



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

EW JULY PHASE 2020

Drought Status: **NORMAL**



Shughull za kawaida

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

Rainfall.

No rainfall was received during the month, though the county experienced cool, cloudy and windy condition during the day and night.

Vegetation condition. Current VCI showed vegetation greenness above normal with a score of 61 as compared to previous month figure value of 54 while all livelihood indicated vegetation greenness above normal, except Wajir West and Wajir South that showed normal vegetation.

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. Stable milk production.

Access indicators

- Terms of Trade are favourable, maize prices remain stable while there is increased trekking distance to water source. There is slight decrease 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
Biophysical Indicators	value	Worsening
Rainfall (% of Normal)	0	80 -120
VCI-3Month	61	>35
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Good-Fair	Normal
Crop production	Fair	Good
Milk production	2.2	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	72	>66
Milk consumption	1.2	>3
Return Distance to water source	6.0	<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

Wajir county experienced dry and sunny weather during the month. This was occasioned by cool, cloudy and windy condition during the day and night.

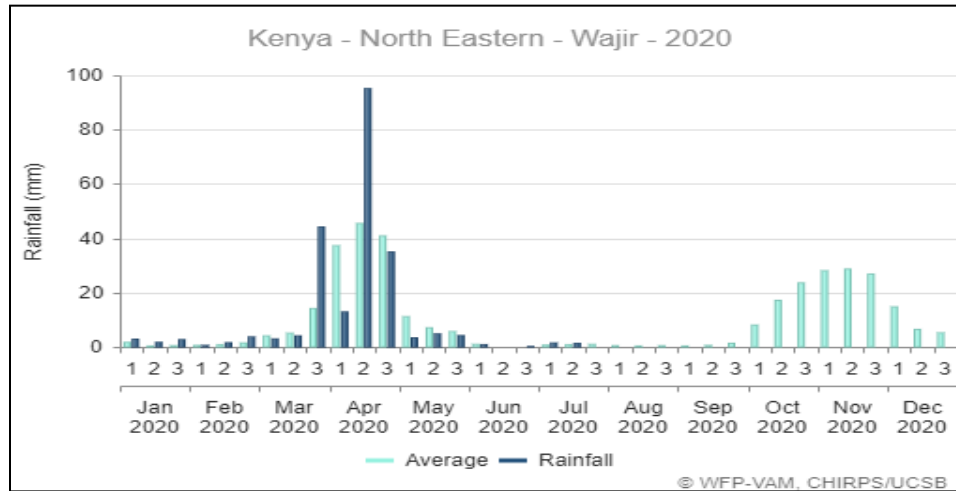


Figure 1: Rainfall Source: WFP-VAM/CHIRPS/UCSB

1.1.1 Amount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

No rainfall was received during the month under review, though it was characterised by cloudy, dry and windy weather throughout the day and night.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

Currently, vegetation Cover indexes across the livelihood zones indicated vegetation greenness above normal with a score of 61.41 as compared to previous month figure of 54.53, except Wajir South and Wajir West that showed normal vegetation greenness. This indicated improvement in vegetation with no significant changes. However, this is expected to decline as the dry spell continues.

