



**World Food Programme**

# WFP Myanmar



**2014 Post Distribution Monitoring Report  
Life-Saving Food Assistance to IDPs  
in Rakhine and Kachin States**



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*Group discussion with women during PDM exercise in Rakhine State*

*Photo/WFP*

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## Introduction

This report summarizes the results of the Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) conducted with Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Rakhine and Kachin State in October/November 2014 receiving food assistance provided by WFP.

The PDM seeks to measure the effectiveness and impact of the food distribution on the recipient population. Data is gathered at household level through on the following indicators:

- Household demographics,
- Income generation activities,
- Awareness on food assistance,
- Management of food distribution, protection
- Food utilization and beneficiary satisfaction on food provided,
- Access to food and food based coping mechanisms,
- Expenditures, credit and debts

Complementary information to the above indicators was also collected through group discussions held in each of the camp/villages sampled for household data collection.

Separate sampling were conducted for IDP food recipients in Rakhine and Kachin States. In each area, the sampling framework used was the complete list of camps/villages where food assistance is provided under life-saving relief. Within the sampling framework a sampling proportional to size was applied to select camps/villages to visit. In each camp/village sampled, simple random sampling was applied amongst all households receiving food assistant to select which households to interview. In the present report, indicators are reported separately for Rakhine and for Kachin relief operational areas.

In Rakhine, 405 beneficiary households were interviewed and 32 focus group discussions were conducted in 32 camps/villages.

In Kachin, 351 beneficiary households were interviewed and 43 focus group discussions were conducted in 43 camps/villages.

Table 1: List of camps/villages sampled in **Rakhine** and number of households sampled in each camp/village

<b>Township</b>	<b>Camp Name</b>	<b>Nb of Households sampled</b>
Kyauk Phyu	Than Phyu	15
Kyauk Phyu	Kyauk Ta Lone	15
<b>sub-total</b>		<b>30</b>
Kyauk Taw	Shwe Hlaing	15
Kyauk Taw	Inn Bar Yi	15
Kyauk Taw	San Kar Taung	15
<b>sub-total</b>		<b>45</b>
Mrauk U	Pa Rein	15
Mrauk U	Ya Thei	15
<b>sub-total</b>		<b>30</b>
Mimbya	Tha Dar	15
Mimbya	Sam Ba Le	15
<b>sub-total</b>		<b>30</b>
Myebon	Kan Thar Htwat Wa	15
Myebon	Taung Paw	15
<b>sub-total</b>		<b>30</b>
Pauk Taw	Kyae Ni Pyin	15
<b>sub-total</b>		<b>15</b>
Sittwe	Phwe Yar Gone	15
Sittwe	Say Tha Mar Gyi	15
Sittwe	Ohn Taw Gyi 4	15
Sittwe	Dar Bine	30
Sittwe	Thet Kay Pyin	15
Sittwe	U Yin Thar	15
Sittwe	Thae Chaung	45
Sittwe	Baw Du Pha	30
Sittwe	Sat Yoae Kya	15
Sittwe	Ohn Taw Gyi(south)	15
Sittwe	Thet Kay Pyin	15
<b>sub-total</b>		<b>225</b>
<b>Grand-total</b>		<b>405</b>

Table 2: List of camps/villages sampled in **Kachin** and number of households sampled in each camp/village

Township	Camp Name	Nb of Households sampled
Myitkyina	Njang Dung Baptist Church	5
	Tat Kone San Pya Baptist Church	3
	Shatapru Sut Ngai Tawng	9
	Myay Myint Baptist Church	2
	Shwe Zet Baptist Church	8
	St. Joseph (Palana)	3
	Du Kahtawng Qtr 4	6
	Wun Tho Buddhist Monastery	2
	Kyun Pin Thart Baptist Church	5
	Le Kone Bethlehem Church	8
	Maw Hpawng Hka Nan Baptisht Church	2
Nan Kway St Joseph Catholic Church	7	
<b>sub-total</b>		<b>60</b>
Pharkant	Baptist Church (Namt Ma Phyt)	6
	Englican Church (Maw Wan)	2
	Li Su Baptist Church (Seik Mu)	2
	Coc (Nant Ma Phyt)	2
	Lone Khin Baptist Church	6
	Dhama Rakhita/Nyein Chan Thayar	5
	Ag (Mawsisar)	5
Baptist Church (Naung Hmee)	2	
<b>sub-total</b>		<b>30</b>
Kar Mai	Hlaing Naung Baptist Church	5
<b>sub-total</b>		<b>5</b>
Moeguag	Mang Hawng Baptist Church	3
	Nat Gyi Kone Baptist Church	2
<b>sub-total</b>		<b>5</b>
Moenyin	Nant Mon	5
<b>sub-total</b>		<b>5</b>
Waing Maw	Kat Cho	13
	Nawng Hee Village	2
	Mading Baptist Church	2
	Maina AG Church	11
	Waingmaw AG Church	9
	Main KBC (Bawng Ring)	38
<b>sub-total</b>		<b>75</b>
Bhamo	Robert Church	45
	AD-2000 Tharthana compound	18
	Htoi San Church	4
	Nant Hlaing Church	2
	Bhamo Host families	25
	Ta Gun Taing Monastery (Shwe Kyi Na)	6
<b>sub-total</b>		<b>100</b>
Moe Mauk	Moemauk Baptist Church	35
	Ni Thaw Ka Monastery	2
	Moemauk Catholic Church	11
	Myo Thit village	2
<b>sub-total</b>		<b>50</b>
Man Si	Mansi Baptist Church	10
<b>sub-total</b>		<b>10</b>
Shwe Ku	Shwe Ku Baptist Church	5
	Shwe KU Catholic Church	5
<b>sub-total</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>Grand-total</b>		<b>350</b>

## Part I

### 1. Household demographics

**In Kachin:** The household average size amongst the interviewed households was close to 5.5 (5.1) members. Forty-three percent of the households were reportedly headed by women. More than a fifth (22.2%) of the households had members who could recently migrate for short term work opportunities.

