

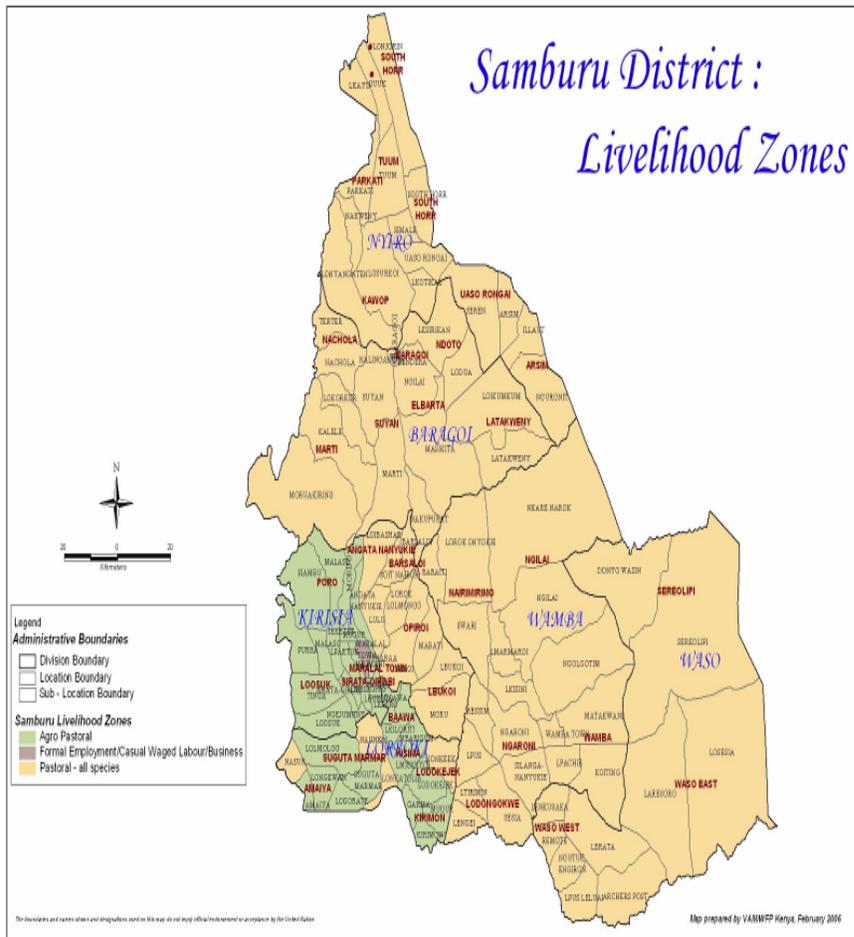


**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II**

DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN, DECEMBER 2009

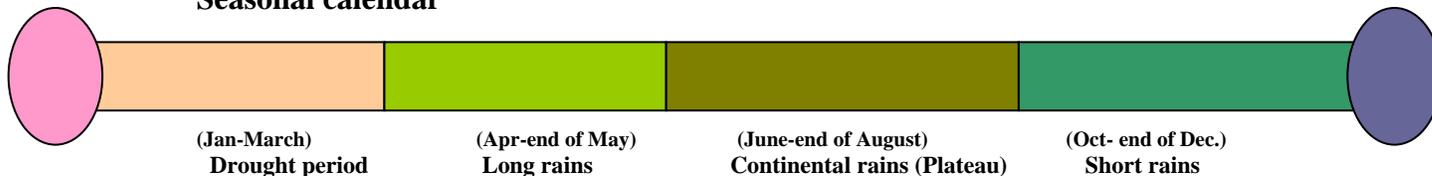
Samburu District

Warning stages



Livelihood Zone	Warning stage	Trend
Agro Pastoral	Alarm	Improving
	Alarm	Improving
Pastoral- All species	Alarm	Improving
	Alarm	Improving
District	Alarm	Improving

Seasonal calendar



Situation overview

- The district received 35.2 mm of rainfall on average compared to 42.85 mm received in October. The amount was 63.17 per cent below the long-term mean average of 106.7 mm. The rains received minimally reversed the severity of drought impact for households across the district.
- The main water sources utilised this season recharged fully following the rains received, leading to decreased distances to water points for households and livestock.
- Livestock body conditions generally ranged from fair to good and prices improved substantially compared to November.
- Milk remained unavailable at the household level across the district.
- Malaria and upper respiratory tract infections continued to dominate the district human disease profile, but within manageable levels.
- Improved livestock prices were countered by high prices of essential food commodities, hence minimal impact on pastoralists' purchasing power.
- Insecurity continued to destabilise the western and eastern borders of the district, constraining utilisation of forage resources and human settlement in the affected areas.
- Nutrition status of children below five years improved, with the percentage of those considered at risk of malnutrition (based on MUAC<135mm measurement) decreasing to 29.7 from 30.6 in November.

