

Emergency Food Distribution in Nangarhar Implemented by Peace Winds Japan (PWJ)

SUMMATIVE EVALUATION REPORT

April 25th 2021



Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the responsiveness, and constructive engagement of the key informants consulted during this evaluation. Their insights have been valuable in shaping the report.

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The findings within this document, however, are entirely the responsibility of the technical lead/author.

HPRO

April, 2021

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Executive Summary

Background

A large portion of the Afghan population has been affected by chronic food insecurity and transitory food insecurity. This condition (chronic food insecurity) is becoming severe (World Bank, 2019) noted that 54.5% of the population lives below the poverty line in Afghanistan and above 53.2% of the total population is undernourished (USDA, 2019; FAO, 2019). Thus, this country was categorized as the 171st food security country in the world in 2015, according to UNDP's Human Development Index (FSIN, 2017).

The Project “Emergency food distribution program in Nangarhar”, funded by JPF, was implemented by PWJ in coordination with the local NGO, Youth Voice Organization (YVO). The emergency food distribution refers to socioeconomically vulnerable people who are experiencing low food access due to poor economic conditions in Nangarhar province. The project is implemented in four districts Rodat, Chaparhar, Khogyani, and Pachirawagam over duration of five months. The aim is to improve food access through food distribution for the vulnerable, impoverished by the rising food prices and unemployment rate due to the COVID-19 crisis in addition to natural disasters and conflicts.

Methodology:

The purpose of the summative evaluation was to accurately capture information, monitor activities and analyse data on the project activities and to use the outcome of this monitoring and evaluation for improving the current and future JPF projects and programme. This evaluation covered the period of project (September 2020 – February 2020) of the project implementation in four districts of Nangarhar province.

A mixed design approach was adopted for the evaluation. Participants for KIIs were purposively selected and includes key stakeholders involved in the project such as project management and provincial authorities. Over 62 interviews were conducted inclusive of survey of 46 beneficiaries and 12 non-beneficiaries, 4 KII's with provincial stakeholders. The data collection was conducted from Feb. 16-23rd 2021.

Findings

Beneficiary Enrolment

The beneficiary target numbers were 70 per district totalling to 280 in four districts. Later as the project progressed 30 per district were added to the existing list for one time cash distribution leading to coverage of 400 beneficiaries. The program was exclusive as none of the respondents were enrolled in any other food assistance program. Overall 70% of the study participants were enrolled from past three months whereas 30% from past one month. Beneficiaries enrolled for three months received three tokens as per program while recently enrolled received only once. The trend was similar for Chaparhar district. Rodat enrolment rate with beneficiaries depicted slight delay, three months and one month enrolment was 63:27 respectively, whereas Khogyani and Pachirwagam exhibited better program enrolment pickup (82:18 for three months and one month).

Post distribution household coping strategies to combat food insecurity: The findings support the current facts wherein study participants cited relying on less preferred food and less expensive food as most frequently (85%) adopted measures to deal with scarcity.

This was followed by borrowing of food from relatives and friends (80%). The figures also highlight the food scarcity at household level in spite of receiving food assistance from the project. The household food stock couldn't last a week in spite of food assistance.

Effect of cash assistance for food at household level

Improved access to food: The evidence suggest that assistance has particularly been effective for households who were in dire need or has no other source of income to purchase food. The beneficiaries in the current study confirmed the increased access to food for household children and women.

Quality of food consumption: common strategy cited by study respondents was cutting back on the number of meals and switching to cheaper, less nutritious food. The interviews with beneficiary highlighted improvement in quality of food intake (half of the respondents).

Physical health and nutrition: The beneficiaries highlighted improvement in health of the children (74%) as households prefer to prioritise children and elders over other members during food scarcity.

Mental health: Eight out of 46 beneficiaries (18%) reached to some form of mental peace as a result of food cash assistance program.

Effect on women and child welfare: Statistical analysis comparing beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries also supports that the project had positive effects on health of children, health of family members, decrease in burden to work, could use earnings on essential items and improvement in quality of life.

Beneficiary satisfaction, out of pocket expenditure and queuing to get the assistance

The average time to reach the cash distribution point ($\mu=36$ minutes \pm 38 SD) from home was unevenly distributed across four districts. The average waiting time in que was $\mu=22$ minutes \pm 14 SD. The out-of-pocket expenditure on transportation was $\mu=2\$$ \pm 1.5 SD. Khogyani being insecure district, cash distribution was most challenging and venue was placed away from district. The overall satisfaction score was 91.5%. The variables with low satisfaction was the travel cost and time one has to spend away from job to reach to location and chaparhar district respondents marked a neutral score for the same.

Project Management

Program implementation: Vulnerability assessment

The selection criteria of households for the assistance was devised from Household Emergency Assessment Tool (HEAT) a vulnerability scoring tool. The catchment area households were scored on vulnerability scale. The scoring scale used by YVO comprised of household composition including who is heading the family, vulnerability criteria based on disability or chronic illness, member employment status, low income, sustenance on charity. Higher the score higher is vulnerable household.

Coordination with key stakeholders

There is substantial evidence of close coordination with Nangarhar agriculture planning department at different stages of project implementation. The interview with planning manager and review of project monitoring reports suggests officials with VYO team were

jointly communicating on developing HH selection criteria, monitoring visit planning, cash distribution planning and challenges related to implementation.

Internal Monitoring, Evaluation, Supervision, and Learning

Monitoring was implemented at multiple levels: provincial stakeholder-based monitoring, monitoring by districts and community leaders; monitoring of beneficiaries by YVO staff; YVO staff monitoring by project manager and PWJ.

Achievement of project outputs

The project's aim at the project completion "improve food access through food distribution for the vulnerable, impoverished" was able to attain all the stated outputs against activities in the Logical Framework.

CHS compliance

CHS1

Nangarhar battling on several grounds such as presence of anti-government forces, refugee, displaced and migrated populations, and others, poverty is among one of them. Cash assistance for food addresses to some extent the prevailing food insecurity in the four districts of Nangarhar.

CHS2

Timely distribution of cash to beneficiaries (old and new) ensured cash assistance is reached without delay. The demand is high for the food assistance due to high levels of impoverishment among the community. This was compounded by loss of employment during pandemic. The assistance which was timely and of high relevance was able to help families in putting food on table however that only lasted less than a week after the distribution.

CHS3

The awareness session on token distribution and cash distribution within the community generated awareness on the selection criteria, purpose of the project, understanding on YVO work and government stakeholders. However, respondents cited low information on focal point for complaint redressal system. The awareness was higher in community leaders.

CHS4

One of the information provided during awareness sessions in the community was on process of enrolment and verification of enrolled beneficiaries. All the beneficiaries found aware about their entitlement for cash assistance and utilisation of cash for purchasing of food items

CHS5

The low response to question on the existing complaint management/calling system (41%) and low response on question about designated authority for resolving issues (69%) highlights gap in awareness level among beneficiaries. Contrarily, the three-layered complaint redressal system was implemented as per discussion with YVO director. The three mechanisms included Client Relationship Management (CRM) which is a telephonic complaint call system, local youth association and community elder (malik). The complaints are resolved locally with the facilitation from volunteers or youth association members. These informal structure functions well in a traditional system like Afghanistan. Therefore, a likely possibility of low understanding on complaint calling system among beneficiaries could exist.

CHS6

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of the project has been signed with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and livestock (MAIL). Multi-stakeholder reporting and supervision was part of project management cycle as per information collated through interviews and

desk review. The needs gap identified at early into the project implementation (between people in needs of foods and actual number of households the project could support) the was addressed by adding 120 more households for the one-time cash distribution within the limitation of available project resource.

Value assessment of project intervention

Assessing project intervention based on evidences collected from this study, it can be attested that the project objective to improve food access through cash distribution for the vulnerable and impoverished was highly relevant to community needs. The study also exhibited the project achieving all planed activity outputs thereby improving immediate foods access, consumption, quality, in particular with children and women at household level, thus effective. The study proven the project was implemented through coordinated efforts of stakeholders. Henceforth, the project was well worthy of implementation.

Recommendations

- Increased food purchasing power has led to achievement of the planned project outcome with increased access to food for vulnerable. While cash distribution criteria adhered the food cluster guideline (80-90 USD per family for three rounds), in the prevailing food insecurity, challenges still remains; There existed gap between actual number of people in needs of foods and the number of the household the project could assist with meeting daily needs of households. In the face of unexpected magnitude of food insecurity that pandemic is intriguing, gauging level of cash assistance even more carefully during inception phase of projects may guide more sensible coverage of affected population. The project also benefitted from incorporating monitoring of need of households over the course of project implementation.
- A testimony heard during the study that in order to measure impact of food assistance program and allowing assimilation of changes through intervention at household level, projects need to be run for a year or two. With anticipated project budget from JPF, the project planned addressing immediate household food shortage, therefore it did not plan to influence on changes in household coping strategies related to food insecurity. The possibility of complementing them with the long term development projects should be explored, for instance, a plan bridging the project right from the beginning with funding other than JPF and envisioning collective interventions to complement cash transfers. Imposing excessive conditions and monitoring on cash transfer projects is costly and enforcement structures be put in place (with additional costs) and therefore need a delicate balancing among accountability, quality and outreach by remaining mindful with administrative costs of projects, saving of which in turn enables expanding projects' outreach.
- Formal complaint redressal system should be strengthened with strong emphasis on database development of formal as well as verbal complaints (informal). It is necessary to conduct trend analysis of complaints and thereafter a feedback system should be integrated in program management and staff capacity building program.

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Abbreviations

AGE	Anti-Government Elements are armed opposition fighters, or insurgents, who are fighting against the Afghan government and its international allies. Examples of such groups of fighters are the Taliban, the Haqqani network and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan
CDC	Community Development Council
CHS	Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) Framework
COVID	Corona Virus Disease
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FSC	Food Security Cluster
FSAC	Food Security and Agriculture Cluster
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GoA	Government of Afghanistan
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GPS	Global Positioning System
HPRO	Health Protection and Research Organisation
IDP	Internally Displaced Population
IS	Islamic State
ISK	Islamic State of Khorasan
INSO	International NGO Safety Organization
JPF	The Japan Platform
JPF	Joint Peace Fund
JVC	Japan International Volunteer Center
KII	Key Informant Interview
LFA	Log Framework
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Government Organization
OCHA	The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODK	Open Data Kit
PDC	Provincial Development Council
PHCC	Provincial Health Coordination Committee
PHD	Provincial Health Department
PMF	Performance Measuring Framework
PTA	Parent Teacher Association
PWJ	Peace Winds Japan
ToR	Terms of Reference
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UN	United Nation
WFP	World Food Programme
YVO	Your Voice Organization

I. Introduction

I.1 Overview

Nangarhar Province is located in eastern Afghanistan consisted twenty-two districts and has estimated population of 1,654,563 which is third highest of 34 provinces in Afghanistan. The city of [Jalalabad](#) is the capital of Nangarhar province. The 1.2 million Afghans are of primarily Pashtun ethnicity, with Tajiks, Arabs, Pashai, and other minority groups residing within the province. The primary occupations of the residents are agriculture, animal husbandry, day labor, and poppy trade. There are over 2,000 provincial aid projects in the region with nearly \$20 million in planned costs¹.

