How effective are the HSNP cash transfers in the current prolonged drought?

These case studies are firsthand accounts by beneficiaries from Marsabit highlighting the use of Hunger Safety Net Programme cash transfers in coping with the current prolonged drought. It also captures feedback on their relationships within their households and the wider communities. Further, they showcase BF’s long term plans of moving from surviving to thriving and most importantly their views and recommendations for improving HSNP’s Phase II (2012-2017). This information is useful to HSNP stakeholders, policy makers and other players interested in social protection cash transfers and keen for updated information on current drought.

Field visit took place from 12th – 15th July 2011

Prepared by:
Carrie Ndoka
HSNP Secretariat
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Coping with prolonged drought using HSNP CTs in Marsabit

(Sub-locations visited: Loglogo, El Gade, Kalacha, Maikona, Dirib Gombo)

Background
The social theory behind the collection of data to build case studies, was, to define the behavior of HNSP beneficiaries receiving cash transfers in coping with and overcoming the challenges of the vicious cycle of extreme poverty magnified by shocks such as environmental extremities of drought\(^1\), famine\(^2\) and socio-economic marginalization. Further, it was to find out how the beneficiaries have been able to thrive and move away from the threats of extreme poverty by building economically stable livelihoods (a desired knock on effect) using the cash transfers and in the context of the current prolonged drought.

Approach:
The case studies were developed from a combination of individual and focus group meetings with sampling of between 3 to 5 HHs\(^3\) representatives in Marsabit’s sub locations of Loglogo (South), El Gade (North West), Kalacha (North West), Dirib Gombo (East) and Rukesa (North). The data collection also included a recording of the discussions by K24 TV journalist with the aim of developing a series of features to be aired on national wide TV Primetime news.

Methodology:
The case study research employed a variety of methods that included interviews of: BFs, payment agents, RC\(^4\) members, HSNP field staff; field studies and participant-observations. This helped in creating a holistic picture of the diverse and complex situation in the 4 sub locations. It also brought forward the similarities in the sub locations in regards in the different areas of research. A questionnaire was used to capture the data.

Data Analysis:
The data collected was analyzed as a whole, that is, evidence was not be broken into parts for coding, so as not to dilute firsthand account and human interest outlook.

Team involved in Marsabit included:

1. Dominic Mbuvi- CARE Kenya
2. Halkano Jillo- CARE Kenya
3. Halkano Guyo – CARE Kenya
4. Tune Ali Duba- PISP\(^5\)
5. Qaballe Barako- PISP
6. Abdinoor Kochale- Equity Bank Ltd
7. Salome Ng’ang’a- Ministry of Northern Kenya (PRO)
8. Kiama Kariuki – K24 TV
9. Carrie Ndoka- HSNP Secretariat (Leading the process)

The Marsabit team was responsible for mobilizing and sensitizing the BFs about the importance of the interviews, more so encourage their active participation. CARE Kenya is responsible for targeting and enrolling

\(^1\) A prolonged period of abnormally low precipitation; a shortage of water resulting from this
\(^2\) Extreme scarcity of food
\(^3\) Households
\(^4\) Rights Committee
\(^5\) Pastoralist Integrated Support Program
BFs in Marsabit, PISP for implementing of the grievance and re-dress mechanism whereas Equity with payment of the CTs. The team also assisted in translating the questions and responses. In addition, transport was provided by CARE Kenya.

**Logistical information of the case study:**

The 6 SLs were visited within four days from 12th to 15th July 2011 and a total distance of 1,607KM covered.
Overview of Marsabit County

It is important to note that more than 1.5 million Kenyans (approximately 5% of the population) are chronically food insecure and depend on emergency relief to meet their basic needs. These people are mainly located in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) that cover 80% of Kenya, in informal settlements and rural areas. According to the Integrated household budget survey 2005/6, the rural absolute poverty in Turkana is 95% at Kshs. 1,562 adult equivalent per month which includes food and non-food whereas 92% in Marsabit, 89% in Mandera and 84% in Wajir. Kenyans living in the ASALs are food insecure which greatly limit access to education, healthcare, sufficient food, and the capacity to diversify their livelihoods. A current report (July 2011) by the Red Cross Society states that an estimated 3.5 million Kenyans are at the brink of starvation.

