



WFP Myanmar



World Food Programme

2015 Post Distribution Monitoring Report Life-Saving Food Assistance to IDPs in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan States



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Executive summary

This report summarizes the results of the post distribution monitoring (PDM) conducted in June/July 2015 with Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Kachin, northern Shan and Rakhine States receiving unconditional food assistance (emergency relief) provided by WFP. WFP is providing unconditional food assistance (rice, pulses, oil, salt) in Kachin, Maungdaw and Sittwe, and food and cash assistance in northern Shan. This report presents the results for four different geographical areas where WFP sub-offices (Kachin, northern Shan, Maungdaw and Sittwe) are located.

To measure the effectiveness and impact of the food distribution on the recipient population, data was gathered at household level through specific indicators. In total, 976 beneficiary households were interviewed. Focus group discussions were conducted in 67 villages.

Overall, the results of the PDM exercise highlighted the distribution process was carried successfully by joint efforts of WFP and its implementing partners. Through visibility items and pre-distribution sensitization, beneficiaries were informed of their entitlements before the distribution of food or cash took place.

Women's involvement in Food Management Committees has improved in comparison to 2014 PDM results and renewed efforts were made to reinforce women's participation in the food distribution process.

The data analysis revealed that women, men, girls and boys felt safe going to the food/cash distribution point. The security situation in all operational area was reported to be good during the food and cash distributions.

Disputes related to food assistance were very limited and WFP as well as Food Management Committees were actively involved to successfully mitigate the disputes.

In areas where feed-back and complaint mechanism were implemented, beneficiaries reported having used them when necessary. While the implementation of such mechanism is still on-going, sensitization on its use and benefits were conducted by WFP and its implementing partners.

Data highlighted that households mainly used the distributed food for their own consumption. Only a very small portion was sold or exchanged for mostly other food items. Food purchase was also the first priority use reported by cash recipient households.

Overall, beneficiaries of food and cash distributions were satisfied with the food distribution process as well as the quality and quantity of food. Women's participation throughout the distribution process is improving while WFP and its partners are actively promoting their empowerment.

Introduction

This report summarizes the results of the post distribution monitoring (PDM) conducted in June/July 2015 with Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Kachin, northern Shan and Rakhine States receiving unconditional food assistance (emergency relief) provided by WFP. WFP is providing unconditional food assistance (rice, pulses, oil, salt) in Kachin, Maungdaw and Sittwe, and food and cash assistance in northern Shan. Nevertheless, in northern Shan, 9 camps having good access to markets are receiving food (rice) and cash instead of pulses, oil and salt. The PDM seeks to measure the effectiveness and impact of the food/cash distribution on the recipient population (women, men, girls and boys).

WFP recently decided to strengthen the monitoring of its activities by increasing the frequency of monitoring. Up to 2014, the post distribution monitoring exercise was implemented yearly in October/November but was conducted twice a year in 2015.

This report presents the results for four different geographical areas where WFP sub-offices (Kachin, northern Shan, Maungdaw and Sittwe) are located. When relevant, data from Kachin and Rakhine collected for the 2014 post distribution monitoring is compared with that of 2015 data. However, it is important to note that the data is not always comparable with that of 2014 as PDM was conducted only in Kachin and Rakhine (Sittwe) in 2014 and only in October/November 2014.

To measure the effectiveness and impact of the food distribution on the recipient population, data was gathered at household level through the following indicators:

- Household demographics,
- Household weekly income,
- Food collection and utilization,
- Household food consumption,
- Food based coping mechanism,
- Protection and gender,
- Public awareness and beneficiary satisfaction,
- Distribution management.

Complementary information to the above indicators was also collected through group discussions (72 participants, 68% were women) held in each camp/village sampled for the household data collection.

Separate sampling was conducted for recipients in Kachin, Northern Shan and Rakhine (including Maungdaw and Sittwe). In each area, the sampling framework used was the complete list of camps/villages where food/cash assistance was provided under emergency relief. Within the sampling framework a sampling proportional to population size was applied to select camps/villages to visit (confidence interval 95% - precision 5%). In each camp/village sampled, simple random sampling was applied amongst all the households receiving WFP unconditional food/cash assistance to select which households to be interviewed.

In total, 976 beneficiary households were interviewed. Focus group discussions were conducted in 67 villages.

In Kachin, 296 beneficiary households were interviewed. Women focus group discussions were carried out in 24 villages. All participants to focus group discussions were women (figure 1).

Kachin	Township	Village	Number of households sampled
	Bhamo	AD-2000 Tharthana Compound	10
		Host Families Bhamo Town	10
		Robert Church	20
	Hpakant	Yumar Baptist Church	10
	Mansi	Maing Khaung	10
		Maing Khaung Catholic Church	10
		Mansi Baptist Church	10
	Mogaung	Kyun Taw Baptist Church	10
	Mohnyin	St. Patrick Catholic Church	10
	Momaik	Loi Je Baptist Church	11
		Man Bung Catholic compound	10
		Host Families Momaik Town	10
		Momaik Baptist Church	20
	Myitkyina	Du Kahtawng Qtr. 14	11
		Jan Mai Kawng Baptist Church	10
		Le Kone Ziun Baptist Church	10
		Pa Dauk Myaing(Pa La Na)	10
		Shatapru Sut Ngai Tawng	10
		Tat Kone Baptist Church	11
		Nan Kway St. John Catholic Church	10
	Shwegu	Shwe Gu Baptist Church	13
	Waingmaw	Maina AG Church	21
		Maina Catholic Church (St. Joseph)	10
		Maina KBC (Bawng Ring)	9
Thargaya Lisu Baptist Church		10	
Waingmaw AG Church		10	
			296

Figure 1: List of camps/villages sampled in Kachin and number of households sampled in each camp/village

In northern Shan, 271 beneficiary households were interviewed and focus group discussions were carried out in the 17 villages where women represented 48% of the focus group discussions participants (figure 2).

Northern Shan	Township	Village	Number of households sampled
	Kutkai	Tone Hwel Mone	20
		Zup Aung Camp	40
		Kutkai downtown (KBC Church)	19
		Kutkai downtown (RC Church)	1
		Mone See KBC camp	10
		Mone See RC camp	10
		Mine Yu Lay village	20
		Nam Hpak Ka Mare	10
	Manton	Mandung - Jinghpaw	10
	Muse	Mung Baw	10
		Muse Baptist Church	20
		Muse Catholic Church	10
	Namhkan	Namhkan - Pang Long KBC	30
		Nam Hkam - Nay Win Ni (Palawng)	20
		Nam Hkam (KBC Jaw Wang)	11
		Nam Hkam (KBC Jaw Wang) II	11
		Nam Hkam Catholic Church (St. Thomas I)	19
			271

Figure 2: List of camps/villages sampled in northern Shan and number of households sampled in each camp/village

In Rakhine, 409 beneficiary households were interviewed. Women represented 48% of the focus group discussions participants. The discussions were conducted in 26 villages (figure 3).

Rakhine	Township	Village	Number of households sampled
	Maugdaw	Nant Thar Taung FDP	10
		Hin Thar Ya	10
	Kyaukpyu	Kyauk Ta Lone	15
		Ka Nyin Taw	15
	Kyauktaw	Khaung Toke (Ku Lar)	15
		In Bar Yi	15
		Shwe Hlaing Ku Lar	15
	Minbya	Thar Dar	15
		Sam Ba Le	15
	Mrauk-U	Pu Rein	15
		Yin Thei	15
	Myebon	Taung Paw	15
		Kan Thar Htwet Wa Ward	15
	Pauktaw	Kyein Ni Pyin	15
	Sittwe	Dar Pai (IDP in host families)	15
		Dar Paing Ywar Thit	15
		U Yin Thar	15
		Thae Chaung (IDP in host families)	15
		Thea Chaung Ku Lar	30
		Thet Kae Pyin (IDPs in host family)	30
		Baw Du Pha 1	15
		Baw Du Pha 2	15
		Ohn Taw Gyi (South)	14
		Phwe Yar Gone	15
		Say Tha Mar Gyi	15
		Sat Roe Kya 1	15
			409

Figure 3: List of camps/villages sampled in Rakhine and number of households sampled in each camp/village

Household demographics

In Kachin: The household questionnaire highlighted the household average size was 5.46 members¹. Women headed households represented 34% of the interviewed households.

In northern Shan: The household questionnaire highlighted the household average size amongst the interviewed households was 4.46 members. Women headed households represented 29% of the interviewed households.

In Rakhine: In Maungdaw, the household average size amongst the interviewed households was 4.8 members. Only 5% of the households were headed by women. In Sittwe, the household average size amongst the interviewed households was 5.74 members. Women headed households represented 16% of the interviewed households.

