

Note on the Post-Distribution Monitoring of emergency payments

March 2017

HUNGER SAFETY NET PROGRAMME: PHASE 2 EVALUATIONS

This note provides a summary of a series of interviews conducted with NDMA's county information officers and data analysts on the post distribution monitoring (PDM) of emergency payments. The PDM is an exercise that has been done before, in October 2015, and was designed to be collected by NDMA field monitors who collect the Early Warning System (EWS) data on a monthly basis. The objective of the interviews was to find out more about the capacity of the team, their understanding of the PDM protocol and get their feedback on the previous PDM exercise. The interviews were conducted in the first and second week of March 2017.

Table 1 Interviewees

Name	County	Designation
Hussein Mohamud Ibrahim	Mandera	CDIO
Hassan Mohamud Abdulla	Mandera	Field monitor
Hassan Ibrahim Ahmed	Wajir	Data analyst
Mr Kabaci	Marsabit	Data Analyst/ Acting Information Officer
Justus Ikaal	Turkana	Data Analyst

Source: OPM / RGA.

The PDM process

The team managed to interview five NDMA staff at the county level, all who were involved in the previous PDM exercise and have been working for the programme for over three years. They had all seen the tool and reported it to be easily understood, even by the EWS enumerators.

Training

PDM training was conducted in Machakos in December 2015 by Carrie Ndoka and Peter Thirikwa. County drought information officers (CDIOs) and data analysts from the four HSNP counties were trained during this workshop and the training focused on how to ask the questions, how to train field enumerators, how to ensure field enumerators collect the right and quality data through internal quality checks, making periodic visits to the site and more importantly how to capture and enter data once it has been collected from the field. After the training, the data analysts and CDIOs then called the enumerators at the county level and delivered the PDM training.

According to the county staff the PDM is not a complicated tool, and they found the questions straightforward. In one area however, it was reported that the training for new enumerators/ field monitors needs improving, as some enumerators were found to lack understanding of HSNP. Inexperience with data collection among these new enumerators affected data quality. They also had a problem distinguishing between group 1 and 2, and had to re-collect some data.

There was one recommendation to have a piloting exercise incorporated to the field monitors training to ensure that they understand the tool.

Data collection

PDM data was not collected separately from the EWS data. Across the counties, the data collection of the PDM took 5-7 days depending on the distance covered. The number of field monitors used during the exercise was different in each county, ranging from 6 to 12, due to budget allocation. Some of the data analysts requested that more time be allocated for data collection as they felt it was rushed. Once data was collected and checked for quality, a period of one week was allotted to the data analysts to collect the completed questionnaires from the field monitors and another week for data entry.

The data is collected on paper but all the interviewees felt that it was time to switch to digital devices as the field monitors are capable of making the switch and it would improve data quality and increase efficiency, as the data analyst would not need to travel round the field collecting paper questionnaires. According to CDIO Mandera, the best time for PDM data collection to start is on the 16th of the month after EWS data has been collected.

Analysis

Data entry takes about five days. There were no issues with data entry as it was reported to have gone smoothly. Once entered the information is sent to Nairobi for analysis.

Revised PDM

For the revised PDM, the staff would like it to be as simple as possible and incorporate digital devices if possible to improve quality.

HSNP

All the interviewees had a good knowledge of HSNP although their level of interaction with the HSNP team differs across the counties as some engage more with HSNP than others. They mostly mentioned that they would like more training on the HSNP MIS, targeting and selection process.

Recommendations

- Add a pilot component to the training
- A question interview guide and instruction of the target area and group needs to be developed to ensure that the field monitors can refer to them when needed to avoid any misunderstanding.
- Use mobile devices for data collection to improve the quality of data collected and save time.

Authors: Caroline Riungu, Molly Scott and Clare O'Brien (OPM).