EFFECTS OF HUNGER SAFETY NET PROGRAM ON LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT IN WAJIR COUNTY, KENYA

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ABSTRACT

Despite economic growth and improvements in many dimensions of welfare, poverty remains a pervasive and complex phenomenon in Sub-Saharan Africa. Poverty and vulnerability remain major challenges in Kenya. Social safety nets can help build household resilience to shocks. If poor households are able to rely on regular support from safety nets, they can avoid resorting to costly and oft en irreversible coping strategies, such as selling their most productive assets at deflated prices or taking children out of school. The study was guided by the following objectives; to examine the level of adoption of government cash safety net programs within Wajir County, to determine the influence of cash transfers on the livelihood improvement within Wajir Count, to find out the effect of cash management on the livelihood improvement within Wajir County, to determine whether the management of the cash transfer program affects the effectiveness of the program within Wajir County and to determine the effect of registration and targeting on the livelihood improvement within Wajir County. The study was guided by social system theory. The theory was developed by Charles Darwin in 1874. This study employed a descriptive study design. The study targeted all residents of Wajir County. However, to determine sample size Fisher Formula was used. A sample size of 384 was used in data collection. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used for data collection. The data collection methods used includes; interviews schedules, questionnaires and observation. Piloting was done to enhance reliability and validity of research instruments. The responses from the questionnaires and interview schedules were coded into statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 21.0 for analysis. Qualitative data was analyzed using content analysis based on analysis of meanings and implications emanating from respondents' information and documented data. The findings revealed that majority of respondents agreed that government adopt cash transfer net program. Cash transfer net program enhance retention and fostering of families affected with hunger. Also, the results show that county government and national government ensures management of the hunger safety net programmes. From findings, it can be concluded that government support is often limited and lack of other development interventions in the county hamper the hunger safety self-sufficiency. Access to cash transfer services, management of cash transfer and transparency in registration increase the potential of households' to become hunger safety self-sufficient and to achieve the broader food security program. The study recommended that pay points should be sufficiently accessible to recipients, in particular those that have difficulties in travelling and the payment mechanism should seek to be linked to savings accounts for recipients so that they can retain funds in their accounts, if they desire, and have greater freedom to withdraw funds.

Key Words: *hunger safety net program, livelihood improvement, Wajir County, Kenya*

INTRODUCTION

Despite economic growth and improvements in many dimensions of welfare, poverty remains a pervasive and complex phenomenon in Sub-Saharan Africa. Approximately two people in five live in poverty, and, because of shocks, many others are vulnerable to falling into poverty. Part of the agenda to tackle poverty in Africa in recent years has been the launch of social safety net programs. Largely absent from the continent until the early 2000s, social safety nets are now included in development strategies in most countries in Africa. The shift in social policy toward social safety nets reflects a progressive evolution in the understanding of the role that social safety nets can play in the fight against poverty and vulnerability. Evidence shows that these programs can contribute significantly and efficiently to reducing poverty, building resilience, and boosting opportunities among the poorest (Garcia & Moore, 2012).

Poverty and vulnerability remain major challenges in Kenya (Rawlings & Rubio, 2003). One in every two Kenyan is trapped in long term, chronic and intergenerational poverty (Kenya National Social Protection Policy 2011). In June 2011, the Kenyan government passed a National Social Protection Policy, the policy was developed to address the challenges that come with poverty and vulnerability. This policy recognizes and builds on social protection initiatives such as education, school feeding programs, fee waivers in public health facilities and cash transfers. Africa's socio – economic context, its demographic challenges as well as its place in the global system prompt a renewed urgency to introduce strategic and practical measures to address poverty, vulnerability, and risk (Abdulla, MacAuslan & Schofield, 2011).

