



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 was provided to long-term IDPs in informal settlements in Kabul City in October of 2017 using the SCOPE end-to-end system. A total of 262 mobile phone interviews took place with these beneficiaries 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

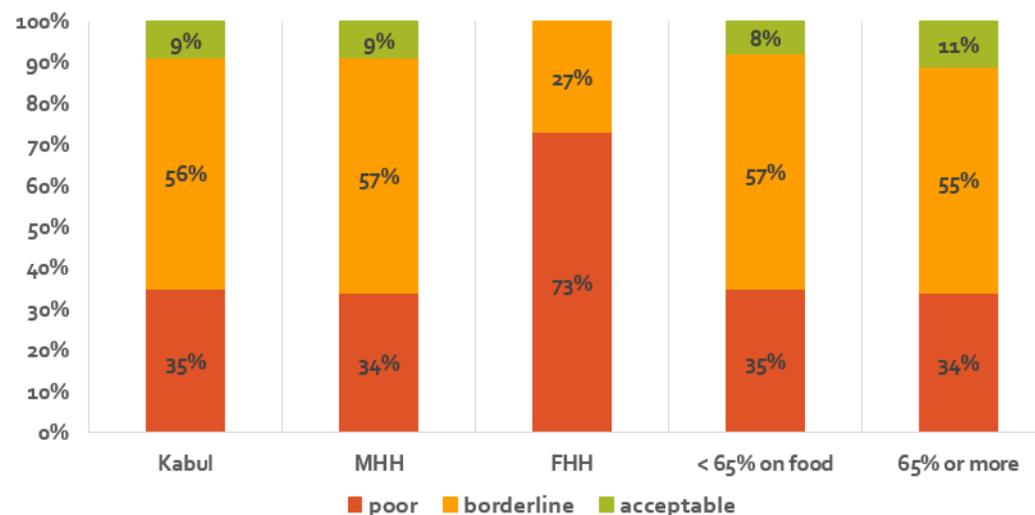
The average household size for the Kabul informal settlements beneficiaries was 8 persons. The typical household composition includes 1 boy and 1 girl under 5 years, 1-2 girls and boys aged 5-17 years, 1 adult male and 1 adult female. The average household size for male headed households (MHH) is 8 but is 6 for female headed households (FHH). Households with 'poor' food consumption were slightly smaller than the others.

Dietary diversity and food frequency.

- Overall, 9 percent of households interviewed had acceptable consumption in terms of dietary diversity and food frequency, followed by 56 percent with borderline and 35 percent with poor household food consumption.
- Only 9 percent of the MHH had acceptable consumption, compared to none of the FHH.
- 34 percent of MHH had poor consumption compared to 73 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 (8 percent vs 11 percent), indicating that they are likely to source their food from sources other than purchase.

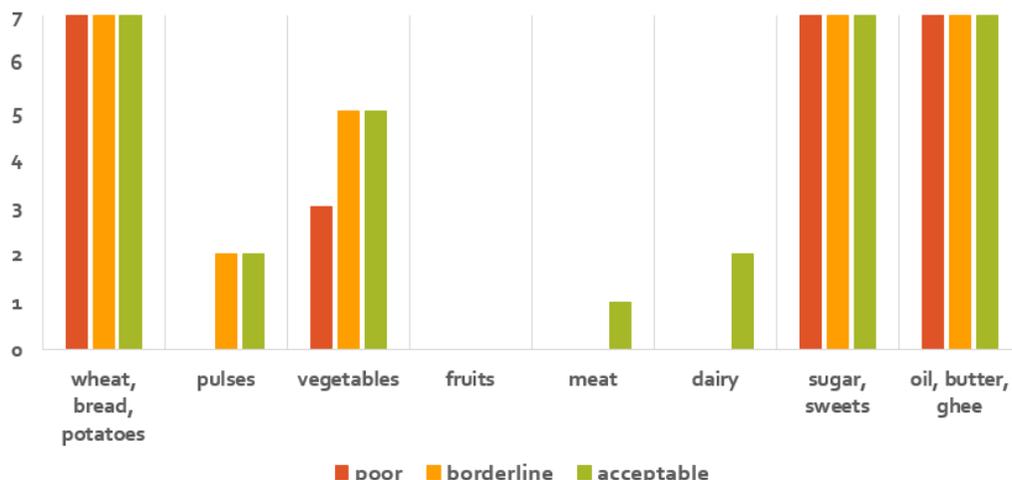
Chart 1: Household dietary diversity and food frequency by group



