

# National Drought Management Authority

## TAITA TAVETA COUNTY

### DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR MAY 2018



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



#### MAY 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
<b>County</b>	<b>Normal</b>	<b>Stable</b>
Biophysical Indicators	Value	Normal Range/ Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	213	80 - 120
VCI-3Month	81.69	35 - 50
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Maize Crop Condition	Tasseling	Tasseling
Livestock Body Condition for cattle	Good	Good
Milk Production per HH/ day	3.6	3.1 Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	140.50	83.1
Milk Consumption per HH/ day	1.5	1.4 Litres
Return distance to water sources	1.7	2.1 Km
Return distance to grazing areas	3.1	3.8 Km
Cost of water (20 litres)	3.00	< Kshs 5.00
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	2.0	<3.20

#### Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

##### Biophysical Indicators

- The rains were above normal. Highlands of the county recorded moderate rains while the lowlands received light rains.
- Normal cessation of long rains was registered in the third decade of the month under review.
- 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

- Early planted maize was at the grain filling stage while others were at the tasseling stage.
- 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"> <li>Short rains harvests</li> <li>Increased HH Food Stocks</li> <li>Short dry spell</li> <li>Reduced milk yields</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>Flush floods - Taveta</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long rains harvests</li> <li>Increased HH Food Stocks</li> <li>A long dry spell</li> <li>Land preparation</li> <li>Kidding (Sept)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short rains</li> <li>Planting/weeding</li> <li>Flush floods - Taveta</li> </ul>								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec

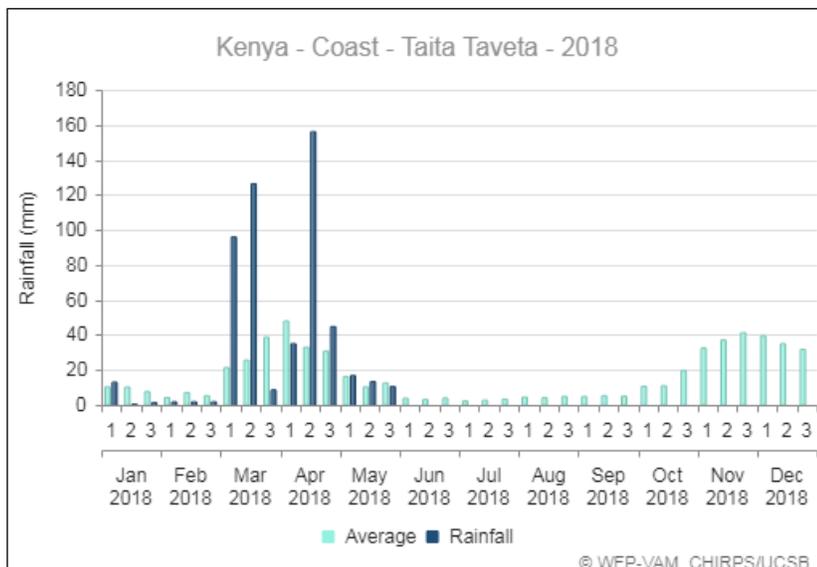
# 1. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

## 1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- The county received moderate rains in the highlands while the lowlands recorded light rains.
- The county registered normal cessation of long rains in the third dekad of the month under review.

## 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 210%.
- Dekad one, two and three recorded 16.7 mm, 13.3mm and 10.4 mm of rainfall amounts respectively.
- Compared to LTM dekad one and two were above by 3.1% and 30.4% respectively while dekad three was below by 16.8%.
- Generally, the situation was normal compared to the long term average

