



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

EW MARCH PHASE 2020

Drought Status: **NORMAL**



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

Rainfall.

Wajir County received some little rainfall in the month under review, though the county was hot and dry weather throughout the day and night.

Vegetation condition:

Current VCI indicated vegetation greenness above normal with a score of 63.45 as opposed to 83.69, this showed slight decline in vegetation but within the normal value, with no significant changes on vegetation cross the county,

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production indicators:

- Livestock body condition was good, except formal/Informal livelihood zones that showed fair to poor condition, No migrations reported, slight decline in milk production per household per day.

Access indicators

- Unaffordable terms of trade, low market prices, slight increase in milk consumption, increase in maize prices and Trekking distance remained constant.

Utilization Indicator

- Percentage of children under five at risk of malnutrition remained stable as compared to previous month with 10.0% due to availability of 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 6.50 as compared to previous month figure of 7.4.

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
Biophysical Indicators	value	Worsening
Rainfall (% of Normal)	0.0	80 -120
VCI-3Month	63.45	>35
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Good	Normal
Crop production	Fair	Good
Milk Production	2.3	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death due to drought	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	60	>66
Milk Consumption	1.5	>3
Return Distance to water source	5.0	<5 Km
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	10.0	<6.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	6.50	<0.95

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains harvests ▪ Short dry spell ▪ Reduced milk yields ▪ Increased HH Food Stocks ▪ migrations ▪ Land preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planting/Weeding ▪ Long rai Calving Rate ▪ Milk Yields Increase ▪ Breeding period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long rains harvests ▪ A long dry spend preparation ▪ Increased HH Food Stocks ▪ Kidding (Sept) ▪ Migrations ▪ Herd separations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains ▪ Planting/weeding ▪ High birth rates ▪ Wedding
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1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITION

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- Wajir County recorded some little rainfall in the month under review, though the county was dry and hot throughout, except some few days of the month.

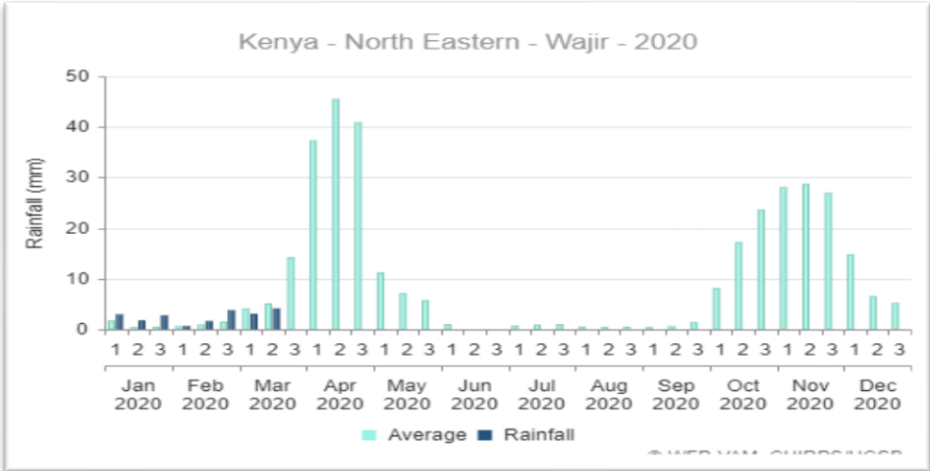


Figure 1: Rainfall Source: WFP-VAM/CHIRPS/UCSB

1.1.1 Amount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

- Some little rainfall was received in the month under review with no impacts on the ground, though the county was hot and dry throughout the month.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

Currently, average vegetation cover indexes across the livelihood zones indicated vegetation greenness above normal with a value of 63.45 when compared to previous month score of 83.69, this showed slight decline in vegetation but within the normal value, while all other sub-counties depicted vegetation greenness above normal as a result of adequate vegetation. This is expected to improve due to expected rainfall.

