A Vision 2030 Flagship Project

National Drought Management Authority
WAJIR COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FEBRUARY 2026

EW FEBRUARY PHASE 2026



Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

Throughout the month, the county remained largely dry, hot and sunny. No rainfall was received during the month. Temperatures were high.

Vegetation Condition: Severe to Extreme vegetation deficit on a worsening trend was recorded across the county.

Production indicators

- There was a widespread crop failure for rain-fed agriculture
- Livestock body condition is poor and on a worsening trend
- Milk production is eight percent below LTA

Access indicators:

- Terms of Trade continue to decline, averaging 50 Kg/goat
- The average domestic distance to water sources increased
- Livestock prices continue to decline
- Milk consumption has been declining due to reducing milk production
  Maize prices have increased due to high demand

Utilization Indicators:

- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition increased from 15.6 percent last month to 16.8 percent in February 2026
- More than 28 percent of the HHs in Wajir are food insecure
- Households continue to employ more coping mechanisms due to reduced income levels

Early Warning Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-Pastoral	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral	Alarm	Worsening
Informal Employment	Alarm	Worsening
County	Alarm	Worsening
Biophysical Indicators	**value**	**Normal Range**
Rainfall (% of Normal)	0	80 -120
VCI-3Month	10.28	>35
Production indicators	**Value**	**Normal Range**
Livestock Body Condition	Poor	Normal
Crop production	Poor	Good
Milk production	1.2	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Not normal	Normal
Access Indicators	**Value**	**Normal Range**
Terms of Trade (ToT)	50	>66
Milk consumption	1.0	>3
Household Return Distance to water source	11.8	<5 Km
CSI	12.5	<5

▪ Short rains harvests ▪ Short dry spell ▪ Reduced milk yields ▪ Increased HH Food Stocks ▪ Migration ▪ Land preparation	▪ Planting/Weeding ▪ Long rains ▪ High Calving Rate ▪ Milk Yields Increase ▪ Breeding period	▪ Long rains harvests ▪ A long dry spell ▪ Land preparation ▪ Increased HH Food Stocks ▪ Kidding (Sept) ▪ Migration ▪ Herd Separation	▪ Short rains ▪ Planting/weeding ▪ High birth rates ▪ Wedding

BIOPHYSICAL INDICATORS

1.0 RAINFALL

1.1 Rainfall Performance and Spatial distribution

The Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) climate outlook for the March–April–May (MAM) 2026 season indicates that near-average rainfall is expected over the south-western strip of Wajir South and parts of Wajir North sub-counties. The rest of the sub-counties are expected to receive near-average to below-average rainfall, except for parts of Wajir West. Western areas of Wajir West Sub-county are projected to experience below-average rainfall during the season.

According to the WFP's Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) data, the county's NDVI remained slightly below the long-term average as shown in Figure 1 below. This is attributed to the below-average performance of the 2025 short rains, which led to poor regeneration of pasture and browse across the county.

