



UKRAINE

WFP
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM)

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance

January
2023

Executive Summary

- ◆ At the start of its cash-based response, WFP's assistance targeted Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) by providing **Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) in an amount between USD 75** (UAH 2,220) to USD 225 per month depending on the number of eligible household members.
- ◆ During April to August WFP transferred cash assistance to around **one million beneficiaries**.
- ◆ **584 interviews** were successfully conducted during October 2022 on a cohort of randomly selected cash recipients who received three months of assistance.
- ◆ Overall, almost one quarter (23%) of respondents were found to have **inadequate food consumption**, defined as a poor (7%) or borderline (16%) FCS.
- ◆ The groups with highest inadequate food consumption levels (poor and borderline) are the **elderly** population (31%), families with a **person with disabilities who is not registered** (26%), families with a **chronically ill person** (27%) and **single parents** (27%), which is in line with WFP's targeting criteria.
- ◆ 85% of respondents reported relying on **consumption-based coping strategies at least once** during the week prior to data collection, with the most frequently used strategies being: relying on less preferred/less expensive food, reducing portion sizes at mealtime and borrowing food.
- ◆ Two thirds (64%) of the respondents reported adopting **at least one of the livelihoods coping strategies** within a month prior to the data collection, with the most frequently used strategies being: spending savings, borrowing money or food and purchase food on credit to meet essential needs.
- ◆ A third of respondents (36%) reported relying on governmental allowance as the **primary source of income**.
- ◆ The **most common expenses** covered with the assistance are **food** (reported by 76% of all respondents) and rent or other cost related to shelter (reported by 43% of respondents).
- ◆ The majority of respondents (71%) stated that they have been able to **cover some of their priority needs** with the assistance.
- ◆ 95% of respondents stated, that overall, they are either **satisfied or very satisfied with the assistance**.
- ◆ 100% of respondents stated that Western Union/partner staff have **treated them respectfully** when collecting the cash.

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1. Context

WFP has an operational presence in Ukraine since the onset of the conflict in February 2022. Under the Limited Emergency Operation, WFP has been one of the leading agencies responding to the humanitarian needs of crisis-affected populations across Ukraine, providing food and cash assistance to almost 3 million people a month. At the start of its cash-based response, WFP's assistance targeted Internally Displaced Persons (IDP). There was an estimated 6.5 million IDPs in mid-March 2022 across Ukraine, with a peak of 8 million IDPs in early May, according to rapid assessment's data from IOM². WFP supported eligible individuals by providing **Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)** in an amount between USD 75 (UAH 2,220) to USD 225 per month depending on the number of eligible household members, following the guidance of and in coordination with the Ukraine Cash Working Group. Cash transactions are

facilitated by the money transfer company, Western Union (WU) via banks. Initially, most of the MPCA efforts were directed towards western Oblasts, where majority of the IDPs had moved at the beginning of the conflict.

Following the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between WFP and the Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP), WFP's cash assistance scaled up rapidly in May 2022 with 500,000 households identified through registration lists of the MoSP in 24 oblasts and supported with MPCA for 3 months. During April to August WFP transferred cash assistance to around 1 million beneficiaries. As of August 2022, MoSP provided another list of 1.5 million people who required assistance and had self-registered through the online platform e-dopomoga as well as additional beneficiaries identified by local authorities.

2. Sample and Data Collection

Data collection took place from 4th of October 2022 to 23rd of October 2022. In total, **584 interviews** were successfully conducted on a cohort of randomly selected cash recipients who received three months of assistance from May to July 2022.

The surveyed **sample is representative**, and the findings can be extrapolated to the overall population (here - WFP cash beneficiaries of the above-mentioned cohort). Nevertheless, the analysis have limitations stemming from the timing of the survey: while receiving their transfers in May-July, the cohort of beneficiaries was surveyed in October 2022, following an amendment to the agreement between WFP and MoSP, which made monitoring outreach possible. For this reason, indicators concerning food consumption and coping strategies relating to **current levels** at the time of the interview

may have changed (positively or negatively) since receiving the assistance. This presents some drawbacks in terms of establishing direct effects of the WFP assistance. Data collection was conducted in a **remote mode** (via telephone interviews), implemented by a third-party monitoring company (TPM) - Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS).

The survey covered all macro-regions in Ukraine – however, as stratification was not applied, findings per macro-region are indicative.

