

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



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



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

During May 2019, few parts of the county received some amounts of rainfall. The rainfall was poorly distributed both in time and space. Where Bute Buna, Habaswein and Khorof harer recorded rainfall amount of 109mm, 55.5mm, 43.5mm and 33mm respectively. However Bute recorded the highest of rainfall in the month of May 2019, The month of May marks the cessation of the "Long Rains" season over the county.

Vegetation condition:

Current VCI in the county indicated moderate vegetation deficit with a value of 21.13 as opposed to 23.93 showing a slight vegetation deficit. However Wajir West and Wajir south indicated severe vegetation deficit as compared to other sub-counties which showed moderate vegetation deficit. No pasture regeneration recorded during the month.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production indicators:

- Livestock body condition remained to be fair to poor, though on a worsening Trend.
- Decrease in Milk production
- Migration of livestock within and outside the county was reported
- No livestock death reported
- Pasture situation is still fair to poor.
- Browse is fair

Access indicators

- Increased trekking distance, Terms of trade not favourable, slight increase in milk consumption.

Utilization Indicators

- Percentage of children under five at risk of

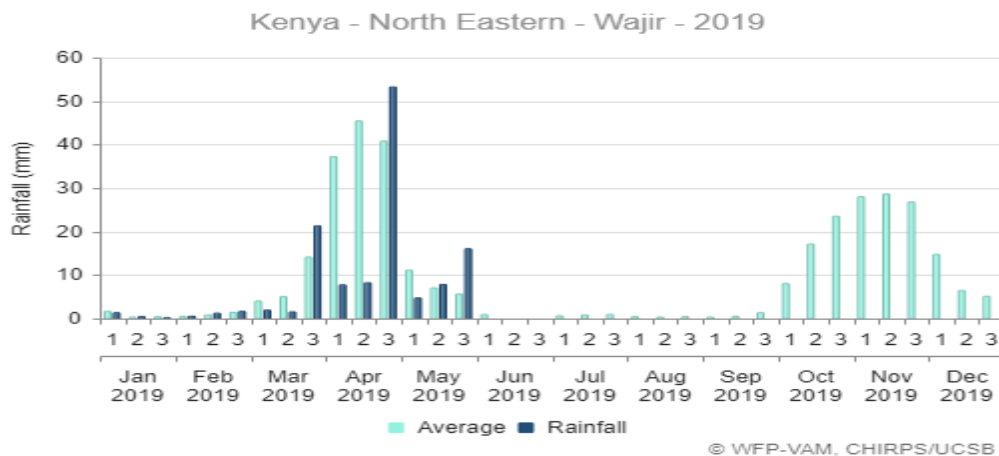
Early Warning Phase Classification		
Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Alert	Worsening
Pastoral cattle	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral-all species	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral camel	Alert	Worsening
Informal employment	Alert	Worsening
County	Alarm	Worsening
Biophysical Indicators	value	Trend
Rainfall (% of Normal)	50mm	80 -120
VCI-3Month	21.13	>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)	63	>66
Milk Consumption	1.6	>3
Return Distance to water source	8.0	<5 Km
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	16.0	<6.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	7.88	<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 • Kidding (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 May marks the cessation of the Long-Rains over the county. During May 2019, few parts of the county received some amounts of rainfall, Most of the rainfall occurred over Bute, Buna, Habaswein and Khorof harer, which recorded rainfall amount of 109mm,55.5mm,43.5mm and 33mm On 23rd. 22nd, and24th May, 2019 respectively.



1.1.1 Amount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

Depressed rainfall was received over most parts of the county, However some parts received some little amount of rainfall in Bute, Buna, Habaswein and Khorof harer that recorded rainfall amount of 109mm,55.5mm,43.5mm and 33mm On 23rd. 22nd, and24th May, 2019 respectively. Highest rainfall was recorded in Bute and the rest of the county was generally dry.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

Current vegetation value in the entire county indicated moderate vegetation deficit with a score of 21.13 as opposed to previous month figure of 23.92 showing vegetation deficit, with Wajir south and Wajir west recording severe vegetation deficit and other sub-counties showing moderate vegetation deficit. The vegetation deficit in the county is expected to worsen as the rains failed and there was no regeneration reported.

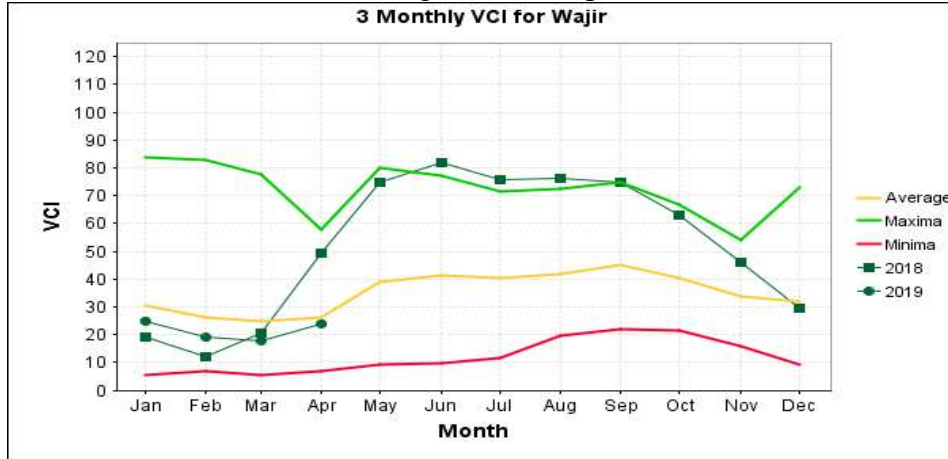


Figure 1: chart of Wajir County overall 3-monthly VCI during the month of May 2019