Household weekly income

In the household questionnaire, information was collected on the income activities during the week preceding the survey.

The number of households income earners (women and men) varies between 1.22 and 1.45 (figure 4) in the surveyed areas.

Areas	Number of earners (male and/or female)
Kachin	1.22
Northern Shan	1.41
Maungdaw	1.45
Sittwe	1.32

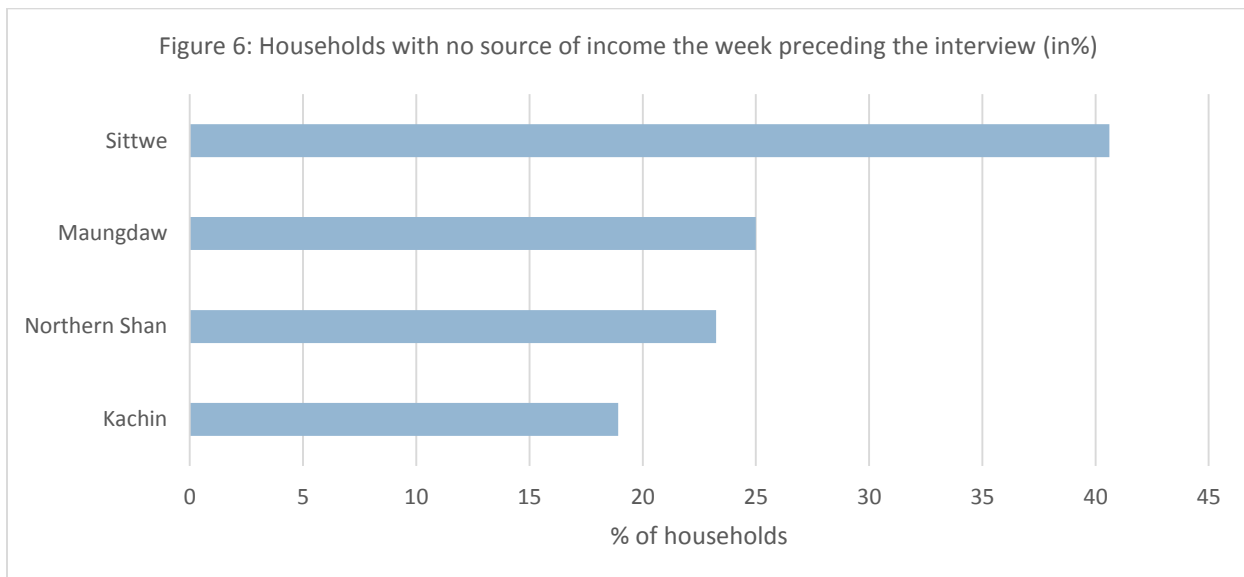
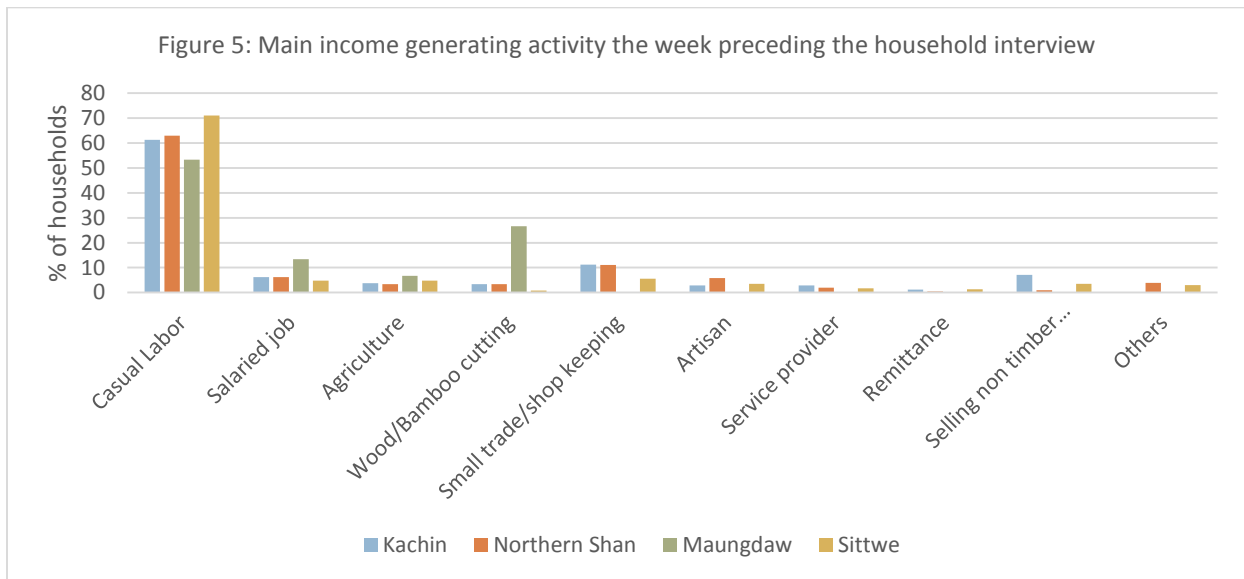
Figure 4: Number of income earners in the household the week preceding the interview

In all areas, casual labor was mentioned as the main income activity during the week preceding the monitoring (figure 5). The percentage of households reporting not having any income activity the week preceding the interview was high with 19% in Kachin, 23% in northern Shan, 25% in Maungdaw and 41% in Sittwe (figure 6). As focus group discussions were carried out in an IDP camp in northern Shan, participants mentioned their casual labor wages were paid on a daily basis and they were not allowed to leave the camp for longer than two weeks.

¹ According to the 2014 Census, household size are: 5.1 in Kachin, 4.7 in Shan and 4.4 in Rakhine.

The average weekly income reached around 19 000 MMK in Kachin and northern Shan, 13 000 MMK in Maungdaw and 21 000 MMK in Sittwe. The same trends are observed regarding casual laborers weekly incomes.

Household interviews showed that women’s participation in carrying out casual labor activities, the week preceding the interview, reached 90% in Kachin and northern Shan, 100% in Maungdaw and 94% in Sittwe.



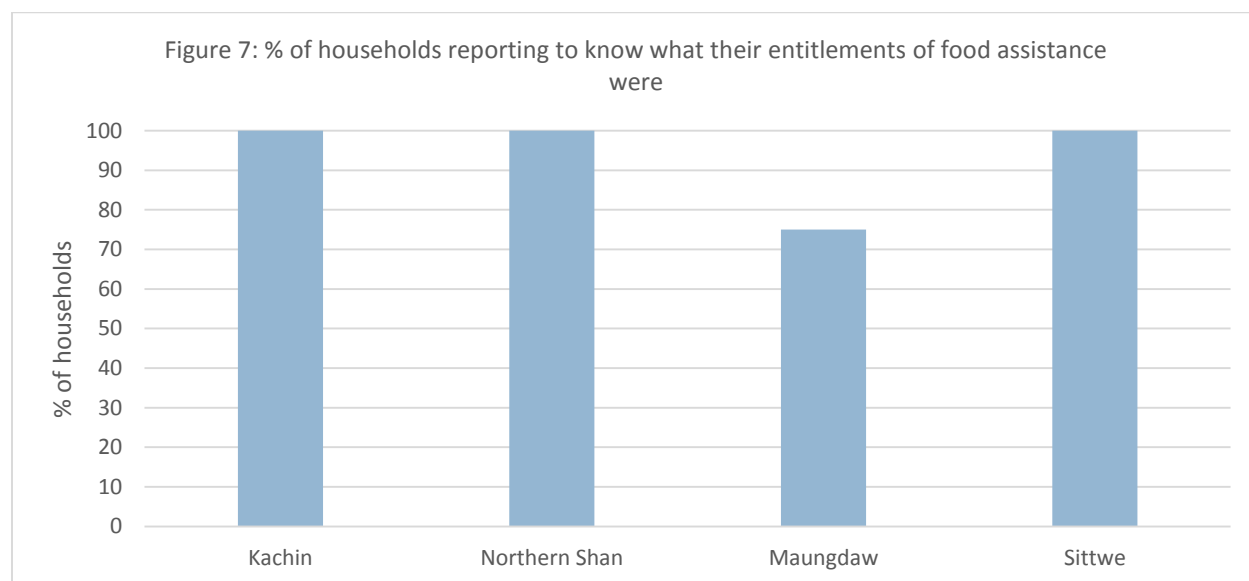
Distribution process

Awareness on entitlements

The focus group discussions highlighted that beneficiaries’ awareness on who was providing them the food had increased. Indeed, 96% of the groups in Kachin, 100% in Northern Shan, 75% in Maungdaw and 100% in Sittwe reported knowing who was providing food/cash assistance while the 2014 PDM reported 90% of the groups knew in Kachin and 92% in Rakhine.

