



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

EW APRIL PHASE 2020

Drought Status: **NORMAL**



**Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification
Biophysical Indicators**

Rainfall.

Wajir county experienced light to moderate rainfall in the month under review, though the county was dry at the start over most parts of the county.

Vegetation condition:

Currently, VCI showed vegetation greenness above normal with a value of 58.8 as compared to previous score of 63.45, This indicated a slight decline in vegetation with no significant changes on vegetation across the livelihood zones, while the rest of the sub-counties depicted vegetation greenness above normal.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production indicators:

- Livestock body condition was still good across the county, except formal/Informal livelihood zones that indicated fair to poor condition, No migrations reported and decrease in milk production.

Access indicators

- Favourable terms of trade was reported, increase in maize prices and Reduced Trekking distance to water source, slight decrease in milk consumption

Early Warning Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Normal	Improving
Pastoral cattle	Normal	Improving
Pastoral-all species	Normal	Improving
Pastoral camel	Normal	Improving
Informal employment	Normal	Improving
County	Normal	Improving
Biophysical Indicators	value	Worsening
Rainfall (% of Normal)	53	80 -120
VCI-3Month	58.8	>35
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Good	Normal
Crop production	Fair	Good
Milk production	1.8	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death due to drought	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	67	>66
Milk consumption	1.3	>3
Return Distance to water source	3.7	<5 Km

<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 ▪ A long dry spelnd 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

- Wajir county started with a dry weather condition across the livelihood zones, with light to moderate rainfall experienced with isolated heavy rainfall in Bute, Buna, and Hadado recording 140.9mm, 139mm and 58.8mm of rainfall respectively, while the rest of the areas marked below-average precipitation.

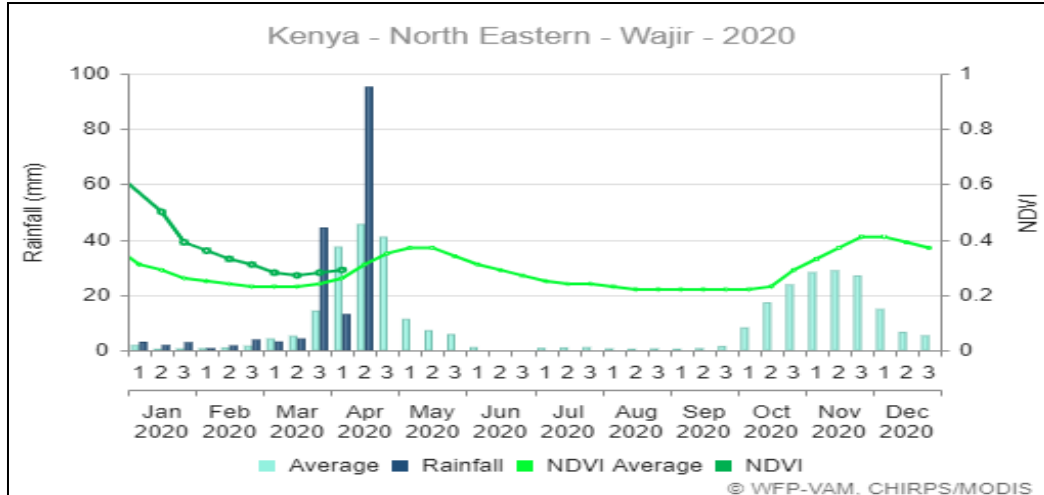


Figure 1: Rainfall Source: WFP-VAM/CHIRPS/UCSB

1.1.1 Amount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

- During the month it began with a dry weather condition over most parts of the county, though experienced light to moderate rainfall in parts of Bute, Buna, gurar, habaswein and hadado. The distribution in both time and space was poor across the livelihood zones.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

Currently, average vegetation cover indexes in the county remained the same showing vegetation greenness above normal with a score of 58.8 as compared to previous month value of 63.45; this indicated a slight decline in vegetation but with no significant changes, while all other sub-counties depicted vegetation greenness above normal. This is expected to improve due to the ongoing rainfall in the county.

