



**National Drought Management Authority
WAJIR COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR SEPTEMBER 2020**

EW SEPTEMBER PHASE 2020



Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

Rainfall.

- No rainfall received during the month under review.

Vegetation.

- Vegetation condition indexes showed normal vegetation but as per the situation on the ground, the vegetation is on moderate vegetation deficit in a worsening trend.
- All water pans in all livelihood zones have dried up completely.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production indicators:

- Livestock body condition for all species are good to fair, except for Agro-Pastoral and Pastoral that exhibited poor condition.
- Household milk production and consumption declined when compared to normal.
- There was no unusual migration reported.
- Incidences of livestock disease reported, however there were no deaths.

Access indicators

- Terms of Trade is still favourable and above normal due to stable maize prices.
- Trekking distance increased
- Milk consumption declined.

Utilization Indicators:

There was a decrease in food consumption and more Coping strategy employed. For Family MUAC, 0.5 and 18.2 percent of children under five recorded MUAC < 134 and below.
No notable variation in livelihood coping strategies.

Early Warning Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-Pastoral	Alert	Worsening
Pastoral Cattle	Alert	Worsening
Pastoral-All Species	Alert	Worsening
Pastoral Camel	Normal	Worsening
Informal Employment	Normal	Worsening
County	Alert	Worsening
Biophysical Indicators	value	Worsening
Rainfall (% of Normal)	0	80 -120
VCI-3Month	62.51	>35
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Good-Fair	Normal
Crop production	Fair	Good
Milk production	1.5	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	69	>66
Milk consumption	1.0	>3
Return Distance to water source	6.5	<5 Km
CSI	6.9	

<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 spelnd 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

No rainfall was received across the county during the month under review. Dry and hot weather condition dominated across the county.

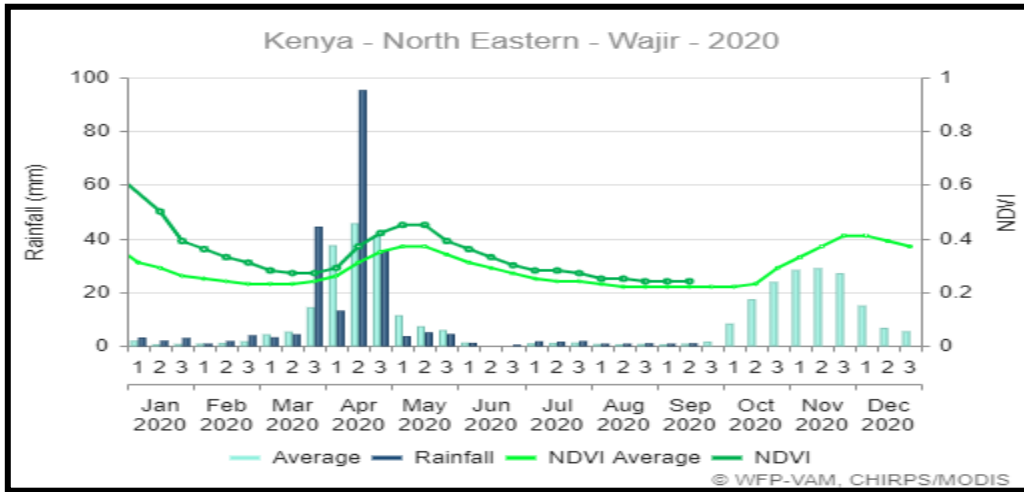


Figure 1: Rainfall Source: WFP-VAM/CHIRPS/UCSB

1.1.1 Amount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

No rainfall was experienced during the month under review.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

The Vegetation condition index in the county for the month of September 2020 showed vegetation greenness above normal across the livelihood zones. However, physical observation of the situation on the ground indicates moderate vegetation deficit across all the livelihood zones on a worsening trend. This indicates that there is significant depletion of vegetation in the county attributed to the long dry spell. The depletion of pasture and browse is likely to worsen further as dry spell continues.

