

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



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



**JULY EW PHASE 2018**



**Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification**

**Biophysical Indicators**

**Rainfall Report**

The county did not receive any rainfall in the month of July, although characterised by cold, windy and cloudy weather in most part of Wajir County.

**Vegetation condition:** Current VCI in the county recorded vegetation greenness above normal with avci score of 75.1 as compared to previous month figure of 81.92 showing aslight deterioration of vegetation deficit in some livelihood zones with though no significant changes.

**Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)**

Livestock body condition is good in all livelihood zones. Pasture and browse condition remained to be good, Slight decline in Milk production. Minimal Migration of livestock witnessed. Cases of livestock disease reported, Terms of trade favourable. Slight increase in trekking distance. Percentage of children under five at risk of malnutrition remained stable. More coping strategies were employed, compared to previous month.

**Early Warning Phase Classification**

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Normal	Improving
Pastoral cattle	Normal	Improving
Pastoral-all species	Normal	Improving
Pastoral camel	Normal	Improving
Informal employment	Normal	Improving
County	Normal	Improving
Biophysical Indicators	value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	0	80 -120
VCI-3Month	75.1	>35
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	good	Normal
Crop production	Poor	Good
Milk Production	2.4	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	83	>66
Milk Consumption	1.8	>3
Return Distance to water source	2.5	<5 Km
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	14.2	<6.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	12.08	<0.95

<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>								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

# 1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITION

## 1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

### 1.2 Onset

Wajir County recorded above normal rainfall during the long rains(MAM),However there were no rainfall reported in the month under review only Cold, windy and cloudy weather was experienced over most parts of the County.

#### 1.2.1 Mount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

- The county received no rainfall in July, though characterised by cold and cloudy weather during the day and night.

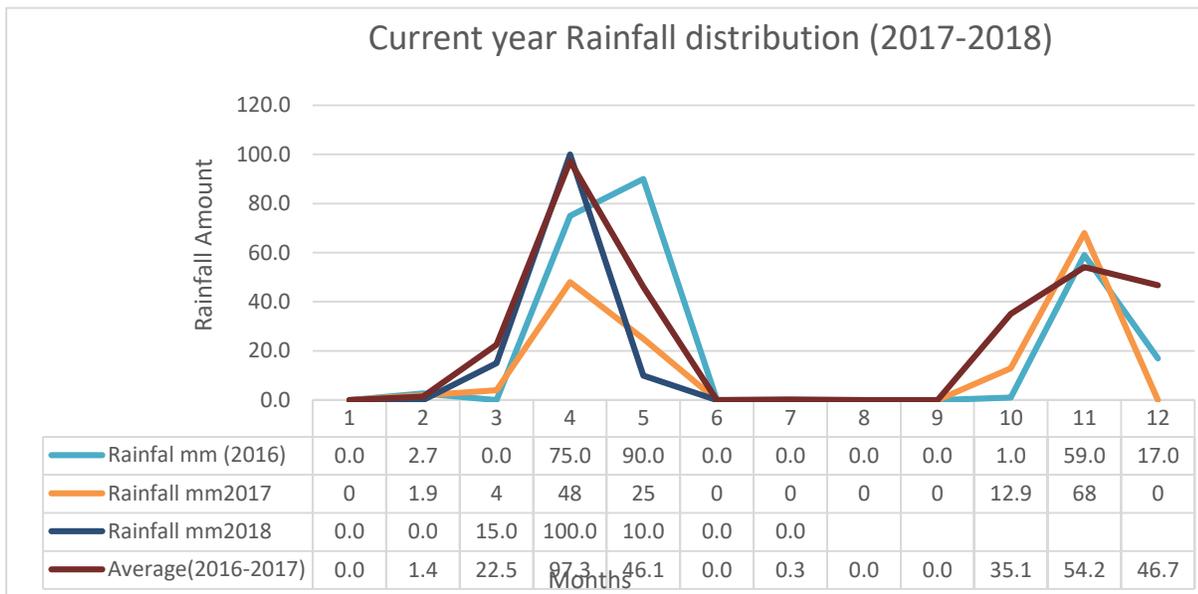


Figure 1: Rainfall Distribution

## 2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

### 2.1 Vegetation Condition

#### 2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

Current vegetation cover indexes in all livelihood zones indicated vegetation greenness above Normal with score of 75.1 in comparison to previous month with a vci of 81.92 showing a slight deficit in vegetation greenness with no significant changes. The Vegetation condition is likely to decline as the long dry spell continues.

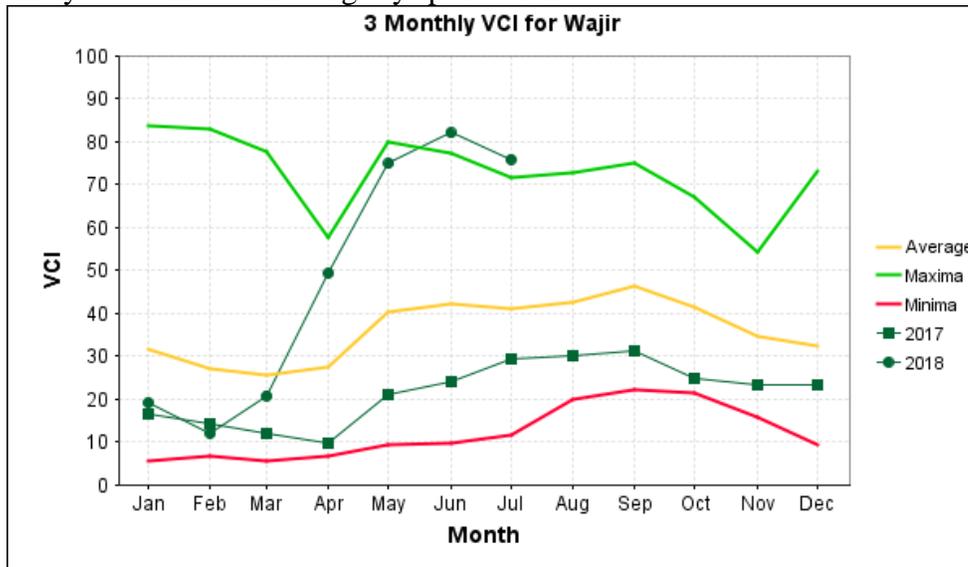


Figure 2: chart of Wajir County overall 3-monthly VCI during the month of July 2018

