

National Drought Management Authority

TAITA TAVETA COUNTY

DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR AUGUST 2017



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- Taita Sub County received light showers in the month under review.
- The long rains season was depressed, erratic and characterized by poor distribution in terms of time and space.
- The rains supported pulses production, water recharge and pasture regeneration.
- Vegetation condition index stood at 41.58 i.e. normal vegetation greenness.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production Indicators

- Most maize crop died up due to moisture stress.
- Livestock body condition was fair to poor especially for cattle.
- Milk production has remained the same but still below normal.

Access Indicators

- Most open water sources were replenished.
- There were reduced cases reported of human wildlife conflict.
- Terms of Trade is high.

Utilization Indicators

- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition was within normal range.

Early Warning Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Mixed Farming: Food Crops/ Livestock	Alert	Deteriorating
Mixed Farming: Food Crops/ Horticulture/Dairy	Normal	Stable
Mixed Farming: Irrigated Cropping/ Livestock/Food Crops	Normal	Stable
Casual Waged Labour: Sisal Farms	Normal	Stable
National Park	Alert	Deteriorating
Trade/Business	Normal	Stable
County	Normal	Stable
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/ Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	103	80 - 120
SPI-3Month (TAMSAT)	-0.04	-1.0 to 1.0
VCI-3Month	41.58	35-50
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Maize Crop Condition	Dried up	Grain filling
Livestock Body Condition	Fair	Good
Milk Production	10.5	80 Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Ranches	Ranches
Livestock deaths (drought)	None	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	107	83
Milk Consumption	6.8	36 litres
Return distance to water sources	3.0	<5 Km
Return distance to grazing areas	4.9	<6 Km
Cost of water (20 litres)	8	< Kshs 5
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	1.6	<6.6

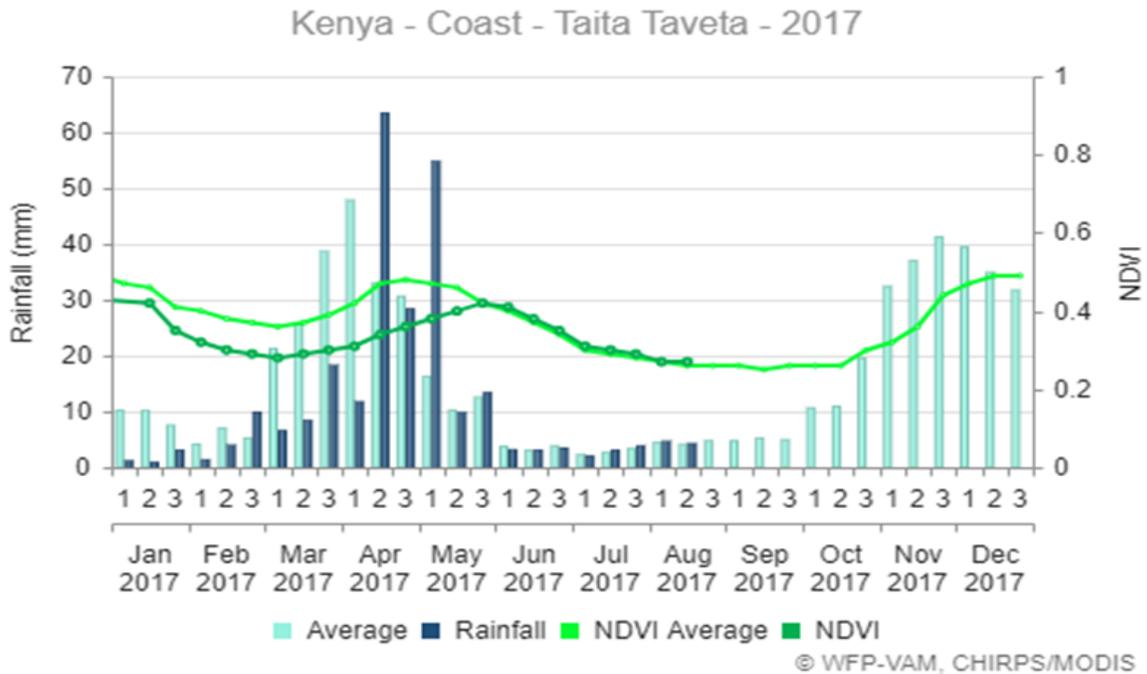
Seasonal Calendar

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

1. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- Most parts of the county remained dry except in Mwarungu area in mixed farming; food crop/livestock livelihood zone that received two days showers totalling 4.0 mm and the situation is normal for this time of the year.
- According to rainfall estimates from the WFP-VAM- MODIS the rainfall situation was normal compared to the long term tem mean as indicated in the chart below.

