



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

**EW MAY PHASE 2020**

Drought Status: **NORMAL**



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

**Rainfall.**

No rainfall was received during the month, though some little showers were recorded in parts of Wajir North, with no impacts on the ground.

**Vegetation condition:**

Currently, VCI showed vegetation greenness above normal with a value of 52 as compared to previous score of 58.8. This showed a decline in vegetation, while some of the sub-counties showed Normal vegetation greenness above normal.

**Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)**

**Production indicators:**

- Livestock body condition remained good to fair, except formal/Informal livelihood zones that showed fair to poor condition. No migrations reported. There was slight increase in milk production.

**Access indicators**

- Favourable terms of trade was reported, there was decrease in maize prices and increased trekking distance to water source. There was decline in milk consumption as compared to previous month.

**Early Warning Phase Classification**

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Normal	Improving
Pastoral cattle	Normal	Improving
Pastoral-all species	Normal	Improving
Pastoral camel	Normal	Improving
Informal employment	Normal	Improving
County	Normal	Improving
<b>Biophysical Indicators</b>	<b>value</b>	<b>Worsening</b>
Rainfall (% of Normal)	0	80 -120
VCI-3Month	52	>35
<b>Production indicators</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Normal</b>
Livestock Body Condition	Good	Normal
Crop production	Fair	Good
Milk production	2.2	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death due to drought	No death
<b>Access Indicators</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Normal</b>
Terms of Trade (ToT)	69	>66
Milk consumption	1.3	>3
Return Distance to water source	4.0	<5 Km

<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 rai 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/d preparation</li> <li>• Increased HH Food Stocks</li> <li>• Kidning (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

- Wajir County was dry and cloudy throughout the day and night, however some little showers of rainfall was received in parts of Wajir North, with no significant changes.

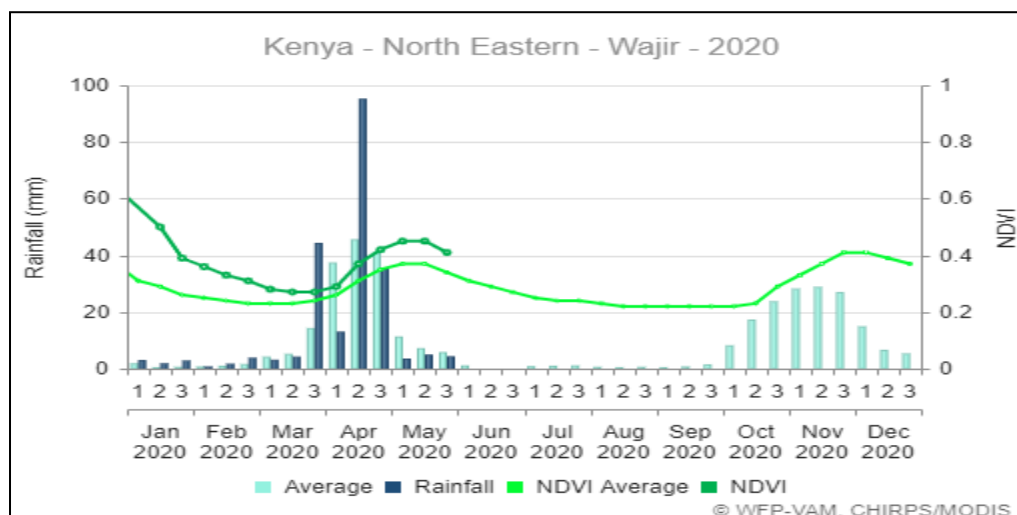


Figure 1: Rainfall Source: WFP-VAM/CHIRPS/UCSB

#### 1.1.1 Amount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

- No Rainfall was recorded during the month except some little showers of rainfall in parts of Wajir North with no impacts on the ground. Distribution in both time and space was poor across the livelihood zones.

