

ASAL Humanitarian Network MPCT Midline Assessment

Kenya



January 2022

Overview

The **ASAL Humanitarian Network's (AHN)** humanitarian assistance programme provides two rounds of multi-purpose cash transfers (MPCTs) to vulnerable populations in drought-affected counties in Kenya. This response is primarily funded by Oxfam¹ and consists of eight implementing local partner non-governmental organisations (NGOs): TUPADO, WASDA, ALDEF, PGI, PACIDA, SWT, SND and MIDP¹. The AHN distributed two rounds² of MPCTs between November 2021 and January 2022, to selected beneficiary households across seven counties in Kenya³.

To monitor the ongoing impact of the MPCTs on the beneficiary population, IMPACT Initiatives provides impartial third-party monitoring and evaluation. IMPACT conducted a baseline assessment prior to the first round of transfers, which was followed by a midline assessment after the first round, which will be followed by an endline assessment after the second & last round of transfers. This factsheet presents **key findings from the midline assessment as well as comparison of some key indicators from the baseline assessment**. The figures in grey highlight the magnitude of change from the baseline to the midline for relevant indicators.

Methodology

A total of **4991** households received the first round of MPCT between 10th and 15th November 2021. IMPACT surveyed a county-wise representative sample of MPCT beneficiary households two weeks after the first round of cash transfers. This included beneficiaries across the following counties: Isiolo, Garissa, Wajir, Samburu, Turkana, Tana River, & Marsabit. **A total of 1747⁵ beneficiary household surveys were conducted.**

The surveyed beneficiary households were selected through a simple random sampling approach at the county level, rendering findings that are representative at the county level with a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error. A buffer of 10% was introduced to off-set expected difficulties in reaching the sample size in the follow-up assessments. All results presented have been weighted by the proportion of AHN beneficiary households per targeted County.

Challenges & Limitations:

- Daily data checking and coverage tracking was affected by poor internet connection in some areas, which made it difficult to follow-up with the enumerators engaged in the field.
- Data on household expenditure was based on a 30-day recall period; a considerably long duration over which to expect households to remember expenditures accurately. This might have negatively impacted the accuracy of reporting on the expenditure indicators.

Key findings

- Findings from the baseline assessment indicate that 72.2% of households had a poor Food Consumption Score (FCS) and only around 11.8% had an acceptable FCS. Following the cash transfers, only 34.8% of households had a poor FCS during the midline assessment whereas 32.9% of households had an acceptable FCS.
- The percentage of households with a high or medium Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) increased from 14.3% at baseline to 23.7% at the midline assessment.
- A substantial improvement was observed in the percentage of households reporting never being able to meet their household's basic needs in the past 30 days decreasing from 65.7% at the baseline to 39.7% at the midline assessment.
- The average proportion of total expenditure spent on food in the month prior to data collection reduced from 61.3% in the baseline to 55.3% in the midline assessment. However, total food expenditure increased from 1806 KES to 5004 KES.
- Market purchase remained the most commonly reported primary source of food (90.1%) in the 7 days prior to data collection.
- The average reported monthly income per household during the midline assessment was 10,205 Kenyan shillings (KES), a 255.2% increase from the baseline assessment (2873 KES). The cash grants from the program were a major source of the aforementioned increase in income.
- The most commonly reported source of household income was livestock (46.0%), followed by humanitarian assistance (18.2%).
- During the midline, households commonly reported that spending decisions were made jointly by male and female members of the household (46.7%).

Locations Covered



Income & Expenditure

Expenditure Share

Most commonly reported expenditure categories and the average amount spent in KES on each in the month prior to data collection⁶:

Food	5004 +3197	56% (-6%)
Debt repayment	1081 +785	12% (+2%)
Education	827 +632	9% (+3%)
Water	639 +345	7% (-3%)
Medical expenses	530 +344	6% (-0%)

Average reported total household expenditure over a month in KES **8926 (+5999)**

Average reported total household income over a month in KES **10205 (+7332)**

Income

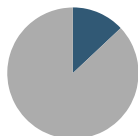
Most commonly reported primary sources of household income at the time of data collection:

- 46.0%** Livestock keeping
- 18.2%** Humanitarian assistance
- 12.7%** Casual labour

Market Access

% of households reporting challenges in accessing the market where they buy basic goods and services:

Yes	13.0% (-5.3%)
No	87.0% (+5.3%)



Food Sources

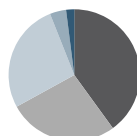
% of households by most commonly reported primary sources of food:

- 90.1%** Market purchase
- 3.8%** Gift
- 2.7%** Begging

Cash Use

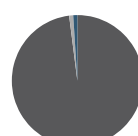
% of households reporting being able to meet their household's basic needs in the past 30 days:

Never	39.7% (-26.0%)
Almost never	26.6% (-2.3%)
Sometimes	27.3% (+22.7%)
Almost always	4.2% (+3.9%)
Always	2.2% (+2.1%)