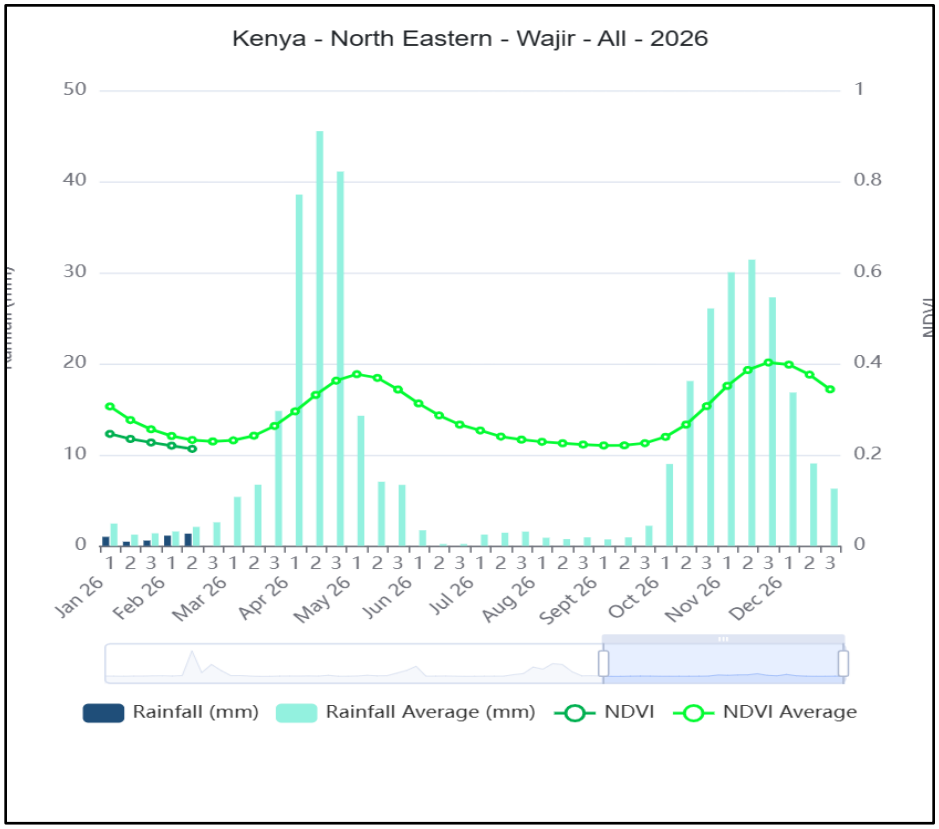


Figure 1: RFE & NDVI-February 2026

2.0 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI3M)

The county continues to experience a marked deterioration in vegetation conditions across all livelihood zones, reflecting the cumulative effects of depressed rainfall during the recent rainy seasons.

As illustrated in Figure 2, the vegetation deficit is widespread and uniformly distributed across the county, underscoring the severity of the situation. These findings closely align with ground observations, which indicate substantial forage depletion and diminishing grazing resources for livestock.

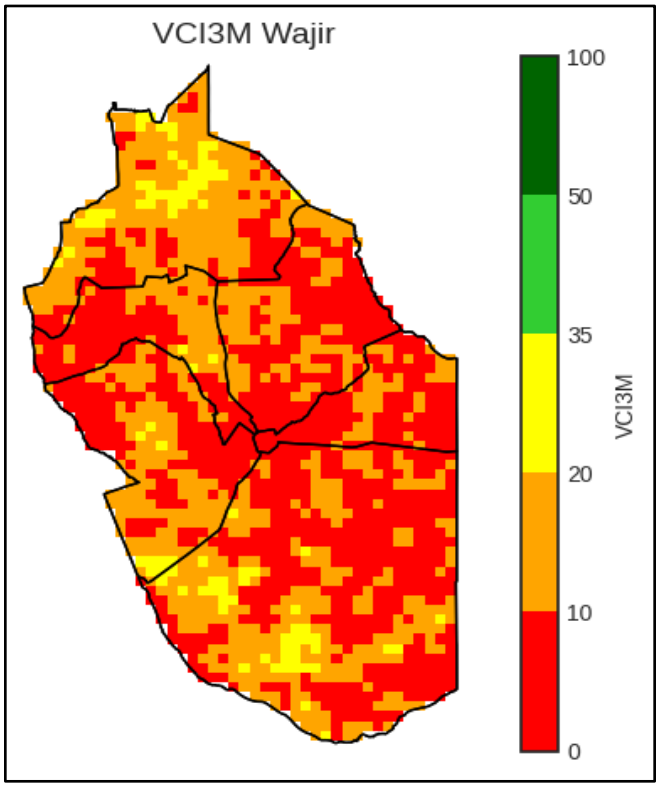


Figure 2: VCI February 2026

2.2.0 Ground-truthed vegetation–Pasture and Browse

2.2.1 Pasture

- The condition of pasture remained poor to very poor across the county. In most parts of the county, pasture is totally depleted.
- Current condition is not normal and it is attributed to poor performance of the 2025 OND season.
- The current available pasture is expected to last for one month or even less, depending on the area and livelihood zone.
- No major constraint in access to pasture was reported.

2.2.2 Browse

- The browse condition was generally poor across the county.
- The prevailing high temperatures have accelerated the withering of the limited available browse.
- The available browse is likely to last for around a month.
- No major constraints in access to browse was reported during the month under review.

2.3 Water Sources

2.3.1 Sources

The main sources of water for both domestic and livestock use during the month under review include boreholes, shallow wells and water trucking. Most water pans across the county are completely dry since the rains received during the 2025 short rains season were significantly depressed. Consequently, water trucking is one of the major sources of water, especially in areas with no permanent source of water. There is also high human and livestock concentration at the strategic boreholes, resulting in frequent breakdowns.

2.3.2 Household Access and Utilization

In February 2026, the return trekking distance for a household member to the nearest water point stood at around 11.8km. The current distance is over 60 percent above the long-term average as shown in figure 3.

The distance is expected to continue increasing as water availability is currently a major challenge in Wajir County. The anticipated near-average to below-average MAM 2026 rains may only result in a short-lived reprieve.

