

Situation overview:

- Rainfall in the county this month was characterized by poor spatial and temporal distribution across both livelihood zones. Msambweni district recorded the highest rainfall at 77mm for 7 wet days followed by Kwale district at 70.3mm for 1 wet day. Kinango district received the least rainfall at 49.6mm for an average 12 rainy days.
- Natural vegetation and pasture remains good in the mixed farming zone but has begun deteriorating in the livestock farming zone. Consequently distances to grazing areas have risen by 17.9% from 4.2km posted last month to 4.95km recorded in July. The mixed farming zone recorded an average of 6.4km while some areas in the livestock farming zone recorded as lengthy distances as 15.3km such as Dumbule in Kinango district.
- Water pans and dams were the main sources of water for households this month similar to last month. Other sources of water included springs, shallow wells, traditional river wells and boreholes. The average return distance to water sources was 2.5km during the month, which was similar to last month and is also normal for this time of the year. The livestock zone recorded a return distance of 2.3km compared to 2.6km in the mixed farming zone.
- Livestock prices have reduced compared to last month. A medium-sized goat was selling at Kshs 1865 compared to Kshs 1894 last month while a medium-sized 3-yr-old bull was selling at Kshs 11675 down by a 27.9% margin from Kshs 16200 last month. The mixed farming zone posted a price of Kshs 15000 while the livestock farming zone recorded the lower price of Kshs 8350.
- Slight increases were recorded in the price of maize and posho in July. A kilogram of maize was trading at an average of Kshs 44.0 having risen by 4.3% from last month's Kshs 42.2. The livestock farming zone posted the highest price at Kshs 45.8 while the mixed farming zone posted the lower price of Kshs 42.1. A similar sized quantity of posho was selling at Kshs 49.2 almost similar to Kshs 48.25 posted last month. There were no significant inter-livelihood differences in the price of posho this month.
- The main source of income in the county this month was casual labour similar to last month. However, the proportion of households who derived their income from this source reduced from 54% last month to 47% this month which could be attributed to decrease in on-farm activities. The average daily wage rate also decreased by 4.1% from Kshs 197 in June to Kshs 189 in July. Other sources of income included petty trading, the sale of charcoal and remittances.
- The percentage of children at risk for malnutrition increased marginally from 6.0% recorded last month to 6.65% recorded this month. The highest malnutrition rates were posted in the livestock farming zone at 10.5% and the lowest in the mixed farming zone at 2.8%.
- The early warning stage for July for the entire county is alert with a worsening trend.

Current Interventions in food security in Kwale County

1) Non food aid

- 43 schools in the county are under the Home Grown School Meals Program.
- Supplementary feeding program is on-going in 74 facilities with support from Kenya Red Cross, Ministry of Health and WFP.
- Samaritan's Purse is constructing a drug store in Kinango in conjunction with CDTF.
- Livestock department is undertaking commercialization of indigenous poultry projects in Kubo division, bee-keeping in Msambweni division and dairy goat promotion in Lunga Lunga division.
- Plan Kwale is undertaking replacement of G.I. pipes along Mwaruphesa, construction of a pump house at Dambale and a 100m³ masonry tank at Silaloni.

