

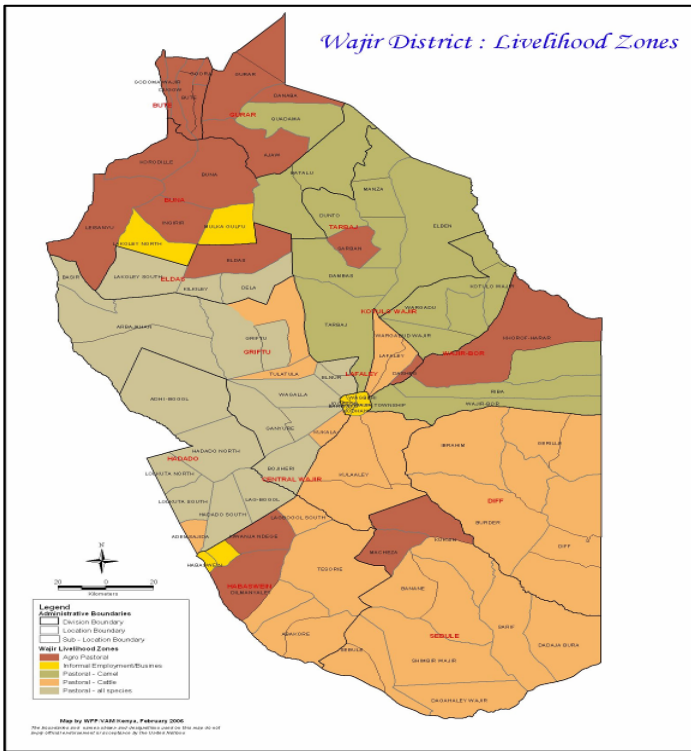


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS  
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

**DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, NOVEMBER 2009**

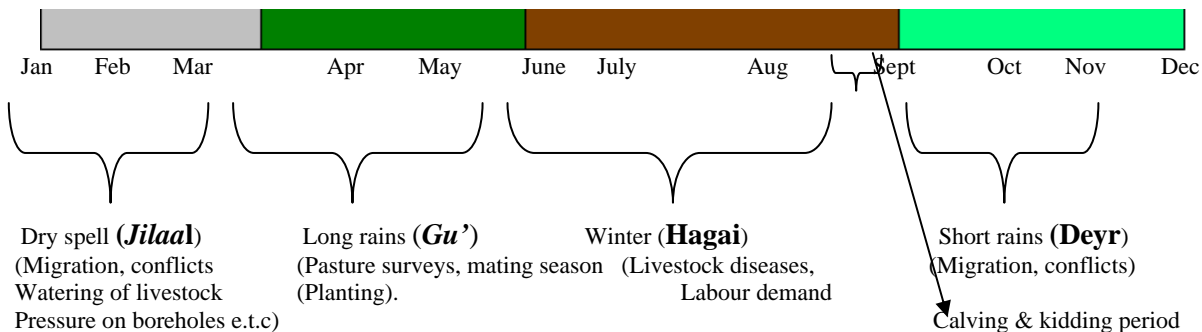
**Wajir District**

**Warning stages**



Livelihood Zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Pastoral – All Species	Alert	Improving
Pastoral – Cattle	Alert	Improving
Pastoral – Camel	Alert	Improving
Agro – Pastoral	Alert	Improving
Informal Employment/Business	Alert	Improving

**Seasonal Calendar**



## **Situation overview**

- Rainfall continued during the month but with less intensity and in localised areas. Some areas did not receive any rainfall, especially in Wajir West areas bordering Eastern province including Arbajahan, Basir and Likole. Others areas received very low rainfall that had no significant impact, especially areas in Tarbaj division including Tarbaj, Gunana, Burmayow, Ogoralle and Khorofharar.
- The quantity and quality of pasture, browse and forage improved in areas that received good rains, especially in Wajir South and North.
- Water availability improved and many ponds and pans impounded water. Livestock moved away from boreholes to wet season grazing areas. There was migration of livestock to areas that received good rains, especially towards the South and North.
- Livestock body condition was fair in all the species and is expected to improve though their bodies were wasted during the successive droughts and expected to improve further.
- Diseases such as PPR, CCPP, infestation of ticks and mosquitoes were reported, especially in low land areas of Diff and Habaswein divisions. There was high infestation of pests, which were clearing vegetation, especially leaves. The pastoralists believe it is an indication of more rains coming.
- Prices of livestock increased in all the species due to the improved body condition. Camel prices increased from Ksh7750 to Ksh8479, cattle from Ksh5820 to Ksh6084. and goats from Ksh960 to Ksh1441 compared to the previous month.
- There was migration of livestock to areas that received good rains, especially towards the South and North. Migration of livestock at this time is an indicator of poor season since pastoralists normally do not migrate if the rains are good in all the areas. Some of the pastoralists also moved from areas with pests, ticks and mosquitoes.
- The main causes of morbidity and mortality were malaria, upper respiratory tract infections, intestinal worms and malnutrition. Cases of malaria and diarrhea were on increase in the health facilities.
- There were no cases of insecurity reported in all the 4 districts.
- GOK/WFP, through the lead agency Aldef, stocked food for the next two months as a result of expected El-nino. Emergency Operation Program (EMOP) has been scaled up, with proposed ration of 75% District wide. Wajir District has estimated 548,168 person and 303,000 persons are targeted under EMOP expected to continued in the next six months, however poor roads have hampered the distribution of the relief food.
- The nutrition status of children below five years (based on MUAC < 135mm measurement) improved during the month, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition dropping to 29.0% from 33.0% the previous month. This was attributed to slight improvement of availability of milk.

