

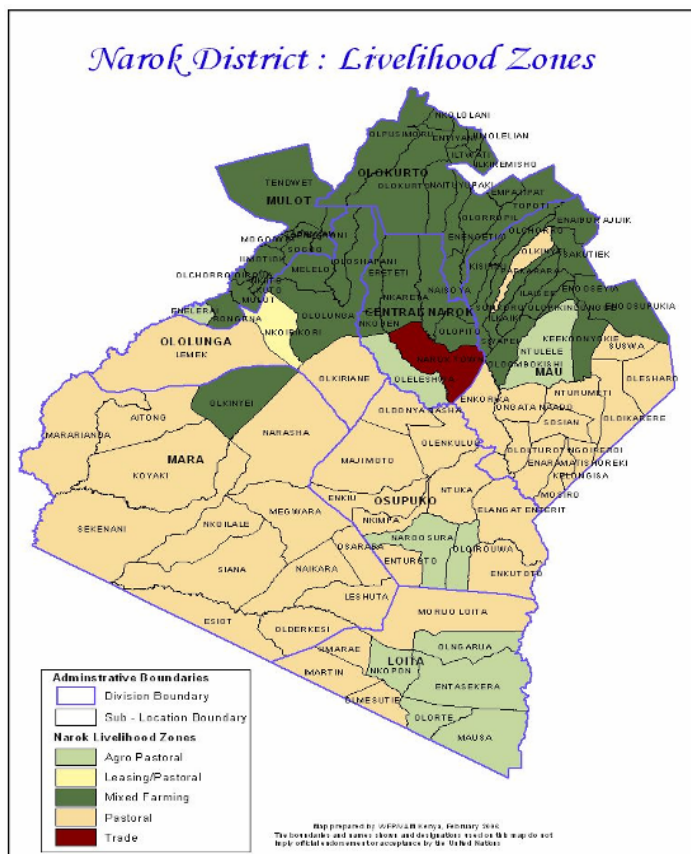


OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, DECEMBER 2009

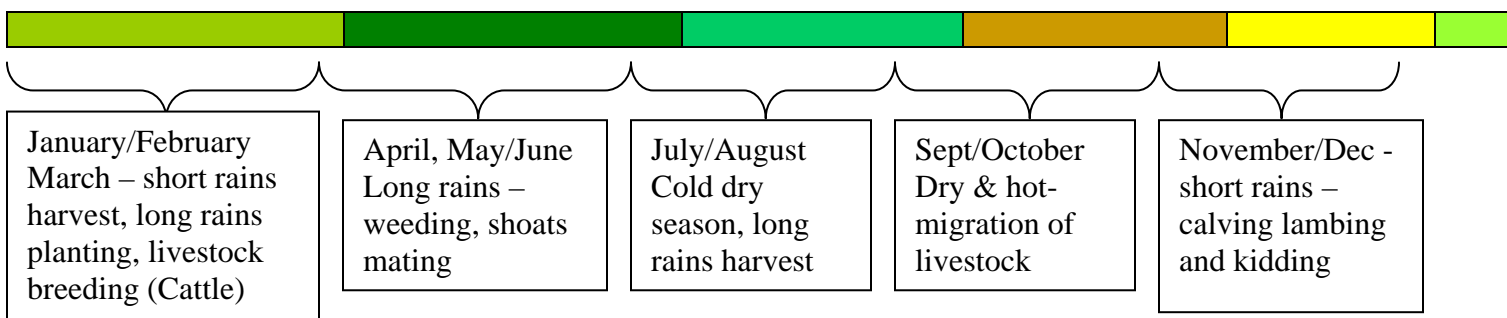
Narok District

Warning Stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Agro Pastoral	Alert	Improving
Entasekera, Naroosura, Suswa		
Mixed Farming	Alert	Improving
Nairragi-Enkare, Mulo		
Pastoral	Alert	Improving
Olmesutie, Ntuka, Mosiro, Oletukat		
Leasing/ Pastoral		
Lemek, Ololulunga,	Alarm	No Change
Pastoral Tourism		
Koyiaki	Alert	Improving

