

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



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



EW DECEMBER PHASE 2019



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

Rainfall.

Below Normal rainfall was received in the month of December, distribution in terms of space and time was poor and the county was characterised by cloudy, windy and dry weather condition across the livelihood. Cessation was in the second dekad of December 2019.

Vegetation condition:

Current vegetation cover indexes indicated vegetation greenness above normal with ascore of 78.8, While all the sub-counties showed vegetation greenness above normal. This indicates that significant improvement in vegetation was recorded as compared to normal.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production indicators:

- Livestock body condition across the livelihood zones are very good to good, migration is minimal, increase in milk production per household per day, Availability of Pasture and browse reported.

Access indicators

- favourable terms of trade, slight improvement in market prices, increase in milk consumption, decrease in maize prices and Reduced trekking distance.

Utilization Indicators

- Percentage of children under five at risk of malnutrition decreased from 12.5% in November to 11.5 percent in the month under review due to available milk, thus reduced malnutrition, though still malnutrition is on the rise and it is above the normal rate

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)	35 mm	80 -120
VCI-3Month	78.82	>35
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Good	Normal
Crop production	Fair	Good
Milk Production	2.7	>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)	72	>66
Milk Consumption	1.7	>3
Return Distance to water source	2.6	<5 Km
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	11.5	<6.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	6.29	<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 was dry, cloudy and windy during the month under review except some parts of the county that received below normal rainfall, which had no impacts on the ground, mainly Parts of Pastoral Cattle in Wajir South and Agro-pastoral livelihoods in Wajir North.

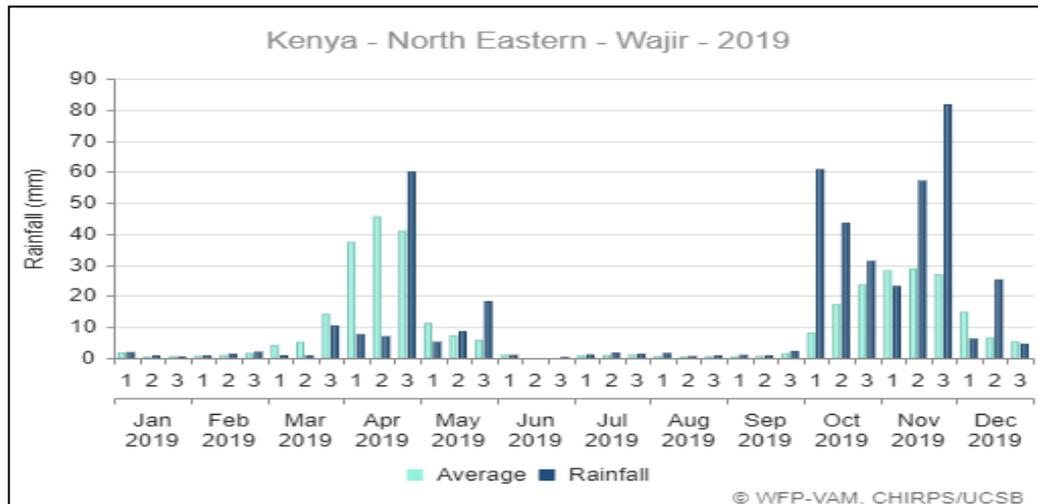


Figure 1: Rainfall Source: WFP-VAM/CHIRPS/UCSB

1.1.1 Amount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

- Most parts of the county recorded Below normal rainfall across the livelihood zones, the distribution in terms of time and space was poor and the cessation was in the second decade of December 2019.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

Currently, average vegetation cover indexes across the county indicated vegetation greenness above normal with a score of 78.82 as opposed to previous month figure of 60.65, while all other sub-counties indicated vegetation greenness above normal. This showed significant improvement of vegetation due to enhanced rainfall witnessed during OND, 2019. The vegetation condition is likely to deteriorate as the dry spell starts.

