

**National Drought Management Authority
WAJIR COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR MARCH 2019**



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



MARCH EW PHASE 2019



Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

Rainfall Report

Rainfall Report:

The County was dry, hot and sunny throughout the month; however, some little rains were received in some parts, though had no impact on pasture, browse and water. Distribution was poor in both time and space.

Vegetation condition:

Currently the VCI in the county still showed severe vegetation deficit recording 17.91 as compared to the previous month of 18.9, However Wajir East, North and Tarbaj indicated moderate vegetation deficit while Wajir South, Wajir West and Eldas indicated severe vegetation deficit showing a worsening trend in the county.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production indicators:

- Livestock body condition ranges between fair to poor.
- Pasture and browse condition is fair to poor.
- No livestock death reported during the month.
- Migration of livestock within the county was reported while others come from Mandera in search of pasture and browse.
- Significant decline in milk production

Access indicators

- Increased trekking distance, Terms of trade still not favourable, Poor market prices, decline in milk consumption, , cost of water was normal but high in some livelihood zones

Utilization Indicators

- Percentage of children under five at risk of malnutrition

Early Warning Phase Classification

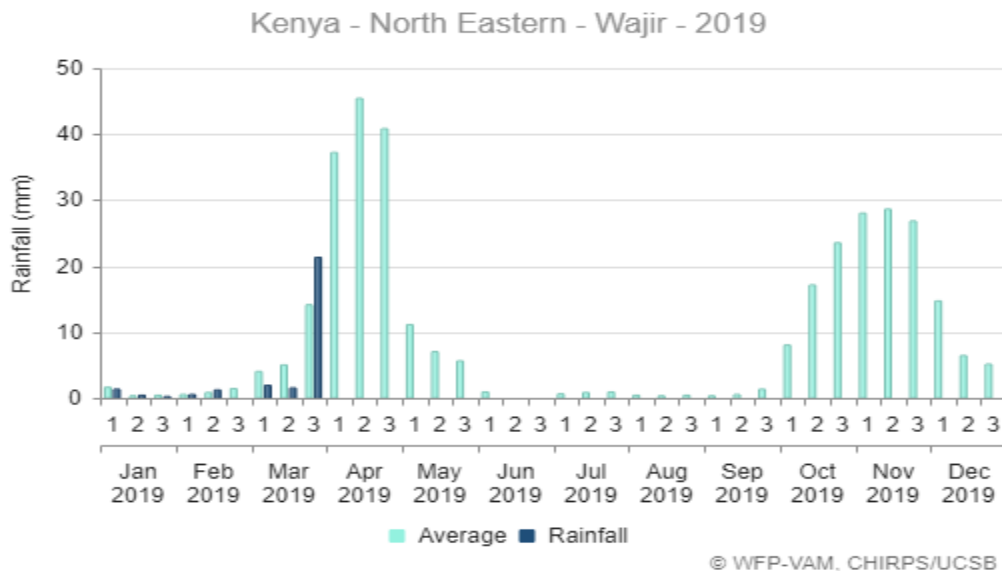
Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Alert	Worsening
Pastoral cattle	Alarm	worsening
Pastoral-all species	Alarm	worsening
Pastoral camel	Alert	Worsening
Informal employment	Normal	worsening
County	Alarm	worsening
Biophysical Indicators	value	worsening
Rainfall (% of Normal)	20mm	80 -120
VCI-3Month	17.91	>35
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Fair-poor	Normal
Crop production	Poor	Good
Milk Production	1.8	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	64	>66
Milk Consumption	1.3	>3
Return Distance to water source	7	<5 Km
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	15.0	<6.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	11.41	<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 rains ▪ High Calving Rate ▪ Milk Yields Increase ▪ Breeding period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long rains harvests ▪ A long dry spell ▪ Land preparation ▪ Increased HH Food Stocks ▪ Kidding (Sept) ▪ Migrations ▪ Herd separations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains ▪ Planting/weeding ▪ High birth rates ▪ Weeding

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITION

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- Wajir County was largely dry, hot and sunny throughout the month, although some little rainfall was experienced in some parts of the county mainly Khorof Harer, Diff, Gurar, Buna, Hadado and Wajir Airport recording 35mm,29mm,27mm,26.5mm,26.5mm and 17.4mm respectively.



1.1.1 Amount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

- Most parts of the county was generally dry, hot and sunny throughout the day and night. However, some little rainfall was recorded during the month under review even though the distribution of rainfall was poor in both time and space.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

- Currently vegetation cover indexes in the county still indicated severe vegetation deficit with a score of 17.91 as opposed to previous month of 18.95. with Pastoral-Cattle livelihood zone in Wajir South, Pastoral-all-species in Wajir West and Eldas showing severe vegetation Deficit.
- Other sub-counties indicating moderate vegetation deficit showing a significant deficit.
- The Vegetation condition is expected to continue to worsen if the rain will not start on time.