Seasonal calendar



Situation overview

- Heavy rains were received in all parts of the district, which resulted into floods in most part of the district towards the end of the month.
- Pasture condition improved due to the recent rains in the district. Distances to and from water sources for livestock and domestic use have reduced from within the previous month's ranges of 5-10 kms and 6-12 Km due to water harvesting to 2-3km.
- The main sources of water during the review period include Dams, major rivers, strategic boreholes, springs/wells and runoff water harvesting.
- Livestock body conditions are improving due to the rains and pasture regeneration. This is true for all species.
- There were spontaneous reports of FMD, CBPP, Sheep & Goat Pox and Enterotoxaemia outbreaks in some parts of the district.
- Livestock prices are yet to improve but prices of cereals and legumes remained slightly higher compared to the previous month.
- Some farmers prepared land and planted others are preparing for tilling land as a result of this promising rains.
- Common storage pests such as rodents, weevils have continued to affect farmers in the mixed farming and agro pastoral zones.
- Major human diseases are expected to be reported during this rainy season.
- The nutrition status of children under five years continued to decline as compared to the previous months. This was attributed to declining food situations at the household's level. On average more than 23% of 700 children sampled were rated at risk of malnutrition compared to 22% in November.
- The overall food security situation for the district is poor and requires close monitoring especially in the lower rangelands.

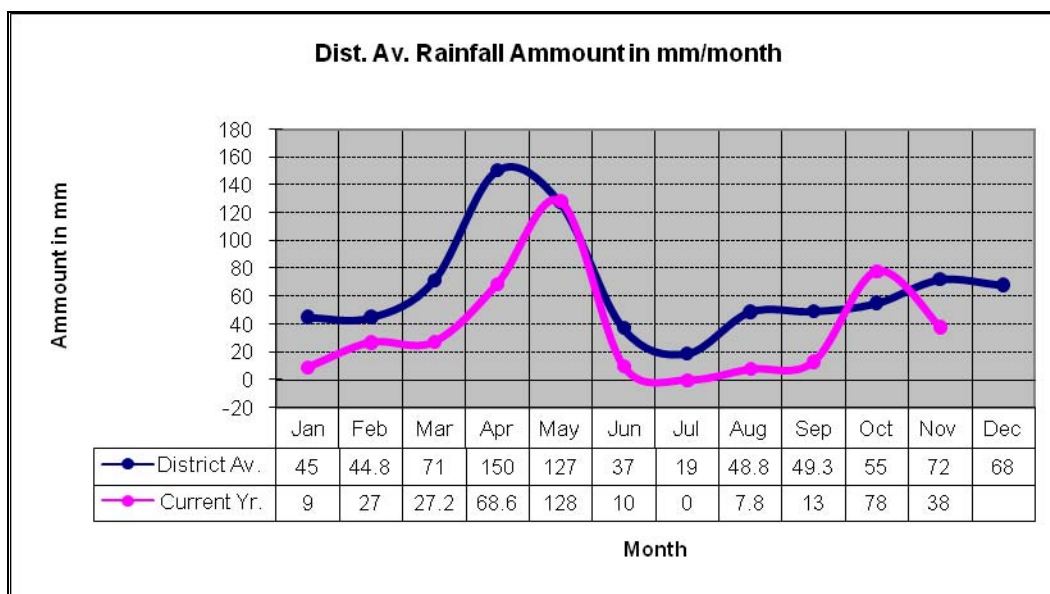
Recommendation to DSG and KFSM

- There is need for continued support to pastoralists on the livestock disease management and control. Vaccination of livestock against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Contagious Bovine Pleural Pneumonia (CBPP) and control of Nagana in affected areas of, Mara, Loita, Central, Osupuko parts of Ololulung'a and Mau divisions.
- There is need for a close monitoring of the food security situation in the district. This is due to poor pasture regeneration and the prevalence of a serious food crisis following the prolonged drought and the mass crop failure during the last season.
- Key stakeholders including WFP and Red Cross to consider relief food and other emergency interventions (non food) to the affected population approximately numbering 120,000.
- The few farmers lucky to have gotten a crop of maize should be encouraged to store their harvests and be trained on proper storage techniques.
- Water harvesting technologies should also be up scaled in the district. Supplementary feeding of children under five should be done to improve on their nutritional status.
- There is great need for more capacity building activities especially on the importance of taking advantage of the expected El Niño/short rains to improve food security in the district.

Current interventions

MoH, Operation Eye Sight International is currently drilling more boreholes in its district wide trachoma eradication programme. World Vision, World Concern, APHIAII, Kenya Red Cross and other institutions are supplementing the GoK activities in capacity building support in various divisions.

