

National Drought Management Authority

TAITA TAVETA COUNTY

DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR DECEMBER 2018



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



DECEMBER 2018 EW PHASE



Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- During the month the county recorded rainfall amounts that were within the normal range.
- The rains were characterised by uneven spatial and poor temporal distribution.
- The county vegetation condition index was above normal. The VCI for the four Sub Counties depicted vegetation greenness above normal.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production Indicators

- Most maize crop was tasseling while a few at grain filling stage.
- Livestock body condition was good for all species.
- Milk production per HH per day was above normal.

Access Indicators

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

Utilization Indicators

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

Early Warning Phase Classification

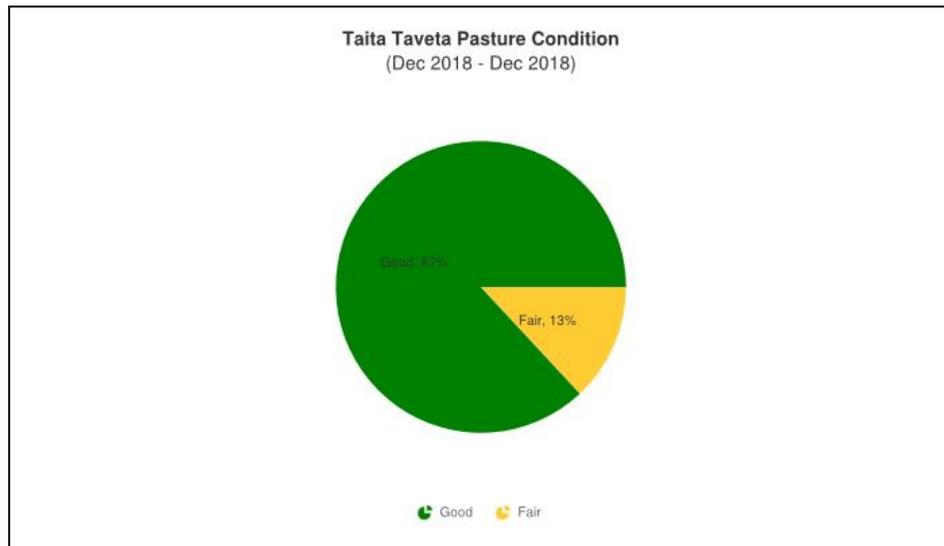
Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Mixed Farming: Food Crops/ Livestock	Normal	Stable
Mixed Farming: Food Crops/ Horticulture/Dairy	Normal	Stable
Mixed Farming: Irrigated Cropping/ Livestock/Food Crops	Normal	Stable
National Park	Normal	Stable
County	Normal	Stable
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/ Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	104	80 - 120
VCI-3Month	52.54	35 - 50
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Maize Crop Condition	Tasseling	Grain filling
Livestock Body Condition for cattle	Good	Good
Milk Production per HH/ day	3.6	3.2 Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	153.2	90.7
Milk Consumption per HH/ day	1.2	1.3 Litres
Return HHs distance to water sources	2.4	2.5 Km
Water source return distance from grazing areas	2.9	3.1 Km
Cost of water (20 litres)	3.00	< Kshs 5.00
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	1.9	<3.0

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

- The county vegetation greenness condition was above normal as depicted by a vegetation condition index (VCI) value of 52.54.
- All the four Sub Counties VCI depicted vegetation greenness above normal.
- The current situation is attributed to regeneration of pasture and natural vegetation due to ongoing short rains.

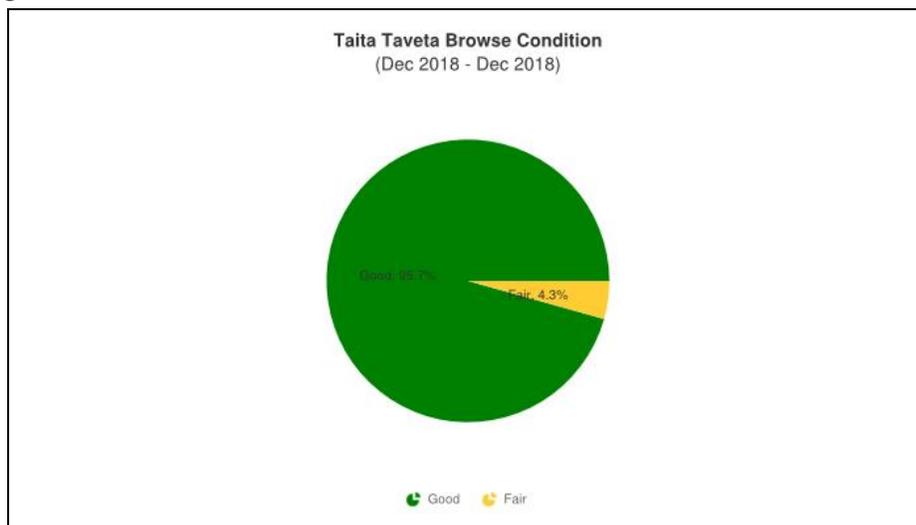
2.1.2 Pasture



n=21Key Informants

- Based on community interviews conducted, 87% and 13% of respondents reported pasture condition was good and fair respectively. Pasture has regenerated due to ongoing short rains. Areas reporting fair condition were in Challa and Eldoro Wards.
- The standing pasture in the grazing areas is mostly lush but few farmers have fodder harvested from previous season.
- Pasture condition is normal for this time of the year.

