

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

**DECEMBER EW PHASE 2018**



**Biophysical Indicators**  
**Rainfall Report**

Most parts of the county during OND experienced below normal (depressed) rainfall, the seasonal rainfall onset was late, the distribution both in time and space, was also poor throughout the county.

**Vegetation condition:** Current VCI in the county recorded moderate vegetation with a score of 29.69 as compared to previous month figure of 45.5 showing vegetation, although Wajir West showed severe vegetation deficit while all other livelihood zones recorded moderate vegetation cover with a declining trend in vegetation.

**Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)**

Pasture and Browse condition ranges between good-fair, while other ranges between fair to poor, Livestock body condition is good to fair, Terms of trade still favourable, Markets are operational, slight increase in pastoral household return distance, Trekking distance to grazing areas still remained stable, migration of livestock within the sub-counties reported, increased in milk production, No incidence of disease outbreak witnessed, Percentage of children under five at risk of malnutrition recorded 11.7% as compared to previous month which showed 12.4% showing an improvement. Less coping strategies were applied in all livelihood zones except pastoral all species of Wajir west employing more coping strategies.

**Early Warning Phase Classification**

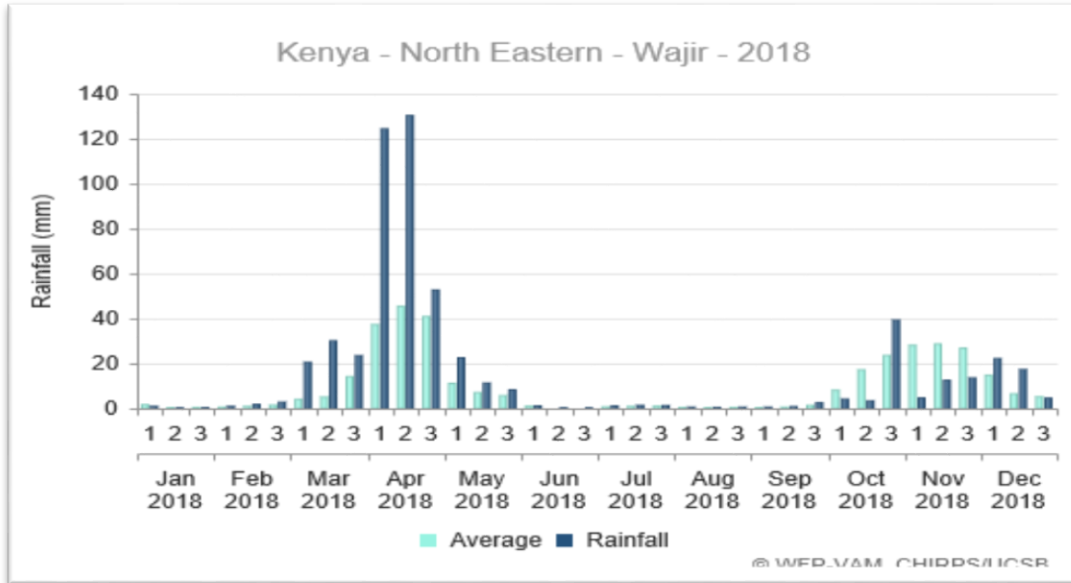
Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Normal	Worsening
Pastoral cattle	Alert	worsening
Pastoral-all species	Alert	worsening
Pastoral camel	Normal	Worsening
Informal employment	Normal	worsening
County	Normal	worsening
<b>Biophysical Indicators</b>	<b>value</b>	<b>worsening</b>
Rainfall (% of Normal)	0mm	80 -120
VCI-3Month	29.69	>35
<b>Production indicators</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Normal</b>
Livestock Body Condition	Good-Fair	Normal
Crop production	Poor	Good
Milk Production	2.5	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death	No death
<b>Access Indicators</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Normal</b>
Terms of Trade (ToT)	72	>66
Milk Consumption	1.7	>3
Return Distance to water source	3.0	<5 Km
<b>Utilization indicators</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Normal</b>
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	11.7	<6.6
<b>Coping Strategy Index (CSI)</b>	9.3	<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>

## 1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITION

### 1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- The county experienced sunny and dry weather condition throughout the month, though Khorof harer recorded the highest monthly rainfall total of 70.0mm with in the first three days of the month, most parts recorded no rainfall during the entire month of December. The rainfall was poorly distributed, both in time and space.



#### 1.1.1 Mount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

- Most parts of the county recorded no rainfall during the entire month of December, Khorof harer recorded the highest monthly rainfall total of 70.0mm with in the first three days of the month, The rainfall was poorly distributed, both in time and space

## 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 moderate vegetation deficit with a score of 29.69 as compared to previous month figure of 45.5, where all livelihood zones showed moderate vegetation cover, except pastoral all species in Wajir West which indicated severe vegetation deficit, showing a worsening trend. The Vegetation condition is likely to worsen as the dry spell starts.