The four Counties that HSNP is operating in are experiencing prolonged drought that has been going on for the past 3 years. HSNP has been piloting the use of long term predictable cash transfers to address chronic hunger. The pilot phase (2008-2012) seeks to create evidence to inform on the most cost effective and politically acceptable system of targeting and transferring small amounts of cash to a large number of people. The evidence will also be used to advocate for support of safety nets and the need to encourage social protection as a right and an entitlement to the most vulnerable citizens in Kenya.

According to the National Population Census report of 2010, Marsabit County has a population of 291,166 (151,112 male, 140,054 female). Marsabit is an administrative County in the Eastern Province of Kenya with a total area of 70,961.19 km². HSNP has targeted 7,000 BFs in Marsabit County for the pilot Phase and equivalent of 35,000 people.

The effects of the drought in Marsabit are manifesting in several ways.

- There has not been any significant rainfall reported within the month of July and the quality of pasture is dry in the sub locations visited. Livestock body conditions are deteriorating for both shoats and cattle due to the prolonged drought period, with many areas reporting mortalities of weak animals. Only the conditions of camels remained fair to poor. Milk availability at household level is limited or non-existent in all the pastoral communities we visited.

- According to a UNICEF analysis report (July 2011), nutrition status of children under five years, pregnant and lactating women is deteriorating and is likely to worsen during the July-September 2011 dry season. Results of nutrition surveys carried out in the ASALs in the first five months of 2011 show

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6 The average number of HH members is 5 persons.
this deterioration. Global Acute Malnutrition rates (GAM) are above 20% for children less than five years in Marsabit, Turkana, Wajir West-North and Mandera.

- Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 1.2 per cent from 119.48 points in May 2011 to 120.91 points in June 2011. Similarly, Kenya rate of inflation increased from 12.95 per cent to 14.49 per cent in the same period (Leading Economic Indicators report, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, June 2011). Food prices have doubled in the past six months drastically reducing the purchasing power.

Average current food prices in KES per sub locations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Loglogo</th>
<th>El Gade</th>
<th>Kalacha</th>
<th>Dirib Gombo</th>
<th>6 months ago</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Kg Maize</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Kg Rice</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Kg Sugar</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Cup (200ml) Milk</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Kg Cooking fat</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Kg Meat (goat)</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Kg Maize Flour</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Kg Beans</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although the preliminary findings from the communities visited in Marsabit showcase that the CTs have had a positive knock on effect mainly on education, health and local trade (mostly by agents) there is a need to address the current mismatch between the CT value of Kshs. 2,150 with the increasing food prices. BFs are forced to buy in small quantities of ¼ kilo and below. Food portions per person and frequency of taking meals have been reduced. This has greatly compromised the nutritional requirement for children, lactating, pregnant mothers and the elderly.

One of the desired knock-on effects in the use of CTs is the improvement of the living standards of the BFs beyond food consumption into economic stability through engaging in IGAs. However, majority of those interviewed find it difficult to save and invest in assets and trade from the current amount received. Some of the other wider hindrances include:

a) the current prolonged drought,

b) under developed infrastructure,

c) poorly developed and fragmented local markets i.e. livestock that have since collapsed

d) the increasing food prices that has reduced the purchasing power

Although the CTs enabled some of the interviewed BFs invest in assets and small scale businesses as alternative sources of income, the ravages of prolonged drought have drastically curtailed these efforts. Virtually in all the 4 sub locations visited in Marsabit, BFs shared how they had lost livestock bought using savings from CTs. They feel vulnerable that they do not have any form of insurance for their livestock that could cushion them from the loss. The most common plan is to re-stock using the CTs. Those who had opened tea/ milk “kiosks”, grocery shops, and butcheries have been forced to close as supplies have dwindled and what is available is of poor quality and expensive. Thriving as a kiosk owner in the current drought is proving to be very difficult due to the

“Relief centers such as Kalacha have experienced a high influx of drop out pastoralists, forcing some of the HSNP households to host them, further straining the limited resources.”

