KENYA

Post Distribution Monitoring

Brief for Cash Intervention

Kenya cash consortium response in
drought affected Arid & Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL)
Counties of Baringo, Marsabit, Tana River &Turkana.

October 2019

INTRODUCTION

In recent months severe drought has severely affected parts of Kenya, with Baringo, Marsabit, Tana River and Turkana amongst the most affected counties. In an urgent response to address growing humanitarian needs, the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) released 3.15 million euros to the Kenya Cash Consortium, led by ACTED in partnership with Oxfam, Concern Worldwide, and members of the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) Humanitarian Network including Arid Land Development Focus (ALDEF), Pastoralist Community Initiative Development and Assistance (PASIDA), Pastoralist Integrated Support Program (PISP), Pastoralist Girl Initiative (PGI), Sustainable Approaches for Community Empowerment (SAPCONE) and Turkana Pastoralist Development Organization (TUPADO).

The Kenya Cash Consortium has been providing cash assistance of KES 4,711[1] a month, quantified from the Kenya Cash Working group draft Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), for a duration of three months (coinciding with the lean period of Aug-Oct 2019), to 17,457 families who face acute food and nutrition insecurity, in the hard-hit counties of Tana River, Turkana, Baringo and Marsabit.

To monitor the ongoing impact of the Unconditional Cash Transfers (UCTs) at the household level, IMPACT Initiatives has been conducting several monitoring and evaluation assessments, starting with a baseline assessment in August 2019. Following the disbursement of the UCT in the month of September, IMPACT conducted two post-distribution monitoring (PDM) exercises through face-to-face household surveys in October 2019. One of these was a "light" PDM focused on protection key performance indicators (KPIs), conducted using a shorter, more streamlined survey tool with a sample drawn from pre-registered[2] beneficiaries that were under Start Fund cash transfer programme implemented by the Kenya Cash Consortium, whilst the other one was a "full" PDM. The final PDM which will also be considered the project end line and is expected to be conducted in November 2019.

Though this report summarises the key the findings from the **"light" PDM,** it mainly focuses on the **"full" PDM** findings conducted in Baringo, Marsabit, Tana River and Turkana counties where UCTs under this project have been taking place in the sub-counties of Turkana North and West, North Horr, Laisamis, East Pokot, Baringo South and Tana North. The findings of the **"full" PDM** are compared with those of the baseline assessment during which 13,793 households across the four counties were interviewed.

The specific objectives of the **full PDM** were:

1. To understand changes in household food security status after reception of the UCT.

2. To understand households' experience with the selection and targeting process used for the UCT programme.

METHODOLOGY

For the **light** PDM, IMPACT drew a random sample of the pre-registered beneficiary households and administered a short monitoring tool whose objective was to get feedback about transparency and protection key performance indicators (KPIs). A stratified random sampling approach was used to have data that is representative of beneficiary households per county, with a 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error. To ensure random selection of beneficiary households, IMPACT generated random numbers on the list of beneficiaries per county and then sorted the random numbers from smallest to largest to select the required number of beneficiary households. The light PDM only covered 175[3] beneficiary households that confirmed receiving cash assistance (KES 4,711) in the 30 days prior data collection across the four counties.

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[1] 1USD= 103.75623 KES in September 2019 http://ec.europa.eu/budg/inforeuro/index#!/convertor
[2] Beneficiaries of a previous cash transfer programme under Start Fund, implemented by the Kenya Cash Consortium.
[3] 50 households in Baringo, 27 households in Marsabit, 56 households in Tana River and 42 households in Turkana

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The sampling frame for the **full** PDM assessment was generated from the list of beneficiary households interviewed during the baseline assessment. Similar steps for sampling as used in light PDM were used in the "full" PDM to select the required number of beneficiary households. The assessment was carried out from 1st to 4th October 2019. A total of 1,366[4] households interviewed confirmed receiving the money from the UCT programme.

The data collection tool was designed and coded using Open Data Kit and then deployed on the IMPACT Kobo server. All data were collected via smartphones with well-trained enumerators. Through this survey, households were asked about their overall food security situation, as well as their perceptions of the accountability and transparency of the UCT beneficiary selection process.

