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Post-Distribution Monitoring Report

WFP Kyrgyzstan

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Conducted by

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Executive Summary

In mid-2008, the UN Country Team in the Kyrgyz Republic, concerned about the impact of the harsh winter in 2007/2008, and the subsequent drought over the summer of 2008, asked WFP to do a food security assessment in the country. In October and November 2008 WFP carried out the analysis of the information from the Kyrgyz Integrated Household Survey from January 2006 to the first quarter of 2008 (the latest information available at that time), and a study with questionnaires and focus groups of the food security of the population living in the periphery of Bishkek city. These surveys found that approximately 35% of the households in Kyrgyzstan were food insecure with 20% out of them being severely food insecure. Upon the request to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, WFP designed a project to ensure that vulnerable households in the poorest areas of the country would have enough food to meet their minimum needs over the winter and early spring period, and to ensure that they did not have to sell productive assets in order to buy food.

The project was designed to assist approximately 580,000 people (116,000 households) in six provinces, focusing on families living below the guaranteed minimum level of consumption (GMLC) in communities (ayil okrugs) where more than 20% of the populations live below the GMLC. In June 2009 WFP completed the first round of Vulnerable Group Feeding programme (VGF) that provided one-off food rations to vulnerable households in rural areas of Kyrgyzstan. Over 66,350 families (330,818 persons) in Batken, Talas, Jalalabad and Osh oblasts received a ration consisting of 75 kg of wheat flour and 8 liters of fortified vegetable oil to meet their minimum food requirements during the winter and early spring period and ensure that they do not resort to harmful coping strategies. The distribution was carried out by three Cooperating Partners - the Republican Centre for Health Promotion (RCHP) in Talas, ACTED - in Batken, most of Osh, and Jalalabad, and Mountain Society Development Support Programme (MSDSP) in Alay and Chong Alay rayons in Osh. At the end of distribution, WFP and its cooperating partners engaged into post-distribution monitoring exercise to assess food distribution process and use of food rations, complemented by module to allow an understanding of livelihoods situation of assisted households.

The specific **objectives** of the post-distribution monitoring were to verify if beneficiaries received their entitled rations, to clarify the mode of utilization of food (shared, consumed, exchanged), to find out types of problems the beneficiaries faced during distribution and to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the distribution process. The questionnaire was complemented with questions that did not relate to the food distribution process *per se* in an attempt to gain an understanding about the food security situation of the targeted households including agricultural production, animal ownership, income activities, food and non-food expenditure, sources of food and external assistance other than WFP's.

Methodology

A standardized questionnaire was used to gather data on a range of livelihoods indicators and WFP's food distribution process and use of rations. Training sessions were organized for the relevant staff of the partner organizations that included introduction to food security, and thorough explanation of questionnaire, survey tools and general interview guidelines.

Standardized questionnaire was administered to 1,446 households selected through simple random sampling. Face-to-face interviews were carried out with the informed member of the household by WFP and CPs' monitors. Approximately, 47% of respondents were women. Table 1 below presents the sample size by districts.

Table 1. Number of households monitored by districts

Districts	Number of assisted households	Number of households monitored	
Talas	5,144	149	3%
Batken	8,920	177	2%
Jalalabat	23,515	469	2%
Osh	28,790	651	2%
Total	66,369	1,446	2%

Summary of key findings

- According to this classification, over half of the households are medium-sized, while around one-third is large. Around a third of monitored households have a member who is a pensioner, with just over a quarter (26%) having at least one pensioner. Fifteen percent of households have a member who is disabled, while total number of disabled persons in the sample account for three percent of all household members.
- Ninety nine percent of sample households received entitled amount of food ration and used it to meet their food requirements, only one percent shared the food with relatives and neighbors or exchanged it to meet other needs. Overall distribution process went smoothly and almost all beneficiaries reported their satisfaction with the activities. Only few (2%) reported cases of problems at the distribution site - main reported reasons were dissatisfaction among people at the distribution point, problems related to identification documents, waiting long time on queue. The monitoring results show close adherence to distribution rules related to beneficiary identification confirmation and distance to distribution sites. About 98% of respondents showed ID at the distribution point in order to receive food and 90% of distribution sites were within 10 km of the beneficiaries' location, which is in accordance with WFP Food Distribution Guidelines. In terms of main income sources, high reliance on pension/social benefits and unskilled labor leaves assisted households vulnerable to adverse effects of seasonality. The lack of diversification into sustainable and higher-income activities does not allow for stabilizing incomes of targeted households.
- The primary source of food for the sample households is purchase (63%). On average one fifth of households acquires food through own production. As seen above, households appear to produce only a small portion of their food needs, and all the families in the sample devote a large share of their disposable income to food (over 60%). The sampled households are heavily dependent on the market for their basic basket of food items. In general, household diets in the summer are more diverse and bountiful due to their own production of fruits and vegetables. PDM was conducted during the lean season and low shares of expenditures devoted to the food products containing protein, as well as vegetables and fruits was noted.
- Ninety two percent of households own land with the average hectares of land ranged from 0.3HA for irrigated land to 0.2HA for non-irrigated land. It appears that although almost all households have access to land some households (9%) are not able to cultivate it. One of the major reasons for that is lack of private capital to invest in

agriculture. Irrigation systems have not been maintained and many are no longer operable, and much farmland is not cultivated to full extent for lack of seeds, tools, and equipment. In areas where rural livelihoods were diversified and mostly self-sufficient, combining production for consumption and for market, families are now forced to purchase the vast majority of their basic food basket with small, unstable incomes.