## 2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

### 2.1 Vegetation Condition

#### 2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

Currently, average vegetation cover indexes across the county indicated vegetation greenness above normal with a score of 52 as compared to previous month value of 58.8, while all sub-counties showed vegetation greenness above normal except Wajir south, Wajir West and Eldas that depicted normal vegetation greenness, this showed slight decline in vegetation. This is expected to decline due to the cessation of MAM 2020 rains.

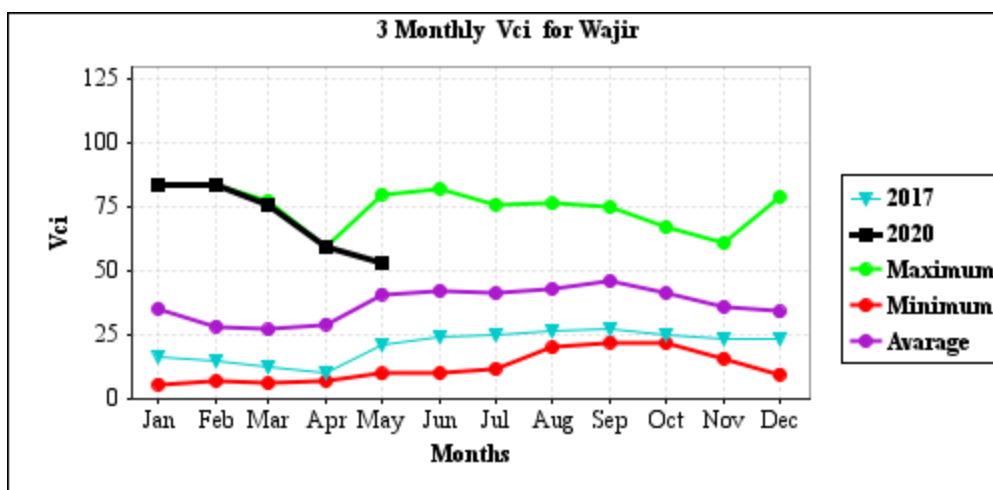


Figure 2: A chart of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir during the month of May 2020.

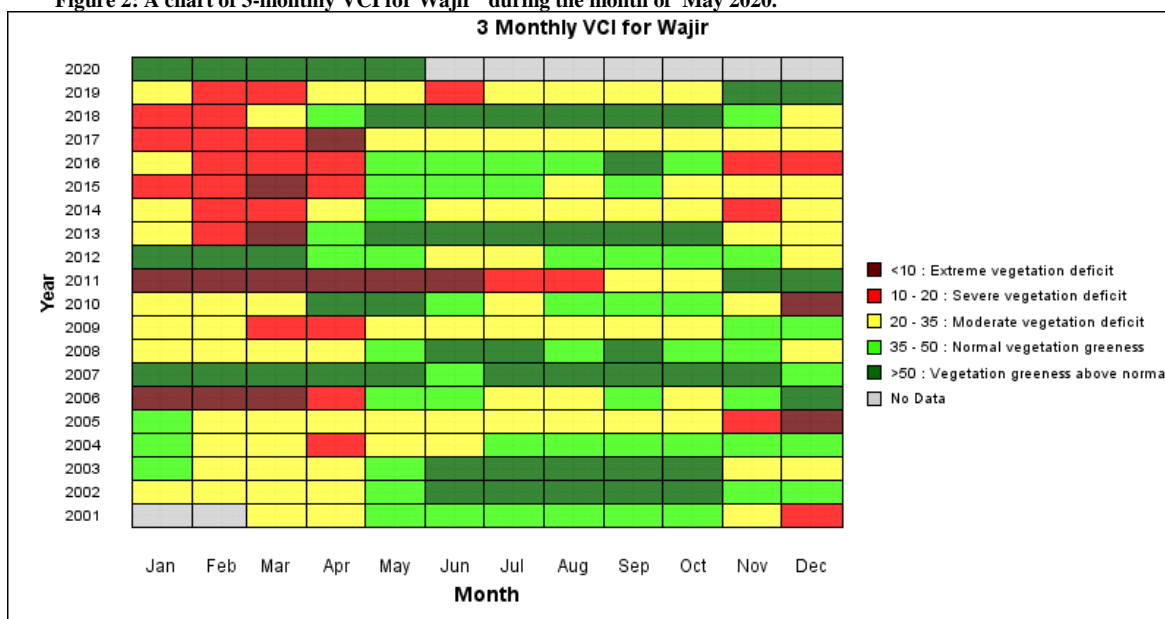


Figure 3: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir during the month of May 2020.

