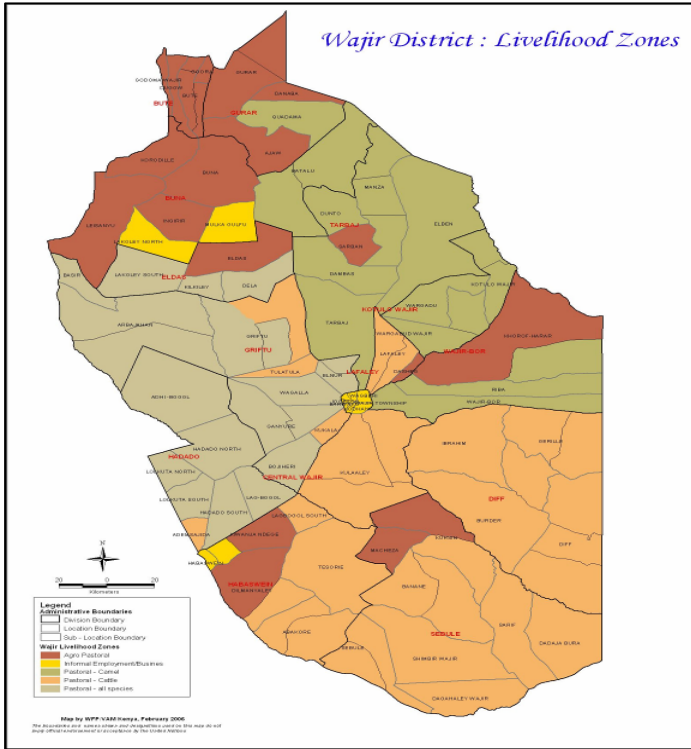




**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, DECEMBER 2009

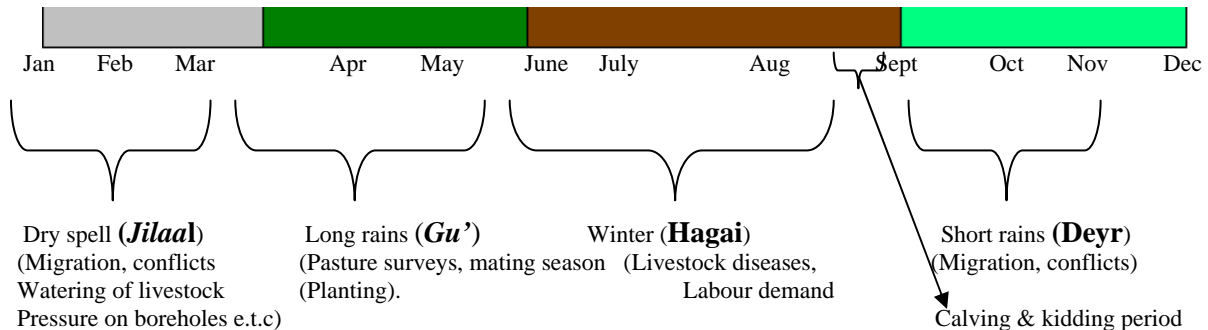
Wajir District



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 being received with low intensity in localised areas, especially in Wajir central, Wajir Bor, Bute and Boji areas. However, parts of Wajir West received low rainfall, especially in Basir and Arbajahan in Wajir West District, Gunana, Tarbaj and Ogoralle in Wajir East.
- The quality and quantity of pasture, browse and forage improved tremendously, especially in areas that received adequate rains such as Diif, Salamaa, Burder, Sarman, Konton, Hadado, Eldas, Buna, Bute and Gurar areas.
- Availability of water improved following the moderate rains received, with most of the pans, dams and ponds containing water while the same was not utilised exhaustively since most of streams and lagas were still holding water.
- Livestock body condition continued to improve but diseases such as PPR, CCPP, infestation of ticks and mosquitoes were reported, especially in lowlands areas of Diff, Habaswein divisions and Hadado areas.
- Pests, birds and weevils affected crops grown in Agro-pastoral areas, especially in Wajir North, parts of south like Qanjara, Diif, Tarbaj and Eldas farms.
- Livestock prices increased in all the species due to the improved body condition. Camel prices increased from Ksh8,479 the previous month to Ksh8,940, cattle from Ksh6,084 to Ksh7,489 and goats from Ksh1,441 to Ksh1,461 compared to the previous month.
- Consumption and production of milk increased slightly but a bottle of 750ml of camel milk sold at Ksh 40 to 50 for camels at Ksh80 to Ksh100 for goats and cattle at Ksh50 to Ksh60.
- Outward migration of livestock was reported, especially towards Burder in Wajir South, Hadado in Wajir west, Bute, Gurar , Sakegamatha in Wajir North and Dunto and Sarman in Wajir East, movements of livestock depicts unproportional/unequal distribution of rainfall across the district.
- The main causes of morbidity and mortality in the district remained as malaria, URTI, intestinal worms and malnutrition. Cases of malaria and diarrhea increased in the health facilities due to use of stagnant water, poor drainage system and growth of bushes resulting in breeding of mosquitoes.
- The nutrition status of children below five years (based on MUAC < 135mm measurement) improved slightly during the month, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition dropping to 27.5% compared to 29.0% the previous month. The trends improved following the availability of milk, especially in households in the pastoral areas.
- Emergency Operation Program (EMOP) was up scaled to 303,000 persons targeted out of a population of estimated 548,168.
- The area was relatively calm but there were concerns over attempted hijacking of cars and people and stock theft along the Wajir West – Moyale borders.
- Food prices were high as the district relies on food brought in from Wajir town. A kilogram of rice was sold at Ksh90, beans at Ksh80, sugar Ksh 100 and maize Ksh58. The majority of the population cannot afford these prices because their purchasing power was greatly reduced by loss of livestock.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- 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) Natural resource management and sensitize communities on wet/dry grazing pattern.
- Strengthening of peace conflict mechanism especially along Wajir – Marsabit-Isiolo boarder.(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).
- Improved coverage of OTP and SFP with active case finding(scuk,merlin and Mophs/moms).
