



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

EW FEBRUARY PHASE 2021

Drought Status: ALERT



Maandalizi ya mapema

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

Rainfall Reports.

The county received no rainfall throughout the month. The weather outlook for March 2021 shows that below-average rainfall is expected over the County.

Vegetation Condition: Severe vegetation deficit was reported across the livelihood zones, with Eldas and Wajir West experiencing extreme and severe vegetation deficits respectively.

Social Economic indicators

■ **Production indicators;**

- Livestock body condition is fair to poor.
- Milk production declined.
- Migration of livestock was not normal and total crop failure was reported.
- Incidence of livestock disease reported; mainly CCBP, PPR, LSD, Trypanosomiasis.

■ **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 remained the same as the previous month at 23%.
- 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	22.37	>35
Forecasts(VCI)	28.7	>35
Forecasts(SM)	0.2	<=0.6
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Fair - poor	Normal
Crop production	Poor	Good
Milk production	1.3	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Not normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	56	>66
Milk consumption	1.0	>3
Return Distance to water source	10.5	<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

- Generally the County was dry throughout the month and no rainfall received.

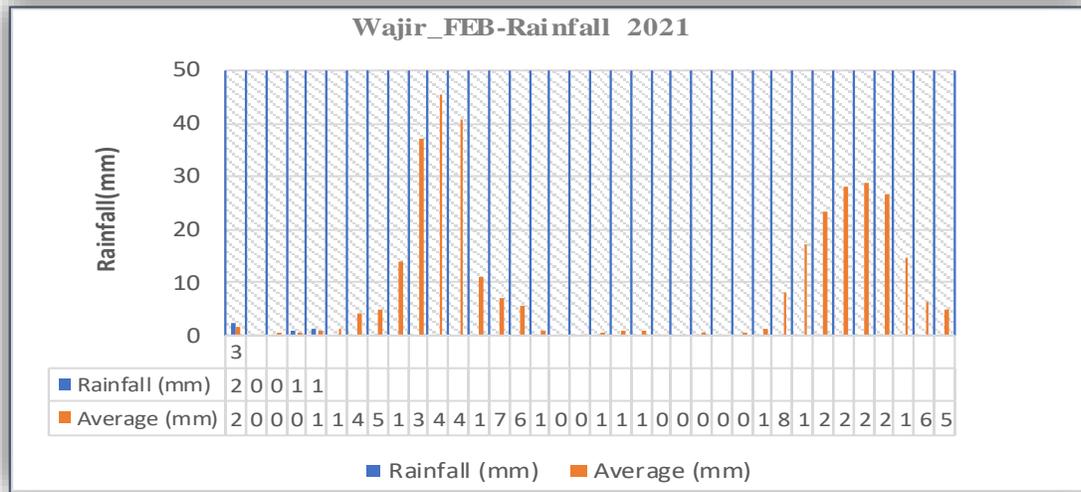


Figure 1:
Rainfall amount recorded in February 2021

1.2 Amount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

Wajir County did not receive any rainfall throughout the month of February 2021.

1.3 Other Events.

1.3.1 COVID-19 Pandemic

As at 28th February 2021, the County recorded 87 confirmed cases. The number of death still stands at two (2). There is no significant impact of COVID-19 on food security, although income deficits and reduced purchasing power as a result of the COVID-19 market disruptions continue to affect food access among the poor urban households.

1.3.2 Desert Locusts

Currently, there is no presence of desert locusts in the County as the swarms that previously affected the County moved to the neighbouring counties. However, the locust invasion witnessed in the County negatively affected crop and pasture lands.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

The average vegetation cover for the county in February 2021 showed deteriorating moderate vegetation deficit with a score of 22.37, although Eldas and Wajir West sub-counties depicted extreme and severe vegetation deficit with a score of 9.71 and 10.57 respectively.

This declining vegetation cover is due to the fast depletion of pasture and browse, attributed to the poor performance of the 2020 short rains as well as the desert locust invasion. The situation in the entire county is expected to further worsen as the dry spell continues.