### 2.1.2 Pasture

- Currently, pasture situation in the county remained good to fair across the county. Most of the pastoralist reported the pasture situation to be good while few others reported to be fair.
- Current Pasture situation remained the same as compared to previous month due to sufficient rains recorded during OND 2019, with existing brown standing hays and improvement of pasture during MAM 2020 rainfall.
- Available pasture is expected to last for more than three months due to presence of pasture and standing hays in the county.
- Quality and Quantity of pasture is good across the livelihood zones.
- No constraints reported during the month under review.
- All the livelihood zones across the county recorded high proportion of pasture except few sub-counties in Wajir West and Eldas.

### 2.1.3 Browse

- Browse situation is between good to fair across the county except Wajir west and Eldas sub-county that indicated fair condition.
- In comparison to previous month, browse situation remained the same due to the MAM rainfall that improved the situation.
- Available browse is likely to last for the next two month due to available browse attributed to MAM 2020 rainfall that improved browse.
- No constraints recorded during the month under review.
- Quality and Quantity of browse condition across the livelihood zones are good to fair.

## 2.2 Water Source

### 2.2.1 Sources

- Main water sources used across the livelihood zones in both human and livestock are Water pans, shallow well, lags and some few boreholes.
- In comparison to previous month, the situation of water in the county remained the same across the livelihood zones, except few areas that use boreholes.
- Available water is likely to last for more than three month due to the available water and recharge of water pans attributed to the MAM rainfall.

### Household access and Utilization

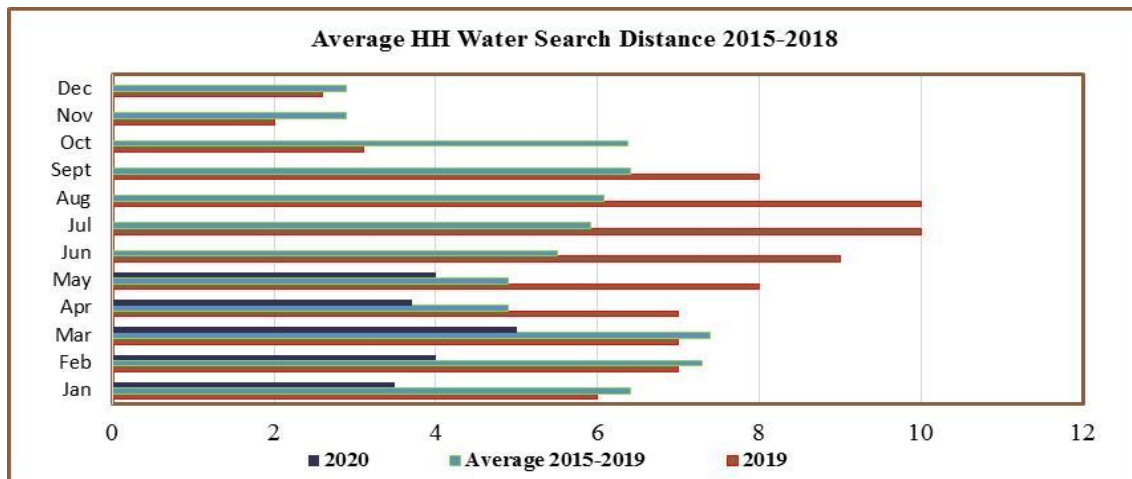


Figure 4: Current Return Distance to Water Sources against 2015-2019 average

- Currently, average return distance from household to water point slightly increased from 3.7km in April 2020 to 4.0km in the month under review, with no significant changes, this is attributed to slight to moderate rainfall recorded during MAM 2020, which recharged some few water pans.
- Current average household return distance to water source is below the long-term average and previous month average due to available water.
- Average water consumption per person per day is normal as compared to previous month due to sufficient water available. this is normal at this time of the year.
- The proportion of households that treat water is too with only some few households in urban using aqua tabs while few others use boiling methods.