In Kachin, northern Shan and Sittwe, all the focus group discussions reported that they knew what their entitlements of food/cash assistance were (figure 7). Only in Maungdaw, 25% of the focus group discussions mentioned they did not know their entitlements.

Respondents in Kachin, northern Shan and Maungdaw reported that they had received 100% of their food/cash assistance entitlements. In Sittwe, it was highlighted that 5% of the focus group discussions expressed that they had not received all their food entitlement. Participants mentioned that food rations were reduced to cover handling charges for the food management committee (FMC) at the distribution point.

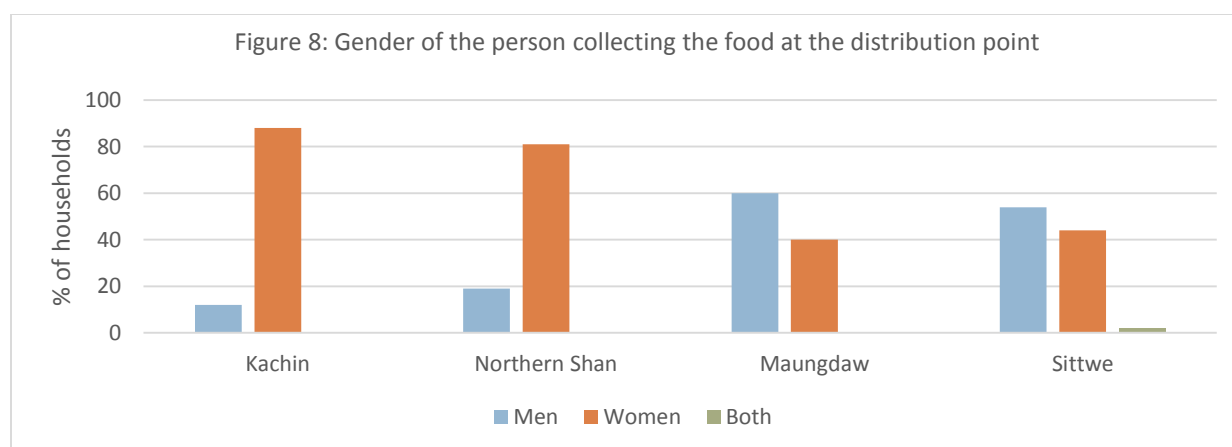


In Kachin, 96% of respondents to household interviews reported the availability of visibility items. A leaflet explaining the food ration size, outlining WFP and cooperating partners’ logo as well as distribution date was shared to beneficiaries prior to the food distributions. In northern Shan, and Sittwe, respectively 94% and 83% of the respondents reported the availability of visibility items that provided information on rations, place of distribution and distribution date while only 25% of the respondents reported having access to such visibility items in Maungdaw.

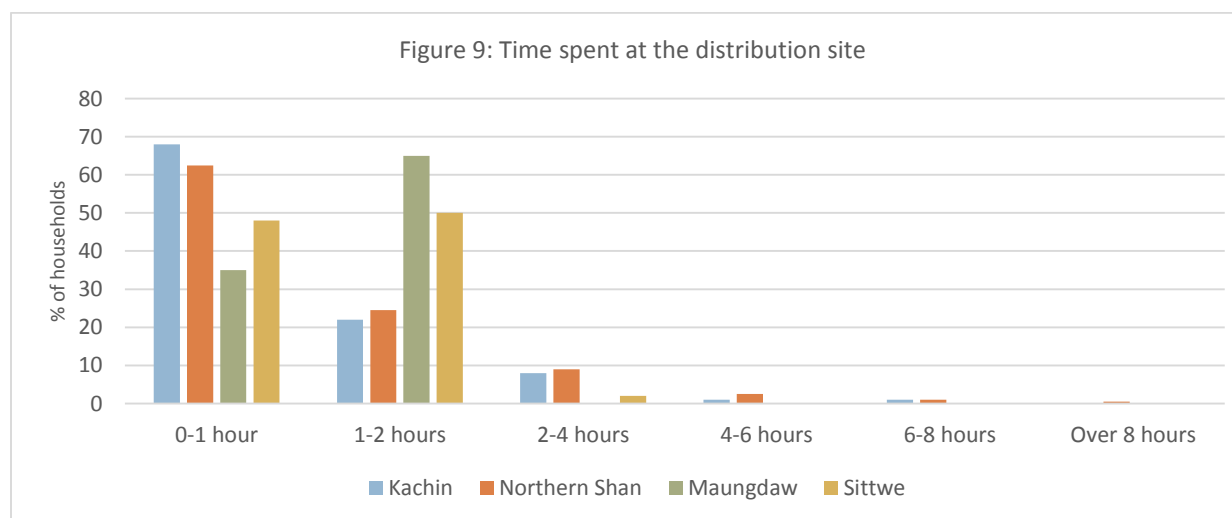
Food collection

During household interviews, households were asked who normally collects the food from the distribution point.

In Kachin, in 88% (PDM 2014:78%) of the households mentioned women collect the food at the distribution point. In northern Shan, more than 81% of the interviewed households mentioned women collect the food and 89% of the households mentioned women collect the cash. The analysis of the households' answers in Maungdaw and Sittwe vary from the other areas. Forty percent and 44%, respectively, of the households who were interviewed reported women were collecting food at the distribution point (figure 8) as compared to 36% in Sittwe, in 2014.



In Kachin, the analysis of the household questionnaires showed that 68% of all interviewed households spent 1 hour or less at the distribution site, 22% of all interviewed households spent between 1 and 2 hours, 8% between 2 and 4 hours, 2% spent between 4 and 6 hours (figure 9). In northern Shan, 87% of all the respondents reported they had spent 2 hours or less at the distribution site. In Maungdaw, all the respondents (100%) spent 2 hours or less at the distribution site and in Sittwe 98% (figure 9).





A large majority of the surveyed households (Kachin and northern Shan: 99%, Maungdaw: 90%, Sittwe: 98%) reported it took them 1 hour or less to reach the distribution site. Most of the households reached the distribution sites on foot (Kachin: 89%, northern Shan: 94%, Maungdaw: 65% and Sittwe: 100%). Motorbikes were also used by 10% of the households in Kachin and 5% in northern Shan.

In all surveyed areas, a majority of households reported it took one hour or less (Kachin: 99%, northern Shan: 100%, Maungdaw: 95%, Sittwe: 98%) to bring the food back to their home. In northern Shan all distribution sites were within the camps.

While a majority of households reported they returned to their homes on foot, motorbikes were also mentioned by 22% of the respondents in Kachin, 35% in northern Shan and 40% in Maungdaw.

Some households reported they needed to pay to transport the food home: 13% of all responding households in Kachin paid on average 800 MMK for the food transportation, 18% in northern Shan paid on average 1100 MMK, 45% in Maungdaw paid on average 1300 MMK and 28% in Sittwe paid on average 350 MMK.

Food Distribution Management

The participants of focus group discussions were asked to describe how the food provided by WFP was actually distributed to them. The analysis showed different distribution set ups in each operational area.

In Kachin:

Participants (46%) of focus group discussions reported that food assistance was delivered by WFP's cooperating partner and 54% reported that food assistance was delivered by Camp Management Committees (CMC)/Food Management Committees (FMC) in the camp (figure 10). However, cooperating partner staff were present on all distribution sites. While CMC and FMC members were carrying out the food distribution, measuring all commodities, cooperating partners' staff overview the distribution process.

All the focus group discussions mentioned women were among the people distributing food rations and all of them mentioned their preference for women distributing food rations. The main reasons mentioned were their good management of food, their patience and precision when using the scale.

The majority of the focus group discussions (73%) mentioned the presence of a FMC to support/manage the food distributions. This is a significant improvement in comparison to 2014s PDM as only 66% of the focus group discussions mentioned FMCs were involved in the distributions.

The members of FMC were part of the CMC. One of the CMC's role is to report on new arrivals of IDPs and report on those who have not been living in the camp for over two weeks. The FMC was in charge of informing IDPs about the time of the distribution. Cooperating partners were responsible for collecting updated data from CMC on a monthly basis and they have explained before the distribution what criteria for food assistance were used, what the ration size was.

Women represented in average 52% (figure 11) of the FMCs members. (PDM 2014: 53%).

In northern Shan:

The majority (94%) of the focus groups reported food assistance was delivered by both WFP cooperating partners and FMCs (figure 10). All the focus group discussions mentioned women were among the people distributing food rations and mentioned their preference for women to distribute food rations. Some reasons mentioned were their availability, their calm and their high level of dedication.

All the focus groups mentioned the presence of a FMC to support/manage the food distribution. In this intervention area, the FMC was in charge of the identification of beneficiaries, the preparation and update of beneficiaries' lists. Women represented 53% of the FMC members (figure 11). Group discussions highlighted the strong involvement of women in the management of the FMC.

