

National Drought Management Authority

TAITA TAVETA COUNTY

DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR APRIL 2018



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



APRIL 2018 EW PHASE



Early Warning Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Mixed Farming: Food Crops/ Livestock	Normal	Stable
Mixed Farming: Food Crops/ Horticulture/Dairy	Normal	Stable
Mixed Farming: Irrigated Cropping/ Livestock/Food Crops	Normal	Stable
National Park	Normal	Stable
County	Normal	Stable
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/ Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	216	80 - 120
VCI-3Month	62.87	35 - 50
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Maize Crop Condition	Various stages	Flowering
Livestock Body Condition for cattle	Good	Good
Milk Production per HH/ day	2.9	3.0 Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	127.40	81.3
Milk Consumption per HH/ day	1.3	1.0 Litres
Return distance to water sources	1.7	2.2 Km
Return distance to grazing areas	3.4	3.8 Km
Cost of water (20 litres)	3.00	< Kshs 5.00
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	2.10	<3.20

Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- The county recorded rainfall amount above normal and characterized by good temporal and even spatial distribution.
- The long rains started early during the first week of March compared to third week normally.
- The county vegetation condition index was above normal. All the four Sub Counties VCI depicted vegetation greenness above normal.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

Production Indicators

- Maize crop was above knee high with the early planted crop at tasseling and cob formation stages.
- 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 Flush floods - Taveta 	<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 Flush floods - Taveta 								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

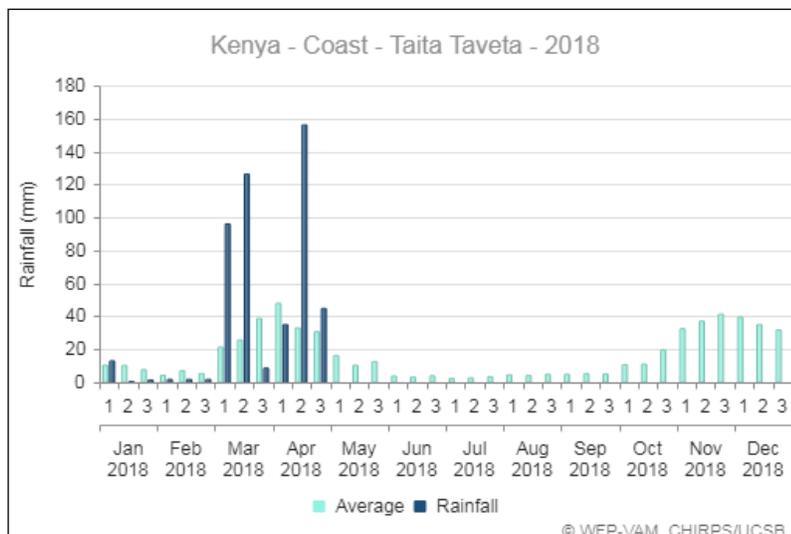
1. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- The county received heavy rains in all livelihood zones during the month under review.
- Taveta Sub County experienced floods where 758 households were affected through displacement and washing away of farms and crops.
- Approximated 53 houses were reported to have collapsed and the displaced owners were being hosted by neighbours on higher grounds.
- In terms of cropping, 374 acres planted with maize, vegetables, tomatoes, onions and bananas were destroyed.

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 was 216%.
- Dekad one, two and three recorded 34.9 mm, 156.0 mm and 44.7 mm respectively. Rainfall amounts for dekad two and three were above LTM by 374% and 46% respectively. However, dekad one was lower by 27%.
- The county received heavy rains mainly in the second dekad for both the highlands and the lowlands.

