

National Drought Management Authority

GARISSA COUNTY

DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR OCTOBER 2017



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



OCTOBER EW PHASE



Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification

Biophysical Indicators

- The average vegetation condition index for the county increased from 24.18 to 30.99 and fall in the moderate vegetation deficit category.
- The current average vegetation condition index is below the normal range of >35
- Balambala and Lagdera Sub Counties are in severe vegetation deficit category with an index of 12.38 and 13.24 respectively. Dadaab is also in severe vegetation deficit category with an index of 17.75
- Fafi and Township Sub Counties are in normal vegetation deficit with an index of 37.65 and 49.58 respectively.
- Ijara Sub County has a vci of 52.41 which indicates vegetation greenness above normal
- 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 condition
- Milk production recorded 10.40 litres which indicate below the normal of 36 litres.
- The terms of trade recorded at 50kg of maize per sale of goat.
- Livestock in-migration was reported
- The return distance to water sources for livestock slightly increased from 19km to 19.8km in the month under review.
- The malnutrition rate of children under five years at risk based on MUAC increased from 19.9% to 20% in the month under review

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	30.99	>35
Forage condition		
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Crop Condition(specify crop)		
Livestock Body Condition	4-5	poor
Milk Production	10.40	36litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	In migration	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	50	>66
Milk Consumption	5.1	36 litres
Return distance to water sources	19.8	<5 Km
Cost of water at source (20 litres)	5-10	<5Kshs
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	20%	<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

- The 2017 short rains started on 25th October 2017 in the entire county
- It only rained for two days virtually in all livelihoods
- The rain was unevenly distributed in time and space
- The onset of October, November and December 2017 short rain delayed as it was supposed to start in the first of October
- But most the water pans and natural ponds impounded substantial volumes of water especially in areas where mild to moderate rainfall was received

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 24.18 to 30.99 and fall in the moderate vegetation deficit category.
- The current average vegetation condition index is below the normal range of >35
- Balambala and Lagdera Sub Counties are in severe vegetation deficit category with an index of 12.38 and 13.24 respectively. Dadaab is also in severe vegetation deficit category with an index of 17.75
- Fafi and Township Sub Counties are in normal vegetation deficit with an index of 37.65 and 49.58 respectively.
- Ijara Sub County has a vci of 52.41 which indicates vegetation greenness above normal
- The matrixes below indicate the vegetation condition index for Balambala Sub County which indicates severe vegetation deficit category and Ijara Sub County with highest VCI average