In Maungdaw:

Food was only distributed through WFP and WFP cooperating partners (figure 10) and 75% of the participants to group discussions mentioned women were among the people distributing the food rations.

All participants mentioned they preferred having women distributing food rations. The main reason mentioned by participants in Maungdaw was that communication was easier with women.

All participants (100%) of focus group discussions reported that there was no FMC to support/manage the food distribution.

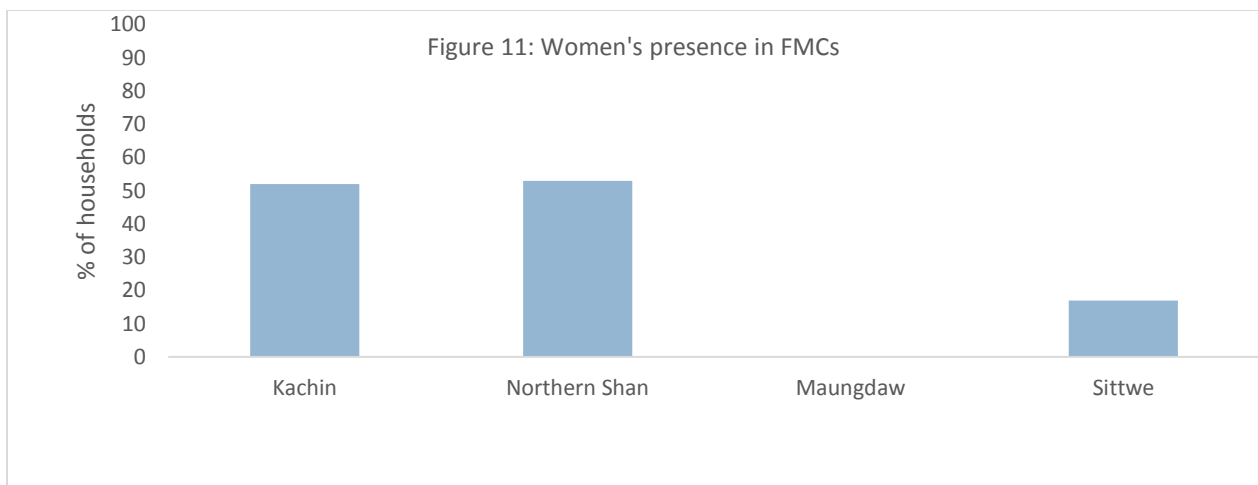
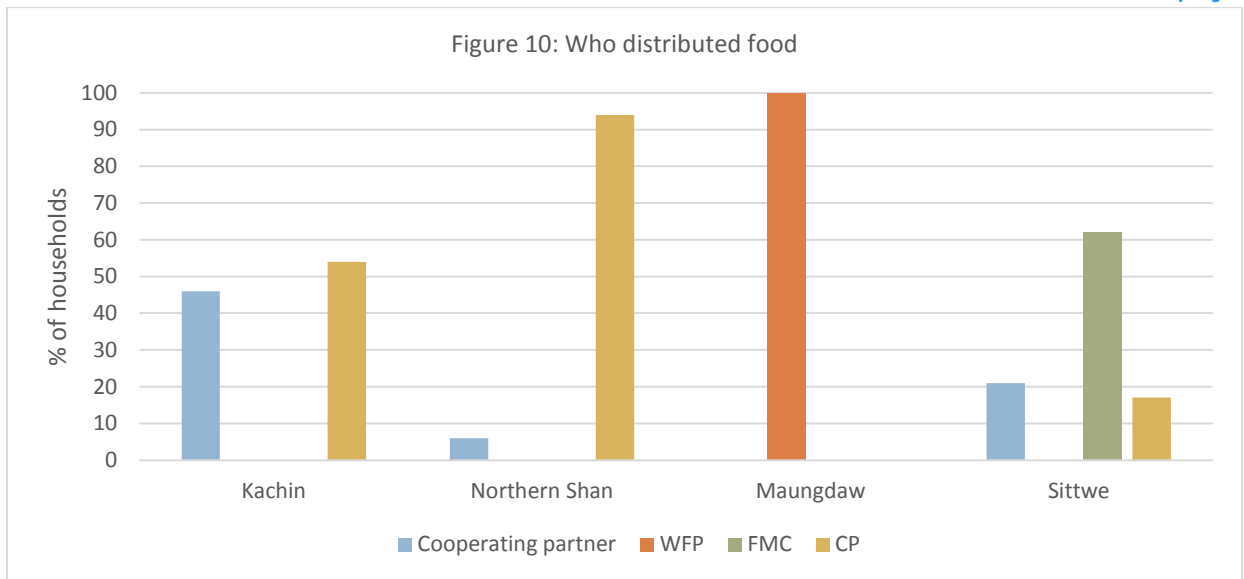
In Sittwe:

Over half of the focus groups reported (PDM 2015: 60%, PDM 2014: 43%) food assistance was provided through FMCs (figure 10).

The presence of women during the food distributions was mentioned by 32% of the participants to group discussion and only 32% of the participants to group discussions mentioned their preference for having women distributing food rations.

All participants mentioned that FMC was present during the food distribution to identify beneficiaries, supervise the distribution and update the list of beneficiaries.

Women were largely in minority in the FMCs as in average women represented 17% (PDM 2014: 15%) of the FMCs membership (figure 11). Only 36% of all respondents mentioned their preference for women in FMCs. One respondent mentioned that while women were preferred, religious habits would not allow them to be more present in FMCs.



Protection and Gender

Beneficiaries' safety

All the interviewed households as well as participants to the focus group mentioned that men, women, boys and girls felt safe going to the food/cash distribution point, at the distribution site and leaving from the distribution site. Respondents have mentioned that by the time the distributions were carried out, the security situation was good.

Dispute related to food assistance

While in northern Shan and Maungdaw none of the interviewed household mentioned any disputes in their household linked to the food assistance, in both Kachin and Sittwe, one household mentioned a dispute. In Sittwe the dispute was linked to the fact that a household member had made a decision to sell part of the ration. No data is available for the case reported in Kachin.

In Kachin, during focus group discussions, participants mentioned that FMCs helped not to have any conflicts as they were closely involved in the distributions as well as in the verifications of beneficiaries' lists. In northern Shan, one focus group reported disputes linked to the food distribution in some households as well as conflicts within the village/camp. Violence against women was reported in two households. The dispute was linked to the fact that husbands were asking their wives for money to buy drugs. The camp committee was actively engaged in solving the issue by increasing its control over drug consumption within the camp.

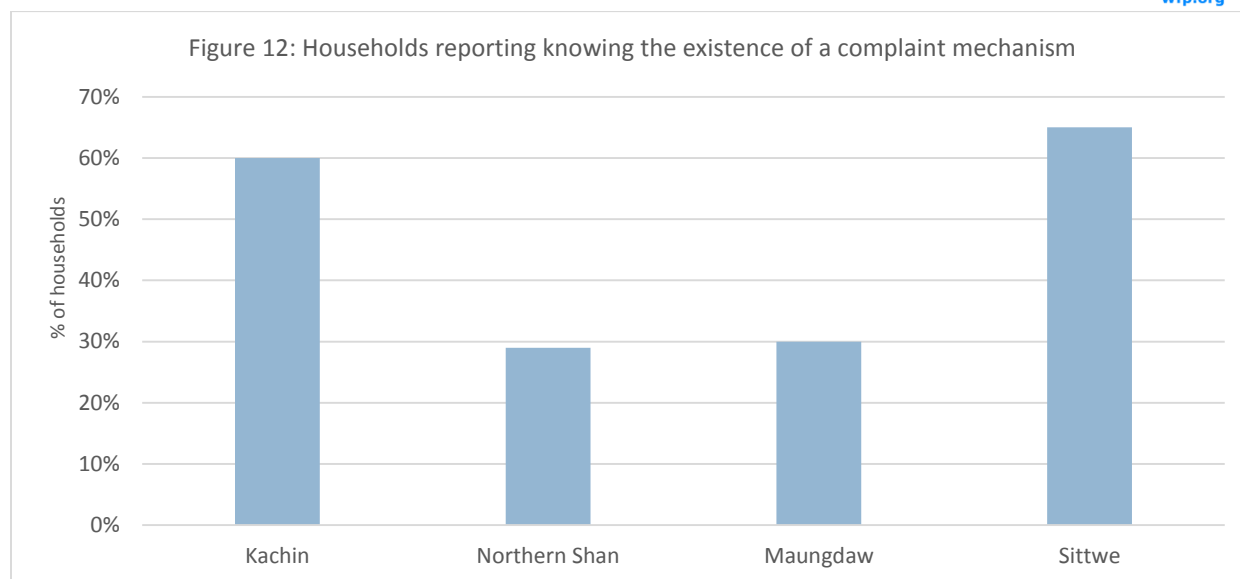
Feedback/Complaint mechanisms

Complaint mechanism awareness was assessed through the household interviews.

