

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (PHASE 2) TO IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY AND RESILIENCE OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE, INCLUDING INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS AND RETURNEES IN BAMIYAN PROVINCE, AFGHANISTAN

**CWS - JAPAN AND ASIA
THIRD PARTY EVALUATION (TPE) OF JPF FUNDED
PROJECT IN AFGHANISTAN**



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Acronyms

ANDMA	Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority
CDC	Community Development Council
CWS-A	Community World Services-Asia
CWS-J	Community World Services-Japan
CFW	Cash-for-Work
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
FCS	in Food Consumption Score
GBV	Gender-based Violence
HH	Household
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
JPF	Japan Platform
LARA	Licensed Agencies for Relief in Asia
MOEC	Ministry of Economics
MPCA	Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Acknowledgement

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I Executive Summary

The Project *Emergency response to improve food security and build resilience of climate affected families including IDPs and returnees in Bamyan, Afghanistan-Phase 2* (referred herein after as *Cash for Work and Cash Distribution for Food*) was implemented from November 5, 2022 to September 30, 2023 under JPF Afghanistan Humanitarian Crisis Response Support Program. The purpose of the project was to ensure that in Afghanistan's Bamyan Province, vulnerable individuals enhance their resilience to climate change and aggravated disasters and mitigate the immediate risk of food insecurity by understanding medium-to-long-term disaster risks and their mitigation methods.

An End-of-Project Evaluation of both components of the project was carried out by ASK Aria Consulting Afghanistan from February to April 2024. The Evaluation was conducted in compliance with OECD/DAC criteria and by adopting mixed method approach of research. Both quantitative and qualitative data were collected to gain statistical insight into facts and opinions, respectively. In-depth Interviews were conducted with the beneficiaries of both components. In addition to this, Focus Group Discussion and Key Informant Interviews were also held with communities and project team at Asia and Japan.

Findings reveal that the project design was informed by taking into account the suggestions made by Community Development Council-CDC heads and engaging all stakeholders including communities, adequately. Adherence to local policies, standards, procedures, safeguarding protocols and social norms was ensured in letter and spirit from planning to implementation.

Both of the components had successfully engaged all genders on equitable basis in localities with strict socio-cultural norms in place. Inclusivity, community engagement and women engagement were ensured throughout the intervention and all obstacles were removed with prior planning. Localization and adaptability approaches were used to ensure the availability of local model of care. All services were adapted to local contexts, needs and family norms.

The intervention of *Cash for Work* was more sustainable due to its tangible support whereas that of *Cash Distribution for Food* were sustainable only through linkage development. Joining of this project with some agriculture or livestock support could have yielded more sustainable results. The role of capacitated CDC heads and community leaders is crucially important in sustaining the outcome of both components. Both of the components had exerted positive impacts on the socio-economic lives of their respective communities by addressing their unmet needs with regards to food security, infrastructure development, access to safe drinking water, awareness-raising and linkage development.

Joining DRR infrastructure and cash for work and cash grants worked well as a pilot and it can be replicated and scaled up. Now the target areas have village-level DRR plans. Village level mapping also remained helpful in risk assessments and community ownership and leadership. There was an insignificant number of people who were moving or displacing. As a result, their ownership of the location was not risky. DRR is long-term effort for which it is necessary that people love their location. If the land is used as a transit, it is difficult to maintain infrastructures. This was not the case in this project as majority of the respondents were living permanently in target areas.

Routine monitoring and post distribution monitoring had ensured accountability and transparency during the implementation of both components. Some areas of improvement were also observed as inadequate awareness of communities with related Government interventions to seek assistance after the completion of project, low linkage development, inadequate self-help group formation and capacitation, inadequate and non-operational feedback mechanism, delayed payments to some respondents, non-signing of agreements, perceived inadequacy of payment as per the amount of work

and size of family and low provision of services for safeguarding, do no harm and CHS, These all need to be addressed in future related projects.

Summarized results are depicted in the table below: -

Table 1: Summarized Results against Outputs

Project Name	Emergency response to build resilience of climate affected families including IDPs and returnees in Bamyán, Afghanistan (Phase 2)				
Start date	Nov 1, 2022	End date	July 31, 2023	Number of days	273 days
Name of organization (Name of Affiliated Organization)	CWS Japan CWS Asia		Name of person in charge (e-mail)	Shimi Nishizawa (s.nishizawa@cwsjapan.org)	
Project Activities		Beneficiaries (who and how many)			TPE Results
Joint disaster risk reduction planning and cash-for-work		364 direct beneficiaries (264 males and 100 females) 2,548 indirect beneficiaries			75.2% (N=97/129)
Improving disaster risk reduction capabilities in the region through the formulation of joint disaster risk reduction plans with medium- to long-term perspectives (Disaster Risk Reduction Plan) and disaster risk reduction activities by male and female workers.					100% (N=19/129)
2. Cash distribution to improve food security Distribute cash to the most vulnerable HHs for food.		450 directly beneficiary HHs (Average number of HHs: 7: 3,150)			100% (N=224/224)
Desired outcome		Indicators and targets (identification methods) for measuring outcome achievement			TPE Results
Understanding medium- to long-term disaster risks and mitigation methods for vulnerable people in Bamiyan province will enhance resilience to disasters that are exacerbated by climate change and reduce the risk of immediate food insecurity.		Component I At the end of the project, the medium- to long-term actions to be taken by each region for disaster risk reduction are understood in 12 target villages. (Confirmation Methods: Joint Disaster Risk Mitigation Plan, End-of-Life Monitoring)			75.2% (N=97/129) This figure is about the participation of respondents in community meetings only which shows good progress as everybody was not supposed to attend community meetings.
		Disaster risk reduction measures agreed in each target village are implemented through cash-for-work at the end of the project. (Confirmation Method: Worker Attendance Book, Monitoring at End)			100% (N=129/129)

		Eighty-five percent (309) of the vulnerable people who participated as workers at the end of the project have been found to improve their income status. (Confirmation Method: Monitoring after Cash Distribution)	95.3% (N=123/129)
		<u>Component 2</u> The Food Consumption Score (FCS) of 70% (315 HHs) of the target beneficiary HHs has improved compared to the project's inception. (Confirmation Method: Monitoring after Cash Distribution)	100% (N=224/224)
		At the end of the project, 70% (315 HHs) of the target beneficiary HHs have improved the Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI). (Confirmation Method: Monitoring after Cash Distribution)	89% in PDM Endline Report
Desired output	Indicators and target values (verification methods) for measuring achievement of output	Activities to achieve output	TPE Results
1. A joint disaster risk reduction plan (DRR Plan) is established in each village. Easy infrastructure for high-priority disaster risk reduction is established. Receive cash corresponding to the period of engagement of male/female workers.	1-1-2. Number of Disaster Risk Reduction plans (DRR Plan): 100%; 12 plans (Monitoring, confirmation of plans) 1-1-3. Number of installed simple infrastructures: 100%, 12 schemes (monitoring, photography) 1-1-4. Number of male/female workers engaged 100% male/female workers and 264 male/100 female workers (list of beneficiaries) 1-1-5. Male/female workers who received the entire cash (equivalent to US\$130 for males and US\$220 for females): 85%, 224 (males) and 85 (females) (monitoring, attendance register, PDM) 1-1-6. Response to feedback and resolution within one week: 80% (Monitoring)	1-1 Coordination with related stakeholders and business registration	Good
		1-2 Hiring and orientation of new local staff	Completed
		1-3 Procurement of materials	Completed
		1-4 Formulation of Joint Disaster Risk Reduction Plan (DRR Plan)	Completed
		1-5 Final Determination of Simplified Infrastructure for Disaster Risk Reduction	Completed
		1-6 Selection of Beneficiaries (Workers) work and final selection of	Completed
		1-7 Verification of candidates for beneficiaries (workers)	Completed
		1-8 Signing of the Cash-for-Work Agreement by Workers	64.3%
		1-9 Training for Women Workers	Completed
		1-10 Distribution of materials for making serpents	Completed
		1-11 Cache for Work	Completed
		1-12 Post distribution monitoring (PDM) after cache distribution	Completed
2. The most vulnerable HHs receive a fixed amount of cash to obtain food.	2-1-1. Beneficiary HHs who received cash: 100% and 450 HHs (Monitoring, Beneficiary List, Post-Cash Distribution Monitoring)	2-1. Coordination with related stakeholders	Good
		2-2. Employment and Orientation of New Local Staff	Completed
		2-3. Selection of Benefit Candidates	Completed

2-1-2. Total cash distributions amount and frequencies: 100%, total of USD 333 equivalent, total of three distributions (Monitoring, Post-Cash Distribution Monitoring)	2-4. Verification and Final Selection of Beneficiary Candidates	Completed
	2-5. Contract with 2.5 banks	Completed
	2-6. Cash distribution	Completed
	2-7. Cash Receipt Monitoring	Completed
	2-8. Monitoring after 2.8 Cash Distribution (PDM)	Completed
	2-1-4. Number of HHs who received cash for a total of three distributions: 85%, 382 HHs (Monitoring, Post-Cash Distribution Monitoring)	2-1. End of the project evaluation

2 Introduction

2.1 Project Background

In Afghanistan, the impact of conflict and natural disasters (droughts and floods) had led to a decline in agricultural products and a rise in prices. In addition, since 2020, the impact of the new coronavirus infection (COVID-19) had overlapped, and the country was facing a serious food crisis. Moreover, the domestic economic situation had also deteriorated dramatically following the political upheaval in August 2021. The people were facing further increases in food prices, unemployment rates, and income declines. Rural areas, especially those with high agricultural and livestock production, were severely affected between 2020 and 2011, and drought had caused food insecurity as well as grain shortages and livestock deaths in both irrigated and rainwater-using areas. Against the backdrop of conflict and chronic poverty, 23 million people - more than half of the population - faced severe food insecurity and 9 million people were at risk of hunger - without opportunities to recover their livelihoods affected by drought in 2018-19.¹ In addition to droughts, more than 29,000 people in 13 provinces were affected mainly by disasters such as floods during 2021.² Damage caused by disasters had continued since the beginning 2022. In particular, flooding had increased more rapidly than usual during the summer of 2022 (June-August), and 33 prefectures across the country were affected by flooding, causing devastating damage to the affected areas. The number of people affected by flooding in 2022 was 116,000.³ On June 22, 2022, an earthquake of magnitude 5.9 struck eastern Afghanistan. On July 18, an earthquake of magnitude 5.1 had occurred with an epicenter of only 3 km from the epicenter on June 22. The needs survey conducted had reported that 100,000 people were directly affected.⁴ In the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Index, the country ranked 111th as one of the world's most vulnerable countries to climate change.⁵ In the light of above circumstances, the HRP in 2022 stated that the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) should promptly provide food and livelihood support to people living in areas with three or more levels, and put an end to the rapidly expanding famine crisis in the country on an unprecedented scale.

Bamiyan Province, a remote hilly area was not an exception. It was facing flooding, widespread soil erosion and flash flooding, and drought-inducing areas when rainfall/snowfall is low. Disaster risks such as floods and droughts were increasing as a result of climate change. According to the latest IPC Acute

¹ Islamic Relief, On the brink: Food security crisis in Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Yemen, July, 2022, p.14.

² OCHA, Afghanistan: Humanitarian Response Plan 2022, 11 January 2022, p.11

³ OCHA, AFGHANISTAN Snapshot of Flash Floods in 2022, 31 August, 2022.

⁴ OCHA, Afghanistan: Emergency Earthquake Response Plan (July - September 2022): Summary of Emergency Needs, People Reached and Funding Requirements - As of 22 September 2022), 22 September, 2022, p.1.

⁵ Notre Dame global Adaptation Initiative, Afghanistan, Score of 2019.

