

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



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



JUNE EW PHASE 2017

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators
 Generally the county did not received any rainfall during the month, however most days of the month were characterized by cloud cover, marking the beginning of winter season. Currently vegetation cover indexes for the month of June still showed moderate vegetation deficit band with a VCI score of 24 from previous month figure of 21, although Wajir west, and Wajir south are the most affected areas with vci scores of 9.16 and 14 respectively, with wajir west indicating extreme vegetation deficit and wajir south severe vegetation deficit. The main sources of water are boreholes, shallow wells and water pans.
 The Condition of water deteriorated as water pans dried up due to over concentration in compared to similar time last year. Long trekking distances slightly increased due to drying up of water pans. Deterioration of pasture and browse was reported.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)
 Livestock body condition remained the same which showed Good to poor. Condition of camels is good, Milk production declined ,slight increase in livestock trekking distance, the terms of trade not favourable at 59.kg in June to 52kg in May for a sale of one medium size goat with no significant change recorded. No disruption of market reported. Livestock Migration of livestock was reported within the county in search of pasture, water and browse, Pasture and browse condition deteriorated, the percentage of children under five at risk of malnutrition remained stable as compared to the previous month's figure of 18

Early Warning Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Normal	Improved
Pastoral cattle	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral-all species	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral camel	Alert	Worsening
Informal employment	Alert	Worsening
County	Alert	Worsening
Biophysical Indicators	value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	0	80 -120
VCI-3Month	24	>35
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Good-poor	Normal
Crop production	Poor	Good
Milk Production	2.5	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	59	>66
Milk Consumption	1.4	>3
Return Distance to water source	6	<5 Km
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	17.8	<6.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	14	<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

Generally the county did not received any rainfall during the month, however most days of the month were characterized by cloud cover, marking the beginning of winter season.

Amount of rainfall and spatial distribution

There was no rainfall received in the month of June 2017, However it was characterised by cloud cover during the day and night.

1.1.1 Rainfall station data

Table 1: A mount of rainfall received in the month of June 2017

The county received no rainfall during the month of June and this was normal at these time of the year.

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

Current vegetation condition indexes for June still recorded Moderate vegetation deficit for the county in comparison with the previous month of May which remained the same. Current county 3 months vegetation cover indexes for Wajir west and Wajir south are the most affected areas where Wajir west indicated extreme vegetation deficit and Wajir south showed severe vegetation deficit, however other sub-counties recorded moderate vegetation deficit except Wajir North which indicated Normal Vegetation deficit. The severity in Wajir south and Wajir west was as a result of insufficient rains received during two continuous season experienced thus leading to poor pasture, browse and water. The condition is expected to worsen as the dry spell progresses.

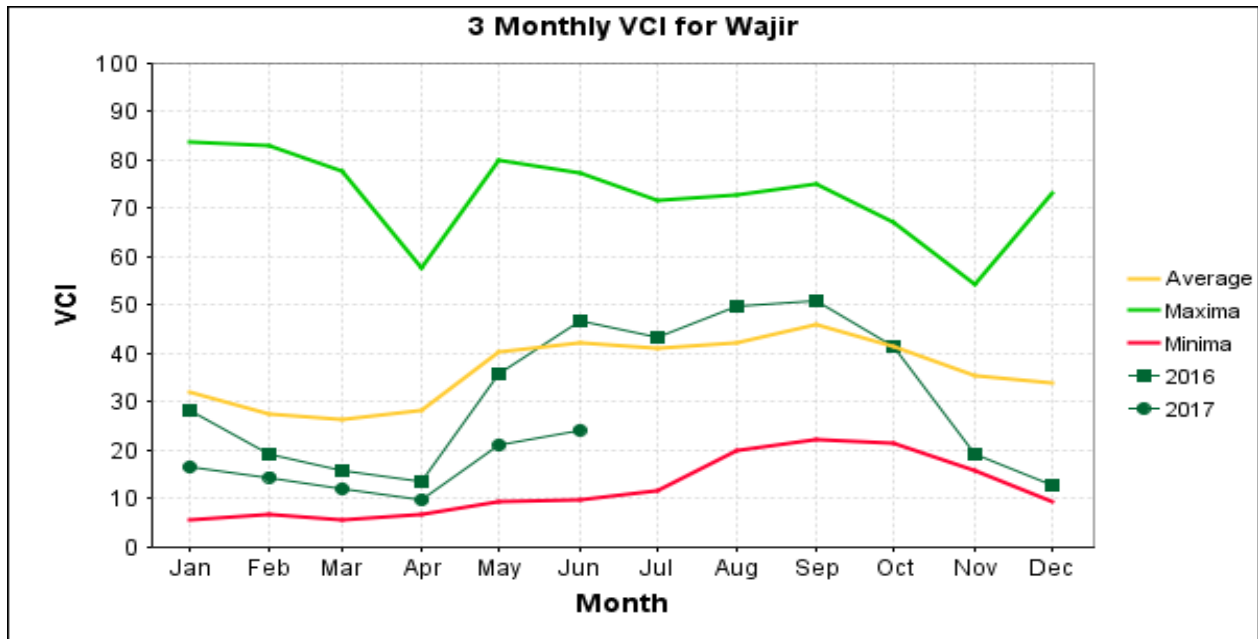


Figure 3: A chart of Wajir County overall 3-monthly VCI during the month of June 2017