In Kachin, 60% of the households reported being aware of a mechanism to report/complain about issues related to food distributions (figure 12) whereas 36% was in 2014. This improvement may be due to the setup of a complaint desk on each distribution site.

In northern Shan, respondents mentioned that if they had a complaint, they would address it to the FMC (6% of all respondents) or WFP (7% of all respondents). WFP is in the process of putting in place a hot line phone number where feedback/complaints can be made.

In Maungdaw and Sittwe, 30% and 65% (2014: 66% in Sittwe) respondents respectively knew about the existence of the feedback/complaint mechanisms (figure 12).



Fees and tax

In Kachin, one respondent to the household interview reported having to pay a fee to receive the food. The respondent mentioned that the money was collected by a camp committee. Other respondents did not mention that they paid fees/tax to receive the food. This data was confirmed by the Protection Working Group who did not mention having received any complaints about the collection of fees and taxes. Also in 2014, no respondent mentioned the collection of fees or tax by FMC or CMC related to the food distribution.

In northern Shan, no respondent mentioned the collection of fees and taxes related to the food distribution. Also, in northern Shan, no security incident related to the distribution of cash was reported. In Maungdaw, no respondent reported the collection of fees/taxes related to the food distribution.

In Sittwe, 6% of the interviewed households (PDM 2014:14%) mentioned having to pay fees to collect the food. Fees were collected to pay transport, carrying charges, warehousing and guards of the warehouse. Media attention as well as discussions with FMCs not to collect any fees have helped to reduce the fee collection in comparison to 2014. One respondent in Sittwe mentioned to have acknowledged that some girls or women had to pay in services to get humanitarian assistance. No additional data is available. Beneficiary Satisfaction over quality and quantity of food

In Kachin and Rakhine, beneficiaries were provided with a basic food basket (rice, pulses, oil and salt, blended food²). In northern Shan, beneficiaries received a combined ration of cash and food.

² Blended food is provided to pregnant and lactating women in Kachin, Lashio, Rakhine as well as children under 2 years of age in Kachin and under 5 years of age in Rakhine.

Participants to focus group discussions were asked whether they were satisfied with the quantity and quality of the food provided by WFP.

In Kachin: While being overall satisfied on both the quantity and quality of the food items provided, main complaints raised during focus group discussions were the poor quality of the rice provided (raised by 4% of the groups) as well as the quantity of pulses (8% of the groups) and salt (12% of the groups) which were too low.

In northern Shan: The majority of the focus groups reported being satisfied on both quantities and quality of all items. However, 10% mentioned the poor quality and quantity of pulses.

In Maungdaw and Sittwe areas: Respondents unanimously reported very high satisfaction on the quality and quantities of most food items provided. However, respondents (25%) in Maungdaw mentioned that the quantity of rice in the ration was too small.

		Kachin		Northern Shan	Maungdaw	Sittwe	
		2014	2015	2015	2015	2014	2015
Quantity	Rice	94	100	100	75	100	100
	Pulses	96	92	90	100	99	100
	Oil	88	100	100	100	100	100
	Salt	59	88	100	100	100	100
	Blended food	89	100	100	100	99	100
Quality	Rice	83	96.2	100	100	99	100
	Pulses	91	100	90	100	100	100
	Oil	97	100	100	100	100	100
	Salt	98	100	100	100	100	100
	Blended food	100	100	100	100	99	100

Figure 13: Households' satisfaction on quantity and quality of the food items provided in %

Household consumption and use of the ration

Information related to the household food consumption and the use of the food rations provided by WFP was gathered through the household interviews.

Use of the food ration

In Kachin: Women were responsible to handle and make decisions on the use of food in 90% (PDM 2014:85%) of the interviewed households. Only in 2% (PDM 2014:12%) of the households, decisions were made by both men and women.

The food ration was mainly used for the household consumption (figure 14):

- On average, **95%** (PDM 2014: 90%) of the **rice** ration were reported being **consumed**, while **4%** (PDM 2014: **2%**) were sold and the remaining was donated.
- On average, **88%** (PDM 2014: 90%) of the pulses were reported being **consumed**, **3%** (PDM 2014: 3%) **exchanged** with other commodities, **3%** (PDM 2014: **3%**) **sold** and the remaining **4%** (PDM 2014: **4%**) used for **several purposes** (1% shared, 1% stored, 2% for other purposes).

Out of all respondents, 24% reported selling food from the ration, with rice being the most often sold (8% of the households) compared to pulses (7% of the households). The main reason mentioned for selling food from the ration was to purchase other food.

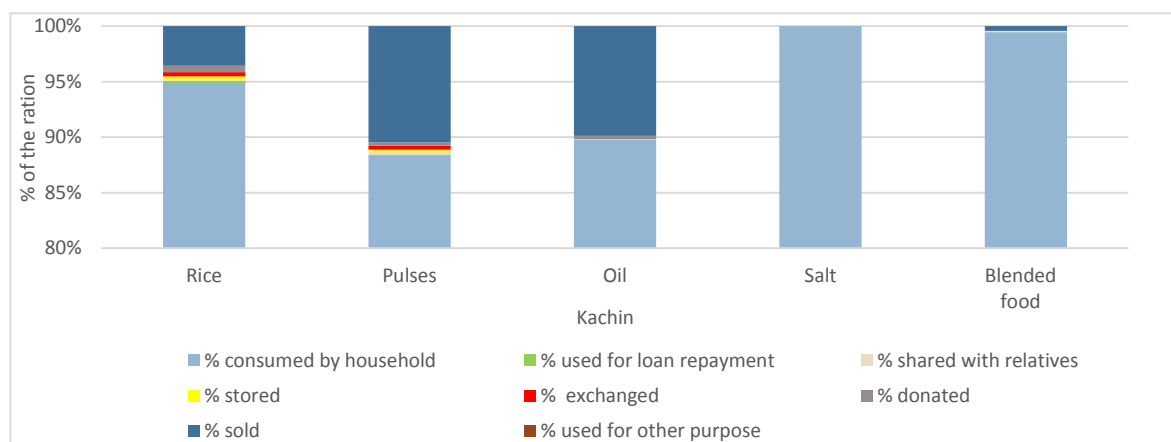


Figure 14: Use of the ration in Kachin, in % of the ration provided

In northern Shan: Women were responsible to handle and make decisions on the use of food in 88% of the households interviewed. In 5% of the cases, decisions were made by both men and women.

Similarly as in Kachin, consumption by the households' members was reportedly the main use of the food items provided (figure 15). However, food items, mainly pulses, rice and oil were also reported being used for other purposes:

- On average, 93% of the rice provided were reported being consumed while 5% were sold and 1% being exchanged with other commodities,
- On average, 90% of the pulses provided were reported being consumed while 9% were sold and small quantities were stored or shared,
- On average, 95% of the oil provided were reported being consumed by the household while 4% were sold and small quantities either shared or donated,
- On average, 100% of WSB provided were reported being consumed by children under 2 years and pregnant and lactating women.

Overall, 75% of the households reported not selling any food item from the ration and 22% reported selling one or two items. When households were asked why they were selling part of the food ration, 50% of them responded they needed to cover education fees and 25% responded they bought other food items.