- The survey tool also collected information about external assistance other than WFP during winter/spring period of 2009. Only eight percent of respondents responded affirmatively. In terms of type of assistance, the respondents could choose all options that applied. Multiple response analysis was applied which indicates that majority of these households received food products, money allowances and cooking/heating fuel, mostly from the government.

I. Post-Distribution Monitoring Survey Results

1.1 Household Demography

The following data on demography was collected in the framework of the PDM among VGF beneficiaries. As per the results of PDM, the mean household size in the sample is six. Based on the information collected about the number of household members, the households are stratified into small (up to three members), medium (4 to 6 members), large (7 to 10 members) and very large (over 11 members) households. According to this classification, over half of the households are medium-sized, while around one-third is large. There is no significant variation among districts in terms of household size. The age composition and household type of the sample households is given in table 2.

Table 2. Age

Age	Percent
up to 5 years old	18%
6-18 years old	33%
19-60 years old	44%
over 61 years old	5%
Total number of beneficiaries	8,871

Table 3. Household Size

Type of household	Percent
Very large (>10)	6%
Large (7-10)	30%
Medium (4-6)	55%
Small (<=3)	10%
Total number of HHs	1,446

There are more female (52%) than male (48%) household members. **Almost a quarter (23%) of households have a female head of household.**

Dependency ratio is a general indicator of potential household stress in that it measures how many dependents each adult must provide for. Dependents are conventionally classified as children under 15 and the elderly over 65 years, age groups that tend not to contribute to the household economy, but who nonetheless make demands on household resources. Dependency ratios much above one are considered sources of potential stress for households. The dependency ratio for interviewed households is 1.3 with, Twenty-four percent of the respondents have dependency ration between 1 and 1.99, and sixteen percent of the interviewed households – over 2. Only three percent of households do not have a person of productive age.

Sixty one percent of households have child(ren) less than 5 years old, Sixty three percent of the households have 3 and more children, and 12% of the sample have 3 and more children under 5.

Overall, around a third of monitored households have a member who is a pensioner, with just over a quarter (26%) having at least one pensioner. **Fifteen percent of households have a member who is disabled**, while total number of disabled persons in the sample account for three percent of all household members.

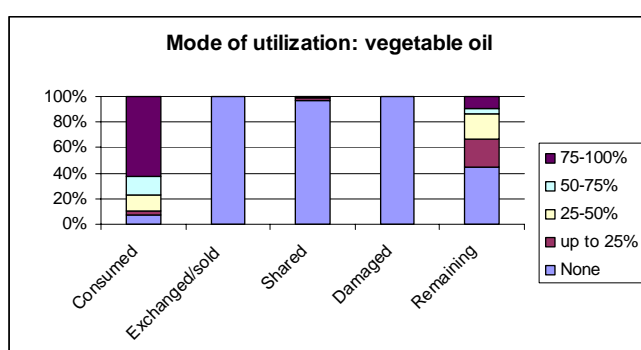
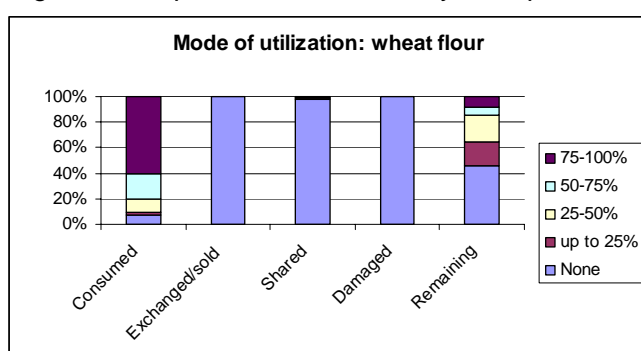
1.2 Distribution Monitoring

WFP jointly with Cooperating Partners undertook a series of trainings for local authorities (mainly heads of ayul okrugs) on the modalities of the VGF programme implementation. The training modules included information on criteria and beneficiary selection, preparation for the distribution, receipt and storage of the food commodities, as well as distribution process activities.

Two criteria were used to identify households – first of all, families living below the guaranteed minimum level of consumption GMLC were targeted, and from that list, families possessing certain assets, generally more than two large and four small animals, were excluded. The lists of households with income below GMLC were provided by the heads of Aiyul Okrugs, where they should be updated on a yearly basis by the social workers. Local authorities and communities (including local committees formed at the levels of ayuls, and Health committees in Talas oblast) were given responsibility for the beneficiary selection, and compilation of beneficiary lists. WFP and CPs undertook a random verification of the beneficiary lists provided by the authorities, which ranged from 5 to 10% of the households in all ayul okrugs selected for the VGF programme. Beneficiaries were informed about the dates of the planned distributions in their respective areas, as well as provided with coupons for a food ration (ration composition and size was included into the coupon content). During the distribution process WFP and CPs placed visibility materials, which included posters (over 3,000) containing the following information – the implementing agencies, short description of the programme, selection criteria, ration composition and size, as well as hotline telephones in case of problems faced by beneficiaries at the DPs.

