

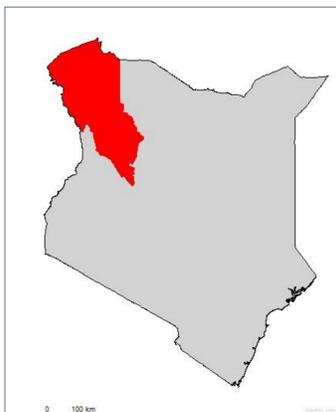
Community-led interventions buffer against impacts of extreme drought in drylands: A case of Turkana county, Kenya

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1 Introduction



- Drylands are a major as a major food insecurity and malnutrition hotspots.
- This has been aggravated by the impacts of Covid 19 and, recently, by the increasingly severe and frequent droughts.
- Turkana County is one of the poorest region in Kenya.
- Pastoralism is the main livelihood activity supporting up to 62% of the population.

2 Purpose

- To evaluate the impact of implementation of community action plans (CAPs) developed using the integrated community-based approach on the diets of women and children.

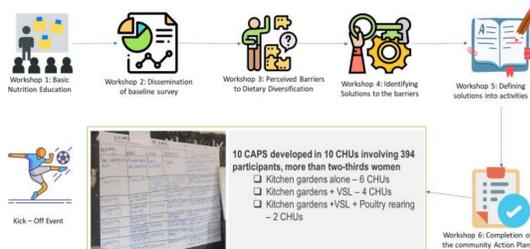


3 Materials & Methods



August 2020: Diagnostic/baseline

A diagnostic survey was conducted across 17 community health units with 360 randomly sampled households with women (15 -49 years) and children aged 6 – 36 months. Indicators assessed include food insecurity access scale, minimum dietary diversity of women and children, maternal knowledge, attitudes and practices on infant and young child nutrition and household incomes and livelihood practices



October 2020: Co-creation of interventions

Six co-creation workshops organized in ten of the 17 communities with participation from various groups including women, youths, men, senior citizens and local leaders.

Workshop facilitation followed a transdisciplinary approach with facilitators from ministries of agriculture, health and the researchers. Each community developed an action plan identifying the activities, the resources and the roles of each players.



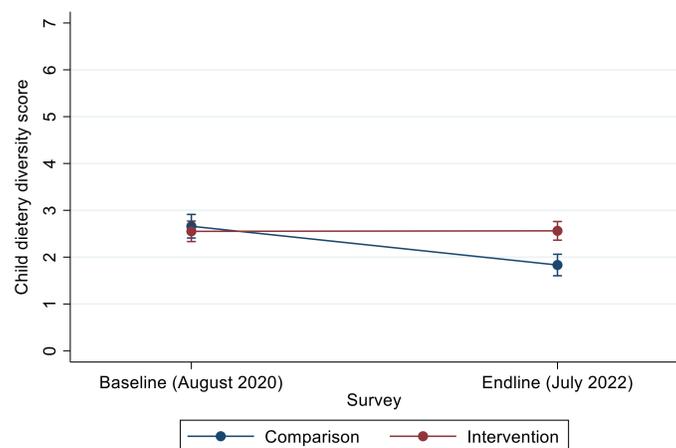
January – December 2021: Co-implementation of CAPs

Communities implemented the CAPs with routine monitoring by community health volunteers. A transdisciplinary team worked together with the communities to fill any identified knowledge gaps with technical trainings and mentorship line with each of the intervention activities.

