

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



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



AUGUST EW PHASE 2019



Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

Rainfall.

No rainfall was recorded, though characterized by sunny, windy and dry weather throughout the month. Of August 2019.

Vegetation condition:

Current 3 month VCI in the county showed moderate vegetation deficit band with a score of 23.11 and below normal when compared to previous month. Pasture condition is poor to very poor across the livelihood zones whereas browse is fair to poor in the entire county.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production indicators:

- Livestock body condition in all species is fair to poor with exception of cattle and small stock in some pockets depicted very poor condition. Milk production was 1 litre/households/day which was below normal. Unusual migration of was livestock reported. Depletion of Pasture and browse witnessed.

Access indicators

- Significant increase of households and livestock trekking distance reported, All water pans dried up, milk consumption of 0.8litres hence below normal, unfavourable terms of trade due to poor livestock prices and stable maize price and poor market prices.

Utilization Indicators

- Percentage of children under five at risk of malnutrition increase from 15.0% in July to 18.0 percent in the month under review indicating high malnutrition rate is still on the rise. All pastoral households are employing

Early Warning Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral cattle	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral-all species	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral camel	Alarm	Worsening
Informal employment	Alarm	Worsening
County	Alarm	Worsening
Biophysical Indicators	value	Worsening
Rainfall (% of Normal)	0mm	80 -120
VCI-3Month	23.11	>35
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Fair-poor	Normal
Crop production	Poor	Good
Milk Production	1.0	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	unusual	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death due to drought	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	53	>66
Milk Consumption	0.8	>3
Return Distance to water source	10	<5 Km
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal

<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

- In the month of August 2019 No Rainfall was recorded across the livelihood zones, Most parts of the County experienced sunny and dry weather condition throughout the day and night.

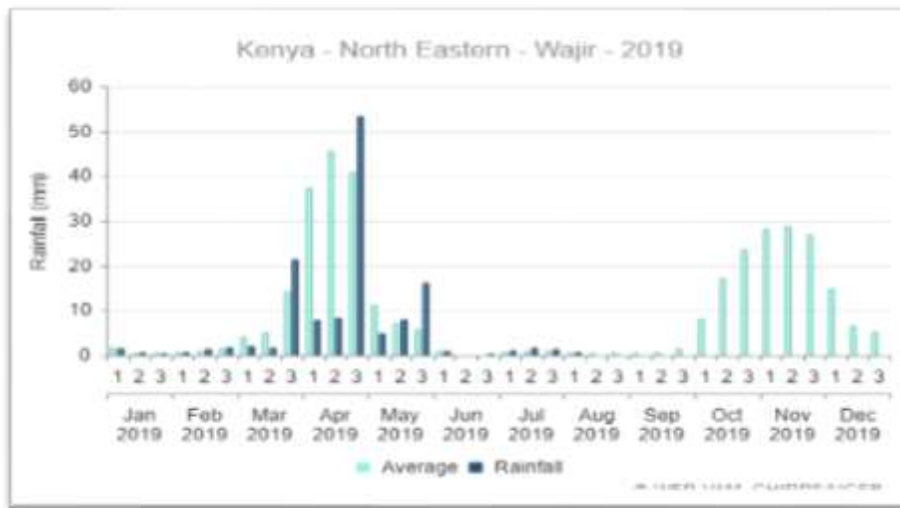


Figure 1: Rainfall

Source: WFP-Vam-Chirps/UCSB

1.1.1 Amount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

Wajir County did not receive any rainfall throughout the Month, however characterised by dry, Sunny and windy weather condition throughout the day and night.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

Current 3-month vegetation cover index across the county indicated moderate vegetation band with a score of 23.11 as compared to previous month figure of 29, However the VCI band is below normal, though the county food security situation is in alarm. The vegetation condition is likely to be depleted across the livelihood zones as the dry spell continues.

