

ICSP MPCA intervention to SC beneficiaries of Dollow, Belet Hawa, and Luuq Districts, Gedo Region, Somalia

Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) Report June 2023

CONTEXT

Overall, acute food insecurity and malnutrition levels remain high in Somalia following the impacts of persistent drought since late 2020. However, the results of the March assessments indicate that more extreme outcomes in the surveyed areas are being mitigated by sustained humanitarian assistance, declining food prices, and access to agricultural and casual labour employment and other income-earning opportunities. 6.6 million Somalia residents are expected to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or, worse acute food insecurity by June 2023, with 39% needing urgent humanitarian assistance. The burden of acute malnutrition among children under five remains valid. 1.8 million children are expected to be acutely malnourished in Somalia from January to December 2023, including 477,700 who are projected to be severely malnourished.¹ Nutrition surveys conducted in late 2022 and March 2023 point to high levels of acute malnutrition in many areas, with most population groups across Somalia having faced Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4) or Serious (IPC AMN Phase 3) levels of acute malnutrition through June 2023. Findings of the assessments conducted in late 2022 and March 2023 generally show low levels of mortality (Crude Death Rate (CDR) and/or Under-Five Death Rate (U5DR) in most surveyed areas of Somalia.²

The main drivers of acute malnutrition and mortality are household-level reductions in food and milk consumption, disease outbreaks (including acute watery diarrhoea (AWD), cholera, and measles and associated high levels of morbidity among children, limited health and nutrition services, and persistent underlying causes related to sanitation and health.³

¹ WFP (May 2023) Somalia Country Brief, retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/report/somalia/wfp-somalia-country-brief-may-2023#:~:text=Approximately%201.8%20million%20children%20under,projected%20to%20be%20severely%20malnourished.>

² IPC (2023) Somalia: Acute Malnutrition Situation March 2023 and Projection for April - June 2023, retrieved from <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1156309/?iso3=SOM>

³ Somalia 2023 post Gua acute food insecurity situation overview, Rural, Urban and IDP populations (current, Apr-June 2023)

PROJECT BACKGROUND

2021 Somalia Humanitarian Response Plan In light of the aforementioned, Trócaire received funds from Irish Aid under the five-year Ireland's Civil Society Partnership (2023-2027) funding scheme. The proposed programme will contribute to a Better World by implementing interlinked Long-Term Development, Chronic Humanitarian Crises, and Acute Humanitarian Crises programmes in 15 poor, climate-affected, and fragile countries across the world. Trócaire's Strategic Plan – Local Power Global Justice (2021-2025) forms the core framework that underpins the programme proposal. The ICSP programme has four long-term outcomes and several intermediate and immediate outcomes. It integrates Health and Nutrition, Protection, and Resilience programming to address the needs of affected people holistically. Nutrition falls under Goal 4 – saving lives and protecting human dignity. Trócaire supports a locally driven response to save lives, alleviate suffering, and safeguard human dignity, with the long-term goal of ensuring that communities impacted by a disaster can satisfy their fundamental requirements.

The Nutrition programme targets children under five and pregnant and lactating mothers suffering from severe and moderate malnutrition. These are the most vulnerable groups, usually lacking access to essential services. Furthermore, the majority of the vulnerable populace, especially the new IDPs, are from Somalia's disadvantaged minority tribes. Under Nutrition, Trócaire implemented a multipurpose cash assistance intervention. Its main goal was to provide cash to roughly 370 IDPs and host community households for three months. At the time, food prices were relatively high owing to currency fluctuations. The targeted households in the Dollow, Belet Hawa, and Luuq districts received \$88 in cash assistance.

Trócaire collaborated closely with the District Health Boards, local authorities, and Nutrition cluster to ensure that best practices were followed during project execution. Coordination was emphasised to provide effective and efficient integrated lifesaving support to vulnerable and disadvantaged communities in the three districts.

The post-distribution monitoring study (PDM) was carried out from the 21st to the 29th of June 2023, roughly one month after the Cash disbursement. This report provides findings of the post-distribution monitoring (PDM) of cash transfers in the three districts, Luuq, Balad Hawa, and Dollow.

OBJECTIVES

The PDM assessment sought to:

- Address the appropriateness/relevance of the Cash transfer.
- To Provide information on the efficiency and effectiveness of Cash intervention.
- To advise appropriate recommendations for future programmes.
- To determine beneficiaries' preferences for cash and food basket vouchers.

QUALITY CONTROL

The project MEAL team designed the PDM questionnaire, which was then reviewed by the project implementation team and scripted into the Commcare software. Enumerators were trained on the tool, and they collected actual data under the supervision of MEAL and the project team to guarantee data quality was maintained throughout the data collection. Commcare HQ mobile app was used for data collection. Digital data collection reduced the possibilities of errors, more so the common ones if otherwise a pen-and-paper method was used. The MEAL staff thoroughly cleaned and analysed the data using Microsoft Excel to generate the PDM findings.

