

National Drought Management Authority

GARISSA COUNTY

DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR SEPTEMBER 2017



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



SEPTEMBER EW PHASE



Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- The average vegetation condition index for the county reduced from 28.15 to 24.18 and fall in the moderate vegetation deficit category.
- The current average vegetation condition index is below the normal range of >35
- Dadaab and Balambala Sub Counties are in moderate vegetation deficit with an index of 23.24 and 26.84 respectively.
- Lagdera and Fafi Sub Counties are in severe vegetation deficit category with an index of 16.61 and 19.24 respectively
- Township and Ijara Sub Counties are in normal vegetation category with an index of 36.87 and 37.83 respectively
- Water sources currently in use are boreholes, River Tana, spring, water trucking and few water pans in the southern part of the county.

Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)

- The livestock body condition was scored at a scale of 4-5. This indicated poor body condition. The trend was attributed to reducing pasture and browse
- Milk production recorded 12.10 litres which indicate below the normal of 36 litres.
- The terms of trade recorded at 46kg of maize per sale of goat.
- Livestock in migration reported
- The return distance to water sources for livestock increased to 19.0km when compared with previous month. Children under five years at risk of malnutrition reduced from 23.5% to 19.9%. The mid at risk levels reduced increased from 13.2% to 16.2%.The moderately malnourished reduced from 12.34% to 1.86%.The severely malnourished children reduced from 4.6%. to 1.87%

Early Warning Phase Classification

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Alarm	Deteriorating
Pastoral cattle/sheep	Alarm	Deteriorating
Pastoral-all species	Alarm	Deteriorating
County	Alarm	Deteriorating
Biophysical Indicators	value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	Nil	80 -120
SPI-3Month (TAMSAT)		
VCI-3Month	24.18	>35
Forage condition		
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Crop Condition(specify crop)		
Livestock Body Condition	4-5	poor
Milk Production	12.10	36 litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	In migration	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	Some deaths	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	46	>66
Milk Consumption	5.3	36 litres
Return distance to water sources	19	<5 Km
Cost of water at source (20 litres)	5-10	<5Kshs
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	19.9%	<13.4
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)		
Food Consumption Score		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains harvests ▪ Short dry spell ▪ Reduced milk yields ▪ Increased HH Food Stocks ▪ migrations ▪ Land preparation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planting/Weeding ▪ Long rains ▪ High Calving Rate ▪ Milk Yields Increase ▪ Breeding period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Long rains harvests ▪ A long dry spell ▪ Land preparation ▪ Increased HH Food Stocks ▪ Kidding (Sept) ▪ Migrations ▪ Herd separations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short rains ▪ Planting/weeding ▪ High birth rates ▪ Wedding
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1. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

- Dry and hot weather condition prevailed virtually in all the livelihoods in the month under review
- However, off season showers were received in the southern parts of the county (Ijara and Fafi) for two days.

2. IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

2.1 VEGETATION CONDITION

2.1.1 Vegetation Condition Index (VCI)

- The average vegetation condition index for the county reduced from 28.15 to 24.18 and fall in the moderate vegetation deficit category.
- The current average vegetation condition index is below the normal range of >35
- Dadaab and Balambala Sub Counties are in moderate vegetation deficit with index of 23.24 and 26.84 respectively.
- Lagdera and Fafi Sub Counties are in severe vegetation deficit category with index of 16.61 and 19.24 respectively
- Township and Ijara Sub Counties are in normal vegetation category with an index of 36.87 and 37.83 respectively
- The matrixes below indicate the vegetation condition index for Fafi Sub County which indicates severe vegetation deficit category and Ijara Sub County with highest VCI average