1.0 Environmental indicators (stability)**1.1 Rainfall**



SOURCE: ALRMP, WRMA

- The district received high rains intensively in areas of Mau, Central, divisions. The rains were all over the district in the upper parts of the district and the lower rangelands recording high rains, which caused displacement of people, destruction of schools and property in Duka moja, Majengo and Eluai . On average, 114.8 mm of rainfall were recorded.
- The high rains, which were expected to be enhanced by the El Nino phenomenon, has been actually heavy down pour in most parts of the district.
- This is impacting to displacement of people, destruction of property and schools this scenario has created a need for humanitarian assistance.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation pasture

- Pasture and browse conditions are improving and are likely to regenerate and prevail the current situations. The recent rains have made significant difference in pasture regeneration and thus livestock body conditions have to improve.
- The rains all over the district are promising to improvement of food security situation in the larger district.

1.3 Water sources and availability

- Water conditions have improved with all pans and dams full, with shallow wells and springs coming to live. The main sources of water for the review period include Dams major rivers and strategic boreholes springs/wells and sunroof.
- Water quality poses diseases out break due to pollution thus posing a hygiene concern to most communities.

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

Water source	1	2	3	4	Others
% Of h/holds depending on the source	50	10	25	10	5
% Of h/holds normally depending on source	25	50	15	8	2

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

1.3.1 Distances to water sources

- Distances to watering points both for domestic and livestock use have been reduced due to current heavy rains being witness across the District. This reduced to 2 to 3 km.
- This is impacting positively to the food security situation which is yet to improve in the district.

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

Water sources	1	2	3	4	Others
Average Kms to the source	2	4	5	8	4
Normal Kms to the source	4	3	5	8	2

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

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity/conflicts

Apart from a few cases of predation, there were no major security concerns in the district.

1.4.2 Migration

- Pastoralists from Kajiado district are now going back, and are moving across the district. Some herders from Mara and parts of Loita who moved to the neighbouring republic of Tanzania and Trans Mara district in search of water and pasture are also coming back.
- Movement of livestock within the district have reportedly continued as herders move their livestock away from the wildlife migration corridors especially in Mara and Osupuko. Pastoralists are moving from areas of Mara towards Loita forest and Mau forests for pasture.
- No major movement of humans reported during the review period except some displacement due to the current floods. Cases of a few people moving into the district in search of casual labour and charcoal burning. This is also normal during this time of the year.

2.0 Rural economy indicators

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body condition

Livestock body conditions are still to improve due to pasture regeneration and water availability.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- Suspected cases of FMD were reported in Mara and parts of Loita, Central and Osupuko divisions due to movement of livestock. The rainy season may trigger an uncontrolled movement of livestock going back to their origin homes thereby increasing the prevalence of disease outbreaks. The veterinary department is however monitoring the situation closely.

2.1.3 Milk production

- Milk availability remained low due poor livestock body conditions. Where milk is available consumption is mainly reserved for the young children.

2.2 Crop condition

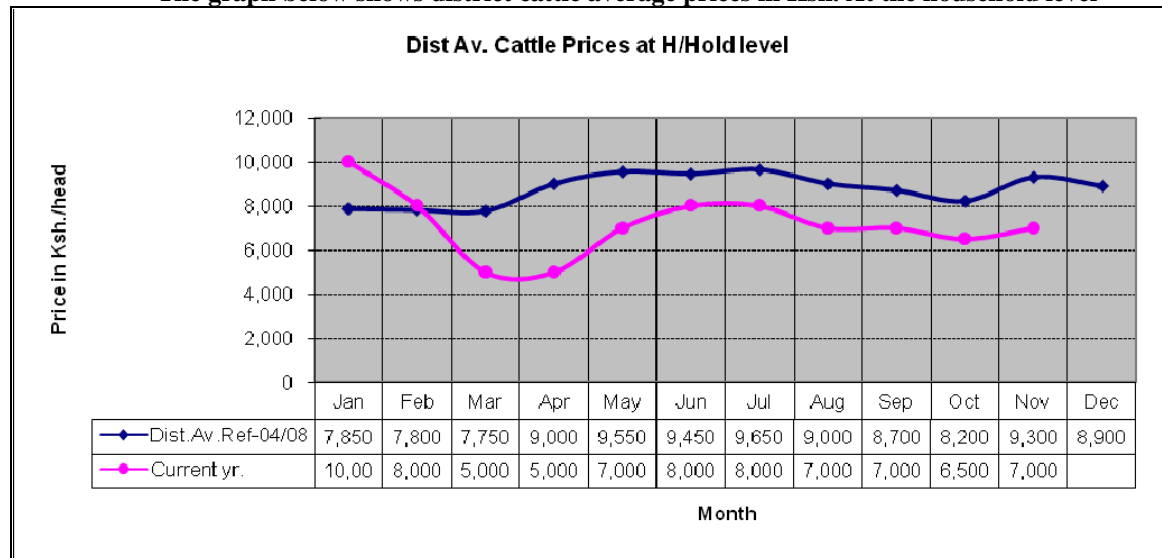
- There were major farming activities going on during the end of the month as the harvesting season came to an end. Some farmers are however preparing their land for the planting season of beans, wheat, maize, and other crops.
- Crops under irrigation in Naroosura and Mosiro are in good condition but the acreage is expected go up due to presence of most farmers who came back from looking for pasture and water.

