

National Drought Management Authority
WAJIR COUNTY
DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR FEBRUARY 2018

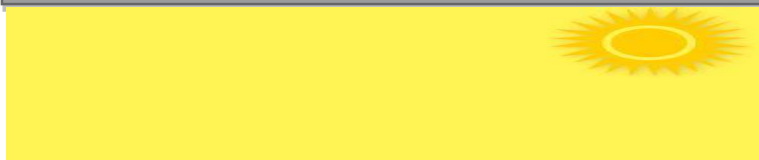


A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



FEBRUARY EW PHASE 2018

Early Warning Phase Classification



Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Alert	Worsening
Pastoral cattle	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral-all species	Alert	Worsening
Pastoral camel	Alarm	Worsening
Informal employment	Alert	Worsening
County	Alert	Worsening
Biophysical Indicators	value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	0.0	80 -120
VCI-3Month	11.89	>35
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Fair-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)	56	>66
Milk Consumption	1.8	>3
Return Distance to water source	5.8	<5 Km
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	17.0	<6.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	6.5	<0.95

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

Rainfall Report

No rainfall received in the month of February, most of the days and nights were hot and sunny.

Vegetation condition: condition of vegetation (pasture and browse) ranges from fair to poor in all livelihood zones.

VCI in the county indicated severe vegetation deficit which recorded 11.89 in February as compared to previous month figure which showed 19.05 showing decline in vegetation deficit. However Wajir south recorded extreme vegetation deficit while other sub counties showed severe vegetation deficit

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Livestock body condition ranges between fair to poor for all livelihood zones except pockets of Wajir south that recorded poor to very poor. Pasture and browse condition ranges between fair to poor. Milk production dropped. Migration of livestock reported across all the livelihood zones and neighbouring counties. No livestock death reported. Terms of trade not favourable as compared to previous month. Increase in trekking distance was recorded. Percentage of children under five at risk of malnutrition increased from 16.5 in January to 17.4 in the month under review. Less coping

<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

- No Rainfall received in the month under review and this is normal during this period.

1.1.1 Rainfall station data

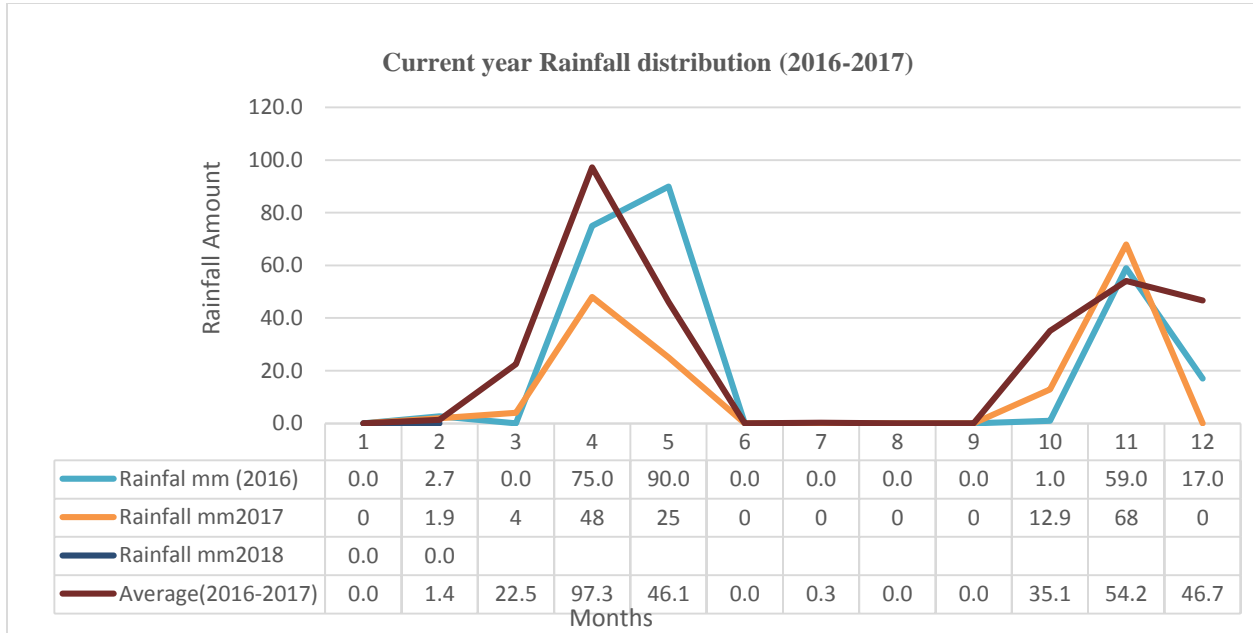


Table 1: A table of the stations and amount of rainfall received in the month of February 2018 (Source KMS)

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

Current vegetation cover indexes for the county showed severe vegetation deficit with a score of 11.89 as compared to previous month which recorded a VCI of 19.05. However Wajir south recorded extreme vegetation deficit which is worst affected, while other sub-counties mainly Wajir West, Eldas, Tarbaj and Wajir North indicated severe vegetation deficit except Wajir East that showed moderate vegetation deficit. The condition is expected to worsen as the long dry spell still continues.

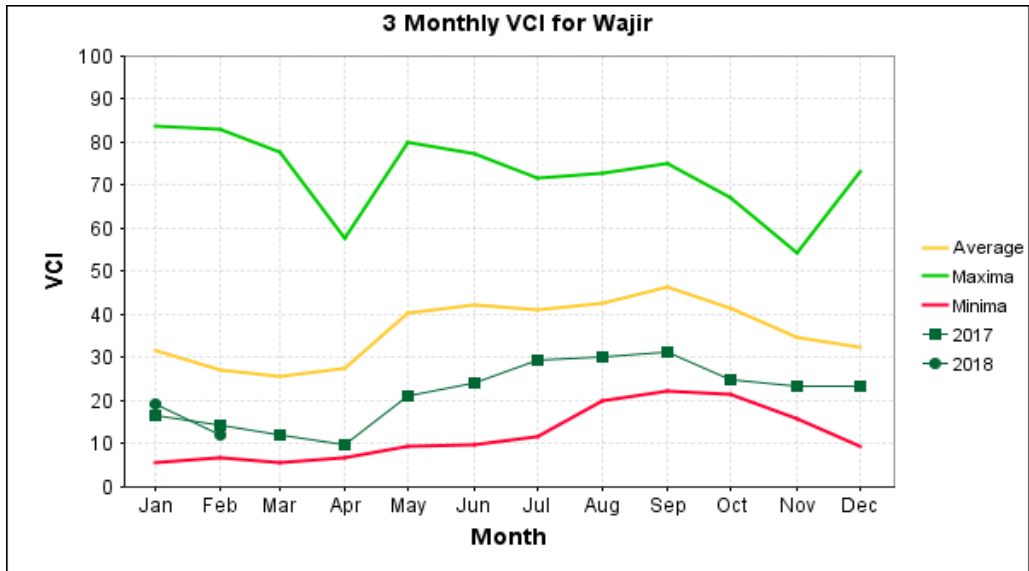


Figure 1: A chart of Wajir County overall 3-monthly VCI during the month of February 2018