ETHICS

The research ethics observed in the Post-Distribution Monitoring survey were:

- Do no harm,
- Informed consent,
- Voluntary participation, and
- Anonymity and confidentiality.

All interviewees were informed of the monitoring exercise and objectives. They were also assured that their participation would not harm them. Finally, they were assured that their data was anonymised and protected during processing and storage.

METHODOLOGY

One hundred eighty (180) people were interviewed, 60 from each of the three districts (Luuq, Beled Hawa, and Dollow). Respondents were chosen from households that received cash transfers after their children were discharged from stabilisation centres; 49% of those who received cash assistance were selected to participate in the post-distribution monitoring.

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF PDM FINDINGS

- One hundred eighty (180) individuals participated in the PDM, and a 100% response rate was recorded.
- The average household size was 8 persons, slightly higher than the national average of 6 persons.
- 3% of the monitored households had a household member with a disability.
- 84% of beneficiaries received cash, while 16% did not receive cash transfers, with the majority of those who did not being from Dollow District.
- One hundred forty (140) households received 88 dollars, 7 households received 80, 4 households received 70, and 1 family received 50.
- 99% of those who received cash stated that the mode of payment was mobile money transfer, while 1 (1%) received it using physical means.
- Most respondents (87%) used cash to buy food, water, and pay off debt.
- 68% confirmed both husband and wife made household decisions on the use of cash, 20% said the male head of the HH made the decision, 11% said the female head of the HH, and 1% said the whole household members were involved in the decision-making of how cash was used.
- Overall, 59% of households were satisfied with the amount of cash assistance, 34% were strongly satisfied, 6% dissatisfied, and 1% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.
- 99% confirmed that the cash assistance initiative was an excellent intervention, while 1% opined that it was not.
- 85% preferred cash to food basket assistance, whereas 15% preferred food basket intervention.

DETAILED PDM FINDINGS

Table 1: Samples per District

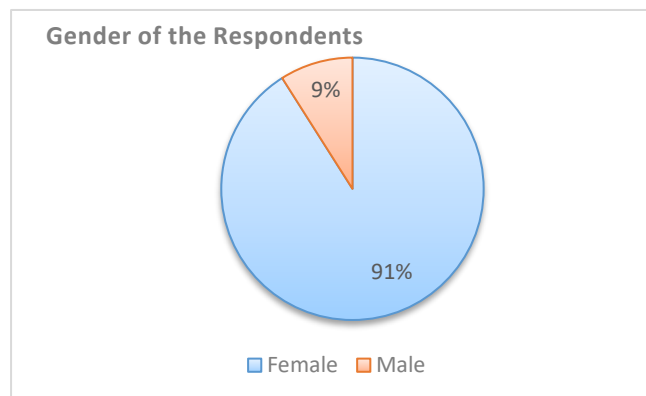
District	Actual data	Sample size
Belet Hawa	60	60
Dollow	60	60
Luuq	60	60
Grand Total	180	180

Demographic Information

1. Respondent rate

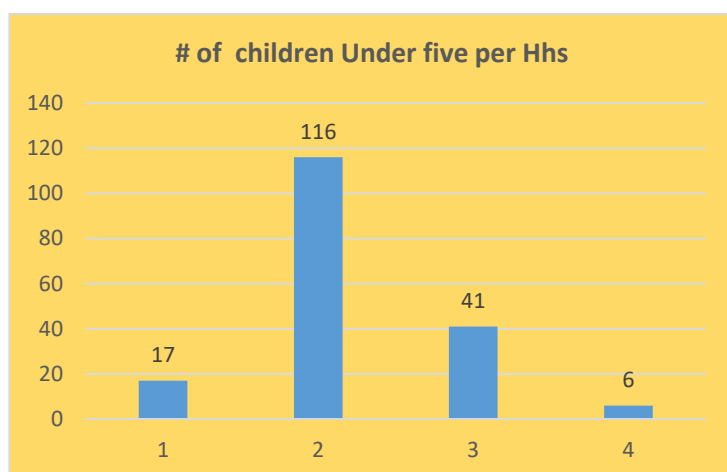
one hundred eighty (180) individuals participated in the PDM, and there was a 100% response rate.

Respondents' gender and Household Head



Among the 180 respondents, 163 (91%) were women, and 17 (9%) were men, as illustrated in the alongside chart. Further analysis found that 87% of the households were headed by men, while just 13% were headed by women.

Children under Five Years



As shown by this graph, 180 households (Hhs) had children under the age of five years; 116 households had two children under the age of five, 41 households had three children under the age of five, 6 households had four children under the age of five, and 17 households had one child under the age of five. This finding suggests that the average number of children per household is two. The average household size is 8, somewhat higher than the national average of 6 persons.

Belet Hawa had an average of 8.4, Dollow had an average of 8.1, and Luuq had an average of 8.5 members.

