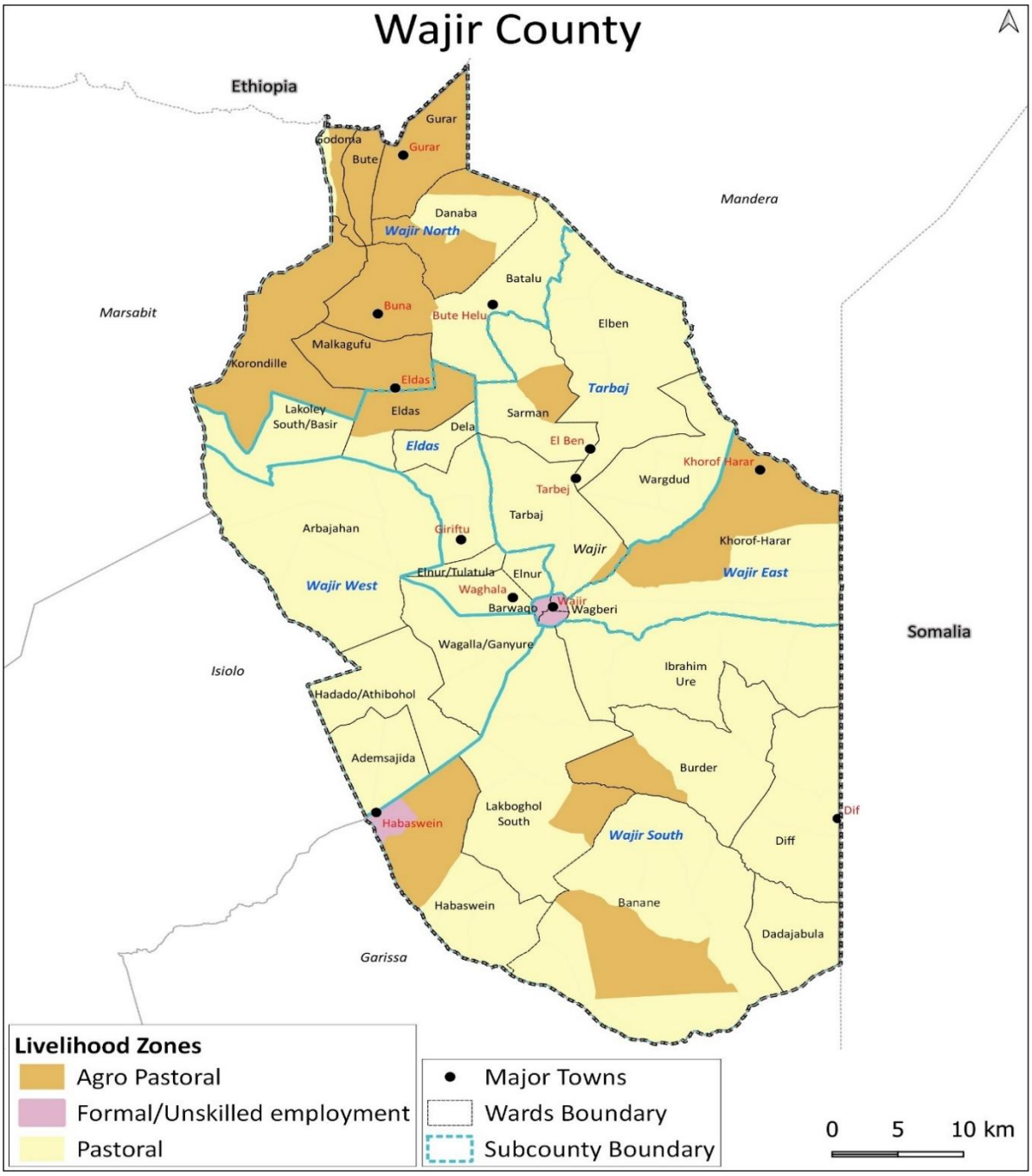
WAJIR COUNTY 2025 SHORT RAINS FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY ASSESSMENT REPORT



Report by the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) and Wajir County Steering Group (CSG)

January 2026

Executive Summary

The 2025 October–December (OND) short rains food security assessment was conducted from 19th to 29th January 2026 and was led by the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG) in collaboration with the County Steering Group (CSG). The primary objective of the assessment was to analyze and determine the impact of the 2025 short rains on food and nutrition security, taking into account the cumulative effects of previous seasons, and to develop appropriate response recommendations. The assessment examined the effects of the season on food availability, access and utilization by analyzing key contributing factors, observed outcomes and sectoral impacts. The overall aim was to generate evidence-based recommendations to inform timely and appropriate response options. The assessment covered all sub-counties in Wajir County, with livelihood zones serving as the unit of analysis.

The 2025 short rains for Wajir County were generally below average, with poor distribution in space and time. During the period of analysis, there were reported cases of livestock diseases such as Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP) at 28.9 percent, Camel pox at 2.2 percent, Trypanosomiasis at 2.2 percent, and Rabies at 2.2 percent. Other conditions**,** including Abortion, Bloat, Laminitis, Pneumonia, Diarrhea, Dermatitis, Orf and Mange accounted for the remaining 4.4 percent of reported livestock diseases. In addition, there was also intensified livestock in-migration and out-migration across the county.

There was total crop failure among households dependent on rain-fed crop production following the poor performance of the 2025 short rains season. Below-normal rainfall resulted in minimal regeneration of pasture and browse across the county, leading to a further deterioration in livestock body condition. This decline has significantly reduced livestock production and productivity, with household milk production and consumption in both Agro-Pastoral and Pastoral Livelihood Zones falling well below the long-term averages. Compounding the situation, the county is experiencing severe water shortages, with more than 168 water points currently dependent on water trucking as their primary source, placing additional strain on livelihoods and food security.

According to NDMA sentinel site data, more than 30 percent of households in Wajir County are acutely food insecure and require humanitarian assistance. As food insecurity deepens, pastoral households are increasingly resorting to negative coping strategies due to declining purchasing power. Preliminary findings from the January 2026 SMART Survey indicate that 19.2 percent of children under five years are malnourished, well above the WHO emergency threshold of 15 percent, highlighting a worsening nutrition crisis and the urgent need for timely interventions.

Based on the current food security outcomes, Wajir County is classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), with 274,500 people in need of food assistance (in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse). Considering the continued deterioration of rangeland resources, declining livestock productivity and eroding household coping capacity, more households are likely to slip further into IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and Phase 4 (Emergency) over the next three months if humanitarian assistance is not urgently scaled up. And if the 2026 March–May (MAM) long rains fail, the county is likely to sharply deteriorate to Emergency (IPC Phase 4), potentially exposing more households to severe food consumption gaps and heightened losses of livelihood assets.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 County Background

Wajir County is located in the Northeastern region of Kenya between latitudes 3° N 60'N and 0 20'N and Longitudes 39° E and 41° E and covers an area of 56,685.9 Km^2. It borders Somalia to the East, Ethiopia to the North, Mandera County to the North-East, Isiolo County to the South-West, Marsabit County to the West and Garissa County to the South. The County has a total projected population of 871,000 people (KNBS population projections for 2024). The County is divided into six constituencies, namely: Wajir North, Wajir South, Wajir West, Wajir East, Tarbaj and Eldas. The constituencies are further divided into 30 wards. The county has three livelihood zones namely; Pastoral, Agro-pastoral and Formal/Unskilled Employment, with human population per livelihood zone being 60 percent, 23 percent and 17 percent, respectively (Figure 1).

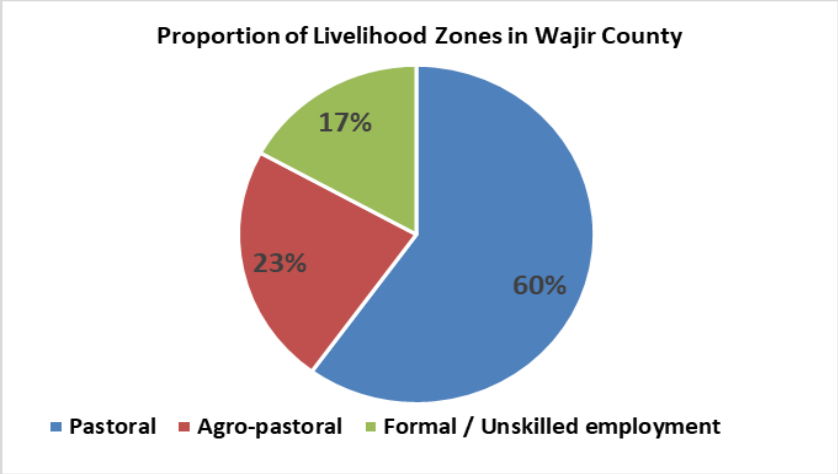


Figure 1: Livelihood Zones

Livestock production contributes 80 percent of household income in Pastoral and Agro-Pastoral Livelihood Zones. Crop production contributes 30 percent of household income in Agro Pastoral and 15 percent in Pastoral and Formal/Informal Employment livelihood zones.

1.2 Methodology and Approach

The overall objective of the assessment was to conduct an objective, evidence-based and transparent food security situation analysis following the 2025 short rains season, taking into account the cumulative effect of the previous seasons, and to provide recommendations on possible response options based on the situation analysis.

The processes and methodologies for the assessment were coordinated and developed by the County Steering Group (CSG) in collaboration with the Kenya Food Security Steering Group (KFSSG). The county team collected secondary data (livelihood zone baseline data, drought monitoring information, monthly nutrition surveillance data, price data and satellite imagery) while additional information and data was provided by the CSG members from various departments through sector-specific checklists. A transect drive across the county and primary data collection through community and household interviews were conducted across the county from 22nd to 2^{4th} January 2026. The teams also visited health facilities, markets and watering points to gather relevant information. The findings of the January 2026 Smart Survey were also used to corroborate the findings of the food security assessment.

After the fieldwork and analysis of the data, the CSG was debriefed to verify the report from the field. The results from sampled areas, along with outcomes of discussions with the larger CSG and secondary data analysis were used to draw inferences for non-visited areas situated in similar livelihood zones. The findings and recommendations were made and shared for planning purposes. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC Version 3.0) protocols were used in classifying the severity of food insecurity.

2.0 DRIVERS OF FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN THE COUNTY

2.1 Rainfall Performance

The 2025 October – December (OND) short rains season in Wajir County was generally below average and poorly distributed both spatially and temporally. According to the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) Wajir Office, the onset criteria for the season was not met. The season was therefore recorded as one of the driest in the history of Northern Kenya, including Wajir County.