2.1.3 Browse

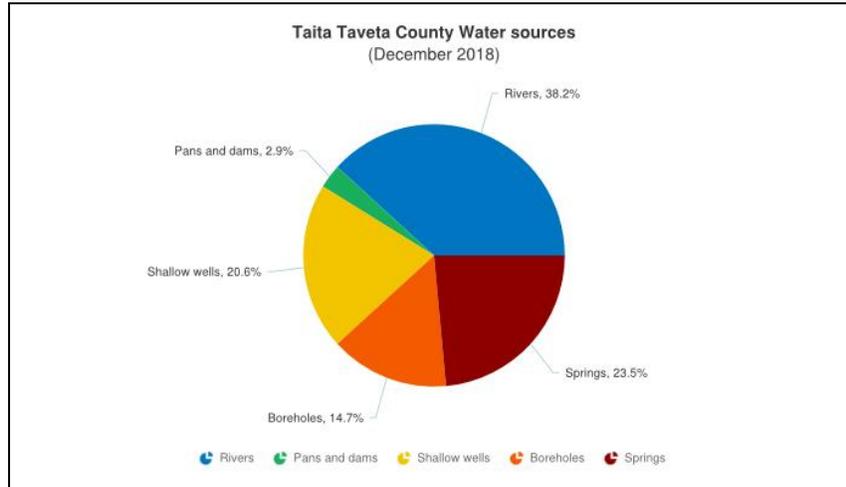


n=21Key Informants

- Results from community interviews undertaken showed that 95.7% and 4.3% of respondents confirmed browse condition was in good and fair conditions respectively.
- The browse situation was good compared to same season previous year.
- The available browse has improved compared to the previous month.
- No constraints were observed in accessing browse in the month under review.

2.2 WATER RESOURCE

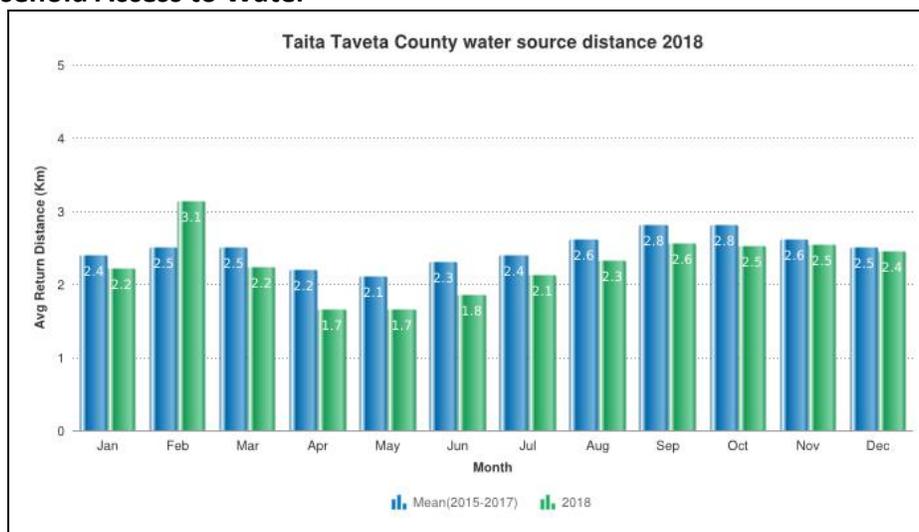
2.2.1 Sources



n=210HHs

- The main sources of water from community interviews conducted were; rivers, springs, boreholes, shallow wells and pans and dams and were relied upon by 38.2, 23.5, 14.7, 20.6 and 2.9 percent respectively.
- The rains have recharged and improved water situation in the county.
- Strategic water sources like Mwatate dam and Manoa water pan were almost full to capacity.