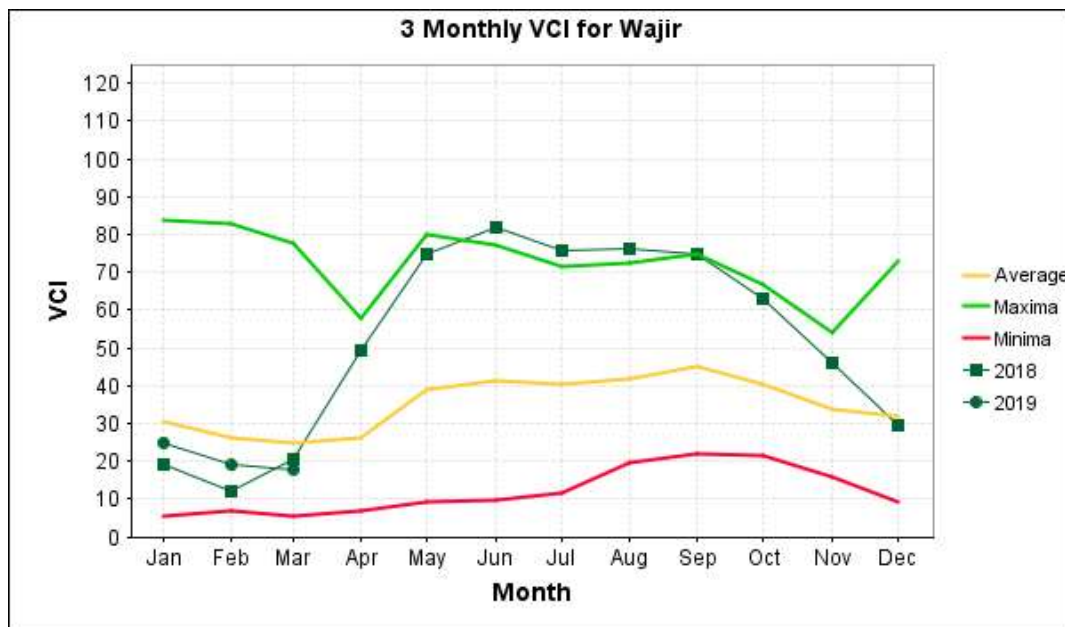


Figure 1: chart of Wajir County overall 3-monthly VCI during the month of March 2019

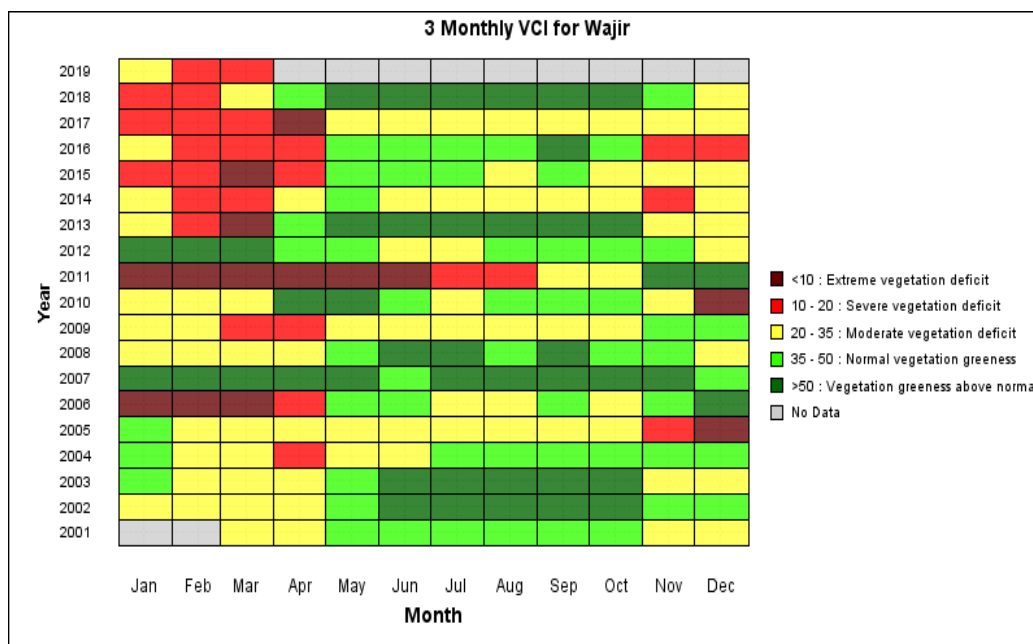


Figure 2: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir County during the month of March 2019

2.1.2 Pasture

- Pasture condition in the county showed to be still fair to poor in all livelihood zones.
- In comparison to the previous month, pasture situation has significantly worsened due to depletion of pasture as the short rains was depressed in all the livelihood zones.
- Available pasture is likely to last for a period of less than a month for agro-pastoral and Pastoral Camel, while Pastoral all species and Pastoral Cattle livelihood zones lasting for one week. The group with the highest proportion of pasture was recorded in Agro-pastoral and pastoral camel livelihood zones due to enhanced rainfall received during short rains.
- No constraints reported during the month under review.
- Pasture situation in all livelihood varies, where Wajir North and Wajir East showed highest proportion while lowest recorded in Pastoral all species and Pastoral Cattle in Wajir West and Wajir South.

2.1.3 Browse

- Current browse condition still ranges between fair to poor in the entire county, where 55% of the community reported fair condition and 45 percent of the pastoralist reporting poor condition mainly in Wajir south, West and Eldas.
- Browse situation in the county has deteriorated as compared to the previous month due to poor rainfall experienced during OND 2018.
- The available browse situation is likely to last for a period of one months for agro-pastoral and Pastoral Camel livelihood zones, while pastoral all species and pastoral cattle is expected to last for less than a months .
- highest proportion was recorded in Agro-pastoral livelihood zones in Wajir North and pastoral camel livelihood zones in Wajir East, while lowest reported in Pastoral cattle in Wajir South, Pastoral all species in Wajir west and Eldas.
- No constraints recorded during the month under review.
- The condition of browse Varies according to livelihood zones where highest browse was reported in Wajir East, Tarbaj and Wajir North and lowest reported in Wajir South and Wajir West.

2.2 Water Source

2.2.1 Sources

- Current main Water sources used by both human and livestock are Boreholes, Water pans, shallow wells and Water Trucking. Where 60 percent of the pastoralist depend on boreholes, 20 percent shallow wells, 5 percent Dams/Pans, and 15 percent Water Trucking. Most households in Wajir Township use shallow wells while the rest of the sub-counties and rural settlements use either borehole and water pans.
- Current water situation in all the livelihood zones has deteriorated as opposed to previous month as a result of dry up of water pans due to depressed rainfall experienced during OND 2018.
- Available water is expected to last for a period one month in the agro-pastoral and Pastoral camel livelihood zones in Wajir North and Wajir East, While Pastoral cattle and Pastoral all species livelihood zones will last for less than a month.

