

National Drought Management Authority

TAITA TAVETA COUNTY

DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR MARCH 2018



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



MARCH 2018 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
National Park	Alert	Improving
County	Alert	Improving
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/ Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	196	80 - 120
VCI-3Month	22.02	35-50
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Maize Crop Condition	Weeding	Planting
Livestock Body Condition for cattle	Good	Good
Milk Production per HH/ day	3.4	3.0 Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (drought)	No death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	124.3	81.3
Milk Consumption per HH/ day	1.2	0.8Litres
Return distance to water sources	1.8	3.4 Km
Return distance to grazing areas	3.6	4.0 Km
Cost of water (20 litres)	5.00	< Kshs 5.00
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	2.20	<3.20

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- The county registered early onset of long rains during the first week of the month compared third week normally.
- The amount was above normal and characterized by good temporal and even spatial distribution
- County vegetation condition index is below normal depicting moderate vegetation deficit. Mwatate Sub County was lowest at VCI of 19.78.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production Indicators

- Farmers were planting and others weeding.
- Livestock body condition was good for all species.
- Milk production per HH per day was above normal.
- Livestock migration patterns were normal.

Access Indicators

- Terms of Trade were favourable and above the normal range.
- Milk consumption per HH per day was above normal.
- Distance to water source was below the normal range.
- Livestock grazing distances were below the normal range.

Utilization Indicators

- The proportion of children at risk of malnutrition remained within the 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 ▪ 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

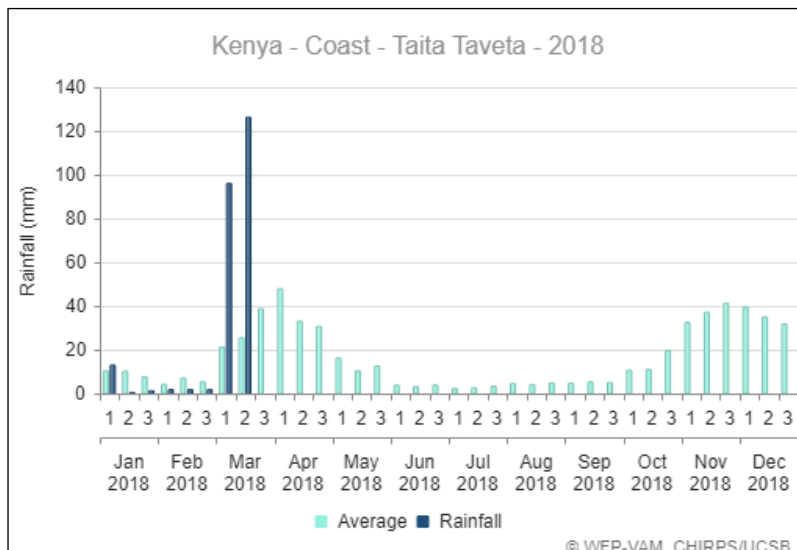
1. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- The county received heavy rains in all livelihood zones during the month under review.
- Taveta Sub County experienced flush floods where an old man was reported dead.

1.2 AMOUNT OF RAINFALL AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

- According to WFP-VAM, Climate Hazards Group InfraRed Precipitation with Station Data (CHIRPS) three months rainfall anomaly for dekad one was at 99% and dekad two 196%.
- Dekad one and two recorded 95.9 mm and 126.2 mm respectively. Above LTM by 352% for dekad one and 395% for dekad two.
- The county received heavy downpours both in the highlands and the lowlands.