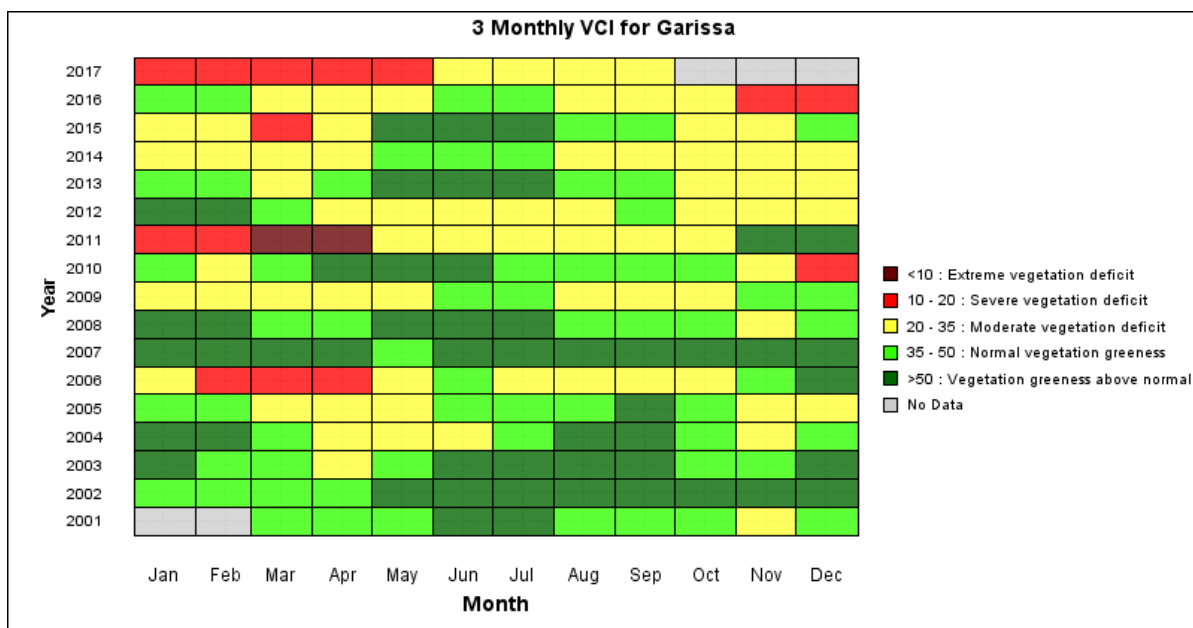
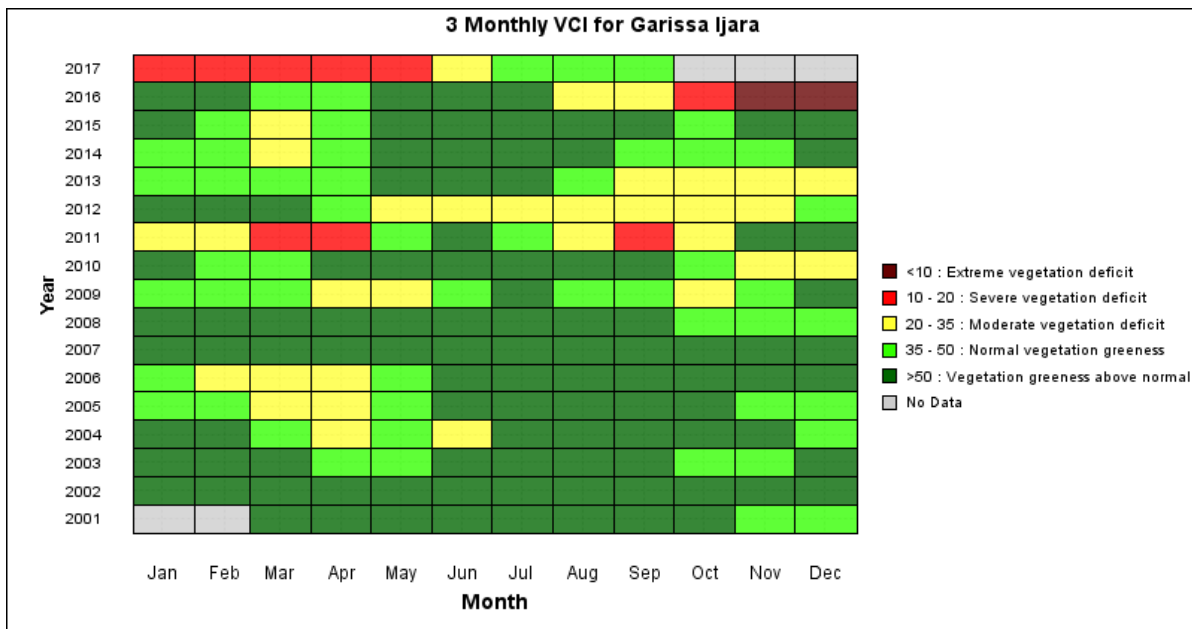
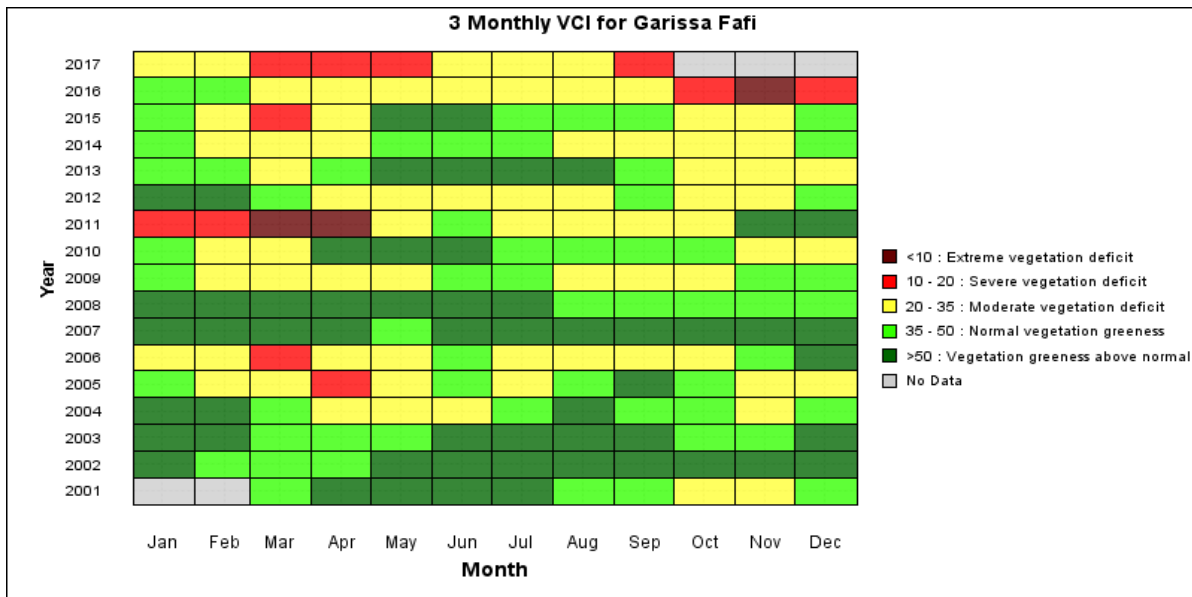


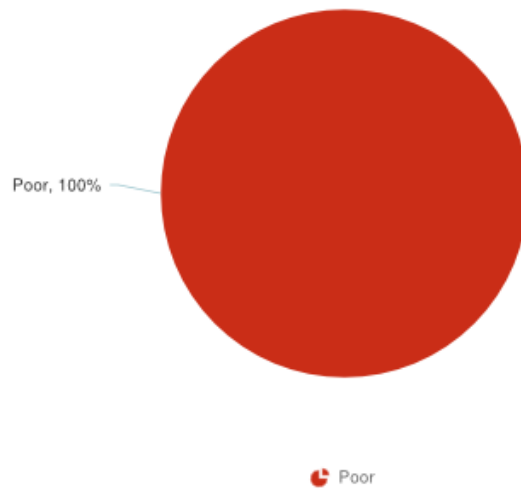
Figure 1: VCI Matrix for Garissa County, 2001 – 2017



.1.2 Pasture

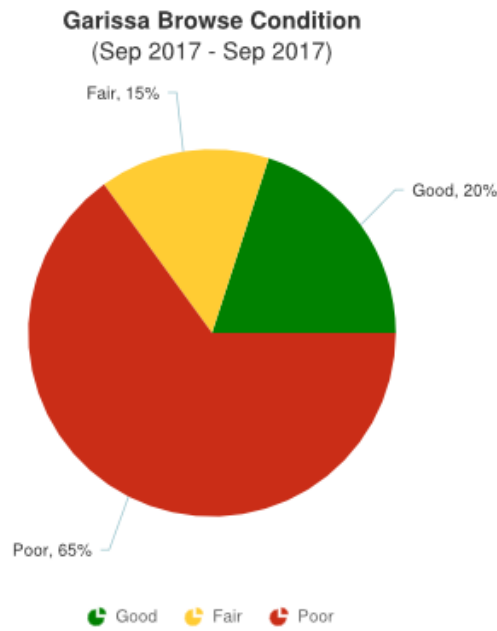
- Generally, the quality and quantity of pasture condition deteriorated virtually in the entire county in the reporting period.
- In this regard, 100% of communities sampled reported poor pasture condition in all the livelihood zones.
- The negative trend was attributed to the worsening drought situation compounded by livestock concentration that resulted overgrazing
- The pasture condition deteriorated when compared with previous month.
- Areas along Somalia border and Boni forest are inaccessible because of insecurity.

