

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



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



JULY EW PHASE 2017	Early Warning Phase Classification		
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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 July remained the same which showed moderate vegetation deficit band with a VCI score of 29 from previous month figure of 24, however Wajir South and Wajir west are the worst affected livelihood zones with vci scores of 15.16 and 13.23 respectively, with both showing severe vegetation deficit. The main sources of water are boreholes, shallow wells and water pans. The Situation of water worsened as water pans dried up due to over concentration as compared to similar time last year. Long trekking distances increased as a result of dry up of water pans. Depletion of pasture and browse was observed.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Livestock body condition ranges from fair to poor. Condition of camels is good, Milk production worsened, significant increase in livestock trekking distance, the terms of trade not favourable at 60.kg in July to 59kg in June for a sale of one medium size goat with no significant change recorded. No disruption of market reported. Migration of livestock still persisted in search of pasture, water and browse, Pasture and browse condition deteriorated, the percentage of children under five at risk of malnutrition increased from 18.0 in June to 19.0 showing an increase as compared to previous month.

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	29	>35
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Fair -poor	Normal
Crop production	Poor	Good
Milk Production	1.9	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	60	>66
Milk Consumption	1.2	>3
Return Distance to water source	6.4	<5 Km
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	19.0	<6.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	15.0	<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 did not received any rainfall in July, however most of the days were characterized by cloudy cover, marking the beginning of winter season.

Amount of rainfall and spatial distribution

There was no rainfall recorded in July 2017, though it was characterised by cloudy cover during the day and night.

1.1.1 Rainfall station data

The county did not receive rainfall in July 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 cover indexes for July remained the same in the county as compared to the previous month of June showing moderate vegetation deficit. Pastoral cattle in wajir south and pastoral all species in Wajir west are the most affected areas indicating severe vegetation deficit, though others showed moderate vegetation deficit but Wajir North and Tarbaj recorded Normal Vegetation deficit. The severity in pastoral cattle in Wajir south and Pastoral all species in Wajir west was occasioned by inadequate rains experienced in the last three seasons thus leading to poor pasture, browse and water. The Situation is likely to worsen further as the long dry spell continues.

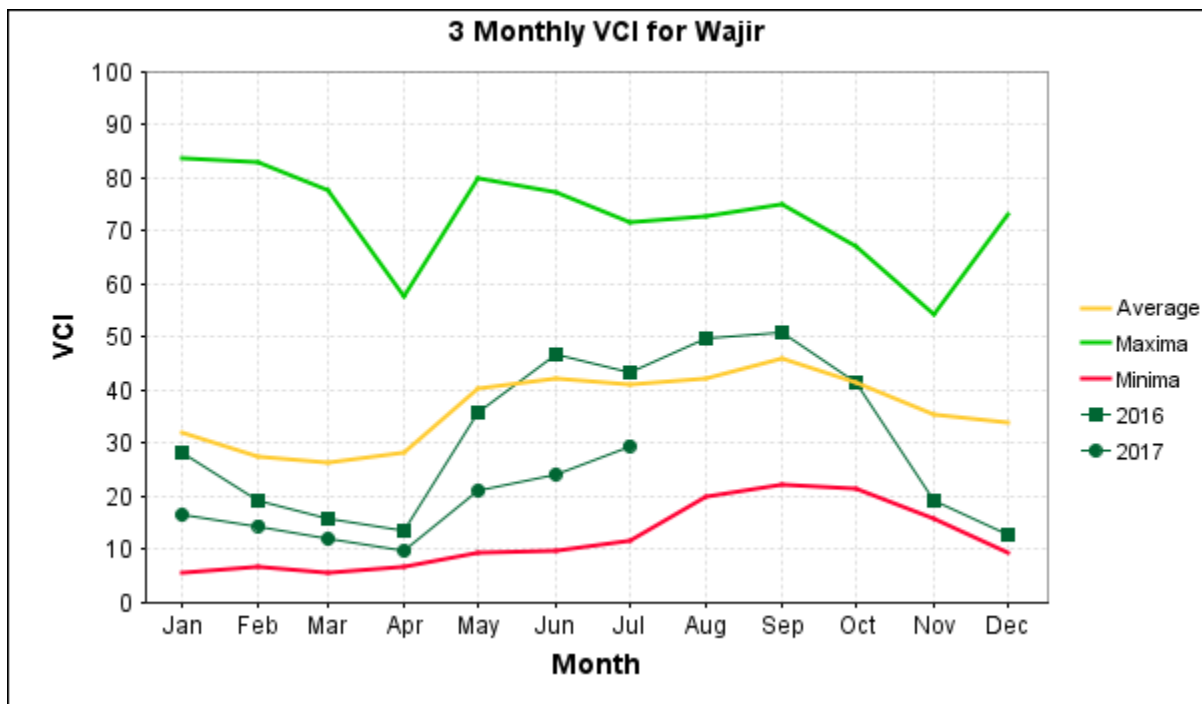


Figure 3: A chart of Wajir County overall 3-monthly VCI during the month of July 2017