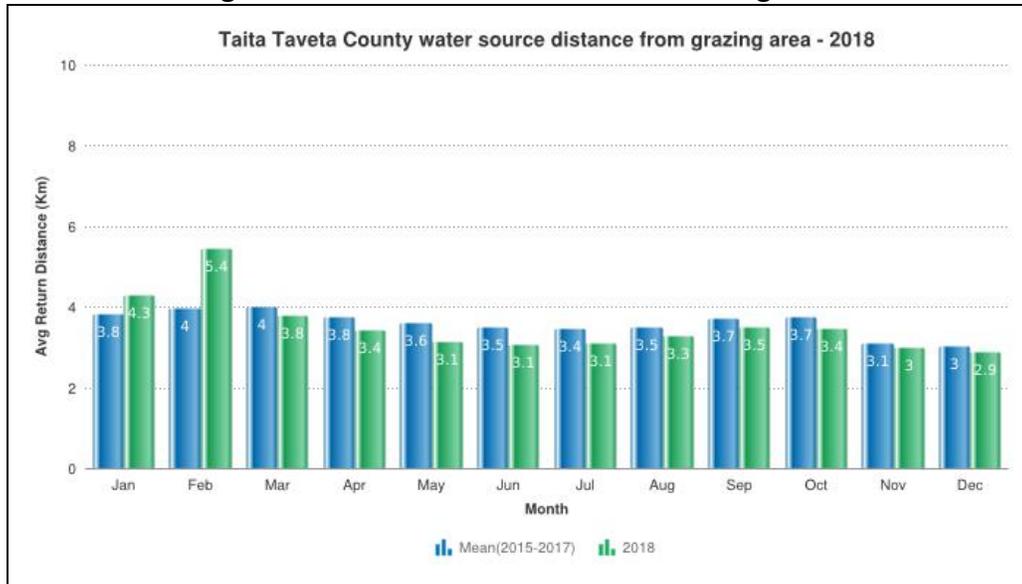
2.2.2 Household Access to Water



n=210HHs

- Return distances to fetch water was 2.4 km representing 4% decrease from the previous month.
- The decrease was due to availability of water at household level through roof catchment and recharge of open water sources.
- Compared to the long term average the current distance is shorter by 4%
- The average cost of 20 litre jerry can at water kiosks was at Kshs 3 which is normal at this time of the year.
- Based on community interviews conducted, 25.9% of respondents treated water. Out this number 68.5% use aqua tabs while 31.5% boil water.

2.2.3 Livestock Trekking Distance to Water Sources from Grazing Areas



n=21Key Informants

- Return distance to water source from grazing areas decreased to 2.9 km from 3.0 km posted in the previous month.
- This was due to availability of pasture and browse at shorter distances and closer to watering points that have recharged due to ongoing rains.
- Compared to LTM the distance is slightly shorter.

3. PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

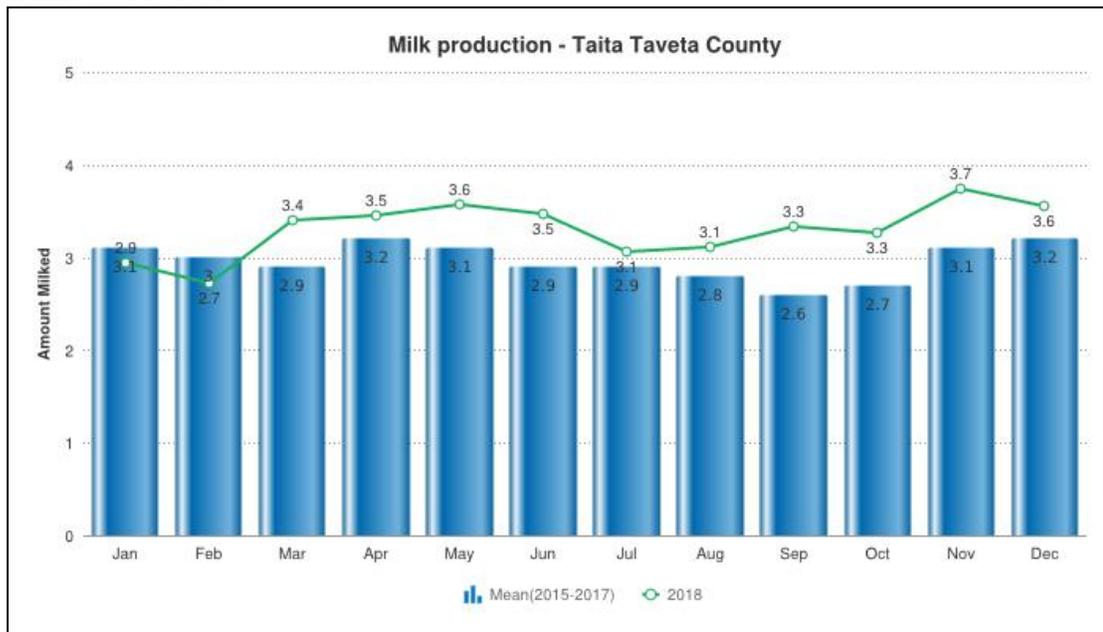
3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- In all livelihood zones livestock body condition was good for all species.
- Poultry production has improved during the two seasons.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- No livestock disease outbreaks were reported.

