

National Drought Management Authority
WAJIR COUNTY

DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR OCTOBER 2017



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



OCTOBER EW PHASE 2017

Drought Status: **ALARM**



Mipango ya kukabiliana na ukame

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

Rainfall Report

The County experienced fairly dry condition during the month, although few places received rainfall during the end of the third week of October where Wajir town and Gurar recorded the highest rainfall. Other stations record no rainfall.

Vegetation condition: Pasture and browse condition is poor in all livelihood zones as confirmed by VCI which shows severe vegetation deficit for the County with ascore of 24 as compared to previous month figure of 30 showing a decline in VCI. Wajir South and Wajir West are the most affected zones with scores of 18.0 and 17.0 respectively

Distance to water points from households was longer than the long term average which is not normal

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Livestock body condition was poor in cattle, sheep, and goat and fair in camel. Out migration of livestock was reported in some parts of the county. Depletion of pasture and browse was reported in many parts of the county but the same is expected to improve. Increase in trekking distance was noted while the terms of trade is **favourable**. Percentage of children under five at risk of malnutrition increased from 20.2 in September to 21.0 in October, less coping strategies were employed as compared to previous month.

Early Warning Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Alert	Worsening
Pastoral cattle	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral-all species	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral camel	Alert	Worsening
Informal employment	Alert	Worsening
County	Alarm	Worsening
Biophysical Indicators	value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	12.9	80 -120
VCI-3Month	24.0	>35
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Fair- very poor	Normal
Crop production	Poor	Good
Milk Production	1.6	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	some death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	65	>66
Milk Consumption	1.0	>3
Return Distance to water source	7.2	<5 Km
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	21	<6.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	12.7	<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 Weddin 								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITION

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

1.2 Onset

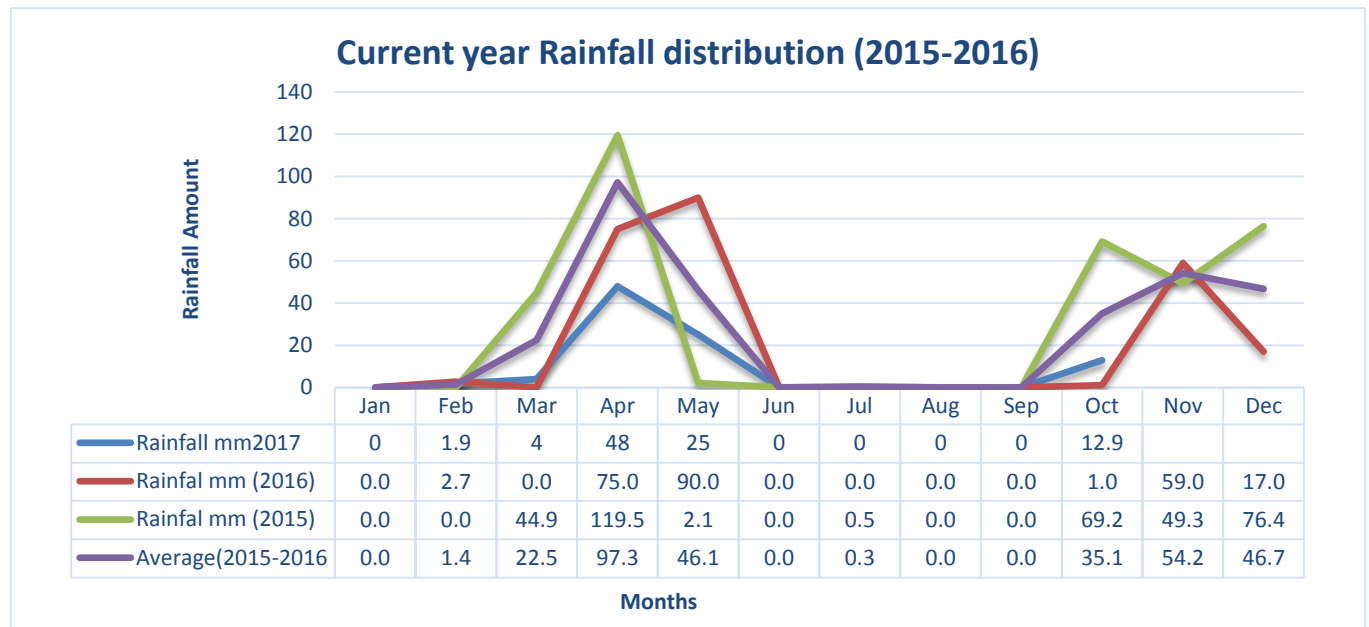
- In the third week of October rainfall was realized in some parts of the county signalling the onset of the season.

1.3 Amount of rainfall and spatial distribution

- Rainfall was received in very few areas in the county which were Wajir Town, Gurar, Khorof harar, and Habaswein recording 76.4mm,57.0mm,18.7mm and 29.0mm respectively. The highest rainfall was recorded at Wajir town. All other stations did not record rainfall during the season.
- Rainfall temporal and spatial distribution was poor across the County.

1.1.1 Rainfall station data

Table 1: A table of the stations and amount of rainfall received in the month of October (Source KMS)



2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

The vegetation cover indexes for the County in the month of October revealed deterioration of vegetation in all livelihood zones where the county VCI showed 24 as compared to previous month which indicated a VCI of 30. Areas that are with severe vegetation deficit are Wajir west and Wajir south with an extreme depletion of vegetation. The situation is expected to improve as the OND continues.