Key Findings

Households with poor consumption are typically eating wheat/bread, sugar and oil on a daily basis while consuming vegetables 3 day per week, but no consumption of other foods/food groups. Households with acceptable consumption are having daily consumption of wheat/bread, sugar and oil, along with occasional consumption of vegetables, pulses and dairy with one day consumption of meat and no consumption of fruits. 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 through 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.

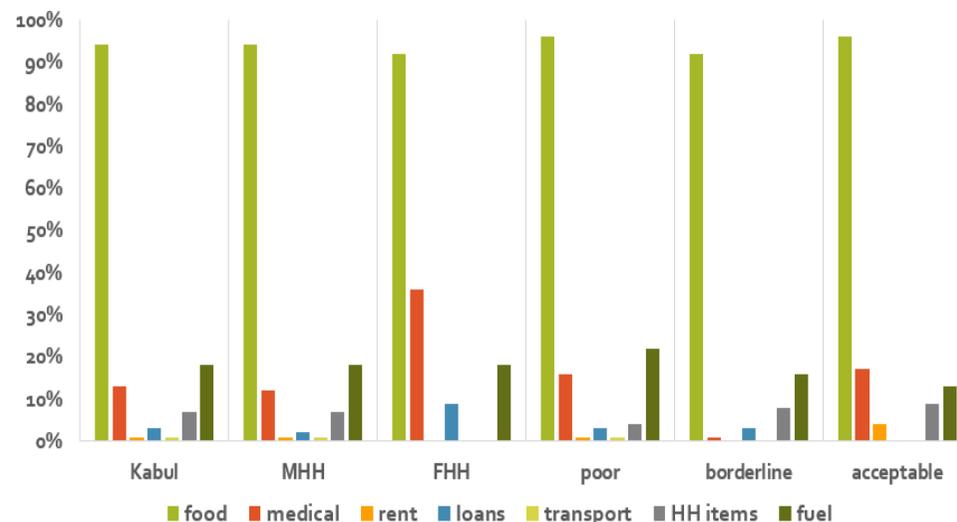
- Households with poor and borderline consumption are more likely to rely on purchase using their own cash or credit from others to access food and less likely to rely on gifts from relatives and friends and cash received from other agencies.
- Households with acceptable consumption are more likely to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

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 health care or medical expenses and pay for fuel. Fewer households used the cash to pay off household loans, pay for education of the children, pay for the house rent, or other household expenditures.

- While both groups (FHH and MHH) were much more likely to use cash for food, buy fuel for cooking and pay for health. FHH were spending a greater share of their cash on medical care and to pay off loans compared to MHH.
- MHH were also using some of the cash assistance to pay for HH items which was not the case for FHH.
- A limited number of MHH also reported spending a small amount of cash to pay for rent of house and transportation, which was not the case for FHH.
- Households with poor consumption were more likely to use cash to pay fuel cost than those with borderline or acceptable consumption.
- Households with borderline and acceptable were allocating a larger share of monthly expenditure on purchase of household items such as kitchen items, blankets, and other equipment compared to households with poor consumption.