Salo Koncharo, Beneficiary, Loglogo sub location

7 Income Generating Activities
high numbers of debtors. In one case, a BF from Dirib Gombo opened a kiosk that sells essentials such as: sugar, rice, milk, cooking oil and soap. Hardly has 3 months passed than she is finding it difficult to make any profit and re-stock thus forcing her to rely on the CTs to sustain her business.

Profile of the beneficiaries/ HHs enrolled in Marsabit as of July 2011

A breakdown of HSNP BF/HHs enrolled since 2008.

Total number enrolled: 9,472

![Pie chart showing the distribution of beneficiaries by gender.]

Total number enrolled in the visited sub locations/ gender/ targeting methodology:

![Bar chart showing the number of beneficiaries enrolled in different sub locations by gender and methodology.]

The current watering cycle is 5 days for goats and 8 for camels.
Case Studies

Loglogo Sub location

Fact file:
Number of beneficiaries enrolled- 233
Gender profile: Female- 135, Male- 98
Targeting Methodology: Social Pension (55 years and above)
Payment Cycles received- 14
Location: 50KM South of Marsabit Town

Nantiyo Leturuga is an 82 year old lady, a mother of 6 from the Rendille community in Loglogo sub location about 50KM South of Marsabit Town. She has so far received 14 cash transfers since 2009 as a social pension beneficiary. About fourteen years ago, Nantiyo was hit by lightning while herding her goats that damaged her spinal cord leaving her with a severely bent back. Due to her advanced age, she does not have any other source of income besides depending solely on the regular cash transfers. About a year ago, Nantiyo was depending on milk supply from one of her son’s cattle but since the biting drought hit the County, most of the cows and shoats died and the remaining few weak ones hardly produce any milk. Majority of the surviving livestock have been moved in search of pasture to Isiolo and other neighboring counties.

On what she uses the cash for:
“I use the money to buy soft food such as rice, beans, milk, cooking oil, clothes and water. I also buy medicine when I fall ill. When I was too weak to walk to the payment agent, I used to send my daughter who is my recipient to collect on my behalf. However, this changed when she got an accident and injured her leg in August 2010. Now, I only rely on our agent, Khadija to come and pay me at my manyatta. She has been very understanding and helpful to us as she always checks to find out whether we’ve all received our money.”

On how the drought has affected her:
“Jilali (drought) has been very tough on us. As a community, we’ve lost many livestock and those remaining are so weak and can hardly produce milk. I have suffered from lack of sufficient milk which constitutes my main diet. Price of food...”

“I use the money to buy soft food such as rice, beans, milk, cooking oil, clothes and water. I also buy medicine when I fall ill. When I was too weak to walk to the payment agent, I used to send my daughter who is my recipient to collect on my behalf. However, this changed when she got an accident and injured her leg in August 2010. Now, I only rely on our agent, Khadija to come and pay me at my manyatta. She has been very understanding and helpful to us as she always checks to find out whether we’ve all received our money.”

On how the drought has affected her:
“Jilali (drought) has been very tough on us. As a community, we’ve lost many livestock and those remaining are so weak and can hardly produce milk. I have suffered from lack of sufficient milk which constitutes my main diet. Price of food...”
has gone very high as at the moment a small cup of milk when found goes for Kshs. 30 instead of the normal Kshs. 10. A kilo of rice is Kshs. 100 from 50 a few months ago. The cash can hardly sustain me for a month.

On how she relates with other community members:
“The relationship has greatly improved. Before receiving money, I was a liability as I couldn’t work and yet I required special diet. I used to feel very depressed because I felt like I was greatly inconveniencing others especially during tough times like this. However, with this money, I walk around the community smiling and proud to be a member. Where I can, I help especially those who are poor but are not getting anything and yet they have small children. I spare Kshs. 50 here and there”.

On the long term plans in the use of the cash transfers:
“If the money is increased, I could try and buy a few goats. However, since I am too old and weak to take care of them, I’d be forced to employ someone cater for them.”

On what she would do if the cash transfers are stopped:
“I’d simply die.”

On whether she would prefer cash or food relief:
“Cash of course, you can use it for many things. As for food relief, I’d have to incur additional cost of paying for transport and milling the maize for flour”.

