

National Drought Management Authority

TAITA TAVETA COUNTY

DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR JUNE 2018



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



JUNE 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)	175	80 - 120
VCI-3Month	87.13	35 - 50
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Maize Crop Condition	Harvesting	Harvesting
Livestock Body Condition for cattle	Good	Good
Milk Production per HH/ day	3.5	2.9 Litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	139.7	83.1
Milk Consumption per HH/ day	1.3	1.2 Litres
Return distance to water sources	1.8	2.3 Km
Return distance to grazing areas	3.3	3.5 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 light rains were experienced in the highlands of the county. The lowlands remained dry coupled with low temperatures.
- 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

- Farmers are busy harvesting dry maize.
- 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.
- Distances to water sources were 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

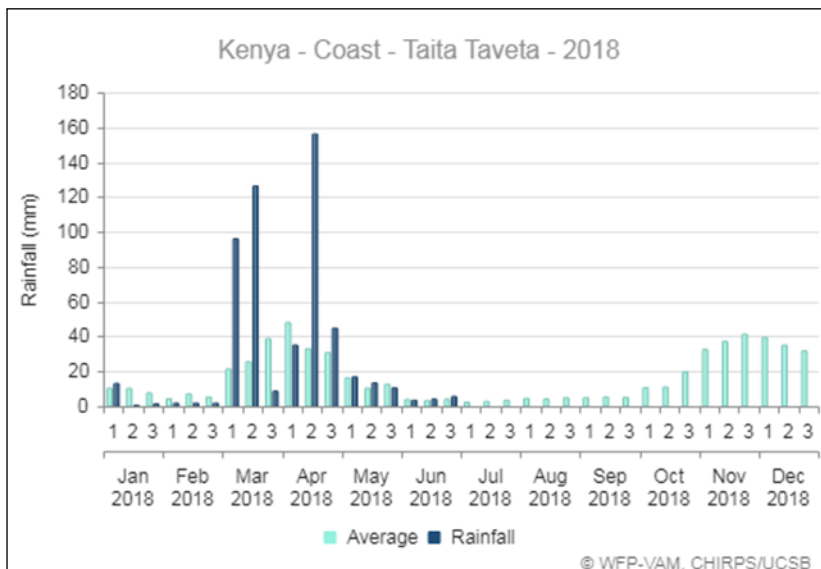
1. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- The county received light rains in the highlands while the lowlands recorded no rains.
- The county registered normal cessation of long rains in the third dekad of May.

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 175%.
- Dekad one, two and three recorded 3.3 mm, 3.9 mm and 5.5 mm of rainfall amounts respectively.
- Compared to LTM dekad two and three were above by 30% and 44.7% respectively while dekad one was below by 10.8%.
- Rainfall situation remained normal compared to the long term average.

