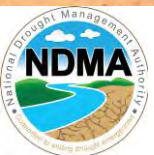


HSNP Evaluation Component

Impact evaluation qualitative component round 1



Oxford Policy Management



"Ending hunger, protecting assets"

The Hunger Safety Net Programme

What is the Hunger Safety Net Programme (HSNP)?

The HSNP is an unconditional cash transfer programme that focuses on households living in extreme poverty in four arid counties of Northern Kenya. It is currently in its second phase. The pilot phase took place between 2007-2013. Phase 2 will run from 2013-2017.

Who implements the HSNP?

HSNP is implemented by the Government of Kenya, with support from the UK Department for International Development. Within the government of Kenya, the National Drought Management Agency (NDMA) is responsible for leading on Phase 2 of HSNP.

Where does HSNP operate?

HSNP operates in Mandera, Marsabit, Turkana and Wajir.

How does HSNP work?

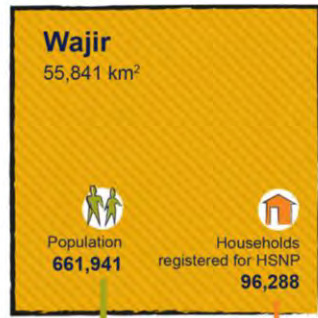
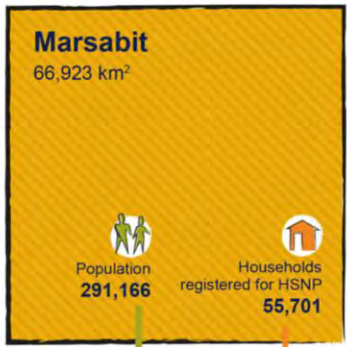
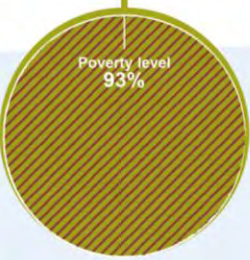
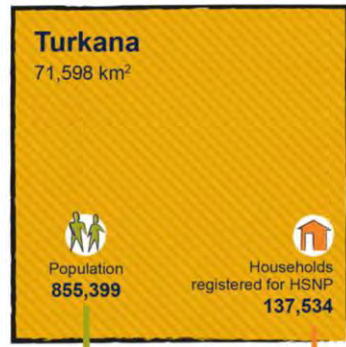
All households in the four counties have been registered for bank accounts with Equity Bank. The HSNP provides regular cash transfers to 100,000 households, which represents about 25% of households in the region. The transfers are worth 5,100 Ksh and are paid every two months. NDMA monitors drought conditions by satellite. If these reach severe levels in any given month, an additional 25% of households in drought-affected areas receive a one-off 'emergency' payment. If conditions worsen to extreme levels, then coverage increases to 75% of all households.



Average regional temperature **28.3C°**



Average regional rainfall **500mm per annum**



Currently, HSNP covers about 31% of the population in these counties, or around 620,000 people

Population figures from 2009 census. Poverty headcount from KIPPRA, 2013

How do people collect their money?

Recipients are issued bank cards. Transfers are paid straight into households' bank accounts on the fifth day of the first month of each payment cycle. To access the cash beneficiaries have three options:



1. Use their bank card at Equity payment agents based in local shops. This is by far the most common.

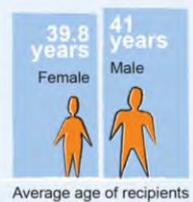
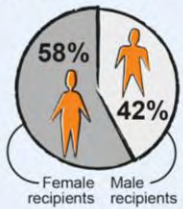


2. Use ATMs at any bank



3. Collect their money over the counter at the nearest Equity branch

Who are HSNP beneficiaries?