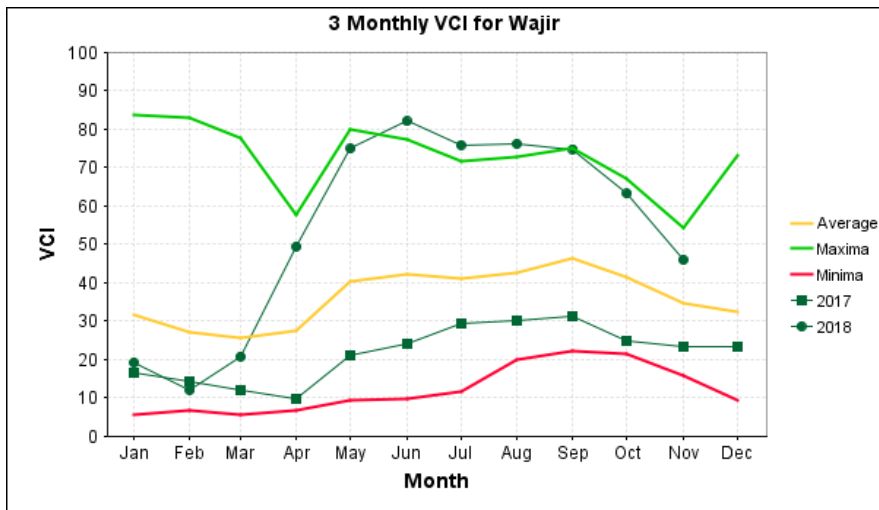


Figure 1: chart of Wajir County overall 3-monthly VCI during the month of December 2018

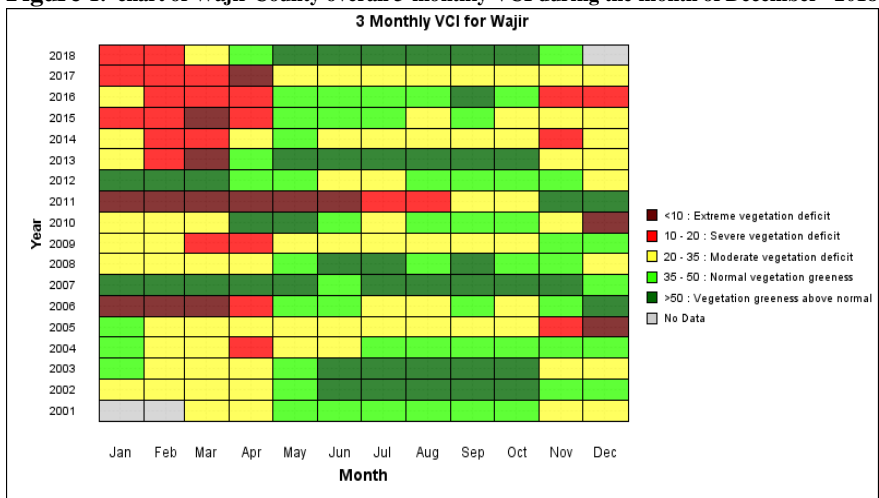


Figure 2: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir County during the month of December 2018

#### 2.1.2 Pasture

- Pasture situation ranges between good to fair in some parts of the livelihood zones, mainly pastoral cattle in Wajir South, Tarbaj and Pastoral camel in Wajir East, while others ranges between fair to poor attributed to poor rainfall.
- Compared to previous month, the pasture condition is slightly declining as the dry spell starts and as the performance of OND rainfall was poor.
- The available pasture is likely to last for the next two months.
- Pasture condition varies according to livelihood zones, where most pasture was reported in pastoral cattle in Wajir South, Pastoral all species in Wajir west as a result of good

regeneration of pasture recorded during the previous rains and lowest was recorded in Agro-pastoral livelihood zones as a result of poor regeneration of pasture.

- No constraints reported during the month under review.

### 2.1.3 Browse

- Browse situation remained to be good to fair in all livelihood zones except areas that did not received rainfall, which ranges between fair to poor particularly Wajir south, Wajir west and parts of Wajir East.
- Compared to the previous month, the condition remained the same as rains ceased but expected to deteriorate in the coming months.
- The available browse condition is likely to last for a period of two month.
- The condition Varies according to livelihood zones where highest browse recorded in Wajir East, Tarbaj, Wajir North and lowest reported in Wajir South and Wajir West.
- No constraints recorded during the month under review.

### 2.2.0 Water Source

- Current main sources of water used by both human and livestock in the county are: boreholes, water pans, shallow wells.
- Condition of water in all livelihood zones remained to be normal where some water pan in Wajir North, Tarbaj and Wajir East are still holding water due to the recharge of short rains, except in some parts of Wajir South and parts of pastoral all species livelihood zones in Wajir west which did not receive rainfall during OND. This is normal at this time of the year.
- In comparison to the previous month, the current situation of water in the county remained to normal, except areas that have inadequate rains during OND and the condition is expected to decline as the dry spell starts.
- Available water is likely to last for the next two months.