**In Rakhine:** The household average size amongst the interviewed households was close to 5.4 (5.37) members. Twenty three percent of the households were headed by women. Only 3% (3.2%) of the households reported having members who could recently migrate for short term work opportunities.

### 2. Awareness of assistance, other assistance received

In both operational areas, the large majority (89.7% in Kachin and 92% in Rakhine) reported knowing who was providing the food assistance, mentioning the food was either provided by WFP, its implementing partners or both.

Households were also asked if they received any cash assistance in 2014. In this regard clear disparities were observed between Kachin and Rakhine operational areas:

- **In Rakhine operational area: less than 2% (1.6%) reported receiving cash assistance in 2014**
- **In Kachin operational area: 60% (59.8%) reported receiving cash assistance in 2014**

Cash<sup>1</sup> was largely reported as being provided by NGOs and CBOs with limited precision on which organization was distributing the money.

### 3. Food distribution management, process

The analysis of the responses on how the food provided by WFP is actually distributed to beneficiaries shows different modus-operandi between the two operational areas.

#### ***In Kachin:***

Food was largely reported being distributed by WFP's partners, with 91% of the camps reporting that way. Food was reportedly distributed directly by Food Management Committees (FMCs) in around 5% of the cases equally with the food distributed directly by WFP.

The overall participation of the FMCs in the food distribution was lower in Kachin operational area, as they reportedly involved in the distributions of only 66% of the camps monitored.

Women were in majority in the FMCs as in average women represented 53% of the FMCs membership.

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<sup>1</sup> This cash is not provided by WFP

### ***In Rakhine:***

FMCs were reported to be handling the food distribution directly in 43% of the camps monitored. Cooperating Partners (CPs) were reported to be handling food distribution directly also in 43% of the camps monitored while WFP was mentioned as distributing the food directly in slightly less than 10% of the camps visited. In less than 5% of the camps visited, no answers were provided on who is actually distributing the food.

In 95% of the camps visited, respondents reported that FMCs were involved in food distribution, highlighting that FMCs also involved when they would not distribute the food directly.

Women were largely in minority in the FMCs as in average women represented 15% of the FMCs membership. None of them was at a FMCs chairperson position.

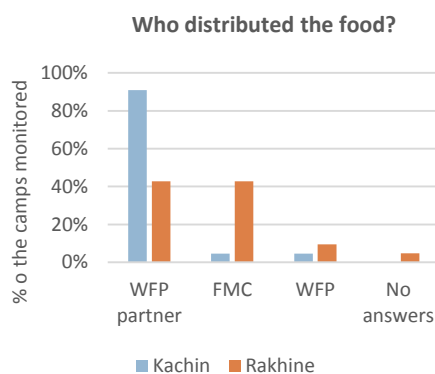


Figure 1: Food distribution modality

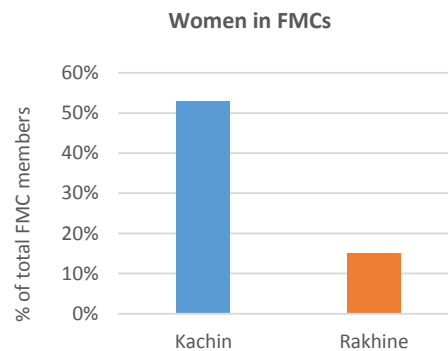


Figure 2: Women presence in FMCs

## **4. Protection and gender issues**

### ***In Kachin:***

A large majority of the respondents, **85%**, reported that **women** were responsible to handle and make decisions on **the use of food**. In 12% of the cases, decisions were made by both men and women.

**Women** were predominantly **collecting the food** at the distribution point:

- In 78% of the households women would collect alone,
- In close to 8% of the households men would collect alone,
- In 14% men and women would both collect the food.

Households did **not report** the **collection of fees or taxes** related to the food distribution. Beneficiary households also reported **feeling safe** going to and at the distribution site; no particular incidents was reported during the food distributions.

**64%** of the households reported **not being aware** of a mechanism to complaint about/report issues related to food distributions. However, the large majority (**94%**) mentioned **knowing** what criteria were to use to entitle households to food assistance.



### ***In Rakhine:***

The majority of the respondents, **63%**, responded that **women** were responsible to handle and make decision on the **use of food**. In 10% of the cases, decisions were made by both men and women.

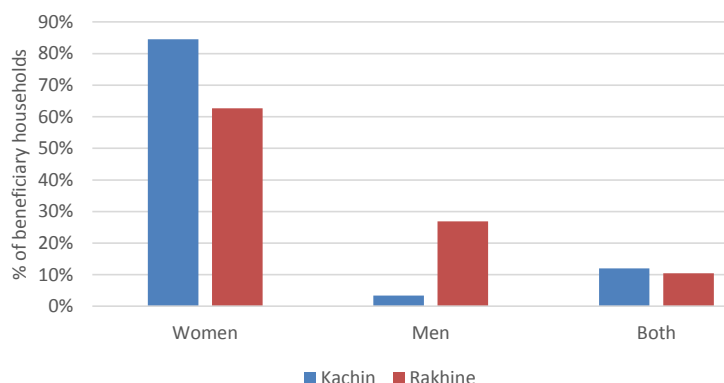
However, **men** were predominantly **collecting the food** at the distribution point:

- In 58% of the households men would collect the food alone at the distribution point,
- In 36% of the households women would collect the food alone at the distribution point,
- In 6% of the households both men and women would collect the food at the distribution point.

