

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



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



**SEPTEMBER EW PHASE 2019**



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

Several parts of the county experienced mainly sunny and dry weather conditions in September 2019. However, a few parts of Wajir North experienced some rainfall amounts during the last four days of the month.

**Vegetation condition:**

Currently, average vegetation cover indexes for the county showed moderate vegetation deficit with a score of 29.37 as compared to previous value of 23.1, With Wajir west indicating severe vegetation deficit while all other sub-counties recorded moderate vegetation deficit. Pasture condition is poor to very poor, browse is fair to poor in the entire county.

**Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)**

**Production indicators:**

- Livestock body condition in all species is fair to poor with exception of cattle and small stock in some pockets depicted very poor condition, significant decline in milk production, Unusual migration of livestock reported, Quick depletion of Pasture and browse witnessed.

**Access indicators**

- Slight decrease in household and livestock trekking distance reported, All water pans are dry, milk consumption of 0.8litres hence below normal, unfavourable terms of trade due to poor livestock prices and stable maize price and poor

**Early Warning Phase Classification**

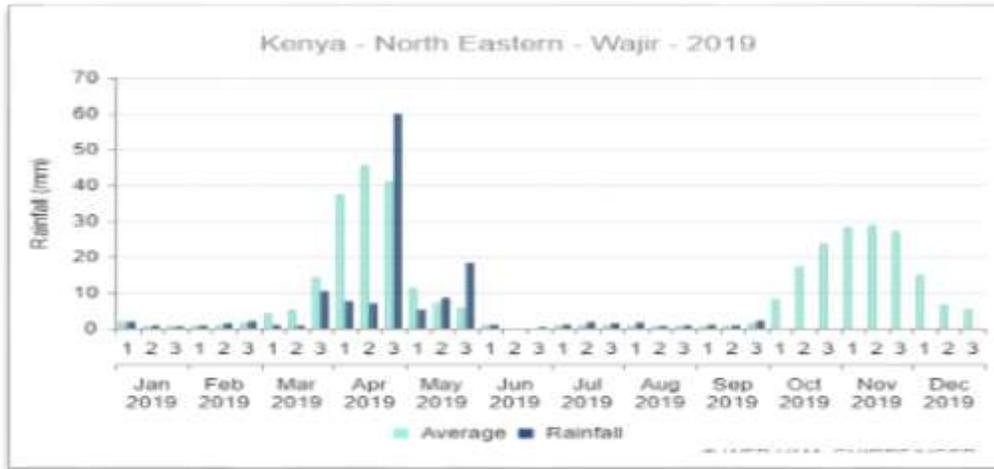
Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral cattle	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral-all species	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral camel	Alarm	Worsening
Informal employment	Alarm	Worsening
County	Alarm	Worsening
<b>Biophysical Indicators</b>	<b>value</b>	<b>Worsening</b>
Rainfall (% of Normal)	2.0mm	80 -120
VCI-3Month	29.0	>35
<b>Production indicators</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Normal</b>
Livestock Body Condition	Fair-poor	Normal
Crop production	Poor	Good
Milk Production	1.0	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	unusual	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death due to drought	No death
<b>Access Indicators</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Normal</b>
Terms of Trade (ToT)	55	>66
Milk Consumption	0.8	>3
Return Distance to water source	8	<5 Km
<b>Utilization indicators</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Normal</b>
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	23	<6.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	7.83	<0.95

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short water harvest</li> <li>• Short dry spell</li> <li>• Reduced milk yields</li> <li>• Increased feed stocks</li> <li>• Migration</li> <li>• Low productivity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drought Warning</li> <li>• Long dry spells</li> <li>• High milk harvest</li> <li>• Breeding period</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High milk harvest</li> <li>• High dry spell</li> <li>• Low productivity</li> <li>• Increased feed stocks</li> <li>• Migration</li> <li>• High productivity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short rain</li> <li>• Prolonged dry</li> <li>• High milk harvest</li> <li>• Migration</li> </ul>

## 1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITION

### 1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- Several parts of the county experienced mainly sunny and dry weather conditions in September 2019. However, a few parts of Wajir North experienced some rainfall amounts during the last four days of the month. Some parts recorded rainfall that exceeded 100 percent of Wajir town September Long-Term Means (LTMs).



