



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



**National Drought Management Authority
WAJIR COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR APRIL 2022**

EW APRIL PHASE 2022

Drought Status: **ALARM**



Mipango ya kukabiliana na ukame

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

Significant amount of rainfall was received towards the end of April across the livelihood zones. The County is expected to experience average rainfall in May 2022.

Vegetation Condition: Severe vegetation deficit was reported across the county, with all sub counties indicating severe except, Wajir North that is on moderate vegetation deficit. However, improvements are expected following the average rains received.

Production indicators

- Livestock body condition is fair to poor and on an improving trend.
- Slight Increased in milk production was reported.
- Cases of livestock diseases such CCPP, CBPP, PPR, SGP and FMD still persist in the county.
- **Access indicators:**
- Migration within and outside the County was reported.
- Terms of trade is unfavorable when compared to normal
- There was a slight increase in household milk consumption.
- Decreased household distance to water sources was reported
- Livestock grazing distance decreased when compared to last month.

Utilization Indicators:

- The proportion of children below the age of five at risk of moderate malnutrition decreased to 27.3 percent during the month under review.
- Households continue to employ more coping strategies.
- More than 30 percent of the households in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone have registered poor food consumption score.
- Kala-Azar and Chikungunya outbreaks are still active

Early Warning Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-Pastoral	Alarm	Improving
Pastoral	Alarm	Improving
Informal Employment	Alert	Improving
County	Alarm	Improving
Biophysical Indicators	value	Improving
Rainfall (% of Normal)	0.0	80 -120
VCI-3Month	14.76	>35
Forecasts (VCI)	17.5	>35
Forecasts (SM)	-	<=0.6
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Fair-poor	Normal
Crop production	Poor	Good
Milk production	1.0	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Not normal	Normal
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	41.8	>66
Milk consumption	1.0	>3
Household Return Distance to water source	6.0	<5 Km
CSI	10.42	<10

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains harvests ▪ Short dry spell ▪ Reduced milk yields ▪ Increased HH Food Stocks ▪ migrations ▪ Land preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planting/Weeding ▪ Long rai Calving Rate ▪ Milk Yields Increase ▪ Breeding period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long rains harvests ▪ Along dry spell and preparation ▪ Increased HH Food Stocks ▪ Kidding (Sept) ▪ Migrations ▪ Herd separations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains ▪ Planting/weeding ▪ High birth rates ▪ Wedding

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITION

1.1 Rainfall performance

The first half of the month was characterized by dry weather conditions over the County. However, in the second half of the month, significant amounts of rainfall were received, with fair distribution across the livelihood zones. According to the Kenya Meteorological Department, Wajir County is likely to experience average rainfall in May 2022. The rainfall distribution is expected to be poor, with cessation likely to be experienced during the third to fourth week of May.

The current Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) is below average and on an upward trend when compared to the previous month as shown in the figure below. This is attributed to improvement in vegetation condition in the county.

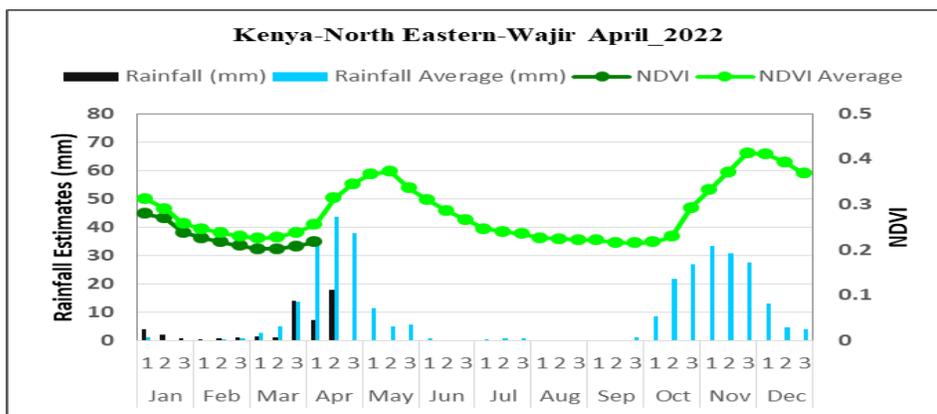


Figure 1: Rainfall and NDVI Trend

1.2 Amount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

April normally marks the peak of the Long Rains (March-April-May) season. The first half of the month was characterized by dry weather conditions over the County. However, during the second half of the month, some significant amounts of rainfall were received over different parts of the County. The distribution was largely fair across the livelihood zones.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

