

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



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



SEPTEMBER EW PHASE 2018



Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

Rainfall Report

Wajir County did not receive rainfall in the month under review, though characterised by hot weather during the day and cold weather during the night.

Vegetation condition:

Current VCI in the county recorded vegetation greenness above normal with a VCI score of 74.69 as compared to previous month figure of 76.1, with all livelihood zones showing vegetation greenness above normal with a worsening trend.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Pasture and Browse condition ranges between good-fair., Livestock body condition is good except few areas in Wajir West and Wajir West, Terms of trade favourable, All Markets are operational in all livelihood zones, increase in trekking distance, in- migration and out-migration of livestock reported, decrease in Milk production. No Cases of livestock disease reported, Percentage of children under five at risk of malnutrition remained stable. More coping strategies were employed except few livelihood zones with No coping strategies.

Early Warning Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Normal	Worsening
Pastoral cattle	Normal	Worsening
Pastoral-all species	Normal	Worsening
Pastoral camel	Normal	Worsening
Informal employment	Normal	Worsening
County	Normal	Worsening
Biophysical Indicators	value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	0	80 -120
VCI-3Month	76.1	>35
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Good-Fair	Normal
Crop production	Poor	Good
Milk Production	1.8	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	102	>66
Milk Consumption	1.8	>3
Return Distance to water source	4.7	<5 Km
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	14	<6.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	11.6	<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

- Above normal Rainfall was reported during MAM, Though no rainfall recorded in the month under review.

1.2.1 Mount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

- No rainfall recorded during the month under review, though characterised by hot weather during the day and cold weather at night.

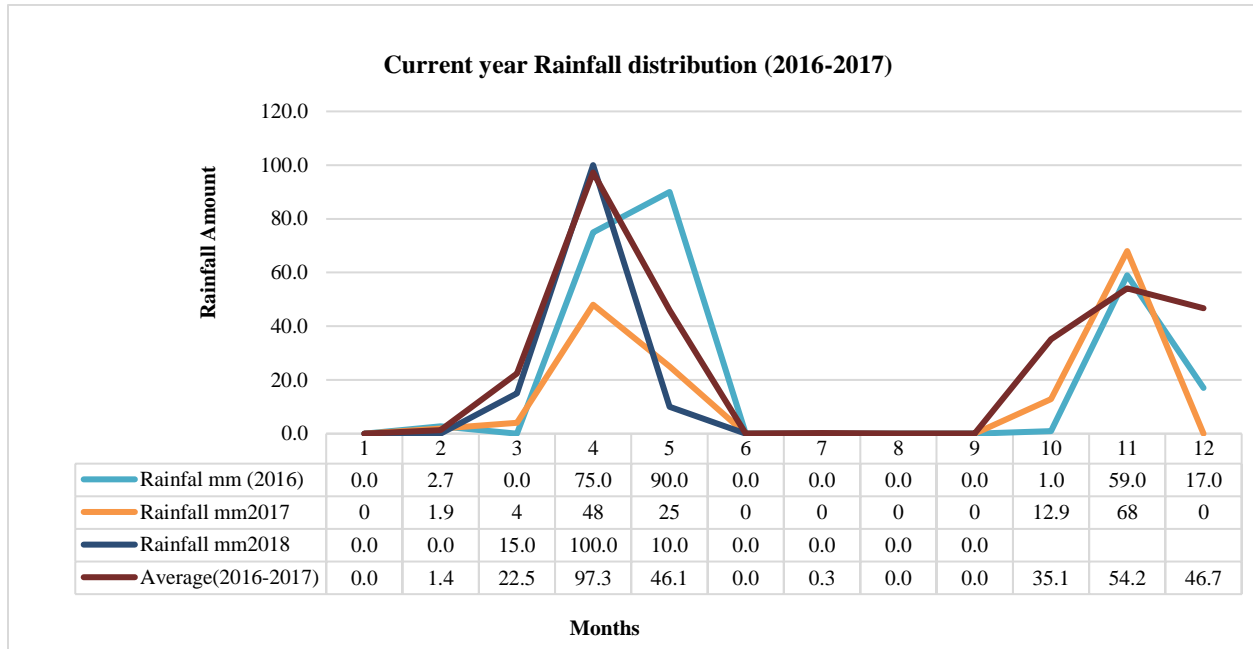


Figure 1: Rainfall Distribution

2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 Vegetation Condition

2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

Current vegetation cover indexes for the county recorded vegetation greenness above normal with a score of 74.69 as compared to previous month which recorded 76.1, indicating a worsening trend as the dry spell continues. The Vegetation condition is expected to deteriorate as the dry spell continues.

