

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



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



APRIL EW PHASE 2019

Drought Status: ALARM

Mipango ya kukabiliana na ukame

**Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification
Biophysical Indicators
Rainfall Report.**

Most Parts of the County was dry, hot and sunny throughout the month, however, in the last week of the month, light to moderate rainfall was experienced over few areas. Distribution was poor in both time and space; The month of May marks the cessation of the "Long Rains" season over the county.

Vegetation condition:

Current VCI in the county showed moderate vegetation with a score of 23.93 as compared to previous month figure of 17.91. Although Wajir south showed severe vegetation deficit while other sub-counties indicated moderate vegetation showing a slight improvement.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production indicators:

- Livestock body remained to be fair to poor.
- Pasture condition is fair to poor.
- Browse is fair
- No livestock death reported during the month.
- Migration of livestock was within the county in search of pasture and browse.
- milk production remained stable

Access indicators

- Slight decrease in trekking distance for water. Terms of trade not favourable, Poor market prices. , decline in milk consumption.

Utilization Indicators

- Percentage of children under five at risk of

Early Warning Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Normal	Improving
Pastoral cattle	Alarm	Improving
Pastoral-all species	Alert	Improving
Pastoral camel	Alert	Improving
Informal employment	Normal	Improving
County	Alarm	Improving
Biophysical Indicators	value	Improving
Rainfall (% of Normal)	53mm	80 -120
VCI-3Month	23.92	>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)	18.0	<6.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	7.59	<0.95

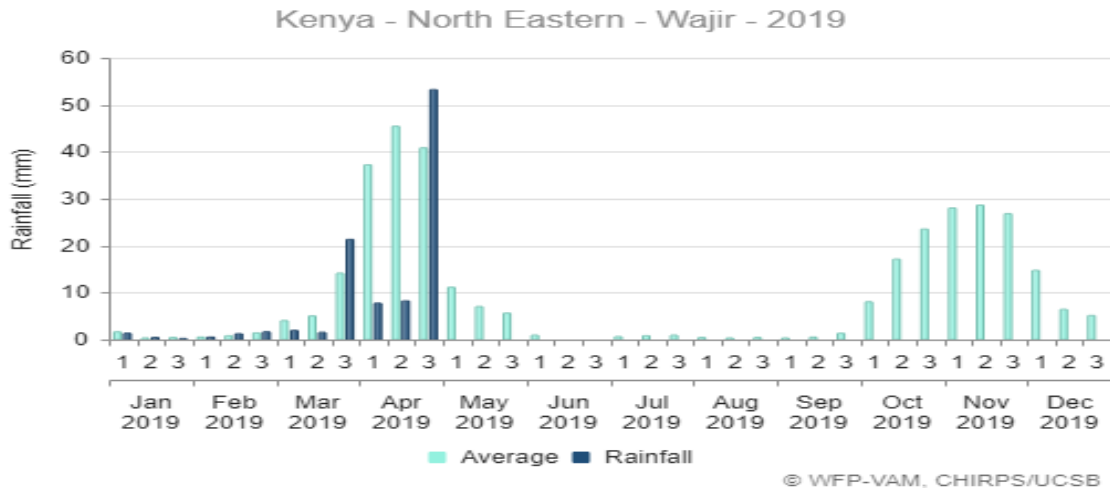
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short rains harvests • Short dry spell • Reduced milk yields • Increased HH Food Stocks • migrations • Land preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting/Weeding • Long rai Calving Rate • Milk Yields Increase • Breeding period 	<ul style="list-style-type: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

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITION

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

The month of April 2019 was characterized by sunny and dry weather conditions over most parts of the county. Light to moderate rainfall was concentrated over very few parts of the county and this was in the last week of the month

Heavy rainfall of 32.9mm was recorded in Hadado, followed by Wajir airport - 17.6mm, Buna - 16.2mm and Diff- 12.5mm. The rest of the places recorded less than 8mm of rainfall in April with majority recording no rainfall at all.



1.1.1 Amount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

- Most parts of the county did not receive rain at all in the month of April 2019.
- Light rainfall was mainly concentrated over very few parts of the county in the last week of the month mainly Hadado, Wajir Airport, Buna and Diff where it recorded 32.9mm, 17.6mm, 16.2mm and 12.5mm respectively while the rest of the places recorded less than 8mm of rainfall in April with majority recording no rainfall at all.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

Current vegetation cover in the county showed moderate vegetation deficit with a score of 23.92 as compared to previous month figure of 17.91, With all other Sub-counties indicating moderate vegetation deficit except Wajir south showing severe vegetation deficit(15.0) and Wajir North indicating normal vegetation deficit(37.18) showing a slight improvement in vegetation, though there was no regeneration witnessed. The Vegetation condition is likely to improve during Long rains.