2.2.2 Household access and Utilization.

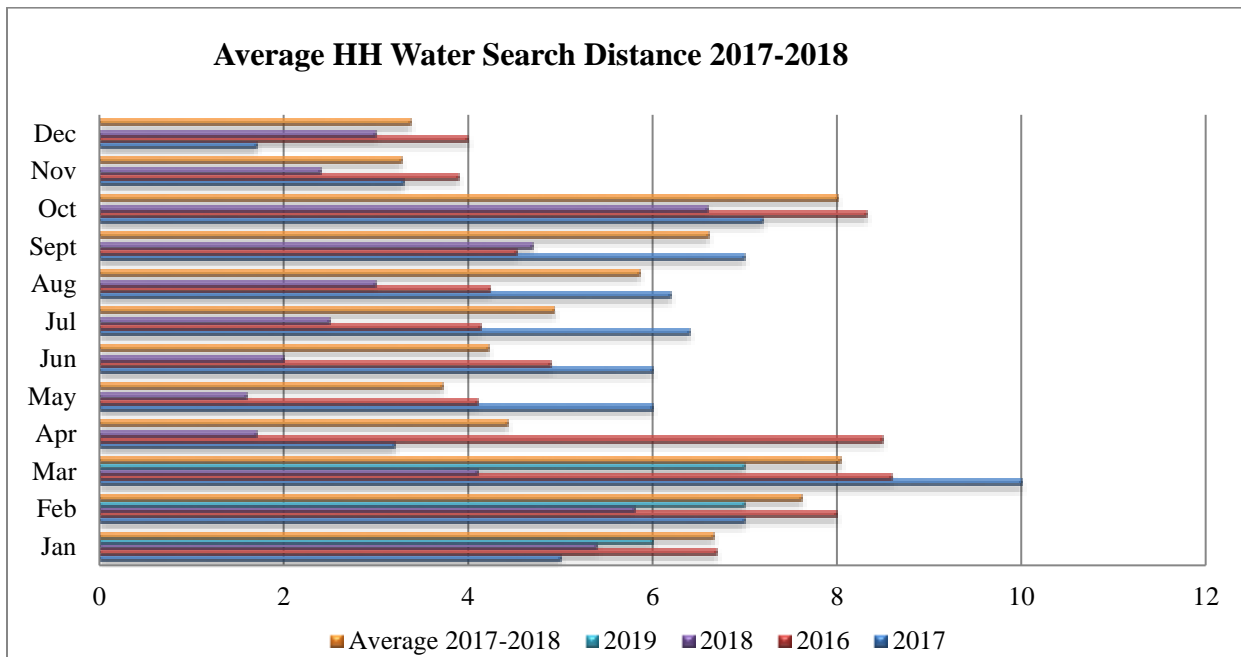


Figure 5: A chart indicating return distance to water sources against 2016-2017 average

- Current average return distance from household to main water source remained stable due to slight recharge of water pans in some parts of the livelihood zones though had no impact on pasture and browse.
- Livelihood zones with water stress in the county are Wajir South, Wajir West, Tarbaj and Eldas and Lowest was reported in Wajir North and Wajir East.
- Consumption of water per person per day was normal (15 liters-20liters) in agro-pastoral and pastoral camel livelihood zone while in pastoral cattle and pastoral all species was below normal which have water stress but this is normal at this time of the year.
- The proportion of households that treat water is too little with only some few households in urban area using boiling methods and tabs.

2.2.3 Livestock access

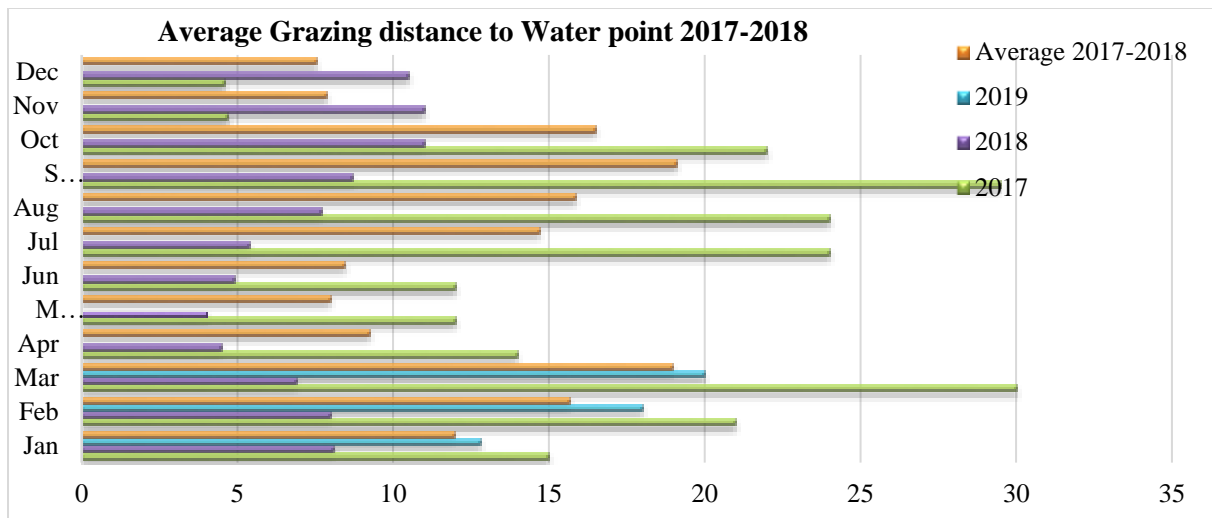


Figure 6: A graph indicating current grazing distance against (2017-2018) average.

