



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



**National Drought Management Authority
WAJIR COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR MARCH 2021**

EW MARCH PHASE 2021

Drought Status: **ALERT**

Maandalizi ya mapema

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

Rainfall Report.

Depressed rainfall was experienced over few parts of the county, with most parts receiving no rain at all. The outlook for April 2021 indicates that the county is likely to experience depressed rainfall.

Vegetation Condition: Moderate vegetation deficit was reported, with Eldas and Wajir West experiencing severe vegetation deficit.

Social Economic indicators

■ **Production indicators;**

- Livestock body condition is fair to poor.
- Reduction in Milk production reported.
- In and out migration was reported.
- Cases of livestock diseases such CCBP, PPR, LSD, FMD have been reported.

■ **Access indicators:**

- **Terms of trade** is unfavorable
- Milk consumption declined
- Return distance to water sources and cost of water increased when compared to normal.
- Grazing distance to water sources increased.
- All water pans have dried up completely.

Utilization Indicators:

- Proportion of children with moderate malnutrition slightly increased from 23 % in February to 25.4 % in the month under review.
- Desert locust invasion negatively affected crop, browse and pasture lands.

Early Warning Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-Pastoral	Alert	Worsening
Pastoral Cattle	Alert	Worsening
Pastoral-All Species	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral Camel	Alert	Worsening
Informal Employment	Alert	Worsening
County	Alert	Worsening
Biophysical Indicators	value	Worsening
Rainfall (% of Normal)	<0.0	80 -120
VCI-3Month	24.87	>35
Forecasts(VCI)	22.5	>35
Forecasts(SM)	-	<=0.6
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Fair - poor	Normal
Crop production	Poor	Good
Milk production	1.0	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Not normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	53	>66
Milk consumption	0.7	>3
Return Distance to water source	14	<5 Km
CSI	8.40	<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 ■ Alongdryspelland 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

Depressed rainfall was experienced over few parts of the county, with most parts receiving no rain at all. Occasional rain was recorded in a few places in Wajir North sub-county. The highest amount of rainfall of 12.5mm was recorded at Gurar in Wajir North.

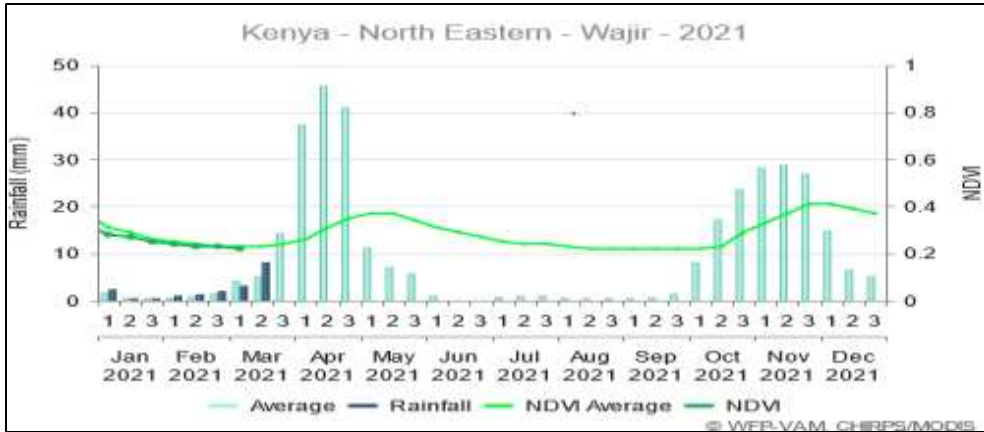


Figure 1: Rainfall amount recorded in March 2021

1.2 Amount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

Depressed rainfall was experienced over few parts of the county, with most parts receiving no rain at all. The distribution of the rainfall both in time and space was poor.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

The average vegetation cover index for the county indicated a score of 24.86 when compared to the previous month score of 22.37. This showed moderate vegetation deficit, although Wajir West and Eldas showed severe vegetation deficit with a score of 15.58 and 16.47 respectively.

This increasing vegetation deficit witnessed across all the livelihood zones was due to high concentration of livestock in the grazing areas that led to quick depletion of the available pasture and browse.

The second wave of the desert locust invasion negatively affected the vegetation condition in the county. The situation in the entire county is expected to further worsen and thereafter improve during the coming long rains.