## 2.2.2 Livestock access

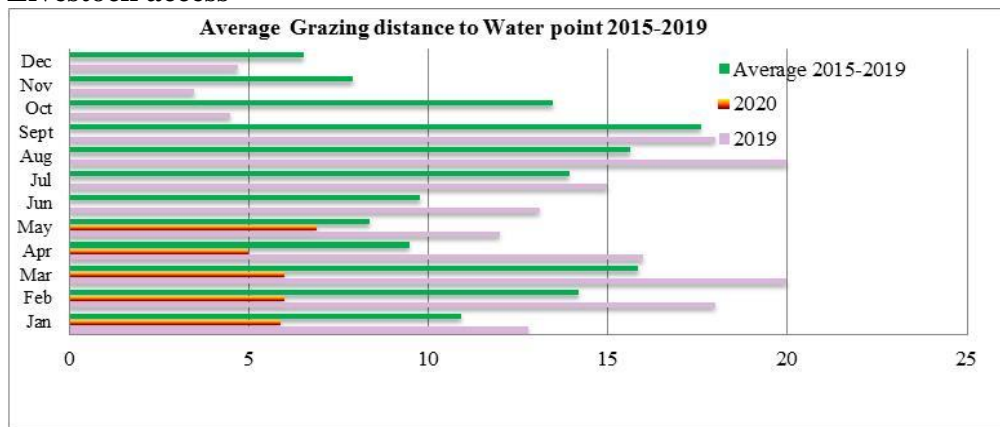


Figure 5: Current Distance from Grazing to Water Sources against 2015-2019 average

- Average Livestock trekking distance from grazing area to water source slightly increased from 5.0km in April 2020 to 6.9km in the month under review due to poor regeneration of pasture and browse in some livelihood zones attributed to poor rainfall, thus increased trekking distance.
- Currently, average livestock grazing distance to water sources are below the long-term average and previous year's month average. This showed an improvement of pasture and browse as compared to previous and long-term average.
- Trend and frequency of watering livestock by species varies where for goat is 1-2 days, cattle-every one day and Camel 7-14 days.
- Current distance from grazing to water sources varies according to livelihood zones, where highest was still reported in Pastoral all species in Wajir West and Eldas and lowest recorded in Agro-pastoral in Wajir North, Pastoral Camel in Wajir East, Tarbaj and Eldas.

## 3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

### 3.1 Livestock production

#### 3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Livestock body condition in the county remained good across the county, except for cattle, sheep in the formal/Informal settlement that showed to be fair in the entire county due to poor regeneration of pasture and browse.
- In comparison to previous month, livestock body condition remained good due to available pasture, browse and water attributed to sufficient rainfall during OND 2019 and moderate rainfall received during MAM 2020 in the county.
- When compared to similar previous period, current livestock body situations are above normal due to sufficient pasture and water attributed to enhanced rainfall during OND 2019 and MAM 2020.
- The body situation of livestock is expected to remain good across the livelihood zones due to adequate pasture and browse available in the county. This is normal at this time of the year.

- All the livelihood zones across the county are in good condition, except formal/Informal livelihood zones that indicated to be fair.

### 3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- There are confirmed cases of CCPP, PPR LSD and camel flu reported in some parts of the county.

### 3.1.3 Milk Production

- Currently, Average milk production per household per day slightly increased from 1.8litres in April 2020 to 2.2 litres in the month under review, this is due to good livestock body condition and reduced trekking distance.
- Current average Milk production per household per day is equal to the long term average and previous month average as a result of available milk attributed to good pasture, browse and water.
- The trend and Quantity of milk production is normal for this time of the year as opposed to the same period due to available vegetation and water in the county.
- 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.