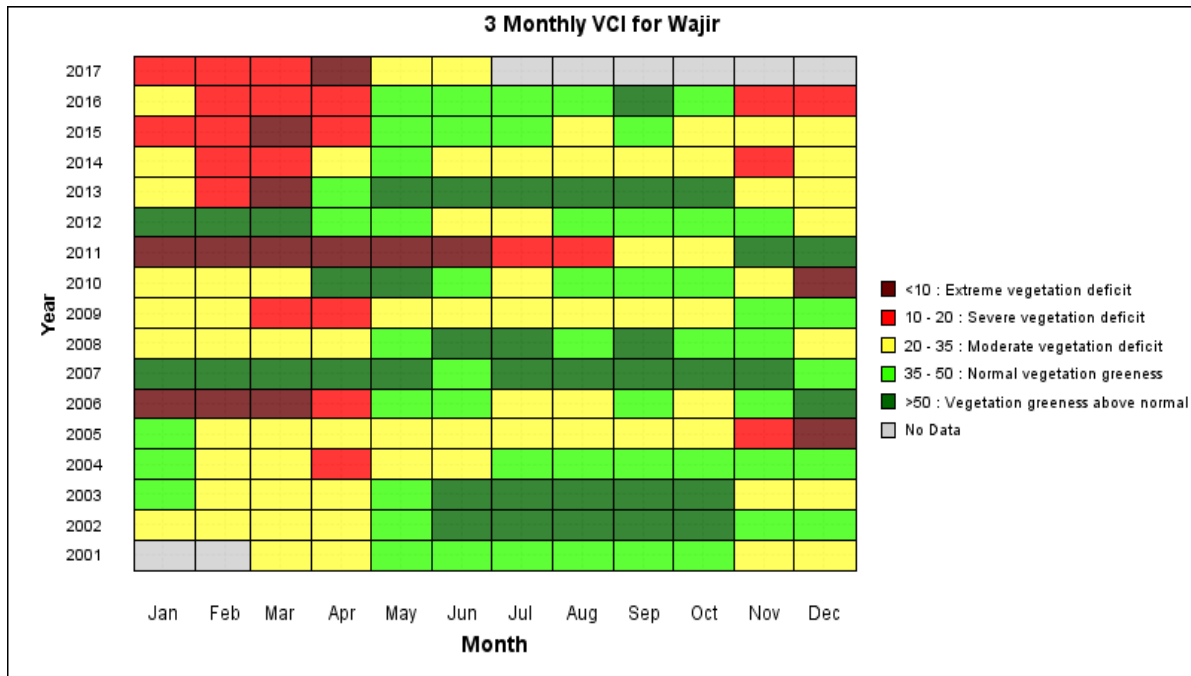


Figure 4: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir County during the month of June 2017

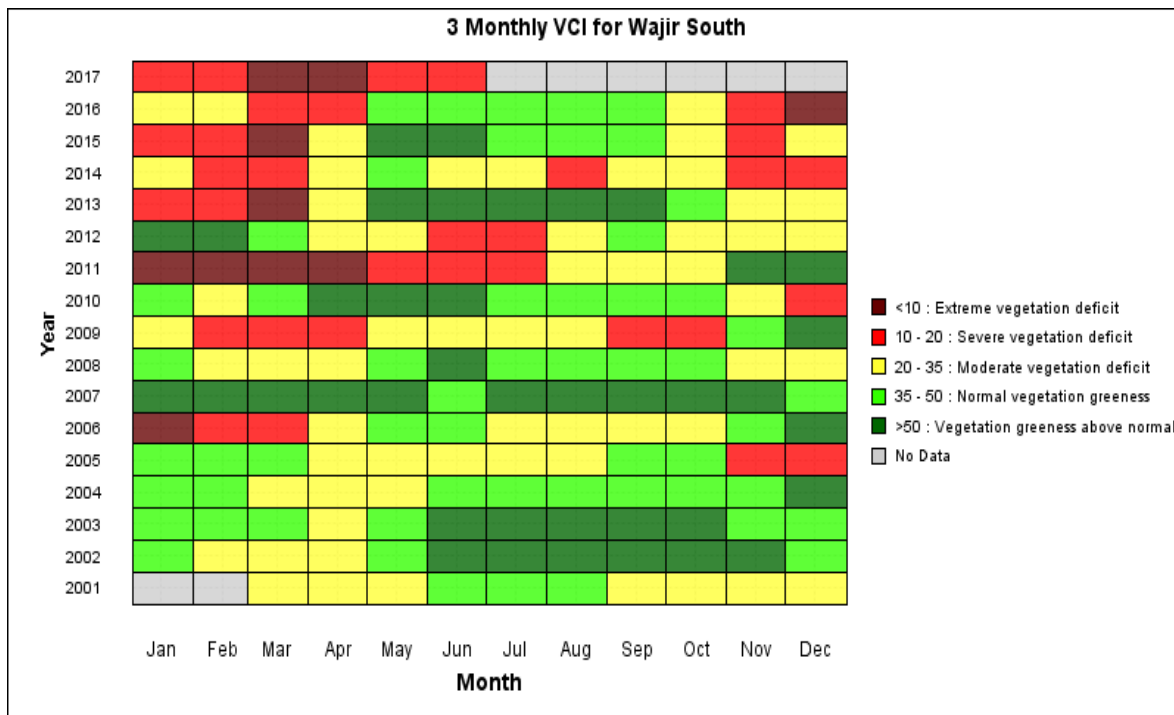


Figure 4: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir County during the month of June 2017

2.1.2 Pasture

Generally Pasture situation in the county remained to be fair to poor in all livelihood zones, Except some pockets of the livelihood zones particularly Buna in wajir North, Wajir East and Tarbaj showed good pasture condition as a result of good rains recorded during the season while other sub-counties showed poor pasture and browse. In Comparison to previous month, pasture situation

declined mainly in areas that received sufficient rains during the season due to over concentration.80% of the communities in the county reported that pasture and browse situation is poor. No constraints to access of pasture reported during the month of Jun 2017.

2.1.3 Browse

Browse situation in the county showed fair to poor in all the livelihood zones except some pockets of Wajir North, part of Wajir East and Tarbaj that showed good browse due to rains received during March, April and May 2017. Comparing to previous season browse condition is declining in all livelihood zones as a result of depressed rains received during the season. Therefore, the current browse situation is poor compared to similar period last year. No constraints reported during the month of June 2017.

2.2 Water Sources

The Main sources of water currently in use by both human and livestock in the county are boreholes, water pans and shallow wells. In comparison to the previous month the current situation of water has deteriorated due to drying of water pans as a result of over concentration of livestock at the water point attributed to depressed rainfall received during the season and others depending on boreholes. However, Wajir South, and Wajir west are still under severe water pressure. Most of the remaining water pans are likely to last for a period of 1-2 months mainly in the Agro-pastoral and pastoral camel livelihood zones.