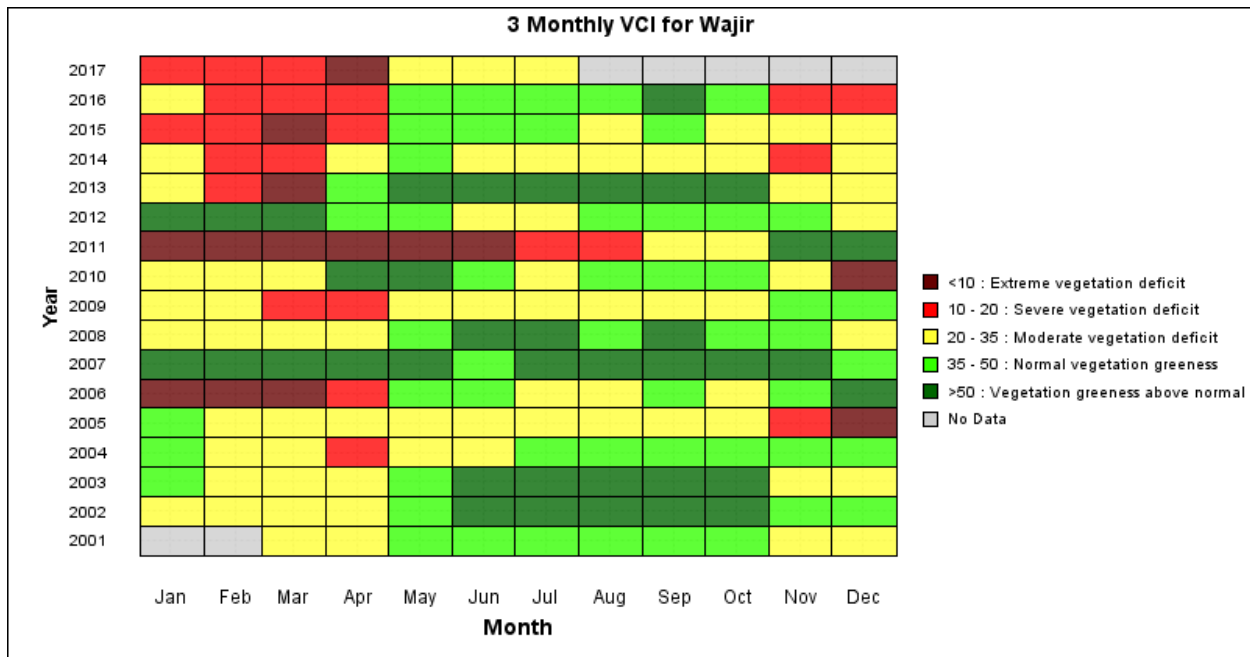


Figure 4: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir County during the month of July 2017

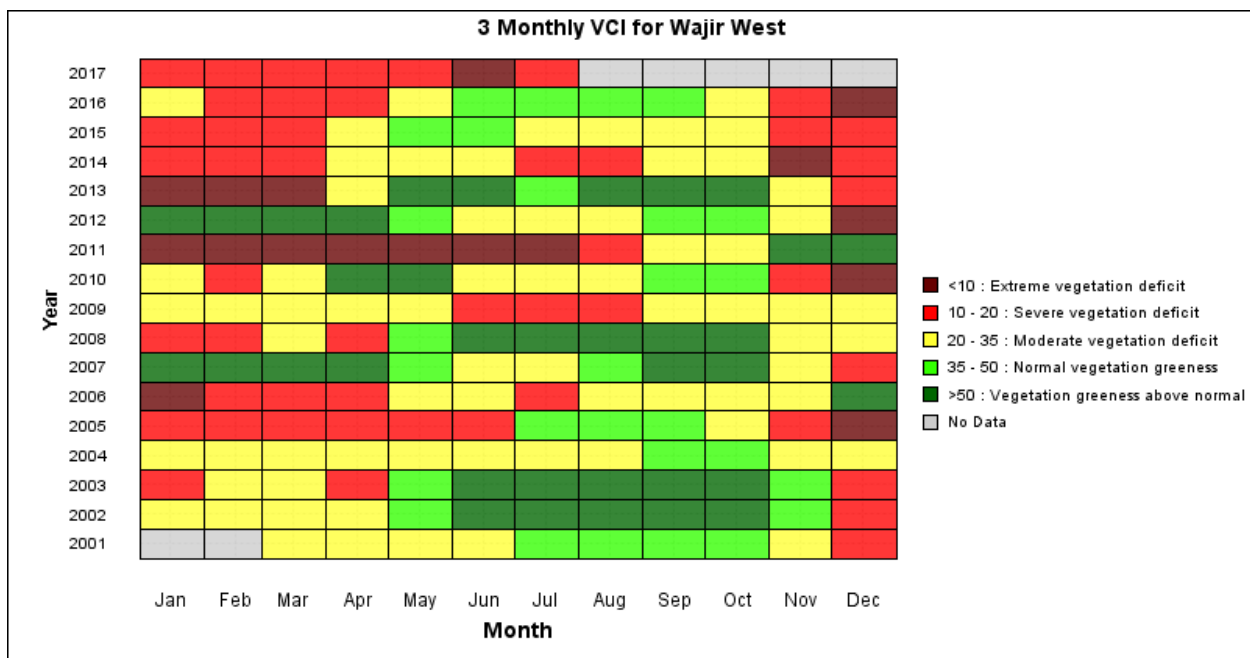


Figure 4: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir County during the month of July 2017

2.1.2 Pasture

Pasture condition still remained to be fair to poor across the livelihood zones due to poor regeneration occasioned by depressed rainfall and depletion in areas that experienced significant rainfall deficit, particularly Pastoral all species in wajir West and Pastoral Cattle in Wajir South. Comparing to the previous month pasture situation significantly deteriorated in the areas that hard adequate pasture as a result of an in migration from other counties and within the county. Pasture is expected to last for a period of one month in the areas that received adequate rains during last

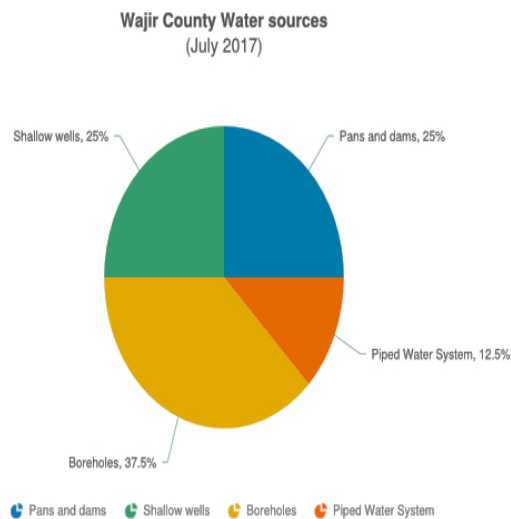
season but other areas are already depleted. No constraints to access of pasture reported during the month of review.

2.1.3 Browse

Browse condition in all livelihood zones indicated fair to poor except Wajir south and Wajir West which showed poor as a result of significant rainfall deficit experienced in the last three seasons thus making it to be worse. In comparison to previous season the condition declined due to over-concentration witnessed in the areas that had sufficient browse occasioned by depressed rainfall received during that period. Hence, the current browse is expected to last for a period of one month. No constraints reported during the month under review. The situation varies according to livelihood zones where agro-pastoral and pastoral camel showed fair browse condition and pastoral cattle and pastoral all species indicated poor browse condition.

2.2 Water Sources

The major sources of water in the county in use by human and livestock are boreholes, water pans and shallow wells. Comparing to the previous month the situation of water remained stable in most of the livelihood zones, although there are zones that have water stress due to drying up of water points as a result of overpopulation of livestock caused by migration and insufficient rains during the season attributed to low recharge, poor pasture, browse, while others depend on boreholes. But, the most affected areas that are under water stress are pastoral cattle in Wajir Wajir South, and Pastoral all in Wajir west. The remaining water pans are expected to last for a period of 1-2 months generally in Wajir North and Wajir East, Eldas and Tarbaj While Wajir West and Wajir South are under stress.