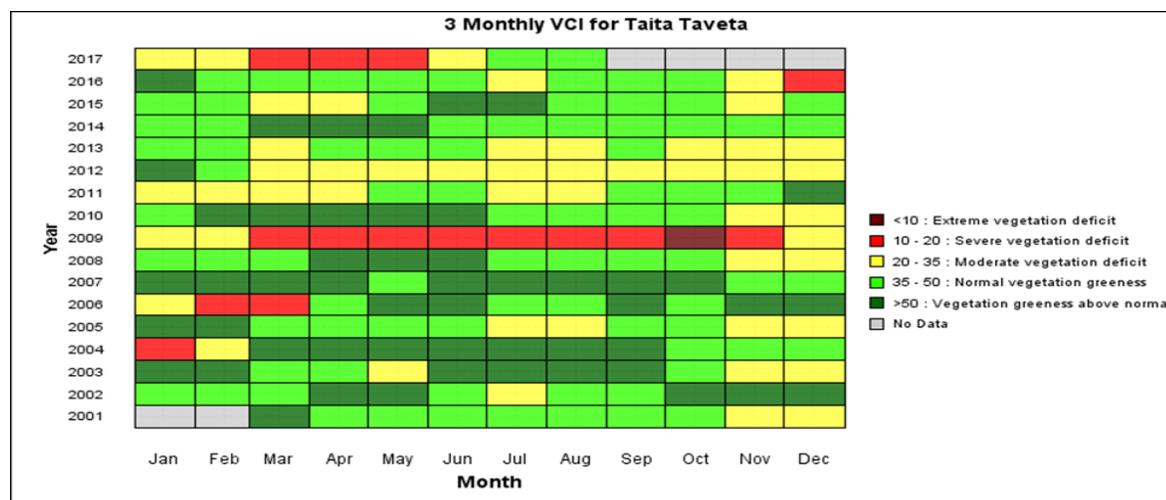


2. IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The vegetation greenness in the county was normal as indicated by a VCI value of 41.58.



2.1.2 Pasture

- Based on community interviews and observation the pasture condition ranged from fair to poor and the available quantities were generally estimated to last for one month up to the end of September.
- During the month 71.4 and 28.6 percent of the communities interviewed reported the pasture condition to be in fair and poor conditions respectively and the situation had slightly deteriorated compared to the previous month. Relatively, the situation was better in mixed farming; irrigated cropping/livestock/food crops and horticulture/dairy where all communities reported pasture condition to have been fair while in the mixed farming; food crop/livestock zone 33 percent reported pasture to have been poor and the main affected areas included. Kasigau Ward, Mbulia, lower Sagalla, Jipe, Mahoo and Mata wards, Mgeno, Mwakitau, Msorongu, Mwachabo, Kishushe, Sangenyi and Mwaroko.
- Access to pasture in parts of mixed farming; food crop and livestock zone was constrained by lack of water.

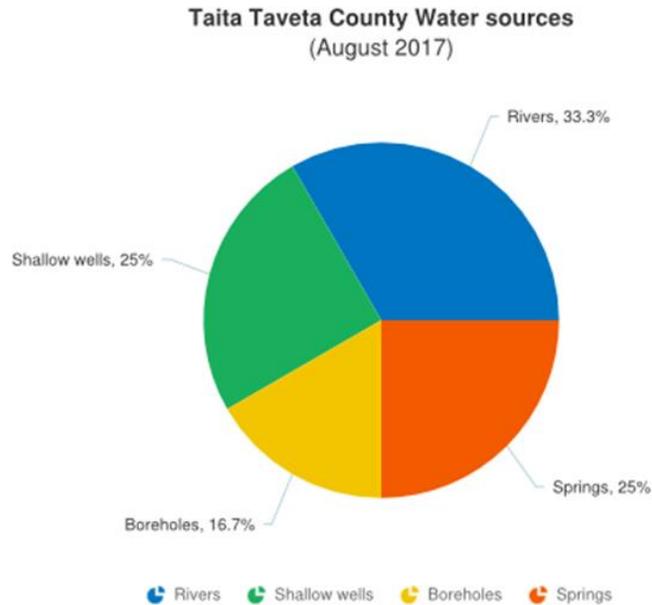
2.1.3 Browse

- Browse condition was generally fair. Approximately 83.3 and 16.7 percent of the communities reported browse to be in fair and poor condition respectively and the situation is normal for this time of the year. Poor browse situation was reported in mixed farming; food crop/ livestock livelihood and this was mainly attributed to poor regeneration during the long rains season.
- No constraints were observed in accessing browse in the month under review.