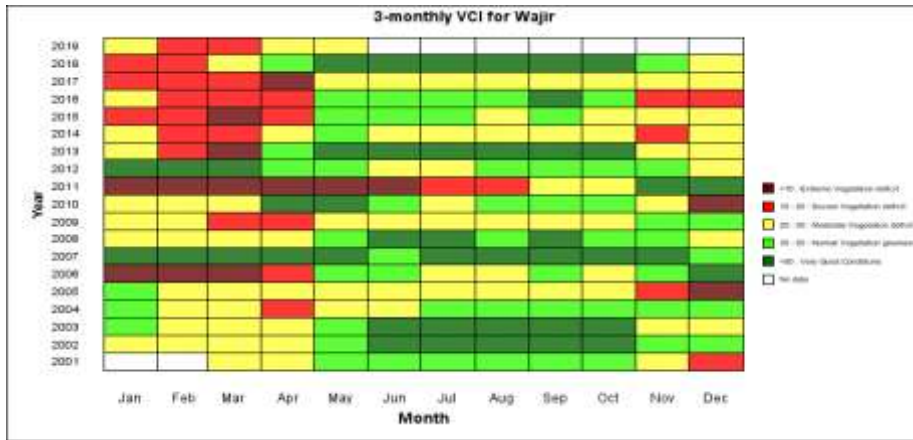


Figure 2: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir County during the month of May 2019.

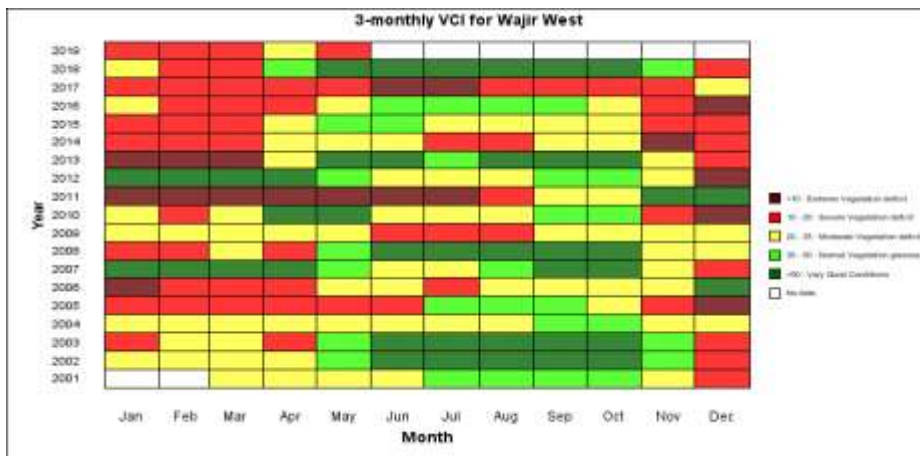


Figure 3: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir South during the month of May 2019.

2.1.2 Pasture

- Pasture condition in the county still remained to be fair to poor except some parts of Wajir south, Wajir West, Tarbaj, Wajir North and Eldas sub-county which are in poor condition due to poor regeneration of pasture attributed to insufficient rains recorded during Long rains.
- Situation of pasture still remained the same as compared to previous month, however no regeneration of pasture reported in the entire county due to failed rainfall.
- Available pasture is likely to last for a duration of less than two weeks due to high concentration of livestock reported in the fall back areas.
- Highest proportion of pasture was reported in Pastoral Camel, Agro-pastoral livelihood zones in Wajir North and some pockets of Pastoral Cattle in Wajir South and Pastoral all species livelihood zones in Wajir West and lowest proportion of pasture was recorded in Wajir South, Eldas and Wajir West.
- No constraints reported during the month under review.
- Pasture condition varies according to livelihood zones, where Wajir North, Wajir East and some parts of Wajir south and Wajir West recorded 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 in the county remained to be fair except Wajir west, Eldas, Tarbaj and Parts of Wajir south that indicated poor condition due to depressed rainfall reported during long rains.
- Browse condition has deteriorated as compared to previous month as a result of high concentration of livestock in the fallback areas that received rains.
- The available browse situation is likely to last for less than a month in all livelihood zones except areas that are in poor condition.
- Highest proportion of browse was reported in Wajir North, Wajir East and some parts of Tarbaj and lowest recorded in Wajir West, Eldas and Wajir South.
- No constraints recorded during the month under review.

2.2 Water Source

2.2.1 Sources

- Current main Water sources used by the county for both human and livestock are Boreholes, Water pans, shallow wells, and Water Trucking, Where 42 percent of the pastoralists rely on boreholes, 20 percent depend on water pans and others depend on shallow wells and water trucking.
- Current water situation in the county is stressed except some parts of Wajir north, Wajir South and Wajir East that received some rainfall during long rains which recharged few water pans.