On what can be done better to improve the programme:
“Consider increasing the amount of money from the current Kshs. 2,150 to cover for the increased prices of food. Also, ensure that the cash is not delayed in reaching us for we would suffer a lot. Some of us would die if we have to stay too long without getting something to eat. The numbers of poor people in our village are very many and should also be considered, not just the old people.”
Lesere Farchala is a 92 year old HSNP beneficiary under Social Pension. He hails from Ilgos village, Loglogo sub-location, Marsabit South. He has 4 wives and a total of 20 children none of whom have ever gone to school. He has so far received 14 cash payments since 2009. At the time of this interview, Lesere was severely deaf and so frail that one of his wives, Meidimu Lepedes, 60 years old had to respond on his behalf.

On what he uses the cash for:
“The Mzee uses the cash mainly for food, clothes and medicine. Because of his advanced age, he frequently gets ill and has to be fed on milk and goat soup to sustain his strength. This has worsened with his advancing hearing impairment, thus requiring someone to care of him all the time. Thankfully, the regular cash is a huge relief to the family as we are not under much pressure to look for money for Mzee’s upkeep. In addition, Mzee is keen to educate two of his many grandchildren and uses a small fraction of the money to buy writing materials and contribute to the school fees. He is very grateful to the Government for remembering the plight of the aged especially those in hardship areas.”

On how the drought has affected him:
“We have lost several livestock and hunger is biting us. Prices of household commodities have gone up. We usually make maize meal porridge and add milk for Mzee’s consumption. At the moment, the prices have doubled. A kilo of Jogoo maize flour is now Kshs. 100 instead of 60 whereas a kilo of sugar is at Kshs. 160 instead of 100. The cash is hardly sufficient to sustain Mzee for two months. Although we have received food relief from “Food for Hunger International”, that consists of dry maize, Mzee is unable to eat it so we rely on the cash to buy food suitable for him.”

On how he relates with other community members:
“Traditionally, when one was very old and frail, he or she would be left by themselves to die. However, times have changed and the families have to take up the responsibility of caring for the elderly. This is very tough in our context where poverty is rife. I suffered from a lion attack while herding goats a few years back living me with a badly injured head thus suffering from severe migraines now and then. When I get the migraines, I can hardly take care of the Mzee but community members rally around and give us support knowing that the demands are not too high. The cash transfers have improved the perception of most of the elderly receiving it since they are now regarded as productive members with a regular salary. Mzee’s case is no longer as hopeless as it was 2 years ago. He is able to get credit for goods he needs from the local traders for they knew

“Food prices have gone so high that the amount received is not sufficient for the two months. We’re forced to buy smaller quantities and serve even smaller portions.”
Meidimu Lepele, spouse of a beneficiary, Loglogo sub location
he’s in the programme and will pay.”

On the long term plans in the use of the cash:
“Initially, Mzee had bought a goat with the hope of selling it when it fattened however, there was a time when cash delayed and he was forced to slaughter it for food. At the moment, he can only hope to use the money for his consumption needs.”

On what he would do if the cash transfers were stopped:
“He fears that he might starve to die as he wouldn’t be able to cater for his basic needs. He doesn’t have any other regular source of support.”

On whether she would prefer cash or food relief:
“Cash, with no doubt! It’s regular and I can plan for it with no worries.”

On what can be done better to improve the programme:
“We request for an increase in the amount of cash payments to be done on a monthly basis if not ensure that there are no delays. Also, the money should not be stopped as it means life or death for the beneficiaries. More aged members in the village should be added into the programme as they are really suffering during this drought period.”
Gura Gudere (left photo) is 57 years old father of 3 children, 2 in secondary school and the other in primary. He comes from Ilgos village, Loglogo sub-location south of Marsabit County and was enrolled into HSNP under Social Pension. He suffers from diabetes and in 2009 his left leg was badly damaged by the condition that it had to be amputated. In fact, he was enrolled in to the programme while lying on his mat in his manyatta since he could hardly move because of the pain in his leg. His condition saw to him being released from work where he had working as a driver for many years. He is a single father whose wife abandoned him due to his condition.

