

The Kenya Cash Consortium's Locally Led Multi-Purpose Cash Response to Flood-Affected Refugees in Dadaab: Baseline

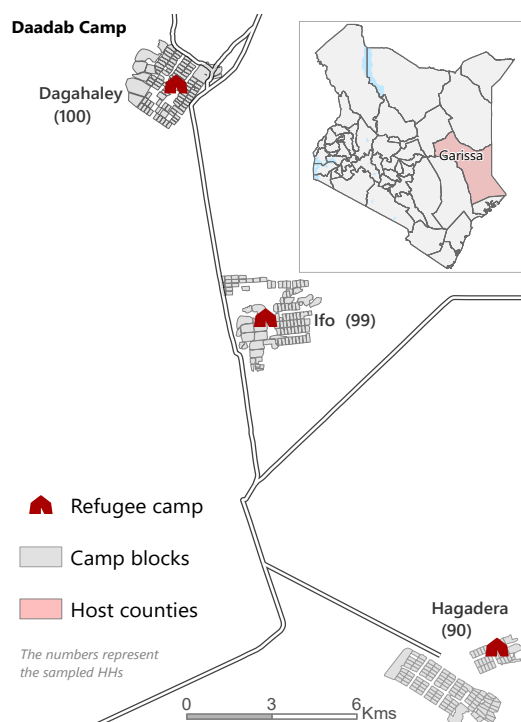
February, 2024

Dadaab Camp

KEY MESSAGES

- **The household (HHs) average monthly expenditure (KES 10,518) was found to be higher than the average monthly income (KES 8,317).** As a result, 87% of HHs reportedly had debt at the time of data collection. Most HHs reportedly incurred debt to access food.
- **In Dadaab Camp more than one-third of the assessed HHs (38%) were reported to experience moderate food consumption gaps, while an additional 24% were found to have severe food consumption gaps at the time of data collection.** This can be attributed to the fact that the majority (84%) reported rarely or never having sufficient varieties of food to eat in the 30 days prior to data collection.
- **A considerable proportion of HHs (62%) were found to be engaging in emergency, crisis, or stress level LCS.** This indicates that HHs are likely to deplete their limited resources in order to meet their basic needs.
- **Most HHs (97%) were affected by October to December 2023 floods.** Commonly reported consequences include destruction of latrines (52%), shelter (42%) and loss of HH goods (38%). Following the floods, 81% of the assessed HHs reported that they needed humanitarian assistance. Commonly reported needs included food (67%), unconditional cash transfers (64%), building materials (wood 22%, iron sheets 21%), and medication (18%).

ASSESSMENT COVERAGE



CONTEXT & RATIONALE

As of 31st January 2024, the refugee population in the three camps of Dadaab (Dagahaley, Hagadera, and Ifo) was 338,224.¹ Garissa, home to Dadaab camp, was one of the counties that was heavily affected by the El Nino floods experienced in the last quarter of 2023. Nearly 25,000 people in the camps were affected by the floods. 2,700 HHs were reportedly displaced, livelihoods were gravely affected, disease outbreaks as well as loss of household assets were reported.²

The floods exacerbated the situation in the camp, increasing the need for humanitarian assistance.³ Even before the floods, the refugees in the camp were facing various challenges including, cholera outbreaks, cases of malnutrition. The impact of the floods is expected to slow the drought recovery of affected HHs and keep staple food prices high²

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

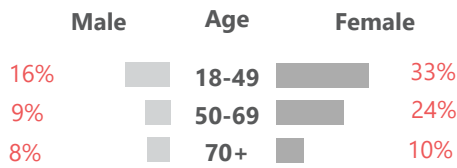
In response to the humanitarian needs of the affected communities in the Dadaab refugee camp, the Kenya Cash Consortium (KCC) will implement a multi-purpose cash response through mobile money unconditional cash transfers (UCTs). This baseline aims to determine income and expenditure patterns, food consumption, and coping strategies before the intervention.

METHODOLOGY

A simple random sampling approach was used for a representative sample of the beneficiary HHs, with a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error. A 10% buffer was included in the sample to account for non-response or data quality issues. The sample size was 289 HHs. For more information on the methodology, please refer to page 4.

