condition has remained good both in quality and quantity throughout the district.
- Suspected cases of F.M.D have been seen in areas of Central, Mara, Ololunga and parts of Osupuko divisions
- Milk production have continued to improve with the increase in calving, lambing and kidding rates
- Livestock prices have slightly gone down during the review period from the previous months' rates of Ksh. 12,000 to sell at an average of Ksh. 11,000 per head at the household level
- Cereals and legumes prices have gone down following an improved availability of the same at the households level and a relative increase of other food sources.
- Water situation remained good throughout the district but steadily on a decline especially on the lower rangelands
- Land preparation for planting is almost complete with several farmers having planted wheat, maize and beans
- There were no major human diseases reported during the review period
- The percentage of children under five undernourished has slightly gone down. This is mainly attributed to an improvement in milk production and the reduced impact of the RVF fears in diet patterns.

### Recommendations

1. The problem of F.M.D which is suspected in some areas, should be ascertained and necessary control measures be taken in time to avert an outbreak of the disease.  
**Action: D.V.O (lead), D.L.P.O**
2. There is need to carry out an initial survey of the performance of the long rains to enable the D.S.G to have firsthand information of the situation on the ground for any preparedness activities to be mobilized/initiated.  
**Action: D.M.O(Lead), D.A.O, D.L.P.O, D.V.O, D.W.O**
3. Rising human wildlife conflicts should be addressed adequately to enable a peaceful coexistence with wildlife  
**Action: K.W.S, (lead), Civil Society Organisations, N.E.M.A**

## **1. ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS**

### **1.1 Rainfall**

- On average, there were 5 days of rain in the district. These were scattered especially in the upper parts of the district. The lower rangelands also received minimal rains of low intensity for an average of 4 days

### **1.2 Vegetation cover (pasture and browse)**

- Pasture and browse condition has remained good both in quality and quantity throughout the district.

### **1.3 Water sources**

#### ***1.3.1 Use of water sources***

- Water situation in the district has remained good both for livestock and domestic use.

*The table below indicates water sources and percentage of households using them, compared to a normal situation.*

<b>Water source</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Others</b>
% Of h/holds depending on the source	20	50	20	8	2
% Of h/holds normally depending on source	25	50	15	8	2

1. Traditional water wells 2. Catchment pools/dams 3. Constructed shallow wells/functional 4. Boreholes (functional)

#### ***1.3.2 Average distances (kms) to water sources***

- Except for the traditional water sources the average distances travelled to and from water sources have remained normal during the review period following the ongoing rains

*The table below indicates average distances to water sources compared to normal situation*

<b>Water sources</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Others</b>
Average Kms to the source	6	5	5	8	2
Normal Kms to the source	4	5	5	8	2

2. Traditional water wells 2. Catchment pools/dams 3. Constructed shallow wells/functional 4. Boreholes (functional)

## **2. RURAL ECONOMY INDICATORS**

### **2.1 Livestock production**

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

- Livestock body condition has remained stable during the review month

#### ***2.1.2 Livestock health (in terms of diseases affecting all species)***

- Suspected cases of F.M.D have been seen in areas of Central, Mara, Ololunga and parts of Osupuko divisions
- There were however no major incidences of disease outbreak in the district.

#### ***2.1.6 Milk production***

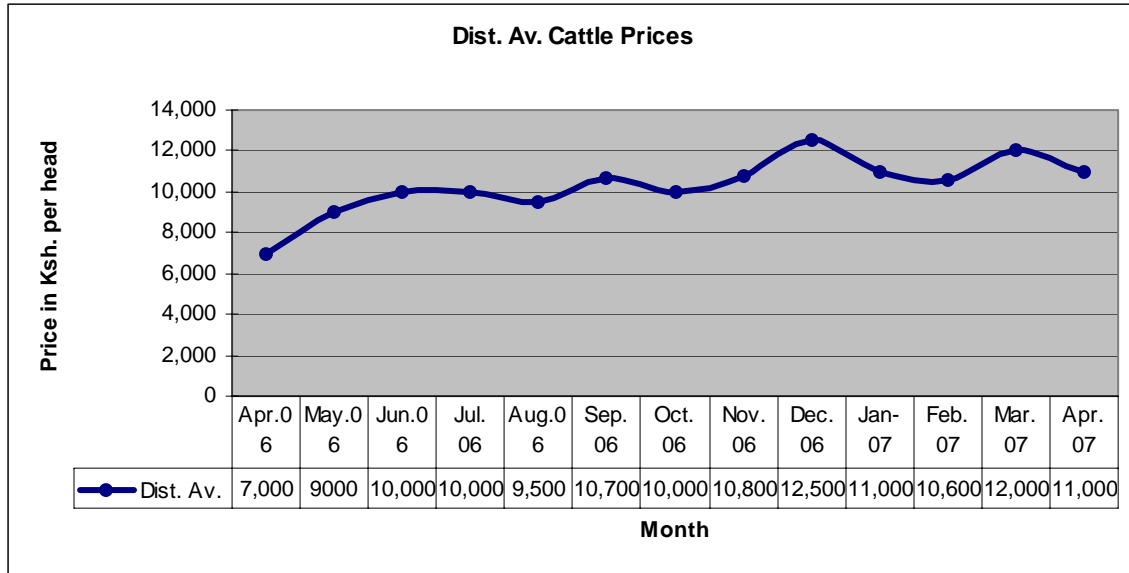
- Milk production have continued to improve with the increase in calving, lambing and kidding rates
- This is impacting positively to the household food security.

