



**National Drought Management Authority  
WAJIR COUNTY  
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FEBRUARY 2020**

**EW FEBRUARY PHASE 2020**



**Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification  
Biophysical Indicators**

**Rainfall.**

No rainfall was received in the month under review.

**Vegetation condition:**

Current VCI indicated vegetation greenness above normal with ascore of 83.69 as compared to value of 83.15, which remained the same. This indicated above normal vegetation with significant improvement across the county.

**Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)**

**Production indicators:**

- Livestock body condition is good across the livelihood zones, minimal migrations are reported, decrease in milk production per household per day, abundance of pasture, browse and water.

**Access indicators**

- Fourable terms of trade, slight decrease in market prices, decrease in milk consumption, increase in maize prices and reduced trekking distance.

**Utilization Indicators**

- Percentage of children under five at risk of malnutrition remained stable from 11.0% in December to 10.0% in the month under review, with no significant changes. This is due to available milk, thus making under-fives to be secure. However still malnutrition is on the rise and it is above the normal rate. Coping strategies index for the county showed 7.4 as opposed to 7.3.

**Early Warning Phase Classification**

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Normal	Improving
Pastoral cattle	Normal	Improving
Pastoral-all species	Normal	Improving
Pastoral camel	Normal	Improving
Informal employment	Normal	Improving
County	Normal	Improving
<b>Biophysical Indicators</b>	<b>value</b>	<b>Worsening</b>
Rainfall (% of Normal)	0.0	80 -120
VCI-3Month	83.69	>35
<b>Production indicators</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Normal</b>
Livestock Body Condition	Good	Normal
Crop production	Fair	Good
Milk Production	2.4	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death due to drought	No death
<b>Access Indicators</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Normal</b>
Terms of Trade (ToT)	66	>66
Milk Consumption	1.4	>3
Return Distance to water source	4.0	<5 Km
<b>Utilization indicators</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Normal</b>
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	10.0	<6.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	7.4	<0.95
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased HH Food Stocks</li> <li>• migrations</li> <li>• Land preparation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased HH Food Stocks</li> <li>• Weeding</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kidding (Sept)</li> <li>• Migrations</li> <li>• Herd separations</li> </ul>		

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## 1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITION

### 1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- No rainfall was recorded in the month under review, the county was dry and hot throughout the day and night.

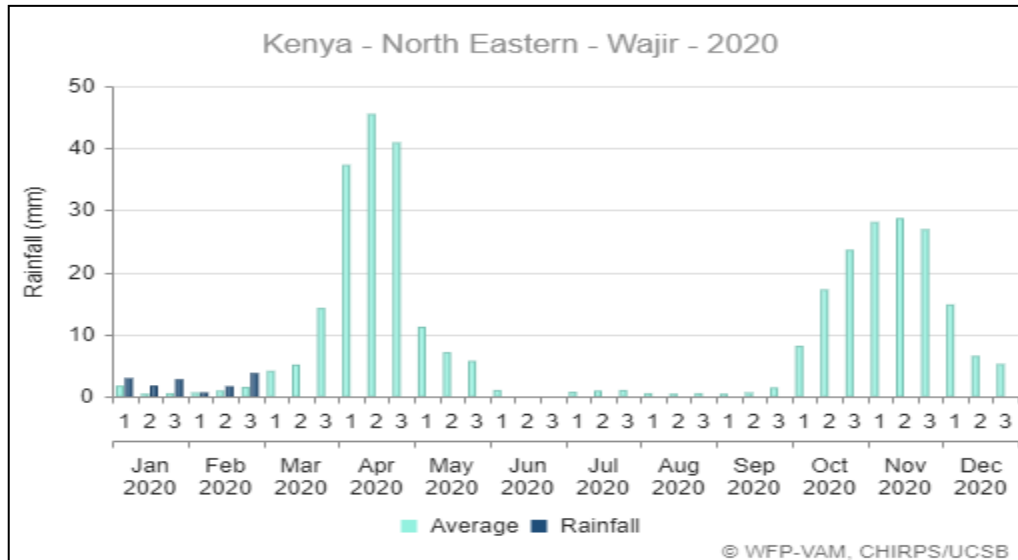


Figure 1: Rainfall Source: WFP-VAM/CHIRPS/UCSB

#### 1.1.1 Amount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

- No Rainfall was received throughout the month, the county was windy and dry throughout the days and night.