Household with Disability

HH with Disability.	Column Labels			
Row Labels	Beledhawa	dollow	Luuq	Grand Total
no difficulty	95%	68%	83%	82%
Yes, a lot of difficulty	0%	7%	2%	3%
Yes, some difficulty	5%	25%	15%	15%
Grand Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

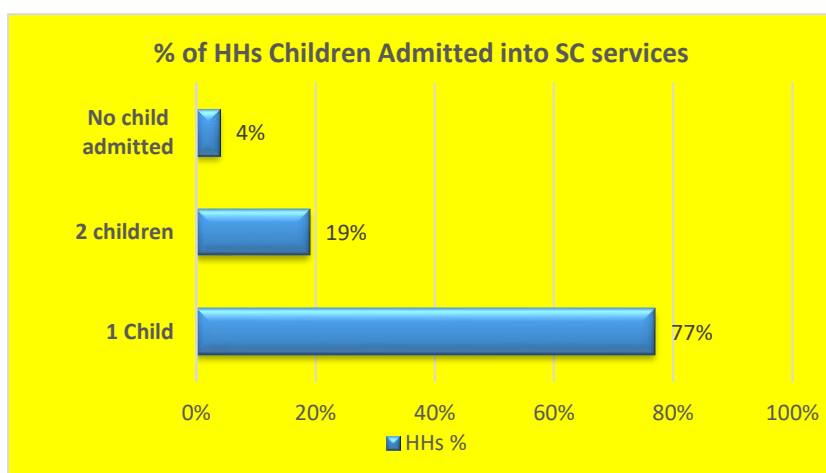
The above table shows the households with people living with disabilities. Dollow had more people living with disabilities (7%) than Luuq (2%). Of the 180 interviewed households, only 3 per cent were from a household with a person with a disability.

Children's admissions to the Nutrition programme

Row Labels	Beledhawa	dollow	Luuq	Grand Total
no	3	4		7

yes	57	56	60	173
Grand Total	60	60	60	180

The table above depicts child admission to SC services, and household respondents were asked whether their child/children were admitted into SC services. 57 HHs in Beledhawa stated that their children were admitted to SCs. In contrast, 3 households said their children were not admitted to SCs. 56 HHs in Dollow indicated their children were admitted into the programme, while 4 reported not being admitted. In Luuq, 60 households stated that their children were admitted into SC. According to this result, 173 (94%) families said their children were admitted to SC services, whereas 7 (4%) households reported that their children had not been admitted.



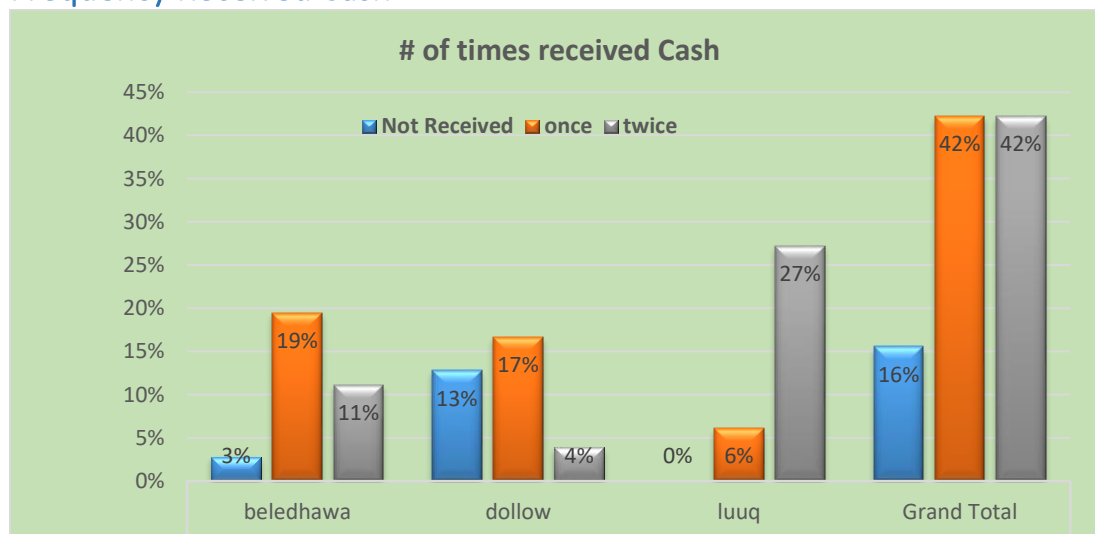
The graph shows the number of children admitted to stabilisation Centres. When respondents were asked how many children were admitted to SCs, 77% said they had one child admitted, 19% said they had two children admitted, and 4% said their children were not admitted.

Received cash transfer from Trocaire after child discharged

Row Labels	Beledhawa	dollow	Luuq	Grand Total
No	5(8%)	23(38%)	0%	28(16%)
Yes	55(92%)	37(62%)	60(100%)	152(84%)
Grand Total	60	60	60	180

When asked if they had received cash in Dollow, 37 (62%) said they had, while 23 (38%) had not. In Beledhawa, 55 (92%) said they had received it, while 5 (8%) said they had not. On the other hand, in Luuq, all respondents confirmed receiving cash after their children were discharged from nutrition services, as shown in the table above. According to these findings, 84% of beneficiaries received cash, while 16% did not, with a vast majority of those not coming from the Dollow District. This latter should be explored further to establish why people did not receive money despite being on the list of those that received cash.