DEMOGRAPHICS

% of Household Heads by gender and age:



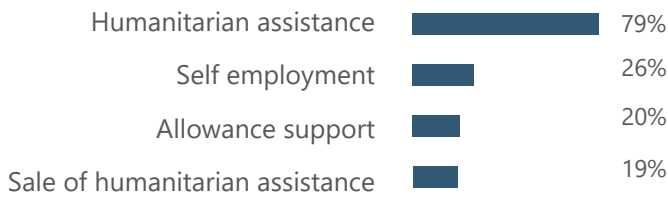
The interviews were conducted with more female (66%) than male (34%) respondents. A higher proportion of HHs was reported to be headed by women, and the average household size was eight.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Average HH income (KES) in the 30 days prior to data collection:

The average reported income for HHs (91%) that received some income in the 30 days prior to data collection was **8,317 KES**. Most HHs in Dadaab camp (79%) reportedly depended on humanitarian assistance as a primary source of income.

Top reported primary sources of HH income in the 30 days prior to data collection:¹ (n=227)²

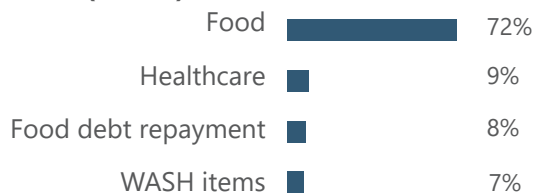


HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE

Average HH expenses (KES) in the 30 days prior to data collection:

The average reported expenditure for HHs that had spent some money in the 30 days prior to data collection (100%) was **10,518 KES**.

Top reported HH expenditure in the 30 days prior to data collection:¹ (n=289)²



HOUSEHOLD DEBTS

Average HH debt (KES) in the 30 days prior to data collection:

The majority of HHs (87%) reported having debt at the time of data collection. The average amount of debt was **KES 14,724**.

Top reported reasons for taking debt:¹ (n=250)²



DECISION MAKING

% of HHs in Dadaab Camp by reported primary decision-maker on how to spend the HH's income in the 30 days prior to baseline data collection:



ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

% of HHs that reported on their economic well-being at the time of data collection:

Dadaab	
We are meeting none of our basic needs	0%
We are meeting less than half of our basic needs	21%
We are meeting more than half of our basic needs	36%
We are mostly meeting all our basic needs	5%

% of HHs that reported their expectations regarding how a crisis or shock would affect their household's well-being at the time of data collection:

Dadaab	
Would be completely unable to meet basic needs for surviving	34%
Would meet some basic needs	40%
Mostly fine, regardless of these events	9%
Completely fine, regardless of these events	17%

SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING

% of HHs that reported having sufficient quantity of food to eat in the 30 days prior to data collection:

Dadaab	
Not at all	7%
Rarely	77%
Mostly	16%
Always	1%

% of HHs that reported having sufficient variety of food to eat in the 30 days prior to data collection:

Dadaab	
Not at all	8%
Rarely	76%
Mostly	15%
Always	0%

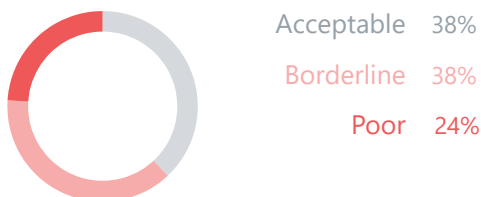
KEY INDICATORS ON FOOD SECURITY



FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE (FCS)¹

Most HHs (62%) were found to be experiencing borderline or poor FCS in the 30 days prior to data collection. This would likely be worse if HHs were not engaging in negative coping strategies since 62% of HHs were engaging in stress, crisis or emergency coping mechanisms. HHs reported that they rarely had sufficient quantity and variety of foods to eat in the 30 days prior to data collection.

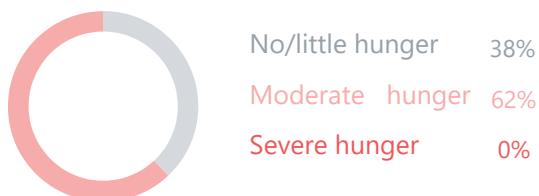
% of HHs by FCS category at the time of data collection:



HOUSEHOLD HUNGER SCORE (HHS)²

Most HHs (62%) were found to be experiencing moderate hunger 30 days prior to data collection due to lack of food of any kind. This can be linked to lack of resources as half (51%) of the HHs reported resorting to buying food on credit and the main reason reported for taking debt was to buy food.

% of HHs by HHS category at the time of data collection:



REDUCED COPING STRATEGY INDEX (RCSI)³

The average rCSI for HHs was found to be **11.6** in Dadaab. This indicates the use of negative coping mechanisms to cope with a lack of adequate food.

