



SUMMARY REPORT

**POST DISTRIBUTION
MONITORING:
BAY & TOGDHEER**

September 2023

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An 11-year-old collects water in the Toghdeer region in Somaliland which leaves her feeling exhausted.

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CONTEXT BACKGROUND

Despite high levels of multi-sectoral assistance, the ongoing 2020–2023 drought claimed the lives of an estimated 46,000 in 2022 alone. Severe outcomes are expected to persist, and humanitarian assistance remains vital. Four and half million people received emergency humanitarian food assistance in March 2023 in Somalia according to the Somalia Food Security Cluster (FSC). A figure expected to be maintained over the period April to June period. Agropastoral populations in Burhakaba (Bay), displaced populations in Baidoa and Mogadishu, pastoral areas in central Somalia, and agropastoral areas in Togdheer region remain among the areas of highest concern (FEWSNET, March 2023). Compounding food insecurity, 1.8 million children (over half of Somalia’s under 5 population) are estimated to suffer from acute malnutrition through July 2023. Timely and adequate expansion of humanitarian assistance helped avert famine in the last quarter of 2022. However, the situation remains critical (WFP, 2023).

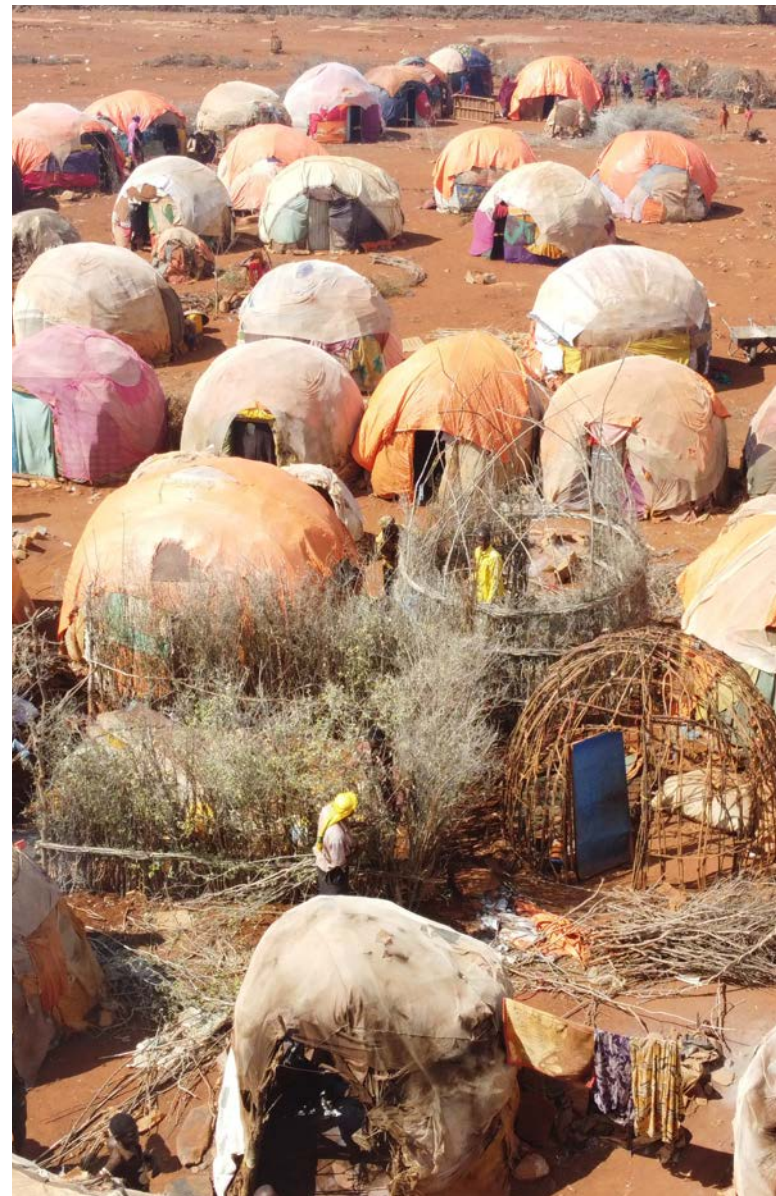
PROJECT BACKGROUND

Plan International scaled up its existing and ongoing lifesaving interventions with three projects to respond to the humanitarian needs in Bay and Togdheer regions. The projects involved multipurpose cash transfers and water trucking. The projects targeted IDP households affected by the current displacement due to drought in Baidoa, Odweyne and Burao districts. Within these displaced populations, newly arrived households (HHs), extremely poor households, separated and unaccompanied children, child headed, and female headed households (CHHs/FHHs), people living with disabilities (PLWD), minorities and the elderly are the primary target communities for this project. The intervention ensured the provision of an inclusive, safe, and protective learning environment and access to life-saving services for children through an integrated approach targeting those in the worst drought-affected areas.

PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES

Examine the beneficiary targeting and registration processes and verification of selected beneficiaries:

- To assess the effectiveness, appropriateness and fairness of the beneficiary selection process and community engagement
- To assess the accountability to affected population (beneficiaries)
- To monitor the cash transfer process and identify any issues and challenges
- To assess the impact of cash assistance on meeting basic needs and protection outcomes with a focus on girls and women



METHODOLOGY

Design & Methods

The PDM adopted a cross-sectional study design to collect data at one point to measure the progress made by the projects in the delivery of the planned MPCA and water interventions in the target locations. The study adopted mixed-method approach involving methods that included desk review, household survey, key informant interviews and field observations.

Sampling Methods

A multi-stage cluster sampling was used to randomly select a representative sample of beneficiaries. Sample size of this study was determined using Cochran's formula that provides minimum sample size to get a representative sample of the population. The sample size was proportionally distributed to randomized project locations through probability proportionate to population size (PPPS).

Sample Size

The sample size is proportionally distributed through probability proportionate to population size (PPPS) to randomly sampled villages, as clusters, in each region.

The below table shows the distribution:

District	Sample
Baidao	331
Burco	113
Odweyne	231
Total	675

In addition, a purposive sampling was used for the KIIs to select the relevant informants who can provide in-depth insights on the project performance in relation to multi-purpose cash assistance and the community experience. The KIIs primarily targeted community leaders, IDP camp leaders or local officials to provide aggregate information pertaining to the project.

