

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



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



**JUNE EW PHASE 2019**



**Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification**

**Biophysical Indicators**

**Rainfall.**

In June 2019, No rainfall was received but the county was characterized by cold and dry weather during the day and night throughout the month.

**Vegetation condition:**

Current average VCI in the county showed moderate vegetation deficit with a score of 17.59 as compared to the previous figure of 21.13, Although Wajir south, Wajir West and Eldas showed severe vegetation deficit with a value of 12.54, 11.51 and 14.39 respectively, while others are in moderate vegetation deficit. This indicates a worsening vegetation deficit.

**Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)**

**Production indicators:**

- Livestock body condition still ranges from fair to poor, though on a worsening Trend.
- Stable Milk production reported
- Unusual Migration of livestock reported
- No livestock death reported
- Pasture condition ranges between fair to poor.
- Browse is fair

**Access indicators**

- Decrease in milk consumption, low market prices, Increased trekking distance, Terms of trade still not favourable.

**Utilization Indicators**

- Percentage of children under five at risk of malnutrition indicated 16.5% as compared to

**Early Warning Phase Classification**

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Alert	Worsening
Pastoral cattle	Alarm	stable
Pastoral-all species	Alarm	stable
Pastoral camel	Alert	Worsening
Informal employment	Alert	Worsening
County	Alarm	stable
Biophysical Indicators	value	Trend
Rainfall (% of Normal)	0mm	80 -120
VCI-3Month	17.59	>35
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Fair-poor	Normal
Crop production	Poor	Good
Milk Production	1.8	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	unusual	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	63	>66
Milk Consumption	1.5	>3
Return Distance to water source	9.0	<5 Km
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	16.5	<6.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	7.05	<0.95

<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</li> <li>▪ Land preparation</li> <li>▪ Increased HH Food Stocks</li> <li>▪ Kidding (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>▪ Wedding</li> </ul>

# 1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITION

## 1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- No Rainfall was received and experienced throughout the Month, though characterised by cold and dry weather throughout the day and night

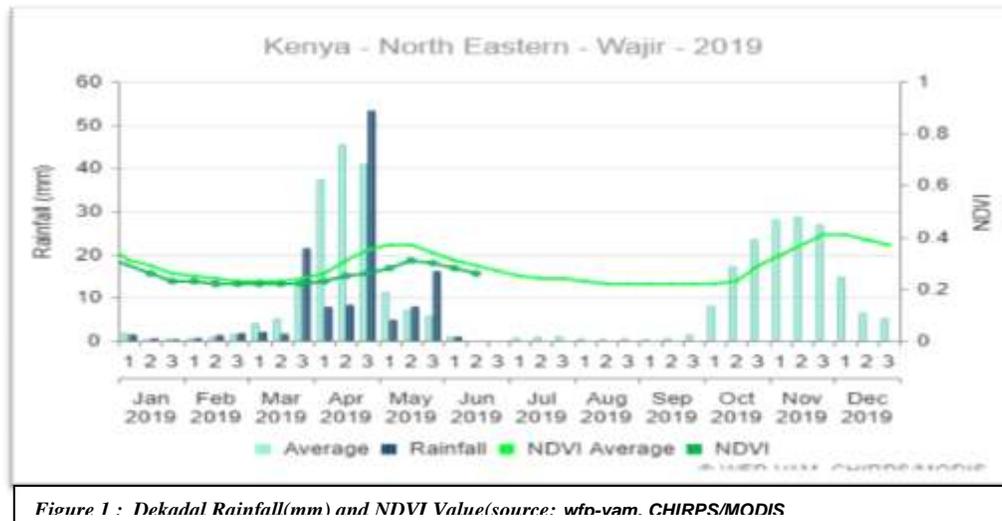


Figure 1 : Dekadal Rainfall(mm) and NDVI Value(source: wfn-vam. CHIRPS/MODIS)

### 1.1.1 Amount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

Wajir County did not receive any rainfall throughout the month, though characterised by dry and cold weather condition during the day and night.

## 2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

### 2.1 Vegetation Condition

#### 2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

Current vegetation cover index in all livelihood zones still showed moderate vegetation deficit with a vci score of 17.59 as compared to previous month figure of 21.13 indicating vegetation deficit, with Pastoral cattle in Wajir south, Pastoral all species in Wajir west and Eldas showing severe vegetation deficit, While Agro-pastoral in Wajir North, Pastoral Camel in Wajir East and Tarbaj recording moderate vegetation deficit. The vegetation deficit in the county is likely to worsen further as the dry spell progresses.