Frequency Received Cash



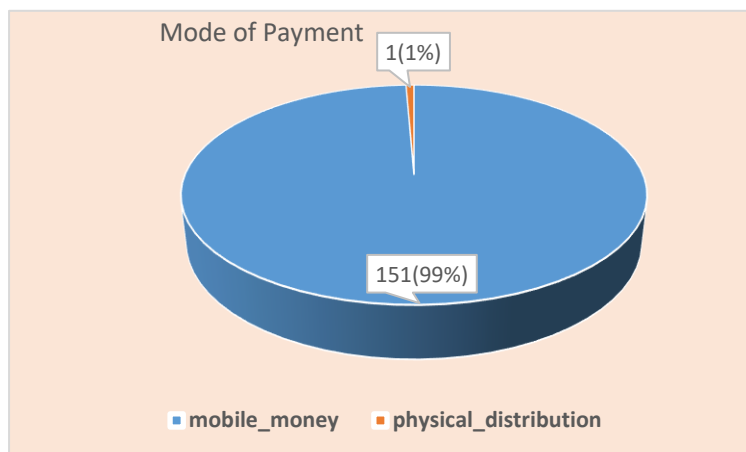
When asked how often they received cash transfers after their children were discharged from the stabilisation centre (SC), those that confirmed receiving cash twice were as follows: 27% in Luuq, 11% in Beledhawa, and 4% in Dollow. Those who received all cash at once were: 19% of Beledhawa respondents, 17% of Dollow, and 6% of Luuq. According to the results, 42% of respondents received cash once or twice, while 16% stated they did not get cash transfers after their children were discharged from the SC. The results also show that 100% of Luuq respondents received cash, whereas 16% did not receive were from Dollow (13%) and Beledhawa (3%).

Amount Received after children discharged from stabilisation centre

How much did you receive from the Trocaire cash transfer	Beledhawa	Dollow	Luuq	Grand Total
50		1		1
70	1	3		4
80	1	6		7
88	53	27	60	140
Not received	5	23		28
Grand Total	60	60	60	180

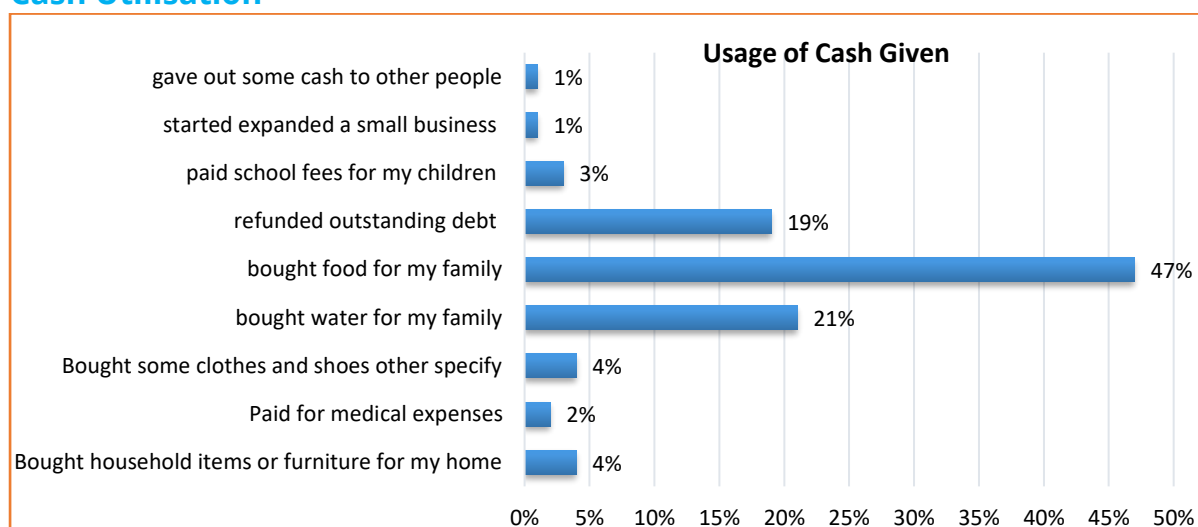
The table indicates the amount of money received by households; 140 households received 88 dollars, 7 households received 80 dollars, 4 households received 70 dollars, and 1 family received 50 dollars. All the interviewed persons from Luuq received 88 dollars, 53 HHs from Beledhawa reported receiving 88 dollars, whereas, in Dollow, only 27 households received 88 dollars, 6 households received 80 dollars, 3 households received 70 dollars, and 1 family received 50 dollars. Based on these findings, a follow-up action will be required to determine the variations in the amounts to no cash receipts reported by the beneficiaries after their children were discharged from the SC.

Mode of payment



According to this chart, out of 153 respondents who stated that they received money from the stabilisation centre after their children were discharged, 99% attested that the mode of payment was mobile money transfer. In contrast, 1 (1%) collected the cash physically.