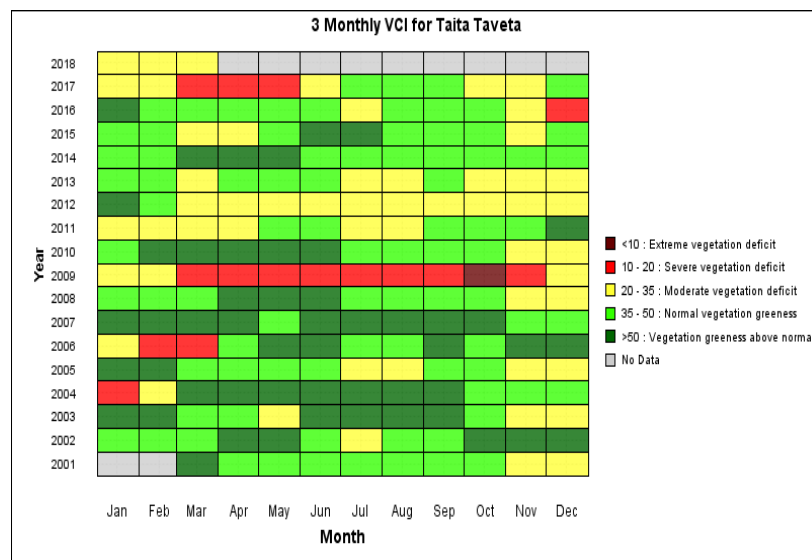


2. IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The county vegetation greenness remained in the moderate deficit category as depicted by a VCI value of 22.02.
- The situation is better to the previous year.
- All sub counties depict vegetation deficit. Worst hit is Mwatate Sub County which is in the Moderate vegetation deficit band. The trend is upwards compared to previous month.
- This is shown in figure 1 where Taveta and Mwatate Sub Counties recorded the lowest VCI of 20.18 and 19.78 respectively.



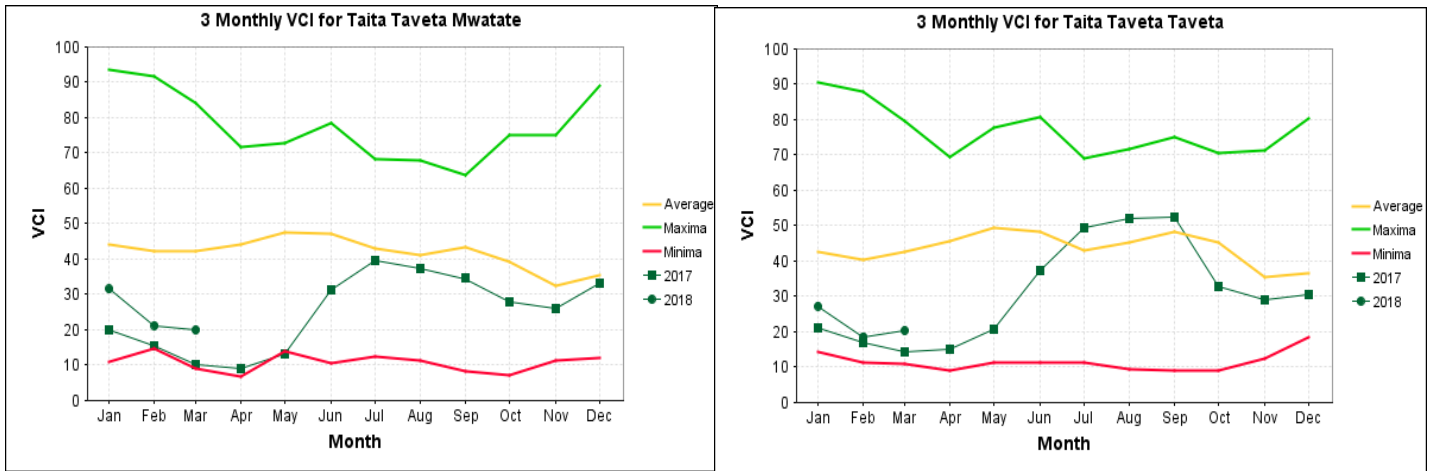
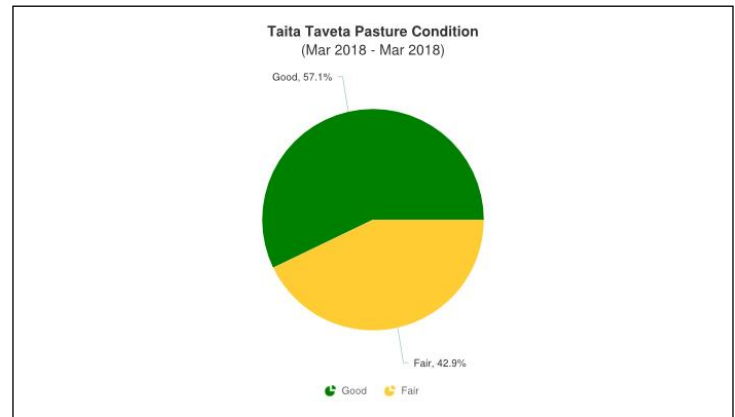