Wajir County registered severe vegetation deficit in all the sub counties, except in Wajir North that had moderate vegetation deficit. The vegetation condition slightly improved from 13.6 in last month to 14.76 in April 2022. This slight improvement in vegetation cover is attributed to the ongoing 2022 long rains. Further improvements are likely to occur due to the adequate rainfalls received in the last week of April and the average rains expected in May 2022.

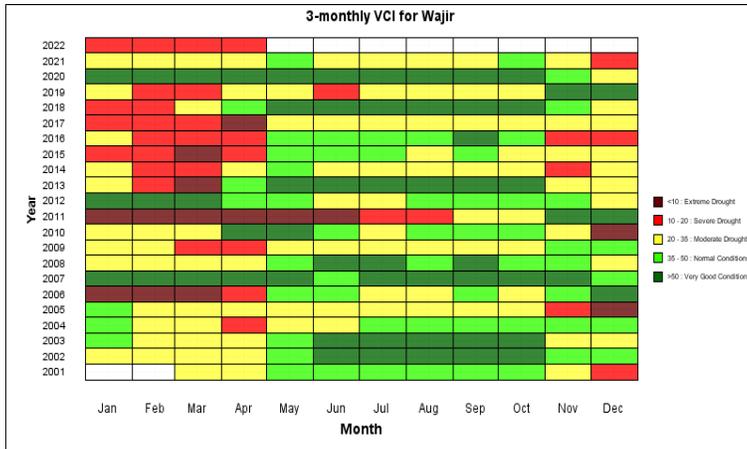


Figure 2: VCI Chart for April 2022

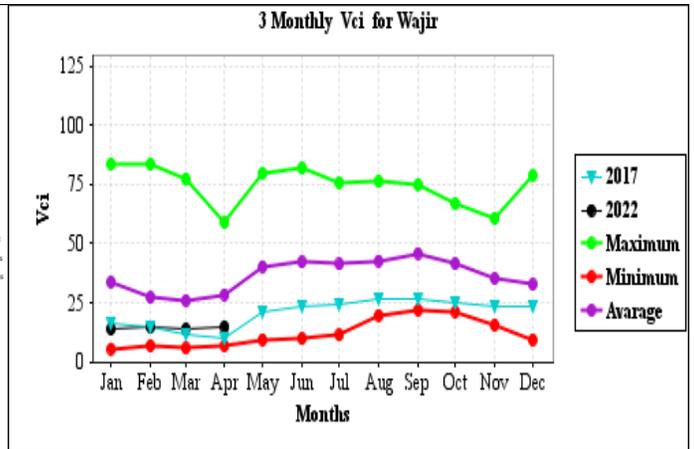


Figure 3: VCI graph for April 2022

2.1.2: Vegetation Condition Index Forecast

- Based on Sussex Vegetation Outlook, the 3-month VCI forecast indicates severe vegetation deficit across the sub-counties. However, the vegetation condition is on an improving trend.
- Wajir North is forecasted to have the most deficits followed by Wajir South, with scores of 15.1 and 16.5 respectively.
- The vegetation condition is expected to improve during the 2022 long rains season since the County is projected to experience average rains in May 2022.

