

The Kenya Cash Consortium's Locally Led Multi-Purpose Cash Response to Flood-Affected Communities in Kenya: Baseline

February, 2024

Garissa, Mandera, Tana River and Wajir Counties

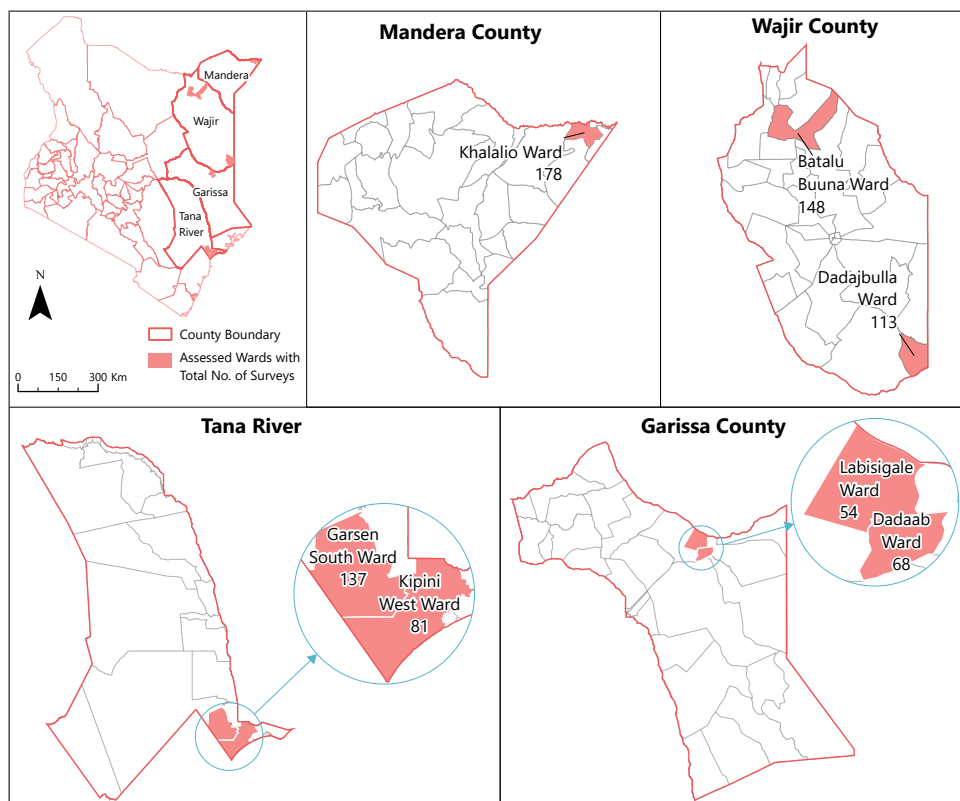
KEY MESSAGES

- **The average monthly expenditure (9,440 KES) was higher than the average monthly income (7,092 KES)** with Wajir reporting the highest average expenditure (14,160 KES). Consequently, 95% of households (HHs) reportedly had debt at the time of baseline data collection. HHs are likely to exhaust their limited resources to afford basic needs.
- **In Mandera, the majority (71%) of the HHs recorded a poor Food Consumption Score (FCS), with 18% of HHs experiencing severe hunger in the 30 days prior to the baseline data collection.** The proportion of HHs found to have a poor FCS was slightly more than a third in both **Tana River (39%) and Wajir (38%)**, and nearly a third in **Garissa (31%)**.
- **A majority (95%) of HHs reported needing assistance due to flood challenges, primarily for food (62%).** All indebted HHs (95%) took on debt to access food, and negative coping strategies were also mainly used to access food.