Ongoing interventions

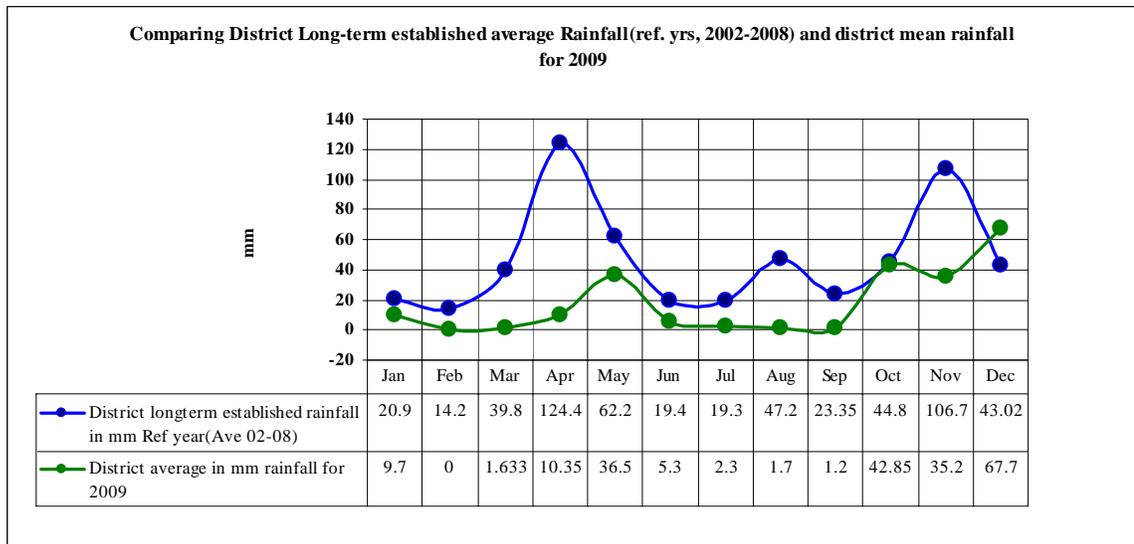
- Supplementary feeding programme by the Ministry of Health, World Vision-Lorroki ADP, Catholic Diocese, SAIDIA and International Medical Corps at 32 health facilities in all divisions targeting approximately 7,786 beneficiaries.
- District-wide general relief food distribution targeting approximately 60% of the population.

Recommendations to DSG and KFSM

- KFSSG and other stakeholders to play a lead role in promoting conflict resolution initiatives among warring communities through facilitation of district peace committees to reach warring communities for dialogue.
- Supplementary feeding programme to target other population groups at risk of Malnutrition above five years age bracket.

1. 0 Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall



Source: District Agriculture/ALRMP II weather station

- The district received heavy continuous rains with good temporal and spatial distribution. On average the rainfall received was 67.7 mm from last month's 43.02 mm. The amount was above the long-term established mean by 57.36 per cent. The long term established threshold normally received during this period of the year is 43.02 mm.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation

- Quality and quantity of forage resources rejuvenated substantially following the heavy and well distributed rains received.
- Insecurity remained a constraint in access and utilization forage resources in the western and Eastern borders of the district.
- Forage resources were slightly above average compared to normal times during this period of the year.

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Use of water sources

- The main sources of water for livestock and households during the course of the month changed compared to November and included traditional river wells, natural rivers, shallow wells, natural ponds, pans/dams and boreholes.
- Existing water sources remained fully recharged following the rains received hence reduced distances to water points by households and livestock.

