

National Drought Management Authority

TAITA TAVETA COUNTY

DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR JULY 2018



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



JULY 2018 EW PHASE



Early Warning Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Mixed Farming: Food Crops/ Livestock	Normal	Stable
Mixed Farming: Food Crops/ Horticulture/Dairy	Normal	Stable
Mixed Farming: Irrigated Cropping/ Livestock/Food Crops	Normal	Stable
National Park	Normal	Stable
County	Normal	Stable
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/ Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	121	80 - 120
VCI-3Month	81.92	35 - 50
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Maize Crop Condition	Harvesting	Harvesting
Livestock Body Condition for cattle	Good	Good
Milk Production per HH/ day	3.1	2.9 Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	142.5	83.2
Milk Consumption per HH/ day	1.1	0.9 Litres
Return distance to water sources	2.1	2.4 Km
Water source return distance from grazing areas	3.1	3.4 Km
Cost of water (20 litres)	3.00	< Kshs 5.00
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	1.9	<3.20

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- The county experienced light rains in the highlands of the county. The lowlands remained dry coupled with low temperatures.
- The county vegetation condition index was above normal. All the four Sub Counties VCI depicted vegetation greenness above normal.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production Indicators

- Farmers were harvesting dry maize.
- Livestock body condition was good for all species.
- Milk production per HH per day was above normal.
- Livestock migration patterns were normal.

Access Indicators

- Terms of Trade were favourable and above the normal range.
- Milk consumption per HH per day was above normal.
- Distances to water sources were below the normal range.
- Distances to water sources from grazing area were below the normal range.

Utilization Indicators

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

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 ▪ Flush floods - Taveta 	<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 ▪ Flush floods - Taveta 								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

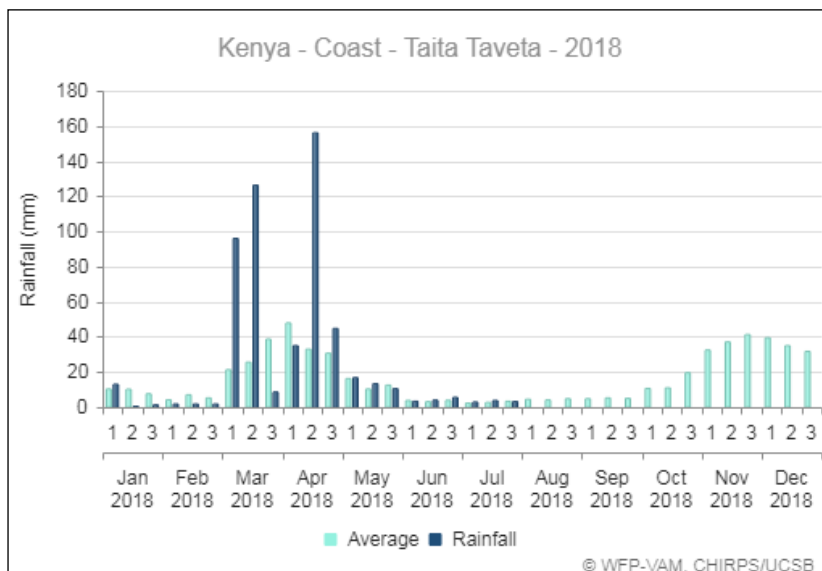
1. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- The county received light rains in the highlands while the lowlands recorded no rains.
- The county registered early onset of long rains in the first week of March compared to mid March followed by a normal cessation in the third dekad of May.

1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- According to WFP-VAM, Climate Hazards Group InfraRed Precipitation with Station Data (CHIRPS) three months rainfall anomaly was 121%.
- Dekad one, two and three recorded 2.8 mm, 3.7 mm and 3.1 mm of rainfall amounts respectively.
- Compared to LTM dekad one and two were above by 27.3% and 29.7 % respectively. Dekad three was below by 6.1%.
- Rainfall situation remained normal compared to the long term average.