Cash transfers represent a paradigmatic shift of poverty reduction (Davis, Hypher, & Winters, 2016). Cash transfers are modest grants which are designed for specific outcomes in the benefitting communities and should be effectively utilized. With the governments focus on the millennium goals and vision 2030, effective utilization of grants is of great significance (Kenya OVC Secretariat, 2014). Major cash transfers in Latin America like "Bolsa Familia" have seen the tremendous effects of cash transfers on poverty reduction. Extreme poverty in Latin America fell from 71% in 2000 to 50 % in 2009. Properly targeted cash transfer programs can be expected to improve the well-being of the recipients and reduce poverty (Sadoulet, Janvry, & Davis, 2011).

In Kenya, for example, the lack of political mobilization behind the Hunger Safety Net Program (HSNP) may be attributed to the fact that beneficiaries were mostly nomadic pastoralists in the north, a marginalized group (Hurrell & MacAuslan 2012). The design of social accountability mechanisms is thus critical in maximizing program potential. This has been possible in the Kenyan scenario where poverty reduction and extreme hunger has been achieved through the first pilot test of the HSNP programme (KHSNP, 2013).

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Traditional responses to shocks like food aid, emergency aid have been seen as insufficient to cater challenges faced by the poor and vulnerable population (Garcia and Moore, 2012) for example food aid was seen to contribute to famine but did not achieve food stability. An increase in migration, urbanization and a change in traditional family structures undermined the impact of traditional safety nets like emergency food aid (Garcia and Moore, 2012). Cash transfer programs were seen as a way of increasing inclusive growth in the Sub-Saharan region. Aid agencies and government institutions use cash transfer programs as a social protection instrument for tackling poverty while at the same time building human and physical capital and strengthening vertical and horizontal equality (Slater, 2011). However despite their central role in promoting better livelihood there has been limited examination of how these government cash safety net programs have promoted livelihood within Wajir County. Empirical evidence Haushofer and Shapiro (2016) examined the short-term impact of unconditional cash transfers to the poor: experimental evidence from Kenya. The researchers indicated that cash transfers enhanced psychological wellbeing and improved food security. Barca, Hurrell, MacAuslan, Visram, and Willis (2016) evaluated payment systems for cash transfer programmes: examples from Kenya. The study findings indicated that most cash transfers studies have paid much more attention to targeting than to payment systems. The current study sought to determine effects of hunger safety net program on livelihood improvement in Wajir County, Kenya.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

To examine the effects of hunger safety net program on livelihood improvement in Wajir County, Kenya.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To examine the level of adoption of government cash safety net programs on hunger safety net program within Wajir County.
2. To determine the influence of cash transfers on the livelihood improvement within Wajir County.
3. To determine whether the management of the cash transfer program affects the effectiveness of the hunger safety net program within Wajir County.
4. To determine the effect of registration and targeting on the livelihood improvement within Wajir County.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

The study was guided by social system theory. The theory was developed by Charles Darwin in 1874. The concept of a social system is which stability of the system is constantly endangered by both intrinsic as well as extrinsic factors (Arubayi, 2006). The intrinsic factors in this case are the information flow about cash transfer while the extrinsic factors would be the social economic background and environment. This Theoretical Framework postulates that various forms of needs arise in the society such as need for food, education and clothing which translates into poverty. It emphasize that every citizen should be given, the social status to which he or she entitles him or her to inherited aptitude. Schematically, the theory observes that provision of formal equity of access to funds by putting everybody on the same level from the scratch guarantees that the ensuring run is a just one. The theory asserts that the criteria of the scholastic promotion should be ability and will. Therefore a systematic financial aid that is expected to set in motion an intensive social mobility by facilitating an open competition where the community members would get access to funds that they deserve is significant.

EMPIRICAL REVIEW

Level of adoption of Government Cash Safety Net Programs

Social protection programmes are among the most successful development experiences the World has seen in recent years. They have proven to be key in developing countries' efforts to fight poverty and hunger. Countries and donor agencies across the World have adopted social protection strategies to complement and strengthen their efforts at reducing poverty and vulnerability.

