



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

EW DECEMBER PHASE 2020

Drought Status: ALERT



Maandalizi ya mapema

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

Rainfall.

The county received depressed rainfall in December 2020. Distribution was poor across all the livelihood zones in both time and space. The rainfall outlook for January 2021 indicates that the county will experience dry weather conditions.

Vegetation.

- Vegetation condition index showed moderate vegetation deficit, with Eldas and Wajir West experiencing severe vegetation deficit. The vegetation condition is projected to further decline due to the poor performance of the 2020 short rains as well as the presence of desert locusts in the County.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production indicators:

- Livestock body condition ranges between fair to poor for all species.
- Household milk production and consumption remained stable when compared to the previous month, although there was a slight increase in milk consumption.
- Livestock migration pattern is not normal as there is migration within & outside the County.
- There is sporadic prevalence of PPR, CCPP and SGP diseases in the County.

Access indicators

- Terms of Trade is above normal due to increase in goat prices.
- Trekking distance from grazing area to water sources significantly increased.

Utilization Indicators:

- Households with borderline food consumption score slightly decreased from 45% in November 2020 to 39% in the month under review. Proportion of children with moderate malnutrition stood at 18%.
- The COVID-19 restrictions reduced market operations, thus mostly affecting the urban poor households.

Early Warning Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-Pastoral	Alert	Worsening
Pastoral Cattle	Alert	Worsening
Pastoral-All Species	Alert	Worsening
Pastoral Camel	Alert	Worsening
Informal Employment	Normal	Stable
County	Alert	Worsening
Biophysical Indicators	value	Worsening
Rainfall (% of Normal)	<50	80 -120
VCI-3Month	32.44	>35
Forecasts(VCI)	-	>35
Forecasts (SM)	-	<=0.6
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Fair - poor	Normal
Crop production	Poor	Good
Milk production	2	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Not normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	79	>66
Milk consumption	1.6	>3
Return Distance to water source	14.60	<5 Km
CSI	8.42	<10

<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

- The county received depressed rainfall in December 2020. The county's rain was below 75% of the December Wajir town Long Term Mean (LTM).
- Hadado recorded the highest rainfall amount at 25mm (65% of Wajir town monthly LTM). The rest of the places recorded below 50%.

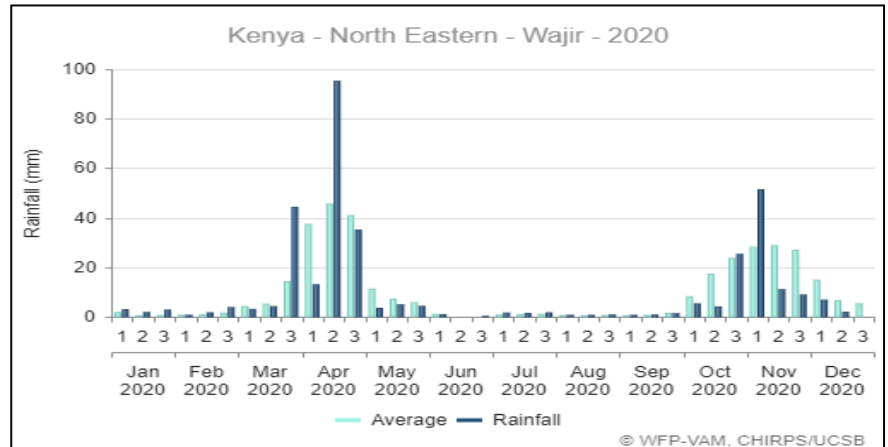


Figure 1: Rainfall amount recorded in December 2020

1.2 Amount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

Depressed rainfall was received in December 2020. Distribution was poor across all the livelihood zones in both time and space. Hadado in Wajir West Sub-County received the highest amount of rain at 65% of normal.