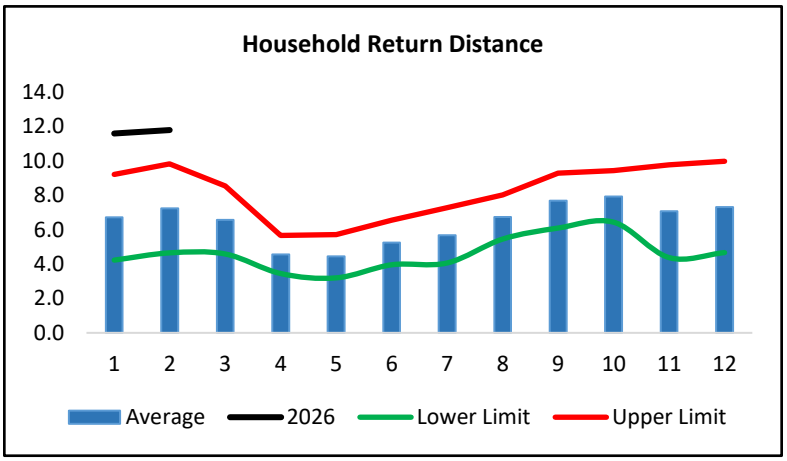


Figure 3: Domestic distance-Feb 2026

2.3.3 Livestock Access

The livestock trekking distance slightly increased from 16.4km in January 2026 to 16.8km during the month under analysis.

The current distance is above the long-term average by around six percent as shown in figure 4.

The distance is expected to continue increasing as pastoralists move far away from water sources while in search of pasture for their livestock.

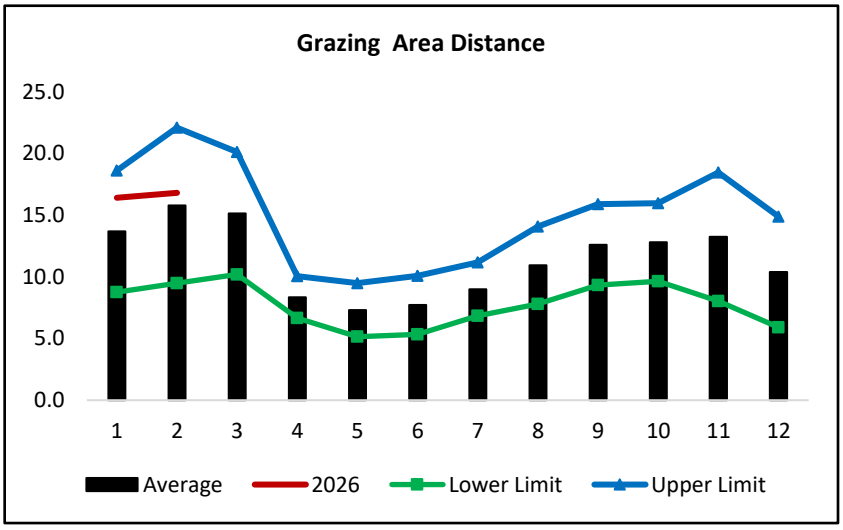


Figure 4: Livestock grazing distance

3.0. PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock production

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

The livestock body condition is generally poor across all species and continues to deteriorate. This decline is largely attributed to the severe shortage of rangeland resources, including pasture and browse, following consecutive seasons of below-average rainfall. The limited availability of forage and water has significantly reduced feed intake, leading to weight loss and weakened animals. As a result, livestock productivity in terms of milk production, growth rates and market value has markedly declined.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

No livestock disease outbreak was reported during the month under review. However, suspected cases of endemic livestock diseases including Sheep and Goat Pox (SGP), Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), and tick paralysis were reported across various livelihood zones. In response, the Directorate of Veterinary Services has intensified surveillance and strengthened disease monitoring activities.

3.1.3 Milk Production

Milk production per household per day in February 2026 largely remained the same as last month and stood at 1.2litres.

Current milk production is about eight percent below the long-term average as shown in figure 5.

Milk production is projected to further reduce in the coming months due to deteriorating livestock body condition and reduced birth rates.

