



Ministry of Public Service, Gender, Senior Citizen Affairs and Special Program

State Department of Social Protection, Senior Citizens Affairs and Special Programmes

**UNIVERSAL CHILD BENEFIT (UCB) PILOT PROGRAMME INTERGRATING CASH
TRANSFER, NUTRITION AND PARENTING INTERVENTIONS IN KENYA**

UCB Baseline survey- Field Report

December 2021



This report highlights the activities undertaken during the UCB baseline survey that was undertaken by the Save the Children team between 17th to 27th November 2021 in Nyando, Kajiado Central and Mbeere North sub counties. Data collection was carried out among the UCB beneficiaries to **provide** the baseline estimates of selected indicators before the implementation of the project interventions. The assessment included a formative study to explore the barriers and boosters for behaviour change necessary for improving IYCF practices and positive parenting.

Objectives of the baseline survey

1. Establish the current Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices in the pilot areas.
2. Assess barriers to adoption of optimal IYCN and positive parenting
3. Establish the nutritional status of children 0-36 months
4. Establish the WASH practices among households in the pilot areas
5. Assess the sources of livelihoods in the pilot areas
6. Assess the status of food security at household level
7. Generate evidence on status of children's early stimulation, safety at home and positive parenting

Description of the Data collection activities

Nyando subcounty

A total of 5 sub locations in Ahero ward were targeted. The activities included selection of RAs, training of the RAs and data collection. A total of 17 Research assistants and 8 supervisors were involved in the activity. A two-day training and 1 day piloting of tools was conducted, this was to ensure that the RAs are conversant with the data collection tools, research ethics, how to conduct qualitative interviews.

The research assistants were divided into 8 teams with each team having a supervisor, Households were distributed amongst the team and the necessary anthropometric equipment issued. Save the Children team on ground provided logistical and technical support to the team in addition to spot checks.

Summary of Households, FGDs and Key informants interviewed in Nyando Subcounty

	Number done	Comment
Household interviews	500	All Households targeted were reached.
FGDs		
Caregivers	6	
CHVs	6	
CPVs	1	The subcounty has 6 CPV who are active
Case Studies	3	
Key informants	6	Nutrition coordinators, Children service coordinators, Coordinator for Persons with Disability, Local administrator/Chiefs and Religious leader/Imam

Photos Taken in Nyando



Case story documentation in Kochogo North Sub location, Nyando sub county.



Training of RAs on anthropometrics in Nyando Subcounty



MUAC measurement during HH survey.

What worked well

- The targets for both HHs and the qualitative informants were achieved
- The survey participants were cooperative

Challenges.

- There was a lot of expectations as the same households were visited for listing to the cash transfer program which made the sampling quite difficult since some households were missed out during sampling
- Other competing tasks with the county officials led to delay in conducting KIIs with them.

Mbeere North

Embu County, Mbeere North Sub was selected by the project to represent a rural context therefore offer an opportunity to test the scheme in rural environment, while also being relatively easy to access and having good on-the-ground presence of implementing institutions. The sub county will therefore be a meaningful learning platform to generate lessons that will inform the long-term UCB for rural set up.

An inception meeting was held on 17th November 2021 at Hillspan Lounge, Embu County with representation from County Department of Health, County Department of Labour and Social Protection, Department of Children Services and the Office of the Deputy County Commissioner. Partners present included Nutrition International and WFP.

The Baseline Assessment kicked off with 3-day training session at Hillspan Lounge, Siakago, Embu from 18th – 20th November 2021. On the third day (20th Nov 2021), a pre-test was conducted in the fields at Evurore Ward, Mbeere North Sub County and a half-day debrief meeting conducted at Hillspan Lounge.

Summary of Households, FGDs and Key informants interviewed in Mbeere Subcounty

	Number done	Comment
Household interviews	545	All Households targeted were reached.
FGDs		
Caregivers	7	
CHVs	7	
Key Informants	11	County Nutrition Coordinator; Subcounty Nutrition Coordinator; County Children Services Coordinator; Subcounty children services coordinator; Coordinator for Persons with Disability; Coordinator for Social Assistance; Religious leader – Christian, Pastor/reverend; Religious Leader – Muslim, IMAM; Sub County Child protection volunteers; Sub County Nutrition Officer.
Case Studies	3	

Photos Taken In Mbeere North



Interview with the subcounty MOH team leader, Mbeere North



Interview with Chief, Nthawa Location



FGD with Caregivers in Siakago village



Enumerator taking the height of the child

What worked well

- There was buy-in from county top leadership for the UCB project and a successful entry into the County as Save the Children
- The target household and key informant interviews were achieved

Challenges

- Logistical challenges were experienced due to the tough terrain of Mbeere North Sub County, Nthawa Ward and villages in it.
- Some HH that were sampled were missing and had to be replaced from the list generated during registration.
- Due to low literacy among the respondents, there was need for translation of questions in the local language during the interviews

Kajiado Central

An inception meeting led by the SCI staff, Ministry of Health and County Children's Department was done before the survey. The agenda of the meeting was set and UCB Project introduced to participants. Introductory remarks was done from the head of children's services and a presentation on Child Safeguarding was made by a representative from the child service department of Kajiado county. The baseline assessment schedules were laid out and as well as the planned activities and best practices in data collection and entry. Various quantitative data collection tools were introduced and reviewed with the participants. A total of 30 participants attended the three days training and pretesting exercise.

The data collection tools and instruments were tested by the participants before commencement of data collection exercise. It was key that the tools be reviewed by the participants as the inputs given were substantial as well tailored according to county context. Standardization of the data collection tools and instruments was important a key activity before tools and instruments could be used in the field. The RAs completed the data baseline assessment training and data collection.

Summary of Households, FGDs and Key informants interviewed Kajiado Subcounty

	Number done	Comment
Household interviews	439	All Households targeted were reached.
FGDs		
Caregivers	5	
CHVs	5	
Key Informants	8	County Nutrition Coordinator; Subcounty Nutrition Coordinator; Subcounty children services coordinator; Coordinator for Persons with Disability; Religious leader, Sub County Child protection volunteers; local administrators
Case Studies	3	

Photos Taken In Kajiado



Research Assistants Training session



Research Assistants taking anthropometric measurements on respondents

What worked well

- The research assistant successfully completed the training and data collection surpassing the target of 439 completed interviews with caregivers as well as the assigned FGDs, Key Informant Interviews and Case Studies
- Practical sessions of testing data tools and instruments with selected mothers and children from the county was successful

Challenges

- Some respondents in the sample especially in the urban areas were difficult to locate and therefore were replaced

- Rumours circulated in the community that respondents in the sample would be struck off the UCB beneficiaries list. The researchers assured the community members this was not the case.

Timelines

Considering the timelines and the end of the year approaching, we would like to share draft report for review at the end of January 2022 and the dissemination to be done in March next year.

Activity	Date
Data analysis completed	15th January 2022
Draft Report shared with WFP for review	31 st January 2022
Final Report and policy briefs	15 th February 2022
Dissemination of the assessment report	February/March 2022