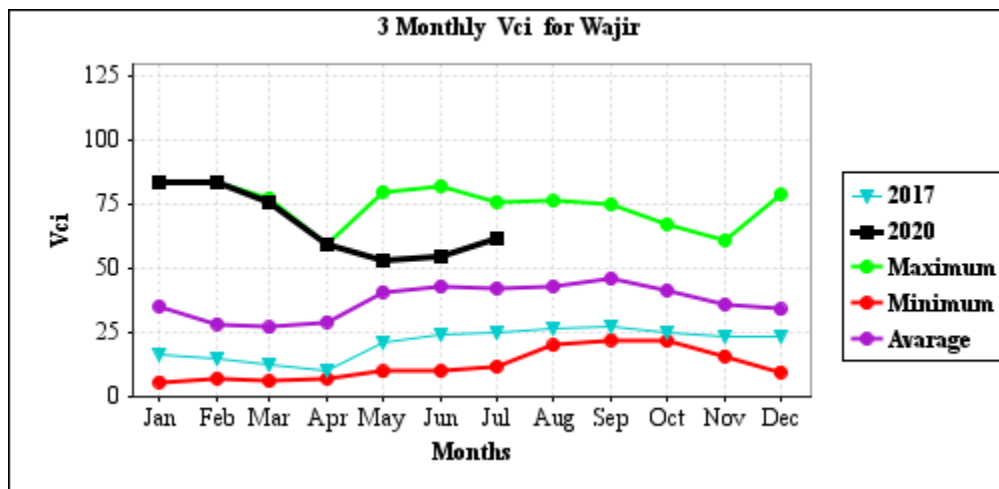


Figure 2: A chart of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir during the month of July 2020.

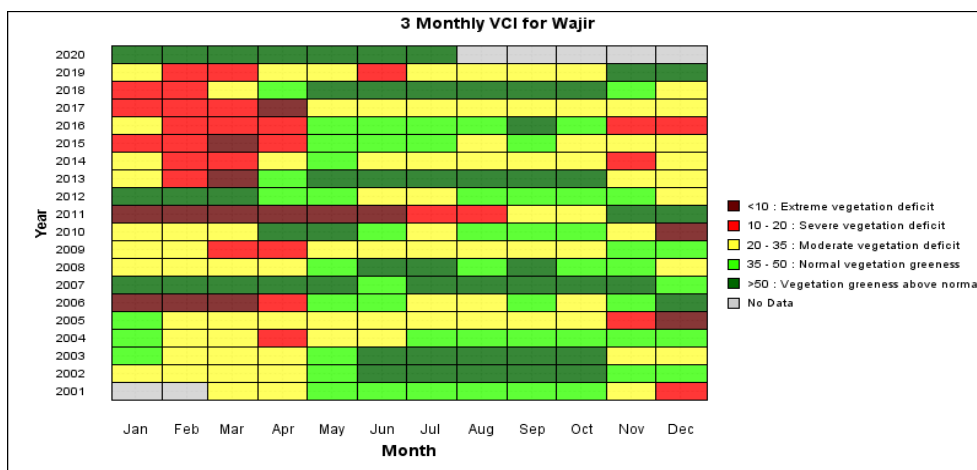


Figure 3: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir during the month of July 2020.

2.1.2 Pasture

- Currently, pasture condition in all the livelihood zones range between good to fair, except parts of Wajir West, Eldas and Wajir South that showed fair pasture condition, especially along the Waso belt due to the high concentration of grazers experienced during the season.
- The condition of pasture situation at this time of the year is normal as compared to the long-term average (LTA) and is attributed to the above normal long rains recorded.
- Available pasture is expected to last for a period of two to three months as a result of available pasture.
- 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 parts of Wajir West, Wajir South and Eldas.

2.1.3 Browse.

- Currently browse situation ranges between good to fair but on a deteriorating trend. However, Wajir West and Eldas showed fair to poor condition.
- Browse condition decreased as compared to previous month due to deterioration of browse attributed to high concentration in the grazing areas.
- Available browse is likely to last for a period of one to three month.
- Quality and Quantity of browse condition across the livelihood zones are good to fair.