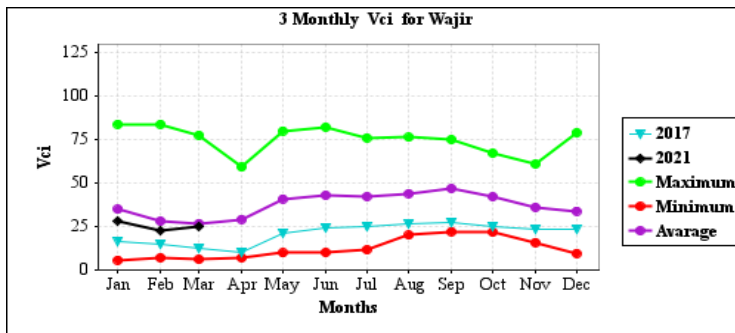


Figure 2: VCI graph for the month of March 2021



Figure 3: VCI Matrix for March 2021

2.1.2 Vegetation Condition Index

Forecast

- Based on Sussex Vegetation Outlook, the 3-month VCI forecast indicates moderate vegetation deficit in the County, with Eldas and Wajir West sub-counties experiencing severe vegetation deficits.
- The vegetation condition is expected to slightly improve due to the anticipated 2021 long rains season. However, the vegetation condition in Wajir South is projected to gradually decline.

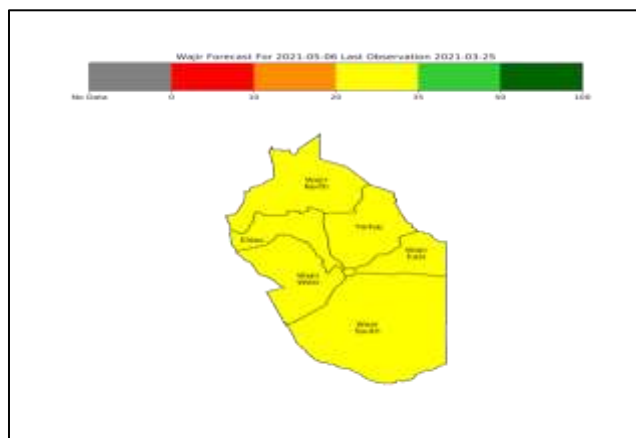


Figure 4: VCI forecast March 2021

2.1.2 Pasture

- Pasture condition remained fair to poor across all the livelihood zones. However, it's poor to very poor in parts of Wajir West and Eldas sub-counties due to the depressed rainfall that led to poor regeneration of pasture and high concentration of livestock in areas that had little pasture.
- When compared to similar previous periods, pasture condition is below normal in all the livelihood zones due to high concentration of livestock as a result of mass livestock migration and the effect of desert locust invasion.
- Available pasture may only last for two weeks. Pasture situation is poorest in Eldas, Wajir West and Tarbaj sub-counties.
- The quality and quantity of pasture is poor across all the livelihood zones.
- Pasture condition varies according to livelihood zones, where the most affected sub-counties of Wajir West, Eldas and Tarbaj have recorded severe vegetation deficits.
- No constraints reported in the month under review.

2.1.3 Browse

- Current browse condition is fair across the livelihood zones, with the exception of Pastoral all species in Eldas, Wajir West and parts of Wajir North where browse is poor.
- Pastoral Cattle and Pastoral Camel Livelihood Zones have fair browse situation. However, there is higher depletion due to the influx of livestock from other sub-counties.
- Available browse is expected to last for two weeks due to high depletion of the little browse available. The second wave of the locust invasion also affected the browse condition.

- The quality and quantity of browse condition is fair in Pastoral Cattle Livelihood Zone in Wajir South and parts of the Pastoral Camel Livelihood Zone in Wajir East and poor in Wajir West, Eldas and parts of Tarbaj and Wajir North.
- No constraints reported in the month under review.

2.2 Water Source

2.2.1 Sources

- Main water sources used by majority of the community in the month of March 2021 are boreholes, shallow wells and Water trucking.
- When compared to similar periods, borehole is the main source of water at this particular time. Other sources of water used are shallow wells and water trucking.
- All the water pans have completely dried up, leading to high concentration of both human and livestock at boreholes and shallow wells. Frequent breakdown of boreholes due to high concentration and low repair and maintenance has been reported across the County.

