Somali Cash Consortium MPCA Baseline Assessment

September 2021

Overview

The **Somali Cash Consortium's (SCC)** multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) program provides monthly unconditional cash transfers (UCTs) to vulnerable populations in disaster/conflict affected Somali regions. It is primarily funded by the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and led by Concern Worldwide. It consists of six implementing partner non-governmental organisations (NGOs): ACTED, Concern Worldwide, Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and Save the Children (SCI). The SCC will be distributing six rounds of UCTs from July to December 2021, to selected beneficiary households across ten districts in ten regions.

To monitor the ongoing impact of the UCTs 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 will be followed by a midline assessment after the third round, and an endline assessment after the sixth round of transfers. This factsheet presents **key findings from the baseline assessment.**

Methodology

A total of 10,992[1] households received the first round of monthly UCT between July & August 2021. IMPACT surveyed a regionally representative sample of MPCA beneficiary households one week before the first receipt of cash assistance. This included beneficiaries across the following regions: Banadir, Bari, Bay, Awdal, Lower Juba, Mudug, Sanaag, and Sool. A total of **2,800 household surveys with beneficiary households were conducted remotely via telephone.**

The surveyed beneficiary households were selected through a stratified simple random sampling approach at the regional level, rendering findings that are representative at the regional level with a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error. A large buffer of 25% was introduced to off-set expected difficulties in reaching the sample size in the follow-up assessments. All results presented have been regionally weighted by the proportion of SCC beneficiary households per targeted region.
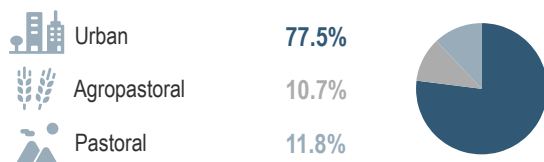
Challenges & Limitations:

• Baseline data collection could not be conducted for the regions of Middle Shabelle and Hiraan due to the partner releasing the cash earlier than scheduled.

• Data collection was affected by beneficiary phones often being switched off, especially in the regions of Baidoa and Banadir.

• 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.

• Due to the length, complexity, and phone-based nature of this survey, respondents were prone to survey fatigue, which potentially affected the accuracy of their responses.
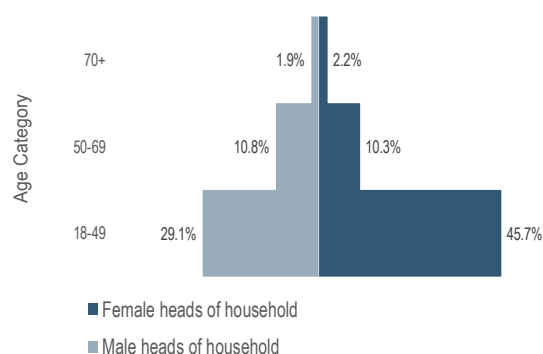
Beneficiary Caseload Profile

Livelihood Zone

% of households in each livelihood zone:

Urban	**77.5%**	
Agropastoral	10.7%	
Pastoral	11.8%	

Demographics

% of households by age and gender of the head of household:

Age Category	Female heads of household	Male heads of household
70+	1.9%	2.2%
50-69	10.8%	10.3%
18-49	29.1%	45.7%

■ Female heads of household
■ Male heads of household

Average household size: **7.6**

Average age of the head of household: **44.4**

Locations Covered

Beneficiary districts
Regions assessed
Regions not assessed
Not covered by the programme