FINDINGS

Number of beneficiaries



1,684
HOUSEHOLDS

10,104
INDIVIDUALS

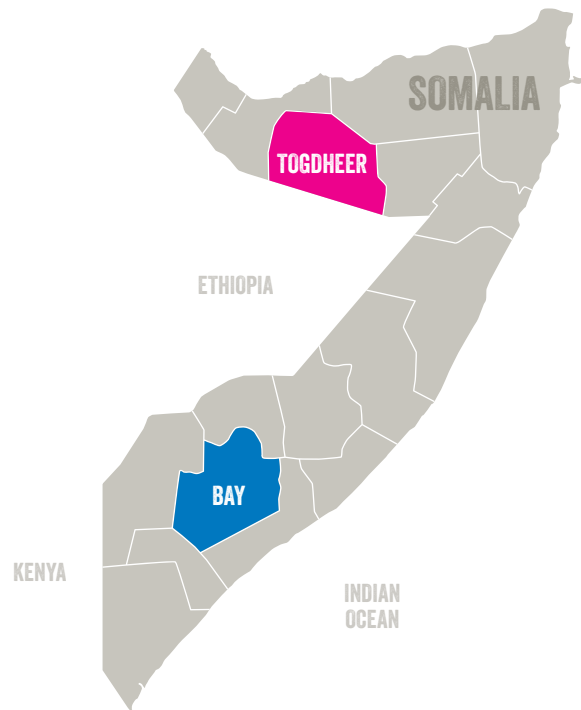


600
HOUSEHOLDS

3,600
INDIVIDUALS

Geographic locations

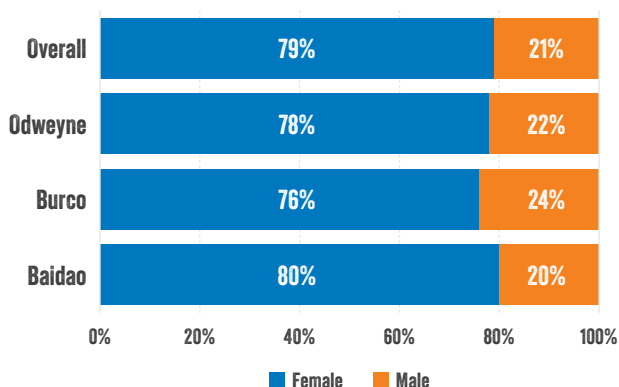
The three projects together supported 1,684 households with multi-purpose cash transfer and 600 households with water trucking in Bay and Togdheer. The PDM Survey reached as sample of 678 of the households benefitted from the cash and water.



District	Female	Male	Overall
Baidao	272	66	338
Burco	86	27	113
Odweyne	176	51	227
Overall	534	144	678

Gender of the respondents

With regards to the gender of the respondent, 79% of the surveyed beneficiaries were female while the remaining 21% were male respondents. The registered beneficiaries were mostly women, this suggests that when received, women directly spend the cash on the household needs as opposed to men.



Source of income

The vast majority of the surveyed households don't have a reliable source of income. Humanitarian aid (cash transfers), casual labour, remittances and small business are the main sources of income relied by these households.

Selection Process

The most vulnerable and marginalized groups were selected to benefit from the cash and water assistance. Overall, 67% of the selected households were households with no income sources. In addition, 59% of the selected households were marginalized households. 51% of the selected households were female-headed households while 50% of the selected households were households of people with disabilities. Besides, 25% of the selected households were households with malnourished children and 11% of the households were extended families with many adolescent girls.

All (100%) of the surveyed respondents indicated that the right beneficiaries were selected. All (100%) of the surveyed respondents reported that the registration process was fair and inclusive

“This project was needed by the community and it was appropriate, the beneficiaries were selected fairly and they were including women and vulnerable people in need.”

KII PARTICIPANT, GATIITALEY

Cash Transfer Process

Overall, 77% of the respondents confirmed that they have been shared with the relevant project information. 90% of the sample confirmed that they were informed about the time and frequency of the cash distribution whereas, 92% of the respondents indicated that they were informed about the amount of cash entitlements they will receive. All (100%) of the respondents confirmed that there were no differences between the amount of cash entitlements they were told and the amount they have actually received. Amount received as per below table:

Project	District	Amount (USD) per HH per transfer
DNO	Baidoa	105
INO	Baidoa	120
DNO	Odweyne	90
GNO	Burao	50

Overall, 98% of the respondents reported that they have not encountered any challenges while receiving the cash. In rating of the distribution process, 75% of the respondents rated the process as 'very good', 12% as 'good' and 10% as 'average'. The surveyed beneficiaries also confirmed that they have received the money through mobile money transfers (Zaad and eDahab).

Cash Diversion

The PDM survey also examined whether the beneficiaries were asked for payment at any point in the process (from registration to before or after collection of assistance). All of the surveyed beneficiaries confirmed that they were neither asked for payment nor made any payment to anyone during the process of receiving this cash assistance.

Household Expenditure

On average, 59% of the cash was used to purchase food followed by clothes/shoes, education, debt repayment and health costs. The cash was used to cover basic household needs at the time.