### 2.2.2 Household access and Utilization.

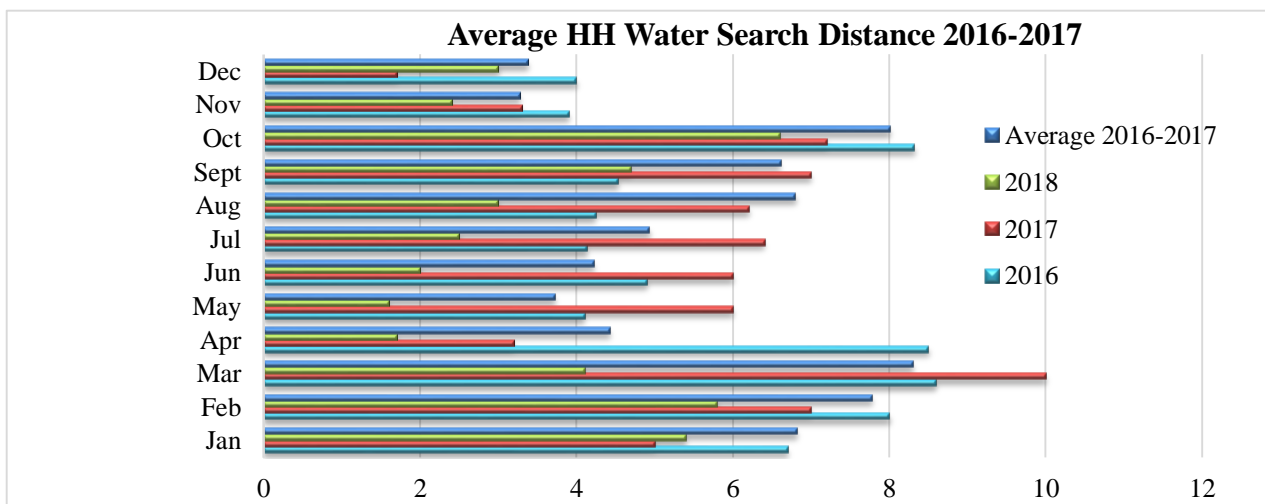


Figure 6: A chart indicating return distance to water sources against 2016-2017 average

- Current average return distances to main water sources slightly increased from 2.4km in November to 3.0km in the month under review due to drying of lagas, depression thus making pastoral house to return to water pans, shallow wells and boreholes.
- In Comparison to the previous month household return distances to water source increase as a result drying up of open water sources, thus making households to return water pans, shallow well and boreholes and increasing distance.
- Average household return distance to water point is equals to the long term average but below the previous month average showing in reduction in distance which is normal
- Average household water consumption per person per day still remained stable as water is available in most of the livelihood zones.
- Proportion of pastoral households that treat water at the rural areas is minimal with some households in the urban treating water.

### 2.2.3 Livestock access

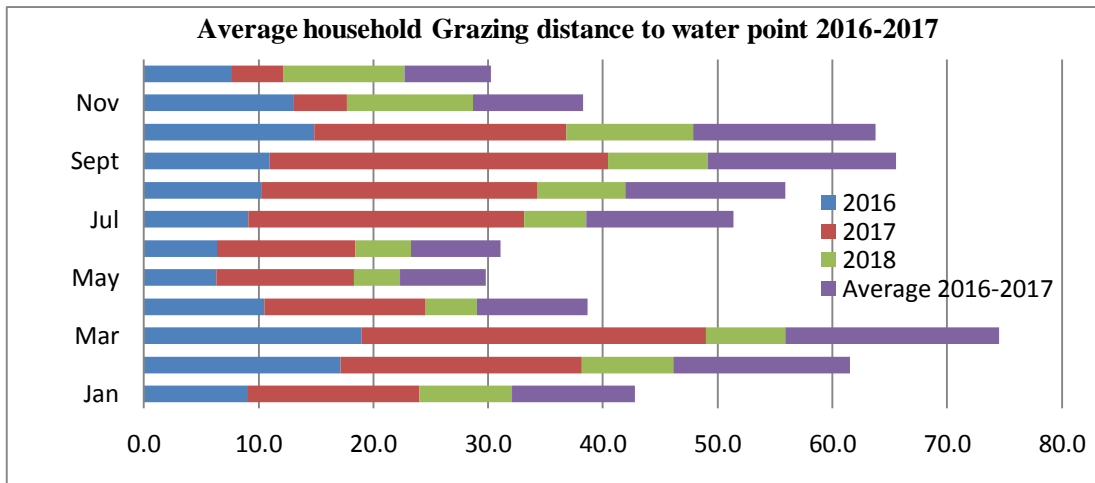


Figure 7: A graph indicating current grazing distance against (2015-2016) average

- Current average trekking distance from grazing area to water sources slightly decreased from 11km in November to 10.5km in the month under review due available pasture, browse and water with no significant changes.
- In comparison to the previous month the distance from grazing area to water sources slightly reduced due to availability and accessibility of water, pasture and browse. This is normal at this time of the year.
- Average grazing distance is above the long term average and previous year's month average showing an increase in trekking distance as compared to previous year's month.
- Frequency of watering livestock from grazing area to water points remained the same as water is available at the water point.

- 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 ranges between good to fair in all livelihood zones except few pockets of Wajir south, Wajir west and Tarbaj particularly for goat and sheep which is fair to poor.
- Compared to the previous month and similar time livestock body situation continued to be good to fair and poor in all livelihood zones.
- Livestock body situation differs according to livelihood zones, where most of the species are good to fair, although there are some which are in poor condition particularly for goat and sheep due poor pasture and browse.

##### 3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- There were no cases of disease outbreak reported during the month, except routine cases of PPR, CCPP, CBPP and sheep and goat pox in Wajir East, Wajir south which still exist.

##### 3.1.3 Milk Production

- Current average milk production per household per day increased from 2.2litres in November to 2.5litres in December as a result of good livestock body condition and reduced trekking distance to water point and available milk production.
- The highest livestock milk producing species are cattle and camel.
- Current average milk production is above the long term average and below previous year month average as a result of depressed rainfall attributed to poor regeneration of pasture and browse.
- Pastoral cattle, Pastoral all species and Pastoral camel are the Livelihood zones with highest milk production since cattle and camel are the species with high production and Agro-pastoral are livelihood zones with the lowest producing milk.