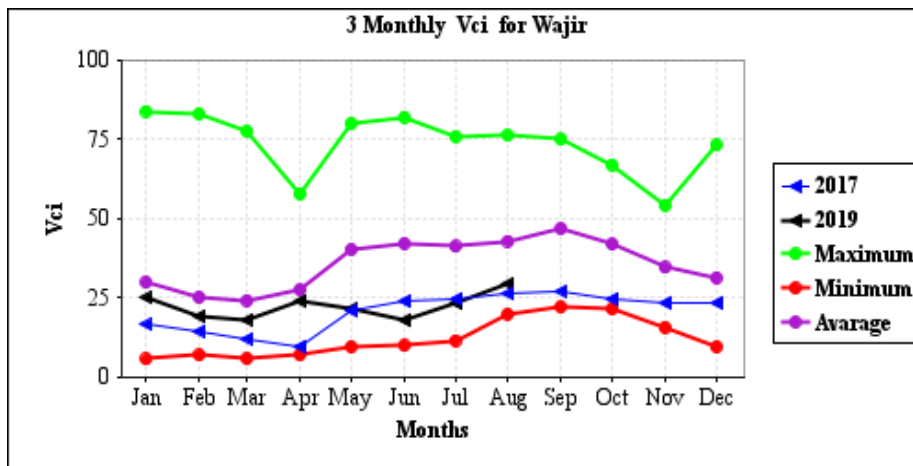


Figure 2: A Chart of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir during the month of August 2019

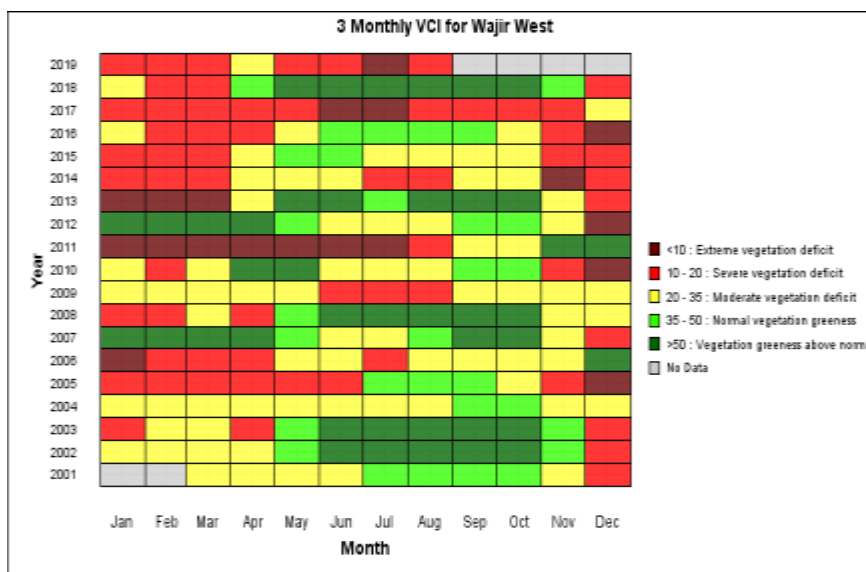


Figure 3: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir West during the month of August 2019.

2.1.2 Pasture

- 90 percent of the sampled communities reported Pasture condition in the county to be poor to very poor, while 10 percent reported pasture to be fair to poor across the livelihood zones.
- Pasture condition is observed to be very poor as compared to previous month due to the depletion attributed to high concentration of livestock in the fall back areas.
- Little available pasture is likely to last for a duration of less than weeks as a result of high population of livestock and quick depletion of pasture.
- Highest proportion of pasture available was witnessed near the borders of Ethiopia, Somalia and Border of Is iolo and Marsabit County 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 Parts of Pastoral Camel in Wajir East, Agro-pastoral in Wajir North and Pastoral cattle livelihood zones in Wajir South recorded some little pasture, whereas Pastoral all species, Eldas and Tarbaj recorded lowest proportion.

2.1.3 Browse

- Current browse condition is poor across the livelihood zones, except some parts of Agro-pastoral livelihood in Wajir North that is in fair condition. All other livelihood zones remained to be poor to very poor due to total depletion of browse attributed to the long dry spell experienced.
- Browse condition has significantly decreased in the entire county as compared to previous month because of total depletion of browse due to the long dry spell witnessed across the livelihood zones.
- The available browse condition is likely to last for week due to high concentration of livestock in the grazing fallback zones.
- 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 Water Trucking across the livelihood zones. Most of the pastoralist have reverted to boreholes and Water Trucking in the rural areas while others depend on shallow wells in the urban areas.
- Main water source employed by both human and livestock across the livelihood zones was borehole at 54.2 percent while the remaining depend on shallow wells and water trucking, which is not normal at this particular time of the year, Normally water pan is always the main water sources.