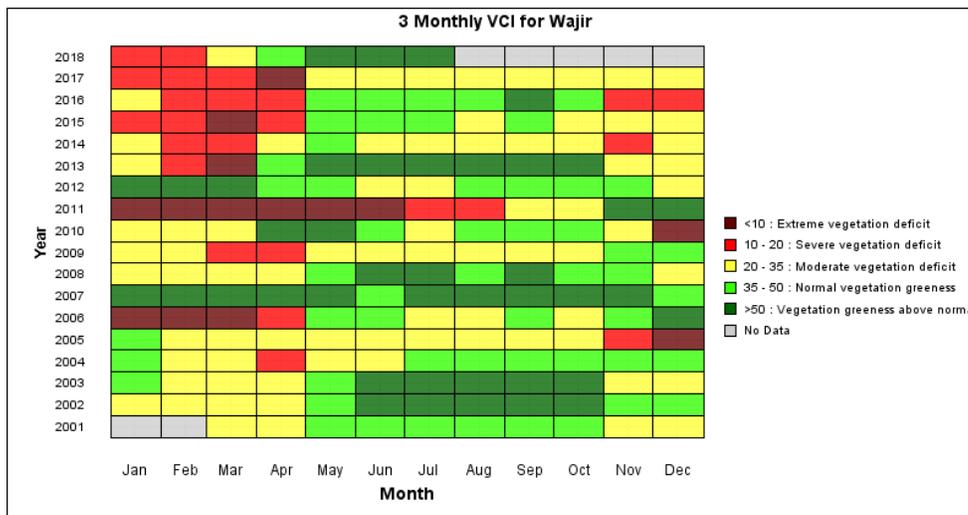


Figure 3: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir County during the month of July 2018

### 2.1.2 Pasture

- Current Pasture situation showed to be good in all livelihood zones as a result of sufficient rains recorded during MAM attributing to pasture regeneration, though slight pasture deficit witnessed as the dry spell starts.
- 87 percent of the community reported pasture to be good while the other percent reported to be fair.
- Current Pasture situation remained to be good though slight deficit of vegetation was realized as compared to the previous month due to drying up of vegetation.
- Available pasture is likely to last for a period of two months (August-September 2018).
- No constraints reported during the month.

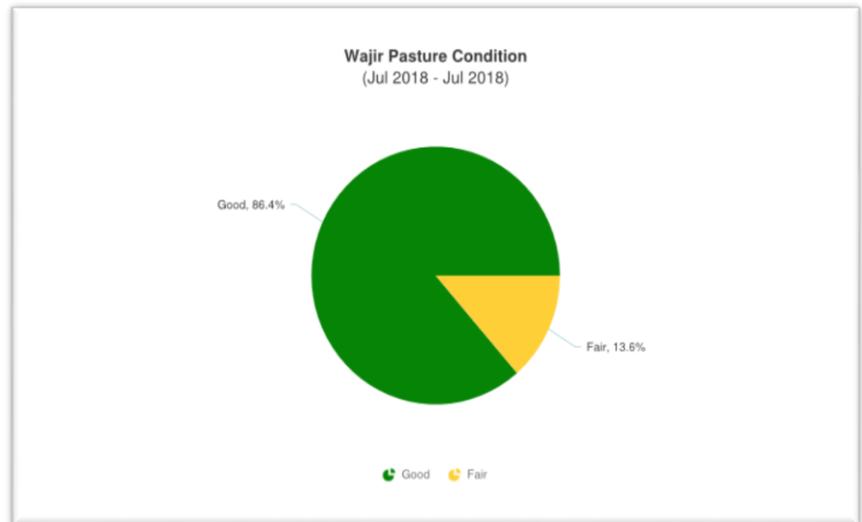


Figure 4: Pasture Condition

### 2.1.3 Browse

- Current Browse situation remained to be good due to sufficient rains recorded during previous season, where 95 percent of the sampled communities reported pasture to be normal in all livelihood zones.
- The available browse is expected to last for a period of one and half months.
- Browse condition varies according to livelihood zones where highest browse reported in pastoral camel, Agro-pastoral livelihood zones, Tarbaj and lowest Reported in Pastoral Cattle livelihood zones and Pastoral all species livelihood zones with slight variation.
- No constraints reported during the months