## **Recommendations to DSG and KFSM**

- Natural resource management and sensitize communities on wet/dry grazing pattern.
- Strengthening of peace conflict mechanism especially along Wajir – Marsabit-Isiolo border.(Wpda,OOP, Alrmp) .
- Restocking programme, especially cattle and shoats.(Action MoLD/OXFAM, VSF/Alrmp/KRCS)
- Provision of funds for mass vaccination of small stocks against PPR and CCPP in the 4 districts.(Livestock,Vsf, Oxfam, Alrmp).
- Nutritional intervention especially in the worst affected areas like Wajir bor, Kutulo, Hadado, Eldas and Buna through SFP/OTP as a recovery strategy to supplement milk.(SCUK,Mophs, Alrmp)
- Provision of Long Lasting Insecticides Treated Net.(LLITN)(Mphs,SCUK)

- Spraying of households with vectors/chemicals especially in cesspool, stagnant water, bushes and debris to reduce mosquito menace.(MPHS,SCUK)

### **Current interventions**

#### **Food aid**

- EMOP by World Food Programme/GOK through the lead Agency Aldef-Kenya and implementing agency Wasda.
- School feeding program supported by WFP.
- Blanket feeding programme for under five, pregnant and lactating mothers by WFP/Save the children/Aldef.
- Support to grannies by the catholic missions.
- Nutritional supplementary program by Merlin in Wajir west/North and Save the Children UK in Wajir East and South.
- Hunger safety net program (HSNP) by MSDNK&OAL.

#### **Non-food interventions**

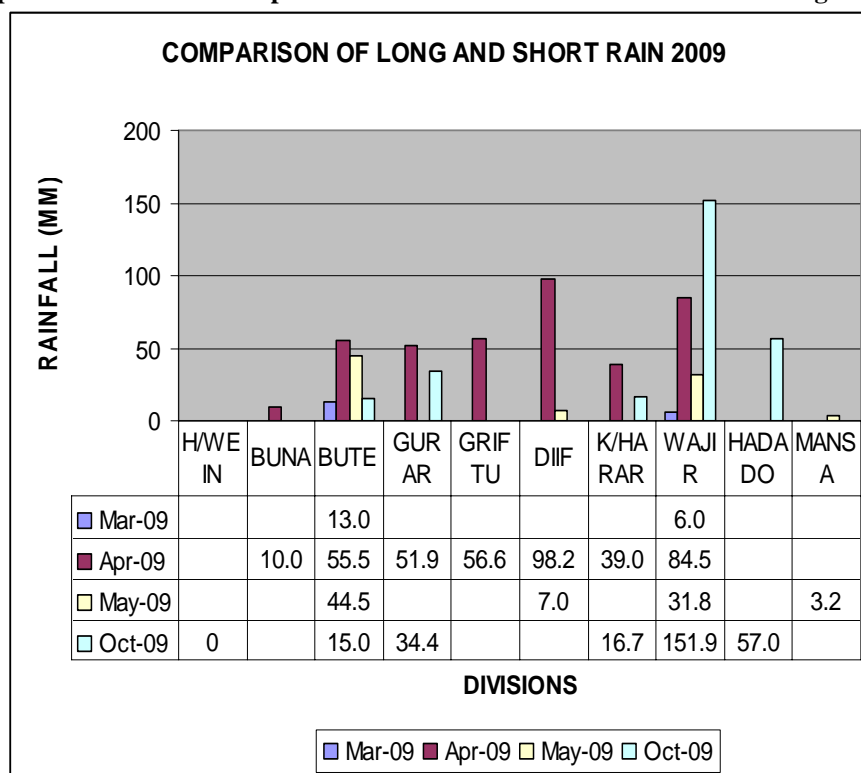
- Mobile VCT services supported by APHIA II.
- Water and sanitation by Oxfam GB.
- HSNP(Hunger and safety net program).
- Continuous health education by the ministry of public and medical services.
- Kazi kwa vijana.
- Provision of Agricultural seeds by the Ministry of Agriculture and Arid Lands Resource Management Project.
- Afforestation by the department of forest.

## 1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

### 1.1 Rainfall

Rainfall continued during the month but with less intensity and in localised areas. Some areas did not receive any rainfall, especially in Wajir West areas bordering Eastern province including Arbajahan, Basir and Likole. Others areas that received very low rainfall that had no significant impact were in Tarbaj division including Tarbaj, Gunana, Burmayow, Ogoralle and Khorofharar.

The graph below shows the comparison of amount of rainfall received in the long and short rain 2009



### 1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

The quantity and quality of pasture, browse and forage improved in areas that received good rains, especially in Wajir South and North.

