

**National Drought Management Authority
WAJIR COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR OCTOBER 2019**



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



OCTOBER PHASE 2019



Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

Rainfall.

Most parts of the county experienced above average rainfall during the month of October 2019. The start of the seasonal rains (onset) was slightly earlier than expected. The rainfall was characterized by heavy storms that led to floods especially Wajir North, Except Wajir West and Parts of Wajir South experienced below Normal rainfall.

Vegetation condition:

Current vegetation cover indexes for the county showed moderate vegetation deficit with a score of 30.88 as compared to previous figure of 29.37. All livelihood zones in the county indicated Normal and moderate vegetation except Wajir West, with severe vegetation deficit with a score of 17.33. Regeneration of pasture and browse was reported.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production indicators:

- Livestock body condition in all species is fair except Wajir West and Wajir South that are in Fair to poor but on an improving trend in the entire county, significant increase in milk production, Migration within the sub-counties reported, Pasture and browse witnessed.

Access indicators

- Poor market prices, unfavourable terms of trade, slight increase in milk consumption, stable maize prices, Reduced trekking distance.

Utilization Indicators

- Percentage of children under five at risk of malnutrition decreased from 23.0% in September to 18.4 percent in the month under review, indicating slight improvement in malnutrition rate but still on the rise as compared to normal. Pastoral all species employing more coping as compared to previous month while others livelihood zones employed less coping strategy.

Early Warning Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Normal	Improving
Pastoral cattle	Alert	Improving
Pastoral-all species	Alarm	Improving
Pastoral camel	Normal	Improving
Informal employment	Normal	Improving
County	Alert	Improving
Biophysical Indicators	value	Worsening
Rainfall (% of Normal)	80 mm	80 -120
VCI-3Month	30.88	>35
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Fair-poor	Normal
Crop production	Poor	Good
Milk Production	2.2	>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)	63	>66
Milk Consumption	1.5	>3
Return Distance to water source	3.1	<5 Km
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	18.4	<6.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	6.45	<0.95

<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 spell ▪ Land 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

- Most parts of the county experienced above average rainfall during the month of October, except Wajir West and some parts of Wajir South received below normal rainfall. The rainfall was characterized by heavy storms that led to floods especially in Wajir North, where Gurar, Buna and Khorof Harer recorded the highest rainfall with 110.1mm,87.0mm and 70.6 mm respectively, while lowest was recorded in Wajir West and Wajir South, where Diff and *Habaswein* recorded less than 30mm. Some parts of the county recorded monthly rainfall totals that exceeded 200 percent of the October monthly Long-Term Means (LTMs) of Wajir town.

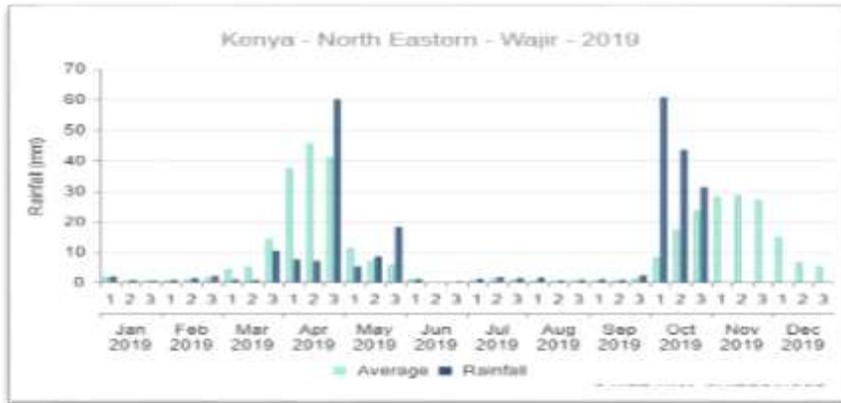


Figure 1: Rainfall Source: WFP-Vam-Chirps/UCSB

1.1.1 Amount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

- Most parts of the county experienced above average rainfall, except Wajir West and Parts of Wajir South that received below normal rainfall. It was characterised by wet weather conditions during the month of October 2019. The start of the seasonal rains (onset) was slightly earlier than expected, the distribution in both time and Space varies according to livelihood zones where Agro-pastoral in Wajir North, Pastoral Camel in East, Tarbaj and Eldas are in good, while Pastoral Cattle in Wajir South and Pastoral all species in Wajir West are in fair to poor condition. Gurar, Buna and Khorof Harer recorded the highest rainfall with 110.1mm,87.0mm and 70.6 mm respectively, while lowest was recorded in Wajir West and Wajir South, where Diff and *Habaswein* recorded less than 30mm, although Some parts of the county recorded monthly rainfall totals that exceeded 200 percent of the October monthly Long-Term Means (LTMs) of Wajir town.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

Current vegetation cover indexes for the county indicated moderate vegetation with a value of 30.88 as opposed to a score of 29.37, with only Wajir West showing severe vegetation deficit, while all other sub-counties reported moderate and Normal vegetation deficit, showing an improvement in vegetation. The vegetation condition is expected to improve significantly, as the rains are ongoing.