Average size of recipient households: **6.9 people**

Average size of households nationally: **3.9 people**

Source: HSNP MIS and Kenya DHS 2014)

Evaluation framework

- Provides comprehensive evaluation of the effects of HSNP on households and individuals, as well as on the communities and local markets in which they live and work
- Various methods are used to address different evaluation questions
 - LEWIE will provide an estimate of the multiplier effect HSNP has on the local economy
 - Quantitative IE based on regression discontinuity design will provide a robust estimate of aggregate programme impact at the household level
 - Multiple rounds of qualitative research to
 - Provide an understanding of context
 - Capture experience and behaviors that produce outcomes of interest
 - Enable assessment of impacts that are difficult to measure quantitatively
 - Generate data to triangulate, validate and provide depth to quantitative findings

HSNP impact evaluation qualitative research methodology

What is this study?

This the qualitative component of a mixed methods evaluation. Its purpose is to build a picture of the impact of HSNP on key dimensions of people's lives in the 4 counties of Northern Kenya where the cash transfer is operating:



Perceptions of wellbeing at individual, household and community levels.

Risk, vulnerability and resilience.

Livelihoods and local markets.

Informal institutions and social relations (inter- and intra-household relations, gender relations, social cohesion).



How did we build that picture?

We went to Kenya to talk to the people who are receiving the cash, the traders and shopkeepers, local leaders, and other people in their communities.

Where did we go and why?

We went to 13 sub-locations in the 4 HSNP counties. Some of these sub-locations are urban, some rural. Some are very poor and some are less poor. We went to places where lots of people are getting HSNP and where not so many people are getting HSNP. We visited sub-locations with a mix of livelihood activities.



What did we do when we got there?

We organised ways to talk to a lot of people:



Key Informant Interviews (KIs) with people who could tell us about the communities, help us find HSNP recipients to talk to, and tell us about the impact of the transfer. We did these interviews with: 11 sub-location chiefs, 11 Rights Committee members, 17 traders and shopkeepers, and 14 others (teachers, religious leaders, health workers, social workers).



Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)
We spoke with groups of 8-12 people (men and women separately) who receive the HSNP transfers, either as regularly beneficiaries or as recipients of emergency payments. We did: 11 FGDs with routine-beneficiary men; 14 FGDs with routine-beneficiary women; 7 FGDs with emergency-recipient men; and 9 FGDs with emergency-recipient women.

FGDs with with community leaders:
We organised groups of 8-12 people who could help us understand the communities where recipients live. We did: 12 FGDs with male community leaders, 9 with female community leaders, and 5 with a mixed group of community leaders. During the FGDs we did some participatory exercises like social mapping.

What did we do with all the data?

Overall we did: 72 FGDs, 112 QPSs, and 53 KIs. Our colleagues in Kenya took the audio recordings of all our activities back to Nairobi, and produced verbatim transcripts of all the FGDs, QPS, and KIs. They sent these transcripts back to Oxford, where we used a software called NVivo to sort and analyse the content of the transcripts. We then wrote up our findings in this report!

