

SOMALIA

Post Distribution Monitoring First Assessment and Endline Evaluation

Comparative assessment report for the Somali Cash Consortium Modification Request 2

May 2023



**SOMALI CASH
CONSORTIUM**



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European Union
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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

COOPI	Cooperazione Internazionale
CRM	Complaints and Response Mechanism
CWG	Cash Working Group
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
ECHO	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
FCS	Food Consumption Score
HHS	Household Hunger Scale
HH	Household
ECMEN	Economic Capacity to Meet Essential Needs
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
LCSI	Livelihood Coping Strategies Index
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEB	Minimum Expenditure Basket
MoE	Margin of Error
NFI	Non-Food Item
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
rCSI	Reduced Coping Strategies Index
SCC	Somali Cash Consortium
SCI	Save the Children International
UCT	Unconditional Cash Transfer
USD	United States Dollar
VRC	Village Relief Committee

Somali Cash Consortium Partners



Donor



cover image depicting displaced households in search of water in Habal Adey IDP site. region Photo.

ABOUT IMPACT

IMPACT Initiatives is a Geneva-based think-and-do-tank, created in 2010. IMPACT is a member of the ACTED Group.

IMPACT's teams implement assessment, monitoring & evaluation and organisational capacity-building programmes in direct partnership with aid actors or through its inter-agency initiatives, REACH and Agora. Headquartered in Geneva, IMPACT has an established field presence in over 15 countries. IMPACT's team is composed of over 300 staff, including 60 full-time international experts, as well as a roster of consultants, who are currently implementing over 50 programmes across Africa, Middle East and North Africa, Central and South-East Asia, and Eastern Europe.

SUMMARY

The Somali Cash Consortium (SCC) was formed in late 2017 to provide vulnerable populations in disaster and conflict-affected districts in Somalia with monthly, multi-purpose unconditional cash transfers (UCT). The SCC is led by Concern Worldwide and consists of six implementing partner organisations: ACTED, Concern Worldwide, Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and Save the Children (SCI).

Poverty in Somalia is deep and widespread and economic growth continues to be affected by long-standing issues such as conflict, persistent climate shocks and a high level of vulnerability coupled with very limited fiscal space to provide resources for public services.¹ In addition, increases in the price of key commodities due to poor crop yields and livestock conditions, as well as the impact of the Ukrainian war on imported goods have forced hundreds of thousands to move in search of stability and humanitarian assistance.² The region has had multiple below-average rainy seasons with a sixth below-average season forecast (March to June 2023).³ The protracted drought has led to the erosion of livelihoods of many Somalis.⁴ Commodity prices have been rising following the worsening drought conditions, as well as the impacts of the Ukraine war, thus likely leading to short and long-term consequences on vulnerable households' hunger and poverty levels.⁵

Table 1 below summarises the key findings of the SCC first and endline assessments (which were carried out in February and May 2023), based on the recommended indicators standardised by the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Workstream of the Somalia Cash Working Group (CWG). The results presented in Table 1 represent the weighted averages for beneficiary households of the SCC programme at the district level. Overall averages were weighted⁶ based on the number of beneficiaries per district within the total SCC main caseload, and findings are representative at the district level, with a 95% confidence level and a 7% margin of error (MoE). Disaggregations of the results by gender of the head of household, livelihood zone, and district are included in the report. Results disaggregated by gender and livelihood zone were not weighted and are *indicative only*, as the sample was not stratified according to these factors. Further details on how each score is calculated are also provided. The overview of findings per indicator is presented in this section, while a more detailed analysis of the results and disaggregation of the findings by district are provided in the main part of the report.

¹ [2023 Somalia Humanitarian Needs Overview](#)

² *ibid*

³ [Famine Early Warning System Network \(February 28, 2023\), Somalia](#)

⁴ *ibid*

⁵ [IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis Somalia 2023](#)

⁶ Weighting is a statistical technique in which datasets are manipulated through calculations in order to bring them more in line with the population being studied. Frequency weights were taken for this assessment to minimise any effects the survey design or data collection mode may have on the sample makeup and resulting data.

Table 1: Somali Cash Consortium first assessment and endline key findings.^{7,8}

Key Indicator ⁹	Target Value	First Assessment Value	Endline Value	% Change (from first to endline assessments)
% of households reporting that cash moderately or significantly helped them meet their basic needs	95.0%	NA	97%	N/A
Average meals consumed per household in the last 24 hours		2.1	2.3	+10%
Average Food Consumption Score (FCS)		45.0	50.2	+12%
% of households with an acceptable FCS	46.0%	51%	68%	+33%
% of households with a high or medium HDDS		88%	95%	+8%
Average Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) ¹⁰		14.6	11.1	-24%
Average Livelihood Coping Strategies Index (LCSI)	5.4	5.8	4.8	-17%
% of households whose spending was reportedly equal to or above MEB	30%	55%	70%	+27%
% of total household expenditure spent on food		47%	46%	-2%
Average expenditure on food in the 30 days prior to data collection per household (in USD)		72.5	75.7	+4%
Protection Index Score ¹¹	79.0%	75%	82%	+9%

⁷ All results presented have been weighted at the district level by the proportion of SCC beneficiary households per targeted district. Therefore, to maintain comparability across the first assessment and endline assessments, the aggregate results presented only represent the districts where both the first assessment and endline data were collected.

⁸ For both rCSI and LCSI, lower values are preferred as they represent less reported use of negative coping strategies to cope with a shortfall in food or to meet household basic needs.

⁹ Findings in this section are based on all households surveyed throughout this research cycle, including those that only received two rounds of cash transfers.

¹⁰ A decrease in the average LCSI and rCSI is an indication of improvement in these indicators.

¹¹ Unlike the other scores presented in Table 1, the objective for the Protection Index Score is not necessarily to see an improvement between the first assessment or endline scores, but rather for the score to remain consistently on target at 79%.

KEY FINDINGS ¹²

Cash use and impact

A high proportion of households reported that the cash transfers had either moderately or significantly helped them meet basic needs at the endline assessment (97%). In addition, findings suggest that the proportion of HHs who had enough money to cover their basic needs increased during the endline. The proportion of HHs reporting "mostly" and "always" having been able to cover their basic needs in the 30 days prior to data collection increased from 17% to 48% between the first and endline assessments likely because they had received cash assistance. Moreover, at the endline, findings indicate that about two-thirds (64%) of the assessed households had suggestions on how to improve the cash assistance to meet their household's needs. Increasing the duration of cash transfers (85% of HHs that had suggestions), increasing amounts of cash transfers (64%), and providing continuous cash transfers throughout the year (60%) were the top-reported suggestions. While cash assistance may be an effective means for households to meet their basic needs in the short-term, some households reported that they would ideally substantiate their cash assistance with additional in-kind food aid, which could allow them to re-prioritise cash towards addressing their more medium-term needs.

Food security and livelihood

Findings suggest that the food security status of the beneficiary HHs had improved since the first assessment and after the issuance of the three cycles of MPCAs by the SCC. This is reflected in indicators such as the Economic Capacity to Meet Essential Needs (ECMEN), proportion of income spent on food, acceptable FCS, high and average rCSI, LCSi and the HHS.

The assessed households were classified using the [consolidated approach to reporting indicators \(CARI\)](#) to the four food security groups. As shown in Annex 1, after the three rounds of cash transfers, households' food security levels improved. The proportions of households found to be either food secure or marginally food secure increased from 49% during the first assessment to about two-thirds (65%) during the endline assessment. In addition, during the same period, households who were found to be severely food insecure decreased from 9% to 4% respectively. Therefore, the food consumption gaps or extreme loss of livelihood assets that will lead to large food consumption gaps decreased after the three cycles of the cash transfer.

The average number of meals consumed by each person per day slightly increased, from 2.1 in the first assessment to 2.3 at the endline. This is consistent with the findings of the Food Consumption Score (FCS): at the time of the first assessment, 51% of beneficiary households were found to have an acceptable FCS. The proportion of acceptable FCS increased to 68% during the endline assessment. In addition, it is worth noting that the proportion of households whose spending was equal to or above the MEB increased from 55% in the first assessment to 64% during the endline assessment. These positive findings should be interpreted in the context of the beneficiary households having received the first round of cash transfer before a first assessment was conducted.¹³ Despite the data collection falling just after Ramadan, it is believed that these households still had some money to make expenditure choices.

¹² While the assessment was carried out neither during the lean season nor during Ramadan, findings should be interpreted against the background of the acute drought in Somalia, which impact on households might have limited the impact of the UCT programme.

¹³ Please see the methodology section.

Between the first and endline assessments, the proportion of SCC beneficiary households with an acceptable FCS increased, while the proportion of households with a poor or borderline FCS decreased. During the same period, based on Household Hunger Scale (HHS), the proportion of households that reported no or little hunger increased from 64% in the first assessment to 77% during the endline, an indication that households were experiencing lower levels of hunger. The improvement in FCS and HDDS at the endline assessment is likely due to the beneficiary households having received cash to supplement their income and help them in purchasing a variety of food. To obtain a more complete picture of household-level food security, these indicators should be considered alongside the reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) and the Livelihoods Coping Strategies Index (LCSI).¹⁴ The overall rCSI scores decreased from 14.6 during the first assessment to 11.1 at the endline. **The overall decrease in the average rCSI score over time, between these two assessments, indicates a decrease in the use of negative coping strategies.** In addition, the average LCSI decreased from 5.8 during the first assessment to 4.8 at the endline assessment.

The proportion of households engaging in either emergency, crisis or stress level coping strategies decreased during endline assessments from 87% at the first assessment to 81%.¹⁵ Food access (95%) and healthcare (70%) were the top cited reasons for engaging in these coping strategies during the endline. This was consistent with the first assessment where food access (86%) and healthcare (65%) were the top cited reasons for engaging in the above strategies.