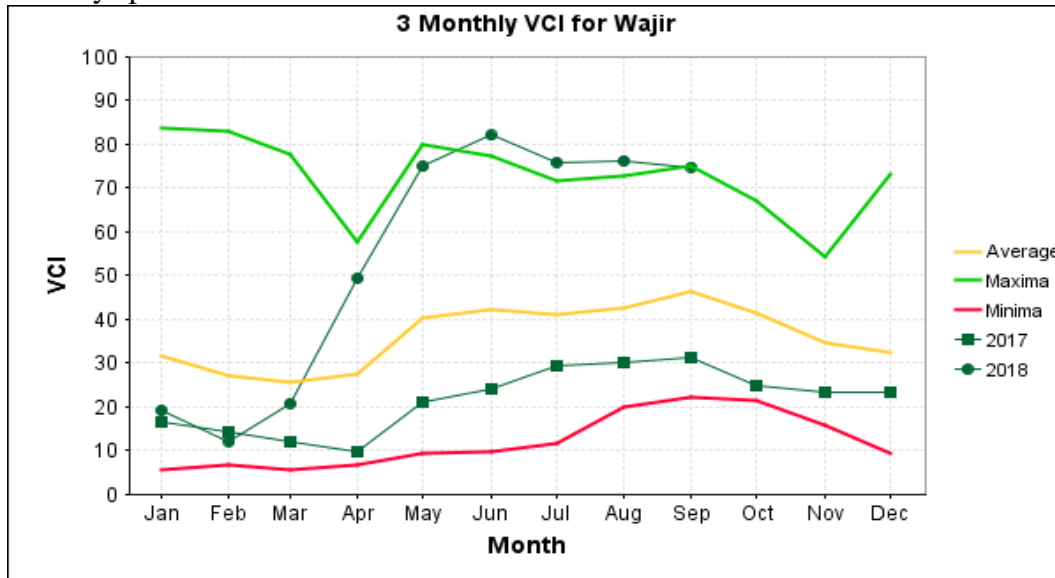


Figure 2: chart of Wajir County overall 3-monthly VCI during the month of September 2018

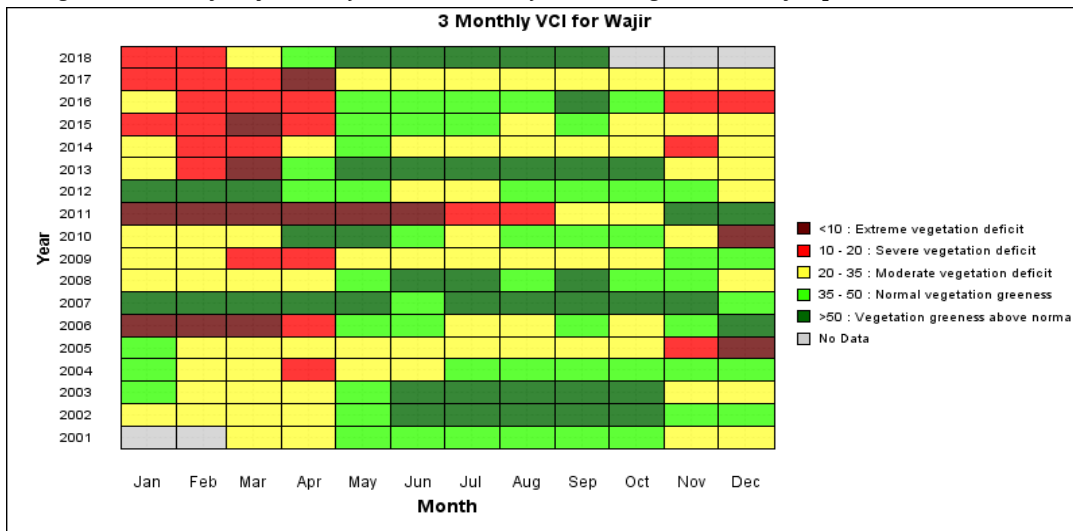


Figure 3: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir County during the month of September 2018

2.1.2 Pasture

- Current Pasture situation ranges between good to fair, where most of the pastoral households reported to be good while few others reported to be fair due to enhanced rainfall experienced during OND attributing to availability of pasture and browse.

- In comparison to the previous month, Current Pasture condition slight deteriorated as the the dry spell continues and pasture declines.
- Pasture situation varies according to livelihood zones, where highest pasture recorded in parts of Pastoral livelihood zones, Agro-pastoral livelihood zones and pastoral cattle livelihood zones and lowest reported in Eldas. .
- Available pasture is likely to last for a period of one month (October 2018).
- No constrains reported during the month under review.

2.1.3 Browse

- Current Browse situation remained to be good in all livelihood zones across the county except few areas in Wajir West and Wajir South which had effects of previous cumulative season which limited regeneration of browse.
- The available browse is expected to last for a period of one month.
- Browse condition varies according to livelihood zones where highest browse reported in Wajir East, Wajir North, and Tarbaj and lowest reported in Wajir west and Eldas. No constraints reported during the months

2.2.0 Water Source

- Main water sources in the county used by both human and livestock are: boreholes, water pans, and shallow wells. This is normal at this time of the year.
- In Comparison to the previous month, the current condition of water in all livelihood zones slightly declines as some of the water pans dried up and some are holding little water, making households and livestock to return back to boreholes due to the continuous dry spell.
- Available water is expected to last for a period of one month except areas that have dried up.

2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

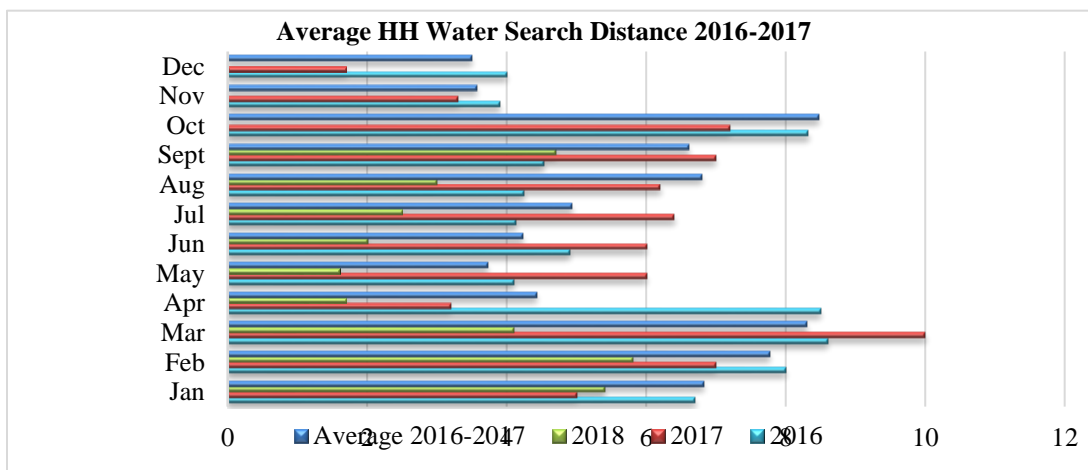


Figure 6: A chart indicating return distance to water sources against 2016-2017 average