The Kenya National Safety Net Programme (NSNP) is a government Social Protection programme established in September 2013 as part of the government's initiatives to improve and enhance social protection delivery in the country. The establishment of the NSNP builds on the government of Kenya's commitment to reducing poverty, as articulated in Kenya Vision 2030. In particular, NSNP was established to provide a common operating framework for the government's four Cash Transfer programmes including, Persons With Severe Disabilities Cash Transfer, Older Persons Cash Transfer, Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children Cash(CT- OVC) and the Hunger Safety Net Cash Transfer.

The NSNP cash transfers have made a profound difference in the lives of beneficiary households by improving their welfare and increasing their resilience. So far, more than 500,000 households are receiving cash transfers on a regular basis and an additional 374,806 households in Northern Kenya receive cash assistance in the case of extreme weather events.

The Hunger Safety Net Programme is another of the three main cash transfer programmes that are currently under implementation in Kenya. The programme is targeted at the chronically food deficient communities especially in the country's pastoralist arid and semi-arid areas of the North-Eastern province. The objective of the programme in its pilot phase was to provide "regular, predictable and guaranteed amount of cash to chronically food insecure households" in the arid and semi-arid areas (Republic of Kenya, 2012). The four districts selected for the pilot phase were Mandera, Marsabit, Wajir and Turkana. The selection criteria of the participating districts takes into account levels of poverty, vulnerability, hunger, and related features or conditions based on data from the World Food Programme, UNICEF and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics. The programmes were implemented by the Government originally through the former Ministries of Special Programmes under the Office of the President and later under Ministry of Development and Northern Kenya, with the British development aid body DFID, providing both technical and financial support.

The third cash transfer programme in Kenya is the programme on the Elderly. The programme is also in a pilot phase. It provides a monthly cash transfer of ksh 1065 to 300 households with destitute elderly people. The pilot phase of the programme for the elderly was launched in 2006 with an annual government financial commitment of Ksh 4 million aimed at supporting 300 households. The selection criteria incorporates age (above 65 years), income status and geographical location. Those selected should not be beneficiaries of another CT programme a requirement aimed at avoiding duplication of financing across projects. The pilot phase of the programme was implemented in three districts, Nyando (Nyanza Province), Busia (Western Province) and Thika (Central Province) and was managed by a secretariat under the Department of Gender, Children and Social Development.

Influence of Cash Transfers on the Livelihood Improvement

Cash Transfer programmes impacts vary by the specifics of programme design, size of transfer, quality of services, enforcement of conditionality (if any), as well as by the degree to which transfers are invested. According to Bassett (2008), the overall evidence indicates a clear trend in increased services utilization, that is, school enrolment and healthcare use, but mixed impacts on final outcomes such as test scores, illness prevalence and nutritional status.

There is increased attention on the adoption of cash transfers as social protection interventions by countries. Dithier, Pestieau and Ali, (2010) observes that there is increased advocacy for Cash transfers since policies that go through labor and output markets and educational training programmes are ineffective and that the only available instrument to alleviate old age poverty is the transfer of real income.

The need for social grants in Kenya as a social protection instrument is motivated by extreme and persistent poverty which prevents a large population of poor people from accessing, or benefitting from mainstream development interventions (MOGCSD, 2011) In low and middle income countries, Examples of a few countries having universal minimum level social pension arrangements include Mauritius, Namibia, Botswana, Bolivia and Lesotho. In developed countries, New Zealand provides universal pension to its aged populations with the objective to lift old persons above poverty line.

The government of the Kingdom of Lesotho introduced a non-contributory old age pension schemes for 70 years of age and above in the year 2004. The aim is to reduce poverty among the elderly. The recipients of the non-contributory pension ought not to be recipients of contributory old age pensions. Financing of the scheme is by general taxation (Bellow et al, 2007).

Studies done on the impacts of cash transfer across South Africa showed that in addition to promoting food security, social transfers have additional beneficial effects that are wide ranging, and extend beyond the direct recipient of the transfer to the wider family. For the recipient, there is evidence to suggest that cash transfers promote self-esteem, social status and empowerment. They also improve food security and nutritional status not just for the transfer recipient but also that of the household, (Vincent and Cull, 2009).

