

National Drought Management Authority

TAITA TAVETA COUNTY

DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR NOVEMBER 2017



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



November EW PHASE

Drought Status: ALERT



Maandalizi ya mapema

Early Warning Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Mixed Farming: Food Crops/ Livestock	Alert	Improving
Mixed Farming: Food Crops/ Horticulture/Dairy	Alert	Improving
Mixed Farming: Irrigated Cropping/ Livestock/Food Crops	Alert	Improving
Casual Waged Labour: Sisal Farms	Alert	Improving
National Park	Alert	Improving
Trade/Business	Normal	Stable
County	Alert	Improving
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/ Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	94	80 - 120
SPI-3Month (TAMSAT)	-0.04	-1.0 to 1.0
VCI-3Month	29.13	35-50
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Maize Crop Condition	weeding	weeding
Livestock Body Condition	Fair	Good
Milk Production	15.0	21.1 Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (drought)	No death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	93.1	89.2
Milk Consumption	6.1	6.6 litres
Return distance to water sources	2.8	2.38 Km
Return distance to grazing areas	3.8	2.20 Km
Cost of water (20 litres)	5	< Kshs 5
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	2.4	<3.1

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- The county received moderate rains in the month under review.
- The rains were uneven in spatial distribution and poor in temporal distribution.
- The rains promoted pasture regeneration and recharged water sources.
- Vegetation condition index stood at 29.13 depicting moderate vegetation deficit.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production Indicators

- Weeding continued in most parts of the county.
- Livestock body condition was fair especially for cattle.
- Milk production was below normal. However, there was an improvement compared to previous month.
- Livestock migration was normal and no deaths were reported.

Access Indicators

- Terms of Trade were favourable and above the normal range.
- Milk consumption was below normal.
- Livestock grazing distances were above the normal range.

Utilization Indicators

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

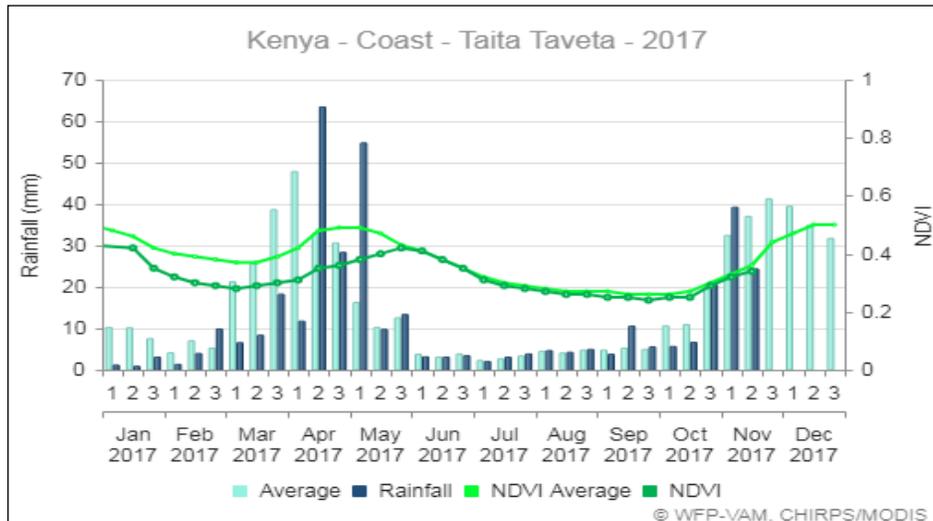
Seasonal Calendar

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains harvests Increased HH Food Stocks Short dry spell Reduced milk yields Land preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting/Weeding Long rains High Calving Rate Milk Yields Increase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long rains harvests Increased HH Food Stocks A long dry spell Land preparation Kidding (Sept) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short rains Planting/weeding 								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

1. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- The highlands of the county received heavy downpour while the lowlands realized moderate rains in the month under review.
- The county recorded an average of ten rainy days. However the highlands experienced more rainy days than the lowlands.
- Mixed farming: food crops/livestock recorded 175.6mm of rainfall, mixed farming: Horticulture/ Dairy 104.2mm and Mixed farming: Irrigation/ Livestock 60mm.
- According to WFP-VAM, Climate Hazards Group InfraRed Precipitation with Station Data (CHIRPS) chart below, both rainfall estimates and NDVI averages are within the normal range. Dekad two three months rainfall anomaly was at 94% while NDVI at 94%.