- Current average household return distances to main water sources increased from 3km in August to 4.7km in September due to dry up of water pans thus increasing distance.
- Average water consumption per person per day still remained stable as most of the water pans are holding water in all livelihood zones except few areas that have dried up.

- Proportion of pastoral households that treat water at the rural areas is too little with some households in the urban treating water.

2.2.3 Livestock access

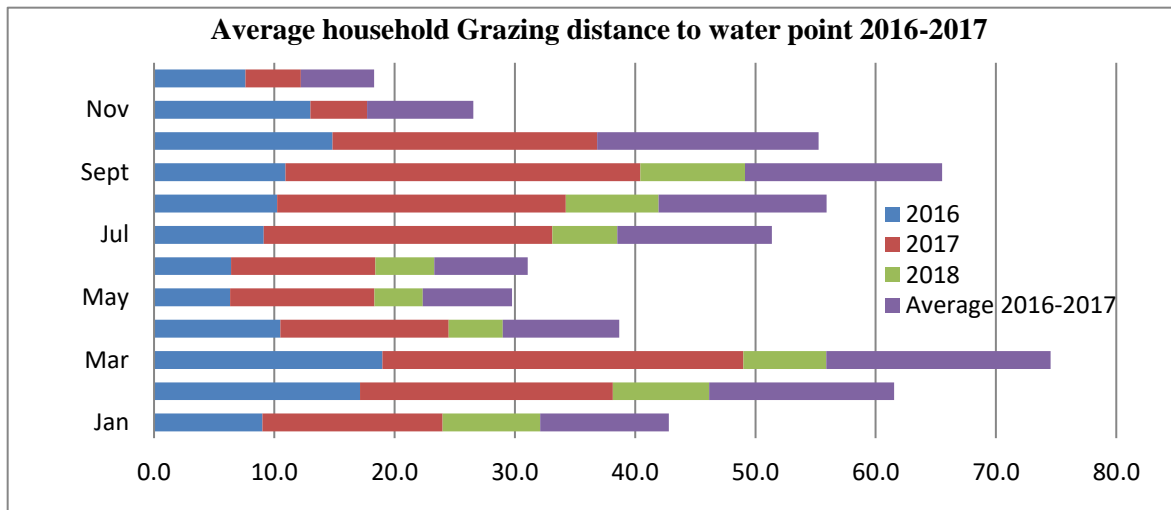


Figure 7: A graph indicating current grazing distance against (2015-2016) average

- Current average trekking distance from grazing area to water point significantly increased from 7.7km in August to 8.7km in the month under review due to deterioration of pasture and browse in some livelihood zones and drying of water point thus increasing distance. This is normal at this time of the year.
- Average grazing distance is below the long term average and previous year's month average indicating an improvement which is normal at this time of the year.
- Frequency of watering livestock from grazing area to water points has increased slightly as the distance to grazing areas increased due to the dry spell.
- 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 all livelihood zones remained to be good except parts of Wajir west and Wajir south which are indicating fair condition due to the cumulative effects of previous seasons.
- compared to the previous month the livestock body condition remained to be good as a result of sufficient rains experienced during the previous season thus impacting positively on the regeneration of pasture and browse, except pockets of the areas in Wajir West and Wajir south which showed fair condition
- Improved livestock body condition will enhance production of milk, meat, livestock market prices and nutrition status of children under five thus making the households food secure.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- There were no disease outbreak reported during the month, though there were cases of CBPP, PPR, CCPP and sheep and goat pox in Pastoral camel in Wajir East, Pastoral cattle livelihood zones in Wajir south in (Dambas, Haragal and Ibrahim Urey) which still existed..

3.1.3 Milk Production

- Current average milk production per household per day decreased slight from 2.5litres in August to 1.9 litres in the month under review due to slight deterioration of pasture, browse and increase trekking distance from grazing areas to water point
- Current average milk production is above the long term average and previous year month average indicating an improvement as opposed to previous year's month in milk production thus making household food secure. This is normal at this time of the year.