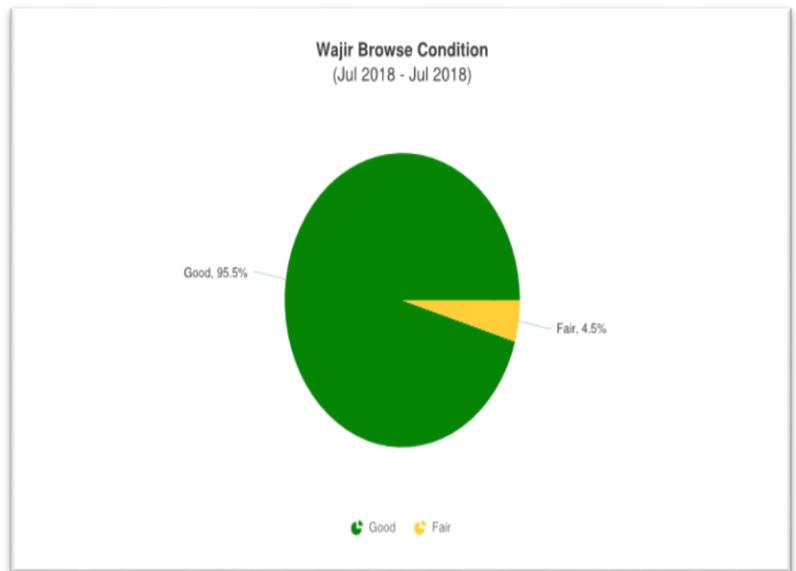


Figure 5: Browse Condition

### 2.2.0 Water Source

- Major water sources in use by both human and livestock in all livelihood zones are: boreholes, water pans, and shallow wells which is normal at this time of the year.
- Compared to the Current situation to the previous month the quality and Quantity of water remained same due to full recharge of water pans during previous season.
- Available water is likely to last for a duration of two and half months

## 2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

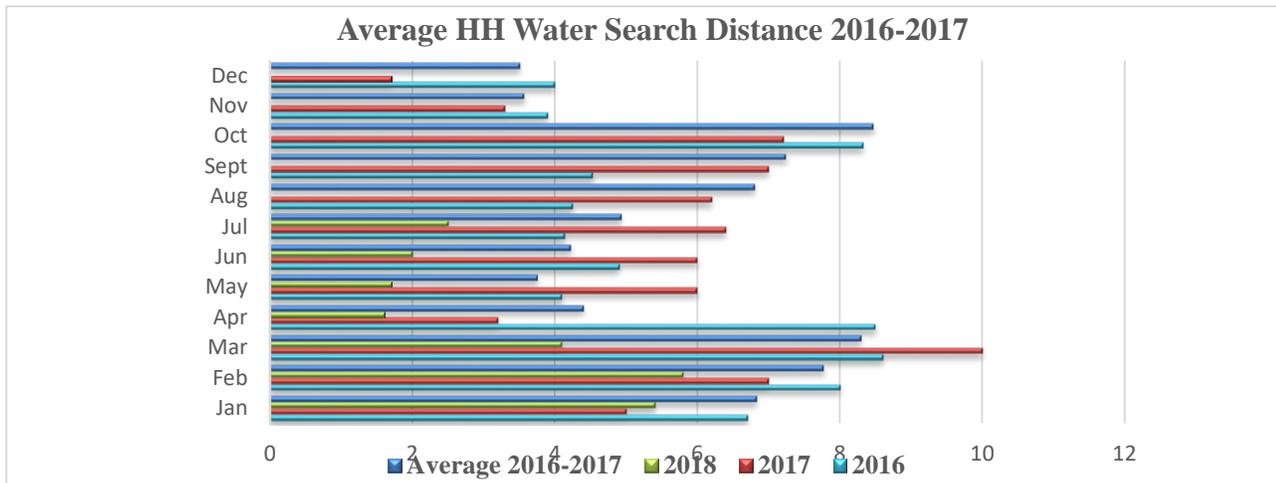


Figure 6: A chart indicating return distance to water sources against 2016-2017 average

- Current average household return distances to main water sources slightly increased from 2.0km in June to 2.5 km in the month under review due to evaporation, although water pans are still fully recharged with water.
- Current average water consumption per person per day remained the same as water pans in the county are still fully recharged.
- The proportion of pastoral households that treat water was too little with some households in the town’s treat water.

## 2.2.3 Livestock access

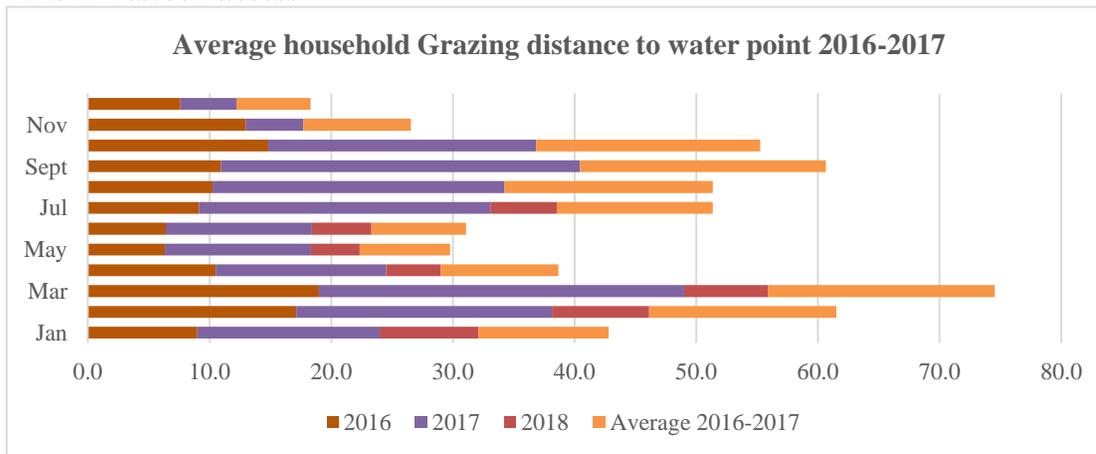


Figure 7: A graph indicating current grazing distance against (2015-2016) average

- Current average trekking distance from grazing area to water point increased from 4.9km in June to 5.4 km in July due to slight deficit in vegetation attributing to dry up of pasture, though pasture, water and browse is within normal.
- Average grazing distance is below the long term average and previous year’s month average which is normal.
- Frequency of watering livestock from grazing area to water points remained the same as the distance increased slightly with no significant changes in the county.
- Watering frequencies for livestock species were watered on daily basis as a result of available water and full recharged of water sources.
- Livestock Distance from grazing area varies according to livelihood zones where the highest grazing distance was still reported in Wajir south, and Wajir west and lowest was reported in Wajir North, Wajir East and Tarbaj.

