

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



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



**JANUARY EW PHASE 2018**



**Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification**

**Biophysical Indicators**

**Rainfall Report**

The County did not receive any rainfall during the month, however most of the days was categorised by hot, sunny weather during the day.

**Vegetation condition:** Situation of browse and pasture in the county remained to be fair, though there are zones that ranges from fair to poor.

VCI in the county showed severe vegetation deficit which recorded 19.05 in January as compared to previous month figure which showed 23.17 showing slight vegetation deficit. However Wajir south and Tarbaj sub-county indicated severe vegetation Deficit as other sub-counties showed moderate vegetation deficit. Distance to water points and grazing area increased, normal at this time of the year. State of water level is normal.

**Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)**

Livestock body condition remained to be good to fair for all livelihood zones except pockets of wajir south, west and Tarbaj ranging from fair to poor, Pasture and browse condition is fair, slight decrease in milk production, migration of livestock was minimal though there was an in-migration from other counties. Increased trekking distance. Terms of trade not favourable as compared to previous months. Percentage of children under five at risk of malnutrition increased from 16.0 in December to 16.5 in the month under review. Less coping strategies were employed as compared to

**Early Warning Phase Classification**

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Alert	Worsening
Pastoral cattle	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral-all species	Alert	Worsening
Pastoral camel	Alarm	Worsening
Informal employment	Alert	Worsening
County	Alert	Worsening
Biophysical Indicators	value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	0.0	80 -120
VCI-3Month	19.05	>35
Production indicators	Value	Normal
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
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	62	>66
Milk Consumption	1.8	>3
Return Distance to water source	5.4	<5 Km
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	16.5	<6.6

<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 (CSI)</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>High birth rates</li> <li>Weddin</li> </ul>
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Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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## 1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITION

### 1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

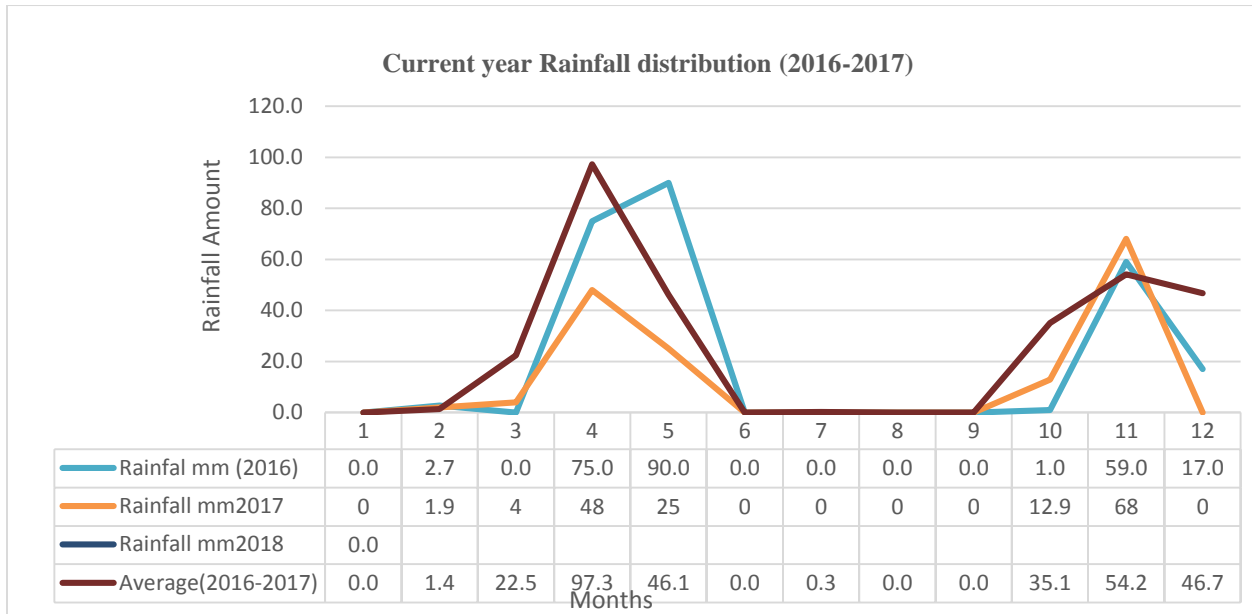
#### 1.2 Onset

- Wajir County did not received any rainfall in the month of January, although most of the days were categorized by hot, sunny weather throughout the day.

#### 1.2.1 Amount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

- No amount of rainfall received during the month of January.

#### 1.2.1 Rainfall station data



**Table 1: A table of the stations and amount of rainfall received in the month of January 2018 (Source KMS)**

## 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 indicated severe vegetation deficit with a score of 19.05 as compared to previous month which recorded a VCI of 23.17. Pastoral cattle livelihood zones in Wajir South and Pastoral all species livelihoods zones in Wajir west showed the worst vegetation deficit, while others indicated moderate vegetation deficit. And the situation is expected to deteriorate as the long dry spell still continues.

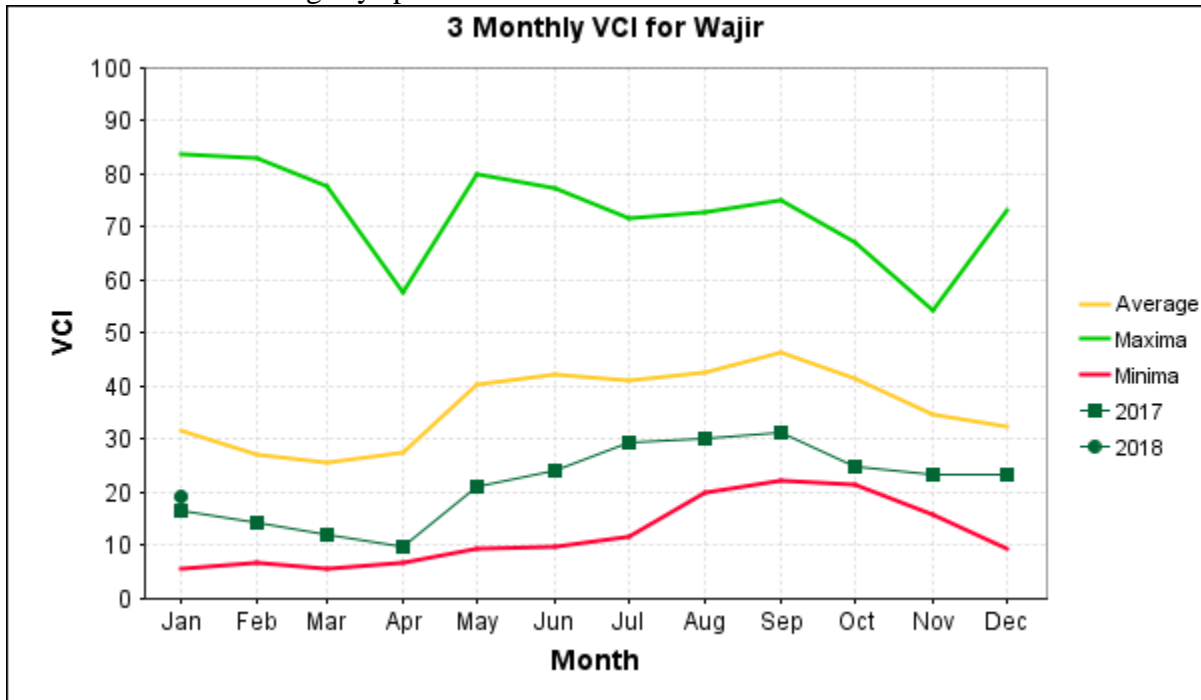


Figure 1: A chart of Wajir County overall 3-monthly VCI during the month of January 2018

