A Vision 2030 Flagship Project

National Drought Management Authority
WAJIR COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR MAY 2022

EW MAY PHASE 2022

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

The County was largely dry and cloudy throughout the month. There was early cessation of the 2022 long rains.

Vegetation Condition: Only slight improvements have been recorded; with three sub counties experiencing severe vegetation deficit while the rest recorded moderate vegetation deficit. No further improvements are expected as June marks the start of the dry season.

Production indicators

- Livestock body condition is fair to poor and on an improving trend.
- Slight Increased in milk production was reported.
- Cases of livestock diseases such CCPP, CBPP, PPR, SGP and FMD still persist in the county.
- **Access indicators**:
- Migration within and outside the County was reported.
- Terms of trade is unfavorable when compared to normal
- There was a slight increase in household milk consumption.
- Slight decrease in household distance to water sources was reported
- Livestock grazing distance decreased slightly when compared to last month.

Utilization Indicators:

- The proportion of children below the age of five at risk of moderate malnutrition stood at 26.1 percent during the month under review.
- Households employed more coping strategies.
- More than 23 percent of the households in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone registered poor food consumption score.
- Kala-Azar and Chikungunya outbreaks are still active. Increased diarrheal cases have been reported across the County.

Early Warning Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-Pastoral	Alarm	Stable
Pastoral	Alarm	Stable
Informal Employment	Alert	Stable
County	Alarm	Stable
Biophysical Indicators	**value**	Improving
Rainfall (% of Normal)	0.0	80 -120
VCI-3Month	18.6	>35
Forecasts (VCI)	-	>35
Forecasts (SM)	-	<=0.6
Production indicators	**Value**	**Normal**
Livestock Body Condition	Fair-poor	Normal
Crop production	Poor	Good
Milk production	1.5	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Not normal	Normal
Access Indicators	**Value**	**Normal**
Terms of Trade (ToT)	45	>66
Milk consumption	1.0	>3
Household Return Distance to water source	6.0	<5 Km
CSI	8.4	<10

▪ Short rains harvests ▪ Short dry spell ▪ Reduced milk yields ▪ Increased HH Food Stocks ▪ migrations ▪ Land preparation	▪ Planting/Weeding ▪ Long rai Calving Rate ▪ Milk Yields Increase ▪ Breeding period	▪ Long rains harvests ▪ Along dry spell and preparation ▪ Increased HH Food Stocks ▪ Kidding (Sept) ▪ Migrations ▪ Herd separations	▪ Short rains ▪ Planting/weeding ▪ High birth rates ▪ Wedding

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITION

1.1 Rainfall performance

The month was characterized by dry weather conditions across the County. No rains were received throughout the month despite the anticipated average rains projected by the Kenya Meteorological Department.

The current Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) is below average, although it indicates slight improvement when compared to the previous month as shown in the figure below. This is attributed to improvement in vegetation condition following the rains received in the last week of April 2022.

