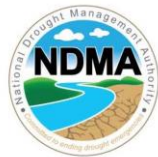


**National Drought Management Authority**  
**WAJIR COUNTY**  
**DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR SEPTEMBER 2017**



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



**SEPTEMBER EW PHASE 2017**

**Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification**  
**Biophysical Indicators**

The County largely remained dry and hot. Current vegetation cover indexes for September showed moderate vegetation deficit band with a score of 31 from previous month figure of 30 with no significant changes.

However Wajir South and Wajir West are the most stressed sub counties with scores of 13.59 and 21.3 respectively, indicating severe vegetation deficit.

The situation is worsening in all the livelihood zones in the entire county.

Distance to water points from households was longer than the long term average which is not normal

**Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)**

The livestock body condition ranged from fair to very poor, while milk production remained the same as compared to previous month. Condition of Pasture and browse worsened and the terms of trade was not favourable.

Migration of livestock still persisted while return distance to water source and cost of water increased compared to Normal.

Percentage of children under five at risk of malnutrition increased from 19.6 in August to 20.2 in September, More coping strategies were employed as compared to previous months.

**Early Warning Phase Classification**

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Alert	Worsening
Pastoral cattle	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral-all species	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral camel	Alert	Worsening
Informal employment	Alert	Worsening
County	Alarm	Worsening
Biophysical Indicators	value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	0	80 -120
VCI-3Month	31.18	>35
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Fair –very poor	Normal
Crop production	Poor	Good
Milk Production	1.8	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	some death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	59	>66
Milk Consumption	1.2	>3
Return Distance to water source	7.0	<5 Km
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	20.2	<6.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	16.6	<0.95

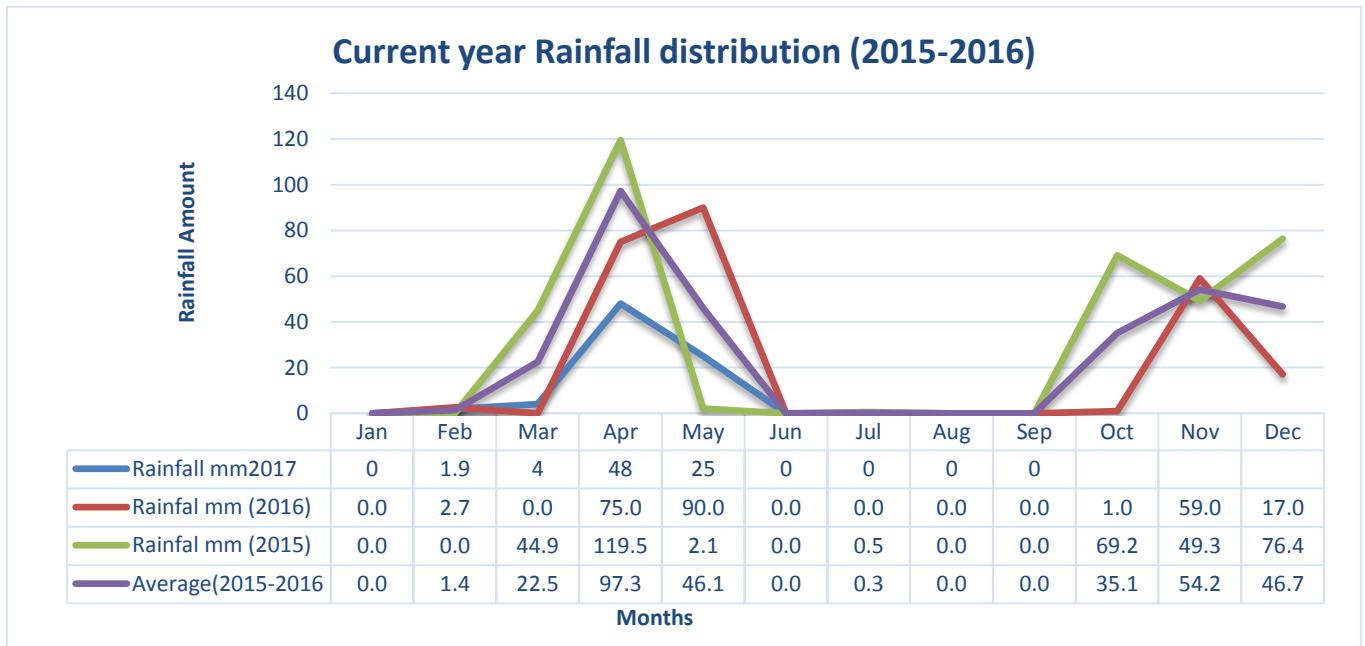
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Short rains harvests</li> <li>▪ Short dry spell</li> <li>▪ Reduced milk yields</li> <li>▪ Increased HH Food Stocks</li> <li>▪ migrations</li> <li>▪ Land preparation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Planting/Weeding</li> <li>▪ Long rains</li> <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>								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

# 1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITION

## 1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

No rainfall was realized in the entire County during the month in all the livelihood zones. This is normal during the time of the year.

### Rainfall station data



**Table 1: A mount of rainfall**

## 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 in the month of September indicated moderate vegetation deficit. However, pastoral all species livelihood zone in Wajir west and pastoral cattle livelihood zone in Wajir south showed severe vegetation deficit but according to observation the county is in an alarm stage.

The most stressed areas are Wajir south and Wajir west sub counties caused by depressed rainfall witnessed during previous season while the other sub-counties show moderate vegetation deficit. The condition is expected to deteriorate further as the long dry spell continues till the OND.

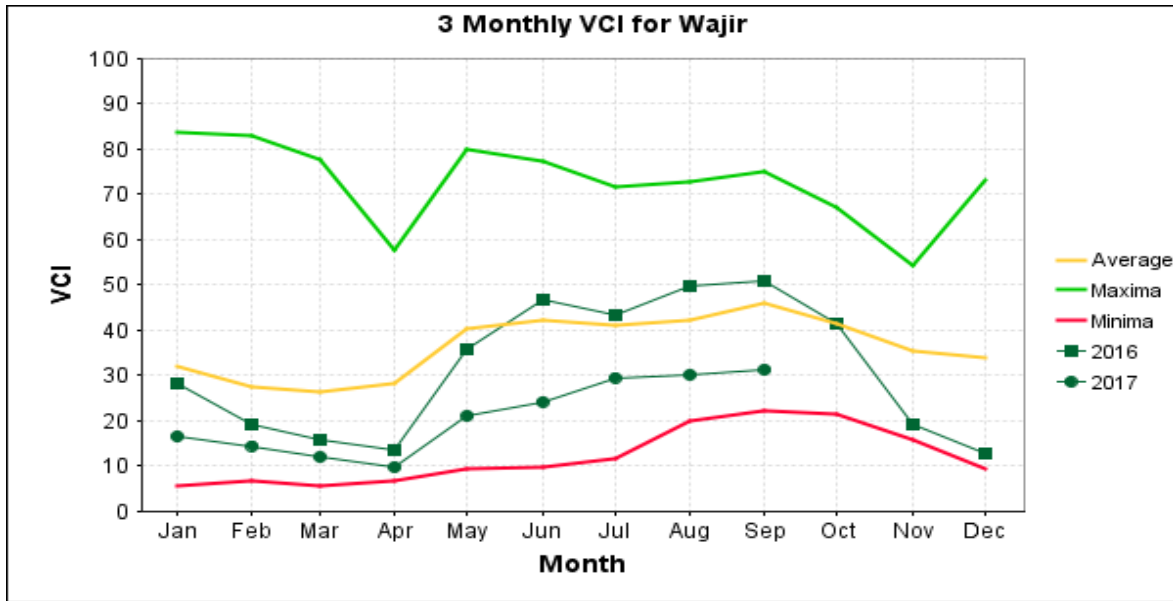


Figure 3: A chart of Wajir County overall 3-monthly VCI during the month of Septemebr2017