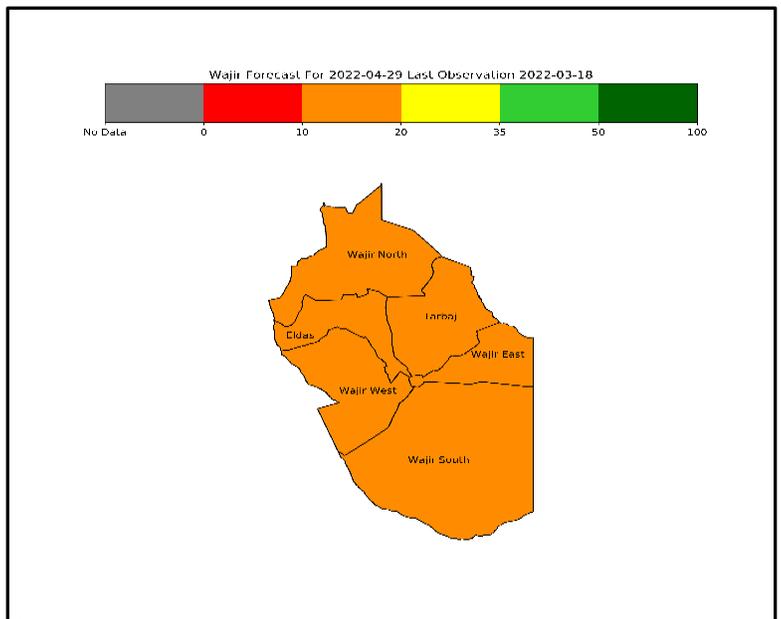


Figure 4: VCI Forecast May 2022

2.1.2 Pasture

- Current pasture condition is poor across the livelihood zones. This poor vegetation is attributed to the late onset of the 2022 long rains. However, pasture condition is expected to improve following the average rains received in the last week of April 2022.
- When compared to similar previous periods, the pasture condition is poor across the livelihood zones due to the inadequate rains received in the last three consecutive seasons although pasture regeneration is expected as a result of the ongoing MAM 2022 rainfall.
- The quality and quantity of pasture is still poor due to slow regeneration of pasture occasioned by rangelands degradation and high forage depletion resulting from high livestock concentration at the grazing areas.
- The pasture conditions are poor across the livelihood zones due to poor regeneration and high depletion.

2.1.3 Browse

- Browse condition is fair to poor across all the livelihood zones. This improving browse condition is attributed to the ongoing long rains. The browse situation is projected to continue improving owing to the average rains expected in May 2022.
- The quality and quantity of browse is still poor across the County. However, most areas in the Agro-Pastoral and Pastoral Livelihood Zones have so far registered slow recovery in browse regeneration, particularly in areas that received adequate rains.
- Browse condition is expected to improve following the significant amounts of rains received across the County during the last week of April 2022. The average rains anticipated in May 2022 will further improve the situation.

2.2 Water Sources

2.2.1 Sources

- Major water sources utilized for both human and livestock use are boreholes, water pan, shallow wells and low-scale water trucking.
- Most of the water pans across the livelihood zones were fully recharged during the month under review following the enhanced rains received in the last week of April 2022.
- When compared to similar previous period, the current water condition is normal since most of the water pans are currently fully recharged. The water situation in the County is expected to improve given that average rains are expected in May 2022.

2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

- Current household distance to water sources decreased across the livelihood zones at 7KM when compared to the previous month distance of 9KM. This decrease in household distance to water sources is due to the adequate recharging of water sources following the rains received in many parts of the County.

- The reported distance in April is above the short term and wet year's average distances but below the dry year's average distance.
- Average water consumption per person per day slightly increased when compared to the previous month. This slight increase in water consumption is attributed to the recharging of the water sources across the livelihood zones.

