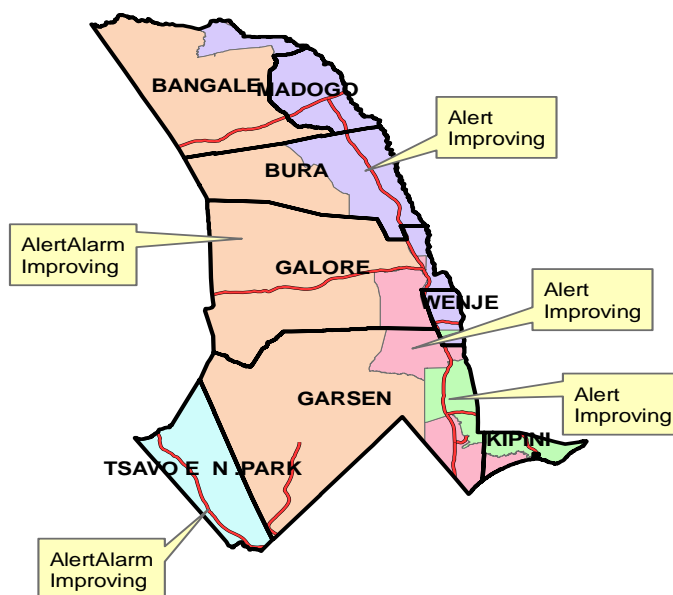




OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, NOVEMBER 2009

TANA RIVER DISTRICT DROUGHT EARLY WARNING STATUS



Legend

- TR Divisions
- TRD_Roads
- Agro-Pastoral
- Dry Riverine Zone
- Pastoral
- Tana Delta Zone
- Wildlife

75 37.5 0 75 Kilometers

Seasonal Calendar

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Milk yield drops ▪ Livestock move towards dry season grazing areas ▪ Decline in livestock prices ▪ water stress in the traditional grazing areas 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased milk yield ▪ Livestock move towards the traditional wet season grazing areas. ▪ High Calving and lambing rates. ▪ Rise in livestock prices 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low milk availability ▪ Livestock move towards the fall back dry seasons grazing areas (riverine and delta) ▪ Water and pasture stress experienced in the hinterland pastoral dominated areas. ▪ High incidence of conflicts between farming and pastoral communities. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased milk yield ▪ Livestock move back to the traditional wet season grazing areas. ▪ Calving rates increases ▪ Rise in livestock prices 		
Lean period for the pastoralists						Lean period for the pastoralists					
Short dry spell			Long rains			Long dry spell			Short rains		
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Short rains harvest		Land Preparation	Planting/weeding		Crops at green maturity	Long rains harvest		Land Preparation.	Planting/Weeding		Crops at green maturity
			Lean period for farmers						Lean period for farmers		

Situation overview

- The general drought condition across all the livelihood zones was rated alert/alarm but improving.
- Erratic showers continued to be reported across the district though with less intensity compared to the month of October.
- The water condition continued to be favourable as most of the pans and catchment areas are reported to have recharged.
- The condition of natural vegetation registered a remarkable improvement with pasture, browse and large trees regeneration being noted in all livelihood zones.
- The livestock body and health conditions though recovering from the effects of the drought are still generally rated poor however, expected to continue gaining weight with the ongoing favorable weather conditions.
- No livestock disease out breaks reported however reported cases include high incidence of trypanosomiasis, pneumonia related cases and worms.
- There was a general increase in the prices of small stock, the prices of cattle and camel however recorded a slight decline. Price rise in small stock is anticipated due to the current improved body conditions and high demand especially during the Idd festival. The prices of all livestock species are however generally expected to rise with the ongoing favorable range conditions.
- The milk production and consumption indicator recorded a slight improvement as during the month both production and consumption to rose by about 3%.
- Maize crop was at different stages of development as those who planted before the onset and whose crop survived the rains have their crop almost tussling, those who planted after the onset are at weeding stage however those whose crop scotched in the floods during the rains are in the process of replanting..
- No significant change was observed in the coping strategy index at the household level as during the month, of the 450 households interviewed ; 3% were classified as “Better Off”, 21% “Middle”, 58% “Poor” and 18% “Poorest” compared to 2%, 22%, 59% and 17% of last month.
- The food security situation is still generally rated poor as no significant positive impact has yet been realized in terms of crop and livestock production from the long rains.
- During the month, malaria, upper respiratory tract infections, skin diseases, diarrhoea and pneumonia remained the most common diseases reported.
- The nutrition status of children below five years (based on the MUAC<135mm measurement) declined slightly, with the percentage categorised at risk of malnutrition rising to 15.2% from 14.7% last reporting period.