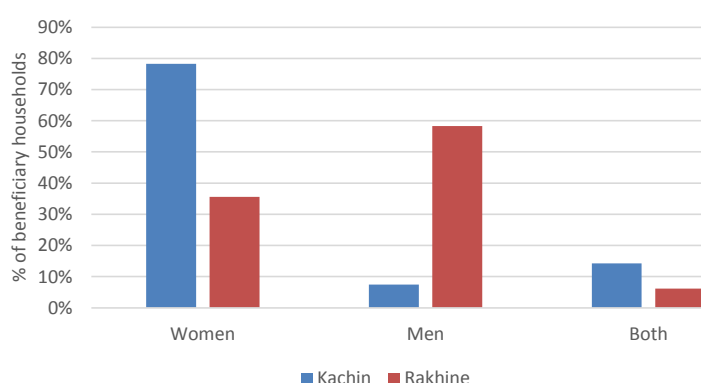
**14%** of the households reported the **collection of fees/taxes** related to the food distribution. Fees/taxes were reportedly collected by FMCs to cover transport costs (downloading costs from jetty to villages e.g.). Taxes/fees were either collected in cash or in-kind through a deduction on the ration.

**97%** of the households reported **feeling safe** going to and at the distribution site. No specific incidents occurring during the distributions were reported.

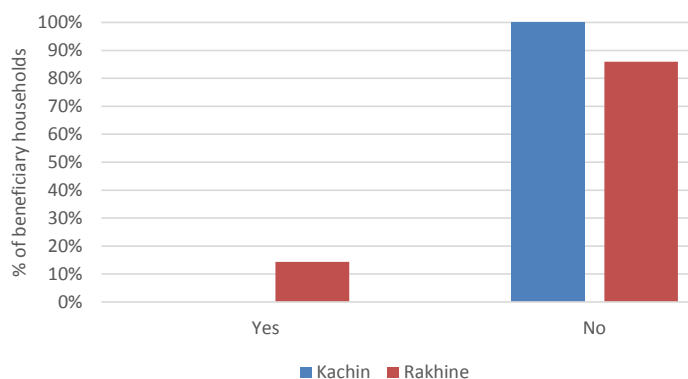
**66%** of the households reported **being aware** of a mechanism to complaint/report issues related to food distributions. However, the majority of the households (**63%**) reported **not knowing** what criteria were used to entitle households to food assistance.



*Figure 3: Gender of the person making decision on the use of food*



*Figure 4: Gender of the person collecting the food at the distribution point*



*Figure 5: Households reporting collection of taxes or fees related to the food distribution*

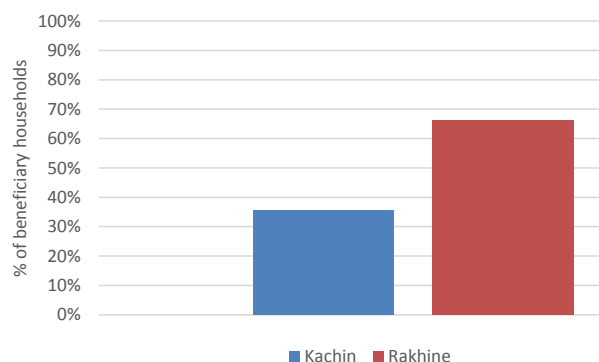


Figure 4: Households reporting knowing the existence of a complaint mechanism

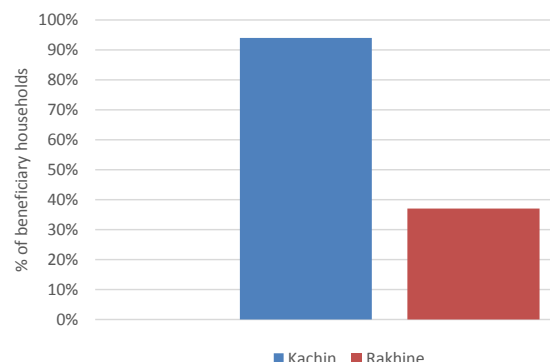


Figure 5: Households reporting knowing criteria to receive food assistance

## 5. Beneficiary satisfaction

Respondents were asked whether they were satisfied with the quantity and quality of the food provided by WFP (rice, pulses, oil and salt, blended food<sup>2</sup>).

In both operational areas, the large majority of the respondents reported an overall satisfaction on both the quality and the quantity of the food provided.

### ***In Kachin:***

While being **overall satisfied** on both **quantities** and **quality** of the food items provided, main complaints from food recipients were on:

- i) Quantities of salt provided (would like to receive more)
- ii) Quality of rice provided (would prefer to receive softer rice)
- iii) Quantities of oil provided

### ***In Rakhine:***

Respondents unanimously reported **very high satisfaction** on both **quality** and **quantities** of food items provided. Main comment made on the items pointed out a preference of Rice Soya Blend (RSB) compared to Wheat Soya Blend (WSB).

<sup>2</sup> Blended food is provided to pregnant and lactating women in both operational as well as children under 2 years of age in Kachin and under 5 years of age in Rakhine.

HH satisfaction (in % of HH)		Kachin	Rakhine
Quantity	rice	94%	100%
	Pulses	96%	99%
	Oil	88%	100%
	Salt	59%	100%
	Blended food	89%	99%
Quality	rice	83%	99%
	Pulses	91%	100%
	Oil	97%	100%
	Salt	98%	100%
	Blended food	100%	99%

Table 3: Beneficiary households' satisfaction on quantity and quality of the food items provided

## 6. Use of the ration

Beneficiary households were asked what use they normally do with the food rations provided by WFP and its implementing partners.