Household expenditure breakdown

Findings suggest that the most significant category of household spending was food. A higher proportion of expenditure dedicated to food may indicate less funds available for other basic needs items, and for saving up stocks to build resilience against future shocks. Food purchases still accounted for nearly half of all monthly household expenditures during the first and endline assessments (47% and 46% respectively). Spending on food could also be due to high food prices within the region at the time of endline data collection. The average reported household monthly income including the cash assistance slightly increased from 182.5 USD at the first assessment to 186.3 USD during the endline. This is likely due to the first assessment being conducted after the beneficiary households had received the first round of cash transfers.

Most of the surveyed HHs reported humanitarian assistance (65% and 72% at the first assessment and endline respectively) as their primary source of income. Of the 64% of the households that reported having suggestions to improve the cash assistance, a majority (85%) suggested an increase in the duration of the cash transfer period. This suggestion shows that households were thus likely to be exposed to the severe consequences of drought and floods since the intervention has ended.

Savings and debts

The average amount of savings slightly increased after the three rounds of cash distribution. At the endline, only 11% of the households interviewed reportedly had some savings averaging to 34.6 USD, a slight decrease from the first assessment where 8% of the households were found to have savings

¹⁴ More information on LCSI can be obtained [here](#) and rCSI [here](#).

¹⁵ The LCSI Stress category includes; selling household assets/goods, purchasing food on credit or borrowing food, spending savings and selling more animals while the crisis category comprises selling productive assets or means of transport, selling productive and nonproductive animals, consuming the seed stocks held for the next harvest, withdrawing children from school and reducing health and education expenditures and emergency category comprise of selling house or land, begging, selling last female animal and livelihood activities terminated (entire household has migrated in the last 6 months or plans to migrate to the new area within the next 6 months).

averaging to 35.0 USD. The proportion of households with debts during this period decreased from 31% at the first assessment to 17% at the endline. Moreover, households' average debt amounts seem to have slightly decreased from USD 69.2 at the first assessment to USD 52.5 during the endline assessment. The top reasons for taking debt were to acquire clothes, access healthcare services, and pay rent.

Protection and accountability

Nearly all households (98%) reportedly perceived the selection process for the MPCA programme to be fair.¹⁶ In addition, **all households (100%)** reported that they **were treated with respect** by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) staff and that they felt safe during the process of selection, registration, and data collection at the first assessment. However, only 23% of households interviewed reported having been consulted by an NGO on their needs and how best the NGO could help fulfil these needs at the time of endline data collection.¹⁷

During the endline, 62% (a 29% point increase from the first assessment) of the assessed households were aware of options to contact the NGOs if they had questions or complaints. However, only a slight increase was reported in the proportion of households who reportedly utilised the CRM platforms. This increased from 19% at the first assessment to 23% during the endline. **A majority (71%) of households** reported being **aware of the existence of a dedicated NGO hotline**, while another 43% reported that they knew they could directly talk to NGO staff during field visits or at their offices.

CONCLUSION

Given the approach of MR2, households who had received either two or three rounds of cash transfers were interviewed. The results are based on households who had received the three rounds of cash transfers throughout the programme period to ensure comparability between the findings of the first and endline assessments.¹⁸ With the income, most of the indicators and specifically the food security and livelihood indicators were found to have positive results compared to some of the findings that were within the scope of SCC MPCA 2022.¹⁹ The two assessments done by IMPACT during this MR2 show that if households have access to money, they can make independent expenditure decisions, access different types of food with great caloric intake and this therefore improves the food situation within the household. Other economic vulnerability indicators are also reflected here with the ECMEN values being high and the average debt levels being considerable.

The protection and accountability indicators show that interactions between beneficiaries and Cash Consortium partners were largely positive, and overall, beneficiaries tended to express satisfaction with the programme. Due to the sensitisation and awareness created by the partner NGOs, nearly two-thirds (62%) of the households were aware of a complaints and response mechanism platform. This improves the accountability of the organisation, can help establish a relationship of trust between staff and communities, and improve the impact of our response.

¹⁶ Since this finding is only applicable to the selected people who were interviewed, there could be some bias.

¹⁷ The protection-related issues raised by the remaining households were sent to the cash-implementing partners for follow ups.

¹⁸ See the methodology section.

¹⁹ Notable assessments within the scope of SCC MPCA 2022 were: the main caseload and the modification request 1 (MR1)

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INTRODUCTION

Currently in its sixth year of activities, the SCC distributed²⁰ three cycles of UCT, to new vulnerable beneficiary households targeted under Modification Request 2 (MR2), between January and March 2023, in the districts of Banadir, Burtinle, Doolow, and Galkacyo, and hard-to-reach district of Mahas.²¹ The objective of this assessment was to monitor the impact of the MR2 cash transfers on the expenditure patterns and food security status of the beneficiary HHs and to inform the multi-purpose cash-based humanitarian response in Somalia across first and endline assessments. This intervention was funded by the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) and consisted of three rounds of Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) planned between January and March 2023.

To evaluate the impact of Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) on beneficiary households, IMPACT supported SCC by conducting a first assessment between 8 and 24 February 2023 and an endline assessment between 3 and 9 May 2023, following the last round of cash transfers.

The objective of the assessment was to monitor the influence of the SCC MPCA 2022 programme on the expenditure patterns and food security status of the beneficiary households and to inform the multi-purpose cash-based humanitarian response in Somalia across first and endline assessments. This report will present the results of households who had received three cycles of cash transfers. Findings are based on a representative sample of 1,835 (899 and 936 sample-surveys during the first and endline assessment respectively) households in Somalia.

METHODOLOGY

All assessments conducted by IMPACT within the scope of the MR2 2022 SCC activities consisted of a quantitative household survey, with both objective and subjective household well-being indicators. Beneficiary households of the SCC UCT programme were selected through stratified simple random sampling to be representative at the district level. Findings disaggregated by gender of the head of household, age of the head of household, or self-reported livelihood zone should be considered indicative in nature as the sample was not stratified accordingly.

Traditionally, assessments that are done before any intervention (such as an MPCA programme) are referred to as baseline assessments and they aim to assess the situation of the beneficiaries before receiving the intervention. In this situation, as the 7 days cash delivery did not allow for baseline data collection pre-cash transfer, due to the rapid nature of the intervention, IMPACT exceptionally conducted the assessment after the first round of cash transfer had already taken place. Following the first round of cash transfer, more in-depth beneficiary verification was conducted resulting in HHs being removed from the programme for not meeting the vulnerability criteria. These requirements were set by the Consortium Management Unit (CMU). New households who fully met the requirements were added to the programme to replace the dropped households. However, these newly added beneficiaries only received two rounds of cash transfers instead of three as they were only added to the programme following the first round.

²⁰ The modification request 2 (MR2) is a top-up funding to the SCC 2022 main caseload and modification request 1 that targeted new vulnerable beneficiary HHs across Somalia. Traditionally, assessments that are done before any intervention (such as a MPCA programme) are referred to as first assessment and they aim at assessing the situation of the beneficiaries before receiving the intervention. In this situation, as the 7 days cash delivery doesn't allow for baseline data collection pre-cash transfer, IMPACT exceptionally conducted the assessment after the first round of cash transfer had already taken place and thus referred to it as a first assessment. This means that both households who **have received** one round of transfer and households who **did not**, were interviewed during the first assessment. Indeed, the second batch of HHs were added to the program after full verification of the requirements, this was followed by an endline assessment. Findings presented in the report will be based on households who had received three rounds of cash transfers.

²¹ Mahas was a hard-to-reach district, and all households received the three rounds of transfer.

All households who were maintained in the second line response received the full three months of cash transfers. Therefore, during the endline assessment, households who had either received two or three rounds of cash transfers were surveyed (66 and 870 surveys respectively). **The findings presented in this report are based on a sample of the 870 beneficiary households that received three rounds of transfers to ensure that results are comparable between the first and endline assessments.** However, for the demographics section and Table 1 (on page 3), the overall results will be considered for the households who had received either two or three rounds of cash transfers.²²

Households were asked about their demographics, overall food security situation, perceptions of their own well-being, monthly expenditures, food consumption, coping strategies, and their perceptions towards the accountability and transparency of the beneficiary selection process.

Sampling strategy

A stratified simple random sampling approach was followed to draw the sample, based on a 95% confidence level and a 7% margin of error (MoE), with findings representative of Cash Consortium beneficiaries in each of the districts targeted by SCC activities. A buffer of 15% was added to the sample size to allow for follow-up even with the expected drop-out and non-participation of some households. The buffer remained 15% at the endline.²³

For districts where more than one partner was operating, notably Galkacyo, the sample was split based on the proportion of each partner's caseload compared to the total number of beneficiary households in the district.

Whenever results are presented for all SCC beneficiary households, overall averages have been weighted by the proportion of SCC beneficiary households per targeted district. To account for this, both district averages and the weighted overall average are presented in the analysis and reporting. Due to rounding to the nearest decimal point, percentages may sometimes not add up exactly to 100.0%.

Target sample sizes compared to actual surveys completed by district for all households surveyed²⁴ can be seen in Table 2 below.

²² This helped understand the livelihoods, gender, displacement status and for table 1, the overall average were used for reporting key indicators.

²³ The endline samples were drawn from the last payroll used by the SCC partners to ensure that households only who received UCTs were surveyed.

²⁴ All households herein represent households who had received either three or two rounds of cash transfers.

Table 2: First assessment and endline assessment target sample sizes and total surveys completed by District.

Region	District	Beneficiary Caseload	Target Sample Size 95% Conf. 7% MoE	Target Sample Size with Buffer (rounded)	Surveys Completed First assessment	Surveys Completed Endline
Banadir	Banadir (Daynile and Kahda)	700	153	176	166	171
Nugaal	Burtinle	1,320	171	197	207	198
Gedo	Dollow	750	156	179	172	172
Mudug	Galkacyo	1,350	171	200	190	202
Hiran	Mahas	825	159	183	164	193
All assessed regions	All assessed districts	4,945	810	935	899	936

Data collection methods

IMPACT conducted quantitative household surveys remotely with the beneficiary households during the first and the endline assessments. Household behaviours were assessed during this period. The first assessment was conducted between 8 and 24 February 2023²⁵ while the endline assessment was conducted between 3 and 9 May 2023 after the last round of cash transfer.