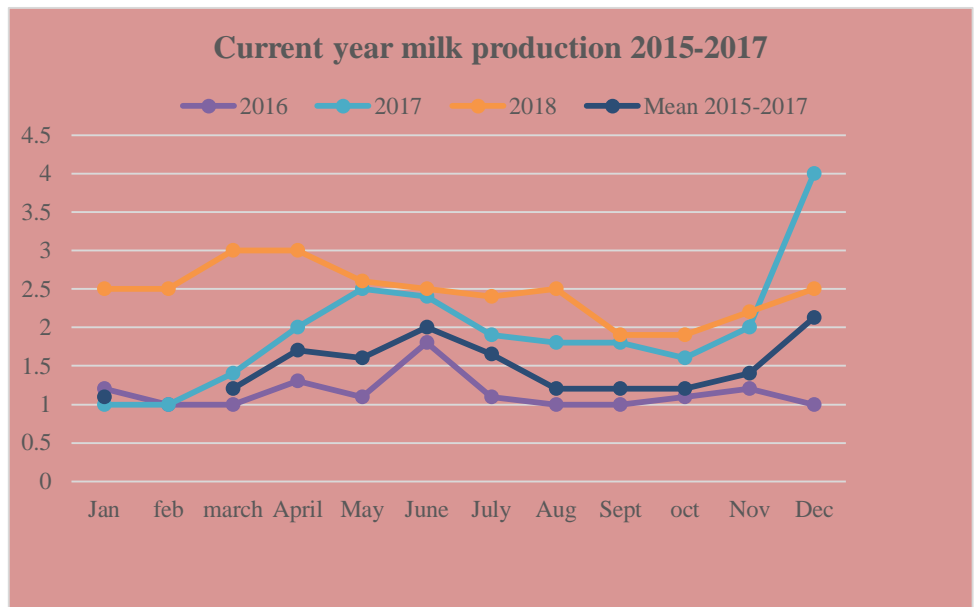


Figure 8: A graph showing current average milk production for Wajir against

(2015-2017) mean

## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

#### 4.1.1 Cattle prices

- Current average price of four year old medium size Cattle slightly increased from Kshs 16,000 in November to Kshs 16,222 in the month under review as a result of less supply in the market and more demand.
- Current average price of cattle is below the long term average and previous month average, thus making markets not favourable.
- Livelihood with the highest average prices were recorded in Wajir town and lowest reported in the rural centres.

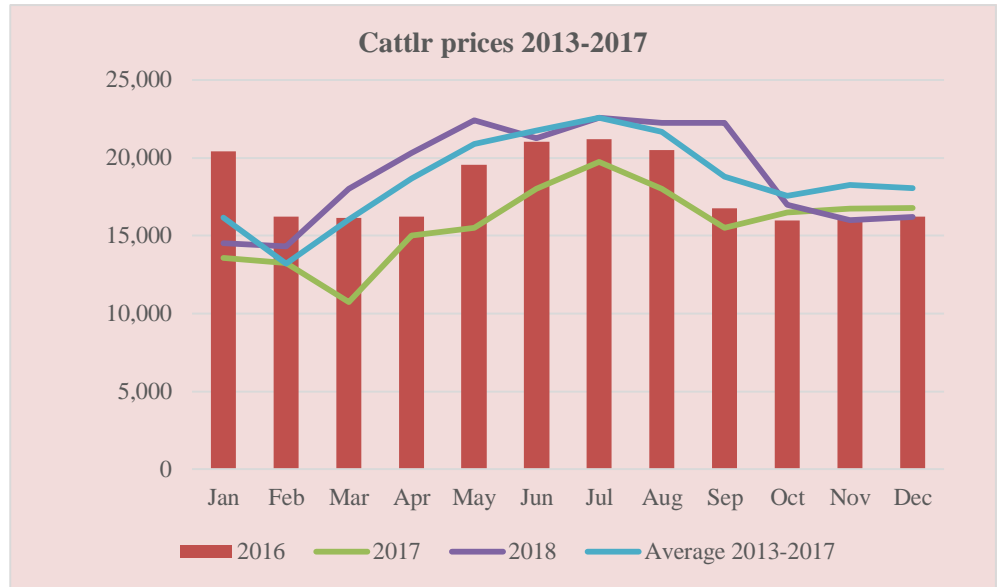


Figure 9: A graph of current cattle price against the long term (2013-17) mean prices

- Market prices are not favourable as compared to previous season and months.

#### 4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- Current average price of a two year old goat slightly decreased from Kshs 4,000 in the month of November to kshs 3,756 in the month under review due to more supply of livestock in the market and less demand, thus attributing to poor market.
- Current average price is above the long term average and previous month average prices, though still market price are poor