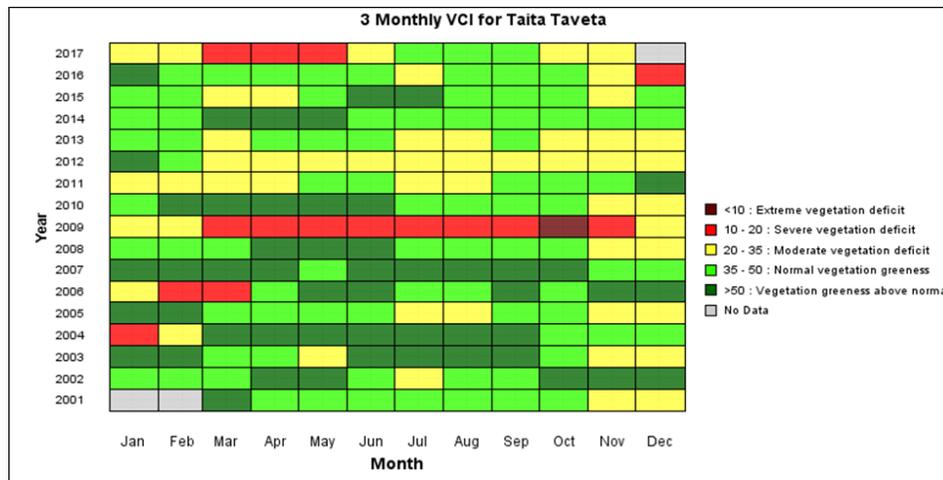


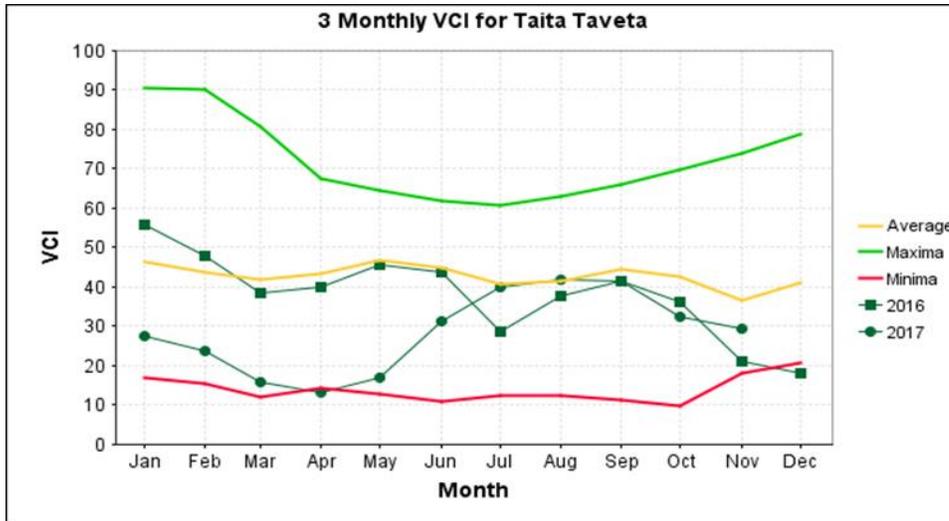
2. IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The county recorded an average VCI value of 29.13 depicting moderate vegetation deficit. Taita and Mwatate Sub Counties recorded lowest vegetation deficit values of 22.22 and 25.80 respectively.



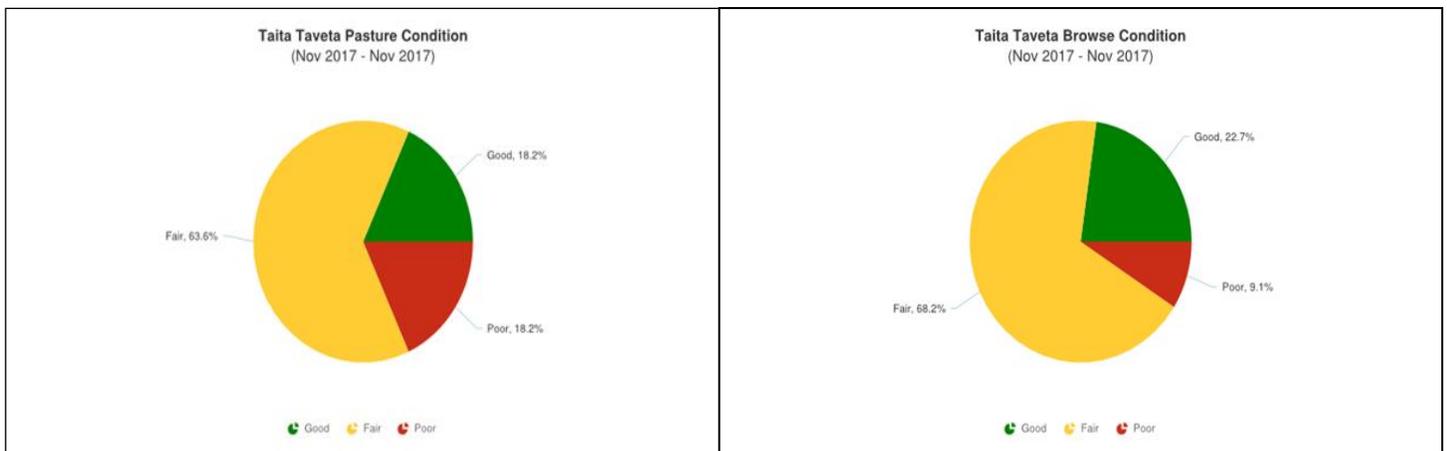


2.1.2 Pasture

- Based on community interviews and field observation pasture condition was generally fair to poor.
- Community interviews conducted indicated 18.2%, 63.6% and 18.2% of pasture condition was good, fair and poor respectively compared to 47.6% and 52.4% fair and poor respectively in the previous month.
- This shows an improvement in quality and quantity condition of pasture but the situation is below normal for this time of the year.

2.1.3 Browse

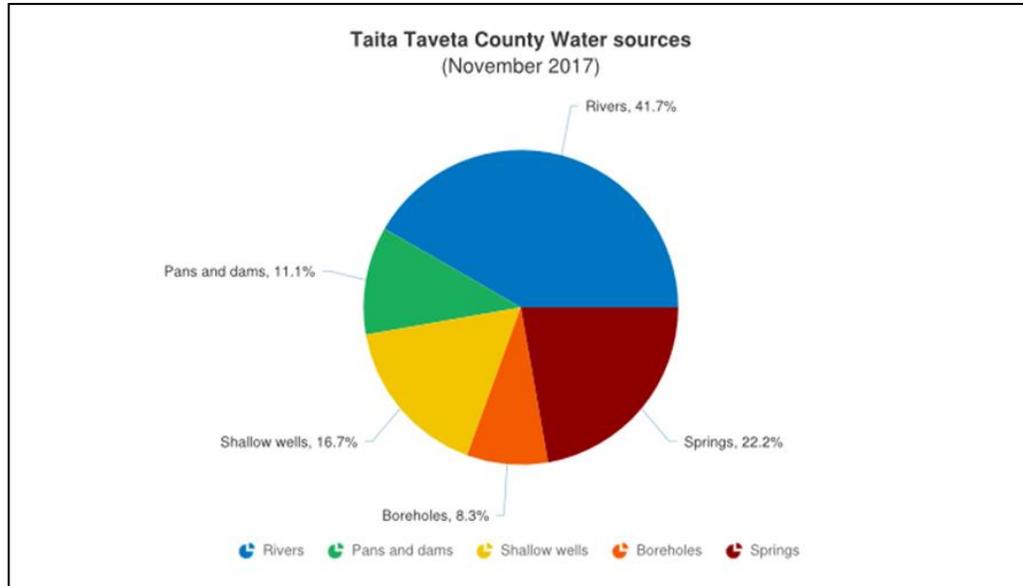
- Generally, the browse condition was fair. Community interviews conducted indicated 22.7%, 68.2% and 9.1% of browse condition was good, fair and poor respectively compared to 71.4% and 28.6% fair and poor respectively in the previous month.
- This shows an improvement but the situation is below normal for this time of the year.
- No constraints were observed in accessing browse in the month under review.