3.1.3 Milk Production



n=210 HHs

- The average milk production per household per day slightly decreased to 3.6 litres compared to 3.7 litres posted in the previous month.
- Milk production was above long term average by 12.5%.
- Milk production was high in Wumingu/ Kishushe Ward and Mboghoni Ward at 39.6% and 26.7% respectively where cattle are of better breed and practice zero grazing. The former sold 82.4% while the latter 66.7% of milk produced. The rest was the rest consumed.
- Average milk price per litre at household level was Ksh 50.00

3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

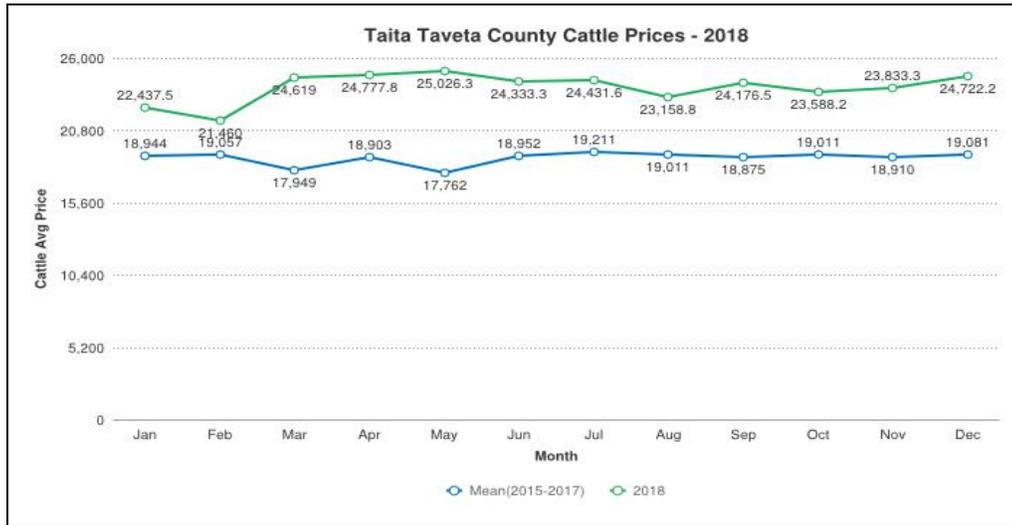
3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

- In the mixed farming: food crop/ livestock livelihood zone most maize crop was flowering and for those farmers who dry planted they were harvesting green maize. Green grams and cowpeas are at the podfill and maturity stage.
- In the mixed farming: horticulture/dairy livelihood zone maize crop is at grain filling stage. Bean crop is at the podfill and maturity stage.
- In the mixed farming: Irrigated cropping/ livestock livelihood zone farmers are harvesting green maize while others are planting rice.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

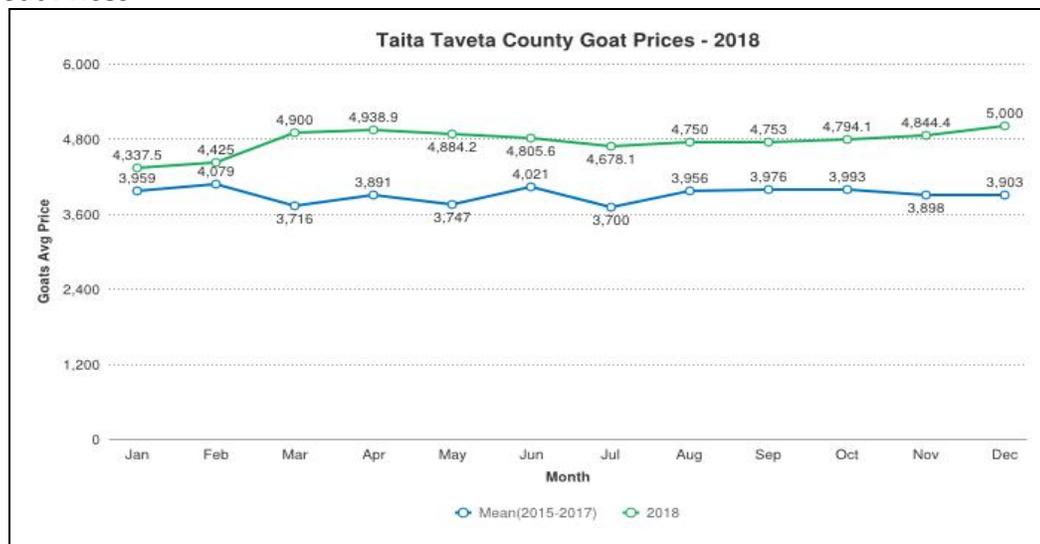
4.1.1 Cattle Prices



n=210HHs

- The average market price of a three year old bull was at Kshs 24,722 compared to the previous month of Kshs 23,833.
- The trend is stable and compared to the previous year at this time, the price is higher by 3.7%.
- This could be attributed to festive seasons and the prevailing good body condition of cattle.
- Compared to the long term mean, the average price was higher by 29.6%.

