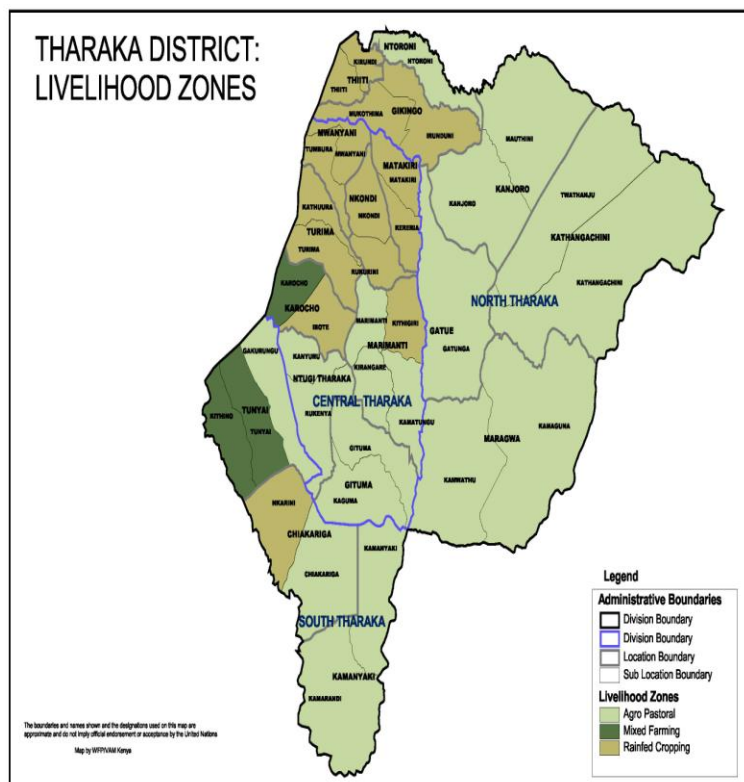


**National Drought Management Authority
THARAKA NITHI COUNTY
EWS DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN AUGUST 2013**

Livelihood Zone Map



Warning Phases for County

Livelihood Zone	Stage	Trend
Mixed Farming	Alert	Worsening
Marginal Mixed Farming	Alert	Worsening
RainFed Cropping	Alert	Worsening
County	Alert	Worsening

Livelihood zones monitored by EWS

SEASONAL CALENDAR

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains harvests Short dry spell Reduced milk yields Increased HH Food Stocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting/Weeding Long rains High Calving Rate Milk Yields Increase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long rains harvests A long dry spell Land preparation Increased HH Food Stocks High kidding rate(Sept) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains Planting/weeding 								
Orange		Green									
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

Situation Overview:

- Dry weather prevailed all days of the month as no rainfall was received during the reporting period.
- The forage quality and quantity is fair to worse and has continued to diminish compared to the month of July.
- The main source of water for August was permanent natural rivers.
- The average distance for livestock to water points increased by 20.88% in comparison to the month of July while house hold access to water increased by 4.55% in August.
- The body condition for livestock was fair to poor across all livelihood zones, with a declining trend. This is attributed to poor pasture conditions setting in and the increase in distance to watering points.
- The prices for cattle in the month of August recorded 4% increase compared to the previous month while prices for goats increased by 4.22% in August as compared to July.
- There was reduction of milk production by 7.4 % at household level across livelihood zones, with average household consumption decreasing by 11.97 % during the period under review. This could be attributed to deteriorating forage quality and quantity and increased distance to grazing and water sources that severely affected livestock productivity.
- The average price per kg of maize increased by 2.79 % to Ksh. 29.40 in the month of August compared to Ksh. 28.60 recorded in July .The increasing prices could be attributed to declining house hold food stocks and insignificant on farm crop harvests.
- The main sources of income remained relatively constant in the month of review in comparison to July. The larger percentage of households (32%) relied on casual labour. However, the income from remittances increased from 4% in July to 7% in August.
- The average daily wage rate was Ksh. 219.00 fairly comparable to Ksh. 221.30 recorded in July
- There were five confirmed cases of measles in Kathangachini location and the measles vaccination carried out in the month of August for children under 5years.
- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition was 8.47% in August. This a relatively high percentage compared to 7.32% which is the norm at this time of the year

- ***The overall Early Warning System phase for August is alert with a deteriorating trend.***

On-going interventions by Non-Governmental Organizations, Government Agencies, Churches and Community Based Organizations

Non-food aid

- Construction of four km pipeline, construction of 50m³ water storage tank, sinking and equipping one shallow well by Ministry Water and Irrigation and Tana Water Service Board benefiting 1400 people in Gatue division, all the listed projects are ongoing.
- Construction of masonry tank of 225m³ capacity by Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in Nkarini benefiting 1000 people, the implementation status is 80 % done.
- Water pan at Ntugi by Ministry of Agriculture aiming crop production demos done to impart crop-water relations and husbandry for improved crop production benefiting 1,020 people.
- Grain Storage Structure at Gikingo by Ministry of Agriculture.

2) Food- aid

- No food aid was received in the month of August.

