

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">• 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)• 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)
Food consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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
Health expenditure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HSNP households spend more on healthcare per capita than control HHs
Saving and borrowing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HSNP households are more likely to save money and access loans

Clear evidence of **no impact** on:

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

Mixed/ambiguous evidence on:

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

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.