- Infant and Young Child Feeding promotion program through(Mphs, Moms, SCUK and MERLIN.)
- Prevention and response preparedness for livestock disease outbreaks.(VSF, Oxfam, Mold, ALRMP)
- Support for skimming/condensing/drying milk for use in times of drought as during the rainy season, milk is often wasted due to lack of milk processing plant.(Scuk, Merlin, Mphs, Alrmp).
- Advocacy for preservation of traditional grazing areas, creation of awareness of grass-planting and investment in alternative livelihoods and food types. (ALRMP)
- Up scaling of existing small-scale farms through bucket-irrigation and support to stockiest of seeds and tools.(Alrmp, MOA).

Current interventions

Food aid

- 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.
- EMOP by world food program/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.
- OVC support through Islamic institutions like Shallete and Madarasatul Al itisam.

Non – food interventions

- Provision of seeds by the Ministry of Agriculture and Arid Lands Resource Management Project.
- Afforestation by the forest department.

- Mobile school by ALRMP & MOE. Mobile VCT services supported by APHIA II.
- Water and sanitation by Oxfam GB.
- HSNP(Hunger and safety net program).
- Continuous health education by the ministries of Public Health and Medical Services.
- Sports activity through youth funds.

1.0 Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall

The intensity of rainfall was low during the month. However, sporadic rainfall was received especially in Wajir central, Lagbogol, Boji, Bute and Hadado. Generally the amounts of rainfall received during the last season were below average especially in parts of Wajir west like Basir, Arbajahan, Tarbaj and Khorof Harar in Wajir East.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation, forage and pasture

The availability and quality of pasture, browse and forage improved all over, except in Arbajahan, Tarbaj and Gunana.

1.3 Water sources and availability

Water availability has improved and many ponds and pans have impounded water. The livestock have moved away from the borehole and are in the wet season grazing areas. Most of the livestock are now depending on ponds, streams and lags for watering purposes.

1.3.1 Household access

Accessibility of water has improved though the quality is poor due to dissolved solids in the runoff water. Contamination of water with E-coli and other impurities is common due livestock deaths in the last dry season.

1.3.2 Livestock access

Access of water improved and the main sources during the month were ponds and pans that had impounded water. The livestock had moved away from the boreholes to wet season grazing areas. The trekking distance for water reduced to less than 8 km.

1.4 Emerging issues

- The two international agencies in the district, Merlin and OXFAM GB, will phase out programming in 2010 and there will be need to continue support to the Government ministries and especially in nutrition, health and food security sectors.
- Increase in vectors and other pests especially in Agro-pastoral areas and increase in commercial food prices.
- Closure of Kenya-Somalia boarder leading to increase in commercial food prices like sugar.

1.4.1 Insecurity/conflict/Human displacement

With regards to security, the area is relatively calm; however, there are some persisting concerns like hijacking attempts of people, cars and stock theft along the Wajir West – Moyale borders. Human/wildlife conflicts were reported, particularly hyena attacks in

Garseqoftu Location of Wajir west District.

