



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

EW MAY PHASE 2021

Drought Status: ALERT

Maandalizi ya mapema

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

Rainfall Report.

In the month under review, most parts of the County remained dry. The June 2021 weather outlook indicates that most parts of the County will be dry and sunny.

Vegetation Condition: Normal vegetation condition was reported in the County, with Wajir South, Wajir West and Eldas sub-counties indicating moderate vegetation deficit. However physical observation shows that the County is in moderate vegetation deficit.

Social Economic indicators

▪ **Production indicators;**

- Livestock body condition remained fair to poor but on a worsening trend as the vegetation condition continues to deteriorate.
- Stable milk production was reported.
- In-migration and migration within and outside the county was reported
- Cases of livestock diseases such as CCPP, CBPP, PPR and LSD were reported.

▪ **Access indicators:**

- **Terms of trade** is still unfavorable when compared to normal
- There was increase in milk consumption due to stable milk production
- Return distance to water sources remained stable when compared to last month. The cost of water reduced
- Grazing distance to water sources slight increased due to poor regeneration of pasture, browse and low recharging of water sources.

Utilization Indicators:

- Proportion of children with moderate malnutrition reduced from 25 percent in April to 17.7 percent in the month under review due to increased milk production and consumption.

Early Warning Phase Classification

| Livelihood Zone | Phase | Trend |
|---------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| Agro-Pastoral | Alert | Stable |
| Pastoral Cattle | Alert | Stable |
| Pastoral-All Species | Alert | Stable |
| Pastoral Camel | Normal | Worsening |
| Informal Employment | Normal | Worsening |
| County | Alert | Stable |
| Biophysical Indicators | value | Improving |
| Rainfall (% of Normal) | 0.0 | 80 -120 |
| VCI-3Month | 37 | >35 |
| Forecasts (VCI) | 31.03 | >35 |
| Forecasts (SM) | - | <=0.6 |
| Production indicators | Value | Normal |
| Livestock Body Condition | Fair - poor | Normal |
| Crop production | Poor | Good |
| Milk production | 2.5 | >3-4litres |
| Livestock Migration Pattern | Not normal | Normal |
| Livestock deaths (from drought) | No death | No death |
| Access Indicators | Value | Normal |
| Terms of Trade (ToT) | 55 | >66 |
| Milk consumption | 1.7 | >1.55 |
| Return Distance to water source | 7.0 | <5 Km |
| CSI | 9.4 | <10 |

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|--|--|--|--|
| <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 ▪ Along dry spell and 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 in the March-May 2021 long rain season in the county, with parts of Wajir North, Tarbaj and Eldas receiving moderate rainfall. However, no rain was received during the month under review.

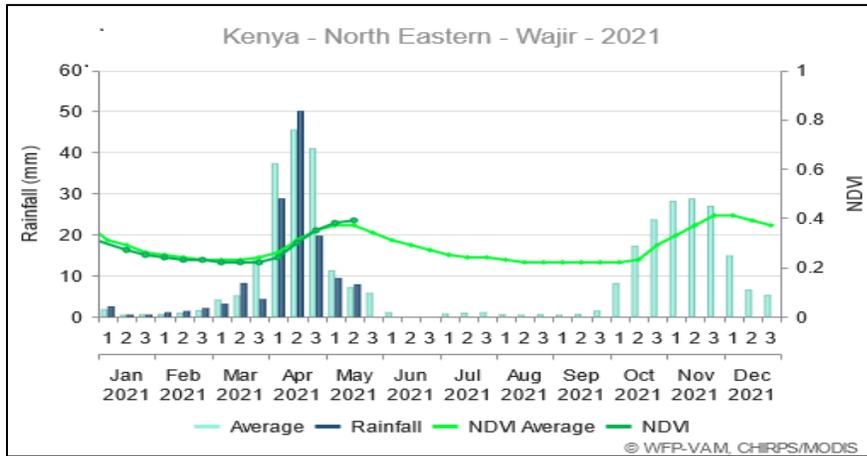


Figure 1: Rainfall and NDVI Average in May 2021

1.2 Amount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

No rainfall was experienced in the month of May 2021. The weather was cold and dry throughout the month.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

Current vegetation condition index in the county indicated improved normal vegetation with a score of 37.43 when compared to the previous month's figure of 34.0. However, the vegetation condition in Wajir South, Eldas and Wajir West showed moderate deficit. This is due to poor regeneration of pasture and browse attributed to the depressed rainfall experienced.