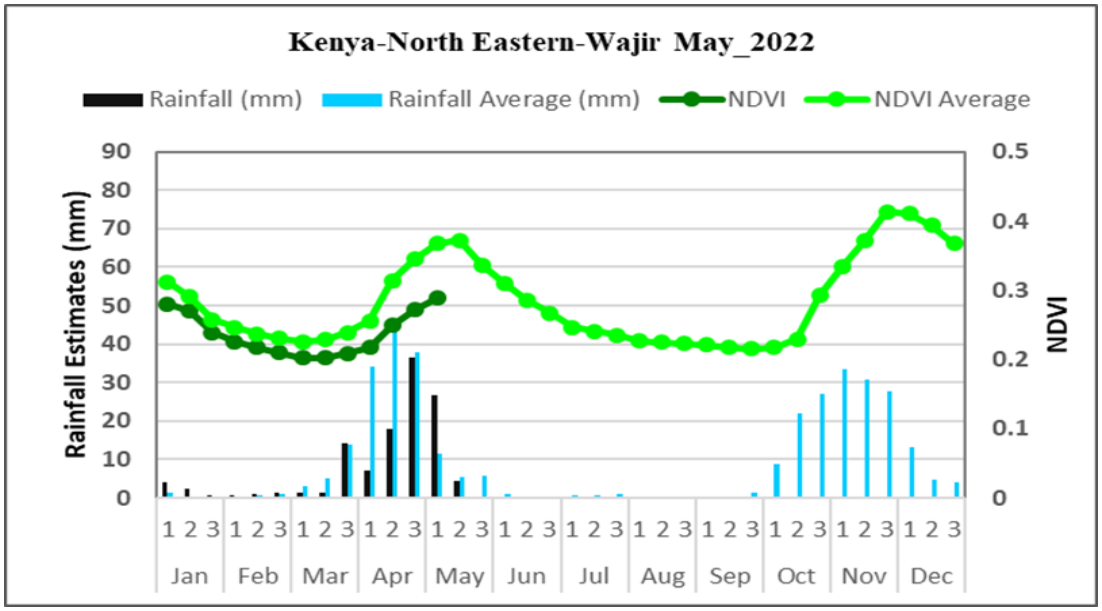

Figure 1: Rainfall and NDVI Trend

1.2 Amount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

The month of May usually marks the cessation of the Long Rains (March-April-May) season. No rains were received throughout the month despite the anticipated average rains projected by the Kenya Meteorological Department.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

No significant improvement in vegetation condition has occurred, with the three sub counties of Eldas, Wajir South and Wajir West experiencing severe vegetation deficit. Generally, the Vegetation Condition Index for Wajir County improved slightly from 14.8 in April 2022 to 18.6 in the current month.

This slight improvement in vegetation cover is attributed to the rains received in the last week of April 2022 in some parts of the County. No improvements are likely to occur as May normally marks the end of MAM long rainy season.

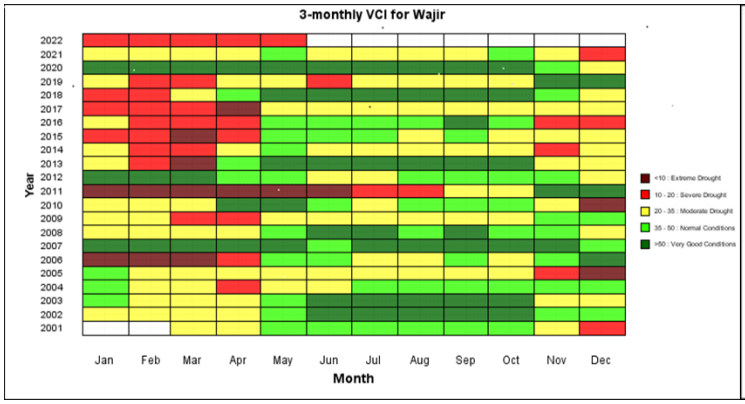

Figure 2: VCI Chart-May 2022

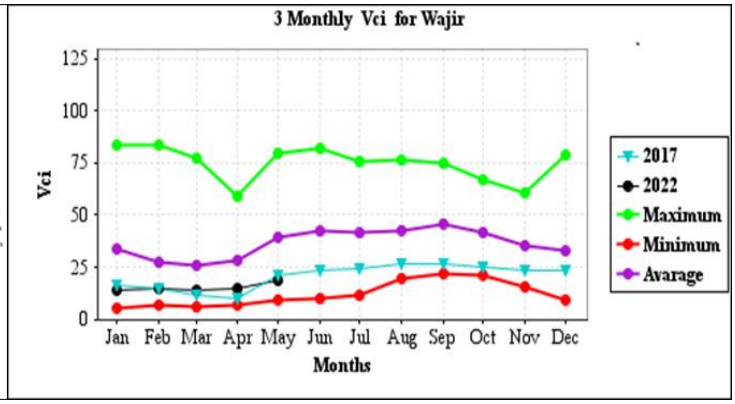

Figure 3: VCI Graph-May 2022

2.1.2 Pasture

- The pasture condition is poor despite the slight rains received in the last week of April 2022. This is attributed to the degradation of the rangelands. This degradation has also resulted in poor palatability of the available forage.
- When compared to similar previous periods, the pasture condition is poor across the livelihood zones due to the below normal rains experienced over most parts of the County.
- The quality and quantity of pasture is still poor due to suppressed regeneration of pasture occasioned by depressed rainfall and rangelands degradation.