Garissa Pasture Condition
(Sep 2017 - Sep 2017)



2.1.3 Browse

- The quality and quantity of browse condition has deteriorated when compared with preceding month
- 65% of sampled households reported poor browse condition due to worsening drought situation while 15% reported poor browse.
- The browse condition is anticipated to deteriorate further as the dry spell continues to worsen.



2.2 WATER RESOURCE

2.2.1 Sources

The current water sources are boreholes, River, water pans, spring and water trucking.

2.2.2 Household access and Utilization-

- The average return distances from household to water sources increased from 9km in August to 13km in the month under review
- The increased distance was attributed to the drying up of nearby water pans thus forcing pastoralist to source water from far areas.
- However, the current distance is below the long term average
- The pastoral all species livelihood zone recorded the highest trekking distance for household's water access at 19km while agro pastoral livelihood zone had recorded the lowest distance at 11km.

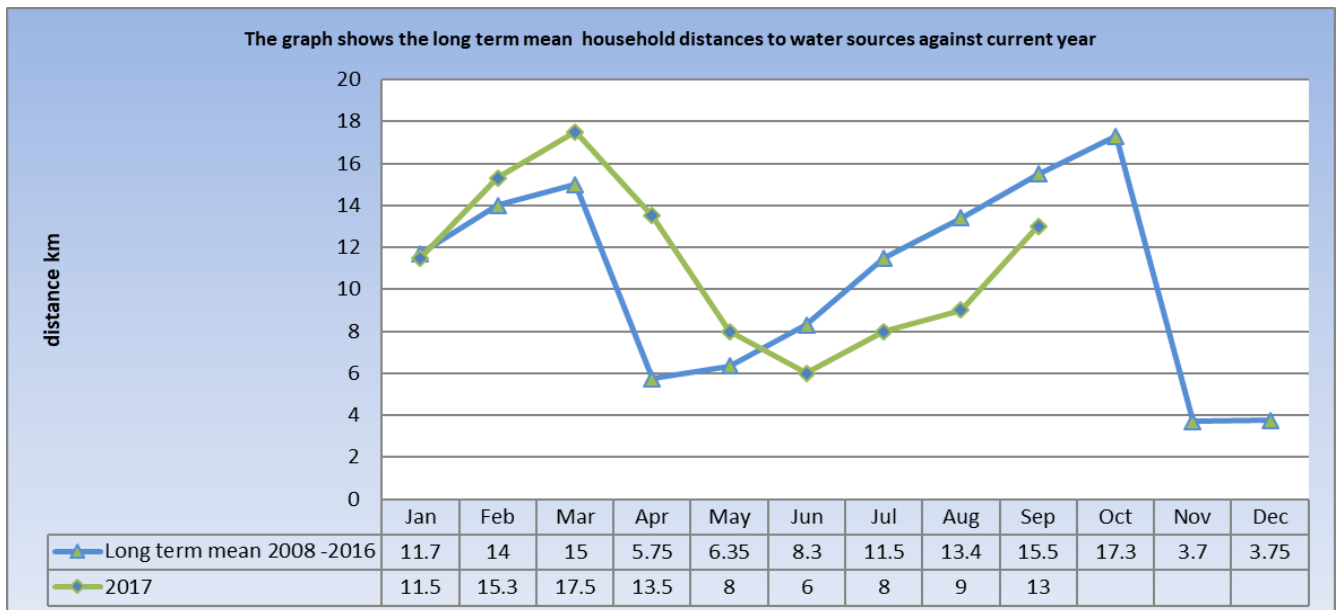


Figure 2: Trends of household distance to water sources for Garissa County, 2008 - 2017

2.2.3 Livestock access

- The average livestock return distances from grazing field to water sources increased from 17km to 19km in the month under review
- The increasing trend was attributed to diminishing forage from around water sources to the interior part of the rangeland.
- The current distance is slightly below the long term average for the month recorded at 20.8km
- Agro pastoral livelihood zone recorded the highest livestock trekking distance at 24km while Pastoral all species livelihood zone recorded the lowest distance at 17.8km