The types of negative consumption-based coping strategies that were reported in the 7 days prior to data collection were:

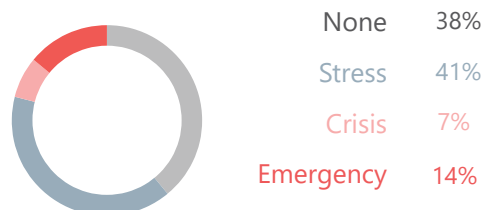
Strategies employed	Dadaab
Rely on less preferred and less expensive foods	2
Reduce/limit portion sizes at meal times	2
Borrow food, or rely on help from a friend or relative	1
Reduce the quantity consumed by adults or mothers for young children	2
Reduce the number of meals eaten in a day	2



LIVELIHOOD COPING STRATEGIES (LCS)⁴

Nearly two-thirds (62%) of the HHs were found to be engaging in either emergency, crisis, or stress level LCS. Most HHs resorted to purchasing food on credit (51%) and borrowing money (34%) to fill the expenditure deficit. The most commonly reported reasons for HHs adopting LCS in the 30 days prior to data collection were to access food (97%), health (30%), education (17%) and shelter (14%). HHs are likely to exhaust their limited resources to meet basic needs that undermine their overall resilience.

% of HHs by LCS category at the time of data collection:



Market access

More than half of the HH (54%) reported market purchases as the main source of food in the seven days prior to data collection.

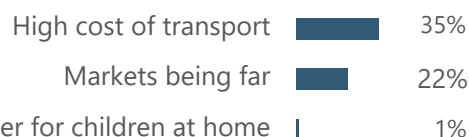
% of HHs reporting the time taken to travel on foot to reach the nearest operational marketplace or grocery store in 30 days prior to data collection:

	Dadaab
More than 2 hrs	1%
1-2 hrs	14%
30-59 mins	26%
15-29 mins	41%
Less than 15mins	17%
Do not know	1%

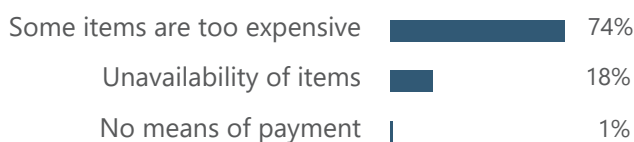
PHYSICAL OR SOCIAL BARRIERS IN ACCESSING MARKETS

Nearly half of the HHs (47%) reported facing physical and social barriers in accessing marketplaces or grocery stores 30 days prior to data collection.

The top 3 physical or social barriers to consistently accessing marketplaces in Dadaab camp:⁵(n=136)⁶

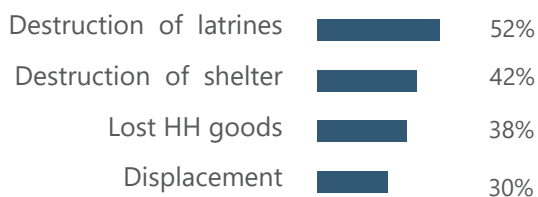


The top 3 financial barriers to consistently accessing marketplaces in Dadaab camp:⁵(n=226)⁶



FLOODS EFFECTS

Top reported effects of the Oct-Nov-Dec rainfall on HHs in Dadaab camp:¹(n=281)²

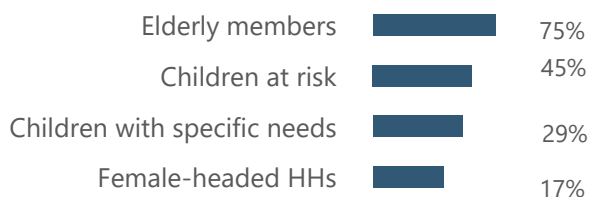


As a result of the floods, the majority of HHs (81%) reported that they needed assistance to deal with challenges caused by heavy rains. The elderly were the most affected population group. Only 32% of the HHs reported having received assistance to cope with the effects of floods at the time of data collection.

A significant proportion (80%) reported that they required assistance at the time of the data collection. The assistance needed included food (67%), unconditional cash transfers (64%), building materials (wood 22%, iron sheets 21%), and medication (18%).

AFFECTED POPULATION AS A RESULT OF THE FLOODS²

The top reported population affected by the floods at the time of data collection in Dadaab Camp:¹



PREFERRED METHOD OF ASSISTANCE

All HHs reported that their preferred method of receiving assistance was through mobile money as opposed to food or cash vouchers.

The top reported reasons for preferring mobile money were that it was easily accessible (99%) and offered more flexibility in time to purchase (10%).