Satisfaction In the transfer process

All of the surveyed beneficiaries reported that they are very satisfied with the process of receiving the cash. All of the surveyed beneficiaries expressed satisfaction in the amount of cash they received. The vast majority of the surveyed beneficiaries preferred cash support over in-kind and voucher. Overall, 62% of the sample reported that, with the cash, they were able to meet some of their basic needs while 33% indicated that the cash covered most of their needs and only 15% indicated that the cash covered all of their basic needs.



Food Security Outcomes

Food Access

Overall, 52% of the surveyed households are in the acceptable category of food consumption score, meaning acceptable access to diversified food. In addition, 27% are in the borderline while 21% are in the poor category. This indicates that higher proportion of the households have improved access to diversified food. The findings reveal that the biggest chunk of the cash was spent on food, reflecting that the cash has supported the target households improve their access to diversified food groups.

Coping Strategies

The findings indicate that, overall, 36% of the surveyed households engage no or low coping strategy, 44% engage medium coping strategy and only 20% of the surveyed households engage more severe coping strategies. This reflects that lower proportion of the beneficiaries are engaging severe coping mechanisms which suggests that the cash supported the target households purchase food and other necessary households' items, hence, reducing negative coping mechanisms.

Impact of the Cash

Nearly all (95%) of the sample reported that through the cash, they were able to meet their basic household needs. The project supported the target beneficiaries to meet their basic needs that include food, water and household needs. Besides, the project supported beneficiaries to pay their children's' school fees and helps many families keep their girls in school. This reflects that while the cash assistance improved the living conditions of the target households, reduced financial burden and stress and improved access to girls' education in the selected households, the cash provided only short-term relief and without the project the results are reversible.

“This project responded to the community’s needs and they received money to buy basic necessities such as food and to send their children to schools, especially girls.”

KII PARTICIPANT, UNUUNLEY

Priority Needs

The PDM assessed the priority needs of the surveyed households, as such, food, water, health, education and debt repayment comprised the main prevailing needs in the target areas.

THE PRIORITY NEEDS ARE RANKED AS BELOW »



FOOD



WATER



HEALTH



EDUCATION



DEBT REPAYMENT

“The most pressing needs in our community are food and shelter, and we request an increase in cash assistance if possible.”

MALE RESPONDENTS

CONCLUSION

The result shows that, while delivered effectively and ethically, the assistance improved the living conditions of the target households by improving their access to food and meeting other household needs. In addition, findings indicate positive outcomes in the food security of the surveyed communities as the households were engaging less severe coping strategies and reported higher scores of food consumption score, food access. The result also indicates positive impact reporting that the assistance helped the target communities meet their basic needs.

However, the findings show that while the assistance has improved the living conditions of the target beneficiaries, it only provided short-term relief. Finally, while the surveyed beneficiaries appreciated the support provided and the results, without the project, the basic needs of food, water, children's education and debt repayments will still prevail.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The project provided life-saving assistance to affected communities, however, given the current humanitarian situation, it is important to further continue the support provided to the vulnerable beneficiaries and save more lives
 - It is recommended that longer term sustainable livelihood strategies are introduced
 - To improve the impact of cash, it is important to integrate the cash with other relevant activities like water trucking, provision of NFIs and awareness raising activities. This will help households focus, with the cash, on main needs like food and child's education as other basic needs like water and NFIs provided
 - To promote the importance of education, particularly girls' education, it is also important to integrate the MPCA with awareness raising on girls' education and address socio-cultural norms on girls' education like early marriage, FGM and household chores
 - It is important to continue supporting households who cannot afford education fees for their girls to help these girls continue their education
- It is also important to provide more support like school feeding programs, water and learning aids at school to ensure that children are kept in school and continue learning during drought





Cover photograph: A 9-year-old is suffering from the lack of food in and IDP camp in Somaliland.
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About Plan International

Founded in 1937, Plan International is a development and humanitarian organisation that advances children's rights and equality for girls in 78 countries. In 2020/21, Plan International's income was €1 billion including €390m of grants income reaching 50.3 million children and partnering with 39,607 organisations.

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