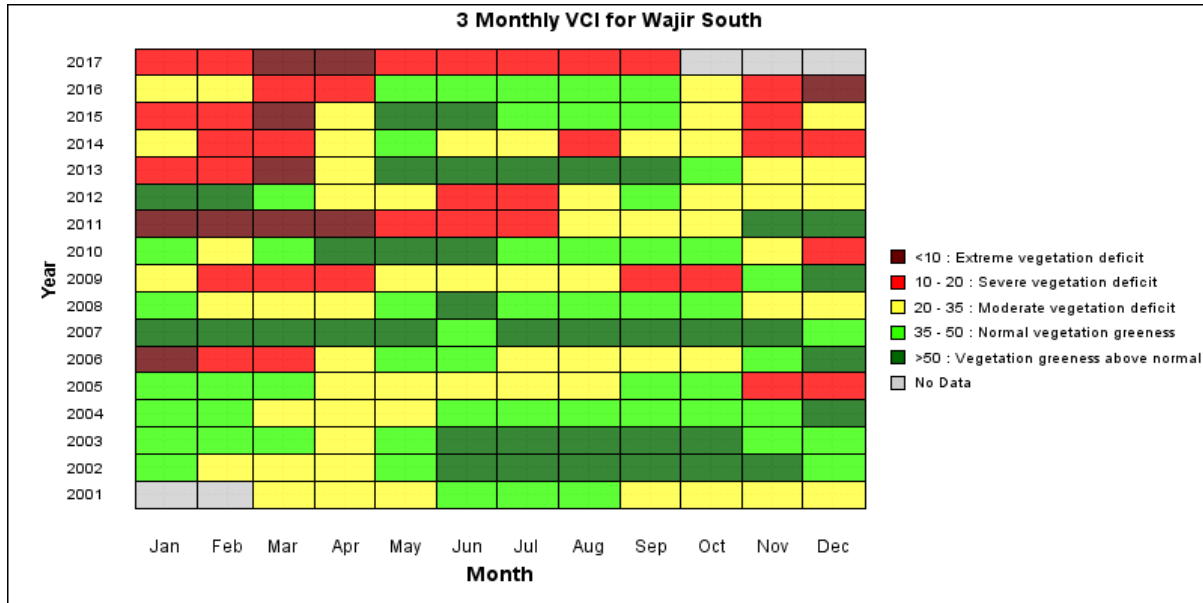


Figure 4: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir County during the month of September 2017

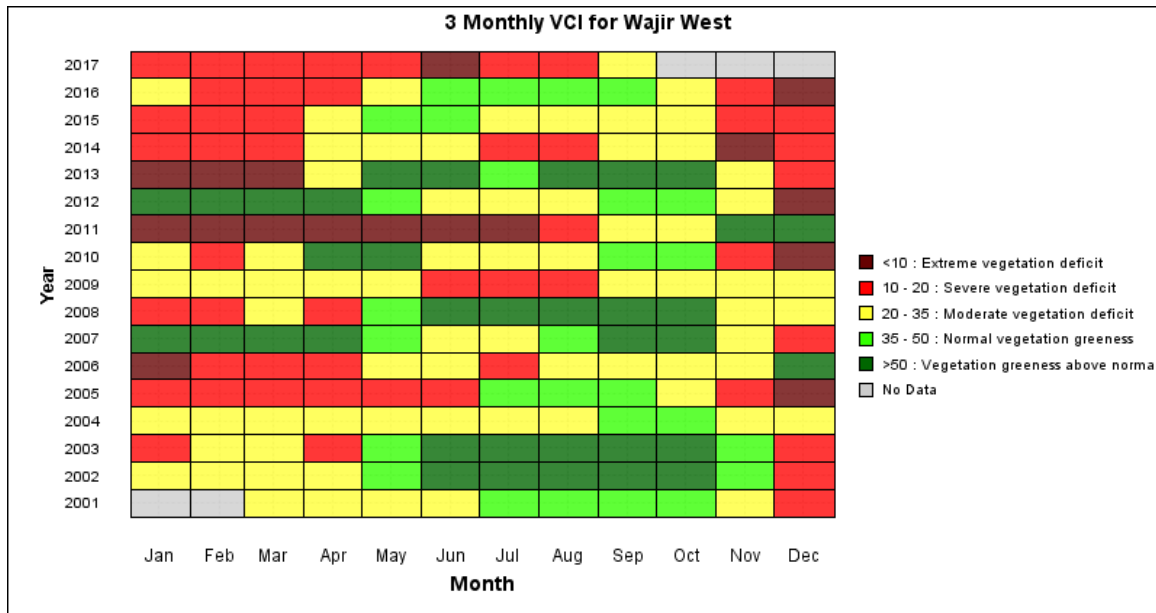


Figure 4: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir County during the month of September 2017

### 2.1.2 Pasture

Pasture situation ranged from fair to very poor in most of the livelihood zones, where the little available resources are depleted day by day, as a result of overgrazing. Pockets of agro-pastoral livelihood zone that have fair quality of pasture was unreachable due to very long distances. It was reported that greater part of the pastoral cattle livelihood zone, pockets of agro-pastoral and pastoral all-species livelihood zones have the poorest pastures and browse as a result of poor rains received during the long rains. However, the little pasture is likely to last for a period of less than two weeks in the areas that had received rains during MAM, while others are totally depleted. No constraints to access of pasture reported during the month of review.

### 2.1.3 Browse

Browse situation in most of the livelihood zones ranged from fair to very poor, where 80% of the community reported the situation has worsened due to insufficient rainfall deficit witnessed during the last seasons hence making it to be poorer. In comparison to the previous month the situation has deteriorated further due to overgrazing and concentration of livestock witnessed in the zones that had poor pasture instigated by insufficient rains experienced during long rains. The current browse is expected to last for less than two weeks. No constraints reported during the month under review. The condition varies according to livelihood zones where pockets of agro-pastoral indicated fair condition and pastoral camel, pastoral cattle and pastoral all species indicated poor browse condition.