Physical observation of the vegetation condition in the county showed moderate deficit. The condition of the vegetation in the county is expected to deteriorate due to faster depletion of the available browse and pasture caused by livestock in-migration.

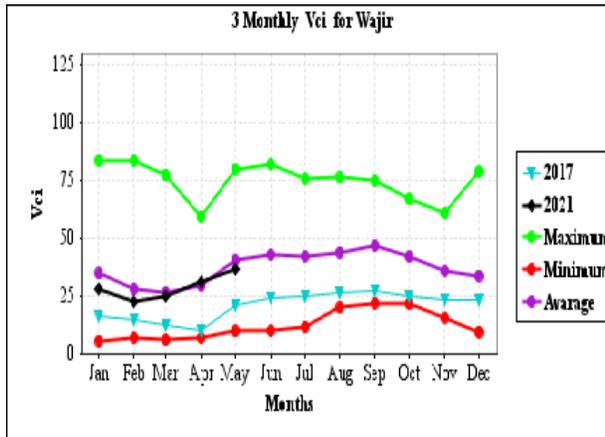


Figure 2: VCI graph for the month of May 2021

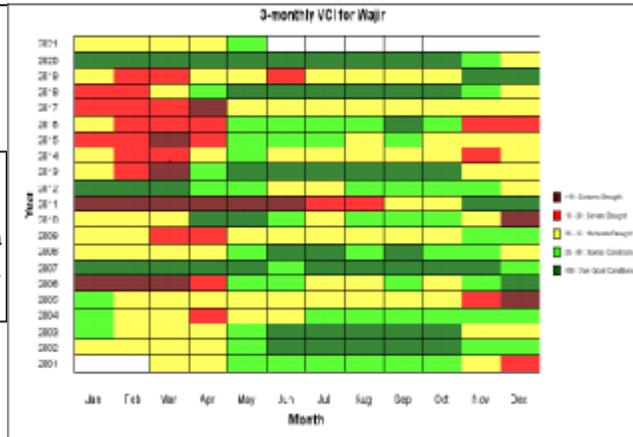


Figure 3: VCI Matrix for May 2021

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 a score of 31.03 although Wajir North and Tarbaj sub-counties have normal vegetation condition. Eldas and Wajir West sub-counties are projected to have the most deficits, followed by Wajir South.
- The vegetation condition is expected to deteriorate due to depletion of the little available browse and pasture.

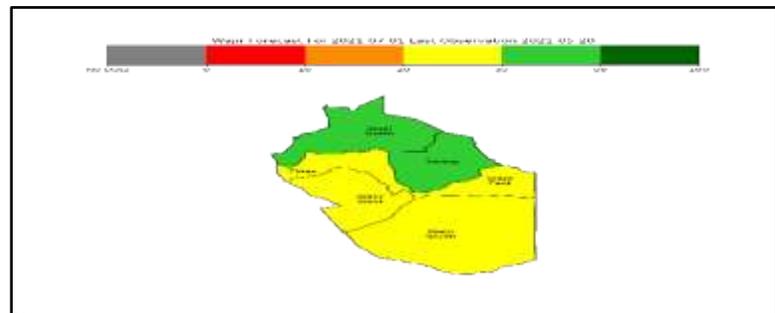


Figure 4: VCI forecast May 2021

2.1.2 Pasture

- Pasture condition is generally poor across the county where majority of the community reported it to be poor and is likely to worsen in the coming month.
- When compared to similar previous periods, pasture situation is poor across the county due to poor regeneration attributed to depressed rainfall.
- Available pasture may last for less than one and half month due to in-migration and poor regeneration. This will in turn worsen the situation on the ground.
- The quality and quantity of pasture is still poor across the county except for isolated parts of pastoral cattle, Pastoral Camel and Agro-Pastoral Livelihood Zones.
- Pasture condition varies according to livelihood zones, with some parts of Pastoral Camel, Pastoral Cattle and Agro-Pastoral having fair condition.
- No constraints reported in the month under review.