- Available water is expected to last for a period of one or less than a month due over concentration of livestock and human at the water points.

2.2.2 Household access and Utilization.

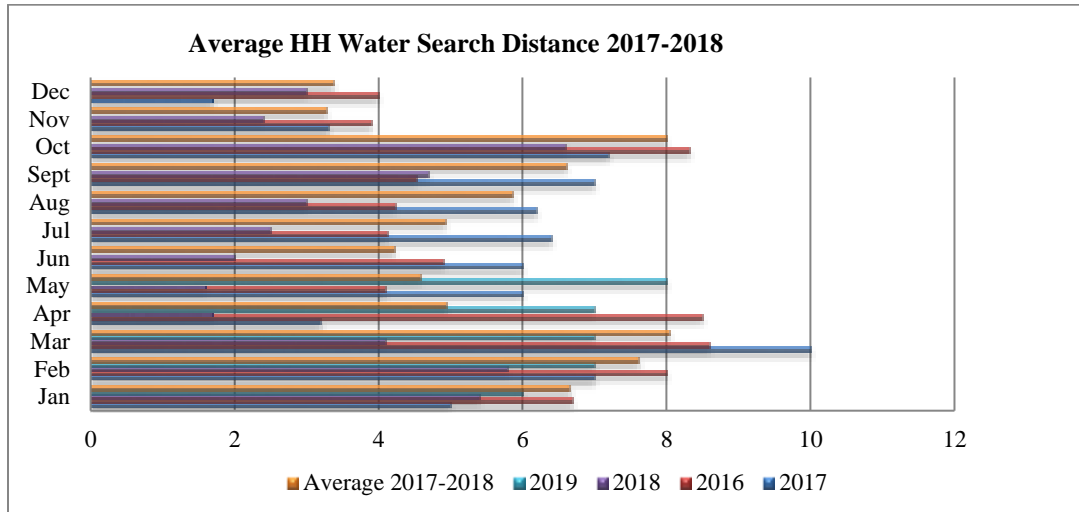


Figure 5: A chart indicating return distance to water sources against 2016-2017 average

- Current average household return distance slight increased from 7.3km in April to 8.0km in the month under review due to high concentration at the water point thus led to depletion of recharged water pans.
- Average water consumption per person per day was normal in all livelihood zones normal(15020litres) except Wajir West,Eldas,Tarbaj and parts of Wajir South with low consumption due to inadequate rainfall received during long rains, but this is normal at this time of the year.
- The proportion of households that treat water is minimal with only some few households in towns using boiling methods and tabs.

2.2.3 Livestock access

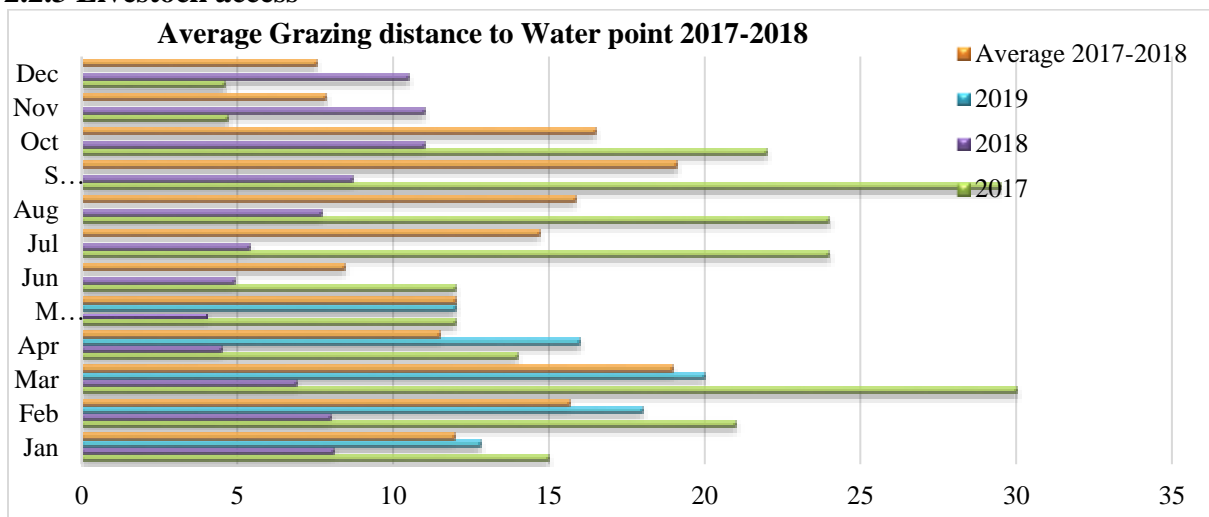


Figure 6: A graph indicating current grazing distance against (2017-2018) average.