Food Insecurity Analysis from March to May 2022, 50% (329,375) of the population in the prefecture fell under Phase 3 and 4.⁶ Since 2020, 61% of the population in Bamiyan was living below the poverty line.⁷ By the end of 2020, the province had accepted 52,140 internally displaced persons and 48,327 returnees.⁸ Despite the weak economy and infrastructure, there were many internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees who were inflowing due to the relatively good security situation in the province compared to other surrounding areas. This influx of internally displaced persons and returnees had already become a serious threat to the host population, causing food insecurity. As a result, Community World Service-CWS-A had initiated a project about cash-for-work and cash distribution for food in the district.

The proposed project aimed to address the immediate and medium- to long-term challenges faced by vulnerable HHs in Bamiyan Province. The overarching goal was to enhance resilience to climate-induced disasters and alleviate the risk of immediate food insecurity. The project employed two key strategies:

1. Joint Disaster Risk Reduction Planning and Cash-for-Work (CFW):

- Formulation of joint disaster risk reduction plans with a medium- to long-term perspective.
- Implementation of disaster risk reduction activities involving both male and female workers.
- Direct beneficiaries: 364 individuals (264 males and 100 females).
- Indirect beneficiaries: 2,548 individuals.

2. Cash Distribution to Improve Food Security:

- Cash distribution to the most vulnerable HHs for addressing immediate food needs.
- Target: 510 directly beneficiary HHs (Average HH size: 7, Total: 3,570 individuals).

The outcome of the project was that vulnerable individuals in Bamiyan Province enhance their resilience to climate change-aggravated disasters and mitigate the immediate risk of food insecurity by understanding medium-to-long-term disaster risks and their mitigation methods. Indicators/targets for measuring the achievement of outcomes were as under:

Component 1: Cash for Work

1. By the end of the project, the medium- to long-term actions required for disaster risk reduction in the 12 targeted villages are understood. (Verification method: Disaster Risk Reduction Joint Plan, End-of-Project Monitoring)
2. By the end of the project, agreed disaster risk reduction measures are implemented in each targeted village through cash-for-work programs. (Verification method: Worker Attendance Records, End-of-Project Monitoring)
3. By the end of the project, 85% (309 individuals) of the vulnerable individuals participating as workers have shown improvement in their income status. (Verification method: Post-Cash Distribution Monitoring)

⁶ IPC, Afghanistan: Acute Food Security Situation for March - May 2022 and Project for June - November 2022. Access Date, August 31, 2022

⁷ PAJHWOK AFGHAN NEWS REFLECTING THE TRUTH, 61pc of Bamiyan residents live below poverty line, 8 January, 2020.

⁸ IOM, Afghanistan Baseline Mobility Assessment Bamiyan Summary Results, June 2020, p.6.

Component 2: Cash Distribution for Food

4. By the end of the project, 70% (315 HHs) of the targeted beneficiary HHs have improved their Food Consumption Score (FCS) compared to the start of the project. (Verification method: Post-Cash Distribution Monitoring)
5. By the end of the project, 70% (315 HHs) of the targeted beneficiary HHs have improved their Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI). (Verification method: Post-Cash Distribution Monitoring)

2.2 Study Objectives:

The objective of the study was to evaluate JPF funded project in Bamiyan province of Afghanistan. ASK Consulting services successfully evaluated and assessed the impact and effectiveness of the implemented joint disaster risk reduction plans, assessed the accessibility of cash distribution sites for vulnerable populations, assessed outcomes of cash distribution initiatives, analyzed the contribution of the established simplified infrastructure to disaster risk reduction, evaluated the integration of climate change adaptation strategies within the disaster project, assessed the effectiveness of community involvement and localization strategies, assessed the effectiveness of capacity-building efforts, evaluated the specific impact of the project on vulnerable groups, assessed the project alignment with international standards and best practices in disaster risk reduction, assessed the level of gender-inclusive participation in disaster risk reduction activities, evaluated the fairness and effectiveness of the process, assessed the level of engagement and satisfaction among key stakeholders, and analyzed the level of input from member NGO.

2.3 About JPF

The JPF is an international humanitarian aid organization which offers emergency aid in response to humanitarian needs, focusing on issues of refugees and natural disasters. JPF conducts such aid through a tripartite cooperation system where NGOs, business communities, and the government of Japan work in close cooperation, based on equal partnership, and making the most of the respective sectors' characteristics and resources. JPF serves as an intermediary support organization providing various types of assistance to member NGOs in Japan to deliver quick and comprehensive aid on their own. JPF has supported aid activities of 46 member NGOs, each with its own set of diverse strengths. It has delivered humanitarian assistance to 50 nations and regions about 1,800 projects, with a total financial contribution of 72 billion yen. JPF has built a strong reputation based on trust by promoting cooperation among private sectors and NGOs and by accurately reporting all its activities.

2.4 About CWS-Japan

CWS Japan has a storied history rooted in humanitarian aid, originating from its provision of Licensed Agencies for Relief in Asia- LARA supplies to Japan post-World War II. Evolving from the CWS Japan Committee to its current form, CWS has consistently provided support to various causes, including assistance for people with disabilities. The organization's commitment was underscored by its reopening of the Tokyo office in response to the 2011 East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, leading to the establishment of CWS Japan. Dedicated to making a difference for future generations, CWS Japan prioritizes timely assistance for crisis-affected populations, fosters the development of knowledge and expertise in humanitarian assistance, and shares its experiences to inform policy development and better prepare for future challenges. Through these efforts, CWS Japan endeavors to leave a lasting and positive impact on the communities it serves.

2.5 About CWS-Asia

Community World Service Asia is a humanitarian and development organization, registered in Pakistan, head-quartered in Karachi and implementing initiatives throughout Asia. CWS-A aims to address factors that divide people by promoting inclusiveness, shared values, diversity, and interdependence. Marginalized communities are assisted irrespective of race, faith, color, age, sex, economic status, or political opinion. Respecting the right to choose how to live, we work with marginalized communities to overcome the impacts of inequalities and lead peaceful, dignified and resilient lives. Community World Service Asia has been present in the region since decades and continues to partner with a growing number of Governments, Multi-lateral Organizations, International Professional Networks and a host of National, Local and International NGOs.

2.6 Key information of the Project

Program Name	JPF Afghanistan Humanitarian Crisis Response Support Program			
Project Name	Emergency response to improve food security and build resilience of climate affected families including IDPs and returnees in Bamyán, Afghanistan (Phase 2)			
Project Purpose	In Afghanistan's Bamyán Province, vulnerable individuals enhance their resilience to climate change aggravated disasters and mitigate the immediate risk of food insecurity by understanding medium-to-long-term. Disaster risks and their mitigation methods.			
Phase 2	Start	5 th Nov.2022	End	30 th Sep.2023

2.7 Key Project Output

Table 2: Project Outputs and Activities

	Cash for Work	
Desired Output	Indicators/targets for measuring the achievement of outputs (Verification method)	Activities
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Disaster Risk Reduction Plans (DRR Plans) are formulated in each village. Basic infrastructure for high-priority disaster risk reduction is installed. Male/female workers receive cash based on the duration of their engagement. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> I-1-2. Number of Disaster Risk Reduction plans (DRR Plan): 100%; 12 plans (Monitoring, confirmation of plans) I-1-3. Number of installed simple infrastructures: 100%, 12 schemes (monitoring, photography) I-1-4. Number of male/female workers engaged 100% male/female workers and 264 male/100 female workers (list of beneficiaries) I-1-5. Male/female workers who received the entire cash (equivalent to US\$130 for males and US\$220 for females): 85%, 224 (males) and 85 (females) (monitoring, attendance register, PDM) I-1-6. Response to feedback and resolution within one week: 80% (Monitoring) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination with related stakeholders and business registration Hiring and orientation of new local staff Procurement of materials Formulation of Joint Disaster Risk Reduction Plan (DRR Plan) Final Determination of Simplified Infrastructure for Disaster Risk Reduction Selection of Beneficiaries (Workers) Verification of candidates for work and final selection of beneficiaries (workers) Signing of the Cash-for-Work Agreement by Workers Training for Women Workers Distribution of materials for making serpents Post distribution monitoring (PDM) after cache distribution
	Cash Distribution for Food	

Desired Output	Indicators/targets for measuring the achievement of outputs (Verification method)	Activities
The most vulnerable households receive a predetermined amount of cash to obtain food.	2-1-1. Beneficiary HHs who received cash: 100% and 450 HHs (Monitoring, Beneficiary List, Post-Cash Distribution Monitoring) 2-1-2. Total cash distributions amount and frequencies: 100%, total of USD 333 equivalent, total of three distributions (Monitoring, Post-Cash Distribution Monitoring) 2-1-3. Response to feedback and resolution within one week: 80% (Monitoring) 2-1-4. Number of HHs who received cash for a total of three distributions: 85%, 382 HHs (Monitoring, Post-Cash Distribution Monitoring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with related stakeholders • Employment and Orientation of New Local Staff • Selection of Benefit Candidates • Verification and Final Selection of Beneficiary Candidates • Contract with 2.5 banks • Cash distribution • Cash Receipt Monitoring • Monitoring after 2.8 Cash Distribution (PDM) • Evaluation at the end of 2.9

2.8 Study Scope

At ASK Consulting, TPE services served as an integral component of the broader Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Mechanisms within JPF. With this in mind, the primary responsibility of ASK Consulting was:

- Collecting and reviewing all project documents as well as relevant other documents
- Conducting preparatory discussions/meetings with the relevant stakeholders
- Designing qualitative and quantitative data collection tools, sampling methods, field survey schedules and division of tasks
- Arranging/appointing data collectors and orientation of the data collectors/enumerators
- Collecting data and information from different levels and stakeholders including the project beneficiaries and groups, community people, JPF, CWS Japan, and CWS-A staff
- Processing field data collection and analyzing the data applying statistical software and MS Excel
- Writing draft report and arranging a presentation session on the draft report with JPF and collecting feedback on this report
- Finalizing evaluation report after incorporation of feedback and submitting to JPF.

2.9 Study Limitations

Limitations of the study included low engagement of a number of public stakeholders due to volatile security situation prevailing in the country.

3 Study Design

The TPE study was carried out by adopting mixed method approach of research and both quantitative and qualitative data were collected to gather insight into statistical facts and beliefs and opinions, respectively. OECD/DAC criteria was followed to collect and analyze data and obtain results. Along with beneficiaries, key partners and stakeholders were also taken on board to obtain their perspective. The study aimed at achieving the following objectives: -

- Verifying adherence to humanitarian principles and standards
- Ensuring adherence to project proposal
- Analyzing project impact
- Ensuring adherence to humanitarian standards
- Understanding beneficiary satisfaction
- Providing feedback for project improvement
- Documenting lessons learned

3.1 Geographical Coverage Area

The project had supported multiple communities of Bamiyan. The province had experienced massive inflows of internally displaced persons due to a stable security situation, causing food insecurity. Bamiyan attracted displaced individuals for employment despite economic challenges. The La Nina phenomenon worsened challenges in domestic agricultural production causing food insecurities as well. The project addressed these issues through cash-for-work and cash distribution for food assistance. A number of criteria were considered for the selection of project sites which included past experiences of collaboration with the target communities, building relationships with stakeholders, accessibility, security and safety. As a result, three districts were selected as the project target areas including Bamiyan Central, Saighan, and Yakawlang Districts. The following table provides a brief overview of the geography of the areas where the project was implemented.

Target Districts/Villages	Population	Target Districts/Villages	Population
Central Bamiyan District			
1. Qafila Bashi,	150	4. Dahan-e-Qul Topchi	206
2. Qala Jarow	183	5. Siah Khak	70
3. Lala Khil	150		
Yakawlang District			
1. Dara Ali #1	260	3. Sar-e-Asyab	85
2. Dara Ali #2	304	4. Dahan e Kanak	160
Saighan District			
1. Bayan Quli	315	3. Ghorab	245
2. Koh Gadai	99		

4 Evaluation Framework

4.1.1 Research Methodology

The Evaluation was carried out in compliance with OECD–DAC Criteria and Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, Sustainability were studied in detail to reach conclusion. The chosen research design for this study was a mixed methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative methods. By using qualitative methods such as Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), rich and contextual information was obtained from community members, project actors, JPF, and other stakeholders. Qualitative data was collected from IDIs through semi-structured tool.

