



BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

- In April 2017, WFP Afghanistan piloted the use of mVAM for Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) by conducting phone interviews with WFP beneficiaries in Jalalabad City, Batikot and Rodat districts in Nangarhar province who had received WFP assistance in the previous months. The pilots proved that collecting PDM information from beneficiaries by phone is feasible 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. These locations were Behsud district in Nangarhar province and capitals of Kandahar and Kabul provinces.
- Assistance to returnee families was provided in capital of Kandahar province in October of 2017 using the SCOPE end-to-end system. A total of 100 mobile phone interviews took place with WFP beneficiaries in capital of Kandahar province in February 2018.
- 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 WFP cash assistance responses for the Afghan returnees.

Key Findings

Household Composition

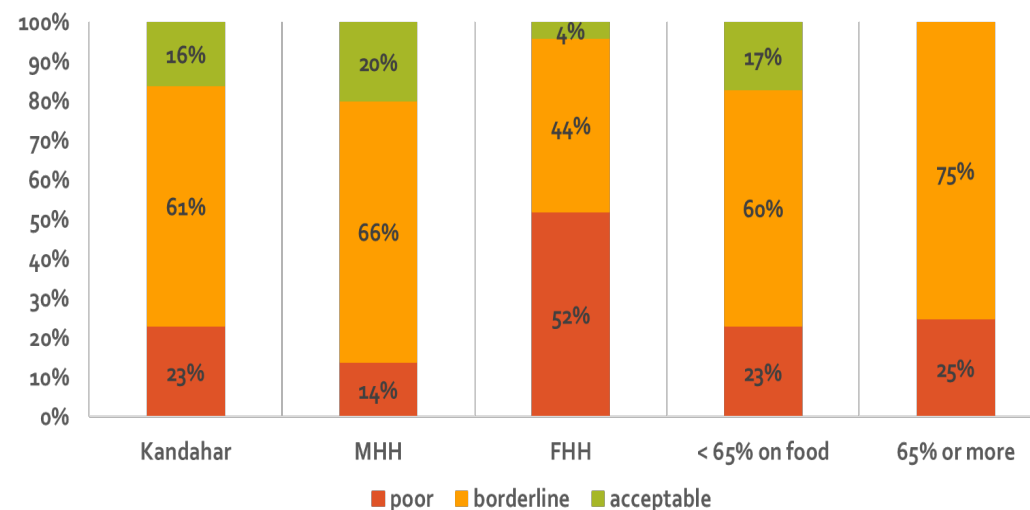
The average household size was 6 for these returnees in Kandahar City. The typical household composition includes 1 boy and 1 girl under 5 years, 1 girl and 1 boy aged 5-17 years, 1 adult male and 1 adult female. The average household size for male headed households (MHH) is 7 but is 5 for female headed households (FHH). Based on the food consumption categories, households with 'poor' consumption have 5 members, while those with 'borderline' consumption have 6 and households with 'acceptable' consumption average 6.5 members.

Dietary diversity and food frequency.

- Overall, 16 percent of households interviewed had acceptable consumption in terms of dietary diversity and food frequency, followed by 61 percent with borderline and 23 percent with poor household food consumption.
- 20 percent of the male headed households had acceptable consumption compared to only 4 percent of female headed households.
- 14 percent of MHH had poor consumption compared to 52 percent of FHH. This difference is likely due to limited access to livelihood activities by women or lack of a working male member of the household.

- Households with less than 65 percent of monthly expenditure for food (good) are just as likely to have 'poor' consumption as those who allocated 65 percent or more for food (bad).
- However, they are less likely to have acceptable food consumption (17 percent vs 0 percent), indicating that they are likely to source their food from sources other than purchase.