- Currently average livestock Trekking distance from grazing area to water point has slight decreased from 16km in April to 12km in the month under review as a result of some recharges of water pans in some parts of the county, Though there are high concentration of livestock at the water point in the fallback areas thus depleting water sources.
- As compared to previous month, the distance from grazing area to water sources has slightly decreased as a result of some little rainfall recorded in few parts of the county thus recharged some pans.
- The frequency of watering interval has decreased as compared to the normal due to slight recharge of water pans in some parts of the livelihood zones.
- Watering intervals for all species still remained the same 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 7-15 days 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

- Current livestock body condition for all species in all livelihood zones ranges between fair to poor, except Parts of Pastoral all species in Wajir West, Pastoral cattle in Wajir South, Eldas and Tarbaj which are in poor condition for Cattle, Goat and Sheep, due to poor rainfall experienced attributed to poor regeneration of pasture
- Currently the body condition of livestock in all species remained the same as compared to previous month, except parts of Wajir west, Wajir South, Eldas and Trabaj which are in poor condition due to poor performance of rainfall attributed to poor regeneration of pasture and browse.
- Livestock body condition currently ranges between fair to poor as compared to similar previous period which was good to indicating a worsening situation.
- 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

- Cases of PPR and CBPP still is on the rise across the livelihood zones due to movement of livestock within and outside the county to the fallback areas.

3.1.3 Milk Production

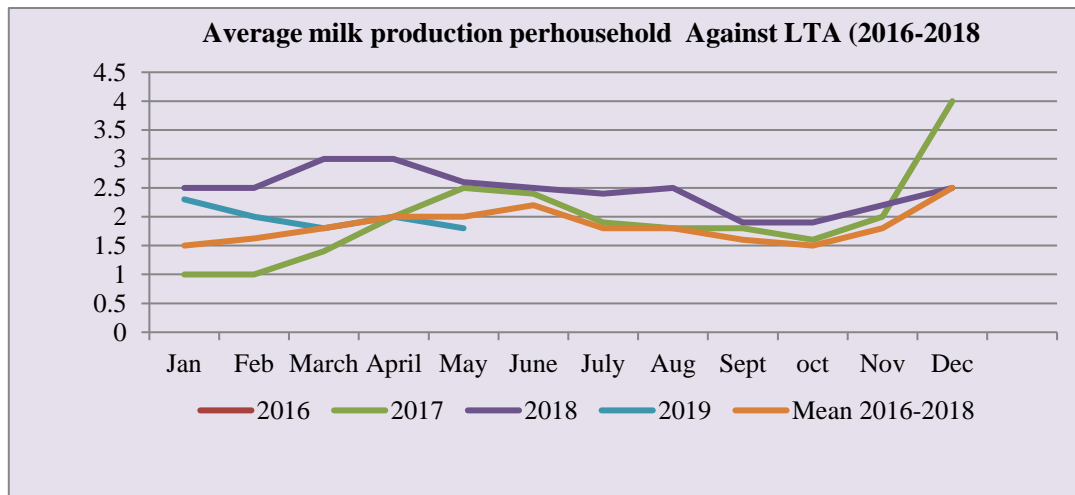


Figure 7: A graph showing current average milk production for Wajir against (2016-2018) mean

- Current average milk production per household per day decreased from 2.0litres in April to 1.8 litres in the month under review due poor regeneration of pasture and water attributed to depressed rainfall.
- The trend and Quantity of milk production is not normal for this time of the year as compared to the same period due to inadequate rains experienced attributed to poor regeneration of pasture and poor livestock body condition.
- Livelihood with the highest producing milk is Pastoral Camel, Pastoral Cattle and Pastoral All species because camel and Cattle are the species that produce milk. Lowest producing livelihood zones are agro-pastoral and Pastoral all species.

- Current average Milk production is below to the long term average and 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 poor rainfall witnessed 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

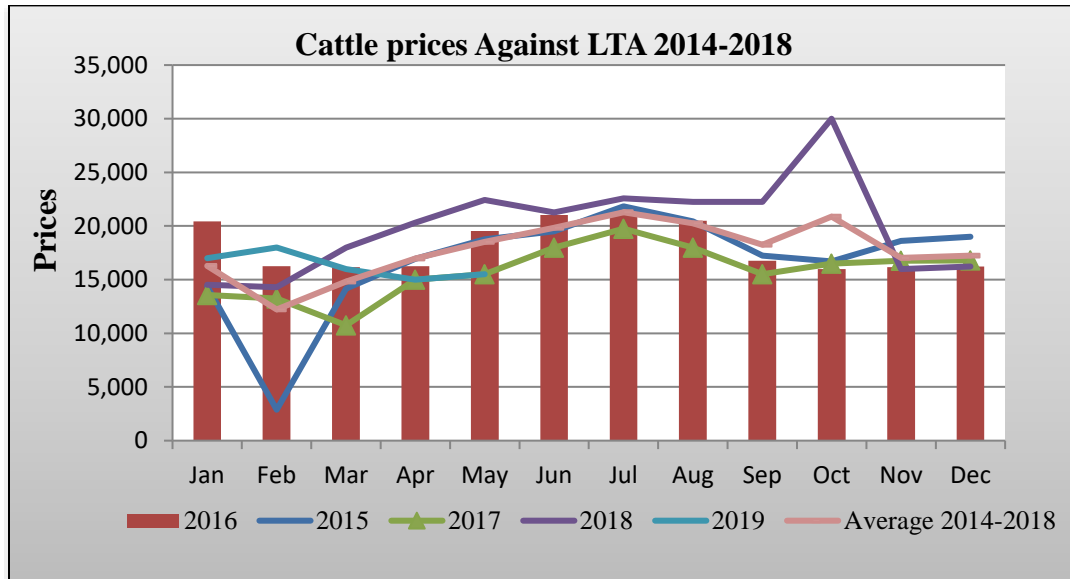


Figure 8: A graph of current cattle price against the long-term (2014-18) mean prices

- Current average price of four-year-old medium size Cattle slightly increase from 15,000 in April to 15,500 in the month under review as a result of low market demand and high supply in the market.
- Livelihood zones with the highest prices were reported in Wajir market and lowest prices reported in 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 and high supply in the market .