- No insecurity incidences were reported. However, peace building initiatives and security surveillance continued to be carried out in the hot spot areas.

Recommendations to District Steering Group/Kenya Food Security Meeting.

- Food aid in terms of Supplementary feeding, PRRO and general distribution to continue as currently both pastoral and agro-pastoral communities are undergoing a lean period after going through the drought spell and followed by the enhanced onset of rains.
- Continue to support flood affected victims in IDP camps with food and non-food items.

Current interventions

Non-food aid

- Support food production by capacity building and provision of pumps to farming groups
- Under the Economic Stimulus Program is;
 - Rehabilitation of the Hola, Bura and Tana Delta Irrigation schemes is ongoing and cropping has started in the already cleared area.
- Support to flood affected victims in Tana Delta with non-food items. (Tarpaulins, family kits and chlorine aqua tabs)
- Support peace committees carry out peace building initiatives and security surveillance in the hot spot areas.

Food aid

- School feeding program in all primary schools.
- Supplementary and therapeutic feeding program for children aged 6 – 59 months, pregnant and lactating mothers ongoing in health institutions.
- EMOP/PRRO – benefiting a population of 104,722 from Tana North, Tana River and Tana Delta districts.
- Food aid by the GOK kitty.

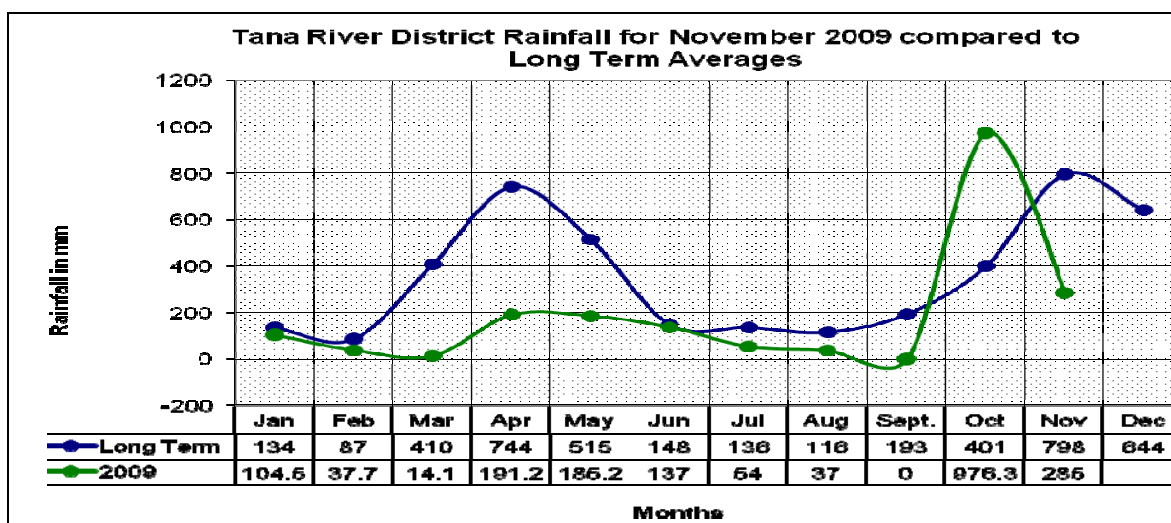
1.0 Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- Erratic showers continued to be reported across the district though with less intensity compared to that experienced during the month of October. Most of the pastoral areas however continued to report negligible amounts.

Livelihood Zone	Station	Rainfall in mm
Mixed Farming	• Kipini	• 124.4
	• Garsen	• 74.6mm
Marginal Mixed Farming	• Hola	• 17.7mm
Pastoral	• Wayu	• 44.3mm
	• Bangale	• 24.0mm

- Temperatures remained within the range of 28°C to 32°C.

