



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

EW AUGUST PHASE 2020

Drought Status: NORMAL



Shughull za kawaida

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

Rainfall.

In the month under review, The County generally remained dry and sunny during the day and cold at night.

Vegetation Condition Index in the month of August 2020 indicated greenness of above normal across all livelihood zones at 60.55, except Wajir South (Pastoral Cattle) that indicated normal greenness at 48.43.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production indicators:

- **Livestock body condition** remained good across the livelihood zones. Milk production was 2.1litres/HH/day which is within the normal range. There was no unusual migration. Incidences of livestock disease reported, however there were no deaths.

Access indicators

- Terms of Trade is favourable and above normal due to stable maize prices. Trekking distance increased but below the long-term average and previous year's average. Milk consumption remained stable although it was slightly below the long-term average.

Utilization Indicators:

There was a decline in food consumption, less Coping strategy employed, 88 percent of children under five recorded MUAC >124mm and 12 percent recorded < 124. No notable variation in livelihood coping strategies.

Early Warning Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Normal	Worsening
Pastoral cattle	Normal	Worsening
Pastoral-all species	Normal	Worsening
Pastoral camel	Normal	Worsening
Informal employment	Normal	Worsening
County	Normal	Worsening
Biophysical Indicators	value	Worsening
Rainfall (% of Normal)	0	80 -120
VCI-3Month	62.8	>35
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Good-Fair	Normal
Crop production	Fair	Good
Milk production	2.1	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	71	>66
Milk consumption	1.2	>3
Return Distance to water source	6.0	<5 Km
CSI	6.66	

- 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
- A long dry spelnd 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

Wajir county did not receive any rain throughout August, though it was characterised by dry and sunny weather during the day and cold during the night.

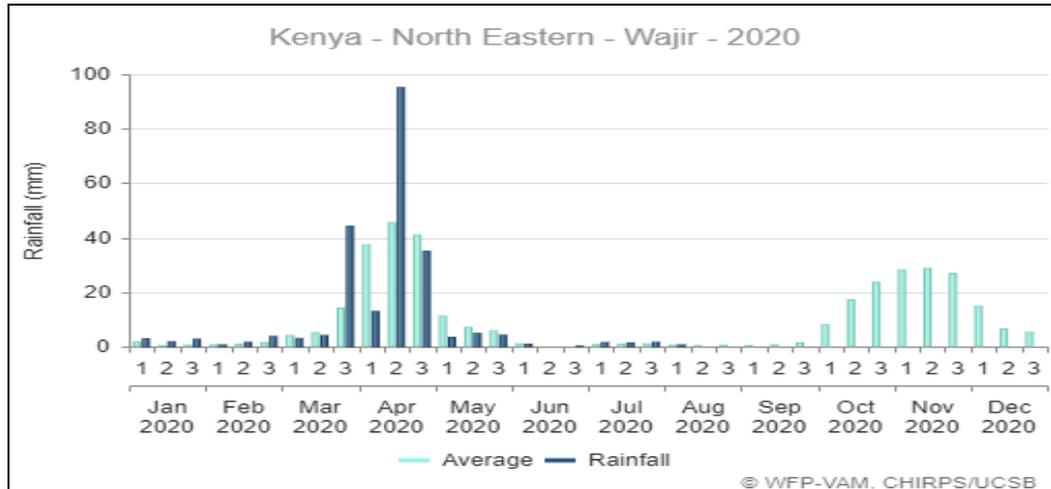


Figure 1: Rainfall Source: WFP-VAM/CHIRPS/UCSB

1.1.1 Amount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

No rainfall was experienced during the month under review.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

Vegetation Condition Index in the month of August 2020 indicated greenness of above normal across all livelihood zones, except Wajir South (Pastoral Cattle) that indicated normal greenness at 48.43. There was a slight drop in the VCI score from 61.41 in July to 60.55 in August 2020. This decline is expected to continue in the coming months.