Table 1. Number of interviews per macro-region

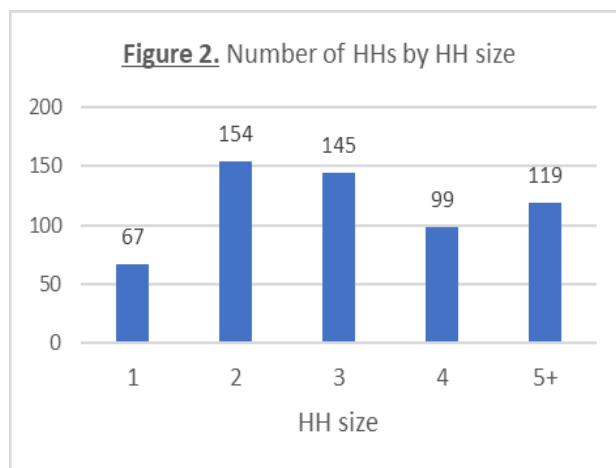
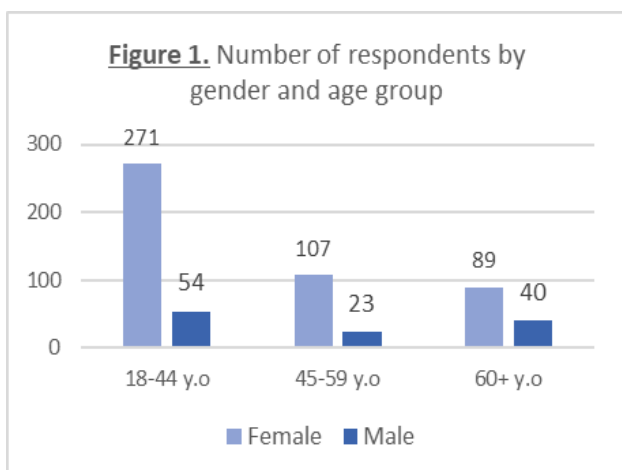
Macro-region	Number of interviews
West	76
Center	80
North	171
South	26
East	152
Kyiv city	79

2 IOM, Ukraine — Internal Displacement Report — General Population Survey Round 10 (17 - 27 October 2022), available at: <https://displacement.iom.int/>

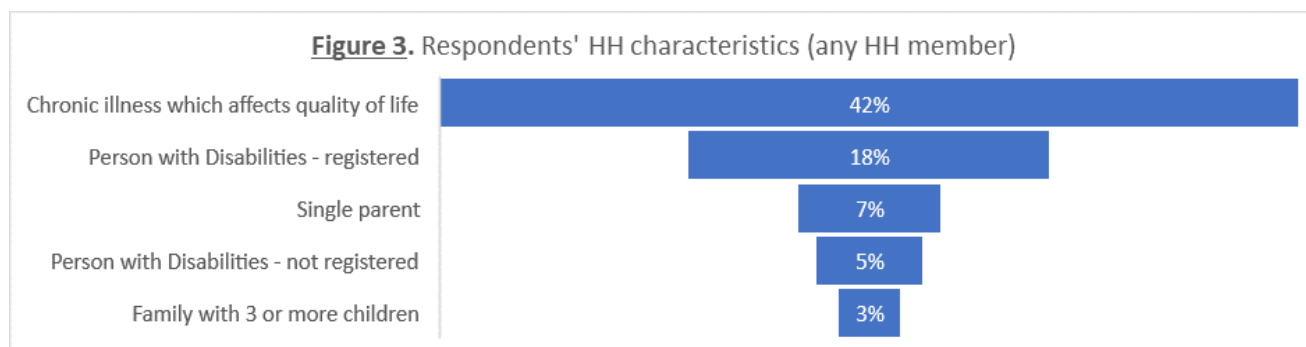
2.1 SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The vast majority of respondents are female (80% of respondents) – Figure 1. The average age of respondents is 45 years old. The average size of the households (HH) is 3.3 individuals (Figure 2). 55% of HHs have children and 43% of HHs have elderly members.

The age and gender characteristics of the sample are coherent with the total population (all beneficiaries of the selected cohort): 72% of all cash recipients were female and the average age of all recipients was 45 years old.



In addition to being internally displaced, 56% of the respondents reported having at least 1 socio-demographic vulnerability (Figure 3), where the most common one is chronic illness of one of the HH members (42% of households).