CONTEXT & RATIONALE

The October-November-December (OND) 2023 "short rains" season was exacerbated due to the El-Niño induced rainfall, leading to devastating flooding. The consequences of the flash floods included displacement of people, destroyed farmlands and loss of livestock.¹ The floods have exacerbated the humanitarian crisis in the region as it emerges from the worst drought in four decades. The Climate Hazards Group InfraRed Precipitation with Station Data (CHIRPS) dataset revealed that the OND rainfall experienced in certain parts of Mandera, Wajir, Garissa, and Tana River was the wettest OND season in the last 40 years.² The flooding has exacerbated vulnerabilities and heightened the need for humanitarian assistance.³

ASSESSMENT COVERAGE



ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

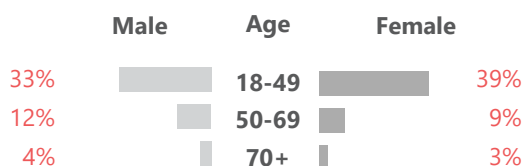
To address the challenges faced by the affected communities in Garissa, Mandera, Tana River and Wajir, the Kenya Cash Consortium (KCC) with funding from the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), decided to conduct multi-purpose cash assistance through mobile money. This intervention consists of two rounds of unconditional cash transfers (UCTs). The aim of this baseline was to determine the dietary diversity, income-expenditure patterns and economic well-being of the flood-affected HHs before the first UCT.

METHODOLOGY

A simple random sampling approach was used for a representative sample of the beneficiary HHs, with a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error. The sample size was 779 HHs (122 HHs in Garissa, 178 HHs in Mandera, 218 HHs in Tana River and 261 HHs in Wajir). *For more information on the methodology, please refer to page 7.*

DEMOGRAPHICS

% of HHs by Head of Household (HoHH) age and gender for the assessed counties:



A slightly higher proportion of HHs were reportedly headed by women (51%), with 49% of HHs reportedly headed by men. The interviews were conducted with more female (64%) respondents than male (36%).

Average HH demographics per county:

County	Average age of the HoHH	Average HH size
Garissa	39	6
Mandera	45	7
Tana River	42	6
Wajir	41	8

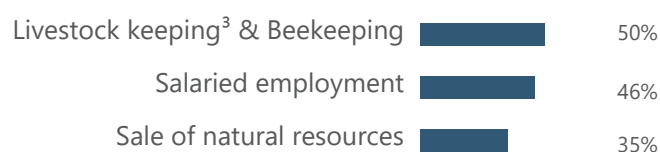
HOUSEHOLD INCOME

The average reported income for HHs (99%) that received some income in the 30 days prior to data collection was 7,092 KES. Most HHs in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) reportedly depend on pastoralism as a primary source of income, followed by salaried employment, which can either be casual or regular employment.

Average HH income (KES) in the 30 days prior to data collection, per county:

County	HH Income (KES)
Garissa	5,504
Mandera	9,129
Tana River	5,376
Wajir	7,760

Top 3 reported primary sources of HH income in the 30 days prior to data collection:¹ (n=769)²



The top reported source of income in Garissa (76%)¹, Mandera (53%)¹ and Wajir (43%)¹ was livestock keeping, while employment was the most commonly reported income source in Tana River (60%)¹.

HOUSEHOLD SAVINGS

Nearly all HHs (99%) lacked savings at the time of data collection, likely due to their expenses exceeding their income. Only 9 HHs reported having any savings. Among these, the average savings were 2,300 KES in Garissa County (n=4), 367 KES in Mandera County (n=3), and 3,000 KES in Wajir County (n=2). In Tana River, no HH reported having any savings at the time of data collection.

HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE

The average reported expenditure for all HHs in the 30 days prior to data collection was 9,440 KES. Wajir County had the highest expenditure, close to double their reported income. HHs expenditures are likely to exceed their income through debt acquisition.

Findings suggest that food constituted the primary expense for HHs as 66% of the monthly expenditure was found to be spent on food. A higher proportion of expenditure dedicated to food may indicate less funds available for other basic need items and for savings to build resilience against future shocks.

Average HH expenses (KES) in the 30 days prior to data collection, per county:

County	HH Expenditure (KES)
Garissa	5,172
Mandera	8,880
Tana River	5,049
Wajir	14,160

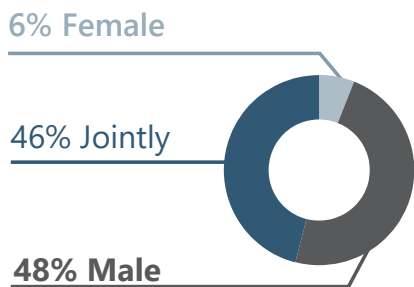
HH spending by most commonly reported category in the 30 days prior to data collection:⁴