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

#### 1.1.1 Amount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

An Offseason rainfall was witnessed in some pockets of the County towards the end of the months, with no impacts on the ground except Bute, Gurar and danaba which received good rainfall and recharged some water pans. Though characterised by dry, Sunny and windy weather condition throughout the day and night.

## 2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

### 2.1 Vegetation Condition

#### 2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

Currently, average vegetation cover indexes for the county showed moderate vegetation deficit with a score of 29.37 as compared to previous value of 23.1, With Wajir west indicating severe vegetation deficit while all other sub-counties recorded moderate vegetation deficit. This showed slight improvement on vegetation with no impact. However the county food security condition is still in alarm. The vegetation condition is likely to improve across the livelihood zones as the rains are expected.

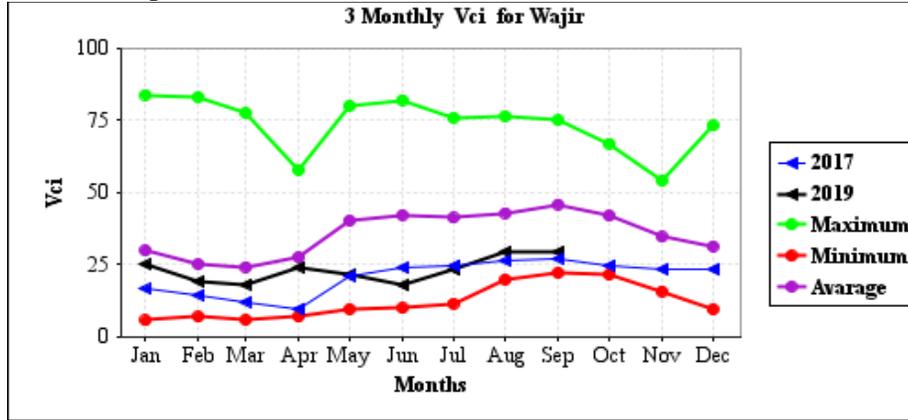


Figure 2: A Chart of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir during the month of September 2019



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

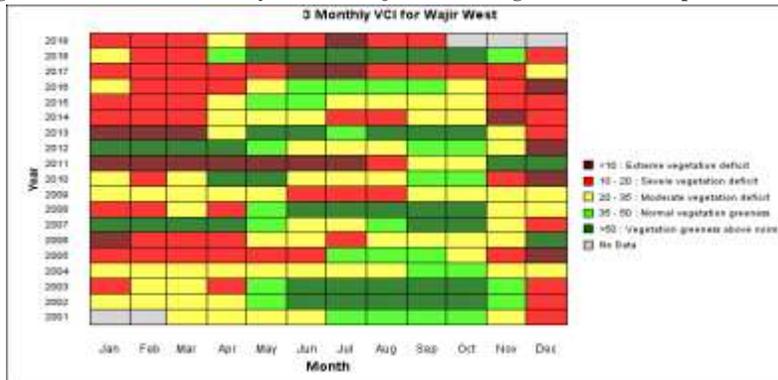


Figure 4: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir West during the month of September 2019.

### **2.1.2 Pasture**

- Pasture condition in the county ranges between poor to very poor with brown standing hay on the ground, except pockets of livelihood zones bordering Ethiopia, Somalia and other counties of Isiolo and Marsabit County with fair condition.
- Pasture condition is very poor as opposed to previous month with brown standing hay witnessed on the ground as a result of depletion due to high livestock concentration in the grazing zones.
- Little available pasture is likely to last for a duration of less than a week as a result of high population of livestock and quick depletion of pasture.
- Highest proportion of pasture available was witnessed near the borders of Ethiopia, Somalia and Border of Isiolo and Marsabit county and lowest proportion of pasture was recorded in all the livelihood zones in the county.
- No constraints reported during the month under review.
- All the livelihood zones in the entire county showed poor to very poor Pasture condition. Which recorded lowest proportion.

### **2.1.3 Browse**

- Current browse situation is poor to very poor in the entire county, except Pockets of Wajir North, Wajir East, Tarbaj which showed to be fair, whereas other livelihood zones remained to be poor to very poor across the livelihood zones due to total depletion of browse.
- Browse condition has significantly decreased across the livelihood zones as opposed to previous month due to the looming drought attributed to poor rainfall across the county.
- The available browse condition is likely to last for a week due to high concentration of livestock in the fallback areas.
- All the livelihood zones have lowest proportion of browse, except pockets of Wajir North and Wajir East which has high proportion of browse.
- No constraints recorded during the month under review.

