

**National Drought Management Authority**  
**WAJIR COUNTY**  
**DROUGHT EARLY WARNING BULLETIN FOR MAY 2017**



A Vision 2030 Flagship Project



**MAY EW PHASE 2017**

**Early Warning Phase Classification**

**Drought Situation & EW Phase Classification**

**Biophysical Indicators**

Generally the county Experienced Depressed rainfall during the month, that was poorly distributed both in time and space, although Wajir North, Eldas town and Sabuli, however, recorded enhanced rainfall that exceeded 125 percent of the Wajir town station Long-Term Mean.

Currently vegetation cover indexes for the month of May recorded moderate vegetation deficit band with a VCI score of 21 from previous month figure of 10.95, However Wajir South, and Wajir west are the worst affected areas with scores of 12.59 and 11.58 respectively showing severe vegetation deficit.

The situation of water is normal in some livelihood zones as water pans were recharged during the season as compared to similar time last year. Long trekking distance declined slightly as a result of availability of water, pasture and browse. The main sources of water are boreholes, shallow wells, water pans, depression and lagas.

**Socio Economic Indicators (Impact Indicators)**

Livestock body condition improved in the county which showed Good to poor. Condition of camels is good, Milk production improved as the trekking distance reduced, the terms of trade was favourable at 52.kg in May to 48kg in April for a sale of one medium size goat with no significant change recorded. No disruption of market reported. Migration of livestock was witnessed within the county in search of pasture and browse, Pasture and browse regeneration slightly improved where rains were received. The percentage of children under five at risk of malnutrition was recorded at 18.0 compared to the previous month's figure of 19.0

Livelihood Zone	Phase	Trend
Agro-pastoral	Normal	Improved
Pastoral cattle	Alarm	Improving
Pastoral-all species	Alarm	improving
Pastoral camel	Alert	improving
Informal employment	Alert	improving
County	Alert	improving
Biophysical Indicators	value	Normal Range/Value
Rainfall (% of Normal)	25	80 -120
VCI-3Month	21	>35
Production indicators	Value	Normal
Livestock Body Condition	Good-poor	Normal
Crop production	Poor	Good
Milk Production	2.5	>3-4litres
Livestock Migration Pattern	Normal	Normal
Livestock deaths (from drought)	No death	No death
Access Indicators	Value	Normal
Terms of Trade (ToT)	52	>66
Milk Consumption	1.5	>3
Return Distance to water source	6	<5 Km
Utilization indicators	Value	Normal
Nutrition Status, MUAC (% at risk of malnutrition)	18	<6.6
Coping Strategy Index (CSI)	12.32	<0.95

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short rains harvests</li> <li>Short dry spell</li> <li>Reduced milk yields</li> <li>Increased HH Food Stocks</li> <li>migrations</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>Breeding period</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long rains harvests</li> <li>A long dry spell</li> <li>Land preparation</li> <li>Increased HH Food Stocks</li> <li>Kidding (Sept)</li> <li>Migrations</li> <li>Herd separations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short rains</li> <li>Planting/weeding</li> <li>High birth rates</li> <li>Wedding</li> </ul>								
<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>

# 1.0 CLIMATIC CONDITION

## 1.1 RAINFALL PERFORMANCE

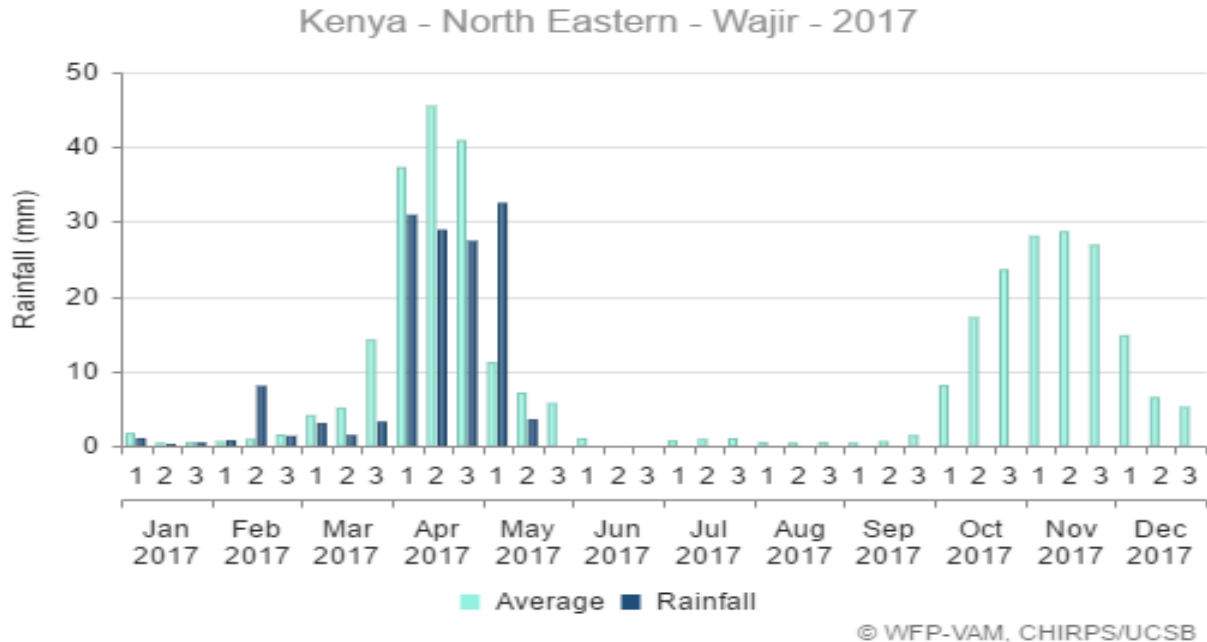
- Rainfall analysis for May 2017 indicates that much of the county experienced generally depressed rainfall during the month as most rain gauge stations recorded below 50 percent of monthly LTMs.
- Sabuli, however, recorded enhanced rainfall that was characterized by heavy storm.
- Elsewhere, stations like Eldas and Buna recorded near-average to enhanced rainfall during the month. Eldas recorded 134% while Buna recorded 259%.
- Wajir Airport, Wajir town, Lagbogol, Diff, Hadado and Wajir Bor did not record any rainfall during the month.

### Amount of rainfall and spatial distribution

- Generally most parts of the county recorded depressed rainfall that was also poorly distributed both in time and space.
- Wajir North, Eldas town and Sabuli, however, recorded enhanced rainfall that exceeded 125 percent of the Wajir town station Long-Term Mean (LTM) for May.
- Short-lived and very intense rainfall event significantly contributed to the enhanced rainfall especially in Sabuli. Sabuli was pounded by 138.0mm in 24 hours on 8th May 2017.

#### 1.1.1 Rainfall station data

**Table 1: A mount of rainfall received in the month of May**



## 2.0 IMPACTS ON VEGETATION AND WATER

### 2.1 Vegetation Condition

#### 2.1.1 Vegetation condition index (VCI)

Current vegetation condition indexes for May indicated Moderate vegetation deficit for the county in comparison with the previous month of April which showed extreme vegetation deficit. The current 3 months vegetation cover indexes for Wajir south and Wajir west showed severe vegetation deficit, while other sub-counties recorded moderate vegetation deficit except Wajir North which recorded Normal Vegetation deficit. The severe vegetation deficit in Wajir south and Wajir west was due to depressed rainfall received during the season consequently leading to poor regeneration of pasture and browse. The situation is expected to decline as we go towards the cessation period.