Analysis

Data was collected through the KOBO platform, after which all data was anonymised and shared with the IMPACT field team for checking and cleaning, which happened daily throughout data collection. Quantitative data was analysed using the R software, focusing on selected sectoral, cross-sectoral, and thematic indicators, disaggregating data where interesting by factors such as district and gender of the head of household respondent. To account for the unequal distribution of households, results were weighted at district level.

Challenges and Limitations

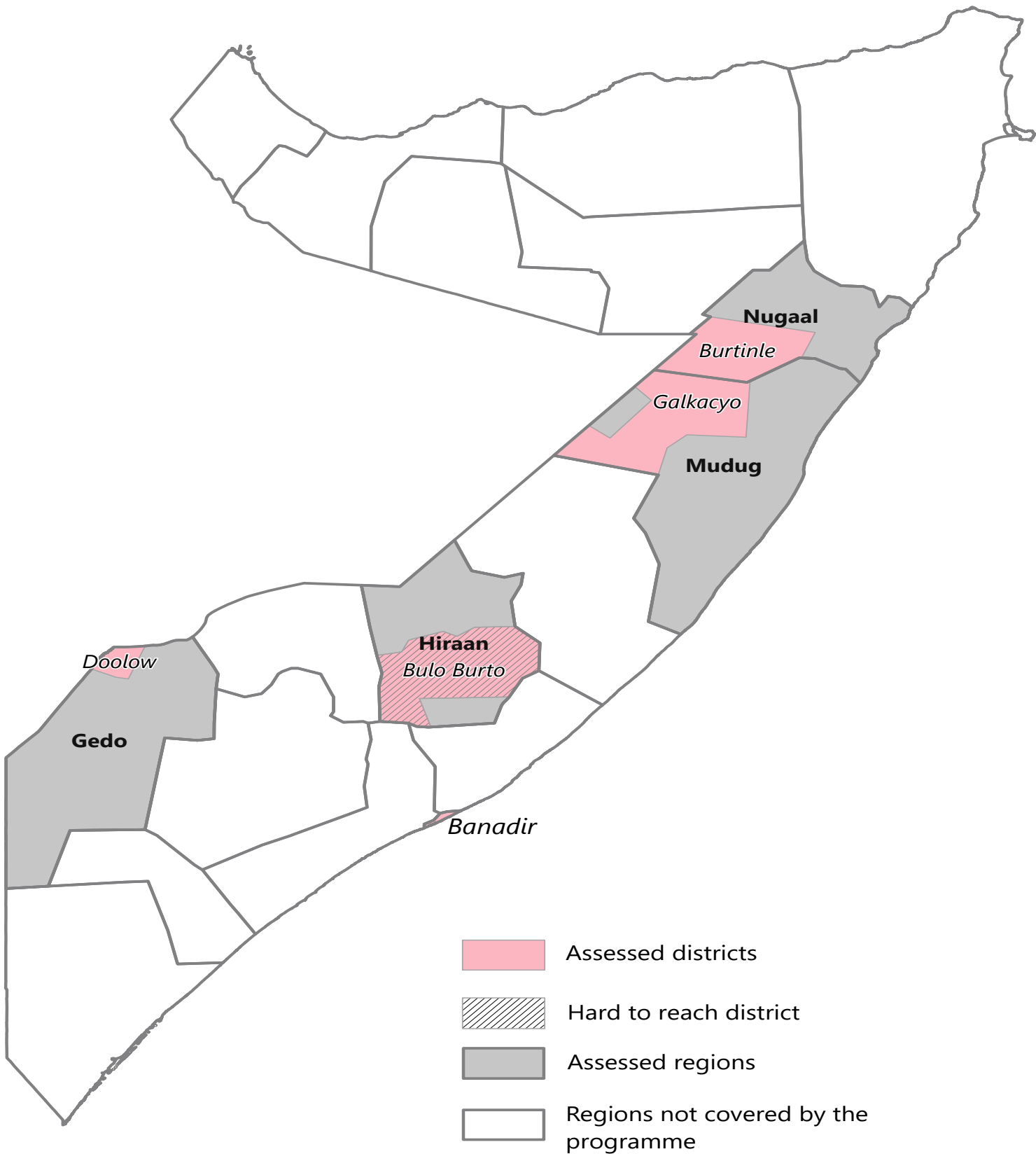
- **Phone interviews:** Due to the length and in-depth nature of this survey, some respondents were prone to survey fatigue or left the survey halfway through to take care of errands. Additionally, older respondents or those with hearing difficulties likely faced additional difficulties in participating in the survey, which might have led to an under-representation of their perceptions. Poor network connectivity and lack of personal interaction were also expected. To account for these challenges, the questionnaire size was limited to avoid losing respondents' attention.
- **Cultural taboos,** such as topics associated with the consumption of khat and gift/charity as a source of income, might have resulted in under-reporting on certain indicators, notably the monthly household expenditure breakdown.

²⁵ [IMPACT SOM Somalia-Cash-Consortium First Assessment Factsheet February 2023](#)

- **Limitations of household surveys:** While household-level quantitative surveys seek to provide quantifiable information that can be generalised to the populations of interest, the methodology is not suited to provide in-depth explanations of complex issues. Thus, questions on "how" or "why" (e.g., reasons for adopting coping strategies, differences between population groups, etc.) are often beyond the scope of the assessment format adopted. The unit of measurement for this assessment was the household, which does not allow assessment of intra-household dynamics (including in relation to intra-household gender norms, roles, and dynamics, disability, age, etc.).
- **Respondent bias:** Certain indicators may be under-reported or over-reported due to subjectivity and perceptions of respondents (in particular "social desirability bias" - the tendency of people to provide what they perceive to be the "right" answers to certain questions). Households may sometimes try to give answers they feel will increase their chances of getting more assistance.
- **Perceptions:** Questions on household perceptions may not directly reflect the realities of the household well-being - only respondents' perceptions of them.
- **Recall period:** Data on household expenditure was based on a 30-day recall period; a considerable duration due to which it may be difficult for households to remember their expenditures accurately and to such a degree of detail; hence it might have negatively impacted the accuracy of reporting on those indicators.
- **Ramadan:** The endline assessment was conducted after the Ramadan period, this, therefore, may skew the food security outcome indicators, since during this holy month households' food intake was decreased by a greater proportion.
- **Assessment timeline:** Households had received the first line response prior to the first assessment. This may have skewed some of the outcome indicators as households already had more cash than they normally would. Therefore, evaluating the full impact of the cash assistance on the beneficiary households became more challenging.

Geographical scope

Map 1: Map of assessed areas.



FINDINGS

This section of the report presents and compares the main findings of the SCC's first and endline assessments. It is structured around the following parts:

- Respondent profile and household demographic breakdown;
- Subjective perceptions of households of their own well-being;
- A series of food security-related indicators;
- Protection-related indicators;
- Accountability to affected populations.

Respondent Profile and Household Demographic Breakdown²⁶

Respondent Profile

Over the span of all assessments,²⁷ 1,835 respondents were surveyed. Of these surveys, 92% were conducted directly with the self-reported head of household. The remaining 8% of surveys were conducted with a different member of the household who answered the questions on behalf of the head of household.²⁸ This could be due to various reasons, for instance, the head of household being unavailable during data collection or having hearing problems and being unable to participate in a phone-based interview. The rate of heads of households directly participating in the survey was consistent across the two assessments, as can be seen in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Proportion of survey respondents who self-identified as the head of household.

	Yes	No
First assessment	91%	9%
Endline	93%	7%

Household Demographic Breakdown

This section will provide a brief overview of the demographic breakdown of the households included in this assessment. Averages have been weighted according to the number of surveys collected during each assessment phase. The sample was not stratified according to the gender of the head of household, household IDP status, or livelihood zone, hence any findings disaggregated by these factors should be considered indicative in nature.

Head of Household Age and Gender

At the endline assessments, over two-thirds (63%) of households were reportedly female-headed, while 37% of households were male-headed households.

During the endline, more than two-thirds (68%) of the interviews were conducted with female respondents and the average age of all heads of households was 39.9 years, with male heads of

²⁶ Findings in this section are based on all households surveyed throughout this research cycle, including those that only received two rounds of cash transfers.

²⁷ Hereafter, when "all assessments" are mentioned, this refers to the first assessment and endline assessments conducted in 2022 under the scope of the main caseload, Round 1 (R1) project cycle. Averages have been weighted according to the number of surveys collected during each assessment phase.

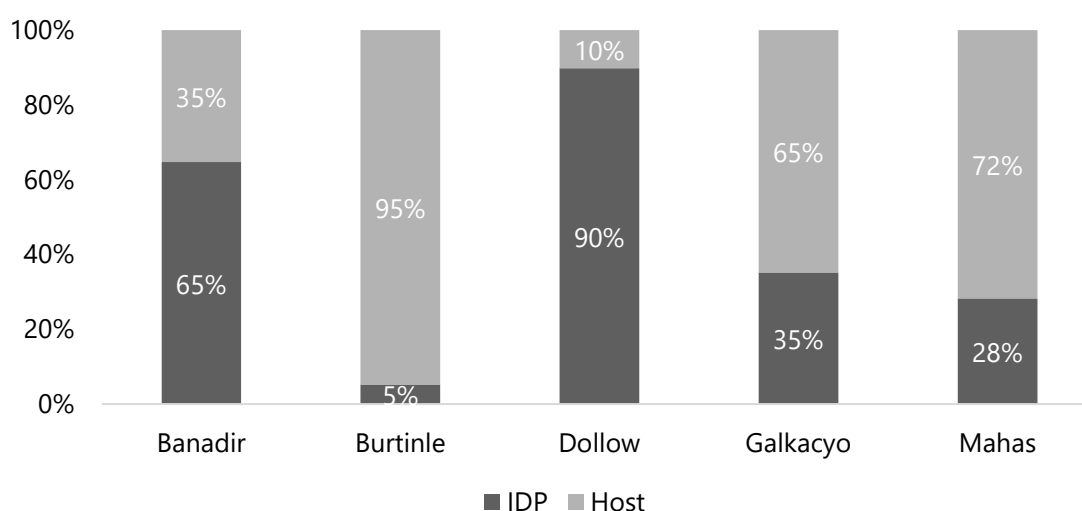
²⁸ In all surveys, regardless of whether the respondent was the self-reported head of household or not, the gender and age of the reported head of household were collected for disaggregation purposes.

household being on average 41.6 years old and female heads of household averaging at a slightly younger age – 38.9 years old.²⁹

Household Displacement Status

Overall, 60% of households were found to be members of the host community, and 40% were IDPs. At the endline, 75% of the households who identified themselves as IDPs were classified as new arrivals.³⁰ As shown in Figure 1 below, the highest proportions of IDPs were found to be in Banadir (65%) and Dollow (90%) districts.