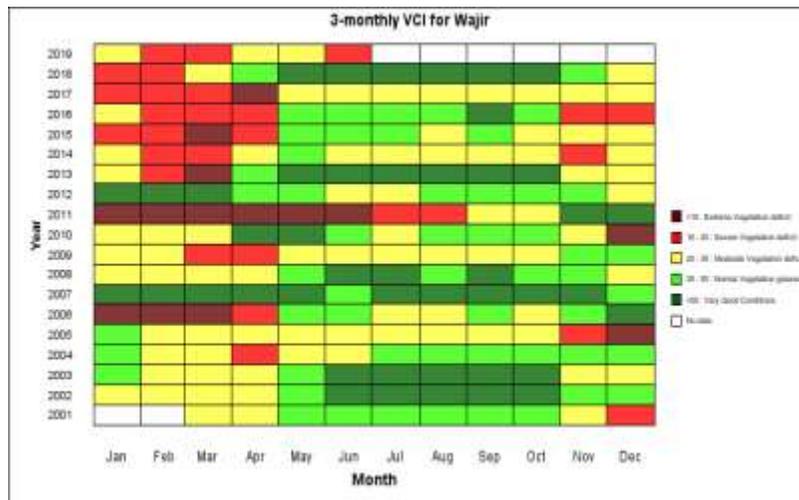


Figure 2: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir County during the month of June 2019.

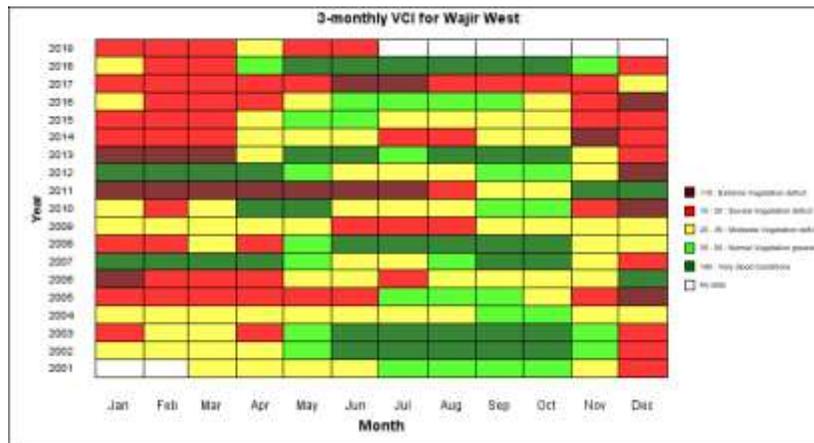


Figure 3: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir South during the month of June 2019.

#### 2.1.2 Pasture

- Pasture condition in the county was poor across the livelihood zones as compared to a normal season at this time of the year. Pasture was fair in some parts of pastoral camel, Pastoral cattle and agro-pastoral livelihood zones along the borders of Marsabit county, Isiolo county, Somalia and Ethiopia.
- Condition of pasture is poor across the county as compared to previous month due depletion of pasture attributed to over concentration of livestock to the fallback area as a result of failed rainfall.
- Available pasture is expected to last for a period of two week due to quick deterioration of pasture.
- Highest proportion of pasture was reported in Pastoral Camel, Agro-pastoral livelihood zones in Wajir North and some pockets of Pastoral Cattle in Wajir South and Pastoral all species livelihood zones in Wajir West and lowest proportion of pasture was recorded in Wajir South, Eldas and Wajir West.

- No constraints reported during the month under review.
- Pasture situation defers according to livelihood zones, Where Pastoral Camel in Wajir East, Parts of Agro-pastoral in Wajir North and Pastoral cattle in Wajir South recorded highest proportion, While Pastoral all species, Eldas and Tarbaj recorded lowest proportion.

### 2.1.3 Browse

- Current browse condition across the livelihood zones was fair in entire the county, except pastoral all species in Wajir West, Eldas, Tarbaj and Pockets of Pastoral cattle livelihood zones in Wajir South which remained to be poor due to inadequate rainfall witnessed during long rains.
- Browse situation in the county has worsened as opposed to previous month due to high concentrated of livestock in the grazing areas, which attributed to poor regeneration of browse.
- The available browse condition is expected to last for the next three weeks except in pastoral all species in Wajir West, Eldas and Tarbaj, which are in poor condition.
- Highest proportion of browse was reported in Wajir North, Wajir East and some parts of Tarbaj and Lowest recorded in Wajir West, Eldas and Wajir South.
- No constraints recorded during the month under review.

## 2.2 Water Source

### 2.2.1 Sources

- Major water source employed by both human and livestock across the livelihood zones was borehole at 46 percent, which is not normal at this particular time of the year, Normally water pan is always the main water sources.
- Other sources utilized by both human and livestock were water pan (27%), shallow wells (27%) and Water Trucking.
- Most of the water pans in all the livelihood zones are dry except few, which were recharged during MAM and expected to last for a duration of one or less than a month due to intense livestock migration in search of water.
- Areas that are currently facing water shortages and are water trucked were reported in Wajir west, Parts of Wajir South, Wajir North, Eldas and Tarbaj Sub-county.