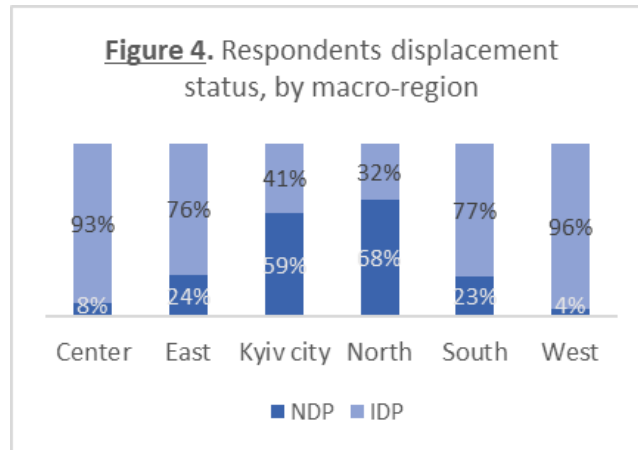


2.2 RESIDENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS

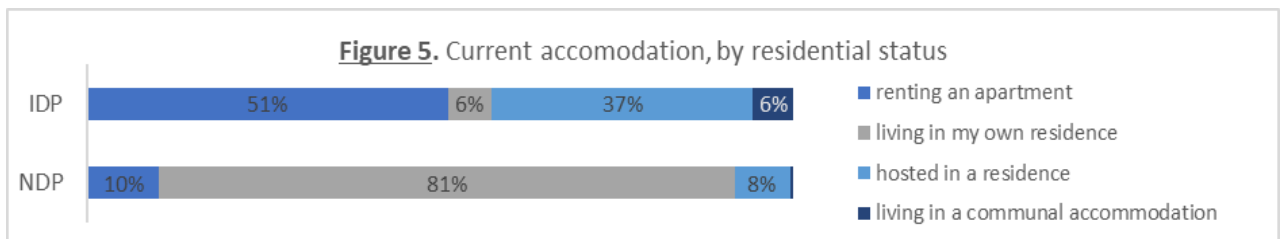
At the time of the interview, **63%** of the respondents reported being **currently displaced (IDP)** and 37% stated otherwise (non-displaced person - NDP). Since the start of the conflict on 24 February 2022, many Ukrainians have returned to their original place of residence, as early as April 2022, with an estimated 5,9 million returnees as of end of October (IOM, Oct. 2022), compared

to 2.7 million returnees in May. Thus, it could be assumed that the “non-displaced” respondents are in fact returnees.

The macro-regions with highest proportion of non-displaced population (Figure 4) among respondents are North (68% of interviewees) and Kyiv city (59% of interviewees). The majority of interviewees are residing in the regional centers (42% of respondents), followed by another urban settlements (37% of respondents), and 20% of respondents are residing in rural settlements.



One third of respondents reported living in rented accommodation, another one third living in their own residence, 26% of the respondents reported being currently hosted by someone and some 4% are living in a communal accommodation. Disaggregation by residential status (Figure 5) outlines opposing trends in housing situation of the displaced and non-displaced population: IDPs are commonly renting an accommodation (51% of IDPs) or are hosted by someone (37% of IDPs), while majority of NDPs are residing in their own residence (81% of NDPs).



A third of the respondents (36%) reported relying on **government allowance as the primary source of income**. 8% of respondents stated that they rely on **humanitarian assistance** as a primary source of income for their household.

3. Outcome Indicators

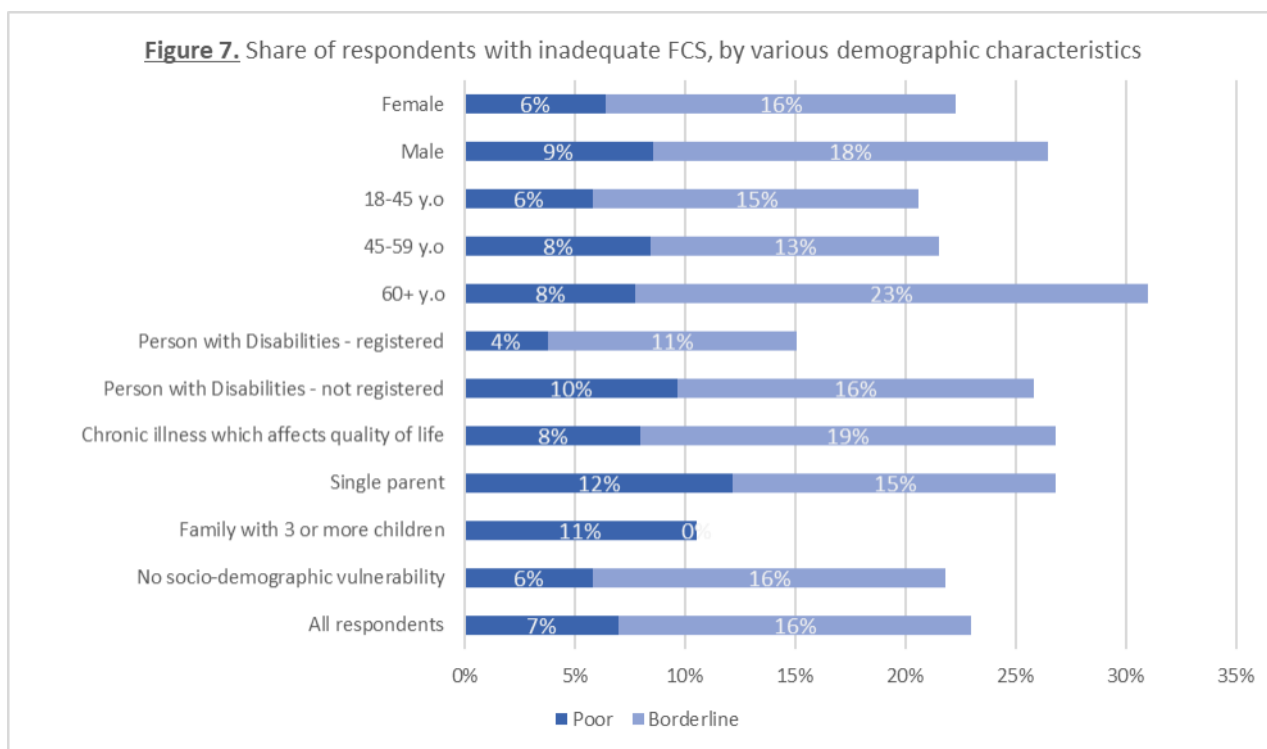
3.1 FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE (FCS)

Overall, almost **one quarter (23%) of respondents were found to have inadequate food consumption**, defined by a poor (7%) or borderline (16%) food consumption score. The share of population with insufficient food consumption among the respondents is similar to initial data collected in the baseline Food Security Assessment (FSA) (WFP Ukraine May 2022), where the overall share of population who was found to have inadequate food consumption was estimated at 21%. However, these findings cannot be fully compared as the FSA’s results were gathered on the general population in all regions of Ukraine, as a first snapshot of the food security situation in the country, while the PDM data is looking specifically at the specific cohort of MPCA’s beneficiaries.