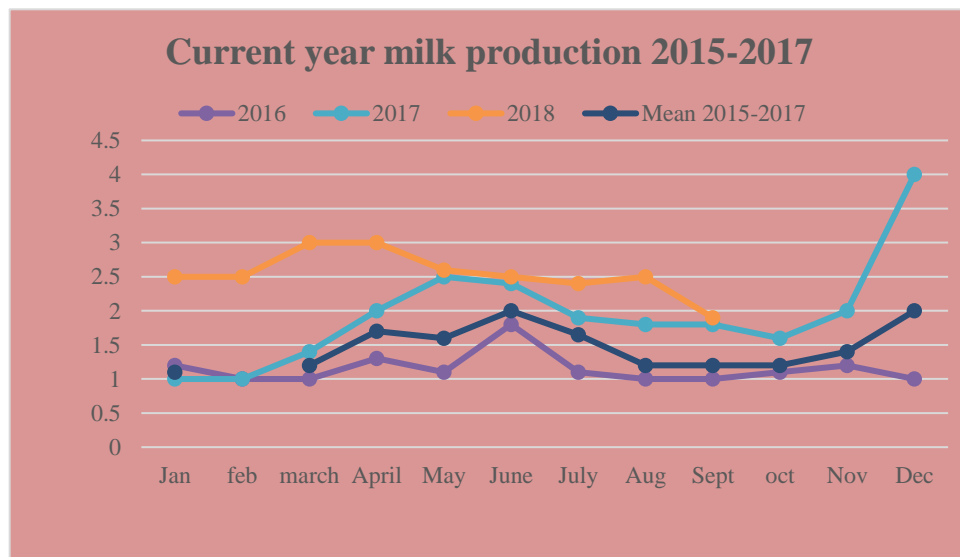


Figure 8: Current Household milk production against (2007-2016) long-term average

- Highest milk production was reported in pastoral all species, Pastoral camel and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones while lowest recorded in Eldas.

3.2.1 Stage and condition of food Crops

- Farmers are now preparing their land for the next season and have already harvested their crop and the Major crops grown in the county are 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 remained stable recording kshs 22,250 in August to 22,264 in the month under due to good livestock body condition slightly decreased from 22,250 in August due to low market demand and increased supply attributed to opening of schools where pastoral households are looking for school fees for their children, though it has no significant changes.
- Highest average prices were reported in urban towns and lowest at the rural areas.
- Current average price is above the long term average (LTA) and previous year's average showing improved market price as compared to previous years and season. This is normal
- Market indicates that prices are still favourable in comparison to previous years and months.

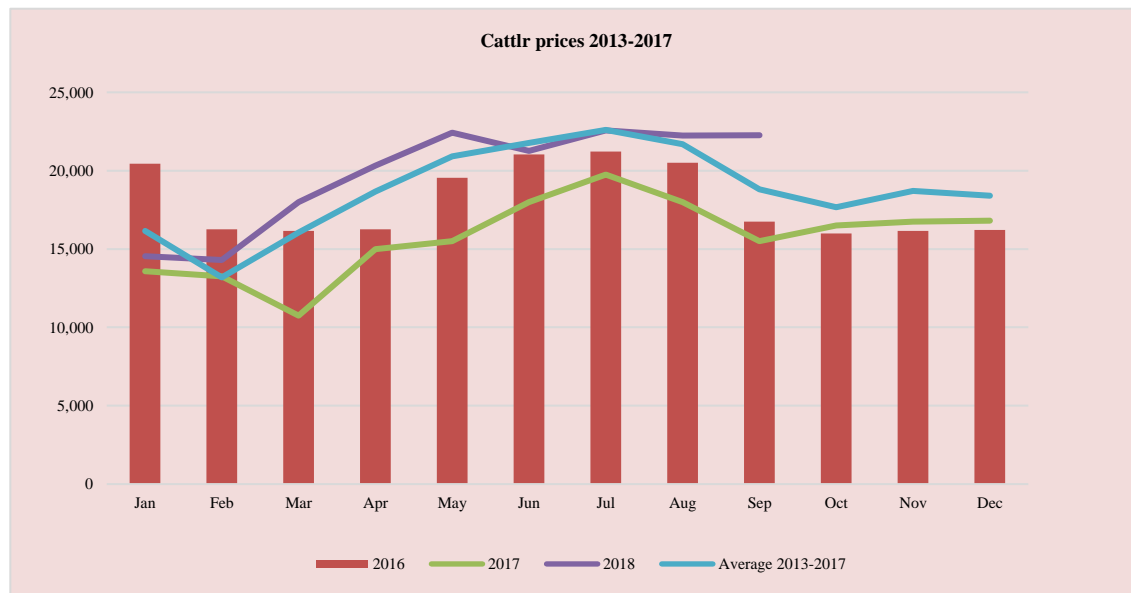


Figure 9: A graph of current cattle price against the long term (2013-17) mean prices

4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- Current average price of a two year old goat slightly increased from Kshs 4,500 in August to Kshs 4,800 in the month under review as a result of increased market demand and less supply of livestock in the market due to households holding their livestock for better prices.
- Current average price is above the Long term average (LTA) and previous month average due to good livestock body condition which increased livestock prices.
- The areas with the highest livestock prices were reported in urban towns and lowest reported in rural areas.

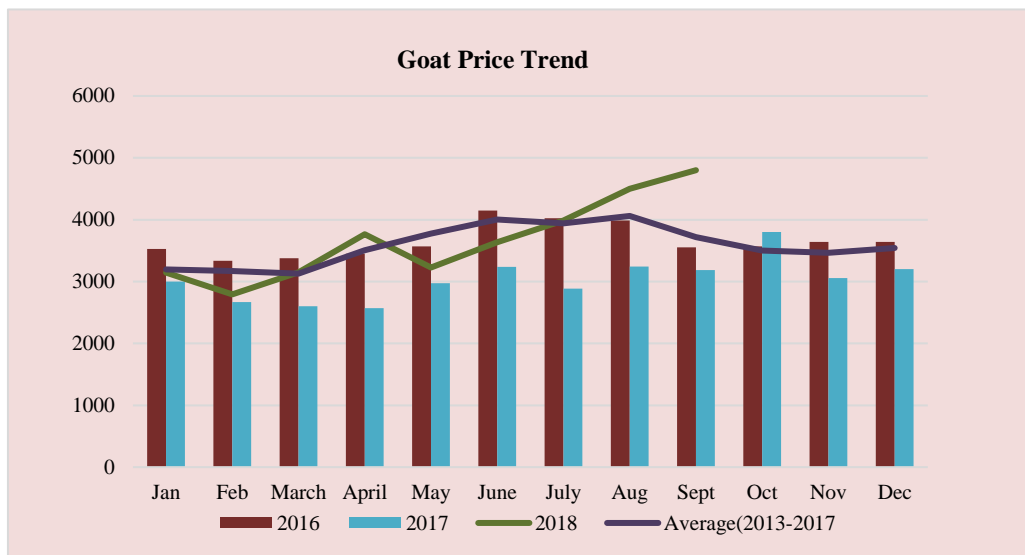


Figure 10: A graph of current Goat price against the long term (2013-17) mean price