Challenges and Limitations

- In the full PDM, about 10% of households responded 'yes' to the question, "Do you think there were households that were unfairly selected to receive cash assistance over other households more in need?" However, this finding needs to be triangulated with data from the Complaints Response and Feedback Mechanism (CRFM) put in place by the programme. The CRFM included talking directly to NGO staff; using the dedicated NGO desk; using the dedicated NGO hotline and complaint committee.

- 1% of beneficiary households in light PDMs and 0.5% in full PDM reported paying some money to either a neighbour, shopkeeper or M-Pesa agent when receiving money from the programme. However, when beneficiaries were asked about it post-data collection period it was clarified that the payments were related to repaying some debts rather than fees/charges to access the UCT money, meaning there could have been some misunderstanding of this particular question.

FINDINGS

1   Light PDM

In the **light PDM**, 81% of respondents interviewed in the beneficiary households were female and 19% were male. A majority of beneficiary households (72%) belonged to the pastoral livelihood zone while 25% and 3% belonged to agropastoral and urban livelihood zones respectively. 73% of the beneficiary households reported having to travel up to 10 kilometres (of whom 18% travelled for 5-10kms while 82% travelled <5kms) to collect money from the project. 50% reported paying for transport to get to the place where they would collect the cash. The overall average amount spent on transport was KES 171 with Turkana (KES 205) and Baringo (KES 173) being the only 2 counties in which beneficiary households reported having to pay for transportation.

The vast majority (79%) of beneficiary households reported being 'very satisfied' with the payment process while the remainder were either 'quite satisfied' (20%) or 'fairly satisfied' (1%). At the same time, all beneficiary households reported being 'satisfied' with the amount paid (13% fairly satisfied, 2% little satisfied, 34% quite satisfied and 51% very satisfied). Ninety-nine per cent (99%) of beneficiary households reported that they did not have to *pay anyone*[5] before receiving the cash. There was no conflict on how to spend the cash according to 99% of beneficiary households.

All beneficiary households during the light PDM reported that they were being treated with respect by NGO staff and felt safe participating in the programme. The proportions of beneficiary households by county who reported being consulted by the NGO working in their locality on what their needs were and how the NGO could best help were 100% in Marsabit, 96% in Tana River, 80% in Baringo, and 31% in Turkana.

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[4] The distribution of surveyed households per county was as follows: 346 in Baringo, 356 in Turkana, 345 in Tana River and 319 in Marsabit.

[5] The 1% who reported having to pay, paid a shop-owner.

2   Full PDM

2.1   Demographics & Households Profile

By gender, most beneficiaries interviewed in the Full PDM were female (74%) while 26% were male.

In terms of the livelihood zones, 76% of households were classified in the pastoral zone, almost similar to what was reported in the baseline 75%. This was followed by agro-pastoralists (17%), riverine (4%) and urban (3%), as shown in *figure 2-1*.

Figure 2-1: Proportion of beneficiary households in each livelihood zone
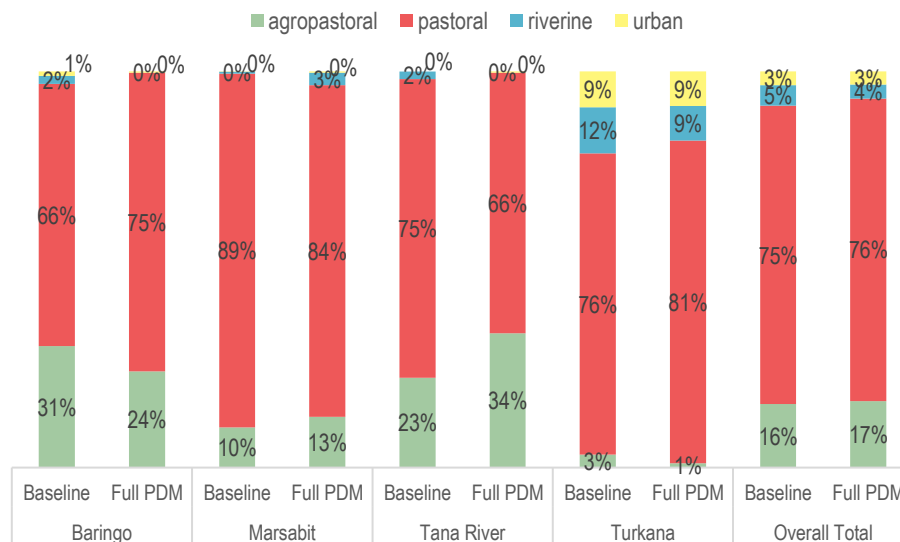
2.2   Cash Distribution Processes

