

National Drought Management Authority
WAJIR COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR APRIL 2017



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



APRIL EW PHASE 2017

Early Warning Phase Classification



Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification
Biophysical Indicators

The County received below normal rainfall during the month, and it was fair to poor in both temporal and spatial distribution, though heavy rainfall were experienced in some sub-counties such as Wajir North, Wajir East and Tarbaj during the month.

Currently vegetation cover indexes in the county for the month of April showed severe vegetation deficit band with a VCI score of 10.95 from previous month figure of 11.89, Wajir South is still indicating extreme vegetation deficit. Wajir South, Wajir West and Wajir East livelihood zones are the worst affected areas with scores of 4.82, 11.54, and 11.01 respectively.

The water situation improved, as some water pans in some livelihoods impounded water as compared to similar time last year. Long trekking distance reduced significantly due to the ongoing rainfall. The current sources of water include boreholes, shallow wells, water pans, depression and lagas.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Livestock body situation in all livelihood zones still showed fair to poor although on an improving trend. The body condition of camels is good to fair. Current milk production slightly improved in the month of April and is likely to recover as the long rain continues. The terms of trade remained stable at 48.kg in March to 48kg in April for a sale of one medium size goat with no significant change recorded. Regeneration of pasture and browse was observed in some parts of the county although it is very slow. No disruption of market reported. In Migration of livestock was minimal due to the long rains received during the month. The percentage of children under five at risk of malnutrition was recorded at 19.0 compared to the previous month's figure of 20.

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Alarm	Improving
Pastoral cattle	Alarm	Improving
Pastoral-all species	Alarm	improving
Pastoral camel	Alarm	improving
Informal employment	Alarm	improving
County	ALARM	improving
Biophysical Indicators	value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	48	80 -120
VCI-3Month	10.9	>35
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Fair-poor	Normal
Crop production	Poor	Good
Milk Production	2.0	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	48	>66
Milk Consumption	1.2	>3
Return Distance to water source	3.2	<5 Km
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	19	<6.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	12.91	<0.95

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains harvests Short dry spell Reduced milk yields Increased HH Food Stocks migrations Land preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting/Weeding Long rains High Calving Rate Milk Yields Increase Breeding period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long rains harvests A long dry spell Land preparation Increased HH Food Stocks Kidding (Sept) Migrations Herd separations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains Planting/weeding High birth rates Wedding 								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITION

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

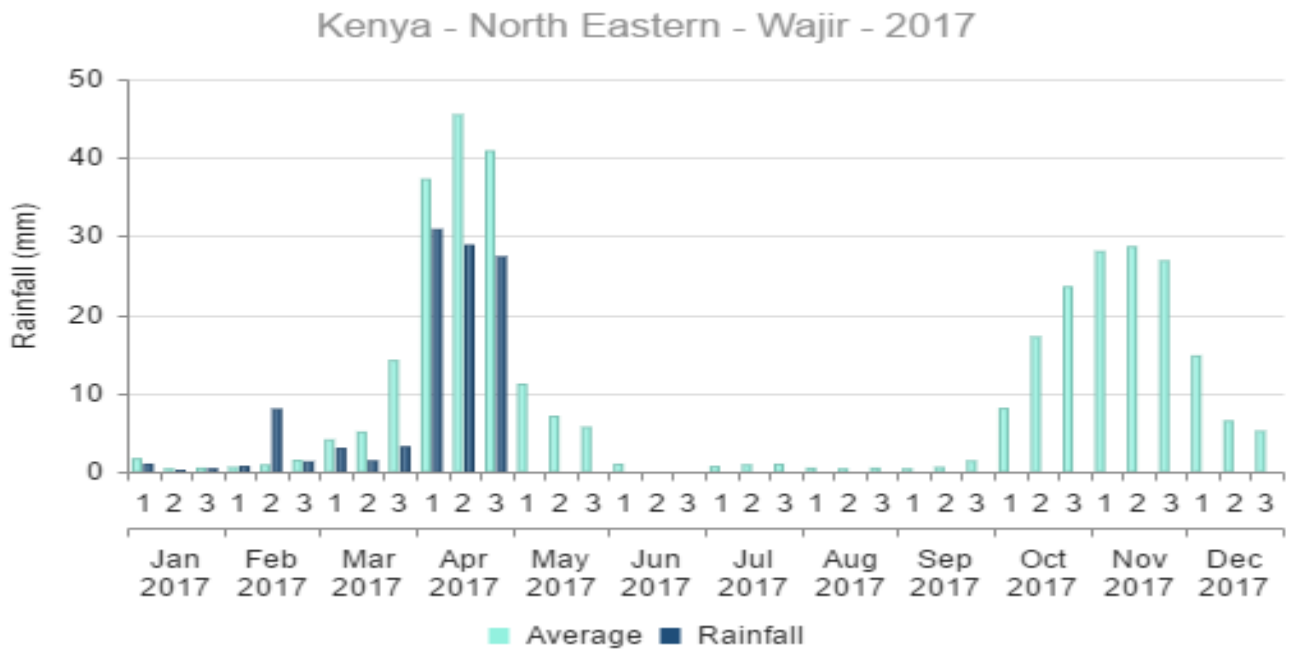
The county experienced generally depressed rainfall during the month, where Buna, Wajir Bor had recorded rainfall amounts above 75 percent of the county LTMs. Most rainfall stations in the county recorded rainfall that was well below 75 percent of the county Long-Term Means (LTMs) for the month. As of 30th April, only Wajir Airport, Wajir Town, Buna, Wajir Bor and Griftu had exceeded 75% of the county LTMs with 123%, 110%, 85%, 83% and 78% being recorded respectively.

Amount of rainfall and spatial distribution

During the month under review, substantial rainfall was recorded in Wajir East, Tarbaj, and Wajir North. With some stations recording more than 50mm of the long term mean particularly Buna, Wajir Bor and Wajir town having recorded 55.4, 59.3 and 50.8percent of the long term mean respectively. However, the lowest rainfall was recorded in Habaswein and Eldas having recorded less than 25 percent of the long term mean .county. The rains were fairly distributed in some parts of the Sub-counties particularly Wajir East, Wajir North and Tarbaj and poor distributed in Wajir west, Eldas and Wajir south respectively.

1.1.1 Rainfall station data

Table 1: A mount of rainfall received in the month of April



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2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

The vegetation condition indexes for the month of April indicated extreme vegetation deficit in comparison with the previous month of March. The current 3 months vegetation cover indexes still showed extreme vegetation deficit in Wajir South, while other sub-counties indicated severe vegetation deficit. The Extreme severe vegetation deficit in Wajir South was attributed to the poor rainfall performance that led to exhaustion of pasture and browse during two previous consecutive seasons. The condition is likely to be better subject the performance of the long rains.