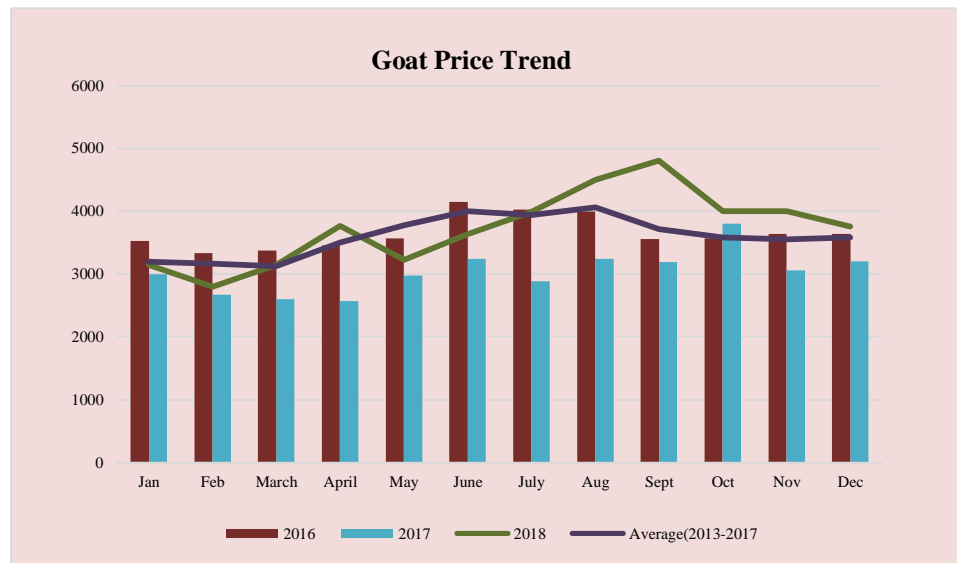


Figure 10: A graph of current Goat price against the long term (2013-

17) mean price

- Livelihood zones with the highest market price were recorded in urban and lowest reported in rural areas.

### 4.1.2 Camel price

- Current average price of four year old Camel prices increased slightly from kshs 37,285 to kshs 37,500 in the month under review as a result of high demand in the market and low supply of livestock attributing to increased market price.
- Current average price of camel is above the long term average (LTA) but below the previous year's price thus making market prices unfavourable.
- Livelihood zone with the highest price was recorded in towns and lowest recorded in the rural areas.

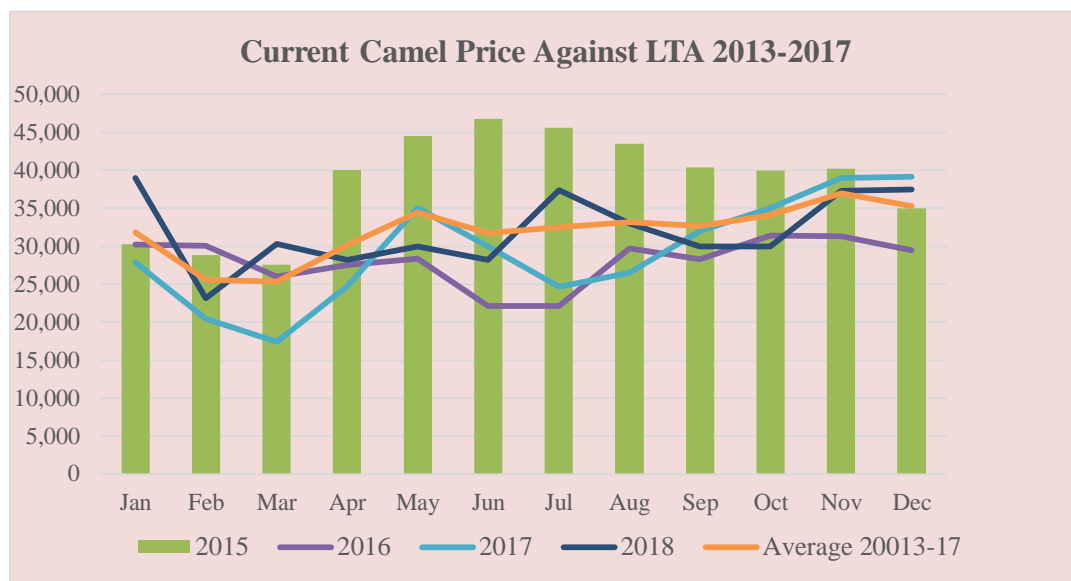
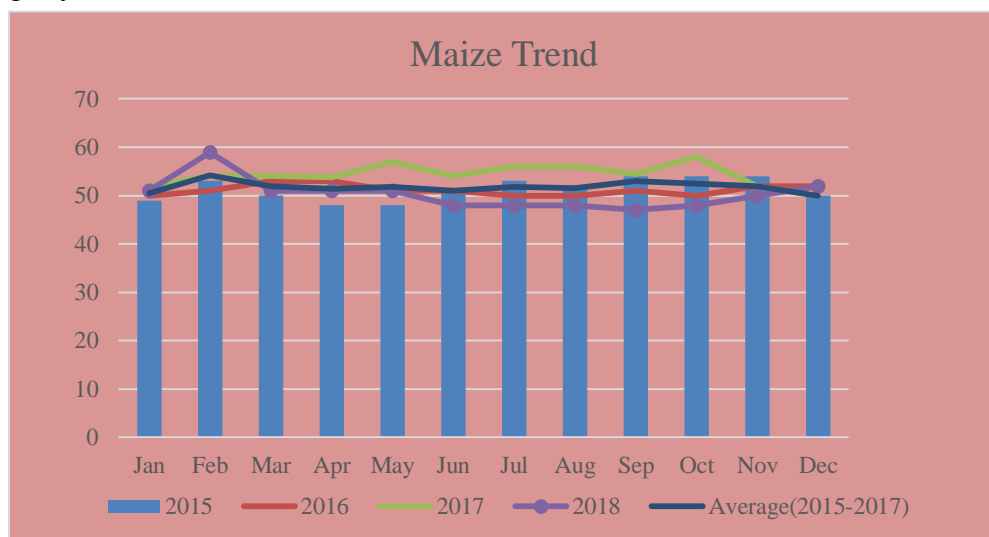


Figure 11: A graph of current camel prices against the long term mean (2013-2017)

## 4.2 CROP PRICE

### 4.2.1 Maize

- Current average Price of maize slightly increased from Kshs 50 in November to Kshs 52 in the month under review due to less supply in the market and more demand.
- Current maize price is above the he long term average and previous year's price as a result of less supply to the market and more demand attributing to increased prices, since most of the supply come from other counties and country in the





market, since Maize is not a staple food in the market.

