

Swaziland Fact Sheet

Community and Household Surveillance (CHS)

October 2008

Highlights of October 2008

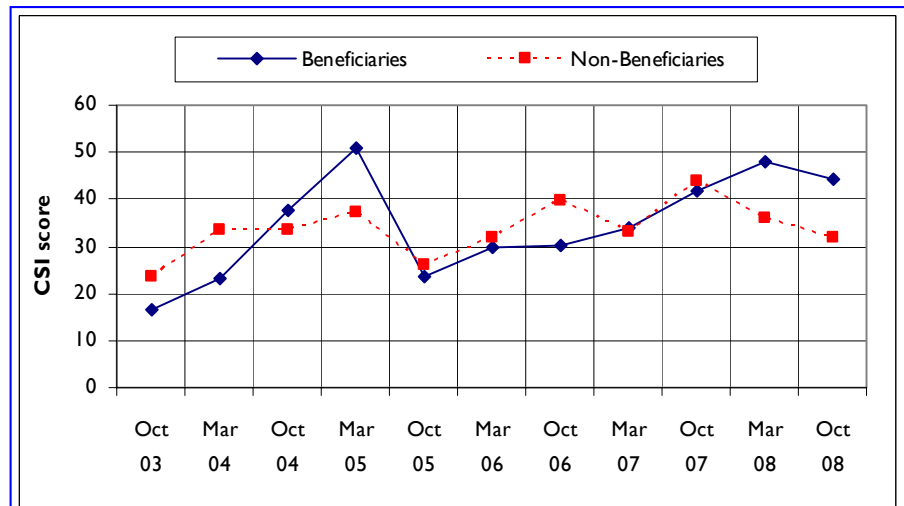
- ⇒ In all, 47% of the sample households indicated they had **no cereal stocks** at the time of the survey while 26% had only one month of stocks. This compares to 80% in October 2007.
- ⇒ Only 2% of beneficiary households indicated that **food assistance** was their most important source of cereal—they mostly depend on purchase (71%) and gifts/begging (15%) while 43% of non-beneficiary households rely on purchase, and 47% on own production for cereals.
- ⇒ 35% of non-beneficiary and 32% of beneficiary households had received **food remittances** in the six months prior to the survey; 32% of beneficiaries had received cash remittances compared to 35% of non-beneficiaries.
- ⇒ Significantly more ($p < 0.01$) beneficiary (23%) households had **borrowed money** in the 3 months prior to the survey compared to non-beneficiary (15%) households, mostly to buy food (both), to pay for education (NB) or health care (B) and most often from friends or relatives, moneylenders or savings groups.
- ⇒ Round 11 showed that 9% of households **sold assets** to pay for food and only 5% sold assets to pay for health care.
- ⇒ More than 85% of the sample households had **access to land** and of those, 96% will cultivate. Only 13% of these households will cultivate a smaller plot this season compared to last.

Effects of Food Assistance

Analysis of CHS data allows for comparison of WFP beneficiary and non-beneficiary groups on the basis of measures computed from the household data. The **Coping Strategies Index (CSI)** measures the **frequency and severity** of actions taken by households in response to the presence or threat of a food shortage.

With the CSI, a lower score implies reduced stress on the household and thus, relatively better food security. As shown in the graph, the average CSI score of beneficiary households is much higher than that of the non-beneficiaries.

