Kenya cash consortium response in drought affected ASAL counties
Baringo, Marsabit, Tana river, Turkana counties, Kenya September 2019

Background

Kenya is experiencing a prolonged drought due to below average precipitation from the seasonal short rains (Oct-Dec) in 2018 and 2019 long rains (April-June). 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, with about 2.6 million people in Kenya estimated to be facing acute food insecurity and in need of food, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and nutrition assistance.

The Kenya Cash Consortium led by ACTED in partnership with Concern Worldwide, Oxfam and IMPACT initiatives, together with PGI, ALDEF, PISP, SAPCONE, PACIDA and TUPADO are implementing an emergency cash assistance programme for the affected populations in the four most affected counties of Baringo, Marsabit, Turkana and Tana river. IMPACT initiatives conducted a baseline assessment in the four counties in order to assess the expenditure patterns and food security status of households (HHs) enrolled for the Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) before the cash transfer and will later conduct post distribution monitoring after cash is transferred.

Methodology

This factsheet presents the main findings of this baseline assessment. The baseline tool was designed by IMPACT initiatives in partnership with ACTED, Oxfam and Concern worldwide.

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 the unconditional cash transfer) through household interviews. A total of 13,793 HHs were interviewed from 22 August to 7 September 2019. Data was collected during the day via smart phones using Open Data kit (ODK).

Number of HHs interviewed:

- Turkana: 4,874
- Baringo: 3,500
- Tana river: 3,413
- Marsabit: 2,006

Average household size:

- Turkana: 8
- Tana river: 7
- Baringo: 7
- Marsabit: 6

1. Arid and semi arid land
Demographics

% distribution of HH members by age and gender

Profile of head of household:

Baringo:
Man 18-59 years 51%
Woman 18-59 years 45%
Elderly above 59 years 4%

Marsabit:
Man 18-59 years 60%
Woman 18-59 years 39%
Elderly above 59 years 1%

Turkana:
Man 18-59 years 63%
Woman 18-59 years 34%
Elderly above 59 years 3%

Persons with specific needs

% of HHs with at least one member having the following top 3 specific needs:

Baringo:
Lactating women 41%
Orphans 13%
Pregnant women 12%

Tana River:
Lactating women 28%
Orphans 23%
Disabled 15%

Marsabit:
Lactating women 39%
Orphans 14%
Disabled 11%

Turkana:
Lactating women 36%
Orphans 30%
Disabled 21%

Livelihoods

In all the counties, the top reported livelihood zone is pastoral, with Marsabit having 89% of the HHs in the pastoral livelihood zone. 31% of HHs in Baringo are in agro-pastoral livelihood zone.

The top reported expenditure across the four counties is food where beneficiaries in Tana river spent an average of 3,474 kes, Baringo 1,834 kes, Marsabit 1,457 kes and Turkana 1,364 kes in the 30 days prior to data collection.

Main source of income reported by HHs at the time of data collection:

Baringo:
Casual labour 41%
Livestock keeping 23%
Sale of firewood and charcoal 19%

Marsabit:
Livestock keeping 75%
Casual labour 12%
Fishing 5%

Tana River:
Livestock keeping 37%
Farming 22%
Casual labour 19%

Marsabit:
Sale of firewood and charcoal 38%
Livestock keeping 22%
Casual labour 16%

Livelihood coping strategy (LCS):

Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSI) measures the reliance on livelihood-based coping mechanisms to cope with inadequate access to food by evaluating the frequency and severity of coping behaviours that HHs engage in when faced with food shortages.

Top 3 reported LCS in the 30 days prior to data collection:

Baringo:
Purchase food on credit 52%
Borrow money for food 50%
Beg for food 34%

Marsabit:
Purchase food on credit 53%
Borrow money for food 33%
Beg for food 30%

Tana River:
Purchase food on credit 46%
Sell last female animals 22%
Borrow money for food 17%

Marsabit:
Purchase food on credit 30%
Beg for food 27%
Borrow money for food 18%
Withdraw children from school 18%

4. HHs could report several vulnerabilities
5. HHs could report several livelihood coping strategies
6. For more information on food security indicators (FCS, CSI, HDDS) please see: [https://bit.ly/2nmLWGy]
Food security

Food Consumption Score (FCS): FCS measures how well a HH is eating by evaluating the frequency at which differently weighted food groups are eaten by a HH in the seven days prior to data collection. In all the four counties, more than 70% of the HHs were found to have a poor or borderline FCS.

Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS): HDDS measures the quality of a HH’s diet by evaluating the variety of food groups consumed by a HH in the seven days prior to data collection. A lower HDDS means that the HHs consume less diverse meals while a higher HDDS means that the HHs consume more diversified meals. In Marsabit, 99% of HHs were found to have a low or medium HDDS.