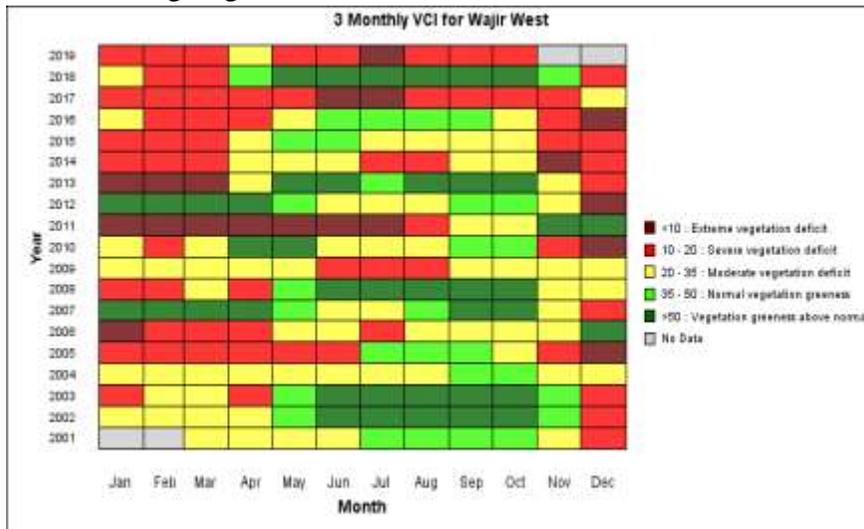


Figure 2: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir during the month of October 2019.

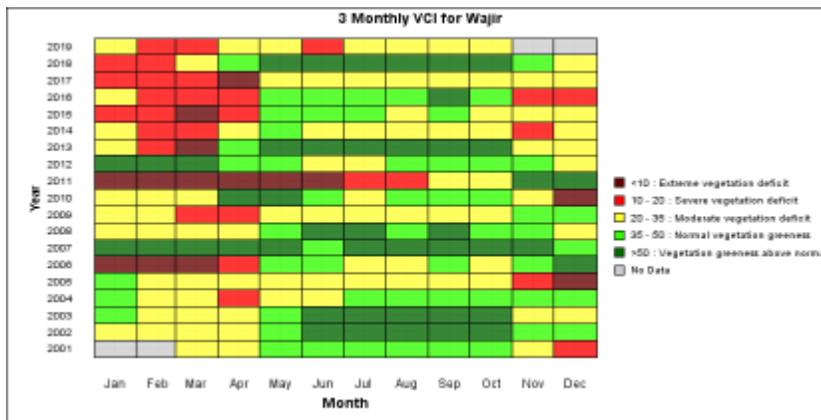


Figure 3: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir West during the month of October 2019.

2.1.2 Pasture

- Pasture condition varies according to livelihood zones, where Wajir North, Wajir East and Tarbaj was reported to be in good condition, whereas Eldas, Wajir South and Wajir West ranges between Fair to poor, this is due to regeneration of pasture
- Current Pasture condition improved as compared to previous month due to regeneration of pasture attributed to the performance of the short rains 2019.
- Available pasture will likely last for long as regeneration is ongoing and rains are continuing,

- Highest proportion of pasture available was reported in Agro-pastoral and Pastoral Camel livelihood zones due to sufficient rains reported, while lowest was reported in Pastoral All species and Pastoral cattle livelihood zones due to little rains received.
- No constraints reported during the month under review.
- Highest pasture was reported in Agro-pastoral, Pastoral Camel and Tarbaj while lowest was recorded in Pastoral All species and Pastoral Cattle livelihood zones.