Without including M-Pesa charges of KSHs 89[6](*for more information about M-Pesa, please see footnote below*), all beneficiary households confirmed receiving a net figure of KES 4,711 from the UCT programme. Generally, the distance was not found to be a barrier to accessing the cash assistance for 60% of beneficiary households though 40% reported having to travel for some distance to access their money from an M-Pesa agent/shop. Of those who travelled, only 19% travelled a distance of more than 5 kilometres while only 57% of beneficiary households reported paying for transport. The average transport cost was KES 254[7], with the highest being KES 800 and the lowest being KES 5. No beneficiary household in Tana River County reported travelling to receive their cash.

Overall cash distribution process was found to be transparent as 99.5% of beneficiary households confirmed having *not paid* anyone to receive the cash intervention apart from Marsabit & Turkana Counties where 3% (n=5) & 1% (n=1) of beneficiary households respectively reported paying either a shopkeeper (59%, n=4), a neighbour (20%, n=1) or an M-Pesa agent (21%, n=1). The ease of accessing the cash was reported as good by 94% of beneficiary households while 6% reported it was fair. A vast majority (95%) of beneficiary households rated the security during the money collection process as good.
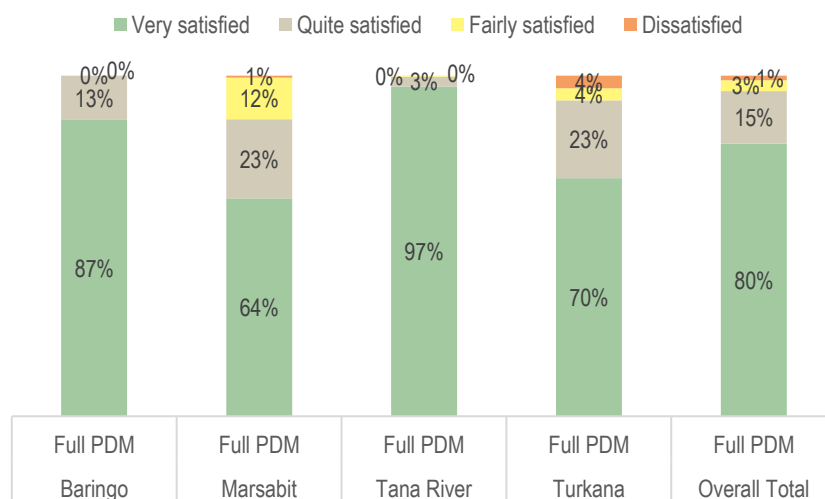

2.3 Accountability

2.3.1 Satisfaction with payment process

Figure 2-2 shows that the majority of beneficiary households (80%) across the 4 counties were 'very satisfied' with the overall payment process while 1% of beneficiary household reported being 'dissatisfied'.

Figure 2-2: Levels of satisfaction with the payment process, by county

2.3.2 Satisfaction with Amount given

A combined 94.0% of beneficiary households in the full PDM were satisfied with the amounts distributed but the levels of satisfaction varied between 'very satisfied' (47%), 'quite satisfied' (33%) and 'fairly satisfied' (14%), as shown in *Figure 2-3* below. 6% were either dissatisfied (5%) or very dissatisfied (1%) with the amounts distributed. There was no conflict reported as a result of disagreement on how to spend the cash according to 99% of beneficiary households.