Cash Utilisation



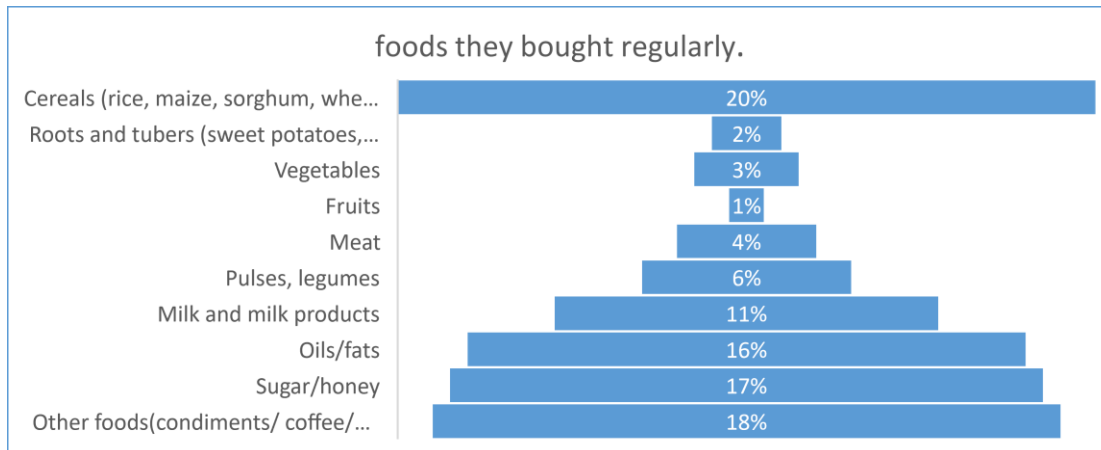
According to the chart above, when asked how they spent their money, 47% said they bought food, 21% had bought water, 19% paid off debt, 8% purchased household furniture and clothes/shoes, 3% paid school fees for their children, while 2% stated that they formed a small business and provided money to others. According to this finding, most respondents (87%) used cash to buy food, water and pay off debt. In sum, all the money transferred to beneficiaries was channelled to good use besides beneficiaries using it for their pressing needs. In this regard, unconditional multipurpose cash assistance allowed them to address their needs and preferences.

The use of cash to make food-related purchases indicates that households had difficulty accessing food commodities due to financial constraints. This contributed to HH's food insecurity, increasing malnutrition cases throughout the region. ICSP Goal 4 programming should continue addressing the core causes of child malnutrition and food insecurity.

Types of Foods Bought

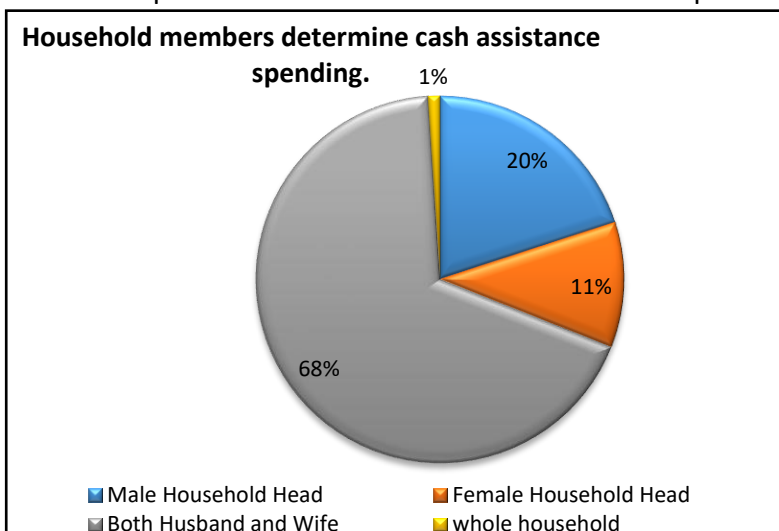
Those who bought food were asked what foods they bought regularly. The graph below shows how frequently they used cash to purchase certain food groups used at the household level, and 20% of the respondents said they bought cereals, 18% bought foods such as condiments/Tea/coffee, 17% purchased sugar/honey, 16% stated they bought oils/fats, 6% bought pulse/legumes, 3% used to vegetables, and 25% purchased roots and tubers. This result indicates that cereals such as rice, maize, sorghum, wheat flour, and maize flour were

the most often purchased commodities by the respondents, followed by condiments/tea/coffee with 18%.



Cash Assistance Decision-Making

Responders were asked who decided on spending the cash assistance provided by the organisation, and they provided the information shown in the chart. 68% of the households mentioned that both husband and wife made decisions, 20% said male heads decided on cash use, 11% said female heads decided, and 1% said whole household members decided on assistance utilisation. The results show that most respondents opined both partners made cash expenditure decisions at the household level. This finding demonstrates significant collaboration between husband and wife and increased female decision-making at the household level.