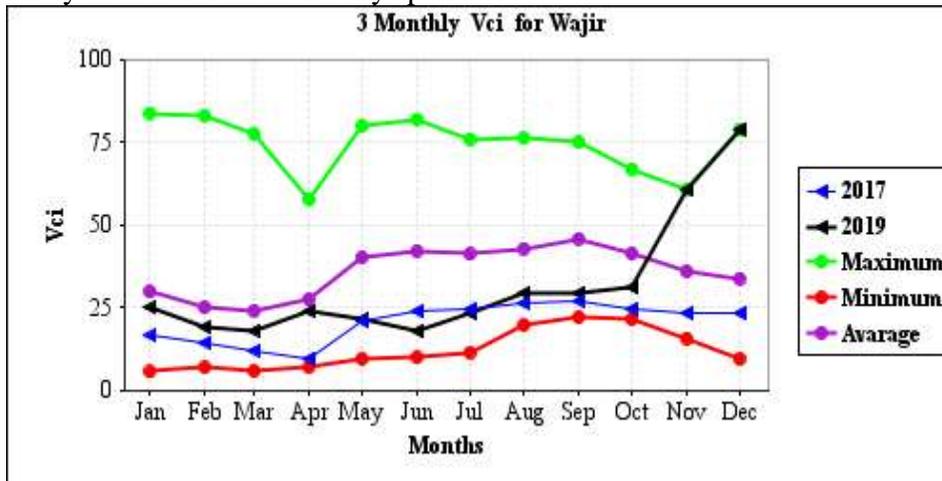


Figure 2: A chart of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir during the month of December 2019.

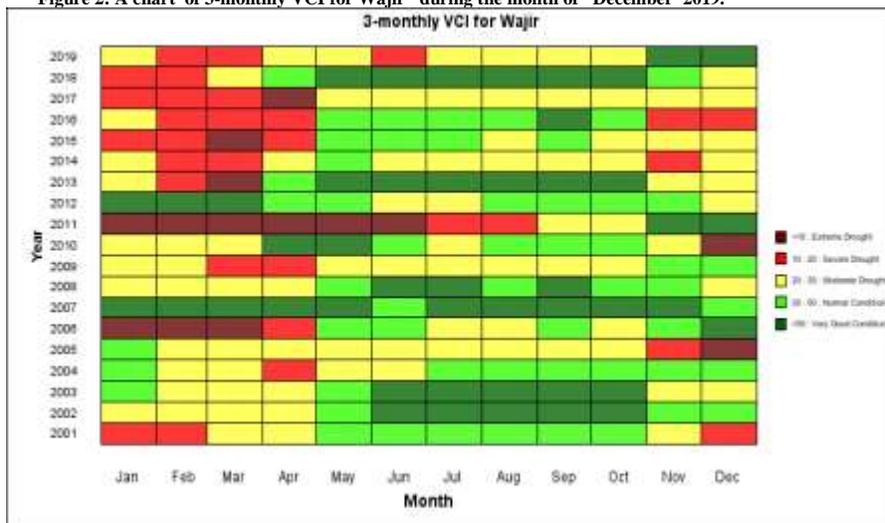


Figure 3: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir during the month of December 2019.

2.1.2 Pasture

- Pasture situation in the county across the livelihood zones is good as a result of adequate rainfall experienced during OND, 2019 thus good regeneration of pasture witnessed.
- In comparison to previous month pasture remained to be the same as a result of good pasture, which was due to above normal rainfall.
- Available pasture is expected to last for the next two to three month, which is above normal because at that particular time pasture is usually depleted.
- Quality and Quantity of pasture is good across the livelihood zones.

- No constraints reported during the month under review.
- All the livelihood zones in the county recorded high proportion of pasture.

2.1.3 Browse

- Browse condition is good across the livelihood zones, which is normal at this time of the year due to sufficient rainfall experienced during OND, 2019.
- In comparison to Previous month browse condition also remained stable due to good browse witnessed as a result of adequate rainfall experienced during OND,2019, which revived the vegetation condition of the county.
- Available browse condition is likely to last for the two to three months, as the browse condition is stable.
- No constraints recorded during the month under review.
- Quality and Quantity of browse condition across the livelihood zones are generally good.

