

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



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



**MARCH EW PHASE 2018**



**Early Warning Phase Classification**

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Alert	Improving
Pastoral cattle	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral-all species	Alarm	Worsening
Pastoral camel	Alert	Improving
Informal employment	Alert	Improving
County	Alert	Improving
Biophysical Indicators	value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	15.0	80 -120
VCI-3Month	20.69	>35
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Fair-good	Normal
Crop production	Poor	Good
Milk Production	3.2	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	67	>66
Milk Consumption	2.0	>3
Return Distance to water source	4.1	<5 Km
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	16.7	<6.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	11.79	<0.95

**Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification**

**Biophysical Indicators**

**Rainfall Report**

Most parts of the county received rainfall during the month under review. Though depressed rainfall was received, where the distribution was poor in both time and space.

**Vegetation condition:** condition of vegetation (pasture and browse) ranges from fair to good in all livelihood zones.

Current VCI in the county showed moderate vegetation deficit with ascore of 20.69 in March as compared to previous Month figure of 11.89 showing an improvement in vegetation .although Wajir South and Wajir West indicates severe vegetation deficit.

**Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)**

Livestock body condition ranges between fair to good for all livelihood zones except parts of Wajir South and Wajir West that ranges from poor to fair. Regeneration of Pasture and browse reported. Milk production increased. Minimal Migration of livestock reported. No livestock death recorded. Terms of trade favourable as compared to previous month. Reduced trekking distance was reported. Percentage of children under five at risk of malnutrition decreased from 17.4 in February to 16.7 in the month under review. Less coping strategies were applied in all livelihood zones except

<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>								
<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>

## 1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITION

### 1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

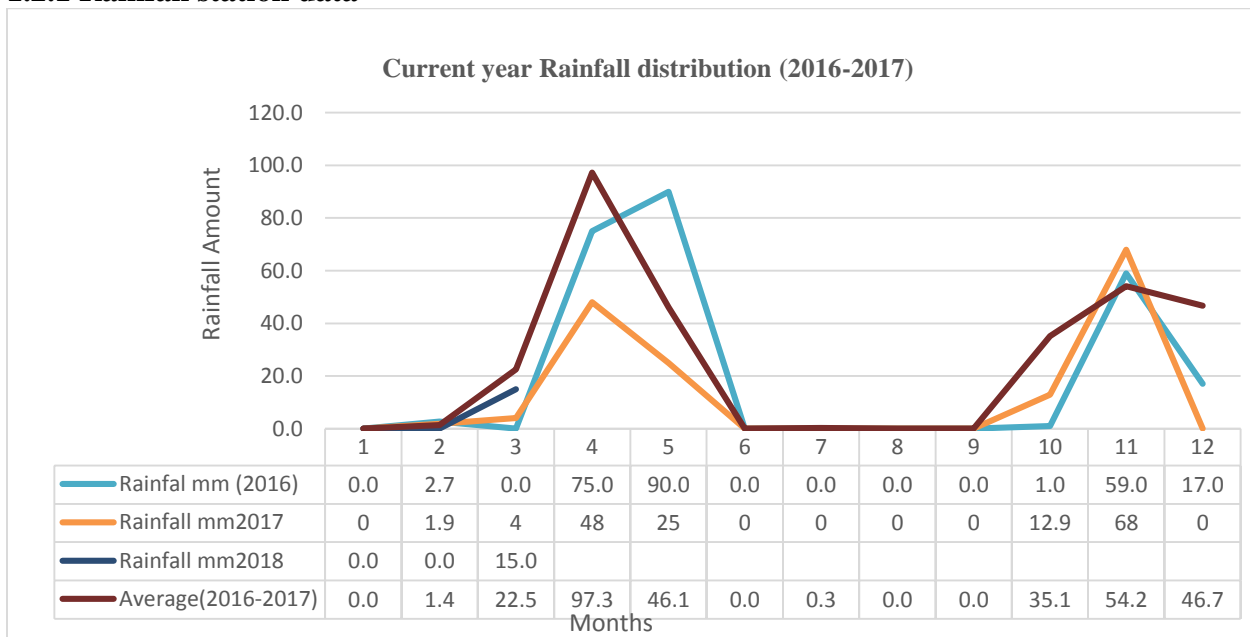
#### 1.2 Onset

- The onset of the March-May 2018 "long-rains" seasonal rainfall is not yet as the Metrological department stated but Several parts of the County Received rainfall as early as the beginning of March. Though the rainfall was depressed and poorly distributed in both time and space.

#### 1.2.1 Amount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

- Wajir recorded rainfall in several part of the county, as the rainfall recorded was depressed (less than 75 percent) and poorly distributed in both time and space. However the highest rainfall was recorded in Wajir Airport (93.5mm), Bute (89.0) Hadado (68.0mm). While others recorded less than that.

#### 1.2.1 Rainfall station data



**Table 1: A table of the stations and amount of rainfall received in the month of March 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 moderate vegetation deficit with a score of 20.69 as compared to previous month which recorded a VCI of 11.89 showing an improvement in vegetation. Although Pastoral all species livelihood zones in Wajir West and Pastoral cattle livelihood zones in Wajir South showed Severe vegetation deficit which is still affected, whereas Agro-pastoral livelihood zones in Wajir North, Pastoral Camel livelihood zones in Wajir East, Tarbaj and Eldas indicated moderate vegetation deficit. The Vegetation condition is expected to improve as the rains continues.