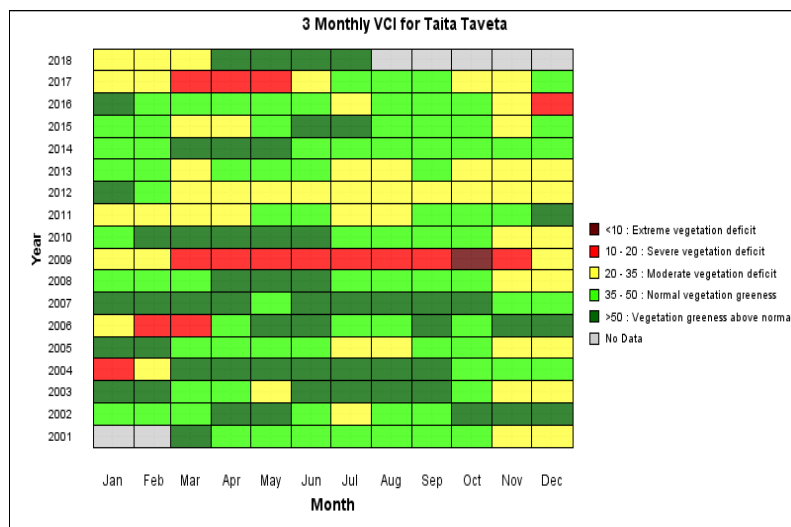


2. IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

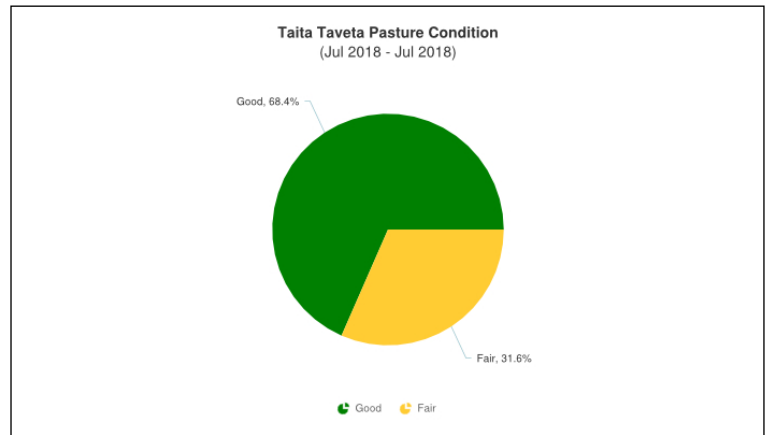
2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The county vegetation condition index (VCI) was above normal as depicted by a VCI value of 81.92.
- All the four Sub Counties VCI depicted vegetation greenness above normal.
- The current situation is attributed to above normal long rains that resulted to significant regeneration of pasture and natural vegetation compared to the previous years.



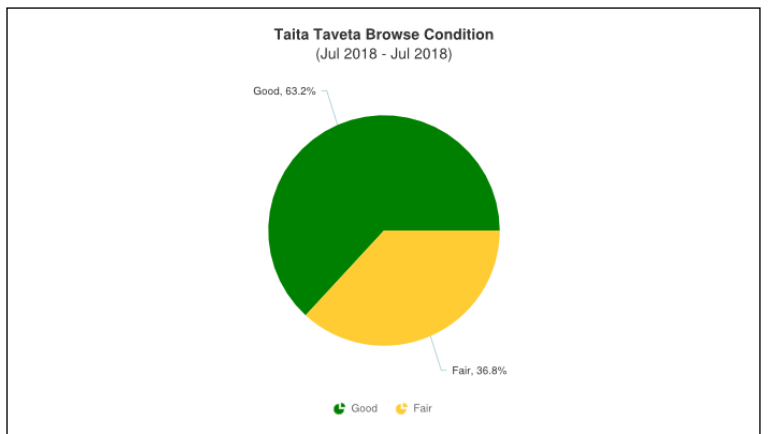
2.1.2 Pasture

- Based on community interviews conducted, 68.4% of respondents reported pasture condition was good while the rest reported fair.
- Pasture condition has deteriorated compared to the previous month.
- However, pasture condition is above normal for this time of the year.
- Available pasture is expected to last for at least two months due to prevailing low temperatures.