This section presents the analysis of questions related to eligibility criteria, quantity and use of food rations and distribution process of WFP food aid.

Food entitlement and mode of utilization: WFP's food ration is 75 kg of wheat flour and 8 liters of vegetable oil per household. Ninety nine percent of households received the entitled amount of



wheat flour. Only 13 respondents (1%) in Batken, Jalalabad and Osh reported that they received from 25 to 50 kg of wheat flour, same information holds true for vegetable oil ration. The monitoring looked into reasons why these beneficiaries received the reduced ration and where necessary raised these questions with local authorities. According to the monitoring results, most of these beneficiaries shared their rations with the neighbors or close relatives voluntarily; some were convinced to share the ration with the community by local authorities.

The respondents were asked if they knew the WFP ration scales. Ninety-five percent of households answered the question while, in around five percent of

questionnaires this question was left unanswered. Frequency analysis for the remaining households indicates that two thirds of the interviewed households were well aware of the ration scales. Sample households in Jalalabad have better knowledge of food rations (78%) compared to other target districts where this percentage ranges from around 55 to 60 percent.

The modes of utilization of vegetable oil and wheat flour are quite similar. Over three quarters of households consumed over 50% of their wheat flour and vegetable oil ration by the time of monitoring. There was no reported case of damaged food. Only one household exchanged/sold a portion of wheat flour and all of vegetable oil to meet other needs. As indicated above few households shared their wheat flour and vegetable oil, mostly up to 25 % of entitled ration, with relatives or neighbors.

Problems at DPs: Almost all households (98%) reported the distribution process went smoothly and they did not encounter any problems while receiving food at the distribution point. Only two percent of respondents reported they faced a problem while receiving food at the DP. PDM looked into reasons for this and raised these issues where appropriate with local authorities. Of them, two thirds stated being pressed to share the family's food ration. Nearly same number of respondents selected 'other' answer option which included dissatisfaction among people at the distribution point, waiting long time on queue, problems related to identification documents (lack of those or invalid ID information indicated in the beneficiary lists).

Selection criteria, distance to distribution point and transportation of food: The table below summarizes the result of multiple response analysis of question related to awareness of beneficiaries' about selection criteria to receive food aid.

Table 3. Beneficiaries awareness about selection criteria

Why selected to receive assistance	Percent of cases
Selected by community because were considered poor	38.4%
Selected by food aid committee/commission	32.2%
Met the criteria of minimum income	25.6%
Met the criteria of number of livestock owned by household	11.3%
Don't know	8.1%

Just over half of households learned about distribution from village or area leader. Around one fifth got information from local authorities and same number of households from their neighbors. Four percent of respondents mentioned village health committees as source of information about distribution - health committees had been functional in Talas oblast and mobilized by RCHP to take active part in all stages of for the VGF implementation (7% of households covered by VGF). Another primary source of information in Talas was local authorities, while in Osh, Batken and Jalalabad beneficiaries were more likely to learn about distribution from village/ area leaders.

The monitoring results show close adherence to distribution rules related to beneficiary identification confirmation and distance to distribution sites. About 98% of respondents showed ID at the distribution point in order to receive food. The breakdown of reported distance to distribution point from beneficiaries' homes is < 5 km - 70%, 5-10 km - 20%, and over 10 km - 10%. This indicator is in line with the WFP Food Distribution Guidelines which requires that the distance to a distribution site should not exceed 5-10 km. In case similar programmes are implemented in the futures, WFP will revisit the list of the DPs and selected ayul okrugs to see the areas for improvement in this respect.

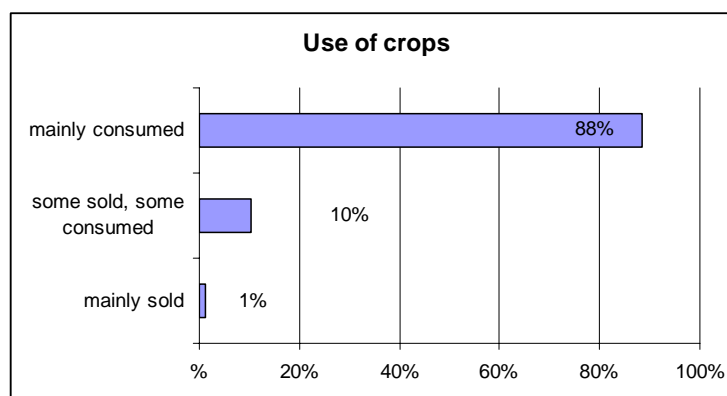
Related to this indicator is the payment households make to transport their rations as longer distance implies higher payment for transportation. Under half of sample households did not pay to transport food from distribution site. Around one third of households paid less than KGS 50¹ and around 14% paid KGS 50-100². Only 3% made a payment of more than KGS 100³ to transport their ration from distribution site. Considering that the value of the WFP food basket is approximately KGS 2,090⁴, the transportation costs incurred by the households makes up only very small fraction of its monetary value. Few households paid for transportation with food aid (0.6%) or were assisted by Ayil Okrug who arranged transport (0.3%).

