

Somali Cash Consortium MPCA Drought Response Top-up Baseline Assessment



April 2022

Overview

The Somali Cash Consortium's (SCC) multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) programme provides monthly unconditional cash transfers (UCTs) to vulnerable populations in disaster/conflict-affected Somali regions. In light of the drought, the SCC, with funding from the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) and led by Concern Worldwide, further expanded its MPCA response to reach the most drought-affected communities and households. The SCC consists of six implementing partner non-governmental organisations (NGOs): ACTED, Concern Worldwide (the lead agency), Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and Save the Children (SCI). The SCC distributed a three-month worth UCT among selected beneficiary households across ten districts in five target regions between late February and early March.

To monitor the ongoing impact of the UCT on the beneficiary population, IMPACT Initiatives provides impartial third-party monitoring and evaluation. IMPACT conducted a baseline assessment prior to the first round of transfers, which will be followed by an endline assessment. This factsheet presents **key findings from the baseline assessment**.

Methodology

A total of 17,434¹ households received the drought top-up transfer between February & March 2022. IMPACT surveyed a regionally representative sample of MPCA beneficiary households one week before the receipt of assistance. This included beneficiaries across the following regions: Bay, Middle Shabelle, Lower Juba, Mudug, and Gedo. A total of **4043 household surveys with beneficiary households were conducted remotely via telephone**.

The surveyed beneficiary households were selected through a stratified simple random sampling approach at the district level, rendering findings that are representative at the district level with a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error. A large buffer of 25% was introduced to off-set expected difficulties in reaching the sample size in the follow-up endline assessment. All results presented have been weighted at the district level, by the proportion of SCC beneficiary households per targeted district.

Challenges & Limitations:

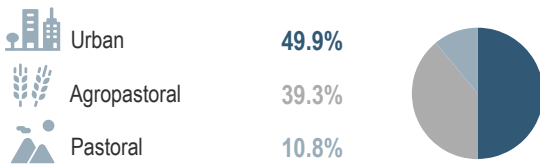
- Data on household expenditure was based on a 30-day recall period; a considerably long duration over which to expect households to remember expenditures accurately. This might have negatively impacted the accuracy of reporting on the expenditure indicators.
- Due to the length, complexity, and phone-based nature of this survey, respondents were prone to survey fatigue, which potentially affected the accuracy of their responses.

Beneficiary Caseload Profile



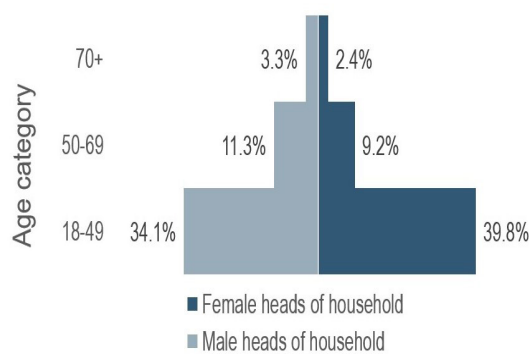
Livelihood Zone

% of households in each livelihood zone:



Demographics

% of households by age and gender of the head of household:

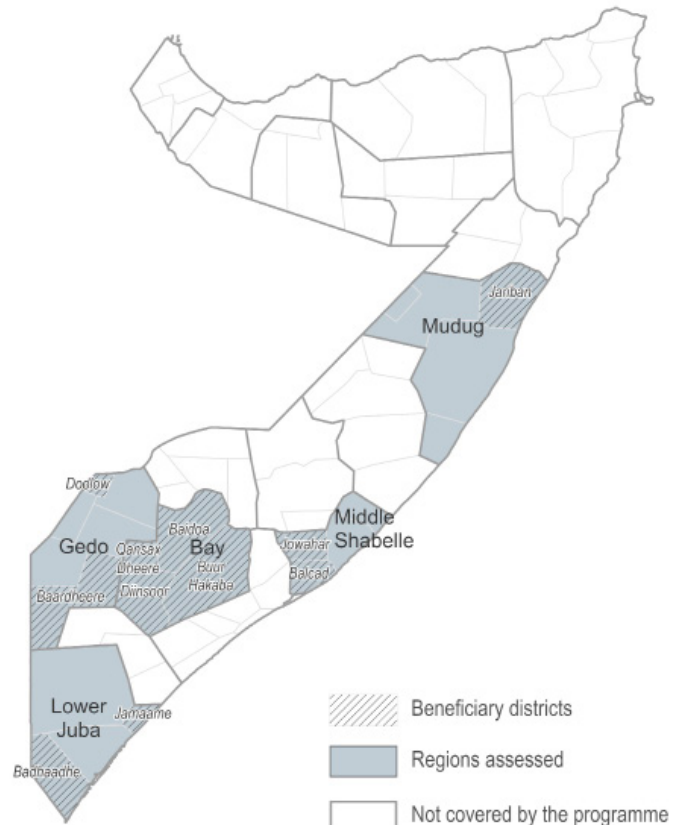


Average household size: 6.8

Average age of the head of household: 46.2



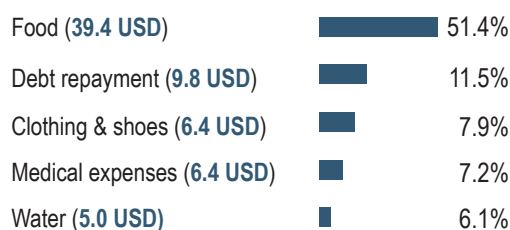
Locations Covered



Beneficiaries' Expenditures

Expenditure Share

Most commonly reported expenditure categories and the average amount spent on each in the month prior to data collection²:



Average reported total household expenditure over a month

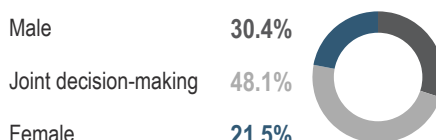
81.3 USD

Median reported total household expenditure over a month⁴

65.5 USD

Spending Decisions

% of households by reported primary spending decisions maker:

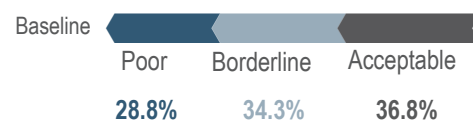


Key Impact Indicators

The key indicators include: Livelihood Coping Strategies Index (LCSI), Food Consumption Score (FCS), Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) and reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI).

FCS⁵

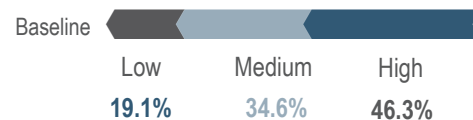
% of households by FCS category:



Average number of meals eaten per household per day: 2.0

HDDS⁶

% of households by HDDS category:



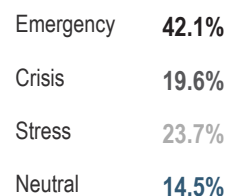
Average HDDS per household: 5.8

rCSI⁷

Average rCSI score per household: 14.7

LCSI⁸

% of households by LCSI score:



Average LCSI score per household: 7.7

Income & Livelihoods

Income

Total reported household income in the month prior to data collection:

Average monthly income: 86.9 USD

Median monthly income³: 69.5 USD

The average income per person, per month⁴: 12.8 USD

The median income per person, per month^{3,4}: 9.6 USD

Most commonly reported sources of household income in the 6 months prior to data collection:

- 40.0% Casual wage labour
- 30.0% Casual farm labour
- 26.0% Livestock sale

Savings & Debt

% of households reporting having any amount of savings at the time of data collection:

Yes 10.2%

No 89.8%

The average amount of savings found for households with any savings was 1.2 USD per household.

% of households reporting being in debt at the time of data collection:

Yes 42.4%

No 57.6%

The average amount of debt found for households with any debt was 18.2 USD per household.

Sources of Food

% of households by most commonly reported primary sources of food in the 7 days prior to data collection²:

- 60.0% Market purchase with cash
- 12.8% Own production
- 9.0% Market purchase with credit

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Coping Strategies



Food-based Coping Strategies

Strategies employed to cope with a lack of food or lack of money to buy food, by average number of days in the week prior to data collection:

| | |
|---|-----|
| Relied on less preferred, less expensive food | 2.4 |
| Borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relatives | 2.0 |
| Reduced the number of meals eaten per day | 2.0 |
| Reduced portion size of meals | 1.9 |
| Reduction in the quantities consumed by adults/mothers for young children | 1.5 |



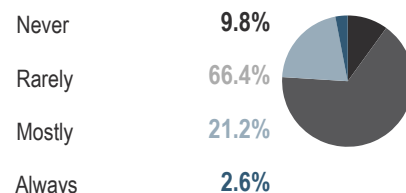
Livelihood-based Coping Strategies

Reported main reason(s) why the household adopted livelihood-based coping strategies in the month prior to data collection (i.e. to access which essential needs)²:

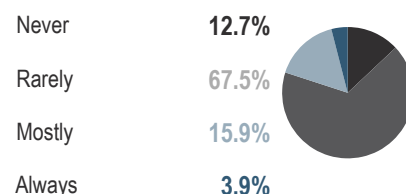
- 83.0% Food
- 49.0% Health
- 44.0% Shelter
- 37.0% Education
- 34.0% Water, sanitation, & hygiene
- 2.0% Other