Figure 1: Three months vegetation condition index

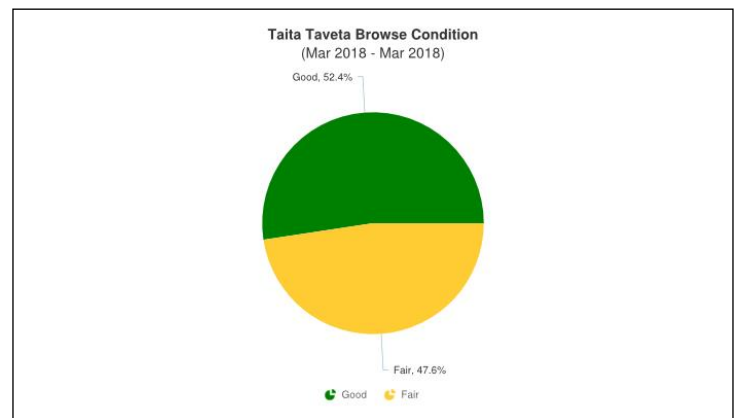
2.1.2 Pasture

- Based on community interviews conducted pasture condition was varied.
- Out of these interviews 57.1%, 42.9% and 0% indicated pasture condition was good, fair and poor respectively compared to 22.2%, 50% and 27.8% respectively in the previous month.
- This shows improvement in quality and quantity condition of pasture.
- Pasture condition is above normal for this time of the year.
- Available pasture is expected to last for the next three month.



2.1.3 Browse

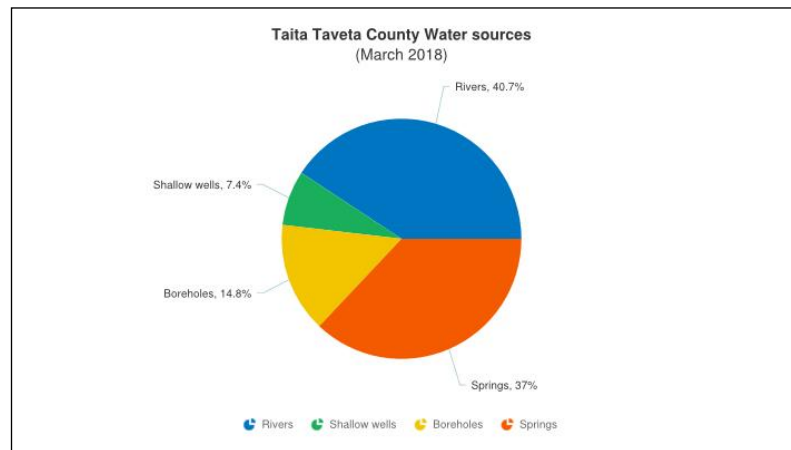
- The browse condition ranged from fair to good.
- During community interviews 52.4%, 47.6% and 0.0 % indicated browse condition to have been good, fair and poor respectively compared to 27.1%, 50% and 22.2% respectively in the previous month.
- This improvement in browse situation was attributed to early regeneration following early onset of the long rains.
- The available browse is expected to last for at least three months.
- No constraints were observed in accessing browse in the month under review.



2.2 WATER RESOURCE

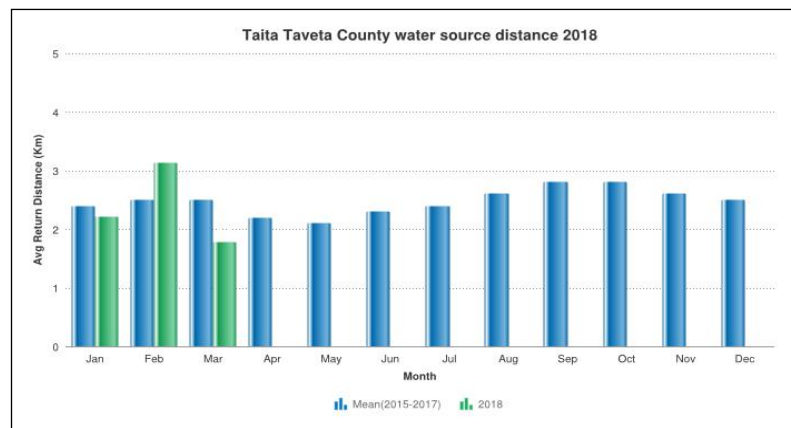
2.2.1 Sources

- The three main sources of water were rivers, springs and boreholes and were relied upon by 40.7, 37.7 and 14.8 percent of the communities interviewed respectively.
- Most open surface water sources were recharged to between 80 and 95 percent of their normal capacity and most communities opted to rely due to close proximity and affordability.
- Strategic water sources like Mwatate dam and Manoa water pan water levels have increased to above normal at this time of the year.