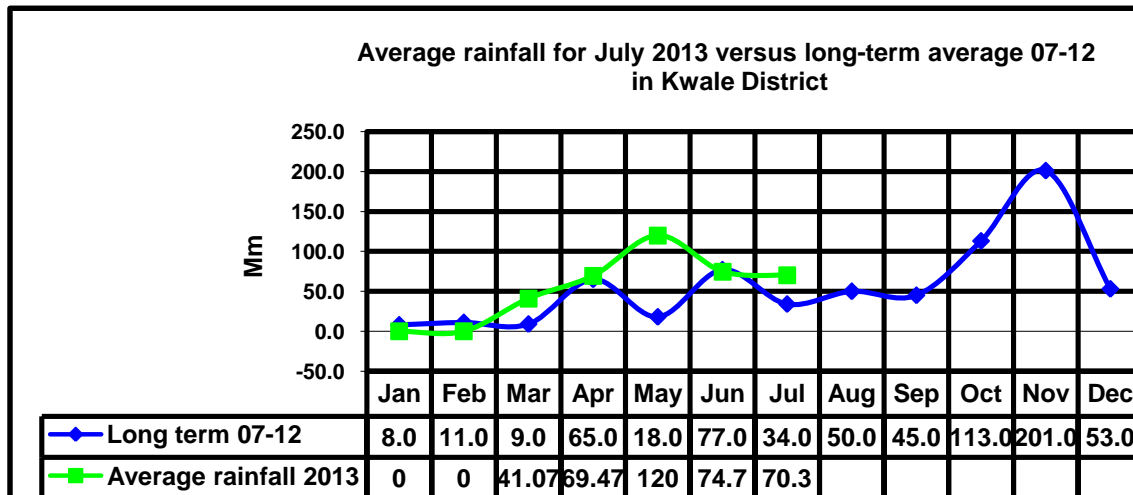
Recommendations

- Close monitoring of the human-wildlife conflict that is likely to rise in the coming months.
- Reduce the proportion of children at risk of malnutrition especially in the livestock farming zone which is likely to increase.
- Intensify proper crop husbandry campaigns to capitalize on the available rainfall amounts to improve production.
- Monitor the declining terms of trade especially in the livestock farming zone.
- Excavate more rain-water harvesting structures to increase availability of water during drought

1. Stability

1.1 Rainfall.

1.1.1 Amount of rainfall



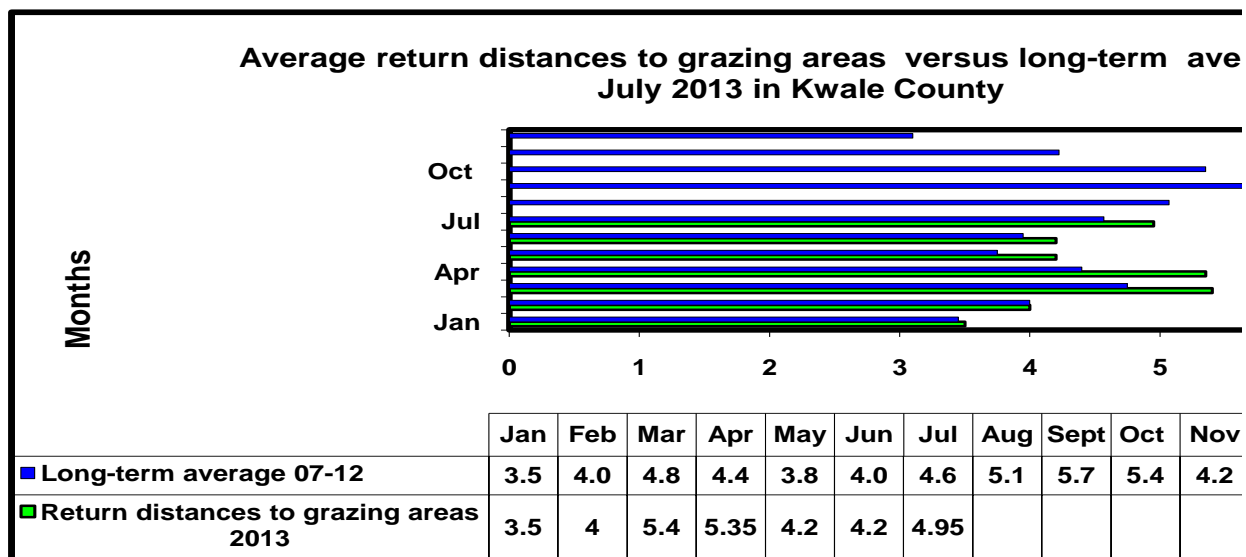
- Spatial and temporal distribution was poor across both livestock and mixed farming livelihood zones. Matuga district received 70.3mm for an average of 1 rainy day, Msambweni received 77mm for an average 7 rainy days while the least rainfall was recorded in Kinango district at 49.6mm for an average 12 rainy days.

1.2. Natural Vegetation and Pasture condition.

1.2.1 Quality and quantity.

- The quantity and quality of natural vegetation and pasture remains good especially in the mixed farming zone. However, it has begun to deteriorate in some parts of the livestock farming zone particularly in parts of Samburu.