2.1.3 Browse

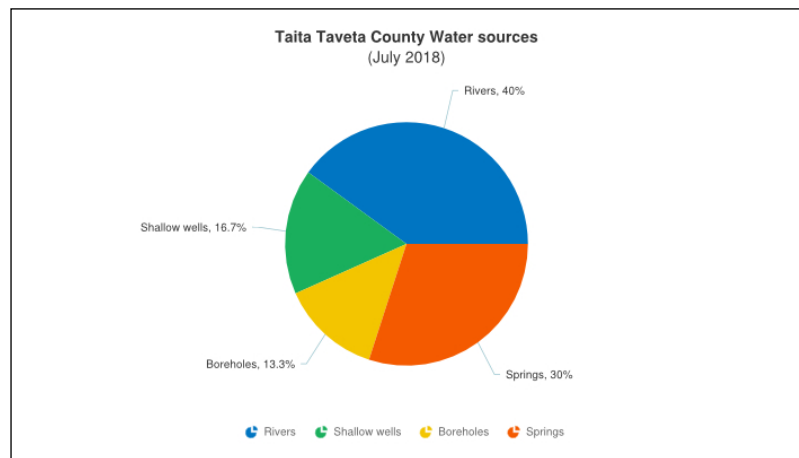
- Results from community interviews undertaken showed that 63.2% of respondents confirmed browse condition was in good condition while the rest reported browse condition was in fair state.
- The browse situation was good compared to same season previous year.
- This could be attributed to early onset, adequate amounts and good distribution of the long rains.
- The available browse is expected to last for at least two months.
- No constraints were observed in accessing browse in the month under review.



2.2 WATER RESOURCE

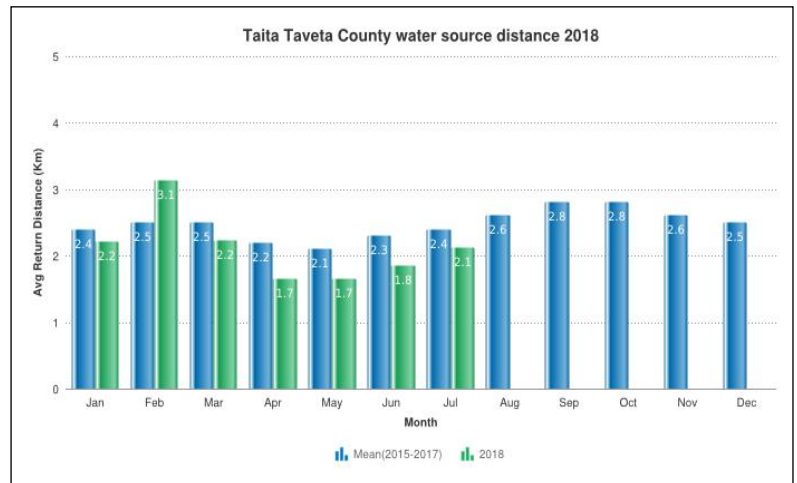
2.2.1 Sources

- The four main sources of water were rivers, springs, boreholes and shallow wells and were relied upon by 40, 30, 13.3 and 16.7 percent respectively from community interviews undertaken.
- Water levels reduced in the month under review.
- Due to prolonged siltation, several open water sources have dried up like Ziwa La Ngo'mbe, Mwamsae and Kwa Ziro water pans.
- Strategic water sources like Mwatate dam and Manoa water pan water levels have reduced to levels of about 60%.
- Water situation is currently above normal compared to same time in previous years.