4.2 Sampling Strategy

This study required a robust sampling strategy for the 5,698 beneficiaries including 3,514 members and HHs as direct beneficiaries and 2,184 HH members as indirect beneficiaries with a 95% confidence interval and 5% margin of error. With respect to the direct beneficiaries, 364 individuals were there under component I and 510 HHs (3,570 individuals) were under component II. Therefore, a sample of 343 was selected for the study. However, 353 respondents were studied from both of the projects (129 from *Cash for Work* and 224 from *Cash Distribution for Food*. For random selection, a systematic random sampling approach was adopted, involving the selection of every 2 individuals from a list after a random start point was determined.

Methods	Stakeholders	Description	Total Planned	Reached	Achievement Rate
	CWS-J	2 interviews with key CWS-J Staff engaged in the project	12	2	99%
	CWS-A	4 interviews key CWS-A Staff from top and middle management and field staff		4	
	Community Leader	6 Interviews with Community Leaders 2 leaders from each district		6	
Focus Group Discussions	Community Members	3 FGDs each comprised of 10 members (1 per district)	3	3	100%
Survey	Cash Recipients	129 surveys with Cash-for-Work recipients and their HHs working in Disaster Risk Infrastructure	353	129	100%
		224 surveys with HH members of Cash-for-Food recipients		224	

4.2.1 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

Six KII interviews were conducted with key CWS Japan and Asia Staff covering top, middle management, and field staff. Additionally, grassroots perspectives on the project's expected impact were gathered through six interviews with community leaders.

4.2.2 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

To capture a broader range of voices and experiences, FGDs were conducted with various community members. These discussions facilitated the emergence of shared experiences and perspectives within the community, encompassing elder community members. Three FGDs involved community leaders each comprised of 10 members at each district.

4.2.3 Surveys/Questionnaires

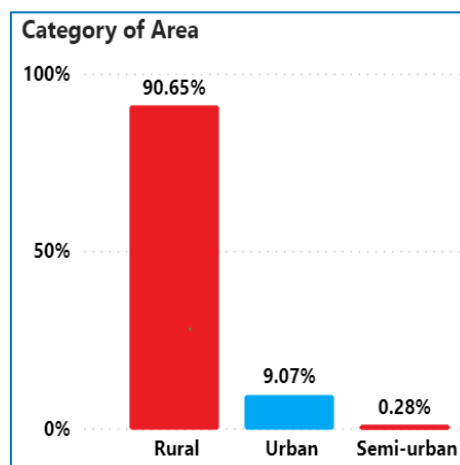
Surveys in the form of questionnaires were administered to a diverse sample, encompassing the Cash-for-Work and Cash-for-Food recipients. A total of 353 questionnaires were distributed to the two group of participants.

5 Findings

5.1 Demographic Information

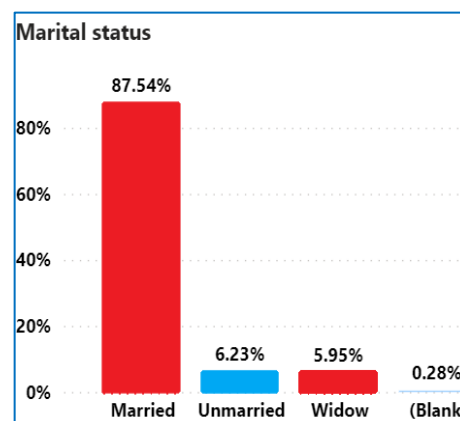
Almost equal number of respondents were selected from all parts of Bamyan Provinces. The analysis shows that 34.0% respondents (N=120/353) were studied from Central Bamyan, 33.1% from Saighan (N=117/353) whereas 32.9% respondents (N=116/353) were studied from Yakawlang Districts.

Majority of the respondents (90.6% N=320/353) belonged to rural areas followed by 9.1% (N=32/353) respondents who belonged to urban areas. A few respondents (0.3% N=1/353) also belonged to peri-urban areas.



With regards to type of family, 60.9% (N=215/353) respondents were living in nuclear families whereas 39.1% (N= 138/353) respondents had joint family set-ups. As far as gender of the respondents is concerned, majority of respondents were men (56.7% N=200/353) as compared to women (43.3% N=153/353).

In the same context, 87.5% respondents (N=309/353) were married followed by 6.2% (N=22/353) who were unmarried and 5.9% respondents (N=21/353) who were widows or widowers. 0.4% respondents (N=1/353) did not like to reveal marital identity.



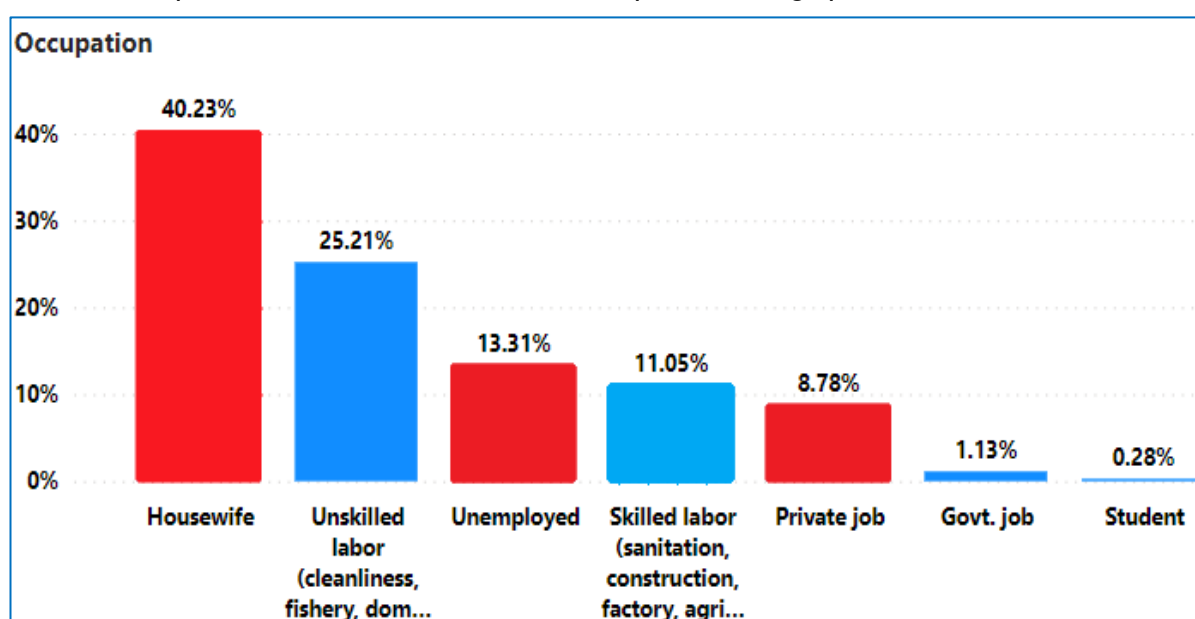
The analysis of ages shows that majority of the respondents in *Cash for Work* were men >20 years of age (40.0% N=52/129) followed by women of the same age group (29.0% N=37/129). Similarly, 15.0% (N=19/129) respondents were 15-19 years old adolescent boys followed by 16.0% (N=21/129) adolescent girls of the same age group. With regards to *Cash Distribution for Food*, 67.4% (N=151 /224) respondents were men >20 years of age followed by 32.6% (N=73/224) women of the same age group.

Majority of the respondents (96.9% N=342/353) were living in their residential areas permanently whereas 2.8% (N=10/353) respondents were Internally Displaced Persons-IDPs. A few (0.3% N=1/353) respondents were seasonal migrants. With regards to education, majority of the respondents were illiterate (63.2% N=223/353) followed by 10.2% (N=36/353) who had obtained primary and 8.2% (N=29/353) respondents obtained middle level education respectively. Similarly, 6.5% (N=23/353) respondents were below primary, 4.8% (N=17/353) had obtained intermediate education whereas a few 4.5% (N=16/353) respondents were graduate followed by 2.3% (N=8/353) respondents who had matriculated. A few (0.3% N=1/353) respondents had obtained Madrassah education.

Table 3: Demographic Information of respondents

S #	Variables	Progress	Number of Respondents
1)	Permanent residents	96.9%	342/353
2)	Internally Displaced Persons-IDP	2.8%	10/353
3)	Seasonal migrants	0.3%	1/353
4)	Illiterate	63.2%	223/353
5)	Primary pass	10.2%	36/353
6)	Middle level education	8.2%	29/353

As far as occupation is concerned, the situation is depicted in the graph below: -



The analysis shows that majority of the respondent (40.2% N=142/353) were either housewives or unskilled laborers (25.1% N=89/353) followed by 8.9% (N=31/353) respondent were doing private jobs. A number of 1.1% (N=4/353) respondents were doing Government jobs whereas a few (0.3% N=1/353) respondents were students. With regards to occupation of husbands, (12.5% N=44/353) husbands of married women were unemployed. The analysis of income shows that majority of the respondents (83.0% N=293/353) were poor. They were earning below 5000 AFN (USD 69.30) per month. 15.9% (N=56/353) respondents were earning 5000-10,000 AFN (USD 69.30-138.60) per month whereas only a few respondents (1.1% N=3/353) were earning above 10,000 AFN (USD 138.60) for the same period.

With regards to family set up, majority of the visited HHs (60.9% N=215/353) had nuclear families whereas (39.1% N=138/353) HHs had joint family system. 63.5% (N=224/353) respondents had 1-3 school going children whereas 20.4% (N=72/353) respondents had 4-6 school going children. A few of the respondents (0.9% N=3/353) also had 7-8 school going children. The rest of the respondents (15.2% N=54/353) had no school going children.

With regards to category of HHs, majority of the visited HHs were men-headed (93.8% N=331/353) whereas the rest of the 6.2% (N=22/353) HHs were women-headed. The analysis of disability shows that overall majority of the respondents (91.2% N=322/353) had no disability. Out of 8.8% (N=31/353) respondents who had some or the other type of disability, 22.6% (N=80/353) respondents had some difficulty in seeing even if they were wearing glasses, 12.9% (N=45/353) respondents had a lot of difficulty in this whereas 3.2% (N=11/353) respondents were unable to see even if they were wearing glasses. The same number of respondents (3.2% N=11/353) had some difficulty in hearing even with a hearing aid. With regards to walking or climbing steps, out of 8.8% respondents (N=31/353) who had this disability, 29.0% (N=102/353) respondents had some difficulty whereas 3.2% (N=11/353) respondents had a lot of difficulty in this regard. In the same context, 38.7% (N=137/353) respondents had some difficulty in remembering or concentrating whereas 19.3% (N=68/353) respondents had a lot of difficulty in this regard. Similarly, 29.0% (N=102/353) respondent had some difficulty in self-care whereas the rest of the respondents had no such disability. It is reiterated that this percentage has been taken from the 8.8% (N=31/353) respondents who had one or the other type of disability. Tabular analysis of important variables is depicted below: -

Table 4. Status of HHs and respondents

S #	Variables	Progress	Number of Respondents
1)	Men-headed HHs	93.8%	331/353
2)	Women-headed HHs	6.2%	22/353
3)	Respondents with disability	8.8%	31/353

5.2 Knowledge about CWS-A Project

Overall, 99.1% (N=350/353) respondents had awareness about the CWS-A project implemented in their area. The project-wise analysis shows 99.1% (N=128/129) respondents of *Cash for Work* and 99.1% (N=222/224) respondents of *Cash Distribution for Food* and had awareness about the activities of their respective components.