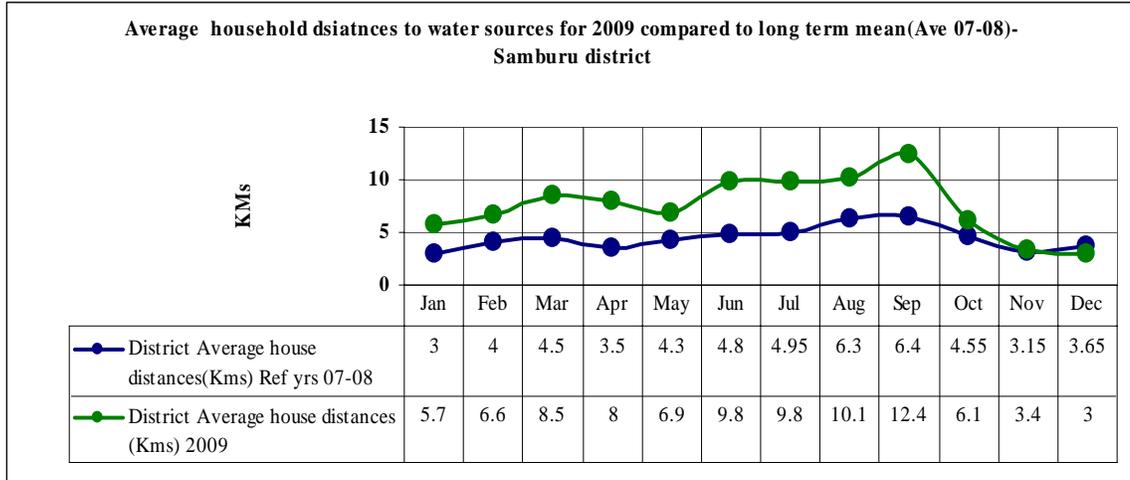
1.3.2 Distance (Kms) to water sources

a) Household distances

- Average house distance to nearby water sources decreased to 3kms from last

month's 3.4 kms. Household distance was below the long term average by 17.81 per cent.

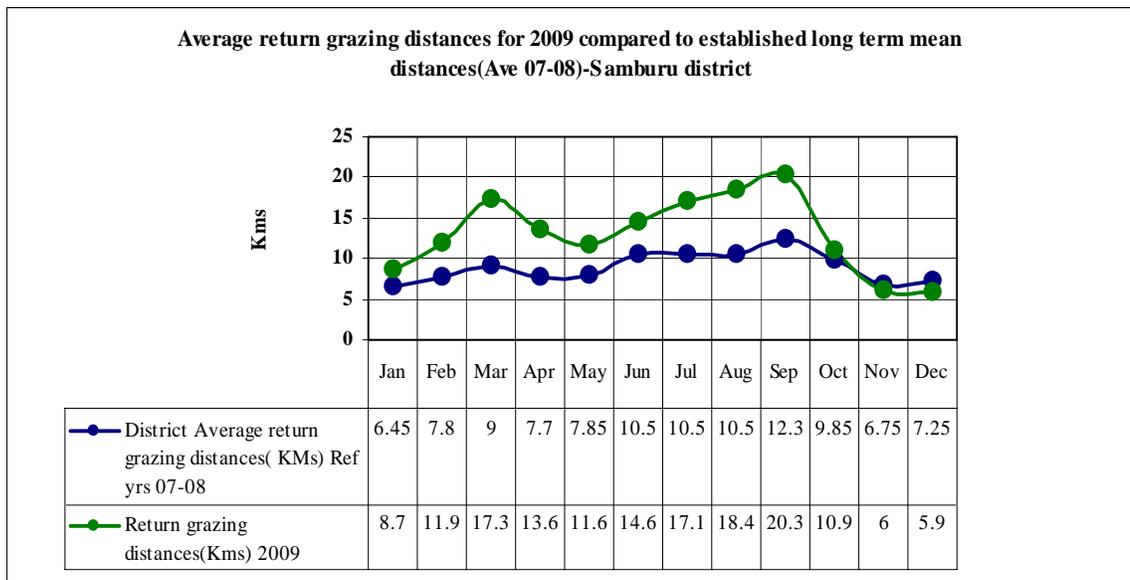
- Wet season watering points recharged fully following the rains received this season hence decreased household distances. This implied that less time was spent in search of water by household members particularly women and children.



