

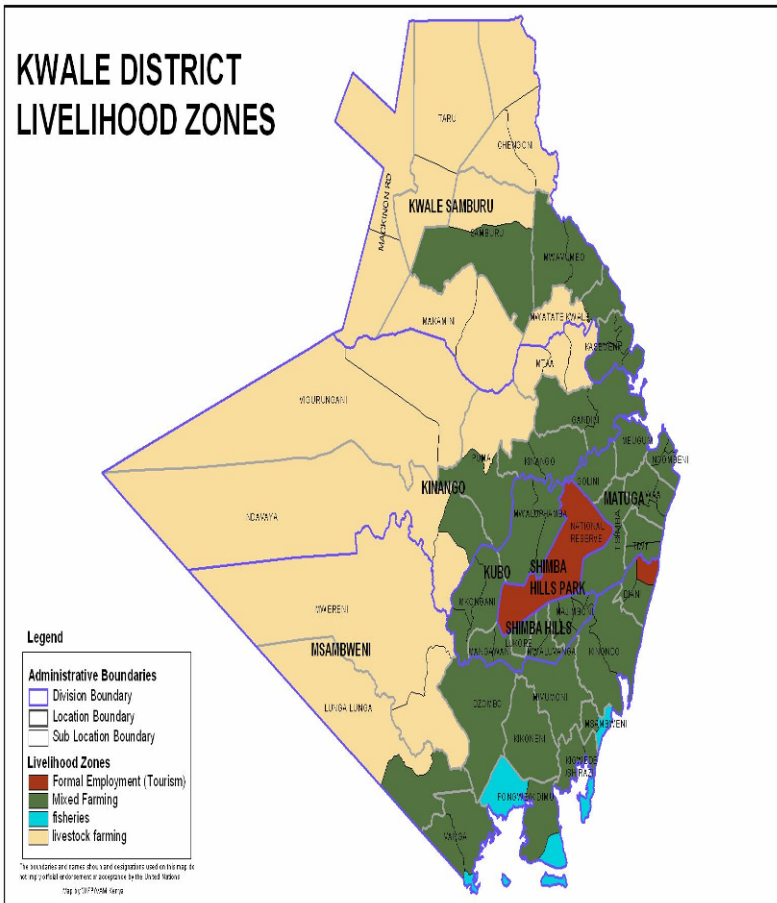


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, NOVEMBER 2009

Kwale, Kinango & Msambweni Districts

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Livestock Farming	Alarm	Improving
Mixed Farming	Alarm	Improving
District	Alarm	Improving

Seasonal Calendar

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains harvests Short dry spell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting/Weeding Long rains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long rains harvests A long dry spell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains Planting/weeding 								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Situation overview

- The district received slight showers, with Matuga recording 7.8 mm in 1 day, Msambweni 49.5mm in 2 days while Kinango received 40.1mm for 2 days. This was lower than the average expected trend of 2006 – 2008.
- The pasture quality and quantity improved tremendously since the beginning of the rains.
- Most of the crops, especially in mixed farming livelihood zone, were at the knee stage with most farmers weeding.
- The livestock body condition improved in most livelihoods following the rains received. Livestock from neighboring province moved back to their respective districts.
- Pans, dams and boreholes remained the main sources of water in the district and some impounded water following the rains season.
- Human/ wildlife conflicts were reported mainly due to elephant menace in the mixed farming livelihood area.
- A slight decrease was recorded in the percentage of children under 5 years at risk of malnutrition (based on the MUAC<135mm measurement) at 8.6% this month from 9 % last month.
- The district was at ‘Alarm’ stage of the drought early warning, with an improving trend due to the rains received.

Current interventions

Non-food interventions

- The DMOH Kinango is facilitating the HIV/AIDS test campaign that has been going through the whole country.
- District veterinary office Kinango and Msambweni facilitated foot and mouth and lumpy skin vaccination.

Food aid

- The Drought Emergency Operation Programme (EMOP) targeting 94,700 beneficiaries for Kinango, 42,200 beneficiaries for Msambweni and Matuga 9,100 beneficiaries is ongoing.
- The following food aid from the Ministry of Special Programme was received and distributed by Kwale district food security team.
 - 1000 bags x 90kg maize
 - 600 bags x 90kgrice
 - 200 bags x 90kgs beans