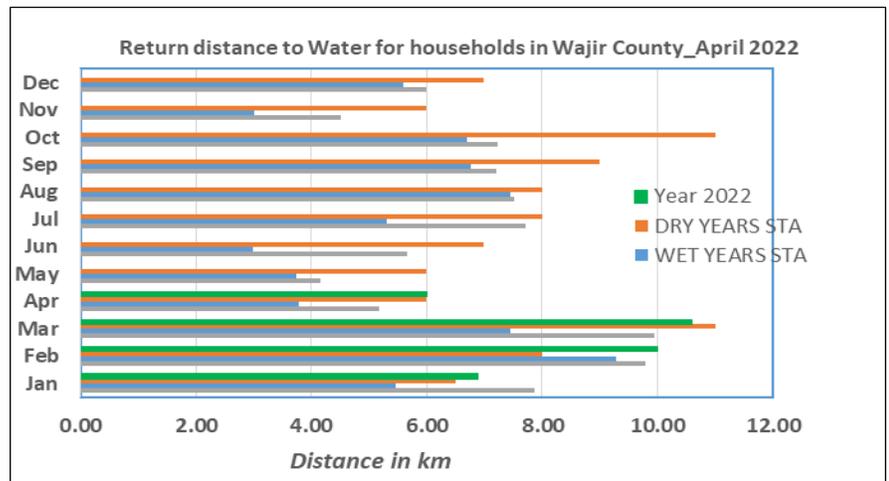


Figure 5: Households Return to Water Sources

2.2.3 Livestock access

- The current grazing distance to water sources generally reduced when compared to the previous month.
- Currently, the distance stands at an average of 9.3KM against last month's distance of 16KM. This decreased distance is due to the recharge of water sources, particularly near the grazing areas.
- The distance is expected to decrease further following the rains witnessed in many parts of the county.
- Distance from grazing areas to water sources varies according to livelihood zones, with the highest distance to grazing area reported in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone and lowest in the Agro-Pastoral Livelihood Zone.

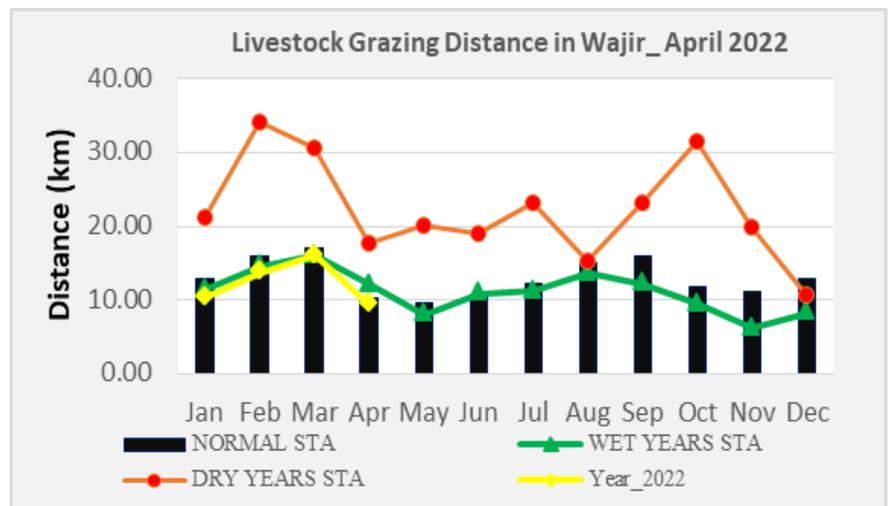


Figure 6: Grazing Area Distance to water sources

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock production

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- The livestock body condition for all the species ranges from fair to poor and on an improving trend resulting from the average rains received during the ongoing long rains season.
- When compared to similar previous periods, the current condition is not normal due to poor forage, increased grazing distance and high livestock migration attributed to depressed rainfall received during the 2021 long and short rain seasons.
- The livestock body condition is expected to improve due to the anticipated regeneration of browse and pasture occasioned by the 2022 long rains.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

There was an upsurge in endemic livestock diseases such as Sheep and Goat Pox (SGP), contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP) and Peste des petit ruminants (PPR). There were also cases of bloating due to abomasal impaction and lush pasture. There were reported cases of livestock deaths due to hypothermia and floods in Wajir West. There is the need to heighten livestock disease monitoring and surveillance following the enhanced rains received across the County in the last week of April 2022.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- The current milk production per household per day in April 2022 increased slightly when compared to the previous month although it's still 25 percent below the long-term average (LTA).
- This increase in milk production is due to slight regeneration of browse that improved livestock body condition due to the reduced livestock trekking distance.
- Available milk is derived from cattle, camel and small stocks across the County.

3.2 CROP PRODUCTION

The main crops produced in the County during the long rains season are maize, sorghum and cow peas and is mainly practised in the Agro-Pastoral Livelihood Zone. Preparation of land and planting has taken place for both irrigated and rain-fed agriculture. However, a shortage of planting materials, especially seeds has been noted across the County.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

Cattle Prices

- The price of a 4-year-old medium-size bull currently stands at an average of KES.14,000. When compared to the previous month, cattle prices increased by approximately 17 percent.
- The increase in price is attributed to improved livestock body condition due to slight regeneration of pasture and browse in areas that received better rains.
- The reported prices of cattle in the month under review were however still lower than the short term, dry and wet year average prices despite the slight increase in April 2022.