Recommendations:

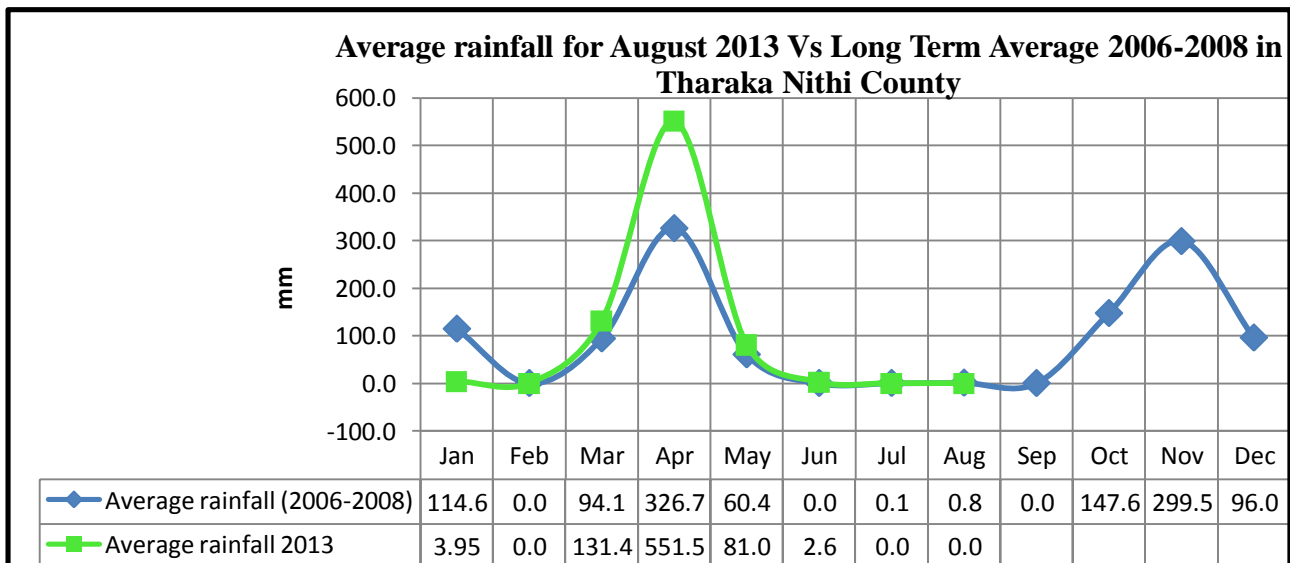
- Close monitoring of food stocks, prices of food and livestock, supplies in the market and cost of water at kiosks. In the marginal mixed farming key indicators are livestock body conditions, pasture and browse condition and distances to water sources for both human and livestock. Other indicators include disease outbreaks especially in children and nutritional status of under-five and general population.
- Expansion and reconstructing irrigation schemes to boost crop production.
- Capacity building on the importance of storing the produce.
- Livestock vaccination and pasture conservation training at the community level.
- Enhanced surveillance on the disease outbreaks and availing supplements to malnourished under five years children

1.0 Environmental Stability Indicators

1.1 Rainfall.

1.1.1 Amount of rainfall

- No rainfall was received during the period under review as indicated by the graph below.
- This is normal during this time of the year as the long rains ended mid May while short rains are expected to fall on mid October as per the seasonal calender.



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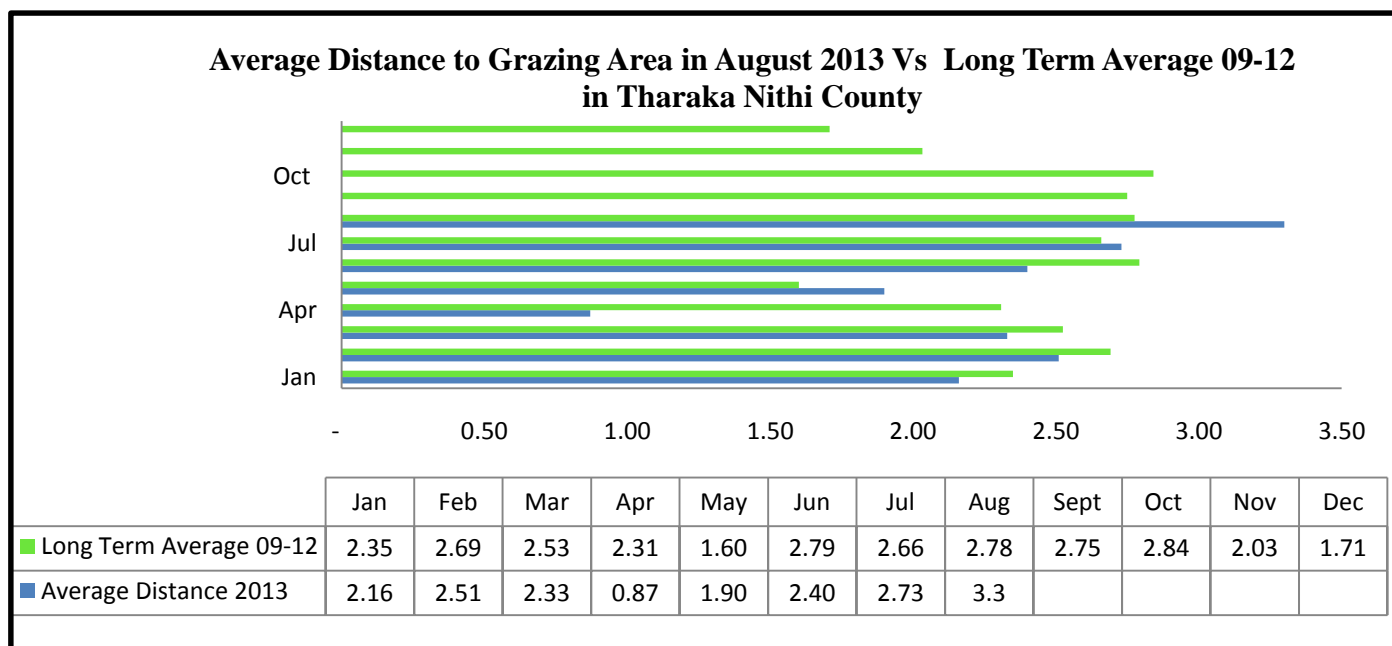
1.2. Natural Vegetation and Pasture condition.

