

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



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



**APRIL EW PHASE 2018**



**Early Warning Phase Classification**

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Normal	Improving
Pastoral cattle	Alert	Improving
Pastoral-all species	Alert	Improving
Pastoral camel	Normal	Improving
Informal employment	Normal	Improving
County	Normal	Improving
Biophysical Indicators	value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	91	80 -120
VCI-3Month	49.27	>35
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	good	Normal
Crop production	Poor	Good
Milk Production	3.2	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	73	>66
Milk Consumption	2.2	>3
Return Distance to water source	1.6	<5 Km
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	15.0	<6.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	11.3	<0.95

**Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification**

**Biophysical Indicators**

**Rainfall Report**

The county Received Above normal rainfall over several parts of the County, characterized by heavy storms during the month under review, however the distribution was good in both time and Space. **Vegetation condition:** The condition ranges from good to fair in the county.

Current VCI in the county recorded Normal vegetation greenness with ascore of 49.27 as compared to previous month figure of 20.69 indicating significant improvement in Vegetation except Wajir south showing Moderate vegetation deficit.

**Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)**

Livestock body situation showed good in the county, Pasture and browse available except pockets of the Wajir south and Wajir west taking long time to regenerate, Milk production remain the same as of previous month. No Migration of livestock reported. No livestock death recorded. Terms of trade favourable, Decrease in trekking distance, Percentage of children under five at risk of malnutrition decreased from 16.6 in March to 15.0 in the month under review. Less coping strategies were applied in all livelihood zones except pastoral all species livelihood zones that employed

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

## 1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITION

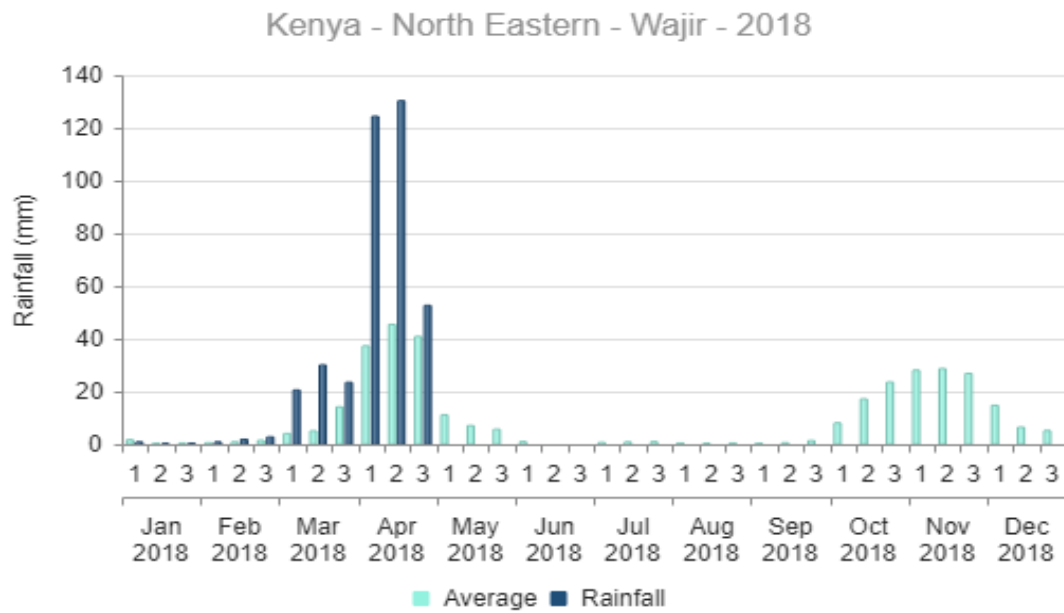
### 1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

#### 1.2 Onset

- April marks the peak of the Long Rains (March-April-May) season. The month began with heavy rainfall being recorded in several parts of the County. However the rainfall was good in both time and space.

#### 1.2.1 Amount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

- The county recorded enhanced rainfall in several parts of the county, where it continued to receive rainfall that has led many areas achieving more than 100% of the Wajir town Long Term Means for April. Some of these areas include Gurar (348.3%), Bute (278.5%), Hadado (260.3%), Wajir town (237.0%), Buna (223.1%), and Khorof Harar (203.1%).



Source: VAM-World Food Programme

## 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 Normal vegetation deficit with a score of 49.27 as compared to previous month which recorded a VCI of 20.69 showing an improvement in vegetation cover indexes. However Pastoral cattle livelihood zones in Wajir South indicated moderate vegetation deficit, while all other livelihood zones showed vegetation greenness above normal. The Vegetation condition is expected to improve as the rains continues.