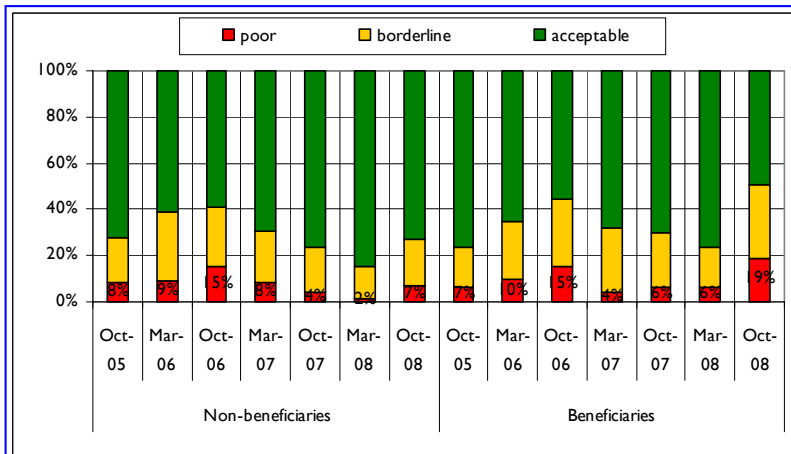
- October 2008 shows a steep increase in CSI for beneficiaries and a decrease for non-beneficiaries making the difference statistically significant ($p < 0.001$).
- By **programme activity**, the mean CSI is higher among FFW/A beneficiaries (61) when compared to the TFD/VGF (44) and ART (33) beneficiaries.
- The average CSI was 46 for **non-beneficiaries** in Manzini, 32 in Shiselweni and 28 in Lubombo but only 22 in Hhohho.
- For **beneficiaries**, the average CSI was 70 in Shiselweni and 30 in Lubombo.



Food Consumption Profiles

The **food consumption score** not only allows comparisons of dietary quality and diversity between beneficiary and non-beneficiary populations but also is used to establish a threshold of dietary quality against which to compare these populations. Research has shown that dietary diversity and frequency is a good proxy measure of household food security.

The chart shows that the percentage of beneficiary households with **poor consumption** has increased to levels higher than October 2006. At the same time, the percentage of households with acceptable consumption has also decreased.



By programme activity 21% of TFD/GFD beneficiaries had poor consumption followed by 14% of FFW/A beneficiaries and no ART beneficiary households. By region, 19% of the households in Lubombo and 12% in Shiselweni had poor consumption, compared to 4% in Hhohho and 3% in Manzini.

Consumption classifications

Using a 7-day recall period, information was collected on the variety and frequency of different foods and food groups to calculate a weighted food consumption score. Weights were based on the nutritional density of the foods.

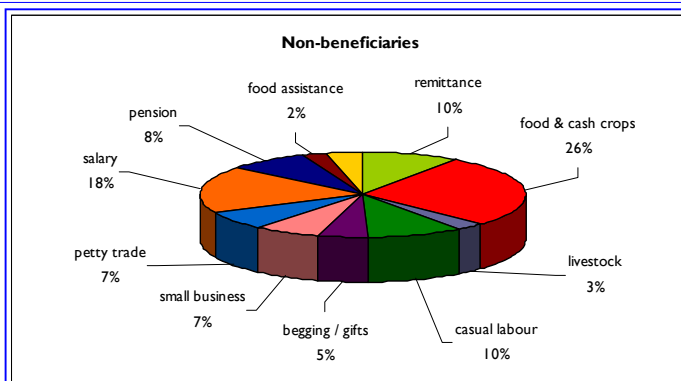
Households were then classified as having either 'poor', 'borderline' or 'acceptable' consumption based on the analysis of the data.

Households with **'borderline'** consumption are eating the equivalent of cereals and vegetables on a daily basis plus pulses and oils about 4 times per week. Those with **'poor'** consumption managed to eat the equivalent of only cereals and vegetables on a daily basis. This is considered a bare minimum and is a sign of extreme household food insecurity.