## 2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

### 2.1 Vegetation Condition

#### 2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

Current average vegetation cover indexes for the county showed vegetation greenness above normal with a score 83.69 as compared to previous month figure 83.15, which remained the same while other sub-counties still indicated vegetation greenness above normal due to enhanced rainfall recorded during the previous thus improved vegetation in the county. This might be expected to deteriorate in the coming months as the dry spell continues.

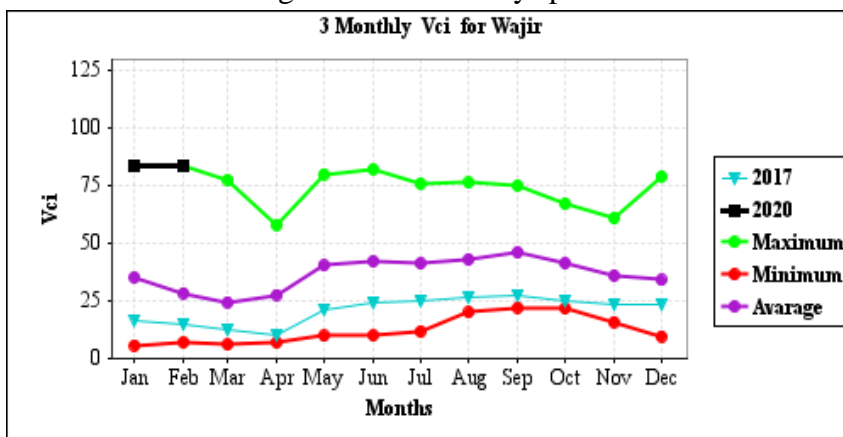


Figure 2: A chart of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir during the month of February 2020.

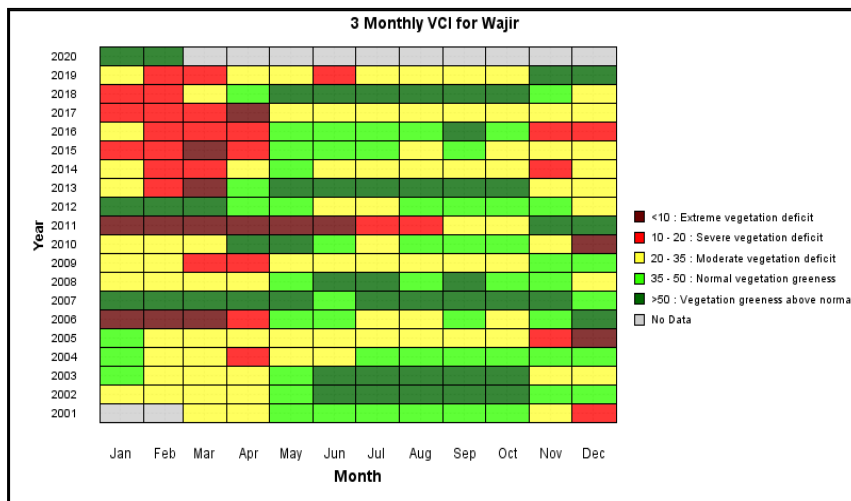


Figure 3: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir during the month of February 2020.

### 2.1.2 Pasture

- Current Pasture situation in all livelihood zones ranges between good to very good, though pasture is in form of brown standing hay as a result adequate rainfall recorded during OND,2019 thus impacted positively on vegetation.
- In comparison to Previous month pasture condition continued to be good as a result of available pasture due to enhanced rainfall.
- Available pasture is expected to last for the next three months due to abundancy of pasture across the livelihood zones. This is not normal at this particular time
- Quality and Quantity of pasture is good across the livelihood zones.
- No constraints reported during the month under review.
- All the livelihood zones in the county recorded high proportion of pasture.

### 2.1.3 Browse

- Browse condition remained to be good across the county, except Pockets of Wajir West, Wajir South and some parts of the livelihood zones that has been occupied by locust that showed good to fair condition.
- In comparison to the previous months, browse situation remained to be good due to the enhanced rainfall recorded during OND,2019,Except Parts of Wajir West and Wajir South that showed good to fair condition.
- Available browse situation is expected to last for less than three to four months, since the condition is still stable.
- No constraints recorded during the month under review.
- Quality and Quantity of browse condition across the livelihood zones are generally good, except pockets of Wajir South and Wajir West that showed good to fair condition.