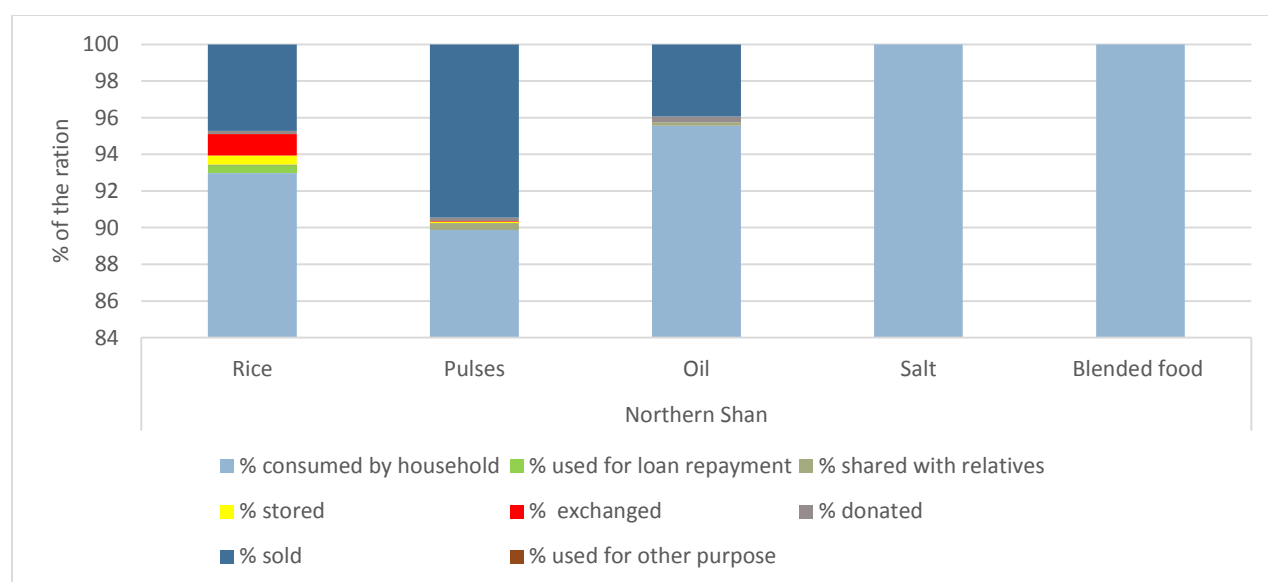


Figure 15: Use of the ration in Northern Shan, in % of the ration provided

In Maungdaw, more than half of the respondents (55%) reported men and women were responsible to handle and make decision on the use of food (figure 19). In 30% of the cases, decisions were made by men only.

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 (figure 16):

- On average, **93.5%** of the **rice** provided were reported being **consumed** while small quantities were sold, stored or donated,
- On average, **96%** of the **pulses** provided were reported being **consumed**, while **4%** were **sold and small quantities were exchanged** with other commodities, shared with other relatives or used to pay debts,
- On average, **100%** of the **oil, salt and blended food** provided were reported being **consumed**.

Overall, 90% of the households reported not selling any food item from the ration and the remaining 10% report selling one item. Amongst the households reporting selling items from the food ration, 75% report selling the food of the ration to purchase other food items.

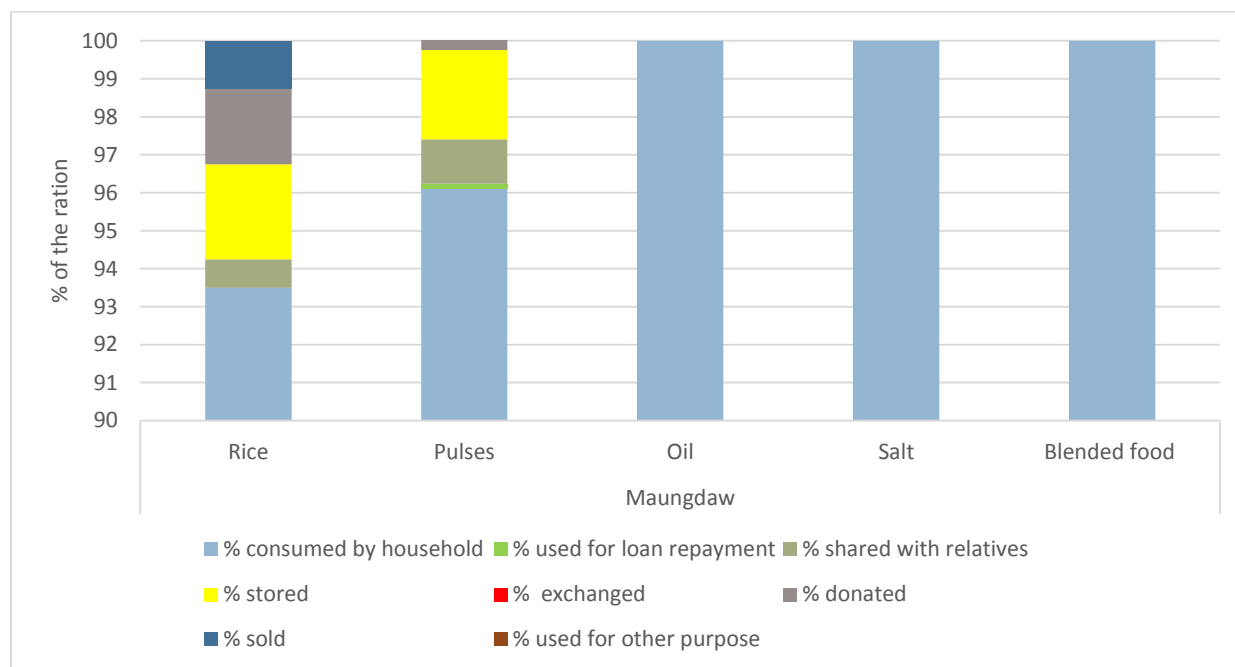


Figure 16: Use of the ration in Maungdaw, in % of the ration provided

In Sittwe, 80% (PDM 2014:63%) of the households responded that **women** were responsible to handle and make decision on the use of food (figure 19). In 8% (PDM 2014:10%) of the households, decisions were made by both men and women.

Consumption by the households' members was the main use reported for the food items provided in the rations (figure 17). However, food items, mainly rice, pulses and oil were also reported being used for other purposes:

- On average, **96% (PDM 2014: 86%)** of the **rice** provided were reported being **consumed** while small quantities were sold, stored or donated,
- On average, **90% (PDM 2014: 80%)** of the **pulses** provided were reported being **consumed**, while **4%** were **sold and small quantities were exchanged** with other commodities, shared with other relatives or used to pay debts,
- On average, **95% (PDM 2014: 88%)** of the **oil** provided were reported being **consumed** while **2%** were **sold** and small quantities were exchanged or shared with relatives.

Overall, more than 81% (PDM 2014: 53%) of the households reported not selling any food item from the ration. Among the households who reported selling the ration, half reported selling only 1 item. The main reasons for selling the ration were to purchase other food or firewood.

