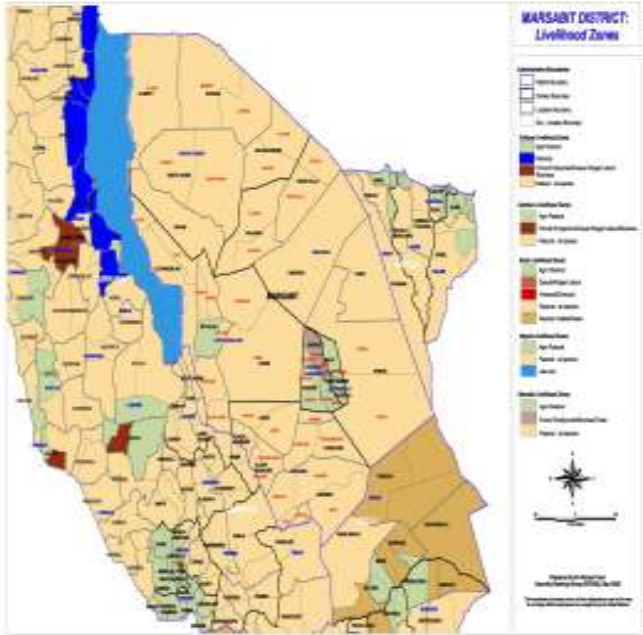


OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MINISTRY OF STATE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN KENYA AND OTHER ARID LANDS
ARID LANDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT II

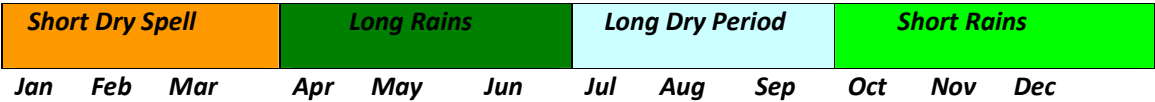
DROUGHT MONITORING BULLETIN FOR SEPTEMBER 2011

MARSABIT CENTRAL, LAISAMIS, LOIYANGALANI, NORTH HERR AND CHALBI DISTRICTS



Livelihood zone	Warning Stage	Trend
Agro-Pastoralist	Emergency	Worsening
Pastoral-All species	Emergency	Worse
Fishermen/Pastoralist	Emergency	Worse
DISTRICT TREND	EMERGENCY	

WARNING STAGES



SEASONAL CALENDAR

Pastoral and Agro-pastoralist livelihood zones
 Maikona, Turbi, North Horr, Dukana, Laisamis, Loiyangalani and Marsabit central divisions

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- During the month under review, few hours of off season showers were reported in north western parts (parts of Loiyangalani and North Horr) of the larger Marsabit district
- Water sources were recharged in areas that reported unexpected showers. However the other vast parts of the larger district continue to experience extreme water scarcity. Such areas included Torbi, Bubisa locations and all locations in Mt. Marsabit area.
- So severe is water shortages that in Mt. Marsabit (Marsabit central division) a 20 litres jericane sales at an average of 65.00 from normal 45.00 in this time of the long term mean.
- Most of the population affected by serious water scarcity survive due to water tankering to institutions and general community members.
- An outbreak of flu affecting all the age groups was reported in Qorqa and El Beso areas of North Horr district and normal malaria and upper respiratory tract infections among children in the larger district.. The flu is so serious that every person in the household gets bedridden for a number of days.
- Livestock body conditions continue to deteriorate rapidly due to prolonged drought period. As a result, all livestock species are in poor conditions with cattle worst affected. Indeed high mortality of cattle, shoats and even camels are reported in most areas.
- Nutritional status of children < 5 years of age has currently deteriorated by 11.24% compared to the long term mean. Increased rates of Children at Risk of Malnutrition in the district was recorded at: Balesa in North Horr District (pastoralist LZ) at 54.6% seconded by Loiyangalani division (fisher folk LZ) at 50.7% and central division (Agro/pastoralist) has the least at 9.5%
- Maize prices currently show an increase of 32% compared to previous month. This is significantly higher than the long term mean 2.63 folds. Generally, prices of cereals have substantially increased thus becoming a threat to all three livelihoods (pastoral, agro/pastoral and fisher folk) of the entire district.
- No milk availability was reported in the larger Marsabit district due to current prolonged drought and long migration distance of livestock to far flung areas in neighbouring districts and in Ethiopia in search of pastures and water.
- Currently, existing water sources are permanent ones that include boreholes, traditional wells, springs and the Lake Turkana in Loiyangalani and North Horr divisions. Indeed, acute water stress was also experienced in Marsabit central and Marsabit north districts. Generally, increasing distances between grazing and water points are noted around Hurri hills in Maikona division at 30 to 40kms and central at an average of 15 and 18kms.
- Increasing food shortages at household level are noted although increasing relief food aids in the larger district from PRRO (WFP), GoK, UNICEF and other NGOs who are providing assistance in food aid. GoK relief foods continued in all parts of the vast district targeting as least as 8% of the untargeted population from EMOP food aid.
- Insecurity situation has currently improved in most parts of the vast district compared to similar time at this time of the year. However, several hundreds of livestock belonging to pastoralist from Loiyangalani division were lost to raiders in Baragoi area in Samburu district.
- Provision of blanket supplementary and therapeutic feeding among children below three years.
- Water trucking continued in water stressed parts of Hurri hills, Balesa, Yaa- Sharbana and most vulnerable communities and institutions in Marsabit central district.
- De-stocking program in some parts of the larger Marsabit district.