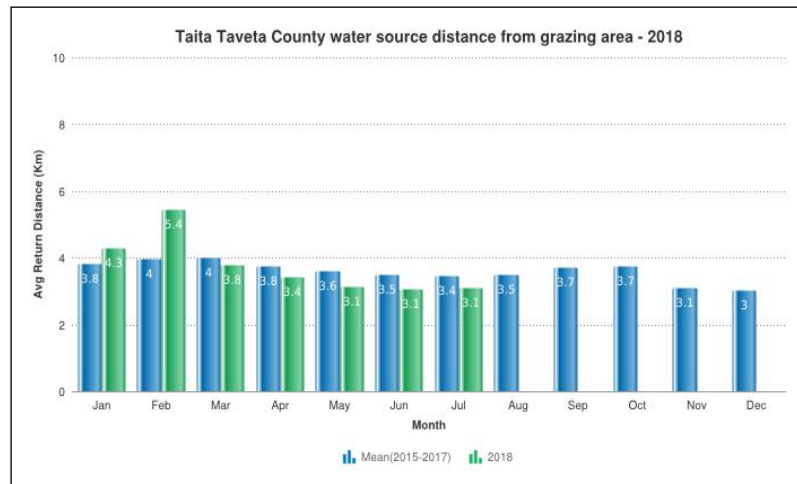
2.2.2 Household Access to Water

- Return distances to fetch water was 2.1 km representing 16.7% increase from the previous month.
- The slight rise was due to drying up of water storage facilities at household level and open water sources like pans with low capacities.
- Compared to the long term average the current distance is shorter by 12.5%.
- The average cost of 20 litre jerry can at water kiosks was at Kshs 3 which is normal at this time of the year.



2.2.3 Livestock Trekking Distance to Water Sources from Grazing Areas

- Return distance to water source from grazing areas remained at 3.1 km as posted in the previous month.
- This was due to availability of water near grazing areas.
- In all livelihood zones the frequency of watering for all livestock species was twice per day. This is above normal compared to other similar seasons in the previous years.



3. PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

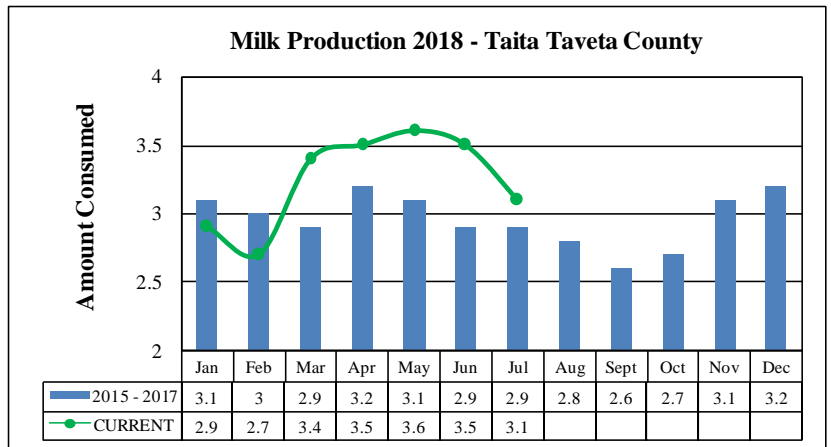
- In the mixed farming: horticulture/ dairy and mixed farming: irrigated cropping/ livestock livelihood zones cattle, goat and sheep body condition was good.
- In the mixed farming: food crop/livestock livelihood zones the cattle and goat body condition was good.
- Poultry production was good in the month under review.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- No major cases of livestock diseases were reported.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- The average milk production per household per day slightly decreased by 11.4 percent to 3.1 litres compared the previous month and was above the long term average for the same period.
- Milk production was good attributed to decreased access to fodder and water. Relatively milk production was high in the horticulture/dairy livelihood where cattle are of better breed and practice zero grazing.
- Average milk price per litre at household level was Ksh 40.00



3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

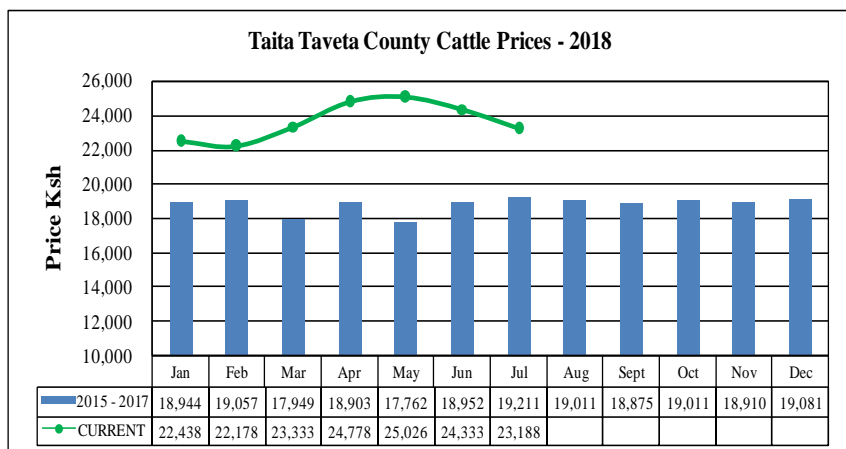
- In the mixed farming: food crop/ livestock livelihood zone farmers were harvesting maize, green grams and cowpeas,
- In the mixed farming: horticulture/dairy livelihood zone farmers were harvesting beans and maize.
- In the mixed farming: Irrigated cropping/ livestock livelihood zone farmers were harvesting tomatoes, onions, green grams and beans.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