HH Expense	Garissa	Mandera	Tana River	Wajir
Food	77%	56%	64%	69%
Debt repayment for food	7%	14%	10%	11%
Debt repayment for non-food items	4%	4%	4%	2%
Medical expenses	4%	10%	9%	2%
Education (school fees, uniform)	2%	8%	7%	11%
WASH items (water, soap)	5%	6%	5%	5%
Other expenses	1%	1%	1%	0%

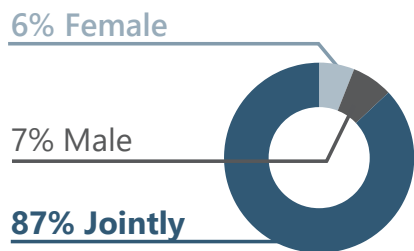
GENDER AND DECISION MAKING

When asked about who was the primary decision-maker on how to spend the HH's income, in the 30 days prior to baseline data collection, respondent reported as follows: Joint decision-making was most common in Mandera (87%) and Tana River (78%) counties, whereas the male HH member was the main decision-maker in Wajir (49%) and Garissa (48%) counties.

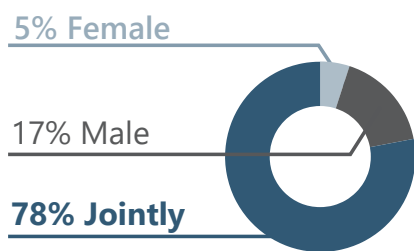
Proportion of HHs by primary decision-maker in Garissa County:



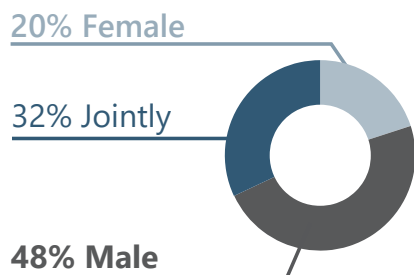
Proportion of HHs by primary decision-maker in Mandera County:



Proportion of HHs by primary decision-maker in Tana River County:



Proportion of HHs by primary decision-maker in Wajir County:



HOUSEHOLD DEBTS

A majority of HHs (95%) reported having debt at the time of data collection. The average amount of debt was 16,632 KES. The most frequently cited reason for taking debt across all counties was to access food.

In Wajir County, reported expenditure surpassed incomes and could lead to increased debt, hence eroding their livelihood coping strategies. Consequently, Wajir County reported the highest level of debt.

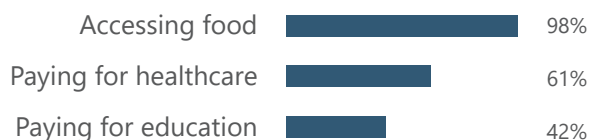
Average HH debt (KES) at the time of data collection, per county:

County	HH Debt (KES)
Garissa	12,770
Mandera	17,141
Tana River	9,234
Wajir	22,895

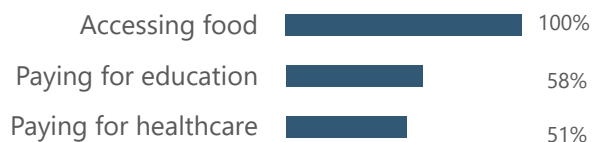
Top 3 reported reasons for taking debt in Garissa:¹