The MPCA is intended to cover an immediate consumption gap for a period of three months, thus results suggest that WFP cash beneficiaries maintained their food consumption without further deterioration, despite the worsening of the overall humanitarian situation after 8 months of conflict at the time of data collection.

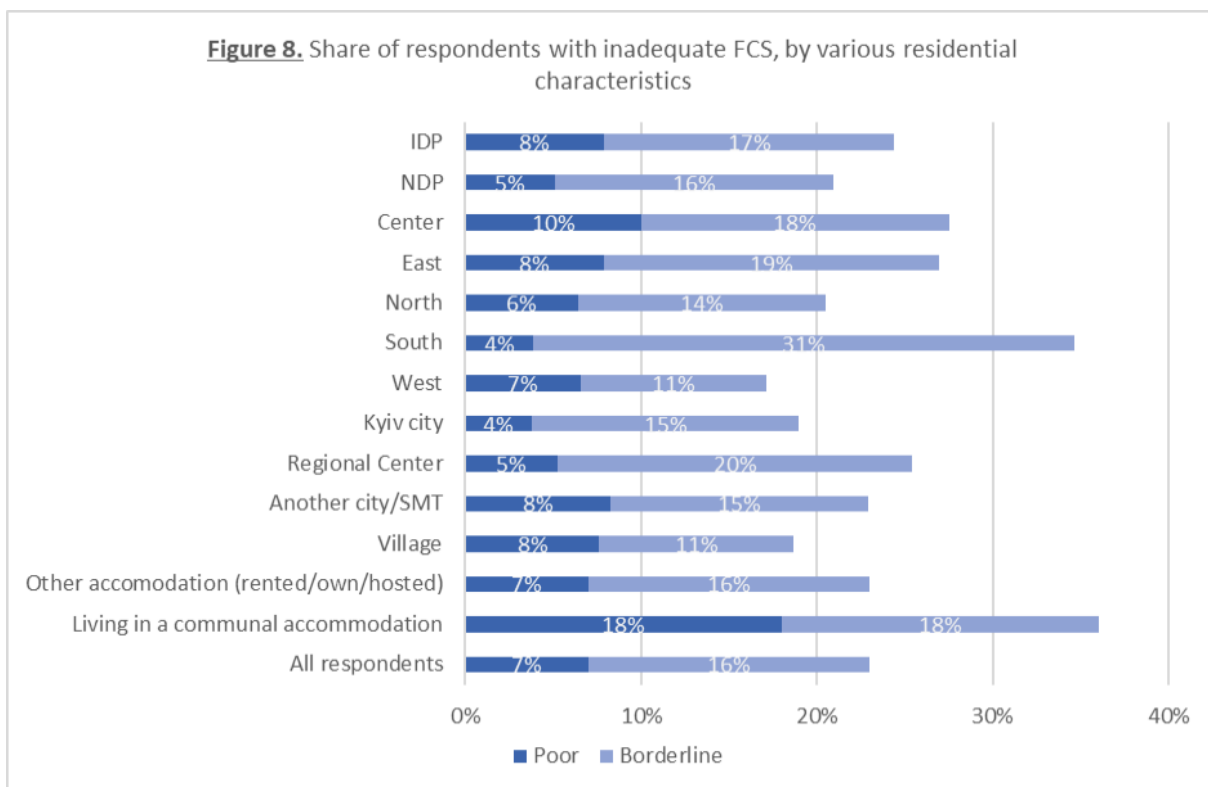
Disaggregation by various demographic characteristics (Figure 7) shows that:

- The share of respondents who were found to have inadequate food consumption is slightly **higher among male respondents** than female respondents;
- The share of respondents who were found to have inadequate food consumption is the **highest among population aged 60+** (31%) compared to respondents of other age groups;
- Among the groups with various socio-demographic vulnerabilities, families with a person with disabilities (non-registered), families with a chronically ill person and single parents were found to have inadequate food consumption more frequently than large families and families with a person with disabilities (registered).