2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

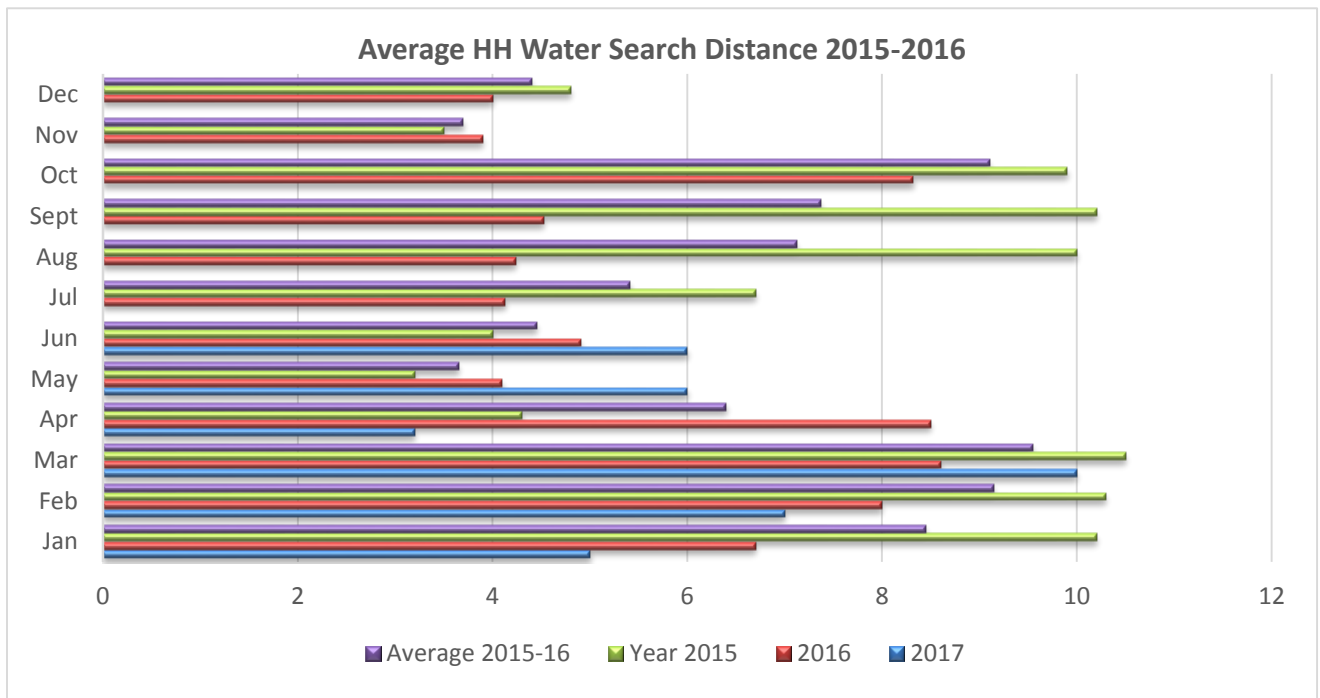


Figure 5: A chart indicating return distance to water sources against 2015-2016 average

- Average household distances to the main water sources remain the same as compared to the previous month except area in wajir south and wajir west that are under water stress. .
- The average household water consumption per person per day remained the same due to water availability in some livelihood zones which is normal at this time of the year,

Although areas of wajir south pastoral cattle and wajir west pastoral all species livelihood zones recorded lowest consumption rate.

- The proportion of households that treat water is minimal with only households in the urban centre use aqua tabs.

2.2.3 Livestock access

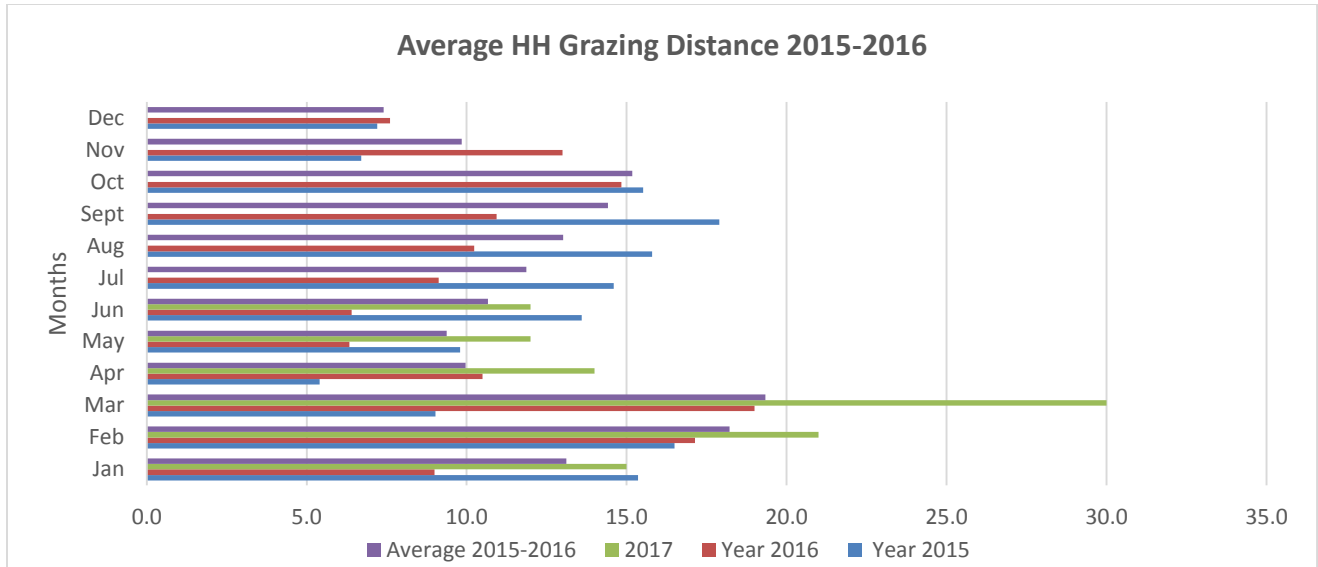


Figure 6: A graph indicating current grazing distance against (2015-2016) average

- Livestock average grazing distance to water sources remained constant from 12.0km in May to 12 km in the month under review as a result of availability of water in some parts of the county that reduced trekking distance to water points
- Current average is above the long term average and previous year’s month average.
- Frequency of watering livestock at water point remained stable as the distance remained constant to water source and grazing distance. Currently, the watering interval for cattle and goats/sheep is normal.
- Pastoral cattle and pastoral all species livelihood zones are under water pressure as a result of depressed rains attributed to long trekking distance, poor pasture, browse and water.

