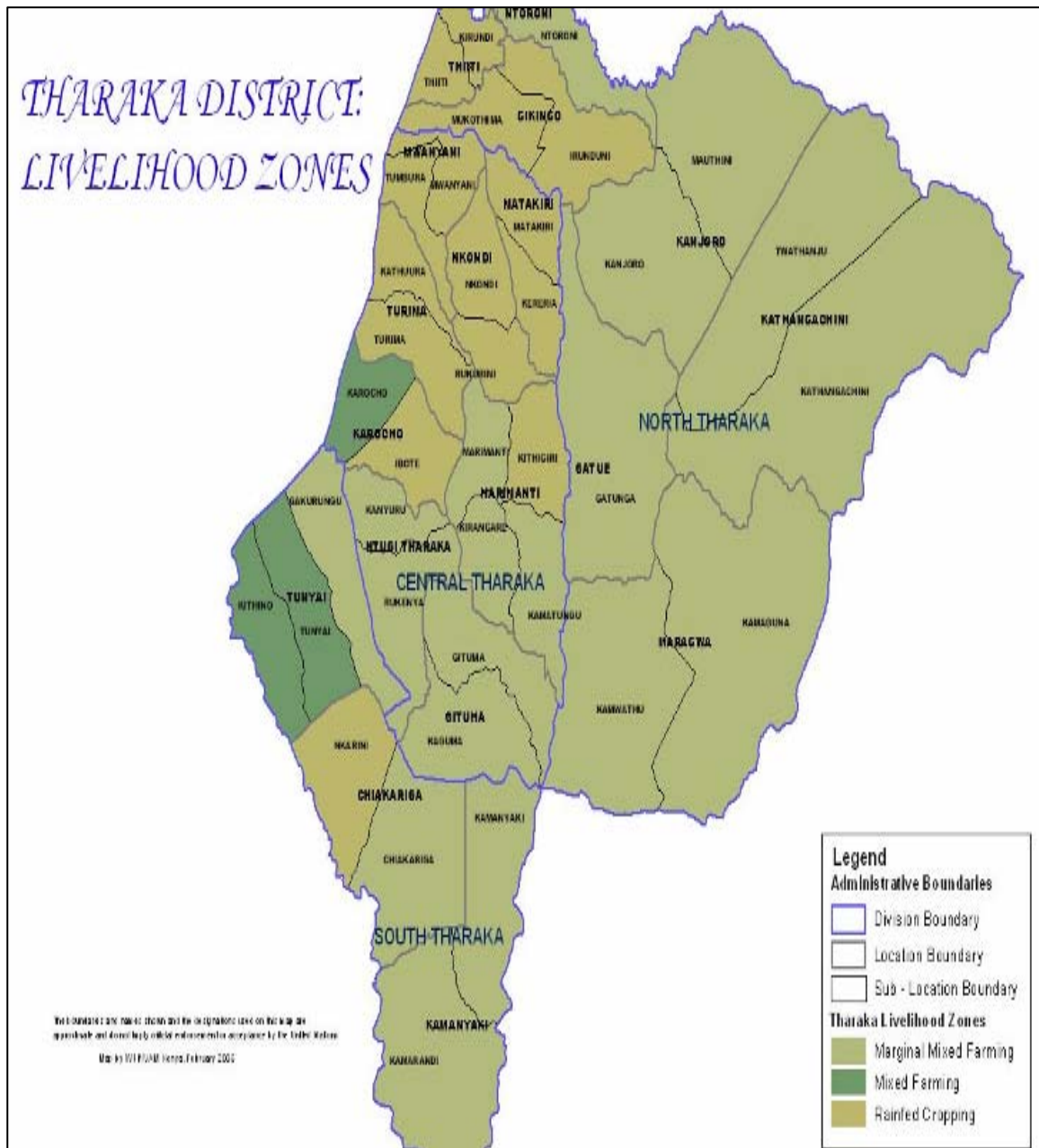


THARAKA DISTRICT

SHORT RAINS ASSESSMENT REPORT 19TH – 22ND FEBRUARY 2008



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1	District Background Information	1
1.2	History of Relief Operations	1
1.3	Food Security Trends	1
1.4	Summary of Recommendations	2
2	DISTRICT FOOD SECURITY SITUATION	2
2.1	Overall Food Security Situation.....	2
2.2	Impact of Shocks and Hazards on the Food Security Situation	4
2.2.1	Rainfall	4
2.2.2	Crop Production and Prices.....	4
2.2.3	Livestock Production and Prices	6
2.2.4	Water and Sanitation	7
2.2.5	Health and Nutrition.....	8
2.2.6	Divisions Ranking.....	12
2.3	On-Going Interventions.....	12
2.3.1	Agriculture.....	12
2.3.2	Livestock	12
2.3.3	Water and Sanitation	13
2.3.4	Health and Nutrition	14
2.3.5	Education.....	14
3	RECOMMENDATIONS	14
3.1	Food Aid Intervention.....	14
3.2	Non-Food Interventions	15

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 District Background Information

Tharaka District borders Mbeere to the south, Mwingi to the east, Meru North to the north and Meru South to the west. It is divided into three administrative divisions namely North, Central and South Divisions. There are three main livelihood zones namely: mixed farming (MF), marginal mixed farming (MMF), rainfed cropping/ irrigated cropping zones. The MMF occupies more than 75% of the district. The rainfall pattern in the district is bimodal with long rains in the months of March to May and short rains in October to December. The district depends more on the short rains.