1.2.1 Quality and quantity.

- There is fair to worse pasture and browse in the entire county with a worsening trend especially in the Marginal mixed farming livelihood zone as compared to Mixed farming livelihood zone and Rain-fed livelihood zone.
- The situation is normal at this time of the year.

1.2.2 Distance to Grazing Areas.

- The average distance to grazing areas for the month of August increased to 3.3 km from 2.73 km recorded in July.
- The longest distances to grazing points were recorded in households in the Marginal mixed farming livelihood zone who covered 6.8 km. Households in Mixed Farming livelihood zone covered 1.1 km while in Rain-fed cropping livelihood zone covered 2.1 km.
- Return distances for the month of August (3.3 km) were higher than the long term average distance (2.78 km).



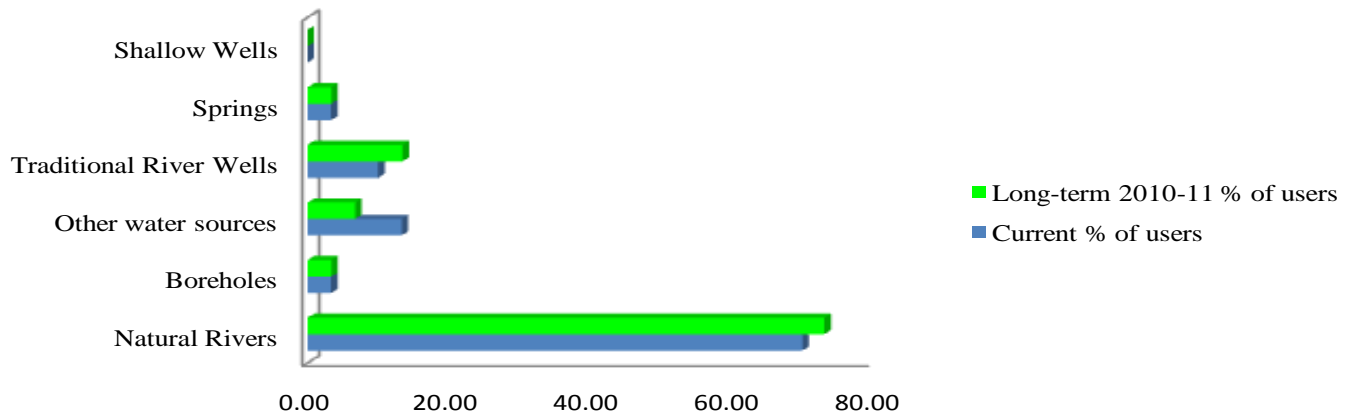
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1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Main sources of water

- The main source of water for the larger county was natural rivers.
- The volume of water continues to decrease immensely due to the continuing dry spell.

Access to water in Tharaka Nithi County August 2013

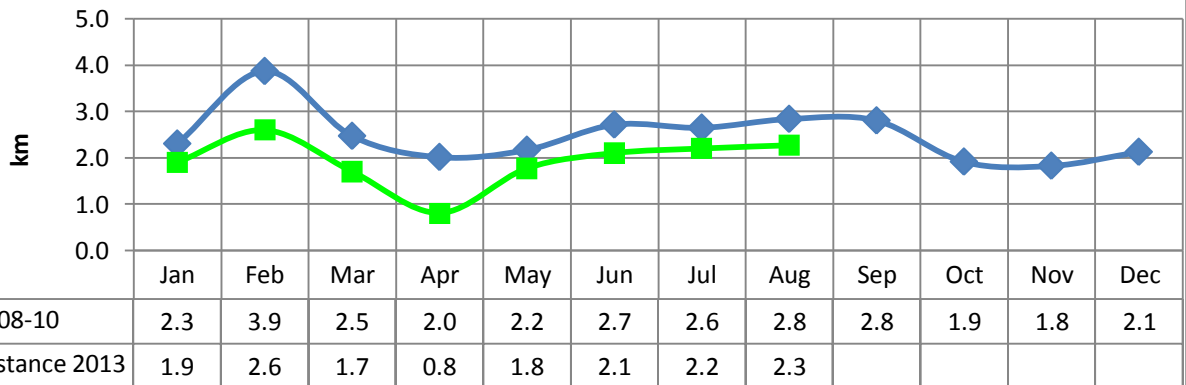


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1.3.2 Household access to water.

- Distances of house hold access to water increased in the month to 2.3 km from 2.2km in July. The increase is due to discharging of water due to the current dry spell.
- The marginal mixed farming livelihood zone recorded the farthest return distances at 4 km while the least distance was recorded in the mixed farming livelihood zone at 1.1km while Rainfed livelihood zone recorded 1.7 km.
- The observed distances of household access to water were slightly below normal for this time of the year.