### 3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

#### 3.1 Livestock production

##### 3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Livestock body condition in the county still remained to be Normal in all livestock species
- In comparison to the previous month the livestock body remained to be good due to sufficient rains recorded during the season resulted to availability of pasture and browse.,
- Compared to the current body condition to previous year livestock body condition improved significantly.

##### 3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- Currently incidence of Rift valley fever were reported in some pockets of Wajir county Particularly Pastoral cattle in Wajir South and other cases of CCPP, PPR and sheep and goat pox in the entire county.

##### 3.1.3 Milk Production

- Current average milk production per household per day decreased from 2.5litres in June to 2.4 litres in July with no significant changes but the decline was due to the start of the dry spell and low calving rate.
- Current average milk production is way above the long term average and previous year average indicating an improvement in milk production thus making household food secure. This is normal at this time of the year.
- Highest milk production was reported in pastoral all species, Pastoral camel and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones while lowest recorded in Eldas.

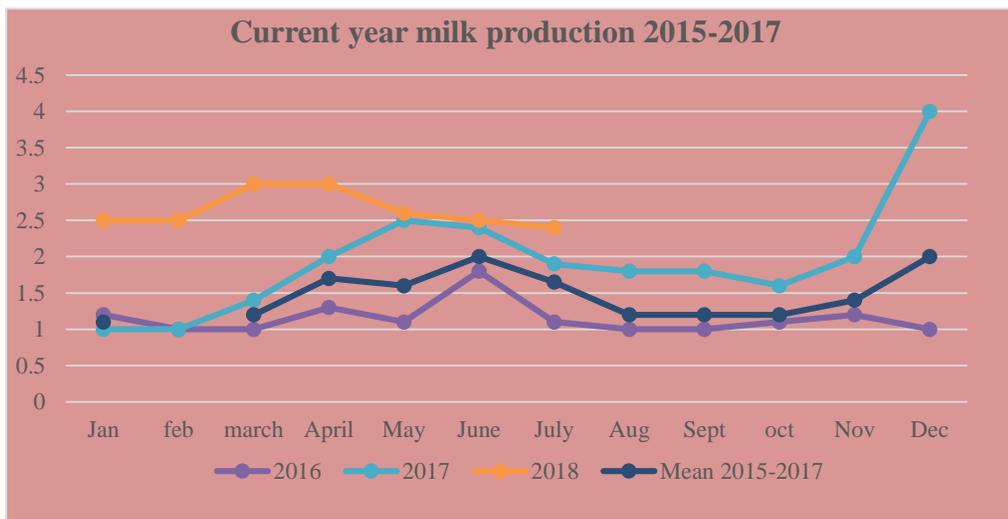


Figure 8: Current Household milk production against (2007-2016) long-term average

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

- Farmers are now harvesting their crop 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.

## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

#### 4.1.1 Cattle prices

- Current average price of four year old medium size bull increased 21,272 in June to 22,571 in July due to good livestock body condition, high market demand and less supply of livestock.
- Highest average prices were recorded in Wajir Town and lowest reported in the rural areas.
- Current average price is below the long term average (LTA) but above previous year's average, this is normal
- Market indicates that prices are favourable as compared to previous year.

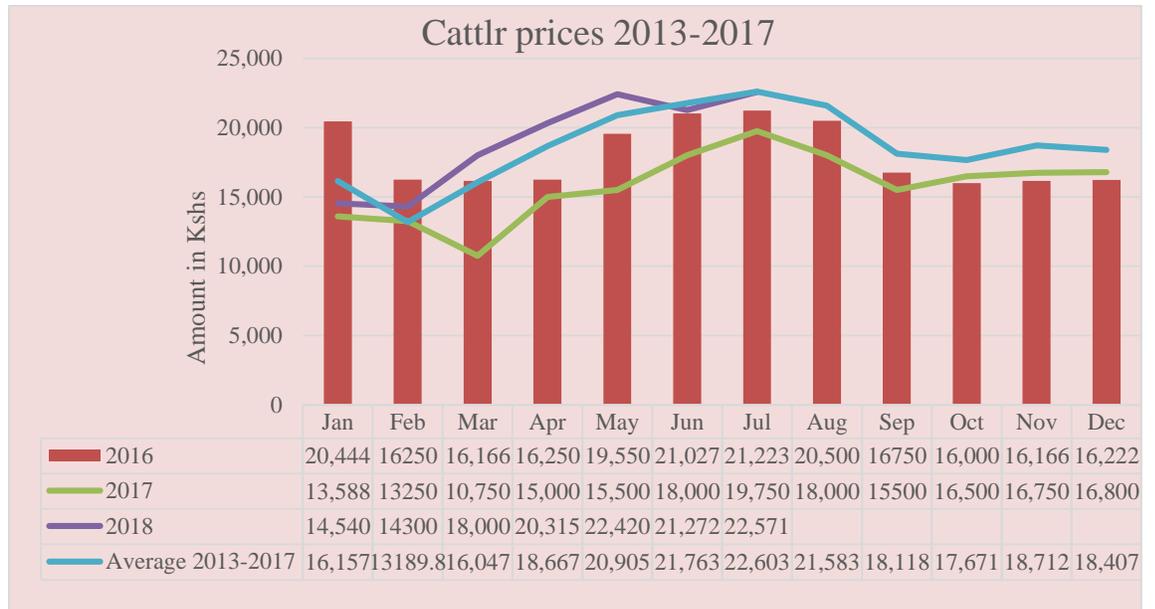


Figure 9: A graph of current cattle price against the long term (2013-17) mean prices