## 2.2 Water Source

### 2.2.1 Sources

- Major water sources utilized by both human and livestock across the county are Water pans, Open water sources, boreholes and shallow well. This was attributed to above normal rainfall recorded during the previous season, which completely recharged all water points.
- Currently, when compared to previous month the situation of water still remained the same across the livelihood zones, however slightly deterioration of water reported due to ground seepage and evaporation reported in some areas. This stability of water was attributed by enhanced rainfall during the last season.
- Available water is expected to last for the next three months due to recharge of all water sources.

### Household access and Utilization.

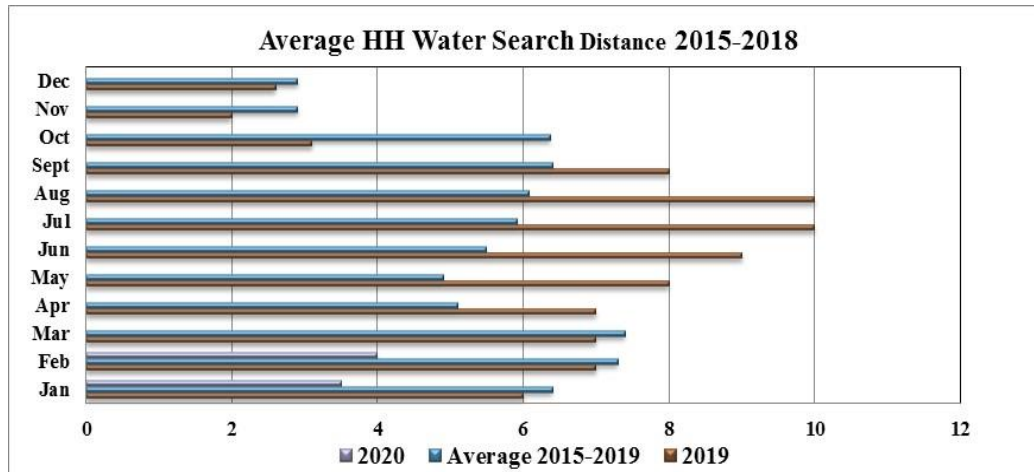


Figure 4: Current Return Distance to Water Sources against 2015-2019 average

- Currently, average return distance from household to water point slightly increased from 3.5km in January 2020 to 4.0km in the month under review but is within the normal range. This increase was due to gradual deterioration of water sources as a result of the dry spell.
- Current average household return distance is below the long-term average and previous month average, this is due to enhanced rainfall received during the previous season thus recharged all water points.
- Average water consumption per person per day is normal as compared to the previous month due to available water. This is normal at this time of the year.
- The proportion of households that treat water is minimal with only some few households in urban using aqua tabs while others use boiling methods.

## 2.2.2 Livestock access

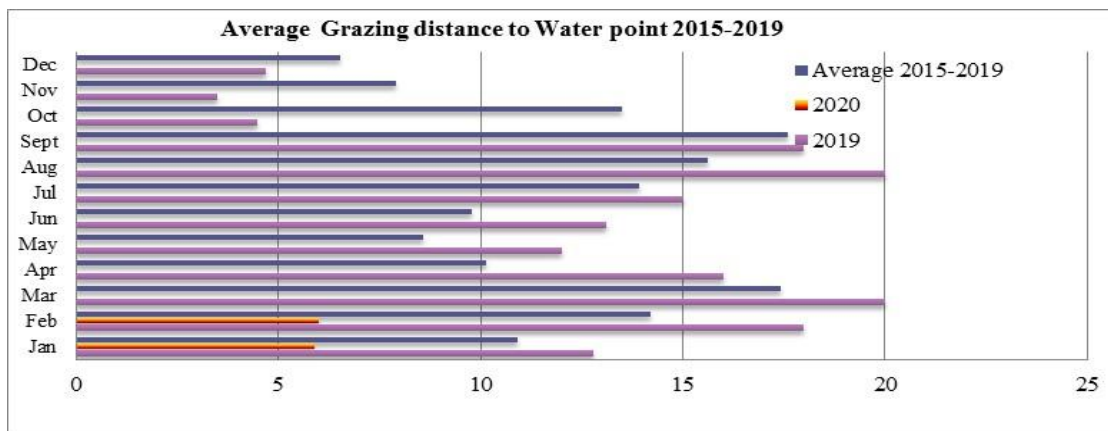


Figure 5: Current Distance from Grazing to Water Sources against 2015-2019 average

- Average livestock grazing distance from water source indicated slightly increased with 6.0km in the month under review as compared to previous month average of 5.9km and this is within the normal ranges .this is attributed to abundance of water and vegetation.
- Current return distance from grazing area to water points is below the long-term average and previous month year average due to enhanced rainfall received during previous season thus improved pasture and browse.
- Current distance from grazing to water sources varies according to livelihood zones,where highest was reported in Pastoral all species in Wajir West, Pastoral Cattle in Wajir South and lowest recorded Agro-pastoral in Wajir North,Pastoral Camel in Wajir East,Tarbaj and Eldas.