2.2 WATER RESOURCE

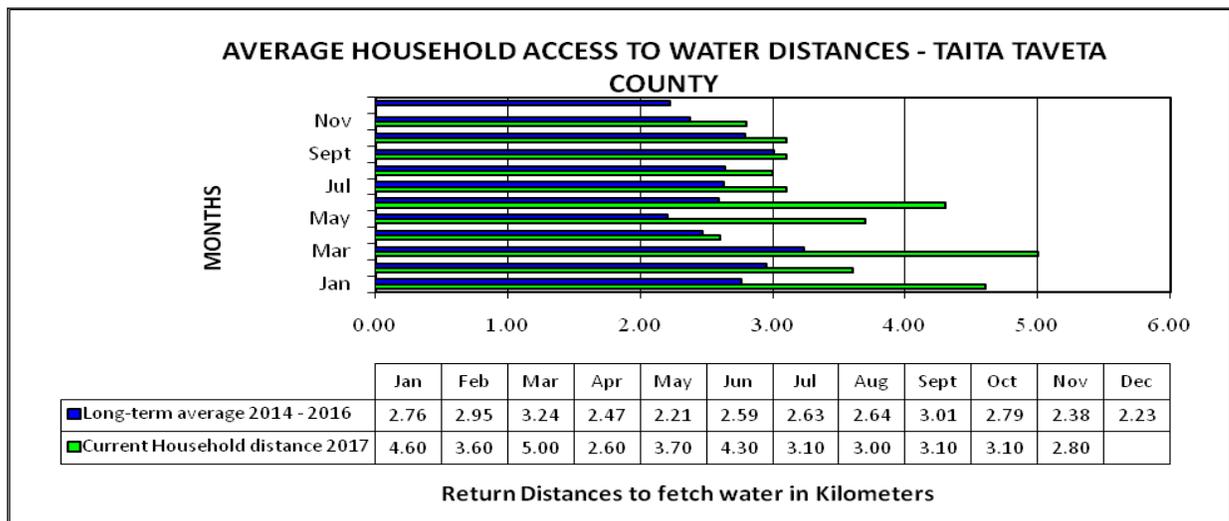
2.2.1 Sources

- The main water sources were rivers, springs, bore holes, shallow wells and pans & dams at 41.7%, 22.2%, 8.3%, 16.7 % and 11.1% respectively.
- Open water sources recharged for instance Mwatate dam and Manoa water pan. The latter to about 70% and the former 50%. This is below normal at this time of the year.



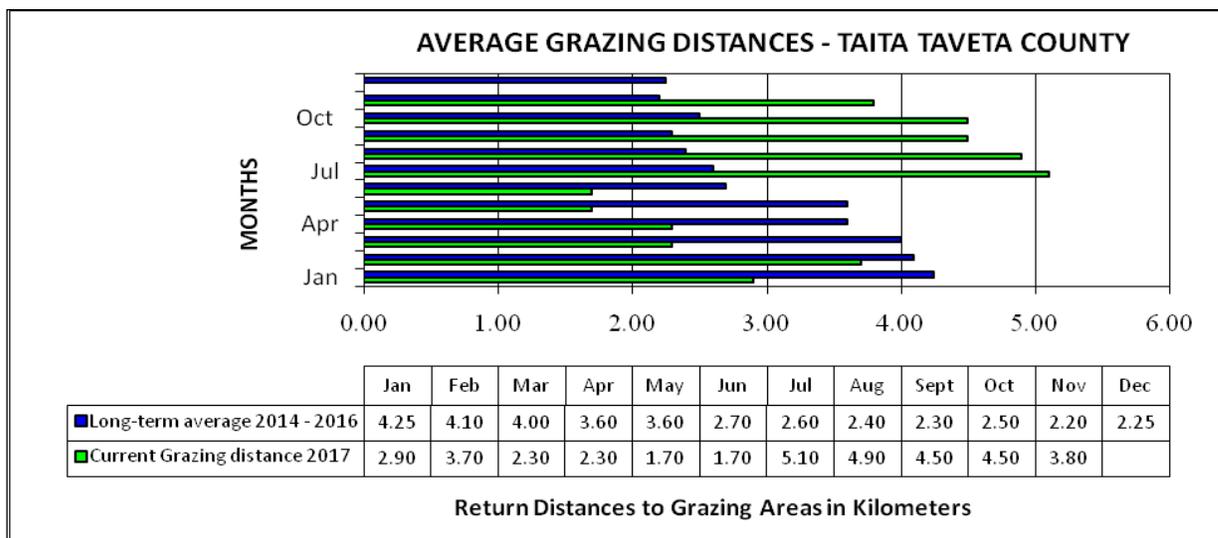
2.2.2 Household access to Water.