1.2.2 Distance to grazing areas.



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- The average return distances to grazing areas increased by 17.9% from 4.2km last month to 4.95km this month. This was because pastures in some parts of the livestock farming zone had started to deteriorate especially in Ndavaya and Lunga Lunga divisions.

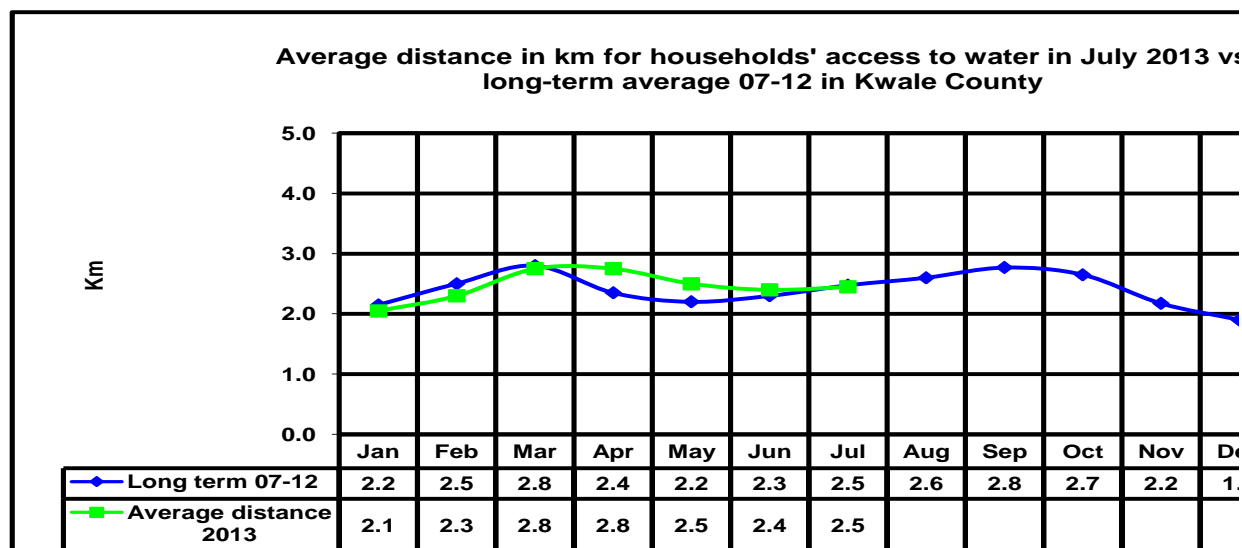
- The furthest distances were recorded in the mixed farming zone at 6.4km having increased by 18.5% compared to last month's 5.4 km. The least distance was posted in the livestock farming zone although areas around Dumbule continued to exhibit lengthy distances such as 15.3 km.
- The current return distances to grazing areas were only marginally longer than normal for this period of the year.

1.3 Water sources and availability

1.3.1 Main sources of water.

- The main sources of water remained the same for both livestock and human consumption in the county including water pans, boreholes, shallow wells, springs, natural ponds and rivers and traditional river wells. These are the normal sources of water for this time of the year.

1.3.2 Household access to water.



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- The current distances to water sources for households was 2.5km this month compared to 2.4km posted last month, indicative of a marginal increase in the access to water.
- The least distances were recorded in the livestock farming zone at 2.3km and the highest posted in the mixed farming zone at 2.6km.
- The observed distances were normal for this time of the year.

1.3.3 Livestock access to water.

- Livestock are currently trekking between 5-10 km in the livestock zone which is slightly higher than the normal range of between 3-5km. This distance is likely to lengthen in the coming months as main water sources for livestock have began to dry up. In the mixed farming zone, the distance currently ranges between 1-2km compared to 1 km normally. Distances in the latter are not likely to change as most of the main water points in this zone still have a considerable amount of water.

1.4. Emerging issues.

1.4.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- Human-wildlife conflict involving elephants and baboons has been reported in the month.