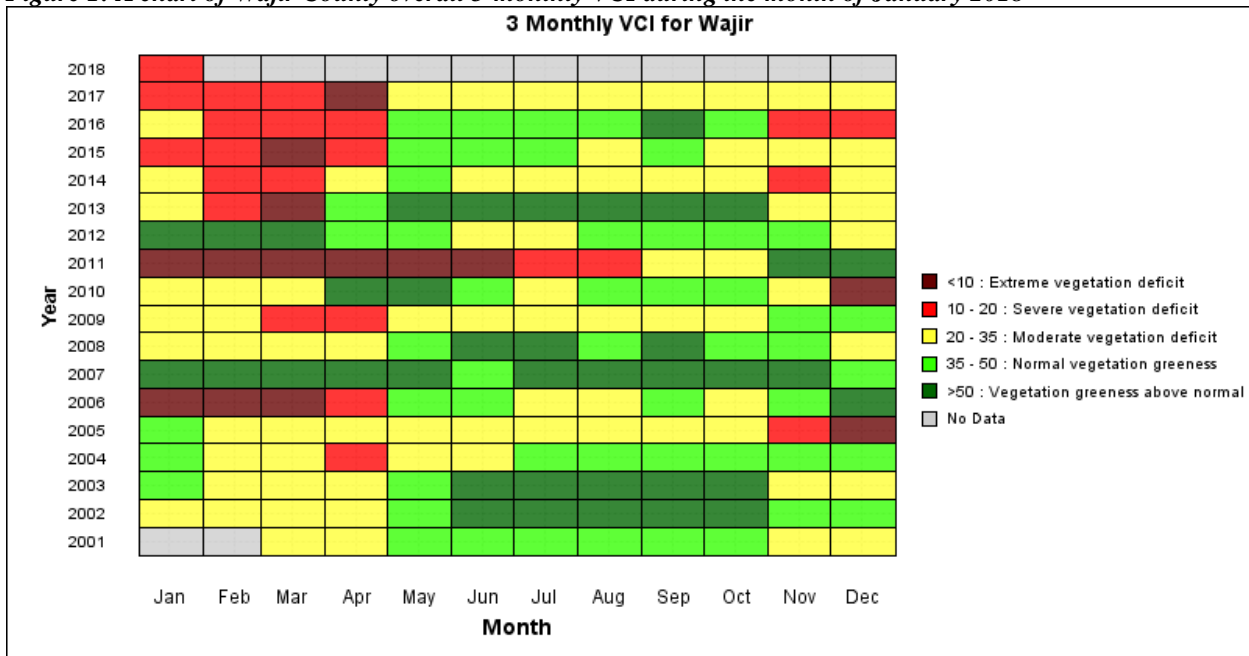


Figure 2: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir County during the month of January 2018

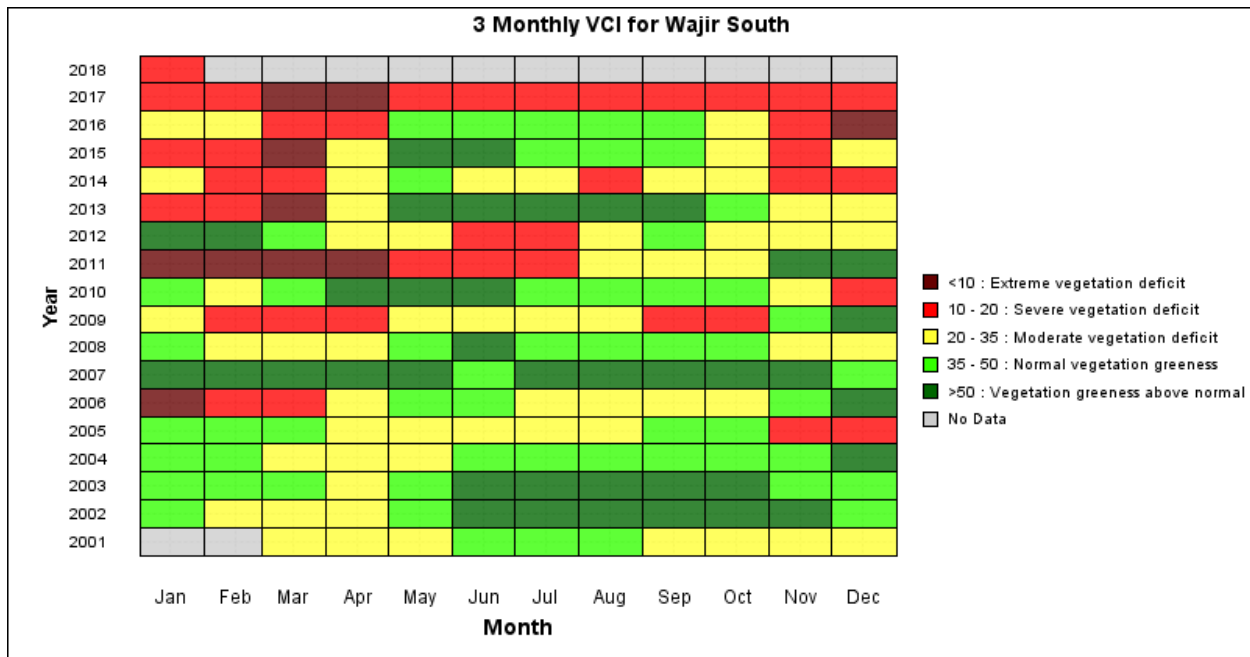


Figure 3: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir South during the month of January 2018

### 2.1.2 Pasture

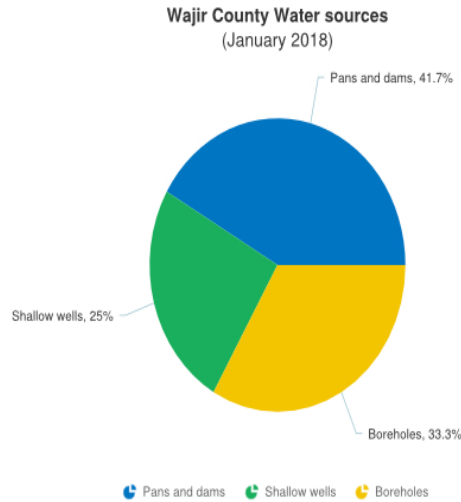
- Pasture situation in the county showed to be fair in all livelihood zones except areas that received inadequate rains mainly Wajir south, Wajir west and Tarbaj which showed fair to poor. Pasture varies according to livelihood zones where agro-pastoral and pastoral camel livelihood zones have fair to good pasture, however pastoral cattle and pastoral all species livelihood zones have fair to poor.
- The particular areas with poor pasture includes, Abakore, Wara, Lolkuta, Baragothe, Mansa, and Ogorale. Compared to the previous month the situation has deteriorated due to depletion of pasture attributed to in migration of livestock from other Counties and within the County to areas that received sufficient rains during OND, however the situation is likely to worsen in the coming month as the long dry spell continues.
- Available pasture is expected to last for a period of 1-2 month except pockets that had no rains during OND. Some pockets of Wajir North and Eldas could not be accessed due to conflict.