Livestock rearing is the main economic activity in the district with about 60% of the population depending on it. The community keeps indigenous breeds of cattle, goats, a few sheep and chicken. They also keep bees. The main crops grown are green grams, millet, cow peas, sorghum, maize, beans and pigeon peas.

The district has a population of 128,386 persons (projected from 1999 population census). The average household size is five. Life expectancy is 48.9 years for males and 56.2 years for females. There are no tarmacked roads and the infrastructural development is poor. The district was connected to power supply in November 2007.

1.2 History of Relief Operations

The district has been under EMOP since August 2004. All divisions were covered until February 2005 when EMOP was phased out. After the short rains assessment conducted in January 2006, the district food security situation was found to be deteriorating due to poor rain performance. EMOP resumed covering all divisions. The schools in the worst hit areas were also put under the expanded school feeding programme. The targeted population was reduced to 9.3% after the July 2006 long rains assessment findings which indicated some improvement in food security status. EMOP was phased out after February 2007, when marked improvement was noted to have occurred.

1.3 Food Security Trends

The food security situation is currently stable but is expected to deteriorate in the marginal mixed farming zone- which covers most of the district – as most households will deplete their food stocks within one to two months. Currently, over 40% of the population in the MMF LZ, are depending on market purchases for their staple diet. This is mostly achieved through the sale of livestock. The livestock body conditions are good and fetching fairly good prices. Goat prices are within the seasonal norm but cattle prices fall below the seasonal norm. Distances to water points is gradually increasing in the Marginal Mixed Farming Livelihood Zone (MMF LZ) as seasonal rivers begin to dry. Charcoal burning, baskets and mat weaving were observed all over the MMF LZ as coping mechanisms. Some are depending on proceeds from casual labour to meet their food needs.

1.4 Summary of Recommendations

- Improving infrastructure and social amenities in the district to motivate government staff to settle in the district. There is a high turn over of government officers in the district and has affected service delivery. Poor market accessibility affecting marketing and bargaining power. The major roads to the district have been graded but access roads to divisions and locations are in a very poor state.
- Increasing staffing levels and medical equipment in health centres.
- Registration of new health centres and operationalizing them.
- Conducting a nutrition survey to establish the current nutritional status and extent of malnutrition.
- Harnessing the untapped irrigation potential of the district and expanding existing irrigation schemes.
- Introduction of alternative cash crops in the district and enhancing production of legumes and pulses.
- Provision of appropriate certified seeds before onset of the SR season to needy households.
- Promotion and strengthening of marketing societies and market information system.
- Opening up of the NCPB depot and strengthening the capacity of the existing cooperative marketing societies in the district to absorb higher quantities of their crop produce and stabilize prices. The district produces quality legumes, pulses, sorghums and millet.
- Upscaling honey processing for value addition.
- Improve livestock breeds for cattle, shoats and poultry.
- Enhancing peace keeping meetings between the communities over district boundaries.

2 DISTRICT FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

2.1 Overall Food Security Situation

- The current food security status is stable across the district and is expected to remain stable as most people have sufficient food stocks to last them until the next harvest .
- Most farmaers in the Mixed Farming livelihood Zones (MF LZ) have food stocks which can last them till the next harvest. However in the Marginal Mixed farming Livelihood Zones (MMF LZ), food stocks can last for only one to two months.
- The rains received in the season were adequate and within the district long term average and enough for crop production but poorly distributed . This resulted to planting and replanting due to rotting of planted seed. All crops performed dismally because rainfall dissappeared at the crops' most critical stage. All crops performed at less than 50% of normal; this s especially so in the MMF LZ.
- Food situation has significantly improved in the district. This is due to the harvesting of the short season crops. At the market level foodstuffs are readily available and the prices are normal for this time of the year compared to other years. Among the pulses, beans are the most **expensive** although its' substitutes - cow peas and pigeon peas - are available at lower prices. Among the cereals maize is relatively **expensive** going at Kshs. 14/= per kg compared to Kshs. 10/= in normal situations.
- Forage situation is normal and adequate in all livelihood zones. The unusual rains received in mid January positively impacted on livestock forage by triggering regeneration and growth of browse and pasture. Consequently, all the livestock in general are in good body condition and are assured of adequate forage up to the start of the next rains in March.

- Currently, the disease affecting cattle in the district is Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) which has necessitated imposition of quarantine in Tharaka south division. Due to the closure of the market the farmers in this division can not sell cattle to meet certain needs such as school fees, and has resulted to disposure of crop produce. Diseases such as CCPP are also common among the shoats.
- Milk production is low with a long term average of less than 2kgs per cow /day. Most households are getting some milk for their own consumption but not enough to make any significant sales. The average price per litre is Kshs. 25/=
- The District enjoys ideal vegetation to support honey production. Much of it is marketed as crude honey, however there is minimum value addition at the Marimanti Rural Training Centre (MRTC).
- The district food security prospects are determined by the livelihood strategies and coping mechanisms instituted by households. The communities in the MMF LZ mainly depend on livestock production, they also grow drought tolerant cereals including: sorghum and millet and also pulses including: green grams - which is a very important cash crop - cowpeas and pigeon peas. In severe situations they do casual labour, sell mats, burn and sell charcoal or sell livestock assets (goats) for income to purchase food. Communities in the MF LZ areas grow their own food and in a normal season have surplus to sell. In severe situations, they sell their food stocks, sell mats, sell livestock assets – goats and do casual labour. Communities in Rainfed / irrigated cropping zones have had very low levels of food insecurity over seasons.