53



72



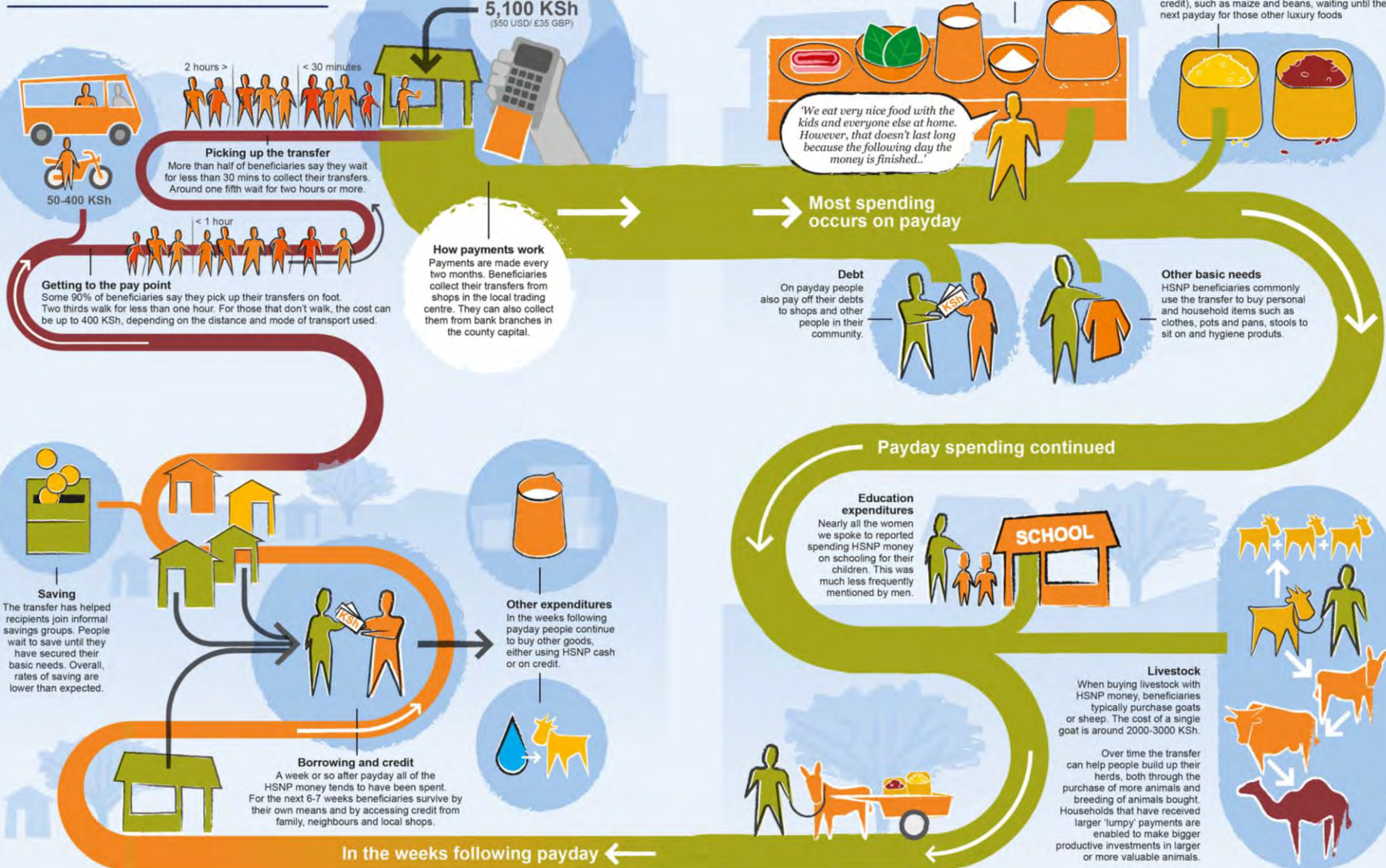
112



Qualitative Panel Studies (QPS):
QPS are household case studies for which we visited people in their homes and talked with them about their lives. We asked them to do a number of participatory activities such as using drawings to explain their income sources and what they spend money on. We did QPS with routine beneficiaries, emergency recipients, and households who never receive the HSNP. We gave the beneficiaries cameras to capture for themselves how the transfer has affected their lives. We did QPS with: 59 beneficiary households; 28 emergency recipient households; and 25 households who never receive HSNP money.



How people use their HSNP cash transfers



"Ending hunger, protecting assets"

Luxury food

On payday people splash out on luxury foods, such as meat, vegetables, milk, sugar and rice. These are not bought in large quantities, just enough for the household to eat well that day.



'We eat very nice food with the kids and everyone else at home. However, that doesn't last long because the following day the money is finished..'

Staples

People tend not to continue to buy meat after the first day. Subsequently, HSNP helps them with their purchases of staples (with cash and on credit), such as maize and beans, waiting until the next payday for those other luxury foods



Most spending occurs on payday

Debt

On payday people also pay off their debts to shops and other people in their community.



Other basic needs

HSNP beneficiaries commonly use the transfer to buy personal and household items such as clothes, pots and pans, stools to sit on and hygiene products.