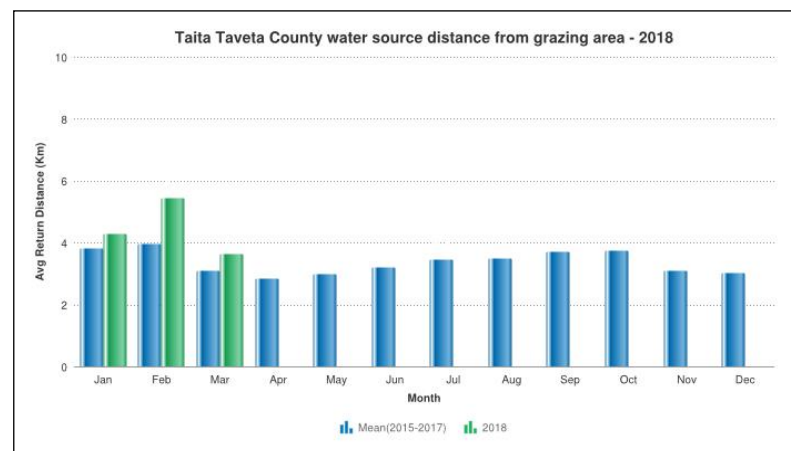
2.2.2 Household access to Water

- Return distances decreased by 41.9% to 1.8 km from 3.1 km in the previous month.
- Compared to the long term average the current distance is less than normal and the situation was attributed to increased access to water following recharge of most water facilities
- The average cost of 20 litre jerry can was at Kshs 5 which is normal at this time of the year.



2.2.3 Livestock Trekking distances to Grazing Areas

- Compared to previous month average return distance by livestock to grazing areas decrease by 34%.
- In mixed farming: horticulture/ dairy and irrigated/ livestock livelihood zones livestock watering was twice per day which is normal at this time of the year.



3. PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

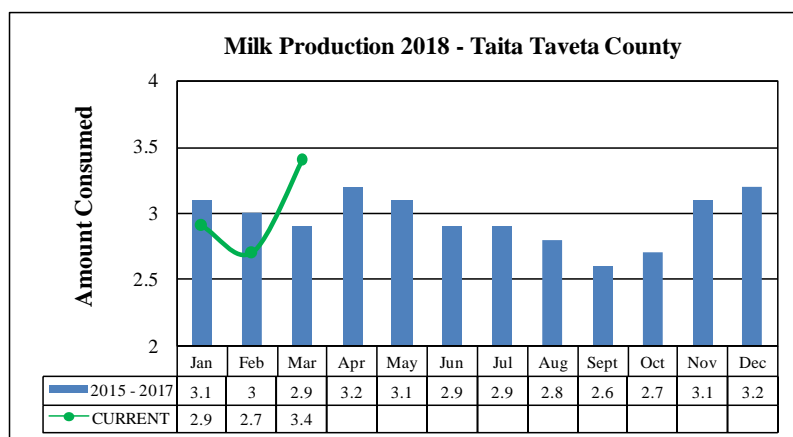
- In the mixed farming: horticulture/ dairy and mixed farming: irrigated cropping/ livestock livelihood zones cattle and goat body condition was good except in the water logged parts of Taveta Sub County
- In the mixed farming: food crop/livestock livelihood zone the cattle and goat body condition was categorized as good.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- No major cases of livestock diseases were reported.

