



Report



Third-party Evaluation of JPF Funded
Food Distribution and Food For Work / Provision of
Conditional and Unconditional Food Assistance
To Drought-Affected IDPs, Returnees and
Vulnerable Local People In Chaparhar District In
Nangarhar Province

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Acronyms

ASK	ASK Aria Consulting
CHS	Core Humanitarian Standards
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
HDP	Humanitarian-Development-Peace Building
IOM	International Organization of Migration
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
FSAC	Food Security and Agriculture Cluster
JPF	Japan Platform
JEN	Japan Emergency NGO
KII	Key Informant Interview
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning
BSC	Beneficiary Selection Committee
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OCHA	Organization for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PDM	Post Distribution Monitoring
TPE	Third-Party Evaluation
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFP	World Food Programme
IDP	Internal Displaced Person

Definition

Conditional beneficiaries: Beneficiaries who received assistance from JEN in the form of Food Packages with a condition to work in return for the assistance.

Unconditional beneficiaries: Beneficiaries who received assistance from JEN in the form of Food Packages without a condition.

Acknowledgment:

The Third-Party Evaluation was conducted from April to August 2024 for the conditional and unconditional food assistance project of Japan Emergency NGO (JEN) implemented by its Afghanistan branch in Nangarhar Province in Afghanistan. This project funded by Japan Platform (JPF) Food Crisis Program, provided aid to drought-affected internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and vulnerable local residents from Aug 27, 2023 to Feb 20, 2024. The Evaluation was carried out by Ask Aria Consulting Afghanistan.

The technical and research teams of ASK extend their heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Gökhan Erkutlu, M&E Consultant-JPF and Mr. Yuki Goto, M&E officer-JPF for their technical feedback and continued support throughout the completion of this exercise. Without their contributions, the true objectives of this evaluation could not have been achieved.

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I Executive Summary:

This report is an evaluation of a food support and canal rehabilitation project implemented by JEN NGO in Chaparhar District of Nangarhar province. It has supported 486 households with conditional and unconditional food packages. These households were IDPs, returnees, or other vulnerable groups in need of humanitarian support. The conditional packages were delivered to households who worked in the canal rehabilitation in return. The unconditional packages were delivered without asking for anything in return from the beneficiaries. The canal restoration is expected to support income generation efforts by increasing agricultural productivity and supporting the households with food security and livelihood. The survey of 214 respondents receiving JEN's food support offers insights into gender distribution, household dynamics, literacy, residency status, and economic conditions, along with feedback on project impact and coordination.

This evaluation has been carried out in respect with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee's criteria of relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability.

The gender imbalance—37% female and 63% male—indicates a need for gender-specific strategies to enhance inclusivity. Most households are moderately sized, with the largest at 8 members (16%), while very large households (17-24 members) are uncommon.

Additionally, 65% of respondents are illiterate and 35% literate which highlights the need for a specialized communication strategy for the beneficiaries to fully understand the project information shared with them, such as the note attached to the distributed packages and also information shared related to the complaint and feedback mechanism. Only 3% of respondents have used the feedback mechanism of the project. The low rate of feedback and complain mechanisms usage cannot be solely linked to the illiteracy rate. However, the future projects should consider the high illiteracy rate at the community for the design of the feedback and complaint mechanism.

According to the recent external M&E, among the respondents, 19% are IDPs, 80% are local residents, and 1% are returnees. The project primarily supports local residents despite also targeting IDPs and

returnees. A high reliance on agriculture is noted, with 64% engaged in the sector, but 82% report unemployment, signaling a need for job creation and agricultural improvements. 53% of people are married and earn less than AFN 5,000 per month. Widows and widowers are especially struggling, with 99% earning less than AFN 5,000. This shows that both groups face serious income challenges. The survey shows 59% received unconditional support (which means they did not have to do something in return for the assistance received), and 41% received conditional aid (which means that they had to work in the rehabilitation of the canal which was a part of this project).

Awareness of the JEN project is high at 99%, with 99% feeling respected and 93% confident in selection fairness. However, 52% of the conditional beneficiaries felt inadequately supported in applying learned skills, suggesting a need for better capacity-building programs such as post-training support. The project aligns moderately with community programs (63%) such as Cash for Food Assistance¹, though collaboration with humanitarian actors is varied, with 51% affirming engagement. Stakeholder coordination is rated moderately effective by 74%. All beneficiaries were introduced through the Beneficiary Selection Committee (BSC), with 97% perceiving the process as fair. The project's success in disaster risk reduction infrastructure is recognized by 98%, with the primary benefit being economic loss prevention (56%), followed by flood risk mitigation (26%) and preparedness (18%).

Most conditional beneficiaries (92%) participated in labor and rehabilitation tasks, with 94% receiving relevant trainings as well. According to a BSC member, they received training on how to monitor the project progress and work safety. The remaining 6% may need additional training to be able to work with more caution.

When asked whether they are using the canal for various purposes, 100% of the conditional beneficiaries said they use it while 95% said they also use it for agriculture. The canal also addressed WASH needs for 99% of respondents. High confidence (97%) in maintaining the irrigation system indicates successful knowledge transfer. Satisfaction rates were high (97% satisfied or very satisfied), with beneficiaries noting benefits like work opportunities, skill acquisition, and spending the money they saved for food on health and education because the food was delivered to them by JEN. The majority of unconditional beneficiaries (92%) used the canal, mainly for agriculture (80% of the 92%), underscoring its importance in enhancing productivity and supporting domestic needs.

The project was highly recognized (98%) for disaster risk reduction efforts, of which 65% was contributing to flood risk mitigation and 23% was economic loss prevention. A gap in post-package follow-up was noted, with 63% not receiving further support in the form of communication on cluster updates. Saved money was mostly spent on food (40%) and healthcare (28%). Most beneficiaries (79%) found the food packages adequate, though 17% suggested improvements. Pre-project food insecurity affected 91% of respondents, with 46% experiencing improved access, while 52% still faced shortages. The project's equitable benefit distribution (91% perceived fairness) and reasonable engagement of women (95%) suggest success in inclusivity. All respondents confirmed timely delivery of support, reflecting effective planning. Awareness of JPF's involvement came through community meetings (36%), combined channels (7%), and public campaigns (32%), indicating robust community engagement. Respondents rated the project teams as adequately trained, with 90% confirming the existence of the complaint redressal mechanism, though 6% were unaware and 4% did not recognize. This highlights strong feedback systems but suggests room for increased awareness.

¹ <https://www.yvo.org.af/site-cause/13>

While 66% of respondents felt their privacy was protected when submitting feedback, 33% had concerns, indicating a need for better confidentiality measures. Improving feedback promotion and facilitation considering the illiteracy rate could enhance project responsiveness. Only 3% engaged in providing feedback, most of them primarily addressed project duration and some of the irrigation channel area exclusions. Only 50% of respondents were contacted after providing feedback, pointing to a need for consistent follow-up procedures. None were satisfied with feedback resolution, highlighting an area for improvement.

An overwhelming 95% believe the irrigation canals will positively impact future crop yields and food security, reflecting the project's success in boosting agricultural productivity and community well-being. All respondents expect increased agricultural harvests from the canals, with 92% using them for agriculture. The project's effectiveness in improving crop yields is confirmed by 97% of respondents. The project is recognized for contributing to sustainable disaster risk reduction and climate-resilient infrastructure.

Improvements in food intake were observed by all respondents, with 97% noting better nutrition. Most respondents expect significant long-term benefits from the project, with 40% anticipating substantial continuation and 52% expecting medium-term impacts. A majority foresee the canal's support for at least ten years, reflecting confidence in its durability. 8% identified areas for improvement, focusing on extending project duration and enhancing canal construction. Addressing these concerns could strengthen infrastructure development.

Moreover, 82% believe the project significantly contributed to their resilience, indicating its effectiveness in building community capacity. In addition, 32% view food support as sustainable long-term, with a preference for conditional over unconditional support, emphasizing the need for ongoing skill development. Concerns about the project's short-term nature affecting sustainability suggest that future projects should focus on longer durations and enhanced skill-building for enduring impact.

2 Introduction

2.1 Project Background

Afghanistan faces an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, with 28.3 million people (two-thirds of the population) in need of assistance, up from last year. Food insecurity and droughts are among the main contributing factors to the severe situation. As many as 20 million people face acutely food insecure Phase 4, of which 6 million are in the humanitarian crisis level in the comprehensive food security level category. According to a report in December 2022, Nangarhar Province, which is the target of this project, 15% of the population is Phase 4 and 35% is Phase 3, with a combined population of more than 1,150,000, making it one of the largest provinces in the country. To add to this, food prices have skyrocketed due to the Ukrainian crisis and the weakening of Afghanistan's currency, AFN. About half of the people are forced to take negative measures, more than four times as many as before August 2021. Furthermore, the number of drought-afflicted households increased by six times in 2022 compared to 2020, with 21.2 million requiring water sanitation support.

In this project, two months' worth of food packages meeting Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) standards were distributed to 486 household's in Chaparhar district of Nangarhar province. The beneficiaries were internally displaced persons, returnees and vulnerable local people affected by drought, of which 243 households were eligible for conditional food distribution. Food packages were distributed to these households in exchange for their work in the rehabilitation of irrigation canals.

The remaining 243 households were eligible for unconditional food distribution if they meet the specified criteria (hereinafter referred to as "distribution"). The criteria for identifying targets for distribution are as follows. Households with pregnant or lactating women, and households headed by women, children, people with disabilities, or people with chronic illnesses.

To reach the most vulnerable families, a BSC was established, consisting of the organization, the DAIL, the community/regional authority. This BSC was formed to ensure that the most vulnerable household's receive assistance, to explain the project objectives, activities and criteria for identifying beneficiaries. In order to avoid duplication of assistance and disputes among the people, the identified beneficiaries were checked against the most recent FSAC beneficiaries and shared with the relevant parties. By sharing and clarifying such identification methods among the parties concerned, it became easier to obtain the cooperation of the community in the implementation of the projects.

2.2 Project Context

2.2.1 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.

2.2.2 About JEN

Established in January 1994, JEN (Japan Emergency NGO) was founded to provide emergency aid in the former Yugoslavia, marking the beginning of its mission to assist individuals affected by conflicts and disasters worldwide. Guided by the principle of "psycho-social and self-reliance support," JEN has remained steadfast in its commitment to offering assistance throughout all stages of recovery, from immediate relief to long-term reconstruction efforts. As of October 2016, JEN has been actively engaged in assistance activities in various regions, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Tohoku, Kumamoto, and Jordan (for Syrian Refugees).

2.3 Project Summary:

Table I: Key Project Dates

Program Name	Support for food crisis 2022 (emergency response period)
Project Title	Food Distribution and conditional distribution/Provision of Conditional and Unconditional Food Assistance to Drought-Affected IDPs, Returnees and Vulnerable Local People in Chaparhar District In Nangarhar Province
Implementing Entity	JEN
Amount and Duration	35,193,145 yen for 178 days
Project Inception	August 27, 2023
Project Completion	February 20, 2024

2.4 Project Outcome and Output

Table 2: Project Outcome and Output

<p>Desired Outcome</p> <p>1. The food crisis situation of household's receiving food distribution in Chaparhar district is improved.</p> <p>2. Residents of targeted household's in Chaparhar district will be able to develop irrigation canals.</p>	<p>Indicators and targets (identification methods) for measuring outcome achievement</p> <p>1. Out of 486 beneficiary households in Chaparhar district and 46 household's targeted for monitoring, 85% said that the quantity and quality of meals improved as a result of food received (project monitoring)</p> <p>2. Out of 243 beneficiary household's targeted for food for work in Chaparhar district and 23 beneficiary household's targeted for monitoring, 85% of respondents said they could develop irrigation facilities by themselves (post-project monitoring)</p> <p>According to our survey, these indicators have been achieved only for the duration of the project. The implication is that once the support ended, unconditional beneficiaries faced food insecurity, while conditional beneficiaries had to seek employment using the skills they had acquired during the project to access food.</p>	
<p>Desired Output</p> <p>I- 456 drought-affected households will receive two months' worth of food.</p> <p>I-1. Irrigation canals are constructed.</p>	<p>Indicators and target values (verification methods) for measuring achievement of output</p> <p>I-1-1. Number of household's that received two months' food distribution at one time (households headed by a pregnant or lactating mother or a woman, child, person with a disability or chronic illness, and were affected by drought): 228 household's (recipient list)</p> <p>I-1-2. Number of household's that received two months' food distribution at one time (households with a working member and affected by drought): 228 (recipient list)</p> <p>I-2. Constructed irrigation canals: 8 (post-project monitoring report)</p>	<p>Activities to achieve output</p> <p>I-1. Agreement with local authorities</p> <p>I-2. Establishment of BSC2</p> <p>I-3. Capacity building of BSC</p> <p>I-4. Identification of beneficiaries</p> <p>I-5. Selection of supplier</p> <p>I-6. Construction of irrigation canals</p> <p>I-7. Distribution of food and supplies</p> <p>I-8. Project monitoring</p> <p>I-9. Evaluation and post-distribution monitoring</p>

2.5 Study Scope

The primary responsibility of M&E:

- Desk research, Inception:
 - Collect and review all project documents as well as relevant other documents
 - Design qualitative and quantitative data collection tools, sampling methods, field survey schedules and division of tasks
 - Conduct preparatory discussions/meetings with the relevant stakeholders
- Field research, Information collection:
 - Arrange/appoint data collectors and orientation of the data collectors/enumerators

² Beneficiary Selection Committee

- Collect data and information from different levels and stakeholders including the project beneficiaries and groups, community people, JEN staff.
- Process field data collection and analyzing the data applying statistical software and MS Excel
- Debriefing:
 - Write draft report and arrange a presentation session on the draft report with JPF and collect feedback on this report
 - Finalize evaluation report after incorporation of feedback and submitting to JPF.

