

## Kenya HSNP Monitoring and Evaluation Component : Summary of Impact Evaluation Final Report: 2009–2012

- HSNP is an unconditional cash transfer programme in four counties of northern Kenya’s arid and semi-arid lands;
- Phase 1 (2007-12/13) operated under the Ministry of State for the Development of Northern Kenya and was funded by the UK Department for International Development and AusAid; and
- Phase 1 provided support to 69,000 HHs at a transfer value starting at KES 2,150 and rising to KES 3,500 by the end.

### Impact evaluation methodology

- Three rounds of quantitative/qualitative data collection over three years (August 2009 to November 2012);
- Evaluation deploys a scientific experimental approach using a randomised controlled trial; and
- Findings represent impact results after two years of programme support to households.

### Findings

#### Strong evidence of **positive impact** on:

Poverty and consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSNP households are less likely to be extremely poor (10 percentage points less likely to fall into the bottom national decile compared to control households)</li> <li>• HSNP HHs are less poor than control HHs as a result of the programme (both poverty gap and severity of poverty lower for HSNP HHs by 7 percentage points)</li> </ul>
Food consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSNP HHs spend KES 213 more on food per month per adult equivalent than control HHs; 87% of HSNP HHs report eating more and/or larger meals as a result of the transfer</li> </ul>
Health expenditure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSNP households spend more on healthcare per capita than control HHs</li> </ul>
Saving and borrowing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSNP households are more likely to save money and access loans</li> </ul>

#### Clear evidence of **no impact** on:

Child nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child nutrition is determined by factors beyond the HSNP</li> </ul>
Receipt of food aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSNP households are not being deprioritized for food aid or other food support programmes</li> </ul>
Livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSNP is not causing dependency or disrupting pastoralist livelihoods</li> </ul>
Prices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSNP is not causing inflation or stabilizing prices over time</li> </ul>
Health status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSNP beneficiaries do not report reduced incidence of illness or injury</li> </ul>
Older people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSNP is not benefitting older people differently from other population groups</li> </ul>
Social tension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSNP is not causing tension within or between communities</li> </ul>

#### Mixed/ambiguous evidence on:

Dietary diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSNP may be improving dietary diversity for poorer and smaller HHs</li> </ul>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSNP is improving school performance, with HSNP children more likely to have passed Standard Grade IV, but is not improving enrolment, attendance or education expenditure</li> </ul>
Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSNP may enable retention of livestock assets, but does not aid retention or accumulation of non-livestock productive assets</li> </ul>
Access to credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSNP may be improving access to credit for some households</li> </ul>
Vulnerability to shocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSNP is helping to avoid certain negative coping strategies (e.g. sale of household assets)</li> </ul>
Women’s empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mixed evidence to show HSNP is empowering women by improving their control of household budgets and ability to undertake income-generating activities</li> </ul>
Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSNP may be slightly reducing children’s propensity to engage in non-domestic work</li> </ul>
Informal transfers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HSNP interacts with informal social networks in complex ways</li> </ul>
Household composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unclear how HSNP affects household composition</li> </ul>
Local economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestive evidence that HSNP is having a positive impact on the local economy</li> </ul>

### Policy implications

- Different households respond in different ways to HSNP; this may be diminishing the overall impact.
- Targeting the poorest households and appropriately calibrating the value the transfer will maximize impact.
- At this transfer level, HSNP alone will not impact on all aspects of well-being. Other, complementary interventions are needed.
- Applying conditions could be considered, depending on the policy objectives and supply-side constraints.

### Areas for further research

- Assessing the cost of impact would allow comparisons to other poverty-reduction interventions.
- Future impact evaluation could usefully focus on local economy impacts.