Rainfall received across most parts of the county was more than 66 percent below the Long-Term Mean (LTM) as shown in Figure 2. Cumulatively, the county received only 58.54 mm of rainfall during the season, compared to the long-term mean of 174.03 mm. In addition, rainfall cessation occurred early, during the first week of December 2025, against the normal cessation period of the third dekad of December.

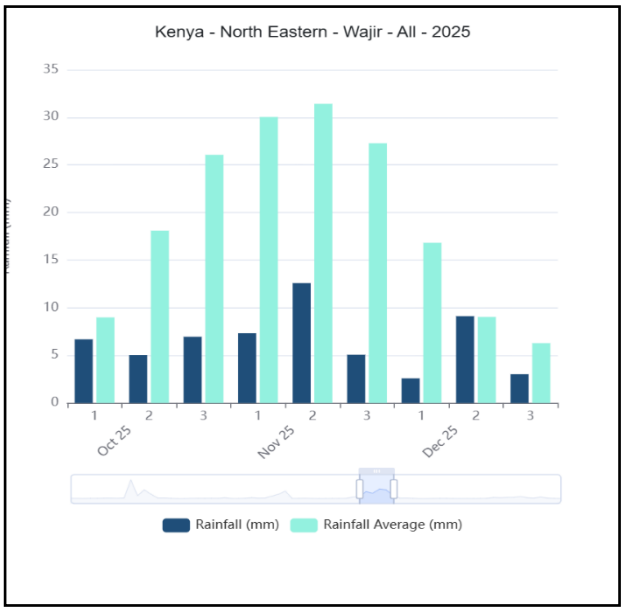


Figure 2: Rainfall performance

2.2 Upsurge in livestock diseases

During the period under review, several priority notifiable animal diseases were reported across the county. Disease detection primarily relied on clinical diagnosis, syndromic surveillance, and the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), which provided laboratory-confirmed diagnosis for rabies. The reported diseases included Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) at 60 percent, Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP) at 28.9 percent, Camel pox at 2.2 percent, Trypanosomiasis at 2.2 percent, and Rabies at 2.2 percent. Other conditions, including Abortion, Bloat, Laminitis, Pneumonia, Diarrhea, Dermatitis, Orf and Mange accounted for the remaining 4.4 percent of reported livestock diseases.

The congregation of livestock at limited water points and scarce grazing areas contributed to increased disease morbidity rates. In addition, diminishing feed and water resources have intensified interactions among humans, livestock and wildlife, increasing the risk of zoonotic disease spill-over, particularly rabies, from wildlife to livestock and the human population. These disease upsurges are being contained through continuous active and passive surveillance, targeted pastoralist sensitization, widespread vaccination campaigns and timely treatment interventions.

3.0 IMPACTS OF DRIVERS ON FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

3.1 Availability

3.1.1 Crops Production

During the season under review, the county had planned to establish approximately 5,800 acres under both rain-fed and irrigated crop production. Under normal conditions, the onset of the OND rains occur in the second dekad of October, with cessation in the third dekad of December. However, the 2025 OND rains were characterized by a late and poorly defined onset, which significantly constrained timely land preparation and planting. Consequently, less than 1,000 acres were planted across the county.

The main crops planted included maize, sorghum, cowpeas, beans, green grams, watermelon, simsim, tomatoes, kales, spinach, onions, capsicum, as well as perennial crops such as mangoes, pawpaw, and citrus. Crop production contributes approximately 30 percent to household food and income, particularly in the Agro-Pastoral Livelihood Zone. As the season progressed, rainfall performance did not improve and ultimately culminated in complete failure. The failure of the rains resulted in total crop failure in rain-fed production systems and a substantial reduction in the area under irrigation due to diminished water availability.

In response to the worsening conditions, communities prioritized the use of limited water resources from water pans and boreholes for domestic consumption and livestock needs, further constraining irrigated crop production.

a) Rain-fed Crop Production

Table 1: Rain-fed crop production

Crop	Area planted during 2025 Short rains season (Ha)	Long term average (5 year) area planted during the short rains season (Ha)	2025 Short rains production (90 kg bags) Projected/Actual	Long term average production (5 year) during the short rains season (90 kg bags)
1.Maize	124	540	0	3014
2.Sorghum	273	730	0	3432
3. Pulses	173	405	0	937
Totals	**570**	**1675**	**0**	**7383**

When compared to the long-term average, the total acreage planted under maize, sorghum and pulses declined significantly by 77, 63 and 57 percent respectively. This was largely attributed to the below-average rainfall performance during the 2025 short rains season. As a result, no harvest was realized from rain-fed crop production, as shown in Table 1. Consequently, the county experienced near-total crop failure during the season, leading to a substantial reduction in own-produced food. Households in

the Agro-Pastoral Livelihood Zone are therefore highly exposed to food and nutrition insecurity, particularly in areas that are heavily dependent on rainfall.

b) Irrigated Crop Production

The season under review was among the worst in recent years for irrigated agriculture. Poor rainfall performance resulted in minimal recharge of water pans, shallow wells and boreholes, thereby significantly constraining availability of water for irrigation.

Table 2: Irrigated Crops

Crop	Area planted during the 2025 Short rains season (ha)	Long term average (3 years) area planted during short rains season (ha)	2025 Short rains season production (90 kg bags/MT) Projected/Actual	Long term average production (3 years) during short rains season (90 kg bags/MT)
1. Watermelon	43	82	344	576
2. Tomatoes	27	39	135	178
3. Kales	54	73	336	770
Total	**124**	**194**	**815**	**1524**

The total area under irrigated agriculture declined cumulatively by 36 percent compared to the long-term average (LTA), largely due to severely constrained access to water for irrigation. The decline was more pronounced in actual production, which was more than 47 percent below the long-term average, as shown in Table 2. Reduced production volumes led to lower household incomes, thereby negatively affecting food purchasing capacity. In addition, access to green vegetables among farming households declined, likely having adverse implications on dietary diversity and nutritional outcomes.

3.1.2Cereals stock

Table 3: Quantities held currently (90-kg bags)

Commodity	Maize		Rice		Sorghum		Pulses		Total	
	Current	LTA	Current	LTA	Current	LTA	Current	LTA	Current	LTA
Farmers	0	1,600	0	0	0	1800	0	500	0	3900
Traders	3,800	6,400	14,100	16,800	450	500	400	500	18743	24200
Millers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Aid/NCPB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**3,800**	**8,000**	**14,100**	**16,800**	**450**	**2300**	**400**	**1000**	**4687**	**7025**

Available cereal stocks in the county are projected to meet market demand only up to the end of February 2026, although traders are expected to restock subject to prevailing demand conditions. The stocks are normally sourced from Nairobi, Meru, Isiolo and other neighbouring markets. However, low household purchasing power is likely to constrain food access, increasing the risk of food and nutrition insecurity among vulnerable populations. Households engaged in irrigated agriculture, though limited in number and scale, may continue to have relatively stronger purchasing capacity, as long as production is sustained. In light of these conditions, the county remains food insecure, and immediate humanitarian support is required to prevent further deterioration of food and nutrition security outcomes.

3.1.3 Livestock Production

Livestock production is the primary source of livelihood in Wajir County. The main species reared include camels, goats, cattle, sheep, and donkeys. Livestock production engages approximately 75 percent of the rural population, and contributes about 60 and 65 percent of cash income in the Agro-Pastoral and Pastoral Livelihood Zones, respectively. Additionally, it accounts for 70 percent of household food sources.

Livestock production in the county is constrained by several hazards, including recurrent droughts, flash floods, resource-based conflicts, livestock pests and diseases, and wildlife–livestock conflicts. During the 2025 OND 2025 short rains season, suspected cases of livestock diseases were reported across the county, particularly an upsurge in endemic and transboundary animal diseases such as Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) and Sheep and Goat Pox (SGP). However, these outbreaks were contained through continuous passive and active disease surveillance, pastoralist sensitization initiatives, vaccinations, and treatment interventions.

The poor performance of the short rains season resulted in poor recharge of open water sources and inadequate regeneration of pasture and browse across the county, thereby negatively affecting livestock production and productivity.

Pasture and browse situation

The pasture and browse conditions across the county were generally poor as shown in Table 4. Pasture status ranged from poor to very poor in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone and poor in the Agro-Pastoral Livelihood Zone. Browse availability was poor across both livelihood zones. Consequently, communities reported that most of their livestock migrated in search of pasture and browse.

In the Agro-Pastoral Livelihood Zone, there was an influx of people and livestock, which exerted additional pressure on the already limited grazing resources. The available forage in this zone is projected to last less than one month due to overconcentration. The pasture and browse situation is likely to continue deteriorating, which will significantly impact livestock productivity. Expected effects include worsening livestock body condition, reduced milk availability at household level, and lower livestock market prices.

There are no significant limitations to accessing available pasture and browse across the county. However, the spread of invasive species, particularly *Prosopis juliflora* (commonly known as Mathenge), along with other unpalatable plant species, has increased the area under invasion. It is estimated that the invaded area expanded from approximately 410 ha to 500 ha in the wards of Habaswein, Khorofharar, Hadado/Athibohol, Lagbogol South, Malkagufu, Buna/Batalu, Korondille, Bute and Gurar. Efforts to control the spread of the invasive species include removing them from grazing fields and restoring denuded land with more palatable pasture and fodder species.

Table 4: Browse and pasture conditions

	Pasture					**Browse**				
Livelihood zone	**Condition**		**How long to last (Months)**		**Factors Limiting access**	**Condition**		**How long to last (Months)**		**Factors Limiting access**
	Current	**Normal**	**Current**	**Normal**		**Current**	**Normal**	**Current**	**Normal**	
Pastoral	Poor to Very poor	Good to Fair	1 month (Feb 2026)	2-3 Months	None	Poor	Good to fair	1 month (Feb 2026)	3-4 Months	None
Agro-pastoral	Poor	Good to fair	>2months (March 2026)	3-4 months	None	Poor	Fair to Poor	>2 months 2026)	3-4 Months	None

a) Baled hay status

There is decreased hay bales stored across the county, which is attributed to the poor OND rainfall and increased utilization as most farmers and pastoralists are currently using naturally growing pasture (Table 5). Some fodder farmers are harvesting hay grown on their farms and selling it as green cut fodder, loosely tied as bundles and/or baled into hay for storage.

Conserved pasture consumption gaps exist due to the drought, attributed to the high number of livestock, reduced land carrying capacity, and reduced quantities of hay produced, especially during this drought period. Externally sourced hay, especially wheat and rice straws in the form of baled hay, is brought into the county from Embu, Kirinyaga, Meru, and Laikipia counties at an average price of between Ksh. 300 and 500 per bale to cover gaps during prolonged droughts. However, these feeds are very low in nutritive value and when fed as the sole diet, livestock become weak and recumbent.