### *In Kachin:*

Consumption by the households' members was the main use reported for the food items provided in the rations. However, 2 items, rice and pulses were also reported being used for other purposes:

- In average, **90%** of the **rice** ration reported being **consumed**, while **6%** were **exchanged** with other commodities, **2% sold** and 1% shared with relatives
- In average, **90%** of the pulses were reported being **consumed**, **3% exchanged** with other commodities, **3% sold** and the rest **4%** used for **several purposes** (1% shared, 1% stored, 2% for other purposes).

Only a minority of households reported selling food from the ration, with rice being the most often sold (8% of the household) compared to pulses (7%). Overall, **88%** of the households reported **not selling the ration**.

### *In Rakhine:*

Consumption by the households' members was the main use reported for the food items provided in the rations. However, food items, mainly rice, pulses and oil were also reported being used for other purposes:

- In average, **86%** of the **rice** provided was reported being **consumed** while **7%** were **sold**, **4%** used to **pay debts** and **2% exchanged with other commodities**,
- In average, **80%** of the **pulses** provided were reported being **consumed**, while **15%** were **sold**, **3% exchanged** with other commodities and the rest shared with other relatives (1%) or used to pay debts (1%),
- In average, **88%** of the **oil** provided was reported being **consumed** while **10%** were **sold** and small quantities (less than 1%) were exchanged or shared with relatives.

A small majority of the households (53%) reported not selling any of the food items provided. Overall this is then **47%** of the HH reporting **selling** (part of) the **ration** when asked about what use they make of it.

When the ration is sold, the data highlights that households more often sell only one of the items provided. **Pulses** are **more often sold**, followed by oil and then rice. As mentioned above, pulses are also less consumed than any other items

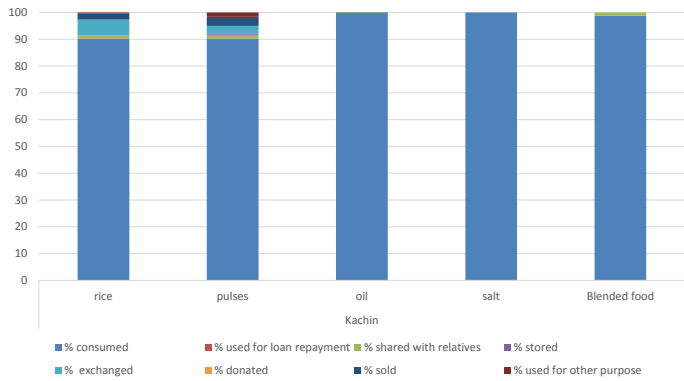


Figure 6: Use of the ration in Kachin, in % of the ration provided

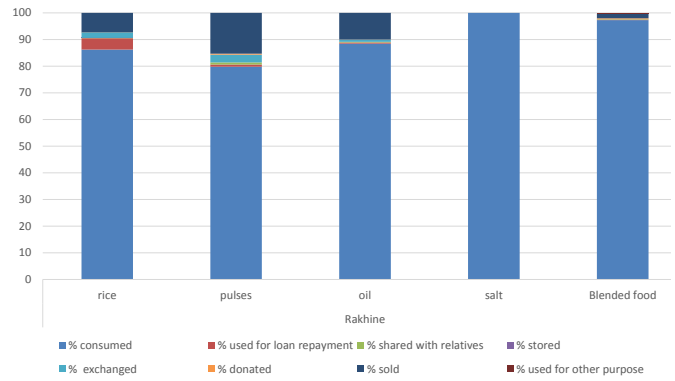


Figure 9: Use of the ration in Rakhine, in % of the ration provided

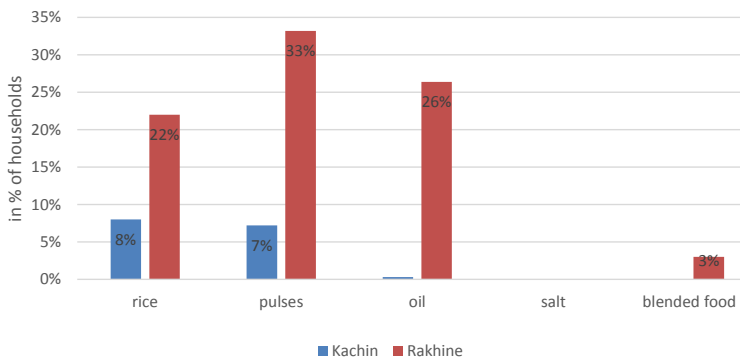


Figure 10: Percentage of households reporting selling the ration

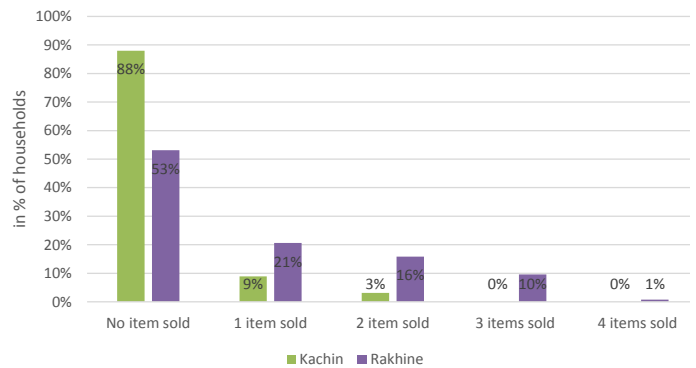


Figure 11: Number of food rations items sold, in % of households

## Part II

### 1. Household food access

In both areas, the large majority of the rice, the main staple food consumed, was reportedly coming almost entirely from WFP food ration. In Kachin, only a tiny fraction of the rice consumed was self-produced, in average 1%, while in Rakhine, purchases of rice were insignificant (in average less than 1%). When looking at the food consumption score and food based coping mechanisms, indicators of diet diversity and access to food, differences were notable between the 2 operational areas:

#### ***In Kachin:***

Similarly than in 2013 Post Distribution Monitoring, the **majority of households (90%)** were found with **appropriate diet**, measured through the food consumption score, while 9% were found with borderline diet and 1% with poor diet. This completes information provided further below that a majority of households have financial capacities to access a diversified diet, especially by completing the WFP food ration with additional food items purchased on local markets. Diet adequacy was slightly lower in the women female households (87% of adequate diets) of the sampled households compared to male headed households (92% of adequate diets)<sup>3</sup>.