2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

- Return household distance to water sources increased from 12km in the previous month to 14kms in the month under review. This is attributed to the long dry spell and drying up of all water sources across the livelihood zones.
- Current households distance is above the short term and wet year average distance.
- Average water consumption per person per day declined when compared to the long-term average. This is attributed to the increase in household distance to water sources.
- An increase in waiting time was reported due to the drying up of all water sources and breakdown of strategic boreholes. Waiting time ranges between 2-8 hours when compared to a normal of 30-45 minutes.
- Water consumption per household per day has significantly decreased when compared to the normal period.
- Few households in urban areas use aqua tabs and boiling methods for water treatment.

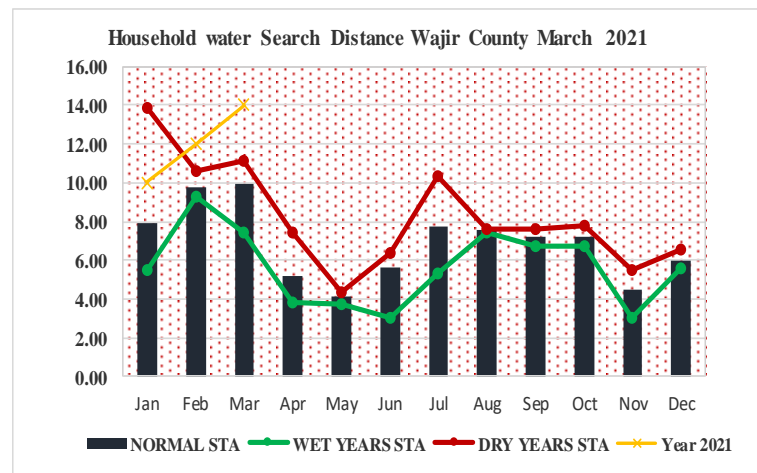


Figure 5: Household Search distance

2.2.3 Livestock access

- Livestock grazing distance to water points in the month of March 2021 is 25kms across all the livelihood zones. This depicts a slight increase when compared to the previous month distance of 24km. This is due to depletion of browse, pasture and water which in turn force the livestock to move far away from the water sources.
- Current average grazing distance is above the normal and wet year average distance. 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 in Wajir West, Eldas and Agro-Pastoral in Wajir North while Pastoral Cattle and Pastoral Camel in Wajir South and Wajir East recorded the lowest distance.
- Watering intervals for cattle and small stock is 2-3 days when compared to a normal of 1-2 days. For camels it's 7-14 days against a normal of 5-6 days.

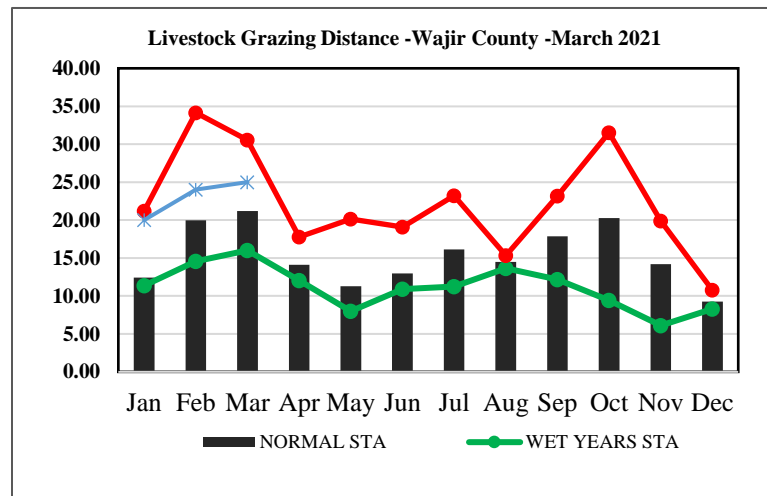


Figure 6: Livestock grazing distance

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock production

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Livestock body condition across the livelihood zones is fair to poor, except in Wajir west, Eldas and Parts of Wajir North and Tarbaj that showed poor to very poor for small stocks. This is attributed to depletion of pasture, browse, water and increased trekking distance.
- When compared to similar previous periods, the current condition has worsened due to the poor browse and pasture condition in the County which is attributed to the depressed rainfall experienced during the 2020 short rains.
- The livestock body condition is expected to further deteriorate across all the livelihood zones due to continued depletion of the pasture and browse and increased trekking distances.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Cases of endemic livestock diseases such as CCPP & PPR were reported across the county in the month of March 2021. There were reported incidents of lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) and Foot and Mouth Disease in parts of Wajir North. The County is a hotspot for RVF although there is currently no reported outbreak.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- Current milk production per day in the month under review was 1.0 litres/per household, a drop from last month production of 1.3 litres. This reduction was due to depletion of pasture and browse and increased trekking distance.
- Current average milk production per household per day is below the long-term and wet year average due to mass migration and increased trekking distance.
- Available milk is derived from cattle, camel and small stocks across the county.