- Compared to the previous month, return distance to water sources reduce to 2.8 km but above the long term average by 21.8 percent.
- The average cost of 20 litre jerry can was at Kshs 5.
- Approximately, 64 percent of the households purchased water compared to 71 percent in the previous month.
- Breakdown of water sources was reported in Mwakitau, Eldoro and Mwarungu.
- Water consumption per day per person was at 11.4 litres compared to 9.4 litres in the previous month.



2.2.3 Livestock Trekking distances to Grazing Areas

- Compared to previous month average return distance by livestock to grazing areas reduced to 3.8 km from 4.2 km. The distance was longer than long term average by 72 percent.
- Long trekking distances were reported in a few pockets in the mixed farming: food crop/ livestock livelihood zone.
- Livestock trekking distances remained normal in the mixed farming: horticulture/ dairy and mixed farming: irrigated cropping/ livestock livelihood zones. Also livestock watering remained normal i.e. twice per day.



3. PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- In the mixed farming: horticulture/ dairy and mixed farming: irrigated cropping/ livestock livelihood zones cattle body condition was fair while that of goat was good.
- In the mixed farming: food crop/livestock livelihood zone the cattle body condition was categorized as good, fair and poor. This is due to inadequate rains received in areas such as Kishushe, Mlilo and Mbulia.

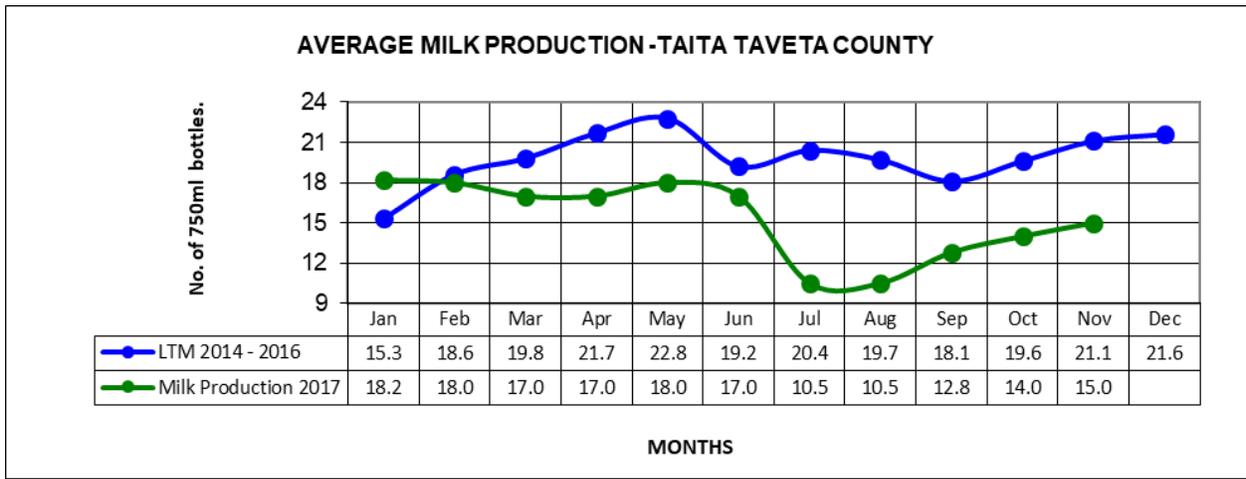
3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- No major cases of livestock diseases were reported.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- The average milk production per day increased to 15 litres from 14 litres posted in the previous month.
- Out of 210 households sampled milk production in Mboghoni, Wusi, Kasigau, Wumingu, Bura and Ngolia wards was at 31.4%, 31.4%, 18.6%, 10.0%, 5.7% and 2.9% respectively. Sampled households in Challa ward did not record milk production.

- Milk production was high in Mbogholi Ward since farmers changed to zero grazing while low production in rain fed areas of Ngolia Ward where pasture depletion was high during the dry season.
- Average milk price per litre at household level increased to Kshs 62.5 from Kshs 57.0.



3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

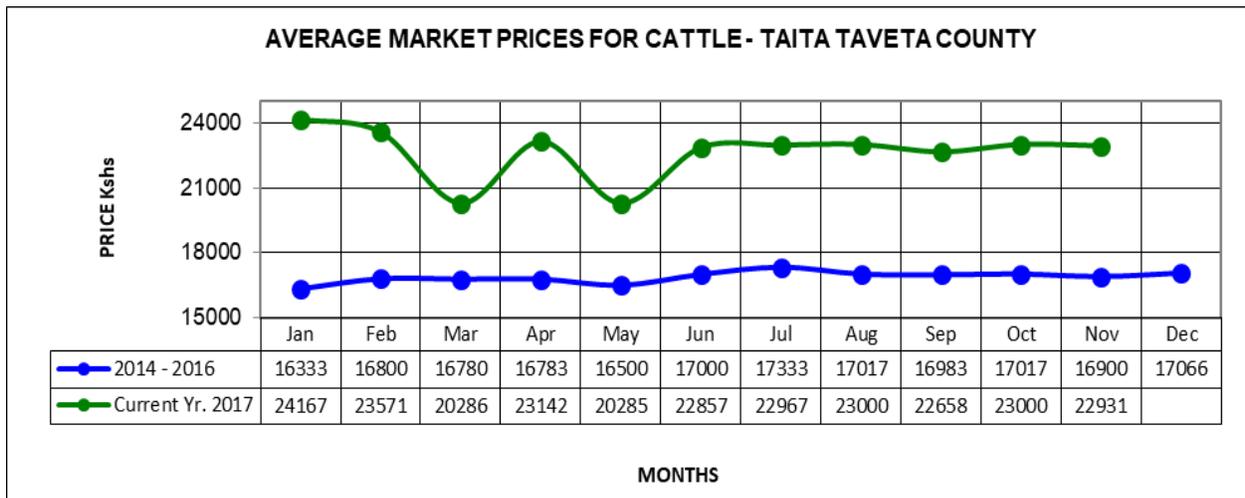
- In the mixed farming: food crop/ livestock and horticulture/dairy livelihood zones farmers were busy weeding.
- In the mixed farming: Irrigated cropping/ livestock livelihood zone farmers were busy planting maize and green grams. Also harvesting of onions and bananas was ongoing.
- Army worms were reported to have destroyed maize crop in most farms in the county.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

