

Baseline survey

Agriculture

January - Kachin State



Project: Emergency WASH assistant and Livelihood support to vulnerable population affected by conflicts in Rakhine and Kachin States

Donor: OFDA

CONTEXT

The beneficiary baseline survey was implemented in the frame of the development of small scale vegetable production units in camps.

The baseline survey aims to get a better and complete understanding of the home-garden and bagriculture beneficiaries from Momauk and Waing Maw townships, (NGCA) area, such as Woi Chyai, Je Yang and Hpum Lum Yang Camps. The information collected therefore only refers to beneficiaries selected by KBC-FS team, based on vulnerability criteria identified with the communities. It does not represent the entire population of IDPs of the camps of intervention, who may have regular sources of income and food along the year. The baseline findings will allow the team to identify baseline indicators and measure the impact of the project.

PLANNING AND METHODOLOGY

The survey was conducted from December, 5th to 10th 2015.

Survey was conducted for all beneficiaries of food security related activities in the camps of Momauk and Waingmaw Township, Laiza area (NGCA), such as Woi Chyai, Je Yang, and Hpum Lum Yang Camps. A total of 305 HHs were surveyed. The initial selection of beneficiaries was conducted following two steps based on vulnerability criteria such as women or single-headed households with several members, willingness and motivation regarding KBC activities, time dedicated for vegetable cultivation, location of the crops and water accessibility. Based on SI PWR (participatory wealth ranking), being SI vulnerability criteria's reference, households from the category C (corresponding to very poor) who matched with at least two criteria (mentioned above) were selected as beneficiaries. The survey information includes the information of:

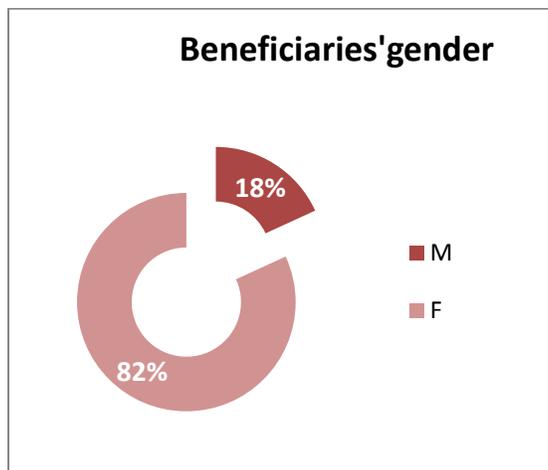
- A. Survey information
- B. General information of the households
- C. Source of income
- D. Sources of food and consumption
- E. Coping strategy index (CSI)



MAIN FINDINGS

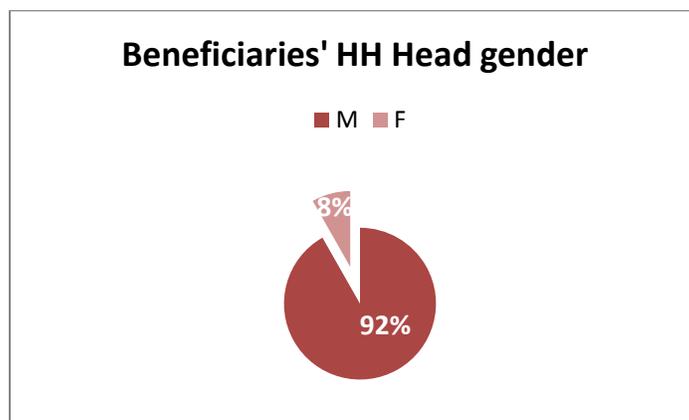
A. General information on survey's respondents

Among the 305HHs respondents, 82% were women and 18% were men. This difference is based on the fact that women are the ones who are generally conducting home gardening activities within the household. Information provided in this report includes 3 camps of Laiza (NGCA).



B. General information on the households

Among the interviewees, and therefore among the KBC FSL¹ beneficiaries, 92% declare that their household is headed by a man and the other 8% declare that it is headed by a woman. Amongst the male-headed HH, 95% report being married, 2% being widowed while only 1% has their wife going temporarily outside the camps for job opportunities. In addition, amongst the female-headed HH, 84% are widowed, 8% are married and 4% are either single or having their husband going temporarily outside the camps for job opportunities.