2.1.3 Browse

- Current browse condition was reported to be fair to good in all livelihood zones, except Wajir West and Parts of Wajir South which to be poor due insufficient rains witnessed during the month under review
- Browse condition has significantly improved in most parts of the county as compared to previous months due to sufficient rains received during OND, except Wajir West and Parts of Wajir South that received little rainfall, which reported to be fair to poor. The available browse is expected to last for long as the rains continues.
- No constraints recorded during the month under review.
- Browse varies according to livelihood zones, where high proportion of browse was reported in Wajir North, Wajir East and Tarbaj and Lowest proportion was recorded in Wajir West, Wajir South and Eldas.

2.2 Water Source

2.2.1 Sources

- Currently, the main water sources in use by both human and livestock are open water sources, lagas and shallow well, while few others depend on water pans that are recharged due to the sufficient rains received during OND 2019.
- Currently, the water situation in all the livelihood zones has significantly improved as compared to previous month due to high recharge of water pans attributed to adequate rainfall witnessed during the month, except few parts of Pastoral all species in Wajir West and Pastoral cattle in Wajir South that received little rainfall.
- Available water is likely to last for a period of 3 to 4 months in all livelihood zones.
- Currently most of the Majority of the pastoralists are still using boreholes and Water Trucking in the rural areas while others depend on shallow wells in the urban areas.
- Main water source employed by both human and livestock are across the livelihood zones was borehole, while the remaining depend on shallow wells and water trucking, which is not normal at this particular time of the year, normally water pan is always the main water sources.

2.2.2 Household access and Utilization.

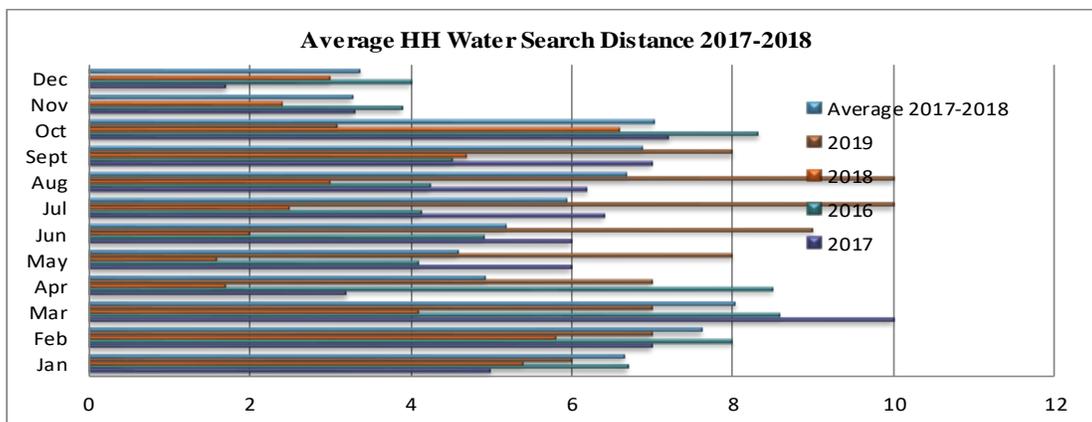


Figure 4: Current Return Distance to Water Sources Against 2016-2017 average

- Current average return distance from household to water point significantly decreased from 8km in September to 3.1km in the month under review due to full recharge of water pans attributed to above average rainfall received in the county.
- Current average household return distance is below the long term average and previous month average; this is due to sufficient rainfall received during the month of October 2019.
- Average water consumption per person per day is normal as compared to previous month due to available water. This is normal at this time of the year.
- The proportion of households that treat water is minimal with only some few households in urban towns using aqua tabs while others few others use boiling methods.

2.2.3 Livestock access

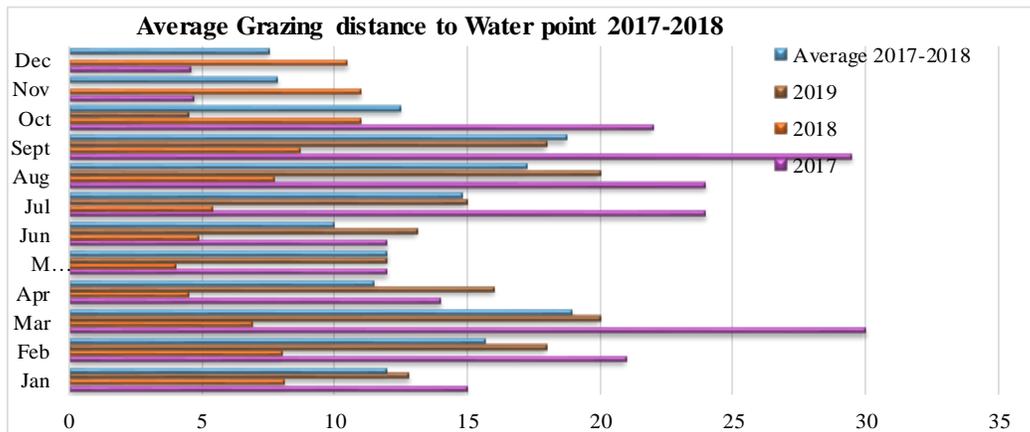


Figure 5: Current Distance from Grazing to Water Sources Against 2016-2017 average