In the past few years, numerous forms of cash transfers have come to prominence on the global policy agenda as a feasible and effective means of reducing poverty and vulnerability, especially among children, even in countries with low administrative capacities. Interest has been further stimulated by the global crises which has also hit east African countries, including Kenya in 2008, pushing more households into poverty, or deeper into poverty, and highlighting the need for social protection for the poorest. This section focuses on the arguments and evidence concerning the positive impacts of cash transfers on poverty reduction and child well-being (Barrientos & DeJong, 2006).

An impact evaluation report of CT-OVC Kenya done by Tomkins et al (2008) showed a reduction in the rate of absenteeism among children in programme from 31.3 percent to 11.9 percent. Cash transfers increase the purchasing powers of families as long as they receive the benefit (Soares et al, 2008). A policy analysis research project done by Barrientos and Nino-Zarazua (2009) indicated that the focus of social transfer programmes on extreme poverty suggested that they could have important effects in reducing persistent poverty. They also argued that social transfers are emerging as a core component within social protection policies aimed at tackling poverty and vulnerability.

Management of Cash Transfer Program

According to Barca, et al, (2010), Kenya's Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (CT- OVC) Programme was designed to provide cash assistance to households caring for OVC while encouraging OVC human capital development.

The CT- OVC incorporates two features of cash transfer programs found in demonstrations across Sub- Saharan Africa: it targets the poor and incorporates community- based identification mechanisms to select program recipients. The targeting mechanism used by the program is based on geographic location, community, and individual selection. The community based targeting process is led by members of the community called the Location OVC Committees (LOCs) who are in charge of identifying households within selected geographic areas based on eligibility criteria (Traflon, 2009).

In South Africa, as much as the CT programme has taken roots, in the recent past, most of the workers in the Ministry of Social Services have gone to the streets led by the youth leader Julius Malema to complain of the reckless handling of the cash meant to benefit the youth, the poor, the disabled, the aged, OVC and the hungry refugees from Zimbabwe by the current government of president Jacob Zuma. The problems/complaints ranged from poor and unqualified staff hired on contractual terms so as to cut down the expenses, poor planning due to lack of finances of hiring experienced consultancy firms, poor M&E of the scheme and many other complains. This however was denied by the national government that claimed that the condition was temporary and this was as a result of the global economic crisis that constrained its budgets (Barrientos, and Niño- Zarazúa, 2011).

Just like any other East Africa country, while the government of Kenya has had significant noncash social protection programmes for most of the post-independence period, especially with regard to education and health sectors, cash transfer programmes hardly featured in the country's annual budgets. The government was generally not in favour of cash transfer programmes, with some of the people holding the view that introduction of cash transfers would be expensive and would encourage laziness, dependency on state resources and that it would generally undermine incentives for hard work, self-improvement and development of appropriate work ethics. Thus, cash transfer programmes in Kenya is a recent activity, less than a decade since the first steps were taken to introduce the programme in Kenya in 2006-2009, targeting the most vulnerable sections of the Kenya society especially the aged, OVC and the extremely disabled people. (GoK, 2013). By the end of 2012, there were three main Cash Transfer (CT) programmes in Kenya which were being implemented jointly by the Kenya Government and a number of development partners. The key development partners involved in the funding of CT programmes include UNICEF, DFID and the World Bank. According to World Vision Kenya (2012), donors played a dominant role at the beginning of the programmes which was a move to supplement the National budget that was severely constrained during the Raila/Kibaki government.

The Government's share of the financial resources availed for the implementation of the Cash Transfer programmes has risen from a low level at the initial stages of the programmes to current level where the Government's share is more or less equal to the share of the donors. Both government and donor officials interviewed estimate that the Government's share was probably going to overtake that of the donors in the coming few years. A look at government budget allocation to CT-OVC and OPCT programmes indicates that government allocation to the programmes had expanded almost 12-fold between 2005/06, 2008/09 and 2012/2013, from approximately US$ 800,000 to over US$ 9 million and later over US$ 11million respectively. (Ikiara, 2009). Despite the accelerated efforts by the Kenyan government to implement the policy laid down by the former Ministry of Gender, children and social development on social protection and cash transfer provision, it has only made 1/12th impact (MoLSS, 2013).

