MBEERE DISTRICT DROUGHT MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR OCTOBER 2012

MBEERE DISTRICT LIVELIHOOD ZONES AND THE DROUGHT STATUS

TIME LINE ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Harvesting</th>
<th>Land Preparation</th>
<th>Planting</th>
<th>Weeding</th>
<th>Harvesting</th>
<th>Land Preparation</th>
<th>Planting</th>
<th>Weeding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 12</td>
<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>Mar 12</td>
<td>Apr 12</td>
<td>Oct 12</td>
<td>Nov 12</td>
<td>Dec 12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sep 12</td>
<td>Oct 12</td>
<td>Nov 12</td>
<td>Dec 12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prepared by: Andrew K. Mwirigi
Date: 9th November 2012
Data Source: NDMA
**Situation Overview**

Wet and cool weather conditions prevailed across the District in the month of October. Planting was the major agricultural activity taking place within the District. Food purchase prices increased slightly in the month of October in comparison to the month of September.

Pasture and browse availability and accessibility were good across the District. Livestock body conditions were fair in the month of October with no reported cases of disease outbreaks.

Water availability and accessibility was good in the month of October with communities predominantly relying on shallow wells, seasonal rivers, boreholes and natural rivers for both domestic and livestock consumption.

The nutrition status of children under 5 years of age deteriorated in the month of October. The percentage of children at risk of malnutrition in the month of October is above normal in comparison to the Districts MUAC at this time of the year.

During the month of OCTOBER, there were notable changes on the Environmental indicators, rural indicators and Welfare indicators. The District situation can be described as Alert and Normal.

**Recommendations to District Authorities/District Steering Group and national Kenya Food Security Steering Group**

- Livestock disease surveillance by the Department of Veterinary
- Surveillance of malnutrition levels within the District by Ministry of Health.
- Deworming and drenching of livestock within the district.
- Deworming of school going children.
- Supply of aqua tabs for water treatment.

**Current Interventions**

1) Non-food Interventions.

- Disease surveillance and response by the Ministry of Public Health.
- Disease surveillance and response by the DVO’s office.

 ![District Steering Group Meetings and Recommendations.](https://example.com)

_The District Steering Group met on 10/10/2012 at the District headquarters, Mbeere South._

The following recommendations were realized.

1. The DSG approved the Rugogwe Secondary school proposal for the construction of two class rooms and an administration block. The school had received a total of Kshs 2.7 million from the Ministry for the Development of Northern Kenya and Other Arid Areas. The DSG chairman requested the District Works officer together with the District Physical Planner to visit the school and come up with recommendations and the required Bills of Quantity.

2. The DSG approved the transfer of water pump currently at the Drought Management Officer’s store to Karura youth Farmers to assist them in their irrigation activities. The District Irrigation officer was mandated by the chairman to ensure that all the relevant requirements were met by the group before the pump can be transferred to them.

**1. Environmental indicators (Stability)**

**1.1Rainfall**
AVERAGE RAINFALL DISTRIBUTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rainfall in MM</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average 2008 - 2011</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>215.5</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>82</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Divisional Agriculture Office)

- **Amount of rainfall**
  The District received an average of 82mm of rainfall within the month of October. In comparison to the long term rainfall average of 131mm, the month of October received below normal rains during this period of the year.

- **Temporal distribution**
  The long rains commenced on the 10th of October and were characterized by heavy down pour and uneven distribution across all divisions within the District. There were also dry intervals within the rain days. The mixed farming livelihood zones recorded the highest rainfall amounts and many wet days than the marginal mixed livelihood zones.

- **Spatial distribution**
  In the month of October, Evurore division received an average of 77.17 mm of rainfall with 5 wet days, Gachoka division received an average of 82 mm with a total of 7 wet days, Mwea division received an average of 82.67mm with a total of 8 wet days and Siakago division received an average of 86.2mm of rainfall with a total of 6 wet days.