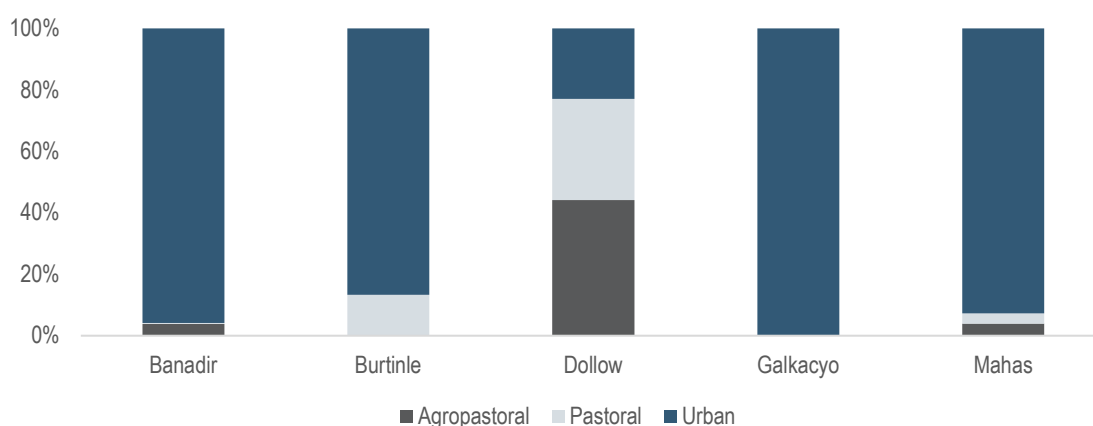
Figure 1: % of IDPs and the host communities of the SCC beneficiary households by district.



Livelihood Zone Breakdown

As shown in Figure 2 below, the proportional breakdown of the livelihood zone varies considerably by district. Of the SCC beneficiary households surveyed across all assessments, 80% were categorised as urban households, 10% as agro-pastoral and 10% as pastoral, based on household self-reporting.

Figure 2: Self-reported livelihood zone breakdown of SCC beneficiary households by district.



²⁹ No data was collected for heads of households younger than 18, and surveys were only conducted with respondents over the age of 18.

³⁰ The Consortium Management Unit classified IDPs as new arrivals if these had arrived not later than 2 years.

Household Spending Decisions

Across all assessments, households' spending decisions were most commonly reported to be made jointly by both male and female members of the household. Responsibility within the household over spending decisions does not appear to have changed much following the reception of UCT. The spending decisions seemed to be similar between the first assessment and the endline assessments (44% and 48% during the first assessment and the endline, respectively).

All households reported that there were no conflicts between the household members on how to spend the cash received during the endline assessment.

Table 4: Primary spending decision-maker reported by % of households.

	First assessment	Endline
Male	25%	19%
Female	31%	33%
Joint Decisions	44%	48%

Perceived well-being Indicators

Households were asked the following series of subjective questions³¹ to determine their perception of their household's well-being, ability to meet basic needs, and ability to withstand shocks:

1. In the past month, has your household had sufficient quantities of food to eat?
2. In the past month, has your household had sufficient varieties of food to eat?
3. In the past month, has your household had enough money to cover your household's basic needs?
4. How would you rate your household's overall well-being in terms of being able to meet its basic needs?

There were marked improvements across most subjective indicators at the time of the endline assessment. Following the three months of unconditional cash transfers, households' perception of their food security, economic well-being and ability to meet basic needs and overall well-being appeared increasingly positive, indicating that households felt more financially secure and had a **greater ability to meet their basic needs.**

The percentage of households reporting that they "never" or "rarely" had a sufficient quantity of food to eat in the month prior to data collection decreased from 62% at the first to 31% during the endline assessment, while the percentage of households reporting that they "mostly" or "always" had enough food to eat increased between the first assessment and the endline assessment (38% and 69% during the first and endline assessment respectively), indicating a positive impact of the distributions on households' experiences with access to food. **Similar outcomes were found based on the household's perception of the variety of food consumed.** This positive shift in households' perception of their own well-being aligns with the positive increases in other indicators measuring food security outcomes, particularly the FCS, rCSI and

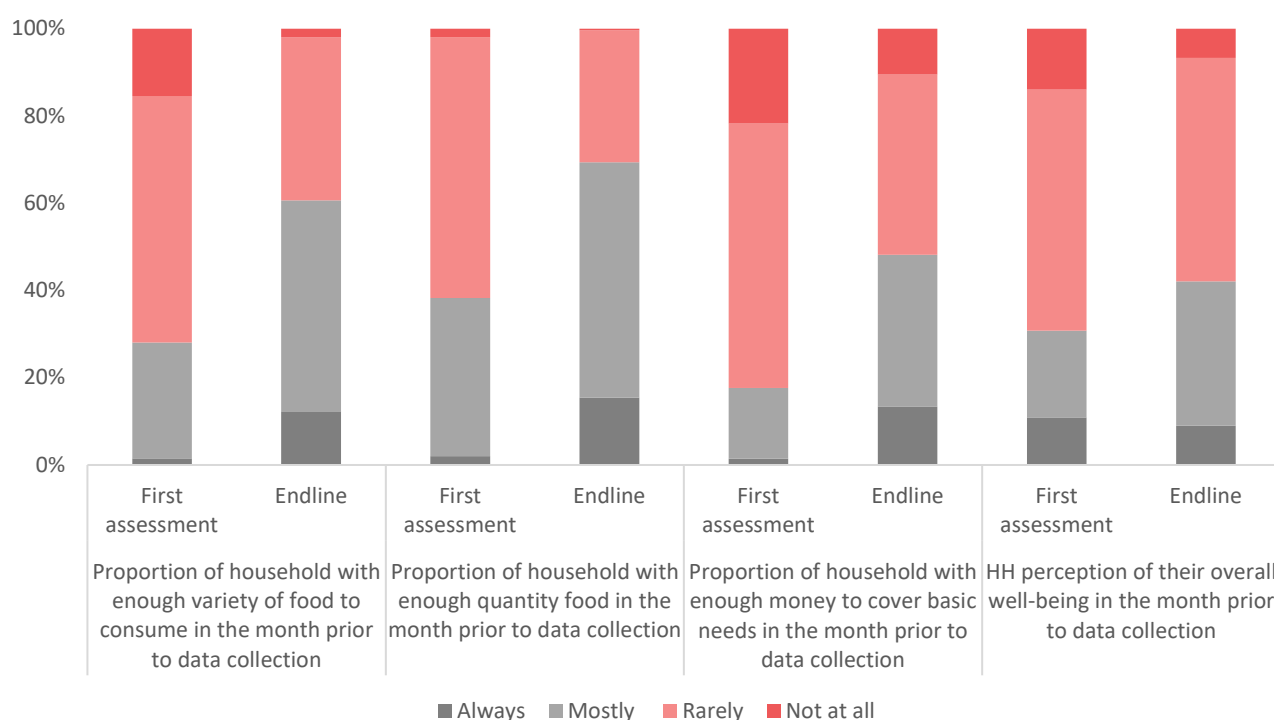
³¹ This series of perceived well-being indicators was developed jointly by the Cash Consortium and an external consultant working on a previous grant.

HHS, which more quantitatively assess changes over time in the quantity and variety of food consumed.

Findings suggest that the cash assistance given to the HHs had a positive impact on HHs' ability to meet basic needs. The proportion of HHs who had enough money to cover their basic needs increased during the endline. The proportion of HHs reporting "mostly" having been able to cover their basic needs increased from 16% to 35% between the first assessment and endline respectively. This is reflected in HHs' ability to acquire sufficient quantities of food. During the endline, 54% of the HHs reported "mostly" having been able to access sufficient quantities of food which represents an 18%-point increase from the first assessment.

Only 17% of all households reported always or mostly having been able to access money to cover their basic needs during the first assessment. This proportion considerably increased at the endline (48%), while the proportion of households reporting not having been able to do so at all decreased from 22% to 11%.

Figure 3: Percentage of households reporting always, mostly, rarely, or not at all when assessed on the perceived well-being indicators.



While, during the first assessment, only 31% of households reported having "mostly" or "always" been able to meet their basic needs in the 30 days prior to data collection, this proportion had risen to **nearly half (42%) of households** during the endline, an indication that UCTs had a positive impact on vulnerable households amidst the worsening drought conditions.

These findings appear to be consistent with households' reported perception of the appropriateness of cash assistance; more than three-quarters (77%) of households reported that the cash assistance was appropriate for their household's needs. About 22% reported that cash as a modality was not appropriate for them at the time of endline data collection. **These households felt cash should be complemented with other types of aid, other than cash assistance, to help them meet most of**

their basic needs. Out of the 64% of the households who had suggestions, 85% of households felt that the programme duration should be increased, while 64% of households felt the amounts disbursed should be increased.

Reflecting the general trend of the other subjective well-being indicators, the proportion of households reporting positive perceptions of their well-being³² appears to have increased between the first assessment and the endline, while the proportion of households reporting negative perceptions of their well-being decreased.

