



Famine Early Warning Systems Network

Urban Food Security Study – Beled- Xaawo

Food Security Cluster Partners & Members Meeting, 25th
November 2014, UNOPS Gigiri, 1000hrs - 1200hrs

Key Messages

1. Acute food insecurity was not significant in Beled-Xaawo in April 2014.
2. Imported rice and wheat flour rather than locally-produced cereals were found to be the main staples in Beled-Xaawo town. This means that the current, sorghum-based minimum expenditure basket is not applicable for the town.
3. Casual labor, such as construction work and portage, and charcoal and firewood sales were confirmed to be important sources of income. However, petty trade, and small livestock and livestock products, as well as the sale of own-produced livestock and livestock products were significantly more important than the sum of other income sources previously assumed to be the key.
4. Remittances are also an important source of income for some households.
5. Water purchases accounted for 8-9 percent of household expenditures. This suggests that the minimum expenditure basket should be revised to more accurately take this major expense into account.
6. The Kenyan shilling was found to be the major currency in use in Beled-Xaawo town. Economic shifts and exchange rates in Kenya are, therefore, important to Beled-Xaawo's market and economy.

Early warning indicators for monitoring urban food security in Beled-Xaawo

Table I. Key parameters and indicative food security monitoring indicators for Beled-Xaawo

SN	Parameter	Indicators
1	Trade and commodity flows	Volume of trade, functioning of markets, changes of trade routes and restrictions of trade movement
2	Remittances	Remittance volume & number of households receiving remittances
3	Firewood, charcoal and water sales	Supply and prices
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9	Civil insecurity and population movement	Incidents and impact on livelihoods

Source: FEWS NET

Food Availability

1. Beled-Xaawo residents are not predominantly food producers and depend on market purchase. Most households purchase food almost daily, and food stocks at a household level is negligible.
2. Secondary information from FSNAU and FEWS NET, as well as informal discussions with traders suggested that markets were functioning fully due to improved security situation in the last one year.
3. Imported goods were flowing generally from Mogadishu port through the Baioda (Bay) and Luuq and Dolow towns (Gedo). However, multiple checkpoints in between Mogadishu and Beled-Xaawo that extort transporters to pay substantial amounts of money, which are ultimately transferred to consumers in a major issue on price.

Household Demography

Age group	Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
0-5 years	276	16	274	17	550	16
5-18 years	835	47	683	41	1,518	44
18-60 years	583	33	656	39	1239	36
60+ years	70	4	68	4	138	4

Source: FEWS NE

Food Consumption Indicators

FCS	Percent	Average
Poor (≤ 28.0)	3.4	21
Borderline (28.1-42.0)	15.2	33
Acceptable (≥ 42.1)	81.5	77
HDDS	Percent	
Low	36	
Medium	51	
Good	13	
HHS	Percent	
Little/no hunger	70.5	
Moderate hunger	27.5	
Severe hunger	2	
CSI	Mean	Median
CSI	22	12