4.1.3 Camel price

- Current average price of four year old Camel decreased significantly from Kshs 33,000 in August to Kshs 30,000 in the month under review due to low market demand in the market and high supply of camel attributing to low market prices.
- Current average price of camel is below the long term average (LTA) and previous year's month price attributed to low market demand and high supply of livestock camel in the market thus low prices.
- Livelihood zone with the highest price was recorded in the urban towns and lowest recorded in the rural areas.

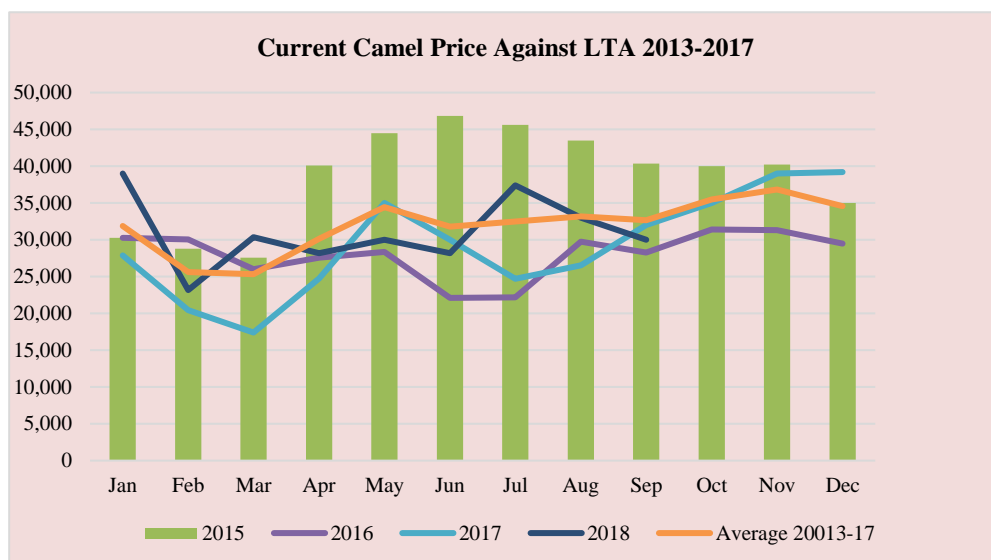


Figure 11: A graph of current camel prices against the long term mean (2013-2017).

4.2 CROP PRICE

4.2.1 Maize

- Current average Price of maize still remained stable throughout the month from June to September due to increased supply from the import market as well as stocks available in the market as a result of good harvest witnessed from the import areas.
- The highest maize prices were experienced in the rural areas and lowest reported in towns.
- Current maize price is below the long term average and previous year's price due to increased supply from the import market and stocks available in the market, since Maize is not a stable food in the market.

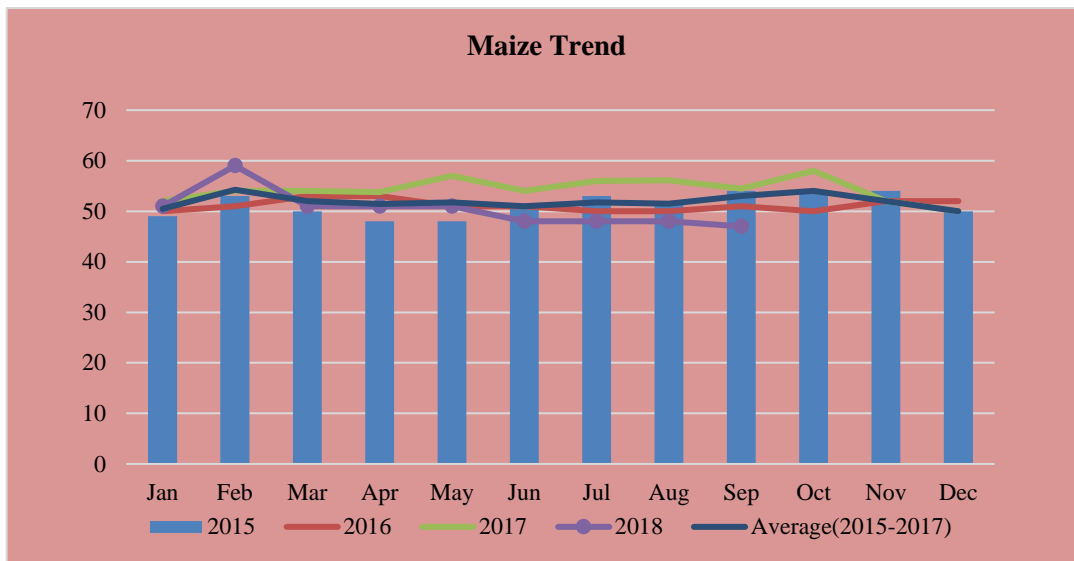


Figure 12: A graph of Current Maize Trend (2015-2017)

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 94kg in August to 102kgs in the month under review due to increase in livestock prices against relatively stable maize prices, thus improving food access for the pastoral households who rely on markets for staple foods.
- 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.