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2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

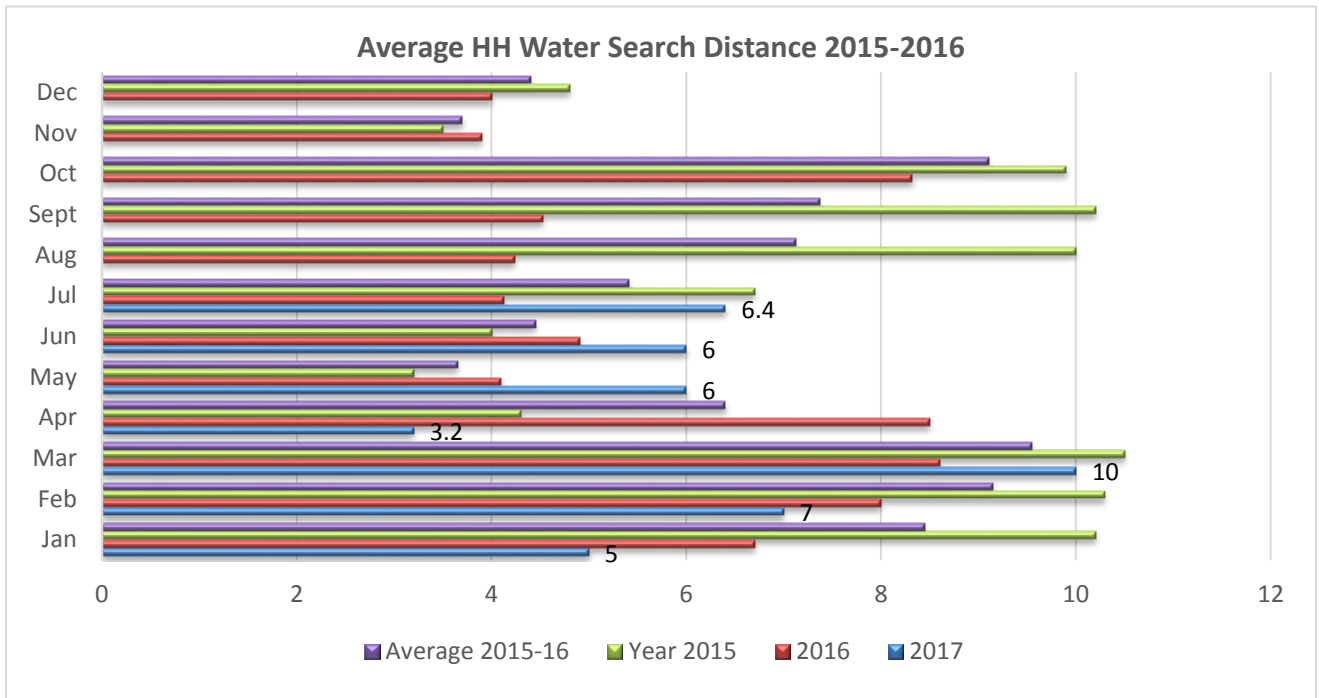


Figure 5: A chart indicating return distance to water sources against 2015-2016 average

- Average household distances to the main water sources recorded 6.4km in July as compared to the previous month which showed 6.0 with no significant changes but pastoral cattle in wajir south and Pastoral all species in wajir west showed water stress .
- The average household water consumption per person per day remained stable in all livelihood zones due to water availability except areas in wajir south, Wajir West and Wajir town that showed low consumption of water due insufficient water
- The proportion of households that treat water is minimal with only households in the urban centre use aqua tabs.

2.2.3 Livestock access

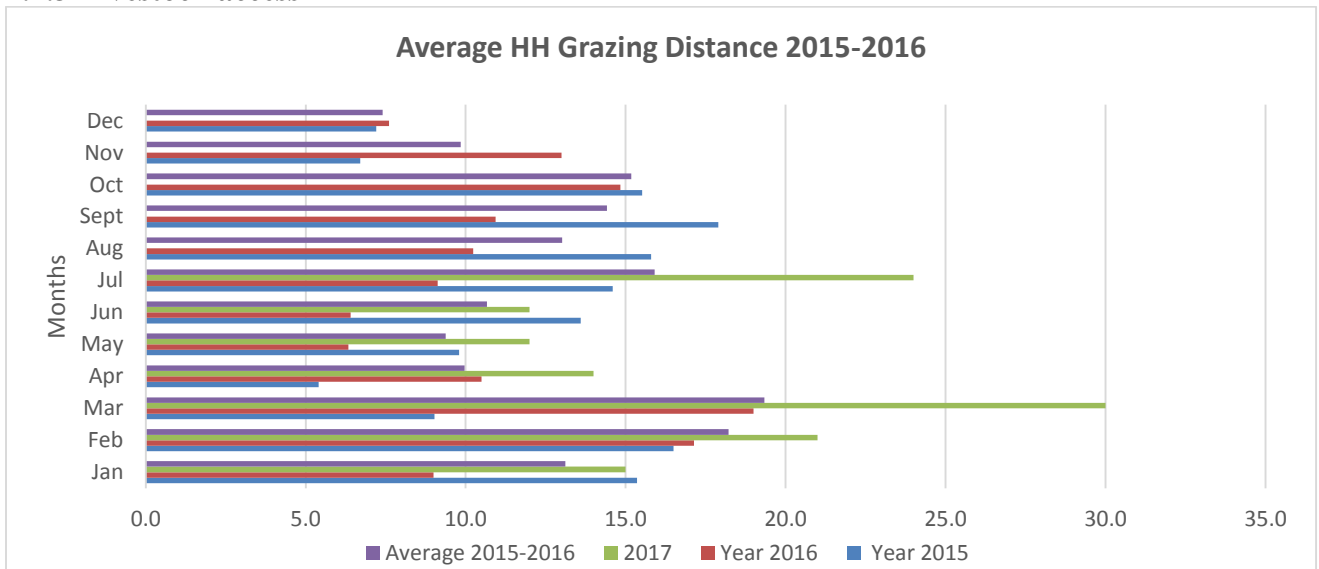


Figure 6: A graph indicating current grazing distance against (2015-2016) average