1.2 Condition of Natural Vegetation and Pasture

- **Quality**
  Pastures and browse quality within the District was good across the entire District. In comparison to the month of September, the quality of pasture and browse in the month of October improved and this is
attributed to the rainfall received within the month of October, which resulted in the regeneration of pastures and browse. The situation is currently normal at this period of the year.

- **Quantity**
  The quantity of Pasture and browse within the District was fairly good across the District. In comparison to the month of September, the quantity of pasture and browse in the month of October improved and this is attributed to the rainfall received within the month of October, which resulted in the regeneration of pastures and browse. The situation is currently normal at this period of the year.

### 1.3 Water sources and Availability

- **Water sources**
  Water availability and accessibility was fairly good within the entire District. The current situation is attributed to the rainfall received within the month of October which resulted in some significant recharge of water reservoirs across the district. It was however noted that most of the marginal mixed livelihood zones did not receive any significant amounts of rainfall and thus the distances in search of water within these areas remained longer. Currently, communities are relying on shallow wells, seasonal rivers, dams, water pans, boreholes and natural rivers for both domestic and livestock consumption. The current situation is normal at this period of the year.

**Household access to water**

![Average Distance from Households to the Main Water Points](chart.png)

(Source: ALRMP II, n=360 Households)

The average distance from the households to the main water sources in the month of October was 2.9 kilometers. In comparison to the month of September, where the distances covered from the households to the main water source were 4.05 kilometers, the average distances covered in search of water for domestic consumption have declined within the month of October. The decline in the distances is attributed to the rainfall received within the month of October, which caused some significant recharge in most of the water reservoirs. The current distances are below normal at this time of the year.

**Livestock access to water**
The average distances covered by livestock from the grazing areas to the main water sources within the month of October were 3.3 kilometers. In comparison to the month of September where livestock covered 5.08 kilometers from the grazing areas to the main water sources, the distances covered in the month of October have declined. The decline in the distances is attributed to the rainfall received within the month of October, resulting in some significant recharge of the water reservoirs. In comparison to the average distances covered at this time of the year, the current distances are below normal.

1.4 Emerging Issues
1.4.1 Insecurity/conflict/ Human Displacement
There were no reported cases of insecurity, conflict or human displacement.

1.4.2 Migration
There were no reported cases of Migration into and out of the District within the Month of October.

1.4.3 Other factors likely to Affect Livelihoods
There were no notable factors likely to affect Livelihoods in the month of October.

1.5 Implications on food security
Increasing water levels in all water reservoirs and the deteriorating quantity and quality of pasture and browse indicate a food secure situation.

2. Rural indicators (Food Availability)
2.1 Livestock production
2.1.1 Livestock body condition
Livestock body conditions were good in the month of October. In comparison to the month of September, there were no notable changes in the livestock body conditions.

2.1.2 Livestock Diseases
There were no reported cases of livestock diseases.

2.1.3 Milk Production
On average the milk produced per household within Mbeere District was 9 bottles of 750ml in the month of October. In comparison to the month of September, where the average milk produced per household was 9 bottles of 750ml, the milk production levels remained level in the month of October. In comparison to a normal year where on average milk produced per household is 20 bottles of 750ml, the current milk production rate per household is below normal at this time of the year. The low milk production levels are attributed to the low volumes of livestock within the District. On average, the marginal mixed livelihood zones produced the highest number of milk which is attributed to the high livestock population density within the livelihood zones.

2.2 Crop production
2.2.1 Timeliness and Condition of Various Crop Production Activities
The onset of the short rains was early than normal with the rains commencing on the 10th day of October, finding most farms already prepared. The predominant agricultural activity taking place within the month of October was planting and all the planted crops germinating. Although the onset commenced earlier than normal, some areas within the district and especially the marginal mixed livelihood zones did not receive any rainfall or received very little amounts of rains, thus most farmers have not planted with the few who have planted expected to re-plants as soon as the rains commence.

2.2.2 Pests and Diseases
There were no reported cases of pests and diseases across the entire District in the month of October.