Average distance in km for households' access to water in August 2013 vs long-term average 08-10 in Tharaka Nithi County



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1.3.3 Livestock access to water.

- The major water source for livestock in the month of August was natural rivers. The average distance for livestock to water points was 3.3 km compared to July 2.73 km
- The distance of livestock access to water is above normal for this time of the year.

1.4. Implication on food security.

- The ongoing dry spell with no rainfall, coupled with poor on farm crop harvest, increasing distances to water for both household access and livestock, declining pasture situation all this factors are likely to impact negatively on the overall household food security

2.0 Food Availability

2.1. Livestock production.

2.1.1. Livestock body condition.

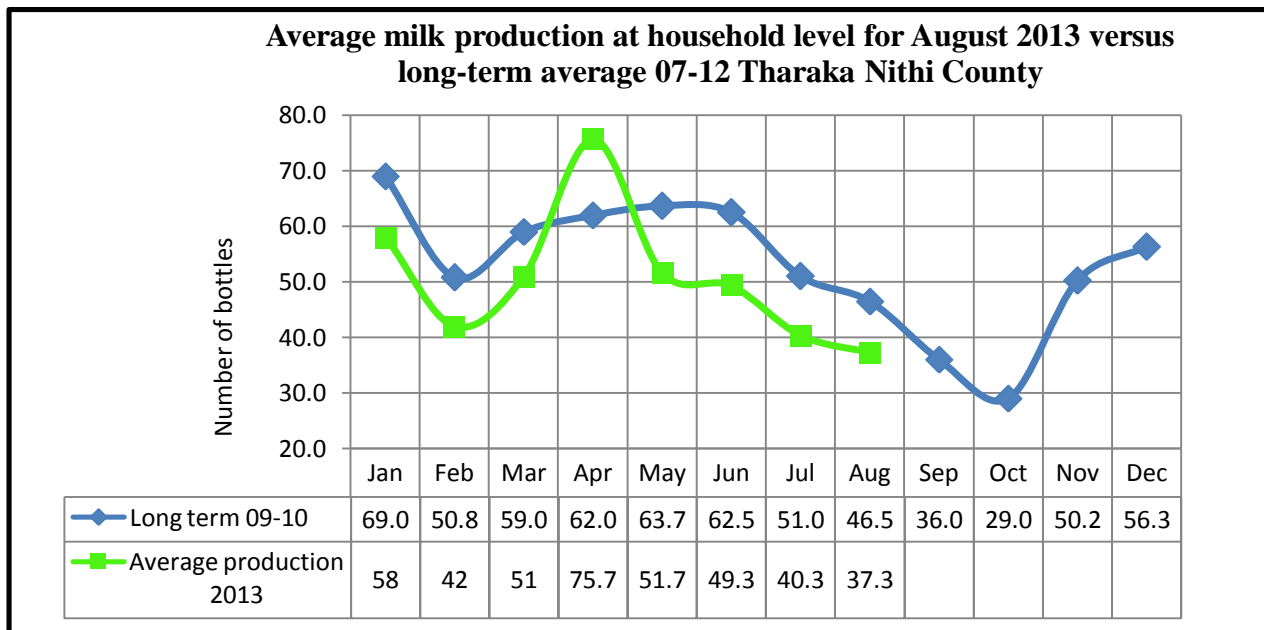
- The body condition for livestock was fair in all livelihood zones attributed to the increasing distances to forage and water.
- Livestock condition is expected to worsen as the dry spell progress.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases.

- The main endemic diseases are Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Trypanosomiasis and Heart Water disease affecting mostly Cattle and Goats.
- Cases of New Castle in poultry have been recorded across the livelihood zones. This has resulted in the death of a high number of poultry and the market prices of poultry going down as households try to discard their poultry in fear of losses involved.

2.1.3 Milk production.

- Milk production in the month of August further reduced to an average of 37.33 (750 ml) bottles per livelihood zone compared to July at an average of 40.33 (750ml) bottles per livelihood zone. This is a 7.4 % decrease in milk production.
- The highest production was recorded in the marginal mixed farming livelihood zone with an average of 0.62 litres per household. Households in the Rainfed Zone recorded an average of 0.44 litres per household while the Marginal Mixed Zone recorded an average of 0.26 litres per household.
- Decrease in milk production could be attributed to the increasing distances to water, pasture and dilapidated browse quality and quantity.
- Milk production level is below normal for this time of the year.



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2.2 Crop production.

2.2.1. Timeliness and status of crops.

- Currently household are harvesting pigeon peas and green grams.
- There was insignificant harvest for marginal mixed farming livelihood zone compared to Rainfed livelihood zone and Mixed farming livelihood zone.

2.2.2. Pests and diseases.

- Incidences of storage pest were reported.

2.2.3. Crop harvest

- A few households were doing late harvesting as most households harvested their crops last month. The harvest is minimal.

