

BACKGROUND

Heavy rains in April 2020 caused widespread flooding along the Kenyan Tana river. The floods led to displacement and destruction of livelihoods (assets) and homes in both Garissa and Tana River counties, further amplifying the vulnerabilities of people in the area and posing risks to the food security of affected communities.

In an urgent response to the humanitarian need in flood-affected communities in Garissa and Tana River counties, the Kenya Cash Consortium (KCC) led by ACTED in partnership with Oxfam, Pastoralist Girls Initiative (PGI) and Arid Lands Development Focus (ALDEF) are implementing an emergency cash assistance programme for the affected populations.

To monitor the impact of Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) on Kenyan households (HHs), IMPACT Initiatives conducted a baseline assessment in Garissa and Tana River counties to assess the expenditure patterns and food security status of beneficiaries prior to the first cash transfer, which will be followed by subsequent post-distribution assessments.

This summary report presents an overview of the main findings of the baseline assessment. Findings are representative of UCT beneficiary HHs at a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error. Findings relating to a subset of that population may have a lower confidence level and a wider margin of error.

METHODOLOGY

The baseline tool was designed by IMPACT Initiatives in partnership with the KCC members. The baseline covers income and expenditure patterns, food consumption, dietary diversity, and coping strategies.

A simple random sampling approach was used to ensure data was representative of the beneficiary population (HHs) with a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error. Out of the 4,163 beneficiary HHs, a sample of 361 HHs (181 and 180 in Garissa and Tana River respectively) were interviewed.

To reduce the risk of spreading and contracting COVID-19, all the interviews were conducted through mobile phones and beneficiary responses were entered into Open Data Kit (ODK). The data was collected between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm East Africa Time (EAT) from 29 July to 1 August 2020. The majority of interviews (63%) were conducted with female respondents.