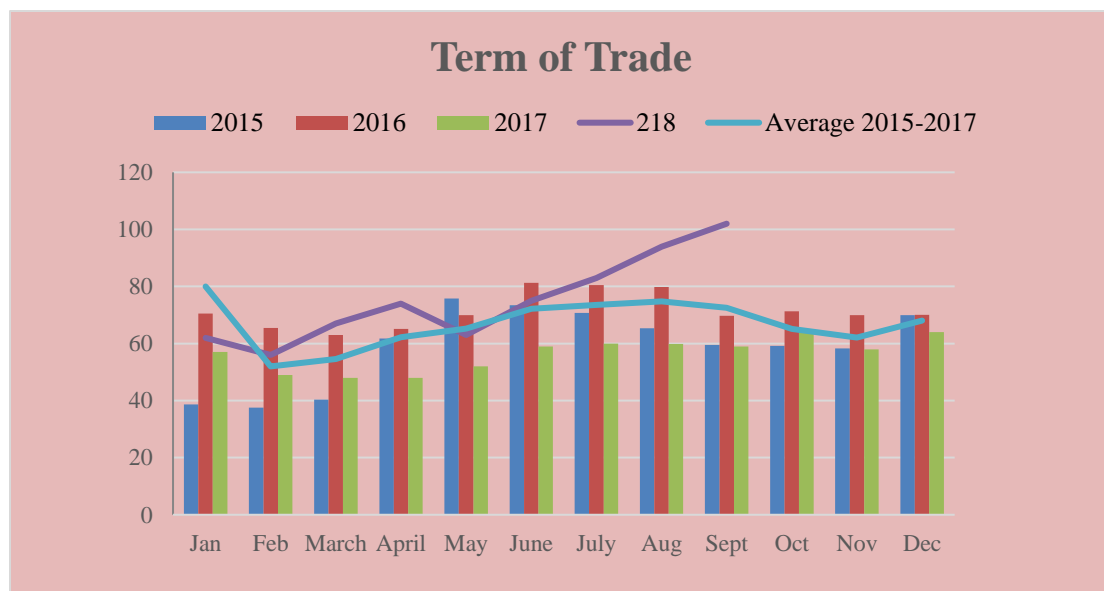


Figure13: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long term (2015-2017) mean price

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- Current average milk consumption per household per day remained the same, which showed 1.8litres in the month under review as compared to the previous month due to available milk production attributed to good livestock body condition and availability of pasture and browse.
- Current average household milk consumption per household per day is above the long term average and equal to previous year’s average due to availability of pasture and browse.
- Highest milk consumption was reported in Wajir West, Wajir South and Wajir north and lowest was recorded in Eldas.
- Highest producing milk is Mainly Camel and Cattle.

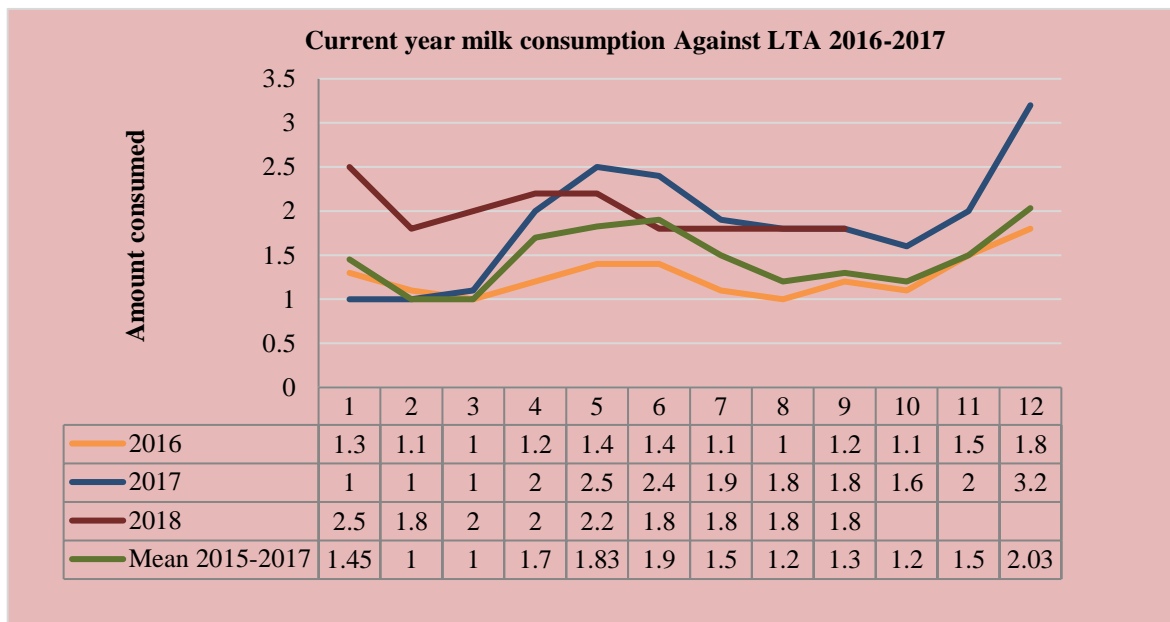
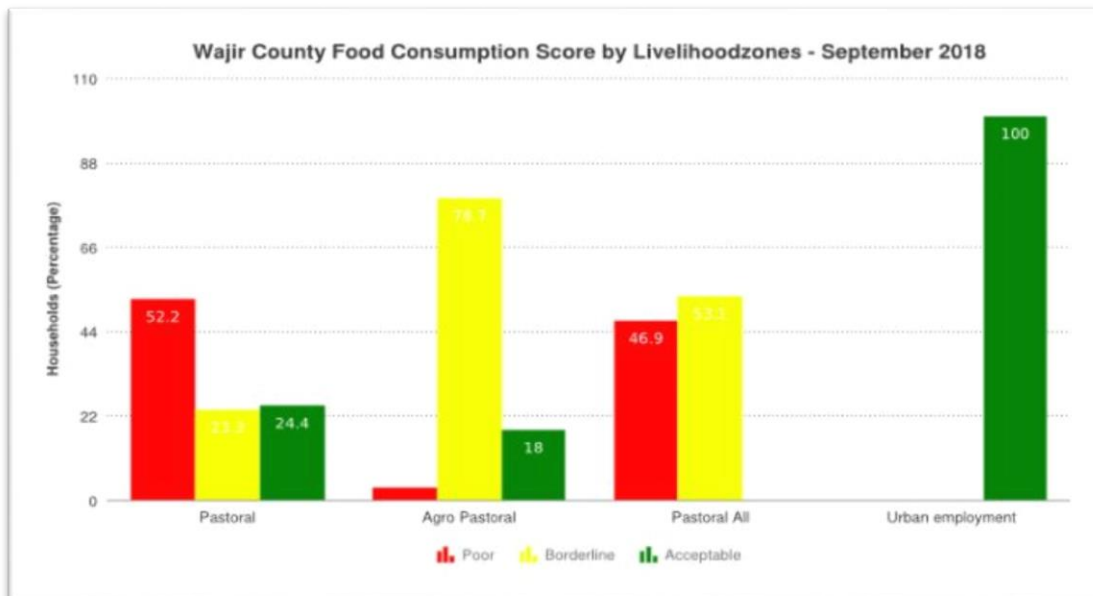