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

2.2.1 Sources

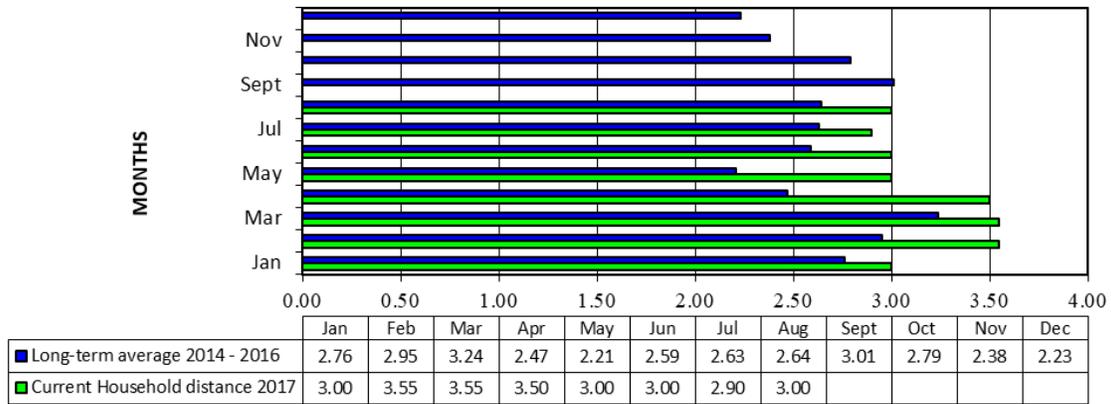
- The main water sources are rivers, springs, bore holes and shallow wells was at 33.3%, 25.0%, 16.7% and 25.0 % respectively.
- Areas that experienced water stress in the month under review were Lessesia, Malukiloriti, Ndara, Rahasi, Kajire, Kisimenyi, Rukanga, Jora, Zungulukani, Mgeno, Mwakitau, Mwachabo, Mwaroko, Sangenyi, Kishushe, Paranga, Mlilo, Ngongodinyi and Mbulia.



2.2.2 Household access to Water.

- The return distance to water sources relatively remained stable at 3km compared to the previous month and longer than the long term average by 13.6 percent. Communities majorly relied on their normal sources of water at this time of the year.
- The average cost of 20 litre jerry can in the mixed farming: food crop/ livestock livelihood zone was normal at Kshs 3 at source and Kshs 20 from vendors.
- Approximately, 72 percent of the households purchased water and water consumption per day per person was 9.6 litres.

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD ACCESS TO WATER DISTANCES FOR AUGUST 2017

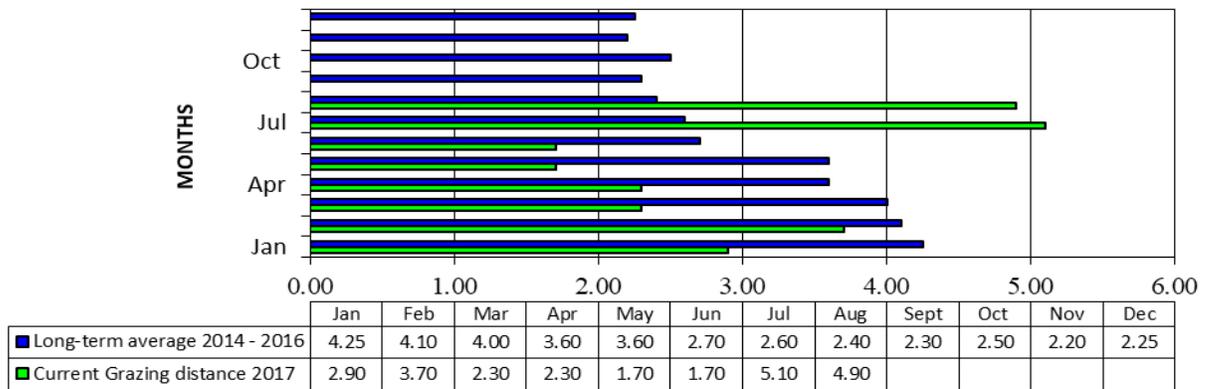


Return Distances to fetch water in Kilometers

2.2.3 Livestock Access

- Average return distance by livestock to grazing areas remained stable at to 4.9km compared to 5.10km during the previous month.
- In the mixed farming: food crop/ livestock livelihood zone, the return distances of up to 8km were reported and this was mainly attributed to increased distances from the grazing areas to the water points following depletion of forage in the normal grazing areas.
- In the mixed farming: food crop/ livestock and horticulture/ dairy livelihood zones livestock watering was normal twice per day