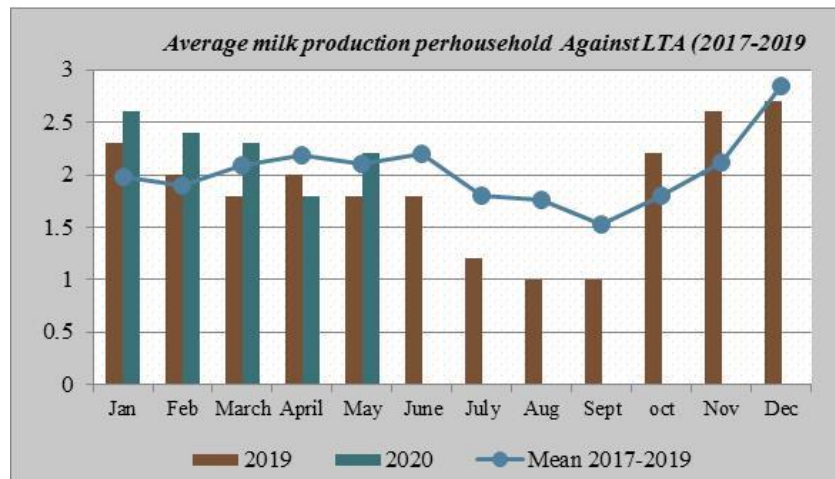


Figure 6: A graph showing current average milk production for Wajir against (2017-2019) mean

## 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, Watermelon. Most of the farmers have prepared their land and planted.

### IMPLICATION OF THE ABOVE INDICATORS TO FOOD SECURITY

- Available vegetation and water will improve livestock body condition thus improving the purchasing power of the households.

## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

#### Cattle Prices

- Currently, average price of four-year-old medium size Cattle slight decreased from kshs 24,272 in April 2020 to 23,500 in the month under review. The drop in prices is attributed to low demand and high supply as a result of the restrictions brought about by the containment measures to control the spread of COVID-19.
- In comparison to previous month, average price of cattle increased as a result of high demand in the market and low supply. This is due to pastoralist households holding their herds.
- Currently, average price of cattle is still above the long-term average and previous year's average due to good livestock body condition attributed to good market.
- Highest average prices were reported in the urban areas and lowest recorded in the rural areas.

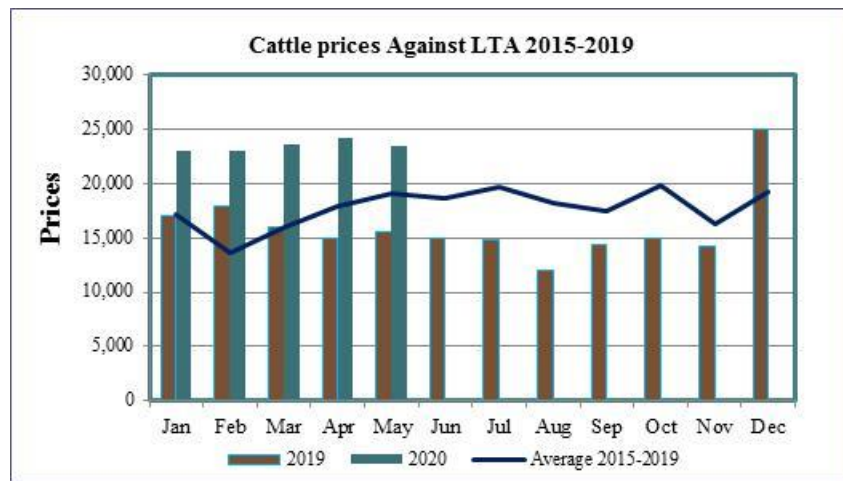


Figure 7: Current cattle prices against LTA 2015-2019

#### 4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- Current average prices of goat significantly decreased from kshs 3,992 in April 2020 to 3,697 in the month under review due to high supply and low demand attributed to poor livestock traders. This is due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Current average prices are above long-term average and previous year's month average as compared to normal of kshs.3314 for the LTA and kshs 3,500 for the previous month year price. This indicates that the prices are still normal when compared to the LTA and Previous month year prices.