## 2.2 Water Sources

Current water sources in both Households and livestock mostly depend on boreholes, shallow wells, water pan and water trucking, where greater proportion of household and livestock rely on boreholes across the county and pockets of pastoralists also depended on water pan and shallow wells. Boreholes in most parts were reported to be running 24 hours a day to meet the high demand both by animals and households. Comparing to the previous month the situation has worsened in most of the livelihood zones as a result of overgrazing and concentration at the water source caused by in migration. In few areas where the livestock depend on water pans, the same will last for less

than a week. However, most of the livestock depend on boreholes, water trucking and shallow wells.

### 2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

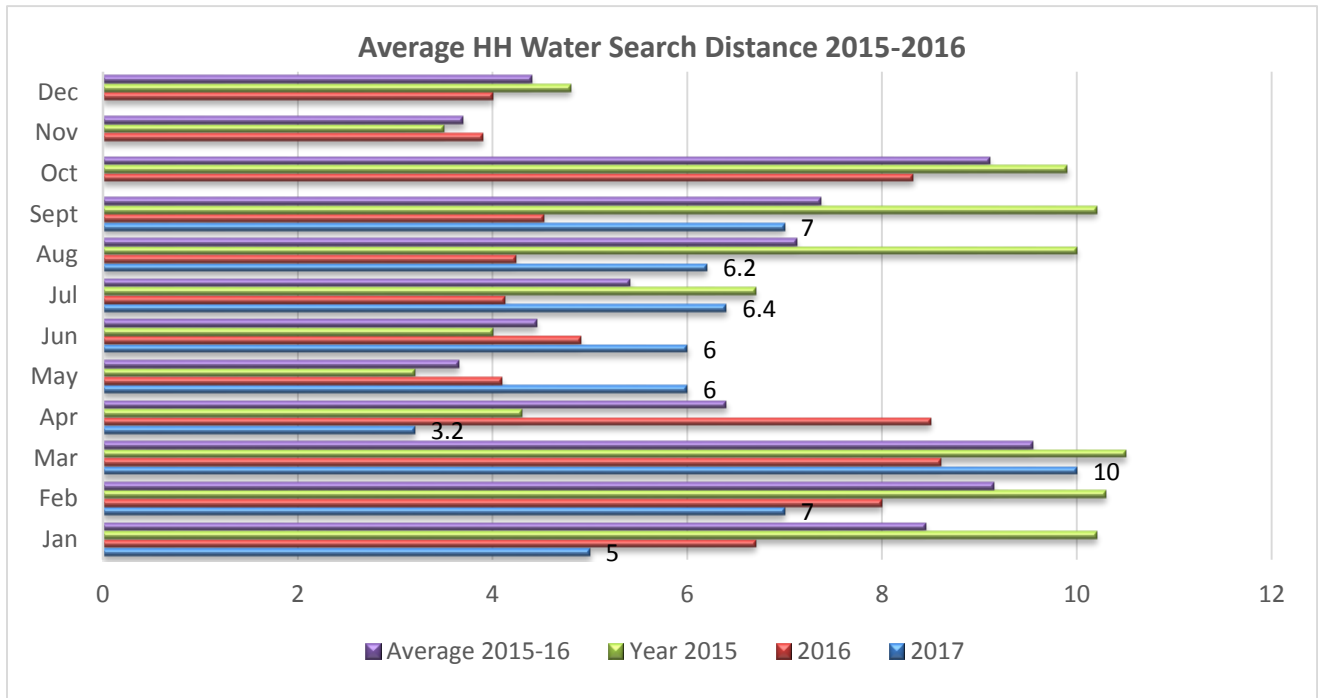


Figure 5: A chart indicating return distance to water sources against 2015-2016 average

- Current average household return distances to the main water sources recorded 7.0km in September from the previous month which showed 6.2 with an increase in distance as a result of depletion of water source and concentration of livestock at the water points. Most affected areas are pastoral cattle livelihood zone in Wajir South and pastoral all species livelihood zone in Wajir west which showed more stress.
- Current average household water consumption per person per day significantly decreased as availability and accessibility of water become stress,
- Low consumption of water was recorded in areas that have water stress including Wajir South, Wajir West and Wajir town due to insufficient rains experienced during the previous season
- The proportion of households that treat water is too negligible with only households in the urban areas centre using aqua tabs.

### 2.2.3 Livestock access

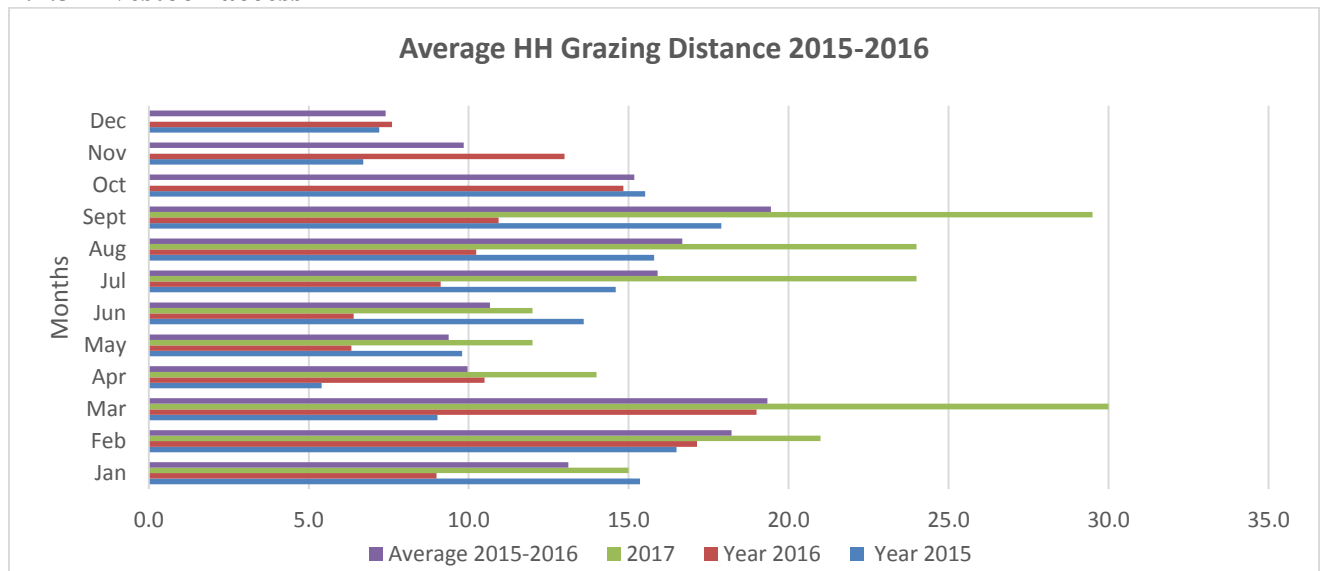


Figure 6: A graph indicating current grazing distance against (2015-2016) average

- Current average livestock grazing distance to water point recorded 29.5km in the month of September as compared to the month of August which was 24km due to increase in trekking distance, poor pasture, browse and concentration of livestock.
- Current average grazing distance is both above the long term average and previous year's month average.
- Frequency of watering livestock at water point increased as the distance to water source and grazing distance increased. Currently, the watering interval for cattle and goats/sheep is normal.
- Wajir South pastoral cattle livelihood zone, Wajir west pastoral all species livelihood zone are the worst affected areas under pressure due to inadequate rains witnessed in MAM and parts of Wajir East, Wajir North, Tarbaj and Eldas are also under pressure due to migration, overgrazing and overconcentration

### 2.3 Implication on food security.

- Increase in trekking distance will likely lead to poor livestock body condition, low production thus affecting food security

## 3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

### 3.1 Livestock production

#### 3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

The livestock body condition ranges from fair to very poor in all livelihood zones and on worsening trend. Cattle, goats and sheep in pastoral cattle livelihood zone, pastoral all species livelihood zone and pockets of pastoral camel and agro-pastoral livelihood zones showed clear signs of weakness and general mass wasting. This situation is expected to get worse in the month of October before onset of the expected short rains. Camel species was observed to be in fair body condition in all livelihood zones. The animal body condition reported during the month under review is slightly of lower status than it was reported during the same period the previous year.