3.1.3 Milk Production

- The average milk production per household per day increased by 26 percent to 3.4 litres compared the previous month and was above the long term average for the same period
- The rise in milk production was attributed to increased access to fodder and water. Relatively milk production was high in the horticulture/dairy livelihood where cattle are of better breed and the quality and quantity of pasture was fair before onset of the rains.
- Average milk price per litre at household level was Ksh 42.00



3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

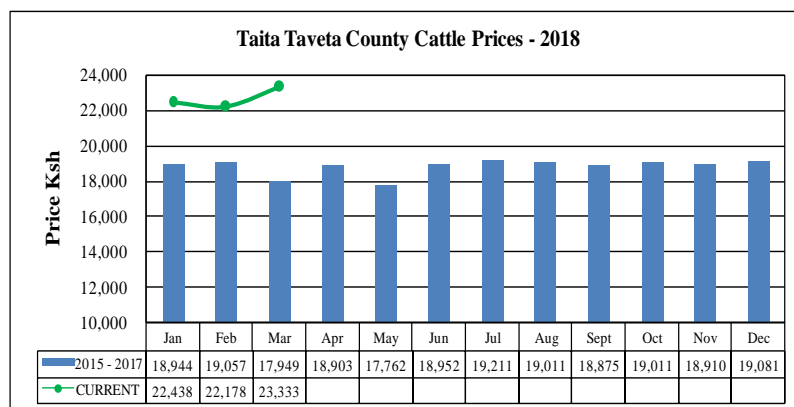
- In the mixed farming: food crop/ livestock livelihood zones and in mixed farming: horticulture/dairy livelihood zone various crops were at various stages ranging from germination to knee high for maize and flowering for beans. The dry planted maize crop was approximately between 30cm to knee high while the beans was at the flowering stage. This particular crop was affected by water logging and in the farms at the foot hills maize experienced stagnated growth and yellowing. Isolated cases of attack by fall worm were reported in Taveta and Mwatate Sub Counties.
- In the mixed farming: Irrigated cropping/ livestock livelihood zone farmers maize crop was mature and harvesting was on going.
- Other crops planted included cowpeas and green grams

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

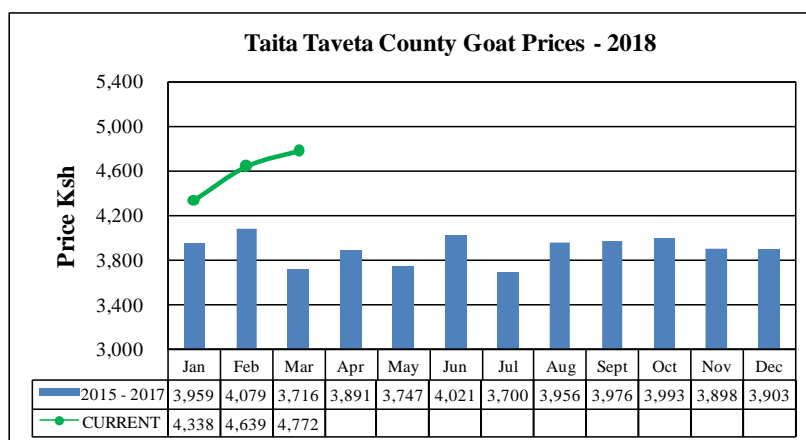
4.1.1 Cattle Prices

- The average market price of a three year old bull increased by 5 percent to Kshs 23,333 compared to the previous month.
- The price is above normal at this time of the year.
- This was attributed to the prevailing fair to good body condition of cattle and uninterrupted market operations.
- Compared to the long term mean, the average price was higher by 29.9%.



4.1.2 Goat Prices

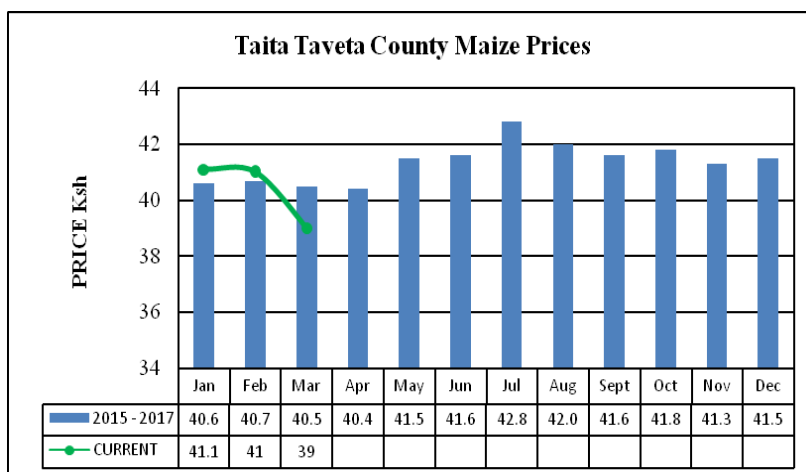
- The average market price of two year goat rose by 3 percent to Kshs 4,772 compared to the previous month.
- The price is above normal at this time of the year.
- The rise in price was attributed to good body condition of goats in all livelihood zones.
- Compared to long term mean, the average price was higher by 28.4%.