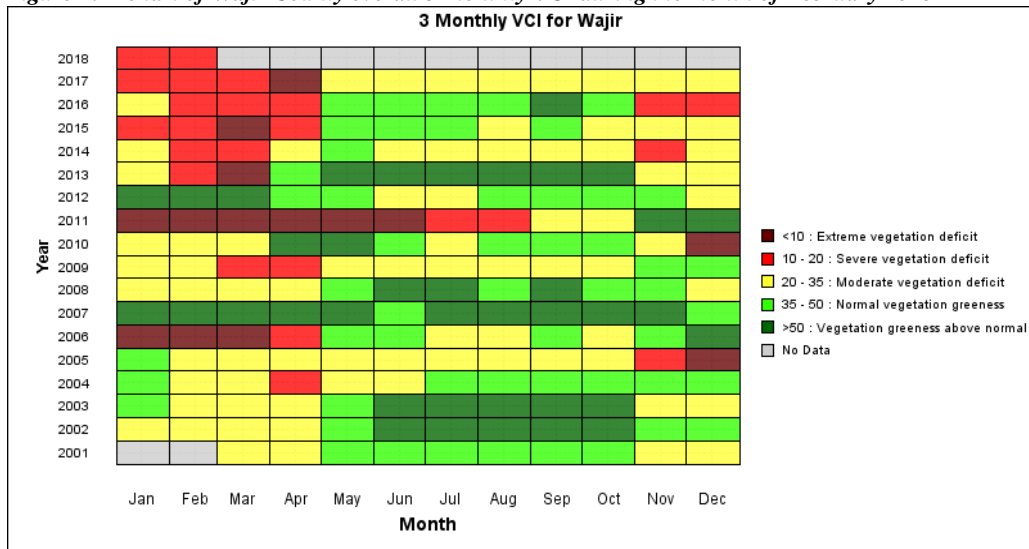


Figure 2: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir County during the month of February 2018

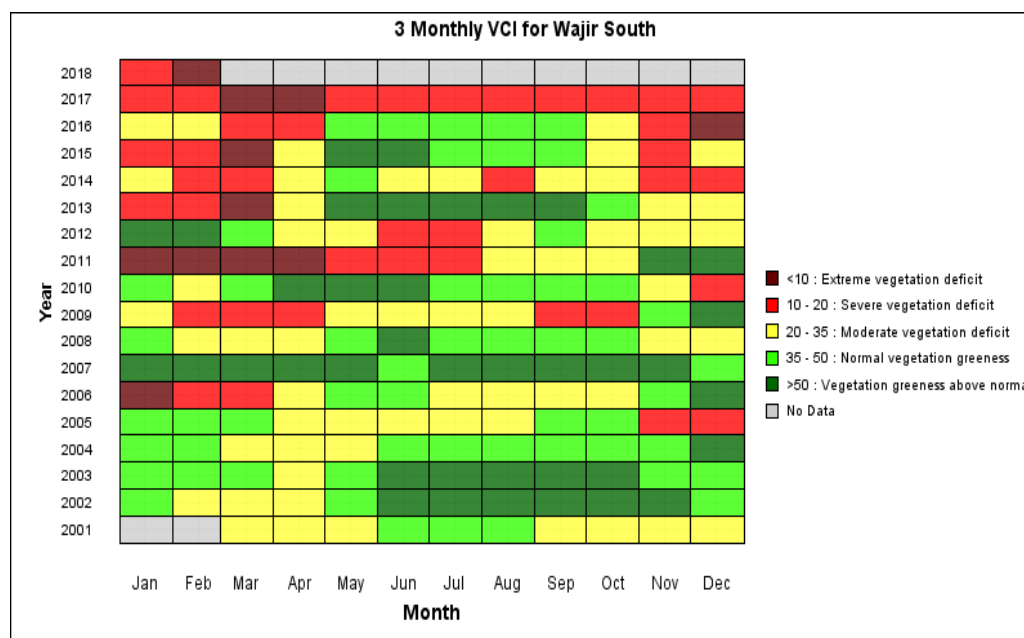


Figure 3: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir South during the month of February 2018

2.1.2 Pasture

- Pasture condition in all livelihood zones ranges from fair to poor in the county but there are pockets that have very poor condition due to insufficient rains received during previous season particularly pastoral cattle livelihood zones in Wajir south, pastoral all species livelihood zones in Wajir West and pockets of Tarbaj sub county.
- Compared to the previous month pasture condition has deteriorated due to over concentration and migration of livestock to areas that have pasture thus depleting the little resources available. Pasture condition varies between livelihood zones.
- Pastoral camel livelihood zones, agro-pastoral livelihood zones and part of pastoral all species livelihood zones ranges from fair to poor, whereas pastoral cattle livelihood zones, part of pastoral all species livelihood zones have poor to very poor condition mainly, Abakore, Wara, Lolkuta, Baragothe, Mansa, and Ogorale.
- Little available pasture is expected to last for a period of one month as the situation of pasture deteriorate. Some pockets of livelihood zones in Wajir North and Eldas could not be accessed due to conflict reported during the month.

