

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



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



**AUGUST EW PHASE 2018**

**Early Warning Phase Classification**

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Normal	Improving
Pastoral cattle	Normal	Improving
Pastoral-all species	Normal	Improving
Pastoral camel	Normal	Improving
Informal employment	Normal	Improving
County	Normal	Improving
Biophysical Indicators	value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	0	80 -120
VCI-3Month	76.1	>35
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	good	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)	94	>66
Milk Consumption	1.8	>3
Return Distance to water source	3	<5 Km
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	14.4	<6.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	6.27	<0.95

**Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification**

**Biophysical Indicators**

**Rainfall Report**

The county did not receive any rainfall in the month of August, but characterised by cold, windy and cloudy weather in most part of Wajir County.

**Vegetation condition:** Current VCI in the county showed vegetation greenness above normal with avci score of 76.1 as compared to previous month figure of 75.1, with all livelihood zones showing vegetation greenness above normal.

**Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)**

Pasture and Browse remained to be good except pockets recording fair condition, Livestock body condition is good, Terms of trade favourable, Markets operational, slight increase in trekking distance, in-migration of livestock reported which is minimal, decline in Milk production. Cases of livestock disease reported, Water available, Percentage of children under five at risk of malnutrition remained stable. No coping strategies were employed except few livelihood zones that employed less coping as compared to previous month.

<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

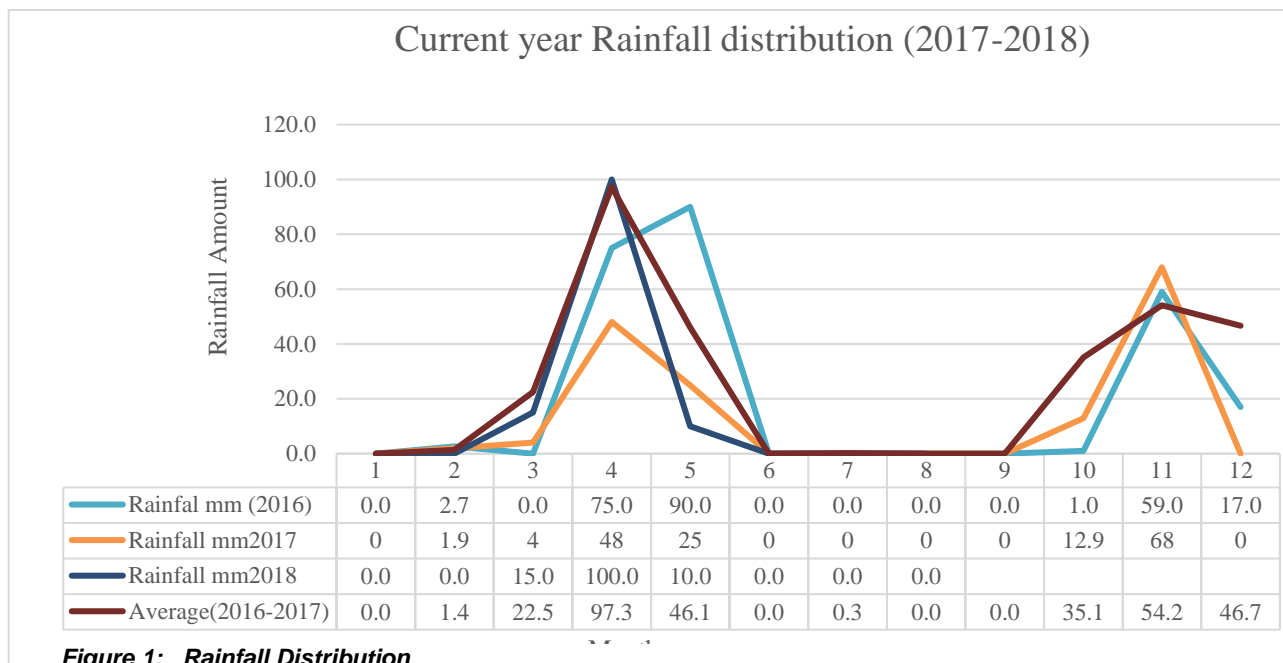
### 1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

#### 1.2 Onset

- Above normal Rainfall was recorded during MAM, although no rainfall recorded in the Month of August cloudy and windy Weather was witness during the day over most parts of the County.

#### 1.2.1 Mount of rainfall and spatial Distribution

- No rainfall recorded during the month under review, though characterised by windy and cloudy weather during the day.



**Figure 1: Rainfall Distribution**

## 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 showed vegetation greenness above normal which remained the same as compared to previous month, indicating a stable vegetation greenness in all livelihood zones due to adequate rainfall experienced during MAM. The Vegetation condition will likely deteriorate slightly as the long dry spell continues.