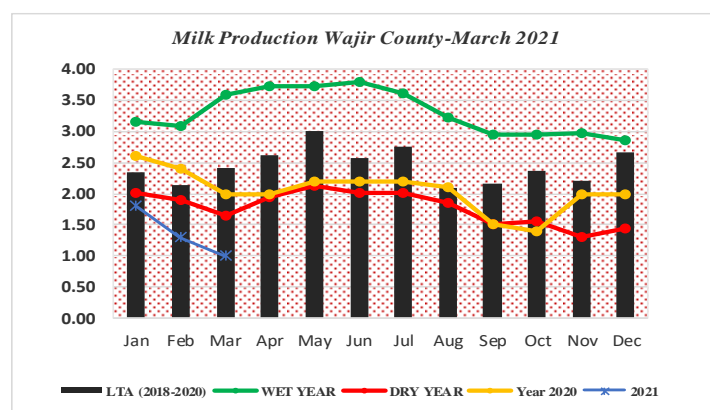


Figure 7: Milk production

3.2 CROP PRODUCTION

Total crop failure was witnessed during the season due to the depressed 2020 short rains and the second wave of desert locust invasion that severely affected both rain-fed and irrigated crop production.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

Cattle Prices

- Current cattle price for the month under review was kshs 18,900 as compared to the previous month price of kshs 19,440.
- The current price is below the short term and wet year average prices. This is attributed to the fair livestock body condition.
- Highest average prices were reported in the urban areas and lowest recorded in the rural areas.

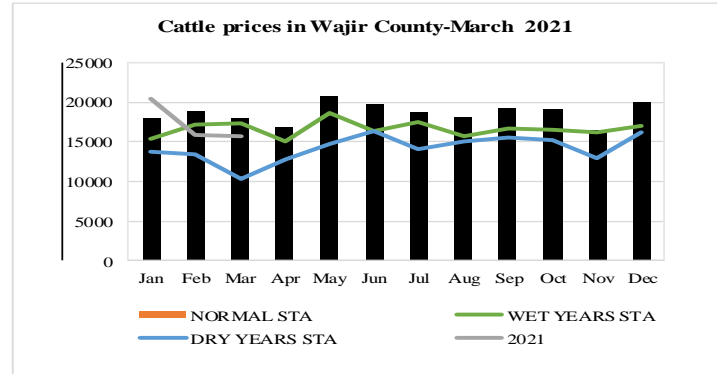


Figure 8: Cattle prices against STA 2016-2020

4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- Average goat price is 3,200 in the month under review compared to kshs 3,100 in the previous month. The price remained stable due to stable supply and demand.
- The current price is equal to the long-term average but below the bad seasons' price.
- The highest prices of livestock were recorded in the urban areas.

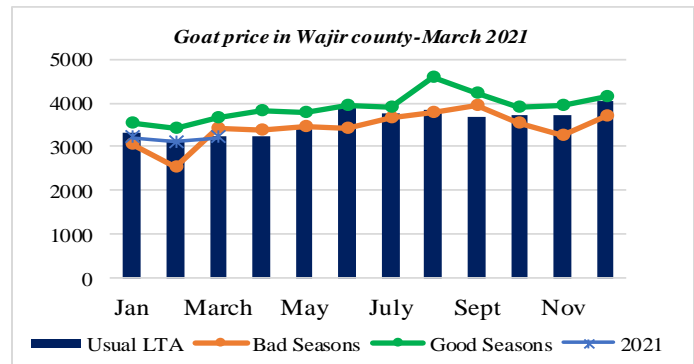


Figure 9: Goat prices Trend

4.1.3 Camel price

- The current average camel prices increased significantly from 24,000 in February 2021 to 29,000 in the month under review. This is due to high demand and low supply in the market.
- The current price is above the long-term and wet year average price.
- Highest prices were recorded in Wajir town and lowest reported in the rural areas.