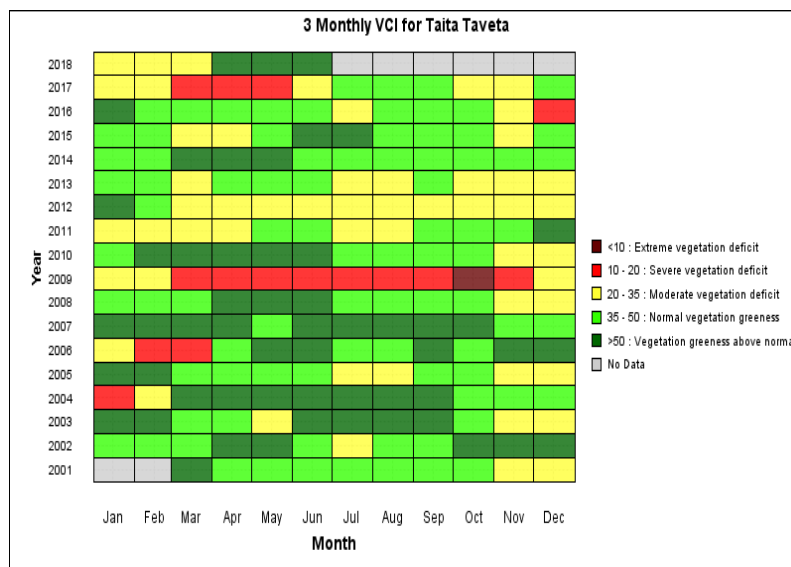


2. IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

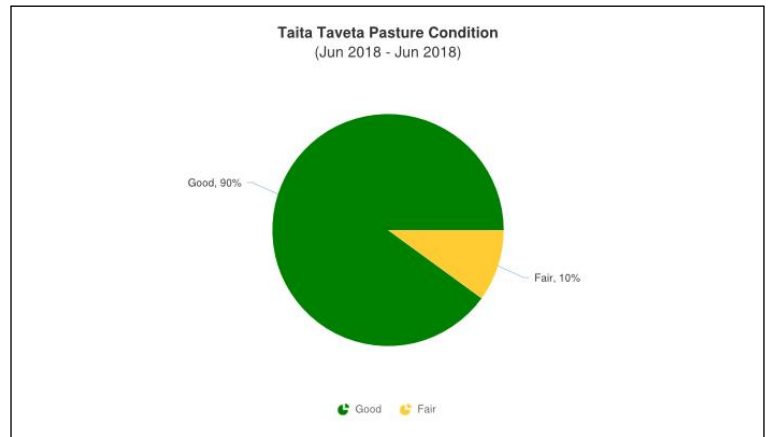
2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The county vegetation condition index (VCI) was above normal as depicted by a VCI value of 87.13.
- All the four Sub Counties VCI depicted vegetation greenness above normal.
- The current situation is attributed to above normal long rains that resulted to significant regeneration of pasture and natural vegetation compared to the previous years.



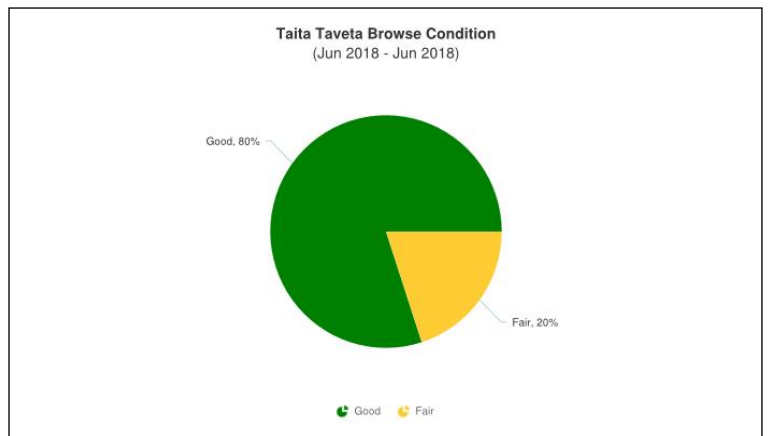
2.1.2 Pasture

- Based on community interviews conducted, 90% of respondents reported pasture condition was good.
- Pasture condition remained good compared to 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

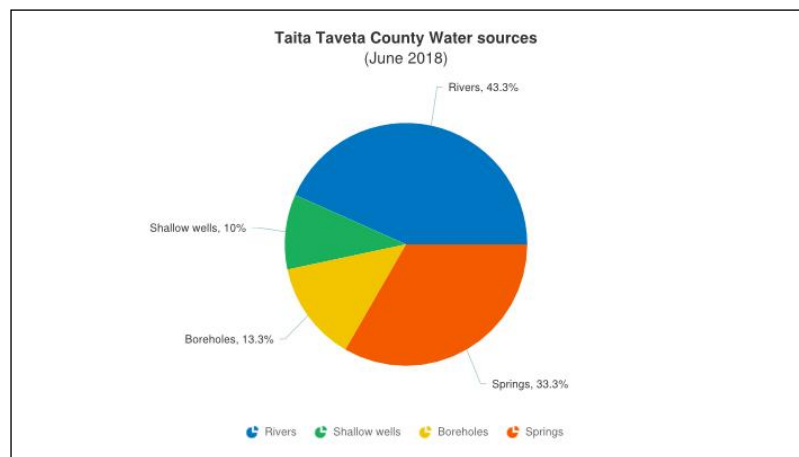
- The browse condition was good.
- During community interviews 80% of respondents indicated browse condition was good compared to the previous month.
- The browse situation was good compared to same season previous year.
- This could be attributed to early onset, adequate amounts and good distribution of the long rains.
- The available browse is expected to last for at least three months.
- No constraints were observed in accessing browse in the month under review.



