



### BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

- In April 2017, WFP Afghanistan piloted the use of mVAM for Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) by conducting phone interviews with 58 returnee households in Jalalabad City who had received WFP assistance in the previous month, followed by a second round of PDM data collection in Batikot and Rodat districts in Nangarhar province. The pilots proved that collecting PDM information from beneficiaries by phone is a feasible option in Afghanistan.
- As a follow up, the programme unit requested mVAM to implement PDM data collection in areas where WFP was providing assistance through the corporate beneficiary management platform, SCOPE.
- Assistance to returnee families was provided to households in Behsud District in Nangarhar province in October of 2017 using the SCOPE end-to-end system. A total of 100 mobile phone interviews took place in January 2018, with 94 men and 6 women beneficiaries.
- These findings will help WFP to better understand the effects of cash assistance on the food security of the households, and will identify protection and accountability to affected populations (AAP) issues and will provide some key information related to the use of SCOPE for cash responses.

### Key Findings

#### Household Composition

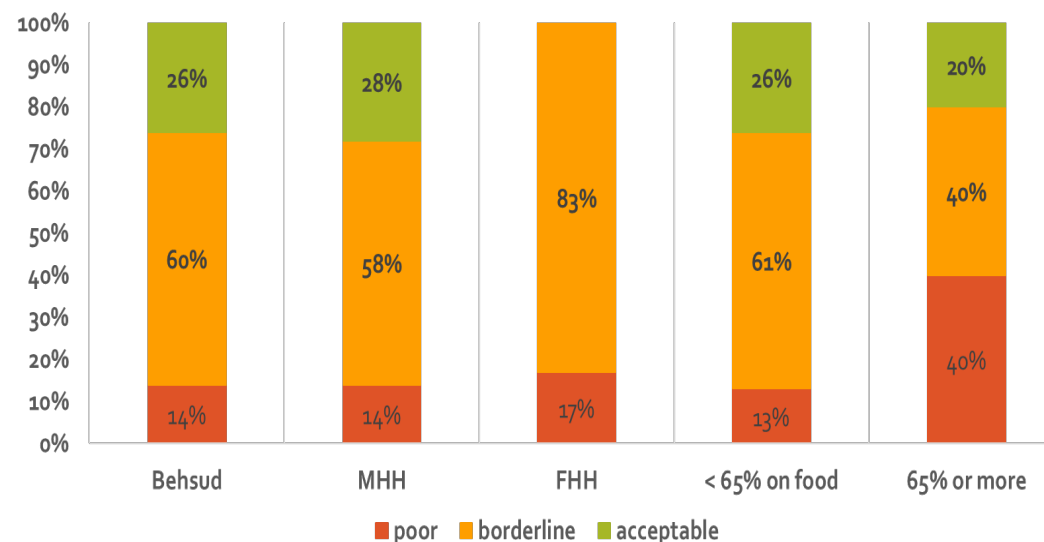
The average household size was 7 for the beneficiaries in Behsud district. The average household composition includes 1 boy and 1 girl under 5 years, 1 or 2 girls and 1 or 2 boys aged 5-17 years, 1 adult male and 1 adult female. The average household size for male headed households is 7 and is 7.5 for female headed households. Based on the food consumption groups, the size of households with 'poor' consumption is 6 members, increasing to 7 for those with 'borderline' consumption and 8.5 for households with 'acceptable' consumption.

#### Dietary diversity and food frequency.

- Overall, 26 percent of households interviewed had acceptable consumption in terms of dietary diversity and food frequency, followed by 60 percent with borderline and 14 percent with poor household food consumption.
- 28 percent of the male headed households (MHH) had acceptable consumption compared to no female headed households (FHH).
- Only 14 percent of MHH had poor consumption compared to 17 percent of FHH.
- FHH are likely to have poor consumption compared to MHH, likely due to limited access the livelihood activities by women or lack of a working male member of the household.

- For households with less than 65 percent of monthly expenditure for food (good) are just as likely to have acceptable food consumption as those who allocated 65 percent or more for food (bad).
- However, they are less likely to have poor food consumption (13 percent vs 40 percent), indicating that they are likely to source their food from sources other than purchase.