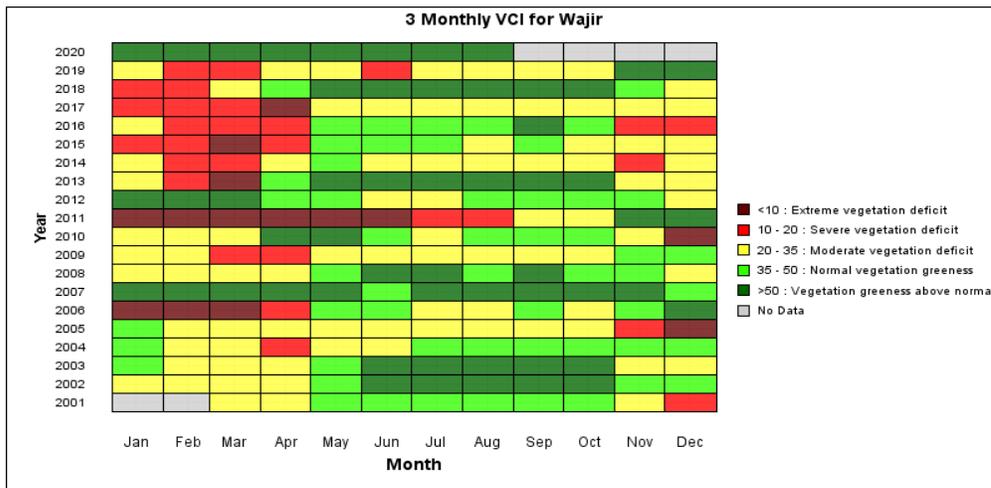


Figure 2: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir in August 2020

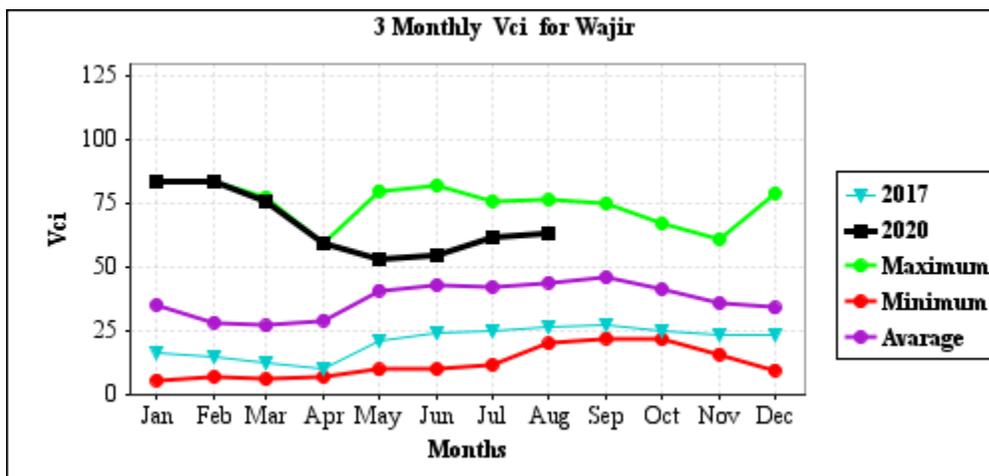


Figure 3: A chart of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir in the month of August 2020

2.1.2 Vegetation Condition Index Forecast

Based on Sussex Vegetation Outlook, the 3-month VCI forecast indicates an increase in vegetation condition across the sub counties as shown in figure 4. Wajir South Sub-County (Pastoral Cattle) is forecasted to witness a decrease in vegetation condition while Tarbaj Sub-County is projected to have the highest increase in vegetation condition with a score of 126.9.

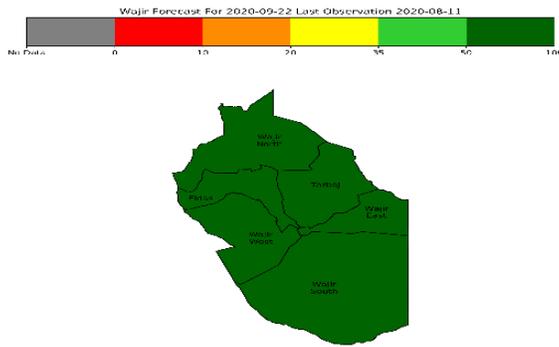


Figure 4: VCI forecast August 2020 map, Wajir

2.1.3 Pasture

- Pasture condition is fair in all livelihood zones except in isolated areas of Wajir West, Eldas and Tarbaj that indicated fair to poor condition due to high concentration of grazers experienced during the season.
- Available pasture is expected to last for a period of one to two months.
- Quality and quantity of pasture in all livelihood zones are above normal except few areas in Wajir West, Eldas and Tarbaj sub-counties that are below normal.
- 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, Tarbaj and Eldas.