### 1.3 Water source and availability

Water availability improved and many ponds and pans impounded some water. Livestock moved away from boreholes to the wet season grazing areas.

#### 1.3.1 Household access to water

Access to water improved though the quality was poor due to dissolved solids in the runoff water.

#### 1.3.2 Livestock access to water

Livestock access to water improved and the animals were now using ponds and pans that impounded water. The livestock moved away from boreholes to wet season grazing areas. The trekking distance for water reduced to 5km.

## **1.4 Emerging issues**

In accessibility of roads especially from Nairobi to Wajir, increase in vectors and other pests and increase in commercial food prices.

### **1.4.1 insecurity/conflict/human displacement**

There were no cases of insecurity reported except the fear of Al-shabaab in areas bordering Somalia. Cases of insecurity were reported along the Wajir – Isiolo border highway.

### **1.4.2 Migration**

There was migration of livestock to areas that received good rains, especially towards the South and North. Migration of livestock at this time was an indicator of poor season since pastoralists normally do not migrate if the rains are good in all the areas. Some of the pastoralists also moved from areas with pests, ticks and mosquitoes.

### **1.4.3 Implications on food security**

Poor rains will affect the pasture regeneration, cause crop failure and affect the general food security of the pastoralists and agro-pastoralists. Increased prices of commercial foods, poor road network, poor livestock market will have a negative set back in the pastoral communities.

## **2.0 Rural economy indicators (Food availability)**

### **2.1 Livestock production**

Livestock production was still low following the stress of the drought. However, production is expected to improve with improved pastures and water availability.

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

The Livestock body condition was fair in all the species and is expected to improve though their body were wasted during the successive droughts and is expected to improve further.

#### **2.1.2 Livestock diseases**

Diseases such as PPR, CCPP, infestation of ticks and mosquitoes were reported, especially in low land areas of Diff and Habaswein divisions.

#### **2.1.3 Milk production**

Milk production is expected to improve with improved pasture conditions.

## **2.2 Crop production**

### **2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of various crop production activities**

Crops planted included maize, millet and sorghum while small garden farms were also doing well especially in Wajir central. The areas that received good rains are expected to harvest since the rain days were well distributed. Crops were planted in time and a good harvest is expected if the rain continues at the same intensity.

## **2.2 Pests and diseases**

There was high infestation of pests that were clearing vegetation, especially leaves of trees. Pests and crop diseases were reported, especially in crops that were planted earlier.

### 2.2.3 Harvests

There were no harvests during the month under review since the crops have not matured. However, the small vegetable farms under shallow well irrigation in Wajir central are being harvested from time to time.

### 2.2.4 Implications on food security

The expected harvest will slightly improve food security especially in the agro-pastoral livelihood zone.

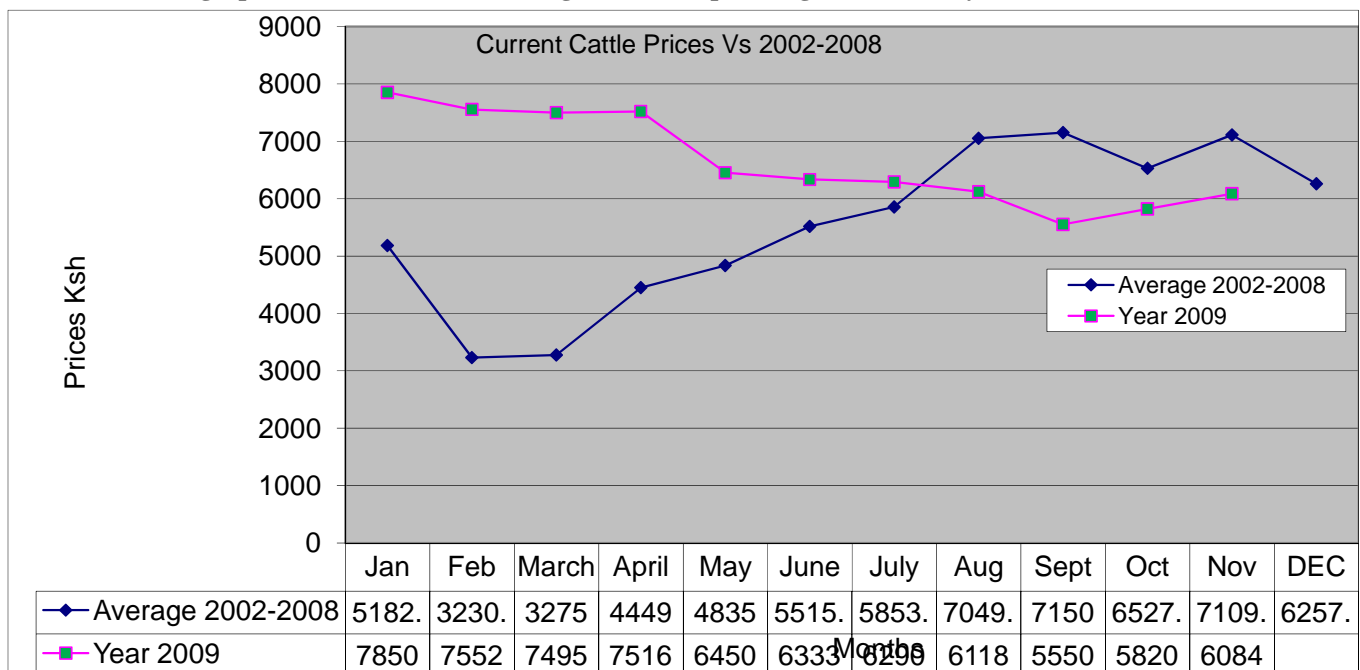
## 3.0 Access to food

### 3.1 Livestock marketing and sales.

Livestock prices slightly increased in all the species due to the improved body condition. The sale rate was low but is expected to improve since the condition of livestock is also improving.

