

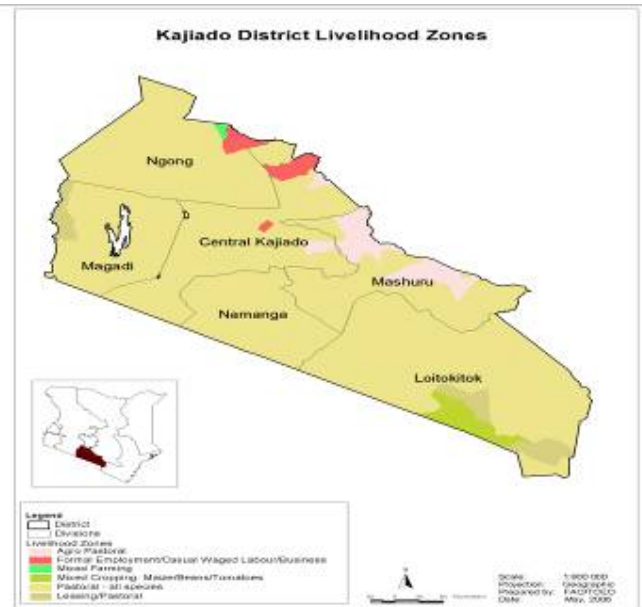


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS  
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

**DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, NOVEMBER 2009**

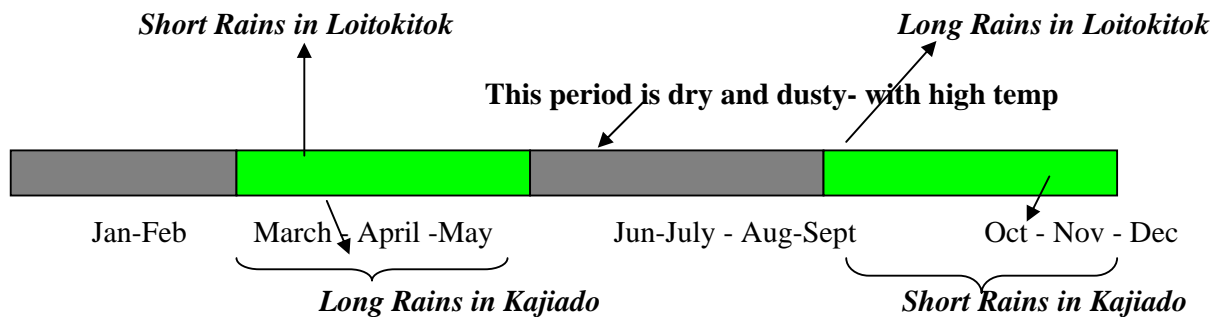
**Kajiado Central, North and Loitokitok districts**

**Warning stages**



Livelihood Zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Pastoral-All Species	Alarm	Improving
Agro Pastoral	Alarm	Improving
Mixed Farming	Alarm	Improving
District	Alarm	Improving

**Seasonal Calendar**



## Situation overview

- The enhanced OND rains expected to trigger meaningful recovery did not occur, with the rains remaining erratic, poorly distributed and sometimes torrential in Isenya, Meto, Mailua and Oldoinyo Orok in Namanga; Bisel Location in Central and upper Ngong. Mbirikani, Kimana and entonet in Loitokitok district received below average rainfall, while high potential areas of Loitokitok had moderate rainfall. Other areas remained dry.
- Water was available in pans and dams, in areas that received rains while boreholes, piped water, shallow wells were the main sources of water, for livestock and domestic use.
- Pasture condition, availability and accessibility remained poor in most areas, and pastoralists continued to purchase hay (Ksh 250-300), bran and other feed supplements to augment the shortfall. In areas that received rains, regeneration started in earnest but heavy clustering of livestock negated the regeneration of pasture and in some areas resident cattle had to move out to allow for the influx. these include, Bissel, Isenya, Meto, Sholinke, Oldoinyo Orok, rombo and Central Loitokitok
- Livestock body condition in the three districts remained poor for cattle and cases of deaths (estimated at 30-40%) were reported, reducing herd sizes. Sheep and goats body condition was fair as result of regeneration of browse. Sale of meat in the local butcheries was affected by the poor condition, and butchers were importing cattle from as far as Nyanza and Western Provinces.
- There was massive immigration of livestock in to the district, especially from Tanzania, Coast and the neighboring districts.
- Average cattle prices increased by 11.79 per cent from Ksh4,043 in October to Ksh4,520 in November. The price was below long term average by 57 per cent. The observed trend was attributed to decline in supply to the markets as farmers were holding back their livestock anticipating livestock improvement. Most farmers migrated to areas that received rainfall.
- There were no food stocks left in households in the crop growing areas as result of the crop failure (3 seasons), resulting in imports of cereals and pulses in these areas outside the district. The ban of cross border imports exacerbated the deficits. Maize and beans prices were at Ksh 42 and Ksh 80 per kg respectively.
- Crop performance was poor and maize and beans planted this season started experiencing water stress in the marginal rain-fed crop growing areas. However, crops in the high potential areas of Ngong and Loitokitok were in good condition.
- EMOP relief food operation experienced serious food pipeline break and November/December 2009 food is not expected to be available until January 2010.
- The nutrition status of children 1- 5 years of age was on the decline as children increasingly fed on cereals (maize and maize flour) than on their traditional diet of milk. During the month under review children rated at the risk of malnutrition (based on the Mid Upper Arm Circumference -MUAC < 135mm) increased slightly to 14.97 from 14.93 in October.
- Charcoal burning and sand harvesting was on upward trend as an alternative source of income as the effects of the recent drought persist while demand for labor improved owing to the onset of planting season. The rates ranged between Ksh70 and 100.

## Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- EMOP relief food operation is experiencing serious food pipeline break, November/December 2009 food is not available until January 2010. The DSG recommends introduction of Food Cash Vouchers to enable the targeted beneficiaries obtain food locally and to complement GFD.

Commodity	Available Stock	Deficit (MTs)
Cereals	155.59	1,905
Pulse	0	232
CSB	11.34	221
Salt	0	28
Vegetable Oil	27.12	110

- Expansion of school feeding program.
- Livestock disease surveillance/ Livestock disease control : vaccination and provision of FMD, CBPP, LSD, trypanocidal drugs and CCP, sheep and goat pox vaccines.
- Need for adequate contingency and preparedness for RVF, in the event of the Elnino .
- Rehabilitation of strategic boreholes and shallow wells and construction water pans
- Scaling up nutrition intervention : supplementary feeding, and therapeutic feeding for the vulnerable persons ( U5, pregnant mothers, elderly and PLAWS and HiV/Aids

## Ongoing interventions

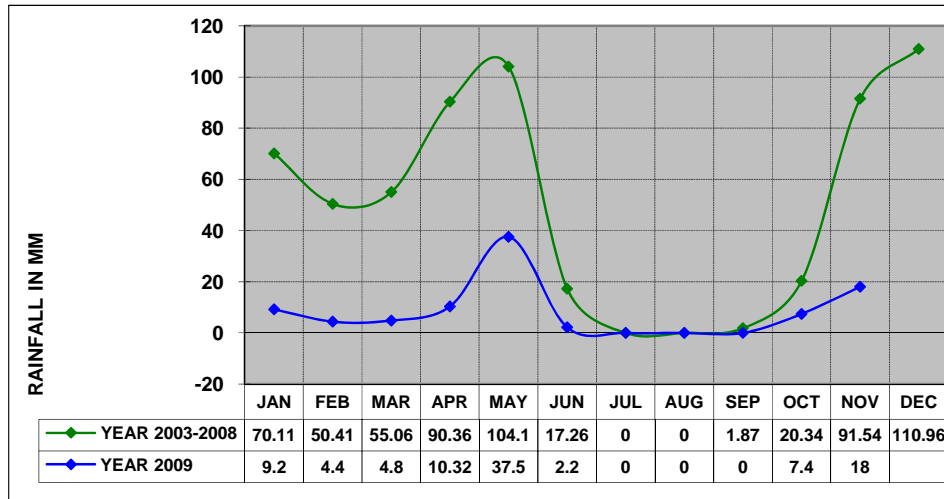
The following interventions are being undertaken to contain the drought situation in the district:

Institution	Intervention (on going)
<b>Livestock and Agriculture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RVF vaccination : 15,000 small stock vaccinated in the hot spots areas of Mashuru, Kajiado Central (DVO – Kajiado Central) and CCP vaccination</li> <li>• Drought tolerant seeds: The three districts are to receive 11MTs sorghum and 9 MTs of maize. Deliveries are yet to be made.</li> <li>• KMC livestock Off take- concluded</li> <li>• Livestock feeds supplement</li> </ul>
<b>Water development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 plastic tanks of 10,000-16,000 liters for schools and community , distributed to institution – on going</li> <li>• Water tankering to schools and community (ALRMP)</li> <li>• Rehabilitation of boreholes and shallow wells , and drilling and equipping of boreholes and shallow wells and boreholes (ALRMP)</li> <li>• Diesel subsidy to community boreholes (ALRMP)</li> </ul>
<b>Relief Food EMOP</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up scaling of population from 15% to 35% of the larger Kajiado population with effect from October 2009</li> </ul>
<b>Nutrition and Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing an Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) Programme (Mercy – USA and Concern Worldwide)</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of PCEA Upper Matasia science lab (Ksh.2,500,000) in Kajiado North, Pelewa Primary dormitory ( Ksh.3,000,000) in Kajiado Central and a classroom at Inkoisuk Primary School, Loitoktok (Ministry for Development Of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands)</li> </ul>

