

# Somali Cash Consortium MPCA

## Midline Assessment



Funded by  
European Union  
Humanitarian Aid



SOMALI CASH  
CONSORTIUM

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## 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 is implemented by six 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 is 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 and a midline assessment after the third round, which will be followed by an endline assessment after the sixth 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 10,992<sup>1</sup> households received the first three rounds of monthly UCT between July & October 2021. IMPACT surveyed a regionally representative sample of MPCA beneficiary households two weeks after the third round of cash transfers. This included beneficiaries across the following regions: Banadir, Bari, Bay, Awdal, Hiraan, Lower Juba, Mudug, Middle Shabelle, Sanaag, and Sool. A total of **3,445 beneficiary household surveys 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, excluding Middle Shabelle and Hiraan, where baseline data could not be collected. Therefore, to maintain comparability across the baseline and midline assessments, the aggregate results presented only represent the 8 regions (2,940 surveys) where both midline and baseline data was collected.

## Challenges & Limitations:

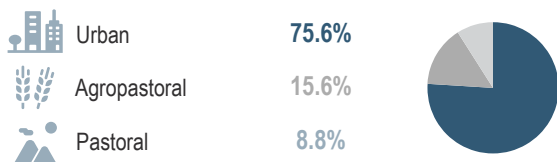
- The target sample size could not be met in Middle Shabelle due to poor data quality from the region.
- Data collection was affected by beneficiary phones often being switched off, especially in the regions of Baidoa and Ceerigaabo.
- Data on household expenditure was based on a 30-day recall period; 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



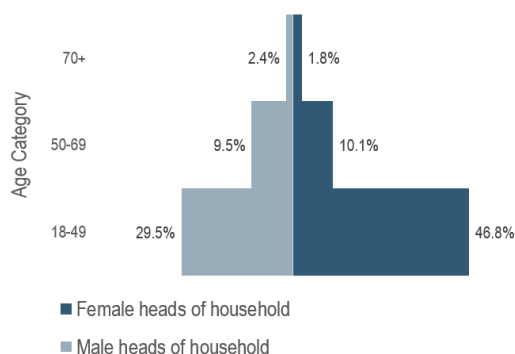
### Livelihood Zone

% of households in each livelihood zone:



### Demographics

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

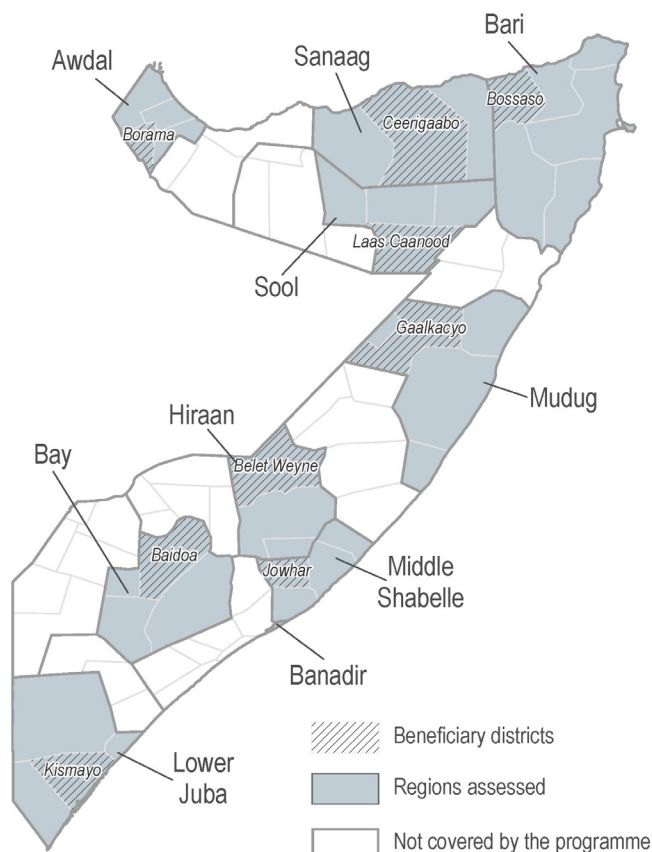


Average household size: 7.7

Average age of the head of household: 45.1



### Locations Covered



## Beneficiaries' Expenditures

### Expenditure Share

Most commonly reported expenditure categories and the average amount spent on each in the month prior to data collection<sup>3</sup>:

Food	55.8 USD +4.8USD <sup>2</sup>	48.0% (-3.8%)
Debt repayment	17.4 USD +1.4USD	13.0% (+1.8%)
Clothing & Shoes	11.5 USD +0.4USD	7.0% (+0.3%)
Water	7.6 USD -0.3USD	6.5% (-0.4%)
Medical expenses	8.7 USD -1.6USD	6.7% (-0.3%)

Average reported total household expenditure over a month 125.6 USD (+5.4USD)

Median reported total household expenditure over a month<sup>4</sup> 105 USD (+13.5USD)

## Income & Livelihoods

### Income

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

Average monthly income: 137.4 USD (+31.9 USD)

Median monthly income<sup>4</sup>: 110.0 USD (+15.0 USD)

The average income per person, per month<sup>5</sup>: 17.8 USD (+3.9USD)

The median income per person, per month<sup>4,5</sup>: 14.3 USD (+1.6USD)

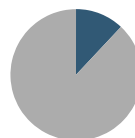
Most commonly reported sources of household income in the 6 months prior to data collection:

- 63.0% Humanitarian Assistance
- 57.0% Casual Labour
- 13.0% Business

### Savings & Debt

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

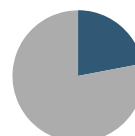
Yes	12.3% (-0.3%)
No	87.7%



The average amount of savings found for households with any savings was 4.0 USD (-7.0%) per household.

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

Yes	21.8% (+2.3%)
No	78.2%

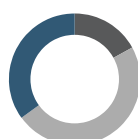


The average amount of debt found for households with any debt was 14.8 USD (-11.9%) per household.

### Spending Decisions

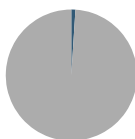
% of households by reported primary spending decisions maker<sup>3</sup>:

Male	16.8%
Joint decision-making	48.6%
Female	34.6%



% of households reporting any problems or conflict in the household as a result of disagreement on how to spend the cash:

Yes	0.1%
No	99.3%
PNA	0.6%



## 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).

### FCS<sup>6</sup>

% of households by FCS category:

Baseline	Poor	Borderline	Acceptable
	18.1% (-10.7%)	25.6% (-6.8%)	56.4% (+17.6%)

Average number of meals eaten per household in the last 24 hours: 2.4 (+0.1)

### HDDS<sup>7</sup>

% of households by HDDS category:

Baseline	Low	Medium	High
	32.4% (-9.0%)	40.4% (+7.4%)	27.2% (+1.6%)

Average HDDS per household: 5.4 (+0.4)

### rCSI<sup>8</sup>

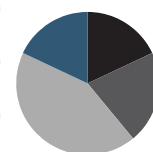
Average rCSI score per household: 10.8 (-2.7)

Median rCSI score per household<sup>4</sup>: 11.5 (+0.6)

### LCSI<sup>9</sup>

% of households by LCSI score:

Emergency	18.2% (-2.6%)
Crisis	20.5% (+1.4%)
Stress	43.5% (+0.7%)
Neutral	17.9% (+0.6%)



Average LCSI score per household: 4.6 (-0.4)

## 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	2.2 (-0.2)
Borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relatives	1.5 (-0.5)
Reduced the number of meals eaten per day	1.5 (-0.3)
Reduced portion size of meals	1.4 (-0.3)
Reduction in the quantities consumed by adults/mothers for young children	0.9 (-0.3)



### Livelihood-based Coping Strategies

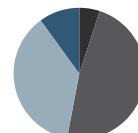
Reported main reason(s) why the household adopted livelihood-based coping strategies in the month prior to data collection (i.e. to access which essential needs)<sup>3</sup>:

1	80.0%	Food
2	48.0%	Health
3	46.0%	Education
4	34.0%	Shelter
5	23.0%	Water, sanitation, & hygiene
6	0.0%	Other

## Subjective Wellbeing

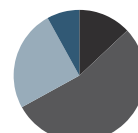
% of households reporting having had sufficient quantity of food to eat in the month prior to data collection:

Never	4.9%	(-5.1%)
Rarely	47.6%	(-11.0%)
Mostly	37.2%	(+12.4%)
Always	10.2%	(+3.9%)



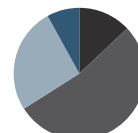
% of households reporting having had sufficient variety of food to eat in the month prior to data collection:

Never	13.4%	(-3.6%)
Rarely	53.3%	(-6.8%)
Mostly	24.8%	(+6.0%)
Always	8.4%	(+4.8%)