Recommendations to DSG and National KFSSG authorities

- There is need to scale up supplementary feeding to marginalized children from thirty seven to fifty nine months age bracket as they are also equally affected by malnutrition.

- Conduct peace meetings and workshops at community level to counter potential conflicts within the district and in the neighbouring districts where mobile herds are currently concentrated. Action: Provincial Administration, Kenya Police, community and UNDP/ALRMP
- Continuous disease surveillance should be emphasized in order to contain livestock disease outbreaks. Action: Veterinary department & Ministry of state for development of Northern Kenya and other arid lands.
- Increase veterinary services particularly de-worming for shoats species (most dependants) as a strategic mitigation measure against imminent emaciation in body condition.
- Close coordination of all drought based interventions targeting by all the actors including NGOs should be emphasized to ensure equitability, transparency etc in sharing of available resources.
- Close monitoring to livestock health and body conditions by Veterinary service and ALRMP/DM and EWS component.
- Food voucher amounts should be increased to at least 25% as a result of the current inflated food commodity prices.
- Provision of planting seeds to farmers in anticipation of good short rains in October this year.
- Conduct monitoring of reported outbreak of flu that was reported in El Beso and Qora areas of North Horr location and is reported to be spreading elsewhere in the larger district. Conduct measles campaign in the vast Marsabit district.

On- going interventions (food and non foods)

- Supply of diesel subsidy and maintenance of all boreholes across the district by various actors. – NGOs, Ministry of State for development of northern Kenya and Ministry of Water.
- Provision of hay for lactating shoats in North Horr watering point- Solidarity
- Cash for work activities are currently reported in several locations in the entire Marsabit district.

5.2 Food Aid interventions

- Allocations of GoK relief foods to all locations in the larger Marsabit district.
- **Water trucking** in all water stressed areas around Mt Marsabit and Maikona and North Horr divisions. PISP, VSF - Germany, Solidarity, Ministry of Water, Catholic Development Office/Caritas, etc.
- **De-stocking** of shoats species in North Horr division at Balesa, El-Hade, Dukana, Garwole, Illeret, Saru at Ksh. 1,300.00 per head as a measure to supplement dietary intake. Solidarities and PISP.
- Supply of supplementary feeding (therapeutic relief food) to all parts of the larger district, targeting children at one to three years brackets: - WFP, FH(K), CAFORD, CARITAS and UNICEF.
- Continuation of food voucher in some parts of the district at varied amounts of either Ksh 2,000.00, 4,300.00 and 7,000.00 per beneficiary. – PISP, CIFA, SOS and CARE Kenya.
- De-stocking program of 200 shoats at 2,000.00 per head in Loiyangalani sentinel site. Pastoralist integrated Support program (PISP).