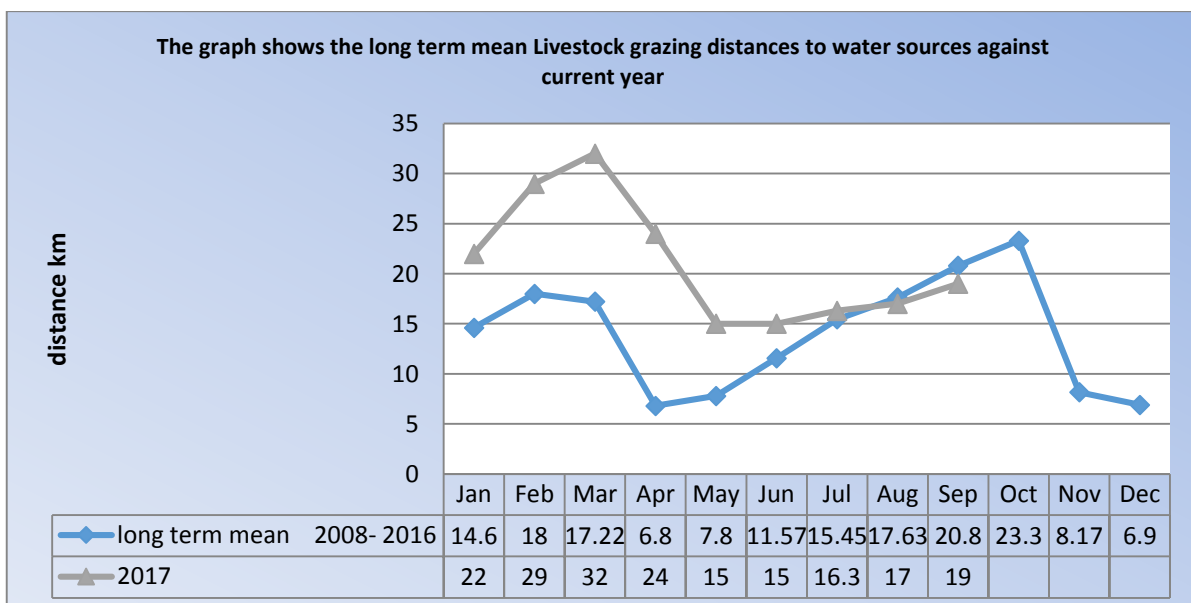


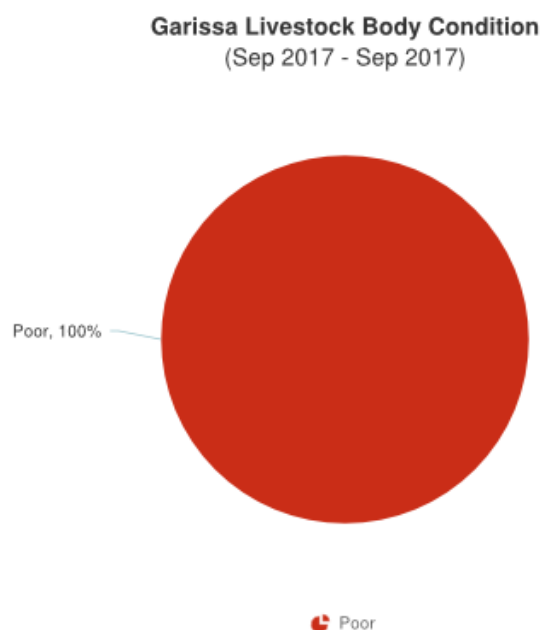
Figure 3: Trends of Livestock grazing distance to water sources for Garissa County, 2008 - 2017

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

- Generally, the livestock body condition for all species declined because of the worsening drought situation.
- 100 % of communities sampled reported poor livestock body condition.
- The body condition reduced when compared with preceding month. The negative trend was attributed to diminishing forage condition
- The fall back areas of Boni forest and areas along the borders with Somalia is inaccessible due to security operation and insecurity.
- The body condition is anticipated to deteriorate as the dry spell continues to worsen



3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

- No major outbreak of livestock diseases reported in the month under review
- However, cases of endemic diseases such as CCPP, Anaplasmosis and helminthiasis were reported in all the Sub Counties

3.1.3 Milk Production

- The average household milk production reduced from 14.4 litres to 12.10 litres in the month under review.
- The low milk production is attributed to decreasing livestock body condition because of inadequate forage availability
- The current production is below the long term average recorded at 18.27litres.
- The Agro pastoral livelihood zone recorded the highest milk production at 15.5 litres per household while Pastoral livelihood zone had recorded the lowest milk production at 9.5 litres
- The market price of 750ml bottles is Kshs100, the same for previous month.

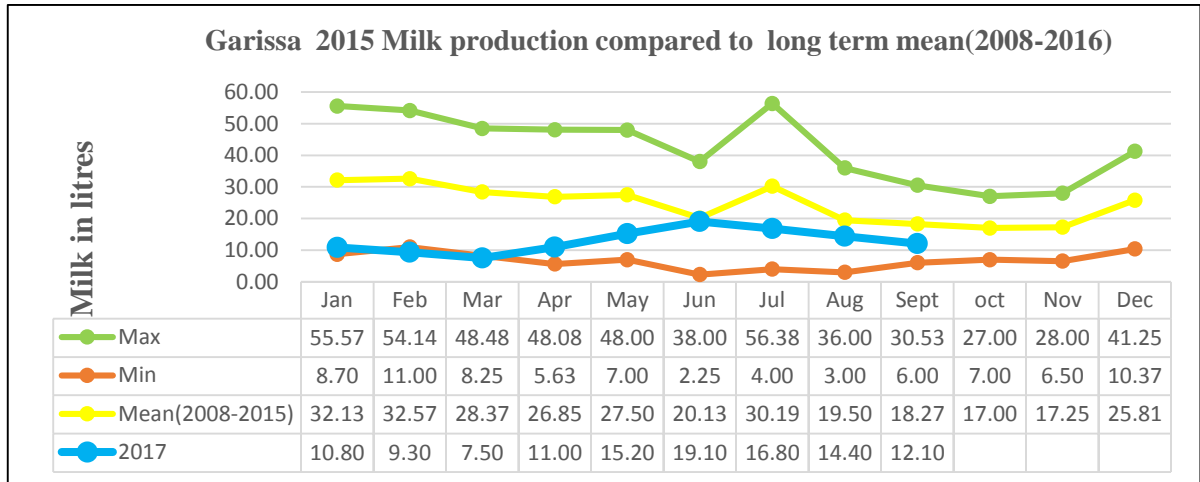


Figure 4: Trends of average milk production per households for Garissa County , 2008-2017

3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

3.2.1 Stage and Condition of food Crops

There were no crops planted in the month under review

4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

4.1 LIVESTOCK MARKETING

4.1.1 Cattle Prices

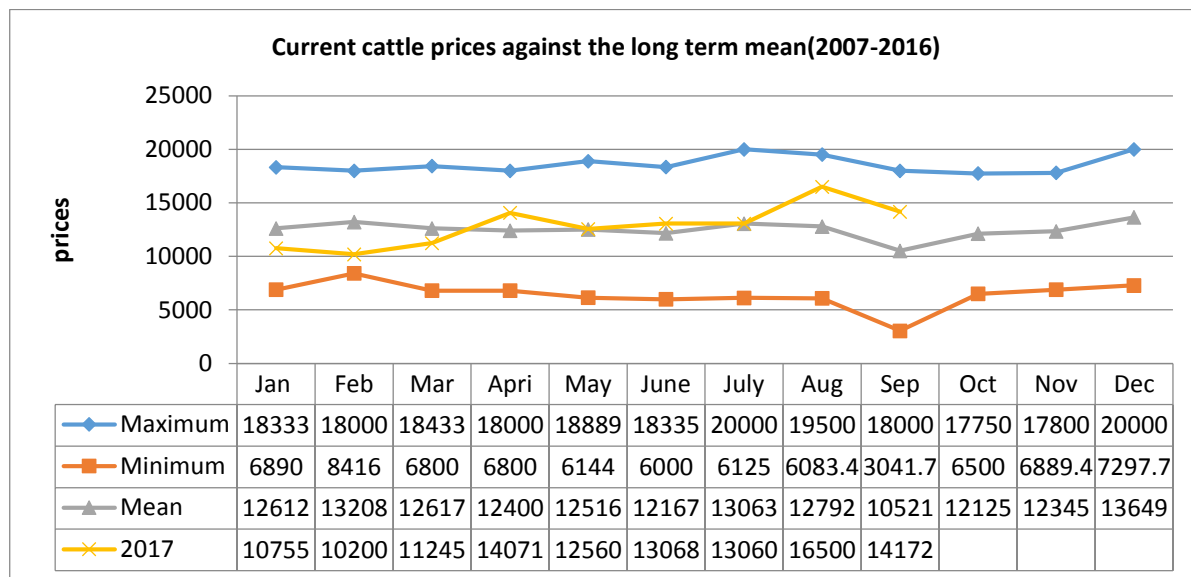


Figure 5: Trends of cattle prices for Garissa County, 2007-2017

- The average cattle price decreased from Kshs16,500 in August to 14,172 in the month under review
- The negative trend was attributed to declining livestock body condition because of the worsening drought situation.
- The current price is above the long term mean for the month recorded at Kshs10,521.
- The highest price was recorded in pastoral livelihood zone at ksh15,300 while Agro pastoral livelihood zone recorded the lowest price at Kshs14,437