2.2 Water Source.

2.2.1 Sources

- Current main source of water are boreholes, water pans and shallow wells for both human and livestock. Some of the water pans in the county have already dried up, except mega dams that are with water, while others depend on boreholes and shallow wells for the urbans.
- In comparison to previous month, condition of water decreased due to high concentration of livestock at the water sources, seepage and evaporation.
- Available water is likely to last for a period of one to two months

Household access and Utilization

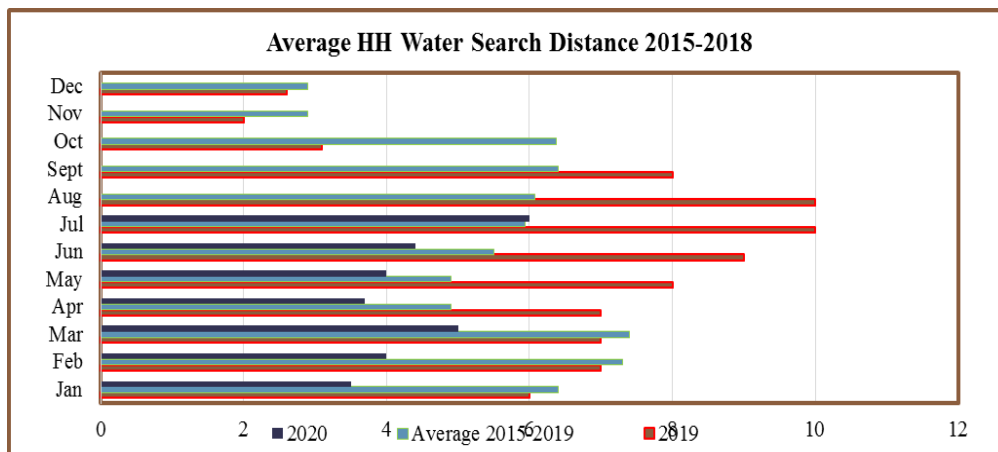


Figure 4: Current Return Distance to Water Sources against 2015-2019 average

- Current average household return distance increased from 5 km to 6 km in the month under review due to drying up of water and increased trekking distance.
- Current average household return distance to water point is slightly above the long term average and below previous month average due to depletion of water pan.
- 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 at 23 percent, with only some few households in urban using aqua tabs while few others use boiling methods.

2.2.2 Livestock access

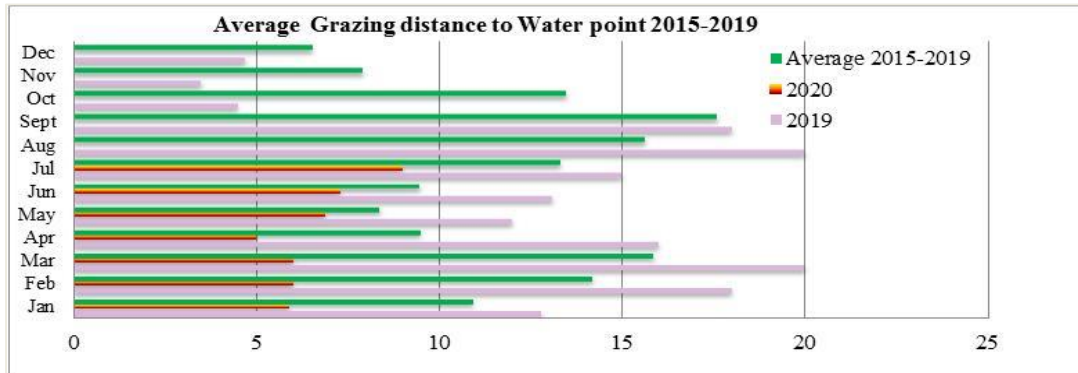


Figure 5: Current Distance from Grazing to Water Sources against 2015-2019 average

- Current average trekking return distance from livestock grazing area to main water sources significantly increased from 7.3km in June 2020 to 9km in the month under review due to drying up of water pans and increased trekking distance.
- Current average return distance from grazing area to water sources is below the long-term average and previous year's month average. This indicated an improvement when compared to previous year's month and long-term average due to presence of pasture and browse.
- 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, Wajir South 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