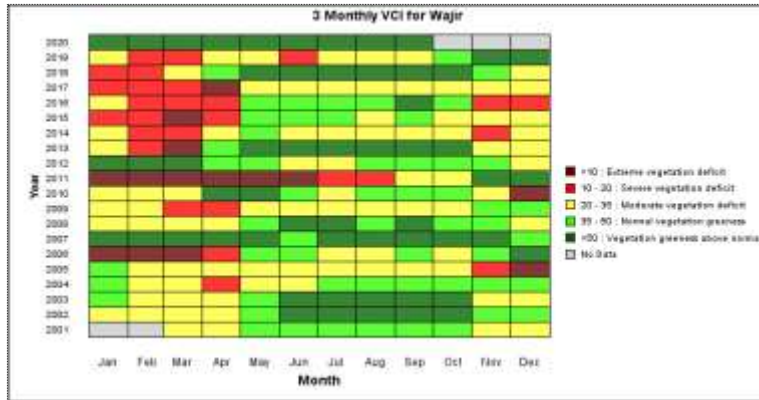


Figure 2: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir in September 2020



Figure 3: A chart of 3-monthly vci for wajir Sept 2020

2.1.2 Vegetation Condition Index Forecast

Based on Sussex Vegetation Outlook, the 3-month VCI forecast indicates vegetation greenness above normal although it's projected to continue declining. All the sub-counties are forecasted to witness a decline in vegetation greenness, with Wajir West expected to be the most affected.

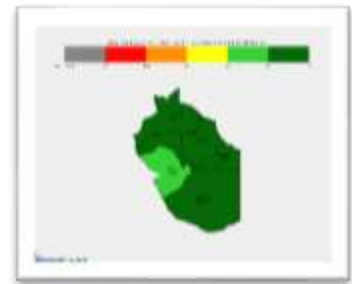


Figure 4: vci forecast Sept 2020.

2.1.3 Pasture

- Pasture condition in the county ranged from fair to poor across the livelihood zones due to high depletion of pasture attributed to high concentration of livestock.
- Little available pasture is likely to last for the next one and half month.
- Quality and quantity of pasture across the livelihood zones are deteriorating due to high depletion of pasture. This is normal at this time of the year.
- No constraints reported during the month under review.

- All the livelihood zones across the county are reporting depletion of pasture in the entire county as a result of the long dry spell.

2.1.4 Browse

- Browse condition remained fair across the livelihood zones, except in the pastoral all species in Eldas Sub-County that showed poor condition due to deterioration and depletion of browse attributed to high concentration of livestock.
- Current browse condition has deteriorated when compared to the previous month. This is attributed to high concentration of livestock in the grazing areas.
- Available browse is likely to last for a period of one and half month.
- Quality and quantity of browse condition across the livelihood zones are fair to poor.
- No constraints reported during the months.

2.2 Water Source

2.2.1 Sources

- Boreholes and shallow wells are the main water sources used by both human and livestock. Few households use water pan and this was due to drying up of water pans and *Lagas* across the livelihood zones.
- In comparison to previous month, water situation across the livelihood zones have worsened due to drying up of all water pans as a result of high concentration of livestock, making pastoral households to use boreholes and shallow wells.

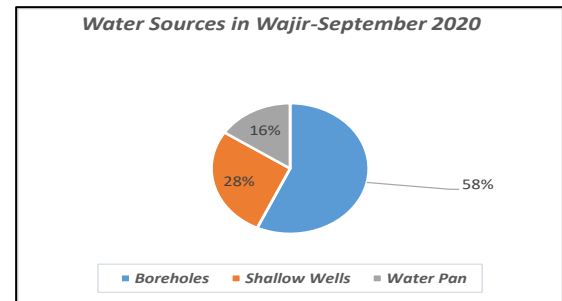


Figure 5: Water Source

2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

- Slight increase in return distance to water sources for households were reported with an average distance of 6.5km as compared to previous month's figure of 6.0. This slight increase was due to depletion of all water pans across the county. However, household distance to water sources is still below the short-term average and wet season.
- Average water consumption per person per day has declined when compared to normal due to drying up of all water pans and long waiting time at the water points.