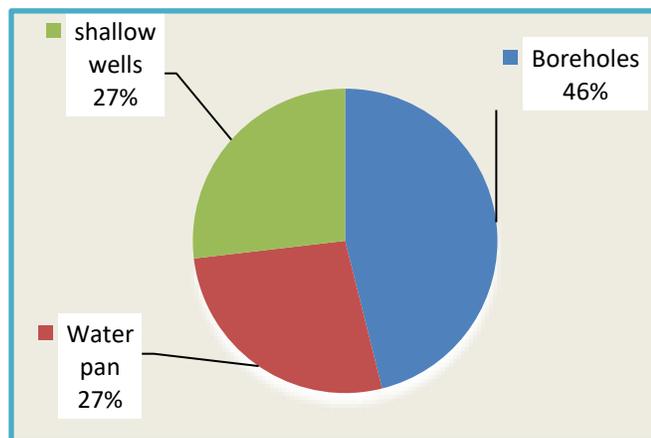


Figure 5: Major water Sources Across The Livelihood zones.

### 2.2.2 Household access and Utilization.

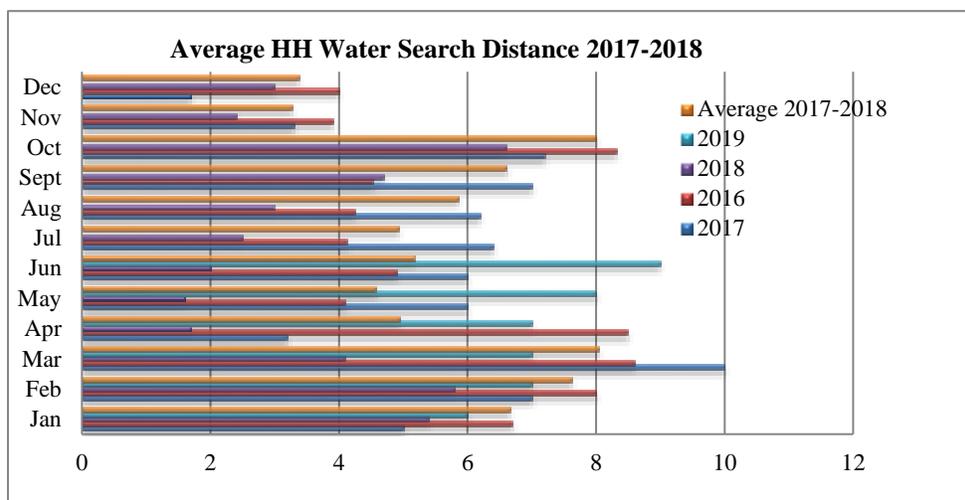


Figure 6: Current Return Distance to Water Sources Against 2016-2017 average

- Current average return distance from household to water point slightly increased from 8km in May to 9.0km in the month under review as a result poor recharge of water during MAM attributing to depletion water sources.
- Average water consumption per person per day was 5-8 litres against normal of 15-20 litres except few parts of Wajir North, Wajir East and Parts of south which was 15-20 litres, Others had low consumption due poor rainfall experienced, this is normal at this time of the year.
- The proportion of households that treat water is too little with only some few households in towns using boiling methods and tabs.

### 2.2.3 Livestock access

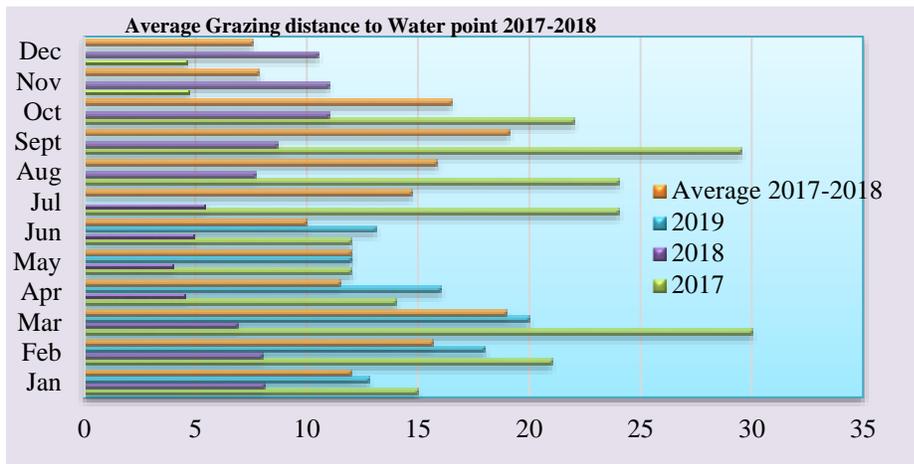


Figure 7: current grazing distance against (2017-2018) average.