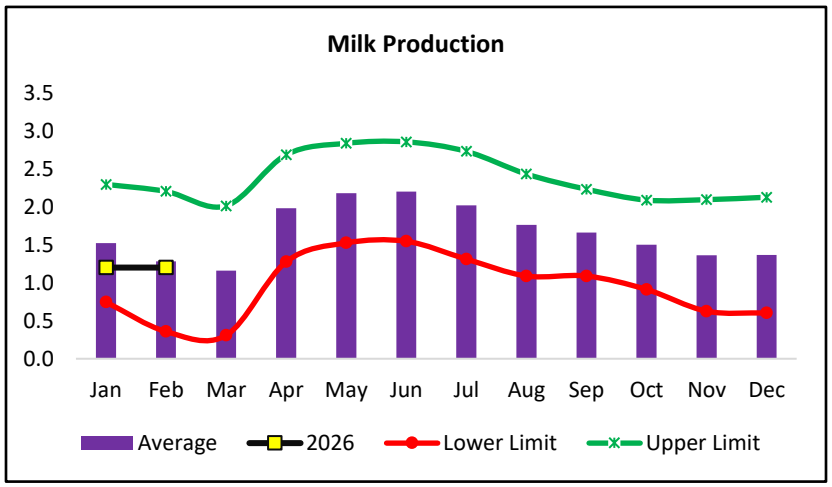


Figure 5: Milk production-Feb 2026

3.2 Rain-Fed Crop Production

The poor performance of the 2025 OND short rains season has led to reduced levels of agricultural activities across the county, with most of the farmers opting not to plant. The situation will most likely remain the same in the coming months considering that the 2026 long rains season may once again be below average as forecasted by KMD.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 Livestock Marketing

Cattle Prices

The average price of a medium-sized bull declined from Ksh 33,000 in January 2026 to Ksh 30,000 in February 2026.

The current price is around eight percent above the long-term average as shwon in figure 6.

The prices are projected to continue declining considering the deteriorating livestock body condition.

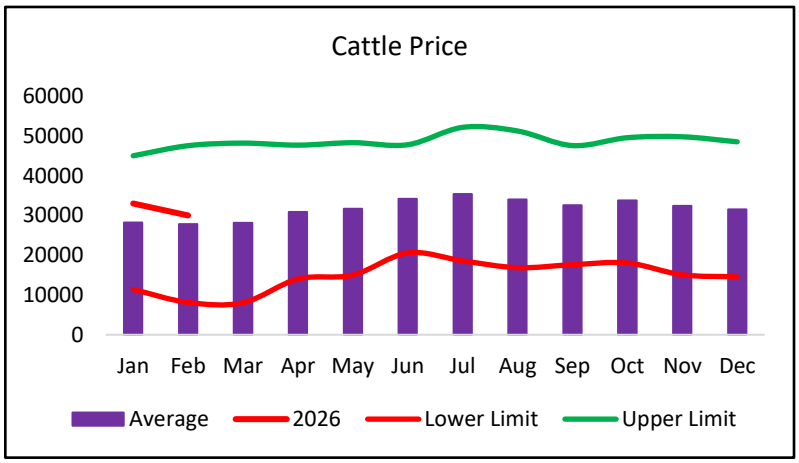


Figure 6: Cattle prices-Feb 2026

Small Ruminant (Goat price)

Compared to last month, the price of a goat has stabilized at Ksh 3,600. This stability is attributed to increased demand from buyers outside the county, who have been purchasing goats following sustained media coverage highlighting the impact of the drought on livestock prices.

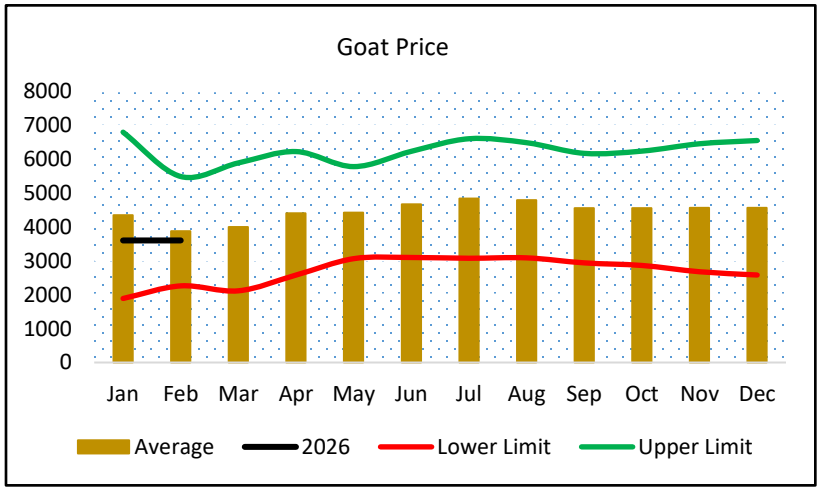


Figure 7: Goat prices-Feb. 2026

The current price is slightly above the long-term average by around seven percent. However, despite the current stability, prices may decline in the coming months as rangeland resources continue to deteriorate.