2.1.4 Browse

- Browse condition is fair across the livelihood zones, where 70.6 percent of the communities reported to be fair, 11.8 percent to be good and 17.6 percent to be poor. This is due to deterioration and depletion of browse attributed to high concentration of livestock.
- Current browse condition has deteriorated when compared to previous month. This is attributed to high concentration of livestock in the grazing areas.
- Available browse is likely to last for a period of one to two month.
- Quality and quantity of browse condition across the livelihood zones are good to fair.
- No constraints reported.

2.2 Water Source

2.2.1 Sources

- Major water sources for both human and livestock are boreholes, water pans and shallow wells, where 45 percent of the community depend on boreholes, 30 percent rely on water pans while 25 percent use shallow wells.
- When compared to previous month, water situation in the county deteriorated due to high concentration of livestock at the water point as a result of the drying up of water pans.
- Available water is likely to last for a period of two months.

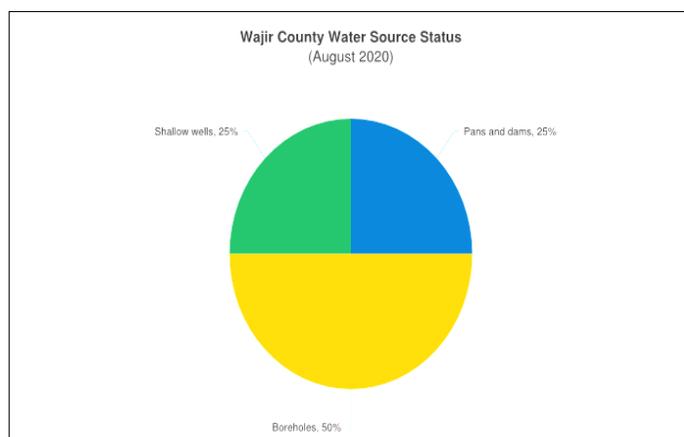


Figure 5: Water Sources

2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

- Current average household return distance remained the same when compared to previous month due to the little available water sources, though all water pans have dried.
- Current average household return distance to water point is slightly above the long-term average and below previous month average due to drying up of water pan. Average water consumption per person per day is normal when compared to previous month. This is normal at this time of the year.
- The proportion of households that treat water is small, with only some few households in urban using aqua tabs while few others use boiling methods.