2.1.3 Browse

- Browse situation ranges between fair to poor except parts of Wajir North, Tarbaj, Wajir South and East that are in good condition.
- Condition of browse remained the same across the county when compared to the previous month. This is due to the rains received in the MAM 2021 long rains season.
- Available browse is expected to last for one month as there was moderate regeneration.
- Agro Pastoral and Pastoral Camel Livelihood Zones registered better browse condition when compared to other livelihood zones.
- The quality and quantity of browse is fair across the county and is expected to deteriorate as we get into the dry spell.
- No constraints reported in the month under review.

2.2 Water Source

2.2.1 Sources

- The main Water sources in use for both human and livestock across all the livelihood zones are water pans, shallow wells and few boreholes.
- Water pans were fairly recharged in areas that received moderate MAM 2021 Long rains.
- When compared to similar previous periods, water condition in the county remained the same and this is as a result of the moderate to below average performance of the 2021 long rains.
- Available water is expected to last for a period of two months in areas where the water pans were moderately recharged.

2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

- During the month under review, household return distance to water points stabilized when compared to the previous month. This is due to fair recharging of water pans by the 2021 long rains.
- The reported distance in the month of May 2021 was higher than the long term and wet year average distance. The longest distance was reported in the Pastoral, Pastoral All and Agro-Pastoral livelihood zones.
- Average water consumption per person per day is normal when compared to the previous month.
- Few households in urban areas use aqua tabs and boiling methods for water treatment while others do not treat their water.

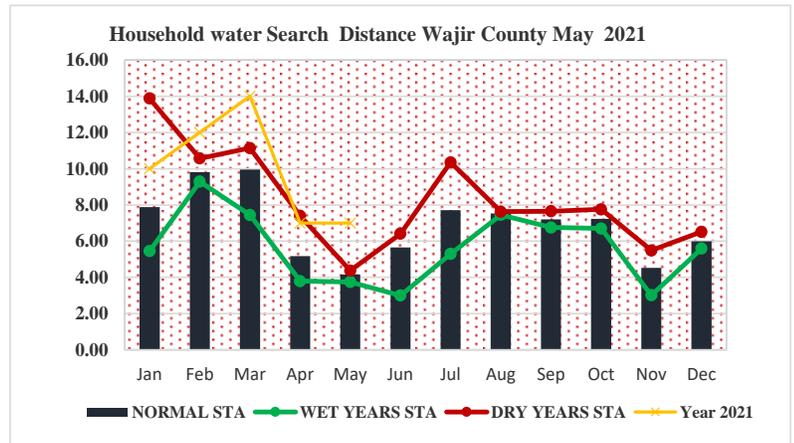


Figure 5: Household water search distance

2.2.3 Livestock access

- Average grazing distance to water sources slightly increased from 9.9km in April 2021 to 10.6km in the month under review. This is attributed to depressed rainfall experienced which resulted in poor regeneration of pasture, browse and high concentration in the grazing areas due to in-migration.
- Current average grazing distance to water source is below the short-term and wet year average distance.
- Current distance from grazing areas to water sources varies according to livelihood zones.
- Watering intervals for all species across the livelihood zones are normal.