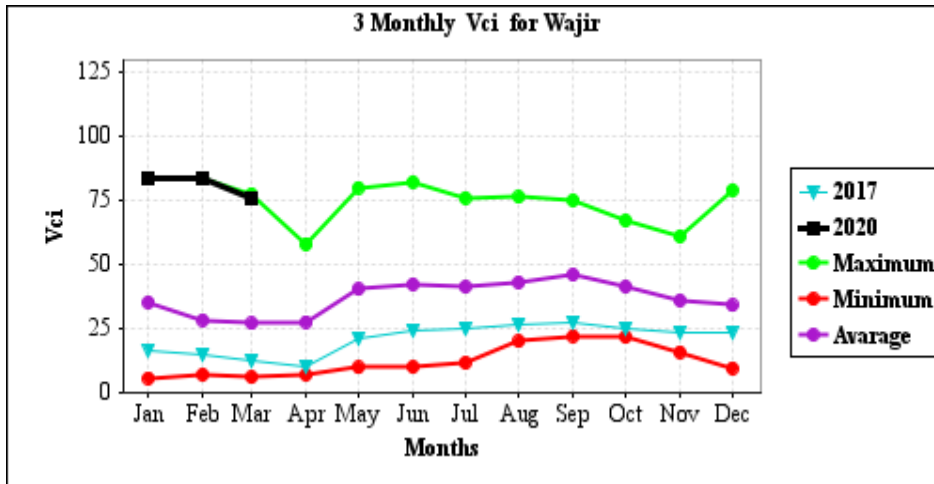


Figure 2: A chart of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir during the month of March 2020.

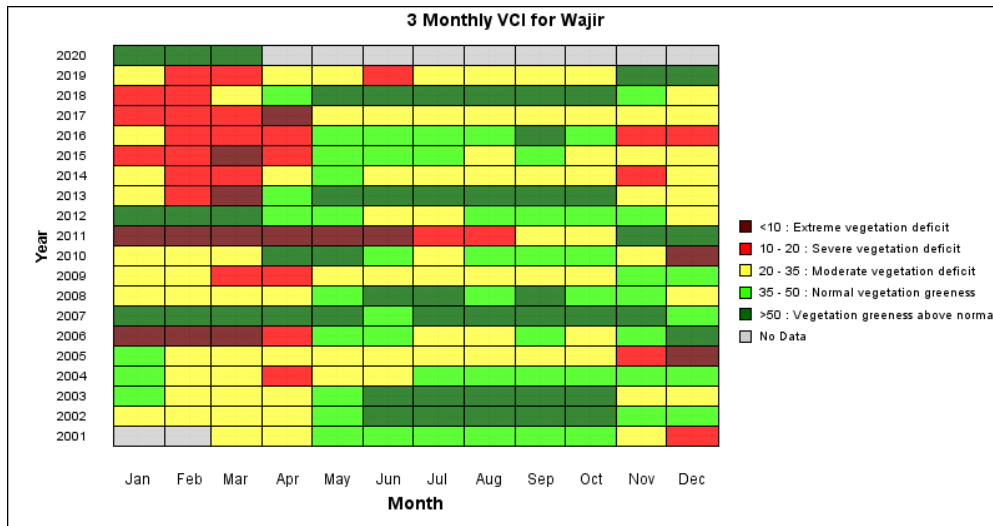


Figure 3: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir during the month of March 2020.

2.1.2 Pasture

- Currently, Pasture condition in the county ranges between good to fair, where 65 percent of the community reported to be good and 35 percent reported to be fair across the livelihood zones.
- Pasture situation in the county slight deteriorated as compared to previous month, though it had no significant changes on the available pasture in the county as a result of above normal rainfall witnessed during OND 2019.
- Available pasture is likely to last for aduration of two to three months attributed to available pasture in the county.
- Quality and Quantity of pasture is good across the livelihood zones.
- No constraints reported during the month under review.
- All the livelihood zones across the county recorded high proportion of pasture except few areas that was destroyed by bush fire.

2.1.3 Browse

- Browse situation in the county ranges between good to fair, where most of the pastoralists reported to be good and others reported to be fair, except areas that were destroyed by locust that showed poor condition. As opposed to the previous month browse condition slightly declined from good to fair, this was due to the locust inversion and on-going dry spell.
- 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

- Main water sources used in the county by both human and livestock are Water pans, boreholes and shallow well, where most of the pastoralist are using Water pan, borehole and shallow well. Although few water pans have dried up in the entire county.
- Currently, In comparison to previous month the condition of water in the county remained the same across the livelihood zones, except few water pans that dried up in some parts of the county as a result of ground seepage and evaporation. This stability of water was attributed by enhanced rainfall during the last season.
- Available water is expected to last for the next two to three months due to recharge of all water sources.