On what he uses the cash for:
“I buy food, clothes and pay school fees for my 3 children. From the cash, I am able to give bus fare and pocket money to my children who are in high schools outside of Marsabit. I was able to buy on credit an artificial limb for my left leg that was amputated in late 2009 from small savings and contribution by the community members most of whom are also receiving this cash. I buy medicine and eat nutritious food to sustain my health. I rely of this cash and I am also the sole breadwinner of this family since my wife deserted me when I became disabled.”

On how the drought has affected him:
“It’s been really tough especially on the livestock, children and the elderly. As a diabetic, I have to eat special diet that consists of greens and at the moment a small cabbage is costing between Kshs. 100 to 150 instead of the normal 50 whereas a bunch of 5 potatoes cost Kshs. 50 when you find it. I can hardly eat a balanced diet as recommended by my doctor because of scarcity of food and the high cost. Luckily for us in this village, we don’t need to travel far to fetch water since we have several boreholes however, I have to pay more as I can’t carry heavy loads. Prices for carrying goods have increased as most able bodied men in the village have migrated with livestock in search of pasture.”

“Majority of the surviving livestock have been moved to other counties. The remaining ones are too weak to produce milk making it very scarce and expensive. The dietary requirement of the children, elderly and those with special needs has been badly affected.”

Gura Gudere, a beneficiary, Loglogo sub location
On how he relates with other community members:
“I don’t own any livestock not even a chicken. I used to be considered as a hopeless man coupled with the fact that I have diabetes and living with disability. This used to depress me a lot that I would result to heavily drinking local brews and smoking cigarettes further worsening my health. Ever since I started receiving the cash, things have changed for the better. People give me the respect I deserve and are ready to assist me. I have since stopped drinking and smoking, to focusing more on the welfare of my children. Sometimes when we receive payments, I get several requests for assistance from others who are poor and when I can, I give them something small, I now readily get credit from the traders when I don’t have any money. They say that I am far much better than most which was the opposite 2 years ago. I am a very happy man.”

On the long term plans in the use of the cash:
“My main focus is to use the cash to cater for our consumption needs in terms of food, clothing and medical. I also plan to continue paying my children’s school fees until they complete high school.”

On what she would do if the cash transfers were stopped:
“It would be very difficult for me being a single father with diabetes and with no other source of income. I humbly urge the government to continue with the programme because stopping it might even mean death to some of us living in deep poverty.”

On whether he would prefer cash or food relief:
“I much prefer cash. It gives me the flexibility to choose what to buy and also spend on. I feel great when I receive cash and put it in my pocket. I feel really cared for.”

On what can be done better to improve the programme:
“The amount should be increased to reflect the current high food prices. More staff should be recruited into the programme so that they can be able to visit us frequently and get feedback on how were fairing. More people should be registered into the programme as they are really suffering especially during this prolonged drought period.”

Above: Some of the children that have benefitted from the cash transfers that have been used to pay school fees buy uniforms and stationary.

Above: Staff of CARE and PISP engaging with BF from El Gade
El Gade Sub location

Fact file:
Number of beneficiaries enrolled- 258
Gender profile: Female- 117, Male- 141
Targeting Methodology- Social Pension
Payment Cycles received- 14
Location: 180KM North West of Marsabit Town

A focus group discussion of 7 Social Pension beneficiaries from El Gade sub location was held. They included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Other source(s) of income</th>
<th>No. of household members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maka Halakhe</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Selling of shoats</td>
<td>3 (1 child in school)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abudo Galgalo</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>6 (1 child in school)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umuro Wario</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Selling of goats</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saleti Galgallo Godana</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chachu Forole</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bule Adi</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Selling of goats</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boke Adano</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Guyo (RC Chair)</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On what they use the cash for:
Most of the beneficiaries buy food (rice, maize flour, milk, sugar, beans, cooking oil, and meat), clothes and soap. At least 2 of the interviewed are paying school fees for their grandchildren.