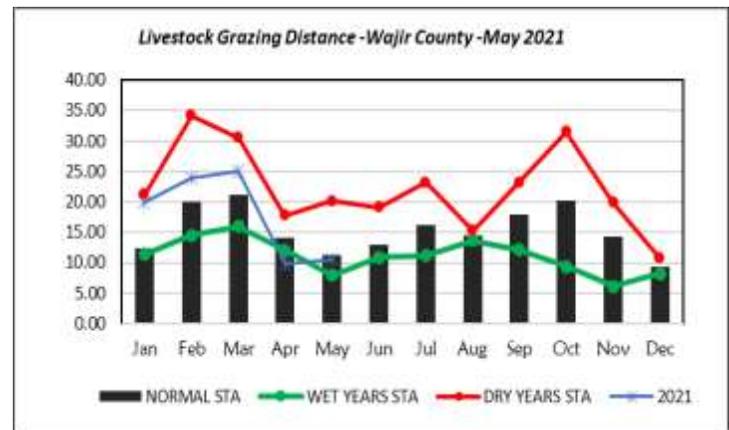


Figure 6: Livestock grazing distance

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock production

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Livestock body condition ranges between fair to poor across the livelihood zones, except for some few species of camel and shoats with good to fair body condition due to slight regeneration of pasture and browse during the long rains.
- When compared to similar previous periods, the current condition has worsened due to the depressed rainfall which resulted in poor regeneration of pasture and low recharging of water sources.
- In comparison to the previous month, the livestock body condition remained largely fair due to slight regeneration of browse and pasture.
- Livestock body condition is expected to deteriorate due to depletion of pasture and browse and in-migration of livestock from other counties.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Cases of endemic livestock diseases such as Contagious Bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), Pest Petis Ruminantes (PPR) and Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP) were reported across all the livelihood zones.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- Average milk production per household per day remained the same as the previous month due to reduced trekking distance, slight regeneration of pasture, browse and recharging of water sources. Available milk is derived from cattle, camel and small stocks across the county.
- Current average milk production per household per day is below the long-term average.

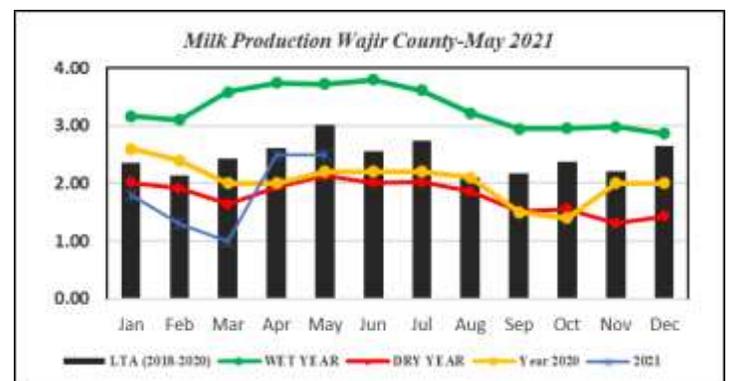


Figure 7: Milk production

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. Planting of crops did not take place although farmers were ready due to the late onset and poor performance of the 2021 long rains. This would most likely affect food security situation in the county.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

Cattle Prices

- The price of a 4-year-old medium size bull slightly declined from Kshs 24,000 in April to Kshs 23,000 in the month of May 2021.
- Observed price decline could be attributed to low demand and high supply in the market as well as the weakening body condition.
- The reported prices of cattle in the month under review was lower than the normal and wet year average. This is due to poor demand in the market as a result of the poor body condition.
- Highest average prices were reported in the urban areas and lowest recorded in the rural areas.

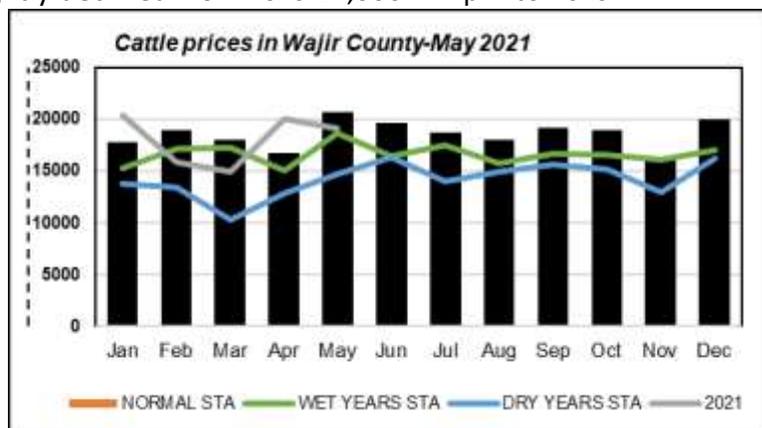


Figure 8: Cattle price Trend-May 2021

4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- Current average medium size goat price decreased from 3,500 in April to 3,100 in the month under review. The declining price is due to poor market demand and high supply in the market.
- The current price is below the long-term and the good seasons' average prices.
- The highest prices of livestock were recorded in the urban areas and lowest in the rural areas.



