

Somali Cash Consortium MPCA

Drought Response Top-up

Endline Assessment



May 2022

Overview

The Somali Cash Consortium's (SCC) multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) programme provides monthly unconditional cash transfers (UCTs) to vulnerable populations in disaster/conflict-affected Somali regions. In light of the drought, the SCC, with funding from the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) and led by Concern Worldwide, further expanded its MPCA response to reach the most drought-affected communities and households. The SCC consists of six implementing partner non-governmental organisations (NGOs): ACTED, Concern Worldwide (the lead agency), Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and Save the Children (SCI). The SCC distributed a three-month worth UCT among selected beneficiary households across ten districts in five target regions between late February and early March 2022.

To monitor the ongoing impact of the UCT 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 an endline assessment. This factsheet presents **key findings from the endline 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 endline for relevant indicators.

Methodology

A total of 17,434¹ households received the drought top-up transfer between February and March 2022. IMPACT surveyed a regionally representative sample of MPCA beneficiary households two weeks after the receipt of the assistance. This included beneficiaries across the following regions: Bay, Middle Shabelle, Lower Juba, Mudug, and Gedo. A total of **3976¹ 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. All results presented have been weighted at the regional level, by the proportion of SCC beneficiary households per targeted region.

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.
- 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

53.2%



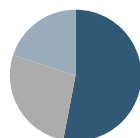
Agropastoral

26.9%



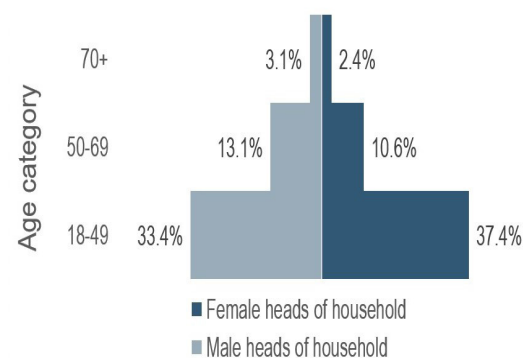
Pastoral

19.9%



Demographics

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



Average household size:

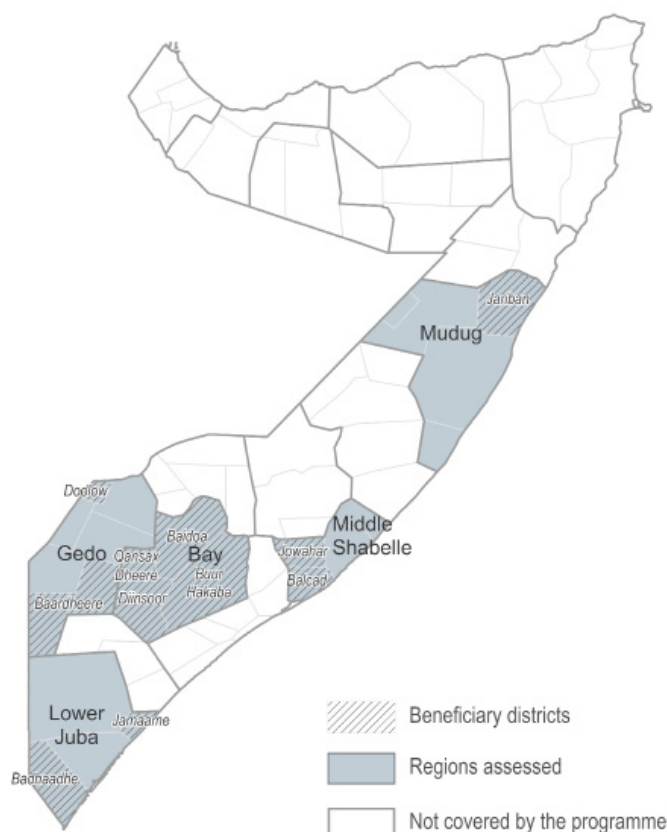
7.0

Average age of the head of household:

45.7



Locations Covered



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Endline Assessment



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May 2022

Beneficiaries' Expenditures

Expenditure Share

Most commonly reported expenditure categories and the average amount spent on each in the month prior to data collection²:

Food	79.9 USD +40.5 USD	42.1% (-9.3%)
Debt repayment	40.9 USD +31.1 USD	19.2% (+7.6%)
Clothing	16.7 USD +10.3 USD	8.5% (+0.6%)
Medical expenses	16.0 USD +9.5 USD	7.5% (+0.3%)
Water	10.2 USD +5.5 USD	5.4% (-0.7%)

Average reported total household expenditure over a month 197.6 USD (+116.3 USD)

Median reported total household expenditure over a month⁴ 164.8 USD (+99.3 USD)

Income & Livelihoods*

Income

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

Average monthly income: 235.1 USD (+148.2 USD)

Median monthly income⁴: 195.0 USD (+125.5 USD)

The average income per person, per month⁵: 33.8 USD (+21.0 USD)

The median income per person, per month^{4,5}: 26.3 USD (+16.7 USD)

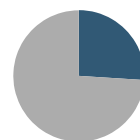
Most commonly reported sources of household income in the 6 months prior to data collection:

- 73.0% (+53.0%) Humanitarian Assistance
- 38.0% Casual Labour
- 26.0% Livestock sale

Savings & Debt

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

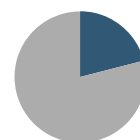
Yes 25.6% (+15.4%)
No 74.4%



The average amount of savings found for households with any savings was 6.6 USD per household.

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

Yes 20.5% (-21.9%)
No 79.5%



The average amount of debt found for households with any debt was 5.3 USD per household.

*The monthly income included cash transfer whose transfer value was three-month worth (ranging from USD 180 to USD 255). This therefore highlights why the income and expenditure values increased by 63.0% and 58.9% respectively, from the baseline.

Spending Decisions

% of households by reported primary spending decisions maker³:

Joint decision-making 58.0%
Female 16.9%
Male 25.1%



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

Yes 0.0%
No 99.3%
PNA¹¹ 0.7%



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

% of households by FCS category:

Endline	Poor	Borderline	Acceptable
	14.0% (-14.9%)	28.5% (-5.8%)	57.5% (+20.7%)

Average number of meals eaten per household in the last 24 hours: 2.2 (+0.2)

HDDS⁷

% of households by HDDS category:

Endline	Low	Medium	High
	5.6% (-13.4%)	27.8% (-6.8%)	66.6% (+20.2%)

Average HDDS per household: 6.4 (+0.6)

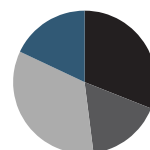
rCSI⁸

Average rCSI score per household: 12.6 (-2.1)

LCSI⁹

% of households by LCSI score:

Emergency 31.1% (-11.0%)
Crisis 16.9% (-2.7%)
Stress 33.7% (+10.0%)
Neutral 18.3% (+3.7%)



Average LCSI score per household: 6.5 (-1.2)

Somali Cash Consortium MPCA

Drought Response Top-up

Endline Assessment



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Humanitarian Aid



May 2022

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	2.3 (-0.2)
Borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relatives	1.7 (-0.2)
Reduced the number of meals eaten per day	1.7 (-0.3)
Reduced portion size of meals	1.7 (-0.3)
Reduction in the quantities consumed by adults/mothers for young children	1.2 (-0.2)



Livelihood-based Coping Strategies

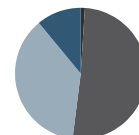
Reported main reason(s) why the household adopted livelihood-based coping strategies in the month prior to data collection (i.e. to access which essential needs)²:

1	92.0%	Food
2	50.0%	Health
3	45.0%	Education
4	38.0%	Shelter
5	35.0%	Water, sanitation, & hygiene
6	0.0%	Other

Subjective Wellbeing

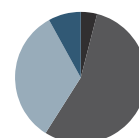
% of households reporting having had sufficient quantity of food to eat in the month prior to data collection:

Never	1.3%	(-8.5%)
Rarely	50.9%	(-15.5%)
Mostly	36.5%	(+15.3%)
Always	11.3%	(+8.7%)



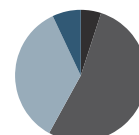
% of households reporting having had sufficient variety of food to eat in the month prior to data collection:

Never	3.8%	(-8.9%)
Rarely	55.4%	(-12.1%)
Mostly	32.9%	(+17.0%)
Always	7.9%	(+4.0%)



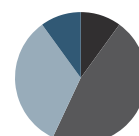
% of households reporting having had enough money to cover basic needs in the month prior to data collection:

Never	4.5%	(-11.7%)
Rarely	52.7%	(-12.1%)
Mostly	35.2%	(+21.3%)
Always	7.6%	(+2.5%)



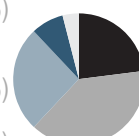
% of households reporting being able to meet their basic needs at the time of data collection:

Never	9.6%	(-9.0%)
Rarely	47.4%	(-10.2%)
Mostly	32.7%	(+14.3%)
Always	10.4%	(+5.0%)



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

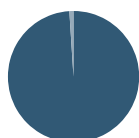
Would be completely unable to meet basic needs	23.2%	(-15.8%)
Would meet some basic needs	39.4%	(-2.1%)
Would be mostly fine	25.5%	(+13.5%)
Would be completely fine	8.4%	(+2.4%)
Do not know/ no answer	3.5%	(+2.0%)



Cash Use & Impact

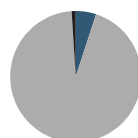
% of households reporting the cash received helped them to meet any of their household's basic needs:

Yes	99.6%
No	0.4%



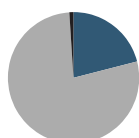
% of households reporting thinking other members of their community are jealous of their household because they received the cash transfer:

Yes	4.5%
No	94.7%
PNA ¹¹	0.8%



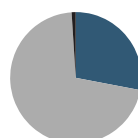
% of households reporting being overcharged by traders who were aware of their beneficiary status:¹²

Yes	21.1%
No	77.8%
PNA ¹¹	1.1%



% of households reporting traders increased prices charged for everyone in the community since the cash transfers began:¹²

Yes	29.1%
No	70.5%
PNA ¹¹	0.4%



Sources of Food

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

1	73.1%	(+13.1%)	Market purchase with cash
2	7.1%	(+5.7%)	Own production
3	5.7%	(-2.3%)	Market purchase with credit

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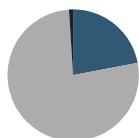
Protection & Accountability

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

Yes **22.1%**

No **77.2%** (-5.0%)

PNA¹¹ 0.7%

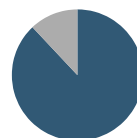


% of households reporting expecting that the cash assistance will be appropriate for their household's needs:

Yes **87.7%** (-1.1%)

No **12.3%**

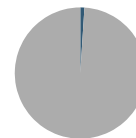
PNA¹¹ 0.0%



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

Yes **0.2%**

No **99.8%**

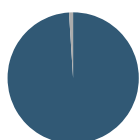


% of households reporting feeling safe going through the programme's selection & registration processes:

Yes **99.5%** (+2.4%)

No **0.4%**

PNA¹¹ 0.1%

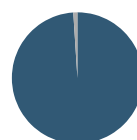


% of households reporting feeling that they have been treated with respect by NGO staff up to the time of data collection:

Yes **99.8%**

No **0.1%**

PNA¹¹ 0.1%

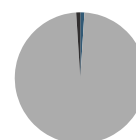


% of households reporting believing that some households were unfairly selected:

Yes **0.7%**

No **98.8%** (+2.5%)

PNA¹¹ 0.5%



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

Yes **0.1%**

No **99.3%** (+2.9%)

PNA¹¹ 0.6%



% 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 **99.1%** (-0.1%)

PNA¹¹ 0.9%



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

Yes **0.0%**

No **99.3%** (-0.2%)