## 3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

### 3.1 Livestock production

#### 3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- The body condition of livestock for all species showed to be good across the livelihood zones, except for cattle and sheep, grazers, in the formal and informal livelihood zones which indicated fair to poor compared to a normal of good as a result of inadequate and poor regeneration of pasture and browse in the major towns. This was due to enhanced rainfall recorded during the previous season.
- In Comparison to the previous month the livestock body situation has remained stable due to available vegetation and water that reduced the trekking distance of the livestock that led to good regeneration of vegetation in the county.
- When compared to similar previous period, current body condition are above normal due to sufficient rains received thus attributing to good pasture, browse and reduced trekking distance to water sources.
- The livestock body conditions are likely to be good for a longer period of time owing to the availability of the pasture and browse and shorter trekking distances at this time of the year. All the livelihood zones across the county are in good condition, except formal/Informal livelihood zones which showed to be fair to poor.

### 3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Confirmed cases of CCPP and PPR and Suspected Cases of LSD and sheep and goat pox were reported across the county.

### 3.1.3 Milk Production

- Average livestock milk production per household per days slightly decreased from 2.6litres in January 2020 to 2.4litres in the month under review due to the dry spell.
- Current average milk production per household per day slight decreased as compared to previous month due to the start spell, though it has no impact on the round.

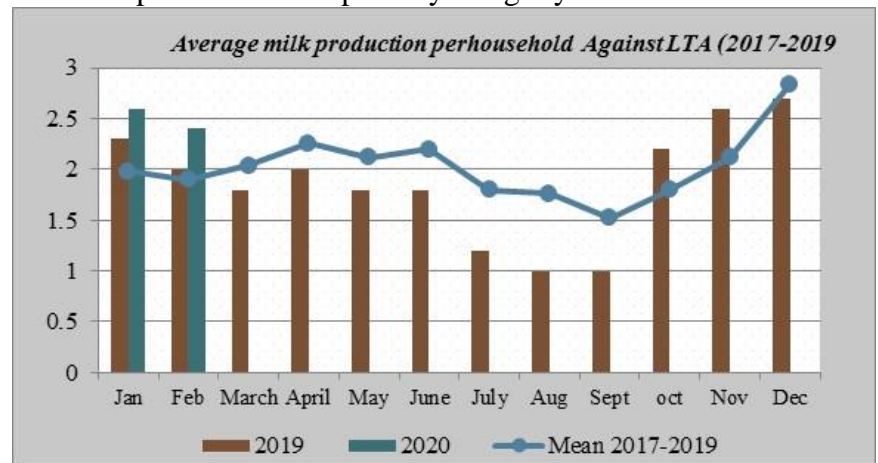


Figure 6: A graph showing current average milk production for Wajir against (2017-2019) mean

- Current average Milk production per household per day is above the long-term average and previous month average due to available milk production as a result of abundance of vegetation and reduced trekking distance and good livestock body condition.
- The trend and Quantity of milk production is normal for this time of the year as opposed to the same period due to available vegetation and water in the county.
- Highest livestock producing milk in the livelihood zones was reported in Pastoral Camel, Pastoral Cattle and Pastoral All species because camel and Cattle are the species that produce milk and Lowest producing was recorded in agro-pastoral and Pastoral all species.

## 3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

### 3.2.1 Stage and condition of food Crops

- The main food crops grown in the county are mainly millet, maize, beans, sorghum, pulses and others like Kales, Watermelon. Most of the farmers have already harvested their produce.

### IMPLICATION OF THE ABOVE INDICATORS TO FOOD SECURITY

- Available vegetation and water will improve livestock body condition thus improve

## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

#### Cattle Prices

Currently, average price of four-year-old medium size Cattle remained the same as compared to previous months due to fair demand and supply in the market attributed to good livestock body condition.

- Current average price of cattle is significantly above the long-term average and previous year's average due to reduced livestock distance and good livestock body condition.
- Highest average prices were reported in town centre and lowest recorded in the rural areas.