2.2 WATER RESOURCE

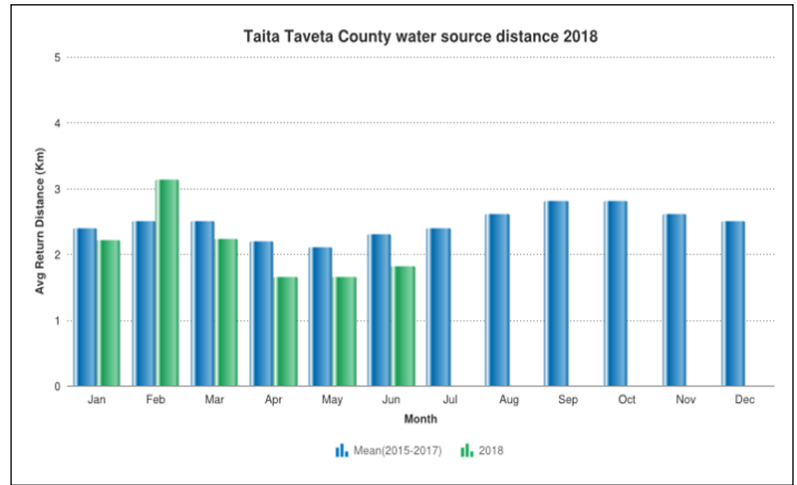
2.2.1 Sources

- The four main sources of water were rivers, springs, bore holes and shallow wells and were relied upon by 43.3, 33.3, 10.0 and 13.3 percent of the communities interviewed respectively.
- Water levels reduced in the month under review.
- Open water sources of low capacity have dried up like Ziwa La Ngo'mbe and Kwa Ziro water pans.
- Strategic water sources like Mwatate dam and Manoa water pan water levels have reduced to levels of 60%.
- However, this is above normal at this time of the year.



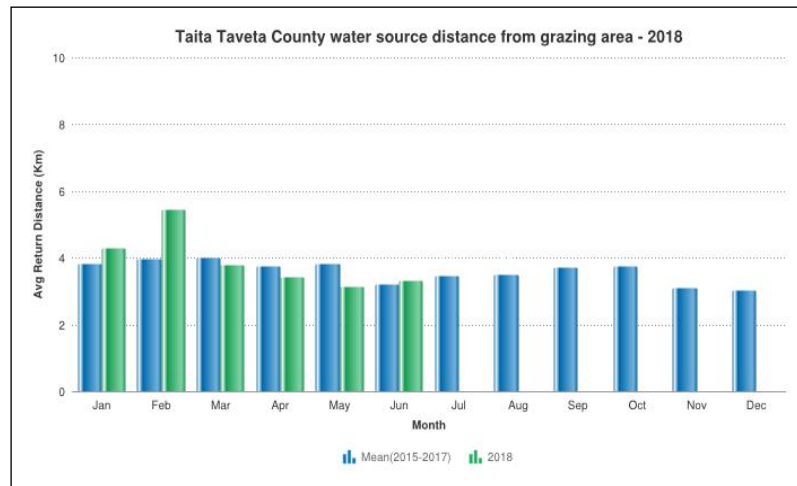
2.2.2 Household Access to Water

- Return distances to fetch water was 1.8 km representing 6% increase from the previous month.
- The slight rise was due to drying up of water storage facilities at household level and community open water sources with low capacities.
- Compared to the long term average the current distance is shorter by 21.7%.
- The average cost of 20 litre jerry can at water kiosks 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% rise from the previous month.
- This slight increase was due to drying up of low holding open water sources at closer proximity to grazing areas.
- However, pasture and browse was available 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