The conservation and utilization of conserved pasture and other supplementary feeds are limited by low production levels at farms, lack of mechanization of farm operations, low access to farm inputs such as certified seeds and equipment, and high distance and transport costs, among other factors. Despite these challenges, pasture and fodder conservation in the county has been instrumental in stabilizing forage fluctuations and offering smallholder farmers reprieve by providing access to feeds throughout the year. During the season, crop failure, especially for rain-fed maize and sorghum, was noted in most places across the county, thus affecting the availability of crop residues for feeds.

Table 5: Baled Hay status

Sub County	No. of Hay Stores	Storage Capacity (number of bales)	No. of Bales currently being held	Expected to last (durarion)	Average Weight per bale (in Kgs)	Average price per bale (Kshs.)	Comments – E.g percentage held by farmers and other Institutions
Wajir East	5	84,000	20,000	1 month	18	600-700	100% Farmers
Wajir West	4	30,000	5,000	1 week	18	600-700	100% Farmers
Eldas	1	10,000	0	0	-	-	Needs repair
Wajir North	4	60,000	15,000	3 weeks	18	600-700	100% Farmers
Wajir South	3	25,000	5,000	1 week	18	600-700	100% Farmers
Tarbaj	2	15,000	2,000	1 week	18	600-700	100% Farmers

b) Livestock Productivity

i. Livestock body condition

As shown in Table 6, the body condition of grazers and browsers across the livelihood zones ranges from fair (BCS 3) to poor (BCS 2), which is below the seasonal normal range. The increasing return trekking distances and migration to water sources, caused by the depletion of open water sources such as water pans, have negatively impacted livestock body condition. As animals travel longer distances and face limited water availability, their health and resilience decline, especially during prolonged dry periods.

The deteriorated body condition observed over the past two successive seasons has significantly reduced livestock prices, milk production, and household milk consumption. This decline is attributed to the cumulative effects of the depressed MAM 2025 and OND 2025 seasonal rains.

Table 6: Livestock Body Condition

Livelihood Zone	Cattle	Sheep	Goat	Camel
Pastoral	BCS2	BCS2	BCS3-BCS2	BCS3
Agro-Pastoral	BCS2	BCS2	BCS3-BCS2	BCS3
Note: BCS – Livestock Body Condition Score BCS 1 – Very Poor (Emaciated) BCS 2 – Poor BCS 3 – Fair BCS 4 – Good BCS 5- Very Good				

ii. Birth rates

Pastoralists reported that most female livestock were either young or in-calf, with only a few having calves or kids. The livestock birth rates were therefore below normal among all the species in both Pastoral and Agro-Pastoral Livelihood Zones which was driven by below average conception rates that resulted from poor body conditions caused by reduced forage and water availability.

iii. Tropical Livestock Units

The average Tropical Livestock Units (TLUs) per household in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone were 4 for poor households and 10 for medium-income households, compared to the normal averages of 8 and 18 respectively (Table 7). A similar trend was observed in the Agro-Pastoral Livelihood Zone, where TLUs averaged 4 for poor households and 6 for medium-income households, against normal averages of 6 and 8 respectively.

This reduction in TLUs is attributed to the ripple effects of asset stripping, as households sell livestock to meet food requirements during the drought period. The decline in TLUs has negatively impacted milk production and consumption at household level, ultimately worsening food and nutrition security.

Table 7: Tropical Livestock Units

Livelihood zone	Poor income households		Medium income households	
	Current	Normal	Current	Normal
Pastoral	4	8	10	18
Agro-pastoral	4	6	6	8

iv. Milk availability and consumption

Milk availability at household level was below the long-term averages, amounting less than one litre compared to the normal three litres. Milk production from goats and cows is reportedly declining due to reduced birth rates, coupled with diminishing availability of water, pasture and browse resources, as well as increased trekking distances and migrations. Where small quantities of milk are available in the market, it is sold at around Ksh 150 per litre. Some households have switched to processed milk (pasteurized and powdered) purchased from shops.

Table 8: Milk availability and consumption

Livelihood zone	Milk Production (Litres)/Household		Milk consumption (Litres) per Household		Prices (Kshs)/Litre	
	Current	LTA	Current	LTA	Current	LTA
Pastoral	1-1.5	3-4	1	> 3	150	50-100
Agro-pastoral	1-1.5	3-4	1	> 3	150	50-100

c) Water for Livestock

Water sources remained below normal across the county, as boreholes, water pans, and shallow wells were not well recharged during the season (Table 9). Currently, livestock are increasingly relying on shallow wells and boreholes, as water pans are either dry or nearing depletion. Several sites, particularly in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone, depend on water trucking for both human and livestock use. Strategic boreholes are also experiencing significant pressure due to the rising livestock population depending on these permanent water sources. The few remaining water pans with water are unlikely to last more than one month. This reduced water availability has resulted in increased trekking distance which in turn affected the livestock body condition.

Return trekking distances across the livelihood zones range between 12 and 15 kilometers, which is not normal at this time of year. Watering frequency has decreased across the livelihood zones and species, and is likely to continue reducing due to the expected decrease in available open water sources and accompanying concentration of livestock at permanent water points until the onset of the 2026 MAM long rains season (Table 10).

Table 9: Water availability and access

Livelihood zone	Sources		Return average distances (km)		Expected duration to last (months) for each source	
	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current	Normal
Pastoral	Boreholes Shallow wells Water trucking	Boreholes Water pans Shallow wells	12-15	5	Water pans <1 month (End of Jan 2026)	3
Agro-Pastoral	Boreholes Water trucking Shallow wells	Boreholes Water pans Shallow wells	12-15	5	Water pans <1 month (End of Jan 2026)	3-4

Table 10: Watering frequency (no. of days per week)

Livelihood zone	Cattle		Camels		Goats		Sheep	
	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current	Normal
Pastoral	2	3-4	1	2	2	3-4	2	3-4
Agro-pastoral	2	3-4	1	2	2	3-4	2	3-4

d) Livestock Migration

The Agro-Pastoral Livelihood Zone in Wajir North has experienced an influx of livestock from other sub-counties, including Wajir West, Wajir East, Tarbaj and Eldas, as well as from Mandera County. This has resulted in massive concentrations of livestock at the available watering points and grazing

areas. Out-migrations from Wajir West, Wajir South and Eldas sub-counties into Isiolo and Marsabit counties have also been reported, particularly for camels and cattle.

e) Livestock Diseases and Mortalities

During the period under review, several priority notifiable animal diseases were reported across the county. Disease detection primarily relied on clinical diagnosis, syndromic surveillance, and the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), which provided laboratory-confirmed diagnosis for rabies. The reported diseases included Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) at 60 percent, Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP) at 28.9 percent, Camel pox at 2.2 percent, Trypanosomiasis at 2.2 percent, and Rabies at 2.2 percent. Other conditions**,** including Abortion, Bloat, Laminitis, Pneumonia, Diarrhea, Dermatitis, Orf and Mange accounted for the remaining 4.4 percent of reported livestock diseases. These disease upsurges are being contained through continuous active and passive surveillance, targeted pastoralist sensitization, widespread vaccination campaigns and timely treatment interventions. Livestock deaths due to drought related causes is estimated to be around 3-5 percent.

3.2 Access

3.2.1 Markets Operations

All markets across the county remained operational during the season under review, with average functionality observed across all livelihood zones. Key markets include Habaswein, Dagahley, Griftu, Eldas, Bute, and Tarbaj. However, the majority of food commodities continue to be sourced from external markets, including neighboring counties (such as Meru, Kiambu, and Nairobi) and countries (Ethiopia and Somalia). Despite market functionality, trade volumes for most commodities, particularly livestock, remained below normal, reflecting weakened market activity and reduced purchasing power.

a) Maize price

The average retail price of maize per kilogram increased from KSh 90 in December 2025 to KSh 95 in January 2026, driven by heightened demand, including its use by pastoralists as supplementary feed for weak core breeding herds.

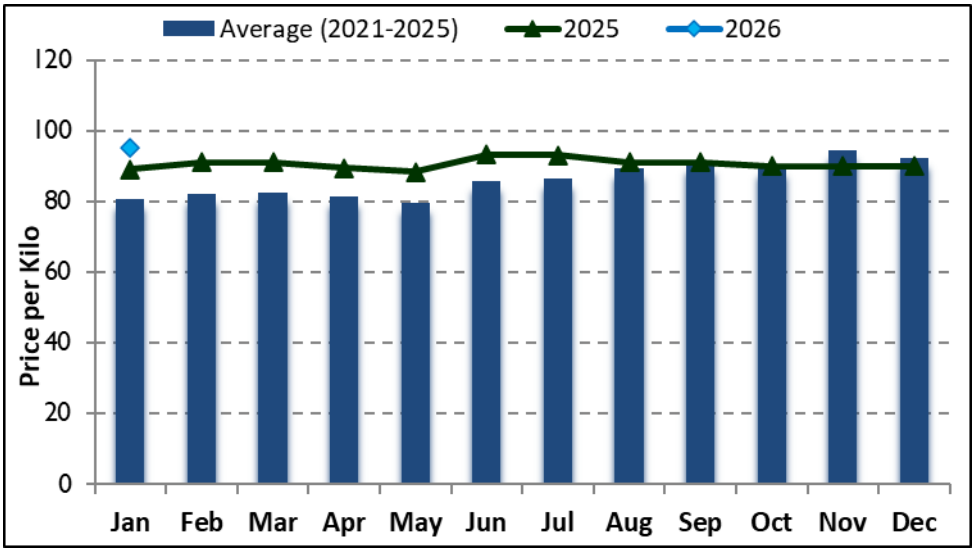


Figure 3: Maize price trend

The current price is 17 percent and 7 percent above the long-term average and the price recorded during the same period last year, respectively, as shown in Figure 3. Prices are likely to continue rising as households increasingly use maize as livestock feed following the near-total depletion of browse and pasture.

b) Goat price

In January 2026, the average price of a goat declined to Ksh 3,600 per head (Figure 4). This represents a 10 percent decrease compared to the previous month and a substantial 17 percent drop relative to the long-term average.