Looking at food based coping mechanisms, i.e. mechanisms used to access food because of lack of food or lack of money to buy food, **78%** of the households reported **not having to use any such mechanisms**. This reveals being lower than during 2013 PDM, when 94% of the households had reported not using such mechanisms. However, as shown in the below, the majority of households using food based coping mechanisms reporting very small frequency (not daily coping). For those reporting higher frequency of use (“more than daily coping”) **main mechanisms used were borrowing food and purchasing on credit**. Within the sample, **female headed households reported more use of food based coping mechanisms** (30% of the female headed households) than male headed households (16% of the male headed households). Finally, no households reported hunger<sup>4</sup>.

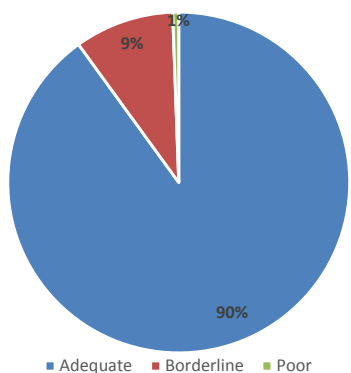


Figure 12: Households’ diet adequacy in Kachin, in percentage of households

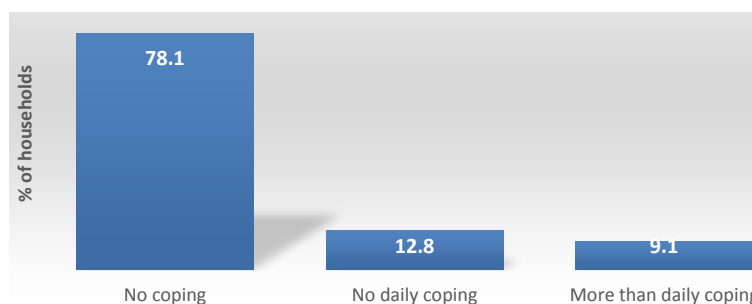


Figure 13: Use of food based coping mechanisms in Kachin, in percentage of households

<sup>3</sup> The household sampling was however not build to be representative of the differences in gender of the households’ heads.

<sup>4</sup> Measured with the Household Hunger Scale

***In Rakhine:***

76% of the households were found with **appropriate diet**, while **20%** had **borderline diets** and **4% poor diets**. While still remaining low<sup>5</sup>, this is a slight improvement compared to the 2013 PDM when 71% of the households were measured with adequate diets.

Diet adequacy was **substantially lower** in the **female headed households** of the sample, with **35%** of them reporting **inadequate diets** compared to 21% in the male headed households<sup>6</sup>.

The proportion of **households having to cope**, using food-based mechanisms, remained very high, at **53%**. This is slightly lower than during the previous PDM (59%) but continue to highlight that **more than half of the IDPs monitored had difficulties accessing food at the time of the PDM**. In addition, data indicates that households coping had to use such mechanisms at a high frequency: the majority of them had to use food based coping mechanisms on a daily basis. Main coping mechanisms used included **borrowing food** or **purchasing on credit** but also **reducing the quantities of rice consumed daily** or the **number of daily meals**.

Women headed households reported slightly higher use of food based coping mechanisms but differences within the sample were not substantial (55% for female headed households vs. 53% for male headed households).

Finally, **14%** of the beneficiary households **reported hunger** (largely moderate hunger), a lower level compared to 2013 PDM data, when 25% of the households experienced hunger. Despite, still remaining too high<sup>7</sup>, the data highlights possible improvements in accessing food. However, such improvements would not concretize the same way in female headed households than male headed households: in the monitoring sample, 20% of the female headed households experienced hunger vs. 12% for male headed households.

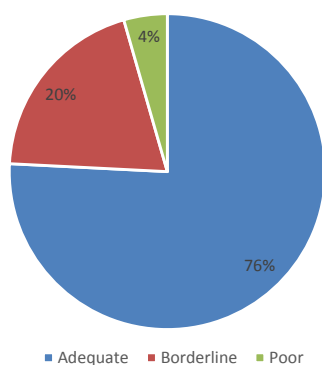


Figure 14: Households’ diet adequacy in Rakhine, in percentage of households

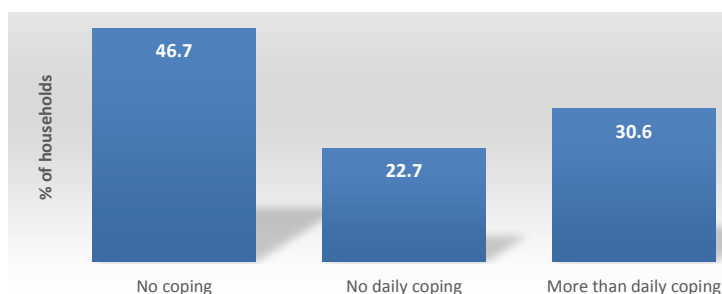


Figure 7: Use of food based coping mechanisms in Rakhine, in percentage of households

<sup>5</sup> If consumed every day, the ration provided by WFP leads to an adequate diet as measured through the Food Consumption Score.