#### 4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- Current average price of a two year old goat increased from Kshs 3,636 in June to Kshs 3,990 in July due to high market demand, less supply, good livestock body condition as a result of good pasture and browse.
- Current average price is above the Long term average (LTA) and above previous month average indicating an improvement in prices
- The areas with the highest prices were recorded in urban towns and lowest reported in rural areas.



Figure 10: A graph of current Goat price against the long term (2013-17) mean prices

### 4.1.3 Camel price

- Current average price of four year old Camel increased from Kshs 28,166 in June to Kshs 37,400 in July due to high market demand and good livestock body condition due to available pasture, browse and reduced trekking distance.
- Current average price of camel is above the long term average (LTA) and previous year's month price due to increased market demand and less supply of livestock in the market showing an improvement in the market.
- Livelihood zone with the highest price was recorded in Dagahley market in Wajir south, Wajir Town and lowest recorded in Eldas Sub-county and Wajir North.

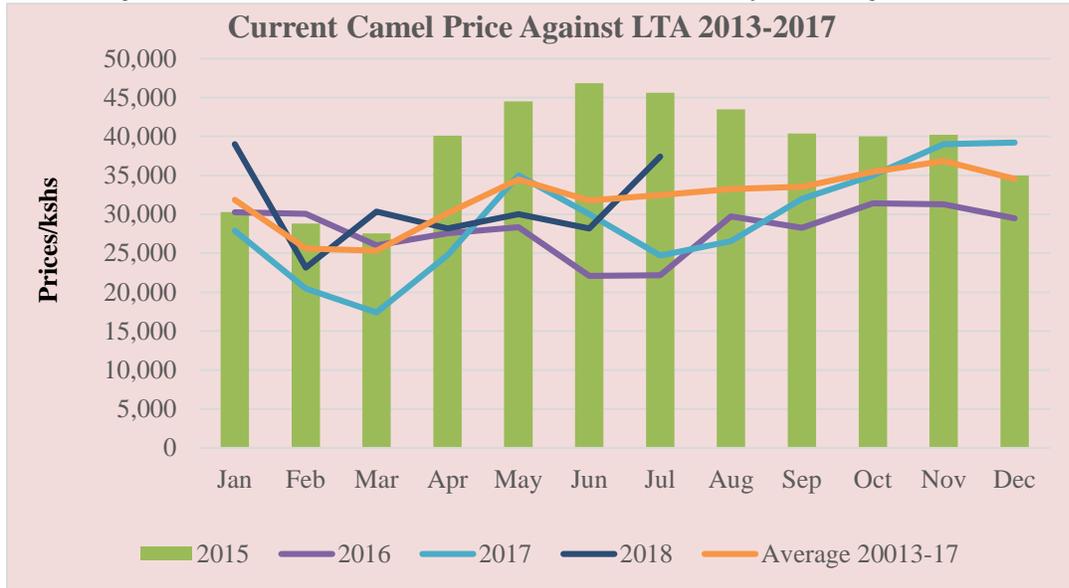


Figure 11: A graph of current camel prices against the long term mean (2013-2017).

## 4.2 CROP PRICES

### 4.2.1 Maize

- Current average maize price remained stable in the months of July due to more stock available in the market and less market demand resulting to a stable market price.
- The highest maize prices was reported in the rural areas and lowest reported in urban areas.
- Current maize price is below the long term average and previous year's price as a result of more stocks in the market and less demand, since Maize is not a stable food in the market.

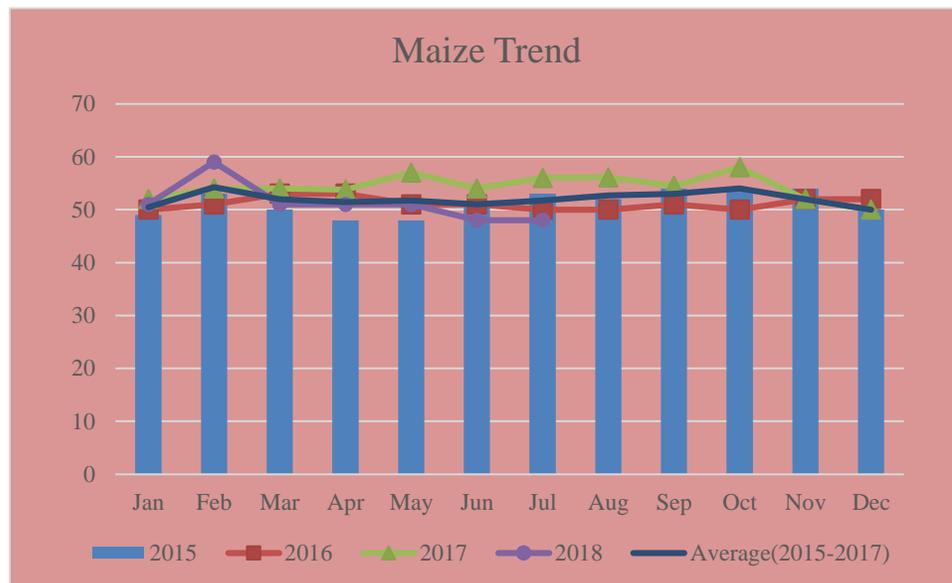


Figure 12: A graph of Current Maize Trend (2015-2017)

#### 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)

- Current household terms of trade increased significantly from 75kg in June to 83kgs in the month under review due to increase in goat prices and stable maize prices indicating Market prices Favourable.
- Current term of trade is above the long term average and previous year's month average as compared to previous month and previous season making terms of trade favourable.