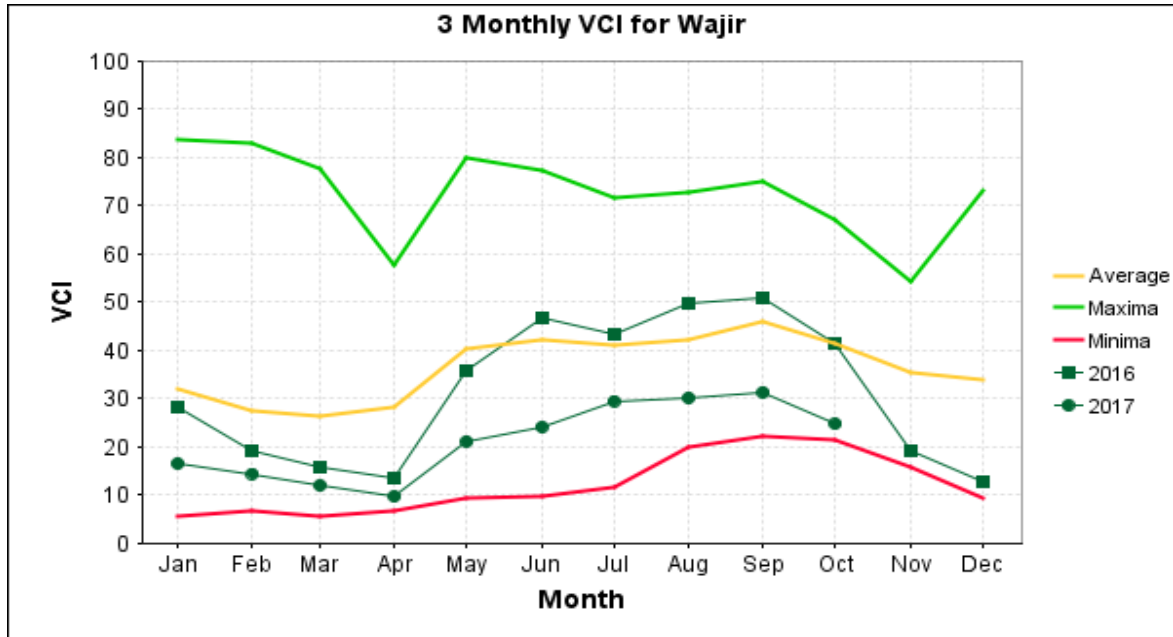


Figure 1: A chart of Wajir County overall 3-monthly VCI during the month of October 2017

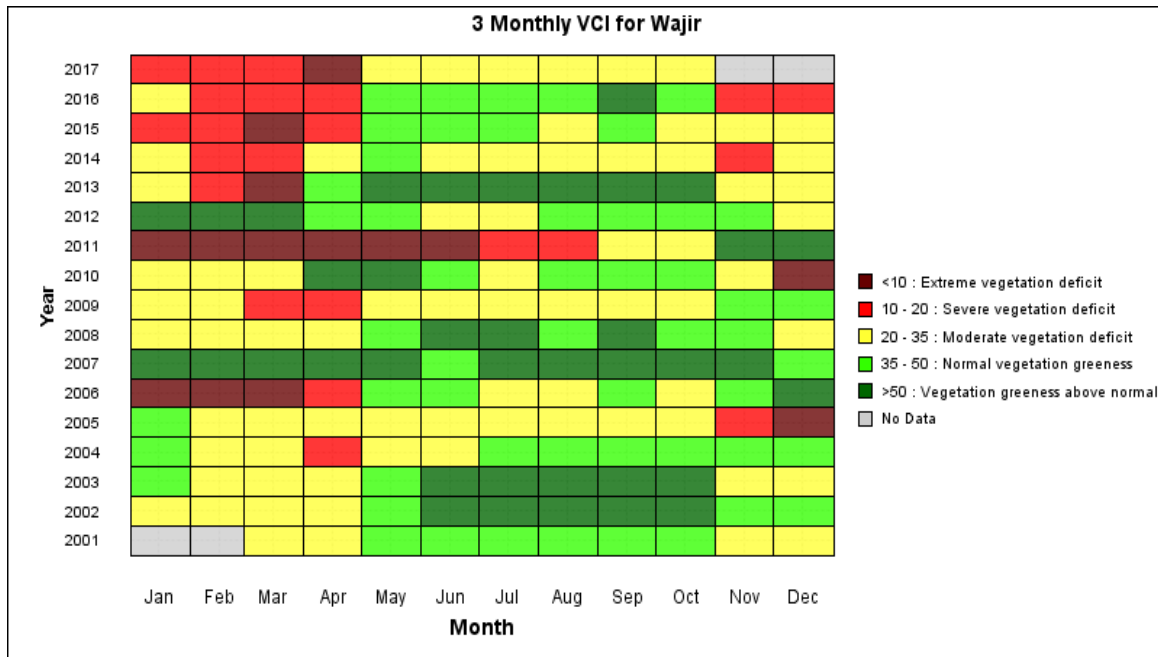


Figure 2: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir County during the month of October 2017

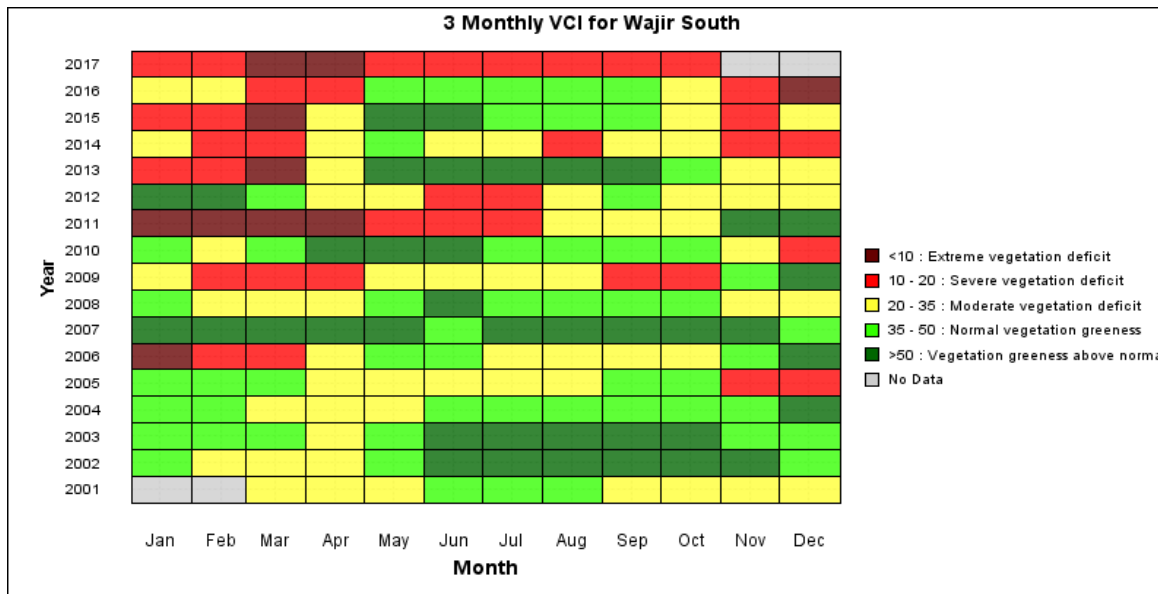


Figure 3: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir South during the month of October 2017

2.1.2 Pasture

The Pasture condition in the county remained poor in all the livelihood zones, since most of the available pasture was depleted during the dry spell. No regeneration of pasture observed in the month of October. The quality and quantity of pasture is below normal which is not normal at this time of the year but the same is expected to improve as the season continues. The available pasture is expected to last for less than one month.

2.1.3 Browse

The browse condition too recorded deterioration in terms of quality and quantity. There is widespread depletion of the browse in most of the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zones of

Wajir south, Wajir West, and Wajir East, Buna, Bute sub-counties though expected to improve during the short rains. No constraint in access was reported during the month under review. The condition is below normal at this time of the year but expected to improve as the season progresses.