AVERAGE GRAZING DISTANCES FOR AUGUST 2017



Return Distances to Grazing Areas in Kilometers

3. PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

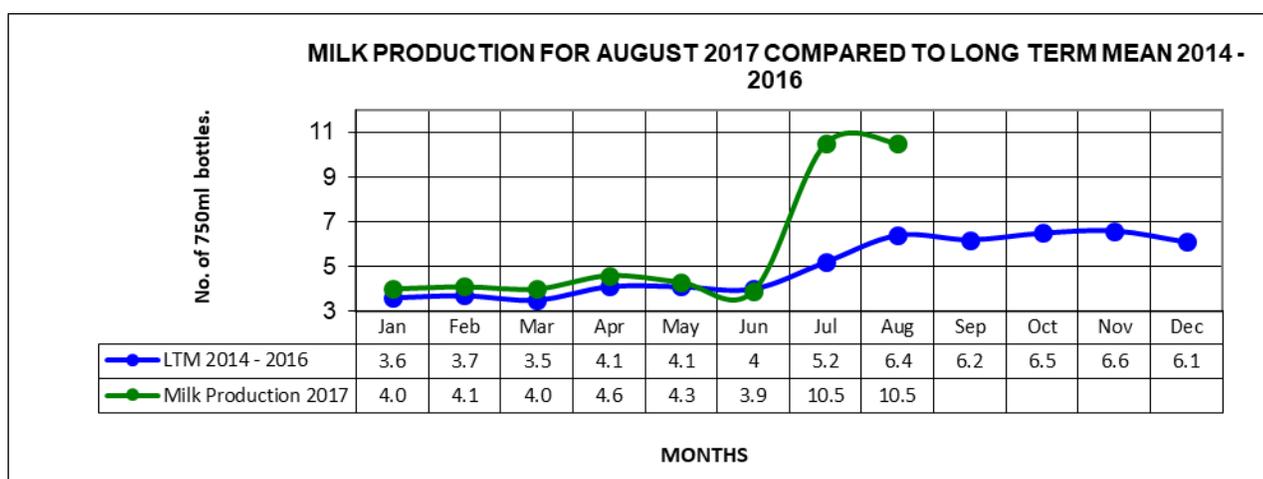
- The body condition for cattle ranged from good to fair in the mixed farming: food crop/ livestock and horticulture/ dairy livelihood zones while in the mixed farming; food crop/livestock livelihood zone the condition ranged from fair to poor. In the former forage and water is available while in the latter forage condition was poor. The body condition for goats and sheep was generally across the county and this was attributed to availability and access to browse and the situation is likely to sustain till the onset of the short rains in October.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- No major cases of livestock diseases were reported.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- The average milk production per day has remained the same at 10.5 compared to previous month.
- In the highlands of Taita Sub County, farmers in the dairy zone areas of Wumingu Ward registered near high milk production.
- Average milk price per litre at household level remained the same at Ksh 50.00



3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

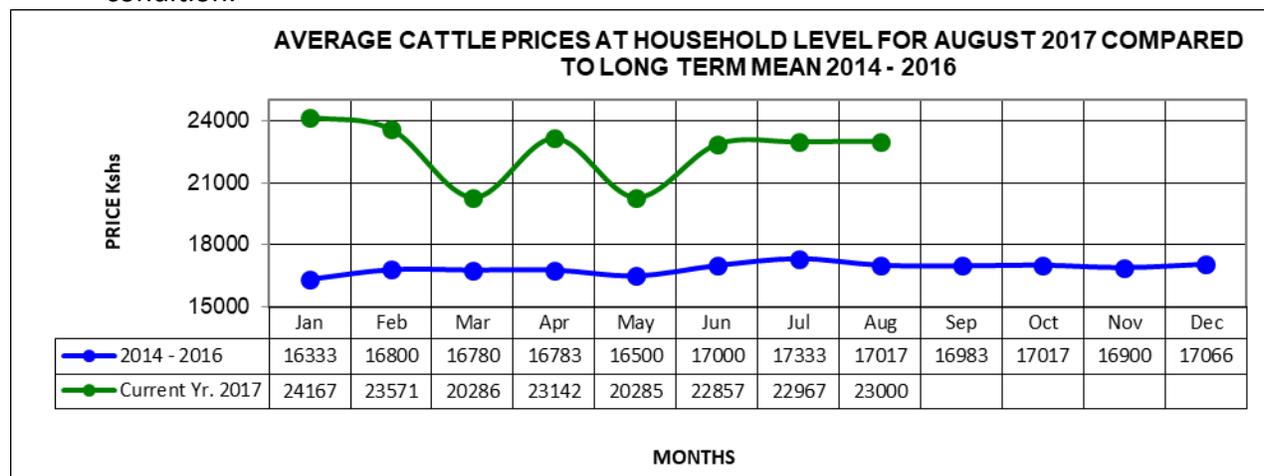
- No crop was available in the field under rain fed agriculture. However in the mixed farming: Irrigation livelihood zone maize crop was at the grain filling stage and harvesting stage Other crop included; bananas, onions, beans and kales that were at various stages of growth and th crop condition is good.
- No pest and diseases reported so far.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

