

# ENDLINE ASSESSMENT FINDINGS FOR ANTICIPATORY ACTION ON FLOODING IN BELET WEYNE DISTRICT: EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF MPCA ON URBAN-BASED VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLDS

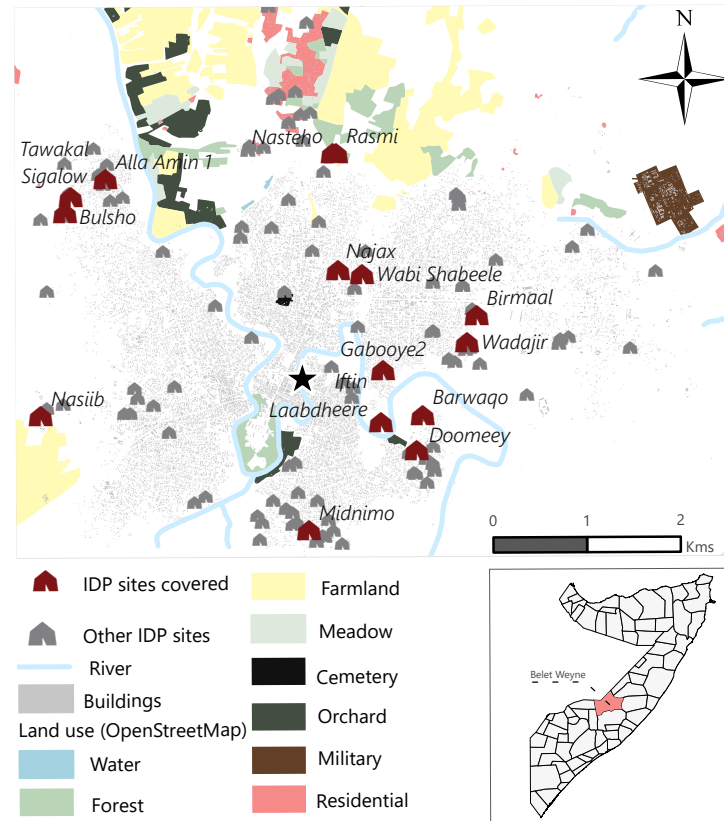
FEBRUARY, 2024

BELET WEYNE, SOMALIA

## KEY MESSAGES

- Findings suggest that the food security status of the beneficiary HHs has improved from the baseline to endline assessment. **The proportion of HHs with a poor Food Consumption Score (FCS) decreased considerably from 94% to 12%. This is consistent with the average reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI), which decreased from 16.3 to 10.3 between the baseline and endline respectively.**
- Food constituted the primary expense for assessed HHs, as 45% of HHs' average expenditure was seemingly spent on food and 13% spent on repayment of debt gathered for food.** Given the importance of food for basic survival, the high relative expenditure on food might indicate that most of the HHs income was spent on food with little left for other expenditure hence difficulties with meeting all their basic needs.
- HH food security has improved, but this could be explained by the fact that they have taken on more debt than before, including to buy food. **According to the Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSI), HHs were still engaging in negative coping strategies to maintain their current food consumption status. This is highlighted by the fact that nearly half (46%) of the HHs were still utilizing emergency strategies.**

## ASSESSMENT COVERAGE



## CONTEXT & RATIONALE

Heavy rainfall during the [Deyr season](#), led to flooding in Somalia. This, coupled with the previous drought, has led to approximately 4 million people (21% of the population), being classified as Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 3 or above (IPC 3+).<sup>1</sup> The Belet Weyne district has consistently faced flooding threats during the [Gu](#) and Deyr<sup>2</sup> seasons in 2023, a consequence of worsening climate change. The water levels in the Shabelle River at Belet Weyne rise significantly during rainfall, posing a considerable risk of flooding. This has disrupted livelihoods and forced a significant portion of the population into cycles of vulnerability and displacement.<sup>3</sup> Approximately 250,000 people were living in dire conditions, as highlighted by the Hirshabelle El-Nino Task Force.<sup>4</sup>

Anticipatory humanitarian cash assistance was disbursed during the El Nino Deyr flooding in Belet Weyne in order to mitigate the impact of the flooding through the use of Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA). Somalia Cash Consortium (SCC)<sup>5</sup>, in collaboration with DRC, carried out MPCA that targeted vulnerable HHs in the Belet Weyne district. This intervention was funded by the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO).

