

Emergency Relief Food Distribution Project to Conflict-Affected IDPs in Taiz, Yemen



Third Party Monitoring (TPM) Report

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conducted
by:



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Acronyms

AD	Absolute Difference
CCMs	Community Committee Members
CSI	Coping Strategies Index
CVTN	Commodity voucher through trader's network
EFSNA	Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment
F	Female
FSAC	Food Security and Agriculture Cluster
FSAC-MFB	Food Security and Agriculture Cluster-Minimum Food Basket
FCS	Food Consumptions Score
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
HHs	Households
IDs	Identification cards
ICAN	International Children's Action Network
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
JPF	Japan Platform
KIIs	Key informant interviews
Kcals	Kilocalories
M	Male
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFB	Minimal Food Basket
PPS	Probability proportional to size
PDM	Post distribution monitoring (PDM) / observation
PPPD	Per person per day
RAG	Red, Amber, Green
TOR	Terms of Reference
TPM	Third Party Monitoring
USD	United States Dollar
VF	Verification Factor
WFP	World Food Program
YER	Yemeni Riyal

Abstract

- 1 This is a third-party monitoring and Evaluation (TPME) report of the Emergency Relief Food Distribution Project to Conflict-Affected IDPs in Taiz, Yemen. The project targeted two districts in Taiz governorate namely At Taizia and Saber Mawadem districts. The project objective is to provide emergency food assistance to internally displaced households who are facing a food crisis due to intensifying conflict in Taiz Governorate, Yemen —to meet the greatest needs and save lives.
- 2 The TPM assessed the level of achievement and progress towards planned targets, verified quantitative data reported by partner, and assessed the quality of outputs and targeting against the relevant partner's standards and criteria.
- 3 The TPM used a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, which include desk review of ICAN's beneficiary database, interviewing a representative sample of 386 beneficiary households, focus group discussions, key informant interviews with 6 committee members, observation of distribution sites and roads leading to them, and observation of food items and their expiry dates.
- 4 **Progress against planned targets.** The project increased the planned target from the initial 1600 beneficiary households to 2180 utilising the savings from the favourable exchange of US dollars against the depreciated local currency. The project met the planned target set by reaching to 2180 beneficiary households with three rounds/months of food assistance, but the cumulative total fell short by one percent, because 72 beneficiary households only received twice.
- 5 **The project did well at the outcome level** by enabling the beneficiary households to obtain 1904 kcal/person/day caloric intake, which exceeds the planned target set of 1600kcal/person/day by 19%. Moreover, the endline coping strategy index (CSI) shows an improvement by 12.11 points from the baseline, which exceeds the planned target set of 8 points. Full 93% of the households have low or no coping implying they are food secure at endline.
- 6 **Quantitative Verification.** We did not find any major discrepancy between the total 2180 beneficiary households reported by ICAN and the total number of beneficiary households in the database/ beneficiary list. The sample of 386 beneficiary households selected randomly from the partner's database for field verification all confirmed receiving food assistance from ICAN. Thus, a RAG rating **Green**.
- 7 **Frequency of food assistance.** Of the 386 beneficiary households selected for field verification, ICAN reported that 98% (n=378) of them received the three times food assistance, but field verification revealed that 376 did actually receive the three times food assistance, while two (2) beneficiary households —other than the eight (8) reported by ICAN— received twice, although in ICAN database they received three times. Despite this discrepancy, the RAG rating is still **Green**.
- 8 **Quality of Outputs.** The project aimed to obtain a beneficiary satisfaction of 80% or more on various issues, and the findings from this TPME exercise revealed that the project exceeded the target set by 19%. Full 90% of the beneficiary households are satisfied with the quality of food contents, 99% are satisfied with the types of food items provided, and all are satisfied with the distribution process. Only 46% of the interviewed beneficiaries reported to be aware of the availability of **complaint mechanisms to voice complaints**, while 54% do not know if there is or there isn't any mechanism, which means they are not concerned, or do not care. **None of the beneficiaries reported paying any amount to receive food assistance.**
- 9 **Adherence to Targeting.** All the 386 sample of beneficiaries verified in the field have met ICAN's vulnerability criteria, and all of them are either with no income or their daily income is below 2 dollars per capita (below the poverty line).

1 Introduction

1.1 Scope of work and location

- 10 This TPM report covers the food distribution which took place during Dec 2020 to Feb 2021 in two target districts (At Taizia and Saber Mawadem) of Taiz governorate. The project is managed by ICAN Japan in collaboration with Human Access as the local implementing partner in order to access the conflict areas, and coordinate with local government.

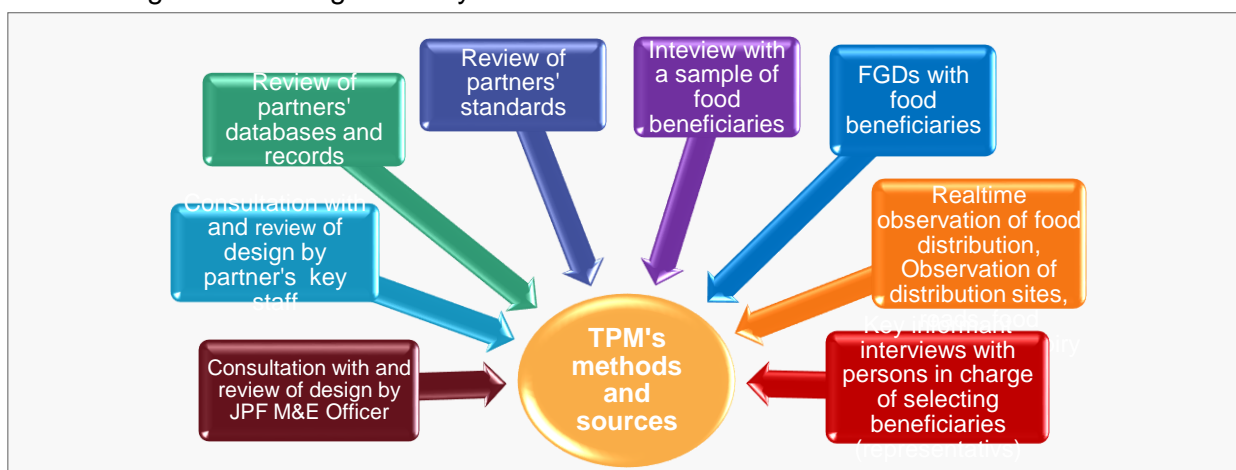
1.2 Methodology and methods used in this Third-Party Monitoring (TPM) Exercise

- 11 **The TPM methodology** included four dimensions related to project indicators. These are:
- Assessing progress achieved against planned targets,
 - Quantitative Verification – comparing quantitative data reported by partner with verified data
 - Quality of Outputs – verifying adherence of outputs to the partner’s quality standards,
 - Targeting – verifying adherence to targeting against the partner’s targeting criteria.
- 12 To ensure objectivity of the TPM exercise we used an automatic rating in excel to determine the level of data accuracy or quality of quantitative data. For this we used a verification factor (VF), which is the ratio of the figure verified by Interaction in the field to the corresponding value reported by ICAN. The VF in turn is used to calculate an absolute difference (AD) between data reported and data verified, which is $100 - VF$. The rating was guided by an Excel quantitative data verification template in which the VF and AD are generated automatically when comparing the verified figures with data reported by ICAN. The final AD at each level verified is derived by summing up all ADs and dividing by the number of rows to obtain the mean. VF ratio of 100% means that the data reported by the partner exactly match the figures verified by Interaction, while a ratio under 100% suggests “over-reporting”; and a ratio over 100% suggests “under-reporting”. ADs are direction neutral. The overall AD is then used to generate a RAG (red, amber, green) rating for each indicator based on decision rules outlined in the table below.

If the overall absolute difference is between 96 and 100%	No/minor Data Quality Issues
If the overall absolute difference is between 80 and 95%	Moderate Data Quality Issues
If the overall absolute difference is below 80%	Major Data Quality Issues
Data could not be verified due to lack of data	Unable to Verify

- 13 **The TPM used a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods.** Field and analytic methodologies include triangulation by method and source of information in order to ensure robust results. These included a desk review of the project summary design document and beneficiary database/ lists; consultation with partner and with JPF; real-time monitoring of food distribution; semi structured interviews and focus group discussions with beneficiary households; observation of food distribution sites; and the road leading to them; and observation of food items and date of expiry. Interview key informants in charge of selecting beneficiaries. We outline below the methods used to inform the design and to collect data for this exercise.

Figure 01: Triangulation by source and methods used in the TPM exercise



14 The table below provides an overview of the aforementioned data collection methods, the corresponding tool/instrument for each method, and the source of information.

Table 02: Data collection methods, tools, and sources of information

Data Collection Methods	Data Collection Tools	Sources of Information
Desk review	Checklist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Perusal of the project summary design ▪ Perusal of the beneficiary database/lists ▪ Review of baseline and endline data
Face-to-face interview	Semi-structured questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Beneficiary households ▪ Key informants with community committee members
FGDs	Guides and themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Beneficiary households
Post distribution monitoring (PDM) / observation	Checklist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Observation of food distribution sites; and road leading to them ▪ Observation of food items received ▪ Checking the expiry dates of food items

1.3 Sample size, sampling methodology and sample selection

15 To ensure that the sample size is representative for the total population of 2,180 beneficiaries we needed a sample size of 327 using the Cochran statistical formula for a margin of error of 5%¹ (+/-2.5%). To allow for nonresponse, we increased the sample size by 18% (n=59) to 386. We can therefore say that we are 95% certain that the results obtained from the sample of 384 beneficiaries (face-to-face interviews) represent the total number of beneficiaries in Taiz. In other words, the 95% confidence level means that if this study is repeated 100 times under the same conditions, in 95 percent of the times the results would lie within the margin of error +/-2.5%. The sample was split equally between the two districts with an attempt to equally stratify by gender within each district to the extent possible.

Table 03: Interaction's Template for Sample Size Determination

Z = Z value (e.g. 1.96 for 95% confidence level)	1.96
p = expected prevalence or proportion picking a choice	50%
c or e = relative desired Precision or margin of error, or confidence interval	5%
Insert the number for total target population	2,180
N or sample size (SS)	384
	327

$$N = \frac{Z^2(p)(1-p)}{e^2}$$

$$\text{actual sample size } (n) = \frac{N}{1 + \frac{N-1}{\text{population}}}$$

¹ Most statisticians select 5% margin of error or confidence intervals.

- 16 To enhance, the credibility of the results, we selected the sampled locations through probability proportional to size (PPS). Within each location, we selected beneficiaries through simple random sampling. We also interviewed 6 out of the 28 key informants (KIs) with committee members. The sample design and sampling methodology is in Appendix 2.

Table 04. Sampling Design and Scope of Verification

Total number in project	Total number sampled	Percentage sampled
1 governorate	1 governorate	1/1 = 100% of governorates
2 districts	2 districts	2/2 = 100% of districts
23 villages	12 villages and sub-villages	12/23 = 52% of sites
2180 beneficiaries (1919 M; 261 F)	386 beneficiaries (193 M; 193 F)	386/2180 = 18% (10% M; 74% F)
28 Key informants (25 M; 3 F)	6 KIs (3 M; 3 F)	6/28=21% KIs (11% M; 100% F)

- 17 The TPM tools are described in the table below along with the planned and actual sample size obtained in the field.