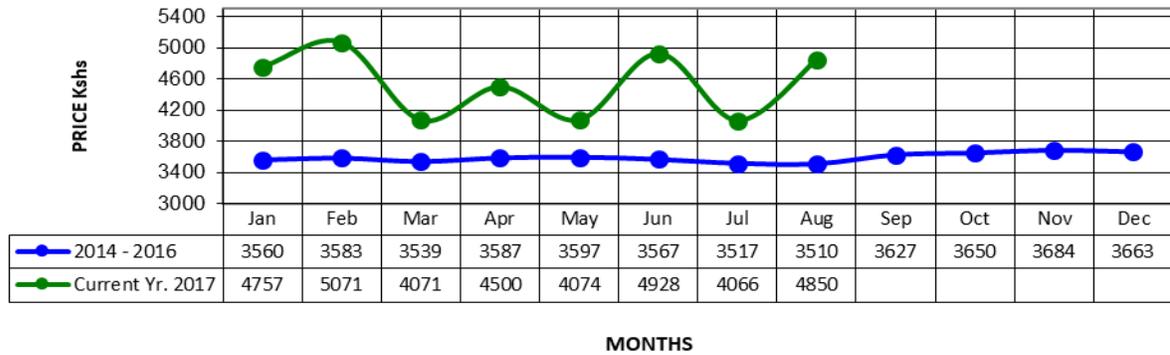
- The average market price of a three year old bull household's increase to Ksh 23000 from Kshs 22,967 the previous month which is normal at this time of the year.
- The prevailing high price could be attributed to the prevailing good to fair body condition of cattle.
- Compared to the long term mean, the average price was higher by 35.2%.
- Comparatively, in the horticulture/dairy livelihood zone cattle prices ranged between Kshs 25,000 to Ksh 38,000 while in hotspot areas mainly in food crops/livestock livelihood zone prices ranged between Kshs 14,000 to Ksh 22,000 and this was mainly attributed to variation in body condition with the latter reporting fair to poor body condition.



4.1.2 Goat Prices

- The average price increased to Kshs4,850 from Kshs4,066 the previous month at household which is normal during this time of the year.
- The price is expected to remain the same given that most farmers will be forced to sell goat to get income to purchase food like maize and pulses.
- Livelihood variations were notable, in the horticulture/dairy livelihood zone goat prices ranged between Kshs 2,500 to Kshs 6,000 while in hotspot areas mainly in food crops/livestock livelihood zone prices ranged between Kshs3,000 to Kshs4,000. This is due to varying browse quantity and distances to water sources.
- Compared to long term mean, the average price was higher by 38.20%.

AVERAGE GOAT PRICES AT HOUSEHOLD LEVEL FOR AUGUST 2017 COMPARED TO LONG TERM MEAN 2014 - 2016



4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

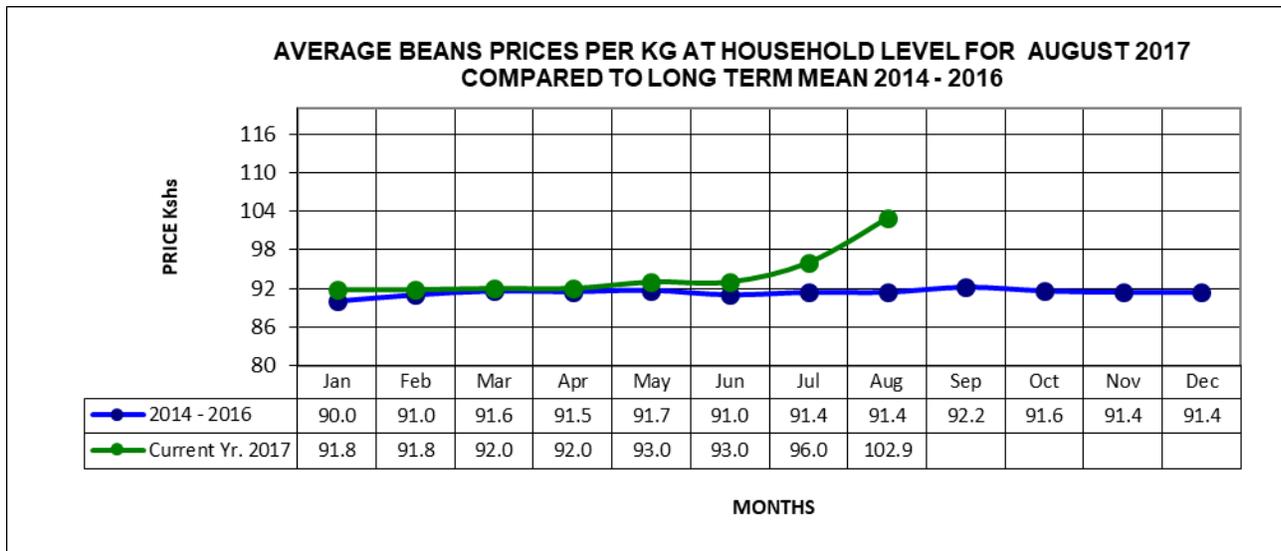
- The average price of a kilo of maize retailed at ksh. 45.3 which represents six percent decline compared to the previous month. The drop in price was attributed to increased supplies from crop harvest in the irrigation livelihood zone and imports from the Tanzania.
- The prices ranged from Kshs 42.00 to Kshs 45.00 in the mixed farming: irrigated cropping/livestock livelihood zone, areas of Challa and Eldoro in Taveta Sub County.
- Highest prices were recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone, Mghange Dawida, Mwakajo, Rukanga and Mwachawaza at Kshs 48.00 to Kshs 54.00 in Taita, Voi and Mwatate Sub Counties.
- Compared to the long term mean the price was higher by 12.4%.

