



End-line report on the impact of Cash Based Transfer in Tharparkar, Umerkot and Sanghar

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Executive summary

The Food for Assets through Cashed Based Transfers was implemented in three drought affected districts of Sindh namely Tharparkar, Umerkot and Sanghar during the period from July 2015 to January 2016 covering 17,000 beneficiaries. The programme engaged beneficiary households in Cash for Training activities where they were paid PKR 5400 per cycle (for 4 cycles in total) for attending specified trainings on a range of themes based on the community needs. Apart from regular monitoring, two assessments baseline and end-line have been carried out which revealed following results:

- Majority of Households are headed by men and only 9.6% of households were found to be female headed.
- Unskilled wage Labour is the most important source of income in Tharparkar and Umerkot whereas livestock forms a much larger component of livelihood in Sanghar.
- 68.3% of households are found to cultivate land, of which 41.1% were found to be sharecroppers.
- The most commonly grown crops are *bajra and guar* and own production is sufficient to meet the household consumption needs for only 2.9 months in average.
- 94% of households owned livestock with most households in possession of small ruminants. The average ownership of goats and sheep was 8.3 per household whereas the ownership of all other animals averaged out to less than 1. The largest animal herds were found in Sanghar much higher than in Tharparkar and Umerkot.
- There was a marked improvement in the Food Consumption of assessed households from the baseline to the end-line. At the time of the baseline 15.4% had poor consumption, the proportion fell to only 4.1%. The percentage of households with “Acceptable” consumption rose significantly from 36.8% to 63.6%.
- As a result, the proportion of households who had to resort to coping strategies also dropped significantly. For instance, the proportion of households relying on less preferred or less expensive food decreased from 46.1% during baseline to 15.1% during end line.
- Two thirds of the cash received was spent on food by the surveyed households.
- Most Households found the training on Nutrition health and hygiene to be the most useful.
- Among the training messages delivered, the highest retention was related to handwashing with soap for which 71.4% of beneficiaries remembered all the messages from the training. The lowest complete retention was of messages on “types of water contamination and its impact on health” which only 39.5% of beneficiaries remembered.

Introduction

Purpose and scope of the intervention

Sindh province is highly dependent on monsoon rains for agriculture and related activities and monsoon rains are more critical in the arid areas of the province. Less rains in monsoon during 2013-15 adversely affected lives and livelihoods of the communities living in drought prone areas of Tharparkar, Umerkot and Sanghar districts due to reduced crop production and loss of livestock, and thus adversely affecting household food security. To cater the needs of the communities emerged due to drought like situation in Tharparkar, Umerkot and Sanghar districts, WFP had implemented several rounds of Food for Assets programme.



The recent Food for Assets (FFA) through Cash Based Transfer (CBT) programme was implemented in 3 drought affected districts of Sindh (Tharparkar, Umerkot, and Sanghar) with the intent of enhancing livelihoods of the most vulnerable households while also providing essential life skills trainings aimed at improving the health nutrition and well-being of beneficiaries. The programme was funded by ECHO under the Humanitarian Implementation Plan 2015. WFP's cooperating partners for the programme were ACTED for Tharparkar and BEST for Umerkot and Sanghar.

A key goal of the programme was to provide where possible, complementary assistance to households by linking the FFA programme with the existing Community Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) programme, a joint intervention between UNICEF and WFP aimed at treating children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women found to be suffering from acute malnutrition.

Programme modality

The beneficiaries under this programme were engaged in activities under "lighter conditionality" where life skills training were provided with each cash disbursement. Selected beneficiaries were paid PKR 21,600 over 4 cycles (PKR 5400 per cycle). Beneficiaries were required to attend a 3-day training with each payment cycle. The selection of training themes given below was based on an analysis of community needs. Based on discussions with the targeted communities the following training themes were identified.

1. Nutrition, Health and hygiene, 2=Livestock management & Fodder preservation, 3= food preservation, 4= safe drinking water, 5=rain water harvesting & utilization 6= Disaster risk reduction.

Targeting of programme areas and beneficiary selection

Following was the methodology used in targeting:

1. **Area targeting for Union Councils (UC)** was carried out on the basis of vulnerability to natural disasters, operational feasibility as well as rates of malnutrition. The prioritization process identified 6 UCs in Tharparkar (Kantio, Wejhiar, Jesso Jo Par, Parno and Chelhar) 2 UCs in Umerkot (Gharibabad, and Chorr) and 2 Union Councils in Sanghar (Kamil Hongoro, Bilawal Hongorjo).
2. **Selection of villages:** the villages for actual programme implementation were identified by cooperating partners (CPs) in a two-step process. As a first step, partners used secondary data

(villages notified by government for drought affectedness, and CMAM caseload) followed by second step i.e. field assessments by using Focus Group Discussions. FGDs were conducted at the village level to collect information that was not available through secondary data to verify if a village meets the pre-defined vulnerability criteria.

3. **Beneficiary selection:** Following the selection of a particular village, community organizations (COs) were formed in each selected village. The COs were responsible for the identification of beneficiaries by using a given criteria. CPs, then reconducted household level verification surveys to ensure that beneficiaries identified by COs met the criteria.