2.2.0 Water Sources

Major water sources currently in use for domestic and livestock in all livelihood zones were boreholes, shallow wells and water trucking. In comparison to the previous month the availability of water has slightly improved with the recharging of few water pans in few places in the county towards the end of the month thus reducing over concentration of livestock and trekking distance at some water points. However, the EW phase classification index for water sources in the county is still showing 2 (strongly inadequate) where surface water sources have dried up and underground water sources are yielding very little amounts of water.

2.2.1 Household access and Utilization

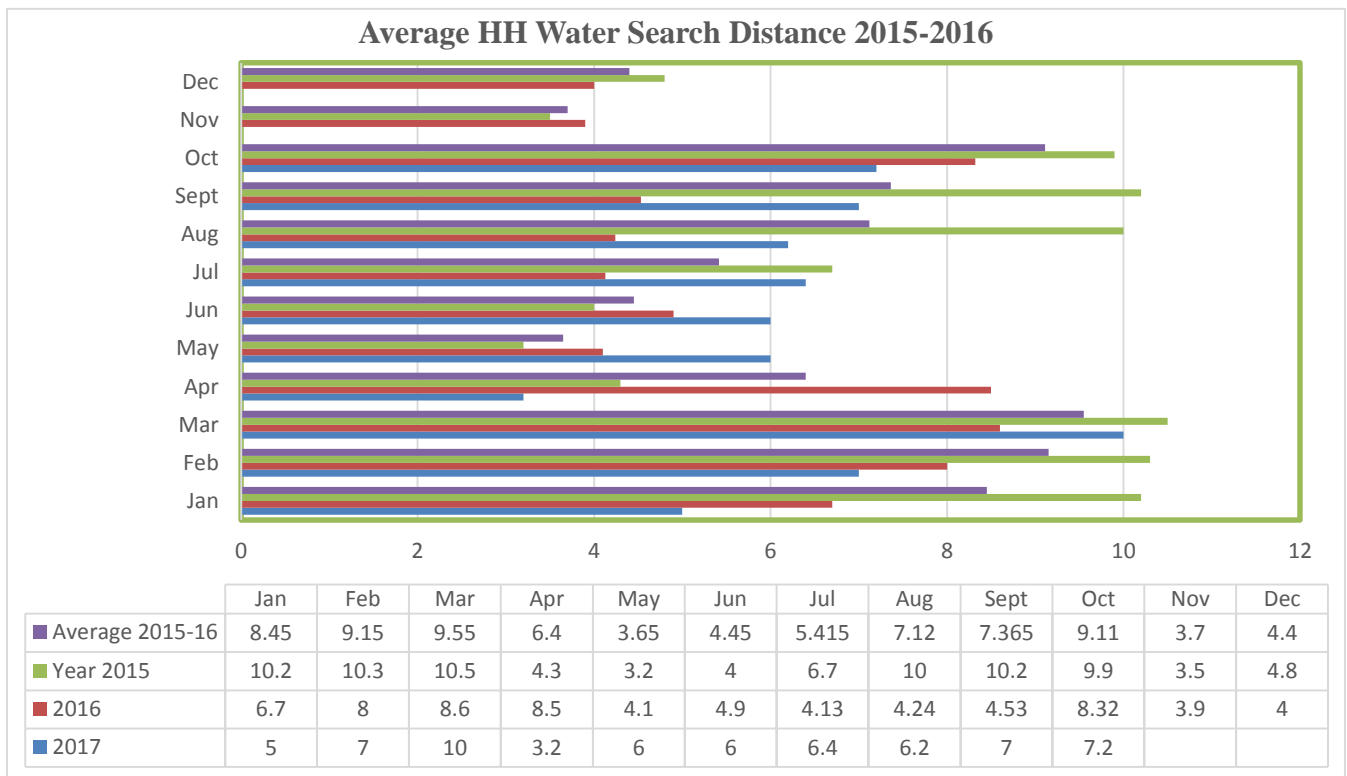


Figure 4: A chart indicating return distance to water sources against 2015-2016 average

- Average household return distances to the main water sources recorded 7.2km in October from the previous month of September which showed 7.0 with an increase in distance due to depletion of pasture, browse and long trekking distance from the household to the water point. Mostly stressed zones in the county are Wajir south and Wajir west due to prolonged dry spell.

- Current average household water consumption per person per day significantly decreased as availability and accessibility of water become stress.
- Low consumption of water was recorded in areas that have water stress including Wajir South, Wajir West and Wajir town due to insufficient rains experienced during the previous season
- The proportion of households that treat water is too negligible with only households in the urban areas centre using aqua tabs.

2.2.2 Livestock access

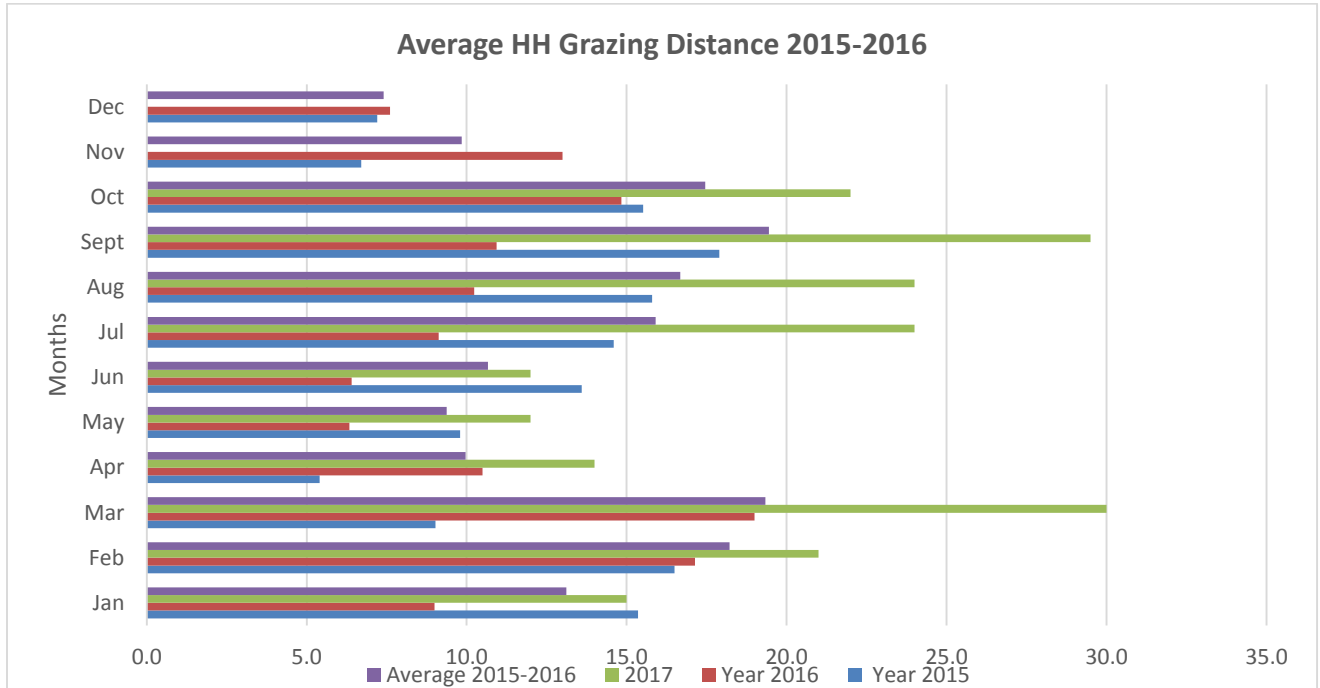


Figure 5: A graph indicating current grazing distance against (2015-2016) average