The observations above were noted from discussions with the DSG and ad hoc interviews conducted in the field with community members.

Factors Affecting Food Security

The main factors affecting food security are: erratic rain in most seasons, poor farming methods, low crop yields, lack of market information resulting to low bargaining power, poor prices for their produce, poor infrastructure (poor rural access roads especially in the MMF zones), untapped irrigation potential of the district, lack of alternative livelihood strategies, livestock diseases, rampant land degradation (unconserved soils and charcoal burning) and the communal land tenure system – individual households in the MMF LZ do not have title deed to follow their own development programs and decisions. Other factors are: the problem of untreated water for human consumption especially in Tharaka south and central divisions, the boundary dispute with the neighbouring districts which causes freaquent tension thus affecting farming activities and the chronic low staffing levels in Agriculture, Livestock, Veterinary, Health and Water Departments, thus affecting service delivery.

Shocks/Hazards

- Outbreak of Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) in Tharaka south division, which has necessitated imposition of quarantine in the division. Due to the closure of the market, the farmers in this division can not sell cattle to meet certain needs such as house hold food requirements and payment of school fees. This has resulted to disposal of crop produce, household food stocks in this division are expected to last for only one month.
- Poorly distributed rains received in the season resulted to planting and replanting due to rotting of planted seed. All crops performed dismally because rainfall dissappeared at the crops' most critical stage. All crops performed at less than 50% of normal. In marginal mixed farming zone, crop production was most affected with performance being about

22% compared to a normal season. In mixed farming livelihood zones, rain fed food crops also suffered reduction in yield to a tune of 30% due to poor rainfall distribution.

2.2 Impact of Shocks and Hazards on the Food Security Situation

2.2.1 Rainfall

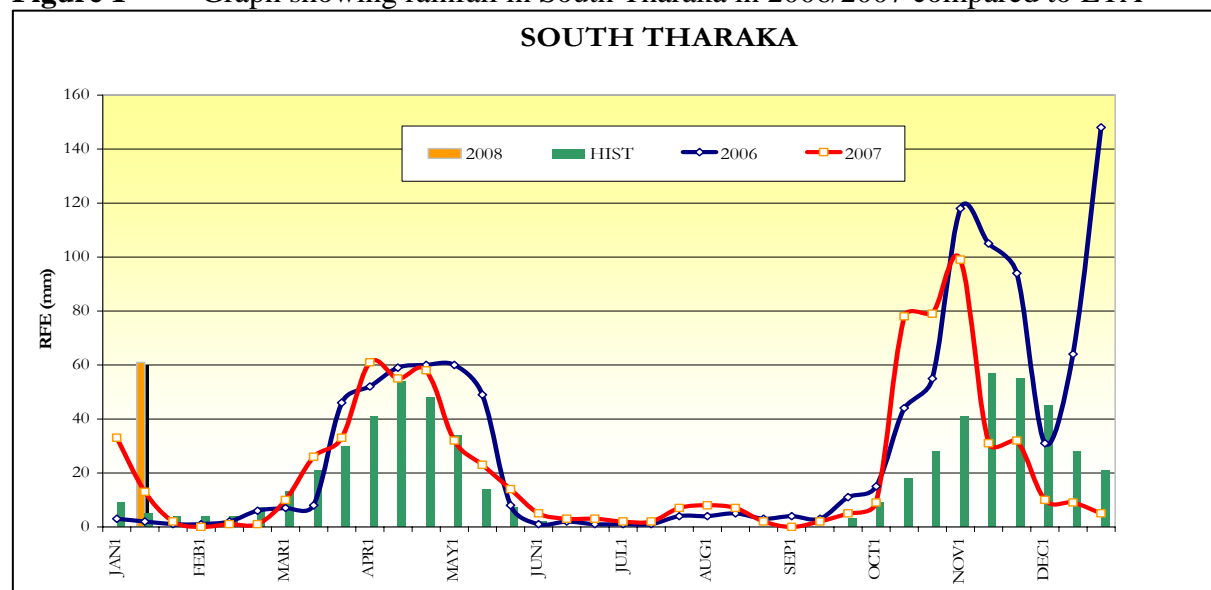
Overall the rain amounts were normal compared to the long term mean but were poorly distributed, see Figure 1. The first rains came in late October in some areas and in November in other areas. December was mostly dry and in mid-January 2008 there were heavy showers for a few days, see Table 1.

Table 1: Rainfall data October to December 2007.

Station	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Tunyai	185.6	284.7	25.1	495.4 mm
Marimanti	15.4	-	-	15.4 mm
Thiiti	99.2	379.4	91.2	569.8 mm
Karocho	188	288.5	-	476.5 mm
(Kaanyaga) Ntugi	125	168.7	70.4	364.1 mm
Kathangachini	76.8	125.9	70	272.7 mm
Average	115	240.63	70.2	425.83 mm

Source: ALRMP II- Tharaka.

Figure 1 Graph showing rainfall in South Tharaka in 2006/2007 compared to LTA



2.2.2 Crop Production and Prices

Crop production in the district is mainly rain-fed. The major crops grown during the short rains under review were; millets, sorghums, maize, beans, cowpeas, green grams and pigeon peas. In the irrigated/mixed farming livelihood zones, some horticultural crops are grown for both local and export markets. In all the livelihood zones, a significant number of farmers planted cotton as a cash crop using seeds provided by the ministry of Agriculture. The green grams despite being a food crop also acts as a cash crop, fetching better prices than all the other crops.