4.2 CROP PRICES

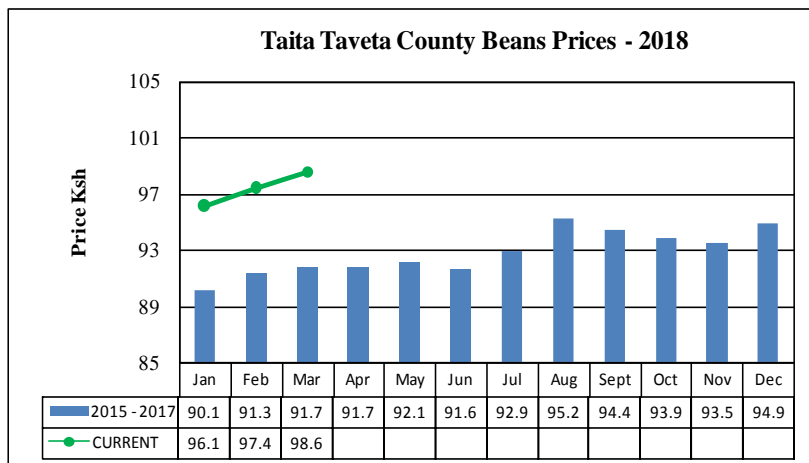
4.2.1 Maize

- The average market price of a kilo of maize reduced by five percent compared to the previous month and retailed at Kshs 39.00
- Across the livelihood zones the price varied with the mixed farming: irrigated /livestock livelihood zone, areas of Challa and Eldoro in Taveta Sub County recording low price of Kshs 25.00 as a result of accessing cheap supplies from Tanzania while far flagged areas in mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone (Mwakajo, Rukanga and Mwachawaza) reported prices as high as Ksh. 50 per kilo.
- Compared to the long term average the current price was below normal



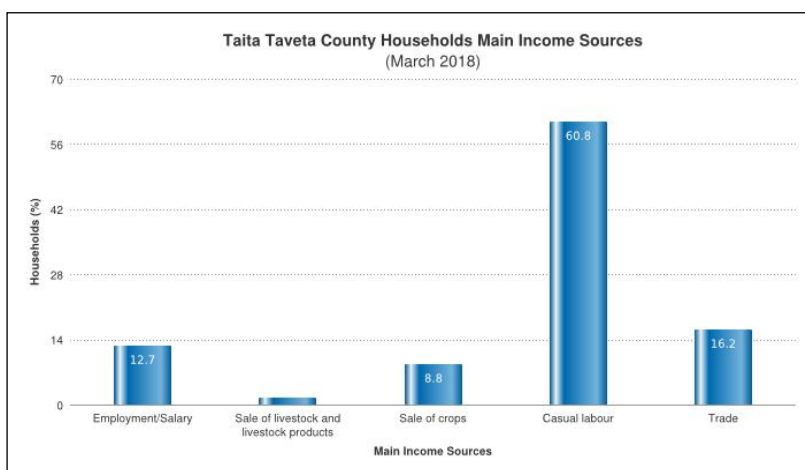
4.2.2 Beans

- Average price of a kilo of beans rose to Kshs 98.60
- The rise in price was basically attributed to below normal harvest during the short rains season harvest.
- Most supplies in the market were reported to have been sourced from markets in Western Kenya and Uganda.
- Lowest prices were recorded in mixed farming: irrigated cropping/livestock livelihood zone; Challa at Kshs80 - 90 due to harvests from irrigation schemes, while high prices were recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone of Kshs 100 to 120 in Mwakajo, Mwachawaza and Rukanga markets.
- Compared to the long term mean the price was higher by 7.5%.