- Currently, the body condition of livestock (LBC) for all species ranges from good to fair across the livelihood zones but on a deteriorating trend except for cattle and sheep in the formal and informal livelihood zones that are fair to poor compared to a normal of good as a result of inadequate and poor regeneration of pasture and browse in the major towns. However, in the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones, the livestock body conditions are good to fair due to the good pasture and browse situation as a result of the enhanced rains during the MAM season 2020.
- 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 livestock body conditions are likely to deteriorate owing to the increasing trekking distances at this time of the year. This is being exhibited in pastoral all species and pastoral cattle where already fair body condition has been witnessed in grazers. However, browsers are likely to maintain the good body condition for some time.
- All the livelihood zones across the county are in good condition, except pastoral all species, pastoral cattle and formal/Informal livelihood zones that showed fair condition.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Suspected incidence of CCPP, CBPP, PPR LSD, SGP and camel sudden death still exist in the county, though the department is doing vaccination.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- Current average milk production per household per day remained the same when compared to previous month. This is due to available pasture, browse and water.

Current average milk production per household per day is above the long term average and previous month average due to availability and accessibility of pasture and browse. This is also due to high births experienced during the previous season.

- The trend and Quantity of milk production is normal for this time of the year as opposed to the same period last year 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 since camel and Cattle are the species that produce milk and lowest producing was recorded in agro-pastoral and Pastoral all species.

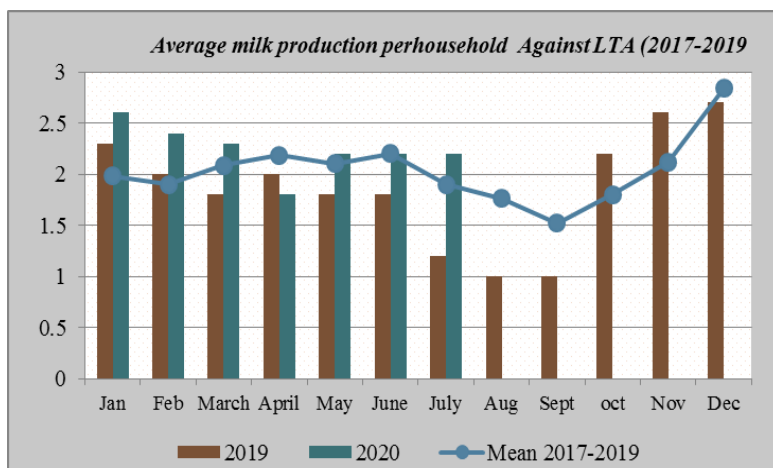


Figure 6: A graph showing current average milk production for Wajir against (2017-2019) mean

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.

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

- Current average cattle prices of four-year-old medium size increased from kshs 26,000 in June 2020 to kshs 27,500 in the month under review. This increase in prices was due to improved livestock body conditions supported by above-average rangeland resources and reduced market supply as livestock owners hold onto their stock to increase herd size.
- Currently, average price of cattle is above the long-term average and previous year's average due to improved livestock body condition and reduced livestock supply as livestock owners hold their stock to increase herd size.
- Highest average prices were reported in the urban areas and lowest recorded in the rural areas.