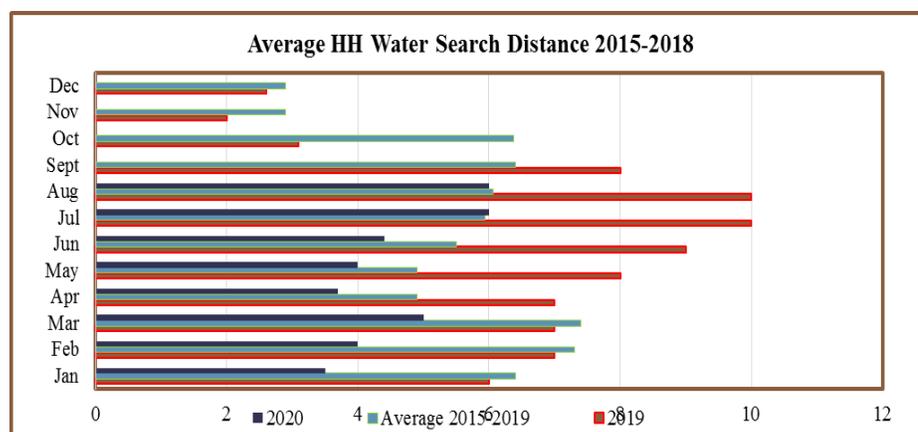


Figure 6: Current Return Distance to Water Sources against 2015-2019 average

2.2.3 Livestock access

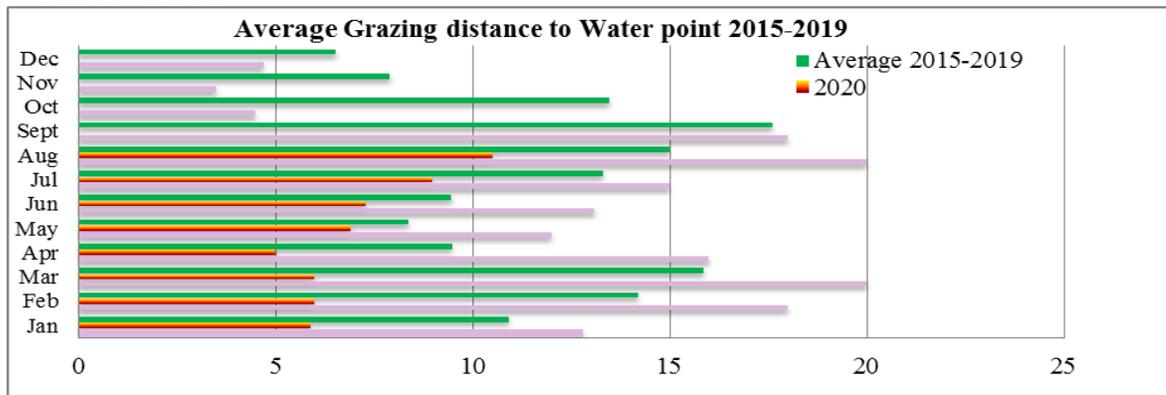


Figure 7: Current Distance from Grazing to Water Sources against 2015-2019 average

- Average return trekking distance from livestock grazing area to main water sources increased from 9km in July 2020 to 10.5km in the month under review. This is due to deterioration of pasture and browse.
- Current average return distance from grazing area to water sources is below the long-term average and previous year's month average. This improvement is as a result of the fair to good pasture and browse.
- Trend and frequency of watering livestock by species varies where for goat is 1-2 days, cattle-every day and Camel 7 days.
- Current distance from grazing to water sources varies according to livelihood zones. The highest was 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

- The body condition of all species (Cattle, Camel and Small stock) is good across the livelihood zones which is above the long-term average. This is due to available pasture and browse.
- The livestock body situation is expected to deteriorate further as the dry spell continues but will likely be within good to fair condition across the county.
- 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

- Cases of disease outbreaks, particularly CCPP, CBPP, PPR LSD, SGP and camel sudden death have been reported in the county, though the Department is doing disease monitoring and surveillance.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- Current average milk production slightly decreased from 2.2 litres/household/day recorded in July to 2.1litres/household/day for the month under review. The decline in production is attributed to deteriorating condition of pasture, browse and increased trekking distance.
- Although the milk production for the month decreased, the current average milk production per household per day is above the long-term average. This was due to high birth rate that improved milk production.
- Available milk is derived from cattle, camel and small stocks across the county.
- The trend and quantity of milk production is normal for this time of the compared to the same period last year.

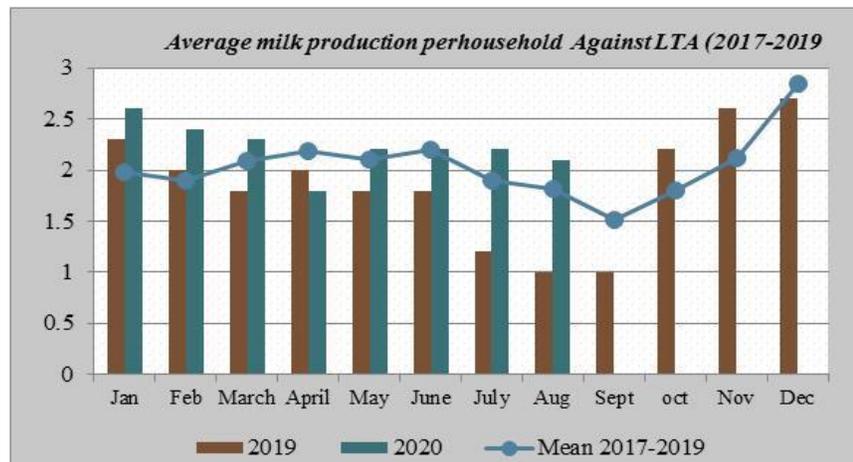


Figure 8: Graph showing average milk production for Wajir (2017-2019)

- Highest livestock producing milk in the livelihood zones was reported in Pastoral Camel, Pastoral Cattle and Pastoral All species and lowest producing was recorded in Agro-Pastoral and Pastoral All Species.