KEY FINDINGS

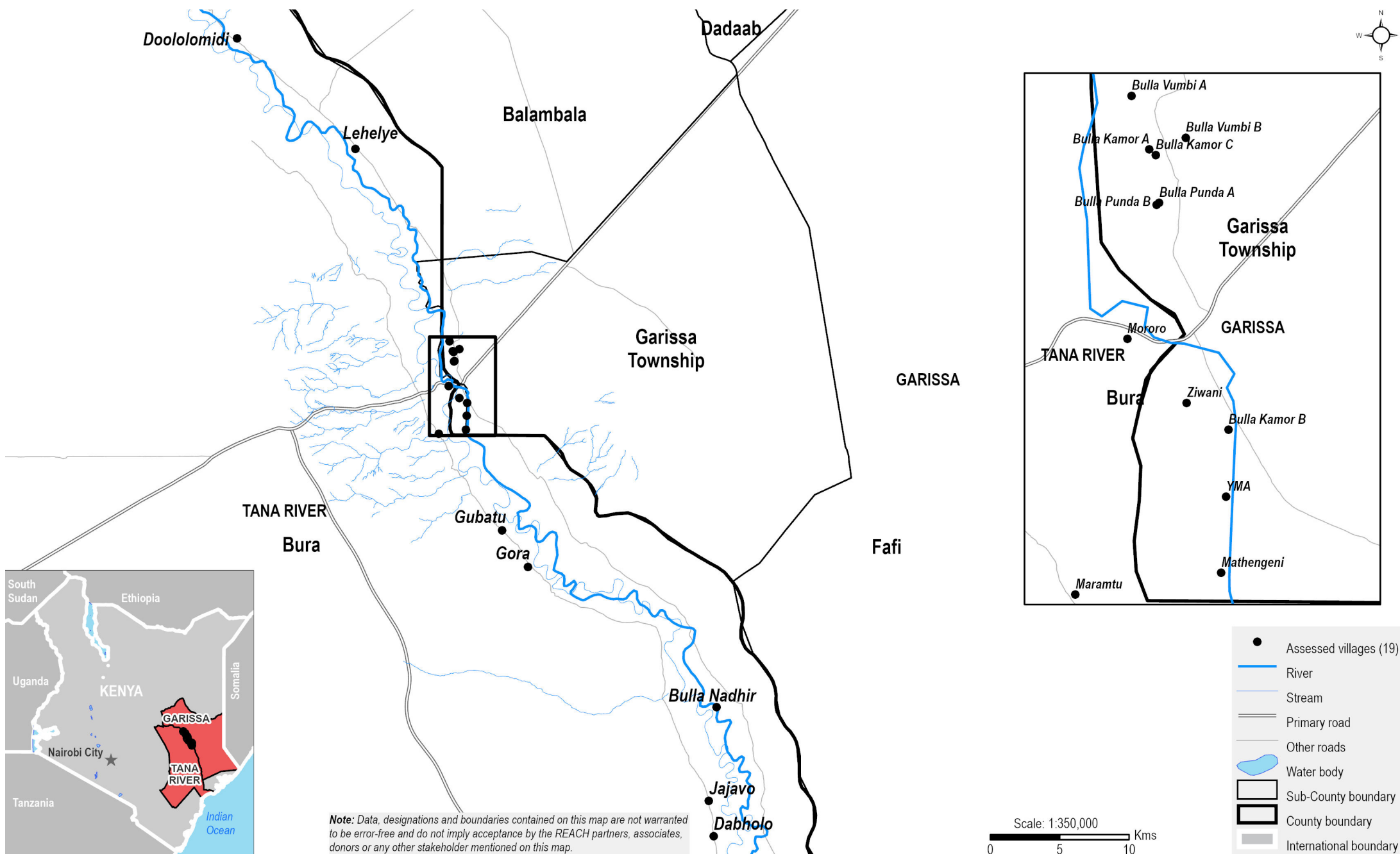
- A high proportion of HHs (77%) reportedly faced difficulties in meeting their HH needs before the flooding occurred. The proportion of HHs that reportedly faced difficulties in meeting their HH needs increased to 98% after the flooding.
- All HHs (100%) in Garissa and Tana River reported to have had at least some form of income in the 30 days prior to data collection.
- Approximately half of the HHs (52%) reported that food was their priority need in the 30 days prior to data collection.
- A high proportion of HHs (93%) reported not having access to enough money to cover their basic needs
- Common food security indicators suggested that a considerable proportion of the population in the flood-affected communities experiences food insecurity. More than half of Garissa HHs (60%) and 28% of HHs in Tana river were found to have either a “borderline” or “severe” food consumption score (FSC). In addition, 89% of HHs overall had a “moderate” or “low” household dietary diversity score (HDDS).
- While HHs were found to be comparatively more food insecure in Garissa than in Tana River, the coping strategy index (CSI) score indicated that HHs in Tana River were particularly commonly resorting to unsustainable, negative coping strategies to maintain access to food.
- All HHs (100%) reported having been treated with respect by Non Governmental Organization (NGO) staff during the selection, registration and baseline process.
- All HHs (100%) reported feeling safe during the selection, registration and baseline process.
- The key performance indicators (KPI) score was found to be 100% for HHs in Garissa and Tana River.

CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

For some questions, the recall period was 30 days, which is a considerably long time frame. Such relatively extended recall periods might impact the accuracy of the answers provided by respondents. In addition, questions on expenditure and income might have been subject to under-or over reporting due to the fact that reporting on income and expenditure is quite sensitive.

Data collection took place during Eid, a celebration in which gift and food sharing between HHs is a common practice, thus potentially impacting the results on access to food and resources as well as HH wellbeing.

LOCATIONS OF DATA COLLECTION



HOUSEHOLD WELLBEING

For this assessment, HH wellbeing is measured by the reported ability of a HH to meet all the basic needs for all its members. HHs were asked to rate their wellbeing before and after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country, the first case of which was reported in March 2020, thus coinciding with the flooding. COVID-19 was taken as a reference point to gauge the dual impact of COVID-19 and the floods on the wellbeing of beneficiary HHs. A relatively high proportion of HHs (77%) reportedly faced difficulties in meeting their HH needs before COVID-19. The proportion of HHs that reportedly faced difficulties in meeting their HH needs increased to 98% after the start of COVID-19.

HH reported wellbeing before COVID-19 in March 2020:

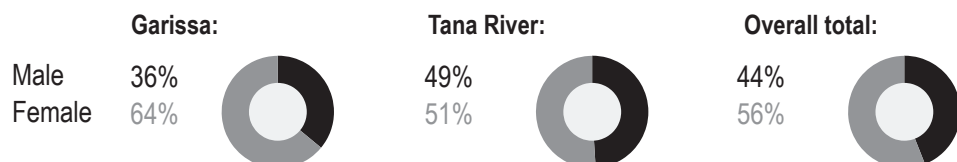
	Garissa:	Tana River:	Overall total:
We always had enough food and money for our needs	3%	10%	7%
We almost always had enough food and money for our needs	18%	13%	16%
Sometimes we struggled to have enough but mostly got through	14%	44%	30%
It was difficult to find enough food and money for our needs	31%	14%	22%
It was really difficult to find enough food and money for our needs	12%	13%	13%
We were unable to meet even our basic needs for surviving	21%	6%	13%