Figure 9: Goat prices trend

4.1.3 Camel price

- The current average camel prices decreased from Ksh 33,000 in the month of April to 28,000 in the month under review. This decline in camel prices is attributed to high supply and low demand in the market.
- The current price is below the long-term and wet year average price.
- Highest prices were recorded in Wajir town and lowest reported in the rural areas.

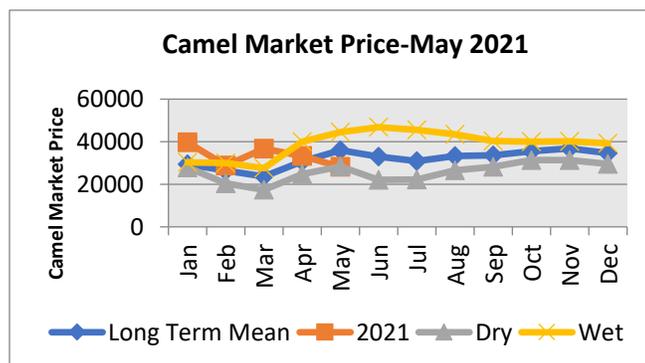


Figure 10: Camel prices in May

4.2 CROP PRICE

4.2.1 Maize

- Stability in maize prices was observed during the month under review where a kilogram of maize traded at ksh 63 in most markets.
- The reported prices in the month of May were above the normal short term and wet year average prices. This is attributed to low supply and high demand in the market since most of the products are outsourced.
- The highest prices were recorded in the rural areas and lowest recorded in the urban areas.

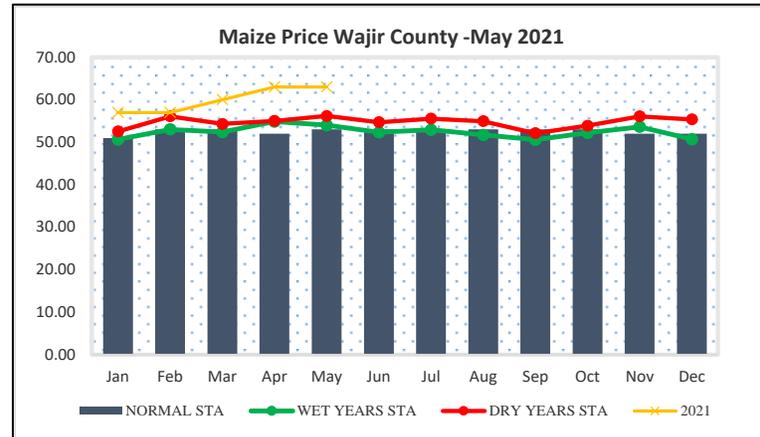


Figure 11: Maize prices Trend

4.3 Terms of Trade (TOT).

- The term of Trade slightly increased from 51 in April 2021 to 55 in the month under review. This increase is due to stability in goat prices, thus making households access more kilogram of maize.
- Terms of trade is still unfavourable when compared to normal.
- Slight increase in ToT was due to stabilized maize and goat prices in the market. However, the term of trade is projected to decline as goat prices continue to decrease.
- Term of Trade is still above the short-term average but below the wet years' average.

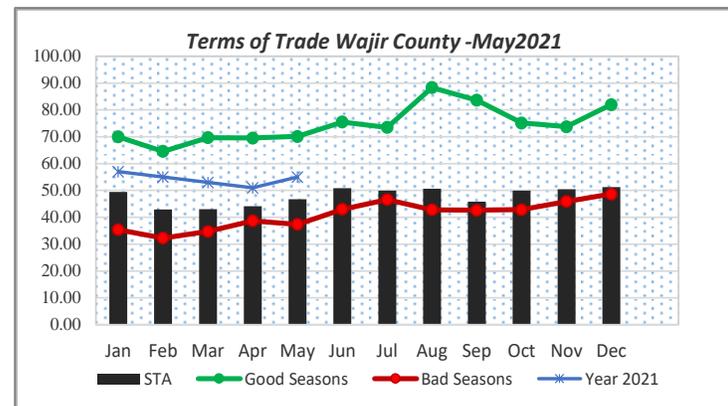


Figure 12: Terms of Trade Trend-May 2021

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- Average milk consumption per household per day slightly increased from 1.5 litres in April 2021 to 1.7 litres in the month under review. This is due to reduced trekking distance, good livestock body condition and high calving rating attributed to the fair to below normal performance of the long rains.
- Milk consumption is expected to deteriorate due to decline in milk production resulting from the weakening livestock body condition.
- Current average household milk consumption per household per day is above the long-term and wet years' average.