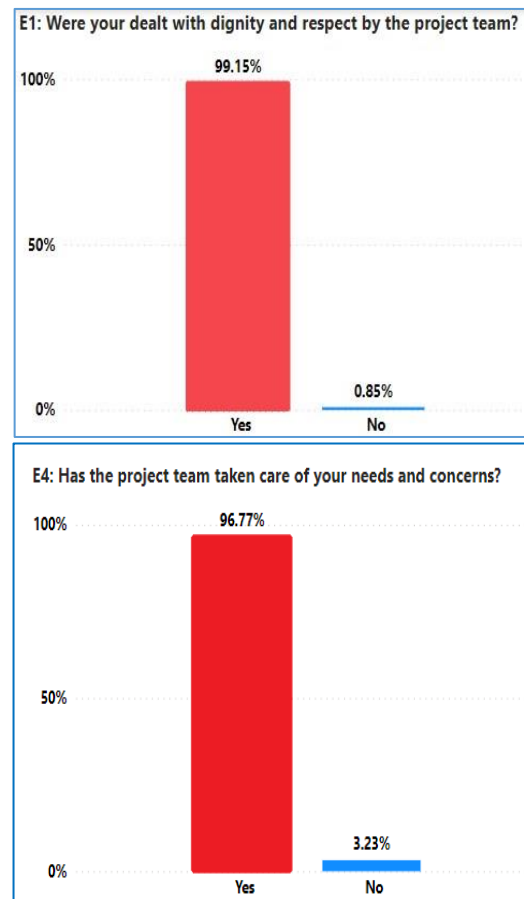
45.5% (N=59/129) respondents of *Cash for Work* project informed that the project had provided them cash assistance as a payment for the work they had performed under the project. 35.9% (N=46/129) respondents informed that the project had worked for the construction of infrastructure to mitigate the risk of disasters and climate change whereas according to 14.7% (N=19/129) respondents, disaster risk reduction plan was developed to mitigate the risk of disasters and effects of climate change in their respective areas. This is a multiple response analysis.

On the other hand, 99.4% (N=223/224) respondents of *Cash Distribution for Food* project were aware of its main activities. They informed that the project had provided cash assistance to buy/manage food.



5.3 Compliance with Core Humanitarian Principles and Standards

Compliance with humanitarian principles and standards was ensured in letter and spirit. Majority of the respondents (99.1% N=350/353) including 100% women respondents of *Cash for Work* and 98.1% women respondents of *Cash Distribution for Food* were dealt with dignity and respect by the project team and their right to independence and self-esteem was respected. Similarly, 91.5% (N=323/353) respondents informed that the project interventions had not exerted any negative affect on them. 8.5% (N=30/353) of the respondents informed that the project had exerted negative affect on them to the extent of making them dependent on NGO support. The project team had taken care of the needs and concerns of 96.8% (N=342/353) respondents including 91.4% women respondents of *Cash for Work* component and 98.2% women respondents of *Cash Distribution for Food*. The rest of the 3.2% (N=11/353) respondents informed that their needs and concerns were not taken care by the project team. It was revealed during FGDs with community members that some of the respondents had over-ambitious needs which the program could not respond to due to its limited scope.



Concerns: The low Percentage of Beneficiaries targeted for the Needs Assessment

As far as selection criteria is concerned, 65.1% (N=84/129) respondents of *Cash for Work* informed that need assessment was conducted in their respective areas to identify needs, whereas 32.6% (N=42/129) respondents informed that the project team did not visit them to identify need. According to a few respondents (0.8% N=1/129), poverty score card was used for the purpose. The rest of the 1.5% (N=2/129) respondents had no knowledge in this regard.

With regards to *Cash Distribution for Food*, 66.1% (N=148/224) respondents informed that the project team had visited them to identify the neediest persons whereas 33.0% (N=74/224) respondents informed that needs assessment was conducted for the purpose. A number of 0.9% (N=2/224) respondents were not aware of it.

The findings of quantitative data were triangulated with those of qualitative data. The latter confirm the former. The 5 respondents of KIs held with project staff (CWS-A) and CWS-J informed that the all-Core Humanitarian Standards-CHSs were complied with during the implementation of both components and accountability was ensured through effective monitoring and supportive supervision on one hand, and prioritized needs and collaborative decision-making on the other. Conflict-sensitive approaches were used, and safety and security were ensured for all project beneficiaries. Standards were prioritized and feedback channels were established to give communities ownership.

5.4 Coherence

The 5 respondents of KIIs held with project staff informed that the project interventions were coherent with the country policies and procedures. They also informed during KIIs that the activities of the project were aligned with Ministry of Economy-MoEC and Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority-ANDMA and these were directly contributing to Sustainable Development Goals-SDGs etc.

5.5 Relevance

According to almost all (99.4% N=351/353) respondents, they were in need of support provided by the project in their respective areas. Similarly, 64.9% (N=229/353) respondents informed that the project was similar to other projects being implemented in their respected areas.

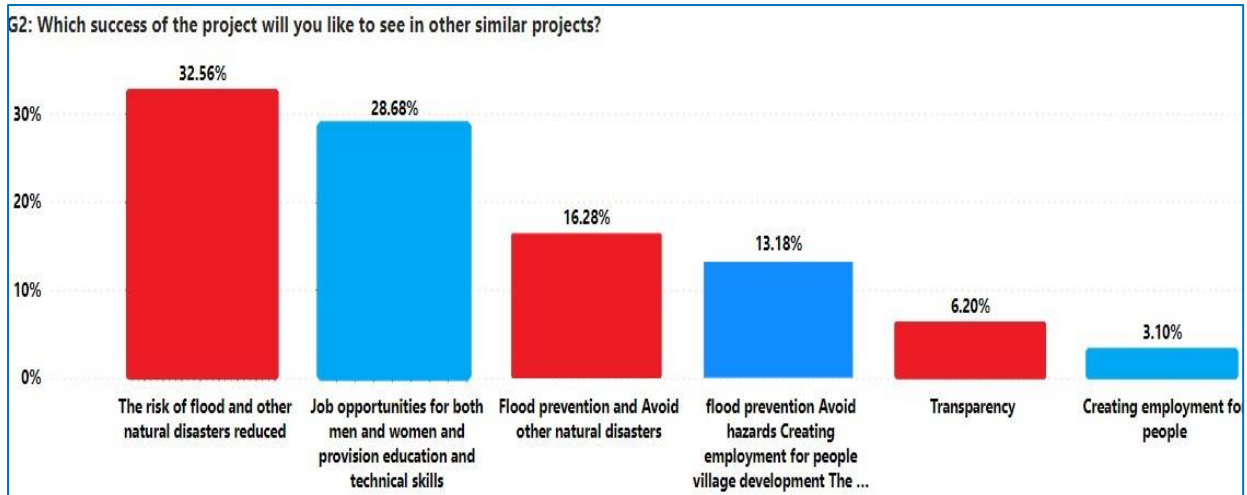
According to 93.8% (N=331/353) respondents, eligible people were selected for inclusion in *Cash for Work* and *Cash Distribution for Food* components. When asked about the selection criteria, majority of the respondents of *Cash for Work* project, (62.8% N=81/129) informed that their respective areas were stricken by climate change due to which the project had decided to intervene. 49.7% (N=64/129) respondents informed that their respective areas were stricken by disasters whereas 24.0% (N=31/129) respondents informed that they were facing volatile security situation due to which they were suffering from poverty and had low livelihood opportunities. This is a multiple response analysis.

When asked about the success of *Cash for Work* project, the respondents wanted to see in other similar projects, 32.6% (N=42/129) respondents informed that they would like to see reduced risk of floods and other natural disasters in their respective areas. 28.7% (N=37/129) respondents informed that they would like to see enhanced job opportunities for both men and women along with provision of education and technical skills, in other projects of similar nature.



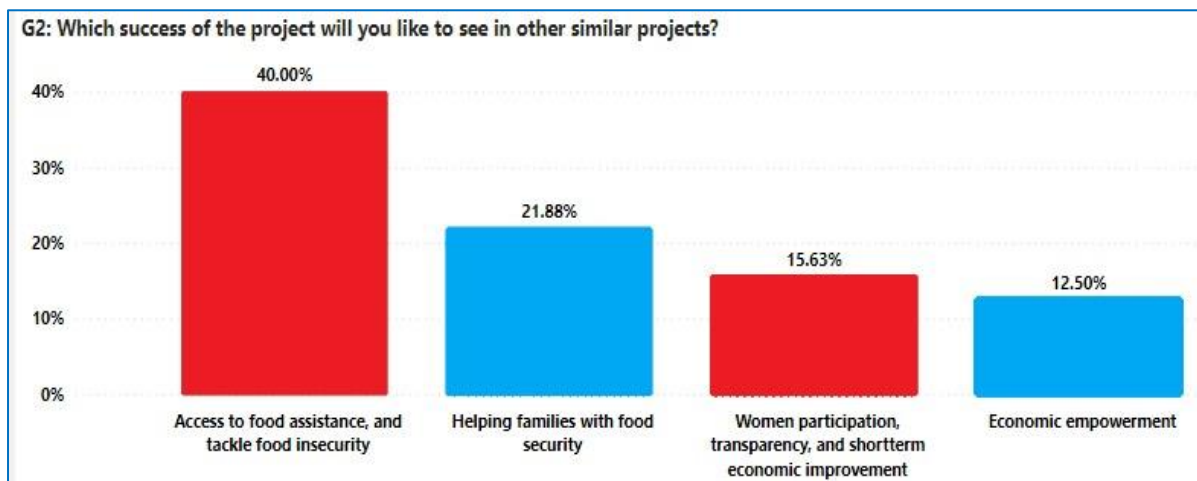
Figure 2: KII at CWS Centre-Bamyan

On the other hand, 16.3% (N=21/129) respondents wanted to have projects for the prevention of losses occurred during emergencies/floods or other natural disasters. Similarly, 13.2% (N=17/129) respondents informed that they would like to have flood prevention along with avoidance of hazards, creation of employment opportunities, village development, and participation of entire community in reconstruction activities. In the same context, 6.2% (N=8/129) respondents wanted to have transparency in other similar projects whereas 3.1% (N=4/129) respondents requested for the creation of only employment opportunities which will improve living standards and ultimately resilience.



As far as *Cash Distribution for Food* is concerned, according to multiple response analysis, 67.4% (N=151/224) respondents informed that their area was stricken by disaster, therefore, poor people were in need of financial support to buy/manage food. A number of 52.6% (N=118/224) respondents informed that their area was affected by climate change, therefore they were in dire need of support to obtain food. In the same context, 21.4% (N=48/224) respondents needed this support due to volatile security situation in their areas which was adversely affecting their livelihood and food security.

When asked about which results of the project the respondents will like to see in other similar projects, 40.0% (N=90/224) respondents informed that they would like to see access to food assistance to overcome food insecurity. 21.9% (N=49/224) respondents informed that other projects should help families to gain food security.



15.6% (N=35/224) respondents informed that they would like to see women engagement, transparency and short-term economic empowerment whereas 12.5% (N=28/224) respondent wanted to see economic empowerment in similar projects.

With regards to qualitative data, 21 out of 22 respondents of FGDs informed that the interventions of CWS-A had addressed the unmet needs of its target communities. One respondent of Dahan Qul Tupchi, Bamyān informed that the needs of only (60.0% N=77/129) deserving population was fulfilled due to the limited scope of *Cash for Work* project.

All the 5 respondents of KIIs held with project staff informed that the project had taken CDC suggestions into account and engaged all stakeholders adequately to inform project design. The reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) indicator was used to compare the hardship faced by HHs due to shortage of food. Moreover, area impacted by flood was identified after need assessment for desired interventions.

5.6 Effectiveness

5.6.1 Cash for Work

Output-1: Disaster Risk Reduction Plans-DRR Plans are developed in each village.

Majority of the respondents of *Cash for Work* project (72.1% N=93/129) including 66.0% women had attended community meetings, along with respective CDC heads, about disaster risk reduction planning. With regards to number of meetings, 38.7% (N=50/129) of the respondents had attended one meeting followed by (30.1% N=39/129) and 29.0% (N=37/129) respondents who had attended three and two meetings respectively. 2.2% (N=3/129) of the respondents had attended more than three meetings in disaster risk reduction planning. Since, these were informal meetings, participation of respondents was fluctuating.