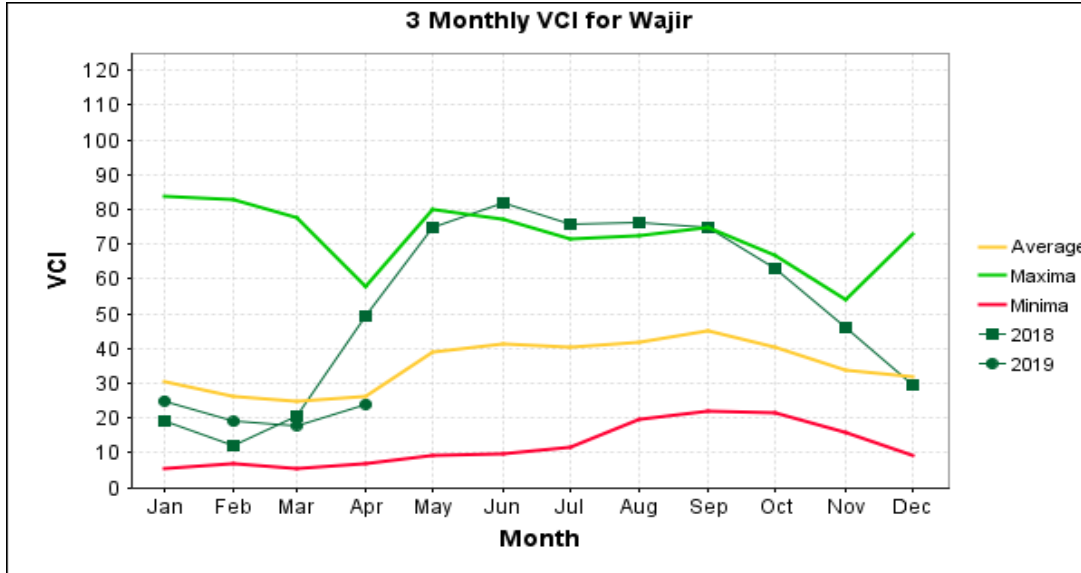


Figure 1: chart of Wajir County overall 3-monthly VCI during the month of April 2019

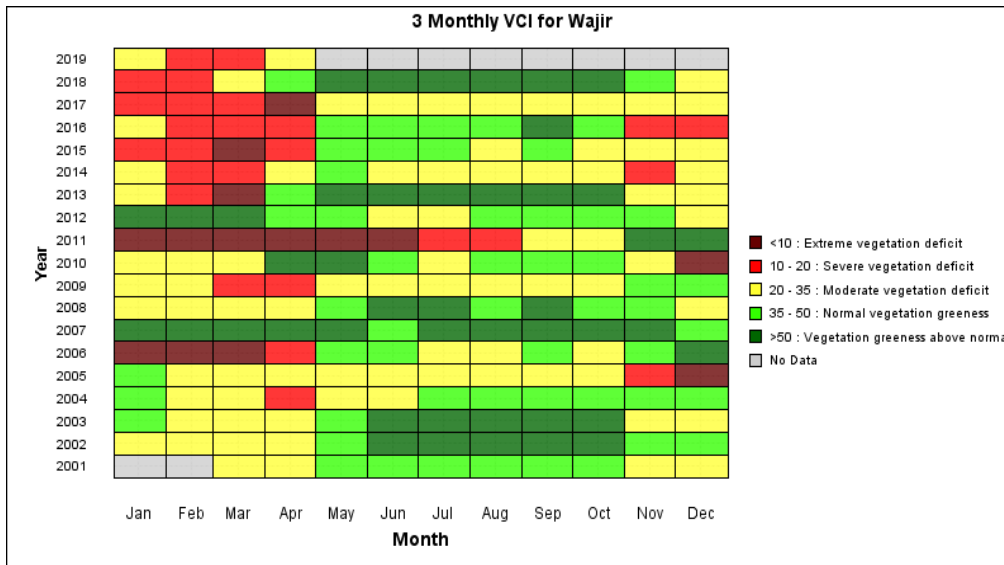


Figure 2: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir County during the month of April 2019.

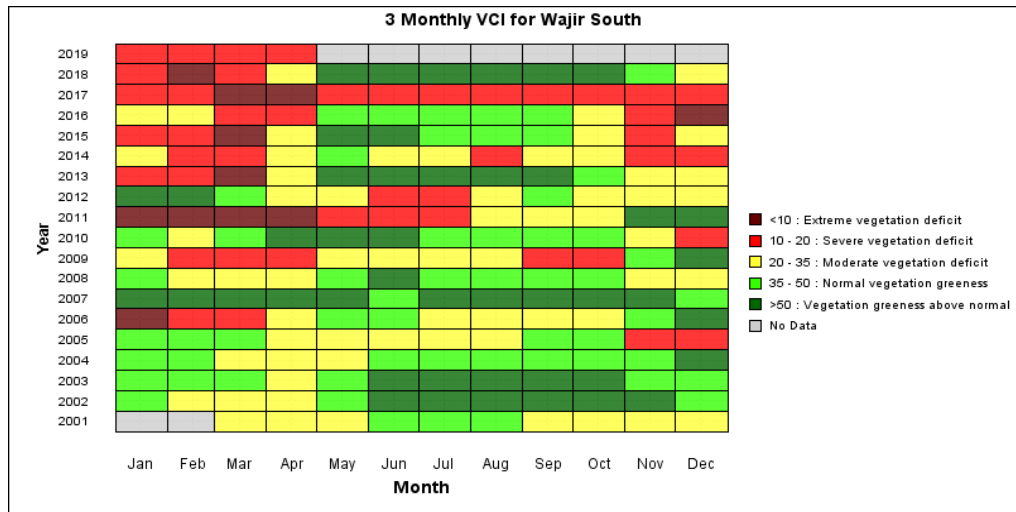


Figure 3: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir South during the month of April 2019.

2.1.2 Pasture

- Pasture situation in all livelihood zones remained to be fair to poor due to inadequate rainfall witnessed during MAM rains 2019.
- The condition of pasture in the county remained the same as compared to previous month, no regeneration of pasture observed as a result of depressed rainfall during the month.
- Available pasture is expected to last for a period of one to two weeks for all livelihood zones. Highest proportion was recorded in Wajir East and Wajir North.
- No constraints reported during the month under review.
- Pasture condition varies according to livelihood zones, Wajir North and Wajir East recorded highest proportion while lowest recorded in Pastoral all species and Pastoral Cattle in Wajir West and Wajir South.