- Current Livestock return distance from grazing area to water sources is 13.1km across the livelihood zones, When compared to previous return trekking distance of 12.0km due to depressed rainfall received during MAM and high concentration of livestock at the water sources, thus depleting water sources.
- Current return distance to water source is above the normal, When compared to long term average of 10.0km.
- Return Trekking distance to water points are likely to increase further as the drying up of water pans continues due to high concentration at the water sources.
- 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 frequencies have decreased due to increased trekking distances compared to similar periods in most areas.
- Currently, cattle are watered after every 2-3 days; small stock 2-3 days and camels after 6-7 days across the livelihood zones which is not normal
- 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

- Current livestock body condition ranges between fair to poor in the entire livelihood zones, excepts areas that exhibits poor cattle, goat and sheep condition, which were Buna,Bute in Wajir North, Eldas and parts of Wajir South and Wajir West due to poor rainfall experienced attributed to poor regeneration of pasture
- Currently the body condition of livestock still remained the same as compared to previous month, Except parts of Wajir North, Wajir west, Wajir South and Eldas which are in poor condition.
- Livestock body condition currently ranges between fair to poor as compared to similar previous period which was good during that time, indicating a worsening situation.
- Livestock body condition varies according to livelihood zones, where most of the livestock species are in fair condition while others are in poor condition.

##### 3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- No outbreak of livestock diseases reported during the month, Except cases of PPR and CBPP still exist and routine surveillance of livestock diseases are done.

##### 3.1.3 Milk Production

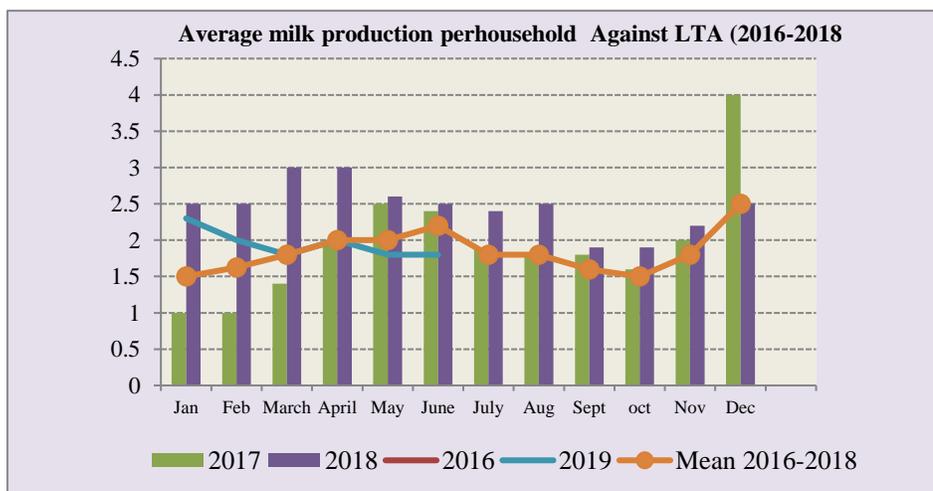


Figure 8: A graph showing current average milk production for Wajir against (2016-2018) mean

- Current average milk production per household per day remained the same as compared to previous month recording 1.8 litres due to increased birth rate, though it is below the long-term average.
- 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.
- Livelihood with the highest producing milk was reported in Pastoral Camel, Pastoral Cattle and Pastoral All species because camel and Cattle are the species that produce milk.
- Lowest producing livelihood zones are agro-pastoral and Pastoral all species.
- Current average Milk production was below long-term average and previous month average which is not normal at this time of the year due to poor rainfall experienced, which resulted to poor regeneration 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, sorghum, and others like Kales, Water melon. Due to failed rainfall witnessed in all livelihood zones there was total crop failure because there was no enough rainfall to support germination.