Table 05: Summary of survey tools used and sample size per tool in Taiz

TPM Tools (5)	Planned sample size (399)	Actual sample size (401)
Field Tool A, interview with beneficiaries	386 interviews (205 M; 181 F)	386 interviews (210 M; 176 F)
Field Tool B, KIIs	6 KII (3 M/3 F)	6 KIIs (3 M/ 3 F)
Field Tool C1, observation of distribution sites	4	4
Field Tool D1, FGD with beneficiaries	4 FGDs (2 M; 2 F) sessions	4 FGDs (2 M; 2 F)
Tool E: Review database	1 database for 2180 (1919 M; 261 F)	1 database for 2180 (1919 M; 261 F)

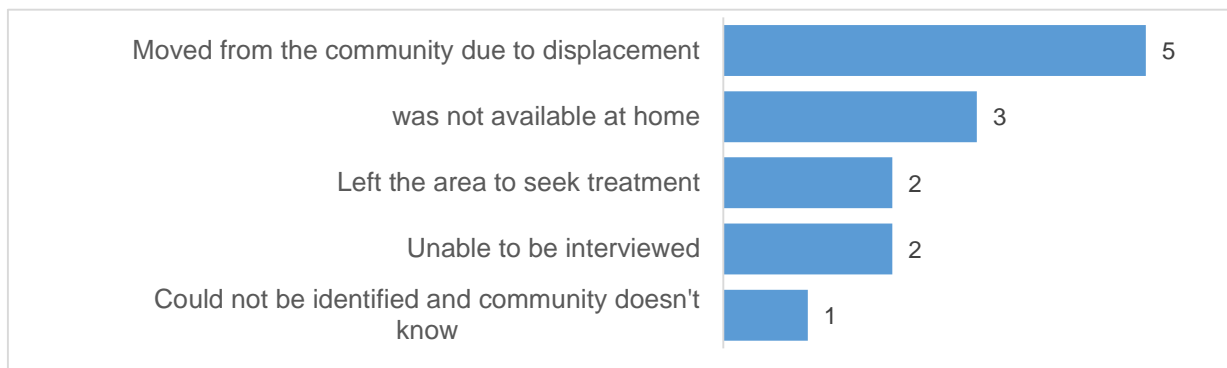
- 18 **Planned versus actual numbers of beneficiaries interviewed.** We have interviewed all the 386 beneficiaries planned in the sample, thus achieving an overall 100% completion rate (108% among male and 92% female beneficiaries). However, to achieve this completion rate the field teams were obliged to make 15 substitutions (10 male and 5 female) for the reasons indicated in the next paragraph.

Table 06: Overview of planned and completed beneficiary interviews and completion rate

Geographical locations	Planned Sampled			Completed Sample			Completion rate		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
At Taizia district	108	85	193	111	82	193	103%	96%	100%
1. Al-Angad	24	37	61	25	36	61	104%	97%	100%
2. Al-Dumainah	24	11	35	24	11	35	100%	100%	100%
3. Al-Mahfodiah	28	21	49	30	19	49	107%	90%	100%
4. Ansooah	32	16	48	32	16	48	100%	100%	100%
Saber Mawadem district	97	96	193	99	94	193	102%	98%	100%
5. Al-Gabali	12	7	19	12	7	19	100%	100%	100%
6. Al-Hadaiga	13	5	18	13	5	18	100%	100%	100%
7. Alsiyahi	12	24	36	14	22	36	117%	92%	100%
8. Al-Mehal	12	9	21	12	9	21	100%	100%	100%
9. An-Nawbah	12	15	27	12	15	27	100%	100%	100%
10. Al-Haram	12	1	13	12	1	13	100%	100%	100%
11. Gabal Han	12	23	35	12	23	35	100%	100%	100%
12. Nagd Amran	12	12	24	12	12	24	100%	100%	100%
Total beneficiary interviews	205	181	386	210	176	386	102%	97%	100%

- 19 **Reasons for substitutions.** There are five main reasons for substitutions. The most common reasons include five households “*moved from the community due to displacement or for another reason*”, followed by three households who were “*not available at home after 3 visits at different times*”, while two “*left the area to seek treatment*”, and two were “*unable to be interviewed*”, and one household “*couldn't be identified and community does not know*”.

Figure 07: Reasons for substitutions of the main sample



1.4 Sample Representativeness

- 20 We used probability sampling techniques to ensure that the survey results are credibly generalized to the target population. Villages were selected through Probability Proportional to Size (PPS), and beneficiaries were selected through simple random sampling from the sampled villages.
- 21 In order to have confidence that the results of the TPM are representative we needed a sample size of 327 household for the total targeted population of 2,180 beneficiary households for a margin of error of 5%. We increased the sample size to 386 to allow for nonresponse. This sample size will ensure 95 percent of confidence level along with 5 percent margin of error that the results obtained from the sample of households interviewed represent the whole target population in Taiz.
- 22 We have numerous safeguards to prevent errors through a multi-stage validation process with rigorous monitoring put in place. Starting with desk review of beneficiary list from which we select a representative sample of beneficiaries through probability sampling for face-to-face interviews. We validate these interviews through triangulation with other methods and sources (FGDs, KIIs, observation, and real-time observation). Finally, the findings from the field are validated using a mystery shopper through phone interviews, independent of field-staff. The safeguards include triangulation of data using various methods and sources, with data validation rules to control the type of data or the range of values inputted, and include inbuilt field checks that automatically detect and flag outliers, missing data and inconsistent response. Daily review of inputted data with prompt feedback to field monitors to verify or rectify. In conclusion, and considering the rigor applied in the design, field monitoring, and reporting of this TPM, we consider the findings credibly reflect the target population listed in ICAN's database.

1.5 Limitation

- 23 As indicated earlier, we have achieved 100% completion rate by interviewing the total sample of 386 beneficiaries. However, to reach this completion rate required making 15 substitutions, being 4% (15/386), which is still within the limit and do not cause any bias.
- 24 The TPM exercise started one day following the completion of food distribution of phase-19, and thus there is a minimum recall bias. Moreover, triangulation techniques were employed to crosscheck data. These techniques showed that for questions relevant to such crosschecking, minimal recall bias appears to have occurred.
- 25 We have deliberately selected approximately equal numbers of male and female heads of households in order to adequately capture the experience of women beneficiaries. Given the fact that this over represents the actual proportion of women heads of households receiving benefits (50% (193/386); compared to 12% (261/2180 according to ICAN's database for Taiz), this study will be weighted in favour of the experience of female heads of households. If any gender differences are small this has little effect on findings for all households. However, if gender differences are large the results for all households should be reweighted to show what

is happening at the governorate level. As our interest is identifying any gender differences in perceptions and experiences, we have not done this and instead, the TPM has disaggregated key findings along gender lines where noticeable differences exist in order to understand the varying experiences of men and women heads of households. If a gender split is not given then it can be understood that differences are small and unlikely to have any material effect on the results and any conclusions drawn.

1.6 Tasks carried out by the TPM

- 26 **Inception Phase.** The tasks carried out during this phase included the followings:
- i Consultation with JPF;
 - ii Consultation with ICAN Japan, ICAN Yemen and Human Access;
 - iii Desk review of project documents including project summary document, beneficiary database/lists, and endline and baseline data;
 - iv Design of data collection tools. The tools were designed based on Interaction's experience in previous TPM studies on food distribution and using best practice guidelines. The tools were reviewed by a peer group of field supervisors to get expert judgment, and were updated based on feedback from JPF and ICAN, and finalised during training/pretesting. The tools were signed off before fieldwork. The final tools are attached in appendix 1.
 - v Sample Design. Section 1.2 is devoted to sample design, and detailed in appendix 2
- 27 **Training of field monitors and pretesting of tools.** All fieldworkers were specifically trained on the tools even so they can already master similar tools from a recent TPM study on WFP. The training was practical and action-oriented focusing on role play, group and plenary discussions to pre-test the tools and identify ambiguous questions or wording, unclear instructions, or other problems prior to training and fieldwork. The rigorous role plays reconfirmed the length, flow, ease of administration, and ease of response to the questionnaire.
- 28 **Field Monitoring.** All tools were administered through face-to-face meetings with each respondent. The beneficiary household questionnaire was administered with the sampled beneficiaries named in ICAN's database. Prior to the start of the interview, the beneficiary identification is verified by asking for the ID card. If the named beneficiary is not available and unlikely to return during field verification, the interview is conducted with another adult household member who is familiar with ICAN's food assistance. If during the interview, the named beneficiary or the respondent stated that the food basket was collected by another household member, the interviewer prompts the respondents to invite the person who collected the food basket to answer the questions related to the experience of food distribution process (means of transport to distribution site, safety on the way and while waiting, distance and waiting time, and overall satisfaction). The distance and time also crosschecked through observation and by actual distance measured by field monitors using vehicle mileage. The KII's were administered with 6 community committee members who are responsible for the selection of beneficiaries.
- 29 **Quality Control Measures.** The questionnaires are designed based on best practice guidelines, with the recall period on food consumption and coping strategies being limited to seven days. Each questionnaire is structured in sections, and the sections are ordered to ensure a good flow of questions that are comfortable to the respondent. Each questionnaire includes skip commands (instructions directing field monitors to ask only the questions relevant or consistent to the response in the previous question). For security reasons, we use the smartphones in data collection. The Excel datasheets are programmed with data validation rules to control the type of data or values in each cell, and include built-in field checks that automatically detect and flag outliers, missing data, and inconsistent response. Outliers are verified and reported, and where they affect the results, we reported the median besides the mean, minimum and maximum. Illogical responses, outliers and missing data are verified from the source, and field monitors are timely prompted to return to the respondent while still in the sampled village to verify and rectify. This process resulted in zero missing data.

1.7 Stakeholders and key informants met and consulted

30 The TPM met and consulted with relevant stakeholders from ICAN Japan and ICAN Yemen together with Human Access' staff in Sana'a. The names of the persons consulted are listed in annex 2. The consultation was initiated by an induction meeting triggered by an introduction letter from JPF. The aims of the induction meeting were to: 1) introduce the objectives of the TPM, 2) introduce the TPM core team from Interaction and to clarify roles and responsibilities, 3) demystify the scope and methods of field monitoring; 4) understand any confidentiality issues with JPF's partner and any concerns related to the TPM exercise; 5) seek data from ICAN (quality standards and beneficiary database/lists); and 6) agree on the schedule for field visits. At field level, 6 key informants who are members of the community committees were interviewed for their roles in selecting beneficiaries and organising food distribution. Their names are included in annex 2.

1.8 Timeline of the TPM exercise

31 The planned and actual timeline of the TPM is indicated below. The TPM field monitoring preceded one day after the completion of food distribution.

Table 08: Distribution of households by severity of the 11 short-term coping strategies

Stages of the TPM exercise	Planned date(s)	Actual date(s)
1. Field Interviews, FGDs and Observation	2 – 12 March	2 – 12 March
2. Data Cleaning	12 – 16 March	12 – 16 March
3. Data Analysis of Quantitative Data	16 – 20 March	16 – 20 March
4. Transcribing of Qualitative Data	18 – 22 March	18 – 22 March
5. Report writing	22 – 30 March	22 – 30 March

2 Findings

2.1 Project Design

- 32 This sub-section discusses issues related to project design, which we clarify hereunder, and assess whether these issues have affected and/or may affect, project delivery and project performance, and possibly influence results.
- 33 ICAN increased the number of beneficiary households to 2180 from the initial planned target of 1600 stipulated in the Project Summary Document. This increase resulted in a total number of households being 6540 for the three months instead of the initially planned 4800. ICAN's local M&E officer explained that the increase in the number of beneficiary households was due to the savings made by the project when converting the US dollars favourable exchange rates into the depreciated Yemeni Riyals (YERs). It would have been best to utilised the savings to provide more rounds/months of food assistance to the same beneficiaries in line with advice of the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) rather than increase the number of beneficiary households. However, the savings made is not enough for more rounds/months to the same beneficiaries.
- 34 Against the background of the above, we used the 2180 beneficiary households as the actual planned target set for the output indicator to compare with the beneficiary lists for the following reasons: i) The practice of increasing the number of households as a result of savings is in line with the FSAC; ii) We understand that ICAN Japan communicated this increase to JPF; iii) The increase in the output indicator to 2180 will not affect the value of the outcome indicators (coping strategy index and satisfaction level); and iv) To ensure consistency in TPM reporting by using the 2180 as the actual planned target, and although using the 1600 beneficiary households would result in exceeding the target set by 36%, the quantitative verification will consider this increase a discrepancy and would be flagged or rated **Red**, which may not do justice to the project.

Indicators	Initially Planned Target ¹	Actual Planned Target ²
# of HHs who received monthly food assistance	1600	2180
# of times HHs received food assistance	3	3
Total # of HHs who received food assistance	4800	6540

Source 1: Project Summary Document.

Source 2: ICAN's Database (beneficiary lists).