1.3 Land Ownership and Agricultural Production

The respondents were asked questions about land ownership, type and size of land owned and agricultural production.

Ninety two percent of households own land. Majority (75%) of households have kitchen garden, while two thirds possess irrigated land and just over a quarter own non-irrigated land. Only about 2% of respondents mentioned they owned 'other' land which for the purposes of the monitoring is defined as conditionally irrigated area. The average hectares of land ranged from 0.3HA for irrigated land to 0.2HA for non-irrigated land.

The households were requested to indicate if they used any part of land owned or rented for growing plants and specify the crops produced over the last 12 months, their use and estimated harvest. Around 83% of households use land to produce crops. The use of land is distributed fairly even among all target districts.



Only one percent of the households mainly sell their agricultural produce, with over 80% of the interviewed households use most of their agricultural produce for their own consumption. Therefore, the majority of the households highly depend on the volume of the produce and are potentially vulnerable in the years of the poor harvest due to unfavorable weather conditions and other factors (for instance locust infestations).

It appears that although almost all households have access to land some households (9%) are not able to cultivate it. According to qualitative information collected by the data collection team, the main listed reasons are unfavorable weather condition, limited access to agricultural inputs, financial resources, extension services. This coincides with the information received from the Kyrgyz MoA according to which the main factor for the households in targeted areas not to be

¹ Less than US\$1.15

² Between US\$1.15-2.29

³ Over US\$2.29

⁴ Approximately US\$48.05

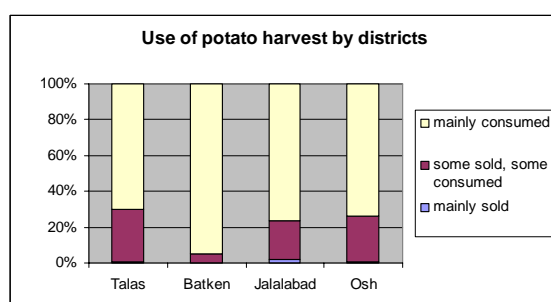
able to cultivate their land was economic reasons, including lack of up-to-date productive assets⁵.

Main crops produced are potatoes, maize, wheat and vegetables. Findings show that majority of households produce crops to meet the needs of their households and only 1% sells all of its produce.

Below table outlines the main crops and percentage of households growing plants by districts:

Crops	Talas	Batken	Jalalabad	Osh
Wheat	9%	20%	19%	28%
Maize	16%	46%	47%	31%
Potatoes	93%	37%	28%	62%
Vegetables	34%	34%	26%	17%
Apples	5%	15%	3%	12%
Beans	55%	4%	.3%	-
Sunflower	2%	6%	24%	5%
Other	4%	12%	7%	5%
Rice	-	6%	4%	1%
Beets	-	1%	.3%	.2%
Figs	-	1%	-	.2%
Plums	-	4%	5%	1%
Peaches	-	1%	.3%	-
Tobacco	-	5%	1%	6%
Apricot	-	28%	1%	3%
Cherry	-	5%	1%	1%
Grapes	-	-	.3%	2%
Melons	-	-	1%	12%
Cotton	-	-	11%	4%

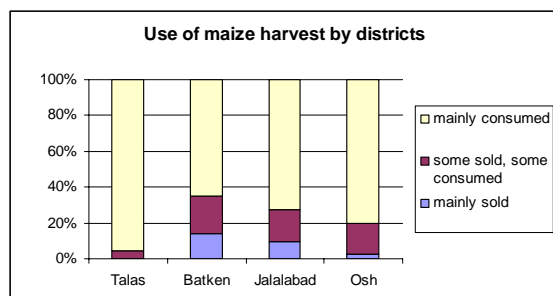
Below is the summary of information on the cultivation and use of main products:



Potato is a main crop for just over half of the households, ranging from a high of 93% in Talas to a low of 28% in Jalalabad. Around 78% of potato producing households was mainly consuming their produce, with under quarter selling part of the harvest and keeping some for household's use. The households in Batken were more likely to consume their harvest; in remaining districts from quarter to third of potato growing

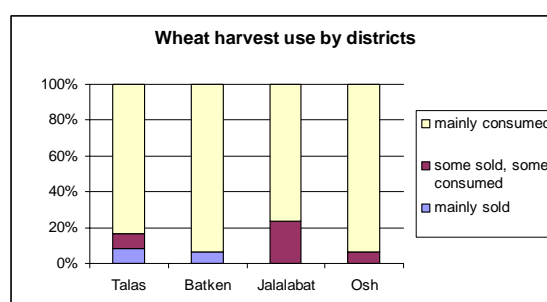
⁵ According to MoA, most households under GMLC do not have access to financial means for adequate agricultural investment, including seeds, fuel materials, etc. In addition the prices for seeds in 2008 increased by an average of 7.5%, which affected the households involved in agricultural activities. Agricultural tools, machinery (tractors, trucks, seeding-machines) and infrastructure (including irrigation systems) available in rural areas are outdated and require considerable investment for rehabilitation and/or upgrade.

households are selling some and retaining some for own consumption. Average harvest of potato is 861 kg for the sample.