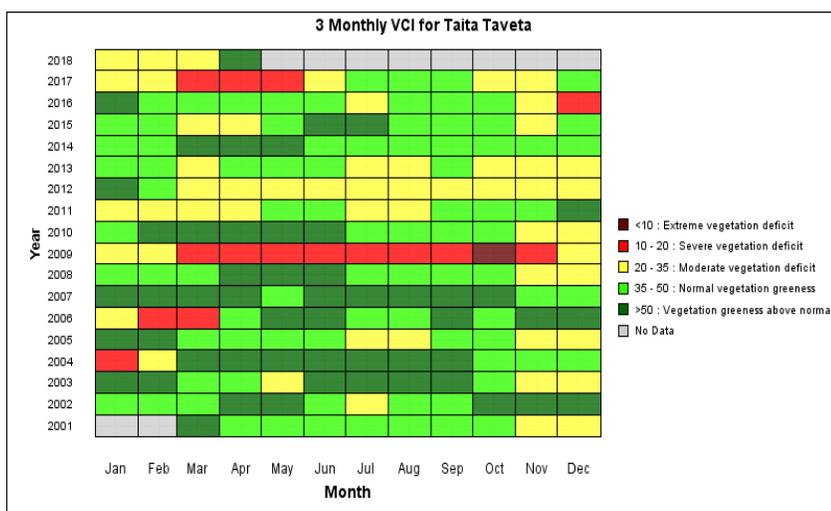


2. IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

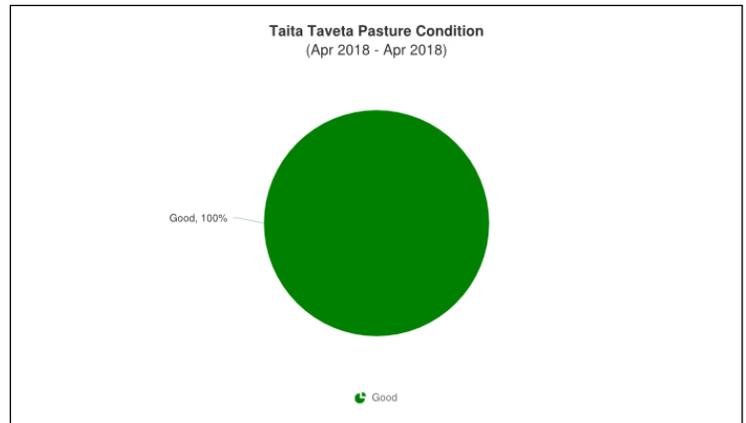
2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The county vegetation condition index (VCI) was above normal as depicted by a VCI value of 62.87.
- All the four Sub Counties VCI depicted vegetation greenness above normal.
- In comparison to the same season previous year vegetation condition is good.
- Currently the situation is improving given that the VCI moved to 'vegetation greenness above normal' band from moderate vegetation deficit category registered in the previous month.



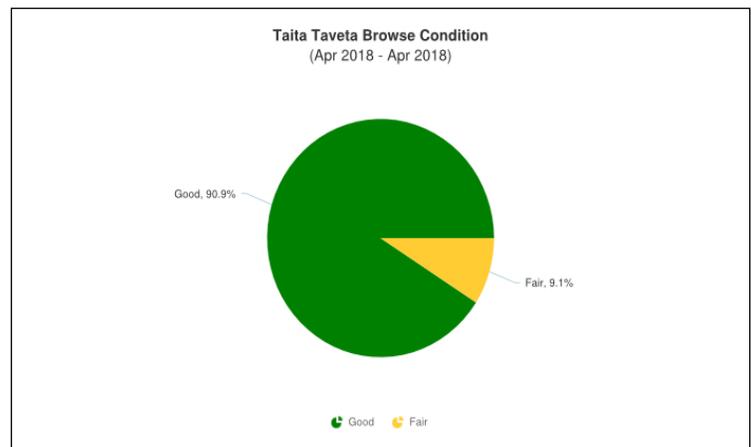
2.1.2 Pasture

- Based on community interviews conducted, all respondents concurred pasture condition was good compared to 57.1% and 42.9% that indicated pasture condition was good and fair 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 at least three months.