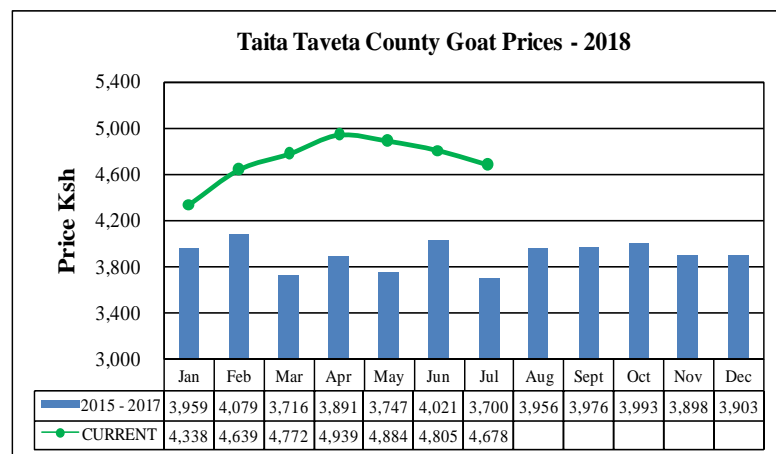
4.1.1 Cattle Prices

- The average market price of a three year old bull decreased by 4.7 percent to Kshs 23,188 compared to the previous month.
- The price was above normal at this time of the year.
- This was attributed to the prevailing good body condition of cattle and uninterrupted market operations.
- Compared to the long term mean, the average price was higher by 28.4%.



4.1.2 Goat Prices

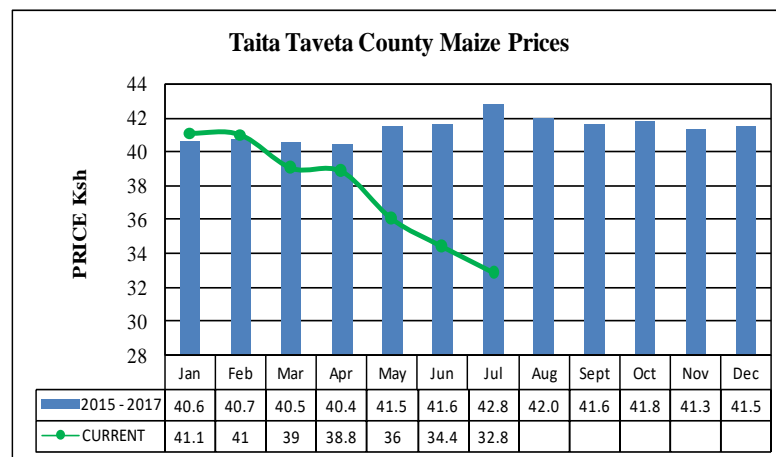
- The average market price of two year goat dropped by 3.4 percent to Kshs 4,678 compared to the previous month.
- The price was above normal at this time of the year.
- The above LTM prices could be attributed to good body condition of goats in all livelihood zones. Also supply has dropped given that farmers have plenty of cereals and legumes from harvest and need not to sell their animals to purchase food.
- Compared to long term mean, the average price was higher by 26.4%.