Nangarhar is prone to Islamic State of Khorasan (ISK), Anti-Government Elements (AGEs), border shelling and natural disaster. This has bearing on the local communities access to agriculture land and livelihoods which is the chief reason for displacement. Influx of documented and undocumented returnees are very high that almost 80% of the these returnees settled in Nangarhar which affected the food security and increased unemployment. High level of population having no access to the improved latrines including safe drinking water that affects the food utilization of the people in the province.

I.2 Afghanistan Hunger and Food insecurity

I.2.1 Food insecurity in Afghanistan

In the 2019 Global Hunger Index (33.8), Afghanistan ranks 108th out of 117 countries, indicating high level of food insecurity. Of the total population, 19.4 percent had insufficient food intake in 2019. According to the most recent Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) (August to October 2019), it is estimated that a total of 10.23 million people (33 percent of the total population) were in severe acute food insecurity. These include around 7.79 million people in crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 2.44 million people in emergency (IPC Phase 4) which required action to reduce food consumption gaps and to protect/save livelihoods and reduce acute malnutrition. About 10.4 million people were also in stress (IPC Phase 2) and require immediate livelihood support².

In 2018, Afghanistan experienced high rates of undernutrition. The prevalence of stunting in children under 5 was almost 41 percent at the national level 42.3 percent for boys and 39.4 percent for girls which is classified as very high according to World Health Organization (WHO) thresholds.¹³ UNICEF, WHO and World Bank Joint Malnutrition estimates¹⁴ indicate that the prevalence of the wasting was 9.5.

Undernutrition is of particular concern in women, children, displaced people, returnees, households headed by women, people with disabilities and the poor. Despite progress in recent years, undernutrition rates are now increasing and the prevalence of stunting in children under 5 remains high at 41 percent at the national level, with peaks of 60 to 70 percent in some provinces³. In the first six months of 2019, WFP reached 162,800 girls and boys under 5 and mothers with treatment of moderate acute malnutrition.

¹ Naval postgraduate School, (2017). Nangarhar Provincial Overview. Retrieved from <https://nps.edu/web/ccs/nangarhar>

² FAO, (2012). International Conference on Nutrition – 20 Years Later (ICN+20) (P 15). Retrieved from <http://www.fao.org/3/at617e/at617e.pdf>

³ WFP, (2019). AN EVALUATION OF WFP'S COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN (2018-2022) (P 3), Retrieved from <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000121509/download/>

1.2.2 Micronutrient deficiencies and malnutrition

Micronutrient deficiency rates are very high amongst both children and women, based on current data available NNS 2004 anemia among U5 are 38% with 72% of iodine deficiency; 50% of U5 children having zinc deficiencies; Vitamin deficiencies, such as A and C, are also widespread⁴.

Maternal undernutrition is also a significant challenge. The 2004 National Nutrition Survey (NNS) found 20.9% of non-pregnant women of reproductive age with chronic energy deficiency (Body Mass Index <18.5). This is considered a problem of “high prevalence” according to WHO standards. The prevalence of iodine deficiency in pregnant and nonpregnant women was at least 75%, iron deficiency (48.4% non-pregnant) and anemia 25% (non-pregnant). Women who were literate or had access to at least primary education were less likely to be undernourished and have micronutrient deficiencies. High incidence of birth defects in Kabul hospitals also suggests folate deficiency in the population, particularly among women.

1.2.3 Food assistance in Nangarhar

Access to food is a big challenge because of decrease in income, low production, harsh climatic conditions, low productivity of the agriculture land and livestock, lack of access to quality farm inputs and extension services. Afghanistan have access to regional food markets so in spite of crop production deficit food is available in the market but people lack income and resources to buy food. Based on the SFSA and IPC 2019 findings, out of the 36.6 million total population, 13.9 million people (3.3 million highly and 10.5 million moderately) have been estimated as food insecure population for the projection period (November 2019 to March 2020). Considering the severity and nature of food insecurity, provinces classified under IPC Phase 4 (emergency) namely; Badakhshan, Ghor, Uruzgan, Nimruz, Daikundi and Nuristan are the first priority provinces, whereas, Badghis, Hirat and Nangarhar have been entitled as the second priority, for food and livelihood assistance in 2020⁵.

1.3 Overview of Emergency food distribution in Nangarhar Province

1.3.1 The Emergency food distribution in Nangarhar Province

The project “Emergency food distribution in Nangarhar” was implemented from September 14, 2020 until February 13, 2021, by PWJ in partnership with YVO, funded by JPF. The total cost of the project was 18,994,778 yen. The emergency food distribution refers to socioeconomically vulnerable people who are experiencing low food access due to poor economic conditions in Nangarhar province. The project was implemented in four districts Rodat, Chaparhar, Khogyani, and Pachirwagam over duration of five months. The aim was to improve food access through food distribution for the vulnerable, impoverished by the rising food prices and unemployment rate due to the COVID-19 crisis in addition to natural

⁴ UNICEF, (2021). Humanitarian Action for Children (P 2). Retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/media/87886/file/2021-HAC-Afghanistan.pdf>

⁵ Samim, Sayed & Zhiquan, H. (2020). Assessment of Food Security Situation in Afghanistan. SVU-International Journal of Agricultural Sciences. 2. 10.21608/svuijas.2020.45765.1044. Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/346696189_Assessment_of_Food_Security_Situation_in_Afghanistan

disasters and conflicts. The project was kick started with a survey in targeted four districts to arrive at an understanding of food access and emergency food distribution system. Several discussions were held with WFP, local authorities and Food Security cluster to select the second highest affected province in Afghanistan on the basis of low food purchasing power and poor economic conditions. A MoU was signed with Ministry of Agriculture who issued letter to provincial authorities and communication was initiated through provincial authorities to district authorities. Additionally selection of 280 initially and later 120 beneficiaries for cash distribution were charted out on the basis of vulnerability assessment. On ground program implementation was conducted with the help of local volunteers, YVO staff, community elders and youth association members to ensure token distribution was performed in timely manner keeping up with safety measures. Cash distribution for Khogyani was conducted at YVO Jalalabad office due to ongoing clashes between government and non-government forces. A qualitative and quantitative questionnaire was designed by this study to collect beneficiary feedback regarding “beneficiaries awareness” about getting sufficient amount of food, cash distribution and payout process from the beneficiaries for evaluation purpose.

1.4 Purpose of the study

To accurately capture information, monitor activities and analyse data on the project activities and to use the outcome of this evaluation for improving the future JPF projects and program.

1.4.1 Scope of the study

This evaluation covered the period of project (September 2020 – February 2020) of the project implementation in 4 districts (Rodat, Chapalhar, Kogani, Patil au Agam) in Nangarhar.

1.4.2 Objectives of the summative evaluation exercise are:

- To verify and measure actual outputs and if possible outcomes of the project with the available data;
- To understand the beneficiary’s satisfaction;
- To determine the value of project implementations with all above identification of actual measurements and beneficiary’s satisfaction;
- To verify that the humanitarian principles and standards including but not limited to CHS are respected;
- To document above achievements and challenges and reports to donors and the general public;
- To provide feedback to the future project and programme improvements for both JPF and member NGOs.

1.5 Structure of the report

This report represents the synthesis of a number of different streams of analysis and associated reports, including a set of case studies. The main body of the report is structured as follows:

Chapter 2: Methodology

Chapter 3: Findings

Chapter 4: Recommendations

2. Methodology

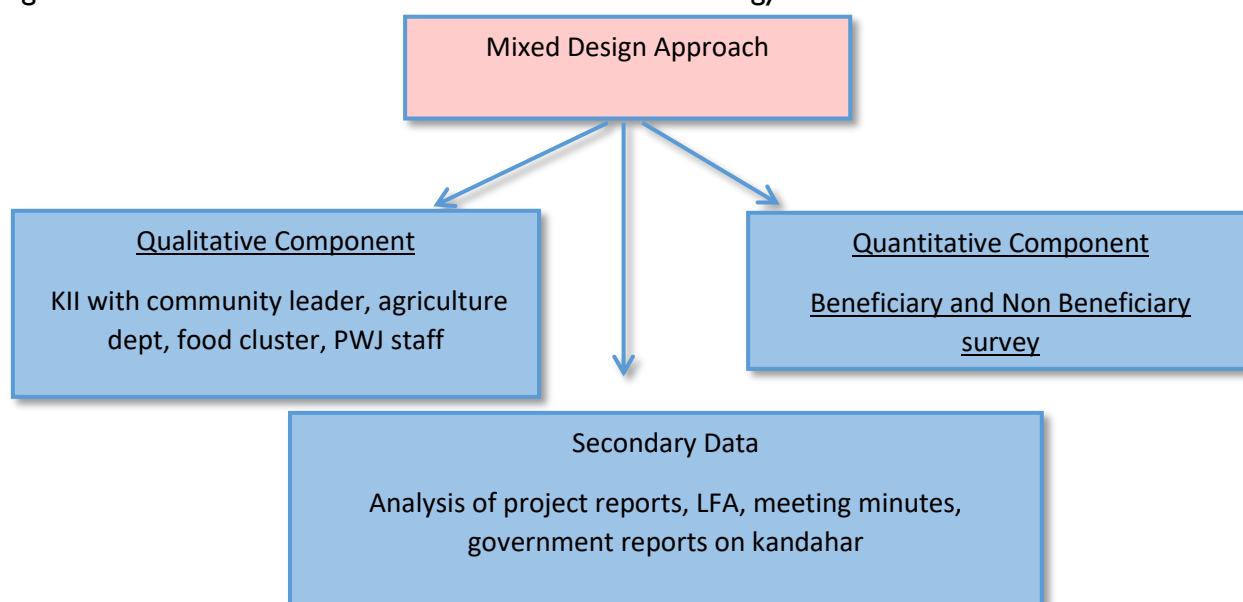
2.1 Study Design

The design of Emergency food distribution in Nangarhar Province made it imperative to use mix methods – quantitative and qualitative methods, and different streams of analysis- for the study. The design of the summative evaluation was very much informed by the overarching CHS standards.

2.2 Methodology for data acquisition

In line with the above mentioned objectives, a mixed design approach was adopted for the evaluation. As a method, this research design focused on collecting, analysing, and mixing both quantitative and qualitative data in order to provide a better understanding of study objectives. Evaluation design was based on triangulation of primary and secondary information collected during the study.

Figure 1: Summative evaluation data collection methodology



2.2.1 Sampling

All four districts are covered by the summative evaluation exercise. A total of 46 beneficiaries and 12 non-beneficiaries were randomly selected from a list provided by YVO. Participants for KIIs were purposively selected and includes key stakeholders involved in the project such as agriculture department General Planning Manager, Director of YVO, community leader, FAO director and food cluster eastern zone focal point.