The program delivered three rounds of cash assistance between October and December 2023. The targeted beneficiary HHs were selected based on their vulnerability to floods and they received one pre-flooding cycle of cash assistance and additional two-rounds after the floods.

**This factsheet aims to evaluate the effectiveness of anticipatory humanitarian cash action, for urban-based HH beneficiaries, on the anticipatory group supported by DRC.<sup>6</sup> This separate factsheet was adapted to present the key findings from the urban HHs targeted by DRC for the anticipatory humanitarian action.**

1. [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(January-June, 2024\) Somalia](#).

2. The season is characterized by a shorter duration and less amounts of precipitation but it's beneficial to most water-dependent sectors.

3. [Flood Advisory for Belet Weyne, Somalia](#).

4. <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/somalia/somalia-deyr-rainy-season-2023-flash-update-no-7-14-november-2023>

5. 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).

6. The study's primary objective is to assess the impact of Early Anticipatory Action, with a specific focus on strengthening the resilience of flood-affected communities in Belet Weyne. This assessment was conducted by IMPACT Initiatives in partnership with the SCI and DRC.

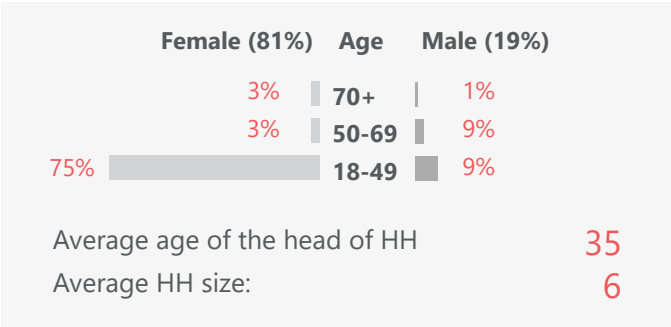
METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

IMPACT conducted quantitative household surveys remotely during the baseline and the endline assessments. The baseline assessment was conducted between 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, for the Anticipatory group. The endline assessment followed **after the third and last round of cash transfer** from 26<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. **The endline assessment was conducted with the households who were interviewed during the baseline to ensure a consistent and uniform conclusion based on the repeated study.**

A probability-simple random sampling approach was employed to achieve a 95% confidence level with a 7% margin of error. **A total of 357 HHs were interviewed remotely via telephone for both the baseline and endline assessment.** The distribution of the sample across the two groups is detailed in Annex 2. Descriptive data analysis was conducted using R software. To account for any potential non-responses and surveys that might need to be excluded during the data cleaning process, a 15% buffer was applied.

DEMOGRAPHICS

% of HHs by Head of the HH demographic characteristics:



HHs' CONDITION POST-FLOOD

**85%** Of the HHs reported that they were displaced by the 2023 Deyr rainy season (November-December) due to floods in Belet Weyne.

The number of times these HHs were displaced by the floods in the one year prior to data collection.