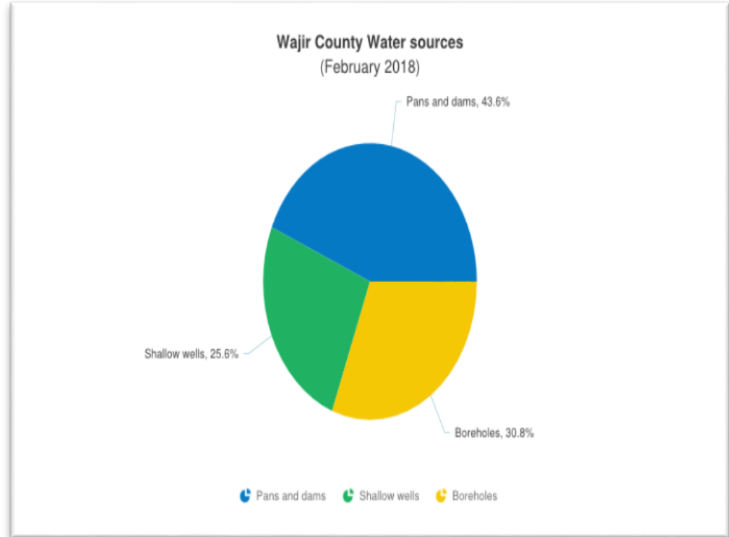
2.1.3 Browse

- Browse situation in all livelihood zones ranges between fair to poor while other areas have poor to very poor condition mainly in Pastoral cattle livelihood zones in Wajir south, pockets of pastoral all species in Wajir west and part of Tarbaj sub counties that had insufficient rains and poor regeneration of browse.
- Current browse situation deteriorated as compared to the previous month as a result of depletion of browse due to over concentration of livestock. Available browse is expected to last for one and half month.
- There were constrain to access browse in some zones of Wajir North and Eldas as a result of conflict.

- Browse condition varies according to livelihood zones where agro-pastoral, pastoral camel livelihood zones and parts of pastoral all species livelihood zones reported to have fair browse than pastoral cattle livelihood zones which is normal.

2.2.0 Water Sources

Major water sources across the livelihood zones used by both human and livestock are boreholes, water pans and shallow wells which is normal at this time of the year where 30% of water pans are holding water and the rest have dried up completely. Compared to the previous month situation of water in the county has declined due to drying up of water pans attributed to over concentration of both human, livestock and high evaporation. Areas that are mostly affected are Pastoral cattle livelihood zones in Wajir south, part of Pastoral all species in Wajir west and Tarbaj having water stress. Available water are expected to last for a period of one and half month.



2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

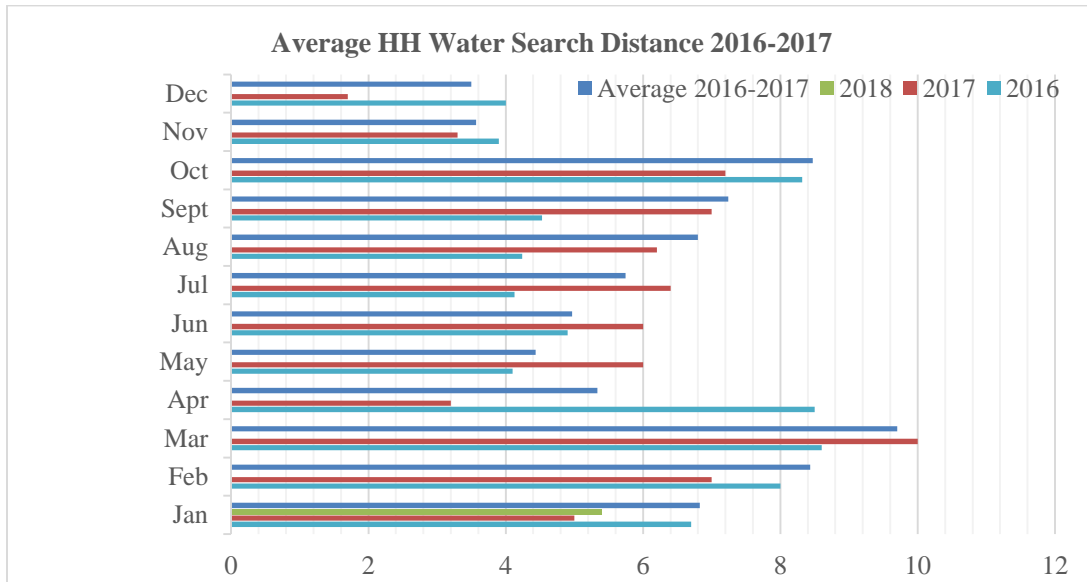


Figure 4: A chart indicating return distance to water sources against 2016-2017 average

- Average household return distances to the main water sources increased slight from 5.4km in January to 5.8km in the month under review due to drying of water pans and congestion in main water sources.
- Current average household water consumption per person per day slightly decreased as the dry spell continue and water pans and shallow wells dry up.

- Low consumption of water was recorded in Wajir south, Tarbaj and part of Wajir West due low recharge during previous season.
- The proportion of pastoral households that treat water is minimal with some households in the urban centre using aqua tabs.

2.2.3 Livestock access

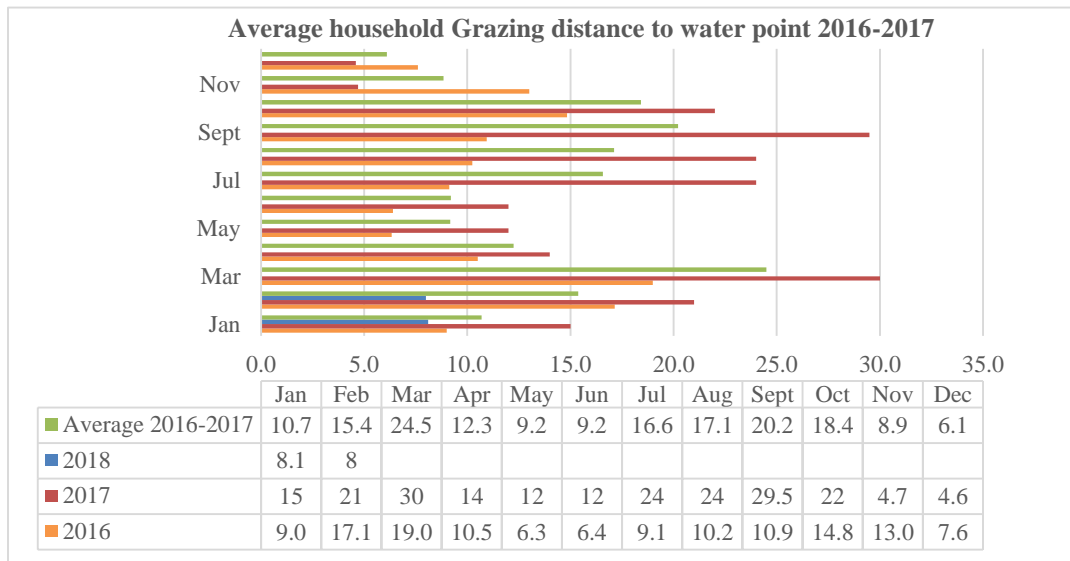


Figure 5: A graph indicating current grazing distance against (2015-2016) average