HH reported wellbeing after COVID-19 in March 2020:

	Garissa:	Tana River:	Overall total:
We always had enough food and money for our needs	1%	0%	1%
We almost always had enough food and money for our needs	3%	1%	2%
Sometimes we struggled to have enough but mostly got through	14%	1%	7%
It was difficult to find enough food and money for our needs	9%	48%	30%
It was really difficult to find enough food and money for our needs	46%	36%	41%
We were unable to meet even our basic needs for surviving	28%	14%	21%

Over half of the HHs (56%) were reportedly headed by women. In addition, in half of the HHs (50%) the decisions on spending were reportedly made jointly by a male and a female HH member.

Gender of head of household:



1. 1 USD=107.60832 KES in August 2020.



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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

All HHs (100%) in Garissa and Tana River reported to have had at least some form of income in the 30 days prior to data collection. The average reported monthly income per HH was 3,393 Kenya shillings (KES¹) with Tana River presenting a higher average monthly income per HH (3,612 KES¹) than Garissa (3,166 KES¹). Fourteen per cent (14%) of the HHs reported having saved some money in the 30 days prior to data collection. In Tana River, a considerably higher proportion of HHs (24%) reported having saved money in the 30 days prior to data collection than in Garissa, where only 3% of HHs had saved some money. The average reported monthly sum of savings was found to be 250 KES¹ per HH.

Most commonly reported main sources of income in the 30 days prior to data collection:

	Garissa:	Tana River:	Overall total:
Casual labour	29%	42%	36%
Farming	12%	31%	22%
Sale of firewood and charcoal	17%	14%	15%
Remittances	15%	1%	8%
Private business	7%	9%	8%
Sale of livestock and livestock products	15%	1%	7%
Skilled trade	3%	0%	2%
Rental income	2%	0%	1%
Cash transfers	0%	1%	0%

The average reported monthly expenditure per HH was 3,440 KES¹ in the 30 days prior to data collection. Findings suggest that food constituted the primary expense for assessed HHs, as 52% of HHs' average expenditure was seemingly spent on food. Given the importance of food for basic survival, [the high relative expenditure on food might indicate that HHs were experiencing poverty](#) and might not have been able to meet all their basic needs in the 30 days prior to data collection.

Top reported HH expenditure in KES¹, and the proportion of total expenditure, in the 30 days prior to data collection:

	Garissa:	Tana River:	Overall total:
Food	57% 1,784	56% 2,077	52% 1930
Repayment of food debt	12% 379	14% 518	12% 448
Medication	10% 311	10% 356	9% 333
Water and soap	7% 218	9% 335	7% 176
Savings	0% 11	2% 57	1% 34
Education	0% 15	0% 18	0% 17



FOOD SECURITY

Even though all HHs reported having had access to food in the 30 days prior to data collection, 57% of HHs in Garissa and 47% of Tana River HHs reported food being their top priority need. In addition, twelve percent (12%) of HHs in Tana River also reported “begging” as their main source of food during the 30 days prior to data collection, indicative of food insecurity. A high proportion of HHs (93%) reportedly did not have access to enough money to cover their basic needs.

Most commonly reported food sources in the 30 days prior to data collection:

	Garissa:	Tana River:	Overall total:
Purchase from the market	83%	83%	83%
Received gifts from family and friends	57%	25%	39%
Own production	2%	2%	3%
Begging	0%	12%	7%

Reported levels of access to sufficient money to cover basic needs in the 30 days prior to data collection:

	Garissa:	Tana River:	Overall total:
We can always find money when we need it	1%	1%	1%
We have almost always been able to get enough money	11%	3%	7%
We have sometimes been able to find enough money	15%	28%	22%
We have almost never found enough money	57%	51%	54%
We never have enough money	15%	17%	16%