4.2 CROP PRICES

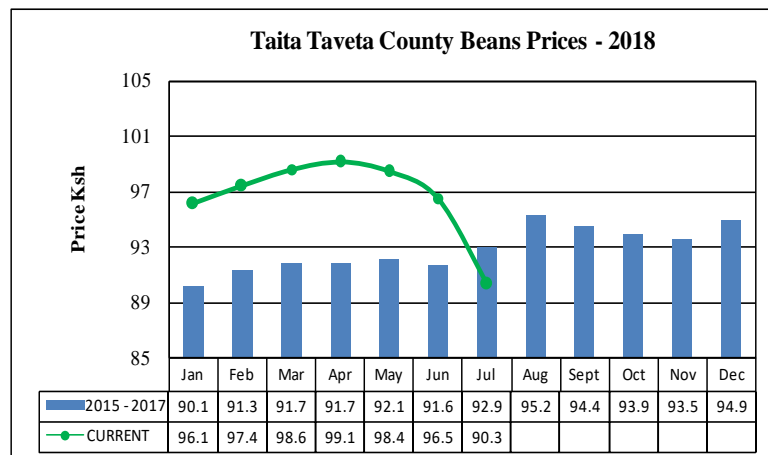
4.2.1 Maize

- The average market price of a kilo of maize decreased to Kshs 32.8 compared to the previous month indicative of 23.4% drop.
- The drop could be due to harvest being experienced in the county rendering low demand in the markets.
- Across the livelihood zones the price varied with the mixed farming: irrigated /livestock livelihood zone, areas of Challa and Eldoro in Taveta Sub County recording low price of Kshs 25.00. In the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone (Mwakajo, Rukanga and Mwachawaza) reported prices at Kshs 30 per kilo.
- Compared to the long term average the current price was below normal.



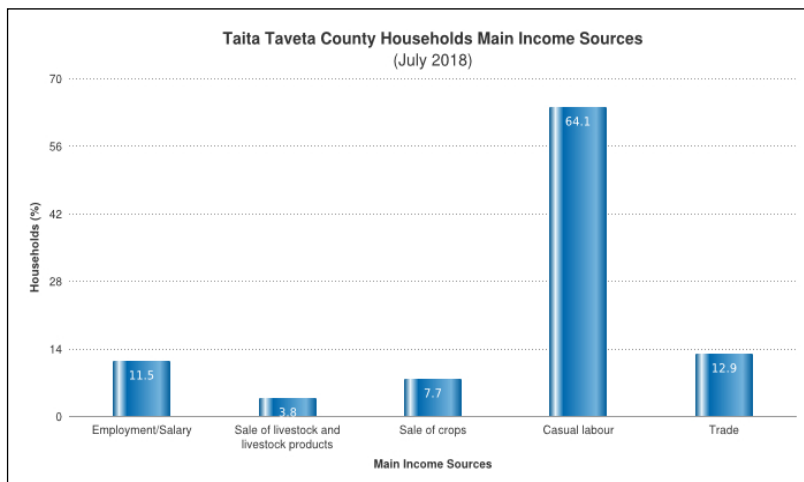
4.2.2 Beans

- Average market price of a kilo of beans dropped to Kshs 90.30.
- Lowest prices were recorded in mixed farming: irrigated cropping/livestock livelihood zone; Challa at Kshs 50 - 70 due to harvests from irrigation schemes, while high prices were recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone of Kshs 80 to 95 in Mwakajo, Mwachawaza and Rukanga markets.
- Compared to the long term mean the price was higher by 5.3%.



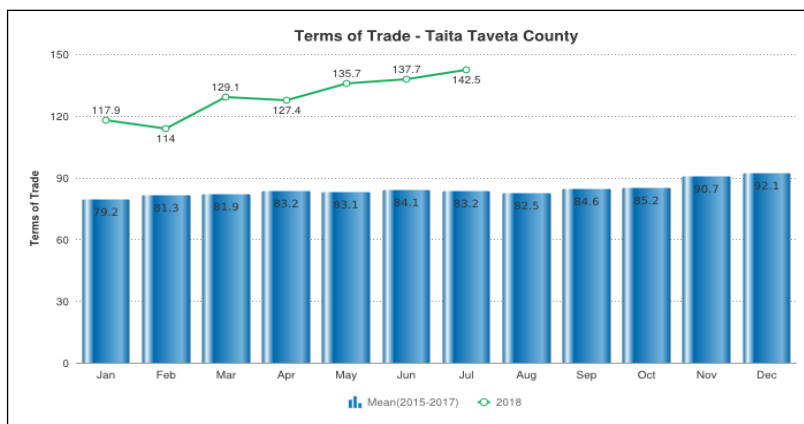
4.3 INCOME

- Household main sources of income were casual labour and trade. Others were sale of crops, employment and sale of livestock products at lower proportions.
- Compared to previous month an increase was registered in sale of livestock and crops; and casual labour and a drop in employment and trade.
- Casual labour opportunities were available in the farms, sisal and banana plantations, mining sector, irrigation schemes, ranches, building sites and town centres.