2.2.2 Household access and Utilization.

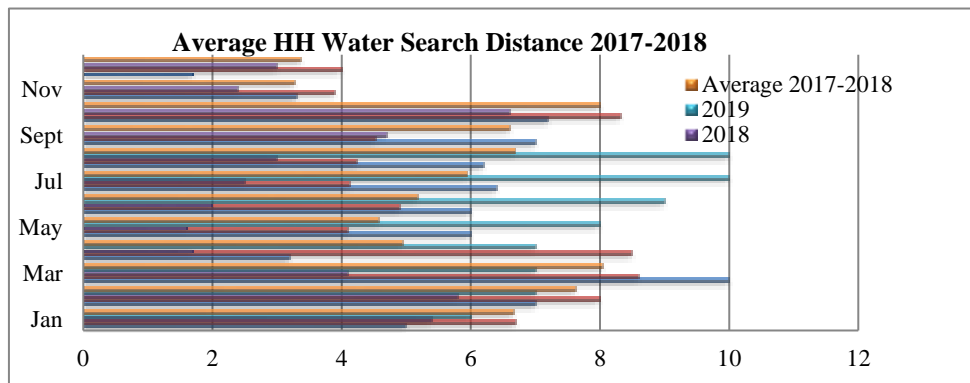


Figure 4: Current Return Distance to Water Sources Against 2016-2017 average

- Current average return distance from household to water point remained the same with 10km as compared to previous month attributed to drying up of all water pan and pastoralist households reverting to boreholes and water trucking.
- Average water consumption per person per day significantly reduced from a normal of 15-20 litres to 4-8litres, All livelihood zones have water stress except pockets in Wajir North and in Wajir East, this is not normal at this time of the year.
- The proportion of households that treat water is minimal with only some few households in Urban towns using aqua tabs while few others use boiling methods.

2.2.3 Livestock access

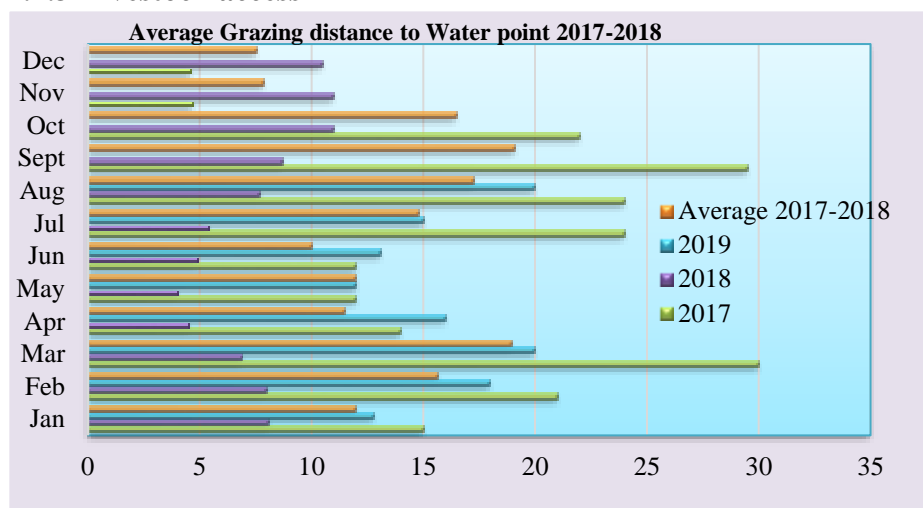


Figure 5: current grazing distance against (2017-2018) average.