Satisfaction with Cash Assistance Received

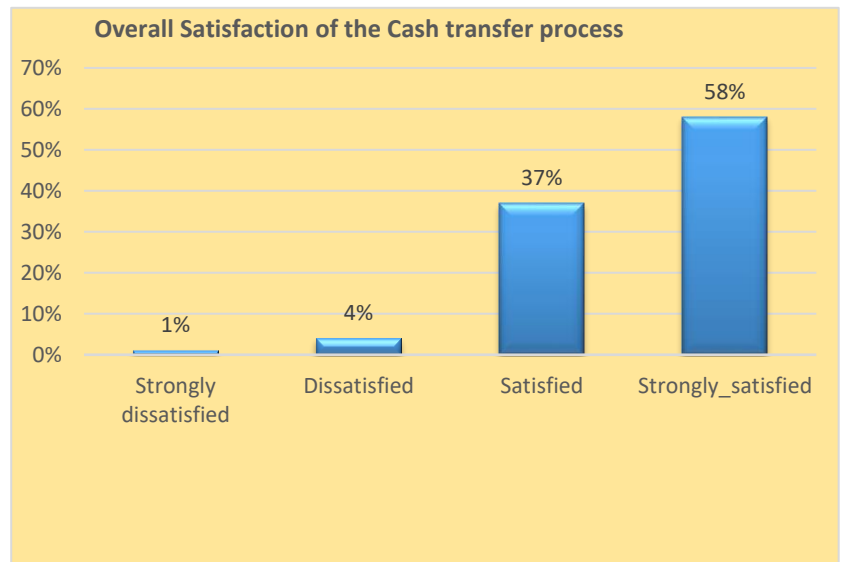
Rating	Beledhawa	Dollow	Luuq	Grand Total
Strongly dissatisfied	0%	3%	0%	1%
Dissatisfied	0%	24%	0%	6%
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	0%	0%	2%	1%
Satisfied	91%	73%	20%	59%
Strongly Satisfied	9%	0%	78%	34%
Total rating	100%	100%	100%	100%

The above table illustrates the level of satisfaction with the amount of cash assistance. Overall, 59% of households were satisfied with the amount of cash assistance, 34% were strongly satisfied, 6% were dissatisfied, 1% were strongly dissatisfied, and 1% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. In Dollow, the dissatisfied individuals were 24%, while 3% were

strongly dissatisfied with the amount of cash assistance. In Luuq, 2% of respondents were dissatisfied with the cash support. There is a need to conduct further inquiry to determine the reasons for dissatisfaction and what needs to be done to increase the satisfaction ratings.

Overall satisfaction with the cash transfer process

95% of respondents were satisfied with the cash transfer process, while just 5% were dissatisfied. The respondents had diverse views about the process, with those satisfied explaining that the process was secure, confidential, well-organised, fast, efficient, and reliable. In this regard, the cash transfer process was efficient.