2.1.3 Browse

- Currently browse situation in the county reported to be fair in all livelihood zones except few pockets in Wajir West, Eldas and Wajir South that showed poor condition.
- Browse condition has slightly improved as compared to the previous month as a result of some little rainfall received during the last week of the month.
- The available browse condition is expected to last for one month for agro-pastoral and Pastoral Camel livelihood zones, while pastoral all species and pastoral cattle is likely to last for a duration of 3 weeks months. Highest proportion of browse was reported in Wajir North, Tarbaj and Wajir East and Lowest recorded in Wajir West and Wajir South.
- No constraints recorded during the month under review.

2.2 Water Source

2.2.1 Sources

- Currently the main Water sources used by the county for both human and livestock are Boreholes, Water pans, shallow wells, lags and Water Trucking, Where 57 percent of the pastoral households depend on boreholes, 22 percent water pans while others depend on shallow wells and water trucking.

- Currently water condition in the county has slightly improved due to recharge of water pans in some parts of the livelihood zones attributed to depressed rainfall recorded during the last week of April 2019.
- Available water is likely to last for a duration of one to two month in Wajir North, Wajir East and one month for Wajir South and Wajir West.

2.2.2 Household access and Utilization.

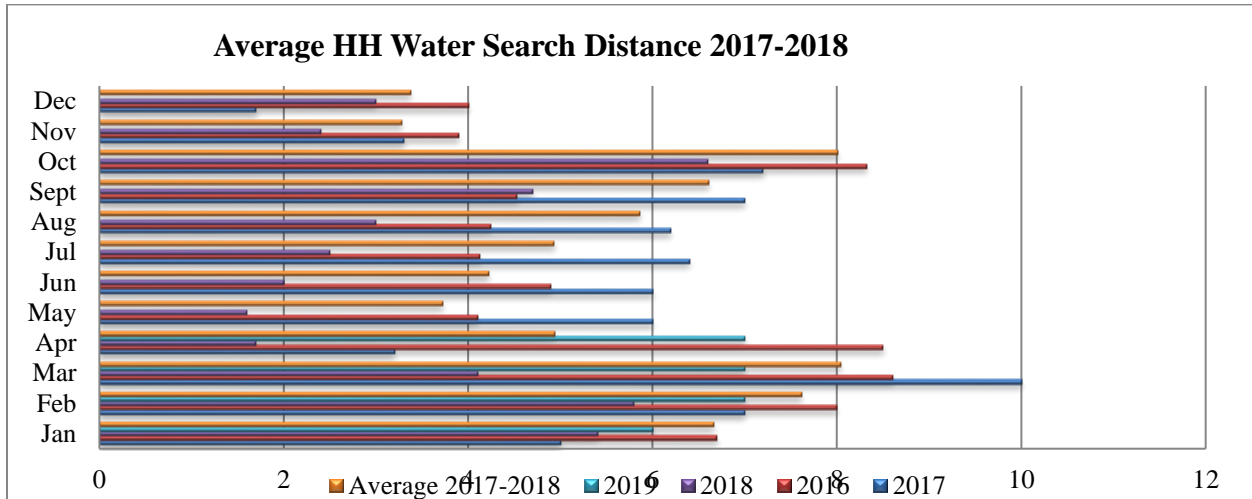


Figure 5: A chart indicating return distance to water sources against 2016-2017 average

- Average household return distance from the main water source remained the same as a result of slight recharge of water pans and lagas in some parts of the county due to depressed rainfall received during the month.
- Lowest average 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 small with only some few households in towns using boiling methods and tabs.

2.2.3 Livestock access

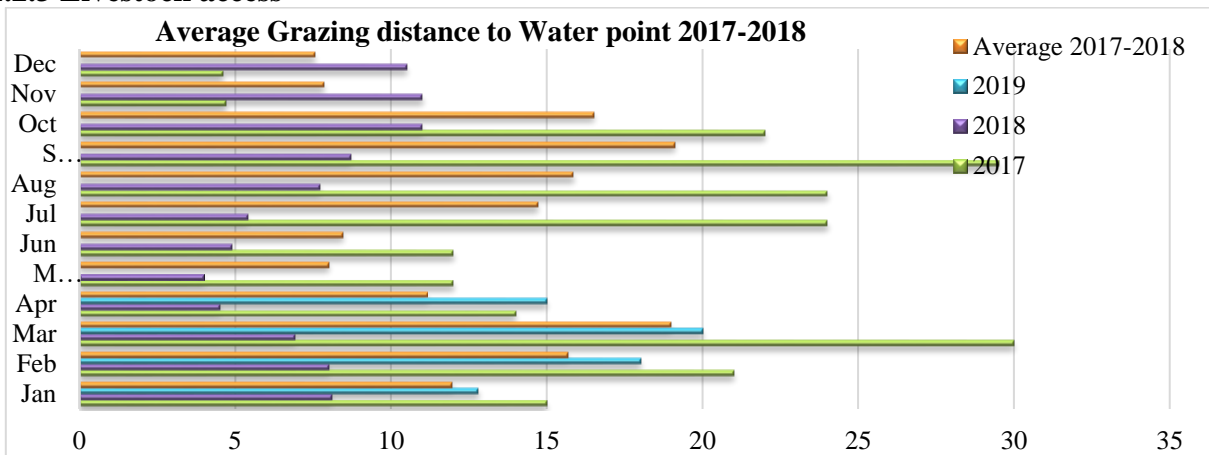


Figure 6: A graph indicating current grazing distance against (2017-2018) average.