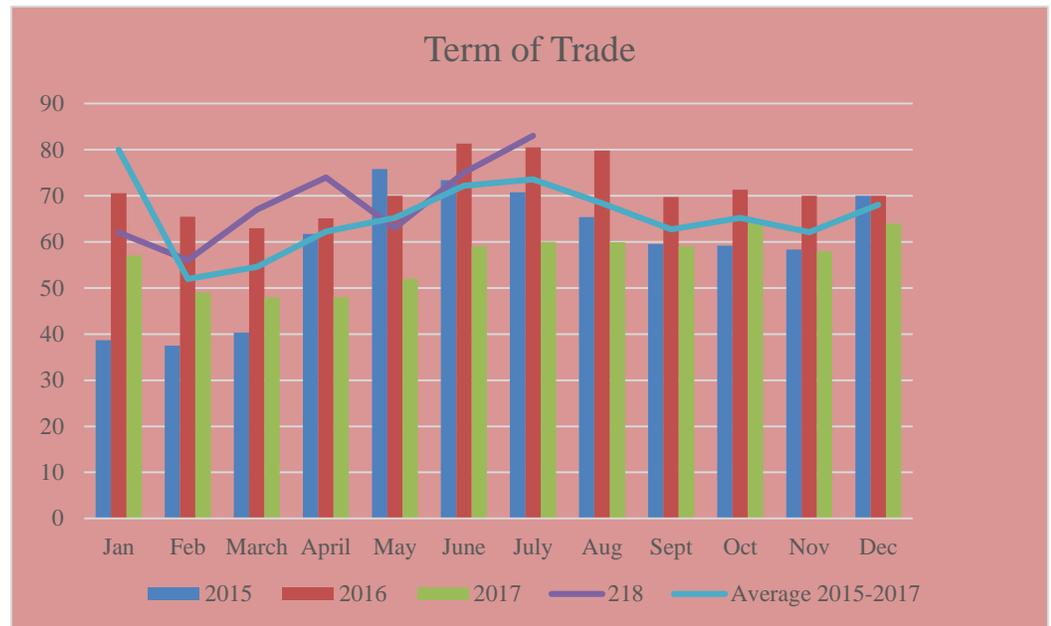


Figure13: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long term (2015-2017) mean price

## 5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

### 5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- Current average milk consumption per household per day remained stable recording 1.8 litres as compared to previous month due to availability of milk production, good livestock body condition and reduced trekking distance.
- Current average household milk consumption per household per day is above the long term average and previous year's average as a result of good livestock body condition attributed availability of pasture, browse and reduced trekking distance thus improving malnutrition.

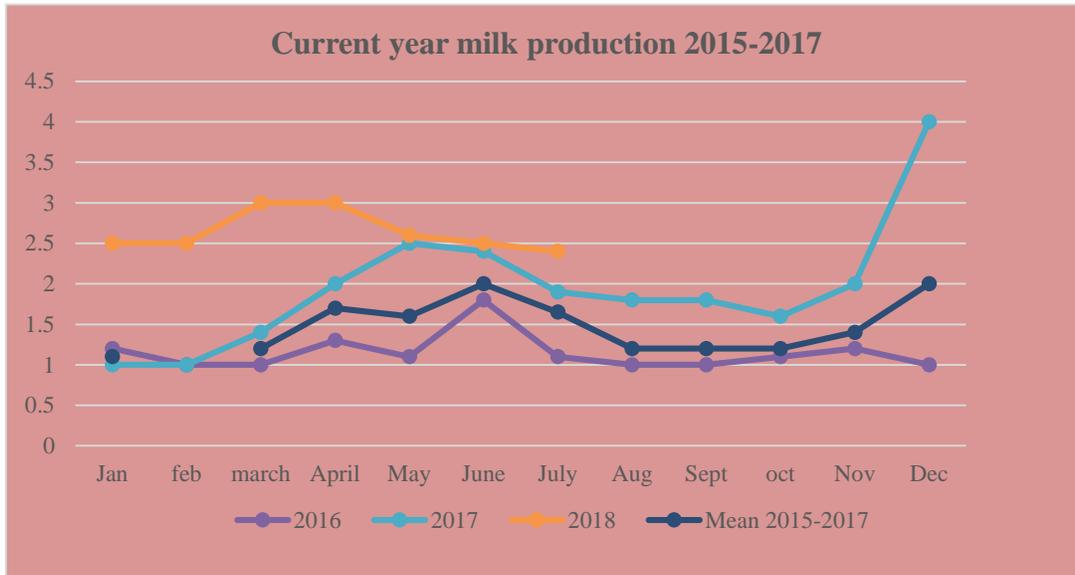
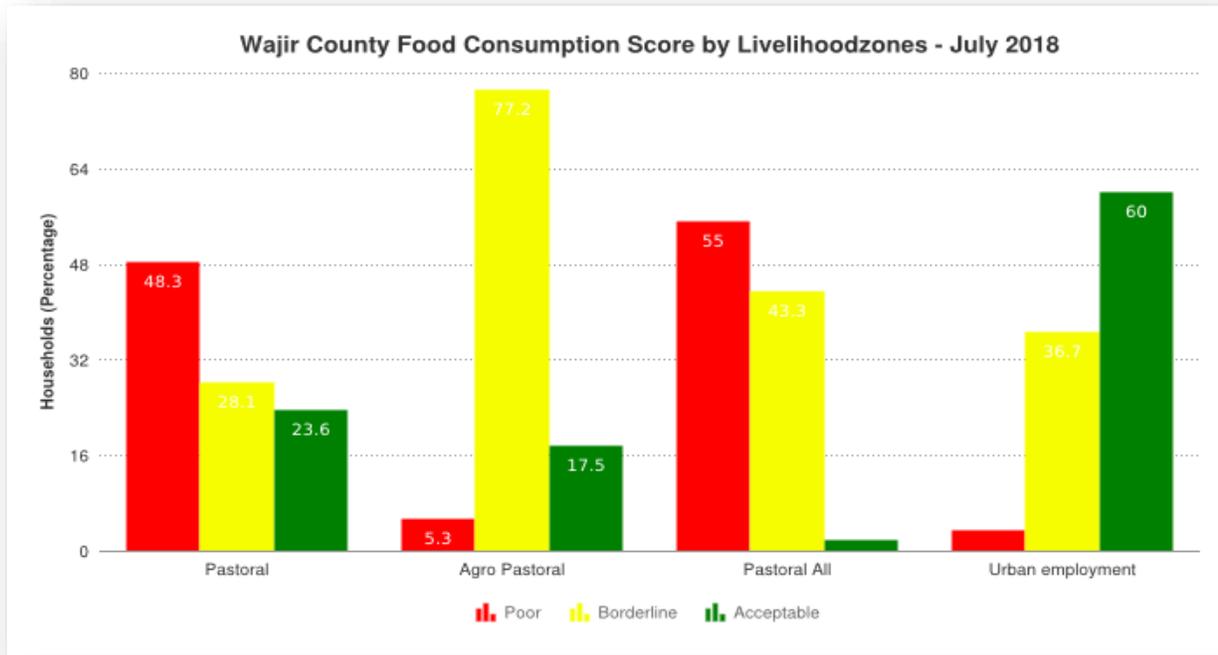