- Current trekking average return distance from grazing area to water point remained the same (8km) as compared to the previous month. This is normal at this time of the year.
- Average grazing distance is below the long term average and above previous year's month average.
- Frequency of watering livestock at water points remained the same as the trekking distance from grazing area to water remained constant.
- . Currently the watering intervals for cattle, goat/sheep remained the same as compare to the previous month (1-2 days) while the watering interval for camel is 7-8days.
- Distance from grazing area varies by livelihood zones where the highest grazing distance was reported in Pastoral cattle in Wajir south, Tarbaj and pastoral all species livelihood zones in Wajir west and lowest was reported in Agro-pastoral livelihood zone which is normal at this time of the year.(It may not be normal for Wajir south and west)

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 Livestock production

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

Livestock body condition for all species ranges between fair to poor with exception of pockets of some livelihood zones in Wajir south, Wajir west and Tarbaj where the livestock condition range between poor to very poor. The body condition for cattle and sheep, in pastoral cattle livelihood zones and parts of pastoral all species livelihood zones are fair to poor. However, in pastoral camel livelihood zones and agro-pastoral livelihood zones, the livestock body conditions is good to fair.

In comparison to the previous month, the livestock body condition has deteriorated due to the pressure on the available pasture, water and browse. However, comparing to the same period in previous year, the livestock body in a better condition. . Livestock body condition is expected to worsen as the dry spell continues. This is normal at this time of the year.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

Veterinary Department reported outbreak of livestock diseases mainly PPR, CBPP, CCPP and Sheep and goat pox across the livelihood zones. This is not normal at this time of the year and is attributed to concentration of livestock at certain grazing and watering points like Arbajahan, Kanchara, Burder, Dalsan, and Gunana. Rabies in donkeys and camels in Wajir North and Wajir West sub counties respectively have also been reported and confirmed. Abortions in goats across livelihood zones have been witnessed though causes are unknown.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- Current household milk production per household per day remained the same as compared to previous month which was 2.5litres.
- Current average milk production is above the long term average and previous year average showing an improvement in milk production.
- This is normal at this time of the year.
- Highest milk production was recorded in Pastoral all species and Agro-pastoral areas and lowest was recorded in Tarbaj sub-county.

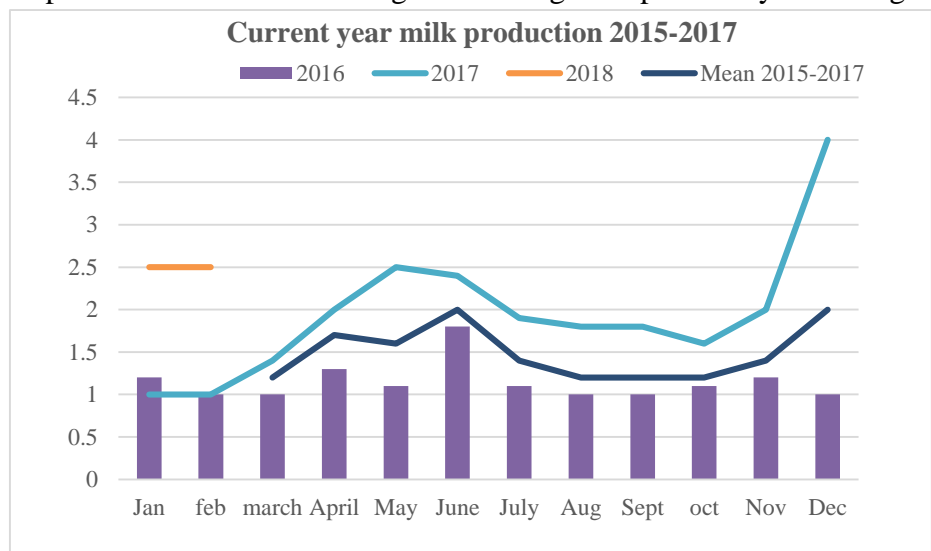


Figure 6: Current Household milk production against (2007-2016) long-term average

3.2.1 Stage and condition of food Crops

The main crops grown in the county are Sorghum, Maize, and bean. Other crops include pawpaw, water melon, tomatoes and vegetable. No harvest of Crop witnessed during the month under review, however there was production of water melon in Wajir town.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle prices

- Average price of four year old medium size bull slightly decreased from Kshs 14,540 in January to 14,300 in the month under review due to poor market and less demand.
- Highest average prices were recorded in the urban towns and lowest recorded in the rural.
- Current average prices is higher than both long-term average and previous year's price.
- Market slightly indicated improvement in the price as compared to previous years.

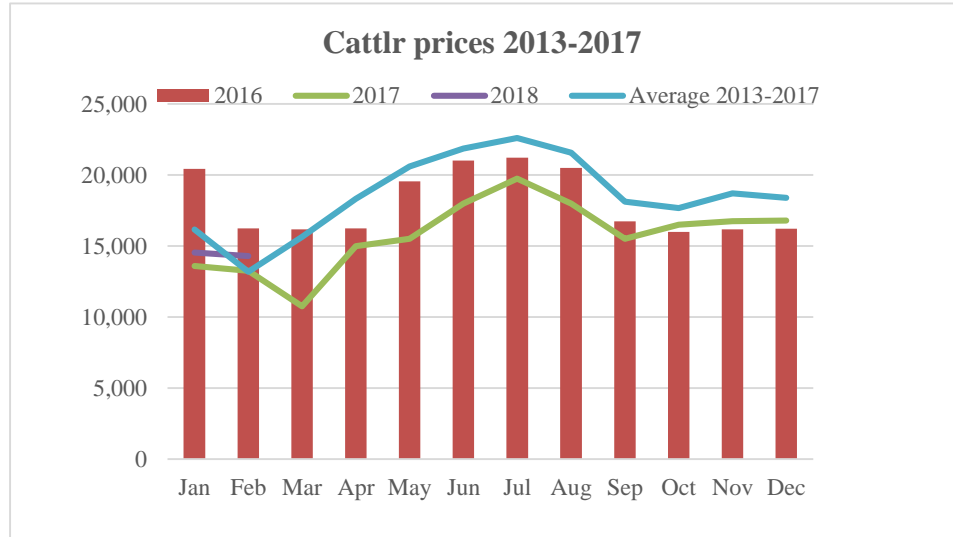


Figure 7: A graph of current cattle price against the long term (2013-17) mean prices

4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- Average price of a two year old goat decreased significantly from kshs3, 145 in January to Kshs 2,793 in the month under review due to poor market and increase supply of livestock.
- The livelihood with the highest prices was recorded in the urban centres mainly Wajir market and lowest was reported in Wajir South (Habaswein) and Wajir North (Bute).
- The average price is lower than the Long term average (LTA) and higher than previous month price and this is normal at this time of the year.
- Prices of Market remained to be poor as the dry spell continues.