<sup>6</sup> The household sampling was however not build to be representative of the differences in gender of the households’ heads.

<sup>7</sup> For a population receiving food assistance

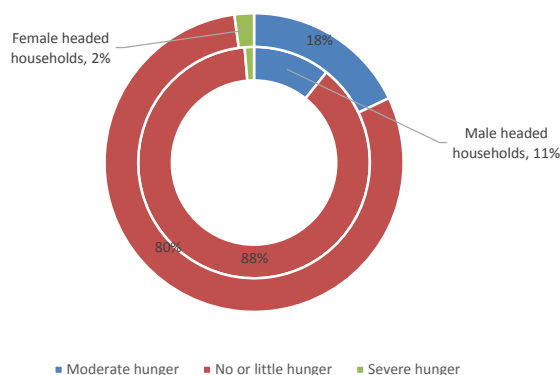


Figure 8: Household hunger, by gender of the head of households, in Rakhine (in percentage of households)

## 2. Income generation

Beneficiary households were asked to mention what activities generated income in the last 12 months and in the last months and in what amounts.

### In Kachin:

Only a fraction of the beneficiary households (less than 1%) reported no income activities or sources for the last 12 months preceding the PDM. However, the most frequent source of income cite was “**cash assistance**” with **53% of the households reporting it as such**. This aligns with the figures mentioned above in the report on the percentage of households (60%) reporting receiving cash assistance on top of food assistance. **Agriculture and non-agriculture wage labour** remain predominant with respectively **43%** and **28%** of the households reporting them as source of income. In addition, 15% of the households reported selling livestock to generate income, showing capacities in the IDPs camps/villages to breed animals (poultry and pigs mainly). Quarrying or mining was also amongst the 5 most frequent sources of income.

There were no differences of no report of income sources over the last 12 months between female headed and male headed households. In addition, no households reported selling the food ration to generate income, aligning with the very low figures reported above in section “use of the ration”.

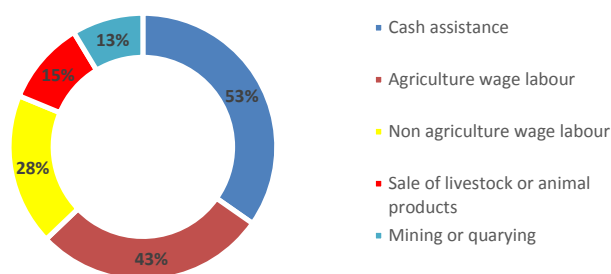


Figure 9: Five main sources of income in the last 12 months, in Kachin

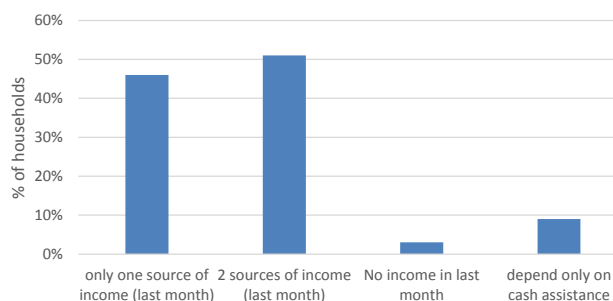


Figure 10: Income generation in the month before the PDM in Kachin, in % of households

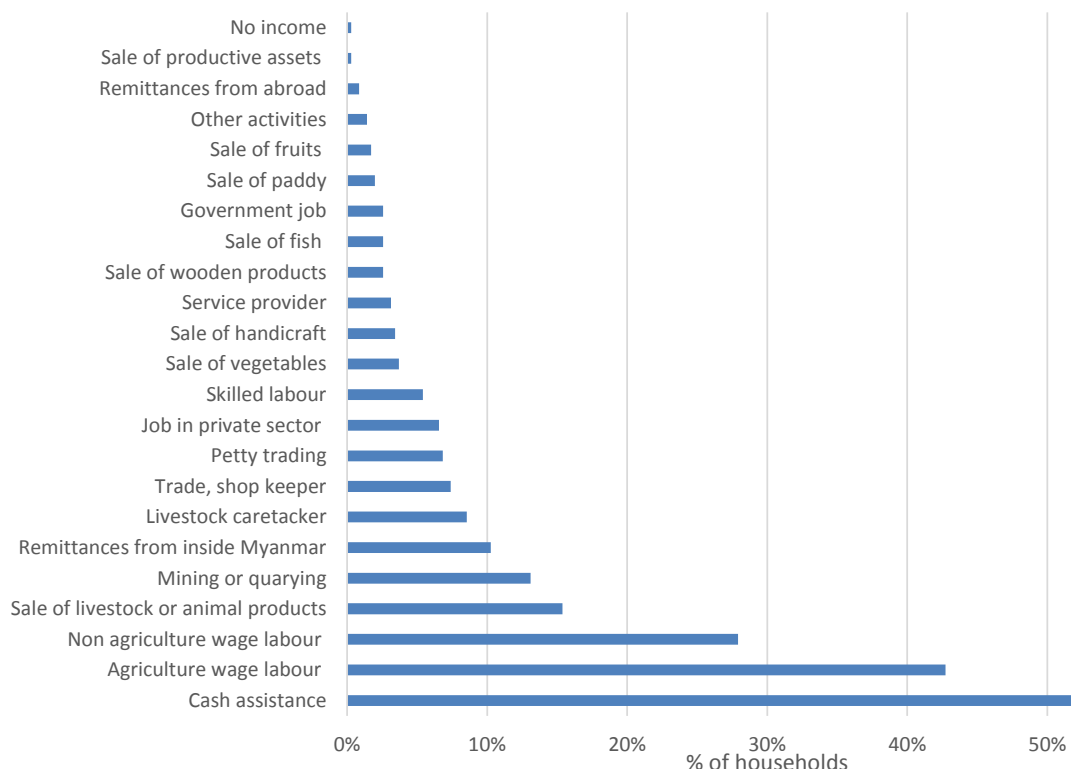


Figure 11: Household income sources in Kachin in the last 12 months

When looking at the income activities reported for the month before the PDM, a **small majority** of households (51%) reported at least **2 sources of income**. **46%** reported only **one source of income** and **9%** mentioned that they only relied on **external cash assistance**. A very small fraction of the sample, **3%**, report **no source of income at all**.