Payday spending continued

Education expenditures

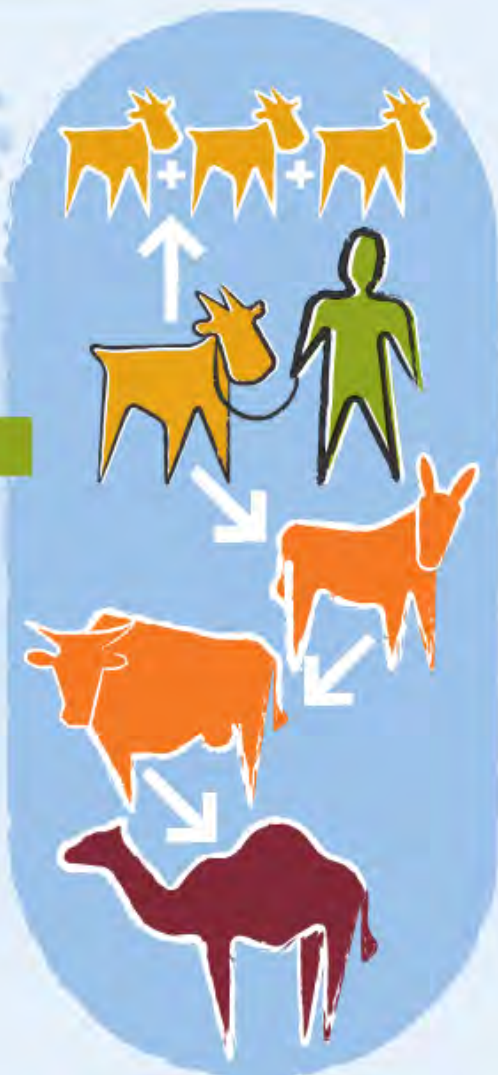
Nearly all the women we spoke to reported spending HSNP money on schooling for their children. This was much less frequently mentioned by men.



Livestock

When buying livestock with HSNP money, beneficiaries typically purchase goats or sheep. The cost of a single goat is around 2000-3000 KSh.

Over time the transfer can help people build up their herds, both through the purchase of more animals and breeding of animals bought. Households that have received larger 'lumpy' payments are enabled to make bigger productive investments in larger or more valuable animals.





Saving

The transfer has helped recipients join informal savings groups. People wait to save until they have secured their basic needs. Overall, rates of saving are lower than expected.



Borrowing and credit

A week or so after payday all of the HSNP money tends to have been spent. For the next 6-7 weeks beneficiaries survive by their own means and by accessing credit from family, neighbours and local shops.



Other expenditures

In the weeks following payday people continue to buy other goods, either using HSNP cash or on credit.



In the weeks following payday ←

5,100 KSh
(\$50 USD/ £35 GBP)



2 hours >



< 30 minutes



Picking up the transfer

More than half of beneficiaries say they wait for less than 30 mins to collect their transfers. Around one fifth wait for two hours or more.



50-400 KSh

< 1 hour



Getting to the pay point

Some 90% of beneficiaries say they pick up their transfers on foot. Two thirds walk for less than one hour. For those that don't walk, the cost can be up to 400 KSh, depending on the distance and mode of transport used.

How payments work

Payments are made every two months. Beneficiaries collect their transfers from shops in the local trading centre. They can also collect them from bank branches in the county capital.

HSNP local economy impacts

HSNP has produced spill-over effects for businesses near pay points

Traders and shopkeepers say that they have larger profits due to the big increase in customer traffic on pay days. Business owners also point out, however, that these positive spill-overs can be tempered by regional and global economic trends, as well as climatic events such as drought, which increase the cost of doing business.



HSNP has spill-overs for established businesses in villages, too

Village traders tell us that people are buying more goods from their local shops than before HSNP, purchasing either with cash or on credit, which they pay off on pay days. The spill-over for local shopkeepers is more limited than that experienced by business owners in the towns and trading centres in which pay points are located.



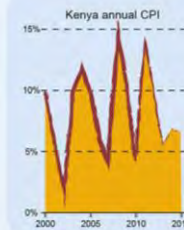
HSNP has helped women to enter the local economy, albeit at a small scale

Many HSNP recipients claim to have started up micro businesses, mainly in the form of petty sales enterprises such as selling vegetables or homemade goods by the side of the road. For example, a beneficiary may use the transfer to buy bundles of grass which are then woven into mats and sold.