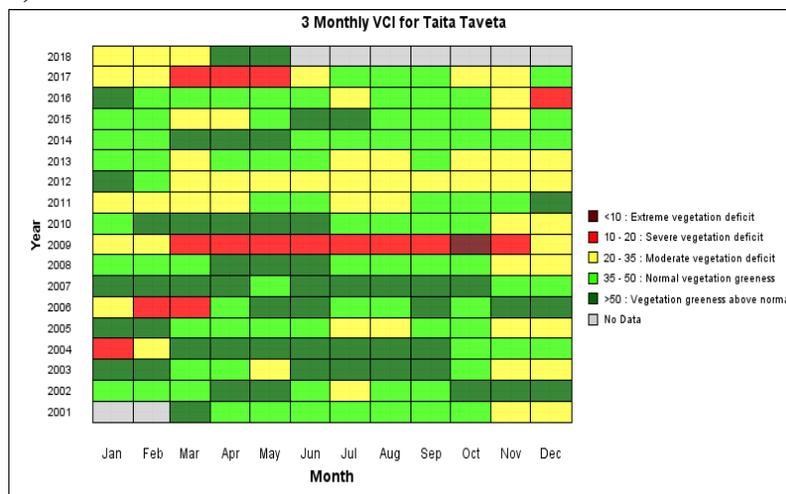


# 2. IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

## 2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

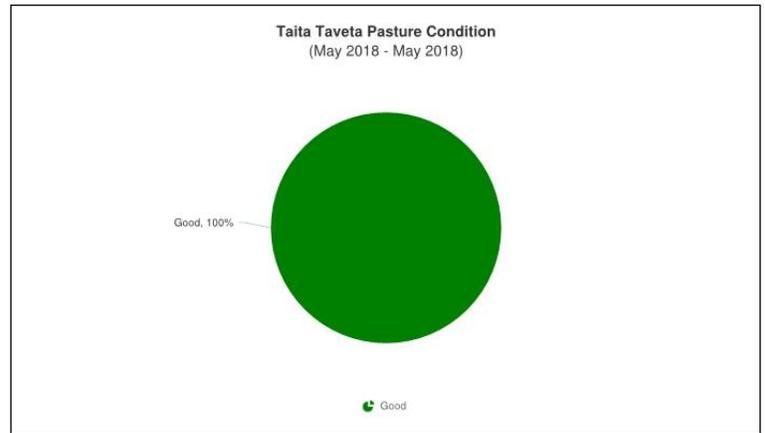
### 2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The county vegetation condition index (VCI) was above normal as depicted by a VCI value of 81.69.
- All the four Sub Counties VCI depicted vegetation greenness above normal.
- The current situation is attributed to luxurious regeneration of vegetation during the rain season compared to the previous years



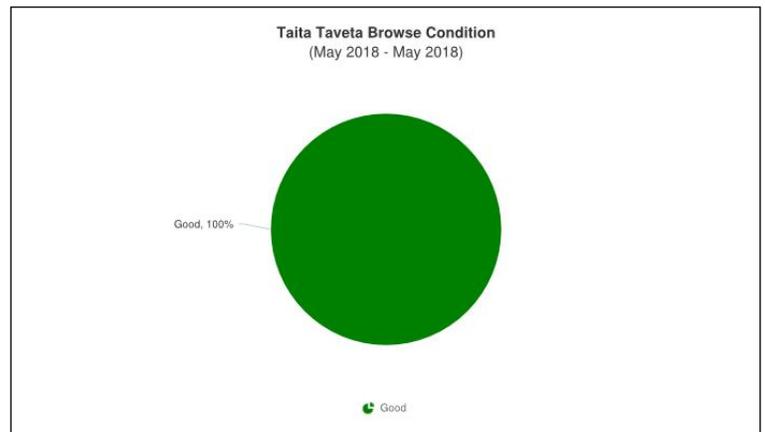
### 2.1.2 Pasture

- Based on community interviews conducted, all respondents reported pasture condition was good.
- The same situation was reported in the previous month.
- Pasture condition is above normal for this time of the year.
- Available pasture is expected to last for at least three months due to prevailing low temperatures.