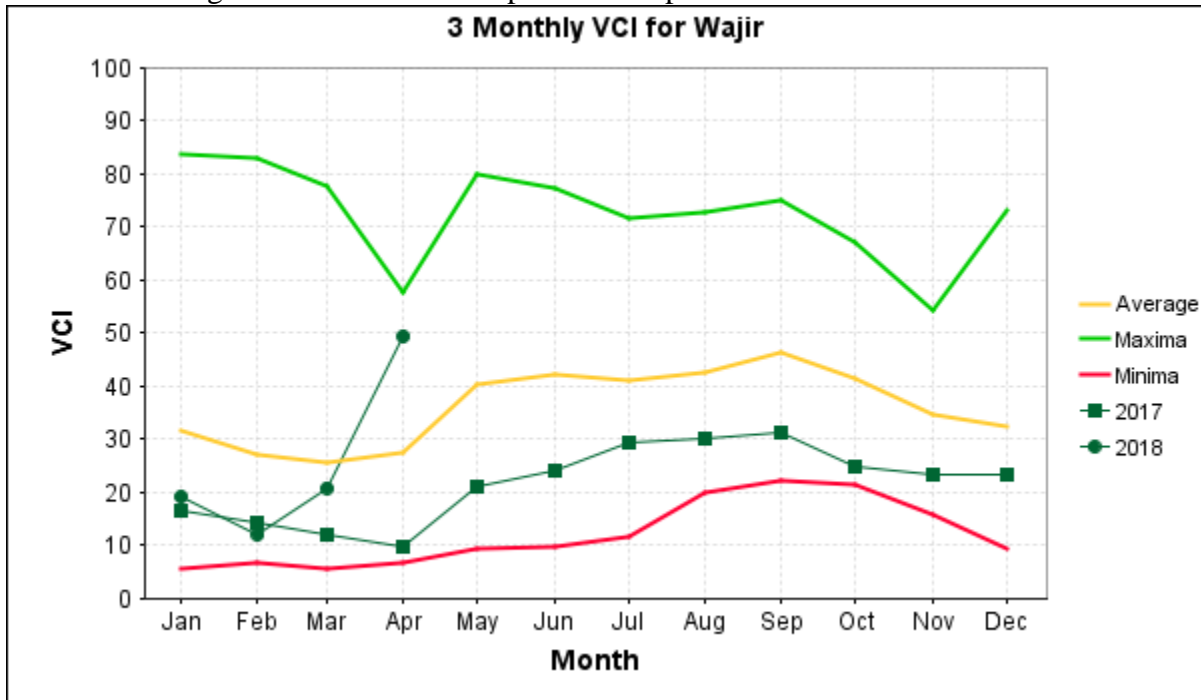


Figure 1: A chart of Wajir County overall 3-monthly VCI during the month of April 2018

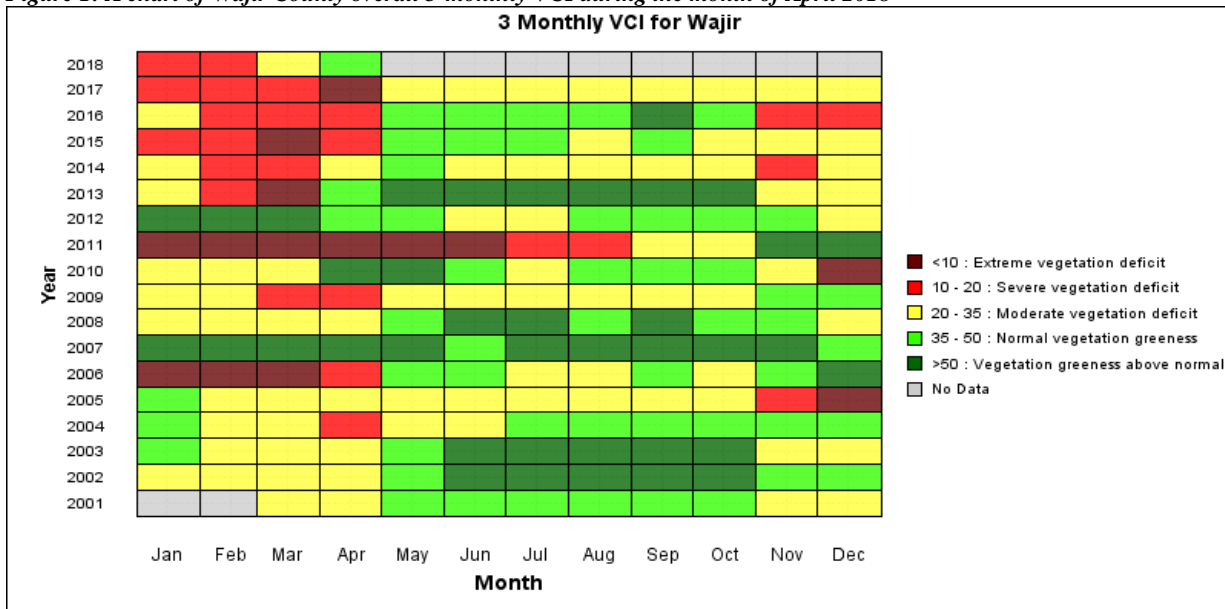


Figure 2: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir County during the month of April 2018

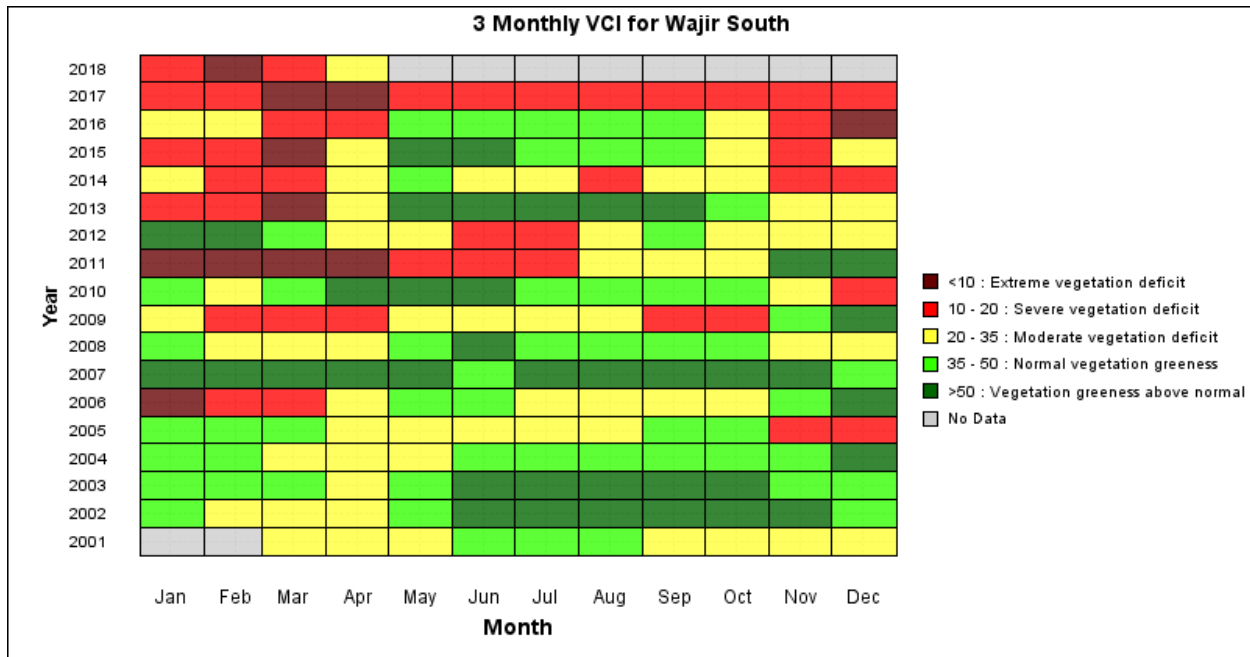


Figure 3: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir South during the month of April 2018