## **2.2 Water Source**

### **2.2.1 Sources**

- Major water sources used by both human and livestock across the livelihood zones are boreholes, shallow well, and Water Trucking, except parts of Bute, Gurar and Danaba that was impounded with some little water during an offseason rainfall received.
- 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 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.
- All the water pans across the livelihood zones are dry, except parts of Bute, gurar and Danaba that was recharged with some little water due to a one-day rainfall witnessed during the month.
- All the livelihood zones in the county depend on boreholes and water trucking while few others rely on shallow wells.

## 2.2.2 Household access and Utilization.

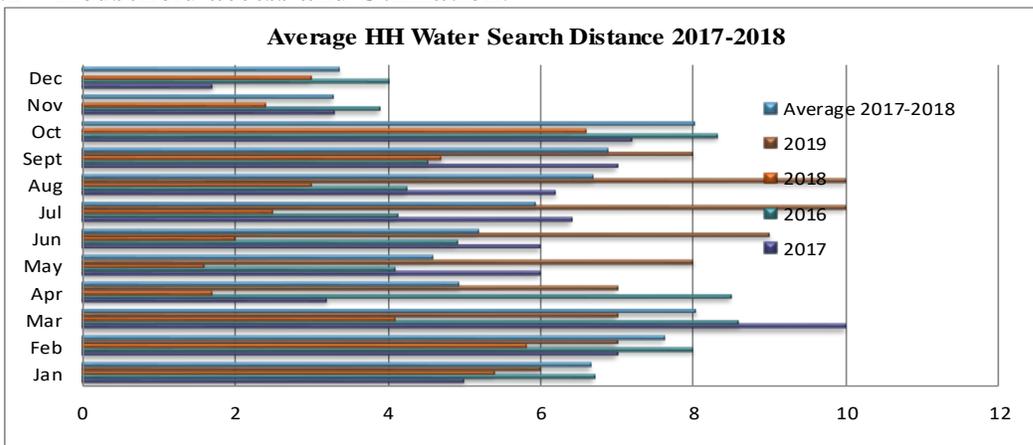


Figure 4: Current Return Distance to Water Sources Against 2016-2017 average

- Current average return distance from household to water point slightly decreased from 10km in August to 8km in the month under review due to some little rainfall received in some parts of the county which recharge some water pans.
- Current household return distance is above the long-term average as compared to previous month, this still shows that majority of the households and livestock depend on boreholes and water trekking.
- Average water consumption per person per day significantly reduced from a normal of 15-20 litres to 4-8litres, all livelihood zones have water stress except pockets in Wajir North Wajir East and Tarbaj. 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

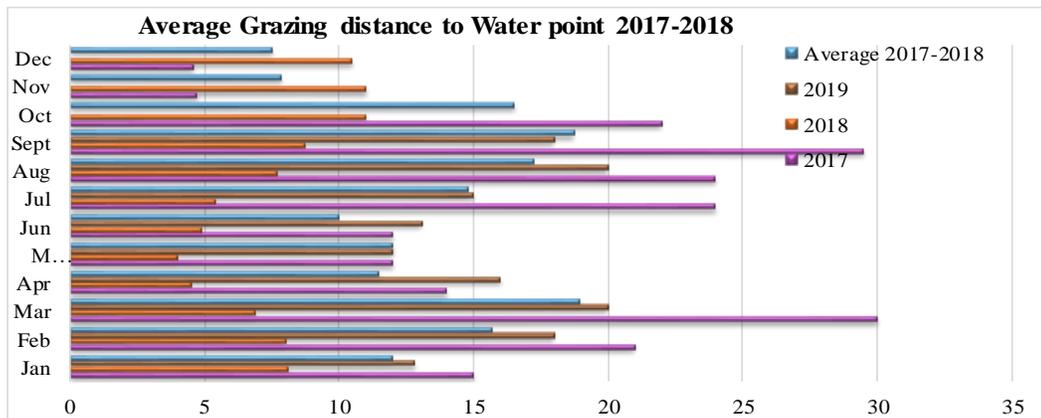


Figure 5: Current Distance from Grazing to Water Sources Against 2016-2017 average

- Current average Livestock distance from grazing area to water points has slightly reduced from 20km in August to 18km in the month under review due to some little rainfall received in some parts of Wajir North, which impounded some water pans, However majority of the pastoralists depend on Boreholes, shallow wells and Water Trucking in the entire county.
- Current return distance from grazing area to water points is significantly above the long-term average and previous month year average due to depletion of pasture, browse and water.