2.2 Project Effectiveness

- 35 In this sub-section, we assess project progress in meeting the targets set at output and outcome level. At output level, we compare progress achieved against planned targets in the number of beneficiary households who received assistance. At the outcome level, we assess the caloric intake of household members, then compare the endline results of the households' coping strategy index (CSI) with the baseline measures to measure the change in improvement of food security as a result of the project, and finally assess beneficiary satisfaction.

2.2.1 Assessing progress achieved against planned target

- 36 The project had the following output and outcome indicators, and the target set under each.
- 1) **Number of households (HHs) who received food assistance 3 times (output indicator).** The actual planned target set is 2180 to the same households three rounds/months (6540 cumulative total).
 - 2) **Beneficiary households' caloric intake (outcome indicator).** The planned target set is 1600 kcal/ person/day.
 - 3) **Coping Strategies Index (CSI) of beneficiary households (outcome indicator).** An improvement by 8 points or more is the target set from the baseline measure of 14.38.
 - 4) **Level of beneficiary satisfaction (outcome indicator).** 80% or more for all questions.

37 For each of the afore-mentioned four indicators we assess below the achievements and the level of progress reached.

1) Output indicator - Number of households (HHs) who received food assistance 3 times.

The project initially planned to distribute food assistance to 1600 households for three months/rounds (cumulative total 4800), but the actual planned target increased to 2180 resulting in a planned cumulative total of 6540 households (see sub-section 2.1 for clarification). According to the project database/ beneficiary lists provided by ICAN the project met the planned target set of 2180 households who received food distribution for three rounds, but the cumulative total fell short by one percent, because 72 beneficiary households only received two rounds/months of food distribution. Detailed analysis is included under subsection 2.3: Quantitative Verification.

Output Indicators	Actual Planned Target	Realized			Progress
# of HHs who received food assistance	2180	2108	72	2180	100%
# of times HHs received assistance	3	3	2		
Total # of HHs who received assistance	6540	6324	144	6468	99%

2) Outcome indicator - Beneficiary households' caloric intake. The planned target set is 1,600 kcal/ person/day. We have calculated the kilocalories (kcal) per capita per day resulting from ICAN's food basket in Taiz. The results show that the overall average is 2180 kcal/person/day, and the median, which excludes outliers is 1904. This value almost matches the reference value (1900) used WFP and UNHCR for designing emergency rations. Therefore, the project has exceeded the 1600 kcal/person/day target set. The number of beneficiary households whose members met or exceeded the 1600 kcal constitutes 71% of the total sample, while the 29% had less than the 1600 kcal due to their relatively larger household size. Detailed analysis of caloric intake is included under subsection 2.4: Quality of Outputs - paragraph 42 to 43.

Outcome Indicator	Planned	Realized	Progress
Beneficiary households attained 1600 kcal/person/day	1600	1904	119%

3) Outcome indicator - Coping Strategies Index (CSI) of beneficiary households. We assessed the CSI at endline to be 2.27, which is an improvement by 12.11 points from the baseline. Thus, the project exceeded the planned target set, and this improvement in the CSI is a proxy indicator of the improvement in households' food security. The analysis of this CSI is in the following paragraphs. Detailed analysis of the CSI is in subsection 2.2.1 - paragraph 37.

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Planned	Realized	Progress
The CSI of the beneficiary households who received the food are improving (average CSI)	14.38	improved by at least 8 points	2.27	12.11

4) Level of beneficiary satisfaction (outcome indicator). The project aimed to obtain a beneficiary satisfaction of 80% or more on various issues, and the findings from this TPM and evaluation exercise revealed that the project exceeded the target set by 19%. Full 90% of the beneficiary households are satisfied with the quality of food contents, 99% are satisfied with the types of food items provided, and all are satisfied with the distribution process. Detailed analysis of satisfaction is included under subsection 2.4: Quality of Outputs

Outcome Indicators	Planned	Realized	Progress
Level of beneficiary satisfaction is 80% or more for all questions	=> 80%	96%	119%
Satisfied with the quality of food contents	=> 80%	90%	113%
Satisfied with the types of food items provided	=> 80%	99%	124%
Satisfaction with the food distribution process	=> 80%	100%	125%

2.2.2 Coping Strategies Index (CSI)

- 38 The TPM conducted a household survey using the short-term coping strategies to assess short-term food security and vulnerability beneficiary households at the time of field monitoring. The results portrayed in the pie chart to the right and the column chart below show the distribution of beneficiary households by the coping level (high, medium or low). The data show that 93% (359/386) of the households are with low coping level or did not use any coping strategies (implying that they are food secure), while 6% (24/386) used medium coping, and 1% (3/386) reported having high coping level or being food insecure. This finding is logical and reflects the fact that the TPM interviews with households started one day after completion of food distribution.

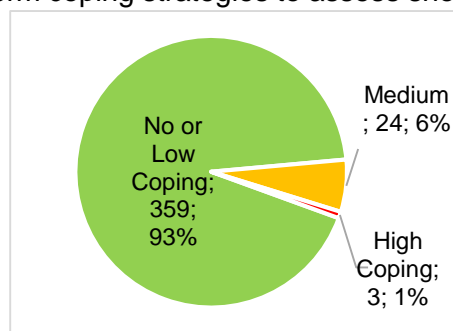
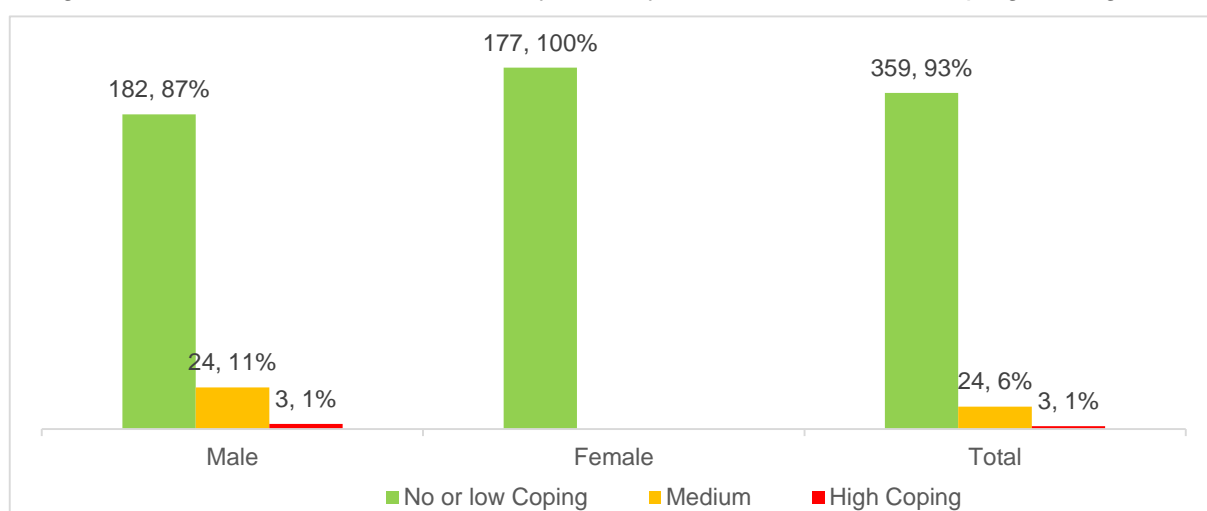


Figure 09: Distribution of households by severity of the 11 short-term coping strategies



- 39 The TPM also assessed the CSI at endline to be 2.27 and compared it with the 14.38 at baseline, which is an improvement by 12 points from the baseline. Thus, the project achieved planned target set, and this improvement in the CSI is a proxy indicator of the improvement in households' food security.

Outcome Indicator	Baseline	Planned	Realized	Progress
The CSI of the beneficiary households who received the food are improving (average CSI)	14.38	improved by at least 8 points	2.27	12.11

2.2.3 Food Consumption Score (FCS)

- 40 The TPM also used the FCS to assess the short-term food security and vulnerability of households in which we asked households to recall the food types they consumed and the frequency of consumption of each type in the last seven days irrespective of whether a particular type was consumed once or more. To facilitate the interpretation of the results, the food types were reordered and grouped into eight (8) food groups following WFP Technical Guidance Sheet Calculation and use of the food consumption score (WFP, 2008). The consumption frequency of each food group in days was multiplied by an assigned weight that is based on its nutrient content as outline in Table (10) below.

Table 10: Food Items, Food Groups and Weights for Calculating FCS

	Food Items as stipulated in the questionnaire ¹	Food groups ²	Weight ²
1	Bread, Potatoes, Rice and cereals	Cereals tubers, & root crops	2
2	Vegetables	Vegetables	3
3	Fruits	Fruits	1

4	Beans, peas and nuts	Pulses	1
5	Meat and poultry, Fish, Eggs	Meat and fish	4
6	Dairy products excluding butter	Milk	4
7	Oil/fats (oil, fat or butter)	Sugar	0.5
8	Sugar, honey	Oil	0.5
	Condiments (small quantities to add flavour)		0.0

Source 1: Compiled from the field data

Source 2: Technical Guidance Sheet Calculation and use of the food consumption score (WFP, 2008)

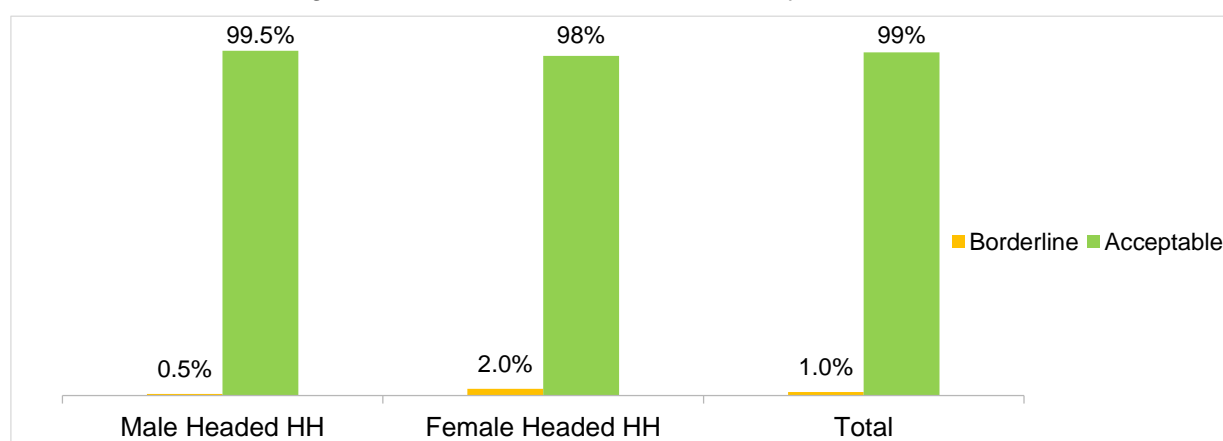
- 41 The FCS is a continuous variable, and to enhance interpretation we used the two thresholds (28 and 42) to distinguish consumption level as proposed by WFP (WFP, 2008). The thresholds define three groups: poor consumption (up to 28); borderline (between 28.1 to 42, and acceptable food consumption over 42.

Table 11: Typical thresholds

Category	Typical thresholds
Poor food consumption	1 – 28
Borderline food consumption	28.1 – 42
Acceptable food consumption	> 42

- 42 The results of food consumption are depicted in the column chart below. The FCS shows that almost all (99%) of the households exhibit acceptable consumption implying that they are food secure, and 1% seems to be on the borderline. Female headed households are 1½ percentage points more likely to be on the borderline than male-headed households.