2.1.3 Browse

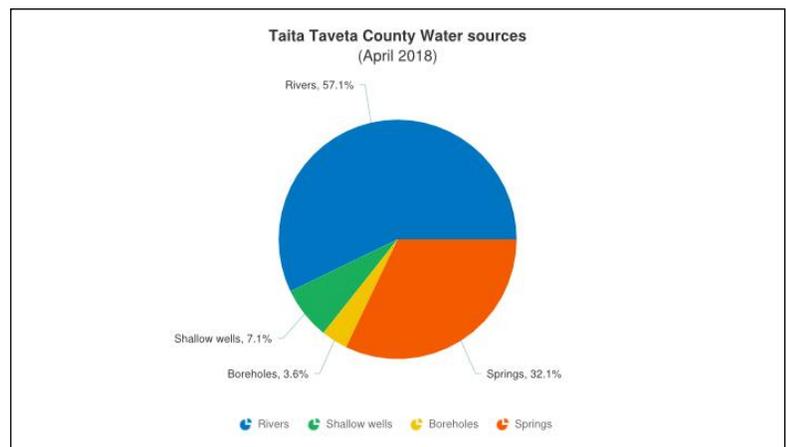
- The browse condition ranged from fair to good.
- During community interviews 90.9% and 9.1% indicated browse condition to have been good and fair respectively compared to 52.4% and 47.6% respectively in the previous month.
- The browse situation immensely improved and was good compared to same season previous year. This could be attributed to early onset, adequate amounts and good distribution of the long rains.
- The available browse is expected to last for at least four months.
- No constraints were observed in accessing browse in the month under review.



2.2 WATER RESOURCE

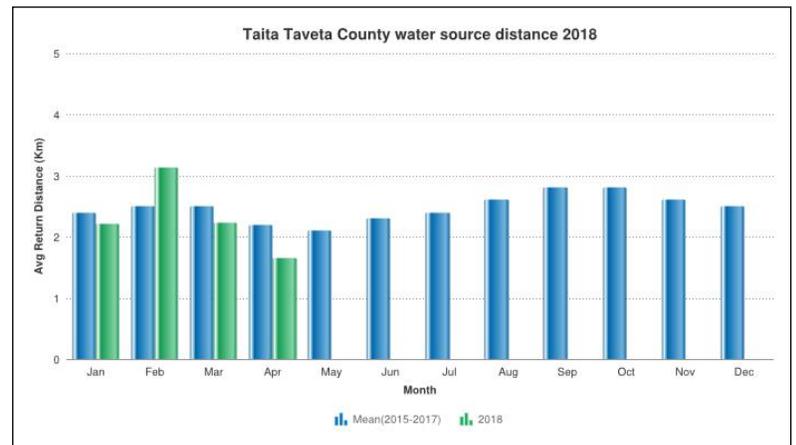
2.2.1 Sources

- The three main sources of water were rivers, springs and shallow wells and were relied upon by 57.1, 32.1 and 7.1 percent of the communities interviewed respectively.
- Most open surface water sources were recharged to full capacity and most communities opted to rely on them due to close proximity and affordability.
- Also household members were harnessing water from roof catchment.
- Strategic water sources like Mwatate dam and Manoa water pan water levels have increased to above normal at this time of the year.



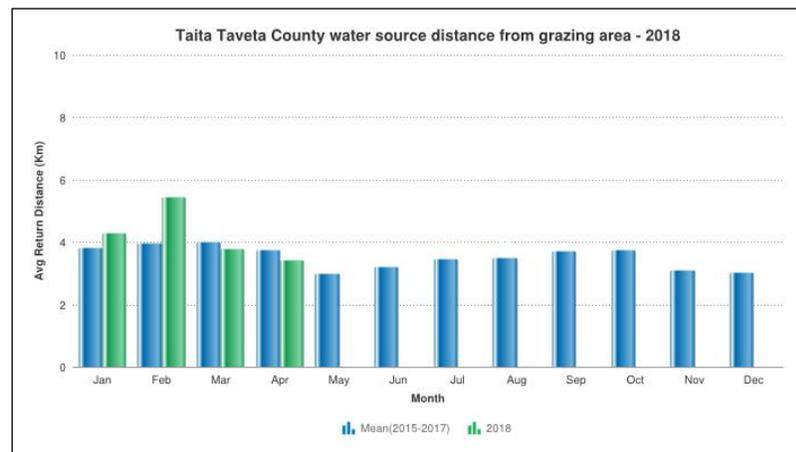
2.2.2 Household Access to Water

- Return distances to fetch water decreased to 1.7 km depicting 22.7% drop from the previous month.
- The decrease was due to increased access to water following recharge of most water facilities.
- Compared to the long term average the current distance is lower by 22.7%.
- The average cost of 20 litre jerry can was at Kshs 3 which is normal at this time of the year.



