

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



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



FEBRUARY EW PHASE 2019

Drought Status: **ALARM**



Mipango ya kukabiliana na ukame

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

Rainfall Performance,

Wajir County was largely dry, hot and sunny throughout the month, No rainfall experienced during the month.

Vegetation condition:

VCI in the county recorded severe vegetation deficit with a score of 18.95 as compared to previous month figure of 29.69, Though Wajir South, Wajir West and Eldas indicated severe vegetation deficit and others showed moderate vegetation deficit. The county is on a worsening Trend.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production indicators:

- Livestock body condition is still good to fair, pasture and browse situation is fair to poor, decline in milk production, Migration to other sub-counties experienced, no livestock death reported.

Access indicators

- Terms of trade not favourable. Stable milk consumption, increased trekking distance, cost of water was normal but high in some livelihood zones

Utilization Indicators

- Percentage of children under five at risk of malnutrition indicated 13.5% as compared to previous month which showed 12.7% showing a deteriorating trend on malnutrition.

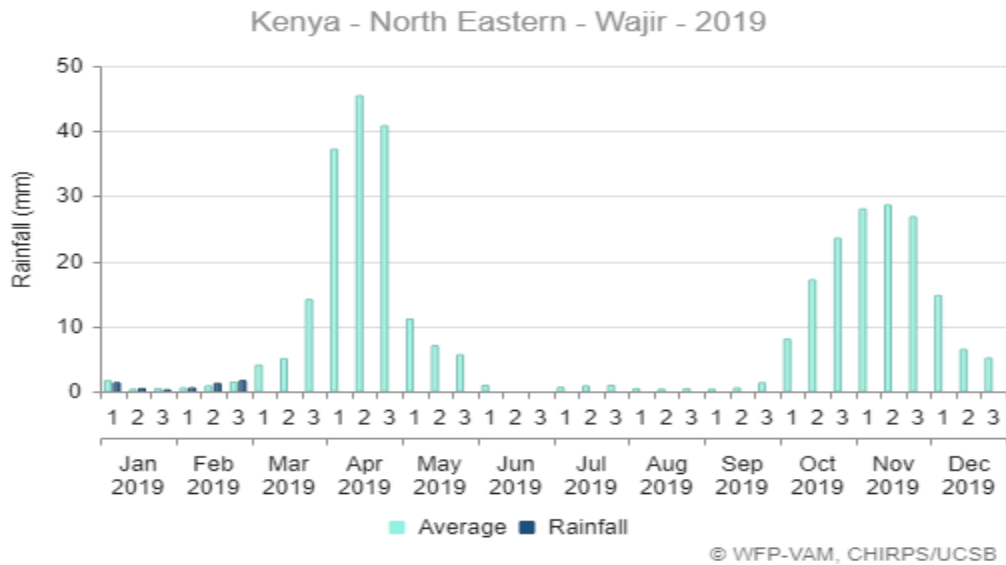
Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Alert	Worsening
Pastoral cattle	Alarm	worsening
Pastoral-all species	Alarm	worsening
Pastoral camel	Alert	Worsening
Informal employment	Normal	worsening
County	Alarm	worsening
Biophysical Indicators	value	worsening
Rainfall (% of Normal)	0mm	80 -120
VCI-3Month	18.95	>35
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Good-Fair	Normal
Crop production	Poor	Good
Milk Production	2.0	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	61	>66
Milk Consumption	1.7	>3
Return Distance to water source	7	<5 Km
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	13.5	<6.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	9.2	<0.95

<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 rains ▪ High 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 ▪ Weddin

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITION

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- Wajir County did not experience any rainfall during the month under review, though witnessed hot, dry and sunny weather during the day.



1.1.1 Mount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

- Most parts of the county experienced hot, dry, windy and sunny weather during the day and night. No rainfall recorded during the month of February 2019.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

Current vegetation cover indexes in the county showed severe vegetation deficit with a score of 18.95 as compared to previous month VCI score of 24.87, with Wajir West, Wajir south and Eldas showing severe vegetation deficit of 14.06, 14.26 and 12.28 respectively. While Wajir East, Tarbaj and Wajir North indicated moderate vegetation deficit with a score of 25.07, 24.45 and 30.31 showing a significant deficit as compared to previous month. The Vegetation condition is expected to worsen.