AVERAGE MAIZE PRICES PER KG AT HOUSEHOLD LEVEL FOR AUGUST 2017 COMPARED TO LONG TERM MEAN 2014 - 2016



4.2.2 Beans

- Average market price of beans increased to Kshs 102.90 from Ksh 96.0 as compared to the previous month.
- Lowest prices were recorded in mixed farming: irrigated cropping/livestock/food crops livelihood zone; Challa at Kshs70- 90 due to harvests from irrigation schemes, while high prices were recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone of Kshs 90 to 120 in Mwakajo, Mwachawaza and Rukanga markets..
- Compared to the long term mean the price was higher by 12.6%.

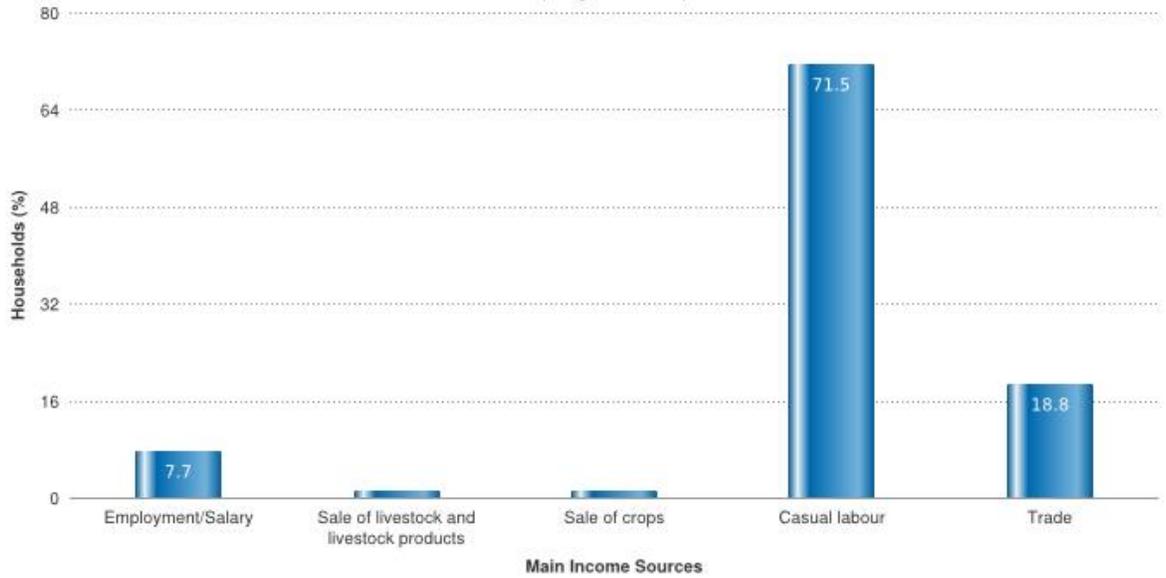


4.3 INCOME

The main sources of income included; Casual labour, Trade, and formal employment and were relied upon by 71.5%, 18.8% and 7.7% households respectively.

Casual labour opportunities were available in the sisal plantation, ranches building sites and town centres.

Taita Taveta County Households Main Income Sources
(August 2017)



4.4 TERMS OF TRADE

- Terms of trade remained favourable and a household could purchase of 107.1 kg of maize from proceeds of sale of a goat compared to 74.9 during the previous month and this was mainly attributed to increase in price of goats and decline in the market price of maize.
- The situation is expected to remain steady.