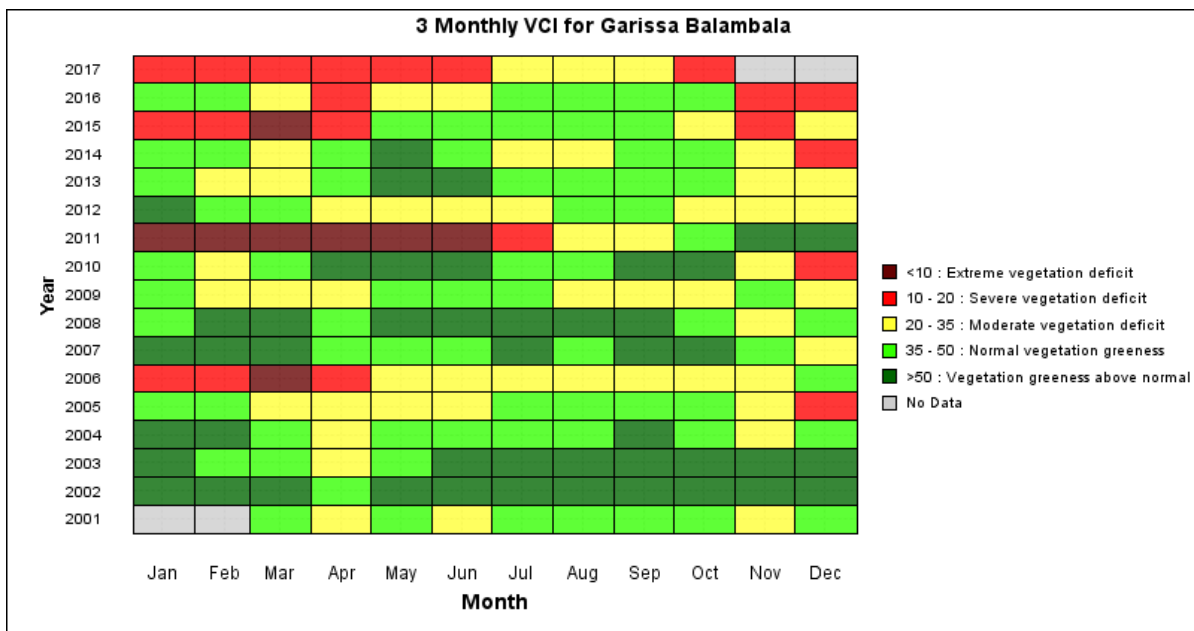
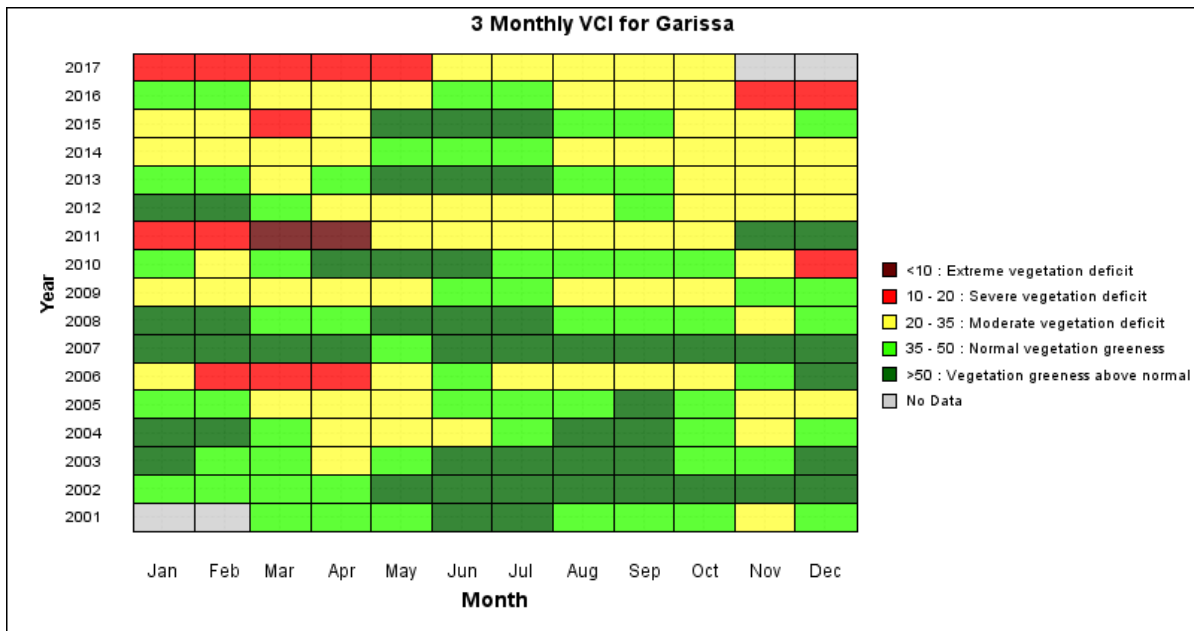
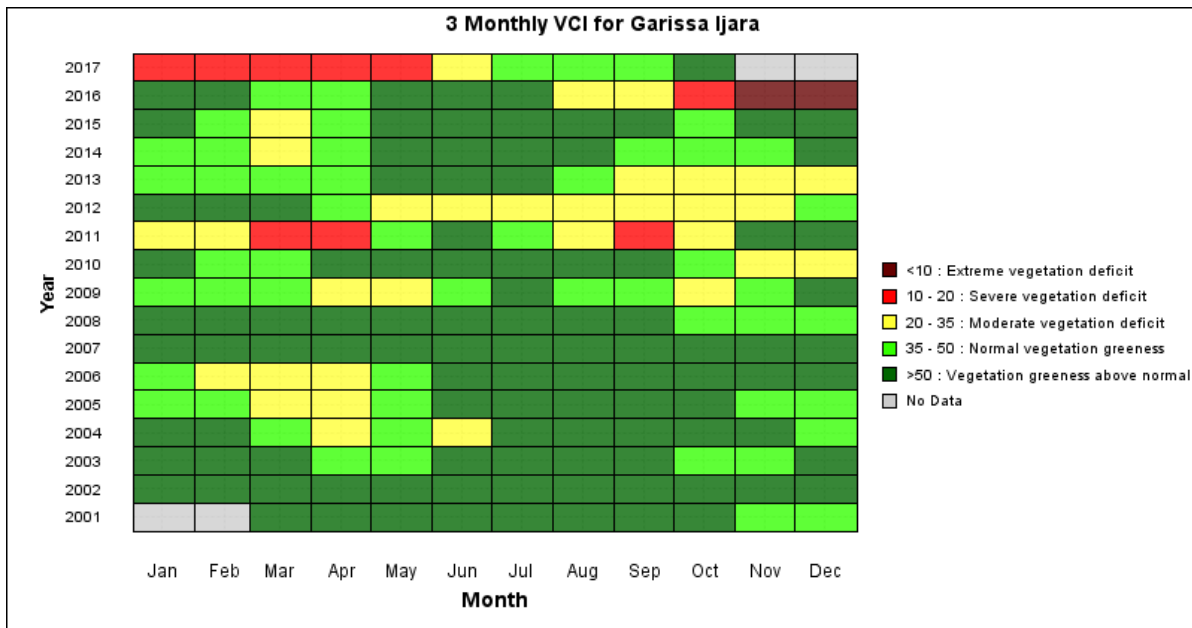
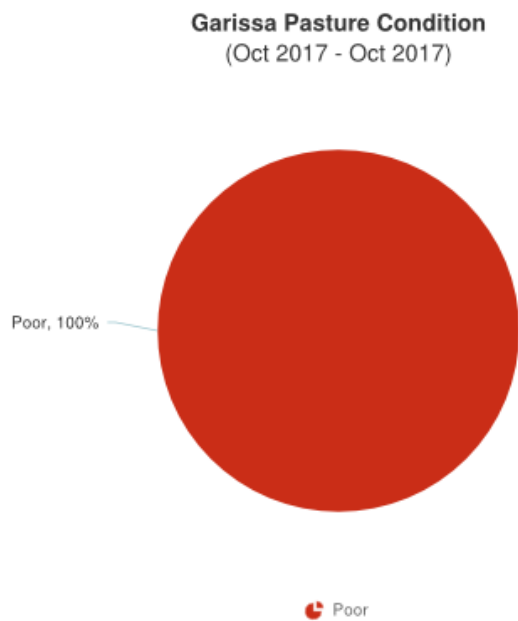


Figure 1: VCI Matrix for Garissa County, 2001 – 2017



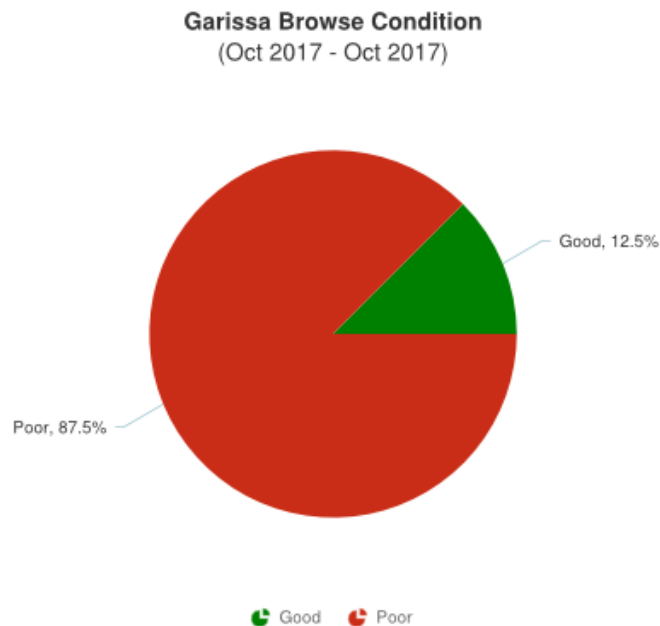
.1.2 Pasture

- Generally, 100% of sampled communities reported poor pasture condition virtually in all the livelihoods
- The quality and quantity of pasture deteriorated when compared with previous month
- The negative trend was attributed to worsening drought situation and pressure from livestock concentration around the grazing field



2.1.3 Browse

- 87.5% of sampled communities reported poor browse condition across all the livelihoods while 12.5% reported good browse condition
- The quality and quantity of browse condition has deteriorated when compared with preceding month. The downward trend is attributed to the worsening drought situation
- The browse condition is anticipated to sustain pastoralist for one week



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 13km in September to 14km in the month under review
- The increased distance was as a result of drying up of water pans thus forcing pastoralist to seek alternative sources of water from far distance areas.
- However, the current distance is below the long term average recorded at 17.3
- The pastoral all species livelihood zone recorded the highest trekking distance for household's water access at 19.5 km while agro pastoral livelihood zone had recorded the lowest distance at 12km.