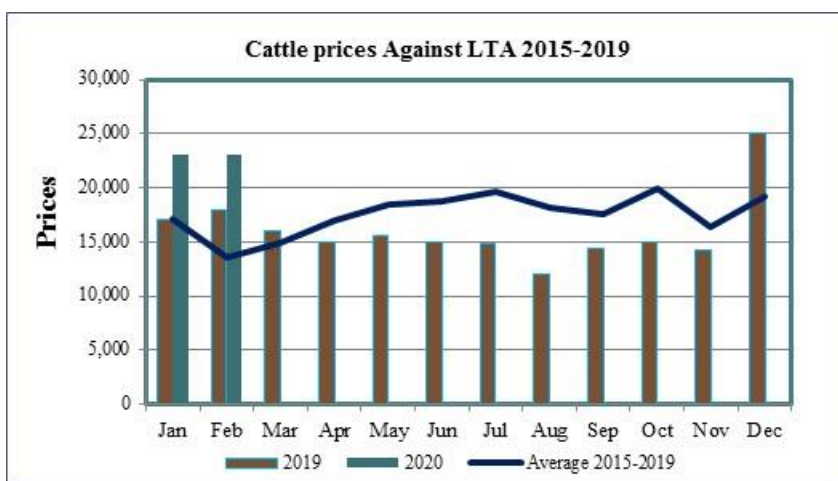


Figure 7: Current cattle prices against LTA 2015-2019

#### 4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- Current average prices of goat slightly increased from kshs 3,200 in January to kshs 3,426 in the month under review due to high demand and less supply in the market attributed to pastoral households holding their herds anticipating better price increase in the market.
- Current average prices is above long-term average and previous year's average as compared to normal of kshs.2,646 for the LTA and kshs 3100 for the previous month year price.
- The highest prices of livestock were reported in the urban areas and lowest in the rural areas.

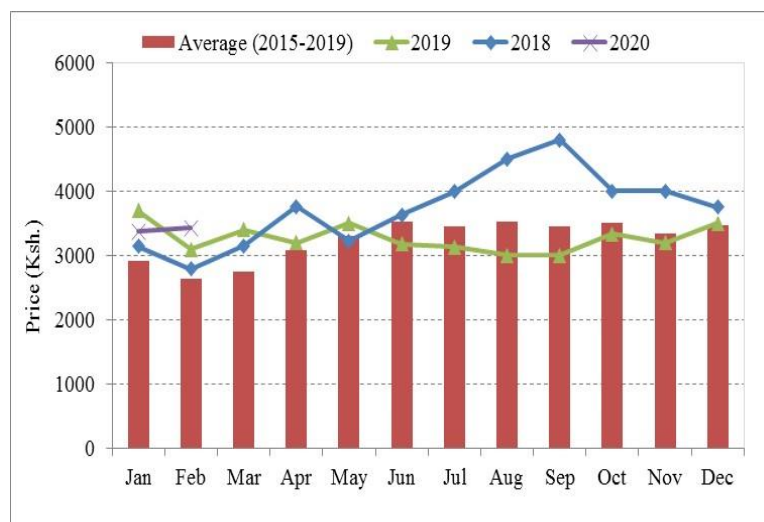


Figure 8: Current Goat prices against LTA of 2015-2019

#### 4.1.3 Camel price

- Current average price of four-year-old Camel remained the same as compared to previous month due to fair demand and supply in the market.



- Livelihood zones with the highest prices of camel were recorded in Wajir town and lowest reported at the rural due to the main market in town.
- Current average price of camel is above the long-term average and previous average prices due to high demand in the market and low supply.