1.4.2 Migration

- Livestock have migrated especially in areas such as Nyango and Kilibasi in the livestock farming zone in search of water and moved towards Ndavaya division.

1.5 Implications on food security

- The recent rains have significantly contributed to increased access to water for both livestock and domestic use and availability of pasture and forage. It has also contributed to some crop production especially in the mixed farming zone although harvests have been below normal due to poor temporal and spatial distribution. However, as the long rains season draws to a close, this trend has begun to decline especially in the livestock farming zone where distances to grazing reserves and major water points have begun lengthening. The resultant stress on the livestock is likely to compromise their production and therefore reduce their productivity. Households in this zone are further likely to be at risk for malnutrition due to reduced access to livestock products such as milk especially for children aged below five years.

2. Availability

2.1. Livestock production.

2.1.1. Livestock body condition.

- Livestock body condition for the small stock is good across the county similar to last month which is normal for this time of the year. That of the large stock is fair but on the verge of deteriorating especially in the livestock farming zone. This is owed to the reduction in quality and quantity of pasture in this zone coupled with increased distances to water points. The body condition of livestock in the mixed farming is good and likely to maintain the same trend in the coming months.

2.1.2 Livestock diseases.

- Foot and Mouth Disease has been reported in cattle in Ndavaya and Lunga Lunga divisions while Lumpy Skin Disease was reported in Samburu Division. However, the level of disease occurrence is within normal limits for this time of the year.

2.2 Crop production.

2.2.1. Timeliness and status of crops.

- The main activities currently is harvesting of the long rain season crop especially in the mixed farming zone that recorded some substantial crop production. This is normal at this time of the year. There is minimal harvesting in the livestock farming zone as the region received well below normal rainfall that significantly compromised yields. However, the on-farm crop for those who planted late is doing fairly well in the mixed farming zone but is showing signs of wilting in the mixed farming one due to moisture stress.

2.2.2. Pests and diseases.

- No pests or diseases have been reported this month.

2.2.3. Crop Harvests.

- Crop harvests recorded in the month include maize, coconuts, oranges, local vegetables, passion fruits and cassava.
- The amount of maize and other crops produced this month is below normal for this time of the year. This was attributed to the irregular pattern of rainfall that resulted in moisture stress at critical stages in the development process of the crops this season. The livestock farming livelihood zone is more affected than the mixed farming one.