#### 3.1.1 Cattle prices

The graph below indicates cattle long term mean prices against current year

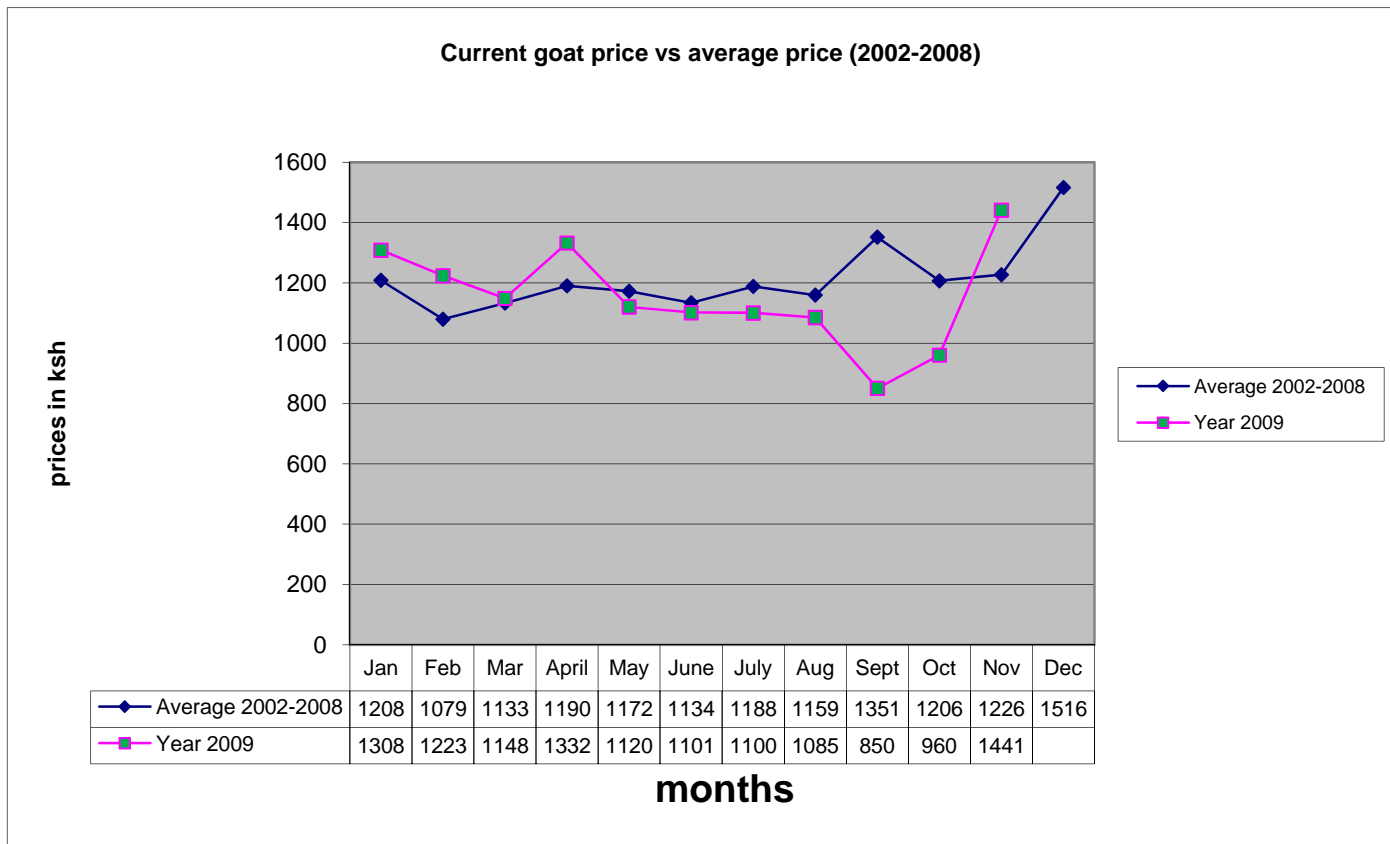


N= 420

As the cattle body condition improved, the price also increased compared to the previous month. The average price was Ksh6084 compared to Ksh5,820 in October. The price increase was as a result of improved body condition and demand.

### 3.1.2 Goat prices

The graph indicates Goat long term mean prices against current year 2009.



