

TOWARDS IMPROVED FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY AMONG REFUGEE HOUSEHOLDS

**CASH
FOOD**

**A Comparative analysis of the effectiveness of food
assistance modalities in refugee settlements**

-Volume 3-

Sept 2016

**WFP Uganda – Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation (AME)
Unit**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report is an outcome of a collaborative process and would not have been possible without the contribution of many individuals/organizations;

The World Food Programme (WFP) is grateful to the Government of Uganda for support provided during the entire exercise of the assessment.

The WFP Analysis, Monitoring & Evaluation (AME) unit would also like to thank WFP staff in the Sub – Offices who coordinated and led the entire exercise of the assessment, as well as the enumeration teams that did their best to obtain quality information.

Thanks are also due to the refugee households and individuals for their time and input during the assessment.

Finally, the AME unit is grateful to USAID that provided funding for the assessment.

For more information related to analysis, data collection, tools and analysis software, please contact the AME Unit, WFP Uganda:

Siddharth KRISHNASWAMY (Head, AME unit) siddharth.krishnaswamy@wfp.org

Edgar WABYONA (Programme officer, AME) edgar.wabyona@wfp.org

For other information, please contact:

WFP Uganda. Deputy Country Director Cheryl HARRISON Cheryl.Harrison@wfp.org

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PREFACE

Cash transfers were first piloted in May 2014 in the three refugee settlements of Kiryandongo, Adjumani and Rhino camp. Following a feasibility study conducted by the WFP Uganda Analysis Monitoring and Evaluation (AME) unit, cash transfers were expanded to cover four additional refugee settlements (Koboko, Kyangwali, Kyaka II and Rwamwanja) in November 2015. The cash transfer modality gives refugees the choice and flexibility to decide on how to satisfy their basic food needs with more dignity.

This report is the third of its kind¹ that undertakes a comprehensive review of Food Security outcomes among food and cash beneficiaries in the refugee settlements. The report covers food and cash beneficiaries only in the new cash settlements and aims to show any similarities/differences among the two categories and, therefore, to recommend actions necessary to ensure optimal Food Security outcomes for both beneficiary groups.

It is expected that this report will provide guidance to better enable programme units to increase the efficiency of on-going activities, as well as suggest additional interventions to augment Food Security outcomes in the refugee settlements.

¹ See also: i) An Analysis of WFP's Cash & Food Interventions across Select Refugee Settlements (WFP Uganda - AME Unit, November 2014); and ii) Comparative Analysis of the effectiveness of food assistance modalities in refugee settlements (February 2016).

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

Uganda currently hosts over 665,000 refugees, of which approximately 90% (608,278) are currently receiving food assistance from the World Food Programme. Cash and food are two modalities WFP uses in providing assistance to the refugees.

Inclusion of cash transfers in WFP Uganda's programming is based on a 2013 agreement among WFP, UNHCR and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) that cash transfers were appropriate and should be implemented on a pilot basis. Cash transfers were first implemented in three refugee settlements (Rhino camp, Adjumani and Kiryandongo) in May 2014 and were scaled up to four other settlements (Rwamwanja, Kyaka II, Kyangwali and Koboko) starting November 2015. This report focuses on the latter four settlements and seeks to establish the Food Security Situation of both Food and Cash beneficiaries following introduction of cash in the settlements.

Objectives & Methodology

The study objectives were two-fold:

- i) To compare food and cash beneficiaries against a set of Food Security indicators with the view to determine the effectiveness of the food and cash transfer modalities in the attainment of optimal Food Security outcomes² among refugee households. In particular, the study sought to compare the following:
 - Income & expenditure patterns;
 - Food consumption patterns;
 - Coping strategies;
 - The role (s) of women & men.
- ii) To understand the business environment for traders within the settlements.

The survey used mixed methods, combining quantitative data at household level with qualitative data from beneficiary groups.

² The assessment was conducted 8 months after the initiation of cash transfers. Being that improvements in nutrition are expected to take longer to manifest, anthropometric and IYCF indicators were not assessed.