- Currently average livestock trekking distance from grazing area to water point significantly increased from 18km in February to 20km in the month under review due to depletion of pasture, browse and Water.
- In comparison to previous month, the distance increased due to the long dry spell and depletion of water source attributed to depressed rainfall experienced during OND 2018. This is normal at this time of the year.
- The frequency of watering interval for the County increased significantly as compared to the normal due to increased trekking distance attributed to drying up of water pan and depletion of pasture and browse.
- Watering intervals for all species remained the same for goat and sheep is 2-4 days, Cattle 3-4days as compared to normal of 1-2 days whereas for camel is 8-15days as compared to normal of 7 days for the entire livelihood zones.
- Highest grazing distance was reported in Pastoral cattle, Pastoral all species and Eldas and lowest reported in Wajir North, Wajir East and Tarbaj.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock production

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Livestock body condition still ranges between fair to poor in all livelihood zones where cattle, goats and camels are in fair condition while sheep is in poor condition in pastoral-cattle zone and pastoral-all-species due to inadequate and poorly distributed rains received that led to poor regeneration of pasture and browse.
- Current body condition deteriorated as compared to previous month due to depletion of pasture, browse and water stress attributed to poor rainfall performance during OND 2018.
- In Comparison to the current condition to similar previous period, livestock body condition is currently good showing improvement.
- Livestock body condition varies according to livelihood zones, where most of the livestock species are in fair condition while others are in poor condition.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Confirmed cases of livestock diseases such as PPR and CCPP across all livelihood zones but vaccination is going on.

3.1.3 Milk Production

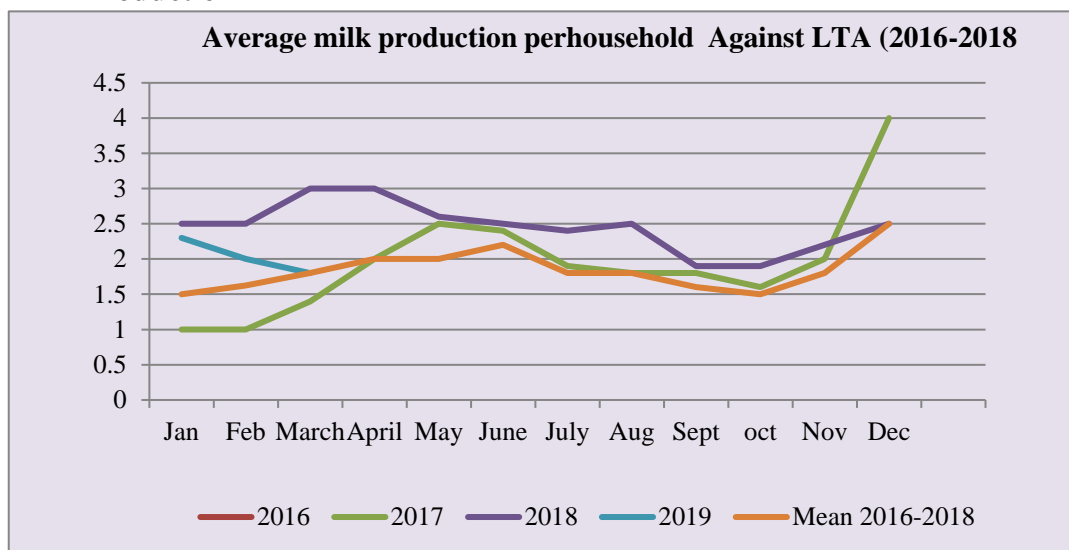


Figure 7: A graph showing current average milk production for Wajir against (2016-2018) mean

- Average milk production per household per day remained the same in the month under review as compared to the previous month, which also recorded 2.0litres. The highest livestock species that produce milk are cattle and camel
- Current milk production remained the same due to low milk production as result of weakening of pasture, browses and increased trekking distance.
- Trend and Quantity of Milk production decline when compared to the previous same period. However, above the long-term average showing the production is good.
- Pastoral Camel and Pastoral cattle livelihood zones reported highest milk production followed by Agro-pastoral livelihood zones.
- Milk production is above the long-term average but below previous month average due to increased trekking distance and depletion of pasture and browse.

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, and others like Kales, Watermelon. No harvest was experienced during the month and farmers have already prepared their land, just waiting the onset of the long rains

IMPLICATION OF THE ABOVE INDICATORS TO FOOD SECURITY

- Good livestock body condition will increase availability and accessibility of milk thus making children under five to be stable.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

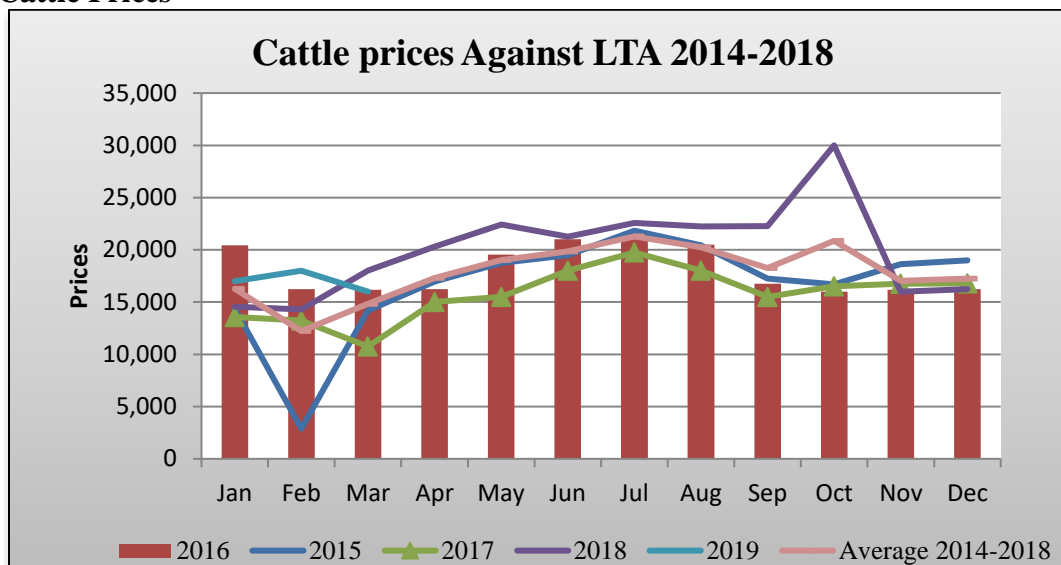


Figure 89: A graph of current cattle price against the long-term (2014-18) mean prices