2.2 Water Source

2.2.1 Sources

- Major water sources utilized by both pastoral households and livestock in the county are open water sources, Water pans, Lagas and few others that rely on borehole, due to full recharge of water sources across the county, because of enhanced rainfall received during the month.
- Currently, when compared to previous month the situation of water in the county remained stable across the livelihood zones due to fully recharges of water sources attributed to enhanced rainfall experienced during OND,2019.
- Available water is expected to last for the next two to three months due to recharge of all water sources.

2.2.2 Household access and Utilization.

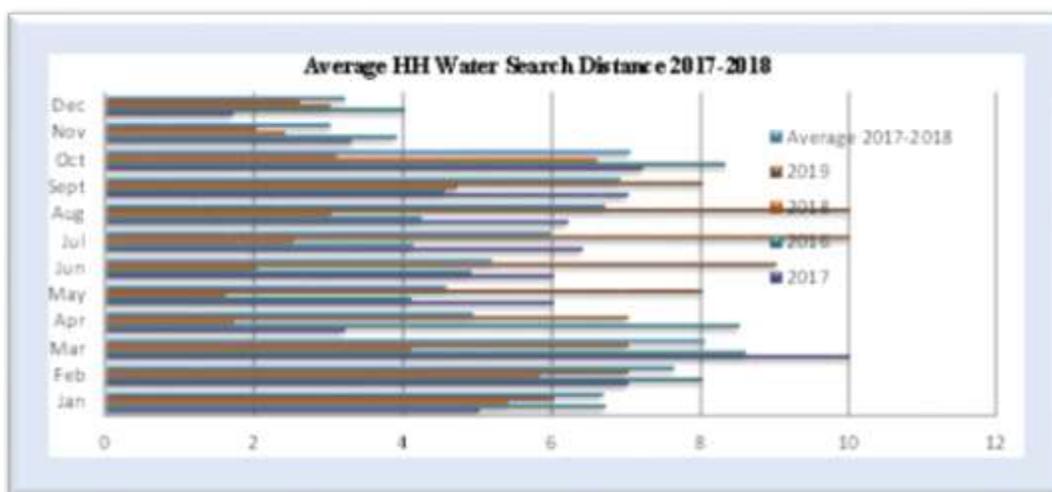


Figure 4: Current Return Distance to Water Sources Against 2016-2017 average

- Currently, average return distance from household to water point recorded 2.6 in the month under review as compared to previous month average of 2.0km, which is with the normal

range. This was due to impoundment of all water sources across the livelihood zones in the county.

- Current average household return distance is below the long-term average and previous month average; this is due to significant recharge of water source in the county during the rains.
- 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 too little with only some few households in urban using aqua tabs while others few others use boiling methods.

2.2.3 Livestock access

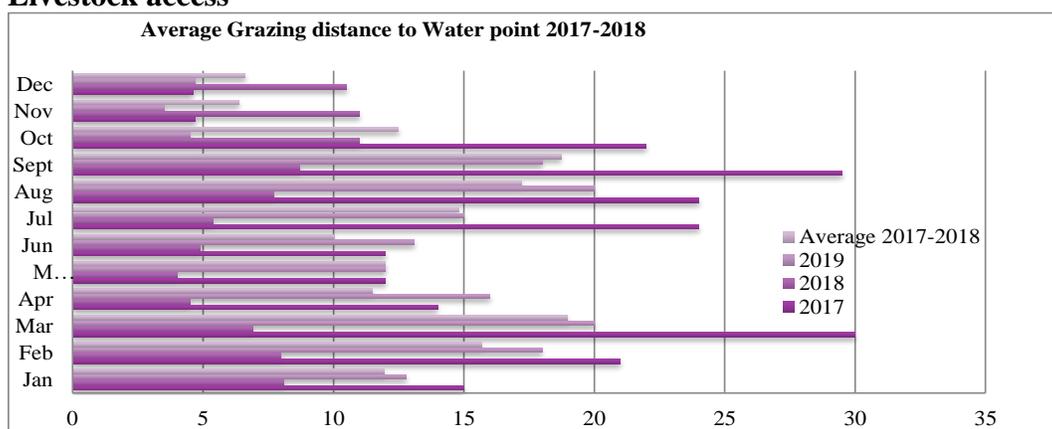


Figure 5: Current Distance from Grazing to Water Sources against 2016-2017 average