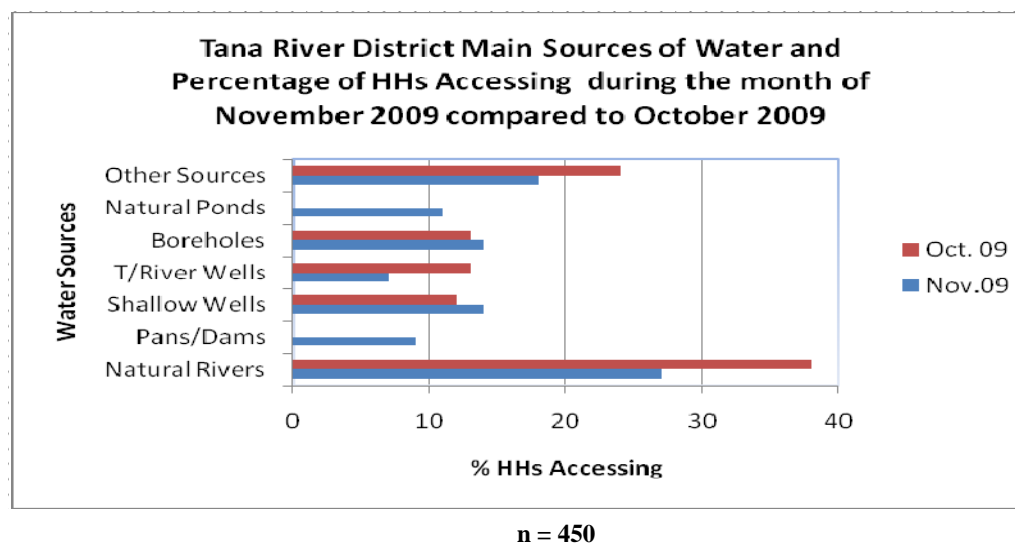


1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- The condition of natural vegetation registered a remarkable improvement with pasture, browse and large trees regenerating in all livelihood zones. Poor pastures conditions continued to be reported in the hinterland pastoral areas of Wayu in Galole and parts of Assa in Garsen as these areas have not yet realized reasonable rains.
- Average distances to grazing areas have reasonably decreased to between 3km – 5km compared to 10km – 15km reported during the month of October. This is because most of the livestock are concentrated around the traditional wet season grazing areas.

1.3 Water sources and availability

The table below shows the main water sources in use and percentage of households accessing during the month of November 2009 compared to October 2009.



The water condition continued to be favourable as most of the pans and catchment areas were reported to have recharged. As the water conditions continued to be favourable, average distance to water sources reduced to near normal, recording 1km to 2km compared to 8km to 10km reported during the last reporting period. (Normal distances at this time of the year are recorded at 0.5km – 1km.)

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity/conflict /human displacement.

More than 300 households displaced by the floods at the onset of the rains in Tana Delta are still living in IDP camps.

1.4.2 Migration

Most livestock moved to the wet season grazing areas.

1.4.3 Implications on food security

Food insecurity is still pointing towards stress in both pastoral and agro- pastoral livelihoods as recovery has yet to be realized from the ongoing rains.

2.0 Rural economy indicators (food availability)

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

The livestock body and health conditions though recovering from the effects of the drought are still generally rated poor however, expected to continue gaining weight with the ongoing favorable weather conditions.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

No livestock disease outbreaks were reported. However, reported cases include high incidence of trypanosomiasis, pneumonia related cases and worms.

2.1.3. Milk production

Though milk production and consumption indicated some improving trend, it was still below normal expectation. This was attributed to high livestock mortality incidences experienced at the onset of the rains. Meanwhile, the livestock have not fully recovered from the effects of the just ended drought.

2.2 Crop production

2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of various crop production activities

Maize crop is at different stages of development as those who planted before the onset and whose crop survived the rains have their crop almost tussling, those who planted after the onset are at weeding stage however those whose crop scotched in the floods during the rains are in the process of replanting.

2.2.2 Pests and diseases

No outstanding incidences of crop pests were reported during the month.