Table I: Surveys and interviews conducted during the summative evaluation

Respondents	Chaparhar	Khogyani	Pachirwagam	Rodat	Total
Beneficiary survey	11	11	12	12	46
Non beneficiary survey	3	3	3	3	12
KII with Agriculture department General Planning Manager			1		1
KII with FAO director and food cluster eastern zone focal point			1		1
KII with community leader			1		1
KII with Director of YVO			1		1
Total					62

2.2.2 Tools for primary data collection

- Beneficiary survey: to gather information on food assistance through cash benefit.
- Non-Beneficiary survey to assess the counterfactual scenario
- KII with Your Voice Organization (YVO) team members on project management
- KII with Food security cluster chairperson/co-chair/coordinator on coordination, project outcomes
- KII with department of agriculture representatives on coordination, sustainability and outcomes
- KII with community leaders on community perspective of food distribution program.

2.2.3 Secondary data collection

Desk Review: Prior to starting, review of documents regarding the project, a introductory meetings were held with PWJ team on the project. Post meeting, a comprehensive review of secondary documents related to the project was conducted. This involved:

- Monthly Reports
- Project Implementation Plan
- Real time monitoring reports
- Minutes of the meeting
- Review of implementation plan, monitoring tools: primarily to analyse the processes, output as per LFA

Literature review was first conducted during the tool development. The documents received from project such as application, monthly reports were critical for understanding the context for emergency food distribution evaluation. The gathered information was used to inform our data collection tools. Evaluator also reviewed existing peer reviewed journals on the internet for developing the tools. We used the key words (“cash transfer for food” or “Nangarhar food insecurity assistance ” or “food insecurity”) and (“tools” or “questionnaires”) and (“Afghanistan” or “Pakistan” or “India” or “Iran” or “developing countries” or “low- and middle income countries”). The documents were reviewed and evidence on the evaluation objectives and CHS was extracted. Where possible, evidences were triangulated. However, sometimes analyses were constrained by the availability of secondary data.

2.3 Data collection

2.3.1 Training and Field Testing

The training of provincial supervisor and enumerator for PWJ-YVO project in Nangarhar province conducted successfully on February 14-16, 2021 in Health Protection and Research Organization (HPRO) conference hall. The training facilitated by HPRO technical team. Four participants two male and two female participated in this training. The topics of evaluation approaches, orientation on PWJ-YVO project, role of HPRO as third party monitor, orientation on conducting a KII, COVID-19 prevention and control measures, research ethics, ensuring confidentiality, role of consent, and data quality presentations were presented to the participants. In addition, the data collection tools presented separately to the participants and practically worked on the tools in Smart Phones using ODK system. Different methods, such as presentation, group work, questions and answers and practical work were conducted. Finally, the feedback was given by the facilitators regarding filling out the questionnaires and using ODK properly.

2.3.2 Project Discussion meeting with PWJ-YVO staff

The meeting on 17th December was held was held through virtual zoom platform among PWJ staff and HPRO. The discussion points were:

- Ground operations considering the insecurity of districts
- Information on pre survey of beneficiaries
- Differential activities of PWJ compared to other NGO's operating in Nangarhar province
- Role of Food security cluster
- Accounting of inflation in food prices in the project

2.3.3 Data collection

Data collection conducted from Feb 17-23rd 2021. An ODK based cloud mobile data collection platform "Kobotoolbox" was used for the data collection and storage. Digital data collection tools were designed in a manner that ensured receipt of quality data to the system, all possible validation measures were taken into account while designing the tool. Data collectors were popped up with alerts while submitting invalid data and they wouldn't be able to submit incomplete or invalid data.

The key challenge faced by data collection team was accessing interviewees due to several reasons related to Covid, growing insecurity across Afghanistan. This resulted in difficulty in intra district movement and conducting KIIs. Thus, phone interviews of all participants were conducted from HPRO office. This was successfully executed due to presence of YVO structured database with all necessary details which allowed telephonic access to participants

2.3.3 Monitoring and Supervision for quality assurance

A monitoring team from HPRO Kabul office performed spot checks of interviews as soon as it is uploaded in HPRO ODK. The study supervisor also conducted monitoring of the data collection process on ODK. Besides taking such quality control measures in the data collection application, a data quality assurance officer was assigned to regularly check the data for invalidity and communicated the data related issues with the data collectors. Incorrect records were rectified or eliminated from the database. To ensure respondents' personal information confidentiality instead of collecting their name, the application generated an auto

number for each respondent formatted as (Province Code, District Code, First three letters of village name, 4 digit random number). All qualitative data collection events were audio recorded. The quality assurance manager conducted quality checks on transcribed interviews and second quality assurance check was conducted on translated interviews.

2.3.4 Means of Communication

The mode of communication was phone calls for weekly communication between Kabul team and YVO team. Virtual platform such as zoom, skype was used for weekly meetings between JPF, PWJ, YVO and HPRO team.

2.4 Data management and analysis

2.4.1 Transcription and Translation

Transcription of field notes started as soon as the data arrived in the database. The quality assurance officer reviewed field notes for completeness and made additions to the notes after listening to the audio-recorded interviews. To get an accurate account of data from the interviews, the quality assurance officer, data manager and field supervisor had to review notes and make additions to the field notes. One translator was solely responsible for translating transcripts from Farsi/Pashto to English. The quality assurance officer translated quantitative information. Verbatim transcripts were created from the recordings using a standardized transcription protocol. Transcripts were translated into English, and used for analysis.

2.4.2 Coding of data

The questionnaires were coded with such as district name, school name, village name etc. The study team developed coding rules for all the situations and applied them consistently. The coding issues were pertaining to missing information, ambiguous information, details of response is disconnected from choices selected by respondents. The data files were cleaned for errors. The data manager checked thoroughly the data file to ensure that all responses are within the valid range. Invalid entries were rechecked with the electronic database and based on consensus within the team, observations were replaced with valid numbers. Once questionnaire data was coded, the data was entered into an electronic file of access spreadsheet so that file that can be easily imported into a data analysis software program.

Qualitative

Some identifiers such as KII interview name used in the study were put in hidden folders since we no longer need this information as we wanted to eliminate the possibility of linking responses on the electronic file to individuals. During the study respondents were given opportunity to provide written comments at the end of the questionnaire. The responses were coded according to the type of comment that was made. The open-ended comments were coded and the data was entered electronically in the access program.

The research objectives and research questions guided data coding for qualitative data. The key themes were developed based on the objectives of the evaluation. The sub-themes were generated using the relevant research questions. These were priori codes that guided the categorization of the data. As new sub-themes emerged, those were also coded as new codes. The quality assurance officer and data manager provided support to the team during transcription of field notes. After the transcription of field notes, a quality assurance officer worked on the organization of field notes. The field notes and transcribed interviews were organised by respondents and type of data collection method (KII). Data was organised by main folder and sub folders and then started coding of data. A deductive thematic analysis was conducted with the transcripts using the qualitative data analysis software. For the coding process, first priori codes were developed based on the existing themes. Priori codes provide

a general framework for major themes and subthemes that were generated later through an iterative process. Then, the technical lead had to review transcribed notes multiple times so they could label or group certain areas in the dataset. The quality assurance officer and field coordinator team looked for similar views and opinions and group them together to support a particular theme.

2.4.3 Data analysis

Quantitative

For quantitative data analysis, data was first run for missing values, double entries in STATA 14. Data was recoded for certain values and new variables were generated. During data analysis of quantitative data, data issues of type I and type II errors was assessed. The quantitative information was compiled to generate ratios and figures. In this study only univariate analysis was conducted, mainly in the form of frequencies and percentages.

Qualitative

For analysis of qualitative data, the technical lead used ATLAS.ti software version 1.0.50 (282). To ensure a link is established between major and sub themes, several analytic themes were grouped under one major theme. Grouping of sub themes took place by reviewing their meaning in relation to the major themes. The major themes were: 1) Program functioning, 2) Comparative household food assessment between beneficiary and non-beneficiary 3) Project Management, 4) CHS compliance. Sub themes were generated under each major theme based on the objectives stated in ToR. The purpose was to group themes in a hierarchical structure. Sub themes were placed under each major theme in a way that supports the major theme. Eventually, a core set of codes was prepared and used to further support analysis and interpretation of data. After organization and transcription of data, systematic analysis and interpretation of qualitative data followed the analysis process. In addition, when reading text under the themes and adding thoughts and ideas about a particular theme, evaluator tried to identify and assess the relationship between different variables. Similarities and difference between the themes and determined how they interact with each other was assessed. In addition, while presenting views from different respondent groups, “Verbatim” quotes were added to further support a particular theme or argument.

2.4.4 Limitations

There were various limitations to this study, which can be divided into, challenges of field, and evaluation scope. The scope of evaluation was broad considering the interventions in four districts. The prevalent Covid situation and short evaluation time duration made the evaluation challenging.

3. Key Findings

Sections 3.1 to 3.4 present the findings of analysis against the two key thematic areas presented in Chapter 2. Reference was also be made to link the findings with the project’s stated outcome and CHS framework. As discussed in Chapter 2 (Methodology), the findings draw primarily from the in-depth analysis performed through an extensive review of policies around cash assistance for food, project documents and primary data generated from the field. This section presents the findings under two large themes followed by sub thematic areas. Headline findings are presented as bold (and numbered) statements and the supporting findings are presented as sub sections with additional paragraphed text. Evidence sources highlighted (mainly through footnotes)

3.1 Program functioning

3.1.1 Beneficiary enrolment

The beneficiary target numbers were 70 per district totalling to 280 in four districts. Later as the project progressed, 30 households per district were added to the existing list leading to coverage of 400 beneficiaries. Discussion with PWJ team highlighted that organisation decided to use the remaining budget for cash assistance. Two choices were left with the PWJ team either to forego the money or distribute to the households initially part of the vulnerability list. Hence, organisation chose to provide one time cash assistance to additional 120 households. The option to provide additional cash to existing 280 beneficiaries instead of new families was not available due to norm for onetime assistance being 90\$.

Overall 76 percent (35 out of 46) of the study participants were enrolled from past three months whereas rest (11) from past one month. Beneficiaries enrolled for three months received three tokens as per program while recently enrolled received only once. The trend was similar for Chaparhar district. Rodat enrolment rate with beneficiaries depicted slight delay, three months and one month enrolment was 63:27 respectively, whereas Khogyani and Pachirwagam exhibited better program enrolment pickup (82:18 for three months and one month). The program was exclusive as none of the respondents were enrolled in any other food assistance program.