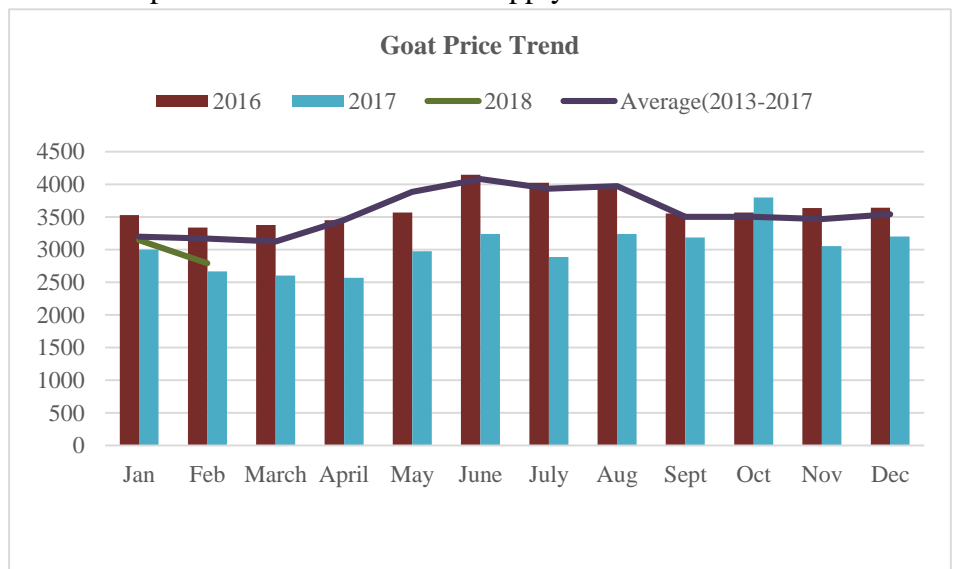


Figure 8: A graph of current year goat prices against the short-term mean 2013-2017

4.1.3 Camel price

- Average price of four year old Camel price declined significantly from Kshs 39,000 in the month of January to Kshs 23,166 in the month under review as a result of increased supply and low market demand thus making the market to be poor.
- Livelihood with the highest price was witnessed in Wajir town and Wajir North due to slight market demand and the lowest was reported in the pastoral cattle areas and pastoral all species livelihood zones as a result of low market.
- Current average year price of camel is below the long-term average but above previous year's price. This is normal for the time of the year.

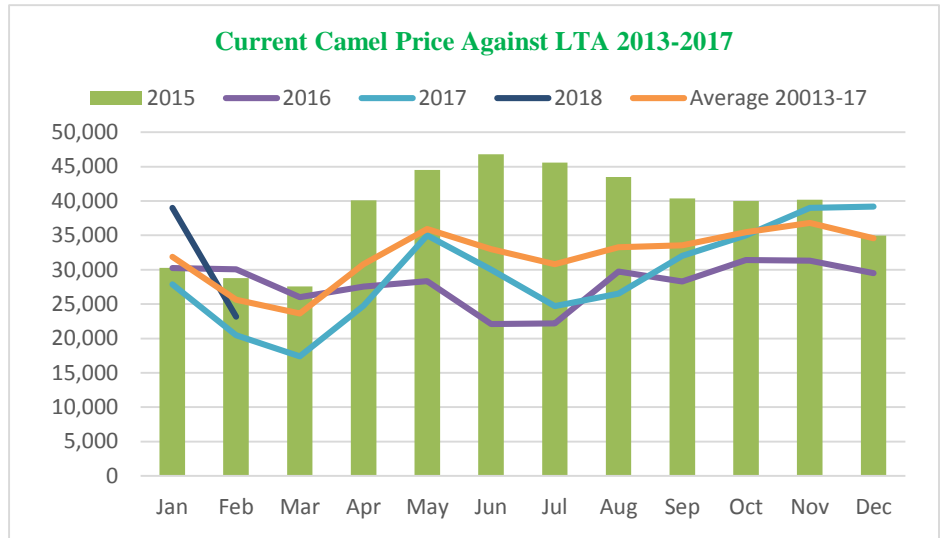


Figure 9: A graph of current camel prices against the long term mean (2013-2017)

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

- Current market maize price increase slightly from Kshs 51 per kg in January to Kshs 59 per kg in February due to more demand and less supply.
- The highest prices of food commodity was reported in the rural areas and lowest prices were recorded in the urban centres due to poor infrastructure in the rural areas and easy access to the market.
- Current average price was higher than the long term average and previous year's month price. This is not normal as compared to the long term average and previous month price..

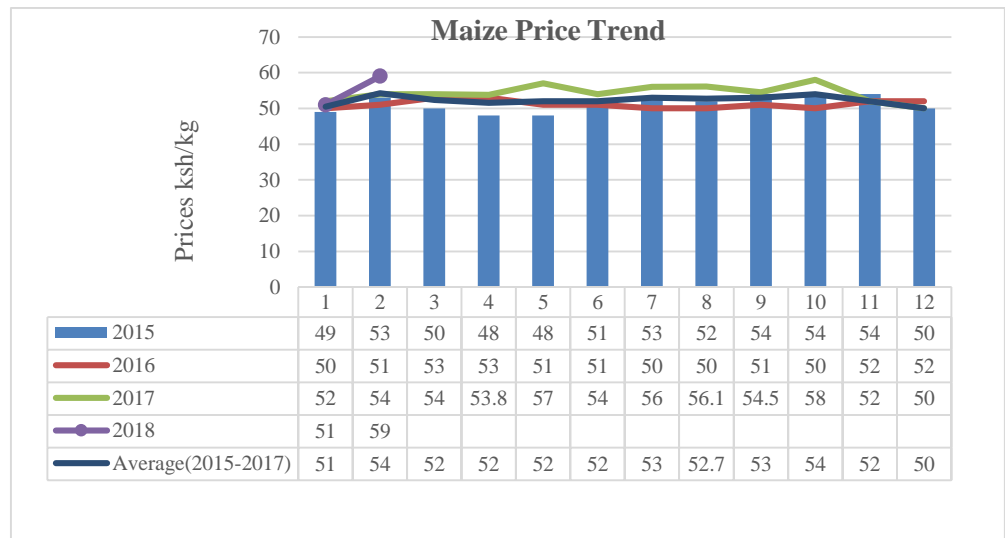


Figure 10: A graph of Current Maize Trend

4.2.1.1 Other outstanding observation

- Maize is not the staple food consumed in Wajir County, the main staple food are rice, beans, meat, milk and spaghetti in all the 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 S 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)