Figure 12: A graph showing current average milk consumption for Wajir against (2015-2017) mean

5.2 :Food Consumption Score



- Pastoral and Pastoral all species are the proportion of pastoral households with poor consumption score of 52.2 and 46.9 respectively as compared to a score of 59.1 and 52.7 in the month of August for pastoral all species and pastoral livelihood zones, while other households are in Borderline and Acceptable. Showing a stable condition in food consumption. This indicates that the proportion of pastoral households sampled most of them are in Borderline and Acceptable while few others are in poor.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

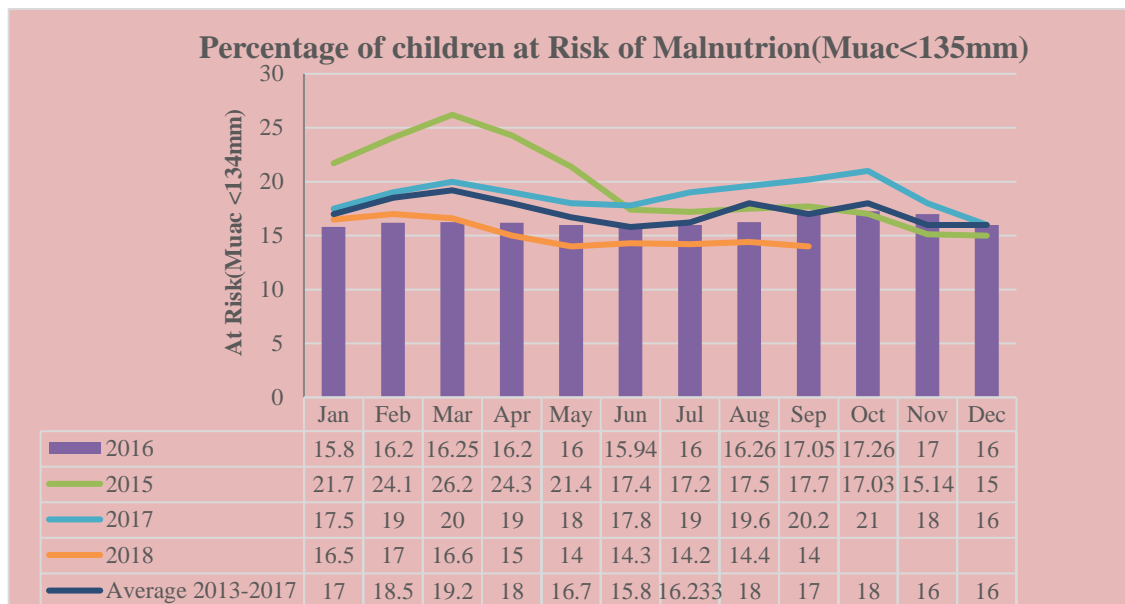


Figure 13: A graph of Nutritional status of children between 12-59 months against (2013-17) long-term mean

- 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, 14.0% were at risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135 mm) as compared to previous month which was 14.4% which showed a stable condition due to available milk production and high milk consumption at pastoral households. This resulted to improvement in malnutrition.
- In Wajir county out of 655 children sample for both girls and boys only 1.7% of the children are in severe malnourished as compared to previous month of 1.9%, while others are in Moderate malnourished. This shows that there is 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 17.4% were at risk of malnutrition(MUAC <135 mm) as compared to previous month which was 18.6% showing an improvement in malnutrition.
- The proportion of children under five with moderate category showed 3.9% in the September as opposed to 0% in August and with severe category slightly increased from 0.6% in August to 1.1% in the month under review due to slight decline in milk production and increase in trekking distance.
- In Wajir South Sub-county a total of 151 children were assessed for malnutrition using Muac both girl and boys, from the sample children 3.8% were at Risk of malnutrition

(MUAC <135 mm) as compared to previous month which was 5.8% indicating an improvement in malnutrition.