Household access and Utilization

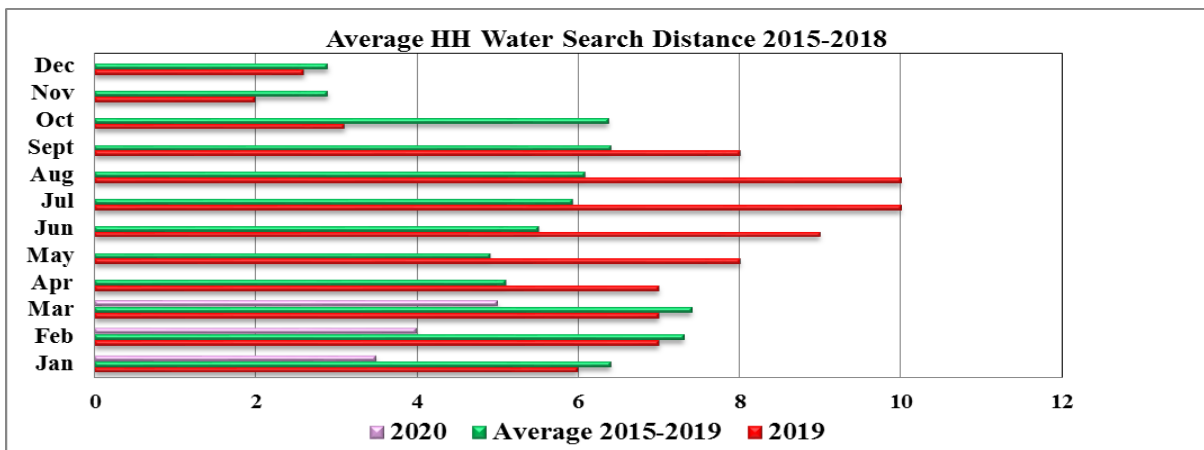


Figure 4: Current Return Distance to Water Sources against 2015-2019 average

- Currently, average return distance from household to water sources increased from 4.0km in February 2020 to 5.0km in the month under review but is with the normal range. This increase was as a result of slight deterioration of water sources.
- Current average household return distance is below the long-term average and previous month average, this is due to enhanced rainfall received during previous season thus recharged all water points.
- Average water consumption per person per day is normal as compared to previous month due to available water. This is normal at this time of the year.
- The proportion of households that treat water is too with only some few households in urban using aqua tabs while others few others use boiling methods.

2.2.2 Livestock access

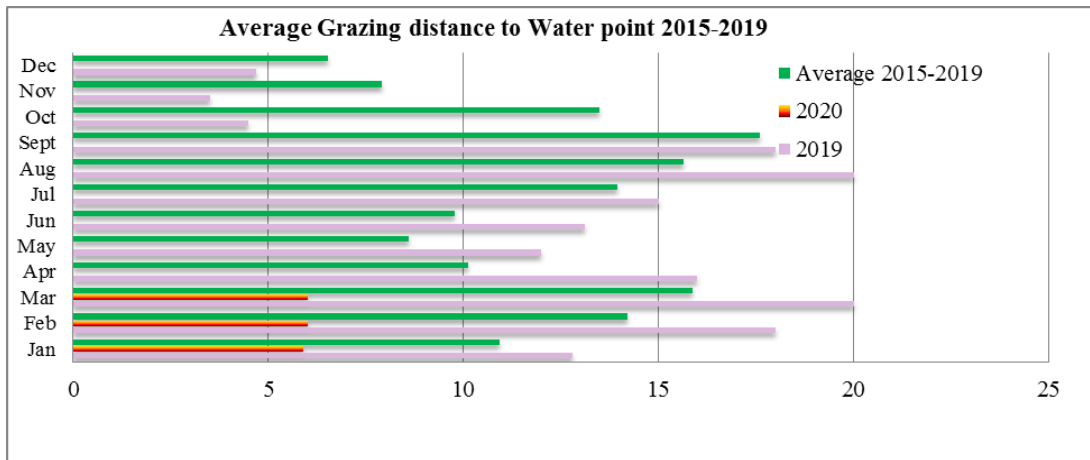


Figure 5: Current Distance from Grazing to Water Sources against 2015-2019 average

- Current trekking average return distance from grazing area to water sources remain constant as compared to previous month which indicated 6.0km, which is within the normal ranges. This is due to enhanced rainfall received during OND, 2019, thus reduced trekking distance to grazing area to water source.