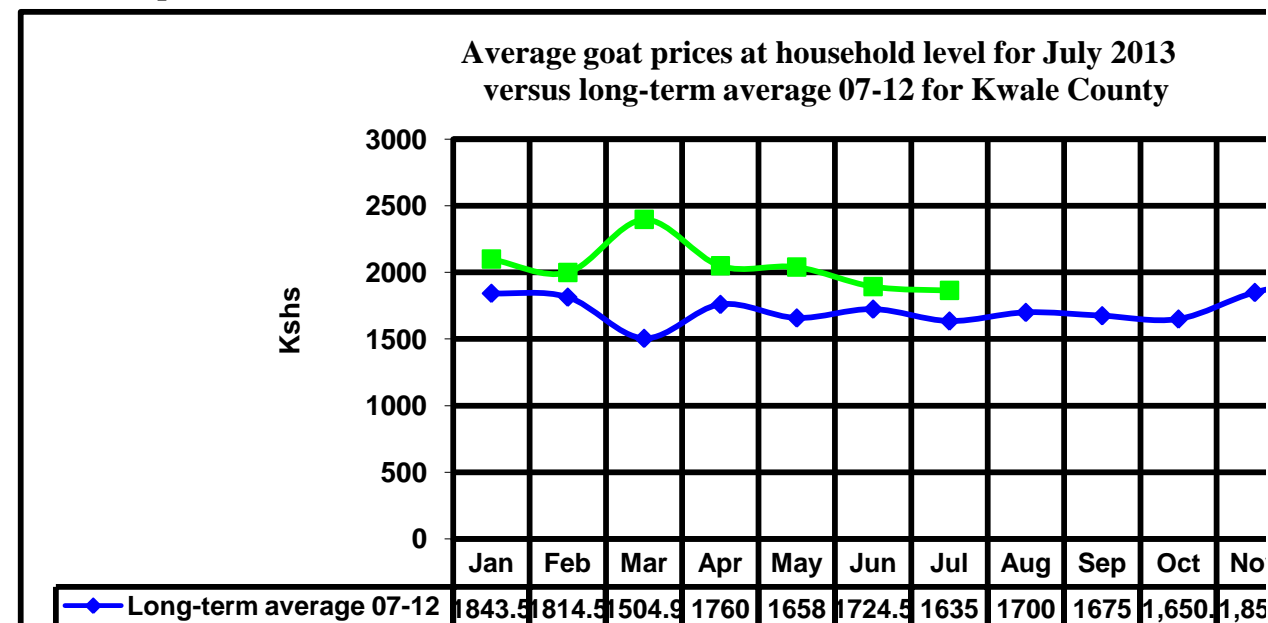
2.3 Implication on food security

- Harvesting in the county is still on-going although the likely harvests are likely to be below normal due to the irregular pattern that characterized the rainfall distribution both spatially and temporally. However, the mixed farming zone is likely to fare much better than the livestock farming zone where food stocks are likely to last approximately one month. Livestock production is currently thriving in the mixed farming due to increased availability of pasture and browse but is faring quite poorly in the livestock farming one. Households in the latter livelihood zone are therefore likely to be food insecure from next month when food stocks will likely have been depleted and livestock production is not sufficient to support them. Samburu, Kinango and Lunga Lunga divisions are flagged in this regard.

3. Access.

3.1 Livestock marketing.

3.1.1 Goat prices.

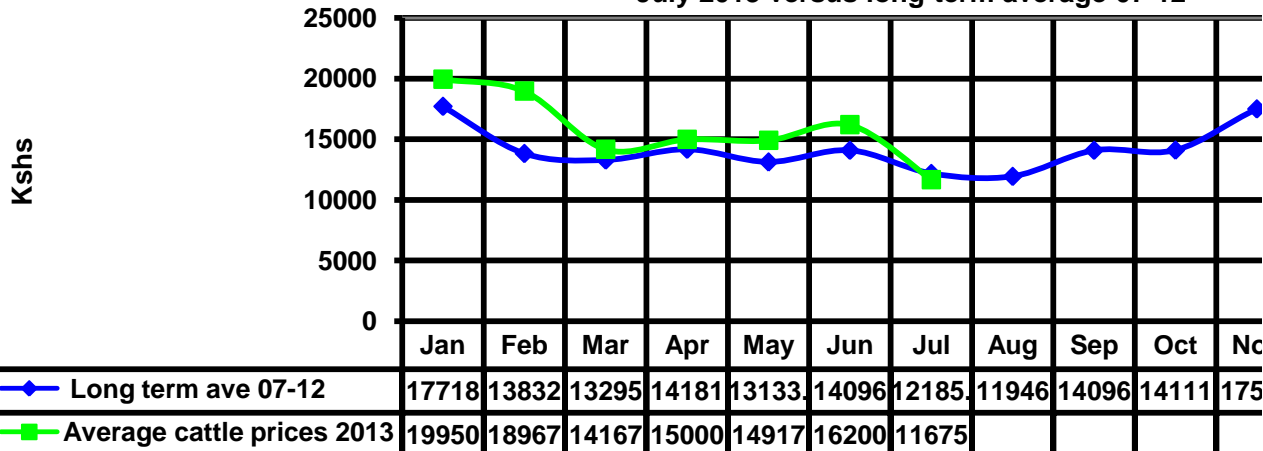


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- A medium-sized 3-yr-old goat was trading at Kshs 1865 having reduced marginally from Kshs 1894 recorded in June.
- The highest price was recorded in the livestock zone at Kshs 2000 while the least was recorded in the mixed farming zone at Kshs 1730. While prices have remained stable in the mixed farming zone from Kshs 2005 recorded last month, those in the livestock zone continue to drop as more small stock are offered for sale in order to purchase food in a bid to curb the rising food stress.
- The current price was 14.1% above the normal price expected at this time of the year but the trend is as expected.