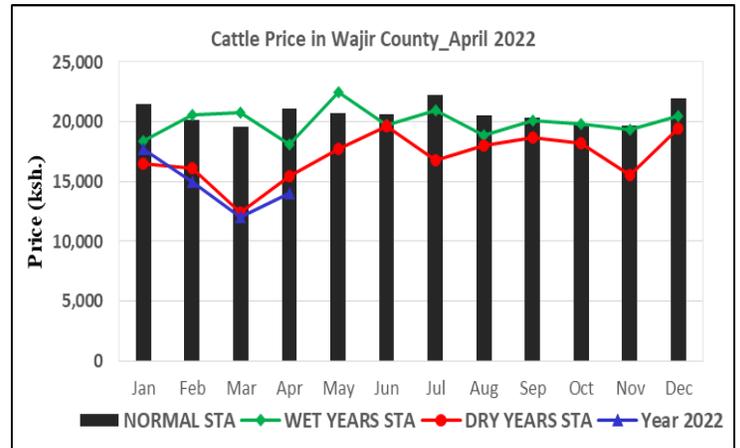


Figure 8: Cattle Price

4.1. 2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- The price of a medium sized goat increased by twelve percent from Kshs. 2,500 in March 2022 to KES. 2,800 in the month under review. This increase in goat prices is attributed to increased demand in the market which was occasioned by improved livestock body condition and Eid Festivals.
- Prices are likely to improve due to enhanced livestock body condition resulting from forage regeneration during the 2022 long rains season.
- The highest prices were recorded in the urban areas and lowest in the rural areas.

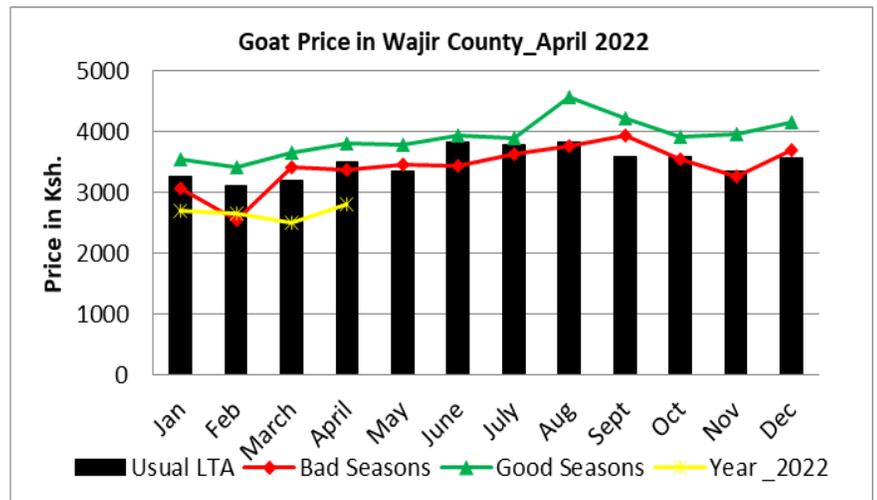


Figure 9: Goat price

Camel price

- There was an increase in camel prices from KES. 20,000 in the month of March 2022 to KES. 22,500 in the month under review. This is due to low supply and high demand in the market.
- The current price is below the short term, wet and dry year's average prices. The prices are projected to continue increasing owing to the average rains received during the 2022 long rains season.

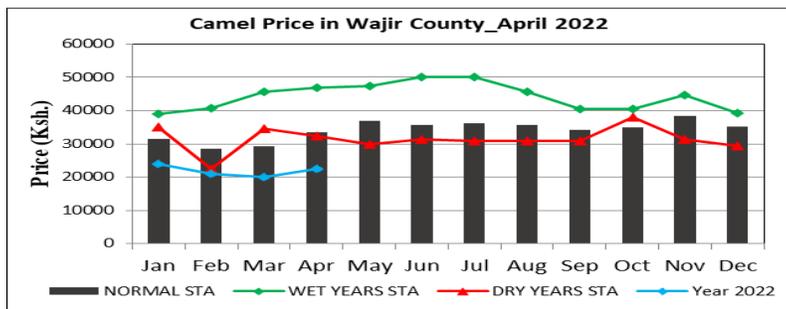


Figure 10: Camel Price

4.2 CROP PRICE

4.2.1 Maize

- Current average maize prices increased from KES.67 in previous month to stand at KES.68 in the month under review. This slight increase in maize prices is attributed to reduction in supply and increased demand by the pastoralists. The product is largely outsourced which sometimes results in reduced supply.
- The reported price is still above the normal, short-term, wet and dry year's average prices. The highest prices were recorded in the rural areas and lowest recorded in the urban area.