% of households by their preferred method of receiving humanitarian assistance:

Mobile Money	98.9%
Cash Vouchers	0.9%
Food	0.1%
In-Kind Food	0.1%



Spending Decisions

% of households by reported primary spending decisions maker:

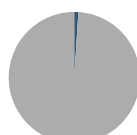
Male	33.2%
Joint decision-making	46.7%
Female	20.1%



Spending Conflict

% of households reporting conflict or problems within the household as a result of disagreement on how to spend money during the 6 months prior to data collection:

Yes	0.1%
No	99.9%



Key Impact Indicators

The key indicators include: Livelihood Coping Strategies Index (LCSI), Food Consumption Score (FCS), Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) and reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI).

FCS⁷

% of households by FCS category:

Midline	Poor	Borderline	Acceptable
	34.8%	32.3%	32.9%
	(-37.3%)	(+16.3%)	(+21.1%)

Average number of meals eaten per household in the last 24 hours: **2.1 (+0.6)**

HDDS⁸

% of households by HDDS category:

Midline	Low	Medium	High
	76.4%	17.7%	6.0%
	(-9.4%)	(+5.2%)	(+4.1%)

rCSI⁹

Most commonly reported strategies employed to cope with a lack of food or lack of money to buy food in the week prior to data collection, by average number of days these strategies had been employed:

Relied on less preferred, less expensive food	1.6 (-0.2)
Reduced portion size of meals	1.3 (-0.5)
Reduced the number of meals eaten per day	1.3 (-0.6)
Borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relatives	1.0 (-0.5)
Reduction in the quantities consumed by adults/mothers for young children	1.0 (-0.0)

Average rCSI score per household: **9.8 (-1.4)**

Protection

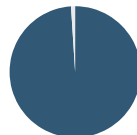
% of households reporting having paid, or knowing someone who paid, to get on the beneficiary list or receive the cash transfer:

Yes **0.1%**
No **99.9%**
PNA¹⁰ **0.0%**



% of households reporting being aware of someone in the community being pressured or coerced to exchange non-monetary favours to get on the beneficiary list:

Yes **0.1%**
No **99.5%**
PNA **0.4%**



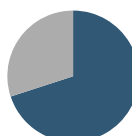
% of households reporting having paid any fees or taxes against their will because they are a beneficiary of cash transfers:

Yes **0.0%**
No **99.6%**
PNA **0.4%**



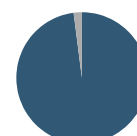
% of households reporting themselves or someone in the community had been consulted by the NGO about their needs:

Yes **77.4%**
No **22.6%**



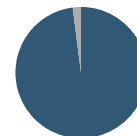
% of households reporting feeling safe going through the programme's selection & registration processes:

Yes **99.2%**
No **0.8%**



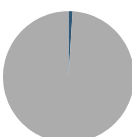
% of households reporting feeling that they have been treated with respect by NGO staff up to the time of data collection:

Yes **99.4%**
No **0.6%**



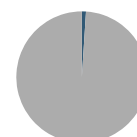
% of households reporting believing that some households were unfairly selected:

Yes **0.5%**
No **99.5%**



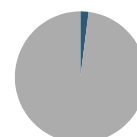
% of households reporting experiencing any problems receiving their money due to a lack of access to, or knowledge about mobile money technology:

Yes **0.7%**
No **99.3%**



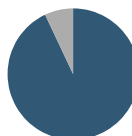
% of households reporting experiencing any delays in receiving their money:

Yes **1.1%**
No **98.9%**



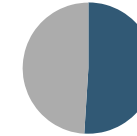
% of households reporting being aware of any option to contact the agency if they had any questions, complaints, or problems receiving the assistance:

Yes **92.9%**
No **7.1%**



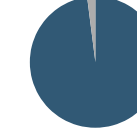
% of households reporting having raised any concerns on the assistance received to the NGO using any of the complaint mechanisms available:

Yes **50.4%**
No **49.6%**



Of households that reported having raised concerns, % reporting being satisfied with the response:

Yes **98.3%**
No **1.7%**



Analysis, feedback, and potential issues to follow up on:

Consistent improvements were seen across all key food and livelihood security indicators after one cycle of cash transfers, as shown in Annex 2 below. The magnitude of change remained relatively small but comparable to previous responses. In particular, the midline saw an increase in the proportion of households with an acceptable FCS (from 11.8% at baseline to 32.9% at midline), and a decrease in the average rCSI (from 11.0 to 9.5).

The majority of households reportedly travelled by foot to withdraw money (82.8%), while a minority reported using motorcycles (12.0%) or vehicles (5.0%).

Among the 98.9% of households who reported having experienced delays in receiving payment, the majority (75.4%) reported having received information from the NGO on the reason for this delay, while 24.6% reported not having received such information.

Almost all households (98.9%) reported preferring receiving cash via mobile money and the majority of households (99.0%) indeed also reported being satisfied with the payment process.