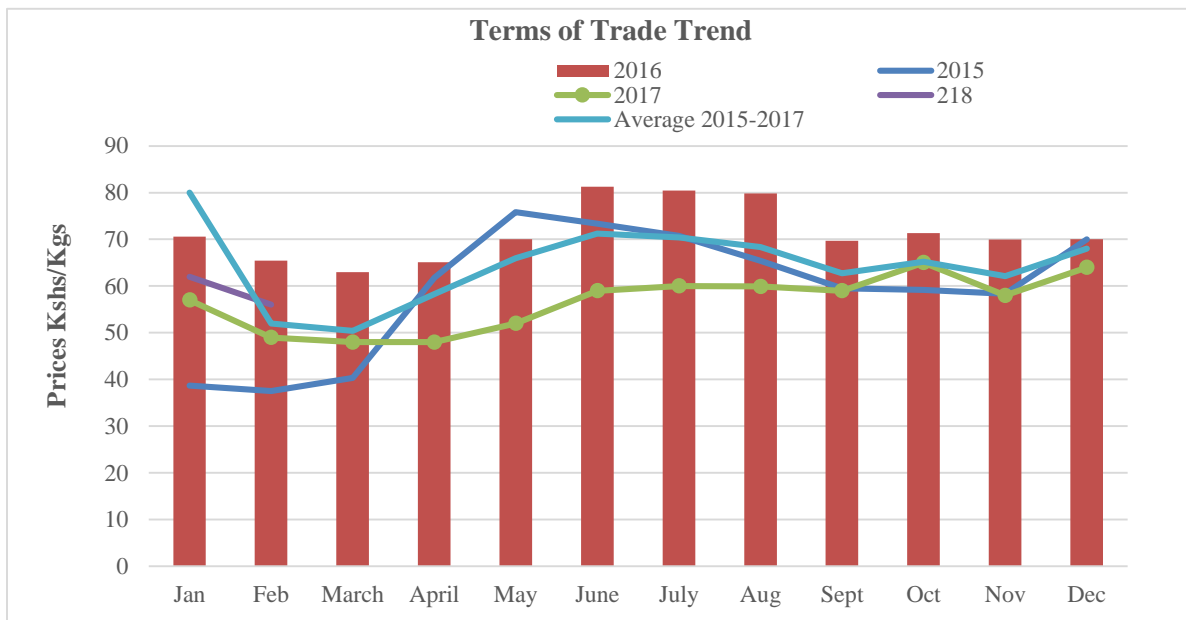


Figure 11: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long term (2015-2017) mean price

- Household terms of trade decreased from 62kg in January to 56kg in the month under review attributed to decrease in goat prices and increase in maize price.
- Terms of trade is not favourable as compared to the previous month
- Current average price is both above the long term average and previous year's month price.
- Market Disruption was reported in Buna and Eldas sub-counties.) Due to conflict.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

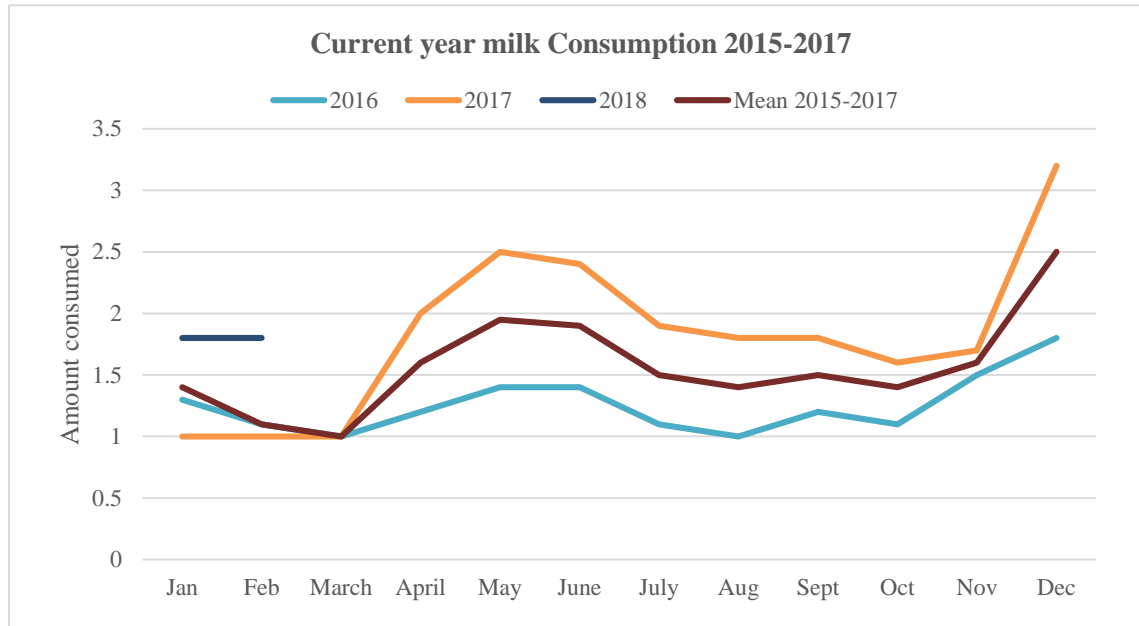
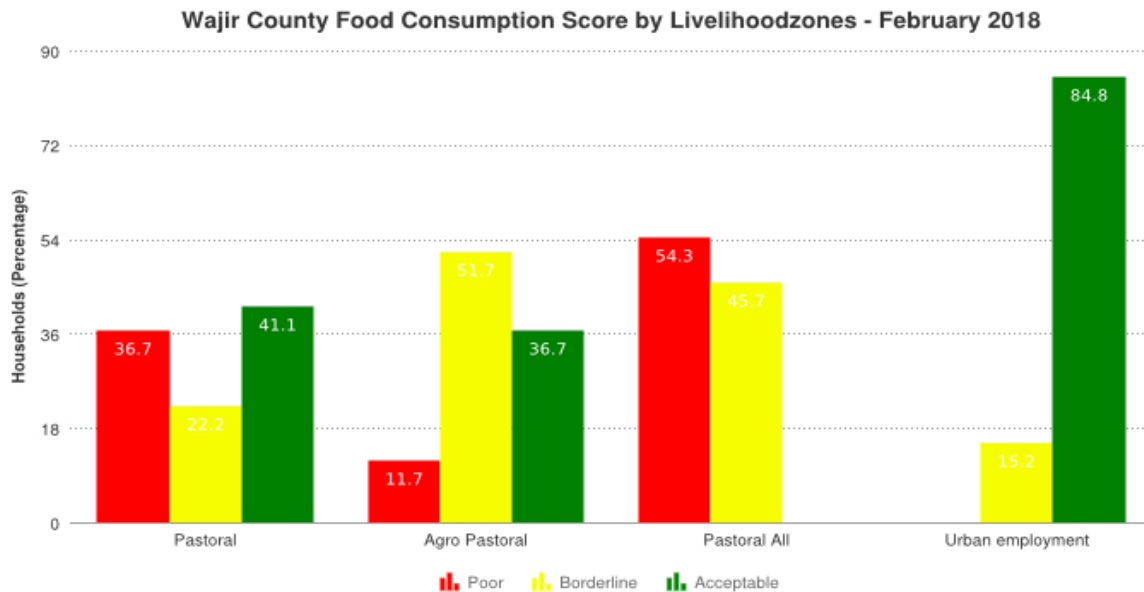