46%	Once
53%	2-4 times
1%	More than 5 times

**61%** Of the HHs reported that they had a shelter/house at the time of data collection.

Primary types of shelter/house assessed HHs lived in at the time of data collection:

Baseline:	Endline:	
73%	67%	Makeshift (buul)
27%	30%	Semi-permanent houses**
0%	3%	Permanent houses

Top reported community infrastructure and social services affected by the floods, by % of HHs:\*\*\*

Baseline:	Endline:	
62%	76%	Roads/streets
45%	63%	Bridge, Culverts/Piped culvert
42%	36%	Protection Walls
24%	22%	Small drains

The above findings provide valuable insights into the dynamics of households, their preparedness for floods, and the vulnerabilities that arise from infrastructure disruptions. The surveyed HHs demonstrated an awareness of flood risks between baseline and endline assessment, likely attributed to by the dissemination of knowledge through various **channels such as radio news, humanitarian organizations, mosques, and community awareness programs.** This underscores the important role that media and humanitarian agencies play in distributing critical information and raising awareness about disaster preparedness and response in the community.

The majority of the assessed households used makeshift shelters consistently from the baseline to the endline. Consequently, HHs were able to swiftly return to their homes after the floods and rebuild their temporary dwellings. This aligns with construction being one of the most mentioned expenditure categories during the endline assessment.

FLOOD PREPAREDNESS

Top reported measures that HHs take in case of flooding event:\*\*\*

Baseline:	Endline:	
63%	79%	Temporary relocation
30%	29%	Evacuation to safe places
22%	18%	Use of sand bags
17%	5%	Do nothing

Top reported sources of information that help HHs in preparing for floods:\*\*\*

Baseline:	Endline:	
43%	36%	Radio news
27%	24%	Humanitarian organisations
1%	15%	Mosques
8%	14%	Community Emergency Response Training
6%	8%	Personal experience with flood events

% of HHs reporting their level of preparedness to deal with a flood event:

Baseline:	Endline:	
48%	44%	Not prepared at all
48%	55%	Somewhat prepared
3%	1%	Well prepared
1%	0%	Very well prepared

\* The HH surveys were conducted with the self-reported head of HH. In cases where the head of the HH was not accessible, another adult who possessed knowledge about the HH's circumstances was interviewed instead. It's important to note that no individuals under the age of 18 were included in the interviews. More details can be found in the terms of reference.

\*\* Semi-permanent houses are mud and brick walled.

\*\*\* 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\*:

	Baseline:	Endline:
Humanitarian assistance	2%	51%
Casual labour (wage labour)	72%	39%
Begging	26%	14%
Cash crop and/or fish farming	7%	12%

Average reported monthly amount of income for HHs that received any income in the 30 days prior to data collection (100%):<sup>10</sup>

Baseline:	Endline:
33.50 USD	178.55 USD

### HHS' EXPENDITURES

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

Baseline:	Endline:
34.48 USD	129.26 USD

Reported average HHs expenditures in the 30 days prior to data collection:

	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 <sup>11</sup>
	Baseline	Endline	
Food	22.70 USD	54.89 USD	45%
Repayment of debt taken for food	2.97 USD	18.82 USD	13%
Repayment of debt taken for non-food items	0.97 USD	11.79 USD	8%
Medical expenses	2.52 USD	11.65 USD	10%
Clothing	0.55 USD	8.43 USD	7%
Water	1.76 USD	6.16 USD	5%
Construction	0.33 USD	5.39 USD	3%

### SPENDING DECISIONS

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

	Baseline:	Endline:
Female members of the HH	58%	59%
Joint decision-making	13%	30%
Male members of the HH	29%	11%



### HHS' SAVINGS & DEBT

**43%** Of HHs reported having debt at the time of endline data collection. The average amount of debt was **46.36 USD** per HH. The average debt during the baseline was **8.13 USD**. This economic vulnerability deterioration could be linked to the severe flooding in Belet Weyne.

**31%** Of the HHs reported having some savings at the time of endline data collection. The average amount of savings was **17.78 USD** per HH. This was a positive increase compared to the baseline where only **10%** had saving averaging to **0.63 USD**.

