

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



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



**JULY PHASE 2019**



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

**Rainfall.**

Wajir county did not receive any rainfall throughout the month, except Wajir North that received an off season in the month of July 2019, which had no impact on the ground.

**Vegetation condition:**

Current average VCI in the county showed moderate vegetation deficit with a score of 23.11 as compared to the previous figure of 17.59. This was due to an offseason that was reported in Wajir North that had no impact on the ground. However, Wajir west and eldas had extreme vegetation deficit while Wajir South had severe vegetation deficit and others having moderate vegetation deficit. This still shows depletion of vegetation across the livelihood zones.

**Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)**

**Production indicators:**

- Livestock body condition still ranges from fair to poor, but on a deteriorating trend.
- Milk production significantly declined.
- Mass Migration of livestock reported
- No livestock death reported
- Pasture condition depleted that is poor.
- Browse is poor except Wajir North which is fair.

**Access indicators**

- Significant increase in Trekking distance, low milk consumption, unfavourable Terms of Trade, poor market prices.

**Utilization Indicators**

**Early Warning Phase Classification**

| Livelihood Zone                                    | Phase        | Trend            |
|--|--------------|------------------|
| Agro-pastoral                                      | Alert        | Worsening        |
| Pastoral cattle                                    | Alarm        | stable           |
| Pastoral-all species                               | Alarm        | stable           |
| Pastoral camel                                     | Alert        | Worsening        |
| Informal employment                                | Alert        | Worsening        |
| County   | Alarm        | stable           |
| <b>Biophysical Indicators</b>                      | <b>value</b> | <b>Worsening</b> |
| Rainfall (% of Normal)                             | 0mm          | 80 -120          |
| VCI-3Month   | 3.5          | >35              |
| <b>Production indicators</b>                       | <b>Value</b> | <b>Normal</b>    |
| Livestock Body Condition                           | Fair-poor    | Normal           |
| Crop production                                    | Poor         | Good             |
| Milk Production                                    | 1.2          | >3-4litres       |
| Livestock Migration Pattern                        | unusual      | Normal           |
| Livestock deaths (from drought)                    | No death     | No death         |
| <b>Access Indicators</b>                           | <b>Value</b> | <b>Normal</b>    |
| Terms of Trade (ToT)                               | 55           | >66              |
| Milk Consumption                                   | 1.0          | >3               |
| Return Distance to water source                    | 10           | <5 Km            |
| <b>Utilization indicators</b>                      | <b>Value</b> | <b>Normal</b>    |
| Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition) | 15.0         | <6.6             |
| Coping Strategy Index (CSI)                        | 7.17         | <0.95            |

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

# 1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITION

## 1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- No Rainfall was received and experienced throughout the Month, However an offseason rainfall was experienced in Wajir North that had no impacts on the ground, though characterised by Cold, windy and dry weather throughout the day and night