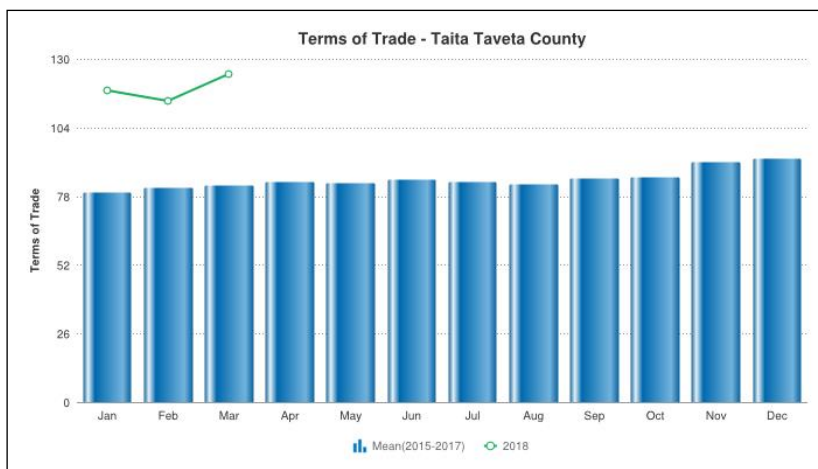
4.3 INCOME

- Household main sources of income were casual labour and trade. Others were sale of crops, employment and sale of livestock products at lower proportions.
- Sources of income compared to previous month remained stable.
- 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

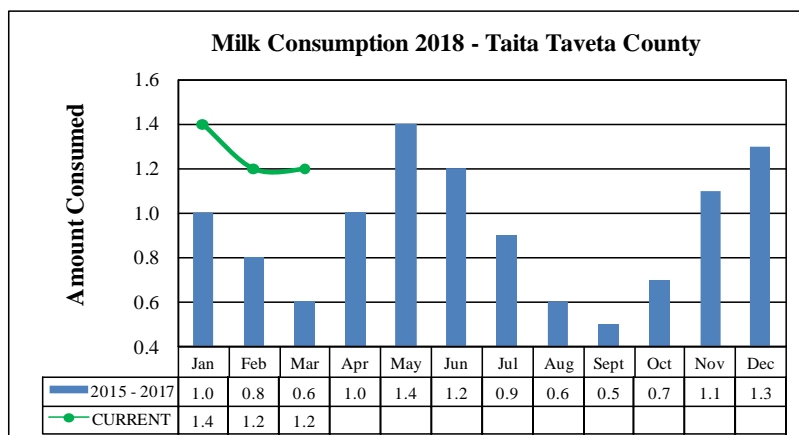
- Terms of trade were favourable and on an upward trend compared to the previous month.
- The current trend is attributed to steady rise in price of goats against declining price of maize crop.
- Proceeds of sale of goat could purchase 124.3 kg of maize.
- Terms of Trade were above the LTM by 46.5%.



5. FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

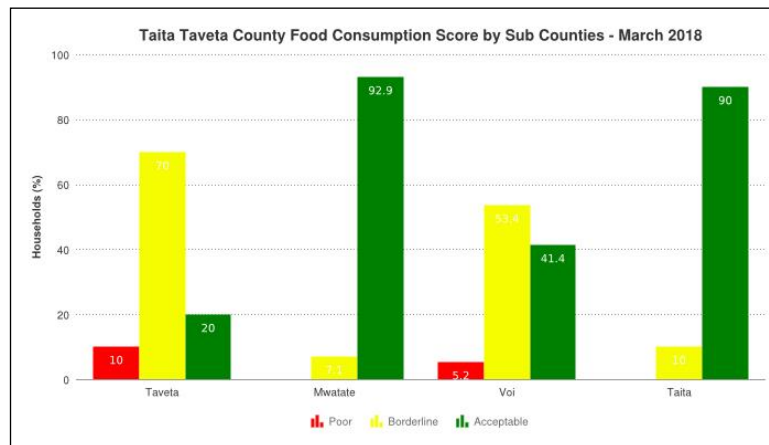
5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- The milk consumption per household per day has remained the same from the previous month.
- Milk consumption was high by 50 percent compared to LTM.
- 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