- Average livestock grazing distance to water point increase significantly from 12km in June to 24km recorded during the month under review due to depressed rainfall received during the season making livestock to trek long distance in search of pasture and browse.
- Current average is above the long term average and previous year's month average.
- Frequency of watering livestock at water point increased as the distance to water source and grazing distance increased. Currently, the watering interval for cattle and goats/sheep is normal.
- Pastoral cattle and pastoral all species livelihood zones are under water stress due to insufficient rainfall experienced during the last three seasons attributing 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 situation ranges from fair to poor in the county except areas in Wajir North, Wajir East and Tarbaj that showed good body condition due to adequate rainfall received during the season. Though Pastoral cattle and Pastoral all species indicated poor livestock body condition due to significant rainfall deficit that caused poor pasture and browse thus worsened the situation. Comparing to the previous month the condition remained the same in most of the livelihood zones, Except areas that did not receive rainfall during the season especially pastoral cattle in Wajir South and Pastoral all species in Wajir West. Livestock body condition varies according to livelihood zones where cattle, Goat and sheep species in Pastoral cattle and Pastoral all species showed fair to poor condition, whereas Camel, Cattle goat and sheep species in Agro-pastoral and Pastoral Camel showed fair to good

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

There were cases of Contagious Caprine Pleuro pneumonia (CCPP), Contagious Bovine Pleuro pneumonia (CBPP), Peste de Petit Ruminants and Sheep and Goat Pox were reported in all livelihood zones and there is an intervention going on in the entire county.

3.1.3 Milk Production

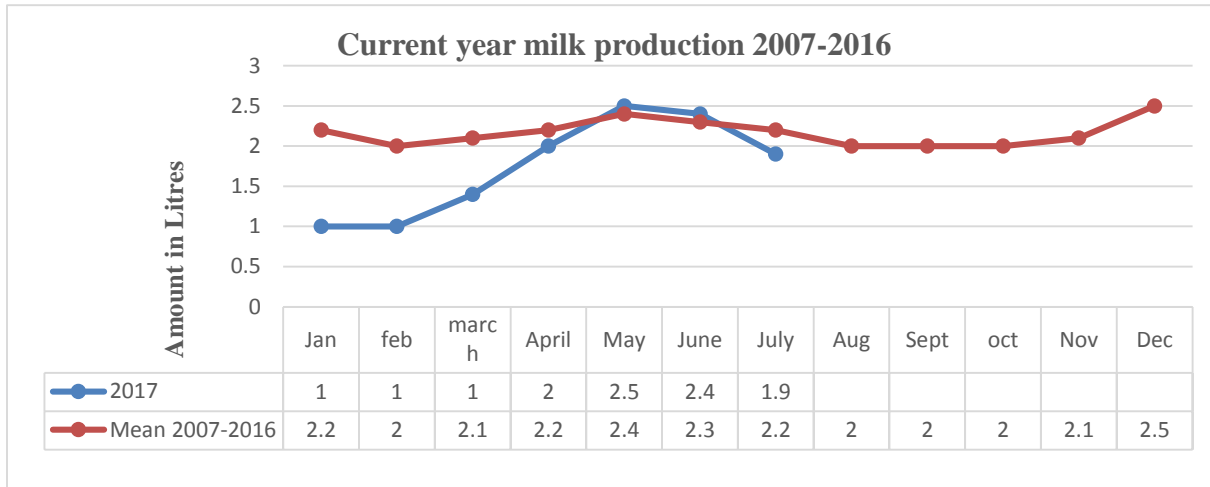


Figure 7: Current Household milk production against (2007-2016) long-term average

- Current average household milk production per household per day significantly decreased from 2.4 litres in the month of June to 1.9 in July. This could be as a result of increased trekking distance, poor livestock body condition, Depletion of pasture and browse thus reducing milk production.
- Current average milk production is below the long term average and normal at this time of the year.
- The highest milk production was recorded in Agro-pastoral areas in Wajir north and Pastoral camel areas in Wajir east and lowest recorded in Pastoral all species and Pastoral cattle livelihood zones in Wajir West and Wajir South.
- Production of milk per household per day is likely to worsen in the coming month as livestock body condition diminish and trekking distance continue to decrease thus reducing milk production affecting the nutrition status of under-fives.

3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and condition of food Crops

farmers planted their crops and are harvesting 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

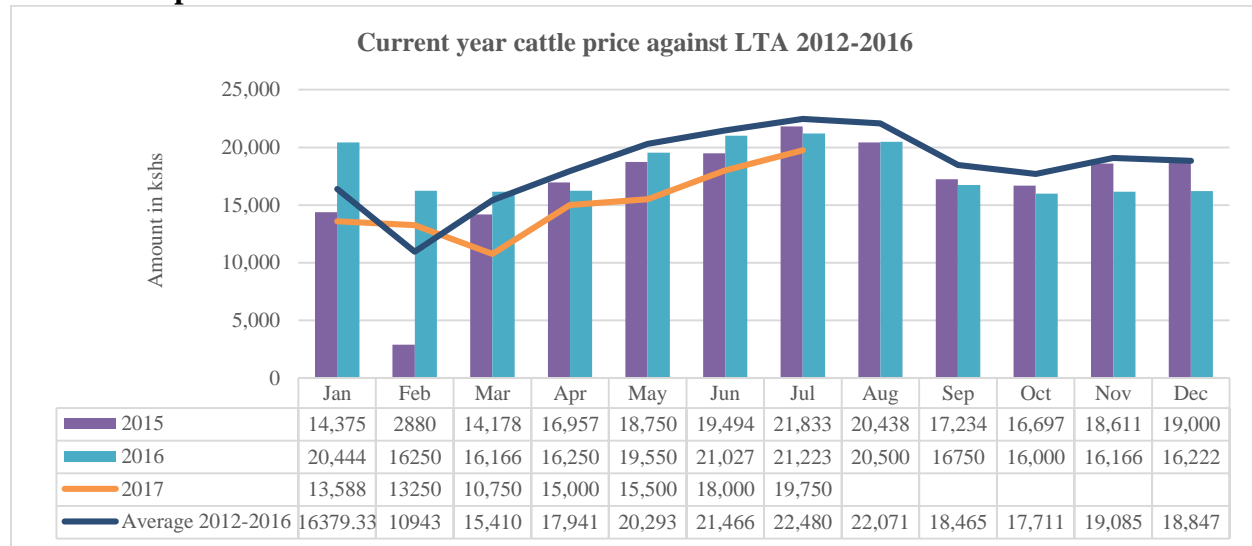


Figure 9: A graph of current cattle price against the long term (2012-16) mean prices.