Subjective Wellbeing

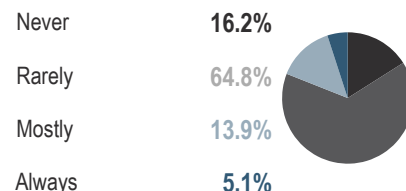
% of households reporting having had sufficient quantity of food to eat in the month prior to data collection:



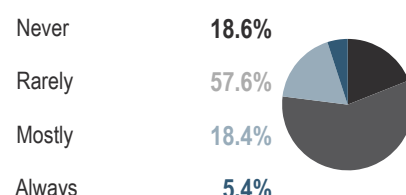
% of households reporting having had sufficient variety of food to eat in the month prior to data collection:



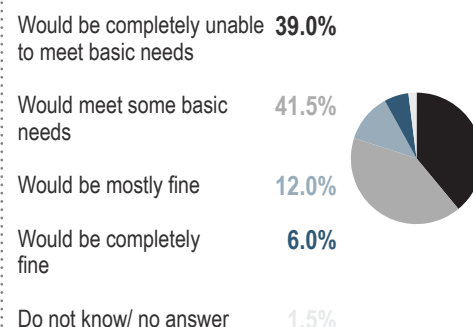
% of households reporting having had enough money to cover basic needs in the month prior to data collection:



% of households reporting being able to meet their basic needs at the time of data collection:



% of households reporting the expected effect a crisis or shock would have on their wellbeing at the time of data collection:

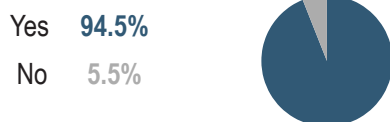


Drought Effects



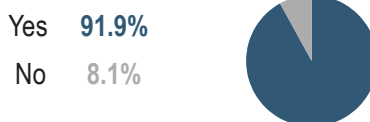
Drought Impact

% of households reporting their community having been impacted by the drought in the 6 months prior to data collection:



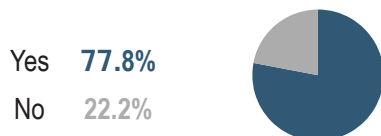
Crop Losses

Of households reporting having been impacted by the drought, % reporting facing any crop losses due to the drought:



Conflict

Of households reporting having been impacted by the drought, % of households reporting conflicts in and between communities due to the drought:



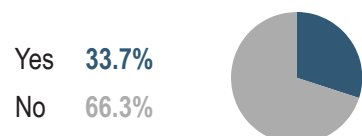
Rangeland Losses

Of households reporting having been impacted by the drought, % of households reporting facing any rangeland losses due to the drought:



Communication

% of households reporting being aware of at least one of the selection criteria:

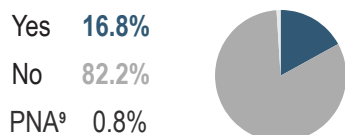


Among those households reporting being aware of any selection criteria, the most commonly reported criteria they were aware of²:

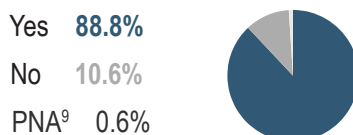
- 75% Lack of income
- 39% Lack of assets
- 29% Disability of household member

Protection & Accountability

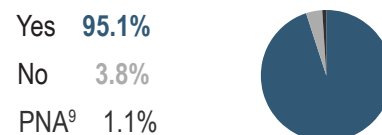
% of households reporting themselves or someone in the community having been consulted by the NGO about their needs:



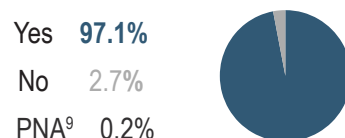
% of households reporting expecting that the cash assistance will be appropriate for their household's needs:



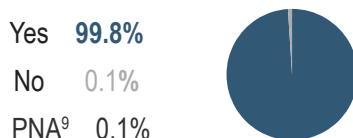
% of households reporting feeling well-represented by their Village/Camp Relief Committee:



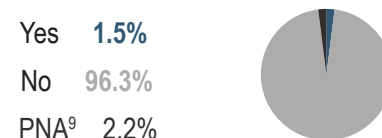
% of households reporting feeling safe going through the programme's selection & registration processes:



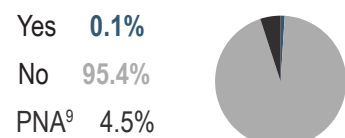
% of households reporting feeling that they have been treated with respect by NGO staff up to the time of data collection:



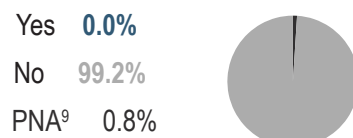
% of households reporting believing that some households were unfairly selected:



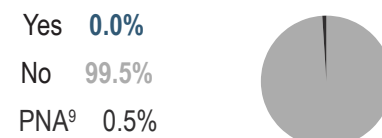
% of households reporting having paid, or knowing someone who paid, to get on the beneficiary list:



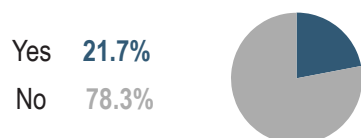
% of households reporting being aware of someone in the community being pressured or coerced to exchange non-monetary favours to get on the beneficiary list:



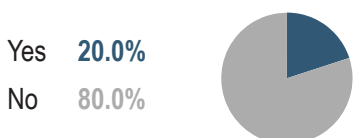
% of households reporting having experienced any negative consequences as a result of their beneficiary status:



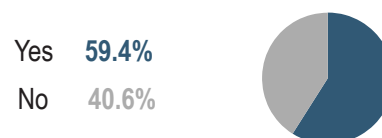
% of households reporting being aware of any option to contact the agency if they had any questions, complaints, or problems receiving the assistance:



% of households reporting having raised any concerns on the assistance received to the NGO using any of the complaint mechanisms available:



Of households that reported having raised concerns, % reporting being satisfied with the response:



Analysis, feedback, and potential issues to follow up on:

95.1% of households reported feeling well-represented by their Village/Camp Relief Committee (V/CRCs). Among those who felt they were represented poorly, the primary reasons reported were that the leaders in the council a.) were perceived to represent only their own family or clan, b.) were new or inexperienced and c.) were perceived to act primarily in their personal interest.

21.7% of households reported being aware of any options to contact the agency if they had any questions, complaints, or problems receiving the assistance. The majority of these households reported being aware of the NGO hotline (58.0%) and 47% reported that you could talk to the NGO staff directly, while only 13% mentioned contacting the NGO helpdesk.

Among those households who reported their community had been affected by the drought (94.5%), a majority (77.8%) also reported conflict in and between communities due to effects of the drought. The drought-affected households also cited that the drought had led to crop losses (91.9%) and rangeland losses (88.6%).

Among the 80.0% of households who reported not having raised any concerns, the most commonly reported reason for not raising concerns were a lack of concerns or complaints (63.0%). Only 1.1% reported not having raised concerns because of fear that doing so would have negative implications on their beneficiary status.

The primary suggestions from the beneficiaries to improve the project included increasing the **duration** and **amount of cash transfers** as well as keeping it **continuous throughout the whole year**. Other suggestions included ensuring the timeliness of transfers, increasing the number of beneficiaries, and supplementing the cash assistance with additional support, such as food, shelter, and livelihood support.

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End Notes

- 1 Of the 17,434 respondents, 696HHs were part of the SRSN component in Dollow and were excluded from data collection as a separate monitoring was conducted.
- 2 Respondents could select multiple options. Findings may therefore exceed 100%.
- 3 Findings represent the median of medians for each region assessed i.e. the median was first taken for each region, and then an overall median was calculated from the regional medians. This was done to minimise the effect of outliers while presenting the income and expenditure data.
- 4 Income per household per month calculated by dividing the total monthly household income by the household size.
- 5 The Food Consumption Score (FCS) is a measure of the food intake frequency, dietary diversity, and nutritional intake. It is calculated using the frequency of a household's consumption of different food groups in the 7 days prior to data collection weighted according to their nutritional value.
- 6 The Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) is a measure of the number of unique food groups consumed by household members in the 7 days prior to data collection as recommended by the Somalia Cash Working Group Monitoring & Evaluation Workstream Harmonised Indicators List.
- 7 The Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) is a measure of reliance on food consumption based negative coping strategies to cope with lack of food in the 7 days prior to data collection .
- 8 The Livelihoods Coping Strategy Index (LCSI) is a measure of reliance on livelihood-based negative coping mechanisms to cope with lack of food or money to buy food in the month prior to data collection.
- 9 PNA is the abbreviation for "Prefer not to answer".

Annex 1 - Sample Breakdown

| Region | District | Caseload | Sample Surveyed |
|-----------------|---------------|----------|-----------------|
| Bay | Diinsor | 2570 | 442 |
| Bay | Baidoa | 3181 | 445 |
| Bay | Buur Hakaba | 1245 | 386 |
| Bay | Qansax Dheere | 1324 | 372 |
| Middle Shabelle | Jowhar | 1360 | 346 |
| Middle Shabelle | Balcad | 1000 | 331 |
| Mudug | Jariiban | 722 | 318 |
| Lower Juba | Jamaame | 943 | 348 |
| Lower Juba | Badhaadhe | 1107 | 388 |
| Gedo | Baardheere | 1453 | 407 |
| Gedo | Doolow | 377 | 260 |