Disclaimer: The recommendations of the National Assessment teams are tentative and subject to the approval of the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG)

Production and adoption of drought tolerant crops i.e. Pigeon peas, Cow peas, Green grams Millet and Sorghum has been good both in the medium and marginal low potential areas in the district over the past few years. Adoption is still slow for Cassava and Sweet potatoes.

In the Mixed farming zones, Food crop production accounts for 20% of the cash income source, and cash crop production accounts for 32%. In the Marginal Mixed farming Zones Food crop production accounts for 20% of cash income, and cash crop production accounts for 5%. In the Rainfed cropping zones, Food crop production accounts for 48% of cash income, and cash crop production accounts for 8%. The area under crop production during the short rains was **32,062** hectares; of which Maize was 4237 Ha; Sorghum 4802 Ha; Millet 6991 Ha; Beans 990 Ha; Cow peas 4609 Ha; Pigeon peas 4699; Green grams 5733. The total area under production was higher than during the long rains of 2008. Production of cereals: maize, sorghum, millet and Legumes: Beans, Cow peas, Green grams and Pigeon peas has increased over the years during the short rains period.

The rains received in the season were within the district long term average and enough for crop production but poorly distributed. This resulted to planting and replanting due to rotting of planted seed. All crops performed dismally because rainfall disappeared at the crops' most critical stage. All crops performed at less than 50% of normal. In marginal mixed farming zone, crop production was most affected with performance being about 22% compared to a normal season. In mixed farming livelihood zones, rain fed food crops also suffered reduction in yield to a tune of 30% due to poor rainfall distribution. However, in rain-fed cropping livelihood zones, which covers about 20% of the district land mass, crop production was not affected by rainfall fluctuations.

The food situation in the district at present is **stable** due to the harvesting of the short rains season crop. However since the performance was dismal in 70% of the district, the harvested produce may be completely depleted within two months, especially in the marginal mixed farming livelihood zone. There will however be no food insecurity alarm if the expected long rains are sufficient and on time.

Food availability and Market Prices

Generally all farming households are utilizing the harvested food stuffs from their own farms. Food is available in the market, however maize and beans come from outside the district. Food stocks in the district are held by the farmers and traders as shown in table 2.

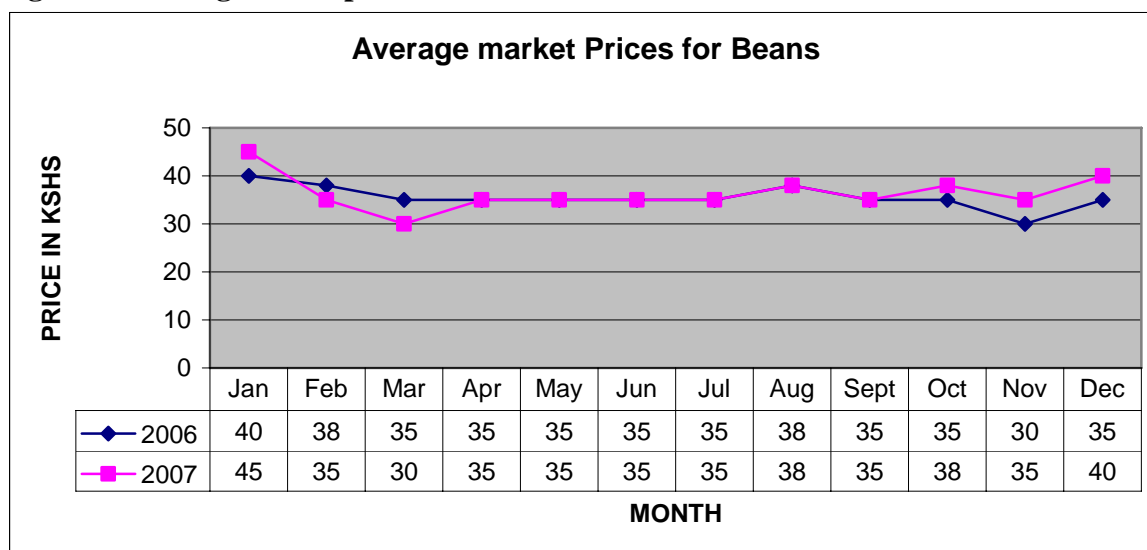
Table 2: Current Food stocks (MT) in the district.

Division	Farmers				Traders			
	Maize	Sorghum	Millet	Pulses	Maize	Sorghum	Millet	Pulses
Tharaka Central	50	30	280	4984	4910	3050	2539	7950
Tharaka North	80	105	300	3131	8675	10479	3300	9393
Tharaka South	70	100	500	6505	7600	19450	4850	19516
District Total	200	235	1080	14620	21185	32979	10689	36859

Pulses is a combination of beans, cowpeas, pigeon peas, green grams and dolichos.

The prices are normal in the major markets and the people's purchasing power is not yet depleted. Among the pulses, beans are the most expensive although its substitutes (cow peas and green grams) are available at lower prices, see Table 2. Among the cereals, maize was found to be relatively expensive at 15/= per kg as obtained from market prices obtained from the field. See figures 2 and 3.

Figure 3: Average Beans price



2.2.3 Livestock Production and Prices

Livestock Production

Livestock production is a major livelihood for over 60% of the district population. It is the most reliable source of cash income in the MMF LZ. In this zone; Livestock Production (including meat, milk, hides, skins, and by products) accounts for 40% of cash income; and Poultry Production including meat and egg production accounts for 20%.

In the Mixed farming zones, Livestock Production (including meat, milk, hides, skins, and by products) accounts for 15% of cash income; Poultry Production including meat and egg production accounts for 5%.