#### **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

#### 4.1.1 Cattle Prices

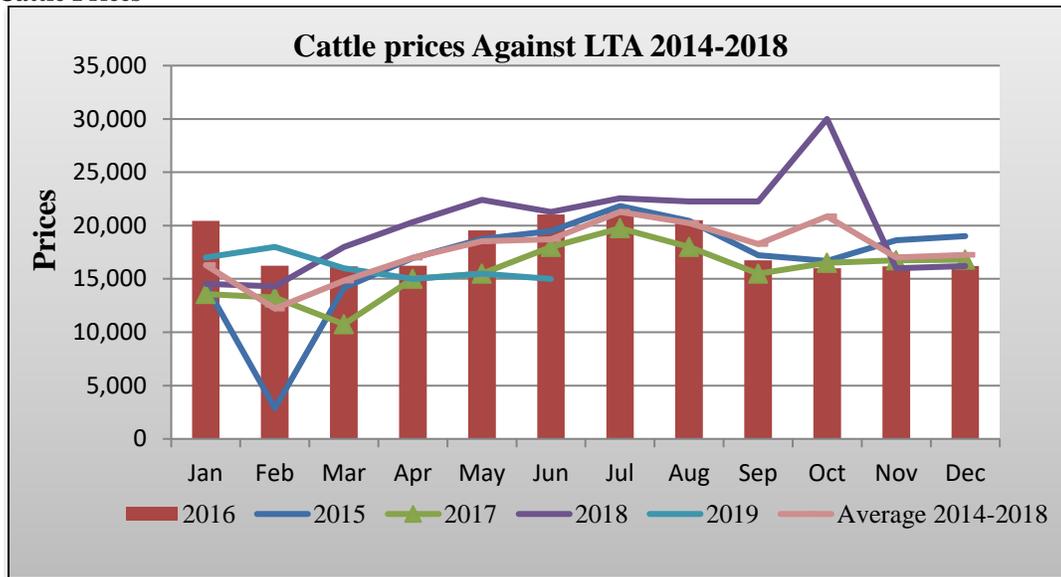


Figure 9: A graph of current cattle price against the long-term (2014-18) mean prices

- Current average price of four-year-old medium size Cattle decreased slightly from kshs 15,500 in the month of May to kshs 15,000 in the month under review with no significant changes to high supply of livestock and less demand attributed to poor market.
- Livelihood zones with the highest prices were recorded in urban towns and lowest was report at the rural areas.
- Current average cattle price is below the long-term average and previous month average due to poor market attributed to low demand and high supply in the market.

#### 4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- Current average goat prices decreased from Ksh 3,500 in May to 3,180 in the month under review due to poor livestock market attributed to low demand and poor livestock body condition.
- Current average goat prices is below both the short-term average and previous month average, showing a worsening trend as compared to the same period and short term. Livelihood zones with the highest market price were reported in Wajir town and lowest recorded the rural areas.
- The goat price is within the normal ranges but has significantly decreased for the year as compared to the normal time.

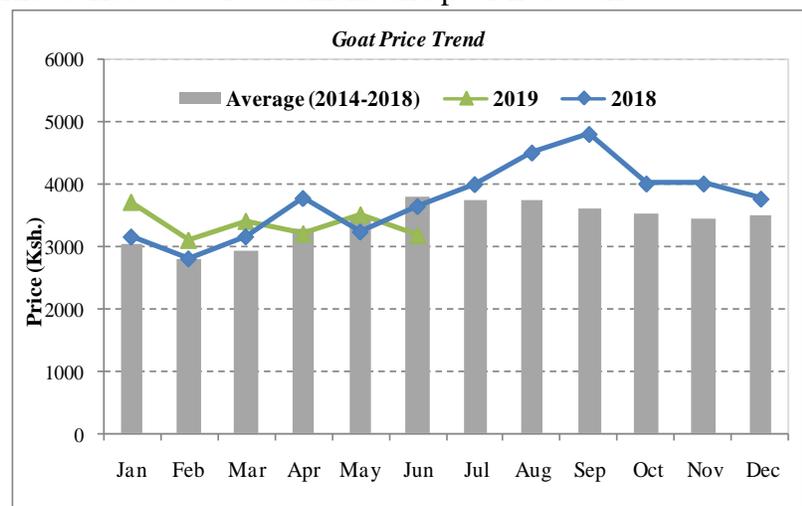


Figure 10: Current Goat price Against STA (2014-2018)

### 4.1.3 Camel price

- Current average price of four-year-old Camel slightly increase from 34,000 in May to 35,000 in the month under review due to low supply and high market demand attributed to good livestock body condition
- Livelihood zones with the highest prices of camel were recorded in urban centres and lowest reported at the rural due to the main market in town.
- Current average price of camel is above previous year's average but equals to the long term average.

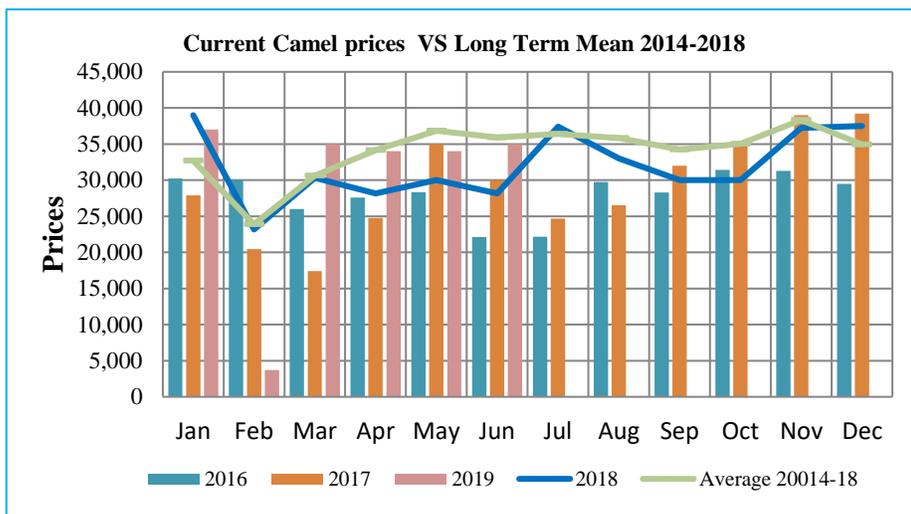


Figure 11: Current camel prices against the long term mean (2014-2018)