- Current average livestock grazing distance to water point slightly decreased from 29km in the month of September to 22km in October which showed a reduction in trekking distance attributed to few water pans recharged in the areas that received rainfall.
- Current average grazing distance is both above the long term average and previous year's month average.
- Frequency of watering livestock at water point remained the same as the distance to water source and grazing distance slightly decreased. Currently, the watering interval for cattle and goats/sheep is 1-2 days and 7-8 days for camel.

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock production

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

Livestock body condition ranged between fair for camels and poor in cattle, goat and sheep in all livelihood zones, which is not normal at this time of the year. Cattle, sheep and goats in Wajir west, Wajir south, Wajir East and pockets of Tarbaj showed great weakness and emaciated and this may be attributed to depletion of pasture and browse availability as well as long trekking distance. Some livestock death was reported in these areas.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

There were no outbreak of livestock diseases reported only endemic diseases which include contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Contagious Bovine pleuro-pneumonia (CCBPP) and Peste des petits Ruminants (PPR) were reported in some parts of the county.

3.1.3 Milk Production

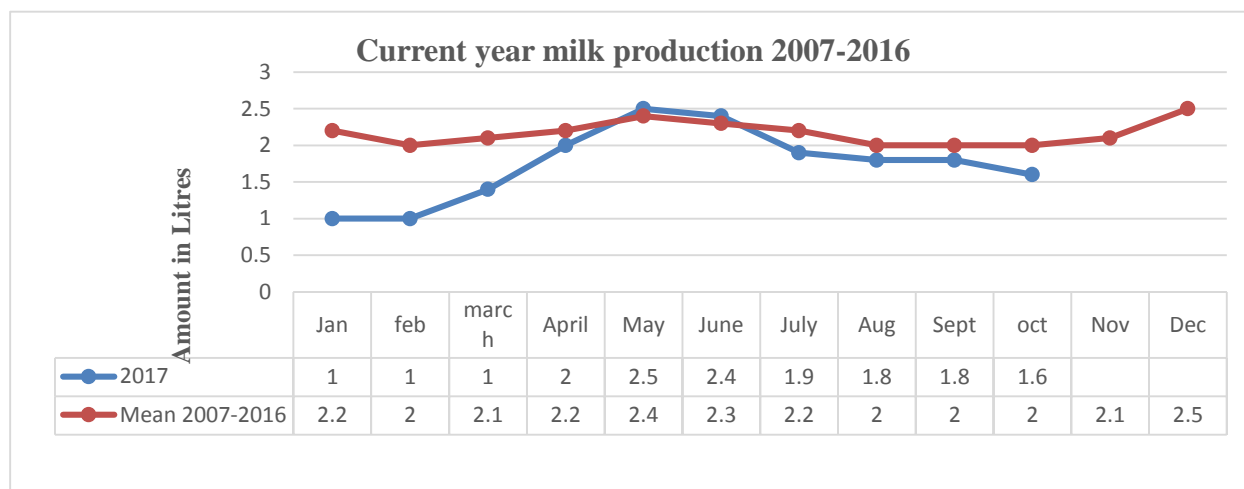


Figure 6: Current Household milk production against (2007-2016) long-term average

- Current average household milk production per household per day decreased slightly with a production of 1.8 in September to 1.6 in the month under review due to depletion of pasture, browse and poor livestock body condition caused by insufficient rains during the previous season.
- 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 and Pastoral camel livelihood zones while the lowest was recorded in Pastoral all species and Pastoral cattle livelihood zones.

3.2.1 Stage and condition of food Crops

During this season the farmers were engaged in land preparation and there were no crops in the farms at this time of the year.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle prices

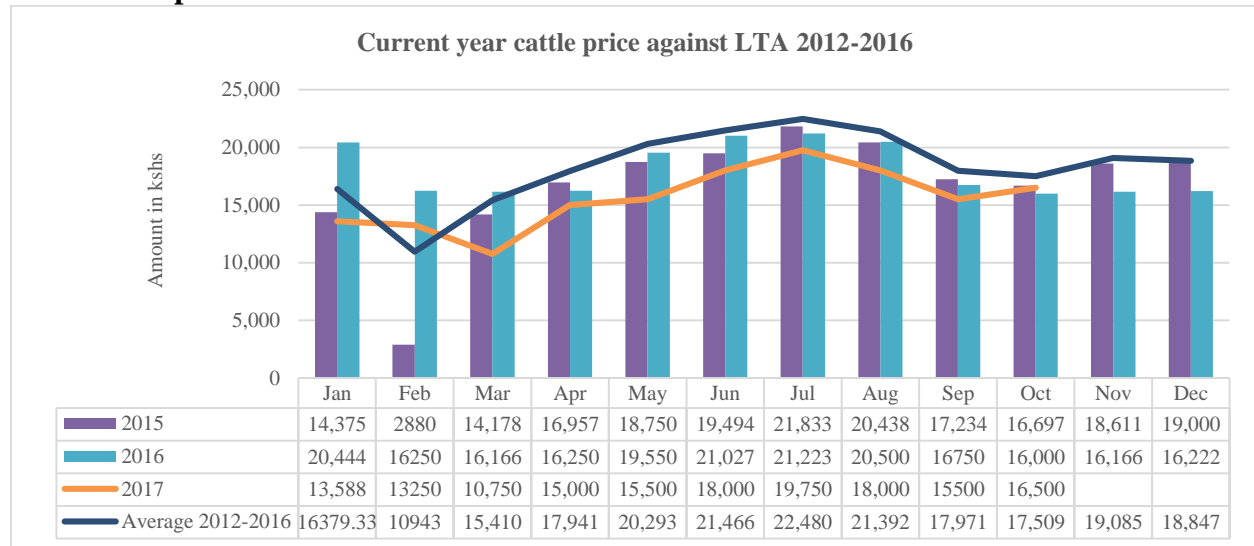


Figure 7: A graph of current cattle price against the long term (2012-16) mean prices..

