



ASSESSMENT BACKGROUND

- The cities of Kabul and Kandahar host thousands of migrants in informal settlements, many of whom have been internally displaced by ongoing conflict or have returned from neighbouring countries. The World Food Program (WFP) has been providing seasonal cash assistance to some of the most vulnerable households in these settlements during the early winter months of October through to December.
- In January 2019, WFP conducted phone-based interviews with WFP beneficiaries in Kabul and Kandahar who had received seasonal assistance over the previous three months as part of post-distribution monitoring (PDM). A total of 352 household surveys were completed—202 in Kabul and 150 in Kandahar.

METHODOLOGY

WFP adopted both quantitative and qualitative approaches towards the PDM. All interviews were conducted with IDPs through the help of a questionnaire which contained 12 questions. All interviews were conducted through a phone-based format. A total of 352 interviews were interviewed in the survey, 202 in Kabul and the remaining 150 in Kandahar. Out of the 202 interviews administered in Kabul, 22 percent were women, while in Kandahar, the percentage of female respondents (1 percent) was multiple times lower compared to Kabul. In terms of the gender of household heads, 92 percent were male, and the rest of eight percent were female.

KEY FINDINGS

Household Composition

The average household size for the survey population is seven people in Kabul and eight in Kandahar. The household composition for Kabul, on average, includes 2 people under 18 years old for both male and female and 1 for the age group 18 to 60. In Kandahar, the composition is 2 females and 3 males for under 18 years old and 1 for both male and female for the age group 18 to 60.



Photo source: Wahidullah Amani—WFP

KEY FINDINGS

Food Consumption Score (FCS)

Chart One indicates there has been a substantial improvement in household food security in both Kandahar and Kabul informal settlements between 2018 and 2019. For instance, between 2018 and 2019 the share of households classified as having “acceptable” food consumption increased from 9 percent to 26 percent in Kabul, and from 16 percent to 37 percent in Kandahar. While households with “poor” food consumption declined from 35 percent to 22 percent in Kabul and from 23 percent to 11 percent in Kandahar over the same period.

Chart 1: Categorised Food consumption in Kabul and Kandahar informal settlements in the years 2018 and 2019

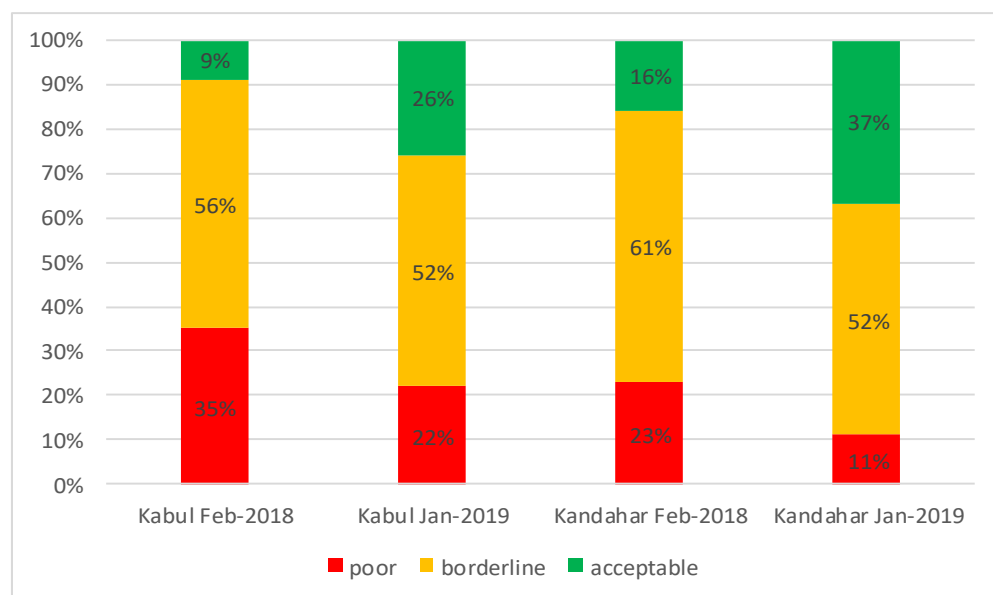


Chart Two illustrates the average diets of beneficiaries living in Kabul and Kandahar informal settlements.

It shows that in both Kabul and Kandahar cities, households are (on average) consuming staples (wheat/bread/rice), sugar and oil on daily basis, vegetables about five times per week, and pulses about twice a week. In Kandahar respondents also indicated that they also consume dairy products around once a week. But, in both cities, there is very little consumption of fruits or meat.