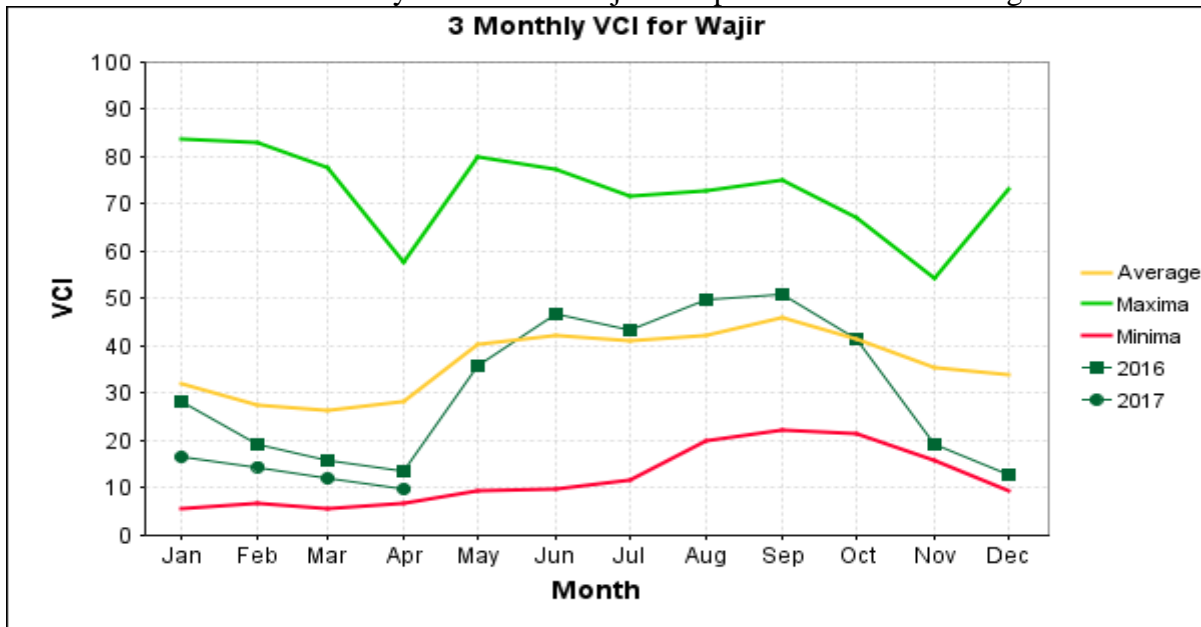


Figure 3: A chart of Wajir County overall 3-monthly VCI during the month of April 2017

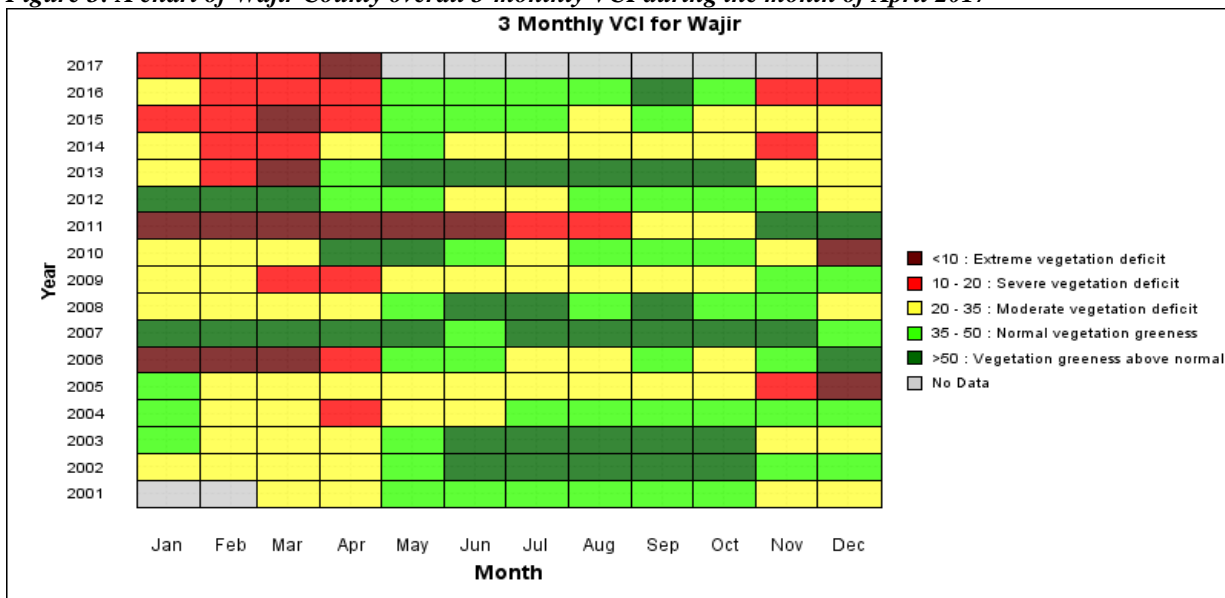


Figure 4: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir County during the month of April 2017

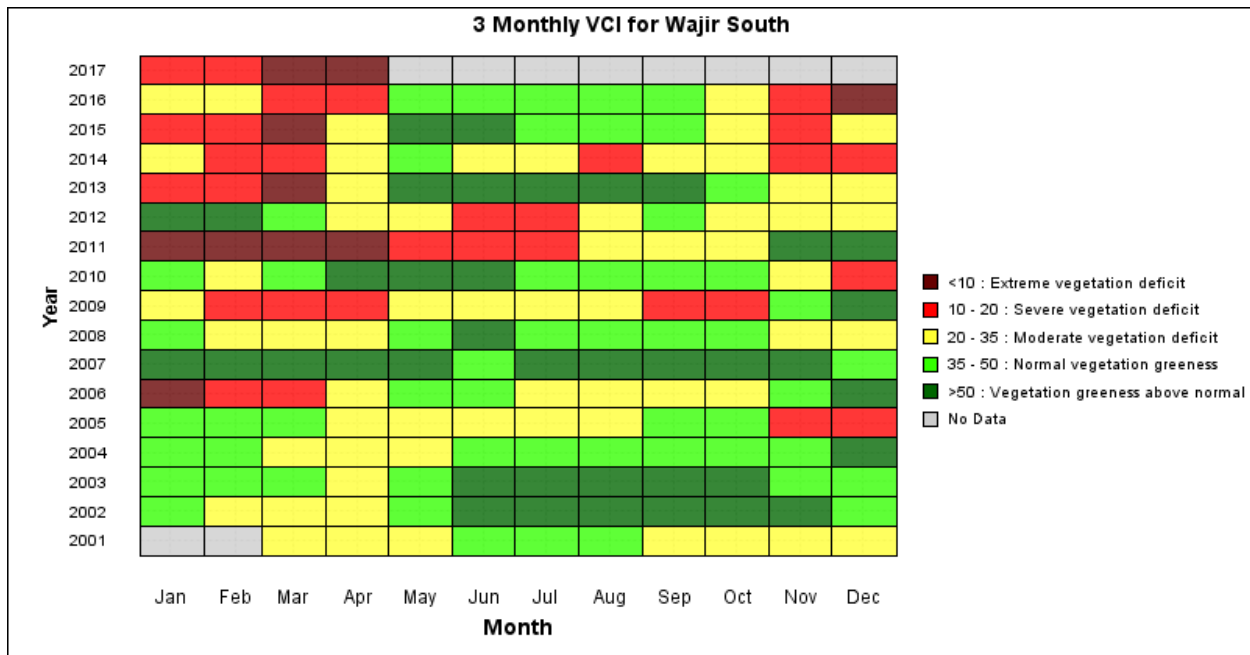


Figure 4: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir County during the month of April 2017