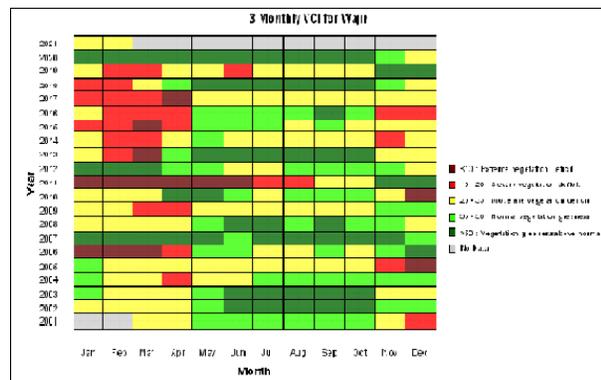


Figure 2: VCI matrix for the month of February 2021

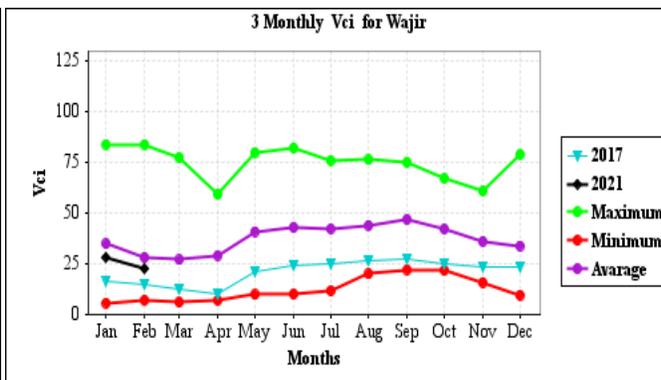


Figure 3: VCI chart for the month of February 2021

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 deficit at 13.7 and 12.8 respectively.
- The vegetation condition is expected to further decline, with the two affected sub-counties of Eldas and Wajir West projected to have the most drastic deterioration.

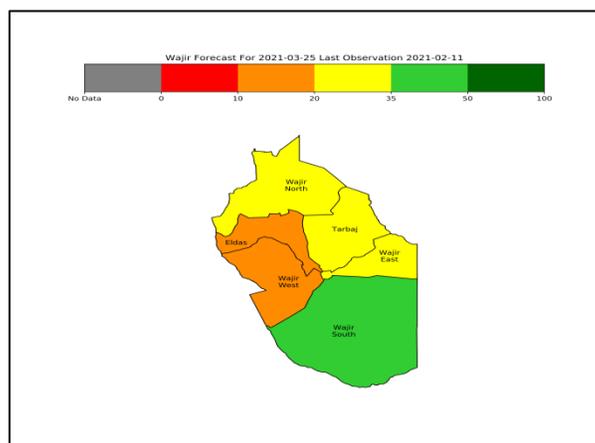


Figure 4: VCI forecast February 2021

2.1.2 Pasture

- Pasture condition was poor across the County, where majority of the pastoral communities reported it to be poor. This is due to the depressed rainfall received which in turn led to poor regeneration of pasture and browse.
- Available pasture may only last for two weeks due to high concentration of livestock, poor rangelands management and the destruction brought about by desert locust invasion. 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 with severe vegetation deficits are in Wajir West, Eldas and Tarbaj sub-counties.
- No constraints reported in the month under review.

2.1.3 Browse

- Current browse condition is fair in Pastoral Cattle in Wajir South, Pastoral Camel in Wajir East and Parts of Tarbaj while it is poor in Pastoral All Species in Wajir West, Eldas and Agro-Pastoral in Wajir North.
- Pastoral Cattle and Pastoral Camel Livelihood Zones have fair browse situation. However, there is higher depletion of browse due to the influx of livestock from other sub-counties.
- Available browse is likely to last for a period of less than one month as a result of the high concentration of livestock. 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 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

- Major Water sources for both human and livestock in the County are boreholes, shallow wells and water trucking. In Comparison to previous months, the water situation has significantly worsened due to the drying up of water pans and high concentration of livestock at strategic boreholes and shallow wells.
- 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

- Average household search distance to water points increased from 10km in January to 12km in the month under review. This is due to the drying up of water sources as there was poor recharging of water pans during the 2020 short rains season.
- Households distance to water sources is above the short-term and wet season average.
- 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.
- Few households in urban areas use aqua tabs and boiling methods for water treatment.