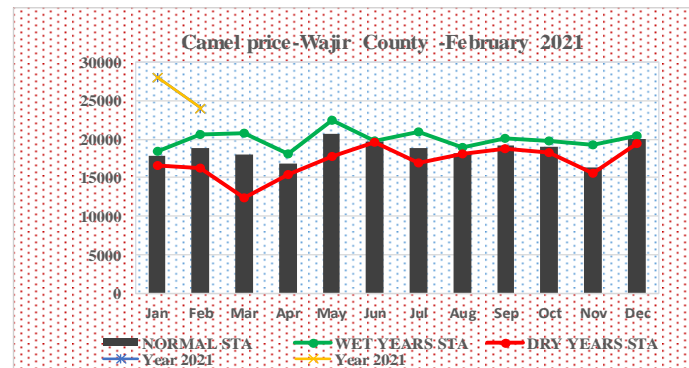


Figure 10: Current camel prices

4.2 CROP PRICE

4.2.1 Maize

- Average prices of maize increased from kshs 56 in the month of February to kshs 60 in the month under review. This is due to reduction in supply from external markets and increased demand by the pastoralists.
- Current maize price is above the long-term average and the highest prices were recorded in the rural areas and lowest recorded in the urban areas.

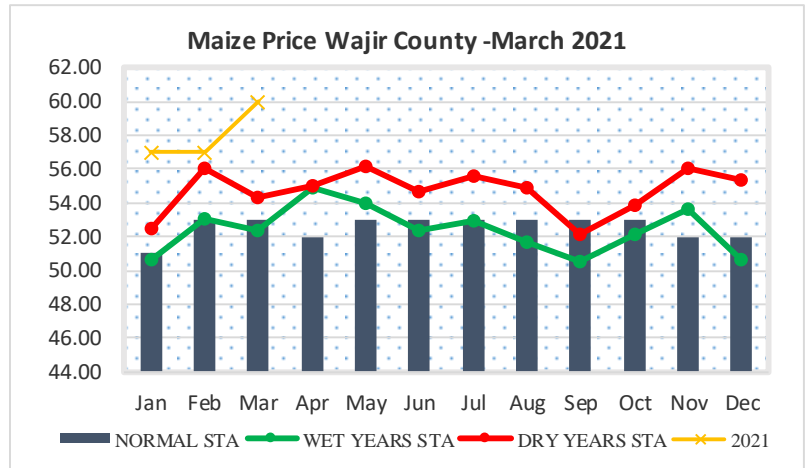


Figure 11: Current maize prices against LTA (2016-2020).

4.3 Terms of Trade (TOT).

- The Current Terms of Trade gradually declined from 55 in the previous month to 53 in the month under review.
- The term of trade is unfavourable which is attributed to increased maize price and decrease in goat prices. This is as a result of the reduced supply of maize from external markets and poor market prices for livestock due to low demand.
- Terms of Trade is expected to worsen as the dry spell continues.
- Term of Trade is still above the short-term average but below the wet years' average.

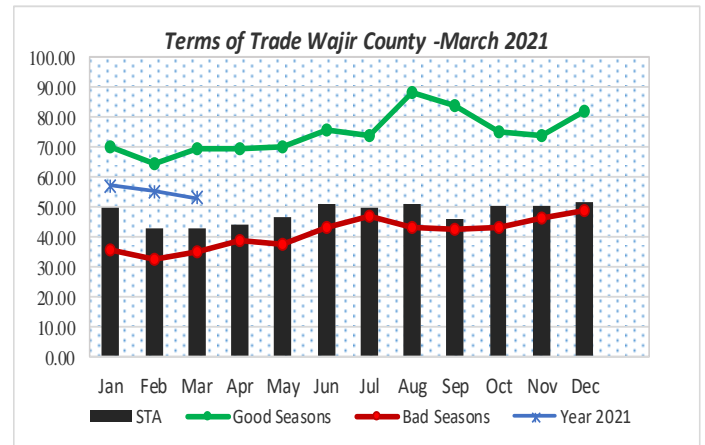


Figure 12: Terms of Trade Trend

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- Current average milk consumption per household per day decreased from 1.0 litres in February to 0.7 litres in the month under review. This decline in milk consumption is due to reduction in milk production as a result of increased trekking distance and depletion of pasture and browse.
- Milk consumption is expected to decline further as the dry spell continues and milk production deteriorates.
- Current average household milk consumption per household per day is below the long-term and wet years' average.