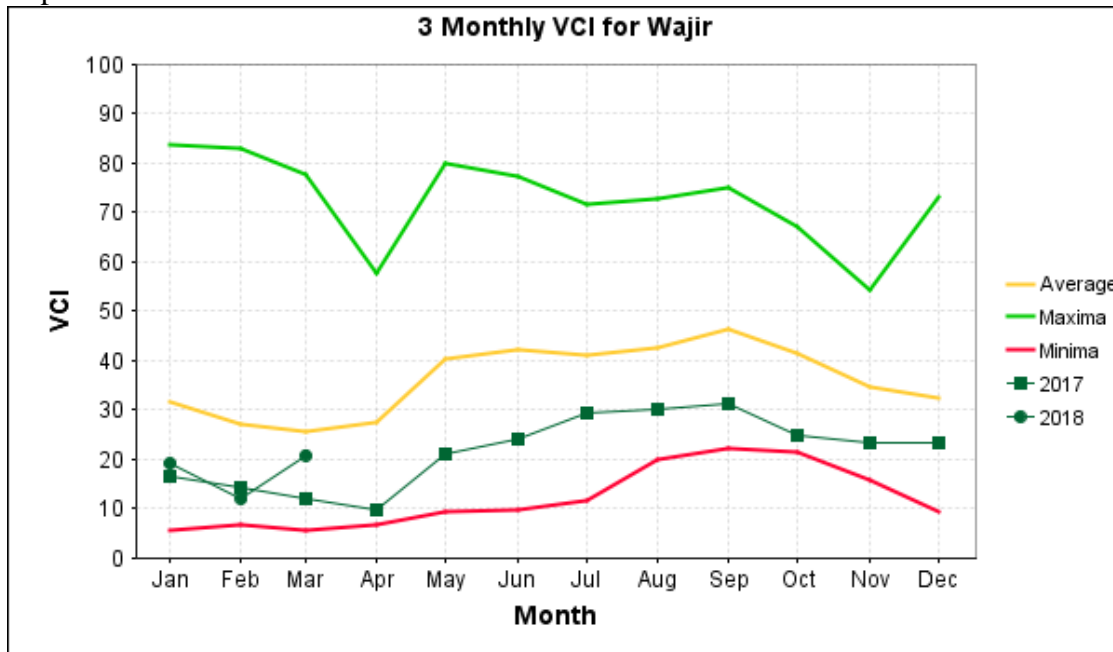


Figure 1: A chart of Wajir County overall 3-monthly VCI during the month of March 2018

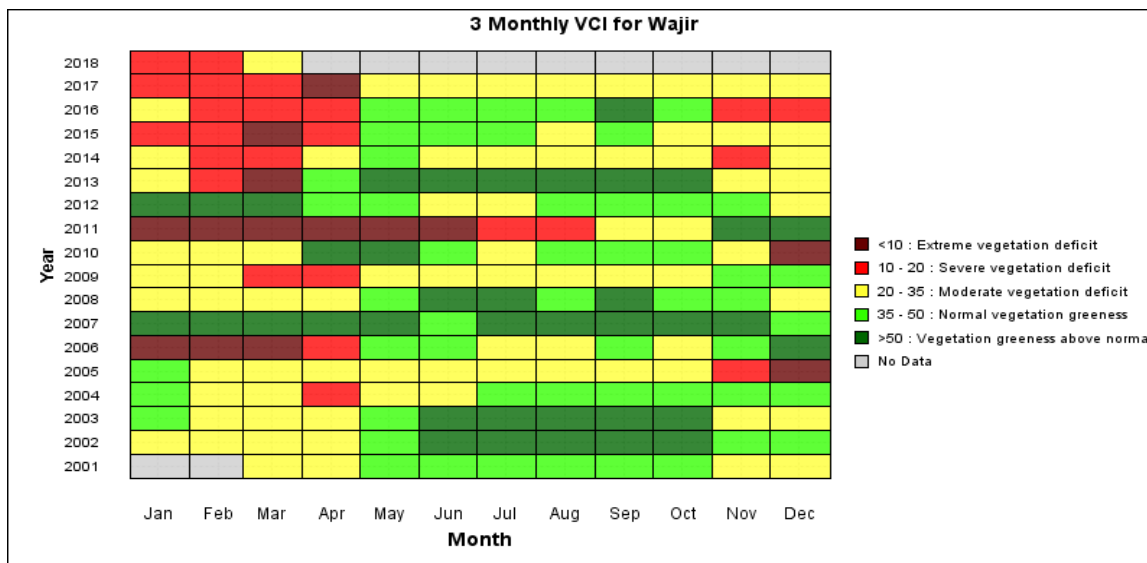


Figure 2: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir County during the month of March 2018

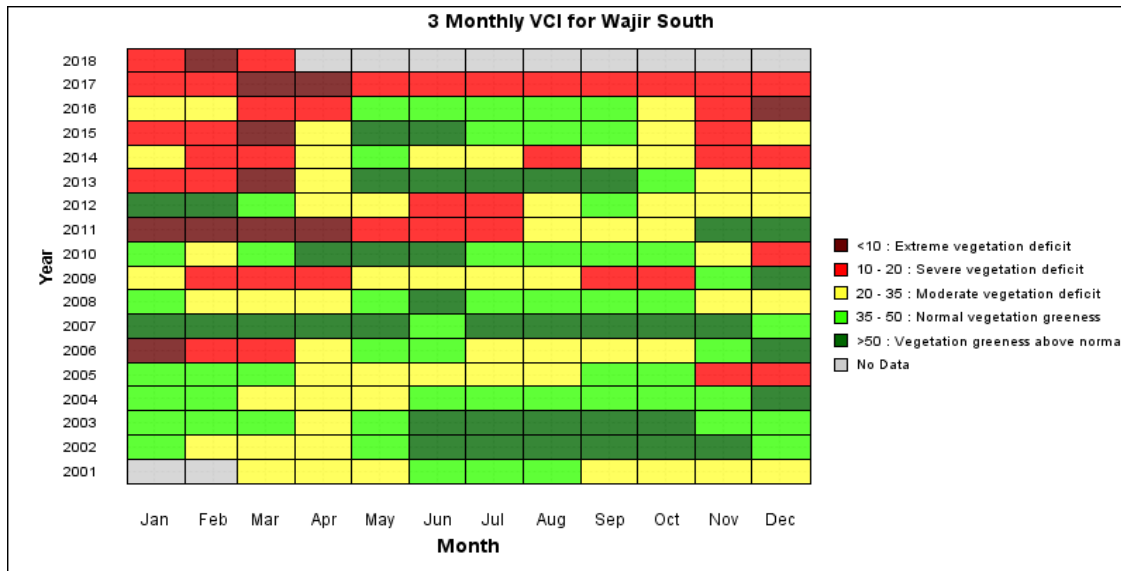


Figure 3: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir South during the month of March 2018