- The average market price of a three year old bull decreased to Kshs 22,931 from Kshs 23,000 recorded in the previous month and the trend is normal at this time of the year.
- Compared to the long term mean, the average price was higher by 35.7%.
- In the horticulture/dairy livelihood zone where farmers practice zero grazing cattle prices ranged between Kshs 22,000 to Ksh 38,000 while in food crops/livestock livelihood zone where herders depend on rain fed range land, prices ranged between Kshs 9,000 to Kshs 18,000.
- Prices were low in this zone due to prolonged dry spell from May to October.



4.1.2 Goat Prices

- The average market price of goat decreased to Kshs 4,327 from Kshs 4,680 in the previous month and this is not normal during this time of the year.
- Livelihood variations were notable, in the horticulture/dairy livelihood zone goat prices ranged between Kshs 3,000 to Kshs 6,000 while in the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone prices ranged between Kshs 2,500 to Kshs 5,000.
- Compared to long term mean, the average price was higher by 17.5%.

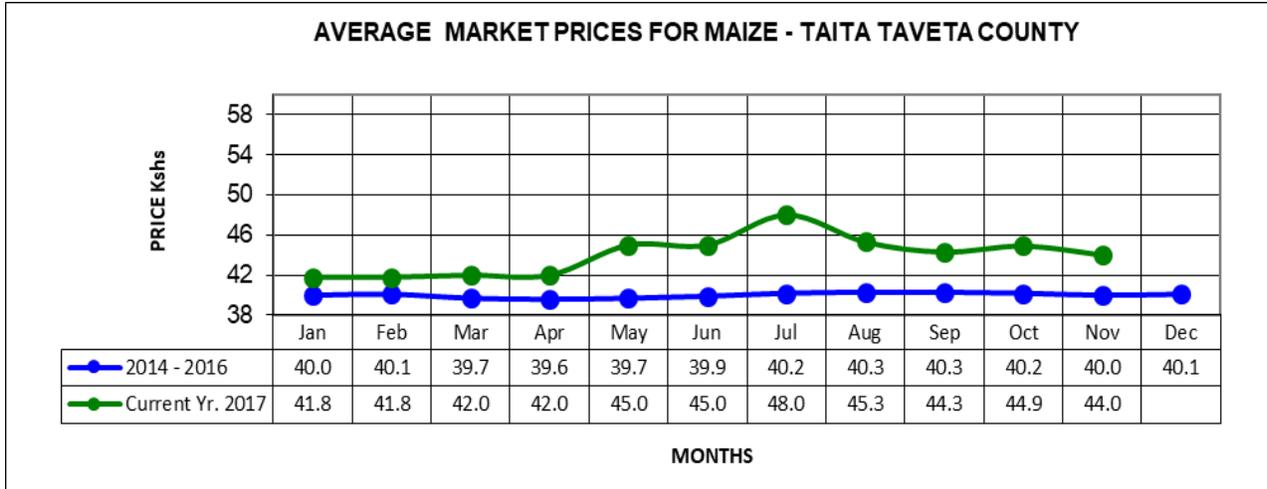


4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

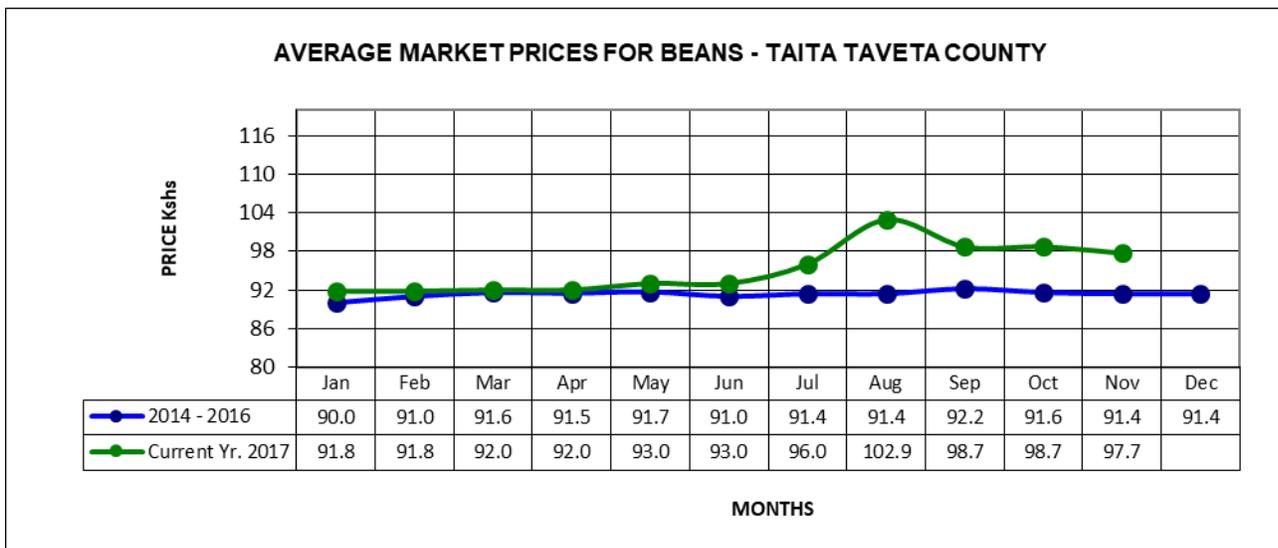
- The average market price of a kilo of maize slightly decreased to Kshs 44.0 from Kshs 44.9 in the previous month.
- The prices ranged from Kshs 42.00 to Kshs 45.00 in the mixed farming: irrigated cropping/livestock livelihood zone, areas of Challa and Eldoro in Taveta Sub County.
- Highest prices were recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone, Mwakajo, Rukanga and Mwachawaza at Kshs 48.00 to Kshs 54.00 in Voi and Mwatate Sub Counties. These areas depend on the market due to poor harvest.