3.1.2 Cattle prices

Average household cattle prices for Kwale County in July 2013 versus long-term average 07-12



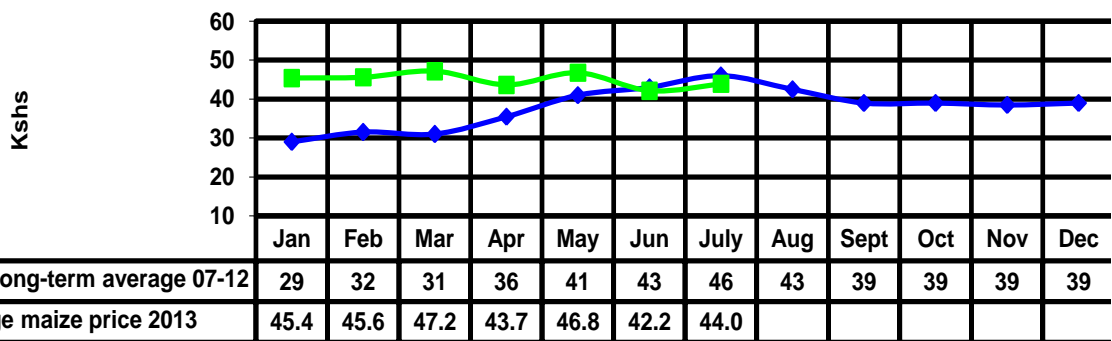
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- A medium-sized 3-yr old bull was selling at Kshs 11,675 down by a 27.9% margin compared to Kshs 16,200 posted last month. The decline in price was due to the deteriorating livestock body condition especially in the livestock farming zone that made the animals to fetch lower prices than last month.
- The livestock livelihood zone recorded the least price at Kshs 8,350 while the mixed farming zone posted the highest price of Kshs 15,000. The depletion of pasture was higher in the former zone than in the latter hence the inter-livelihood zone difference in price.
- The price was 4.2% higher than the normal price although the trend was as expected for this time of the year.

3.3 Grain Marketing.

3.3.1 Market price of maize

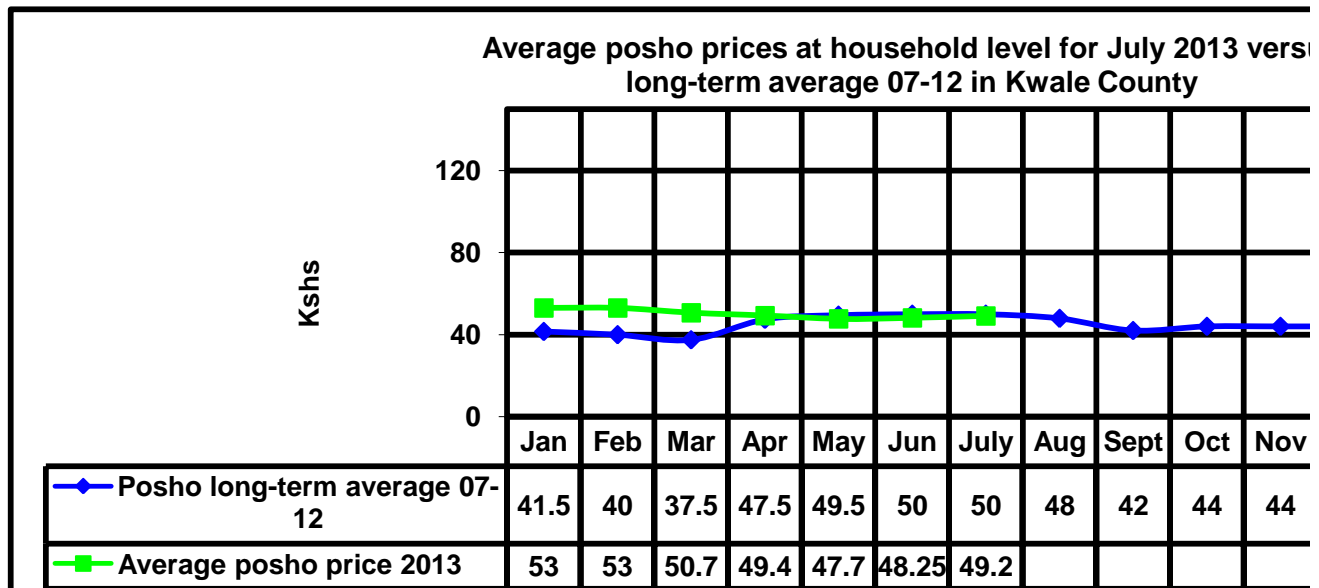
Average maize prices at household level for July 2013 versus long-term average 07-12 for Kwale County