¹ Food Security and Livelihoods

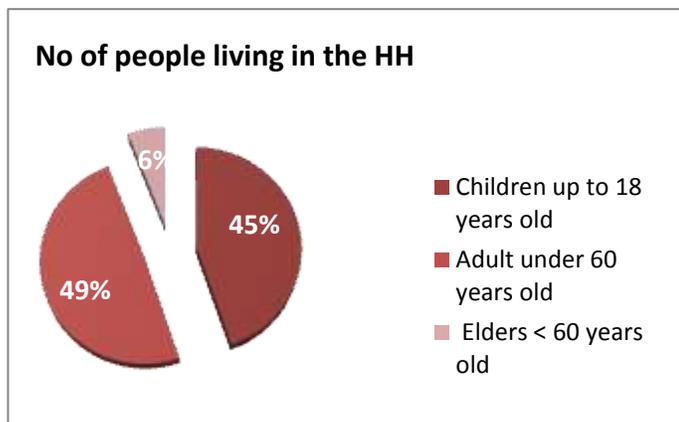
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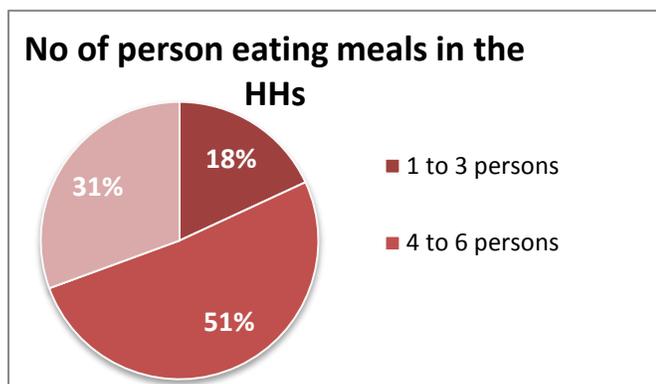
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According to the below chart based on respondents' answers, children (and teenagers) from up to 18 years old represent half of the beneficiaries' household. Elders only represent 6%. These figures have to be taken carefully as it is not based on a population study but on respondents' feedbacks and description of their household. However, as KBC selected only the most vulnerable households to launch its FSL activities in Kachin, the part of adults (and active population within the targeted persons) is not surprising.



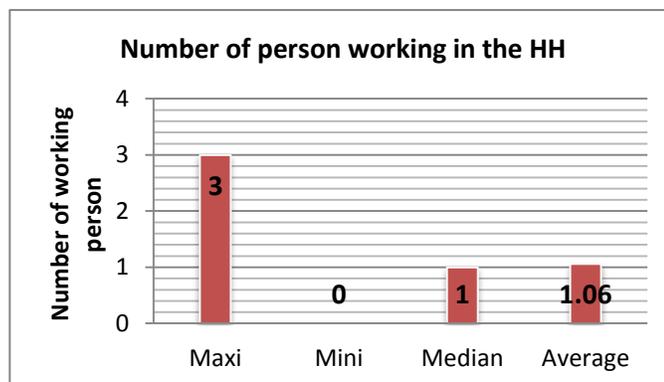
5.5 persons in average compose a family of FSL beneficiaries. This could also be confirmed by the below chart, presenting the number of persons eating meals in the household. Consequently, for these figures, we can understand that even if there are households with active people living outside of the camp (generally men for work), beneficiaries' answers would imply that most of them are coming back to the household on a regular basis.





C. Source of income

An average of 1 person is reported to work in every interrogated household, with a maximum of 3 persons in some cases, although this does not necessarily represent a regular source of income and may only cover few days of work during some months of the year.