Key findings

- 1) Cash beneficiaries spend more on food (better foods) and essential non-foods
- 2) Cash beneficiaries have higher food consumption and diet diversity scores
- 3) Cash transfers equally benefit male & female headed households, with both having higher expenditure on food and better diets compared to in-kind beneficiaries
- 4) Medical costs negatively affecting progress in household Food Security among both food and cash beneficiaries
- 5) Diet quality is higher where decisions on utilization of cash/food are made jointly by Men & Women
- 6) Cash beneficiaries have higher level of application of food consumption and livelihood based coping strategies like borrowing money
- 7) While majority of beneficiaries reported no safety issues, incidences were higher among food compared to cash beneficiaries; and more among female than male beneficiaries.
- 8) While isolated incidences of domestic violence were mentioned; beneficiaries did not believe this was a result of food or cash assistance.
- 9) Relationships between refugee households and/or host communities not reported as negatively affected by food or cash assistance
- 10) Beneficiaries report that they rarely receive feedback or witness improvements arising from complaints submitted.

Food availability

Food beneficiary households were more likely to have food stocks compared to their cash beneficiary counterparts. Majority of food beneficiaries derived their food stocks from food assistance while most cash beneficiary households derived their food stocks from markets.

With respect to food production and household stocks, it is seen that more cash beneficiary households depend on own production for food stocks (40%) compared to food beneficiaries (27%). Furthermore, cash beneficiaries were significantly more likely to own livestock, particularly so in Rwamwanja. Beneficiaries indicated that cash transfers were utilized by some to purchase livestock especially goats and poultry.

Food access

Income earners

Findings showed that food and cash beneficiary households were equally likely to have at least one income earner. Moreover, household economic activities were essentially the same between food and cash beneficiaries, typically including [Sale of] food assistance, food crop sales, and agricultural wage labor.

Household debt

Prevalence of debt was higher among cash beneficiaries who, as well, were found to borrow higher amounts. Discussions with beneficiaries indicated that enrolling for cash increases the credit worthiness of households allowing more of them to borrow. In addition, the higher dependence on markets for food requires continuous purchase of items that may prompt borrowing whenever cash at hand reduces.

Household Expenditure Profile

Cash beneficiaries across the settlements had higher monthly food and non-food expenditure³. Discussions with beneficiaries indicated that cash beneficiaries utilize cash received to purchase food commodities for the household, citing the increased ability to buy nutritious foods like eggs, milk and meat for their children as one of the key benefits of cash transfers.

Food utilization

Analysis showed that cash beneficiaries had slightly higher food consumption scores compared to food beneficiaries. Similarly, household dietary diversity was higher among cash beneficiaries compared to food beneficiaries across the settlements. This further grounds findings on higher household food expenditure among cash beneficiaries, indicating that cash transfers are having a positive impact on household food consumption.

Stability

Main shocks to household food security

The main shocks to household food security among both food and cash beneficiaries were essentially alike, with sickness of a household member or bread winner cited as the most common shock by more than half of beneficiaries. However, a relatively higher percentage of cash beneficiaries indicated high food prices as a key shock to Food Security. Price trends analysis in refugee settlements however showed that food prices were at similar or lower levels compared to 2015, suggesting that shocks felt were only a result of seasonal increases in price, particularly for maize grain.

Food consumption coping strategies

There was no significant difference in the level of application of food consumption coping strategies such as reduction in number or frequency of meals, portion sizes, etc between food and cash beneficiaries.

³ The methodology used takes into account what is consumed but is not purchased to facilitate comparison between cash and in-kind beneficiaries.

Livelihoods coping

Cash beneficiaries are more likely to apply livelihood coping strategies compared to food beneficiaries. In particular, cash beneficiaries were more likely to apply stress and crisis coping strategies compared to food beneficiaries. The most commonly applied stress coping strategies were borrowing of money and spending of savings, while the most common crisis coping strategies were the consumption of seed stock.

Gender and Food Security outcomes

Compared to in-kind food beneficiaries, male and female headed cash beneficiary households are more likely to:

- Own livestock
- Have debt (and of higher amounts)
- Spend more on food on a monthly basis
- Have better Food Consumption Scores
- Have higher dietary diversity

Findings suggest that while male headed households were better off compared to female headed households with respect to key food security indicators, regardless of the transfer modality, enrolling for cash transfers is equally likely to positively influence food security outcomes among female and male headed households.