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 ON FOOD SECURITY

- Increased trekking distance will affect livestock body condition while reduced milk production will affect nutrition status of children under five.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

Cattle Prices

- Average four-year-old medium size cattle prices remained stable at Ksh 27,500 when compared to the previous month. The price was 30 percent more than the long-term average. This is due to good livestock body condition attributed to good pasture, browse and low supply of market as most of the households hold their stock to increase herd size.
- Highest average prices were reported in the urban areas and lowest recorded in the rural areas.

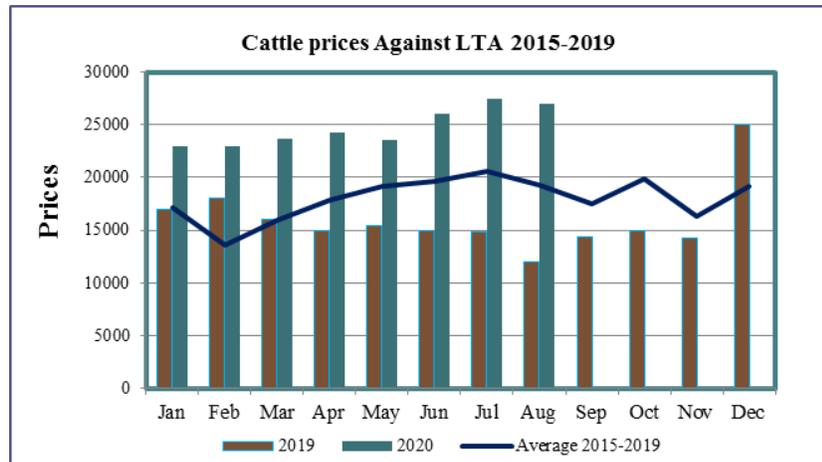


Figure 9: Current cattle prices against LTA 2015-2019

4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- Current average goat prices slightly decreased from kshs 4069 in July to kshs 3900 in the month under review. This is due to low demand in the market and slight increase in supply. This is normal when compared to the long-term average and previous year's average prices.
- Current average price is above the long-term average and previous year's average, thus showing an improvement in market prices due to good livestock body condition.
- The highest prices of livestock were reported in the urban centres.

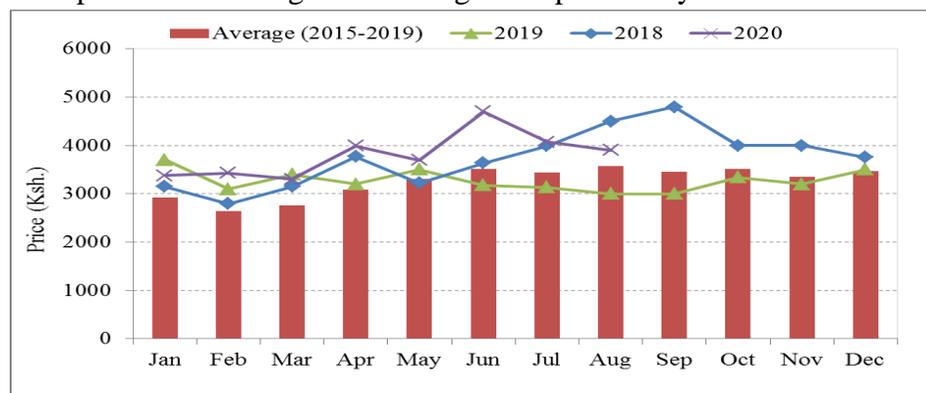


Figure 10: Current Goat prices against LTA of 2015-2019

4.1.3 Camel price

- Average camel prices in August remained the same as the month of July 2020 at Ksh 29,000. The fair market price is attributed to low demand and reduced market supply where households are holding their stocks to increase herd size.
- Currently, camel price is below the long-term average and previous year's month average price due to poor market attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Livelihood zones with the highest prices of camel were recorded in Wajir town and lowest reported in the rural areas.