When asked about the type of discussions held in these meetings, 52.7% (N=68/129) respondents had learnt about the types of disasters or hazards prevailing in their respective areas. 30.2% (N=39/129) respondents had obtained guidance on the pre-disaster situation, during disasters or emergencies, and post-disaster situations. On the other hand, 38.7% (N=50/129) respondents had learnt about making DRR plans. This is a multiple response analysis.

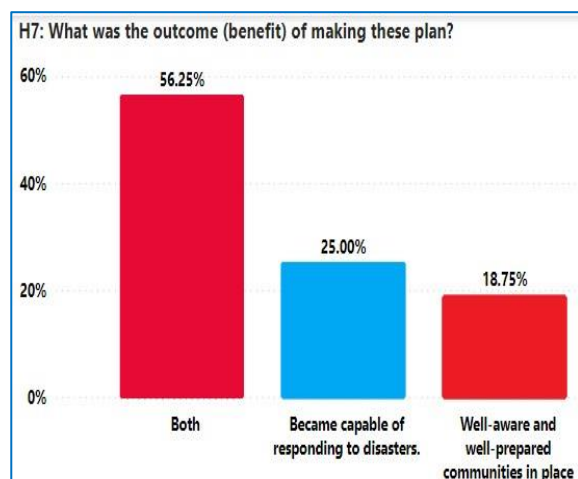
With regards to the benefits of community meetings, 65.9% (N=85/129) respondents informed that these meetings had increased their knowledge and skills, (27.9% N=36/129) informed that they were now capable to prevent, mitigate and respond to disasters as their knowledge had increased than before. Similarly, 6.2% (N=8/129) respondents informed that they had not obtained any benefit as an outcome of community meetings. They were looking forward to having some tangible benefit from meetings which could take time to occur.



Figure 3: IDI with Watershed Respondent

As guided in community meetings, 75.2% (N=97/129) respondents including 26.9% women had made joint Disaster Risk Reduction-DRR plans. 62.5% (N=81/129) respondents had worked together through collective meetings and consultations and identified vulnerable points exposed to floods, in their respective areas. Similarly, 37.5% (N=48/129) respondents informed that community members were consulted and their input was taken for making disaster risk reduction plan.

The outcome of making plans was reported as communities being capable of responding to disasters (25.0% N=32/129), communities being well-aware and well-prepared (18.8% N=24/129) and these both i.e. improved response and



preparation on part of communities (56.2% N=72/129). This shows that designing a joint DRR plan had proved fruitful in strengthening the coping capabilities of communities.

Through community engagement, the project had improved the disaster prevention mechanisms of its concerned communities largely through infrastructure development (90.7% responses N=117/129), guidance on self-protection (58.1% responses N=75/129) and provision of support to friends and neighbors during disasters (23.2% responses N=30/129). This is a multiple response analysis. As far as women respondents are concerned, 57.1% women were engaged in construction work followed by 40.0% and 2.9% who were engaged in labour and miscellaneous work, respectively.

The Post Distribution Monitoring Endline Report also indicates that there was 6% increase in the number of beneficiaries who had received training after the project. The report also shows that the target communities were protected from extreme flooding due to the construction of water sheds, gabions, and protection walls on one hand and increased knowledge and capacity of the local communities on the other.

Output-1.1: Basic infrastructure for high-priority disaster risk reduction is established.

The project had constructed disaster risk reduction infrastructure in its target areas according to majority of the respondents (96.9% N=125/129). It had constructed gabions (83.4% N=107/129), trenches of watersheds (22.5% N=29/129) and protection walls (5.4% N=7/129). This is again a multiple response analysis. The outcome of this intervention was prevention of losses (69.0% N=89/129), risk mitigation (65.9% N=85/129) and risk preparedness (47.3% N=61/129) according to multiple response analysis.



Figure 4: Gabion made at Yakawlang

Community engagement was ensured during the development of infrastructure i.e. 3.9% (N=5/129) respondents were engaged in planning and feasibility process, 51.9% (N=67/129) in construction whereas 65.1% (N=84/129) respondents were engaged in labour. In the same context, (2.3% N=3/129) respondents were engaged in monitoring and supervision of construction material and work. This is a multiple response analysis. 84.5% (N=109/129) respondents were also provided guidance on how to plan, perform or monitor work. Out of 65.1% (N=84/129) respondents who had taken part in construction work, 64.3% (N=83/129) respondents had signed an agreement to perform the task. A number of 0.8% (N=1/129) respondents had not signed agreement which needs to be probed.

Some of the respondents (7.0% N=9/129) including 14.2% women had also faced challenges and barriers in attending community meetings and performing work i.e. site being far away (6.2% N=8/129), childcare or other dependent care being not available and non-availability of cell phone, or overall female staff (0.8% N=1/129). 100% women respThe respondents had resolved these problems by setting off earlier to reach construction sites in time and they were also leaving their children in the care of their neighbors.

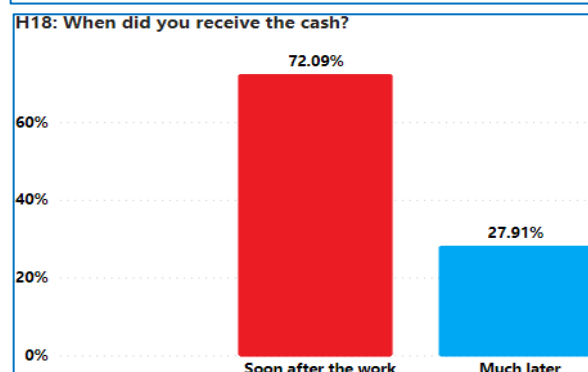
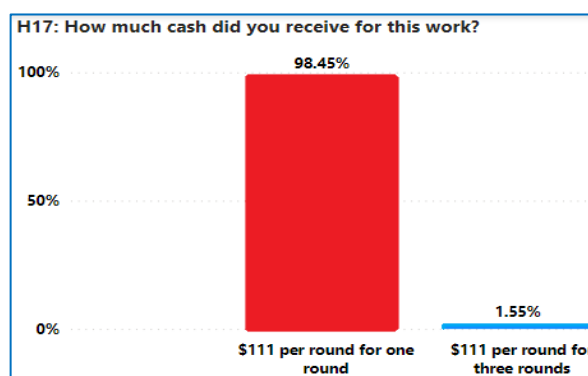
Output-1.2: Male/female workers receive cash based on the duration of their engagement.

As far as payment is concerned, majority of the respondents (98.4% N=127/129) informed that women were paid USD 220 whereas men were paid USD 130, after the completion of work. This was per person cost. The rest of the respondents (1.6% N=2/129) did not remember about the exact amount of payment.

Concerns: The delayed Period Between Work and Payment

Cash for work was paid soon after the project in majority of the cases (72.1% N=93/129) followed by 27.9% (N=36/129) cases where payment was made much later after the completion of construction work. This needs to be probed further to identify reasons and overcome barriers in the next related projects.

The payment was distributed to 100% of the respondents in the form of cash.



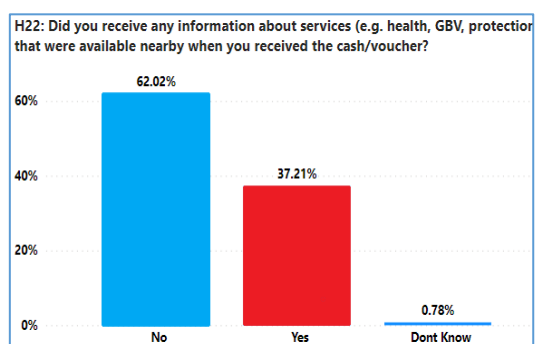
Concerns: The Adequacy of Payment Amount

With regards to the adequacy of amount paid, some reservations were noted. 55.0% (N=71/129) respondents expressed satisfaction on the amount of cash being equivalent to the volume of work whereas a significant number of respondents (45.0% N=58/129) informed that the amount paid against the volume of work was not adequate. This shows low satisfaction of a visible number of respondents as far as the amount of cash is concerned.

None of the respondent had paid any tax due to receiving cash assistance.

Concerns: Accountability

Information about services (e.g. safeguarding, do no harm and CHS) was provided to more than half of the respondents (62.0% N=80/129) including 11.4% women. 37.2% (N=48/129) of the respondents had not received this information by any project staff whereas the rest of the respondents (0.8% N=1/129) had no knowledge in this regard.



As an outcome of *Cash for Work* project, 86.0% (N=111/129) respondents had obtained opportunity to work, 49.6% (N=64/129) respondents had acquired knowledge and skills, 22.5% (N=29/129) respondents had spent money on the health of their families whereas 2.3% (N=3/129) respondents had spent money on the education of their children. Financial status, women empowerment and food security of 38.8% (N=50/129) respondents had also increased after the project.

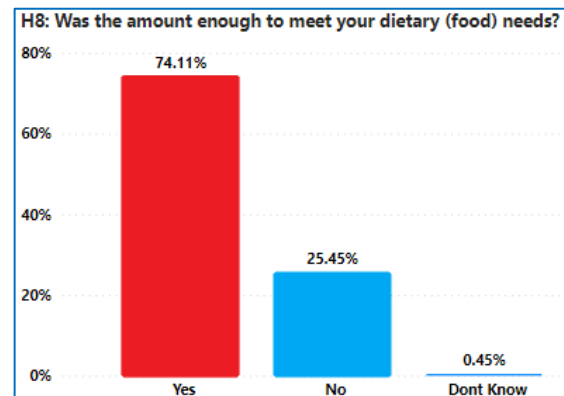
5.6.2 Cash Distribution for Food

Output-2: The most vulnerable HHs receive a predetermined amount of cash to obtain food.

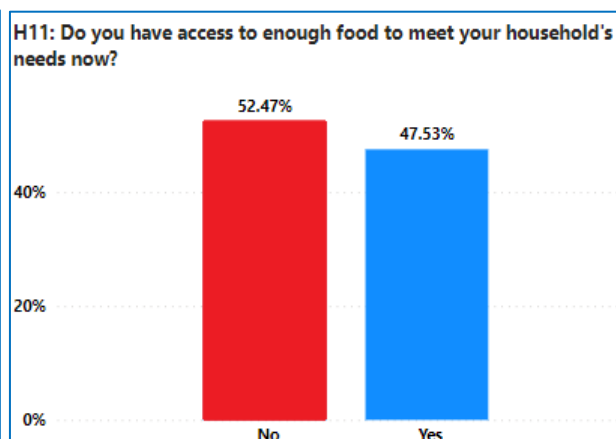
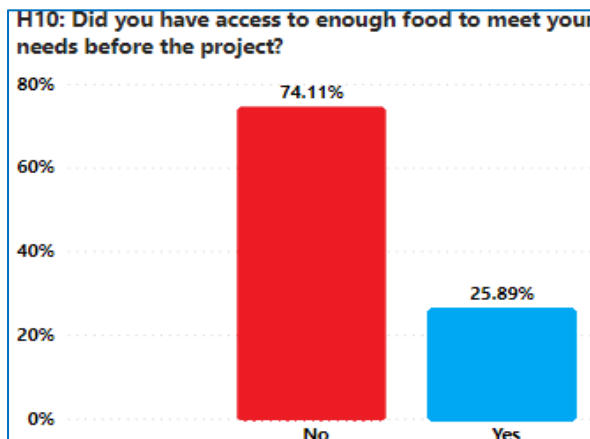
All 224 respondents of *Cash Distribution for Food* project had received three payments as cash for food.