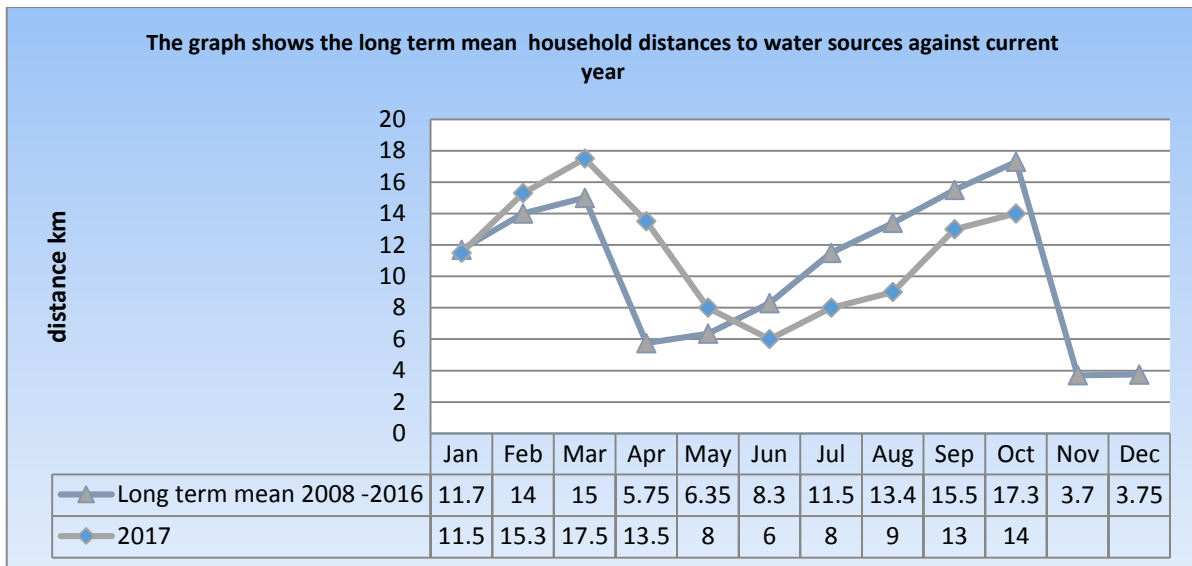


Figure 2: Trends of household distance to water sources for Garissa County, 2008 – 2017

2.2.3 Livestock access

- The average livestock return distances from grazing field to water sources increased from 19km to 19.8km in the month under review
- The increasing trend was attributed to diminishing forage availability around water sources that compelled pastoralist to drive their animals into the far interior part of the rangeland.
- The current distance is slightly below the long term average for the month recorded at 23.3km
- Pastoral all species livelihood zone recorded the highest livestock trekking distance at 26km while Agro Pastoral livelihood zone recorded the lowest distance at 19km

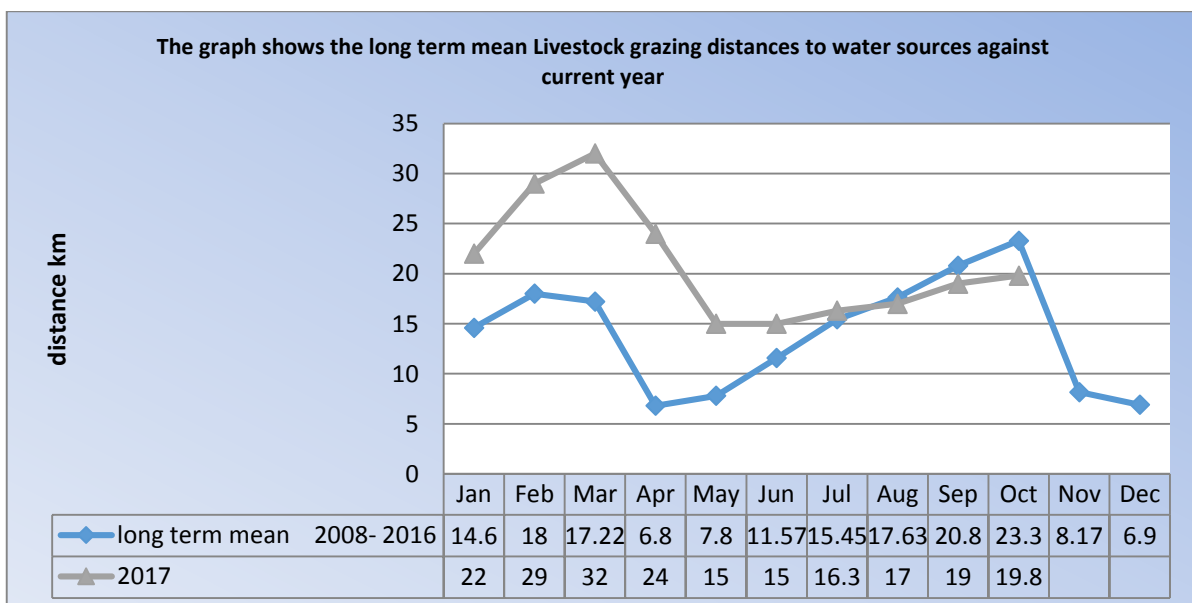
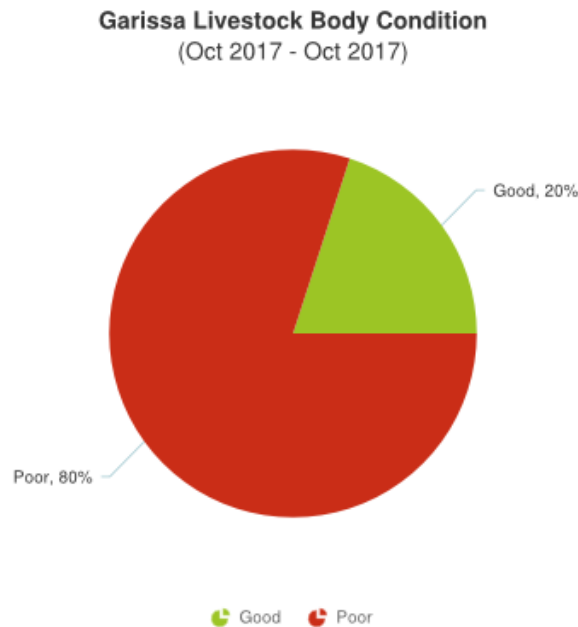