**Figure 2-3: Levels of satisfaction with the amount received, by county**

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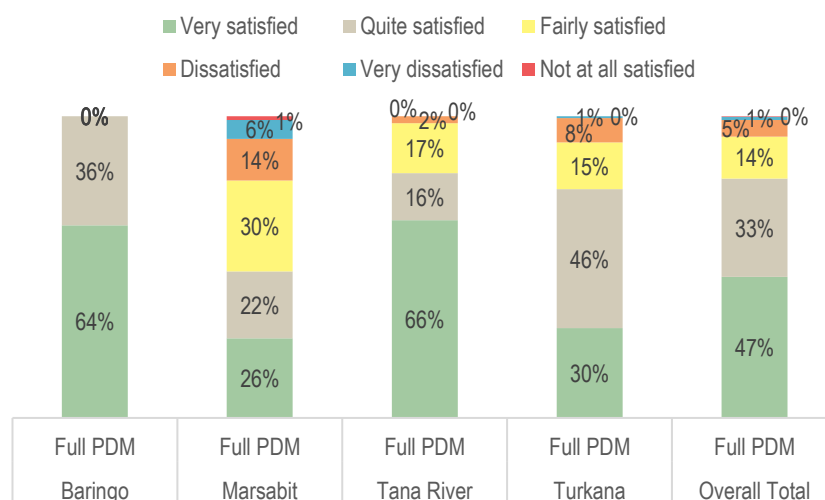
2.3.3   Protection Key Performance Indicators

All beneficiary households reported that "**they were being treated with respect by NGO staff**", and 98% **felt safe participating in the programme** (see *figure 2-4*).

However, only 63% of beneficiary households reported being **consulted by the NGO staff during targeting** on their needs and how the NGO could help. The highest proportion of those households reporting not having been consulted were located in Marsabit County (67%). Similarly, Marsabit County had the highest proportion of beneficiary households (23%) that felt that the "beneficiary selection process left out more vulnerable households" with the overall percentage of households reporting this being 10% across the 4 counties.

84% of respondents reported that "**they knew of channels for reporting complaints**", i.e. Complaints Response and Feedback Mechanism (CRFM) with the UCT programme. The channels included talking directly to NGO staff (62%); using the dedicated NGO desk (13%); using the dedicated NGO hotline (33%) and complaint committee (46%). Marsabit county (at 51%) had the highest number of beneficiary households without the knowledge of CRFM.

Figure 2-4: Proportion of beneficiary households reporting on key performance indicators, by county
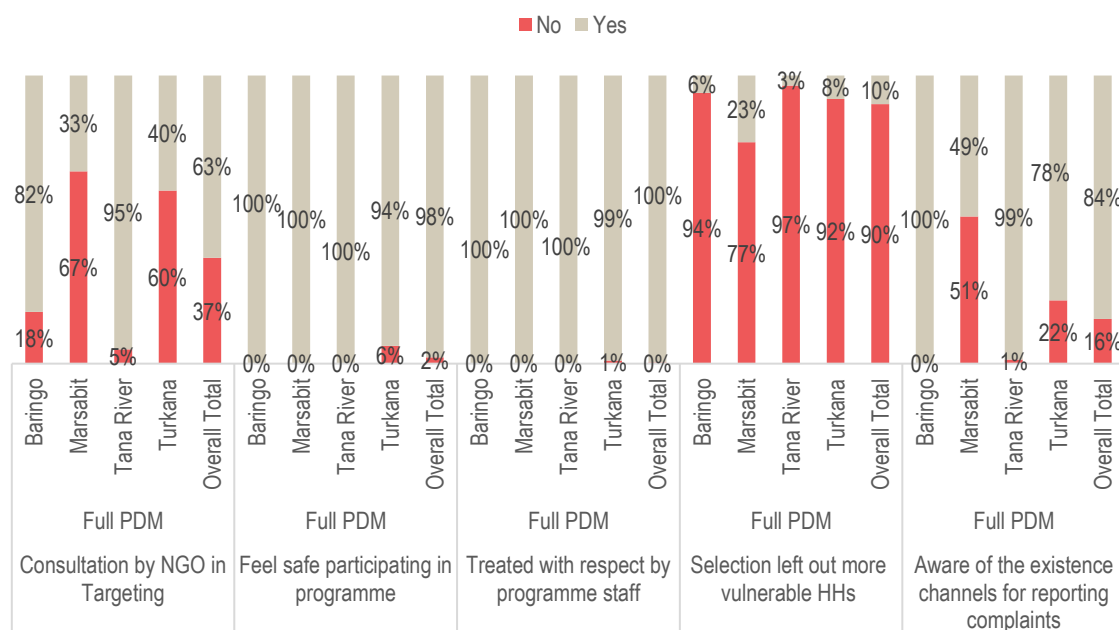
Overall, 60% of females and 64% of males reported that the humanitarian assistance was provided in a **"safe, accessible, accountable and participatory manner".** By county, Marsabit followed by Turkana had the lowest proportions of each gender with the perception that the humanitarian assistance was provided as expected, see *figure 2-5*.