Contribution to Total Income

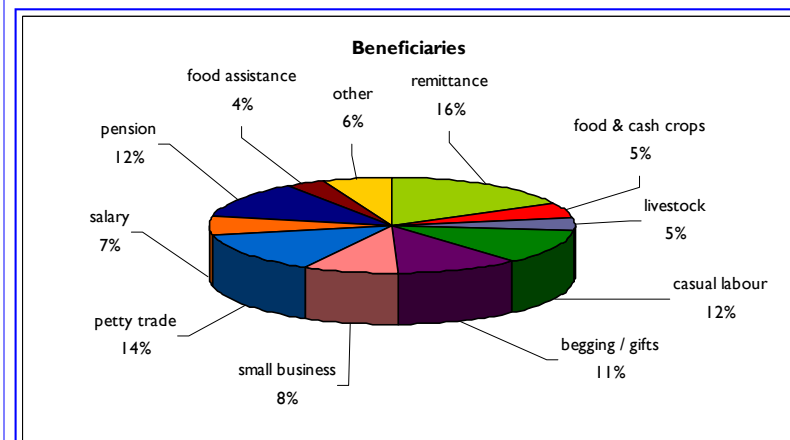
In order to better understand the relative importance of different livelihood sources the heads of households were asked to estimate the contribution of each source to the total household income.

The graph on the right shows that sales of food & cash crops, salary, casual labour and remittances have the greatest **contribution to total income** for **non-beneficiary** households with transfers making up 25% of total income.



The graph below shows that for

beneficiary households, the greatest contribution to total income is from remittance, followed by pension, casual labour and petty trade. These households rely on transfers for about 43% of their total income.



When comparing the two groups, there are significant differences in share from remittance, food & cash crops, begging, skilled trade, petty trade, pension, salary and brewing but not food assistance.

Information is collected on:

- Household demographics
- Household livelihood strategies
- Coping strategies
- Food aid outcomes
- Food consumption & sources of food consumed
- Vulnerable Groups
 - * Orphaned children
 - * Chronically ill
 - * Female headed households
 - * Elderly headed households
 - * Asset poor
 - * Disabled
- Targeting observations
- Household wealth and income
- Detailed household expenditure

Nutrition information was not collected this round because of the National Nutrition Survey conducted at the same time.

Livelihood Sources and Expenditure

Main livelihood sources of households

Beneficiaries	Non-beneficiaries
Remittance (27%)	Food & cash crops (36%)
Casual labour (21%)	Salary (22%)
Small business (20%)	Remittance (20%)
Pension (19%)	Casual labour (16%)

Food and cash crop sales was the most common livelihood source for non-beneficiary households while beneficiaries relied on remittances and casual labour for livelihoods. Reliance on food assistance for beneficiaries was extremely low. Reliance on remittance is higher for both groups when compared to October 2007. The main livelihood sources are in the table to the left.

- In all 47% of the households named only one income source with no difference between groups.
- By **programme** type, 50% of ART beneficiaries, 49% of TFD/VGF and only 27% of FFW/A beneficiary households have one livelihood source.
- **FFWIA beneficiaries** rely more on casual labour while **ART** beneficiaries rely mostly on pension than the other groups.
- **GFD/TFD** beneficiaries have the highest reliance on remittances (28%) with FFW/A having the next highest (27%).
- ART beneficiaries relied more on food and cash crops than the other groups.

Water, sanitation and housing

- Three-quarters of the households in Shiselweni were accessing drinking water from improved sources (UNICEF) compared to only 54% in Hhohho, 50% in Manzini and 48% in Lubombo.
- Households in Manzini were the most likely to have good sanitation (86%). Access to good sanitation was much lower in the other regions: 65% in Lubombo, 62% in Shiselweni and only 58% in Hhohho.
- Around 18% of the sample were living in houses with thatch roof and dirt floor. Households in Shiselweni were the most likely to live in poor quality housing (25%), followed by Lubombo (20%), Hhohho (19%) and Manzini (6%).

Expenditure information was collected for the fifth time in Round 11.