Chart 3: Reported use of cash assistance



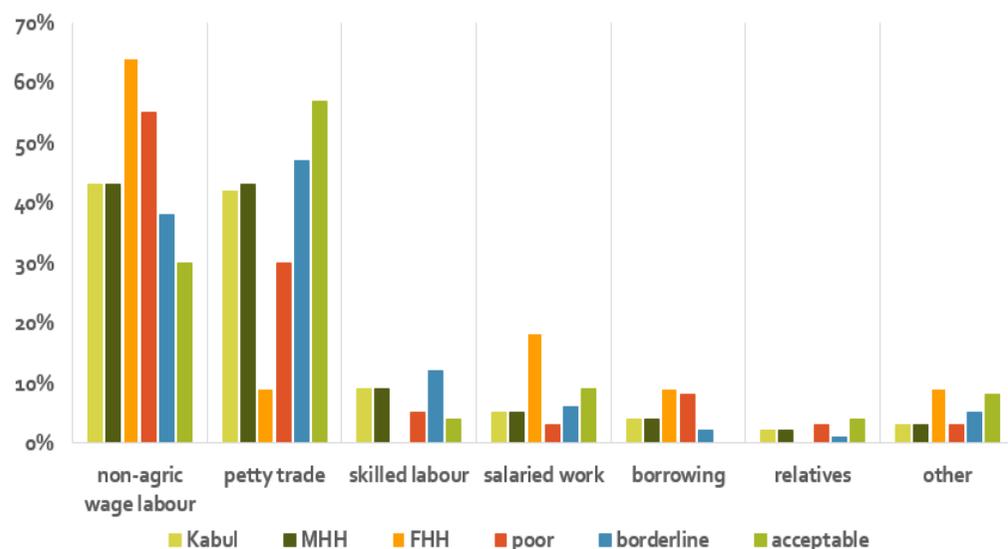
Key Findings

Main livelihood activities

The main livelihood activity for the majority of the respondents is non-agriculture wage labour and petty trade such as small scale retails shops, selling mobile cards on the roads and selling fruits and vegetables on the road, followed by skilled labour, salaried work and on borrowing from friends and relatives. Fewer beneficiary households reported relying on support from relatives and other assistance such as support from government and humanitarian assistance.

- FHH were more likely to rely on non-agriculture wage labour, salaried jobs and borrowing from friends and relatives compared to MHH.
- MHH were more likely to rely on petty trade and skilled labour work compared to FHH.
- Households with poor consumption were more likely to rely on non-agriculture wage labour and borrowing from friends and relatives than the other consumption groups.
- Households with borderline consumption were more likely to rely on skilled labour work compared to other consumption groups.
- Households with acceptable consumption were more likely to rely on petty trade and salaried work 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 49 percent of monthly expenditure is for food, followed by paying for fuel for cooking (15 percent each), medical and health care (13 percent) and transport (8 percent). The rest of the expenditures were around 1 – 5 percent of total.

Per capita monthly expenditure for FHH was AFN 2,258 compared to only AFN 2,094 for MHH. Per capita monthly expenditure was highest for households with acceptable dietary diversity and food frequency (AFN 2,655), followed by households with borderline consumption (AFN 2,111) and households with poor consumption (AFN 1,838).

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, 97 percent of the households reported transparent selection of beneficiaries, 2 percent reported that most needy people were not selected and 1 percent did not know about the selection process.

Decision on how cash assistance was used

Based on the response from beneficiaries, 94 percent of the households reported that both men and women decide how the cash assistance is used, following by 2 percent by women only. 4 percent of the households reported that men alone make the decisions.

Safety issues when collecting cash assistance

91 percent of interviewed beneficiaries reported that they have not faced with any safety issues when collecting assistance from WFP distribution centres. However, only 5 percent of beneficiaries reported that they faced safety issues in different circumstance, 2 percent reported that they faced safety issue in distribution site and 2 percent reported safety issue when travelling to distribution site. These issues are mainly related to insecurity on the way.

Accountability to affected populations

- 97 percent of beneficiaries reported that they know the eligibility criteria for selection of the needy households.
- 20 percent of beneficiaries reported that they know their assistance entitlement that they received from WFP.
- 76 percent of beneficiaries know how to file a complaint with WFP.