4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

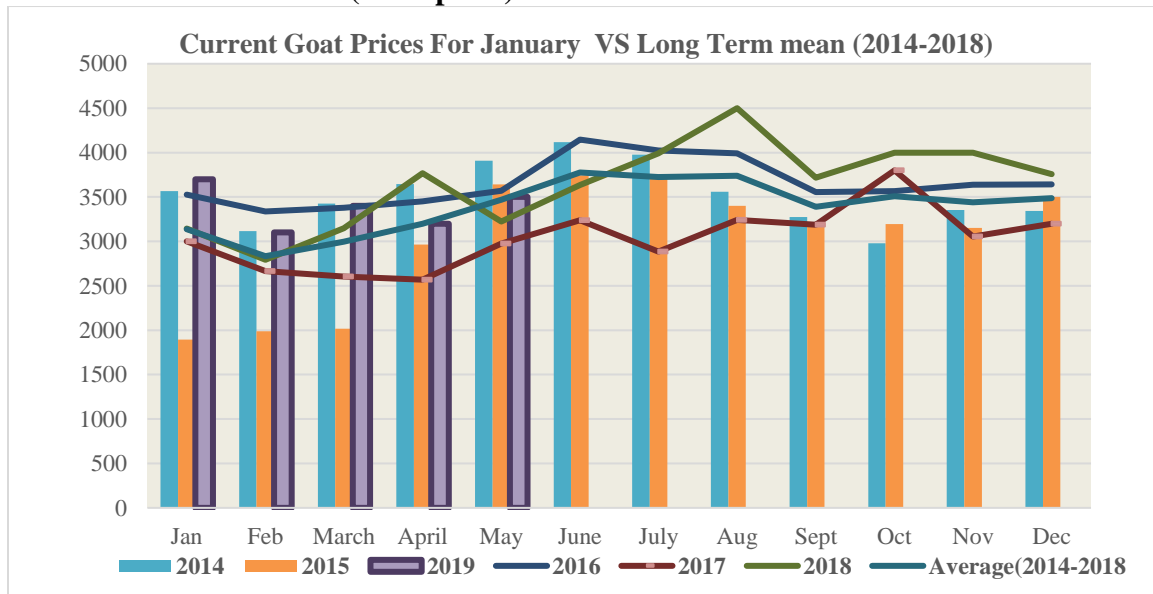


Figure 9: A graph of current Goat price against the long-term (2014-18) mean price

- Current average goat prices slight increased from Ksh 3200 in the month of April to 3,500 in May 2019 due to the festive season(Idd fitri) which slightly improve the market.
- Current average goat prices is above the long-term average and previous month average, indicating an improvement as opposed to same period due to Idd festive.
- Livelihood zones with the highest market price were reported in the urban town and lowest recorded in the rurals.
- The goat price is with in the normal ranges for the year but has slightly increase as compared to previous years prices due to idd festive.

4.1.3 Camel price

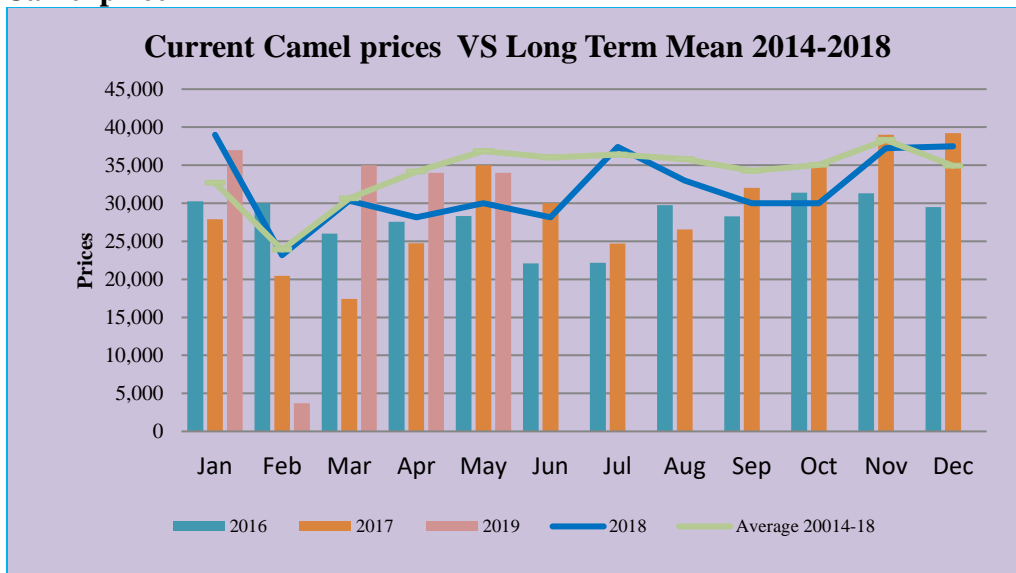


Figure 10: A graph of current camel prices against the long term mean (2014-2018)