- Watering intervals will remain the same as compared to previous month across the livelihood zones from 1-2 days for cattle, sheep and goats to 2-4 days, The watering intervals for camels increased to 10-14 days from 5-7 days normally in the agro pastoral and pastoral camel livelihood zones. In the pastoral all species livelihood zone the intervals increased to 7-10 days.
- Highest grazing distance was reported in all livelihood zones across the County.

### 3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

#### 3.1 Livestock production

##### 3.1.1 Livestock Body 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.
- Current body condition of livestock in all livelihood zones remained the same as compared to previous month, except parts of Wajir West, Eldas, and Wajir North, which are in very poor condition for Cattle and small stock.
- Currently the condition is between fair to poor as compared to similar previous period, which was fair during that time, this shows that the situation has worsen due to failed rainfall experienced during previous period.
- All the livelihood zones in the county are between fair to poor for all species, Except for Wajir North, Wajir West, Eldas and Tarbaj are in very poor condition.

##### 3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Cases of disease outbreak across the livelihood zones still persist and the reported cases are PPR and CCPP and the department is currently monitoring the condition and intervening.

##### 3.1.3 Milk Production

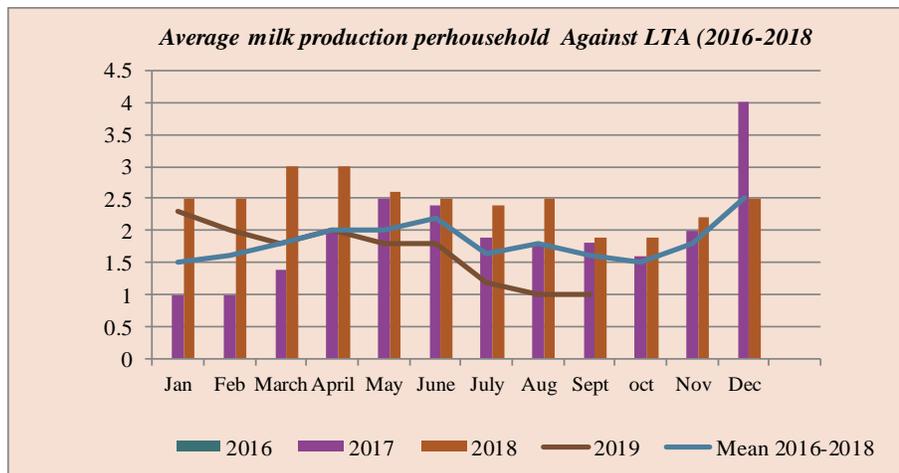


Figure 6: A graph showing current average milk production for Wajir against (2016-2018) mean

- Current milk production recorded 1.0litres in the month under review,
- Current average milk production per household per day remained stable as compared to previous month due to low milk production attributed to poor pasture, browses, and increased trekking distance.
- Current average Milk production per household per day was below long-term average and previous month average due to depletion of pasture and browse, poor livestock condition and increased trekking distance thus leading to low production

- The trend and Quantity of milk production is not normal for this time of the year as compared to the same period due to low production attributed to poor regeneration of pasture, browse and increased trekking distance and low birthrate for cattle and small stock.
- 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 waiting for the rains to start,so that they plant.

### **IMPLICATION OF THE ABOVE INDICATORS TO FOOD SECURITY**

- Poor regeneration of pasture and poor livestock condition will decrease availability of milk production thus affecting children under five.

## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

#### Cattle Prices

- Current average price of four-year-old medium size Cattle slightly increased from kshs12,000 in August to 14,350 in the month under review as a result of low supply in the market and high demand, though the prices of cattle is below the long term average.
- Current price is below the long-term average and previous years average due to poor livestock body condition attributed to poor pasture and browse.
- Highest average cattle market prices were recorded in the urban centres while lowest reported at the rural areas.