- Current average grazing distance to water sources is below the long term average and previous year's month average; this is due to adequate pasture, browse and water.
- Trend and frequency of watering livestock by species varies where for goat is 1-2 days, cattle-every one day and Camel 7-14 days.
- 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

- Livestock body condition in the county for all species showed to be good across the livelihood zones, except for cattle and sheep in the formal and informal livelihood zones that showed to be fair to poor compared to a normal of good due to inadequate and poor regeneration of pasture and browse in the major towns.
- As compared to previous month, the body condition of livestock has remained the same due to available forage and water that led to reduced trekking distance of livestock across the county.
- When compared to similar previous period, current livestock body condition are above normal due to adequate pasture and water attributed to enhanced rainfall during OND, 2019.
- 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 2.4litres in February 2020 to 2.3litres 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 dry spell with no significant changes in production.

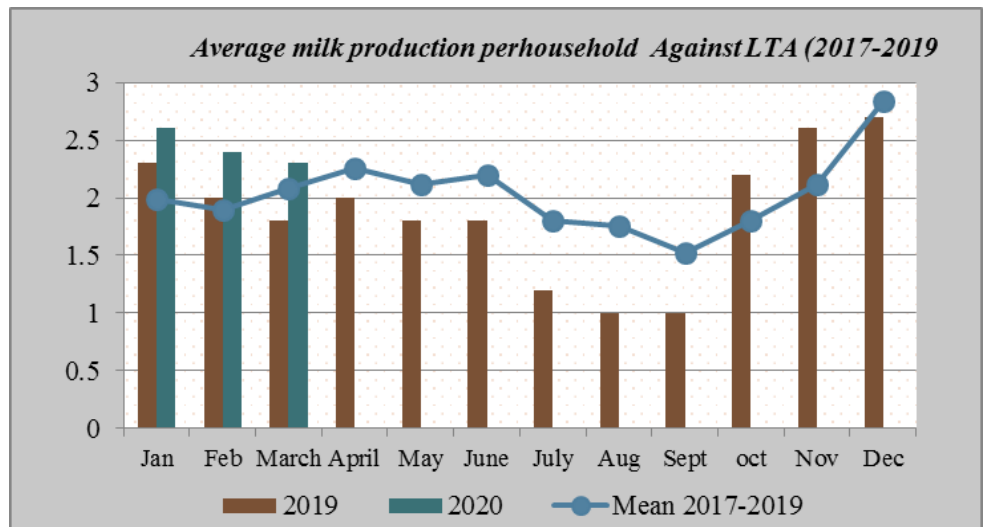


Figure 6: A graph showing current average milk production for Wajir against (2017-2019) mean

- Current average Milk production per household per day is equals to the long term average and previous month average as a result of available milk attributed to good pasture, browse and water.
- 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 prepared their land and ready for plant.

IMPLICATION OF THE ABOVE INDICATORS TO FOOD SECURITY

- Available vegetation and water will improve livestock body condition thus improve the purchasing power of the households.

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 above the long-term average and previous year's average as a result of good livestock body condition attributed to good market.
- Highest average prices were reported in the urban areas and lowest recorded in the rural areas.