Village Selection Criteria	
•	Covered under WFP's CMAM intervention (major criterion)
•	Severely affected in recent drought or any other natural calamities (major criterion)
•	Crops not cultivated for any reason (especially due to lack of water, agricultural inputs etc.)
•	Difficult accessibility
•	High percentage of vulnerable and marginalized people
•	Neglected or negligible interventions by any other stakeholder
•	Community's willingness to participate in project activities

Beneficiary Selection Criteria	
	CMAM Registered Beneficiaries (PLWs & Children)
	Large Family size (> 7 members)
	Landless, Daily Wagers
	Less than PKR. 12,000 income per month
	HHs lost more than 25% or sold more than 50% as a negative coping strategy during last year
	Women/ Child Headed HHs, HHs with disable person, elderly & pregnant women in last trimester

Objectives and methodology of the assessment

The overall objective of the study was to understand the outcome of the cash based transfers on household food security as well as general well-being and document the key lessons and best practices. Specifically this assessment has following objectives:

- i. Understand the use of cash assistance on food and its impact on food consumption
- ii. Understand the effectiveness of trainings
- iii. Documentation of results and outcomes

A baseline assessment was carried out prior to the start of the intervention, which was followed up by the end-line. The end-line survey had the sample size of 600 households including beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. Information was gathered from the households by using a structured questionnaire. Sampling was made taking into account caseload and UCs covered in each district e.g. in case of Sanghar, though caseload is high, programme implementation was restricted to only two UCs. The results of end line were compared with baseline to analyse the changes.

District	Total Caseload	Sample
Tharparkar	9000	300
Umerkot	2520	150
Sanghar	5480	150

Beneficiary profile

Across the 3 districts only 9.6% of the assessed households were female headed of which 4% are widow headed, while the rest were male headed. The level of education of heads of household was found to be quite low; with 77% of surveyed heads of household having no formal education.

- Female Headed Households: 9.6%
- % of Kacha Houses: 81.6%
- 77% of the heads of households did not have any formal education
- 32% of FFA beneficiaries also registered in CMAM.

In 46.9% of cases, head of household was the beneficiary while the spouse of the head of household was beneficiary in 53% of the cases. Of the surveyed households registered in the FFA programme, 71% of the cardholders registered were female.

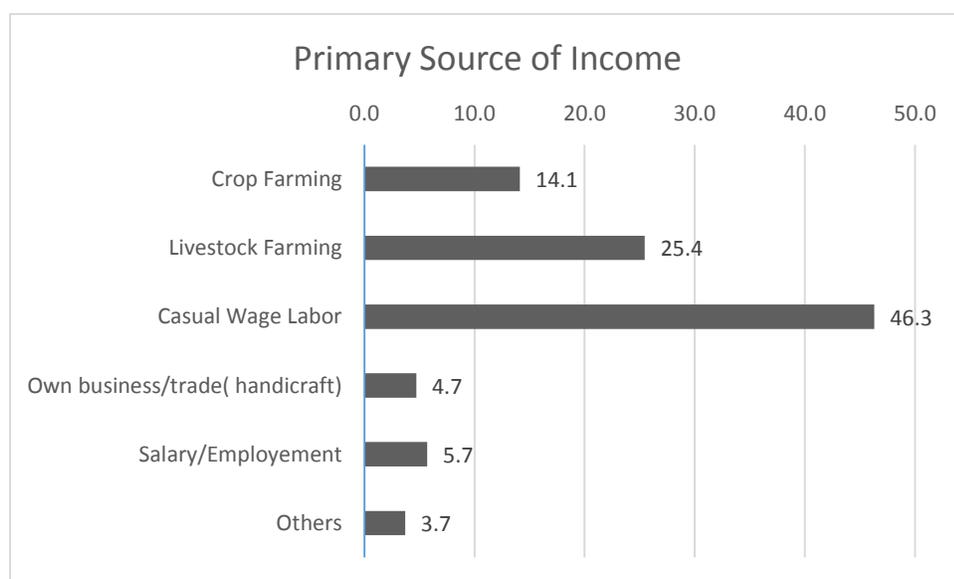
81.6% of families live in *kacha* housing whereas 13.4% are living in semi *pakka* housing, leaving these households considerably vulnerable to extreme events such as heavy rainfall and fire.

It was learnt that 3.5% of assessed households were receiving assistance other than WFP.

Programme complementarities

To address household level food insecurity, a multifaceted approach was applied where possible; therefore a key component of the programme was integration with the CMAM. Efforts were therefore made to register those beneficiaries enrolled in the CMAM programme in the FFA scheme. In the survey 32% of the assessed FFA beneficiary households were common beneficiaries with CMAM. In total 5,879 CMAM beneficiaries were registered for CFT across the 3 district making up 45% of the total caseload.