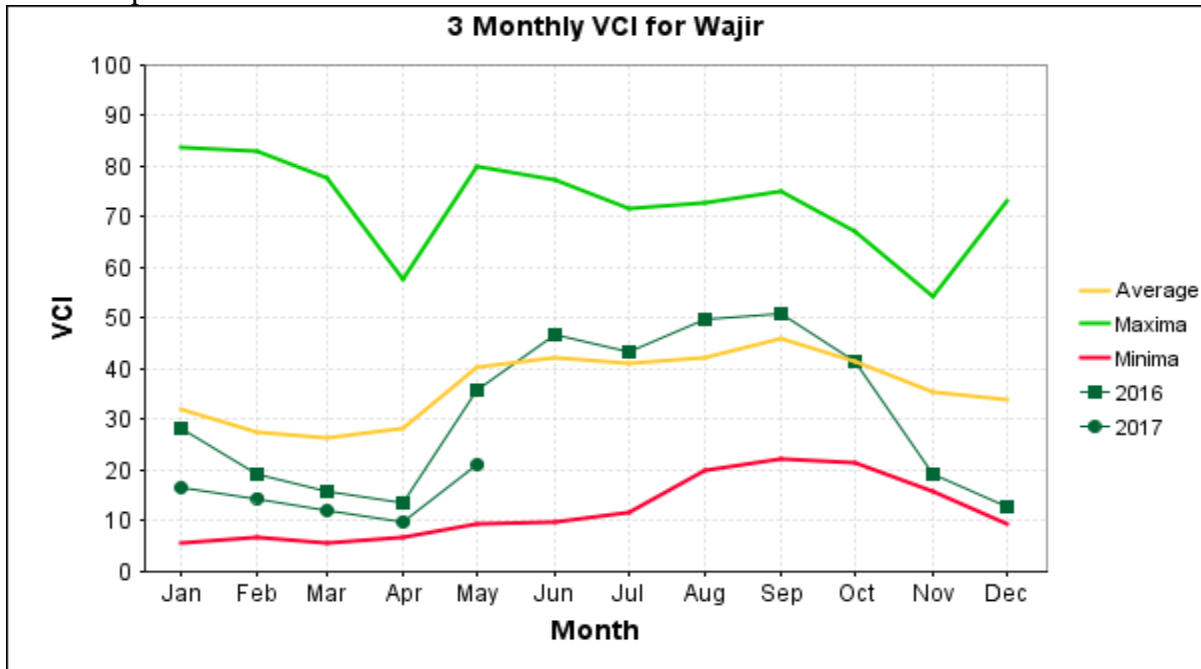


Figure 3: A chart of Wajir County overall 3-monthly VCI during the month of May 2017

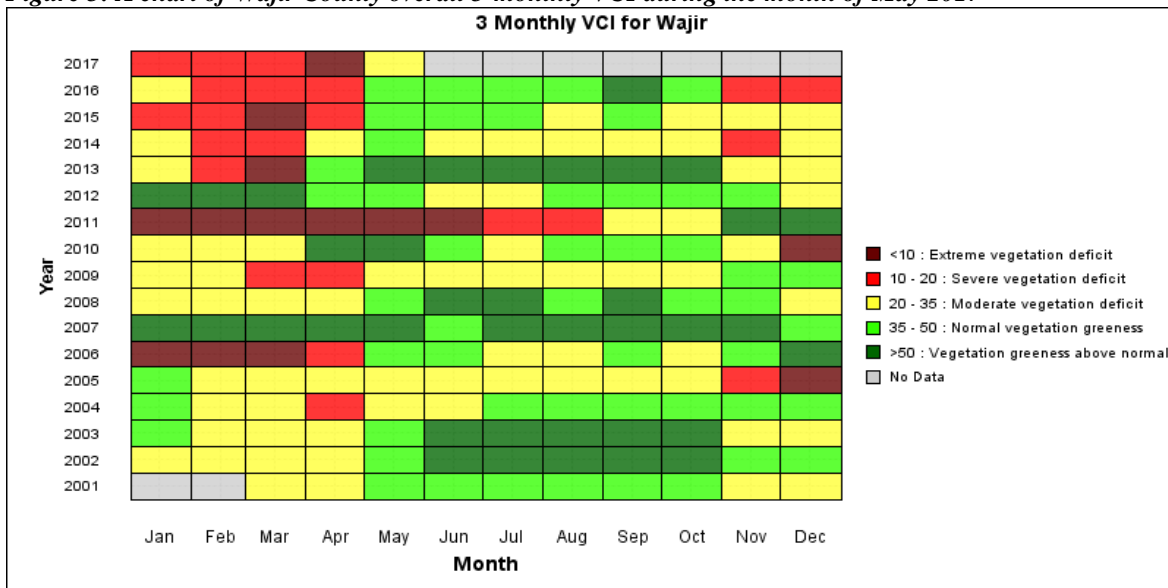


Figure 4: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir County during the month of May 2017

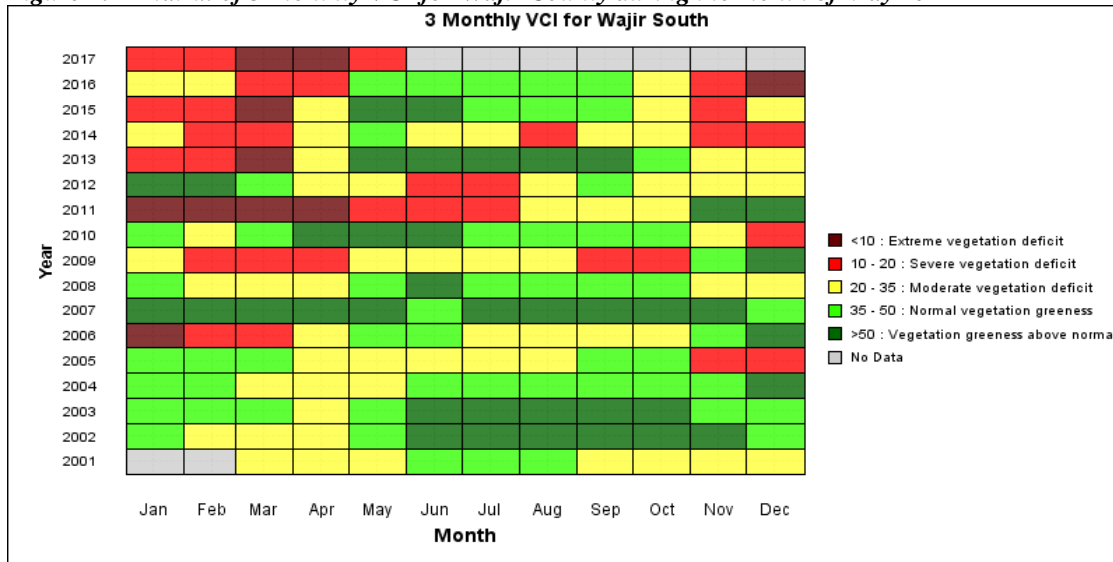


Figure 4: A matrix of 3-monthly VCI for Wajir County during the month of May 2017