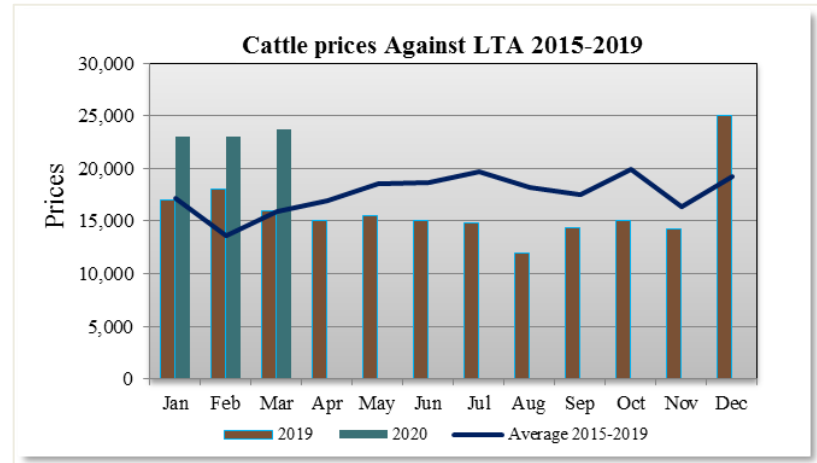


Figure 7: Current cattle prices against LTA 2015-2019

4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- Currently, average prices of goat decreased from kshs 3,426 in February 2020 to 3,305 in the month under review as a result of high supply and low demand in the market.
- Current average prices is above long-term average but below previous year's average as compared to normal of kshs.2,754 for the LTA and kshs 3400 for the previous month year price.
- The highest prices of livestock were reported in wajir town and lowest in the rural area.

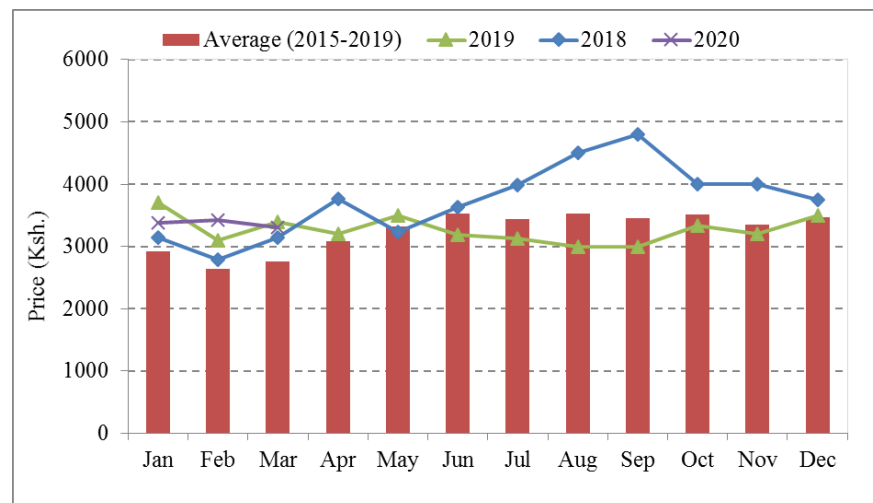


Figure 8: Current Goat prices against LTA of 2015-2019

4.1.3 Camel price

- Current average price of four-year-old Camel recorded kshs 39,500 as compared to previous month of kshs 40,000 with slight decline in prices due to high supply and low demand 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, showing slight improvement in market price as compared to the LTA and previous years price.

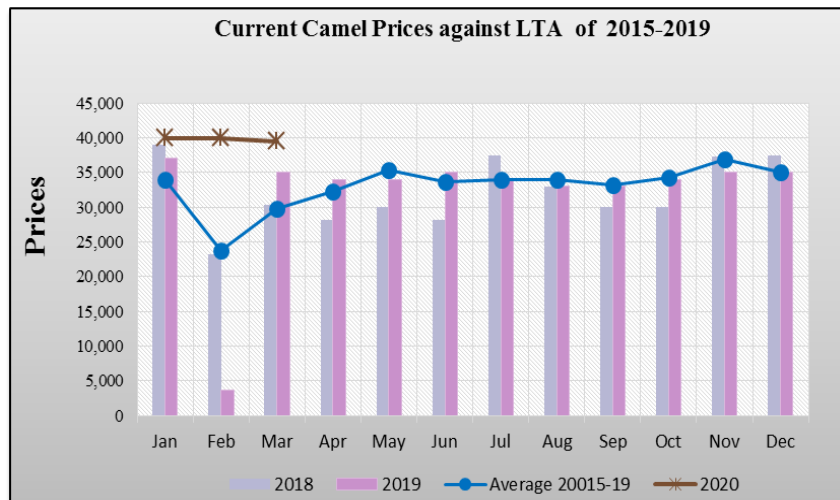


Figure 9: Current Camel Prices against LTA of 2015-2019

4.2 CROP PRICE

4.2.1 Maize

- Currently, average maize prices slightly increased from kshs 52 in February 2020 to kshs 55 in the month under, as a result of high demand and low supply in the market, since most of the commodities are outsourced from other markets.
- Currently, average prices are 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.