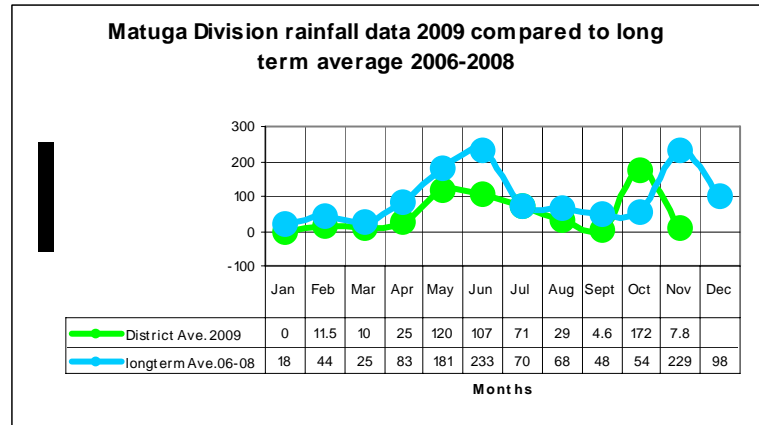
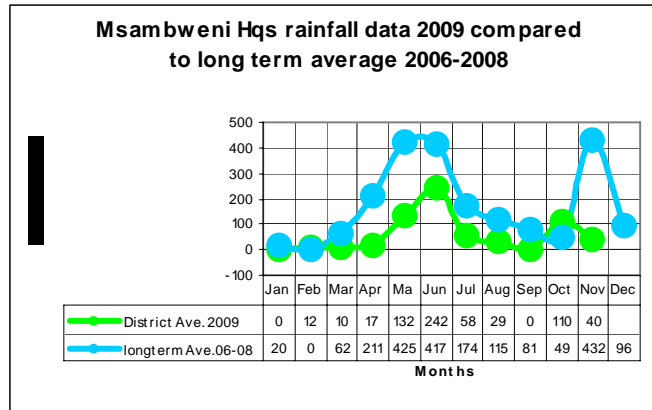
Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Conflict over natural resource use has reduced. However, the District Peace Committee should help address any emerging issues.
- The Kenya Wildlife Services to control elephant menace.
- Ministry of public health to be alert on cholera outbreak reported in other parts of the country.
- Ministry of Health to get prepared for disease out breaks that may occur due to anticipated enhanced short rains.
- Veterinary department to undertake livestock disease control measures in Kinango, Kwale and msambweni districts.

- Communities to be advised to engage in water harvesting structures.