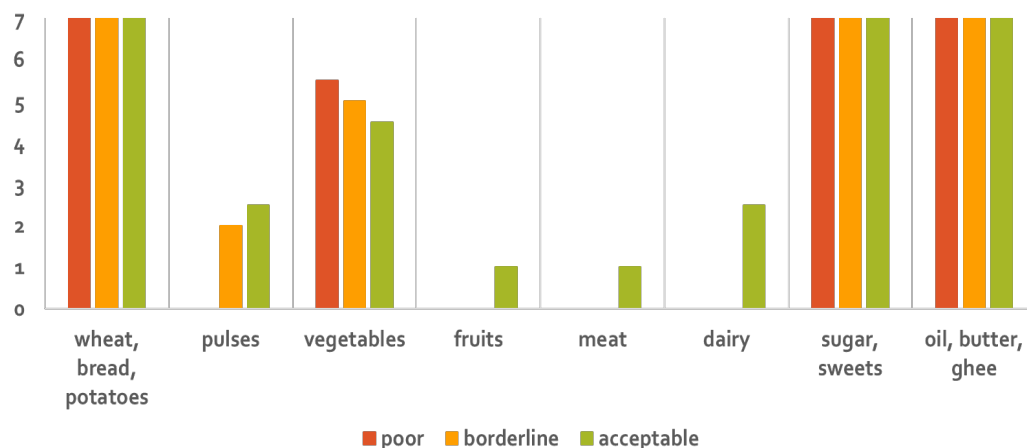
**Chart 1: Reported Food Consumption Score (FCS) by beneficiaries**



## Key Findings

One of the important elements related to the food security situation of the household is to understand the median number of days of different foods consumed. Households with poor consumption are typically eating wheat/bread, sugar and oil on a daily basis while consuming vegetables 5 day per week, and no consumption of pulses, fruits, meat and dairy products. Households with acceptable consumption are managing daily consumption of wheat/bread, sugar and oil, along with occasional consumption of vegetables, pulses and dairy products, with only 1 days of fruits and meat consumption per week. The chart below shows the variation in weekly consumption by different groups.

**Chart 2:** Median number of days of different foods consumed, by food consumption categories



The main sources of food for these households are purchase using their own cash and buying through credit. A limited number of respondents reported relying on gifts from friends and relatives, purchase through cash received from other sources such as cash assistance from government and other agencies.

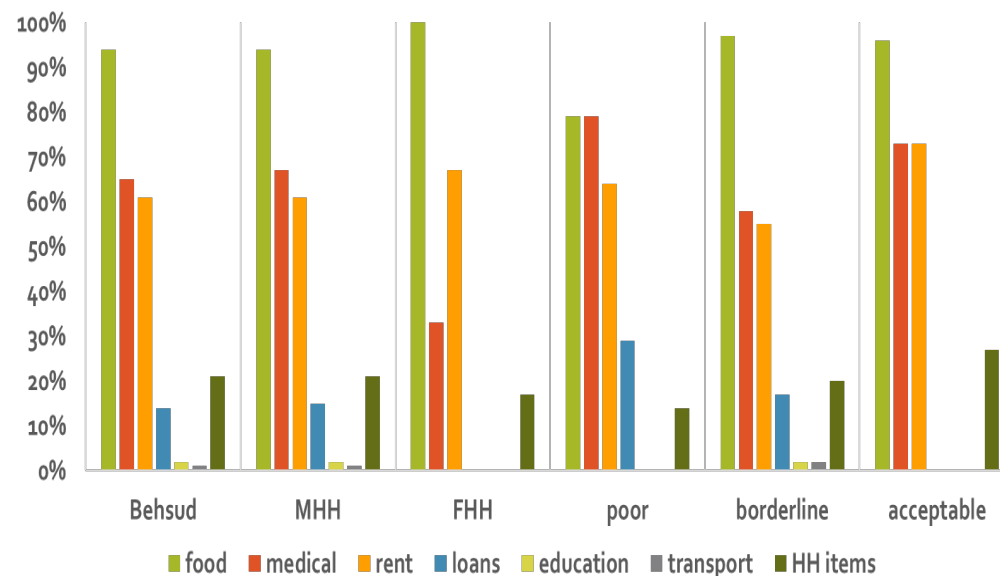
- Households with poor consumption are more likely to rely on purchase using their own cash or credit from others to access food and least likely to have used cash assistance from WFP and their own production.
- Households with acceptable consumption are more likely to rely on their own cash or credit to access food and least likely to rely on cash from government and other agencies, gifts from relatives and friends and cash assistance from WFP.
- FHH were more likely to rely on gifts and less likely to rely on purchase with their own cash, when compared to MHH.

## Usage of Cash Assistance

All the interviewed beneficiaries received cash assistance through SCOPE. They indicated that the cash provided was mainly used to buy food, to pay for health care or medical expenses, or to pay rent for their houses. Fewer households used the cash to pay off household loans, pay for education of the children, pay for transportation and purchase of household items such as kitchen items, blankets and other equipment.

- While both groups were much more likely to use cash for food, health care and rent, FHH were spending most of their cash on food and rent compared to MHH who were spending more on medical expenses than FHH.
- MHH were also using some of the cash assistance to pay the loans and debts which was not the case for FHH.
- Households with poor consumption were more likely to use cash for medical expenses than those with borderline or acceptable consumption.
- They were also more likely to use the cash to pay back loans than the other groups.