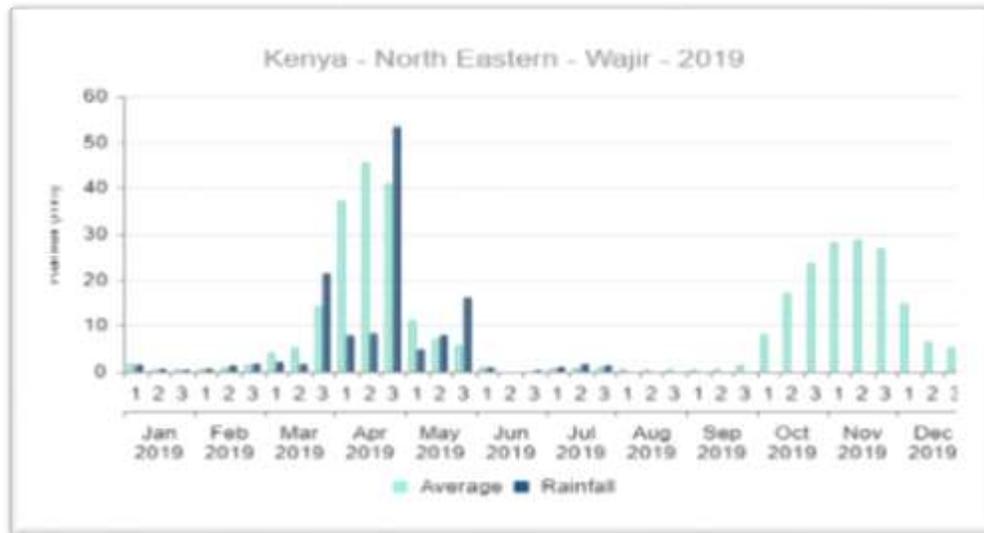


Figure 1: Rainfall

Source: WFP-Vam-Chirps

### 1.1.1 Amount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

Wajir County did not receive any rainfall throughout the Month, however an offseason rainfall was recorded with 3.54mm in Wajir North with no significant changes on the ground, though characterised by Cold, windy and dry weather condition during the day and night.

## 2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

### 2.1 Vegetation Condition

#### 2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

Current vegetation cover index across the livelihood zones still showed moderate vegetation deficit with a vci score of 23.11 as compared to a previous figure of 17.59 vegetation deficit with Wajir West, Eldas and Wajir south having extreme and severe vegetation deficit while other sub-counties recorded moderate vegetation deficit. The vegetation condition is expected to deplete significantly as the dry spell continues.

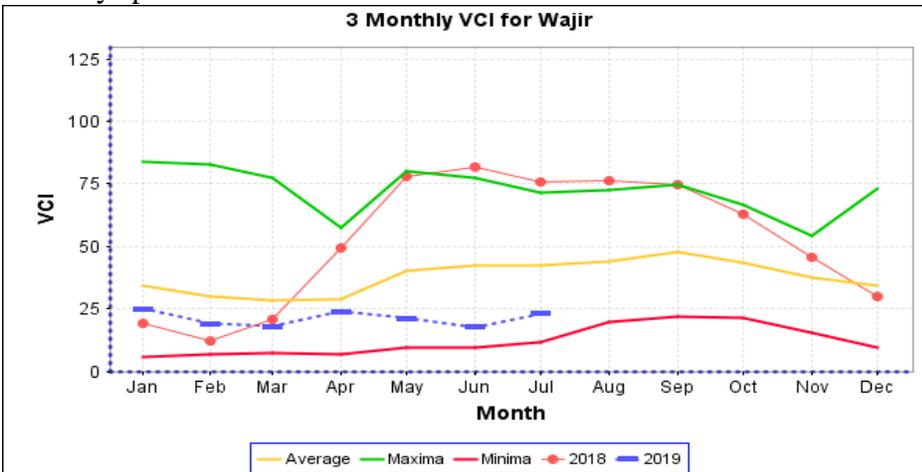


Figure 2: A Chart of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir during the month of July 2019

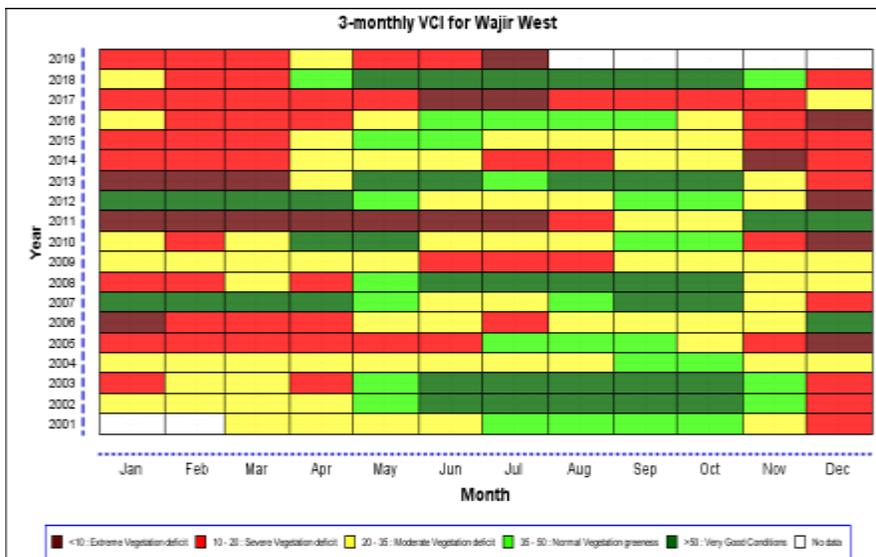


Figure 3: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir South during the month of July 2019.