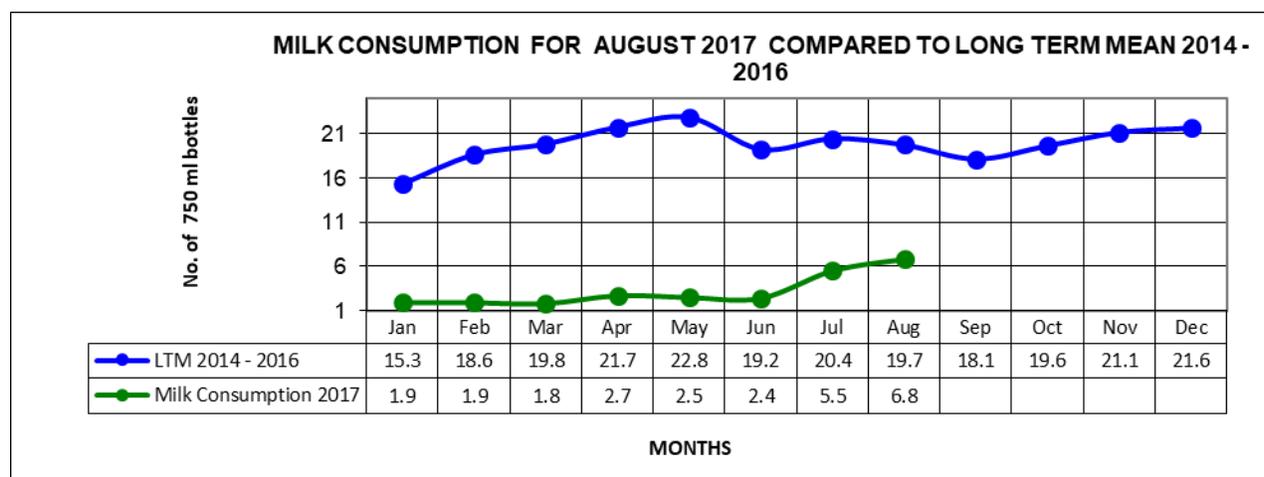
Terms of Trade - Taita Taveta County



5. FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

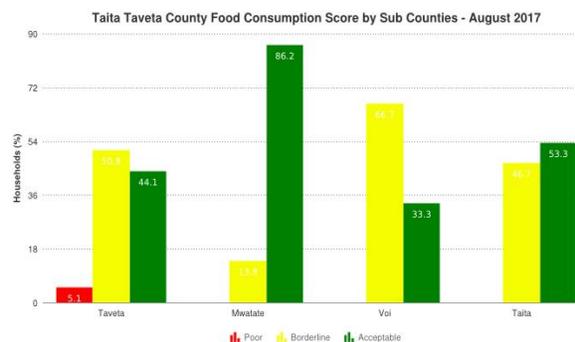
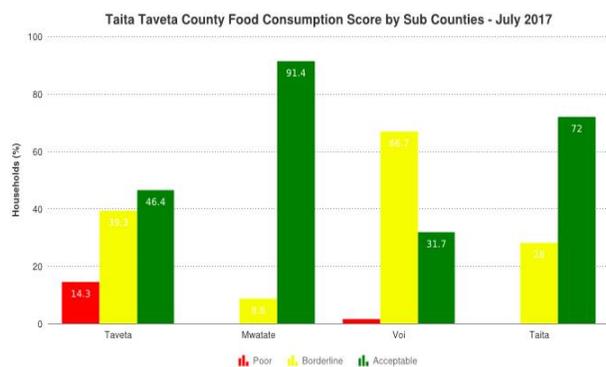
5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- The milk consumption per day increased to 6.8 litres from 5.5 litres as posted in the previous month.
- The increase in milk consumption is attributed to increased milk production at the household level.
- The quantity of milk consumed was high in mixed farming: irrigated cropping/livestock/food crops livelihood zone Mwarungu; while low consumption in the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone Mwakajo, Mwachawaza and Rukanga.



5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

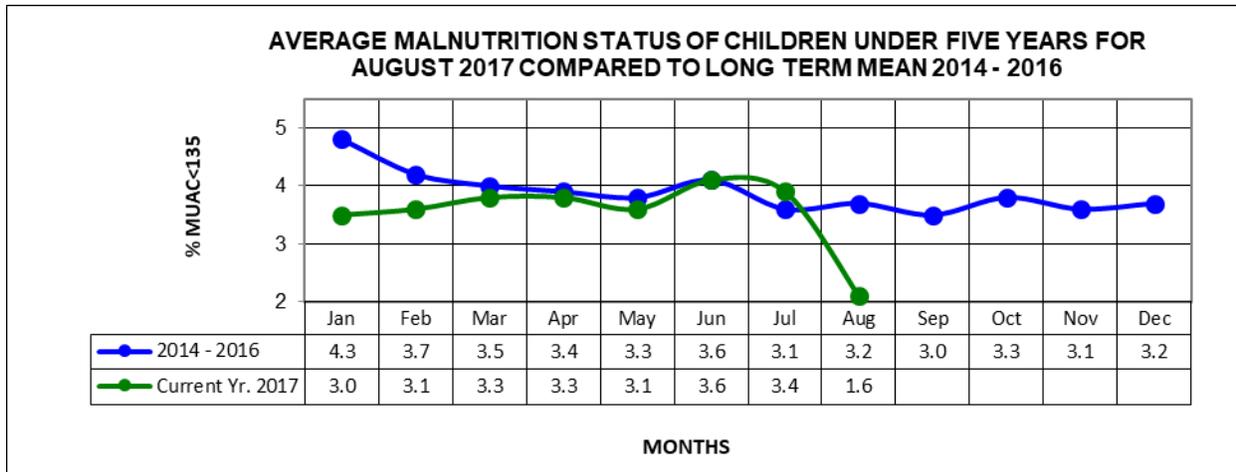
- The number of households with acceptable, borderline and poor food consumption score during the month was 54, 44.4 and 1.4 percent respectively.
- Main meals consumed were two food groups that are ugali and vegetables.