4.1.2 Small Ruminants Prices (Goats)

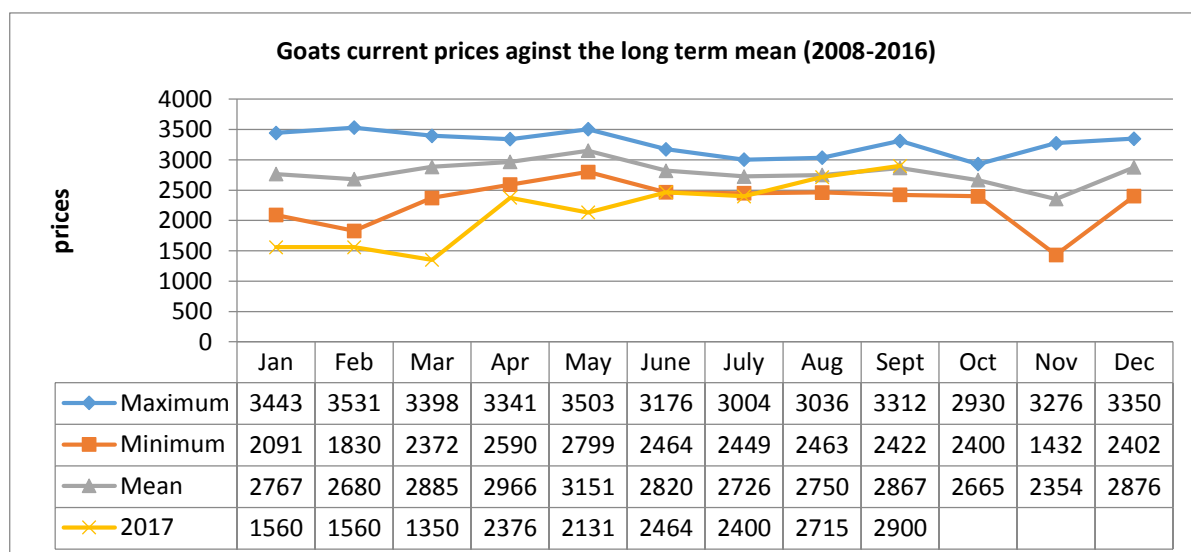


Figure 6: Trends of Goats prices for Garissa County, 2008-2016

- The average price of goats increased from kshs2715 to Kshs 2900 in the month under review
- The increased prices were attributed to increased demand occasioned by Iddi udha festival observed by Muslims
- The current average price is above the long term average price recorded at kshs2867
- Pastoral livelihood zone recorded the highest goat prices at Kshs 2982 while Agro Pastoral livelihood zone recorded the lowest average price of Kshs 2982

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

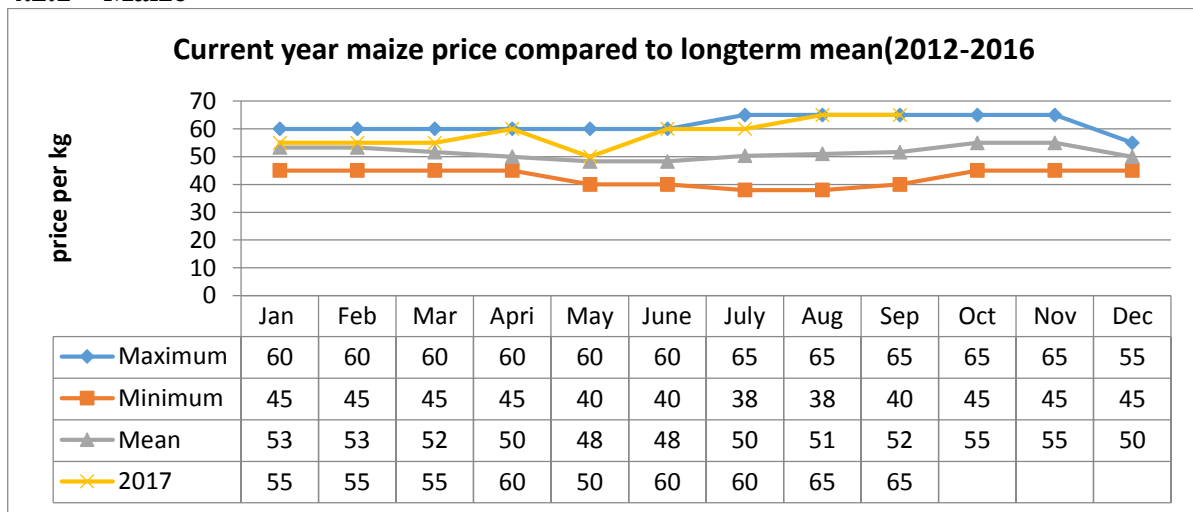


Figure 7: Trends of Maize prices for Garissa County, 2012-2017

- The average maize price for the month was stable at Kshs 65 per kg
- However, the average maize price for the month is higher than long term mean average recorded at ksh 52 and is the maximum price for the month.

4.2.2 Sifted Maize Meal

- The average price for sifted maize meal was stable at Kshs 100 across all the livelihoods
- The average price recorded was the same across the livelihoods zones.
- The current price is above the long term average and the maximum price reached for the period between 2013 -2016.thus negative impact on the purchasing powers of the pastoralist.