- Current average price of four-year-old medium size Cattle decreased from Kshs 18,000 in February to 16,000 in the month under review due high supply and low demand in the market.
- Livelihood zones with the highest prices reported in Wajir town and lowest prices reported at the rural areas.
- Current average cattle price is above the long-term average but below previous month average showing poor market.

4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

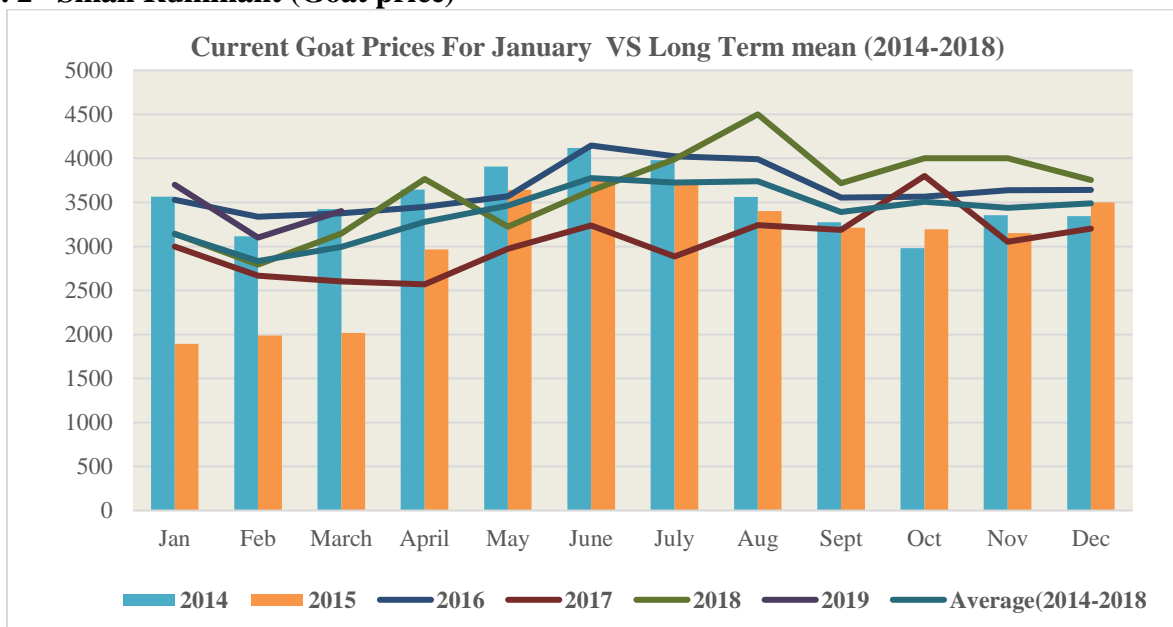


Figure 9: A graph of current Goat price against the long-term (2014-18) mean price

- Current average goat price slight increased from Ksh 3100 in February to Ksh 3,400 in the month under review as a result of high demand.

- Current prices are above the long-term average but below previous month average, showing an improvement in the market as compared to previous year and LTA 2018.
- Livelihood zones with the highest market price were reported in Wajir Town and lowest reported in Wajir North and Tarbaj.
- The shoat price is normal for the year but improved as compared to previous years prices due to good livestock body condition.

4.1.3 Camel price

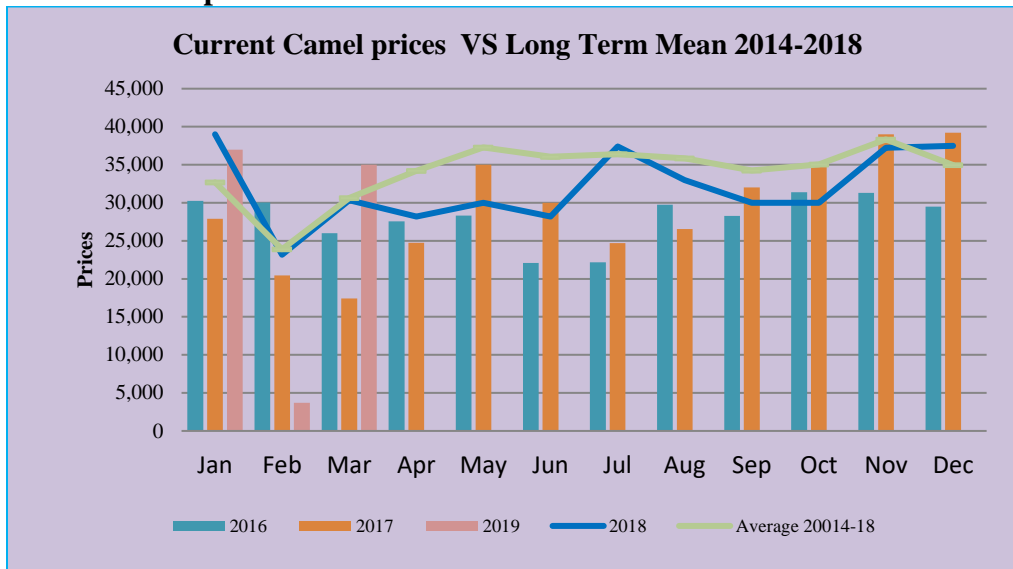


Figure 10: A graph of current camel prices against the long term mean (2014-2018)

- Current average price of four-year-old Camel decreased from kshs 37,000 to 35,000 in the month under review compared to the previous month due to high supply in the market and low demand thus making the prices unfavourable.
- 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 (LTA) and previous year's price thus making market prices favourable as compared to previous year's price and current.
- Compared to the previous three years average camel prices are normal and are within the range.