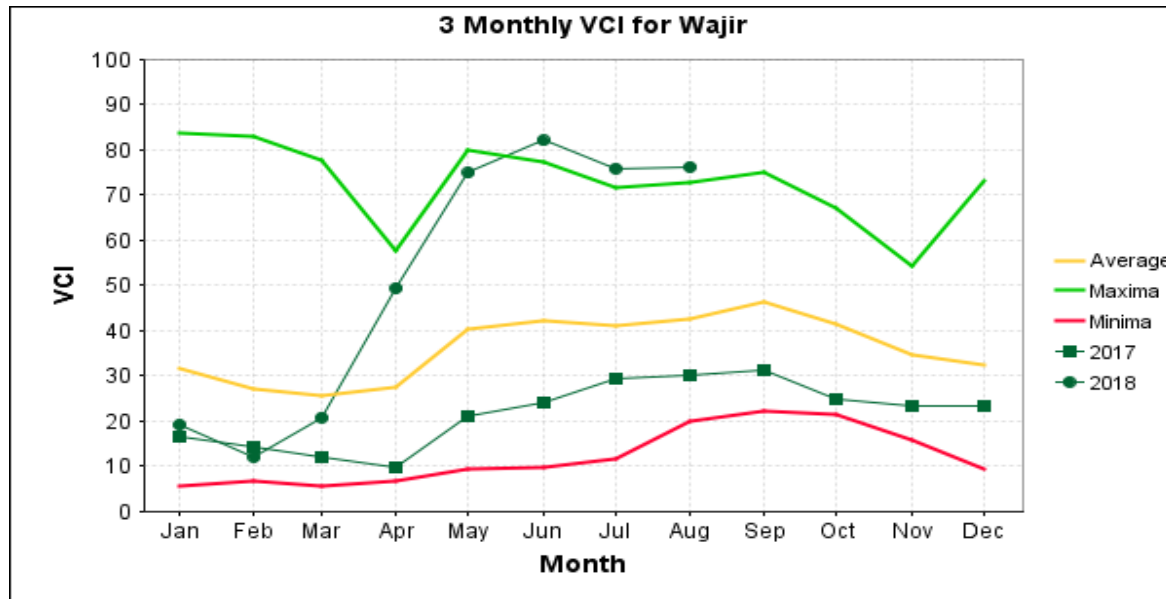


Figure 2: chart of Wajir County overall 3-monthly VCI during the month of August 2018

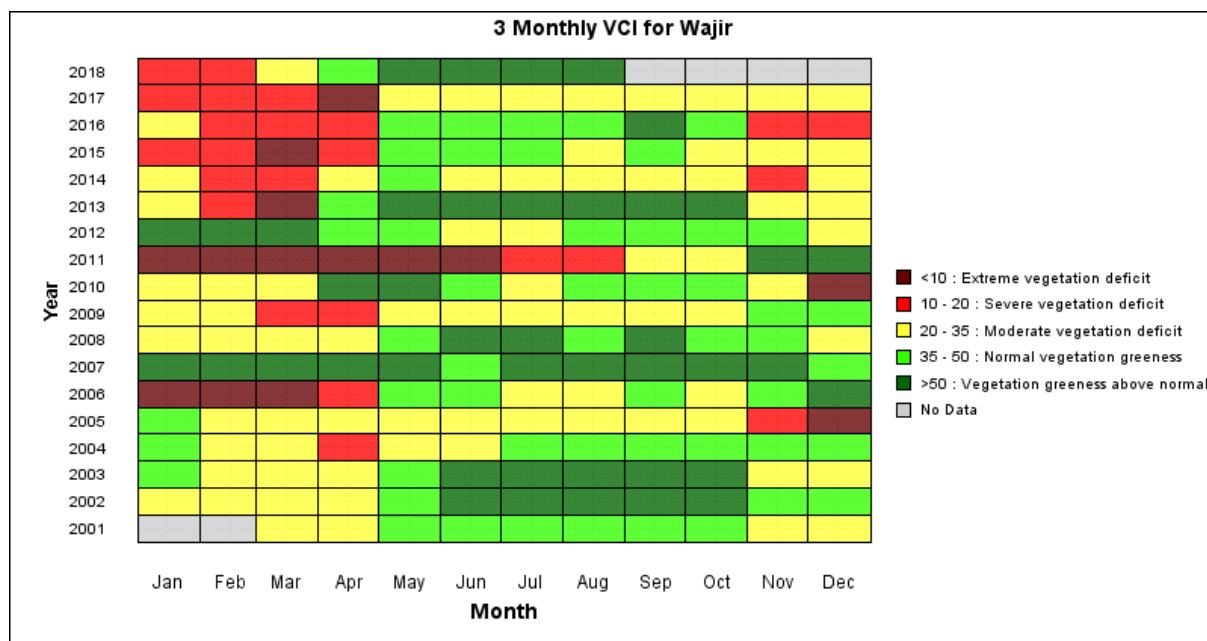


Figure 3: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir County during the month of August 2018

### **2.1.2 Pasture**

- Current Pasture condition remained good in the county due to adequate rainfall recorded during long rains attributed to availability of pasture, browse and water, except pockets of pastoral cattle and pastoral all species livelihood zones in Burder, Wara, Lolkuta North and Hadado due to cumulative effects of the previous seasons
- 75 percent of the community reported pasture to be good while the other percent reported to be fair.
- In comparison to the previous month, Current Pasture situation remained to be good in the county, except pockets of pastoral cattle and Pastoral all species which indicated to be fair due to slight deterioration of pasture.
- Pasture condition varies according to livelihood zones, where highest pasture recorded in some parts of Pastoral livelihood zones, Agro-pastoral livelihood zones and pastoral cattle livelihood zones and lowest reported in Eldas. .
- Available pasture is likely to last for a period of one and half months (September and Mid October 2018).
- No constrains reported during the month under review.

### **2.1.3 Browse**

- Current Browse condition reported to be good in all livelihood zones across the county as a result of enhanced rainfall reported during long rains.
- The available browse is expected to last for a period of one month.
- Browse condition varies according to livelihood zones where highest browse reported in pastoral camel, Agro-pastoral livelihood zones, Tarbaj and lowest Reported in Pastoral Cattle livelihood zones and Pastoral all species livelihood zones with slight variation.
- No constraints reported during the months

## **2.2 Water Resource**

### **2.2.1 Water Source**

- Major water sources in use by both human and livestock in all livelihood zones are: boreholes, water pans, and shallow wells which is normal at this time of the year.
- In Comparison to the previous months the current situation of water remained good as a result of fully recharged water pan reported during MAM, though there are some few water pans which have dried up.
- Available water is expected to last for a period of two months except areas that have dried up.