“I used the cash to buy a goat that is named “shillingi”; it’s very famous in the village.” Maka Halakhe

On how the drought has affected them:
“Our community has lost a lot of livestock, the few remaining are very weak and can hardly produce weak. Whereas milk is scarce, a small cup (200ml) is now costing Kshs. 30 instead of the normal 10. As an elderly person, I require plenty of milk to ensure proper nutrition. The high prices have really diminished the value of the money we get.” Saleti Galgallo Godana

“Most of the surviving livestock have been moved 60KM away to Bodahuri thus increasing scarcity of milk and meat. The remaining shoats are severely emaciated to skin and bones selling at a low of between Kshs. 200 to 500! It’s a big blow to us who trade in shoats as no one is willing to buy, 1kg of goat meat is now Kshs. 150 which is way above affordability by most of the family.” Maka Halakhe

“We now have to frequently contribute towards catering for drug expenses for our weakening livestock. We are often suffering from illness with the worst affected being small children.” Bule Adi
“Although this drought is amongst the worse we’ve seen, previously we’d be in much pressure to sell our livestock. However, the pressure reduced a lot when we started receiving cash.”
Umuro Wario

“The drought has affected all and the youth are feeling left out. They have no jobs. They are now forced to rely on the elderly for support which they find to be very frustrating.” Patrick Guyo, RC Chair

On what their current daily diet consist of:
They confirmed that they eat at least 3 times a day only that the portions have reduced by half as follows: Breakfast (black tea with sugar), Lunch (Rice/ Ugali with beans), Supper (Porridge)

On how they relate with other community members:
“I am happy to say that if I was to walk into that shop and ask for credit, I would get it without resistance. This was not the case before the programme.” Boke Adano

Although the amount is little, I am able to assist when approached by a community member not receiving the cash. This has made us become more of assets than liability in the community.” Abudo Galgalo

“Our local traders are more confident in bringing different types of goods than before because they now that there is a ready market. I don’t have to travel all the way to Marsabit Town to buy clothes.” Maka Halakhe

On the long term plans in the use of the cash:
“Re-stock my perished shoats.” Maka Halakhe

Majority said they would continue using it for household consumption since it’s hardly enough to save and invest in assets.

On what they would do if the cash transfers were stopped:
“I’ll continue praying for God’s mercy and intervention.” Saleti Godana

“Life will simply be unbearable for the elderly.”
Abudo Galgalo

“I don’t even want to imagine the kind of suffering I’d undergo.”
Chachu Forole

On whether they would prefer cash or food relief:
“I used to heavily depend on food relief which was seasonal. Eating maize was very

“Cash is much preferred to food relief. It gives me the flexibility of meeting my most pressing needs much faster. I easily access credit from the local traders.”
Guyo Bora, beneficiary, El Gade sub location

Above: A head teacher at Kalacha confirmed that there has been a 15% increase in school enrolment since the programme started in 2009
tough for me so I’d be forced to try and sell to get money for rice or flour, a difficult task as everyone had maize. With this money, I choose what to buy.” Chachu Forole

“Cash is most preferred. It allows me to meet my most immediate needs much faster.” Guyo Bora

“Cash is much better; I can easily get credit from the local kiosks”. Maka Halakhe

On what can be done better to improve the programme:

“Increase the amount to Kshs. 5,000.” Abudo Galgallo

“Consider other people who are equally poor from this community.” Umuro Wario

“Reduce the payment period from 2 months to 1.” Maka Halakhe

“Ensure that there is no delay of payment as this makes us suffer so much especially when we have to clear debts.” Chachu Forole

** The beneficiaries confirmed that the sub location was benefiting from other programmes i.e. food relief, de-stocking by FHI8. The Ministry of Health had intensified efforts of immunization and other health services**

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8 Food for Hunger International
Kalacha Sub location

Fact file:
Number of beneficiaries enrolled- 754
Gender profile: Female- 668, Male- 86
Targeting Methodology- Community Based
Payment Cycles received- 12
Location: 210KM North West of Marsabit Town

A focus group discussion of 4 households’ representatives from Kalacha sub location was held. They included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Other source(s) of income</th>
<th>No. of household members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Martin Molu</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Kiosk owner</td>
<td>Non BF, RC Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shama Umuro</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ibrahim Huka</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Selling of livestock</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salo Koncharo</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Selling of Miraa</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kame Boru</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Tea kiosks</td>
<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

On what they use the cash for:
“I buy food, clothes, sugar with the money. I also used it to buy school uniform and other needs for my 3 children in primary school,” Shama Umuro.