Top 3 reported reasons for taking debt in Mandera:¹



Top 3 reported reasons for taking debt in Tana River:¹



Top 3 reported reasons for taking debt in Wajir:¹



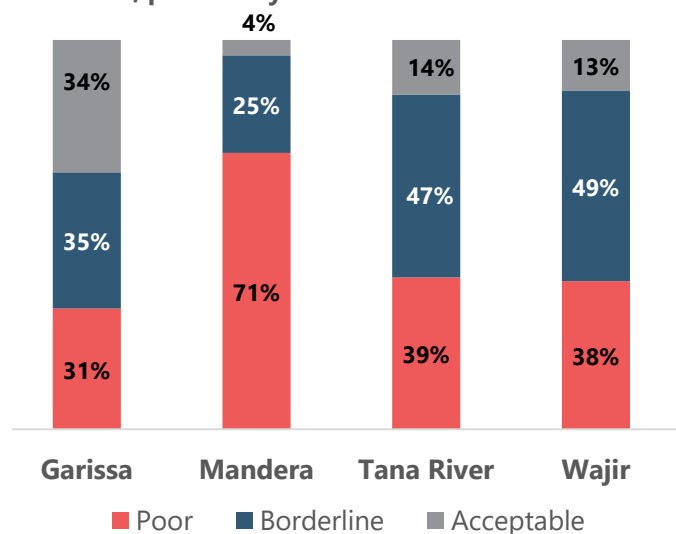
KEY INDICATORS ON FOOD SECURITY



FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE (FCS)¹

In Mandera, the majority of the HHs (71%) were found to have poor FCS, while approximately a third (39%) of HHs in Tana River and in Wajir 38% had poor FCS. Following the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC), malnutrition levels were critical (IPC Acute Malnutrition (AMN) Phase 4) in Mandera, while serious levels (IPC AMN Phase 3) were experienced in Garissa, Tana River and Wajir Counties.² The high proportion of HHs having poor and borderline FCS indicate high levels of food consumption gaps among the HHs.

% of HHs by FCS category at the time of data collection, per county:



REDUCED COPING STRATEGY INDEX (RCSI)³

The average rCSI for HHs was found to be 16.45 in Garissa, 13.94 in Tana River, 12.45 in Mandera and 9.60 in Wajir. This suggests the use of negative coping mechanisms to cope with lack of adequate food, such as reducing the number of meals eaten in a day and borrowing food. Reliance on less preferred foods was the most common strategy employed in Mandera and Tana River counties, while the reduction of portion size at meal times was most common in Garissa county.

Frequency (days) of negative consumption-based coping strategies, used in the 7 days prior to data collection:

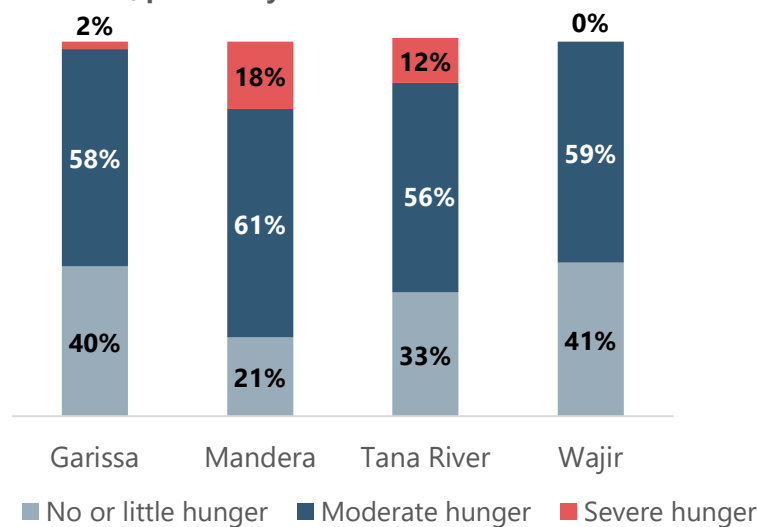
Strategies employed	Garissa	Mandera	Tana River	Wajir
Rely on less preferred and less expensive foods	2	3	3	2
Reduce/limit portion sizes at meal times	3	2	2	2
Borrow food, or rely on help from a friend or relative	3	2	3	2
Reduce quantities consumed by adults or mothers for young children	1	0	1	0
Reduce the number of meals eaten in a day	3	2	2	2



HOUSEHOLD HUNGER SCORE (HHS)⁴

Most HHs (58%) were found to be experiencing moderate hunger in the 30 days prior to data collection. Mandera and Tana River counties reported the highest levels of severe hunger (18% and 12% respectively). Majority of HHs in Mandera (81%) and Tana River (73%) resorted to sleeping hungry due to lack of adequate food.

% of HHs by HHS category at the time of data collection, per county:



LIVELIHOOD COPING STRATEGIES (LCS)⁵

The most commonly applied coping strategies by HHs were purchasing food on credit, borrowing food (90%), borrowing money (58%), and using savings (27%). A relatively high proportion of HHs (19%) resorted to selling more animals than usual, while 7% of HHs resorted to selling their last female animal. HHs are likely to exhaust their limited resources to afford basic needs which undermine their overall resilience. This also implies that these HHs are likely to see a deterioration in food consumption.