2.2.3 Harvest
There was no harvesting within the District in the month of October.

2.2.4 Implication on Food Security
Declining milk production indicates a food insecure situation.

3. Access to Food
3.1 Livestock Marketing
3.1.1 Cattle Price

![Average Cattle Prices Graph](image)

(N=360 households)
The average price of a mature 3 year old bull in the month of October was Kshs 10,200. In comparison to the month of September when the price of a 3 year old mature bull was Kshs 9,900, the prices in the month of October have increased slightly and this is attributed to the low selling rates within the district due to low tropical livestock units within the District. The cattle prices within the Mixed farming zones were the highest with an average of Kshs 11,400, while the Marginal mixed livelihood zones had the lowest prices with an average price of Kshs 9,500. The high prices within the Mixed farming livelihood zones is attributed to the good body conditions of cattle in these zones. The current cattle prices are above normal at this period of the year as shown on the above graph of average cattle prices.
3.1.2 Goat Prices:

The average price of a medium size goat in the month of October was Kshs 2,800. In comparison to the month of September, where the average price of a medium size goat was Kshs 2,900, the goat prices in the month of October increased slightly. The increase is attributed to the low selling rates due to low tropical livestock units within the District. The Marginal mixed farming livelihood zones recorded the highest price for a medium size goat price at Kshs 3,400 while the Mixed farming livelihood zones recorded the lowest prices with an average of Kshs 2,900. The difference in the prices between the two livelihood zones is attributed to the difference in selling rates, where the Marginal mixed livelihood zone recorded the highest selling rate. The current prices are above normal at this time of the year as shown above on the average goat prices graph.
3.2 Milk Consumption
On average the milk consumed per household was 9 bottles of 750ml in the month of October. In comparison to the month of September, where the average milk consumed per household was 9 bottles of 750ml, the milk consumption level remained level within the month of October. The current low milk consumption rate is attributed to the low milk production levels within the District. The low milk production levels within the district has resulted in an inflow of milk from the neighbouring Districts of Embu and Kirinyaga to supplement the deficit, making the price of milk go up with a litre retailing at Kshs 60. In comparison with a normal year where on average milk consumed per household is 35 bottles of 750ml, the current milk consumption rate per household is below normal at this time of the year.

3.3 Crop prices
3.3.1 Maize

The average maize price per kilogram for the month of October was Kshs 39. In comparison to the month of September, where the average price per kilogram of maize was Kshs 39, the prices have remained level in the month of October. The high in maize prices is attributed to the high demand for the
crop for both domestic consumption and planting seeds. Gachoka Division had the highest maize prices at Kshs 43 per Kilogram while Evurore Division had the lowest at Kshs 36 per kilogram. In comparison to a normal year where the price of maize per kilogram is Kshs 30, the current prices are above normal at this period of the year.

3.3.2 Beans Prices

The average beans price per kilogram for the month of October was Kshs 72. In comparison to the month of September, where the average price per kilogram of beans was Kshs 68, the beans prices have increased during the month of October and this is attributed to the high demand for domestic consumption and planting seeds. Mwea Division had the highest beans prices at Kshs 81 per Kilogram.
while Evurore Division had the lowest at Kshs 58 per kilogram. In comparison to a normal year where the price of beans per kilogram is Kshs 77, the current prices are below normal at this period of the year.

![Average Beans Price within Mbeere Divisions](image)

### 3.3.3 Green grams price:

![Average Green Gram Prices](image)

(n=360 households)
The average green grams price per kilogram for the month of October was Kshs 62. In comparison to the month of September, where the average price per kilogram of green grams was Kshs 58, the prices have increased in the month of October. The increase in green grams prices is attributed to high demand for the crop in major markets outside the district. Gachoka Division had the highest green grams prices at Kshs 78 per Kilogram while Evurore Division had the lowest prices at Kshs 32 per kilogram. In comparison to a normal year where the price of green grams per kilogram is Kshs 80, the current prices are below normal at this period of the year.
3.3.4 Sorghum Price