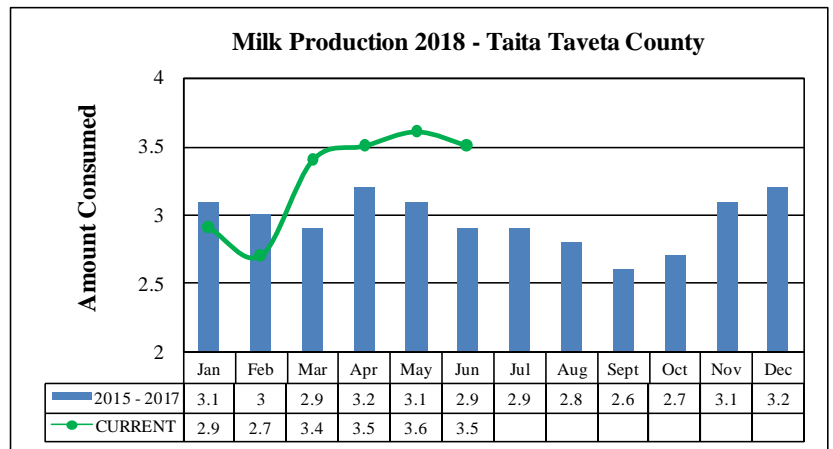
- In the mixed farming: horticulture/ dairy and mixed farming: irrigated cropping/ livestock livelihood zones cattle and goat body condition was good.
- In the mixed farming: food crop/livestock livelihood zones the cattle and goat body condition was good.
- Poultry production was good in the month under 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 slightly decreased by 2.8 percent to 3.5 litres compared the previous month and was above the long term average for the same period.
- Milk production was good 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

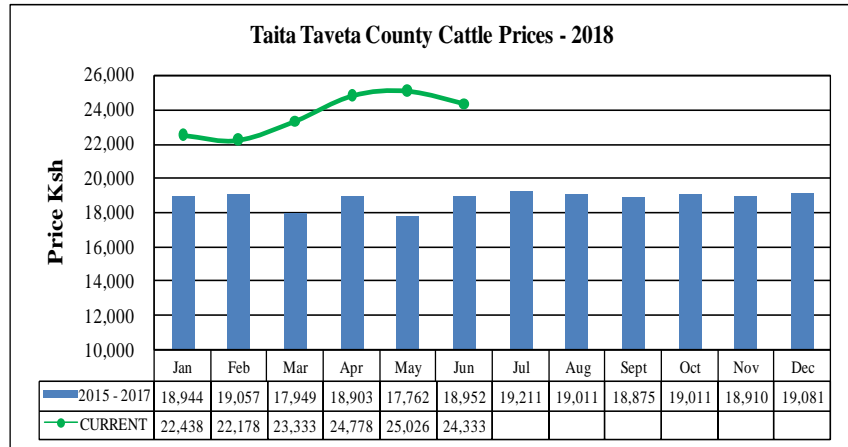
- In the mixed farming: food crop/ livestock livelihood zone farmers were harvesting maize, beans, green grams and cowpeas,
- In the mixed farming: horticulture/dairy livelihood zone farmers were harvesting beans and maize.
- In the mixed farming: Irrigated cropping/ livestock livelihood zone tomatoes, onions and beans are at the weeding stage.

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

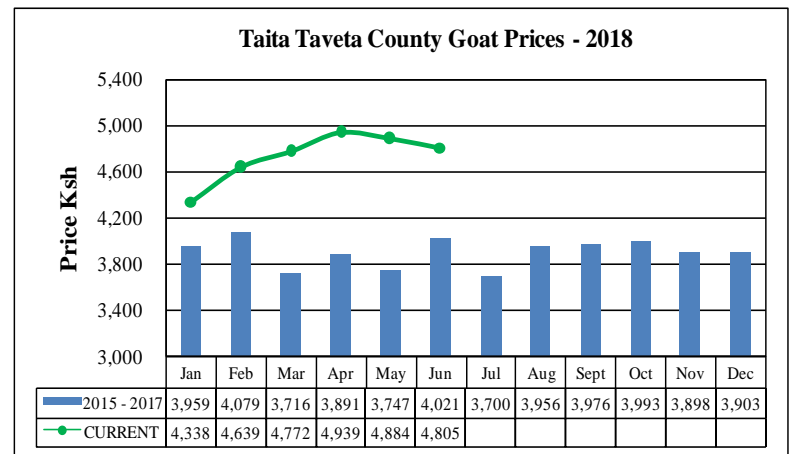
4.1.1 Cattle Prices

- The average market price of a three-year-old bull decreased by 2.8 percent to Kshs 24,333 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 28.4%.