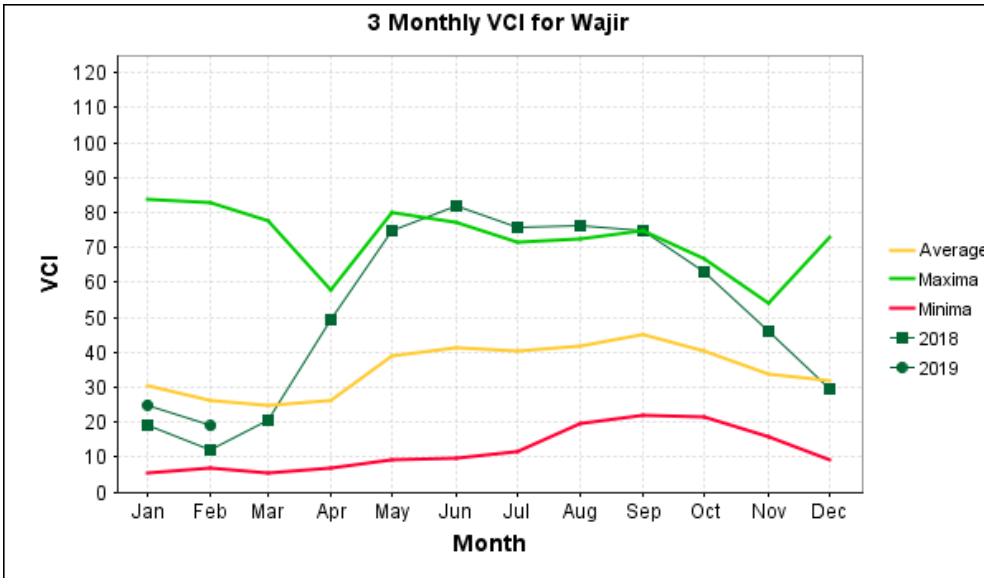


Figure 1: chart of Wajir County overall 3-monthly VCI during the month of February 2019

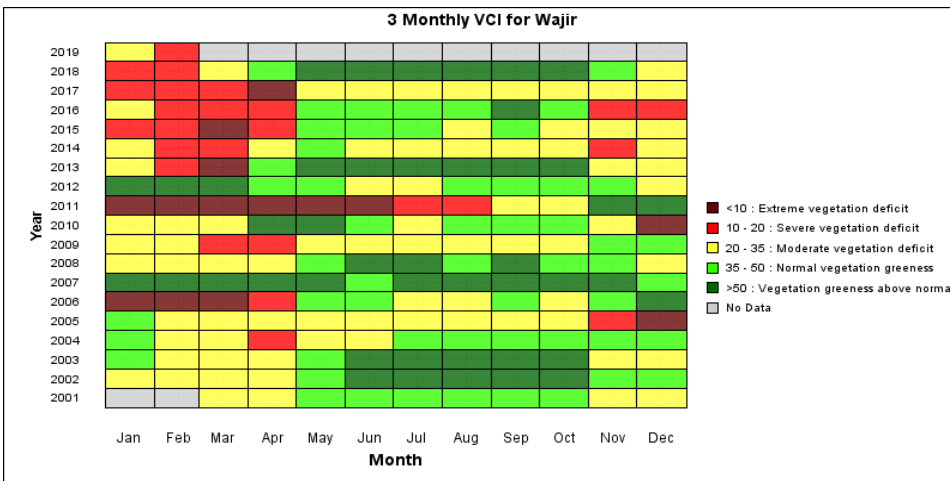


Figure 2: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir County during the month of February 2019

2.1.2 Pasture

- Pasture situation in the county remained to be fair to poor with 80 percent of the pastoralist reporting to be fair while the other 20 percent reported to be poor.
- Compared to the previous month Pasture condition has experienced enhanced depletion as the OND rainfall was depressed. However, some parts of the agro pastoral and pastoral camel showed fair pasture condition due to enhanced rainfall recorded in those areas during the season
- Available pasture is likely to last for a period of 1-2 month for agro-pastoral and Pastoral Camel, while Pastoral all species and Pastoral Cattle livelihood zones lasting for less than a month. The category with higher proportion was reported in Agro-pastoral and pastoral camel livelihood zones in Wajir North and Wajir East.

- No constraints reported during the month under review.
- Pasture condition varies according to livelihood zones where Agro-pastoral and Pastoral camel in Wajir North and Wajir East recorded higher proportion of pasture while lowest recorded in Pastoral all species and Pastoral Cattle livelihood zones in Wajir West and Wajir South.

2.1.3 Browse

- Current browse situation ranges between fair to poor in all the livelihood Zones with 85% of the community reporting fair condition, where as 15 percent of the pastoralist reporting poor condition except pastoral all species in Wajir West, Eldas and Parts of pastoral cattle livelihood zones in Wajir South reporting poor.
- Browse condition in all livelihood zones worsen as opposed to the previous month due to depressed rainfall observed in the short rains. Over 85 percent of the pastoral households reported browse to be poor while 15 percent of the community reported to be fair.
- The available browse condition is likely to last for a period of one to two months for agro-pastoral and Pastoral Camel livelihood zones, while pastoral all species is expected to last for one months and Pastoral Cattle lasting for less than a month.
- Highest proportion was recorded in Agro-pastoral livelihood zones in Wajir North and pastoral camel livelihood zones in Wajir East, while lowest reported in Pastoral cattle in Wajir South, Pastoral all species in Wajir west and Eldas.
- No constraints recorded during the month under review.

2.2 Water Source

2.2.1 Sources

- Currently the major sources of water used by both human and livestock include boreholes, water pans and shallow wells where 60 percent boreholes and 30 percent shallow wells and 10 percent Dams/Pans. Most households in Wajir Township and it's environ use shallow wells. The rest of the sub-counties and rural settlements use either borehole or open water pans
- Current water condition across the livelihood zones has worsen as compared to previous month due to dry of water pan and poor water recharge as a result of depressed rainfall during Short rains.
- Available water is likely to last for one and half months in the agro-pastoral and Pastoral cattle livelihood zones in Wajir North and Wajir East, While Pastoral cattle and Pastoral all species livelihood zones will last for less than a month.