- The average price of medium size cattle in the County was Ksh16, 500 in October while the same was sold at Ksh15,500 in September indicating price increase attributed slight improvement in the market due to more buyers
- Highest average prices were recorded in the town centres and lowest recorded in the rural.
- Current average prices were lower than the long-term average and above previous year's price.
- Market prices are normal compared to previous years prices

4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

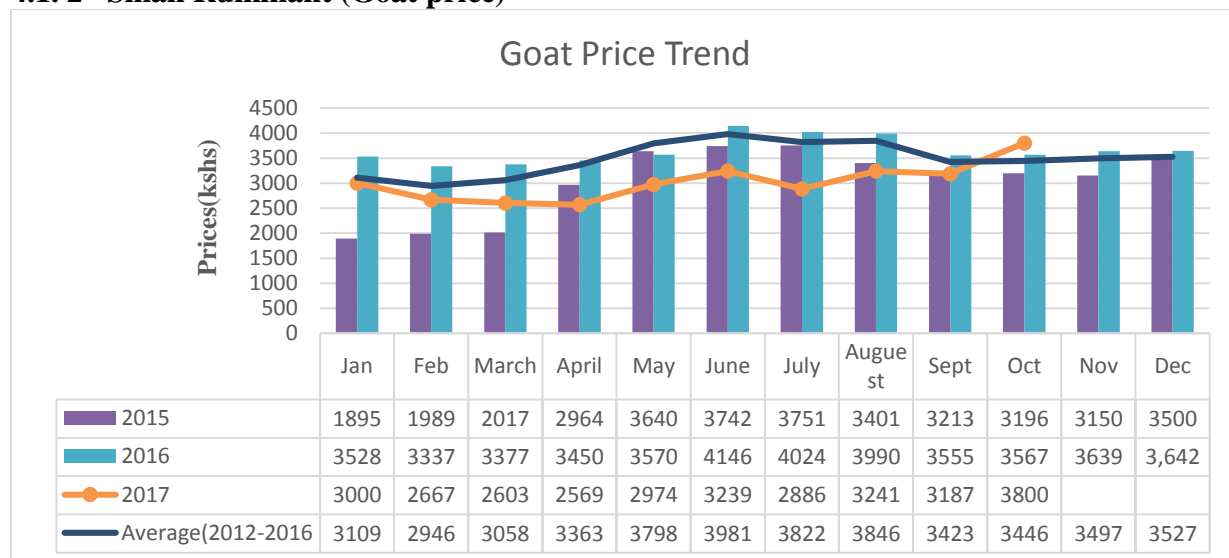


Figure 8: A graph of current year goat prices against the short-term mean 2012-2016

- Current average goat's price slightly increased from Kshs.3187 in September to Kshs 3800 in the month of October attributed to more buyers and more demand in the market. The market is likely to improve as the livestock body condition improves.
- Goat Prices are higher in town centres and lower in the rural.
- The average price is higher than both the long term average and previous month price and this is normal at this time of the year. Market prices is favourable compared to the previous season.

4.1.3 Camel price

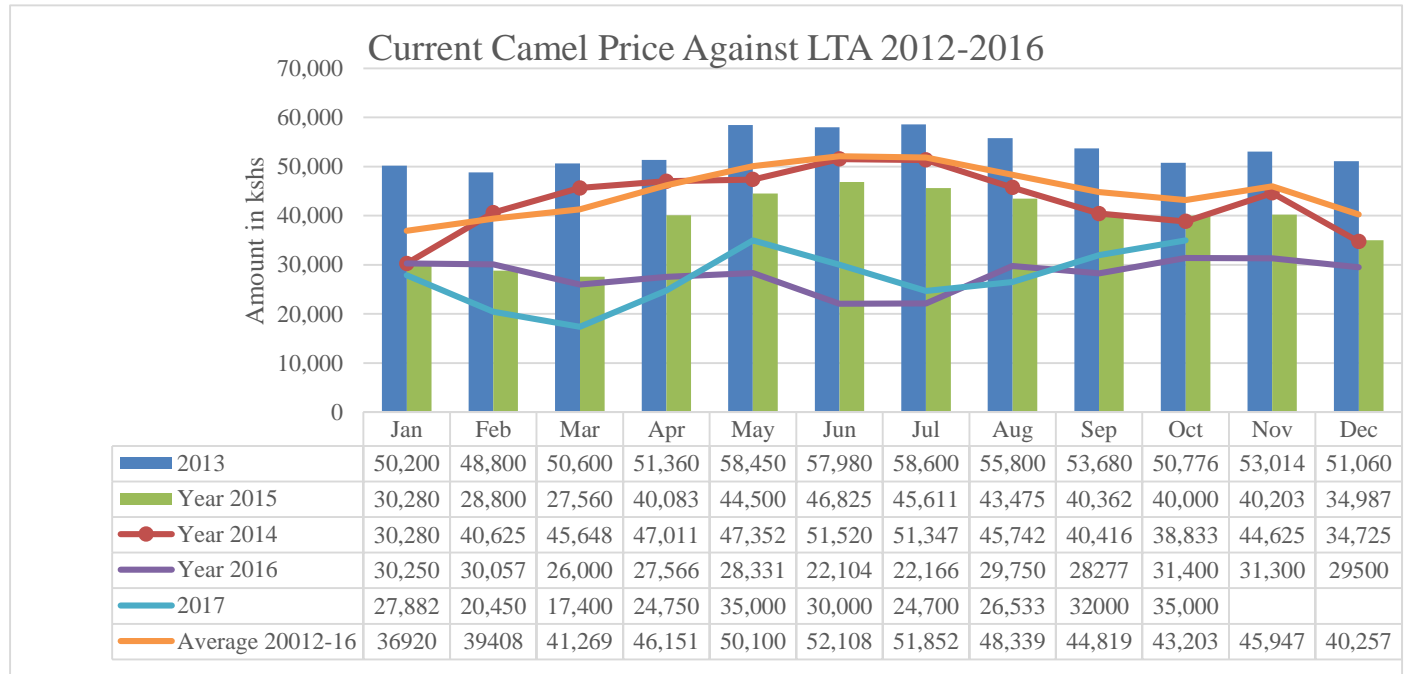


Figure 9: A graph of current camel prices against the long term mean (2012-2016)

- Average price of a camel increased significantly from Kshs 32000 in the month of September to Kshs 35,000 in the month under review as a result of high demand, good market price for camel, good livestock body condition.
- Current average price of camel is lower than the long-term average and higher than previous year's price showing the market price is favourable compared to previous prices.
- Agro-pastoral livelihood zones recorded the highest price as pastoral all species livelihood zone recorded the lowest price.
- The prices are normal compared to previous year's prices of camel.

