

BASELINE ASSESSMENT FINDINGS FOR SOMALI CASH CONSORTIUM'S (SCC) FLOOD RESPONSE

DECEMBER, 2023

SOMALIA

KEY MESSAGES

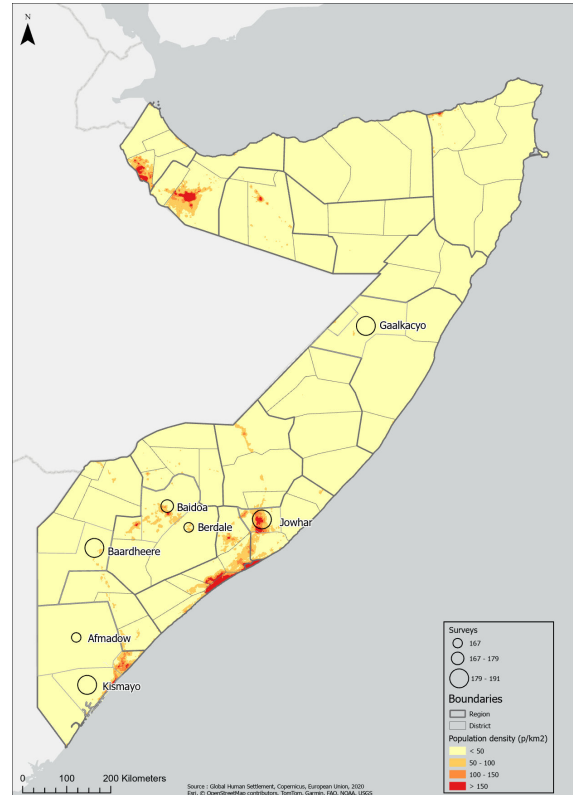
- **About 48% of the assessed households (HHs) were moderately food insecure, while an additional 42% were severely food insecure.** These findings highlight the continued widespread food insecurity that occurred before and during the El Nino flooding.
- **Approximately half (52%) of the HHs were found to be engaging in crisis and emergency level coping strategies.** This suggests that these households have likely depleted their limited resources to meet their basic needs.
- **Only 15% of HHs were found to have acceptable FCS.** In addition, **more than half (54%) of the HHs were found to have poor FCS.** HHs in Jowhar (72%), Galkacyo (67%) and Baardheere (55%) were found to have the highest proportion of HHs with poor FCS.
- **The ECMEN indicator shows that only 6% of the assessed HHs have spendings equal to or above the MEB cost.** This situation suggests **significant economic hardship and vulnerability** among these households post flooding.
- The main suggestions from the assessed HHs to improve the relevance of MPCA were to **increase the duration and amount of cash transfers.** Additionally, the households recommended providing supplementary support, such as food, shelter, and flood relief, alongside the cash assistance.



Funded by
European Union
Humanitarian Aid



ASSESSMENT COVERAGE



CONTEXT & RATIONALE

Between October and November, Somalia confronted its worst floods attributed to the Deyr rainy season.¹ These floods resulted in extensive damage to crops, disruptions in supply chains, and massive displacement. The most severely impacted regions are the riverine and low-lying agropastoral areas in the southern and central parts of the country. The heavy rains fueled by El Nino intensified particularly in Puntland, Galmudug, South West, Hirshabelle states and in areas along Jubba river in Jubbaland State. Both Hirshabelle and Jubbaland are riverine regions, with the Shabelle and Juba rivers passing through them, respectively.* In the Baidoa and Baardheere districts, heavy rainfall and flooding have led to the destruction of bridges, resulting in considerable displacement of the population.** The flooding has worsened the vulnerability, as economic development is consistently hindered by conflicts and recurring climate shocks.

Moreover, assessments conducted by IMPACT Initiatives^{2,3} during this Deyr season, revealed that households in flood-prone areas faced various challenges, impeding their ability to fully meet basic needs. These factors have led to increased humanitarian needs among diverse population groups in Somalia, emphasizing the necessity for humanitarian assistance to support these vulnerable households.