Disaggregation by geographical and residential characteristics (Figure 8) shows that:

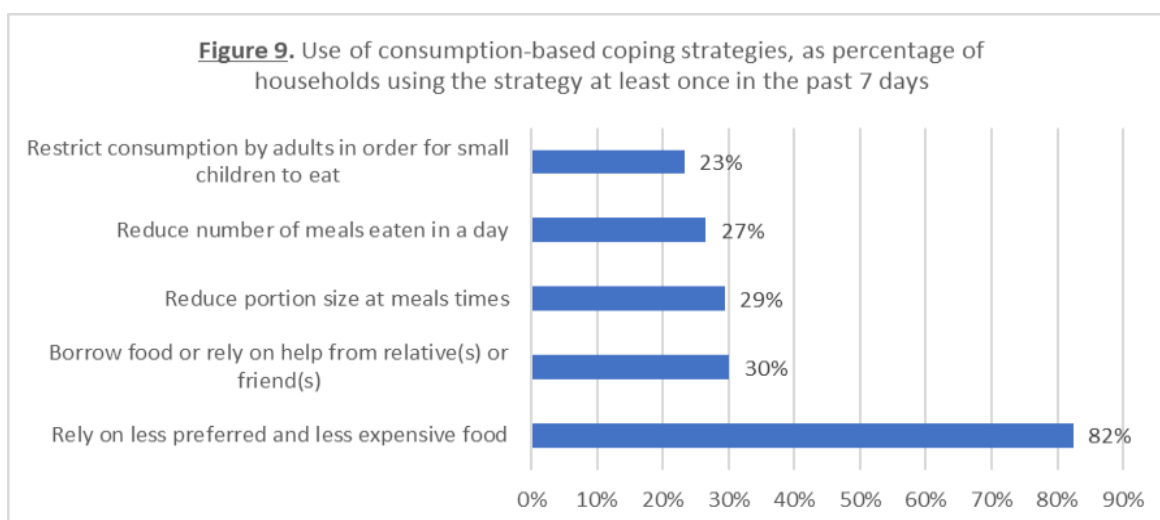
- The share of respondents who were found to have inadequate food consumption is **slightly higher among IDPs** compared to NDP;
- The share of respondents who were found to have inadequate food consumption is the highest among respondents from the South macro-region (35%), due to the high prevalence of Borderline FCS, compared to other regions; However, the Center and East macro-regions had higher level of poor food consumption;
- The share of respondents who were found to have adequate food consumption is the highest among population **residing in rural settlements**, compared to urban settlements (regional centers and other towns);
- The share of respondents who were found to have inadequate food consumption is notably higher (with a concerning 18% share of poor FCS) among respondents who live in communal accommodations, compared to respondents with other accommodations (own place rented/hosted). However the number of respondents for this category was quite low (n=22)



3.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION-RELATED COPING STRATEGIES

85% of respondents reported **relying on a food consumption-based coping strategies at least once** during the week prior to the data collection, which shows that more people are currently adopting consumption-based coping strategies compared to the baseline (76%).

82% of respondents stated, that during the week prior to the data collection, they had to **rely on less preferred or less expensive food** at least once (Figure 9) – and out of them, more than half reported doing so every day. In addition, around a third of respondents reported reducing portion sizes at mealtime, and another third reported borrowing food. Around a quarter of respondents reported that they had to reduce number of meals eaten in a day and around 20% of respondents reported restricting the consumption by adults in order for small children to eat.



Food consumption coping strategies' score is higher among female respondents compared to male respondents.

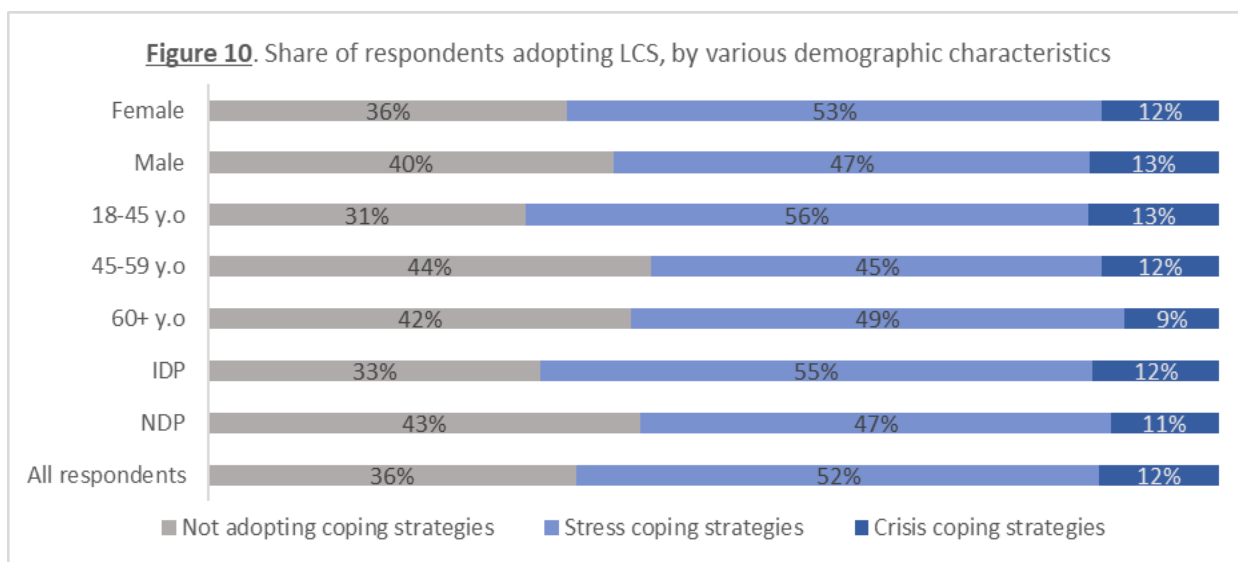
3.3 LIVELIHOOD COPING STRATEGIES (LCS)