“Mostly for food but I also bought some shoots that unfortunately died in this drought. However, the cash has enabled me retain the livestock that survived. I am not under pressure to sell at a throw away price as current an average goat is Kshs. 1,200 as opposed to the normal Kshs. 2,500,” Ibrahim Huka

“I have been able to start a small scale business of selling miraa and tobacco. The proceeds go towards sustaining my family needs in addition to the cash transfers,” Salo Koncharo

“In addition to food and other essentials, I have been able to buy uniform and pay fees for my 3 children. I also use a small percentage to boost my tea kiosk,” Kame Boru

On how the drought has affected them:
“Majority of the livestock has perished and those remaining are too weak to produce milk. I am a drop out pastoralist and currently only depend on the CTs. I have to buy milk for my small children and it’s very costly. Food prices have gone so high that it’s difficult to adequately budget using the current amount of the CTs,” Shama Umuro

Above: In most of the households, the activities are very minimal due to the migration of the surviving livestock and limited casual jobs

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9 Khat
“Scarcity and mostly lack of milk have forced me to close down my tea kiosk. When found, milk is very expensive and so is sugar. I can only make losses if I continue running it. I have had to reduce the portion of meals and frequency of eating to stretch the little food we can afford.” Kame Boru

“The drought seasons are becoming more frequent thus our livestock are continually dying. It seems like we’re becoming poorer than our forefathers. During drought periods, there are a lot of cases of divorce especially by men who are extremely stressed by the tough demands from their family. The CTs have in some way sustained my marriage as don’t need to worry about food for my family in addition to taking care of the dying livestock.” Ibrahim Huka

“Kalacha is a relief centre and has plenty of water. We have been invaded by a large number of pastoralist drop outs. I am now hosting two families and were all relying on the CTs. It is taboo to send them away; no kinsman should die of hunger.” Salo Koncharo

On how they relate with other community members:

“Our relationship with the other non-beneficiaries has been very good. I am able to contribute something small towards Harambees in support of education, health and traditional ceremonies. They see me one as one of a reliable contributor.” Shama Umuro

“I am recognized as an income earner because the CTs are like regular salary. I work proudly into the kiosk are request for credit which I am sure I’ll get. It gives me joy and pride that I am treated with respect. Before this programme, I couldn’t even dream of accessing credit for I didn’t know how I’d repay. Besides, I would often be shunned away,” Ibrahim Huka

“As the years go by, drought seasons are becoming more frequent and severe. I fear that we might be becoming poorer than our forefathers.”

Ibrahim Huka, beneficiary,
Kalacha sub location

“Traders have gain enough confidence in us to start bring a variety of goods such as clothes, vegetables, fruits and household utensils because they now there is reliable cash circulation every two months. Before this programme, we had to travel all the way to Marsabit to buy them, that is if we could even afford it,” Salo Koncharo

10 Communal contributions
“There was a case of where a lady who was the household representative quarreled with the husband and ran away with the card for close to four months. We were able to intervene as the rights committee and resolve the matter amicably. She back and the entire HH has continued benefiting from the programme,” Martin Molu, RC Chairperson

“The general observation is that although there are only 10 male HH representatives as compared to over 700 female, all have benefitted. However, women have been noted to use the cash much more efficiently in terms of catering for the needs of the HHs and also in starting petty trades. Men have a higher tendency of using the money to buy miraa, alcohol or sharing with the other wives that are not registered in the programme.” Kame Boru

On the long term plans in the use of the cash:
“Re-stocking of my perished shoats,” Ibrahim Huka

“In addition to selling tea, I’d like to include snacks such as mandazi and chapatti,” Kame Boru

“I’ll continue educating my children with the money. I am also thinking of starting a small kiosk,” Shama Umuro

On what they would do if the cash transfers were stopped:
“I’d be very stressed by the thought. I heavily rely on the cash. It has really helped us cope with hardships of life.” Salo Koncharo

“Life would be too tough to cope with.” Kame Boru

“I’d just have to pray for God’s fate,” Shama Umuro

On whether they would prefer cash or food relief:
“Money, it gives me options of using it for other equally important things such as school fees, uniform and medicine for my family.” Kame Boru