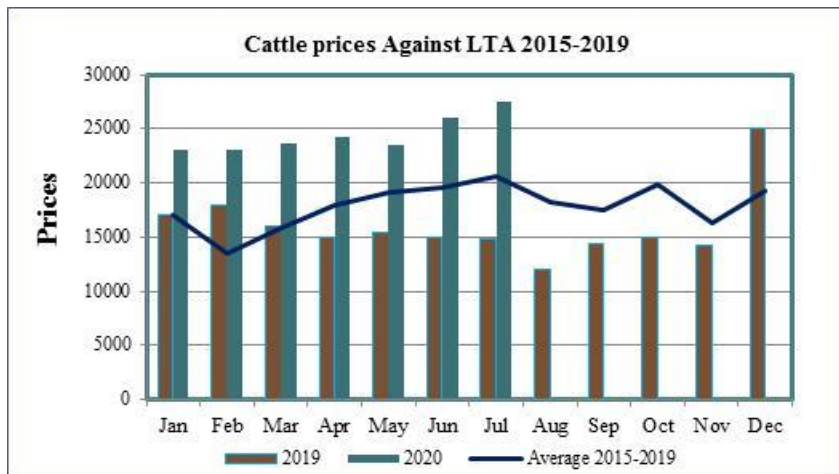


Figure 7: Current cattle prices against LTA 2015-2019

4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- Current average goat prices slightly decreased from kshs 4700 in June to kshs 4069 in the month under review but with no significant changes. This is due to reduced market demand and increase supply in the market, attributed to pastoral households holding their stock to increase herd size.
- Current average prices of goat when compared to the long-term average of kshs 3,684 was less by 13 percent of the LTA and above 27 percent for the previous month prices. This increase in prices was due to improved livestock body conditions supported by above-average rangeland resources and reduced market supply as livestock owners hold onto their stock to increase herd sizes.
- The highest prices of livestock were reported in the urban centres.

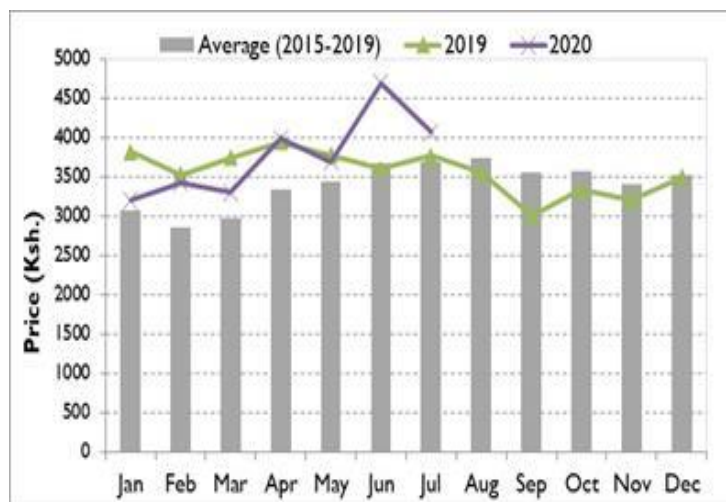


Figure 8: Current Goat prices against LTA of 2015-2019

4.1.3 Camel price

- Current average camel prices remained the same when compared to previous month due to reduced livestock supply and reduced market demand attributed to pastoralist holding their stocks to increase herd size.
- Currently, average camel price of four-year-old is below the long-term average and previous year's month average price due to poor market attributed to the on-going pandemic.
- Livelihood zones with the highest prices of camel were recorded in wajir town and lowest reported in the rural areas.