- The highest maize prices were recorded in the rural areas and lowest reported in towns.

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 decreased from 81kg in November to 72kgs in the month under review due to slight decrease in livestock prices and slight increase in maize prices, thus making households to fetch less bags of maize, though the terms of trades is still favorable.
- 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 still favourable.

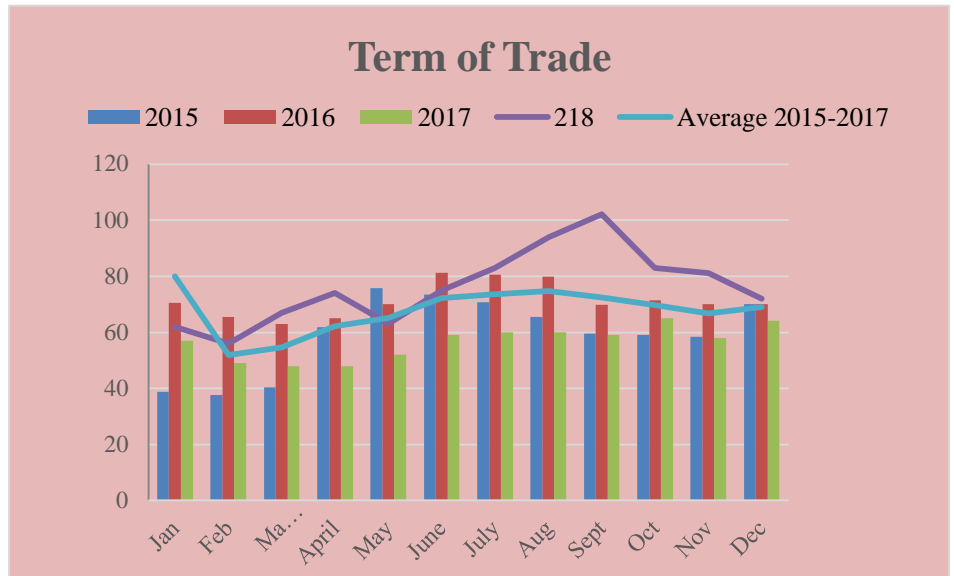


Figure13: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long term (2015-2017)

## 5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

### 5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- Current average milk consumption per household per day increased from 1.6litres in the month of November to 1.7litres in the month under review due to available milk production attributed to good livestock body condition, reduced trekking distance and good pasture and browse.
- Current average household milk consumption per household per day is below the long term average and previous year’s average consumption thus making under five to be food insecure.
- Highest milk consumption was reported in pastoral cattle, Pastoral camel livelihood zones while lowest was reported in Eldas and Tarbaj.
- Highest producing milk is Mainly Camel and Cattle.

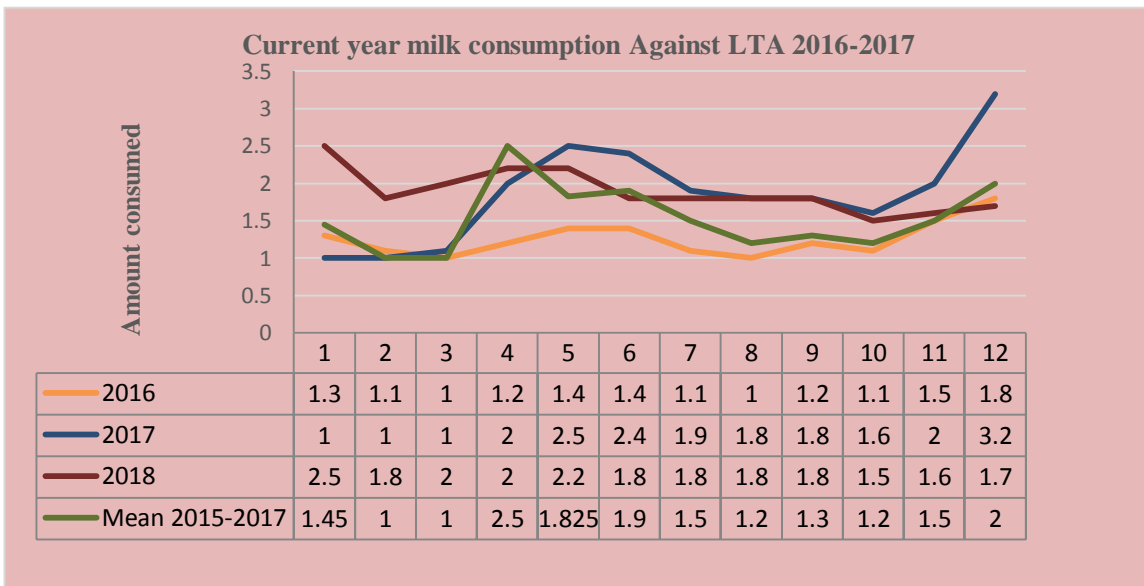
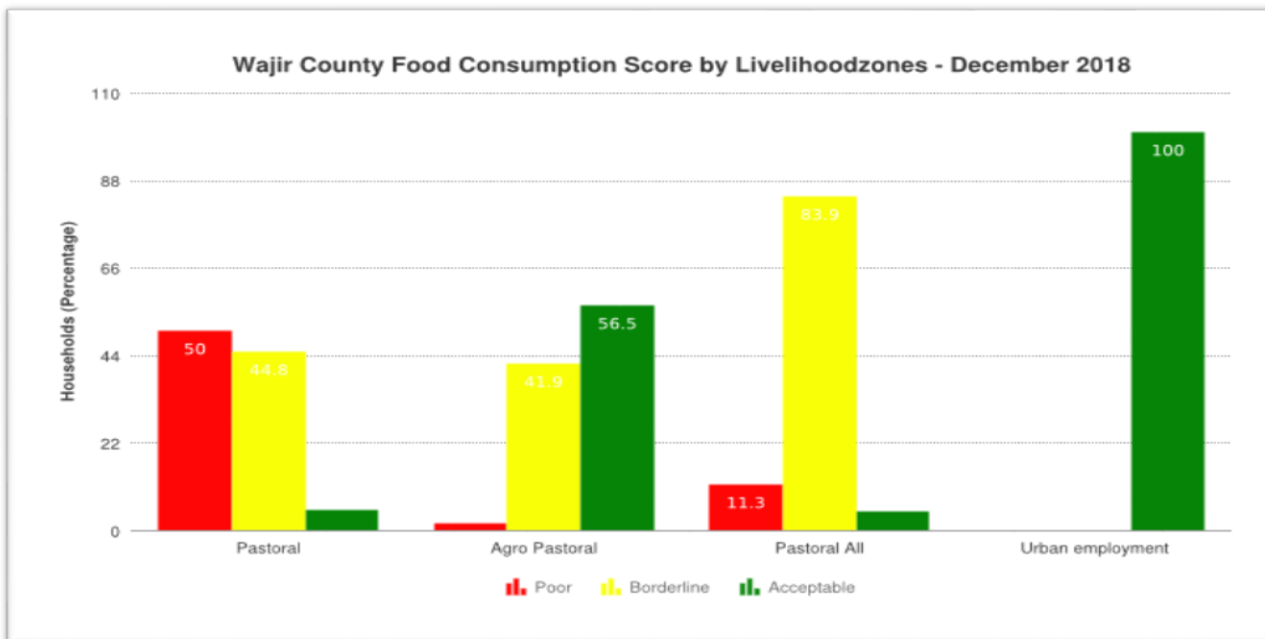