### 2.1.3 Browse

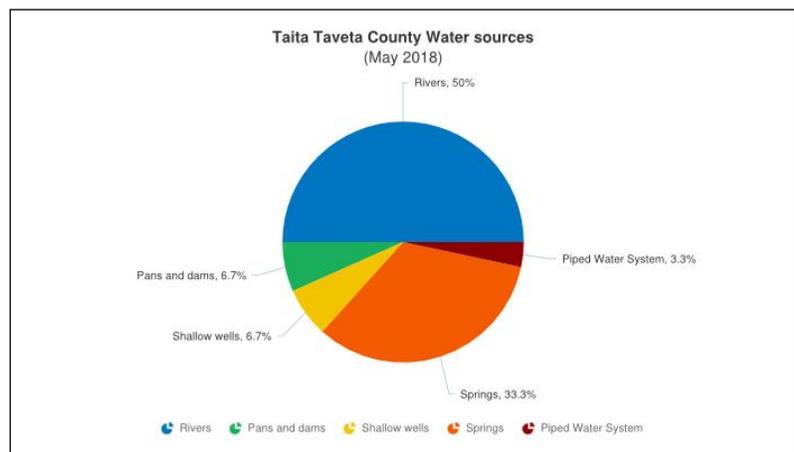
- The browse condition was good.
- During community interviews all respondents indicated browse condition was good compared to the previous month.
- The browse situation immensely improved and was good compared to same season previous year.
- This could be attributed to early onset, adequate amounts 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

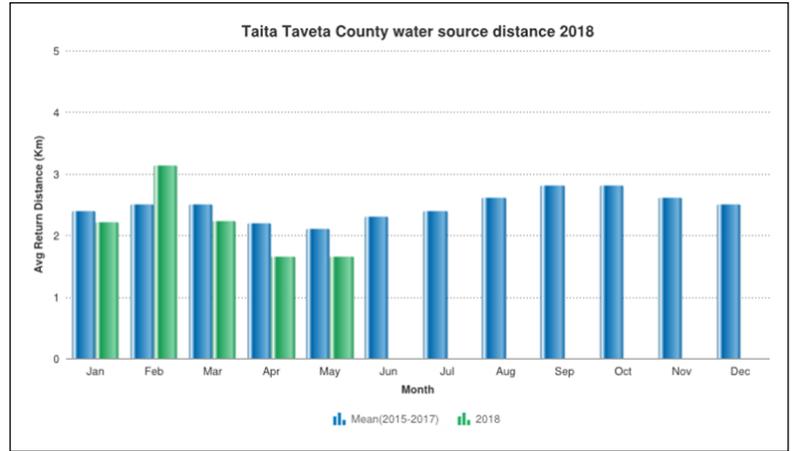
### 2.2.1 Sources

- The four main sources of water were rivers, springs, pans & dams and shallow wells and were relied upon by 50.0, 33.3, 6.7 and 6.7 percent of the communities interviewed respectively.
- Most open surface water sources were recharged to full capacity.
- Water situation has improved in terms of availability and accessibility.
- 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.



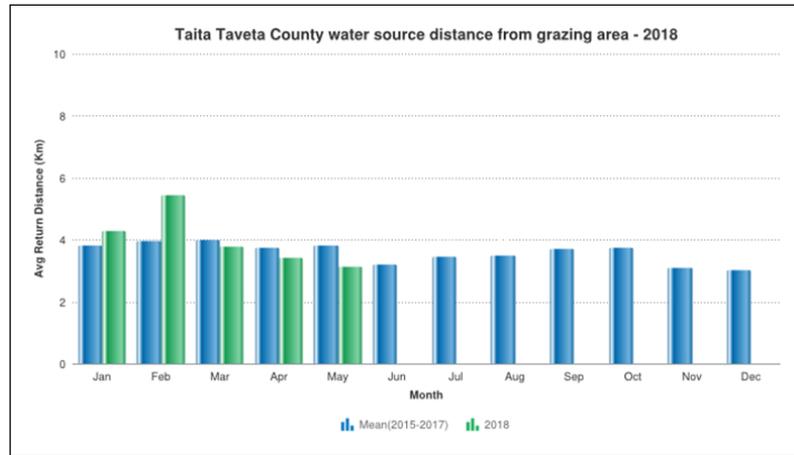
### 2.2.2 Household Access to Water

- Return distances to fetch water was 1.7 km as posted in the previous month.
- The short distances being reported is due to good rains received during the season.
- Compared to the long term average the current distance is lower by 19%.
- 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 was 3.1 km depicting 8.8% drop from the previous month.
- This was due to proximity of water in the grazing areas
- Also availability of pasture and browse at closer range due to rains that were experienced during the season.
- 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