### 2.1.2 Pasture

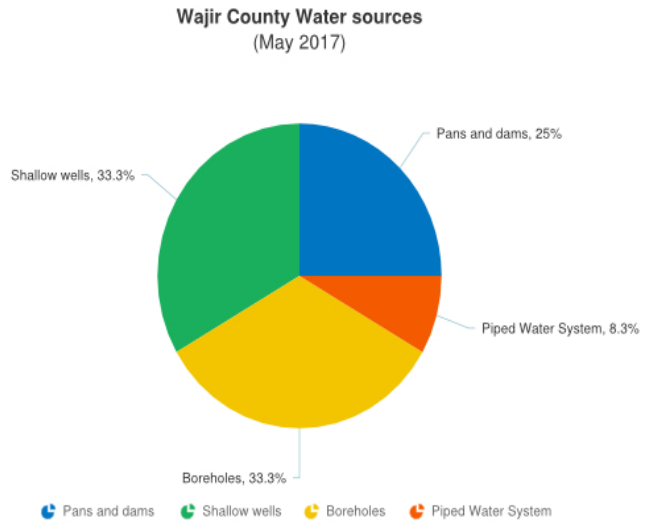
- Pasture condition in the county was fair-to-poor in all livelihood zones,
- However some pockets revealed substantial improvement of pasture particularly in Wajir North, Wajir East and Tarbaj sub counties due to sufficient rains received during the season.
- Wajir South, Wajir west and Eldas sub-counties have poor pasture as there have been insufficient rains to sustain growth during the onset.
- Comparing to previous month, pasture situation improved and recovery was observed in some sub-counties especially in Wajir North, Wajir East and part of Tarbaj due to sufficient rains received during the season.
- No constraints to access of pasture reported during the month of May 2017.

### 2.1.3 Browse

- Generally browse condition ranges from good to fair in some pockets of the livelihood zones particular in Wajir North, Wajir East and parts of Tarbaj that received sufficient rains.
- In other livelihood zones the browse condition ranges from fair to poor especially in Wajir south, Wajir west and Eldas sub-counties that received insufficient rains thereby attributing to poor recovery of the browse.
- Comparing to previous season browse progress developed in some areas of livelihood zones, though still improvement of browse is not enough as a result of depressed rainfall received in the county during the season.
- Therefore, the current browse situation is below normal compared to similar period last year. No constraints reported during the month of May 2017.

## 2.2 Water Sources

The current main sources of water in the county are boreholes, water pans and shallow wells, Natural ponds and lagas. The water situation in the county improved in some parts of the livelihood zones as the water pans recharged fully during the season especially in Wajir East, Wajir North, and Tarbaj. However, Wajir South, and Wajir west are still under severe water stress. Most of the water pans which impounded water are expected to last for 3 months mainly in the Agro-pastoral, pastoral cattle and pastoral all species livelihood zones.



### 2.2.2 Household access and Utilization

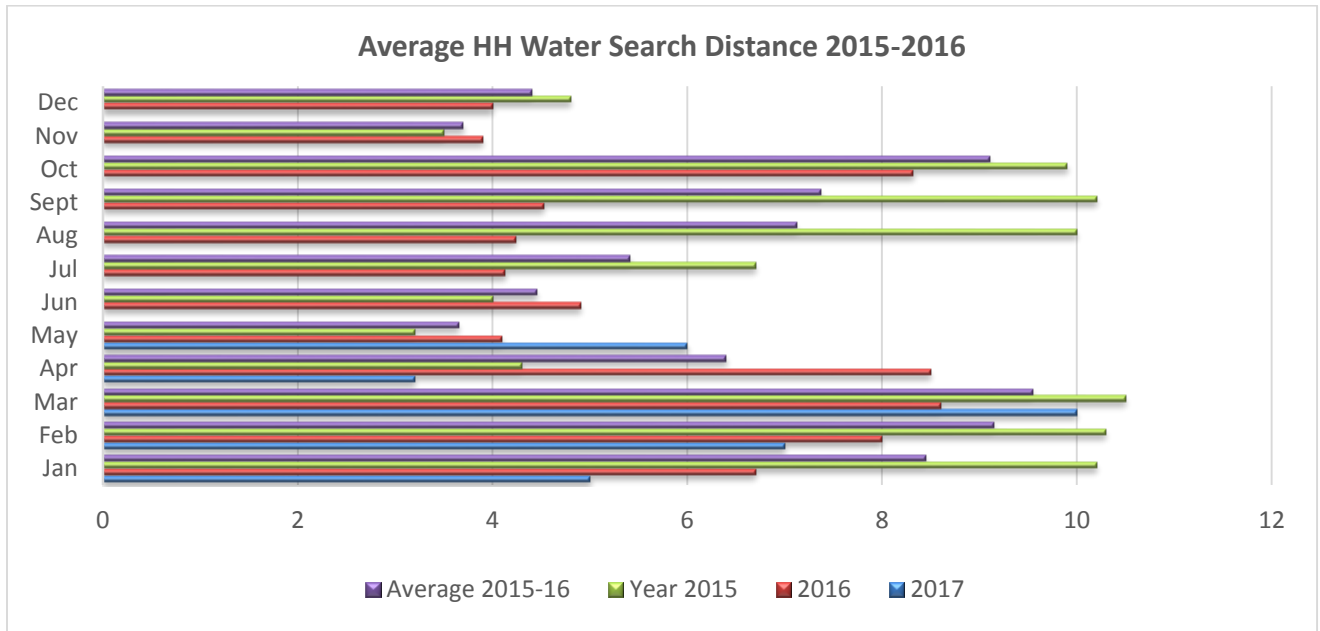
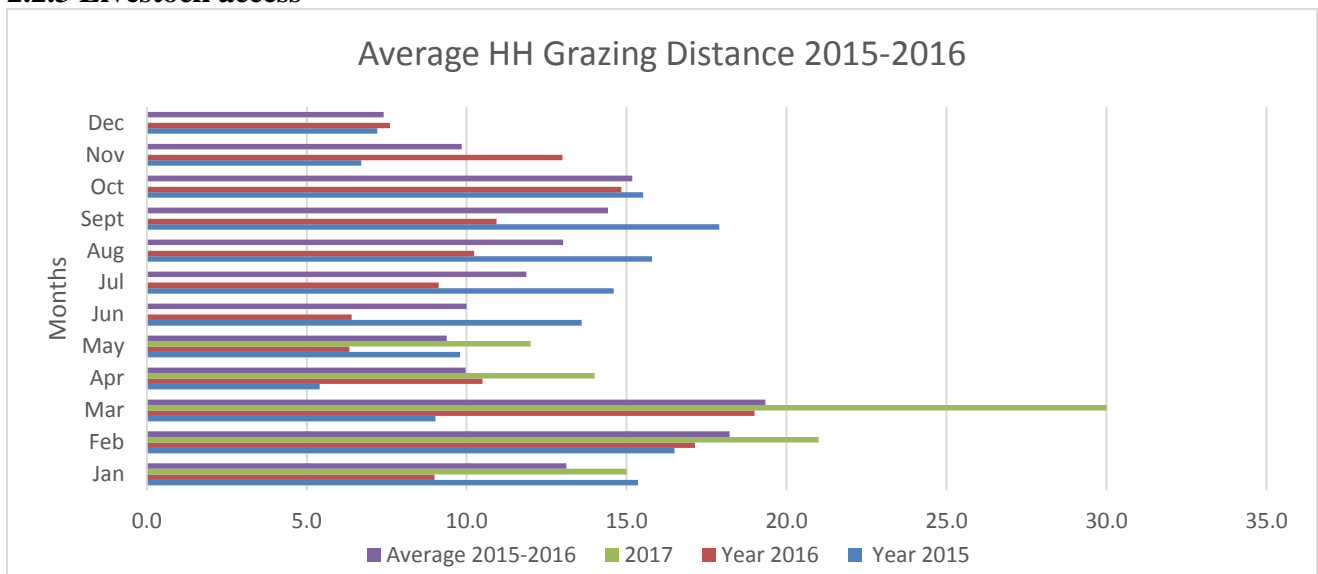


Figure 5: A chart indicating return distance to water sources against 2015-2016 average

- Average household distances to the main water sources increased slightly from 3.2km in April to 6.0km in the month under review.
- In comparison to previous month, the distance has slightly increased due to the insufficient rains received in some livelihood zones thus increasing the return distance of the households.