2.6 Study Limitations

While this study provides valuable insights into the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, specifically in Nangarhar province, and the impacts of interventions aimed at improving food security, nutrition, and several limitations must be acknowledged:

1. The survey responses and feedback from beneficiaries might be influenced by their personal biases.
2. The study's reliance on sampling for selecting beneficiaries might limit the generalizability of the findings.
3. The evaluation period was relatively short, spanning from August 2023 to February 2024. This timeframe may not be sufficient to capture the long-term impacts of the interventions on food security.
4. The rapidly changing economic and political landscape in Afghanistan, particularly following the Taliban's takeover in August 2021, introduces additional variables that could affect the study's findings. Inflation, unemployment, and policy changes might have influenced the results in ways that are difficult to disentangle from the effects of the intervention.
5. The specific context of Nangarhar province, including its unique socio-political dynamics and demographic characteristics, may limit the applicability of the findings to other regions of Afghanistan or other conflict-affected areas globally.

Acknowledging these limitations is crucial for interpreting the study's findings accurately and for informing future research and intervention strategies in similar humanitarian contexts. Further studies with extended timelines, robust longitudinal designs, and more comprehensive data collection methods are recommended to build on the insights gained from this evaluation.

3 Study Design

3.1 Study Objectives

This evaluation report seeks to assess the overall relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and impact, sustainability of the project based on its stated objectives, outcome, and outputs. By analyzing key performance indicators, stakeholder feedback, and data collected through various methods, this evaluation aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the project's achievements, challenges faced, and lessons learned.

Through a combination of qualitative insights gathered from interviews and focus group discussions and quantitative data obtained from surveys and project documentation, this evaluation endeavors to provide evidence-based conclusions and actionable recommendations for future interventions in similar contexts. The evaluation matrix outlined in this report serves as a structured framework to guide the analysis and interpretation of data across relevant evaluation themes such as relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability.

Ultimately, this evaluation report not only aims to assess the immediate outcomes of the project but also seeks to contribute to ongoing discussions and efforts aimed at improving humanitarian interventions, promoting sustainable development practices, and enhancing the well-being of vulnerable communities in conflict and disaster-affected regions.

This research assignment is designed to evaluate JEN who supported 486 drought-affected households with conditional distribution opportunities and enabled the construction of irrigation canals. Where Ask Aria Consulting;

1. Evaluated the impact and effectiveness of the project in enhancing the resilience of vulnerable populations to climate change and food insecurity.
2. Assessed the effectiveness of community involvement and localization strategies, emphasizing participation in community ownership, decision-making processes, implementation activities, or other relevant aspects.
3. Assessed the effectiveness of capacity-building efforts and local empowerment strategies among local staff and community members.
4. Verified the transparency and accountability in the documentation ensuring that the project strictly adheres to ethical and reporting standards.
5. Evaluated the specific impact of the project on vulnerable groups, including internally displaced persons, female-headed households, and elderly individuals ensuring that their unique needs are addressed.
6. Assessed the level of gender-inclusive participation in project activities, specifically examining the engagement of both male and female workers and their impact on community resilience.
7. Verified the alignment of the implemented project with the approved project proposal, assessing adherence to initially outlined objectives, activities, and expected outcomes.
8. Evaluated the fairness and effectiveness of the process used to select beneficiaries, ensuring that vulnerable groups are adequately represented, and selection criteria are transparent and equitable.
9. Assessed the level of engagement and satisfaction among key stakeholders, including local authorities, NGOs, and community leaders, focusing on their involvement in project planning, implementation, and feedback mechanisms.

10. Evaluated the alignment of the team's skills and knowledge with the project's technical requirements, ensuring that the team's expertise effectively contributed to the successful implementation of the project.
11. Analyzed the level of input from member NGO and assess their collaboration with Partner NGO focusing on the provision of technical advice and the reliability of information, including Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Needs Assessment activities.

3.2 Geographical Coverage Area

The project has supported the community in Chaparhar district, Nangarhar Province. Nangarhar is one of the largest provinces in Afghanistan, with a population of over 1.15 million people. As of December 2022, 15% of the beneficiaries in Phase 4 were from this area, and 35% of the beneficiaries in Phase 3 were also from here. The situation has worsened due to skyrocketing food prices, driven by the Ukrainian crisis and the weakening Afghan currency. Nearly half the population is now forced to take negative coping measures over four times the number before August 2021. Additionally, the number of drought-affected households increased sixfold between 2020 and 2022, with 21.2 million people needing water and sanitation support.



4 Evaluation Framework

4.1 Research Methodology

The evaluation used a combination of qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis methods. The approach provided a comprehensive and in-depth way to approach the research objectives, allowed for a holistic analysis of the project activities in the targeted rural communities and for ASK was to provide well-informed recommendations to JPF. The qualitative and quantitative data collection methods included desk review, survey, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), site visits providing information from community members, project actors, and other stakeholders. These qualitative methods allowed for in-depth exploration of the experiences, perspectives, and barriers faced by different groups within the communities. Qualitative data provided a deeper understanding of the social, cultural, and gender aspects, capturing narratives, perceptions, and experiences that aren't easily quantifiable. Quantitative data, on the other hand, provided objective measures, trends, and statistical relationships, providing a broader perspective.

4.2 Sampling Strategy

The robust sampling strategy was followed for the 486 households with a 95% confidence interval to ensure the representativeness of the sample. This was crucial for accurately generalizing the findings to the entire population. To achieve a representative sample, a stratified random sampling method was employed, taking into account factors such as age, gender, or location. The sample size in a population, with a confidence level of 95%, resulting in a final sample size of 214.

Methods	Stakeholders	Number of Respondents	Targeted	Reached	Achieved
Key Informant Interviews	JEN Staff	4 interviews with key JEN Staff engaged in the project	12	12	100%
	Community Leader	8 Interviews with Community Leaders			
Focus Group Discussions	Household Members	2 FGDs each comprised of 8 members (1 male and 1 female specific)	2	2	100%
Surveys	Conditional	107 survey respondents with conditional beneficiaries	214	214	100%
	Unconditional	107 survey respondents with unconditional beneficiaries			

Table 3: Field Work Sample and Achievement

5 Findings

5.1 Demographics

5.1.1 Respondent Gender, Household Size, and Age

The survey data reveals a gender distribution among respondents, with 80 individuals identifying as female, comprising approximately 37% of the total respondents, and 134 as male, making up about 63%. This totals to 214 respondents in the survey. This distribution highlights a higher representation of males compared to females in the surveyed population. Understanding these gender dynamics is crucial for addressing gender-specific issues and ensuring equitable participation in various studies and surveys.

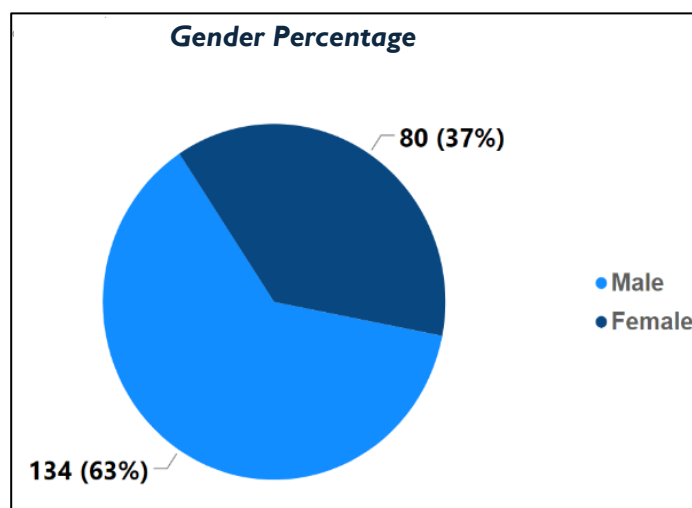


Figure 1: Gender Percentage

The average of respondent is 37 years old. The data reveals household sizes within this population. Within the most common sizes being 8, 9, and 10 members, representing 30 (16%), 27 (14%), and 26 (14%) households. Household sizes of 6 and 7 members are also notable, accounting for 21 (11%) and 20 (11%) households. In contrast, very large households of 17 to 24 members are rare, each making up less than 1% of the total. The data shows a peak at the 8-member household size, which has the highest percentage at 16%. This distribution highlights that smaller to moderately large families are most common, while extremely large families are rare.

5.1.2 Respondent Education Level

Survey respondents are divided into two literacy groups: Illiterate and Literate. Out of 139 (65%) are illiterate, and 75 (35%) are literate. This shows a clear majority of illiterate individuals compared to those who are Literate among the respondents.

Among the 75 literate respondents, educational backgrounds vary: 8 (11%) have graduate degrees, 33 (44%) completed high school, 6 (8%) attended Madrassas, and 28 (37%) are pursuing or have completed undergraduate studies.

The illiteracy rate needs to be taken into consideration while planning and designing the future projects since it has significant impacts on the activities, communication plans and as well as the feedback and complain mechanism channels. We can assume that the target population prefers verbal communication over written communication.

For future project and program areas, JEN can consider also addressing the need for targeted literacy interventions and educational policies to improve literacy rates and ensure equitable access to education for everyone. Addressing these disparities can empower individuals, enhance socio-economic outcomes, and support inclusive community development.

5.1.3 Residency Status

The residency status of the 213 respondents shows a varied distribution. Of these, 39 individuals (19%) were IDPs, while the majority, 171 respondents (80%), were local residents. A smaller group, 3 respondents (1%), were returnees. This distribution reflects a mix of IDPs, local residents, and returnees within the surveyed population. Although the project was also intended for IDPs and returnees, it primarily supported vulnerable local residents. According to JEN staff, the lower number of IDPs was due to their movement back to their place of origin. The vulnerable households selected for the project were mostly from local households.

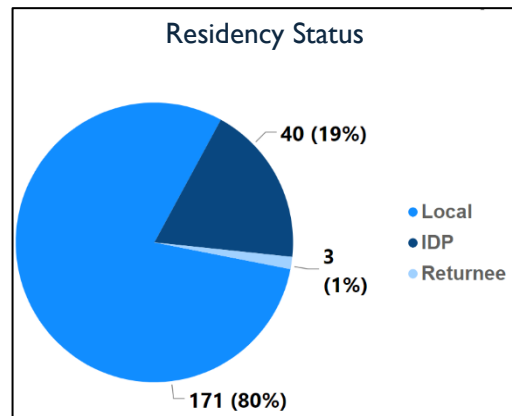


Figure 2: Beneficiaries Resident Status

5.1.4 Engagement in Agriculture and Employment

Based on the survey of 214 respondents, 137 (64%) are involved in agriculture. This high percentage indicates that agriculture is a major livelihood source of the surveyed population. Rehabilitating an irrigation canal could greatly benefit these agricultural activities by improving water availability and distribution, leading to better crop yields, greater agricultural activities by improving water availability and distribution, leading to better crop yields, greater agricultural sustainability, and reduced vulnerability to climate variability.

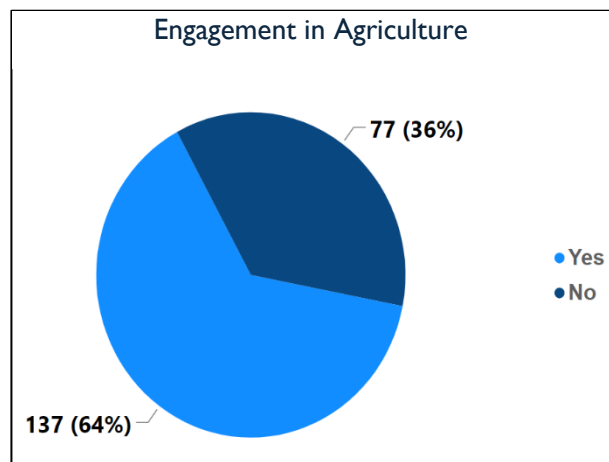


Figure 3: Beneficiaries Engagement in agriculture

Among the respondents, 82% reported being unemployed, representing the majority. Self-employment was reported by 14%, while only 3% indicated they are employed. This highlights a high unemployment rate. Of these unemployed, 107 are engaged in agriculture, and among the self-employed, 25 are involved in agriculture. These findings stress the importance of agriculture for both unemployed and self-employed individuals. Targeted interventions should focus on improving agricultural productivity, creating job opportunities through skill development for the unemployed, and supporting entrepreneurial efforts to enhance economic resilience and sustainable livelihoods in the community.