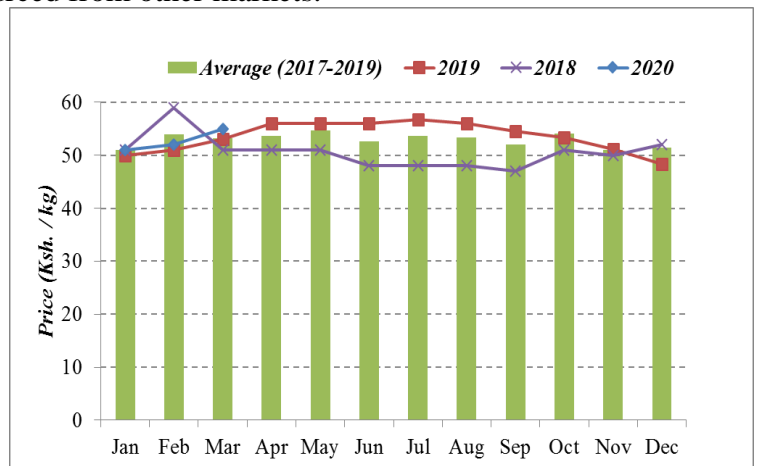


Figure 10: Current maize prices against LTA (2017-2019)

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.

4.3 Livestock Price Ratio/Terms of Trade (TOT).

- Currently, the terms of Trade decreased from 66kg in February 2020 to 60kg in the month under review as opposed to previous month, where household could access 60kg of maize as opposed to an LTA of 56kg, which is above the LTA, This was attributed to decline in goat prices and increase in maize price.
- Terms of trade for the county is not favourable as compared to normal.
- Currently, the term of trade is above the long-term average but below previous year's month average.
- Livelihood with the highest ratio was reported in Wajir Town and lowest recorded in the rural areas. This is normal at this time of the year.

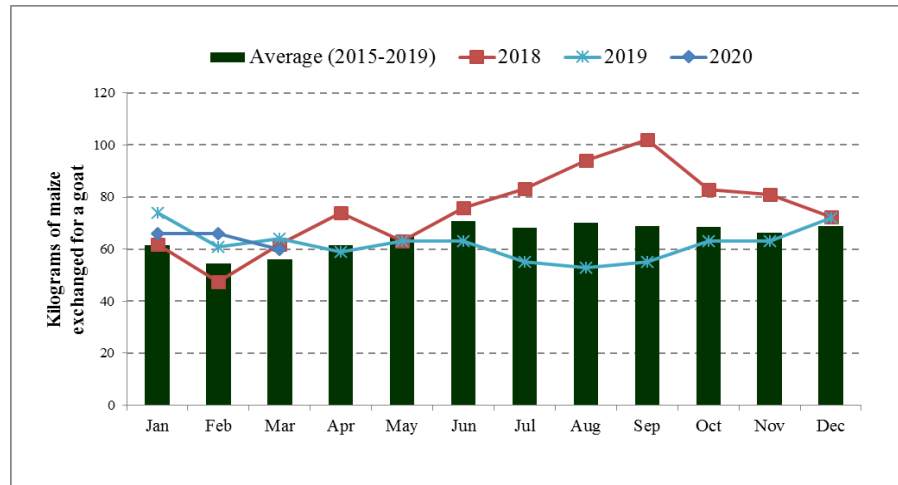


Figure11: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long-term (2015-2019)

4.4 Implication of the above indicators to food security

- Unfavorable terms of trade will lower the purchasing power of households.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- Currently, average milk consumption per household per day increased slightly from 1.4 litres in February 2020 to 1.5 litres in the month under review due to available milk production, attributed available pasture, water and good livestock body condition.
- Livestock species with the highest milk production are Cattle and camel across the livelihood zones.
- Current average household milk consumption per household per day is equal to the long-term average but above previous year average, this indicates that there an improvement in consumption.
- Trend and Quantity of milk consumption at household is normal due to available milk production.