### 2.1.7 Livestock Prices (Kshs)

#### (a) Cattle

- Livestock prices have slightly gone down during the review period from the previous months' rates of Ksh. 12,000 to sell at an average of Ksh. 11,000 per head at the household level
- This decrease is attributed to thte high numbers of animals for sale in the markets as the need for extra cash for school fees in preparation for schools opening in May.
- This is impacting negatively to the household food security

The graph below shows district cattle average prices in Ksh. At the household level



#### (b) Goats

- Goat prices have remained gone down as well compared to the previous month's rates. Selling at an average of Ksh. 1,300 from Ksh. 1,500 in January
- This is also attributed to the need for school fees as the schools are expected to open early may.

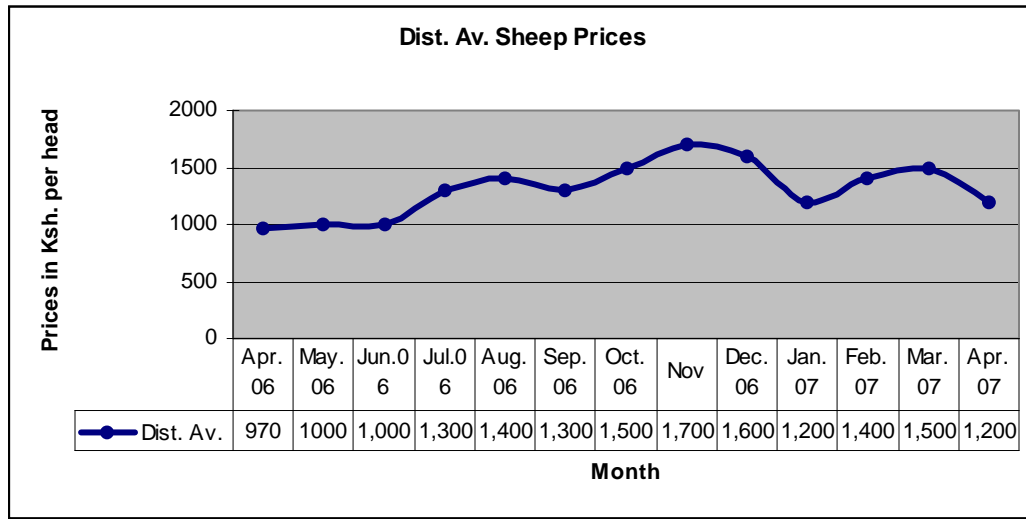
The graph below shows the district average prices of goats at the h/hold level (Ksh.)



(c) Sheep

- Sheep prices have also gone down as compared to the previous month . the same factors are attributed to this as is the case for cattle and goats.

The graph below shows the district average prices for sheep at the household level (Ksh.)