Chart 2: Median number of days of different foods consumed in Kabul and Kandahar cities, January 2019.

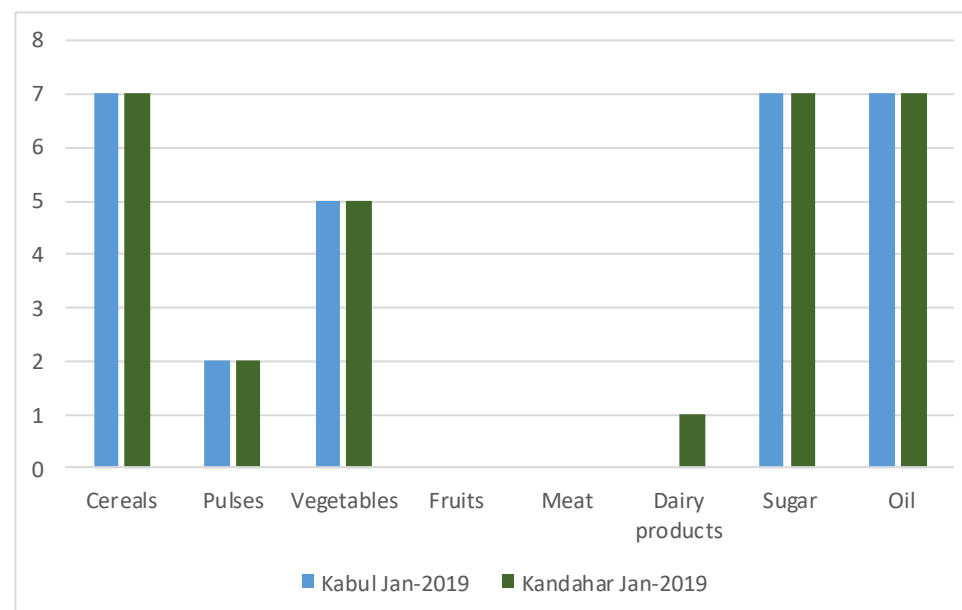


Chart Three shows the average number of days each food group is consumed across both Kabul and Kandahar, disaggregated by the FCS classification of the household.

Households with “poor” FCS typically eat cereals, vegetables, sugar and oil on a daily basis, but none of the other food groups. The additional consumption of pulses around twice a week is what pushes households from “poor” into “borderline” FCS. Households with “acceptable” FCS have similar diets to those with “borderline” FCS, except with the inclusion of dairy around three times a week, and pulses three times a week rather than two.

KEY FINDINGS

Chart 3: Median number of days of different foods consumed by food consumption categories in both cities.