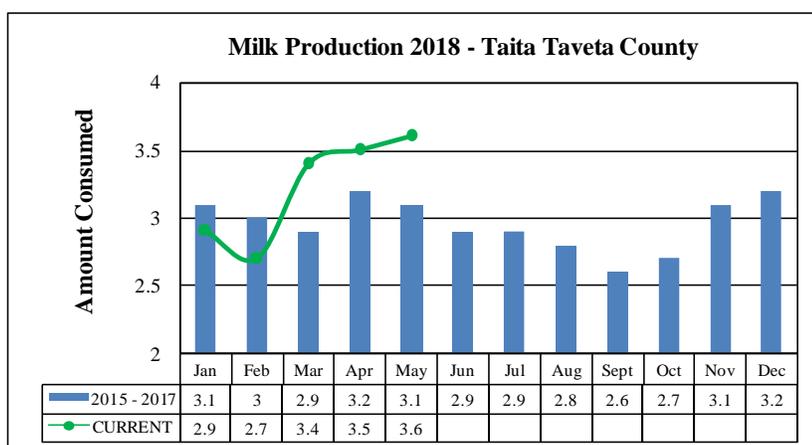
- In the mixed farming: horticulture/ dairy and mixed farming: irrigated cropping/ livestock livelihood zones cattle and goat body condition was good except in the water logged parts of Taveta Sub County where body condition was fair.
- In the mixed farming: food crop/livestock livelihood zones the cattle and goat body condition was good.
- Poultry production increased 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 2.9 percent to 3.6 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 43.00



#### 3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

##### 3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

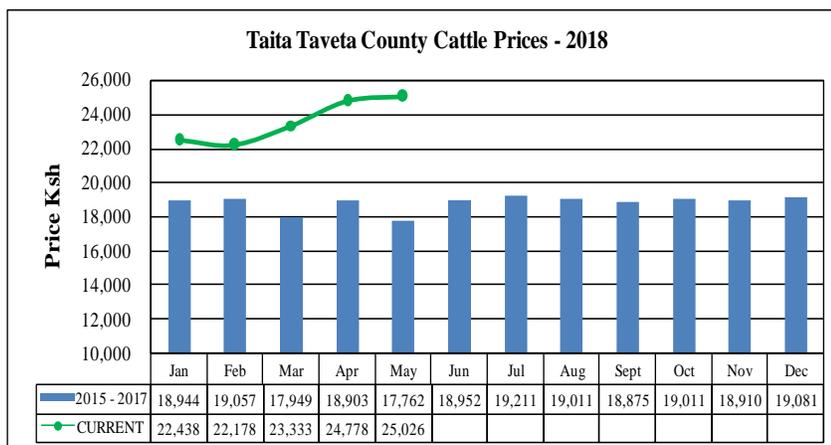
- In the mixed farming: food crop/ livestock livelihood zone farmers were harvesting beans and green grams while maize crop was at various stages ranging from tasseling to grain filling stage.
- In the mixed farming: horticulture/dairy livelihood zone farmers were harvesting beans while maize crop was at the grain filling stage.
- In Taveta Sub County, Mboghoni Ward crop performance was affected by water logging and flush floods.
- In the mixed farming: Irrigated cropping/ livestock livelihood zone farmers were planting tomatoes, onions and beans.

## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

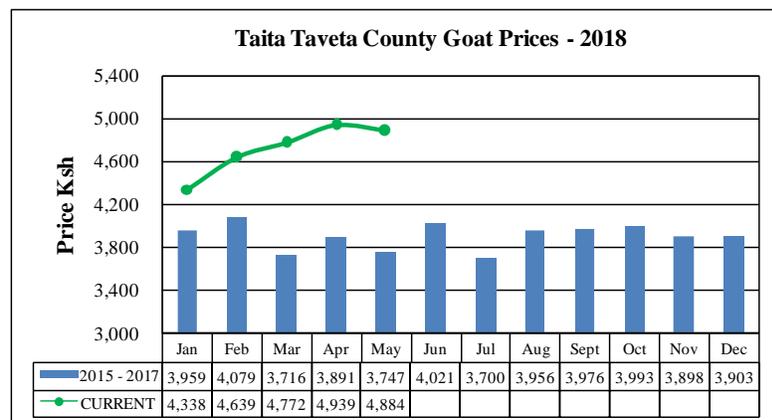
#### 4.1.1 Cattle Prices

- The average market price of a three year old bull rose by 1% percent to Kshs 25,026 compared to the previous month.
- The price was 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 41%.