- Currently average livestock Trekking distance from grazing area to water point has decreased from 20km in March to 16km in the month under review due to recharge of water pans, lagas and open water sources attributed some little rainfall recorded during the month under review, though there was no regeneration of pasture.
- As compared to previous month, the distance from grazing area to water sources has decreased due to recharge of water pans, lagas and shallow wells as a result of some little rainfall experienced in some parts of the livelihood zones. However, still water trucking is also going on in some areas that didn't receive rainfall.
- This is normal at this time of the year.
- The frequency of watering interval for the County decreased as compared to the normal due to slight recharge of water pans and lagas in some parts of the livelihood zones.
- Watering intervals for all species slightly decreased for goat and sheep is 2-3 days, Cattle 2-3 days as compared to normal of 1-2 days whereas for camel it is 7-15days 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 situation in the county in all species remained to be fair to poor due to depressed and poorly distributed rains witnessed during the month that led to poor regeneration of pasture and browse.
- Currently the body condition of livestock in all species remained the same as compared to previous month due to poor performance of rainfall attributed to poor regeneration of pasture and browse.
- In Comparison to the current condition to similar previous period livestock body condition is currently fair to poor showing a worsening condition.
- 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

- Reported Cases of PPR and CPP still exist in the county across the livelihood zones, though some of the livelihood zones vaccination was done.

3.1.3 Milk Production

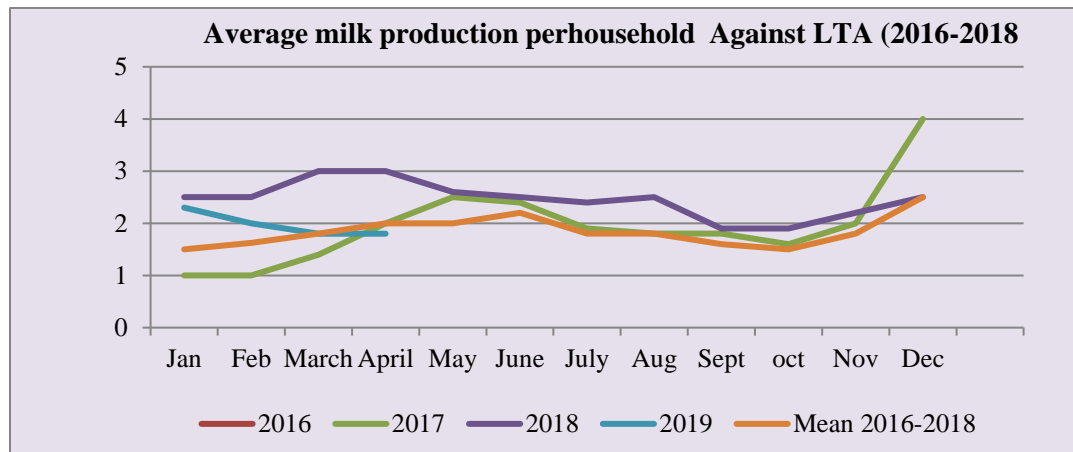


Figure 7: A graph showing current average milk production for Wajir against (2016-2018) mean

- Current average milk production per household per day remained the same in April 2019 as compared to the previous month due to poor regeneration of pasture attributed to poor rainfall.
- The highest livestock species that produce milk are cattle and camel
- Pastoral Camel and Pastoral cattle livelihood zones reported highest milk production followed by Agro-pastoral livelihood zones.
- Current average Milk production is equal to the long term average but below previous month average due to poor livestock body condition and poor regeneration 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 and sorghum and others like Kales, Water melon. Preparation of land was done but farmers have not planted their crop due to inadequate of rains received during the season.

IMPLICATION OF THE ABOVE INDICATORS TO FOOD SECURITY

- Poor regeneration of pasture and poor livestock condition will decrease availability of milk production thus affecting children under five.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

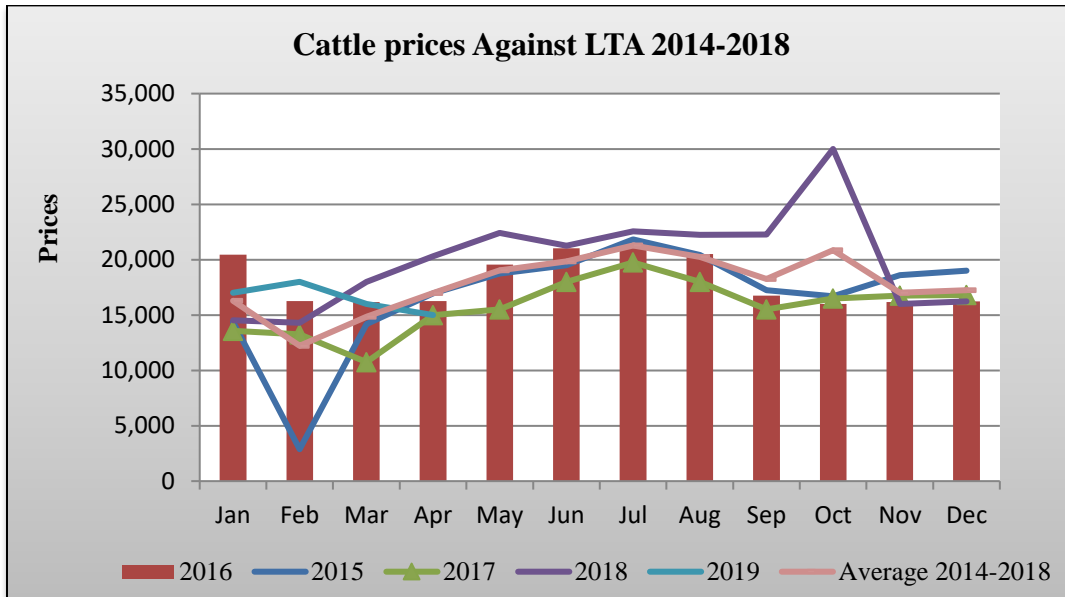


Figure 8: A graph of current cattle price against the long-term (2014-18) mean prices