- Currently, Livestock average distance from grazing area to water points has significantly decreased from 20km in September to 4.5km in the month under review, due to above normal rainfall received during the month, thus attributed to recharge of all water pans, lagas, springs and shallow wells.
- Current distance from grazing area to water sources has significantly decreased as compared to previous month due to adequate rains witnessed during the month, which in turn fully recharged all water pans, lagas, shallow wells and springs.
- The Trend and frequency of watering interval for livestock significantly decreased as compared to previous month, due fully recharge of water pans, shallow wells, lagas and boreholes.
- Current return distance from grazing area to water points is significantly below the long-term average and previous month year average due to fully recharge of water pans, lagas and springs, thus reduced distance.
- Current distance from grazing to water sources varies according to livelihood zones, where highest was 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

- Currently, livestock body condition are fair in all livelihood zones except Pastoral all species and Pastoral cattle in Wajir south which are in fair to poor condition, but on an improving Trend The body condition for cattle and sheep in Wajir West and Wajir South are in fair to poor condition, but for Camel and goat in all livelihood zones are in Fair condition.
- Current body condition of livestock for all species in the county are between fair to poor, except for cattle and small stock which are in poor to very poor condition in Wajir West, Eldas, Tarbaj and Parts of Wajir East as a result of depletion of pasture, browse, upsurge of livestock disease, increased trekking distance and unusual migration of livestock.
- Currently, the body condition of livestock in the county has improved as compared to previous month due to reduced trekking distance to water sources, regeneration of pasture and browse attributed to significant performance of the rains.
- Currently the body condition is fair as compared to similar previous period, which was fair during that time, this is normal as opposed to previous similar period.
- All the livelihood zones in the entire county are fair, except Pastoral all species in Wajir West and Pastoral Cattle in Wajir south are between fair to poor.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Reported Cases of diseases outbreak of PPR and CCPP still exist across the livelihood zones and the department is currently monitoring the condition and intervening.

3.1.3 Milk Production

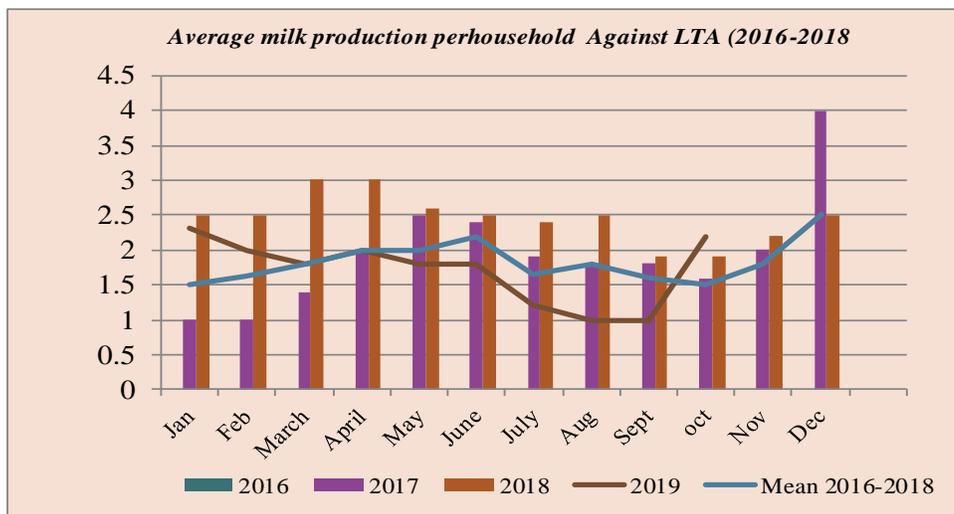


Figure 6: A graph showing current average milk production for Wajir against (2016-2018) mean

- Current average milk production per household per days recorded 2.2litres due to regeneration of pasture, browses, reduced grazing distance and improved livestock body condition.