Figure 2-5: Proportions of each gender by county who reported that the humanitarian assistance was provided in a safe, accessible, accountable and participatory manner
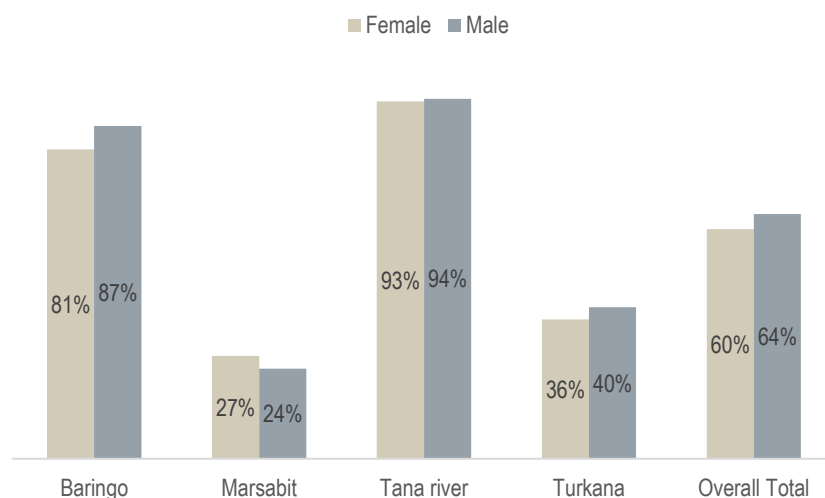
2.4   Food Consumption and Coping Mechanisms

2.4.1   Food Sources

In the full PDM assessment, market purchase was the main source of food for 96% of beneficiary households in the 7 days before the assessment. This was a *significant change*[8] from the 84% reported in the baseline survey and it may have been due to the improving purchasing power in the beneficiaries households as a result of the cash intervention. At the same time, the proportion of beneficiary households reporting other sources of food has decreased, primarily those reporting own production which had dropped from 13% at baseline to 6% during the PDM, perhaps as an impact of drought. The other main sources reported were gift (3%), sharing (2%) and begging (2%), as shown in *table 2-1*.

Table 2-1: Main sources of food in the 7 days prior to data collection, by county

| County	Assessment	own production	market purchase	sharing	begging	gift
Baringo	**Baseline**	20%	89%	4%	1%	1%
	Full PDM	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
Marsabit	**Baseline**	12%	86%	2%	6%	2%
	Full PDM	3%	94%	0%	3%	3%
Tana River	**Baseline**	9%	85%	3%	0%	0%
	Full PDM	17%	97%	0%	0%	0%
Turkana	**Baseline**	10%	80%	7%	14%	11%
	Full PDM	4%	94%	7%	4%	7%
Overall Total	**Baseline**	13%	84%	5%	6%	4%
	Full PDM	6%	96%	2%	2%	3%

2.4.2   Food Consumption Score

Food consumption at the household level was recorded on a 7-day recall period which was then multiplied by the number of days that the food group was consumed before weighted by the nutritional importance of the food group

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[8] Based on T-test statistics, the change was statistically significant at p= 0.00000

to give a total possible score ranging from 0 to 112. Food Consumption Score (FCS[9]) was then used to categorise households into three groups: *poor, borderline or acceptable*. 21% of beneficiary households in the full PDM had a *poor FCS[10]* which was a *significant improvement[11]* from the 42% recorded during the baseline assessment. The proportion of beneficiary households found to have an *acceptable* FCS doubled from 32% to 61% (see *figure 2-6*).