Figure 1: cash distribution in Chaparhar district

3.1.2 Beneficiary household coping strategies to combat food insecurity post intervention

The principal objective in assessing food consumption was whether the beneficiary status during the study is aligned to the program goal of providing food access through food distribution for the vulnerable and impoverished. Food consumption pattern at household level was measured on carefully picked five indicators. These indicators were selected from YVO Household Emergency Assessment Tool as follows:

- Relying on less preferred food and less expensive food
- Borrowing food, or rely on help from friends and relatives
- Limiting portion size at mealtimes
- Restricting Consumption by adults in order for small children to eat
- Reducing number of meals eaten in a day

Even before pandemic, Nangarhar having high number of IDP's and refugees has high prevalence of food insecurity (IPC phase 3)⁶. The findings support the current facts wherein study participants cited relying on less preferred food and less expensive food as most frequently (85%) adopted measures to deal with scarcity. This was followed by borrowing of food from relatives and friends (80%). Rodat, Chaparhar and Khogyani food consumption patterns were low and hint towards high dependency on food assistance. The figures also highlight the food scarcity at household level in spite of receiving food assistance from YVO (table2)

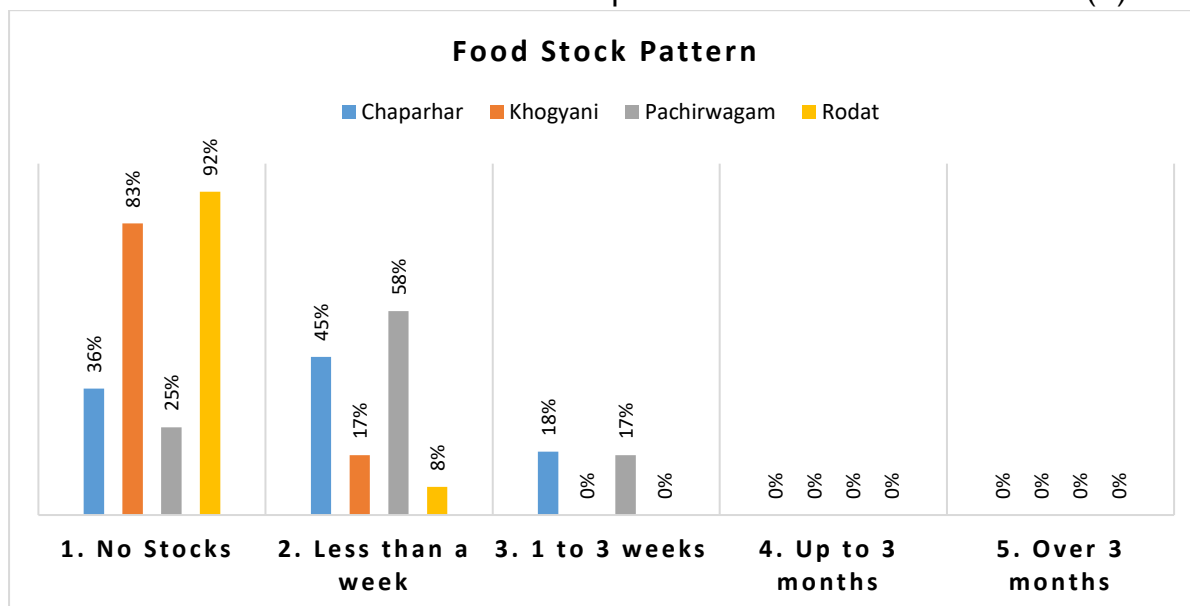
Table2: Food consumption patterns post cash assistance in four districts of Nangarhar

Indicator (n=46)	Chaparhar	Khogyani	Pachirwagam	Rodat	Overall
Rely on less preferred food and less expensive food	92%	83%	75%	100%	85%
Borrow food, or rely on help from friends and relatives	92%	83%	67%	100%	79%
Limit portion size at mealtimes	42%	83%	58%	92%	65%
Restrict Consumption by adults so small children eat	58%	83%	50%	92%	65%
Reduced number of meals eaten in a day	42%	83%	50%	92%	64%

The household food stock couldn't last a week in spite of food assistance. Rodat and Khogyani exhibited depleted stocks as compared to other districts (figure 2)

⁶ T. (2020, November 1). Afghanistan: Acute food Insecurity situation April - May 2020 and projection for June - NOVEMBER 2020 : IPC global platform. Retrieved March 13, 2021, from <http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1152636/?iso3=AFG>

Figure 2: Pattern of food stock at household level post cash assistance in four districts (%)



3.1.3 Effect of cash assistance for food at household level

Improved access to food: Cash-based interventions, principally in the form of cash-for-food, account for an important portion of the current humanitarian response in Afghanistan, to a level probably unequalled in other complex emergencies. Many agencies including USAID, People-in-Need, Action Contre la Faim (ACF), Oxfam, NRC, WFP, are organizations, which have implemented cash-based assistance programmes including regionally sourced in-kind food aid and cash transfers for food to vulnerable, drought-affected people across Afghanistan.⁷ Cash assistance for food is more relevant since COVID-19 has impacted the poorest, most marginalised and insecure locations and populations hardest. The direct and indirect effects of COVID-19 have meant that the number of people in need of humanitarian aid in Afghanistan is expected to increase from 14 million in June 2020 to 18.4 million in 2021, 53% of whom are children and 8.4% of whom are people with disabilities (OCHA, 2021). WFP has distributed cash assistance (80\$) to each selected woman in Kabul and Herat⁹. The participant responses and data analysis suggests that assistance has particularly been effective for households who were in dire need or has no other source of income to purchase food. The beneficiaries having higher vulnerability score (higher levels of impoverishment) confirmed the increased access to food for household children and women.

Quality of food consumption: the programs on cash assistance for food intended to provide food security safety net and improve the access to nutritional foods of vulnerable households. Nangarhar facing the food insecurity, households are likely to adopt a range of 'coping' strategies to manage the risks they face. While these strategies provide some

⁷ USAID. (2020, April 06). Food assistance fact sheet - afghanistan: Food assistance. Retrieved March 13, 2021, from <https://www.usaid.gov/afghanistan/food-assistance>

⁸ Samuel Hall Consulting 2013. "Humanitarian Assistance through Mobile Cash Transfer in Northern Afghanistan: An Evaluation of a DFID Pilot Project in Faryab, Jawzjan, and Samangan". Retrieved March 13, 2021, from <https://www.alnap.org/system/files/content/resource/files/main/dfid-mobile-cash-transfer.pdf>

⁹ UN. (2020, November 4). Afghanistan: How WFP Cash Assistance Empowers Women: World Food Programme. Retrieved March 13, 2021, from <https://www.wfp.org/stories/afghanistan-how-wfp-cash-assistance-empowerswomen#:~:text=WFP%20recently%20started%20cash%20distributions,on%20the%20pre%20pandemic%20target.>

protection against food insecurity, they may also incur nutritional risk¹⁰. For example, common strategy cited by study respondents was cutting back on the number of meals and switching to cheaper but less nutritious food. The interviews with beneficiary highlighted improvement in quality of food intake among half of the respondents.

Physical health and nutrition: Afghanistan food security and nutrition agenda plan (AFSeN-A-Plan) 2019-2023 one of the strategic objectives is to improve the quality of nutritious diets, particularly among women, children, and vulnerable groups. This is to meet the SDG3 “to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”. The cash transfers in general addresses the food and other basic needs, however rarely have the explicit objective of improving nutrition; as a result, changes in the nutritional status are not monitored. PWJ emergency food distribution program objective is limited to improving access and expenditure of cash assistance on food with minimal monitoring on food consumption patterns. The beneficiaries highlighted improvement in health of the children (74%) as households prefer to prioritise children and elders over other members during food scarcity.

Mental health: In stable development settings, cash programming can improve beneficiaries’ mental health by reducing their level of financial stress by helping them meet their basic needs. A study of the impact of cash transfers in Kenya found that receiving cash produced significant increases in reported happiness and life satisfaction, and reductions in reported stress and depression through self-reported survey measures¹¹. Beneficiaries of a national program providing unconditional cash transfers to the poorest households saw a large and significant reduction in depression among youth in households receiving cash, with the largest effect observed among young women. A review of studies examining the influence of cash transfers on Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) found that in development settings, cash assistance has the potential to decrease IPV across populations through multiple pathways, including improving the bargaining power of women and girls by transferring cash directly to them, or by reducing economic stressors within the household¹². Eight out of 46 Project’s beneficiaries (18%) reached to some form of mental peace as a result of food cash assistance program. To observe the impact on mental health in Afghanistan requires longer assessment periods which proves to be a challenge for such a short duration intervention.

Effect on women and child welfare: cash benefits either through food assistance or multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) implemented by world vision, WFP and Save the children in other countries showed less likelihood of children been engaged in child labour and missing schools¹³. The women-oriented cash assistance such as food assistance for assets

¹⁰ Bailey, S., & Hedlund, K. (2012, January 1). The impact of cash transfers on nutrition in emergency and transitional contexts A review of evidence. Retrieved March 13, 2021, from <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/7596.pdf>

¹¹

Haushofer J, Shapiro J. The short-term impact of unconditional cash transfers to the poor: experimental evidence from Kenya. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 2016 Jul 19;131(4):1973–2042.

¹² Angeles G, de Hoop J, Handa S, Kilburn K, Milazzo A, Peterman A, et al. Government of Malawi’s unconditional cash transfer improves youth mental health. *Social Science & Medicine*. 2019 Mar 1;225:108–19.

¹³ <https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/Cash%20report%20draft2.pdf>

(FFA)¹⁴ has shown significant contribution to improved nutrition, women empowerment, and overall wellbeing. PWJ beneficiaries own account of cash assistance program suggest negligible to low effect on decreased burden on women to earn for food.

Table 3: Effect of cash assistance for food at household level (n=46)

	Parameters	%
1	Provided food for children and members	78%
2	Improved the quality of food we used to eat	46%
3	Improve the health of children	74%
4	Improve health of women	18%
5	Improve health of members	0%
6	Mental Peace	18%
7	Improved financial status by less borrowing of money for food	2%
8	Decrease the burden on women and children to work and earn for food	2%
9	Decrease the burden on household members to work and earn for food	0%
10	Could now use household earning on other essential items and bills	7%
11	Improve the quality of life	4%

3.1.4 Beneficiary satisfaction, out of pocket expenditure and queuing

Out of pocket expenditure and waiting time is associated directly with beneficiary satisfaction. The average time to reach the cash distribution point ($\mu=36$ minutes \pm 38 SD) from home was unevenly distributed across four districts. The average waiting time in que was $\mu=22$ minutes \pm 14 SD. The out-of-pocket expenditure on transportation was $\mu=2\$$ \pm 1.5 SD. Khogyani being insecure district, cash distribution was most challenging and venue was placed away from district. This correlates with Khogyani respondents spending highest time on road and also largest on transportation. One of the chaparhar beneficiary spend close to 6.4\$ to avail the cash benefit (table 4).