## 1.0 Environmental indicators (Stability)

### 1.1 Rainfall

Rainfall data as at November 2009 compared to long term average 2003-08



Source: ALRMP sample sites. Total sample size (n)-11 sites

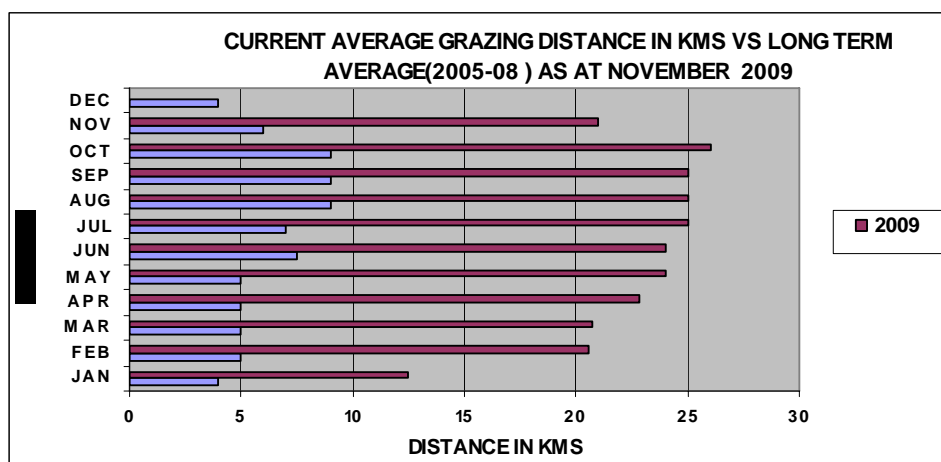
- A few locations received erratic to moderate rainfall by the close of the month. Most parts of Kajiado Central, Kajiado North(pastoral areas) and Loitokitok(Mbirikani, Lenkisim, Olorika and Kimana) received scanty showers. High potential areas of Loitokitok and Ngong received moderate rainfall. The anticipated short rains (OND) were expected to trigger pasture and browse regeneration.

### 1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture

- During the month, browse and pasture condition improved in areas that received moderate rainfall. In areas that were still dry pastoralists continued to purchase hay at Ksh250-300, bran and other feed supplements to complement the shortfall. The most affected areas were Magadi, Kitengela, Mbirikani, Lenkisim, Kimana, Mashuru, Pastoral areas of Ngong and Kajiado Central.
- Poor range condition was occasioned by insufficient rainfall. The observed range condition had corresponding negative impact on livestock productivity and subsequently negative impact on food security status.

#### 1.2.1 Distance to grazing areas

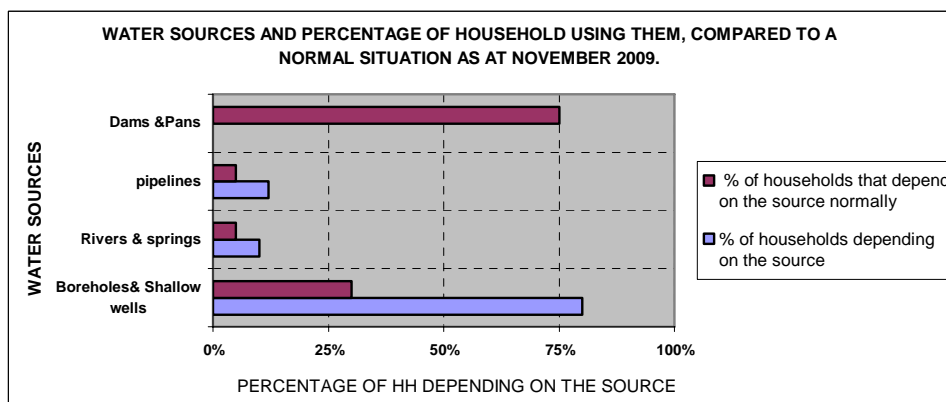
There was massive livestock migration into areas that received rainfall during the month under review, leading to reduced return distances to grazing areas to between 15-21 Kms from the normal range of 5 Km. The observed situation was below normal.



Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size(n) 270 households

### 1.3 Water sources and availability

Table 2: Water sources and percentage of household using them, compared to a normal situation.



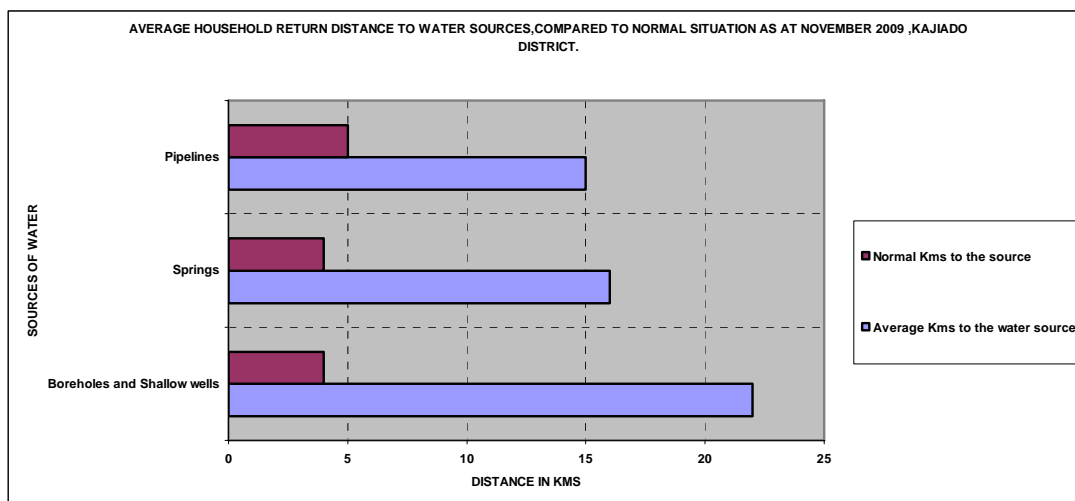
Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

- A few dams and pans were recharged. However, most household members continued to fetch water from permanent water sources. During the month, boreholes, springs, pipeline and shallow wells were the major sources of water. As in the previous month, the traditional hand dug wells had water but levels were dropping and recharging was at an increased time frame of 12-24 hours. The few boreholes, worked for longer hours (over 18 hours).
- The observed situation had negative implications on food security. The water situation was abnormal because during normal years dams and pans are usually the main sources of water for livestock and domestic use.