Figure 3: Trends of Livestock grazing distance to water sources for Garissa County, 2008 - 2017

3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

3.1 LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

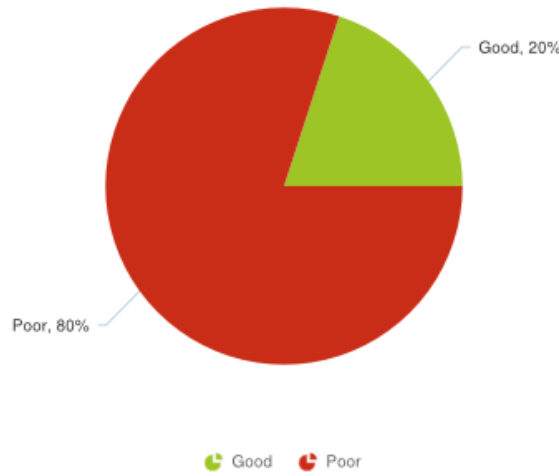


- Generally, the livestock body condition for all species declined because of the worsening drought situation.
- 80 % of communities sampled reported poor livestock body condition while 20% reported good body condition.
- The livestock body condition recorded deteriorating trend when compared with preceding month. The negative trend was attributed to the worsening drought that had effect on forage condition
- The fall back areas of Boni forest and areas along the borders with Somalia is inaccessible due to security operation and insecurity.

3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

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

Garissa Livestock Body Condition
(Oct 2017 - Oct 2017)



3.1.3 Milk Production

- The average household milk production reduced from 12.10 litres to 10.40 litres in the month under review.
- The reduced milk production is associated to declined livestock body condition because of inadequate forage availability
- The current production is below the long term average recorded at 17litres.
- 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.

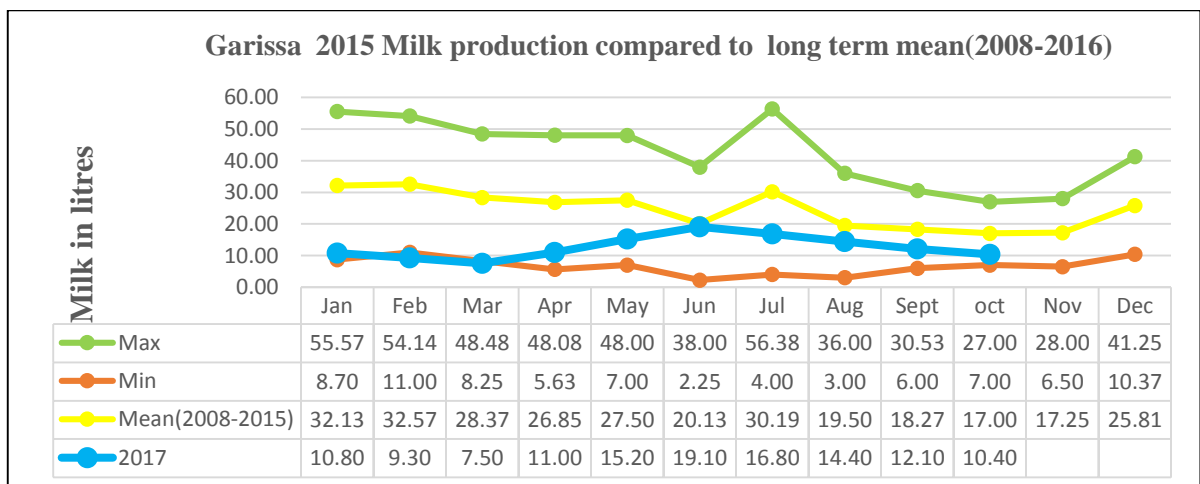


Figure 4: Trends of average milk production per households for Garissa County, 2008-2017

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

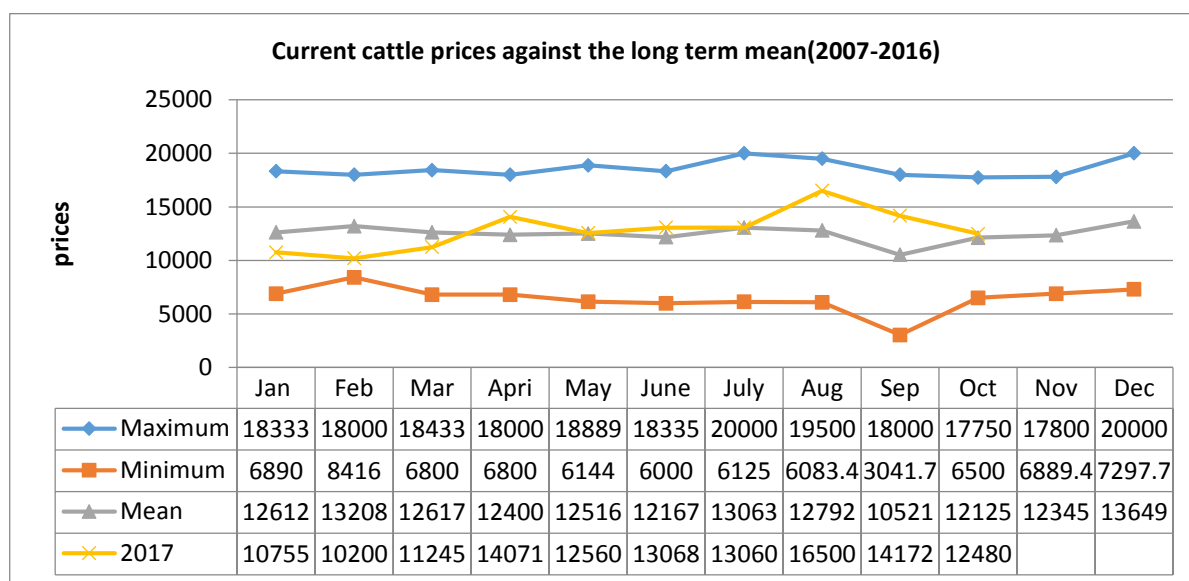


Figure 5: Trends of cattle prices for Garissa County, 2007-2017

- The average cattle price decreased from ksh 14,172 to ksh 12,480 in the month under review
- The negative trend was attributed to declined livestock body condition because of the worsening drought situation.
- The current price is above the long term mean for the month recorded at kshs12,125.
- The highest price was recorded in Agro pastoral livelihood zone at ksh15,300 while pastoral livelihood zone recorded the lowest price at ksh 12,500