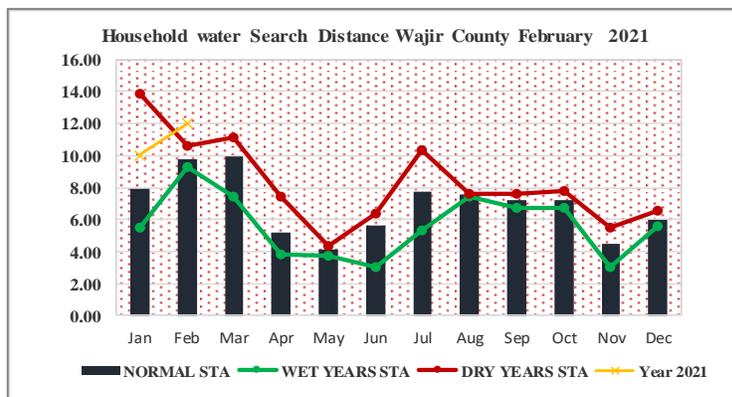


Figure 5: Household Search distance

2.2.3 Livestock access

- Average livestock grazing distance to water sources significantly increased from 20.1km in January 2021 to 24 km in the month under review. This is due to depletion of browse, pasture and water.
- Current average return distances from grazing area to water sources is above the long-term and wet years' average which is attributed to the on-going dry spell.
- 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 and Eldas while the lowest was recorded in Agro-Pastoral in Wajir North, Pastoral Cattle and Pastoral Camel in Wajir South and Wajir East.

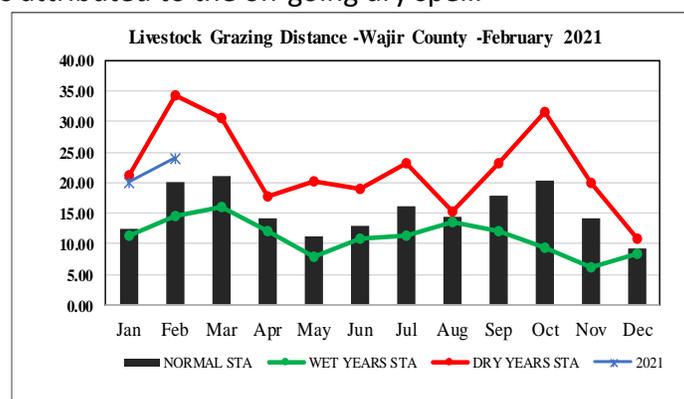


Figure 6: Livestock grazing distance

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock production

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Current Livestock body conditions for all species are between fair to poor across the county, except for Camel that indicated good to fair condition. The body condition for livestock is poor in Wajir West, Eldas, Tarbaj and Parts of Wajir North.
- 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.
- The livestock body conditions for most of the livelihood zones are fair, except for Pastoral All Species Livelihood Zone in Wajir West, Eldas and Tarbaj which are poor.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Incidences of livestock diseases were reported in the month under review across all the livelihood zones. These include lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), trypanosomiasis, Foot and mouth disease and anthrax. Others include endemic diseases such as CCPP, PPR, Sheep and Goat Pox.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- Average milk production per household per day significantly decreased from 1.8 litres in January 2021 to 1.3 litres in the month under review. This is due to depletion of pasture and browse and increased trekking distance across the livelihood zones.
- Current average milk production per household per day is below the long-term and wet year average.
- Available milk is derived from cattle, camel and small stocks across the county.

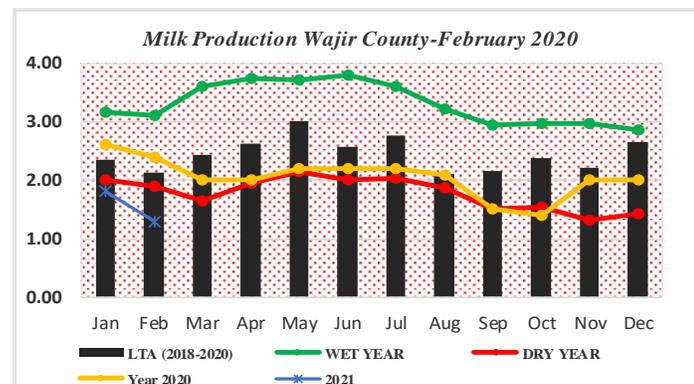


Figure 7: Milk production

3.2 CROP PRODUCTION

The poor performance of the 2020 short rains and the second wave of desert locust invasion severely affected both rain-fed and irrigated crop production. There is the need to sensitize farmers on the importance of shifting to drought resistant crops.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

Cattle Prices

- Current average prices significantly decreased from kshs 24,500 in January to 19,440 in the month under review. This is due to fair to poor livestock body condition attributed to poor regeneration of pasture and browse.
- 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.