#### 4.1.2 Goat Prices

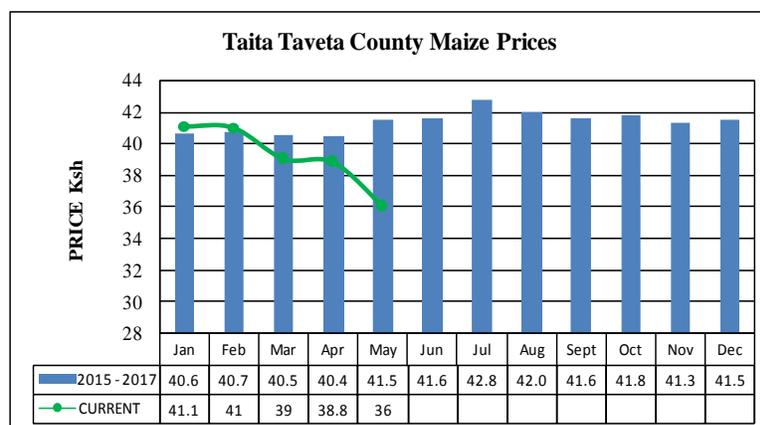
- The average market price of two year goat dropped by 1.1 percent to Kshs 4,884 compared to the previous month.
- The price was above normal at this time of the year.
- The above LTM prices could be attributed to good body condition of goats in all livelihood zones plus hoarding by herders to sell later due to good rains that have promoted browse condition.
- Compared to long term mean, the average price was higher by 30%.



## 4.2 CROP PRICES

### 4.2.1 Maize

- The average market price of a kilo of maize decreased to Kshs 36 compared to the previous month indicative of 7.2% drop.
- The drop could be due to reduction in price by merchants in preparation for expected harvest plus drop in demand as farmers expect to start consuming green maize in June.
- 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

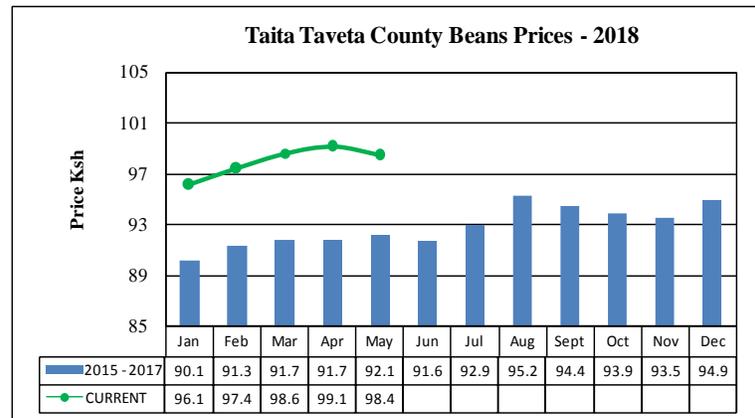


farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone (Mwakajo, Rukanga and Mwachawaza) reported prices as high as Ksh. 50 per kilo.

