

KENYA

## Baseline

### Brief for Cash Intervention

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

September 2019



Funded by  
European Union  
Civil Protection  
and Humanitarian Aid



OXFAM

**CONCERN**  
worldwide



ACTED

**IMPACT**

Shaping practices  
Influencing policies  
Impacting lives

## INTRODUCTION

Kenya has been experiencing a prolonged drought due to below average precipitation from the seasonal short rains (Oct-Dec) in 2018 and 2019 long rains (Apr-Jun). The depressed rainfall performance in 2018/19 coming shortly after the 2016/17 drought emergency, has led to the deterioration of food and nutrition security, where over 2 million people in Kenya have been in crisis (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification- IPC 3), in need of food, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and nutrition assistance with Baringo, Marsabit, Tana River and Turkana amongst the most affected counties.<sup>1</sup>

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 and Concern Worldwide to implement an emergency cash assistance programme for the affected populations in the four most affected counties of Baringo, Marsabit, Turkana and Tana river. Other members of the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) Humanitarian Network that will be part of the implementation process include: 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 will be providing cash assistance of KES 4,711<sup>2</sup> a month, quantified from the Kenya Cash Working Group draft Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), for a duration of three months (within the lean period of Aug-Oct 2019), to 17,500 families who face acute food and nutrition insecurity, in the hard-hit counties of Tana River, Turkana, Baringo and Marsabit specifically targeting seven sub-counties: Turkana North and West, North Horr, Laisamis, East Pokot, Baringo South and Tana North

In order to monitor the ongoing impact of the Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) at the household (HH) level, IMPACT initiatives conducted a baseline assessment in the four counties in order to assess the expenditure patterns and food security status of households enrolled for the UCT before the cash transfer and will later conduct post distribution monitoring (PDM) after cash is transferred.

This report presents the main findings of the baseline assessment conducted in the seven sub-counties: Turkana North and West, North Horr, Laisamis, East Pokot, Baringo South and Tana North.

## METHODOLOGY

The baseline tool was designed by IMPACT initiatives in partnership with ACTED, Oxfam and Concern Worldwide. The baseline covers demographic composition, livelihoods, resilience to shocks, income and expenditure patterns, food consumption and coping strategies. The baseline tool was combined with the registration tool, as a result, the assessment was carried out on the entire population of interest (the households identified for receiving UCTs) through household interviews. A total of 13,793 households were interviewed from 22 August to 7 September 2019. Data was collected during the day via smart phones using Open Data kit (ODK).

The specific objectives of the baseline were:

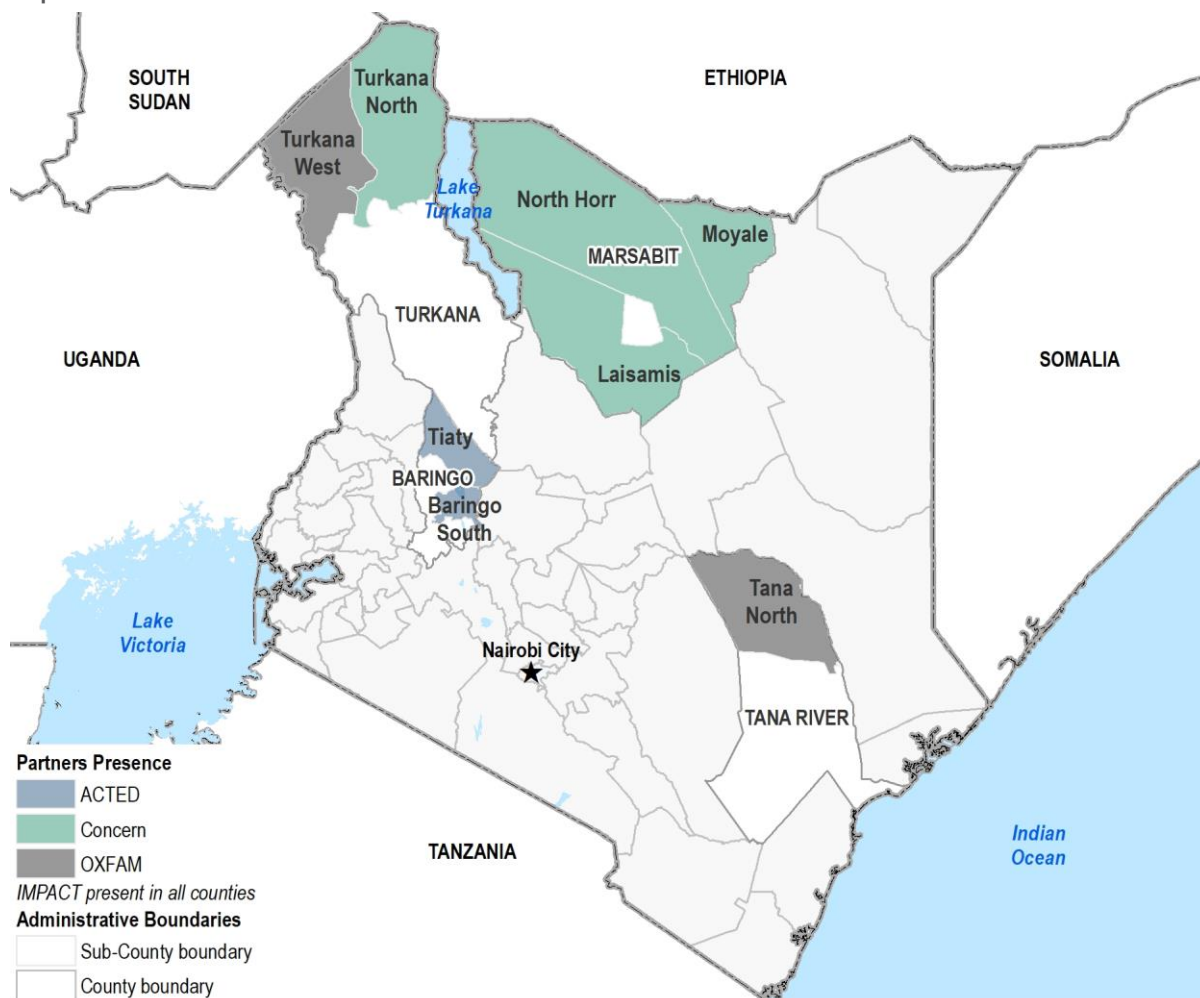
1. To understand trends in household expenditure patterns before the UCT programme
2. To understand the household food security status (food consumption score, coping strategy index, household dietary diversity) before the UCT programme.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ndma.go.ke/index.php/resource-center/send/68-2019/5308-summary-2019-lra-national-report>

<sup>2</sup> 1USD=103.82822 KES in August 2019 <http://ec.europa.eu/budg/inforeuro/index#/converter>

3. To understand the demographic composition and vulnerability situation of the Households being targeted by the UCT programme.

Map 1: Location of assessed counties



## Challenges and Limitations

1. Cultural taboos associated with consumption of *khat* and disclosing gift/charity as a source of income may result in under reporting of the expenditure on these items.
2. Data on monthly expenditure was based on a 30-day recall period; a considerably long duration over which to expect households to remember expenditures accurately across various groups. For instance, the survey asked households to report on (i) their total income from all sources and (ii) any debt accrued in the previous month. By summing across the different expenditure categories and then subtracting against the reported income, some 3,367 households had spent more. However, when asked about the debt accrued during the same time, 6,240 households reported debt of greater than zero. This mismatch may be a result of under reporting of expenditure across the 20 items.

- When asked about the households' main source of income, there were several inconsistencies noted when compared to their livelihood zone. For instance, some 2,084 households said they were engaged in casual labour but also identified themselves as pastoralists. This can arise from misunderstanding of the question, particularly related to the livelihood zone.