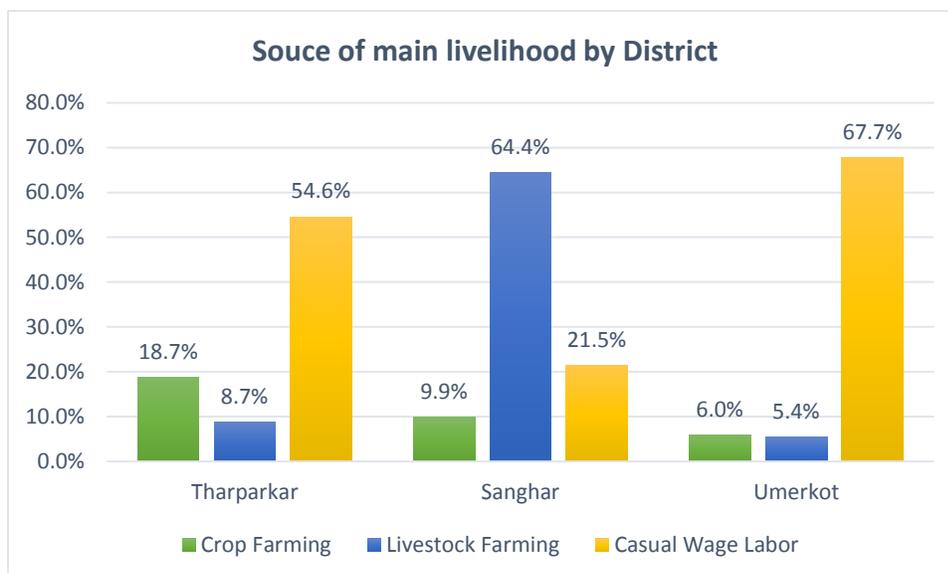
Income and livelihoods



Analysis shows that the highest proportion of households are dependent on casual wage labour at 46.3% followed by livestock farming (25.4%) and crop farming (14.1%). A relatively small proportion of households rely on salaried employment (5.7%) and own business or trade (4.7 %), which usually comprised of sale of

handicrafts.

A detailed breakdown of livelihood patterns by district for the 3 major livelihood sources reveals that the patterns of livelihood sources are consistent with the overall trend in both Umerkot and Tharparkar.



However, these are significantly different in Sanghar. Wage labour is primary income source for 54.6% and 67.7% of households in Tharparkar and Umerkot respectively. In Sanghar, the primary income source for 64.8% of the households is livestock related activities compared to 8.7% and 5.4% in

Tharparkar and Umerkot. Due to unfavourable climatic conditions, crop farming constitute a minor share across all the three districts.

Average monthly income

The mean income of surveyed families excluding WFP cash assistance was found PKR 6168.7 in the end-line assessment.

Average monthly income (PKR)		
Tharparkar	Sanghar	Umerkot
5972	6296	6625

The average family income in Tharparkar was PKR 5972 lowest followed by Sanghar and Umerkot which had mean incomes at PKR 6296 and PKR 6625 respectively.

The highest income levels are found in households engaged in regular salary/employment at around PKR 11,522. The income levels for all other sources of income are almost half of this with the second highest mean incomes found in households relying on livestock earning PKR 6572. Households engaged in crop farming earned an average PKR 6220 where as those earning their main livelihood through wage labour on average earn PKR 5328.

Agriculture and livestock

Agriculture

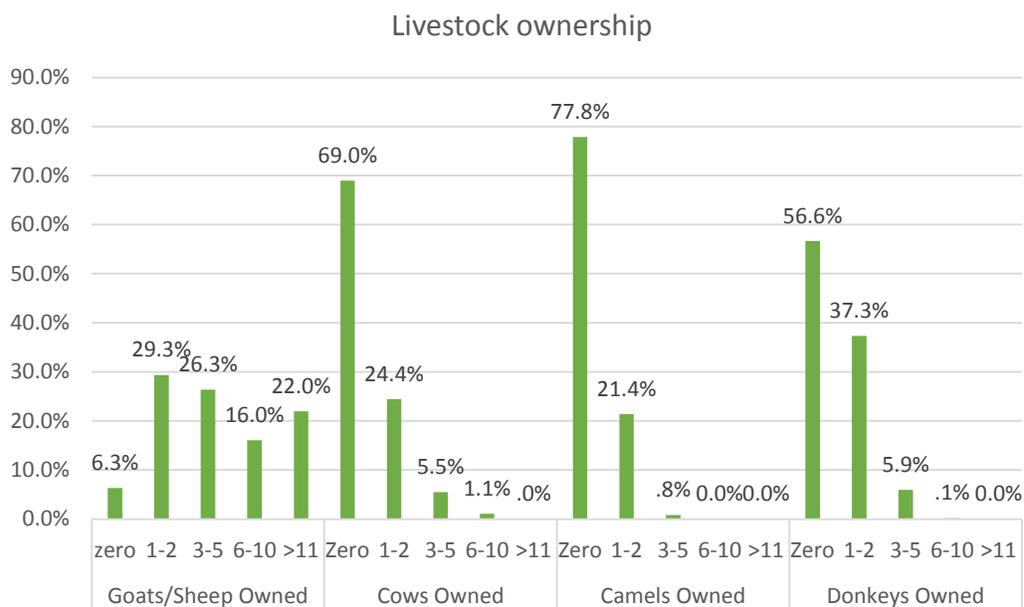
The highest proportion of households engaging in agricultural activities was in Tharparkar where 90% of respondents cultivated land; this is followed by Sanghar (42.6%) and the lowest was in Umerkot (39.3%). Among those involved in agriculture, 48.2% were land owners, 41.1% were sharecroppers, whereas 3.4% were tenants and 7.3% were tenant cum sharecroppers. The proportion of land owners is highest in Sanghar at 56.9% followed by Tharparkar where 49.8% of those cultivating land were owners. The proportion of sharecroppers is the highest in Umerkot where 82.3% of households were sharecroppers, followed by Tharparkar at 37.8% and Sanghar where 35.4% were sharecroppers.