2.3 Implication on food security

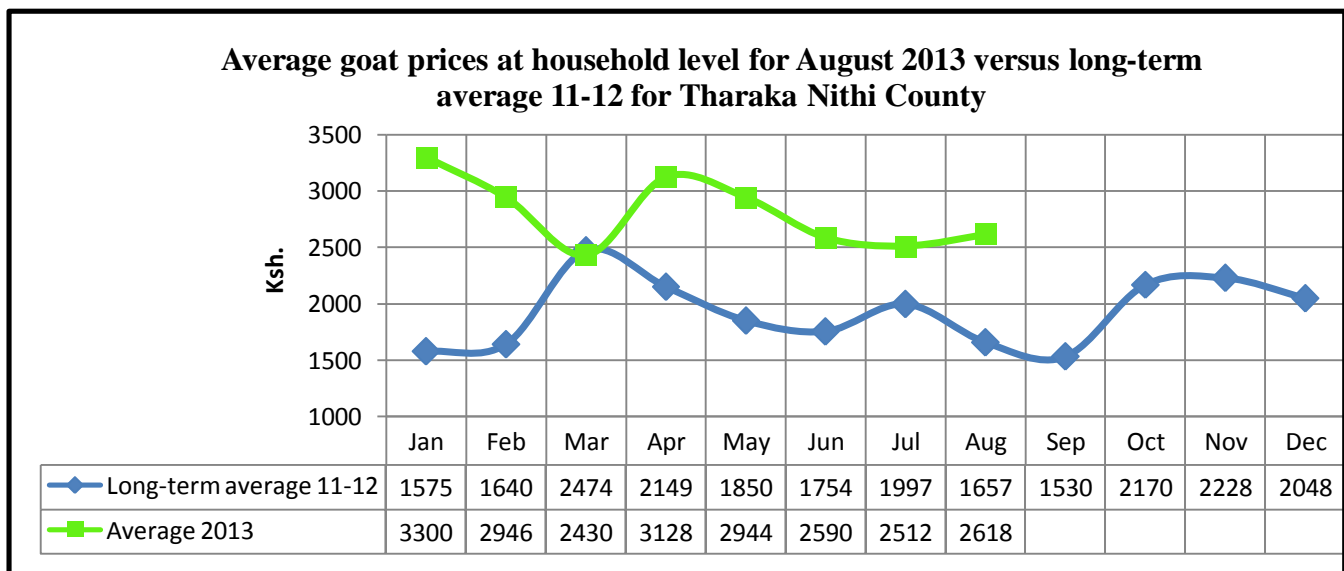
- Milk production is below normal, coupled with insignificant harvest, incidence of pest and diseases all these factors are likely to have a negative impact on the household food security.

3. Access to Food.

3.1 Livestock marketing.

3.1.1 Goat prices.

- Average household goat prices slightly increased from Ksh. 2,512.20 recorded in July to Ksh. 2,618.20 in August indicative of 4.22% increase.
- The marginal mixed farming zone reported the highest price at Ksh. 2, 950.80 while the mixed farming livelihood zone recorded the lowest price at Ksh. 2,000.00
- The prices of goat are expected to drop again as households dispose their livestock in exchange for household food.
- The average prices are higher than normal at this time of the year.

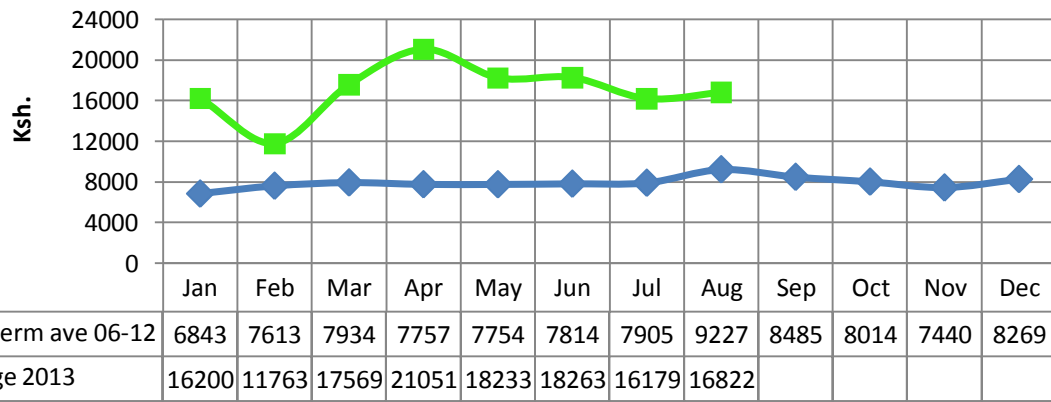


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3.1.2 Cattle prices

- The average price of cattle remained fairly constant in the month at Ksh. 16,822.23 compared to July's average price of Ksh.16, 179.15.
- The highest average price was recorded in the Marginal Mixed Farming zone at Ksh. 18,667.7.Rain-fed cropping recorded an average price of Ksh. 16,800 while the Mixed Farming recorded an average of Ksh. 15,000.
- The average price of cattle was much higher than what is expected for this time of the year.