Figure 12: Distribution of households by the FCS



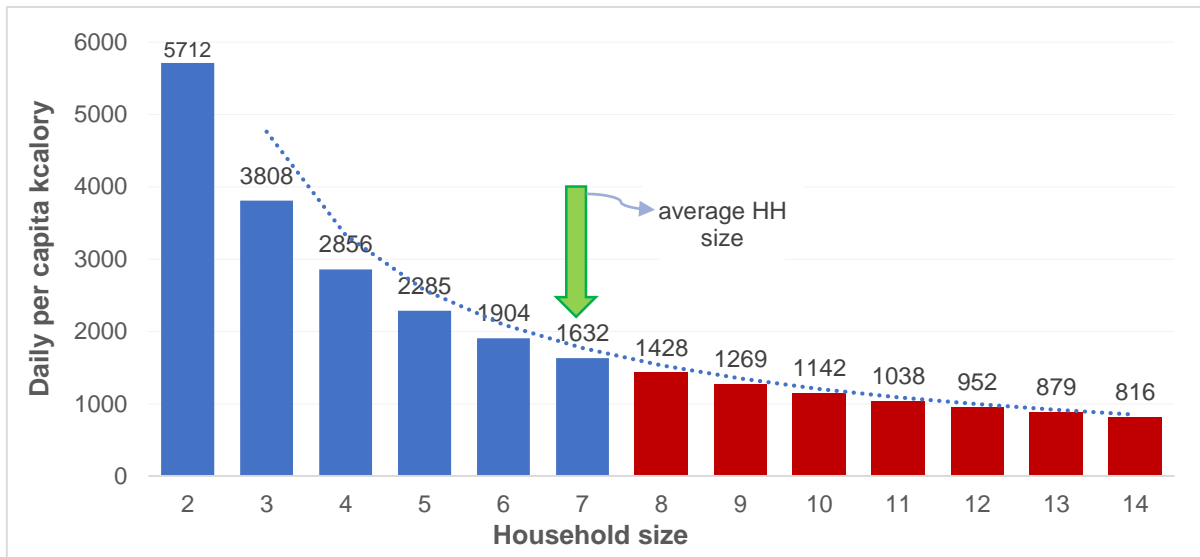
- 43 We have calculated the kilocalories (kcal) per capita per day resulting from ICAN's food basket in Taiz. The results show that the overall average kcal is 2180 kcal/person/day, and the median, which excludes outliers is 1904. Therefore, the project has exceeded the 1600 kcal/person/day target set. The number of beneficiary households whose members met or exceeded the 1600 kcal constitutes 71% of the total sample, while the 29% had less than the 1600 kcal.

Table 13: Per capita daily caloric intake (kcal) in Taiz

Variable	Value
Q1	1,428
Q3	2,856
Interquartile range	1,428
Median	1,904
Average	2,180
Maximum	5,712
Minimum	816
# of beneficiaries with \geq 1600 Kcal	174 (71%)
# of beneficiaries with $<$ 1600 Kcal	112 (29%)

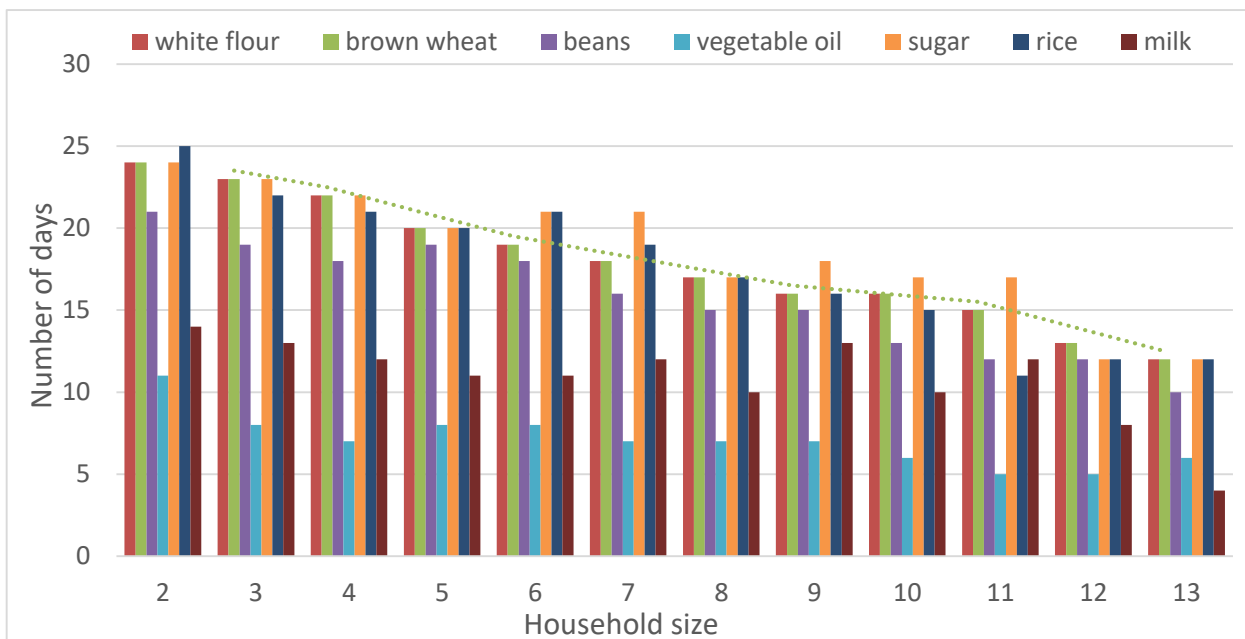
44 For the 29% of the beneficiary households whose members are not meeting the 1600 kcal stipulated in the project plan overview, the overriding factor is their large household size. That says, the larger the household size, the lower the per capita daily caloric intake and vice versa. This relationship is depicted in the graph below, which shows that members in households with a size of seven or less have met their daily kilocalories of 1600 kcal (blue columns), while members in larger household size (red columns) have fallen short of their daily calorie requirement.

Figure 14: Daily per capita caloric intake by household size



45 **The number of days the previous food basket lasted.** The Column chart below displays crosstabulation of the number of days for each food item lasted and the household size. The trend shows strong negative correlation (inverse relationship) – as the household size increases the shorter the period of food basket lasts, and the inverse is true.

Figure 15: Crosstabulation of the number of days the food basket lasted by HH size



2.3 Quantitative Verification

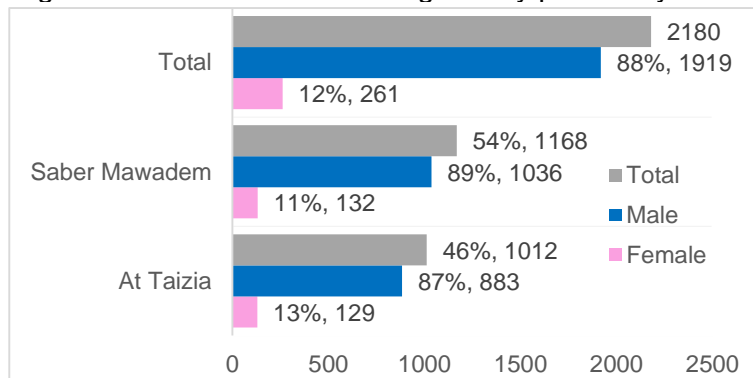
46 This sub-section of the report covers the TPM results on the quantitative indicators. The monitoring and verification include the followings listed in chronological order:

- Comparison between number of beneficiaries in partner's database with the figures in the project summary document annexed to the TPM's terms of reference (TOR),
- Review and visual inspection of the partner's database to check for possible duplication of beneficiary names, and consistency between names and gender,
- Interviews with a sample of beneficiary households. To establish the correct identity of each beneficiary, our field monitors asked for their names prior to the interview, then compared that name with the name observed on their IDs and with the full name recorded in ICAN's database;
- Observation of food distribution sites and roads leading to it; food content, size, expiry date,
- Interviews with community committee members.

47 Desk review of the project's database on the number of beneficiary households (HHs).

The total number of beneficiary households listed in the partner's database is 2180 of whom 12% are female-headed households. The database covers two districts in Taiz governorate; Saber Mawadem district having 1168 constituting 54% of the total beneficiary households, and At Taizia district having 1012 beneficiaries constituting 46% of the total beneficiaries.

Figure 16: # of beneficiaries targeted by partner by district



48 **Comparing between partner's database with the project summary document annexed to the TPM's terms of reference.** As mentioned under the project design sub-section, this comparison is irrelevant, because ICAN increased the number of beneficiary households to 2180 from the planned target of 1600 stipulated in the Project Summary Document. ICAN local M&E officer explained that the increase in the number of beneficiaries by 35% was due to the savings made by the project when converting the US dollars favourable exchange rates into the depreciated Yemeni Riyals (YERs). The project utilised the savings to increase the number of beneficiary households, because the savings made are not enough to provide more rounds of food assistance to the same beneficiaries. This practice is in line with the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC). We also understand from ICAN Yemen that ICAN Japan communicated the increase in the number of beneficiary households to JPF. We therefore used the 2180 beneficiary households as the actual planned target to verify with the beneficiary lists. The results of comparison outlined in the table below shows that the target figure of 2180 beneficiary households reported by ICAN (1012 in At Taizia district and 1168 in Saber Mawadem district) matched the figure verified in the beneficiary households' lists. Comparing both figures resulted in an absolute difference of 0%, and a verification factor of 100%. Thus, a RAG rating of **Green**.

Table 17: Comparing # of beneficiaries in beneficiary lists with the actual planned target

Indicator	Data		Verification Factor (VF) = V÷R	Absolute Difference (AD) = 100 - VF
	Reported by partner (R)	Verified by TPM (V)		
Total # of beneficiaries in Taiz governorate	2180	2180	100%	0%
# of beneficiaries in At Taizia district	1012	1012	100%	0%
# of beneficiaries in Saber Mawadem district	1168	1168	100%	0%
Average AD at aggregate level = summing up all ADs and dividing by # of rows				0%
Overall Verification Factor and RAG Rating				100%

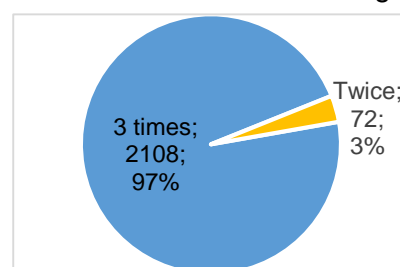
- 49 **Field verification of the number of beneficiary households.** All the 386 sample of beneficiary households selected for field monitoring have confirmed during the interviews that they have received food assistance from ICAN. There is gender differential by 2%, but it is meagre and the RAG rating is **Green**.

Table 18: Quantitative field verification of sample beneficiaries (386 HHs)

Indicator	Data		Verification Factor (VF) = V÷R	Absolute Difference (AD) = 100 – VF
	Reported by partner (R)	Verified by TPM (V)		
Total # of beneficiary households	386	386	100%	0%
# of male recipients of assistance	205	209	102%	2%
# of female recipients of assistance	181	177	98%	2%
Average AD at aggregate level = summing up all ADs and dividing by # of rows				2%
Overall Verification Factor and RAG Rating				98%

- 50 **Frequency of Food Assistance – Comparing the target with ICAN’s database.** According

to the planned actual target, the project aimed to support the same 2180 households for three consecutive months, and this planned target matched the total number of beneficiary households in the database/beneficiary lists. However, according to ICAN’s beneficiary database, only 97% (n=2108/2180) received the three times assistance, and 3% (n=72/2180) received twice. According to ICAN, the reasons why the 72 beneficiary households received twice was



because there were 72 households who received one-time food assistance in the first round, but they were replaced, and did not appear in the second and third round, because they did not meet the criteria. Our professional judgment is that such process is healthy and shows that the project is using an adaptive approach through learning by doing, and flexible to change as new findings emerge. However, the 72 should remain in the cumulative database even if they were replaced in the second and third rounds.

- 51 Field verification with the 386 sampled households shows that ICAN reported that 98% (n=378/386) received the three times food assistance as per the standard and eight received two rounds/months of food assistance. However, field verification revealed that 376 beneficiary households did actually receive three rounds/months of food assistance and ten received two rounds. The Despite this small discrepancy, the RAG rating is still **Green**.