3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

3.1.1 Cattle prices

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



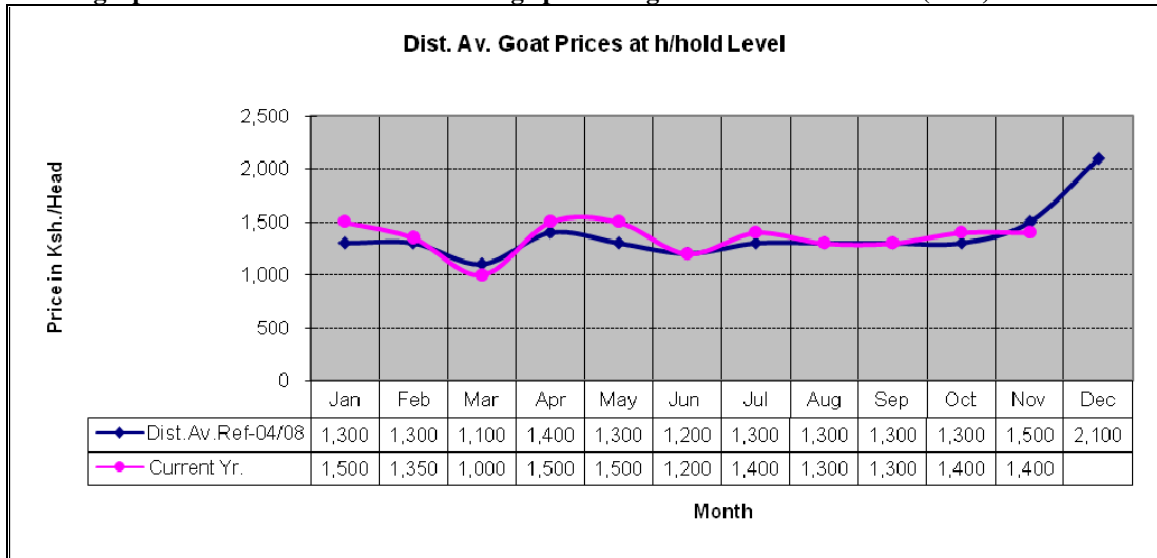
Source: ALRMP II NAROK

Livestock prices improved slightly, with mature cows selling at an average of Ksh. 7,000. The slight improvement is mainly attributed to the reduced volumes offered for

sale in the markets. The prices are likely to go up after pasture regeneration. This will impact positively to the food security situation in the district.