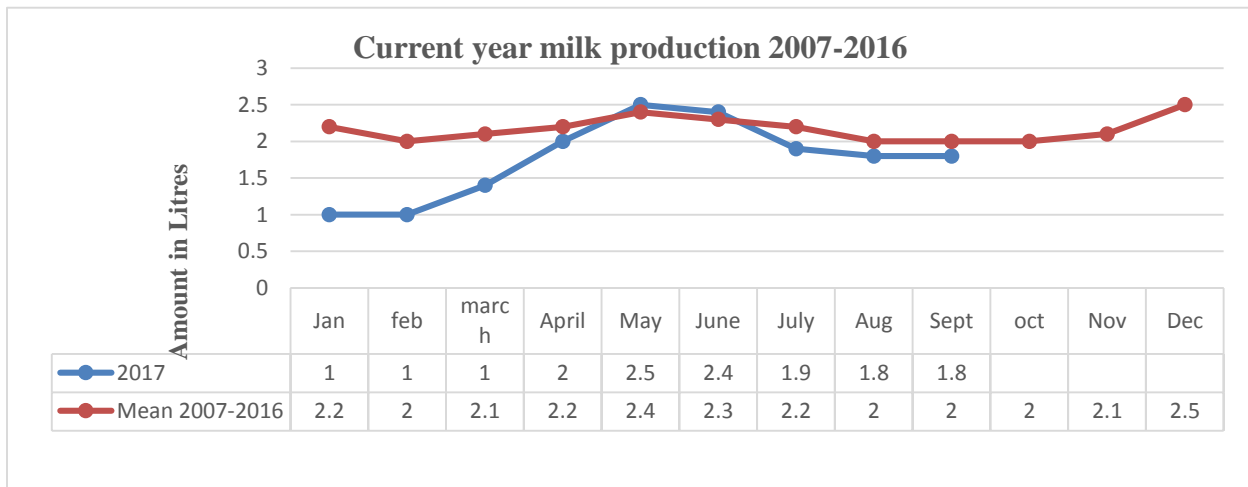
#### 3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

Cases of disease outbreak were reported in all livelihood zones comprising of goat and sheep pox, CCPP and Suspected cases of PPR

#### 3.1.3 Milk Production

Figure 7: Current Household milk production against (2007-2016) long-term average

- Current average household milk production per household per day remained the same with a production of 1.8lts in September occasioned by long trekking distance, poor livestock body condition and poor pasture and browse.
- Current average milk production is below the long term average and normal at this time of



the year.

- The highest milk production was recorded in Agro-pastoral and Pastoral camel livelihood zones while the lowest was recorded in Pastoral all species and Pastoral cattle livelihood zones.
- Milk production per household per day will worsen as depletion of pasture, deterioration of livestock body condition and long trekking distance increase thus affecting children under five.

### 3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

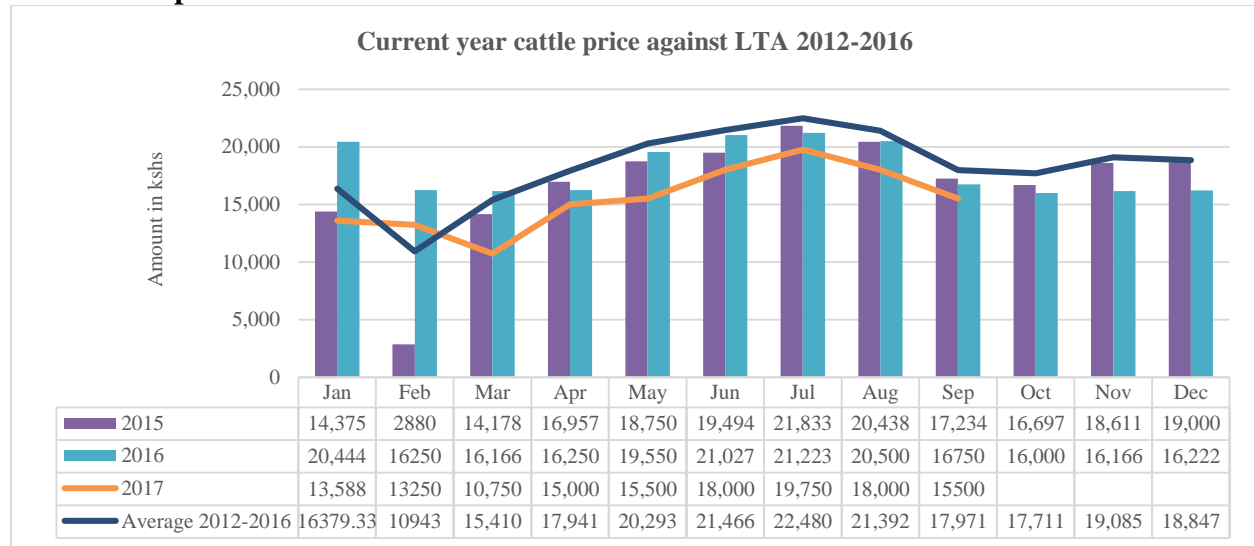
#### 3.2.1 Stage and condition of food Crops

Due to depressed rainfall reported in all livelihood zones in March-April-May rainfall most of the farmers did not farm and the little planted performed poorly thus no harvest was realized. Most of the farmers are now preparing their land for the next rainy season.

## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

#### 4.1.1 Cattle prices

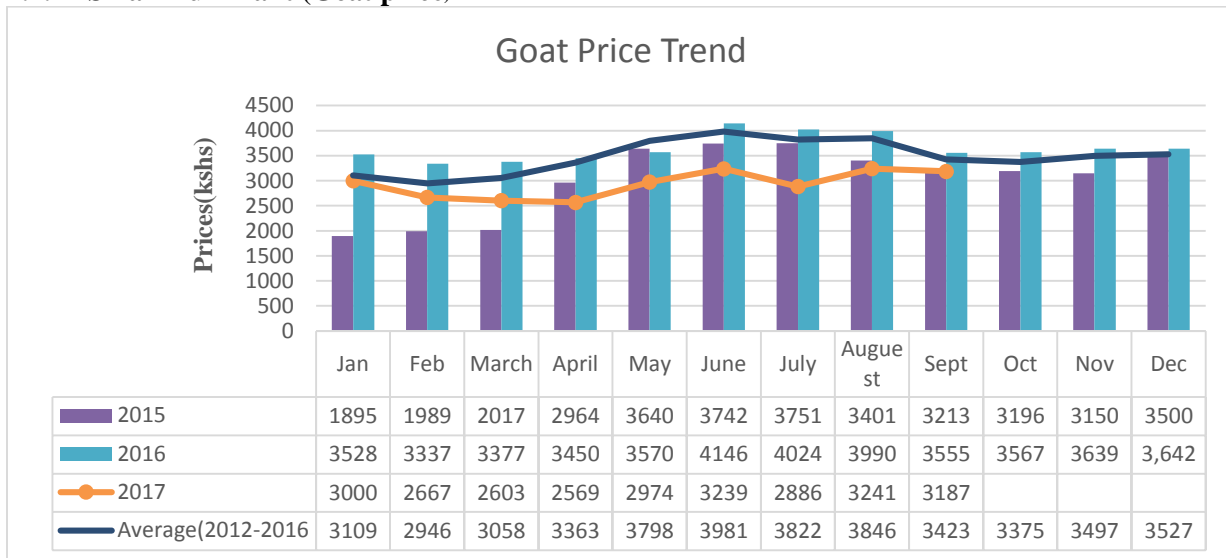


**Figure 9: A graph of current cattle price against the long term (2012-16) mean prices.**

- Current average price of cattle significantly decreased from Kshs 18,000 in the month of August to Kshs 15,500 in the month of September. This is as a result of poor market attributed to poor livestock body condition and low demand.
- Highest average prices were recorded in the urban and lowest recorded in the rural.
- Current average prices were lower than both the long-term average and previous year's price.
- Market prices are not normal compared to previous years prices



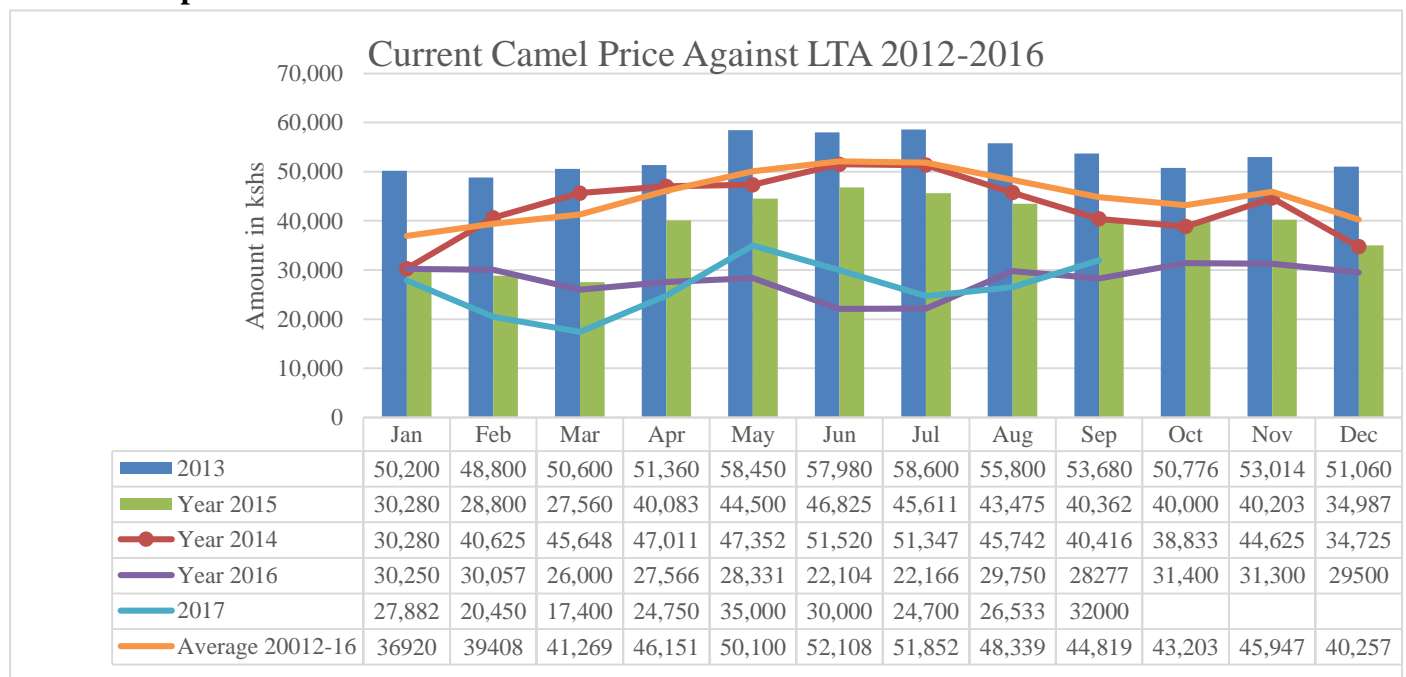
#### 4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)



**Figure 10: A graph of current year goat prices against the short-term mean 2012-2016**

- Average goat's price decreased from Kshs.3241 in August to Kshs 3187 in the month of September occasioned by few traders and poor market as a result of poor livestock body condition, increased trekking distance and pro-longed drought. The market is likely to worsen further as dry spell continues.
- Prices are higher in urban centres and lower in the rural
- Current average price is lower than both the long term average and previous month price and this is normal at this time of the year. Market prices still not favourable compared to the previous season.