Table 19: Quantitative verification of frequency of food assistance

Indicator	Data		Verification Factor (VF) = V÷R	Absolute Difference (AD) = 100 – VF
	Reported by partner (R)	Verified in database (V)		
# of HHs who received food 3 times	378	376	99%	1%
# of HHs At Taizia district	189	187	99%	1%
# of HHs Saber Mawadem district	189	189	100%	0%
Average AD at aggregate level = summing up all ADs and dividing by # of rows				1%
Overall Verification Rating for the frequency of food assistance				99%

Table 20: Distribution of HHs by frequency of food distribution

Frequency of distribution	Data reported by partner (A)			Data reported by households (B)			Variance C=(A-B)						
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total							
Twice	7	3%	1	1%	8	2%	7	3%	3	2%	10	3%	3
Three Times	202	97%	176	99%	378	98%	202	97%	174	98%	376	97%	-2
Total Households	209		177		386		209		177		386		0

2.4 Quality of Outputs

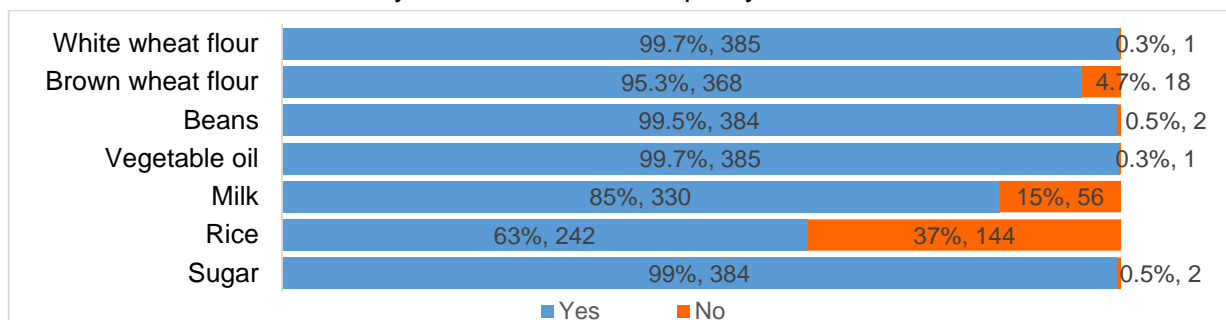
52 This sub-section of the report examines quality of and adherence to ICAN’s stated beneficiary selection process, quality of the food distribution process, access, beneficiary satisfaction, existence and knowledge of complaints mechanisms, and preventive measures against Covid-19. The verification methods include:

- Interviews a sample of beneficiary households, and observation of food items and expiry date;
- Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) of community committee members;
- Visual inspection/ observation of a sample of distribution sites and the roads leading to them
- Comparing the contents and quantity of food basket distributed by ICAN with the FSAC-MFB.

2.4.1 Satisfaction with the quality of food contents received

53 The beneficiary households were asked whether they are satisfied with the quality or type of food item or commodity they received. The results portrayed in the bar chart below show that five food items have each achieved over 95% beneficiary satisfaction. Furthermore, six of the seven food items scored at least 85% satisfaction. “Rice” scored 63%, which is the lowest satisfaction level of all food items, and well below the 80% satisfaction planned target to measure the validity of the project based on needs. Overall, the overall level of satisfaction with the quality from all food items is 91.7%. To increase this satisfaction level, it is important for ICAN to address the reasons for dissatisfaction raised by beneficiaries on rice” and milk outlined in the next paragraph.

Table 21: Are you satisfied with the quality of food contents?



54 **Reasons for dissatisfaction with the quality of food items.** For beneficiary households who expressed dissatisfaction with quality of food items, the reasons for dissatisfaction are described in the bullet points below and table that follows. Unfortunately, Interaction field monitors could not verify most of these issues through observation, because the dissatisfaction largely referred to food items distributed in the previous two rounds (1 and 2).

- 1) For rice, 37% (143/386) attested that the type is not suitable and noted that the rice becomes sticky and mushy when cooked, and 2.8% (11/386) attested that it is infested / deteriorated.
- 2) For milk, 12.7% (49/386) said the quality or type was not suitable, while 7% (27/386) claimed the product was infested/ deteriorated.
- 3) For whole-wheat flour, 3% (13/386) claimed it is not suitable and 2% (6/386) said the product was infested/ deteriorated. For white flour, the only 0.3% (1/386) dissatisfied indicated that it was infested, which was verified through observation.
- 4) For beans /pulses, less than one percent (2/386) attested that the peas take too long to cook.
- 5) For sugar, less than one percent (2/386) indicated that the sugar had impurities.

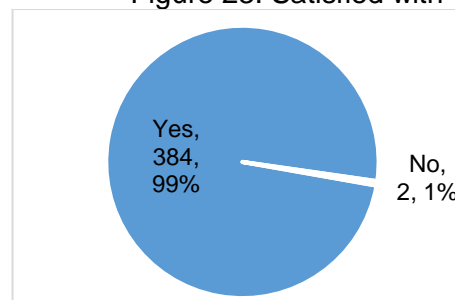
Table 22: Reasons for dissatisfaction with the quality of food contents

	White flour	Brown flour	Beans	Veg. oil	Sugar	Rice	Milk	Total
Product was infested/ deteriorated	1	6	0	0	1	11	27	45
Type of product is not suitable	0	13	2	0	1	143	49	209
Contains a large amount of cholesterol	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

2.4.2 Satisfaction with the types of food commodities received

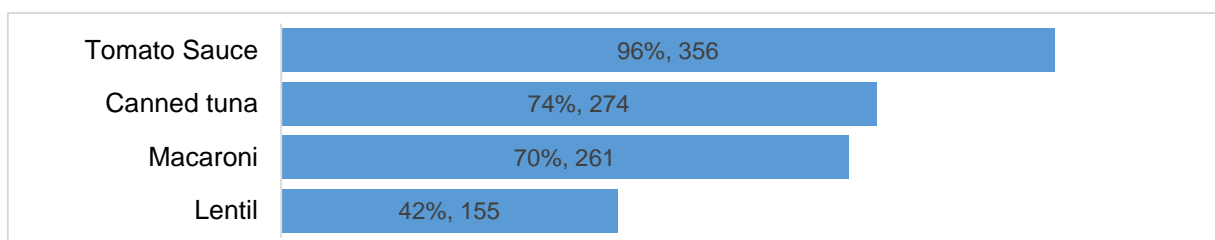
55 The beneficiary households were asked whether they are satisfied with the types of food commodities they received or would have preferred to replace any type with a different food item. Overall, 99% (384/386) of the beneficiary households are satisfied with the types they received. The two who expressed dissatisfaction were asked of food types they received and wanted to replace. One preferred to have beans over peas, while the other wanted to have a change, because peas is repeated every month. One of the two dissatisfied beneficiary households wanted to replace milk with tomato sauce, because children do not like milk powder.

Figure 23: Satisfied with



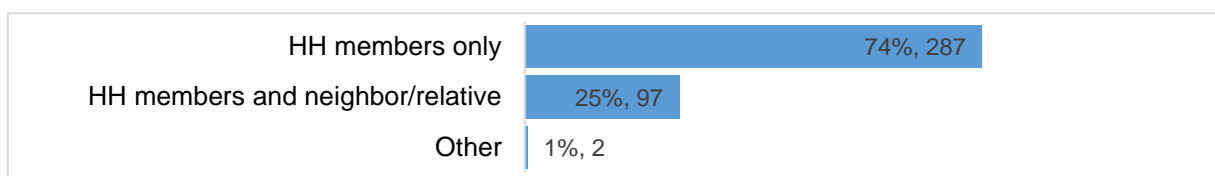
56 **On whether the beneficiary households want to add any food item to the food basket**, 96% (372/386) said yes. The food items they wanted to add include tomato sauce reported by 96% following by canned tuna (74%), macaroni (70%), and lentil (42%).

Figure 24: Food commodities the beneficiary households wanted to add to the food basket



57 **Beneficiary households' acceptability and consumption of food provided by ICAN.** Three in four beneficiary households reported that the food ration was exclusively consumed by household members, and one in four households attested that the food ration was also shared with neighbours and relatives besides consumed by household members, while two households reported being asked to split the food basket with other unregistered households as quoted here *"We had to share the food basket with another household, who lives in another neighbourhood, upon instruction of the local community leader (Aqel). We were compelled to do so despite our need for it"*. Interaction field monitor checked this claim through snowball method with other households who also claimed they had to split their food baskets with other households upon instruction of the local leader. ICAN and Human Access are not aware of this, and the community leader is not involved in the selection of beneficiaries, but was involved in verifying beneficiary households after selection. This was reported by two households (meagre), and it is likely that this sharing is because there are other household in need who are not targeted due to limited funding. However, we encourage ICAN and Human Access to look into this to ensure that food aid is not unintendedly leaking to nonpoor.

Figure 25: Who consumed food provided through this assistance?



58 **Exchange and trade of food rations.** For each of the food items received, the beneficiary households were asked whether the food item was traded or sold. The findings from the household interviews revealed that of all the 386 interviewed households only 10 households bartered or sold the food items indicated in the bar chart below. The table that follows shows the reasons for such practice, and these reasons indicate genuine needs. For those who had to sell the food items, they used the money to buy medicines (n=4), to buy diapers for an elderly whose leg is broken and cannot go to the toilet (n=1), to pay house rent (n=1), or to buy potatoes (n=1).

The two households who traded had different preference: one traded the peas for lentil, and the other household traded the lentil for peas. The one household who traded the rice was said to be, because it is not of good quality.

Figure 26: Food items, which traded or sold

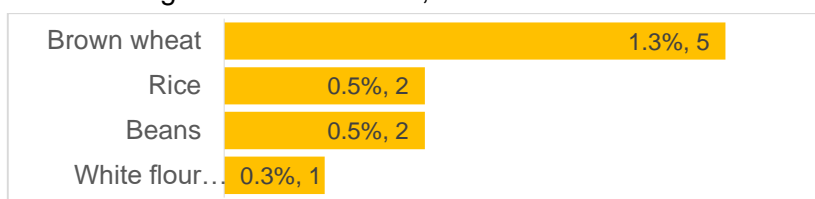


Table 27: Portion of the food basket (traded or sold) by reasons

Reasons for selling or trading	White flour	Brown wheat	Beans	Rice	
	Sold	Sold	Traded	Sold	Traded
Used the money to buy medicines	1	3			
Used the money to buy diapers for an elderly member whose leg is broken and cannot go to the toilet		1			
Used the money to pay the house rent		1			
Used the money to buy potatoes				1	
Not of good quality					1
Replaced beans for lentil, and lentil for beans			2		
Total	1	5	2	1	1

59 **Comparing the contents and quantity of food basket distributed by ICAN with the FSAC Minimum/Survival Food Basket (MFB).** The results of comparison outlined in the follow table show the variance for each food commodity. The salient features are highlighted below.

- 1) Milk (powder) is a food item distributed by the project not endorsed by the FSAC-MFB. We do not advise distributing dried milk powder to emergency-affected populations as part of the general ration. There is a risk of it replacing breastfeeding to feed infants. Moreover, there is a significant risk of high level of bacterial contamination when it is prepared with unclean water or in unsanitary conditions. This requires a policy decision by ICAN and JPF.
- 2) Iodised salt is not included in food assistance provided by the project, although included in FSAC-MFB.
- 3) Rice is a food item distributed by ICAN not included in the FSAC-MFB, but can be used to substitute 25kgs of wheat flour. In the event that rice is a substitute, the FSAC-MFB suggest having 50kg of wheat flour and 20kg of rice. ICAN currently followed this suggestion, but the quantity of rice provided is 10kg, which is half the FSAC-MFB suggested quantity. In absolute terms, ICAN is right, because the substituted 20kg of rice is moneywise worth 25kg of wheat.
- 4) The quantity of sugar provided by ICAN is 10 kg compared 2.5 kg stipulated in the FSAC-MFB.
- 5) The quantity of vegetable oil provided by ICAN is 1.8 litres, which is too little compared to 10 litres stipulated in the FSAC-MFB. Full 30% (49/386) of the beneficiary households testified that the quantity of vegetable oil is not sufficient. It is important that ICAN is supported to conform to FSAC-MFB.