#### 1.3.1 Household access to water

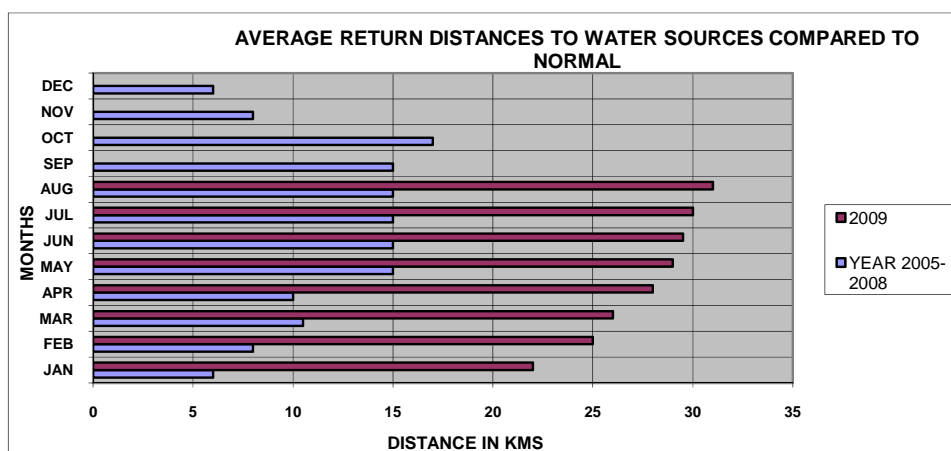
- Most households continued to depend on permanent water sources such as boreholes and shallow wells. Return time for fetching water for domestic use ranged between 8-10hours in all areas. In hard hit areas women started fetching water as early as 3.00am.
- Water points were characterised by heavy concentration of livestock and long waiting hours. Livestock was given first preference to domestic use. Household members accessed water from strategic dry season boreholes, shallow wells and springs, which were far away from residential areas.

**Table 3: Average return distances to water sources, compared to a normal situation**



Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

### 1.3.2 Livestock access to water



Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

During the month, the average distance to water sources for livestock averaged 15-25 Kms in most areas. The decline was attributed to massive livestock migration to areas that received moderate rainfall. Livestock watered for 2-3 days per week, as most temporary water sources dried up. Return distances for livestock averaged 15-25 kms.

### 1.4 Emerging issues

- High food prices impacted negatively on purchasing power of pastoralists. Weak cattle were disposed at Ksh1500-2000 in most markets.
- Increased charcoal burning and sand harvesting as alternative sources of income.
- Massive livestock deaths associated with the prevailing drought (evident in all divisions) and high mortality rate of weak and recumbent cattle and deaths livestock attributed to rainfall.
- Increasing wildlife (zebras, wildebeests and buffalos) mortality owing to the drought.

- Increasing incidences of livestock deaths associated with ECF as most livestock moved to dry season areas which have high tick challenge. Foot and Mouth disease (FMD) was reported in all divisions and even for those that had migrated outside the district.

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

### **2.1 Livestock production**

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

- During the month, cattle maintained poor body and health conditions. This was attributed to insufficient forage and long trekking distances to water and pasture. However, cattle body condition is expected to improve in the next few months if the rains persist. Goats and sheep body condition is improving as a result of improved browse condition.
- The observed trend had negative implications on food security as livestock in poor body condition fetched low prices.

#### **2.1.2 Livestock health**

- Incidences of tick-borne diseases, especially ECF, Anaplasmosis and Babesiosis, were evident in livestock that had moved outside the district attributed to inadequate water for spraying and movement of livestock into areas with high tick challenge.
- Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP) and CCPP were reported by most households.

#### **2.1.3 Milk production**

Owing to the prevailing drought in most areas, availability and accessibility of milk was nil. Most households purchased long life milk from the shops, whose price has so far escalated. The current milk consumption trend had serious food security implications at household level.

#### **2.1.4 Livestock migration**

Over 70% of cattle migrated out of the district in search of pasture. The migration was both external and within the district. However, a few herders returned to the district to areas that received rainfall.