### 2.1.2 Pasture

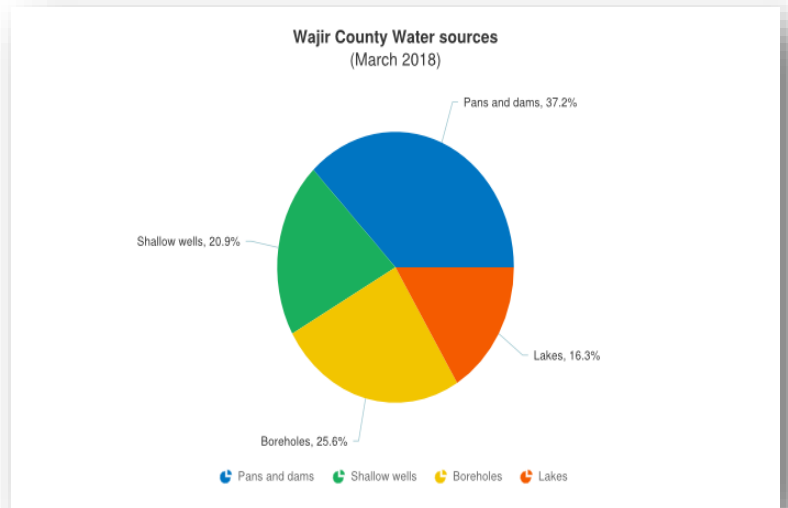
Pasture situation largely remained to be fair to poor in the county ,however there were regeneration of little pasture observed in some livelihood zone particularly Agro-pastoral livelihood zones in Wajir North, pastoral camel livelihood zones in Wajir East. And pockets of Pastoral all species livelihood zone in Wajir West. In Comparison to the previous month pasture situation has remained to be the same except areas that received sufficient rains and there was little regeneration of pastures. Pasture condition varies between livelihood zones where Agro-pastoral livelihood zone in Wajir North, Pastoral camel livelihood zones in Wajir East and pockets of Pastoral all species livelihood zones in Wajir West reported to have fair condition and pastoral cattle livelihood zones in Wajir south having poor condition. Available pasture is expected to improve and regenerate as the rains continues, No constraints of pasture reported during the month under review.

### 2.1.3 Browse

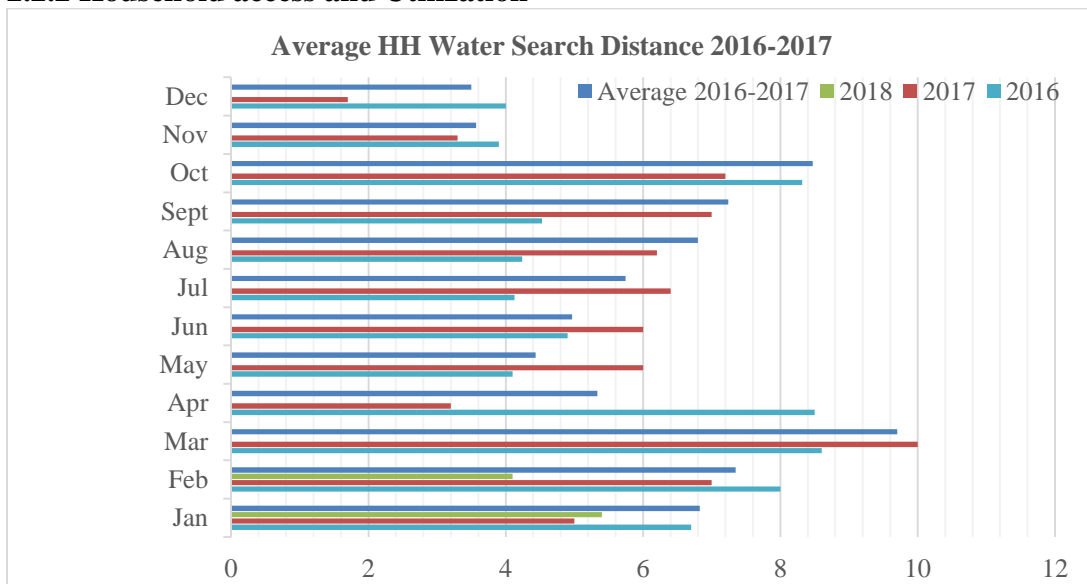
Browse condition in the county ranges between fair to good in the areas that received adequate rains while others showed to be fair to poor particularly Wajir South and pockets of Wajir West. Current browse condition improve slightly as compared to the previous month where development of leaves was observed, though it was not fully developed Available browse is expected to improve as the development of leaves continues. No constraints reported during the month, Browse situation varies according to livelihood zones where agro-pastoral livelihood zones in Wajir South, pastoral camel livelihood zones in Wajir East and pockets of Pastoral cattle livelihood zones in Wajir South showed to be fair to good whiles Pastoral all species livelihood zones in Wajir West showed to be fair to poor. Which is normal at this time of the year.

## 2.2.0 Water Sources

Main Water Sources currently in use by both human and livestock are boreholes, water pans, lagas and shallow wells which is normal at this time of the year. Where 50% of water pans in the county are fully recharged and holding water. Compared to the current situation with previous month water in the county has improved due to recharge of water pans and shallow wells by current rains received during the month. Available water are expected to improve as the rains continues.



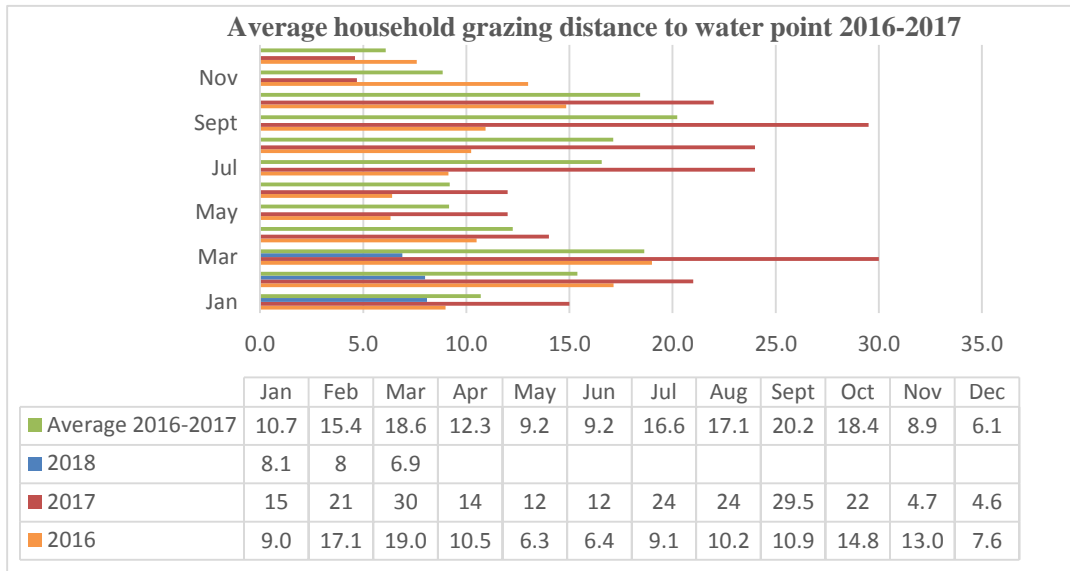
## 2.2.2 Household access and Utilization