2.1.3 Browse

- The current browse condition is deteriorating from fair to poor. There was moderate regeneration of browse in some parts of the County. However, this improved browse in parts of the County may not last for long due to high concentration of pastoralists in those areas that experienced improved vegetation.
- The quality and quantity of browse is generally poor across the County, except in some parts of the Pastoral Livelihood Zone. Most areas in the Agro-Pastoral and Pastoral Livelihood Zones have so far registered slow recovery in browse regeneration as the rains were generally inadequate.

- Browse condition is expected to deteriorate across the County, even in areas that experienced regeneration. The cumulative impact of the failed rainy seasons in four consecutive seasons continue to affect browse and pasture condition across the livelihood zones.

2.2 Water Sources

2.2.1 Sources

- Major water sources utilized for both human and livestock use are boreholes, water pans, shallow wells and low-scale water trucking for areas that have no permanent source of water.
- Water levels in water-pans varies, with most of the water-pans being moderately recharged.
- When compared to similar good season, the current water condition is within the normal range since most of the water pans are currently moderately recharged. However, the water situation in the County is expected to deteriorate given that no rains were received in the month of May 2022.

2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

- The average household trekking distance to water sources remained stable at 6KM when compared to the previous month. This stability in household distance to water sources is due to the moderate recharging of water sources following the rains received in many parts of the County during the last week of April 2022.
- The reported distance in May is the same as dry year's average distance.
- Average water consumption per person per day slightly increased when compared to the previous month.
- This slight increase in water consumption is attributed to the recharging of the water sources across the livelihood zones.

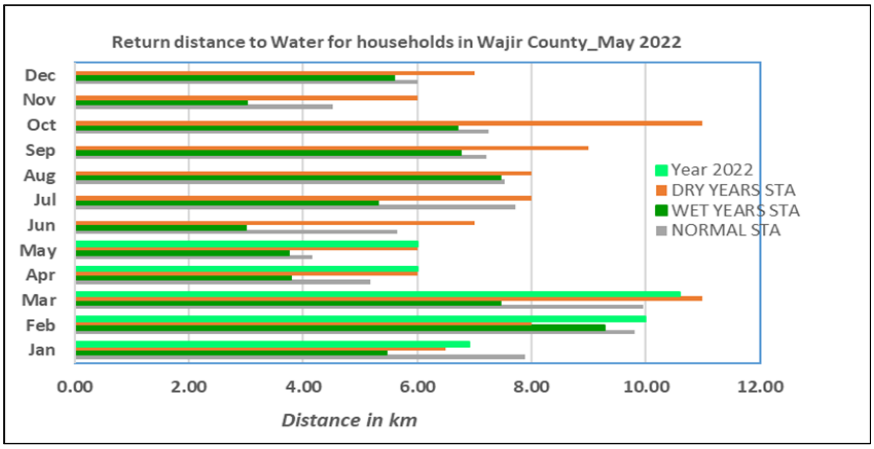

Figure 4: Household Return distance to Water sources

2.2.3 Livestock access

- The current grazing distance to water sources stabilized at an average of 9KM when compared to the previous month.
- This stability is due to the recharge of water sources, particularly near the grazing areas.
- The trend is expected to deteriorate as pastoralists migrate further from the water sources in search of browse and pasture for their livestock.
- Distance from grazing areas to water sources varies according to livelihood zones, with the highest distance to grazing area reported in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone and lowest in the Agro-Pastoral Livelihood Zone.