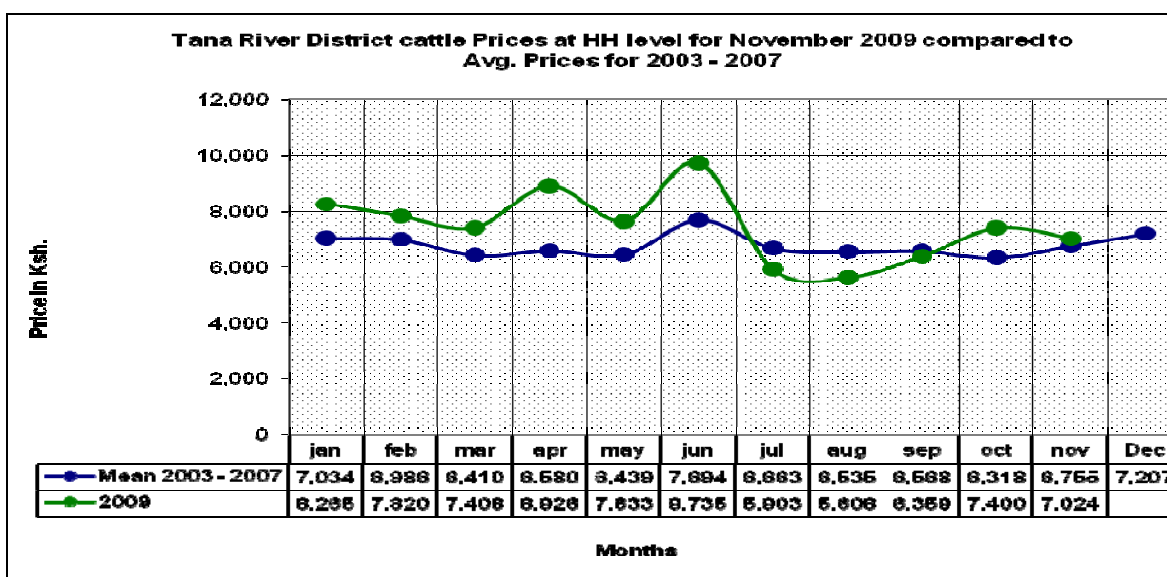
2.2.3 Harvests

Pocket mango harvesting was still going on in parts of the marginal mixed farming and mixed farming zones.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