Figure 12: A graph showing current average milk consumption for Wajir against (2015-2017) mean

### 5.2 :Food Consumption Score



- Pastoral and Pastoral all species are the proportion of households with poor consumption score of 50 and 11.3 in the month under review as compared with a score of 60.2 and 40.7 in the month of November , while all other households are in Borderline and Acceptable. Indicating an improvement in food consumption both in pastoral and pastoral all livelihood zones.

### 5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

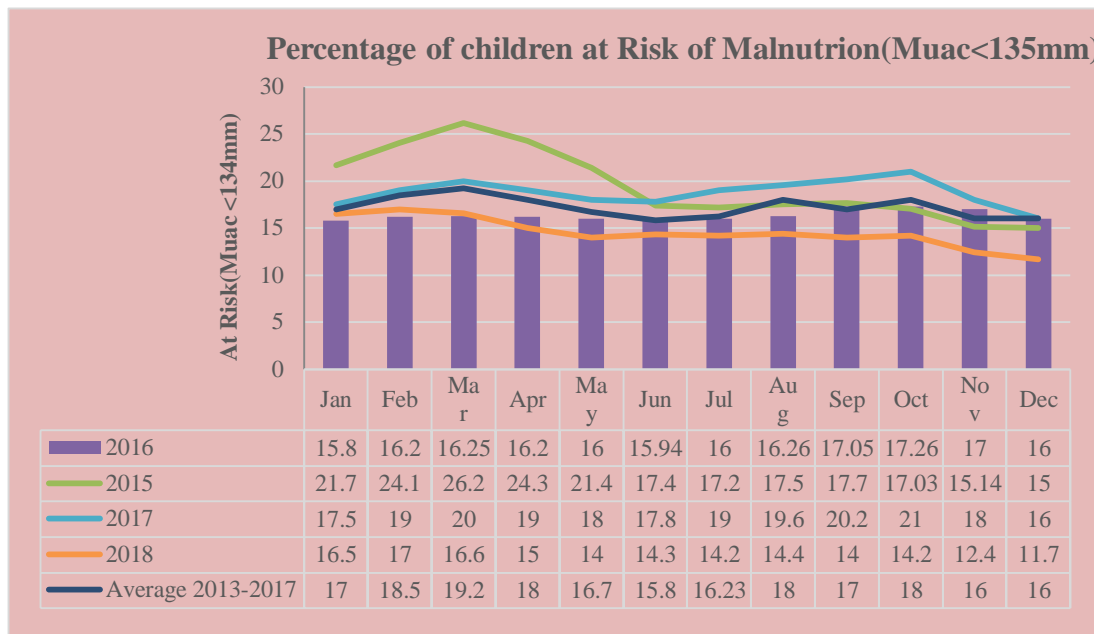


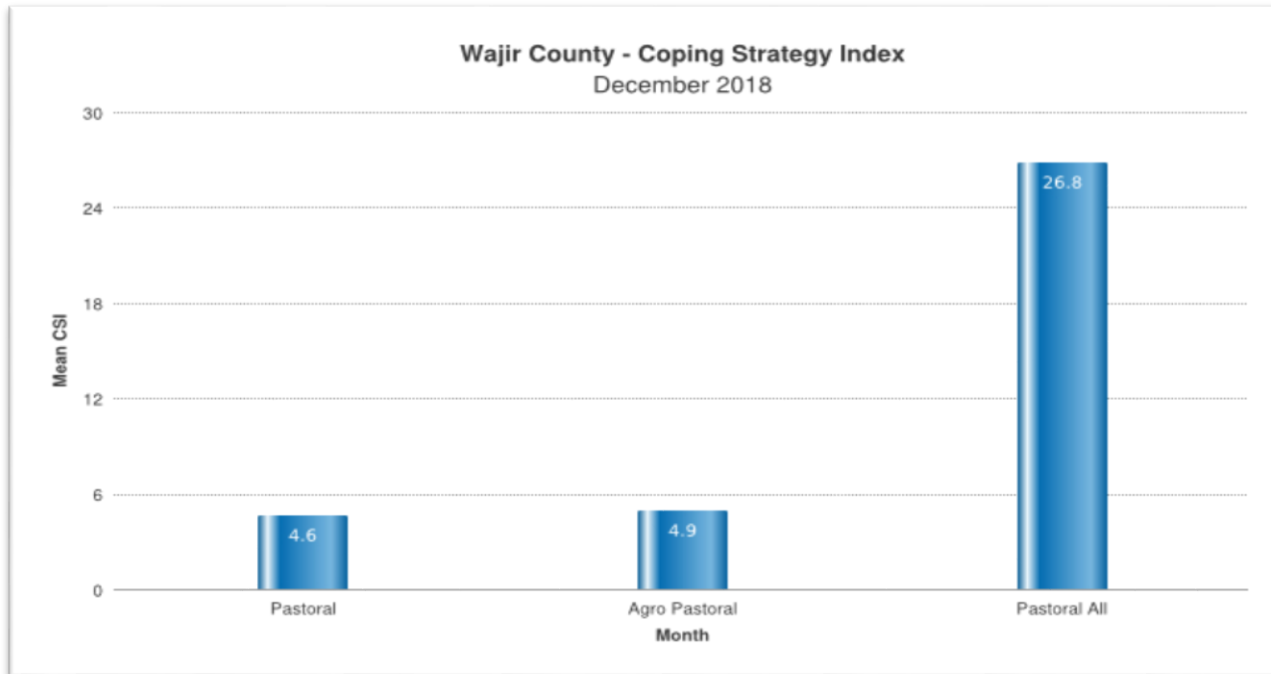
Figure 13: A graph of Nutritional status of children between 12-59 months against (2013-17) long-term mean

- 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, 11.7% were at risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135 mm) as compared to previous month which was 12.4% showing an improvement in malnutrition as a result of available milk and improved livestock body condition.
- Wajir County out of 655 children sample for both girls and boys only 0.9% of the children are severe malnourished as compared to previous month of 0.7%, indicating increase in the number of pastoral households with severe condition.
- In Wajir South Sub-county a total of 151 children were assessed for malnutrition using Muac both girl and boys, from the sample children 13.5% were at Risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135 mm) as opposed to previous month which was 1.4% showing an increase in the number of pastoral households with severe condition thus affecting malnutrition
- The proportion of children under five with severe category decreased from 0.7% in November to 0.6% in the month under review due to good livestock body condition and available milk production

#### 5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition in the month under review showed 11.7% as compared to 12.4% showing improvement in malnutrition attributed to milk production due to good pasture and browse.
- The proportion of children under five with severe category increased from 0.7% in November to 0.9% in the month under review thus affecting malnutrition.