5.1.5 Marital Status and Household Income

In the dataset on marital status, 53% of respondents reported being married, 32% were widows or widowers, and 15% were single. This shows a higher prevalence of married individuals among the surveyed population. The demographic analysis also includes average monthly income levels. Among respondents, 149 (70%) reported earning less than AFN 5,000, making it the most common income bracket. Another 60 respondents (28%) earned between AFN 5,000 and 10,000, while 5 respondents (2%) earned between AFN 10,000 and 15,000 per month. The data indicates that a significant portion of the population faces financial challenges, with most earning below AFN 5,000 monthly.

Income distributions vary by marital status. Among married respondents, 53% earn below AFN 5,000, 42% earn between AFN 5,000 and 10,000, and 4% earn between AFN 10,000 and 15,000. Single respondents predominantly earn between AFN 5,000 and 10,000 (66%), with 34% earning below AFN 5,000. Widows or widowers are mostly in the below AFN 5,000 income bracket, making up 99% of this group. These findings highlight significant financial disparities, especially the economic challenges faced by widows and widowers.

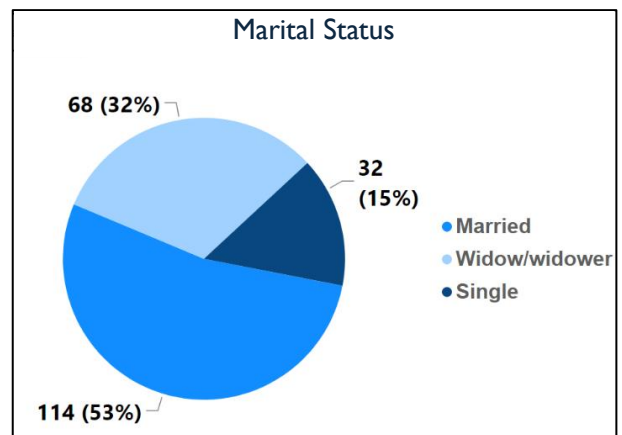


Figure 4: Respondents Marital Status

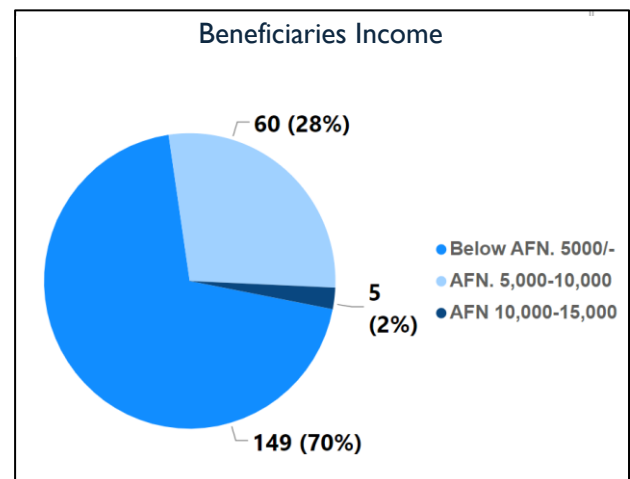


Figure 5: Beneficiaries Income

5.1.6 Distribution Modality and Duration

The analysis provides insights into the type of support received by respondents. Among the 214 surveyed respondents, 127 (59%) reported receiving unconditional assistance, while 87 (41%) received conditional support. These findings highlight the varied forms of assistance required by households in the surveyed community, reflecting ongoing socioeconomic challenges and the need for diverse support programs.

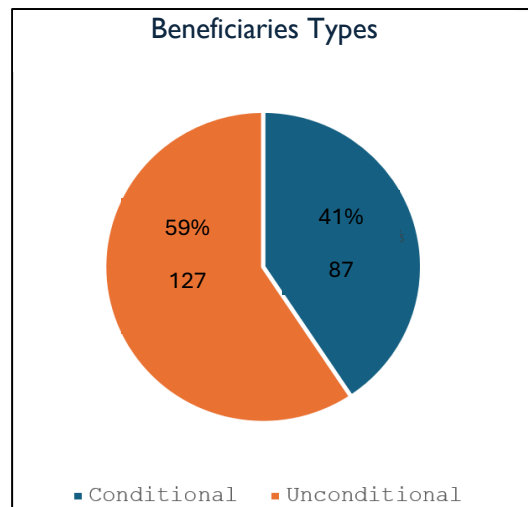


Figure 6: Type of Beneficiaries Surveyed

Regarding the receipt of aid packages over a two-month period, 208 respondents (97%) reported receiving one package, while only 6 respondents (3%) received two packages. This indicates that most of the surveyed population typically received a single package during this period, with multiple deliveries being rare. It appears that respondents might have misunderstood the question. Although JEN distributed multiple packages, it was done in a single round. Respondents may have been confused about the distribution rounds, as they received the two months' worth of packages all at once. Additionally, JEN's explanation that the packages for two months were distributed in one go might not have been clear to everyone.

5.2 Background Knowledge

The survey reveals that 212 respondents (99.5%) are aware of the JEN project in their area. This high level of awareness highlights the effectiveness of the project's communication and outreach efforts suggests a strong overall engagement and visibility within the local community. Such high awareness is a key indicator of community involvement and the potential impact of development projects in the area. Furthermore, all 213 respondents who were aware of the JEN project were familiar with its main activities, specifically the rehabilitation of irrigation canals and distribution of food and supplies. This suggests that the project's communication and engagement strategies were highly effective.

5.3 Core Humanitarian Standards

The analysis of responses to core humanitarian standards shows exceptionally high satisfaction among respondents in all categories. An overwhelming 99% of respondents reported being treated with dignity and respect by the project team, with an equal percentage affirming that their right to independence and self-esteem was upheld. Only 1% reported any negative impact from the project, indicating minimal adverse effects. Additionally, 99% expressed satisfaction with how the project team addressed their needs and concerns. These findings highlight the project's strong commitment to humanitarian principles, demonstrating effective and respectful engagement with beneficiaries throughout its implementation.

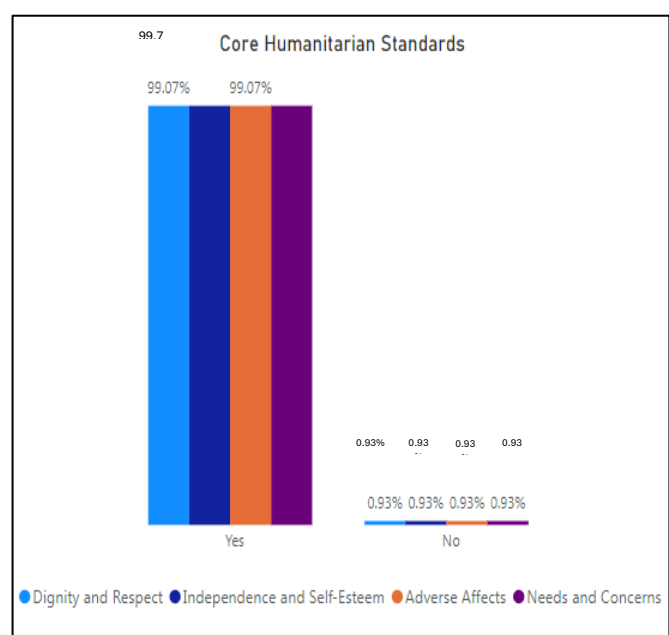


Figure 7: Core Humanitarian Standards

5.4 Relevance

5.4.1 Effective Communication of Beneficiary Criteria

Key survey findings highlight significant achievements in beneficiary identification and support distribution. Communication of beneficiary criteria was reported as highly effective, with 98% of respondents confirming clear and transparent communication about the criteria used to identify beneficiaries. This high percentage reflects the project team's success in keeping stakeholders well-informed and ensuring they understand the selection process.

"Nangarhar, one of the eastern provinces, has experienced significant challenges over the past two decades due to the ongoing conflict between the previous republic government and the Islamic Emirate. The region has seen a substantial influx of returnees and internally displaced persons. Compounding these issues, climate change has had a severe impact, resulting in frequent droughts and floods that have further strained the community's resources and resilience." (Acting Head of Jalalabad Office, JEN Staff)

5.4.2 Household Eligibility

Regarding household eligibility, an overwhelming 97% of respondents confirmed that their households met the necessary criteria for receiving project distributions. This indicates that the project's targeting strategy effectively reached those most in need within the community, demonstrating a strong approach to ensuring assistance reaches its intended beneficiaries.

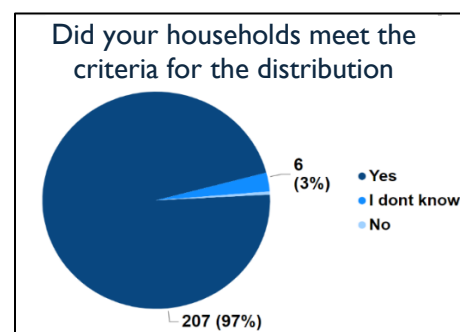


Figure 8: Households Eligibility

5.4.3 Perceived Fairness in Selection

A significant majority (93%) of respondents expressed confidence that all eligible individuals they knew were selected for support. This high level of perceived fairness highlights the community's trust in the project's equitable distribution practices and its inclusiveness in serving those most in need. The project effectively communicated beneficiary criteria, targeted vulnerable households, and ensured a fair selection process, reinforcing the community's trust in its approach. JEN established a BSC that was responsible for selecting the beneficiaries and introducing them to JEN. This helped JEN identify suitable beneficiaries according to the local perspective and understanding.

5.4.4 Prioritization of Vulnerable Groups

The survey revealed that 96% of respondents confirmed that vulnerable groups were effectively prioritized in beneficiary selection. This inclusive approach is crucial for addressing the diverse needs of vulnerable populations within the community. Among known beneficiaries, various vulnerabilities were identified, with the most experiencing multiple vulnerabilities: 4% had one, 5% had two, 8% had three, and a significant 81% had four. Common vulnerable groups included IDPs, returnees, host community, female-headed households, and individuals with specific needs, highlighting the project's targeted support for diverse vulnerable populations.

"With no male family members to support us, this project has been a vital source of help, not only providing us with food support but also bringing us hope to our lives when we needed it most." (unconditional beneficiary, 40 years old, female)

5.4.5 Diversity of Beneficiary Criteria Met

The survey revealed a diverse range of eligibility factors met by households. Results showed that 36% of households met one criterion, while 27% met two criteria, 26% met three, and 11% met even more criteria up to seven. The most common criteria included households categorized as IDPs, returnees, vulnerable local populations, households with pregnant or lactating mothers, and those headed by women, children, or persons with disabilities or chronic illnesses. This inclusivity in criteria reflects a comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of various vulnerable groups within the community.

5.4.6 High Satisfaction with Support Provided

A unanimous 99% of respondents confirmed that the JEN project provided necessary support for them and their families, reflecting high satisfaction with the project's effectiveness in meeting critical community needs, no respondents expressed disagreement with the support provided, nor did they show a preference for alternative support options such as cash distribution, livelihood inputs, healthcare, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), or education support.

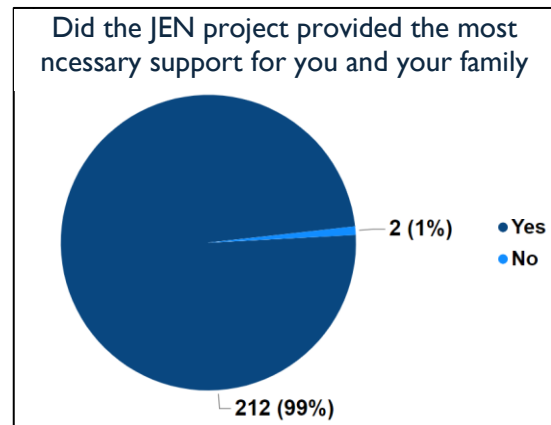


Figure 9: High Satisfaction with Support Provided

5.4.7 Impact on Skills and Knowledge Application

Regarding the impact on skills and knowledge application, 52% of respondents felt the project did not provide sufficient support to apply learned skills in their daily lives, while 17% said it did, and 31% were unsure. By sufficient support, it is assumed that the project was closed, and because of this, the beneficiaries could not apply their skills in other employment opportunities or NGO-supported infrastructure projects. Although ASK does not have the data to prove if this is the case, but it is strongly inferred that this may have been the case. The project allowed some beneficiaries to learn skills in canal construction, rehabilitation, and management such as canal cleaning, masonry, and cement preparation among many others. Beneficiaries who believed that the project did not provide them sufficient support may have not been able to find employment after the JEN project was concluded. This is a limitation on part of JEN that cannot be addressed except for having additional project budget or connecting their beneficiaries with other NGO-funded projects. Since the beneficiaries already acquired the skills, JEN may implement various support programs such as job placements for them. Responses varied between conditional and unconditional beneficiaries. Among conditional beneficiaries, 13% reported being able to apply skills independently, 20% did not feel enabled, and 7% were uncertain. For unconditional beneficiaries, 4% felt enabled, 32% did not, and 24% were uncertain. This indicates a potential area for improvement in capacity-building efforts to better empower unconditional beneficiaries to find food.