1.0 Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall

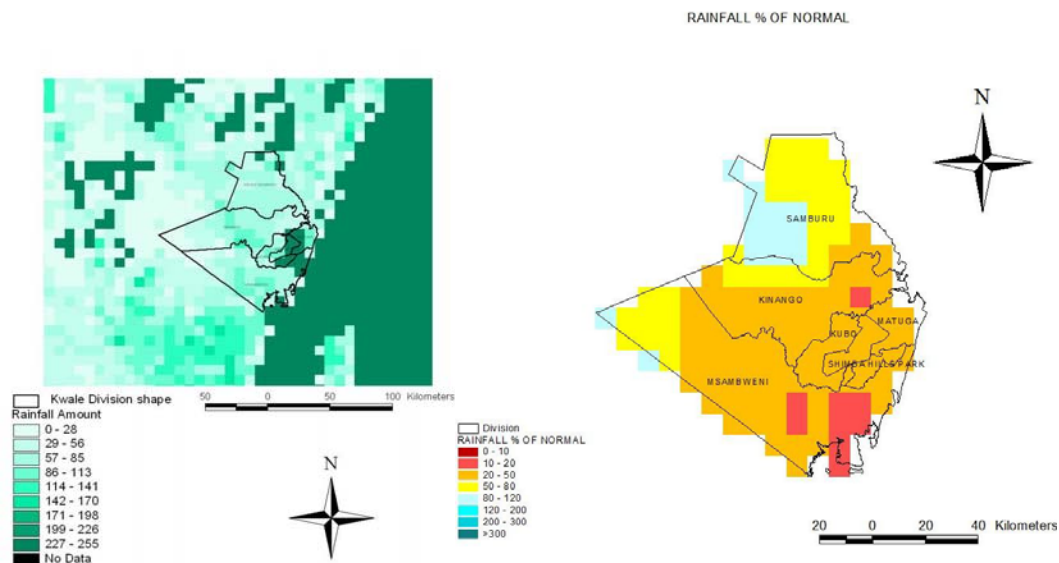


Source: Fig 1. District Agriculture office, Msambweni,

Fig 2. District Agriculture office, Kwale

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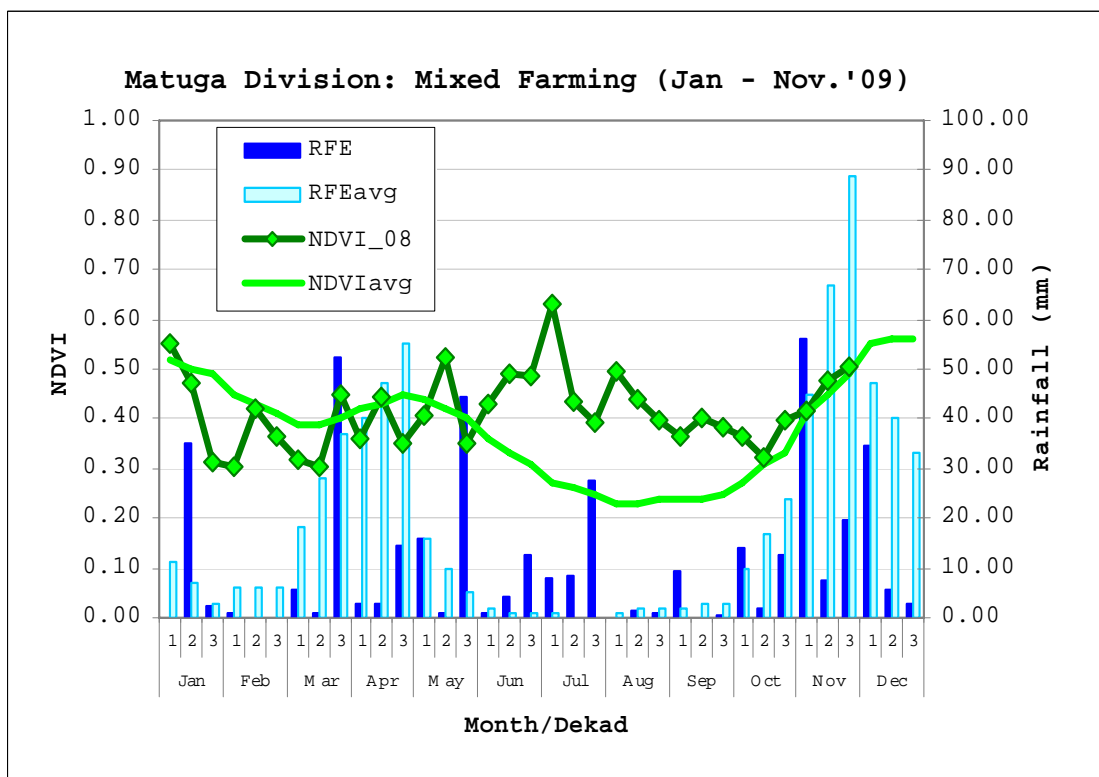
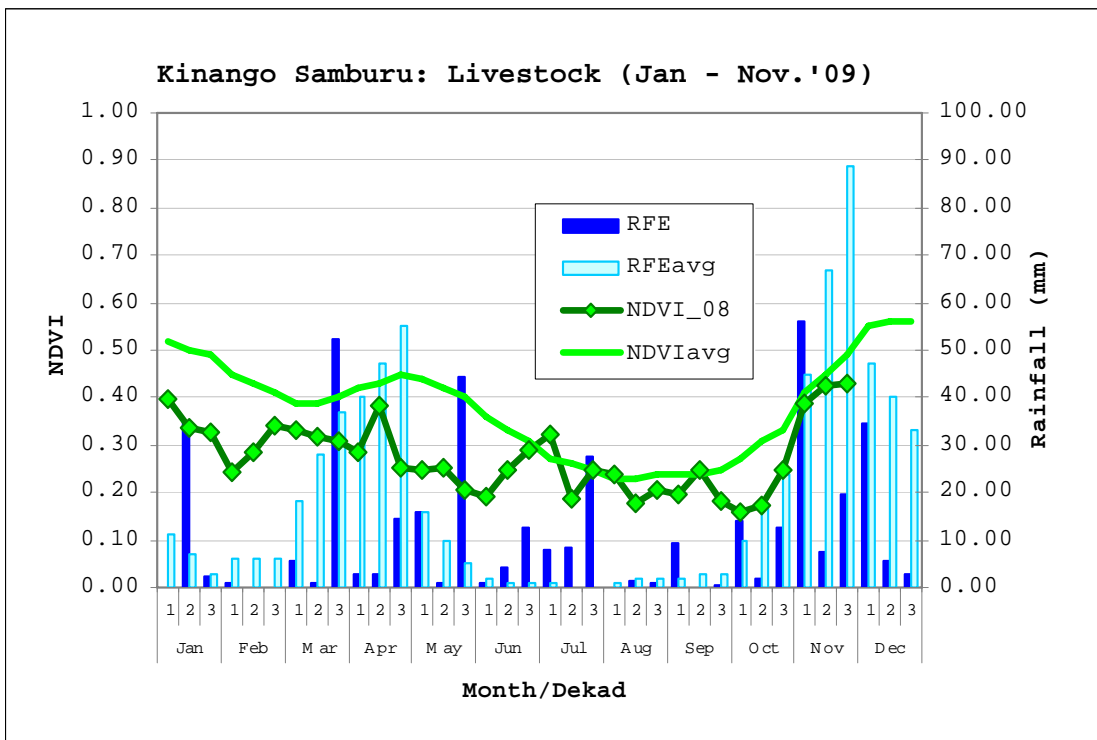
Below are rainfall and vegetation trends for November 2009 in Kwale.