Food Utilization

Access to water

Tanker	Tap	Donkey Cart	River
87%	10%	2%	1%

Source: FEWS NET

Analytical Approach

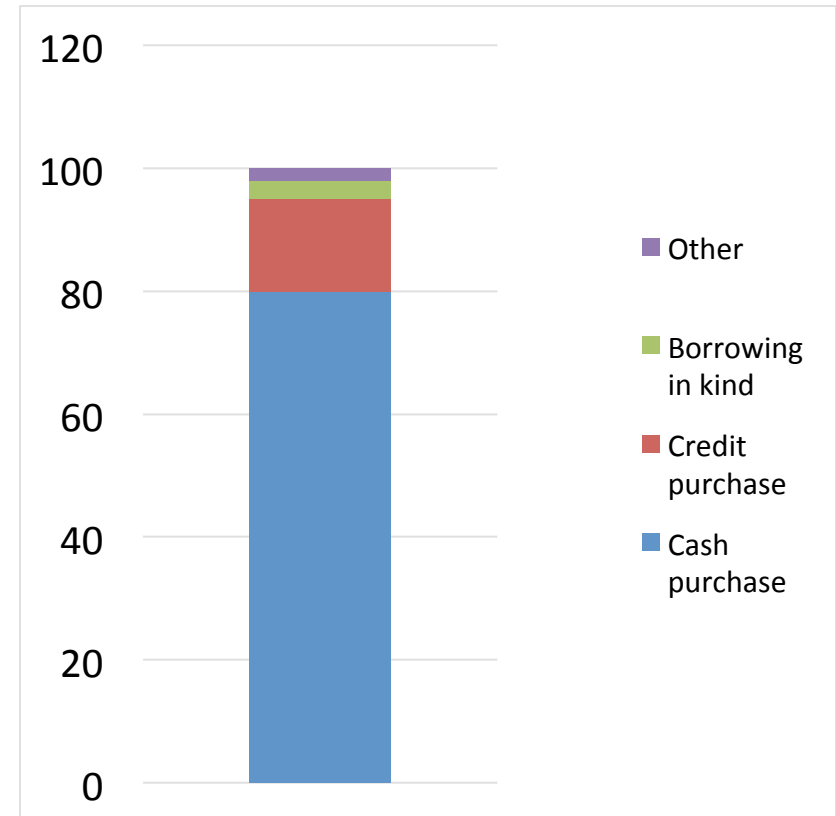
Livelihood options

1. Food sources

1. A multiple response analysis of a range of eleven food sources revealed that Beled-Xaawo residents rely almost exclusively on markets for food, either directly or on credit

2. Staple food

1. Contrary to the assumption that locally-produced cereals, such as sorghum and maize were the dominant staple foods, the survey found that main staples for Beled-Xaawo were imported staple foods, notably rice supplemented with wheat flour, or pasta. Fewer than 15 percent of households reported consuming