- Current average price of four-year-old medium size Cattle decreased from Kshs 16,000 in March to 15,000 in the month under review due to high supply in the market and low demand.
- Livelihood zones with the highest prices were reported in Wajir towns and lowest prices reported at the rural areas.
- Current average cattle price is below the long-term average and previous month average due to poor market attributed to low demand .

4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

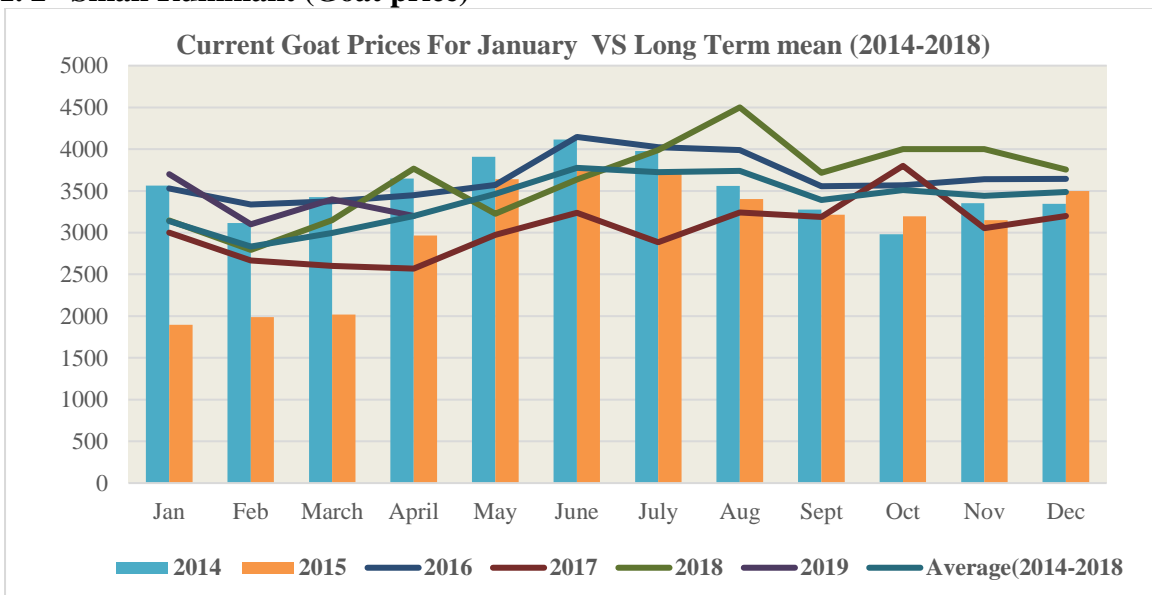


Figure 9: A graph of current Goat price against the long-term (2014-18) mean price

- Current average goat prices decreased from Ksh 3400 in March to 3200 in the month under due to poor market prices attributed to low demand and high supply in the market.
- Current average goat prices is equals to the long-term average but below previous month average, showing poor market as compared to previous month.
- Livelihood zones with the highest market price were reported in Wajir Town and lowest reported in Wajir North and Tarbaj.
- The goat price is normal for the year but decreased as compared to previous years prices due to poor livestock body condition.

4.1.3 Camel price

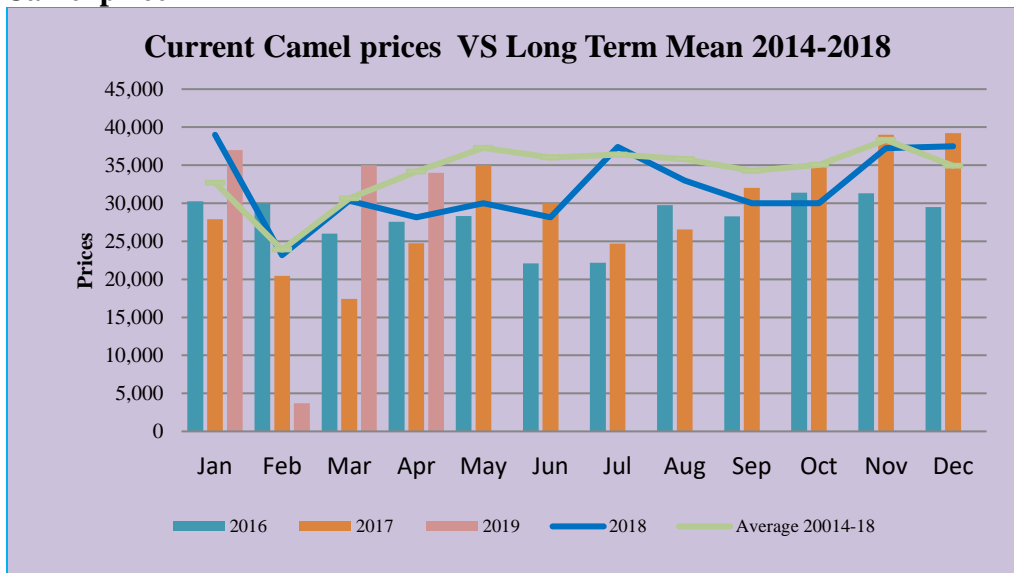


Figure 10: A graph of current camel prices against the long term mean (2014-2018)

- Current average price of four-year-old Camel decreased from kshs 35,000 in March to 34,000 in the month under review as 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 equal to the long term average (LTA) but above previous year month price.
- Compared to the previous three years average camel prices are better.