In the Rainfed cropping zones, Livestock Production (including meat, milk, hides, skins, and by products) accounts for 10% of cash income; and Poultry Production including meat and egg production accounts for 10%.

Dependancy on income from livestock sales is speculated to raise as households progressively exhaust alternative sources of income – especially crop sale- and intense parent’s efforts to raise school fees.

The animals kept are mainly the indigeneous breeds of cattle, sheep, goats and poultry. A few households are however adopting the cross breeding technology of stock improvement. The number of animals slaughtered in the district have increased over the years and all originate from the district.

Milk production is low with a long term average of less than 2kgs per cow /day. Normally the milk production improves during the forage peak season and deteriorates during its scarcity.

The District enjoys ideal vegetation to support honey production. Much of it is marketed as crude honey, however there is minimum value addition at the MRTC which can be up scaled through refining, processing and packaging to meet the demand of prime markets attract demand and acceptance in the prime markets especially supermarkets. More farmer trainings on management of KTBH hives are necessary. Already the production from the log hives is reasonable.

General Livestock Condition and Pasture Situation

Forage situation is normal and adequate in all livelihood zones. The unusual rains received in mid January positively impacted on livestock forage by triggering regeneration and growth of browse and pasture. Consequently, all the livestock in general are in good body condition and are assured of adequate forage up to the start of the next rains in March. But there is Quarantine on movement of Cattle in and out of Tharaka South division due to outbreak of LSD.

Livestock Diseases

Livestock production in the district is affected by three main endemic diseases which cause widespread livestock deaths from time to time. These diseases are, in order of importance, as follows:

- Anaplasmosis
- Trypanosomiasis
- Pneumonia
- Lumpy skin disease.

The impact of these diseases has been reduced growth rates, decreased production and impaired reproduction.

Currently, the disease affecting cattle in the district is Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) which has necessitated imposition of quarantine in Tharaka division. Due to the closure of the market the farmers in this division can not sell cattle to meet certain needs such as school fees, and has resulted to disposal of crop produce. Diseases such as CCPP are also common among the shoats.

Migration Patterns

There has been no reported migration of livestock as there is sufficient pasture and browse in their traditional areas.

Livestock Prices

Currently livestock prices are good and within the normal range. A mature goat is currently selling at a price ranging from Kshs. 1600.00 to Kshs.2500.00 depending on size and or breed, see Figure 4. Cattle prices in the year 2007 have remained consistently slightly higher than the prices for 2006. Currently, an average bull is selling at about Ksh.8,000.00 to 12,000.00.

2.2.4 Water and Sanitation

The short rains were normal in most parts of the district but occurred in a discontinuous manner with dry spells in between. Water sources were well recharged especially due to the heavy unexpected rains in mid January. The availability and accessibility of water is therefore normal in all areas of the district.

The average distance to water sources is about 3km one way and is quite normal for the district at this time of the year. The quality of water used for domestic purposes is low due to contamination with turbid run-off particularly in the streams, rivers, dams and pans. The average distance to pasture from water sources is normal compared with the long term average. Currently there is no water stress for livestock use and the situation is normal.

Some boreholes are not being used due to salinity and people prefer the softer surface water which is readily available during this period of the year. Others are unusable due to broken

down hand pumps. There are two water supplies that have water treatment and storage facilities. There are plans to equip a third major water supply with similar facilities.

Environmental degradation in the district is a real challenge due to

- Limited soil conservation efforts and hence serious erosion in farms
- Lack of basic sanitary facilities in some homesteads.

2.2.5 Health and Nutrition

Nutritional Status

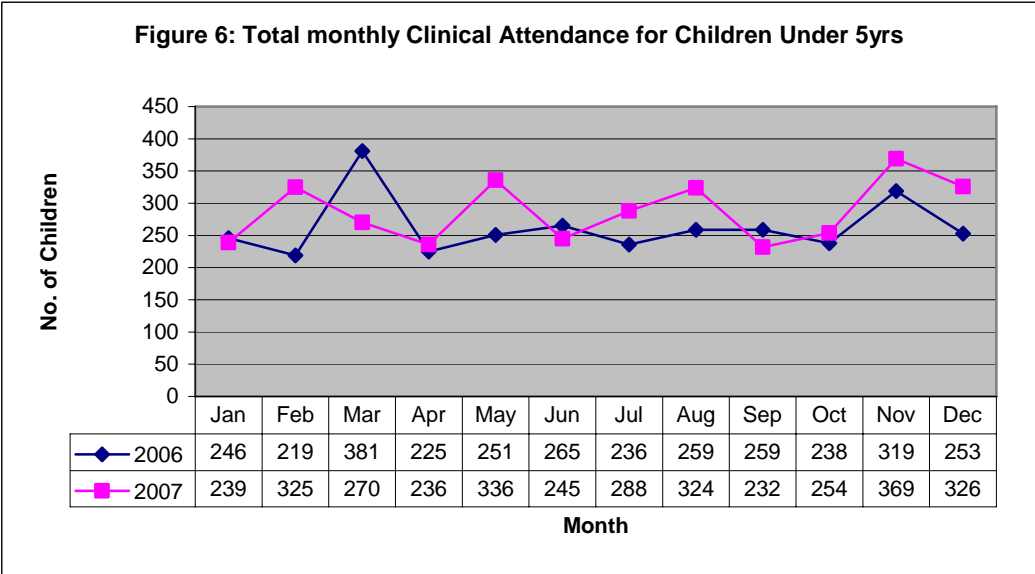
Currently the nutritional level in the District is good as compared to the normal level as this is harvesting time. Various foodstuffs are locally available such as greengrams, millet, peas and maize. The few places that may be experiencing some level of malnutrition may be due to low harvests as a result of unfavorable climatic conditions and low incomes in the marginal mixed farming livelyhood zones. Overall the current level of malnutrition has not exceeded emergency thresholds.