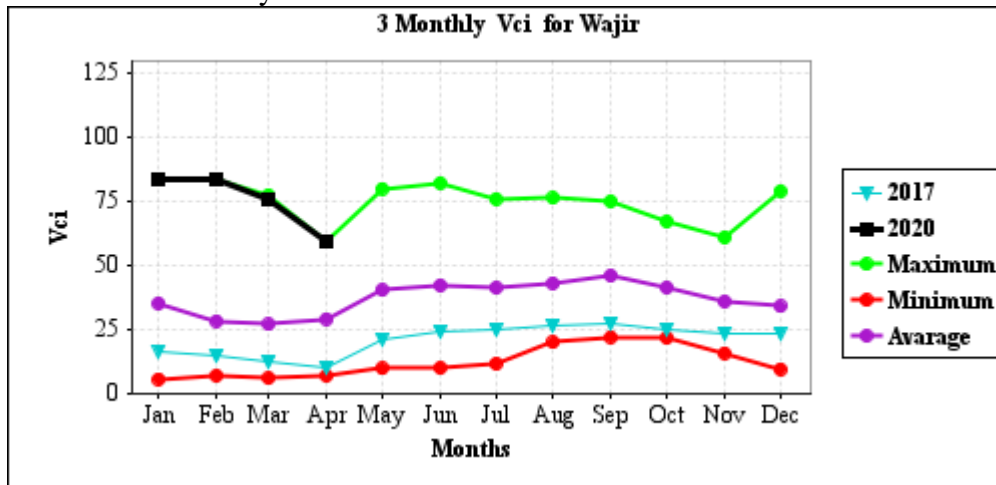


Figure 2: A chart of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir during the month of April 2020.

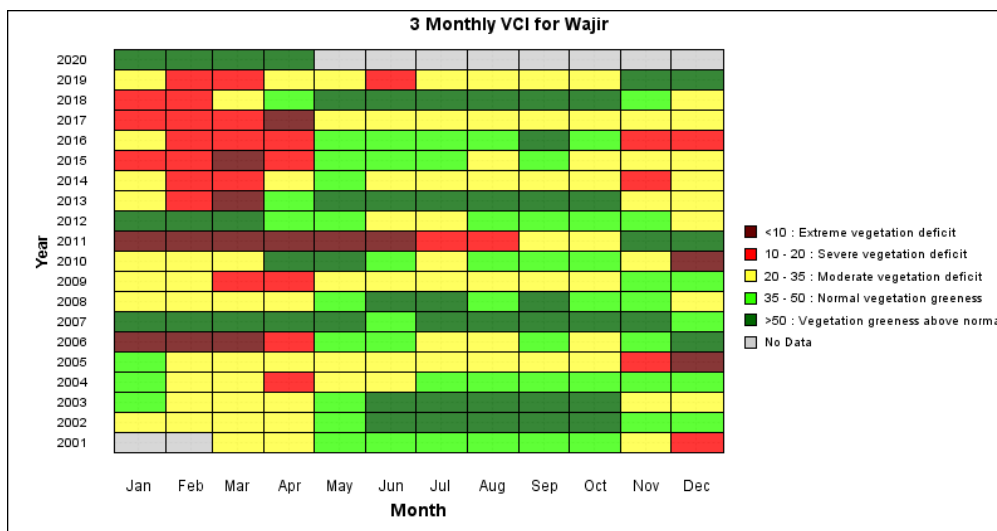


Figure 3: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir during the month of April 2020.

2.1.2 Pasture

- Currently, Pasture condition across the livelihood zones ranges between good to fair, where most of the pastoralist reported to be good while few others recorded to be fair in the county.
- Pasture condition remained the same as compared to the previous month; this is due to adequate pasture recorded during OND, 2019 and current rainfall that improved the situation in the county.

- Available pasture is expected to last for more than three to four months as a result of available pasture and on-going rainfall that is expected to regenerate pasture.
- Quality and Quantity of pasture is good across the livelihood zones.
- No constraints reported during the month under review.
- All the livelihood zones across the county recorded high proportion of pasture except few areas that was destroyed by bush fire.