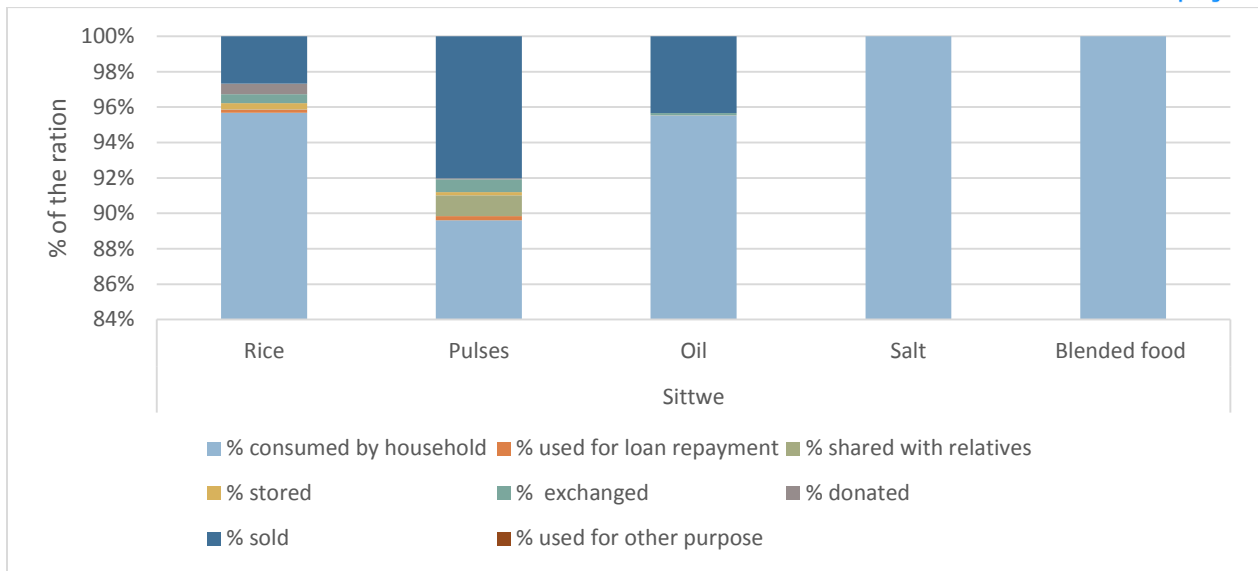


Figure 17: Use of the ration in Sittwe, in % of the ration provided

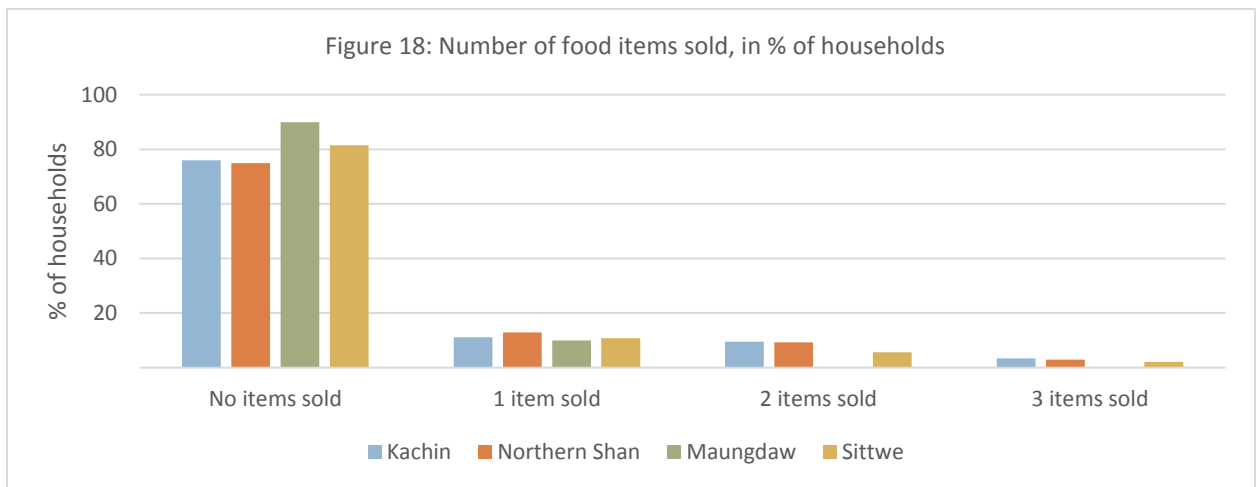


Figure 18: Number of food items sold, in % of households

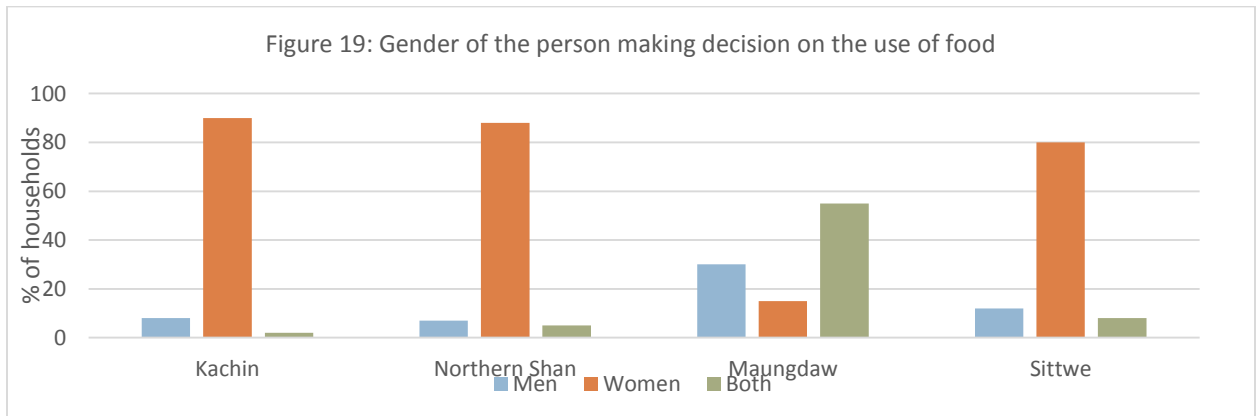
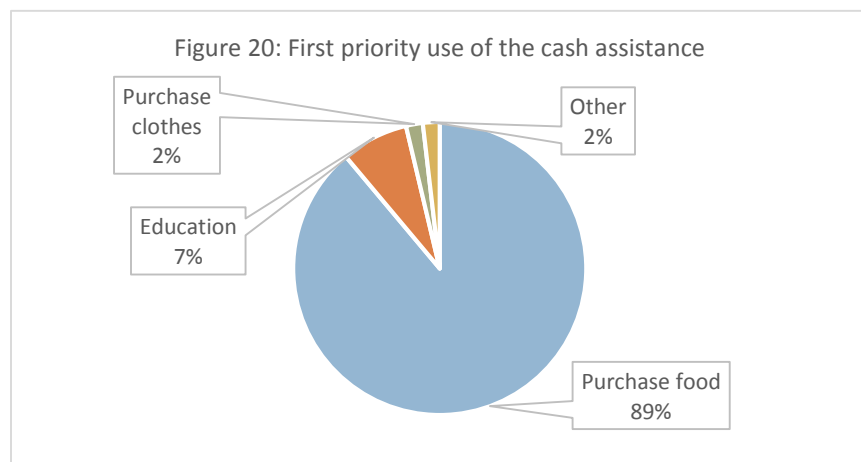


Figure 19: Gender of the person making decisions on the use of food

Use of the cash

Households were asked during the household questionnaire how they were using the cash provided by WFP. Food purchase was the first priority use reported by 89% of the households (figure 20). The second priority use mentioned by 52% of the respondents was education costs.



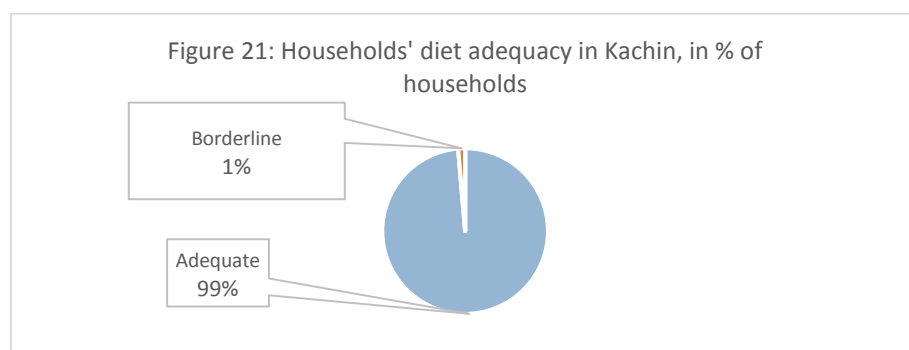
Household food consumption and food based coping mechanisms

During household interviews, respondents were asked to state which food items they had consumed over the last 7 days. The analysis is looking at the food consumption scores and the food based coping mechanisms. The results in each intervention area highlight disparities, with notable differences in Rakhine.

In Kachin: Similar to the findings from 2014 post distribution monitoring, the majority of the households (99%) was found with adequate diet, measured through the food consumption score, while 1% was found with borderline diet (figure 21).

Half of the households reported that there were times during the preceding week when the household did not have enough food or money to buy food.

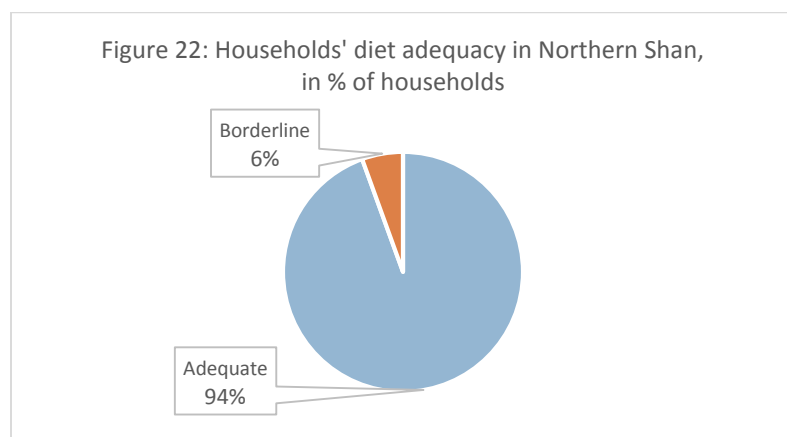
Food based coping mechanisms were used by 50% of the interviewed households, however, not on a daily basis. The main mechanism reported was borrowing food from neighbors or relatives (figure 25).



In northern Shan: The majority of households (94%) was found with adequate diets and 6% were found with borderline diet (figure 19).

Most of the respondents (76%) reported that there were times during the preceding week when the household did not have enough food or money to buy food. Households reported the most critical times were the week before the next distribution. Households with school aged children were particularly affected.

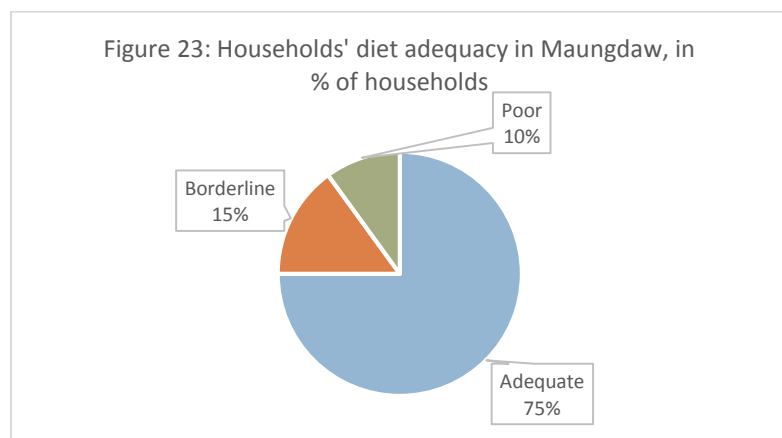
Only 24% of all respondents reported not having to use food based coping mechanisms. The main coping mechanisms mentioned were borrowing food from neighbors and/or relative, purchasing food on credit and reducing the rice portion size (figure 22).