#### 2.1.2 Pasture

- Pasture situation across the livelihood zones are still poor as compared to a normal season at this time of the year, except few areas towards the border of Somalia, Ethiopia and Isiolo County. Pasture is poor in the entire county as a result of enhance depletion of feed resources attributed to high concentration of livestock to the fall-back area due to poor rainfall.
- Available pasture is expected to last for a period of one weeks due to quick depletion of pasture. 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 Pastoral Camel in Wajir East, Parts of Agro-pastoral in Wajir North and Pastoral cattle in Wajir South recorded highest proportion, While Pastoral all species, Eldas and Tarbaj recorded lowest proportion.

### 2.1.3 Browse

- Current browse condition is poor in all the livelihood zones, except some parts of Wajir North that received an off season which is in fair condition. This other livelihood zones remained to be poor due to poor rainfall experienced during the long rains.
- Browse condition has deteriorated in all the livelihood zones as compared to previous month due to depletion of little feed resources available attributed to regeneration of browse.
- The available browse situation is likely to last for the next two weeks except areas in Wajir south, Wajir west and Eldas which are poor.
- Highest proportion of browse was reported in Wajir North.
- No constraints recorded during the month under review.

## 2.2 Water Source

### 2.2.1 Sources

- Major water sources used by both human and livestock across the livelihood zones are boreholes, shallow well, and few dams in Agro-pastoral areas. Majority of the pastoral households in the rural and urban settlement in the county depend on boreholes and shallow wells, while few others rely on dams.
- Main water source employed by both human and livestock across the livelihood zones was borehole at 46 percent, which is not normal at this particular time of the year, normally water pan is always the main water sources.
- Other sources utilized by both human and livestock were water pan (25.9%), shallow wells (25%) and Water Trucking.
- All the water pans in all livelihood zones have dried up which are recharged during long rains 2019 and reverted to boreholes
- Livelihood zones that are currently facing water shortages and are water trucked were reported in Wajir west, Parts of Wajir South, Wajir North, Eldas and Tarbaj Sub-county.

### 2.2.2 Household access and Utilization.

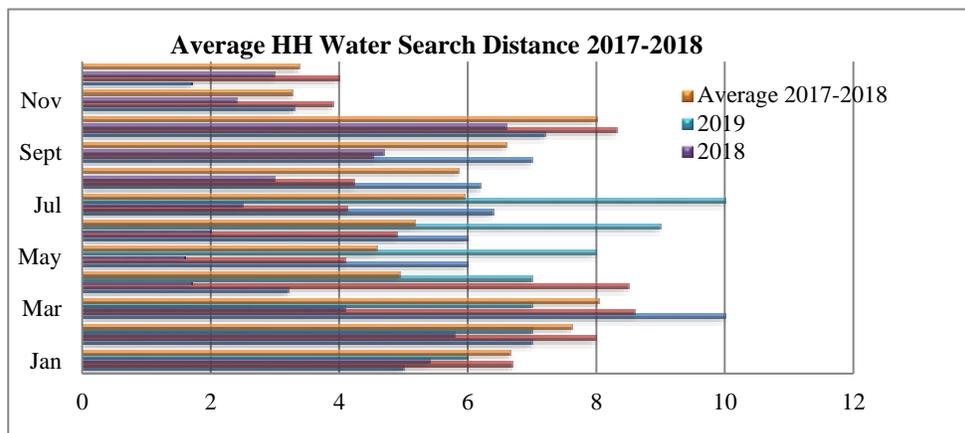


Figure 6: Current Return Distance to Water Sources Against 2016-2017 average

- Current average return distance from household to water point increased from 9km in June to 10km in the month under review due to depletion of water pans attributed to poor rainfall.
- Average water consumption per person per day significantly reduced from a normal of 15-20 litres to 5-8litres, few parts of Agro-pastoral, Pastoral Camel and Parts of Pastoral cattle livelihood zones. Others had low consumption due to poor rainfall experienced, this is normal at this time of the year.
- The proportion of households that treat water is too minimal with only some few households in towns using boiling methods and tabs.