1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

The pasture quality and quantity improved because of the rains received in all the livelihoods. Pressure from livestock from neighboring districts eased since they started moving back to their respective districts.

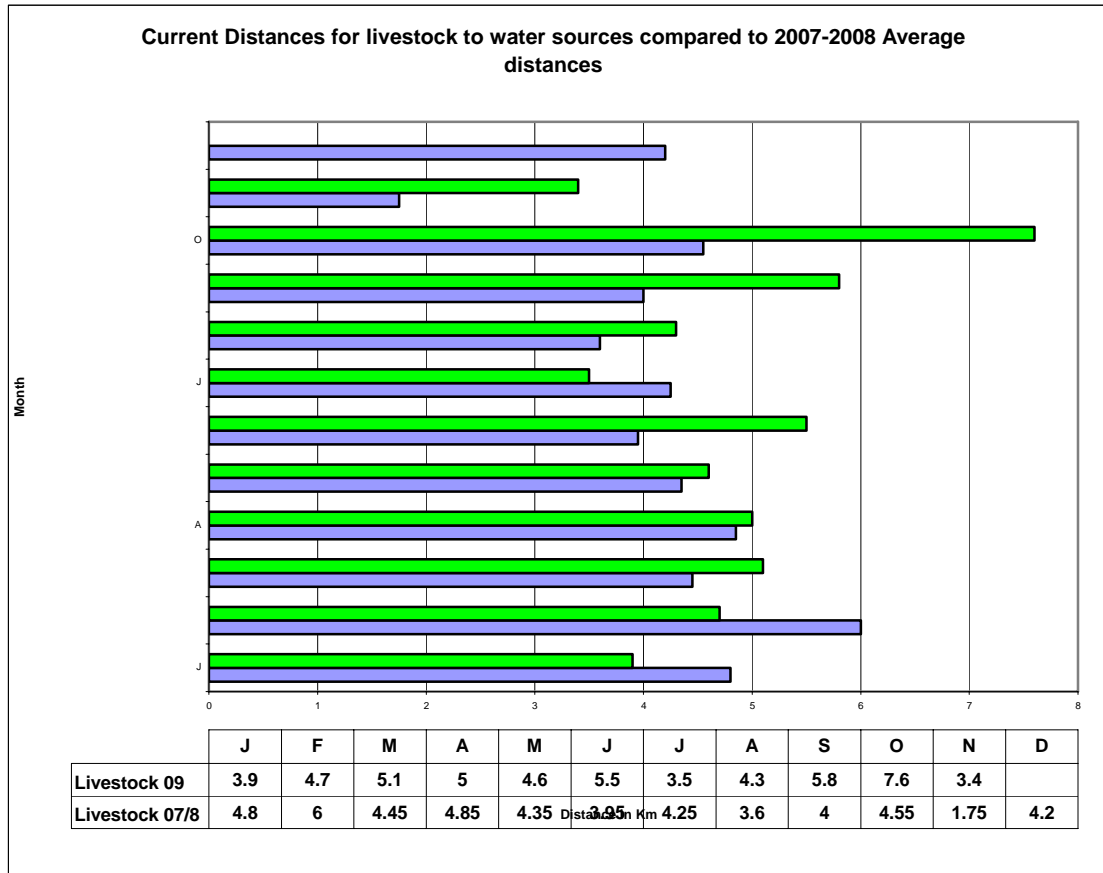
Below are NDVI Graphs showing vegetation Trends.