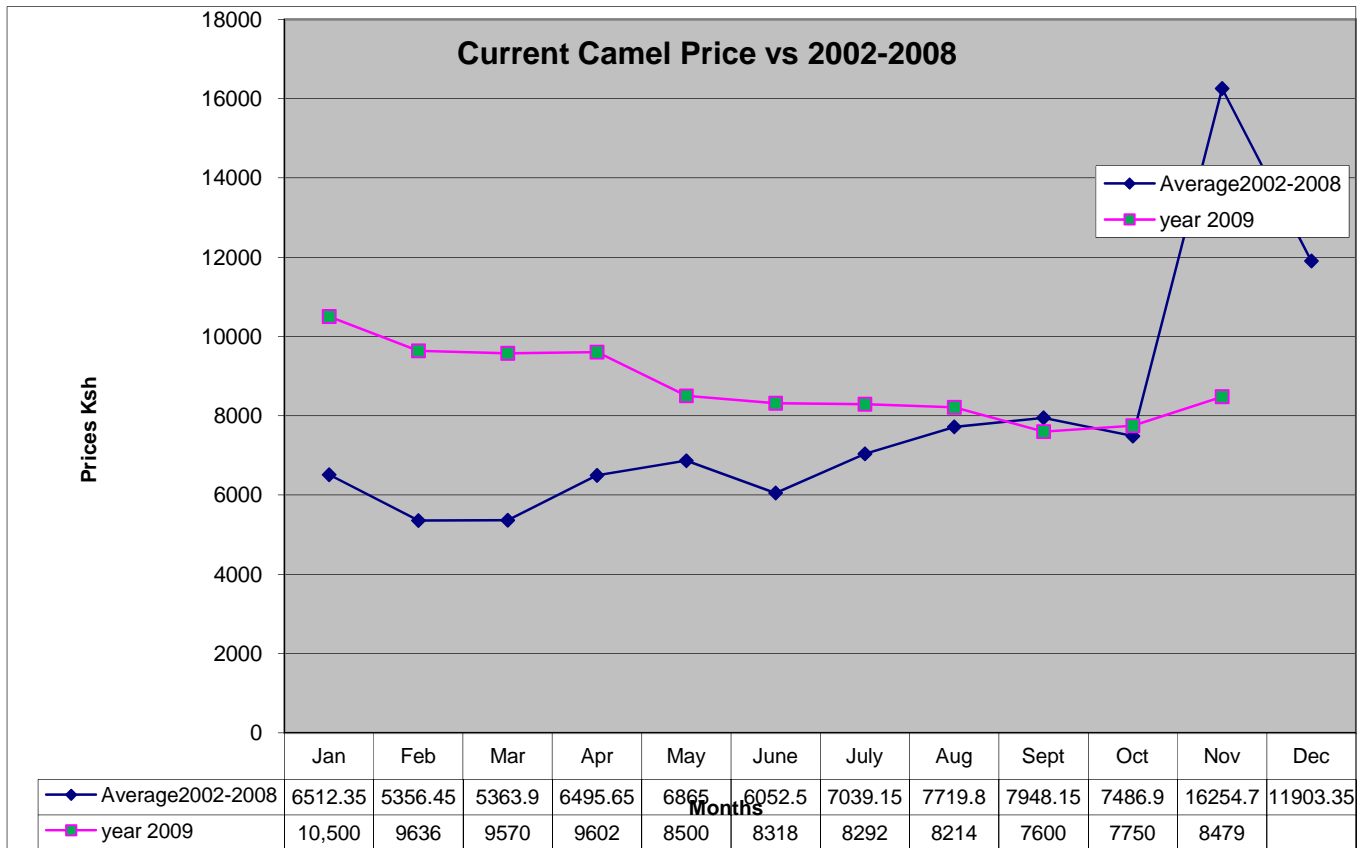
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Goat prices increased compared to the previous month due to improvement in their body condition. The average price was Ksh1441 compared to the previous month's Ksh960.

### 3.3 Camel prices

The average camel price also increased slightly compared to previous month from Ksh7750 to Ksh8479. Camels are exported to Ethiopia and Somalia, hence the increased demand in markets.

The graph below indicates Camel long term mean prices against current year 2009.