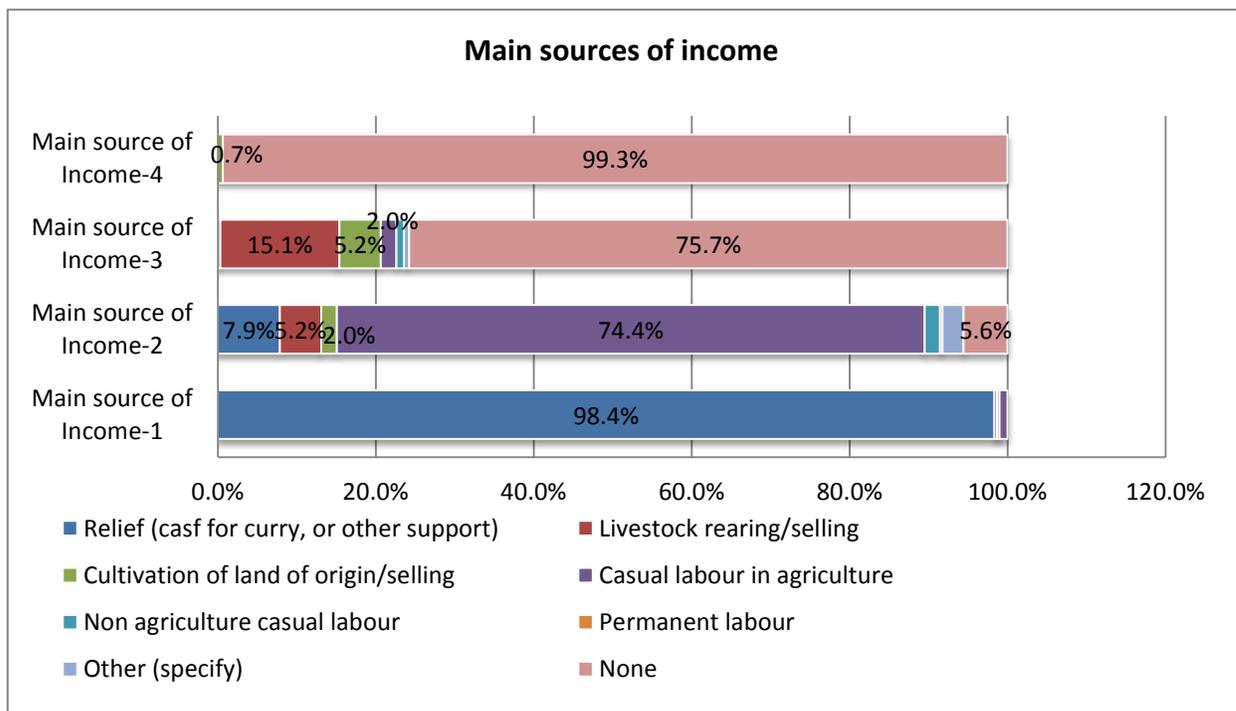


First main source of income: 98.4% of the interrogated and targeted HHs mainly rely on relief (cash for curry) as the main source of income. Only 1% of them rely on casual labor in agriculture (employees in sugar cane or banana fields for example). Finally only a small proportion of the HHs, 0.3% rely on cultivation in land of origin and selling or on livestock rearing.

Second main source of income: Secondary source of income reported by the respondents ranges from for the majority with 74.4% in casual labor in agriculture, then 7.9% rely on other kind of relief, 5.2% rely on livestock rearing/selling, 2% rely on cultivation of land of origin/selling or on non-agriculture casual labor. Finally, 2.6% rely on other sources of incomes such as motorbike carrying, selling on small shop, selling traditional medicine, and the love-gift for volunteer such as religious teacher, WWG staff, etc. Only 0.3% of the respondents rely on permanent labor. Amongst the targeted respondents, 5.6% do not have any secondary source of income.

Third main source of income: It is important to note that 75.7% of the targeted HH do not have a third source of income. For the others, 15.1 % of the HHs rely on livestock rearing/selling, 5.2% rely on cultivation of land of origin/selling, 2% rely on casual labor in agriculture, 1% rely on non-agriculture casual labor, 0.7% on other sources of incomes such as selling vegetables, sewing, etc. and finally 0.3% rely on other kind of relief support

Fourth main source of income: Only 2 respondents had a fourth main source of income and they rely on cultivation of land of origin/selling. 99.3% of the respondents do not have a fourth source of income.



The following must be stated:

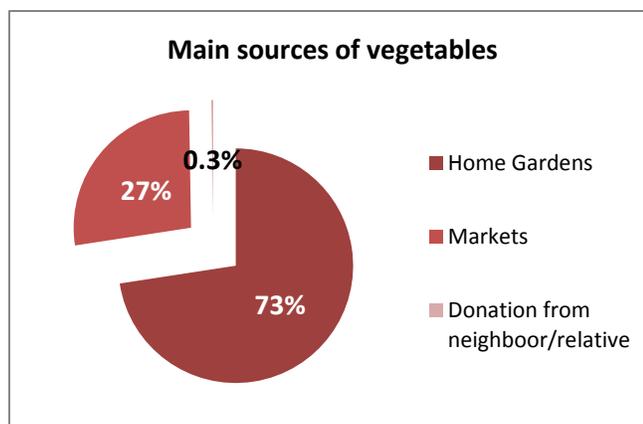
Households interviewed do not have access to permanent work opportunities related to the agriculture and livestock sector in urban areas. No permanent masons, waiters or other service works are reported: only a very small proportion of the respondents declare having “other” first sources of income, which includes such positions. The integration of these households in the local urban economy is rather low and mainly based on their previous knowledge and experience (based on agriculture generally).