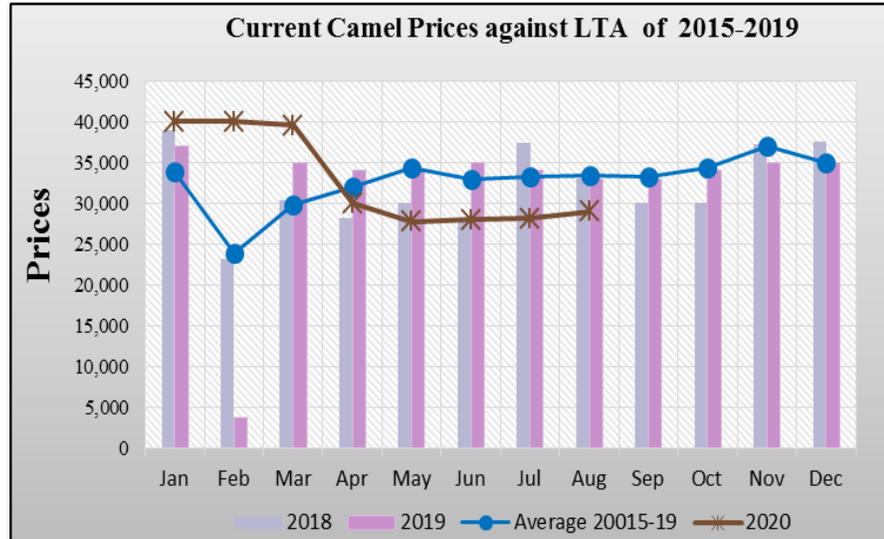


Figure 11: Current Camel Prices against LTA of 2015-2019

4.2 CROP PRICE

4.2.1 Maize

- Current average maize prices remained the same when compared to the previous month due to increased supply, reduced demand and slow down trade flows attributed to the COVID-19.
- Current average maize price is above the long-term average which 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.

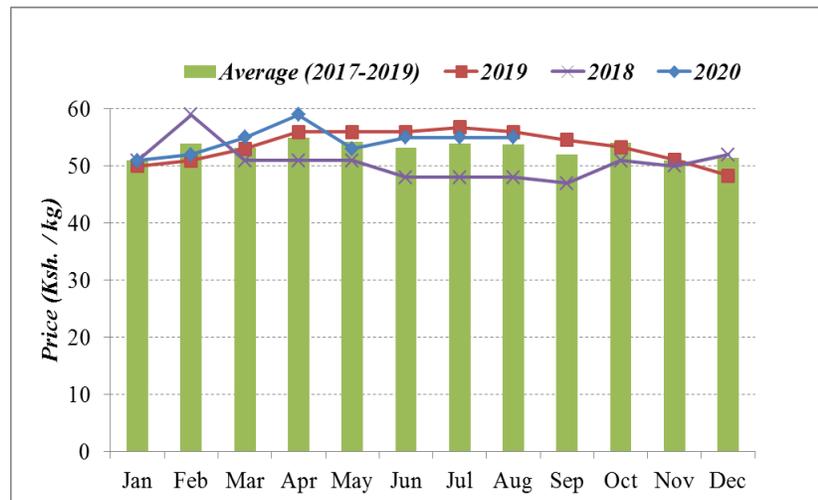


Figure 12: Current maize prices against LTA (2017-2019)

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 the entire livelihood zones.

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

- The Terms of Trade slightly increased from 74.2 in July 2020 to 75.9 in August 2020. The Terms of Trade is therefore favourable and above the normal ranges. Most of the households could fetch 75.9 kg of maize when compared to an LTA of 70 kg.
- 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.