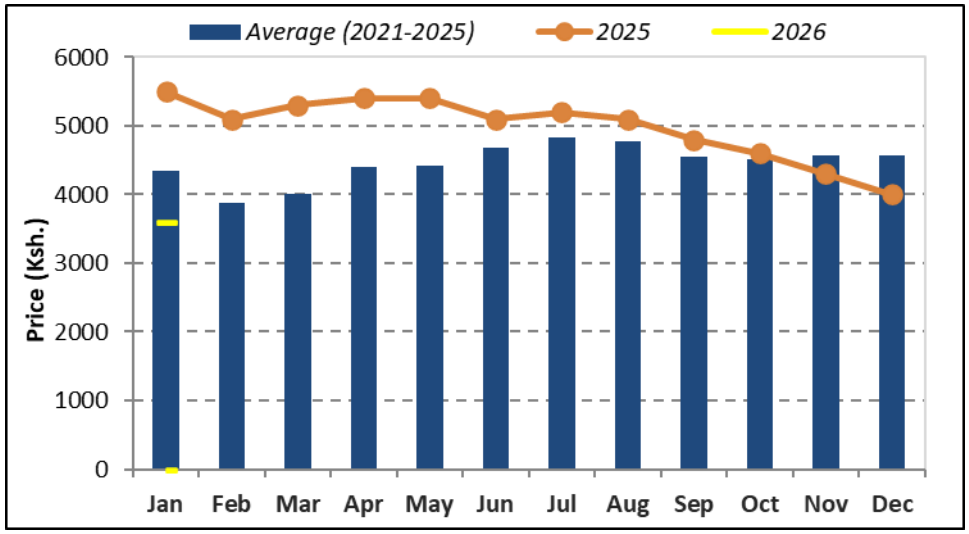


Figure 4: Goat prices

The decline in prices is attributed to deteriorating livestock body conditions following the poor performance of the 2025 short rains, which led to limited forage regeneration and recharge of water sources. Prices may continue to decline in the coming months as rangeland resources further deteriorate.

3.2.2 Terms of Trade (ToT)

The terms of trade (ToT) for goat-to-maize generally deteriorated across the county, recording a value of 52 in January 2026. This decline was mainly driven by reduced goat prices against increased maize prices. The current ToT is almost at the same level as the long-term average (LTA), as shown in Figure 5. However, compared to the same period last year, the ToT has declined by more than 21 percent. The ToT is expected to continue deteriorating due to declining livestock body conditions driving reduced sales values.

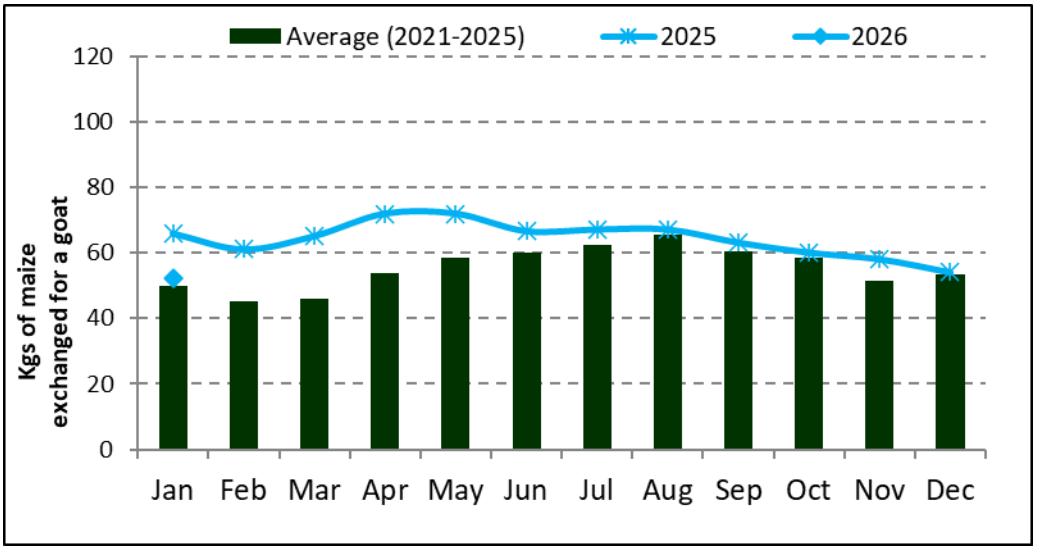


Figure 5: Goat-to-Maize terms of trade (ToT) trends

3.2.3 Income Sources

Livestock and crop production remain the primary sources of household income in the county, contributing an estimated 60 percent and 20 percent of total household earnings, respectively. In the Pastoral and Agro-Pastoral Livelihood Zones, livestock production is particularly dominant, accounting for approximately 70 percent of household income. Crop production contributes about 30 percent of household income in the Agro-Pastoral Livelihood Zone and around 15 percent in the Pastoral and Formal/Informal Employment livelihood zones. Additional income sources include casual wage labor, charcoal sales, petty trade, remittances and the sale of firewood, which play a supplementary role in supporting household livelihoods.

3.2.4 Water access and availability

a) Major sources of water

The main sources of water for domestic use in the county include water pans, boreholes, and shallow wells. The county has approximately 420 boreholes, about 680 medium-sized and small seasonal water pans, and over 25,000 shallow wells distributed across its sub-counties. However, due to the significantly poor performance of the 2025 short rains, nearly all surface water sources were not adequately recharged. As a result, Wajir County is currently experiencing severe and atypical water scarcity, with more than 168 centres now relying on water trucking as their primary source of water.

Approximately 80 percent of the boreholes are currently operational and in full use. In addition, full-scale water trucking is ongoing across the county. This water trucking programme is being implemented by the County Government of Wajir with support from NDMA and Save the Children. During the assessment period, several water sources were found to be non-functional, including 16 boreholes that had broken down due to high concentrations of livestock and human populations. Some of these boreholes experiencing frequent breakdowns due to high concentration include Dambas, Bosicha, Eldas, Eyrib, Habaswein, Ademasajida and Arbajahan.

b) Distance to water sources

The average return trekking distance for both the Pastoral and Agro-Pastoral Livelihood Zones was approximately nine kilometres, which is above the normal distance of five kilometres. This notable increase is attributed to the unavailability of water in open surface water sources following the below-average performance of the 2025 short rains.

c) Waiting time at the Source

Waiting time at water sources across all livelihood zones increased to between 45–60 minutes, depending on the level of concentration at each borehole. This is significantly above normal levels and is mainly attributed to the unavailability of water in water pans, coupled with an influx of pastoralists from Mandera County.

d) Cost of water

The average cost of water per 20-litre jerrican is higher than the normal seasonal average across all livelihood zones, ranging between KSh 10 and 15 per jerrican. This elevated cost is attributed to prevailing water scarcity as well as user preferences. In addition, only a few boreholes are powered by solar energy, with the majority relying on diesel-powered systems, which further contributes to the high cost of water.

e) Water Consumption Rate

Per capita water consumption declined from the normal 15–20 litres per person per day to approximately 10 litres per person per day. Since July 2025, the daily household water consumption has been declining as most of the water pans were not recharged by both the 2025 long and short rains seasons. This reduction is attributed to increased water scarcity resulting from the poor performance of the 2025 short rains. Almost all water pans have dried up, significantly limiting access to water and consequently leading to reduced water consumption. Table 11 details the distances to water sources, cost of water, waiting time at water collection points and per capita water consumption trends in Wajir County during the period of analysis, while Table 12 presents the number of sites receiving community water trucking.

Table 11: Distances to Water Sources, Cost, waiting time and Consumption Rate

Ward/ livelihood zone	Return Distance to Water for Domestic Use (km)		Cost of Water at Source (Ksh. Per 20litres)		Waiting Time at Water Source (Minutes)		Water Consumption (Litres/person/day)	
	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current	Normal	Current	Normal
Pastoral	10-12	<5	10-15	<5	45-60	<30	10	15-20
Agro pastoral	10-12	<5	10-15	<5	45-60	<30	10	15-20

Table 32: Water trucking hotspots

Constituency	No. of sites for community water trucking
Tarbaj	33
Wajir North	30
Wajir South	45
Wajir East	20
Wajir West	23
Eldas	17
Total	**168**

3.2.5 Food Consumption

Food Consumption Score

In the month of January 2026, an estimated 25 percent of the population of Wajir County recorded poor food consumption score, 30 percent were on the borderline, while 45 percent were in the acceptable category. The analysis reveals wider food consumption gaps among the pastoralists following the below average performance of the 2025 short rains season that negatively affected livestock production and productivity (Figure 6)

Milk Consumption

Milk consumption per household per day in January 2026 stood at 1litre as shown in Figure 6. In the Pastoral Livelihood Zone, milk consumption was even lower

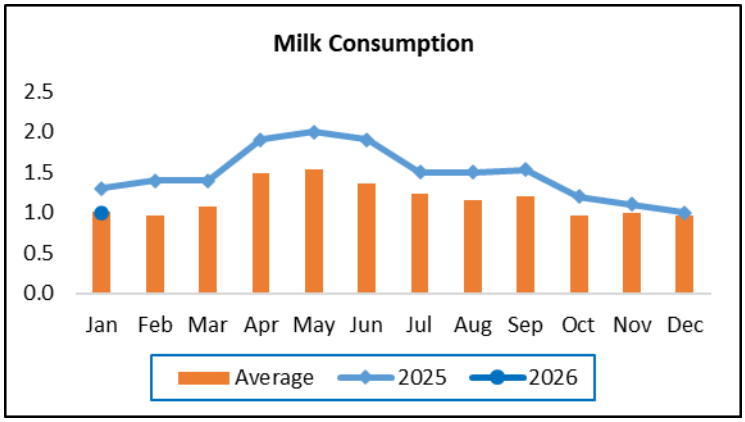


Figure 6: Milk consumption trends

at between 0.5 to 1 litre due to the out-migration of livestock. This decline is driven by reduced milk production resulting from deteriorating rangeland resources. Milk prices stood at an average price of Ksh 150 per litre, against a long-term average of between Ksh. 50 to Ksh. 100.

Milk consumption is expected to continue decreasing in the coming months following the poor performance of the short rains season.

3.2.6 Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)

The overall reduced Coping Strategy Index for Wajir County in January 2026 largely remained the same as the previous month and stood at 11 (Figure 7). Households in the Pastoral Livelihood Zone employed the most coping strategies.

The most consumption-related coping strategies employed by households across the county were relying on less preferred food and reducing the number of meals per day.