The frequency of these incomes is also sporadic and in link with the agricultural calendar. In Laiza area, the harvest of sugar cane represents the main source of agricultural work, but this is concentrated from January to March. Other casual labor opportunities in link with banana fields can be available at other periods of the year, but with less availability and representing lower income. Sources of income, apart from being limited in quantities, are also irregular along the year for these households. Finally, IDPs in Laiza areas are also facing constraints in terms of movements outside this area (to look for other job opportunities) due to general security (they are in NGCA and to get to GCA is complex and risky, particularly since November 2014). However, daily work rates are higher in Laiza area than in GCA (except for Lwegel areas) as employers are Chinese. If IDPs can earn bigger money however the cost of living is higher as well in the area.

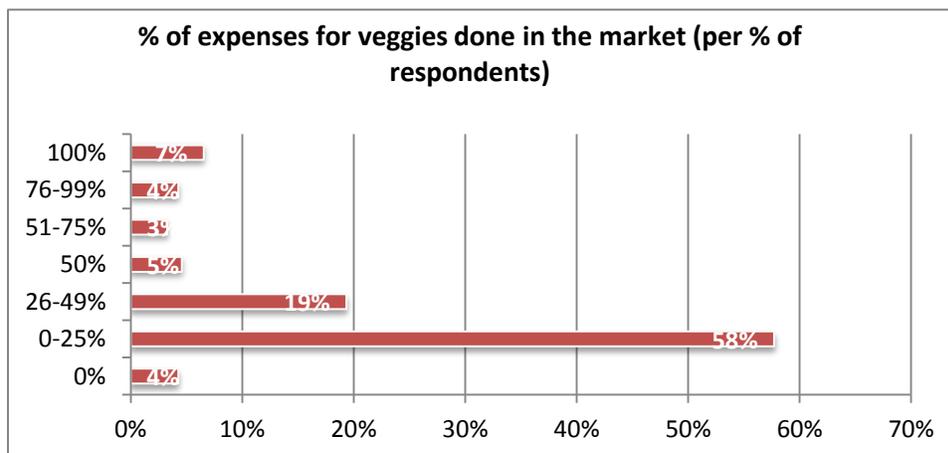


D. Sources of food (vegetables)

In terms of sources of vegetables, as shown by the below charts, 73% of the total vegetables consumption of the interviewees is coming from home gardening, while 27% of the respondents state they purchase their veggies in the markets. A very small proportion, 0.3% of the respondents get vegetables from neighbor/relatives.



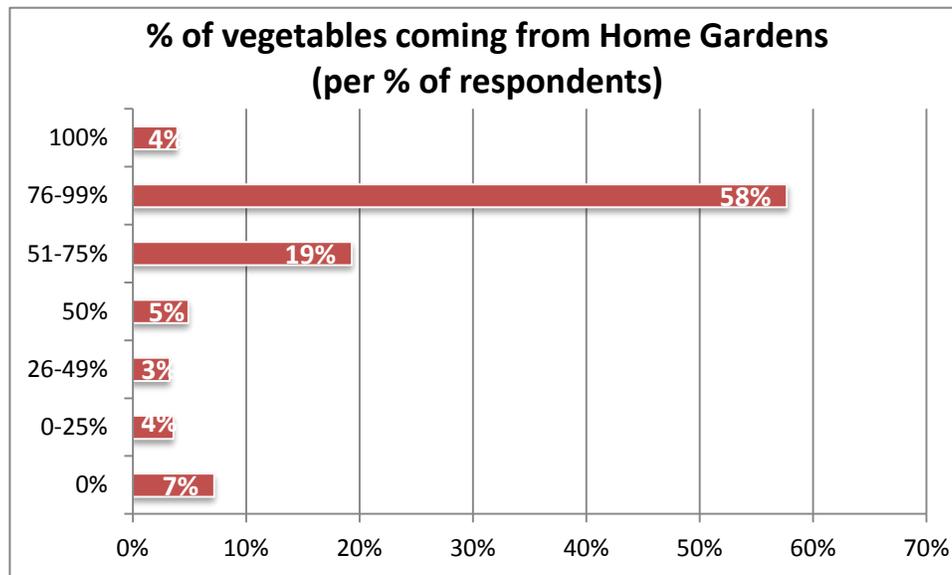
However, only 4% of the interviewees are getting all their veggies from home gardening. 89% of the interviewees purchase at least part of their vegetables in the market. The repartition between this main source and other sources is as follows:



We see here that 7% of the respondents are purchasing 100% of their vegetables while only 4% are never purchasing their vegetables (auto-production or non-consumption of vegetables). This previous chart shows then that 19% only of the households purchase at least 50% of their vegetables while 81% are buying less than 50% of their vegetables in the market.



The same analysis regarding home gardening as a source of vegetables gives the following result.



The two previous chart show then that beneficiaries have only two sources of vegetables which are complementary: purchase on the market or own production in their home gardens.

Only 4% of the beneficiary produces 100% of their vegetables consumption while 7% are not doing home gardening at all.

81% of the beneficiaries get more than 50% of their vegetables from the home gardens. Therefore, home gardening appears as a main source of vegetables which can reduce the expenditures related to food vegetables consumption.



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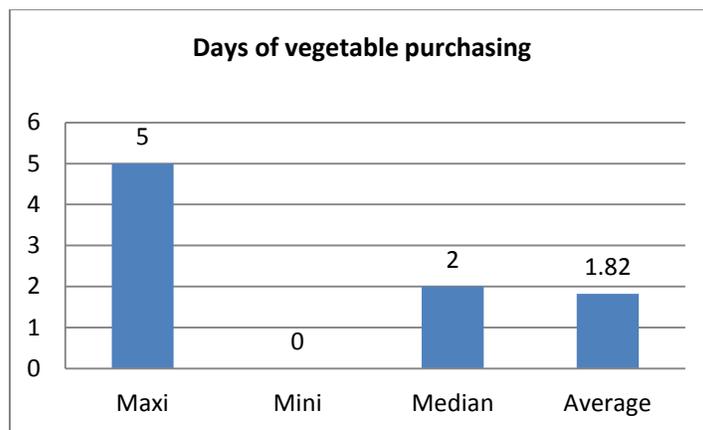
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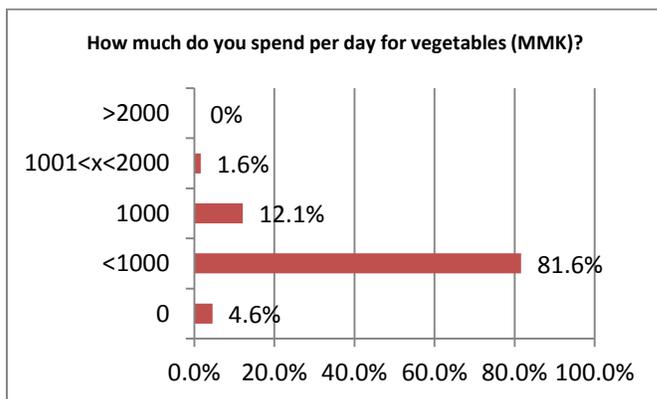
Even if it not obvious, we could see some correlation (for some beneficiaries) between the proportion of vegetables grown and the amount spent for vegetables (top right corner – people having 100% of vegetables from their home gardening are paying almost nothing on the market for vegetables). This conclusion seems logical as only two sources of vegetables have been declared.

Regarding the days of purchasing vegetables within the week, some people purchase from the mobile sellers inside the camps on a daily basis but most of the beneficiaries purchase a greater quantity in the local markets once or twice per week. On average, beneficiaries purchase vegetables about 1.82 days a week.



When purchasing vegetables on that day, on average, households spend from 500 to 3,000 MMK. The average amount is 1065.57 MMK. The most common expenditure (common to 41% of beneficiaries) is 1,000MMK.

In general, daily expenses for vegetables do represent a maximal amount of 1,500 MMK for an average of 414 MMK. This would correspond to around 12,420 MMK per month. If we crosscheck these figures with the number of households' members, daily expenses for vegetables are around 83 MMK per day per person, or 2490 MMK per month.