Effect of Registration and Targeting on the Livelihood Improvement

In 2012, Kenya had 8 million vulnerable people eligible for some form of social protection. This includes 2.4 million orphans and vulnerable children; children and adults with disabilities; older people; and chronically ill adults. As set out in Kenya's long-term plan (Vision 2030) and the new constitution, the GoK is committed to the development of a national social protection system. A new National Social Protection Policy (2012) sets out the vision to progressively achieve this right, by providing universal access to social protection for the vulnerable throughout their lives, increasingly funded by GoK. It committed the GoK to "protect individuals and households from the impacts of adverse shocks to their consumption that are capable of pushing them into poverty or deeper poverty." The 2012 Kenya Social Protection Review identified 22 mechanisms through which social transfers were delivered. It found that current schemes are still fragmented and uncoordinated, targeting is patchy, funding is insecure, and coverage is lower than need. Capacity gaps exist at all levels.

Registering all households in northern Kenya was clearly an ambitious project by itself. The task involved significant discussion, planning and logistics which absorbed vast amounts of time and resources on the part of the HSNP Secretariat and the DFID Adviser and Snr Programme Manager. From September 2011 until a year later (September 2012) when training of field staff for registration took place, there was much discussion and debate about how registration would be done and what data should be collected e.g. whether biometrics should be collected for all household members or just household heads, how many livelihood questions etc. Throughout 2012, the overall objective was the registration of all households so that they could be all be issued with Smart cards, after which cash and potentially other interventions or support could be targeted.

Targeting process identified by the LOCs as eligible and collect more detailed information on household demographic composition, caregiver characteristics, and the proxy variables listed above. Because more households are identified by the LOC than the budget can accommodate, further prioritizes households based upon risk factors. An additional ranking system is employed to identify families with greater vulnerability (Patrick, 2009).

The ranking system first prioritizes child headed households (less than 18 years of age) and, among them, households with more orphans or vulnerable children, followed by the eldest caregivers and, within them, households with more orphans or vulnerable children. All the eligible households are listed and ranked for each program location and then validated by a community assembly. At this time, program officers explain the rules of the targeting system and announce each name out loud in the established order according to priority criteria. Households are then invited to apply for the program (Coady et al. 2004).

Improving the lives of Kenya’s most vulnerable children is not only a legal and moral imperative but is also a practical and affordable possibility. The government-funded Cash Transfer Program for Orphans and Vulnerable Children, described below, is assisting just a small fraction of those most in need. However, it has the potential to improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of Kenya’s children, lifting them out of a place of deprivation and despair. Kenya’s economy is fairly robust, growing at a pace faster than population growth. Yet, if the government is to deliver such a social protection scheme nationally and over the long term, it will need support from the international community, particularly given the impacts of the recent global economic downturn. The (CTP) Cash Transfer Program advances an exciting new vision of social justice in Kenya. It recognizes that caring for society’s most vulnerable members is a collective responsibility to be shared by a country’s government, local citizens, and the international community (Hanlon, Armando and Hulme, 2010).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study employed a descriptive study design. According to Greene (2008) descriptive research design is a design that is used when the researcher wants to describe specific behaviour as it occurs in the environment. The main aim of descriptive research was to determine and present the way things were and helps in establishing the current situation of the under study population. Descriptive survey research was planned to present statistical information about various aspects of the study that policy makers may utilize. It allows researchers to gather information, summarize, present and interpret information for the purpose of clarification (Orodho, 2002).

Target Population

Wajir County has a total population of 661,941 people (Kenya Population and Housing Census, 2009).The unit of analysis was to be the individual households which was the target population that comprised of the respondents from the sample survey.