4.1.2 Goat Prices

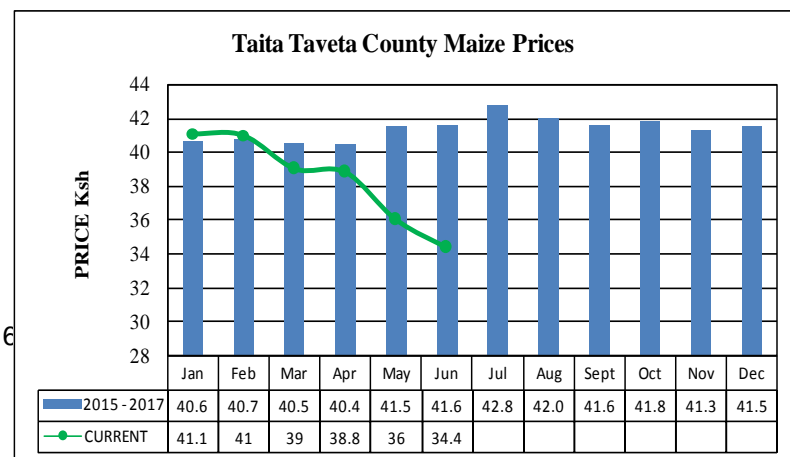
- The average market price of two-year goat dropped by 1.6 percent to Kshs 4,805 compared to the previous month.
- The price was above normal at this time of the year.
- The above LTM prices could be attributed to good body condition of goats in all livelihood zones plus hoarding by herders to sell later due to good rains that have promoted browse condition.
- Compared to long term mean, the average price was higher by 19.5%.



4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

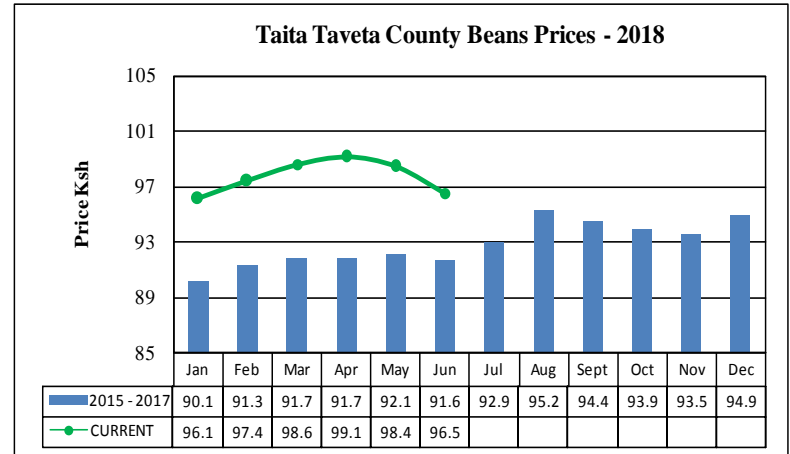
- The average market price of a kilo of maize decreased to Kshs 34.4 compared to the previous month indicative of 4.4% drop.
- The drop could be due to harvest being experienced in the county rendering low demand in the markets.



- 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. In the mixed farming: food crops/livestock livelihood zone (Mwakajo, Rukanga and Mwachawaza) reported prices at Ksh. 38 per kilo.
- Compared to the long term average the current price was below normal

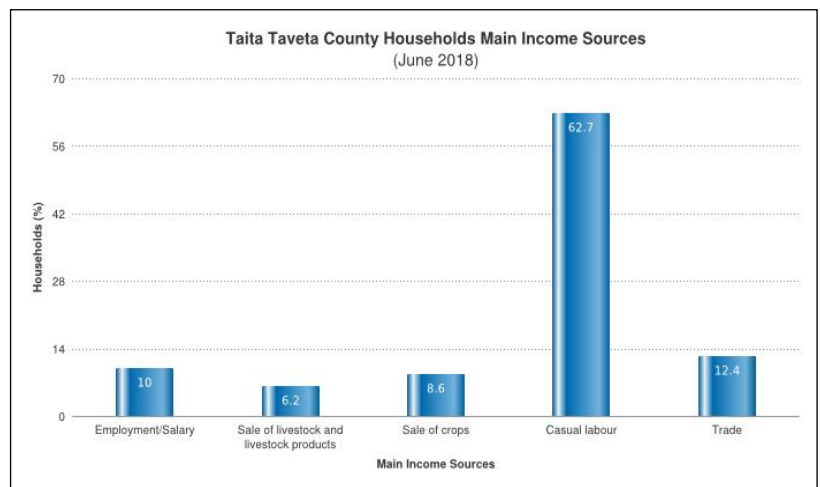
4.2.2 Beans

- Average price of a kilo of beans slightly dropped to Kshs 96.50
- 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 90 to 100 in Mwakajo, Mwachawaza and Rukanga markets.
- Compared to the long term mean the price was higher by 6.8%.