AWARENESS OF OPTIONS TO CONTACT THE AGENCY FOR QUESTIONS OR ANY PROBLEMS:

Awareness of options to contact the agency for questions or any problems:¹

	Dadaab
NGO staff	53%
A dedicated NGO hotline	18%
A dedicated NGO desk	32%
Not aware of any option	14%

ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS

The accountability to affected populations is measured through the use of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). These KPIs have been put in place by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). The aim is to ensure that humanitarian actors consider the safety, dignity and rights of individuals, groups and affected populations when carrying out humanitarian responses.

Respondents were asked if they felt safe throughout the selection process, if they were treated with respect by the NGO staff during the intervention, and if they perceived that any HHs were unfairly selected to receive cash assistance. All the respondents cited that they felt safe and they felt respected throughout the exercise.

Proportion of HHs reporting on key performance indicators (KPI):

	Dadaab
Programming was safe	100%
Cash assistance is appropriate for HHs needs	100%
No coercion during registration	100%
Programming was respectful	100%
No unfair selection	100%
Community was consulted	93%
Average KPI Score	99%

METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

The baseline survey collected data through a structured HH survey on the beneficiary HHs in Dadaab. The tool covered their demographics, overall food security situation, income, expenditure, overall well-being, effects of floods, as well as their perceptions of whether the humanitarian assistance offered was delivered in a safe, accessible, accountable, and participatory manner. The targeted HHs were randomly selected from a list of registered beneficiaries. For sampling, a simple random sampling approach was used to have a representative sample of the beneficiary HHs, with a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error. A sample of 289 HHs were interviewed. The baseline survey was conducted remotely through mobile phone calls from 13th-14th February 2024.

CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

- Data on household expenditure was based on a 30-day recall period; a considerably long period of time over which to expect households to remember expenditures accurately.
- Due to the length, complexity, and phone-based nature of the interview, respondents were prone to survey fatigue, which potentially affected the accuracy of their responses.

ENDNOTES

Page 1

- ¹ [Dadaab refugee camp population, by UNHCR, January 2023.](#)
- ² [Heavy rains and floods assessment, UNHCR, November 2023.](#)
- ³ [Humanitarian situation report, UNICEF, December 2023.](#)
- ⁴ [Dadaab in urgent need of aid, MSF, November 2023.](#)

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- ¹ For multiple answer questions, respondents could select multiple options hence the findings may exceed 100%.
- ² Sample size n is the number of HHs in the given sample population.

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- ¹ The Food Consumption Score (FCS) measures how well a household is eating by evaluating the frequency at which differently weighted food groups are consumed by a household in the seven days before data collection. Only foods consumed in the home are counted in this type of indicator. The FCS is used to classify households into three groups: those with a poor FCS, those with a borderline FCS, and those HHs with an acceptable FCS. Only households with acceptable FCS are considered to be food secure.
- ² The Household Hunger Scale (HHS) is an indicator used to measure the scale of households' food deprivation in the 30 days before data collection. It measures the frequency of occurrence as (rarely 1-2 times, sometimes 3-10 times, and often > 10 times). HHs are categorized into little to no hunger, moderate hunger, and severe hunger, depending on their access to food.
- ³ The Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) is an indicator used to understand the frequency and severity of change in food consumption behaviors in the 7 days before data collection when households are faced with food shortage.
- ⁴ The Livelihood Coping Strategy (LCS) is measured to better understand longer-term household coping capacities. The household's livelihood and economic security are determined by the HHs' income, expenditures, and assets. The LCS is used to classify households into four groups: Households using emergency, crisis, stress, or neutral coping strategies. The use of emergency, crisis or stress-level livelihoods-based coping strategies typically reduces households' overall resilience and assets, increasing the likelihood of food insecurity.
- ⁵ For multiple answer questions, respondents could select multiple options hence the findings may exceed 100%.
- ⁶ Sample size n is the number of HHs in the given sample population.

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- ¹ For multiple answer questions, respondents could select multiple options hence the findings may exceed 100%.
- ² Sample size n is the number of HHs in the given sample population.

Annex 1: Breakdown of Key Indicators

Key Indicators		Dadaab
Food Consumption Score (FCS)	Poor	24%
	Borderline	38%
	Acceptable	38%
Household Hunger Scale (HHS)	Severe	0%
	Moderate	62%
	Little/No hunger	38%
Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSI)	Emergency	14%
	Crisis	7%
	Stress	41%
	Neutral	38%
Average Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)		11.6
Average household income in the 30 days prior to the baseline data collection.		KES 8,317
Average household total expenditure in the 30 days prior to the baseline data collection.		KES 10,510
Average KPI		99%



Funded by the European Union

Participating Agencies



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 30+ 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.