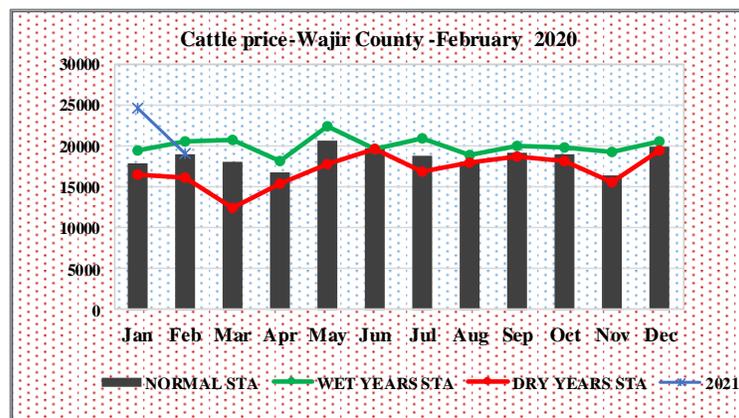


Figure 8: Cattle prices against STA 2016-2020

4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- Average goat prices slightly decreased from kshs 3,200 in the previous month to kshs 3,100 in February 2021. This decrease in prices was due to poor livestock market prices attributed to poor livestock body condition as well as reduced demand in the market.
- The current price is equal to the long term average but below the bad seasons.
- The highest prices of livestock were recorded in the urban areas.

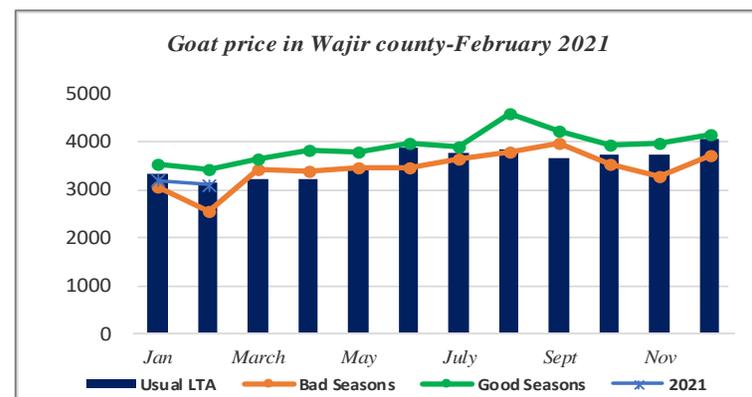


Figure 9: Goat prices Trend

4.1.3 Camel price

- Current average prices declined from kshs 28,000 in January 2021 to 24,000 in the month under review. This decline was due to high supply and low demand 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.

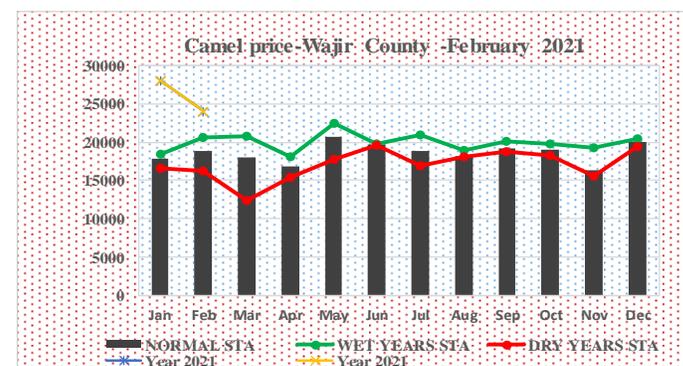


Figure 10: Current camel prices

4.2 CROP PRICE

4.2.1 Maize

- Average prices of maize remained the same when compared to the previous month at Ksh 56. This stability was due to steady supply from external markets.
- 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.

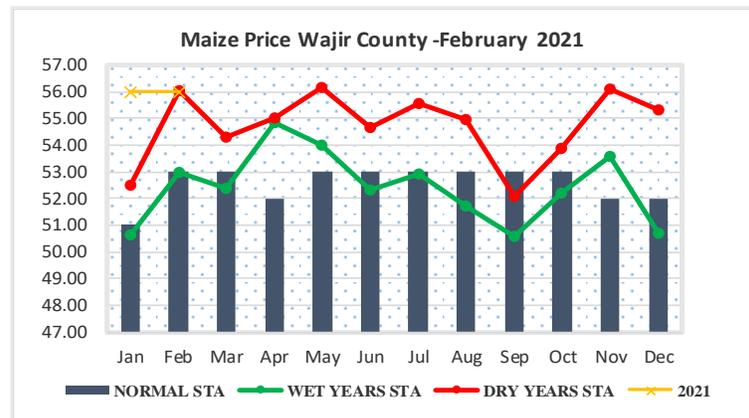


Figure 11: Current maize prices against LTA (2016-2020).