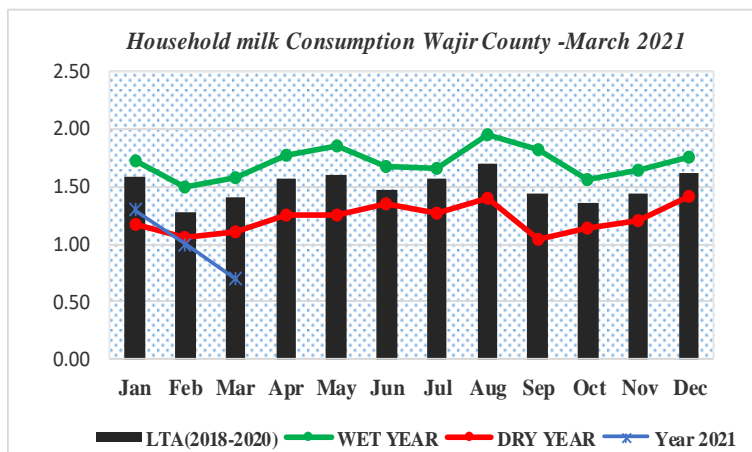


Figure 13: Current milk consumption against the LTA (2018-2020).

5.2 Food Consumption Score

- The proportion of households with poor food consumption score slightly declined from 12 percent in February to 9.2 percent in the month under review due to up-scaling of HSNP emergency cash transfers and distribution of relief food.
- Households with borderline food consumption score increased from 32 percent in February to 36 percent in the month of March 2021.

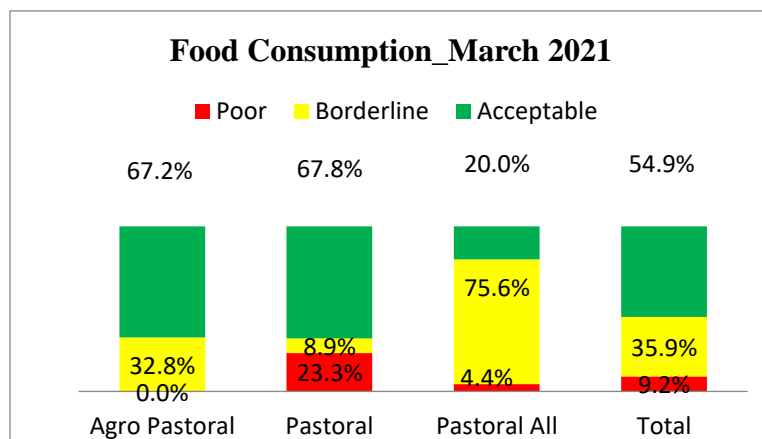


Figure 14: Food consumption Score by Livelihood

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children with MUAC measurement of between 125 to 134mm slightly increased from 23% in the month of February 2021 to 25.4% in the month under review. This increase was due to decline in milk consumption as a result of the reduction in milk production, thus affecting children under-fives.

- The number of children under five with moderate malnutrition is expected to increase further as production and consumption of milk continue to reduce.

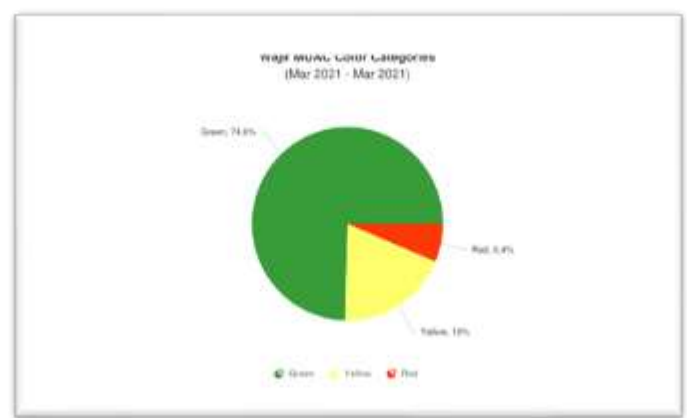


Figure 15: Wajir MUAC-Feb 2021

5.3.2 Health Status

The leading causes of morbidity in the County are Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI) and diarrhoea for both children under the age of five years and general population. Visceral leishmaniasis (Kaalzar) outbreak has been reported in Wajir West and Eldas sub-counties with 135 confirmed cases. The number of COVID-19 cases as at the end of the month was 90.