#### 4.1.3 Camel price

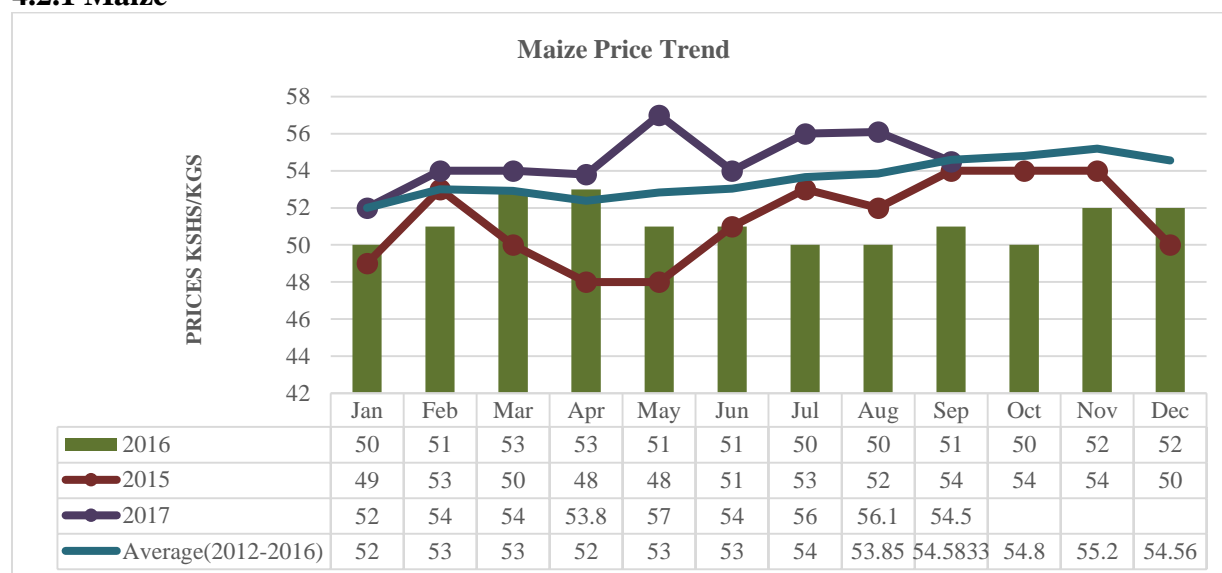


**Figure 12: A graph of current camel prices against the long term mean (2012-2016)**

- Current average price of a camel increased significantly from Kshs 26,533 in the month of August to Kshs 32,000 in the month under review attributed to good market price for camel, good livestock body condition and higher demand.
- Current average price of camel is lower than the long-term average and higher than previous year’s price showing the market price is favourable compared to previous prices.
- Agro-pastoral livelihood zones recorded the highest price as pastoral all species livelihood zone recorded the lowest price.
- The prices are normal compared to previous year’s prices of camel.

## 4.2 CROP PRICES

### 4.2.1 Maize



**Figure 13: A graph showing current year price of maize as compared to the short-term (2012-15) mean**

- Current average price of maize slightly decreased from Kshs 56 recorded in August to Kshs 54.5 which is attributed to more supplies of the commodity.
- The condition is normal. The highest price was recorded in the rural areas and lowest prices were recorded in the urban centres
- The food commodity price is equals to both the long term average and previous year’s month price.

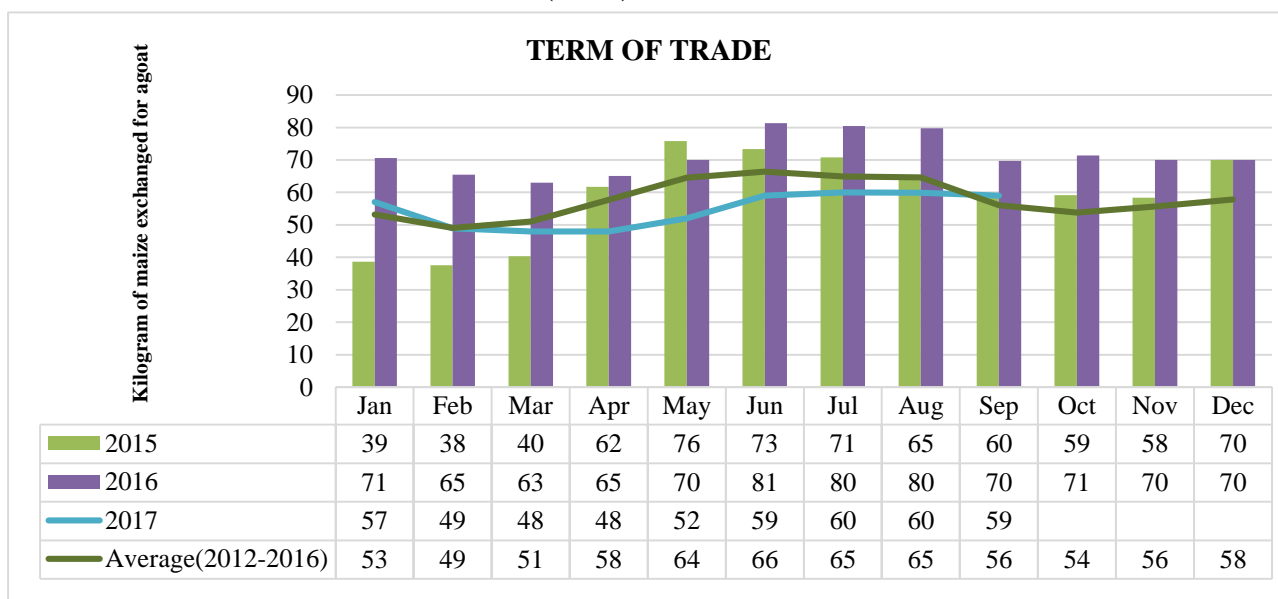
#### 4.2.1.1 Other outstanding observation

- Maize being not a staple food consumed In Wajir County, the main staple food are beans, meat, milk and spaghetti are the main stable food used in all livelihood zones.

#### 4.2.2 Posho (Maize meal)

- Current average price of Posho was stable as compared to the previous months which recorded the same.
- The highest prices were recorded in the rural areas of Wajir as a result of unavailability of the commodity and high transport cost incurred during transportation. Lowest was recorded in urban areas.
- The price is considered normal as the trend shows stable condition over the period

### 4.3 Livestock Price Ratio/Terms of Trade (TOT)

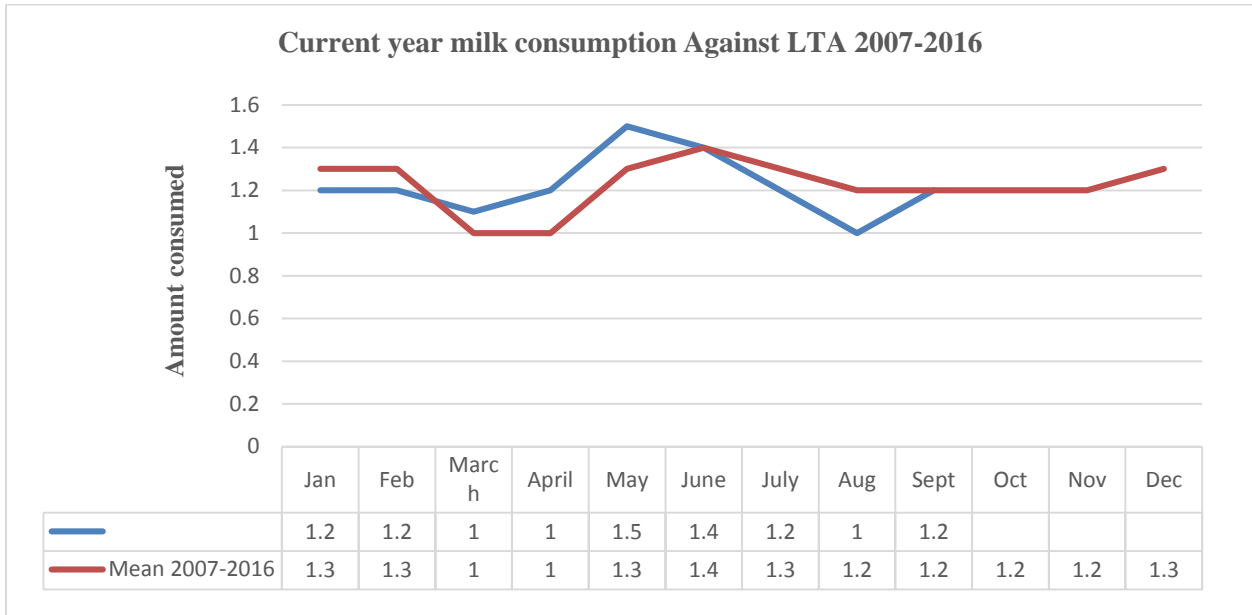


**Figure: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long term (2012-2016) mean price**

- Household terms of trade still remained the same recording 59kg in the month of September as compared to the previous month of August which showed 60kg with no impacts. This was as a result of slight decrease in goat and maize prices thus making the Terms of trade not favourable. The prices are likely to increase sighting the continuation of the dry spell.
- The current terms of trades are above the long term average and below previous years' prices.
- No market disruption reported in the month under review.