4.2 CROP PRICE

4.2.1 Maize

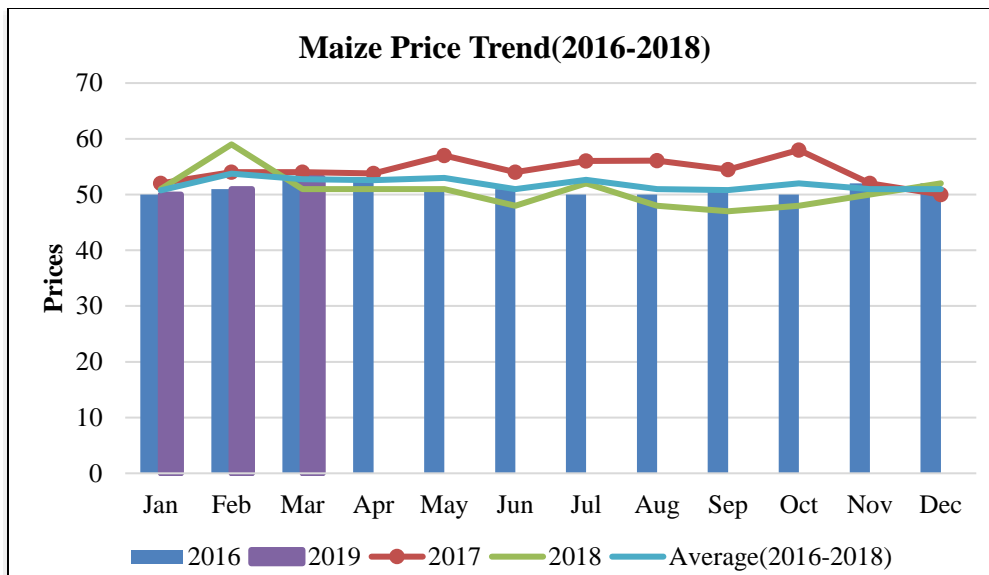


Figure 11: A graph of Current Maize Trend (2016-2018)

- Current average maize prices increased from Kshs 51 in February to ksh 53 in the month under review, due to less supply from the outside market and more demand thus increasing the price.
- Highest prices of maize were reported in the rural areas and lowest reported in urban towns.
- Current maize price is equal to the long term average but above previous year average showing an increase in maize prices.

4.2.1.1 Other outstanding observation

- Maize been not staple food consumed in Wajir, Major staple food utilized are rice, beans, meat, milk and spaghetti in all the livelihood zones.

4.3 Livestock Price Ratio/Terms of Trade (TOT)

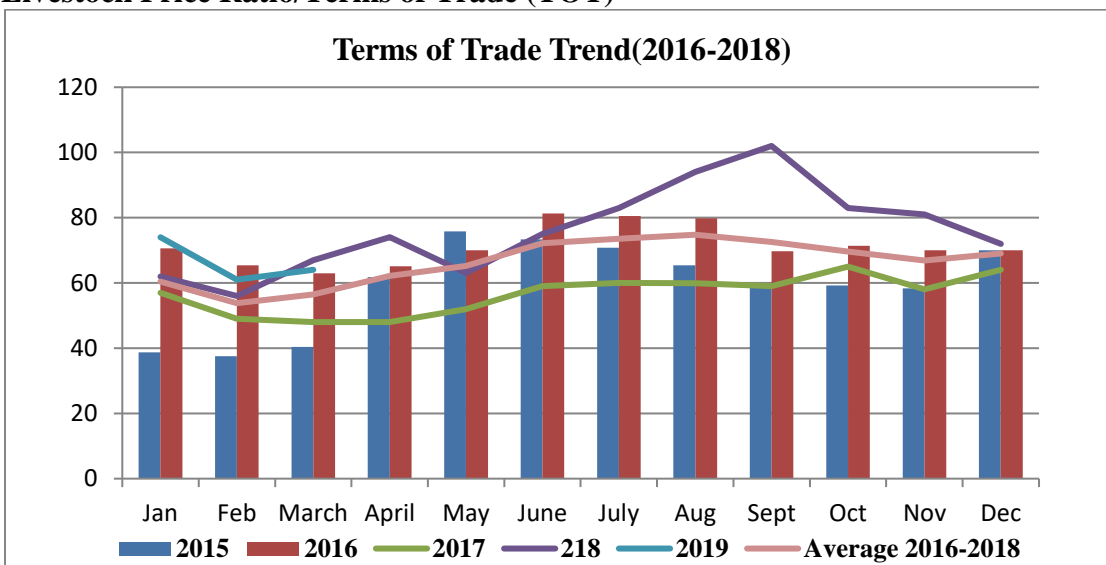


Figure12: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long term (2016-2018) mean price.

- Current household terms of trade slightly increased from 61kgs in February to 64kg in the month under review due to increased livestock prices.

- Current term of trade is above the long term average but below previous year's month average as compared to previous month and previous season, though the terms of trade is still not favourable.
- Livelihood with the highest ratio was reported in Wajir East, Wajir South and Lowest was reported in Wajir North and Tarbaj. This is normal at this time of the year.