1.3 Other Events

1.3.1 COVID-19 Pandemic

As at 30th December 2020, there were 86 COVID-19 cases in Wajir County, with two confirmed deaths. There is no significant impact of COVID-19 on food security, although income deficits and reduced purchasing power as a result of the COVID-19 market disruptions will continue to affect food access among the poor urban households.

1.3.2 Desert Locusts

The County is currently experiencing a second wave of desert locust invasion. The surge in desert locusts across the County will negatively affect browse and pasture condition in pastoral areas. Among the interventions put in place include hand/aerial spraying, use of community scouts for monitoring and control, training of relevant personnel, community sensitization/information sharing as well as coordination and routine monitoring and surveillance of the movement of the desert locusts.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

Vegetation condition index for the month of December 2020 showed moderate vegetation deficit at 32.58 with Eldas and Wajir West sub-counties experiencing severe vegetation deficit with scores of 13.1 and 11.27 respectively. Wajir West and Eldas received the least amount of rain when compared to the rest of the sub-counties.

The situation is projected to further decline given the poor performance of the 2020 short rains. Regeneration of browse and pasture was poor. The presence of desert locusts may further deplete the available browse and pasture.

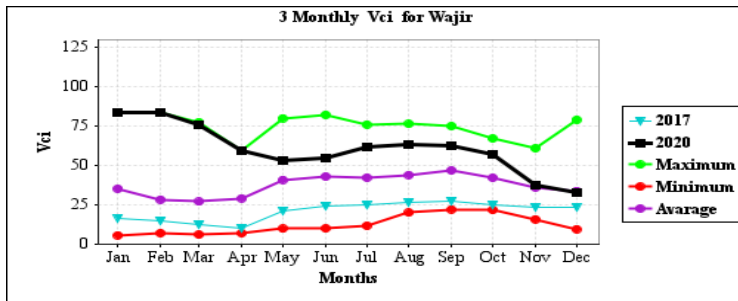


Figure 2: A graph of 3-month VCI Chart December 2020

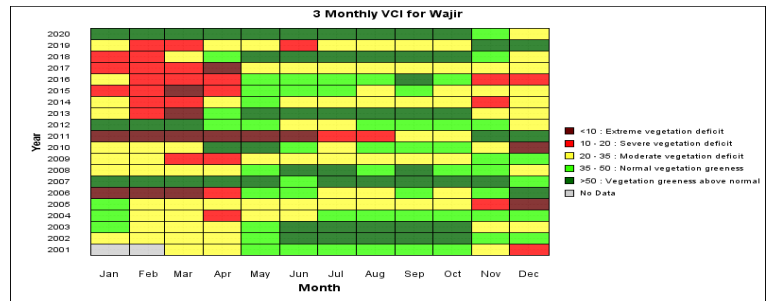


Figure 3: A matrix of 3-month VCI for December 2020

2.1.2 Pasture

- Pasture condition is poor in all the livelihood zones. This is due to the depressed rainfall received across the County. High concentration of livestock in areas that received better rain led to faster depletion of pasture. Palatability of the available pasture is also an issue which is attributed to the poor rangelands management in the County.
- Available pasture is likely to last for a period of one month due to high concentration of livestock, poor rangelands management and the presence of desert locusts.
- The quality and quantity of pasture is poor across all the livelihood zones.
- No constraints reported in the month under review.

2.1.3 Browse

- Browse situation is fair in Wajir South, Wajir North and Wajir East while it's poor in the rest of the County.
- The slight improvement in the browse situation is attributed to the 2020 short rains.
- Available browse is likely to last for a period of one month due to high concentration of livestock, poor rangelands management and the presence of desert locusts.
- The quality and quantity of browse condition is fair in Wajir South, Wajir North and Wajir East sub-counties and poor in in Wajir West, Eldas and lower parts of Tarbaj.
- No constraints reported in the month under review.