## 5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

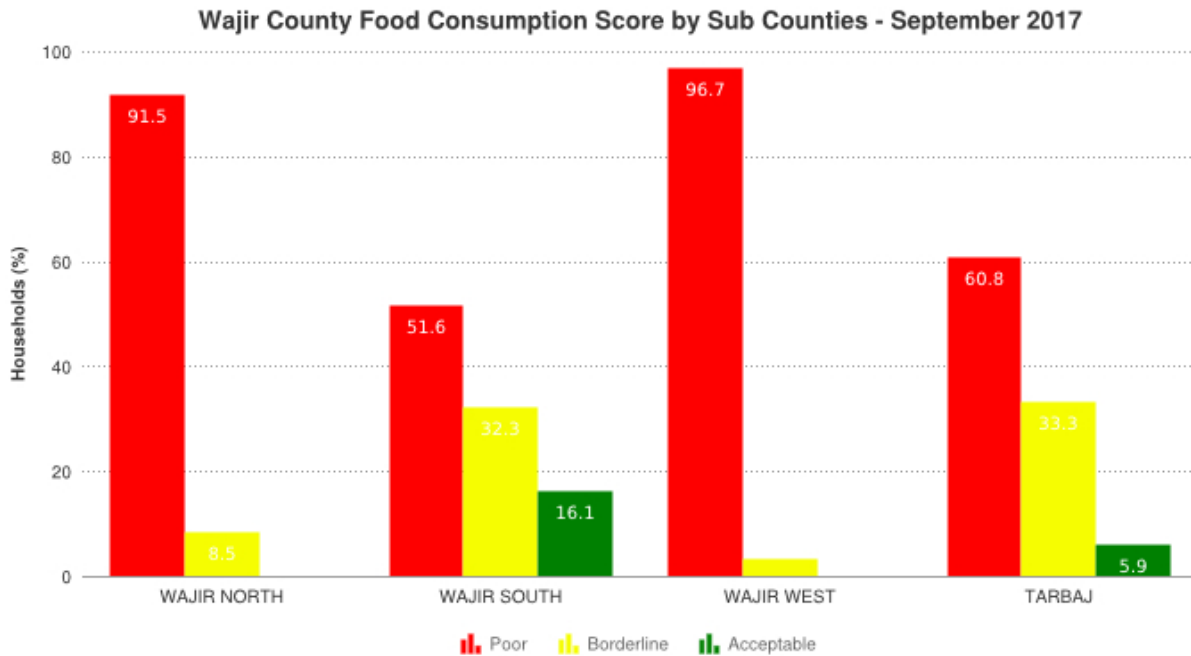
### 5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION



**Figure 15: A graph showing current average milk consumption for Wajir against (2006-2016) mean**

- The current average milk consumption per household per day slightly increased from 1.0 in the month of August to 1.2 liters in September where more household consumed the little milk produced than selling thus increasing the consumption rate.
- Current average household milk consumption is equals to the long term average which is normal for the period of the year.
- The highest milk consumption was witnessed in Agro-pastoral areas in wajir North and lowest was reported in Tarbaj.
- The main source of milk production at household and market levels is camel and cattle.

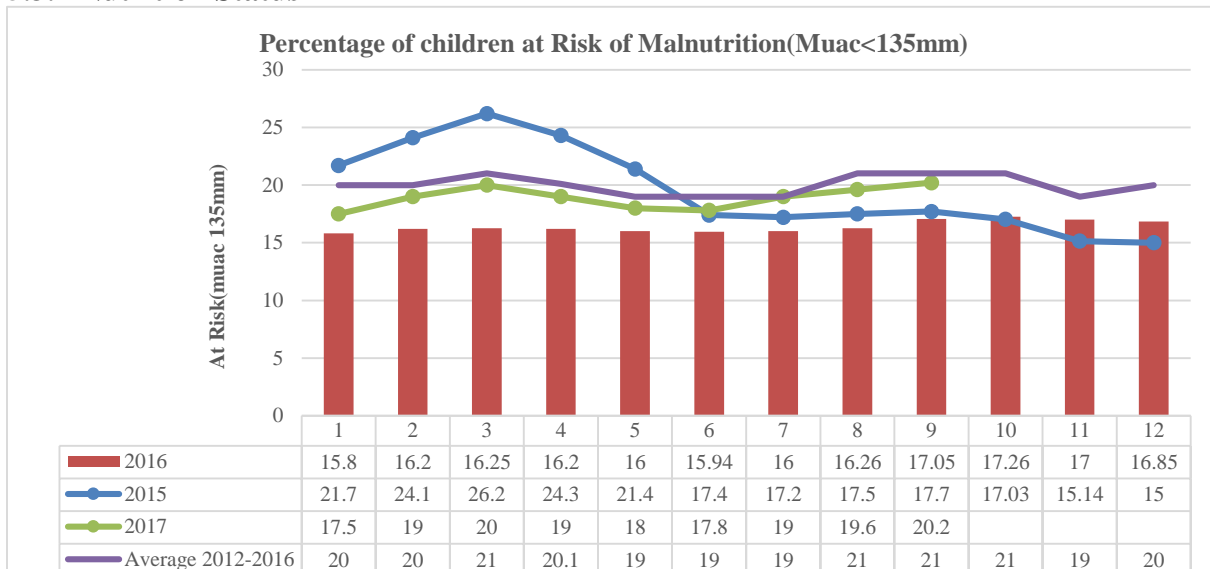
## 5.2 Food Consumption Score



- Pastoral all species, Agro-pastoral, Tarbaj and Pastoral cattle livelihood zones are the household with poor dietary diversity showing 96,91,60 and 51 while other remaining percentage indicated borderline and acceptable respectively.

## 5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

### 5.3.1 Nutrition Status



**Figure 16: A graph of Nutritional status of children between 12-59 months against (2012-16) long-term mean**

- The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition in September recorded 20.2 as compared to the previous month that showed 19.6 as the condition worsens posing risk to children under five.