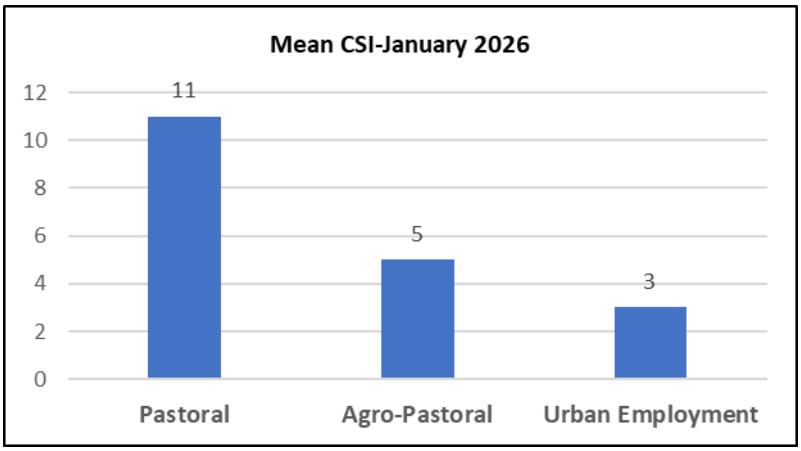


Figure 7: CSI-January 2026

3.3 Utilization

3.3.1 Morbidity and mortality patterns

According to the findings of the January 2026 Smart Survey, Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI), Fever and Diarrhea, respectively, were the top three cases of morbidity for children under five years of age. The current dry and dusty weather conditions may have contributed to the increased cases of URTI. The Survey further reports that 31.1 percent of the children were unwell in the two weeks preceding the Survey (Figure 8). Water scarcity forces both children and adults to rely on potentially contaminated water sources, thus increasing the risk of illness.

High morbidity among children aged 6–59 months in Wajir County is driven by several interconnected factors related to food insecurity, water scarcity, disease exposure and weakened immunity. These factors worsen during droughts and particularly affect young children because they are more vulnerable to malnutrition and infections. The current high temperatures and heat stress can increase the risk of dehydration and heat-related illnesses, especially among older adults and those with pre-existing conditions.

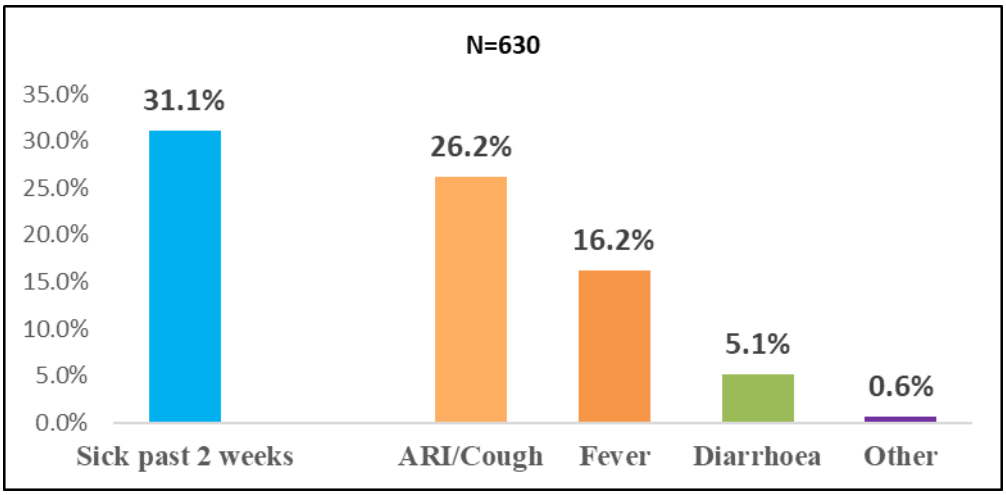


Figure 8: Morbidity trends (Smart Survey, January 2026)

3.3.2 Vitamin A supplementation and Immunization

According to the findings of the January 2026 Smart Survey, Measles vaccination at 9 months stood at 96.3 percent while measles vaccination at 18 months was at 80.4 percent (Figure 11). OPV 1 and OPV 3 were impressively high at 98.9 and 97.8 percent respectively. BCG coverage was at 99.2 percent, as confirmed through the Scar identification. The immunization levels are above the national target of 90 percent.

This encouraging immunization performance is largely attributed to the scaling up of integrated health and nutrition outreach programmes across the county. Partners such as Save the Children, Rural Agency for Community Development and Assistance (RACIDA), Wajir South Development Association (WASDA) and Kenya Red Cross have actively supported the Health Department in conducting health and nutrition community outreaches, thus ensuring that those in underserved and hard-to-reach areas are reached.

Vitamin A supplementation coverage was below the 80 percent national target, with gaps most evident for two-dose completion and among children aged 6-11 months (Figure 9). Vitamin A supplementation coverage among children aged 6-59 months stood at 75.4 percent. In particular, the twice vitamin A supplementation was evidently low among children aged between 12-59 months at only 52 percent. Seasonal migrations of pastoralist households mean children may miss routine campaigns or fixed-site services. Other reasons may include low community awareness and competing survival priorities among caregivers. The County Government of Wajir has upscaled community health and nutrition outreaches as a way of reaching nomads and all those in hard-to-reach areas.

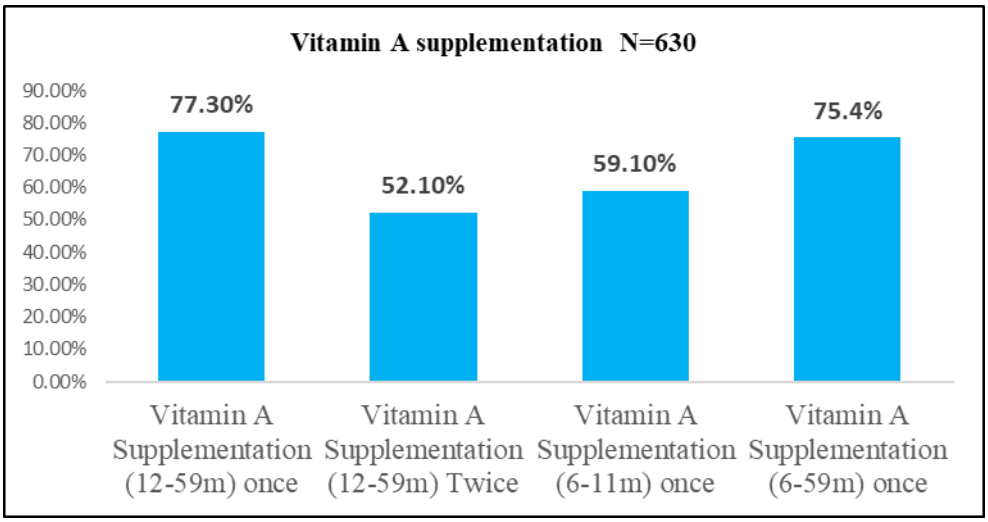


Figure 9: Vitamin A Supplementation

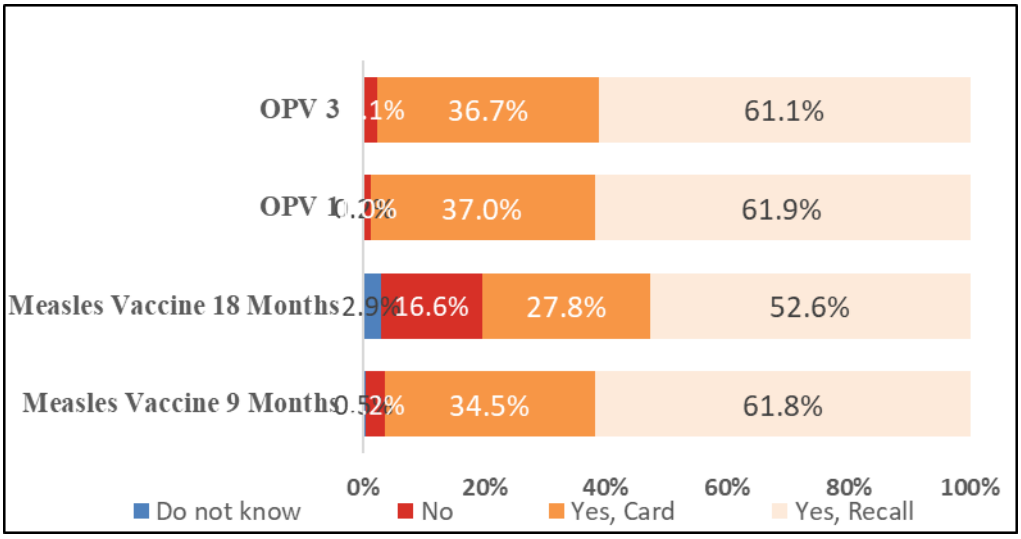


Figure 10: Immunization coverage

3.3.3 Nutrition Status

According to the January 2026 SMART Survey, the nutrition situation in Wajir County is classified as Emergency. Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) among children aged 6–59 months stands at 19.2 percent, indicating that nearly one in every five children is wasted and exceeding the WHO emergency threshold of 15 percent (Figure 11). Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) is also critically high at 3.7 percent, underscoring the gravity of the crisis and the urgent need for scaled-up nutrition interventions.

Among Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women and Girls (PBWGs), 4.5 percent were found to have a Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) of less than 21 cm, a condition that directly compromises maternal health, birth outcomes, and infant survival. Currently, no targeted nutrition interventions for PBWGs are being implemented in the county. The rising levels of malnutrition among both children and PBWGs are largely attributed to reduced milk consumption and poor dietary diversity. The

situation is expected to deteriorate further in the coming months due to declining livestock productivity, which continues to undermine household food availability and income.

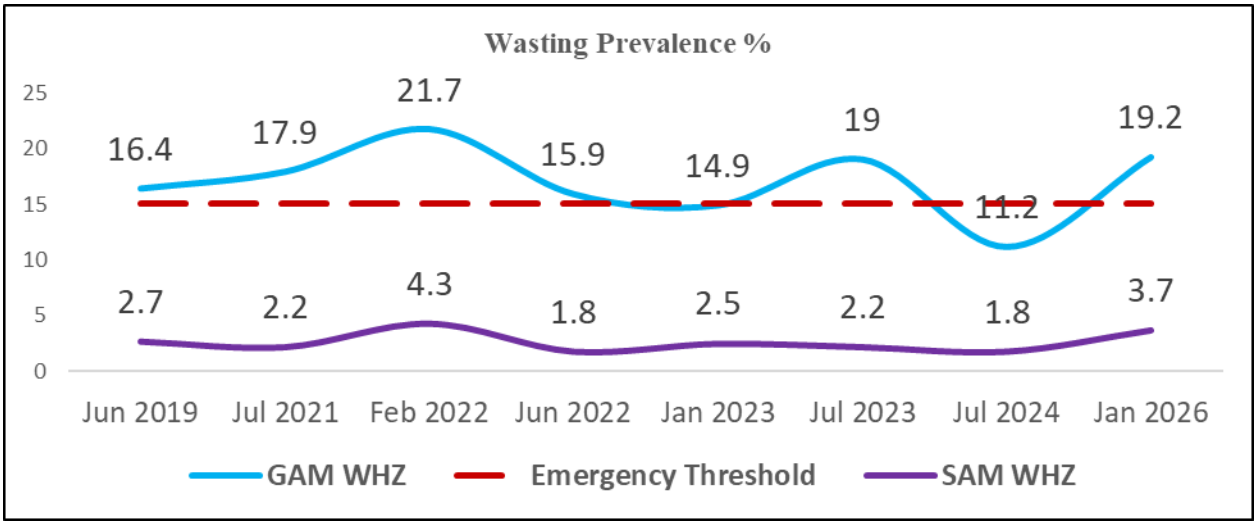


Figure 11: GAM rate (Smart Survey, January 2026)

Admission to nutrition intervention programs

Treatment for acute malnutrition in children aged 0–59 months, as well as malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women, was provided at both static health facilities and integrated outreach programs. The number of children aged 6–59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted to the outpatient therapeutic program followed a seasonal trend, consistent with the previous two years as shown in Figure 12. Admissions rose in September and then declined over the final three months of 2025. Admissions into OTP and SFP was within the seasonal trends with increase observed in September 2025. A similar pattern was observed in the number of children admitted to the supplementary feeding programme.