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.

1.4.3 Implications on food security

Increased prices of commercial foods, poor road network, poor livestock market will have a negative set back in the pastoral communities. Poor rains will affect the pasture regeneration, cause crop failure and affect the general food security of the pastoralists and agro-pastoralists. Closure of Kenya-Somalia border will affect the purchasing power of the community since the prices of essential commodities increased.

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 and continues to improve though their bodies were wasted during the successive droughts.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases

Diseases like PPR, CCPP, infestation of ticks and mosquitoes were reported, especially in low lands areas of Diff and Habaswein divisions.

2.1.3 Milk production

Milk consumption and production improved compared to the previous month.

2.2 Crop production

Crops have been planted especially maize, millet and sorghum while small garden farms are also doing well especially in Wajir central. Maize and millet are still being cultivated and is expected to be harvested if still small showers are being received.

2.2.1 Timeliness and condition of crop production

The areas that received good rains are expected to harvest since the rainy days were well distributed. Crops were planted in time and a good harvest is expected if the rain continues at the same magnitude.

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 which were planted earlier.

2.2.3 Harvest

There were no harvests during the month under review since the crops had not matured. However, the small vegetable farms under shallow well irrigation in Wajir central are being harvested from time to time. Crops such as water melons were continuously being harvested, especially in Wajir central.

2.2.4 Implication on food security

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

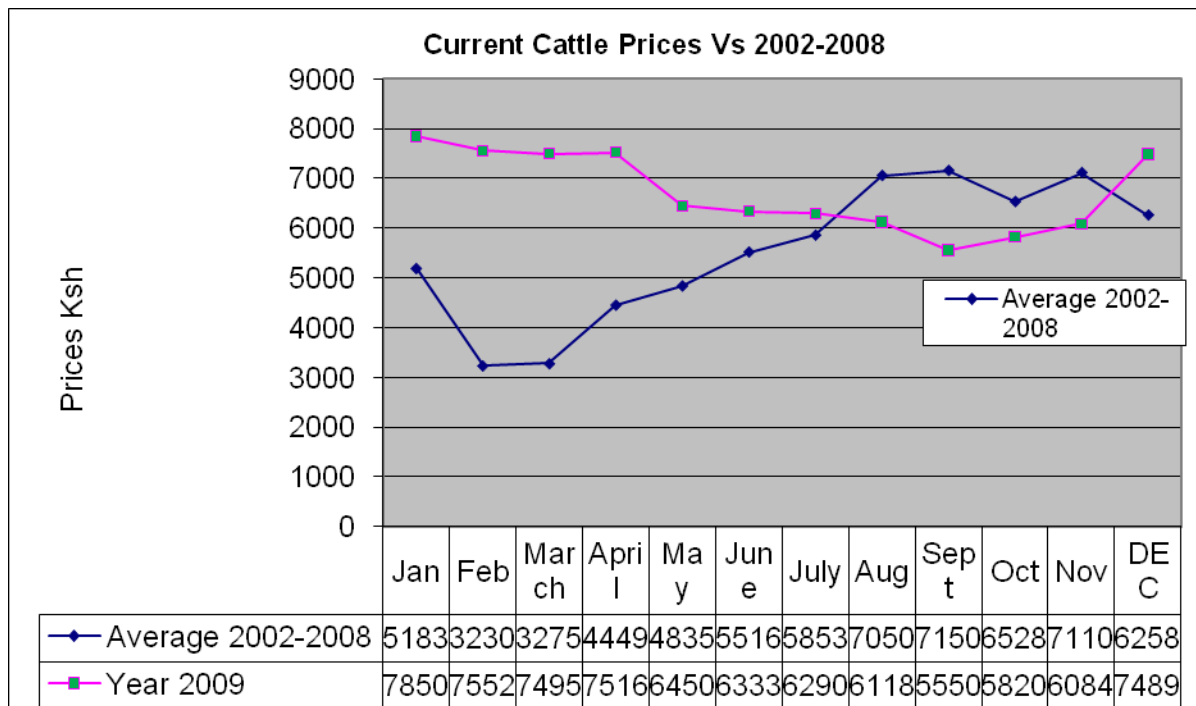
3.0 Access to food

3.1 Livestock marketing

Livestock prices slightly increased in all the species due to the improved body condition. The sale rate is 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