2.2.2 Household access and Utilization.

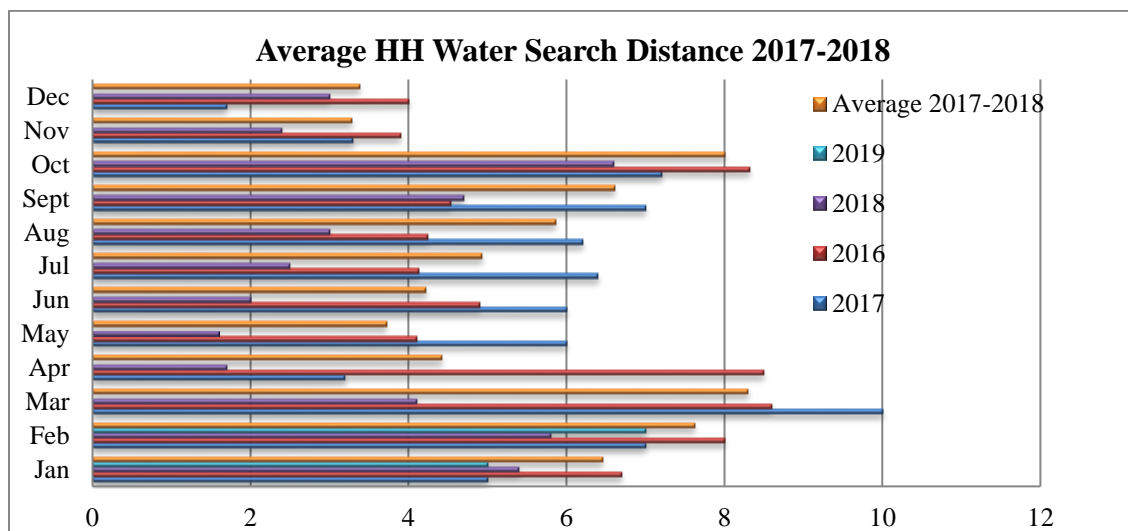


Figure 5: A chart indicating return distance to water sources against 2016-2017 average

- Current average return distance from household to main water source increased from 5.0km in January to 7.0km in February 2019 as a result of dry up of water pan and depletion of pasture and browse. Livelihood zones with water stress in the county are Pastoral cattle in Wajir south, Pastoral all species in Wajir West and Eldas.
- Average Consumption of water per person per day was normal (15 liters—20liters) in agro-pastoral and pastoral camel livelihood zone while in pastoral cattle and pastoral all species was below normal which have water stress but this is normal at this time of the year.
- The proportion of households that treat water is very minimal with only some few households in the urban areas using boiling methods and tabs.

2.2.3 Livestock access

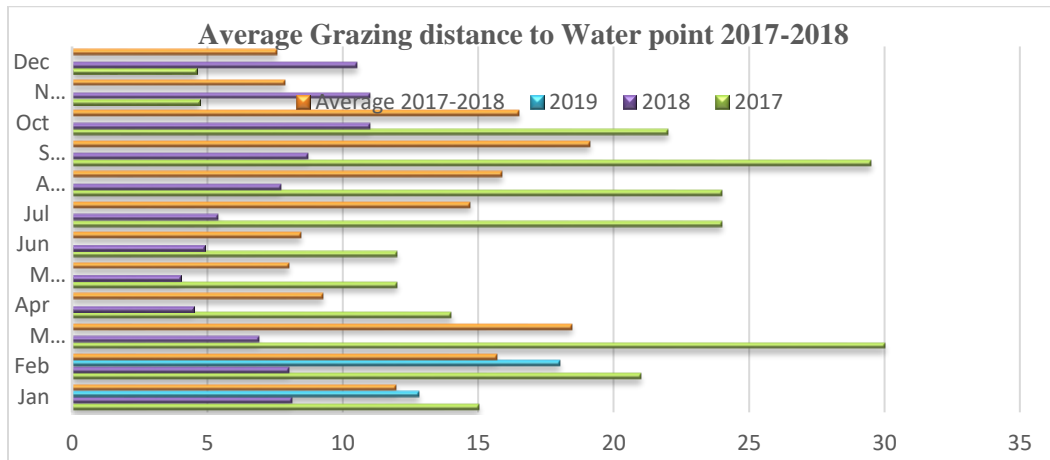


Figure 6: A graph indicating current grazing distance against (2017-2018) average

- Currently average trekking return distance from livestock grazing area to water sources increased significantly from 12.8 km in January to 18km in February 2019 as compared to previous month, due to pressure on water points and depletion of pasture and browse. However some pockets of Wajir North, Wajir East and Parts of Tarbaj hold little water.
- Compared to previous month the distance increased significantly as a result of depletion of water source thus making pastoral households to return to boreholes. This is normal at this time of the year.
- The frequency of watering interval for the County increased significantly as compared to the normal due to increased trekking distance attributed to drying up of water pan and depletion of pasture and browse.
- Watering intervals for goat and sheep is 2-4 days, Cattle 2-3 days as compared to normal of 1-2 days whereas for camel it is 7-15days as compared to normal of 7 days for the entire livelihood zones.
- 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