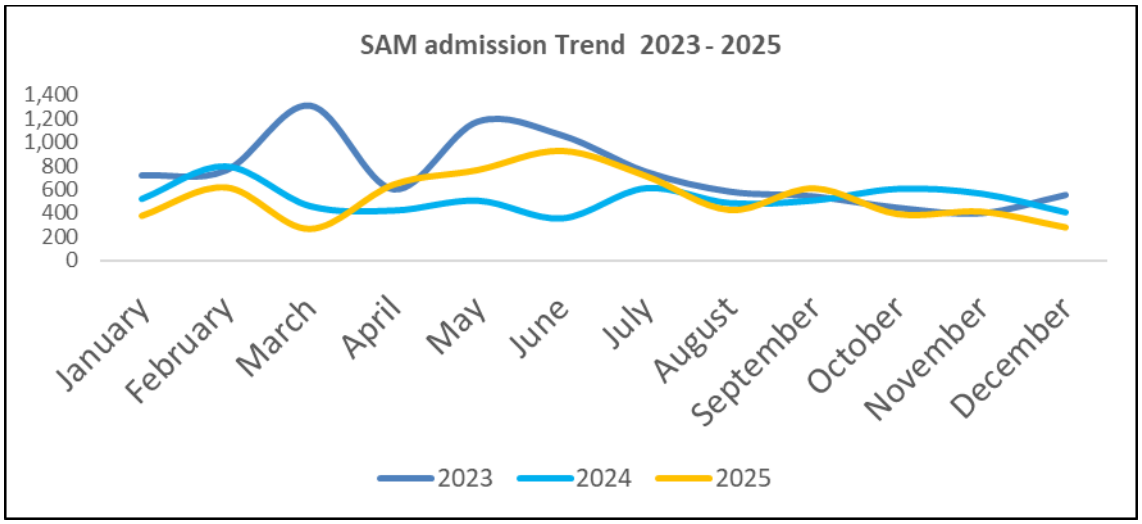


Figure 12: SAM admission trend

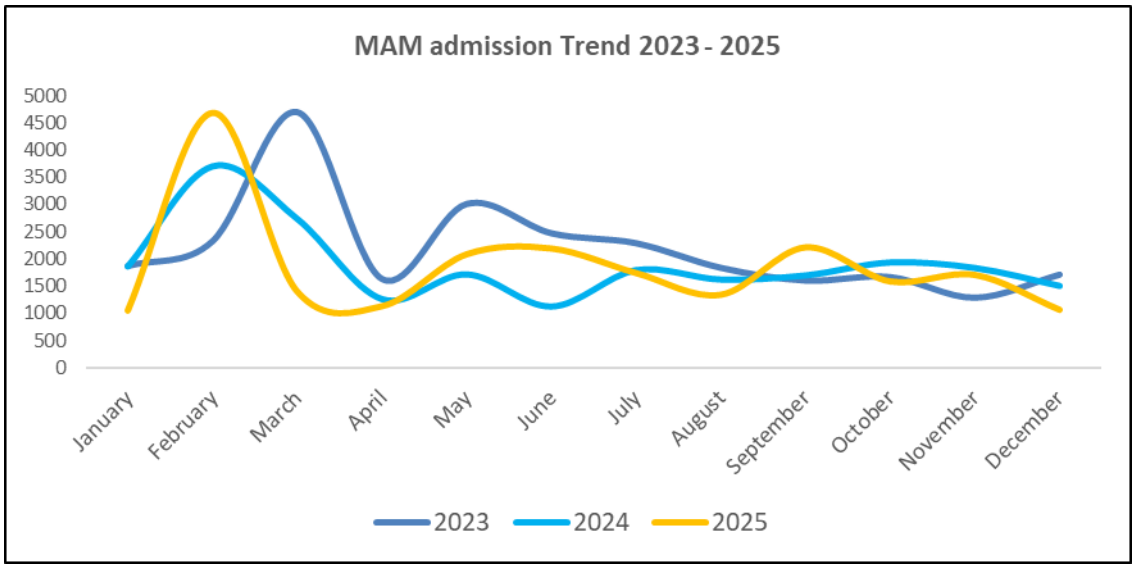


Figure 13: MAM admission trend

3.3.4 Hygiene and Sanitation

Access to water for domestic use continues to deteriorate across the county following the poor performance of the 2025 short rains, further exacerbating existing nutritional challenges. Findings from the January 2026 SMART Survey indicate that household water treatment remains critically low, with only 15 percent of households treating their drinking water as shown in Figure 14. The primary barrier to water treatment is the widespread stock-out of water treatment chemicals in health facilities. Among the limited number of households that treat water, 58 percent rely on water treatment chemicals, while 46 percent use boiling as the main method. The Survey further shows that 50.5 percents of households in Wajir County have no proper relieving points.

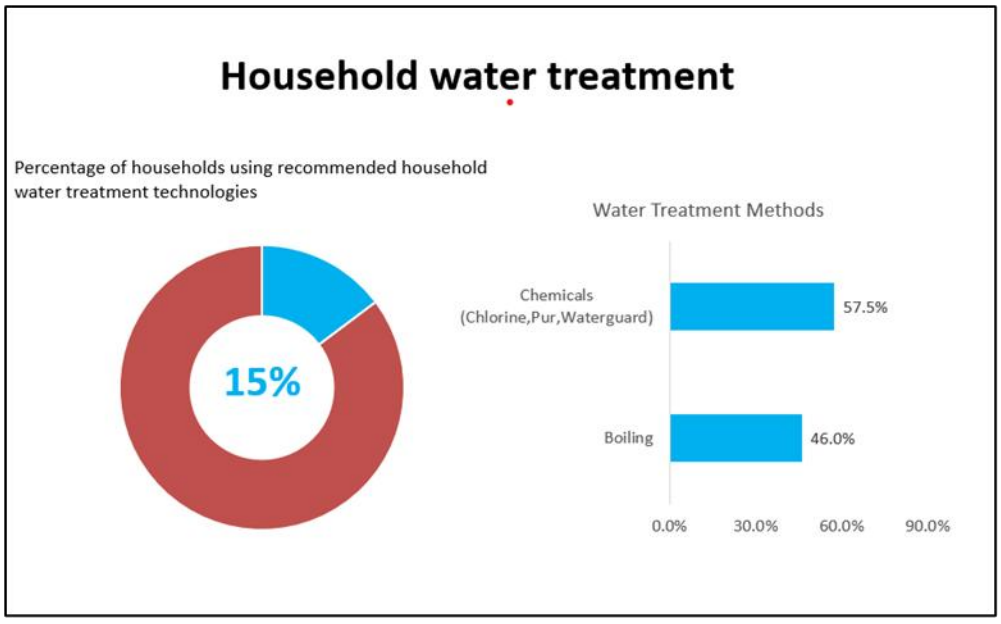


Figure 14: Household water treatment

3.4 Trends of key food security indicators

Table 13: Trends of key food security indicators

Indicator	LRA, July 2025	SRA, Jan. 2026 (LTA)
% of maize stocks held by traders	19.4 percent below LTA	41 percent below the LTA
Livestock body condition	Good to very Good	Poor
Water consumption(litres/day/person)	10-15 litres	<10
Waiting time at water source	30 minutes	45-60 minutes
Cost of water (20liters)	Ksh 5-10	Ksh 2-5
Return treking Distance to water	Household 4-5Km Livestock 6-10Km	HH 9-10km Livestock 12-15km
Price of maize (per kg)	93	90
Terms of Trade	67	54
Copying Stragey Index	Agro-Pastoral=4.4 Pastoral=13.4	Agro-Pastoral=5 Pastoral=11
Milk production	2.7 litres	1-1.5 litres
Milk consumption	1.9 litres	<1
Migration (out/in migration)	Out-none In-yes from Garissa	Out-Isiolo, Marsabit In-from Mandera
Livestock disease outbreaks	No outbreaks	No outbreaks. Upsurges only
MUAC<135	10%	19.2%
Food Consumption Score	Poor= 28% Borderline= 31% Acceptable= 41%	Poor=32% Borderline=35% Acceptable= 33

3.5 Education

3.5.1 Access–Enrolment

The current enrolment of learners in learning institutions across Wajir County stands at 27,527 in 374 ECDE centres, 131,037 in 374 primary schools, 25,322 in 255 junior secondary schools and 26,177 in 87 secondary schools. Comparison of enrolment figures for Term I (2026) and Term III (2025) indicate a decline in enrolment at pre-primary, primary, and secondary school levels, as presented in Table 15. In contrast, junior secondary schools recorded a notable increase in enrolment over the same period.

Table 14: Enrollment

	Term I 2026 (current)					Term III 2025 (previous)				
Level	Boys	Girls	No of Learners Special Needs		Total	Boys	Girls	No of Learners Special Needs		Total
			Boys	Girls				Boys	Girls	
Pre-primary	15290	13071	115	60	27527	15395	13103	122	66	28686
Primary	70337	57180	1900	1620	131037	70637	58056	1924	1699	132316
Junior SS	13750	11572			25322	13267	10649	-	-	23916
Secondary	15573	10604			26177	15895	11382	-	-	27277

The increase in enrolment in junior secondary schools is attributed to the establishment of additional junior secondary school centres. In 2025, more schools presented candidates for the Kenya Junior School Education Assessment (KJSEA), which led to the opening of more junior secondary schools. The decline in enrolment at the pre-primary level is mainly due to delays in the registration and admission of new learners into the PP1 class. Admissions were still ongoing at the time of reporting, and enrolment figures are therefore expected to increase.