2.3 Implication on food security.

- Increase in trekking distance will likely lead to poor livestock body condition, low production thus affecting food security.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock production

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

Livestock body condition in all livelihood zones ranges from good to fair in the county mostly Wajir North, Wajir East and Tarbaj that received sufficient rains during MAM. However the livestock body condition of Wajir south, Wajir west and pockets of Eldas are poor as a result of inadequate rains received thus leading to poor regeneration of pasture and browse.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

The Department of veterinary reported an outbreak of diseases such CBPP, PPR, CPP and sheep and goat pox in Wajir North, Wajir East and Tarbaj and the department is currently doing vaccination.

3.1.3 Milk Production

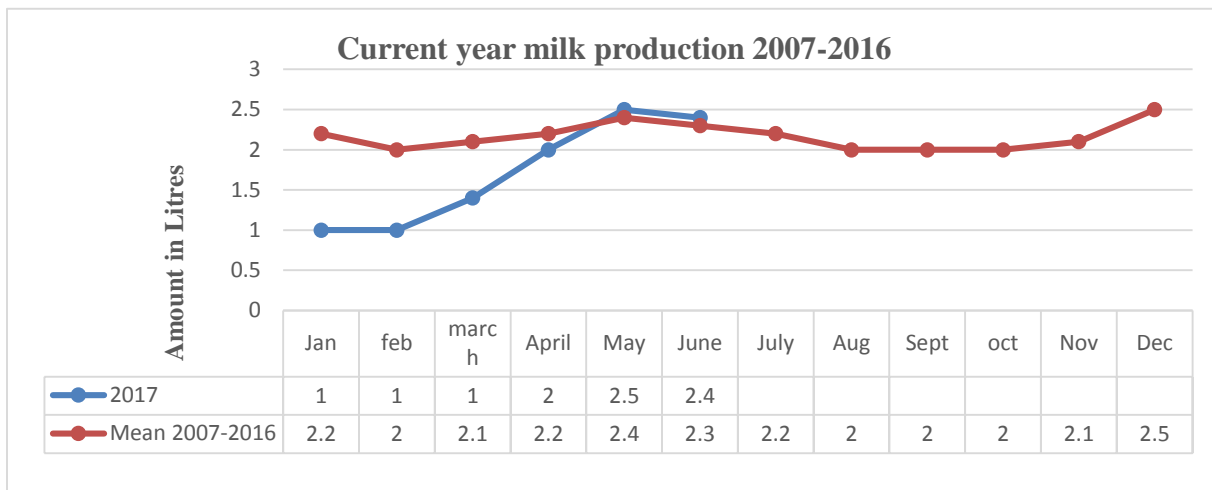


Figure 7: Current Household milk production against (2007-2016) long-term average

- Current average household milk production per household per day slightly declined from 2.5 litres in the month of May to 2.4 during the month under review. This may be due to poor livestock body condition, increase trekking distance and poor pasture and browse thus limiting production.
- Current average milk production is slightly above the long term average and normal at this time of the year.
- Highest milk production was recorded in Wajir North, Wajir East and Tarbaj sub counties while Wajir west and Wajir south indicated the lowest production.
- Milk production per household per day is expected to decrease in July as livestock body condition continues to deteriorate as the dry spell progresses a result of poor pasture and browse, long trekking distance.

3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and condition of food Crops

Currently the farmers in Wajir planted their crops and are expected to harvest in the next one week during the season and this was mainly maize, beans and other crops such as kales, spinach, tomatoes and water melon for both irrigated and rain fed. The crops performance was poor and it seems there will be little harvest anticipated for rain fed areas due to moisture stress. However water melon is performing well in Wajir central and neighbouring areas such as Kukale.

3.3 IMPLICATION OF THE ABOVE INDICATORS ON FOOD SECURITY

- Poor crop production and little harvest in the county would make the people to be food insecure thus leading crisis.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle prices

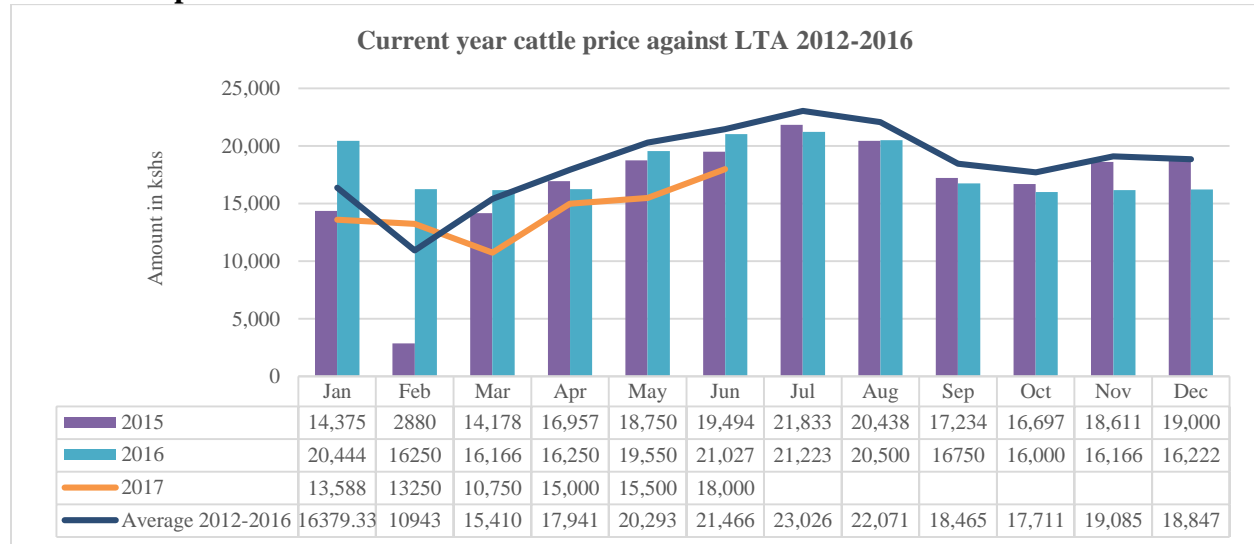


Figure 9: A graph of current cattle price against the long term (2012-16) mean prices.