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

- Current average household return distances to the main water sources decreased slight from 5.8km in February to 4.1km in the month under review as a result recharge of water pan and shallows by the rains.
- Current average household water consumption per person per day increased as water pans and shallow wells are fully recharged.
- Low consumption of water was report in areas that have not received sufficient rains mainly parts of Wajir South and Wajir West.
- The proportion of pastoral households that treat water is too small with some 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**

- Current average trekking distance from grazing area to water point decreased slightly from 8.0km in February to 6.9km in the month under review due to regeneration of pasture and recharge of water pans.
- Average grazing distance is below the long term average and previous year’s month average.
- Frequency of watering livestock from grazing area to water points decreased as the distance to water decline due to recharge of water pans and slow regeneration of pasture reported.
- Currently, the watering interval for cattle and goats/sheep are 1-3 and the watering interval for camels is 7-14 days.
- Livestock Distance from grazing area varies according to livelihood zones where the highest grazing distance was reported in Pastoral cattle in Wajir south, and pastoral all species livelihood zones in Wajir west and lowest was reported in Wajir North, Wajir East and Tarbaj.

### 3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

#### 3.1 Livestock production

##### 3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

Livestock body situation ranges between fair to good in all livelihood zones except areas in Wajir south and Wajir West which is between fair to poor but on an improving trend. The body condition for cattle and sheep, in Wajir South and Wajir West ranges between fair to poor, whereas for camel, goat, cattle and Sheep in Agro-pastoral livelihood zones in Wajir North and Pastoral Camel livelihood zones in Wajir East is fair to good. Compared to the previous month the condition of livestock in all species have improved due to reduced trekking distance, recharge of water pans and slight regeneration of pasture and improve browse. Nevertheless, comparing to the same period in previous year, the livestock body is in a better condition showing an improvement. Livestock body condition is expected to improve as the ongoing rains improve pasture and browse. This is normal at this time of the year.

##### 3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

There were no reported outbreak of livestock diseases but there small cases mainly PPR, CBPP, CCPP and Sheep and goat pox across the livelihood zones.

##### 3.1.3 Milk Production

- Current average household milk production per household per day increased significantly from 2.5litres in February to 3.2 litres in the month under review due to reduced trekking distance, regeneration of pasture, browse and good livestock body condition.

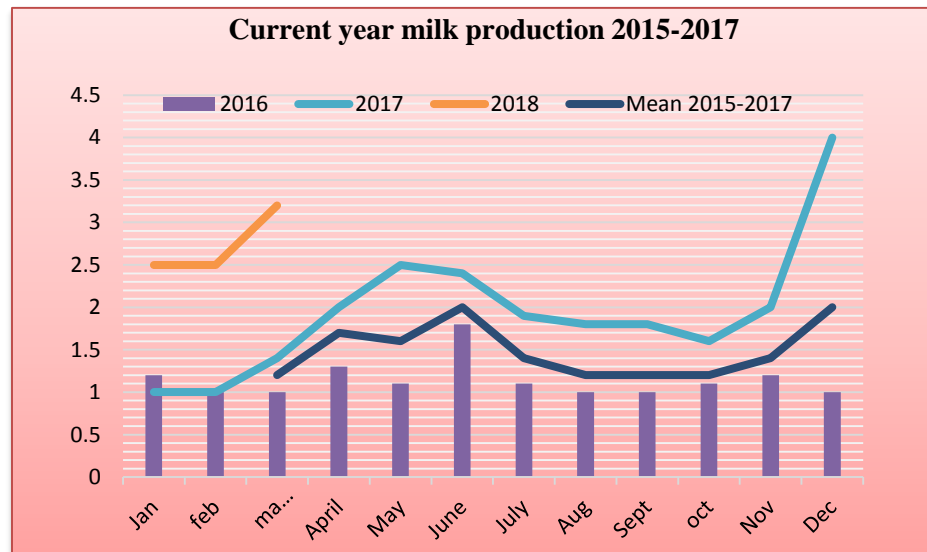


Figure 6: Current Household milk production against (2007-2016) long-term average

- Current average milk production is above the long term average and previous year average indicating significant improvement in milk production.
- This is normal at this time of the year.
- Highest milk production was recorded in Pastoral all species, agro-pastoral livelihood zones, Pastoral camel areas and lowest was recorded in Pastoral Cattle livelihood zones.

##### 3.2.1 Stage and condition of food Crops

In Wajir the farmers prepared the land and planting is ongoing majorly maize, beans and other crops such as kales, spinach, tomatoes and water melon for both irrigated and rain fed crops. Currently the water melon have germinated and doing well.

## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

#### 4.1.1 Cattle prices

- Current average price of four year old medium size bull increased from Kshs 14,300 in February to 18,000 in the month under review as result of market demand and less supply.
- Highest average prices were recorded in the Wajir towns and lowest recorded in the rural.
- Current average prices is higher than both long-term average and previous year's price.
- Market shows that there is improvement in the market.

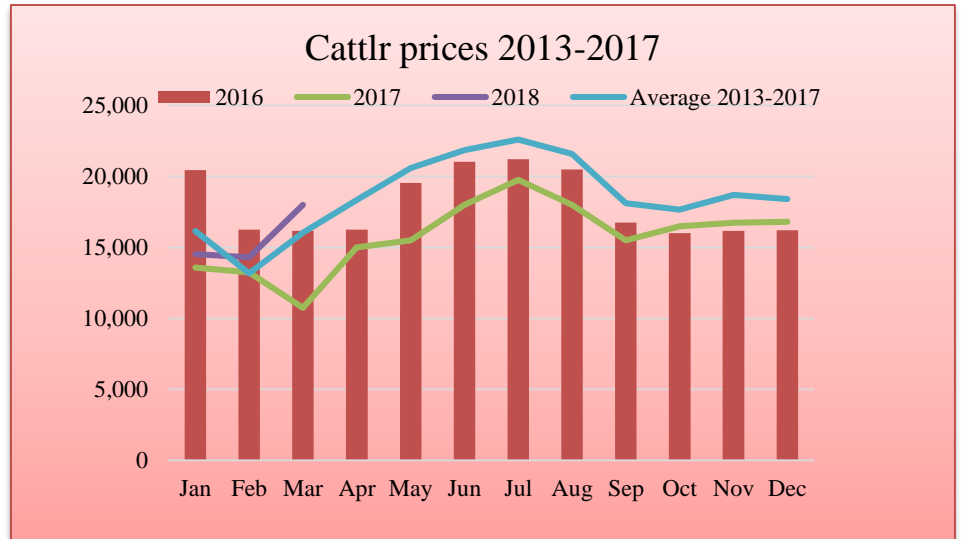


Figure 7: A graph of current cattle price against the long term (2013-17) mean prices