The major crops grown in the programme UCs are *Bajra* and *Guar*. On average, own production is sufficient to meet the needs of the households for only 2.9 months in a year across the three district. Highest was in Umerkot at 4.1 months, followed by Sanghar at 4.2 months and the lowest was in Tharprarkar at only 2.2 months.

Livestock

Of the surveyed households 93.7% own livestock. Most households own small ruminants i.e. goats/ sheep of which average ownership is around 8.3 across the three districts. The average number of livestock ownership in district Sanghar is much higher than other two districts. The average holdings of goats and sheep is 5.3 in Tharprarkar and 3.8 Umerkot compared with 16 in Sanghar.

The ownership of large ruminants i.e. cows, camels is quite low with mean numbers of animals held less than 1 per household. The average ownership of donkeys is 0.7 per household, cows 0.6 and camels which is the lowest at 0.26 per household. Average livestock ownership of larger animals is relatively higher in Sanghar, where the average ownership of cows is one per household and the average ownership of camels is 0.44.



Analysis on patterns of livestock ownership shows that most households own goats and/or sheep. Only 6.3% of livestock owning households do not keep goats, compared with 69% who do not keep cows and the 78% of households that keep livestock do not have any camels. Ownership of donkeys is somewhat common, as 37.3% of livestock keeping households have between 1 and 2 donkeys. 21.4% of households owned between 1 and 2 camels while 24.4% of households owned between 1 to 2 cows. Ownership of larger herds was only observed in small ruminants where approximately 26.3% of households keeping livestock had between 3 to 5 goats, 16% had 6 to 10 goats while a fairly large proportion (22%) own more than 11 goats.

Livestock keeping on share basis

12.3% of households surveyed stated that they keep livestock on sharing basis. This practice is most prevalent in Tharparkar where 17.6% of households keep livestock on sharing basis. The practice is relatively uncommon in Sanghar (5.6%).

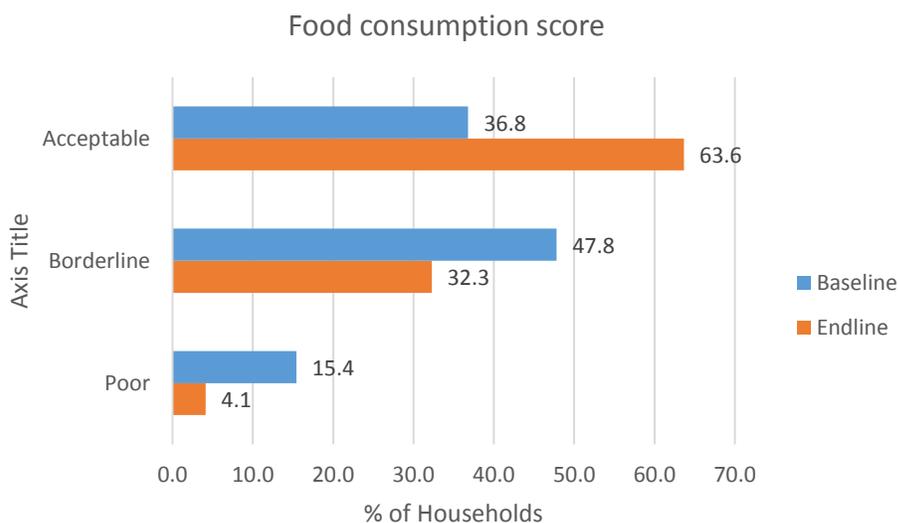
Livestock mortality

About 87% of households reported mortality in their livestock in the previous year. The largest loss of animals was of goats and sheep averaging 9.4 per household. In Sanghar, the loss of livestock was more pronounced with the average death of goats and sheep at 19 compared with 5.4 deaths in Tharparkar and 4.6 in Umerkot.

Food consumption, dietary diversity and coping strategies

Food consumption

A marked improvement in the food consumption scores has been witnessed. At the time of the baseline, the proportion of the households with “Poor consumption” across the 3 districts was 15.4% which fell to 4.1% after the intervention. The population with borderline consumption also fell from 47.8% prior to the intervention to 32.3% after the intervention. A significant rise in the proportion of households with “acceptable” consumption – from 36.8% during the baseline to 63.6% of during the the end-line survey.



An improvement in food consumption score was seen in all districts.

In Tharparkar, the proportion under poor food consumption in Tharparkar decreased from 30.3% to 7%, that with borderline consumption decreased from 41.5% to 30.8%, while that with acceptable consumption increased from 28.2% to 62.2%.

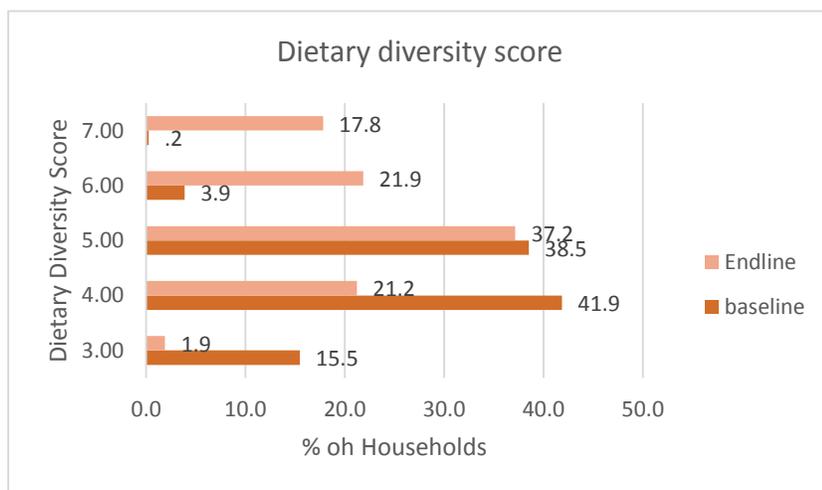
In Umerkot, the proportion of population with poor consumption decreased from 13.5% to only 0.2%, that with borderline consumption stayed relatively constant rising from 60% to 67.1%, and that with acceptable consumption increased from 26.5% to 32.8%.