4.3 Terms of Trade (TOT).

- Current Terms of Trade in the month of February 2021 remained the same as the previous month. This stability was due to stable maize prices and slight decline in goat prices. The Terms of Trade is likely to worsen as the dry spell continues.
- The current Terms of Trade is unfavourable and above the short-term average but below the wet years' average.

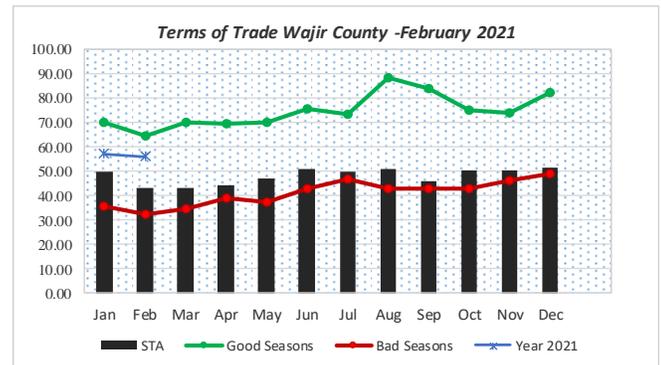
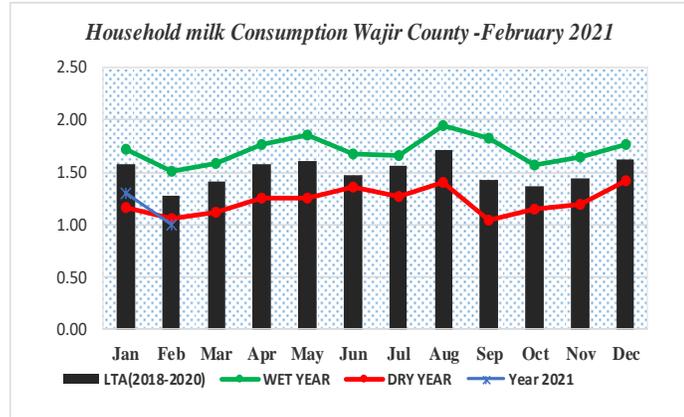


Figure 12: Graph of current ToT against the long-term average

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- Current average milk consumption per household per day decreased from 1.3 litres in January to 1.0 litres in the month under review. This decline in milk consumption is as a result of the decline in milk production due to 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.



2020).

5.2 Food Consumption Score

- The proportion of households with poor food consumption score remained the same as the previous month with a score of 12%. However, households with borderline food consumption score slightly declined from 39% in January to 32% in the month under review.

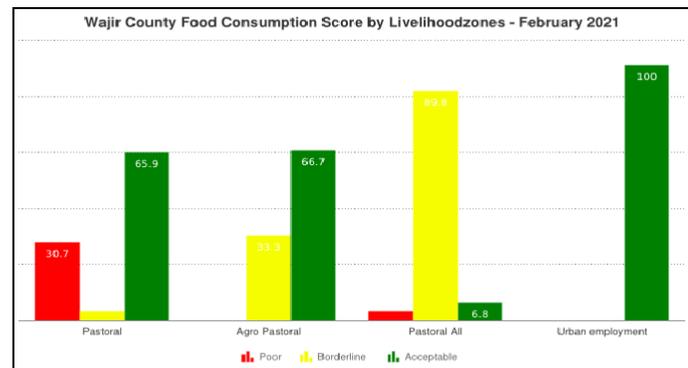


Figure 14: Food consumption Score

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children with MUAC measurement of between 125 to 134mm remained the same as last month at 23%. This is due to decline in milk production.
- The number of children with moderate malnutrition in the County is likely to increase due to deterioration in milk production, poor dietary diversity and high transportation cost.