Maxi	1500
Mini	0
Median	285
Average	410.72

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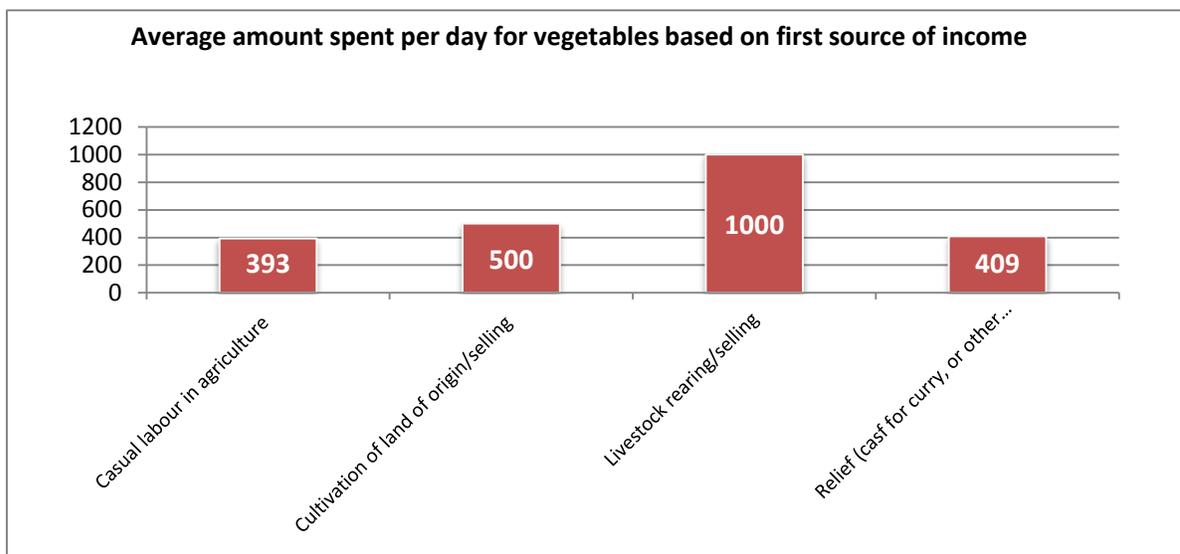
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4.6% of the targeted beneficiaries do not need to purchase vegetables at all from the markets, which matches closely (4%) the answer regarding the source of vegetables.

In conclusion to the above information and observations, 98% of the families spend 1000 MMK or less per day. Households purchase on average vegetables 2 days a week, and mainly at the market while the main source remains home gardening.

Moreover, the following can be added:

- 1) 98% of the households purchase vegetables for an average of 493 MMK per day;
- 2) 81% of the households purchase less than 50% of their needs in terms of vegetables. Among them, 4% are getting all their vegetables from home gardening, 58% reach up to 75% of their consumption;



We can notice that people relying, as first source of income on relief are the ones to spend the lowest daily amount on vegetables, just after households relying on casual labor in agriculture. However, interviewees relying mainly on Relief declare getting in average 73% of their veggies from home gardens. At the contrary, beneficiaries relying mainly on livestock rearing are the ones that seem better off as they are spending daily an average of 1,000 MMK for vegetables. These interviewees declare getting in average 50% of their veggies from home gardens.

This can confirm that access to vegetables is primarily an economical issue.