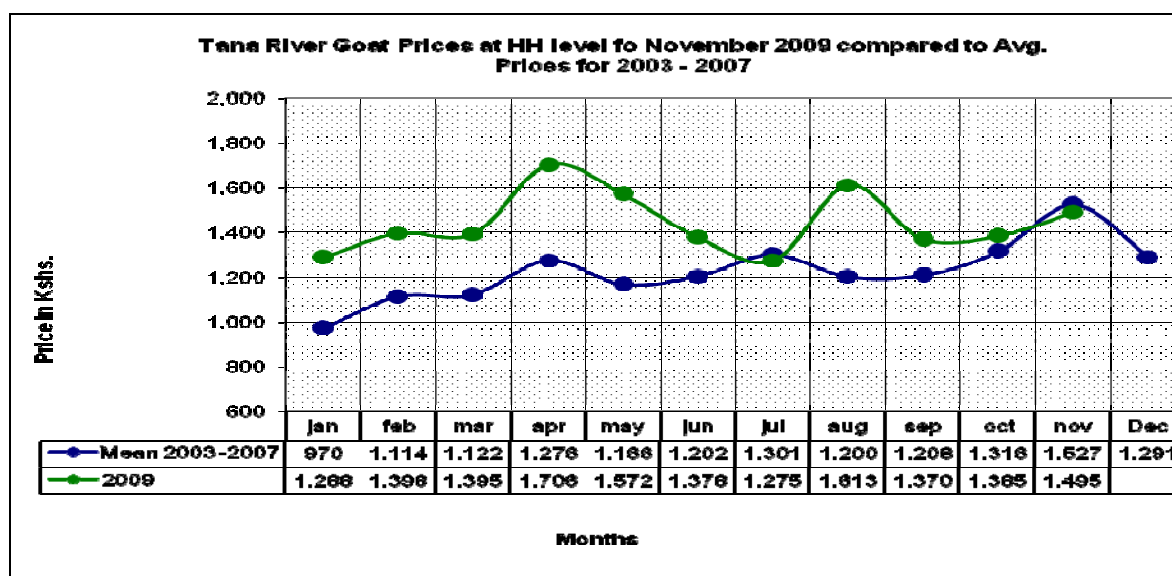
3.1.1 Cattle prices



n = 450

During the month the average price of cattle slightly dropped to Ksh7,024 from Ksh7,400 last month. The prices so observed were, however, slightly above the long term seasonal average of Ksh6,755 recorded during the period 2003 -2007. Low cattle prices were expected as the same have not fully recovered from the effects of the drought and the body conditions are still weak therefore attracting poor prices at the market.

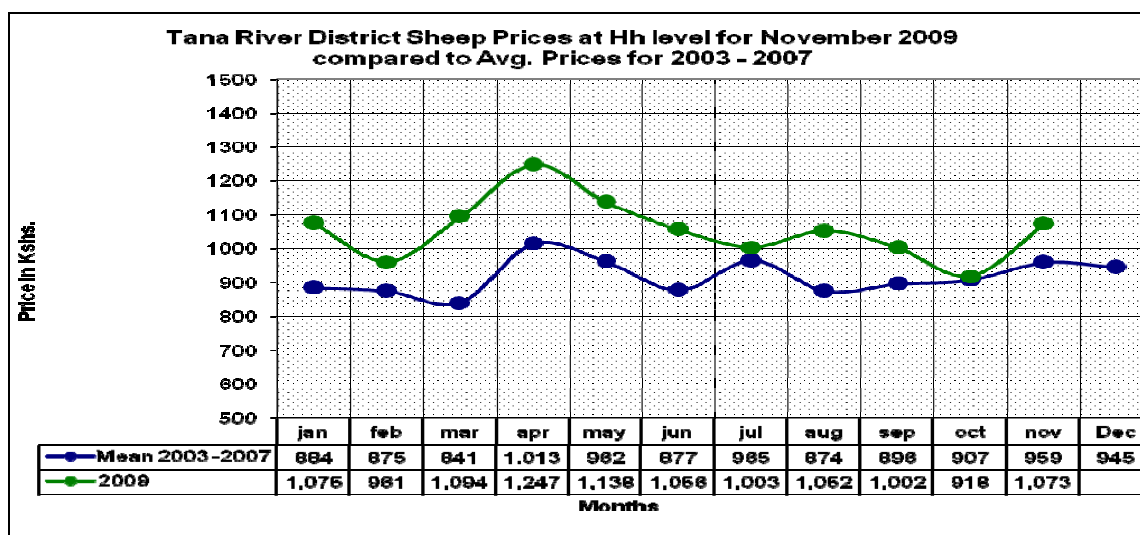
3.1.2 Goat prices



n = 450

During the month, the prices of goats rose to Ksh1,495 compared to Ksh1,385 last month. This price so recorded was slightly lower than the long term seasonal average of Ksh1, 627 observed during the period 2003 – 2007. Rise in prices at this time of the year was anticipated and may continue to rise as the environmental conditions continue to be favourable and livestock expected to fully recover from the drought effect.