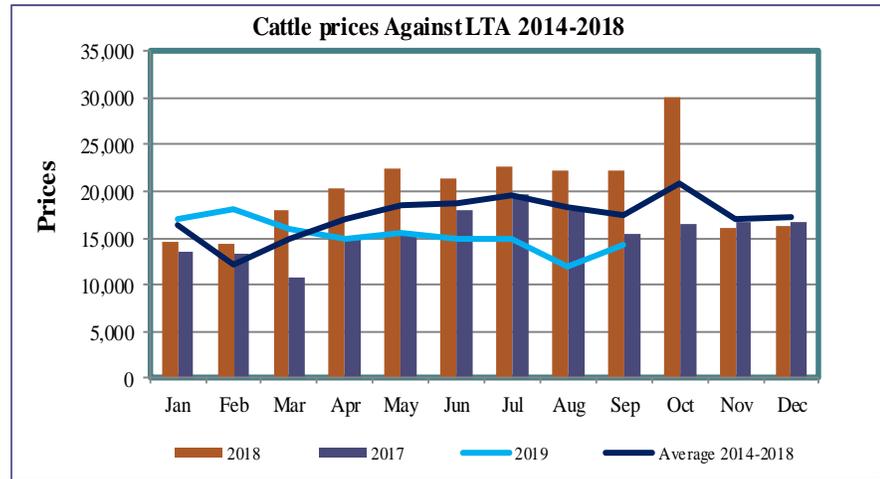


Figure 7: Current cattle prices against LTA 2014-2018

#### 4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- Current average prices of a goat in the month of September 2019 remained stable as opposed to previous months as a result of fair demand and supply.
- Current average prices are below the long-term average as compared to normal of kshs.3,606.
- Current prices of goat are attributed to low demand and high supply in the market.
- The highest prices of livestock were reported in the urban areas and lowest in the rural areas.

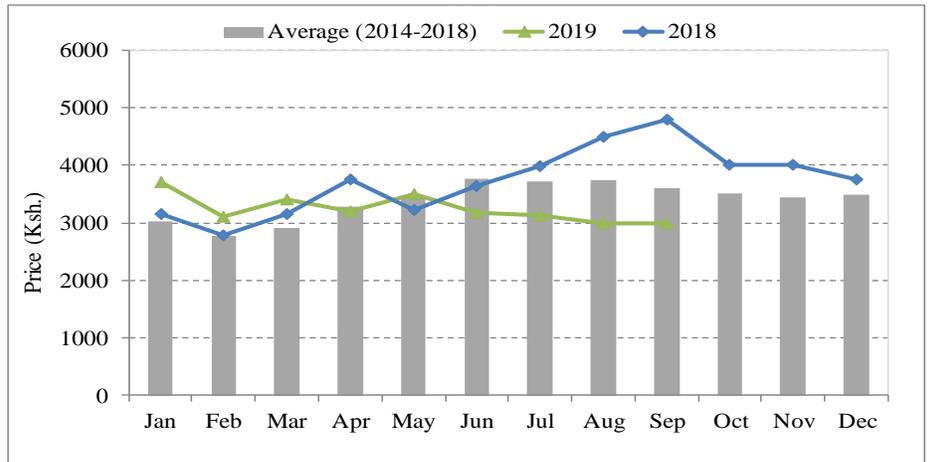


Figure 8: Current Goat prices against LTA of 2014-2018

#### 4.1.3 Camel price

- Current average price of four-year-old Camel remained stable with a value of 33,000 in the month under review due to low market prices attributed to low market demand and high supply 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.