### 2.1.2 Pasture

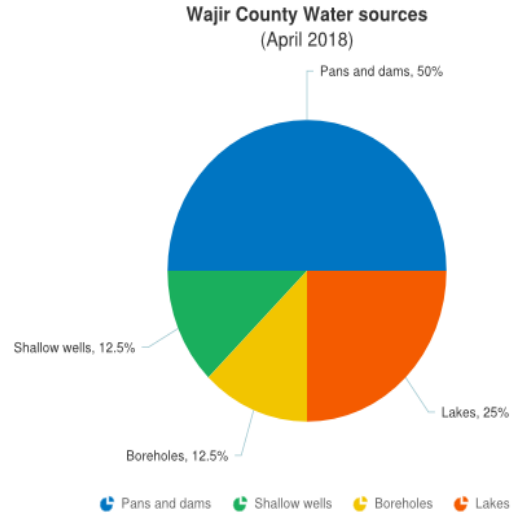
Pasture condition in all livelihood zones was reported to be good in the county, although there are pockets in Wajir south and Wajir west which was observed to be having slow regeneration of pasture. Compared to the previous month the condition of pasture in the entire county has significantly improved due to heavy rains witnessed in all livelihood zones. Pasture situation in the county varies between livelihood zones where Wajir North, Wajir East, Eldas and Tarbaj having good pasture, Whereas pockets of Wajir South and Wajir West observed to have fair to good pasture due to slow regeneration. Available pasture is expected to last for a period of three months, No constraints of pasture reported during the month under review.

### 2.1.3 Browse

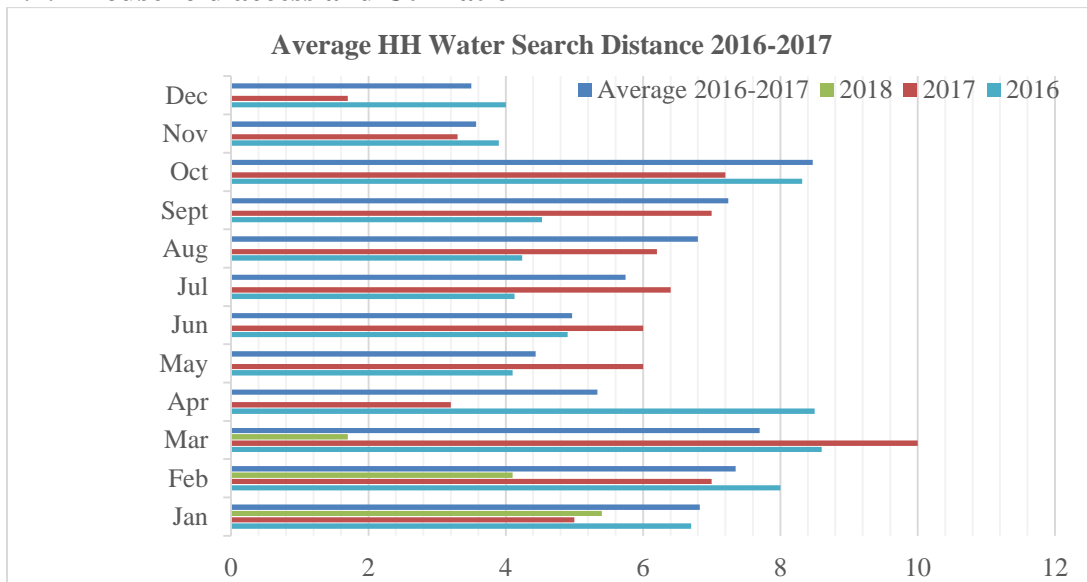
Browse Situation in the county is good in all livelihood zones due to heavy rains received during the month, Compared to previous month browse condition in all livelihood zones improve significantly as a result of continuous heavy rains observed in the county thus fully developing the leaves. Available browse is expected to last for a period of two to three month, Browse varies according to livelihood zones, where Wajir North, Wajir East, Wajir South, Tarbaj indicated good browse while Pockets of Wajir West, Eldas and Wajir South showed fair to good, No constraints reported during the month,

### 2.2.0 Water Sources

Major Water Sources currently used by both human and livestock are boreholes, water pans, lagas, Natural ponds and shallow wells which is normal at this time of the year. However 100% of the water pans in all livelihood zones are impounded with water while others even busted due to high recharge level. In Comparison to the previous month water situation in all livelihood zones improved significantly as a result of heavy down pour witnessed during the month under review, Available water are expected to last for a duration of three months.



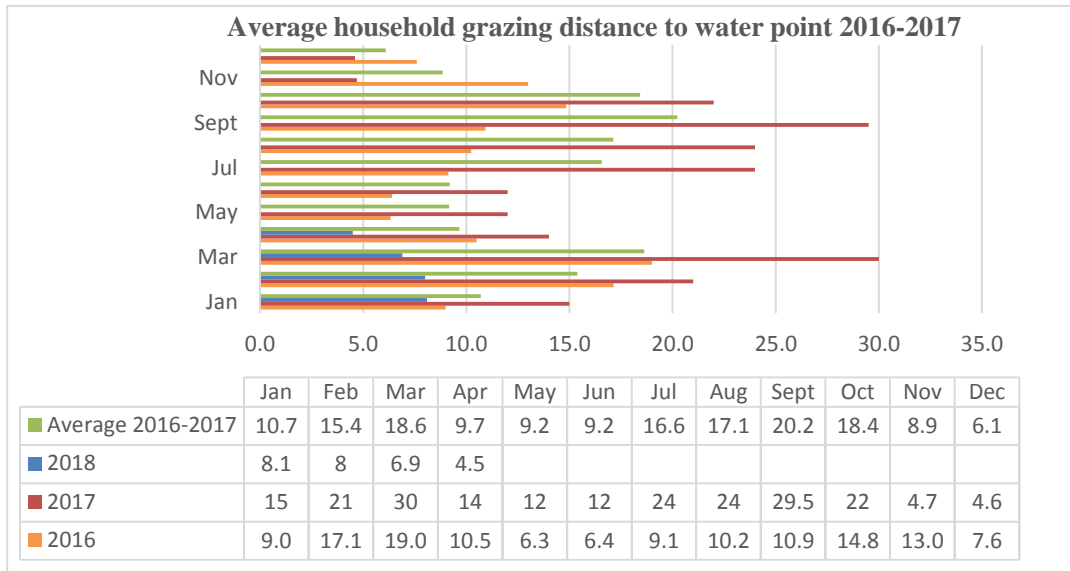
### 2.2.2 Household access and Utilization