2.2 Water Source

2.2.1 Sources

- The main water sources currently in use in December 2020 are boreholes, shallow wells, water pans and water trucking for both human and livestock. The few water pans moderately recharged by the short rains in Wajir North, Wajir South and Wajir East are drying up, leading to high concentration at boreholes.
- There is high concentration of both livestock and humans at boreholes and the few water pans with water. This is as a result of the poor performance of the short rains. Frequent borehole breakdowns due to high concentration of livestock and low repair and maintenance have been reported.

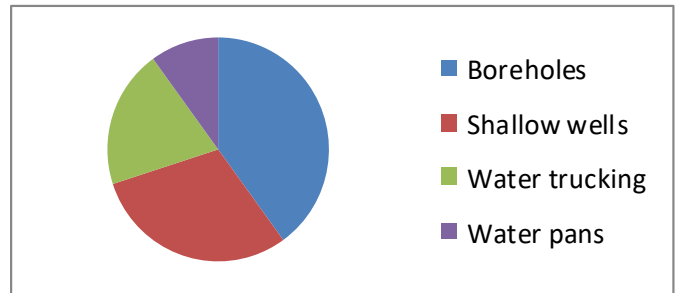


Figure 4: Water sources in December 2020

2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

- There was a significant increase in household search distance to water sources in the month under review. This increase is attributed to the drying up of some of the water pans that were moderately recharged by the 2020 short rains. Households distance to water sources is above the short-term and wet season average.
- Average water consumption per person per day declined when compared to the long term average. This is due to drying up of the water pans that were moderately recharged by the rains.
- Few households in urban areas use aqua tabs and boiling methods for water treatment.

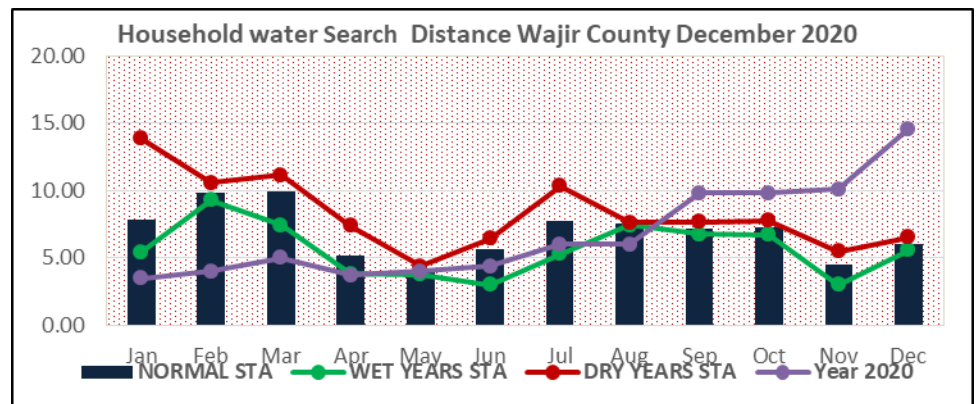


Figure 5: Household search distance to water sources

2.2.3 Livestock access

- Livestock grazing distance to water sources significantly increased from 13.3km in November 2020 to 19.9km in the month under review. Current average return distances from grazing area to water sources is above the long-term and wet years' average. This is attributed to the drying up of water pans and the declining browse and pasture condition in the County.
- Trend and frequency of watering livestock remained the same. Current distance from grazing to water sources varies according to livelihood zones where the highest was reported in Pastoral All Species and lowest recorded in Agro-Pastoral in Wajir North, Pastoral cattle and Pastoral Camel in Wajir East.