Sample Size and Sampling Procedure

The desired sample size was to determined using the formula of Fischer et al (1991)

$$n = \frac{z^2pq}{d^2}$$

Where: n - The desired sample size (since the population is greater than 10,000); z - The standard normal deviation, set at 1.96, which corresponds to 95% confidence level; p - The proportion in the target population estimated to have a particular characteristic. If there is no reasonable estimate, then use 50 percent (the study will use 0.50); q = 1.0 – p; d = the degree of accuracy desired, here set at 0.05 corresponding to the 1.96.

In substitution, $= \frac{1.96^2 \times 0.5 \times 0.5}{0.05^2}$ = 385

The unit of analysis was the individual households while the unit of observation was the respondents from the sample survey. Simple random sampling was used to obtain a sample from a sampling frame of all the households in the study area. To determine the number of respondents to be subjected to the interview per section proportion to its population size, weighing of total number of households in the section against total number of households in the whole area was carried out.

Research Instruments

Both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used for data collection. The data collection methods that were used include interviews schedules, questionnaires and observation. Questionnaires were used to collect quantitative data and were administered by the researcher randomly so as to ensure correct responses and maximum return rates. A questionnaire was considerable advantages in administration in that it offers an even stimulus to a large number of respondents simultaneously and provides the researcher with relative ease of data accumulation. The questionnaire comprised both open-ended and closed-ended questions. Open ended questions gave the respondents an opportunity to think critically on the questions asked and gave chance for a wide range of responses. Closed ended questions were meant to elicit specific responses without additional explanation. The data collected covered the full range of issues in line with the study objectives. The researcher interviewed individuals from relevant departments in Government Cash Safety Net Programs. The aim of the selection was to create a wide view of the subject (Kothari, 2004).

Data Analysis

The data analysis was based on the study objectives and research questions. After data collection, the researcher identified incomplete or inaccurate responses, which were corrected to clarify the quality of the responses. The responses from the questionnaires and interview schedules were coded into statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 21.0 for analysis. Qualitative data was analysed using content analysis based on analysis of meanings and implications emanating from respondents' information and documented data. It was summarized into meaningful statements, which were used to supplement the quantitative data to enrich the interpretation of the findings. The researcher analysed quantitative data from questionnaires using descriptive statistics, whereby data collected was subjected to frequencies and percentages, because it is easy to interpret, understand and compare frequencies. The regression modal analysis was used to test the predictive of independent factors. Simple descriptive statistics were also employed to analyse quantitative data which involved frequency counts and percentages. The results of data analysis were presented using frequency distribution tables, pie charts and graphs.

RESEARCH RESULTS

The respondents strongly agreed that government adopt cash transfer net program. Cash transfer net program enhance retention and fostering of families affected with hunger. Also, the respondents strongly agreed that design and implementation of an effective cash delivery system maximizes the use of new skills, pay points should be sufficiently accessible to receivers, in particular those that have hunger.

The results also revealed that majority of respondent strongly disagreed that administrators at national level and county level are allocating enough resources and attention to the cash transfer programmes in your area. However, the findings revealed that majority of respondents agreed that workers in the CT programme has other, workers handling CT at location level get regular training and people handling CT funds in your area are all qualified.

Further, the findings revealed that majority of respondents strongly agreed that county government and national government ensures management of the hunger safety net programmes. This was attributed through efficient consideration of appeals which helps to minimize any exclusion and inclusion errors in management of hunger safety net programmes, Technical support and mentoring and the county government putting in place sound financial architecture and management to ensure success of hunger safety net programmes.

Lastly, the study results revealed that majority of respondents agreed that county government and national government ensures transparency registration of the people living vulnerable life due to hunger. The study also revealed that registration of recipients is conducted in a transparent manner. However, there exist registration challenges due to recipients' lack of National Identity Cards.

INFERENTIAL STATISTICS

The regression analysis of the data was done to establish the relationship between hunger safety net program and livelihood improvement. The Table 1 show the model summary.