#### 4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- Current average price of a two year old goat increased slightly from Kshs 2,793 in February to Kshs 3,148 in the month under review as a result of improved market and high market demand.
- The livelihood with the highest prices was recorded in the major town in Wajir market, Habaswein Market and Dagahley Market while lowest was recorded the Rural area.

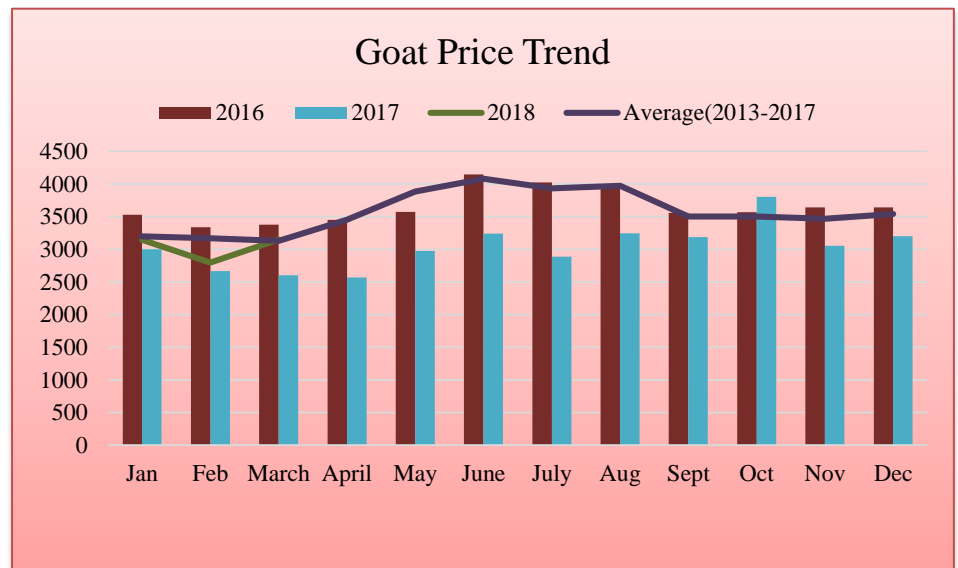


Figure 8: A graph of current year goat prices against the short-term mean 2013-2017

- Current average price is higher than the Long term average (LTA) and previous month price and this is normal at this time of the year.
- Current goat Prices of Market slightly improved.



### 4.1.3 Camel price

- Current price of four year old Camel increased from Kshs 23,166 in February to Kshs 30,333 in the month under review due to high market demand and improve market.
- Livelihood zones with the highest price was recorded in urban centres mainly Wajir Town, Dagahley Market and the lowest recorded in rural area.
- Current average price of camel is above the long-term average and previous year's month price.
- Compared with the three year average the market price for camel showed slight improvement and this is normal for the time of the year.

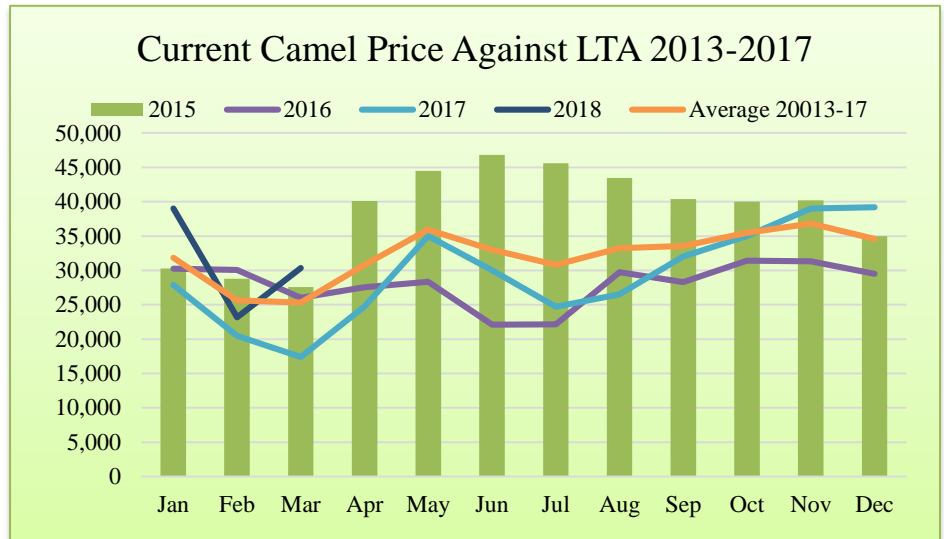


Figure 9: A graph of current camel prices against the long term mean (2013-2017).

## 4.2 CROP PRICES

### 4.2.1 Maize

- Current average maize price decrease significantly from Kshs 59 per kg in February to Kshs 51 per kg in March as a result of increased supply and less demand.
- The highest maize prices was recorded in the rural areas and lowest prices were reported in Major towns Particulars Wajir town, Habaswein, Bute.