4.1.2 Small Ruminants Prices (Goats)

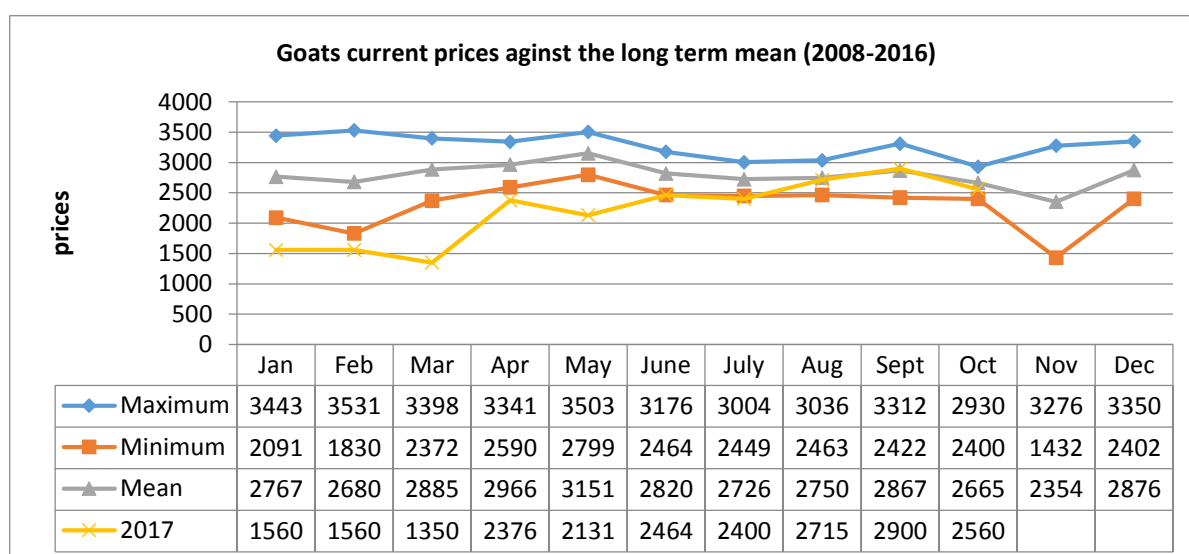


Figure 6: Trends of Goats prices for Garissa County ,2008-2016

- The average price of goats decreased from ksh 2900 to ksh 2560 in the month under review
- The decreased goats price was attributed to reduced body condition because of the worsening drought situation and lack of prospective buyers in the market
- The current average price is below the long term average price recorded at ksh 2665
- Agro Pastoral livelihood zone recorded the highest goat prices at ksh 2560 while Pastoral livelihood zone recorded the lowest average price of ksh 3010

4.2 CROP PRICES

4.2.1 Maize

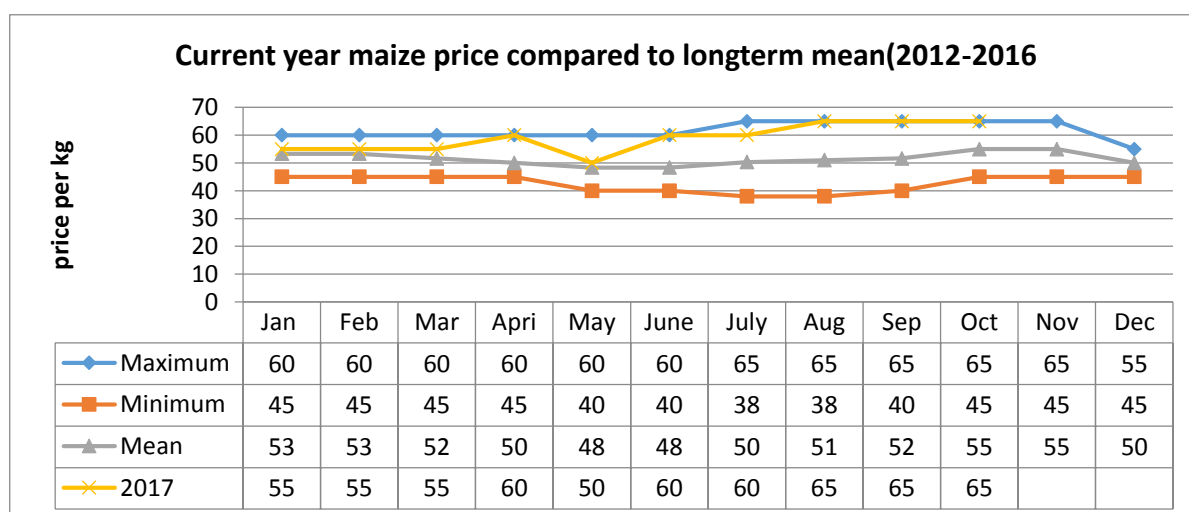


Figure 7: Trends of Maize prices for Garissa County, 2012-2017

- The average maize price for the month was stable at ksh 65 per kg
- However, the average maize price for the month is higher than long term mean average recorded at ksh 55

4.2.2 Sifted Maize Meal

- The average price for sifted maize meal was stable at ksh 100
- The average price recorded was the same across the livelihoods zones.
- The current price is above the long term average recorded at ksh 86.5