- The body condition of livestock for all species ranges from good to fair across all livelihood zones, while some are in poor condition. For cattle and sheep and grazers, in pastoral cattle and pastoral all species livelihood zones are fair compared to a normal, due to inadequate and poorly distributed rains received that led to poor regeneration of pasture and browse. In the pastoral camel and agro-pastoral livelihood zones, for all livestock species are good due to available pasture and browse attributed fair rain received
- Current body condition remained the same but on a worsening trend as compared to previous month due pressure on pasture and browse attributed to increase in distance. In comparison to the current condition to similar previous period livestock body condition is currently good.
- Livestock body condition varies according to livelihood zones, where most of the livestock species are good to fair in all livelihood zones, except pockets in Wajir South, Wajir West, and Eldas.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Suspected cases of livestock diseases such as PPR, CCPP and Brucellosis were reported across all livelihood zones

3.1.3 Milk Production

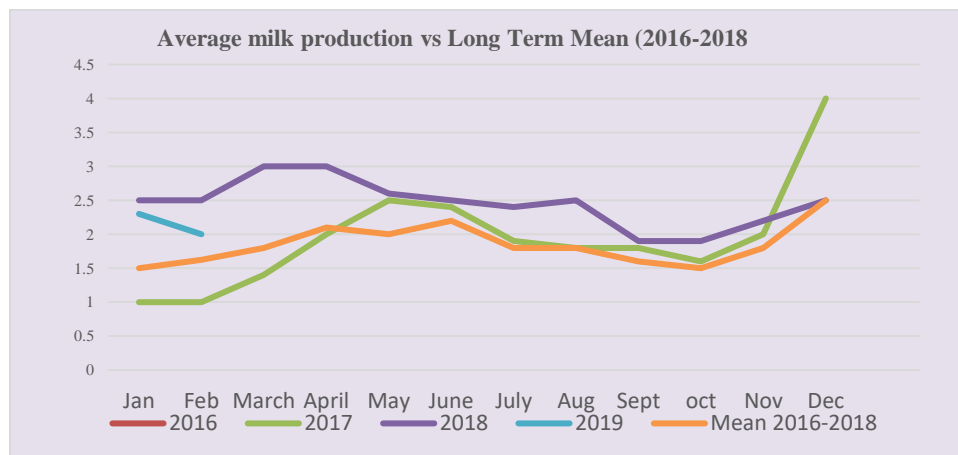


Figure 7: A graph showing current average milk production for Wajir against (2016-2018) mean

- Average milk production per household per day slightly declined from 2.3 litres in January 2019 to 2.0 litres in the month under review. The highest livestock species that produce milk are cattle and camel
- Milk production is low attributed to depletion of pasture, browses and increased trekking distance.
- Trend and Quantity of Milk production decline when compared to the previous same period but above the long term average showing the production is good.
- Pastoral Camel and Pastoral cattle livelihood zones reported highest milk production followed by Agro-pastoral livelihood zones.
- Milk production is above the long term average but below previous month average due to increased trekking distance and 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 and sorghum and others like Kales, Water melon. Due to depressed rainfall received during short rains, there was no harvest during the month of February 2019. Farmers are preparing their land.

IMPLICATION OF THE ABOVE INDICATORS TO FOOD SECURITY

- Good livestock body condition will increase availability and accessibility of milk thus making children under five to be stable.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

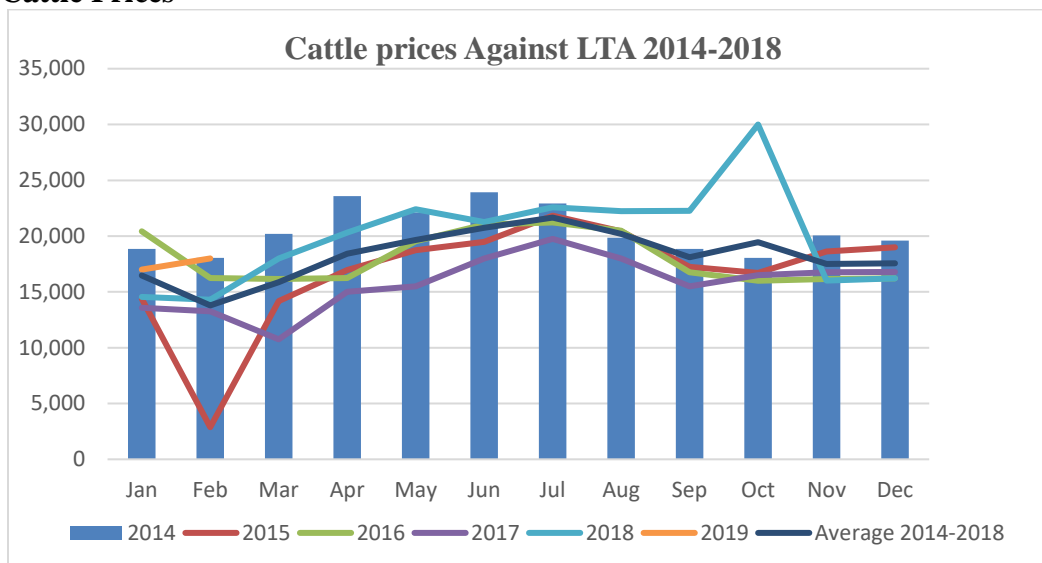


Figure 89: A graph of current cattle price against the long term (2014-18) mean prices