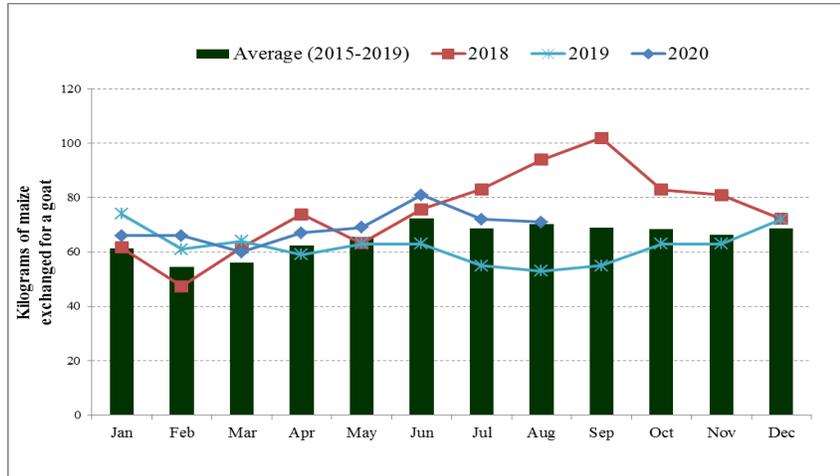
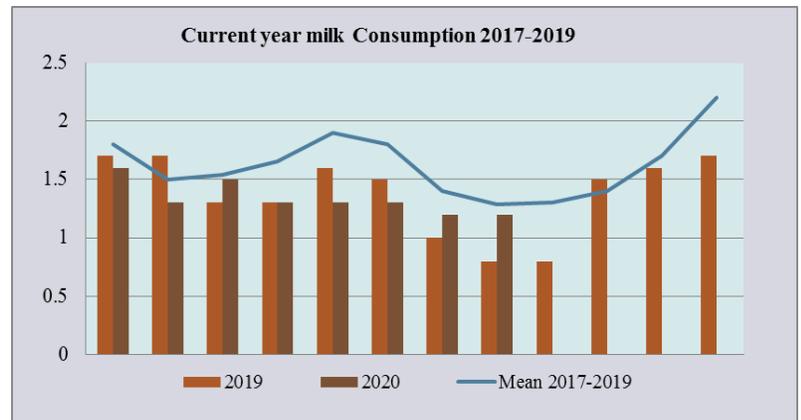


Figure13: A graph of current ToT against the long-term (2015-2019)

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- Average milk consumption per household per day remained the same as the previous month. This is due to available milk production attributed to good livestock body condition and available pasture.
- 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 slightly below the long-term average but above the previous year month average.
- Trend and quantity of milk consumption at household is still normal.



5.2 Food Consumption Score

- 43 percent of households across all the livelihood zones had acceptable food consumption score while 23 and 34 percent of households had poor and borderline FCS scores respectively.
- Tarbaj sub-county had the highest number of households with poor food consumption score at 86.7 while Wajir North registered the highest number of households with acceptable food consumption score at 63.8

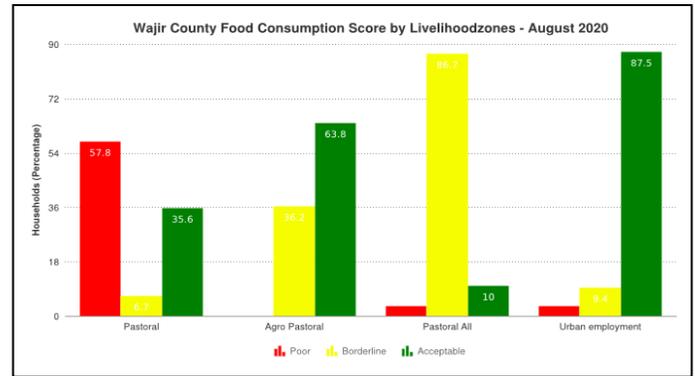


Figure 15: Food consumption Score

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

- Out of the 540 children sampled in the sentinel sites by care givers, family MUAC indicated that 88 percent of under-fives recorded MUAC > 124mm while the other 12 percent of the children recorded moderate malnourished.
- In comparison to previous month, the percentage of under-five that recorded MUAC >124mm decreased due to decline in milk production.