- Average livestock grazing distance from water point recorded 4.7km in the month under review as compared previous months average distance of 3.5km, this is within the normal ranges, though it showed slight increase with no significant changes, as a result of available pasture, browse and water due to sufficient rains received during the month.
- Currently, average livestock distance from the grazing area to water points has slightly increased but with no significant changes as compared to previous months due to recharge of water pan, shallow wells and boreholes, which in turn reduced trekking distance.
- Current return distance from grazing area to water points is below the long-term average and previous month year average due to adequate rainfall that impounded water during the long rains.
- 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

- Livestock body situation in the county, for all species are very good to good, due to sufficient pasture and browse across the livelihood zones, thus improved livestock body condition.
- When Compared to previous month the livestock body condition remained the same because of adequate vegetation in the county due to above normal rainfall that led to regeneration of pasture and browse.
- When compared to similar previous period, current body condition is above normal due to sufficient rains received thus attributing to good pasture, browse and reduced trekking distance to water sources.
- All the livelihood zones across the county are in good condition.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Suspected cases of CCPP, LSD, PPR and sheep and goat pox were reported across the county.

3.1.3 Milk Production

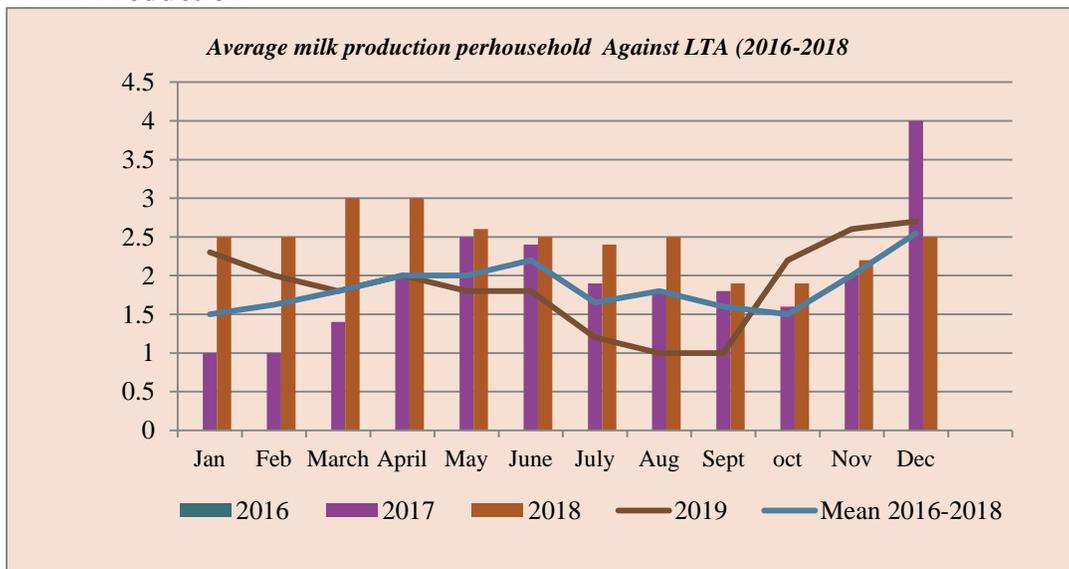


Figure 6: A graph showing current average milk production for Wajir against (2016-2018) mean

- Average livestock milk production per household per days slightly increased from 2.6 litres in November to 2.7 litres in the month under review, due to available pasture, browse, reduced trekking distance and improve livestock body condition, this led to increased milk production.
- Current average milk production per household per day slight increased as compared to previous month from 2.6 litres in November to 2.7 litres in December, with no significant improvement, due to high milk production attributed to good pasture, browses, and improved livestock body condition.
- Current average Milk production per household per day is above the long-term average and previous month average due to high milk production attributed to improved vegetation and reduced trekking distance and good livestock body condition.