### 2.1.3 Browse

- Browse condition ranges from fair to good in the areas that received adequate rains mainly Agro-pastoral areas in wajir North, Pastoral camel in wajir East and pockets of Wajir West, while the other livelihood zones showed fair to poor specially areas that received insufficient rains and have poor pasture and browse which are Pastoral cattle in wajir south, pockets of pastoral all species in wajir west and Tarbaj.
- Available browse is expected to last for 1-2 month. There were constrain to access browse in some zones of Wajir North and Eldas as a result of conflict.. This is normal.

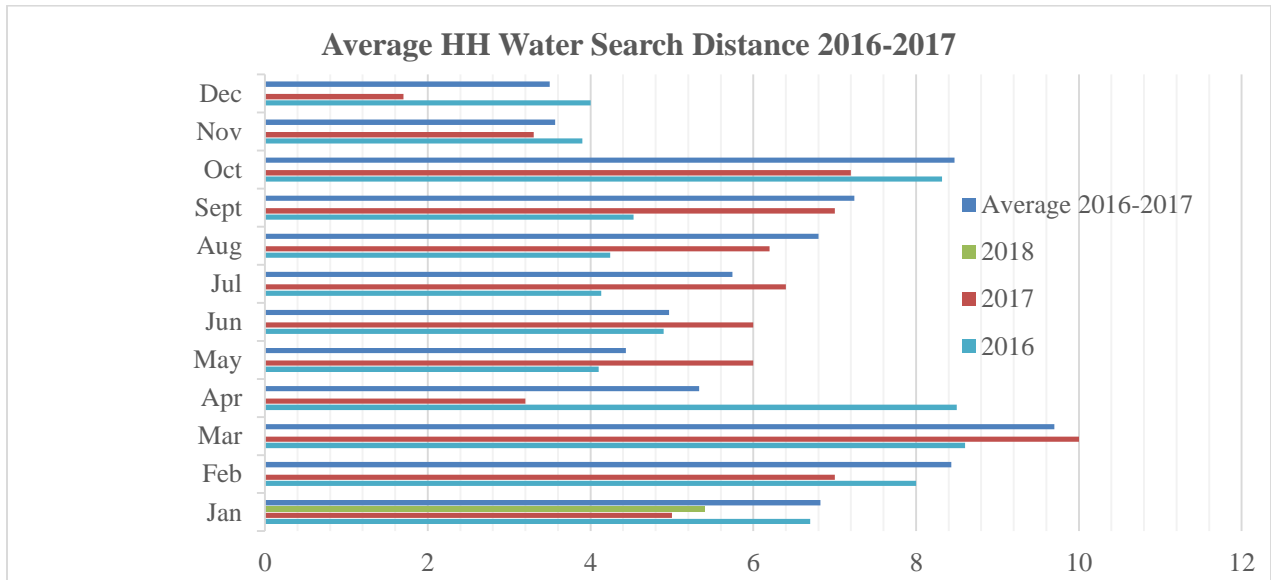
## 2.2.0 Water Sources

Most of the water sources currently in use in the county by both human and livestock are shallow wells, boreholes, water pans. Condition of water in all livelihood zones is normal at this time of the year, although some zones of the county in Pastoral cattle, Pastoral all species and Pastoral camel have water stress mainly at Wara, Baragothe, Lolkuta, Dilmanyaley, Sabuli, Siriba, Shidley, Habaswein and



Abakorey, Mansa, Ogorale, Hungai . The available water is expected to last for a period of 1-2 month. The state of water in the county is at level four (4) and the situation is normal.

## 2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

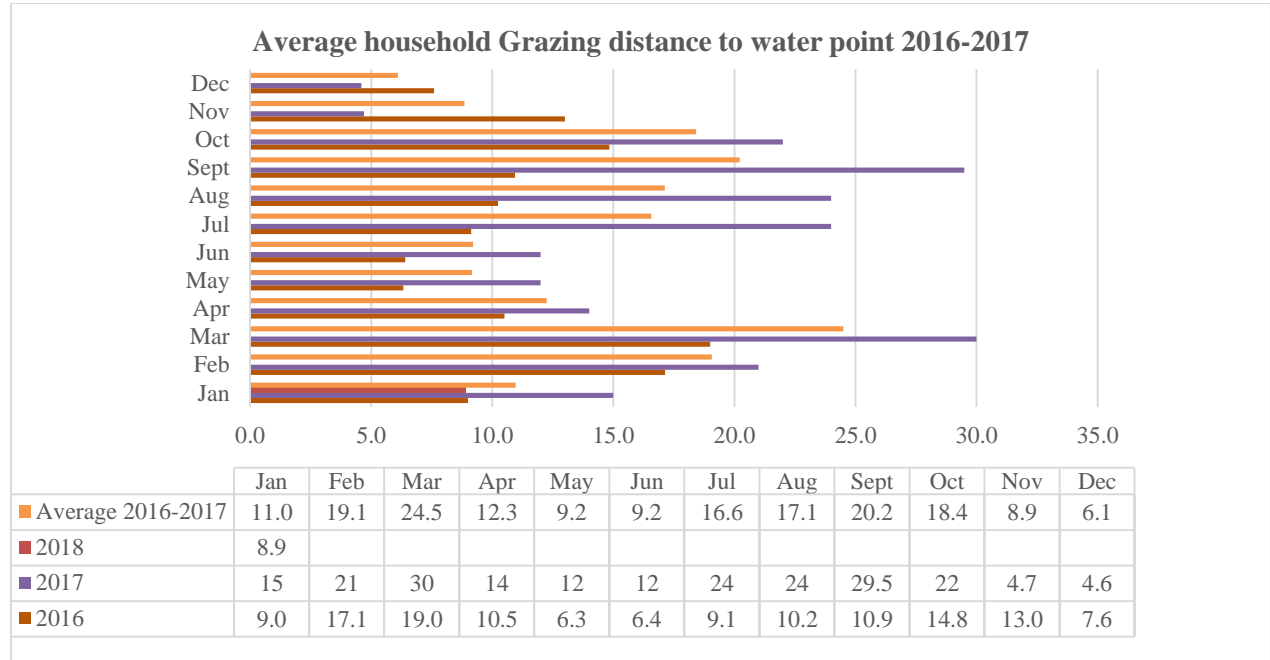


**Figure 4: A chart indicating return distance to water sources against 2016-2017 average**

- Average household return distances to the main water sources increased significantly from 1.7km in December to 5.4km in the month under review attributed to drying of water pans and congestion to main water sources and depletion of recharged water sources.
- Current average household water consumption per person per day still remained normal as water is available in all livelihood zones except areas that didn't receive rainfall.