- Compared to the long term mean the price trend is not normal and higher by 10%.



4.2.2 Beans

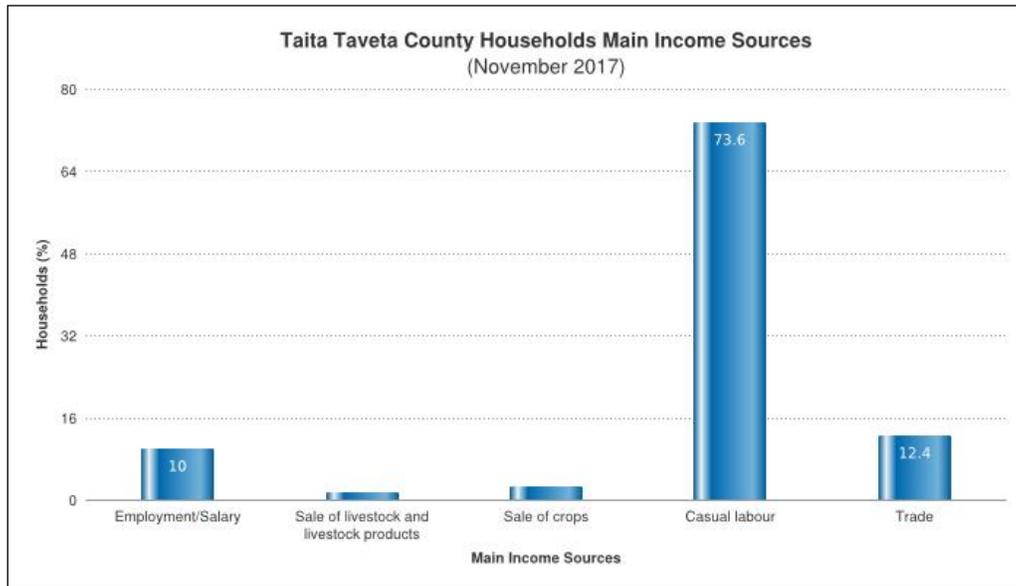
- Average price of a kilo of beans retailed at Kshs 97.7 compared to Kshs 98.7 posted in the previous month.
- Lowest prices were recorded in mixed farming: irrigated cropping/livestock/food crops livelihood zone; Challa at Kshs 70- 90 due to harvests from irrigation schemes, while high prices were recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone of Kshs 90 to 120 in Mwakajo, Mwachawaza and Rukanga markets.
- Compared to the long term mean the price was higher by 7.8%.



4.3 INCOME

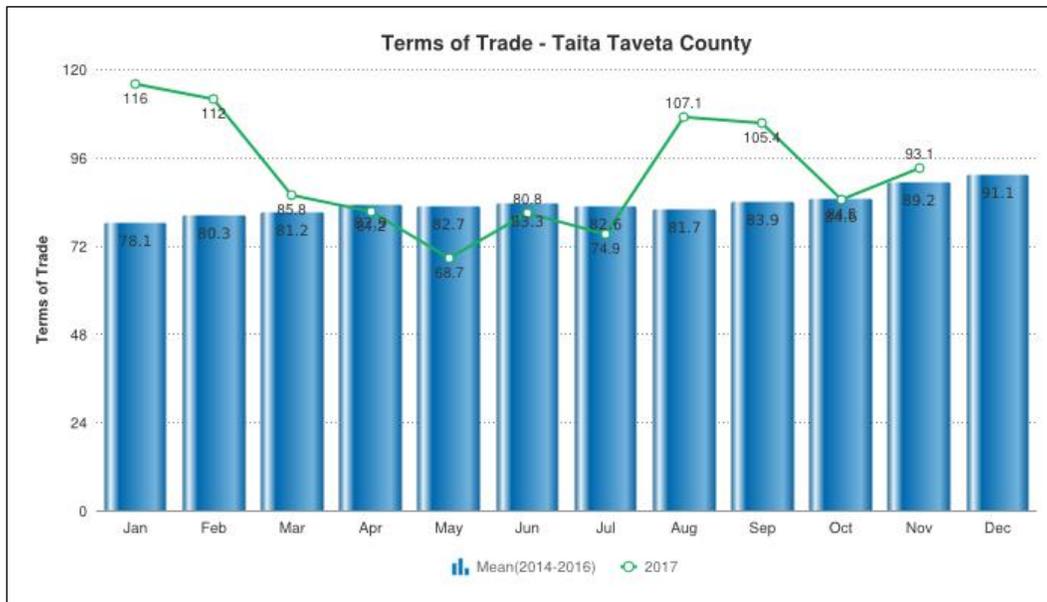
- Household main sources of income were casual labour, trade, employment, sale of crops and sale of livestock products at 73.6%, 12.4%, and 10.0%, 1.4% and 0.5% respectively.

- Casual labour opportunities were available in the sisal and banana plantations, mining sector, irrigation schemes, ranches, building sites and town centres.