2.1.3 Browse

- Browse condition ranges between good to fair across the livelihood zones except Pastoral all species in Wajir West and Eldas sub-county that are in fair condition.
- In comparison to previous month browse situation remained to be the same due to the ongoing rainfall that regenerated browse and previously available browse.
- Available browse is likely to last for the next two to three month due to the ongoing rainfall that will improve browse.
- No constraints recorded during the month under review.
- Quality and Quantity of browse condition across the livelihood zones are good to fair.

2.2 Water Source

2.2.1 Sources

- Main water sources utilized in the county by both human and livestock are Water pans, boreholes, shallow well and lagas, where most of the pastoralist are still using Water pan, borehole, shallow well, except few that are using lagas and springs. Some few water pans in Wajir North, Eldas and parts of Wajir East are recharged fully.
- Currently, In comparison to previous month the condition of water in the county remained the same across the livelihood zones, except few water pans that are recharged during the ongoing rainfall.
- Available water is likely to last for more than three month due to the available water and recharge of water pans attributed to the ongoing rainfall.

Household access and Utilization

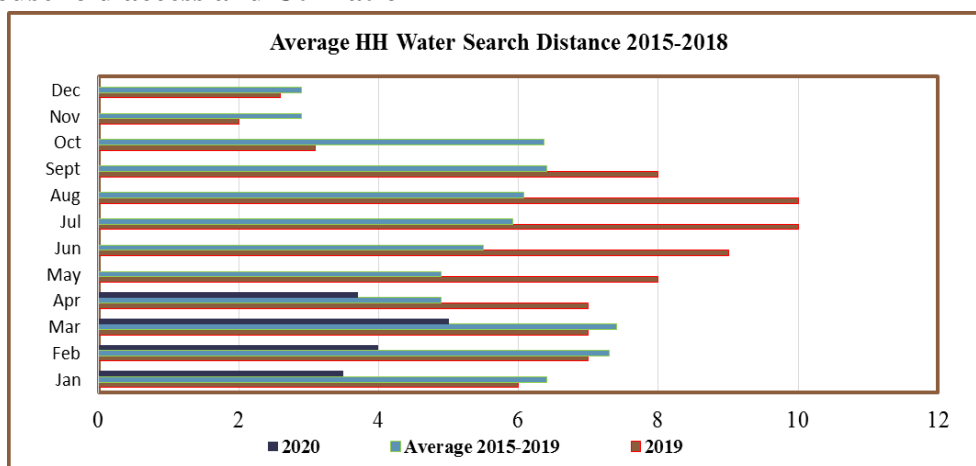


Figure 4: Current Return Distance to Water Sources against 2015-2019 average

- Current average return distance from household to water sources decreased from 5.0km in March 2020 to 3.7km in the month under review due to slight to moderate rainfall recorded thus recharged some water pans and lagas.
- Current average household return distance to water source is below the long-term average and previous month average due to adequate water available.
- Average water consumption per person per day is normal as compared to previous month due to sufficient water available, This is normal at this time of the year.
- The proportion of households that treat water is too with only some few households in urban using aqua tabs while others few others use boiling methods.

2.2.2 Livestock access

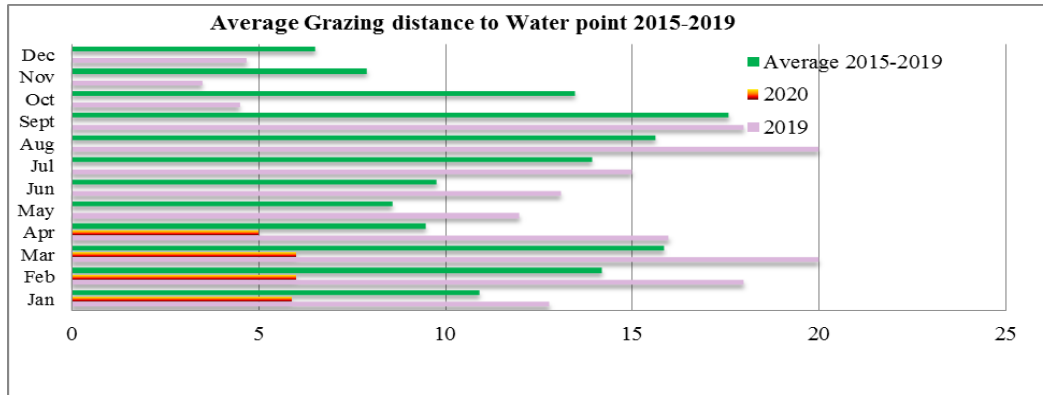


Figure 5: Current Distance from Grazing to Water Sources against 2015-2019 average