- The proportion of children under five with moderate category showed 1.9% in the September as opposed to 5% in August showing significant improvement in malnutrition and with severe category from 0% in August to 0.8% in the month under review with no significant changes.

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition in the month of September recorded 14.0% which still remained stable as compared to previous month of 14.4 due to available milk production attributed to good livestock body condition and available pasture and browse.
- The proportion of children under five with severe category decreased from 1.9% in August to 1.7% in the month under review due to good livestock body condition and available milk production.

5.3.2 COPING STRATEGY INDEXES

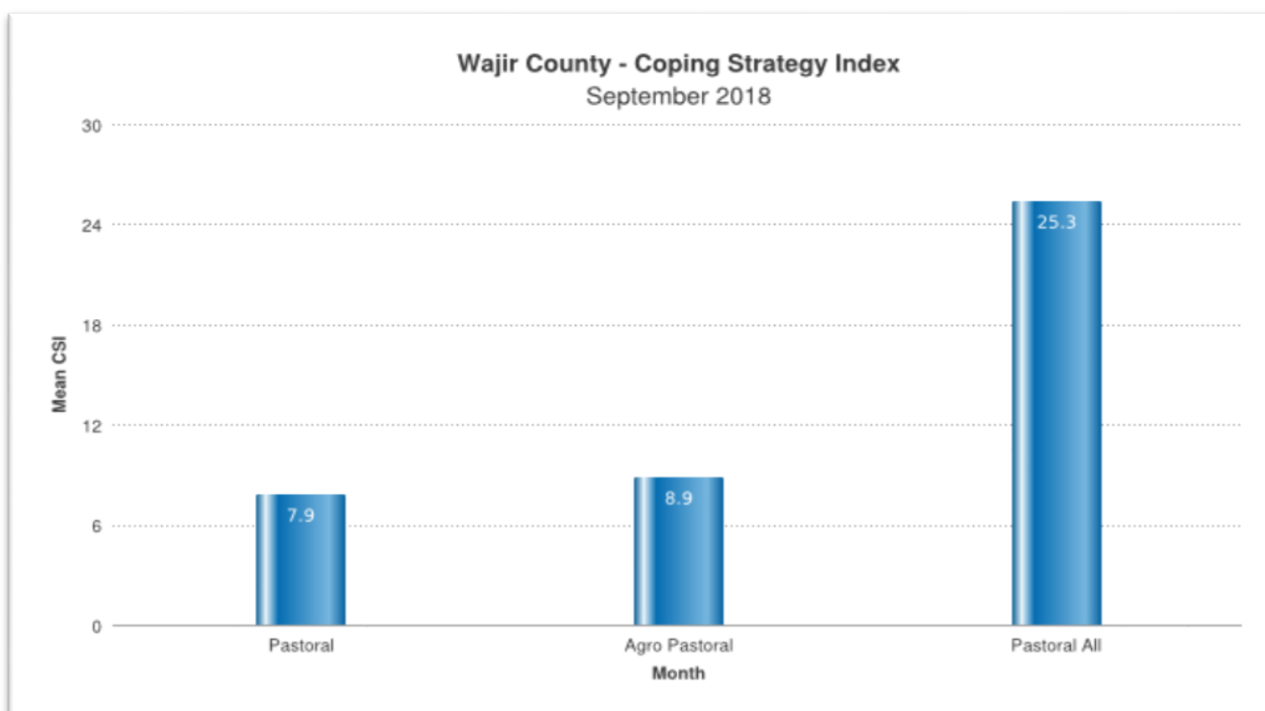


Figure14: A graph showing average (2015-2017) (coping strategy index (CSI) against the current trend

- Pastoral all species employed more coping strategies showing 25.3, while other livelihood zones employed less, as compared to the previous month, where all the livelihood zones across the county employed no coping strategy. The mean CSI for the county is 11.6 as compared to the previous month which showed 6.7 showing a worsening situation.
- Reduced the number of meals taken per day.
- Relied on less expensive food
- Reduced the quantity of food consumed by adult/mothers

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.

- Distribution of Relief food by National Government.

7. 0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- There were no incidence of insecurity reported in the month under review, although there are cases of Bush fire and locust inversion reported in some parts of the county.

7.2 Migration

- In-Migrations of livestock within the county and outside the county from mandera were reported during the month in search of pasture and water, although it was minimal.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- Availability and Accessibility of milk production will likely deteriorate as the dry spell continues and thereafter improve after the MAM.
- Nutrition status is expected to be stable in the next one to three weeks due to good livestock body condition and available pasture and browse.
- Pasture condition is likely to get worse in the next two to three weeks and thereafter regenerate during OND.
- Migration of livestock is likely to increase in the coming months due to deterioration of pasture and browse as the dry spell continues and thereafter improve after the short rains.
- Water availability and accessibility in all livelihood zones are likely to be good in the next one to two months.
- Livestock body condition will likely remain to be good to fair in the next one months and thereafter improve during short rains.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Health & Nutrition

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

Livestock Sector

- Monitoring of Livestock Market trend
- Livestock surveillance by monitoring and treatment of animals-ongoing
- Training communities on CMDRR

Water Sector

- Drilling of new borehole
- Desilting of water pans
- Provision of fast moving spare parts.
- Construction of underground tanks
- School feeding program

Agriculture Sector:

- Provision of seeds to Farmers