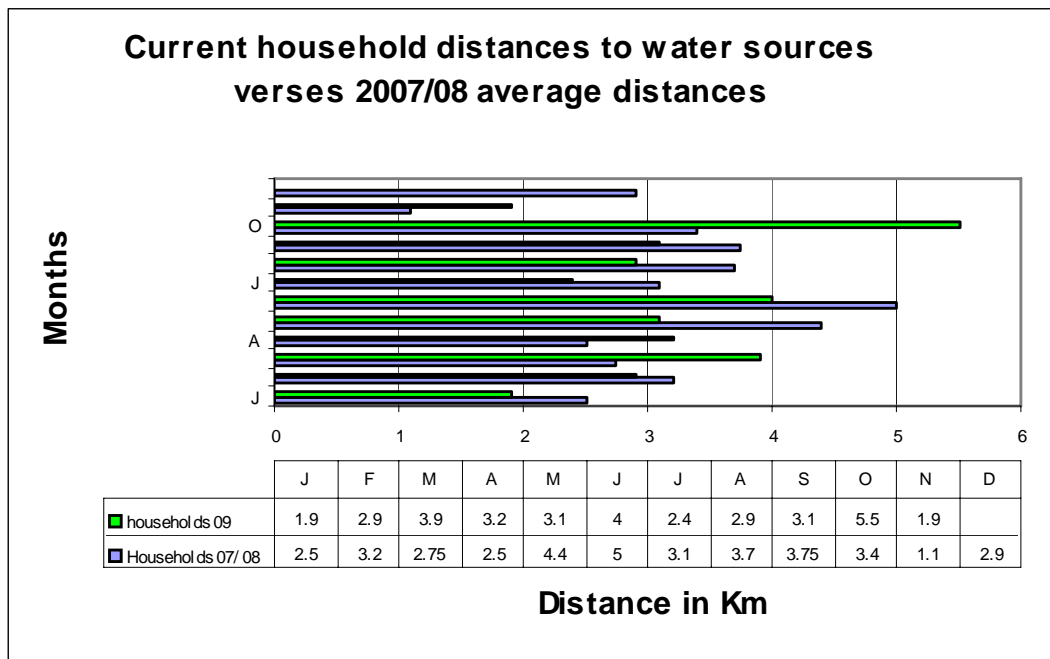
1.3 Water sources and availability

The district water situation improved with the distances to sources having reduced. Distances to water sources in both the Livestock and mixed farming livelihood

zones reduced to rains received in most of the water deficit areas e.g. Vigurungani, Nyango, Gulanze, Mtaa, Mbita, Kilibasi, Gozani and Vinyunduni.



The average distances to water sources for households reduced from 5.5 km to 1.9km and 7.6 Km to 1.9km in the grazing areas. This is because the rains received filled most of the dams and pans.



1.4 Emerging issues

- The little rains received in both the livestock and mixed farming livelihoods areas should continue if the crops in farms are to reach maturity. Failure in rainfall may lead to the continued drought and famine.

1.4.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human displacement

- Human/wildlife conflict in form of crop destruction reported in Kubo, Matuga, Mtaa and Gulanze. Most of the livestock from other districts moved back and this reduced pressure on the natural resource.

1.4.2 Migration

Livestock from neighboring provinces reported in the last months moved back to their respective provinces. Movement of people in search of casual labour and food as a coping mechanism, however, continued.

1.5 Implications on food security

Rainfall received may change the current food situation in both livelihoods if it continues. Conflicts over natural resources reduced due to the rains received.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

Livestock body condition improved following the rains in all the livelihoods zones, which also impacted positively on the quality and quantity of pasture.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

There was no new livestock diseases reported across all the livelihoods. However, the Veterinary Department was undertaking vaccination against rift valley fever.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and Condition of Crop Production activities.

Most of the crops in the mixed farming zones were at the Knee stage with most farmers weeding. There were also few crops in the livestock livelihood zones.