Most commonly reported reasons for adopting negative livelihood coping strategies in the 30 days prior to data collection:⁶





ACCESS TO MARKETS

Reported average time taken by HHs to travel on foot to the nearest marketplace:¹

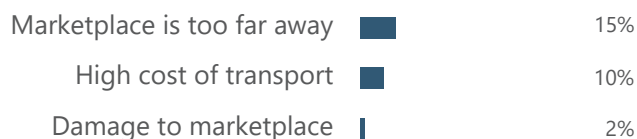
	Garissa	Mandera	Tana River	Wajir
Less than 15 minutes	2%	31%	12%	80%
Between 15 and 29 minutes	16%	47%	11%	10%
Between 30 and 59 minutes	69%	21%	31%	7%
Between 1 and 2 hours	12%	0%	23%	3%
More than 2 hours	0%	1%	22%	1%

PHYSICAL OR SOCIAL BARRIERS IN ACCESSING MARKETS

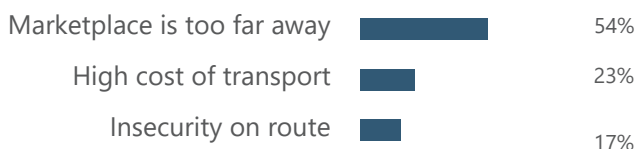
Markets in Wajir (94%), Mandera (84%), and Garissa (73%) appear to be accessible, as most HHs reported not facing physical and social barriers in accessing marketplaces. These findings can be considered alongside the majority of HHs reporting taking less than 30 minutes to reach the nearest marketplace on foot.

In Garissa, only reported challenges in accessing the marketplace was the distance to the market (27%). However, more than half (59%) of HHs in Tana River county reportedly experienced challenges due to the markets being too far (54%). HHs reported taking between one to two hours (23%) or more than two hours (22%) to travel to the nearest marketplace.

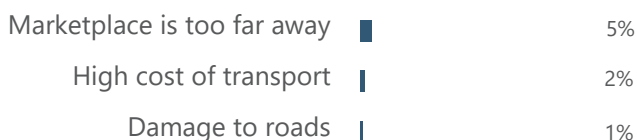
The top 3 physical or social barriers to consistently accessing marketplaces in Mandera County:²



The top 3 physical or social barriers to consistently accessing marketplaces in Tana River County:²



The top 3 physical or social barriers to consistently accessing marketplaces in Wajir County:²



FINANCIAL BARRIERS IN ACCESSING MARKETS

Most HHs (72%) encountered financial difficulties when purchasing essential items in the marketplaces. The most commonly reported challenge faced was the high prices of commodities (65%)². Another challenge faced was the unavailability of the items in the markets (35%)².

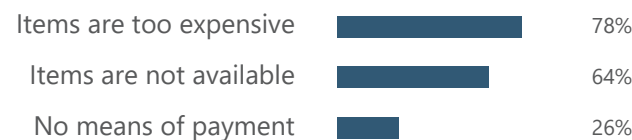
% of HHs that reported having any financial barriers, per county, at the time of baseline data collection:



The top financial barriers to consistently accessing marketplaces in Garissa County:²



The top 3 financial barriers to consistently accessing marketplaces in Mandera County:²



The top 3 financial barriers to consistently accessing marketplaces in Tana River County:²



The top 3 financial barriers to consistently accessing marketplaces in Wajir County:²

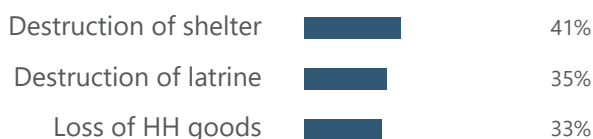




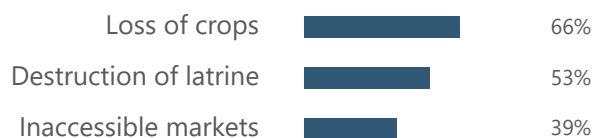
EFFECTS OF FLOODS

A majority (95%) of HHs reported requiring assistance to address the challenges caused by the OND 2023 season. The most frequently cited types of assistance needed include food (62%), and healthcare (21%)¹. Additionally, clean water (11%)¹ and other non-food items such as shelter materials (11%)¹ were reported. HHs with older persons have reportedly been the worst affected by the recent floods, along with children who have special needs.