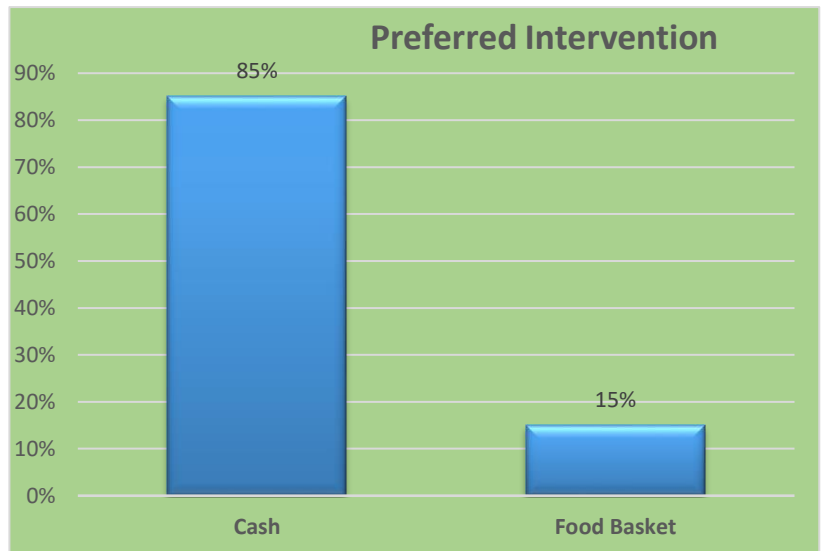


Perception towards Cash Transfer Interventions



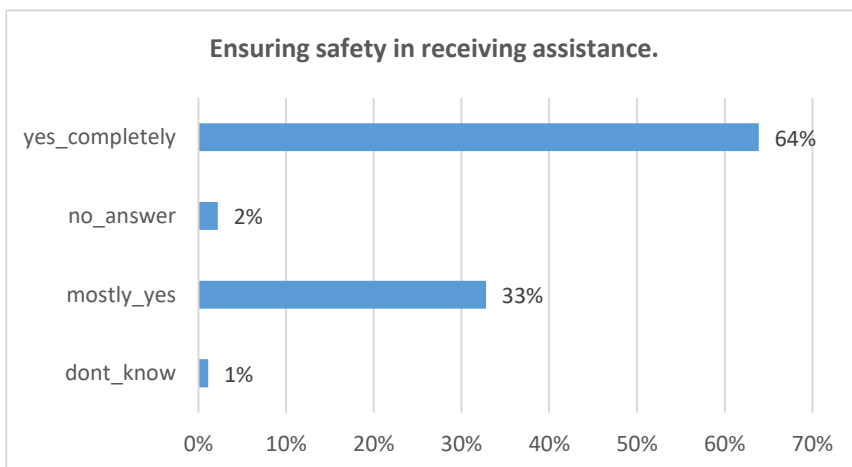
This chart shows the usefulness of cash transfer interventions, with the majority of respondents (99%) stating that cash transfer initiatives were excellent interventions. In comparison, 1% of respondents claimed that cash transfer interventions were not good. This finding shows that cash transfer interventions were successful and beneficial to the people supported.

Upon being asked about the intervention of preference between Cash or food basket, 85% of the people supported preferred cash to food basket assistance, as shown in the chart. The monitored HHs affirmed that cash was the most secure and confidential method of receiving money, especially if sent via mobile, and thus the reason for their preference.



Protection Mainstreaming

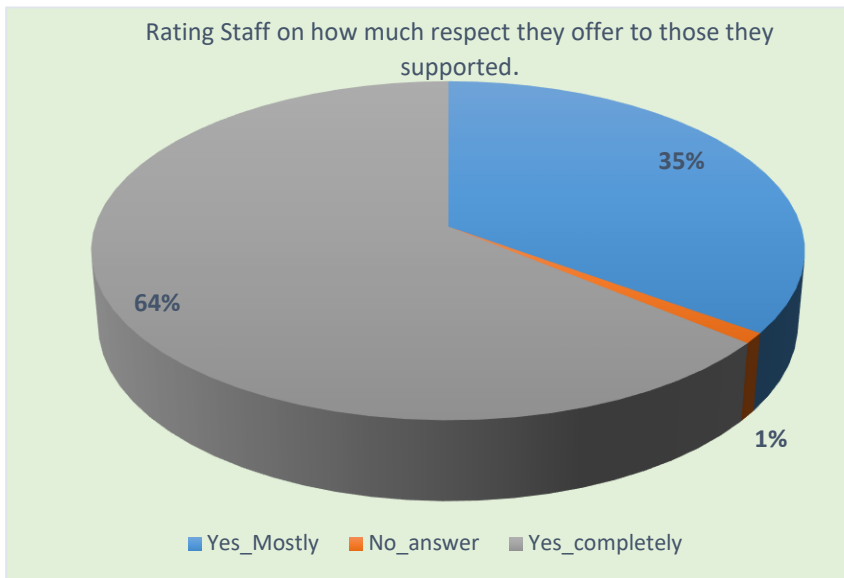
When respondents were asked whether they felt safe at all times while travelling to receive assistance and after returning to their homes: 64% felt completely safe at all times, 33% mostly safe, 1% said don't know, and 2% did not answer, and, as illustrated in the graph.



Based on this finding in the chart, 97% of respondents believed the cash intervention process was safe and secure, while 3% were unsure. Further investigation revealed that 73% of respondents were willing to disclose their contact

information, while 27% refused to share their contact information.

When asked whether the agency/NGO/implementing partner or contractors' staff treated



them respectfully during the implementation of activities, 64% opined being completely treated with respect, 35% mostly, and 1% did not respond to the query. These findings imply that Trocaire and partners, including contractors, adhered to the Do Not Harm principle when implementing their activities at the community level.

Further analysis was conducted to determine whether the people supported could provide their contact information; 90% stated they were willing to disclose their contact information, while 10% said they were unwilling to provide their contact information.

Satisfaction with the assistance/service provided

Responses	Are you satisfied with the assistance/service provided?
Don't know	1%
mostly yes	45%
no answer	2%
not at all	1%
not really	4%
yes completely	47%

The table above illustrates if individuals were content with the services or help offered; 47% were completely satisfied, 45% were mostly satisfied, 4% were not really satisfied, 1% were not at all satisfied, and 2% did not respond. According to the findings, 92% of those interviewed are satisfied with the services provided, while 5% are dissatisfied. Further analysis was carried out to find the reasons for discontentment – inadequate services and untimely delivery of services were mentioned as the primary reasons.

Exclusion of Needy and/or Vulnerable Persons

The respondents were asked if they knew anyone who needed assistance/services but was excluded; 61% said they knew certain people were excluded, while 39% said they didn't know. Based on these findings, in the future, the project team should consider implementing actions geared to creating awareness/disseminating relevant information to communities/people supported (such information can include but is not limited to project/intervention life,

targeting and selection of households/people, and activities) to improve community’s awareness and minimise misconceptions regarding various activities.