Local prices are determined by factors other than HSNP

Local food prices, for example, are influenced by regional or global trends such as fuel prices. Inflation in the region can be more or less volatile depending on events. For instance, the consumer price index (CPI) was relatively stable over the last couple of years, ranging between 5-8%, whereas there were big spikes in 2011-12 (20%) and 2008-09 (+30%) caused by extreme droughts in the region.



Poverty and wellbeing in HSNP counties

The very poor (a small but visible minority)

Health:

Cannot afford treatment.
Often elderly or sickly, with chronic illnesses



Livelihoods:

Can be seen begging.
Depend on support from others and government aid



Credit:

Unable to obtain credit

Psychosocial:

Pitied by others in the community



Food and nutrition:

What little money they have is used almost exclusively to meet food needs. Frequently miss meals and are malnourished

Resilience:

No means to withstand shocks



Assets:

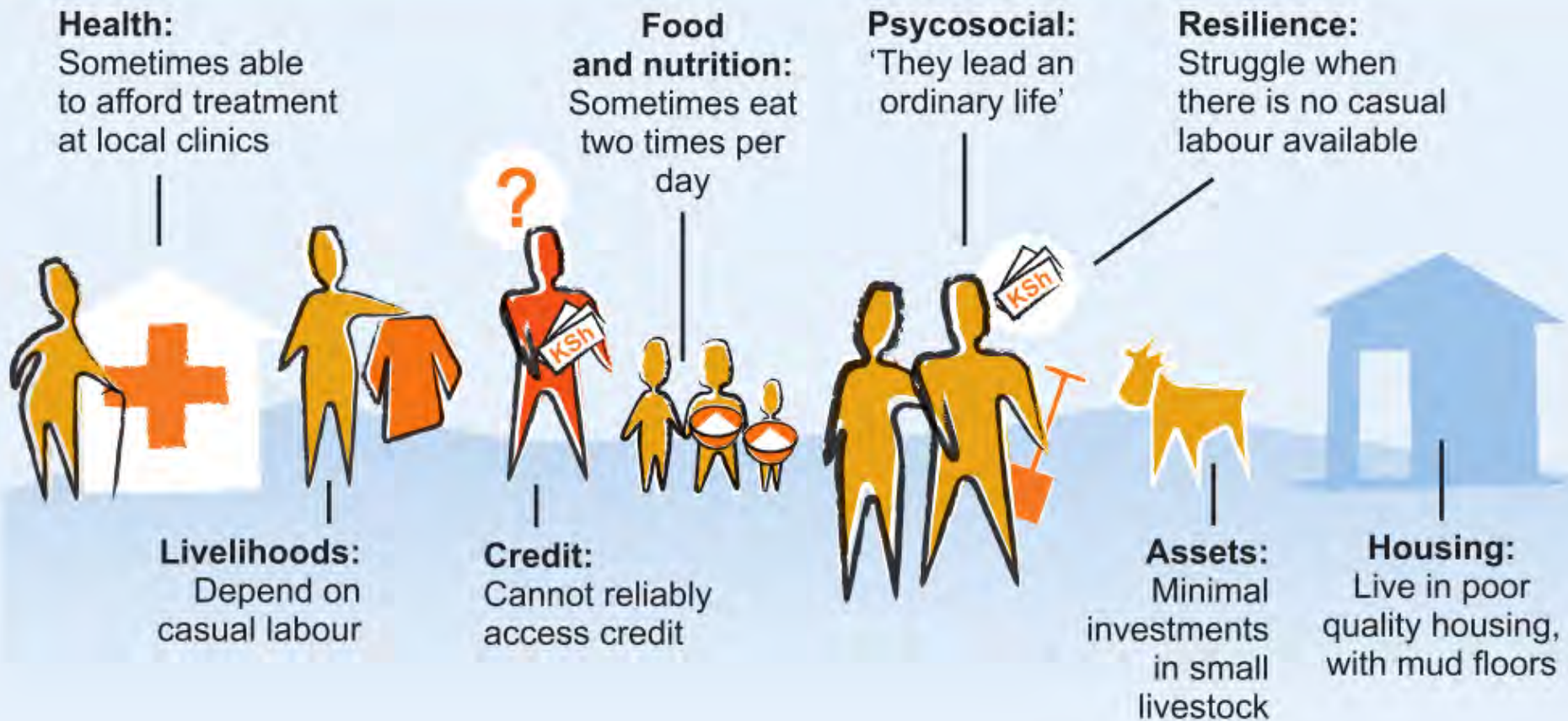
'They have nothing'