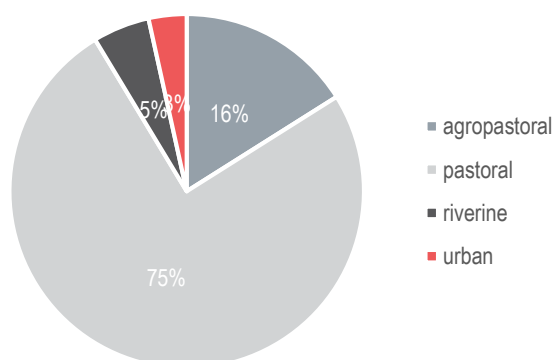
## FINDINGS

### Demographics & Profiles of Surveyed Households

#### General household characteristics

The majority of interviews in the households (72%) were conducted with women respondents. Further, the average and most common (modal) household size consisted of 7 members. When it came to decision-making on expenditure, 59% reported that such decisions were made either by female household members (33%) or jointly (26%). *Figure 1*, shows the breakdown of the surveyed households based on their livelihood zone, where 75% were classified in the pastoral zone.

Figure 1: Proportion of households in each livelihood zone



#### Households with vulnerable members

As shown in *table 1*, the majority of households surveyed (63%) had at least one vulnerable member, which included orphaned children (22%); persons with disability (15%); pregnant women (11%); lactating women (36%); chronically ill persons (6%) and Persons in OTP or SFP program (8%).

Table 1: Proportion of households with vulnerable members, by county

County	HHs with Vulnerable People	
	Frequency	Percent
Baringo	2,404	69%
Marsabit	1,185	59%
Tana River	1,951	57%
Turkana	3,180	65%
Grand Total	8,720	63%

## Food Consumption and Household Dietary Diversity Scores

### Spending on food

Households were asked about their expenditure in the 30 days prior to data collection. This was to present a snapshot of their expenditure choices across 20 different categories, out of which the proportion of expenditure on food of the total household income would be estimated, as a way of assessing the severity of food insecurity in that household<sup>3</sup>.

As shown in *table 2*, the largest expenditure category was related to food, comprising an average of 62% of monthly expenditures (56% on average spent directly on food and an additional 6% on average spent on debt repayment for food). The highly reported expenditure on food is an indication that the HHs were at the edge of poverty perhaps as an impact of drought. Other expenditures that were high included school fees (11%) and costs associated with healthcare and medicine at 8%. The relatively greater expenditure on school fees may be explained by the timing of the survey, which corresponded to the start of the academic year while the high expenditure associated with healthcare might be indicative of increased morbidity and higher rates of acute malnutrition.

**Table 2: Average proportions of household monthly expenditures on different items**

	Baringo	Marsabit	Tana_river	Turkana	Grand total
<b>Food</b>	64%	42%	46%	69%	56%
<b>Gift</b>	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%
<b>Water</b>	1%	2%	4%	2%	2%
<b>Medicines / Health</b>	12%	9%	7%	4%	8%
<b>Debt repayment food</b>	4%	6%	9%	3%	6%
<b>Rent or fees</b>	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Debt repayment</b>	0%	1%	2%	0%	1%
<b>Loans given</b>	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%
<b>Business inputs</b>	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%
<b>Livestock inputs</b>	6%	9%	4%	1%	5%
<b>Agricultural inputs</b>	1%	0%	2%	0%	1%
<b>School Fees</b>	7%	16%	11%	13%	11%
<b>Transport</b>	0%	4%	2%	1%	2%
<b>Firewood</b>	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Saved cash</b>	0%	1%	0%	2%	1%
<b>Household items</b>	1%	4%	2%	0%	2%
<b>Shelter materials</b>	1%	1%	7%	0%	2%
<b>Khat</b>	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
<b>Clothes</b>	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%