4.4 TERMS OF TRADE

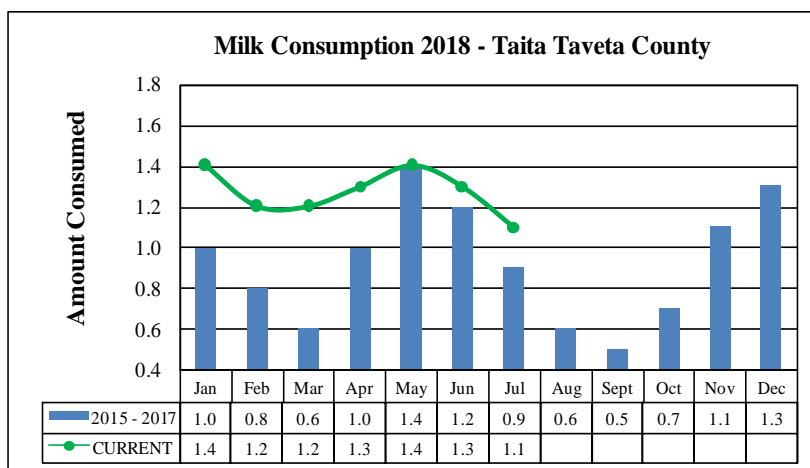
- Terms of trade were favourable and on an upward trend compared to the previous month.
- The current trend was attributed to high price of goats above LTM against gradual fall of maize price.
- Proceeds of sale of goat could purchase 142.5 kilograms of maize.
- Terms of Trade were above the LTM by 71.3 percent.



5. FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

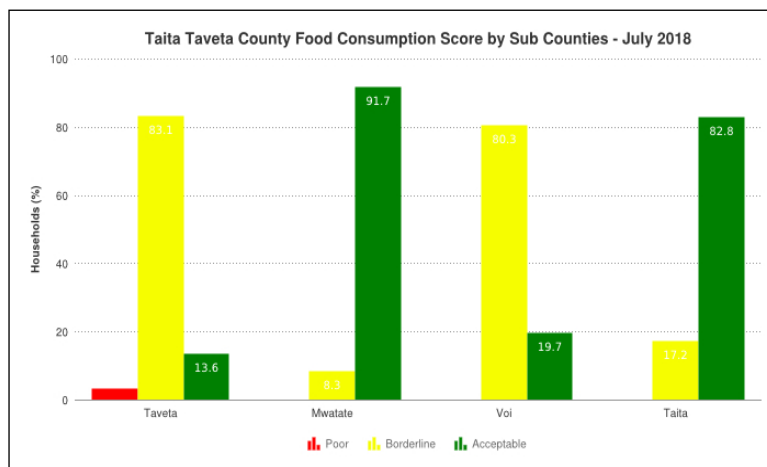
5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- The milk consumption per household per day decreased to 1.1 litres from 1.3 litres posted in the previous month.
- Milk consumption was high by 22.2 percent compared to LTM.
- The quantity of milk consumed was high in mixed farming: horticulture/dairy livelihood zone Wumingu Ward, while low consumption was recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone Ngolia, Wusi, Kasigau and Challa Wards.