2.2.3 Livestock Trekking Distance to Grazing Areas

- Return distance to grazing areas decreased to 3.4 km depicting 10% drop from the previous month.
- This was due to availability of pasture and browse at closer range emanating from good rains that are being experienced in the entire county.
- In all livelihood zones the frequency of watering for all species 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

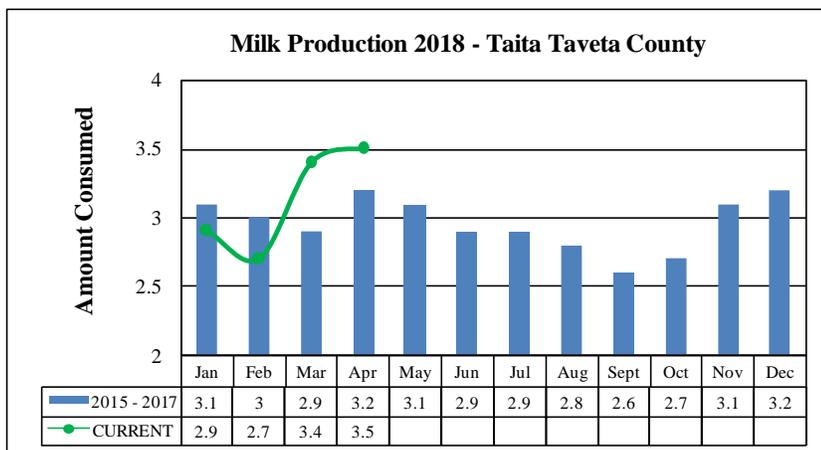
- In the mixed farming: horticulture/ dairy and mixed farming: irrigated cropping/ livestock livelihood zones cattle and goat body condition was good except in the water logged parts of Taveta Sub County where body condition was fair.
- In the mixed farming: food crop/livestock livelihood zones the cattle and goat body condition was categorized as good.
- An increase in poultry population was observed during the month under review.

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 3 percent to 3.5 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 practice zero grazing.
- 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

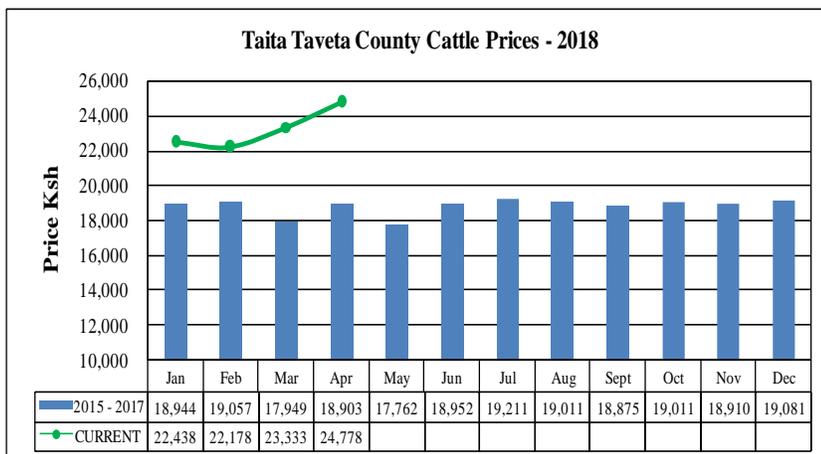
- In the mixed farming: food crop/ livestock livelihood zones and in mixed farming: horticulture/dairy livelihood zone various crops were at various stages ranging from germination to above knee high level for maize and pond formation for green grams and beans.
- The dry planted maize crop was at the flowering stage while green grams at maturity level.
- Due to water logging most of the crop in the swampy areas has stagnated in growth and due to leaching the leaves have turned yellow.
- Performance of maize across the county suffered attacks by fall army worm and the projected yield is likely to decline.
- 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 onions.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