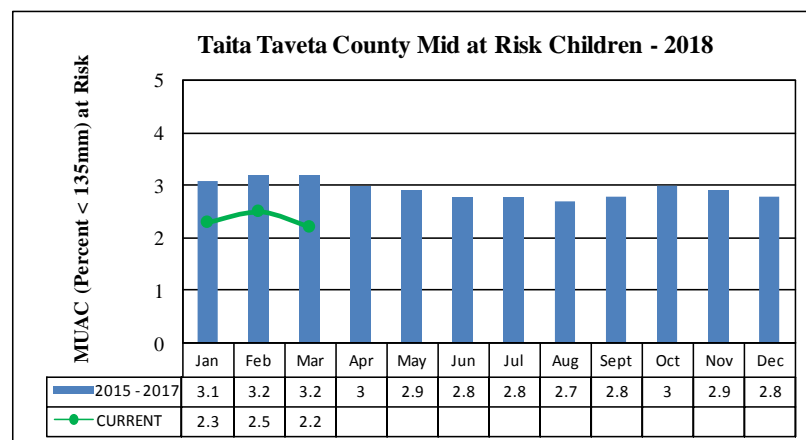
- Approximately 56.4 percent were in the acceptable food consumption category indicating that they were consuming an acceptable diet in terms of meal frequency, dietary diversity, nutritional value and amount. The proportions of households under borderline and poor food consumption category were 39.2 percent and 4.4 percent respectively.
- Food consumption remained stable compared to previous month, where 57 percent of households had acceptable food consumption and 40.5 percent in borderline food consumption category.



5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurement for children below five years indicated 2.2 percent were at risk of malnutrition which is a slight decrease from the previous month and below the long term average by 3.2 percent.
- Compared to long term mean the trend is normal.

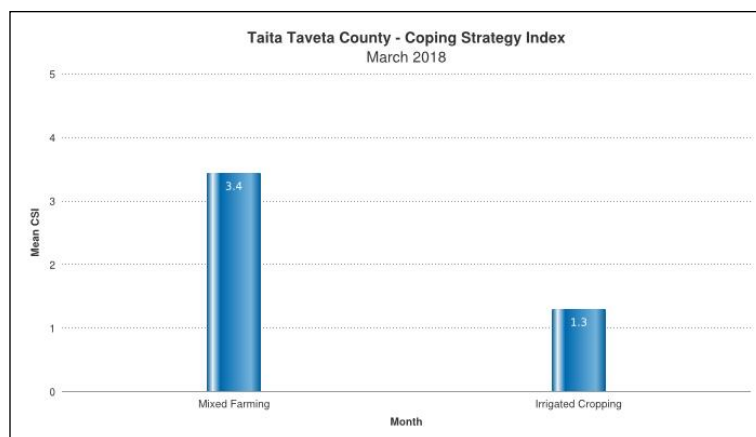


5.3.2 Health

- Cases of fever with chills like malaria were at 6.3% compared to 6.8% that was posted in the previous month.

5.3.3 Coping Strategies

- The CSI for the month under review was recorded at 3.12 compared to 3.54 posted in the previous month.
- This change was indicating households employed less coping strategies.
- This could be attributed to harvest experienced in varied livelihood zones.
- Households engaged in various coping strategies including charcoal burning, petty trade and casual waged labour.



6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 FOOD AND NON FOOD INTERVENTIONS

6.1.1 Sectoral

Intervention	Activities
Social Protection	
Asset Creation Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset Creation program was ongoing. No transfers were done since March is a lean month.
Multi - Sectoral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstreaming EDE to CIDP II plus integrated planning with other stakeholders in the county

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- Following the onset of the long rains the food security situation is expected to improve; water access has improved with recharge of water facilities, the early planted crop is expected to expand the dietary diversity through access to vegetables and improved production and consumption of milk. From improved milk production due improved livestock production due to access to forage and water.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

Agriculture and Livestock Sector

- Crop protection against pest and diseases and baboons especially in irrigated zone.

Water and Irrigation Sector

- Provision of water treatment tabs mainly in rain fed lowlands.
- Open up clogged drainage canals in Taveta Sub County, Mboghoni ward to address issue of flush floods.
- Purchase of water storage tanks.

Health and Nutrition

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