Two thirds (64%) of the respondents reported **adopting at least one of the livelihoods coping strategies (LCS)** during the month prior to the data collection. 12% are using crisis coping strategies (abandoning household assets/goods for safety reasons and/or selling productive assets to meet essential needs) and 52% are using stress coping strategies (spending savings, borrowing money or food and/or purchase food on credit to meet essential needs) (Figure 10).

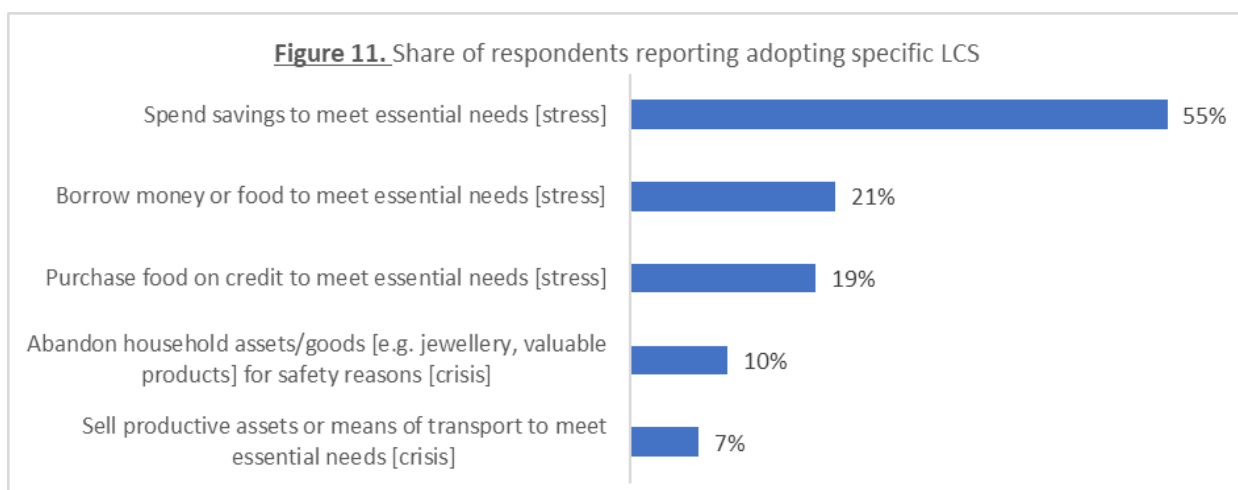
The share of respondents not adopting any LCS is slightly higher among male respondents (40% vs 36%) compared to female respondents.

Respondents aged 18-45 are notably more likely to adopt LCS compared to respondents aged 45+ (69% vs 57%).

The share of respondents not adopting LCS is higher among NDPs compared to IDPs (43% vs 33%).



Half of the respondents (55%) reported having to spend savings in order to meet essential needs. 21% of the respondents had to borrow money or food, and 19% stated that they had to purchase food on credit (Figure 11).