2.1.2 Pasture

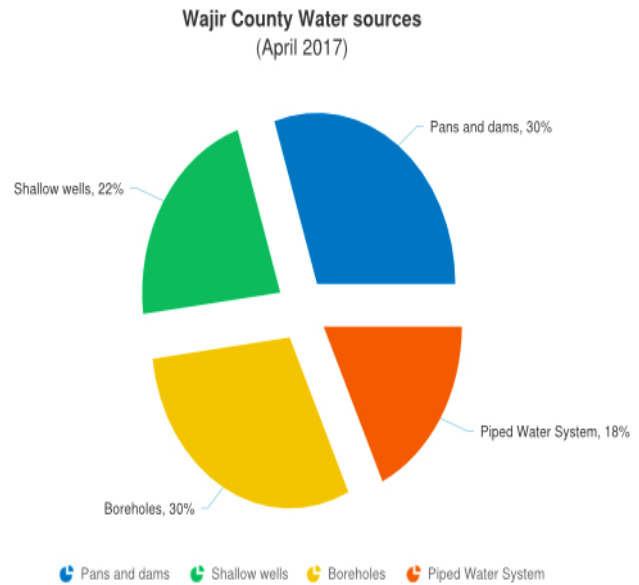
Generally pasture situation was fair to poor in the county, although the situation was normal in some pockets of the livelihood zones where rains were received in the earlier parts of the season and poor in areas where rains were insufficient specially in Wajir South pastoral cattle and parts of Wajir West pastoral all species livelihood zones. Regeneration of pasture was observed in Wajir East pastoral camel, Tarbaj and parts of Wajir North, however 80% of the community reported that pasture regeneration and browse is taking long due to depletion and slow regeneration rates. Comparing to previous month the condition of pasture improved slightly though it has not fully recovered due to slow regeneration observed and depletion of pasture that was witnessed during the last three months. Regeneration of pasture was observed in livelihoods zones that received adequate rains with some of areas especially in Wajir south and parts of Wajir west still having not recorded sufficient regeneration of pasture due to insufficient rains realized in these areas. No constraints of pasture reported during the month of April.

2.1.3 Browse

Browse situation improved in some livelihood zones particularly areas that received adequate rains, since browse takes less amount of time for leaves to develop. Comparing to previous season browse development improved in pockets of livelihood zones, though still development of browse is not adequate due to below normal rainfall witnessed in the county and development of leaves is at its peak and herders are not able to get sufficient browse to feed their livestock, Therefore, the current browse situation is below normal compared to similar period last year. However, in some parts of the county where significant rainfall was realized, the browse situation improved significantly and it is expected that the same will continue to improve as the rainfall continue these areas.

2.2 Water Sources

The current sources of water in all livelihood zones for human and livestock use are boreholes, water pans and shallow wells, Natural ponds and lagas. The water situation in the county improved significantly in some parts of some of the livelihood zones due to the rainfall received in these areas which resulted water being impounded in some water pans, particular in Wajir East, Wajir North, Tarbaj and parts of Wajir west while in some parts of other sub-counties namely Wajir South and part of Wajir West they are still under water stress. Most of the water pans are expected to last for a period of 3 months specially in Wajir East, Wajir North and parts of Wajir West.



2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

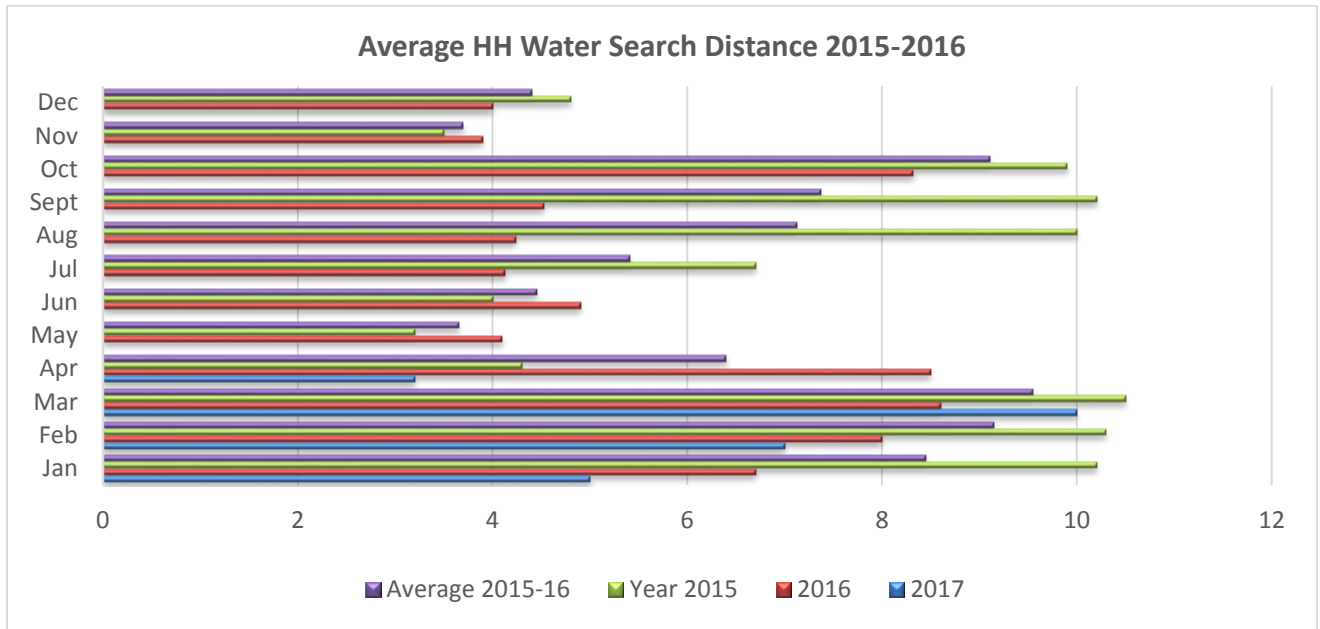


Figure 5: A chart indicating return distance to water sources against 2015-2016 average

- Current average household distances to the main water sources decreased from 10km in march to 3.2km in the month under review.
- In Comparison to previous month, the distance has significantly decreased due to the onset of the rains that recharged water pans in some livelihood zones thus improving the situation of water in the county and making household to trek shorter distances.

- The average household water consumption per person per day increased due to availability of water attributed to the impoundment of water pans which is normal at this time of the year, although areas in Wajir South pastoral cattle livelihood zone and parts of Wajir West pastoral all species livelihood zone still have the lowest consumption rate.
- The proportion of households that treat water is minimal with only some limited households in towns using boiling methods and tabs.