Table 4: Respondent waiting time in minutes and out of pocket expenditure in US \$ (n=46)

Parameters/ Questions	Chaparhar	Khogyani	Pachirwagam	Rodat	Min	Max
How long did it take you to get to the distribution point, from the place that you live? (In minutes)	21	57	25	21	5	120
How long did you wait to receive your voucher/cash, from the moment you arrived at the distribution point? (In minutes)	20	29	22	19	4	60
How much did it cost you (total) to receive the voucher/cash in USD	2\$	3\$	1\$	1.3\$	0	6.4\$

The beneficiary satisfaction was assessed through three key sections:

- Satisfaction related probing questions on two categorical variables of yes and no

¹⁴ <https://a4nh.cgjar.org/2018/03/12/can-wfps-food-assistance-for-assets-contribute-to-womens-empowerment-and-nutrition/>

- Satisfaction related questions using Likert scale scoring
- Complaint system related probing questions using binomial variables of yes and no

The beneficiary satisfaction Likert scale scoring was enumerated on eight probing questions and five-point Likert scale of very satisfied, satisfied, neutral, very dissatisfied and dissatisfied was used for:

- How satisfied are you with the cash distribution system?
- How satisfied are you with how the YVO staff informed about the process?
- How satisfied are you with the ease of getting the cash?
- How satisfied are you with location of cash distribution?
- How satisfied are you with the amount of time you spent waiting?
- How satisfied are you with the respectfulness of the staff?
- How satisfied are you with the travel cost and time you have to spend away from job to reach to location and receive cash?
- How satisfied are you with your overall cash assistance program?

The average satisfaction score was calculated by combining responses of very satisfied and satisfied. The overall satisfaction score was 91.5%. The variables with low satisfaction was the travel cost and time one has to spend away from job to reach to location and Chaparhar district respondents marked a neutral score for the same. The probing questions pertaining to cash sufficiency for obtaining food and timely distribution of cash, received slightly low response as compared to other variables (table 5)

Table 5: Satisfaction in percentage for all beneficiaries (n=46) vs enrolled for three months beneficiaries (n=35)

Questions	Chaparhar	Khogyani	Pachirwaga m	Rodat	Overall	Only 3 months enrollee
Did you receive cash on time	100%	100%	92%	100%	98%	97%
Did you receive full cash as informed by YVO staff?	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Were you Treated courteously?	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Emergency food distribution program is fair and is helpful for family?	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Will you continue being receiving cash as part of program	100%	100%	100%	100%	98%	97%
Is cash assistance sufficient to provide one month food for family?	83%	100%	100%	83%	93%	94%

“They read names from the list one by one and they checked the tokens with people's ID after confirmation they take the token from them and give 90\$. This was a good program everyone received what they deserved. We want more programs like this because people of this district are so poor and they face poverty, if this trend continues, it is not far away that this poverty in our district will go away”- KII with tribal leader Pas Saber village in Pachirwagam district.

A functional and responsiveness of complaint management system was not completely evident. The complaint system was measured through three key probing questions:

- Is there a complaint /feedback system?

- Have you ever had any complain about the program?
- Is there a authorized person to resolve issues

The low response to existing complaint management/calling system (41%) and low awareness on designated authority for resolving issues (69%) highlights gap in awareness level among beneficiaries. The lack of information on complaint management system was also observed among government functionaries.

The three layered complaint redressal system was implemented as per discussion with YVO director. The three mechanisms included CRM which is a telephonic complaint call system, local youth association and community elder (malik). The complaints are resolved locally with the facilitation from volunteers or youth association members. The informal structure functions well in a traditional system like Afghanistan. Therefore, a likely possibility of low understanding on complaint calling system among beneficiaries could exist.

“There is no complain system in the authorities but for receiving and listening to complaints there is Governor office, relevant departments has complains box and the authorities open the box and address the complains. I would say that I do not know whether YVO have beneficiary feed back system or not. But people have the right to share their feedback with the authorities but I myself is not aware of it”- KII with Nangarhar Agriculture Department General Planning Manager

3.2 Comparative household food assessment between beneficiary and non-beneficiary sample

Study conducted a small survey with non-beneficiary (12) households across four districts (3 per district). The spill over effect of cash assistance program can be observed among non-beneficiaries as 67% were aware of the same although none were enrolled in any other cash for food intervention. All respondents narrated the benefits for enrolling in cash for food program. Beneficiary’s poor food consumption pattern and low household food stock account (post cash distribution) was evident on comparative analysis with non-beneficiaries. This further verifies beneficiaries being the right candidates for the program through vulnerability assessment.

Table 6: comparative analysis of beneficiary and non-beneficiary

Coping strategies	Beneficiary (n=46)	Non Beneficiary (n=12)
Rely on less preferred food and less expensive food	85%	75%
Borrow food, or rely on help from friends and relatives	79%	75%
Limit portion size at mealtimes	65%	83%
Restrict Consumption by adults in order for small children to eat	65%	83%
Reduced number of meals eaten in a day	64%	83%

Food stock situation at HH, how long stock last	Beneficiary (n=46)	Non Beneficiary (n=12)
1. No Stocks	58%	50%
2. Less than a week	33%	17%
3. 1 to 3 weeks	7%	33%

4. Up to 3 months	0%	0%
5. Over 3 months	0%	0%

We conducted independent t-test between beneficiary and non-beneficiary on effect of cash assistance at household level on 11 parameters as presented in table 7 below. For comparison 46 beneficiaries and 7 non-beneficiaries were included in the t-test.

The null hypothesis: No difference between beneficiary and non-beneficiary on factors associated with cash assistance for food at household level. The output from the independent t-tests highlighted that group means were significantly different for improvement in health children, improvement in health of family members, decrease in burden to work, could use earnings on essential items and improvement in quality of life (table)

Table7: Independent t-test between beneficiary and non-beneficiary on effect of cash assistance for food at household level

SN	Effect of cash assistance at HH	Beneficiary Mean N=46	Non beneficiary Mean N=7	P values	Result
1	Provided food for children and members	0.934	0.857	0.47	Accept null
2	Improved the quality of food we used to eat	0.826	0.857	0.84	Accept null
3	Improve the health of children	0.56	1	0.02	Null rejected
4	Improve health of women	0.26	0.428	0.36	Accept null
5	Improve health of members	0.173	0.571	0.018	Null rejected
6	Mental Peace	0	1	0	Null rejected
7	Improved financial status by less borrowing of money for food	0.173	0.428	0.12	Accept null
8	Decrease the burden on women and children to work and earn for food	0.0217	0.571	0.00	Null rejected
9	Decrease the burden on household members to work and earn for food	0.0217	0.857	0.00	Null rejected
10	Could now use household earning on other essential items and bills	0	0.142	0.009	Null rejected
11	Improve the quality of life	0.0652	0.714	0	Null rejected

3.3 Project Management

3.3.1 Project implementation: Vulnerability assessment

Covid-19 has exacerbated the household impoverishment levels in Nangarhar. The demand for food assistance program is ever high. The scoring scale used by YVO comprised of household composition including who is heading the family, vulnerability criteria based on disability or chronic illness, member employment status, low income, sustenance on charity. Higher the score higher is vulnerable household. Considering the high poverty levels and poor



Figure 2: post cash distribution monitoring by YVO and HPRO

unemployment level in districts, many households are likely to fall in the group. The food, WASH and education assessment was not incorporated in the assessment tool. The food cluster and agriculture department pointed out the smaller coverage of PWJ project in shorter time frame. The program did not capture the impact on change in household food assessment indicators. The phase wise approach used for selection of beneficiaries.

“As you know this district is a border district, there have been wars for 14 consecutive years. There is poverty in this village that needs to be handed in for more help. Because HH selection process was conducted transparently so, people were so happy with the process. it was the only process in Pachirwagam district that has been praised by both the government and the people” –KII with tribal leader Pas Saber village in Pachirwagam district .

“Because these families are poor and in general most of the Nangarhar people economy is not so good and they are living under poverty line. Of course, they have used for their food items. I do not see any gap at the project but I have suggestion that every day the prices of food items are going up and already gone up the money distributed or given to the needy families are not enough and it cannot fulfil their daily needs. Our suggestion if the amount of money should be increased to fulfill daily requirement of the families” – KII with Nangarhar Agriculture Department General Planning Manager

“The results of the implementation of such projects will be positive. In addition, it can meet the needs of at least two or more people (if they spend less) on their own. Because of the coordination meetings we had at the beginning of the project, of course, I don't think there was much of a gap. The project has been implemented properly.” - KII with head of the FAO and Food Safety Cluster Focal Point

3.3.2 Coordination with key stakeholders

The key stakeholders in the Emergency food distribution were provincial and district agriculture department functionaries, directorate of economy, district governor office,

community representatives such as tribal leaders and youth association, eastern branch of food cluster and PWJ. There is substantial evidence of close coordination with Nangarhar agriculture planning department at different stages of project implementation. The interview with planning manager and review of project monitoring reports suggests officials with VYO team were jointly communicating on developing HH selection criteria, monitoring visit planning, cash distribution planning and challenges related to implementation. The emphasis on ensuring transparency in HH selection and distribution of cash within the community was ensured through monitoring by assigned personnel in agriculture department, in coordination with district authorities, youth association and community elders.

“We have surveyed almost 796 household among those we identified 280 families as a poorest. Of course the people were very poor. Although the assisted amount could not fulfil all the need of the families. At the beginning of selection of families, the district authorities and NGO colleagues were asked to provide public awareness about the cash amount they will receive from YVO” – KII with Nangarhar Agriculture Department General Planning Manager

Food security cluster played a pivot role in guiding VYO in implementation of program in four districts. The role of food cluster is to ensure coherence and synergy between all ngo’s operating in same location and same work areas without creating duplication. The FAO focal point highlighted possibility of duplication due to existing ngo’s in the selected four districts. It was averted after rounds of coordination meetings in the cluster.

“the four districts where VYO work Pachirwagam, Chaparhar, Khogyani and Rodat some other agencies were also working here. In order not to duplicate this issue too much, we shared information in food security cluster meetings. The cluster recommend that the issue be addressed with other ngo’s and partners working in the four districts to prevent duplications. I must say that the effects of the COVID-19 were enormous, on the livestock farmers in the remote districts as well as on the traders in the markets. I positively think it would be better if such emergency projects were recommended and extended to other districts” - KII with head of the FAO and Food Safety Cluster Focal Point

3.3.3 Internal Monitoring, Evaluation, Supervision, and Learning

Monitoring was implemented at three levels: stakeholder-based monitoring involving provincial, districts and community actors; monitoring of beneficiaries by VYO staff; VYO staff monitoring by project manager and PWJ.

Monitoring of cash distribution was performed under supervision of directorate of agricultural department, governor office, directorate of economy, local police, other district administration, youth associations, tribal heads and community representatives. VYO staff conducts monthly monitoring on all 280 cash recipients after a week of cash distribution. Monitoring captured the satisfaction with the distribution process, analysis of distress calls, expenditure pattern of cash assistance on food versus non food items and beneficiary perception on amount of assistance provided. The monitoring process by VYO showed improvement over previous month with addition of new variables on satisfaction and expenditure. This reflects on improved project management and continuous learning. The information on internal monitoring of staff was not accessible to study team.