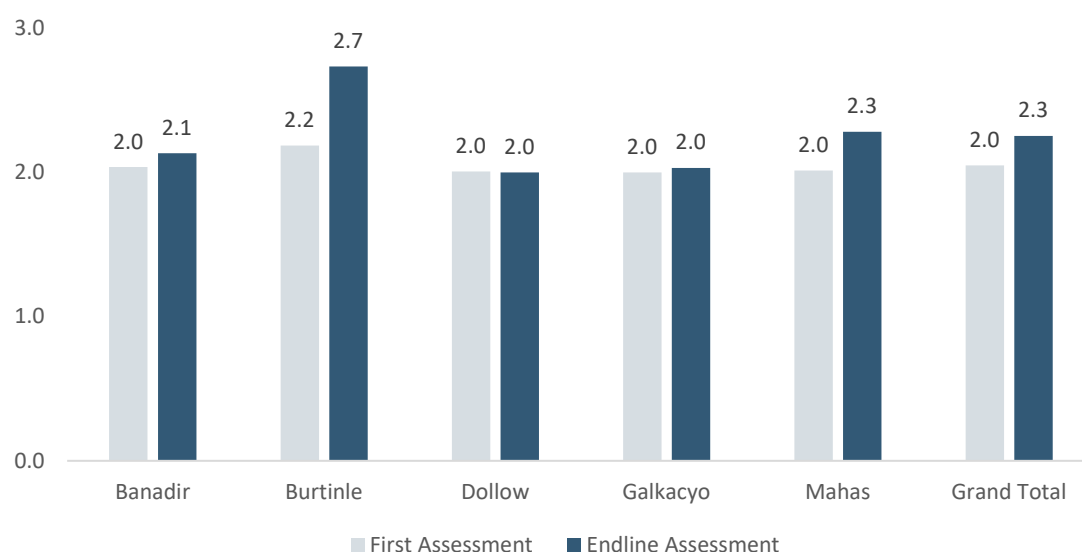
Core Food Security Indicators³³

Meals Consumed in the 24 Hours Prior to Data Collection

At the endline, after the three cycles of the UCT, the average number of meals consumed by households in the 24 hours prior to data collection was 2.3, marking a slight increase from the average of 2.1 meals consumed at the first assessment. The district disaggregation for the results is presented in Figure 4 below.

The average number of meals consumed increased in Banadir, Burtinle and Mahas districts and remained stable in the other districts assessed.

Figure 4: Reported # of meals consumed in the 24 hours prior to data collection.



³² Referring here to household access to a sufficient quantity of food, access to enough money to cover basic needs, ability to withstand shocks, and household perception of their overall well-being.

³³ The indicators included in this section align with the 'Recommended Indicators' developed by the Somalia Cash Working Group to standardise the way in which household-level food security is measured across assessments. All the results presented have been weighted at the district level by the proportion of SCC beneficiary households per targeted district.

Table 5: Proportion of households by reported # of meals consumed in the 24 hours prior to data collection.

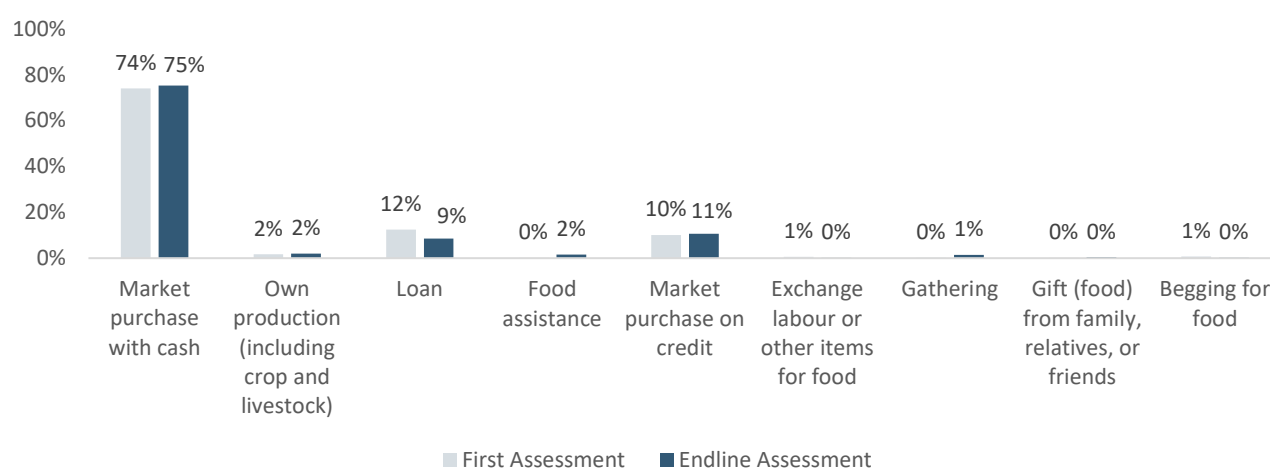
# of Meals Eaten in the 24 hours prior to data collection	% of households First assessment	% of households Endline
0	1%	0%
1	3%	1%
2	88%	74%
3	8%	24%
>3	0%	1%

Categorisation of households by the number of meals eaten in the 24 hours prior to data collection allows for further analysis. **The proportion of households reporting consumption of fewer than two meals slightly decreased from 4% at the first assessment to 1% during the endline, while the proportion of households reporting consumption of three or more meals increased considerably from 8% to 25%.**

Main Household Food Sources

To provide context on household spending decisions and food security outcomes, and to better understand the use of certain coping strategies, households were asked about their main food sources in the 7 days prior to data collection.

Figure 5: Main food source reportedly used by households in the 7 days prior to data collection.



Market purchases made with cash³⁴ represented the main food source reported by households during all assessments. The proportion of households reporting market purchases

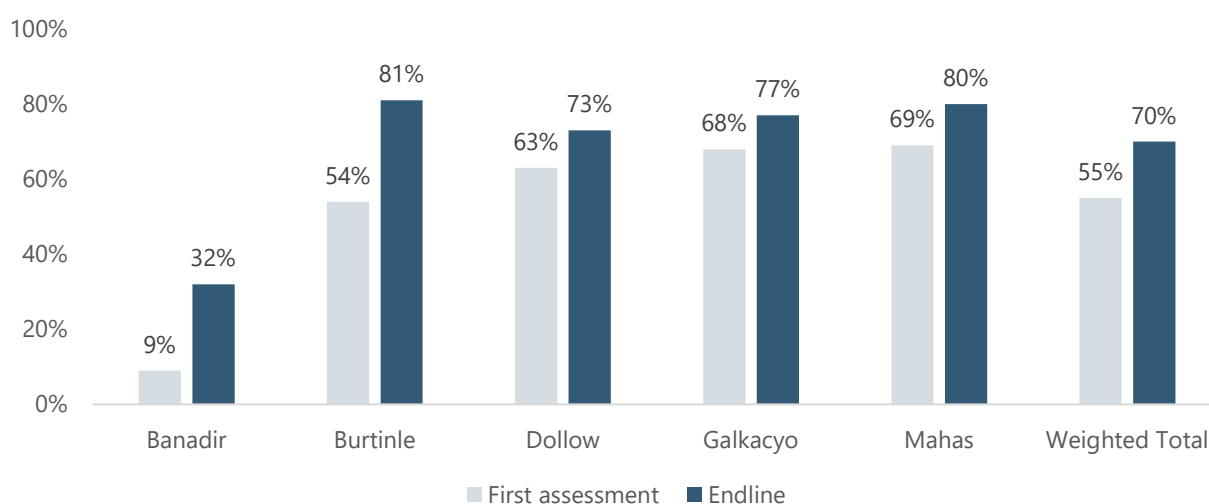
³⁴ Also including purchases made through mobile money applications.

with cash as their main food source slightly increased from 74% at the first assessment to 75% at the endline. In addition, only 2% of the HH reportedly relied on their own production for food.

The Economic Capacity to Meet Essential Needs (ECMEN)^{35,36}

The January and March 2023 minimum expenditure basket (MEB) cost was used to calculate the ECMEN value during the first assessment and endline assessment. The proportion of households whose spending was equal to or above the MEB increased from 55% at the first assessment to 70% during the endline. As demonstrated in Figure 6 below, all districts were found to have an increase in the ECMEN value.

Figure 6: Proportion of households whose spendings were equal to or above the MEB cost per assessed district.



Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI)³⁷

The rCSI measures the frequency at which households have relied on certain negative coping strategies (related to food consumption in the household) within the 7 days prior to data collection to cope with food insecurity.³⁸

As seen in Table 6, Burtinle district recorded the highest levels of average rCSI during the first assessment. However, a considerable improvement in average rCSI was found in Burtinle and Mahas districts at the time of endline assessment, going from 18.3 to 9.7 in Burtinle and 13.8 to 8.9 in Mahas. The average rCSI decreased in all districts assessed from 14.6 at the first assessment to 11.1 during the endline assessment. This, therefore, implies that, according to the endline findings, a higher proportion of HHs (compared to the first assessment) had used fewer negative coping mechanisms in the seven days prior to data collection.

³⁵ World Food Programme (WFP) essential Needs Assessment (December 2020).

³⁶ Economic Capacity to Meet Essential Needs (ECMEN) is a binary indicator showing whether a household's total expenditures can cover the Minimum Expenditure Basket. It is calculated by establishing household economic capacity (which involves aggregating expenditures) and comparing it against the MEB to establish whether a household is above this threshold.

³⁷ It combines both the frequency of using coping strategies and their respective severity. Possible rCSI values range from 0 (no coping strategies applied) to 56 (all listed coping strategies are applied every day), with any score above 10 generally being considered to indicate frequent use of severe coping strategies. A higher score suggests a more severe level of food insecurity.

³⁸ Calculated according to the standards of the CWG M&E Workstream Recommended Indicators document.

The rCSI includes coping strategies such as³⁹ relying on less preferred, less expensive food (1), sorrowing food or relying on help from friends or relatives (2), reducing the number of meals eaten per day (1), reducing portion size of meals (1) and restricting consumption by adults in order for young children to eat (3).