- Overall, the share of monthly expenditure for food was significantly ($p < 0.001$) higher in beneficiaries (60%) than non-beneficiaries (49%) and higher than in March 2008 (53% vs. 48%).
- In Lubombo, beneficiary households had a significantly ($p < 0.05$) higher share of expenditure for food than non-beneficiaries (62% vs. 56%).
- However, beneficiaries allocated a significantly lower ($p < 0.001$) share of monthly expenditure for **education** (6.6% vs. 10.8%).
- Median monthly **per capita expenditure** was E 118 for beneficiaries and E 229 for non-beneficiary households which was a statistically significant ($p < 0.001$) difference. This compared to E 74 for beneficiaries and E 177 for non-beneficiaries which could be the impact of the global economic crisis.
- By programme activity, ART beneficiaries have a much higher share of monthly expenditure for food (74%) than the other groups (59-60%).
- Monthly share of expenditure for education was much higher for FFW/A beneficiaries (12.6%) compared to GFD/TFD (6.5%) and ART (1.5%) beneficiaries.

Vulnerability

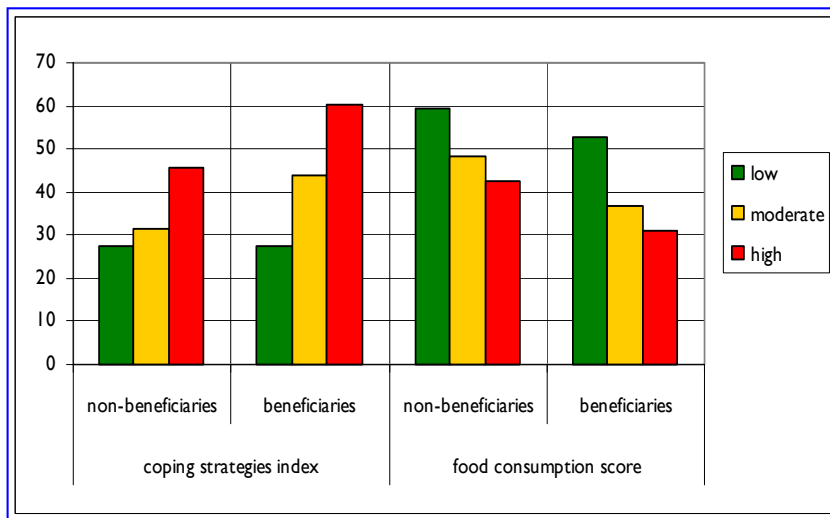
Demographic indicators

	Beneficiaries	Non-beneficiaries
HH size	6.4	6.2
% Effective Dependents	63%	59%
Female head*	58%	39%
Elderly head*	48%	34%
Disabled member	20%	25%
Keeping Orphans*	44%	36%
Member died in past 3 months	12%	10%
Chronically ill member	14%	16%
Asset poor*	24%	10%

*statistically significant difference

In this round, vulnerability was assessed by considering the number of vulnerable characteristics (out of 12) each household had.

- Asset poverty, female or elderly head, chronically ill member, hosting orphans, disabled member, recent death of a member, 80% or more effective dependents, poor housing, unsafe water or sanitation and having no livestock were used.
- Households were described as having either low (0-1 characteristics), medium (2-5) or high (6+) **vulnerability**.
- More **beneficiary** households had high vulnerability (13%) as compared to non-beneficiary households (9%).
- By **programme activity**, 14% of TFD/GFD households had high vulnerability compared to 13% of ART and 9% of FFW/A beneficiary households.
- The chart below compares the mean coping strategies index (CSI) and food consumption score (FCS) by **vulnerability level and beneficiary status**. For both groups the relationship between CSI, consumption and vulnerability is clearly illustrated with mean CSI increasing with increased vulnerability and FCS decreasing with increased vulnerability.
- By **region**, 14% of beneficiary households in Lubombo and 12% in Shiselweni have high vulnerability while only 3% of non-beneficiary households in the Shiselweni sample were highly vulnerable.