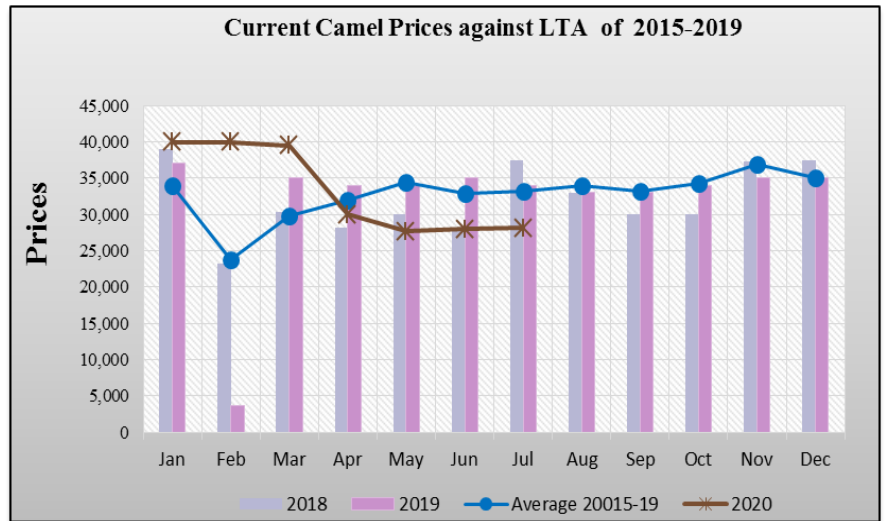


Figure 9: Current Camel Prices against LTA of 2015-2019

4.2 CROP PRICE

4.2.1 Maize

- Current average maize prices remained stable when compared to previous month due to increased supply, reduced demand and slow down trade flows attributed to covid 19 pandemics.
- Current average maize price is above the long-term average but below previous month price. This 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.

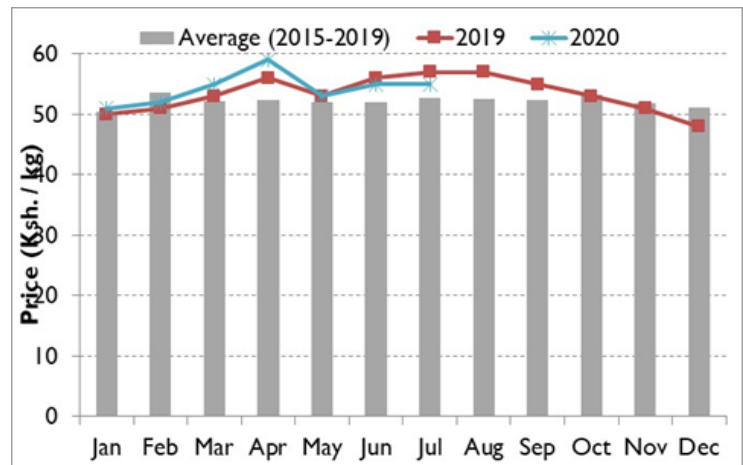


Figure 10: Current maize prices against LTA (2017-2019)

4.2.1.1 Other outstanding observation

- The major staple food consumed and utilized in Wajir are 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 decreased from 81kg in June 2020 to 72kg in the month under review due to stable maize prices and an increase in goat prices, thus lowering the purchasing power of the households, though the terms of trade is above the normal ranges.
- Most of the pastoral households could fetch 72 kg of maize when compared to an LTA of 70kg, which is 5 percent above the LTA. This indicates that the terms of trade is favorable.
- Currently, the term of trade is above the long-term average and previous year's month average with an LTA of 72kg and previous month average of 63kg.
- 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.

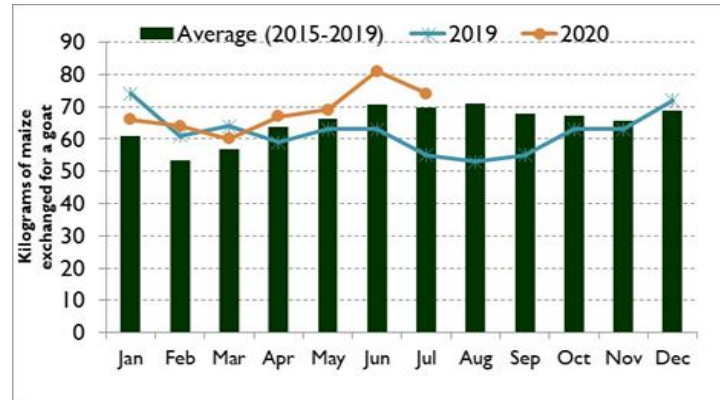


Figure11: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long-term (2015-2019)

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- Current average milk consumption per household per day remained the same as opposed to previous months due to available milk production attributed to good livestock body condition, reduced trekking distance and good pasture and browse. 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 below previous year average.
- Trend and Quantity of milk consumption at household is still normal.