- Current average price of cattle increased slightly from Kshs 18,000 in the month of June to Kshs 19,750 in the month under review. This is due to increased demand and limited supplies caused by migration of livestock to where there are browse, pasture and improved body condition. Highest average prices were recorded in the urban 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)

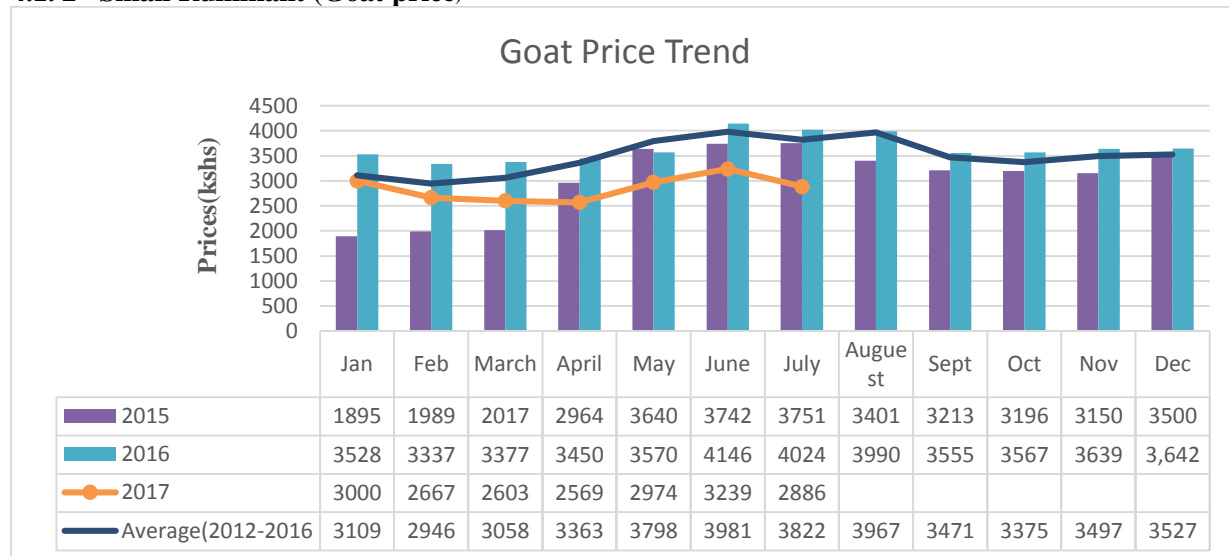


Figure 10: A graph of current year goat prices against the short-term mean 2012-2016

- Average goat's price decreased from Kshs.3239 in June to Kshs 2886 in the month of July occasioned by low market demand and increase supply of livestock which in turn reduced

the livestock market price. Although the market is expected to continue to deteriorate as the long dry spell continues till OND. Prices are higher in urban centres and lower in the rural

- Current average price is lower than both the long term average and previous month price and this is normal at this time of the year. Market prices are not favourable compared to the previous season.

4.1.3 Camel price

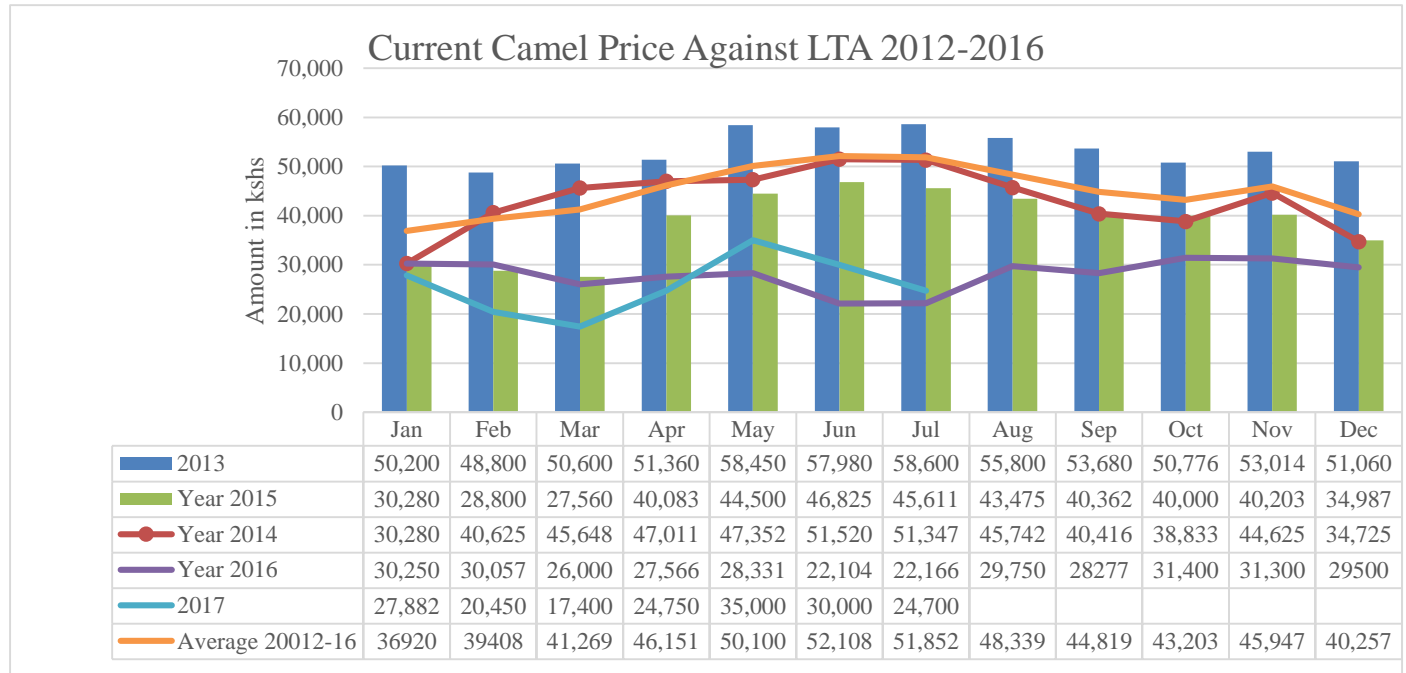


Figure 12: A graph of current camel prices against the long term mean (2012-2016)