2.2.3 Livestock access

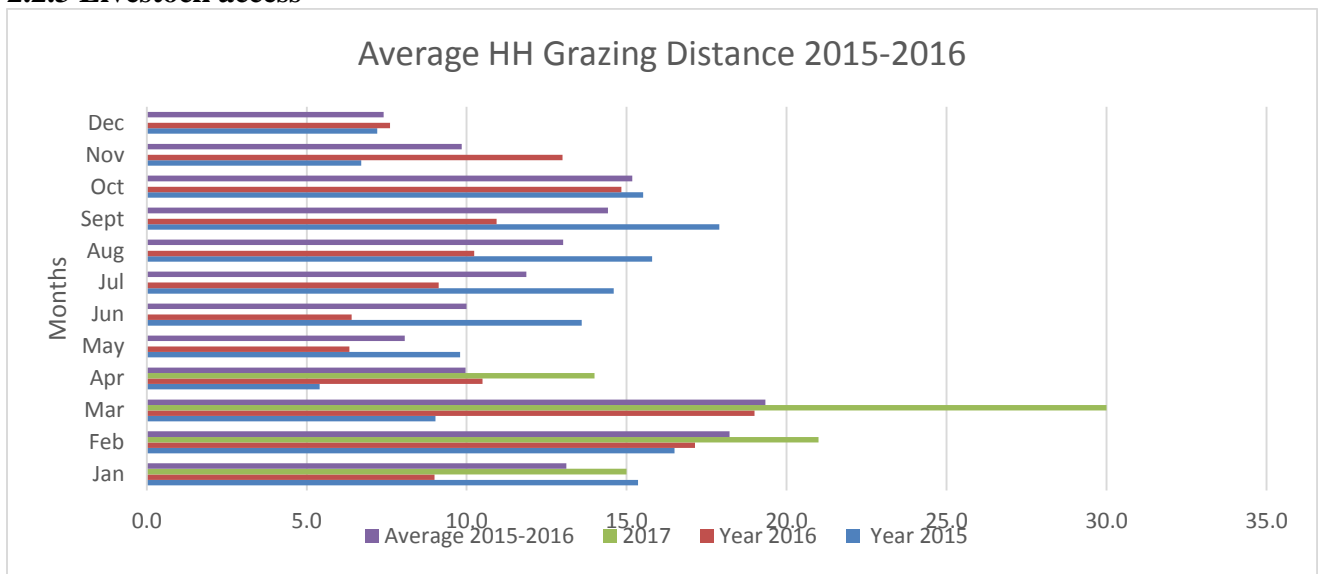


Figure 6: A graph indicating current grazing distance against (2015-2016) average

- Current average livestock grazing distance to water point decreased from 30 km in March to 14 km in the month under review due to the onset of the rain that recharged water pan, slight regeneration of browse and pasture which reduced trekking distance of livestock.
- Average grazing distance decreased significantly and this is attributed to the onset of the rains thus recharging water pan, slight improvement of pasture and browse available as compared to the previous month.
- Current average is above the long term average and previous year's month average.
- The frequency of watering livestock will decrease as the distance to water source and grazing zone decline. Currently, the watering interval for cattle and goats/sheep are 2-3 and 2-3 days respectively. The watering interval for camels is 7-14 days.
- Pastoral cattle livelihood zone in Wajir South and parts of pastoral all species livelihood zone in Wajir West are still witnessing longer grazing distance and access to water point due to poor rains.

2.3 Implication on food security.

- Regeneration of pasture, browse and water will reduce trekking distance to water point and grazing area thus improving the body condition of livestock, which will in turn increase milk production.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock production

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

Generally the livestock body situation in the county ranges from fair to poor in all livelihood zones, but on an improving trend. The livestock body condition is expected to improve due to the increased availability of pasture and browse in some parts of the county particularly in Wajir East, Tarbaj, Wajir North and parts of Wajir west where Cattle and goats 12th and 13th ribs are visible but developing. However, there are areas in Wajir south and part of Wajir West still having emaciated body condition. Compared to the previous month the situation has improved significantly due to the impoundment of water, regeneration of pasture and browse. The livestock body condition is expected to improve further as the on-going rains will improve the condition of pasture, browse and water. The situation can be summarized as stable but outside normal since livestock are yet to fully recover.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

During the month the Department of Veterinary reported no major outbreak of disease in the county except CBPP, Black quarter, PPR, CCPP and Sheep and Goat pox, which were reported in some parts of the county.

3.1.3 Milk Production

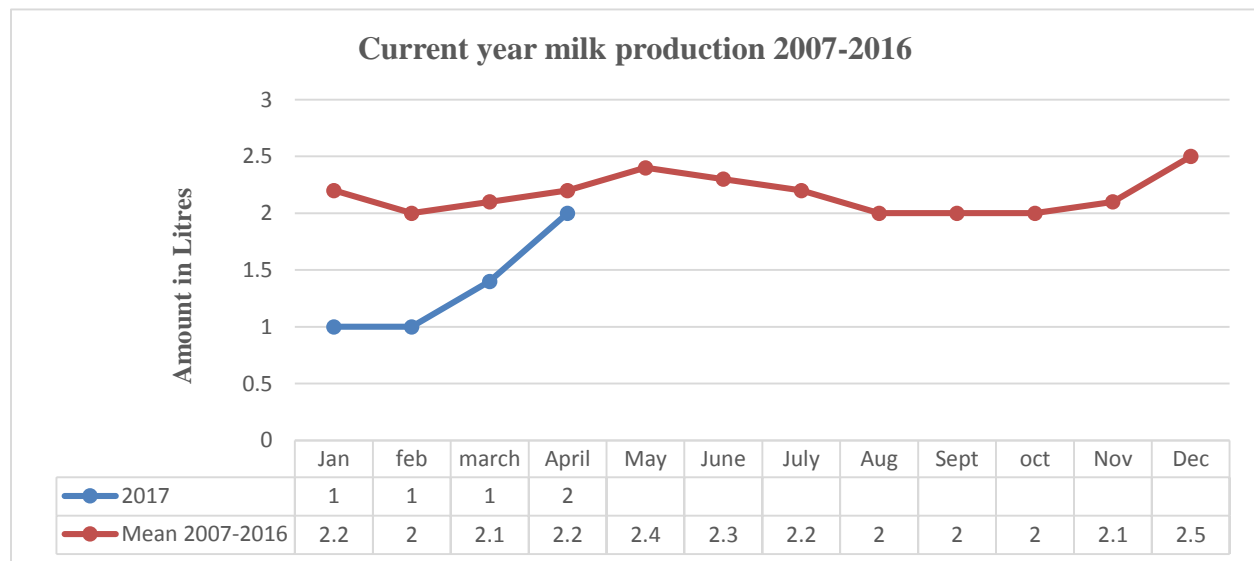


Figure 7: Current Household milk production against (2007-2016) long-term average

- The average household milk production per household per day increased from 1.4 litres in the month of March to 2.0 during the month under review. This may be attributed to the improvement realized, due to reduced trekking distances, regeneration of pasture, browse and improved availability of water in some parts of the county following the recent rains.
- Current average milk production is below the long term average recorded for the month. This is normal at this time of the year.
- Highest milk production was recorded in Wajir North and Tarbaj sub counties while Wajir South and Wajir West recorded the lowest production.

- Milk production per household per day is expected to increase in May as livestock body condition improves due to improved availability of pasture and browse

3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and condition of food Crops

In Wajir the farmers prepared the land and planted their crops majorly maize, beans and other crops such as kales, spinach, tomatoes and water melon for both irrigated and rain fed crops. Currently the crops are at knee height and they are doing well and if the current condition persists there is possibility of the crops to perform in some agro-pastoral areas.