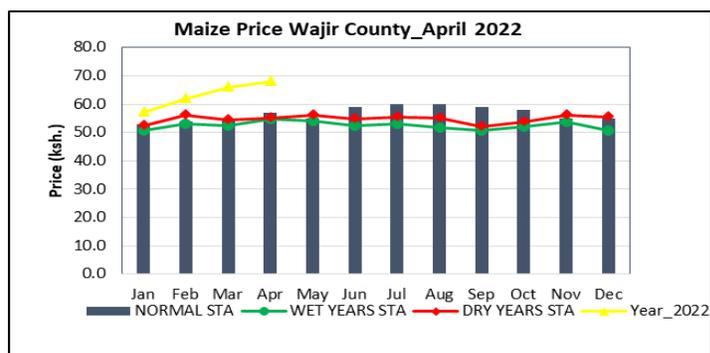


Figure 11: Maize Price

4.3 Terms of Trade (TOT)

- The terms of trade (ToT) in the month under review stood at 41.8 when compared to the previous month's ratio of 38, which is approximately 25 percent below the short-term average (STA).
- This is an indication that households' purchasing power (measured by the goat to maize terms of trade) is unfavourable due to low goat prices and high maize prices in the market.
- The below normal livestock prices have resulted in reduced household access to food and income.

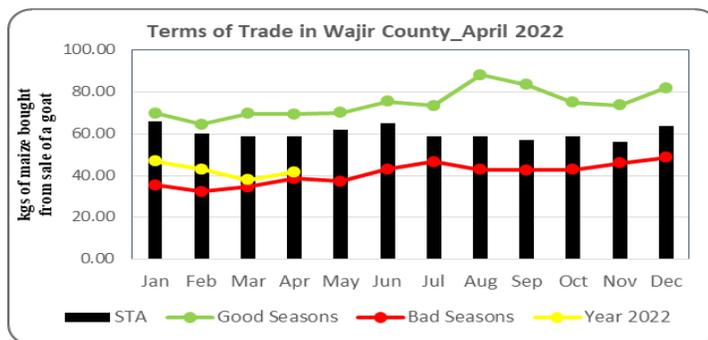


Figure 12: Terms of Trade

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- Household milk consumption per household per day stood at an average of one litre in April 2022.
- There was a slight increase in milk consumption and it's attributed to increased milk production and availability.
- The current average household milk consumption per household per day is below the long-term and wet years' average and it is attributed to the failed 2021 short rains that affected livestock productivity due to poor forage regeneration.

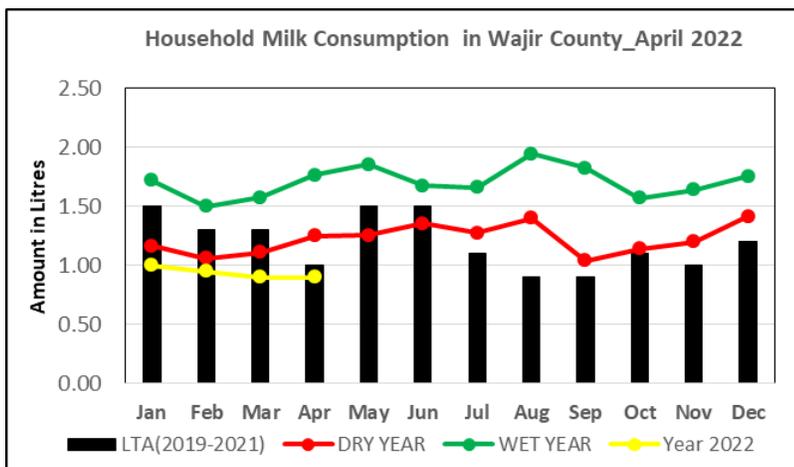


Figure 13: Milk Production

5.2 Food Consumption Score

- Cumulatively, 52.9 percent of households were in poor and borderline food consumption category up from 51.7 per cent in the previous month. More than 30 percent of the households in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone registered poor food consumption score.
- This increase in the number of households with poor and borderline food consumption score is attributed to the low purchasing power among the pastoral households.
- Dietary diversity, especially in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone, remained poor; a scenario that reflects reduced household access to food and income. However, this situation may change and improve following the average rains received across the livelihood zones.