### 2.2.3 Livestock access

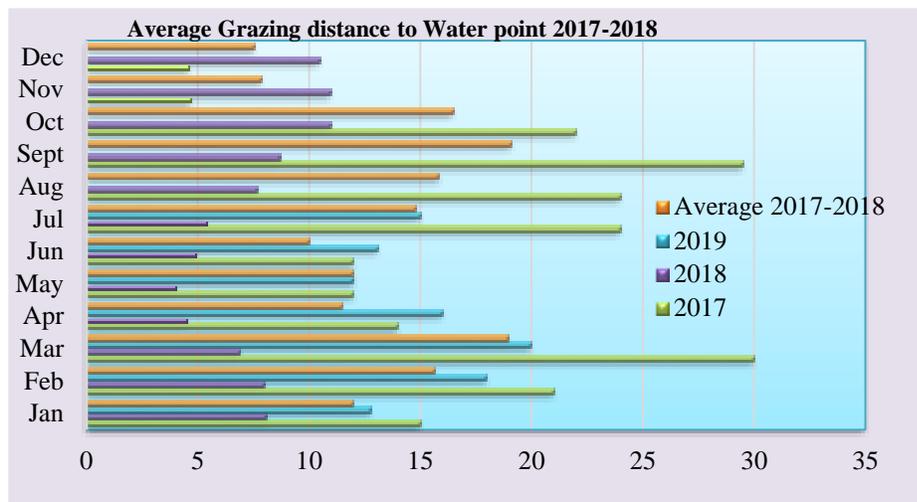


Figure 7: current grazing distance against (2017-2018) average.

- Current average Livestock distance from grazing area to water points significantly increased from 13.1km in June to 15.0km in the month under review as compared to previous months due to depletion of all water pans attributed to low recharge and over concentration of livestock at the water points thus increasing distance.
- Current return distance to water source is slightly above the long-term average and previous month average.
- Return Trekking distance to water points are expected to increase significantly as all the water pans have dried up and pastoralists have reverted to boreholes
- The frequency of watering interval has decreased as compared to the normal due to drying up of water pan attributed to low recharge of water pans in some parts of the livelihood zones.
- Watering intervals have increased compared to normal across the livelihood zones from 1-2 days for cattle, sheep and goats to 2-4 days, the watering intervals for camels increased to 10-14 days from 5-7 days normally in the agro pastoral and pastoral camel livelihood zones. In the pastoral all species livelihood zone the intervals increased to 7-10 days.
- 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 body condition of livestock for all species still range from fair to poor but on a deteriorating trend across the livelihood zones. The body condition for all species in pastoral cattle and pastoral all species livelihood zones are poor compared to normal as a result of inadequate and poorly distributed rains received that led to poor regeneration of pasture and browse especially in the lower parts and increasing return trekking distances to the watering points, The deteriorating body condition is likely to lead to low level of production especially for milk and lower livestock market prices.
- Currently the body condition of livestock still remained the same as compared to previous month, except parts of Wajir North, Wajir west, Wajir South and Eldas which are in poor condition.
- Livestock body condition currently ranges between fair to poor as compared to similar previous period which was good during that time, 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

- Incidence of livestock disease was reported in all livelihood zones. The reported cases are PPR, CCPP and CCBP.

##### 3.1.3 Milk Production

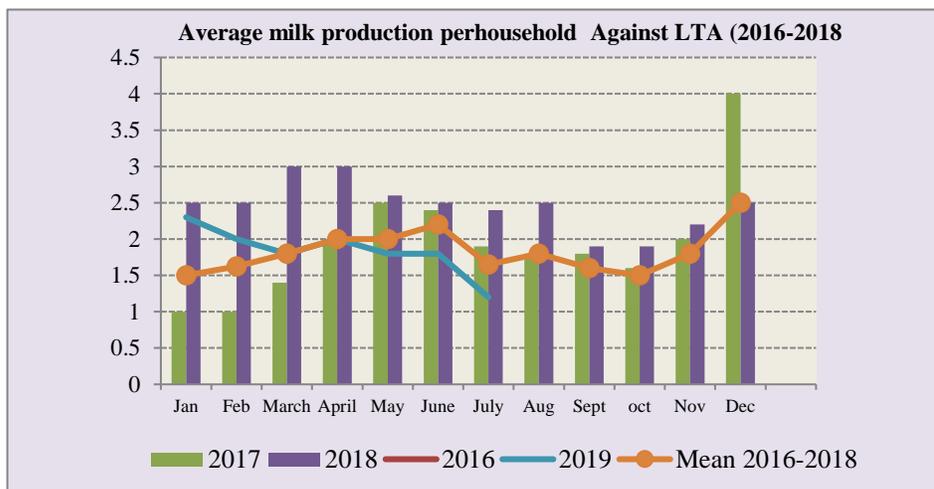


Figure 8: A graph showing current average milk production for Wajir against (2016-2018) mean