locally-produced sorghum and maize, and the contribution of these foods was considered minor compared to rice, wheat, and pasta.



Source: FEWS NE

Expenditure and Wealth

Quintile distribution of monthly household expenditure

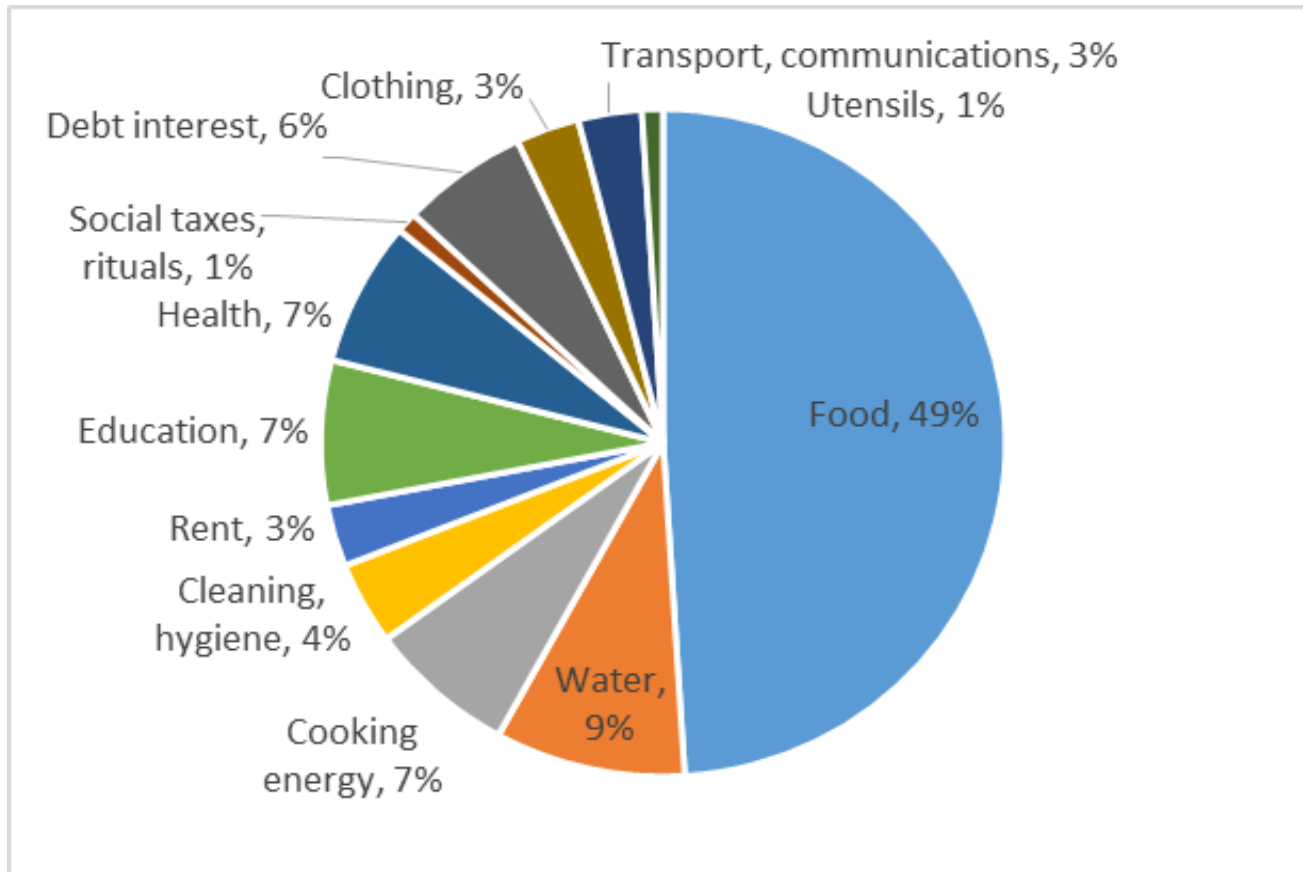
Using as a proxy for household income, quintile distribution of households by per capita expenditures indicated that households in the lowest two quintiles and a portion in the 3rd quintile of the sample as well as of different types of residents (equivalent to more than 40 percent of the sample) spent less than KSH 3,250/month (KSH 108/day, below the international extreme poverty line of USD 1.25 per person per day)