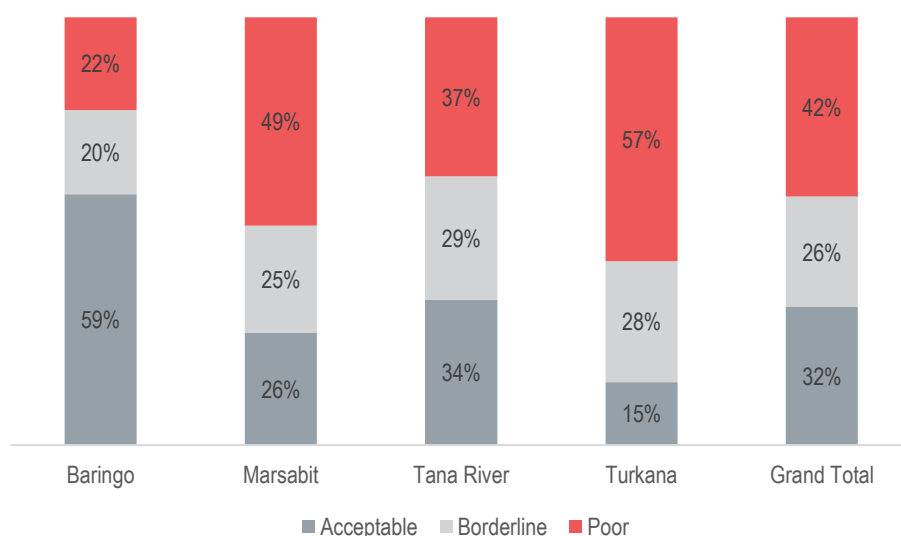
<sup>3</sup> People closer to the edge of poverty, spend a greater and greater proportion of their income on food (see: <https://bit.ly/2nmLWGv>)

## Food Consumption Score

The food consumption score (FCS)<sup>4</sup> is a composite score based on the number of food groups (out of 8 possible food groups) that any household member has consumed over the previous 7 days, multiplied by the number of days that the food group was consumed, weighted by the nutritional importance of the food group, for a total possible score ranging from 0 to 112. Only foods consumed in the home are counted in this indicator.

From the assessment, Turkana County (at 57%) had the highest number of households with a 'poor'<sup>5</sup> FCS, as shown in *figure 4*. The *mean* food consumption score for all households surveyed was 29.5, which corresponds to a **borderline** FCS. The mean FCS per county were: 40.4 (Baringo), 26.8 (Marsabit), 30.8 (Tana River) and 21.9 (Turkana).

Figure 2: Proportion of households in each FCS category, by county



## Household Dietary Diversity Score

Households can be further classified as food insecure if their diet is non-diversified, unbalanced and unhealthy. The previous 24-hours' food intake of any member of the household was used as a proxy to assess household dietary diversity in this survey. The 16 food groups assessed during the survey were aggregated into 12 major food groups: cereals, roots and tubers, legumes, vegetables (the vegetable food group is a combination of vitamin A rich vegetables and tubers, dark green leafy vegetables and other vegetables.), fruits (the fruit group is a combination of vitamin A rich fruits and other fruits.), meat and poultry, eggs, fish and sea food, milk and milk products, sugar and sweets, fats and oils, condiments and miscellaneous (spices, sweets, unsweetened beverages).

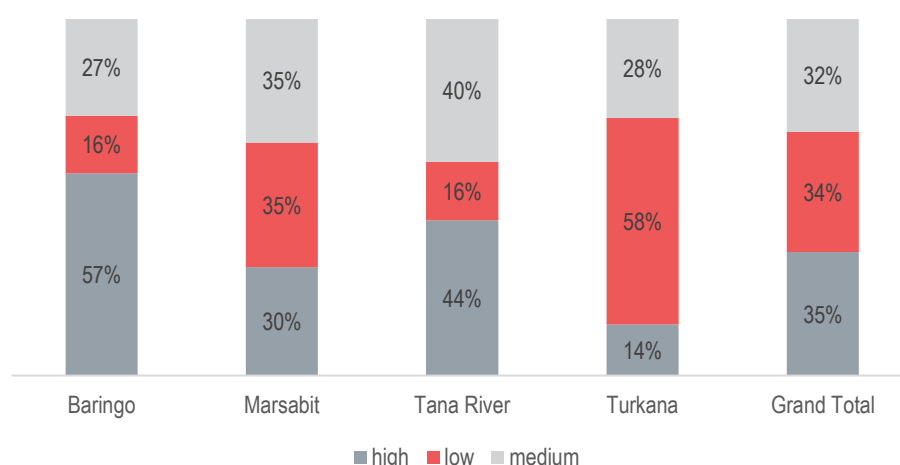
<sup>4</sup> Vaitla, Bapu; Coates, Jennifer; and Maxwell, Daniel. 2015. Comparing Household Food Consumption Indicators to Inform Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification. Washington, DC: FHI 360/Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III Project (FANTA).