Table 28: Comparing quantity of food basket distributed by ICAN with FSAC's food basket

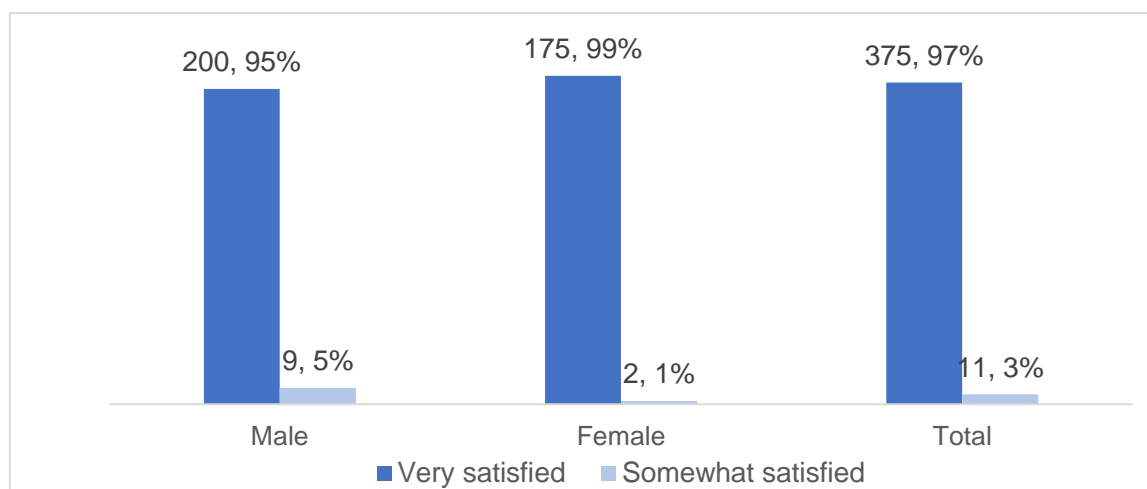
Commodities and quantity provided by ICAN (a)		Revised FSAC Minimum/ Survival Food Basket: Effective 1st 2019 (b)		Variance c = a-b
White or brown wheat flour	25 kg	Wheat flour (either white flour or brown wheat flour)	75 kg	0 kg ²
Whole-wheat flour	25 kg			
Beans/ Pulses	9.6 kg	Kidney beans/ lentils	10 kg	- 0.4 kg
Vegetable oil	1.8 litre	Vegetable oil	8 litres	- 6.2 litres
Sugar	10 kg	Sugar	2.5 kg	+ 7.5 kg
Rice	10 kg	Rice (see footnote) ²		
Milk (powder)	920 g	Milk	0	+ 920 g
Iodised salt	0	Iodised salt	1 kg	- 1 kg

² Rice can be used to substitute 25kgs of wheat flour. In the event that rice is a substitute, the basket should include 50kg of wheat flour and 20kg of Rice

2.4.3 Satisfaction with the food distribution process

60 All the recipients of food rations are generally satisfied with the food distribution process (97% being “very satisfied” and 3% “somewhat satisfied”).

Figure 29: Satisfaction with the Food Distribution Process



61 **Quality of the distribution process (1): The means of travel to receive food assistance** varied between vehicle (49%), on foot (35%), and motorcycle (16%).

Table 30: Means of travel to the Food Distribution Site

	Male		Female		Total	
Car	87	42%	101	57%	188	49%
Motorcycle	48	23%	15	8%	63	16%
On foot	74	35%	61	34%	135	35%
Total beneficiary households	209		177		386	

62 **Quality of the distribution process (2): Travel time to the distribution site and waiting time to collect the food basket.** Overall, the average time and median to reach the distribution site was 21 minutes with a range of two (2) minutes minimum and 2 hours maximum, and waiting time to collect the food basket took on average 28 minutes with a range of 5 minutes and 5 hours. The maximum of 5 hours were reported by one person who had to stay until the end of the day, because he was the son of the recipient, but was not authorised to collect the food rations.

Table 31: Travel time to reach the distribution site and waiting time at the site (in hours)

	Time taken to the distribution site			Waiting time at the distribution site		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Average	18	24	21	33	22	28
Median	15	20	15	15	15	15
Maximum	90	120	120	300	170	300
Minimum	2	5	2	5	5	5

63 **Quality of the distribution process (3): Availability of food basket on the designated day.** Almost all (99%=382/386) of the beneficiary households testified that the food basket was available on the designated day. The four beneficiary households from Alsiyahi area who did not receive on the designated day, was because of armed clashes that occurred at the distribution site. There are another seven beneficiary households who claimed they did not receive on the designated day, but after enquiring we found that they came on the wrong day.

64 **Quality of the distribution process (4): Safety on the way or while waiting to collect the ration.** Most (93%) of the food recipients attested to have felt safe on the way to the food

distribution sites or while waiting to collect the food basket, while 7% (28/386) reported to have not felt safe. There is no gender differential.

Table 32: Felt safe on the way to the distribution site or while waiting to collect the ration?

	Male		Female		Total	
Yes	194	93%	164	93%	358	93%
No	15	7%	13	7%	28	7%
Total beneficiary households	209		177		386	

- 65 Of the 28 recipients who did not feel safe, 22 (13 males and 9 females) reported being afraid of projectiles or snipers on the road or at the distribution site, while 14 (8 males and 6 females) reported being afraid of military clashes along the road or at the distribution site. The area is surrounded by mountains, and snipers belong to one of the two warring parties situated at the mountain top. This does not mean that distribution sites are inappropriately located. The targeted areas are located on the outskirts of the city of Taiz and on the line of war confrontations, where the population is located adjacent to the two fronts, which made their villages vulnerable to direct and indirect shelling.
- 66 By geographical location, Gabal Han came in first place in terms of the number of food recipients (over a third of the interviewed beneficiaries) who reported feeling unsafe due to fear of feared shelling, snipers armed clashes. Interaction sampled 12 of the geographical locations targeted by ICAN for food distribution. In seven (7) of these 12 locations the beneficiaries reported feeling unsafe. Alsiyahi area —where food distribution had to stop near the end due to armed clashes— is not included among these listed locations. This demonstrates that armed clashes are unpredictable, and reflects the volatile environment.

Table 33: Reasons for not feeling safe by geographical location

Geographical locations	Reasons for not feeling safe (multiple responses allowed)				# and % of beneficiaries unsafe		Total sampled
	Fear of shells or snipers	Fear of armed clashes	Fear of airstrikes	Road unsafe, in bad condition	# feeling unsafe	% feeling unsafe	
At Taizia	5	5	1	0	8	7%	109
1. Al-Angad	0	3	1	0	3	5%	61
2. Ansooah	5	2	0	0	5	10%	48
Saber Mawadem	17	9	0	1	20	17%	117
3. Al-Hadaiqa	2	2	0	1	2	11%	18
4. Al-Gabali	1	0	0	0	1	5%	19
5. Al-Mehal	2	1	0	0	2	10%	21
6. Gabal Han	9	5	0	0	12	34%	35
7. Nagd Amran	3	1	0	0	3	13%	24
Total	22	14	1	1	28	12%*	226
						7%*	386

Note *: This 12% would be 7% if we divide the 28 who felt unsafe by the total sample of 386. The total of 226 only includes locations where beneficiaries reported being unsafe.

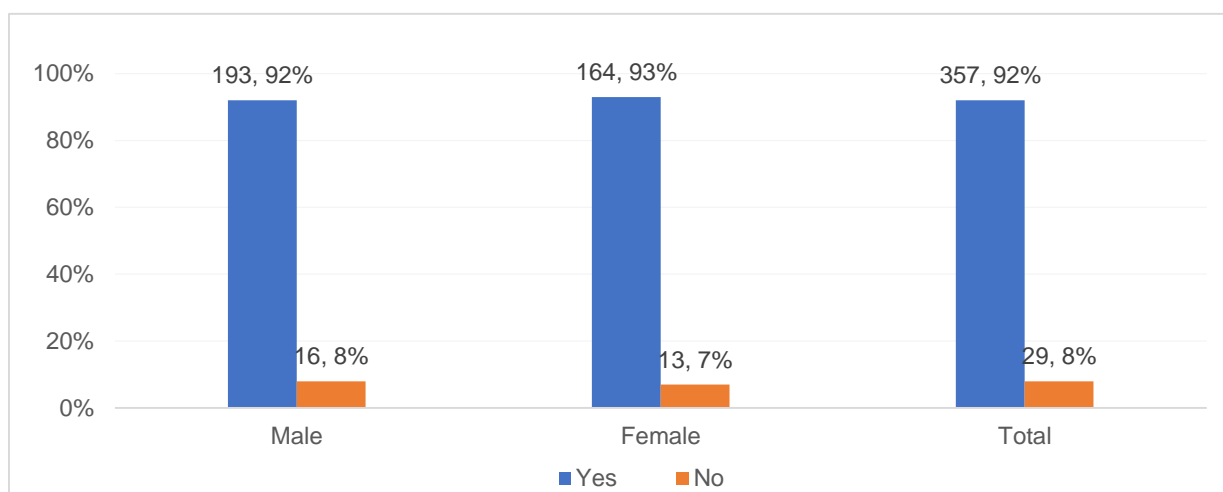
- 67 **Quality of the distribution process (5): Adequacy of distribution Sites.** Our field monitors observed the four distribution sites used by ICAN for food distribution. The four sites don't have adequate shelter from sun, and do not have toilet facilities, but toilets might not be required for the majority of beneficiaries, because waiting time takes on average 28 minutes, and only two sites offer privacy for women, because they do not feel comfortable from passers-by. The two distribution sites in At Taizia district are located nearby the beneficiaries' housing, while other two distribution sites in Saber Mawadem district are located far from beneficiaries' housing, thus accessible by car, bikes, and –for some– on foot, and are easily noticeable by beneficiaries as distribution sites.

Table 34: Adequacy of the four distribution sites

Distribution site	Waiting area has adequate shelter?		Has toilet facilities to use?		Offers women privacy from passers-by?		Projectiles falling near the site		Military clashes near to site		Transport available to / from site?		Centre easily noticeable by beneficiaries?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Site no. 1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
Site no. 2	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
Site no. 3	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
Site no. 4	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
# of observations	0	4	0	4	2	2	2	2	0	4	4	0	4	0

68 **Economic costs.** A full 92% of the respondents (92% male and 93% female) claimed to have incurred costs on transportation in order to collect and transport their food baskets back to their homes. For those who incurred costs, the overall average amount was 976 YER (1001 YER among males and 948 YER among females), and a maximum of 3000 YER (3000 YER among males and 2400 YER among females) with 200 YER being the minimum (200 YER among males and 200 YER among females). These average costs constitute 2% of the estimated value of the food basket with a range of 0.4% minimum and 6% maximum.

Figure 35: Incurred any costs to collect and transport the food basket back to your home?



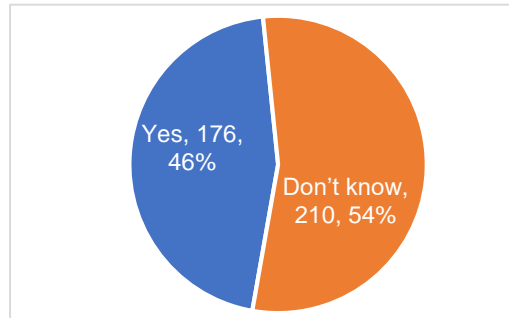
69 **Informal payments for access to food assistance:** All beneficiaries confirmed not to have paid any amount to be registered to receive food assistance.

70 **Available mechanisms to voice complaints about the project.** During field monitoring, our monitors noticed two methods of complaint mechanisms: the hotline number and the complaint committee during food distribution. The hotline number on infographic phone handset is indicated on a leaflet handed over to beneficiary households by the community committee when they visit their homes during the selection process. Awareness raising on the hotline number shown to right of this paragraph is indicated on the distribution card given to each beneficiary at the distribution site. The presence of the complaint committee during the distribution process was evident through the photographs documented by Human Access.



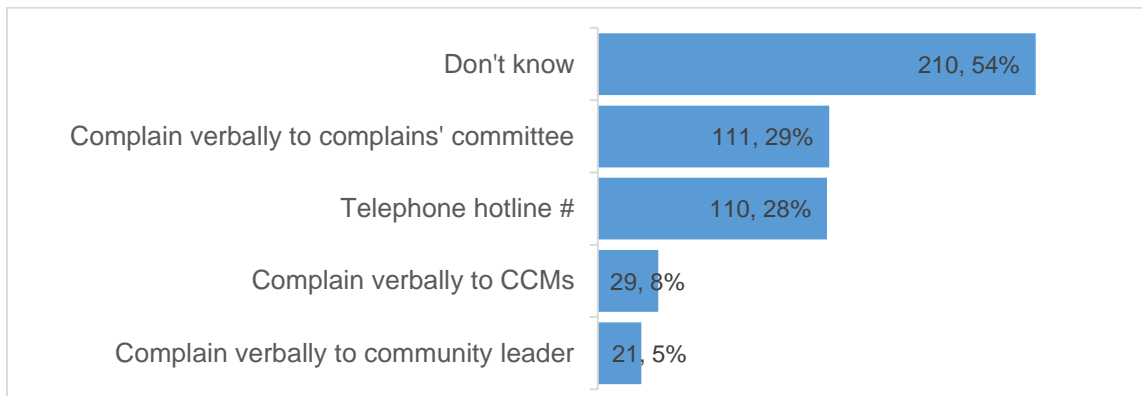
71 Despite the fact that there are complaint mechanisms to voice complaints about the project, only 46% (176/386) of the interviewed beneficiaries reported to be aware of the availability of complaint mechanisms, while 54% do not know if there is or there is no mechanism. Those who do not know are not concerned, or do not care.