4.4 TERMS OF TRADE

- Terms of trade were favourable and above the LTM. Proceeds of a sale of goat purchased 93.1 kg of maize compared to 84.6kg during the previous month.

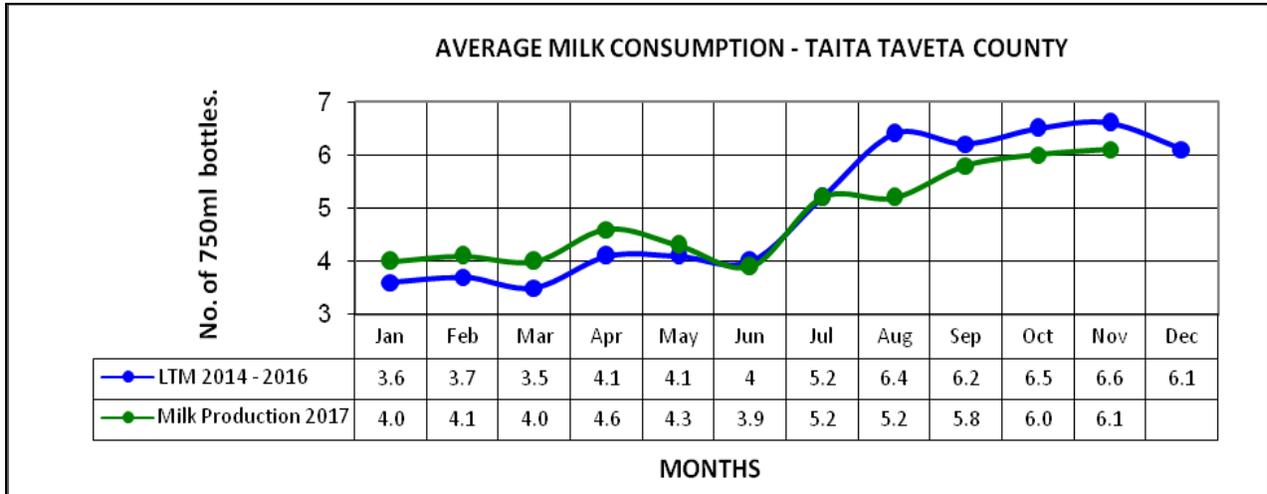


5. FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

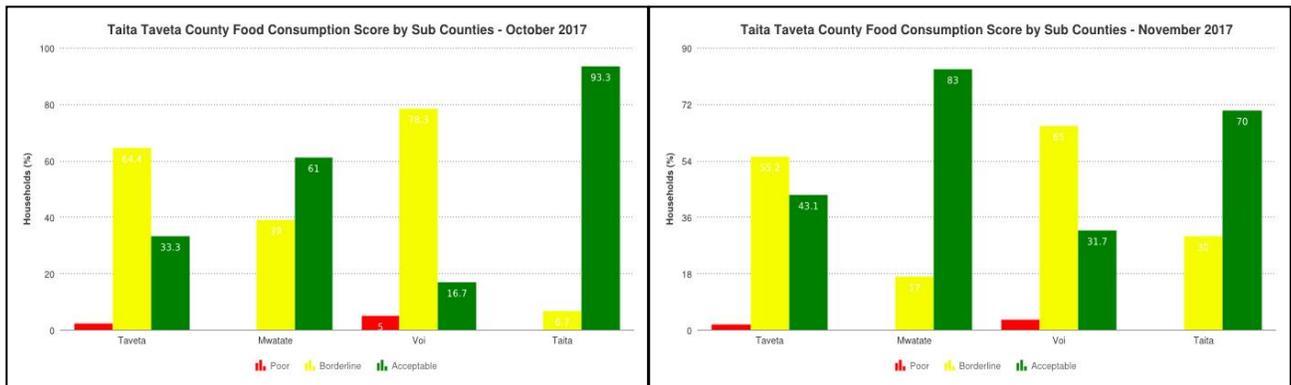
- The milk consumption per day from thirty sampled households increased to 6.1 litres from 6.0 litres posted in the previous month.

- The increment in milk consumption was attributed to good body condition of cattle in the county and especially mixed farming: horticulture/ dairy livelihood zone in Wumingu Ward.
- The quantity of milk consumed was high in mixed farming: horticulture/ dairy livelihood zone Wumingu Ward, while low consumption was recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone Ngolia, Wusi, Kasigau and Challa Wards.



5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

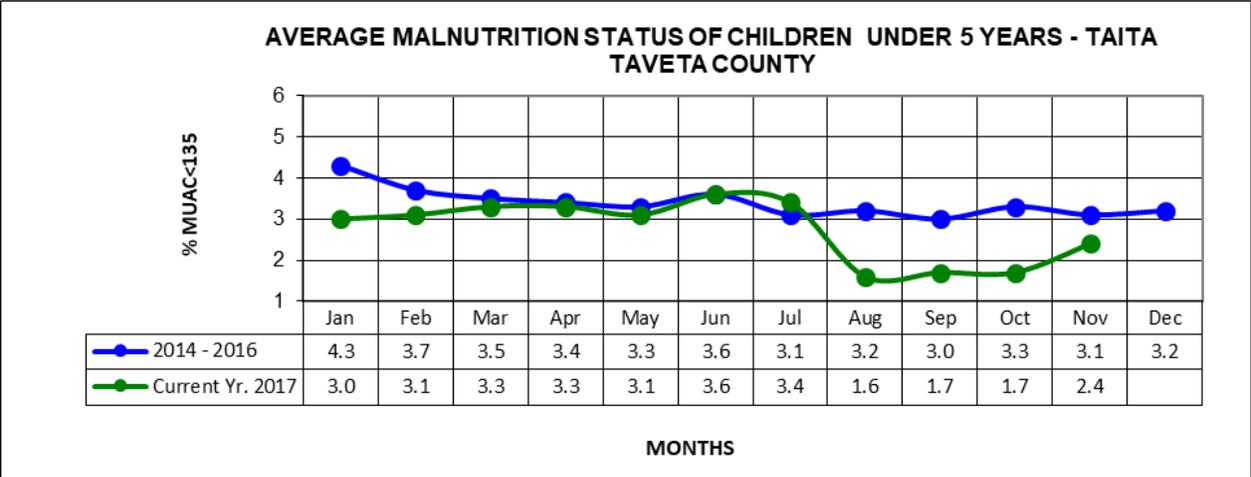
- The category of households with acceptable, borderline and poor food consumption score during the month was at 57.0, 41.8 and 1.2 percent respectively.
- Compared to previous month significant improvement was observed in Mwatate Sub County where 22% of households moved to acceptable FCS from borderline.