**Average household cattle prices for Tharaka Nithi County
August 2013 versus long-term Average 06-12**

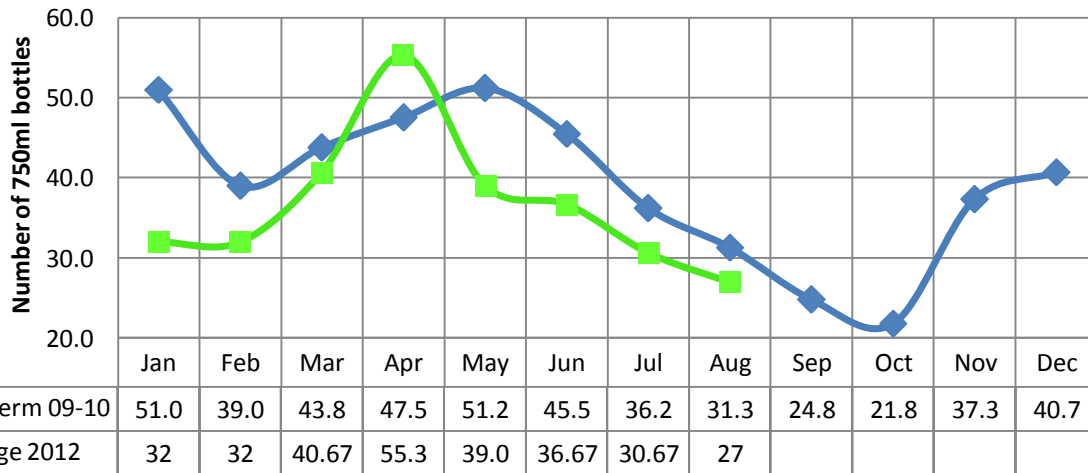


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3.2 Milk consumption.

- The average milk consumption was 27 bottles in August, indicative of 11.97 % decrease compared to July. This is attributed to deteriorating pasture condition and increasing distance to water sources hence reduced milk consumption.
- The highest milk consumption at household level was recorded in the Marginal Mixed Farming zone at 50 bottles down from the 61 bottles recorded in July while mixed farming livelihood zone recorded 9 bottles.
- The average consumption was below normal for this time of the year.

**Average milk consumption August 2013 versus long-term average 09-10
in Tharaka Nithi County**

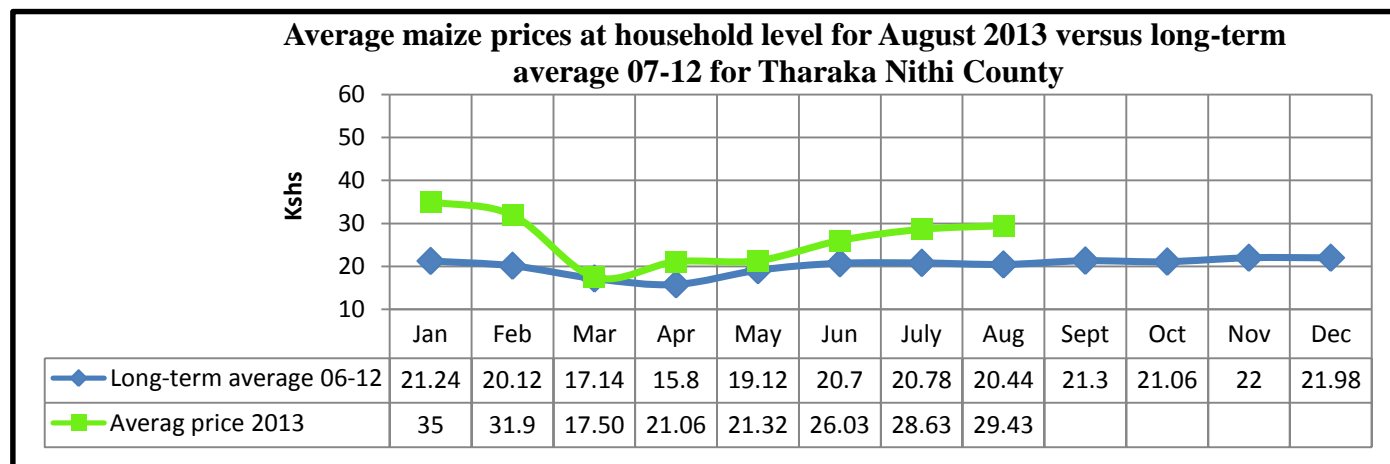


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3.3 Grain Marketing.

3.3.1 Market price of maize

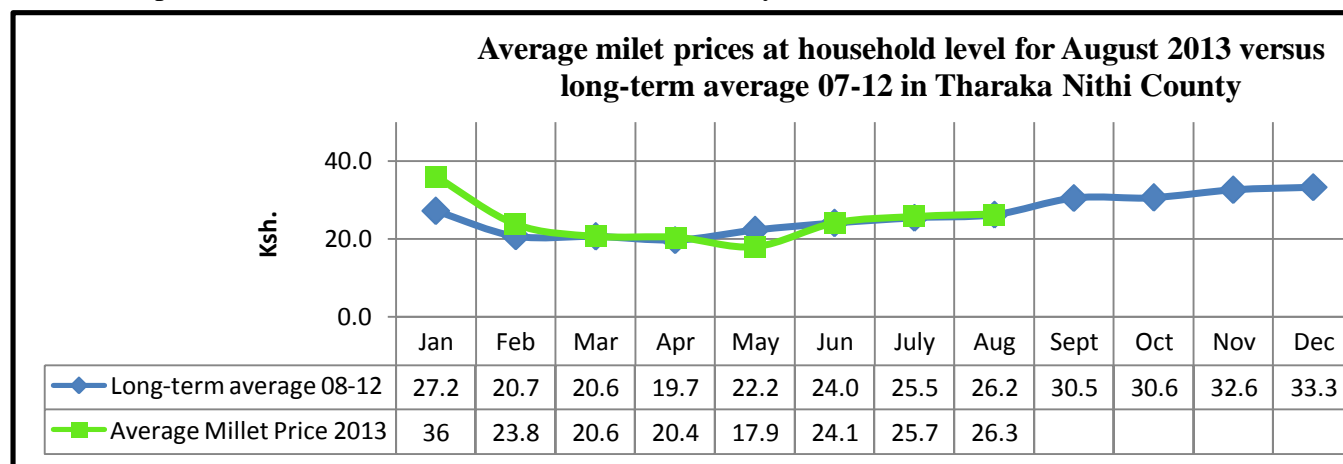
- The average price of Maize per kilogram was Ksh. 29.43 compared to Ksh. 28.63 in July. This could be attributed to low supply of maize with house hold food stocks declining as the dry spell progress.
- The highest prices were recorded in the Marginal Mixed livelihood zone at Ksh.31.00 while the Mixed Farming zones recorded an average price of Ksh. 28.5 and Ksh. 28.80 for Rainfed Zones.
- The price of maize per kilogram was higher than normal for this time of the year.