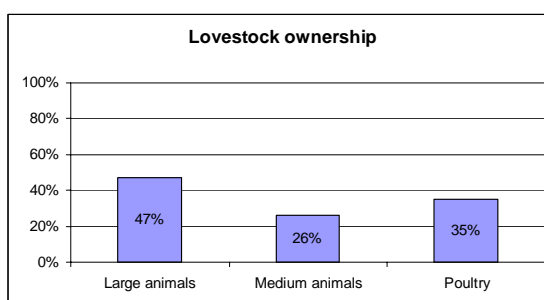
Over one third of households grow **maize**. It is produced by around 45% of households in Batken and Jalalabad and by only 16% of households in Talas. Average maize harvest is 386 kg. Only 7% of households are selling their maize produce. Around three-quarters keep the harvest for consumption and under one fifth sells some and consumes some. The chart outlines the use of maize produce by districts.

Wheat is cultivated by about 22% of households. From one fifth to a third of households in Jalalabad, Batken and Osh grow wheat, but only under one tenth of the sample in Talas cultivates it. About 89% of wheat growing households mainly consume it and just over one tenth sell some of their harvest. During the last two years the due to draughts and late frosts wheat flour harvest dropped considerably. According to MoA, the quality of wheat produced by small farmers is deteriorating every year due to poor quality of the seeds



1.4 Animal Assets

The households were asked to report the livestock for three categories: large animals (cattle/yaks/oxen/horses), medium animals (goats/sheep/swine) and poultry. Around two thirds (63%) of sample households own livestock (including poultry). The number of households who own livestock is lower in Talas (55%). Many households in Talas reported they had livestock in the past, but had to sell it due to increasing prices for fodder for they could no longer afford sustaining it. In Batken district around three-quarters of households own animals, with over one tenth (14%) keeping at least two animals. On average, households in Jalalabad own more animals (6), followed by Batken and Osh (5), and Talas (4).



Around half (47%) of interviewed households own large animals, of them 53% keep at least one large animal, while 36% own two large animals. On average, households own one large animal. It should be noted that it is enough to supply a household of five family members with dairy products, however the dairy products are not produced during winter period, which makes the

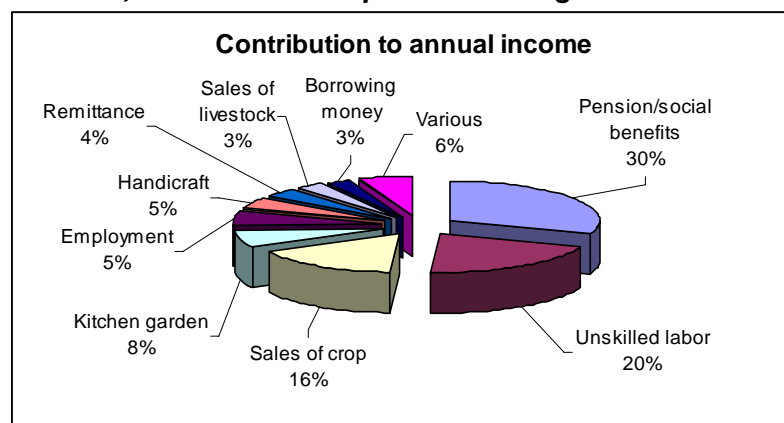
winter diet for the vulnerable families even scarcer. Ownership of large animals was higher in Batken district (58%), for the remaining target districts the variable is somewhat consistent. The ownership of medium animals is lower than large animals. Only about quarter (26%) of households keep medium animals. The mean ownership of medium animals for the sample is two. The higher ownership is in Osh (30%) and the lowest is in Talas (15%), while Batken and Jalalabad fall somewhere in between. On average, households own 2 poultry. Around a quarter (23%) of households own from 2 to 6 poultry.

1.5 Income Sources

Respondents provided information about the household's main income sources and relative contribution of each activity to total income over the last year. Almost all households (98.9%) have a source of income. Monitoring findings indicate that **majority of households are dependent on pension and social benefits**. Around one third of households reported it as the *number one source of income*. Though remittances were indicated as contributing on average only four percent of the annual income, it is believed that this income sources has been majorly under-reported by the interviewed households⁶.

In Talas, nearly equal number households named the sales of own crop (37%) and pension and social benefits (35%) as the main source of income. Around one third of households in Jalalabad rely on unskilled labor (mostly seasonal in the field of construction and agriculture) as the main source of income, while in Osh (38%) and Batken (31%) pension and social benefits are the main sources of income.

According to PDM results, **the main income activities in priority order are pension/social benefits, unskilled labor, sales of own crop and kitchen garden across all target districts**.



Social transfers provide one of the most significant source of income of households. In 2008, the average monthly pension was raised to US\$40, which was to take into account a 20% rise in electricity costs, but did little to mitigate high food and fuel prices, which constituted a large portion of people's expenditures⁷. As stated by the interviewed households at least 7% of the population in rural areas rely on social transfers as their sole source of income.

⁶ According to a number of sources, remittances constituted 20 to 30% of the GDP.

⁷ As of July 2009, pensions rose again, to an average of 2,138 som (approximately US\$50). However, with food prices remaining high and natural gas prices having doubled from last year, many people living off pensions find it difficult to cover basic costs. Those elderly or otherwise unable to work who do not receive even this form of support find this even more difficult.