5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

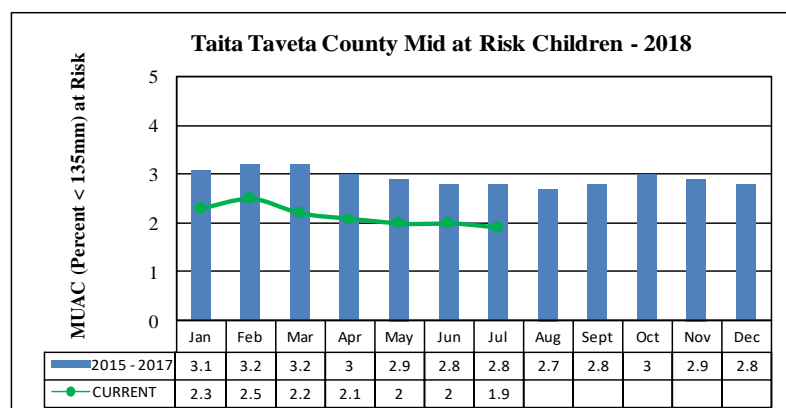
- Approximately 47.4 percent of households were in the acceptable food consumption score category indicating that they were consuming an acceptable diet in terms of meal frequency, dietary diversity, nutritional value and amount. The proportions of households under borderline food consumption category were 51.7 percent and 0.9 percent respectively.
- All households interviewed reported consumption of grains for seven days, 93 percent of these households consumed pulses for an average of three days in a week while 20 percent consumed milk for six days in a week.
- Availability of maize, pulses and vegetables has enhanced household nutrition.



5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurement for children below five years indicated that 1.9 percent were at risk of malnutrition which is a slight decrease from the previous month and below the long term average by 32 percent.
- MUAC levels remained below the long term mean.

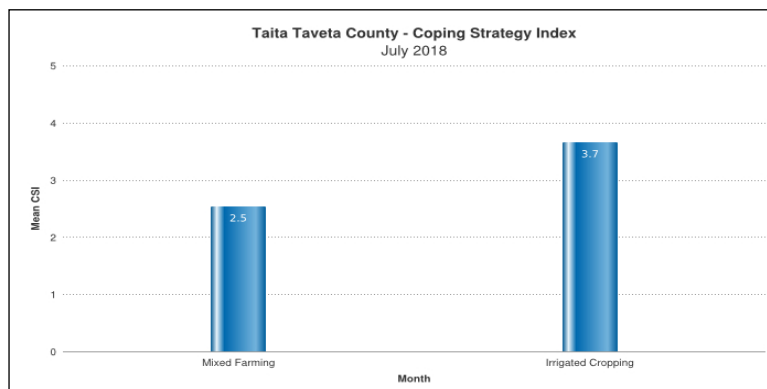


5.3.2 Health

- Cases of fever with chills like malaria were at 5.6% compared to 2.2% that was posted in the previous month.

5.3.3 Coping Strategies

- The CSI for the month under review was recorded at 2.68 compared to 2.82 posted in the previous month.
- This slight decrease demonstrates households were employing less coping strategies compared to previous month.
- Approximately 26.3 percent of sampled households engaged in reduction of meals for two days in a week while 30.6 percent reduced portion of meals for two days in a week.



6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 FOOD AND NON FOOD INTERVENTIONS

6.1.1 Sectoral

Intervention	Activities
Multi-Sectoral	
Ending Drought Emergencies SP5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of Ward Contingency Plans was ongoing
Social Protection	
Asset Creation Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Asset Creation program was ongoing

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/ Conflict/ Human Displacement

- Presence of camels from neighbouring counties observed near community settlement areas of Sagalla and Mwatate Wards.
- Pride of lions from the park invaded homesteads in both highlands and lowlands of Mwatate and Taita Sub Counties injuring and killing livestock mainly dairy cows.

7.2 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- The long rains performance was good in terms of amounts and distribution. The cessation was timely and crop development was good. Ongoing harvest of cereals and legumes has impacted positively on food security. Harvests are projected to improve nutritional status of the community. Availability of water, pasture and browse at shorter distances is expected to promote livestock development and enhance livestock production.
- Cases of human wildlife conflict are expected to escalate due to drying up of open water sources inside the parks.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

Agriculture and Livestock Sector

- Post harvest management.
- Crop protection against pest and diseases and baboons especially in irrigated zone.
- Pasture management and conservation.

Water and Irrigation Sector

- Provision of water treatment tabs mainly in rain fed lowlands.
- Desiltation of open water sources like water pans.

Public Health and Nutrition

- Deworming for both adults and children.
- Household level water treatment.
- Distribution of water purifiers and chlorine to prevent water borne diseases.

Multi Sectoral

- Initiate planning process for drought risk management. (Drought preparedness measures and upscale drought contingency planning).