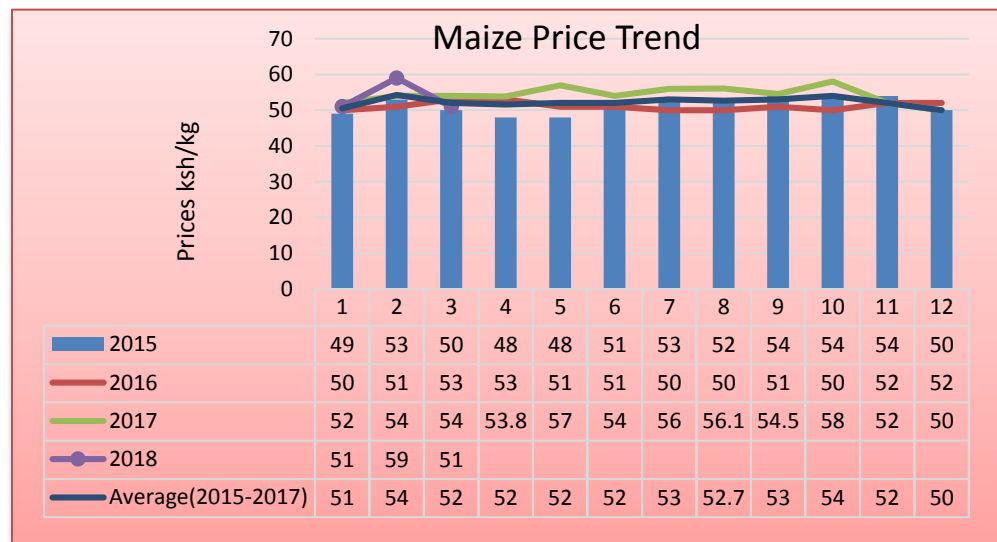


Figure 10: A graph of Current Maize Trend

- Current average price was lower than the long term average and previous year's month Price, as Compared to long term average and previous year price this is not normal.

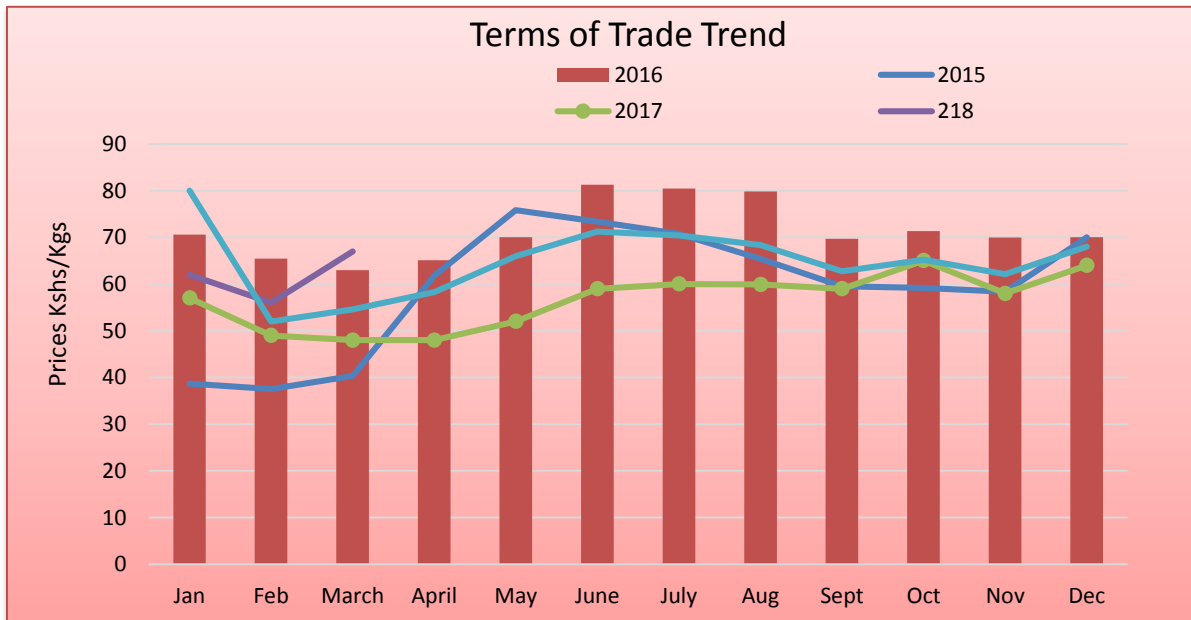
#### 4.2.1.1 Other outstanding observation

- Maize been not staple food consumed in Wajir, Major staple food utilized are rice, 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 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)

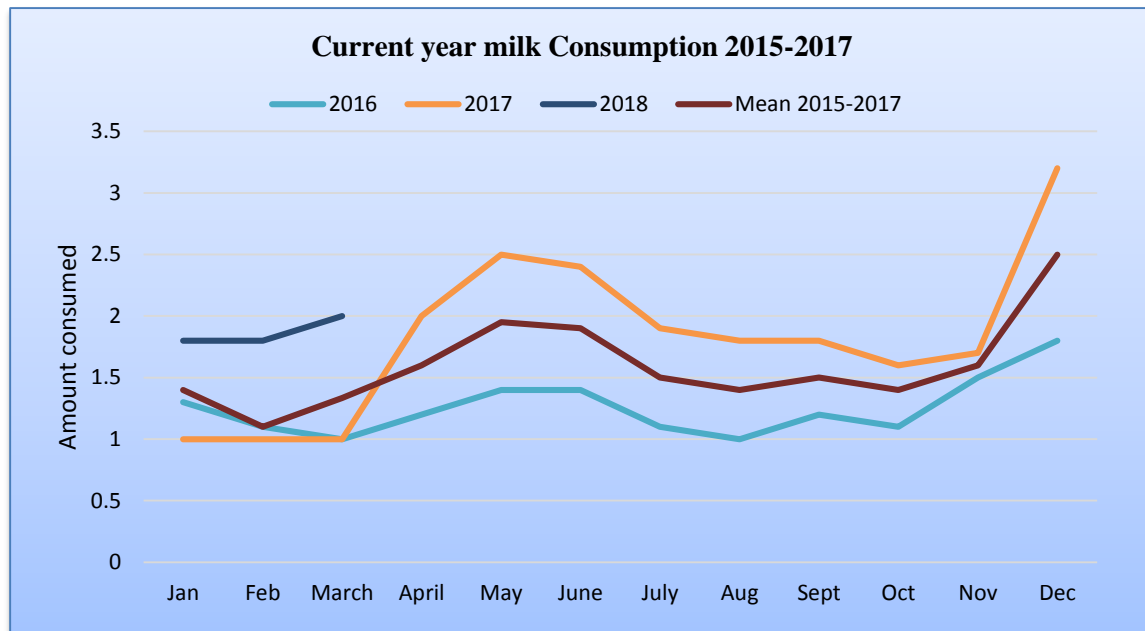


*Figure 11: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long term (2015-2017) mean price*

- Household terms of trade increased from 56kg in February to 67kg in March due to slight increase in goat price, Terms of trade is favourable as compared to the previous month.
- Current average price is above the long term average and previous year's month price.
- No market disruption reported during the month.