Table 6: Average rCSI score, based on reported coping strategies used over the 7 days prior to data collection by district.⁴⁰

	First assessment	Endline
Banadir	13.5	11.6
Burtinle	18.3	9.7
Dollow	13.7	14.6
Galkacyo	12.9	11.5
Mahas	13.8	8.9
Weighted Total	14.6	11.1

Table 7: Proportion of households in each rCSI classification, based on reported food consumed in the 7 days prior to data collection.

	First assessment	Endline
Low	9%	15%
Medium	62%	69%
High	29%	16%

The proportion of households with a low rCSI increased from 9% at the first assessment to 15% at the endline. This is further reflected in the proportion of households with a high rCSI, which reduced from 29% to 16% during the same period. Households' access to cash transfers might have enabled them to rely on less severe food consumption coping behaviours.

Food Consumption Score (FCS)

The FCS is a composite score based on the dietary diversity, frequency of consuming certain food groups, and the relative nutritional value of foods consumed by a household in the 7 days prior to data collection.

Table 8: Proportion of households in each FCS classification, based on reported food consumed in the 7 days prior to data collection.

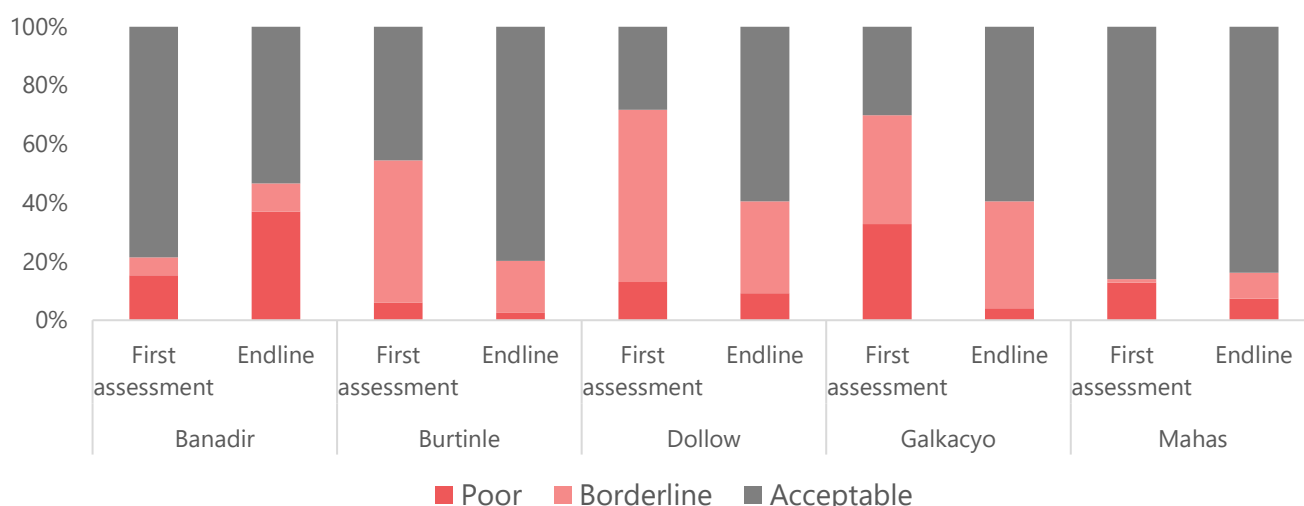
	First assessment	Endline
Poor	17%	10%
Borderline	31%	22%
Acceptable	51%	68%

³⁹ The strategies are weighted, with the highest weight given to the most "severe" categories. The categories range between 1 and 3. The weighted frequency scores are summed up into one final score (rCSI) with a minimum value of 0 and a maximum value of 56.

⁴⁰ Increases in average rCSI scores over time are considered negative as they imply increases in the reported use of household negative coping strategies (related to reducing food consumption), whereas decreases in average rCSI scores are considered positive.

The proportion of households with acceptable FCS increased from 51% at the first assessment to 68% at the endline. In addition, the average FCS increased from 45.0 at the first assessment to 50.3 during the endline assessment. The proportion of households with acceptable FCS scores increased in Burtinle, Dollow and Galkacyo. However, in Banadir district, the proportion of households with poor FCS increased from 15% during the first to 37% at the endline assessment.

Figure 7: Proportion of households in each FCS classification.



Household Hunger Scale⁴¹

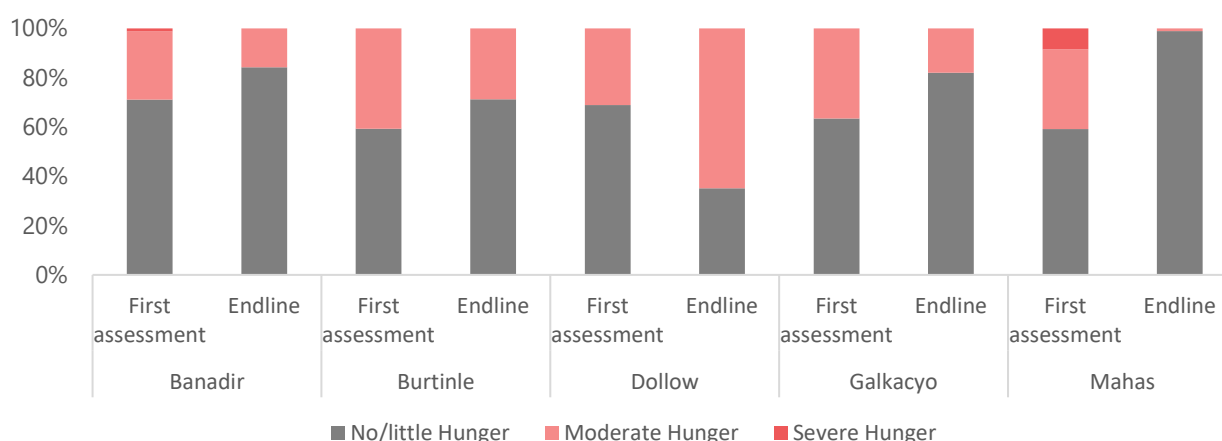
The HHS measures the prevalence of hunger over time to assess food security. It is used to measure extreme manifestations of insufficiency of food in the 30 days prior to data collection.

Table 9: Proportion of households per HHS category.

	First assessment	Endline
No/Little Hunger	51%	77%
Moderate Hunger	49%	23%
Severe Hunger	0%	0%

Positive improvements were seen in the proportion of households with no or little hunger between the first assessment and the endline. **The proportion of households reporting no or little hunger considerably increased from 51% at the first assessment to 77% at the endline**, indicative of an improved access to different food groups among beneficiary households, after the third cycle of cash transfer. The cash distributions likely played a role in the lower levels of hunger experienced by these households during the programming period.

⁴¹ Household Hunger Scale (HHS)—a new, simple indicator to measure household hunger in food insecure areas. HHS produces valid and comparable results across cultures and settings so that the status of different population groups can be described in a meaningful and comparable way to assess where resources and programmatic interventions are needed and to design, implement, monitor, and evaluate policy and programmatic interventions. Read more [here](#).

Figure 8: Proportion of households per HHS category in the 7 days prior to data collection, by district.

When looking at the proportion of households per HHS category by district (see Figure 8 above), it becomes apparent that the food security indicators pointed out an improvement in the hunger situation within the households. Consistent with changes in the FCS, LCSi and rCSI scores, the HHS in all districts improved from the first assessment to the endline, with the proportion of households with no or little hunger consistently increasing at the endline in all the districts except Dollow district. The magnitude of positive change in no or little hunger was particularly higher in Galkacyo (where it increased from 63% at the first assessment to 82% at the endline) and Mahas district (where it increased from 59% at the first assessment to 99% at the endline).

Livelihood Coping Strategies Index (LCSI)⁴²

The LCSI measures the livelihoods-related coping strategies that households employ when they are otherwise unable to access a sufficient amount of food or meet other basic needs. For this assessment, and in line with the Somali context, livelihood zones are categorised as either urban, agro-pastoral (including riverine populations), or pastoral. Coping strategies are context-sensitive and thus specific to each livelihood zone, with some overlap.

Table 10: Proportion of households per LCSI severity category, based on strategies reportedly used over the 30 days prior to data collection at the first assessment and endline.

	First assessment	Endline
None	13%	19%
Stress	35%	40%
Crisis	22%	24%
Emergency	30%	18%

⁴² LCSI scores are used to classify households into the categories of 'stress', 'crisis', and 'emergency'. Those households who do not report having employed any of the coping strategies considered within the LCSI are classified as 'none'. All livelihoods-based coping strategies employed by households in the previous 30-day period were reported on. For analytical purposes, however, each household's LCSI severity was classified based on the most severe coping strategy employed in the 30 days prior to data collection. Whether a household had already exhausted a particular coping strategy and could no longer continue to employ it was also considered.

Table 10 shows the prevalence of each LCSI severity category. The proportion of households who reported having employed none of the livelihood-related coping strategies in the 30 days prior to data collection increased from 13% of households at the first assessment to 19% at the endline. In addition, the proportion of households in the “emergency” category decreased from 30% at the first assessment to 18% at the endline. The cash transfers might have increased the disposable incomes of these households and thus made them able to spend on different commodities without exhausting their expenditure budget.

Despite these positive changes observed in the analysis, the increased use of emergency coping strategies was reported in Banadir and Burtinle districts.

At the time of the first assessment, the three most commonly reported livelihood coping strategies were: Purchasing food on credit or borrowed food (77%), spending savings (73%) and borrowing money to buy food (53%).

At the endline assessment, the three most commonly reported livelihood coping strategies were: Purchasing food on credit or borrowing food (73%), borrowing money to buy food (48%) and spending savings (8%).

It should also be noted that the use of livelihood-based coping strategies reported by households varied greatly by district (see Figure 9 below). Households in Banadir (41%) district were found to resort to emergency-level coping strategies more than the overall average (18%) during the endline assessment.

Figure 9: Average LCSI score of beneficiary households, by district.