5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurement for nutrition status of children below five years percentage of those rated as being at risk of malnutrition increased to 2.4 from 1.7.
- Compared to long term mean MUAC level is lower by 22.6% and the trend is not normal this time of the year.

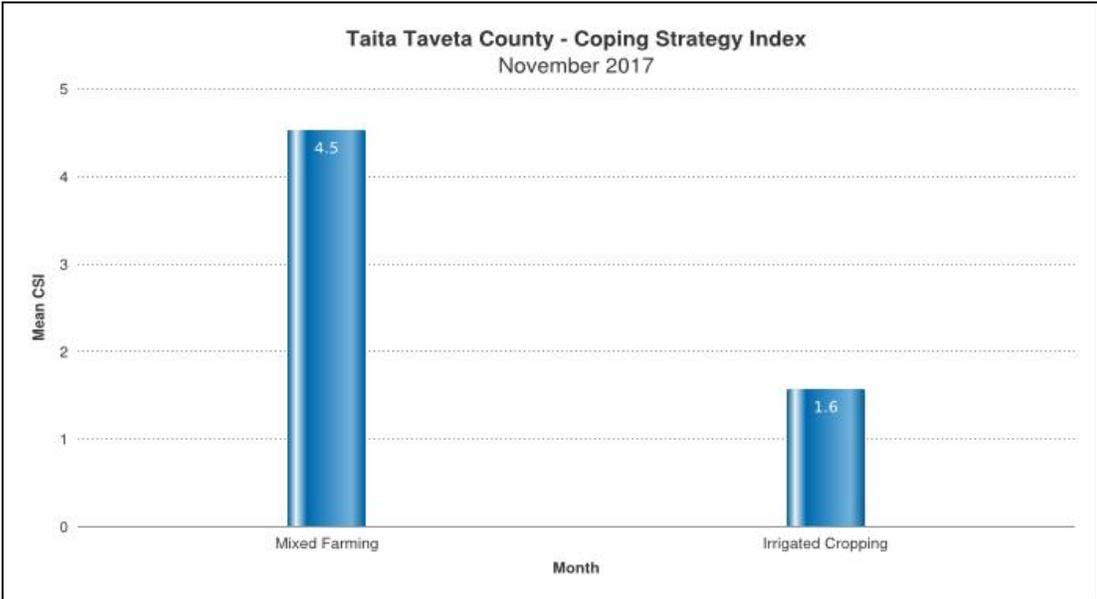


5.3.2 Health

- Cases of fever with chills like malaria and fever with breathing difficulties were at 4.0% and 1.0% respectively compared to 3.5% and 0.5% that was posted in the previous month.

5.3.3 Coping Strategies.

- The CSI for the month under review was recorded at 4.1 compared to 5.30 posted in the previous month. This indicates households employed less coping strategies to address issues of drought.
- This is mainly due to harvesting of short term maturing crops for instance green leafy vegetables.



6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 FOOD AND NON FOOD INTERVENTIONS

6.1.1 Sectoral

Intervention	Achievements in August 2017
Social Protection	
Asset Creation Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cascading of Asset creation Technical Training to the Ward level was conducted across the county• CFA beneficiaries received their incentives for the October work norms achieved where a total of Ksh. 12,966,874.39 food value was transacted
Cash Transfers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Second tranche of Chakula Kwa Jamii (CKJ) unconditional cash was disbursed to beneficiaries M-pesa accounts

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 HOTSPOTS

- Areas that have experienced long dry spell since December 2016 and require constant food or non food assistance are Kishushe, Mwaroko, Sangenyi, Mlilo and Mbulia.

7.2 MIGRATION

- No major in or out migration was reported in the month under review.

7.3 CONFLICT

- Elephant menace continued to be reported in areas bordering the park.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- In the next three months food security is expected to improve in areas that received good rains in the month of November.
- Farmers are expected to harness roof and runoff water.
- Harvest short term maturing crops like green leafy vegetables.
- Availability of these products will create ample time for household members to carry out other income generating activities other than trekking long distances in search of water and pasture.
- Also more time will be allocated to care for the young ones and the elderly.
- Livestock body condition is expected to improve due to shorter distances covered in search of water, pasture and browse.
- Livestock production is expected to enhance and this will improve utilization especially for children below five years.
- Prices of pulses are projected to fall due to harvests in the month of January.
- Preparedness activities should be implemented to promote resilience of the community during the drought period.
- LRA 2017 population in need of food assistance was at 77,694 (2009 census KNBS).

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

Agriculture and Livestock Sector

- Pesticides to address the issue of army worms destroying crops.
- Crop protection especially in irrigated zone.

Water and Irrigation Sector

- Provision of water treatment tabs mainly in rain fed lowlands.
- Promotion of water harvesting structures at household level.

Health and Nutrition

- Strengthen malnutrition screening and active case search and integrated management of acute malnutrition especially in the lowlands of the county.