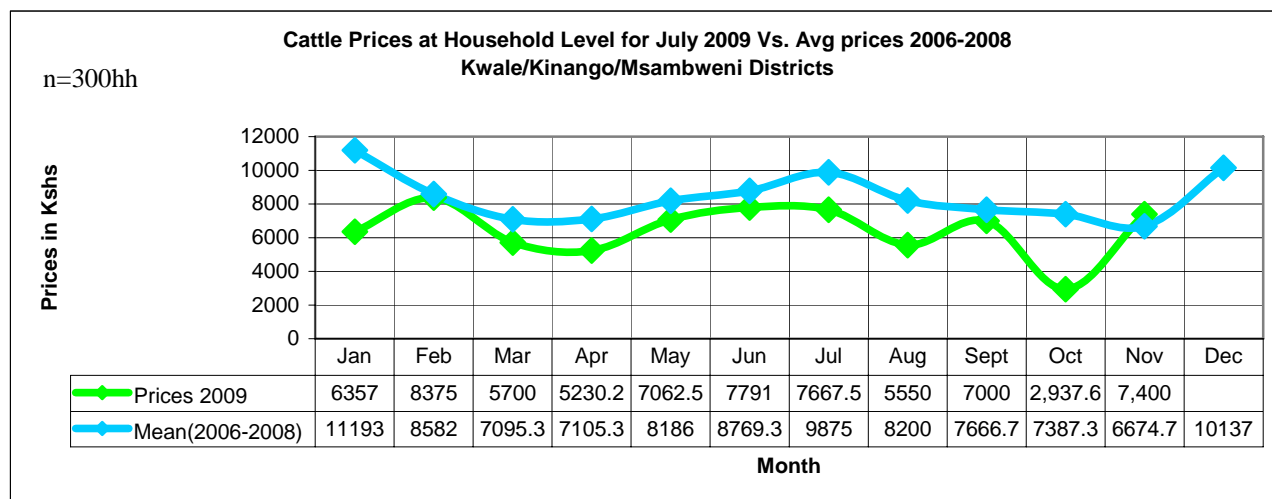
2.2.2 Implications on food security

Most parts of the mixed farming zones started weeding. The larger part of the district is still food insecure following the successive poor rains.

3.0 Access to food

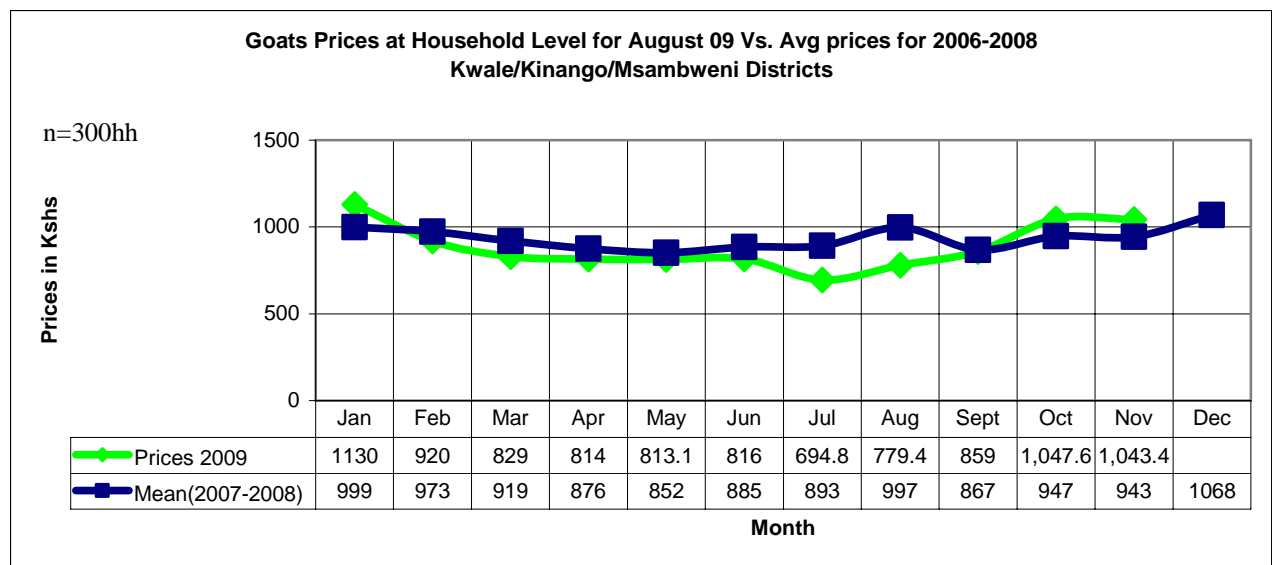
3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices



The average price for cattle has increased to Ksh7, 400 from Ksh2, 937 during the reporting period. This price is above the long term mean recorded in 2006-2008 of Ksh6,674.6. This was due to the good body condition of the cattle as a result of the good pasture and availability of water. This situation is expected to continue following the onset of the rain season.