3.3 IMPLICATION OF THE ABOVE INDICATORS ON FOOD SECURITY

- Good crop production during the season will boost lives and livelihoods of the people thus ensuring people to be food secure in the county

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle prices

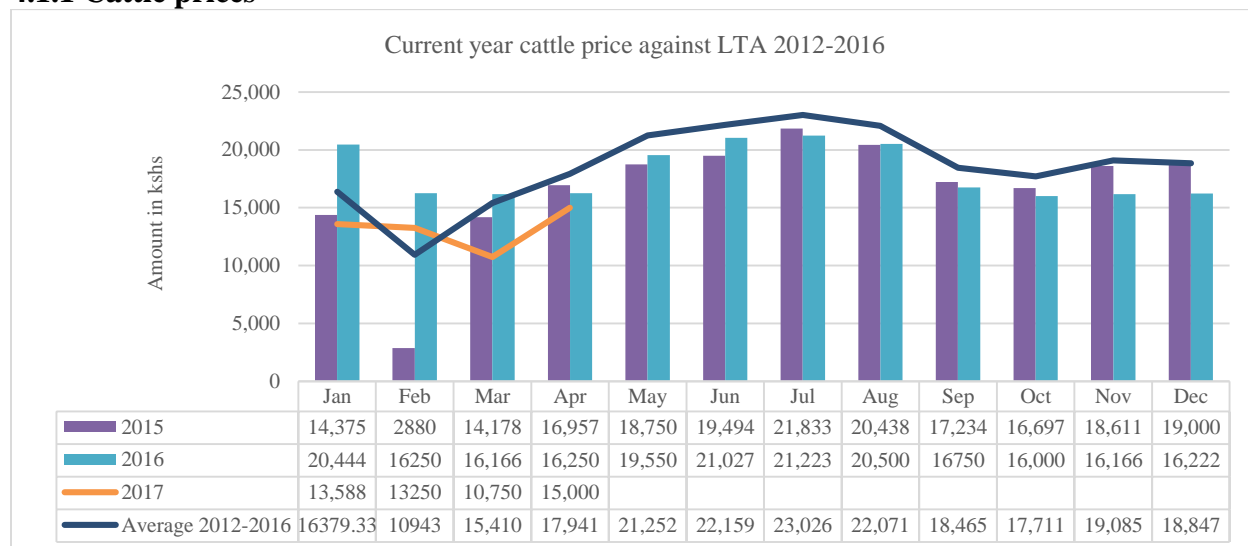


Figure 9: A graph of current cattle price against the long term (2012-16) mean prices.

- Current average price of cattle increased significantly from Kshs 10,750 in the month of March to 15000 in the month under review. The increase in the price was attributed to high demand from the urban market and slight improvement on livestock body condition. The highest average prices were recorded in agro-pastoral in Wajir North and lowest in pastoral cattle and pastoral all species livelihood zone in Wajir West.
- Current average prices were lower than both the long-term average and previous year's price.

4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

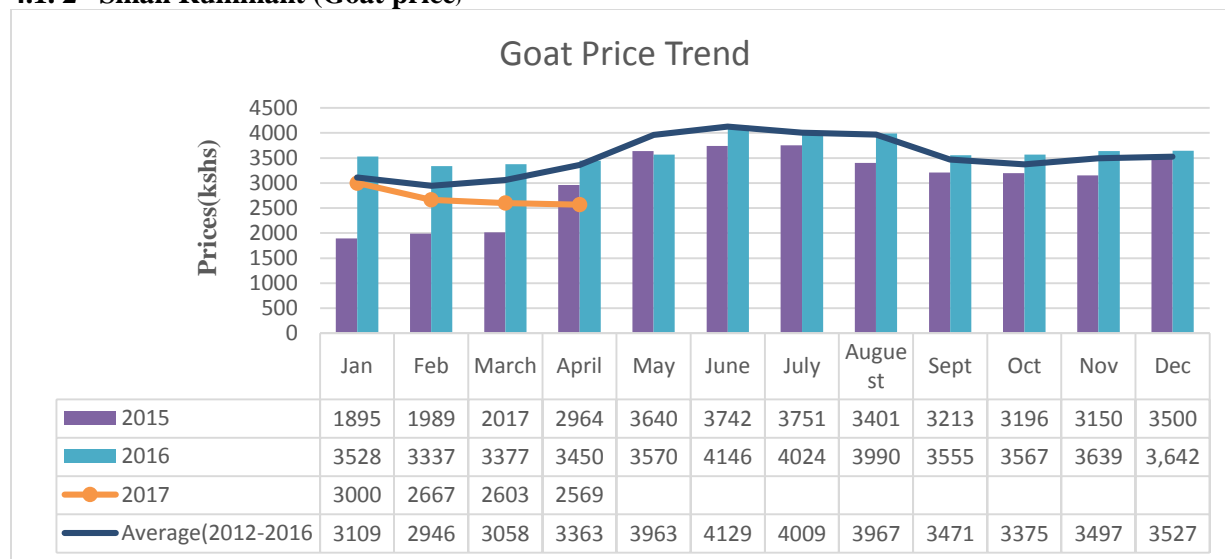
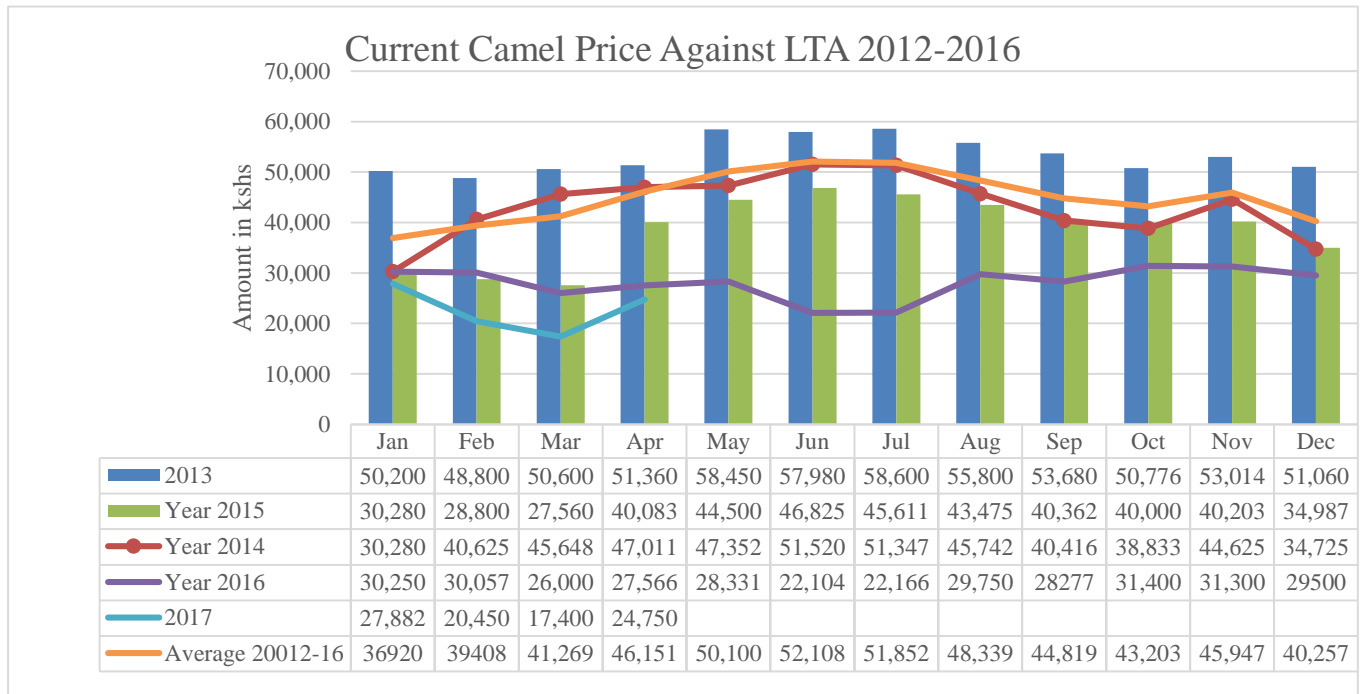


Figure 10: A graph of current year goat prices against the short-term mean 2012-2016

- Average goat's price decreased during the month under review at Kshs.2, 509 per goat compared to the previous month price of 2,603 as a result of many pastoralist selling their

livestock since schools were opening. However, the prices is expected to improve as the situation improves.