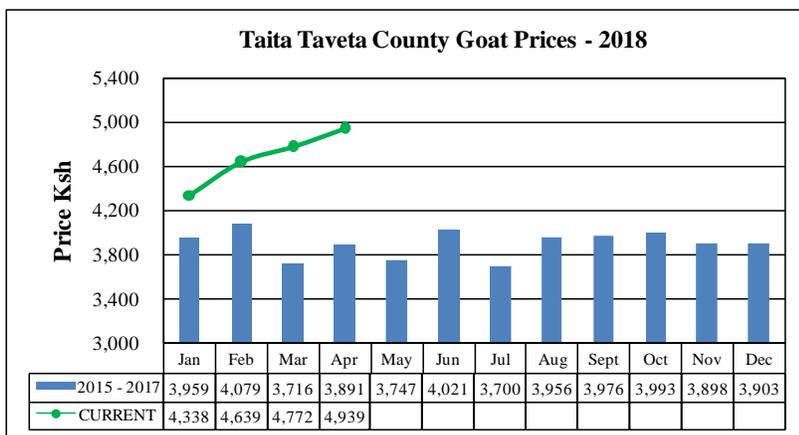
4.1.1 Cattle Prices

- The average market price of a three year old bull increased by 6.2 percent to Kshs 24,788 compared to the previous month.
- The price is above normal at this time of the year.
- This was attributed to the prevailing good body condition of cattle and uninterrupted market operations.
- Compared to the long term mean, the average price was higher by 31%.



4.1.2 Goat Prices

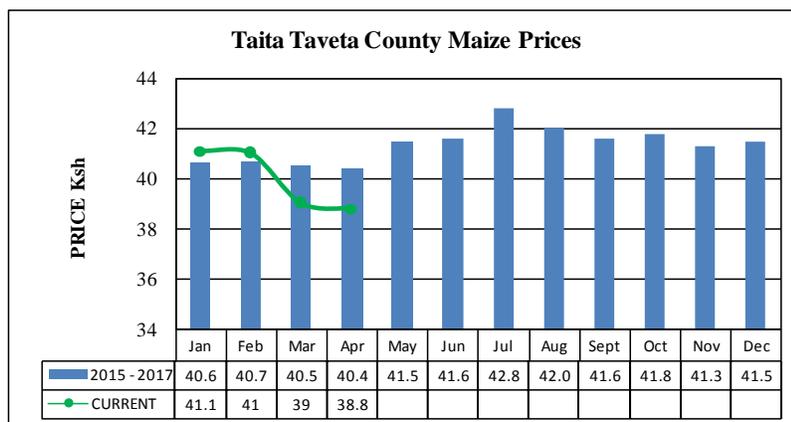
- The average market price of two year goat rose by 3.5 percent to Kshs 4,939 compared to the previous month.
- The price is above normal at this time of the year.
- The rise in price was attributed to good body condition of goats in all livelihood zones plus hoarding by herders to sell later due to good rains that have promoted browse condition.
- Compared to long term mean, the average price was higher by 28.4%.



