

ASAL Humanitarian Network MPCT New Beneficiaries Midline Assessment

Mandera County



February 2022

Overview

The ASAL Humanitarian Network's (AHN) humanitarian assistance programme provides three rounds of multipurpose cash transfers (MPCTs) to vulnerable populations in drought-affected counties in Kenya. This assessment looks at a supplementary set of beneficiaries households in Mandera county added to the main lot of beneficiary households under the AHN's main programme¹. This response in Mandera county is primarily funded by Oxfam² and consists of two implementing local partner non-governmental organisations (NGOs): RACIDA and NAPAD³. The AHN will be distributing three rounds of MPCTs between December 2021 and March 2022, to selected beneficiary households across Mandera county in Kenya. The households will also be supported beyond the programme until May 2022 under the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operation (ECHO) drought response programme, which will be implemented by the Kenya Cash Consortium members (ACTED, Concern, Oxfam, and AHN).

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, and an endline assessment will follow after the second & last round of transfers. This factsheet presents **key findings from the midline assessment in Mandera county 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 717⁴ households received the first round of MPCTA in December 2021 and January 2022. The population included beneficiaries in the Mandera county where the MPCT programme was implemented. **A total of 244 beneficiary household surveys were conducted.**

The surveyed beneficiary households were selected through a simple random sampling approach at the county level, aiming to cover all beneficiary households in the week prior to the first receipt of the assistance, 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.

Challenges & Limitations:

- 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.
- 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.

Key findings

- Findings from the baseline assessment indicate that 62.6% of households had a poor Food Consumption Score (FCS) and only around 17.0% had an acceptable FCS. Following the cash transfers, only 36.1% of households had a poor FCS during the midline assessment whereas 23.4% of households had an acceptable FCS.
- The proportion of the HHs with a low HDDS decreased from 87.2% in the baseline to 58.2% in the midline, and the proportion of the HHs with a medium HDDS increased from 12.7% to 41.0% in the baseline and midline assessment respectively. This indicates an improved but still relatively low dietary intake among the HHs.
- A slight improvement was observed in the percentage of households reporting never having been able to meet their household's basic needs in the 30 days prior to data collection decreasing from 74.1% at the baseline to 64.8% at the midline assessment.
- Market purchase remained the most commonly reported primary source of food (87.3%) in the 7 days prior to data collection.
- The average reported monthly income per household during the midline assessment was 7,200 Kenyan shillings (KES)⁵, a 75.8% increase from the baseline assessment (4095 KES).
- The most commonly reported source of household income was casual labour at 47.5% followed by cash transfers at 17.2%.
- During the midline, households commonly reported that spending decisions were made jointly by male and female members of the household (52.9%) or male members of the household (36.2%)

Locations Covered



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Income & Expenditure

Income Source

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

- 47.5% Casual labour
- 17.2% Cash transfers
- 13.1% Firewood sale
- 12.3% Livestock

Expenditure Share

Most commonly reported expenditure categories and average amount spent (in KES) per category per household in the month prior to data collection:

Food (3315) (+1132)	49.9% (+12%)
Medicine (1142) (+219)	17.2% (+1%)
Debt repayment (803) (+516)	12.1% (+7%)
WASH items (602) (+115)	9.1% (+1%)
Education (492) (-805)	7.4% (-15%)
Other expenses (385) (-258)	3.8% (-5%)

Average reported total household expenditure over a month **6641** (+925)

Average reported total household income over a month **7200** (+3105)

Market Access

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

Yes **0.0%**
No **100.0%**



Food Sources

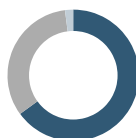
% of households by most commonly reported primary sources of food³:

- 87.3% Market purchase
- 5.3% Begging
- 4.9% Gift

Cash Use

% of households reporting having been able to meet their household's basic needs in the 30 days prior to data collection:

Never **64.8%** (+9.3%)
Almost never **33.2%** (-9.4%)
Sometimes **2.0%** (-0.5%)
PFA **0.0%** (+0.3%)



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

Mobile Money **100.0%**



Spending Decisions

% of households by reported primary spending decisions maker³:

Joint decision-making **52.9%**
Male **34.0%**
Female **13.1%**



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 **0.2%**
No **99.8%**

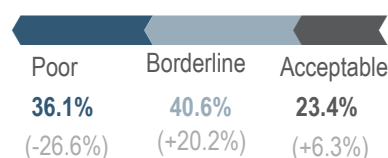


Key Impact Indicators

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

FCS⁶

Midline

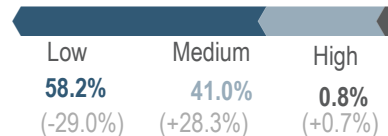


Average number of meals consumed by household members per day: **2.0** (+0.1)

HDDS⁷

% of households by HDDS category:

Midline



rCSI⁸

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:

Reduced the number of meals eaten per day **2.7** (-1.2)
Relied on less preferred, less expensive food **3.3** (+0.8)
Reduced portion size of meals **2.7** (-0.2)
Borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relatives **1.8** (-0.5)
Restricted adults' consumption so children can eat **2.1** (-0.5)

Average rCSI score per household: **18.5** (-3.0)

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Protection Performance Indicators

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

Yes **62.3%**
No **37.7%**



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

Yes **0.0%**
No **100.0%**



% 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 **0.0%**
No **100.0%**



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

Yes **0.0%**
No **100.0%**



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

Yes **100.0%**
No **0.0%**



% of households reporting being aware of someone in the community using the different mechanisms to contact the agency:

Yes **100.0%**
No **0.0%**



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

Yes **100.0%**
No **0.0%**



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

Yes **0.0%**
No **100.0%**



% of households reporting being aware of the existence of options to contact the agency if you had a question or problem with the assistance:

NGO staff **97.0%**
Hotline **70.0%**
NGO desk **8.0%**
Not aware **0.0%**

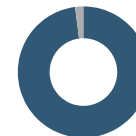
% of households reporting having raised any concerns on the assistance received to the NGO using any of the complaint mechanisms available:

Yes **39.8%**
No **60.3%**



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

Yes **97.9%**
No **2.1%**



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

Consistent improvements were seen across all key food and livelihood security indicators, as shown in Annex 1 below. Particularly, the midline assessment saw a decrease in the proportion of households with a poor FCS (from 62.6% to 36.1%, in the midline and baseline respectively) and a decrease in the average rCSI (from 21.5 to 18.5).

The average household expenditure increased from 5716 in the baseline to 6641 in the midline. This can be attributed to by the cash transfer distributed, which is further reflected in cash transfer being among the most commonly reported primary source of income at 17.2%.

The majority of households reportedly travelled by foot to withdraw money (66.8%), while a minority reported using motorcycles (32.0%) or bicycles (1.2%).

Key protection and performance indicators show positive results; all households (100.0%) reported not having been asked to pay to get on the beneficiary list, and 100% of households reported having felt safe going through the selection process. Moreover, the majority of the households (62.3%) reported having been consulted by the NGO about their needs.

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February 2022

End Notes

1. The AHN early action- drought response is being implemented in 8 of the worst affected counties of Marsabit, Isiolo, Samburu, Turkana, Wajir, Tana River, Garissa, and Mandera. The AHN response is supported by Oxfam, Concern and ACTED.
2. 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.
3. The local partner NGOs are Nomadic Assistance for Peace and Development (NAPAD) and Rural Agency for Community Development and Assistance (RACIDA).
4. A total of 717 households were interviewed in the baseline. Eventually, 717 surveys were kept in the baseline after data cleaning. For data consistency, the sample for the midline has been drawn from the 244 surveys kept and analysed during the baseline.
5. USD = 115.1538 KES as on 4th February 2022.
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 during the 7 days prior to data collection weighted according to nutritional importance.
7. 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.
8. 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.

Annex 1: Comparative findings of key indicators

		Mandera	
		Baseline	Midline
Food Consumption Score (FCS)	Poor	62.6%	36.1%
	Borderline	20.4%	40.6%
	Acceptable	17.0%	23.4%
Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)	Low	87.2%	58.2%
	Medium	12.7%	41.0%
	High	0.1%	0.8%
Average Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)		21.5	18.5
Average household income in KES in the month prior to data collection		4095	7200
Average household total expenditure in KES in the month prior to data collection		5716	6641
Average proportion of total expenditure spent on food in the month prior to data		38.2%	49.9%