## **2.2 Crop production**

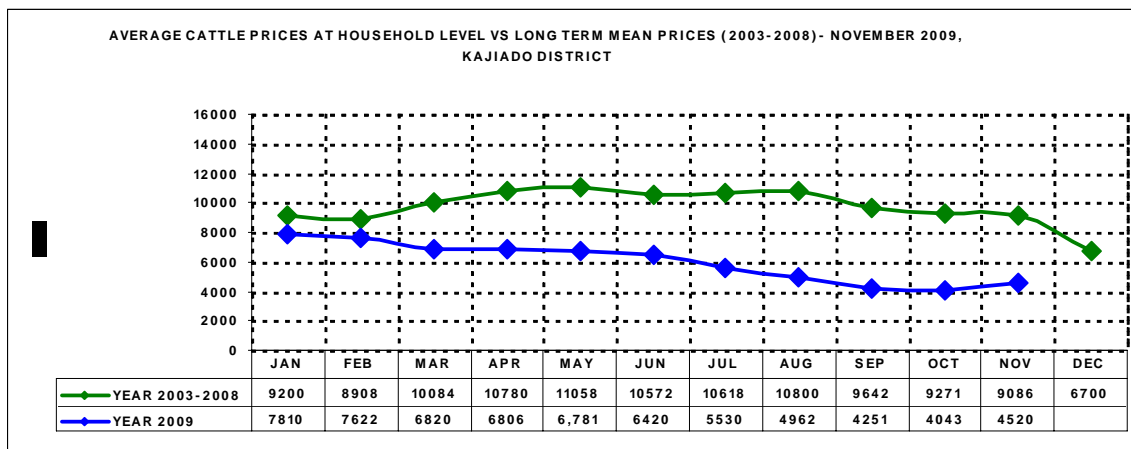
### **2.2.1 Timeliness and status of crop production activities**

Crop performance in high potential and marginal crop growing areas was good. Maize was at knee high while beans were flowering. Most farmers reported lack of seeds. The last good crop was in 2006, and the seed stocks are depleted. Most farmers planted uncertified seeds.

### 3.0 Access to food

#### 3.1 Livestock marketing

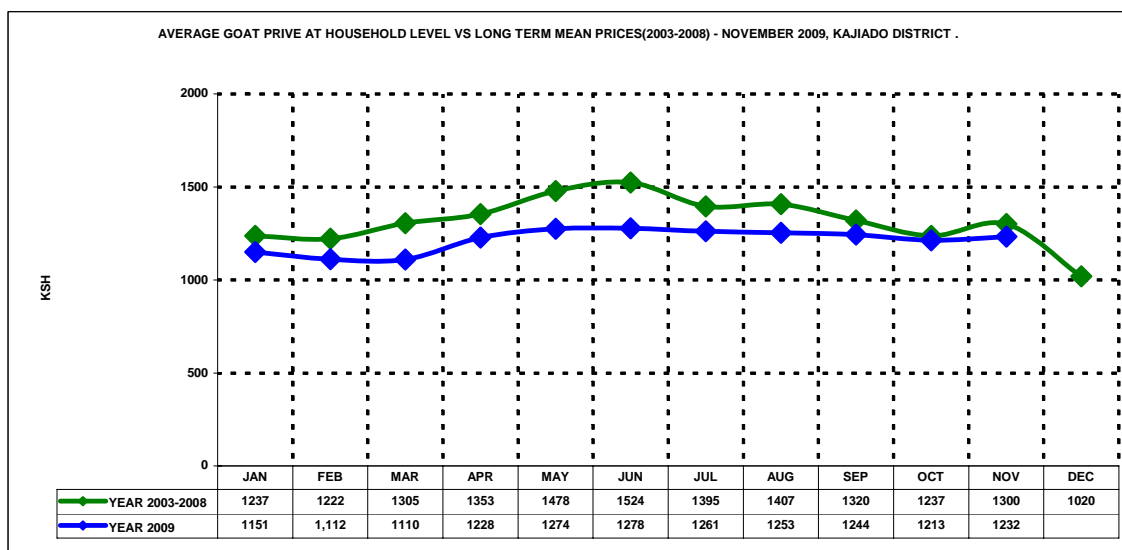
##### 3.1.1 Cattle prices



Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

Average cattle prices increased by 11.79 per cent from Ksh 4,043 in October to Ksh4,520 in November. The price was below long term average by 48 per cent. The observed trend was attributed decline in supply to the markets as farmers were holding back their livestock anticipating livestock improvement. Most farmers migrated to areas that received rainfall.

##### 3.1.2 Goats prices

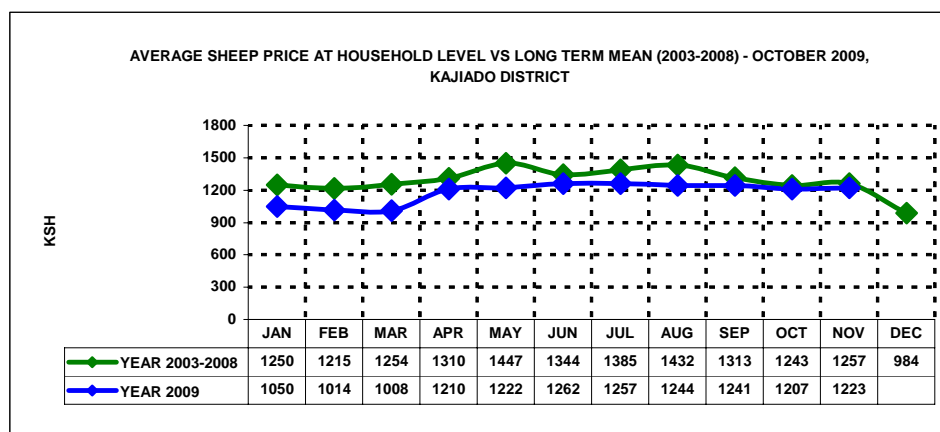


Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

Average goat prices increased slightly by 1.5 percent from Ksh1,213 in October to Ksh1,232 in November.