- Current average milk production per household per day decreased significantly from 1.8litres in June to 1.2litres in the month under review as compared to previous month due to poor livestock body condition, increased trekking distance and depletion of pasture and browse.
- The trend and Quantity of milk production is not normal for this time of the year as compared to the same period due to low production attributed to poor regeneration of pasture, browse and increased trekking distance and low birth-rate.
- 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.
- Current average Milk production was below long-term average and previous month average due to increased distance, low birth rate and poor livestock body condition which resulted to 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, Water melon, As a result of delayed rainfall during the long rains 2019, majority of the farmers did not plant and the few who did greatly reduced their targeted acreage but experienced a total crop failure and do not expect any harvests.

#### **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

#### Cattle Prices

- Current average price of four-year-old medium size Cattle decreased from Kshs 15000 in June to Kshs 14,800 in the month under review due to poor market attributed to less demand and high supply of the market.
- Highest cattle prices were recorded in Wajir town while lowest was reported at the rural areas.
- Current average price is below the long-term average and previous month average due to poor market prices as a result of low demand and high supply in the market.

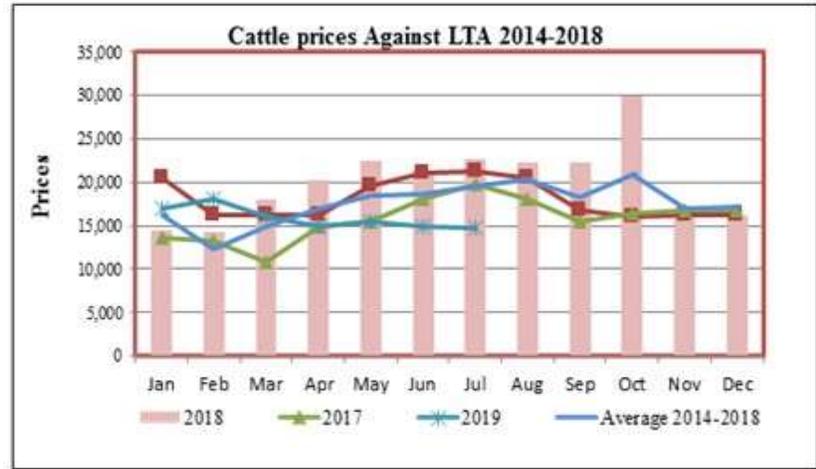


Figure 9: current cattle price against the LTA (2014-18)

#### 4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- Current average prices of a goat in the month of July 2019 slightly decreased from Kshs 3180 in June to 3131 in the month under review with no significant change.
- Current prices are below the long-term average by 22 percent as compared to Kshs. 3,726 normally.
- Current prices of goat are below the long-term average and previous month prices due to low market demand and high supply.
- The average prices of goat have been gradually declining from April to July 2019, due to poor livestock market attributed to low demand and high supply of livestock.
  - The highest prices of
  - livestock were reported in the urban areas and lowest in the rural areas.
  - The average prices are expected to worsen as the livestock body condition deteriorates and dry season continues.



Figure 10: Current Goat price against LTA (2014-2018)

#### 4.1.3 Camel price

- Current average price of four-year-old Camel slightly increase from 35,000 in June to 34,000 in the month under review due to poor market attributed high supply and low market as a result of poor livestock body condition
- 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 and previous average prices.