## 2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

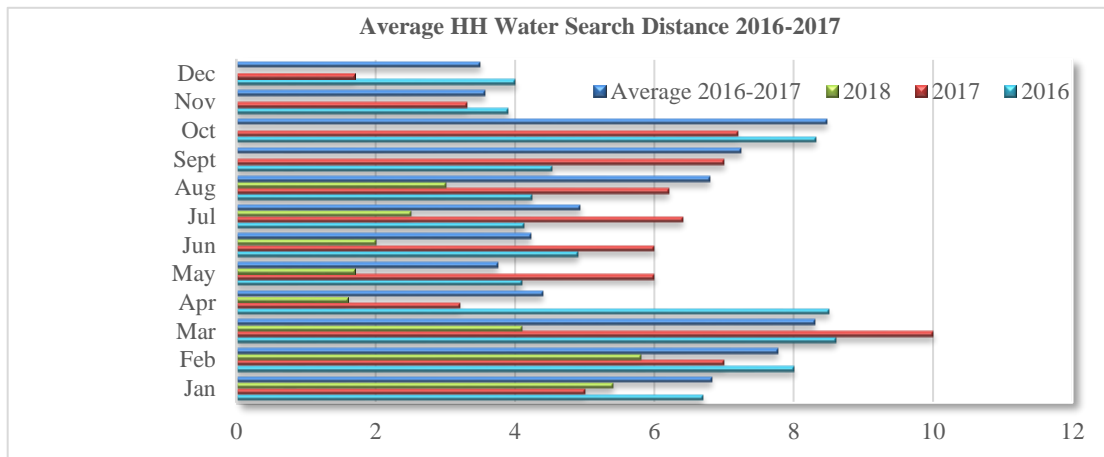
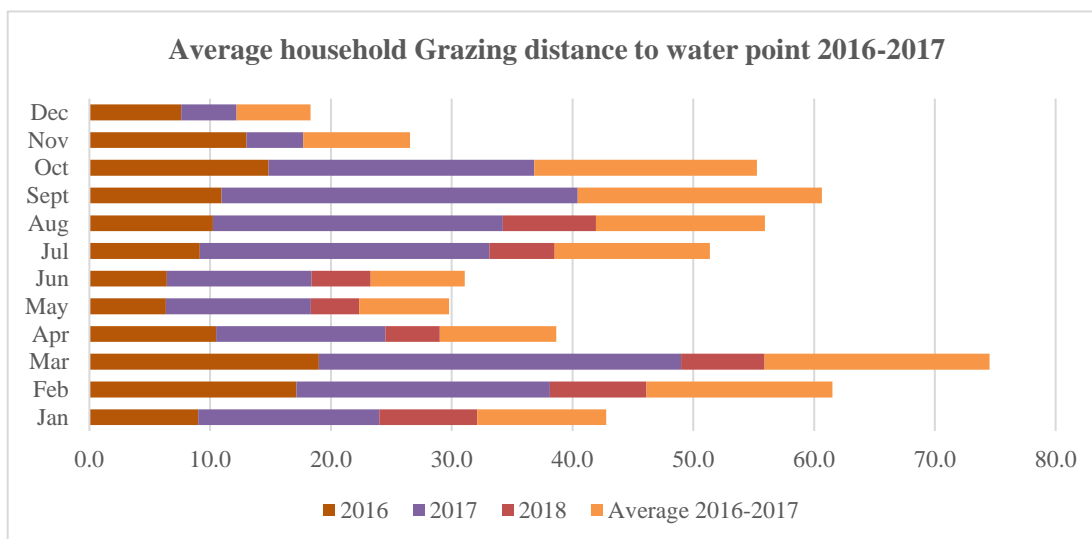


Figure 6: A chart indicating return distance to water sources against 2016-2017 average

- Current average household return distances to main water sources slightly increased from 2.5km in July to 3.0 km in the month under review due to dry up of water pan, and evaporation.
- Current average water consumption per person per day remained the same as water pans in the county are still holding water.
- Proportion of pastoral households that treat water is too minimal with some households in the town’s treat water.

## 2.2.3 Livestock access



*Figure 7: A graph indicating current grazing distance against (2015-2016) average*

- Current average trekking distance from grazing area to water point increased significantly from 5.4km in July to 7.7 km in August as a result of drying up of water pans and gradual decline of pasture in some livelihood zones. This is normal at this time of the year.
- Average grazing distance is below the long term average and previous year's month average which is normal.
- Frequency of watering livestock from grazing area to water points remained the same as the distance increased slightly with no significant changes in the county.
- Watering frequencies for livestock species were watered on daily basis as a result of available water and full recharged of water sources.
- Livestock Distance from grazing area varies according to livelihood zones where the highest grazing distance was still reported in Wajir south, and 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 condition for all species (cattle, camels, goats and sheep) in all livelihood zones was good, except pockets of pastoral all species livelihood zone in Wajir West (Wara, Lolkuta, and Athibohol) and pastoral cattle livelihood zone in Wajir South (Burder, Arablow) which are in fair condition due to poor regeneration of pasture and browse
- In comparison to the previous month the livestock body condition still remained to be good due to adequate rains witnessed during MAM attributed to availability of pasture, browse and water. Improved livestock body condition will enhance production of milk, meat, livestock market prices and nutrition status of children under five thus making the households food secure.