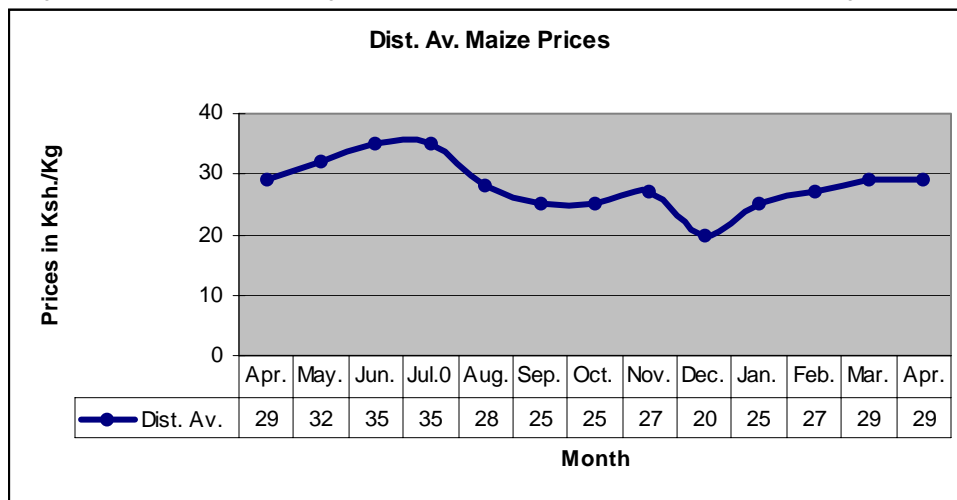


## 2.2 FOOD PRICES (PURCHASES)

### 2.2.1 Maize

- The prices of maize remained within the previous months' rates
- A kilogram of maize is selling at an average Ksh. 29.00
- The prices are likely to start coming down as some farmers are now getting their green maize for food
- This is impacting positively to the food security situation in the district

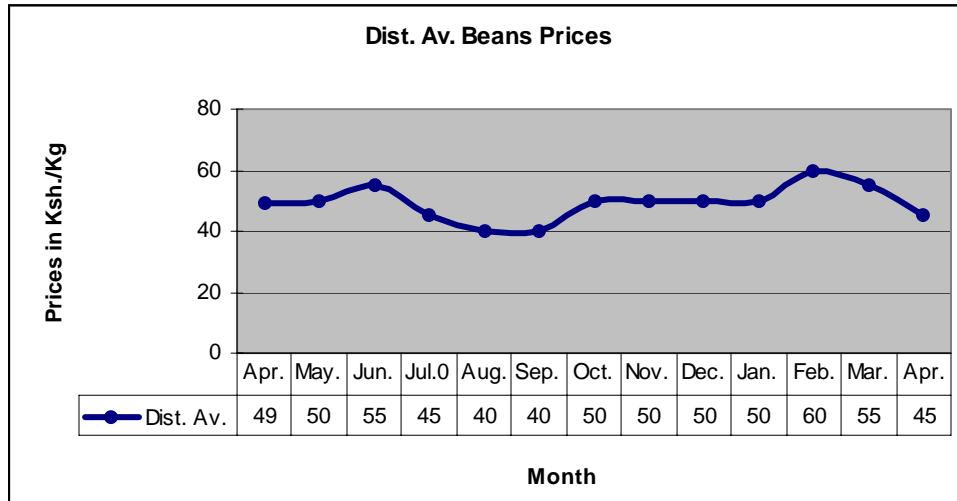
The graph below shows the average district maize prices at the household level (Ksh./Kg)



### 2.2.3 Beans

- The prices of legumes have slightly come down during the review period
- On average a kg of beans is selling at **Ksh. 45.00** compared to the previous months rate of Ksh. 55.00
- Most farmers have started harvesting their crop of beans thus availability in the market of the same is much improved compared to the previous month

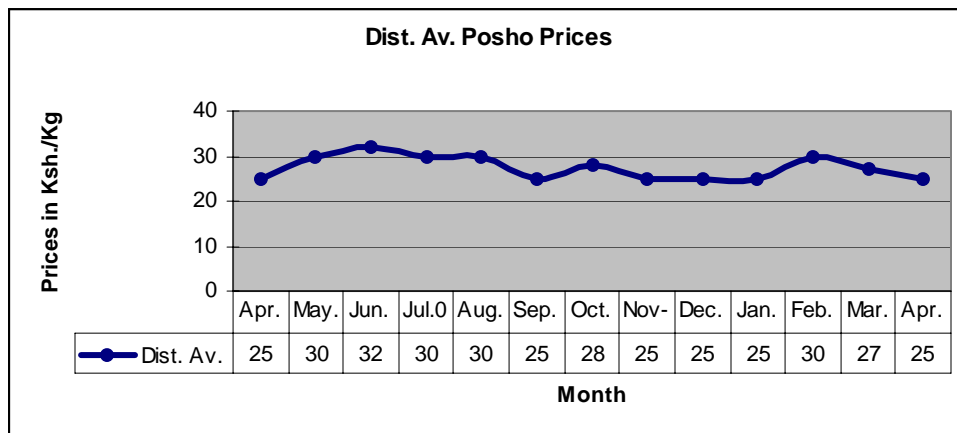
The graph below shows district average beans prices at the household level (Ksh /kg)