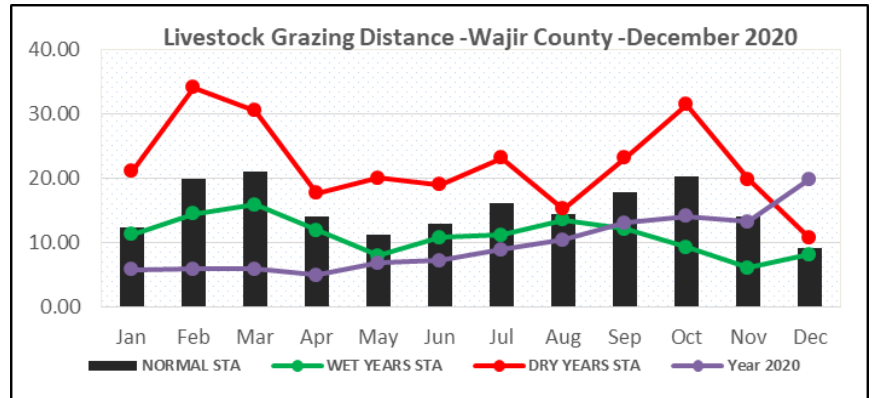


Figure 6: Distance from Grazing to Water Sources against 2015-2019 average

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock production

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Livestock body condition ranges between fair to poor across all the livelihood zones, with some species (camels, goats and sheep) showing fair to good condition in the month under review.
- When compared to similar previous periods, the livestock body condition for all livestock species is fair. This is attributed to the fair regeneration of browse and pasture as a result of the 2020 short rains.
- The livestock body condition is expected to decline as the browse and pasture condition in the County continues to deteriorate. Increase in the trekking distance to water sources is projected to further affect the livestock body condition.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- The pre-vaccination livestock disease surveillance undertaken showed sporadic prevalence of PPR, CCPP and SGP diseases in the County. The Department of Agriculture & Livestock with support from the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP) is currently undertaking a county-wide livestock vaccination exercise against PPR, CCPP, SGP and Rift Valley Fever.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- Average milk production remained the same as the previous month at 2.0 litres per household per day. This is due to the fair to poor browse and pasture condition in the County.
- Current average milk production per household per day is below the long-term and wet year average. This is due to the increased trekking distance and deteriorating browse and pasture situation.
- Available milk is derived from cattle, camel and small stocks across the county.

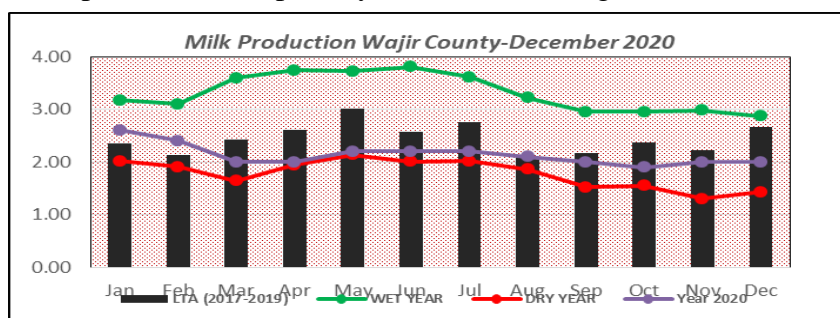


Figure 7: Average milk production for Wajir (2017-2019)

3.2 CROP PRODUCTION

The poor performance of the 2020 short rains severely affected rain-fed crop production. There is the need to sensitize farmers on the importance of shifting to drought resistant crops. Poor recharging of water pans and shallow wells also affected irrigated crop production.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

Cattle Prices

- There was a decrease in cattle prices from 28,800 in November 2020 to 24,600 in the month under review. This drop in the price is due to the declining livestock body condition.
- The current price is above the short term and wet year average prices. This is attributed to improvement in market prices due to high demand.
- Highest average prices were reported in the urban areas and lowest recorded in the rural areas.