In Sanghar the observed changes were a little different. The proportion with poor consumption remained about the same (0% during baseline to 0.8% during endline) while the proportion with acceptable consumption increased substantially from 51.2% to 80.9%.

Dietary diversity score

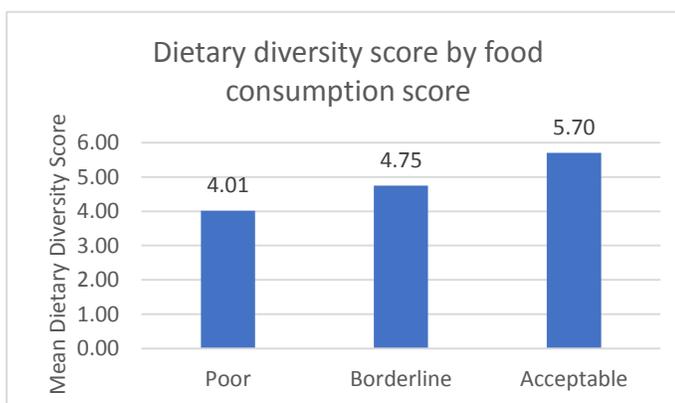
To further assess the food consumption patterns of households and observe changes over the course of the intervention, Dietary Diversity Scores were calculated before and after the FFA implementation. The results revealed that at the time of the baseline only 0.2% of households were consuming all 7 food groups which has increased to 17.8% by the completion of the FFA intervention. The lowest recorded score is 3 which is in 1.9% of the households in end-line, however this proportion was 15.5% in the baseline.

At the time of the baseline households were on average consuming **4.3** out of the 7 food groups indicating “Low Dietary Diversity” as per thresholds established by IFPRI. Following the completion of the project the DDS rose to **5.32** indicating medium dietary diversity. Further analysis reveals that while at the time of the baseline 57.4% of households had Dietary Diversity scores 4 and below, this proportion dramatically fell to 23.1% at the time of the end line. Similarly, the proportion of households with dietary diversity scores above 6 rose from 4.1% to 39.8%.



Relationship between dietary diversity score and food consumption score

A clear correlation can be seen between the Dietary Diversity scores of assessed households and their Food Consumption Scores. Households with Poor Food Consumption has the lowest DDSs with a mean value of 4.01. Similarly households with acceptable consumption had the highest average dietary diversity scores at 5.7.



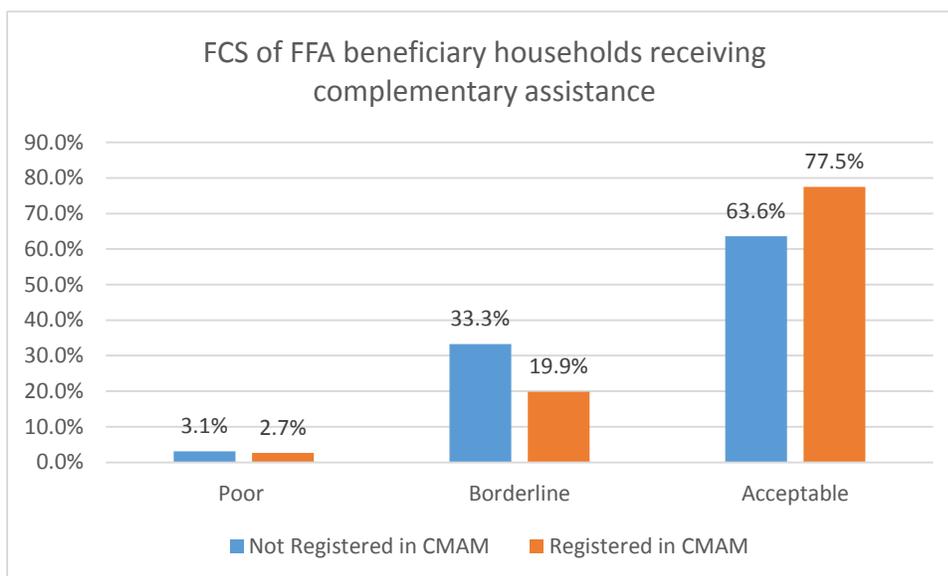
Consumption of food groups:

	Cereals	Daal	Vegetables	Fruit	Protein	Dairy	Oil	Sugar
Baseline	7.00	2.52	4.990	0.57	0.05	1.53	6.99	6.97
End-line	6.97	3.5	2.7	0.6	0.397	4.05	6.47	6.78

Some changes in consumption of different food groups can be marked between baseline and end line. Average weekly consumption of *daal* (pulses) has increased slightly from 2.31 days to 3.5 days from the baseline to end line. Similarly the consumption of proteins has risen from 0.05 to 0.39 days per week. Dairy consumption has increased substantially from 1.5 days a week to 4 days a week. Conversely the consumptions of vegetables has decreased from 55 days a week to 2.7 days a week indicating a move towards more nutritious food groups.