Camel prices

Camel prices declined from Ksh 45,000 in January 2026 to Ksh 42,000 in February 2026. Despite this decrease, the current price remains slightly above the long-term average by approximately six percent, as shown in Figure 8. Prices are expected to continue declining in the coming months, as diminishing rangeland resources are likely to negatively affect livestock body condition and, consequently, market values.

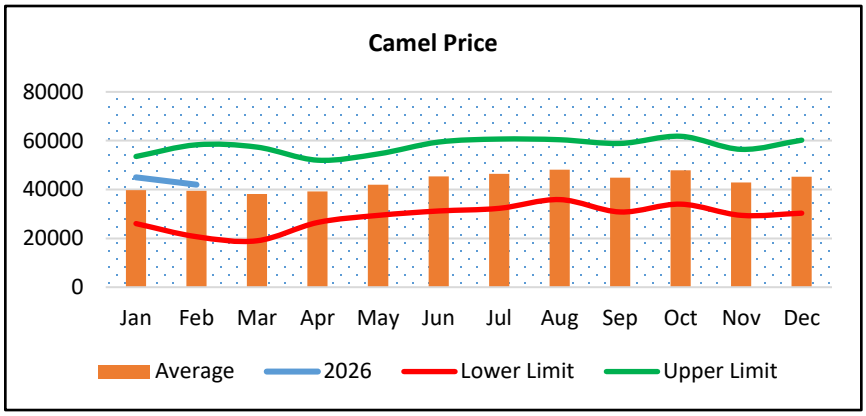


Figure 8: Camel prices

4.2 Crop Price

4.2.1 Maize

The average prices per Kilo of maize increased from Ksh. 95 in January 2026 to Ksh. 100 per kg during the month under analysis. The current price is about 25 percent above the long-term average.

Currently pastoralists are increasingly using maize as supplementary livestock feed following the near-total depletion of browse and pasture, hence increased demand leading to price increase.

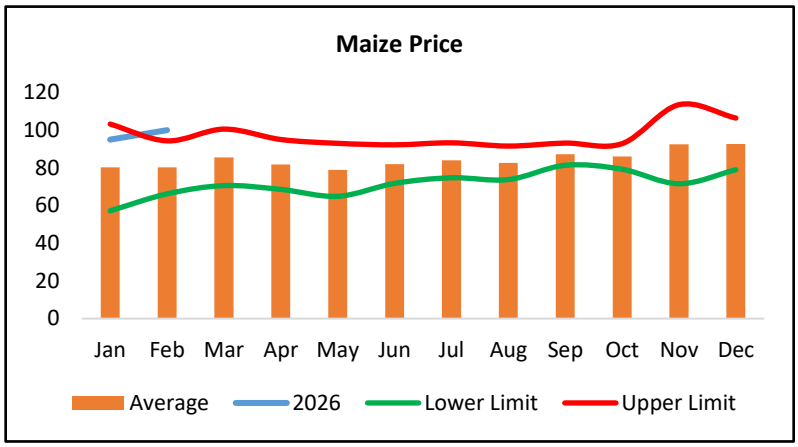


Figure 9: Maize prices

Terms of Trade (ToT)

The Terms of Trade (ToT) declined from 52 in January 2026 to 50 in February 2026. This reduction is attributed to the increase in maize prices during the period under review. Compared to the long-term average, the current ToT is at par, as shown in Figure 10.

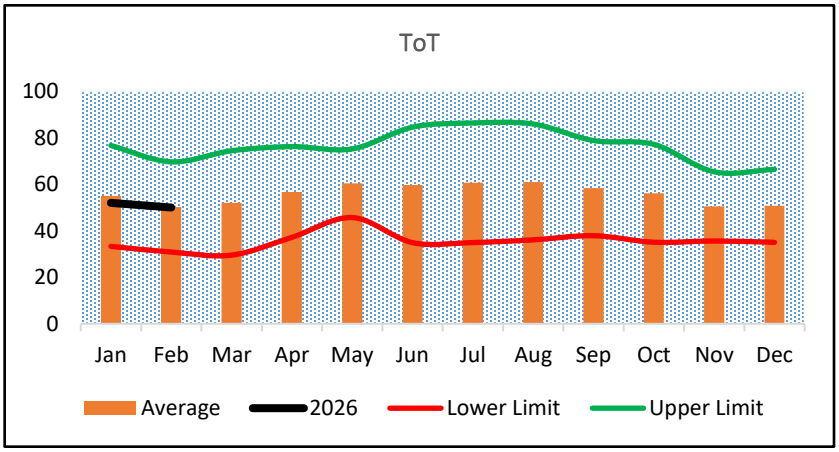


Figure 10: ToT trends-Feb 2026

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 .1 Milk Consumption

Milk consumption per household per day in February 2026 remained largely unchanged from the previous month, averaging 1 litre. The current level is nearly the same as the long-term average, as illustrated in Figure 11.