Number of communities (N) =35

b) Grazing distances

- Average return grazing distance to main sources of water also decreased to 5.9 kms from 6 kms in November. Return grazing distance was below the long term mean by 18.62 per cent.
- Wet season watering points normally used by livestock this season recharged across district.



Number of communities (N) =35

1.4 Emerging issues

1.4.1 Insecurity/ conflict

- Tension eased out slightly amongst warring communities in Samburu north district following livestock migration away from the dry season Grazing zones.
- In Samburu Central district, bandits from Baringo East continued to terrorise residents with increased stock theft at night witnessed during the course of the last three months.

1.4.2 Migration

- Cattle from Lorroki plateau and Baragoi remained within Samburu East district that received the bulk of the short rains in October.
- Many families remained displaced in parts of Samburu North district as result of tribal clashes witnessed the previous months.
- Households in the western parts of the Agro pastoral livelihood zone too remained displaced and are concentrated in cluster villages in Lolmolog, Angata Rongai, Logorate and Longewan sub-locations.

1.5 Implications on food security

- The last phase of the short rains season performed well and may impact positively on pastoralists' access to food. Insecurity continued to undermine efforts to attain food security in areas affected within the district.

2.0. Rural economy indicators

2.1 Livestock production

2.1.1 Livestock body conditions

- Livestock body conditions ranged from fair to good across the district. Shortened trekking distances to water points and grazing areas coupled with good forage resources impacted well on livestock body conditions.
- Livestock deaths due to drought-related effects subsided completely during the reporting month. Compared to a normal year livestock body conditions remained slightly below normal across the district.

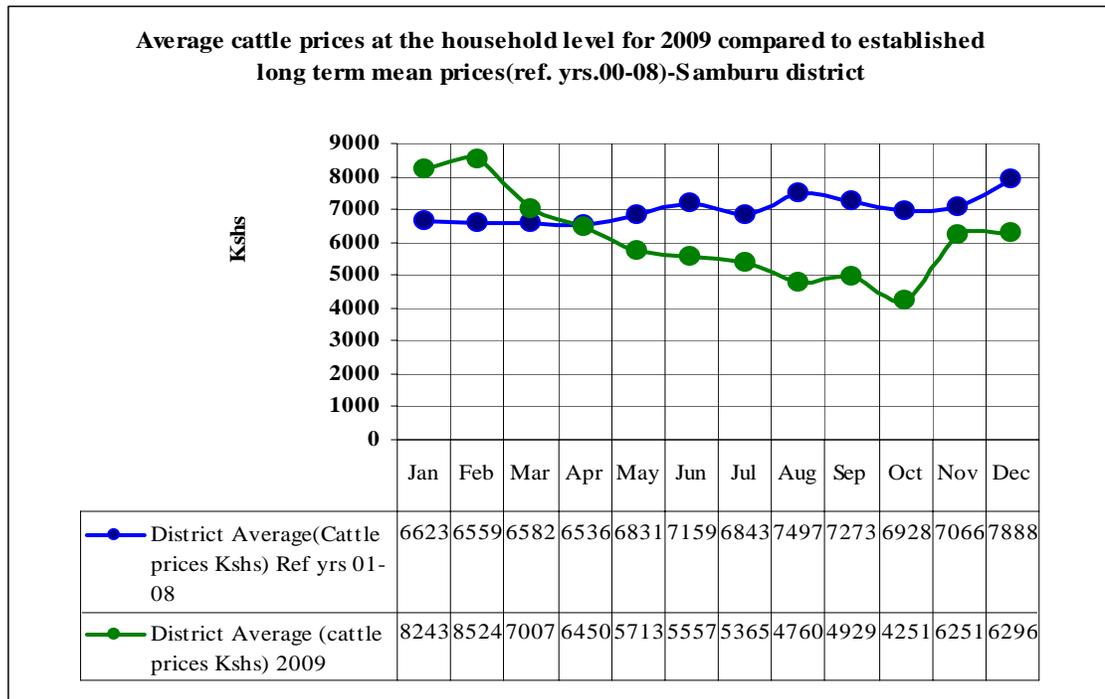
2.1.2 Livestock diseases

- The major livestock diseases reported were ECF, and Anaplasmosis in cattle; Pox, and elmenthiasis in sheep; Pox and CCPP in goats.