In Maungdaw, 75% (PDM 2014: 76%) of the households were found with **appropriate diet**, while **15%** (PDM 2014: 20%) had **borderline diets** and **10% (PDM 2014: 4%) poor diets** (figure 23).

Around one third (35%) of the respondents reported there were times during the preceding week when the household did not have enough food or money to buy food.

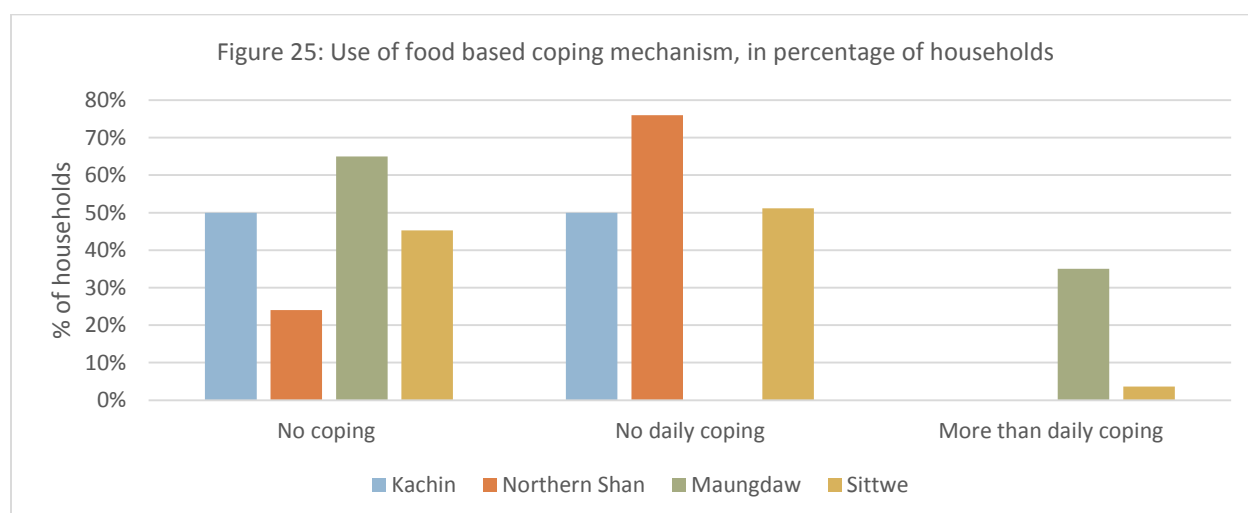
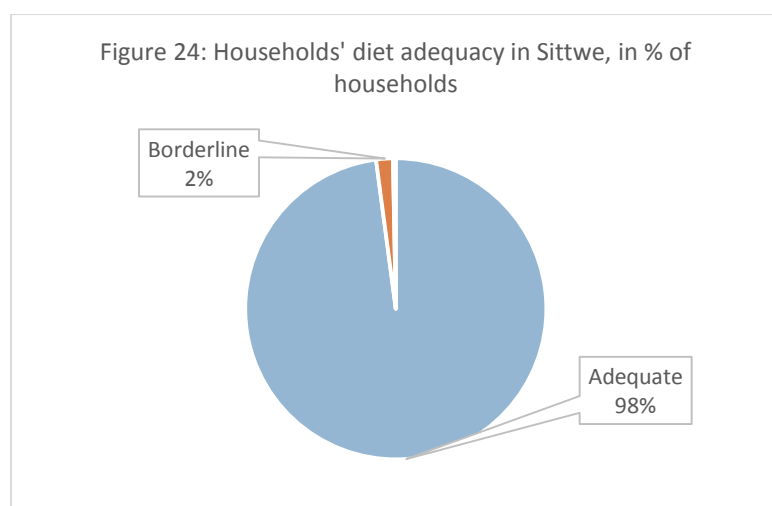
Among the interview households, 65% reported not having to use coping mechanisms while 35% mentioned they used at least one mechanism daily. The main coping mechanism mentioned was consuming only rice at meal times followed by reducing the size of the meal portion (figure 25).



In Sittwe, 98% of the households were found with appropriate diets, while 2% had borderline diets (figure 21).

More than half of the respondents (56%) that reported there were times during the preceding week when the household did not have enough food or money to buy food.

Coping mechanisms were used by 55% of all respondents with 3.3% mentioning they had to use at least one coping mechanism daily. The main mechanisms reported were borrowing food from neighbors, purchasing food on credit and reducing the number of daily meals.



Recommendations

Kachin

- **Two percent (2%) of households interviewed spent 4 to 6 hours at the distribution site (page 12).** → Reasons of so many hours (4 to 6 hours, and 6 to 8 hours in the bar graphs) must be understood, and WFP and partners need to make best efforts to reduce number of hours waiting for beneficiaries to be distributed with food assistance.
- **The members of FMC were part of the CMC. One of the CMC's role is to report on new arrivals of IDPs and report on those who have not been living in the camp for over two weeks (page 13).** → Verification of beneficiary list and provision of correct rations are responsibilities of CPs'. Roles of FMC, CMC and CPs need to be clarified and well understood by beneficiaries.
- **Out of all respondents, 24% reported selling WFP food for other food (page 19).** → Change of transfer modality from food to cash where feasible, starting from January 2016, will be a solution to meet changing needs of beneficiaries.

Northern Shan

- **Twenty two percent (22%) of household reportedly selling one or two items of the food basket (page 20).** → WFP and partners need to consider a shift of transfer modality from food to cash if possible, so as to assist beneficiaries spend their cash for other essential items/services.
- **Most of the respondents (76%) reported that there were times during the preceding week when the household did not have enough food or money to buy food (page 24).** → WFP and partners to learn the reasons whether this is due to selling part of food rations.

Rakhine (Maungdaw)

- **Twenty five percent (25%) of beneficiaries are not aware of where/who the food/cash assistance comes from (page 11).** → Communication with beneficiaries, including visibility items, i.e., banner, posters, needs to be much improved.
- **Only 25% of the respondents reported having access/known WFP food basket and its ration size, place of distribution and date of distribution through visibility items (page 11).** → Information dissemination by WFP and partners on the food basket and its ration size, place of distribution and date of distribution needs significant improvement.

- **Only 30% of the respondents knew about the existence of a feedback/complaint mechanism in Maungdaw (page 16).**
→ WFP and partners need to disseminate information better/more frequency and communicate with beneficiaries better to ensure that beneficiaries are aware of how to make feedback/complaints if/when needed.
- **Ten percent (10%) of the household was found with the poor diet in the Food Consumption as opposed to 4% in 2014 (page 24).**
→ WFP and partners need to understand the reasons of an increase in the percentage by 6%. Is this related to WFP's assistance, or is it due to a decrease in other food consumption.
- **Increasing and improving the information shared with beneficiaries (i.e., ration entitlements, distribution calendars, nutrition messages), since most of the beneficiaries are illiterate.**
There is a need to enhance WFP's visibility in the villages. Additional to visual items, verbal information has to be shared in every distribution moment (page 11).
- **Promoting women empowerment through giving priority to women as primary food/cash collector (first name in the ration card for assistance), and by encouraging women to be active members of the FMCs (page 12).**

Rakhine (Sittwe)

- **The issue of handling charge or fees that had been paid by beneficiaries to FMC/CMC needs an immediate attention (page 11).**
→ WFP and partners have brought to government and other stakeholders' (Protection Working Group, Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Special Technical Advisor in UN Resident Coordinator's Office) attention. WFP, partners, FMC, CMC and other stakeholders are currently working on actions to resolve this inappropriate practice. Complaint and feedback mechanisms are being set up.
- **All participants mentioned that FMC was present during the food distribution in identifying beneficiaries, supervising the distribution and updating a list of beneficiaries (page 14).**
→ One of the primary responsibilities of CPs are to carry out food distribution and updating/verifying lists of beneficiaries, which seems to be failing at this moment. CPs need to be reminded their roles and responsibilities, simultaneously to be at the distribution site from the start to the end of distribution.
- **More than half of the respondents (56%) reported that there were times during the preceding week when the household did not have enough food or money to buy food (page 25).**
→ WFP and partners to learn the reasons.