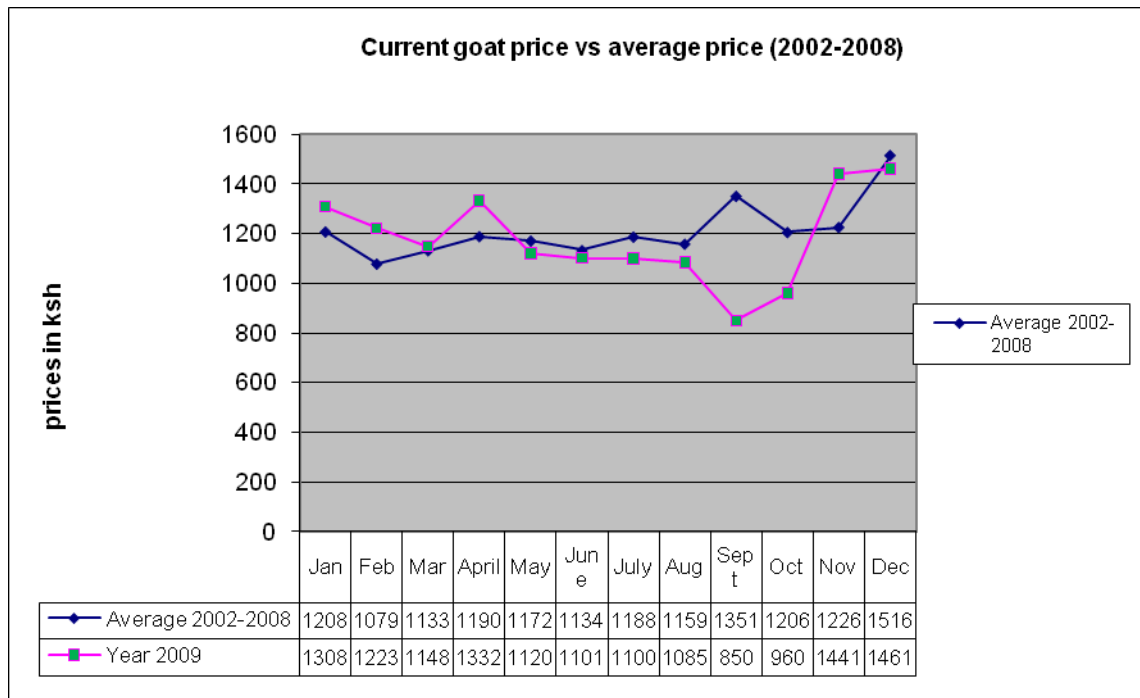


Livestock prices continue to improve especially in Cattle as their body condition continues to improve. The prices increased compared to the previous from Ksh6084 to Ksh7489.

3.1.2 Goats price

Similarly Goats price have increased as compared to the previous month due to improvement in their body condition. Currently Goats are sold at average price of Ksh1,461 compared to the previous month of Ksh1441. Goats were also sold to pay for school fees and other tertiary colleges.

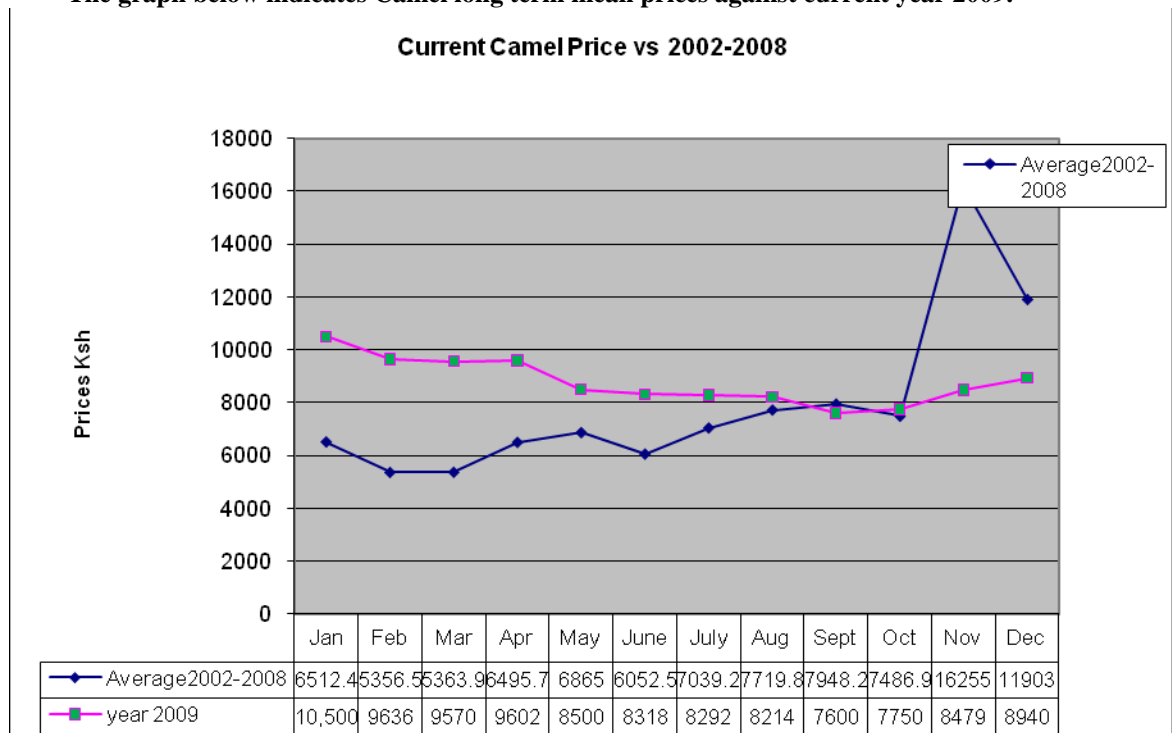
The graph indicates Goat long term mean prices against current year 2009.