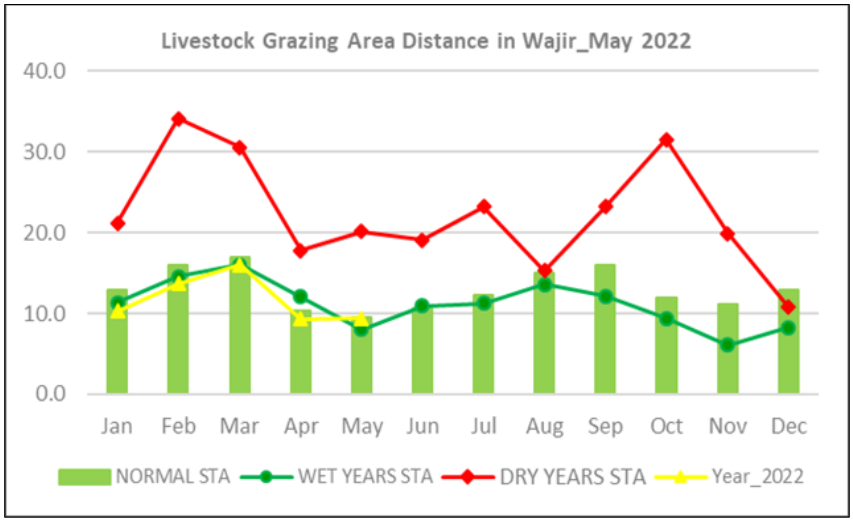

Figure 5: Grazing Area Distance to water Sources

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock production

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- The current livestock body condition ranges from fair to poor and on a deteriorating trend, except in some parts of the Pastoral Livelihood Zone that experienced browse regeneration.
- When compared to similar previous periods, the current condition is not normal due to poor forage, increased grazing distance and high livestock migration attributed to the inadequate rains received in the last four consecutive seasons.
- The livestock body condition is expected to deteriorate as the 2022 long rains season was characterised by poor distribution, late onset and early cessation.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

There was an upsurge in endemic livestock diseases such as Sheep and Goat Pox (SGP), contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP) and Peste des petit ruminants (PPR). There were also cases of bloating due to abomasal impaction and lush pasture. There is the need to heighten livestock disease monitoring and surveillance as the County is expected to witness high livestock migration within and outside the County.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- Average household milk production per day in May 2022 increased slightly when compared to the previous month although it was still lower than the long-term average.
- This slight increase in milk production is due to slight regeneration of browse that improved livestock body condition following the moderate rains received over most parts of the County in the last week of April 2022. However, milk production is expected to start deteriorating given the early cessation of the 2022 long rains.

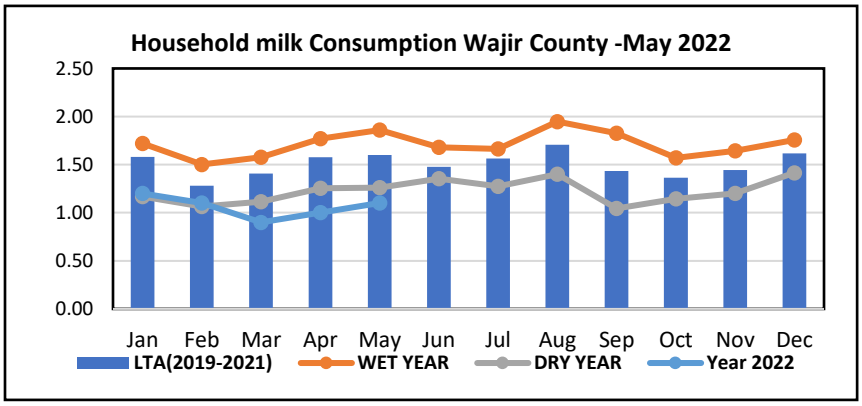

Figure 6: Milk production-May 2022

- Available milk is derived from cattle, camel and small stocks.

3.2 CROP PRODUCTION

The main crops produced in the County during the long rains season are maize, sorghum and cow peas and is mainly practised in the Agro-Pastoral Livelihood Zone. Crop production, for both rain-fed and irrigated agriculture, is projected to be below normal due to the poor performance of the 2022 long rains.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

Cattle Prices

- The price of a 4-year-old medium-size bull currently stands at an average of KES.15,100. When compared to the previous month, cattle prices increased by approximately eight percent.
- The increase in price is attributed to the slightly improved livestock body condition due to the regeneration of browse in areas that received better rains this season.
- The reported prices of cattle in the month under review were however still lower than the short term, dry and wet year average prices despite the slight increase during the month under review.