- Current milk production increased significantly as a result of sufficient rains received, which improved pasture, browse and reduced livestock trekking distance, thus unproduced livestock body condition.
- Current average milk production per household per day increased as compared to previous month from 1.0 litres in September to 2.2litres in the month under review, due to high milk production attributed to good pasture and browse and improved livestock body condition.
- Current average Milk production per household per day was above the long-term average and previous month average due to improved pasture, browse and reduced trekking distance thus leading to high production
- The trend and Quantity of milk production is normal for this time of the year as compared to the same period as a result of adequate rains received, thus quick regeneration of pasture and browse reported.
- 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.

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, and others like Kales, Water melon. Most of the farmers have prepared their land and have planted their farms.

IMPLICATION OF THE ABOVE INDICATORS TO FOOD SECURITY

- Regeneration of pasture and browse will improve livestock condition thus improve market prices and increase milk production.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

Cattle Prices

- Current average price of four-year-old medium size Cattle slightly increased from kshs14,350 in September to 15000 in the month under review due to low supply and high demand in the market.
- Average price of cattle is below the long-term average and previous year's average due to poor market.
- Highest average prices were reported in urban centre and lowest recorded in the rural areas.

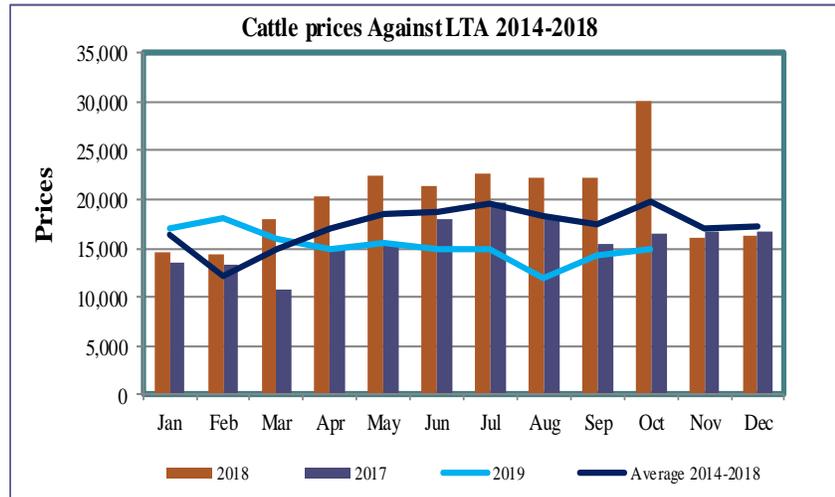


Figure 7: Current cattle prices against LTA 2014-2018

4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- Current average prices of a goat slightly increased from Kshs 3000 in September to Kshs 3,339 in the month under review due to less supply and high demand in the market.
- Current average prices are below the long-term average and previous year's average as compared to normal of Kshs. 3,508 for the LTA and Kshs 4000 for the previous month.
- The highest prices of livestock were reported in the urban areas and lowest in the rural areas.

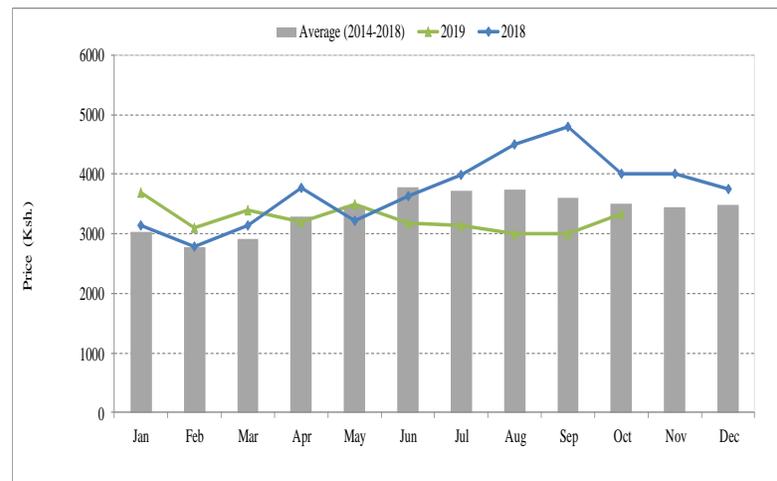
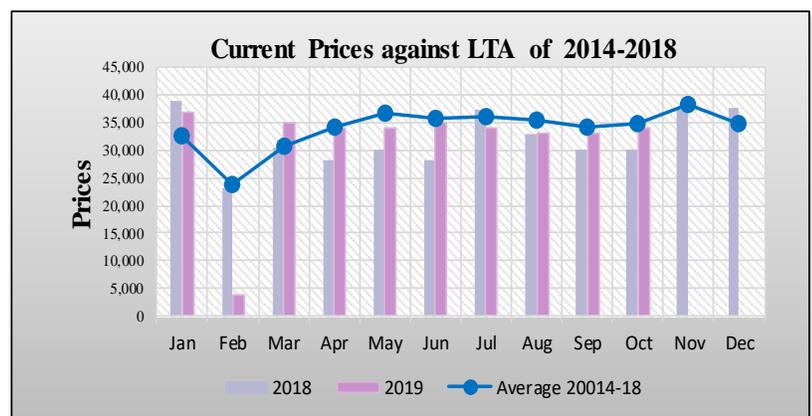