“There’s more dignity in receiving cash than carrying a huge sack of relief maize.” Ibrahim Huka

“Cash enable you move away from being a beggar into creditworthy. This is more so for women who hardly owned any money before.” Salo Koncharo

“If the amount of cash is increased or even doubled, I would be in a better position to save and invest in assets. At the moment, it is very difficult with this drought.” Shama Umuro, beneficiary, Kalacha sub location
On what can be done better to improve the programme:

- Increase the amount of CT to enable the BF's save and invest in assets such as livestock and petty businesses
- Reduce the payment cycle to every month especially during drought periods
- Increase the number of BF's to reduce the pressure of sharing
- Value of CT to reflect the number of household members
Dirib Gombo Sub location

Fact file:
Number of beneficiaries enrolled- 841
Gender profile: Female- 716, Male- 125
Targeting Methodology- Community Based
Payment Cycles received- 12
Location: 12KM East of Marsabit Town

Qabale Abata is a 70-year-old mother of 10 from the Borana community in Dirib Gombo sub location. She has so far received 9 cash transfers since 2010 as a CBT beneficiary. She has 5 children in school, 3 in primary and the rest in secondary. About 3 months ago, Qabale opened up a small kiosk to sell basic goods such as: packet milk, cooking oil, sugar, flour and soap. Here is a narration of how CTs have benefitted her:

On what she uses the cash for:
“I buy food, clothes and pay school fees for my children. Initially when I hadn’t opened up my kiosk, I’d use Kshs. 1,000 to buy household requirements, Kshs. 1,000 to pay up debts and save the remaining Kshs. 150 for a rainy day. This has changed as I now use Kshs. 1,000 to restock my kiosk and the rest to pay up debts from my supplier. We now consume from this shop.”

“I was able to start up this kiosk from capital that I borrowed from family and friends of which I am paying in installments using the CTs. I felt it wiser to use the CTs for business rather than just consuming it with nothing much to show for it.”

On how the drought has affected her:
“It’s been very tough on all of us. Prices of goods have really gone up especially on basic essentials like sugar, cooking oil, flour and rice. I am forced to re-stock supplies in small quantities. Circulation of money is very limited within this community because casual jobs have dried up. Requests for debts have increased and I can’t deny those benefitting from the programme because I know they will pay. I also operate in the same way with my suppliers. The debts are negatively affecting my business because I am unable to re-stock my kiosk.”

On how she relates with other community members:
“My status has improved not only because I am a beneficiary but also that I have been able to set up a kiosk. Before getting this kiosk, I could lend money to the really needy cases especially the non-beneficiaries, however, now, I lend them as my customers which is much better for they will pay.

“I got the confidence of starting up this business from the fact that I have over 800 households benefitting from the programme, who have cash on a regular basis. It’s only that the drought has really hit us otherwise, I still believe my kiosk will thrive.”

Qabale Abata, beneficiary, Dirib Gombo sub location
On the long term plans in the use of the cash:
“I plan to diversify the goods and in bigger quantities I am selling into including vegetables. Right now I can only afford to re-stock with 5kg of sugar and same quantity of rice. I am looking forward to the day when I will be selling in 50kg.”

“I see this kiosk as the inheritance of my sons when I die. I wouldn’t want them to undergo the same hardships of poverty that has afflicted me for many years.”

On what she would do if the cash transfers were stopped:
“I believe my business would collapse as I am relying on the CTs to re-stock, pay debts and to make sales. I fear that I might go back to being poor which would be too stressful for me to handle.”

On whether she would prefer cash or food relief:
“Cash is more practical for me. I am able to run my kiosk and also cater for my household’s needs. Currently there are those in our community receiving food aid from FHI in form of 15kg of Maize, 2kg of beans and 2 cups of cooking oil pegged to a month which is not sufficient.”

On what can be done better to improve the programme:
- Increase the value of the amount to Kshs. 5,000
- Reduce payment cycle to every month or pay in advance
- Extend the number of years for receiving this money
- Enroll more beneficiaries into the programme because the poor are increasing especially during drought seasons.