"Beneficiaries gained valuable skills through the program, as it catered to individuals with skills suited for various types of work. Those who were physically able to work were equipped with the necessary skills, while those unable to work received essential food items to support their needs." (Conditional beneficiary, 28 years old, Male)

5.4.8 Longevity and Utility of Support

Regarding the longevity and utility of support received, opinions were generally positive. Forty percent of conditional beneficiaries agreed that the support provided was necessary in their area, with only

0.5% unsure and none disagreeing. Among unconditional beneficiaries, 57.5% agreed, 1.4% were uncertain, and 0.5% disagreed. An overwhelming 97% of respondents agreed that the support met local needs, demonstrating strong alignment with community requirements and reinforcing the project's relevance and impact.

5.5 Coherence

5.5.1 Complementarity with Other Programs

A significant majority (63%) of respondents felt that the project moderately complemented other community programs. Although ASK does not have the data on other community programs, but JEN project is highly complementary to agriculture support projects such as seed distribution to farmers. The canal will help these farmers

continue farming. According to one BSC Member, there was another project in the area that cleaned the raceway of the canal for the community which was not supported by JEN. Specifically, 21% of conditional beneficiaries and 42% of unconditional beneficiaries perceived the project as offering moderate complementarity, while 16% of both groups viewed it as highly complementary. This suggests that while the project generally aligns well with other initiatives, there is considerable potential to enhance its integration. Strengthening partnerships and increasing the frequency and visibility of coordination efforts can significantly improve the project's overall coherence and impact on the community.

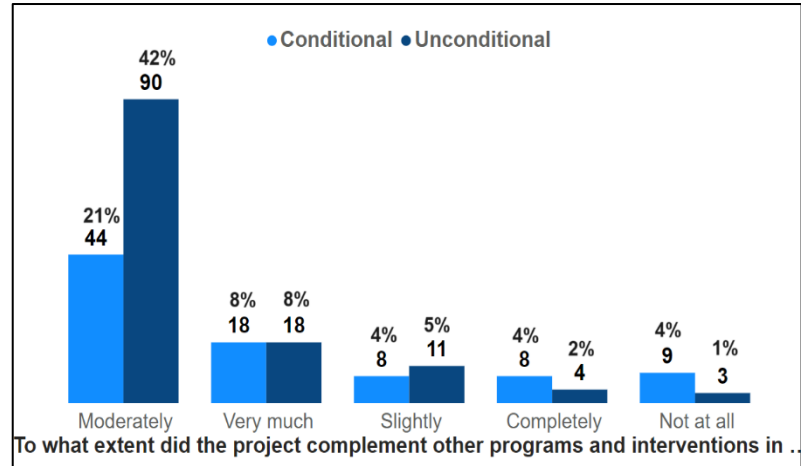


Figure 10: Complementarity with other Programs

5.5.2 Effectiveness of Coordination

A substantial majority (74%) rated the project's coordination with other stakeholders such as the relevant line ministries or the local community as moderately effective. Among them, 43% of conditional beneficiaries/respondents (107 in total) and 31% of unconditional beneficiaries agreed with this assessment. This moderate rating suggests that while coordination is occurring, there is potential to enhance both the frequency and effectiveness of these interactions to ensure better integration and overall impact. Strengthening communication and collaboration with local authorities can improve this alignment, ensuring that the project remains relevant and effective.

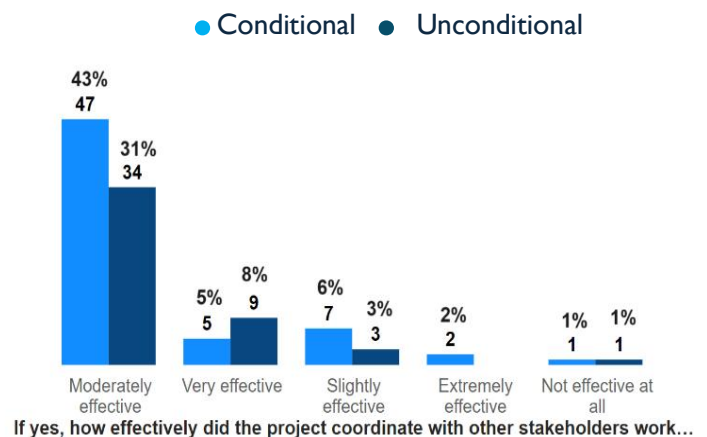


Figure 11: Coordination

“The project maintained close coordination with stakeholders throughout all stages, including community engagement, planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation, ensuring regular and effective collaboration.” (BSC Member, Male)

5.5.3 Adherence to Local Plans

Slightly more respondents indicated that the project did not follow plans developed by other stakeholders (53%) compared to those who felt it did (47%). For example, the beneficiaries were asked whether the JEN project adhered to any pre-made development plans for the community, such as those developed by relevant line ministries. However, when answering the question, respondents did not provide specific examples of such plans.

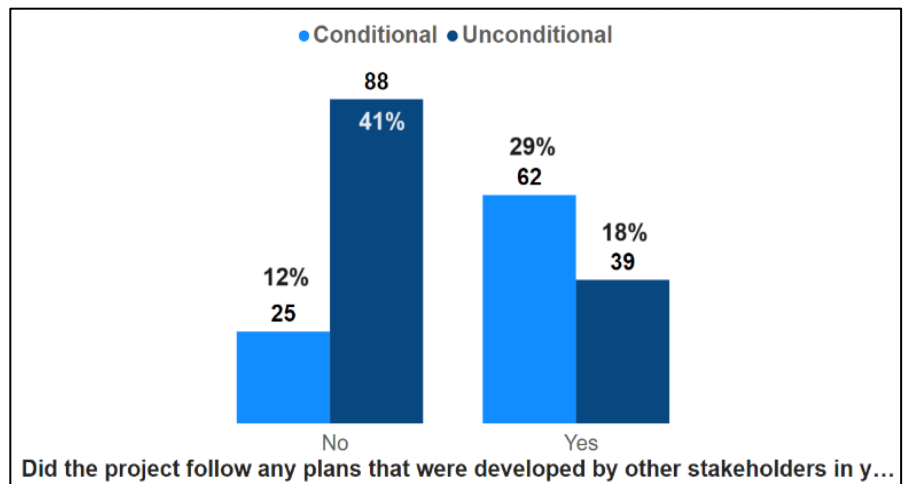


Figure 12: Community Level Plans

Conditional beneficiaries reported higher adherence (29%) compared to unconditional beneficiaries (18%). Although this mixed response highlights the need for better alignment with local plans and strategies. Despite that, ASK does not have the data to further evaluate the impact of lack or existence of adherence. It is also possible that JEN followed community plans, and the respondents may not be aware of the community plans themselves.

“The need for this project was identified and communicated through a multi-level process involving local leaders and the Government authorities. Specifically, the concerns raised by local elders were relayed to the district authorities, who in turn informed and referred the application to the provincial Governor, who then referred the matter to the DoEc, which subsequently passed it on to DAIL. Then DAIL referred the issue to JEN, requesting support for the targeted community. The application submitted to JEN explicitly mentioned the need for canal rehabilitation. Following this process, JEN conducted a need assessment survey and involved the community in the project design, ensuring that the intervention aligned with the local plan and was a top priority for DAIL/MAIL, district authority and CDC/BSCs. All these process and procedure are documented at JEN.” (JEN Afghanistan Staff member)

5.5.4 Conclusion

The project shows moderate coherence with other community programs and local plans. While respondents noted good consistency with local policies (47% very consistent), there is room for better integration with other initiatives and stronger coordination with stakeholders. Here are some recommendations:

- Increase collaboration with local programs and NGOs to enhance synergy and maximize community impact.
- Enhance communication with local authorities and ministries through regular coordination meetings and clear communication channels.
- Involve local authorities in project planning to ensure alignment with existing development strategies.
- Continue engaging with local leaders to adapt to evolving policies and maintain relevance.

5.6 Effectiveness (Conditional Food)

5.6.1 Introduction by Beneficiary Selection Committee

All respondents (100%) reported being introduced through the Beneficiary Selection Committee. This unanimous response indicates that the beneficiary selection process was consistent and likely transparent, suggesting a well-managed and equitable approach in selecting beneficiaries according to established criteria. JEN implemented the following process for its beneficiary selection:

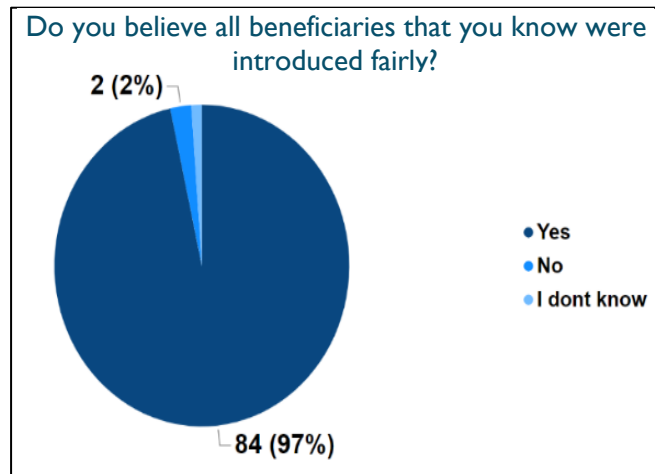


Figure 13: Beneficiaries Introduction

1. Formation of BSCs: Representatives from the IDP, returnees, and host communities, including both men and women, come together to form BSCs including the government stakeholders (district authorities, DAAIL and DoEc).
2. Awareness of BSCs: JEN conducted an awareness session for BSCs on their responsibilities, introduced JEN and JPF, explained the overall project's activities, and selection criteria, and shared the details on FCRM and PSEA to ensure they are aware of the existing mechanism and how to use them.
3. Need Assessment Survey: JEN conducts a thorough survey to identify individuals with the greatest need by physically visiting their houses and checking the kitchen and food storage.
4. Selection of Beneficiaries: JEN's team assesses the needs of each individual in the presence of BSCs and selects those who meet our criteria.
5. Finalizing the List: JEN shares the list with FSAC members and remove any duplicates or individuals who have already received assistance.
6. Re-Assessment: JEN re-assesses the list to ensure that everyone is eligible for support.
7. Finalizing the Selection Process: JEN obtains signatures from BSCs including the district authorities and DAAIL as witnesses to confirm the selection process.

5.6.2 Fairness of Beneficiary Introduction

A substantial majority (97%) of respondents viewed the beneficiary introduction process as fair. This high level of positive feedback reflects strong confidence in the fairness of the process. However, the small percentage of negative and uncertain responses suggests the need for further investigation to address any potential issues or perceptions of unfairness.

"We faced issues with water resources and food security. With the help of the community leader, we were introduced to the organization, which then implemented this project here. The process for introducing beneficiaries was fair and well-organized." (Unconditional Beneficiary, 35 years old, Female)

5.6.3 Disaster Risk Reduction Infrastructure Rehabilitation

Almost all respondents (98%) recognized the project's role in rehabilitating disaster risk reduction infrastructure, with no respondents reporting a lack of such efforts. This widespread acknowledgment highlights the project's effectiveness in this area. The 2% who were unsure may benefit from additional clarification or communication to better understand the project's scope and achievements. Respondents identified the outcomes of this rehabilitation as follows:

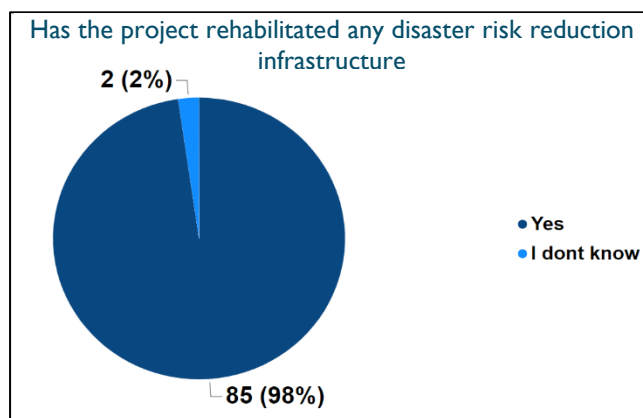


Figure 14: DRR and Rehabilitation

26% think that it will mitigate flood risk, 18%

think that it will prepare them for flood risk, and 56% believe that it will prevent economic losses. The most noted outcome was the prevention of economic losses, indicating that the project has been particularly successful in minimizing economic impacts. This focus on economic loss prevention underscores the project's significant contribution to economic stability and resilience, while also addressing flood risks and enhancing preparedness. This outcome greatly contributes to the preservation of harvests and crops that eventually contribute to the food security of the community.