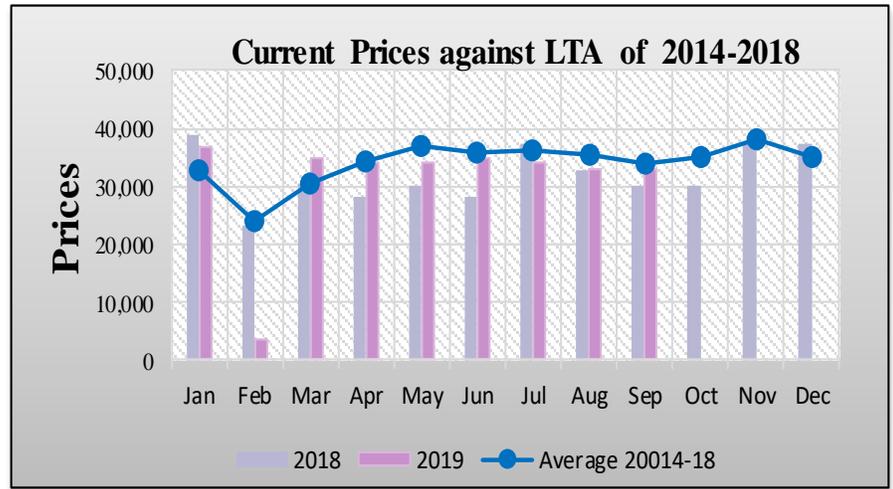


Figure 9: Camel price against LTA of 2014-2018

- 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 recorded kshs 54.6 as compared to previous month of figure of 56.8 due to more supply and low demand in the market.
- Current prices are above the long-term average and previous year's month average, this indicates 6 percent above the long-term average and 16 percent previous month average
- Current prices of maize slightly declined due to food Aid distributed by the National government and high supply and low demand.
- 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 remain stable, as there is more supply in the market.

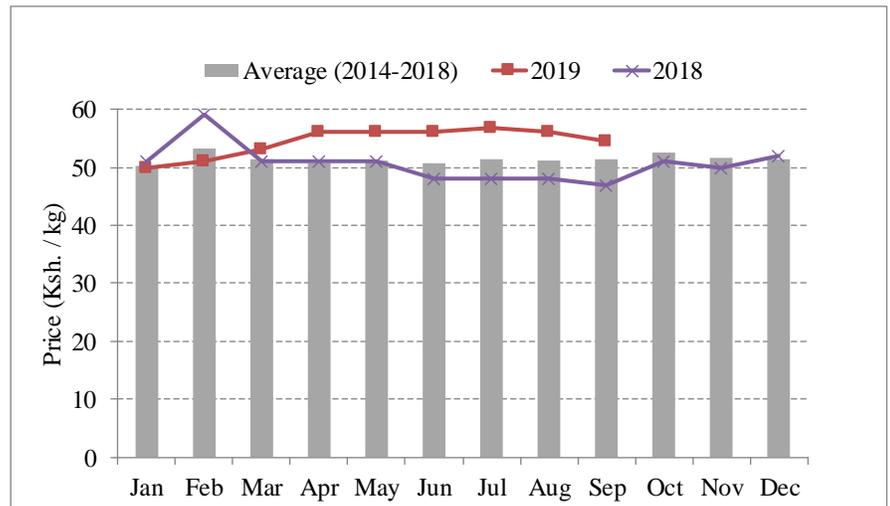


Figure 10: Current maize prices Against LTA of 2014-2018

#### 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 all the livelihood zone.

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

- In September 2019, 55 kilograms of maize can be exchanged from the sale of a goat compared to the long-term average of 70 Kilograms, the terms of trade were less 22 percent when compared to the long term average.
- Current Terms of Trade was unfavourable as compared to long-term average and previous years' month average.
- Terms of trade from June to August 2019, has been deteriorating but remained stable in the month of September due to decline in maize price and stable goat prices.
- The trend is expected to deteriorate as the dry spell continues.
- 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.

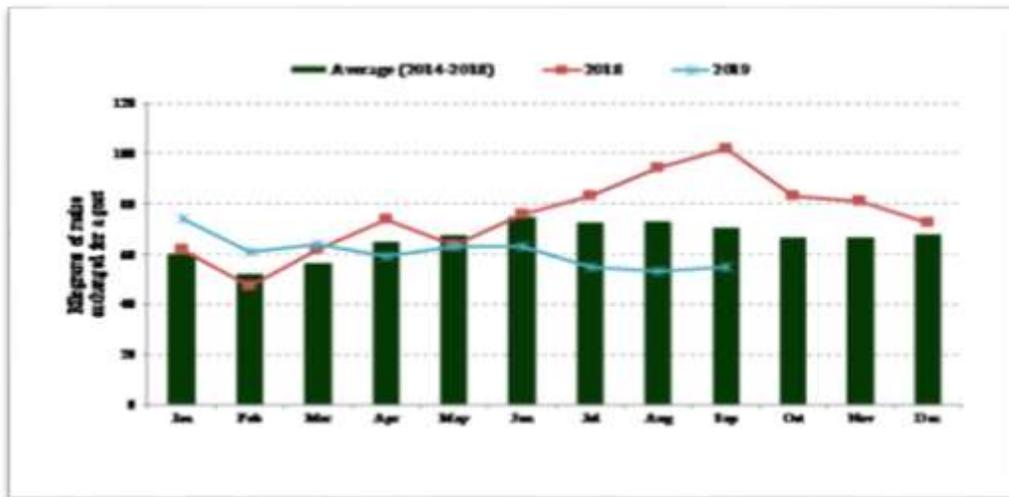


Figure11: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long-term (2014-2018)