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

- Current average household return distances to the main water sources decreased significantly from 4.1km in March to 1.7km in the month under review due to heavy rains received thus fully recharged water pans and shallow wells.
- Current average household water consumption per person per day increased significantly as water pans and shallow wells are fully recharged.
- 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 average trekking distance from grazing area to water point decreased from 6.9km in March to 4.5km in the month under review due to available pasture, browse and water.
- Average grazing distance is below the long term average and previous year’s month average.
- Frequency of watering livestock from grazing area to water points become too minimal as the distance to water point decreased significantly as a result of available water and continuous rains observed in the county.
- Watering frequencies for livestock species were watered daily due to full recharged of open water sources thus prompting to take water daily.
- Livestock Distance from grazing area varies according to livelihood zones where the highest grazing distance was reported in Pastoral cattle in Wajir south, and pastoral all species livelihood zones in Wajir west and lowest was reported in Wajir North, Wajir East and Tarbaj.

### 3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

#### 3.1 Livestock production

Livestock body condition in all livelihood zones was good in the entire county except pockets of wajir south and wajir west which ranges to be fair to good. The body condition for all species in the county showed to be good. In Comparison to the previous month the condition of livestock in all species have significantly improved due to heavy down pour and available pasture, browse and reduced trekking distance, comparing to the same period in previous year, the livestock body is good. This is normal at this time of the year.

##### 3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

Currently there were no outbreak of livestock disease but cases of CCPP, PPR and sheep and goat pox across the county.

##### 3.1.3 Milk Production

- Current average household milk production per household per day remained the same as in March recording 3.2 litres.

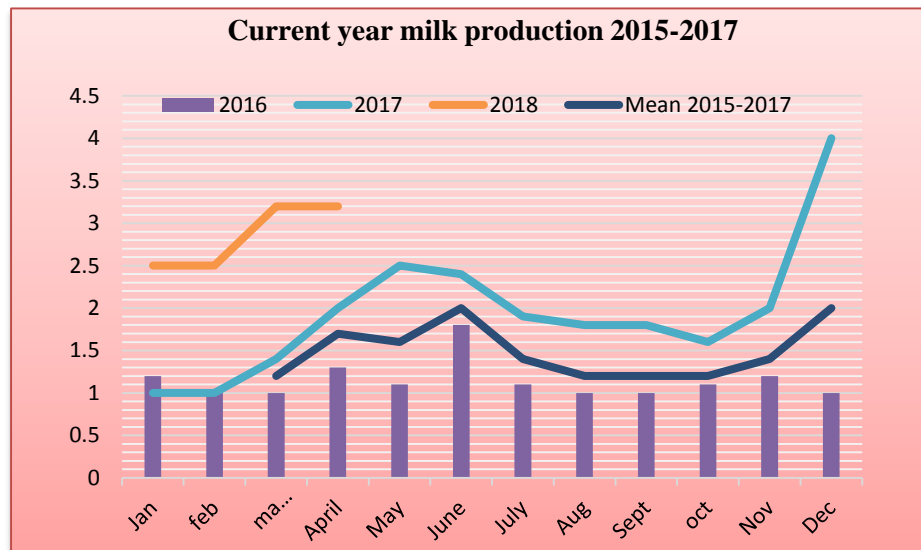


Figure 6: Current Household milk production against (2007-2016) long-term average

- Current average milk production is above the long term average and previous year average showing improvement in milk production due to heavy rains with availability of pasture and browse, this is normal at this time of the year.
- Highest milk production was recorded in Pastoral all species, agro-pastoral livelihood zones, Pastoral camel areas and Tarbaj while lowest recorded in Eldas.

##### 3.2.1 Stage and condition of food Crops

In Wajir County Most of the farmers planted their crop mainly maize, Bean, Sorghum and other crops such as Kales, Spinach and Water melon, Where Currently Maize and Sorghum planted are at knee height stage while crops such as Water melon, Kales are at Maturity and some of them are being harvested.

## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

#### 4.1.1 Cattle prices

- Current average price of four year old medium size bull increased from Kshs 18,000 in March to 20,315 in the month under review Due to more market demand and improved livestock body condition.
- Highest average prices was recorded in Pastoral cattle livelihood zones in Wajir south and lowest recorded in Agro-pastoral livelihood zones in North.
- Current average prices is above the long term average (LTA) and previous year's price.
- Market shows that there is improvement in the market.

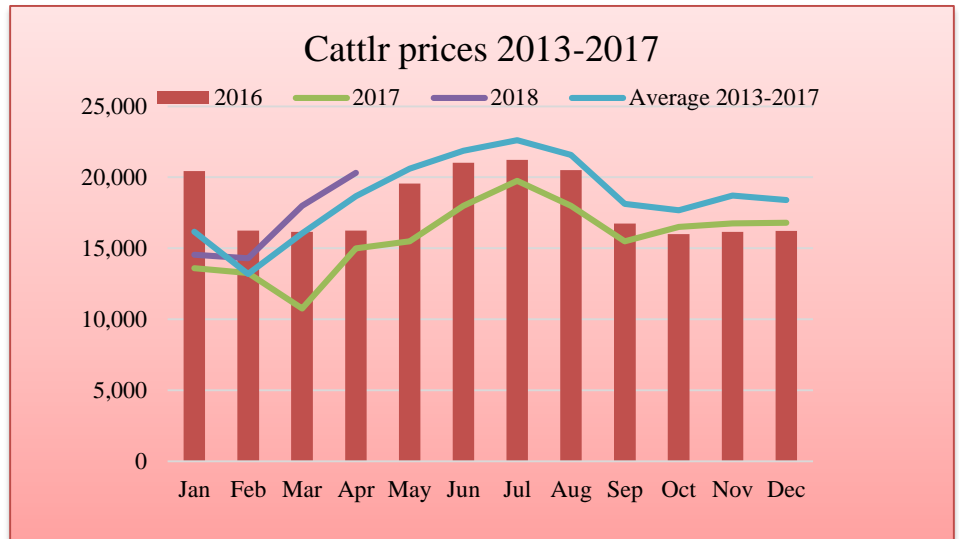


Figure 7: A graph of current cattle price against the long term (2013-17) mean prices

#### 4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- Current average price of a two year old goat increased from Kshs 3,148 in March to Kshs 3,766 in the month under review due to high market demand and improved livestock body condition.
- The livelihood with the highest prices was noted in urban town in Wajir market, Habaswein Market and Dagahley Market while lowest was recorded the Rural area.