“This project has anticipatedly enhanced food security at the community level while also contributing to disaster risk reduction. By improving the canal system, it ensured a more reliable water source and bolstered the community's resilience to environmental challenges.” (BSC Member, Male)

5.6.4 Type of Conditional Work Engaged

Based on the data collected from the targeted beneficiaries, the majority of respondents (92%) were involved in labor and rehabilitation tasks. Smaller percentages were engaged in planning and feasibility (5%) or food preparation for laborers (3%). This distribution highlights a strong emphasis on hands-on rehabilitation work, with less focus on planning or support tasks such as food preparation. The high level of physical labor involvement aligns with the project's primary goals of infrastructure improvement.

5.6.5 Training Provided

A significant majority (94%) of respondents received training related to their work, reflecting a strong commitment to capacity building and skill development. The 6% who did not receive training may require additional support to fully benefit from the project's training resources. This high training rate underscores the project's dedication to enhancing beneficiary skills and improving the overall effectiveness.

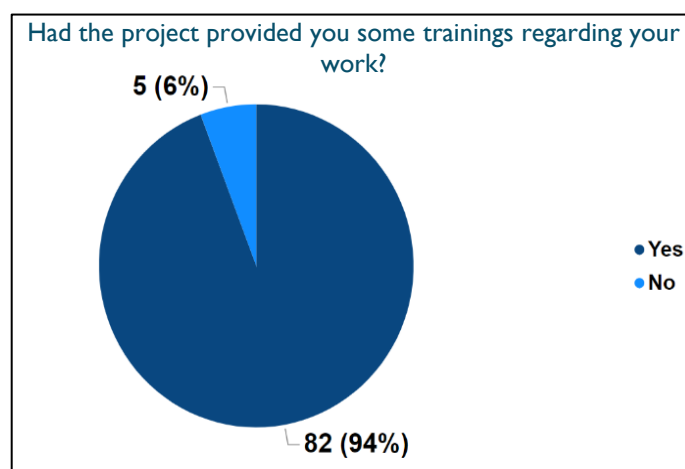


Figure 15: Trainings

“The project not only provided essential food items to those unable to work but also trained beneficiaries in canal rehabilitation. This training equipped individuals with both soft and physical skills necessary for the work, thereby enhancing their abilities and contributing to the overall success of the canal rehabilitation efforts.” (Conditional beneficiary, 30 years old, male)

5.6.6 Items Received for Work

All beneficiaries received comprehensive food packages, including essential items such as wheat flour, edible oil, brown rice, sugar, green tea, red kidney beans, mung beans, soap, salt, and packaging carton. This diverse range of items addresses both nutritional needs and hygiene requirements, indicating a thorough approach to supporting beneficiaries.

5.6.7 Usage of Irrigation Canal

All respondents (100%) reported using the irrigation canal, highlighting its universal adoption and crucial role in their daily activities. This complete utilization suggests that the canal is a vital infrastructure component, deeply integrated into community operations and essential for various functions within the area.

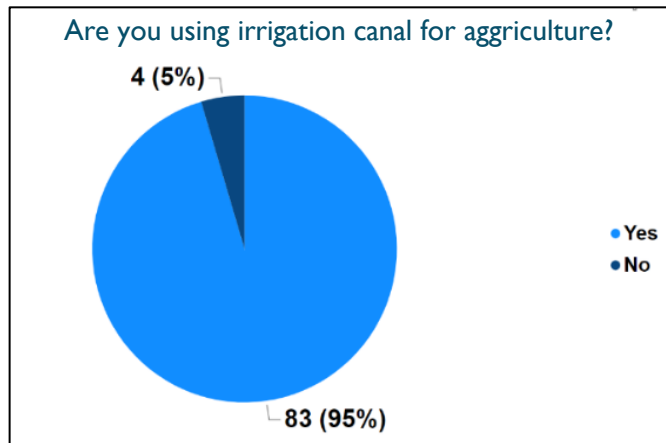


Figure 16: Usage of Irrigation Canals

5.6.8 Agricultural Use of Irrigation Canal

A significant majority (95%) of conditional beneficiaries utilize the irrigation canal for agricultural purposes, highlighting its crucial role in farming activities. The remaining 5% who do not use it for agriculture may be utilizing the canal for other functions or encountering issues that need further investigation and support.

“This canal is vital for supplying water needed for agricultural activities, which directly supports our farming efforts. Additionally, it provides water for essential daily household tasks, significantly improving our overall quality of life and enhancing our ability to sustain local livelihoods.” (Conditional beneficiary, 47 years old, male)

5.6.9 Other Purposes for the Irrigation Canal

For the remaining %5 of the conditional beneficiaries who do not use the canal for irrigation purposes, the canal is predominantly used for WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) purposes by 99% respondents, the remaining 1% use it for drinking water. This widespread use for sanitation and hygiene highlights the canal's critical role in maintaining community health and well-being, extending its impact beyond agriculture.

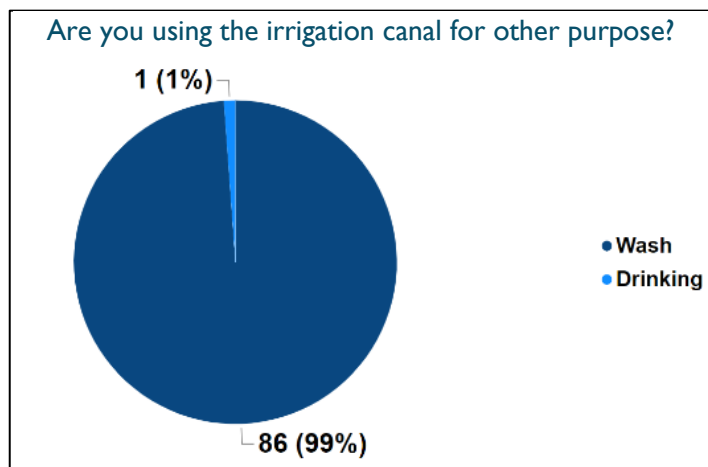


Figure 17: Irrigation Canals other Purposes

5.6.10 Skills Acquired from Conditional Food Activities

Apart from the training, respondents reported acquiring various skills through their involvement in conditional food activities: 75% gained skills in canal maintenance, canal rehabilitation, and the use of construction tools; 16% learned canal rehabilitation and maintenance; 5% gained skills in canal rehabilitation only; and 2% learned canal maintenance only; and 2% learned to use construction tools only. This diverse skill set reflects the range of abilities developed through participating in these activities, highlighting the program’s impact on enhancing infrastructure management and maintenance capabilities.

5.6.11 Confidence in Maintaining Irrigation System Independently

A high percentage (97%) of respondents expressed confidence in their ability to maintain the irrigation system independently, this indicates that the project effectively transferred knowledge and developed skills among participants. The remaining 3% who are uncertain may require additional support or resources to enhance their confidence and ability to manage the system independently.

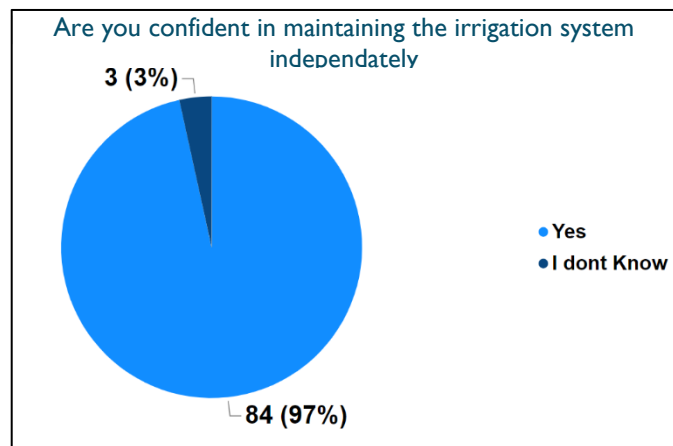


Figure 18: Confidence in maintaining the irrigation independently

“We are able to use the canal effectively and are committed to maintaining it to ensure its continued safety and functionality. Our involvement in its upkeep will help preserve its benefits for our community.”
(Conditional beneficiary, 38 years old, male)

5.6.12 Satisfaction with Assistance Provided

The majority of respondents reported high satisfaction with the assistance provided: 64% were very satisfied, 33% were satisfied, 2% were neutral, and none were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. The lack of dissatisfaction and the high levels of satisfaction demonstrate the project’s success in addressing beneficiary needs and expectations, reflecting overall effectiveness and success of the support provided.

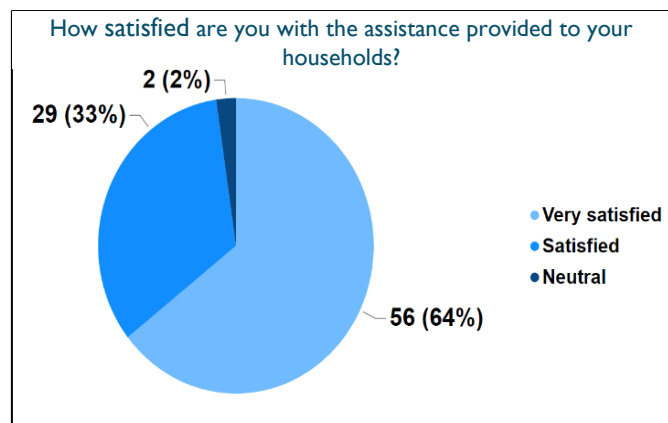


Figure 19: Satisfaction with Assistance Provided

“This project has been incredibly supportive. It has provided us with essential resources like the canal and food items, which are crucial for our well-being. This assistance is especially valuable to us, given our limited financial resources. We are very satisfied with the support we’ve received.” (Unconditional beneficiary, 42 years old, female)

5.6.13 Outcome (Benefit) of Support

Respondents reported several benefits from the support received. Since respondents could select multiple options, the breakdown is as follows.

- 46% selected work opportunities, acquired knowledge and skills.
- 32% chose work opportunities, knowledge and skills, and also spent money on health and education.
- 22% indicated they spent money on health, acquired knowledge and skills, and obtained work opportunities.

The majority of respondents experienced both work opportunities and skill acquisition, with many also investing in health and education. This indicates that the project effectively provided economic opportunities, enhanced skills, and contributed to the overall well-being of beneficiaries.

5.6.13 Conclusion

The project strong effectiveness in several key areas, such as fair and transparent beneficiary selection (97% viewed the process as fair) and successful disaster risk reduction efforts (98% acknowledged infrastructure rehabilitation). Respondents also reported high satisfaction with the assistance provided (97%), with the majority gaining skills and economic benefits. However, here are some recommendations for effectiveness:

- Address the 2% of respondents unsure about disaster risk reduction efforts through improved communication on project outcomes.
- Ensure the 6% who did not receive training obtain necessary skill-building resources to maximize their participation and effectiveness.
- Investigate the 5% who do not use the canal for agriculture to identify any barriers and provide support as needed to ensure that they have a means to secure food for their families.
- Continue to build on the 97% confidence in maintaining the irrigation system by offering follow-up support to those still uncertain.

5.7 Effectiveness (Unconditional Food)

5.7.1 Receipt and Duration of Food Packages

All respondents (100%) confirmed receiving the food package. The distribution was a one-time delivery of a two-month food package, although the recipients may have perceived it differently. Specifically, 64% received the package intended for one month, while 36% for received it for two months. This discrepancy in reported duration might be due to confusion regarding the package's intended coverage. This 100% receipt rate highlights the project's efficient distribution, reflecting strong logistics and supply chain management. The variation in the duration of support observed in the field research indicates that the project catered to varying needs within the community. This adaptability, as reported by beneficiaries, seems to enhance the project's perceived credibility and ensures extended support for those in need. The successful delivery of food packages, with no reported issues, highlights the effectiveness of the operational planning. However, although all respondents received the same quantity, there may have been confusion regarding the total rounds of distribution, based on feedback from beneficiaries. This is why some beneficiaries reported receiving packages for one month. It is important to note that these observations are based on field research and the responses from beneficiaries, rather than the project's original intention.