- Current average Livestock distance from grazing area to water points significantly increased from 15km in July to 18km in the month under review as compared to previous months due to total depletion of all water pans in the county as a result of failed rainfall attributed to low recharge and overpopulation of livestock at the water sources.
- Current return distance from grazing area to water points is significantly above the long term average and previous month average.
- Return Trekking distance to water points are likely 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.
- High grazing distance was reported in all livelihood zones across the County.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock production

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Current body condition of livestock for all species across the livelihood zones is between fair to poor in a worsening trend, however, there are areas in Wajir West and Eldas that showed very poor condition due to depletion of pasture, browse and increased trekking distance and unusual migration of livestock.
- Currently the body condition of livestock for all species remained the same as compared to previous month, except parts of Wajir West, Eldas, Wajir North which are in very poor condition for Cattle, goat and sheep.
- Currently the condition ranges between fair to poor as opposed to similar previous period which was good during that time, this shows that the situation has worsened due to failed rainfall experienced during previous period.
- Livestock body condition varies according to livelihood zones, where most of the livestock species are in fair to poor across the livelihood zones except parts of Eldas, Wajir West and North which are in very poor condition

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Outbreak of livestock diseases was reported across the livelihood zones and the reported cases are CCBP, PPR and CCPP and the department is currently monitoring the condition.

3.1.3 Milk Production

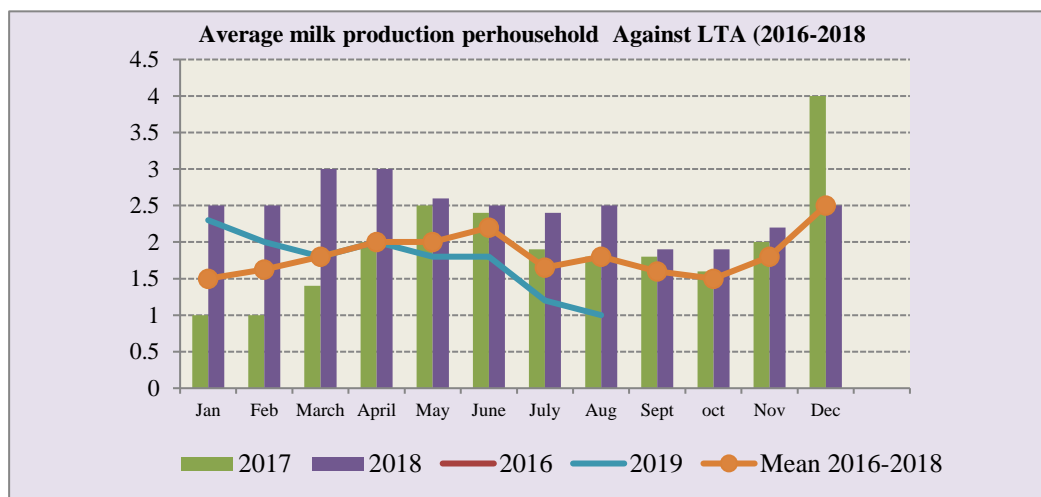


Figure 6: A graph showing current average milk production for Wajir against (2016-2018) mean

- Current average milk production per household per day decreased slightly from 1.2 litres in July to 1.0 litres in the month under review.
- Current milk production decreased as compared to previous month due to low milk production attributed to poor livestock body condition, increased trekking distance, total depletion of pasture, browse and water as a result of failed 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 low production attributed to poor regeneration of pasture, browse and increased trekking distance and low birth-rate for cattle and small stock.
- Highest livestock producing milk in the livelihood zones was reported in Pastoral Camel and Pastoral Cattle and Lowest producing was recorded in agro-pastoral and Pastoral all species.

- Current average Milk production per household per day was below long-term average and previous month average due to depletion of pasture and browse, poor livestock condition and increased trekking distance thus leading to low production

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.

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 significantly from kshs 14,800 in the month of July to kshs 12,000 in the month under review due to poor market attributed to low demand and high supply and poor livestock body condition.
- Highest cattle market prices were reported in the urban centres whereas lowest recorded at the rural areas.
- Current average Cattle is below the long-term average and previous years month average attributed to poor market as a result of low demand and high supply in the market.