- Currently, average trekking distance from grazing area to water points slightly decreased from 6.0km in march to 5.0km in the month under review due to slight regeneration of pasture and browse attributed to moderate rainfall recorded, thus reduced trekking distance.
- Current average grazing distance to water points are below the long term average and previous year's month average due to available pasture, browse and water attributed to enhanced rainfall witnessed during OND 2019 and ongoing rainfall.
- Trend and frequency of watering livestock by species varies where for goat is 1-2 days, cattle-every one day and Camel 7-14 days.
- Current distance from grazing to water sources varies according to livelihood zones, where highest was still reported in Pastoral all species in Wajir West, Pastoral Cattle in Wajir South and lowest recorded 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

- Livestock body situation across the livelihood zones remained to be good, except for cattle and sheep in the formal/Informal settlement that indicated to be fair in the entire county due to poor regeneration of pasture and browse.

- In comparison to previous month, livestock body situation remained to be good to fair as a result of adequate pasture and water that led to reduced trekking distance of livestock across the county.
- When compared to similar previous period, current livestock body situation are above normal due to sufficient pasture and water attributed to enhanced rainfall during OND, 2019 and on-going rainfall.
- The body situation of livestock is expected to remain good across the livelihood zones due to adequate pasture and browse available in the county. This is normal at this time of the year.
- All the livelihood zones across the county are in good condition, except formal/Informal livelihood zones that indicated to be fair.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Confirmed cases of CCPP, PPR and LSD still persist and there is Suspected Cases of sudden death in camel that was reported some parts of the county.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- Current milk production per household per days decreased from 2.3litres in March 2020 to 1.8 litres in the month under review, since most of the female large stock have been served and are yet to calf.
- Current average Milk production per household per day is equals to the long term average and previous month average as a result of available milk attributed to good pasture, browse and water.
- The trend and Quantity of milk production is normal for this time of the year as opposed to the same period due to available vegetation and water in the county.
- Highest livestock producing milk in the livelihood zones was reported in Pastoral Camel, Pastoral Cattle and Pastoral All species because camel and Cattle are the species that produce milk and Lowest producing was recorded in agro-pastoral and Pastoral all species.

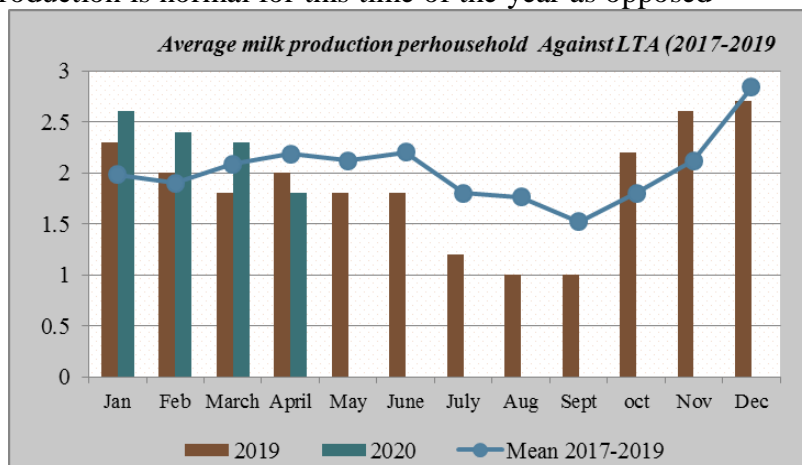


Figure 6: A graph showing current average milk production for Wajir against (2017-2019) mean

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. Most of the farmers have prepared their land and planted.