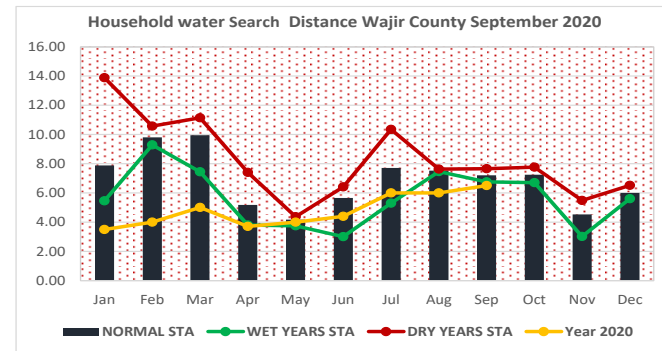


Figure 6: Return distance to water sources against 2015-2019 average

- The proportion of households that treat water is small, with only some few households in urban areas using aqua tabs while few others use boiling methods.

2.2.3 Livestock access

- Current average Livestock grazing distance to water source significantly increased from 10.5km in the month of August 2020 to 13.1km in the month under review. This is attributed to depletion of pasture, browse and drying up of water pans.
- Current average return distance from grazing area to water sources is below the long-term average and previous year's month average. This improvement is as a result of the fair condition of pasture and browse and sufficient rains received during previous season.
- Trend and frequency of watering livestock remained the same where for goat is 1-2 days, cattle-every day and Camel 7 days.
- Current distance from grazing to water sources varies according to livelihood zones. The highest was reported in Pastoral All species in Wajir West, Wajir South and Eldas and lowest recorded in Agro-Pastoral in Wajir North, Pastoral Camel in Wajir East, Tarbaj and Eldas.

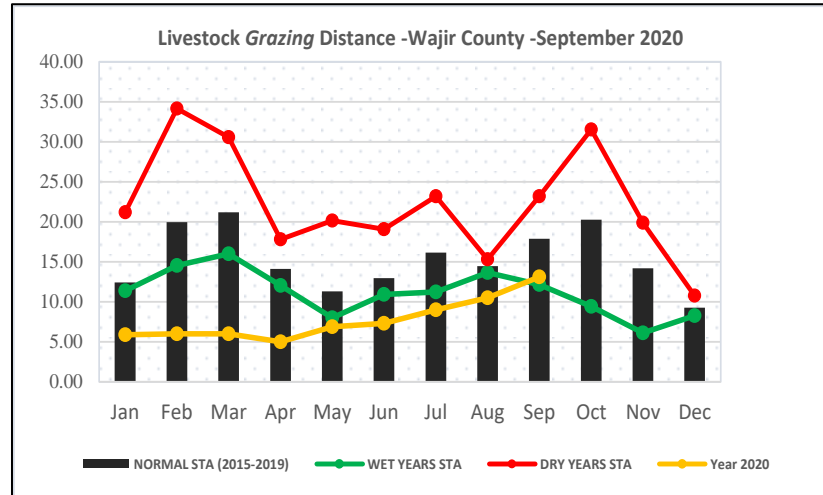


Figure 7: Current Distance from Grazing to Water Sources against 2015-2019 average

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock production

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Livestock body condition of all species was good to fair across the livelihood zones with a small percentage in the Agro-Pastoral and Pastoral Livelihood Zones exhibiting poor condition during the month under review. In comparison to similar period in the previous year, the observed livestock body condition in the month under review for all species was better.
- The livestock body condition is expected to decline as a result of deteriorating browse and pasture condition and increased trekking distance across the livelihood zones.
- Generally, all the livelihood zones showed good to fair livestock body condition and is expected to further deteriorate.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Pastoral households across the county reported Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), CCPP, PPR LSD, SGP and camel sudden death have been reported in the county, though the Department is doing disease monitoring and surveillance.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- Average milk production in the month under review significantly decreased from 2.1 litres/household/day recorded in August to 1.5litres/household/day for the month under review, this was attributed to long trekking distance and reduced calving rate across the county.
- Current average milk production per household per day is below the long-term average. This was attributed to reduced calving rate and long trekking distance, thus affecting children under five.
- Available milk is derived from cattle, camel and small stocks across the county.
- The trend and quantity of milk production is normal for this time of the compared to the same period last year.