Quintile	KSH
1 st	< 2,200
2 nd	2,210 – 2,830
3 rd	2,833 – 3,500
4 th	3,500 – 4,600
5 th	> 4,620

Source: FEWS NET

Expenditure and Wealth

Average expenditures as a proportion of total expenditures

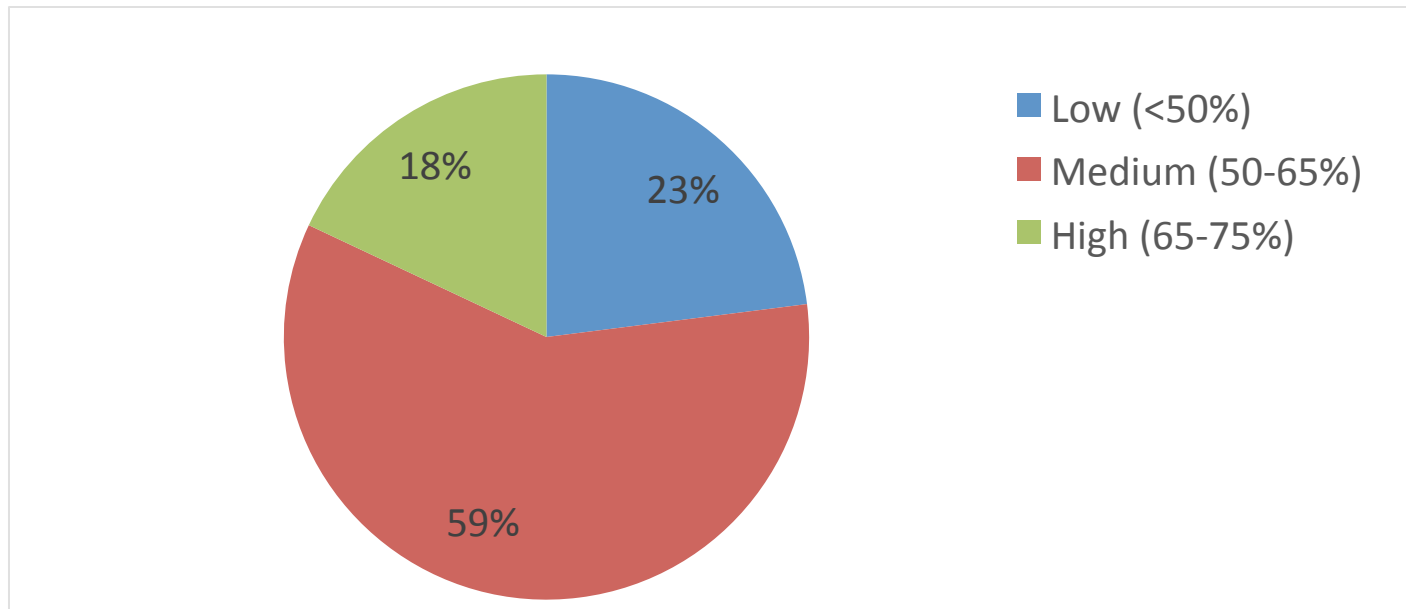


Source: FEWS NE

Expenditure and Wealth

Food expenditure as a proportion of total expenditure

1. Food represents at least 50 percent of expenditures for more than 80 percent of households
2. households with the highest shares of expenditure towards food may be more vulnerable to food insecurity in the event of significant price increases



Income Sources

Sources of income by household

	No. hh	% hh	Primary (% of hhs)	Secondary (% of hhs)
Petty trade	216	43	74	26
Remittances	130	26	58	42
Crafts, carpentry and other services	107	21	65	35
Animal or animal product sales	88	18	46	54
Casual wage labor	76	15	26	74
Formal trade	71	14	80	20
Firewood, charcoal or water sales	61	12	51	49
Employment in NGOs, businesses	33	6.5	76	24
Crop sales (vegetables and fruits)	28	5.5	39	61
Employment in government	19	4	68	32
Rent (stores or vehicles)	10	2	90	10
Note: multiple responses are allowed				

Source: FEWS NE

Indebtedness and Asset holdings

Asset holdings (% of hh)

	%	Asset type	%
Mobile phones	75	Land	23
HH utensils	74	Wheelbarrows	14
House	71	Kiosks	13
Furniture	57	Donkeys	12
Sheep and goats	50	TV sets	12
Radios	46	Formal trade goods	11
Petty trade goods	44	Camel	9
Tools	33	Cattle	9
Watches	29	Jewelry	7
Remittances	26	Motor vehicles	4
Poultry	23		

Debt spending (% of hh)

Debt spending	%
Food	72
Water	24
Health	25
Education	9
Other	10

Source: FEWS NET

Common shocks

Shocks	%
High food prices	68
Illness/health costs	45
Lost income	32
Insecurity	16
Transport cost	6

Source: *FEWS NET*

Food insecurity risk factors

- Per-capita household expenditures below the sample median
- Relatively low asset levels
- Higher debt levels
- Unskilled, low-value livelihood strategies (petty trade; firewood, charcoal or water sales; and self-employment in crafts or other), and
- Female-headed households and households of unmarried couples or individuals were disproportionately represented among households with worse food consumption outcomes.

Nutrition Status, Mortality and Morbidity

Morbidity

Proportion of surveyed children reporting illness over 14-day recall period by type of illness

	N	% (95% CI)
Reportedly ill	159	31.0 (22.1-40.0)
Diarrhea	19	3.7 (1.3-6.1)
Acute respiratory infection	39	7.6 (3.8-11.6)
Fever	140	27.3 (19.5-35.1)
Suspected measles	3	0.5 (0.0-1.3)

Mortality

Per 10,000 people per day

	% (95% CI)
Crude death rate (CDR)	0.65 (0.44-0.96)
Under five death rate (U5DR)	1.20 (0.48-2.95)

Source: FEWS NET

Care-seeking behavior

Feeding program registration

	N	% (95% CI)
Supplementary (SFP)	2	1.6 (0.0-4.9)
Outpatient therapeutic programs (OTP)	3	2.4 (0.4-5.2)
Other	1	0.8 (0.0-2.3)
Total	6	4.8 (0.4-9.1)

Health care sought

Type of health care sought by Number (N) and proportion (%) of acutely malnourished

	N	%
No assistance sought	9	5.7
Own medication	1	0.6
Traditional healer	1	0.6
Private clinic/ pharmacy	11	71.1
Public health facility	3	22.0

Source: FEWS NET

Lesson Learned

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