The most likely causes of malnutrition where it occurs in the District are:

- Food insecurity both at the household level and at the community level. After harvesting people tend to sell almost everything leading to food insecurity. Other times food insecurity may be as result of dry spells experienced in the Districts.
- Diseases eg. Malaria, Hiv, and worm infestations
- Infant and young child feeding practices eg. early weaning practices, poor breast feeding practices

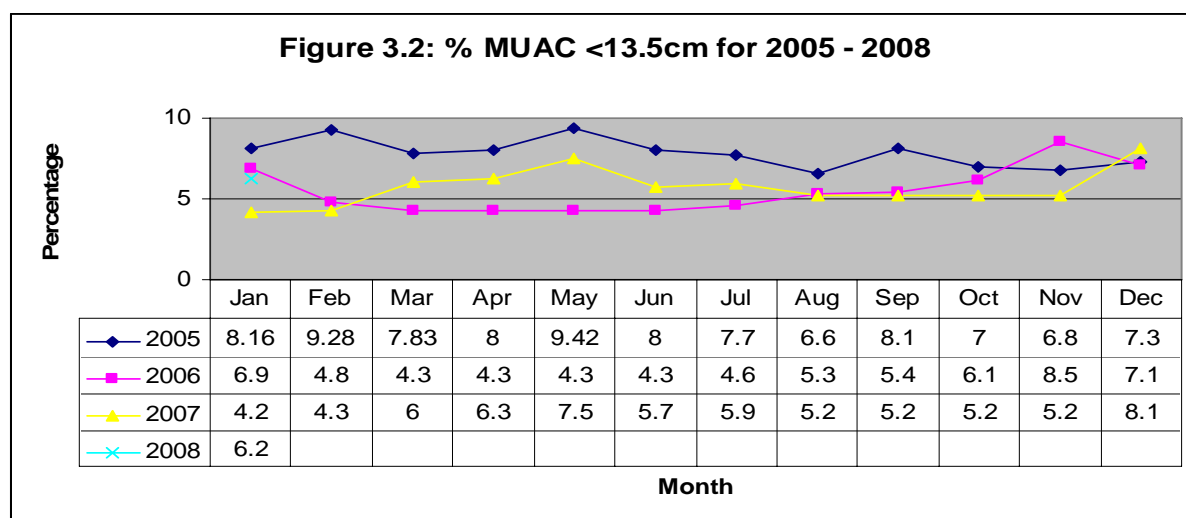
The nutritional status of the district is obtained from the MOH –CHANIS (weight for age) data. In year 2007, 153 cases of under weight children were attended and 5 cases of protein energy malnutrition (PEM) were seen and attended.

Mobile outreach clinics were organized and sponsored by the Plan international and the MOH Tharaka district. Figure 6 shows child clinic attendance for the years 2006/7.



In 2006 there was a total of 3,159 clinical visits by under fives while in 2007 they rose to 3,510 visits.

The prevalence of wasting was low in the last six months compared to the same period in other years, see figure 7.



Source: ALRMP Tharaka

Morbidity

Malaria continues to be the most frequent disease treated in health facilities in Tharaka District contributing almost 50% of all ailments attended to. Measures therefore need to be put in place such as supplying and promoting the use of ITNs. Upper respiratory tract infections (URTI) and intestinal worms are the second and third, respectively, most frequent diseases. Table 3 shows the frequency of various diseases treated between July and December 2007.

Table 3 No. of Cases Treated of Various Diseases July to December 2007

Top Ten Diseases	Month (2007)					
	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Malaria	6861	4024	7283	5098	5721	4432
URTI	3996	2472	3665	982	3091	2320
Intestinal worms	1696	985	1971	499	1371	884
Rheumatism	777	363	768	131	595	445
Skin diseases	770	465	788	271	696	755
Other bites	676	20	9	13	24	6
Dis. Of circulatory system	527	3	66	2	26	36
Diarrhoeal diseases	372	233	442	181	489	234
Ear infections	304	162	291	130	278	235
Eye infections	291	136	246	71	202	122

It is of concern that lately anti-malaria drugs, especially of the AL (Coartem) type, have been running out of stock as a result of irregular supply from KEMSA.

Mortality

Mortality rate is commonly used as an indicator of, among other things, access to health care and the quality of water and environmental sanitation in the area in which a population resides. The presumed causes of death among the under fives included child delivery

complications, ARI, malaria, and diarrhoea. Among those above five years, malaria reportedly caused the highest deaths, followed by respiratory infections.

HIV/AIDS

The current prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS in the district has shown a decreasing trend in the last three years from 7.1% to 5.4%, see Table 4 below. This implies that communities are now more aware of the disease and are taking more precautions to avoid it. The distribution of Comprehensive Care Centres (CCCs) in the district is limited to health centres and hospitals. The number of clients on ARVs in the district is 319 patients: 154 male and 165 female. There are nine (9) PMTCT sites in the district. Home Based Care Centres for the infected exist the district serving 60 clients, four (4) of whom are below 5 years and fifty six (56) above five years.