## 5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

### 5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

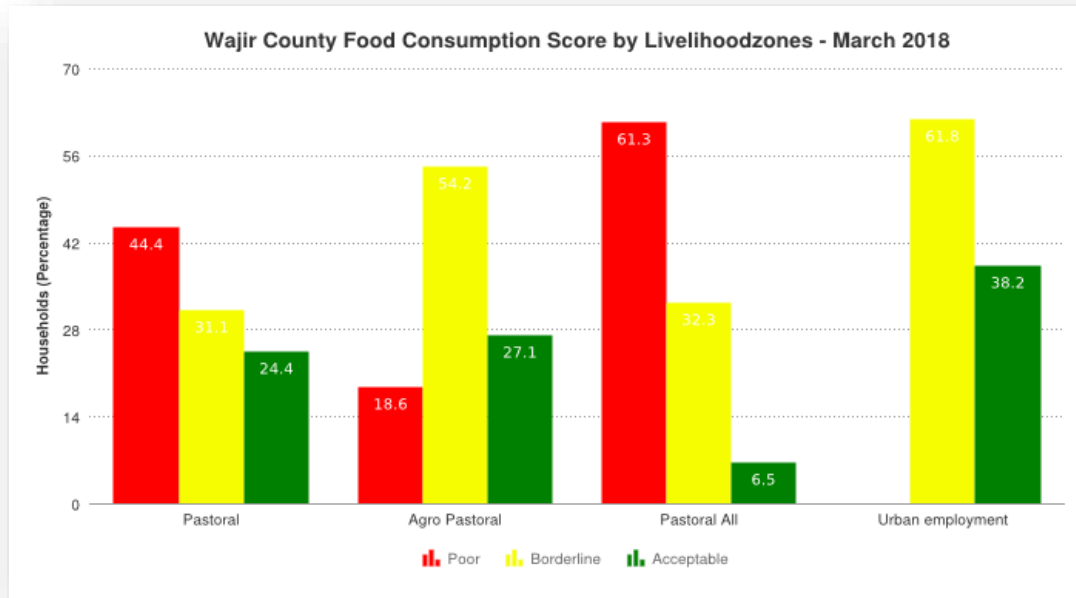


*Figure 12: A graph showing current average milk consumption for Wajir against (2015-2017) mean*

- Current average milk consumption per household per day slightly increased from 1.8litres in February to 2.0 liters per household per day thus improving nutrition status of children under five.
- Current average household milk consumption per household per day is above the long term average and previous year's price, which is normal for the period of the year,
- Highest producing livestock species in the county is Camel and Cattle.
- Highest milk production was recorded in Agro-pastoral areas in Wajir North, Pastoral camel livelihood zones, Parts of Pastoral Cattle and Pastoral all species livelihood zones in Wajir West and Wajir South

### 5.2 Food Consumption Score

- Pastoral all species and pastoral livelihood zones are the household with the highest poor dietary diversity with a score of 62.3% and 44.4% in March as compared to 54.3% and 36.7% in February respectively.
- As compared to the previous month Pastoral and pastoral all species livelihood zones slightly worsen in March with a score of 44.4% from a score of 36.7%. And 62.3% in March from ascore of 54.3% respectively.
- In agro-pastoral livelihood zones 18.6% are in poor as compared to previous month with ascore of 11.7%, others moving to Borderline with a score of 54.2% as compared to a previous score of 51.7%.
- In pastoral all species livelihood zone 62.3% of the households have poor dietary diversity in the month under review as compared to February with 54.3% showing an increase in food consumption.



### 5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

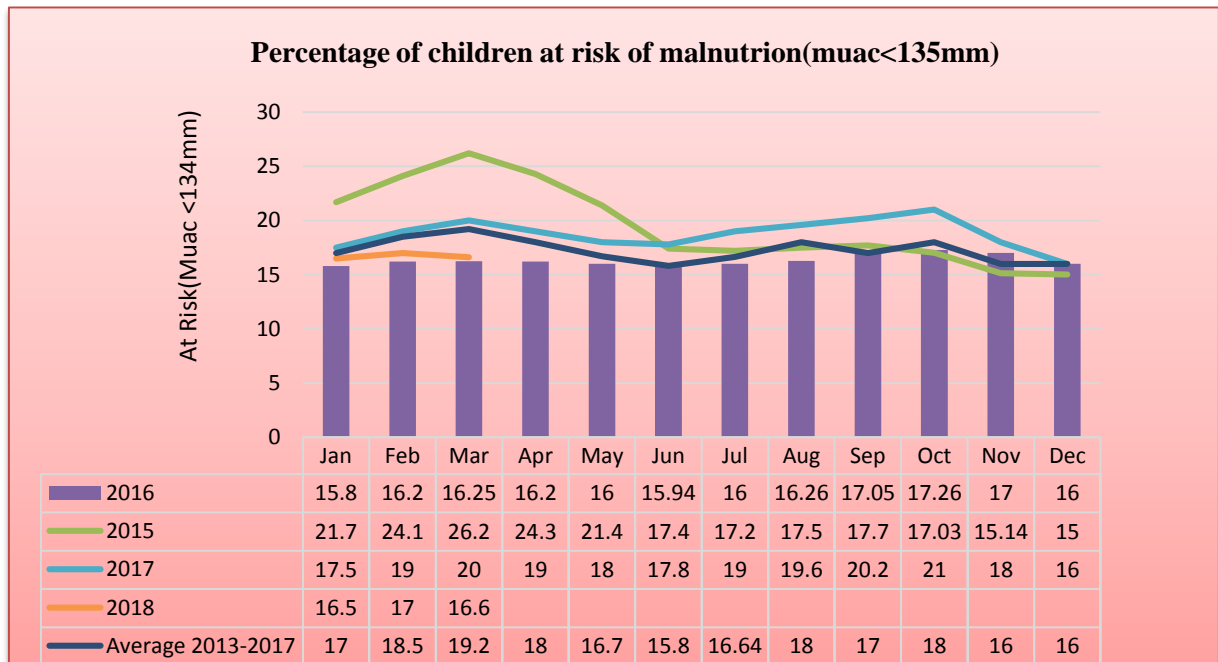


Figure 14: A graph of Nutritional status of children between 12-59 months against (2013-17) long-term mean

- In Wajir a total of 640 children (6-59months) were sampled for both girls and boys and assessed for malnutrition using muac Tape. From the sampled children, 16.6% were at risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135 mm) as compared to previous month which was 17.0% showing a slight improvement but still children under five are at Risk of malnutrition.