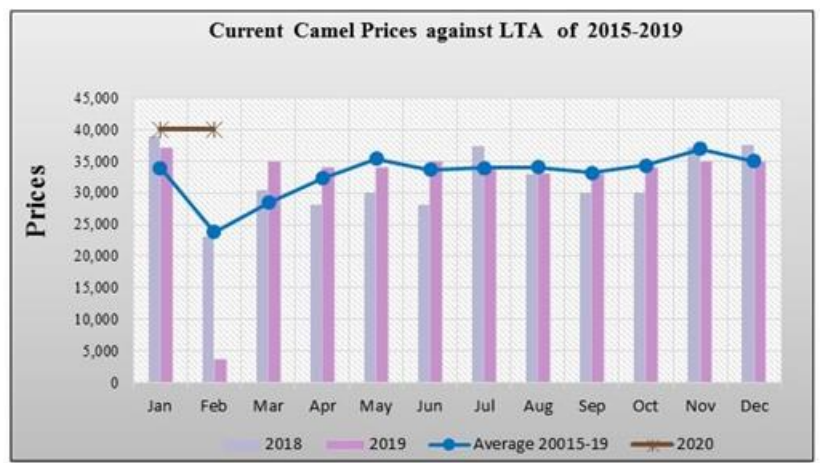


Figure 9: Current Camel Prices against LTA of 2015-2019

## 4.2 CROP PRICE

### 4.2.1 Maize

- Currently, average prices of maize remained stable from kshs 51 in January to kshs 52 in the month under review, this was due to high supply from other counties and low demand in the market.
- Currently, average prices is below the long-term average and above previous year's month average, but with no significant changes.
- The livelihood with the highest prices was recorded in Agro-pastoral and Pastoral Cattle, Pastoral all species due to poor infrastructure and lowest reported in the Formal/Informal settlement.

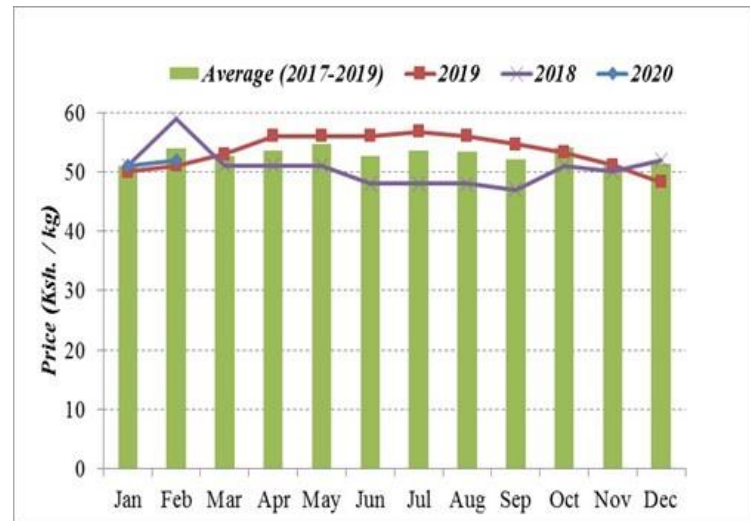


Figure 10: Current maize prices against LTA (2017-2019)

#### 4.2.1.1 Other outstanding observation

- The major staple food consumed and utilized in Wajir, is rice, beans, meat, milk, maize and spaghetti in the entire livelihood zone.
- **Livestock Price Ratio/Terms of Trade (TOT).**



- Currently, the terms of Trade remained stable as compared to previous month, where a pastoral household could access 66kg of maize as opposed to an LTA of 54kg, which is above the LTA.
- This stability was due to slight increase in goat prices and high supply in maize prices. the terms of trade are still favourable.
- Currently, the term of trade is above the long-term average and previous years month average. This indicates improvement in market.
- Livelihood with the highest ratio was reported in Wajir Town and lowest recorded in the rural areas. This is not normal at this time of the year.

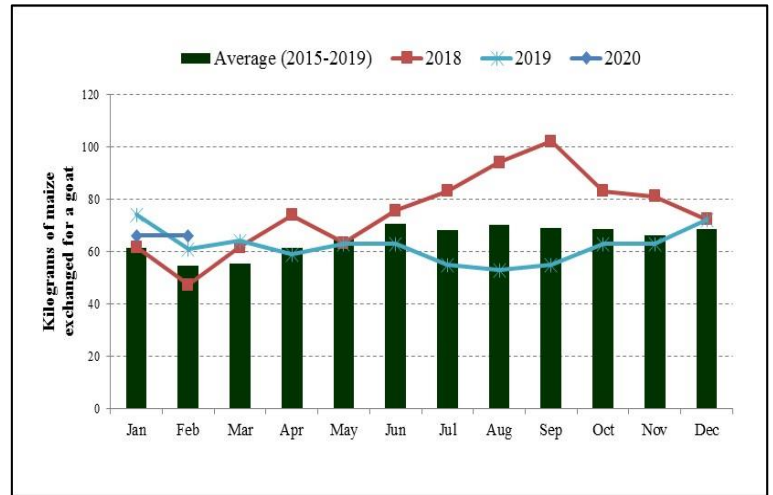


Figure11: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long-term (2015-2019)