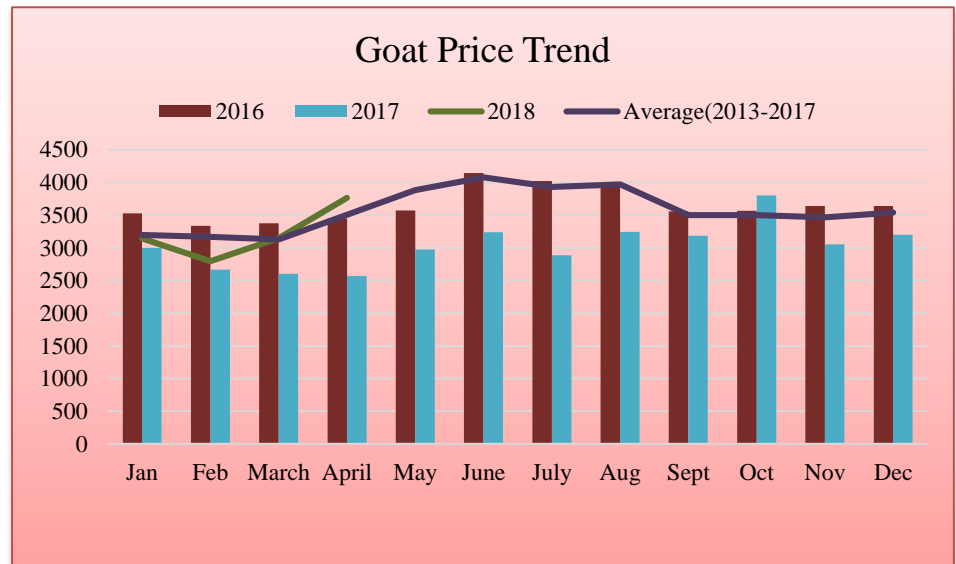


Figure 8: A graph of current year goat prices against the short-term mean 2013-2017

- Current average price is higher than the Long term average (LTA) and previous month price and this is normal at this time of the year, Current price of goat improved.

#### 4.1.3 Camel price

- Current average price of four year old Camel slightly decreased from Kshs 30,333 in March to Kshs 28,166 in April 2018 as a result of high supply and low demand in the market.



- Livelihood zones with the highest price was recorded in Wajir West, Tarbaj and lowest recorded in Wajir South and Wajir North.
- Current average price of camel is below long term average (LTA) and above previous year's month price.
- Compared with the three year average the market price for camel indicated decrease due to more supply and less demand. However compared to previous years month average market is favourable, this is normal for the time of the year.

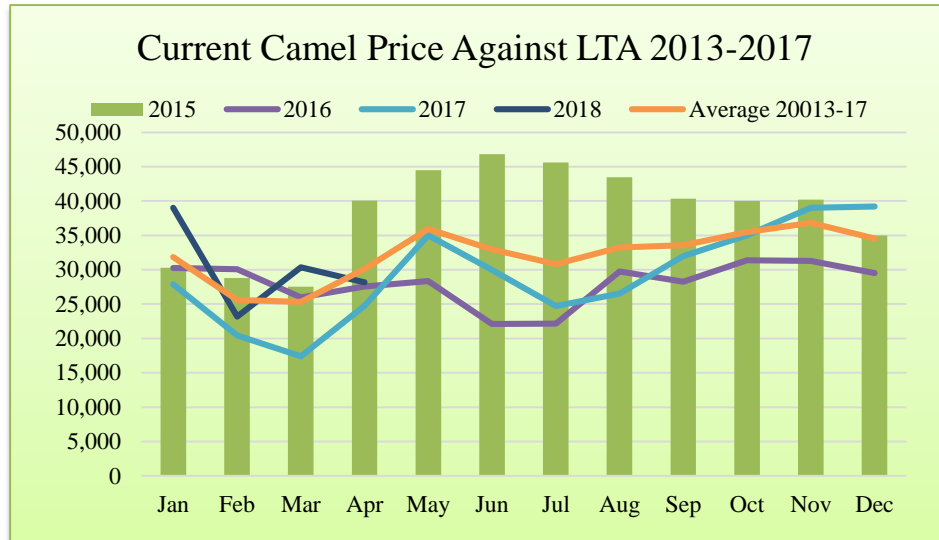


Figure 9: A graph of current camel prices against the long term mean (2013-2017).

## 4.2 CROP PRICES

### 4.2.1 Maize

- Current average maize price remained the same from Kshs 51 per kg in March to Kshs 51 per kg in April due to high supply and relief food distribution by the government.
- The highest maize prices was recorded in the agro-pastoral livelihood zones and lowest prices were recorded in Pastoral cattle livelihood zones in Wajir South.