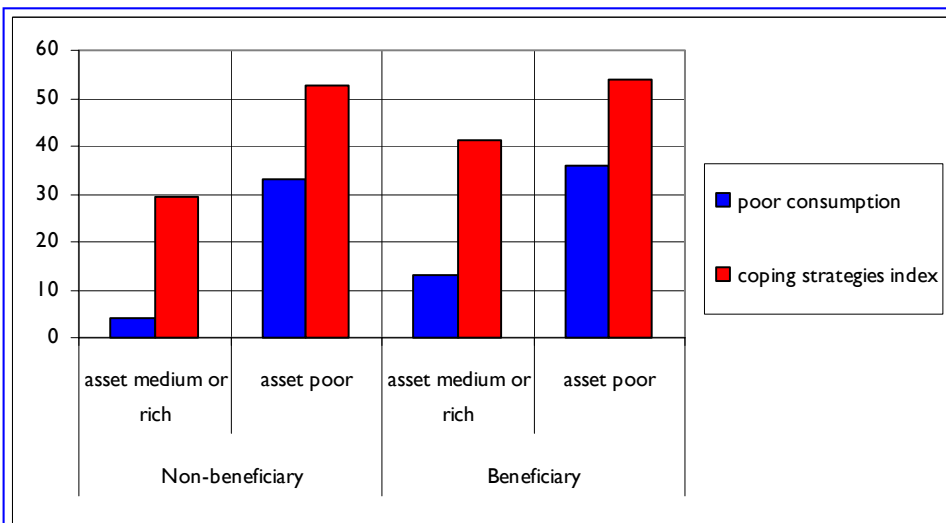
Asset wealth is defined on the basis of the number of **different types** of productive and / or non productive assets owned by a household. Groups are classified as:

- Asset Poor = 0 to 4 different types of assets
- Asset Medium = 5 to 9 different types of assets
- Asset Rich = 10 or more different types of assets

Asset Wealth, Consumption and Coping

Among the sample, significantly more ($p < 0.001$) beneficiary households were asset poor (24%) compared to non-beneficiaries (10%). For both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, the asset poor have a significantly lower food consumption score while the coping strategies index was significantly higher in asset poor only for the non-beneficiary households.

The chart on the right shows that for both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, asset poor had a much higher coping strategies index and a higher percentage of households with poor consumption compared to asset medium/rich households.



By **programme activity**, only 9% of FFW/A households were asset poor compared to 25% of the GFD/TFD beneficiary households and 38% of the ART beneficiary households.

By **region**, asset poverty was highest among non-beneficiaries in Shiselweni (19%), followed by Lubombo (16%), Hhohho (7%) and Manzini (5%). For beneficiaries, asset poverty was higher in Shiselweni (27%) compared to Lubombo (23%).

Preferred Type of Assistance

For the sample, 78% of the beneficiary households said they preferred **food only** for the following reasons:

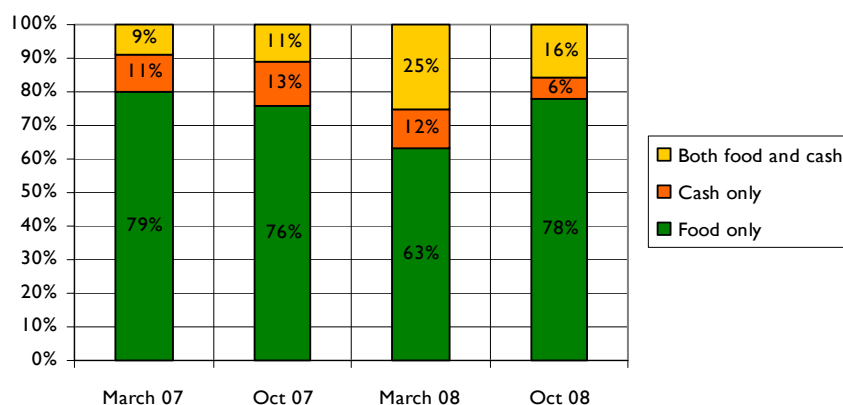
- Satisfies household food shortages (62%)
- Food prices are high (58%), compared to **68%** in March 2008, **62%** in October 2007 and **38%** in March 2007
- Easier to share with family and friends (38%)
- Difficult to access market (47%)

Of the 7% who prefer **cash only**, most said it was because it could be used for other expenses (88%), the households could purchase food and other items (75%), or they could purchase a variety of foods (50%).