- 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, pulses and others like Kales, Watermelon. Most of the farmers have planted earlier and expected to harvest their produce in the month of January for pulses and for maize in the month of February 2020.

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 increased significantly from kshs 14,200 in November to 25,000 in the month under review, due to high demand and low supply, where pastoral households are holding their livestock and not bringing to the market.
- Current, average price of cattle is significantly above the long term average and previous year's average, as a result of high demand in the market and low supply.
- Highest average prices were reported in urban centre and lowest recorded in the rural areas.

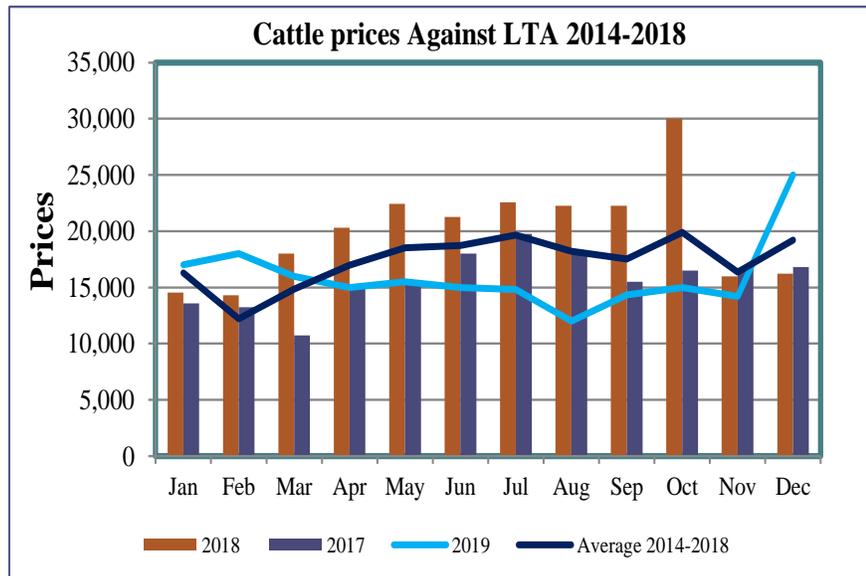


Figure 7: Current cattle prices against LTA 2014-2018

4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- Current average prices of a goat increased from kshs 3200 in November to kshs 3,500 in the month under review due slight improvement in market demand, attributed to good livestock body condition.
- Current average prices is above long-term average and previous year's average as compared to normal of kshs.3,488 for the LTA and kshs 3700 for the previous month.
- The highest prices of livestock were reported in the urban areas and lowest in the rural areas.