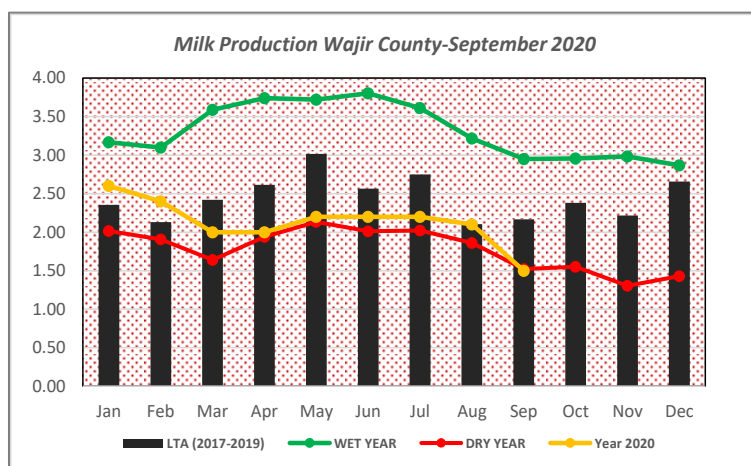


Figure 8: Graph showing average milk production for Wajir (2017-2019)

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, pulses and others like Kales and Watermelon.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

Cattle Prices

- Current average price of cattle slightly declined from 27,500 in August to 25,300 in the month under review due to high supply in the market and low demand.
- The prices are above the long term and wet year average prices.
- Highest average prices were reported in the urban areas and lowest recorded in the rural areas.

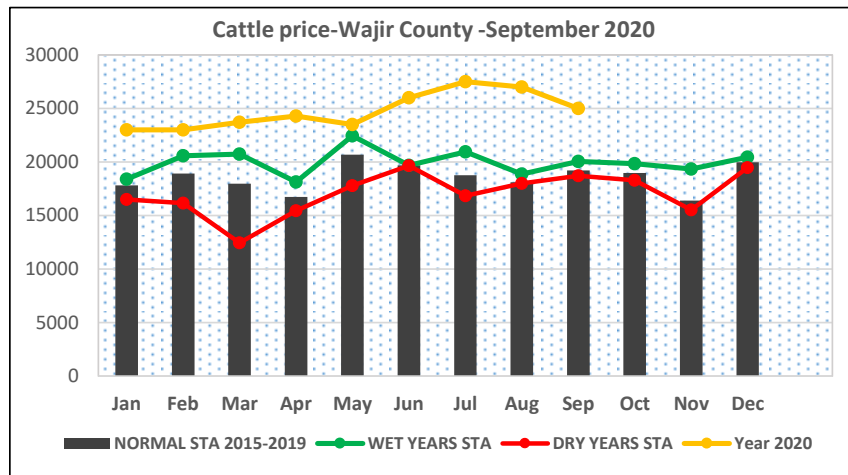


Figure 9: Current cattle prices against LTA 2015-2019

4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- Prices of a two-year old medium size goat slightly decreased from 3,900 in August 2020 to 3,800 in the month under review. This is due to the declining body condition and market disruption as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- However, the current average price was above the long-term and wet year average prices.
- The highest prices of livestock were reported in the urban centres.

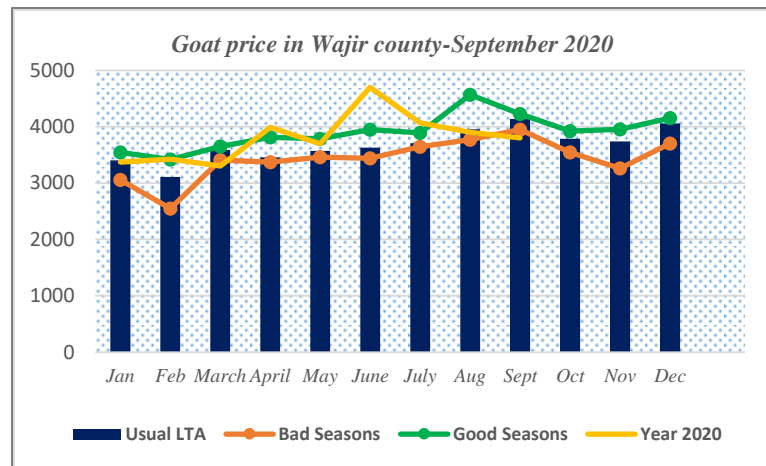


Figure 10: Current Goat prices against LTA of 2015-2019

4.1.3 Camel price

- Average camel prices in September remained the same as the month of August 2020 at Ksh 29,000. The fair market price is attributed to low demand and reduced market supply where households are holding their stocks to increase herd size. The price is below the long-term average and previous year's month average price due to poor market attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic and deteriorating body condition.