- Current average price of four year old medium size Cattle increased from Kshs 17,000 in January 2019 to Kshs 18,000 in the month under review due to good livestock body condition, less supply in the market.
- Livelihood zones with the highest prices were reported in urban towns and lowest prices reported at the rural areas.
- Current average cattle price is above the long term average and previous month average showing good market prices.
- Average cattle prices are normal as compared to previous years due to good livestock body condition and less supply in the market

4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

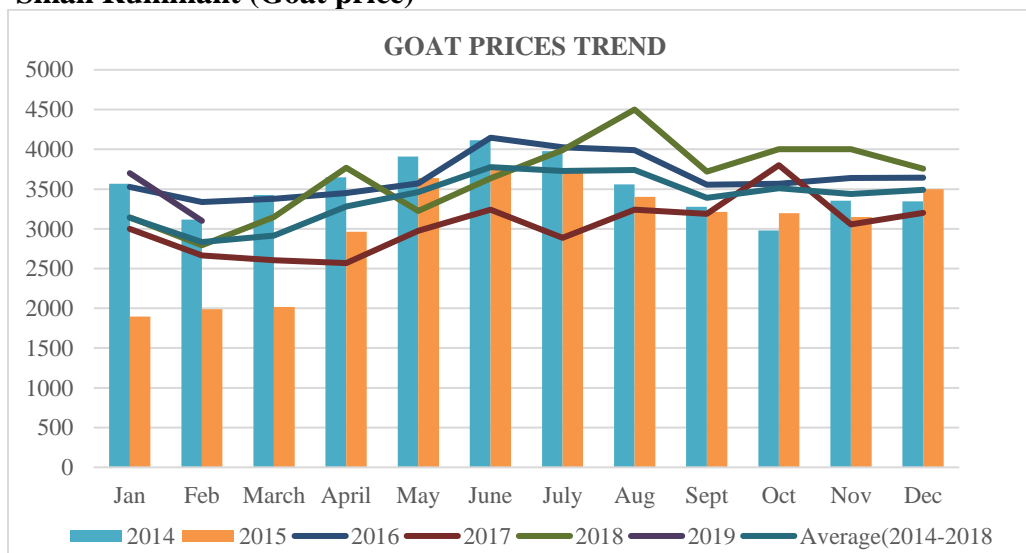


Figure 9: A graph of current Goat price against the long term (2014-18) mean price

- Current average goat price decreased from Kshs 3700 in January to Kshs 3,100 in February 2019 due to high supply and low demand in the market.
- Current average prices are above the long term and previous month average, showing an improvement in the market as compared to previous year and LTA.
- Livelihood zones with the highest market price were recorded in urban, followed by Wajir south and lowest reported in Wajir North and Tarbaj.
- The shoat prices are normal for the year but improved as compared to previous years prices due to good livestock body condition.

4.1.3 Camel price

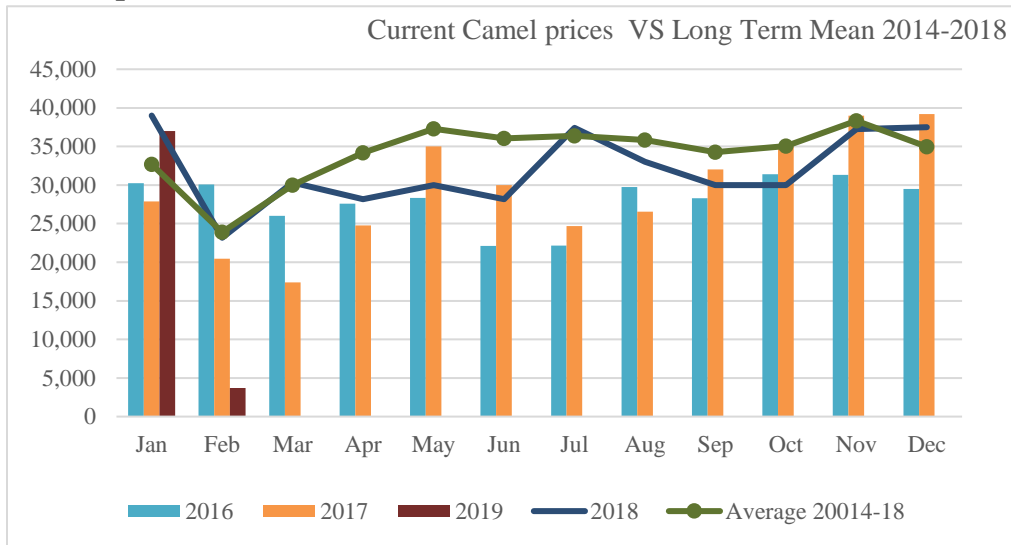


Figure 10: A graph of current camel prices against the long term mean (2014-2018)

- Current average price of four year old Camel remained the same as compared to the previous month with Kshs 37,500 in January to Kshs 37000 in the month under review due to high supply in the market and low demand thus making the prices unfavourable.
- Livelihood zones with the highest prices of camel were recorded in urban towns and lowest reported at the rural .due to the main market in town.
- Current average price of camel is above the long term average (LTA) and previous years price thus making market prices favourable as compared to previous years price and current.
- Compared to the previous three years average camel prices are normal and are within the range.