## 4.2 CROP PRICE

### 4.2.1 Maize

- Current average maize prices remained stable as compared to previous month due to high supply in the market and less demand as a result of relief food distributed by National and County government, this stabilized maize price.
- Highest maize prices were reported in the rural area and lowest reported in the urban areas.  
Current maize price is above the long-term average and previous year average due more market demand and less supply which increased the price.

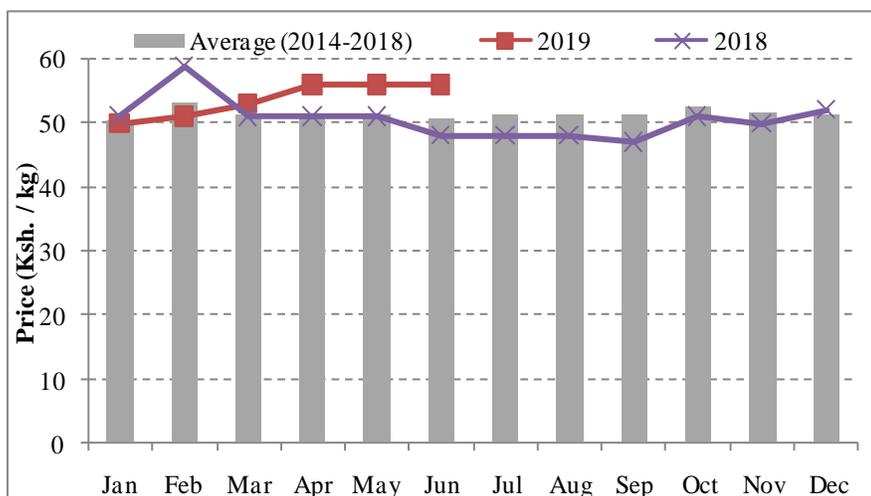


Figure 12: A graph of Current Maize Trend (2016-2018).

#### 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 zon

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

- Current household terms of trade remained stable as compared to previous month due decrease in livestock prices attributed to poor market and stable maize prices thus making terms of trade unfavorable.
- 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.

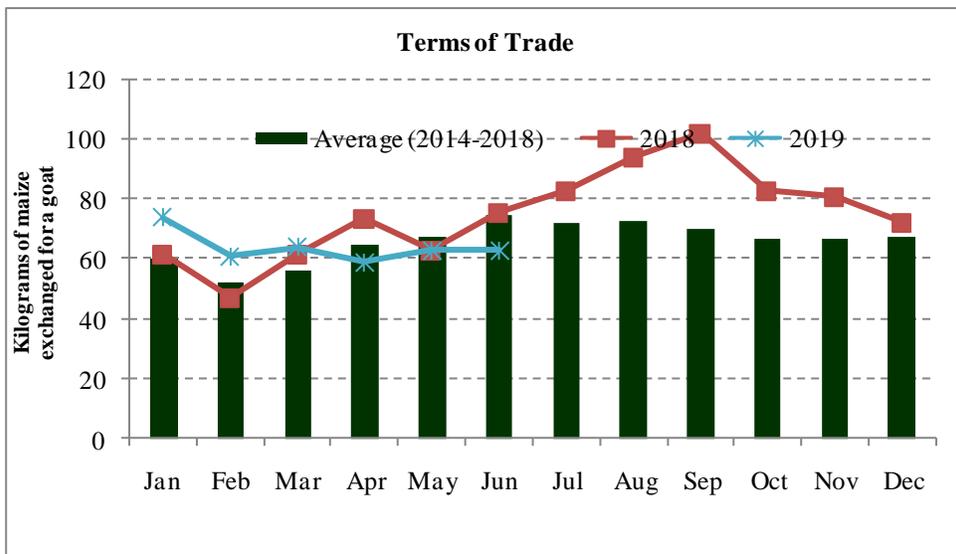


Figure13: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long-term (2016-2018) mean price

- 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.

#### 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

- Current average milk consumption per household per day remained stable as compared to previous month due to milk sourced from the fallback areas to town, attributed to poor regeneration 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 children under five be food secure.
- Trend and Quantity of milk consumption was not normal as compared to the same period due poor to low milk production at the household level and less milk was consumed during this year as opposed to same period overtime.