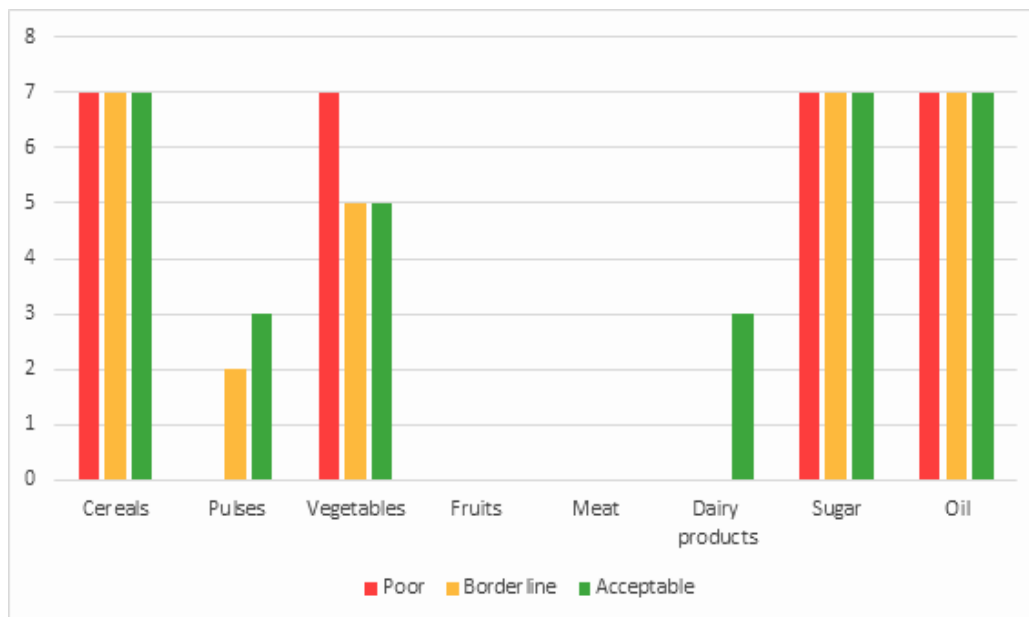
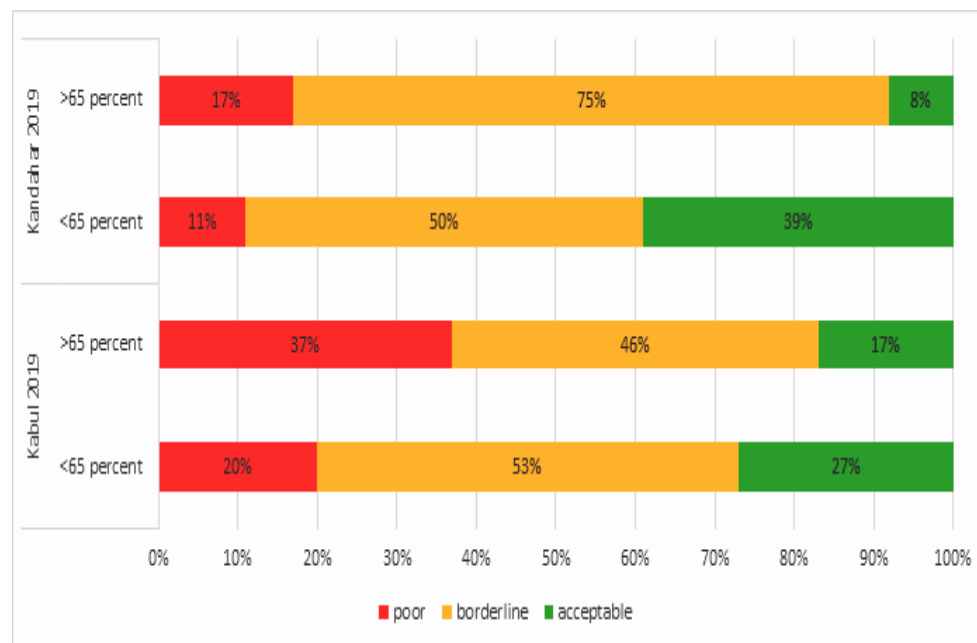


Chart 4 shows the household FCS classification by city, disaggregated into two groups – households that spend more than 65 percent of their expenditure on food, and households that spend less than 65 percent of their expenditure on food.

The chart shows that in both cities, households that spend more of their income on food also have poorer food security. For instance in Kabul, 37 percent of households spending more than 65 percent of expenditure on food have “poor” food consumption, compared to 20 percent for households that spend less than 65 percent of expenditure on food. This is to be expected, as more vulnerable households generally spend more of their income on food.