- Current average price of a camel decreased significantly from Kshs 30,000 in the month of June to Kshs 24,700 in the month under review due to low trader and 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

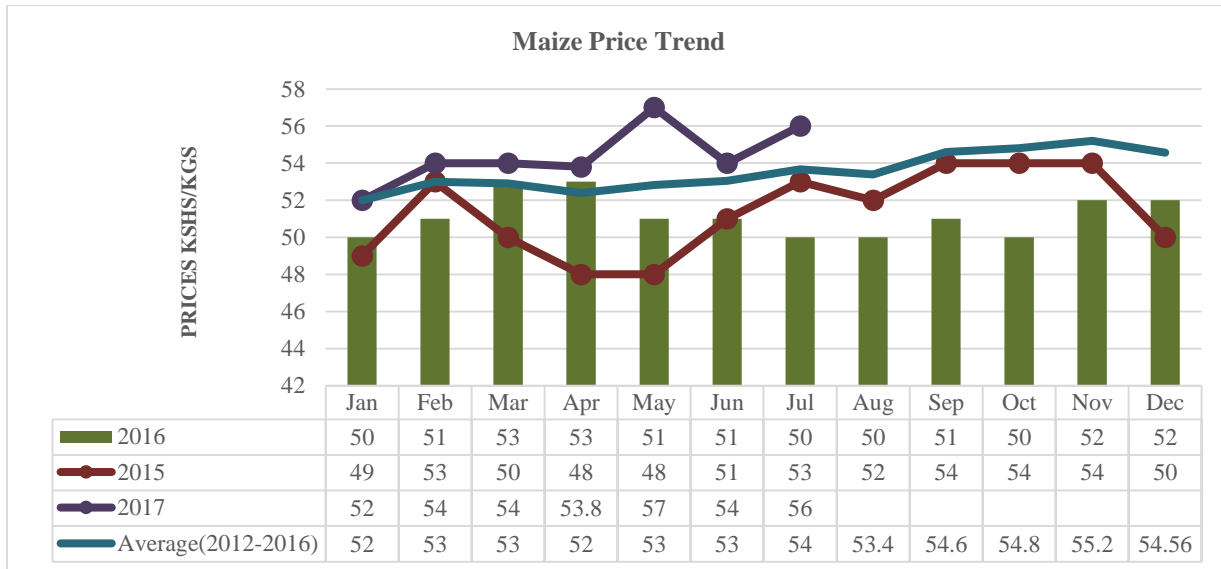


Figure 13: A graph showing current year price of maize as compared to the short-term (2012-15) mean

- Current average price of maize increased slightly from Kshs 54 during the month of June to Kshs 56 in July due to limited supply and increased demand attributed to poor road and high transportation. The situation is normal. The highest price was recorded in the rural areas and lowest prices were showed in the urban centres
- The food commodity price is above both the long term average and previous year's month price.

4.2.1.1 Other outstanding observation

- Maize being not a staple food consumed In Wajir County, the main staple food are beans, meat, milk and spaghetti are the main stable food used in all livelihood zones.

4.2.2 Posho (Maize meal)

- Current average price of Posho remained the same as compared to the previous months.
- The highest prices were recorded in the rural areas of Wajir as a result of 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)

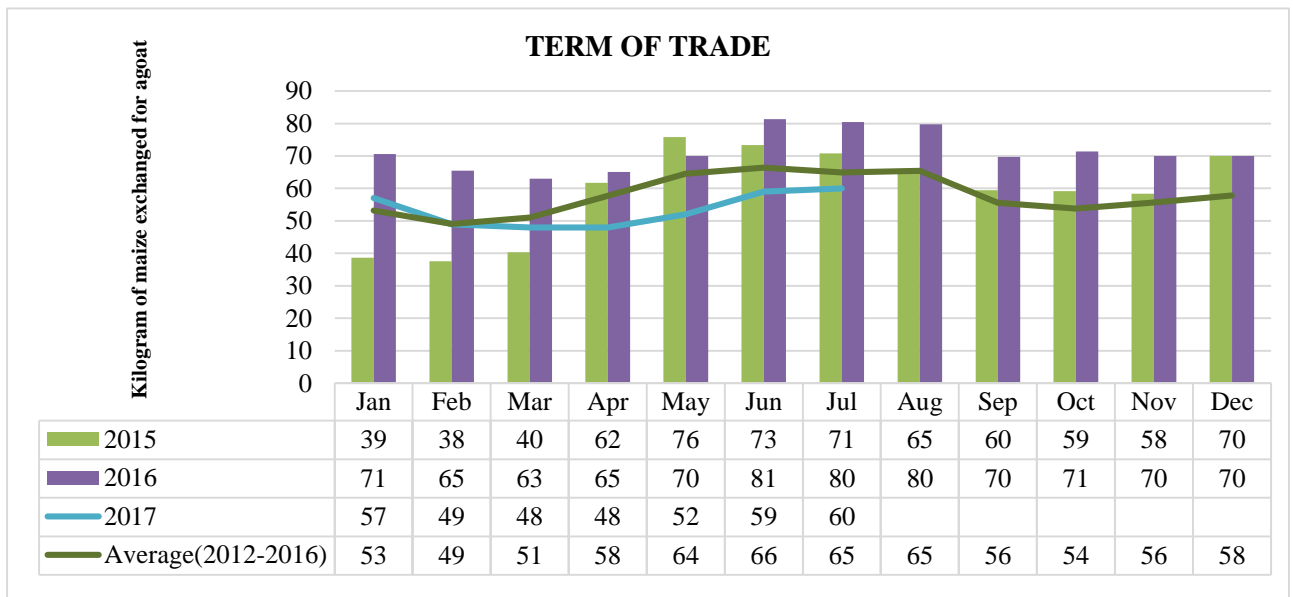


Figure: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long term (2012-2016) mean price

- Household terms of trade slightly increased from 59kg in June to 60kg in July with no significant changes. This was as a result of decrease in goat prices and an increase in food prices thus compromising the purchasing power of the households, though Terms of trade are still unfavourable due to higher than normal food prices. The prices are expected to worsen. The current terms of trades is below both the long term average and previous years' prices.
- No market disruption witnessed in the month of July 2017.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