Figure 12: A graph showing current average milk consumption for Wajir against (2015-2017) mean

- Current average milk consumption per household per day remained the same as in the previous month which recorded 1.8 liters.
- Average household milk consumption is above the long term average and previous year's price which is normal for the period of the year.
- Highest milk producing species are cattle and Camel
- The highest milk consumption was reported in Agro-pastoral livelihood zones, pastoral and pastoral all species livelihood zones and lowest was recorded in Tarbaj areas. .

5.2 Food Consumption Score



- Pastoral all species and pastoral livelihood zones are the household with poor dietary diversity with a score of 54.3% and 36.7% in February as compared to 40.6% and 38% for January respectively,
- As compared to the previous month Pastoral livelihood zones slightly improved in February with a score of 36.7 from a score of 38%.
- In agro-pastoral livelihood zones 11.7% are in poor as compared to previous month with ascore of 16.7% showing a slight improvement in consumption, others moving to Borderline with a score of 51.7% as compared to a previous score of 43.3%.
- In pastoral all species livelihood zone 54.3%of the households have poor dietary diversity as compared to January with 40.6% showing a decline in food consumption.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

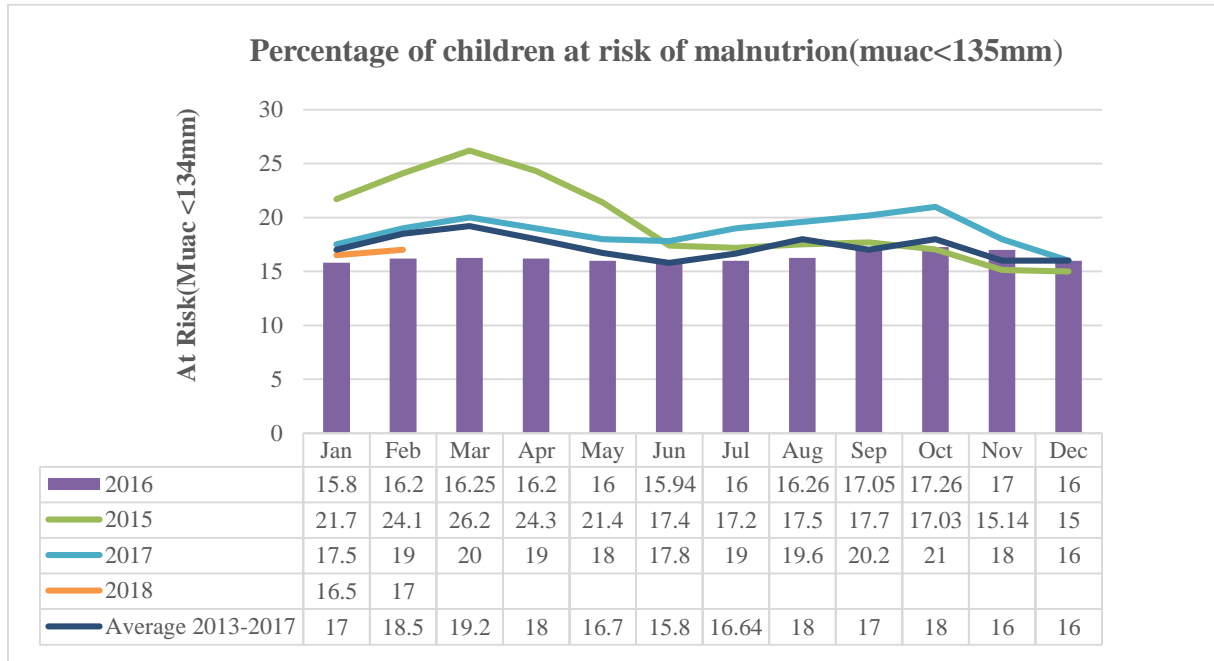


Figure 14: A graph of Nutritional status of children between 12-59 months against (2013-17) long-term mean

- In Wajir a total of 575 children (6-59months) were sampled for both girls and boys and assessed for malnutrition using muac Tape. From the sampled children, 17.4% were at risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135 mm) as compared to previous month which was 16.5% showing a slight increase in children at risk of malnutrition.
- In Wajir North Sub-county (Bute and Buna) total number of Sample children assessed for malnutrition using Muac Tape were a total of 180 for boys and girls, From the sample children 15.8% were at risk of malnutrition(MUAC <135 mm) when compared to previous month which was 22.2% showing an improvement.
- Wajir South Sub-county total number of sampled children assessed for malnutrition using Muac were 161,from the sample children 14.6% were at Risk of malnutrition(MUAC <135 mm) when compared to previous month which was 22% showing an improvent.

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition in the month of January increased slightly from 16.5 to 17.4 in the month under review.
- The proportion of children under five with severe category in February increased to 1.83% as compared to the previous month which showed 0.7%.
- The current proportion((MUAC <135 mm) is below the long term average and previous year's month average, indicating that the malnutrition of children under-fives is still at risk compared to previous year's month.
- The highest percentage of malnourished children was reported in Agro-pastoral livelihood zones in Wajir North, Pastoral cattle livelihood zones in Wajir South, Tarbaj and Lowest was recorded in wajir town.