Overall, the *mean* FCS was 45 which classifies the overall food consumption level as **acceptable**. This is a *significant improvement* from the baseline where the *mean* FCS was 29.5 **(borderline)**. In the Full PDM, Baringo County had the highest *mean* FCS of 61.5 followed by Tana River at 54.0. In Marsabit, it was 42.2 and Turkana 22.8.

Figure 2-6: Proportion of beneficiary households in each FCS category, by county.
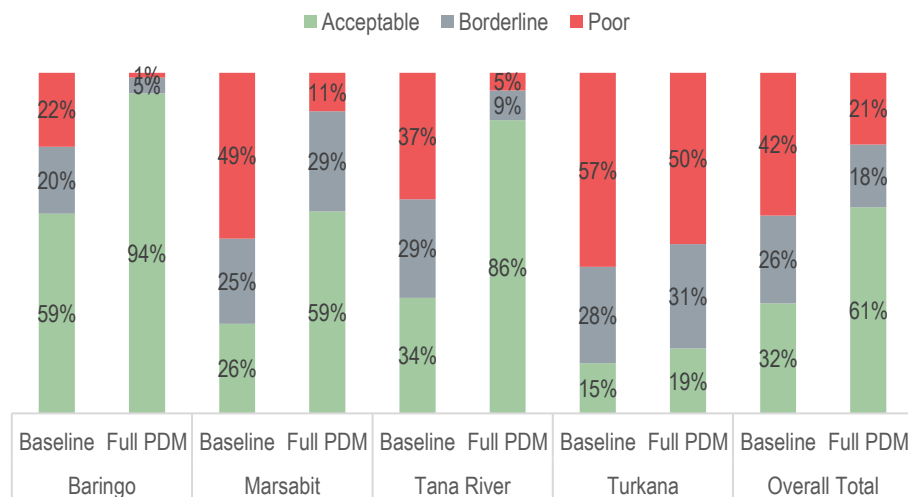
2.4.3 Household Dietary Diversity Score

The Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) is meant to give a snapshot of the economic ability of a household to access a variety of foods[12]. An increase in dietary diversity is associated with socioeconomic status and household food security (household energy availability)[13]. The previous 24-hours' food intake by any member of the household was used as a proxy to assess household dietary diversity in the PDM assessment. The 16 food groups assessed during the assessment were aggregated into 12 major food groups during the analysis. Based on the responses in the full PDM, 24% of beneficiary households were found to have a *low HDDS[14]* compared to 34% during the baseline assessment (see *figure 2-7*). HDDS thresholds used were: Low Diversity Groups (<=3 food groups), Medium Diversity Groups (4-5 food groups) & High Diversity Groups (>5 food groups)

The *average* number of food groups consumed in the previous 24 hours prior to data collection by beneficiary households was 6.3 food groups (i.e. **High** HDDS) out of 12 major food groups. Relative to the baseline value of 4.6 (i.e. **medium** HDDS) the overall HDDS in the Full PDM was therefore a *significant improvement*[15]. In the Full PDM Baringo county had the highest *average* HDDS of 8.6 compared to Tana River's 7.2, Marsabit's 6.1 and Turkana's 3.3.

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[9] Vaitla, Bapu; Coates, Jennifer; and Maxwell, Daniel. 2015. *Comparing Household Food Consumption Indicators to Inform Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification.* Washington, DC: FHI 360/Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III Project (FANTA).