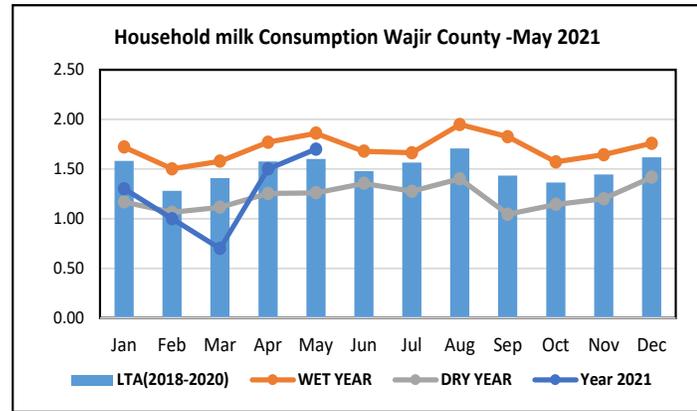


Figure 13: Current milk consumption against the LTA (2018-2020).

5.2 Food Consumption Score

- The proportion of households categorised as having poor, borderline and acceptable food consumption score stood at 10.6, 35.4 and 54 percent respectively in the month of May 2021.
- The proportion of households with poor food consumption score decreased from 17 percent in April 2021 to 10.6 percent in the month under review. This showed an improvement in food consumption attributed to increased milk production and consumption.

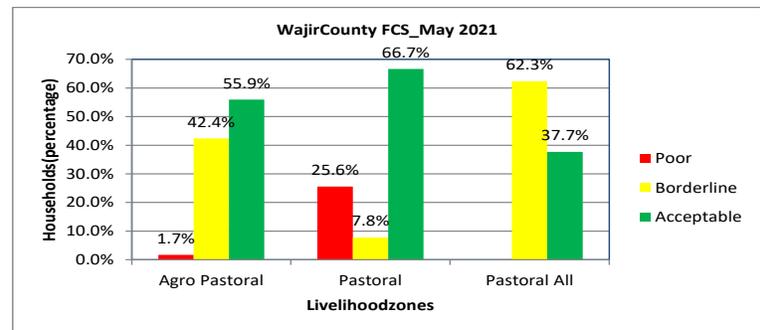


Figure 14: Food consumption Score by Livelihood zone

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children under five with moderate malnutrition declined from 25 percent in the previous month to 17.67 percent in the month under review. This improvement in nutrition for children under five was due to improved milk production and consumption.
- The number of children under five with moderate malnutrition is likely to increase in the coming months due to in-migration of livestock which will in turn deplete the little pasture and browse available.

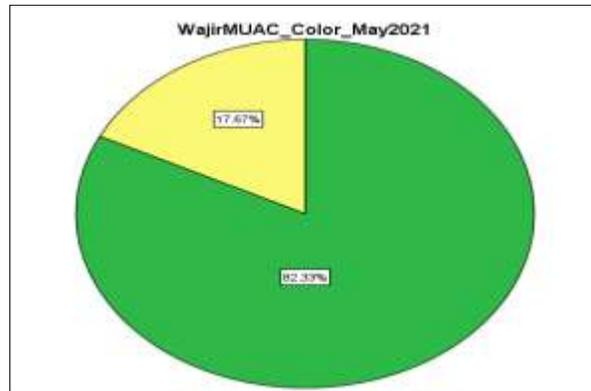


Figure 15: Malnutrition Trend in the County

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. The number of COVID-19 cases as at 31st May 2021 was 97 with five (5) confirmed fatalities.

5.4 COPING STRATEGY INDEXES

5.4.1: Reduced coping strategy index(rCSI)

- Coping strategy index largely remained the same as the previous month with a score of 9.4.
- Households in Pastoral All and Pastoral Livelihood Zones employed more coping strategy with an index of 13.7 and 9.3 respectively. Households in Agro-Pastoral Livelihood Zone applied the least coping strategies at 3.8.
- 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.