### 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 remained stable as compared to previous month which recorded 0.8litres due to low milk production as a result of poor pasture and browse, increased trekking distance
- The highest livestock milk producing species are cattle and camel.
- Current average household milk consumption per household per day was below the long-term average and previous month average, which is not normal at this time of the year thus making pastoral households of children under five to be food insecure.
- Trend and Quantity of milk consumption at household was not normal due to low production attributed to poor body condition and increased trekking distance from grazing area to water sources.

### 5.2 :Food Consumption Score

- Most of the Pastoral households in Wajir south, Wajir west are in poor food consumption with a score of 61.1 and 21.0 respectively, where in Wajir north and Wajir East are in Acceptable food consumption. As compared to previous month with a value of 58.1 and 16.7 for pastoral and pastoral all species livelihood zones. This shows that the situation is still worsening.

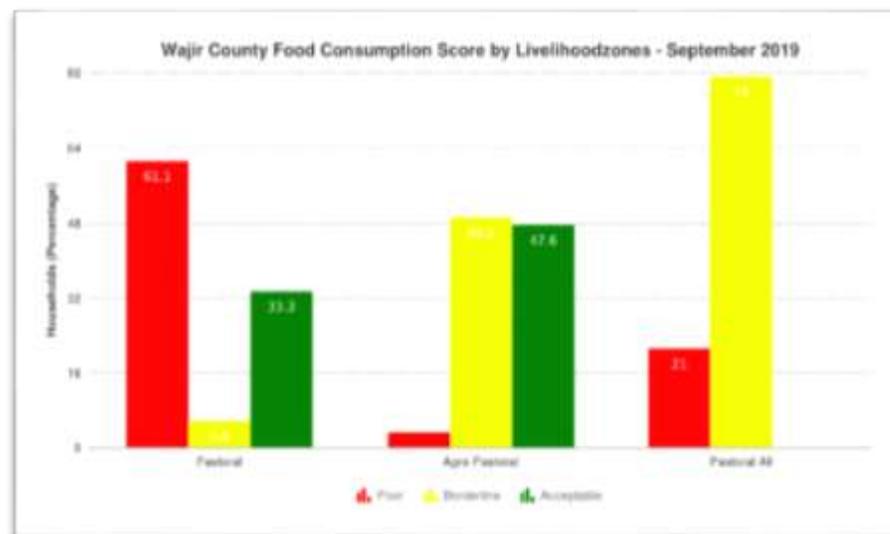
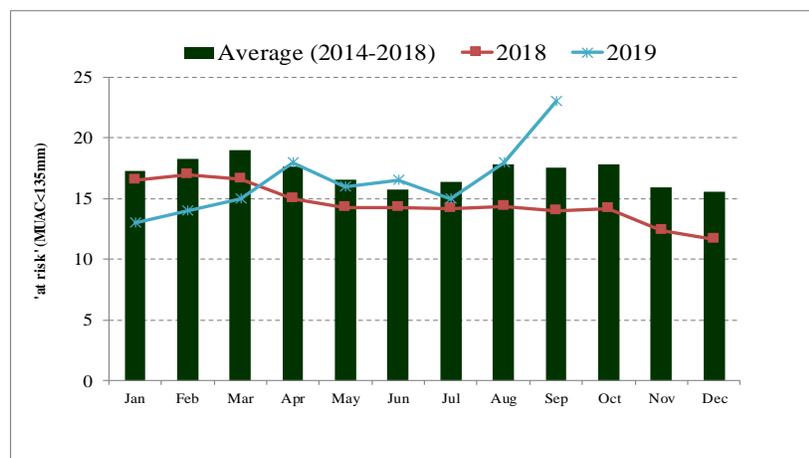


Figure 14: Food Consumption

### 5.3.1 Health and Nutrition Status

- In Wajir a total of 550 children (6-59 months) were sampled for both girls and boys and assessed for malnutrition using MUAC Tape. From the sampled children, 23.0% were at risk of malnutrition (MUAC < 135 mm) as compared to previous month figure of 18% with significant changes due to low milk production thus affecting children under fives.