- The prices are higher in Agro pastoral in Wajir North, Wajir South and lower in pastoral all species in Wajir west.
- Current average price is below the long term average and previous month price and this is normal at this time of the year.



4.1.3 Camel price

Figure 12: A graph of current camel prices against the long term mean (2012-2016)

- Current average price of a camel increased significantly from Kshs 17,400 in the month of March to Kshs 24,750 in the months of April due to market demand, good livestock body condition.
- Average price of camel is lower than the long-term average and previous year's average and this may be attributed to low market demand in all livelihood zones as compared to the previous years.
- Agro-pastoral livelihood zones in Wajir North recorded the highest price as pastoral all species livelihood zone in Wajir West recorded the lowest price.
- The prices are not normal compared to the previous years.

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

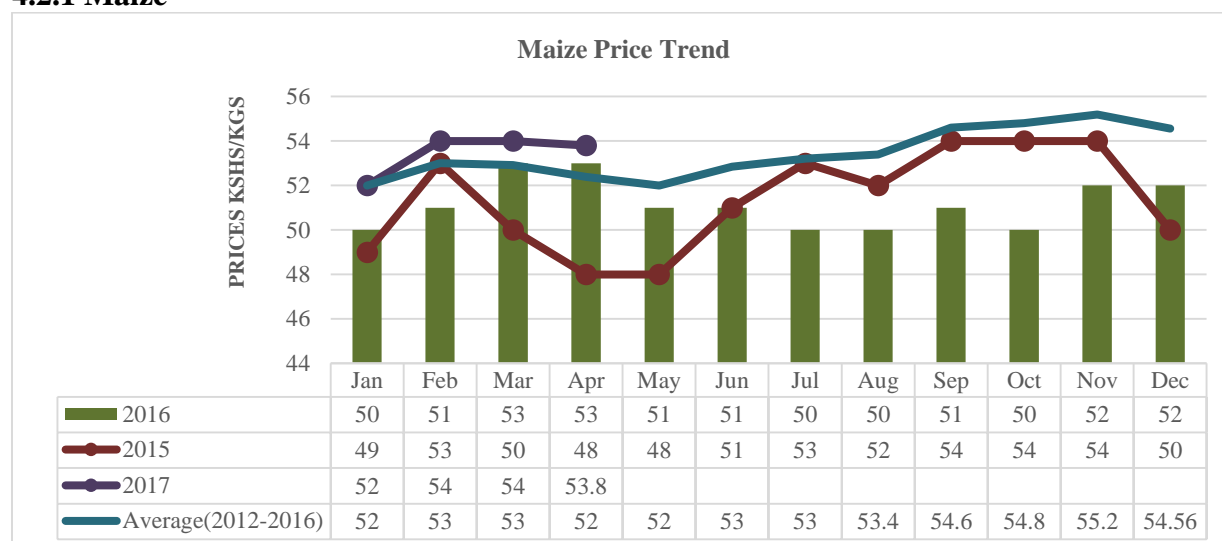


Figure 13: A graph showing current year price of maize as compared to the short-term (2012-15) mean

- The average price of maize was stable which was Kshs 53.8 during the month of April as compared to the previous month, however the trend shows the same throughout the year with no significant variation over the years.
- The highest price in the market was reported in agro-pastoral zones especially Bute but lower in lagbogol area.
- The commodity price is above both the long term average and previous year's month price.

4.2.1.1 Other outstanding observation

- In Wajir County, maize is not the main staple food. Rice, beans, meat, milk and spaghetti are the main staple food used in the County.

4.2.2 Posho (Maize meal)

- Current average price of Posho remained stable during the month as it was to Kshs 85 per Kg. during the month under.
- The highest prices were recorded in remote areas of Wajir due to unavailability of the commodity and high transport cost incurred during transportation. Lowest was recorded in urban areas.
- The price is considered normal as the trend shows stable condition over the period,

4.3 Livestock Price Ratio/Terms of Trade (TOT)

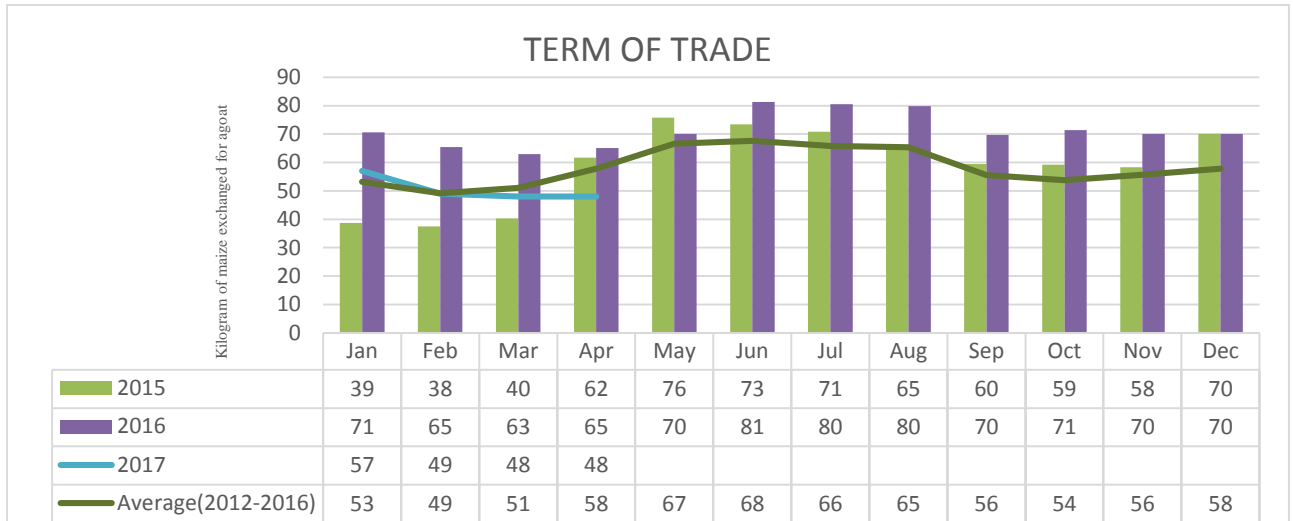


Figure: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long term (2012-2016) mean price

- Household terms of trade remained unchanged from Kshs 48 during the month of March to Kshs 48 during the month April. . The stability was due to low market price, low purchasing power. The price of goat decreased slightly with no significant changes and the price of maize remained constant, therefore falling the terms of trade. The price of goat is possible to increase if the ongoing long rains perform well. This is because improved rainfall will positively affect the purchasing power of households.
- There was no market disruption witnessed during the month across all livelihood zones.