4.1.2 Goat Prices



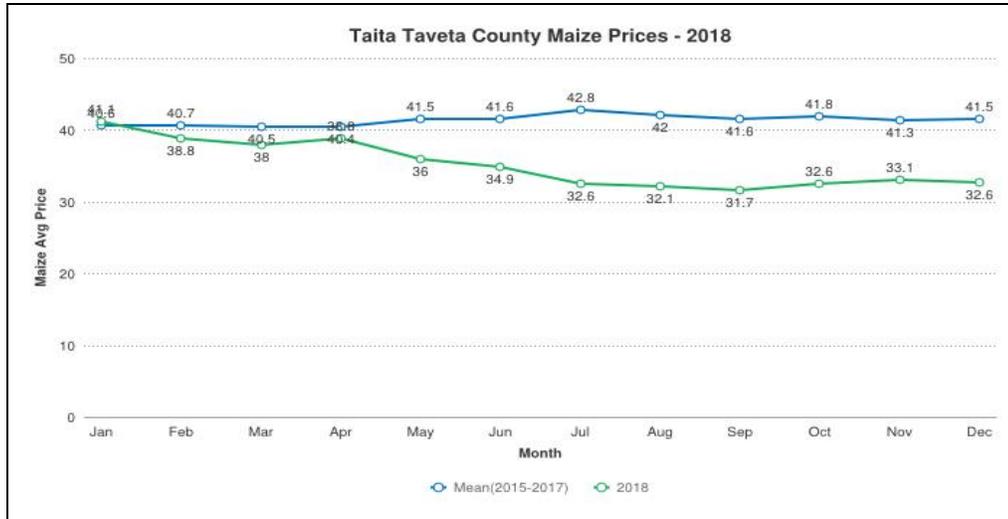
n=210HHs

- The average market price of a two year goat was Kshs 5,000 compared to Kshs 4,844 posted in the previous month.

- The prevailing high price could be attributed to festive season in the month under review.
- Compared to long term mean, the average price was higher by 28.1%.

4.2 CROP PRICES

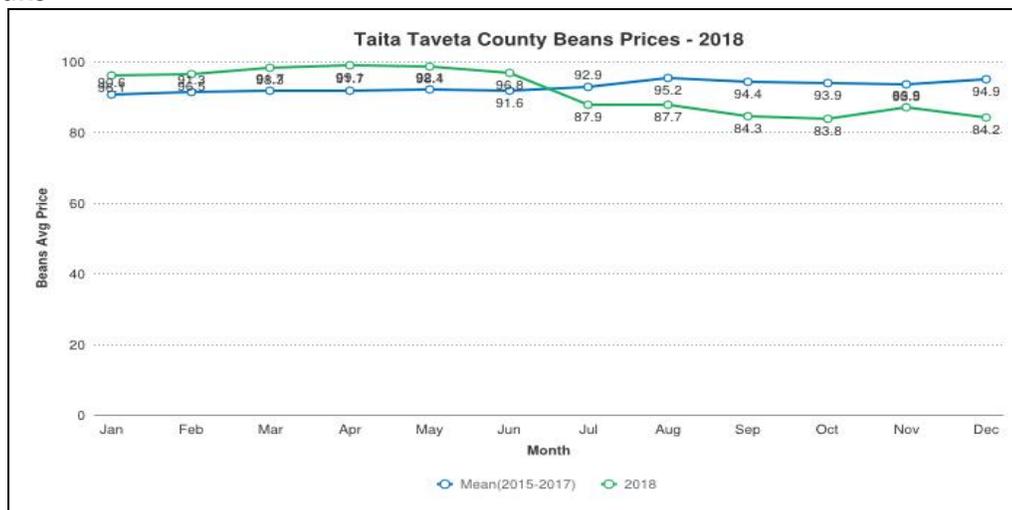
4.2.1 Maize



n=210HHs

- The average market price of a kilo of maize slightly dropped by 1.5 % to retail at Kshs 32.6 compared to the previous month.
- The decrement was attributed to a few number of household selling green maize to traders.
- 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 30.00. In the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone (Mwakajo, Rukanga and Mwachawaza) reported prices at Kshs 38 per kilo.
- Compared to the long term average the current price was below normal