A decrease in enrolment was also recorded at the secondary school level. This is mainly attributed to delays in the admission and registration of new learners into Grade 10, which were still ongoing at the time of reporting. In addition, transfers of some secondary school learners within the county were reported. However, these transfers are not expected to significantly affect the overall number of learners enrolled in secondary schools.

A number of learners remain out of school due to various factors, including:

- Withdrawal of learners from school to assist parents with household and livelihood-related chores. This is particularly common among pastoralist households, where children are engaged in herding activities during the current drought period.
- Dropout of learners from secondary schools due to inability to meet school fee requirements.
- A persistently high proportion of school-age children who have never been enrolled in school.

3.5.2 Attendance

Due to the poor performance of the 2025 short rains season, there has been increased intra-county and inter-county migration, resulting in cases of school dropouts and absenteeism. These movements have affected learners at the pre-primary, primary, and secondary school levels. The reported cases of dropouts at these levels are presented in the table below.

Table 15: dropout

Level	Boys	Girls	Total
ECDE	112	38	**150**
Primary	324	955	**1279**
Secondary	322	778	**1100**

3.5.3 Effects of the season on learning continuity in schools

Learning activities were not interrupted during the 2025 short rains season, as rainfall performance was poor and no flash floods were reported in any part of the county. Consequently, all national examinations (KPSEA, KJSEA and KCSE) were conducted without interruption during this period. No schools were closed as a result of weather-related incidents.

However, cases of infrastructure damage were reported due to strong winds. Classroom roofs were blown off in Sala Primary School and Ido Roble Primary School in Buna Sub-County. Additionally, a greenhouse at Jogbaro Primary School in Wajir East Sub-county was completely destroyed.

3.5.4 School Meals Programme

The school feeding programme is currently operational in all primary schools and ECDE centres across the county. The food basket provided includes rice, beans, cooking oil and porridge. Key challenges affecting the provision of school meals include lengthy procurement processes,

particularly for ECDE centres where the programme is managed by the County Government; delays in the supply and distribution of food items due to the vast geographical size of the county; inconsistency in programme implementation; and lack of permanent and safe water sources in most schools.

During the current season, water scarcity has been exacerbated by the poor performance of the short rains. Nearly all water pans serving schools have dried up, making meal preparation difficult in many institutions. Despite these challenges, the school feeding programme has significantly contributed to improved learner attendance, especially in the lower grades, whenever it is consistently implemented.

3.5.5 Cross-cutting issues in education

Malnutrition and other illnesses

The risk of malnutrition and related illnesses among younger learners has increased during the current season, largely due to the poor performance of the rains, which has led to reduced milk production and consumption. In addition, limited dietary diversity in many households continues to expose young learners to nutritional vulnerabilities. These challenges are further compounded by low household purchasing power, resulting from depressed livestock market prices during the ongoing drought period.

Availability of water and sanitation facilities

The main sources of water for schools in the county include boreholes, water pans, and water trucking. Overall, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions in schools remain poor, except in a few urban centres. An estimated 70 percent of schools lack access to a permanent water source, a situation that contributes to low learning productivity and increased incidence of water-related illnesses due to exposure to unsafe water.

In addition, approximately 70 percent of schools do not have adequate functional latrines and therefore fail to meet the recommended pupil-to-latrine ratios. This challenge has been further exacerbated by flash floods experienced during previous rainy seasons, which destroyed sanitation facilities in several schools across the county. Most of the affected latrines have not been repaired or reconstructed, further deteriorating the WASH situation in schools.

During the current season, most water pans serving schools have dried up, and the yields from shallow wells have significantly declined. As a result, many schools lack access to adequate water to meet their daily needs. Currently, no water trucking support is being provided to schools, further exacerbating the water scarcity situation.

Lack of school fees

Most parents rely on livestock as their primary source of income, including for the payment of school fees. However, livestock market prices have declined significantly due to the ongoing drought, making it difficult for many parents to afford school fees for their children in secondary schools.

Dignity kits for school girls

The County Government of Wajir is planning to distribute sanitary kits to girls in both secondary and primary schools, targeting 60,000 beneficiaries. In addition, NGAAF is also scheduled to distribute kits to all schools across the county.

3.6 Child Protection

3.6.1 Context and drivers

Child protection risks in Wajir County remained critically high during the 2025/26 period due to prolonged drought, livestock losses, high food prices, insecurity, and reduced household incomes. Severe food insecurity among pastoralist and agro-pastoralist households weakened coping mechanisms and emerged as the primary driver of child protection concerns across all sub-counties (Table 16).

Table 16: Child protection caseloads in three sub-counties in Wajir County

COUNTY REPORTING TOOL FOR SHORT RAINS ASSESSEMENT FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2025 FOR Wajir COUNTY																	
Sub-county	CASE CATEGORIES																
	Separated Children		Violence against children								Teen Pregnancy	Child Labour		Marginalized & atrisk		Mental Wellbeing	
			Neglect		Physical violence		Sexual violence		Child Marriage								
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Wajir East	11	25	34	47	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	21	17	75	52	1	0
Eldas	21	17	39	28	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	19	10	51	43	0	0
Wajir South	4	3	40	31	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	4	3	27	3	15	20
	36	45	113	106	29	26	0	4	0	26	18	44	30	153	98	16	20

3.6.2 Family Separation

Family separation increased slightly compared to the previous period as caregivers migrated seasonally in search of pasture, water, and income. Children were left behind, sent to extended family members, or formed child-headed households. Separated children faced heightened risks of neglect, abuse, exploitation, child labour, malnutrition, school absenteeism, and psychosocial distress. Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) and integrated nutrition and child protection services were implemented but remained limited due to high mobility and insecurity.

3.6.3 Violence Against Children (VAC)

Food insecurity and household stress increased violence against children, including neglect, physical and emotional abuse, sexual violence, child pregnancy, and isolated child marriage cases. In Habaswein, 71 neglect cases were reported (40 boys, 31 girls), and four defilement cases involving girls aged 13–17 were documented. Child pregnancy cases were mainly reported in Wajir East, with growing vulnerability observed in Eldas.

3.6.4 Psychosocial Wellbeing

Caregivers and children experienced high levels of anxiety, depression, and behavioural changes linked to chronic food insecurity and displacement. In Habaswein, all 45 caregivers assessed showed anxiety symptoms. Children across all sub-counties exhibited fear, withdrawal, sleep disturbances, reduced school attendance, and loss of interest in daily activities.

3.6.5 Child Labour and Marginalization

Child labour increased as a negative coping mechanism, particularly herding, domestic work, street vending, and casual labour. Six cases were identified in Habaswein, with higher trends reported in Wajir East and Eldas. Marginalized children included children with disabilities, orphans, child-headed households, and displaced or separated children, many of whom lacked consistent access to adequate and nutritious food.

3.6.6 Interventions and Priority Actions

Relief food distribution continued in Habaswein, while community-based monitoring, referrals, and basic child protection services were implemented across Wajir East and Eldas. Coverage remained insufficient. Priority actions include scaling up food and nutrition assistance, expanding cash transfers and social protection, strengthening integrated food security and child protection programming, enhancing psychosocial support services, and intensifying community sensitization against children and positive coping strategies.

In summary, food insecurity remains the central driver of child protection risks in Wajir County. Strengthened, coordinated, and multisectoral responses integrating food security, nutrition, and child protection are essential to safeguard children during the ongoing crisis.

4.0 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

4.1 Prognosis Assumptions

The County's food security prognosis for the next six months (February 2026 to July 2026) will be based on the following key assumptions:

- IGAD's Climate Outlook for the March to May 2026 Rainfall Season indicates slightly raised probabilities (40 percent) for near-normal conditions over the northern and eastern Kenya.
- Condition of pasture and browse are likely to continue deteriorating following the poor performance of the 2025 short rains. The forecast near average to below-average 2026 long rains season may only result in short-lived regeneration.
- The livestock body condition for all species is expected to further deteriorate, especially for cattle and sheep.
- Livestock prices are expected to continue declining as the body condition worsens.
- Milk availability and consumption will likely significantly decline in the coming months. 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 following the poor performance of the 2025 short rains season and the forecast near average to below average 2026 MAM long rains.
- There is a high likelihood of increased resource-based conflict in parts of Wajir County due to massive in-migration of pastoral communities.

4.2 Food security outlook for the next six months

4.2.1 Food Security outlook from January to April 2026

Browse and pasture conditions are expected to continue deteriorating in both quantity and quality over the coming months. Rising temperatures and increased evapotranspiration will further dry up open water sources, sustaining water stress and heightening reliance on water trucking to settlement centers. Livestock migration toward dry-season grazing areas near boreholes is likely to intensify placing additional pressure on these limited facilities.

As these environmental pressures persist, livestock body conditions are expected to decline further decline due to constrained water access and diminishing forage resources. Resource-based conflicts are anticipated to increase as pastoralists compete for dwindling pasture and water resources. Boreholes will face increasing strain, with frequent breakdowns expected from overuse. Overcrowding of livestock in dry-season grazing areas will elevate the risk of opportunistic disease outbreaks, compounding herd vulnerability.

Market impacts are expected to follow. Livestock prices are likely to fall as weakened animals lose market value, while the prices of cereals, pulses, and milk are projected to rise due to reduced availability and strong demand. Declining purchasing power will push pastoral households to adopt additional coping strategies such as borrowing from friends and relatives, reducing the number of meals per day and relying on less preferred food. As food availability shrinks and household access to food becomes more constrained, the number of children at risk of malnutrition is expected to increase.

Overall, Wajir County is projected to experience Crisis-level food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) in the outlook period, with households experiencing significant food consumption gaps and relying on unsustainable coping mechanisms.

4.2.2 Food Security outlook from April to June 2026

The performance of the MAM 2026 long rains season will be a critical determinant of food security in Wajir County. Even if the rains are near average, regeneration of forage is expected to be shrot-lived, providing only minimal and temporary relief to the already deteriorating situation. In the event of poor or failed rains, rangeland resources would see little to no improvement, further accelerating livelihood decline across the county. As pasture and water conditions remain constrained, livestock productivity is expected to continue falling. This decline will translate to significant increase in the number of households facing food consumption gaps. With food availability and access deteriorating, households are expected to intensify use of negative coping strategies, including distress livestock sales and reduced meal frequency.