4.2 CROP PRICE

4.2.1 Maize

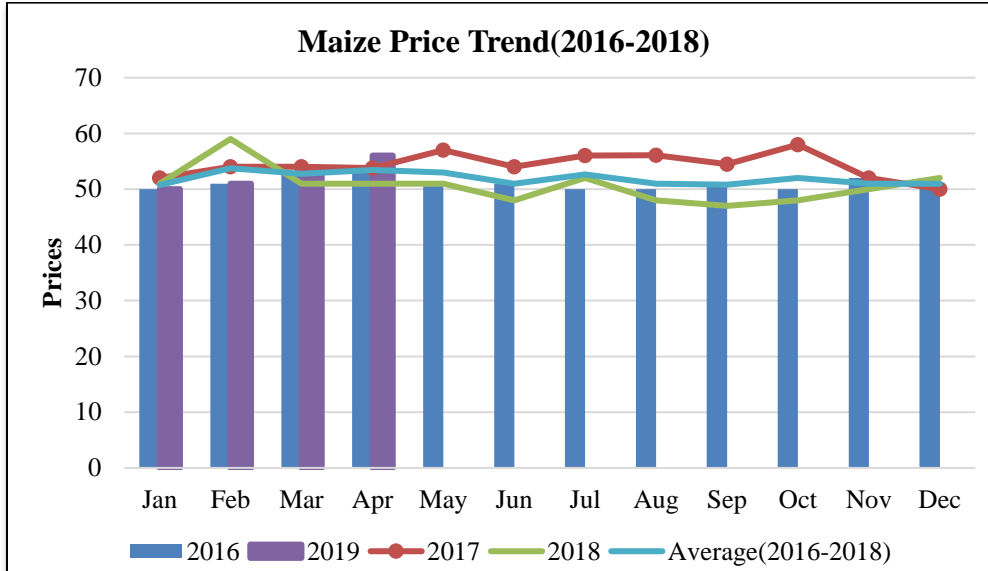


Figure 11: A graph of Current Maize Trend (2016-2018)

- Current average maize prices increased from ksh 53 in March 2019 to kshs 56 in the month under review as a result of less supply from the main market and more demand from the county thus increasing the price.
- Highest maize prices were recorded in Wajir North (Bute, Buna), Hadado and lowest report Wajir town and Dagahley market.
- Current maize price is above both the long term average and previous year average due more market demand.

4.2.1.1 Other outstanding observation

- The major staple food consumed and utilized in Wajir, are rice, beans, meat, milk, maize and spaghetti in all the livelihood zones.

4.3 Livestock Price Ratio/Terms of Trade (TOT)

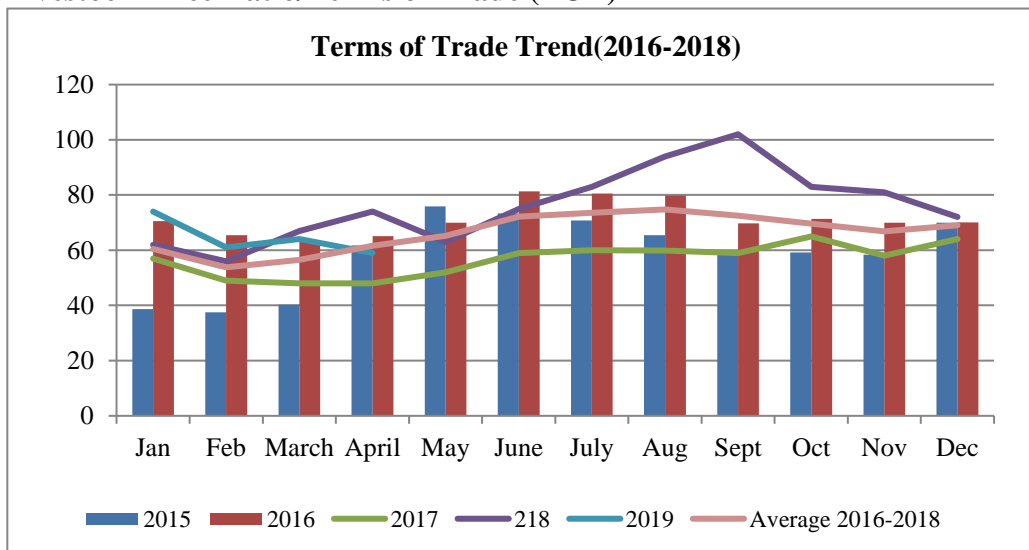


Figure12: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long-term (2016-2018) mean price.