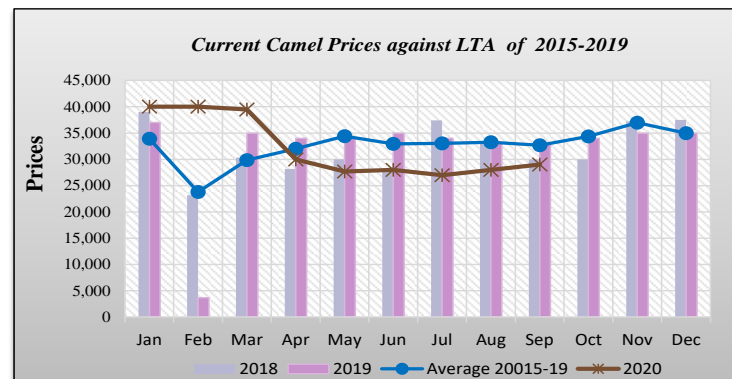


Figure 11: Current Camel Prices against LTA of 2015-2019

- Livelihood zones with the highest prices of camel were recorded in Wajir town and lowest reported in the rural areas.

4.2 CROP PRICE

4.2.1 Maize

- Current average maize prices remained the same as the previous month as a result of increased supply, reduced demand and slow down trade flows attributed to the COVID-19.
- Current average maize price is above the long-term average which is due to high demand and low supply in the market.
- The livelihood with the highest prices was recorded in the rural areas and lowest was recorded in the urban areas.

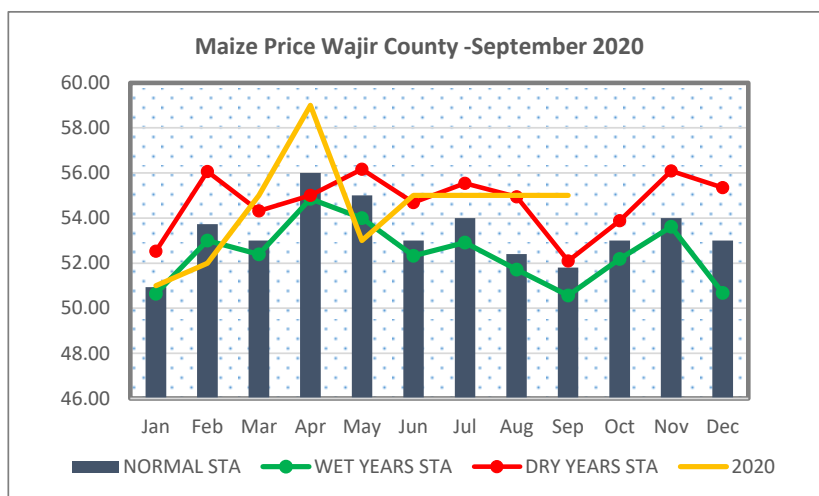


Figure 12: Current maize prices against LTA (2017-2019)

4.3 Terms of Trade (TOT).

- The Terms of Trade slightly decreased from 75.9 in August 2020 to 69 in the month under review. This means that in September 2020, pastoralist households could only access 69 kilograms of maize through the market upon sale of a goat which is above the LTA. Generally, current terms of trade is below the wet years and above the long term average.
- The terms of trade is fairly favourable to the pastoralist who normally depend on market for the monthly food supplies. Household purchasing power is still very low due to the high cost of transport caused by COVID-19.
- Terms of trade is fairly favourable but expected to decline further as the cost of goat shoulders downward trend.
- Livelihood with the highest ratio was reported in Wajir town and lowest recorded in the rural areas.