3.1.2 Goat prices



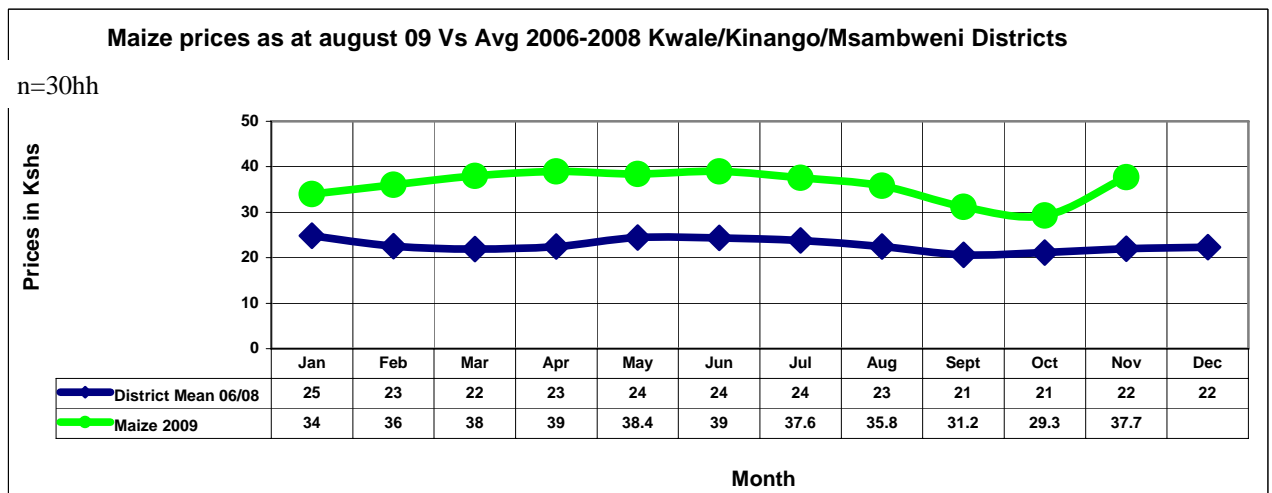
The average price for goats remained constant at Ksh1,047. the price was way far above the long term ranges of 2006-2008.

3.2 Livestock sales

The livestock sales numbers for the month increased mostly because most livestock had good body condition and can fetch good prices. The sales rate for livestock also increased due to good body condition.

3.3 Crop prices

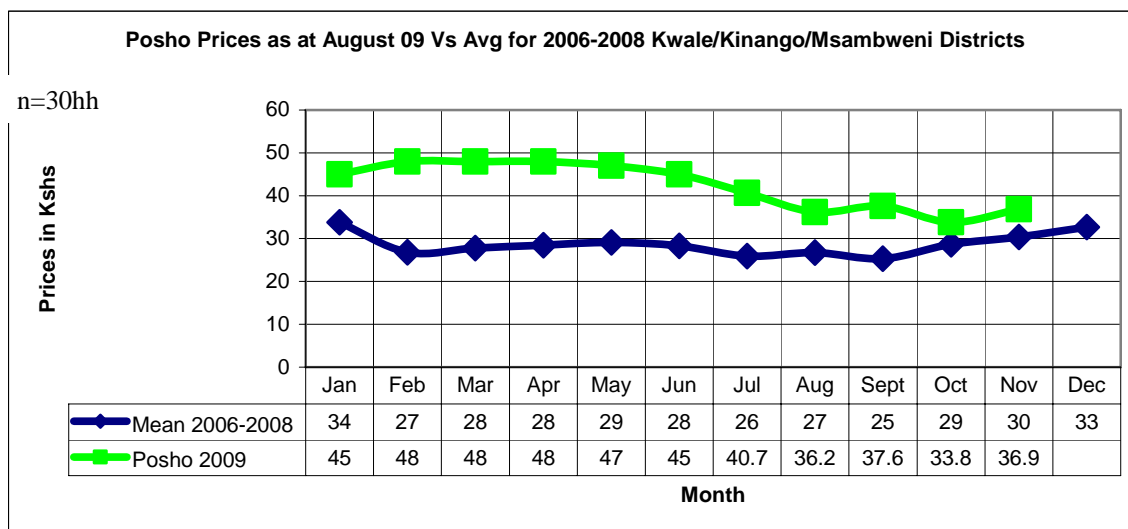
3.3.1 Maize prices



- Maize prices increased to Ksh37.7 from Ksh29.3. The increase in prices was due to increase in demand of the commodities as most farmers still buy this from the markets. This was above the long term mean of 2006 – 2008 of Ksh22. This trend

was not normal for this season since most of the farmers are expected to have food in their stores. Most of the maize is sourced from the market outside the district.

3.3.2 Posho prices



Posho recorded a slight increase in price at Ksh36.9 per kilo from Ksh33.8 recorded last month. This was above the long term mean average 2006-2008 of Ksh30. The sifted maize flour price dropped slightly to Ksh39.2 from Ksh 41.4. The increase was brought by increase in demand.