The average income<sup>8</sup> reported for the month before the PDM was close to **80,000MMK** (79,346MMK) **per household**. Around half of the sample (49%) reported less than 50,000MMK and close to **20%** (19%) reported earning **more than 100,000MMK** in the last 30 days. This aligns relatively well with the amounts reportedly earned in a normal month as 40% mentioned they would get less than 50,000MMK, and 30% more than 300,000MMK.

Income range	% of households reporting for the 30days before survey	% of households reporting for a normal month
0-25,000MMK	17%	12%
25,001-50,000MMK	32%	28%
50,001-75,000MMK	15%	14%
75,001 - 100,000MMK	17%	17%
>100,001MMK	19%	30%

Table 4: Income ranges comparison between normal month and month before the PDM, in Kachin

<sup>8</sup> This includes all sources, i.e. external cash assistance too



Differences were substantial between male and female headed households’ average monthly income for the month before the PDM: **male headed households reported on average 85,800MMK** while **female headed households reported 70,798MMK** for the last 30 days.

***In Rakhine:***

Only a **very small proportion** of households, 1.5%, reported **not having any sources of incomes** in the 12months preceding the PDM.

**Non agriculture wage labor** was the **most frequent source of income** reported over the last 12months, with 33% of the households reporting it. This is followed by the **sale of food ration**, with **29%** of the households reporting this as way to generate money. This is lower than the 47% who reported selling the ration in the “use of the ration” section. The difference results from different perception at household level of whether selling the food items is or not an income activity. Nevertheless, both figures highlight that **selling food items remain a key way to access to cash for IDPs in Rakhine**. This was **particularly frequent amongst female headed households of the sample as 44% of them reported selling the ration** to generate some money. Amongst male headed households of the sample, the percentage dropped at 24%.

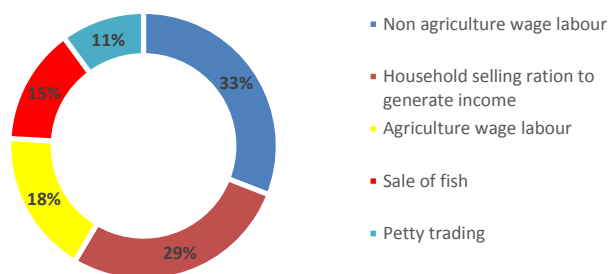


Figure 12: Five main sources of income in the last 12 months, in Rakhine

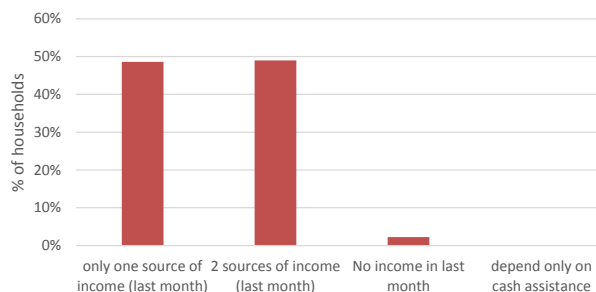


Figure 21: Income generation in the month before the PDM in Rakhine, in % of households

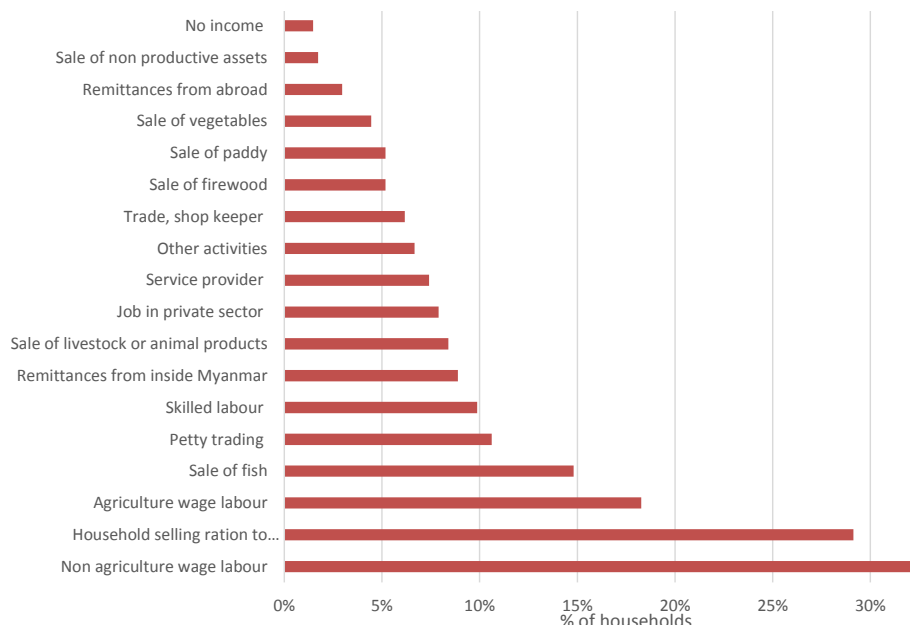


Figure 13: Household income sources in Rakhine in the last 12 months

When looking at income activities carried out during the month preceding the PDM, **49% of the households reported one activity/source of income, 49% reported two activities/source of income** while **2%** reported **not generating any cash**. **Agriculture and non-agriculture wage labor** were the two **main sources** of income followed by the **sale of fish**. Amongst households who reported 2 sources of income, the sale of the food ration was reported as the most frequent source.