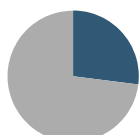
PNA¹¹ 0.7%



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

Yes **26.5%** (+4.8%)

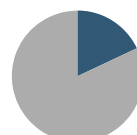
No **73.5%**



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

Yes **17.9%** (-2.1%)

No **82.1%**



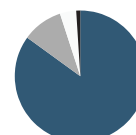
Of households that reported having raised concerns, % reporting being satisfied with the response:

Yes **85.1%**

No **9.9%**

Partially **4.4%**

Not received **0.6%**



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

Consistent improvements were seen across all key food and livelihood security indicators within the 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 endline saw an increase in the proportion of households with an acceptable FCS (from 36.8% at baseline to 57.5% at endline), and a considerable improvement in the average rCSI (from 14.7 to 12.6).

Among the households who reported perceiving that traders had increased prices as a result of the cash transfers for the entire community (29.1%) or specifically for the beneficiary households (21.1%), the most commonly reported increases were seen in food commodities (96.0%), water (57.0%), and medicines (34.0%).

Among the 82.1% of households who reported not having raised any concerns, the most commonly reported reason for not raising concerns were a lack of concerns or complaints (66.9%) and 31.4% reportedly lacked knowledge on the existence of the CRFM. Only 1.7% reported not having raised concerns because of fear that doing so would have negative implications on their beneficiary status.

Among the 54.5% of beneficiary households who had any suggestions to improve the project, the primary suggestions included increasing the **duration** (80.0%) and **amount of cash transfers** (59.0%) as well as keeping it **continuous throughout the whole year** (49.0%). Other suggestions included ensuring the timeliness of transfers (31.0%), increasing the number of beneficiaries (31.0%), and supplementing the cash assistance with additional support (26.0%), such as food, shelter, and livelihood support.

26.5% of households reported being aware of any options to contact the agency if they had any questions, complaints, or problems receiving the assistance. The majority of these households reported being aware of the NGO hotline (59.0%) and 34.0% reported that you could talk to the NGO staff directly, while only 15.0% mentioned contacting the NGO helpdesk.

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End Notes

- 1 Of the 17,434 respondents, 696HHs were part of the SRSN component in Dollow and were excluded from data collection as a separate monitoring was conducted. 3976 households were interviewed in the baseline due to non-response. Eventually, 3689 surveys were kept in the endline after data cleaning.
- 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 $\leq 49\%$ the household is considered "Food secure"; if it is ≥ 50.0 and $\leq 64.9\%$, 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 the regional medians. This was done 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 household 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 in the 7 days prior to data collection weighted according to their nutritional value.
- 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 or money to buy 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. Protracted 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 "Prefer not to answer".
- 12 Increase in prices charged by traders can also be due to increase in prices of key commodities.

Annex 1 - Sample Breakdown

Region	District	Caseload	Sample Surveyed
Bay	Diinsoor	2570	405
Bay	Baidoa	3181	474
Bay	Buur Hakaba	1245	378
Bay	Qansax Dheere	1324	416
Middle Shabelle	Jowhar	1360	335
Middle Shabelle	Balcad	1000	394
Mudug	Jariiban	722	285
Lower Juba	Jamaame	943	363
Lower Juba	Badhaadhe	1107	358
Gedo	Baardheere	1453	343
Gedo	Dollow	377	218

Annex 2 - Key Indicator Summary

Key Indicator	Baseline Value	Endline Value	% change (from baseline to endline)
% of households reporting that cash helped them meet their basic needs	NA	99.9%	N/A
Average meals consumed per household in the last 24 hours	2.0	2.2	7.5%
Average Food Consumption Score (FCS)	38.9	47.9	23.0%
% of households with an acceptable FCS	36.8%	57.5%	56.3%
Average Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)	5.8	6.4	9.8%
% of households with a high or medium HDDS	81.0%	94.4%	16.5%
Average Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI)	14.7	12.6	-14.2%
Average Livelihood Coping Strategies Index (LCSI)	7.7	6.5	-15.9%
% of total household expenditure spent on food	51.4%	42.1%	-18.0%