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

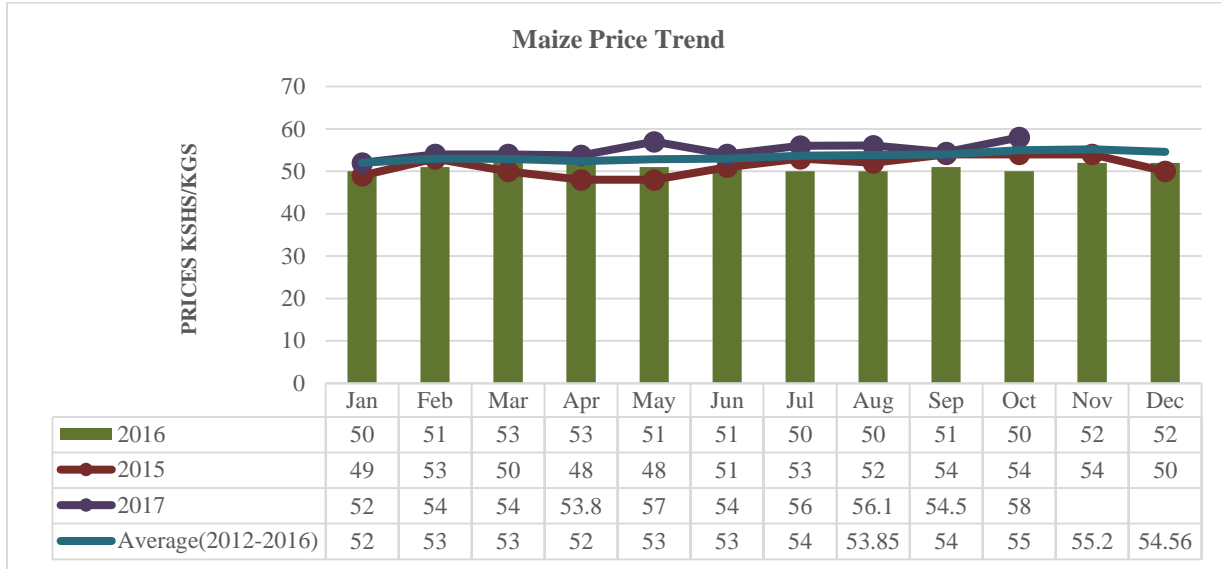


Figure 10: A graph showing current year price of maize as compared to the short-term (2012-15) mean

- Current average maize price in the month under review was Kshs 58 while the same was Kshs 54 in September showing an increase due to poor infrastructure since the commodities are transported from other countries and counties including Ethiopia, Moyale and Meru.
- The commodity is available in all markets with a stable supplies from major markets such as Ethiopia, Moyale and Meru
- The highest price was recorded in the rural areas and lowest prices were recorded in the urban centres
- The average price of maize is higher than both the long term average and previous year's price.
- Lower maize Prices are noted in Wajir town.

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 was stable as compared to the previous month which recorded the same.
- 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)

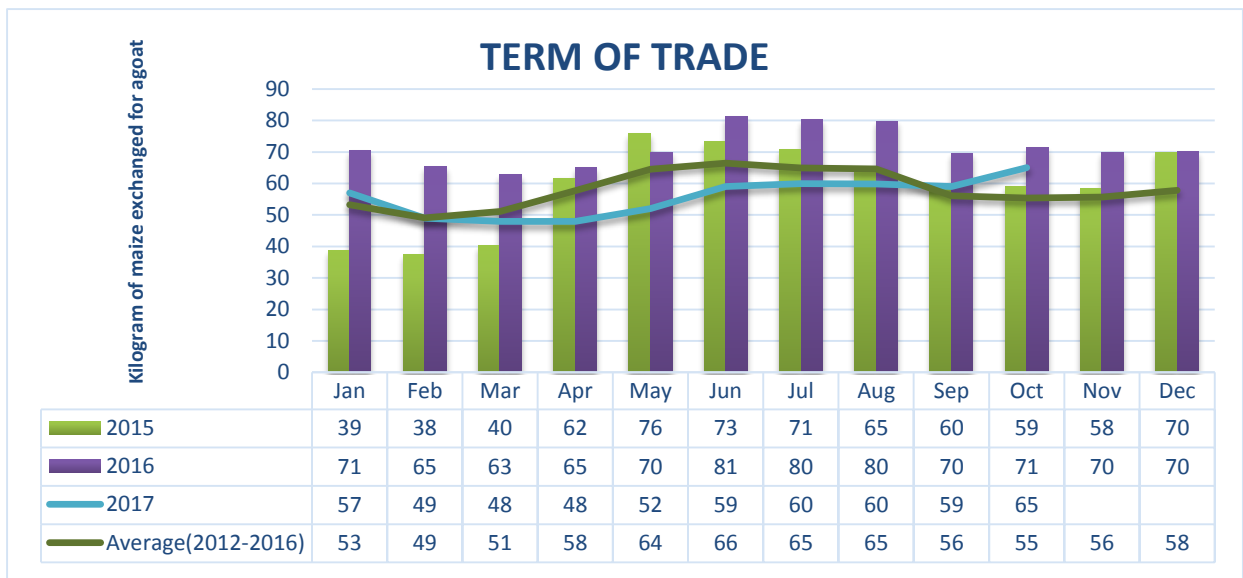


Figure11: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long term (2012-2016) mean price

- Household terms of trade increased slightly from 59kg in September to 65kg in the month under review due to slight increase in goat prices making the terms of trade favourable.
- The current terms of trades are above the long term average and below previous years' prices.
- No market disruption reported in the month under review.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