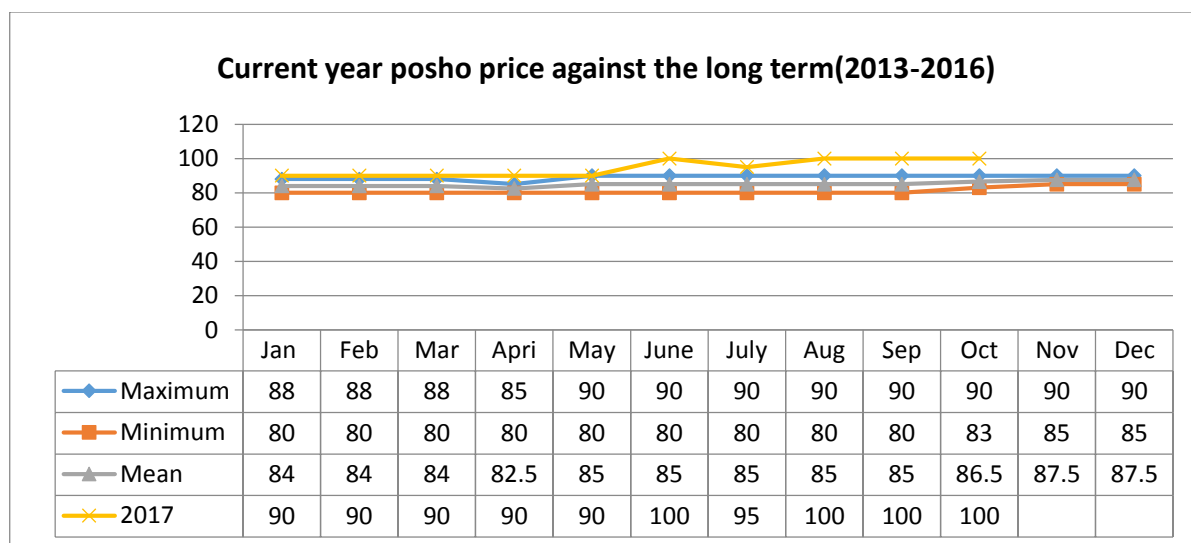


Figure 8: Trends of Sifted Maize Meal prices for Garissa County, 2013 -2017

Livestock Price Ratio/Terms of Trade

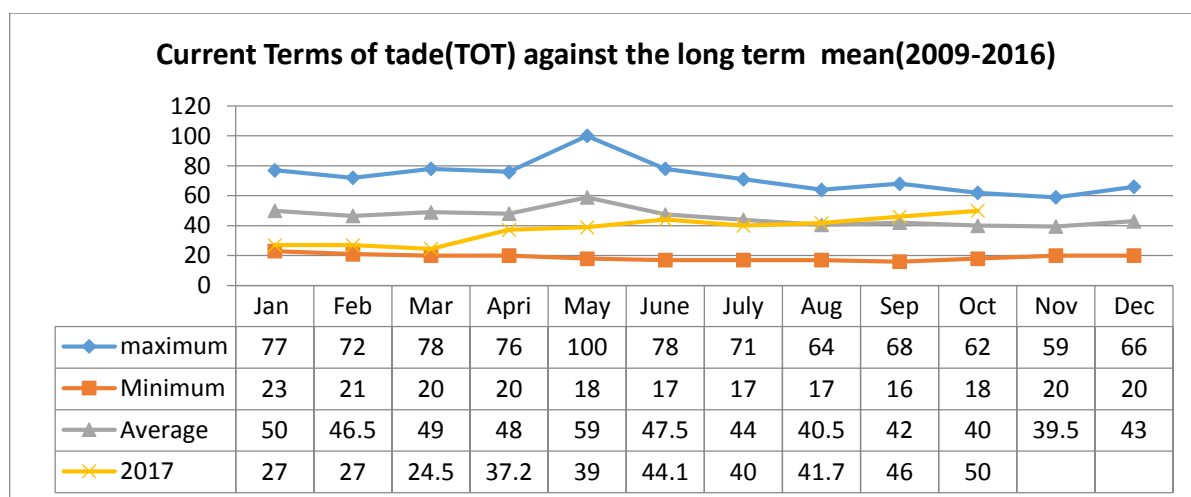


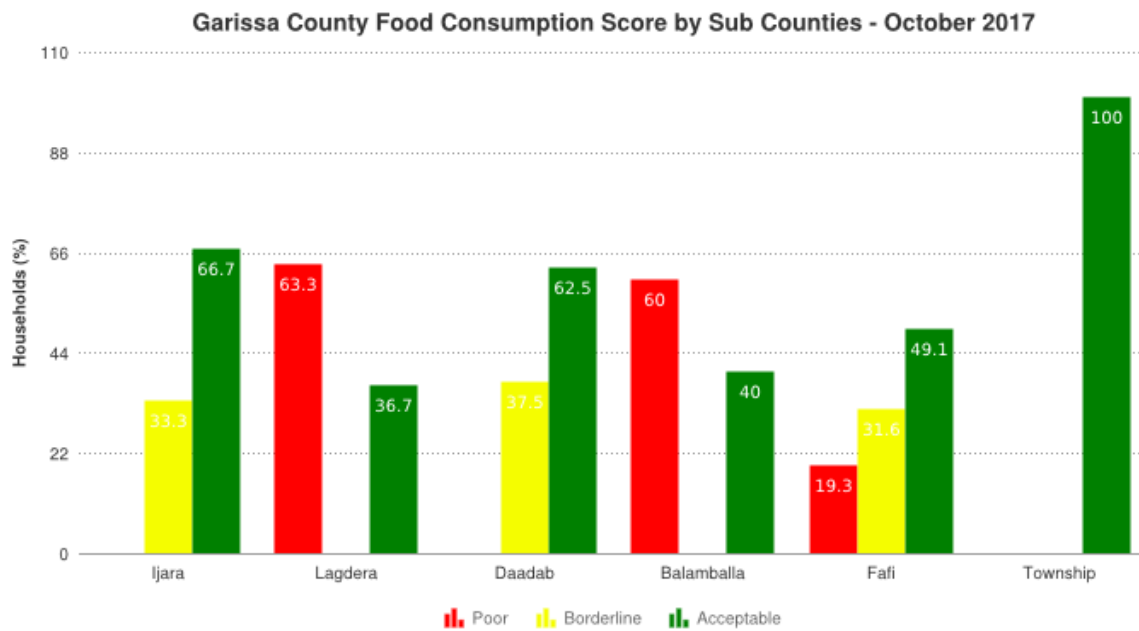
Figure 9: Trends of terms of trade for Garissa County, 2009-2017