Milk consumption is expected to decline in the coming months due to reduced milk production.

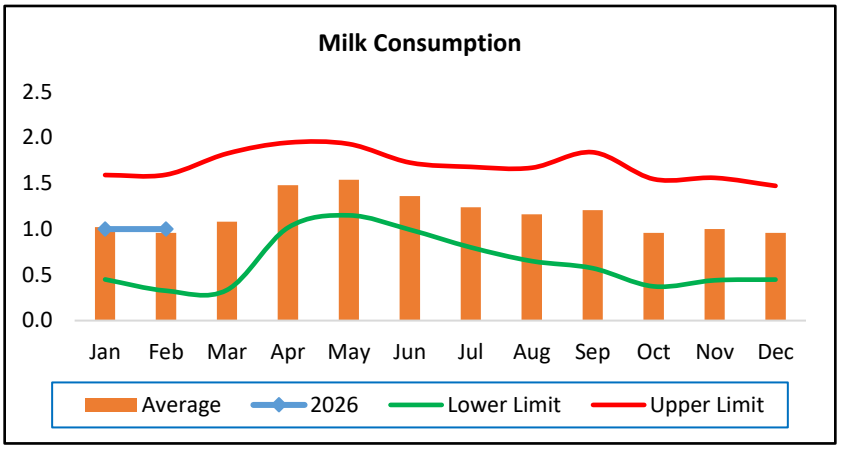


Figure 11: Milk consumption

5.1.2 Food Consumption Score

In February 2026, approximately 28 percent of households in Wajir County recorded a poor Food Consumption Score (FCS), while a further 32 percent fell within the borderline category. Households in the pastoral livelihood zone were the most affected, as they largely depend on livestock for both food and income, which have been adversely impacted by the ongoing drought.

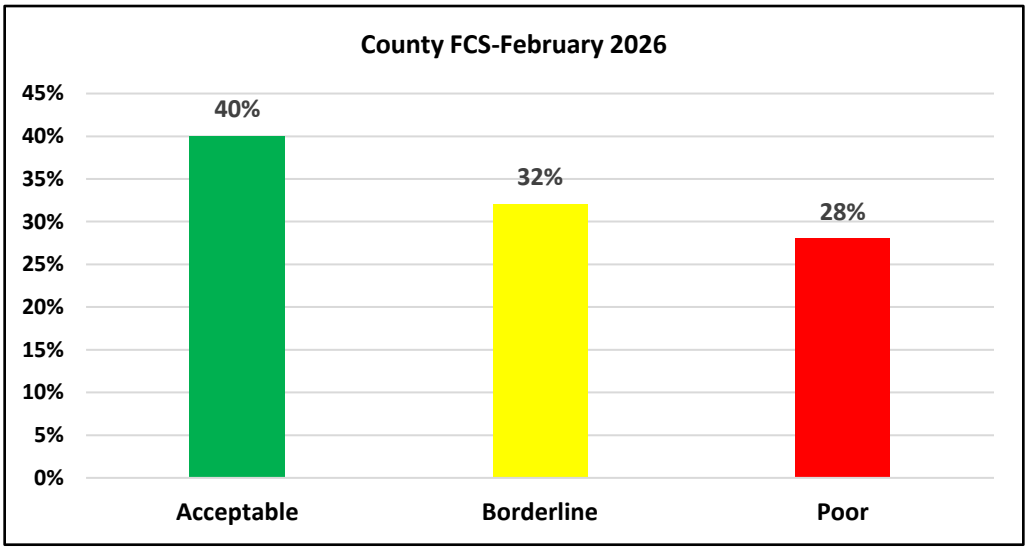


Figure 12: FCS trends-Feb. 2026

5.2 Health and Nutrition Status

5.2.1 Nutrition Status

From the MUAC measurement of children aged 6-59 months, 16.8 percent were found to be at risk of moderate malnutrition.

This is an increase of eight percent when compared to the previous month when the rate was at 15.6 percent. The increase in the malnutrition rate can be attributed to reduced livestock productivity and its associated impacts on household food availability and income.