Concerns: Adequacy of cash assistance in meeting the dietary needs of recipients, particularly in relation to family size

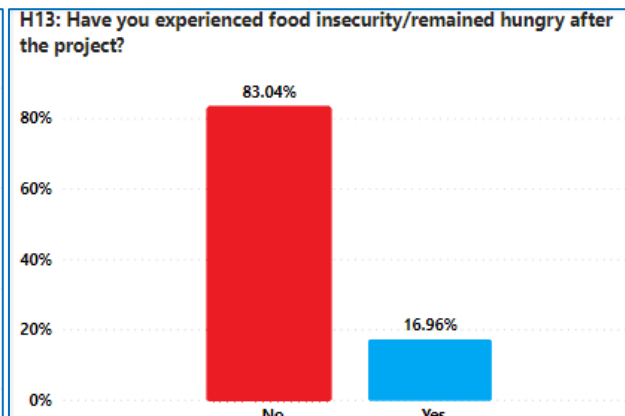
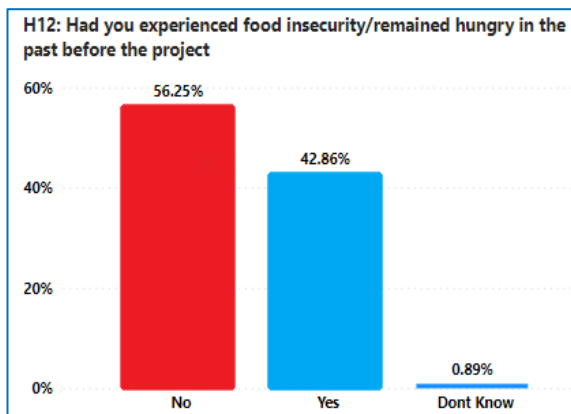
For majority of the respondents (74.1% N=166/224) including 69.3% women, the assistance provided in the form of cash was adequate to cater to their dietary needs whereas for 25.4% respondents (N=57/224), it was not adequate as they had giant family size. This underscores the significance of deciding aid in accordance with the number of family members. 0.5% (N=1/224) respondents had no knowledge about the adequacy of assistance or otherwise.



The access of 93.7% (N=210/224) respondents including 96.5% women was easy to cash distribution sites whereas for 6.3% (N=14/224) respondents, cash distribution sites were situated far away.



With regards to usage, 85.5% (N=191/224) respondents had spent the cash assistance on buying/managing food whereas 14.5% (N=32/224) respondents had used the cash assistance for purposes other than food. The pre and post project comparison shows enhanced food security. Only 25.9% (N=58/224) respondents including 29.0% women had access to enough food to meet their



needs before the project whereas after the project, 47.5% (N=106/224) respondents including 54/4% women had improved access to food. This shows (21.6% N=48/224) improvement than before.

In the above context, 42.9% (N=96/224) respondents including 44.0% women, had experienced food insecurity in the past before the project as compared to 17.0% (N=38/224) respondents including 17.0% women who had experienced food insecurity after the project. This shows (25.9% N=58/224) improvement.

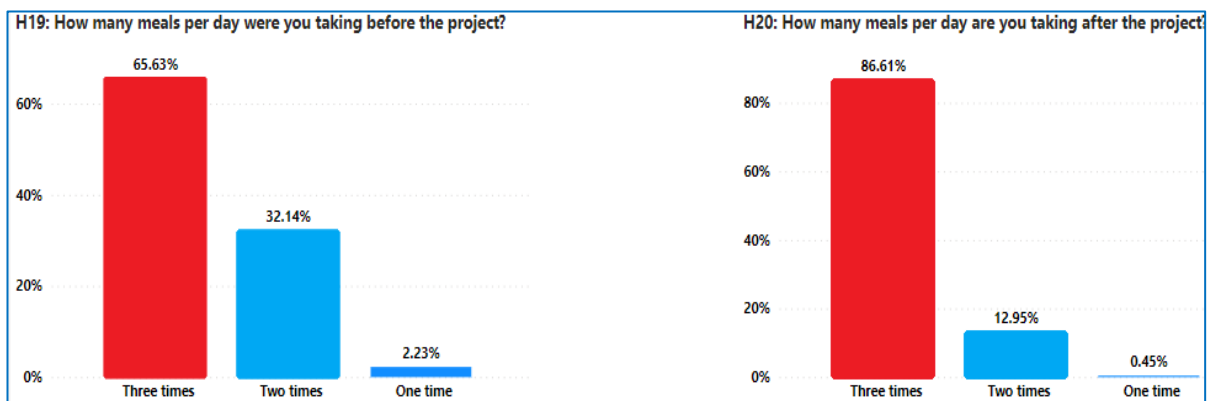
68.8% (N=154/224) respondents including 81.0% women had to reduce the quantity of food due to lack of resources, before the project as compared to 43.3% (N=97/224) respondents including 56.1% women who had to reduce the quantity of food after the project. This shows (25.5% N=57/224) improvement. In the same context, 58.5% (N=131/224) adult respondents including 71.0% women had to restrict their food consumption to accommodate the dietary needs of small children, before the project whereas after the project, only 25.9% (N=58/224) adult respondents including 38.0% women had to do so. This shows (32.6% N=73/224) improvement. This is a multiple response analysis.



Figure 5: KII with Community Leader Saighan

Concerns: Post-Project Beneficiary Status

84.8% (N=190/224) respondents including 88.6% women informed that they had to borrow food from relatives and friends after the project as assistance had come to an end.



The above graph shows improvement in the number of per day meals after the project. Before the project, 65.6% (N=147/224) respondents including 65.8% women were taking three meals a day whereas after the project, 86.6% (N=127/224) respondents including 83.3% women were taking three meals a day which shows (21.0% N=47/224) improvement.

Concerns: Accountability – Project Awareness

With regards to Government policies or programs regarding food security, 70.5% (N=158/224) respondents informed that such programs or policies did not exist, 19.7% (N=44/224) respondents had no knowledge in this regard whereas the rest of the 9.8% (N=22/224) respondents were aware of the existence of related policy or programs. With regards to food bank, only 27.7% (N=62/224) respondents were aware of food banks made/available in their respective communities.

Concerns: Accountability - Lack of Adequate Support and Explanation from Staff to Beneficiaries

None of the respondents of Cash Distribution for Food had paid any tax to non-government armed group (AOG) or local leaders because of receiving assistance in cash. Information about services (e.g. safeguarding, do no harm and CHS) was provided to 20.5% (N=46/224) respondents when they had received cash assistance. A number of 4.5% (N=10/224) respondents had no knowledge in this regard whereas the rest of the 75.0% (N=168/224) respondents informed that the project staff had not provided them with any such information.

With regards to the outcome of *Cash Distribution for Food* project, majority of the respondents informed that due to CWS-A project, their dietary needs were fulfilled. According to 44.6% (N=100/224) respondents, they did not have to borrow food due to project interventions whereas according to 41.1% (N=92/224) respondents, they had enough food available to eat, as an outcome of the project. Similarly, according to 33.5% (N=75/224) respondents, variety of food was available to eat.

In the same context, 29.0% (N=65/224) respondents informed that as an outcome of the *Cash Distribution for Food* project, they did not have to reduce the quantity of food, 28.1% (N=63/224) respondents did not remain hungry whereas 27.2% (N=61/224) respondents did not have to reduce the quality of food, as an outcome of the CWS-A project implemented in their respective areas. This is a multiple response analysis.

Table 5: Outcome of Cash for Food

S #	Outcome	Progress
1)	Did not have to reduce the quantity of food	29.0% (N=65/224)
2)	Did not remain hungry	28.1% (N=63/224)
3)	Did not have to reduce the quality of food	27.2% (N=61/224)

The *Post Distribution Monitoring Endline Report* also indicates that 99% HHs were food secure as compared to baseline (1%). The overall HH Food Consumption Score-FSC shows an increase of 89% after the project. The report also reveals that 100% of the male headed HHs and female headed HHs had acceptable food consumption.



Figure 6: FGD with community men Yakawlang

With regards to qualitative data of both *Cash for Work* and *Cash Distribution for Food*, all of the 22 respondents of FGDs and 6 respondents of KIIs (3 community leaders and 3 Community Development Council- CDC heads) informed that due to disaster risk reduction interventions i.e. community meetings, DRR plans, infrastructure development, and cash assistance for food, the risk of disasters and malnutrition had reduced in their concerned areas. The project had enhanced the access of its target communities to information, disaster-resilient infrastructure and availability of adequate and quality food.

5.7 Localization

The 5 respondents of KIIs held with project staff informed that the project had trained communities in general and women in specific and strengthened local institutions through capacity building and linkage development. The localization strategies were used to ensure the availability of services through capacitated communities and technically trained staff in communal set ups. The engagement

of CDC heads had strengthened intimation and bondage of project teams with communities and contributed greatly to building local capacities.

The CWS-A had used localization approaches such as respecting different communities' cultures, and lifestyles. The localization efforts of CSW-A were in line with the global localization approach. Project interventions were adapted to accommodate local needs and priorities and the project was implemented through local staff.

Community ownership was the end-goal of this project, and communities were entirely engaged in terms of their ownership. The use of bottoms-up approaches remained effective. There is need to change land interpretation in Afghanistan by Afghan technical colleagues. Increasing local technical capacity was the strategy implemented in letter and spirit. Community infrastructure and food interventions led to community solidarity.

5.8 Communication and Coordination

All the 5 interviewed members of project teams informed that the project had established good communication and coordination with all of its partners and stakeholders. Regular meetings were held for information and experience sharing. Progress was discussed and suggestions were solicited from all public and private stakeholders for improvement.

5.9 Feedback Mechanism

With regards to feedback mechanism, overall, majority of the respondents (53.6% N=189/353) informed that feedback mechanism was not made/was not in use in their respective communities, 12.9% (N=45/353) respondents had no information in this regard whereas 33.5% (N=118/353) respondents informed that it was made and operationalized. However, out of these 33.5% (N=118/353) respondents, 1.3% (N=3/224) respondents of *Cash Distribution for Food*, and 42.6% (N=55/129) respondents of *Cash for Work* had utilized this mechanism and made complaints. Almost all of them were satisfied with how the complaint was handled.



Figure 7: FGD with women-Yakawlang

Concerns: Absence of Feedback System between Staff and Beneficiaries

The output of feedback mechanism does not come up with satisfactory results as majority of the respondents were not aware of this mechanism. It was mandatory to make and operationalize this mechanism in all communities as per project plan and in compliance with CHS which was not done satisfactorily.

5.10 Equity and Inclusion and Women Empowerment

Overall, 83.9% (N=296/353) respondents informed that the benefit of the project had reached to all socio-economic classes on equitable basis.

The rest of the 16.1% (N=57/353) respondents opined that the coverage of the program was low as far as the spread of geographical areas in need is concerned.

The respondents informed that such type of interventions should ensure extended coverage to address the needs of a larger group of communities.

Women engagement was ensured in both of the components. With regards to women engagement in *Cash for Work* project, it was ensured as reported by majority of the respondents (66.7% N=86/129) to a great extent. According to 21.7% (N=28/129) respondents, it was ensured to a reasonable extent whereas 11.6% (N=15/129) respondents informed that it was ensured to a low extent.

With regards to women, 66.0% women respondents informed that women engagement was ensured in the project to a great extent, according to 5.7% respondents, it was ensured to a reasonable extent whereas as per 28.3% respondents, women engagement was ensured in the project to a low extent.

The analysis shows that women engagement was ensured in the project though the degrees of engagement varied significantly.

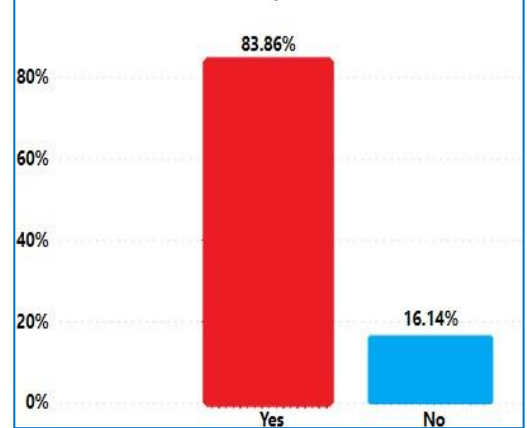
71.3% (N=92/129) respondents of *Cash for Work* informed that the project had ensured gender equality in its interventions related to capacity building, construction of infrastructure, and DRR plans.

With regards to *Cash Distribution for Food* project, women engagement was ensured to full extent.