IMPLICATION OF THE ABOVE INDICATORS TO FOOD SECURITY

- Available vegetation and water will improve livestock body condition thus improve the purchasing power of the households.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

Cattle Prices

- Currently, average price of four-year-old medium size Cattle slight increase from kshs 23,692 to 24,272 due to high demand and low supply in the market attributed to good livestock body condition.
- In comparison to previous month average price of cattle increased as a result of high demand in the market and low supply, this is due to pastoralist households holding their herds.
- Current average price of cattle is above the long-term average and previous year's average as a result of good livestock body condition attributed to good market.
- Highest average prices were reported in the urban areas and lowest recorded in the rural areas.

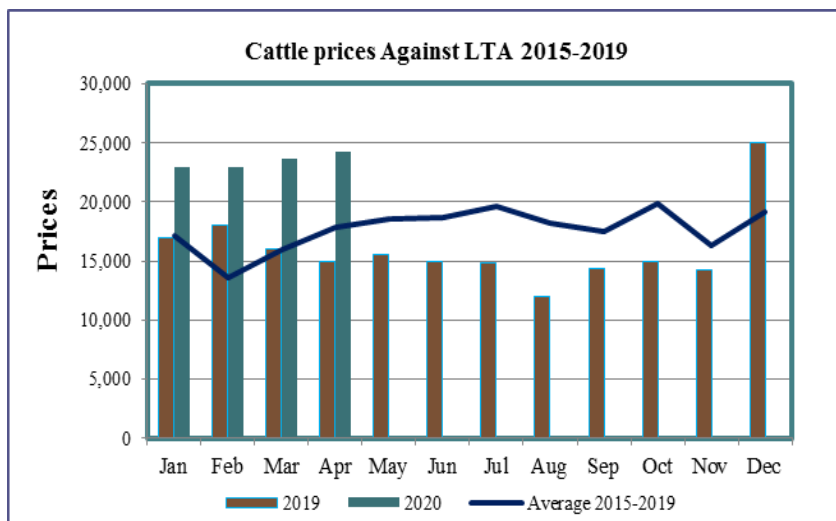


Figure 7: Current cattle prices against LTA 2015-2019

4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- Current average prices of goat increased from kshs 3,305 in March 2020 to 3,992 in the month under review due to low supply in the market and high demand, this is due to pastoral households not bringing their livestock to the market.
- Current average prices are above long-term average but below previous year's average as compared to normal of kshs.3086 for the LTA and kshs 3200 for the previous month year price.
- The highest prices of livestock were reported in wajir town and lowest in the rural area.

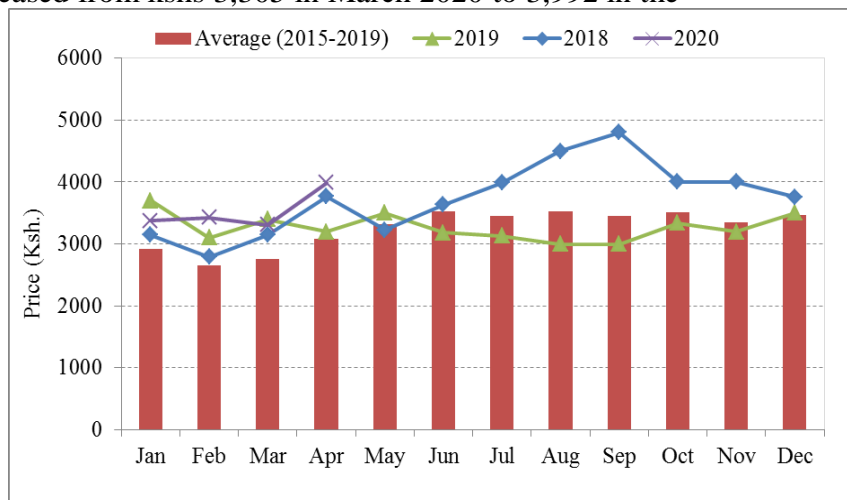


Figure 8: Current Goat prices against LTA of 2015-2019

4.1.3 Camel price

- Current average price of four-year-old Camel decreased from 39,500 in March 2020 to 29,973 in the month under review due to low demand in the market and high supply in the market.
- Current average price of four year old camel is below the long term average and previous year's month average price due to low demand in the market.
- Livelihood zones with the highest prices of camel were recorded in Wajir town and lowest reported at the rural due to the main market in town.