4.2 CROP PRICE

4.2.1 Maize

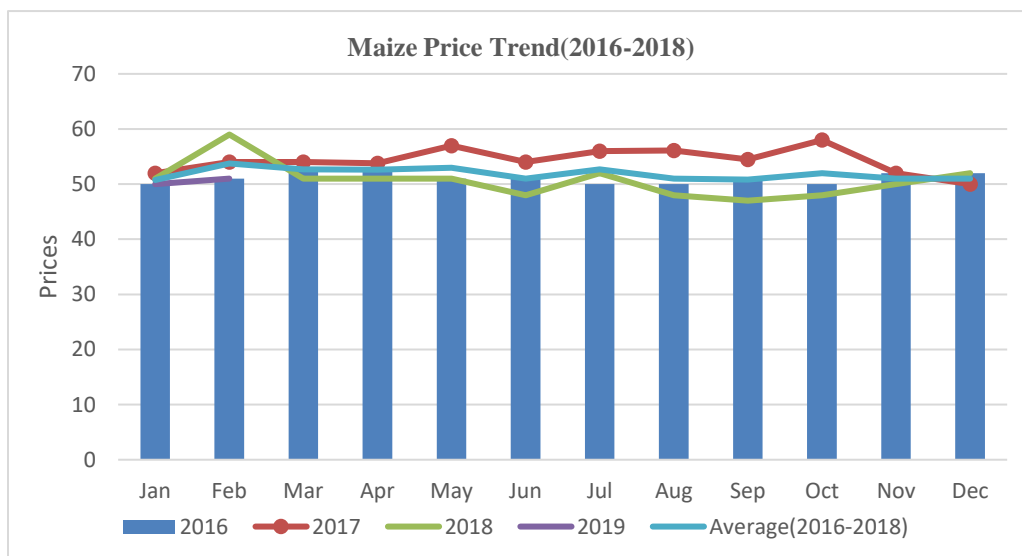


Figure 11: A graph of Current Maize Trend (2016-2018)

- Current average maize prices remained stable from Kshs 50 in January to Kshs 51 per kg. in February 2019, with no significant changes, this is due to more supply from the outside market and less demand which led to poor market prices.
- Highest prices of maize were recorded in Wajir North and Wajir West and lowest report in Wajir South(Lagbogol)

- Current maize price is below the long term average and previous year average showing a decline in the market as a result of more supply and less demand in the market.

4.2.1.1 Other outstanding observation

- Major staple foods utilized in the County are maize, rice, beans, meat, milk and spaghetti in all the livelihood zones.

4.3 Livestock Price Ratio/Terms of Trade (TOT)

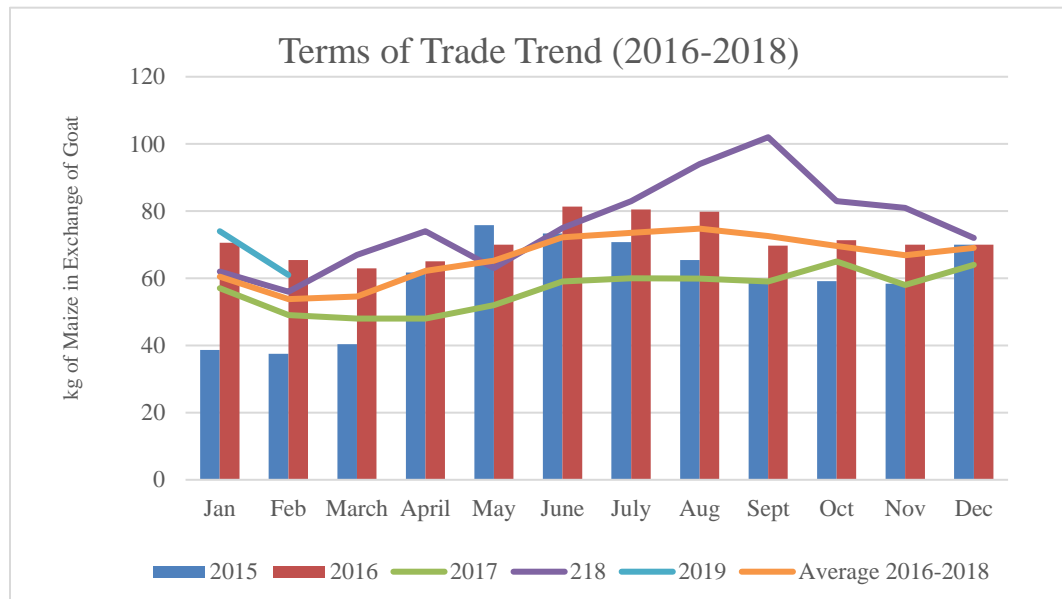


Figure 12: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long term (2016-2018) mean price.

- Current household terms of trade significantly decreased from 74kgs in January to 61kg in the month under review due to less supply and high demand of maize in the market thus making the terms of trade unfavorable.
- Current term of trade is above the long term average and previous year's month average as compared to previous month and previous season, though the terms of trade is not favourable due to low livestock prices.
- Livelihood with the highest ratio was reported in Wajir North and Wajir south and Lowest was reported in Wajir West and Tarbaj. This is normal at this time of the year.