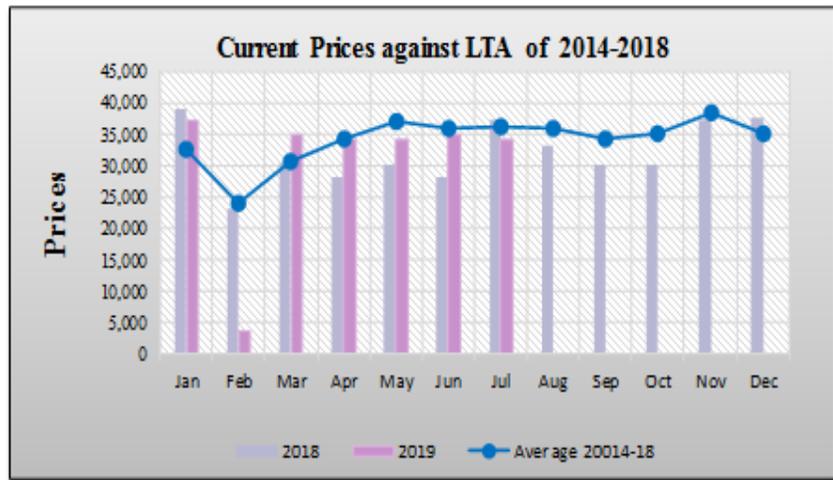


Figure 11: Camel price against LTA of 2014-2018

## 4.2 CROP PRICE

### 4.2.1 Maize

- In July the current price of maize recorded Kshs 56.8 as compared to a long-term average of Kshs 51 indicating 11 percent above the long-term average and also 18 percent above the previous month price.
- prices of Maize have been steadily rising from January to April and since then has stabilized from June to July 2019.
- The current stable prices are due to fair demand and supply from outside the county.
- The livelihood with the highest prices were recorded in the Pastoral Cattle, Pastoral all species and lowest reported in the Formal/Informal settlement. The prices are expected to be stable due to relief food distribution by the County and National government and supply inflows from outside source Markets.

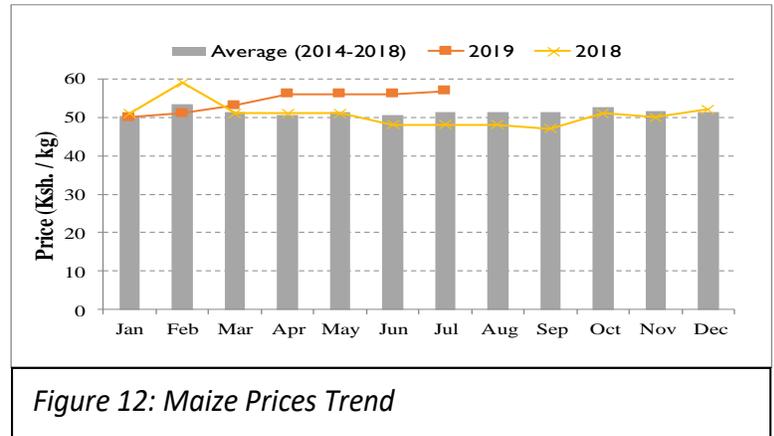


Figure 12: Maize Prices Trend

#### 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 all the livelihood zone

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

- Current Terms of Trade was unfavourable compared to long term average.
- In July 2019, 55 kilograms of maize can be exchanged from the sale of a goat compared to the long-term average of 72 Kilograms, the terms of trade were less 24 percent when compared to the long-term average.
- The ToT for period of March to July 2019 has been fairly stable throughout the season.

- The trend is expected to deteriorate as the prices of goat decreases and prices of maize are expected to remain constant
- 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 Town and lowest recorded in the rural areas. This is not normal at this time of the year.

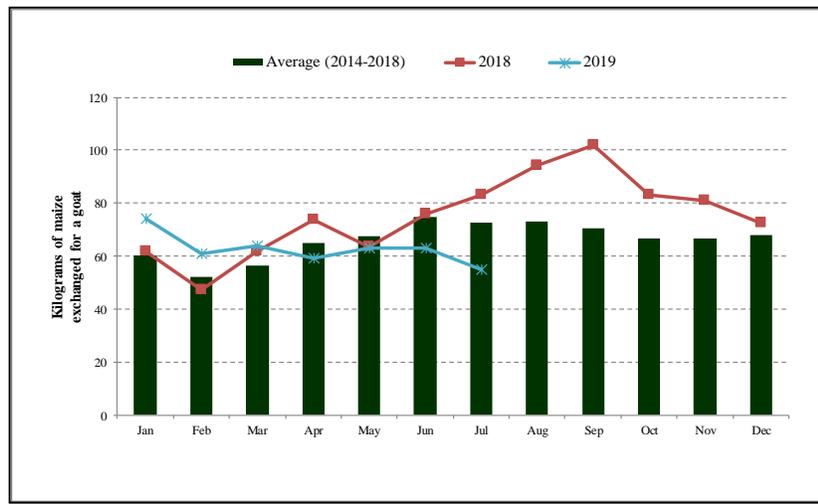


Figure13: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long-term (2014-

2018)