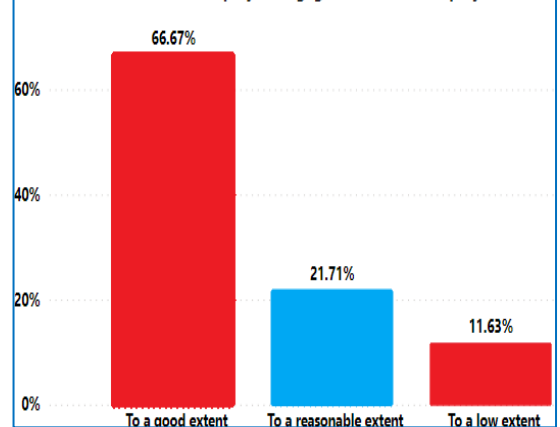
However, the degree of engagement again differed. 67.4% (N=151/224) respondents of *Cash Distribution for Food* project informed that women were engaged into the project to a great extent, 23.7% (N=53/224) informed that women were engaged to a reasonable extent whereas 8.9% (N=20/224) respondents informed that they were engaged in the project to some extent.

As far as women respondents are concerned, 68.4% women respondents informed that women engagement was ensured in the project to a great extent,

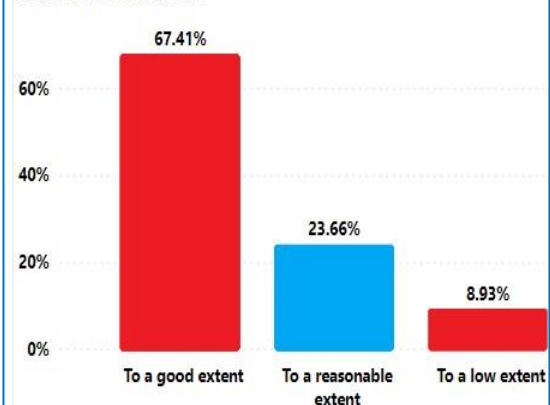
J1: Do you feel that the cash support had reached to all socio-economic classes on equitable basis?



H30: To what extent had the project engaged women in the project?



J2: To what extent had the project engaged women in cash distribution for food?



according to 26.3% respondents, it was ensured to a reasonable extent whereas as per 8.8% respondents, women engagement was ensured in the project to a low extent.

All of the above-stated degrees of responses show engagement of women in the project at different scales but at satisfactory level. The project team informed during KIIs, that women engagement was ensured through male engagement, consent of male family members, complying with local culture and norms and by hiring local female staff members in each community.

85.3% (N=191/224) respondents of *Cash Distribution for Food* project informed that the project had promoted gender equality in its interventions, 8.9% (N=20/224) respondents opined that the ratio of women was higher in the project whereas according to 5.8% (N=13/224) respondents, the ratio of men was higher in the project.

The outcome of engaging women in the project emerges with positive results. Majority of the respondents informed that the project had given women a chance to earn and fulfill their basic needs. 48.1% (N=170/353) respondents informed that the project had empowered women whereas according to 35.6% (N=126/353) respondents, the living status of women had improved as a result of working in the project. Similarly, 13.2% (N=46/353) respondents informed that the project had provided an opportunity of work to women by resolving women mobility issues whereas 5.4% (N=19/353) respondents opined that the project had contributed to nation-building. All respondents of both components informed that the project had improved living standards and health through its interventions of cash for work and cash distribution for food, respectively.



Figure 8: IDI with adolescent girl (student) Saighan

The triangulation of quantitative findings with those of qualitative ones also depicts similar situation. All of the 22 respondents of FGDs, 6 respondents of KIIs (3 community leaders and 3 CDC heads) and 5 respondents of KIIs held with project staff CWS-A and CWS-J informed that both genders were engaged in community meetings, construction work and food assistance. The *Cash for Work* project had given provision for pregnant and lactating women to the best possible extent through flexi hours and procedures. Community engagement was ensured in all project interventions by adopting participatory approach.

The Post Distribution Monitoring Endline Report also indicates that due to project interventions, there was 11% increase in the number of respondents who believed that women could also participate in cash-for-work programs, shoulder to shoulder with men.

5.1.1 Beneficiaries' Satisfaction

Overall, 97.3% (N=343/353) respondents were satisfied with the project. 68.3% (N=241/353) respondents were highly satisfied with the project whereas 29.0% (N=102/353) were satisfied. On the contrary, 2.7% (N=10/353) respondents were less satisfied with the project.

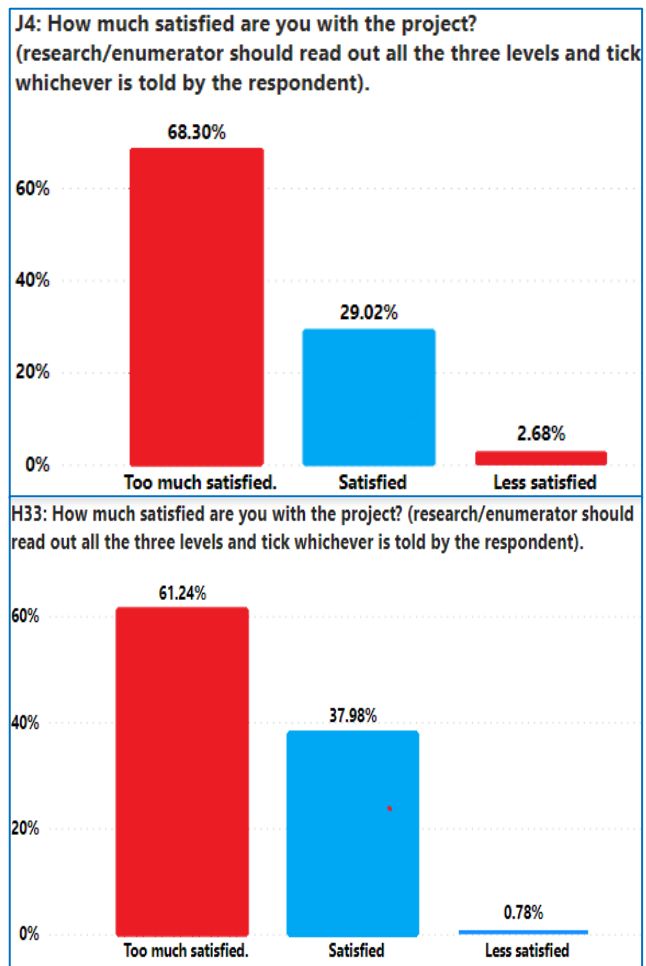
Project-wise details show that majority of the respondents of *Cash for Work* project 61.2% (N=79/129) were highly satisfied with project interventions, 38.0% (N=49/129) were satisfied whereas 0.8% (N=1/129) were less satisfied. Similarly, majority of the respondents of *Cash Distribution for Food* (68.3% N=153/224) were highly satisfied with the project, 29.0% (N=65/224) were satisfied whereas 2.7% (N=6/224) were less satisfied.

The reasons for satisfaction emerge as the start of project in areas with dire need and compliance with core humanitarian standards.

5.1.2 Gender-desegregated Level of Satisfaction

Gender desegregated data shows that 57.1% (N=74/129) of women respondents of *Cash for Work* project were too much (highly) satisfied with the interventions of the project as compared to 42.9% (N=55/129) men respondents. Similarly, 70.3% (N=91/129) women were satisfied with the project as compared to 29.7% (N=38/129) men. In the same context, 70.4% (N=158/224) women respondents of *Cash Distribution for Food* were too much satisfied with the project as compared to 62.2% (N=139/224) men. Similarly, 27.6% (N=62/224) women respondents were satisfied with the project as compared to 36.8% (N=82/224) men. Overall, the satisfaction level of women emerges to be higher. The reason for satisfaction was the support provided by the project in times of dire need by ensuring the coverage of the neediest people to the best possible extent.

When triangulated with qualitative data, it emerged that all the 22 respondents of FGDs and 4 out of 6 respondents of KIIs (2 community leaders and 2 CDC heads) expressed satisfaction on the interventions of both components and how these were carried out with transparency. One community leader was largely satisfied but not to full extent due to the short duration of the project. Similarly, one CDC head opined that some areas in need were not covered under the project due to its limited scope.



5.13 Efficiency (Cumulative Findings)

Overall, 83.9% (N=296/353) respondents informed that in their views, the benefits of the project were greater than the resources spent in front of them during different activities. According to 99.6% (N=351/353) respondents, the project had ensured timeliness while providing services.

The 22 respondents of FGDs and 6 respondents of KIIs (3 interviewed community leaders and 3 CDC heads) informed that due to agriculture season, some short-term procedural delays were observed in the execution of project activities. One respondent of Sar Asiyab Bamyar also informed that the project needed to allocate more resources for infrastructure development to ensure enhanced/extended coverage.

The respondent of KII held with CWS-J informed that the project funds were used cost-effectively despite weather challenges.

5.14 Sustainability-Connectedness

According to each 31.8% (N=41/129) respondents of *Cash for Work* project, communities were linked with Government Line Departments and community self-help groups were made, capacitated and operationalized by the project in their respective communities.

On the contrary, only 13.4% (N=30/224) respondents of *Cash Distribution for Food* informed that they were linked with Government Line Departments to continue receiving support in case of need, after the project. Similarly, according to only 20.5% (N=46/224) respondents, community self-help groups were made, capacitated and operationalized in their respective areas to enable and support concerned communities for receiving support, in case of need, after the project.

Table 6: Sustainability

S. #	Sustainability	Percentage
Cash for Work		
1)	Formation and capacitation of self-help groups	31.8% (N=41/129)
2)	Linkage development	31.8% (N=41/129)
Cash Distribution for food		
1)	Formation and capacitation of self-help groups	20.5% (N=46/224)
2)	Linkage development	13.4% (N=30/224)

Concerns: Insufficient Measures for Linkage Development and Formation of Community Self-Help Groups

The situation shows that enough measures were not taken for the linkage development and formation of community self-help groups of both projects.

The respondents of KIIs held with project staff informed that sustainability was ensured through multi-faceted approach i.e. economic, social, and environmental aspects and inclusive, equitable, and eco-friendly interventions.

The benefits of the project were likely to continue after its completion mainly to a medium extent (63.6% N=224/353) and then to a great extent (23.3% N=82/353) and to a small extent (7.7%

N=27/353). A number of 5.4% (N=19/6/353) respondents had no knowledge in this regard. Mainly, the respondents of *Cash for Work* were foreseeing the continued benefits of the project due to its tangible support whereas those of *Cash Distribution for Food* were not expecting benefits to continue after the project as it was based on in-time emergency support.

The 22 respondents of FGDs and 6 respondents of KIIs (3 community leaders and 3 CDC heads) also informed that *Cash for Work* project had made communities safe through disaster resilient infrastructure and mitigated climate change effects. On the other hand, the *Cash Distribution for Food* had resolved food insecurity during the life of the project only.

All of the interviewed CDC heads and community leaders also showed commitment to continue working after the project, on self-help basis to support communities in linkage development. The 05 respondents of KIIs held with project staff informed that they had designed an exit strategy of the project to ensure sustainability. Inclusion of exit strategy in the design phase and by giving community ownership, humanitarian support was transformed into long-term sustainable infrastructure.

5.15 Impact

According to the respondents of *Cash for Work*, the project had mitigated risks of disasters and impact of climate change (60.5% N=78/129 responses) and it had strengthened resilience (58.9% N=76/129 responses) and reduced losses (27.1% N=35/129 responses) by making and operationalizing DRR plans. Moreover, the project had ensured sustainable disaster risk reduction (82.9% N=107/129 responses) and climate resilient infrastructure (43.4% N=56/129 responses) through its infrastructure development intervention. Due to the project, some of the respondents had also established small enterprises (7.7% N=10/129 responses) whereas the living standards of yet some other respondents had also improved (95.3% N=123/129 responses). This includes 97.1% responses from women. This is a multiple response analysis.