4.2 CROP PRICES

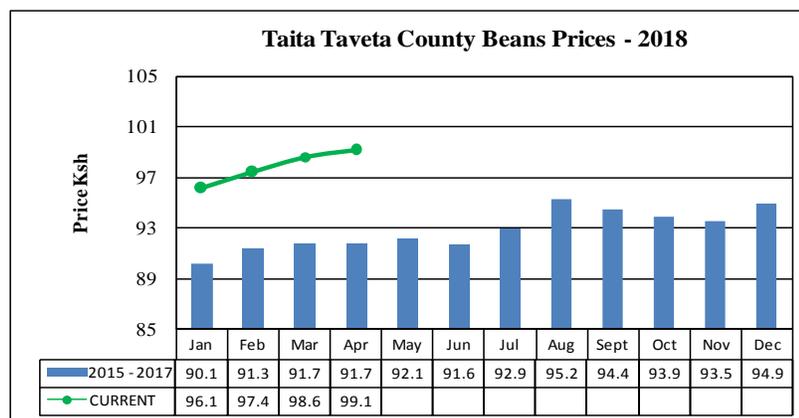
4.2.1 Maize

- The average market price of a kilo of maize remained stable compared to the previous month and retailed at Kshs 38.80.
- 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 99.1.
- 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

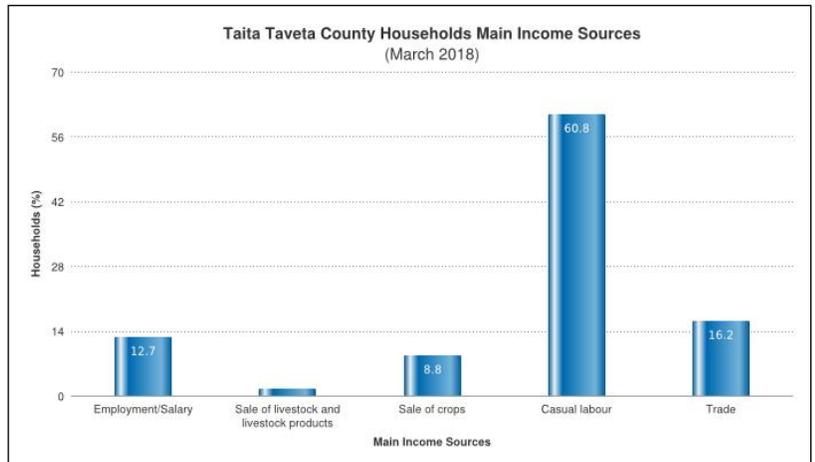


schemes, while high prices were recorded in the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone of Kshs 100 to 120 in Mwakajo, Mwachawaza and Rukanga markets.

- Compared to the long term mean the price was higher by 8%.

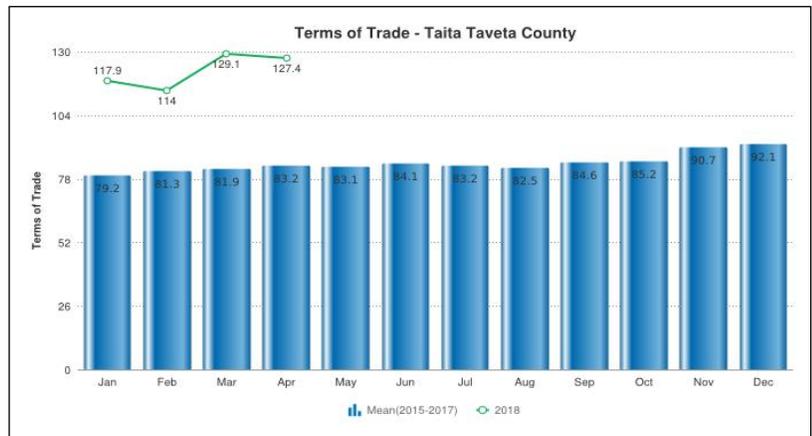
4.3 INCOME

- 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 farms, sisal and banana plantations, mining sector, irrigation schemes, ranches, building sites and town centres.