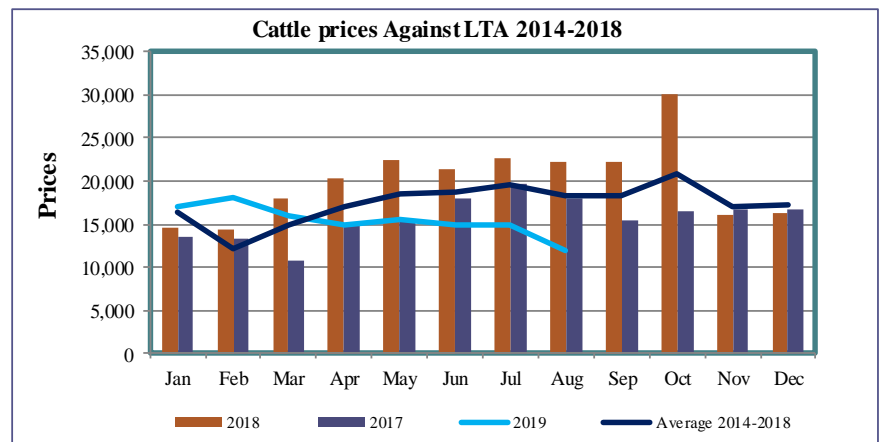


Figure 7: Current cattle prices against LTA 2014-2018

4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- Current average prices of a goat in the month of August 2019 remained stable as compared to previous month due to Idd festival that attributed to fair demand and supply.

- Current prices are below the long term average by less 33 percent as compared to kshs. 3,738 normally.
- Current prices of goat are below the long term average and previous month prices due to low market demand and high supply in the market, however the festive season made it slightly stable.

The highest prices of livestock were reported in the urban areas and lowest in the rural areas.

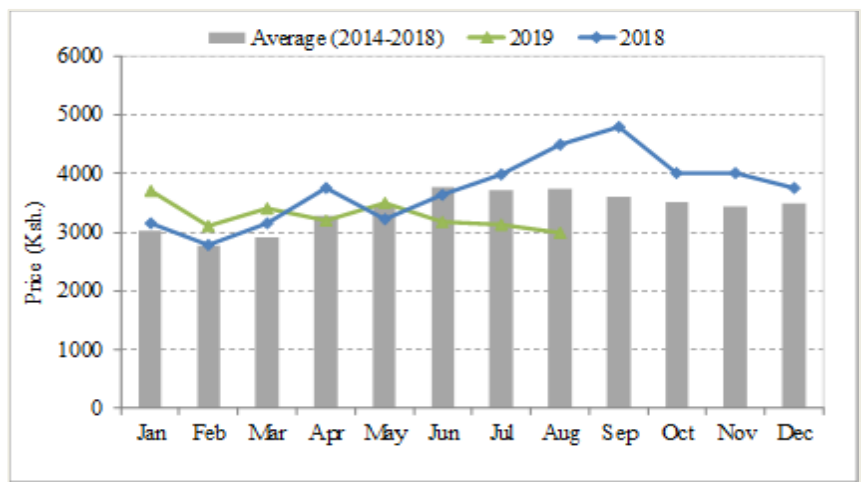


Figure 8: Current Goat prices against LTA of 2014-2018.

4.1.3 Camel price

- Current average price of four-year-old Camel slightly decreased from 34,000 in July to 33,000 in the month under review due to low market prices attributed to low market demand and high supply in the market.
- Livelihood zones with the highest prices of camel were recorded in Wajir town and lowest reported at the rural due to the main market in town.
- Current average price of camel is below the long term average and previous average prices due to poor market attributed to poor livestock body condition.