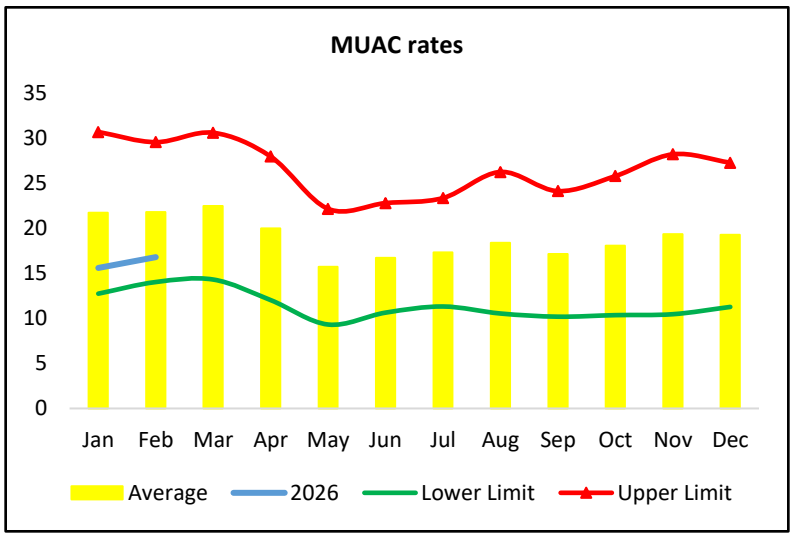


Figure 13: MUAC rates

5.3.2 Health Status

No human disease outbreak was reported during the month under review.

Coping Strategy Indices

5.4: Reduced coping strategy index (rCSI)

The overall reduced Coping Strategy Index for Wajir County slightly increased from 11 in January 2026 to 12.5 in February 2026. Households in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone reported the highest coping strategy index of 13, with households in the Formal/Informal Employment Livelihood Zone recording the least use of coping strategies.

Coping strategies mainly employed by households include relying on less preferred food and reducing the number of meals per day.

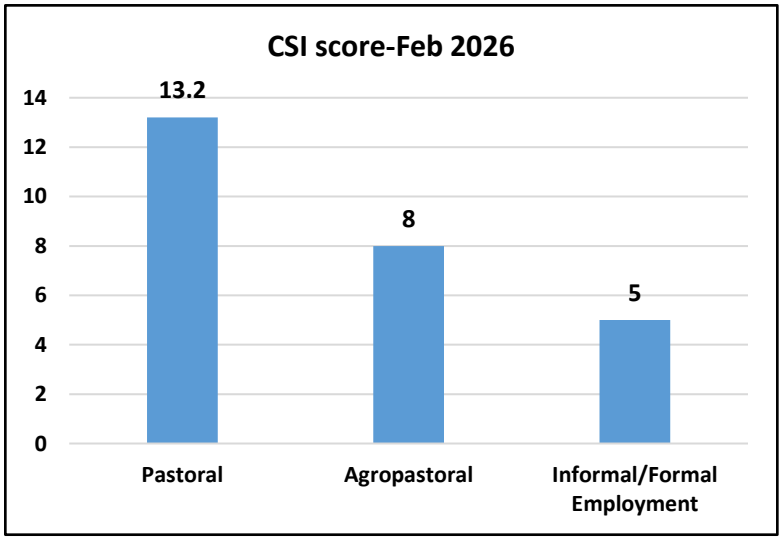


Figure 14: CSI-Feb 2026

6.0 EMERGING ISSUES

6.1.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

There were no reported cases of resource-based conflict during the month under review.

6.1.2 Migration

Pastoral migration in Wajir County has intensified due to declining pasture and water availability across the livelihood zones. Pastoralists have migrated in search of better grazing areas and water sources in Isiolo, Garissa and Marsabit Counties. At the same time, pastoralists from Mandera County remain in Wajir North, further exerting pressure on the already strained grazing resources. These migration patterns reflect the growing stress on rangelands and the increasing competition for scarce natural resources within and beyond the county.

6.2 Food Security Prognosis/Forecasts

- According to KMD's seasonal outlook for the 2026 MAM long rains season, near-average rainfall is expected over the strip west of Wajir South and parts of Wajir North sub-counties. Near- average to below-average rainfall is expected over the rest of the sub-counties, except parts of Wajir west. Below-average rainfall is expected over the western parts of Wajir west sub county.
- Condition of pasture and browse are likely to continue deteriorating following the poor performance of the 2025 short rains.
- The livestock body condition for all species is expected to further deteriorate, especially for grazers.
- Livestock prices are expected to continue declining as the body condition worsens.
- Milk availability and consumption is expected to further decline. This will in turn result in increased cases of malnutrition.
- Food consumption and dietary diversity is expected to worsen in the coming months.
- Livestock migration is expected to increase considering the water crisis being experienced across the county. This has resulted in pastoralists migrating in search of water and pasture for their livestock.