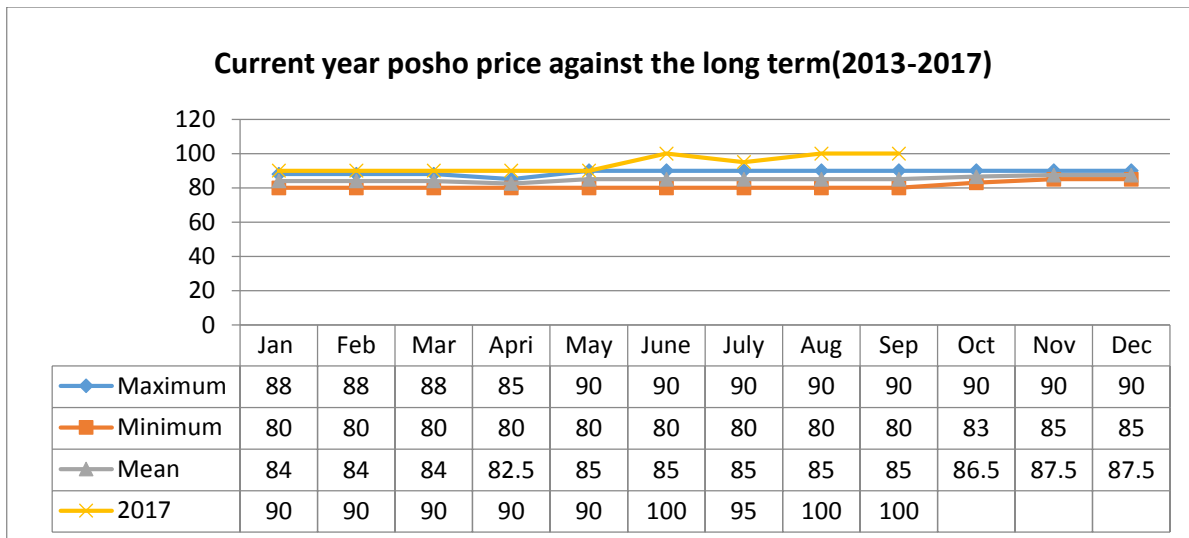


Figure 8: Trends of Sifted Maize Meal prices for Garissa County, 2013 -2017

Livestock Price Ratio/Terms of Trade

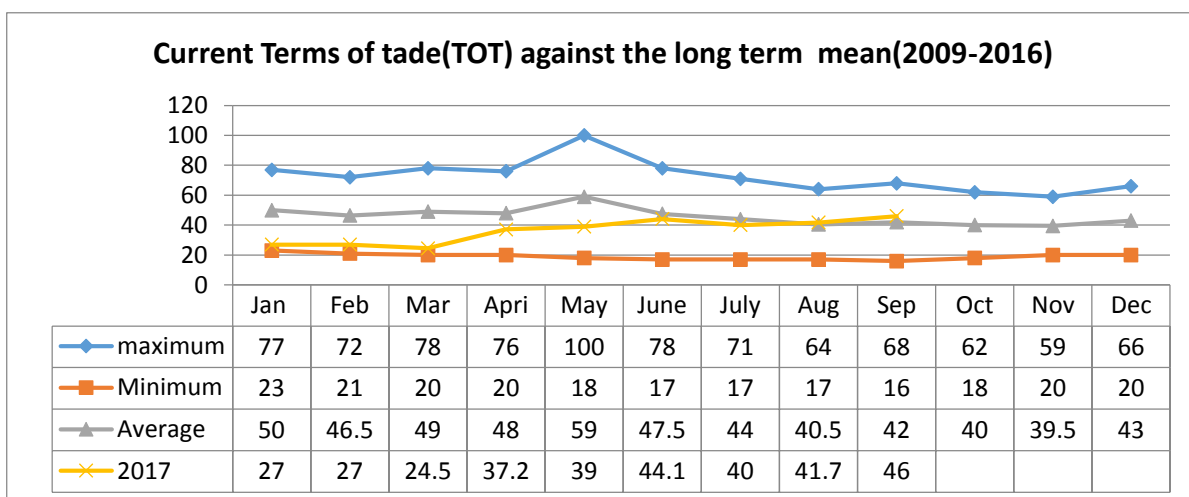


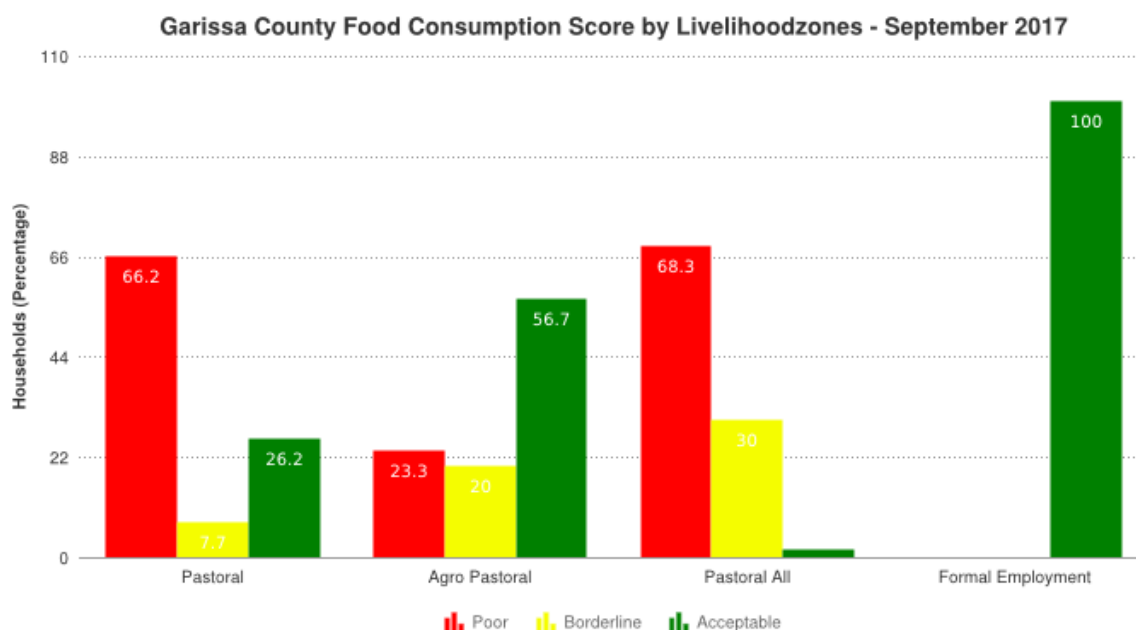
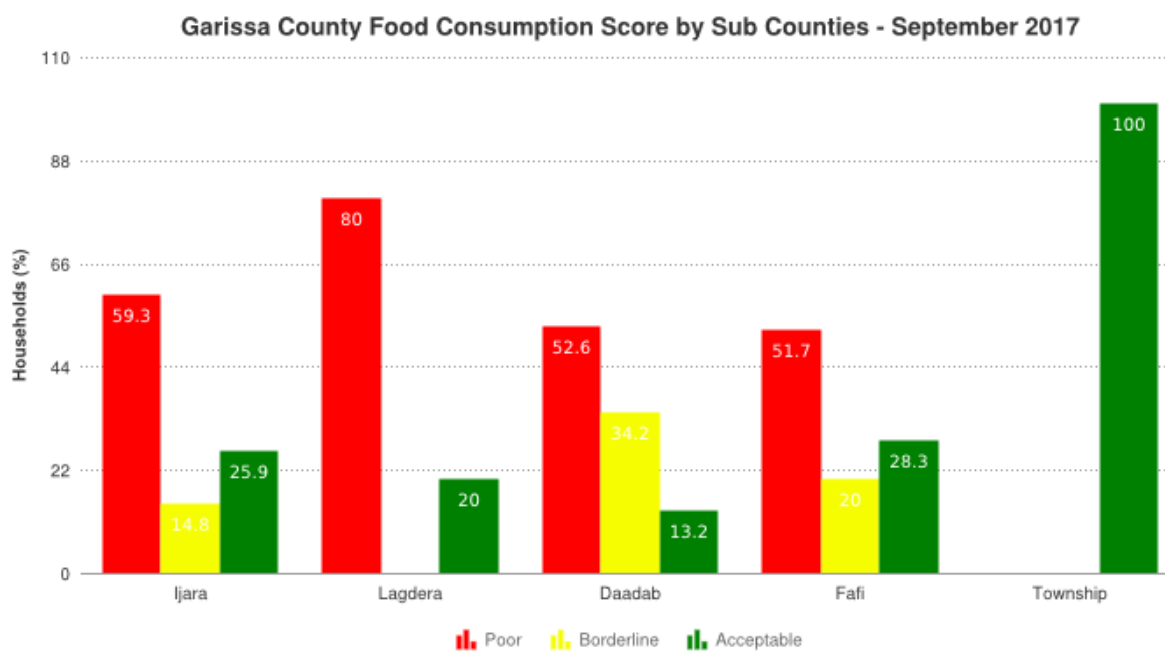
Figure 9: Trends of terms of trade for Garissa County, 2009-2017