5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- Compared to the previous month, Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurement for nutrition status of children below five years percentage of those rated as being at risk of malnutrition decreased to 1.6
- Compared to long term mean, MUAC level is lower by 100%.

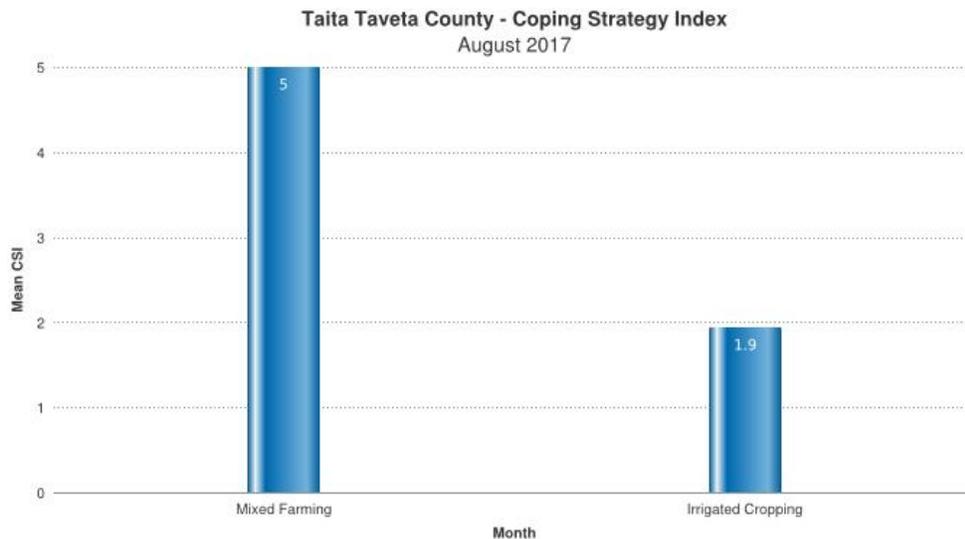


5.3.2 Health

- Fever with breathing difficulties and fever with chills were reported.

5.3.3 Coping Strategies.

The CSI has improved to 4.56 from 5.82.



6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 FOOD AND NON FOOD INTERVENTIONS

6.1.1 Sectoral

Intervention	Achievements in August 2017
Social Protection	
Chakula Kwa Jamii	National Government funded project is unconditional cash transfer programme targeting 10,325 vulnerable Households– Targeting and registration was undertaken and currently enrolment and issuing of the first batch is in progress

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 MIGRATION

- No major in or out migration was reported in the month under review.

7.2 CONFLICT

- Predation of livestock by wild cats remain a challenge in areas of Ngolia Ward, Buguta, Sasenyi, Makwasinyi, Rukanga, Jora, Kajire, Kishamba, Ndara, Talio, Mazola, Marapu and Zongwani.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- Inadequate rains adversely affected crop production especially maize and beans. However, water and livestock sector in regard to pasture will be sustained for some few weeks.
- High prices of food stuffs have reduced household purchasing power.
- Drought response activities to continue mainly in areas that have not received rains.
- Early implementation of preparedness activities in the county will help address issues of drought given that we are heading to a long dry spell till onset of short rains in mid October.
- Overgrazing, human wildlife conflict and deforestation remains a threat to food security in the county.
- SRA 2017 population in need of food assistance was at 71,212 (2009 census KNBS).

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

Social Protection Sector

- Upscale CFA and General Food Distribution beneficiaries.

Agriculture and Livestock Sector

- Crop protection.
- Provision of supplementary feed in areas experiencing pasture stress.
- Promotion of pasture and browse management through bailing.

Water and Irrigation Sector

- Provision of water treatment tabs mainly in rain fed lowlands.
- Promotion of water harvesting structures at household level.

Health and Nutrition

- Strengthen malnutrition screening and active case search and integrated management of acute malnutrition especially in the lowlands Voi, Mwatate and Taita Sub Counties.
- Incorporate 'Beyond Zero' facility during outreaches.
- Fortified food being distributed as relief food to be issued to facilities for distribution to avoid stigmatization and segregation of TB and HIV patients.
- Enhance disease and nutritional surveillance.

Education

- Upscale and expand School Meals Program especially in Taita Sub County