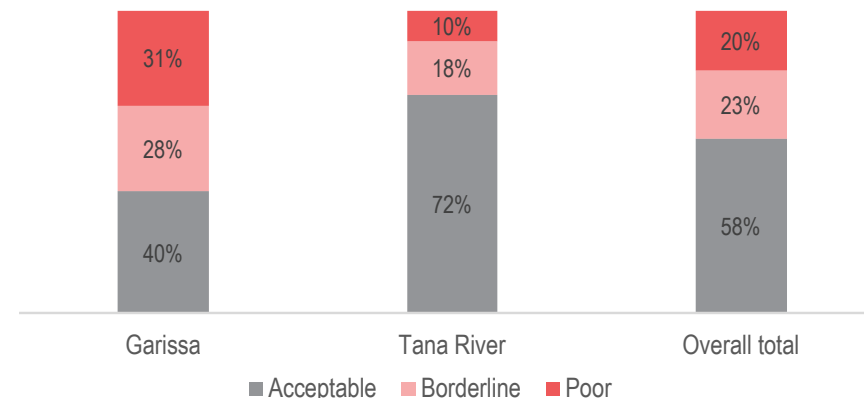
FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE (FCS):²

The FCS measures how well a HH is eating by evaluating the frequency with which differently weighted food groups are consumed by a HH in the seven days prior to data collection. Only foods consumed in the home are counted in this indicator. The FCS is used to classify HHs into three groups: poor, borderline or acceptable food consumption, and the HHs with acceptable FCS are considered food secure, while those with borderline or poor FCS are considered moderately or severely food insecure, respectively.

Baseline data suggests that 60% of HHs in Garissa and 28% of HHs in Tana River were either moderately or severely food insecure. The FCS would likely be worse if HHs had already depleted their abilities to employ (negative) coping strategies to cope with a lack of food (see page 5).

2. Find more information on food security indicators (FCS, CSI, HDDS) [here](#).

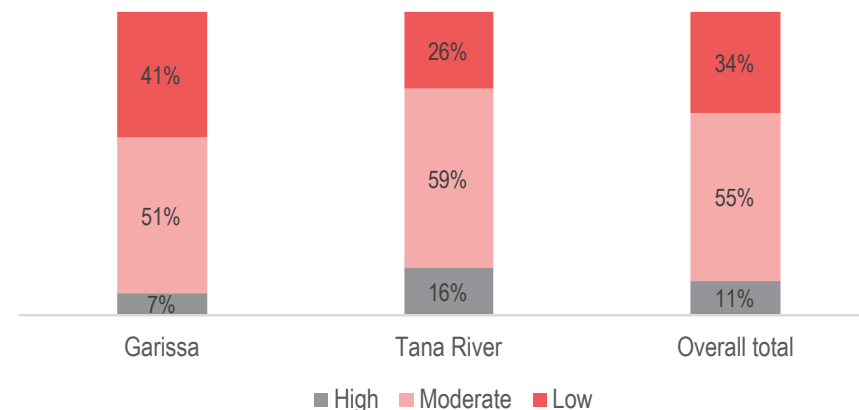
Proportion of HHs with the following FCS:



HOUSEHOLD DIETARY DIVERSITY SCORE (HDDS):²

HHs 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 the dietary diversity of beneficiary HHs. The HDDS is used to classify HHs into three groups: high, moderate or low dietary diversity. HHs with high HDDS are considered food secure, while those with moderate or low HDDS are considered moderately or severely food insecure respectively. Findings from the baseline assessment indicate that 89% of the assessed HHs were either moderately or severely food insecure at the time of data collection.

Proportion of HHs with the following HDDS:



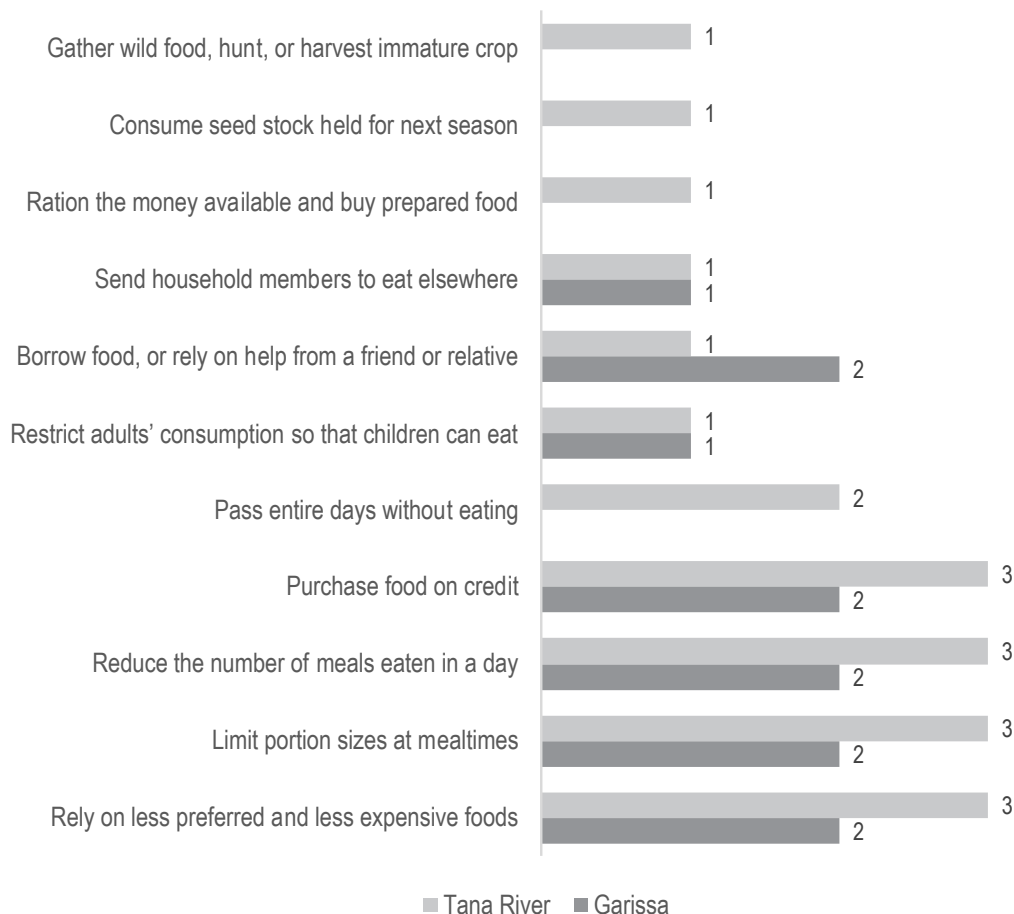
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COPING STRATEGIES

The full coping strategy index (CSI) measures the extent to which a HH uses negative, unsustainable coping mechanisms to deal with a shortage of food. A high CSI score indicates a potential deterioration of food consumption in the near future. While the FCS and HDDS found that HHs in Garissa were comparatively more food insecure than Tana River HHs, the average CSI score was generally higher for HHs in Tana River (74) than for HHs in Garissa (49), indicating the precariousness of the food security of HHs in both assessed locations.

Average number of days each of the following coping strategies was reportedly used within the HH to cope with a shortage of food in the seven days prior to data collection:³



3. HHs could select multiple answers



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ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS

Findings indicate that HHs were generally content with the cash assistance programme. For instance, no HHs reported perceiving that beneficiary selection was an unfair process, and all HHs reported feeling treated with respect by the NGO staff. Moreover, all HHs reported generally feeling safe during selection, registration, and the baseline process. All HHs reported mobile money transfer to be their preferred mode of cash assistance. Almost all assessed beneficiary HHs in Garissa and Tana river (92% and 97%, respectively) reported having been consulted by NGO staff on the relevance of the provided assistance. Moreover, all HHs reported knowing of channels in place to report complaints, such as the dedicated hotline and talking directly to NGO staff.

Proportion of beneficiary HHs reporting on key performance indicators (KPIs), by county:

	Garissa	Tana River	Average
Programming was safe	100%	100%	100%
Programming was respectful	100%	100%	100%
Community was consulted	92%	97%	95%
No payments to register	100%	100%	100%
No coercion during registration	100%	100%	100%
No unfair selection	100%	100%	100%
KPI Score	100%	100%	100%

About IMPACT Initiatives' COVID-19 response

As an initiative deployed in many vulnerable and crisis-affected countries, IMPACT initiatives is deeply concerned by the devastating impact the COVID-19 pandemic may have on the millions of affected people we seek to serve. IMPACT initiatives is currently working with Cash Working Groups and partners to scale up its programming in response to this pandemic, with the goal of identifying practical ways to inform humanitarian responses in the countries where we operate. COVID-19-relevant market monitoring and market assessments are a key area where IMPACT initiatives aims to leverage its existing expertise to help humanitarian actors understand the impact of changing restrictions on markets and trade. Updates regarding IMPACT Initiatives' response to COVID-19 can be found in [a devoted thread](#) on the REACH website. Contact geneva@impact-initiatives.org for further information.