#### **3.1.2 Livestock Diseases**

- Incidence of livestock diseases were reported mainly CBPP, PPR, CCPP and sheep and goat pox in Pastoral camel in Wajir East, Pastoral cattle livelihood zones in Wajir south in Dambas, Haragal and Ibrahim Urey.

### 3.1.3 Milk Production

- Current average milk production per household per day remained stable as compared to previous month due to availability of pasture, browse, and water and reduced trekking distance.
- Current average milk production is way above the long term average and previous year average showing an improvement in milk production thus making household food secure. This is normal at this time of the year.
- Highest milk production was reported in pastoral all species, Pastoral camel and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones while lowest recorded in Eldas.

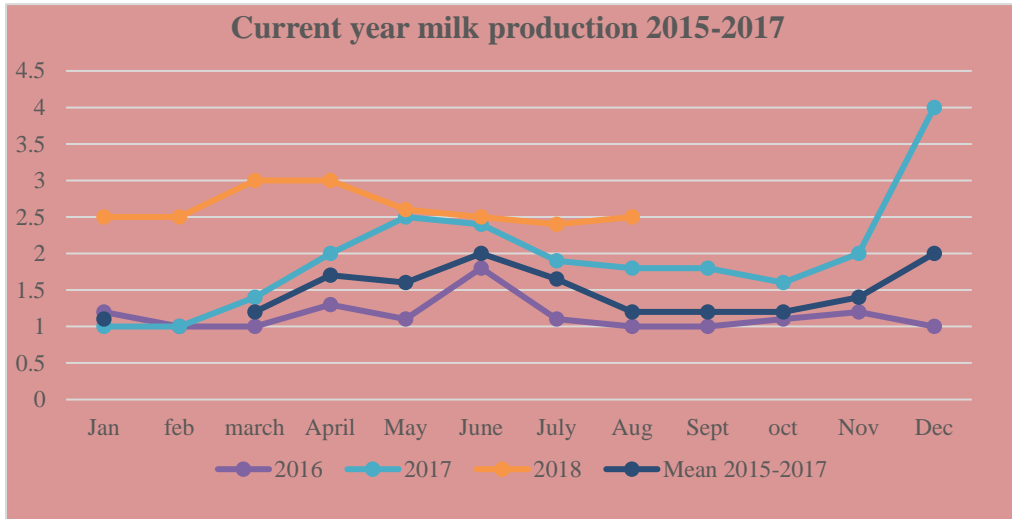


Figure 8: Current Household milk production against (2007-2016) long-term average

### 3.2.1 Stage and condition of food Crops

- Major crops grown are maize, beans and other crops such as kales, spinach, tomatoes and water melon for both irrigated and rain fed but Farmers have already harvested their crop and preparing the land for the next season.

## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

#### 4.1.1 Cattle prices

- Current average price of four year old medium size bull slightly decreased from 22,571 in July to 22,250 in August due to low market demand and increased supply attributed to opening of schools where pastoral households are looking for school fees for their children, though it has no significant changes.
- Highest average prices were reported in urban towns and lowest at the rural areas.
- Current average price is above the long term average (LTA) and previous year's average, indicating an improvement in market price as compared to previous years and season. This is normal
- Market indicates that prices are still favourable in comparison to previous years and months.

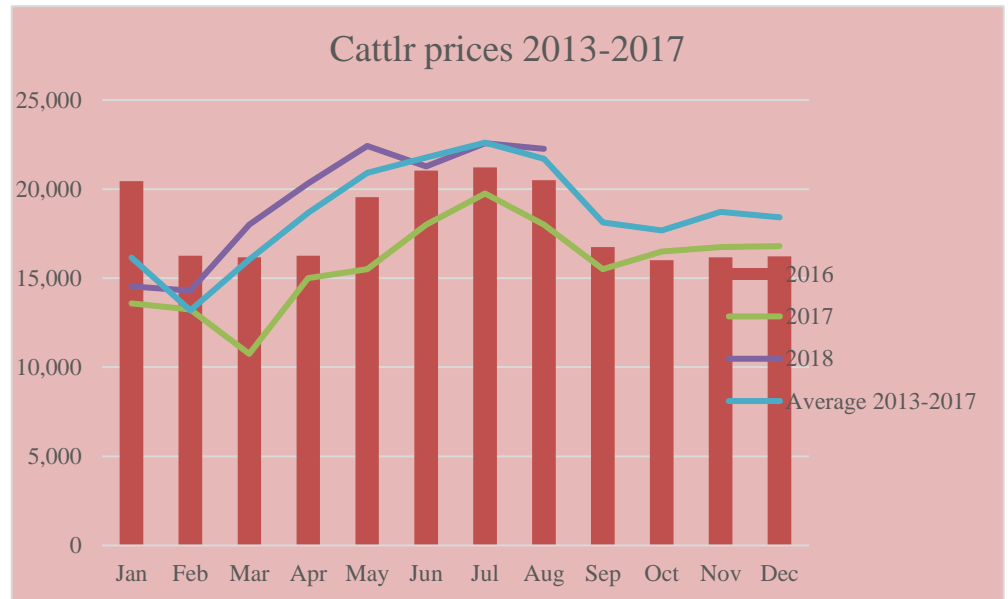


Figure 9: A graph of current cattle price against the long term (2013-17) mean prices

#### 4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)

- Current average price of a two year old goat increased from Kshs 3,990 in July to Kshs 4,568 in the month of August as due to increased market demand attributed to reopening of schools, seasonal festivals of Iddul-Adha and less supply also contributed to the increased prices.
- Current average price is above the Long term average (LTA) and previous month average due to good livestock body condition which increased livestock prices.
- The areas with the highest livestock prices were reported in urban towns and lowest reported in rural areas.