7.0 ONGOING INTERVENTIONS

Table 1: Ongoing cash and food interventions

Organisation	Intervention type	Location	No of beneficiaries	Amount in Ksh/kg
NDMA	Cash transfer—HSNP	All sub-counties	19,201	Ksh 5,400 per HH
National Government	Relief food distribution	All sub-counties		
County Government	Ramadhan Iftar programme	All sub-counties	40,000 HHs	915 tons of food supplies
World Food Programme	Drought response cash transfer	All sub-counties	7,258 HHs	Ksh 7,000 per HH (ending in March)
Save the Children	Cash transfer—HADAC Programme	Wajir South & North	1,900 HHs	Ksh. 7,000 per HH for 2 months
Kenya Red Cross	Corn Soya Blend plus (CSB++) & food aid	Malnutrition hotspots	2,000 HHs	
Islamic Relief	Provision of assorted food stuff	Wajir West, East and South	600 HHs (200 HHs per sub-county)	
World Vision Kenya	Multi-purpose cash transfer	Wajir South	1,000 HHs	7,200 (one month)

Table 2: Ongoing non-food interventions

Organization	Intervention type	Location	No of beneficiaries
NDMA	Distribution of livestock feed—14,000 bags	All sub-counties	
	Provision of 6 submersible pumps		
	Water trucking	All sub-counties	
World Vision	Integrated outreach programme	All sub-counties	79 centres
WASDA	Support to health outreaches	Wajir South, Wajir North & Tarbaj	30 sites
	Distribution of NFIs	Tarbaj and Wajir North	1,200 HHs
	Distribution of 700 dignity kits	Wajir West, North, South & Tarbaj	
WFP	Provision of nutrition commodities	All health facilities	
Kenya Red Cross	Drilling of 5 strategic boreholes	Wajir South (2), Wajir East (1), Wajir North (1), Eldas (1)	
	Support to health outreaches	Eldas	
	Animal health intervention	Wajir South	
Save the Children	Support to integrated outreaches	Wajir West and North	
	Rehabilitation of 8 boreholes	Wajir West, North and Eldas	
Islamic Relief	Rehabilitation of one high yielding borehole	Wajir South	
RACIDA	Support to PD Hearth Model	Wajir North and Eldas	

8.0 RECOMMENDED INTERVENTIONS

Table 3: Recommended interventions

Sector	Intervention	Location	Time-frame	Responsible
Food security	Support to farmers ahead of the season	All sub-counties	March-April 2026	CGW, NG, Partners
	Cash transfer	All sub-counties	March-April 2026	CGW, NG, partners
	Relief food distribution	All sub-counties	March-April 2026	CGW, NG, Partners
	Dissemination of drought early warning information	All sub-counties	March-April 2026	CGW, NG, Partners
Livestock	Destocking	All sub-counties	March-April 2026	CGW-DALF & partners
	Provision of livestock feed	All sub-counties	March-April 2026	CGW-DALF & partners
	Livestock treatment	All sub-counties	March-April 2026	CGW-DALF & partners
	Provision of essential drugs and vaccines	All sub-counties	March-April 2026	CGW-DALF & partners
Health	Provision of nutrition commodities	All sub-counties	March-April 2026	CGW-health, partners
	Scale up wash interventions	All sub-counties	March-April 2026	CGW-health, partners
	Up-scale integrated health and nutrition outreaches	All sub-counties	March-April 2026	CGW, partners
	Water trucking to health facilities	All sub-counties	March-April 2026	CGW, partners
Water	Upscale community water trucking	All sub-counties	March-April 2026	CGW & partners
	Provision of fuel subsidy	All sub-counties	March-April 2026	CGW, partners
	Repair and rehabilitation of strategic boreholes	All sub-counties	March-April 2026	CGW, partners
	Provision of fast-moving spares for strategic boreholes	All sub-counties	March-April 2026	CGW, partners
	Provision of plastic tanks to communities, schools and health facilities		March-April 2026	
	Provision of collapsible tanks to strategic grazing areas		March-April 2026	
Peace & Security	Intensify peace building efforts in conflict hotspots	All sub-counties	March-April 2026	NG, CGW, Partners
Education	Provision of school meals	All sub-counties	March-April 2026	NG, CGW, Partners
	Water trucking to schools	All sub-counties	March-April 2026	NG, CGW, Partners
	Provision of bursary and dignity kits	All sub-counties	March-April 2026	NG, CGW, Partners