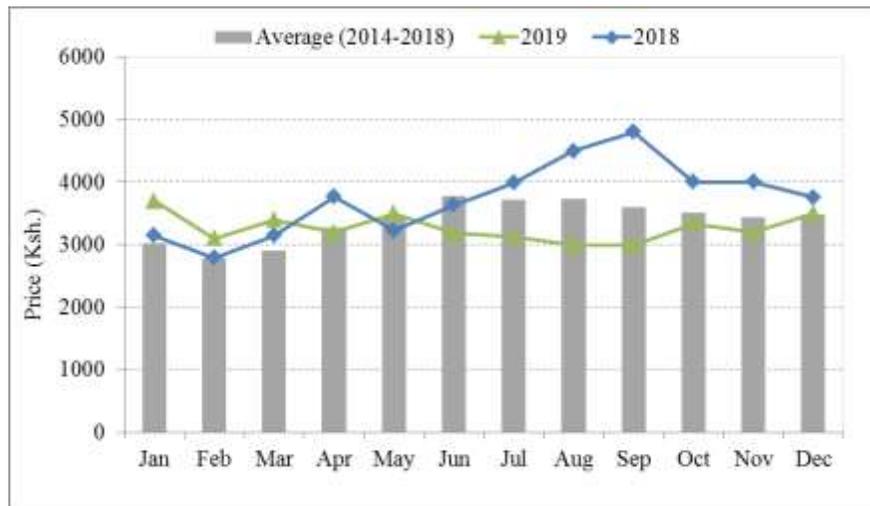
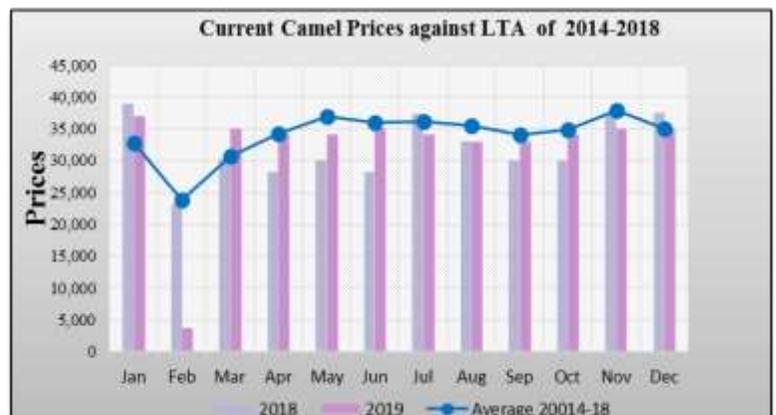


Figure 8: Current Goat prices against LTA of 2014-2018

4.1.3 Camel price

- Current average price of four-year-old Camel remained stable due to high supply in the market and poor market prices in the month under review.

Figure 9: Current Camel Prices against LTA of 2014-2018



- 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.
- 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 decreased from kshs 51 in November to kshs 48.3 in the month under review as compared to previous month, due to high supply in the market and low demand, thus led to poor market.
- Current average prices are below the long-term average and previous year's month average due to poor market attributed to low demand and high supply.
- The livelihood with the highest prices was recorded in Agro-pastoral and Pastoral Cattle, Pastoral all species due to poor infrastructure and lowest reported in the Formal/Informal settlement.

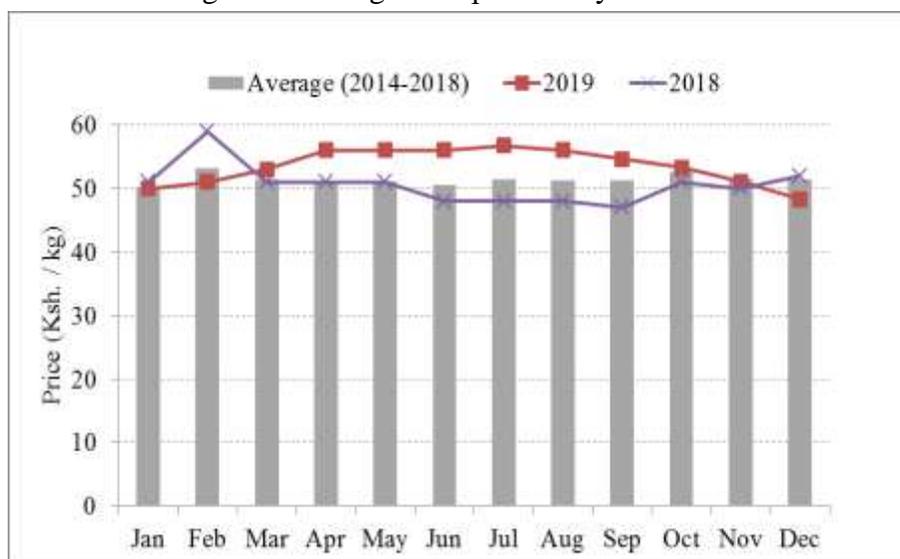


Figure 10: Current maize prices against LTA (2014-2018)

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 increased from 63kg in November to 72kg in the month under review due to increased goat prices and decrease of maize prices.
- Currently, 72 kilograms of maize can be exchanged from the sale of a goat compared to the long-term average of 68 Kilograms, the terms of trade increased with 6 percent when compared to the long-term average. Current Terms of Trade is favourable as compared to long-term and previous years' month average. but on improving trend.
- Current term of trade is above the long-term average but equals to previous year's month average. This shows that terms of trade are favourable and there is an improvement in the market.
- 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.