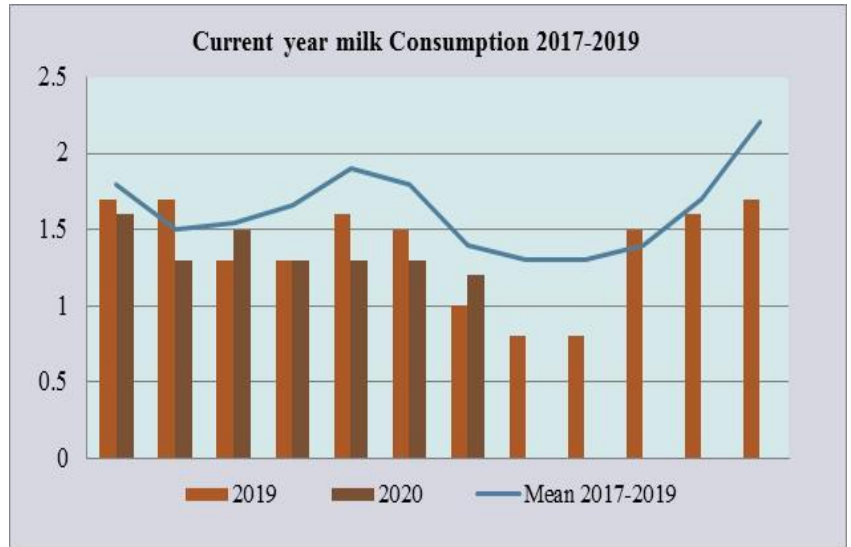


Figure12: A graph of current year milk consumption against the long-term (2017-2019)

5.2 :Food Consumption Score

- All the livelihood zones in the county are at acceptable and borderlines, except Pastoral livelihood zones that are in poor food consumption with a score of 52.7 as compared to the previous month figure of 57.8, which was in poor food consumption. This shows that there is an improvement in food consumption.

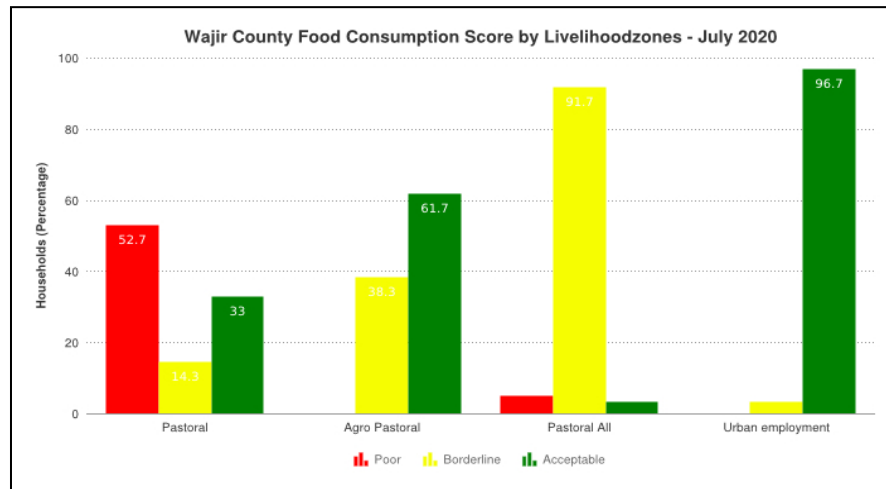


Figure 13: Food consumption Score

5.3.2 COPING STRATEGY INDEXES

- The mean CSI for the county is 6.9 in the month of July 2020 when compared to the month of June 2020 which recorded 6.5. Coping strategy index (CSI) for agro-pastoral, pastoral cattle and pastoral all livelihood was 4.3, 8.5 and 10.2 percent respectively in the month of July. This was comparable to what was reported in the month of June 2020 where the CSI for agro-pastoral, pastoral cattle and pastoral all livelihood zone was 4.4, 8.4 and 9.9 respectively. Some of the strategies applied included: borrowing food or relying on help from friends or relatives, reducing the quantity of food consumed by adult/mothers, relying on less preferred and less expensive food.