- Current average price of cattle increased significantly from Kshs 15,500 in the month of May to Kshs 18,000 in June 2017. The increase in the price was as attributed to good livestock body condition in some areas that had sufficient rains and high market demand. Highest average prices were reported in the town centres and lowest recorded in the rural.
- Current average prices were lower than both the long-term average and previous year's price.
- Market prices are not normal compared to previous years prices

4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

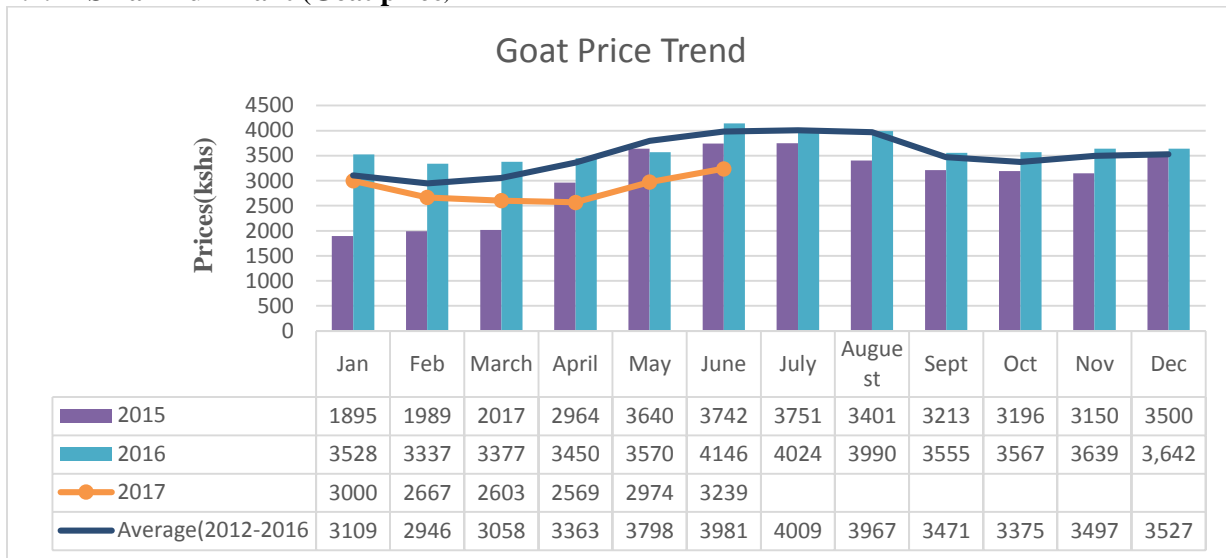


Figure 10: A graph of current year goat prices against the short-term mean 2012-2016

- Average goat's price increased slightly from Kshs.2974 to Kshs 3239 during the month of June due to the festive season that is (Ramadan) which slightly improved market price, though, the prices are likely to deteriorate as the dry spell progresses.
- Prices are higher in urban centres and lower in the rural
- Current average price is below the long term average and previous month price and this is normal at this time of the year. Market prices are not favourable

4.1.3 Camel price

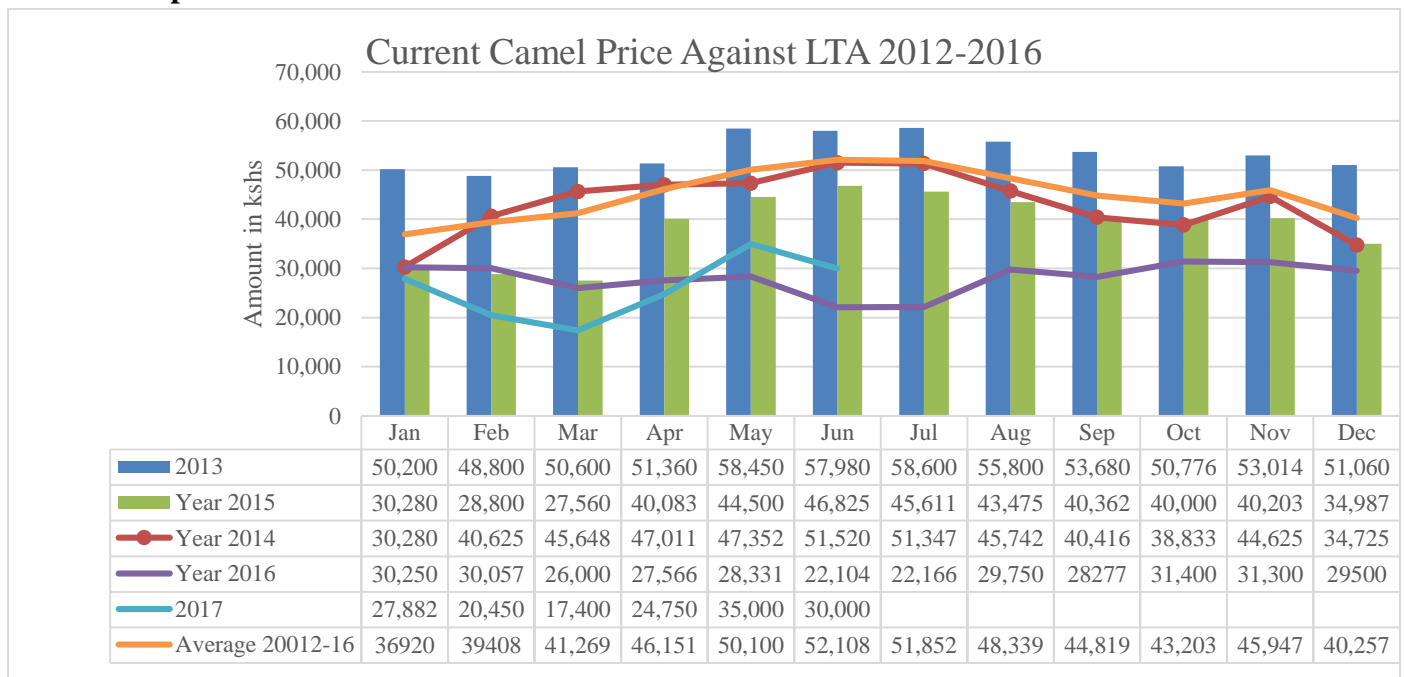


Figure 12: A graph of current camel prices against the long term mean (2012-2016)

- Current average price of a camel decreased significantly from Kshs 35,000 in the month of May to Kshs 30,000 in the month under review due to low market demand.
- Current average price of camel is lower than the long-term average and above previous year's price.
- Agro-pastoral livelihood zones in Wajir North still recorded the highest price as pastoral all species livelihood zone in Wajir West recorded the lowest price.
- The prices are normal compared to previous year's price.