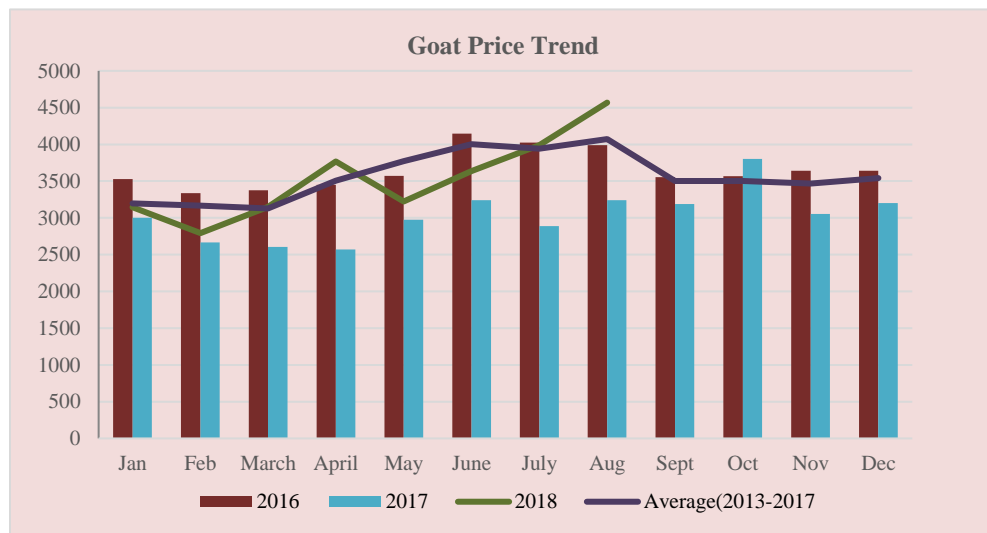


Figure 10: A graph of current Goat price against the long term (2013-17) mean price

price

#### 4.1.3 Camel price



- Current average price of four year old Camel decreased from Kshs 37,400 in July to Kshs 33,000 in August as a result of low demand and less supply of market due to pastoral households holding their livestock for a better prices.
- Current average price of camel is below the long term average (LTA) but above previous year's month price attributed to low market demand and less supply of livestock due to pastoral households holding their herds for a better prices.
- Livelihood zone with the highest price was recorded in Dagahley market in Wajir south, Wajir Town and lowest recorded in Eldas Sub-county and Wajir North.

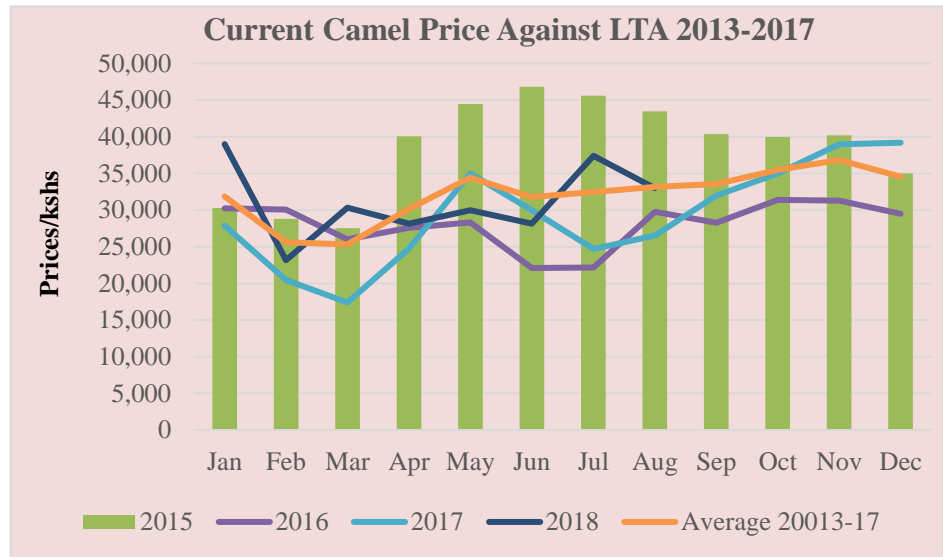


Figure 11: A graph of current camel prices against the long term mean (2013-

2017).

## 4.2 CROP PRICES

### 4.2.1 Maize

- Current average maize price remained stable throughout the month from June to August due to increased supply from the import market as well as stocks available in the market.
- The highest maize prices was reported in the rural areas and lowest reported in towns.
- Current maize price is below the long term average and previous year's price due to increased supply from the import market and stocks available in the market, since Maize is not a stable food in the market.