- The average household water consumption per person per day remained stable as a result of water recharge level in some livelihood zones which is normal at this time of the year, however areas of pastoral cattle and pastoral all species livelihood zones in Wajir west livelihood zones recorded lowest consumption rate.
- The proportion of households that treat water is negligible with only some households in towns using tabs.

### 2.2.3 Livestock access



**Figure 6: A graph indicating current grazing distance against (2015-2016) average**

- Average livestock grazing distance to water sources declined from 14.0km in April to 12 km in the month under review as a result of availability of water that reduced trekking distance to water points
- Current average is above the long term average and previous year's month average.
- Frequency of watering livestock at the water point will decline due to reduced distance to water source and grazing distance. Currently, the watering interval for cattle and goats/sheep is normal.
- Pastoral all species and pastoral cattle livelihood zones are still under stress due to insufficient rains received which is attributed to long trekking distances and access to water point

### 2.3 Implication on food security.

- Due to reduced distance to water sources and grazing distance livestock body condition will improve thus improving the productivity in some of the livelihood zones in which sufficient rains were received.

## 3.0 PRODUCTION INDICATORS

### 3.1 Livestock production

#### 3.1.1 Livestock Body Condition

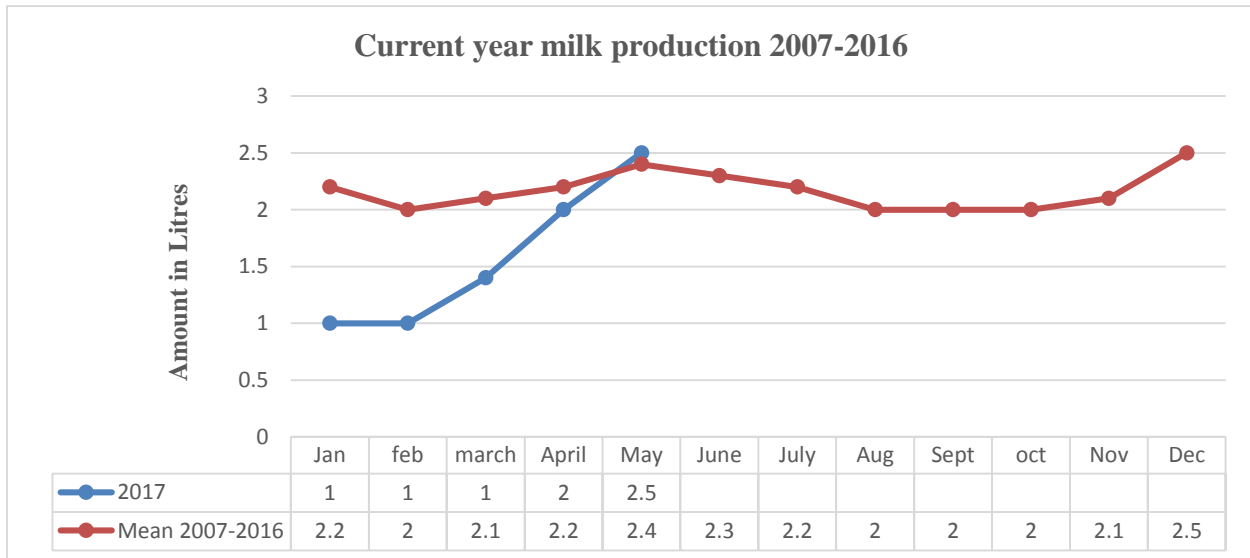
- Livestock body condition in the county improved in some livelihood zones particular in Wajir North, Wajir East and Tarbaj ranging from good to fair.

- The livestock body condition in Wajir south, Wajir west and part of Eldas ranged from fair to poor due to insufficient rains attributed to poor regeneration of pasture and browse.
- The best improvement of livestock species was reported to be in goats, sheep and cattle which had been affected significantly by drought during January, February and March, though cattle species was also reported to have an insignificant recovery in pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihood zone.
- Camels have also shown significant improvement in their body condition as compared to the month of April although they were not so much affected by January-February and March.

### 3.1.2 Livestock Diseases

Veterinary Department still reported that disease such as CBPP, Blackquater, PPR, CCPP, and sheep and goat pox exist in the county.

### 3.1.3 Milk Production



**Figure 7: Current Household milk production against (2007-2016) long-term average**

- Current average household milk production per household per day slightly increased from 2.0 litres in the month of April to 2.5 during the month under review. This may be attributed to availability of pasture and browse and reduced trekking distance and improvement of livestock body condition in areas where rainfall was realized.
- Current average milk production is slightly above the long term average recorded during the month. And normal at this time of the year.
- Highest milk production was recorded in Wajir East, Wajir North and Tarbaj sub counties while Wajir South and Wajir West recorded the lowest production.
- Milk production per household per day is likely to increase in June as livestock body condition continues to improve as a result of pasture and browse in areas where rainfall was realized.

### 3.2 RAIN-FED CROP PRODUCTION

#### 3.2.1 Stage and condition of food Crops

- Currently the farmers in Wajir planted their crops during the season and this was mainly maize, beans and other crops such as kales, spinach, tomatoes and water melon for both irrigated and rain fed.
- The crops performance was poor and it seems there will be no harvest anticipated for rain fed areas due to moisture stress.
- However water melon is performing well in Wajir central and neighbouring areas such as Kukale.