- Low consumption of water was reported in the areas that have water stress mainly pockets of pastoral cattle areas in Wajir south, Wajir West and Tarbaj sub-county that received insufficient rains during the season.
- The proportion of households that treat water is too small with only few households in the urban centre using aqua tabs.

### 2.2.3 Livestock access



**Figure 5: A graph indicating current grazing distance against (2015-2016) average**

- The Current average livestock grazing distance to water point increased significantly from 4.6km in the month of December to 8.9km in the month under review due to reduced pasture, water and browse. This is normal at this time of the year.
- Current average grazing distance is below the long term average and above previous year's month average.
- Frequency of watering livestock at water point increased slightly as the trekking distance for livestock increase as compared to the previous month due to deterioration of pasture, browse and water,
- . Currently the watering interval for cattle, goat/sheep are still 1-2 days as compared to previous month which remained the same and camel is 7-10days.
- Distance from grazing area varies by livelihood where the highest grazing distance was reported in Pastoral all species in wajir west and pastoral in wajir South and lowest was reported in Agro-pastoral area which is normal at this time of the year.

### 3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

#### 3.1 Livestock production

##### 3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Livestock body condition in all livelihood zones ranges from good to fair across the county. Although there are pockets in the county that ranges from fair to poor due to insufficient rains witnessed during the season thus affecting livestock body condition.
- All livestock species mainly Goat, sheep, Cattle and camel in the county still indicated good to fair except pockets of pastoral cattle in Wajir south, pastoral all species in Wajir west and Tarbaj which ranges from fair to poor. In Comparison to previous month livestock body condition remained the same, however there is slight deterioration of pasture, browse and water.
- Livestock body condition is likely to worsen. This is normal at this time of the year.

##### 3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

No outbreak of livestock diseases reported, however cases of Contagious Bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), Sheep and goat pox and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PRR) Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP), were witnessed.

##### 3.1.3 Milk Production

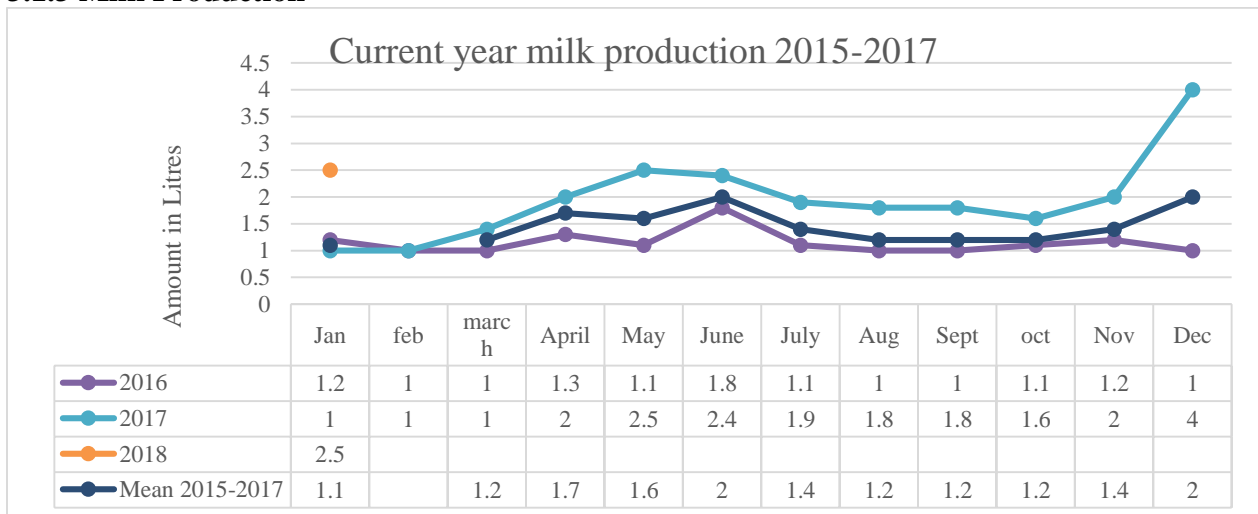


Figure 6: Current Household milk production against (2007-2016) long-term average

- Current household milk production per household per day deteriorated significantly from 4.0 litres in the month of December to 2.5 litres in the month under review due to increased trekking distance, reduced pasture and browse.
- Current average milk production is above the long term average and previous year average.
- Condition is normal at this time of the year.
- The highest milk production was recorded in Pastoral all species and pastoral cattle and lowest was recorded in Tarbaj sub-county

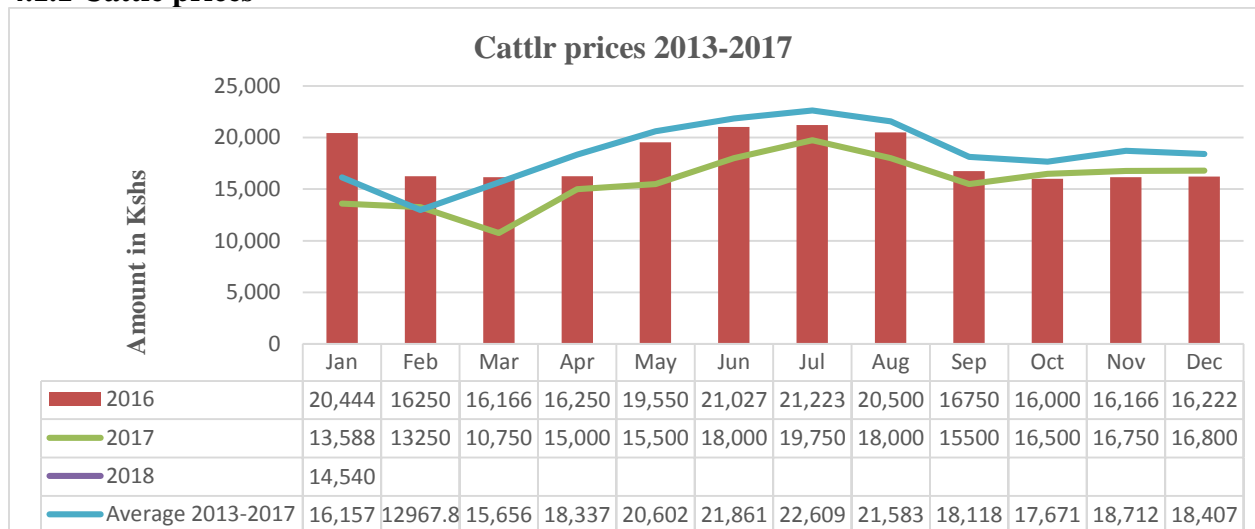
### 3.2.1 Stage and condition of food Crops

The main crops grown in the county are Sorghum, Maize, and bean. Other crops include pawpaw, water melon, tomatoes and vegetable. No harvest of Crop witnessed during the month under review, however there was production of water melon in Wajir town.

## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

#### 4.1.1 Cattle prices



**Figure 7: A graph of current cattle price against the long term (2013-17) mean prices.**

- Current average price of medium size cattle (3-4 years) decreased from Kshs 16,800 in December to 14,540 in the month under review attributed to low market demand.
- Highest average prices were recorded in the urban towns and lowest recorded in the rural.
- Current average prices were lower than the long-term average but above previous year's price.
- Market slightly indicated improvement in the price as compared to previous years.