2.2 Implications on food security

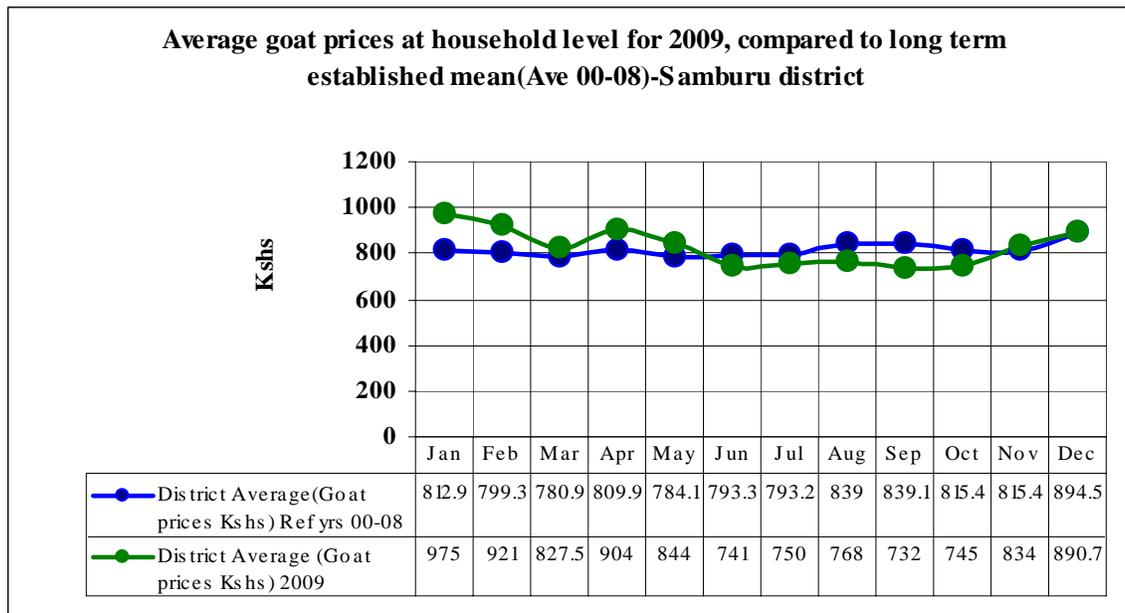
Fair to good livestock body condition was good to the pastoralists' economy and impacted positively on their access to food.