IMPACT Shaping practices Influencing policies Impacting lives
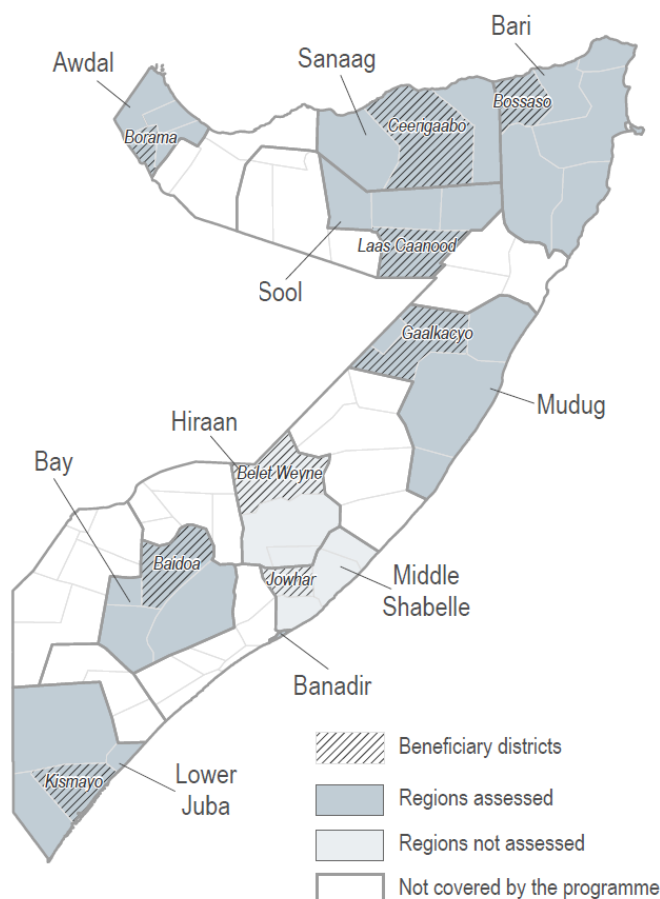
Beneficiaries' Expenditures

Expenditure Share

Most commonly reported expenditure categories and the average amount spent on each in the month prior to data collection[2]:

Food (**51.0 USD**)		51.8%
Debt Repayment (**16.2 USD**)		11.1%
Clothing & Shoes (**11.1 USD**)		7.0%
Water (**7.9 USD**)		6.9%
Medical Expenses (**10.3 USD**)		6.4%

Average reported total household expenditure over a month	120.2 USD
Median reported total household expenditure over a month[4]	91.5 USD

Expenditure Category

% of households by food security category based on their expenditure[3]:

Food secure	**32.3%**
Marginally Food Secure	26.7%
Food Insecure	25.7%
Severely Food Insecure	**15.3%**

Income & Livelihoods

Income

Total reported household income in the month prior to data collection:

Average monthly income:	**105.5 USD**
Median monthly income[4]:	**95.0 USD**
The average income per person, per month[5]:	**13.9 USD**
The median income per person, per month[4,5]:	**12.7 USD**

Most commonly reported sources of household income in the 6 months prior to data collection:

① **45.0%** Casual Wage Labour
② **20.0%** Livestock sales
③ **15.0%** Business

Spending Decisions

% of households by reported primary spending decisions maker:

Male	**24.9%**
Joint decision-making	37.7%
Female	**37.5%**

Savings & Debt

% of households reporting having any amount of savings at the time of data collection:

Yes	**12.0%**
No	88.0%

The average amount of savings found for households with any savings was **4.3 USD** per household.

% of households reporting being in debt at the time of data collection:

Yes	**19.5%**
No	80.5%

The average amount of debt found for households with any debt was **16.8 USD** per household.

Displacement

% of households reporting being displaced at the time of data collection[10]:

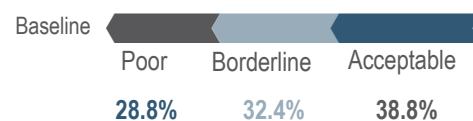|	
Recent Displacement	**9.7%**
Protracted Displacement	23.9%
Host	**66.3%**

Key Impact Indicators

The key indicators include: Livelihood Coping Strategies Index (LCSI), Food Consumption Score (FCS), Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) and reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI).
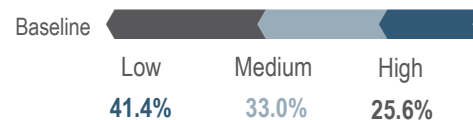
FCS[6]

% of households by FCS category:

Baseline		
Poor	Borderline	Acceptable
28.8%	32.4%	**38.8%**

Average number of meals eaten per household per day:	**2.3**

HDDS[7]

% of households by HDDS category:

Baseline		
Low	Medium	High
41.4%	33.0%	**25.6%**

Average HDDS per household:	**4.1**

rCSI[8]

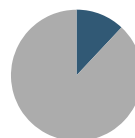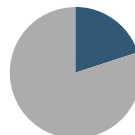|	
Average rCSI score per household:	**13.5**
Median rCSI score per household[4]:	**11.5**
Minimum rCSI score per household:	**0.0**
Maximum rCSI score per household:	**56.0**

LCSI[9]

% of households by LCSI score:

Emergency	**20.8%**
Crisis	**19.1%**
Stress	42.8%
Neutral	**17.3%**

Average LCSI score per household:	**5.0**

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Coping Strategies

Food-based Coping Strategies

Strategies employed to cope with a lack of food or lack of money to buy food, by average number of days in the week prior to data collection:

Relied on less preferred, less expensive food	2.4
Borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relatives	2.0
Reduced the number of meals eaten per day	1.8
Reduced portion size of meals	1.7
Reduction in the quantities consumed by adults/mothers for young children	1.2

Livelihood-based Coping Strategies

Reported main reason(s) why the household adopted livelihood-based coping strategies in the month prior to data collection (i.e. to access which essential needs)[2]:

❶ **83.0%** Food
❷ **47.0%** Health
❸ **41.0%** Education
❹ **35.0%** Shelter
❺ **22.0%** Water, sanitation, & hygiene
❻ **1.0%** Other

Sources of Food

% of households by most commonly reported primary sources of food in the 7 days prior to data collection[2]:

❶ **44.9%** Market purchase with cash
❷ **17.5%** Loan
❸ **11.2%** Own production

% of households by most commonly reported-secondary sources of food in the 7 days prior to data collection[2]:

❶ **27.4%** Loan
❷ **25.6%** Market credit
❸ **22.1%** Market purchase with cash

Communication

% of households correctly reporting the frequency of monthly cash transfers they are to recieve:

Yes **46.0%**
No **54.0%**

% of households correctly reporting the amount of monthly cash transfers they are to recieve each month:

Yes **37.5%**
No **62.5%**

% of households reporting being aware of at least one of the selection criteria:

Yes **29.7%**
No **70.3%**

Among those households reporting being aware of any selection criteria, the most commonly reported criteria they were aware of[2]:

❶ **64%** Lack of Income
❷ **14%** Lack of Assets
❸ **7%** Disability of household member

Subjective Wellbeing

% of households reporting having had sufficient quantity of food to eat in the month prior to data collection:

Never **10.0%**
Rarely **58.6%**
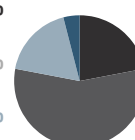Mostly **24.8%**
Always **6.4%**
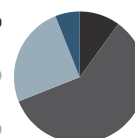
% of households reporting having had sufficient variety of food to eat in the month prior to data collection:

Never **17.0%**
Rarely **60.1%**
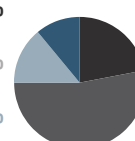Mostly **18.8%**
Always **3.6%**
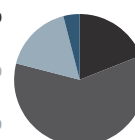
% of households reporting having had enough money to cover basic needs in the month prior to data collection:
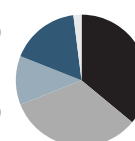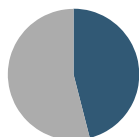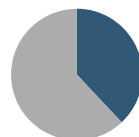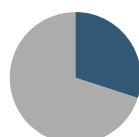
Never **21.6%**
Rarely **56.1%**
Mostly **18.3%**
Always **3.9%**

% of households reporting being able to meet their basic needs at the time of data collection:

Never **21.5%**
Rarely **52.7%**
Mostly **14.5%**
Always **11.3%**

% of households reporting the expected effect a crisis or shock would have on their wellbeing at the time of data collection:

Would be completely unable to meet basic needs **36.4%**
Would meet some basic needs **32.6%**
Would be mostly fine **12.1%**
Would be completely fine **16.6%**
Do not know/ no answer **2.2%**

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Protection & Accountability
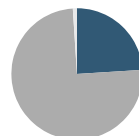
% of households reporting themself or someone in the community having been consulted by the NGO about their needs:

Yes **24.4%**
No   74.6%
PNA[11] 1.1%
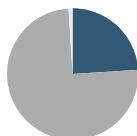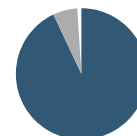
% of households reporting expecting that the cash assistance will be appropriate for their household's needs:

Yes **82.3%**
No   17.5%
PNA   0.2%
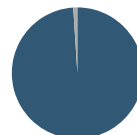
% of households reporting feeling well-represented by their Village/Camp Relief Committee:
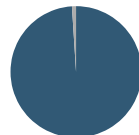
Yes **93.2%**
No   5.8%
PNA   1.0%

% of households reporting feeling safe going through the programme's selection & registration processes:
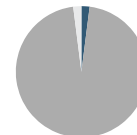
Yes **99.2%**
No   0.8%
PNA   0.2%