- Compared to the long term average the current price was below normal

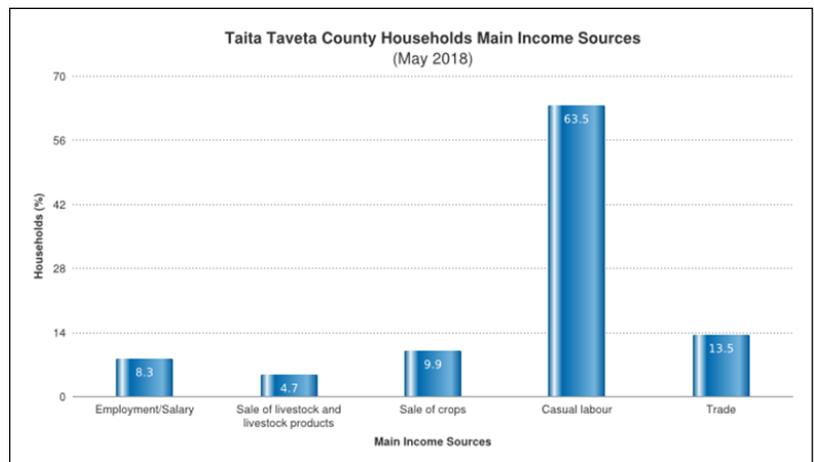
#### 4.2.2 Beans

- Average price of a kilo of beans slightly dropped to Kshs 98.40.
- 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 6.8%.



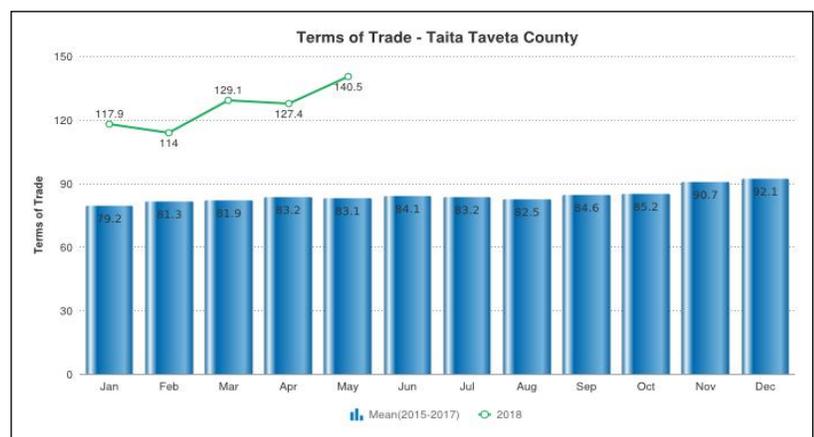
#### 4.3 INCOME

- Household main sources of income were casual labour and trade. Others were sale of crops, employment and sale of livestock products at lower proportions.
- Compared to previous month an increase was registered in sale of livestock and crops; and casual labour and a drop in employment and trade.
- 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

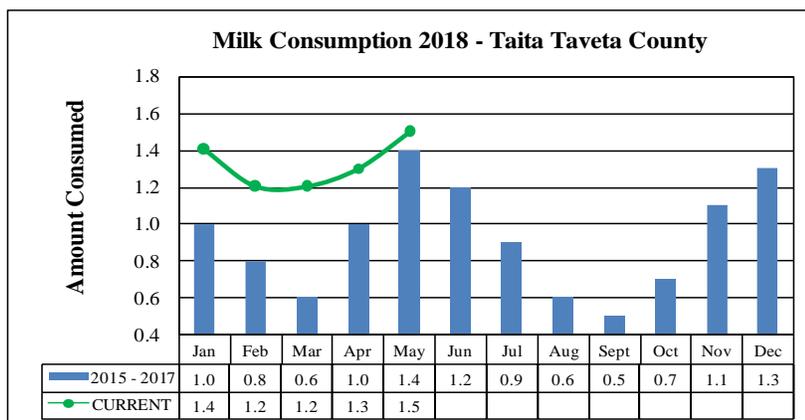
- Terms of trade were favourable and on an upward trend compared to the previous month.
- The current trend was attributed to high price of goats above LTM against gradual fall of maize price.
- Proceeds of sale of goat could purchase 140.5 kilograms of maize.
- Terms of Trade were above the LTM by 69 percent.