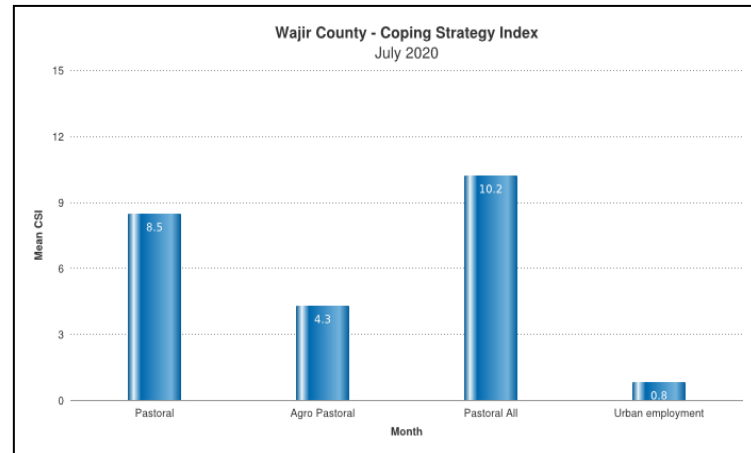


Figure 14: Coping strategy

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 Non-food interventions. -Ongoing

- Sustainable food system Program by World Food Program-Ongoing
- Updating and reviewing of Contingency plan
- Hunger Safety Net program by the National Drought Management Project

6.2 Food Aid.

- Relief food distributed by the National and County government.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- No incidence of insecurity that were reported in the entire county in the month of July.

7.2 Migration

- There are no massive livestock migrations reported across the county as pastoralists indicated that most of their livestock were within the county. However, in the pastoral all species livelihood zone, outward migration was noted to/from Basir/Lakolle, Arbajahan, Hadado/Athibohol and Ademasajida wards to parts of Isiolo and Marsabit Counties. This was evidenced by low concentration of livestock in Wara, Hadado, Lolkuta North, Athibohol and Garseqoftu watering points where communities indicated that their livestock had migrated.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- Below average rainfall is likely to be witnessed during the October to December 2020 short rains.
- Pasture and browse condition are expected to be well above the median but deterioration is likely to be experienced.
- Availability and accessibility of milk is likely to deteriorate due to pasture and browse depletion.
- Livestock prices are likely to remain the same in the next one month but later decline
- distance to water sources are likely to increase in the next one month as most of the water pans have dried up with expected livestock concentration at the water points.
- Household purchasing power will likely decline as prices of livestock will decline and prices of food commodities remain stable, thus making households access less kilogram of maize against goat prices.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Health& Nutrition.

- Capacity building of health care workers on MIYCNe, IMAM and sensitization of health care providers on family MUAC at 9 sentinel sites
- Training of 120 health workers on covid 19
- Procurement of water treatment chemicals
- Scaling up of vitamin A Supplementation
- Scaling up of outreaches
- Rolling out of family MUAC to all the sites
- Monitoring of Routine Disease Surveillance conducted.

Livestock Sector.

- Training of Pastoral Communities on Pasture management
- Vaccination and treatment of livestock on PPR and CCPP.
- Marketing of livestock Value addition
- Heighten active surveillance and disease search in response to the increased cases of abortions in Basir, Eldas
- Continue awareness creation on RVF through all avenues including local FM radio
- Mass vaccination of livestock animals against RVF (vaccine in store)
- Source for vaccines for the other reported diseases (None in the stores)

Water Sector.

- Provision of water treatment chemicals-ongoing
- Drilling of new boreholes
- Water tracking for 55 centres
- Maintenance of water bowsers
- Provision of fast- moving spare parts

Peace Sector

- Community Peace dialogue meeting
- Cross-border peace meetings