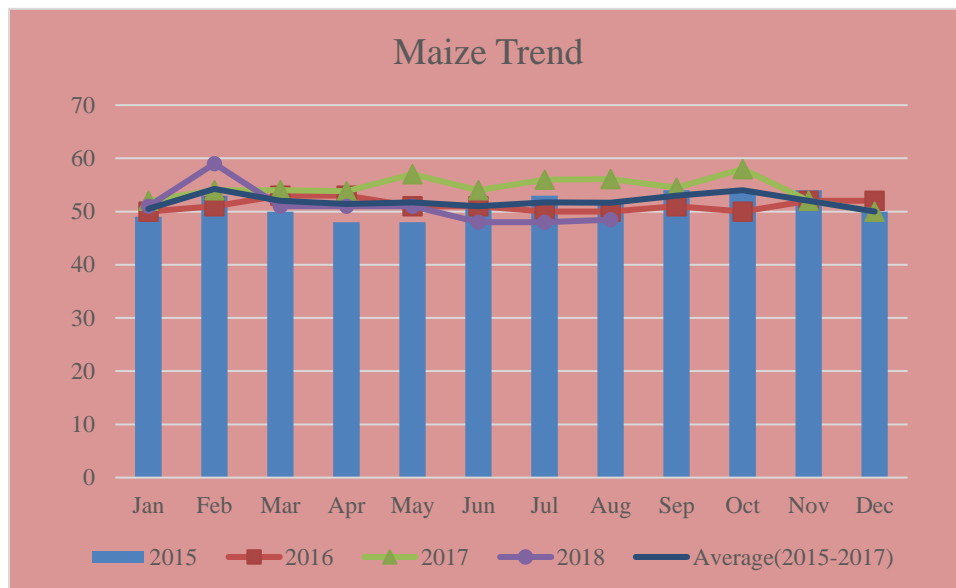


Figure 12: A graph of Current Maize Trend (2015-2017)

#### 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.

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

- Current household terms of trade increased significantly from 83kg in July to 94kgs in August as a result of increase in livestock prices against relatively stable maize prices, thus improving food access for the pastoral households who rely on markets for staple foods.
- Current term of trade is above the long term average and previous year's month average as compared to previous month and previous season making terms of trade favourable.

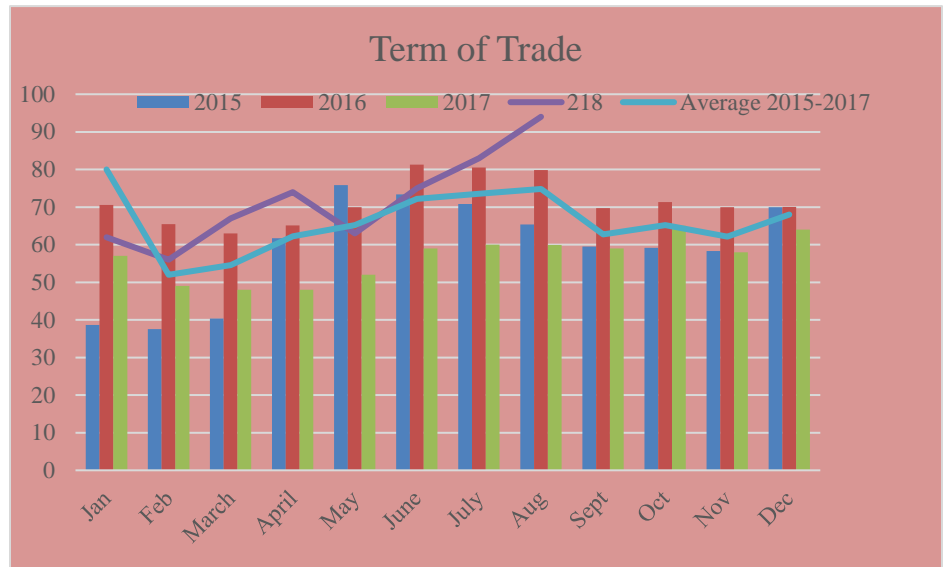


Figure13: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long term (2015-2017) mean price

## 5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

### 5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- Current average milk consumption per household per day still remained stable throughout the month showing 1.8 litres in comparison to previous month as a result of good livestock body condition, reduced trekking distance and available milk production.
- Current average household milk consumption per household per day is above the long term average and equal to previous year's average due to availability of pasture, browse and reduced trekking distance improving milk production and consumption.