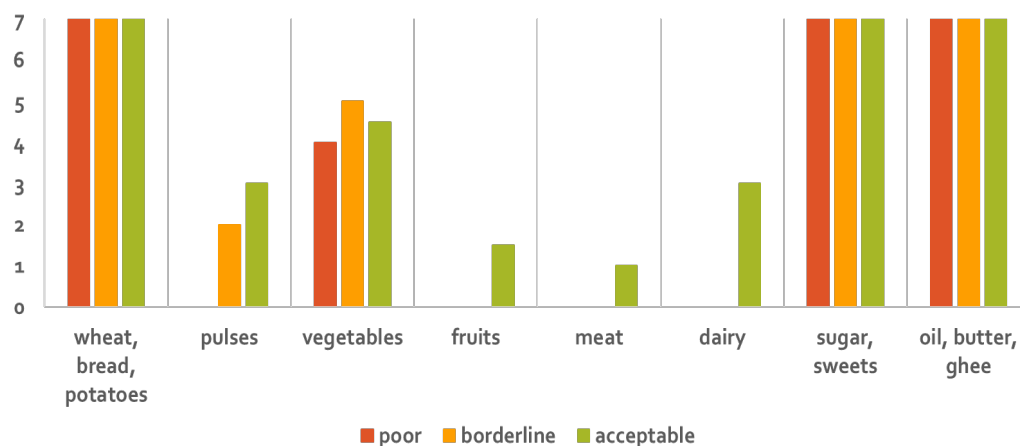
Chart 1: Reported Food Consumption Score (FCS) by beneficiaries



Key Findings

Households with poor consumption are typically eating wheat/bread, sugar and oil on a daily basis while consuming vegetables 4 days per week, but no consumption of pulses, fruits, meat and dairy products. Households with acceptable consumption are having daily consumption of wheat/bread, sugar and oil, along with occasional consumption of vegetables and pulses and no consumption of fruits, meat and dairy products. 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 and purchase through cash received from other sources such as cash assistance from government and other agencies.

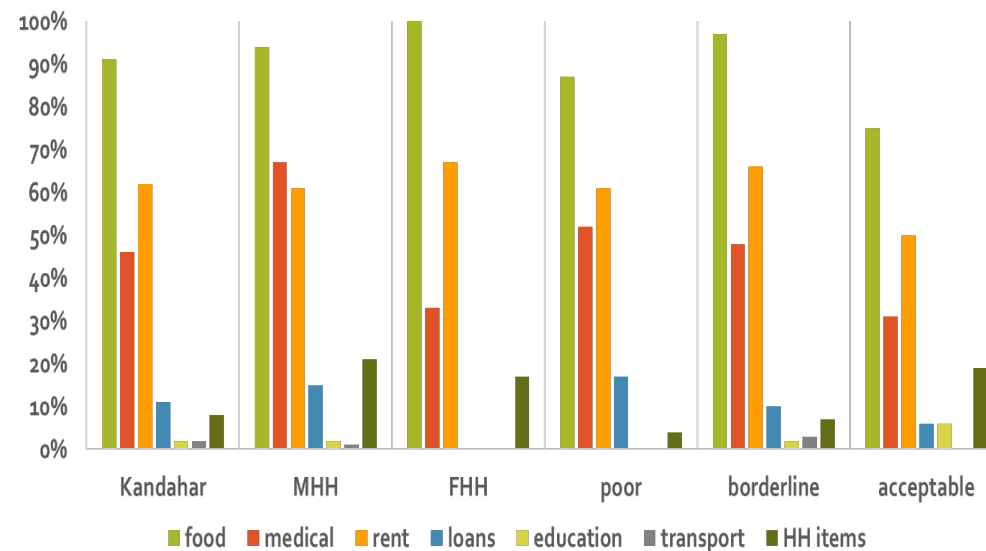
- Households with poor and borderline consumption are more likely to rely on purchase using their own cash or credit from others to access food and less likely to rely on gifts from relatives and friends.
- Households with acceptable consumption are more likely to rely on their own cash or credit to access food and less likely to rely on gifts from friends and relatives.
- Both MHH and FHH were more likely to rely on purchase using their own cash and credit from relatives and friends, while FHH are less likely rely on purchase with cash assistance received from government and other agencies and MHH are less likely rely gifts from relatives and friends.

Usage of Cash Assistance

All the interviewed beneficiaries received cash assistance through SCOPE. The beneficiaries indicated that the cash provided was mainly used to buy food, to pay for rent and pay for health care or medical expenses. 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 (FHH and MHH) were much more likely to use cash for food, health care and rent, FHH were spending more of their cash on food and rent compared to MHH who were spending more on medical expenses..
- MHH were also using some of the cash assistance to pay off loans and debts which was not the case for FHH.
- A limited number of MHH also reported spending a small amount of cash to pay for education of the children and transportation, which was not the case for FHH.
- Households with poor consumption were more likely to use cash to pay the loans and debts than those with borderline or acceptable consumption.
- Households with borderline and acceptable consumption reported spending a small amount of cash on education and transportation which was not the case for households with poor consumption .