#### 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

- Current average milk consumption per household per day significantly decreased from 1.7 in the month of June to 1.0 in the month under review as compared to previous month due low milk production attributed to poor livestock body condition and increased trekking distance.
- The highest livestock milk producing species are cattle and camel.
- Current average household milk consumption per household per day was below the long-term average and previous month average, which is not normal at this time of the year thus making children under five be food secure.
- Trend and Quantity of milk consumption was not normal as compared to the same period due to low milk production at the household level and less milk was consumed during this year as opposed to same period overtime.

### 5.2 : Food Consumption Score

- Pastoral and pastoral all species livelihood zones are the proportion of pastoral households that are in poor food consumption with a score of 34, borderline of 34 and acceptable of 33 in the month under review as compared to a score of 60 and 3.2 in the month of June 2019. this shows that the situation is deteriorating as the dry spell continues.

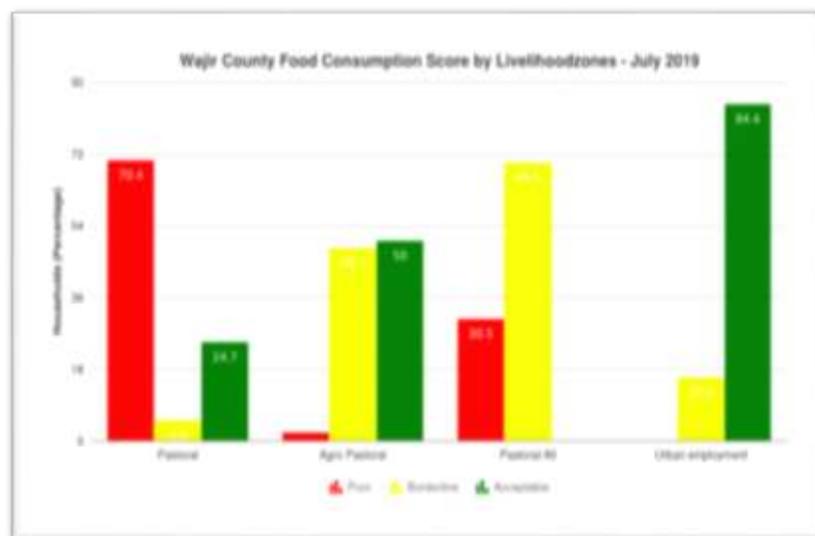


Figure14: Food Consumption

### 5.3.1 Health and Nutrition Status

- In Wajir a total of 572 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 16.5% with no significant changes, however malnutrition for under-fives are still on the rise.
- Wajir County out of 625 children sample for both girls and boys only 0.6% of the children are still severely malnourished as compared to previous month which was 0.6 percent.

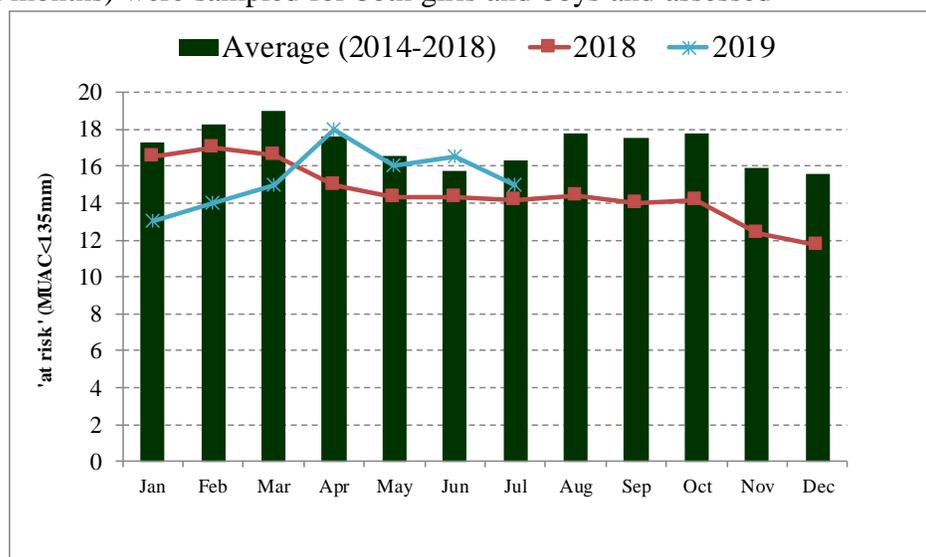


Figure 15: A Nutritional status of children between 12-59 months against (2014-18) long-Term Average