Table 1: Food Consumption Score by Livelihood zones - April 2022

LivelihoodZone * FCS_Categories Crosstabulation					
% within LivelihoodZone		FCS_Categories			Total
		Poor	Borderline	Acceptable	
LivelihoodZone	Agro Pastoral	3.3%	38.3%	58.3%	100.0%
	Pastoral	31.1%	41.1%	27.8%	100.0%
	Pastoral All	33.3%	25.6%	41.1%	100.0%
	Urban employment			100.0%	100.0%
Total		22.2%	30.7%	47.0%	100.0%

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- Figure 14 below shows the distribution of MUAC color categories for children under the age of five. The proportion at risk of malnutrition has decreased slightly from 28.2 per cent in the month of March 2022 to stand at 27.3 percent in the month under review.
- This marked decrease in malnutrition rate is attributed to slight improvement in milk production, especially in Agro-Pastoral Livelihood Zone where there was improved browse condition due to the little rains received in many parts of the County.

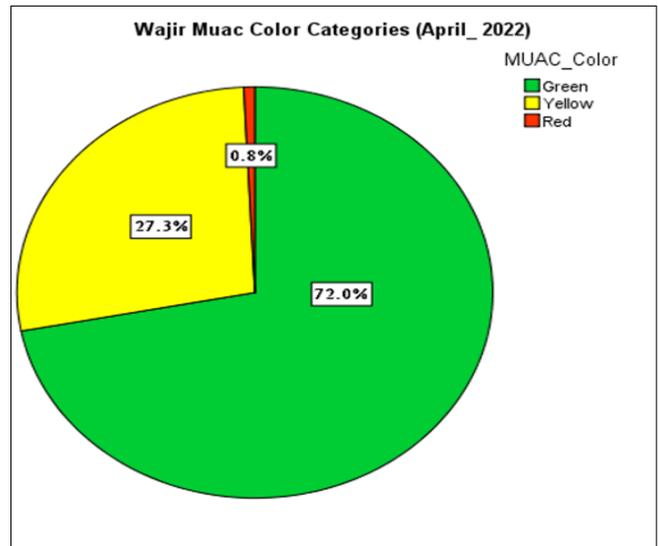


Figure 14: Malnutrition Rate

5.3.2 Health Status

There was an outbreak of Chikungunya at Wargadud Ward in Tarbaj Sub-County with 83 cases (5 confirmed and 78 probable cases respectively). The Kala-Azar outbreak is still active with 433 cases and four fatalities. Sub-Counties currently affected by Kala-Azar include Wajir West, Wajir South, Wajir North, Eldas and Wajir East.

5.4 COPING STRATEGY INDEXES

5.4.1: Reduced coping strategy index (rCSI)

- The consumption-based coping strategies, measured using the Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI), generally remained the same as last month at 10.4.
- Households in Pastoral Livelihood Zone applied the most coping strategies at 12.9 while those in Urban Employment applied the lowest index at 6.0.
- Strategies commonly employed by pastoral households include relying on less preferred food, borrowing food, reducing number of meals and reducing portion size and quantity for adults.

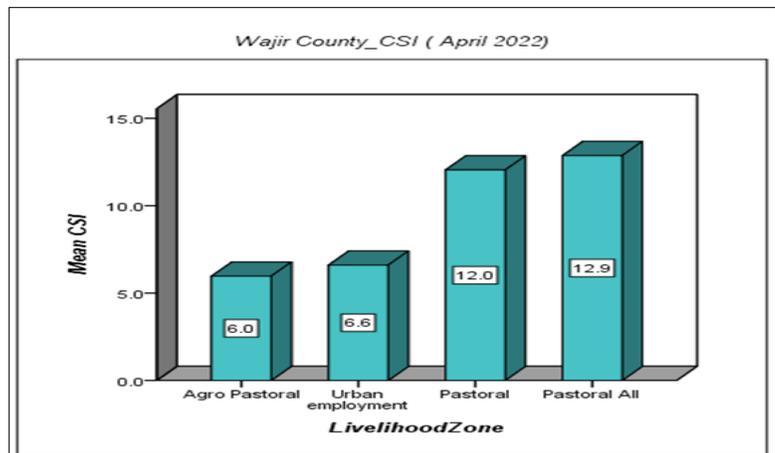


Figure 15: Coping Strategy Index

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 Non-food interventions.