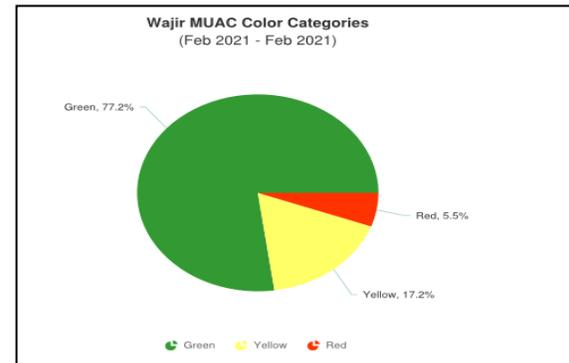


Figure 15: Wajir MUAC-Feb 2021

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 (Kaal zar) outbreak has been reported in Wajir West and Eldas sub-counties.

5.4 COPING STRATEGY INDEXES

- The mean CSI for the county in February 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 Livelihood Zone applied the most coping strategies while those in Informal/Formal Livelihood Zone employed the least coping strategies.
- Some of the strategies applied include borrowing food or relying on help from friends or relatives, reducing meals.

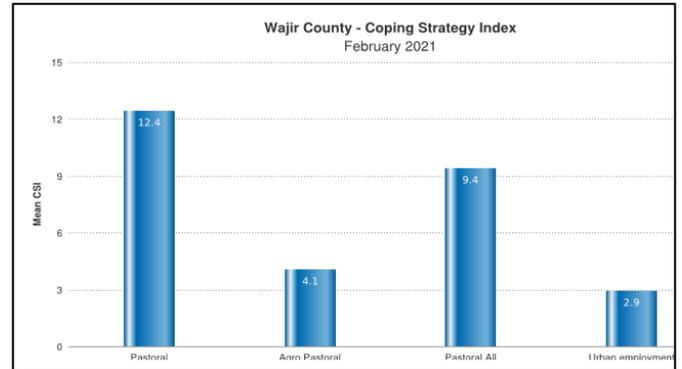


Figure 16: Coping Strategy indexes

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 Non-food interventions.

- Upscale of emergency cash transfer Programme to 5,000 households (HSNP) by the National Drought Management Authority.
- Cash transfer to 4,239 households affected by the invasion of desert locusts by Wajir South Development Association (WASDA).
- Support to integrated outreaches at 54 sites in Tarbaj, Wajir North and Wajir West sub counties by Save the Children.
- Water trucking in water stressed centres by the Department of Water, County Government of Wajir.
- Sustainable food system Program by the World Food Programme (WFP) targeting 4,667 households spread in 41 sites across the County.

6.2 Food Aid.

- No relief food was distributed in the month under review.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- No incidence of insecurity reported in the county in the month under review. However there is the risk of resource based conflict, hence the need to strengthen conflict early warning system.

7.2 Migration

- In-migration and out-migration of livestock in the county was reported in search of pasture, browse and water. Migration from Lagdera in Garissa to areas with fair browse and pasture condition in Wajir South has also been noted.

7.3 Food security prognosis/forecasts

- Below average rainfall is expected during the March, April and May 2021 Long Rains season.
- Pasture and browse situation is likely to decline and thereafter improve during the long rains.
- 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 deficit.
- Based on TAMSAT-ALERT Soil Moisture Forecast for Wajir, the County is likely to experience below average soil moisture conditions.
- Resource base conflicts are likely to arise as a result of limited resource across the livelihood zones.
- Milk availability and accessibility will likely decline due to low production and thereafter improve during the long rains.
- Livestock grazing distance to water sources is expected to increase due to the dry spell and thereafter reduce during the long rains.
- The number of children with moderate malnutrition is projected to increase as milk consumption and production continue to decline.
- The Terms of Trade will decline due to the decreasing goat prices.
- Prices of milk are expected to increase as the production decrease. This will have a direct effect on children under-five.
- There is the need to monitor the drought situation in Eldas and Wajir West sub-counties where the performance of the 2020 short rains was poor.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Health & Nutrition.

- Creation of awareness campaigns across the livelihood zones on COVID-19-ongoing
- Conduct sensitization and promotion of hygiene practice in providing essential services such as soap and sanitizers
- Monitoring and disease surveillances in the county.
- Scale up of outreaches services across the county.
- Community screening on COVID-19 in the county.

Livestock Sector.

- Livestock disease surveillance
- Vaccination and treatment of livestock against PPR and CCPP.
- Transport subsidy for traders

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.

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

Education

- Bursary to improve retention for pastoralists in county 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