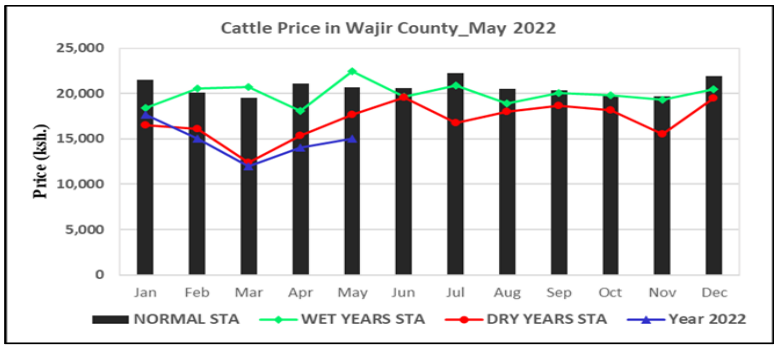

Figure 7: Cattle Price

4.1. 2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- The price of a medium sized goat increased by seven percent from KES. 2,800 in April 2022 to KES. 3,000 in the month under review. However, the average price is still below the long term, bad season and good season average prices.
- The slight increase in prices is due to enhanced livestock body condition resulting from forage regeneration during the 2022 long rains season.
- The highest prices were recorded in the urban areas and lowest in the rural areas.

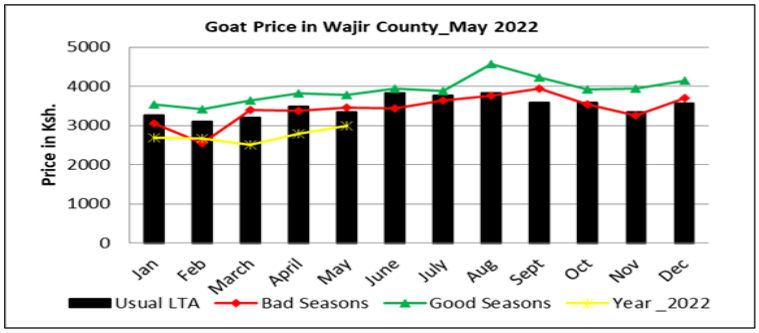

Figure 8: Goat price

Camel price

- There was an increase in camel prices from KES. 22,500 in April to KES. 25,000 in the month under review. This is due to low supply and high demand in the market.
- The current price is below the short term, wet and dry year's average prices.
- However, the prices are projected to start declining owing to the poor performance of the 2022 long rains that has resulted in poor vegetation condition across the livelihood zones.

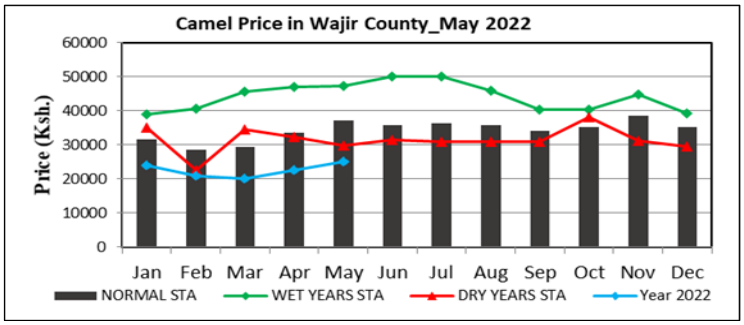

Figure 9: Camel Price

4.2 CROP PRICE

4.2.1 Maize

- Current average maize price is approximately KES. 67 per kilogram. This is still very high when compared to the short term, wet and dry year's average prices.
- This high maize prices are attributed to reduction in supply and increased demand by the pastoralists. The product is largely outsourced which sometimes results in reduced supply.
- The highest prices were recorded in the rural areas and lowest recorded in the urban area where the product is readily available.