To address the challenges faced by these already vulnerable households, SCC***, with funding from the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), will deliver three rounds of cash transfers to cushion HHs from the adverse effects of floods. This intervention consists of three rounds of Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) planned between December 2023 and February 2024. A total of 5,864 selected beneficiary HHs across the selected districts will receive the MPCAs. This serves as a supplementary program to the MPCA activities previously delivered by SCC, which encompassed three rounds of cash assistance between April and November 2023. The top-up assessment aligns with the ECHO Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) for 2023, consisting of the main caseload, Gedo nutrition-based assessment and the Anticipatory Action conducted in Belet Weyne district.**** **This factsheet presents an overview of the current baseline livelihood status and needs of beneficiary households in the districts of Afmadow, Baardheere, Baidoa, Berdale, Jowhar, Kismayo and Galkacyo districts before the first cash transfer.*******

* <https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/somalia/>

** FEWS NET, Somalia Key Message Update November 2023: Severe river and flash floods likely to reduce deyr harvests in January 2024, 2023.

*** SCC is led by Concern Worldwide and further consists of ACTED, Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and Save the Children (SCI).

**** [IMPACT SOM GEDO-REGION FINAL-ASSESSMENT-FACTSHEET OCTOBER-2023.](#)

***** This aid aimed to assist these households in addressing food shortages and meeting other essential needs. The cash transfers were distributed based on partners' activation using the Integrated Response Framework (IRF) adopted by ECHO in January 2023.

METHODOLOGY

The baseline assessment was conducted using a quantitative method, with data collected through telephone interviews at the household-level. The target population for the survey was MPCA beneficiaries. The data collection took place between 9th and 31st December, 2023.

A probability-simple random sampling approach was employed to achieve a 95% confidence level with a 7% margin of error. Of the 5,864 beneficiary HHs, a sample of 1,354 HHs were interviewed remotely via telephone and 1,253 surveys were kept after the data cleaning process. A 15% buffer was applied to account for potential nonresponses and surveys that may need to be excluded during the data cleaning process. Descriptive data analysis was conducted using R software.

The survey tool, including the precision and clarity of translations from English to Somali, underwent rigorous testing by field officers before its deployment to prevent any issues or misunderstandings during data collection. Data collection was carried out using the KOBO platform. Subsequently, all data was anonymized and shared with the IMPACT field team for daily verification and cleaning procedures throughout the data collection process.

LIMITATIONS

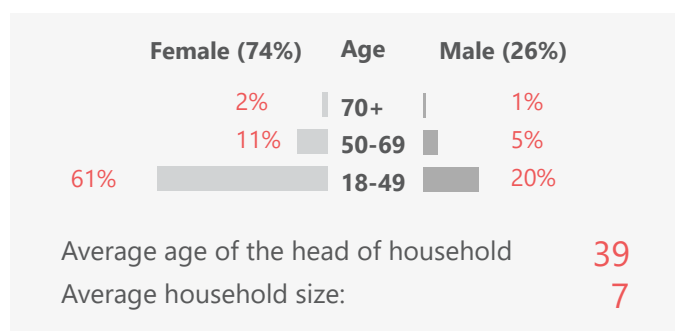
- Findings referring to a subset of the total population may have a wider margin of error and a lower level of precision. Therefore, may not be generalizable and should be considered indicative only.
- Respondent bias: Certain indicators may be under-reported or over-reported due to subjectivity and perceptions of respondents (in particular "social desirability bias" - the tendency of people to provide what they perceive to be the "right" answers to certain questions). HHs may sometimes try to give answers they feel will increase their chances of getting more assistance.
- The ECMEN indicator was calculated based on February MEB 2023 costs. However, it is important to note that this calculation may not accurately reflect the current economic situation.

SAMPLE BREAKDOWN

Districts	Caseload	Sample Surveyed
Afmadow	600	167
Baardheere	1,465	184
Baidoa	1,000	177
Baidoa/Berdale	550	167
Jowhar	1,000	191
Kismayo	400	185
Galkacyo	849	182
Total	5,864	1,253

DEMOGRAPHICS

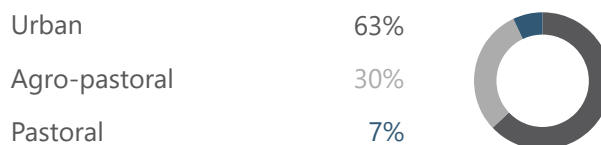
% of HHs by head of the HH demographic characteristics:



A significant number of the assessed HHs were headed by women (74%). The results also indicate that individuals aged between 18-49 years represented the majority of the HH heads, accounting to 81% of the total number.

LIVELIHOOD ZONE

Proportion of HHs by livelihood zone:



COMMUNICATION

33% Of the households reported being aware of at least one of the selection criteria for receiving the cash assistance.

