Overview

The ASAL Humanitarian Network's (AHN) humanitarian assistance programme provides three rounds of multipurpose cash transfers (MPCTs) to vulnerable populations in drought-affected counties in arid and semi-arid counties of Kenya. This assessment looks at a supplementary set of beneficiary households in Turkana county added to the main lot of beneficiary households under the AHN's main programme.[1] This response in Turkana county is primarily funded by Oxfam[2] and is implemented by SAPCONE[3]; a local non-governmental organisation (NGO). The AHN is distributing three rounds of MPCTs between December 2021 and March 2022, to selected beneficiary households across Turkana county in Kenya.

To monitor the ongoing impact of the MPCTs 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, a midline assessment after the first round, and an endline assessment after the last round of transfers. This factsheet presents **key findings from the endline assessment in Turkana county as well as comparison of some key indicators from the baseline assessment**. The figures in grey highlight the magnitude of change from the baseline to the endline for relevant indicators.

Methodology

A total of 205[4] households received three rounds of MPCA between December 2021 and March 2022. IMPACT interviewed beneficiary households two weeks after the last round of cash transfers. **A total of 144 beneficiary household interviews were conducted.**

The interviewed beneficiary households were selected through a simple random sampling approach at the county level, rendering findings that are representative at the county level with a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error. A buffer of 10% was introduced to off-set expected difficulties in reaching the sample size in the follow-up assessments. All results presented have been aggregated by the proportion of AHN beneficiary households.

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.

- Daily data checking and coverage tracking was affected by poor internet connection in some areas, which made it difficult to follow-up with the enumerators engaged in the field.

Key findings

- Findings from the baseline assessment indicate that 95.0% of households had a poor Food Consumption Score (FCS) and only around 1.0% had an acceptable FCS. Following the three rounds of cash transfers, only 38.2% of households had a poor FCS during the endline assessment whereas 16.7% of households had an acceptable FCS. The improvement in FCS is likely due to the beneficiary households having received cash to supplement their income and help them in the purchase of food.

- The proportion of the households with low Household Dietary Diversity Scores (HDDS) stands at 98.6%, which is 0.9% decrease from the baseline, this indicates a continuously severe low dietary intake among HHs.

- A vast majority of households reported "almost never" having been able to meet their basic needs in the 30 days prior to endline data collection, the proportion of households reporting "never" having been able to do so decreased considerably from 94.1% at baseline to 31.3% at the endline.

- Market purchase remained the most comonly reported primary source of food (56.3%) in the 7 days prior to data collection.

- The average reported monthly income per household during the endline assessment was 10500 Kenyan shillings (KES)[5], a 1036.4% increase from the baseline assessment (924 KES).

- In line with the increase in the average monthly income, the most commonly reported source of household income was cash transfers (45.8%) followed by fishing (31.9%). This has changed considerably from the baseline, where fishing was reported as the main source of income by 51% of the households.

Locations Covered
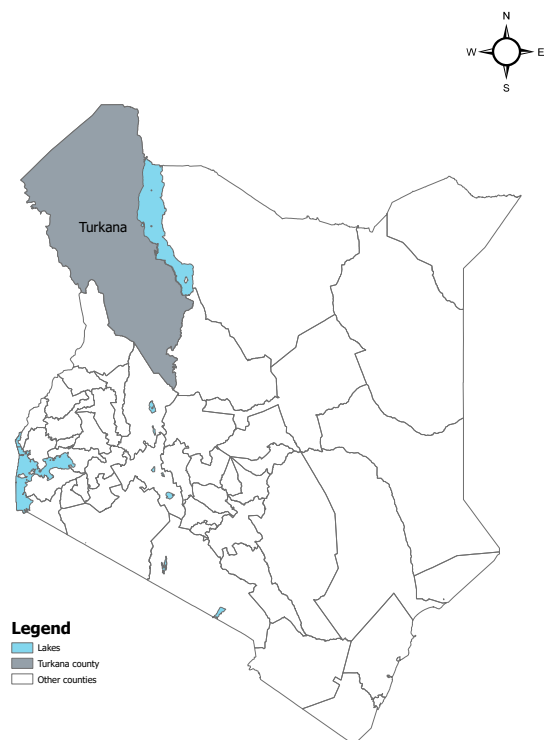
Legend
- Lakes
- Turkana county
- Other counties

Income & Expenditure

Income Source

Most commonly reported primary sources of household income at the time of data collection:

❶ **45.8%** Cash transfers
❷ **31.9%** Fishing
❸ **13.9%** Firewood sale
❹ **6.3%** Sharing

Expenditure Share

Most commonly reported expenditure categories and average amount spent (in KES) per category per household in the month prior to data collection:

Food (**4783**) (+4130)   47.9% (-37%)
Sharing (**945**) (+945)   9.5% (+10%)
Debt repayment (**834**) (+753)   8.4% (-2%)
Medicines (**832**) (+829)   8.3% (+8%)
Education (**775**) (+774)   7.8% (+8%)
Savings (**667**) (+647)   6.7% (+4%)

Average reported total household expenditure over a month   **9981** (+9208)

Average reported total household income over a month   **10500** (+9576)

Market Access

% of households reporting challenges in accessing the market where they buy basic goods and services:

Yes **0.0%**
No **100.0%**

Food Sources

% of households by most commonly reported primary sources of food[3]:

❶ **56.3%** Market purchase
❷ **40.3%** Sharing
❸ **2.1%** Begging

Spending Decisions

% of households by reported primary spending decisions maker[3]:

Male **41.7%**
Joint decision-making **47.9%**
Female **10.4%**

Spending Conflict

% of households reporting conflict or problems within the household as a result of disagreement on how to spend money during the 6 months prior to data collection:

Yes **0.2%**
No **99.8%**

Household wellbeing

% of households reporting having been able to meet their household's basic needs in the 30 days prior to data collection:
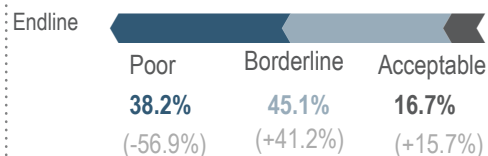
Never **31.3%** (-62.8%)
Almost never **63.2%** (+60.7%)
Sometimes **4.2%** (+4.2%)
Always **0.0%** (+0.7%)
PFA **1.3%** (-2.2%)

Key Impact Indicators

The key indicators include: Livelihood Coping Strategies Index (LCSI), Food Consumption Score (FCS), Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) and reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI).
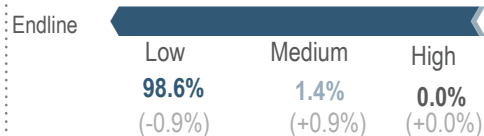
FCS[6]

Endline

Poor	Borderline	Acceptable
38.2%	**45.1%**	**16.7%**
(-56.9%)	(+41.2%)	(+15.7%)

Average number of meals consumed by household members per day: **1.9** (+1.0)

HDDS[7]

% of households by HDDS category:

Endline

Low	Medium	High
98.6%	**1.4%**	**0.0%**
(-0.9%)	(+0.9%)	(+0.0%)

Average HDDS per household: **2.3**

rCSI[8]

Most commonly reported strategies employed to cope with a lack of food or lack of money to buy food in the week prior to data collection, by average number of days these strategies had been employed:

Strategy	Days
Reduced the number of meals eaten per day	2.6 (+0.9)
Relied on less preferred, less expensive food	3.1 (+1.8)
Reduced portion size of meals	2.6 (+1.0)
Borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relatives	2.7 (+1.2)
Restricted adults' consumption so children can eat	2.6 (+1.1)

Average rCSI score per household: **21.6** (+9.3)

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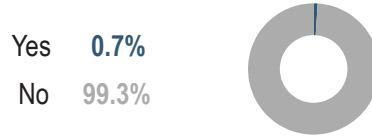IMPACT Shaping practices Influencing policies Impacting lives

Protection Performance Indicators

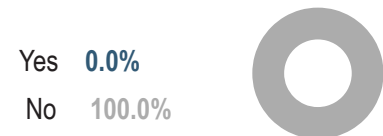**% of households reporting themself or someone in the community had been consulted by the NGO about their needs:**

Yes **86.1%**
No 13.9%
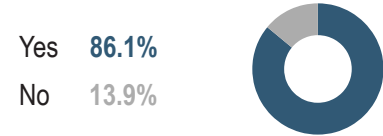
% of households reporting believing that some households were unfairly selected:

Yes **0.7%**
No 99.3%

% 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:

Yes **0.0%**
No 100.0%
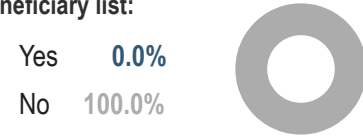
% of households reporting having paid, or knowing someone who paid, to get on the beneficiary list:

Yes **0.0%**
No 100.0%

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

Yes **100.0%**
No 0.0%
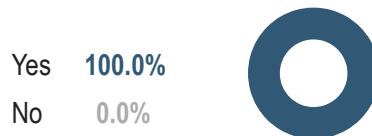
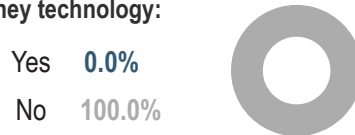**% of households reporting being aware of someone in the community using the different mechanisms to contact the agency:**