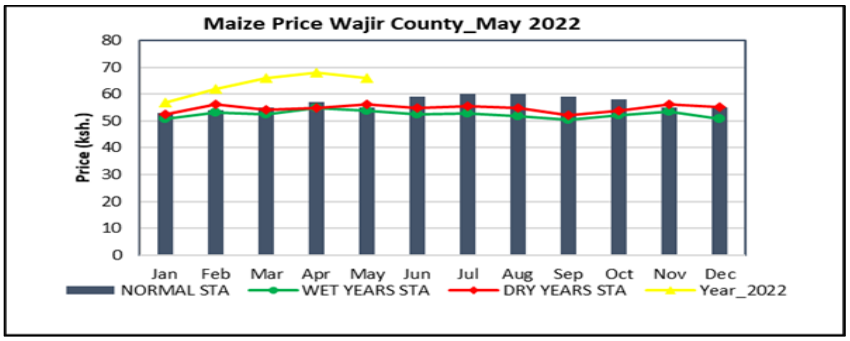

Figure 10: Maize price

4.3 Terms of Trade (TOT)

- Figure 11 summarises the current trend in the terms of trade between goats and maize prices when compared to the previous month.
- The ToT improved from 41.8 in April 2022 to 45 during the month under review. This slight improvement is attributed to the slight improvement in goat prices.
- However, the Terms of Trade (measured by the goat to maize terms of trade) is still unfavourable due to the below average goat prices and high maize prices in the market.

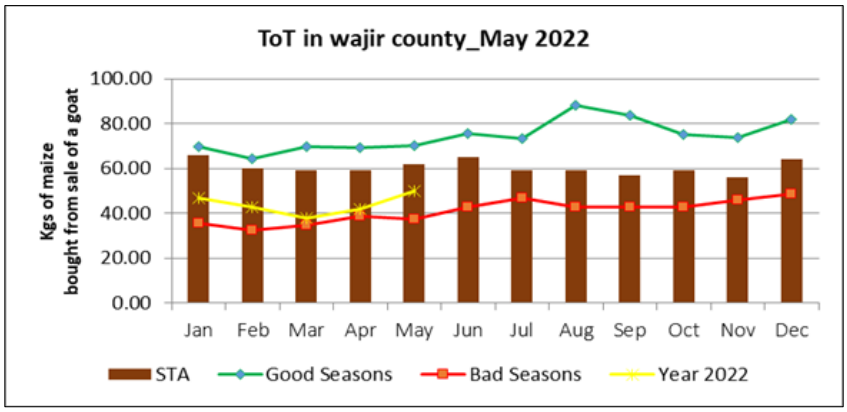

Figure 11: Terms of Trade

- The below normal livestock prices have resulted in reduced household access to food and income.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- Household milk consumption per household per day stood at an average of one litre in May 2022.
- There was a slight increase in milk consumption and it's attributed to slight increase in milk production and availability.
- The current average household milk consumption per household per day is below the long-term and wet years' average and it is attributed to the failed 2022 long rains that affected livestock productivity due to poor forage regeneration.

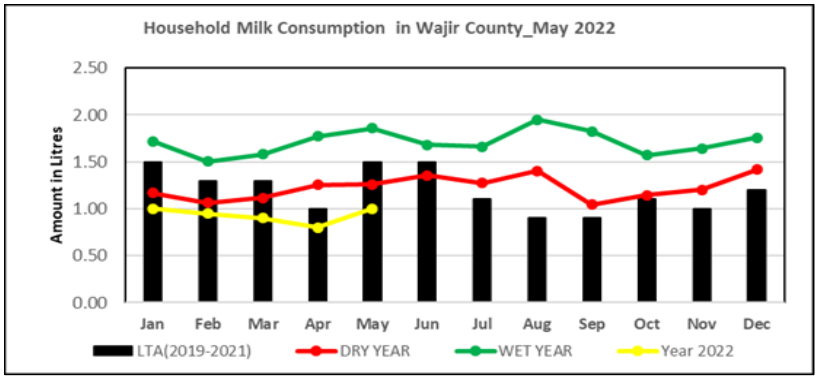

Figure 12: Milk Consumption

5.2 Food Consumption Score

Table 1: FCS by Livelihood zones _May 2022

LivelihoodZone * FoodConsumptionScoreCategories Crosstabulation					
% within LivelihoodZone					
		FoodConsumptionScoreCategories			
		Poor	Borderline	Acceptable	Total
LivelihoodZone	Agro Pastoral	8.3%	36.7%	55.0%	100.0%
	Pastoral	28.9%	35.6%	35.6%	100.0%
	Pastoral All	17.8%	56.7%	25.6%	100.0%
	Urban employment	0.0%	3.3%	96.7%	100.0%
Total		**17.4%**	**39.3%**	**43.3%**	**100.0%**