### 3.2 Milk consumption

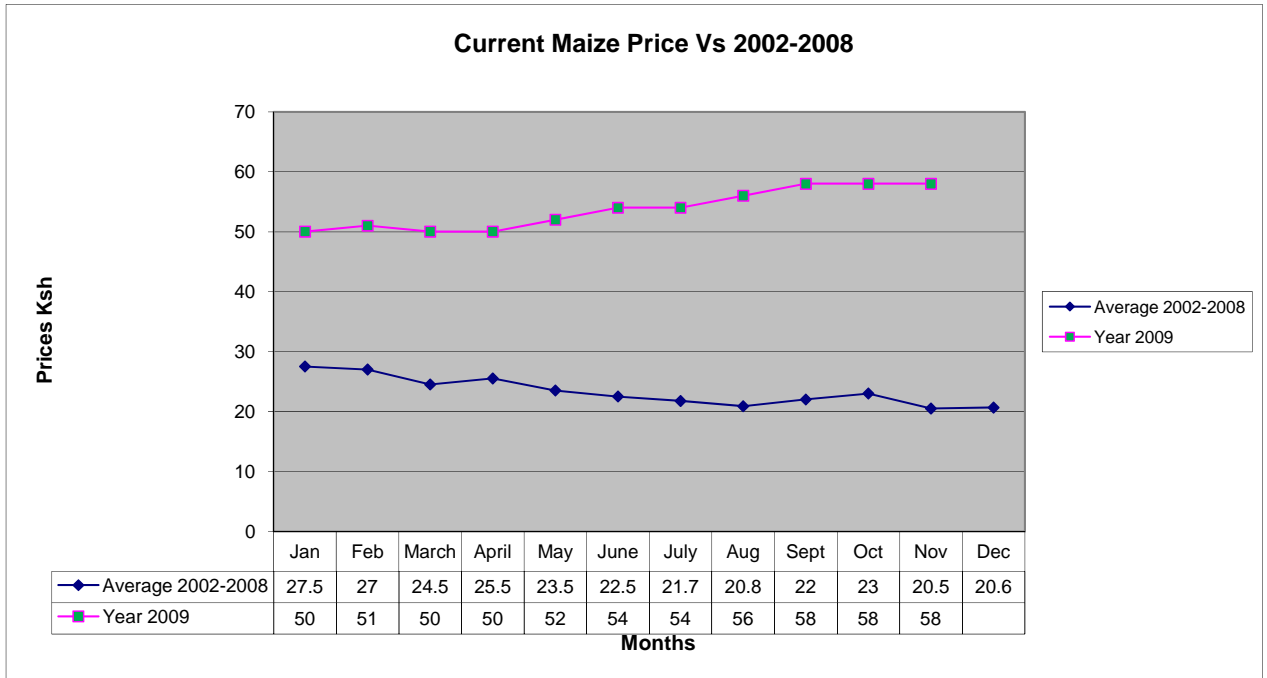
Milk consumption improved compared to the previous although the commodity was scarce with the few available used as alternative source of income to purchase other commercial foods.

### 3.3 Food prices

#### 3.3.1 Maize prices

The graph below indicates maize long term mean prices against current year 2009

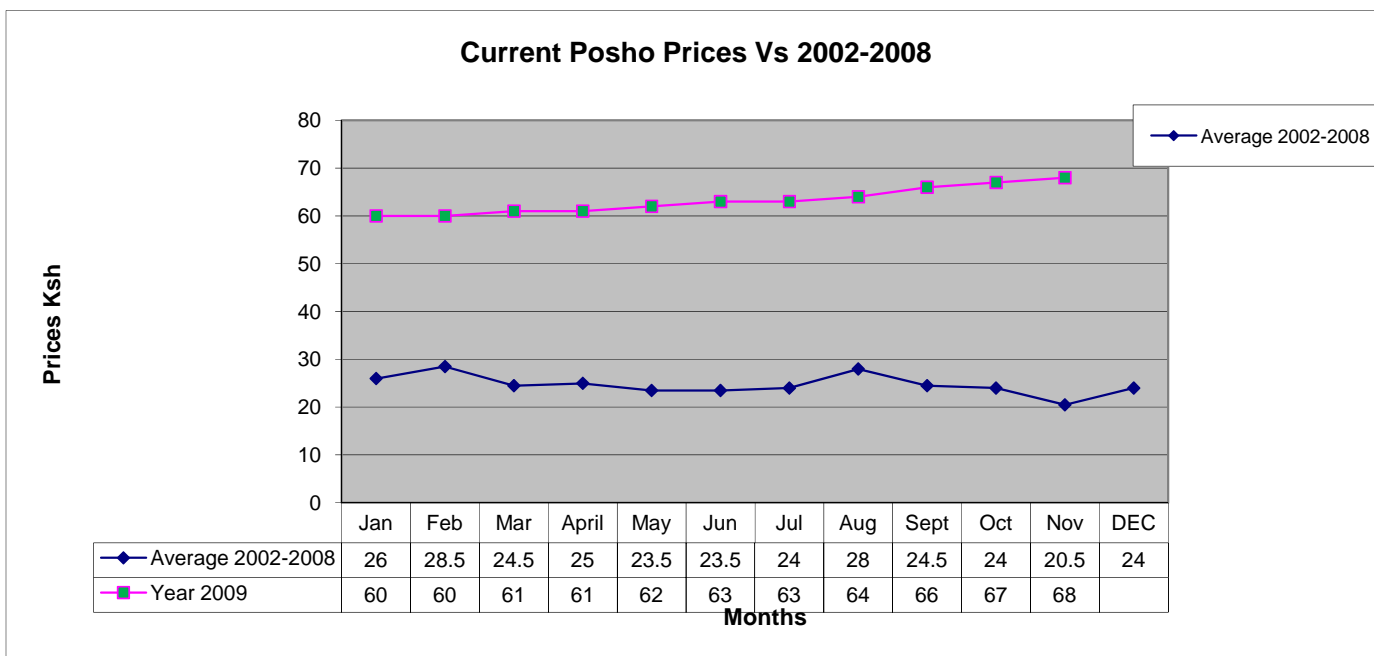




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The prices of maize remained the same compared to the previous month since the commodity was issued as relief food. The demand was also high compared to other cereals due to its availability and low price. The average price was Ksh58 per kilo.