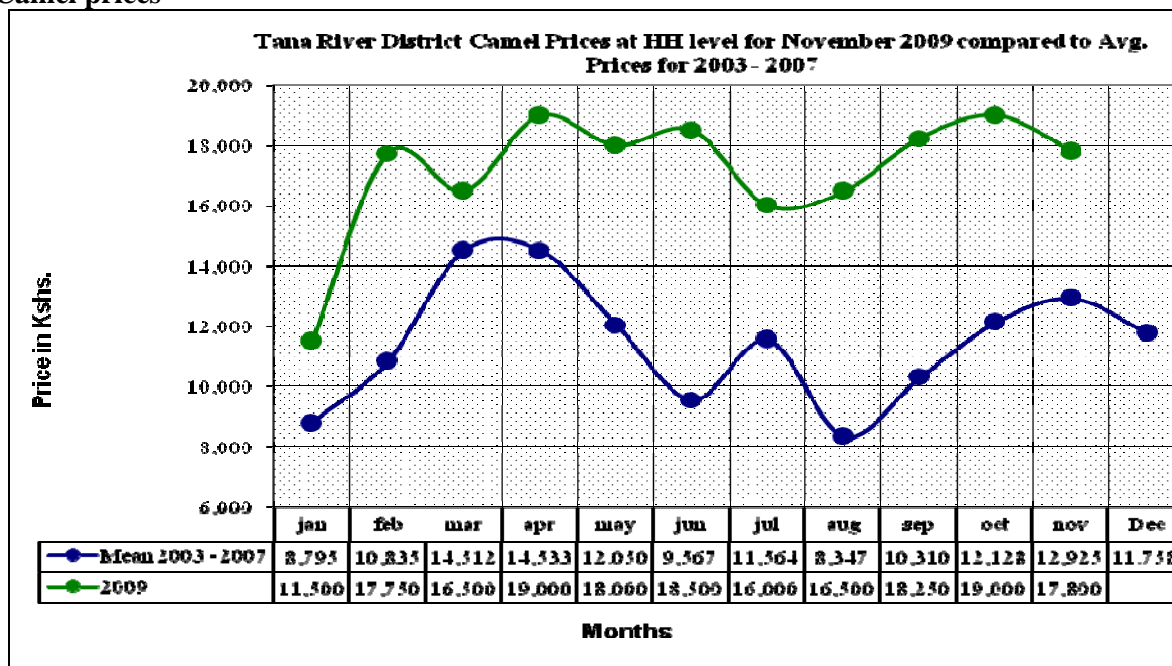
3.1.3 Sheep prices



n = 450

During the month the price of sheep also rose to Ksh1,073 from Ksh918 last month. The prices so recorded were above the seasonal average of Ksh989 observed during the period 2003 – 2007. The prices are expected to stabilize further as the range continues to be favourable.

3.1.4 Camel prices



n = 450

The average price of camels was recorded at Ksh17,800 from Ksh19,000 of last reporting period. The price so reported was still above the long term seasonal average price of Ksh12,923 recorded during the period 2003 – 2007. Camel prices are expected to stabilize as currently the same have recovered from the effects of the drought.

3.2 Livestock sales

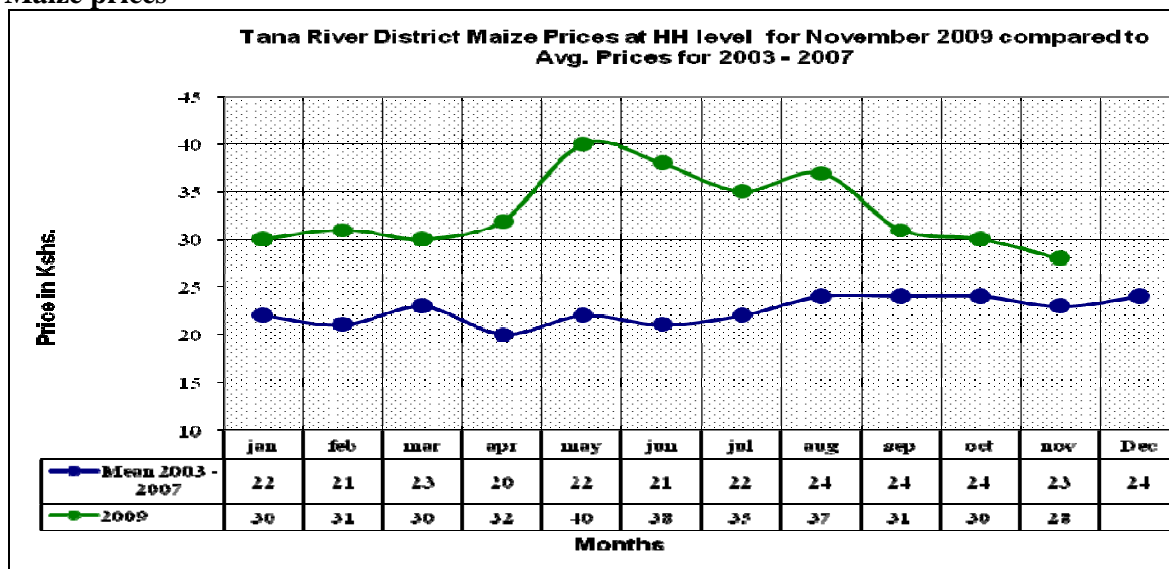
During the month, sales rate of almost all livestock species declined. This is anticipated as under normal conditions pastoralists withhold livestock sales during the rain seasons when the range resources are favourable.