5.3 Other coping strategies

- During the month, coping strategies show severe stresses as are experienced in shoats herding, around Maikona division shoats go for water after seven days from normal three to four days; cattle go for five days from three days and distances increasing from an average of 28kms in this time of the years to 40kms.
- The current coping strategies in the entire district have relatively worsened compared to normal (good or moderate) situation of the year. The coping strategies include, transporting livestock to Meru, Isiolo, Merti, Nanyuki, Samburu districts and even to neighbouring Ethiopia country in

search of pasture and water. Slaughtering of all livestock new borns, out migration to even risky zones. However, the Coping Strategy Index (CSI) from 0 to 10 still shows a stable upward trend at 1.26 in September.

- Increasing dependency among all wealth categories. This is mainly as a result of natural (drought) and economic induced misery (escalation of cereal price against meat ratio, particularly in this year. **(refer maize prices in page 2 and 9)**

1.0 Environmental indicators (stability)

1.1 Rainfall

- During the month under review, off season showers reported in some parts of lowland parts including Loiyangalani and north Horr districts.
- Weather situation remained dry, sunny, windy/dusty and harsh in all parts of the district.

1.2 Condition of natural vegetation and pasture availability

- Forage qualities (large and browse vegetation indexes) was slightly improved in areas that received a showers around Loiyangalani and North Horr divisions. Elsewhere in the vast district, pasture is not available, and condition of natural vegetation is very dry with no browse available to livestock, in areas such as Torbi, Bubisa locations, Marsabit central and Laisamis division in Marsabit.
- Livestock concentrations were sparsely concentrated within and outside their administrative boundaries as a result of prolonged drought situation. The current out-migration pattern outside the district boundaries is outside normal situation of normal long term livestock migration pattern.
- However the showers that were received in north Horr division have triggered livestock movements from other parts of the north Horr constituency to areas around Qorqa, and Derade areas. Livestock come as far as Bubisa and Maikona.

1.3 Water sources and availability

- Water availabilities is limited to permanent sources (boreholes, traditional wells and springs). But, in North Horr and Loiyangalani divisions some parts people and livestock enjoyed some short lived source (pans, earth dams, wells) as result of off season rainfall showers.
- Water trucking continued in water stressed parts of Hurri hills, Balesa, Yaa- Sharbana and all communities, institutions in Marsabit central district.
- Acute water stresses was reported as normal in Maikona division, central division of Marsabit Central district, and parts of North Horr division where water trucking is conducted by various organizations including GoK and various NGOs for both human consumption, and livestock use. Comparably, water stresses is extreme, for instance in Marsabit central division households are buying a 20 litres jerican at Ksh. 65.00 from normal Ksh. 45.00 at this time of good year. In Maikona division (Hurri hills, Balesa, etc as to most parts of Marsabit north district, shoats go to watering points after 7 days from normal 5 days, cattle 4 to 5 days from 3 days after trekking 40 to 50kms from forage camps.
- Except for areas with permanent waters such as springs and shallow wells, many parts of the vast district depend on water tankering for their domestic and livestock use.
- Average distances for human and domestic water consumption in most (lowland) parts reporting shorter distances between 1 to 3kms as to this time of the year and on hilly parts (stressful) averaging between 18kms in Marsabit central district.
- Relatively, no significant water bone related incidence of disease was reported.

1.4 Emerging issues

- Outbreak of unknown flu in El Beso and Qorqa areas of North Horr division and which is reported to spread elsewhere, need close monitoring and treatment for affected population.
- In spite of food aid, malnutrition is still rampant and therefore need for more food intervention preferably in form of increased supplementary feeding for all the age categories.

1.4.1 Insecurity /Conflict/Human displacement

- Improving security situation is reported in most parts of the district though there are isolated cases of raids and a few deaths. However pastoralist from Loiyangalani division, are reported to have lost thousands of shoats, and several hundred camels to raid in Baragoi division in Samburu County.
- Incidences of insecurity are reported in Samburu district between Turkana and Samburu communities in Loiyangalani division.
- Peace meeting conducted between Turkana and Gabra communities in North Horr and Loiyangalani divisions. The meeting was supported by the NGO PISP, Ministry of State for Development of Northern Kenya and Other Arid lands through ALRMP Marsabit.