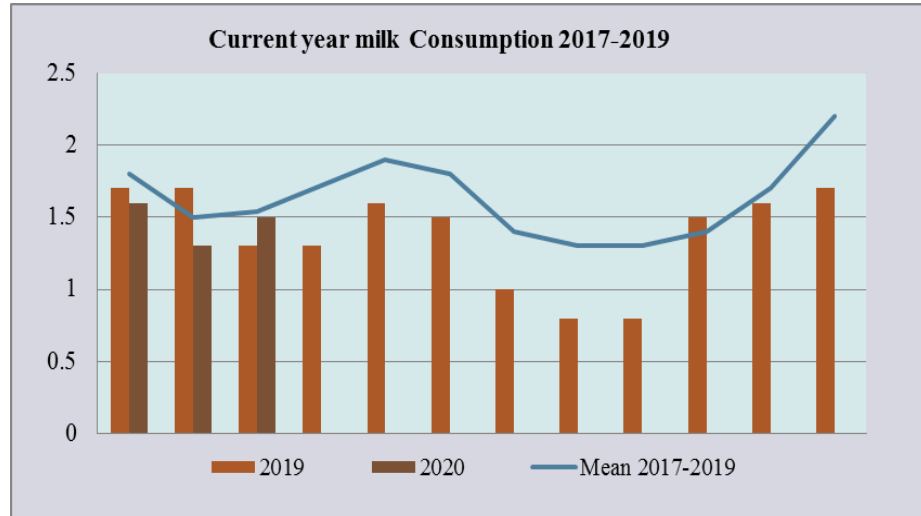


Figure12: A graph of current year milk consumption against the long-term (2017-2019)

5.2 :Food Consumption Score

- Most of the livelihood zones across the county are in borderline and acceptable with a score of 27.8,41.7 3.4 and 34.4,58.3 and 91.7 respectively, Except a proportion of pastoral household livelihood zones with a food consumption score of 37.8 as compared to previous month figure of 47.9. This indicates an improvement in food consumption.

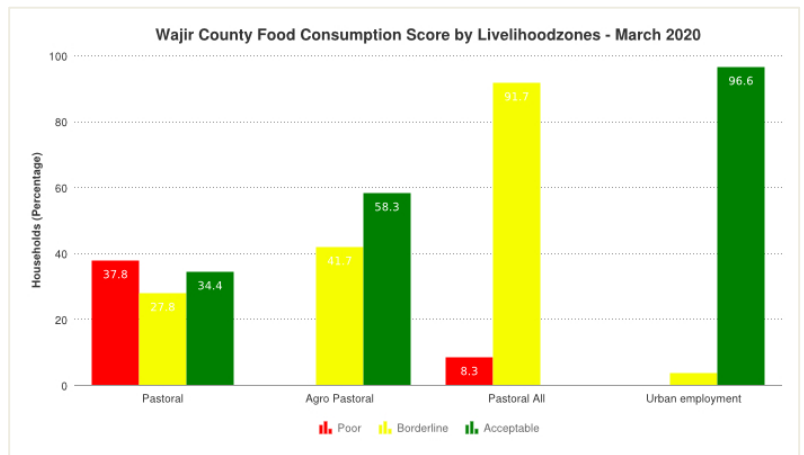


Figure 13: Food Consumption Score

5.3.1 Health and Nutrition Status

- A total of 649 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 which also recorded a value of 10.0%. This remained stable due to available milk production at households, though malnutrition rates is still high when compared to normal.