**Chart 3:** Reported use of cash assistance



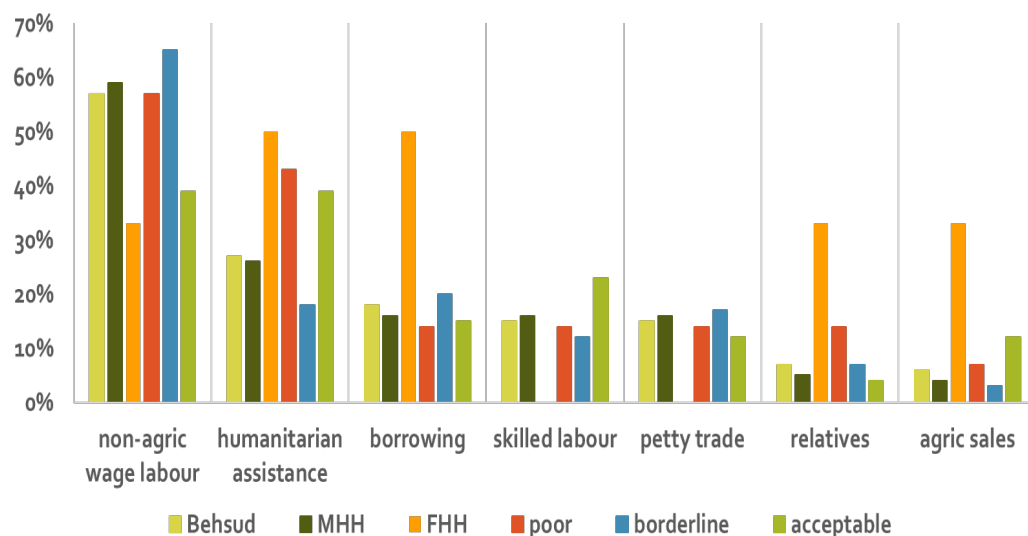
## Key Findings

### Main livelihood activities

The main livelihood activity for the majority of the respondents is non-agriculture casual labour work, followed by relying on humanitarian assistance, and borrowing from friends and relatives. A limited number of beneficiaries reported relying on skilled labour works, petty trades, support from relatives and agriculture sales.

- MHH were more likely to rely on non-agriculture wage labour, skilled labour and petty trade for income compared to FHH.
- FHH were more likely to rely on humanitarian assistance, borrowing, gifts from relatives and friends and sales of agriculture products than MHH.
- Household with poor consumption were more likely to rely on humanitarian assistance and gifts from relatives than the other consumption groups.
- Households with acceptable consumption were less likely to rely on agricultural wage labour and gifts from relatives and friends, but more likely to rely on skilled labour and sales of agriculture products than the other two groups.
- Households with borderline consumption were more likely to rely on only one livelihood activity than the other groups while those with poor consumption were more likely to have named 3 sources.

Chart 4: Main livelihood activities



### Share of monthly expenditure

The PDM collected information on household expenditures over the past month. Analysis showed that 43 percent of monthly expenditure is for food, followed by paying for rent (13 percent), medical and health (12 percent), fuel (9 percent) and transport (7 percent). The rest of the expenditures were around 1 – 4 percent of total.

Per capita monthly expenditure for MHH was AFN 4,129 compared to only AFN 2,133 for FHH. Per capita monthly expenditure was highest for households with borderline dietary diversity and food frequency (AFN 4,201), followed by households with acceptable consumption (AFN 3,773) and households with poor consumption (AFN 3,725).

### Beneficiary selection

All the interviewed beneficiaries reported that they were selected by WFP and other international agencies for the assistance with a few indicating that they were selected by both WFP and national NGO, which is responsible for distribution of cash assistance. When asked if the selection included the most needy households, 75 percent of the households reported transparent selection of beneficiaries, 12 percent reported that most needy people were not selected and 13 percent did not know about the selection process.

### Decision on how cash assistance was used

Based on the response from beneficiaries, 70 percent of the households reported that decision on the usage of the cash assistance is made by both men and women, 26 percent only by men and 3 percent only by women.

### Safety issues when collecting cash assistance

Most (94 percent) beneficiaries reported that they have not faced with any safety issues when collecting assistance from WFP distribution centres. However, 5 percent of beneficiaries reported that they faced safety issues when travelling to distribution site. These issues are mainly related to insecurity on the way.

### Accountability to affected population

- 76 percent of beneficiaries reported that they know the eligibility criteria for selection of the needy households.
- 32 percent of beneficiaries reported that they know their assistance entitlement that they received from WFP.
- Only 11 percent of beneficiaries had the information about how to report or file a complaint related to WFP assistance.