Among those households reporting being aware of any selection criteria (n=776), the most commonly known selection criteria were:

- 81%** Lack of income
- 65%** Lack of assets
- 36%** Disability of household member
- 27%** Illness of household members

Nearly all (98%) assessed HHs reported feeling well represented by the Village Relief Committee (VRCs).

* Respondents could select multiple options. Findings may therefore exceed 100%.



LIVELIHOODS

HHS' INCOME SOURCES

Top reported primary sources of HH income in the 30 days prior to data collection:*



Average reported monthly amount of income for HHs that received any income in the 30 days prior to data collection (100%):** 72.20 USD

HH'S EXPENDITURES

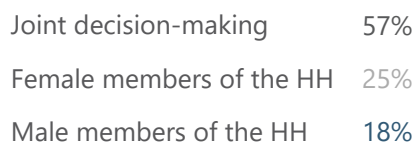
Average reported monthly expenditure for HHs that had spent any money in the 30 days prior to data collection (100%): 70.44 USD

Reported average HHs expenditures, by top most expenditure type in the 30 days prior to data collection:

HHs reporting expenditure category used	Average amount spent in the 30 days prior to data collection by HHs reporting spending >0 USD in this category	Proportion to total spending across all HHs including HHs who spent 0 USD***
Food (n=1,253)	39.11 USD	61%
Rent (n=148)	13.11 USD	2%
Repayment of debt taken for food (n=727)	6.89 USD	8%
Medical expenses (n=745)	6.36 USD	8%
Clothing (n=623)	4.62 USD	6%

SPENDING DECISIONS

Proportion of HHs by the primary decision maker on how to spend:



HHS' SAVINGS & DEBT

13% of HHs reported having savings at the time of data collection. The average amount of savings found for HHs who reportedly had savings was 2.25 USD per HH.

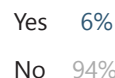
20% of HHs reported having debt at the time of data collection. The average amount of debt found for HHs who reportedly had debts was 9.16 USD per HH.

Among the HHs having debt (n=237), the top reported reasons were:*



ECONOMIC CAPACITY TO MEET ESSENTIAL NEEDS⁴

% of HHs who reportedly spent above the minimum expenditure basket (MEB):



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



The findings indicate that food constituted the primary expenditure for the assessed households, with an average of 39.11 USD allocated to food expenses. Additionally, an extra 6.89 USD was dedicated to repaying debts associated with food. Due to a significant portion of the households' income being allocated to food, their basic needs may not be fully met due to limited resources for other essential expenses. Rent and clothing formed part of the top reported expenditure, likely attributed to the fact that a majority of households (63%) originated from urban livelihood zones.

The fact that only 6% of households spent above the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) cost highlights the low economic capacity to meet their basic needs without resorting to negative coping strategies.

The majority of the assessed households (88%) relied on casual labor as their main source of income. These households are particularly vulnerable to income fluctuations, due to the disruptive effect of El Nino rains on livelihoods and labor markets, potentially leading to a decrease in their source of income.

* Respondents could select multiple options. Findings may therefore exceed 100%.

** Nearly all (93%) of the HHs were found to have low income. CMU classifies HHs with monthly income below 130 USD as low income.

*** For each category, the proportion was calculated based on all HHs including those HHs that had not made any spending on each expenditure category. All HHs had made some spending 30 days prior to data collection.



FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS (FSL)

FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE (FCS)⁵

% of HHs by Food Consumption Score category:



Average FCS per HH **29.4**

HOUSEHOLD HUNGER SCALE (HHS)⁶

% of HHs by levels of hunger in the HH:



USE OF COPING MECHANISMS

% of HHs by average reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) category:⁷



Average rCSI per HH **19.4**

The most commonly adopted coping strategies were found to be:^{*}

% of HHs reporting coping strategies adopted	Average number of days per week per strategy
Relied on less preferred, less expensive food (97%)	3.20
Reduced the number of meals eaten per day (96%)	2.58
Reduced portion size of meals (96%)	2.49
Borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relatives (92%)	2.32
Restricted adults consumption so children can eat (86%)	2.16

LIVELIHOOD-BASED COPING STRATEGIES (LCS)⁸

% of HHs by LCS category in the 30 days prior to data collection:^{**}



Average LCSi per HH **6.1**

Most commonly reported reasons for adopting negative livelihood coping strategies in the 30 days prior to data collection:^{*}