Table 1: Comparing Food & Cash beneficiary, male & female headed households

	Food beneficiaries		Cash beneficiaries	
	Male Headed	Female Headed	Male Headed	Female Headed
Household Asset Score (Average)	5	4	6	4
Own livestock (%)	40%	29%	54%	37%
Have debt (%)	47%	45%	56%	55%
Amount of debt, UgX (Average)	56,600	46,700	82,800	58,800
Household Monthly Food Expenditure, UgX (Average)*	156,500	139,900	225,500	191,200
Food Consumption Score (Average)	42.5	40.1	44.4	41.6
Dietary Diversity Score (Average)	4.5	4.2	4.7	4.5
Food Consumption Coping Strategy Index (Average)	11.4	14.5	12.9	14.5

* Rounded off to the nearest 'hundred

Household decision making

Findings suggest that decisions on the use of cash or food in households are, for the most part, made either by women or jointly between men and women (Figure 1). Women were especially more likely to make decisions alone on the utilization of food across the settlements. On the other hand, joint decision making was more likely with regard to utilization of cash compared to food.

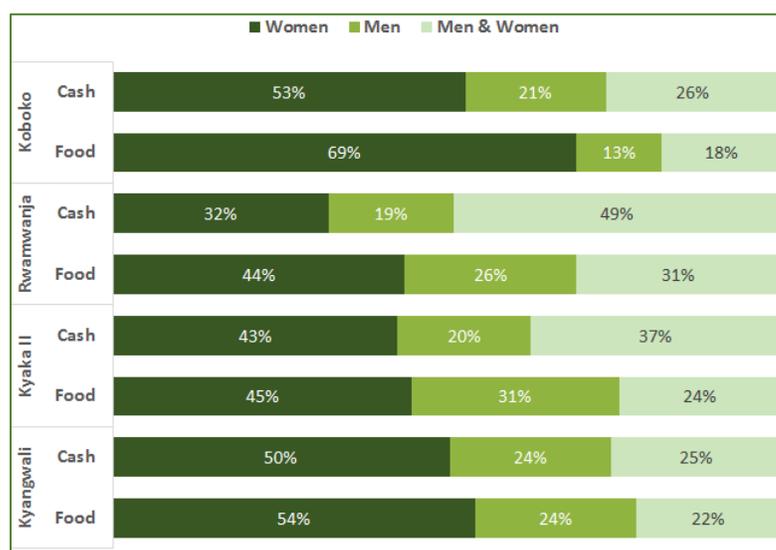


Figure 1: Household decision making

Household decision making and Food Security

Further analysis showed that among both food and cash beneficiaries, households were more likely to have acceptable food consumption if decisions on utilization of either food or cash were made jointly by men and women (Figure 2).

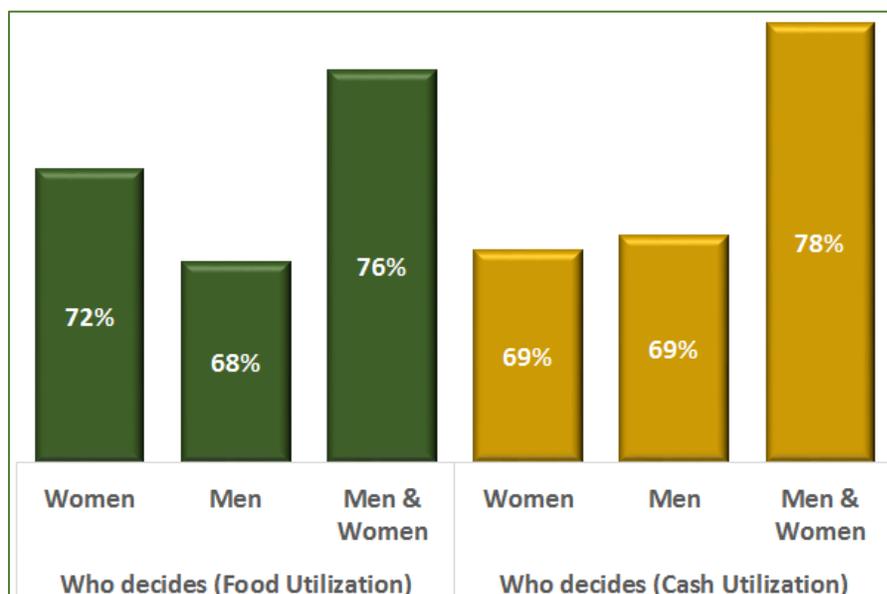


Figure 2: Intra-household decision making and Acceptable Food Consumption

Findings emphasize that cash related sensitization messages as well as any income generating livelihood activities need to involve men and women jointly, wherever possible, in order to harness the potential for better utilization of food assistance for well-being of all household members.