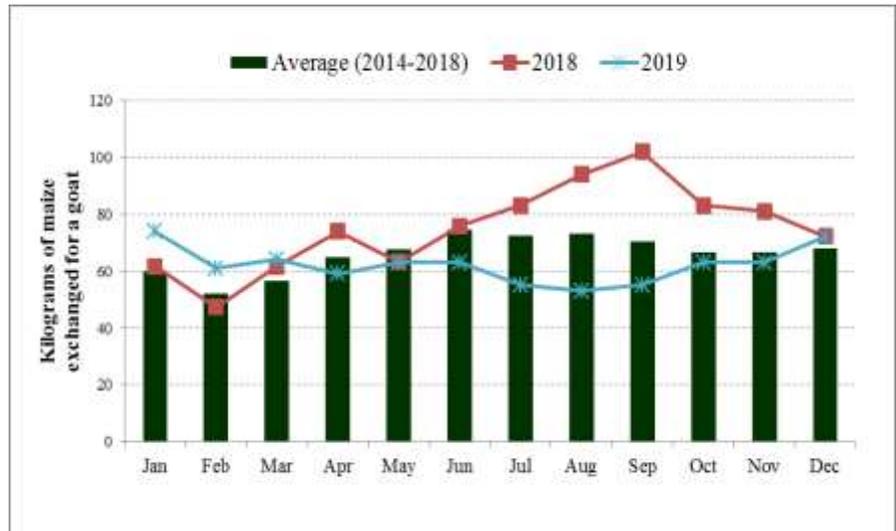


Figure11: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long-term (2014-2018)

4.4 Implication of the above indicators to food security

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

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- Current average milk consumption per household per day slightly increased from 1.6litres in November to 1.7litres in the month under review due to available milk production attributed to good livestock body condition and reduced trekking distance.
- Cattle and camel are the livestock species that produces highest milk across the livelihood zones.
- Current average household milk consumption per household per day was below the long term average but equals to the 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.

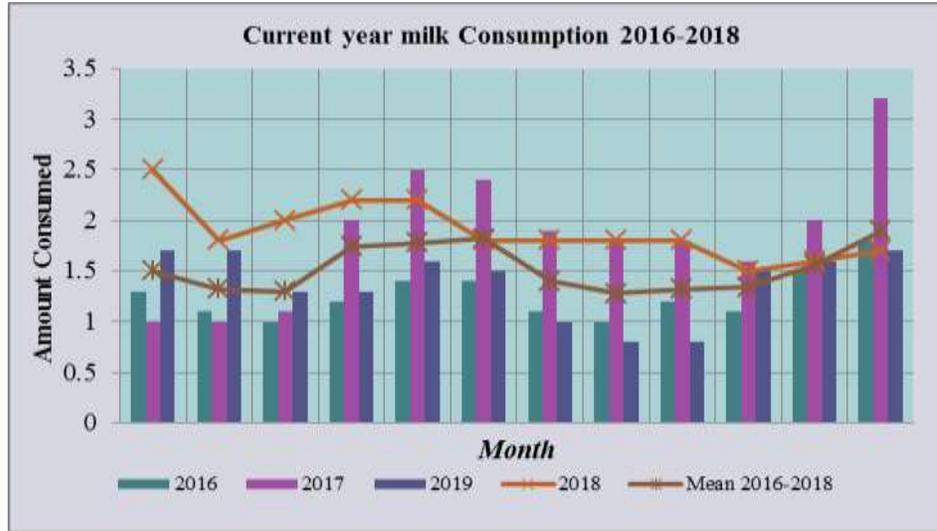


Figure12: A graph of current year milk consumption against the long-term (2016-2018)