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- A kilogram of maize was trading at Kshs 44.0 in July compared to Kshs 42.2 last month recording a 4.3% increase. Prices have begun to rise because household food stocks have already begun being depleted especially in the livestock farming zone given that below normal harvests were realized this season.
- The livestock farming zone recorded the highest price of Kshs 45.8 while the least price was recorded in the mixed farming zone at Kshs 42.1. Maize had a higher demand in the livestock farming zone since it had not done well in the zone than in the mixed farming zone where most households had realized some considerable harvests.
- The current price was 4.4% below the normal price at this time of the year although the trend is normal.

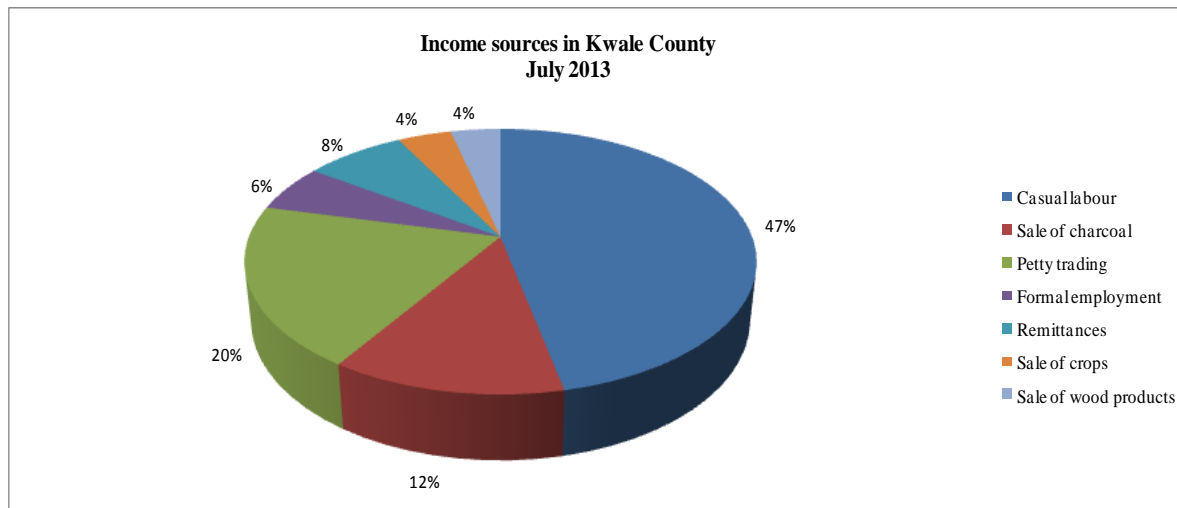
3.3.2. Market price of posho.



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- A kilogram of posho was trading at Kshs 49.2 almost similar to Kshs 48.25 posted last month.
- There were minimal inter-livelihood differences in price as the livestock farming posted Kshs 49.3 while the mixed farming posted Kshs 49.1.
- The current price and trend were almost similar to the normal at this time of the year.

3.4. Income.



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- The main source of income this month was casual labour similar to last month, although the proportion of households relying on it reduced from 54% last month to 47% this month. This was likely due to the decreased on-farm activity.
- The average daily wage rate this month was Kshs 189 having decreased by 4.1% from Kshs 197 posted last month. The livestock zone posted the least average daily wage rate at Kshs 169 while the mixed farming zone posted the highest rate at Kshs 209.