5.3.2 Health

444 new children (6-59 months) were admitted to the Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) while 954 children (6-59 months) were admitted to Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP). (Source: DHIS January 2018). Under 5 year's morbidity in January was; diarrhoea (2690), pneumonia (1111), diseases of the skin including wounds (783), Confirmed malaria (14), Urinary tract Infection 367. (Source: DHIS January 2018). Over 5 year's morbidity in January was: diarrhoea (1214), confirmed malaria (37), Urinary Tract Infections (4728) and diseases of the skin including wounds (1035). (Source: DHIS January 2018). The major disease reported during the month under review are Diarrhoea, pneumonia and there were no new disease outbreak report during the month.

5.3 COPING STRATEGY INDEX

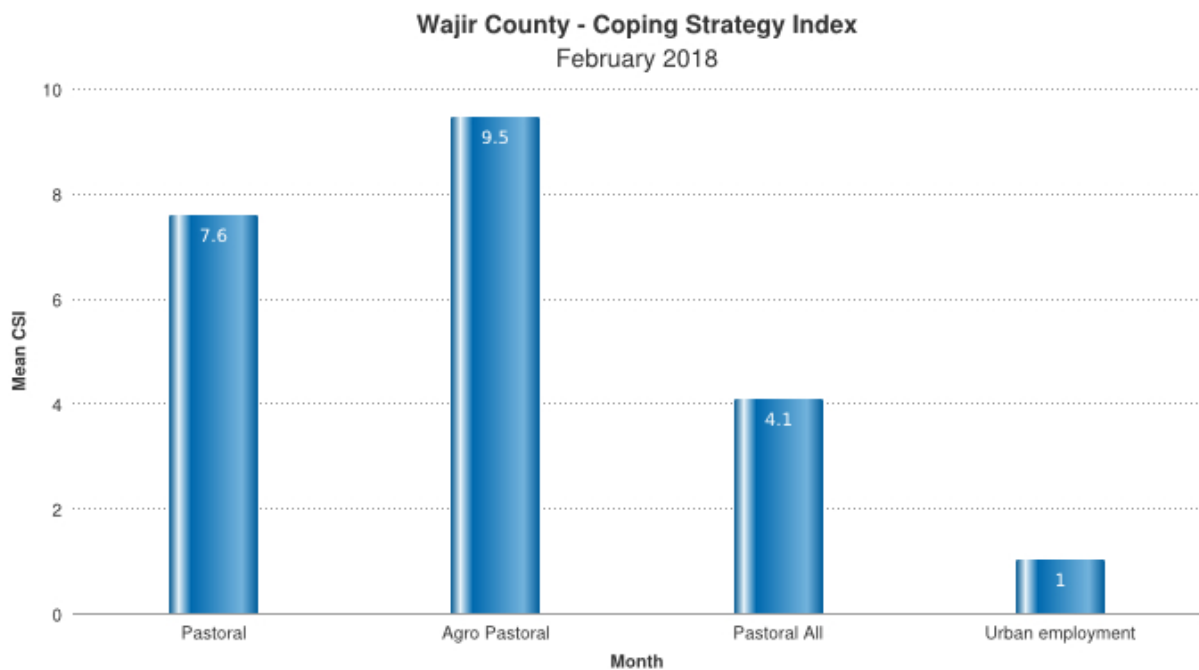


Figure 15: A graph showing average (2015-2017) (coping strategy index (CSI) against the current trend

- All households in Pastoral, Agro-pastoral, pastoral all species in all livelihood zones employed less coping strategy in the month under review as compared to the previous month of January where they employed more coping strategies. The mean CSI for the county is 6.5 as compared to the previous month which showed 6.6 with no significant change.
- 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.
- Relied on less preferred and less expensive food

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 Non-food interventions.-Ongoing

- Vaccination and treatment of livestock-ongoing
- Monitoring and treatment of human disease ongoing

- Rehabilitation, servicing and equipping of Borehole
- Food for Asset(FFA)
- Cash Transfer (Regular and Emergency) by NDMA)
- Cash assistance by WFP and Red Cross.
- Coordination of cash transfers programmes undertaken by various implementers

6.2 Food Aid.

- Relief food distribution by National Government.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

There were reported cases of insecurity in parts of pastoral all species and agro pastoral livelihood zones in Wajir North mainly Lakolle South, Masalale, Orote Dam, Malkagufu, Fullo, Ingirir, and Basir. The conflict has been as a result of administrative boundary disputes. Also there are reported cases of conflicts in Bojigaras in Wajir East sub-county between two warring sub-clans.

7.2 Migration

Current migration of livestock is across the livelihood zones and into neighboring counties of Isiolo and Marsabit. Some livestock have migrated from the pastoral cattle and lower pastoral all species into the upper pastoral all species and agro-pastoral livelihood zones where the pasture and browse situation is good to fair following the enhanced OND rains in these areas. Livestock from these livelihood zones have also migrated to Isiolo and Marsabit counties. Concentration of livestock is also noted in Wajir East (pastoral camel livelihood zone), upper Wajir West and Eldas (pastoral all species).

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- Pasture condition in the county is likely to diminish in March and improve during MAM.
- Long rains are likely to start on time and near average
- Food prices may likely increase and availability of milk may diminish from March, thereafter expected to improve after long rains.
- Milk availability and accessibility will deteriorate as the dry spell continues and thereafter improve during the month of March, April and May Rainfall.
- The county is likely to experience long dry spell in the month of March and thereafter improve the season.
- Environmental condition expected to deteriorate further and improve in the month of MAM.
- Forage and pasture conditions in the county is likely to deteriorate as the long dry spell continues and thereafter improve during MAM.
- The distances to water sources are likely to increase further in March and thereafter decrease during MAM.
- Rangeland conditions are likely worsen during the months of March and thereafter improve in April 2018
- Livestock migration is likely to continue during long dry spell until the onset long rains.
- Water availability and accessibility is likely to deteriorate in March and expected to improve during the long rains. in the months of April 2018.

- Trekking distances to water sources are likely to increase as the dry spell continues during March and thereafter reduce during the long rains.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Health & Nutrition.

- Conducting an Outreach services and Scale up on Routine bases
- Strengthening and Capacity building of health worker on IMAM
- Scale up of HINI/IMAM/YCN interventions-ongoing
- Routine Monitoring of Malnutrition in all livelihood zones.
-

Water (on-going).

- Repair of boreholes and maintenance
- Water Trucking
- Desilting of water pan
- Construction of water pan

Livestock Sector and Agri-culture

- Vaccination and Treatment of livestock-ongoing
- Support prevention and treatment of livestock diseases-ongoing
- Food for Asset(FFA)

Peace and Security

- Facilitation of Intercommunity, sub counties peace dialogue meeting for common action area across the County.