3.1.3 Camel prices

The average camel prices increased slightly compared to previous month from Ksh8479 to Ksh8940 in the month under review. Camels were exported to Ethiopia and Somalia, leading to increased demand at the long market. Similarly camels were slaughtered in all ritual functions such as like burials and weddings.

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



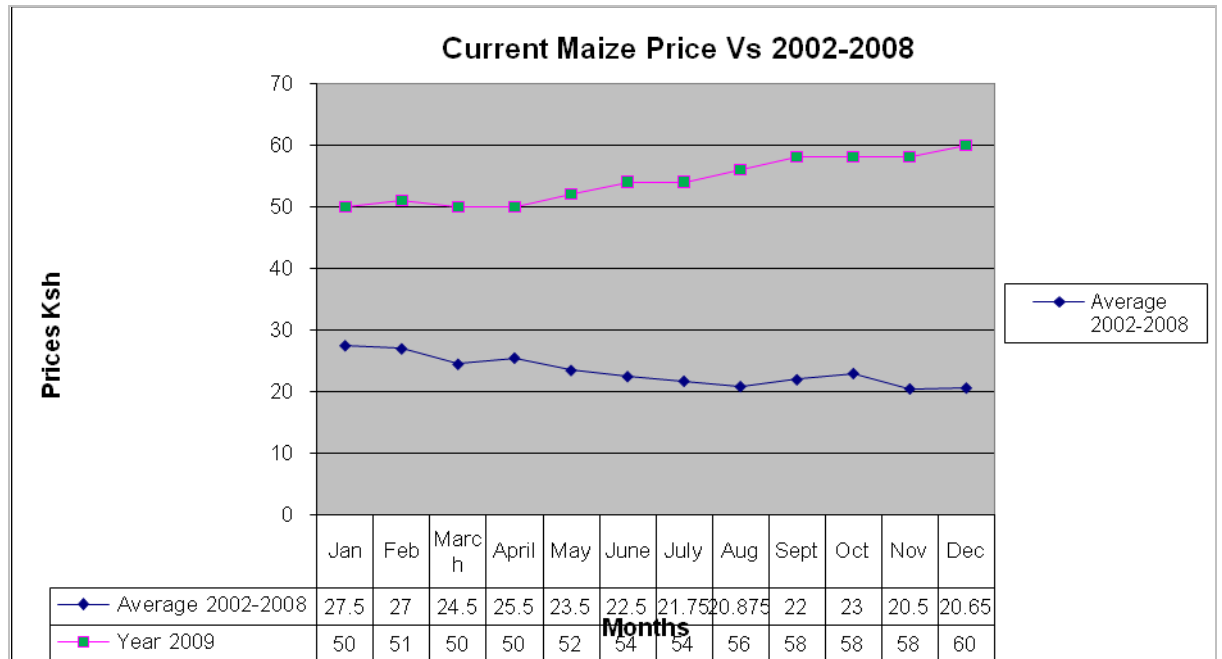
3.3 Milk consumption