Chart 4: Food consumption score, by share of household income spent on food



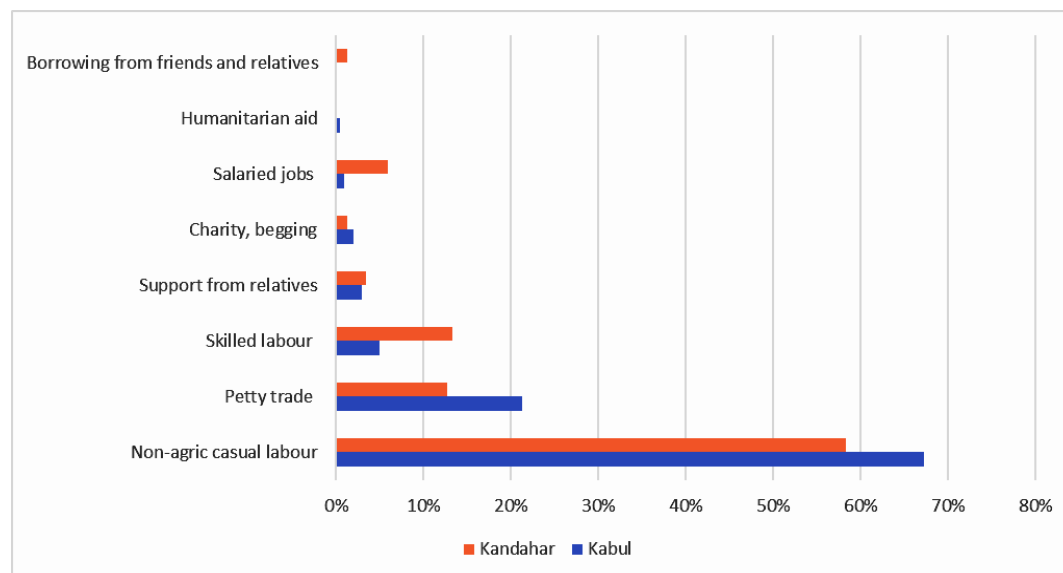
Primary Household Income Source

The survey studied the sources from which the target households earn their income. The data suggest that non-agricultural casual labour remains the largest source of income for surveyed population in Kabul and Kandahar with 67 percent and 58 percent, respectively.

Petty trade such as small shops, selling on roadside and cutting woods and selling, stand as the second key source of income for households in Kabul (21 percent), and Kandahar (13 percent). In addition, 13 percent households in Kandahar reportedly rely on skilled labours such as carpet weaving, carpentry, and sewing for income generation, approximately three times higher than in Kabul (five percent). Other sources of income are reported by a small percentage of respondents in the target provinces.

KEY FINDINGS

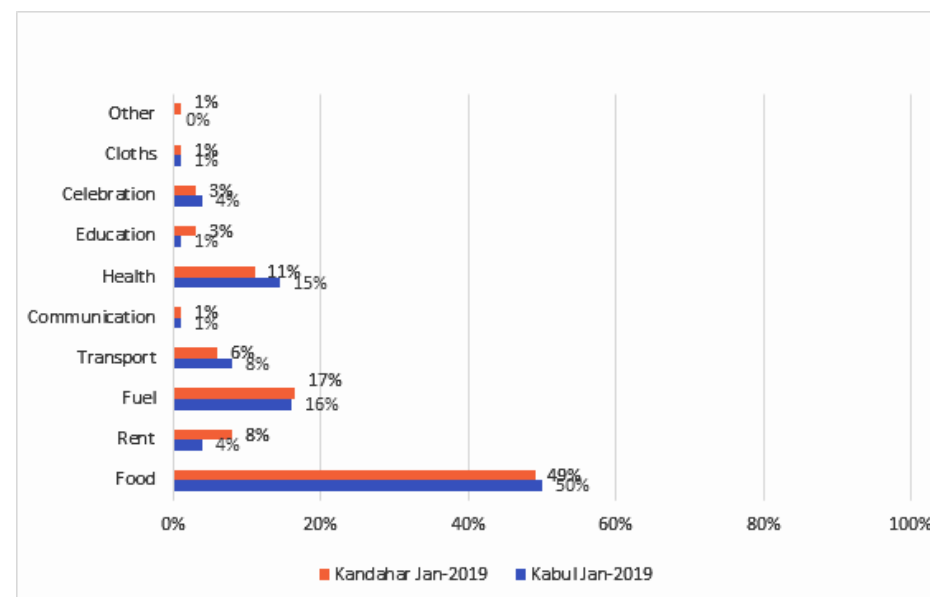
Chart 5: Primary Household Income sources of Kabul and Kandahar



Monthly Household Expenditure

The respondents were asked on what items do they disburse their income. The data indicate similar patterns of expenditure among respondents in Kabul and Kandahar provinces. Households from Kabul spend 50 percent of their income on food, followed by fuel (16 percent), health (15 percent), transport (8 percent) and rent (4 percent). The remaining seven percent of income is disbursed on celebrating social occasions, education, clothes, and communication. In Kandahar, 49 percent of household income is spent on food, followed by fuel (17 percent), health (11 percent), rent (8 percent), and transport (6 percent). The residual income is allocated to education, celebration of social occasions, and communication.

Chart 6: Monthly household expenditures of Kabul and Kandahar cities



Decision Making Pattern

The survey also looked at who makes the decisions related to food and cash consumption within the household. The data suggest that in absolute majority of households, the decisions are made by both women and men jointly. According to 84 percent respondents from Kabul, the decisions are taken by both women and men, eight percent each stated that the decisions are made by women or men. On the other hand, 93 percent of respondents from Kandahar stated that the income consumption decisions are made by both women and men, while the remaining seven percent reported that only men makes decisions.

further information: Masooma.said@wfp.org, Halima.wahaj@wfp.org, Jackson.masonmackay@wfp.org and Christoph.waldmeier@wfp.org

mVAM website: <http://vam.wfp.org/mvam>

VAM website: vam.wfp.org