- The proportion of households with poor food consumption score was at 23.4 and 8.3 percent in Pastoral and Agro-Pastoral Livelihood Zones respectively.
- When compared to the previous month, the proportion of households with poor food consumption decreased slightly by five percent to stand at 17.4 percent as shown in table 1 above. This is attributed to improved purchasing power among the pastoral households.
- Dietary diversity, especially in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone, remained poor; a scenario that reflects reduced household access to food and income. The pastoral households are projected to experience food consumption gaps following the early cessation of the 2022 long rains.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- Figure 14 below shows the distribution of MUAC colour categories for children under the age of five. The proportion at risk of malnutrition has decreased slightly from 27.3 percent in April 2022 to stand at 26.1 percent in the month under review.
- This slight decrease in malnutrition rate is attributed to slight improvement in milk production, especially in Agro-Pastoral Livelihood Zone where there was improved browse condition due to the little rains received in many parts of the County.

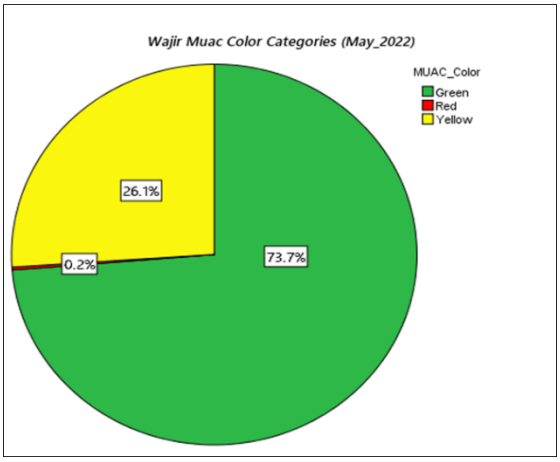

Figure 13: Malnutrition Rate

5.3.2 Health Status

There were increased diarrheal cases for children under five years of age and adults following the rains received in the last week of April 2022 across the County. Chikungunya outbreak was reported at Wargadud Ward in Tarbaj Sub-County, with five confirmed cases line-listed. Visceral Leishmaniasis was reported in five sub-counties; Wajir West, Eldas, Wajir East, Wajir South and Wajir North. 470 cases have been reported, with a case fatality rate of 0.9 percent.

5.4 COPING STRATEGY INDEXES

5.4.1: Reduced coping strategy index (rCSI)

- The coping mechanisms put in place by the communities to safeguard themselves against the persistent drought, measured using the Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI), stood at 8.4 in the month of May 2022.
- Households in Pastoral Livelihood Zone applied the most coping strategies at 11.9 while those in Agropastoral applied the lowest index at 5.0.

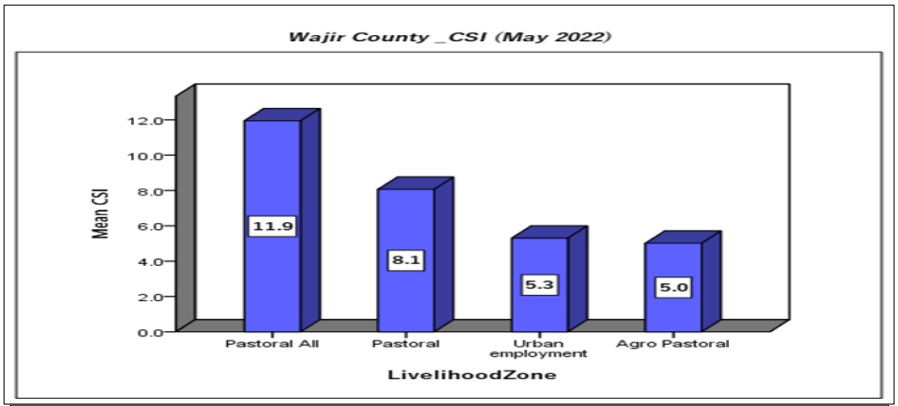

Figure 14: Coping Strategy Index

- Strategies commonly employed by pastoral households include relying on less preferred food, borrowing food, reducing number of meals and reducing portion size and quantity for adults.