### ECONOMIC CAPACITY TO MEET ESSENTIAL NEEDS<sup>12</sup>

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

	Baseline:	Endline:
Yes	0%	58%
No	100%	42%



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

	Endline:
Market purchase with cash	54%
Loan	16%
Market purchase on credit	7%

**Even though HHs 14% of the HHs still reported begging as one of their primary sources of income, there was a remarkable effectiveness of the MPCA, as this halved from the baseline where about 26% reported the same.**

Moreover, the endline assessment revealed a notable disparity between reported average monthly income and expenses, with incomes surpassing expenses. This divergence is likely indicative of the impact of the flood on local supply chains, potentially leading to reduced availability and increased costs of goods and services.

Additionally, it was observed that approximately 19% of households reported a rise in food prices. This escalation can be linked directly to the supply chain disruptions triggered by the flooding in Belet Weyne. Consequently, essential commodity prices witnessed a widespread surge, underscoring the broader economic consequences of the floods.<sup>\*\*\*</sup>

Findings indicate that food expenses represented a substantial portion of HHs expenditure categories, comprising around 45% of total expenditure, with an additional 13% allocated to repaying food-related debts. **This high expenditure highlights the challenges households face in meeting basic needs, emphasizing the critical role of food for survival. Compared to baseline, the amount spent on construction in USD increased during the endline, likely because HHs' shelters were affected by flooding and needed rehabilitation.**

\* Respondents could select up to three options. Findings may therefore exceed 100%.

\*\* Only 51% of HHs cite cash transfers as their primary income source, despite all receiving them, possibly because HHs may not solely depend on humanitarian assistance and the current transfer values may not fully cover household needs, leading to the pursuit of other income sources. Furthermore, as the last transfer occurred during floods with disrupted supply chains and high commodity prices, households likely required additional income to meet their needs, contributing to diversified income sources.

10. Following the three rounds of cash transfers, more than two-thirds (68%) of the HHs were found to have low income. CMU classifies HHs with income below 130 USD as low income HHs.

11. 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.

12. The distributed amounts varied from one region to another depending on the regional cost of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB). No HH made spending equal to or above the MEB cost. 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 HH's total expenditures can be covered. It is calculated by establishing HH economic capacity (which involves aggregating expenditures) and comparing it against the Minimum Expenditure Basket to establish whether a HH is above this threshold. Gedo region MEB cost for the month of February was 141 USD.

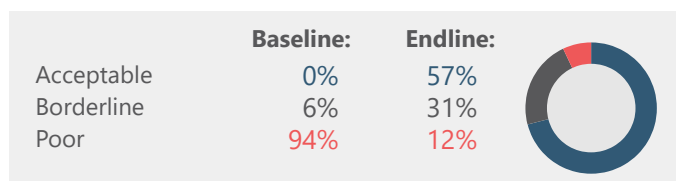
\*\*\* Somalia - WFP Joint Markets and Supply Chain Update | 12 - 18 November 2023



## FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS (FSL)

### FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE (FCS)<sup>13</sup>

% of HHs by Food Consumptions Score category:

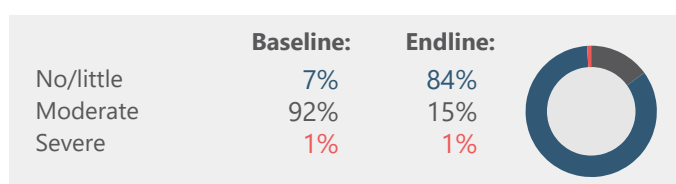


	Baseline:	Endline:
Average FCS per HH	18.7	44.8

A notable improvement in FCS was reported among beneficiary HHs. The proportion of HHs with an acceptable and borderline FCS increased, while those with poor FCS decreased during the endline assessment. As a result, the average Food Consumption Score (FCS) increased from 18.7, indicating a poor FCS category, to an average of 44.8 at the endline, indicating an acceptable FCS level.