The **average household monthly income** reported was around **51,000MMK** (51,295) but **75%** of the households **reported less than 50,000MMK** highlighting that a small proportion of the beneficiary were generating substantially more. The maximum monthly income reported was 700,000MMK while **10% reported more than 100,000MMK in the month**. This was very similar to the repartition of income in a “normal month”.

Income range	% of households reporting for the 30days before survey	% of households reporting for a normal month
0-25,000MMK	45%	43%
25,001-50,000MMK	30%	28%
50,001-75,000MMK	9%	11%
75,001 - 100,000MMK	7%	6%
>100,001MMK	10%	12%

Table 5: Income ranges comparison between normal month and month before the PDM, in Rakhine

Finally, **women headed households** of the sample reported a monthly income of 41,000MMK (41,373), quite **lower** compared to **male headed households** monitored who reported 54,000MMK in the month (54,102).

### 3. Loans and debts

Households were asked if they had taken any credit and debts in the last 12 months and if so for what purpose(s).

#### ***In Kachin:***

**55%** of the households monitored reported having taken **credit and debts** in the last 12 months. For the 45% who did not contract any, the majority, **84%**, mentioned they **did not need**. The remaining 16% did not have enough access to credit/loans.

Credits and loans were mainly taken with close family members and relatives, shop keepers or other institutions such as Churches or schools (for tuitions fees e.g.).

Loans were used for 3 main reasons ranked as follow: 1) Education, 2) Health and food (same importance). Households with outstanding debts and credit had lower monthly income (67,600MMK) than households without debts/credit (93,7000MMK). Finally, the proportion of female headed households who contacted debts/loans was higher (59%) than for male headed households (52%).

#### ***In Rakhine:***

**90%** of the households monitored reported having taken **credits and debts** within the 12 months preceding the PDM. For the 10% who did not contact any, 94% of them indicated that they did not need.

Options to take credits or loans were limited and largely restricted to relatives and friends and shop keepers.

Loans were used for mainly for food (90% of the households), health (52%) and Education (24%). In addition, 9% of the households mentioned that loans were also taken to reimburse outstanding debts indicating a debt cycle resulting from limited income opportunities.

The 10% of the households who did not need to contract any debts were the households with the higher monthly income. Their average monthly income (163,870MK) was more than 4 times higher than the one (38,958) of the households who had to contact debts to cover some of their basic needs.

## 4. Recommendations

### Kachin

- **Household vulnerability targeting** is recommended as more than a fifth (22.2%) of households had members who migrated for short term work opportunities (page 6). Food-based coping mechanisms are being used more by female headed households than male headed households, i.e., 30% female headed as opposed to 16% male headed (page 14).  
→ Discussions on conducting the household vulnerability targeting is ongoing. However, the exercise may delay due to the coming election in November 2015.
- **Involvement/engagement of FMCs** must be encouraged when distribution takes place as only 66% of the camps monitored reportedly involved the participation of FMCs (page 6).  
→ WFP and CPs will continue informing FMCs with the roles and responsibilities expected from them. FMCs may be requested to reshuffle after several months.
- **Strengthening/improving feedback mechanisms** is a must as 64% of the households reported not being aware of complaint/feedback mechanism set up in camps (page 9).  
→ WFP together with CCCM cluster and Protection sector are working closely to improve the existing mechanisms, including timely follow-up actions which may be required by different parties.

### Rakhine

- **Gender balance in the composition of FMCs** are strongly requested as women were largely in minority in the FMCs (page 7).  
→ WFP and CPs will continue to address the issues around gender balance.
- **Information sharing and communication with beneficiaries** need to be enhanced as 63% reported not knowing what beneficiary criteria were used for the eligibility of food assistance (page 9).  
→ WFP and CPs must ensure that accurate information will be reached to beneficiaries on a timely manner. The efforts are continuously being made.
- **Assistance through cash transfer** needs to be considered where feasible and appropriate as 53% of households (53%) reported not selling any of food items provided (page 11). In other words, 47% are reportedly selling the food for other essential needs (education, health, paying debts/loans, etc) (page 11, 18).  
→ Cash transfer may not be an appropriate interventions in some locations as reported by WFP Cash and Voucher mission conducted during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2015, mainly due to market access, protection and security concerns. Further assessment will be required to consider cash transfer.
- **Other forms of assistance by other partners including Early Recovery Network interventions** will be crucial as the proportion of households using food-based coping mechanisms remained high at 53% (page 13). It is clear that people are continuing to use coping mechanisms while selling their food in exchange for other essential items.

→ WFP and other humanitarian agencies are ensuring that relief interventions will be mainstreamed in all sectors'/clusters' interventions. Discussions on how to transit from humanitarian assistance to development support are ongoing.

- **Beneficiary review** in order to identify those who are in need of food assistance vs those who should be graduating from the three year life-saving assistance must be conducted as 13% of households reported hunger (20% for female headed and 12% for male headed) (page 14).  
→ Beneficiary review and prioritisation exercise has been initiated since early 2015, however, with number of difficulties throughout. Due to the coming election in November 2015, the exercise has been put on hold, however, preparatory work is ongoing with CPs.