[10] FCS thresholds used were: Poor (0-21), Borderline (21.5-35), Acceptable (> 35)

[11] Based on T-test statistics, the change was statistically significant at p= 0.00000

[12] http://www.fao.org/nutrition/assessment/tools/household-dietary-diversity/en/

[13] Hoddinott, J., and Y. Yohannes. 2002. *Dietary diversity as a food security indicator*. Washington, D.C.: Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance, Academy for Educational Development.

[14] HDDS thresholds used were: Low Diversity Groups (<=3 food groups), Medium Diversity Groups (4-5 food groups) & High Diversity Groups (>5 food groups)

[15] Based on T-test statistics, the change was statistically significant at p= 0.00000

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Figure 2-7: Proportion of beneficiary households in each HDDS category, by county.
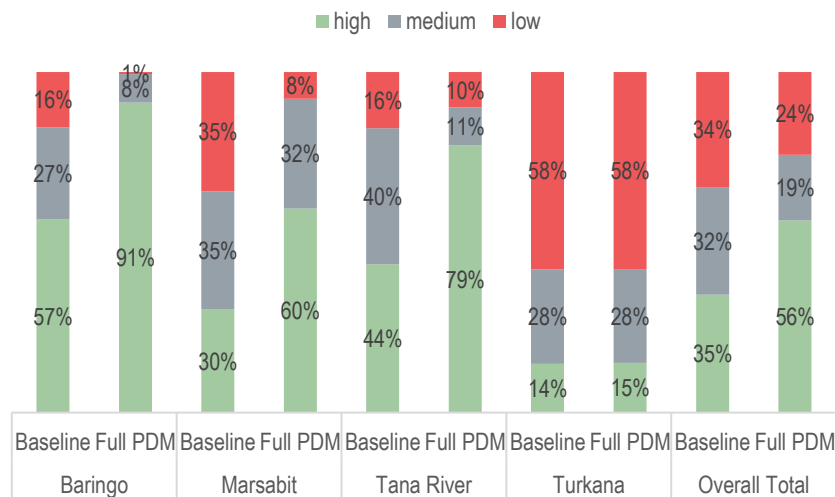
2.4.4   Coping Strategies & Resilience

2.4.4.1   Livelihood Coping Strategies

Similarly to the baseline, beneficiary households were asked about the various types of livelihood coping strategies they used in the 30 days before data collection when they did not have enough food or enough money to buy food.

As compared to the baseline, there were some slight reductions in the proportions of beneficiary households that were using **emergency** and **crisis** coping strategies. These strategies included the migration of entire households (reduced from 14% to 4%), selling off last female animals (reduced from 21% to 15%), selling of productive assets (reduced from 4% to 3%) and selling house or land (reduced from 4% to 2%), as shown in *figure 2-8*.

Marsabit had higher proportions of beneficiary households that were still resorting to crisis and emergency coping strategies such as selling house or land (rose from 1% to 4%); begging (that increased from 30% to 49%); selling of last female animals (that went up from 29% at baseline to 34%) and withdrawal of children from school (that increased from 6% to 12%).

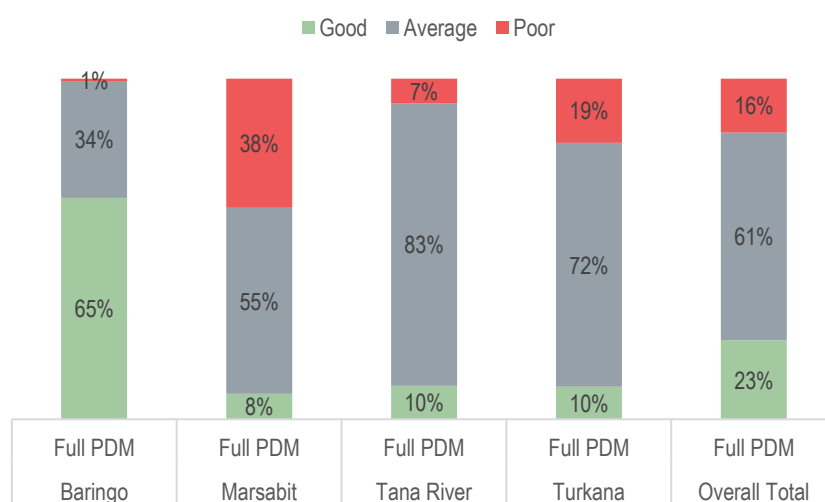**Figure 2-8: Proportions of households using each coping strategy**