- The terms of trade for pastoralist increased when compared with the previous month. The current recorded terms of trade are 46 kg per goat sold at farm gate price. The price at the main market is slightly higher but other cost involved in the process make it difficult for the pastoralist to access the same markets.
- The current terms of trade are above the long term average recorded at 42kg per goat sold.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

- The food consumption score for the month indicated 60.9% of households are in poor, 20% are in borderline while 10.1% of households are in acceptable level.
- Lagdera Sub County has the highest households with poor food consumption score at 80% while Fafi Sub County has the lowest recorded at 51.7%.
- The pastoral All species livelihood zones have highest number of household with poor food consumption score at 66.3%. While the Agro pastoral livelihood recorded the lowest no household with poor food consumption score at 23.3%.
- The charts below show the comparison of the food consumption score based on livelihood zones and by sub counties



5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION

- The average milk consumption per household reduced from 6.1 to 5.3 in the month of September.
- The decreased milk consumption rate was attributed to low milk production because of deteriorating livestock body condition occasioned by poor forage
- The current milk consumption per household is below the long term average recorded at 16.55

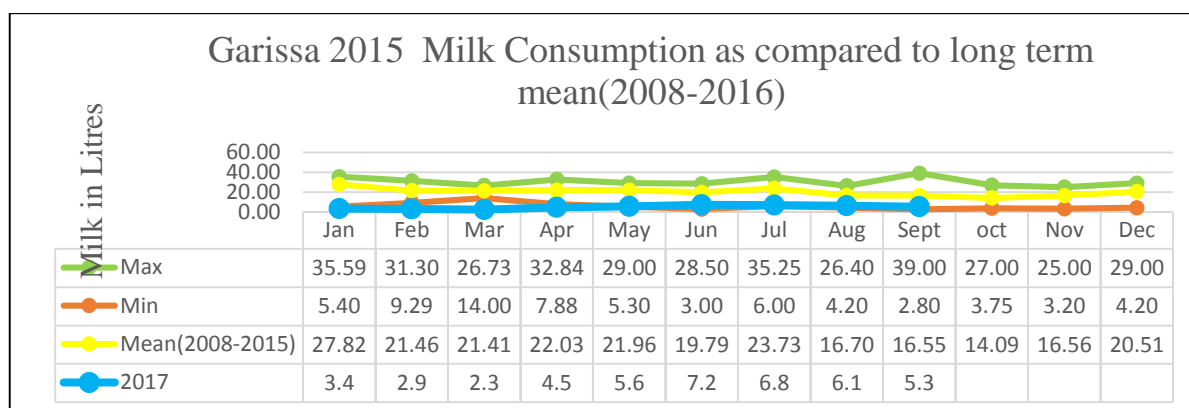


Figure 10: Trends of Milk consumption for Garissa County, 2008-2016

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The malnutrition rate of children under five years at risk based on MUAC decreased from 23.5% to 19.9% in the month under review. However, the mid at risk levels increased from 13.2% to 16.2%
- Moderately malnourished level reduced from 12.34% to 1.86% while severely malnourished category reduced from 4.6% to 1.87%
- The reduced malnutrition levels were attributed to the on-going interventions undertaken by the stakeholders
- The current average malnutrition level was above the long term average recorded at 13.9%