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

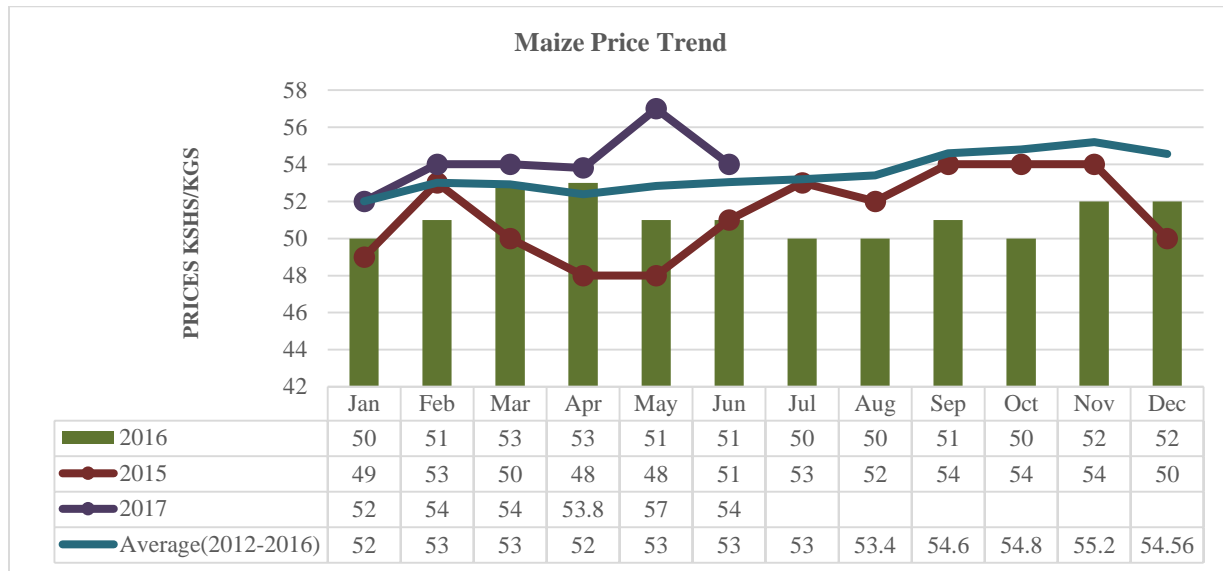


Figure 13: A graph showing current year price of maize as compared to the short-term (2012-15) mean

- Current average price of maize declined slightly from Kshs 57 during May to Kshs 54 during the month under review as a result of more supply since the commodity is transported from outside the county. The situation is normal. The highest price in the market was reported in the rural areas and lowest prices were recorded in the urban centres
- 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, maize is not the common food utilized, however beans, meat, milk and spaghetti are the main staple food used in all livelihood zones.

4.2.2 Posho (Maize meal)

- Current average price of Posho remained constant which recorded 90 per kg during the month under review.
- 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)

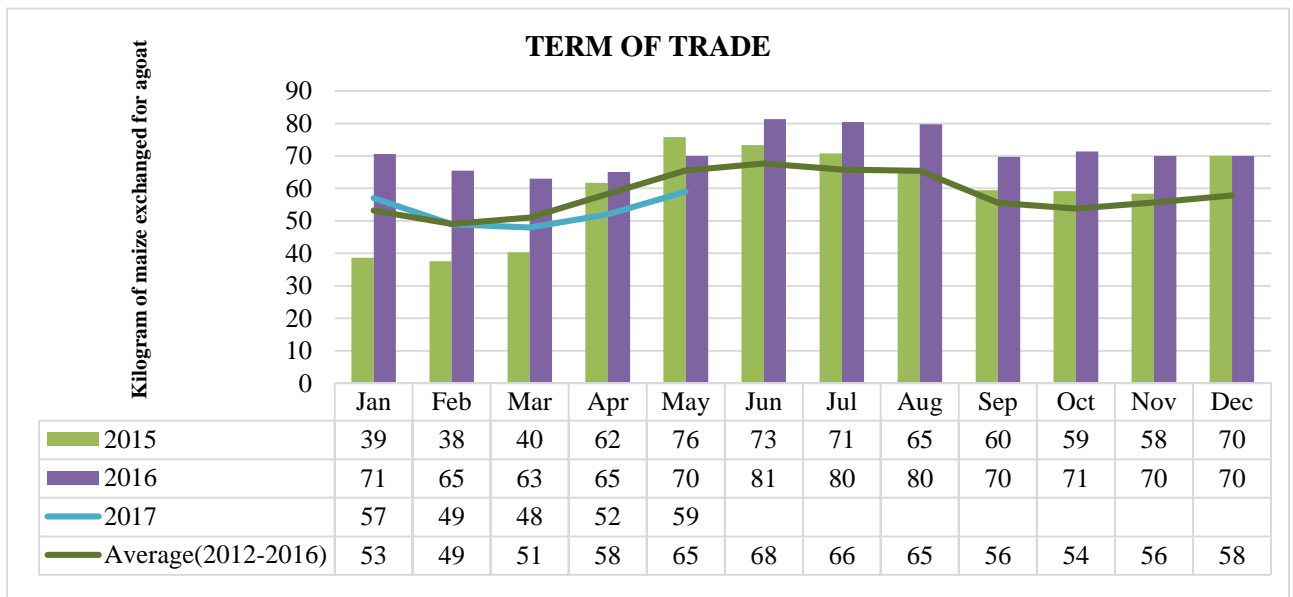


Figure: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long term (2012-2016) mean price

- Household terms of trade slightly increased from Kshs 52 during the month of May to Kshs 59 during the month under review. Slight increase was due to slight increase in goat price, though the term of trade still not favourable as compared to the previous Terms of trade. The price of goat is expected to deteriorate as the trekking distance will increase and livestock body condition declines.
- There was no market disruption reported during the month in the county.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