3.0 Access to food
3.1 Livestock marketing
3.1.1 Cattle prices



Number of households (N) =375

3.1.2 Goats prices

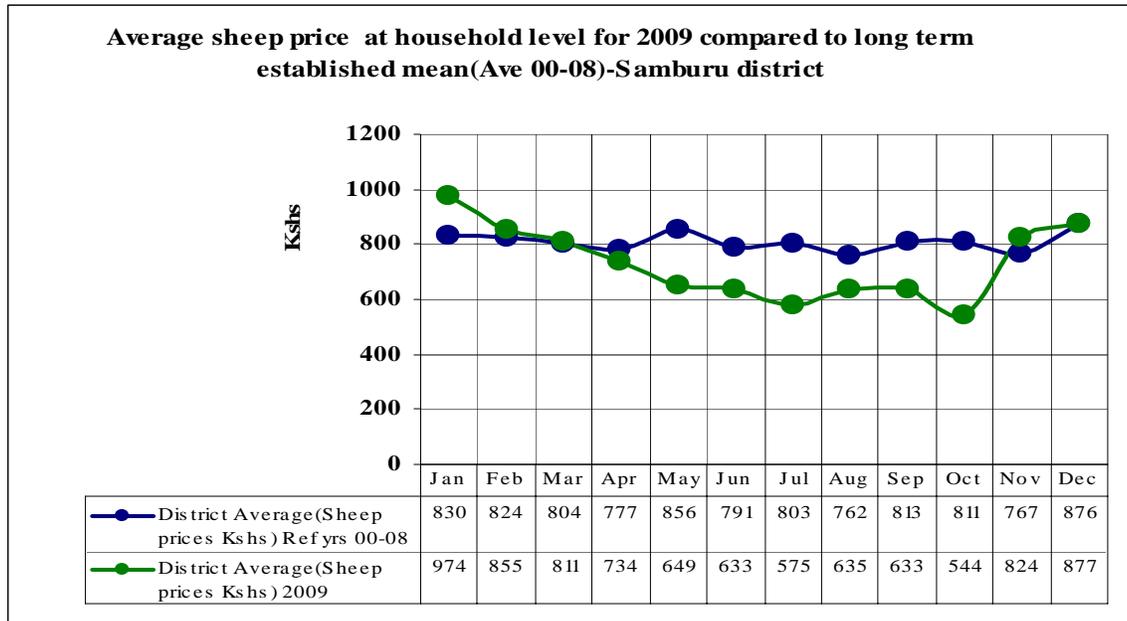


Number of households (N) =375

- Average goat prices rose to Ksh890.70 from last month's Ksh834. However,

the price was below the long-term average by 0.46 per cent. Good to fair goat body conditions was a key factor behind the upward price trend.

3.1.3 Sheep prices



Number of households (N) =375

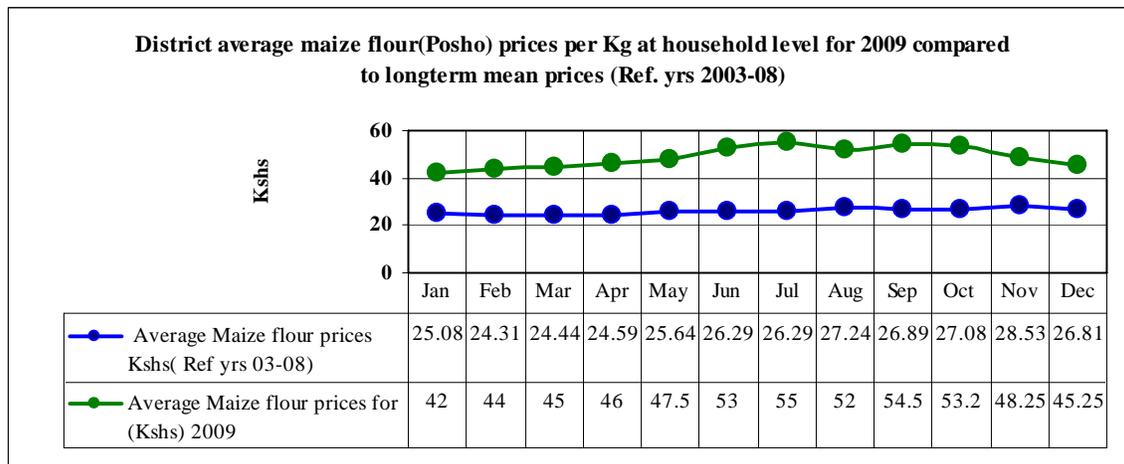
- Average sheep price rose to Ksh876.5 from Ksh824 in November. The price was above the long term average by 0.114 per cent. Fair-good sheep body condition was a factor that contributed to upward price trend.

3.2 Milk consumption

- Milk remained unavailable at the household level across the district. This was attributed to record low livestock birth rates.

3.3 Food prices

3.3.1 Posho (maize flour) prices



Number of households (N) =35

- Maize flour price fell to Ksh45.25 per Kilogram of locally milled maize from Ksh 48.25 in November. Compared to the long term mean, Posho price was above normal by 68.91 per cent.
- The district remained an importer of maize and increased supply in the local markets led to a slight price fall.
- Added transport costs also contributed to high posho prices in many lowland areas compared to the plateau.