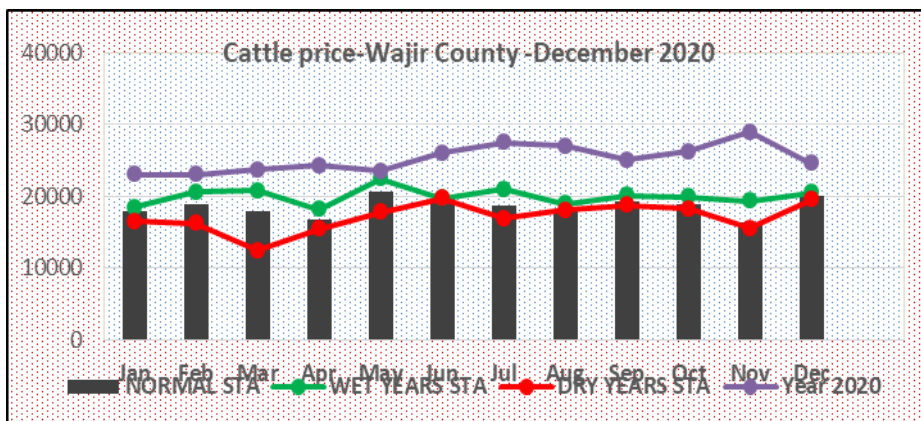


Figure 8: Current cattle prices against LTA 2015-2019

4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- Current average goat prices sharply increased from 3,600 in November 2020 to 4,500 in the month of December 2020. This increase in goat prices is due to reduced supplies in the market as pastoralists seasonally reduce sales so as to improve herd sizes and sale values.
- The current price is above the long term average.
- The highest prices of livestock were reported in the urban centres.

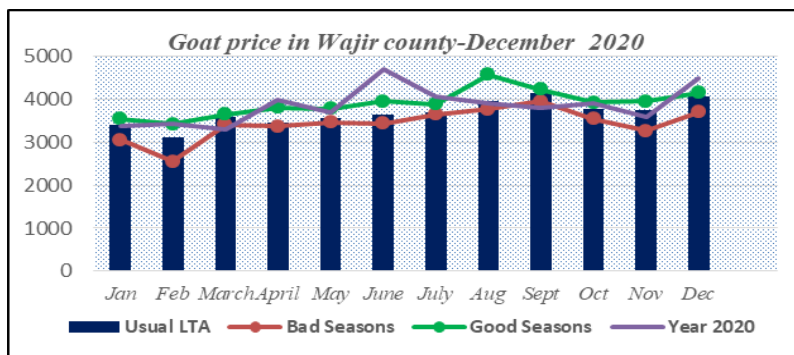


Figure 9: Current Goat prices against LTA of 2015-2019

4.1.3 Camel price

- Current average prices decreased from 28,600 in November to 23,000 in the month under review. The drop in the prices is due to the declining body condition as a result of the increased trekking distance.
- The current price is below the long-term and wet year average price. This is attributed to the weakening livestock body condition and less demand in the market.
- Livelihood zones with the highest prices were recorded in Wajir town and lowest reported in the rural areas.

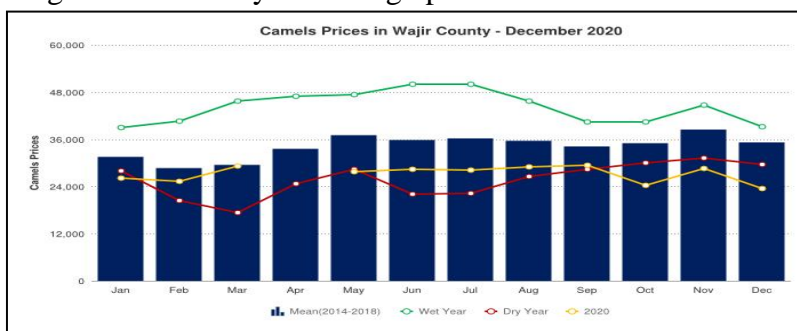


Figure 10: Current Camel Prices against LTA (2015-2019)

4.2 CROP PRICE

4.2.1 Maize

- There was a slight decrease in maize prices from Ksh 56 in the previous month to Ksh 53 in December 2020. This decrease was as a result of low demand in the market. Current average maize price is within the long-term average but below dry years' average price.
- The highest prices were recorded in the rural areas and lowest recorded in the urban areas.