July 2022– Endline survey

600 households sampled across the 10 intervention and 7 comparison communities; FGDs with men & women

4 Results

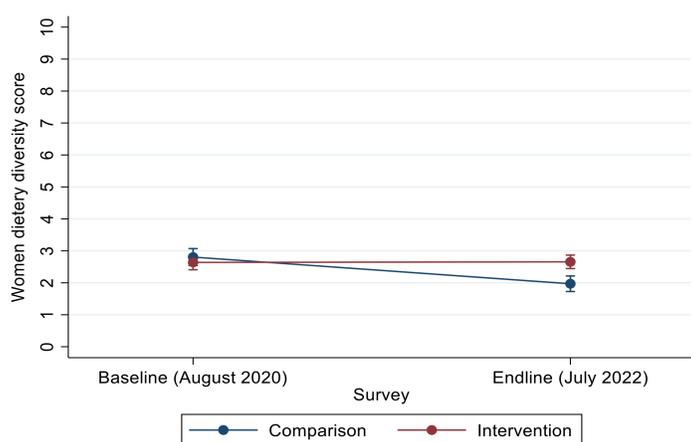


Baseline mean CDDS:

- Comparison = 2.9 ± 1.0 food groups
- Intervention = 2.6 ± 1.1 food groups
- Significance $t_{346} = -2.5, p = 0.013$.

Endline mean CDDS:

- Comparison = 1.9 ± 1.8 food groups
 - Intervention = 2.4 ± 1.3 food groups
 - Significance $t_{567} = -5.3, p < 0.000$.
- The intervention has a positive significant treatment effect of 0.84 food groups

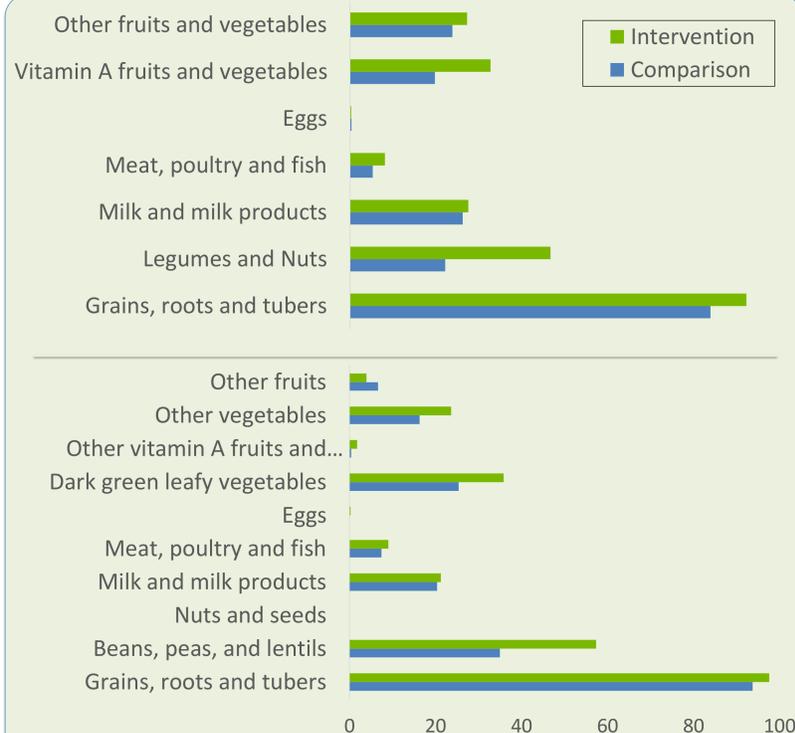


Baseline mean WDDS:

- Comparison = 3.0 ± 1.1 food groups
- Intervention = 2.7 ± 1.0 food groups
- Significance $t_{344} = -2.5, p = 0.013$.

Endline mean WDDS:

- Comparison = 2.1 ± 1.1 food groups
 - Intervention = 2.5 ± 1.3 food groups
 - Significance $t_{567} = 4.5, p < 0.000$.
- The intervention has a positive significant treatment effect of 0.85 food groups



5 Conclusions

- Dietary diversity of both women and children reduced at endline during the extreme drought. However, the decrease in the intervention community was less than in the comparison communities.
- The study demonstrates that intervention activities co-designed and implemented following the integrated community-based participatory approach can enhance resilience against impact of severe droughts.

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