The nutritional situation is likely to worsen sharply. Reduced milk production and consumption will drive a rise in moderate and severe acute malnutrition among children. If the MAM 2026 long rains fail, the already fragile food security conditions in Wajir County are expected to escalate to Emergency (IPC Phase 4), underscoring the urgent need for timely humanitarian assistance and livelihood support interventions.

5.0 CONCLUSION AND INTERVENTIONS

5.1 Conclusion

5.1.1 Phase classification

The current food security situation in Wajir County is classified as Crisis (IPC Phase 3), with a population of 274,500 in need of food assistance. Should the MAM 2026 long rains fail, the already deteriorating situation is likely to escalate to Emergency (IPC Phase 4), highlighting the urgent need for timely, scaled-up of humanitarian assistance and livelihood support interventions to save lives and protect livelihoods.

5.1.2 Summary of the Findings

Wajir County received significantly below-average rainfall during the OND 2025 short rains season, characterized by poor spatial and temporal distribution. As a result, regeneration of browse and pasture and recharge of open water sources across the county was minimal. The limited forage that was available, particularly within the Agro-Pastoral Livelihood Zone, has since been rapidly depleted due to an influx of livestock from other parts of Wajir as well as from Mandera County. Acute shortage of water and forage is driving deteriorating livestock productivity, with body conditions and milk production declining. In addition, there has been a noticeable upsurge in endemic livestock diseases across the county, further undermining livestock productivity. Deteriorating body conditions is driving down livestock prices, which has resulted in unfavourable goat-ot-maize terms of trade, significantly constraining household purchasing power.

. The proportion of households with poor Food Consumption Scores has increased, with those in the Pastoral Livelihood Zones being the most affected. Compared to the same period last year, households are employing more and increasingly severe coping strategies, reflecting a worsening food security situation.

5.1.3 Sub- County Ranking

Table 17: sub-county ranking in terms of food insecurity

Sub County	Predominant livelihood	Food security score	Main Food Security Threats/Contributing factors
Tarbaj	Pastoral	1-2	Depletion of pasture, water stress, internal migration, livestock diseases
Wajir West	Pastoral	1-2	Depletion of pasture, water stress, internal migration, livestock diseases
Wajir East	Formal/Informal	1-2	Depletion of pasture, water stress, influx of pastoral drop-outs
Wajir South	Pastoral	1-2	Water stress, forage depletion, migration, livestock diseases
Eldas	Pastoral	1-2	Water stress migration forage depletion, livestock diseases
Wajir North	Agro-Pastoral	1-2	Water stress, total crop failure, high in-migration, livestock diseases
Very Good (5-6) Good (4) Fair (3) Poor (1-2)			

5.1.4 Population in need of Food Assistance

Table 18: Population in Need of Food Assistance

County	Population in need (%)	Population in need (#)	Sub-County	Population in need (%)	Population in need (#)	Wards	Population in need (#)	Proposed mode of interventions
Wajir	30%	274,500	Tarbaj	30%	32,000	Elben	8,000	Cash transfer/relief food
						Sarman	8,000	Cash transfer/relief food
						Tarbaj	8,000	Cash transfer/relief food
						Wargadud	8,000	Cash transfer/relief food
			Eldas	30%	35,000	Basir/lakole	10,000	Cash transfer/relief food
						Eldas	8,000	Cash transfer/relief food
						Dela	9,000	Cash transfer/relief food
						Elnur/tula-tula	8,000	Cash transfer/relief food
			Wajir East	30%	42,000	Barwaqo	9,000	Cash transfer/relief food
						Khorof-harar	13,000	Cash transfer/relief food
						Township	10,000	Cash transfer/relief food
						Wagberi	10,000	Cash transfer/relief food
			Wajir North	30%	45,000	Batalu/buna	7,000	Cash transfer/relief food
						Bute	7,000	Cash transfer/relief food
						Danaba	7,000	Cash transfer/relief food

						Godoma	7,000	Cash transfer/relief food
						Gurar	5,000	Cash transfer/relief food
						Korondille	7,000	Cash transfer/relief food
						Malkagufu	5,000	Cash transfer/relief food
			Wajir South	30%	75,500	Benane	10,500	Cash transfer/relief food
						Burder	10,000	Cash transfer/relief food
						Dadajabulla	10,000	Cash transfer/relief food
						Diif	12,000	Cash transfer/relief food
						Habaswein	10,000	Cash transfer/relief food
						Ibrahim ure	11,000	Cash transfer/relief food
						Lagbogol south	12,000	Cash transfer/relief food
			Wajir West	30%	45,000	Ademasajida	11,000	Cash transfer/relief food
						Arbajahan	12,000	Cash transfer/relief food
						Hadado/athibohol	12,000	Cash transfer/relief food
						Wagalla/ganyure	10,000	Cash transfer/relief food

5.2 Ongoing Interventions

5.2.1 Food Interventions

Table 19: On-going cash and food interventions

Organisation	Intervention type	Location	No of beneficiaries	Amount in Ksh/kg
National Government	Provision of school meals	All sub-counties	All public primary schools	
	Upscaled general food distribution	All sub counties	General population (food insecure persons)	
County Government	School meals for ECDE centres	All sub-counties	27,527 pre-primary learners	
World Food Programme	Drought response cash transfer	All sub-counties	7,258	Ksh 7,000 per HH for 3 months (ending in March 2026)
Save the Children	Cash transfer—BHA project extension	Wajir West & Wajir North	1,750	8,086 per HH for 4 months (ending in February 2026)
Islamic Relief	Provision of assorted food stuff	Wajir West, Wajir East and Wajir South	600 HHs (200 HHs per sub-county)	
Kenya Red Cross	Corn soya blend plus plus (CSB++)	Wajir West and Wajir South	202 pregnant and lactating women in 4 high caseload health facilities	6,000 for 3-month rations

5.2.2 Non-food Interventions

Table 20: On-going non-food interventions

County	Sub County	Intervention	No. of BF	Implementers	Objective	Cost (Kshs)	Time Frame
1.Livestock sector							
Wajir	Wajir South	Animal health intervention	Wajir South	CGW (DALF), partners	Improve animal body condition and reduce deaths	5M	Jan-March 2026
2. Health and sanitation sector							
Wajir	All	Integrated outreach programme		CGW (Health), WVI, SCI	Early warning & preparedness enhanced	10M	Jan-March 2026
Wajir	Wajir North and Eldas	Support to PD Hearth		CGW (Health), RACIDA	Enhanced coverage and health services delivery	5M	Jan-March 2026
Wajir	All	Provision of nutrition commodities to the health facilities (RUSF and CSB)		CGW, WFP	Reduce child malnutrition	50M	Jan-March 2026
Wajir	Wajir West, North, South and Tarbaj	Distribution of essential drugs		CGW, partners	Reduce child malnutrition	15M	Jan-March 2026
3.Water sector							
Wajir	All	Support to water trucking	County wide	CGW (Water), NDMA, SCI	Ensure steady supply of water	60M	Jan-March 2026
Wajir	Wajir North & Wajir South	Equipping of boreholes with solar system, troughs, storage tanks	Wajir North & Wajir South	CGW, WVI		10M	Jan-March 2026
Wajir	Wajir South, Wajir East, Wajir North, Eldas	Drilling of 5 strategic boreholes	Wajir South (2), Wajir East (1), Wajir North (1), Eldas (1)	CGW, KRCS		20M	Jan-March 2026

Wajir	Wajir West, North and Eldas	Rehabilitation of 8 boreholes		CGW, SCI		8M	Jan-March 2026
Wajir	Wajir West and North	Procurement for water treatment chemicals and distribution of WASH non-food items		CGW, SCI		10M	Jan-March 2026
Wajir	Wajir South	Borehole rehabilitation, fencing, solarization and piping		CGW, IRK		10M	Jan-March 2026

5.3 Recommended Interventions

Table 21: Recommended interventions

Sector	Intervention	Location	Time-frame	Cost (Million KES)	Responsible
Agriculture/food security	Support to irrigated agriculture	All sub-counties	Jan.-March 2026	20M	CGW, NG, Partners
	Cash transfer	All sub-counties	Jan.-March 2026	80M	CGW, NG, partners
	Relief food distribution	All sub-counties	Jan.-March 2026	100M	CGW, NG, Partners
	Continued dissemination of drought early warning information	All sub-counties	Jan.-March 2026	3M	CGW, NG, Partners
Livestock	Destocking	All sub-counties	Continuous	5M	CGW-DALF & partners
	Distribution of livestock feed	All sub-counties	Jan.-March 2026	100M	CGW-DALF & partners
	Livestock treatment	All sub-counties	Jan.-March 2026	10M	CGW-DALF & partners
	Provision of essential drugs and vaccines	All sub-counties	Jan.-March 2026	30M	CGW-DALF & partners
Health	Provision of nutrition commodities	All sub-counties	Jan.-March 2026	70M	CGW-health, partners
	Scale up wash interventions and public health promotion	All sub-counties	Jan.-March 2026	15M	CGW-health, partners
	Human disease surveillance	All sub-counties	Jan.-March 2026	2M	CGW, partners
	Up-scale integrated health and nutrition outreaches	All sub-counties	Jan.-March 2026	20M	CGW, partners
	Water trucking to health facilities	All sub-counties	Jan.-March 2026	15M	CGW, partners
	Strengthen referral linkages to OTP/TSFP services	All sub-counties	Jan.-March 2026	5M	CGW, partners

Water	Upscaled community water trucking	All sub-counties	Jan.-March 2026	70M	CGW & partners
	Provision of fuel subsidy	All sub-counties	Jan.-March 2026	15M	CGW, partners
	Repair and rehabilitation of strategic boreholes	All sub-counties	Jan.-March 2026	20M	CGW, partners
	Provision of fast-moving spares for strategic boreholes	All sub-counties	Jan.-March 2026	30M	CGW, partners
Peace & Security	Intensify peace building efforts in conflict hotspots	All sub-counties	Jan.-March 2026	5M	NG, CGW, Partners
	Intensify community dialogue meetings	All sub-counties	Jan.-March 2026	3M	NG, CGW, Partners
	Activate and sensitize conflict mitigation teams	All sub-counties	Jan.-March 2026	1M	NG, CGW, Partners
Education	Provision of school meals	All sub-counties	Jan.-March 2026	80M	NG, CGW, Partners
	Water trucking to schools	All sub-counties	Jan.-March 2026	20M	NG, CGW, Partners
	Provision of bursary and dignity kits	All sub-counties	Jan.-March 2026	100M	NG, CGW, Partners
	Repair and rehabilitation of classrooms and toilets	All sub-counties	Jan.-March 2026	20M	NG, CGW, Partners