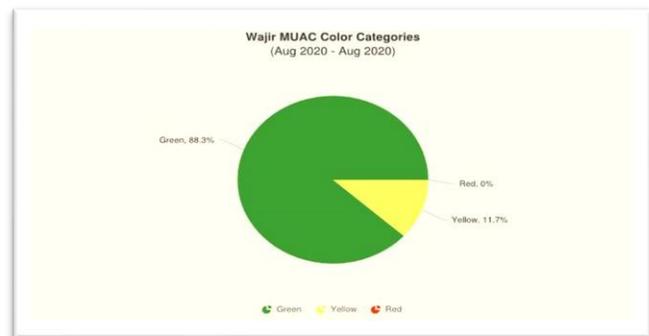


Figure 16: Family MUAC Measurement (Under five)

5.3.2 COPING STRATEGY INDEXES

- The mean CSI for the county is 6.66 in August 2020 as opposed to the month of July 2020 which recorded 6.9. All the livelihood zones employed less coping strategy with an index score of 9.4, 7.7 and 4.4 respectively for Pastoral All, Pastoral and Agro-Pastoral.
- Some of the strategies applied include 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.

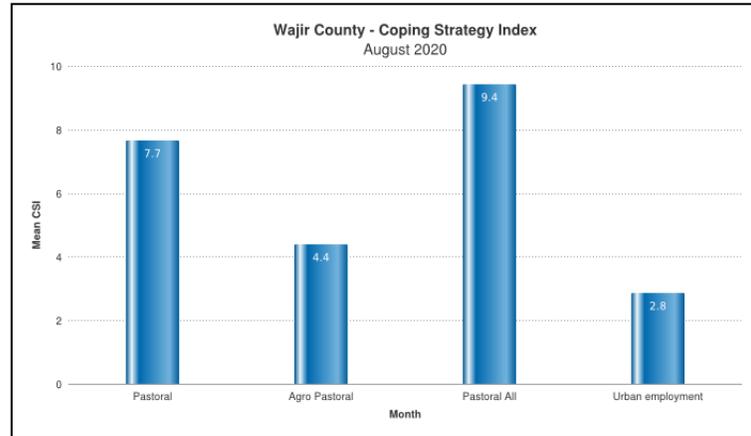


Figure 17: Coping strategy

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 Non-food interventions. -Ongoing

- Sustainable food system Program by World Food Program-Ongoing
- Hunger Safety Net program by National Drought Management

6.2 Food Aid.

- Relief food distributed by the National and County governments.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- No incidence of insecurity that was reported in the entire county for the month under review.

7.2 Migration

- Migration of livestock are within the county; from one sub-county to the other. 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.

FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS/FORECASTS

- Below average rainfall is likely to be witnessed during the October to December 2020 short rains.
- Vegetation condition is likely to deteriorate in livelihood zones as the dry spell continues and expected to regenerate during OND 2020.
- Based on TAMSAT-ALERT Soil Moisture Forecast for Wajir August 2020, Wajir County is likely to experience above average soil moisture conditions.
- Based on University of Sussex Vegetation Outlook, the county is likely to have an improved 3-month VCI in the month of September 2020, with Tarbaj sub-county expected to have the highest VCI score at 126.9.
- Milk availability and accessibility is expected to reduce significantly due to the depletion of forage condition and increased trekking distance.
- Nutritional status of children under five years has been on a gradual deteriorating trend in all the livelihood zones occasioned by below normal milk consumption and expected to deteriorate further until the end of the year.
- Livestock prices are likely to remain the same in the next one month but later decline.
- Prices of milk production are expected to increase as the production decrease, thus making children under-fives to be malnourished.
- Increased trekking distance for both human and livestock are expected since most of the water pans have completely dried up and high concentration realized at the water point. Watering frequency for livestock are expected to decline.
- Household purchasing power will likely decline as prices of livestock will decline and food commodities remain stable, thus making household's 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
- Provision of protective gears, face masks, PPEs
- Provision of hand sanitizers and training of public health officers on the pandemic.
- Creation of awareness campaigns across the livelihood zones 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.

- Livestock disease surveillance and vaccination against endemic disease incidences across the County
- Training of Pastoral Communities on Pasture management
- Vaccination and treatment of livestock on PPR and CCPP.
- Marketing of livestock Value addition

Water Sector.

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