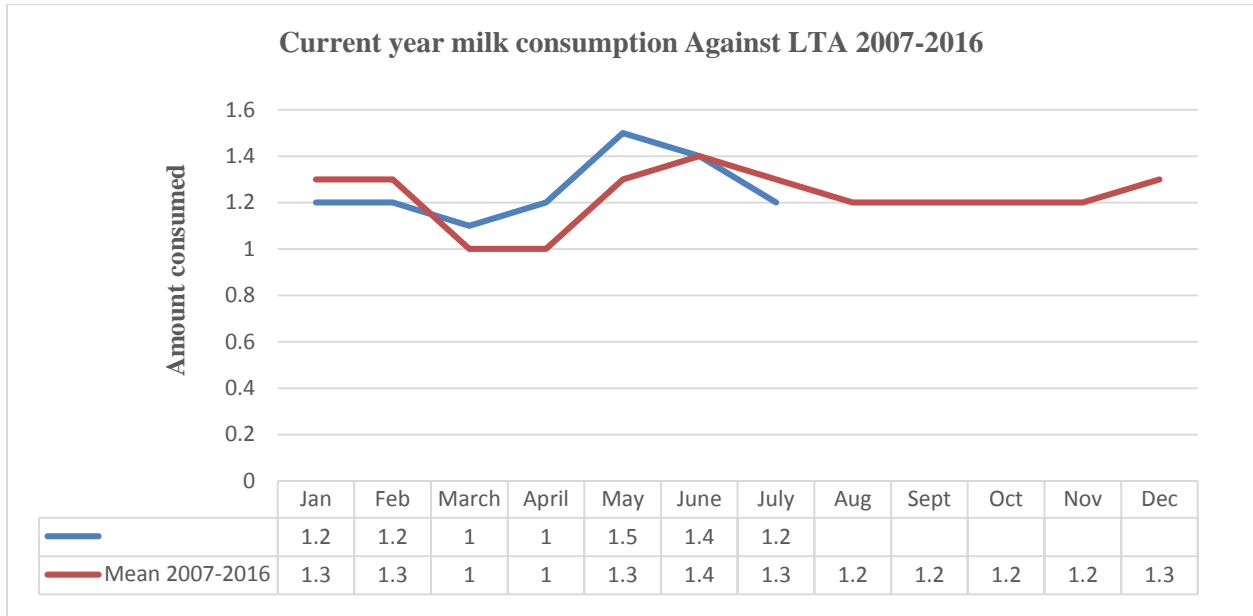
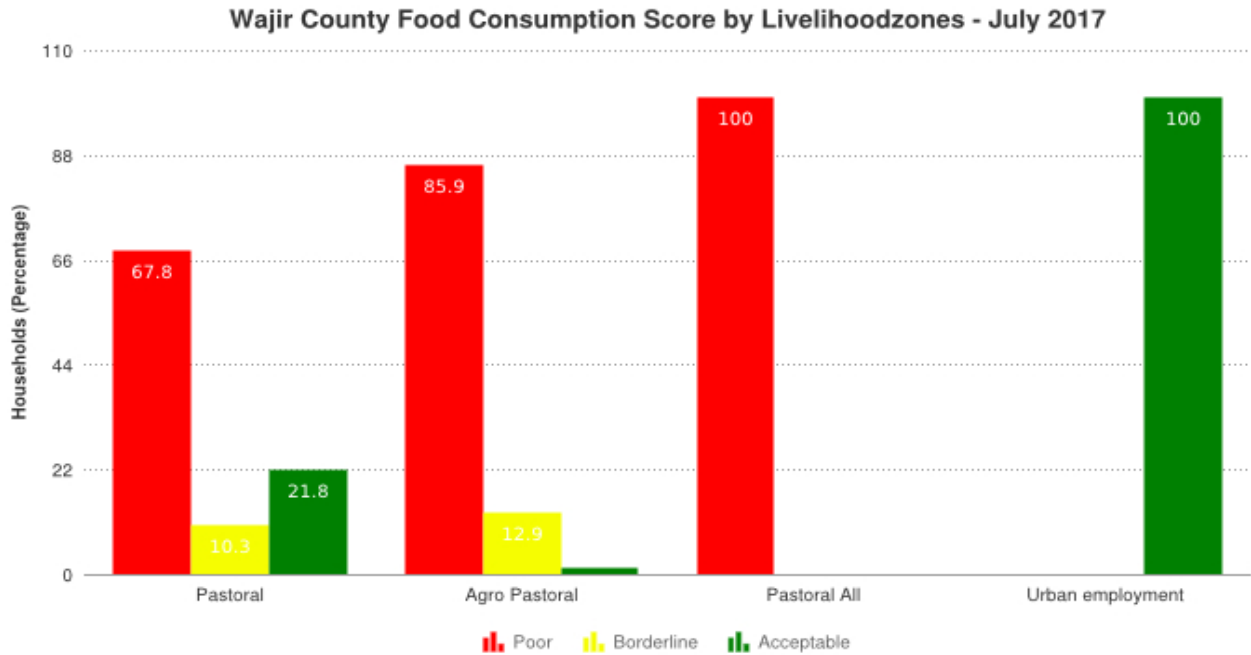


Figure 15: A graph showing current average milk consumption for Wajir against (2006-2016) mean

- The current average milk consumption per household per day slightly declined from 1.4 in the month of June to 1.2 in July as a result of poor livestock body conditions, absence of livestock in the homesteads through migration, long trekking distances thus reducing household milk availability and purchasing power of the households.
- Current average household milk consumption is below the long term average which is normal for the period of the year.
- The highest consumption was reported in Pastoral camel in Wajir East and Agro-pastoral in Wajir North and lowest recorded in Pastoral cattle in Wajir South and Pastoral All species in Wajir West 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 100, 85.9 and 67.8 and while others showed borderline and acceptable respectively.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