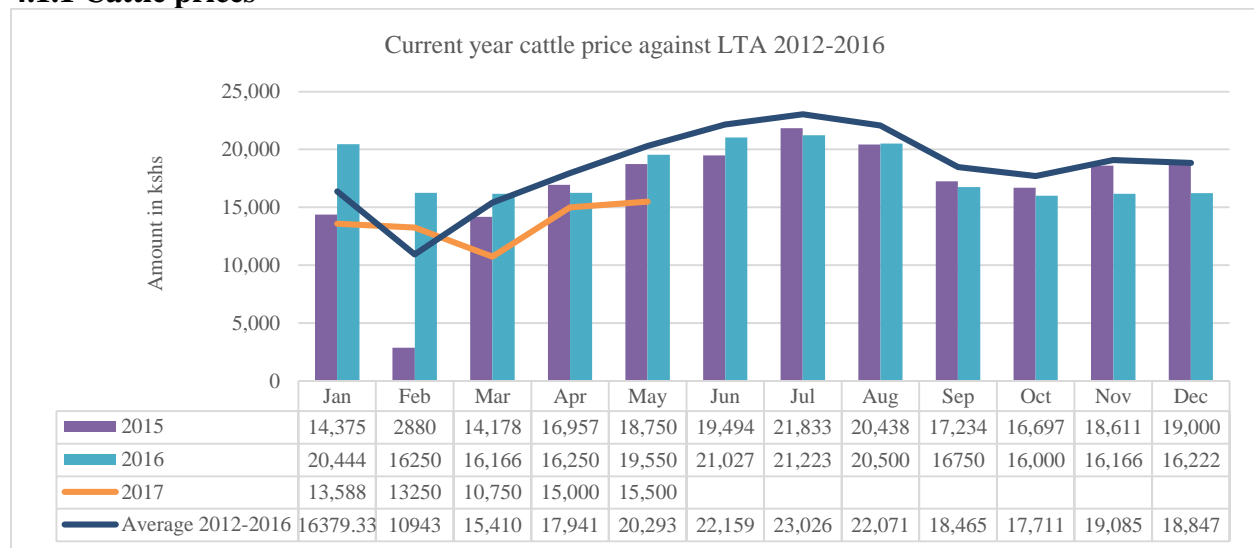
### 3.3 IMPLICATION OF THE ABOVE INDICATORS ON FOOD SECURITY

- Good crop production during the season will boost lives and livelihoods of the people thus ensuring people to be food secure in the county

## 4.0 MARKET PERFORMANCE

### 4.1. LIVESTOCK MARKETING

#### 4.1.1 Cattle prices

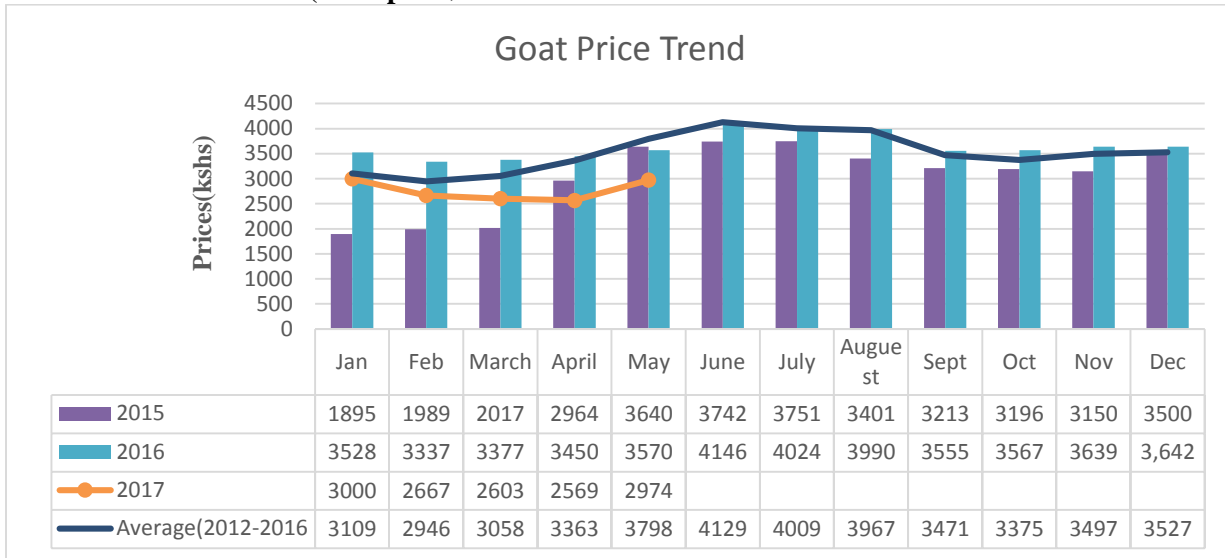


**Figure 9: A graph of current cattle price against the long term (2012-16) mean prices.**

- Current average price of cattle slightly increased from Kshs 15,000 in the month of April to Kshs 15,500 in May 2017. The increase in the price was due to improved livestock body condition and high demand in the market though the increase was insignificant. Highest average prices were reported in the urban centres and lowest recorded in the rural.
- Current average prices were lower than both the long-term average and previous year's price.



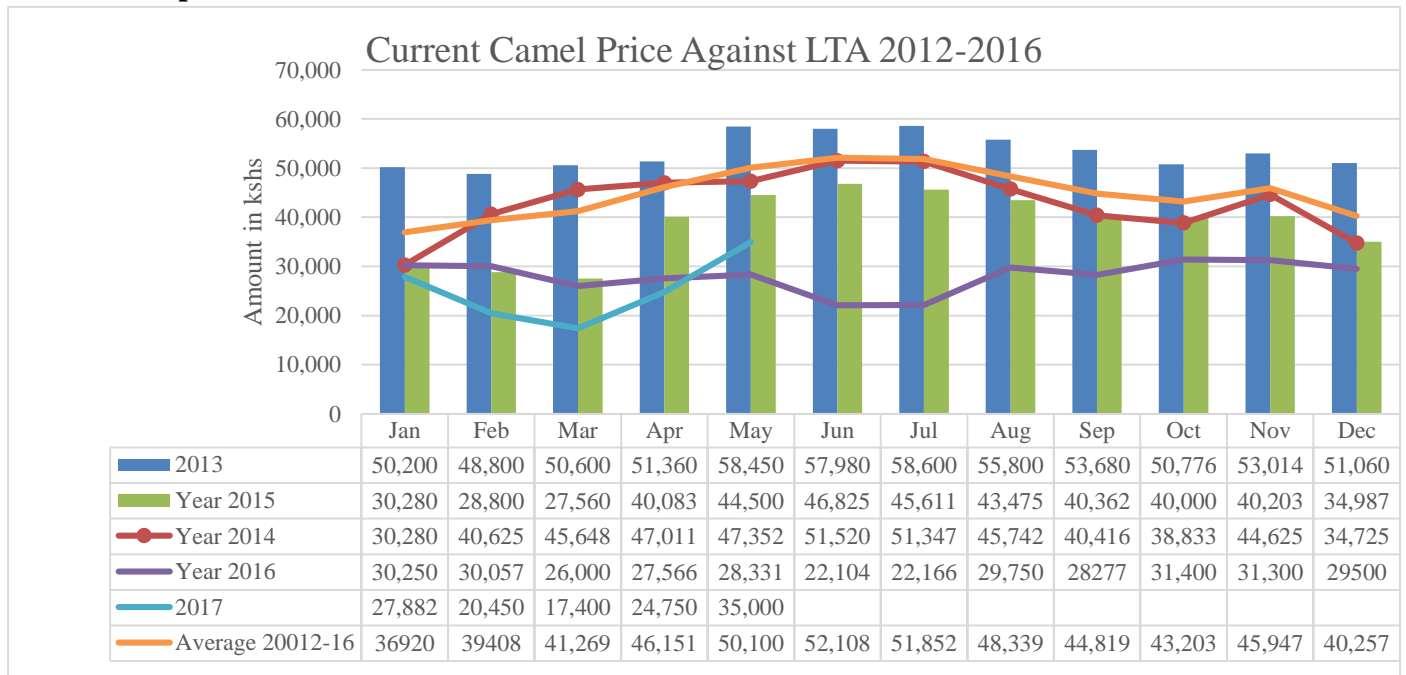
#### 4.1.2 Small Ruminant (Goat price)



**Figure 10: A graph of current year goat prices against the short-term mean 2012-2016**

- Current average goat's price increased from Kshs.2569 to Kshs 2,974 during the month under review which attributed to improved livestock body condition and high market demand. However, the prices are expected to improve as the situation improves.
- Prices are higher in urban centres and lower in the rural
- Current average price is below the long term average and previous month price and this is normal at this time of the year.