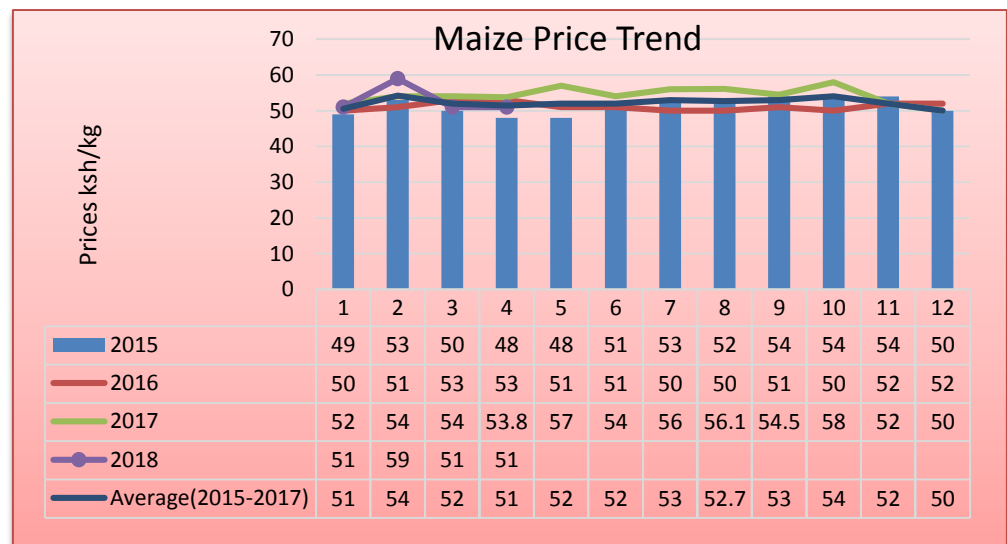


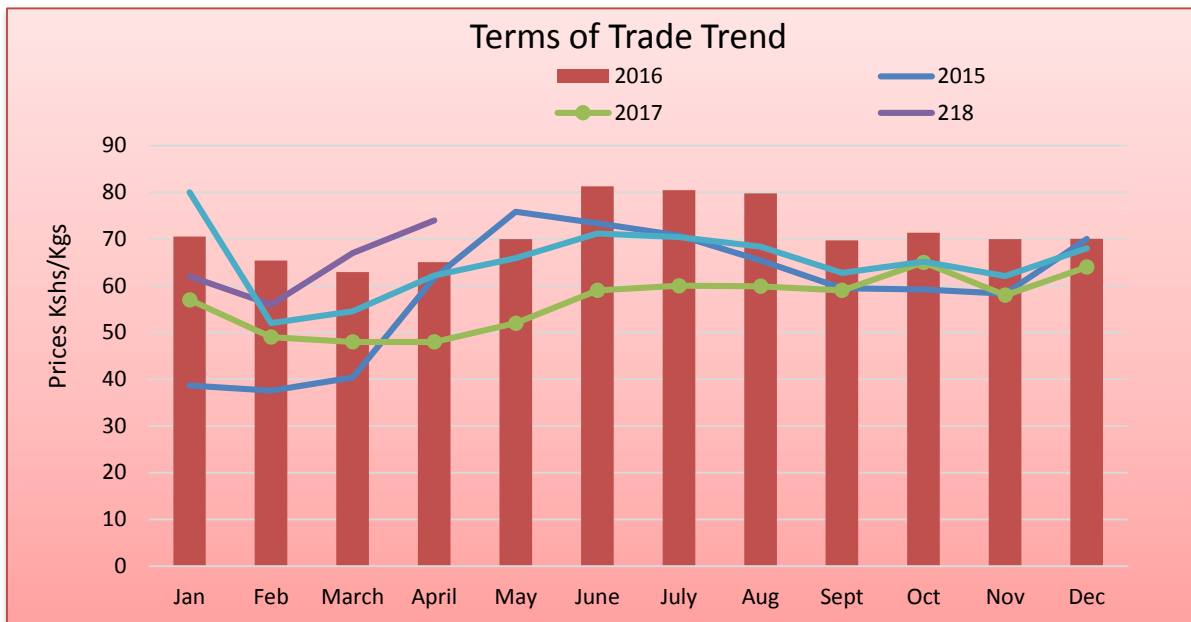
Figure 10: A graph of Current Maize Trend

- Current maize price was equal to the long term average and below previous year's month Price, as Compared to long term average and previous year price this is not normal.

#### 4.2.1.1 Other outstanding observation

- Maize been not staple food consumed in Wajir, Major staple food utilized are rice, beans, meat, milk and spaghetti in all the livelihood zones.

### 4.3 Livestock Price Ratio/Terms of Trade (TOT)

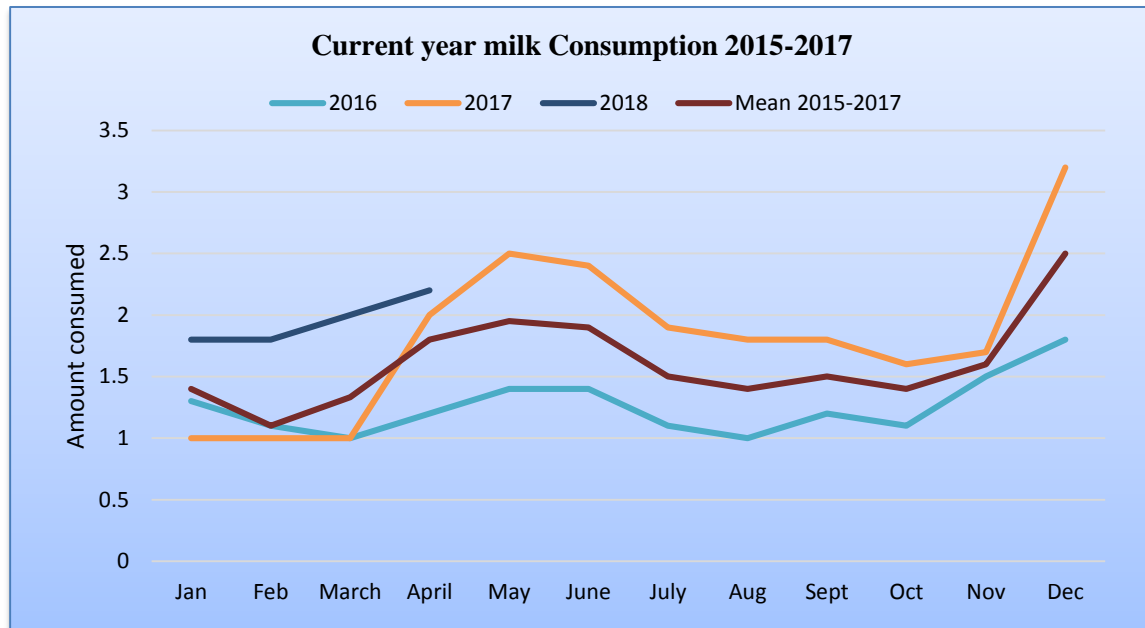


*Figure 11: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long term (2015-2017) mean price*

- Current household terms of trade increased from 67kg in March to 74kg in April as a result of increase in goat price and stability in maize price, Terms of trade is still favourable as compared to the previous month.
- Current term of trade is above the long term average and previous year's month average.
- No market disruption reported during the month.