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

3.4 Crop prices

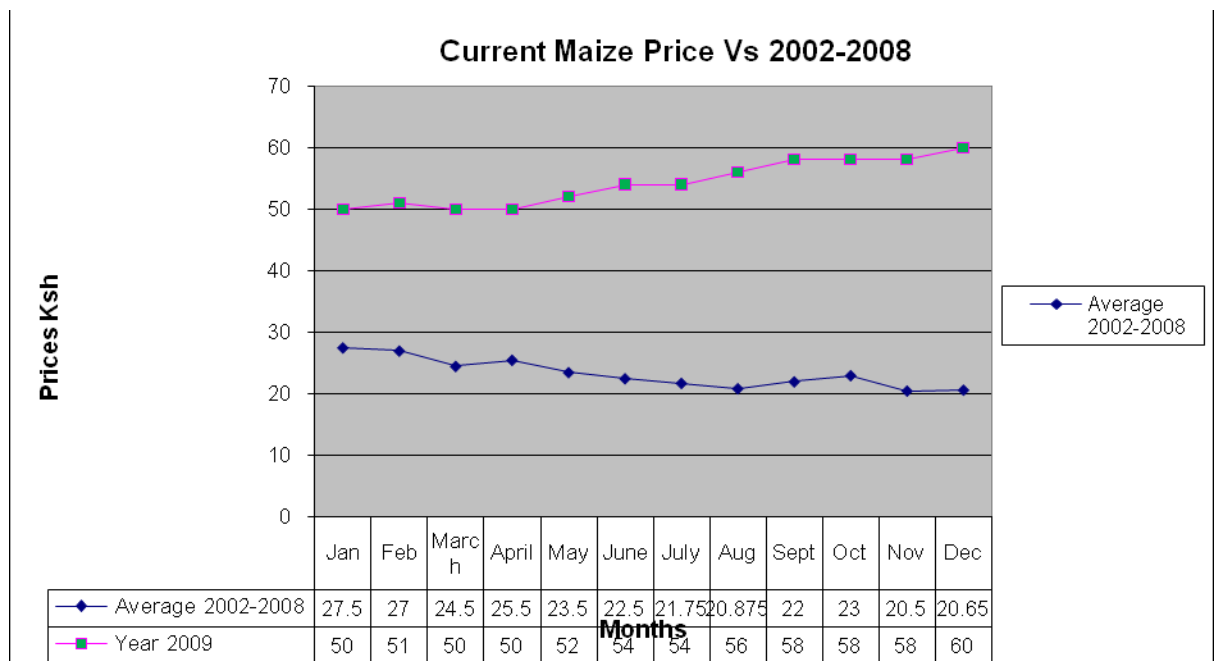
3.4.1 Maize prices

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



The prices of maize increased compared to the previous month. The average price was Ksh60 per kilo, up from Ksh58 in November. The commodity was issued as relief food. The demand was also high since it's the most common cereals utilised by the pastoralist due to its local availability and affordability.