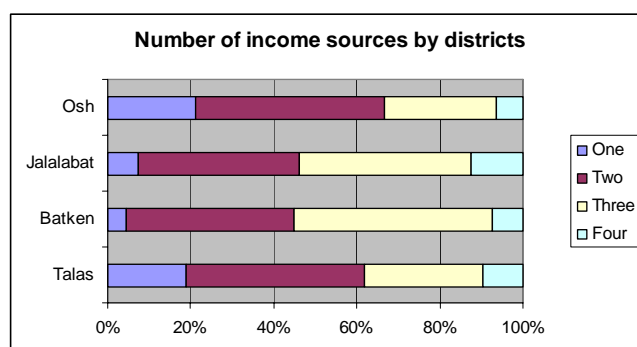
In terms of *contribution to the overall household budget*, the proportion from pensions and social benefits is 30%, followed by 20% from unskilled labor and 16% from sales of crop. Contribution from employment is small, while proportion from remittance is a little higher than sales of livestock and borrowing.

In terms of geographical variations, the contribution of pension and social benefits was larger in Osh, while proportion of crop sales was bigger in Talas. According to monitoring findings, remittances contribute more to the total income in Batken compared to other target districts. Though the PDM was not designed to seek specific information about tendencies in remittances, according to the data collection team, many of the interviewed households, which indicated this source of income reported that the share of remittances has either decreased or dropped recently. The table below summarizes the findings regarding relative contribution to total budget by districts.

Table 3. Relative contribution of sources of income by districts

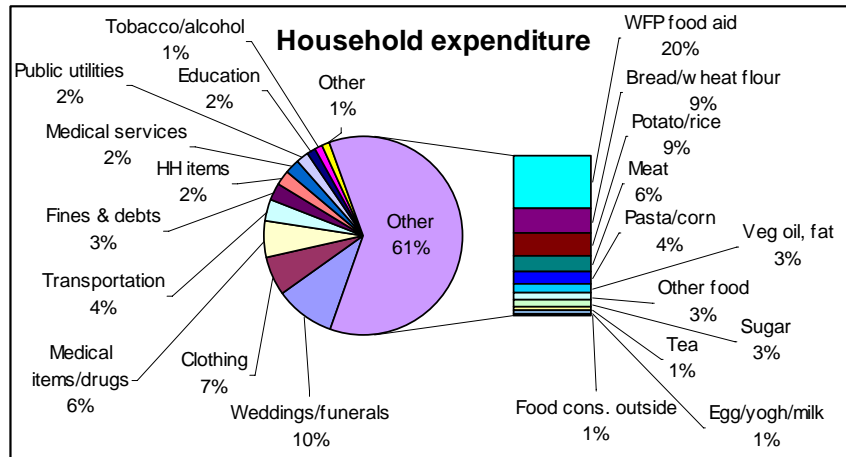
Source of Income	Batken	Jalalabat	Osh	Talas
Pension/social benefits	30%	22%	37%	31%
Sales of own crop	21%	12%	13%	31%
Unskilled labor	10%	29%	18%	16%
Employment	6%	3%	7%	5%
Borrowing money	-	4%	2%	4%
Kitchen garden	12%	10%	6%	3%
Skilled labor		2%	1%	3%
Handicraft	4%	8%	3%	2%
Land rent	1%	2%	1%	1%
Sales of animal products	-	1%	-	1%
Remittance	9%	3%	4%	1%
Small business/petty trade	1%	1%	2%	1%
Sales of own livestock	3%	1%	5%	-
Other	3%	3%	-	-
Sales of food aid	-	-	-	-
Sales of assets	-	-	-	-

In terms of *number of income sources*, forty two percent of households reported that they have two sources of income, followed by three (34%), one (14%) and four (9%). As seen from the chart below, more households in Talas and Osh have one source of income, while the number of households reporting three sources of income is significantly higher in Batken and Jalalabad. There is no significant difference in number of households deriving income from two sources across districts.



1.6 Household Expenditure

Respondents were requested to indicate the amount of cash they spent to acquire food and non-food items. The expenditure items were organized into 24 categories with a recall period of one week for food and a monthly recall for non-food expenditure. For a more accurate picture of the household expenditure the market value of the WFP monthly food ration was computed and included as a separate expenditure category.



Around 61% of the households' expenditure is devoted to food. **Fifty three percent of the interviewed households reported they spend over 70% of their family budget on food expenditures.** Such a large portion of monthly income dedicated to the food bill is indicative of high levels of poverty. It should also be stressed that though over 80% of the respondents depend on their own agricultural production, at the same time on average they spend way over half of their incomes on food expenditures. This makes them extremely vulnerable to both market fluctuations of food prices and unfavorable agricultural conditions of the specific year.

Despite food assistance, the expenditure on bread and wheat flour account for 9% of food expenditure. Although on average households devote approximately 6% of their total expenditure to meat, **over one third of households (36%) did not buy this product over the recall period.** Only 28% of the households purchased dairy products and/or eggs during the period in question.