4.4 Implication of the above indicators on food security

- Purchasing power of households will improve due to good livestock body condition and high production of milk attributed the ongoing rainfall.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

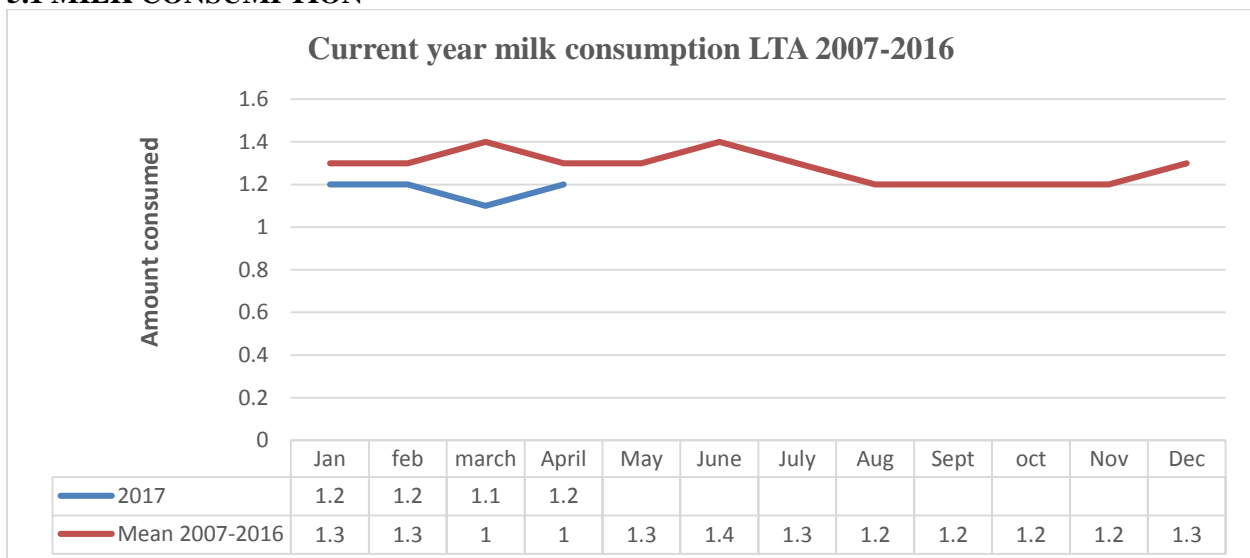
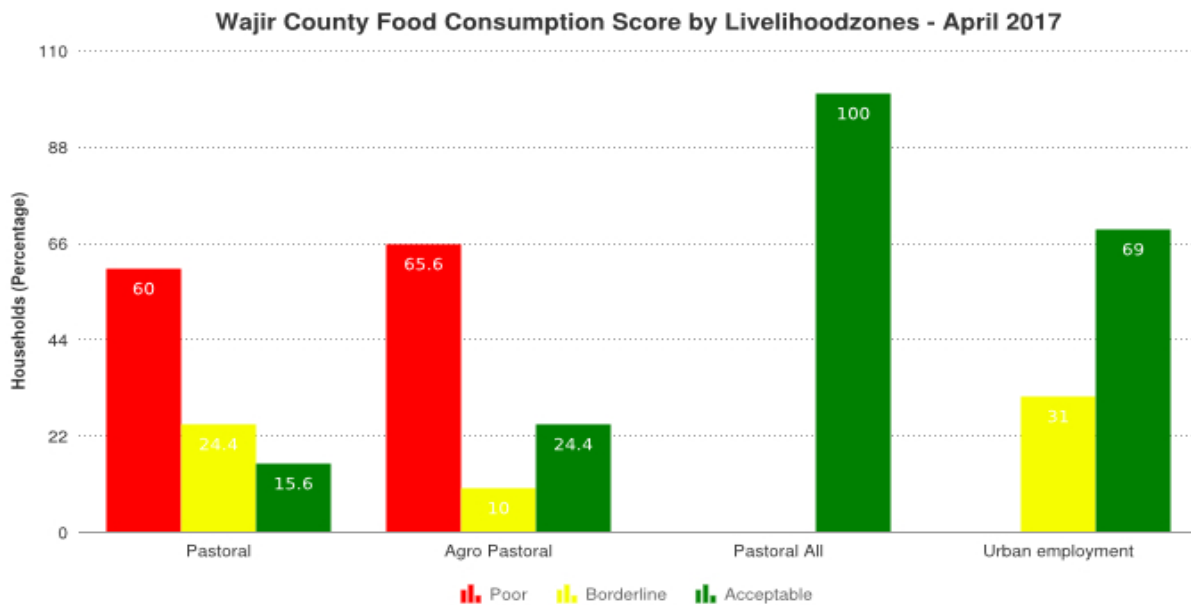


Figure 15: A graph showing current average milk consumption for Wajir against (2006-2016) mean

- The current average milk consumption per household per day slightly increased from 1.0 to 1.2 during the month under review due to increase in milk production attributed to reduced trekking distance, regeneration of pasture, browse and recharge of water sources. However, the consumption of milk varied according to livelihood zone.
- Average household milk consumption is slightly above the long term average which is normal for the period of the year.
- The highest milk consumption was recorded in pastoral camel and agro-pastoral livelihood zones
- The main source of milk production at household and market levels is camel and cattle.

5.2 Food Consumption Score



- Agro-pastoral and Pastoral livelihood zones are the household with poor dietary diversity which recorded 65.6, and 60 which shows an improvement as compared to previous month, while others showed borderline and acceptable respectively.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

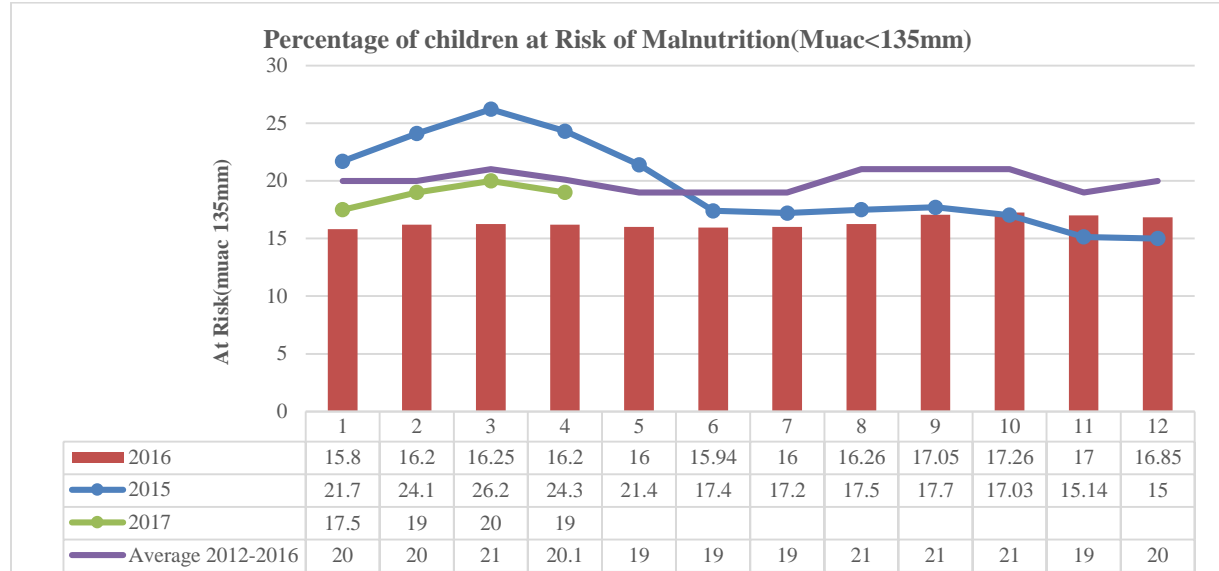


Figure 16: A graph of Nutritional status of children between 12-59 months against (2012-16) long-term mean

- The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition during the month under review was 19 percent as compared to 20 percent recorded during previous month with no significant changes recorded.
- The current proportion is lower than the long term average and higher than previous year's month average.