Figure 8: Current Goat prices against LTA of 2014-2018

4.1.3 Camel price

- Current average price of four-year-old Camel increase from 33,000 in September to 35,000 in the month under the month under review.
- 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: Camel price against LTA of 2014-2018

- Current average price of camel is below the long-term average and previous average prices due to poor market attributed to poor livestock body condition.

4.2 CROP PRICE

4.2.1 Maize

- Current average prices of maize remained stable as compared to previous month, with Kshs 53.3 in October and 54.6 in the month of September. this stability was due to food Aid from the national government and more supply in the market.
- Current average prices are equal to the long-term average but above previous year's month average.
- Current prices of maize remained stable due to food Aid distributed by the National government.
- The livelihood with the highest prices were recorded in the Pastoral Cattle, Pastoral all species and lowest reported in the Formal/Informal settlement.
- Prices are likely to increase as the rains continues thus affecting road transport.

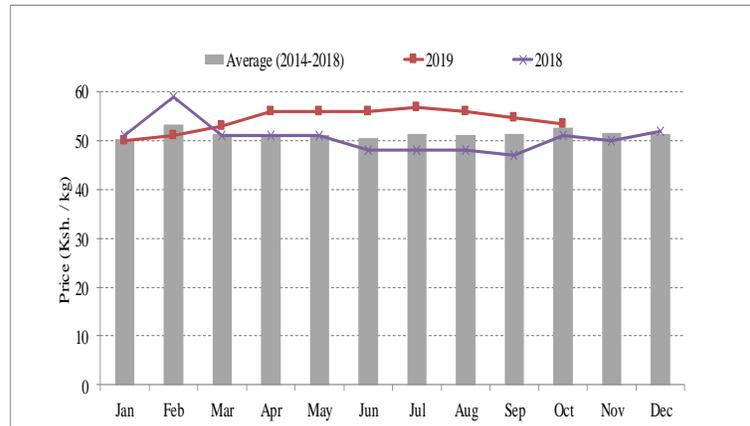


Figure 9: Current maize prices against LTA (2014-2018)

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).

- Current Terms of trade slightly increased from 55 kilograms in September to 63 kilograms in the month under review.
- Currently, 63 kilograms of maize can be exchanged from the sale of a goat compared to the long-term average of 67 Kilograms, the terms of trade were less 6 percent when compared to the long-term average.
- Current Terms of Trade is still unfavourable as compared to long-term and previous years' month average but on improving trend
- Terms of trade has been increasing from August to October 2019, due to slight increase in goat prices and stable maize price. Trend is expected to improve.

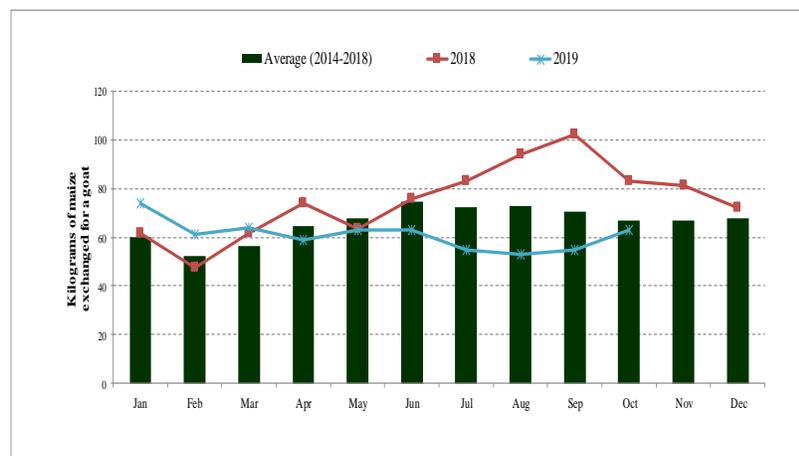


Figure 11: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long-term (2014-2018)

- Current term of trade is below the long-term average and previous year's month average as compared to previous month and previous season, though the terms of trade is still not favourable.
- Livelihood with the highest ratio was reported in Wajir Town and lowest recorded in the rural areas. This is not normal at this time of the year.