Yes **100.0%**
No 0.0%
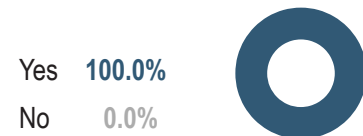
% of households reporting feeling safe going through the programme's selection & registration processes:

Yes **100.0%**
No 0.0%
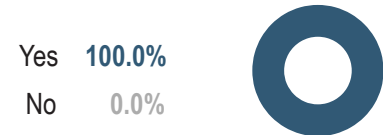
% of households reporting experiencing any problems receiving their money due to a lack of access to, or knowledge about mobile money technology:

Yes **0.0%**
No 100.0%

% of households reporting being aware of the existence of options to contact the agency if you had a question or problem with the assistance:

NGO staff **100.0%**
Hotline **99.0%**
NGO desk **98.0%**
Not aware 0.0%
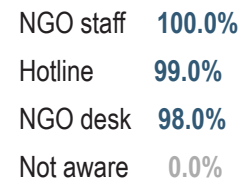
% of households reporting having raised any concerns on the assistance received to the NGO using any of the complaint mechanisms available:

Yes **94.4%**
No 5.6%
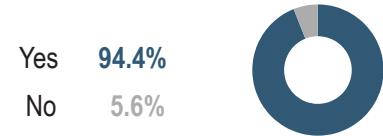
Of households that reported having raised concerns, % reporting being satisfied with the response:

Yes **99.3%**
No 0.7%
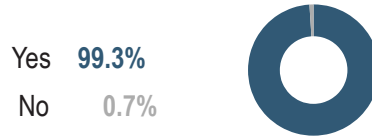
Analysis, feedback, and potential issues to follow up on:

Consistent improvements were seen across most key food and livelihood security indicators, as shown in Annex 1 below. Particularly, the endline assessment saw a substantial decrease in the proportion of households with a poor FCS (from 95.0% to 38.2%, in the baseline and endline respectively). However, the rCSI increased, indicating an increased reliance on coping strategies to meet food needs, which might relate to changes in expenditure prioritisation among beneficiary households.

The average household expenditure increased from 924 KES in the baseline to 10500 KES in the endline. This is most likely attributable to the cash transfers, which is further reflected in cash transfer being the most commonly reported primary source of income in Turkana (45.8%).

Findings suggest that food constituted the primary expense for the households, as 47.9% of the monthly expenditure during the endline assessment was reportedly spent on food.

All households reportedly preferred receiving cash via mobile money (100.0%). Moreover, the majority of households (94.4%) also reported being satisfied with the payment process.

Key protection and performance indicators show positive results; all households (100.0%) reported not having been asked to pay to get on the beneficiary list, and 100% of households reported having felt safe going throgh the selection process. Moreover, the majority of the households (86.1%) reported having

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End Notes

1. The AHN early action drought response is being implemented in 8 of the worst affected counties of Marsabit, Isiolo, Samburu, Turkana, Wajir, Tana River, Garissa, and Mandera. The AHN response is supported by Oxfam, Concern and ACTED.

2. Oxfam's donors involved in the project are Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO), Irish Aid, and Danida. Oxfam's affiliates involved in the project are Oxfam Great Britain (OGB-KLUB), Oxfam Hong Kong (OHK), Oxfam America (OUS), Oxfam IBIS (Denmark), and Oxfam Ireland. The AHN response in Turkana County with the partner SAPCONE is supported specifically by Oxfam through funding from OGB-KLUB.

3. The local partner NGO is Sustainable Approaches for Community Empowerment (SAPCONE).

4. While the total amount of beneficiary households was 205, 202 households were interviewed in the baseline due to non-response. Eventually, 144 surveys were kept in the endline after data cleaning. For data consistency, the sample for the endline has been drawn from the 144 surveys kept and analysed during the baseline.

5. 1 USD = 115.0476 KES as on the 8th of March 2022.

6. 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 during the 7 days prior to data collection, weighted according to nutritional importance.

7. The Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) is a measure of the number of unique food groups consumed by household members in the 24 hours prior to data collection.

8. 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 seven days prior to data collection.

Annex 1: Comparative findings of key indicators

		Turkana		
		Baseline	Midline	Endline
Food Consumption Score (FCS)	Poor	95.0%	47.0%	38.2%
	Borderline	4.0%	43.9%	45.1%
	Acceptable	1.0%	9.1%	16.7%
Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)	Low	99.5%	98.5%	98.6%
	Medium	0.5%	1.5%	1.4%
	High	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Average Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI)		12.3	11.8	21.6
Average household income in KES in the month prior to data collection		924	8986	10500
Average household total expenditure in KES in the month prior to data collection		774	8572	9981
Average proportion of total expenditure spent on food in the month prior to data collection		84.4%	48.9%	47.9%