“So, on that day, they give tokens to each of these 70 families. this program was attended by district officials, including the district governor, chief security of district and government officials, such as the agriculture director, sector manager, village manager and there were a lot of tribal elders”- –KII with tribal leader Pas Saber village in Pachirwagam district .

3.3.4 Achievement of Project outputs

The project improved food access through cash distribution for the vulnerable, impoverished was able to attain all the stated outputs against activities in the LFA (table 8)

Table 8: Project achievements against LFA outputs

improve food access through food distribution for the vulnerable, impoverished by the rising food prices and unemployment rate due to the COVID-19 crisis in addition to natural disasters and conflicts.

Outcome	Targets	Overall
		Project Monitoring reports
I. Improve the socioeconomically vulnerable people's food access through food distribution.	I.1 Beneficiaries of cash pay-out: 280 households	Confirmed through project MIS and beneficiaries' interview Additional 120 households were provided one time cash worth of US \$ 120.
	I.2 Percentage of beneficiaries acknowledged to have become able to purchase necessary food through the support: 70%	The sampled respondents in the summative evaluation study were all able to purchase food (100%). The YVO monitoring reports suggest that 76% (214 out of 280) were able to purchase necessary food through cash assistance

3.4 CHS compliance

CHSI: Communities and people affected by crisis receive assistance appropriate and relevant to their needs.

Nangarhar battling on several grounds such as presence of anti-government forces, refugee, displaced and migrated populations, and others, poverty is among one of them. Cash assistance for food addresses to some extent the prevailing food insecurity in the four districts of Nangarhar.

In order to shortlist the eligible families for food assistance, a survey of 600 households in four districts was performed by YVO with the help of community elders and tribal leaders. The results of survey showed almost all were eligible to receive the food assistance. In order to select 70 families per district, a long list of 100 eligible families was generated with the help of community leaders, YVO volunteers and youth association members. As narrated by YVO director each district has 15-20 villages and, in many occasions, a single village with 70 households were falling in eligible category. Nangarhar districts carrying dual burden of impoverished households and disabled/chronically ill population, it was exceptionally challenging task for YVO to arrive at target number of 70 per district.

“These 70 families who were selected among 200 families were the poorest in the 200s” -KII with tribal leader Pas Saber village in Pachirwagam district .

“Really, when we were numbering them all of them were eligible according to the criteria. The data collected and the survey conducted were based on Head Form. Head Form is the standard form of Off Sag or WFP which addresses other common needs rather than food. High score means that those who are more extreme needed people. They might don't have anything for dinner to eat”-IDI with Program Director YVO

This account was also supported by the independent-t tests compared between 46 Project beneficiaries and 7 non-beneficiaries. While all respondents are found in vulnerable conditions, however, the Project beneficiary's poor food consumption pattern and low household food stock account (post cash distribution) was more evident. To cope with higher magnitude of poverty found after the survey, with remaining project budget saved from other Project activity, PWJ/YVO introduced 120 new beneficiaries receiving one-time only cash assistance for foods.

CHS2: Communities and people affected by crisis have access to the humanitarian assistance they need at the right time

The demand is high for the food assistance due to high levels of impoverishment among the community. This was compounded by loss of employment during pandemic. Timely distribution of cash to beneficiaries (both receiving three rounds and only one round) by the project ensured cash assistance is reached without delay. The study proven the project intervention has particularly been effective for households who were in dire need or has no other source of income to purchase food. The beneficiaries having higher vulnerability score (higher levels of impoverishment) confirmed the increased access to food for household children and women and improving particularly health of children. The assistance which was timely and of high relevance was able to address families' immediate needs in putting food on table however the study also found that was only lasted less than a week. With anticipated project budget from JPF, the project planned addressing immediate household food shortage, therefore it did not plan to influence on changes in household coping strategies related to food insecurity. In the face of excavated food insecurity by pandemic, the study recognises the challenges of funding requiring humanitarian community acting together to find ways to overcome the limitation to provide a more comprehensive response to people's needs.

CHS3: Communities and people affected by crisis are not negatively affected and are more prepared, resilient and less at-risk as a result of humanitarian action

The awareness session on token distribution and cash distribution within the community generated awareness on the selection criteria, purpose of the project, understanding on YVO work and government stakeholders. However, respondents cited low information on focal point for complaint redressal system. The awareness was higher in community leaders. This ensured trust building among all the stakeholders and relatively successful implementation of the project. YVO rolled out the program through participation of village volunteers, tribal leaders and youth association members which prevented building of negative perception towards program and YVO among the community.

The involvement of directorate of agriculture, directorate of economy, governor office, youth organisation, elders in supervision and monitoring at planning and execution stage ensured selection of right candidates and culturally appropriate cash distribution processes are followed for successful implementation.

CHS4: Communities and people affected by crisis know their rights and entitlements, have access to information and participate in decisions that affect them

One of the information provided during awareness sessions in the community was on process of enrolment and verification of enrolled beneficiaries. All the beneficiaries found aware about their entitlement for cash assistance and utilisation of cash for purchasing of food items.

CHS5: Communities and people affected by crisis have access to safe and responsive mechanisms to handle complaints.

The three-layered complaint redressal system was implemented as per discussion with YVO director. The three mechanisms included CRM which is a telephonic complaint call system, local youth association and community elder (malik). The complaints were resolved locally with the facilitation from volunteers or youth association members. The informal structure functions well in a traditional system like Afghanistan.

However, the low response to awareness on existing formal complaint management system (41%) and low awareness on designated authority for resolving issues (69%) highlights gap in awareness level among beneficiaries. The lack of information on complaint management system was also observed among government functionaries. The analysis of calls received by YVO through phone as presented in YVO monitoring reports depicted queries pertaining to general distress among beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries on current socio-economic conditions in the districts rather than cash distribution system.

CHS6: Communities and people affected by crisis receive coordinated, complementary assistance

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of the project has been signed with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and livestock (MAIL). Multi-stakeholder reporting and supervision was part of project management cycle as per information collated through interviews and desk review. The documentary assessment and interview with provincial agriculture directorate highlight that government functionaries such as directorate of economy, food cluster, governor office, ministry of refugee, community council were been made aware of the project activities on timely basis and agriculture directorate extended support in this regard. Approval at different stages were sought with directorate of agriculture and governor office especially on time and location for cash distribution. DoA also coordinated visits with community leaders during cash distribution sessions conducted by YVO team. The monitoring and supervision of cash distribution activities were conducted by different stakeholders such as department of economy, department of agriculture, police, governor office. However documented proof of inspection notes or monitoring reports couldn't be accessed. YVO participation in food cluster meetings also reflects on adequate communication mechanism with the relevant stakeholders.

CHS7: Communities and people affected by crisis can expect delivery of improved assistance as organisations learn from experience and reflection.

Interviews with stakeholder provide negligible to limited information on the improvements and strategies adopted during course of action

The HR competency assessment (CHS8) resource assessment (CHS9) are not covered under the scope of summative evaluation. However the functional and active involvement various district authorities in monitoring and supervision is a good example of good management and efficiency. Thus, reflect on CHS8 & 9.

3.5 Value assessment of program intervention

Assessing project intervention based on evidences collected from this study, it can be attested that the project objective to improve food access through cash distribution for the vulnerable and impoverished was highly relevant to community needs. The study also exhibited the project achieving all planed activity outputs thereby improving immediate foods access, consumption, quality, in particular with children and women at household level, thus effective. The study proven the project was implemented through coordinated efforts of stakeholders. Henceforth, the project was well worthy of implementation.

4. Challenges, limitations with Emergency food distribution program

The key challenge observed with program was insecurity in Khogyani district throughout the implementation period. The prevailing conditions forced the program to carve out unique strategies for cash distribution to beneficiaries as well as monitoring post cash distribution. The cash distribution was conducted in Jalalabad which caused long travel for beneficiaries. The limitation with program was JPF awarded contracts were budget driven rather than demand driven. Considering the huge need among households for food assistance in the four districts, the cash distribution was only able to contribute provide assistance to limited families, nonetheless, those who were targeted were the most in need families as most were women or disabled headed households.

5. Recommendations

- Increased food purchasing power has led to achievement of the planned project outcome with increased access for vulnerable. While cash distribution criteria adhered the food cluster guideline (80-90 USD per family for three rounds), in the prevailing food insecurity, challenges still remain; There was gap between actual number of people in needs of foods and the number of the household the project could assist and with meeting daily needs of households. In the face of unexpected magnitude of food insecurity that pandemic is intriguing, gauging level of cash assistance even more carefully during inception phase of projects may guide more sensible coverage of affected population. The project also benefits from incorporating monitoring of need of households over the course of project implementation.
- A testimony heard during the study that in order to measure impact of food assistance program and allowing assimilation of changes through intervention at household level,

projects need to be run for year or two. With anticipated project budget from JPF, the project planned addressing immediate household food shortage, therefore it did not plan to influence on changes in household coping strategies related to food insecurity. The possibility of complementing them with the long term development projects should be explored, for instance, a plan bridging the project right from the beginning with funding other than JPF and envisioning collective interventions to complement cash transfers. Imposing excessive conditions and monitoring on cash transfer projects is costly and therefore need a delicate balancing among accountability, quality and outreach by remaining mindful with administrative costs of projects, of saving of which in turn enables expanding projects' outreach. Formal complaint redressal system should be strengthened with strong emphasis on database development of formal as well as verbal complaints (informal). It is necessary to conduct trend analysis of complaints and thereafter a feedback system should be integrated in program management and staff capacity building program.

-

Annexure:

Data collection tools:

Form #

Confidential for
research purpose only

Beneficiary Interview

Third-party Project Monitoring & Evaluation of JPF Funded Projects in Afghanistan

Conducted by: Health Protection and Research Organization (HPRO);

Supported by: Japan Platform

Beneficiary Verbal Informed Consent

Instructions for the Interviewer: *The following is to be read verbatim to the client prior to the consultation and interview. If the client then agrees to participate, you must sign on the line marked at the end of this form. Also mark the date on the appropriate line. In case of minors (children or adolescents <age 18 years), the consent text will be read to parent or guardian accompanying the client and informed consent to be sought from the parent/guardian*

Purpose of the Study

This is with respect to Third-party Project Monitoring & Evaluation of JPF Funded Projects in Afghanistan. We would like to ask you some questions about token and food distribution provided by YVO. This information will help the JPF project and its partner NGO's in improving their project work. However, there is no immediate or direct benefit to you for participating.

1.1.1 Procedures

1.1.2 To obtain the necessary information, you have been chosen randomly to participate from among the beneficiary of this project in your village. If you agree, we will ask you to answer several questions availability of water, access to safe drinking water at your home, hygiene and sanitation status at your home. We will ask you these questions in another room, without the presence of any health worker

1.1.3 Risks /Discomforts

The questions will take less than 45 minutes to complete. If there are any questions you do not want to answer, you may refuse to answer them without consequence. None of the information obtained will be identified with you or your family in any way.