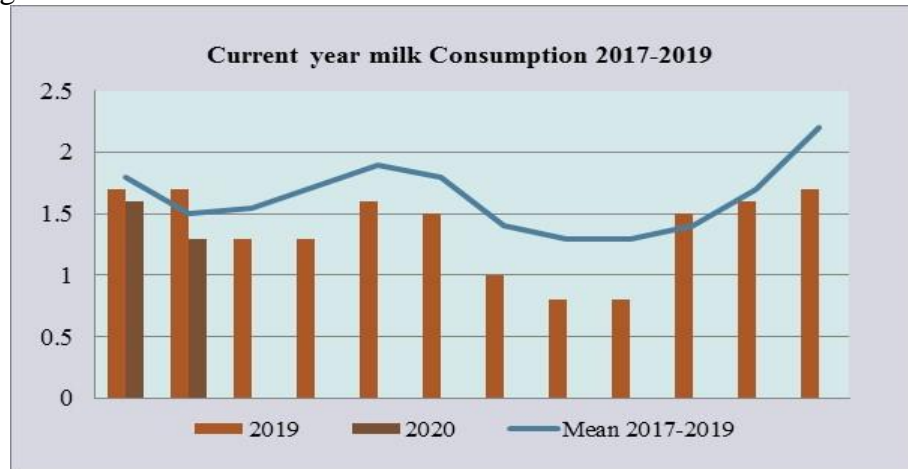
#### 4.4 Implication of the above indicators to food security

- Increase in market price will improve the purchasing power of pastoral households will lower the purchasing power of pastoral households thus affecting children under-fives

### 5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

#### 5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- Current average milk consumption per household per day decreased from 1.6litres in January 2020 to 1.4 litres in the month under review due to a slight decrease in milk production.
- Livestock species with the highest milk are Cattle and camel across the livelihood zones.
- Current average household milk consumption per household per day was below the long-term average and previous year average, this is normal at this time of the year.
- Trend and Quantity of milk consumption at household was normal as a result of reduced trekking distance



and good livestock body condition.

Figure12: A graph of current year milk consumption against the long-term (2017-2019)

## 5.2 :Food Consumption Score

- Pastoral livelihood zones are the proportion of households with poor food consumption score with 47.9 as compared to previous months of 44.4 and 12.9, while other livelihood zones are in borderline and acceptable food consumption. This shows that slight decline in Pastoral livelihood zones while others remained the same

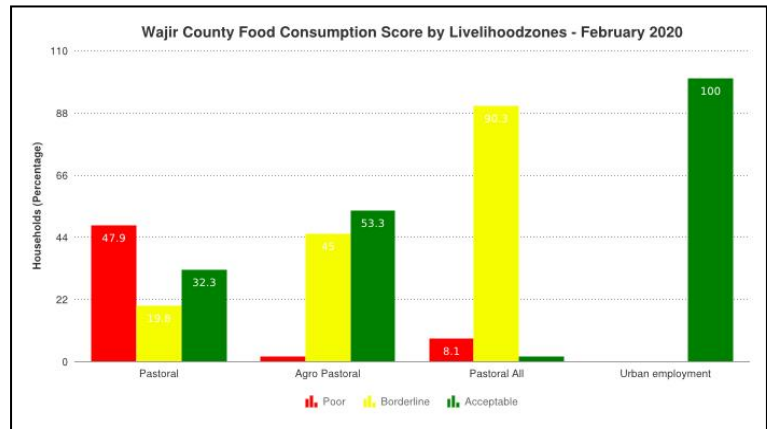


Figure 13: Food Consumption Score

### 5.3.1 Health and Nutrition Status

- A total of 664 children of under-five (6-59months) were sampled for both girls and boys and assessed for malnutrition using MUAC Tape. From the sampled children only 10.0% were at risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135 mm) as compared to previous month figure of 11.0% with no significant changes, This improvement in malnutrition was attributed adequate milk production at households, though malnutrition rates is still high when compared to normal.