#### 4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

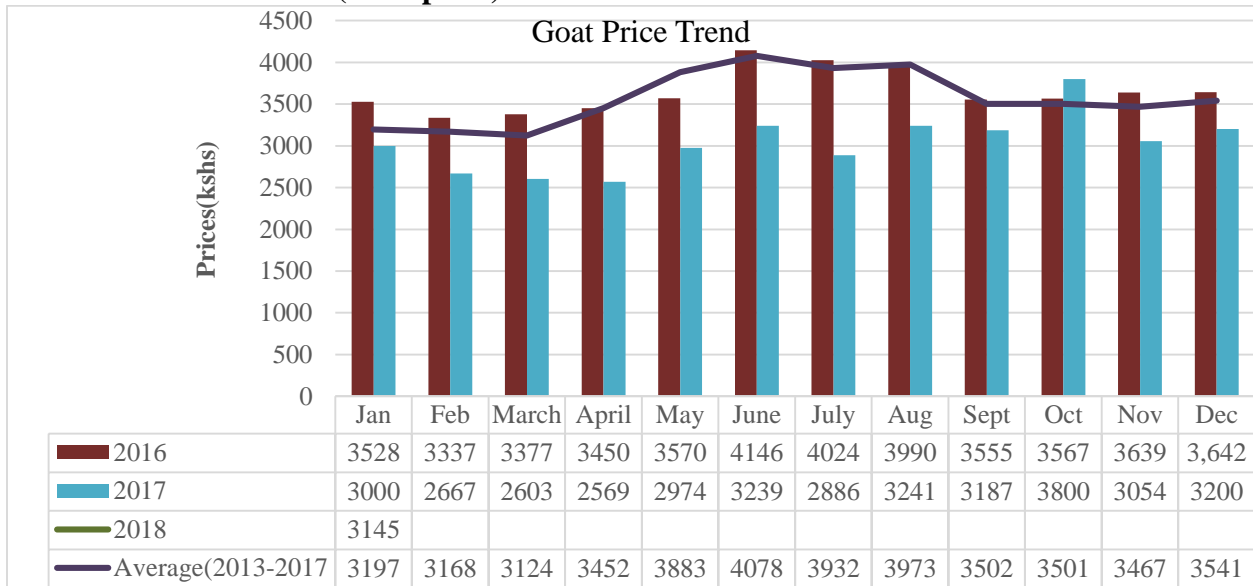


Figure 8: A graph of current year goat prices against the short-term mean 2013-2017

- Current average goat's price remained stable as compared to the previous month showing to Kshs 3,181 in December to 3,145 in the month under review with no significant changes due to poor market and low demand in the market.
- The livelihood with the highest prices was reported in the pastoral livelihood zones which is Dagahley, Sabuli and Biyamathow attributed to the proximity of Garissa main market.
- The livelihood with lowest was reported in the agro-pastoral livelihood zones as a result of poor market demand.
- The average price is slightly lower than the long term average and higher than previous month price and this is normal at this time of the year.
- Market prices remained the same as compared to the previous years.

#### 4.1.3 Camel price

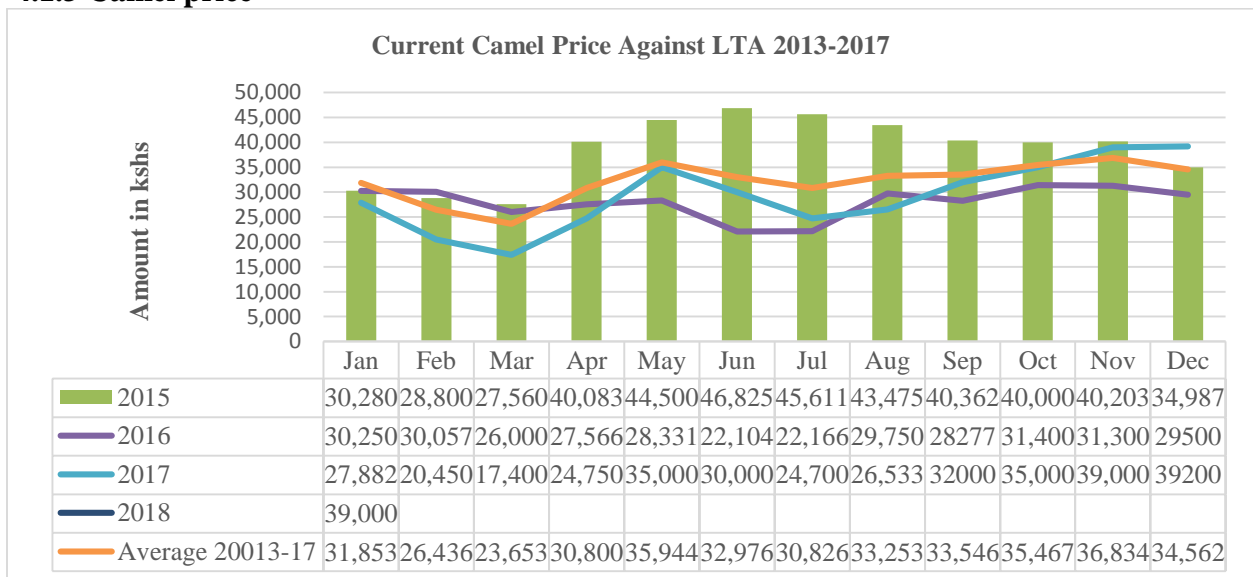
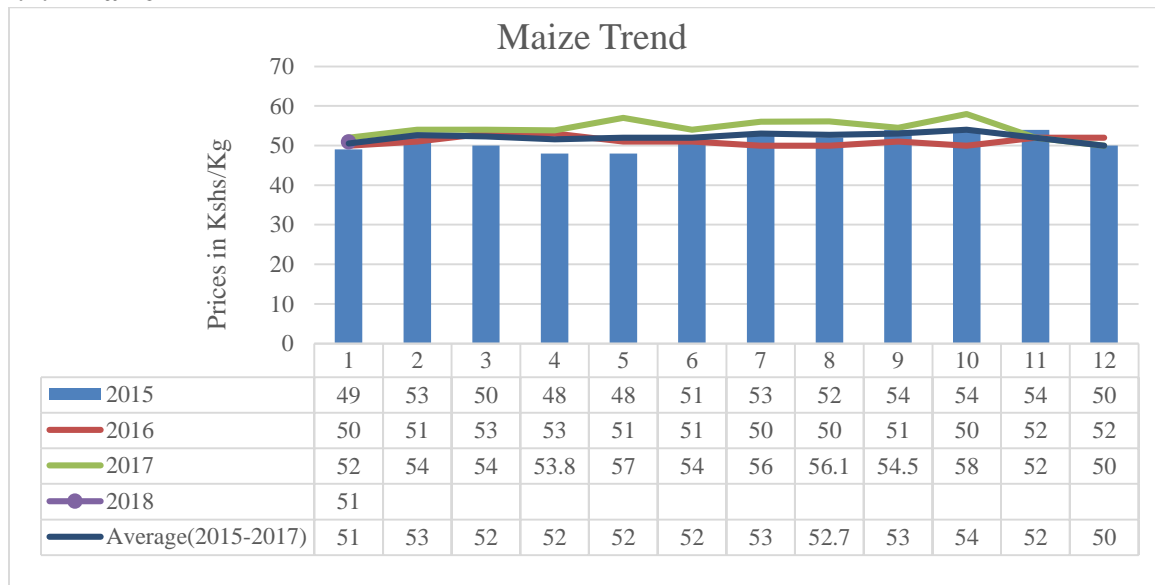