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3.3.2. Market price of Millet

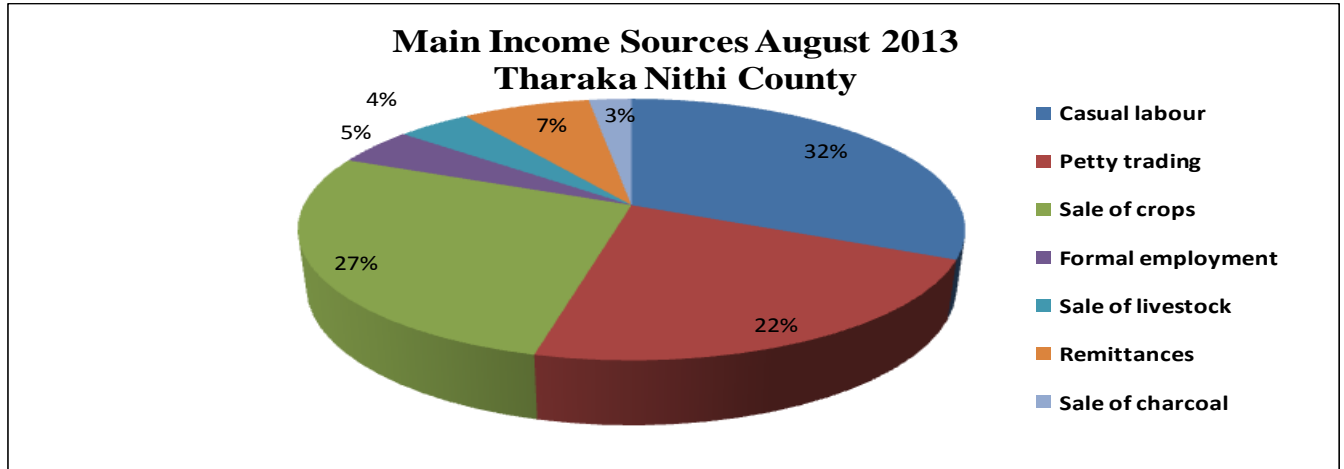
- The average price of millet per kilogram was Ksh. 26.30 in the month of August indicating a price increase of 2.22% compared to Ksh. 25.73 in July. This could still be attributed to insignificant on farm harvest and declining household stocks.
- The highest prices were recorded in the Mixed farming livelihood zone at Ksh. 27.50 while the lowest price was in the Rain Fed Zone livelihood zone at Ksh. 24.30
- The price for Millet was normal for this time of the year.



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3.4. Income.

- Larger percentage of households (32%) relied upon casual labour as the main source of income for in the month of August. This was followed by sale of crops which was recorded at 27% and Petty Trading at 22% compared to previous month casual labour at 32%, Petty Trading at 23% and the sale of crops at 28%, listed as top three income sources respectively.
- The main sources of income remained relatively constant in the month. However, the income from remittances increased from 4% in July to 7% in August.
- Other sources of income were sale of livestock, formal employment and sale of charcoal.
- The average daily wage rate for August was Ksh. 219 indicative of 1.05% decrease compared to the previous month which recorded Ksh. 221.33. This could be as a result of reduced work on the farms for casual hire.
- The highest wage rate was recorded in the Marginal Mixed farming livelihood zone at Ksh. 234.00 and the lowest in the Rain Fed cropping livelihood zone at an average of Ksh. 195.00



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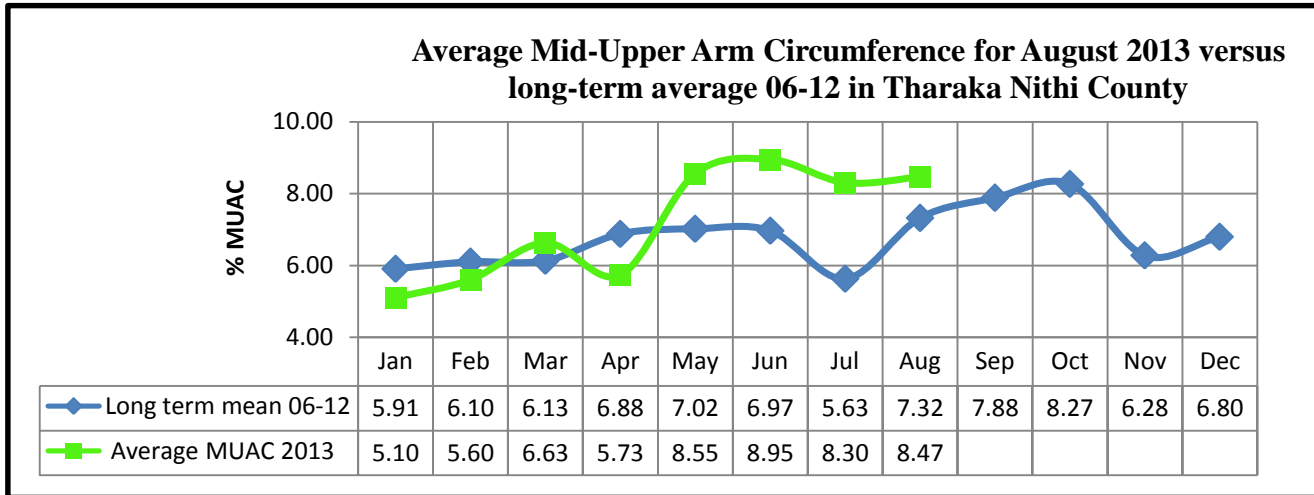
3.5. Implications on food security.