Housing:

Very poor quality; cannot afford to make repairs

Poverty and wellbeing in HSNP counties

The poor/needy (the majority of people, including HSNP recipients)



Poverty and wellbeing in HSNP counties

The middle class (around a quarter of the population, including HSNP recipients)

Health:

Generally healthy; able to afford treatment at local clinics



Livelihoods:

Have more livelihood options, including small businesses

Food and nutrition:

Regular and diverse meals



Credit:

Creditworthy and so do not need a steady source of cash to maintain their living standard

Psychosocial:

'Those who shine'*



Assets:

Have more substantial livestock assets, including cattle in some areas

Resilience:

Quite resilient to economic shocks because they have livestock and can access credit



Housing:

Improvements made to houses, such as concrete floors

Poverty and wellbeing in HSNP counties

"People in the middle class are sometimes known locally as:

The middle class (around a quarter of the population, including HSNP recipients)

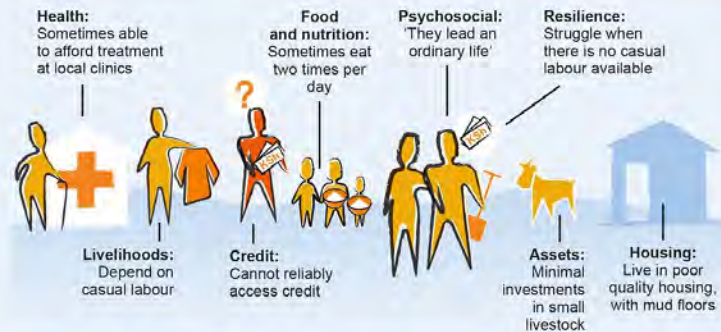
'Those who shine'



HSNP seen to help recipients improve their wellbeing status

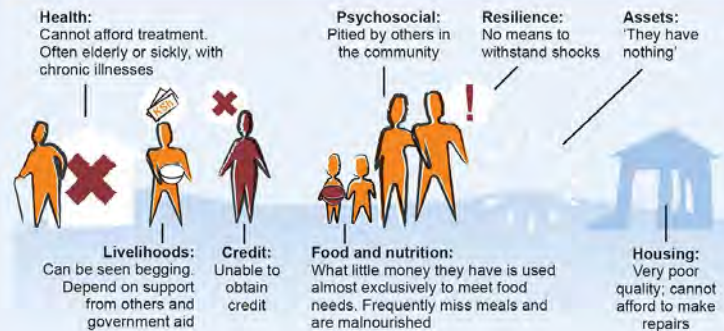
The transfer is felt to enable recipients to achieve a standard of living more comparable to what they described as middle class: more frequent and diverse meals, diversified livelihood options, resilience to shocks, investing in and starting small businesses, and improved creditworthiness.

The poor/needy (the majority of people, including HSNP recipients)



The transfer has improved recipients' psychosocial wellbeing

The very poor (a small but visible minority, including HSNP recipients)



Poverty negatively affects people in non-material ways. HSNP appears to be reducing those types of negative experiences, improving what we call 'psychosocial wellbeing'.

Changing social norms and relations in HSNP counties



Gender Relations

Patriarchal cultural and social norms prevail in the four counties. However, HSNP is contributing to emerging notions of women's empowerment.

There is a clear division of labour in HSNP counties, though awareness of women's rights is growing. Some men feel threatened by this.