4.4 Implication of the above indicators to food security

- Low market price will lower the purchasing power of pastoral households thus affecting children under-fives.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- Average milk consumption per household per day increased from 0.8litres in September to 1.5litres in month under review as a result of sufficient rains received thus improved pasture, browse and reduced trekking distance.
- Current average milk consumption is above
- The highest livestock milk producing species are cattle and camel.
- Current average household milk consumption per household per day was above the long-term average and previous month average, which normal at this time of the year is thus making pastoral households of children under five to be food secure.
- Trend and Quantity of milk consumption at household was normal as compared to previous month as a result of improved production which is attributed sufficient rains received.

5.2 : Food Consumption Score

- Pastoral households in Wajir South and Pastoral All in Wajir West are in poor food consumption with a score of 63.3 and 23.8 as compared to previous figure of 61.1 and 21.0 respectively, while all other livelihood zones in Wajir West, Wajir North and Parts of Wajir South are in Borderline food consumption with a value of 76.2 and 54.3 respectively, this shows that the situation is still worsening.

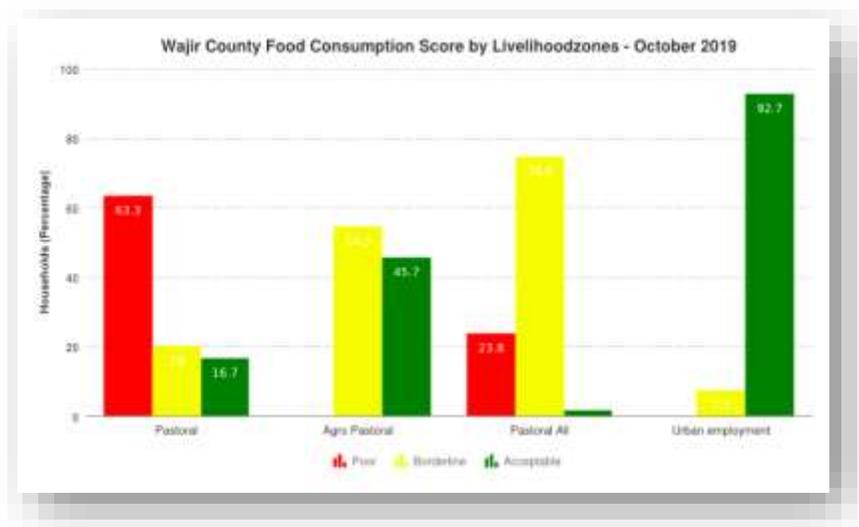
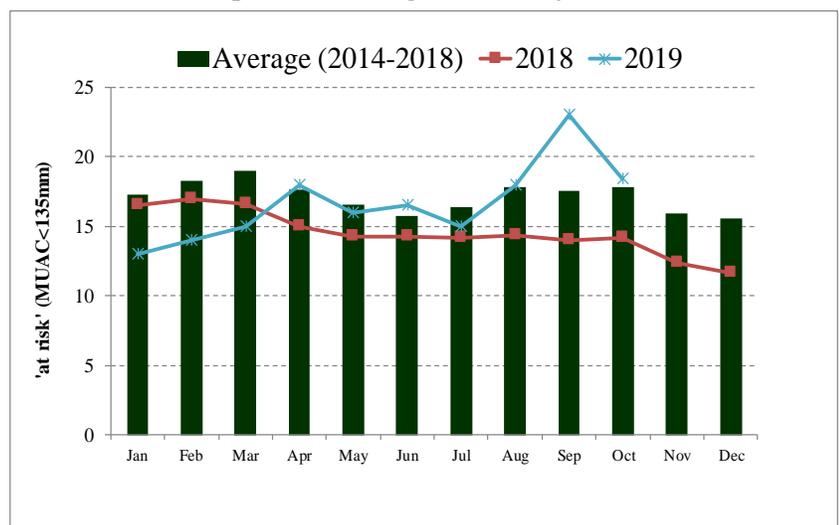


Figure 14: Food Consumption

5.3.1 Health and Nutrition Status

- In Wajir a total of 613 children (6-59months) were sampled for both girls and boys and assessed for malnutrition using MUAC Tape. From the sampled children, 18.4% were at risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135 mm) as compared to previous month figure of 23% with slight improvement due to available milk production thus improving malnutrition level in the county.