- Current household terms of trade slightly decreased from 64kgs in March to 59kg in the month under review due to increased maize prices attributed to high demand and decrease livestock prices due to poor market.
- Current term of trade is below the long term average and 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

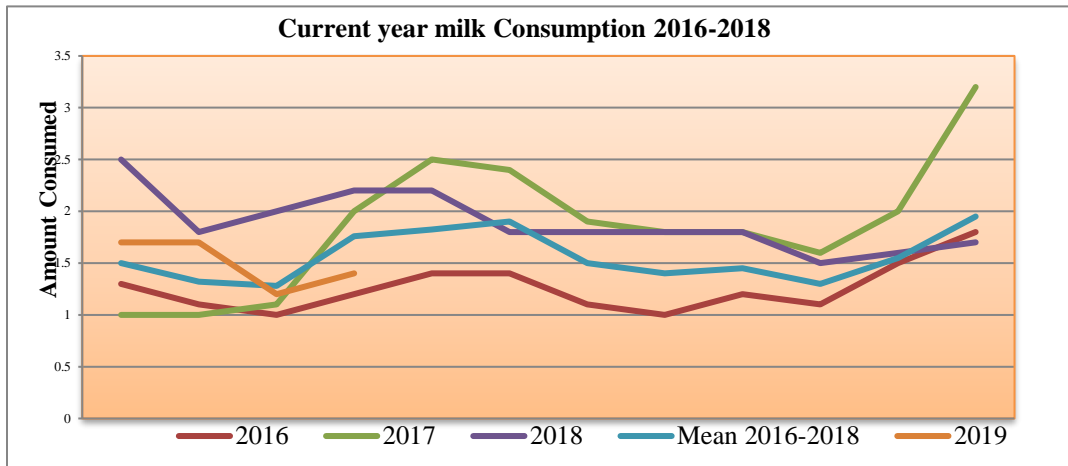
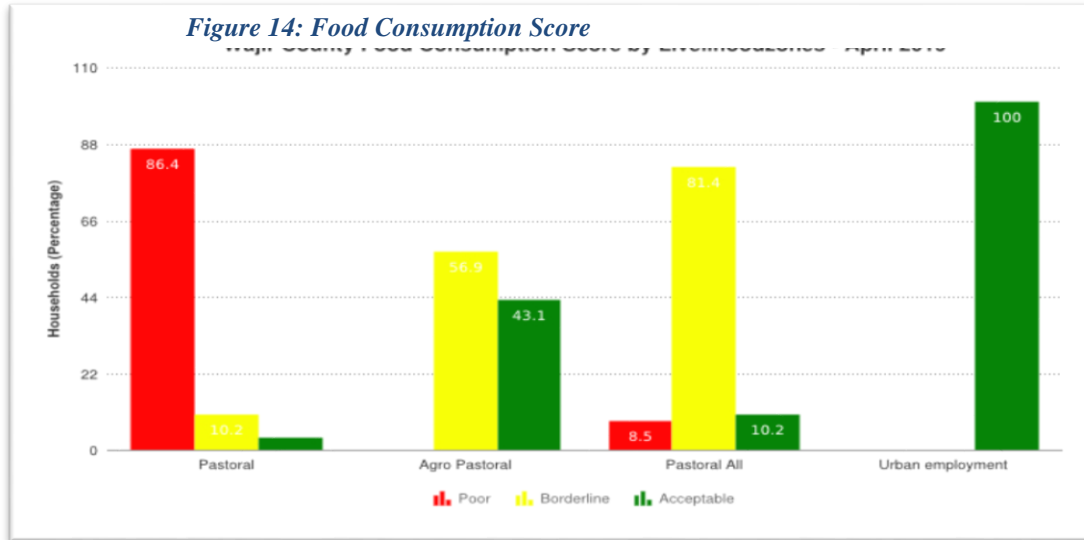


Figure 13: A graph showing current average milk consumption for Wajir against (2016-2018) mean

- Current average milk consumption per household per day remained the same as compared to previous month due to low milk production recorded. The highest livestock milk-producing species are cattle and camel.
- Current average household milk consumption per household per day is below the long-term average and 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 as a result of low milk production, less milk was consumed during this year as opposed to the same period overtime.

5.2 :Food Consumption Score



- Pastoral and pastoral all species livelihood zones are the proportion of households that are in poor food consumption with a score of 86.4 and 8.5 in the month under review as compared to a score 55.5 in March 2019 showing a decrease in food consumption. While all other pastoral households are in Borderline and Acceptable.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