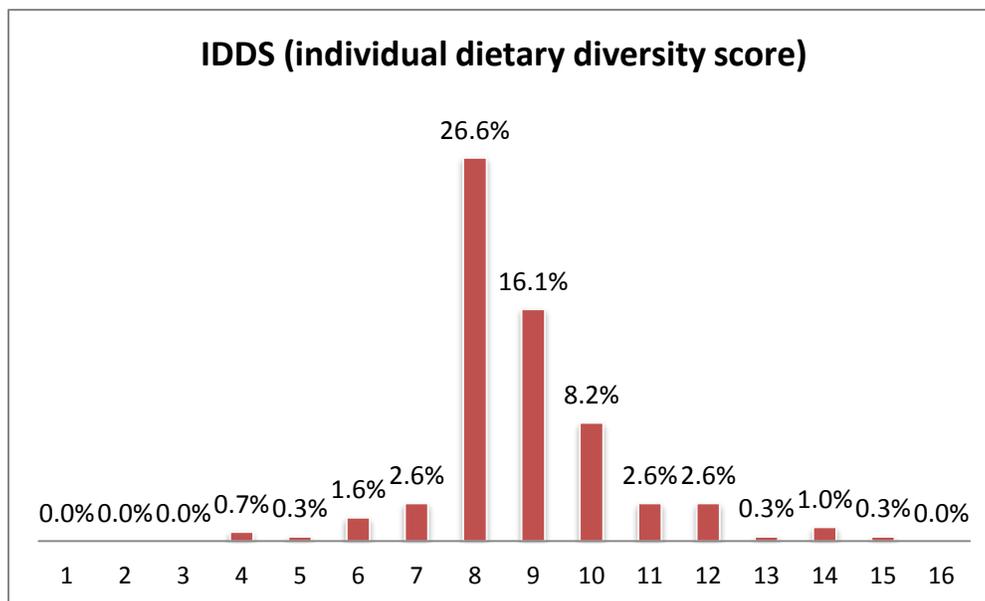
E. Food consumption

Individual dietary diversity score (IDDS) was surveyed based on 16 types of foods including cereals, white roots and tubers, vitamin A rich vegetables and tubers, dark green leafy vegetables, other vegetables, vitamin A rich fruits, other fruits, organ meat, flesh meat, eggs, fish and seafood, legumes; nuts; and seeds, milk and milk products, oil and fats, sweets, spice; condiments; beverages.

In those types of foods, groups of vegetables and fruits were identified based on RE unit (retinol unit) of 1000 RE per 100 gram serving assumed as vitamin A rich group of vegetables and fruits in this survey.

As a reminder (and already stated above), 82% of the respondents are women and 18% are men. Even if the IDDS calculation thus reflects woman diet (as they are the most interviewed; however as most of the family members have their meals at home), we can conclude that the IDDS is likely to be representative for the whole family.

Among the 305 beneficiaries, only 6.89% earned a score equal or higher than 12 on a scale of 16, which corresponds to 19 persons. Among these ones, 4 HHs have part of their family members eating meals outside of their house. The lowest IDDS score corresponds to 4 and represent 1% of the interviewed people. The most common score is at 8 and 9 and the percentages of interviewed persons for this rate are 26.57% and 16.07 % respectively.