Dairy consumption

While there has been general improvement in consumption of different food groups, increase in milk and other dairy products has been found as a significant contributor to improvement in food consumption score. As described earlier, the dairy consumption rose from 1.53 days per week before the intervention to 4 days a week after the intervention. This change may have resulted from the trainings delivered on diet diversity or increased spending on livestock. The dairy consumption varies considerably across districts. In Sanghar, as the ownership of livestock is the highest, the consumption of dairy products is more frequent.



Households registered under both CMAM and FFA has witnessed a relatively better improvement in the FCS compared with the overall average of the entire sample and compared with those only registered in FFA. As per the results only 2.7% of such households have poor consumption compared to 3.1% of only beneficiaries and 4.1% from the entire sample.

The proportion of households with acceptable consumption is also higher among households receiving dual assistance (CMAM and FFA) at 77.5% compared with 63.6% for those registered in FFA only.

Sources of Food:

Since own production is very little, market is the main source of food for all food groups including cereals. 99% households buy cereals from market. A small proportion (4.3%) of households were accessing vegetables from their own production, which for most households was guar. The pattern for milk however is different; 78.8% of households that consumed milk in the week before assessment had accessed it through their own production. The purchase of food on credit was considerably low with most households purchasing food items with cash.

Coping strategies

The use of coping strategies, both food based and livelihood based, has reduced significantly as a result of programme intervention. At the time of the end line only 20% of households reported having problems meeting their food needs in past week and resorting to food based coping strategies. The proportion of household practising most prevalent coping strategy “relying on less preferred or less expensive food”, fell from 46.1% during baseline to 15.1% during end line. The proportion of households purchasing food on credit also fell from 10.1% to 5.1%. The percentage of households borrowing food or relying on friends and relatives however increased from 2.2% to 7.4%.

In terms of livelihood based coping strategies, at the time of the baseline the most commonly adopted coping strategy was the sale of more animals than normal, utilized by 42.2% of the surveyed population while the use of other options was negligible. At the time of the end line the utilization of livelihood based coping strategies has diminished considerably as only 9.3% of surveyed households had to resort to livelihood based coping strategy over the course of the reference month. At the time of the end line 2.6% of the households had sold animals (compared with 42.2% during baseline) which was more than usual, and 1.7% sold household assets, 1% borrowed money and 1% spent their savings compared with 10% who had done the same at the time of the baseline., An estimated 1% consumed seed stock held for next season at the time of the end line.

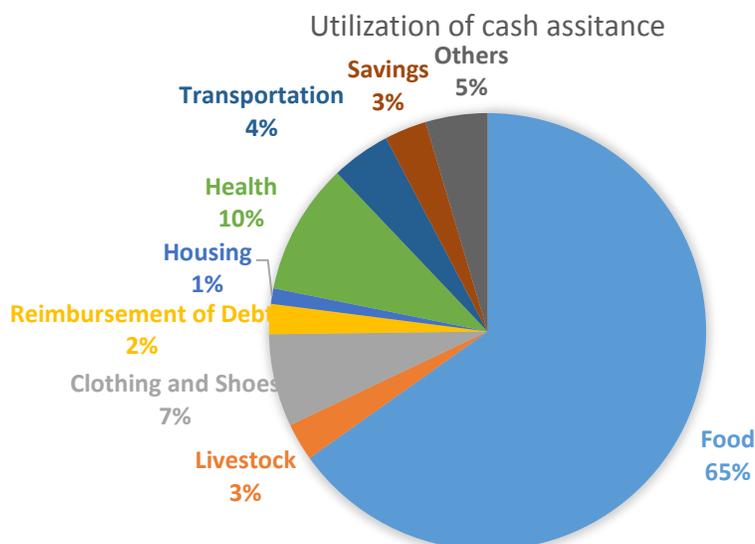
Water and sanitation

Analysis reveals that most households surveyed in the assessment rely on “potentially safe” sources of water following the categories on types of water sources with 74%, even though it is well known that the water from these sources is not safe enough for drinking. Access to sanitation facilities is extremely limited with 77.4% of males, 73.5% of females and 78.7% of children in surveyed households practicing open defecation. The use of dry pit latrines was limited but relatively more common than other forms of toilet. 12.2% of males, 15.8% females and 11.3% of children were found using dry pit latrines.