Table 4: Prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS in Tharaka District

Year	2007	2006	2005
Percentage (%)	5.4	6.2	7.1

Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP)

There has been no supplementary feeding programme in the district, within the period in review.

Immunization

The percentage of immunization coverage per division from July to December 2007 was as follows:

- South Division - 48.4%
- Central Division - 33.2%
- North Division - 18.4%

The 2007 immunization coverage as compared to same period in the previous year is as shown in table 5:

Table 5: Immunization Coverage July-December 2007 (District Totals)

	July-Dec2007	July-Dec2006	July-Dec 2005	July-Dec2004
	1951	1978	2563	2415
	Jan – June 2007	Jan – June 2006	Jan – June 2005	Jan – June 2006
	2311	1490	-	-
TOTALS	2007	2006	2005	2004
	4262	3468	2563	2415

Source: MOH Tharaka.

These totals are for fully immunized children under one year. From the data in Table 5 above it can be seen that the number of fully immunized children has been increasing since 2004. This is a very worrying trend that the MoH in the district should look into and find out why it is happening and corrective measures taken.

Thee percentage of vitamin A supplementation coverage per Division from July-Dec2007 is illustrated in table 6 below:

Table 6 Vitamin – A Coverage per Division July-December 2007

Division	Under one year	Above one year	Lactating mothers
South Division	540	1092	322
Central Division	433	619	658
North Division	256	414	107
Total	1229	2125	1087

The current numbers of vitamin A supplementation coverage in 2007 compared with the same period in 2006 is shown in Table 7 below.

Table 7: A comparison of vitamin A coverage District totals

	2007	2006
Under one year	1229	356
Above one year	2125	261
Lactating mothers	1087	437

2.2.4 Education

The school enrolment in primary schools in January 2008 per division is shown in Table 8 below:

Table 8 District Primary School Enrolment

Division	Boys	Girls	Total
North	6713	6915	13628
South	4760	4705	9465
Central	6568	6900	13468
Total	18,041	18,520	36,561

Tharaka District has been having two feeding programmes for primary schools. These are:

- The regular school feeding programme
- The expanded school feeding programme.

The expanded school feeding programme was however discontinued from mid last year which resulted in 49 schools being phased out of the programme. Currently only 85 schools are receiving food under the regular programme. This term the food supply to eligible schools has not been regular. Most schools had finished their food stocks by the end of January and are now just beginning to get more stock. This means for almost three weeks the children were not being fed.

The drop-out rate from primary schools has increased significantly due to various reasons including the following:

- Due to the lapse in the school feeding programme.
- Child labour mainly in sand harvesting.
- Poor economic status of the local community as most are unemployed, have no cash crop and the area has unreliable rainfall.
- Use of drugs.
- Peer group influence to skip school.

Secondary school enrolment has gone up by about 80% due to the introduction of free secondary school education from January 2008. This has however led to overcrowded classes and there is a need to build more classrooms especially in day schools.

2.2.6 Divisions Ranking.

Table 9: Summary of Divisional ranking

S/NO	DIVISION	Rank(1 very bad)	Main Food security threat
1	Tharaka South	1	Poorly distributed rains which led to partial crop failure. Outbreak of Lumpy Skin disease. Quarantine placed no movement of livestock outside the division.
2	Tharaka North	2	Short rains poorly distributed leading to partial crop failure.
3	Tharaka central	3	Short rains poorly distributed leading to partial crop failure.

2.3 On-Going Interventions

2.3.1 Agriculture

Promotion of growing and utilization of drought tolerant and traditional food crops such as millet, sorghum, cow peas, pigeon peas, green grams, cassava & sweet potatoes under 'Orphan' Crops Multiplication programme.

Objectives of the programme

- Avail good quality seed to farmers.
- Increase crop production thereby improving food security and incomes for farmers.
- Develop capacity of small scale farmers for seed production.
- promote on-farm processing and storage of seed.

Poverty reduction through giving grants to farmer groups to undertake activities that ensure food security and generate income under the Njaa Marufuku Kenya initiative

2.3.2 Livestock

Veterinary

- Vaccination of livestock and disease surveillance – (DLPO) – supported by GOK.
- Extension service which includes trainings and demonstrations - (DLPO) – supported by GOK.

Livestock Production

- Livestock production extension (NALEP/GOK) – supported by GOK / IDA
- Mount Kenya East Pilot Project (MKEPP) – Supported by GOK/IDA - Natural Resource management in Focal Development areas along river basins. Targets farmers through groups by promoting: Upgrading of poultry using Kenbro breeds, Fodder bulking, Local dairy upgrading, and capacity building through farmer field schools (FFSS).

- Njaa Marufuku Project offers direct financial support to groups in dairy goats and poultry production.
- ASAL-Based Rural Livelihoods Support Project (ALLPRO): Gives Support to CBDDIs in both FDA and outside PICD sites; and Does capacity building of CIGs to implement CBDDIs.