Figure 36: Are you aware of any available complaint mechanisms?



72 The two most common available complaint mechanisms reported by beneficiaries are mainly the “the complaint committee” reported by 29% (111/386) and the “telephone hotline #” reported by 28% (110/386). Other complaint mechanisms include verbal complaint to community committee members (CCMs) reported by 8%, and verbal complaint to community leader stated by 5%.

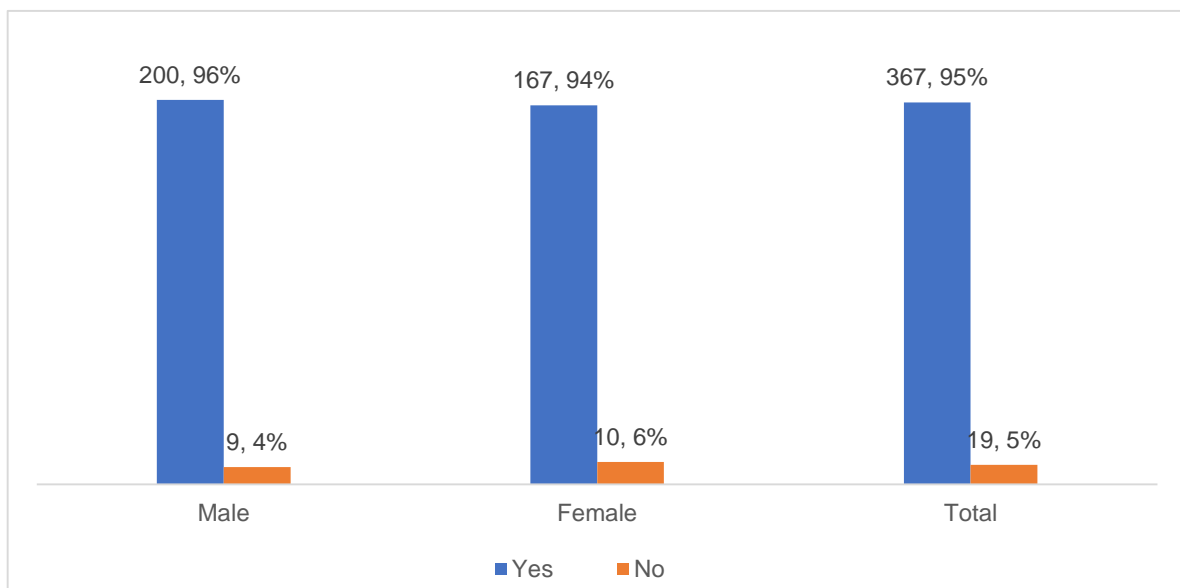
Figure 37: Complaint mechanisms known to beneficiaries



2.4.4 Assessing Measures Against Covid-19

73 All beneficiaries, but one reported to have been informed about the prevention measures on Covid-19, and 95% of beneficiaries received protective items such as gloves, masks, hand sanitizer, and brochure from ICAN.

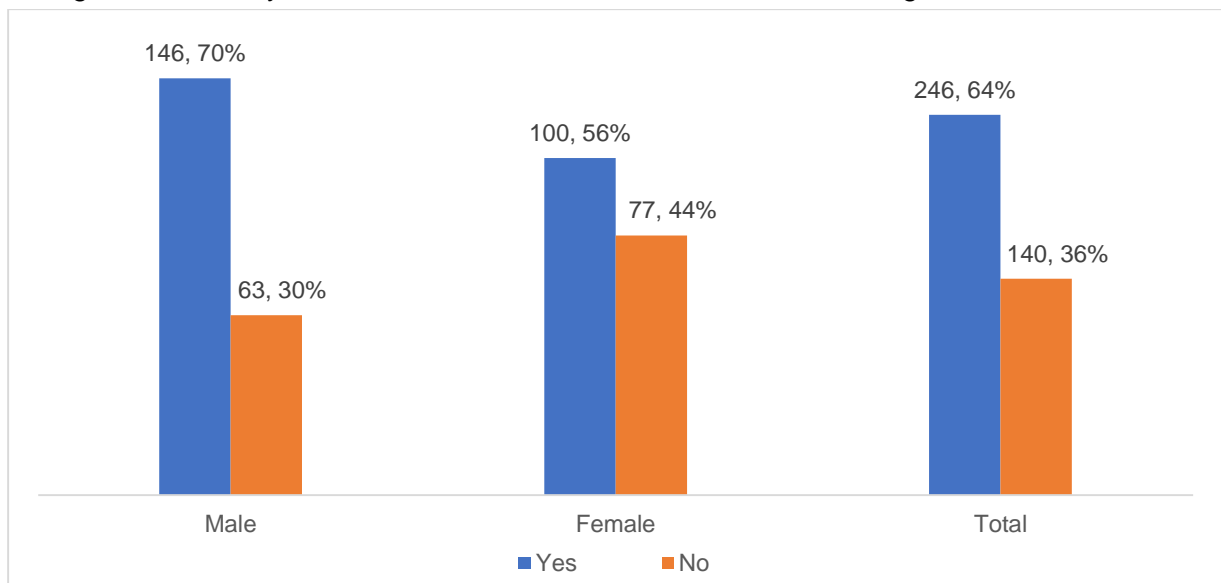
Figure 38: Did you receive any protective / precautionary items?



74 The findings from the household interviews revealed that 64% (246/386) of the food recipients were examined to check their temperature as a screening exercise against Covid-19, while 36%

claimed they were not *examined*'. Of the 246 beneficiaries who were examined, 79% (194/246), reported that the result of temperature measurement was negative, while 21% (52/246) “do not know”.

Figure 39: Were you screened with a thermometer before receiving the food basket?



75 All beneficiaries reported that the social distancing at the time of food distribution were guided by drawing white and red circles in the distribution areas to maintain social distancing between beneficiaries during the queues at the time of food distribution.

2.5 Adherence to Targeting

76 In this sub-section, we assess targeting and relevance as outlined in the bullet points below:

- Assessing geographical targeting
- Comparing households' characteristics in beneficiary lists with ICAN's Vulnerability Criteria.
- Field verification of a sample of 386 households to assess actual targeting based on ICAN's Vulnerability Criteria.
- Assessing households' selection against the primary eligibility criterion "severity of food insecurity".

2.5.1 Assessing geographical targeting

77 Taiz as a governorate has 53% of its population fall in Area Phase 3 "Crisis" or Area Phase 4 "Emergency". Both districts targeted are in Area Phase 3 or higher: At Taizia is in Phase 4 "Emergency", while Sabir Mawadim is in Phase 3 "Crisis".

2.5.2 Comparing households' characteristics in database with ICAN's Criteria.

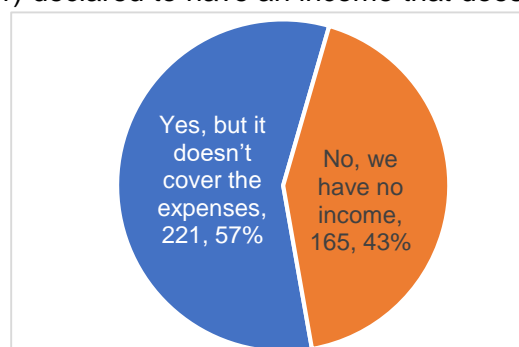
78 **Distribution of all households in database by Vulnerability Criteria.** We summarise below the distribution of the 2180 beneficiary households in the database according to the Vulnerability Criteria³.

Table 40: Distribution of all 2180 households in database by Vulnerability Criteria

Vulnerability Criteria	Vulnerability Criteria		
	IDP	Host Community	Total
1. IDPs living in public camps, shelters, with no income and means of accessing food	457	30	487
2. HHs from socially and economically marginalized with no source of food	20	118	138
3. HHs headed by females/widowed who live independently with their children and have no means of income	36	128	164
4. HHs headed by physically challenged/ chronically ill without bread winners	11	48	59
5. Elderly-headed HHs with no income and means of accessing food	29	155	184
6. Child-headed HHs with no income and means of accessing food		14	14
7. HHs with more than 3 members who have no or low income		1134	1134
Total Households	553	1627	2180

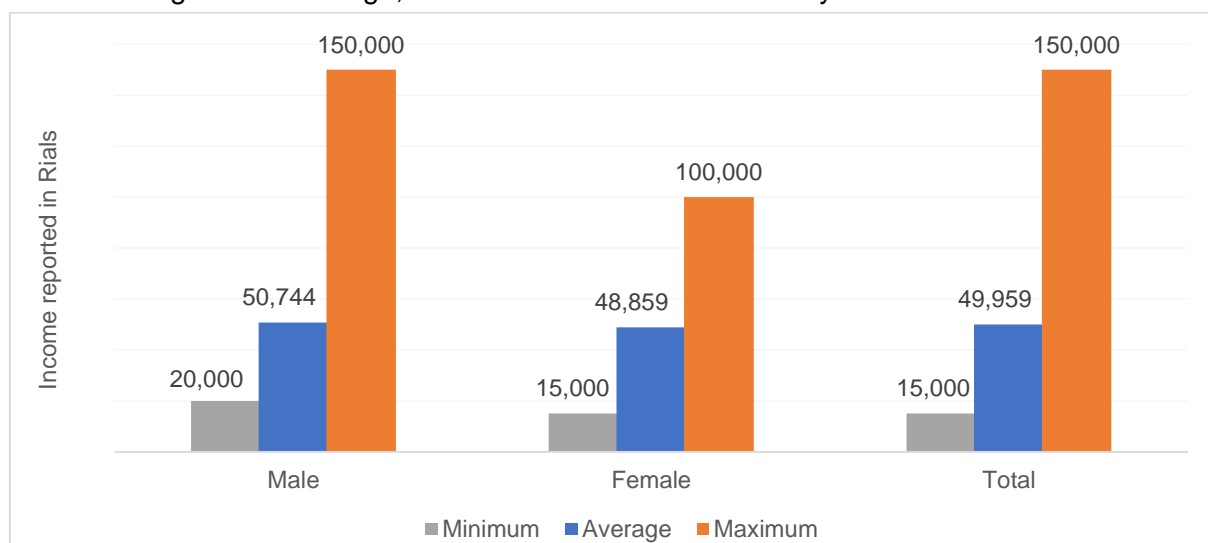
2.5.3 Field verification of a sample of 386 households to assess targeting.

