

# ASAL Humanitarian Network MPCT New Beneficiaries Midline Assessment

## Turkana 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 beneficiary households in Turkana county added to the main lot of beneficiary households under the AHN's main programme<sup>1</sup>. This response in Turkana county is primarily funded by Oxfam<sup>2</sup> and is implemented by SAPCONE; a local non-governmental organisation (NGO). The AHN is distributing three rounds of MPCTs between December 2021 and March 2022, to selected beneficiary households across Turkana 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 Turkana county as well as comparison of some key indicators from the baseline assessment**. The figures in grey highlight the magnitude of change from the

### Methodology

A total of 205<sup>3</sup> households received the first round of MPCTA in December 2021 and January 2022. The population included beneficiaries in the Turkana county where the MPCT programme was implemented. **A total of 132 beneficiary household interviews 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 95.0% of households had a poor Food Consumption Score (FCS) and only around 1.0% had an acceptable FCS. Following the cash transfers, only 47.0% of households had a poor FCS during the midline assessment whereas 9.1% of households had an acceptable FCS.
- The proportion of the HHs with low HDDS stands at 98.5%, which is 1.0% decrease from the baseline, this indicates a continuously low dietary intake among HHs.
- Similarly, while the vast majority of households reported "almost never" having been able to meet their basic needs in the 30 days prior to midline data collection, the proportion of households reporting "never" having been able to do so decreased considerably from 94.1% at baseline to 15.9% at the midline.
- Market purchase remained the most commonly reported primary source of food (68.9%) in the 7 days prior to data collection.
- The average reported monthly income per household during the midline assessment was 8986 Kenyan shillings (KES)<sup>4</sup>, a 872.5% increase from the baseline assessment (924 KES).
- In line with the massive increase in the average monthly income the most commonly reported source of household income was cash transfers at 66.7% followed by fishing at 15.2%.
- During the midline, households commonly reported that spending decisions were made by the male members of the household (43.9%) or jointly between men and women (40.9%).

### Locations Covered



**IMPACT** Shaping practices  
Influencing policies  
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## Income & Expenditure

### Income Source

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

- 1 66.7% Cash transfers
- 2 15.2% Fishing
- 3 8.3% Firewood sale
- 4 3.8% Sharing

### 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 (4188) (+3535)	48.9% (-36%)
Debt repayment (964) (+883)	11.2% (+1%)
Sharing (647) (+647)	7.5% (+8%)
Savings (643) (+623)	7.5% (+5%)
WASH items (621) (+616)	7.2% (+6%)
Education (411) (+410)	4.8% (+5%)

Average reported total household expenditure over a month 8572 (+7798)

Average reported total household income over a month 8986 (+8062)

### Market Access

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

Yes 1.5%  
No 98.5%



### Food Sources

% of households by most commonly reported primary sources of food<sup>5</sup>:

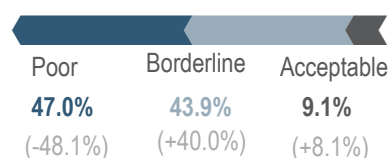
- 1 68.9% Market purchase
- 2 22.7% Sharing
- 3 4.6% Gift

## 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>

Midline

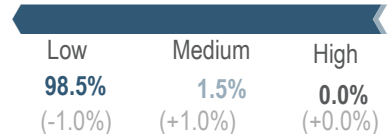


Average number of meals consumed by household members per day: 1.9 (+1.0)

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

% of households by HDDS category:

Midline



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

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	1.4 (-0.3)
Relied on less preferred, less expensive food	1.6 (+0.3)
Reduced portion size of meals	1.5 (-0.1)
Borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relatives	1.6 (+0.1)
Restricted adults' consumption so children can eat	1.4 (-0.1)

Average rCSI score per household: 11.8 (-0.5)

## Cash Use

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

Almost never 82.6% (-80.1%)  
Never 15.9% (+78.2%)  
Sometimes 0.8% (-0.8%)  
PFA 0.8% (+2.7%)



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

Mobile Money 100.0%



### Spending Decisions

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

Male 43.9%  
Joint decision-making 40.9%  
Female 15.2%



### 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%



## Protection Performance Indicators

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

Yes **82.6%**  
No **17.4%**



% 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 up to 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 **0.8%**  
No **99.2%**



% 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 desk **92.0%**  
NGO staff **86.0%**  
Hotline **73.0%**  
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 **68.2%**  
No **31.8%**



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

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



### 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 substantial decrease in the proportion of households with a poor FCS (from 95.0% to 47.0%, in the midline and baseline respectively) and a slight decrease in the average rCSI (from 12.3 to 11.8).

The average household expenditure increased from 924 in the baseline to 8986 in the midline. This is most likely attributable to the cash transfers, which is further reflected in cash transfer being the most commonly reported primary source of income in Turkana (66.7%).

All households reportedly travelled by foot to withdraw money (100.0%). All households also reported long distance (100.0%) as a major barrier in accessing the market where they bought basic goods and services.

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 (82.6%) reported having been consulted by the NGO about their needs.

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### 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-KLUB), Oxfam Hong Kong (OHK), Oxfam America (OUS), Oxfam IBIS (Denmark), and Oxfam Ireland. The AHN response in Turkana County with the partner SAPCONE is supported specifically by Oxfam through funding from OGB-KLUB.
3. The local partner NGO is Sustainable Approaches for Community Empowerment (SAPCONE).
4. While the total amount of beneficiary households was 205, 202 households were interviewed in the baseline due to non-response. Eventually, 132 surveys were kept in the baseline after data cleaning. For data consistency, the sample for the midline has been drawn from the 132 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

		Turkana	
		Baseline	Midline
Food Consumption Score (FCS)	Poor	95.0%	47.0%
	Borderline	4.0%	43.9%
	Acceptable	1.0%	9.1%
Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)	Low	99.5%	98.5%
	Medium	0.5%	1.5%
	High	0.0%	0.0%
Average Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)		12.3	11.8
Average household income in KES in the month prior to data collection		924	8986
Average household total expenditure in KES in the month prior to data		774	7925
Average proportion of total expenditure spent on food in the month prior to		84.4%	48.9%



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