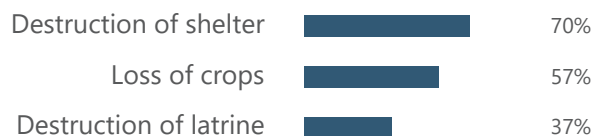
The top 3 reported effects of the OND rainfall on HHs in Garissa County:¹



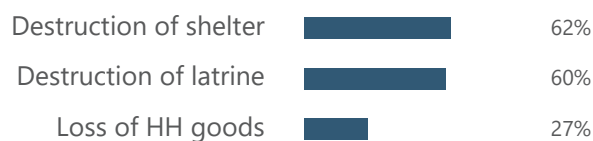
The top 3 reported effects of the OND rainfall on HHs in Mandera County:¹



The top 3 reported effects of the OND rainfall on HHs in Tana River County:¹



The top 3 reported effects of the OND rainfall on HHs in Wajir County:¹



AFFECTED POPULATION AS A RESULT OF THE FLOODS

Populations reportedly most affected by the floods at the time of data collection:¹



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING

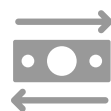
Most HHs (44%) reported only being able to cater to some (less than half) of their basic needs, primarily due to a lack of financial capacity to access them.

% of HHs that reported on their economic well-being at the time of data collection, per county:²

	Garissa	Mandera	Tana River	Wajir
We are not meeting any of our basic needs	2%	1%	15%	8%
We are meeting some of our basic needs	42%	69%	28%	43%
We are meeting about half our basic needs	43%	24%	34%	27%
We are meeting most of our basic needs	11%	1%	14%	6%
We are meeting all our basic needs	2%	6%	10%	16%

% of HHs that reported their expectations regarding how a crisis or shock would affect their HHs well-being at the time of data collection, per county:²

	Garissa	Mandera	Tana River	Wajir
Would be completely unable to meet basic needs	50%	65%	55%	34%
Would meet some basic needs	20%	29%	35%	64%
Mostly fine, regardless of these events	26%	1%	10%	2%
Completely fine, regardless of these events	3%	4%	0%	0%
Do not know	0%	1%	0%	0%



PREFERRED METHOD OF ASSISTANCE

All the HHs reported that their preferred method of receiving assistance was through mobile money as opposed to food or cash vouchers. The top reported reasons for preferring mobile money were that it was easily accessible (96%)¹, offers more flexibility time to purchase (29%)¹ and more secure (11%)¹.



ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS

The accountability to affected populations is measured through the use of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). These KPIs have been put in place by ECHO. The aim is to ensure that humanitarian actors consider the safety, dignity and rights of individuals, groups and affected populations when carrying out humanitarian responses. Respondents were asked if they felt safe throughout the selection process, if they were treated with respect by the NGO staff during the intervention, and if they perceived that there were any HHs that were unfairly selected to receive cash assistance. Findings indicate the need to enhance participation of the community as 18% of HHs reported not being consulted on their needs.

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

	Garissa	Mandera	Tana River	Wajir
Programming was safe	100%	100%	100%	100%
Cash assistance is appropriate to HHs needs	94%	93%	99%	100%
No coercion during registration	100%	100%	100%	99%
Programming was respectful	100%	100%	100%	100%
No unfair selection	100%	100%	100%	100%
Community was consulted	70%	79%	70%	95%
Average KPI Score	96%	96%	96%	100%

AWARENESS OF OPTIONS TO CONTACT THE AGENCY FOR QUESTIONS OR ANY PROBLEMS:

96%

of HHs reported being aware of the various options to contact the agency. Among these, talking directly to NGO staff (69%)¹ and using the dedicated NGO hotline (44%)¹ were the most frequently known methods reported.

Awareness of options to contact the agency for questions or any problems by county:¹

	Garissa	Mandera	Tana River	Wajir
NGO staff	90%	88%	50%	68%
A dedicated NGO hotline	55%	76%	45%	23%
A dedicated NGO desk	57%	2%	33%	23%
Not aware of any option	2%	5%	8%	0%

METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

The baseline survey collected data on the HHs' demographics, overall food security situation, income, expenditure, overall well-being, as well as their perceptions of whether the humanitarian assistance offered was delivered in a safe, accessible, accountable, and participatory manner. The targeted HHs were randomly selected from a list of registered beneficiaries. For sampling, a simple random sampling approach was used to have a representative sample of the beneficiary HHs, with a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error. Out of the total 1,457 targeted beneficiary HHs, a sample of 779 HHs were interviewed.