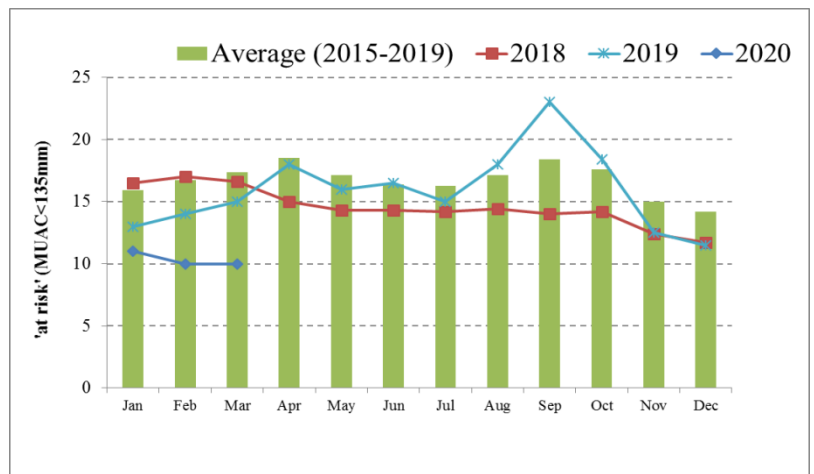


Figure 14: Nutritional status of children between 12-59 months against (2015-19) long-Term Average

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition in the month of March remained the same as compared to previous month with a figure of 10.0 percent as a result of improvement in milk production and enhanced rainfall received during the previous season. This shows that there is significant improvement in malnutrition.

5.3.2 COPING STRATEGY INDEXES

- The mean CSI for the county significantly decreased from 7.4 in February 2020 to 6.50 in the month under review.
- All the livelihood zones in the county employed less coping strategies except pastoral all species in Wajir west 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.

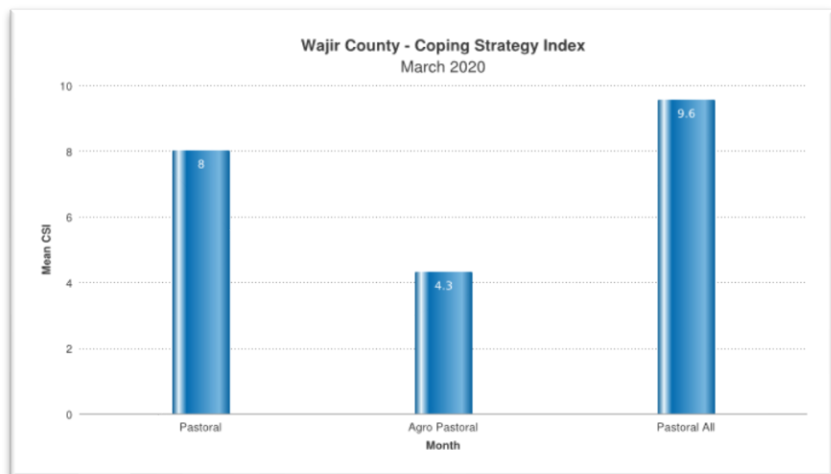


Figure 15: Coping strategy

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 Non-food interventions.-Ongoing

- Sustainable food system Program by World Food Program-Ongoing
- Harmonized Registration Exercise-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

- Most of the livestock are within their grazing zones. No Migrations reported in the entire county.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- The Long rains are expected to be normal to near normal across the livelihood zones.
- Pasture and browse condition are likely to be good to very good across the county.
- Recharge of water sources are expected to be good due to normal to near normal rainfall.
- Availability and accessibility of milk is likely to be good thus improve nutrition status of child under-fives.
- Prices of food commodities are expected to increase due to the pandemic disease that is affecting the entire world.
- Forage and water sources are expected to last for the next 2-3months.
- Households purchasing power are likely to decline due to the lockdown caused by the pandemic diseases.
- Range land condition are likely to improve significantly due to near normal or above normal rainfall expected during the long rains.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Health& Nutrition.

- Scale up of HINI
- Provision of Nutrition Supplements(Super-cereals and RUSF) by World food program
- Active Case finding on Imam
- Disease Surveillance

Livestock Sector.

- Vaccination and treatment of livestock on PPR and CCPP
- Training and formation of pasture management committee.
- Livestock disease Surveillance by the department of Livestock-On-going

Water Sector.

- Provision of water treatment chemicals
- Repairing and maintenance of boreholes-On-going
- Training of Water user association-On-going
- Construction of underground water tank-On-going

Agriculture.

- Provision of assorted tools to the farmers by world food programs
- Intensifying disease and pest Surveillance.