The average sorghum price per kilogram for the month of October was Kshs 41. In comparison to the month of September, where the average price per kilogram for sorghum was Kshs 39, the sorghum prices increased in the month of October. The increase in sorghum prices is attributed to the high demand for planting seeds and domestic consumption. Gachoka Division had the highest sorghum prices at Kshs 49 per Kilogram while Evurore Division had the lowest at Kshs 33 per kilogram. In comparison to a normal year where the price of sorghum per kilogram is Kshs 44, the current prices are above normal at this period of the year.

3.4 Income

3.4.1 Crop Income

Income from crop sales accounted for 9% of the total household income in the month of October. In comparison to the month of September, where incomes from sale of crop accounted for 10% of the total household income, there was a decline on the income from crop sale. The decline of income from crop sales is attributed to lack of surplus harvest to sell in the local markets with most household already exhausting their food reserves and the high demand for planting seeds. In comparison to a normal year, where income from crop sales accounted for 15% of the total household income, the current income from crop sale is below normal for this time of the year.

3.4.2 Livestock income
Income from livestock sales accounted for 3% of the total household income in the month of October, in comparison to the month of September, where income from sale of livestock also accounted for 3% of the total household income, the income from livestock income in the month of October remained level. All the income from the sale of livestock was realized within the marginal mixed livelihood zone. In comparison to a normal year, where income from livestock sales accounted for 2% of the total household income, the current income from livestock sale is above normal for this time of the year.

3.4.3 Other Income
Casual labour
Income from casual labour accounted for 59% of the total household income in the month of October, in comparison to the month of September, where income from casual labour accounted for 61% of the total household income, there was a decline in income from casual labour. The decline in casual labour income is attributed to the low acreage of farms being planted within the month of October thus reducing the chances for casual labor. In comparison to a normal year, where income from casual labour accounted for 70% of the total household income, the current income from casual labour is below normal for this time of the year.

3.6 Implications on Food Security
Increase in prices of cereal and legumes indicate a food insecure situation.

4. Welfare (Utilization of Food)
4.1 Nutrition Status

![Average Nutrition Status](chart)

The percentage of children under the risk of malnutrition in the District within the month of October was 33%. In comparison to the month of September, where the percentage of children under the risk of malnutrition was 32.5%, the nutritional status for children under the age of 5 years has deteriorated in the month of October. The high percentage of children under the age of five years at risk of malnutrition is attributed to the low milk consumption levels within the district and the consumption of food which is poor in dietary composition. In comparison to the long term mean of 19.5%, the current percentage of children under the risk of malnutrition is above normal for this time of the year. Currently, the percentage of children under the risk of malnutrition is higher within the mixed farming livelihood zones with a percentage of 34.3% while the percentage of children under risk of malnutrition within the marginal mixed livelihood zones was 31.9%
4.2 Health
There were no reported cases of any major disease outbreaks within the month of October.

4.3 Flagged Areas
- Notable area with high percentage of children under the risk of malnutrition were Nthawa/Gitiburi which had 35.6%, Kithunthiri/Mbita which had 36.1% Karaba/Riakanau which had 39% of children under the age of five years at risk of malnutrition.

5 Current Intervention Measures and Coping Strategies
5.1 Non-food intervention
- Disease surveillance and response by the Ministry of Public Health.
- Disease surveillance and response by the DVO’s office.

5.2 Food Aid
- There was no distribution of Relief food.

5.3 Other coping strategies.
In comparison to the month of September which had a coping strategy index of 0.95, the current coping strategies within the month of October changed for the better with an index of 0.85. Notable coping strategies included sand harvesting and charcoal burning which are normal at this time of the year.

6 Recommendations
- Livestock disease surveillance by the Department of Veterinary
- Surveillance of malnutrition levels within the District by Ministry of Health.
- Deworming and drenching of livestock within the district.
- Deworming of school going children.