Figure 12: A graph showing current average milk consumption for Wajir against (2015-2017) mean

- Highest milk consumption was recorded in Pastoral all species in Wajir West, Pastoral cattle in Wajir South and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones in Wajir north and lowest was recorded in Eldas.
- Highest producing milk is Mainly Camel and Cattle.

## 5.2 :Food Consumption Score



- Pastoral all species and Pastoral livelihood zones are the proportion of household with poor score of 55 and 48.3 while other households are in Borderline and Acceptable ,as compared to previous month of June where Pastoral livelihood zones, Pastoral all species, Agro-pastoral and Urban employment Score 58.2,53.3,43.3 and 32.2 respectively showing an improve in food consumption. This shows that the proportion of households sampled most of them are between Borderline and Acceptable while few other households are in poor indicating an improvement in food consumption.

## 5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATU

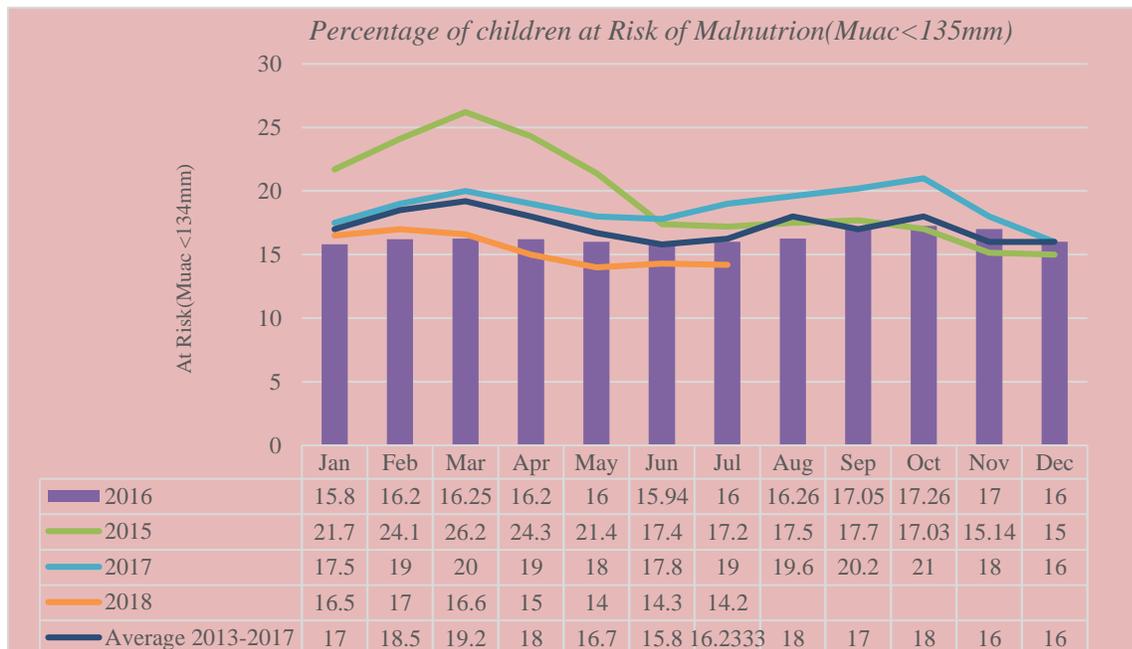


Figure 13: A graph of Nutritional status of children between 12-59 months against (2013-17) long-term mean