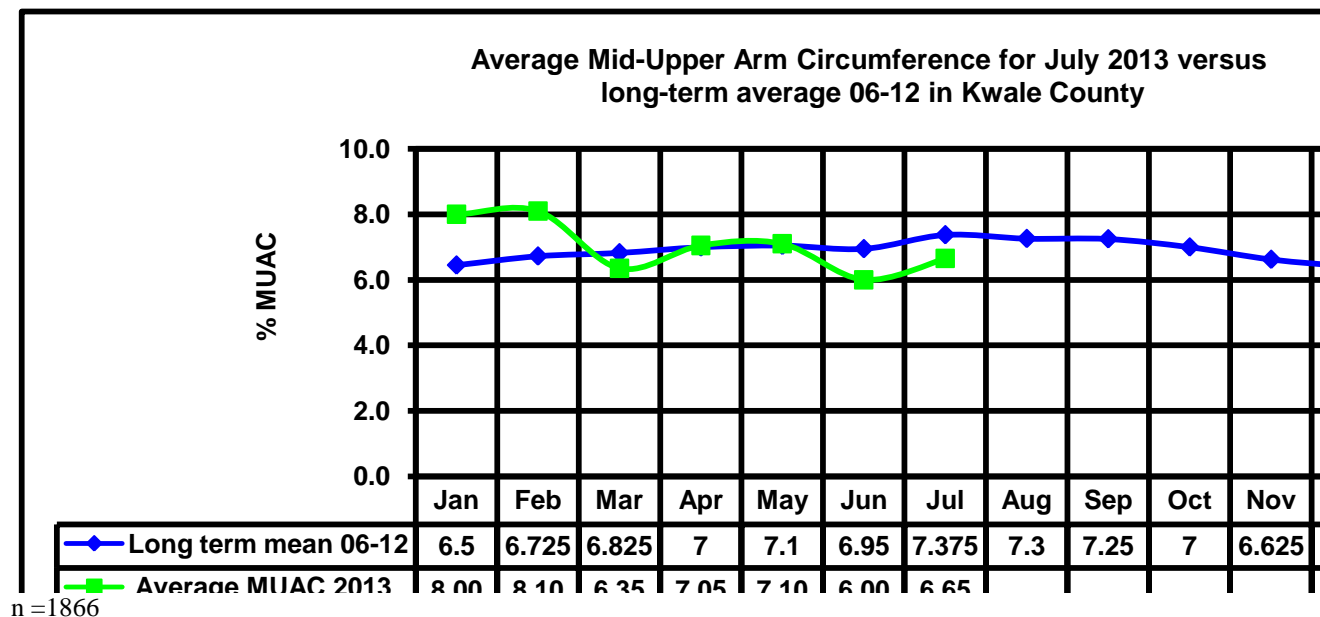
3.5. Implications on food security.

- The rise in food commodity prices against reduced livestock prices does not auger very well with food security. Drastically reduced prices especially in the livestock zone where not much harvest was realized against high food prices is likely to push most of the households in this zone to a

crisis. This is likely to happen given that the average daily wage rate has also reduced and is also hardly sufficient to afford access to sufficient food.

4. Utilization.

4.1 Nutrition status.



- The percentage of children at risk of malnutrition was 6.65% this month having risen slightly compared to last month's 6.00%.
- The highest share of children at risk was posted in the livestock farming zone at 10.5% having risen from 9.7% last month. This was likely due to the failed crop and limited availability of food in the zone. The mixed farming zone posted the least proportion of children at risk at 2.8%. Availability of food in this zone was much better than the livestock zone given that they had harvested some crop from the long rains season.
- The proportion of children at risk was below normal for this time of the year and the trend was also as expected.

4.2 Health.

- Diarrhea, malaria and upper respiratory tract infections were reported this month similar to last month.

5.0 Coping strategies

- The coping strategy index for July was 2.3% the same as last month.
- Common coping mechanisms include increased reduction in number and meal rations, skipping of meals, engaging in casual labour, purchasing food on credit, reliance on relief rations and the sale of charcoal.
- The coping strategy index was constant in both the mixed and livestock farming zones.

5.1 Ongoing interventions in food security in Kwale County

1) Non food aid

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- Supplementary feeding program is on-going in 74 facilities with support from Kenya Red Cross, Ministry of Health and WFP.
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