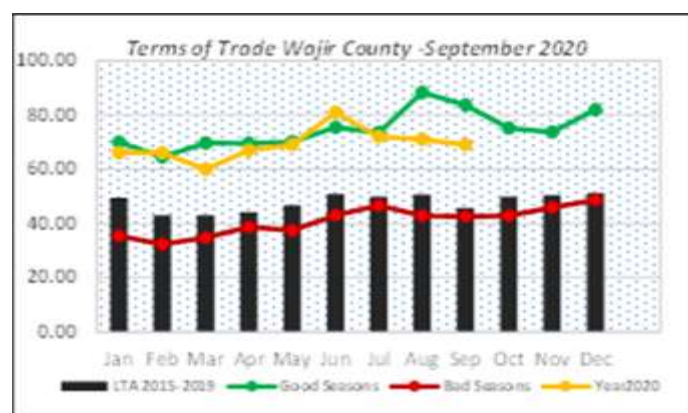


Figure13: A graph of current ToT against the long-term (2015-2019)

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- Current average milk consumption was 1 litre per household per day indicating a downward trend in the month under review. The decline in milk consumption observed was due to a decrease in milk production at household level attributed to long trekking distance, migration and low calving rate.
- Livestock species with the highest milk production are cattle and camel across the livelihood zones.
- Milk consumption are likely to deteriorate further as the dry spell continues, thus affecting children under-fives.
- Current average household milk consumption per household per day is significantly below the long-term average and wet year's average.

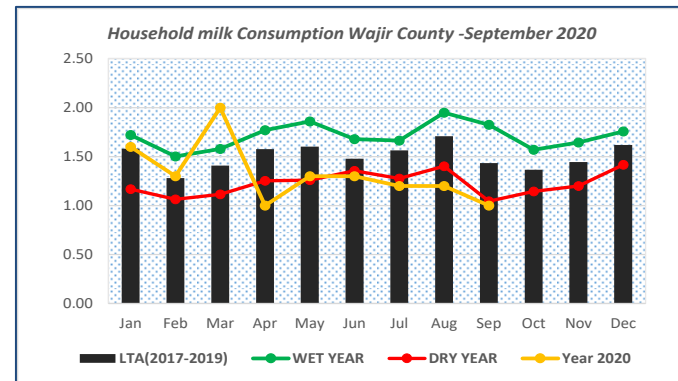


Figure 14: A graph of current year milk consumption against the long-term (2017-2019)

5.2 Food Consumption Score

- The proportion of households that are in poor and border line in food consumption are 21 and 36 percent respectively, this indicates the households are in a declining trends.

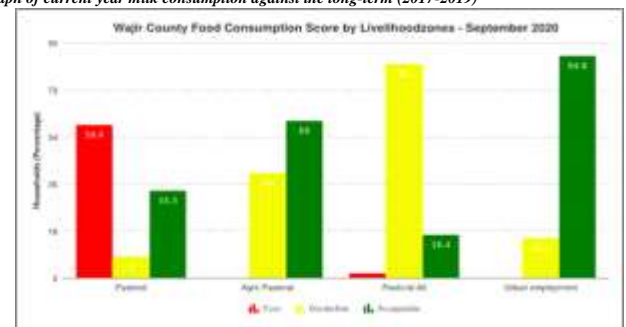


Figure 15: Food consumption Score

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

- Out of the 540 children sampled in the sentinel sites by care givers, proportion of children whose MUAC measure was below 125mm was 0.5 percent and above 125mm but below 134 was 18.2 percent. This indicated moderately malnourished children.
- Deterioration in milk consumption was due to decrease in milk production, poor dietary diversity induced by outbreak of COVID-19 coupled with high transportation cost.

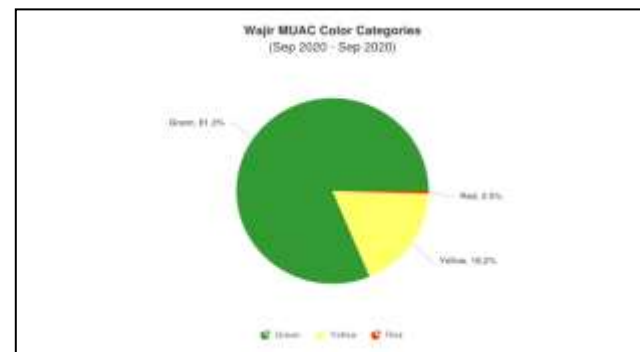


Figure 16: Family MUAC Measurement (Under five)

5.3.2 COPING STRATEGY INDEXES

- The mean CSI for the county slightly increased from 6.66 in August 2020 to 6.9 in the month under review.
- Households in Pastoral All Species employed the most coping strategies with a score of 9.7 while households in Urban Employment Livelihood Zone registered the least coping strategies at 3.8.
- Some of the strategies applied include borrowing food or relying on help from friends or relatives, reducing meals.