3.1.2 Goat prices

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

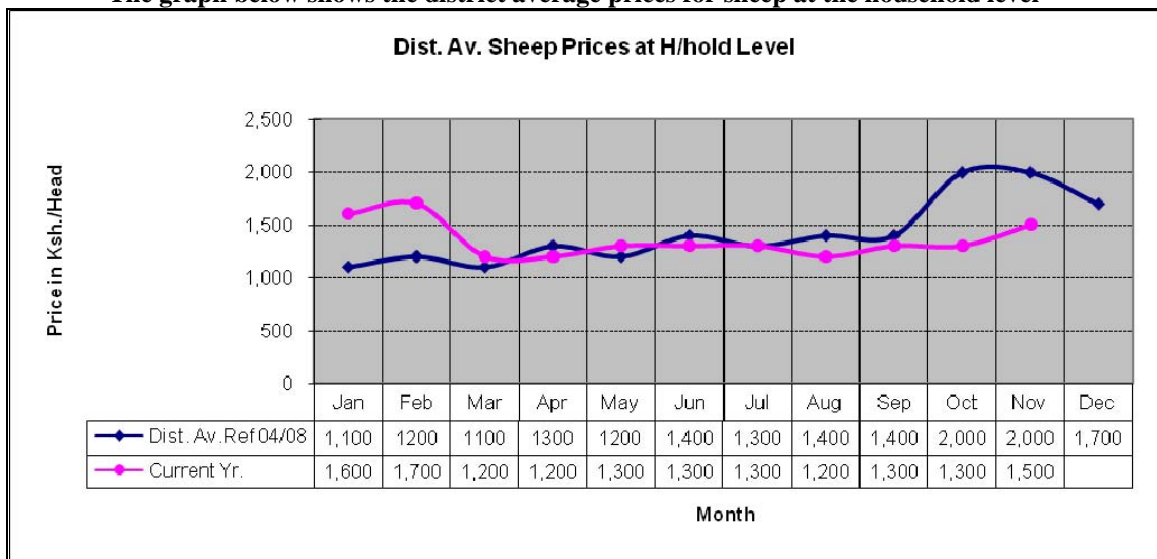


Source: ALRMP Narok

Goat prices increased compared to the last month. On average, a mature goat sold at Ksh2,800 compared to Ksh1,500 in November. This is, however, within the normal rates during this time of the year. Most households are relying more on the sales of shoats for survival. This is impacting positively to the food security situation

3.1.3 Sheep prices

The graph below shows the district average prices for sheep at the household level



Source: ALRMP II NAROK

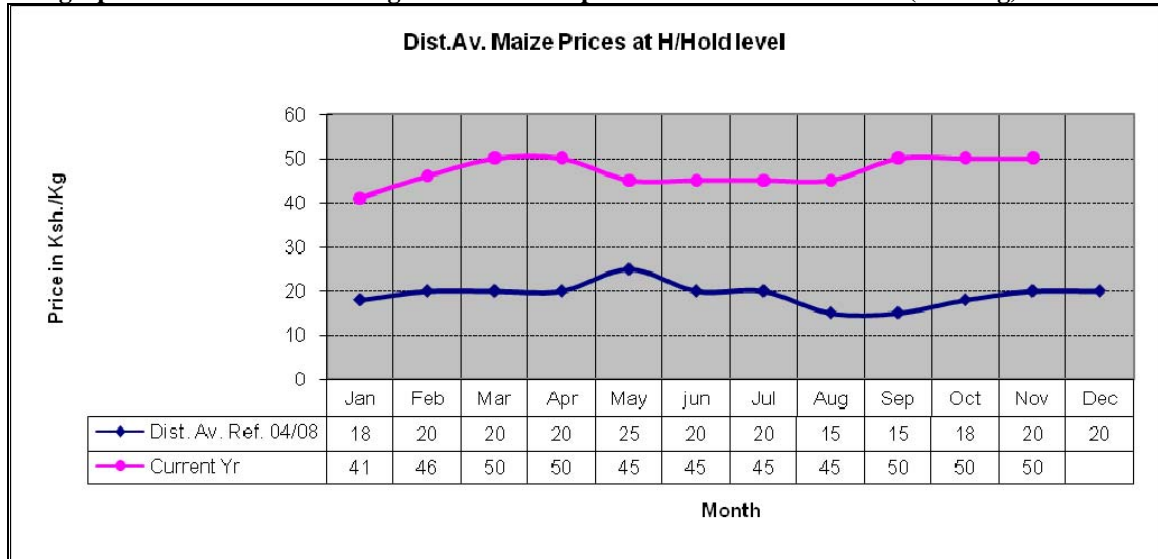
Sheep prices improved slightly compared to last month. This was also attributed to a slight reduction in sales volumes among the sheep as compared to the goats. On average a

mature sheep is selling at Ksh2000 compared to Ksh1,300 in November. The shoats are mainly the only source of income as they supplements the households source of food and cash as the prices for the larger stock are far much below the long term thresholds.