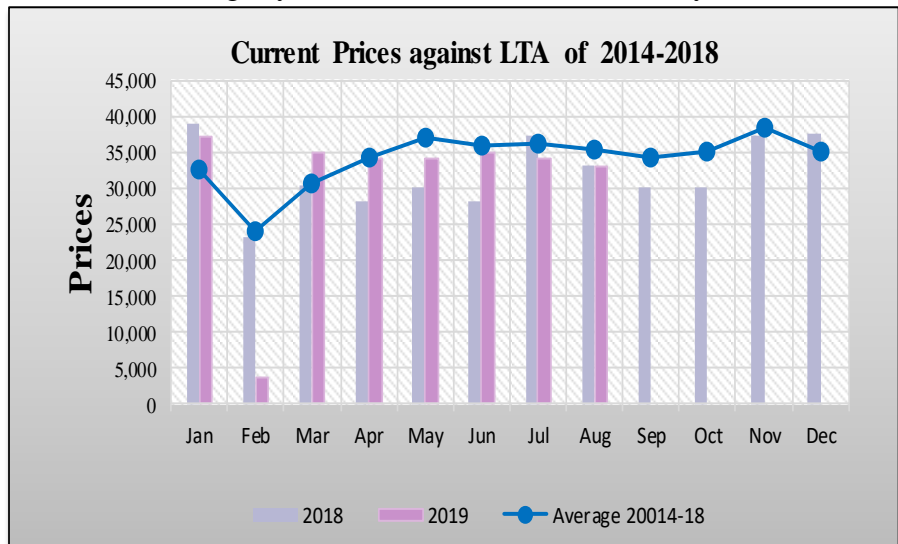


Figure 9: Camel price against LTA of 2014-2018

4.2 CROP PRICE

4.2.1 Maize

- The current maize prices remained stable as compared to previous month of July that recorded kshs 56.8 due to high supply and low demand.
- Current prices is above the long term average and previous years month average, this shows 9 percent above the long term average and 17 percent previous month average.

- 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 th 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.

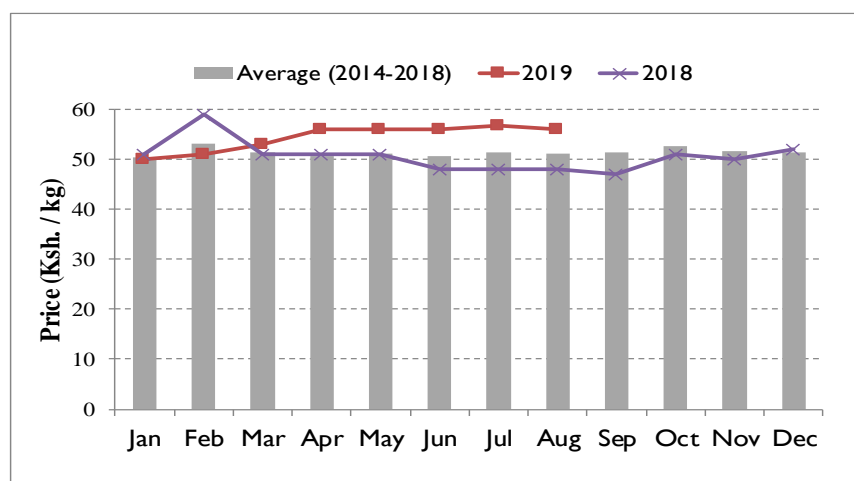


Figure 10: Current maize prices Against LTA of 2014-2018

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).

- In August 2019, 53 kilograms of maize can be exchanged from the sale of a goat compared to the long term average of 73 Kilograms, the terms of trade were less 27 percent when compared to the long term average.
- Current Terms of Trade was unfavourable compared to long term average and previous years' month average.
- Terms of trade for period of June to August 2019 has been deteriorating throughout the season due to stable maize prices and decrease in livestock prices.
- 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.

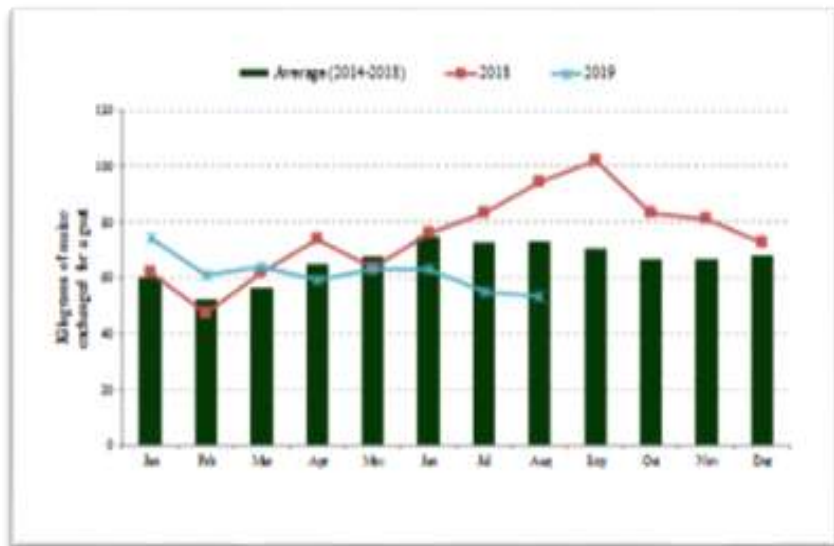


Figure11: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long-term (2014-2018)