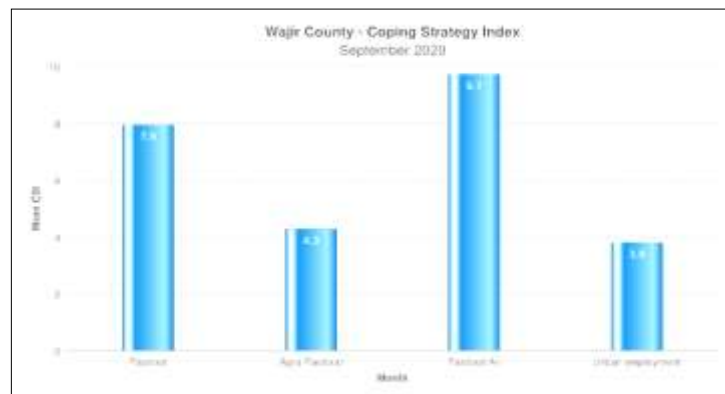


Figure: Coping Strategy

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 Non-food interventions.

- Cash Transfer Programme (HSNP) by the National Drought Management Authority-ongoing
- Sustainable food system Program by World Food Program-Ongoing
- Donation/distribution of assorted PPEs (Personal Protective Equipment) by EU and UNFPA through Kenya Red Cross to the County Government of Wajir

6.2 Food Aid.

- No Relief food distributed by the National and County governments.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- There was no incidence of insecurity that was reported in the entire county for the month under review.

7.2 Migration

- There were no significant Migration of livestock reported to other counties but migration within the sub-counties were reported.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS/FORECASTS

- Most parts of the county are likely to experience depressed rainfall that will be poorly distributed across the county.
- Poor regeneration of pasture and browse are likely to be aggravated due to depressed rainfall.
- Human wildlife and inter community Conflicts are likely to escalate over the limited resources.
- Based on TAMSAT-ALERT Soil Moisture Forecast for Wajir in September 2020, Wajir County is likely to experience above average soil moisture conditions.

- Based on University of Sussex Vegetation Outlook, the county is likely to have a declining 3-month VCI in the month of September 2020, with Wajir West sub-county expected to have the lowest VCI score at 38.8.
- Deterioration in Milk availability and accessibility is likely to occur due to poor regeneration of pasture and browse attributed to depressed rainfall.
- Nutritional status of children under five years has been on a gradual deteriorating trend in all the livelihood zones occasioned by below normal milk consumption and expected to deteriorate further until the end of the year.
- Household purchasing power will likely decline as prices of livestock will decline and food commodities remain stable, thus making household's access less kilogram of maize against goat prices.
- Livestock prices are likely to remain the same in the next one month but later decline.
- Prices of milk production are expected to increase as the production decrease, thus making children under-fives to be malnourished.
- Increased trekking distance for both human and livestock are expected since most of the water pans have completely dried up and high concentration realized at the water point. Watering frequency for livestock are expected to decline.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Health & Nutrition.

- Creation of awareness campaigns across the livelihood zones on COVID-19
- Regular training of health workers and community health volunteers on COVID-19
- Scaling up of vitamin A Supplementation
- Monitoring of Routine Disease Surveillance
- Carry-out sensitization on hygiene practices while providing essential sanitation products such as soap and sanitizers
- Scaling up of outreaches
- Community screening on COVID-19

Livestock Sector.

- Marketing of livestock Value addition
- Livestock disease surveillance
- Vaccination and treatment of livestock against PPR and CCPP.

Water Sector.

- Provision of fast-moving spare parts to all the livelihood zones
- Repair and maintenance of boreholes and water bowser in all livelihood zones.
- Drilling and excavation of water pans
- Water tracking for 55 centres
- Enhance water availability for both households and livestock during scarcities.

Peace and Security:

- Withstand prevailing peace and co-existence of communities through resource sharing by
 - Carrying out inter county and cross border peace dialogues meetings
 - Awareness creation by targeting hot spot areas that are prone to conflict.