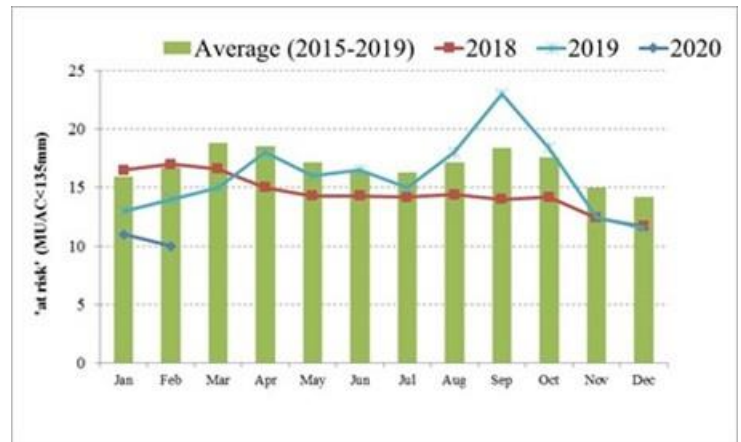


Figure 14: Nutritional status of children between 12-59 months against (2015-19) long-Term Average

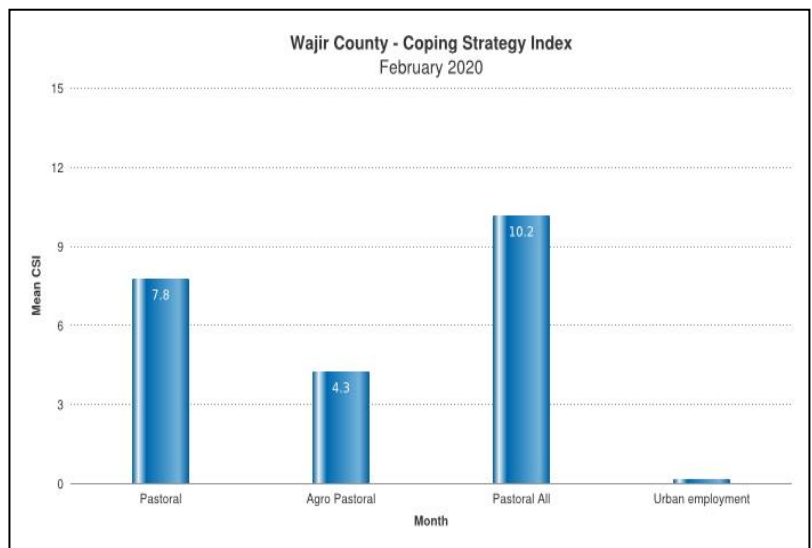
### 5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition in the month of February indicated 10.0 percent as opposed to previous month of 11.0 percent with no significant changes, this shows significant improvement in malnutrition when compared to previous years and Long term average .

### 5.3.2 COPING STRATEGY INDEXES

- The mean CSI for the county remained the same as compared to previous month with 7.4 in the month under review and 7.3 for previous month.

- Less coping strategies were employed in all livelihood zones except Pastoral all species that employed some coping, however, the strategies are less significant.
- Some of the strategies applied are: Borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relative, Reduced the quantity of food consumed by adult/mothers, relied on less preferred and less expensive food.



*Figure 15: Coping strategy*

## 6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

### 6.1 Non-food interventions.-Ongoing

- Sustainable food system Program by World Food Program-Ongoing

### 6.2 Food Aid.

- No Relief food by National Government and county government

## 7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

### 7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- No insecurity reported during month under review.
- .Bush fire was also reported

### 7.2 Migration

- Migrations are minimal, where Most of the livestock are with their normal grazing areas.

### 7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- The Long rains are likely to experience near-normal rainfall with a tendency to above-normal,
- Pasture and water resources are expected to be abundant for livestock.
- Forage and water sources are expected to last for the next 2-3months.
- Availability and accessibility of milk is likely to remain stable due to high milk production attributed to good pasture and browse
- .Livestock Prices are likely to improve and essential food commodities expected to remain stable throughout the season due to high supply in the market.

- Households purchasing power are likely to improve to at least average level as high prices are likely to counter balance above average stable food prices.
- Range land condition are likely to improve significantly due to near normal or above normal rainfall expected during the long rains.
- Trekking distance to water points are likely to increase up to mid-march 2020 and thereafter improve during the long rains 2020.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Health& Nutrition.**

- Imam coverage survey by Save the children
- Provision of water treatment chemical
- Scale of HINI
- Active Case finding on Imam
- Disease Surveillance

### **Livestock Sector.**

- Livestock disease Surveillance by the department-Ongoing
- Training of pasture committees on pasture management
- Vaccination and treatment of livestock on PPR and CCPP

### **Water Sector.**

- Construction of under ground water tank
- Purchase of submersible pumps
- Training of Water user association
- Repairing and maintenance of boreholes

### **Agriculture.**

- Procurement of pump sets to the farmers.
- Provision of certified seeds
- Intensifying disease and pest Surveillance.