2.0 RURAL INDICATORS (FOOD AVAILABILITY)

2.1 Livestock production

2.2 Livestock body condition

Livestock body conditions are generally poor, with increasing mortalities in all species although the levels of mortalities vary from localities to localities. Cattle species has substantially deteriorated compared to (May, June and July) the previous three months; shoats and camels are in fair to poor body condition. However, camels especially the old and those used to trek far for fetching water are most affected by the increasing mortalities as reported around Maikona and North Horr divisions. Cattle or grazers are the most affected species which altogether need a close monitoring and intervention from relevant stakeholders. Browsers (camel and goats species) body conditions have also rapidly deteriorated and it is on emergency stage.

Generally, livestock body conditions are sustained by good health condition as there are minimal disease incidences among all species compared to the three previous years, except for incidences of unknown diseases reported in camels, and cattle.

2.1.3 Milk Production

- No milk availability is reported in any part of the district. This is totally outside normal situation of good or moderate year drought cycles. Lack of milk availability is a factor that has contributed to worsening malnutrition rates particularly among children and the aged.

2.2 Crop production

There is no farming activity or crop productions in middle severe drought condition. However, provision of planting seeds would have been prudent in anticipation of good short rain season. Some limited planting seeds bought by Drought Management initiative (DMI)/EC under Community based Disaster (Drought) Risk Reduction interventions was distributed by District Agriculture office to Marsabit Central farmers in central division. The seeds were inadequate to cover the demands of all the farmers in the division or district.

2.2.2 Pest and diseases

- No pest disease reported.

2.2.3 Harvest

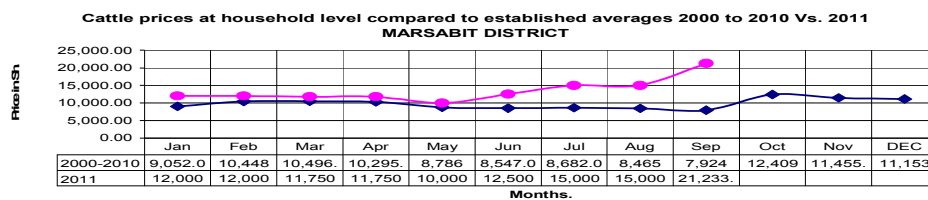
- No harvest reported. Indeed, farm produce prices have opportunistically increased in all parts of the district. This highest peak of cereal prices that existed in most of the current year are attributed to lack of local harvest in the previous five consequent years.

2.2.4 Implication on food security

- Likely effect of prevailing food insecurity at household level that has remained a threat due to lack of substantial harvest in the last five years.
- Increasing cereal prices has resulted in agro/pastoral community on Mt. Marsabit to be on emergence situation of the drought cycle thus, being equally dependant on external interventions for food and other basic necessities.

3.0 Access to food

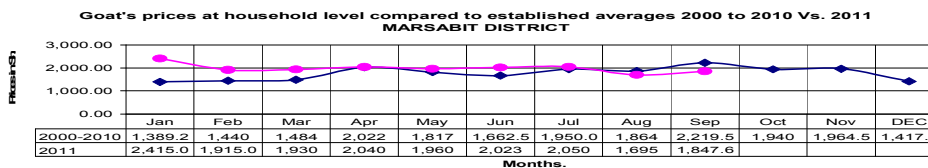
3.1 Livestock Marketing



3.1.1 Cattle prices N = 11 Sentinels x 30 Households

- Cattle prices currently increased 2.7 folds compared to long term mean and by 29.3% compared to previous month.
- Although prices increased sales rates currently reduced as a result of in accessibility of herds which are at outside the district or remote part of the vast district away from homesteads.
- Cattle prices are expected to decrease in the next months as cattle body condition is expected to deteriorate further.