3.3 Milk consumption

During the month the percentage of households reported to be affording milk rose to 34% from last month's 33%. This percentage rise is however still below normal expectation at this time of the year.

3.4 Food prices

3.4.1 Maize prices



n = 450

During the month the price of maize dropped to Ksh28 from Ksh30 per kilo last month. The price was still higher than the seasonal average price of Ksh23 recorded during the period 2003 – 2007.

3.5 Income

3.5.1 Crop income

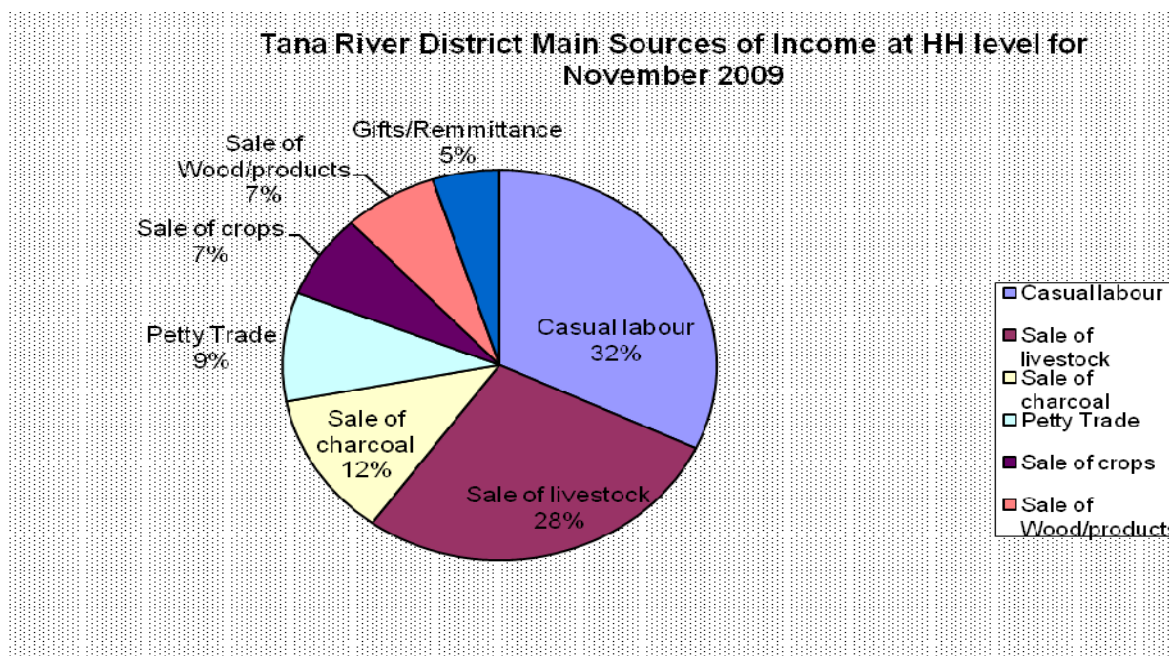
During the month, income from sale of crops contributed 7% of the total household incomes. This could be from pocket mango harvests and horticultural crops earlier reported.

3.5.2 Livestock income

Incomes derived from the sale of livestock and livestock products dropped to 28% from 29% of last month. This could be due to decline in livestock sales earlier reported.

3.5.3 Other income

Other sources of income at the household level included casual 33% from 34%, sale of charcoal 12%, petty trade 9%, wood/products 7%, Gifts/Remittances 5%.