Figure 9: A graph of current camel prices against the long term mean (2013-2017)

- Current average 4 year old Camel price remained the same from Kshs 39,200 in the month of December to Kshs 39,000 in January due to low market demand which is attributed to poor market prices.
- Livelihood with the highest prices was reported in the urban centres mainly wajir town, and Agro-pastoral areas in wajir North due to market demand and the lowest was reported in the pastoral cattle areas and pastoral all species livelihood zones as a result of low market.
- Current average year price of camel is both higher than the long-term average and previous year's price showing the price of market is favourable compared to previous years prices and long term average.

## 4.2 CROP PRICES

### 4.2.1 Maize



**Figure 10: A graph showing current year price of maize as compared to the short-term (2015-17) mean**

- Current average maize price is Kshs 51 with no significant change in the month under review as compared to previous month.
- The highest prices of food commodity was recorded in agro-pastoral livelihood zones particularly Bute and lowest was recorded in the pastoral cattle zones mainly Sabuli.
- The average price of maize is normal as compared to the long term average where the average maize price is equals to long term averages and below previous year's month price.
- Lower maize Prices are reported in pastoral cattle livelihood zones and highest recorded in Agro-pastoral areas.
- The food commodity is available in all markets with a continuous supplies from major markets such as Moyale and Meru.

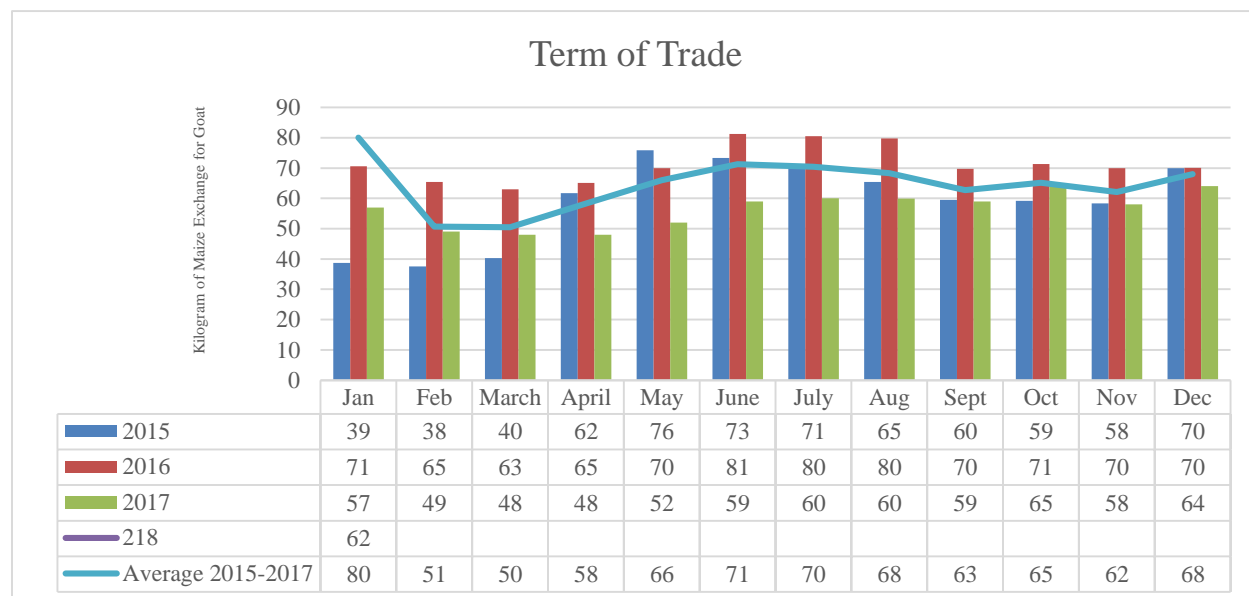
#### 4.2.1.1 Other outstanding observation

- Maize is not the staple food consumed in Wajir County, the main staple food are beans, meat, milk and spaghetti in all the livelihood zones.

### 4.2.2 Posho (Maize meal)

- Current average price of Posho was stable as compared to the previous month 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)

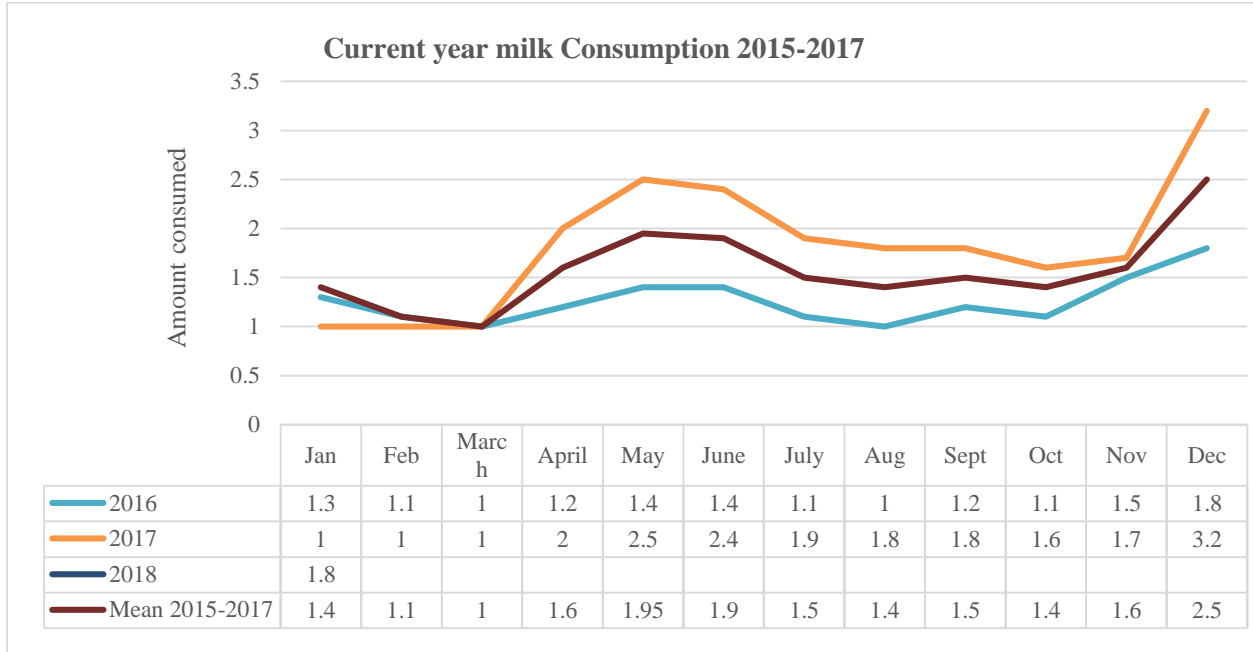


**Figure11: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long term (2015-2017) mean price**

- Household terms of trade slightly decreased from 64kg in December to 62kg in the month under review attributed to decrease in goat prices and increase in maize price.
- Terms of trade is not favourable as compared to the previous month
- Current average price is below the long term average but above the previous years.
- Disruption of market to the sub-counties (Bute, Buna and Eldas) were reported due to conflict.