4.4 Implication of the above indicators to food security

- Low market price will lower the purchasing power of pastoral households thus affecting children under-fives.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- Average milk consumption per household per day Tremendously decreased from 1.0 in the month of July to 0.8litres in the month under review as compared to previous month due significant decrease in production attributed to increased trekking distance, poor livestock body condition attributed to depletion of pasture and browse.
- 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 pastoral households of children under five to be food insecure.
- Trend and Quantity of milk consumption at household was not normal as opposed to previous month and similar previous period of the year as aresult of low production attributed to poor body condition and increased trekking distance from grazing area to water sources.

5.2 : Food Consumption Score

- Most of the Pastoral all, pastoral and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones are in poor and border with 58.1,16.7 and 83.3,34.9 and 68.3 respectively while few others are in acceptable in the month under review as compared to poor food consumption with a score of 34, borderline of 34. this shows that the situation is deteriorating as the dry spell continues.

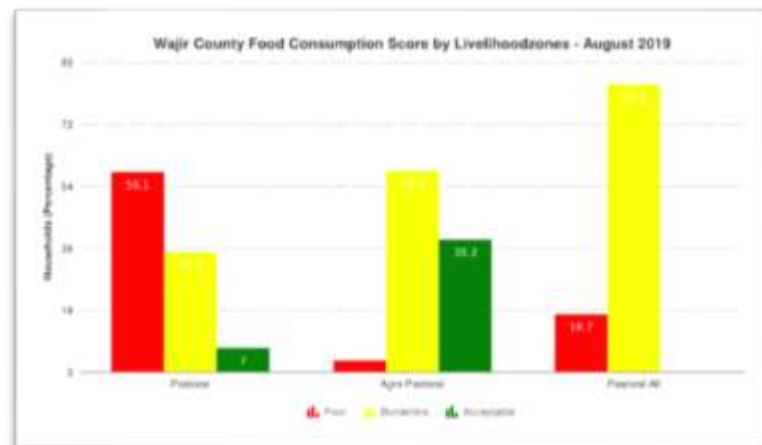


Figure 14: Food Consumption

5.3.1 Health and Nutrition Status

- In Wajir a total of 513 children (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% with significant changes due to low milk production thus affecting children under fives.
- Wajir County out of 513 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 which remained the same as compared to previous month.

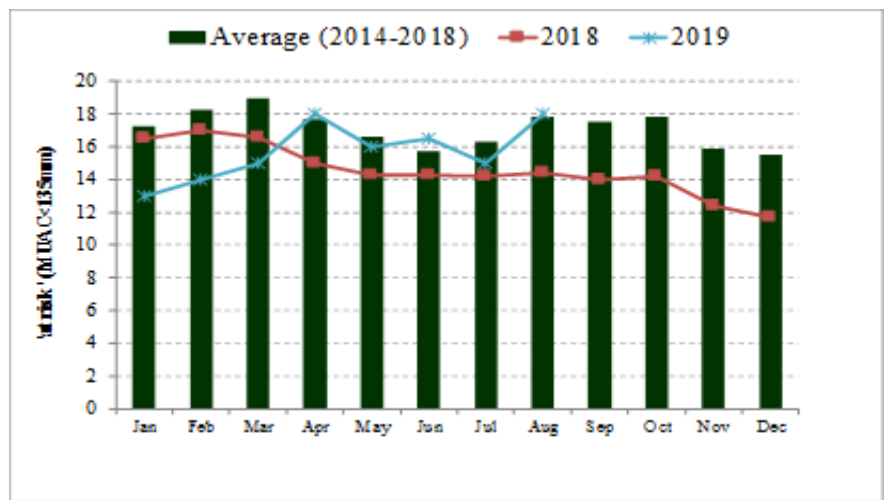


Figure 13: A Nutritional status of children between 12-59 months against (2014-18) long-Term Average

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition in the month under review indicated 18.0 percent compared to 15.0% showing significant increase in malnutrition due to low milk production thus affecting children under-fives, this shows that still malnutrition is on the rise across the livelihood zones. The proportion of children under five with severe category remained the same with 0.6% still a decline.