County	Assessment	Stress Coping strategies					Crisis coping strategies			Emergency coping strategies		
		Sell non-productive assets	Purchase food on credit/ borrowing	Spend savings	Borrow money	Consume seed stocks	Sell productive assets	Withdraw children from school	Sell last female animals	Beg	Sell house or land	Entire HH migration
Baringo	Baseline	7%	52%	15%	50%	24%	7%	6%	22%	34%	17%	27%
	Full PDM	0%	24%	6%	25%	17%	0%	1%	11%	14%	14%	6%
Marsabit	Baseline	5%	53%	8%	33%	5%	2%	1%	29%	30%	6%	4%
	Full PDM	7%	90%	28%	61%	4%	1%	4%	34%	49%	12%	1%
Tana River	Baseline	12%	33%	7%	11%	10%	6%	4%	24%	5%	6%	11%
	Full PDM	9%	41%	22%	30%	23%	9%	3%	21%	2%	3%	1%
Turkana	Baseline	9%	34%	10%	20%	4%	2%	2%	13%	29%	19%	7%
	Full PDM	3%	36%	8%	20%	7%	3%	2%	7%	12%	25%	6%
Overall Total	Baseline	8%	44%	11%	32%	12%	4%	4%	21%	27%	14%	14%
	Full PDM	4%	42%	14%	30%	13%	3%	2%	15%	16%	15%	4%

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2.4.4.2   Reduced Coping Strategy Index

The reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI[16]) is commonly used as a proxy indicator for access to food. Coping strategies can be consumption changes, expenditure reduction or income expansion. During the 7 days before data collection, about 88% beneficiary households reported having experienced a food shortage or had no money to buy food out of which 16% beneficiary households were found to have a **poor** rCSI score, as shown in *figure 2-9*.

The overall *mean* Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) was 12.3 which represents an **average** rCSI according to WFP thresholds. By county, Baringo had a *mean* rCSI of 4.2 (**good**) while the other three counties had **average rCSI**[17].

Figure 2-9: Proportion of beneficiary households in each rCSI category, by county

Legend: Good · Average · Poor

	Full PDM Baringo	Full PDM Marsabit	Full PDM Tana River	Full PDM Turkana	Full PDM Overall Total
Poor	1%	38%	7%	19%	16%
Average	34%	55%	83%	72%	61%
Good	65%	8%	10%	10%	23%

CONCLUSION

The **dietary diversity and food frequency** indicators reported in the Full PDM depict an improving food security situation from the baseline assessment, with higher proportions of beneficiary households found to have an *acceptable* FCS and a *high* HDDS. Food **consumption behaviour** was also found to be improving with the majority of beneficiary households adopting less of the emergency and crisis livelihood coping strategies in addition to the **average** rCSI that was recorded. This is in contrast to the baseline assessment where the *mean* FCS was found to be **borderline**, the *mean* HDDS was **medium** and a higher proportion of beneficiary households were using **emergency** and **crisis livelihood coping strategies**.

Only 60% of females and 64% of males reported that the humanitarian assistance was provided in a **"safe, accessible, accountable and participatory manner"**. Thus, the programme must continue to strengthen community mobilization and sensitization on project objectives, targeting criteria, entitlements and CRFM to improve on the beneficiary perceptions on the delivery of assistance. At the same time, there is also a need to ensure the CRFM is effective and efficient in addressing any reported issues with implementation.

It is hoped that an endline PDM assessment will be conducted within November to continue monitoring the trends in changes in household food security and beneficiaries' perceptions of the assistance provided.

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[16] rCSI thresholds used were: Low Diversity Groups (<=3 food groups), Medium Diversity Groups (4-5 food groups) & High Diversity Groups (>5 food groups)
[17]The *mean rCSI* in Tana River 11.3 Marsabit was 18.4, and Turkana 12.3.