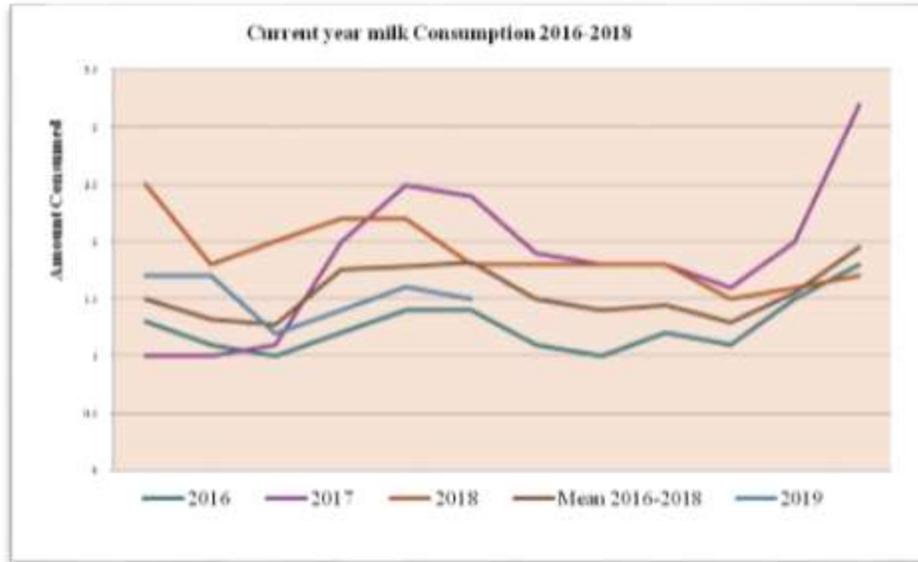


Figure 14: A graph showing current average milk consumption for Wajir against (2016-2018) mean

### 5.2 :Food Consumption Score

- Pastoral and pastoral all species livelihood zones are the proportion of households that are in poor food consumption with a score of 65.2 and 8.2 in the month under review 60 as opposed to a score of 60 and 3.2 in the month of may 2019, this trend shows that the situation is worsening as compared to previous month. While all other pastoral households are in Borderline and Acceptable.

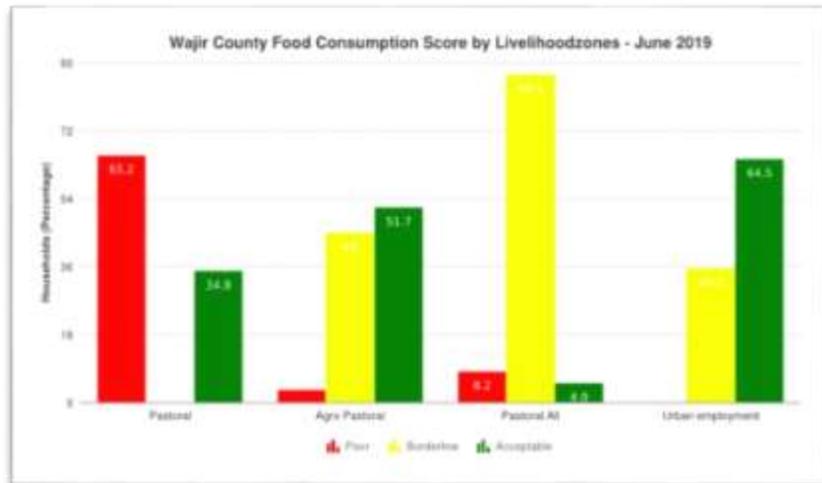


Figure 15: Food Consumption

### 5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

In Wajir a total of 625 children (6-59 months) were sampled for both girls and boys and assessed for malnutrition using MUAC Tape. From the sampled children, 16.5% were at risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135 mm) as compared to previous month figure of 16.0% with no significant changes, though malnutrition for under fives are still on the rise Wajir County out of 625 children sample for both girls and boys only 0.6% of the children are severe malnourished as compared to previous month of 1.28 percent showing a declining trend.