5.3.2 COPING STRATEGY INDEXES

- The mean CSI for the county slightly decreased as compared to previous month with a CSI of 7.17 in July to 6.32 in the month of August 2019.
- Pastoral and Pastoral all species employed while other livelihood zones applied less coping strategies due to several interventions ongoing both National and County Government.
- 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

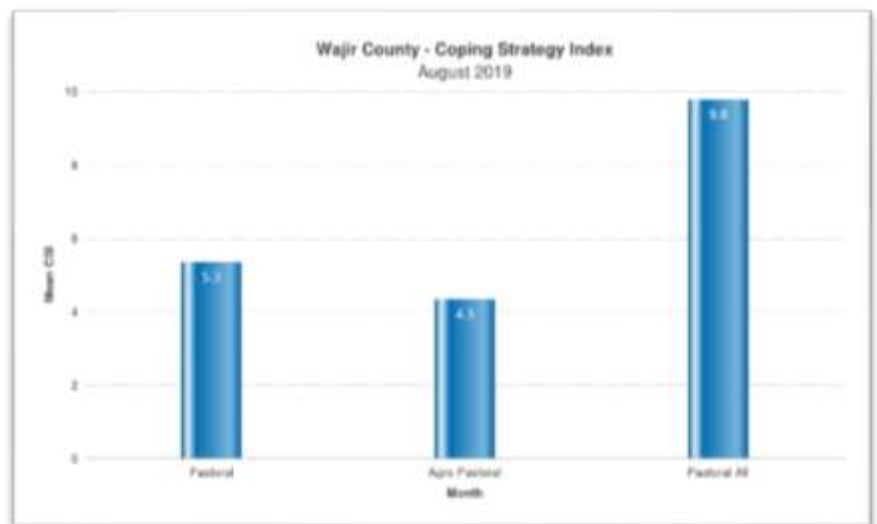


Figure14: A graph showing average (2016-2018) (coping strategy index (CSI) against the current trend

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 Non-food interventions.-Ongoing

- Regular cash Transfers and Emergency Upscale payment are still ongoing- by the National Drought Management Authority-ongoing.
- Distribution of food Aid to the affected people is ongoing by the National Government.
- Sustainable food system Program is ongoing by World Food Program.
- Kenya Red Cross Provided Cash Transfers to 2000 households

6.2 Food Aid.

- Relief food by National Government and County Government.
- Distributed food Aid to 250 households by Kenya Red Cross

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- No Cases of insecurity that was reported during the month under review, though there was cases of administrative boundary reported between Wajir North and Eldas.this case has been intervened by both the National and County Government.

7.2 Migration

- Unusual Migration of livestock from within the county to other county and country was witnessed during the month in search of pasture, browse and water.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- Above normal rainfall will be expected in most parts of the county during the months of October, November and December.
- Most parts of the county will experience generally sunny and dry weather condition in the month of September and thereafter receive rainfall during short rains.
- Above normal rainfall will likely improve vegetation in the county.
- Regeneration of pasture and browse are likely to be realized during short rains
- Recharge of water pans, 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.

- Support of Nutrition outreach sites by Save The children and Kenya Red Cross by 68 centres
- Water Trucking to 65 health facilities by County government and 40 health facilities by Save the Children
- Mass Screening by Save the Children
- Monitoring of malnutrition by health and Nutrition Department-ongoing
- Routine Surveillance of diseases by County Government and other stakeholders

Livestock Sector.

- Livestock disease Surveillance by the department-ongoing
- Supported and distributed 8400 bags of drought pellets to four sub-counties by NDMA.
- Surveillance of livestock disease
- Monitoring livestock migration by the department

Water Sector.

- Water trucking to 115 centres by the county government-ongoing
- Provision and distribution of fast moving spare parts to 15 strategic boreholes by NDMA-ongoing
- Support of Rapid response teams to strategic boreholes
- Provision of four submersible pumps to Qarurah, Biyamathow,Bojigaras and Mansa boreholes by NDMA.

Peace and Security

- Conducted peace dialogue meeting between inter and intra counties by National and County Government.
- Activated and sensitized conflict mitigation teams