- Current average price of four-year-old Camel remained the same 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 below 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

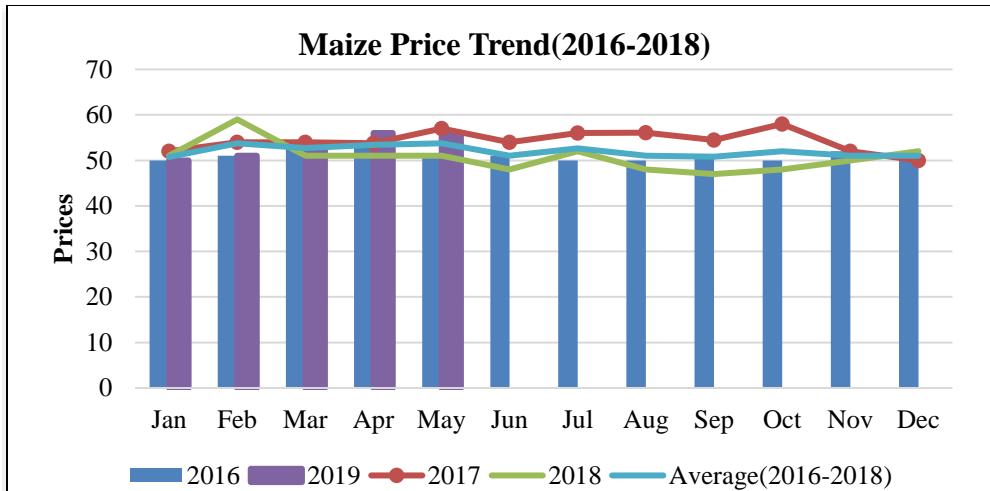


Figure 11: A graph of Current Maize Trend (2016-2018)

- Current average maize prices remained stable as compared to previous month due to less demand attributed to relief food distributed by National and County government, this stabilized maize price.
- Highest maize prices were reported at the rural areas and lowest reported in the urban areas.
- Current maize price is above the long term average and previous year average due more market demand and less supply which increased the price.

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)

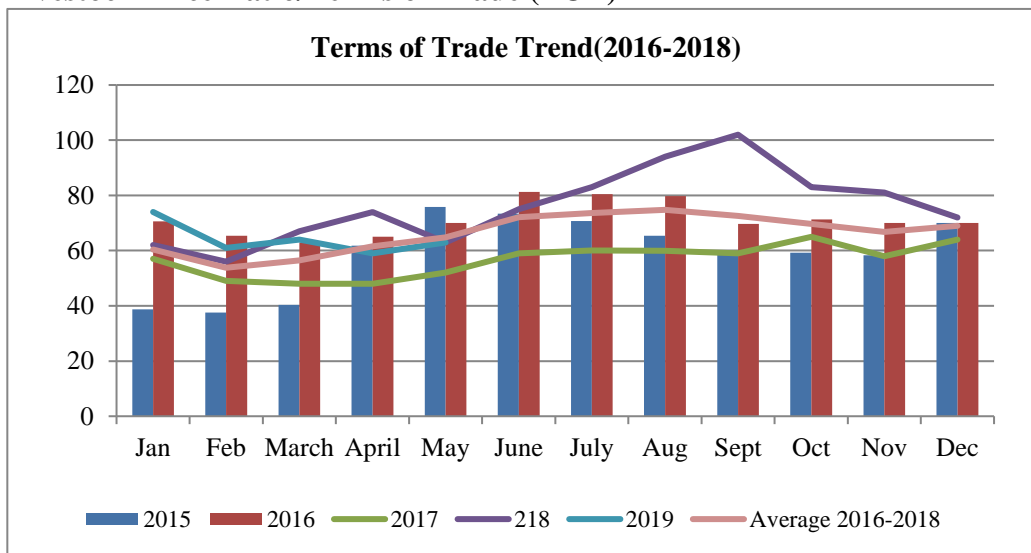


Figure 12: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long-term (2016-2018) mean price.

- Current household terms of trade slightly increased from 59kg in the month of April to 63kg in the month under review as a result of stable maize prices and slight increase in livestock prices due to festive season(Iddul fitri).
- Current term of trade is below the longterm 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 urban towns and lowest recorded in the rural areas. 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