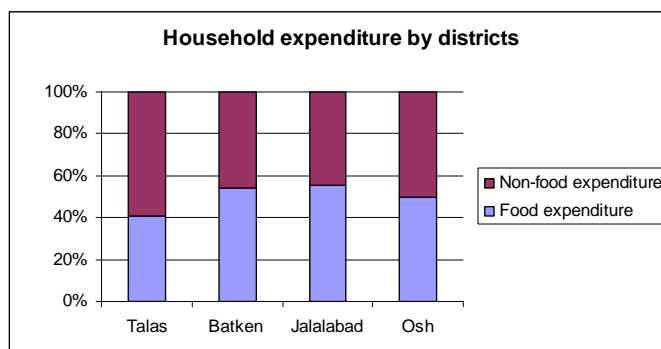
A worrisome number of families have access to regular procurement of vegetables and fruits. In general, average expenditures devoted to vegetables and fruits is quite low (among 3% of Other food types procured), Fifty four percent of the interviewed families did not procure vegetables/fruits during the recall period. Provided the PDM was conducted during May, beginning of June, when these types of products are not yet collected at their agricultural plots, almost half of the respondents cannot afford procuring fruits and vegetables at the markets.

The wider availability and cheaper prices of fresh food over the late spring and summer should have enabled people to improve their food consumption during this period. However, many interviewed households expected smaller than usual fruit harvests, following a colder spring. Fruit is both consumed at home, and sold for extra income, so reduced harvests will impact on dietary diversity and reduce available cash. if taken into consideration that the market value for these products in the beginning of the season is quite high, it leads to a conclusion that a rare household allocates funds for these foods.

On average households spend only one percent of the income on dairy products, although almost half of the respondents own on average one large animal.

For the sample, the highest proportion of total expenditure is on weddings and funerals. Within non-food items category, other important expenditure is on clothing, and medical items and drugs. Interestingly, share of education is the same as tobacco/alcohol, and less than transportation. In Talas and Osh expenditure on weddings/funerals is twice as much of that in Batken and Jalalabad. Expenditures on remaining non-food items is distributed fairly even among districts.

Households in Talas district have the lowest share of food expenditure (40%), while in Batken and Jalalabad it accounts for over half (55%) of the total expenditures. Osh is characterized by near even split of expenditures on food and non-food items. Sample households in all target districts except Talas are characterized by having the highest share of their expenditure on bread/wheat flour and potato/rice. In Talas the highest expenditure is on meat, followed by bread/wheat flour.

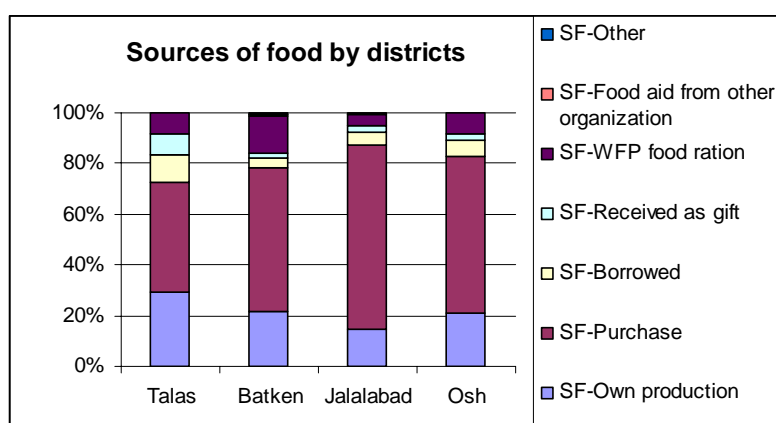


Jalalabad has the lowest per capita monthly expenditure (KGS 655⁸) compared to other target. In Talas this figure is KGS 974⁹, in Batken KGS 1,008¹⁰, and in Osh KGS 1,021¹¹. Though households' expenditures can be regarded as a relative indicator, the indicative value is still extremely low for all oblasts, which demonstrates vulnerability across the whole sample.

1.7 Sources of Food

The households were requested to indicate the sources of food over the last 12 months. The primary source of food for the sample households is purchase (63%). On average one fifth of households acquires food through own production. As seen above, households appear to produce only a small portion of their food needs, and all the families in the sample devote a large share of their disposable income to food (over 60%). This dependence on the markets makes rural families highly vulnerable to price oscillations and to longer term price increases.

The chart to the right outlines geographical variations by districts. Talas has the highest share of own production, borrowing and receiving as gift as sources of food compared to other districts, which may be explain the lowest share of food expenditure among target districts. In all districts food is primarily acquired through purchase, with Jalalabad



⁸ US\$15.05

⁹ US\$22.39

¹⁰ US\$23.17

¹¹ US\$23.47

and Osh having the highest share of food coming from this source.

1.8 External Assistance

The survey tool also collected information about external assistance other than WFP during winter/spring period of 2009. Only eight percent of respondents responded affirmatively. Of them, 91% received assistance from government, the remaining from other organizations including Arabian Foundation, JPO, Red Cross, SIDA, mosque and Gulmaidan NGO.

In terms of type of assistance, the respondents could choose all options that applied. Multiple response analysis was applied which indicates that majority of these households received food products, money allowances and cooking/heating fuel, mostly from the government. Other type of assistance includes clothing, seeds, paid holiday and presents for children.