4.4 TERMS OF TRADE

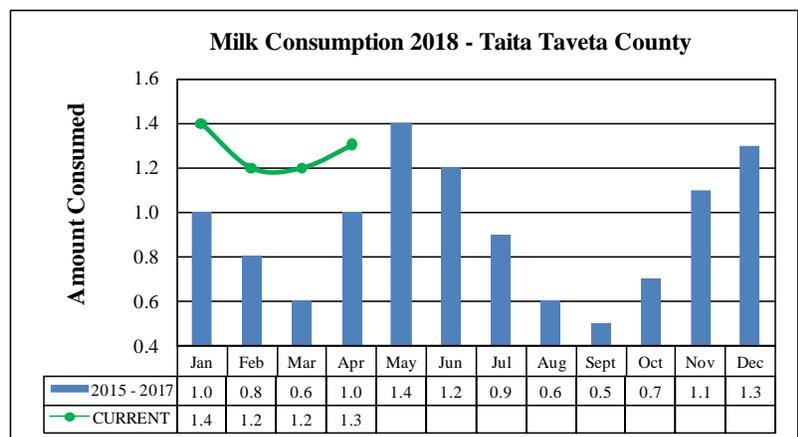
- Terms of trade were favourable and on a downward trend compared to the previous month.
- The current trend is attributed to steady rise in price of goats against stable price of maize crop.
- Proceeds of sale of goat could purchase 127.4 kilograms of maize.
- Terms of Trade were above the LTM by 53 percent.



5. FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

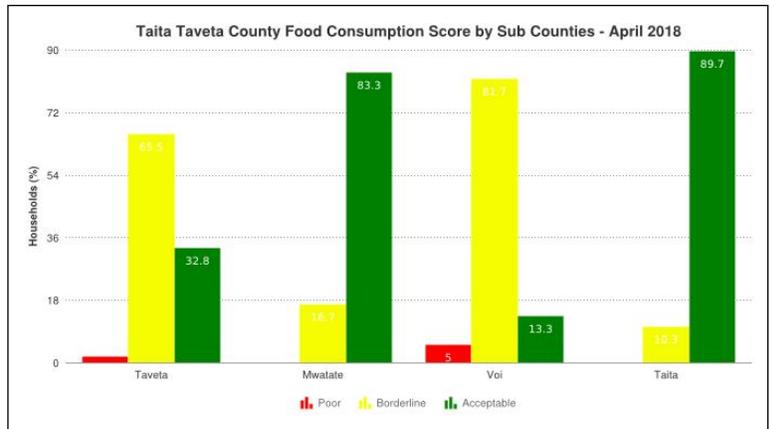
5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- The milk consumption per household per day rose by 8.3 percent to read 1.3 litres from the previous month.
- Milk consumption was high by 30 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

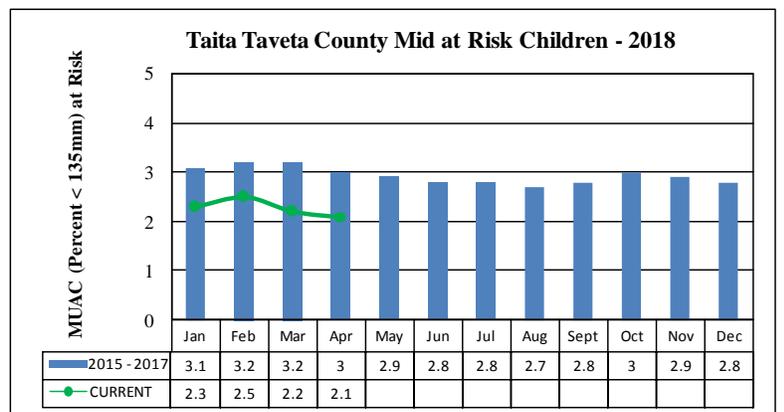
- Approximately 54.8 percent of households were in the acceptable food consumption category indicating that they were consuming an acceptable diet in terms of meal frequency, dietary diversity, nutritional value and amount. The proportions of households under borderline and poor food consumption category were 43.5 percent and 1.7 percent respectively.
- Food consumption improved compared to previous month, where 56.4 percent of households had acceptable food consumption, 39.2 percent in borderline food consumption and 4.4 percent in poor food consumption category.
- Availability of green leafy vegetables and water has boosted household purchasing power.



5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) measurement for children below five years indicated 2.1 percent were at risk of malnutrition which is a slight decrease from the previous month and below the long term average by 30 percent.
- Compared to long term mean the trend is normal.