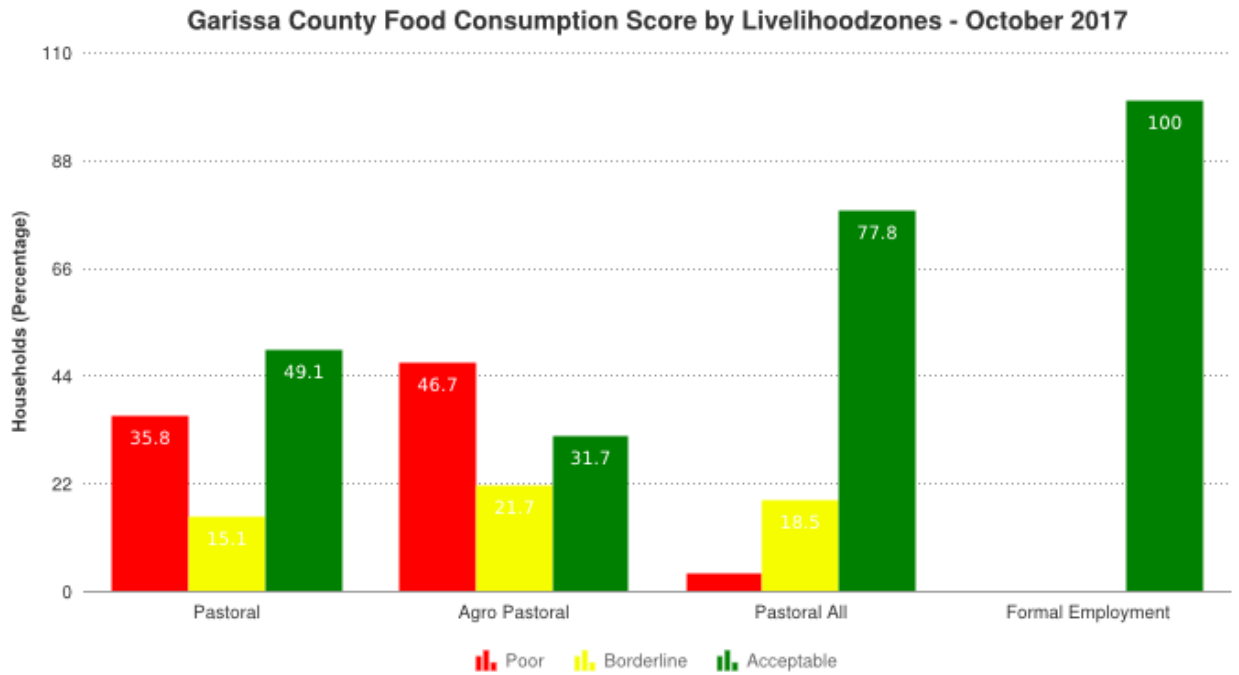
- The terms of trade for pastoralist increased when compared with the previous month. The current recorded terms of trade are 50 kg per goat sold at farm gate price. The price at the main market is slightly higher but other cost involved in the process make it difficult for the pastoralist to access the same markets.
- The current terms of trade are above the long term average recorded at 40kg per goat sold.

5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.1 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

- The food consumption score for the month indicated 59.1 % of households are in poor, 34% are in borderline while 47.5% of households are in acceptable level.
- Lagdera Sub County has the highest households with poor food consumption score at 63.3% while fafi Sub County has the lowest recorded at 19.3%.
- The Agro pastoral livelihood zones have highest number of household with poor food consumption score at 46.7 % while the pastoral All species livelihood recorded the lowest no of household with poor food consumption score recorded at 3.7%.
- 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 5.3 to 5.1 litres in the month under review.
- The decreased milk consumption was attributed to low milk production due to deteriorating livestock body condition occasioned by the effect of the drought
- The current milk consumption per household is below the long term average recorded at 14.09

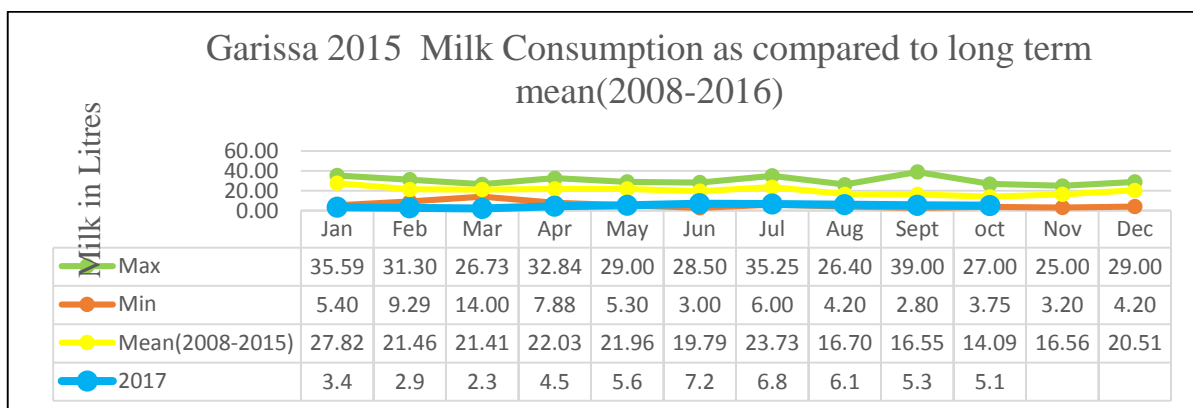


Figure 10: Trends of Milk consumption for Garissa County, 2008-2016

5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

5.3.1 Nutrition Status

- The malnutrition rate of children under five years at risk based on MUAC increased from 19.9% to 20% in the month under review. But the mid at risk levels reduced from 16.2% to 8%
- Moderately malnourished level reduced from 1.86% to 1.4% while severely malnourished category increased from 1.87% to 1.5%
- The increased malnutrition levels were attributed to the effect of the drought that led to diminished milk production and consumption by children
- The current average malnutrition level was above the long term average recorded at 17.7 %