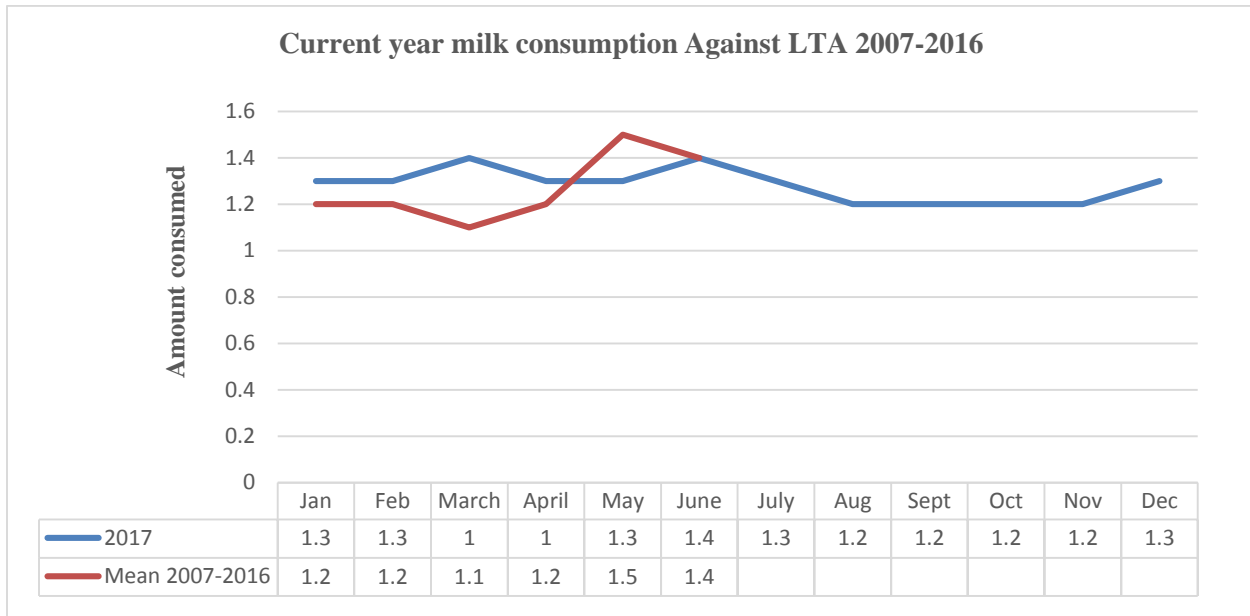
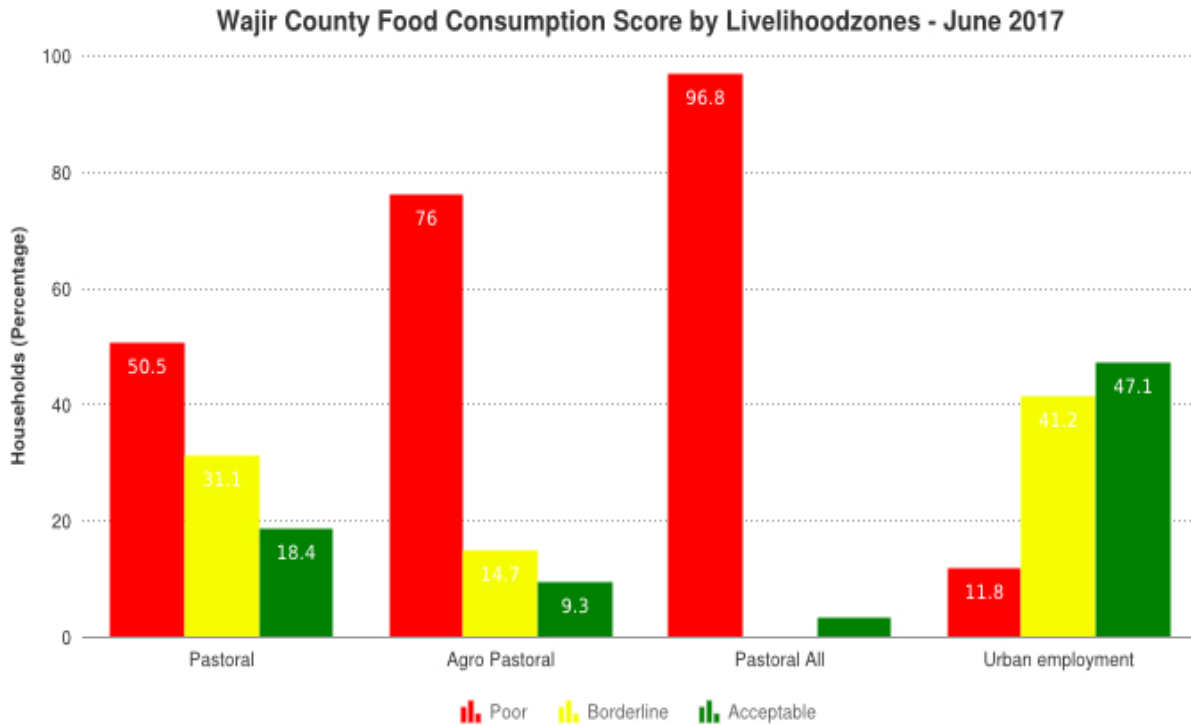


Figure 15: A graph showing current average milk consumption for Wajir against (2006-2016) mean

- The current average milk consumption per household per day slightly decreased from 1.5 to 1.4 in June due to decrease in milk production as a result of increase in trekking distance, poor pasture, browse and decline in livestock body condition. The consumption of milk varies within the livelihood zone.
- Average household milk consumption remained the same as compared to 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



- Pastoral All, Agro-pastoral and Pastoral livelihood zones are the household with poor dietary diversity which recorded 96, 76 and 50.5 and while others showed borderline and acceptable respectively.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