- Decrease in milk production and consumption at house hold level, coupled with stable prices for cattle, and goat , increased market price on cereals and a relatively stable wage rate income all these factors are likely to impact negatively on household food security.

4.0 Utilization of Food.

4.1 Nutrition Status.

- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition was 8.47% this month compared to 8.30% in July. This is an increase in the number of children at risk of malnutrition.
- The highest proportion of children at risk was recorded in the marginal mixed farming at 18% while mixed farming livelihood zone at 3.5% and Rainfed livelihood zone at 3.9%.
- The percentage of children at risk of malnutrition was above normal for this time of the year.



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4.2 Health.

- Measles outbreak was confirmed in the month and the vaccination carried out for children under 5 years.

5.0 Current Intervention Measures and Coping Strategies

5.1 On-going Non-Food Aid interventions by Non-Governmental Organizations, Government Agencies, Churches and Community Based Organizations

Non-food aid

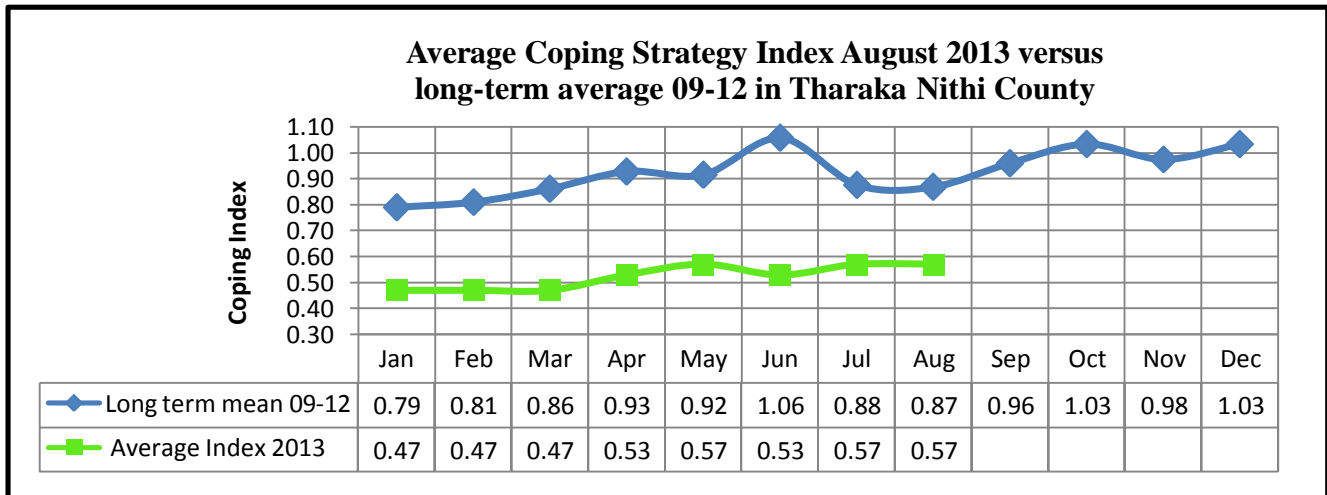
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- Construction of masonry tank of 225m³ capacity by Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in Nkarini benefiting 1000 people, the implementation status is 80 % done
- Water pan at ntugi by Ministry of Agriculture aiming crop production demos done to impart crop-water relations and husbandry for improved crop production benefiting 1,020 people.
- Grain Storage Structure at Gikingo by Ministry of Agriculture

2) Food- aid

- No food aid was received in the month of August

5.3 Coping Strategies

- Coping strategy index remains constant for August at 0.57 similar to last month.
- The common coping mechanisms included increased reduction in number and meal rations, skipping of meals and the purchase of food on credit this is similar for the four month as indicated above.
- The coping strategy index was highest in the Rain Fed cropping livelihood zone at 0.7 and the least in mixed farming livelihood zone at 0.4.



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6.0 Recommendations:

- Close monitoring of food stocks, prices of food and livestock, supplies in the market and cost of water at kiosks. In the marginal mixed farming key indicators are livestock body conditions, pasture and browse condition and distances to water sources for both human and livestock. Other indicators include disease outbreaks especially in children and nutritional status of under-five and general population.
- Expansion and reconstructing irrigation schemes to boost crop production.
- Capacity building on the importance of storing the produce.
- Livestock vaccination and pasture conservation training at the community level.
- Enhanced surveillance on the disease outbreaks and availing supplements to malnourished under five years children
- Integrated livestock production and diversification

The overall Early Warning System phase for August is alert with a deteriorating trend.