## 5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

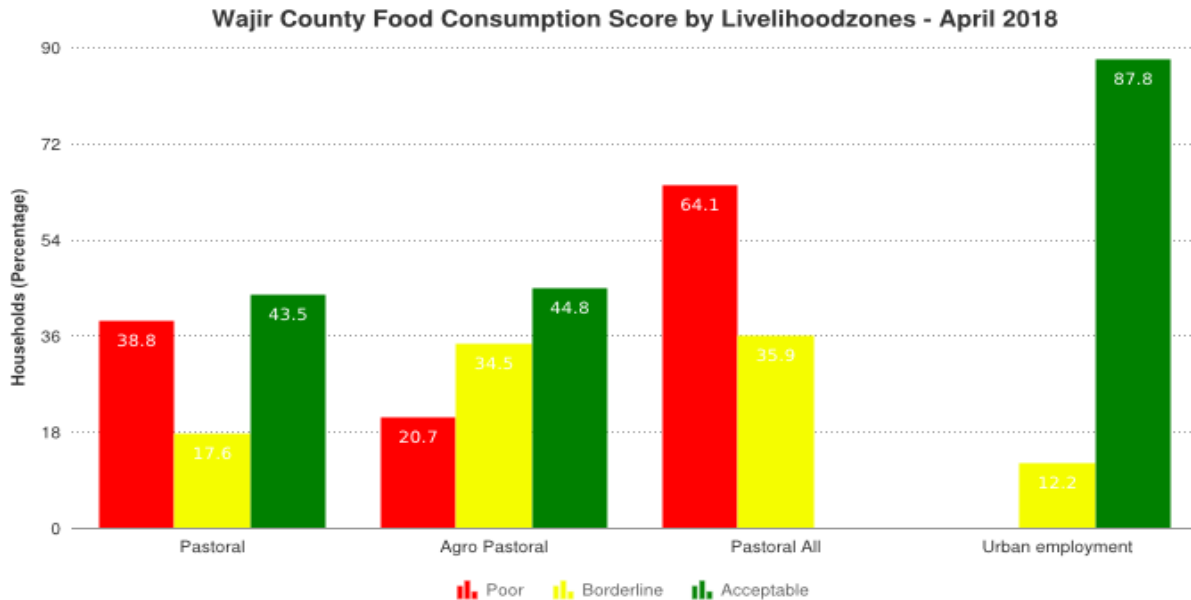
### 5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION



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

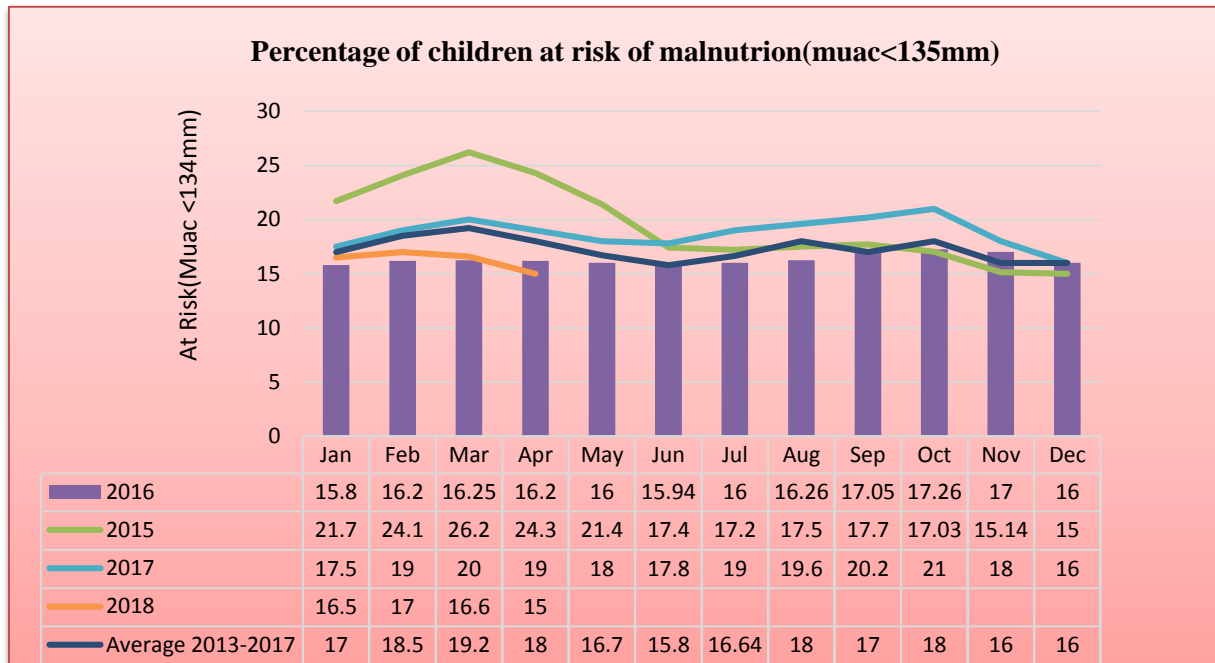
- Current average milk consumption per household per day slightly increased from 2.0litres in March to 2.2 liters in the month under review per household per day thus improving nutrition status of children under five.
- Current average household milk consumption per household per day is above both the long term average and previous year's price, which is normal for the period of the year,
- Current highest milk production was reported in Pastoral camel in Wajir East, pastoral all species livelihood zones in Wajir West, Pastoral cattle livelihood zones in Wajir South, Agro-pastoral livelihood zones in Wajir North and Tarbaj while lowest was recorded in Eldas.
- Highest species producing milk are Mainly Camel and Cattle.

## 5.2 Food Consumption Score



- Pastoral all and pastoral livelihood zones are the household with the highest poor dietary diversity with a score of 64.1% and 38.8% in April as compared to 62.3% and 44.4% in March respectively.
- As compared to the previous month Pastoral livelihood zones decline slightly in April from a score of 44.4% to a score of 38.8% while pastoral all species livelihood zones increased from a score of 62.3% to a score of 64% respectively.
- In agro-pastoral livelihood zones 20.7% of the households are in poor as compared to previous month with a score of 18.6% others moving to Borderline and acceptable.
- In pastoral all species livelihood zone 64.1% of the households have poor dietary diversity in the month under review as compared to March with 62.3% indicating a slight decrease 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 640 children (6-59months) were sampled for both girls and boys and assessed for malnutrition using muac Tape. From the sampled children, 15.0% were at risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135 mm) as compared to previous month which was 16.6% indicating an improvement in Malnutrition.
- In Wajir North Sub-county (Bute and Buna/Batalu) total number of Sample children assessed for malnutrition using Muac Tape for boys and girls, From the sample children 9.0% were at risk of malnutrition(MUAC <135 mm) when compared to previous month which was 11.2% showing an improvement in malnutrition.
- Wajir South Sub-county total number of sampled children assessed for malnutrition using Muac were 161,from the sample children 13.1% were at Risk of malnutrition(MUAC <135 mm) when compared to previous month which was 15.8% showing an improvement in malnutrition.