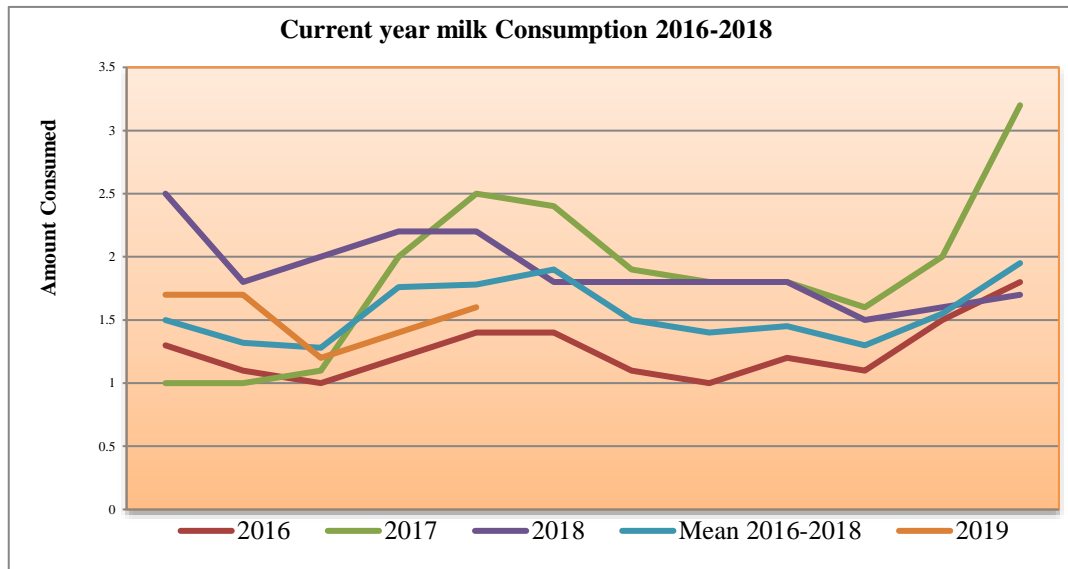


Figure 13: A graph showing current average milk consumption for Wajir against (2016-2018) mean

- Current average milk consumption per household per day slight increased from 1.4litres in April to 1.6litres in the month under review with the little produced only two litres are sold and other are consumed. 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 children under five to be malnourished.
- Trend and Quantity of milk consumption was not normal as compared to the same period due to low milk production, less milk was consumed during this year as opposed to same period overtime.

5.2 :Food Consumption Score

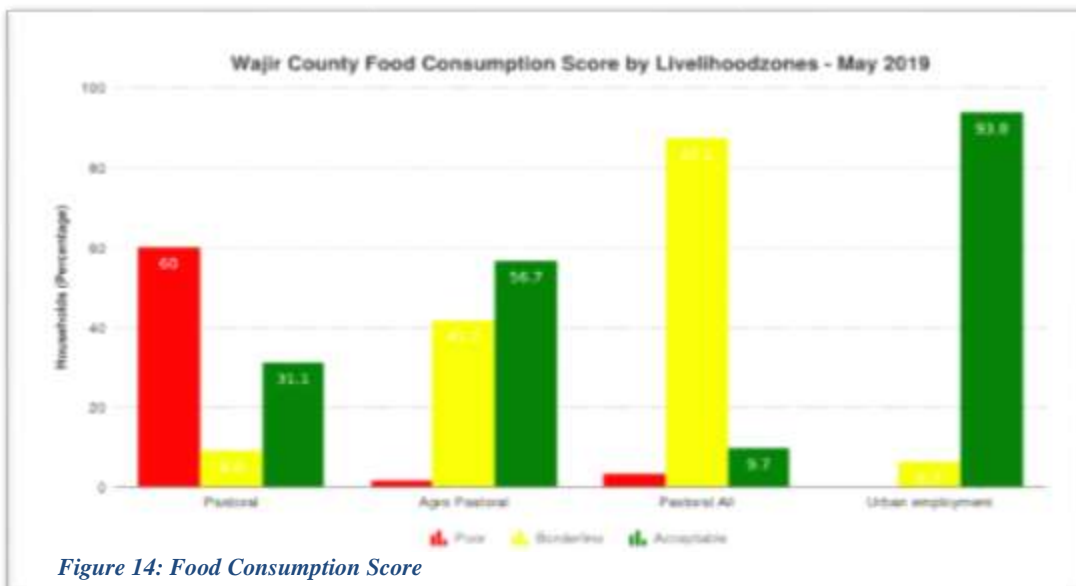


Figure 14: Food Consumption Score

- Pastoral and pastoral all species livelihood zones are the proportion of households that are in poor food consumption with a score of 60 and 3.2 in the month under review as compared to a score 86.4 and 8.5 in April 2019 indicating a slight improvement. While all other pastoral households are in Borderline and Acceptable.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