79 **Household's income.** Field verification revealed that Less than half (43%) of the sample reported to have no source of income, and 57% (n=221) declared to have an income that does not cover household expenditure. For the 57% whose income do not meet all their needs, the amount of income varied, with an overall average of YER 49,959 equivalent to 57 USD (YER 50,744 male recipients and YER 48,859 female recipients), the maximum is YER 150,000 and the minimum YER 15000. The average per capita income per day is on average YER 290 (with a range of 15 being the minimum and 1000 the maximum). This maximum per capita daily income of YER 1,000 is still below two dollars (below the poverty line). **In conclusion, all these households are still considered poor, and therefore eligible for assistance based on the declared source of income and household size.**



³ The term "Priority Criteria" indicated in database is equivalent to the term "Primary Eligibility Criterion". It is used in the Household Eligibility Criteria (the one-page pdf document) shared by ICAN during the design phase

Figure 41: Average, Minimum and Maximum Monthly Income in YER



- 80 **Receiving food assistance from another organisation.** All beneficiaries, but two have not received any food assistant from another organisation, the testified that they have received food assistance from WFP.
- 81 Finally, we assessed targeting by compiling the information collected during the interview and observation at household level regarding households' characteristics to obtain an overall assessment of targeting. We compared the vulnerability criteria verified in the field with the vulnerability criteria indicated in ICAN's database. The results outlined in the table below show that generally, all the 386 beneficiaries verified have met the vulnerability criteria, but there are some discrepancies in the number of beneficiaries assigned to each vulnerability criteria. The major discrepancy is in criterion # 7 "*HHs with more than 3 members who have no or low income*" where the number of sampled households is 141, whereas the actual figure verified in the field is 338 indicating overreporting in database figure. The second major discrepancy is criterion # 4 "*HHs headed by physically challenged/ chronically ill without bread winners*" where the sampled households in database is 12, whereas the actual figure verified in the field is 106 indicating underreporting in the database. The third major discrepancy is criterion 1 "*IDPs living in camps, shelters, with no income and means of accessing food*" where the number in the database was 77 households while the actual number of IDPs verified in the field is 146, indicating underreporting of the number of IDPs in the database. In our field verified figure we have included all IDPs, although they all live in rented accommodation and none of them stay in public or shelter as the criterion suggests. The fourth discrepancy is in criterion 3 "*HHs headed by females/widows who live independently with children and have no means of income*", where the figure in the database is less than the number verified in the field by 14 percentage points.

Table 42: Field verification of targeting using ICAN's vulnerability criteria

#	Vulnerability Criteria (1-7)	Field Verification		ICAN database	
1	IDPs in camps, shelters with no income/means of accessing food	146	38%	77	20%
2	HHs from socially and economically marginalized with no source of food	18	5%	20	5%
3	HHs headed by females/widowed who live independently with children and have no means of income	157	41%	103	27%
4	HHs headed by physically challenged/ chronically ill without bread winners	106	27%	12	3%
5	Elderly-headed HHs with no income/means of accessing food	20	5%	31	8%
6	Child-headed HHs with no income /means of accessing food	2	1%	2	1%
7	HHs with more than 3 members who have no or low income	338	88%	141	37%
	Other	6	2%		
	Total Households	386	100%	386	100%

3 Conclusion and Recommendations

3.1 Conclusion

- 1 **Progress against Planned Target.** The project achieved 100% of the planned target by reaching to 2180 beneficiaries with three times food assistance. In the absence of a baseline and endline study it is not possible to assess the change in improvement of the coping strategy index (CSI).
- 2 **Progress against planned targets.** The project increased the planned target from the initial 1600 beneficiary households to 2180 utilising the savings from the favourable exchange of US dollars against the depreciated local currency. The project met the planned target set by reaching to 2180 beneficiary households with three rounds/months of food assistance, but the cumulative total fell short by one percent, because 72 beneficiary households only received two rounds/months of food distribution.
- 3 **The project did well at the outcome level** by enabling the beneficiary households to obtain 1904 kcal/person/day caloric intake, which exceeds the planned target set of 1600kcal/person/day by 19%. Moreover, the endline coping strategy index (CSI) shows an improvement by 12.11 points from the baseline, which exceeds the planned target set of 8. Full 93% of the households are have low or no coping implying they are food secure at endline.
- 4 **Quantitative Verification.** We did not find any major discrepancy between the total 2180 beneficiary households reported by ICAN and the total number of beneficiary households in the database/ beneficiary list. The sample of 386 beneficiary households selected randomly from the partner's database for field verification all confirmed receiving food assistance from ICAN. Thus, a RAG rating **Green**.
- 5 **Frequency of food assistance.** Of the 386 beneficiary households selected for field verification, ICAN reported that 98% (n=378) of them received the three times food assistance. Field verification revealed that of the 378 beneficiaries only 376 did actually receive the three times food assistance, while two (2) received twice. Despite this discrepancy, the RAG rating is still **Green**.
- 6 **Quality of Outputs.** The project aimed to obtain a beneficiary satisfaction of 80% or more on various issues, and the findings from this TPM and evaluation exercise revealed that the project exceeded the target set by 19%. Full 90% of the beneficiary households are satisfied with the quality of food contents, 99% are satisfied with the types of food items provided, and all are satisfied with the distribution process. Only 46% of the interviewed beneficiaries reported to be aware of the availability of **complaint mechanisms to voice complaints**, while 54% do not know if there is or there is not, which means they are not concerned, or do not care. The two most common mechanisms reported were the complaint committee (29%) and the complaints' committee (28%). **None of the beneficiaries reported paying any amount to receive food assistance.** The implementing partner (Human Access) has coordinated food distribution with local authorities.
- 7 **Level of satisfaction.** The project aimed to obtain an 80% or more beneficiary satisfaction on various issues, and the findings from this TPM and evaluation exercise revealed that the project achieved 95% thus exceeding the target set by 19%. Full 90% of the beneficiary households are satisfied with the quality of food contents, 99% are satisfied with the types of food items provided, and all are satisfied with the distribution process.
- 8 **Means of travel to receive food assistance** varied between vehicle (49%), on foot (35%), and motorcycle (16%). Overall, the average time and median to reach the distribution site is 21 minutes and 15 minutes respectively. Waiting time to collect the food basket took on average 28 minutes and the median is 15 minutes, which is reasonable. Almost all (99%) the food recipients testified that the food basket was available on the designated day.
- 9 **On whether safely received their food assistance**, 93%=358/386) of the food recipients attested to have felt safe on the way to the food distribution sites or while waiting to collect the

food basket, while 7% (28/386) reported to have felt unsafe. By geographical location, Gabal Han came in first place in terms of the number of food recipients (over a third of the interviewed beneficiaries of this location) who reported feeling unsafe due to fear of feared shelling, snipers armed clashes. Interaction sampled 12 of the geographical locations targeted by ICAN for food distribution. In seven (7) of these 12 locations the beneficiaries reported feeling unsafe. Alsiyahi area —where food distribution had to stop near the end due to armed clashes— is not included among these listed locations. This demonstrates that armed clashes are unpredictable, and reflects the volatile environment.

- 10 Our field monitors observed the four distribution sites used by ICAN for food distribution. The four sites don't have adequate shelter from sun, and do not have toilet facilities, but toilets might not be required for the majority of beneficiaries, because waiting time takes on average 28 minutes, and only two sites offer privacy for women, because they do not feel comfortable from passers-by. The two distribution sites in At Taizia district are located nearby the beneficiaries' housing, while other two distribution sites in Saber Mawadem district are located far from beneficiaries' housing, thus accessible by car, bikes, and –for some– on foot, and are easily noticeable by beneficiaries as distribution sites.
- 11 **Adherence to Targeting.** All the 386 sample of beneficiaries verified in the field have met ICAN's vulnerability criteria although there are some discrepancies in the number of beneficiaries assigned to each vulnerability criteria, and all of them are either with no income or their daily per capita income is below two (2) dollars (below the poverty line). All the 386 beneficiaries, but two, have not received any food assistance from another organisation.
- 12 **Sustainability.** The current food distribution plan by ICAN is limited to three months/rounds to the same households, thus falling short of the minimum duration of six (6) months/rounds recommended by the FSAC to have any meaningful impact on improving households' food security status.

3.2 Recommendations

- 13 We advise the project to conform to the type and quantity of food items endorsed by FSAC-MFB.
- 14 Milk (powder) is a food item distributed by the project not endorsed by the FSAC-MFB. We do not advise distributing dried milk powder to emergency-affected populations as part of the general ration. There is a risk of it replacing breastfeeding to feed infants. Moreover, there is a significant risk of high level of bacterial contamination when it is prepared with unclean water or in unsanitary conditions. This requires a policy decision by ICAN and JPF.
- 15 We advise ICAN to check the source and the quality of rice provided as 37% (143/386) complained that the quality of this type of rice is not satisfactory, because it becomes sticky and mushy when cooked, while and 2.8% (11/386) attested that it is infested / deteriorated
- 16 To have any meaningful impact on improving households' food security status, it is important to have a commitment to support food distribution plans to the same households for six months/rounds as recommended by FSAC-MFB. This step will also increase the visibility and acknowledgment of JFP funded projects among the humanitarian partners, and will qualify ICAN to join the FSAC as a partner and will foster sustainability of ICAN's interventions in Yemen.
- 17 We advise JPF and its partners to use the standard names of governorates and districts. This will ensure data consistency, and enable comparison over time and with other humanitarian projects in the same localities!
- 18 We advise JPF and its partners to keep the overall objective as a statement without indicating any values or numbers (i.e., 4800). It is a good practice not to include the planned target as part of the statement of the objective or the indicators, but to have them separately.

3.3 Lessons learnt

- 19 Based on lessons learnt from this experience, we suggest the following changes to the tools in future TPME to assess effectiveness of the GRM and identify other organization providing food distribution in Taiz.

Review and Verification of GRM Records (new tool)

- 20 We proposed this new tool for the review and verification of GRM records kept with JPF's partner to assess the effectiveness of the two Complaint Mechanisms used by the project —namely the hotline number and the Complaint Committee. To ensure effectiveness of the hotline number, the TPMA should review the records (lists) of complaints received, date of receiving each complaint, staff response to each complaint, date of responding to each complaint, and phone numbers of those who complained. This data can then be categorised by gender and types of complaints. Then a sample from the persons who complained should be selected by the TPMA to verify the level of satisfaction with the outcome of the complaint, and assess how ICAN/Human Access dealt with the complaint (see Q38.3 below). A similar process should be carried out for the Complain Committee, but the steps may vary relevant to its work mechanism.

Changes proposed to the GRM in the Beneficiary Interview (existing tool)

Q38. If a beneficiary had a complaint to make was there a method to complain?

- 1) Yes, there is
- 2) No, there is not (Skip to Q38.2)
- 3) Do not know (Skip to Q38.2)

Q38.1 If yes, what is the complaint method/ mechanism?

- a) Complaint Mechanism
- b) Call hotline complaints number, [_____]
- c) Verbal complaint to community committee
- d) Complain to community leader
- e) Other, Specify [_____]

38.2 Have you raised a complaint [this question will link complaints to dissatisfaction]?

- 1) Yes, specify mechanism used [_____]
- 2) No, because [_____] (Skip to Q39)
- 3) Not applicable-satisfied with food type/quality and the process (Skip to Q39)

38.3 If yes, was your complaint addressed satisfactorily?

- 1) Yes, and satisfied with the response
- 2) Yes, but not satisfied with the response
- 3) No, I have not received any response

Changes required to the existing KII with CCMs (existing tool)

Q18. Are there any other organizations implementing similar projects in the same targeted district(s)?

- 1) Yes
- 2) No (Skip Q19)

Q18.1. What happens to those who received food assistance from Human Access after the project stops food distribution? (open question).

Q18.2. Could you please name these other organisations and the locations operating? (open question).

Name of the organisation	Type of assistance provided	District name	Sub-district/ village name

Open ended interview with the official coordinator for humanitarian assistance at governorate level (new tool)

- Q1.** Extent to which the implementing partner (Human Access) coordinates food distribution with the local authority and with the cluster and other humanitarian partners prior to food distribution to avoid duplication and to ensure relevance of the support provided?
- Q2.** Extent to which food distribution is a priority for those living in the targeted districts?
- Q3.** What happens to those who received food assistance from ICAN/ Human Access after the project stops food distribution? In other words, is there another organisation that comes in to cover the gap?
- Q4.** Could you please give us information of the names of the organizations currently providing food assistance in Taiz, and in which districts?
- Q6.** Any other comments or feedback you would like to note which we did not ask?
- Q5.** Suggestions for improvement of future programming?

Open ended interview with the FSAC Coordinator (new tool)

- Q1.** Extent to which the implementing partner (Human Access) coordinates food distribution with the cluster prior to food distribution to avoid duplication?
- Q2.** Extent to which food distribution is a priority for those living in the targeted districts?
- Q3.** What happens to those who received food assistance from ICAN/ Human Access after the project stops food distribution? In other words, is there another organisation that comes in to cover the gap?
- Q4.** Could you please give us information of the names of the organizations currently providing food assistance in Taiz, and in which districts?
- Q6.** Any other comments or feedback you would like to note which we did not ask?
- Q5.** Suggestions for improvement of future programming?