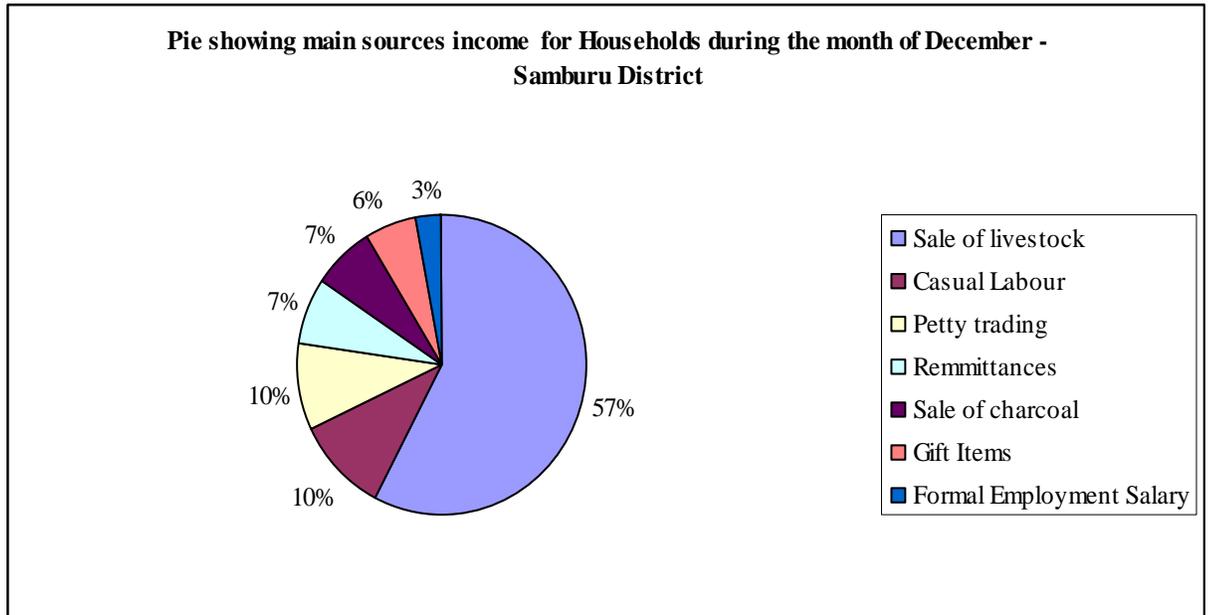
3.4 Income

3.4.1 Livestock income

- Sale of livestock remained the major source of income for many households across all the livelihood zones at 57 per cent.

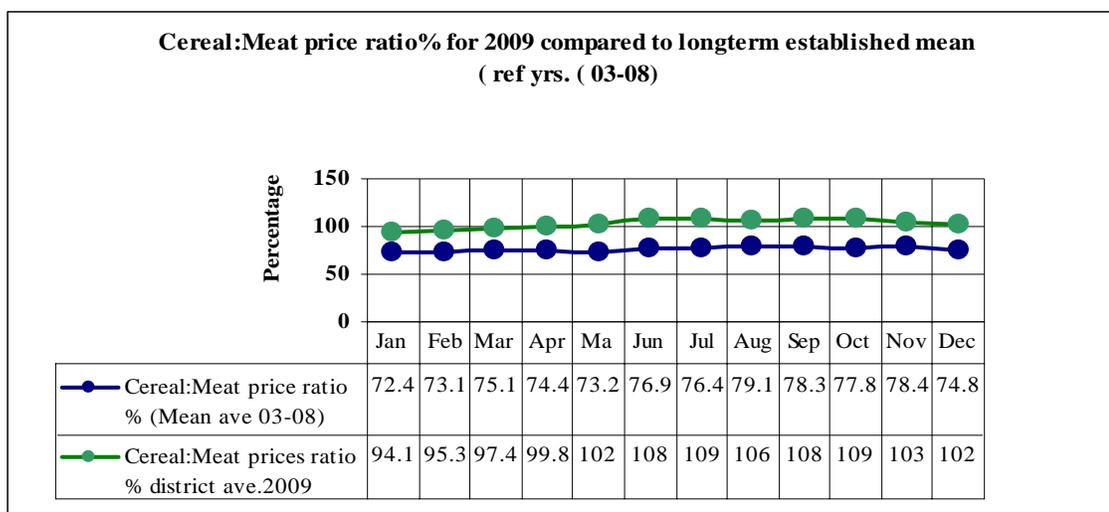
3.4.2 Other income

- Casual labour, petty trading, Sale of charcoal, remittances, Gift items and formal employment salary were the other income sources for many households within the district.



3.5 Cereal/ meat price ratio (%)

- Pastoralists' households required 1.017 kilogram of meat in exchange for a kilo of cereals. The exchange rate remained exorbitant as the established long-term mean average was 0.748 kg of meat against a kilogram of cereals.
- Pastoralists' purchasing power improved to 101.7 per cent from 103.3 per cent in November and was below the long-term mean by 36 per cent.
- This was pegged to the rise in livestock prices. Highly priced cereals, particularly maize which was the major pastoralist diet during this post drought period undermined pastoralists' purchasing power.