“This project has been highly effective in addressing our food security issues. We received a food package that significantly improved our situation, and the organization has effectively tackled the main concerns we had. (Unconditional beneficiary, 55 years old, female)”

5.7.2 Contents of the Food Packages

All respondents received the complete set of items in the food packages, which included wheat flour, edible oil, brown rice, sugar, green tea, red kidney beans, mung beans, soap, salt, and a packaging carton. This consistency in the package contents ensures that all beneficiaries receive a balanced and comprehensive assortment of essential items. The uniformity addressing both nutritional and sanitary needs. The diverse range of items supports dietary variety and nutritional balance, crucial for the community’s health. The inclusion of a packaging carton adds convenience, improving the overall experience for the beneficiaries.

Each respondent (both conditional and unconditional) received the following items in the food packages:

- Wheat flour (3 bags)
- Edible oil (20 Liter)
- Brown rice (2 bags)
- Sugar (20 kg)
- Green tea (2 kg)
- Beans (red kidney beans) (15 kg)
- Beans (mung beans) (13 kg)
- Soap (6 bars)
- Salt (2 kg)
- Packaging Carton (1)

5.7.3 Introduction through Beneficiary Selection Committee

All respondents (100%) were introduced through the beneficiary selection committee. The 100% introduction rate through a formal selection committee highlights the project’s commitment to transparency and equitable access. This organized selection process was likely to enhance community trust in the project, as it minimized the likelihood of favoritism or bias. By using a committee-based approach, the project ensures that selection criteria are consistently applied, effectively targeting those most in need. This method of introduction contributes to a structured and accountable distribution process, further supporting the project’s overall efficiency and fairness.



Figure 20: KII with Acting Head of Office, Mr. Hameedullah Hamid

*"We worked closely with the community leader, who remained in constant contact with us and introduced us to the organization for support. This strong connection helped us access the assistance we needed."
(Unconditional Beneficiary, 60 years old, female)*

5.7.4 Usage of Irrigation Canal

A high percentage (92%) of unconditional beneficiary respondents reported using the irrigation canal, with 80% using it for agriculture. The widespread agricultural use of the irrigation canal emphasizes its critical role in enhancing local agricultural productivity, which is a key indicator of the project's positive impact on food security and economic stability within the community. Additionally, the canal's use for domestic purposes, such as washing (26%) and drinking (1%), underscores its multifunctional benefits, contributing to improved living standards and hygiene. The high utilization rate suggests that the infrastructure is well-maintained and accessible, which reflects positively on the project's sustainability and community engagement efforts.

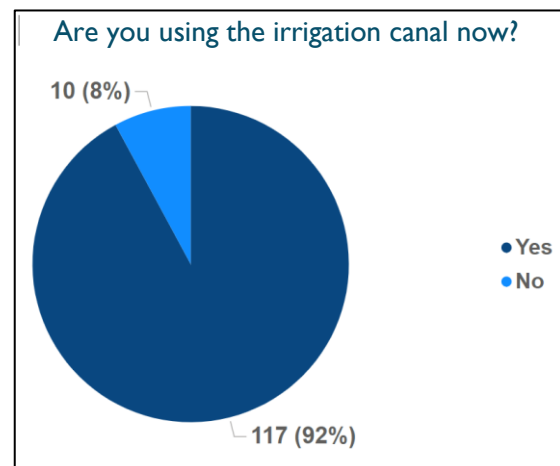


Figure 21: Current Usage of Irrigation Canals

5.7.5 Rehabilitation of Disaster Risk Reduction Infrastructure

A significant majority (98%) of respondents acknowledged the rehabilitation of disaster risk reduction infrastructure. This high level of recognition indicates the effective implementation of disaster risk management strategies, which contribute to enhancing community resilience and reducing vulnerability to natural disasters and economic disruptions. The community's awareness of these efforts suggests successful communication and visibility of project activities, fostering community support and cooperation. This aspect of the project not only addresses immediate safety concerns but also lays the groundwork for long-term stability and development.

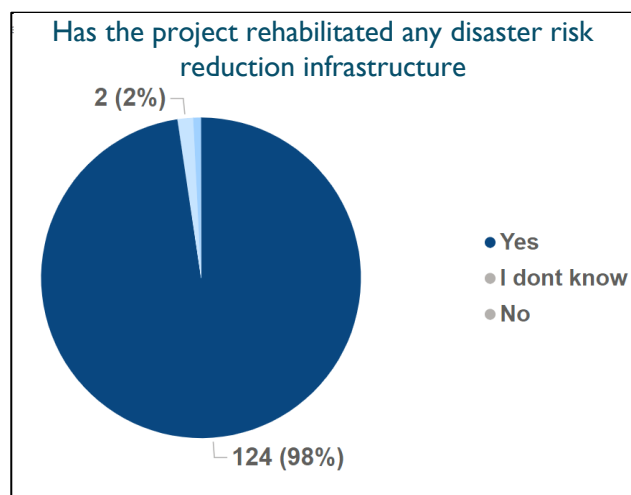


Figure 22: Rehabilitation of Disaster Risk Reduction Infrastructure

5.7.6 Outcome of Infrastructure Rehabilitation

The outcomes of the infrastructure rehabilitation efforts included flood risk mitigation (65%), prevention of economic losses (23%), and flood risk preparedness (5%). These varied yet complementary outcomes highlight the project's comprehensive approach to disaster risk reduction. Flood risk mitigation and the prevention of economic losses are immediate benefits that protect community assets and livelihoods. Flood risk preparedness indicates a proactive approach, equipping the community with the knowledge and resources needed to respond to future threats. This holistic strategy enhances overall community resilience and underscores the project's effectiveness in addressing both short-term and long-term challenges.

5.7.7 Satisfaction with Assistance

A vast majority were either very satisfied (61%) or satisfied (37%) with the assistance provided. The high levels of satisfaction reflect the project's success in meeting the expectations and needs of the beneficiaries. This positive feedback indicates that the assistance was both relevant and impactful, contributing to the overall well-being of the recipients. The satisfaction levels also suggest effective communication and delivery mechanisms, as well as the project's responsiveness to community needs. High satisfaction rates can enhance the project's reputation and encourage greater community participation and support in future initiatives.

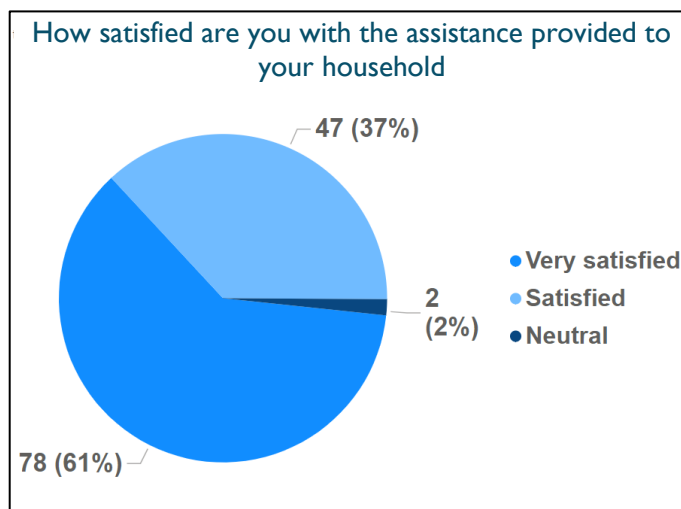


Figure 23: Satisfaction with Assistance

5.7.8 Follow-Up by JEN

Post-package contact was reported by 32% of respondents, while 63% were not contacted. The significant portion not contacted highlights a gap in follow-up and communication strategies. Despite that, JEN M&E team conducted a Post Distribution Monitoring with the 69 beneficiaries (14%). Effective follow-up is crucial for assessing the ongoing needs of beneficiaries, identifying any issues, and ensuring sustained impact. A 14% sample size for follow-up is sufficient. The follow-up for most respondents suggests that JEN implemented more robust monitoring and evaluation systems to maintain engagement and support beyond the initial assistance. However, follow-up mechanisms can be further improved which may provide valuable feedback for continuous improvement of project activities. For example, one way to follow-up with the community is to monitor the harvest seasons closely to see how the canal is being utilized for irrigation. But again, this requires further budget and human resources.

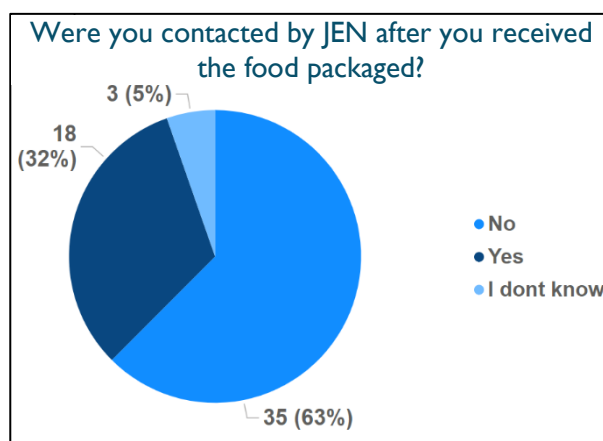


Figure 24: Follow-Up by JEN

5.7.9 Utilization of Saved Money

The saved money was primarily spent on more food items (40%) and healthcare (28%), with 26% unable to save money. The prioritization of additional food and healthcare expenditures indicates that these are ongoing critical needs for the beneficiaries. The inability to save money for 26% of respondents highlights the financial precarity faced by some households, emphasizing the need for sustained and possibly increased support. This shows that the beneficiaries, if not supported by the project, were unable to buy food. This indicates that JEN can provide them with livelihood and income generating opportunities such as skilled training or business investment. The food helped beneficiaries to spend money on other aspects of their livelihoods. This data points to the importance of integrating

income-generating activities or vocational training into support programs to enhance financial stability and resilience.

“The resources provided have been very helpful. By saving money on food through the support we received, we were able to allocate those funds towards healthcare, which has made a significant difference for us.”
(Unconditional beneficiary, 33 years old, female)

5.7.10 Adequacy of Food Package

A majority (79%) of respondents found the food packages adequate, while 17% did not. Although the majority of the beneficiaries were satisfied with the support, the 17% who indicated insufficiency highlight potential areas for improvement. Although beneficiaries did not provide further information on the reasons of inadequacy, it is assumed that these families may have other dependent families or have a larger family size that the food package could not cover. Or maybe the respondents found the duration of the support too short and rated the support as inadequate. This feedback suggests that adjustments in the quantity or duration of food support may be necessary to better meet the dietary needs and preferences of all beneficiaries. Some beneficiaries expected longer duration for the support or more quantity for the duration. Addressing these concerns is crucial for ensuring that the assistance provided is fully effective and meets the diverse needs of the community.

“We faced challenges with access to water and food security, but with the support of the community leader, the organization was able to implement this project effectively. As part of the initiative, the organization distributed essential food items such as flour, salt, beans, tea, soap, oil, and other materials to improve food security for the community.” (Unconditional Beneficiary, 44 years old, female)

5.7.11 Suggestions for Improvement

Among those who found the package insufficient, 73% suggested increasing the quantity, and 27% suggested extending timeline of support. The feedback pinpoints specific areas where beneficiaries feel the support could be enhanced. By increasing the quantity of food provided or extending the duration of assistance, the project could better address nutritional needs and improve its overall impact. This input is valuable for refining project strategies and ensuring that future interventions are more closely aligned with the community's needs and expectations.

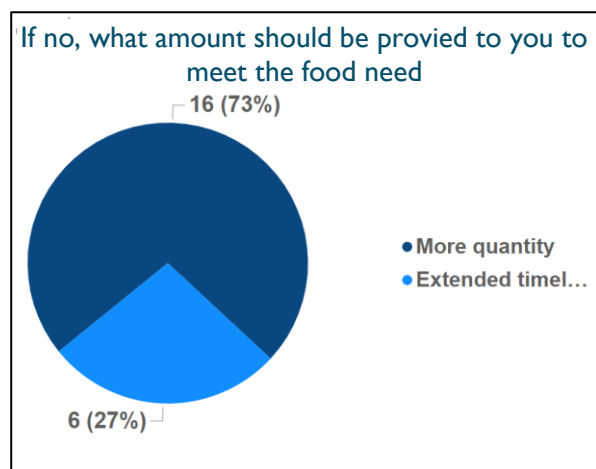


Figure 25: Suggestions for Improvement

Although the respondents have provided their suggestions, according to JEN staff, the calories calculation of the food package was based on Sphere Standards. The issue might have arisen due to a lack of detailed data on each beneficiary. For example, some families may have had more members than others, which could have influenced their need for food support. It is important to gather comprehensive data and investigate the underlying causes. Based on this analysis, JEN should develop and implement methods to prevent similar issues in the future. However, a disparity in distribution among families from the same community may also increase the chances of conflict as many beneficiaries are likely to be unaware of the internal project management processes of JEN.