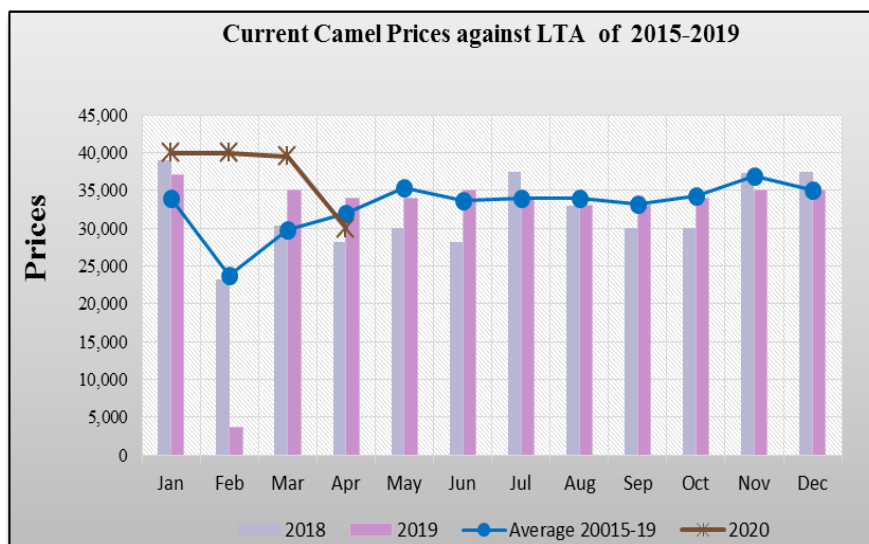


Figure 9: Current Camel Prices against LTA of 2015-2019

4.2 CROP PRICE

4.2.1 Maize

- Currently, average maize prices increased significantly from kshs 55 in March 2020 to kshs 59 in the month under, due to low supply in the market and high demand, since most of the commodities are outsourced from other markets.
- Currently, average prices are above the long term average and previous years prices.
- The livelihood with the highest prices was recorded in the rural areas and lowest was recorded in the urban areas.

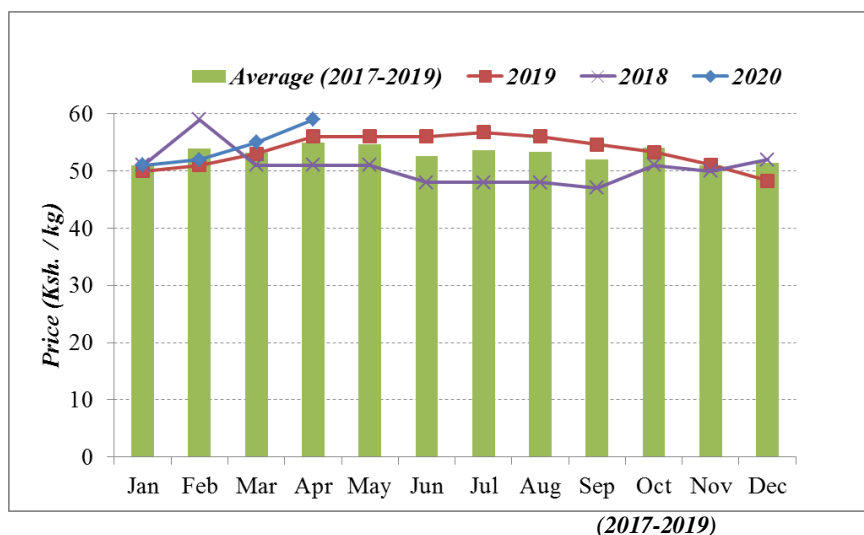


Figure 10: Current maize prices against LTA

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 zone.

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

- Currently, the terms of Trade increased from 60kg in March 2020 to 67kg in the month under review due to increase in maize price. This indicates that the terms of trade for the county is still favourable and this is normal at this time of the year.
- Currently, the term of trade is above the long-term average and previous year's month average.
- 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.

