

# MULTI-PURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE: LOCUST INVASION

## How Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) helped households affected by desert locust invasion to recover

### Background

This document contains top-level findings from three monitoring surveys under the Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCiS) Multi-purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) project. The analysis focuses on the pastoral and agro-pastoral beneficiaries of the Crisis Modifier sub-grant (support for households affected by locust) where 782 beneficiaries were interviewed during the baseline, 434 during the midline and 597 during the endline. The baseline, midline and endline surveys were conducted between June 2020 and October 2020.

The cash transfers to support households affected by desert locust were implemented following an assessment conducted by the Consortium between 17th – 26th March 2020. The assessment analysed the damages and needs of BRCiS Communities affected by the waves of locust infestation.

The recent infestation of desert locusts was one of the most severe outbreaks that Somalia had seen in living memory. First spotted in July 2019, in northern Somalia, the locust swarms gradually, spread to the central and southern parts of the country. The assessment carried out by BRCiS found that, on average, slightly more than half of the cultivated land (56%) were affected, with the most devastating impacts found in Belet-Hawa, Borama, Ishkushuban, Lascnanod, and Wajid, where damages varied between 70% and 100%. Early harvesting was reported in five districts, impacting more than 7,200 households – most of which came from Dinsoor and Wajid. Overall, the overwhelming majority of community leaders interviewed (more than 80%) said that the current crop yield was significantly lower than anticipated previously partly due to the recent locust outbreaks experienced. In regards to the pasture



*The desert locust is a species of locust, a periodically swarming, short-horned grasshopper in the family Acrididae. They are found mainly in Africa, through Arabia and West Asia, and extending into parts of South Asia. During population surge years, they may extend into parts of western Spain.*

Migratory locusts crawling on grain, background sky, schistocerca gregaria. © Shutterstock.com

conditions, the locust infestation reportedly caused considerable damages to more than 25,000 km pastoral land at the time of the assessment, which constitutes a 55% loss when considering the total pasture available. Overall, estimates shared by community leaders suggest that the locust infestation most severely impacted pastoralist areas located in the central parts of the country, including Dhusamareb, Adado, Galkayo, and Galdogob districts.

Within the first quarter of 2020, it was apparent that the locust infestation menace was going to have significant effect on the food security situation in Somalia. This was then compounded by the quickly evolving Global C-19 Pandemic. Cognizant of these situations, BRCiS undertook a thorough CAP revision to prioritise activities that would 1) Protect the projected erosion to HH livelihoods from the locust infestation and C-19 and 2) Enhance response capacity to C-19. Following this, 4.5M USD were brought forward to provide MPCAs to more than 28,000 HHs: This report seeks to investigate how the MPCA support for households affected by locusts assisted the affected households in pastoral and agro-pastoral areas to mitigate the impact of the desert locust, to reduce the severity of the degradation of food security and also support faster recovery.



## CASH TRANSFERS



Households were asked what the main use of the cash received was.

approx **8**  
out of 10  
households

Claimed the cash they received helped them meet their basic needs  
*During endline survey*

approx **4**  
out of 10  
households

Claimed to have used the cash received to improve their access to food  
*During endline survey*

approx **4**  
out of 10  
households

Claimed to have used the cash to reduce and prevent debt  
*During endline survey*

approx **1**  
out of 10  
households

Claimed to have used the cash to re-start livelihoods  
*During endline survey*



## WASH ACCESS TO WATER



**7** % points  
decrease  
in...

The number of households without access to water  
*Between baseline & endline survey*

**37** % points  
decrease  
in...

The number of pastoral households without access to water  
*Between midline & endline survey*

approx **75** %  
of households  
in Bardera

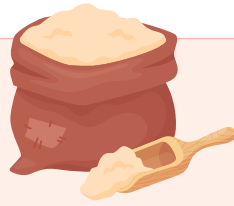
Had no access to water  
*During endline survey*

**11** % points  
decrease  
in...

Proportion of households without access to enough soap to practice handwashing  
*Between midline and endline.*



## FOOD SECURITY



**FCS**  
food consumption score...

Remained constant across all districts  
*Between baseline & endline survey.*

**4** % points  
↑  
increase in the...

Number of households with poor food security score  
*Between baseline & endline survey*

**5** % points  
↑  
increase in the...

Share of households with acceptable FCS  
*Between baseline & endline survey*

**HDDS**  
household diet diversity score...

Remained constant across all districts except Belet-Hawa

**HDDS of 10**  
in Belet-hawa households...

An improvement from the baseline score of 5  
*Between baseline & endline survey*



Swarm of invasive, destructive Desert Locusts. This flying pest is difficult to control and spreads quickly, up to 150km (90 miles) per day. *Schistocerca gregaria*.