Data was collected between 1st and 5th of February, 2024. The baseline survey was conducted remotely through mobile phone calls and data entered in open data kit (ODK). The data was then analysed using R software.

CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

- Data on HH expenditure was based on a 30-day recall period, a considerably long period of time over which to expect HHs to remember expenditures accurately.
- Due to the length, complexity, and phone-based nature of the interview, respondents were prone to survey fatigue, which potentially affected the accuracy of their responses.
- Only two response options were provided for each strategy under the LCS. Due to the inability to compute the LCS accurately, the data has not been classified into the four groups. However, we expect to compute it during the endline assessment.



Funded by the European Union



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RACIDA
Building Resilient Communities for Sustainable Development

IMPACT

Shaping practices
Influencing policies
Impacting lives

ENDNOTES

Page 1

- ¹ Heavy rains and flood impact response by OCHA, December 2023
² October - December 2023 Season Precipitation Rank by CHIRPS, December 2023
³ Floods 2023 Operations Update by IFRC, February 2024

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- ¹ For multiple answer questions, respondents could select multiple options hence the findings may exceed 100%.
² The number of respondents in the sample population that reported having an income.
³ Livestock keeping is the rearing of animals such as cattle, dairy cows, sheep, goats, camel often for their products such as meat, milk, eggs and wool.
⁴ The findings may exceed 100% or not add up to 100% due to rounding up.

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- ¹ For multiple answer questions, respondents could select multiple options hence the findings may exceed 100%.

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¹ The Food Consumption Score (FCS) measures how well a household is eating by evaluating the frequency at which differently weighted food groups are consumed by a household in the seven days before data collection. Only foods consumed in the home are counted in this type of indicator. The FCS is used to classify households into three groups: those with a poor FCS, those with a borderline FCS, and those HHs with an acceptable FCS.

² [IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis, February – June 2024](#)

³ The Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) is an indicator used to understand the frequency and severity of change in food consumption behaviours in the 7 days before data collection when households are faced with food shortage.

⁴ The Household Hunger Scale (HHS) is an indicator used to measure the scale of households' food deprivation 30 days before data collection. It measures the frequency of occurrence as (rarely 1-2 times, sometimes 3-10 times, and often >10 times).

⁵ The Livelihood Coping Strategy (LCS) is measured to better try understand longer-term household coping capacities. The household's livelihood and economic security are determined by the HHs income, expenditures, and assets. The LCS is used to classify households into four groups: Households using emergency, crisis, stress, or neutral coping strategies. The use of emergency, crisis or stress-level livelihoods-based coping strategies typically reduces households' overall resilience and assets, increasing the likelihood of food insecurity.

⁶ For multiple answer questions, respondents could select multiple options hence the findings may exceed 100%.

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¹ The findings may exceed 100% or not add up to 100% due to rounding, respondents choosing 'Prefer not to answer,' or selecting 'I do not know.'

² For multiple answer questions, respondents could select multiple options hence the findings may exceed 100%.

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Annex 1: Breakdown of Key Indicators

Key Indicators		Garissa	Mandera	Tana River	Wajir
Food Consumption Score (FCS)	Poor (0-21)	31%	71%	39%	38%
	Borderline (21-35)	35%	25%	47%	49%
	Acceptable (>35)	34%	4%	14%	13%
Household Hunger Scale (HHS)	Severe hunger (4-5)	2%	18%	12%	0%
	Moderate hunger (2-3)	58%	61%	56%	59%
	No or little hunger (0-1)	40%	21%	33%	41%
Average Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)		16.45	12.45	13.94	9.60
Average HH income in the 30 days prior to the baseline data collection.		KES 5,504	KES 9,129	KES 5,376	KES 7,760
Average HH expenditure in the 30 days prior to the baseline data collection.		KES 5,172	KES 8,880	KES 5,049	KES 14,160

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 30+ 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