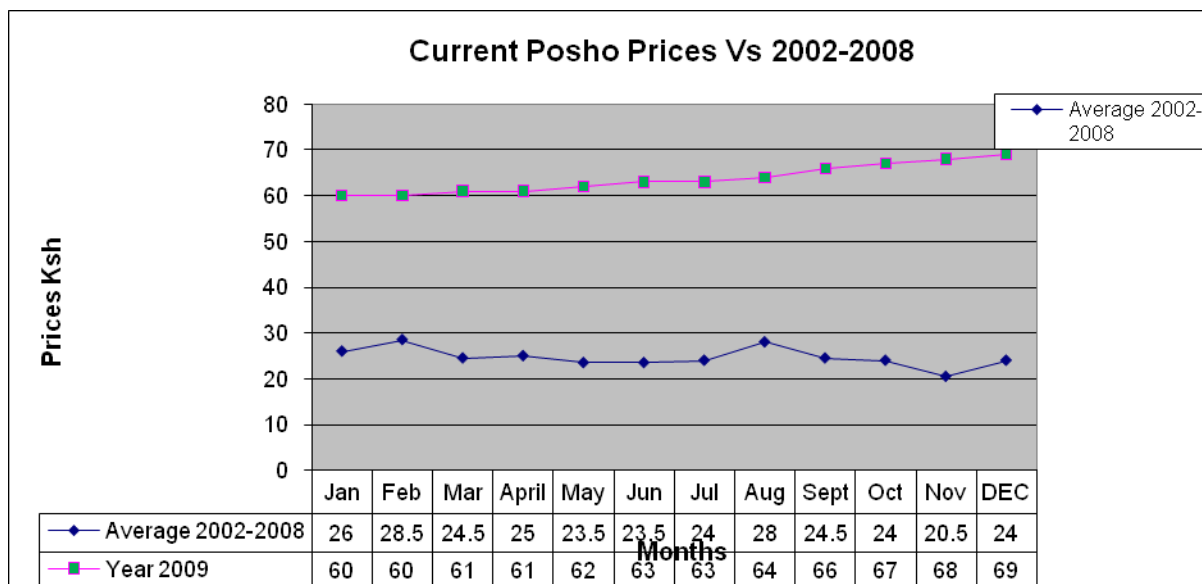
3.4.2 Maize price



3.4.3 Posho (maize meal) prices

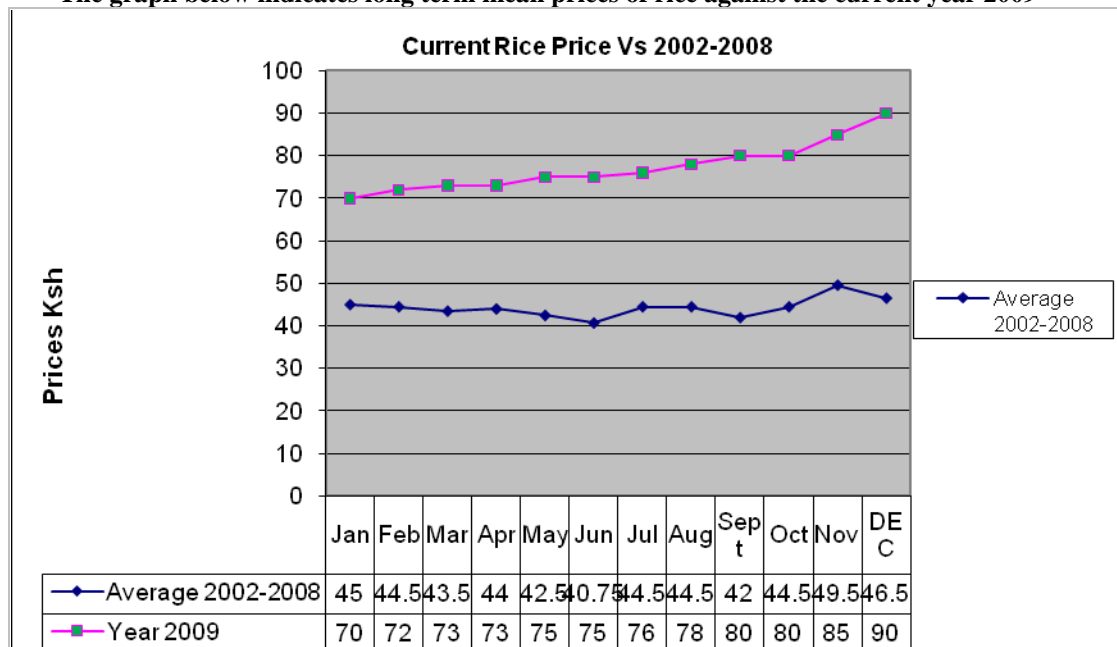
Most of commercial food prices have continued to escalate due to poor road network, global inflation and low purchasing power. Posho prices have also increased as compared to the previous month to kshs 69/=.

The graph below indicates the long mean price of Posho against the current year 2009



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. Variety of rice was sold at the local market but the average price was Ksh90 per kilo.

3.5 Income

3.5.1 Crop income

Sale of vegetables and other kitchen farming crops are alternative source of income for small scale farms especially in Wajir central which are grown through small irrigation pumps. Water melon and other arrow roots crops are also grown.

3.5.2 Livestock income

The main source of income was sale of livestock but price fluctuation, low demand and poor terminal market had a negative set on the pastoralist community.

3.5.3 Other income

Sale of miraa, quarry and daily casual labour especially, planting and other general wages. Charcoal burning and fetching of firewood is other alternative source of income especially in Small business/informal livelihood zone like Makaror, Ganyurey, Jowhar, Dotha and other peripheral areas of Wajir town.