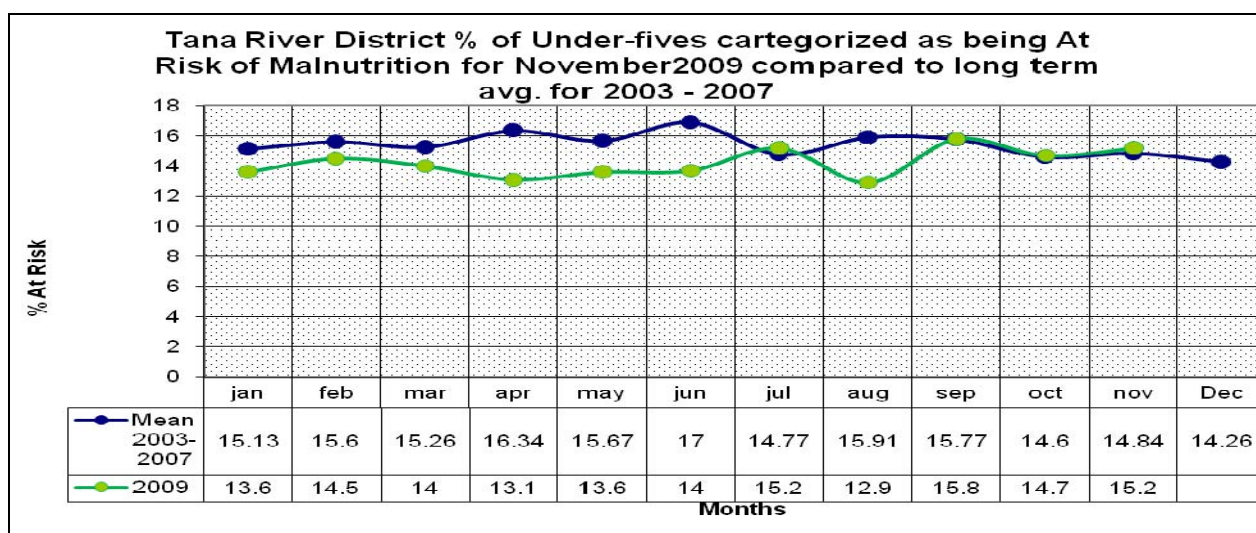


3.5.4 Implications on food security

The above rural economy indicators reflect that both livestock and crop production have not shown indication of improvement while livestock sales and livestock/crop incomes are still low. This combination of factors is therefore likely to temporarily affect the food security at the household level.

4.0 Human welfare indicators (utilization of food)

4.1 Nutrition status



n = 2,225

The nutrition status of children below five years (based on the MUAC<135mm measurement) declined slightly, with the percentage categorised at risk of malnutrition rising to 15.2% from 14.7% last reporting period. The rate was also slightly higher than the long term seasonal mean of 14.8% observed during the period 2003 – 2007. Flagged areas in the district include; Galole 15%, Bura 20% and Bangale 20%. Causes of malnutrition in the flagged areas could be due to poor sanitation, feeding practises and effects of the drought conditions.

4.2 Human health

- During the month, malaria, upper respiratory tract infections, skin diseases, diarrhoea and pneumonia remained the most common diseases reported.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non-Food interventions

- Support food production by capacity building and provision of pumps to farming groups
- Under the Economic Stimulus Program is;
 - Rehabilitation of the Hola, Bura and Tana Delta Irrigation schemes is ongoing and cropping has started in the already cleared area.
- Support to flood affected victims in Tana Delta with non-food items. (Tarpaulins, family kits and chlorine aqua tabs).
- Support peace committees carry out peace building initiatives and security surveillance in the hot spot areas.

5.2 Food aid

- School feeding program in all primary schools.
- Supplementary and therapeutic feeding program for children aged 6 – 59 months, pregnant and lactating mothers ongoing in health institutions
- EMOP/PRRO – benefiting a population of 104,722 from Tana North, Tana River and Tana Delta districts.
- Food aid by the GOK kitty.

5.3 Coping Strategies

The main coping strategies engaged during the month remained;

- Migration to wet season grazing areas and higher grounds
- Charcoal burning and forest products
- Migration for labour

- Reduced number of meals
- Remittances and gifts
- Petty trade

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- Food aid in terms of Supplementary feeding, PRRO and general distribution to continue as currently both pastoral and agro-pastoral communities are undergoing a lean period after going through the drought spell and followed by the enhanced onset of rains.

Action: KFSSG/District Steering Group/Partners/Communities

- Continue to support flood affected victims in IDP camps with food and non-food items.

Action: KFSSG/District Steering Group/Partners/Communities