## 5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

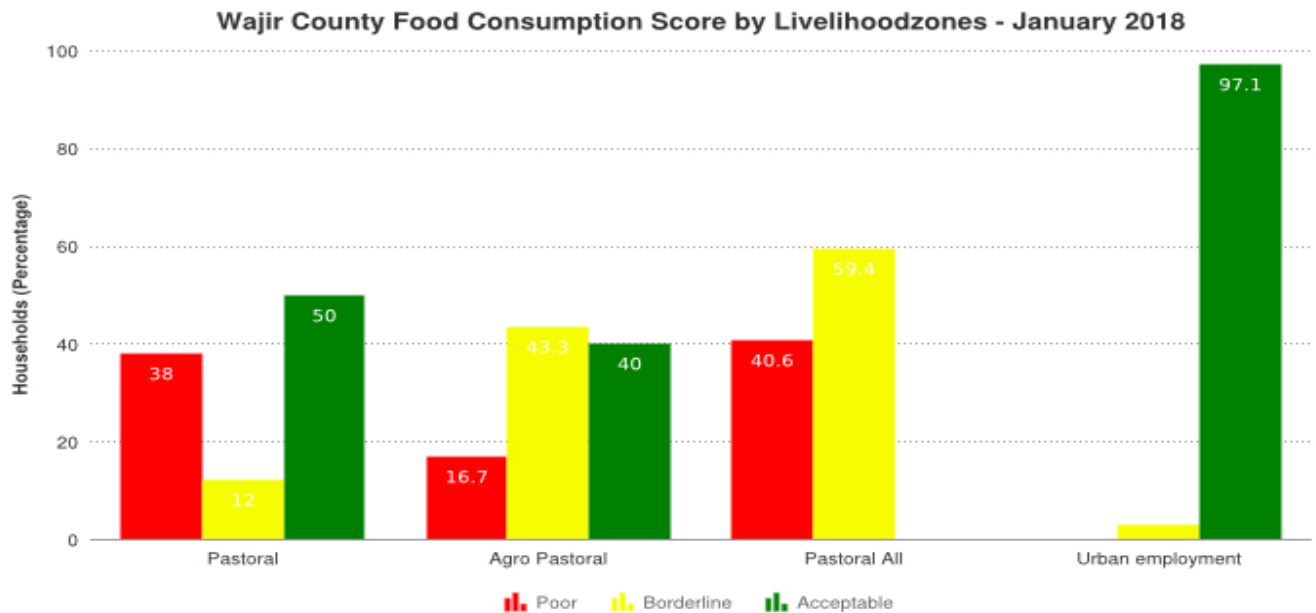
### 5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION



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

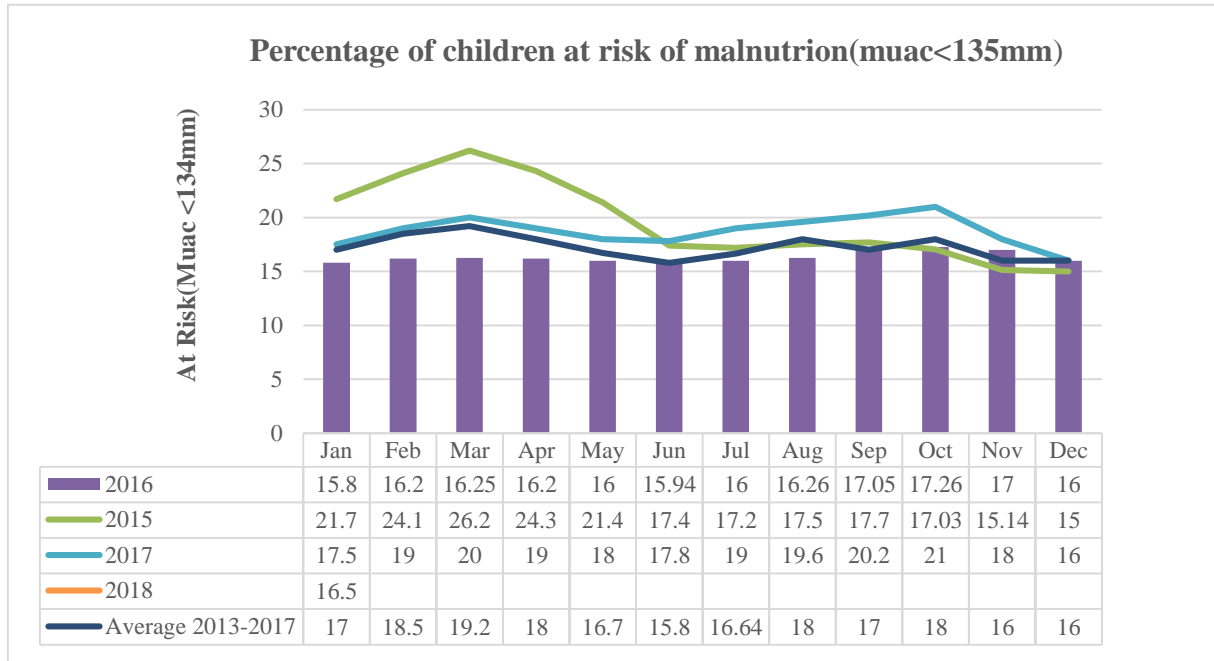
- Average milk consumption per household per day significantly decreased from 3.2 in December to 1.8 liters in the month under review as a result of decrease in milk production, increase in trekking distance and decline in pasture browse and water.
- Current average household milk consumption is above the long term average and previous year's price which is normal for the period of the year.
- Highest milk producing species are cattle and Camel
- The highest milk consumption was reported in Agro-pastoral livelihood zones, pastoral and pastoral all species livelihood zones and lowest was recorded in Tarbaj areas. .

## 5.2 Food Consumption Score



- Pastoral all species and pastoral livelihood zones are the household with poor dietary diversity with ascore of 40.6% and 38%., Agro-pastoral and Pastoral all livelihood zone recorded 43.3%, and 59.4% respectively which are borderline and acceptable recording (40%) Agro-pastoral and (50%).Pastoral.
- As compared to the previous month Pastora livelihood zones slightly improved in January with a score of 38% from a score of 49% moving to 50% acceptable as compared to the month of December(38%),
- In agro-pastoral livelihood zones 16.7% in January is in poor as compared to the month of Decembers with a score of 15.8% indicating there is a slight improvement, others moving to Borderline with a score of 43.3% as compared to previous month of 35.1%.
- In pastoral all species livelihood zone 40.6% of the households have poor dietary diversity as compared to December with 47.8% showing slight improvement while 59.4% of the household fall in acceptable in January as compared to ascore of 52.2% in December indicating there is an improvement household food intake and dietary diversity.
- In comparison to the previous period of the same year in the month of January Pastoral all species have 40.6% Poor, 59.4% Borderline while In January previous year Pastoral all species had 22.4% poor, 27.6% Borderline and 50%. Acceptable, showing there is improvement in household food intake and dietary diversity in the county.