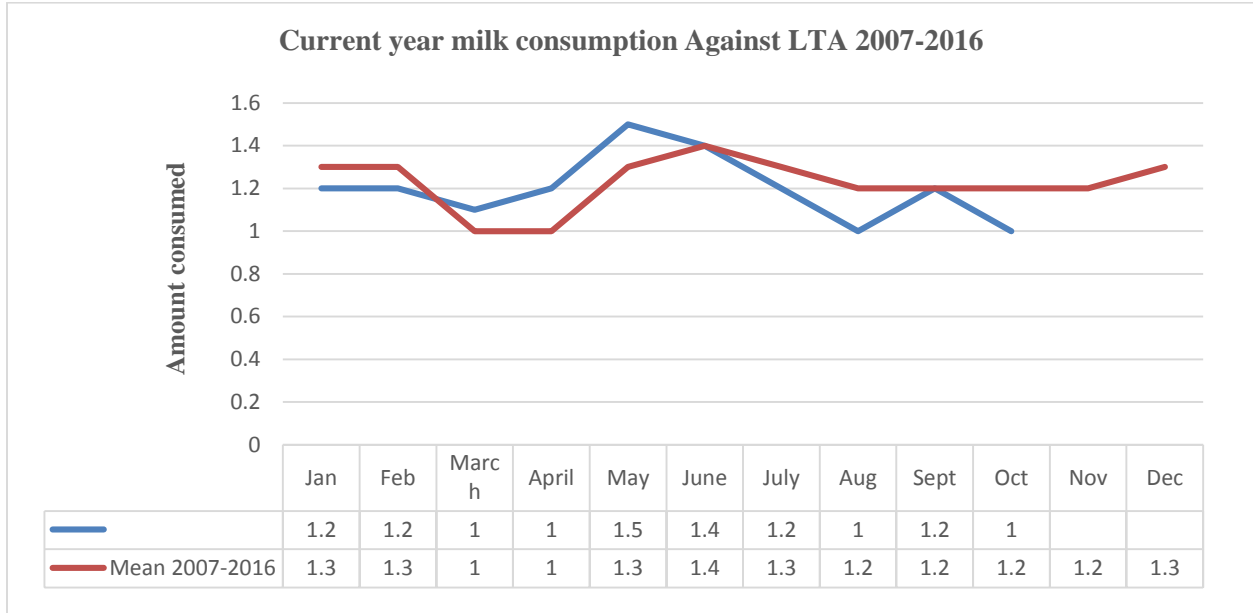


Figure 12: A graph showing current average milk consumption for Wajir against (2006-2016) mean

- Average milk consumption per household per day slightly decreased from 1.2 in the month of September to 1.0 liters in October due poor livestock body condition, poor pasture and browse thus affecting the nutrition status of children as well as food consumption score
- Current average household milk consumption is below the long term average which is normal for the period of the year.
- The highest milk consumption was witnessed in Agro-pastoral areas in Wajir North and lowest was reported in Wajir south and Wajir west.
- The main source of milk production at household and market levels is camel and cattle.

5.2 Food Consumption Score

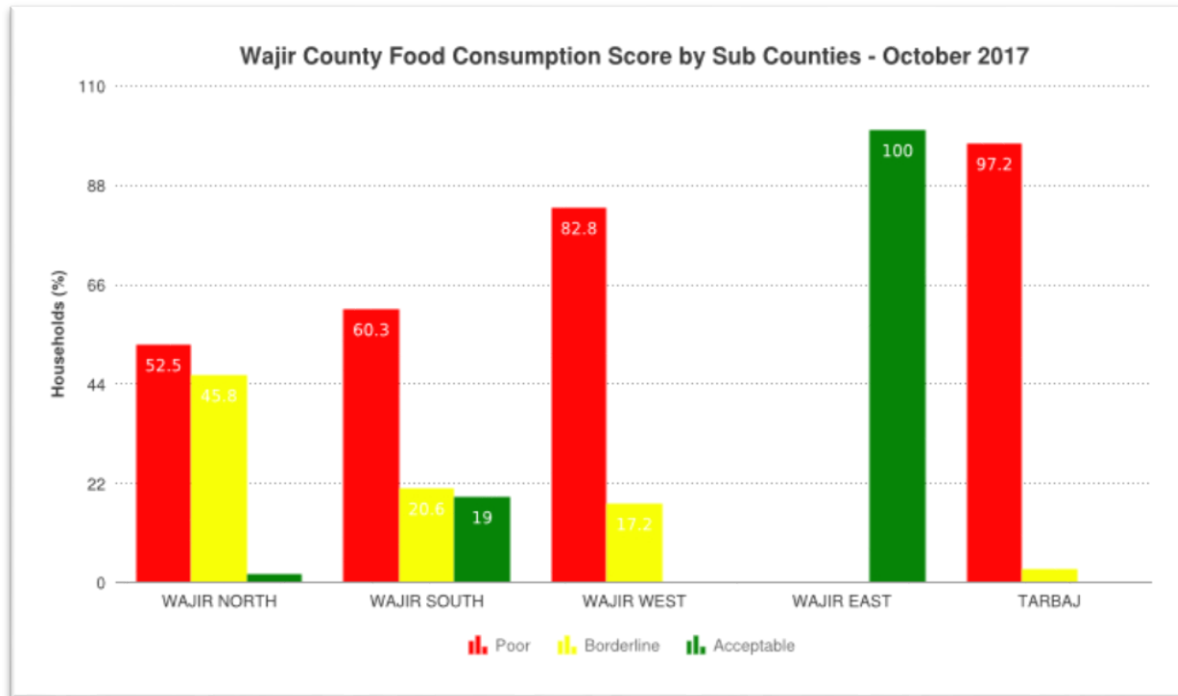


Figure 13: Food consumption score

- Agro-pastoral, Pastoral all species, and Pastoral cattle livelihood zones are the household with poor dietary diversity showing 97,82,60 and 52 while other remaining percentage indicated borderline and acceptable respectively.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

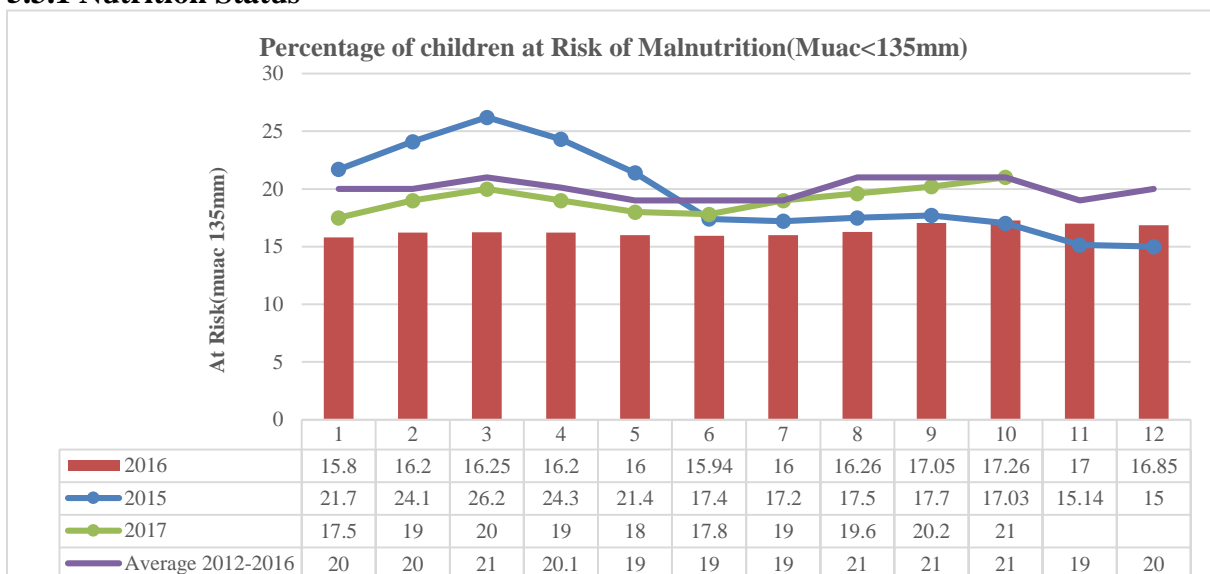


Figure 14: A graph of Nutritional status of children between 12-59 months against (2012-16) long-term mean

- The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition in the month of October showed 21.0 as compared to the previous month that showed 20.2 as the condition worsens posing risk to children under five.
- 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.
- The highest percentage of malnourished children was recorded in Wajir south, Wajir west Wajir north and lowest reported in Wajir East and Tarbaj.