5.4 COPING STRATEGY INDEXES

- The mean CSI for the county in March 2021 remained the same as the previous month at 8.40. Households are expected to employ more coping strategies due to the poor performance of the 2020 short rains.
- Households in Pastoral and pastoral all species employed more coping mechanisms with indexes of 11.7 and 10.40 respectively. Households in Agro-pastoral and Formal/Informal Livelihood Zone applied less coping strategies.

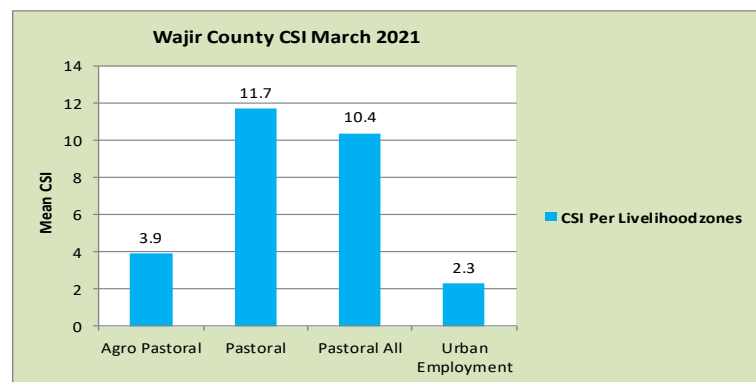


Figure 16: Coping Strategy indexes

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 Non-food interventions.

- Up scaling of emergency cash transfer Programme to 5,309 households (HSNP) by the National Drought Management Authority to all the sub-counties.
- Support to integrated outreaches at 54 sites in Tarbaj, Wajir North and Wajir West sub counties by Save the Children-Ongoing.
- Water trucking in water stressed centres by the Department of Water, County Government of Wajir-Ongoing.
- Sustainable food system Program by the World Food Programme (WFP) targeting 4,667 households spread in 41 sites across the County-Ongoing.

6.2 Food Aid.

- There was distribution of relief food to 42,857 food insecure households across the county by the County Government of Wajir in the month of March 2021.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- There were no cases of insecurity reported across the livelihood zones although there is the risk of resource based conflict due to high concentration of livestock at the water points and grazing areas.

7.2 Migration

- Migration of livestock within and outside the county in search of pasture, browse and water was reported in the month under review.

7.3 Food security prognosis/forecasts

- According to the Kenya Meteorological Department, below average rainfall is likely to be experienced.
- Range land conditions are likely to improve with the anticipated rainfall.
- Regeneration of pasture and browse and recharge of water pans likely to be witnessed during the long rains.
- Grazing distance to water sources is likely to reduce due to the projected forage regeneration and recharge of water points.
- Based on Sussex Vegetation Outlook, the 3-month VCI forecast indicates moderate vegetation deficit in the County, with Eldas and Wajir West sub-counties experiencing severe vegetation deficits. However, the vegetation condition is expected to slightly improve due to the anticipated 2021 long rains season.
- Milk availability and accessibility will likely improve as the condition of pasture and browse improve.
- Prices of milk are likely to decrease as the production improves. This will have a direct impact on children under-five.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Health & Nutrition.

- Sensitization and creation of awareness campaigns across the livelihood zones on COVID-19-ongoing.
- Routine monitoring and surveillance of diseases across the county.
- Scale up of outreach services across the livelihood zones-Ongoing
- Conduct sensitization and promotion of hygiene practice in providing essential services such as soap and sanitizers

Livestock Sector.

- Livestock disease surveillance
- Provision of supplementary feeds
- Provision of Hay
- Vaccination and treatment of livestock against PPR and CCPP.
- Fuel Subsidy for boreholes
- Water Trucking

Water Sector.

- Provision of fast-moving spare parts to all the livelihood zones
- Repair and maintenance of boreholes and water bowsers in all livelihood zones.
- Drilling and excavation of water pans
- Water trucking
- Enhance water availability for both households and livestock during scarcities.

Education

- Bursary to improve retention for pastoralists in 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

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