6. 0 EMERGING ISSUES

6.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- There were no cases of insecurity reported during the month under review. There is the need to continue strengthening peace building initiatives following the below average performance of the 2022 long rains.

6.2 Migration

- Migration of livestock within and outside the county was reported. Most of the livestock are within the sub-counties, except those that moved to Garissa, Tana River and Somalia that are yet to come back.
- Migration into the traditional grazing areas in Isiolo and Marsabit Counties has been curtailed by conflicts among the border communities. Pastoralists from the Pastoral Livelihood Zone in Wajir West and Eldas sub counties have limited access to the rangeland resources along the border grazing areas.

6.3 Food security prognosis/forecasts

- According to the Kenya Meteorological Department, Wajir County is likely to experience dry weather conditions in June 2022.
- Pasture and browse conditions are expected to deteriorate in the coming months following the depressed rains received during the long rains season.
- The livestock body condition is expected to worsen from fair to poor due to quick depletion of the available water and forage resources.
- Milk production and consumption is likely to decline as livestock body condition further deteriorates due to depleted forage.
- Livestock prices are likely to decrease due to deteriorating livestock body condition.
- Malnutrition cases will likely increase due to reduced milk production and consumption across the livelihood zones.
- Migration within and outside the County will intensify due to diminishing rangeland resources.

7.0 Ongoing Interventions

Ward	Intervention	Implementing agencies	Cost (Kshs)
Livestock			
All	Monitoring of livestock migration	CGW-DALF	1M
All	Disease surveillance and monitoring	CWG-DALF	3M
	Animal feeds distribution	Kenya Red Cross	
Food Security/Social Protection			
All	Extension services	CGW (DALF)	1.5M
All	Support in irrigation infrastructure	CGW (DALF), WFP	3M
All	HSNP-Group 1 & Group 2	NDMA	100M
All	Sustainable Food System Cash Transfer	WFP	23M
Elnur, Ibrahim Ure, Burder, Wagalla & Lagbogol South	Cash Transfer	WASDA	6M
Elben	Cash Transfer	ALDEF	2.1M
Arbajahan, Eldas, Basir and Wargadud	Cash Transfer	RACIDA	5.6M
Batalu, Basir	Cash Transfer	Kenya Red Cross	6M
Health and Nutrition			
All	Human disease surveillance	CGW (Health)	1M
All sub-counties	Integrated outreach programs	CGW-Health UNICEF, SCI, KRCS	5M
All	IMAM surge	CGW, partners	1M
Water			
All	Rehabilitation and maintenance of strategic boreholes	CGW (Water), Kenya Red Cross	3M
All sub-counties	Low scale water trucking	CGW, partners	10M

8.0 Recommended interventions

Ward	Intervention	Implementers	Required Resource	Available Resource
Livestock				
All	Ring vaccinations	CGW-DALF and partners	Vaccines DSA	Vaccines
	Livestock disease surveillance	CGW-DALF & partners	Sampling kits DSA Fuel	Sampling kits Staff
All	Sensitization on commercial offtake	CGW-DALF and partners	Logistics DSA	Staff
All	Livestock deworming	CGW-DALF and partners	DSA Logistics	Staff
Health and Nutrition				
All	Scale up disease surveillance	CGW (health)	2M	00
All	Scale up wash interventions	CGW (health) And partners	2M	1M
All	Strengthening and scale up of IMAM surge	CGW, partners	2M	00
All	Scaling up PD hearth	CGW, partners	3M	00
All	Scaling up of integrated outreaches	CGW, partners	2M	00
Water				
30 centres	Water trucking for 30 centres	CGW (Water) & partners	10M	00
All	Repair and maintenance of water bowsers	CGW (Water) & partners	2M	00
10	Provision of fast- moving spare parts for 10 strategic boreholes	CGW (Water) & partners	4M	00
All	Repair and maintenance of strategic boreholes	CGW (Water) & partners	3M	00
Education				
All	Meals for ECD and primary schools	MoE, CGW, partners	30M	00
All	Provision of clean water and water storage facilities	MoE, CGW, partners	10M	00
All	Bursary for vulnerable children	MoE, CGW, partners	15M	00