The highest prices of livestock were reported in Dagahley market in Wajir South and lowest reported in Bute and Tarbaj.

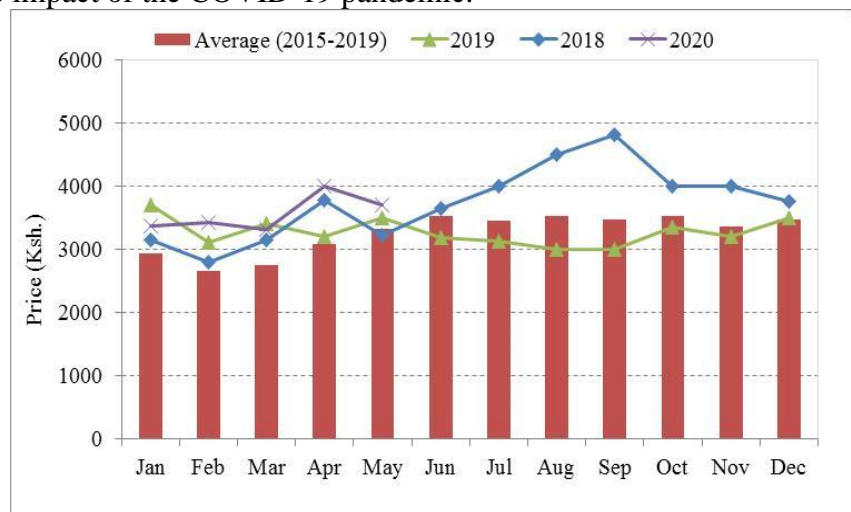


Figure 8: Current Goat prices against LTA of 2015-2019

### 4.1.3 Camel price

- Current average price of four-year-old Camel decreased significantly from 29,973 in April 2020 to 27,777 in the month under review due to lack of traders in the market attributed to the covid-19 pandemic.
- Current average price of four-year-old camel is below the long-term average and previous year's month average price due to low demand in the market attributed to covid 19 pandemic.
- Livelihood zones with the highest prices of camel were recorded in the urban areas and lowest reported in the rural areas.

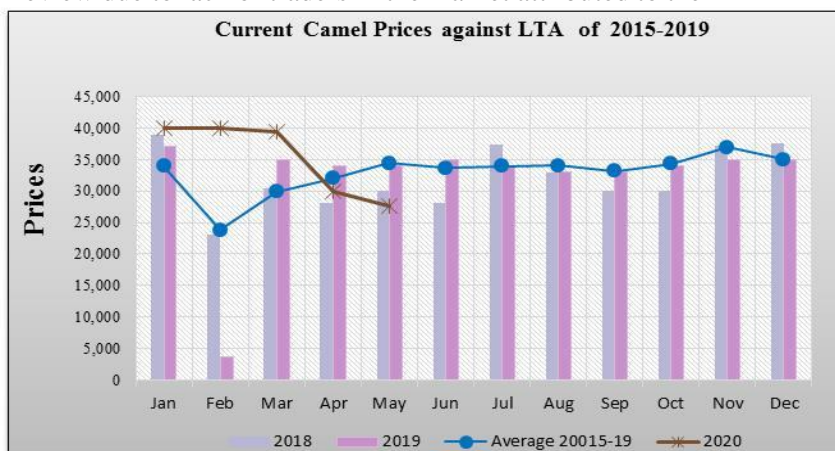


Figure 9: Current Camel Prices against LTA of 2015-2019

## 4.2 CROP PRICE

### 4.2.1 Maize

- Currently, average maize prices decreased from kshs 59 in April 2020 to kshs 53 in the month under review due to distribution of food by County and National government which in turn lowered the prices of Maize in the market.
- Currently, average prices are below the long term average and previous years prices due to relief food distribution.
- The livelihood with the highest prices was recorded in the rural areas and lowest was recorded in the urban areas.

