BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

- In April 2017, WFP Afghanistan Country Office piloted an mVAM Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) data collection activity by conducting phone interviews with returnee households in Jalalabad City who had received WFP assistance in over the past month. A total of 58 phone interviews were conducted (32 women and 26 men respondents) with people whose phone numbers were collected during registration for assistance. Two multi-lingual, trained WFP female operators conducted the interviews between 19 – 24 April. In total, 38 respondents were the head of the households, of which 13 respondents (22 percent of the total) were female heads of household, and 20 were alternates.

- One of the main objectives of this activity was to test the ease and reliability of PDM data collection through phone interviews. The findings will also help WFP to better understand the effects of food and cash assistance on the food security of the households. The findings in this report can also be considered as a baseline for the next round of the mobile PDM data collection in Jalalabad City, which will help better understand the changes in food security situation of the beneficiaries during a specific time period.

Key Findings

**Household Composition:** The average household composition includes 1 boy and 1 girl each under five years of age, 2 boys and 1 girl aged 5-17, and 1 man and 1 woman aged 18-59. This was the typical household.

- The median household size was 9 for Male Headed Households (MHH), and 8 for Female Headed Households (FHH).
- 24 percent of MHH and 15 percent of FHH have a member aged 60 or older.
- Over 80 percent of MHH had a child less than 5 years of age, compared to 69 percent of FHH.

**Type of assistance:** Based on the findings from the interviews, it was reported that 76 percent received both food and cash assistance in the past 3 months (January – March 2017); 7 percent received only cash and 17 percent received only food assistance from WFP. There are also a limited number of households that received assistance from both WFP and government in the same month.

Most households reported receiving the standard food rations and the standard cash allocation of AFN 6,000 per household per month, with only a few exceptions that reported higher amount then the allocated amount of WFP. The households that reported higher amount were also likely the beneficiaries of the government in the same month.
In terms of per capita cash received, there were differences between male and female headed households:

- Female headed households received around AFN 667 per capita
- Male headed households received around AFN 750 per capita

Per capita cash received was higher for Households with acceptable dietary diversity and food frequency. The majority of the beneficiaries that were interviewed received assistance from WFP in the distribution sites located in Jalalabad main city. A limited number also reported that they received assistance in Torkham border.

**Usage of cash:** The beneficiaries that received cash assistance from WFP indicated that the cash provided was mainly used to buy food, or to pay for health care, shelter or transportation costs. Fewer households used the cash to pay off household loans or debts, buy non-food items (kitchen items, blankets, other equipment) or pay for education cost of the children, including school fees. There were some noticeable differences between FHH and MHH in the use of cash:

- Female Headed Households were much more likely to use cash for shelter and transport than MHH. They were also more likely to use cash for health care and to pay off loans or debts.
- Male Headed Households were more likely to use the cash to purchase food, than FHH.

**Household Dietary Diversity and Food Frequency**

The interview collected information on the number of days in the past week that the household had consumed different foods or food groups. This information was used to calculated a food consumption score that reflects relative household food security, based upon dietary diversity and food frequency. Households were then classified as having either ‘acceptable’, ‘borderline’ or ‘poor’ food consumption. In this PDM the following results were found:

- Overall only 18 percent of MHH and 15 percent of FHH had acceptable consumption, in terms of dietary diversity and food frequency.
- However, 27 percent of MHH had poor consumption, compared to 23 percent of FHH.
- Households that received both cash and food were more likely to have acceptable consumption (19 percent) but they were also more likely to have poor consumption (27 percent).
- Households receiving only food or cash were the most likely to have borderline consumption (64 percent) and the least likely to have poor (22 percent) or acceptable (14 percent) consumption. This may reflect some variation in targeting criteria to where these households were not the best nor the worst off.
Key Findings

The chart below shows the variation in weekly consumption by different groups. Households with poor consumption are typically eating wheat/bread, sugar and oil on a daily basis while consuming pulses or vegetables only 1 day per week. Households with acceptable consumption are managing daily consumption of wheat/bread, dairy, sugar and oil, along with occasional consumption of pulses and vegetables. Meat is consumed once a week.

Chart 3: Median number of days of different foods consumed, by food consumption categories

The main sources of food for these households are purchase using their own cash, buy through credit and food assistance from WFP with a limited number relying on cash from government and other agencies and support from friends and relatives.

- Households with poor consumption are more likely to rely on purchases using their own cash to access food and least likely to have used cash from Government, UN or NGOs or to use credit.
- Households with acceptable consumption are the most likely to have used cash from Government, UN or NGOs or to receive food as gifts from family or friends.

Way forward

The findings in this reports are based on the first mobile (mVAM) data collection which was piloted in Jalalabad City. The lesson learned from the first round of the PDM data collection is that there is need to adapt the questionnaire and combine both the PDM and cross-cutting/protection questions into a single instrument to save time and also to not overload the beneficiaries with multiple calls.

The next round of the Post-Distribution Monitoring is planned in Batikot and Rodat districts of Nangarhar province in which the data will be collected using the revised questionnaire. The mVAM team will also collect a second round of the PDM data from the same areas (Batikot and Rodat) after a month or two to see the changes among some key indicators which will be reflected in the report.

For further information:
mudasir.nazar@wfp.org and eric.kenefick@wfp.org
mVAM website: http://vam.wfp.org/mvam VAM website: vam.wfp.org