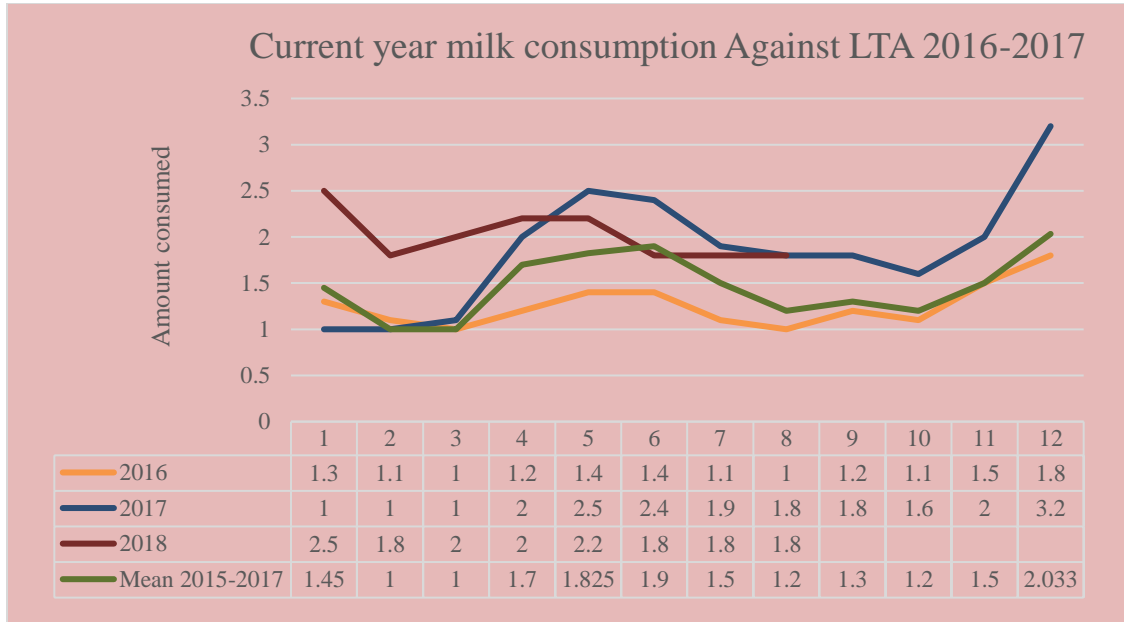
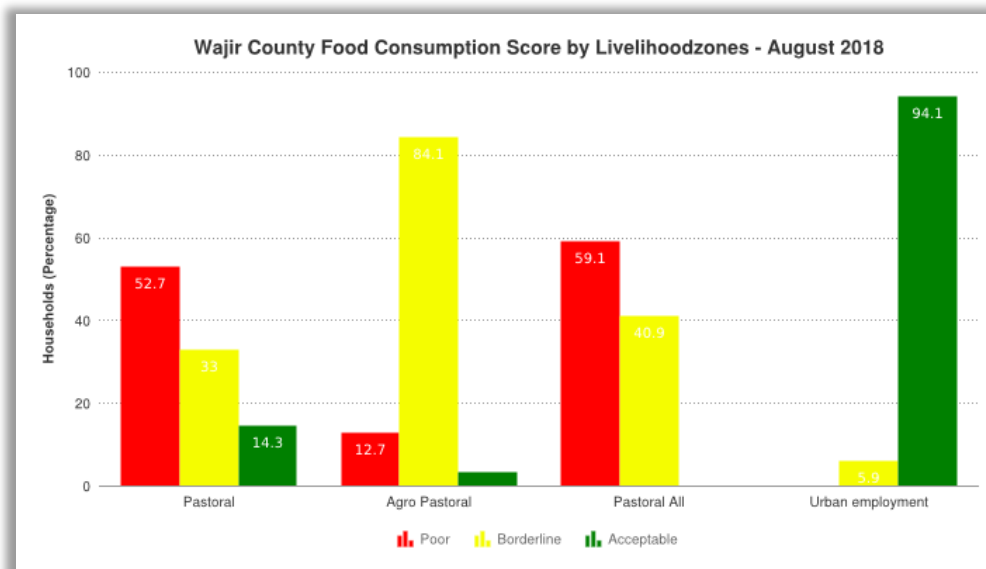


Figure 12: A graph showing current average milk consumption for Wajir against (2015-2017) mean

- Highest milk consumption was recorded in Pastoral all species in Wajir West, Pastoral cattle in Wajir South and Agro-pastoral livelihood zones in Wajir north and lowest was recorded in Eldas.
- Highest producing milk is Mainly Camel and Cattle.

### 5.2 :Food Consumption Score



- Pastoral all species and Pastoral livelihood zones are the proportion of household with poor score of 59.1 and 52.7 respectively while other households are in Borderline and Acceptable ,as compared to previous month of July where Pastoral livelihood zones, Pastoral all species showed ascore of 55 and 48.3 respectively showing an improve in food consumption. This shows that the proportion of households sampled most of them are between Borderline and Acceptable while few other households are in poor indicating an improvement in food consumption.