### 3.4.2 Posho (maize meal) prices

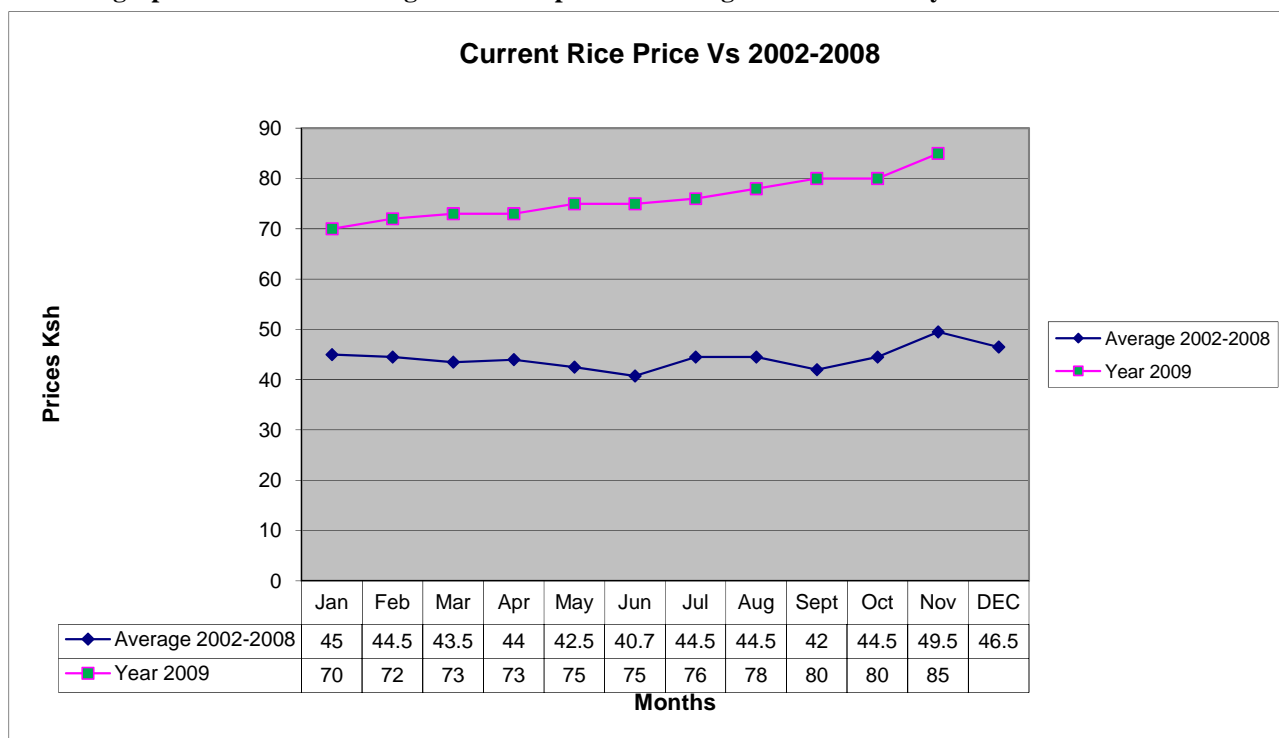


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Posho prices increased slightly compared to the previous month due to high transportation costs, and increase in fuel for grinding. The average price was Ksh67 per kilo.

### 3.4.3 Rice prices

The graph below indicates long term mean prices of rice against the current year 2009



The price of rice increased slightly compared to the previous month. A variety of rice was available in local markets but the average price was Ksh85 per kilo.

## 3.5 Income

### 3.5.1 Crop income

Kitchen farming using small irrigation pumps, especially at Wajir central provided alternative source of income. Vegetables were also grown and sold in the local markets.

### 3.5.2 Livestock income

The main source of income was sale of livestock but poor prices, low demand and poor body condition all had a negative setback to the pastoralist community.