Accessing food	93%
Healthcare services	71%
Education	58%
Shelter	52%
Access to water/sanitation facilities	29%

COMPLETED CONSOLIDATED APPROACH TO REPORTING INDICATORS OF FOOD SECURITY (CARI) CONSOLE^{***}

Domain Indicator	Domain	Indicator	Food Secure (1)	Marginally Food Secure (2)	Moderately Food Insecure (3)	Severely Food Insecure (4)
Current Status	Food Consumption	Food Consumption Group and rCSI	Acceptable and rCSI < 4 0%	Acceptable and rCSI ≥ 4 14%	Borderline 34%	Poor 52%
Coping Capacity	Economic Vulnerability	ECMEN	7%		29%	64%
	Asset Depletion	Livelihood Coping Strategies	None 21%	Stress 28%	Crisis 19%	Emergency 32%
CARI Food Security Index			0%	10%	48%	42%

^{*} Respondents could select multiple options. Findings may therefore exceed 100%.

^{**} Crisis and emergency coping strategies adopted in the 30 days prior to data collection were: Entire HH has migrated to urban or rural (32%), Begged (26%), sold last female productive animals (16%), withdrew children from school (32%), reduced expenses on essential health (23%) and selling productive assets (5%).

^{***} [Technical Guidance for WFP on Consolidated Approach for reporting Indicators of Food Security \(December, 2021\)](#). HHs are classified as **food secure** if they are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without depletion of assets or **marginally food secure** if they have a minimally adequate food consumption, but are unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures without depletion of assets or **moderately food insecure** if they have food consumption gaps, or, marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with accelerated depletion of livelihood assets and **severely food insecure** if they have huge food consumption gaps, or extreme loss of livelihood assets that will lead to large food consumption gaps.



ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATION

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

Indicator	Percentage
Programming was safe	99%
Programming was respectful	100%
Community was consulted	23%
The assistance appropriate	76%
No unfair selection	99%
Raised concerns using CRM	26%
Satisfied with the response (26%)	70%
Overall KPI score	79%

30%

Of the assessed HHs reported being aware of options to contact the agency

Of HHs reporting being aware of any option to contact the agency (30%), most frequently known ways to report complaints, problems receiving the assistance, or ask questions**

71% Use the dedicated NGO hotline

37% Talk directly to NGO staff

29% Use the dedicated NGO desk

76%

Of the assessed HHs felt that the cash assistance would be appropriate in helping them in meeting their monthly needs

60%

Of the HHs had suggestions on how to improve the relevance of the cash assistance.

The top mentioned suggestions on how to improve the cash assistance**

73% Increase duration of cash transfers

65% Increase amount of cash transfer

58% Transfer should be received more quickly

50% Provide continuous cash transfers

The top mentioned comments and feedback by about 40% of the assessed HHs who had comments were on**

69% Food assistance

62% Shelter assistance

51% Flood relief

37% Educational support

Among the households that provided suggestions and feedback, food assistance, shelter assistance, and flood relief was their top priority need for assistance.

This aligns with recent needs assessment findings in flood affected communities in Somalia.*** Additionally, the main suggestions for enhancing the effectiveness of humanitarian cash assistance was increasing the amounts and duration of cash transfers.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the majority of the assessed districts were adversely affected by El Nino flooding. During the baseline assessment, households in these districts faced widespread food and livelihood challenges.

Annex 1 shows that only 10% of the assessed households were marginally food secure and with no household classified as food secure. Notably, Jowhar (64%), Baardhere (48%), and Galkacyo (45%) had the highest proportion of beneficiaries experiencing **severe food insecurity**. The households in Jowhar and Bardheere confronted numerous obstacles, including displacement (with around 850 households displaced by El Nino in Jowhar) and logistical complexities in reaching flood-affected areas.****

Approximately 76% of surveyed households indicated that the provided cash assistance met their needs. This emphasizes the necessity of complementing cash aid with additional support like food, shelter, and flood relief, as recommended by households providing feedback and suggestions

It is worth mentioning that these households are experiencing significant food insecurity, as indicated by the CARI food security index. Nonetheless, the initial conditions of these households are anticipated to change after three months of cash transfers. In order to fully evaluate the potential effects of humanitarian cash assistance, an endline assessment will be conducted. This assessment will determine if the cash transfers have had a positive impact on the food security and livelihood conditions of the assessed households.