### HOUSEHOLD HUNGER SCALE (HHS)<sup>14</sup>

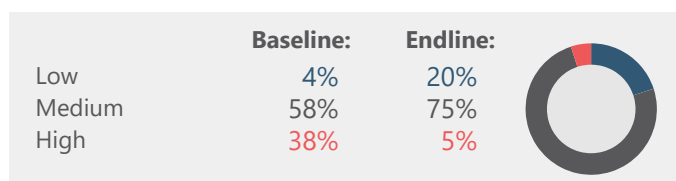
% of HHs by levels of hunger in the HH:



The proportion of HHs reporting moderate hunger was found to have significantly decreased from 92% in the baseline assessment to 15% during the endline assessment.

### USE OF COPING MECHANISMS

% of HHs by average reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) category:<sup>15</sup>



	Baseline:	Endline:
Average FCS per HH	16.3	10.3

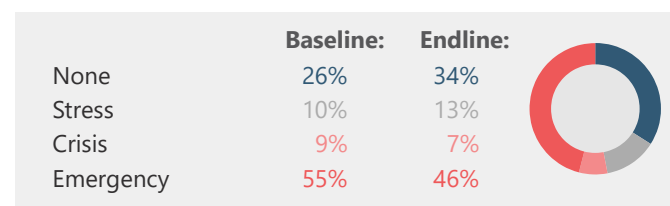
The most commonly adopted coping strategies were found to be:

% of HHs reporting coping strategies adopted	Average number of days per week per strategy	
	Baseline	Endline
Relied on less preferred, less expensive food ( <b>79%</b> )	2.9	2.0
Reduced the number of meals eaten per day ( <b>79%</b> )	2.2	1.5
Reduced portion size of meals ( <b>70%</b> )	2.2	1.0
Borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relatives ( <b>64%</b> )	2.0	1.5
Restricted adults consumption so children can eat ( <b>55%</b> )	1.7	0.9

The rCSI indicator showed improved result from the baseline to the endline, with the average rCSI decreasing from 16.3 at the baseline to 10.3 during the endline. The proportions of HHs with a high rCSI also decreased within this period, from 38% to 5%.

### LIVELIHOOD-BASED COPING STRATEGIES (LCS)<sup>16</sup>

% of HHs by LCS category in the 30 days prior to data collection:



	Baseline:	Endline:
Average LCS per HH	6.9	6.7

The average LCS slightly decreased from 6.9 at the baseline to 6.7 during the endline. The proportion of households resorting to emergency, crisis, or stress-level coping strategies decreased from 74% during the baseline assessment to 66% at the endline assessment. It is worth noting that 46% of households were still employing emergency LCS at the endline, with 24% of the HHs reporting begging and 30% reporting withdrawal of children from school.

13. Find more information on the food consumption score [here](#). The cutoff 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.

14. Household Hunger Scale (HHS)—a new, simple indicator to measure HH hunger in food insecure areas. Read more [here](#).

15. 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 7 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.

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

16. 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.





## ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATION

# 6%

Of the assessed HHs reported being aware of at least one option to contact the agency during the endline.

Of HHs reporting being aware of any option to contact the agency (6%, n=11), the most frequently known ways to report complaints, problems receiving the assistance, or ask questions\*

	Baseline	Endline
Use the dedicated NGO hotline	80%	n=8
Talk directly to NGO staff	20%	n=2
Use the dedicated NGO desk	7%	n=1

# 42%

Of the HHs had suggestions on how to improve the cash assistance during the endline.

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

	Endline
Increase duration of cash transfers	58%
Increase amount of cash transfers	58%
Provide continuous cash transfers	40%
Increase number of beneficiaries	13%

The top priority needs reported by about 23% of the assessed HHs who provided comments were\*

	Baseline	Endline
Build hospital	56%	56%
Flood relief	37%	44%
Educational support	50%	25%
Food assistance	70%	25%
Disability support	31%	16%
Long term support	8%	16%

During the endline, only **6% (a 17% point decrease from the baseline)** of the respondents reported being aware of any options to contact the NGOs. Of these respondents, a majority (73%) of HHs reported being aware of the existence of a dedicated NGO hotline, while another 27% reported that they knew they could directly talk to NGO staff during field visits or at their offices.