3.2 Food prices (purchases)

3.2.1 Maize prices

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

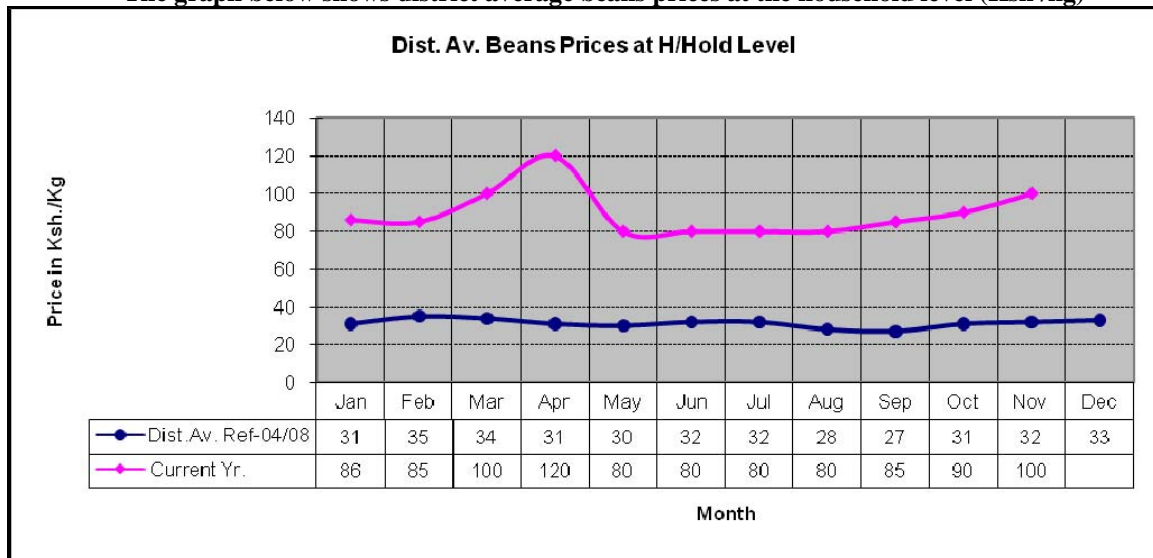


Source: ALRMP II NAROK

The prices of food items have not changed from last months. Maize is selling at an average of Ksh65 per kilo compared to the normal price around this time of Ksh 25. The general relative high prices are attributed to the scarcity of Maize and beans locally and nationally. The prices are likely to go up if the current food scarcity prevalence.

3.2.2 Beans prices

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

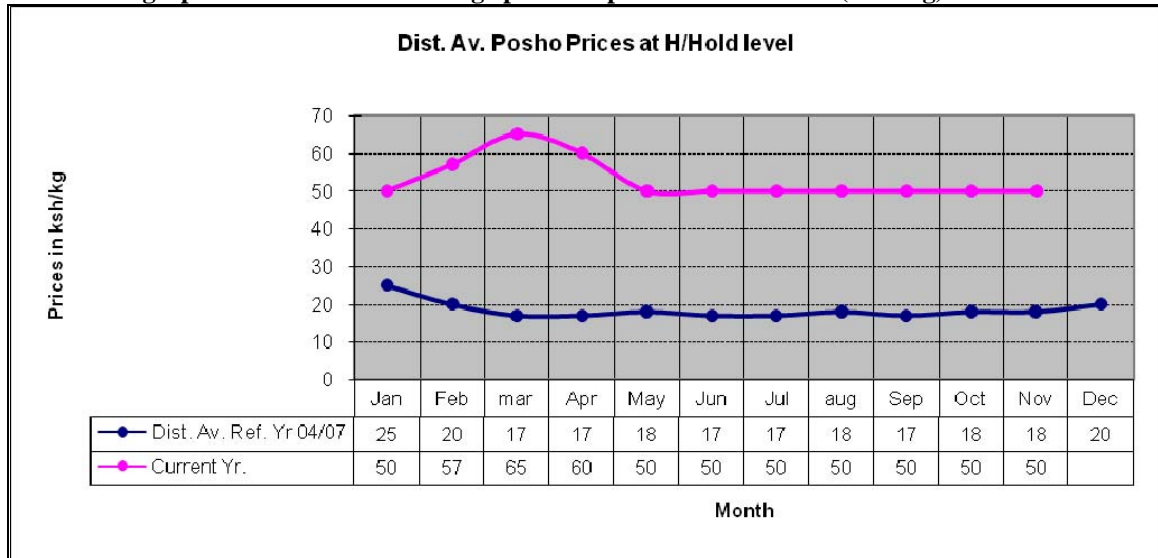


Source: ALRMP II NAROK

- Beans prices have continued to go up to sell at Ksh120 compared to Ksh100 last month. This is far beyond normal during this time of the year. The situation is likely to go up as very few farmers got a crop of the same. If the current conditions prevail the prices are likely to go up.