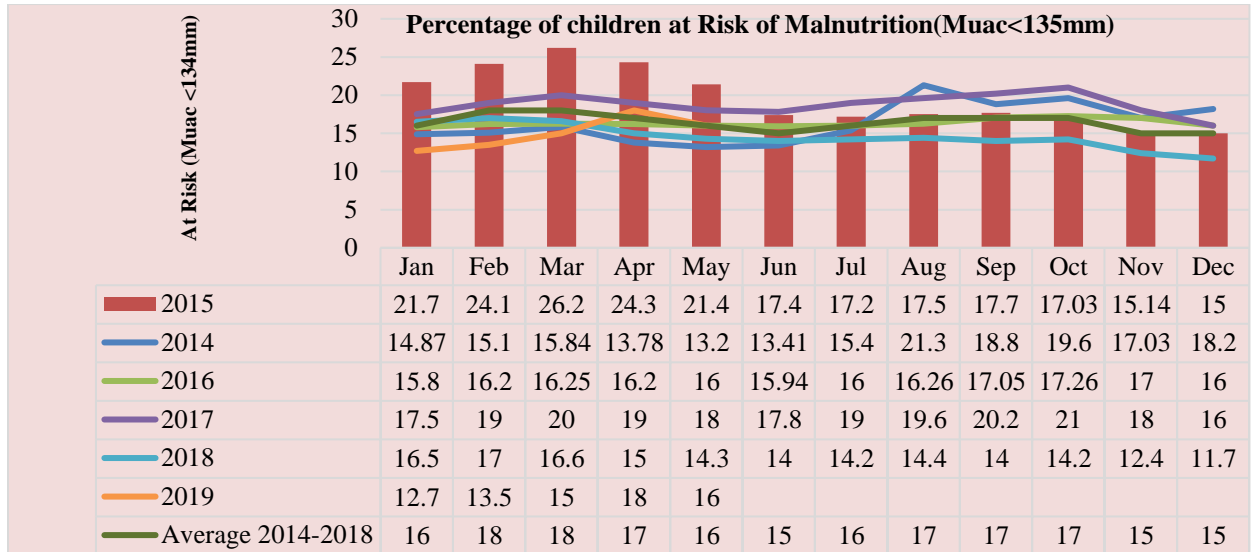


Figure 15: A Nutritional status of children between 12-59 months against (2014-18) long-term mean

- In Wajir a total of 629 children (6-59 months) were sampled for both girls and boys and assessed for malnutrition using MUAC Tape. From the sampled children, 16.0% were at risk of malnutrition (MUAC < 135 mm) as compared to previous month figure of 18.0%, a slight decrease but still malnutrition rate is high.
- Wajir County out of 629 children sample for both girls and boys only 1.28% of the children are severe malnourished as compared to previous month of 2.0 percent indicating a worsening situation.

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition in the month under review indicated 16.0% as compared to 18% showing a rise in malnutrition due to low milk production thus affecting children under five.
- The proportion of children under five with severe category increased from 0.2% in April to 1.28% in the month under review.

5.3.2 COPING STRATEGY INDEXES

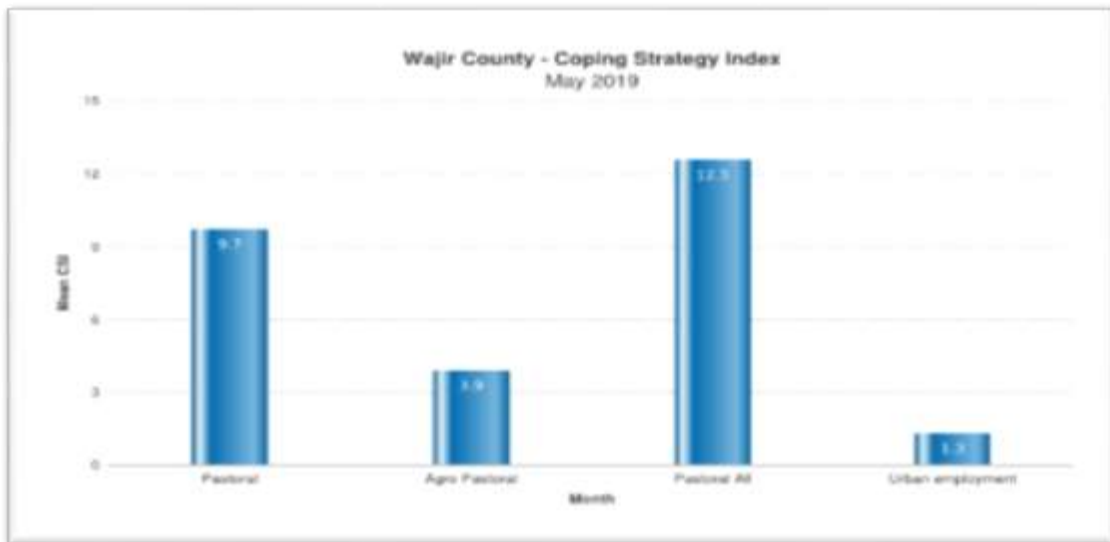


Figure16: A graph showing average (2016-2018) (coping strategy index (CSI) against the current trend.

- The mean CSI for the county slightly increased to 7.88 as compared to the previous month, which indicated 7.59 showing aworsening situation. 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

- Regular cash Transfers and Emergency Upscale payment are ongoing- 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

- Migration of livestock within the county from Garissa through Habswein was reported in search of pasture and water.
- Out migration of Livestock from the county to Marsabit and Isiolo County was also reported in search of pasture and water.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- June is generally a dry month over the county.
- The county is expected to remain generally dry as reminiscent of this month. Occasional cool and cloudy conditions are expected to prevail in the county.
- Pasture condition are expected to worsen further due to poor regeneration attributed to poor rainfall
- Prices of livestock might decrease as the livestock body condition will deteriorate and market prices will be low.
- Market prices for food commodities will likely 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 accessibility is likely to deteriorate due to poor regeneration of pasture and increased trekking distance.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Health & Nutrition.

- Monitoring and Surveillance of disease outbreak
- Community Sensitization and Case Management on Cholera outbreak
- Mass screening by County government and national Drought management authority. Children
- Monitoring of malnutrition by health and Nutrition Department-ongoing
- Upscaling of water quality thro' (Water sampling ,House water treatment)
- Procurement of improvised hand washing facilities

Livestock Sector.

- Livestock disease Surveillance by the department-ongoing
- Refurbishing of Makoror slaughter house
- Monitoring of livestock movement/migration
- Monitoring of livestock disease due to in migration and out migration.

Water Sector.

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

Peace and Security

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