5.3.2 Health

Malnutrition reports for children less than 5 years: 26 children were admitted as in-patients for Management of Severe Malnutrition. 353 new children (6-59 months) were admitted to the Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) while 696 children (6-59 months) were admitted to Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP). (Source: DHIS March 2017).

Under 5 years morbidity in March was; diarrhoea (2024), pneumonia (1022), intestinal worms (353), Urinary Tract Infections (360), confirmed malaria (8), malnutrition (311), diseases of the skin including wounds (746) and Ear infections (665), (Source: DHIS March 2017).

Over 5 years morbidity in March was: diarrhoea (1120), confirmed malaria (29), Urinary Tract Infections (4234), pneumonia (1126), Rheumatism joint pains (1192), and diseases of the skin including wounds (1099). (Source: DHIS March 2017)

5.4 COPING STRATEGY INDEX

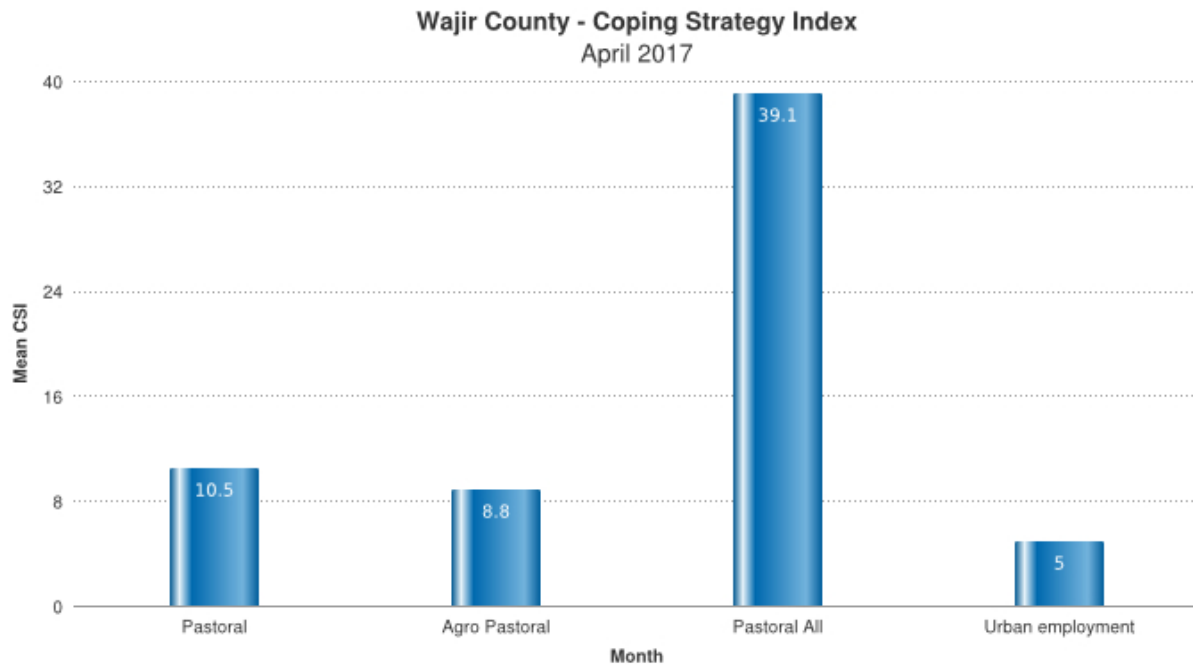


Figure17: A graph showing average (2013-2015) (coping strategy index (CSI) against the current trend

- Pastoral all species applying more coping strategy showing 39 and Agro-pastoral employ less coping strategies with less severity. The mean CSI for the county is 12.9 as compared to the previous month which showed 11.24
- Relied on less preferred and less expensive food
- Borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relative
- Reduced the number of meals taken per day.
- Reduced the quantity of food consumed by adult/mothers

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 Non-food interventions.

- Up scaling of Emergency cash transfers-ongoing
- Treatment of malnutrition cases and referral of cases to the main health facilities
- Livestock vaccination and treatment in order to contain disease.
- Hunger safety net programmes provides regular payment of Kshs. 5,400 bi-monthly to 19,201 beneficiaries in order to build households resilience and to help mitigate the shocks of the drought
- Human and livestock disease surveillance across the County –on-going

6.2 Food Aid

- Distribution of Food Aid during the month of April by the National Government.

7. EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- No reported cases of insecurity in the entire County during the month.

7.2 Migration

There were no migration of livestock witness from other counties and country apart from in migration within the county where movement is to where it has rained in search of pasture, browse and water which is also minimal. Migration was normal.

7.3 Food Security Prognosis

- Rainfall received during the season are likely to improve the condition of pasture, browse and water recharge levels in the county, thus improving the body condition of livestock.
- Increase milk production thereafter easy accessibility and availability of production.
- Prices of the commodity are expected to increase during the rains and thereafter reduce the commodity price.
- Rangeland conditions are expected to improve further in the month of May and there after decline.
- Long trekking distance are likely to reduce in the month of May and thereafter increase during the dry spell.
- Migration of Livestock will be minimal during the months of May and increase after the depletion of pasture, browse and water.
- Nutrition status will improve in the month of May and gradually decline in the month of June.
- Food security condition will likely improve in the on-going rainfall if it performs well.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Health & Nutrition

- Scale up nutrition services and outreach for hard-to-reach sites; on-going.
- Mass Screening
- Outreach services Scale up-ongoing
- Water Treatment(Aqua tabs, PUR, chlorine powder-ongoing
- Scale up HINI/IMAM/IYCN interventions-ongoing
- Scale-up integrated outreach activities based on mass screening findings
- Supply of safe water storage containers
- Monitoring of malnutrition in the county. .

Water (on-going).

- Repair and maintenance of all water bowsers
- Repair of boreholes
- Water trucking is still ongoing in few areas in the county which did not receive rain.

Agriculture Sector

- Provision of farm inputs(seeds, tools and chemicals)
- Kitchen garden Establishments
- On-farm training and demonstration on agronomic practices, pest and disease control and post-harvest technologies
- Desilting and excavation of water pans

Livestock Sector-(on-going)

- Emergency slaughter destocking(Cattle and goats)-on-going
- Scale up livestock off-take and destocking programmes
- Slaughter and meat distribution
- Livestock insurance

Social Protection section

- Provision of Relief food by National and county Government
- Up scaling of the emergency cash transfer for the months of April
- Kenya Red cross has cash transfer program and are piloting in seven centres in Wajir South and eight centres in Wajir West to benefit 2000 households for a period of four months-On going