% of households reporting feeling that they have been treated with respect by NGO staff upto the time of data collection:
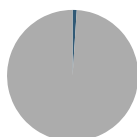
Yes **99.6%**
No   0.3%
PNA   0.0%

% of households reporting believing that some households were unfairly selected:
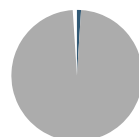
Yes **1.7%**
No   96.4%
PNA   1.9%

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

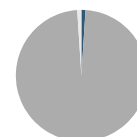Yes **0.4%**
No   98.8%
PNA   0.8%

% 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:
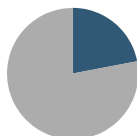
Yes **0.1%**
No   98.3%
PNA   1.6%

% of households reporting having experienced any negative consequences as a result of their beneficiary status:

Yes **0.3%**
No   98.5%
PNA   1.3%

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

Yes **21.6%**
No   78.4%

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

Yes **13.0%**
No   87.0%

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

Yes **60.0%**
No   40.0%

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

93.2% of households reported feeling well-represented by their Village/Camp Relief Committee (V/CRCs). Of those who felt they were represented poorly, the primary reasons reported were that the leaders in the council a.) were new or inexperienced, b.) were perceived to represent only their own family or clan, c.) were perceived to act primarily in their personal interest.
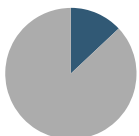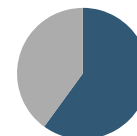
21.6% of households reported being aware of any options to contact the agency if they had any questions, complaints, or problems receiving the assistance. Of these, the households were most aware of the NGO hotline (72%), followed by talking to NGO staff directly (27%) and contacting the NGO helpdesk (14%).

Among the 87.0% of households who reported not having raised any concerns, the most commonly reported reason for not raising concerns were a lack of knowledge about CRM mechanisms and how to contact the agency to raise concerns (37.3%). Only 0.6% reported not having raised concerns because of fear that doing so would have negative implications on their beneficiary status.

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 Of the 10,992 beneficiary households in the programme, 200 Internally Displaced Population (IDP) HHs within Danwadaag targeted programme locations in Baidoa are part of a graduation pilot project, a collaboration between Danwadaag Consortium and the Somali Cash Consortium. They are monitored by Concern Worldwide for the scope of the pilot and are not part of the caseload monitored and evaluated by IMPACT.

2 Respondents could select multiple options. Findings may therefore exceed 100%.

3 This is a proxy indicator for the economic vulnerability of a household. In general, the higher the expenses are on food in relation to other consumed items/services, the more economically vulnerable the household. If the food expenditure share in the household total expenditure is <=49% the household is considered "Food secure"; if it is >=50.0 and <= 64.9%, the household is considered "Marginally food secure"; if it is >=65.0 and <=74.9, the household is considered "Moderately food insecure"; if it is >75%, the household is considered "Severely food insecure".

4 Findings represent the median of medians for each region assessed i.e. the median was first taken for each region, and then an overall median was calculated from them. This was to minimise the effect of outliers while presenting the income and expenditure data.

5 Income per household per month calculated by dividing the total monthly households income by the household size.

6 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 weighted according to nutritional importance during the 7 days prior to data collection.

7 The Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) is a measure of the number of unique food groups consumed by household members in the 7 days prior to data collection as recommended by the Somalia Cash Working Group Monitoring & Evaluation Workstream Harmonised Indicators List.

8 The Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) is a measure of reliace on food consumption based negative coping strategies to cope with lack of food in the 7 days prior to data collection .

9 The Livelihoods Coping Strategy Index (LCSI) is a measure of reliance on livelihood-based negative coping mechanisms to cope with lack of food in the month prior to data collection.

10 Displaced refers to all households who are not originally from their current location. Recent displacement refers to the households who arrived in their current location at most one year before the time of data collection. Proctracted displacement refers to the households who arrived in their current location at least one year before the time of data collection.

11 PNA is the abbreviation for "Preferred not to answer".

Annex 1 - Sample Breakdown

Region	District	Caseload	Sample Surveyed
Banadir	Banadir	1915	398
Bay	Baidoa	1516	342
Middle Shabelle	Jowhar	636	NA
Hiraan	Belet Weyne	555	NA
Mudug	Gaalkacyo	1128	361
Lower Juba	Kismaayo	981	337
Bari	Bossaso	1375	425
Awdal	Borama	1160	333
Sool	Laas Caanood	837	311
Sanaag	Ceerigaabo	689	293