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

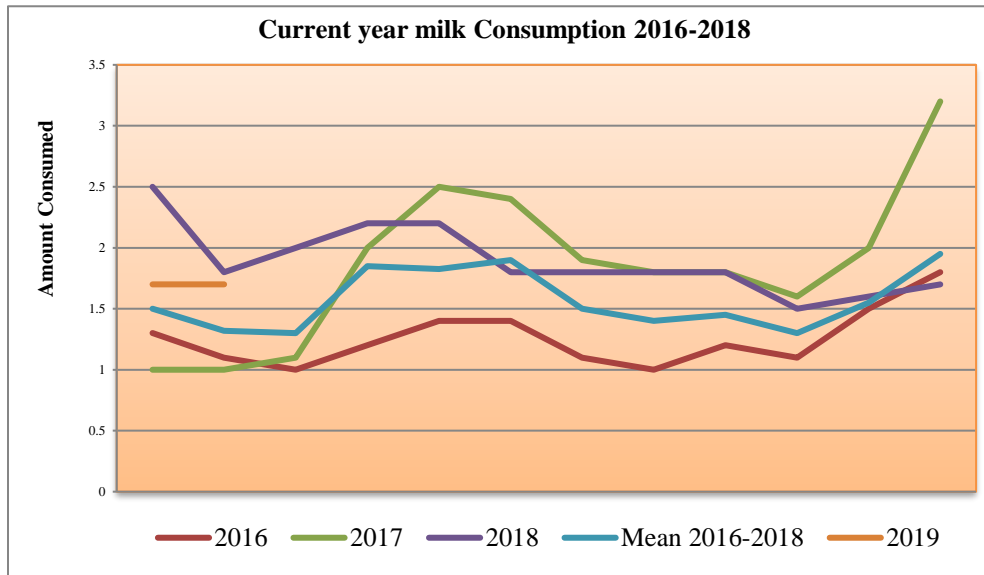
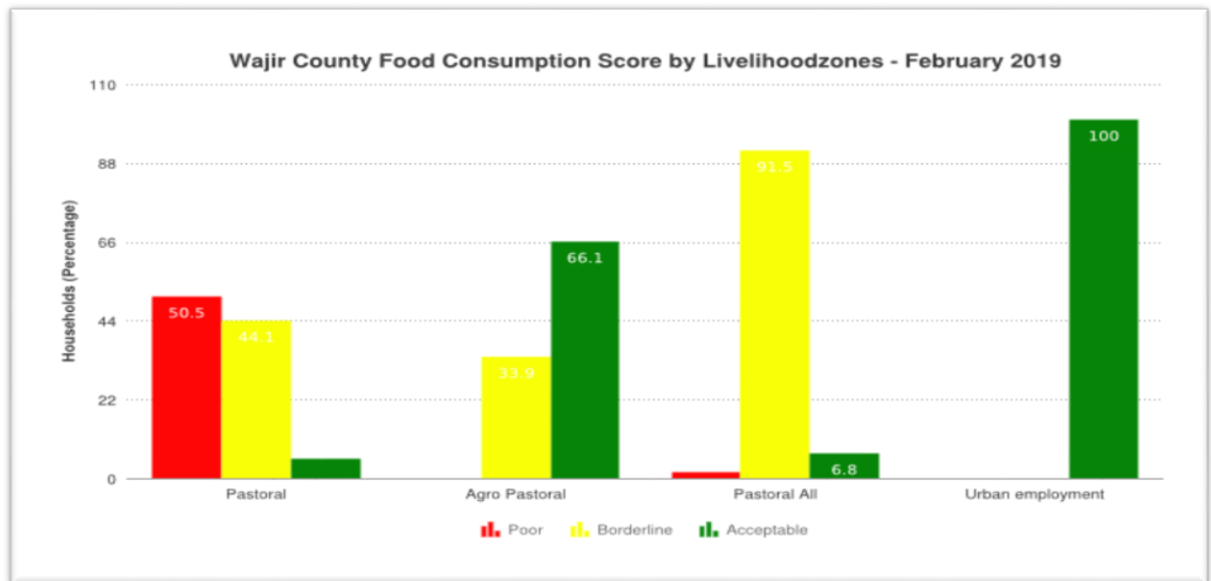


Figure 13: A graph showing current average milk consumption for Wajir against (2016-2018) mean

- Average milk consumption per household per day remained stable as compared to previous month. The highest livestock milk producing species are cattle and camel.
- Current milk consumption remained the same due to the available milk production attributed to good livestock body condition.
- Current average household milk consumption per household per day is above the long term mean but below previous year's average, thus making pastoral households to be food insecure.
- Trend and Quantity of milk consumption was not normal as compared to the same period, less milk was consumed during this year as opposed to same period overtime.
- Highest milk consumption was reported in Wajir South, Wajir west and lowest was recorded in Eldas and Tarbaj.