### 3.1.3 Sheep prices



Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size(n) 270 households

Sheep prices increased by 1.32 percent during the month. The increase was attributed to decline in supply to markets. Browse condition improved in most areas and shoats' condition improved.

### 3.1.4 Milk consumption

During the month under review unavailability of milk at household level was reported by all individuals interviewed. Milk availability was constrained by poor livestock body condition and internal and external migration in search of pasture. Unavailability of milk at household level had negative implications on food security, especially for children under five years.

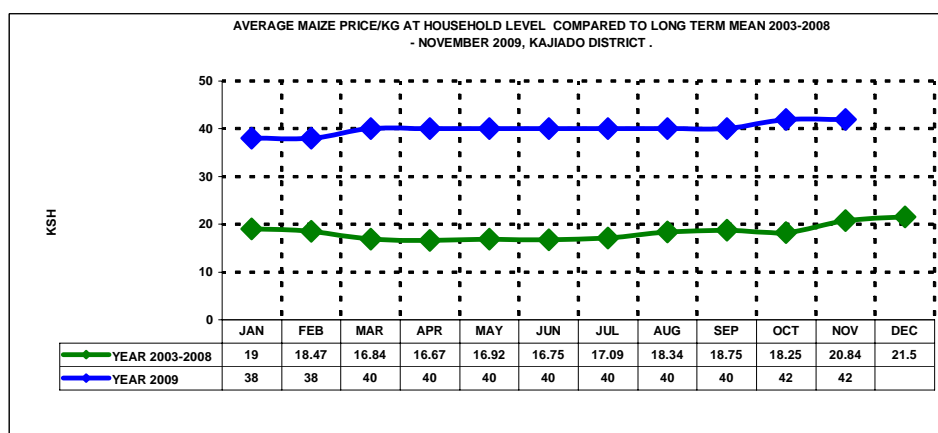
### 3.2 Implications on food security

The following impacted negatively on food security in the district:

- High food prices, coupled with very low livestock prices, especially cattle.
- Poor body condition of cattle and deaths with corresponding low prices (Ksh2000-4000).
- Migration of livestock that exacerbated unavailability of milk in rural households.
- Late commencement of rains portends poor crop performance in the rain fed crop growing areas.
- Unavailability of milk for children under five years, which increased their risk of malnutrition.

### 3.3 Food prices

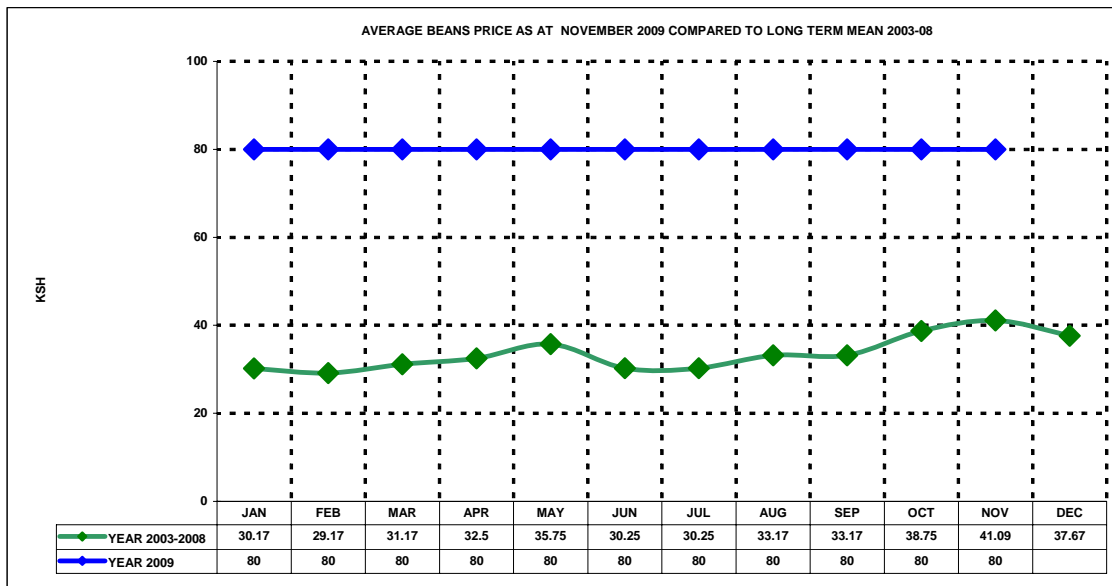
#### 3.3.1 Maize prices



Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

The average maize price stabilized at Ksh 42 per kilo. The district depends on external supplies from neighbouring districts and Tanzania. The scarcity is mainly attributed to poor performance of crops as a result of drought.