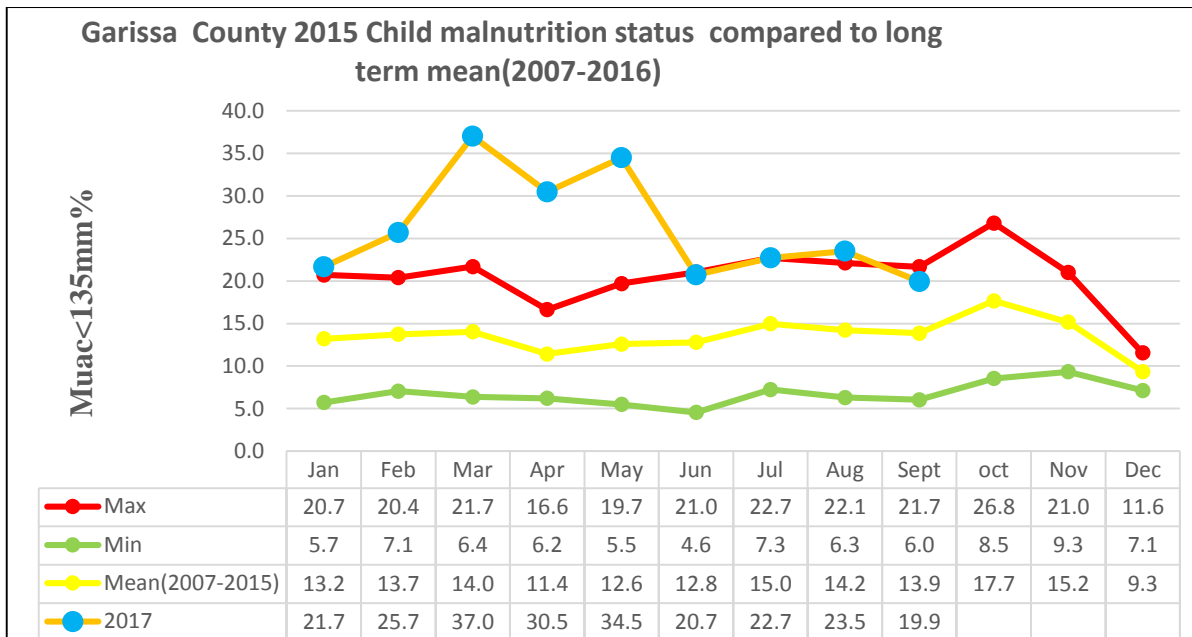


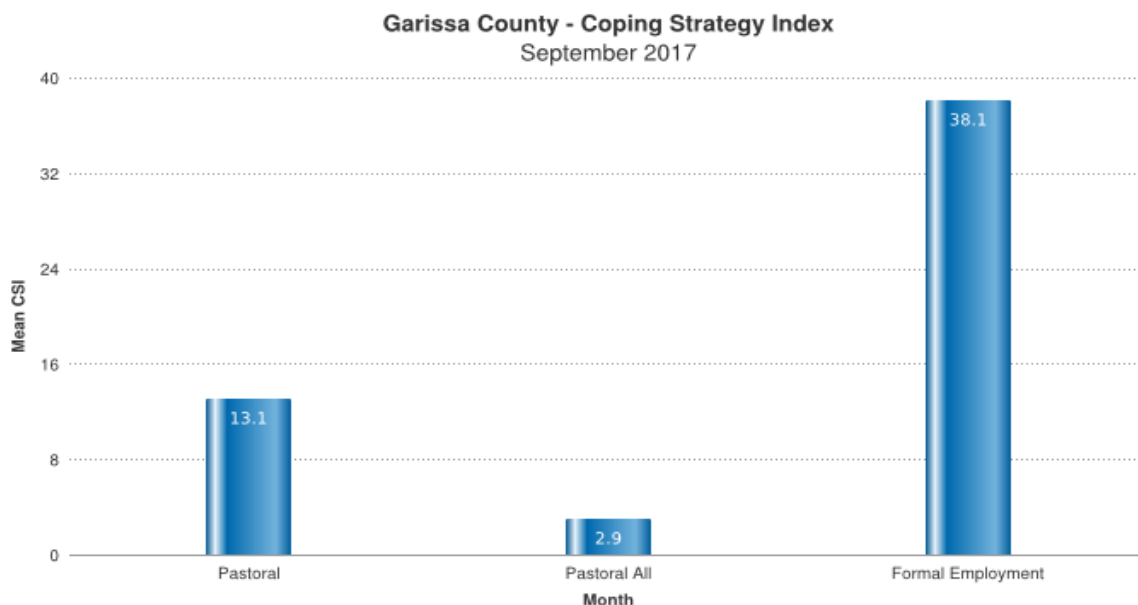
Figure 11: Trends in the proportion of U5 at risk of malnutrition in Garissa County, 2007 – 2016

5.3.2 Health

- There was no outbreak of major disease reported during the month.
- However, there were cases of diarrhoea, upper respiratory tract infection and urinary tract infection and malaria reported in most of the health facilities

5.4 COPING STRATEGIES INDEX

- The average coping strategies index for the county decreased 19.5 to 18
- The formal employment livelihood zone has the highest index at 38.1 while pastoral all species livelihood zone recorded the lowest at 2.9
- The graphs below show the mean copying strategy based on the livelihood zones.



The coping strategies adopted by the pastoralist included;

- Reduce household meals and number of meals per day.
- Charcoal burning and sale of wood product in the agro pastoral and formal employment livelihood zone
- Borrowing of credit from petty traders
- Herd separation
- Herding

6. CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 NON-FOOD INTERVENTION

- Water trucking to Lagdera sub county by NDMA and Islamic relief
- Cash transfer programme for poor and needy households by KRCS supported by WFP and GOK.
- Desilting and construction of new water pans
- Health Outreach Services

6.2 FOOD AID

- Food distribution by Muslim charity groups and Islamic relief organization.
- GOK food distribution by the respective deputy county commissioners.
- Supplementary feeding programme for the management of malnutrition in the health facilities
- Food for asset food distribution to the beneficiaries through work norm verification.

7. EMERGING ISSUES

7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement

There were no reported cases of conflict over resource utilization and human displacement in the month under review.

7.2 Migration

Livestock migration from the dry grazing areas in Boni forest and Somalia border back to settlement areas within the sub counties was reported because of insecurity.

7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS

- The drought stage is Alarm and the trend is worsening.
- The livestock body condition is currently poor and is anticipated to deteriorate further as the dry spell continue
- Major water sources such as pans/dams have dried up thus putting pressure on other permanent water sources such as boreholes.
- Livestock trekking distances to water sources is increasing tremendously which has negative impact on livestock body condition and production performance.
- The livestock prices are expected to decrease because of poor body condition which will in turn impact negatively on food security

- The deteriorating trend has negative food security impact for the county

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- The next two months is critical for the livestock sector we therefore need to cushion the pastoralist from losses through provision of livestock supplementary feed for the lactating and small stock.
- Upscale the food ration for the vulnerable households under the FFA and general food distribution.
- Expansion of pasture and fodder production initiatives along River Tana
- Provide fuel subsidy for strategic boreholes and areas that require urgent support.
- Livestock insurance Index
- Provide supplementary feeding for malnourished children
- Upscale water trucking