5.2 :Food Consumption Score



- Pastoral and Pastoral all species are the proportion of households with poor consumption score of 50.5 and 1.7 in February 2019, as compared with a score of 50 and 11.3 in the month of January 2019, showing a stable food consumption. While all other households are in Borderline and Acceptable.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

		Percentage of children at Risk of Malnutrition(Muac<135mm)											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
At Risk (Muac <134mm)	2014	14.87	15.1	15.84	13.78	13.2	13.41	15.4	21.3	18.8	19.6	17.03	18.2
	2015	21.7	24.1	26.2	24.3	21.4	17.4	17.2	17.5	17.7	17.03	15.14	15
	2016	15.8	16.2	16.25	16.2	16	15.94	16	16.26	17.05	17.26	17	16
	2017	17.5	19	20	19	18	17.8	19	19.6	20.2	21	18	16
	2018	16.5	17	16.6	15	14.3	14	14.2	14.4	14	14.2	12.4	11.7
	2019	12.7	13.5										
	Average 2014-2018	16	18	19	18	16.79	15	16	17	17	17	15	15

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

- In Wajir a total of 652 children (6-59months) were sampled for both girls and boys and assessed for malnutrition using MUAC Tape. From the sampled children, 13.5% were at risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135 mm) as compared to previous month figure of 12.7%, indicating a deteriorating trend in malnutrition thus affecting children under five.
- Wajir County out of 652 children sample for both girls and boys only 1.3% of the children are severe malnourished as compared to previous month of 0.0%, indicating a a worsening trend in malnutrition.
- In Wajir South Sub-county a total of 151 children were assessed for malnutrition using Muac both girl and boys, from the sample children 8.4%% were at Risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135 mm) as compared to previous month figure of 17% indicating an improvement in malnutrition.

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5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition in the month under review showed 13.5% as compared to 12.7% showing a deteriorating situation thus affecting children under five.
- The proportion of children under five with severe category increased slight from 0.0% in January to 1.3% in the month under review.

5.3.2 COPING STRATEGY INDEXES

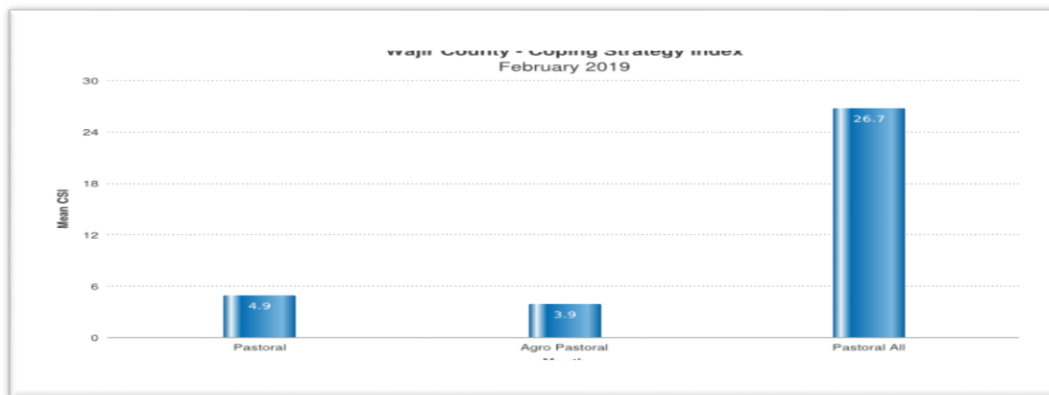


Figure 16: A graph showing average (2016-2018) (coping strategy index (CSI) against the **current trend**.

- Pastoral all species in wajir west still employed more coping strategies showing 26.7 as compared to previous month of January 2019 with 26.8 .showing stable strategy, while other livelihood zones employed less strategies. The mean CSI for the county was 9.2 as compared to the previous month which showed 9.3 showing a stable trend.
 - Relied on less preferred and less expensive food
 - Borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relative
 - Reduced the number of meals taken per day.
 - Reduced the quantity of food consumed by adult/mothers

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 Non-food interventions.-Ongoing

- Food for Asset (FFA)-WFP
- Hunger Safety Net Programme by the National Drought Management Authority

6.2 Food Aid.

- No Relief food by National Government and County Government

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- No incidence of insecurity reported in February 2019.

7.2 Migration

- Migration of livestock was reported with in the county where livestock movement was from Eldas, Wajir West and Wajir South towards Wajir North, Tarbaj and Wajir East in search of pasture and water. Migration from Mandera West towards Wajir North Was also reported.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- The long rains indicates that much of the county is likely to experience above normal rainfall.
- Pasture regeneration for livestock is expected in most areas likely to experience normal to above-normal rainfall.
- Milk availability and accessibility in all livelihood zones will likely improve during MAM.
- Prices of food commodities will fairly remain stable, since most of the products are imported from other counties and thereafter increase due to poor roads during MAM 2019.
- Rangeland conditions are likely to worsen during the dry spell and thereafter improve during MAM 2019.
- Trekking distance from grazing area to water sources will likely increase till mid-march and reduce during the long rains.
- Livestock prices are expected to worsen due to low market demand attributed to increased trekking distance and poor livestock body condition.
- Terms of trade are likely to be unfavourable as the prices of goat decline and maize price remain stable.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Health & Nutrition.

- Monitoring of malnutrition by health and Nutrition Department.
- Conduct Mass Screening
- Surveillance of Diseases-ongoing
- Supply of safe water storage containers to facilities
- Scale up of HINI/IMAM/YCN interventions-ongoing

Livestock Sector.

- Provision of livestock vaccination
- Provision of Livestock disease Surveillance
- Support prevention and treatment of livestock diseases
- Monitoring of Livestock market prices.
- Monitoring of livestock movement and migration

Water Sector

- Water trucking to communities in areas that have water stress.
- Rapid response to borehole break down-ongoing
- Purchase of fast moving spare parts-ongoing
- Construction of underground tanks

Education

- Provision of school bursaries
- Provision School feeding program