5.3.2 Health

Malnutrition reports for children less than 5 years: 3 children were admitted as in-patients for Management of Severe Malnutrition. 133 new children (6-59 months) were admitted to the Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) while 432 children (6-59 months) were admitted to Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP). (Source: DHIS September 2017). Under 5 year's morbidity in September was; diarrhoea (1809), pneumonia (847), diseases of the skin including wounds (567), (Source: DHIS September 2017). Over 5 year's morbidity in August was: diarrhoea (935), confirmed malaria (28), Urinary Tract Infections (3088) and diseases of the skin including wounds (861). (Source: DHIS September 2017).

5.4 COPING STRATEGY INDEX

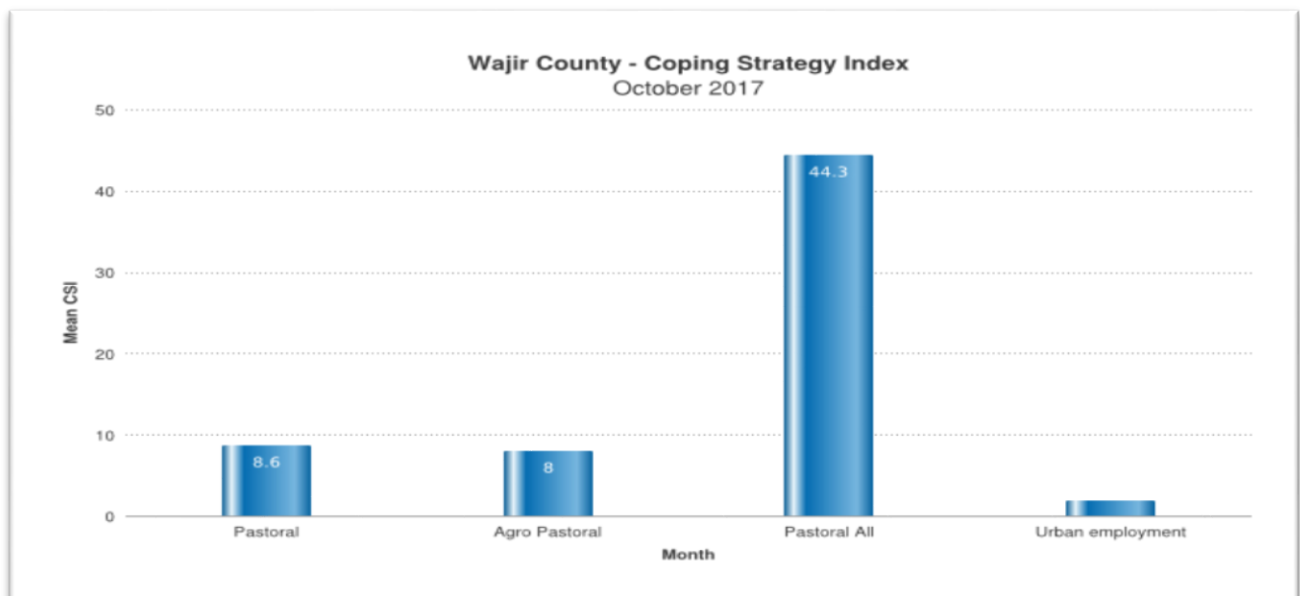


Figure15: A graph showing average (2013-2015) (coping strategy index (CSI) against the current trend

- Pastoral all species in wajir west applied more coping strategy indicating more severity in October as compared to previous month which recorded less severity. Others employed less coping strategies with less severity. The mean CSI for the county is 12.7 as compared to the previous month which showed 16.6
- Borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relative.
- Reduced the number of meals taken per day.
- 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

- Integrated outreaches and screening across the County
- Rehabilitation, servicing and equipping of Boreholes
- Distribution of livestock feed across the County done by NDMA, Livestock department.
- Human and livestock disease surveillance across the County ongoing.
- Emergency cash transfer program also continued in October 2017.
- Vaccination and Deworming of livestock
- Monitoring of migration of livestock by livestock and NDMA
- Treatment of malnutrition cases and referral cases to the main health facilities
- Food for Asset(FFA)
- Monitoring and treatment of human disease ongoing

6.2 Food Aid.

- General Relief food distribution by National Government and County government.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- There were no reported incidence of insecurity in all livelihood zones in Wajir County during the period.

7.2 Migration

Migration of livestock still persisted where most pastoralists in the depleted grazing areas moved to search for pastures, browse and water to where the onset of the short rains begun. There is report of livestock that have migrated to our neighboring country particularly Ethiopia and Somalia and migration with in the counties.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- The expected October-December short rains are likely to be normal or below normal
- Environmental condition diminished over the month and expected to improve during the short rains 2017
- The OND rainfall expected to be near normal to below normal rains
- Foliage and pasture condition over most of the county are likely to improve during the season and thereafter decline
- Availability and accessibility of milk production expected during short rains and thereafter deteriorate.
- Livestock body condition are likely improve thus improving the purchasing power of the pastoralist.
- Improve in water availability and availability
- Decrease in trekking distance to water sources by livestock will likely improve livestock body condition.
- Rangeland resources are expected to improve in November, December and thereafter decline during the season

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Health & Nutrition

- Capacity building of health worker on IMAM
- Strengthening of IMAM
- Scale up HINI/IMAM/IYCN interventions-ongoing
- Outreach services Scale up-ongoing
- Sensitization on hygiene promotion
- Monitoring of malnutrition status in the county-ongoing

Water (on-going)

- Water trucking was ongoing in over 113 centres and to livestock herds and pastoralists.
- Repair and Maintenance of boreholes during breakdown
- Rapid response team strengthen during the month ensuring any breakdown of boreholes are responded to immediately.
- Provision of fast moving spare parts to the affected zones
- Provide more water storage facilities in schools and new settlements

Livestock Sector and Agriculture

- Livestock disease surveillance has been carried out in all species and cattle livelihood zones.
- Distribution of livestock feed across the County done by NDMA, Livestock department.
- Support and Conduct prevention and treatment of livestock disease surveillance across the County.
- Routine Vaccination and Deworming of livestock
- Control of Tick in the affected areas.
- Food for Asset(FFA)
- Desilting of water pan

Peace and Security

- Strengthen peace building initiatives in the county on-going to prevent further conflicts at this time when most livelihood zones have scarce pasture and water resources.