1.1.4 Confidentiality

1.1.5 During the question period, I will write down the information you tell me. The record of this interview will not have any information that can be used to identify you or your family member. We will not tell any community member, or household member about the information you provide. All the information collected will be stored in a locked area.

1.1.6 Voluntary Consent

It is your decision whether or not to be in this study. You may stop participating in the study at any time without consequence. If you decided not to participate, you or your family member will get the same care that he or she would otherwise receive.

1.1.7 Whom to Contact

If you have any questions now, I will answer them. If you have questions later, you can contact

Dr. Farooqi @ telephone no. 0781675290

Do you agree to participate in this study? Yes No

Signed by interviewer after subject has verbally consented

1 IDENTIFICATION	
Province Name: _____	Province Code: __ __ __
District Name: _____	District Code: __ __ __
Village Name: _____	Code: __ __ __ __ __
Interview ID number:	
Interview Date:	

I. Functioning of Program

I01	Are you enrolled in emergency food distribution program from YVO	1. Yes 2. No	CHS 6&8
I02	Since when you were enrolled	Date of enrollment _____ Duration in months _____	
I03	How long you are enrolled in the program	Duration in months _____	
I04	How many tokens you have received so far	1. Zero 2. One 3. Two 4. Three 5. Three or more	
I05	How many times you have received cash	1. Once 2. Twice 3. Three 4. Three or more	

106	How long did it take you to get to the distribution point, from the place that you live?	Minutes _____	
107	How long did you wait to receive your voucher/cash, from the moment you arrived at the distribution point?	Minutes _____	
108	How much did it cost you (total) to receive the voucher/cash	Total cost (transportation, etc) _____	CHS 3
109	How did you used the cash assistance provided?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bought non-staple foods 2. Bought staple foods 3. Bought Qat or other tobacco products 4. Bought Nonfood goods 5. Voluntarily shared or given to family members outside the household 6. Use it for repaying debts 7. Saved for use beyond the two weeks of receiving the cash 8. Stolen or obliged to give to other relative or neighbor 9. Used it in transportation 	CHS I
110	Were you able to purchase food with the given cash from market?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. No 	CHS I
111	If No , what are the reasons	Reason 1 _____ Reason 2 _____	CHS I
112	How cash assistance has helped the household (choose multiple, do not share the options)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provided food for children and members 2. Improved the quality of food we used to eat 3. Improve the health of children 4. Improve health of women 5. Improve health of members 6. Mental Peace 7. Improved financial status by less borrowing of money for food 8. Decrease the burden on women and children to work and earn for food 9. Decrease the burden on household members to work and earn for food 10. Could now use household earning on other essential items and bills 11. Improve the quality of life 12. Others (specify) _____ 	

113	Are you part of any other assistance program ?	1. Yes 2. No	CHS I
114	If Yes, share the details		CHS I

2. Food Assessment

201	During the past 7 Days, has anyone in your household done any of these things?	1. Yes 2. No	CHS I: Communities and people affected by crisis receive assistance appropriate and relevant to their needs.
202	Rely on less preferred food and less expensive food	1. Yes 2. No	
203	Borrow food, or rely on help from friends and relatives	1. Yes 2. No	
204	Limit portion size at mealtimes	1. Yes 2. No	
205	Restrict Consumption by adults in order for small children to eat	1. Yes 2. No	
206	Reduced number of meals eaten in a day	1. Yes 2. No	
207	On Average, how long will your household current food stocks will last?	1. No Stocks 2. Less than a week 3. 1 to 3 weeks 4. Up to 3 months 5. Over 3 months	

3. Complaint management system

301	Is there a complaint /feedback system	1. Yes 2. No	CHS4 & CHS5
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302	Have you ever use the complaint system for feedback or any problem	1. Yes 2. No	
303	Is there a authorized person to resolve issues Such as Name/designation and contact information	1. Yes 2. No	
304	Was your issue resolved?	1. Yes 2. No	
305	Was your issue resolved in timely manner?	1. Yes 2. No	
306	Did you notice any improvement in the cash distribution system after complaint was resolved	1. Yes 2. No	

4. Beneficiary Satisfaction

#	Description	Answer	
401	Did you received cash on time	1. Yes 2. No	CHS 2: Humanitarian response is effective and timely
402	Did you received full cash as informed by VYO staff?	1. Yes 2. No	
403	Were you Treated courteously?	1. Yes 2. No	
404	Emergency food distribution program is fair and is helpful for family?	1. Yes 2. No	
405	Will you continue being receiving cash as part of program	1. Yes 2. No	
406	If No.....what are the reasons	Reason 1 Reason 2	
407	Is cash assistance sufficient to provide food for family for one month?	1. Yes 2. No	
408	If No, provide explanation		

5. Satisfaction Score

I'm going to read you a series of questions about different aspects of cash assistance service you received . If you are very satisfied with this aspect, then give it 4 , If you are very dissatisfied with it give 1.		DIS SATIS-IFED	2 DIS-SATIS- IFED	3 Neutral	4 SATIS-IFED	5 VERY SATISFIED
501	How satisfied are you with the cash distribution system?	1	2	3	4	5
502	How satisfied are you with how the YVO staff informed about the process?	1	2	3	4	5
503	How satisfied are you with the ease of getting the cash?	1	2	3	4	5
504	How satisfied are you with location of cash distribution?	1	2	3	4	5
505	How satisfied are you with the amount of time you spent waiting?	1	2	3	4	5
506	How satisfied are you with the respectfulness of the staff?	1	2	3	4	5
507	How satisfied are you with the travel cost and time you have to spend away from job to reach to location and receive cash?	1	2	3	4	5
508	How satisfied are you with your overall cash assistance program?	1	2	3	4	5

Thank You

Form #

Non-Beneficiary Interview

Third-party Project Monitoring & Evaluation of JPF Funded Projects in Afghanistan

Conducted by: Health Protection and Research Organization (HPRO);

Supported by: Japan Platform

Beneficiary Verbal Informed Consent

Instructions for the Interviewer: *The following is to be read verbatim to the client prior to the consultation and interview. If the client then agrees to participate, you must sign on the line marked at the end of this form. Also mark the date on the appropriate line. In case of minors (children or adolescents <age 18 years), the consent text will be read to parent or guardian accompanying the client and informed consent to be sought from the parent/guardian*

Purpose of the Study

This is with respect to Third-party Project Monitoring & Evaluation of JPF Funded Projects in Afghanistan. We would like to ask you some questions about token and food distribution provided by YVO. This information will help the JPF project and its partner NGO's in improving their project work. However, there is no immediate or direct benefit to you for participating.

1.1.8 Procedures

1.1.9 To obtain the necessary information, you have been chosen randomly to participate from among the people who were not chosen as beneficiary of this project in your village. If you agree, we will ask you to answer several questions about your perception of the cash distribution program. We will ask you these questions in another room, without the presence of any health worker

1.1.10 Risks /Discomforts

The questions will take less than 45 minutes to complete. If there are any questions you do not want to answer, you may refuse to answer them without consequence. None of the information obtained will be identified with you or your family in any way.

1.1.11 Confidentiality

1.1.12 During the question period, I will write down the information you tell me. The record of this interview will not have any information that can be used to identify you or your family member. We will not tell any community member, or household member about the information you provide. All the information collected will be stored in a locked area.

1.1.13 Voluntary Consent

It is your decision whether or not to be in this study. You may stop participating in the study at any time without consequence. If you decided not to participate, you or your family member will get the same care that he or she would otherwise receive.

1.1.14 Whom to Contact

If you have any questions now, I will answer them. If you have questions later, you can contact

Dr. Farooqi @ telephone no. 0781675290

Do you agree to participate in this study? Yes No

Signed by interviewer after subject has verbally consented

2 IDENTIFICATION

Province Name:|_____| Province Code: |__|__|__|

District Name: |_____| District Code: |__|__|__|

Village Name:|_____|Code: |__|__|__|__|__|

Interview ID number:

3. Functioning of Program

101	Are you aware about the emergency food distribution program from YVO	3. Yes 4. No	
102	Are you aware about how much cash assistance is provided?		
103	Are your relatives enrolled in the program?	1. Yes 2. No	
	How many earning members in the family?	1. One 2. Two 3. More than two 4. None	
104	Do you consider the program beneficial for your household?	10. Yes 11. No 97. Donk Know	
105	How cash assistance would have helped the household (choose multiple, do not share the options)	13. Provided food for children and members 14. Improved the quality of food we used to eat 15. Improved the health of children 16. Improved health of women 17. Improved health of members 18. Mental Peace 19. Improved financial status by less borrowing of money for food 20. Decrease the burden on women and children to work and earn for food 21. Decrease the burden on household members to work and earn for food 22. Improved the quality of life 23. Others (specify)_____	

113	Are you part of any other assistance program ?	3. Yes 4. No	CHS I
114	If Yes, share the details		CHS I

4. Food Assessment

201	During the past 7 Days, has anyone in your household done any of these things?	3. Yes 4. No	
202	Rely on less preferred food and less expensive food	3. Yes 4. No	
203	Borrow food, or rely on help from friends and relatives	3. Yes 4. No	
204	Limit portion size at mealtimes	3. Yes 4. No	
205	Restrict Consumption by adults in order for small children to eat	3. Yes 4. No	
206	Reduced number of meals eaten in a day	6. Yes 7. No	
207	On Average, how long will your household current food stocks will last?	1. No Stocks 2. Less than a week 3. 1 to 3 weeks 4. Up to 3 months 5. Over 3 months	

Please tell me any additional insight on the cash distribution you may have

****Thank You****

Form #

KII community leader

Third-party Project Monitoring & Evaluation of JPF Funded Projects in Afghanistan

Conducted by: Health Protection and Research Organization (HPRO);

Supported by: Japan Platform

Beneficiary Verbal Informed Consent

Instructions for the Interviewer: *The following is to be read verbatim to the client prior to the consultation and interview. If the client then agrees to participate, you must sign on the line marked at the end of this form. Also mark the date on the appropriate line. In case of minors (children or adolescents <age 18 years), the consent text will be read to parent or guardian accompanying the client and informed consent to be sought from the parent/guardian*

Purpose of the Study

This is with respect to Third-party Project Monitoring & Evaluation of JPF Funded Projects in Afghanistan. We would like to ask you some questions about token and food distribution provided by YVO. This information will help the JPF project and its partner NGO's in improving their project work. However, there is no immediate or direct benefit to you for participating.

1.1.15 Procedures

1.1.16 To obtain the necessary information, you have been chosen purposively to participate from among the beneficiary of this project in your village because you are familiar with the program. If you agree, we will ask you to answer several questions about cash distribution to families in your village. We will ask you these questions in another room, without the presence of any health worker

1.1.17 Risks /Discomforts

The questions will take less than 45 minutes to complete. If there are any questions you do not want to answer, you may refuse to answer them without consequence. None of the information obtained will be identified with you or your family in any way.