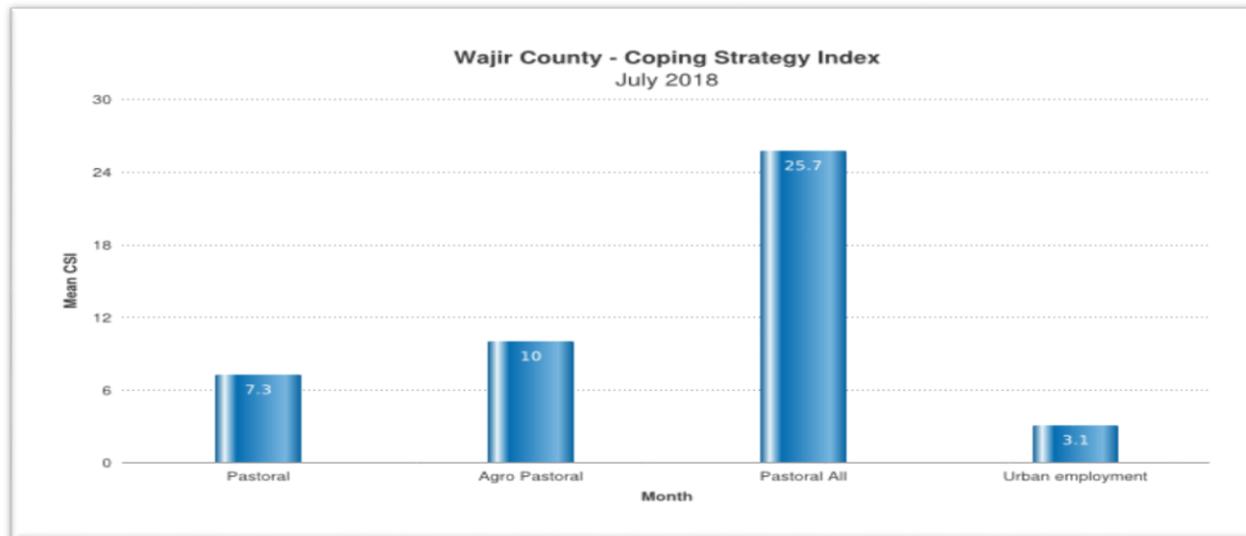
- In Wajir a total of 655 children (6-59months) were sampled for both girls and boys and assessed for malnutrition using MUAC Tape. From the sampled children, 14.2% were at risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135 mm) as compared to previous month which was 14.3% which remained due to availability of milk production indicating an improvement in malnutrition.
- In Wajir North Sub-county (Bute and Buna/Batalu) a total of 178 children were assessed for malnutrition using Muac Tape for boys and girls, From the sample children 19.5% were at risk of malnutrition(MUAC <135 mm) when compared to previous month which was 16.5% showing an increase in malnutrition, while The proportion of children under five with severe category decreased from 0.6% in June to 0.0% in the month under review showing a decline in the number of children with severe category
- In Wajir South Sub-county a total of 151 children were assessed for malnutrition using Muac both girl and boys, from the sample children 6.0% were at Risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135 mm) when compared to previous month which was 8.8% an improvement in malnutrition.

### 5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition in the month of July remained the same as compared to previous month due to availability of milk at household level thus improved malnutrition status of children under five.

**5.3** The proportion of children under five with severe category decreased from 0.9% in June to 0.0% in the month under review showing a great improvement.

## COPING STRATEGY INDEX



**Figure14:** A graph showing average (2015-2017) (coping strategy index (CSI) against the current trend

- Pastoral all species livelihood zones still employed more coping strategy with an index of 25.7 as compared to previous months of 24.8 indicating an increase in coping strategies, while other households in all livelihood zones applied less coping strategy. The mean CSI for the county is 12.08 as compared to the previous month which showed 11.3 showing more coping strategy was applied.
- Reduced the number of meals taken per day.
- Reduced the quantity of food consumed by adult/mothers
- Relied on less preferred and less expensive food

## **6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)**

### **6.1 Non-food interventions.-Ongoing**

- Monitoring and treatment of human disease- ongoing
- Food for Asset(FFA)-Ongoing
- Livestock disease surveillance in the County-ongoing

### **6.2 Food Aid.**

- Relief food distribution by National Government.

## **7. 0 EMERGING ISSUES**

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

- There were no incidence of insecurity witnessed in the county.

### **7.2 Migration**

- No Migration of livestock reported to other counties except there was little migration of livestock within the sub-counties.

### **7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS**

- Pasture condition will likely deteriorate in the next two months and thereafter regenerate during the onset of the OND.
- Available milk production are expected to deteriorate as the dry spell continues and thereafter and improve during the short Rains.
- Nutrition status is expected to remain stable for the next one month due to availability of milk and thereafter deteriorate.
- Migration of livestock is likely to increase as the dry spell continues and decline in pasture condition will be expected in the coming two months.
- Water availability and accessibility in all livelihood zones are likely to be good in the next two months and thereafter deteriorate during the dry spell.
- Livestock body condition will likely remain to be good in the next one months and thereafter decrease during September 2018.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Health & Nutrition.**

- Strengthening and Capacity building of health worker on IMAM
- Scale up of HINI/IMAM/IYCN interventions-ongoing
- Routine Monitoring of malnutrition in the county

### **Livestock Sector.**

- Livestock surveillance by monitoring and treatment of animals-ongoing
- 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

### **Agriculture Sector:**

- Training of farmers
- FFA-ongoing
- Training communities on CMDRR