### 3.3.2 Beans prices

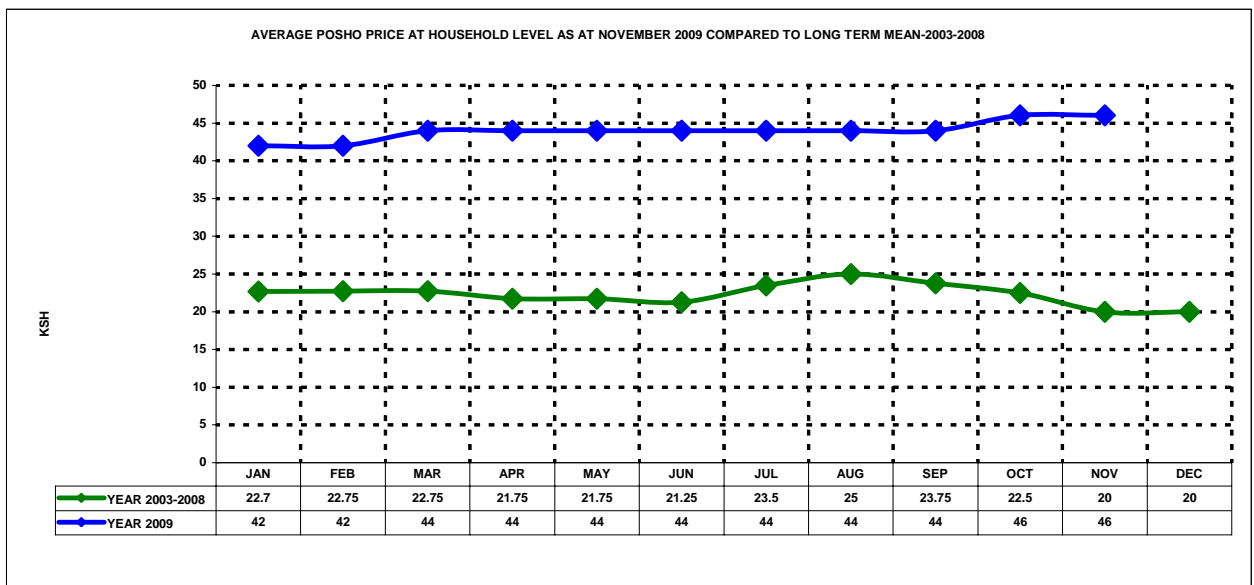


Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

The average beans prices remained high but stabilised at Ksh80 per kilo. The prices were abnormal compared to long term mean of Ksh41per kilo.

### 3.3.3 Posho (locally milled maize meal) prices

The average price of posho stabilized at Ksh 46 per kilo. The price was above normal compared to the long term mean of Ksh20 per kilo.



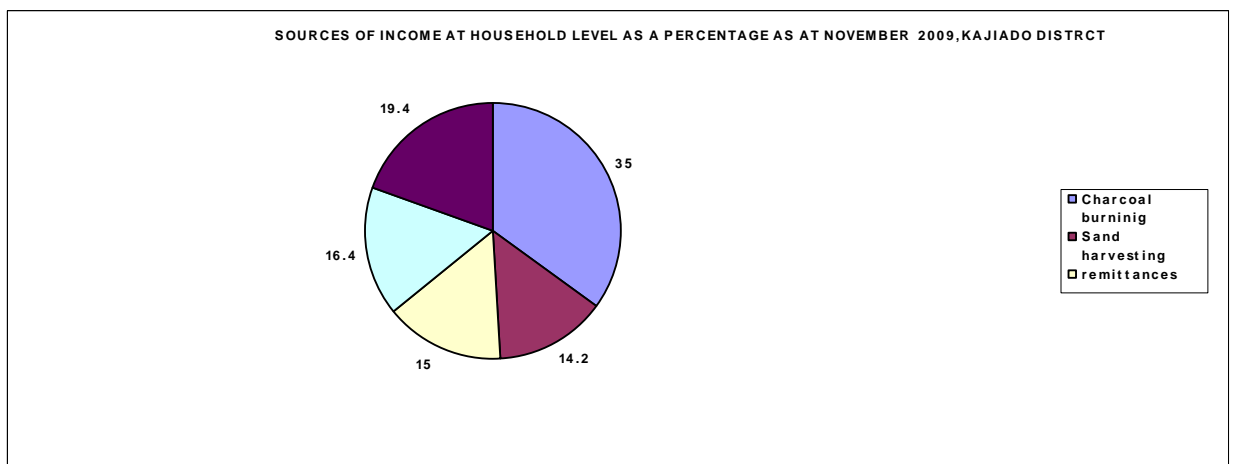
Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

### 3.4 Income

#### 3.4.1 Crop income

There was no crop income in rain-fed crop growing areas owing to the recent drought in the three districts. The month was characterised by below normal income from the irrigation areas, which was attributed to decline in water levels and human/wildlife conflict.

#### 3.4.2 Livestock income



Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households

The month was characterized by low supply of livestock to the market hence low income. Livestock prices remained low owing to poor body condition. Other sources of income were sale of charcoal, sand harvesting, petty trade and remittances.