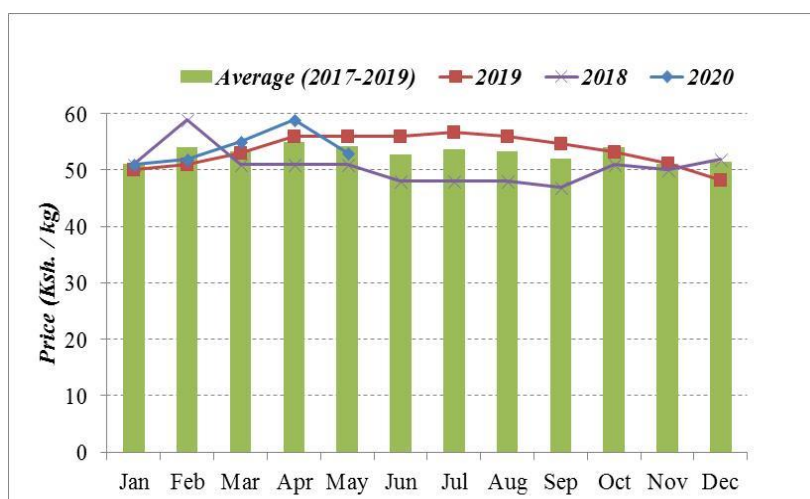


Figure 10: Current maize prices against LTA (2017-2019)

#### 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 the entire livelihood zones.

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

- Currently, the Terms of Trade increased from 67kg in April 2020 to 69kg in the month under review due to decrease in maize prices and goat prices as a result of COID-19.



This indicates that the terms of trade for the county is still favourable and this is normal at this time of the year.

- Currently, the term of trade is above the long-term average and previous year's month average.
- Livelihood with the highest ratio was reported in Wajir Town and lowest recorded in the rural areas. This is normal at this time of the year.

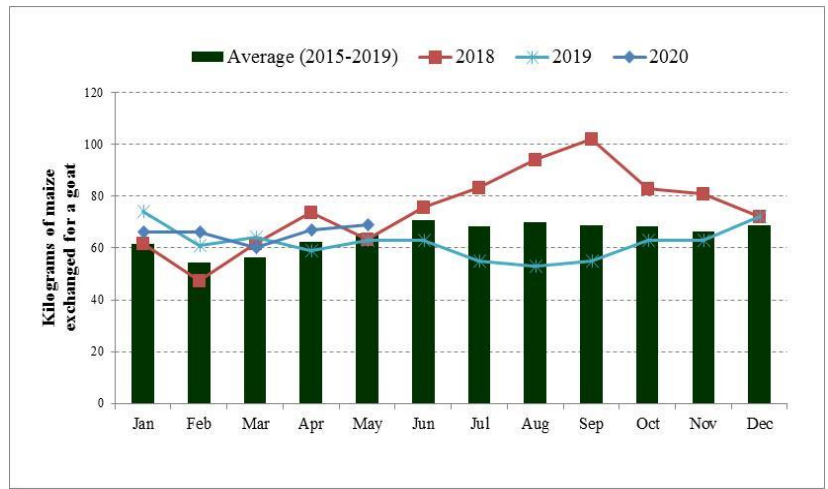


Figure11: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long-term (2015-2019)

## 5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

### 5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- Currently, average milk consumption per household per day decreased from 1.5 litres in April 2020 to 1.3 litres in the month under review.
- Livestock species with the highest milk production are Cattle and camel across the livelihood zones.
- Current average household milk consumption per household per day is below the long-term average and previous year average.
- Trend and Quantity of milk consumption at household is still normal.