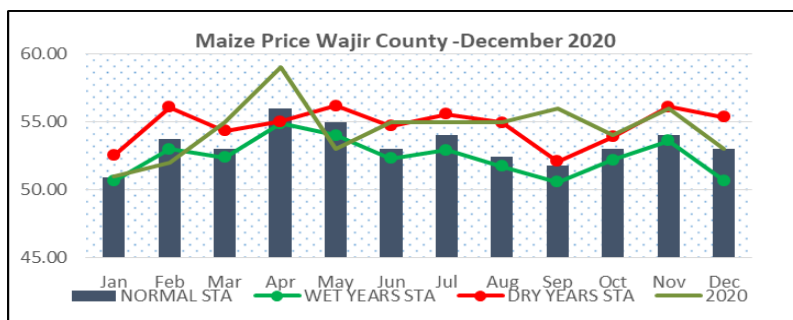


Figure 11: Current maize prices against LTA (2017-2019).

4.3 Terms of Trade (TOT).

- Current Terms of Trade increased from 66kg in November to 79kg in the month under review. This increase is attributed to the sharp increase in goat prices and a drop in maize prices.
- The current Terms of Trade is favourable and above the short-term average but below the wet years' average.

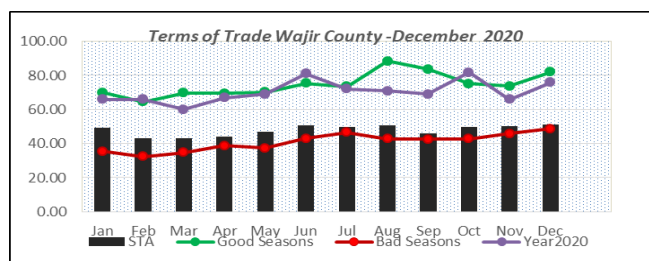


Figure 12: A graph of current ToT against the long-term

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- Current average milk consumption per household per day increased slightly from 1.4 litres last month to 1.6litres in December 2020. This marginal increase in milk consumption is as a result of the stability in milk production.
- Milk consumption is projected to decline as milk production continues to deteriorate.
- Current average household milk consumption per household per day is within the long-term average but below the wet years' average.

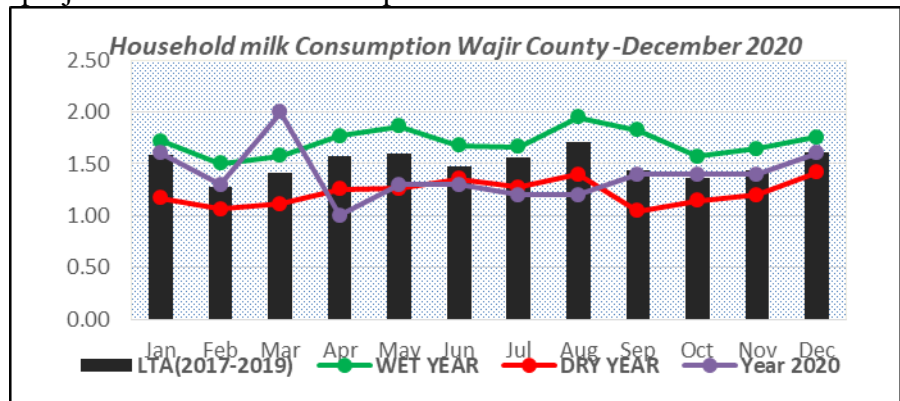


Figure 13: Current milk consumption against the LTA (2017-2019).

5.2 Food Consumption Score

- Proportion of households with poor food consumption score remained the same as the previous month at 10%. However, households with borderline food consumption score slightly reduced from 45% in November 2020 to 39% in the month under review.

Pastoral Livelihood Zone registered the highest number of households with poor food consumption score of 21.4 while those in Informal Livelihood Zone registered the least.