### 2.2.4 Posho

- The prices of posho have also slightly come down during the review period
- This is also attributed to the increased availability of milk among several pastoral households
- This is impacting positively to the food security situation at the household level

The graph below shows the average prices of posho at the district (Ksh/Kg)



### 2.3 Crop condition

- For farmers who planted earlier the crop of maize in mature green stages while the majority still are at the tasseling stages
- This is as a result of late planting due to interruption by heavy rains during the land preparation period.
- Areas of Mulot, Nairragie-nkare and Parts of Central have started harvesting their crop of beans as well.
- The cases of maize stalk borer has persisted in areas of Mulot and is spreading to Ololulunga'
- Cases of wildlife destruction is also very high in the areas of Loita and Central divisions
- There is also a tendency of low use of certified seeds, which affects the yields.

### 3 HUMAN WELFARE INDICATORS

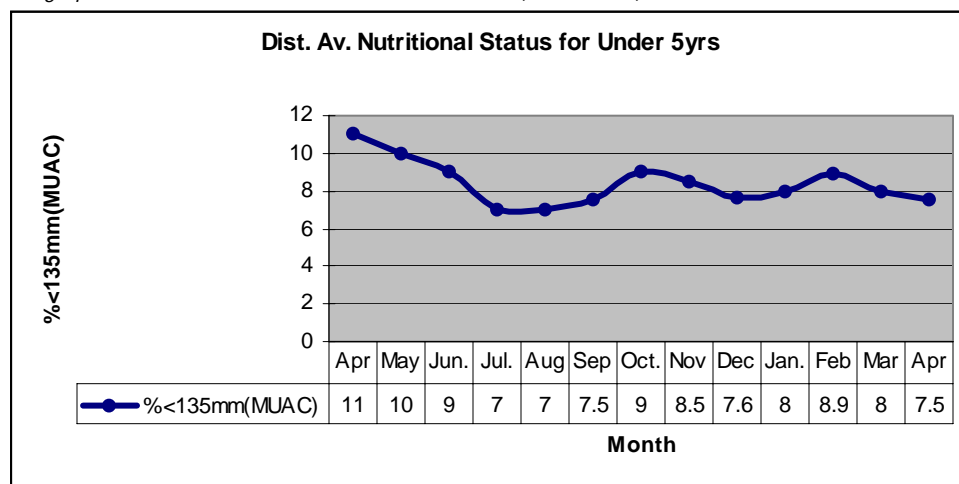
#### 3.1 Human health

- There were no major incidences of human diseases during the review period

#### 3.2 Malnutrition (MUAC) rates

- The percentage of children under five undernourished has continued to decrease. This is mainly attributed to an improvement in milk production. Mothers also have more time with the children since water sources are still within normal distances.
- Incidences of flu/ common cold have also gone down during the review period

The graph below shows the MUAC malnutrition rates (% <135mm)



#### 3.3 Insecurity/conflicts

- There were no reports of insecurity during the review period.
- There were cases of human wildlife conflict in all the divisions of the district. This were of diverse nature from crop destruction, predation and human attacks.

#### 3.4 Migration

##### (a) Livestock migration

##### *In-migration:*

- No in-migration was reported in the district during the review period

##### *Out-migration:*

- No out-migration was reported during the review period

##### *Migration within the district:*

- Herders are moving their animals from the upper parts of Mau division and other high potential areas to the lower rangelands to pave way for the ongoing farming activities.

##### (b) Human Migration/displacement

- Movement of a few individuals into and out of the district in search of labour were reported during the review period.
- This is however normal movement

#### 4 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (APART FROM FOOD AID)

- Drought preparedness activities by the DSG including the construction of water pans, rehabilitation and expansion of Ololepo irrigation scheme, purchase of hay baler, livestock feed mills, energy saving devices promotion of bee keeping among other interventions.
- Capacity building activities for communities and institutions have continued to be undertaken by the GOK and other NGOs/Partner organizations.

#### 5 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The problem of F.M.D which is suspected in some areas, should be ascertained and necessary control measures be taken in time to avert an outbreak of the disease.  
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2. There is need to carry out an initial survey of the performance of the long rains to enable the D.S.G to have firsthand information of the situation on the ground for any preparedness activities to be mobilized/initiated.  
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# Narok District : Livelihood Zones