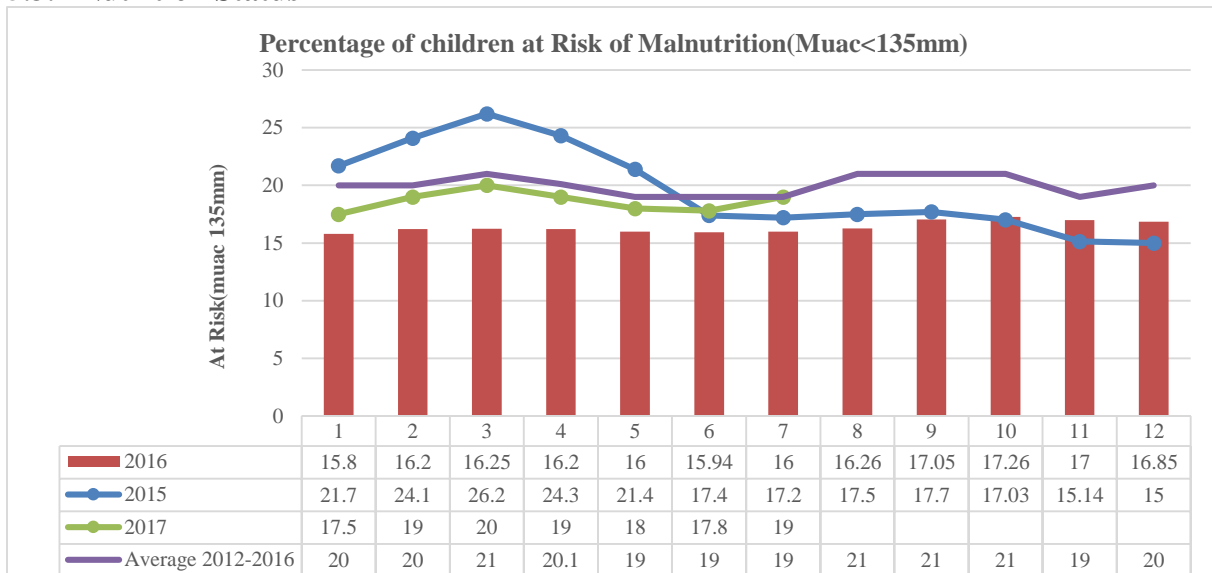


Figure 16: A graph of Nutritional status of children between 12-59 months against (2012-16) long-term mean

- The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition in July recorded 19.0 as compared to the previous month that recorded 18.0 with no significant changes.

- The current proportion is equal to the long term average and above previous year's month average, meaning the malnutrition status for under-fives has increased as compared to previous year's month data.
- The highest percentage of malnourished children were recorded in wajir south, wajir west Wajir north and lowest reported in Wajir East.

5.4 COPING STRATEGY INDEX

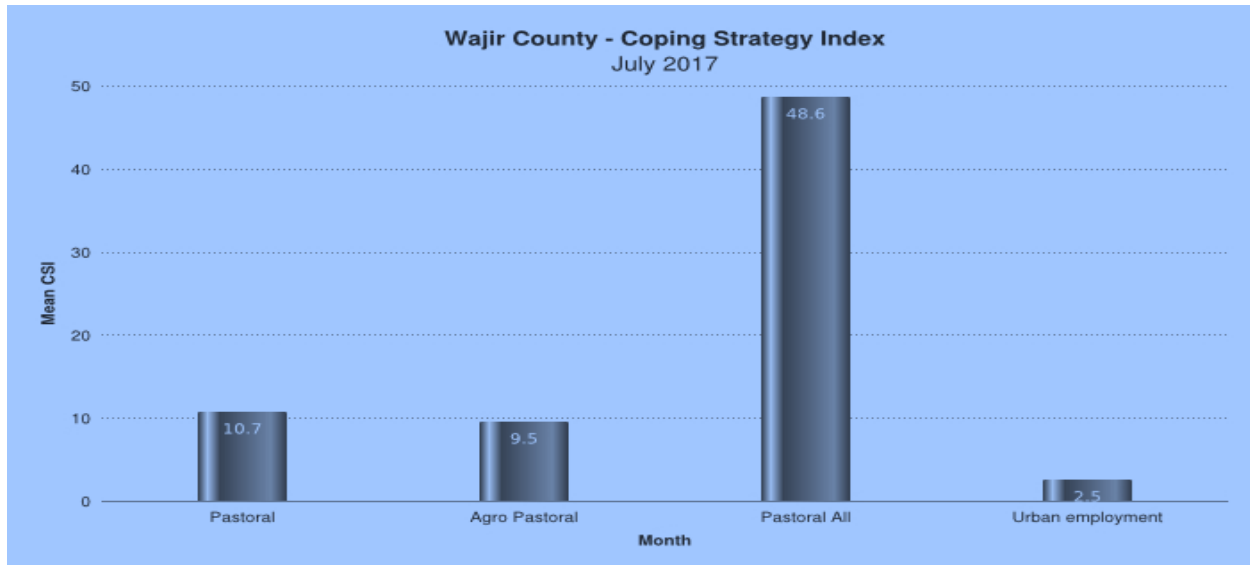


Figure17: A graph showing average (2013-2015) (coping strategy index (CSI) against the current trend

- Pastoral all species in wajir west employed more coping strategy indicating more severity in July as compared to previous month which recorded less severity. Others applied less coping strategies with less severity. The mean CSI for the county is 15.0 as compared to the previous month which showed 14.0
- Reduced the number of meals taken per day.
- Borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relative.
- Relied on less preferred and less expensive food
- Reduced the quantity of food consumed by adult/mothers

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 Non-food interventions.-Ongoing

- Up scaling of Emergency cash transfers-ongoing under the HSNP programme
- Livestock vaccination and treatment -ongoing
- Routine Human and livestock disease surveillance across the County –on-going
- Treatment of malnutrition cases and referral of cases to the main health facilities

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

- There were no reported Cases of insecurity in Wajir County during the period.

7.2 Migration

Migration of livestock are still experienced from other neighboring countries, counties and within the sub-counties in search of pasture and water. The movement of livestock is towards wajir North,

Wajir East and Tarbaj. Most of the livestock have moved where there is pasture and water. Migration is not normal.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- Household food and milk consumption is expected to decrease with malnutrition increasing further especially in children under five from August to October thereafter improve after OND
- Rangeland resources are expected to worsen and thereafter improve from October determined by the above average short rains and attract livestock back from the dry season grazing areas
- Pasture, browse and water stress are expected to deteriorate and thereafter improve during OND 2017.
- Milk production in all livelihood zones are expected to worsen in the next two months and thereafter improve during OND 2017.
- Prices are likely to be stable in the next two months and hence increase during the October, November and December.
- Migration of livestock are expected to worsen in the month of August, September and thereafter reduce during OND.
- Trekking distance for livestock are expected to increase and thereafter to reduce further with progression of the rains

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Health & Nutrition.

- 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-ongoing
- Monitoring of malnutrition in the county-ongoing.

Water (on-going).

- Routine borehole Maintenance Repair of boreholes
- Water trucking on-going in 40 centres

Agriculture Sector

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

Livestock Sector

- Livestock Vaccination
- Feed distribution

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

Peace and Security

- Support Peace building and reconciliation initiatives-ongoing.