#### 4.1.3 Camel price



**Figure 12: A graph of current camel prices against the long term mean (2012-2016)**

- Current average price of a camel increased significantly from Kshs 24,750 in the month of April to Kshs 35,000 in the months of May as a result of good livestock body condition and high market demand.
- Current average price of camel is lower than the long-term average and above previous year's price.
- Agro-pastoral livelihood zones in Wajir North recorded the highest price as pastoral all species livelihood zone in Wajir West recorded the lowest price.
- The prices are not normal compared to the previous years.

## 4.2 CROP PRICES

### 4.2.1 Maize

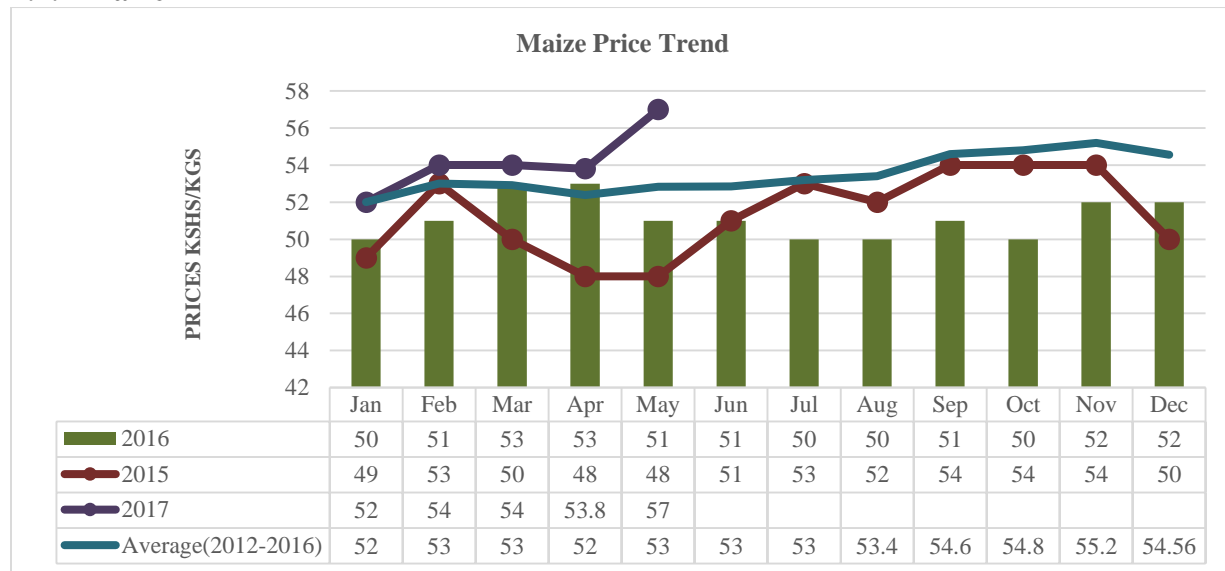


Figure 13: A graph showing current year price of maize as compared to the short-term (2012-15) mean

- Current average price of maize increased significantly from Kshs 53.8 during the month of April to Kshs 57 during the month under review due to low supply since the commodity is transported from outside the county. The trend changed and the situation is not normal.
- The highest price in the market was reported in agro-pastoral, pastoral all species and pastoral cattle livelihood zones particularly in Hadado, Bute and Lagbogol but lower in urban centres.
- The commodity price is above both the long term average and previous year's month price.

#### 4.2.1.1 Other outstanding observation

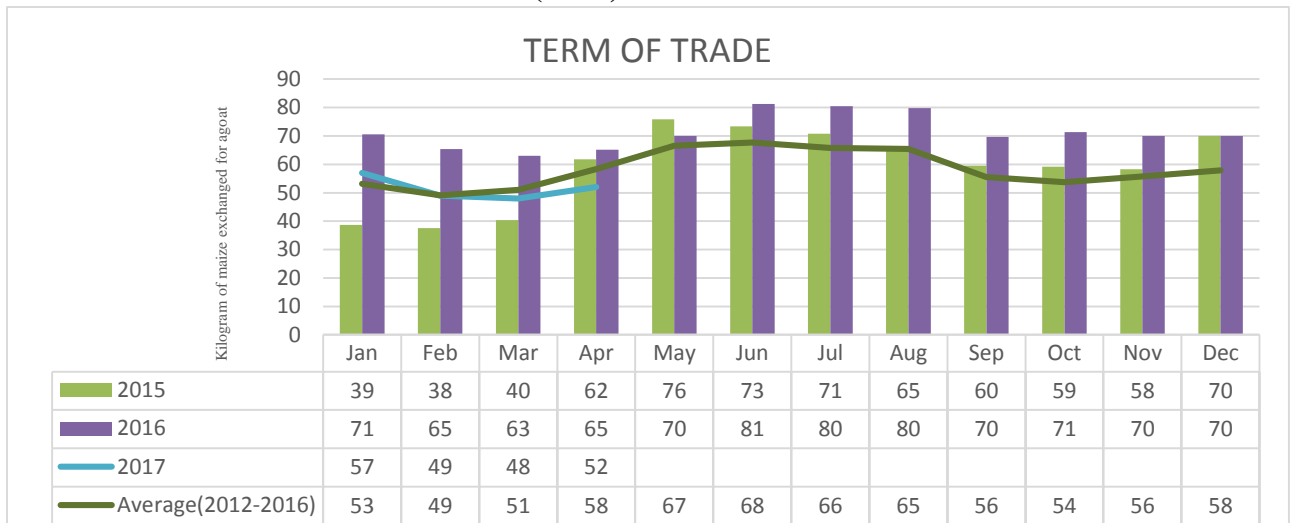
- In Wajir, maize is not the main staple food. Rice, beans, meat, milk and spaghetti are the main staple food used in the County.

#### 4.2.2 Posho (Maize meal)

- Current average price of Posho increased from Kshs 85 to 90 per kg during the month under review.
- The highest prices were recorded in remote areas of Wajir due to unavailability of the commodity and high transport cost incurred during transportation. Lowest was recorded in urban areas.