Chart 3: Reported use of cash assistance



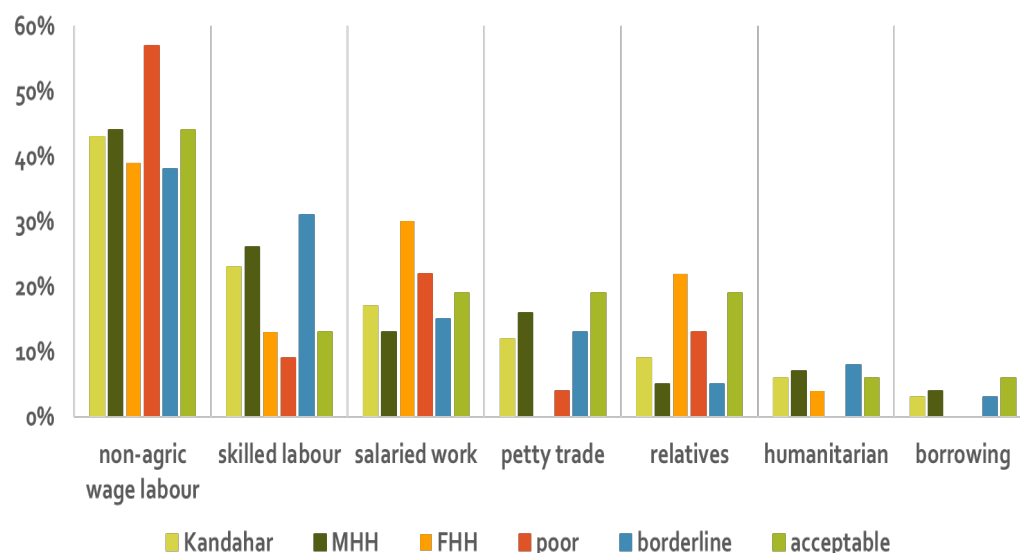
Key Findings

Main livelihood activities

The main livelihood activity for the majority of the respondents is non-agriculture wage labour, followed by skilled labour, salaried work and on petty trade. Fewer beneficiary households reported relying on humanitarian assistance, borrowing and support from friends and relatives.

- MHH were more likely to rely on non-agriculture wage labour, skilled labour and petty trade compared to FHH.
- FHH were more likely to rely on salaried works and support from relatives and friends compared to MHH.
- Households with poor consumption were more likely to rely on non-agriculture wage labour and salaried works than the other consumption groups.
- Households with acceptable consumption were more likely to rely on support from friends and relatives and petty trade compared to other consumption groups.

Chart 4: Main livelihood activities



Share of monthly expenditure

The PDM collected information on household expenditures over the past month. Analysis showed that 39 percent of monthly expenditure is for food, followed by paying for rent and medical (13 percent each), fuel (11 percent) and transport (8 percent). The rest of the expenditures were around 1 – 4 percent of total.

Per capita monthly expenditure for FHH was AFN 3,620 compared to only AFN 3,153 for MHH. Per capita monthly expenditure was highest for households with poor dietary diversity and food frequency (AFN 3,550), followed by households with acceptable consumption (AFN 3,511) and households with borderline consumption (AFN 3,097).

Beneficiary selection

All 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. A limited number of beneficiaries also reported that they did not know about the selection process. In terms of selection, 91 percent of the households reported transparent selection of beneficiaries, 5 percent reported that most needy people were not selected and 4 percent did not know about the selection process.

Decision on how cash assistance was used

Based on the response from beneficiaries, 66 percent of the households reported that both men and women decide how the cash assistance is used, following by 20 percent by women only. 14 percent of the households reported that men alone make the decisions.

Safety issues when collecting cash assistance

Almost all (99 percent) beneficiaries reported that they have not faced with any safety issues when collecting assistance from WFP distribution centres. However, only 1 beneficiary reported that he faced safety issues when travelling to distribution site. These issues are mainly related to insecurity on the way.

Accountability to affected population

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