- Wajir County out of 550 children sample for both girls and boys only 0.2% of the children are severely malnourished as compared to previous month 0.6 percent, This indicated a decline.

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 23.0 percent as compared to previous month of 18.0%, indicating significant increase in malnutrition as a result of low milk production thus affecting children under-fives, this shows that still malnutrition is on the rise across the livelihood zones. The proportion of children under five with severe category remained the same with 0.2% still a decline.

### 5.3.2 COPING STRATEGY INDEXES

- The mean CSI for the county slightly decreased as compared to previous month with a CSI of 6.32 in August to 7.83 in the month under review. This indicates a worsening trend.
- Pastoral all species employed more coping strategies as compared to previous months while Pastoral and Agro-pastoral applied less coping 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

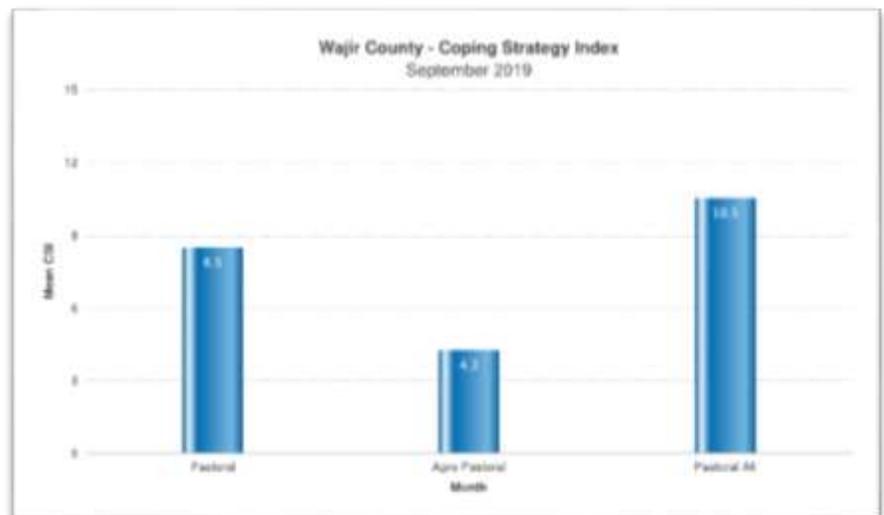


Figure14: A graph showing average (2016-2018) (coping strategy index (CSI) against the current trend

## **6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)**

### **6.1 Non-food interventions.-Ongoing**

- Regular cash Transfers and Emergency Upscale payment are still ongoing- by the National Drought Management Authority-ongoing.
- Sustainable food system Program by World Food Program-Ongoing
- Kenya Red Cross Provided Cash Transfers to 2000 households

### **6.2 Food Aid.**

- Relief food by National Government and County Government.

## **7.0 EMERGING ISSUES**

### **7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement**

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

### **7.2 Migration**

- Unusual Migration of livestock from within the county to other county and country still exist during the month in search of pasture, browse and water.

### **7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS**

- Foliage and pasture conditions are expected to improve as a result of the expected good rains.
- The expected enhanced rainfall may lead to availability of water for livestock and domestic use
- Rangeland conditions will likely improve due to the expected above normal rainfall
- Pasture and browse condition will likely regenerate during the month of October and thereafter improve due to the short rains of 2019.
- Trekking distance from grazing areas to water sources expected during the OND due recharge of water pans.
- Livestock body conditions are expected to improve due to pasture and browse regeneration.
- 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
- Most parts of the county are likely to experience above-average rainfall during the month of October.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Health& Nutrition.**

- Support of Nutrition outreach sites by Save The children and Kenya Red Cross by 68 centres-ongoing
- Water trucking to 65 health facilities by County government and 40 health facilities by Save the Children –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
- Surveillance of livestock disease
- Supported and distributed 10640 bags of drought pellets to all the sub-counties by NDMA.
- Vaccination of Livestock disease across the livelihood zones by NDMA

**Water Sector.**

- Water trucking to both livestock and human to more than 115 centres by the county government -ongoing
- Distributed fast moving spare parts to 15 strategic boreholes by NDMA
- Emergency Support of Rapid response teams to strategic boreholes-ongoing by NDMA
- Provision of four submersible pumps to Qarurah, Biyamathow,Bojigaras and Mansa boreholes by NDMA.
-