## 5. FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

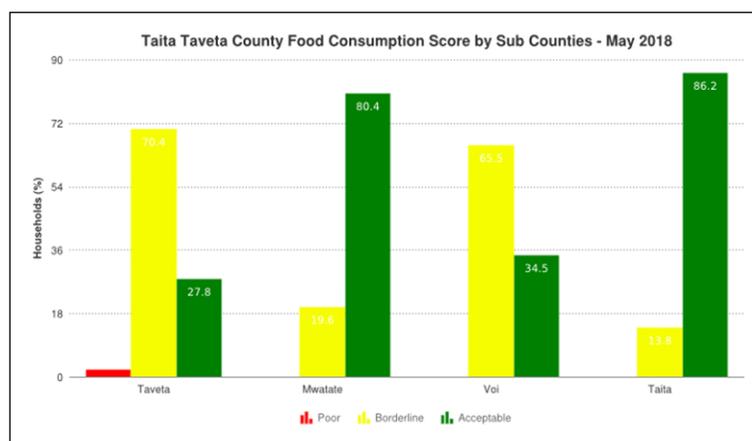
### 5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- The milk consumption per household per day increased to 1.5 litres from 1.3 litres posted in the previous month.
- Milk consumption was high by 7.1 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

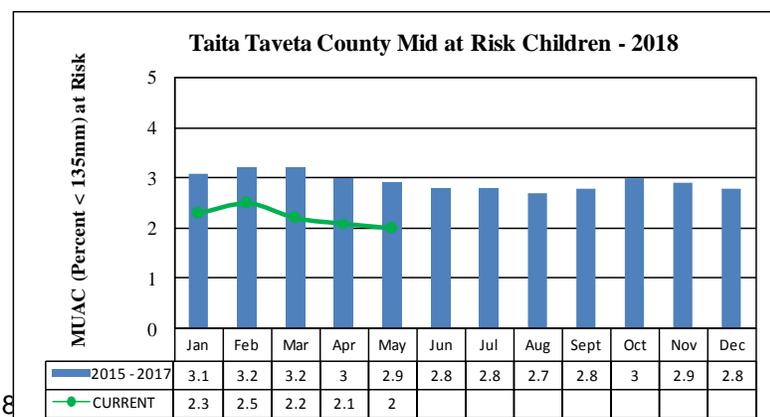
- Approximately 57.2 percent of households were in the acceptable food consumption score category indicating that they were consuming an acceptable diet in terms of meal frequency, dietary diversity, nutritional value and amount. The proportions of households under borderline and poor food consumption category were 42.3 percent and 0.5 percent respectively.
- Food consumption improved compared to previous month, where 54.8 percent of households had acceptable food consumption, 43.5 percent in borderline food consumption and 1.7 percent in poor food consumption category.
- Availability of pulses, green leafy vegetables and water has boosted household nutrition and 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 2.0 percent were at risk of malnutrition which is a slight decrease from the previous month and below the long term average by 3.4 percent.
- Compared to long term mean the trend is normal.

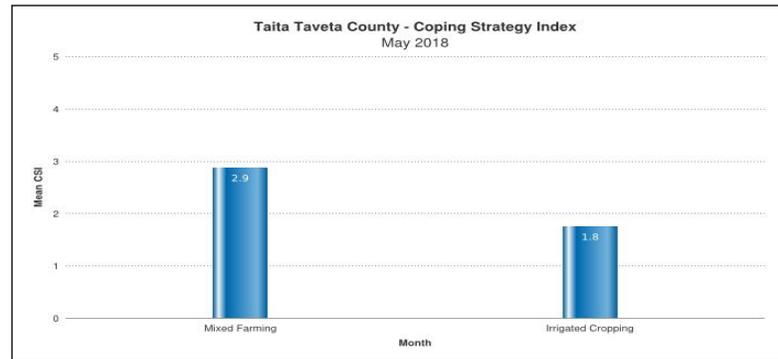


### 5.3.2 Health

- Cases of fever with chills like malaria were at 5.6% compared to 5.8% 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
<b>Social Protection</b>	
Asset Creation Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Asset Creation program was ongoing</li></ul>

## 7.0 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- The long rains were good in terms of amounts and distribution. The cessation was timely and crop development was good. Harvest of pulses is ongoing and 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**

- Post harvest management.
- Crop protection against pest and diseases and baboons especially in irrigated zone.
- Pasture conservation.

### **Water and Irrigation Sector**

- Provision of water treatment tabs mainly in rain fed lowlands.
- 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**

- Initiate planning process for drought risk management. (Drought preparedness measures and drought contingency planning)