- In wajir North Sub-county (Bute and Buna/Batalu) total number of Sample children assessed for malnutrition using Muac Tape were a total of 172 for boys and girls, From the sample children 11.2% were at risk of malnutrition(MUAC <135 mm) when compared to previous month which was 15.8% showing an improvement in malnutrition.
- Wajir South Sub-county total number of sampled children assessed for malnutrition using Muac were 161,from the sample children 15.8% were at Risk of malnutrition(MUAC <135 mm) when compared to previous month which was 14.6% indicating increase in malnutrition thus affecting children under five.

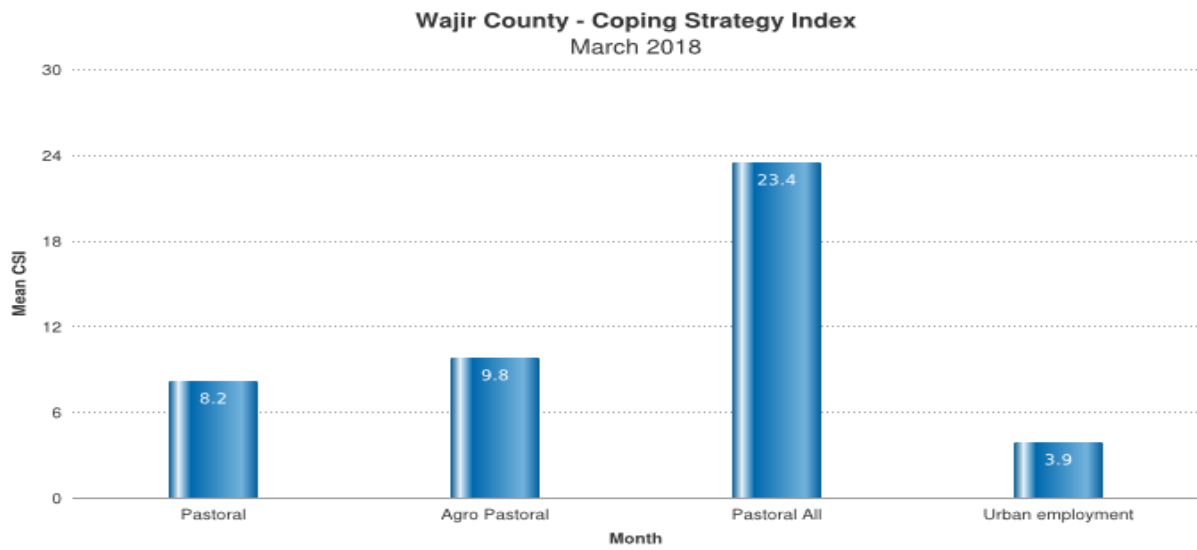
### **5.3.1 Nutrition Status**

- The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition in the month of February decreased from 17.4 to 16.7 in the month under review.
- The proportion of children under five with severe category decreased from 1.83% to 0.6% in the month under Review.
- 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 has improved as 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 and Lowest was recorded in wajir town and Eldas.

### **5.3.2 Health**

438 new children (6-59 months) were admitted to the Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) while 1503 children (6-59 months) were admitted to Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP). (Source: DHIS February 2018). Under 5 year's morbidity in February was; diarrhoea (2303), pneumonia (1114), diseases of the skin including wounds (732), Confirmed malaria (4), Urinary tract Infection 311. (Source: DHIS February 2018). Over 5 year's morbidity in February was: diarrhoea (1099), confirmed malaria (20), Urinary Tract Infections (4624) and diseases of the skin including wounds (1014). (Source: DHIS February 2018).The major disease reported during the month under review are Diarrhoea, pneumonia and there were no new disease outbreak report during the month.

## 5.3 COPING STRATEGY INDEX



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

- All households in Pastoral, and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones employed less coping strategy except pastoral all species livelihood zones that applied more coping strategies in the month under review as compared to the previous month of February where all households employed less coping strategies. The mean CSI for the county is 11.79 as compared to the previous month which showed 6.5 indicating more coping was employed.
- 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

- Livestock disease surveillance across the County.
- Food for Asset(FFA)
- Monitoring and treatment of human disease- ongoing
- Rehabilitation, servicing and equipping of Borehole
- Provision of spare parts to boreholes
- Cash Transfer (Regular and Emergency) by NDMA)
- Cash assistance by WFP and Red Cross-ongoing
- Coordination of cash transfers programmes undertaken by various implementers

### 6.2 Food Aid.

- Relief food distribution by National Government.

## 7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

### 7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

There were no cases of insecurity reported in the county during the month under review.

### Migration

There were no migration of livestock reported from other counties and country except migration within the county where livestock moved to where it has rained in search of pasture, browse and water which is also minimal. Migration was normal

### **7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS**

- Pasture condition in the county is likely to improve as regeneration of pasture reported.
- Milk production will likely increase as the body condition of livestock improves.
- Rangeland condition will likely improve in the coming two to three month and thereafter deteriorate.
- Migration of livestock in the county and outside the county will be minimal as the rains continues and Regeneration of pasture noted.
- Livestock body condition will likely improve and will be good in the next two three month and thereafter deteriorate.
- Distance to water sources will likely reduce in the next two to three months and thereafter increase.
- Nutrition status will improve in the month of April, May and thereafter decline.
- Food security condition will likely improve in the on-going rainfall if it performs well.
- Water availability and accessibility is likely to improve in April, May and thereafter expected to worsen during the dry spell.

### **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Health & Nutrition.**

- Monitoring of malnutrition in the county
- Water Treatment(Aqua tabs, PUR, chlorine powder
- Strengthening and Capacity building of health worker on IMAM
- Scale up of HINI/IMAM/IYCN interventions-ongoing
- Supply of safe water storage containers.
- Conducting an Outreach services and Scale up on daily basis -ongoing

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

- Repair of boreholes and maintenance
- Desilting of water pan
- Construction of water pan

#### **Livestock Sector and Agriculture**

- Desilting and excavation of water pans
- Support prevention and treatment of livestock diseases-ongoing
- Food for Asset (FFA).
- Provision of seeds