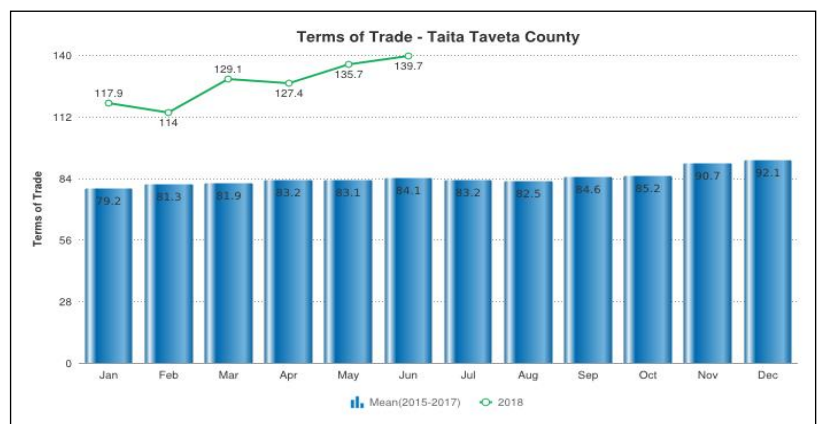
4.3 INCOME

- 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

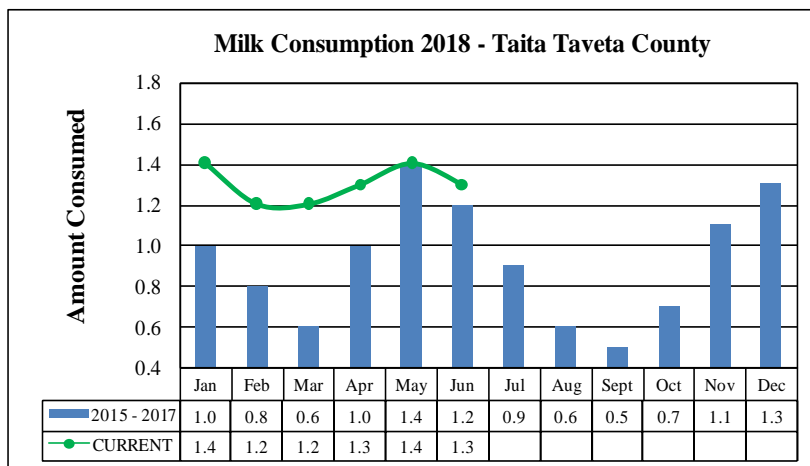
- Terms of trade were favourable and on an upward trend compared to the previous month.
- The current trend was attributed to high price of goats above LTM against gradual fall of maize price.
- Proceeds of sale of goat could purchase 139.7 kilograms of maize.
- Terms of Trade were above the LTM by 66.2 percent.



5. FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

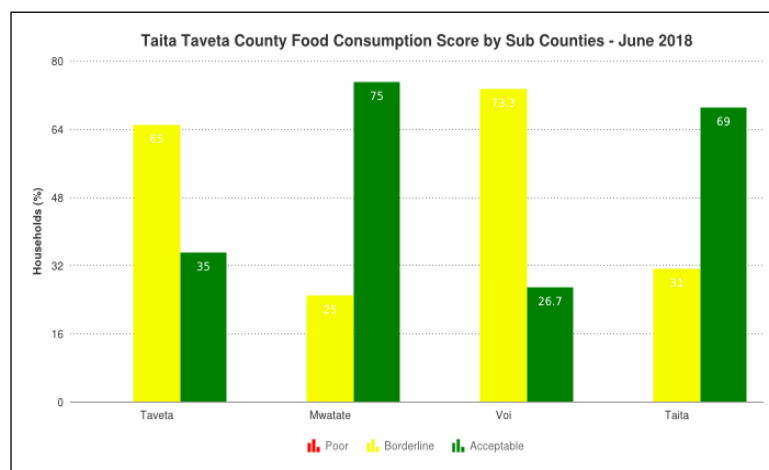
5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- The milk consumption per household per day decreased to 1.3 litres from 1.4 litres posted in the previous month.
- Milk consumption was high by 8.3 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