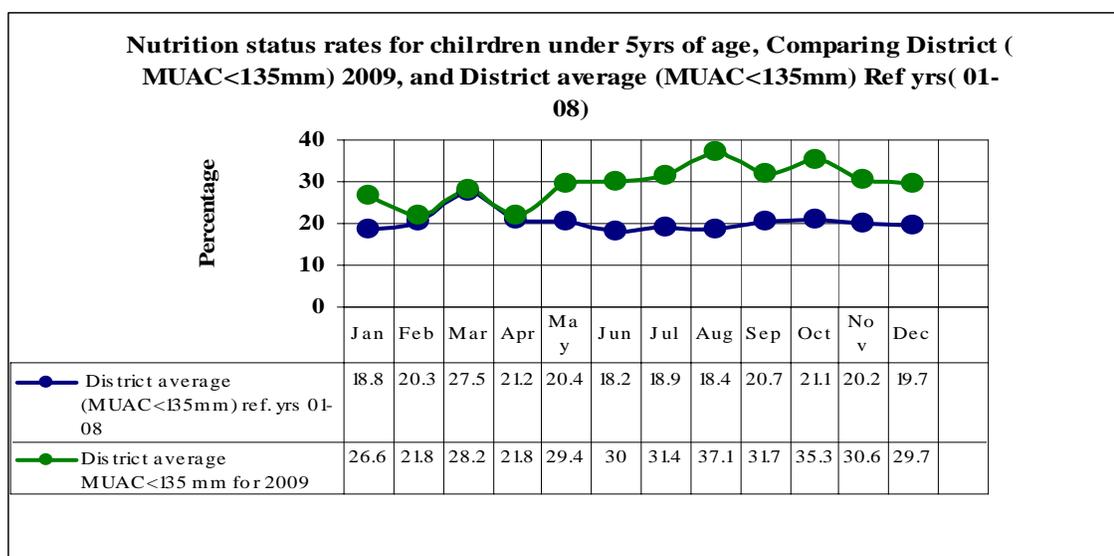
Number of households (N) = 375

3.6 Implications on food security

An improvement in livestock price was positive to pastoralists' access to food. However, highly priced essential household food commodities, adversely eroded pastoralists' purchasing power.

4.0 Welfare indicators (utilization of food)

4.1 Nutrition (MUAC) Rates



Number of children (N) =1608 from 375 households

- The nutrition status of children below five years improved slightly, with the percentage of those considered at risk of malnutrition (based on monthly MUAC measurements) decreasing to 29.7 from 30.6 in November.
- Nachola, South Horr and West Gate sentinel sites still portrayed alarming trends with the percentage of those at risk slightly decreasing to 78.5, 57 and 56.6 respectively. Apparently, the above alarming trends can be attributed to

unavailability of adequate and nutritionally balanced food at the households.

4.2 Human health

- Malaria, upper respiratory tract infections and diarrhoea were the major human ailments reported in various parts of the district but within manageable levels.
- The ailments were countered at the household level through medical assistance sought from public health centres/ dispensaries, private clinics and use of local herbs/ concoctions.

5.0 Current interventions

5.2 Non-food interventions

- District-wide livestock disease surveillance.

5.3 Food-aid interventions

- Supplementary feeding programme by the ministry of health, World Vision-Lorroki ADP, Catholic Diocese, SAIDIA and International Medical Corps at 32 health facilities in all divisions targeting approximately 7,786 beneficiaries.
- District wide general relief food distribution targeting approximately 60% of the district population.

5.1 Coping strategies

- The district average coping strategies index was 2.2. This was an indication of slight improvement compared to the previous months.

6.0 Recommendations to DSG and KFSSM

- Supplementary feeding programme to target other population groups at risk of Malnutrition above five years age bracket. (Action: MOH, SAIDIA, Catholic Diocese, WVK and IMC).
- KFSSG and other stakeholders to play a lead role in promoting conflict resolution initiatives among warring communities through facilitation of district peace committees. (Action: DSC, District Peace committees, Pastoral associations, KFSSG and Communities).