Table 1: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.927	0.912	0.717	0.329

The Table 2 above indicates an R square of 0.912 implies that 91.2% of changes on livelihood improvement are explained by the independent variables of the study. There are however other factors that influence performance of commercial banks are not included in the model which account for 8.8%. An R of 0.927 on the other hand signifies strong positive correlation between the variables of the study.

Table 2: ANOVA

Model	SS	df	MS	F	Significance
Regression	453.16	4	482.1	3.483	0.015
Residual	241.40	306	0.781		
Total	694.56	310			

From the ANOVA Table 3 above, the study was done at 5% significance level which is 0.05. The study provided a P-Value of 0.00 which is lower than the significance level of 0.05, thus hunger safety net programme has impact on livelihood improvement of people in Wajir County. The overall regression model was significant and therefore a reliable indicator of the study findings. In terms of p values, the study indicated 0.015 which is less than 0.05 and therefore statistically significant hence the alternative hypotheses were accepted.

Table 3: Regression Coefficients

Variables	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	4.564	0.363		6.924	.008
Level of adoption of cash transfer	0.445	0.0163	0.154	1.850	.004
Influence of cash transfer	0.468	0.0382	0.3324	3.535	.005
Management of cash transfer	0.357	0.0434	0.4325	2.624	.003
Registration and Targeting	0.343	0.0558	0.5486	3.156	.002

In addition, the researcher conducted a multiple regression analysis so as to determine the relationship between livelihood improvement of people in Wajir County and the four variables. As per the Regression model equation ($\mathbf{Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \varepsilon}$)

$$\mathbf{Y = 4.564 + 0.445X_1 + 0.468X_2 + 0.357X_3 + 0.343\beta_4 X_4}$$

Where: Y = Livelihood improvement; X_1 = Level of adoption of cash transfer; X_2 = Influence of cash transfer; X_3 = Management of cash transfer; X_4 = Registration and Targeting of people living with hunger

According to the regression equation established, taking all factors (level of adoption of cash transfer, influence of cash transfer, management of cash transfer and registration and targeting) the livelihood improvement will be 4.564. Further, taking all other independent variables at zero, a unit increase in level of adoption of cash transfer will lead to a 0.445 increase in livelihood improvement. A unit increase in influence of cash transfer will lead to a 0. 468 increase in livelihood improvement; a unit increase in management of cash transfer will lead to a 0.357 increase in livelihood improvement while a unit increase in registration and targeting of people living with hunger will lead to a 0.343 increase in livelihood improvement. This infers that influence of cash transfer contributed more to the livelihood improvement.

CONCLUSIONS

It has been concluded that hunger safety net programme in Wajir County generally is the main challenges facing rural households. This need immediate and long term interventions and policies should be aligned with and diverse measures to alleviate the problem. Hunger Safety Net Programme in the Vulnerable Livelihoods in Wajir County is among the integrated programs with the aim of enhancing food self-sufficiency and asset accumulation. However, the finding of the study insists the program suffers a lot problem during implementation.

The government support is often limited and lack of other development interventions in the county hamper the hunger safety self-sufficiency. Access to cash transfer services, management of cash transfer and transparency in registration increase the potential of households' to become hunger safety self-sufficient and to achieve the broader food security program.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Pay points should be sufficiently accessible to recipients, in particular those that have difficulties in travelling and the payment mechanism should seek to be linked to savings accounts for recipients so that they can retain funds in their accounts, if they desire, and have greater freedom to withdraw funds.
2. The hunger safety net program is moving under the control of the National Drought Management Agency (NDMA) under the Ministry of Devolution and Planning. This will require careful management as the current operational arrangements are complex and HSNP impacts are sensitive to effective programme implementation.
3. The government should target the cash transfer at the poorest households, and ensuring the payments system functions effectively so that all households receive their full entitlement, are the best ways to maximize programme impact and value for money.

4. There should be a comprehensive registration dataset which theoretically includes information on every household in the hunger safety net program in the county. This will provide a useful resource for the conduct of future evaluations and will help minimize the need for and/or cost of any future independent impact evaluations.

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