### 5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition in the month under review showed 15 percent compared to 16.0% showing a slight decline but with no significant

changes, this shows that still malnutrition is on the rise across the livelihood zones due to low milk production and less consumption thus affecting children under-fives. The proportion of children under five with severe category increased from 0.6% in June to 1.28% in the month of May indicating a decline.

### 5.3.2 COPING STRATEGY INDEXES

- The mean CSI for the county increased significantly from 7.05 in June to 7.17 in the month under review, indicating a worsening trend.
- More coping strategy was employed in pastoral all species and Pastoral 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

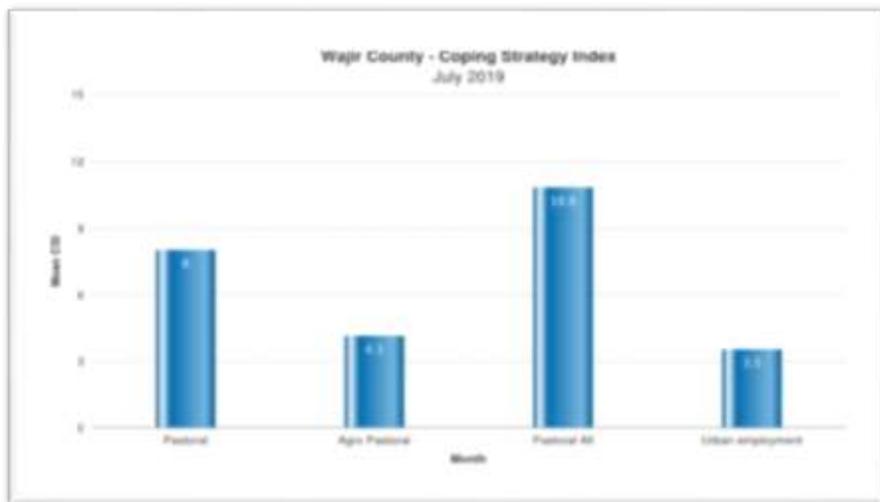


Figure16: A graph showing average (2016-2018) (coping strategy index (CSI) against the current trend

## 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
- Food distribution by the National and County Government.

### 6.2 Food Aid.

- Relief food by National Government and County Government.

## 7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

### 7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- No incidence of insecurity that was reported during the month under review.

### 7.2 Migration

- Mass migration of livestock from within the county to other county and country was reported in search of pasture and water.

## 7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- Above normal or below normal rainfall are likely to in October, November and December.
- Regeneration of pasture and browse are likely to be realized during short rains
- Recharge of water pans and shallow wells are expected during the short rains
- Prices of livestock are expected to be poor in the month of September and mid Octobers and there after improve during OND 2019.
- Prices of food commodities are likely to remain stable in the month of September and mid Octobers thereafter increase due to above normal rains which will cut-off roads.
- Further Increase of livestock trekking distance in the month of September and mid Octobers and thereafter reduce due to the short rains

## 8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

**Health & Nutrition.**

- Monitoring and Surveillance of disease outbreak
- Monitoring of malnutrition by health and Nutrition Department-ongoing
- Procurement of improvised hand washing facilities

**Livestock Sector.**

- Livestock disease Surveillance by the department-ongoing
- Provision of livestock feeds by NDMA
- Surveillance of livestock disease
- Mass Vaccination of Livestock
- Monitoring livestock migration by the department
- Monitoring of livestock disease due to in migration and out migration.

**Water Sector.**

- Water trucking to all centres in the county.
- Maintenance of borehole water supplies
- Provision of fast-moving spare parts-Ongoing
- Provision of Submersible pumps
- Supporting of Rapid Response team to borehole breakdown.
- Fuel Subsidy for boreholes due to the drought.

**Peace and Security**

- Conduct peace dialogue meeting between iinta-counties
- Activation and sensitization of conflict mitigation teams