Programme evaluation

Household expenditure using WFP cash assistance

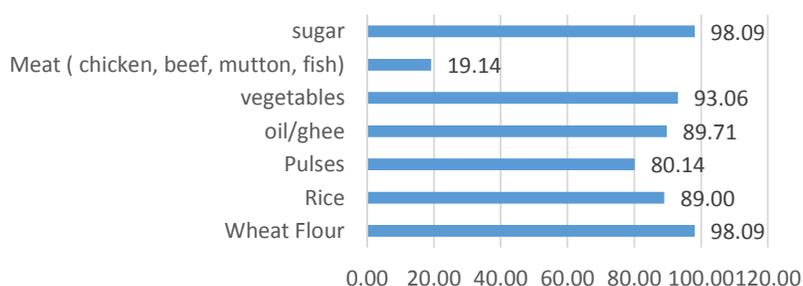
An analysis of the spending patterns of beneficiary households revealed that largest proportion of the cash received is spent on purchasing food which on average is 64.9% of the final cash instalment on food. This was followed by health which made up 9.7%, clothing and shoes 6.82%, transportation 4.37%, whereas expenditure on reimbursement of debt as 2.22%. The average proportion of cash received spent on livestock was considerably low at only 2.78%, however a small proportion of beneficiaries revealed that they had saved some cash from the received instalments and purchased livestock.



Type of Food Purchased with Cash Assistance

The analysis of the type of food purchased by beneficiaries for the cash received indicates that almost all (98%) of households spent money on wheat flour and sugar. This is followed by vegetables purchased by 93% of beneficiary households assessed, and pulses (80%). The least commonly purchased commodity was meat (19.1%).

Food purchased with cash received



Gender dimension of decision on spending

The decision of how to spend the money was made jointly for most households. An estimated 71.4% of surveyed beneficiary households stated that men and women both decided together how to utilize the cash assistance. About equal proportion of respondents stated that the decision was made only by the man and only by the woman at 15.1% and 13.5% respectively.

Usefulness of trainings and retention of key messages

90.9% of the respondents found trainings received to be very useful while 9.1% found the trainings to be somewhat useful. In terms of training themes, the largest proportion of beneficiaries (73.6 %) stated that

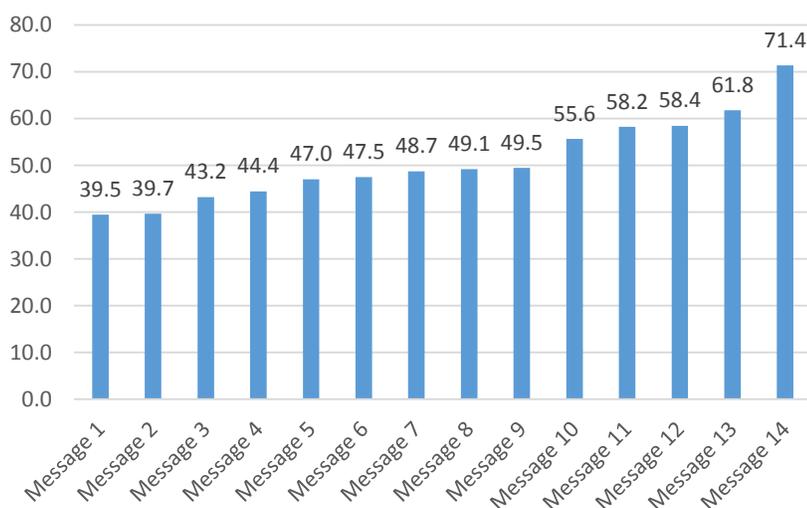
they found “nutrition, health and hygiene” as the most useful training followed by the training on livestock management (11%). Almost all (99.8%) of respondents stated that they had the opportunity to apply the lessons they had learnt during the training.

As for the retention for the messages delivered in the training largest proportion of households who remembered all the messages was on handwashing with soap (71.4%). Messages on exclusive breast feeding, complementary feeding were also remembered in their entirety by around 58% of the beneficiaries surveyed. The lowest complete retention of messages was found for “types of water contamination and its impact on health” (39.5%) followed by trainings on fodder and grain preservation (39.7%). Retention of messages on immunization were also quite low and only remembered by 43.2%.



Training Session in progress

Retention of key messages



Message 1	Types of water contamination and its impact on health	Message 8	Five Keys to Safer Food
Message 2	Food and grain preservation methods at the domestic level	Message 9	Animal disease management at local level through symptoms
Message 3	Immunization	Message 10	Pregnant and lactating women diet
Message 4	Preparation of Silage and hay	Message 11	Exclusive breast feeding for children under 6 months of age
Message 5	How to reduce fire risk	Message 12	Complementary feeding for children 6 months to 2 years of age
Message 6	Storage, conservation and purification of rain water	Message 13	Safe and clean drinking water
Message 7	First aid measures against snake bite	Message 14	Handwashing with Soap

Beneficiary feedback

Of the surveyed FFA beneficiary households, 95.9% were satisfied with the selection of beneficiaries and only a small percentage disagreed with the selection. 80.8% of households claimed they knew how beneficiaries were selected and were able to describe the process. An estimated 90.4% of beneficiary households were aware of the beneficiary feedback and complaint mechanism and 90.2% of these households felt that the beneficiary feedback mechanism was fully effective in resolving and addressing complaints while 8.6% felt that it was only somewhat effective.

Gender and protection

No protection issues were found either on the way to the training site or to the disbursement site or at the actual sites. 99.3% of beneficiaries stated that they did not have any problems with the point of sale staff. In terms of facilities provided at the training sites, 99.8% stated the training sites were easy to access, 94.3% stated that trainings were provided in a shaded place and 97.6% stated that water was available at the site. Additionally, no safety problems were encountered by any of the beneficiaries interviewed either at the activity site, on the way to the activity site or the way back. The common practice among beneficiaries was to go alone to the disbursement site with only 14.4% of respondents stating that more than 1 person from their household had accompanied them to the disbursement site.