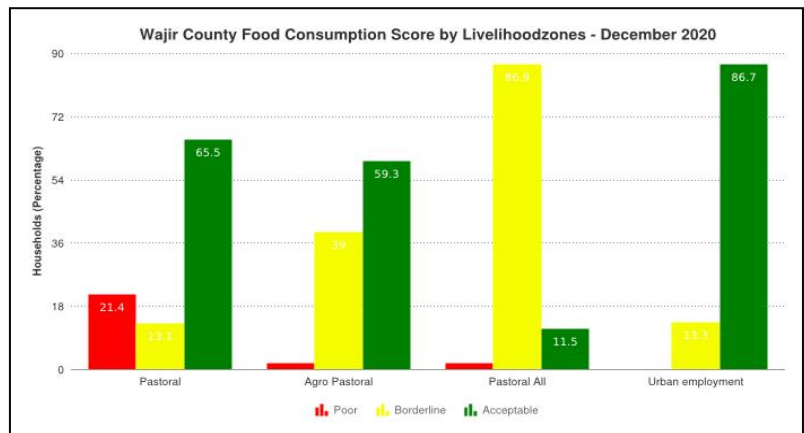


Figure 14: Food consumption Score

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children with MUAC measurement of between 125 to 134mm stood at 18% in the month under review.
- The number of children with moderate malnutrition in the County is projected to further increase due to declining milk production and consumption, poor dietary diversity and high transportation cost.

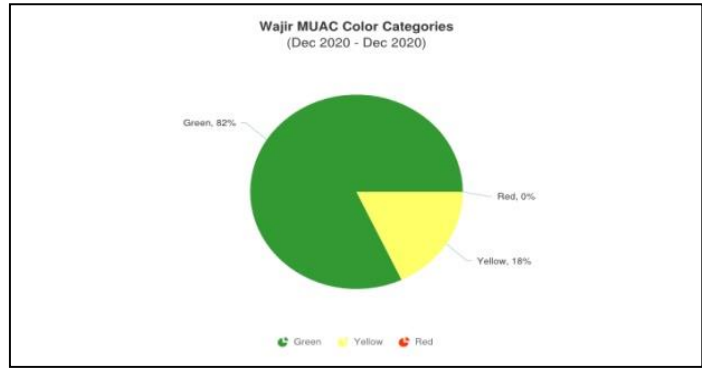


Figure 15: Family MUAC Measurement (Under five)

5.3.2 COPING STRATEGY INDEXES

- The mean CSI for the county increased from 7.45 in November to 8.42 in December 2020. This increase is attributed to the poor performance of the 2020 short rains and its resultant impact on food security/livelihoods.
- Households in Pastoral and Pastoral All Species applied the most coping strategies with a score of 11.1 and 10.2 respectively, while households in Urban Employment and Agro-Pastoral employed the least coping strategies at 4.4 and 4.2 respectively. Households are expected to employ more coping strategies following the depressed rainfall experienced in the County.
- Some of the strategies applied include borrowing food or relying on help from friends or relatives, reducing meals.

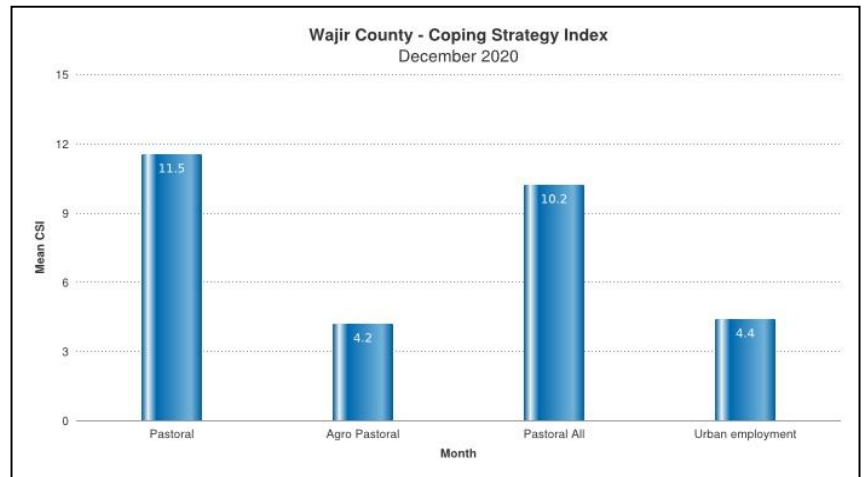


Figure 16: Coping Strategy

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 Non-food interventions.