3.2.3 Posho prices

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



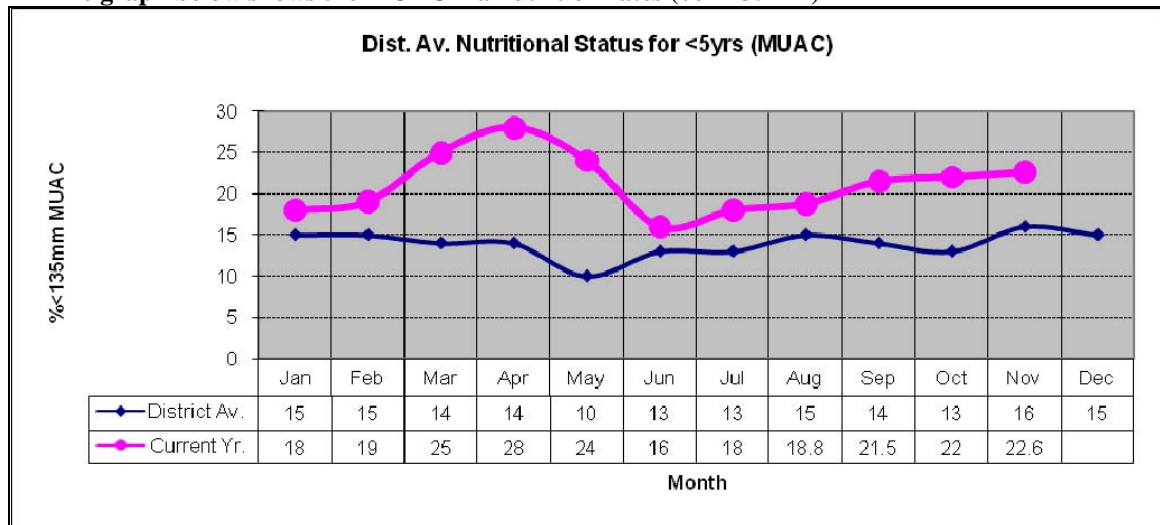
Source: ALRMP II NAROK

Posho prices remained within the last month's average rate of Ksh50. This was still far above normal and was mainly attributed to the scarcity of food at the household level.

4.0 Human welfare indicators

4.1 Nutrition status

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



Source: ALRMP II NAROK

- The nutrition status of children less than five years continued to decline compared to the previous months. This was attributed to declining food situations at the household's level.

On average more than 23% of 700 children sampled measured <135mm of the MUAC compared to 22% in October. The situation is likely to improve if the current rains continue. This will result in improved food security situation.

4.2 Human health

- There were reported cases of human deaths posed by the current floods in both districts. There is an expectation of water borne related diseases.

5.0 Recommendation to DSG and KFSM

- There is need for continued support to pastoralists on the livestock disease management and control. Vaccination of livestock against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Contagious Bovine Pleural Pneumonia (CBPP) and control of Nagana in affected areas of, Mara, Loita, Central, Osupuko parts of Ololulung'a and Mau divisions.
- There is need for a close monitoring of the food security situation in the district. This is due to poor pasture regeneration and the prevalence of a serious food crisis following the prolonged drought and the mass crop failure during the last season.
- Key stakeholders including WFP and Red Cross to consider relief food and other emergency interventions (non food) to the affected population approximately numbering 120,000.
- The few farmers lucky to have gotten a crop of maize should be encouraged to store their harvests and be trained on proper storage techniques.
- Water harvesting technologies should also be up scaled in the district. Supplementary feeding of children under five should be done to improve on their nutritional status.
- There is great need for more capacity building activities especially on the importance of taking advantage of the expected El Niño/short rains to improve food security in the district.