### 5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS



**Figure 14: A graph of Nutritional status of children between 12-59 months against (2013-17) long-term mean**

- In Wajir a total of 575 children (6-59months) were sampled for both girls and boys and assessed for malnutrition using muac Tape. From the sampled children, 16.5% were at risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135 mm) indicating slight increase in children at risk of malnutrition when compared to last month, though no significant changes.
- In wajir North Sub-county (Bute and Buna) total number of Sample children assessed for malnutrition using Muac Tape were a total of 180 for boys and girls, From the sample children 22.2% were at risk of malnutrition(MUAC <135 mm).
- Wajir South Sub-county total number of sampled children assessed for malnutrition using Muac were 161,from the sample children 22% were at Risk of malnutrition(MUAC <135 mm)

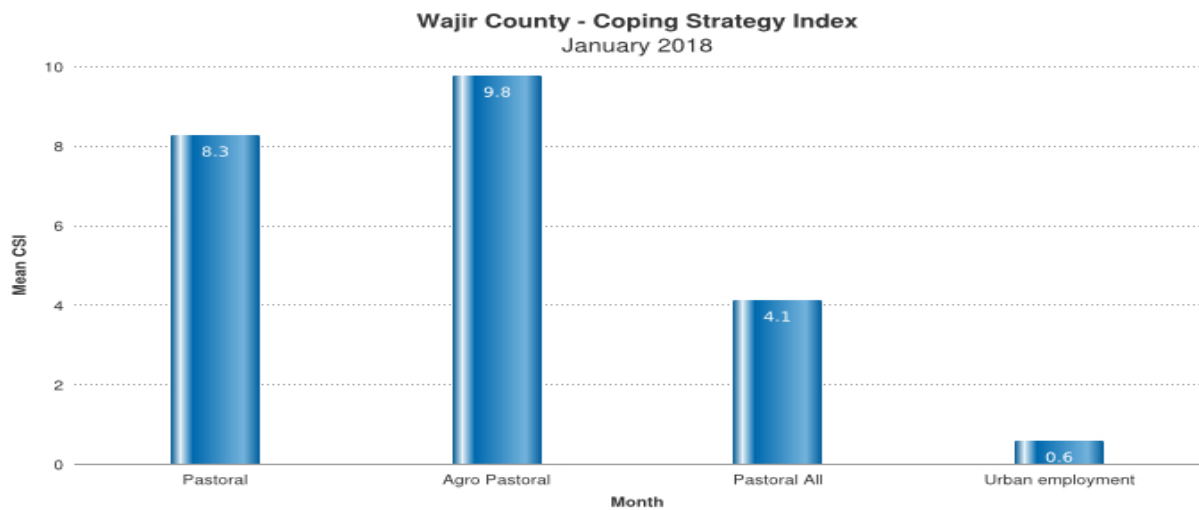
#### 5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition in the month of December increased slightly from 16.0 to 16.5 in the month under review showing no significant changes.
- The proportion of children under five with severe category in January is 0.7% as compared to the previous month which remained the same.
- The current proportion((MUAC <135 mm) is below the long term average and previous year's month average, indicating that the malnutrition of children under-fives is still at risk compared to previous year's month.
- The highest percentage of malnourished children was reported in Agro-pastoral livelihood zones in Wajir North, Pastoral cattle livelihood zones in Wajir South, Tarbaj and Lowest was recorded in wajir town.

### 5.3.2 Health

Malnutrition reports for children less than 5 years: 2 children were admitted as in-patients for Management of Severe Malnutrition, 767 new children (6-59 months) were admitted to the Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) while 2278 children (6-59 months) were admitted to Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP). (Source: DHIS December 2017). Under 5 year's morbidity in December was; diarrhoea (3946), pneumonia (970), diseases of the skin including wounds (740), Confirmed malaria (21), Urinary tract Infection 384. (Source: DHIS December 2017). Over 5 year's morbidity in December was: diarrhoea (1864), confirmed malaria (57), Urinary Tract Infections (3984) and diseases of the skin including wounds (1188). (Source: DHIS December 2017). The major disease reported during the month under review are Diarrhoea, pneumonia and there were no new disease outbreak report during the month.

### 5.4 COPING STRATEGY INDEX



*Figure 15: A graph showing average (2015-2017) (coping strategy index (CSI) against the current trend*

- Household in Pastoral, Agro-pastoral, pastoral all species in all livelihood zones employed less coping strategy in the month under review as compared to the previous month of December where they employed more coping strategies. The mean CSI for the county is 6.6 as compared to the previous month which showed 6.75 with no significant change.
- Reduced the number of meals taken per day.
- Reduced the quantity of food consumed by adult/mothers
- Borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relative.
- Relied on less preferred and less expensive food

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

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

- Vaccination and treatment of livestock-ongoing
- Monitoring and treatment of human disease ongoing
- Rehabilitation, servicing and equipping of Borehole
- Food for Asset(FFA)

### **6.2 Food Aid.**

- No Relief food distribution by National Government and County government.

## **7.0 EMERGING ISSUES**

### **7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement**

- There were reported cases of insecurity between wajir North and Eldas Sub-county over resource and border disputes still the situation has not been settled but the national and county government are working on it.

### **7.2 Migration**

In-Migration of livestock was reported in some parts of the livelihood zones mainly pastoral all species, Agro-pastoral and pastoral camel zones, where herders moved from within the sub-counties and other counties particular Mandera, Isiolo and Marsabit due to inadequate rainfall witness during the previous season.

### **7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS**

- Pasture situation in all livelihood zones are expected to worsen in the month of February and March and thereafter improve during MAM.
- Milk availability and accessibility will deteriorate as the dry spell continues and thereafter improve during the month of March, April and May Rainfall.
- Rangeland condition are expected to worsen in the month of February and March 2018 and thereafter improve during the season.
- The county is likely to experience long dry spell in the month February and thereafter improve during the season.
- Environmental condition expected to worsen and improve during the season.
- Forage and pasture conditions in the county is expected to diminish as the dry spell continues and thereafter improve during the season.
- The distances to water sources are likely to increase in the months of February to March and thereafter decrease during MAM.



## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Health & Nutrition.**

- Conducting an Outreach services and Scale up on Routine bases
- Strengthening and Capacity building of health worker on IMAM
- Scale up of HINI/IMAM/YCN interventions-ongoing
- Routine Monitoring of Malnutrition in all livelihood zones.
- Improve sanitation and waste management in Wajir town -ongoing

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

- Repair of boreholes and maintenance
- Water Trucking
- Construction of water pan

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

- Vaccination and Treatment of livestock-ongoing
- Support prevention and treatment of livestock diseases-ongoing
- Food for Asset(FFA)
- Desilting of water pan