"Women are busy with family issues, like taking care of the kids. Men have been mandated to be our leaders by our religion"
– Female HSNP beneficiary, Wajir

"A long time ago we made our own decisions, women followed instructions. But nowadays we share decisions with them"
– Male HSNP beneficiary, Marsabit

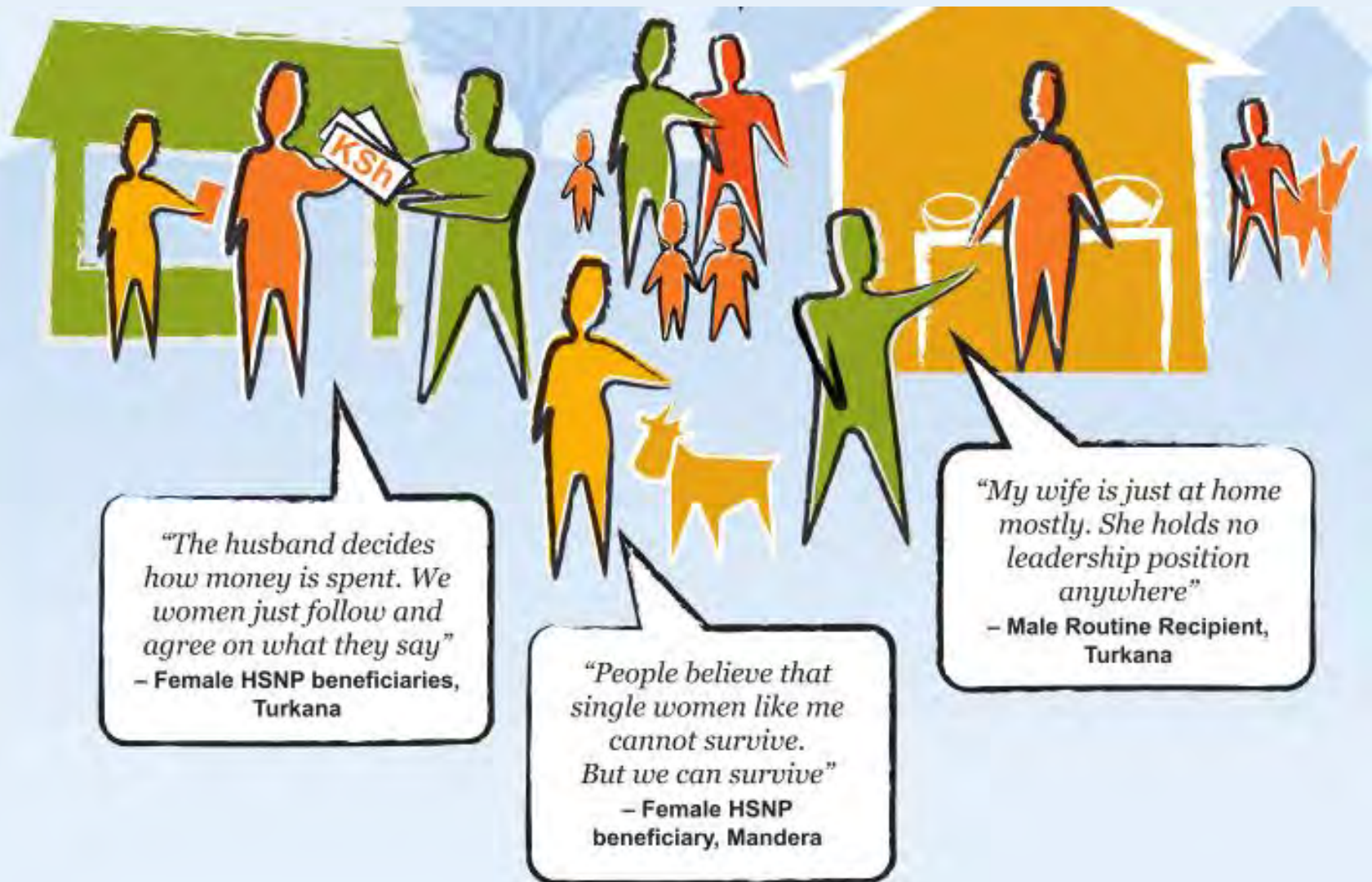
"Women are concerned with decision making because they have heard of these so-called 'women's rights'. They even want to rule us now!"
– Male HSNP beneficiary, Wajir





Gender Relations

Patriarchal cultural and social norms prevail in the four counties. However, HSNP is contributing to emerging notions of women's empowerment.