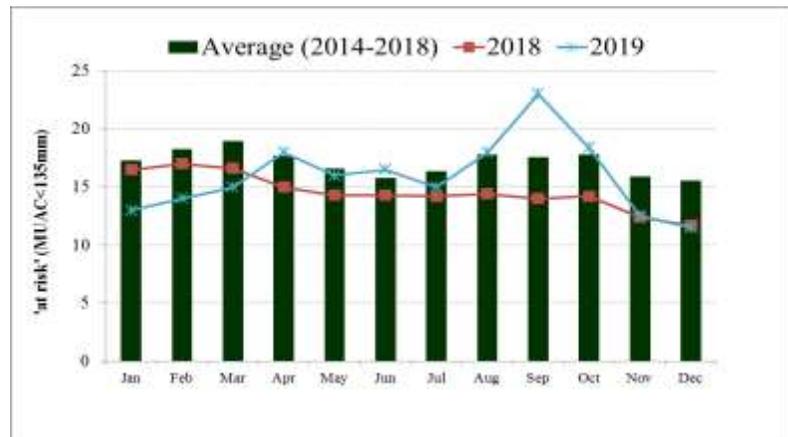
5.2 : Food Consumption Score

- Pastoral and Pastoral all species are the proportion of households with poor food consumption score of 49 and 13.0 in the month under review as compared with a score of 60 and 19.0 in the month of November , while all other pastoral households across the livelihood zones are in borderline and acceptable ,this shows that their a drastic improvement in food consumption both in pastoral and pastoral all species

5.3.1 Health and Nutrition Status

- Out of the total number of children (6-59months) sampled for both girls and boys and assessed for malnutrition using MUAC Tape. From the sampled children, 11.5% were at risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135 mm) as compared to previous month figure of 12.5%, which showed improvement in malnutrition, however malnutrition is still high since it is above the thresholds, this improvement was as a result of available milk production malnutrition level in the county is still on the rise as compared to normal.

Figure 14: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 of December showed 11.5 percent as opposed to previous month of 12.5 percent, indicating a slight improvement as compared to previous month, due to availability of milk production attributed to enhanced rainfall. However, malnutrition is still on the rise as compared to normal.

5.3.2 COPING STRATEGY INDEXES

- The mean CSI for the county slightly decreased from 6.71 in November to 6.29 in the month under review.
- All the livelihood in the county employed less coping strategies as compared to previous months, where Pastoral all species in Wajir West and Pastoral in Wajir South applied more coping strategies.
- 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.

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

- Incidence of Terror attack were reported during the month under review, where lives were lost.
- Cases of locust was reported in most part of the county mainly Tarbaj, kutulo, khorofharer, Diff, Dagahley, sabuli, Buna and ingirir causing destruction on the vegetation and grass lands.

7.2 Migration

- There was minimal migration across the county, as Most of the livestock are within their normal grazing areas.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- Pasture and browse condition are expected to be good for the months of January, thereafter slightly deteriorate as the dry spell starts.
- Nutritional status of children below the age of five years is expected to gradually improve due to availability of milk.
- Livestock body conditions are expected to be good in the next one to two months due to reduced trekking distance, presence of pasture and browse.
- Prices of livestock are expected to be better and food commodities are likely to reduce due to the harvest.
- Rangeland conditions are likely to be good in the next one to two months due to improve vegetation.
- Milk production are likely to remain stable as a result of available pasture, browse and reduced trekking distance.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Health& Nutrition.

- Support of integrated outreach services –ongoing.
- Polio Campaign
- Monitoring and surveillance of disease
- Support Water Treatment
- Scale up of Wash Activities

Livestock Sector.

- Livestock disease Surveillance by the department
- Monitoring and Surveillance of livestock disease across the livelihood zones.

Water Sector.

- Desilting of water pans
- Construction of water pans and dams

Agriculture.

- Provision of agro-chemical to the farmers
- Training and capacity building of farmer
- Provision of Knapsack sprayers to the famers