“We submitted a recommendation suggesting that the project duration be extended, as the timeline was too short to fully address our needs.” (Unconditional beneficiary, 35 years old, female)

5.7.12 Access to Food Before and After the Project

Notably, 69% of respondents reported not having enough food³ to meet their household's needs when they were asked “Did you have access to enough food to meet your household's needs before the project?”. After the project, 46% of respondents feel they have sufficient access to food, 52% still report not having enough. This data shows that the project has made considerable progress in improving food access, with nearly half of the respondents experiencing an increase in food security. However, the fact that more than half of the respondents continue to face food shortages indicates that food security challenges remain significant. This persistent issue suggests that while the project has made strides, further interventions or extended support may be necessary to address the ongoing food insecurity. The community is expected to have its first harvest after the project is completed.

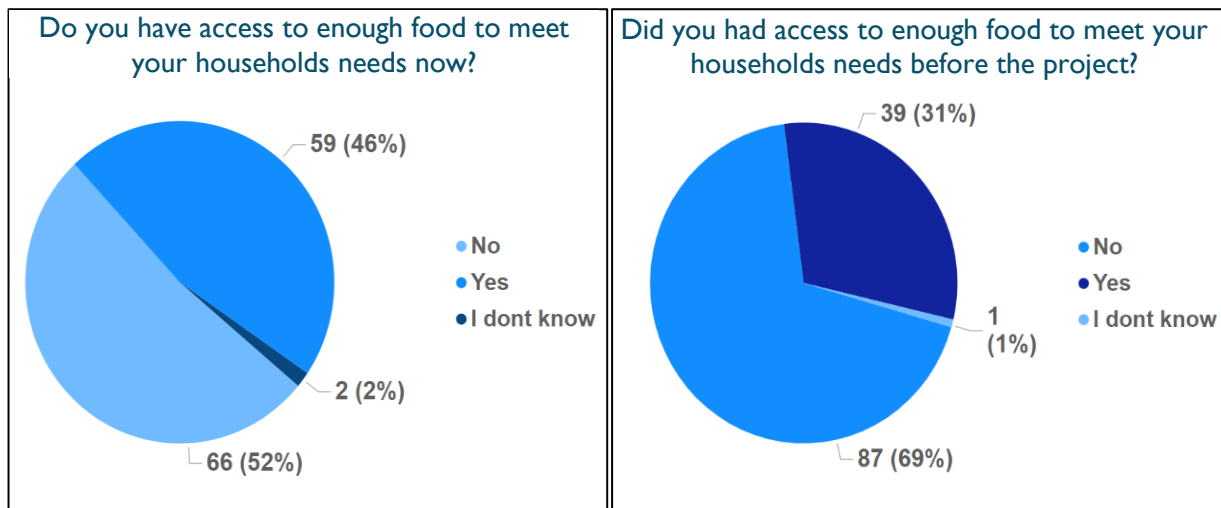


Figure 26: Access to Food Before and After the Project

Before the project, 98% of respondents reported reducing food quantity due to a lack of resources. They may have bought less amounts of food commodities. After the project, 78% of respondents still reported reducing food quality due to ongoing resource constraints. This may indicate that the beneficiaries are buying substandard food commodities due to a lack of finances. This shows that while the project may have helped improve food quantity, food quality remains a significant concern. In both quality and quantity, the beneficiaries' financial status plays a key role. The continued issue with food quality suggests that the project's impact may not fully address all aspects of food insecurity, highlighting the need for a more comprehensive approach that considers both food quality and quantity. For example, the beneficiaries had to reduce quantity of meals from three times a day to two times.

³ Disclaimer: The definition of food may have changed since the project implementation and may not be consistent with the project plan. Many respondents consider simple bread as food while JEN supported the beneficiaries with nutritious food packages.

5.7.14 Equitable Distribution of Benefits

Most respondents (91%) felt that the benefits were fairly distributed across socio-economic classes indicating effective outreach to a diverse group. Benefits of this project are access to irrigation services where all community households can benefit. For example, the benefits of the project were access to water for irrigation and domestic use and food packages for nutrition. However, 9% believed the distribution was not equitable, suggesting the need for improvements in inclusivity. Addressing these concerns could further enhance the fairness and reach of the project's benefits.

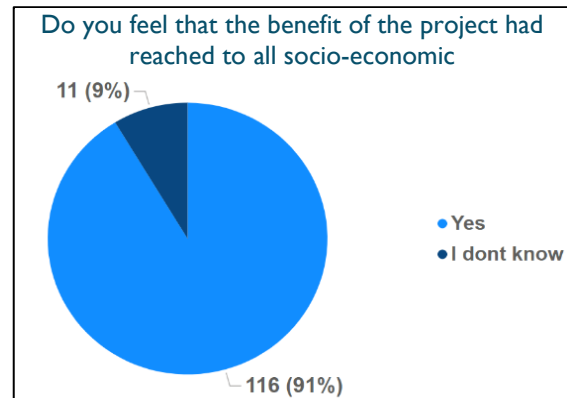


Figure 27: Equitable Distribution of Benefits

5.7.15 Engagement of Women

Respondents perceived women's engagement in the project as reasonable (49%) or good (46%), reflecting the project's strong commitment to gender inclusivity. This high level of recognition indicates that the project successfully integrated women into its activities, contributing to comprehensive community development and promoting gender equity.

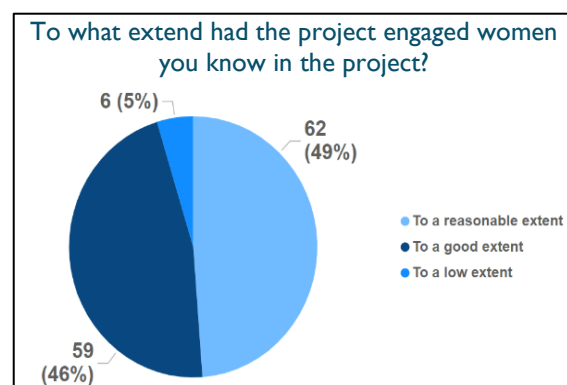


Figure 28: Women Engagement

5.7.16 Outcomes of Engaging Women

Engaging women in the project had a broad and positive impact, with 24% of respondents identifying 2 distinct benefits, 10% selected one benefit, 14% selected three benefits, 6% selected four benefits, and 5% selected five benefits. This suggests the project effectively addressed multiple aspects of women's lives. The most common benefits include empowering women, fulfilling their basic needs such as food and nutrition, improving their living standards, increasing their access to information and services like water, and increasing their social inclusion.

5.7.17 Conclusion

The project exhibited strong effectiveness in unconditional food support, with all respondents confirming receipt of food packages. High satisfaction levels and consistent delivery highlight the project's operational success. However, areas for improvement include expanding post-distribution follow-up and addressing ongoing food insecurity. Here are some recommendations

- Maintain post-distribution monitoring with a 14% sample size to better assess long-term impact and beneficiary needs.
- Explore extending food support or integrating livelihood and income-generating programs to tackle ongoing food shortages among beneficiaries.
- Adjust the quantity and duration of food packages to meet the needs of those reporting insufficient support.
- Continue to promote gender inclusivity, ensuring that women are empowered through increased access to services and opportunities.

5.8 Efficiency

5.8.1 Timely Delivery of Project Support

All respondents (100%) confirmed that the project support was delivered on time. This indicates the project's effective planning and execution, ensuring beneficiaries received support without delays.

"The JEN organization successfully implemented the project on time, staying true to the plan and ensuring every detail was carefully executed. Their commitment to efficiency and organization made a significant impact on our community." (Unconditional Beneficiary, 55 years old, Male)

5.8.2 Awareness of JPF's Involvement

Respondents learned about JPF's involvement through various channels: community meetings (36%), community meetings combined with project documents, signs, and public awareness campaigns (7%), community meetings and public awareness campaigns (32%), project signs (20%), and public awareness campaigns alone (3%). Community meetings (68% combined) and project signs (20%) were particularly effective, showing a comprehensive strategy for community engagement and information dissemination. According to a JEN staff member, "For project signage, we included JPF and JEN logos and CRM messages on each food package carton. We also installed signboards and gates with project-related information and the JPF and JEN logos to ensure visibility and raise awareness about JPF's role in the project."

"With the project's implementation, they provided clear information about JPF and JEN organizations through visible project logos and signs. This helped us understand and recognize the organizations involved, though we also recommended extending the project duration as the timeline was too short to fully address our needs." (unconditional beneficiary, 78 years old, female)

5.8.3 Competence of Project Teams

All respondents (100%) believed that project teams were well-trained and competent. This reflects positively on the project's training programs and recruitment processes, ensuring high-quality service delivery.

5.8.4 Complaint Redressal Mechanism

90% of respondents confirmed the existence and operation of a complaint redressal mechanism, while 4% did not confirm its existence and 6% were unaware of it. This high percentage demonstrates effective efforts in establishing a transparent and responsive feedback systems. However, the small percentage of respondent who are unaware or did not confirm the mechanism highlights the need for increased awareness and outreach. According to a JEN staff member, the awareness on CRM is claimed to be 100% among beneficiaries at key moments. However, this figure may not fully account for all family members, particularly women within families with lower literacy rates. It is possible that while some family members understood the CRM, others did not, or that the outreach focused more on certain family members or groups. To ensure greater awareness, JEN should not only increase the number of packages with the CRM contact number and explanation printed but also find additional methods to reach all family members, including those who are illiterate. At the moment, JEN uses the following channels:

- A free hotline number of JEN, prominently displayed on food cartons and banners, for beneficiaries to report their issues. The information on FCRM and contact details of female

M&E staff (PSEA focal point of JEN) were shared with BNFs. JEN's dedicated hotline number is managed by the MEAL officer who is engaged as an external monitor in this project.

- A readily accessible complaint box at our project sites, particularly during key events such as food distribution, training venues, and rehabilitation sites.
- Help desk/Face-to-face (allow the beneficiaries to raise concerns in person to ensure the mechanisms are developed for people with diverse literacy, capabilities, and marginalized groups such as women, children, and People with disability).
- The AWAAZ platform, provided by UNOPS, for submitting concerns and issues online through a toll-free number.

5.8.5 Privacy and Comfort in Feedback Submission

66% of respondents felt their privacy was protected and were comfortable submitting feedback. However, 25% disagreed and 8% were unsure. The significant portion of respondents who felt otherwise indicates a need for improvement in ensuring the confidentiality and comfort of the feedback process.

5.8.6 Engagement in Providing Feedback

Only 3% of respondents provided feedback or made a complaint, while 97% did not. The low engagement suggests a need for increased efforts to facilitate community participation in the feedback process. Enhancing engagement could improve overall project responsiveness. The reason behind the lack of complaints could vary, including a lack of understanding of such a system, concerns about privacy, fear of being excluded from future support, potential punishment from family, or negative social repercussions. JEN should raise awareness about the feedback system and its potential impact on increasing the project's effectiveness.

5.8.7 Nature and Handling of Complaints

Complaints received were about the "project duration" and "overlooked areas." All four respondents who gave feedback felt their complaints were not handled fairly. This indicates issues with the project's complaint resolution processes, requiring immediate improvements to ensure fair and effective handling of concerns and meet beneficiary satisfaction. Although the beneficiaries do not explain what they mean by fair, but it is at least an outcome that had not favored the beneficiaries who made complaints. JEN needs to attend to these complaints with more strategic approach. For example, although the project duration is hard to solve, but according to some beneficiaries, some areas of the canal were overlooked that JEN needed to either attend to or explain to the beneficiaries why it could not be attended to.

5.8.8 Follow-Up on Feedback/Complaints

Responses on follow-up were mixed: 50% were contacted after providing feedback, with follow-ups occurring either within three days (50%) or at other times (50%). The inconsistency suggests a need for more reliable follow-up procedures, despite some prompt responses. JEN needs to be more systematic in their approach towards attending to the complaints.

"The project staff from JEN followed up with me within one week to gather my feedback, demonstrating their commitment to ensuring the project's effectiveness and addressing any concerns I had." (Unconditional beneficiary, 40 years old, female)

5.8.9 Satisfaction with Feedback Resolution

According to the survey responses, none of those whose feedback was resolved were satisfied with the outcome. This unanimous dissatisfaction highlights a critical need for improvement in ensuring feedback leads to meaningful resolutions, crucial for maintaining community trust and project credibility. JEN should conduct face-to-face interviews with those who make a complaint in order to get the full picture of their situation. If the feedback was irrelevant, JEN needs to explain to the community on the irrelevance of their feedback to ensure community trust. For example, one method can be weekly or monthly communication on the feedback system.