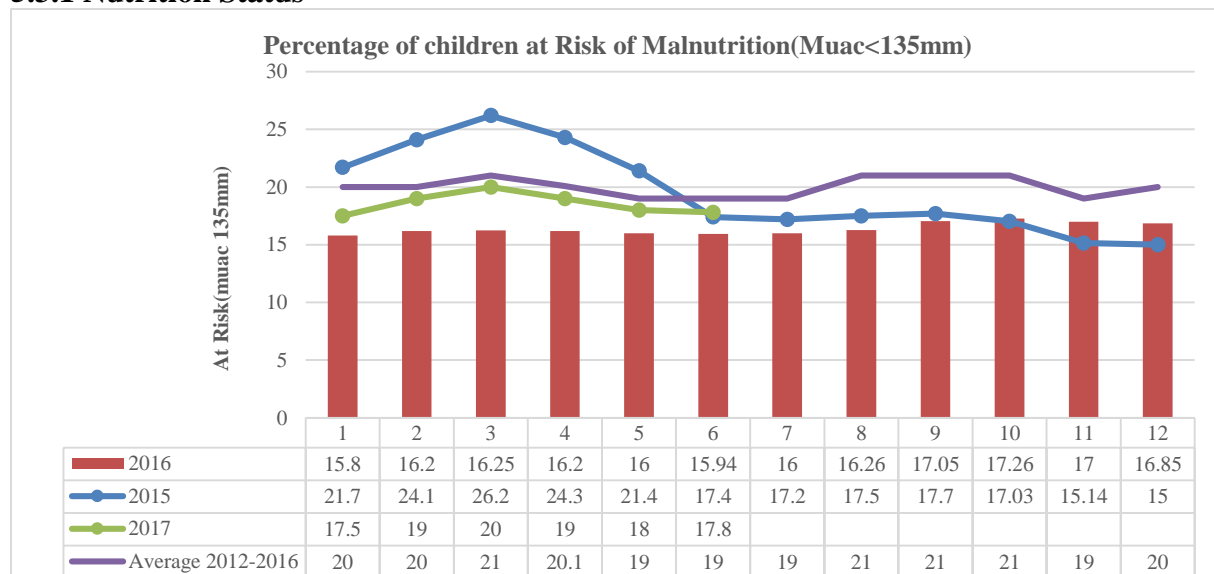


Figure 16: A graph of Nutritional status of children between 12-59 months against (2012-16) long-term mean

- The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition during the month of June remained the same as compared to the 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.
- The highest percentage of malnourished children were reported in pastoral cattle, pastoral all species livelihood zones in wajir south, wajir west and lowest reported in pastoral camel.

5.4 COPING STRATEGY INDEX

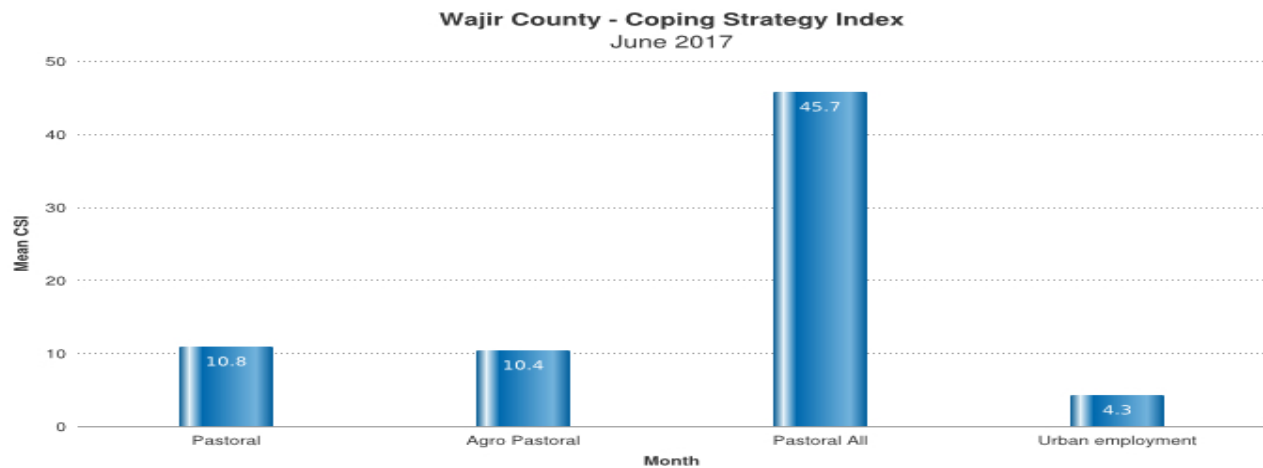


Figure17: A graph showing average (2013-2015) (coping strategy index (CSI) against the current trend

- Pastoral all species applied more coping strategy showing more severity in June as compared to previous month which recorded 44 with no significant changes and Urban employment applied less coping strategies with less severity. The mean CSI for the county is 14.0 as compared to the previous month which showed 12.32.
- Relied on less preferred and less expensive food
- Reduced the number of meals taken per day.
- Reduced the quantity of food consumed by adult/mothers
- Borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relative.

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 Non-food interventions.-Ongoing

- Up scaling of Emergency cash transfers-ongoing under the HSNP programme. Other partners include Kenya Red cross and Oxfam GB.
- Treatment of malnutrition cases and referral of cases to the main health facilities
- Livestock vaccination and treatment in order to contain disease
- Human and livestock disease surveillance across the County –on-going

6.2 Food Aid

- Food Aid was received during the month and was distributed by the National Government.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- Cases of insecurity were reported in Wajir North and Eldas over resource base conflict and tension was high during the last two weeks but now the situation is under control and there is peace building and reconciliation is on-going and no problem as at now.

7.2 Migration

Migration of livestock from other counties particularly (Marsabit, Isiolo) and within the sub-counties were witnessed during the months and the movement of livestock is particularly towards Wajir North, Wajir East and Tarbaj in search of pasture, browse and water. Communities reported that 80% of the livestock have moved to Wajir North, Wajir East and Tarbaj. Migration is not normal as compared to the previous month.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- Generally Food security condition is likely to worsen in the county during the month of July, August and September and thereafter improve during OND
- Pasture, browse and water stress are expected to worsen during the long dry spell and improve during OND 2017.
- Milk production in the county is expected to deteriorate further during the three months and likely to improve during October, November and December 2017
- Malnutrition level for children under five years are expected to deteriorate due to insufficient milk production.
- Increase in livestock trekking distance which in turn reduce live body condition
- Migration of livestock are expected to increase during the dry spell in search of pasture, browse and water and improve thereafter.
- Prices of the commodity are expected to be stable and thereafter reduce
- Range land condition are expected to worsen during the dry spell and improve during OND.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Health & Nutrition

- Smart survey
- Sensitization on hygiene promotion
- Water Trucking on-going in some parts of the county
- Outreach services Scale up-ongoing
- Water Treatment(Aqua tabs, PUR, chlorine powder-ongoing
- Scale up HINI/IMAM/IYCN interventions-ongoing
- Supply of safe water storage containers
- Monitoring of malnutrition in the county. .

Water (on-going).

- Water trucking on-going in 30 centres
- Repair of boreholes

Agriculture Sector

- Training of farmers on Agro-nutrition
- Training of extension officers
- Pan construction for water harvesting
- Provision of farm inputs(seeds, tools and chemicals)
- Desilting and excavation of water pans
- Increase disease surveillance activities.
- Capacity building for farmers

Livestock Sector

- Support prevention and treatment of livestock diseases
- Training of farmers on disease reporting
- Vaccination-on-going

Peace and Security

- Support Peace building and reconciliation initiatives.