4.4 Implication of the above indicators to food security

- Poor livestock market prices will reduce the purchasing power of the pastoralist, which in turn affect food security in the county.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

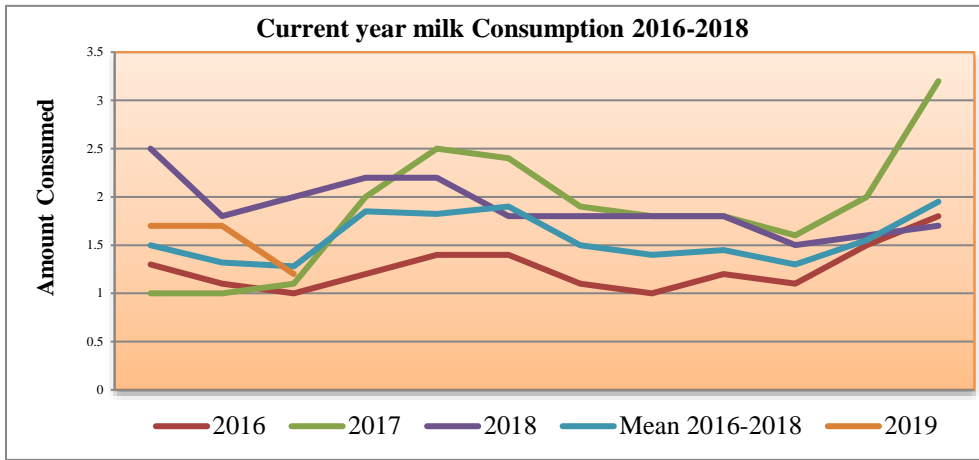
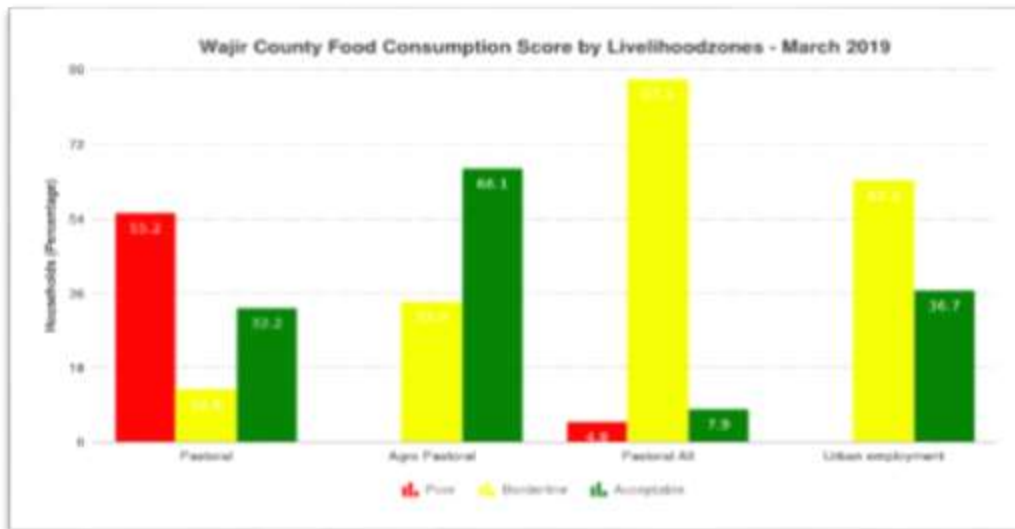


Figure 13: A graph showing current average milk consumption for Wajir against (2016-2018) mean

- Average milk consumption per household per day decreased significantly from 1.7 litres in February to 1.2litres in the month under review as compared to previous month. The highest livestock milk producing species are cattle and camel.
- Current milk consumption decreased due to reduced milk production attributed to depletion of pasture and browse.
- Current average household milk consumption per household per day is equal to the long-term average but below previous year's average, thus making pastoral households to be food insecure.
- Trend and Quantity of milk consumption was not normal as compared to the same period, less milk was consumed during this year as opposed to same period overtime.
- Highest milk consumption was reported in Wajir South, Wajir west and lowest was recorded in Elda's and Tarbaj.

5.2 :Food Consumption Score



- Pastoral are the proportion of households with poor food consumption score of 55.5 in the month under review as compared to a score of 50.5, indicating an increase in food consumption. While all other households are in Borderline and Acceptable.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

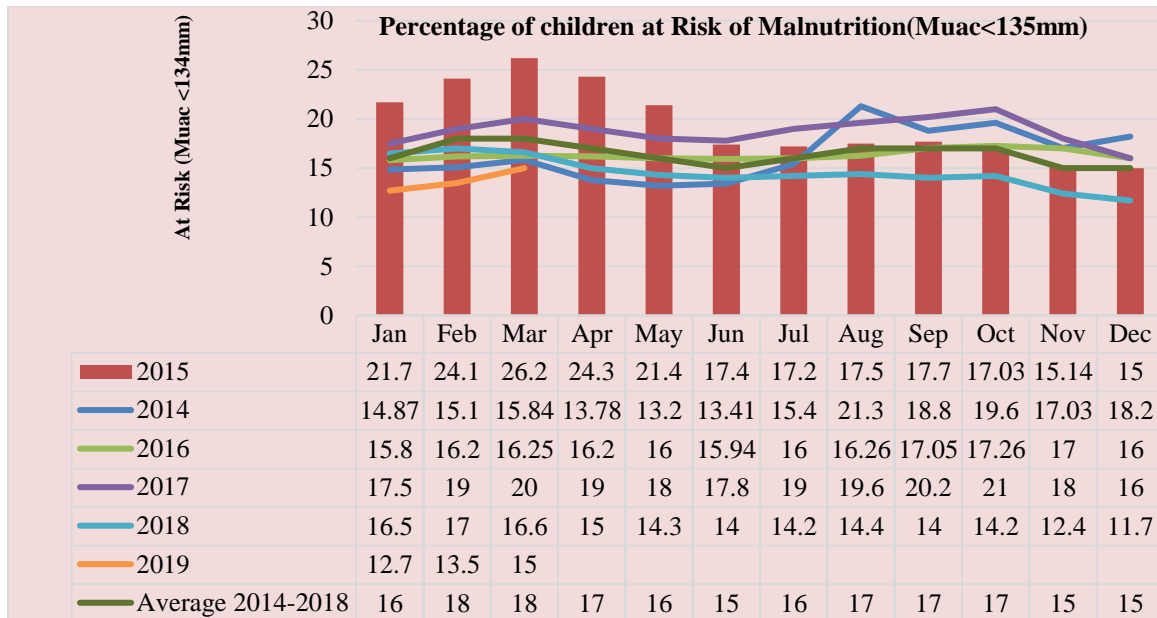


Figure 15: A Nutritional status of children between 12-59 months against (2014-18) long-term mean