### 5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

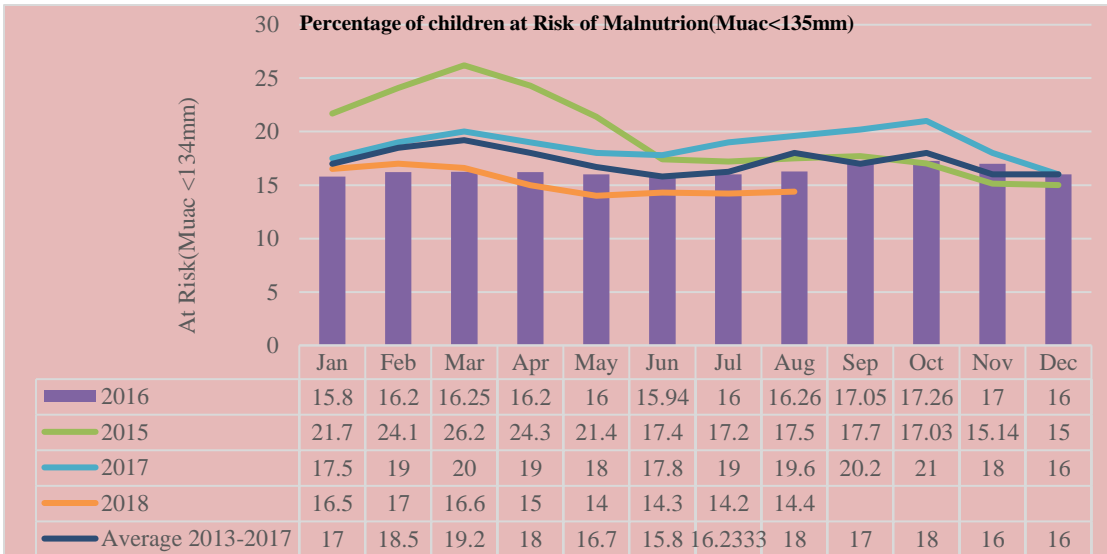


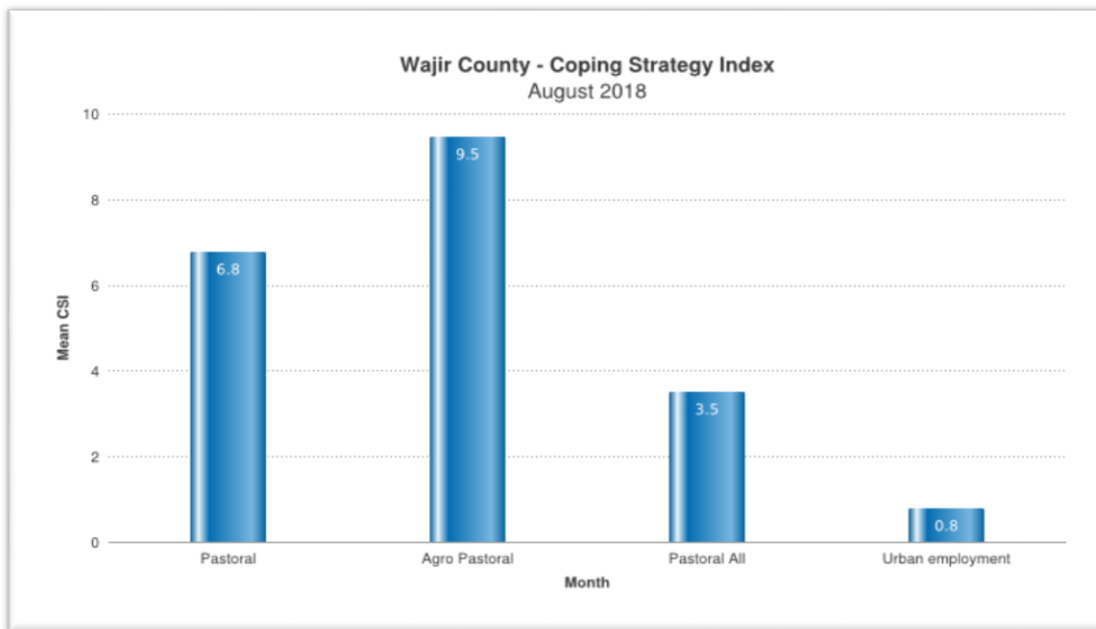
Figure 13: A graph of Nutritional status of children between 12-59 months against (2013-17) long-term mean

- In Wajir a total of 655 children (6-59months) were sampled for both girls and boys and assessed for malnutrition using MUAC Tape. From the sampled children, 14.4% were at risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135 mm) as compared to previous month which was 14.2% which remained to be stable as a result of available milk and good livestock body condition showing improvement in malnutrition.
- In Wajir North Sub-county (Bute and Buna/Batalu) a total of 178 children were assessed for malnutrition using Muac Tape for boys and girls, From the sample children 18.6% were at risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135 mm) when compared to previous month which was 19.5% showing an improvement in malnutrition, while The proportion of children under five with severe category decreased from 0.6% in July to 0.6% in the month under review showing a stable condition in the number of children with severe category
- In Wajir South Sub-county a total of 151 children were assessed for malnutrition using Muac both girl and boys, from the sample children 5.8% were at Risk of malnutrition (MUAC <135 mm) when compared to previous month which was 6.0% indicating an improvement in malnutrition.

#### 5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition in the month of August remained stable as compared to previous month as a result of improved milk production at household level thus improving malnutrition status of children under five.
- The proportion of children under five with severe category increased from 0.0% in July to 1.9% in the month under review due to decline in milk production.

### 5.3.2 COPING STRATEGY INDEX



**Figure14:** A graph showing average (2015-2017) (coping strategy index (CSI) against the current trend

- All the livelihood zones across the county employed no coping strategy except Agro-pastoral pastoral livelihood zones which applied less coping as compared to previous month which employed more coping strategy indexes recording 25.7. Showing an improvement. The mean CSI for the county is 6.7 as compared to the previous month which showed 12.08.
- Reduced the number of meals taken per day.
- Reduced the quantity of food consumed by adult/mothers

## 6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

### 6.1 Non-food interventions.-Ongoing

- Monitoring and treatment of human disease- ongoing
- Food for Asset(FFA)-Ongoing
- Livestock disease surveillance in the County-ongoing

### 6.2 Food Aid.

- Distribution of Relief food by National Government.

## **7.0 EMERGING ISSUES**

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

- There were no cases of insecurity witnessed in the county, though there are incidences of Bush fire/Wild fire experienced during the month under review.

### **7.2 Migration**

- In-Migrations of livestock from Mandera were reported during the period though it was minimal, the movement of livestock is towards Wajir North, in search of pasture, browse and water.

### **7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS**

- Pasture situation is expected to deteriorate in the next one months and thereafter regenerate during the onset of the OND.
- Availability and Accessibility of milk are expected to decline in the next one month and thereafter improve after the short rains.
- Nutrition status is likely to remain stable in the next one month as a result of decline in milk production.
- Migration of livestock is likely to increase in the coming months due to deterioration of pasture and browse as the dry spell continues and thereafter improve after the short rains.
- Water availability and accessibility in all livelihood zones are likely to be good in the next one to two months.
- Livestock body condition will likely remain to be good to fair in the next one months and thereafter improve during short rains.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Health & Nutrition**

- Supply of safe water storage containers to facilities
- Strengthening and Capacity building of health worker on IMAM
- Routine Monitoring of malnutrition in the county-ongoing
- Scale up of HINI/IMAM/IYCN interventions-ongoing

### **Livestock Sector**

- Provision of hay
- Monitoring of Livestock Market trend
- Livestock surveillance by monitoring and treatment of animals-ongoing

### **Water Sector**

- Drilling of new borehole
- Purchase of Submersible pumps
- Piping of water to town
- Training of water user associations)
- Construction of underground tanks
- Water hygiene and sanitation standards must be observed in order to minimise chances of outbreak of water borne diseases

**Education**

- Provision of school bursaries
- School feeding program

**Agriculture Sector**

- Training communities on CMDRR