Water Sector

- Water trucking
- Rehabilitation and repair of boreholes
- Equipping of boreholes
- Distribution of water storage facilities

Livestock Sector

- Distribution of 5,600 bags of drought pellets by NDMA to vulnerable households across the county.
- Routine monitoring and surveillance of livestock disease

Health Sector

- High impact Nutrition Interventions by the Department of Health.
- Integrated health outreaches
- Upscaling of disease surveillance and monitoring

Social Protection/Cash Transfer

- Cash transfer by Islamic Relief targeting 1,000 drought affected households in Wajir West, Eldas and Wajir North. Each household receives kshs 6,150
- Cash transfer by World Vision targeting 900 households, each receiving KES. 7,449 in Wajir South
- Cash transfer by WASDA targeting 650 households distributed across Wajir South (Kursi, Ibrahim Ure and Burder), Wajir West (Boa) and Eldas (Tula Tula, Mirgo Harun and Abaq Madhobe)
- Cash transfer by ALDEF targeting 236 households in Tarbaj Sub-County, with each household receiving KES. 9,255.
- Cash-Plus by FAO targeting 1,250 households with each beneficiary receiving KES. 5,400
- Cash transfer by RACIDA targeting 1,000 households in Wajir West (Bula Hagar and Langoot), Eldas (Masalale and Basir) and Tarbaj (Wargadud). Each beneficiary receives KES. 5,629

6.2 Food Aid/Interventions.

During the month under review, there was relief distribution by the National Government. There were also distributions of assorted dry foodstuffs by a number of local organizations.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- There were no cases of insecurity reported in the month under review, although there was a reported case of one death due to resource-based dispute at Diif in Wajir South. There is the need to continue strengthening peace building initiatives in the affected areas.

7.2 Migration

- Migration of livestock within and outside the county was reported. Most of the livestock are within the sub-counties, except those that moved to Garissa, Tana River and Somalia that are yet to come back.
- Migration into the traditional grazing areas in Isiolo and Marsabit Counties has been curtailed by conflicts among the border communities. Pastoralists from the Pastoral Livelihood Zone in Wajir West and Eldas sub counties have limited access to the rangeland resources along the border grazing areas due to the resource-based conflict on the border with Isiolo and Marsabit counties.

7.3 Food security prognosis/forecasts

- According to the Kenya Meteorological Department, Wajir County is likely to experience average rainfall in May 2022. The rainfall distribution is expected to be poor, with cessation likely to be experienced during the third to fourth week of May.
- Pasture and browse conditions are expected to improve in the coming months as a result of the ongoing rainfall.
- Based on Sussex Vegetation Outlook, the 3-month VCI forecast indicates severe vegetation deficit across the sub-counties, with the situation expected to improve due to the average rains received across the County.
- Milk production and consumption is likely to improve due to improved livestock body condition resulting from browse and pasture regeneration.
- Livestock prices are likely to slightly increase due to improved livestock body condition.
- Malnutrition cases will likely reduce due to increased milk production and consumption across the livelihood zones.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Health & Nutrition

- High impact nutrition intervention (HINI).
- Mass screening and integrated health outreaches
- Upscaling of disease surveillance and monitoring and training of community disease reporters

Livestock Sector.

- Monitoring and surveillance of livestock disease by the department of veterinary department.
- Livestock feeds distribution for the core breeding livestock left behind at the settlements due to their poor body condition

Water Sector.

- Rehabilitation and repair of boreholes
- Distribution of water storage facilities
- Desilting of water pans
- Distribution of water treatment chemicals and materials

Education sector

- Meals for ECD and primary schools
- Provision of clean water and water storage facilities
- Food for fees
- Bursary for vulnerable children