- Wajir County out of 613 children sample for both girls and boys 0.8% of children are severely affected as compared to 0.2% of the previous month

Figure 13: A Nutritional status of children between 12-59 months against (2014-18) long-Term Average

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition in the month under review showed 18.4 percent as opposed to previous month of 23.0 percent, showing a slight improvement in malnutrition, though malnutrition in the county is still on the rise across the livelihood zones. The proportion of children under five with severe category showed 0.8 percent as compared to 0.2 percent.

5.3.2 COPING STRATEGY INDEXES

- The mean CSI for the county remained the same as compared to previous month with a score of 6.45 for October and September 6.32.
- Pastoral all species employed more coping strategies as compared to previous months while Pastoral and Agro-pastoral applied less coping due to due to several interventions ongoing both National and County Government.
- Borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relative.
- Reduced the quantity of food consumed by adult/mothers
- Relied on less preferred and less expensive food

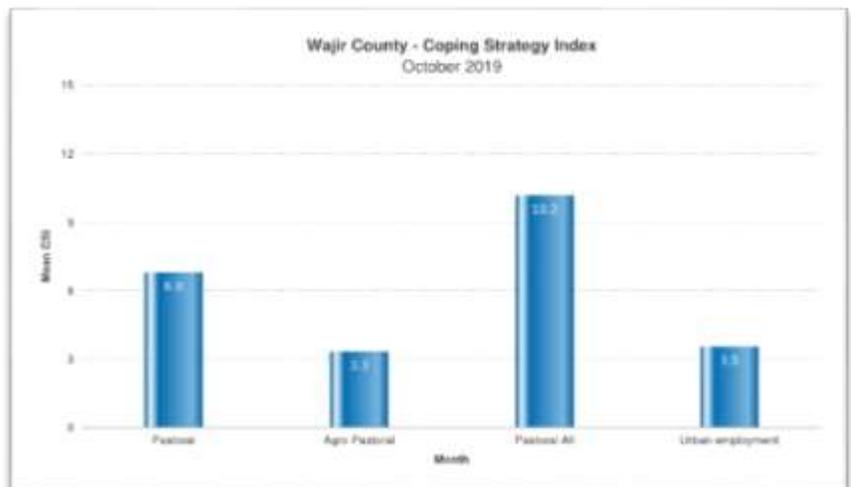


Figure14: A graph showing average (2016-2018) (coping strategy index (CSI) against the current trend

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 by National Government.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- No incidence of insecurity that was reported during the month under review.

7.2 Migration

- Most of the livestock have come back to their normal grazing zones except Wajir West and Parts of Wajir South that did not receive sufficient rainfall.
- Migration of livestock was within the county from one sub-county to the other sub-county.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- Food security situation is expected to improve further due to cumulative effects of rainfall that was well distributed in terms of time and space except parts of Wajir South and Wajir West.
- Foliage and pasture conditions are expected to improve further, thus improving calving, kidding and lambing rate hence increase milk production.
- Rangeland conditions are expected to improve further as the rainfall season continues.
- Improved milk production will likely be realized hence improve malnutrition rate in the county.
- Most of the open water sources are fully recharged thus household and livestock trekking distances will reduce further. However, flooded boreholes, flooded shallow wells, destroyed cattle trough and breached water pans might affect water access and utilization for both household and livestock.
- Livestock body conditions are likely to improve further due to further regeneration of pasture and browse.
- Prices of livestock will likely increase due to good livestock body condition, whereas prices of food commodities are expected to increase due to road network since most of our produces come from outside market

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Health& Nutrition.

- Support of Nutrition outreach sites by Save The children and Kenya Red Cross by 68 centres-ongoing
- Monitoring of malnutrition by health and Nutrition Department-ongoing
- Routine Surveillance of diseases by County Government and other Stakeholders-Ongoing

Livestock Sector.

- Livestock disease Surveillance by the department-ongoing
- Support and distributed 10640 bags of drought pellets to all the sub-counties by NDMA.

- Vaccination of Livestock disease across the livelihood zones by NDMA was conducted

Water Sector.

- Distributed fast moving spare parts to 15 strategic boreholes by NDMA was conducted during the month
- Provision of four submersible pumps to Qarurah, Biyamathow, Bojigaras and Mansa boreholes by NDMA was done during the month.