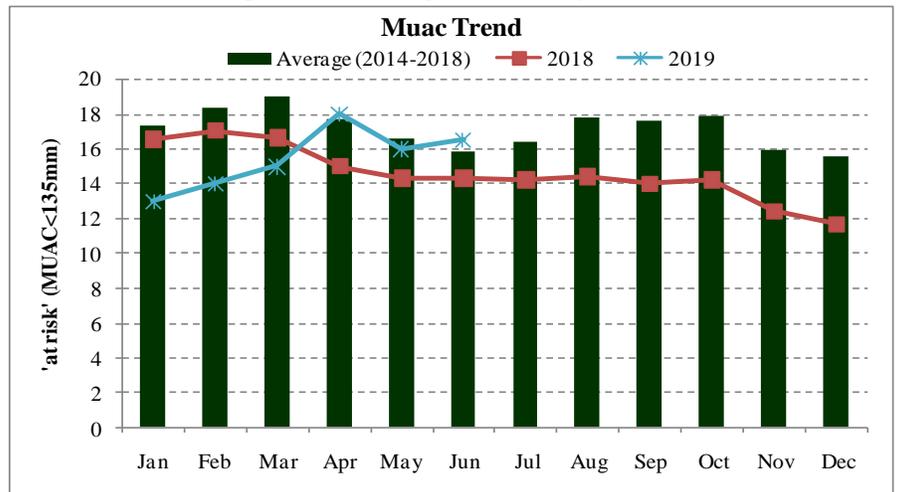


Figure 15: A Nutritional status of children between 12-59 months against (2014-18) long-term

#### 5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition in the month under review showed 16.5% as compared to 16.0% indicating a slight increase in malnutrition due to low milk production and less consumption.
- The proportion of children under five with severe category increased from 0.6% in June to 1.28% in the month of May indicating a decline.

#### 5.3.2 COPING STRATEGY INDEXES

- The mean CSI for the county slightly decreased from 7.88 in may 7.05 in the month under review showing aslight improvement.
- More coping strategy was employed in pastoral all species livelihood zones while others applied less strategy.
- 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.

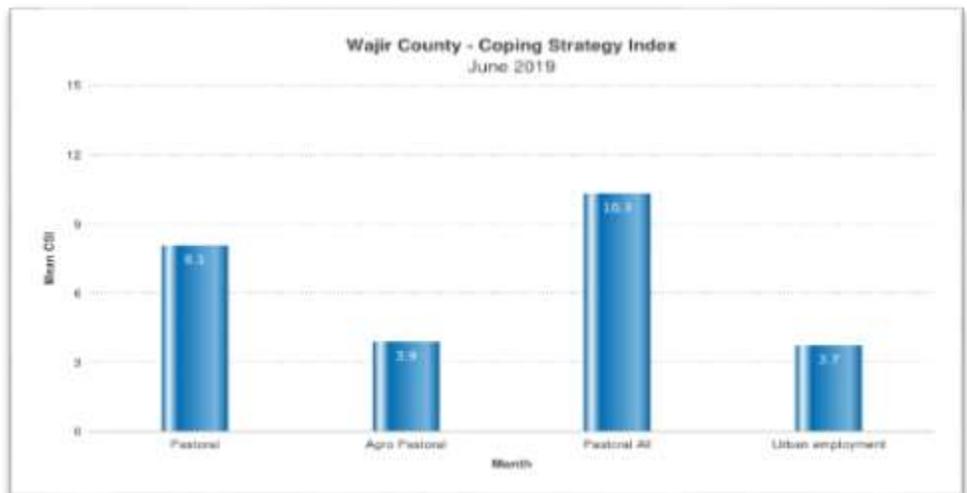


Figure 16: A graph showing average (2016-2018) (coping strategy index (CSI) against the current trend

## **6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)**

### **6.1 Non-food interventions.-Ongoing**

- Regular cash Transfers and Emergency Upscale payment are ongoing- by the National Drought Management Authority-ongoing
- Food for Asset (FFA)-WFP (Sustainable food system Program)-ongoing

### **6.2 Food Aid.**

- Relief food by National Government and County Government.

## **7.0 EMERGING ISSUES**

### **7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement**

- No incidence of insecurity that was reported during the month under review.

### **7.2 Migration**

- Intense Migration of livestock from within the county and outside the county persist in search of pasture and water.
- Out migration of Livestock from the county to Marsabit and Isiolo County was also reported in search of pasture and water.

### **7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS**

- Milk availability and accessibility will likely deteriorate in the next two to three month and thereafter improve during OND 2019.
- Rangeland condition will worsen as the dry spell continues and thereafter improve during the short rains.
- Livestock body condition is expected to worsen in the next three month and thereafter improve during OND 2019.
- Trekking distances to water sources, will likely increase further and improve during recharge of water pans by the short rains.
- Pasture and browse condition will likely be depleted in the next three month and thereafter improve during rains.
- Market prices are expected to be very low due to poor livestock body condition, low demand and increased trekking distance.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Health & Nutrition.**

- Monitoring and Surveillance of disease outbreak
- Monitoring of malnutrition by health and Nutrition Department-ongoing
- Procurement of improvised hand washing facilities

### **Livestock Sector.**

- Livestock disease Surveillance by the department-ongoing
- Provision of livestock feeds by NDMA
- Vaccination of livestock against PPR and CBPP-ongoing
- Monitoring of livestock disease due to in migration and out migration..

### **Water Sector.**

- Water trucking to some centres-ongoing
- Rapid response to borehole break down-ongoing
- Provision of fast moving spare parts-Ongoing

### **Peace and Security**

- Conduct peace dialogue meeting between in ter-counties