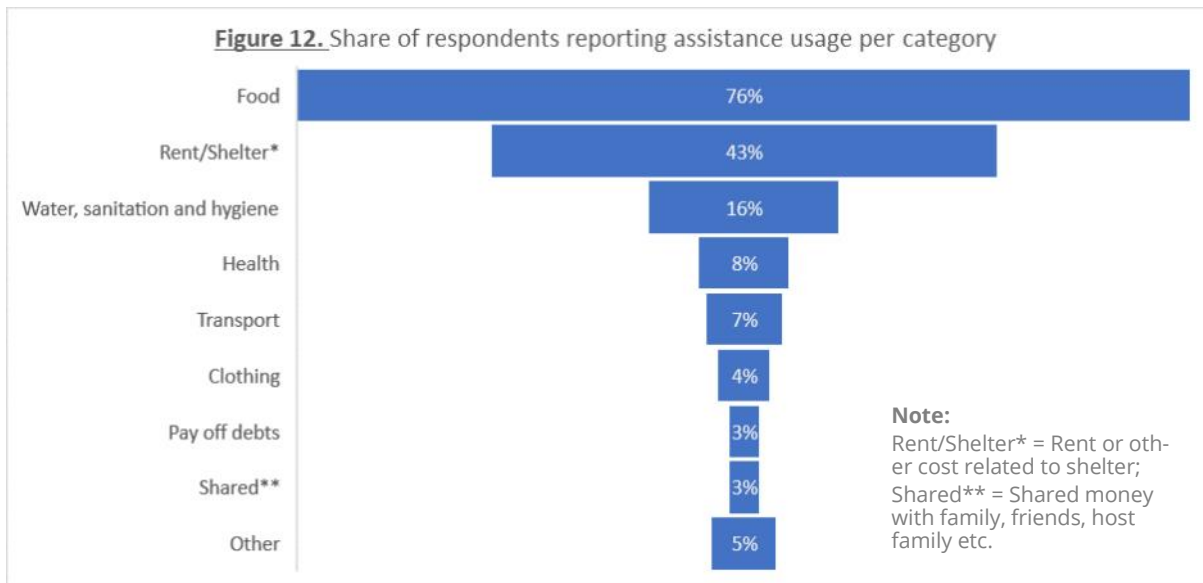


4. Use of Assistance and Accountability to Affected Populations

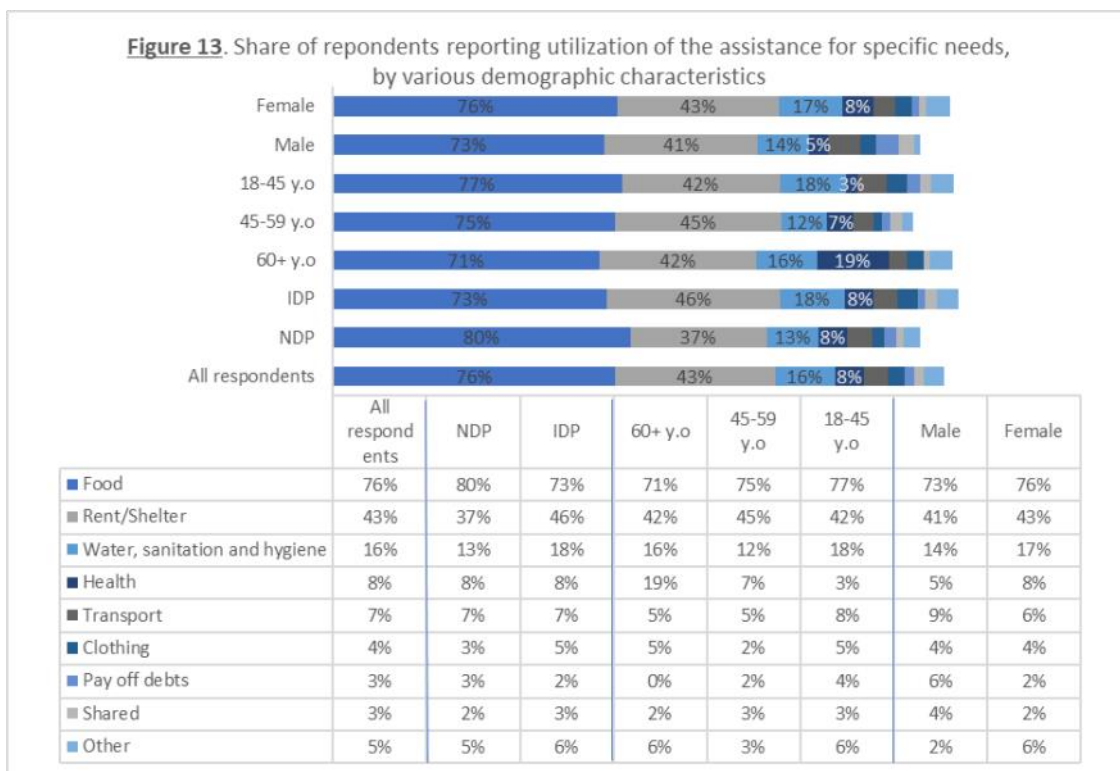
4.1 ASSISTANCE USE

The most common expenses covered with the assistance (Figure 12) are food (utilizing the assistance for this category was reported by 76% of all respondents) and rent or other cost related to shelter (reported by 43% of respondents).

Almost half (49%) of the respondents reported utilizing the assistance to cover the expenses in more than one category.



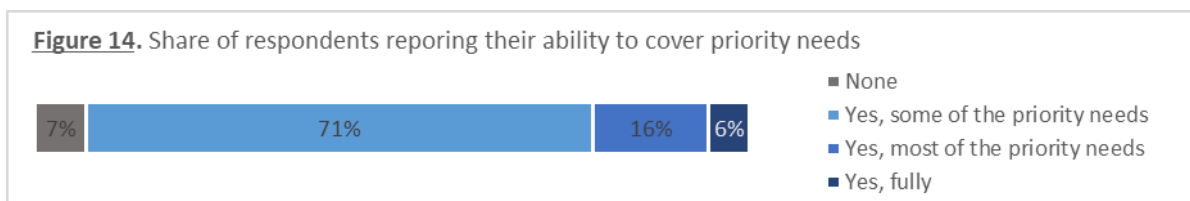
Assistance use patterns have very few differences when compared by different demographic characteristics (Figure 13). Female respondents reported utilizing the assistance to cover



expenditures on almost all categories slightly more frequently than male respondents – with the exception of transport expenses and paying off debts, which were slightly more frequently reported by male respondents. For the different age groups, the main difference found was a more frequent use of the assistance to cover health related expenditures by respondents aged 60+. IDPs tend to more frequently use assistance to cover expenditures on rent/shelter and less frequently to cover expenditures on food, compared to NDP.