Feedback and Complaint Handling Mechanism (FCHM)

Trocaire considers the people-supported sharing of feedback and complaints as a critical metric of accountability and an indicator of success. To gauge whether people were aware that feedback and complaints were welcome, they were asked whether they knew they could channel their suggestions and/or complaints – 32% said they could channel mostly, 26% could channel completely, 26% didn’t know, 7% didn’t know at all, 6% said they would be silent, and 3% said they wouldn’t really, as shown in the above table.

On the handling and responding to complaints, 30% of the respondents stated that the complaints raised were mostly responded to, 22% said the complaints were responded to completely (the highest degree of certainty), 29% said they don’t know if the complaints were responded to, 13% remained silent, and 7% said not at all. These statistics indicate that 58% of respondents are confident in directing their concerns to the Trocaire and Partners, while 10% will not. The project team should consider sensitising people to enhance their confidence

Row Label	If you had a suggestion for or problem with the assistance/service, could you channel the suggestion or lodge a complaint?	To your knowledge, have suggestions or complaints raised been responded to or followed up?
Don’t know	26%	29%
mostly yes	32%	30%
no answer	6%	13%
not at all	7%	6%
not really	3%	1%
yes completely	26%	22%
	100%	100%

in voicing their concerns/feedback/complaints to the organisation.

Perception of One’s Views Being Taken into Account

Were your views taken into account by the organisation about the assistance you received	frequency %
Don’t know	4%
mostly yes	56%
no answer	7%
not at all	2%
yes completely	31%

The table above illustrates the people’s perception of whether the organisation considered their opinions while providing support. Of the interviewed persons, 56% said

their views were mostly taken into account, 31% said they were completely taken into account, 7% remained silent, 4% didn't know, and 2% felt that their views were not at all taken into account. In sum, 87% of those interviewed thought their opinions were taken into consideration. Additionally, when asked whether the complaint was submitted anonymously or not, 65% stated they didn't know, 29% indicated it was, and 6% said it wasn't.

Communication of Intervention Activities/Assistance

Did you feel well informed about the assistance/service available?	% Frequency
Don't know	6%
mostly yes	53%
no answer	6%
not at all	1%
not really	3%
yes completely	32%
Grand Total	100%

As illustrated in the table above, 53% of the surveyed HHs stated they were mostly informed on services/assistance, 32% confirmed they were completely (the highest degree of certainty) informed, 6% indicated they didn't know, 4% affirmed that they were not at all informed, and 6% did not answer. A follow-up question on the best approaches to inform people about available support/services confirmed by the respondents include:

- Community sessions to raise awareness of the support/services in an intervention
- Involvement of prospective people to support and/or their views in the design of intervention or ongoing adaptations
- Advance notification of the people of the intervention

When asked how Trocaire might enhance the design of Cash transfer initiatives in Gedo, the communities offered the following suggestions:

- Assisting malnourished and vulnerable individuals.
- Increase community involvement.
- Increased cash transfer amount.
- Requesting that the cash transfer be continued.

Conclusion

The PDM found that the overall satisfaction (comprising those strongly satisfied and satisfied) with cash assistance was 93%. Similarly, satisfaction with the cash transfer process was 95%. These findings imply that the cash assistance received was satisfactory to most households. Equally, the processes involved were efficient and resonated with a vast majority of the people.

The findings also depict a significant collaboration between spouses in decision-making regarding cash assistance use. To some extent, the improvements in decision-making involvement can be attributed to other interventions implemented with the people supported—for instance, goal 3 activities (protection). As a proxy indicator, it can be inferred that there is some reasonable degree of integration.

Most people reported the agency, partners, and contractors treating them respectfully, adhering to the Do Not Harm principle, and preserving dignity and rights while interacting with project activities. Additionally, the people were confident in providing their contact information to the organisation and its representatives, with 90% stating their willingness to disclose their contact information. These findings imply that Trocaire and its partners uphold safeguarding and ethical practices while delivering humanitarian services to the affected people. Respectively, the organisation has also cultivated a positive reputation and trust among the people in the Gedo region.

Recommendations

- **Interrogate further the variation in the amounts received** – Interrogate further why HHs reported varying figures. Determine whether it was deliberate for the project or misreporting from the people supported.
- **Follow-up on families who received cash transfers but had not enrolled their children in the nutrition programme** – owing to the project having definite selection criteria, it is essential to investigate further why some households received cash transfers when their children were not enrolled.
- **Sensitising the community on the intervention and the selection criteria of households** – raising awareness is crucial to prevent misconceptions and bring the community on board for project-related goals. This will also encourage deliberate participation in project activities.
- **Creating awareness of the complaints and feedback channels and encouraging the people supported to share feedback** – the project should collaboratively work across

all the goals to deliberately share information about the Feedback and Complaints Handling Mechanism (FCHM) with communities/people, in addition to emphasising that complaints and feedback are welcome.

- **Consider adopting the cash transfer intervention** – the PDM findings show cash assistance is relevant to the people. The people opined that cash transfers were secure, efficient, and beneficial to them. Besides, more preferred it to food baskets. Thus, the project can consider adopting it in future projects/programmes.