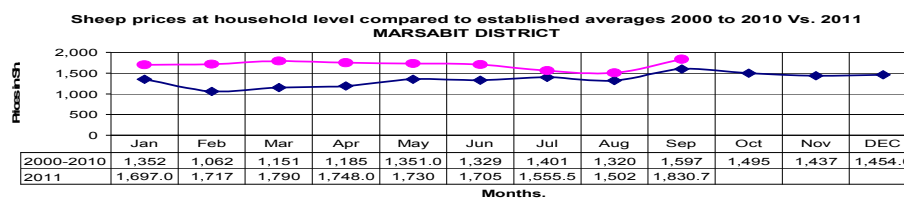
3.1.2 Goats prices



N= 11 x 30 Households

- Goat's price averages increased by 13.7% compared to previous month but reduced by 18.54% as in similar time of the year.
- However, goat's prices are expected to remain fairly stable in the next one month.
- Goat's sales numbers are currently decreasing as result of distant concentration of herds away from homesteads.
- Higher goat's prices are recorded in Laisamis division (pastoral LZ) at Ksh 2,033.30, followed by Loiyangalani division (fisher folk LZ) at 2,000.00 and North horr division reporting the least at Ksh 1,850.00.

3.1.3 Sheep prices



N= 11 x 30 Households

- Sheep price averages currently increased by 17.93% compared to previous month and 12.78% compared to this time of the long term mean.
- Higher sheep prices are recorded in Central division (Agro/pastoral LZ) at Ksh 2,500.00 followed by Maikona division 1,850.00 and least rates in North Horr division at Ksh 1,082.90.
- There was an outbreak of unknown disease reported among sheep species thus affected body condition. Comparatively, sheep are second most affected species by drought stress.

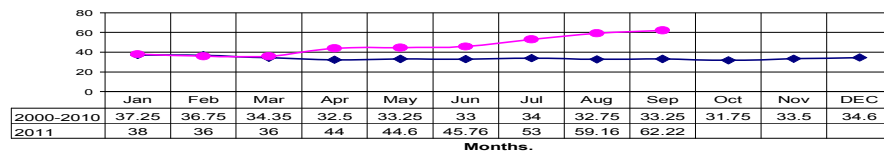
3.3 Milk consumption

- Milk unavailability has existed in all parts of the year particularly among pastoral and fisher folk livelihoods as a result of persistence rainfall failures.

3.4 Crop prices per kg

3.4.1 Maize

Maize prices at household level compared to established averages 2000 to 2010 Vs. 2011 MARSABIT DISTRICT



N =11 x 30 households.

- Maize price averages at district level has slightly increased by 4.5% compared to previous month and by 2.0 folds compared to long term average. The current inflated maize price as compared to this time of the year of long term prices and against meat ratio has substantially affected rural economy, food security situation and general pastoral, fisher folk livelihoods. Indeed, it indicates vulnerability and dependency in the near future for the entire district.
- The current price averages is the highest ever since EWS long term indicators analysis were established. Nonetheless, it's expected to increase further with short rains distribution and lack of harvest in the previous five years at the only grain basket on Mt. Marsabit.
- Higher maize prices are reported in Loiyangalani division (fisher-folk lv) at ksh. 74.00 followed by North Horr division (Agro/pastoral lv) at ksh.70.00 and Central division (pastoral lv) has the least at 40.00 per kg.

3.5 Income

3.5.1 Crop income

- There was no crop sales reported in the previous eight or more seasons. However, crop harvest is expected early next year if the anticipated short rains (October 2011) will be good.

3.5.2 Livestock income

- Livestock sales remained the most reliable source of income, although sales volumes remain low due poor body conditions and long distance of migration away from the homesteads.

3.5.3 Other income (trade, wages, etc)

- Other income sources include minimal casual and uneven employment that dominates 6% of the month. Daily labour rates are substantially varied, ranging from ksh. 60.00 and 1,000.00 per day per person. Most of people (4%) are on temporary basis and earned at least as kshs. 60.00 to 300.00 per person per day.

3.6 Cereal: Meat Ratio

- Cereal: meat ratio has remarkably increased, particularly, in this current year by almost 25% compared to previous year, while meat ratio has consistently decreased compared to previous year (refer maize and either goat and sheep prices in pages 8 to 9).