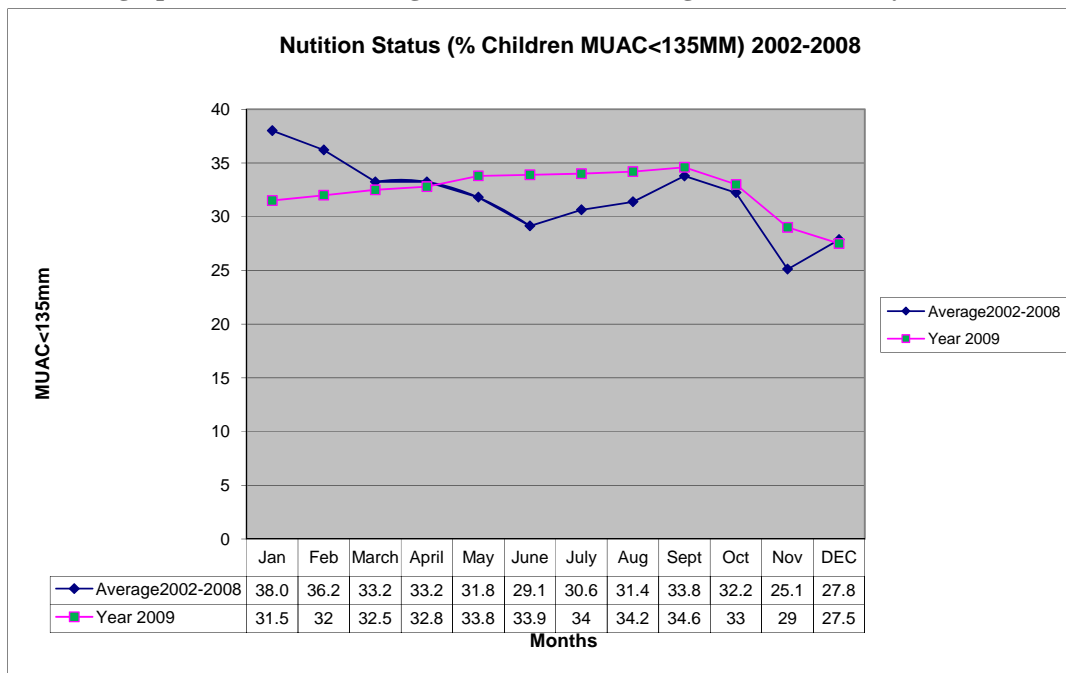
3.6 Implications on food security

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

4.0 Human welfare indicators (utilisation of food)

4.1 Nutrition status

The graph below indicates long term Muac <135mm against the current year 2009



- The nutrition status of children below five years (based on MUAC < 135mm measurement) improved slightly during the month.
- The percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition reduced to 27.5% compared to 29.0% the previous month. The trends is improving following the availability of

milk, especially at the household in the pastoral areas, however in small settlements and urban areas milk is still scarce as the price keeps on increasing.

4.2 Health

The main causes of morbidity and mortality in the district remained malaria, URTI, diarrhea diseases and malnutrition. However, upsurge of malaria and diarrhoea cases were reported. Major concern is increase of cancer cases which requires intensive research as several deaths have been reported in the District.

4.3 Flagged areas

Cases of kwashiorkor subsided but Diif was flagged for schistosomiasis. Areas bordering Wajir –Somalia were placed under security alert with fear of Al-shabab intrusion.

5.0 Current interventions

5.1 Non food interventions

- Sports activities through youth funds.
- 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.

5.2 Food aid

- FFA-food for asset program by WFP through partner agency.
- Nutrition support in OTP/SFP by SCUK and MERLIN
- EMOP relief food distribution by WFP through lead agency, ALDEF-K and implementing partners (WASDA).
- Basic relief support from OOP.

5.3 Other coping strategies

- Reduction in number of meals per day.
- Purchasing of food on credit.
- Reliance on remittances.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- 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, Merlin).
- Spraying of households with vectors/chemicals especially in cesspool, stagnant water, bushes and debris to reduce mosquito menace.(MPHS,SCUK)
- Natural resource management and sensitising communities on wet/dry grazing pattern.
- Strengthening of peace conflict mechanism especially along Wajir – Marsabit-Isiolo boarder, Kenya-Somalia 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).
- Improved coverage of OTP and SFP with active case finding(scuk,merlin and Mophs/moms).
- Infant and Young Child Feeding promotion program through(Mphs, Moms, SCUK and MERLIN.)
- Prevention and response preparedness for livestock disease outbreaks.(vsf, Oxfam, Mold, ALRMP).
- Support for skimming/condensing/drying milk for use in times of drought as during the rainy season, milk is often wasted due to lack of milk processing plant.(Scuk, Merlin, Mphs, Alrmp).
- Advocacy for preservation of traditional grazing areas, creation of awareness of grass-planting and investment in alternative livelihoods and food types.(ALRMP)
- Up scaling of existing small-scale farms through bucket-irrigation and support to stockiest of seeds and tools. (Alrmp, MOA)