Similarly, the respondents of *Cash Distribution for Food* project informed that the project had impacted their lives positively. Majority of the respondents (67.4% N=151/224) informed that the project had improved food security in the target area followed by 57.6% (N=129/224) respondents who informed that due to the interventions of the project, their health status had improved. This includes 87.7% women respondents. Similarly, 36.6% (N=82/224) respondents including 25.4% women informed the malnutrition was not observed in their respective areas as a result of the project interventions. This is a multiple response analysis.

Table 7. Impact of the project

S #	Impact as reported by respondents	Progress	Type
1)	Mitigated impact of climate change	60.5% (N=78/129)	Multiple response analysis
2)	Strengthened resilience	58.9% (N=76/129)	
3)	Reduced losses	27.1% (N=35/129)	
4)	Sustainable disaster risk reduction	82.9% (N=107/129)	
5)	Climate resilient infrastructure	43.4% (N=56/129)	
6)	Establishment of small enterprises	12.9% (N=10/129)	
7)	Improved living standards	95.3% (N=123/129)	

8)	Improved food security	67.4% (N=151/224)	
9)	Improved health status	57.6% (N=129/224)	
10)	Reduced malnutrition	36.6% (N=82/224)	

With regards to qualitative findings, 21 out of 22 respondents of FGDs and 6 respondents of KIIs (3 community leaders and 3 CDC heads) informed that the project had improved the living standards of its target communities by enhancing their access to appropriate, affordable, accessible and acceptable services. One respondent of *Cash Distribution for Food* project implemented in Dahan Qul Tupchi, Bamyan informed that the project should have ensured more transparency in the cash distribution process by engaging all eligible people to full extent. The respondent of KII held with CWS Japan informed that the project had successfully achieved the intended outcomes and impact.

5.16 Partnership Modality Review

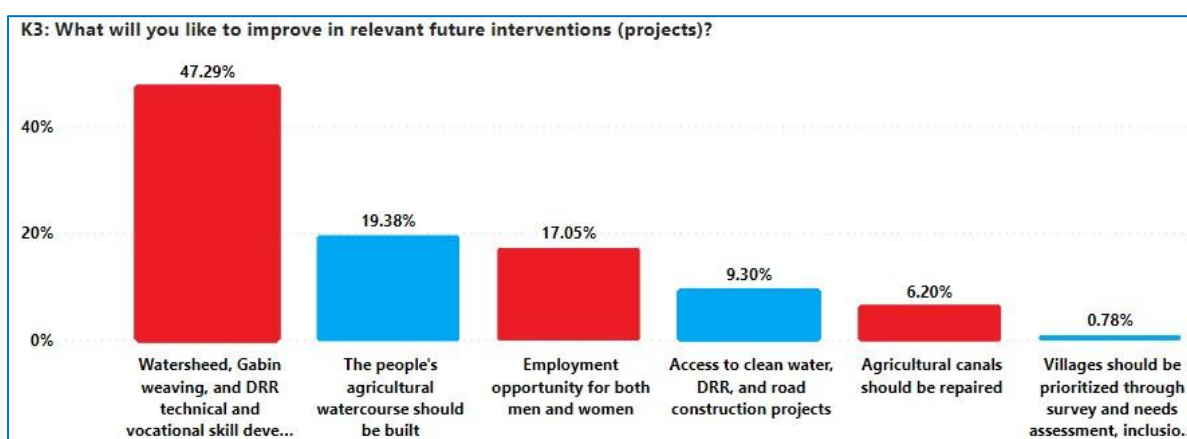
The project was implemented by CWS-J and CWS-A with support from JPF and financial backing from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. CWS-J had provided the supervisory support to CSW-A. Funds were also routed to CWS-A through CWS-J. CWS-A team had conducted need assessment in close consultation with communities. Based on the findings of that need assessment, CWS-J had developed a logical framework of the project. CWS-A had prior experience of project implementation in Afghanistan due to which it was familiar with the local context, culture, norms, community set ups and institutional systems and procedures of the area. The supervision provided by CWS-J remained supportive in achieving the desired outcome.

Joint progress-sharing, problem-solving and decision making were performed and regular information and experience sharing meetings were held on monthly and quarterly basis.

The interventions were adapted to the cultural sensitivity of Afghanistan. The partnership remained effective in improving the performance of the project and overcoming procedural barriers. It enjoyed accessibility, flexibility and acceptability.

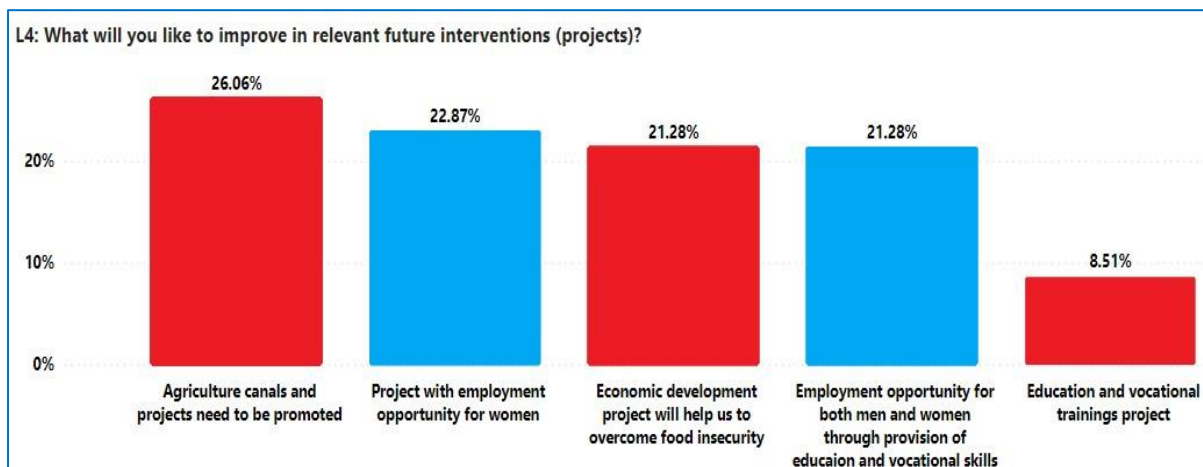
5.17 Suggestion for Improvement

The respondents of *Cash for Work*, suggested for the construction of watersheds, Gabion weaving, DRR related interventions, technical and vocational skill development and provision of safe drinking water (47.3% N=61/129).



In the above context, 19.4% (N=25/129) respondents suggested to build agricultural watercourses, 17.0% (N=22/129) respondents suggested to create employment opportunities for both men and women whereas 9.3% (N=12/129) respondents opined to enhance the access of communities to DRR and road construction projects as a measure of resilience. On the other hand, 6.2% (N=8/129) respondents suggested to repair the already existing agricultural canals for the purpose. A few respondents (0.8% N=1/129) also suggested that villages should be prioritized through survey and need assessments for inclusion of women and identification of sectors to increase job opportunities for both men and women.

26.0% (N=58/224) respondents of *Cash Distribution for Food* project suggested to extend the project and promote agricultural activities in order to combat with food insecurity in future. 22.9% (N=51/224) respondents opined that employment opportunities should be increased for women whereas 21.3% (N=48/224) respondents informed that economic development projects should be launched to help communities overcome food insecurity. The same number of respondents (21.3% N=48/224) informed that employment opportunities should be increased for both men and women through education and vocational skill development.



In the above context, 8.5% (N=19/224) respondents suggested to launch education and vocational training projects to enhance food resilience in the target areas. This is a multiple response analysis.

The qualitative findings also verify that the respondents of FGDs, community leaders and CDC heads had requested to extend the project to address overall unmet need with regards to safe drinking water, infrastructure development and food resilience. One respondent of KII held with project staff opined that the positive impact of the project at an intermediate level required its extension through humanitarian and development nexus. One CDC head also requested to engage communities in next project designs more vigorously.

6 Conclusion

The project had successfully achieved the desired outcomes, outputs and intended impact through both of its components which were inter-connected. It had empowered communities in general and women in specific and enhanced their resilience to disasters and food insecurity. Moreover, the project had also taken care of the eligibility of the beneficiaries during selection process. Though, there were some challenges related to timeliness and weather conditions, these were strategically overcome and these did not exert negative effect on project interventions. The respondents had expressed satisfaction on project interventions mainly to a great extent. They had also made some suggestions to enhance coverage. These need to be considered in lieu of unmet need. Moreover, the intermediate impact of the project calls for sustained commitment and increased funding to develop and operationalize humanitarian, development and peace nexus. The contribution of the project in disaster prone and disaster stricken areas stands significant in bringing about a positive change into the lives of its target communities.

The project had created social harmony, improved health and well-being, ensured disaster prevention through watershed management and gabion weaving, employment opportunities and reduced malnutrition by enhancing food security.

Relevance

The target areas were in need of support due to the adverse effects of climate change, recurrent disasters and volatile security situation. The project was implemented in compliance with core humanitarian principles and standards and in accordance with the needs and priorities of its target communities.

Effectiveness

The project had enhanced awareness, improved response and preparation skills and mitigated risks through (a) the formulation and operationalization of joint DRR Plans and (b) construction of disaster-resilient infrastructure i.e. Gabion, protection walls and trenches of watersheds. In the same context, the assistance provided in the form of Cash Distribution for Food had improved the food consumption of the poor and the poorest of the poor families. Their access to adequate quality food had enhanced.

Efficiency

Cost-effectiveness and timeliness were ensured during the implementation of the project. Though some short-term procedural delays were observed, these were overcome by enhancing the pace of work during next time.

Sustainability-Connectedness

The benefits of the Cash for Work project were sustainable through infrastructure development, raised awareness and underway DRR Plans. On the other hand, those of Cash Distribution for Food were less likely to continue after the project due to non-existent tangible support. Though the exit strategy was incorporated into the design of the project, it was not fully operationalized as far as community self-help groups and linkage development are concerned.

7 Recommendations

The following recommendations are made after in-depth analysis of findings: -

7.1 Cash for Work

1. Next projects should enhance coverage subject to the availability of funds, to address maximum unmet need.
2. All beneficiaries of cash for food should be given written agreements to ensure transparency and avoid ambiguities.
3. Though some access and gender barriers were identified at a limited level, these should be removed by providing the required support to communities i.e. provision of transport for far-off construction sites, availability of temporary/mobile day care centers in or near construction sites and adequate/equitable availability of female staff.
4. All payments for cash for work should be made soon after the completion of construction work to ensure timeliness and keep up the motivation of beneficiaries.

7.2 Cash Distribution for Food

1. Access of the respondents of cash for food should be enhanced to cash distribution sites by devising distribution and transportation mechanisms.
2. 14.5% respondents of cash for food had spent cash assistance on purposes other than food. In next related projects, *post-distribution monitoring* should take this into account and ensure that communities spend cash assistance for the desired purpose to enable project achieve the desired outcome. However, urgency should also be kept into account and there should be a leverage for this to some extent.
3. Awareness should be given to beneficiaries about relevant food security policies and programs underway in their respective areas and they should be linked with all related interventions to enable them continue receiving support after the project.

7.3 Joint Recommendations for both Components

1. In order to ensure the desired adequacy of payment against the volume of work and family size, communities should be consulted before deciding the amount of payment. Moreover, communities should also be sensitized about how the volume of cash assistance for food is decided. The respondents of both components had shown some reservations with regards to the adequacy of amount.
2. Information about safeguarding services (e.g. safeguarding, do no harm and CHS) should be imparted to all beneficiaries before and during the project. This should be monitored through post-dissemination monitoring and beneficiaries should be helped to recall important messages to receive compliance.
3. Awareness should be imparted to communities adequately on Community Feedback Mechanism and its functioning to ensure transparency, accountability and community ownership.
4. Communities should be linked adequately to Government Line Departments and community self-help groups should be formed, capacitated and linked to these departments. This will enable them continue receiving support after the project.
5. Humanitarian, development and peace nexus should be formed in all future projects for emergency relief on one hand and sustainable development, on the other.



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**Third-party Evaluation of JPF Funded
Projects in Afghanistan**

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