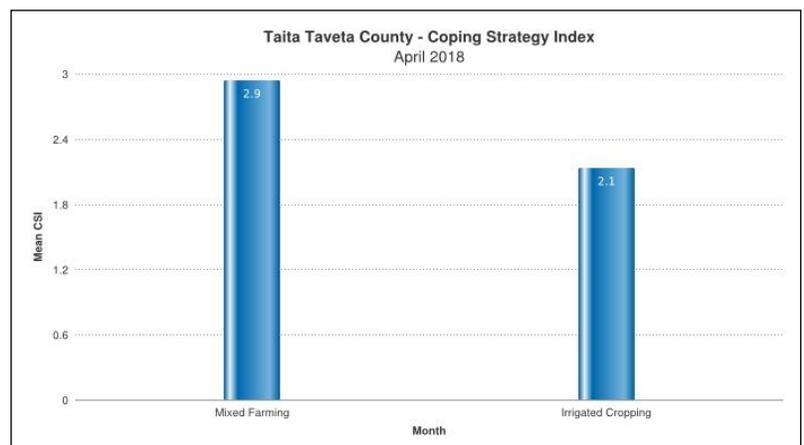


5.3.2 Health

- Cases of fever with chills like malaria were at 5.8% compared to 6.3% that was posted in the previous month.

5.3.3 Coping Strategies

- The CSI for the month under review was recorded at 2.83 compared to 3.12 posted in the previous month.
- This drop demonstrates households were employing less coping strategies compared to previous month.
- 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 April is a lean month.
Floods in Taveta Sub County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Government donated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 12 bags of rice ➤ 30 bags of beans • County Government donated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 26 bags of beans (90kgs) ➤ 30 jerricans of cooking oil (20litres) ➤ 100 bales of Maize flour ➤ 58 bags of rice (50kgs) • Repair of access roads, rechanneling floods away from the main roads by county government. • HHs members were rebuilding their houses. • KRCS targeted 758 households and provided them with non food items. • Coordination mechanism has been put in place to ensure smooth operations and effective way to deal with floods. KRCS is taking lead in conducting the assessments.

7.0 EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 FLOODS IN TAVETA SUB COUNTY

- Following heavy rains that pounded Taita Taveta sub county during the month 758 households located in Kimorigho, Lambo, Ngutini, Ngutini, Marodo/Maseketeni and Shauri Moyo villages were affected by flash floods and require immediate support in terms of shelter, food and safe drinking water and sanitation.
- During the same period three roads were cut off affecting access to Kimorigho, Riata, Kitobo and Eldoro areas with close to 1100 households. The current situation has affected access to markets and essential services like health care.
- In the cropping sector, 374 acres of farm land planted with various crops were destroyed some have been submerged while in others the crop was totally washed away. The same has also affected livestock production sector.
- Based on the above the affected community is at risk of outbreak water borne disease and upsurge of malaria.

7.2 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- The long rains are progressing on well in terms of amounts and distribution. 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 due to improved livestock production due to access to forage and water. This will ultimately improve health and nutrition status of the community.

- The county is experiencing one of the best cropping season in almost ten years time, however invasion of fall army worms, floods and wildlife destruction of crops may lead to production below normal.

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.
- Manage the storm water to reduce flooding. New drainage canals need to be built, earth dams excavated to reduce heavy runoff water and act as collector points.
- Purchase of water storage tanks.

Health and Nutrition

- Deworming for both adults and children with priority given to children under five years.
- Household level water treatment and storage to increase access to safe and drinking water.
- Distribution of water purifiers and chlorine to prevent water borne diseases this includes chlorination of wells, latrines and boreholes.

Multi Sectoral

- Communities prone to flush floods to be moved to higher grounds.
- Setting up of temporary shelter for the most affected households if the rains persist.
- Distribution of food to mitigate the shortages of food due to destroyed farms and access roads to the markets.
- Distribution of NFIs for marginally affected households to mitigate impact of floods.
- Urgent reconstruction and repairs of damaged roads to improve access and reopen up cut off areas.