2.3.3 Water and Sanitation

Type of project	Implementing agency	Coverage	No. of beneficiaries	Targeted completion date	Remarks
Kathita – Marimanti w/s	- Diocese of Meru (DOM) -MWI, TW.SB -ALRMP II	District headquarters	Ultimate 16,000 people	On going	-Distribution system remaining -Intake, works Treatment works Transmission main are complete
Mitunguu – Chiakariga w/s rehabilitation	-MWI/TWSB -CDF	Tharaka south division	13,000 people	2008/09	Rehabilitation in progress
Drilling and equipping of boreholes	-MWI/NWCPC TWSB	1No in Tharaka central division 2No in Tharaka north division	2,400 people	2007/08	At geological survey stage
Earth dam construction	-MWI/NWCPC TWSB	1No in Tharaka south division 1No in Tharaka north div	1600 people	2007/08	Excavation work in progress in Tharaka south
Rock catchment construction	-MWI/TWSB/NWCPC ALRMP II	2No in Tharaka north division 1No in Tharaka south	32000 people	2008/09	Phase 1 of one of the rocks in Tharaka north complete -Tharaka south rock catchment is at tender stage
Concrete dam construction	-MWI/MKEPP	Tunyai location Tharaka south division	800 people	2007/08	Gravity dam wall construction in progress

IRRIGATION PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

NAME OF PROJECT	DIV.	STATUS	REMARKS
Ngongoaka Ntoroni	Tharaka North	- Main and sub main canal completed - Infield canals and division structures in	- Funded by IFAD - Farmers have not started utilizing water on main canal caved in and water not going through. - Area targeted – 166ha.

		the field not done	
Ruungu - Karocho	Tharaka Central	- Operational	- Intake structure destroyed and requires repair - Farmers not getting enough water - Area targeted – 112ha.

2.3.4 Health and Nutrition

- Vitamin A supplementations –all the families and at the community level
- Follow ups through mobile clinics and outreaches organized by MOH and the Plan international.
- Growth monitoring-all the facilities and at the community level.
- Deworming at the community level

2.3.5 Education

Regular School Feeding Programme.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Food Aid Intervention.

Food Aid Requirements Table.

Division	Location	SRA Feb '08 % in need by May '08	Proposed Ration	Proposed Interventions
CENTRAL THARAKA	Gituma	15%	50%	FFA
	Marimanti: NOTE: Kithingiri sub-location NOT included.	10%	50%	FFA
	Ntugi Tharaka	10%	50%	FFA
NORTH THARAKA	Gatue	10%	50%	FFA
	Kanjoro	15%	50%	FFA
	Kathangachini	20%	50%	FFA
	Maragwa	20%	50%	FFA
SOUTH THARAKA	Chiakariga	15%	50%	FFA
	Kamanyaki	20%	50%	FFA
	Gakurungu	10%	50%	FFA

3.2 Non-Food Interventions

Livelihood zone	Sector	Interventions		Justification	Total budget	Source of funds
		Immediate	Long term			
All Livelihood Zones	WATER AND SANITATION		Rehabilitation of 30no. boreholes by repairing hand pumps	To provide safe drinking water	1.1m	MoWI
MMF LZ in Marimanti area			Extension of Kathita/ Marimanti W/S distribution lines	Currently the town has only one communal water point.	4.0m	MoWI
Rainfed Cropping LZ			Nkondi Irrigation Project	To improve food availability and household income	44.3m	MoWI/ ALRMP/ MKEPP
			Kiaaga Irrigation Scheme		11.8m	MoWI/ ALRMP/ MKEPP
All Livelihood Zones	LIVESTOCK		Intensification of upgrading of dairy breeds and promotion of usage of AI services	To improve milk production so as to enhance household nutrition status	0.55m	MOLFD, ALRMP
MMF LZ in Gatunga, Chiakariga and Marimanti markets			Strengthening of Tharaka Livestock Association by training and exposure to established markets	To increase the volumes of trade and incomes from better prices.	0.1m	MOLFD
MMF LZ			Upgrade the Marimanti Rural Training Centre to increase their capacity in value addition of honey through processing & packaging	Will increase demand and acceptance in prime markets	0.2m	MOLFD, Methodist Church
MMF LZ			Training of farmers in management of KTBH hives	To increase honey production	0.05m	MOLFD.
Rainfed	AGRICULTURE	Supply	needy	Increase food	Fertilizer- 5.5m	MoA, NGOs

Cropping LZ	SECTOR	households with high quality fertilizer and hybrid maize		availability	Maize seed– 2.0m	
MMF LZ		Multiplication of drought tolerant seeds		Increase food availability		MoA, ALRMP
All livelihood zones		Provision of grants to community groups implementing agricultural projects		Increase food availability		MoA (Njaa Marufuku Project)
All livelihood zones	HEALTH AND NUTRITION	Provision and distribution of ITNs and larvicides.		To minimize the breeding of mosquitos; due to the rising number of malaria cases.		MoH, UNICEF
All livelihood zones		Carry out a district nutrition survey		To establish the current nutrition status and the extent of malnutrition.		MoH, UNICEF.
		Training of stakeholders on various data collecting tools, and tools of assessment and analysis		To better analyse nutritional status of under fives		MoH, ALRMP, Plan International
All livelihood zones		Registration and staffing of newly constructed health facilities		Some newly built Health facilities are not operational		Ministry of Health- Nairobi
All livelihood zones			Increase staff in the already existing health facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most health facilities in the hinterland have only one health worker. • The district has only one nutritionist at the district hospital. 		Ministry of Health- Nairobi
MMF LZ at Kamanyaki, Gatunga, Maragwa and		Education		Construction of classrooms	75% of classrooms in these areas are not permanent and some pupils are learning	25.6m

Disclaimer: The recommendations of the National Assessment teams are tentative and subject to the approval of the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG)

Ntugi areas				under trees.		
		Construction of pit latrines		Shortage is due to high increase in primary school enrolment	4.0m	MoE, CDF, ALRMP, Plan International
		Construction of food stores for schools under the regular school feeding programme		The food stores currently in use are inadequate and very temporary.	0.8m	MoE, CDF, ALRMP, Plan International