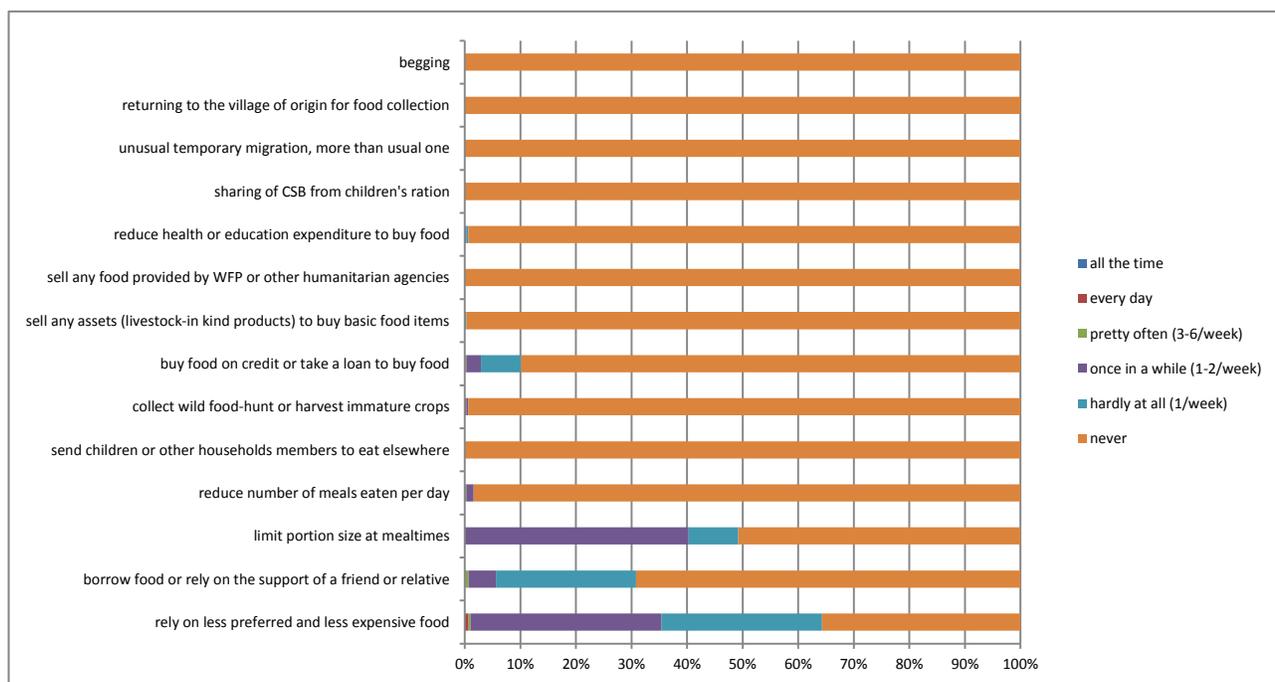




F. Coping strategy index (CSI)

In this baseline survey, beneficiaries were asked about the difficulties they faced in the previous months (study was conducted in January 2015) and, if they faced any, what were the coping mechanisms that they chose to put in place.

The most used strategy, experienced by 40.3% of the population interviewed, is to limit portion size at mealtimes once in a while (1-2 times/week). 34.4% of households are relying on less preferred and less expensive food, once in a while (1-2 times/ week) or once per week for 28.9% of interviewees. Begging, unusual temporary migration, returning to the village of origin for food collection, selling any food provided by WFP or sending children or other households members to eat elsewhere are not strategies used by the respondents, or at least it has not been declared as such... Please see in the charts below for coping strategies by percentages.



From this chart, it is important to say that the most important figures to be taken into account correspond to the recurrent way to adapt the situation with coping strategies.

Therefore, the solutions which are reported as used “once in a while” and “all the time” are the most relevant to mention. Limit portion size at mealtimes and rely on less preferred and less expensive food are the most recurrent coping strategies, used with different frequencies from 34.4 to 40.3% of the population, as described in tab below:

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	All the time	Every day	Pretty often? (3-6 /week)	Once in a while?(1-2/week)	Hardly at all?(<1 / week)
Rely on less preferred and less expensive food? (eg: organic meat VS flesh meat)	0.0%	0.7%	0.3%	34.4%	28.9%
Limit portion size at mealtimes	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	40.3%	8.9%

It is to be noted that only 28% of the respondents use both of these strategies once in a while, but most of the respondents are using at least another one strategy.

From the 40.3% of the interviewed population who relies on limited portion sizes at meals more than once a week (once in a while), 100% of them rely on relief as main source of income.

From the 34.4% of those who limit relies on less preferred and less expensive food more than once a week, 99% of them rely on relief as main source of income and 1% rely on livestock rearing.

The other main strategy, but less used by the households, is to “Buy food on credit or take a loan to buy food”. This strategy is used as described by the tab below:

	All the time	Every day	Pretty often? (3-6 /week)	Once in a while?(1-2/week)	Hardly at all?(<1 / week)	Never (0/week)
Buy food on credit or take a loan to buy food?	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	2.6%	7.2%	89.8%

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Conclusion

After this baseline survey targeting beneficiaries of the agriculture activities, SI found that 98.4% of the beneficiaries rely mainly on relief. Casual labor in agriculture is the main second source of income for 74.4% of the beneficiaries.

Vegetables mainly come from the home gardens and secondly from the market. 96% of the households purchase less than 50% of their vegetables. However, there is quite a difference in between the camps and particularly between Je yang and Woi Chyai (whose 84% of the interviewees get more than 50% of their veggies from home gardens) and Hpum Lum Yang (only 42% of the interviewees get more than 50% of their veggies from home gardens). This difference can be explained by access to land.

At the time of the survey, the average IDDS is at 8.7, which is quite positive due to the fact that Kachin people already have the habits to eat a lot of vegetables and to diversify their food. Here as well there is a difference between the above mentioned camps: while Je Yang and Woi Chyai interviewees have an average IDDS of 9 over 16, Hpum Lum Yang beneficiaries have an average of 7 over 16. Therefore access to vegetables through home gardens seems to have an impact on the overall diet diversification.

Daily expenditure for the vegetables is 414MMK in average (much lower than in GCA camps) and the most common expenditure is 1,000MMK per day. More than in GCA camps, we can notice a certain correlation between the use of home gardening and purchases at the market. Home gardening seems to be a way to reduce expenses at the market related to vegetables. Home gardening could also be a way to increase their vegetables' consumption or to diversify their diet.