5.8.10 Conclusion

The project demonstrated strong efficiency in several areas, such as timely delivery of support and effective community engagement. However, the feedback mechanisms and complaint resolution processes require some improvements to ensure better responsiveness and satisfaction. The following are some recommendations

- Increase awareness and accessibility of the complaint redressal mechanism, ensuring all beneficiaries understand its existence and benefits. This can involve more targeted outreach and communication campaigns.
- Enhance confidentiality measures for feedback submission to address the concerns of respondents who were uncomfortable with the process.
- Establish a systematic follow-up protocol for handling feedback, ensuring timely and uniform responses across all complaints. Regular communication with the community regarding the status of their feedback can build trust.
- Revamp the complaint resolution process to ensure complaints are handled fairly and transparently. Address valid concerns, such as overlooked areas, or provide clear explanations to beneficiaries when issues cannot be resolved.
- Educate beneficiaries on how their feedback can improve the project, which may increase their engagement. Monthly updates on feedback received and actions taken could build community trust and demonstrate the project's responsiveness.

5.9 Impact

5.9.1 Positive Impact on Crop Yields and Food Security

An overwhelming 95% of respondents believe the irrigation canals will improve future crop yields and food security. Among conditional beneficiaries, 38% believe the canal will have a positive impact, while 57% of unconditional beneficiaries share this view. The strong belief underscores the project's effectiveness in enhancing agricultural productivity and food security. According to a government official, the canal is expected to create employment opportunities for 200 people in the market. This employment will be as a result of crop yields of the land that canal irrigates. According to a BSC member, over 75% of the community is agricultural land. Some expected outcomes of the project are increase in agricultural production and market activity. Some beneficiaries might sell surplus product to the market in return for money. This will improve the economy of the community over time.

"This project has had a positive impact at the community level. It provided valuable opportunities for learning both soft and hard skills, which has proven to be an effective way for earning income and finding employment." (Unconditional beneficiary, 33 years old, female)

5.9.2 Increased Harvest of Agricultural Products

All respondents (100%) believe that the irrigation canal will boost agricultural harvests. This unanimous response highlights the canal's crucial role in the community's agricultural activities and its positive effect on crop yields, food security, and nutrition. However, the increase cannot be determined due to a lack of data on farmers who use the canal for irrigation.

"This project has significantly improved both agriculture and horticulture, leading to increased agricultural productivity and better outcomes for the community." (conditional beneficiary, 46 years old, male)

5.9.3 Widespread Use of Irrigation Canal

93% of respondents use the irrigation canal for agriculture. Usage is high among both conditional (40%) and unconditional beneficiaries (53%). This widespread use confirms the canal's successful implementation and importance in agricultural activities. Effective use and management of the irrigation canal, combined with sustainable infrastructure development, contribute to the project's long-term success and resilience.

5.9.4 Sustainable Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

All respondents recognized that rehabilitating infrastructure led to both sustainable disaster risk reduction and climate-resilient infrastructure. This highlights the project's long-term benefits in building sustainability and resilience.

5.9.5 Improved Food Intake and Nutrition

All of the respondents observed changes in food intake due to the project, however, only for the duration of the project. 97% reported improved nutrition, with 40% of conditional and 57% of unconditional beneficiaries noting better outcomes such as provision of food and spending save money (for food) on other livelihood needs. This indicates the project's success in improving dietary habits and health while also enabling the beneficiaries to focus on other aspects of their lives.

5.9.6 Low Incidence of Water Conflicts

Only 13% (38% conditional and 11% unconditional) of respondents reported conflicts and 87% did not (2% conditional and 49% unconditional). The low conflict rate suggests good water management and community cooperation, through higher conflict rates among conditional beneficiaries highlight areas for targeted intervention. According to the survey, 50% of the conflicts were over water allocation, 25% were over maintenance responsibility, 14% were over both water allocation and maintenance responsibility, and 11% were over decreasing water levels (beneficiaries not receiving sufficient amount of water). The community's high-resolution rate through mutual agreements suggests effective self-management of disputes.

The project has shown significant positive impacts, particularly in enhancing agricultural productivity, food security, and community resilience. These are some recommendations:

- Continue supporting and monitoring the irrigation canal to ensure sustained positive impacts on crop yields and food security. Engage with government officials or the private sector to maximize the potential employment opportunities generated by increased agricultural productivity.
- Leverage the project's achievements in sustainable disaster risk reduction and climate resilience to enhance future infrastructure projects. Continue integrating climate-resilient practices to safeguard long-term agricultural productivity and community resilience.

- While the project successfully improved food intake and nutrition, these benefits were tied to the project's duration. To sustain these improvements after the project ends, explore strategies such as connecting beneficiaries to ongoing food programs or promoting sustainable agricultural practices, that enhance food diversity and nutrition. This could include distributing improved seeds, offering climate-smart agriculture techniques, and providing skill training for starting and managing agricultural businesses.
- The low incidence of water conflicts and high-resolution rate through mutual agreements indicate effective community cooperation. Build on this strength by encouraging community-led water management initiatives that foster collaboration and ensure fair water use across all beneficiary groups.



Figure 29: KII with Community Leader Malak Dawlat Khan

Most respondents are confident that the project's benefits will continue after the end of the project implementation: 40% believe the benefits will last to a great extent, 52% to a medium extent, and 7% to a small extent. Respondents have varied expectations regarding the canal's support duration: 4% expect support for one year, 18% for three years, 27% for five years, 37% for ten years, and 16% for over ten years. The majority (53%) expect the canal to support the community for at least ten years, reflecting a strong belief in the project's long-term impact and durability.

"With equitable distribution, access to water can be maintained for everyone, reducing conflicts. When water is scarce, we conserve and alternate usage every two days to ensure fair access." (Unconditional beneficiary, 60 years old, female)

5.9.7 Areas for Improvement

Only 8% of respondents identified areas needing improvement, while 66% were satisfied with the program, and 27% were unsure. Those who recommended areas for improvement suggested that the stonework needs enhancement, and the canal areas should be reinforced with cement. This shows their concerns on the strength of the canal. Some others suggested that the duration of the project should have been extended. They probably meant the extension of the food support. Those who were unsure may have suggestions, but JEN needs to sit down with them and conduct a thorough needs assessment to explore their lives and see if the project truly satisfied their livelihood needs. Key

improvement areas include extending the project duration (24%) and enhancing stonework and reinforcing canal areas with concrete (77%). These suggestions emphasize the community's desire for more robust infrastructure and a longer project duration to secure lasting benefits. Future projects should consider these areas to focus on long-term planning and more durable construction.

5.9.8 Contribution to Resilience

38% of respondents reported that the program significantly contributed to their resilience, 9% reported extreme contribution, 35% moderate contribution, 13% slight contribution, and 5% no contribution. Overall, 82% believe the program contributed at least moderately to their resilience, highlighting its effectiveness in building local capacity to cope with future challenges. The other 18% either thought it had slight contribution or no contribution at all. This highlights the project's success in building local capacity and resilience, enhancing the community's ability to manage and adapt to future challenges.

5.9.9 Sustainability of Food Support

37% of respondents believe the food support is sustainable in the long term, 20% do not, and 43% believe that only conditional support is sustainable. This preference for conditional over unconditional support suggests that the community views conditional support as fostering greater self-reliance and sustainability. This preference indicates a belief that conditional support programs are more likely to foster self-reliance and skill development, which are crucial for long-term sustainability. The respondents have various reasons for the sustainability of the conditional food support. Some believe that the canal that they have built through conditional food opportunity will support them in their agriculture. Some others believe that with the conditional food support, they learned a new skill which is canal cleaning and rehabilitation and maintenance. Some others believe that they learned how to work in infrastructure projects. The emphasis on skill acquisition and infrastructure knowledge highlights the project's success in equipping the community with tools for long-term sustainability, demonstrating its effectiveness in transferring essential skills and knowledge.

5.9.10 Concerns About Sustainability

The predominant reason for doubts about sustainability is the project's short-term nature, cited by 93% of respondents. Other concerns include the canal not helping with agriculture (5%) and insufficient skills acquired (2%). Respondents who believed that the canal may not help them with agriculture might face challenges such as inadequate land or limited access to agricultural inputs. Additionally, the land might be too far from the canal for efficient water transportation, the number of people available to work and the labor required may make it difficult to benefit from the canal. In such case, installing pipes to transport water directly to the land could be necessary to facilitate agricultural activities. For these respondents, water alone may not be sufficient; improved infrastructure is also needed to support effective agricultural engagement. These concerns suggest a need for longer-term projects and more robust skill-building components to ensure lasting benefits and address community needs effectively. If not long-term projects, then sustainable components must replace short-term components to maximize effects if not the length.

5.9.11 Conclusion

The project has demonstrated considerable potential for long-term benefits, particularly in enhancing community resilience and agricultural productivity. However, there are concerns regarding the sustainability of these benefits, particularly due to the project's short-term nature. Here are some recommendations:

- Prioritize longer-term support or integrate sustainable elements, such as reinforced infrastructure, to meet community expectations for lasting benefits.
- Continue focusing on skill-building, particularly in agriculture and infrastructure, to foster self-reliance and economic stability.
- Emphasize conditional programs that build skills and promote sustainability, helping communities transition from relief to self-reliance.

6 Recommendations

Gender Representation and Inclusivity

- **Gender-Specific Interventions:** Develop programs targeting women's unique needs, including education, employment, and agricultural support, ensuring equal access to resources and opportunities.
- **Foster Women's Engagement and Empowerment:** Enhance women's roles in project activities through targeted food security programs and initiatives. Support women beyond distribution of unconditional food support to enable them to sustainably access food.
- **Comprehensive Support for Women:** Provide support addressing various aspects of women's lives, such as economic opportunities, skill development, and community engagement, to improve their roles and contributions.

Literacy and Education

- **Literacy Improvement Initiatives:** Launch programs to address the 65% illiteracy rate among respondents. Focus on adult education and vocational training to improve literacy rates and socio-economic outcomes. These initiatives can serve as one of the possible work opportunities for conditional beneficiaries.
- **Diverse Educational Opportunities:** Offer educational programs from basic literacy to higher education and vocational training, ensuring opportunities for all level of education and improve their employment prospects. These outputs can also be integrated as part of the work options available to conditional beneficiaries.

Residency Status and Vulnerable Groups

- **Support for IDPs and Returnees:** Increase targeted conditional food support for IDPs (18%) and returnees (2%), to help them integrate into local communities.
- **Community Integration Programs:** Develop initiatives that promote the integration of IDPs and returnees with local residents, fostering community cohesion and mutual support.
- **Financial Support Programs:** Implement financial support for those earning below AFN 5,000 monthly (70%), with a focus on widows and widowers facing economic challenges such as lack of skills to find employment.
- **Income Generation Initiatives:** Encourage self-employment and small business development through microfinance and entrepreneurial training, helping individuals create sustainable livelihoods.

Agriculture and Employment

- **Agricultural Development:** Prioritize projects such as irrigation canal rehabilitation, provide better farming techniques, and distribute agricultural inputs to boost productivity and sustainability.

- **Employment Generation:** Address the high unemployment rate (82%) by creating job opportunities through skill development programs, focusing on non-agricultural sectors to diversify income sources.
- **Positive Impact on Crop Yields and Food Security:** Regularly monitor the impact of irrigation canals on crop yields and food security. Offer additional support and training to maximize benefits.
- **Expand Successful Practices:** Identify and replicate successful elements of the irrigation project in other areas. Share best practices with the community.
- **Support Sustainable Practices:** Encourage sustainable agricultural practices and provide technical assistance to optimize irrigation canal use.

Community Support and Awareness

- **Targeted Capacity Building:** Enhance capacity-building efforts to ensure beneficiaries apply learned skills effectively, focusing on both conditional and unconditional support programs.
- **Enhance Visibility through Multiple Channels:** Increase the use of channels such as community meetings and project signs. Utilize social media and local radio for broader outreach.
- **Increase Awareness Campaigns:** Conduct outreach to ensure all community members are aware of the complaint redressal mechanism. Periodically evaluate and improve the redressal mechanism based on feedback. Launch campaigns to emphasize the value of community feedback. Make it easier for community members to provide feedback by offering various easy-to-use channels optimal for illiterate beneficiaries.
- **Promote Fair Access:** Ensure equitable access to the irrigation canal with clear and fair management practices. Train community leaders to manage the canal effectively and support conflict resolution mechanisms.
- **Communicate Project Longevity:** Clearly communicate the expected lifespan and benefits of the project to the community. Design projects with a focus on long-term sustainability, including support and maintenance plans.
- **Emphasize Skill Transfer:** Focus on transferring skills and knowledge to the community to ensure long-term sustainability.
- **Highlight Infrastructure Benefits:** Regularly communicate the benefits of infrastructure projects and their role in supporting agriculture and community development.
- **Address Short-Term Nature:** Design projects with longer durations to ensure sustained impact and effective skill development.
- **Strengthen Skill-Building Components:** Enhance skill-building components to ensure community members are equipped for long-term maintenance and development.



Assignment Date: May–August 2024

Location: Nangarhar Province

Third-party Evaluation of JPF Funded
Food Distribution and Food For Work / Provision of
Conditional and Unconditional Food Assistance
To Drought-Affected IDPs, Returnees and
Vulnerable Local People In Chaparhar District In
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