1.1.18 Confidentiality

1.1.19 During the question period, I will write down the information you tell me. The record of this interview will not have any information that can be used to identify you or your family member. We will not tell any community member, or household member about the information you provide. All the information collected will be stored in a locked area.

1.1.20 Voluntary Consent

It is your decision whether or not to be in this study. You may stop participating in the study at any time without consequence. If you decided not to participate, you or your family member will get the same care that he or she would otherwise receive.

1.1.21 Whom to Contact

If you have any questions now, I will answer them. If you have questions later, you can contact

Dr. Farooqi @ telephone no. 0781675290

Do you agree to participate in this study? Yes No

Signed by interviewer after subject has verbally consented

3 IDENTIFICATION

Province Name:|_____| Province Code: |__|__|__|

District Name: |_____| District Code: |__|__|__|

Village Name:|_____|Code: |__|__|__|__|__|

Interview ID number:

CHS1 Humanitarian response is appropriate and relevant.

Q1 Is program targeting people in the ‘need of food’ ? If No, what kind of people/HH are missed or should be targeted

CHS2---- Humanitarian response is effective and timely

Q2. Are people enrolled receiving the token timely ? If No, why

CHS 8: Communities and people affected by crisis receive the assistance they require from competent and well-managed staff and volunteers.

Q3 Are people receiving the cash amount as promised? If No, what are the reasons

CHS I : Humanitarian response is appropriate and relevant.

Q4. Are enrolled HH’s using cash for buying food? If No where the money is spend? List three items

Q5	How cash assistance has helped the household (choose multiple, do not share the options)	24. Provided food for children and members 25. Improved the quality of food we used to eat 26. Improve the health of children 27. Improve health of women 28. Improve health of members 29. Mental Peace 30. Improved financial status by less borrowing of money for food 31. Decrease the burden on women and children to work and earn for food 32. Decrease the burden on household members to work and earn for food 33. Improve the quality of life 34. Others (specify)_____
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Q6. Are there any other NGO’s operating such programs in the district or operated in past two years? If yes share the details of their activities

CHS 5: Communities and people affected by crisis have access to safe and responsive mechanisms to handle complaints. Quality Criterion: Complaints are welcomed and addressed

7. Complaint management system

701	Is there a complaint /feedback system	3. Yes 4. No	CHS4 & CHS5
702	Have you ever use the complaint system for feedback or any problem	3. Yes 4. No	
703	Is there a authorized person to resolve issues Such as Name/designation and contact information	3. Yes 4. No	
704	Was your issue resolved?	3. Yes 4. No	
705	Was your issue resolved in timely manner?	3. Yes 4. No	
706	Did you notice any improvement in the cash distribution system after complaint was resolved	3. Yes 4. No	

Q7. Are you satisfied with the program,? What can be improved

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Form #

Key Informant Interview- Department of Agriculture Representatives

Third-party Project Monitoring & Evaluation of JPF Funded Projects in Afghanistan

Conducted by: Health Protection and Research Organization (HPRO);

Supported by: Japan Platform

Beneficiary Verbal Informed Consent

Instructions for the Interviewer: The following is to be read verbatim to the client prior to the consultation and interview. If the client then agrees to participate, you must sign on the line marked at the end of this form. Also mark the date on the appropriate line.

Purpose of the Study

This is with respect to Third-party Project Monitoring & Evaluation of JPF Funded Projects in Afghanistan. We would like to ask you some questions about the Cash for Food assistance program by PWJ & VYO. This information will help the PWJ & VYO project in improving their project work. However, there is no immediate or direct benefit to you for participating.

1.1.22 Procedures

1.1.23 To obtain the necessary information, you have been chosen purposively to participate because you have information about the project. If you agree, we will ask you to answer several questions about cash distribution program and its use by the community members who received that. We will ask you these questions in another room, without the presence of any person.

1.1.24 Risks /Discomforts

The questions will take less than 45 minutes to complete. If there are any questions you do not want to answer, you may refuse to answer them without consequence. None of the information obtained will be identified with you or your family in any way.

1.1.25 Confidentiality

1.1.26 During the question period, I will write down the information you tell me. The record of this interview will not have any information that can be used to identify you. We will not tell to any project staff or community member, or household member about the information you provide or your name, which will not be recorded. All the information collected will be stored in a locked area.

1.1.27 Voluntary Consent

It is your decision whether or not to be in this study. You may stop participating in the study at any time without consequence.

1.1.28 Whom to Contact

If you have any questions now, I will answer them. If you have questions later, you can contact

Dr. Farooqi @ telephone no. 0781675290

Do you agree to participate in this study? Yes No

Signed by interviewer after subject has verbally consented

Participant characteristics	
Job title	
Organization	
Sex	
Age	
Contact number	

1. Can you tell me how much you are informed of the PWJ/VYO emergency food distribution program in Rodat, Chaparhar, Khogyani, and Pachir Aw Agam) districts? project? (probe: project scope, status, completion, outcome and impact? selection of site?)
2. Is coordination meetings conducted regularly with PWJ/VYO ? when was the last meeting held and what was discussed?
3. Four districts are selected for emergency food distribution program in Rodat, Chaparhar, Khogyani, and Pachir Aw Agam? What was the basis for selection of these districts? Has the situation improved among vulnerable households after the start of the program. If so, how? If not, why not?
4. In your view are targeted beneficiaries using cash assistance for buying food? (Probe: what gaps do you see in the project and what would you recommend to improve it)?

5. How often monitoring visit by department officials were conducted? What were the findings of last visit? Were the findings shared with VYO and how the recommendations were incorporated in the project? Please share report if you have.
6. Could you tell me how much is community involved in the project:

Prob: Is community involved in planning, execution of project?
Is community involved in monitoring of the project?
Is community informed of the findings?
Is the community actively sharing concerns and feedback?
7. Is there a complaint management system? (probe: is it effective? Complaints resolved on time and feedback shared with complainant?
8. In your view does VYO has system of beneficiary feedback and improving project management based on feedback.
9. What are the initiatives taken under project to bring sustainability? Please share your ideas and inputs

Thank you for your participation in the interview

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Form #

Key Informant Interview- Food Security Cluster Chair/ Co-Chair or Coordinator Representatives

Third-party Project Monitoring & Evaluation of JPF Funded Projects in Afghanistan

Conducted by: Health Protection and Research Organization (HPRO);

Supported by: Japan Platform

Beneficiary Verbal Informed Consent

Instructions for the Interviewer: *The following is to be read verbatim to the client prior to the consultation and interview. If the client then agrees to participate, you must sign on the line marked at the end of this form. Also mark the date on the appropriate line.*

Purpose of the Study

This is with respect to Third-party Project Monitoring & Evaluation of JPF Funded Projects in Afghanistan. We would like to ask you some questions about the Cash for Food assistance program by PWJ & VYO. This information will help the PWJ & VYO project in improving their project work. However, there is no immediate or direct benefit to you for participating.

1.1.29 Procedures

1.1.30 To obtain the necessary information, you have been chosen randomly to participate from among the beneficiary of this project in your organization. If you agree, we will ask you to answer several questions about the cash distribution program by PWJ and YVO. We will ask you these questions in another room, without the presence of any person.

1.1.31 Risks /Discomforts

The questions will take less than 45 minutes to complete. If there are any questions you do not want to answer, you may refuse to answer them without consequence. None of the information obtained will be identified with you or your family in any way.

1.1.32 Confidentiality

1.1.33 During the question period, I will write down the information you tell me. The record of this interview will not have any information that can be used to identify you. We will not tell to any project staff or community member, or household member about the information you provide or your name, which will not be recorded. All the information collected will be stored in a locked area.

1.1.34 Voluntary Consent

It is your decision whether or not to be in this study. You may stop participating in the study at any time without consequence.

1.1.35 Whom to Contact

If you have any questions now, I will answer them. If you have questions later, you can contact

Dr. Farooqi @ telephone no. 0781675290

Do you agree to participate in this study? Yes No

Signed by interviewer after subject has verbally consented

Participant characteristics	
Job title	
Organization	
Sex	
Contact number/ email	

1. for stakeholders: Can you tell me how much you are informed of the PWJ/ VYO emergency food distribution program in Rodat, Chaparhar, Khogyani, and Pachir Aw Agam) districts? (Probe: project scope, status, completion, outcome? selection of site?)
2. Is project able to identify right set of beneficiaries for the program? If not, why not? (probe: use of scientific tools such as wealth index or SES (Socio-economic studies) or SDES scale used in afghanistan)
3. How do you think PWJ project identify the right cash amount required for vulnerable household? Why or why not (Probe: what gaps do you see in the project and what would you recommend)?
4. How food security cluster supported PWJ/ VYO in achieving the aim of addressing food security needs in four districts?
5. is community involved in the project? Planning, monitoring, implementation? How much community is actively sharing feedback, complaint and concerns?
6. What gaps do you see in the project and what would you recommend)?
7. What is the likelihood that the community will be able to sustain the project? How other NGO's working in food security ensuring sustainability?

Thank you for your participation in the interview

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Form #

Key Informant Interview- YVO Staff

Third-party Project Monitoring & Evaluation of JPF Funded Projects in Afghanistan

Conducted by: Health Protection and Research Organization (HPRO);

Supported by: Japan Platform

Participant characteristics	
Job title	
Organization	
Sex	
Age	
Contact number	

CHS7: Humanitarian actors continuously learn and improve

1. Is coordination meetings conducted regularly with PWJ? When was the last meeting held and what was discussed? What actions were taken to improve project management

CHS 1: Humanitarian response is appropriate and relevant.

2. Some of the beneficiaries were not included in the program inspite of being scored more than 12 as per long list, what are the reason?
3. There are certain delays in organizing locations and informing beneficiaries for token distribution or cash distribution? What were the reasons? How they are overcome now?

CHS 4, 5 &6: Communities and people affected by crisis know their rights and entitlements, have access to information and participate in decisions that affect them.

4. Could you tell me how much is community involved in the project:

Prob: Is community involved in planning, execution of project?

Is community involved in monitoring of the project?

Is the community actively sharing concerns and feedback?

5. How do you monitor the complaint redressal system, how do you ensure complaint resolution is communicated to complainant? How do you ensure complaint mechanism is accessible, effective, confidential and safe for their use?

CHS 7- Communities and people affected by crisis can expect delivery of improved assistance as organisations learn from experience and reflection.

6. How is monitoring reports feedback incorporated in the project implementation? How complaints and feedback mechanism providing inputs to implementation team on ground?-
7. How do you monitor beneficiaries from insecure districts post distribution , if household visit is not possible
8. How monitoring by government department of agriculture is effective and helpful for the project? State examples
9. How do you ensure stakeholder participation and communication such as DoA? State examples
10. What could have been done to improve project implementation?

Thank you for your participation in the interview