#### 5.3.2 COPING STRATEGY INDEXES



**Figure 14:** A graph showing average (2015-2017) (coping strategy index (CSI) against the current trend

- Pastoral all species employed more coping strategies in December showing 26.8 recording 26.4 as compared to the previous month recording 26.4 showing a stable strategies, while other livelihood zones applied less strategies. The mean CSI for the county was 9.3 as compared to the previous month which showed 13.3 indicating an improvement in CSI.
- 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

- Routine Surveillance of Livestock diseases
- Regular payment of Cash Transfers(HSNP)
- Food for Asset (FFA)-Ongoing.

### 6.2 Food Aid.

- No Relief food by National Government and County Government

## 7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

### 7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

- No cases of insecurity experienced in the month of December.

### 7.2 Migration

- Migrations of livestock with in and neighboring sub-counties was experienced during the month of December. Mainly Wajir south and Wajir West.

### 7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- Milk production is expected to decline in the next three months and thereafter increase during MAM.
- Pasture and browse condition will likely deteriorate in the month of January, February and March and thereafter regenerate during MAM.

- Livestock trekking distance from grazing area to water source will likely increase and thereafter reduce during March, April and May Rainfall.
- Environmental condition is expected to decline during the dry season and thereafter increase during MAM rainfall
- In Migration and Out Migration of pastoralist will be experienced in the next three months and thereafter return to their normal grazing zones after rainfall.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Health & Nutrition.**

- Scale up of HINI/IMAM/IYCN interventions-ongoing
- Monitoring of malnutrition by health and Nutrition Department.
- Surveillance of Diseases

### **Livestock Sector.**

- Monitoring of Livestock Movement and Market prices
- Livestock disease surveillance
- Routine Surveillance of livestock by Monitoring and Treatments.

### **Water Sector**

- Drilling of new borehole
- Desilting of water pans
- Provision of fast moving spare parts-ongoing