- Regular cash Transfer Programme to 19,201 households (HSNP) by the National Drought Management Authority.
- Cash transfer to 4,239 households affected by the invasion of desert locusts by Wajir South Development Association (WASDA).
- Sustainable food system Program by the World Food Programme (WFP) targeting 4,667 households spread in 41 sites across the County.
- Support to integrated outreaches at 54 sites in Tarbaj, Wajir North and Wajir West sub counties by Save the Children.
- Distribution of kshs. 20,000,000 to 40 groups (each 15 members) in Wajir South by the Kenya Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP-K) through the Waso Resource Development Agency (WARDA).
- Scaling up of Vitamin A supplementation by the Department of Health across the County.
- Countywide surveillance and control of desert locusts by the County Government of Wajir.
- Enhancing fodder production in Wajir County through investment in fodder farms by VOCA/ACDI.
- Low scale water trucking in water stressed centres by the Department of Water, County Government of Wajir.
- County-wide livestock vaccination exercise against PPR, CCPP, SGP and Rift Valley Fever targeting 1.2 livestock (all species) by the County Government of Wajir with support from the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project (KCSAP).

6.2 Food Aid.

- No relief food was distributed by the National and County governments in the month of December 2020.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- There was no incident of insecurity reported in the entire county for the month under review. However, there is the need to strengthen conflict early warning systems given the poor performance of the 2020 short rains.

7.2 Migration

- Migration of livestock within and outside the county was reported, where most of the pastoralists are migrating from Wajir west and Eldas to Wajir South, Wajir North and Wajir East. There was also migration to the neighbouring counties of Isiolo and Marsabit.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS/FORECASTS

- According to the Kenya Meteorological Department, the rainfall outlook for January 2021 indicates that the county will experience dry weather conditions.
- The condition of pasture and browse across the county is likely to decline. This is due to the poor regeneration of browse and pasture as a result of the depressed short rains. The presence of the desert locusts will further deplete the available browse and pasture.
- The food security situation in the County is still expected to be stressed (IPC Phase 2) but on a worsening trend.
- Human wildlife and inter community conflicts are likely to escalate over limited resources. Hence the need for to strengthen conflict early warning systems.
- Milk production is likely to decline due to poor regeneration of pasture, increase in trekking distance and declining livestock body condition.
- Nutritional status of children under five years is expected to be on a deteriorating trend in all the livelihood zones occasioned by below normal milk consumption and expected to further deteriorate.
- Household purchasing powers will likely decline.
- Prices of livestock will decline and food commodities remain stable, thus leading to a decline in the Terms of Trade.
- Prices of milk are expected to increase as the production decrease, thus making children under-fives to be at the risk of malnutrition.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Health & Nutrition.

- Creation of awareness campaigns across the livelihood zones on COVID-19.
- 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.
- Distribution of livestock feeds
- Transport subsidy for traders

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 trucking
- Enhance water availability for both households and livestock during scarcities.

Peace and Security:

- Identify conflict hotspots areas for timely response
- Strengthening conflict early warning systems
- Intensify peace building efforts in conflict flash points using DPC and community elders

Education

- Bursary to improve retention for pastoralists in County secondary schools
- Promoting healthy and COVID-19 friendly environment through the provision of tents to schools with high enrollment.
- Meals for ECD and primary schools
- Provision of sanitary towels to schools