Cost of accessing cash distribution point

On average across the 3 districts, the average distance travelled by beneficiaries to access the disbursement site is 30 Km with a 2 way journey cost of PKR 217.77.

The shortest average distance travelled by beneficiaries to reach the cash disbursement sites is in Umerkot at 18 Km, followed by Tharpakar (20 Km). In Sanghar, activity site is furthest (53 Km) and also involving highest cost (PKR 342 for round trip)

	Tharpakar	Sanghar	Umerkot
Distance to the cash distribution point in Km	20	53	18
Cost of two-way transportation (PKR)	166	342	133

Market assessment

A complementary market assessment was also conducted to enrich the evaluation. The six major markets which beneficiaries generally access were assessed. In each market, 5 interviews were conducted of which 3 were with small retail traders and 2 with wholesalers equalling a total of 30 interviews. The results of the market assessment reveal that all the major markets in the area are all well-functioning and are able to absorb any changes in demand caused by cash injections. Price levels were found stable and in line with national trends.

- 52% of sales volume is on credit.
- 70% of sellers had more competition this year than last year.
- Average number of customers is 69/day.
- 93% traders can meet increased demand
- Wage rate: PKR 300

According to the traders' survey, sellers estimated that 52% of their sale volume is on credit. 70% of traders felt that they had more competition this year compared to last year with the remaining 30% stating no change. These results indicate that the markets in the area are possibly expanding rather than contracting as per the perceptions of the traders. Similarly 60% of surveyed traders felt that they had more suppliers this year than last year. The average customers serviced daily is estimated at around 69.

All traders predicted that increase in income would lead to an increase in demand and 93% of them felt that they would be able to meet the increased demand. On average, sellers were of the opinion that they would be able to increase their demand by up to 60%, however a considerable variance in response is

noted depending on their capacity. An estimated 8% of sellers said they can increase their capacity by more than 100%, where as 35% felt that they could increase their capacity by around 50%. An estimated 30% felt the increased demand would lead to an increase in prices, whereas the majority (70%) felt that there would be no change on the price levels due to the increased demand.

Wage rate

The average daily wage rate is around 300 PKR, a handful of traders all operating out of the market in Chachro (Tharparkar district) claimed the prevailing wage rate at PKR 250, and only 1 trader from the market in Chhor (Umerkot district) estimated the wage rate at PRK350. However around 87% of the assessed traders were concurrent in their estimate of PKR 300 as the daily wage rate for unskilled labour.

Terms of trade

The average purchasing power of individuals working in these areas can be determined by calculating the Terms of Trade i.e. the number of kilograms of Wheat that can be purchased with a single day's wage. As per the analysis the average wage rate is the same across the 3 districts therefore the variation can be calculated through differences in price levels.

In Tharparkar where the average price of wheat was 34.2 PKR/Kg, a labourer could purchase 8.8 Kg of wheat with a day's wage. In Sanghar, the average price of wheat was higher and thus the TOT was 8.2 Kg. In case of Umerkot, the average recorded price was the highest i.e. 37.9 PKR/Kg, the TOT was lowest at 7.9 Kg. It should however be noted that many of the beneficiaries from Sanghar access the major market in Umerkot at Chhor more often than those in their own district, therefore the terms of trade for Umerkot would apply to such beneficiaries as well.

Challenges and best practices

The results of the end-line survey indicate that there was marked improvement in key indicators over the course of the intervention period while no negative impact has been observed on nearby markets. No significant difficulties were encountered during implementation of the project. However, a few challenges were faced during implementation while certain areas were highlighted as successes that may be replicated for future interventions.

- Certain villages though highly vulnerable are extremely remote and beneficiaries have to travel quite far to reach the disbursement points with limited access to main roads and transportation networks.
- Connectivity is a major issue in the area making the establishment of new Point of Sales challenging.
- Highly vulnerable groups such as disabled persons or pregnant women in their 3rd trimester who were prioritized for registration faced some difficulties in reaching the cash disbursement site.
- CPs have encouraged those community members not having valid CNICs to get because this will facilitate the beneficiaries in accessing other social safety net programmes.
- Female enrolment had considerably improved in this round as beneficiaries were engaged under lighter conditionality.

Recommendations

- Significant improvement has been achieved in the food security situation after the intervention. However with the continuation of drier winter, the availability of fodder had diminish which could result in compromising food security of the households. The households with borderline consumption are particularly vulnerable as they can slip back into food insecurity without continued cash assistance.
- Response to the trainings delivered was highly useful. However for future interventions, the training needs may be reassessed to ensure the community is receiving trainings most pertinent to their requirements.
- For all future interventions, an attempt should be made to bring disbursement site closer to the beneficiaries especially for those living in more remote areas to decrease the cost of travel.
- Arrangements need to be made to facilitate beneficiaries who have difficulty reaching the Point of Sale due to physical restrictions (disability, pregnant women in last trimester).
- It is recommended to keep some cushion to include those vulnerable households who for some reason (migration) were not present at the time of beneficiary registration.
- Integration with the other relevant programme such as CMAM should continue to maximize benefits for the beneficiaries.
- As far as possible, it is recommended to align the programme implementation with the local livelihood calendar.
- While overall, the project has supported the most vulnerable population groups, there is a room for further improving the targeting with more systematic and clear targeting criteria for selecting communities and households.