When asked to indicate one category, for which most of the assistance was spent, 60% of the respondents identified **food as the main category**, 25% rent/shelter and some 4% identified health as the main category for which most of the assistance was used.

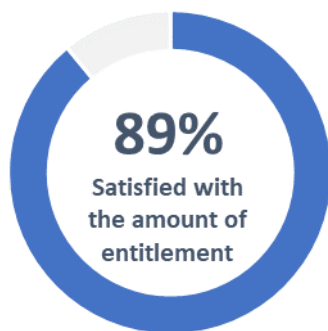
The majority of respondents (71%) stated that they have been **able to cover some of their priority needs**, 16% stated that they were able to cover most of their priority needs and 6% stated that they were able to fully cover their priority needs. 7% of the respondents reported, that they were not able to cover any of their priority needs.



4.2 SATISFACTION

95% of respondents stated that overall, they are either **satisfied or very satisfied** with the assistance.

89% of respondents stated that they are either satisfied or very satisfied with the **amount** of entitlement.



94% of respondents stated that their preferred modality of assistance was cash.

4.3 SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY

99% of respondents stated that they had **not experienced any security challenges** related to WFP assistance. 3 persons reported that a security problem occurred when leaving the Western Union office/collection point/on my way back from WU (all of them are from East macro-region) and 1 person reported that the problem occurred when collecting the cash at Western Union office/collection point .

16% of respondent reported that they or their household members were unable to **access WFP assistance** one or more times. The reasons most frequently mentioned were: HH members also registered for assistance but have not received it/received not all 3 transfers; problems with SMS (did not come/code expired); problems with documents; lacking information.

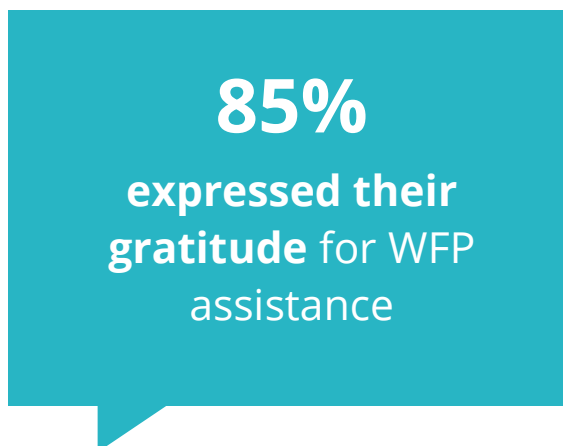
4.4 PROTECTION AND FEEDBACK MECHANISMS

100% of respondents stated that Western Union/partner **staff have treated them respectfully** when collecting the cash.

99% of respondents stated that that the processes to enroll and to receive WFP assistance were **dignified**. 3 respondents who stated otherwise, noted that it is due to the struggle to understand and use technology, that the process felt not dignified to them.

Only 26% of respondents stated that they knew **how to report misconduct** from WFP or partners, including cases of (sexual) favours or money in exchange of assistance. Overall, 29% of respondents stated that if they would want to contact the agency providing assistance (WFP or a partner) about anything they would know what to do/who to contact.

As the final comment/suggestion, 85% of respondents expressed their gratitude for WFP assistance and some 1% asked for more assistance.



5. Conclusion

5.1 CASH DISTRIBUTION

In general, the monitoring findings show that the cash assistance **reached the intended beneficiaries**, who were **satisfied by the assistance received**. The conditions for receiving the assistance were assessed by the majority of recipients as **safe and dignified** and all beneficiaries felt being **treated respectfully**. However, some issues with **accessing the assistance** (beneficiaries were registered but had not received the assistance yet, issue with SMS/expiring code; issue with documentation, etc.) were mentioned by 16% of the respondents. In addition, the level of awareness regarding beneficiary selection is still quite low (38% knew how people were chosen) and a bit more than half of the recipients knew what they were entitled to. **Reporting misconduct** was also low amongst beneficiaries, with roughly a quarter of recipients knew how to report such practices.

5.2 FOOD CONSUMPTION AND COPING CAPACITY

Regarding food consumption and coping strategies, the data suggest that the cash assistance **prevented people from falling deeper into food insecurity** when comparison is made to the May 2022 food security baseline report, despite the continuing war further deteriorating the humanitarian situation. The information collected also points that the war is **putting a strain on households' coping capacity** (85% of respondents reported relying on a food consumption-based coping strategies and 64% adopting at least one of the livelihoods coping strategies).

The findings show that the groups with **highest inadequate food consumption levels** are the elderly population (31% borderline and poor food consumption), families with a person with disabilities who is not officially registered (26%), families with a chronically ill person (27%) and single

parents (27%), which is in line with WFP's targeting criteria. A group that has concerning levels is people living in communal accommodations, with 36% inadequate food consumption (18% poor (more than twice the average poor food consumption among all respondents) and 18% borderline food consumption). Male respondents also showed worse scores (27%) than female respondents (22%).



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