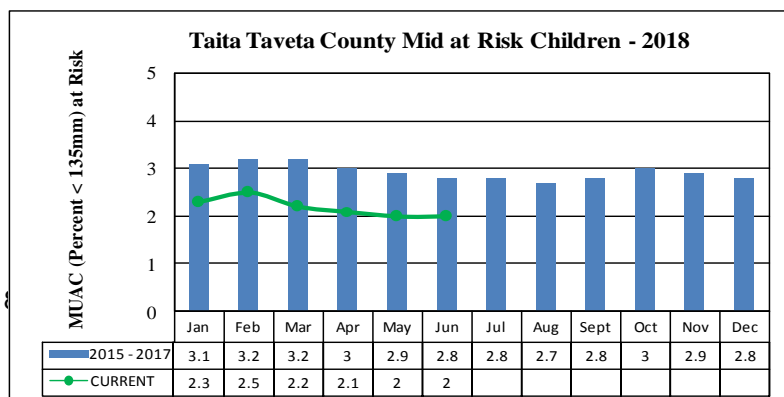
- Approximately 48.6 percent of households were in the acceptable food consumption score category indicating that they were consuming an acceptable diet in terms of meal frequency, dietary diversity, nutritional value and amount. The proportions of households under borderline food consumption category were 51.4 percent and 0.5 percent respectively.
- All sampled households consumed grains for seven days, while 94% of these households consumed pulses for an average of three days in a week. Milk was consumed for six days in a week by 21% of the sampled households.
- Availability of maize, pulses and vegetables has enhanced household nutrition.



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 2.8 percent.



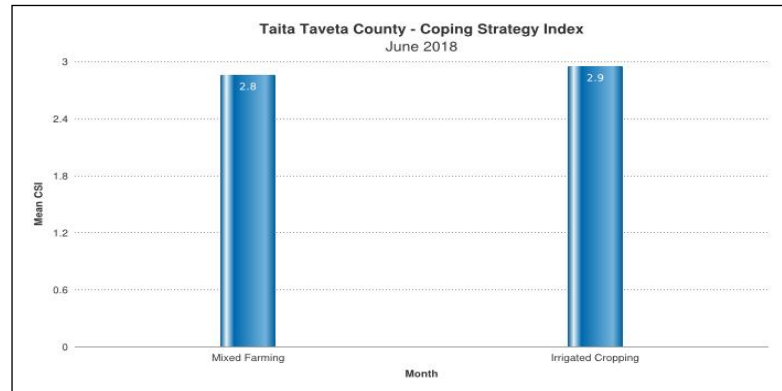
- Compared to long term mean the trend is normal.

5.3.2 Health

- Cases of fever with chills like malaria were at 2.2% compared to 3.6% that was posted in the previous month.

5.3.3 Coping Strategies

- The CSI for the month under review was recorded at 2.82 compared to 2.74 posted in the previous month.
- This slight increase demonstrates households were employing more coping strategies compared to previous month.
- Approximately 21 per cent of sampled households engaged in reduction of meals for two days in a week while 27 per cent reduced portion of meals.



6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 FOOD AND NON FOOD INTERVENTIONS

6.1.1 Sectoral

Intervention	Activities
Multi-Sectoral	
Ending Drought Emergencies SP5	• Development of Ward Contingency Plans ongoing
Social Protection	
Asset Creation Program	• Asset Creation program was ongoing

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 maize and pulses is ongoing and food security situation is expected to improve; water access has improved with recharge of water facilities, the harvested crop, availability of vegetables and livestock products like milk and eggs is expected to expand the dietary diversity. All this coupled with availability of clean and safe water will ultimately improve health and nutrition status of the community.
- Production of maize was adversely affected due to invasion of fall army worms, floods in Taveta Sub County and wildlife destruction.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

Agriculture and Livestock Sector

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

Water and Irrigation Sector

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

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 enhance drought contingency planning)