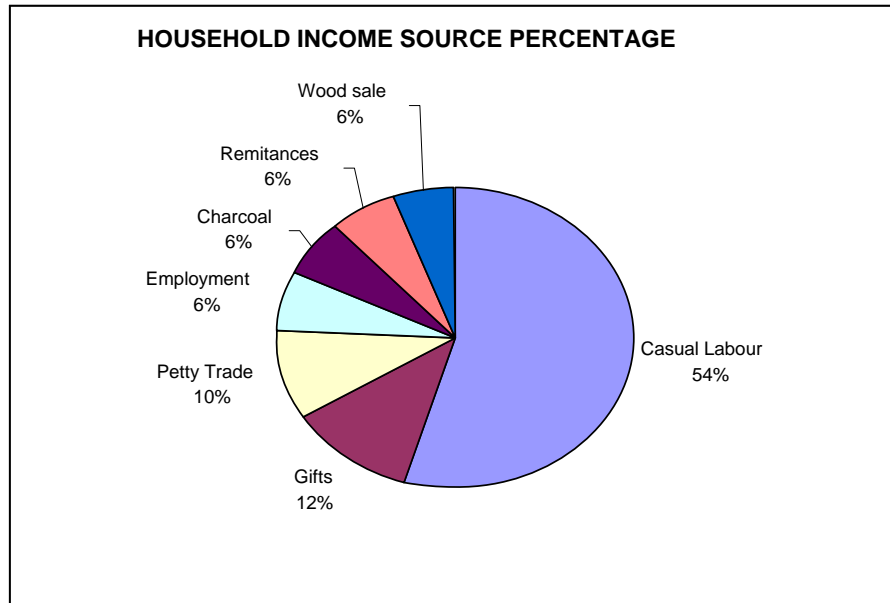
3.4 Crop income

There are no sales of crops from the households since most households are purchasing their food items from shops.

3.4.1 Livestock income

Income from livestock reduced due to promising situation because of availability of water and good pasture hence farmers are not worried of losing their livestock anymore.

3.4.2 Other income



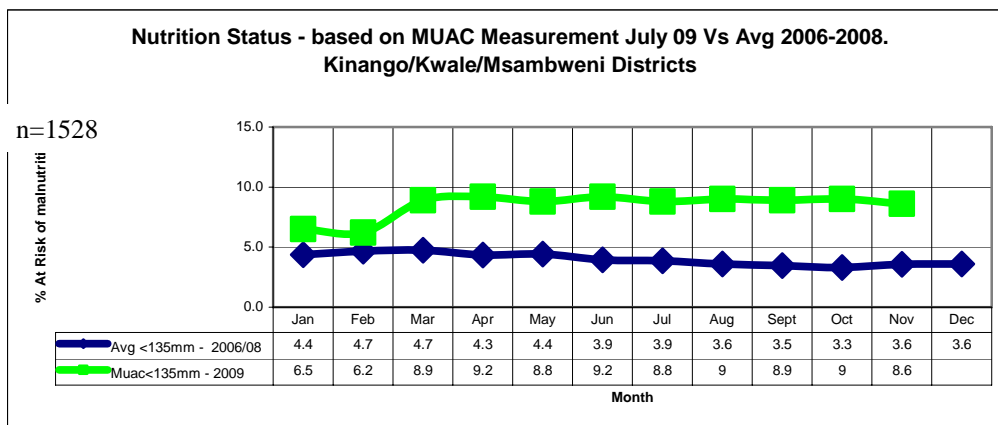
Casual labour remained the main district source of income at 54%. Incomes from sale of charcoal reduced slightly to 6% from 8% recorded last month.

3.5 Implications on food security

Improving pasture conditions led to improved livestock body conditions, hence low sales leading to less income. This contributed to households' low purchasing power since most food commodities prices were very high.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilization of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



- A slight decrease in the percentage of children under 5 years at risk of malnutrition (based on the MUAC<135mm measurement) was recorded at 8.6% this month from 9 % last month.

- Most of the sentimental areas recorded almost zero. However, a very high increase in rate of children rated at risk of malnutrition was reported in Mivumoni at 8.4% from 4.6% while Vigurungani remained high at 24%.

4.2 Human health

Cases of diarrhoea and cholera disease were reported in Mivumoni and Lukore.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non food interventions

- The DMOH Kinango is facilitating the HIV/AIDS test campaign that has been going through the whole country.
- District veterinary office Kinango and Msambweni facilitated foot and mouth and lumpy skin vaccination.

5.2 Food aid

- The Drought Emergency Operation Programme (EMOP) targeting 94,700 beneficiaries for Kinango, 42,200 beneficiaries for Msambweni and Matuga 9,100 beneficiaries is ongoing.
- The following food aid from the Ministry of Special Programme was received and distributed by Kwale district food security team.
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5.3 Coping strategies

Some of the coping strategies employed during the month included:

- Casual labour
- Remittance and gifts from relatives
- Charcoal burning
- Migration for labour
- Petty trade
- Change in feeding patterns , quantities and frequencies

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Conflict over natural resource use has reduced. However, the District Peace Committee should help address any emerging issues.
- The Kenya Wildlife Services to control elephant menace.
- Ministry of public health to be alert on cholera outbreak reported in other parts of the country.
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