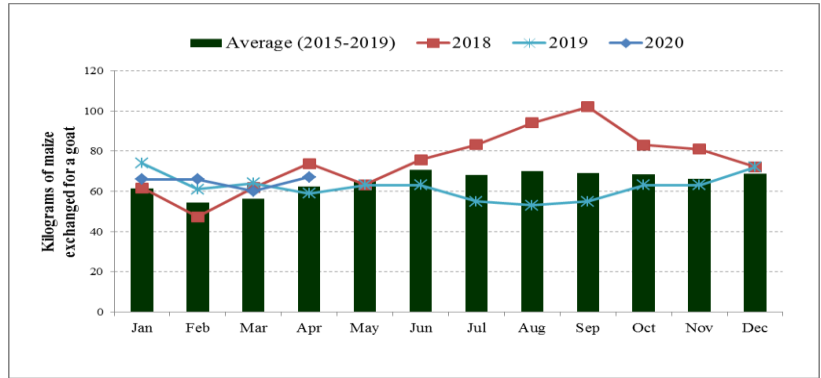


Figure11: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long-term (2015-2019)

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- Currently, average milk consumption per household per day decreased from 1.5 litres in March 2020 to 1.3 litres in the month under review due to low milk production since most of the female large stock have been served and are yet to calf.
- 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 below the long-term average and previous year average.
- Trend and Quantity of milk consumption at household is still normal.

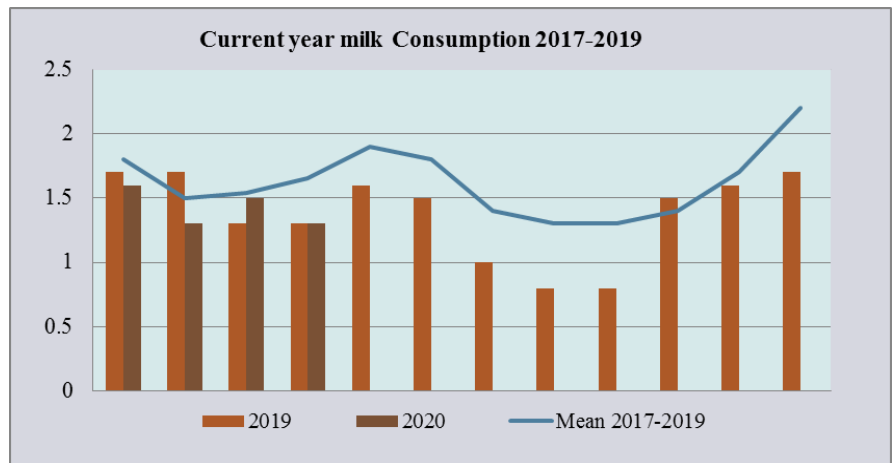


Figure12: A graph of current year milk consumption against the long-term (2017-2019)

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 Non-food interventions.-Ongoing

- Sustainable food system Program by World Food Program-Ongoing

6.2 Food Aid.

- Relief food distributed by the National Government and County government.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- Incidence of Terror attack was reported that caused loss of life and damages during the month under review.
- Positive Cases of Covid 19 was also report in the County.

7.2 Migration

- Most of the livestock are within their grazing zones. No Migrations reported in the entire county.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- Range land condition is likely to improve due to the ongoing rainfall across the county.
- Pasture and browse condition are expected to regenerate and improve during the ongoing long rains 2020.
- Recharge of water points is likely to be good due to the long rains.
- Prices of food commodities are expected to be high due to the road cut and pandemics of covid 19 in the country.
- Availability and accessibility of milk is likely to be good thus improve nutrition status of child under-fives.
- Prices of livestock in the county are likely to be poor due to the current pandemics affecting the traders..
- Households purchasing power are likely to decline due to the lockdown caused by the pandemic diseases.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Health& Nutrition.

- Provision of Nutrition Supplements(Super-cereals and RUSF) -on-going.
- Active Case finding on Imam-on-going.
- Routine Disease Surveillance conducted.
- Sensitization and creating awareness on the pandemic disease (Covid 19).
- Promotion of hygiene in towns and villages.

Livestock Sector.

- Vaccination and treatment of livestock on PPR and CCPP.
- Livestock disease Surveillance by the department of Livestock-On-going

Water Sector.

- Provision of water treatment chemicals
- Construction of underground water tank-On-going