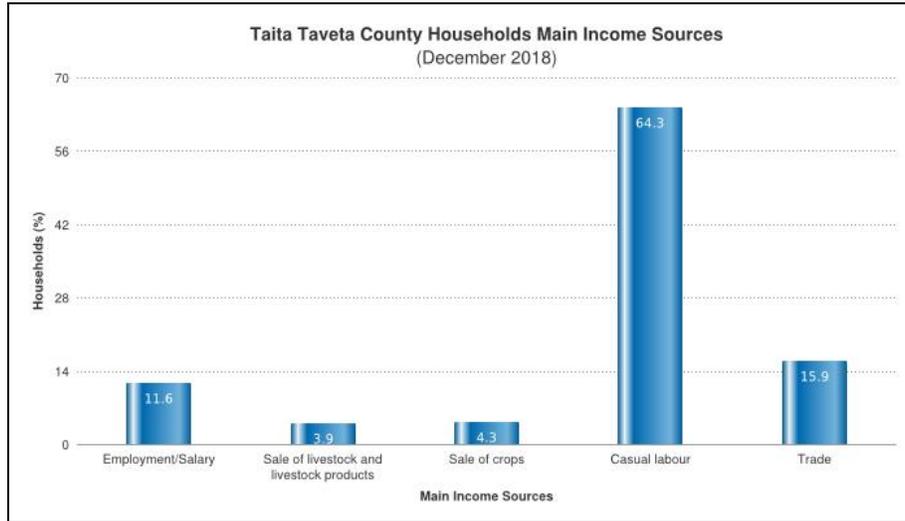
4.2.2 Beans



n=210HHs

- Average market price of a kilo of beans was Kshs 84.20 indicative of 3.1% decrease compared to the previous month. This was due harvest in the irrigation livelihood zone.
- Lowest prices were recorded in mixed farming: irrigated cropping/livestock livelihood zone; Challa at Kshs 50 - 60 due to harvests from irrigation schemes, while high prices were recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone of Kshs 90 to 100 in Mwakajo, Mwachawaza and Rukanga markets.
- Compared to the long term mean the price was lower by 11.3%.

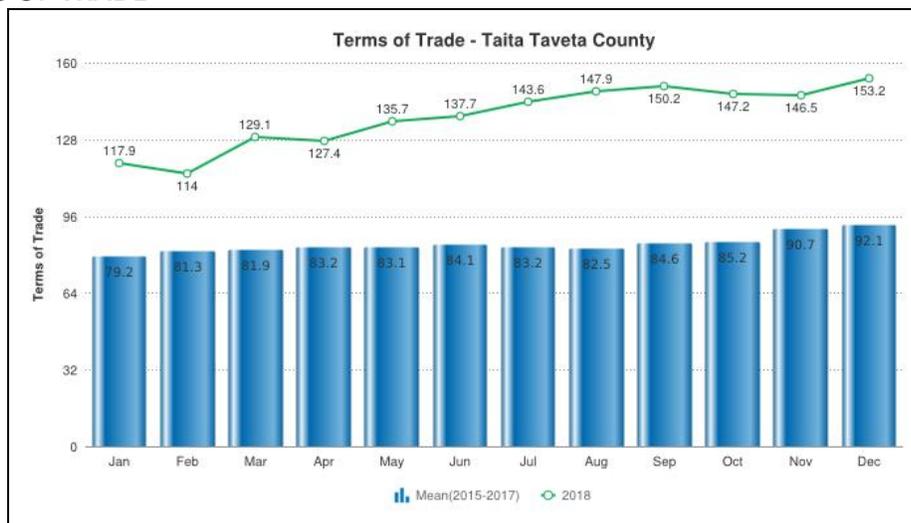
4.2 INCOME



n=210HHs

- Household main source of income were casual labour. Others were trade, sale of crops, employment and sale of livestock products at lower proportions.
- Sale of livestock products and crops were on an upward trend compared to previous months.
- Casual labour opportunities were available in the sisal and banana plantations, irrigation schemes, mining sector, herding, ranches, building sites and town centres.

4.4 TERMS OF TRADE

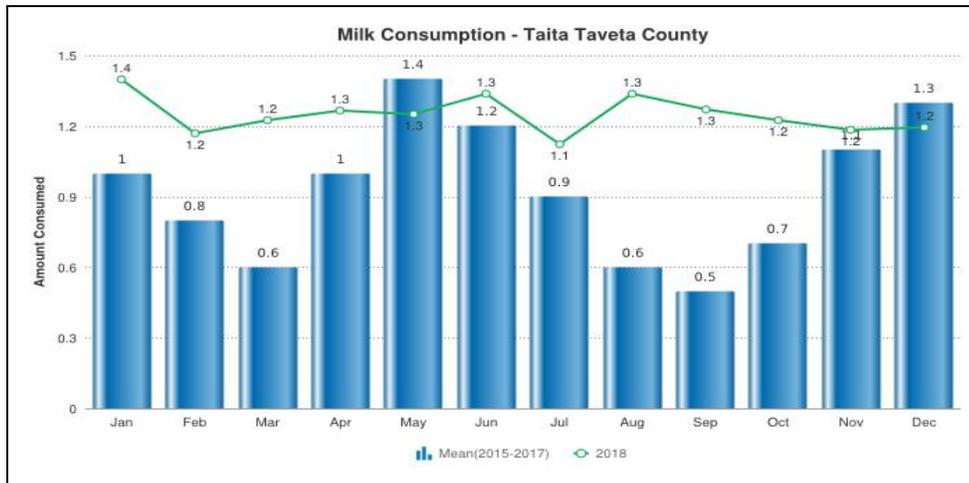


n=210HHs

- Terms of trade were favourable and consistently above the LTA.
- Terms of Trade was above the LTM by 66.3 percent.
- The upward trend was attributed to high price of goats above LTM against prevailing low prices of maize.
- Proceeds of sale of goat could purchase 153.2kilograms of maize.

5. FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

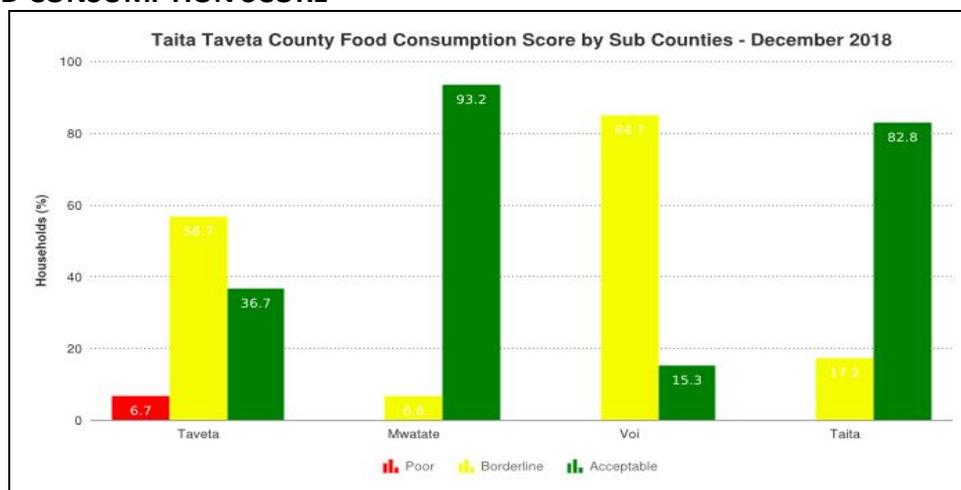
5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION



n=210HHs

- Milk consumption per household per day remained at 1.2 litres compared to previous month.
- The quantity of milk consumed was low in Mbogholi and Wumingu Wards at 34.0% and 18.0% respectively while the rest of the milk produced was sold.
- High milk consumption was recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/ livestock livelihood zone Kasigau, Ngolia and Challa Wards at 100%, 100% and 80% of the milk produced.

5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

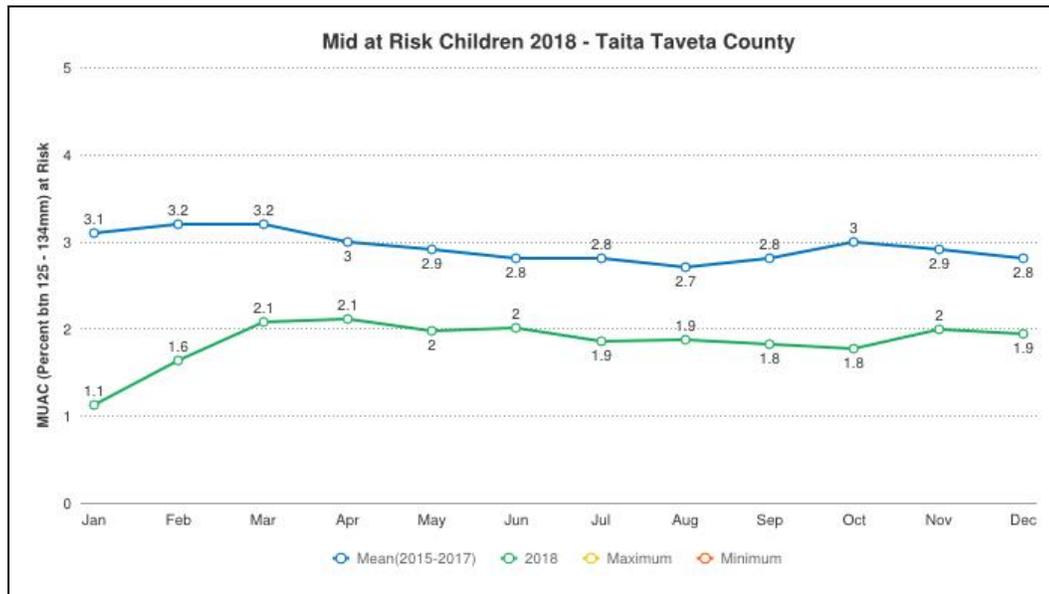


n=210HHs

- Households interviewed showed that 57.0 percent 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 41.35 percent and 1.25 percent respectively.
- 54 percent households interviewed reported consumption of grains for six days, 31.7 percent of these households consumed pulses for an average of four days in a week while 51.9 percent consumed vegetables for an average of four days in a week.
- Most households consumed three food groups i.e. maize, pulses and vegetables.