#### 5.3.1 Nutrition Status

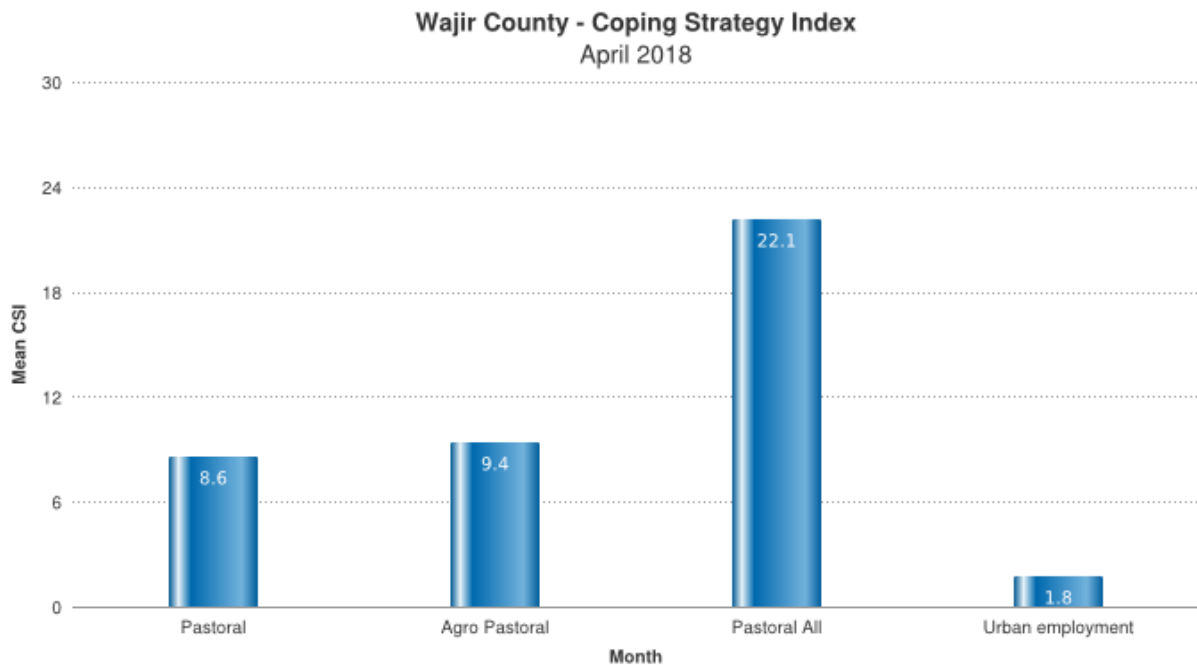
- The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition in the month of March decreased from 16.6 to 15.0 in the month under review.
- The proportion of children under five with severe category increased from 0.6% in March to 0.9 % in the month of April.
- The current proportion((MUAC <135 mm) is below the long term average and previous year's month average, showing an improvement in malnutrition as compared to previous year's month.

#### 5.3.2 Health

Malnutrition reports for children less than 5 years: 16 children were admitted as in-patients for Management of Severe Malnutrition 354 new children (6-59 months) were admitted to the Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) while 1273 children (6-59 months) were admitted to Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP). (Source: DHIS March 2018). Under 5 year's morbidity in March was; diarrhoea (2958), pneumonia (1322), diseases of the skin including

wounds (785), Confirmed malaria (10), Urinary tract Infection 280. (Source: DHIS March 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



*Figure15: A graph showing average (2015-2017) (coping strategy index (CSI) against the current trend*

- Pastoral all species livelihood zones applied more coping strategy while pastoral and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones employed less coping strategy. The mean CSI for the county is 11.3 as compared to the previous month which showed 11.79 showing less coping was employed.
- 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

- Routine Monitoring and treatment of human disease- ongoing
- Food for Asset(FFA)
- Rehabilitation, servicing and equipping of Borehole
- Routine Livestock disease surveillance in the County

### 6.2 Food Aid.

- Relief food distribution by National Government.

## **7.0 EMERGING ISSUES**

### **7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement**

- There were no cases of insecurity reported in the county during the month under review.
- Following the heavy rains that is ongoing cases of flood were reported in some parts county which hard impacted negatively on the households.

### **Migration**

No migration of livestock reported within and outside the county since heavy rains witnessed in all livelihood zones and regeneration pasture and browse improved.

### **7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS**

- Pasture condition in the county is likely to improve further as the rains continues and expected to deteriorate after two to three month.
- No migration of livestock expected during the month due to availability of pasture and browse.
- Water availability and accessibility in the county will likely be good and thereafter deteriorate during the dry spell.
- Livestock body condition will likely improve further and thereafter decline during the month of June and July 2018
- Distance to water source will likely decrease and thereafter increase during the dry spell.
- Availability of milk is expected to increase further as the livestock body condition improved.
- Nutrition status will likely improve due to availability and accessibility of milk in all livelihood zones and thereafter deteriorate during the dry spell.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Health & Nutrition.**

- Strengthening and Capacity building of health worker on IMAM
- Scale up of HINI/IMAM/IYCN interventions-ongoing.
- Conducting an Outreach services and Scale up on daily basis –ongoing
- Routine Monitoring of malnutrition in the county
- Water Treatment(Aqua tabs, PUR, chlorine powder

### **Livestock Sector**

- Routine surveillance by monitoring and treatment of animals that will be migrating back into the County against FMD, PPR, CBPP and CCPP.
- Monitoring of Livestock Market trend

### **Water Sector**

- Water hygiene and sanitation standards must be observed in order to minimise chances of outbreak of water borne diseases
- Improved water harvesting technologies and sensitization of the communities on the methods of harvesting water during this rainy season

### **Agriculture Sector:**

- Provision of farm inputs to the farmers