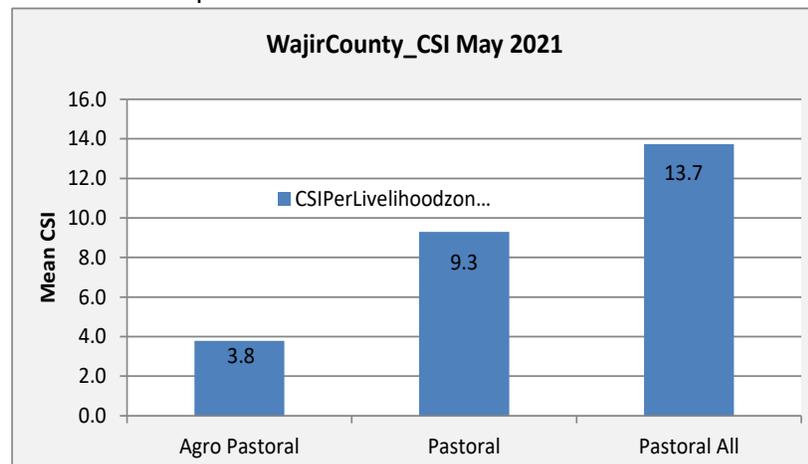


Figure 16: Coping Strategy indexes

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 Non-food interventions.

- Sustainable food system Program by the World Food Programme (WFP) targeting 4,667 households spread in 41 sites across the County-Ongoing
- Community health education and advocacy
- Routine Vitamin A supplementation and outreaches
- Door to door polio immunization campaign across the county

6.2 Food Aid.

- There was no distribution of relief food in May 2021 by both the national and County governments.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- There were no reported incidents of insecurity during the month under review. However, there is the need to undertake community peace dialogues, especially in areas bordering the neighboring counties of Garissa, Isiolo and Marsabit counties so as to mitigate and prevent resource-based conflicts.

7.2 Migration

- In-migration of livestock from Garissa and Isiolo Counties towards Wajir South and Wajir West were reported during the month under review. There is also migration within the sub-counties to areas that received sufficient rains in search of pasture, browse and water.

7.3 Food security prognosis/forecasts

- According to the Kenya Meteorological Department, the June 2021 weather outlook indicates that most parts of the County will be generally dry and sunny.
- Condition of pasture and browse will likely deteriorate in the coming months due to poor regeneration and in-migration of livestock to the areas that have pasture, browse and water.
- Based on Sussex Vegetation Outlook, the 3-month VCI forecast indicates moderate vegetation deficit in the County with a score of 31.03. Eldas and Wajir West sub-counties are projected to have the most deficits, followed by Wajir South.
- Grazing distance to water sources is expected to increase as the little pasture and browse will likely be depleted in the coming months.
- Milk availability and accessibility will likely decline due to increased trekking distance which will in turn weaken the livestock body condition.
- Prices of milk are likely increase as the production decreases.
- Malnutrition level will likely increase due to low milk production and consumption.
- Livestock body condition will likely deteriorate due to increased trekking distance, poor forage and depletion of water sources.
- Prices of livestock are expected to decline due poor market attributed to low demand and high supply.
- Unfavourable Terms of Trade would likely be witnessed, thus affecting the purchasing power of pastoral households.
- There is the risk of resource-based conflicts in areas with better forage due to in-migration from the neighbouring counties of Garissa, Isiolo and Marsabit. There is therefore the need for regular community peace dialogues to prevent and mitigate potential conflicts.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Health & Nutrition.

- Sensitization and creation of awareness campaigns on COVID-19 through proper messaging and community engagements-Ongoing
- Monitoring of Livestock diseases across the livelihood zones.
- Conduct sensitization and promotion of hygiene practice in providing essential services such as soap and sanitizers
- Preposition of sanitation, health and nutrition commodities and distribution
- Scaling up water, hygiene and sanitation interventions

Livestock Sector.

- Livestock disease surveillance
- Vaccination

Water Sector.

- Drilling and excavation of water pans
- Water treatment

Peace and Security:

- Identify conflict hotspots areas for timely response
- Strengthening conflict early warning systems
- Facilitate regular community peace dialogues to mitigate and prevent resource-based conflicts