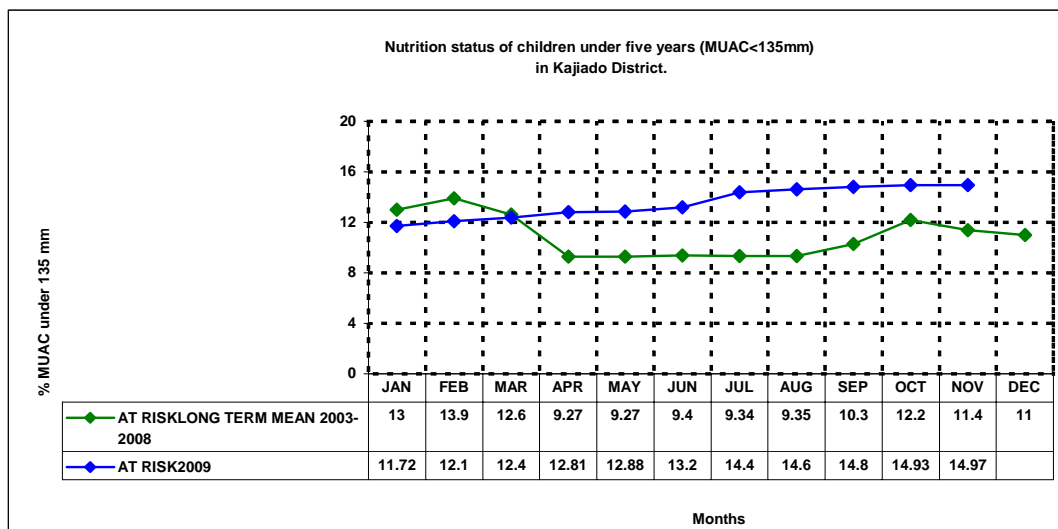
Charcoal burning remained the main source of income for many households across all livelihood zones followed by sale of livestock. The observed trend can largely be attributed to the prevailing drought and migration of livestock in search of pasture and water. One bag of charcoal sold at between Ksh 400-600.

### 3.5 Terms of trade for pastoralists

Pastoralists' terms of trade remained poor, with high food prices and 48% decrease on livestock prices below the long term mean. High cereal prices coupled with declining livestock prices had negative implications on household food security.

## 4.0 Human welfare indicators (Utilisation of food)

### 4.1 Nutrition status



Source: ALRMP sample sites, Total Sample size (n) 270 households-1,346 children were examined.

The nutrition status of children 12-59 months remained poor, with the percentage of those rated at risk of malnutrition rising to 14.97 from 14.93 in October. This can largely be attributed to declining availability of milk in rural households which was attributed to livestock migration in search of pasture and water and the recent 100% crop failure.

### 4.2 Human health

- As reported the most common diseases during the month were malaria, diarrhoea and respiratory tract infections (RTIs).

## 5.0 Current interventions

The following interventions are being undertaken to contain the drought situation in the district:

Institution	Intervention (on going)
Livestock and Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RVF vaccination : 15,000 small stock vaccinated in the hot spots areas of Mashuru, Kajiado Central (DVO – Kajiado Central) and CCPV vaccination</li> <li>Drought tolerant seeds: The three districts are to receive 11MTs sorghum and 9 MTs of maize. Deliveries are yet to be made.</li> <li>KMC livestock Off take- concluded</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Livestock feeds supplement</li> </ul>
<b>Water development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100 plastic tanks of 10,000-16,000 liters for schools and community , distributed to institution – on going</li> <li>• Water tankering to schools and community (ALRMP)</li> <li>• Rehabilitation of boreholes and shallow wells , and drilling and equipping of boreholes and shallow wells and boreholes (ALRMP)</li> <li>• Diesel subsidy to community boreholes (ALRMP)</li> </ul>
<b>Relief Food EMOP</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up scaling of population from 15% to 35% of the larger Kajiado population with effect from October 2009</li> </ul>
<b>Nutrition and Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing an Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) Programme (Mercy – USA and Concern Worldwide)</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of PCEA Upper Matasia science lab (Ksh.2,500,000) in Kajiado North, Pelewa Primary dormitory ( Ksh.3,000,000) in Kajiado Central and a classroom at Inkoisuk Primary School, Loitoktok (Ministry for Development Of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands)</li> </ul>

WFP Global Ambassador Visit: Mr. John Kuffuor (former Ghanaian President), and current WFP Global Ambassador visited the district on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009, to assess the drought and food security situation.

### 5.1 Coping strategies

- Purchase of hay and concentrates.
- Disposal of weak livestock.
- Hiring of grazing /pastures.
- Sharing of EMOP relief food.
- Reduce frequency of livestock watering 2-3 days per week.
- Pastoralists purchased hay (at Ksh 250- 300) to supplement the shortfall from Bissell, Namanga and Karen.
- Community water trucking to the dry season grazing areas.
- Migration of household heads to urban areas in search of employment.
- Dependence and/or receiving remittances.
- Reduced ration and number of meals per day.
- Increased charcoal burning and Sand harvesting.
- Livestock migration in search of pastures and water.

### 6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

Priority should be given to;

- Restoring the food relief pipeline and Cash voucher scheme
- Disease control: the cattle that were out of the district t are coming back, the risk of FMD, CBPP and other disease poses a challenge, there is need to embark on massive disease control, and preparedness and contingency as result of the scare of RVF, in the event of the elnino.
- Restocking : the losses are on average estimated at 40%, however close to 60% of some individual households have lost close to 90% .
- Expansion of the school feeding programme in the next term.
- Availing the seeds quota for the district.