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

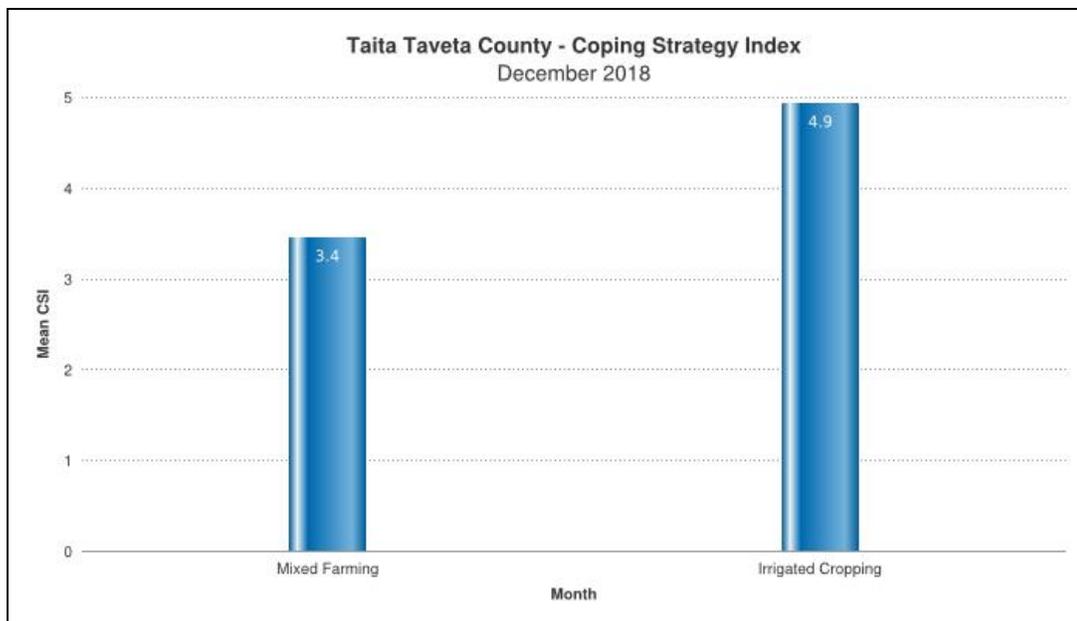
5.3.1 Nutrition Status



n=210HHs

- Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurement for children below five years at risk of malnutrition remained at 1.9 percent compared to previous month.
- This was below the long term mean by 32 percent.
- MUAC levels were low and consistently below the long term mean.

5.3.2 Coping Strategies



n=210HHs

- The CSI for the month under review was recorded at 3.66 compared to 3.91 posted in the previous month.
- This slight decrease demonstrates households were employing less coping strategies compared to previous month.
- Approximately 4.8 percent of sampled households engaged in reduction of meals for six days in a week while 10.2 percent reduced portion of meals for three days in a week.

6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 FOOD AND NON FOOD INTERVENTIONS

6.1.1 Sectoral

Intervention	Activities	Implementers
Multi-Sectoral		
Shelter construction	Targeting 166 HHs in flood prone areas of Taveta Sub County (Malukiloriti, Jipe, Kiwalwa, Mrabani, Kimorigho and Rekeke). Each HH received Kshs 69,500, 23 bags of cement and 18 pieces of iron sheets – completion stage	KRCS/ MI&CNG

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/ Conflict/ Human Displacement

- Sagalla Ward community members staged a peaceful demonstration protesting increased destruction of food crops by marauding elephants.
- Presence of herds of camels observed near community settlement areas of Sagalla and Mwatate Wards.

7.2 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- The rains experienced towards the end of the month have boosted crop development especially maize crop. Farmers are expecting to harvest pulses in the month of January.
- Farmers who dry planted are harvesting green maize which has impacted positively on food security.
- Also availability of short term green leafy vegetables has greatly reduced household food stuff expenditure.
- Prices of pulses are expected to fall due to expected harvests. Also prices of maize are projected to drop due to harvest being experienced in the irrigation zone.
- Quality and quantity of pasture and browse is expected to improve. Availability of feeds is expected to maintain the good body condition of all livestock species.
- The rains improved water situation and in terms of access and availability.
- Livestock production and productivity is expected to improve due to availability of water, pasture and browse at shorter distances.
- Cases of human wildlife conflicts are expected to drop due to recharge of open water sources in the parks plus regeneration of pasture and natural vegetation.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

Agriculture and Livestock Sector

- Post harvest management.
- Fodder improvement and conservation.
- Management of crop pests in the farms.
- Promote poultry production.
- Livestock disease surveillance due to influx of camels in the county.

Water and Irrigation Sector

- Provision of water treatment tabs mainly in rain fed lowlands.

Public Health and Nutrition Sector

- Deworming for both adults and children.
- Household level water treatment.

Peace and Security Sector

- KWS to enhance surveillance in areas bordering the park especially Sagalla and Ngolia Wards.