- In Wajir 652 children (6-59months) were sampled for both girls and boys and assessed for malnutrition using MUAC Tape. From the sampled children, 15.0% were at risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135 mm) as compared to previous month figure of 13.5%, showing a worsening trend in malnutrition thus affecting children under five.
- Wajir County out of 652 children sample for both girls and boys only 0.8% of the children are severe malnourished as compared to previous month of 1.3.
- In Wajir South Sub-county a total of 151 children were assessed for malnutrition using Muac both girl and boys, from the sample children 6.9% were at Risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135 mm) as compared to previous month figure of 8.4% indicating an improvement in malnutrition.

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition in the month under review showed 15.0% as compared to 13.5% indicating a worsening situation thus affecting children under five.
- The proportion of children under five with severe category decreased from 1.3% in February to 0.8% in the month under review.

5.3.2 COPING STRATEGY INDEXES

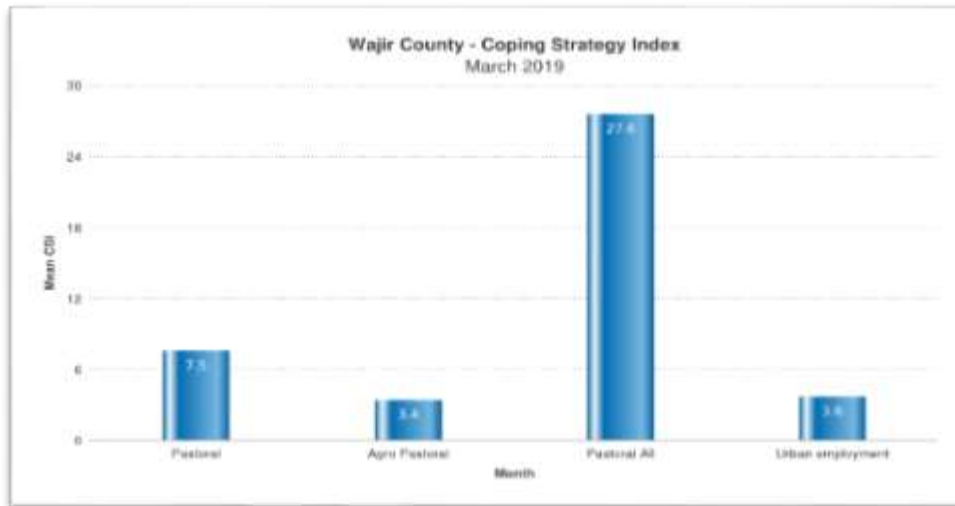


Figure16: A graph

showing average (2016-2018) (coping strategy index (CSI) against the current trend.

- Pastoral all species in Wajir west still employed more coping strategies showing 27 as compared to previous month of February 2019 with 26.7 showing stable strategy, while other livelihood zones employed less strategies.
- The mean CSI for the county was 9.3 as compared to the previous month, which showed 11.41 showing a worsening trend.
- Relied on less preferred and less expensive food.
- Reduced the number of meals taken per day.
- Reduced the quantity of food consumed by adult/mothers
- Borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relative.

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 Non-food interventions.-Ongoing

- Upscale of Emergency cash transfer by the National Drought Management Authority
- Food for Asset (FFA)-WFP (Sustainable food system Program).

6.2 Food Aid.

- No Relief food by National Government and County Government

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- No cases of insecurity witnessed in the month under review.

7.2 Migration

- Migration of livestock was within the county in search of pasture, browse and water where livestock movement was from Elda's, Wajir West and Wajir South towards Wajir North, Tarbaj and Wajir East. Migration from Mandera West towards Wajir North Was also reported.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- Above normal rainfall is expected during the long rains.
- Rangeland conditions are likely to improve during long rains and thereafter decline in June 2019
- Market prices for food commodities will remain stable, since most of the products are imported from other counties and thereafter increase due to poor roads during MAM 2019.
- Availability and accessibility of Milk is likely be witnessed in MAM rainfall and thereafter decline during June 2019.
- Trekking distance from grazing area to water sources will likely increase and thereafter decrease during the long rains.
- Livestock prices are expected to worsen due to low market demand attributed to increased trekking distance and poor livestock body condition.
- Terms of trade are likely to be unfavourable as the prices of goat decline and maize price remain stable.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Health & Nutrition.

- Monitoring of malnutrition by health and Nutrition Department.
- Mass screening and measles campaigns by Save The Children
- Disease Surveillance -ongoing
- Scale up of HINI/IMAM/IYCN interventions-ongoing

Livestock Sector.

- Provision of Livestock disease Surveillance
- Monitoring of Livestock market prices.
- Provision of livestock vaccination-ongoing.

Water Sector

- Rapid response to borehole break down-ongoing
- Repair and maintenance of borehole.
- Water pipeline extensions
- installation of solar systems for water extraction-world vision
- Drilling of boreholes
- Water trucking to 115 centres to water stress areas
- Construction of underground tanks

Education:

- Provision School feeding program
- Provision of school bursaries

Agriculture:

- Provision of beehives to the farmer
- Provision of Seeds