Table 4. External assistance

Type of assistance	Government	Other organization
Food products	38.9%	2.8%
Money allowances	19.4%	2.8%
Cooking/heating fuel	17.6%	.9%
Other	6.5%	8.3%
Subsidized food products	7.4%	1%
For medical services	7.4%	-
For education	1.9%	-

Conclusion

Overall, the findings of the post-distribution monitoring are positive in regards to distribution arrangements, process and use of food rations. Ninety nine percent of sample households received correct amount of food ration. Nearly all beneficiaries used the WFP assistance to meet their food requirements, with only few households sharing their ration with relatives/neighbor. In general, distribution process went smoothly with only few reported cases of problems at the distribution site.

The monitoring results show close adherence to distribution rules related to beneficiary identification confirmation and distance to distribution sites. About 98% of respondents showed ID at the distribution point in order to receive food and 90% of distribution sites were within 10 km of the beneficiaries' location. Under half of sample households did not pay to transport food from distribution site and only 3% made a payment of more than KGS 100 to transport their ration from distribution site. One aspect that may need improvement is the awareness of the households of their entitlements as one third of sample households were not aware of the WFP ration scales.

In terms of main income sources, high reliance on pension/social benefits and unskilled labor leaves assisted households vulnerable to adverse effects of seasonality. The lack of diversification into sustainable and higher-income activities does not allow for stabilizing incomes of targeted households.

Although land ownership is high, around one tenth does not use their plot to grow crops, mainly due to lack of economic access to quality agricultural tools and investment. Findings show that

majority of households produce crops to meet the needs of their households and only 1% sells all of its produce. Ownership of livestock is low, around two fifth of households did not own large/medium animals or poultry. the high share of households' expenditure is devoted to food. Households mostly purchase their food, while share of own production (20%) as a source of food was very close to borrowing, gift and food aid taken together (17%).

Annex A. Tables

Table 1. Type of household by districts

	Talas	Batken	Jalalabad	Osh
Large	29%	35%	29%	30%
Medium	59%	49%	58%	53%
Small	10%	10%	8%	11%
Very large	2%	6%	6%	6%

Table 2. Total number of animals by districts

Number of animals	Talas	Batken	Jalalabad	Osh
None	45%	27%	33%	35%
1-10	45%	59%	48%	51%
11-20	8%	11%	11%	8%
21-30	1%	3%	13%	4%
31-40	1%	-	2%	1%
41-50	-	1%	-	0.3%
over 51	-	-	0.2%	0.3%

Table 3. Land ownership by type of land

	Irrigated land	Non-irrigated land	Kitchen garden	Other land
No	39%	73%	25%	98%
Yes	61%	27%	75%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 4. Land use by districts

	Talas	Batken	Jalalabat	Osh
No	12%	11%	16%	21%
Yes	88%	89%	84%	79%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 6. Awareness of the ration scales

	Talas	Batken	Jalalabad	Osh
No	40%	39%	14%	43%
Yes	60%	61%	86%	57%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 8. Selection criteria by district

	Talas	Batken	Jalalabad	Osh
Don't know	11%	10%	11%	5%
Met the criteria of minimum income	29%	20%	29%	24%
Met the criteria of number of livestock owned by household	3%	12%	18%	9%
Selected by community because were considered poor	30%	30%	34%	46%
Selected by food aid committee/commission	43%	30%	23%	37%

Table 7. Type of external assistance

	Percent
Food products	38%
Subsidized food products	7%
Cooking/heating fuel	16%
For education	2%
Money allowances	19%
For medical services	7%
Other	12%
Total	100%

Table 10. Mode of utilization: wheat flour

	Consumed	Exchanged/s old	Shared	Damaged	Remaining
None	7%	99.9%	98%	100%	47%
up to 25%	2%	-	0.7%	-	18%
25-50%	11%	-	1%	-	21%
50-75%	19%	-	0.2%	-	7%
75-100%	60%	0.1%	0.1%	-	8%

Table 9. Mode of utilization: vegetable oil

	Consumed	Exchanged/s old	Shared	Damaged	Remaining
None	7%	99.9%	97%	100%	45%
up to 25%	3%		2%		22%
25-50%	13%		0.6%		19%
50-75%	14%		0.2%		5%
75-100%	63%	0.1%	0.1%		9%

Table 10. Source of information about distribution

	Talas	Batken	Jalalabad	Osh
Local authorities	54%	15%	11%	16%
Village Health Committees	24%	.6%	.9%	2%
Village/Area leader	11%	51%	68%	70%
Neighbors	11%	34%	21%	12%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100

Table 11. Distance to distribution point

	Talas	Batken	Jalalabad	Osh
Below 5 km	95%	66%	48%	81%
5-10 km	5%	20%	33%	15%
over 10 km	-	14%	19%	4%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

ANNEX B. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
CP	Cooperating Partner
DP	Distribution Point
GMLC	Guaranteed minimum level of consumption
HA	Hectars
HH	Household
ID	Identification document\
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MSDSP	Mountain Society Development Support Programme
PDM	Post-distribution monitoring
RCHP	Republican Center for Health Promotion
WFP	World Food Programme
VGf	Vulnerable Group Feeding