<sup>5</sup> FCS thresholds used were: Poor (FCS, 0 – 21), Borderline (FCS, 21.5 – 35), Acceptable (FCS, > 35)

Turkana had the highest proportion of households in the 'low<sup>6</sup>' household dietary diversity score (HDDS) category at 58%. When asked about the number of meals consumed in the previous day, only households in Baringo had an average number of meals greater than two. Turkana had the lowest average meals consumed in the last 24 hours (see figure 5).

The average HDD score for all households in the survey was 4.6 food groups (medium HDDS) out of 12 major food groups. The mean HDDS per county were: 5.8 (Baringo), 4.4 (Marsabit), 5.2 (Tana River) and 3.4 (Turkana)

Figure 3: Proportion of households in each HDDS category, by county



## Coping Strategies & Resilience

The surveyed HHs were asked about the various types of coping strategies they used in the 30 days prior to the survey when they did not have enough food or enough money to buy food

A significant proportion of household were reported to be engaging in negative coping strategies that were depicting a crisis situation such as selling last female animals (21%). Other similar irreversible strategies that were adopted but at a lower magnitude included selling productive assets (4%), and selling house or land (4%). Yet another high proportion of households was using risky survival strategies (still indicative of a crisis situation) such as of entire household migrating to new areas (14%), and withdraw of children from school (14%), as shown in table 3.

In comparison to other counties Baringo had higher proportions of households that were using the extreme negative strategies such as selling of last female animals, migration of entire households, and withdrawal of children from school.

<sup>6</sup> HDDS thresholds used were: Low Diversity Groups ( $\leq 3$  food groups), Medium Diversity Groups (4-5 food groups) & High Diversity Groups ( $> 5$  food groups)

**Table 3: Proportion of households reporting having resorted to livelihood coping strategies in the 30 days prior to data collection**

	Baringo	Marsabit	Tana River	Turkana	Grand Total
<b>Sell household assets/goods (TV, radio, furniture, household items etc.</b>	7%	5%	12%	9%	8%
<b>Purchase food on credit or borrowed food</b>	52%	53%	33%	34%	44%
<b>Spend savings</b>	15%	8%	7%	10%	11%
<b>Borrow money</b>	50%	33%	11%	20%	32%
<b>Sell productive assets or means of transport (wheelbarrow, bicycle, car, etc.)</b>	7%	2%	6%	2%	4%
<b>Consume seed stocks that were to be held/saved for the next season</b>	24%	5%	10%	4%	12%
<b>Withdraw children from school</b>	17%	6%	6%	19%	14%
<b>Sell house or land</b>	6%	1%	4%	2%	4%
<b>Beg</b>	34%	30%	5%	29%	27%
<b>Sell last female animals</b>	22%	29%	24%	13%	21%
<b>Entire household migrated to the new area</b>	27%	4%	11%	7%	14%

## CONCLUSION

This baseline survey aimed at understanding households' profiles and food security status before they receive a cash transfer. Findings show that 63% of the household had at least one vulnerable member, with vulnerability being a core selection criteria of the cash transfer programme. In addition, 6 in 10 households in the surveyed population spent either directly or indirectly most of their income on food, an indication of people facing food insecurity.

Indicators related to the food security status indicate that a significant proportion of the surveyed population was facing severe food insecurity, with a high number of households having a 'poor' FCS (42%) and a 'poor' HDDS (34). In the same vein, a significant percentage of households were found to be using negative coping strategies that depict a food security crisis, like selling last female animals (21%), withdrawing children from school (14%) and entire households migrating to new areas (14%).

A post-distribution monitoring (PDM) and an endline PDM assessments will be conducted in the course of the project with the objective to understand trends in household expenditure patterns and changes in household food security. The successive assessments will also help to understand whether the cash transfer intervention is helping in cushioning households against any potential shocks and allowing them to opt out of any negative coping strategies and hence build their resilience or reduce future risks.