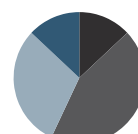
% of households reporting having had enough money to cover basic needs in the month prior to data collection:

Never	12.7%	(-8.9%)
Rarely	53.0%	(-3.1%)
Mostly	25.5%	(+7.2%)
Always	8.5%	(+4.6%)



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

Never	12.7%	(-10.1%)
Rarely	44.4%	(-8.3%)
Mostly	30.2%	(+15.7%)
Always	13.6%	(+2.3%)



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

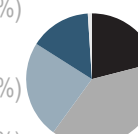
Would be completely unable to meet basic needs 20.9% (-15.5%)

Would meet some basic needs 39.2% (+6.6%)

Would be mostly fine 24.4% (+12.3%)

Would be completely fine 14.5% (-2.1%)

Do not know/ no answer 1.1% (-1.1%)



## Sources of Food

% of households by most commonly reported primary sources of food in the 7 days prior to data collection<sup>3</sup>:

1	64.6%	Market purchase with cash
2	13.7%	Loan
3	6.5%	Own production

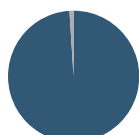
% of households by most commonly reported secondary sources of food in the 7 days prior to data collection<sup>3</sup>:

1	31.3%	Loan
2	28.4%	Market credit
3	15.3%	Market purchase with cash

## Cash Use & Impact

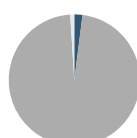
% of households reporting the cash received helped them to meet any of their household's basic needs:

Yes 99.4%  
No 0.7%



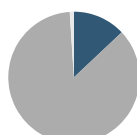
% of households reporting thinking other members of their community are jealous of their household because they received the cash transfer:

Yes 2.1%  
No 96.7%  
PNA<sup>10</sup> 1.2%



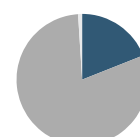
% of households reporting being overcharged by traders who were aware of their beneficiary status:

Yes 12.5%  
No 86.4%  
PNA 1.2%



% of households reporting traders increased prices charged for everyone in the community since the cash transfers began:

Yes 18.4%  
No 80.6%  
PNA 1.0%

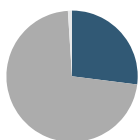


## Protection & Accountability

Protection Index Score<sup>11</sup> 78.6 (+/- 0)

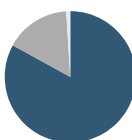
% of households reporting themselves or someone in the community having been consulted by the NGO about their needs:

Yes **27.0%**  
No **71.9%**  
PNA **1.1%**



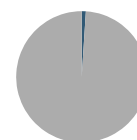
% of households reporting that the cash assistance was appropriate for their household's needs:

Yes **83.7%**  
No **16.1%**  
PNA **0.2%**



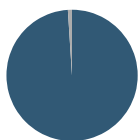
% of households reporting experiencing any problems receiving their money due to a lack of access to or knowledge about mobile money technology:

Yes **0.2%**  
No **99.8%**  
PNA **0.0%**



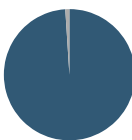
% of households reporting feeling safe going through the programme's selection & registration processes:

Yes **99.7%**  
No **0.2%**  
PNA **0.1%**



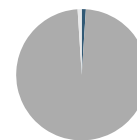
% of households reporting feeling that they have been treated with respect by NGO staff up to the time of data collection:

Yes **99.8%**  
No **0.1%**  
PNA **0.1%**



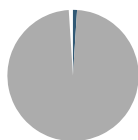
% of households reporting believing that some households were unfairly selected:

Yes **1.2%**  
No **97.6%**  
PNA **1.3%**



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

Yes **0.3%**  
No **98.8%**  
PNA **0.9%**



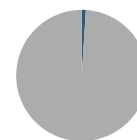
% of households reporting being aware of someone in the community being pressured or coerced to exchange non-monetary favours to get on the beneficiary list:

Yes **0.0%**  
No **99.2%**  
PNA **0.8%**



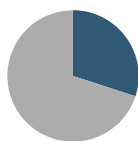
% of households reporting having experienced any negative consequences as a result of their beneficiary status:

Yes **0.9%**  
No **99.1%**  
PNA **0.0%**



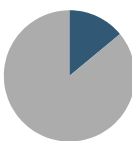
% of households reporting being aware of any option to contact the agency if they had any questions, complaints, or problems receiving the assistance:

Yes **29.9%**  
No **70.1%**



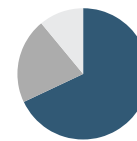
% of households reporting having raised any concerns on the assistance received to the NGO using any of the complaint mechanisms available:

Yes **14.1%**  
No **85.9%**



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

Yes **68.0%**  
No **20.8%**  
Partially **11.2%**



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

Consistent improvements were seen across all key food and livelihood security indicators after three months of cash transfers, as shown in Annex 2 below. The magnitude of change remained relatively small but comparable to previous years. In particular, the midline saw an increase in the proportion of households with an acceptable FCS (from 28.8% at baseline to 56.4% at midline), and a decrease in the average rCSI (from 13.5 to 10.8).

Among the households who reported traders increasing prices as a result of the cash transfers for the entire community (12.5%) or specifically for the beneficiary households (18.4%), the most commonly reported increases were seen in food commodities (97%), water (22%), and medicines (21%).

Among the 85.9% of households who reported not having raised any concerns, the most commonly reported reason for not raising concerns was a lack of knowledge about CRM mechanisms and how to contact the agency to raise concerns (30.4%). Only 0.4% reported not having raised concerns because of fear that doing so would have negative implications on their beneficiary status.

Among the 53.4% of beneficiary households who had any suggestions to improve the project, the primary suggestions included increasing the **duration** (75.0%) and **amount** (69.0%) of cash transfers as well as keeping it **continuous throughout the whole year** (47.0%). Other suggestions included ensuring the timeliness of transfers (22.0%), increasing the number of beneficiaries (24.0%), and supplementing the cash assistance with additional support (21.0%), such as food, shelter, and livelihood support.



### End Notes

1. Of the 10,992 beneficiary households in the programme, 200 internally displaced persons (IDP) households 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. The figures in grey show the change value from the baseline for relevant indicators. The figures represent the magnitude of change.
3. Respondents could select multiple options. Findings may therefore exceed 100%
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 done to minimise the effect of outliers while presenting the income and expenditure data.
5. Income per household per month is calculated by dividing the households' reported monthly 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 reliance 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. PNA is the abbreviation for "Preferred not to answer".
11. The Protection Index score is a composite indicator developed by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations that calculates a score of the sampled beneficiaries who report that humanitarian assistance is delivered in a safe, accessible, accountable and participatory manner. The calculations take into account a.) whether the beneficiary or anyone in their community was consulted by the NGO on their needs and how the NGO can best help, b.) whether the assistance was appropriate to the beneficiary's needs, c.) whether the beneficiary felt safe while receiving the assistance, c.) whether the beneficiary felt they were treated with respect by the NGO during the intervention, d.) whether the beneficiary felt some households were unfairly selected over others more in need for the cash transfers, e.) whether the beneficiary had raised concerns on the assistance they had received using any of the complaint response mechanisms, and f.) if any complaints were raised, whether the beneficiary was satisfied with the response.

### Annex 1 - Midline Sample Breakdown

Region	District	Caseload	Target sample including 25% buffer	Sample surveyed
Awdal	Borama	1160	361	535
Banadir	Mogadishu	1915	400	393
Bari	Bossaso	1375	375	401
Bay	Baidoa	1516	384	342
Hiraan	Beletweyne	555	284	296
Lower Juba	Kismayo	981	345	276
Middle Shabelle	Jowhar	636	300	209
Mudug	Galkacyo	1128	359	368
Sanaag	Ceerigaabo	689	309	278
Sool	Laas Caanood	837	330	347

### Annex 2 - Key Indicator Summary

Key Indicator	Target Value	Baseline Value	Midline Value	% Change
% of households reporting that cash helped them meet their basic needs	95.0%	NA	99.4%	NA
Average meals consumed per household in the last 24 hours	----	2.3	2.4	+4.3%
Average Food Consumption Score (FCS)	----	39.5	46.5	+17.7%
% of households with an acceptable FCS	46.0%	38.8%	56.4%	+45.4%
Average Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)	----	5	5.4	+8.0%
% of households with high or medium HDDS	----	58.6%	67.6%	+15.4%
Average Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI)	----	13.5	10.8	-20.0%
Average Livelihood Coping Strategies Index (LCSI)	4.3	5.0	4.6	-8.0%
% of total household expenditure spent on food	----	51.8%	48.0%	-7.3%
Protection Index Score	75.0%	78.6	78.6	0.0%