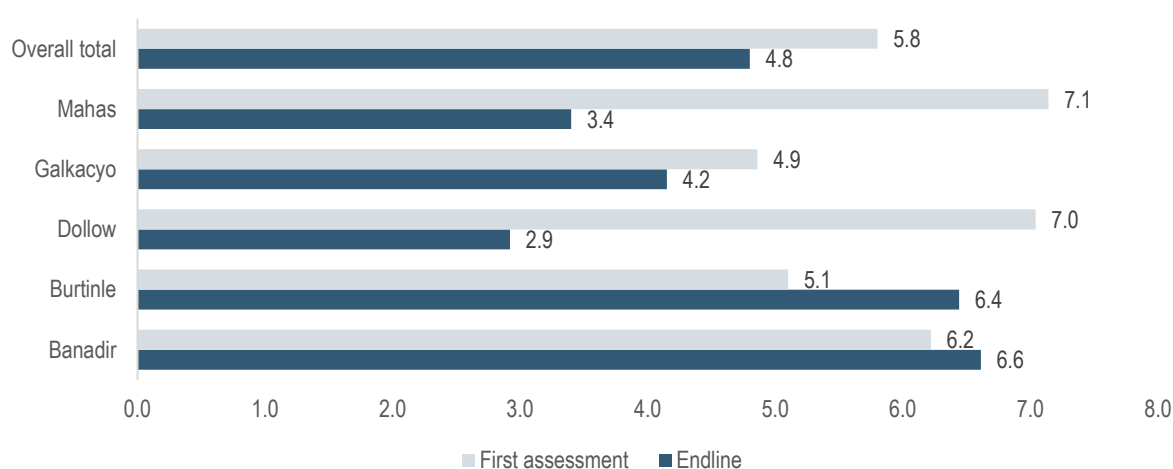
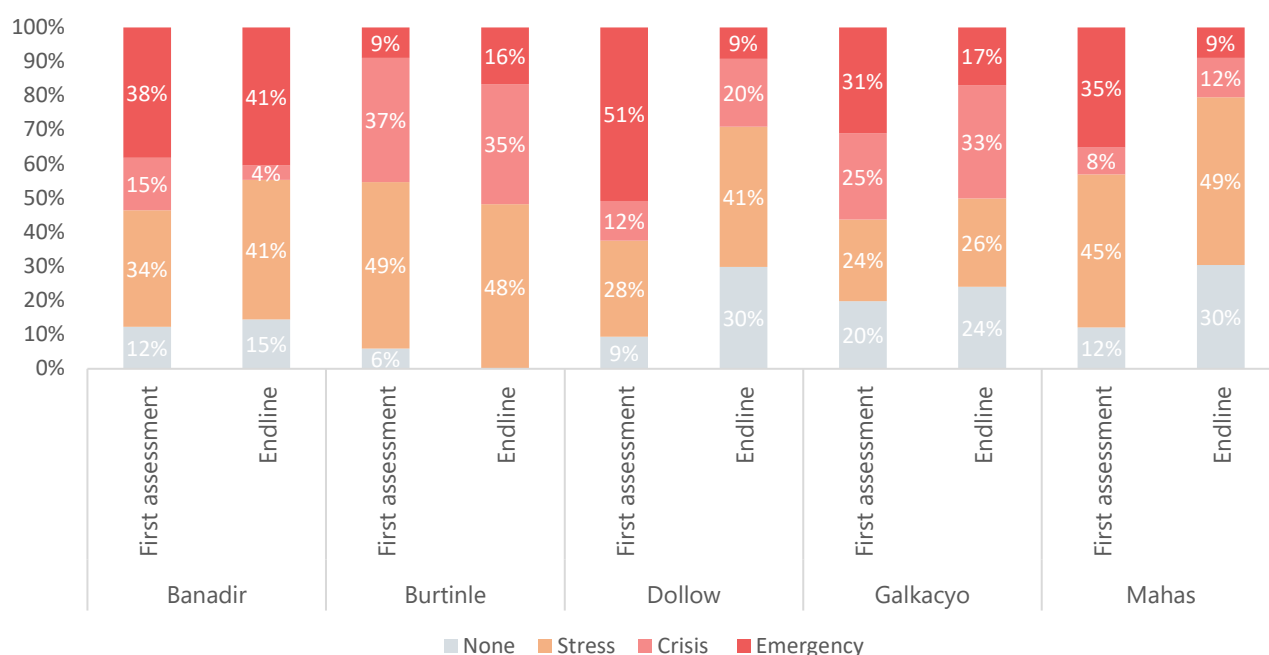


Figure 10: Proportion of households reportedly using stress, crisis, and emergency livelihood coping strategies over the 30 days prior to data collection by district.



Household Expenditure Breakdown

Findings suggest that the most significant category of household spending was food, which may be indicative of the precarious financial situation of the SCC UCT beneficiary households. Food purchases still accounted for nearly half of all monthly household expenditures during the first and endline assessments (47% and 46% respectively). Continuously high spending on food could also be due to high food prices within the region at the time of endline data collection.

All HHs (100%) reported to have received cash assistance from SCC in the 30 days prior to data collection. The average reported household income including the cash assistance slightly increased from 182.5 USD at the first assessment to 186.3 USD during the endline. This limited increase is likely due to the first assessment being conducted after the beneficiary households had received the first round of cash transfers.

Most of the surveyed HHs reported humanitarian assistance (65% and 72% at the first assessment and endline respectively) as one of their three primary sources of income.

During the endline, spending on rent and shelter formed part of the top-reported expenditure category. This is likely due to the fact that most of the households were residing in the urban dwelling and mostly in the IDP camps.

Table 11: Change in average amount spent by households on categories of items in the 30 days prior to data collection.

Expenditure Category	First assessment Average (USD)	Endline Average (USD)	Expenditure Change (USD): First assessment to Endline
Food	72.5	75.0	2.5
Debt repayment	42.9	41.3	-1.6
Clothing	15.4	23.3	7.9
Medical services	17.2	18.7	1.5
Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)	10.0	8.9	-1.1
Education	20.0	18.1	-1.9
Fuel	10.5	10.6	0.1
Rent and shelter	20.5	30.9	10.4
Khat	14.7	5.6	-9.1
Other	19.5	19.5	0.0

As the cash provided was unrestricted, households were free to decide for themselves how best to spend it. To understand the impact of UCT on non-food-related decision-making, it is important to consider not only the change in the proportion of expenditure spent on a particular expense category but also the change in the amount. **Looking at the change in spending amounts presented in Table 11 reveals that, the average amount spent on food in the past 30 days increased slightly during the endline.** This increase in expenditure on food is aligned with the overall improvements seen following the reception of UCT in household-level food security indicators, such as the FCS, HHS, and rCSI, and suggests that households were generally able to afford more and/or better-quality food. The expenditure categories that saw the biggest change in the amount spent between the first assessment and the endline were food and debt repayment, education, medical services and clothing. It is worth noting that the average amount spent on Khat decreased considerably from 14.7 USD during the first assessment to 5.6 USD at the endline assessment.⁴³

Savings and Debts

During the endline, only 11% of the interviewed households reportedly had some savings averaging to 34.6 USD a slight increase from the first assessment where 8% of the households were found to have savings averaging to 35.0 USD. The proportion of households with debts during this period decreased from 31% at the first assessment to 17% at the endline. Moreover, households' average debt amounts seem to have decreased from USD 69.2 at the first assessment to USD 52.5 during the endline assessment.

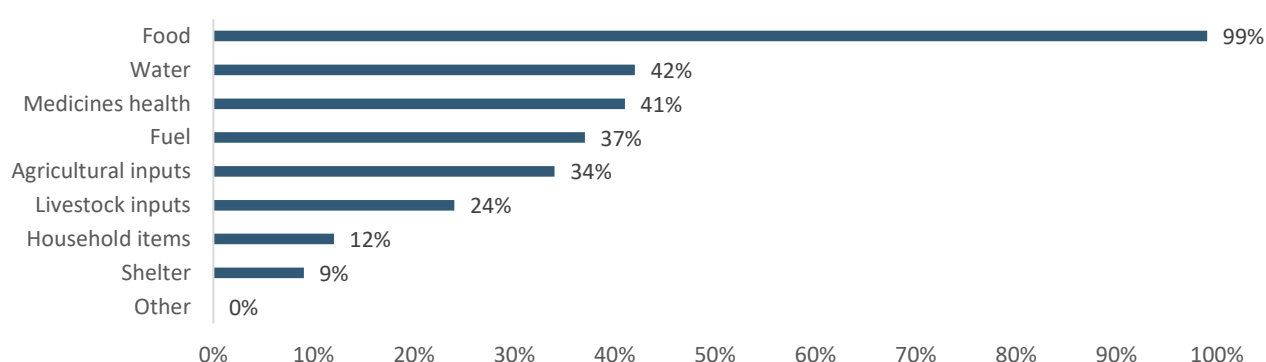
Households' top reported reasons for taking debts during the endline assessment were: to buy food (60%), access healthcare services (53%), to acquire clothes (30%) and to pay school fees (29%).

⁴³ These findings should be interpreted in the context of the households receiving the first round of cash transfers prior to the first assessment. This makes it challenging to see the evolution in the households' expenditures.

Another indication of households' resort to taking debts to make ends meet and access essential needs can be seen from the fact that debt repayment represented a large portion of household expenditure.