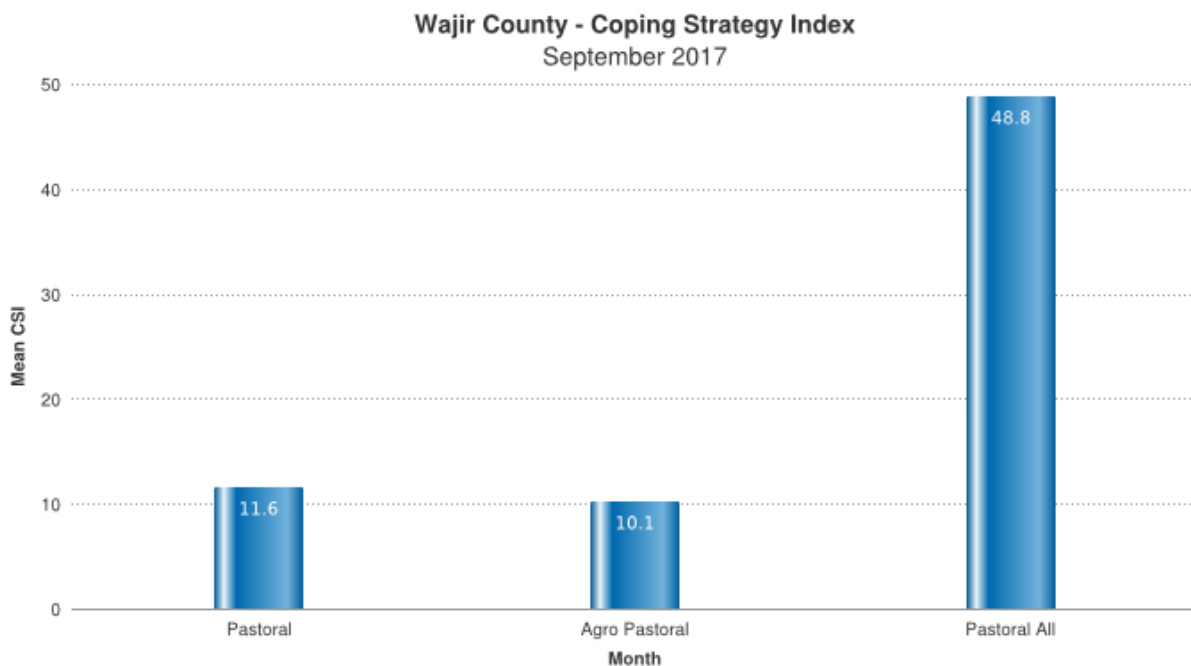
- The current proportion is below to the long term average and above previous year's month average, meaning the malnutrition status for under-fives has increased as compared to previous year's month.
- The highest percentage of malnourished children was recorded in wajir south, wajir west Wajir north and lowest reported in Wajir East and Tarbaj.

### 5.3.2 Health

Malnutrition reports for children less than 5 years: 4.0 children were admitted as in-patients for Management of Severe Malnutrition. 160 new children (6-59 months) were admitted to the Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) while 475 children (6-59 months) were admitted to Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP). (Source: DHIS August 2017).

Under 5 year's morbidity in August was; diarrhoea (1605), pneumonia (691), diseases of the skin including wounds (463), (Source: DHIS August2017). Over 5 year's morbidity in August was: diarrhoea (636), confirmed malaria (37), Urinary Tract Infections (2523) and diseases of the skin including wounds (819). (Source: DHIS August 2017).

### 5.4 COPING STRATEGY INDEX



**Figure17: A graph showing average (2013-2015) (coping strategy index (CSI) against the current trend**

- Pastoral all species in wajir west employed more coping strategy indicating more severity in September as compared to previous month which recorded less severity. Others employed less coping strategies with less severity. The mean CSI for the county is 16.6 as compared to the previous month which showed 12.0
- Relied on less preferred and less expensive food
- Reduced the quantity of food consumed by adult/mothers
- Borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relative.
- Reduced the number of meals taken per day.

## **6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)**

### **6.1 Non-food interventions.-Ongoing**

- Hunger Safety Net Programme phase 2 (HSNP II) cycle 26 continued and Emergency program also continued in September 2017.
- Human and livestock disease surveillance across the County continued.
- Monitoring of migration of livestock by livestock and NDMA
- Treatment of malnutrition cases and referral cases to the main health facilities
- Food for Asset(FFA)
- Monitoring and treatment of human disease

### **6.2 Food Aid**

- Food Aid was received during the month and was distributed by the National Government.

## **7.0 EMERGING ISSUES**

### **.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement**

- There were no reported Cases of insecurity in Wajir County during the period.

### **.2 Migration**

Livestock Migration continued where most pastoralists in the depleted grazing areas relocated to search for adequate pastures, browse and water. Areas of migration included the Agro-pastoral livelihood zones and out migrations into Somalia Country were also reported in the eastern parts of the camel and pastoral cattle livelihood zones.

### **.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS**

- The expected October-December short rains are likely to be normal or below normal
- Environmental condition diminished over the month and expected to improve during the short rains 2017
- Availability and accessibility of milk is likely to increase thus improving the nutrition status of the county.
- The prices of essential food commodities are likely to increase due cutting off of the roads during the rainy season thus affecting food accessibility and availability.
- The expected short rains will improve crop and livestock production leading to increased food availability and income at household level.
- The rains are also expected to improve pasture and browse condition in all the livelihood zones.
- Livestock body condition are likely to worsen in October further and improve in the month of November 2017 as a result of the expected rains.
- Milk production and consumption at household level is likely to increase thus improving the nutritional status of the households.
- Increase in trekking distance to water sources by livestock will likely lead to poor livestock body condition, low milk production.
- Prices of livestock will likely decrease due to long trekking distance attributed to poor livestock body condition, poor pasture and browse.
- Rangeland resources are likely to diminish in October and thereafter improve during Onset

- Forage condition significantly deteriorated in the month of September and likely to deteriorate further till the Onset of the rains and thereafter improve during the season.
- Pasture and browse situation was depleted in September and are expected to extremely deteriorate due to overconcentration, in migration that led to long trekking distance, poor livestock body condition and likely to regenerate during OND.
- Milk availability and accessibility at household level is likely to decrease thus affecting the nutrition status of children under five.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Health & Nutrition.**

- Monitoring of malnutrition in the county-ongoing
- Capacity building of health worker on IMAM
- Strengthening of IMAM
- Mass Screening
- Scale up HINI/IMAM/IYCN interventions-ongoing
- Outreach services Scale up-ongoing
- Sensitization on hygiene promotion

### **Water (on-going).**

- Water trucking is ongoing in over 100 centres and to livestock herds and pastoralists.
- Three Rapid Response teams were strengthened to ensure that breakdowns of boreholes all over the county are attended to within 4 hours upon reporting
- Prepositioning of fast moving spare parts
- Construct more water points in order to reduce pressure on existing resources
- Provide more water storage facilities in schools and new settlements
- Repair and Maintenance of boreholes

### **Livestock Sector and Agri-culture**

- Livestock disease surveillance has been carried out in all species and cattle livelihood zones.
- Distribution of livestock feeds to core breeding Animals
- Support prevention and treatment of livestock diseases
- Deworming and multi-vitamin injection.
- Tick control
- Desilting of water pan
- Ploughing of farms
- Provision of seeds to farmers
- Food for Asset(FFA) by World food program

### **Education Sector**

- Provision of School Meals Programme by World food program

### **Peace and Security**

- Strengthen peace building initiatives in the county to prevent further conflicts at this time when most livelihood zones have scarce pasture and water resources.