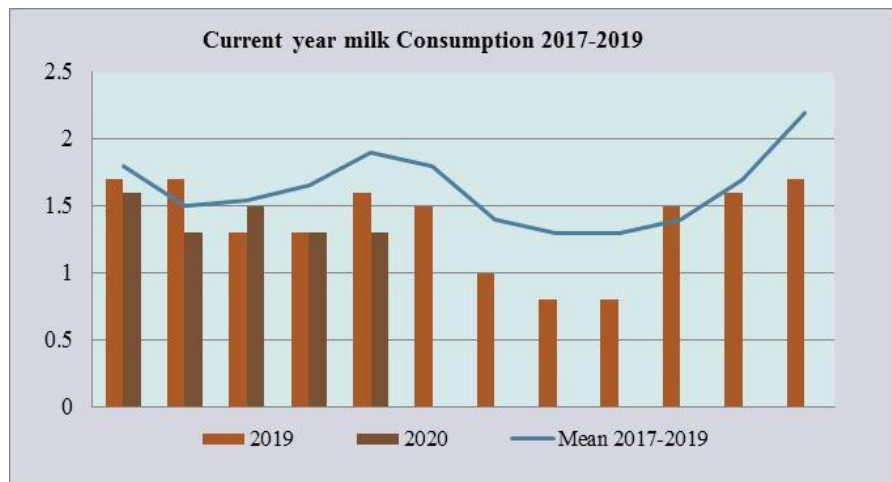


Figure12: A graph of current year milk consumption against the long-term (2017-2019)

## 5.2 :Food Consumption Score

All the livelihood zones in the county are in borderline and acceptable, except a proportion of pastoral livelihood zones with poor food consumption score of 43.8; this indicates that households have registered improvement in food consumption

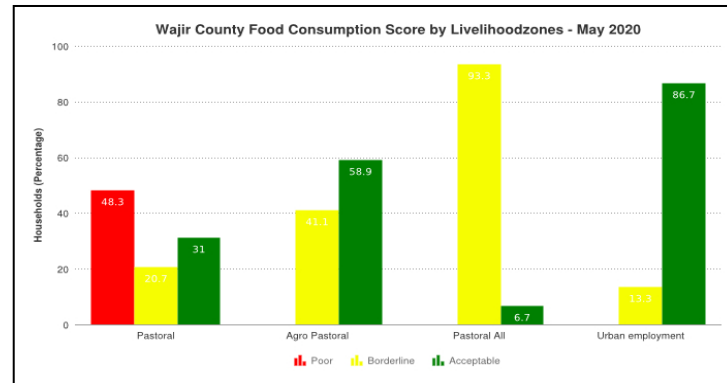


Figure 13: Food consumption Score

## 6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

### 6.1 Non-food interventions. -Ongoing

- Sustainable food system Program by World Food Program-Ongoing

### 6.2 Food Aid.

- Relief food distributed by the National and County government.

## 7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

### 7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- 15 positive Cases of COVID- 19 were reported in the County with no fatalities.
- Dispute between two communities over pasture and resources reported in Khorof Harar Ward of Wajir East.

### 7.2 Migration

- Migration of Livestock was within the grazing zones in the county.

### 7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- Pasture and browse condition are likely to be good to fair in the next one to two months and thereafter deteriorate due to the dry spell.
- Prices of livestock in the county are likely to be poor due to the current pandemic affecting the traders.
- Availability and accessibility of milk is likely to be good, thus improve nutrition status of children under-five.
- Range land condition is likely to be good in the next one to two months and thereafter deteriorate as the dry spell continues.

- Recharge level of water sources are expected to deplete during the dry spell, thus reverting to boreholes.
- Prices of food commodities are likely to be higher due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

## **7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Health& Nutrition.**

- Provision of Nutrition Supplements (Super-cereals and RUSF) -on-going.
- Sensitization and creating awareness on the pandemic (Covid 19)-ongoing
- Active Case finding on Imam-on-going.
- Monitoring of Routine Disease Surveillance conducted.
- Promotion of hygiene in towns and villages-ongoing

### **Livestock Sector.**

- Vaccination and treatment of livestock on PPR and CCPP.
- Livestock disease Surveillance by the department of Livestock-On-going

### **Water Sector.**

- Provision of water treatment chemicals-ongoing
- Construction of underground water tank-On-going