More than a third (67.8%) of beneficiary households reported expecting challenges in the future when the cash transfers will end. In light of these expectations, the primary suggestions from the beneficiaries to improve the project included increasing the **duration** and **amount of cash transfers** as well as keeping it **continuous throughout the whole year**. Other suggestions included ensuring the timeliness of transfers, increasing the number of beneficiaries, and supplementing the cash assistance with additional support, such as food, shelter, and livelihood support.

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End Notes

1. Oxfam's donors involved in the project are Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO), Irish Aid, and Danida. Oxfam's affiliates involved in the project are Oxfam Great Britain (OGB), Oxfam Hong Kong (OHK), Oxfam America (OUS), Oxfam IBIS (Denmark), and Oxfam Ireland.
2. The local partner NGOs are Turkana Pastoralist Development Organization (TUPADO), Wajir South Development Association (WASDA), Arid Lands Development Focus (ALDEF), Pastoralist Girls Initiative (PGI), Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance (PACIDA), Samburu Women Trust (SWT), Strategies for Northern Development (SND) and Merti Integrated Development Programme (MIDP).
3. In Samburu county, three rounds of MPCT were provided.
4. The programme has been extended to include 923 beneficiary households from Turkana and Mandera counties. However, these counties are being assessed separately as they follow a different schedule to the original programme.
5. While the total amount of beneficiary households was 4991, 4147 households were interviewed in the baseline due to non-response. Eventually, 4091 surveys were kept in the baseline after data cleaning. For data consistency, the sample for the midline has been drawn from the 4091 surveys kept and analysed during the baseline.
6. USD = 113.5 KES as on 20th January 2021.
7. The Food Consumption Score (FCS) is a measure of the food intake frequency, dietary diversity, and nutritional intake. It is calculated using the frequency of a household's consumption of different food groups during the 7 days prior to data collection weighted according to nutritional importance.
8. The Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) is a measure of the number of unique food groups consumed by household members in the 24 hours prior to data collection.
9. The Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) is a measure of reliance on food consumption based negative coping strategies to cope with lack of food in the seven days prior to data collection.
10. PNA is the abbreviation for "Preferred not to answer".

Annex 1 - Sample Breakdown

County	Caseload	Target Sample including 10% buffer	Number Surveyed
Garissa	612	259	237
Isiolo	356	203	186
Marsabit	514	242	232
Samburu	680	270	262
Tana river	582	255	257
Turkana	735	278	244
Wajir	612	259	237
Total	4091	1766	1655

Annex 2: County breakdown of key indicators

		Garissa		Isiolo		Tana River		Wajir		Samburu		Marsabit		Turkana		Average	
		Baseline	Midline	Baseline	Midline	Baseline	Midline	Baseline	Midline	Baseline	Midline	Baseline	Midline	Baseline	Midline	Baseline	Midline
Food Consumption Score (FCS)	Poor	55.2%	50.2%	46.9%	8.1%	36.4%	34.2%	83.8%	52.7%	89.6%	21.4%	80.9%	53.5%	93.0%	19.7%	72.1%	34.8%
	Borderline	34.8%	27.9%	27.0%	62.9%	16.7%	39.7%	14.5%	8.4%	10.1%	39.3%	13.4%	14.2%	4.0%	44.7%	16.0%	32.3%
	Acceptable	10.0%	21.9%	21.9%	29.0%	46.9%	26.1%	1.6%	38.8%	0.3%	39.3%	5.6%	32.3%	2.9%	35.7%	11.8%	32.9%
Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)	Low	82.4%	74.3%	81.5%	66.1%	61.1%	77.8%	84.6%	73.0%	97.8%	66.8%	94.2%	91.8%	92.8%	82.8%	85.7%	76.4%
	Medium	15.0%	9.7%	14.0%	30.1%	31.4%	11.3%	15.4%	26.6%	2.2%	24.8%	5.5%	8.2%	6.8%	16.0%	12.4%	17.7%
	High	2.61%	16.0%	4.5%	3.8%	6.7%	10.9%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	8.4%	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%	1.2%	1.8%	6.0%
Average Reduced Coping Strategy		8.2	6.6	8.7	5.1	8.9	8.8	13.4	2.0	9.0	14.4	15.1	8.55	14.0	21.1	11.2	9.8
Average household income in KES in the month prior to data collection		3983	13239	2585	12074	3995	9462	4464	9812	883	8771	3905	9348	1129	9617	2873	10205
Average household total expenditure in KES in the month prior to data		3686	11872	3185	10604	3922	8883	4354	8682	875	8341	4335	8435	1238	6784	2927	8926
Average proportion of total expenditure spent on food in the month prior		65.2%	64%	53.6%	50.5%	67.9%	50.3%	66.0%	61.5%	56.6%	45.5%	47.3%	45.6%	72.8%	70.0%	61.7%	56.1%



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