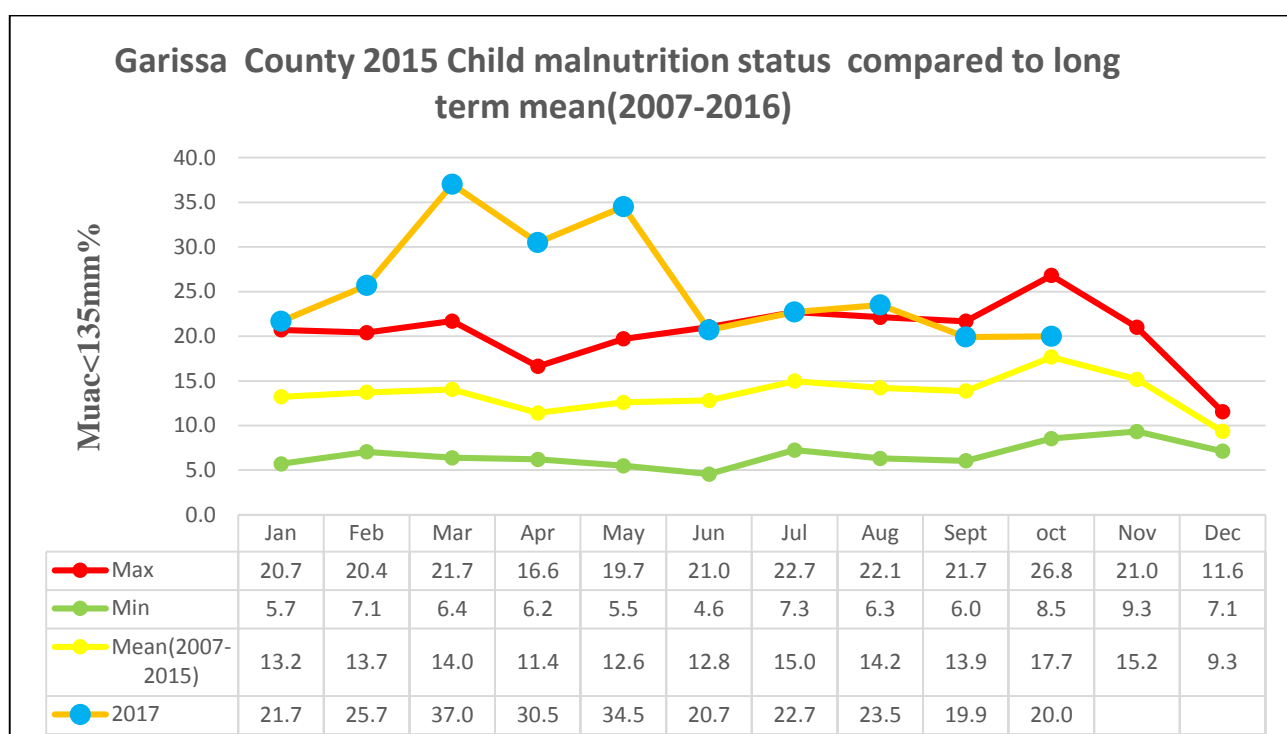


Figure 11: Trends in the proportion of U5 at risk of malnutrition in Garissa County, 2007 – 2016

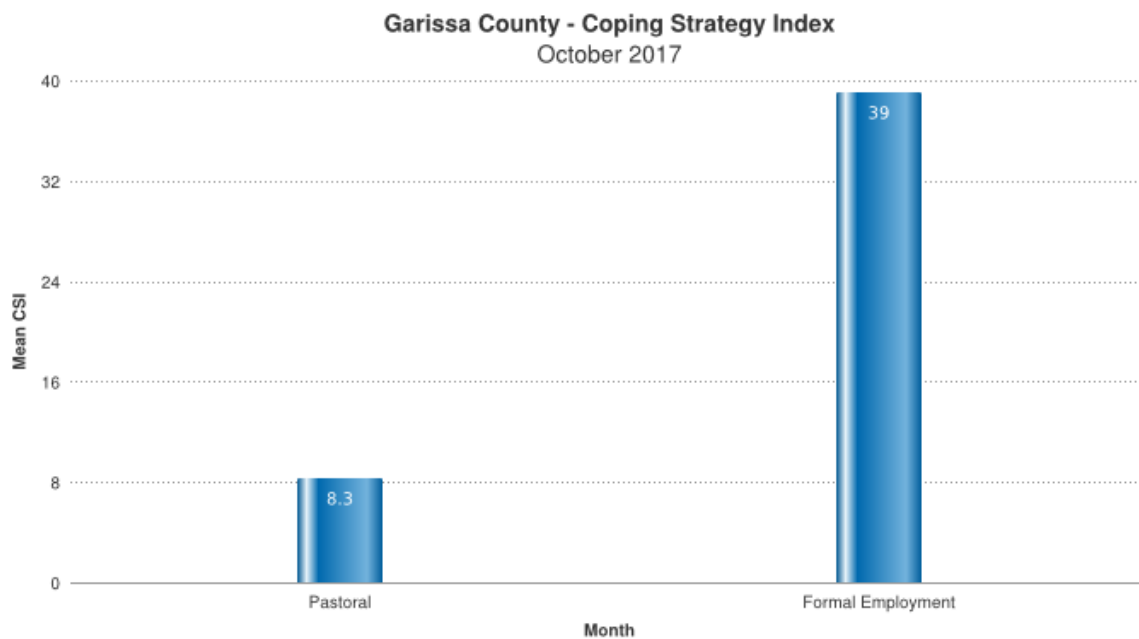
5.3.2 Health

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

5.4 COPING STRATEGIES INDEX

- The average coping strategies index for the county increased 18 to 23.65 in the month under review

- The formal employment livelihood zone has the highest index at 39 while pastoral livelihood zone recorded the lowest at 8.3
- The graphs below show the mean coping strategy based on the livelihood zones.



The coping strategies adopted by the pastoralist included;

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

6. CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

6.1 NON-FOOD INTERVENTION

- Water trucking to Lagdera Sub County by NDMA and Islamic relief
- Livestock vaccination by NDMA
- Cash transfer programme for poor and needy households by KRCS supported by WFP and GOK.
- Health Outreach Services

6.2 FOOD AID

- GOK food distribution by the respective deputy county commissioners.
- Food distribution by Muslim charity groups and Islamic relief organization.

- Supplementary feeding programme for the management of malnutrition in the health facilities
- Food for asset food distribution to the beneficiaries through work norm verification.
- Livestock feeds distribution eg drought pellets

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 deteriorating.
- The livestock body condition is currently poor and is anticipated to improve if the short rainfall continues
- 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 increased 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 especially if doesn't rain.
- 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
- Livestock insurance Index
- Provide supplementary feeding for malnourished children
- Upscale water trucking in areas where there is water stress