- The price is considered normal as the trend shows stable condition over the period,

### 4.3 Livestock Price Ratio/Terms of Trade (TOT)



**Figure: A graph of current Terms of Trade against the long term (2012-2016) mean price**

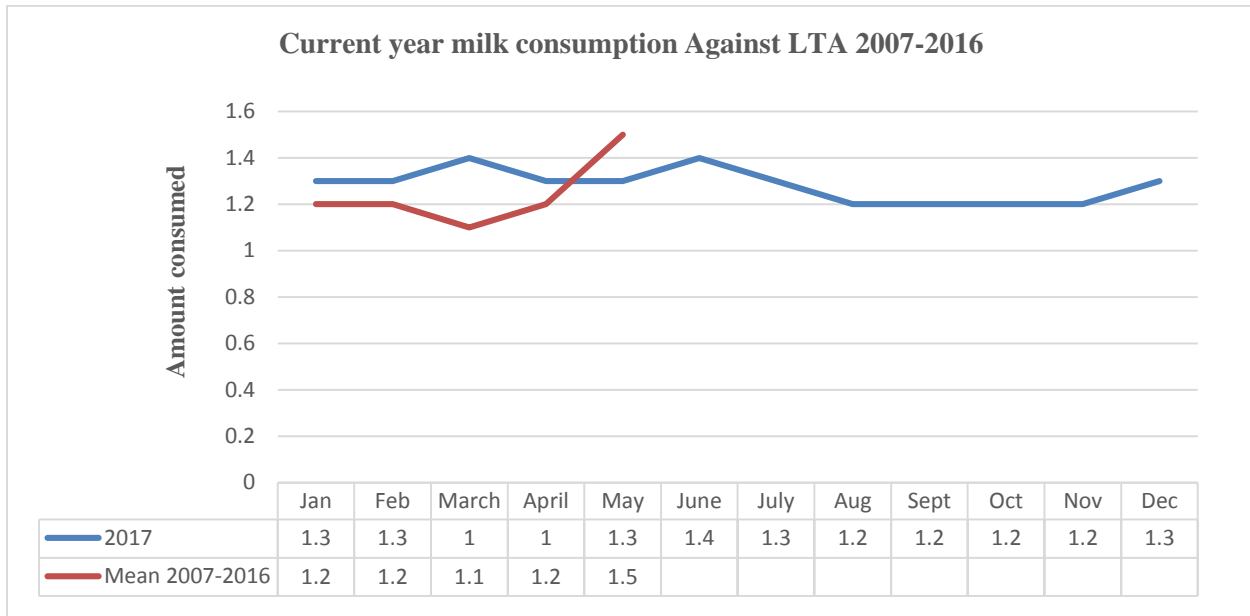
- Household terms of trade slightly changed from Kshs 48 during the month of April to Kshs 52 during the month. The slight change was attributed to slight improvement in the market price where the price of goat increased and the price of maize also increased significantly thus favouring the terms of trade. The price of goat is likely to increase if the market demand increases.
- There was no market disruption reported during the month in the county.

### 4.4 Implication of the above indicators on food security

- Purchasing power of households will be expected to improve due to good livestock body condition and high production of milk attributed to the recent rainfall.

## 5.0 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND NUTRITION STATUS

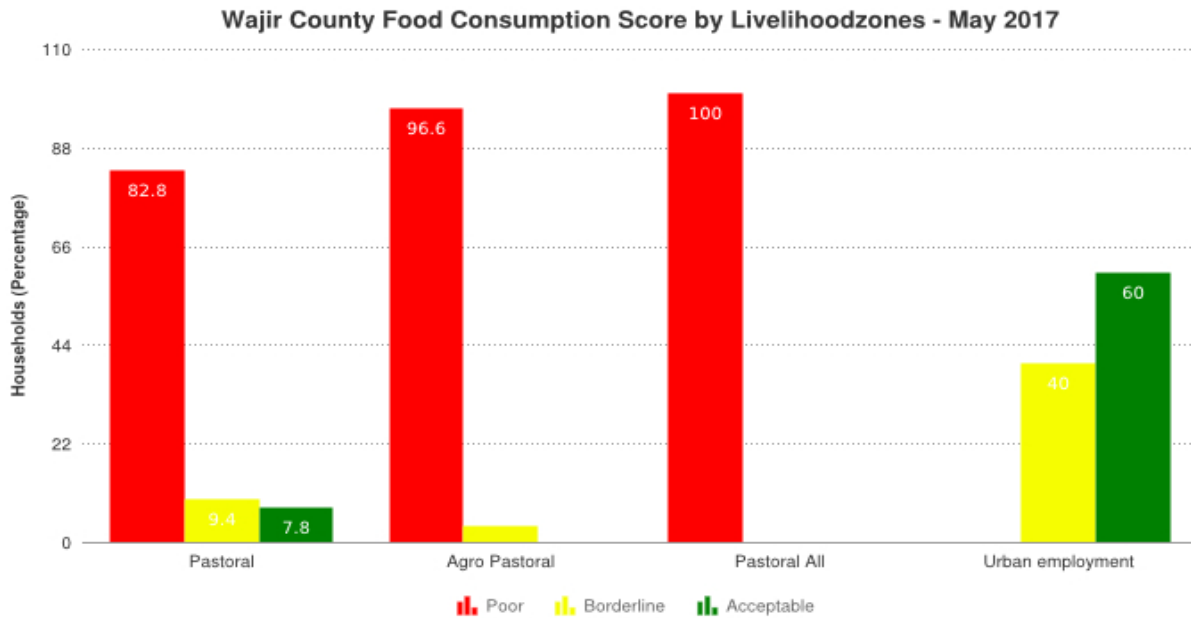
### 5.1 MILK CONSUMPTION



**Figure 15: A graph showing current average milk consumption for Wajir against (2006-2016) mean**

- The current average milk consumption per household per day slightly increased from 1.2 to 1.5 in May as a result of good livestock body condition in some livelihood zones. The slight increase in milk production may be attributed to reduced trekking distance, regeneration of pasture, browse and recharge of water sources observed in some livelihood zones. The consumption of milk varies within to livelihood zone.
- Average household milk consumption is above the long term average which is normal for the period of the year.
- The highest milk consumption was recorded in pastoral camel and agro-pastoral livelihood zones
- The main source of milk production at household and market levels is camel and cattle.

## 5.2 Food Consumption Score



- Pastoral, Agro-pastoral and Pastoral all species livelihood zones are the household with poor dietary diversity which recorded 82, 96.6 and 100 and while others showed borderline and acceptable respectively.

## 5.3 HEALTH AND NUTRITION STATUS

### 5.3.1 Nutrition Status

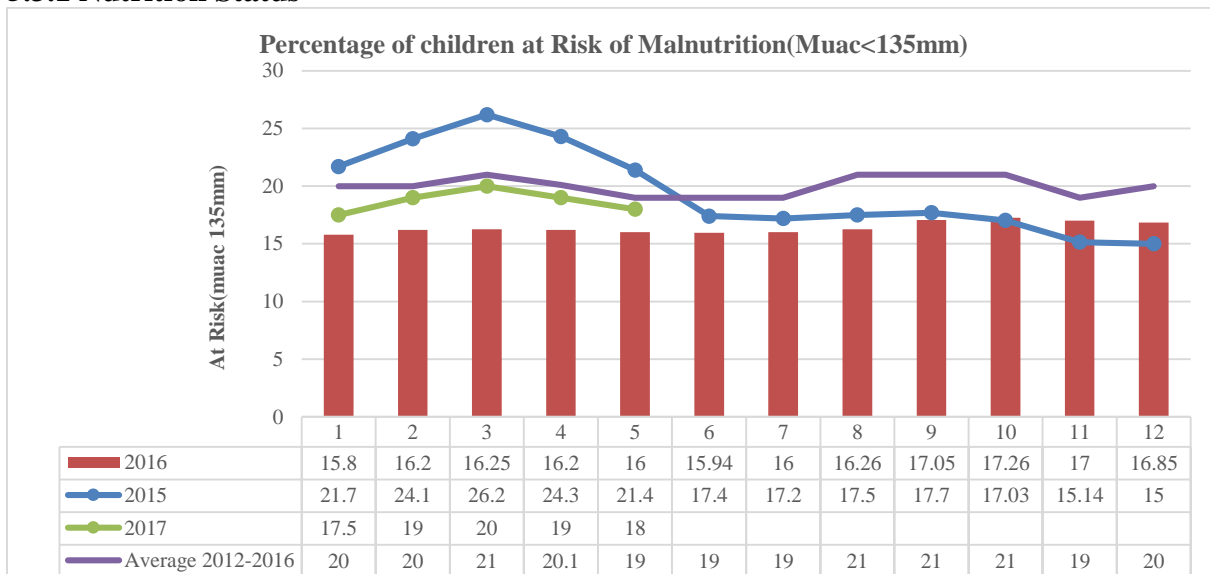


Figure 16: A graph of Nutritional status of children between 12-59 months against (2012-16) long-term mean