Community

By easing some of the negative effects of poverty, HSNP strengthens the social support networks that exist in communities.

Most HSNP beneficiaries share the transfer with their neighbours and relatives, often supporting those that previously supported them.

"The relationship between me and my friends has changed since this money began. They now respect me. They know that I can help them"

– Male HSNP beneficiary, Mandera

"Everyone is happy about this programme because even if you are not a beneficiary your neighbour assists you"

– Female HSNP beneficiary, Mandera

"I give support to others when they face problems because I might require assistance one day"

– Female emergency payments recipient, Mandera





Households

HSNP has created more peace and unity within the household

With less pressing need to earn money, there is generally less stress in the household

"My wife and I love each other more and more because we get this HSNP money"

– Male HSNP Beneficiary, Mandera

"HSNP has installed happiness in the family, as we are now able to meet needs that we couldn't before"

– Male Emergency Recipient, Mandera

"All is well. Because of the money people receive from HSNP, there are no more conflicts due to inadequate food in the home"

– Sub-location chief, Marsabit

Risk and vulnerability in HSNP counties

Shocks that effect the whole population

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|--|--------|
| Coping mechanisms | Migration | Using malaria nets and diverting the flow of water | Shocks |
| | Diversification of livelihood activities | Migration to higher ground | |
| | Borrowing money and buying on credit | Establishing peace committees to resolve conflicts | |
| | Asking relatives or friends for help | Migration to safe places | |
| Adverse response | Asking relatives or friends for help | Appealing to government, NGOs or external "well-wishers" | Shocks |
| | Appealing to government, NGOs or external "well-wishers" | Appealing to government, NGOs or external "well-wishers" | |
| | Drought | Conflict | |
| | Flooding | Inflation | |
| Adverse response | Distress sale of livestock | Using violence to defend properties during conflict | Shocks |
| | Drawing upon savings (wealthier households only) | Distress sale of livestock to fund money to rebuild properties | |
| | Taking out loans | Reducing food consumption, or shifting consumption towards cheaper foods | |

Emergency HSNP transfer
Those who receive the transfer in the event of severe drought report positive effects on meeting short-term basic needs such as retaining children in school, maintaining food consumption, and spending on healthcare. However, emergency recipients also feel that the small value and unpredictable nature of these transfers limits their effectiveness in building resilience to shocks.

Non-recipients
Non-recipients were more likely than routine and emergency beneficiaries to have to sell livestock in response to shocks. But we also found evidence that they sometimes access credit from HSNP beneficiaries when facing shocks.

This graphic was produced as part on an independent evaluation of the HSNP

Shocks that affect in



HSNP livelihood impacts

Pastoralism is the predominant livelihood activity in HSNP counties



Different livelihood activities are prevalent depending on location



In rural locations and remote villages these include small shops and kiosks, petty roadside trade, petty production (mats/baskets), charcoal burning, and collecting firewood or other bush products.



This graphic was produced as part on an independent evaluation of the HSNP

HSNP is considered an important source of income



Recipients consider HSNP one of their main sources of income because it feeds into and supports their income generating activities, for example livestock production, casual labour and petty trade.



Those who have received emergency payments also consider HSNP a valuable addition to their income, alongside their regular livelihood activities.



The HSNP impacts livelihoods as a complementary income and source for further investment. The transfer enables some households to invest in livelihoods such as livestock, from which further income can be generated. HSNP is also reported to increase recipient's access to borrowing and credit, enabling recipients to smooth consumption throughout the payment period.

HSNP enables households to purchase and retain livestock



Livestock functions as a productive asset, a type of saving, and a mechanism for coping with shocks, so by supporting pastoralist livelihoods HSNP potentially makes a big contribution to improving recipients' resilience

HSNP has helped some households to diversify livelihoods



HSNP has helped some recipients expand their existing income generating activities, and some even establish new ones. Such livelihood diversification is important for mitigating the many risks that households are vulnerable to, such as drought, which affects whole communities, or health shocks, which effect individuals



The diversification of livelihoods by and within households sometimes indicates a greater involvement of women in income generating activities. As households report to undertake more livelihood activities, women may increasingly become joint breadwinners.

Asante sana!