* 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, d.) whether the beneficiary felt they were treated with respect by the NGO during the intervention, e.) whether the beneficiary felt some HHs were unfairly selected over others who were in dire need of the cash transfer, f.) whether the beneficiary had raised concerns about the assistance they had received using any of the complaint response mechanisms, and g.) if any complaints were raised, whether the beneficiary was satisfied with the response given or not.

** Respondents could select multiple options. Findings may therefore exceed 100%.

*** REACH SOM RNA-Flooding Factsheet Baardheere November-2023.

**** SOMALIA: 2023 Deyr Season Floods Weekly Situation Report No. 3

Annex 1 - Key Indicators Summary Per Assessed District

Districts	Food Security indicators													
	CARI FOOD SECURITY INDEX				Food consumption score			Households hunger scale (HHS)			Livelihood Coping Strategy (LCS)			
	Food Secure	Marginally Food Secure	Moderately Food Insecure	Severely Food Insecure	Acceptable	Borderline	Poor	No/little hunger	Moderate hunger	Severe hunger	None	Stress	Crisis	Emergency
Afmadow	0%	11%	57%	31%	17%	40%	43%	14%	76%	10%	28%	22%	16%	34%
Baardheere	0%	15%	38%	48%	18%	27%	55%	11%	55%	34%	26%	32%	11%	32%
Baidoa	0%	13%	47%	40%	20%	34%	46%	49%	51%	0%	19%	30%	20%	31%
Baidoa/Berdale	0%	16%	54%	30%	25%	41%	34%	47%	53%	0%	21%	37%	13%	29%
Jowhar	0%	5%	34%	64%	7%	21%	72%	34%	62%	4%	26%	11%	20%	43%
Kismayo	0%	8%	56%	37%	10%	48%	42%	3%	96%	1%	4%	52%	7%	37%
Galkacyo	0%	3%	52%	45%	6%	27%	67%	47%	52%	1%	26%	10%	47%	18%
Overall	0%	10%	48%	42%	15%	31%	54%	30%	60%	10%	23%	26%	23%	32%

ENDNOTES

PAGE 1

1. [Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit-Somalia \(December 2023\).](#)
2. [REACH Rapid Needs Assessment Factsheet Baardheere district November 2023.](#)
3. [IMPACT SOM BELET WEYNE DISTRICT BASELINE ASSESSMENT FACTSHEET OCTOBER 2023](#)

PAGE 3

4. The distributed amounts varied from one region to another depending on the regional cost of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB). February 2023 regional MEB cost was used to calculate the ECMEN value. The MEB costs are available upon request. ECMEN is a binary indicator showing whether a household's total expenditures can be covered. It is calculated by establishing household economic capacity (which involves aggregating expenditures) and comparing it against the Minimum Expenditure Basket to establish whether a household is above this threshold.

PAGE 4

5. Find more information on the food consumption score [here](#). The cut-off criteria utilized for Somalia were as follows: HHs with a score between 0 and 28 were categorized as "poor," those with a score above 28 but less than 42 were considered "borderline," and HHs with a score exceeding 42 were classified as "acceptable." These categorizations were determined based on the high consumption of sugar and oil among the beneficiary HHs. High average FCS values are preferred since low average values indicate a worse food situation as shown by the FCS cut-off points.
6. Household Hunger Scale (HHS)—a new, simple indicator to measure HH hunger in food insecure areas. Read more [here](#).
7. rCSI - The reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) is an indicator used to compare the hardship faced by HHs due to a shortage of food. The index measures the frequency and severity of the food consumption behaviours the HHs had to engage in due to food shortage in the seven days prior to the survey. The rCSI was calculated to better understand the frequency and severity of changes in food consumption behaviours in the HH when faced with a shortage of food. The rCSI scale was adjusted for Somalia, with a low index attributed to rCSI ≤3, medium: rCSI between 4 and 18, and high rCSI higher than 18. Read more [here](#). The three rCSI cut-offs indicate different phases of food security situations, and in this context, lower average values of rCSI are preferred.
8. Livelihood Coping Strategies Index (LCSI) is an indicator used to understand the medium and longer-term coping capacity of HHs in response to a lack of food or lack of money to buy food and their ability to overcome challenges in the future. The indicator is derived from a series of questions regarding the HHs' experiences with livelihood stress and asset depletion to cope with food shortages. Read more [here](#). Low average LCSI values are desired, low values show a better food security situation within the assessed HHs.

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 15 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.