For those who preferred **both cash and food** (16%), it was mainly because the combination meets seasonal needs (95%) or it improves the households' ability to cope (90%).

By **programme type**, the FFW/A beneficiary households were slightly more likely to prefer cash only (40%) while ART were most likely to prefer both (44%) and GFD/TFD were most likely to prefer food only (82%).

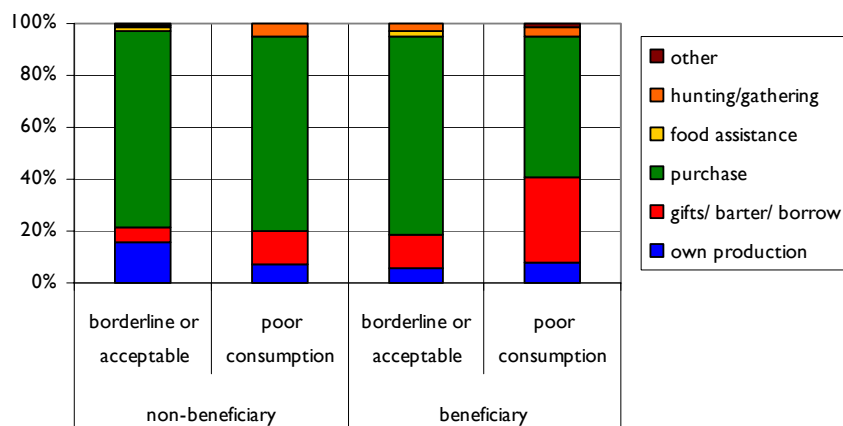
Trend analysis below shows that the preference for food only interventions had decreased to a low in March 2008 but returned to previous levels by October 2008 while those who prefer cash only was at its lowest in October 2008.



Sources of Food Consumed by Households

Identifying the major sources of food and monitoring these over time is critical to understanding the principal factors affecting food security of households. As illustrated in the chart below:

- As in previous rounds, **non-beneficiary** households with borderline/adequate consumption accessed most of their food from purchase; those with poor consumption also relying significantly more on borrowing, gifts and hunting/gathering and less on purchase to access food. Compared to October 2007, much less is coming from gifts for those with poor consumption.
- **Beneficiary households** with borderline or adequate consumption relied mostly on purchase for their food while those with poor consumption relied on a combination of purchase and gifts/barter/borrowing. These were all significantly different from those with borderline/adequate consumption. Compared to October 2007, much less was coming from food assistance and more from gifts for both groups.



Children's Education

- For beneficiaries 77% of eligible boys and 73% of girls are currently enrolled and attending school compared to 68% (B) and 66% (G) in March 08, 82% (B) and 80% (G) in October 07, 85% (B) and 86% (G) in March 07, 83% (B) and 86% (G) in October 06 and 83% (B) and 84% (G) in March 06.
- When comparing by beneficiary status, beneficiary boys and girls are slightly more likely to be enrolled.
- However, by programme activity, 89% of FFW/A children are enrolled and attending as compared to 75% of GFD/TFD and 57% of ART beneficiary children.
- By orphan status, 70% of orphans are enrolled and attending as compared to 74% of non-orphans with no difference between sexes.

Households obtain food in one or more of the following ways:

- ⇒ Grow and consume from their own stocks
- ⇒ Purchase from markets
- ⇒ Transfers from relatives or members of the community
- ⇒ Casual labour
- ⇒ Transfers in the form of food aid
- ⇒ Gathering wild foods

Understanding how these patterns differ across groups, provides a general starting point for understanding the nature of food insecurity.

(Source: FANTA)

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