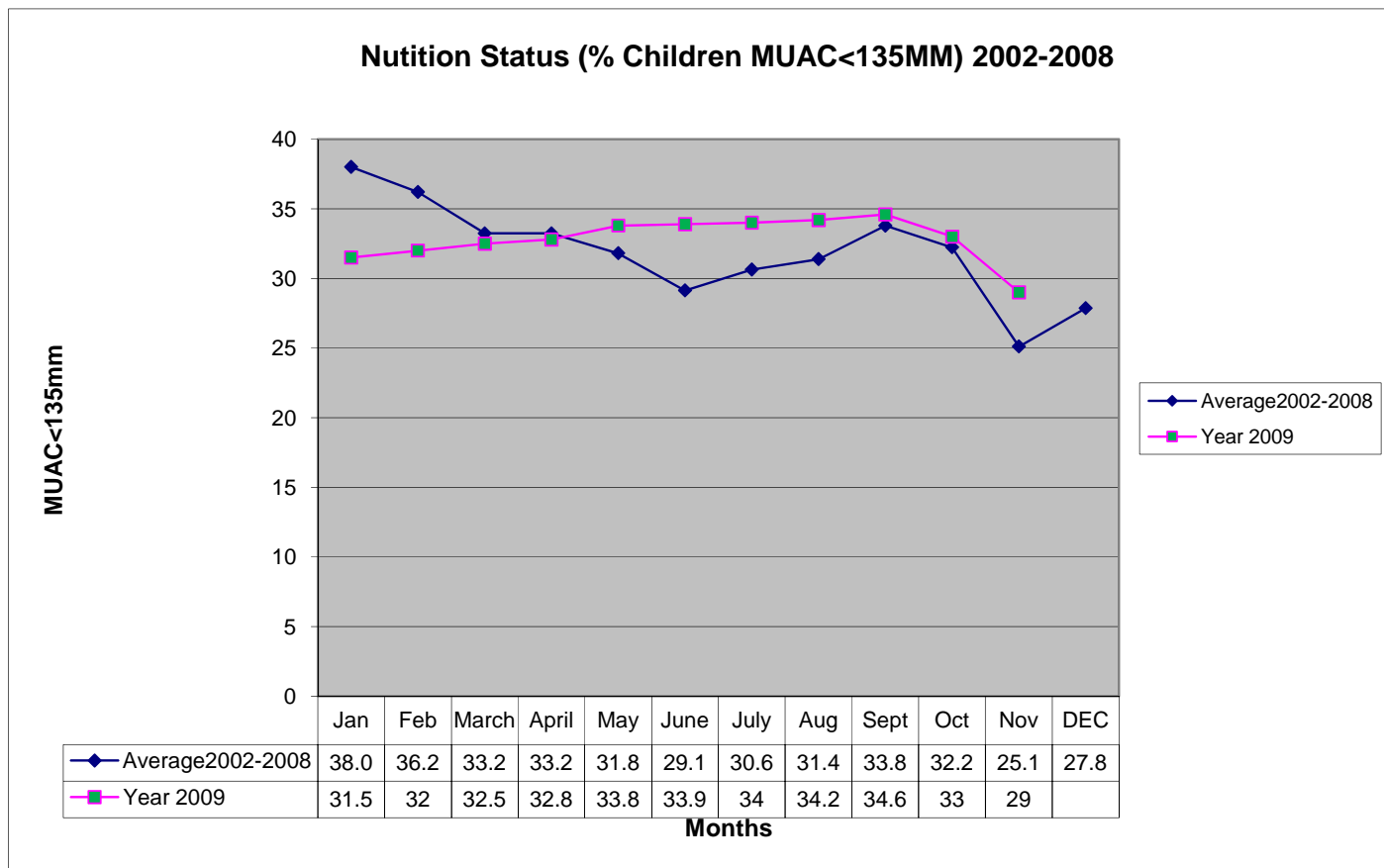
### 3.5.2 Other income

Selling of miraa, quarry and daily casual labour, especially planting and other general wages. Fetching of firewood was another alternative source of income, especially in Small business/informal livelihood zone.

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

##### 4.1 Nutrition Status

The graph below indicates the nutrition status of children below five years (Muac <135mm) in November 2009



N= 420

- The nutrition status of children below five years (based on MUAC < 135mm measurement) improved during the month, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition dropping to 29.0% from 33.0% the previous month. This was attributed to slight improvement of availability of milk.
- The improvement was attributed to availability of milk and other interventions.

##### 4.2 Health

The main causes of morbidity and mortality in the district remained malaria, upper respiratory tract infections, diarrhoeal diseases and malnutrition. However, upsurge of malaria and diarrhoea cases were reported.

##### 4.3 Flagged areas

Kwashiorkor cases which had been reported during the drought have subsided while Diif have been reported to be flagged areas for schistosomiasis.

##### 5.0 Current interventions

### **5.1 Food aid**

- EMOP by World Food Programme/GOK through the lead Agency Aldef-Kenya and implementing agency Wasda.
- School feeding program supported by WFP.
- Blanket feeding programme for under five, pregnant and lactating mothers by WFP/Save the children/Aldef.
- Support to grannies by the catholic missions.
- Nutritional supplementary program by Merlin in Wajir west/North and Save the Children UK in Wajir East and South.
- Hunger safety net program (HSNP) by MSDNK&OAL.

### **5.2 Non-food interventions**

- Mobile VCT services supported by APHIA II.
- Water and sanitation by Oxfam GB.
- HSNP(Hunger and safety net program).
- Continuous health education by the ministry of public and medical services.
- Kazi kwa vijana.
- Provision of Agricultural seeds by the Ministry of Agriculture and Arid Lands Resource Management Project.
- Afforestation by the department of forest.

### **5.3 Coping Strategies**

- Sale of livestock for weddings/school fees.
- Fetching of firewood and charcoal burning.
- Sell of Gum and resins, Mirra and Quarry products like white wash.
- School feeding program supported by WFP during the school holiday.

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

- Natural resource management and sensitize communities on wet/dry grazing pattern.
- Strengthening of peace conflict mechanism especially along Wajir – Marsabit-Isiolo border.(Wpda,OOP, Alrmp) .
- Restocking programme, especially cattle and shoats.(Action MoLD/OXFAM, VSF/Alrmp/KRCS)
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