- The proportion of children under five at risk of malnutrition during the month under review was 18 percent as compared to 20 percent recorded during previous month with no significant changes recorded.
- The current proportion is lower than the long term average and higher than previous year's month average.

### 5.3.2 Health

Malnutrition reports for children less than 5 years: 21 children were admitted as in-patients for Management of Severe Malnutrition. 325 new children (6-59 months) were admitted to the Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) while 671 children (6-59 months) were admitted to Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP). (Source: DHIS April 2017).

Under 5 year's morbidity in April was; diarrhoea (1279), pneumonia (667), diseases of the skin including wounds (433), (Source: DHIS April 2017).

Over 5 year's morbidity in April was: diarrhoea (871), confirmed malaria (29), Urinary Tract Infections (2692) and diseases of the skin including wounds (735). (Source: DHIS April 2017).

### 5.4 COPING STRATEGY INDEX

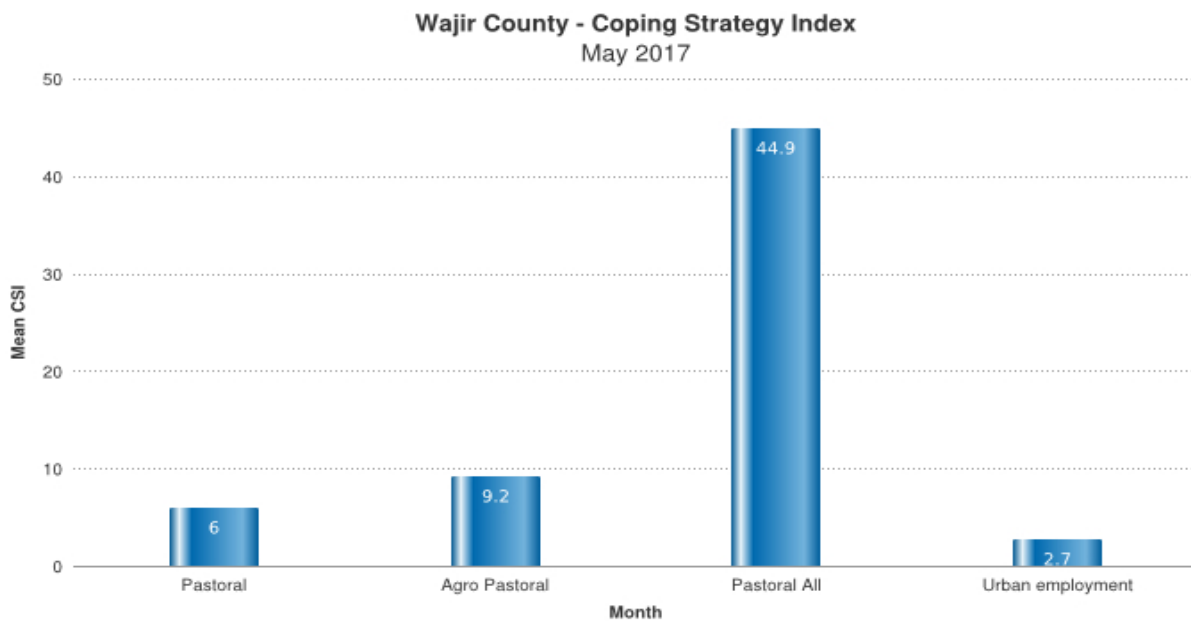


Figure17: A graph showing average (2013-2015) (coping strategy index (CSI) against the current trend

- Pastoral all species put on more coping strategy indicating 44.9 in May as compared to previous month which recorded 39 and Agro-pastoral employ less coping strategies with less severity. The mean CSI for the county is 12.32 as compared to the previous month which showed 12.9 showing no significant changes.
- Reduced the quantity of food consumed by adult/mothers
- Relied on less preferred and less expensive food
- Reduced the number of meals taken per day.
- Borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relative.

## 6.0 CURRENT INTERVENTION MEASURES (ACTION)

### 6.1 Non-food interventions.-Ongoing

- Up scaling of Emergency cash transfers-ongoing under the HSNP programme. Other partners include Kenya Red cross and Oxfam GB.

- Screening of hot spots was conducted during the month by health department and supported by NDMA and Save the Children.
- Treatment of malnutrition cases and referral of cases to the main health facilities
- Livestock vaccination and treatment in order to contain disease
- Human and livestock disease surveillance across the County –on-going

## **6.2 Food Aid**

- Food Aid distribution in May by the National Government.

## **7. EMERGING ISSUES**

### **7.1 Insecurity/Conflict/Human Displacement**

- No reported cases of insecurity in the entire County during the month.

### **7.2 Migration**

There were no migration of livestock reported from other countries and county except migration with in the county from other sub-counties in search of pasture, browse and water particularly areas that have not received rains. Migration was normal.

### **7.3 FOOD SECURITY PROGNOSIS**

- Food security is situation is expected to deteriorate over most parts of the county due to depressed rainfall received
- Problems related to water scarcity and lack of pasture for livestock is expected to arise due to the expected sunny and dry weather conditions in June 2017.
- The water capacity for domestic use is likely to deteriorate in the coming three months due to the expected generally dry weather conditions.
- Milk production is expected to decline during the dry season
- Prices of the commodity are expected to be stable and thereafter reduce
- Range land condition are expected to deteriorate due to the dry spell
- Increase in trekking distance and reduce during short rains
- Increase in migration of livestock during the dry spell and thereafter reduce during short rains.
- Nutrition status in the county will deteriorate during the dry spell and thereafter improve.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Health & Nutrition.**

- Mass Screening
- Outreach services Scale up-ongoing
- Water Treatment(Aqua tabs, PUR, chlorine powder-ongoing
- Scale up HINI/IMAM/IYCN interventions-ongoing
- Supply of safe water storage containers
- Monitoring of malnutrition in the county. .

### **Water (on-going).**

- Repair and maintenance of all water bowzers
- Repair of boreholes

### **Agriculture Sector**

- Capacity building for farmers
- Seed distribution
- Pan construction for water harvesting
- Provision of farm inputs(seeds, tools and chemicals
- Kitchen garden Establishments
- Establishments of model demonstration sites
- Desilting and excavation of water pans
- Increase disease surveillance activities.

### **Livestock Sector**

- Support prevention and treatment of livestock diseases
- Vaccination