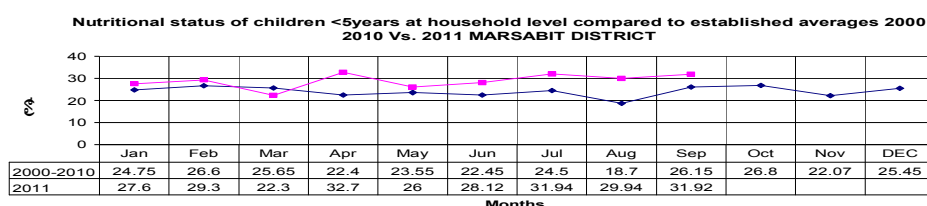
3.7 Implication on food security

- Despite the consistent hiking of cereal prices or farm produce against unreliable or uneven livestock prices remain the unaffordable. Pastoralist, fisher folk and agro/pastoralist are experiencing the same stress.

- Above all, all categories of wealth groups are experiencing stress hence 90% of the district population should equally targeted for assistance.

4.0 Welfare (Utilization of food

4.1 Nutritional status



N= 11 x 30 Households

- During the month under review, the numbers of the sampled children within 5 years brackets were 1,212 from 11 sample areas.
- Comparatively, nutrition status has significantly increased by 1.98% compared to previous month and by 5.77% as compared to the long term mean. Indeed, this is a pointer (MUAC - EWS) of a food deficit population. However, the malnutrition rates remained remarkably higher as normal in North Horr division (Balesa sample area) reporting 60.0%, Loiyangalani sample area with 36.1% while central division as normal has the least at 16.7%. This higher malnutrition rates are as a result of household food shortages as no disease outbreak was reported among children. However, malnutrition rates are expected to decline due to current blanket supplementary and therapeutics feeding among children within three years age bracket.

5.0 Current intervention measures and coping strategies

5.1 Non food interventions

- Supply of diesel and other maintenance to all boreholes across the district to sustain stressful water scarcity in the areas. – Ministry of State for development of northern Kenya and Ministry of Water.
- Provision of hay for lactating shoats in North Horr watering point- Solidarity
- Cash for work activities are currently observed only in central, Laisamis, Maikona, North Horr division at ksh. 300.00 per beneficiary per day, while Loiyangalani division remained marginalized as normal in most intervention measures for the entire Marsabit district.

6.0 Recommendations

- WFP food aid under PRRO and GOK monthly food ration should be consistent in distribution timing to reduce negative impact of food shortages at household levels.
- There is need for emergency provision of supplementary feeding to all children including those at 37 to 59 months old as they are the most vulnerable by malnutrition.

- There is need to avail contingency funds to all food sectors to mitigate the adverse effects of the drought especially before the anticipated short rains. - Action: All Stakeholders.
- Conduct peace meetings and workshops at community level to counter potential conflicts in areas where livestock herds are concentrated including neighbouring districts where livestock are currently concentrated. Action: Provincial Administration, Kenya Police, community and UNDP/MDNK.
- There is need for close monitoring of any outbreak of human diseases like the current outbreak of unknown flu that is spreading in North Horr division, since the population is susceptible to diseases due to their prevailing poor nutritional status.
- Continuous disease surveillance should be emphasized in order to contain livestock disease outbreaks. Action: Veterinary department.
- De-stocking program should be extended as to increase coverage. Action: All actors.
- Food voucher amounts should be increased to at least 25% as a result of the current inflated food commodity prices.
- Provision of planting seeds to farmers to be urgently availed on time to meet land preparation season before the anticipated short rains in October this year.
- The Government to increase bursary funds on secondary schools fees (3rd term) as parents can't afford the expense at this drought emergence situation that has remarkably affected the rural economy, social welfare and general livelihoods of the entire district.
- Provision of hay and animal feeds to livestock especially the lactating shoats and cattle species particularly at water points so as to cope with stresses that afflict livestock at the onset of the rains.
- There is urgent need to repairs critical roads that constitute vital link for relief food distributions. Conditions of some critical roads (including sections of Merille - Marsabit – Moyale Highway) are very poor due to presence of heavy haulage vehicles that ferry petroleum exploration equipment and relief foods. Repairs of these critical roads should be done before onset of short rains or else the roads may become impassable.