The findings indicate that 42% of the assessed HHs provided suggestions for improving cash assistance to better align with their needs and the main suggestions were to increase the duration and the amount of the cash transfers. Moreover, approximately 23% of HHs had mentioned **building a hospital (56%), flood relief (44%) educational support and food assistance (both 25%) as their primary needs during the endline assessment.** Suggestions and feedback from the respondents indicate that supplementing cash assistance with additional in-kind food aid could assist HHs in better distributing resources for medium-term needs.

## CONCLUSION

Following three cycles of unconditional cash transfers, the endline assessment indicated that there were positive improvements in food consumption and diversity. However, HHs still relied on humanitarian aid, highlighting their vulnerability. This vulnerability could potentially worsen once the cash transfers come to an end.

The floods also disrupted other income sources, exacerbating income and employment vulnerabilities. The anticipatory cash assistance seems to have effectively reduced the impact of the floods and showed an improvement in food security. Furthermore, during the endline assessment, the percentage of HHs that reportedly spent above the minimum expenditure basket (MEB) increased to 58%. In contrast, at the baseline assessment, no households spent above the MEB.

However, despite the positive outcomes observed in food security indicators, the current IPC results for January to March indicate a high prevalence of acute malnutrition (AMN) in Belet Weyne, particularly Belet Weyne IDPs and urban areas, with a GAM rate of 20.3% (IPC AMN Phase 4), indicating a critical situation. Acute Food Insecurity (AFI) also points to Phase 3 severity. These findings are consistent, highlighting persistent food gaps for urban households in Belet Weyne as a result of the floods. While the anticipatory action and cash transfers appear to have successfully mitigated the immediate impacts, it is imperative to conduct further studies to determine the long-term effects on recovery and productive capacity following the floods.

Anticipatory action, by its nature, involves making decisions and taking measures based on forecasts and predictions rather than waiting for definitive evidence or outcomes. Even though the absence of a control group complicates the assessment of causality and effectiveness, acknowledging the anticipatory nature of this intervention is essential for contextualizing the findings and understanding the decision-making process behind the distribution method. Therefore, a control group is required to compare the findings.

18. 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 HHs were unfairly selected over others who were in dire need of the cash transfer, e.) whether the beneficiary had raised concerns about 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 given or not.

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

## Annex 1 - Completed consolidated approach to reporting indicators of food security (CARI) console\*

Domain		Indicator	Food Secure		Marginally Food Secure		Moderately Food Insecure		Severely Food Insecure	
			(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)				
			Baseline	Endline	Baseline	Endline	Baseline	Endline	Baseline	Endline
Current Status	Food	Food Consumption Group and rCSI	Acceptable and rCSI<4 0%	Acceptable and rCSI<4 20%	Acceptable and rCSI>=4 0%	Acceptable and rCSI>=4 37%	Borderline 6%	Borderline 31%	Poor 94%	Poor 12%
Coping Capacity	Economic Vulnerability	Economic Capacity to Meet Essential Needs (ECMEN)	0%	81%	N/A		0%	19%	94%	0%
	Asset Depletion	Livelihood Coping Strategies	None 26%	None 34%	Stress 10%	Stress 13%	Crisis 9%	Crisis 6%	Emergency 55%	Emergency 46%
CARI Food Security Index			0%	18%	0%	47%	31%	40%	69%	1%

## ANNEX 2: SAMPLE BREAKDOWN PER AGENCY

Groups	Caseload	Sample size + Buffer	Baseline	Endline
DRC-Anticipatory	892	185	172	185

\*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. More information can be obtained [here](#).

\*\* [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.

\*\*\* The shaded cells represent disbursements made after the El Nino rains.

## FUNDED BY:



Funded by  
European Union  
Humanitarian Aid



## PARTNERS LEADING IN ANTICIPATORY ACTION:

## 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 25 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.