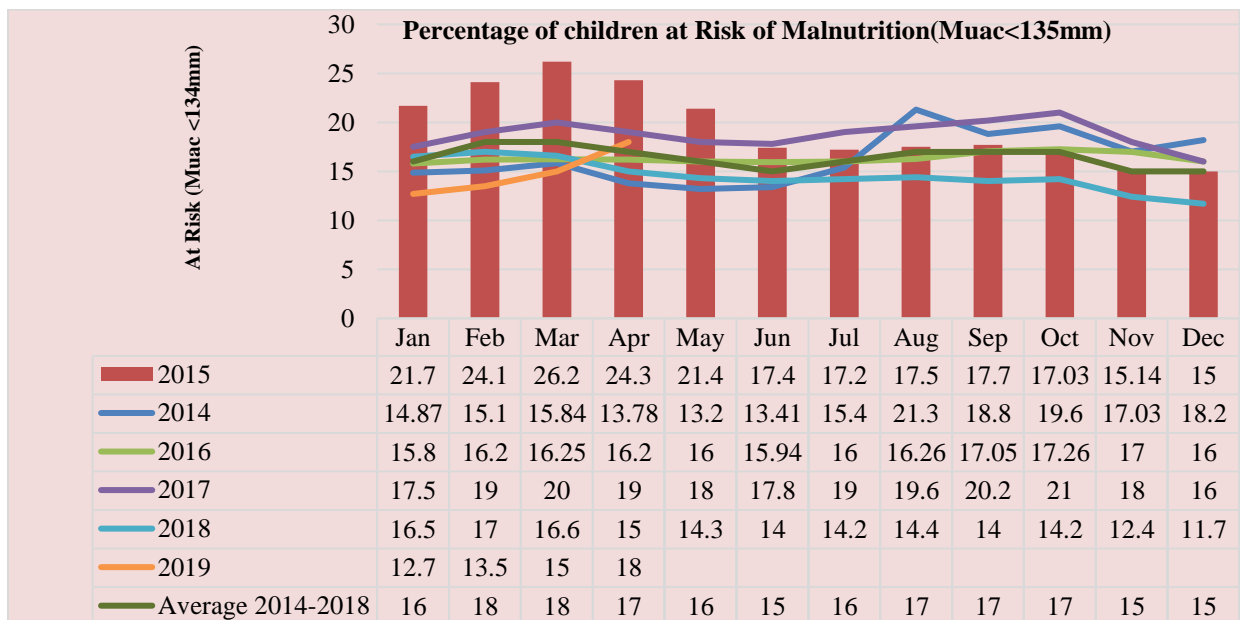


Figure 15: A Nutritional status of children between 12-59 months against (2014-18) long-term mean

- In Wajir atotal of 568children (6-59months) were sampled for both girls and boys and assessed for malnutrition using MUAC Tape. From the sampled children, 18.0% were at

risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135 mm) as compared to previous month figure of 15%, indicating a worsening trend in malnutrition due to low milk production thus affecting children under five.

- Wajir County out of 568 children sample for both girls and boys only 0.2% of the children are severe malnourished as compared to previous month of 0.8.

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition in the month under review indicated 18.0% as compared to 15% showing a worsening situation due to low milk production thus affecting children under five.
- The proportion of children under five with severe category decreased from 0.8% in march to 0.2% in the month under review.

5.3.2 COPING STRATEGY INDEXES

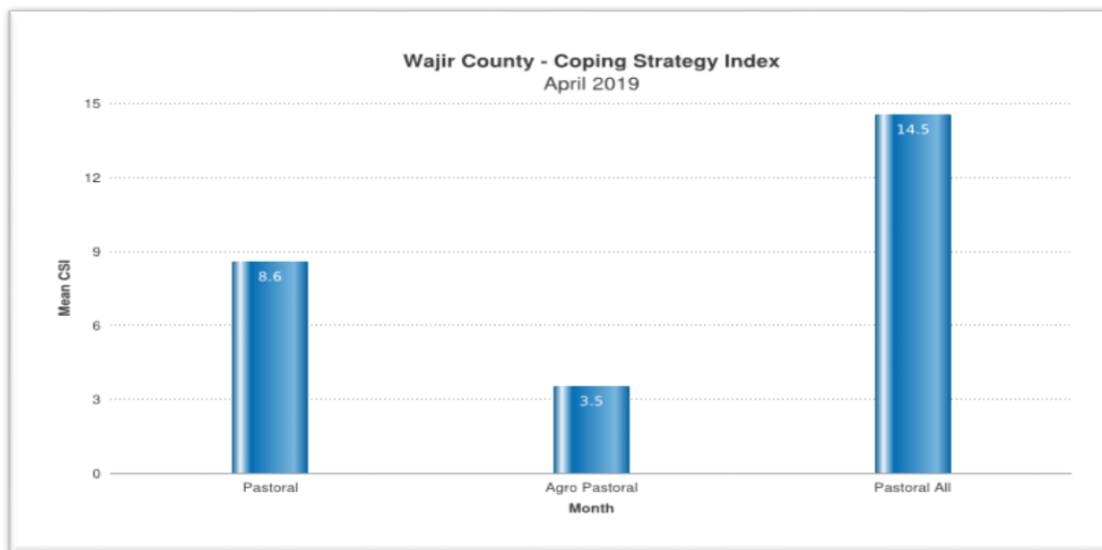


Figure16: A graph showing average (2016-2018) (coping strategy index (CSI) against the current trend.

- The mean CSI for the county was 7.59 as compared to the previous month, which showed 9.3 showing an improvement. More coping strategy was employed in pastoral all species livelihood zones while others applied less strategy.
- 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.
- Reduced the number of meals taken per day.

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 Non-food interventions.-Ongoing

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

6.2 Food Aid.

- 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

- Most of the pastoralist have migrated to where it has rained with in the county in search of pasture, browse and water. Livestock are concentrated in Wara, Tulo roba, lakole, harede, Qorof harer and burmayo areas.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- Condition of Rangeland are expected to slightly improve in may 2019 and thereafter deteriorate in June and July 2019.
- Prices of livestock are likely to deteriorate due to poor market attributed to low demand and high supply in the market
- 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.
- Milk availability and Accessability is expected to improve in the month of may 2019 due to rains received and thereafter decline during June and July 2019.
- Trekking distance at house level and livestock grazing distance will likely decrease during the month of may 2019 and thereafter increase from June to July 2019.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Health & Nutrition.

- Disease Surveillance -ongoing
- Scale up of HINI/IMAM/IYCN interventions-ongoing
- Mass screening by County government and national Drought management authority. Children
- Monitoring of malnutrition by health and Nutrition Department-ongoing

Livestock Sector.

- Livestock disease Surveillance by the department-ongoing
- Monitoring of Livestock market prices and food commodities
- Monitoring of livestock movement/migration

Water Sector

- Provision of fast moving spare parts.
- Repair and maintenance of borehole-ongoing
- Water trucking to some centres-ongoing
- Construction of underground tanks-ongoing
- Rapid response to borehole break down-ongoing

Agriculture:

- Provision of Seeds

Peace and Security

- Conducted Inter-county peace dialogue meetings by national Drought management Authority.