To capture any potential unintended negative effects of cash assistance on the SCC beneficiary households and their communities, households were asked several questions on the market price inflation during the endline assessment.^{44, 45} **About 7% of the assessed HHs reported having the perception that traders overcharged them because of their beneficiary status. In addition, 7% of respondents reported that they thought prices had increased for the whole community following the cash transfers. Nearly all (99%) HHs of the 7% reported that food prices increased at the endline.**

Figure 11: Items for which vendors reportedly increased prices since the transfers started, by % of households who reported perceiving vendors had increased their prices for the whole community. (n=62 at the endline).⁴⁶



Protection Index Score

The Protection Index Score⁴⁷ serves as a proxy indicator for the percentage of beneficiaries (disaggregated by sex, age, and livelihood zone) reporting that humanitarian assistance is delivered in a safe, accessible, accountable, and participatory manner⁴⁸. The percentage of households responding positively to the relevant questions included in this score was 75% at the first assessment and at 82% at the endline assessment (while the target for this score stands at 79%). During the endline, when the respondents were asked if they felt safe going through the programme's selection process, registration, and surveys, **nearly all (99%) assessed households reported believing that the selection of beneficiaries was fair**. Similarly, nearly all (99%) assessed households reported not having paid, or knowing someone who paid, to get on the beneficiary list. In addition, all assessed households reported having been treated with respect by NGO staff up to the time of data collection.

⁴⁴ Do you believe vendors specifically overcharged your household because they were aware of how much money you received through the cash payments? Do you believe vendors have increased the prices they charge to everyone in the community (both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries) since the cash transfers began?

⁴⁵ Based only on personal perception, results were not triangulated with more objective market price monitoring. Despite their limitations, these questions nevertheless provide important insight into the perceptions of households of the effects of the UCT programme on their community.

⁴⁶ As this question was only asked to those households who reported vendors increasing their prices, findings are indicative only and were not weighted by districts. Households were able to provide multiple comments, hence percentages do not add up to 100.0%.

⁴⁷ The Protection Index Score is calculated according to the DG ECHO Protection Mainstreaming Guidance document provided by the Somali Cash Consortium.

⁴⁸ This score measures the % of beneficiary households giving a positive answer to the following seven questions:

- Do you know of anyone in your community having been consulted by the NGO on what your needs are and how the NGO can best help?
- Was the cash assistance you received appropriate to your needs or those of members of your community?
- Do you feel safe when going through this programme's selection process, surveys, and accessing your cash?
- Did you feel you were treated with respect by NGO staff during the intervention so far?
- During the selection process, do you think there were households that were unfairly selected for cash distributions over other households more in need?
- Have you or anyone you know in your community ever raised any concerns on the assistance you received to the NGO using one of the above mechanisms?
- If yes, are you satisfied with the response you have received?

'Yes' is considered a positive response to all questions, except for question 5, for which a positive response would be a 'no' answer.

Nearly all (98%) assessed households reported not being aware of someone in the community being pressured or coerced to exchange non-monetary favours to get on the beneficiary list.

Table 12: Aggregated Protection Index Score by district.

District	First assessment Score	Endline Score
Banadir	79%	71%
Burtinle	68%	82%
Dollow	71%	79%
Galkacyo	82%	82%
Mahas	71%	82%
Weighted Average	82%	82%

About a quarter (23%) of assessed households reported having raised any concerns about the assistance received to the NGO using any of the complaint response mechanisms available. Of the 23% who raised concerns, a majority of households reported being satisfied with the response they received (85% fully satisfied and 10% partially satisfied).

During the endline, 62% (a 29% point increase from the first assessment) of the assessed households were aware of options to contact the NGOs if they had questions or complaints or problems with receiving cash assistance. Of these 62%, more than two-thirds (**67%**) of the HHs reported that they were aware of the existence of a dedicated NGO hotline while another **43%** reported that they knew they could directly talk to NGO staff during field visits or at their offices. This is a considerable improvement in CRM utilisation by the beneficiary households.

Table 13: Most commonly reported reasons for not using CRM by % of households who reported not using CRM.

	First assessment (n=546)	Endline (n=671)
Fear of Negative Consequences	1%	1%
Lack of CRM knowledge	25%	16%
No concerns	74%	83%

At the endline, households were given the opportunity to make comments or suggestions on how to improve the SCC programming. **About two-thirds (64%) of households chose to further explain the needs of their household and their community, and how aid programming could be improved to meet these needs.** A summary of their comments is provided in the table below:

Table 14: Suggestions made by beneficiary households on how to improve the cash assistance intervention by % of households who reported having suggestions.⁴⁹

	First assessment (n=461)	Endline (n=557)
Flood relief	4%	23%
Medical infrastructure	38%	37%
Increase field visits	36%	24%
Shelter support	70%	50%
In-kind food aid	71%	56%
In-kind NFI aid	23%	26%
Education infrastructure	47%	43%
Livelihood support	36%	32%
WASH support	30%	24%
Soap distribution	19%	10%
Additional assistance	30%	22%
Long term support	36%	24%
Disability support	4%	3%
Drought relief	19%	10%

While cash assistance may be an effective means for households to meet their basic needs in the short term, households and the communities in which they reside face numerous systemic challenges in their daily life, including the lack of necessary infrastructure like shelter and educational facilities. These findings could indicate that some households would indeed ideally substantiate their cash assistance with additional in-kind food aid, which could allow them to re-prioritise cash towards addressing their more medium-term needs.

Accountability

Awareness of Selection Criteria

Households were asked if they were aware of any of the beneficiary selection criteria used by NGOs, and if they were aware, they were additionally asked to list all criteria they were aware of. If households were unable to list any of the selection criteria in this follow-up question, their initial answer was changed to 'no'.

Overall, **at the first assessment, about 46% of households were able to list at least one selection criterion, while 54% were unable to list any.** Beneficiary households who were able to list at least one selection criterion were mostly aware of these selection criteria: ⁵⁰ Lack of income (82%), lack of assets (79%), disability of a household member (37%), use of negative coping strategies (30%) and illness of household members (27%).

⁴⁹ As this question was only asked to the 55% of households who chose to make a comment or suggestion at the endline, findings are indicative only and were not weighted by district. As households were able to provide multiple comments, percentages do not add up to 100.0%.

⁵⁰ Given the length of time between the beneficiary selection process and the endline assessment (approximately three months), and the high likelihood of recall issues over time, this question was only included in the first assessment.

Perception of Representation by Village Relief Council (VCR)

Regarding community representation, households were asked to score their perception of how well the Village Relief Committee (VRC) advocates for them or represents their needs. Almost all (96%) households answered that they felt that the VRC represented their interests and advocated on their behalf either 'well' or 'very well', while 3% of households reported feeling that they were represented 'poorly' or 'very poorly' and the remainder (1%) preferred not to answer this question.

Complain Response Mechanism (CRM) awareness

A slight increase was reported in the proportion of households who reportedly utilised the CRM platforms. This increased from 19% at the first assessment to 23% during the endline. Of the households who were aware of at least one option to contact the CRM (62%), about two-thirds (65%) reported being aware of the existence of a dedicated NGO hotline, while another 46% reported that they knew they could directly talk to NGO staff during field visits or at their offices.

Annex 1: Completed Consolidated Approach to reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI) Console*.

CARI analyses primary data from a single household survey and classifies individual households according to their level of food security. The approach culminates in a food security console which supports the reporting and combining of food security indicators in a systematic and transparent way, using information collected in a typical food security assessment. Central to the approach is an explicit classification of households into four descriptive groups: Food Secure, Marginally Food Secure, Moderately Food Insecure, and Severely Food Insecure. The classification provides a representative estimate of food security within the target population whether it is calculated at the national, district, region or livelihood zone level.

Food Security Assessment										
Domain	Indicator	Food Secure		Marginally Food Secure		Moderately Food Insecure		Severely Food Insecure		
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)					
		First assessment	Endline	First assessment	Endline	First assessment	Endline	First assessment	Endline	
Current Status	Food Consumption	Food Consumption Group and rCSI	Acceptable 10%	Acceptable 13%	Acceptable and rCSI>=44%	Acceptable and rCSI>=45%	Borderline 30%	Borderline 20%	Poor 17%	Poor 11%
Coping Capacity	Economic Vulnerability	Economic Capacity to Meet Essential Needs (ECMEN)	60%	69%			21%	19%	19%	12%
	Asset Depletion	Livelihood Coping Strategies	None 12%	None 19%	Stress 36%	Stress 41%	Crisis 20%	Crisis 21%	Emergency 32%	Emergency 18%
CARI Food Security Index			4%	7%	45%	58%	41%	30%	9%	4%

As shown in Annex 1 above, after the three rounds of cash transfers, households' food security levels improved. The proportions of households found to be either food secure or marginally food secure increased from 49% during the first assessment to about two-thirds (65%) during the endline assessment. In addition, during the same period, households who were found to be severely food insecure decreased from 9% to 4% respectively. This is a clear indication that the cash transfers had a positive impact on the beneficiary households.

*HHs are classified as **food secure** if they are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without depletion of assets or **marginally food secure** if they have a minimally adequate food consumption, but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without depletion of assets or **moderately food insecure** if they have food consumption gaps, or, marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with accelerated depletion of livelihood assets and **severely food insecure** if they have huge food consumption gaps, or extreme loss of livelihood assets that will lead to large food consumption gaps. More information can be obtained [here](#).

Annex 2: Coping strategies included in the LCSI.

Stress category	Crisis category	Emergency category
Sold household assets/goods (radio, furniture, refrigerator, television, jewelry, clothes etc.) [all livelihood zones]	Sold productive assets or means of transport (sewing machine, tools, wheelbarrow, bicycle, car, etc.) [urban and agro-pastoral]	Sold house or land [all livelihood zones]
Purchased food on credit or borrowed food [all livelihood zones]	Sold animals (productive and non-productive) but retained minimum stock [pastoral]	Begged [urban]
Spent savings/ Sold animals [urban]	Reduced health (including drugs) and education-related expenditures [urban]	Sold last female animal [agro-pastoral and pastoral]
Spent savings/ Sold more animals (non-productive) than usual [agro-pastoral and pastoral]	Consumed seed stocks that were to be held/saved for the next season [agro-pastoral]	Entire household has migrated to this area in the last 6 months or plans to migrate to the new area within the next 6 months to get help [urban]
Borrowed money [all livelihood zones]	Decreased expenditures on fodder, animal feed, veterinary care, etc. [pastoral]	Livelihood activities terminated. Entire household has migrated in the last 6 months or plans to migrate to the new area within the next 6 months [agro-pastoral and pastoral]