Influence of vulnerability on Food Security outcomes

Compared to in-kind food beneficiaries, EVI and Non-EVI cash beneficiary households were either more or equally likely to:

- Have debt (and of higher amounts)
- Spend more on food on monthly basis
- Have higher dietary diversity

Findings show that cash transfers are beneficial both to the non-vulnerable and the extremely vulnerable, and do not negatively affect their dietary quality.

Table 2: Comparing Food & Cash Beneficiary, EVI and Non-EVI households

	Food beneficiaries		Cash beneficiaries	
	Non-EVI	EVI	Non-EVI	EVI
Household Asset Score (Average)	4	4	5	4
Own livestock (%)	33%	42%	50%	32%
Have debt (%)	47%	46%	57%	50%
Amount of debt, UgX (Average)*	52,500	50,900	77,000	51,900
Household Monthly Food Expenditure, UgX (Average)*	154,200	126,800	221,000	168,700
Food Consumption Score (Average)	41.8	39.9	43.9	40.5
Dietary Diversity Score (Average)	4.4	4.2	4.7	4.4
Food Consumption Coping Strategy Index (Average)	12.8	12.8	13.7	13.0

* Rounded off to the nearest hundred

WFP Cash based Transfers: Improving Food Security and well-being for refugees – The story of Elizabeth Nyirampabanzi, Kyangwali Refugee Settlement

The most recent Food Security & Nutrition Assessment in refugee areas indicated that up to 27% of households in the refugee settlements were Food Insecure, with female headed households and those chronically ill most affected due to limited ability to work. WFP cash transfers were first piloted in May 2014 with the aim to give refugees the choice and flexibility to decide on how to satisfy their basic food needs with more dignity.

Thirty seven year old Elizabeth Nyirampabanzi is a refugee from Bunagana Congo, who fled to Uganda citing insecurity in her home town in DRC. She arrived in Uganda in 2005 and is currently a resident of Kinakyeitaka Village in Kyangwali refugee settlement. She was registered into the cash programme in November 2015.

Elizabeth, a widow with five children describes her life before cash transfers as “tough”. She was entirely dependent on in-kind food assistance and could not engage in additional work due to her chronic heart condition. She therefore always had to reduce the number and portion sizes of meals for her family members during the course of the month. *“Hmmm if you had seen me before I joined the cash programme ... you wouldn’t believe. I was very poor”*. She recalls. *“Life was so tough for me and my children. There was never enough food for my family. Having three meals a day was like a dream; I would get food aid but it would get done in two weeks”*.



Top-Bottom, L-R: 1 – Full view of Elizabeth’s newly acquired house; 2 – Elizabeth in-front of her new house; 3 – Elizabeth shows off her goat.

Watching her children go hungry was, perhaps, the most painful thing Elizabeth endured. *“I couldn’t afford to feed them three meals a day. With my heart problem am handicapped, I can’t do heavy work or engage in casual labour to earn an extra income. I had to ration the food I received so on most days, the children and I went without breakfast. For lunch, I prepared a cup of porridge for each of them and I went without lunch. The main meal was at night when I prepared maize meal and beans,”* she says.

She adds ... *“My children used to walk naked as they didn’t have clothes; as a heart patient I had some drugs that I was supposed to take but I couldn’t afford them. Life was so tough, until one day when a team from Samaritan Purse held a meeting here in the settlement and were informing us about the cash transfers being introduced by WFP. We were told we are free to opt for food or cash. I decided to opt for Cash because lack of money was my biggest problem. With money I can plan and do a number of things; I must say the cash transfers were a God sent opportunity, they came in at a time I was so needy. My life has turned around, am now a happy woman”.*

“When I received the UGX 216,000 for the first time I felt so blessed and was very happy” she says beamingly. *I used the money to buy enough food for the family, bought some improved seeds for planting, paid casual laborers who help me with garden work and also bought some few clothes for the kids. My family is now assured of three meals a day because I buy enough food that lasts for long; we now eat a variety of foods like meat, fish, and chicken and generally the children’s health has improved compared to when I was on receiving food aid”*, Elizabeth says.

In addition as a result of the cash transfers Elizabeth is now a proud owner of a goat, house and a plot of land in the back yard where she grows maize and beans. *“Thanks to the cash programme, I have been able to buy myself a house with my August 2016 cash ration and it cost me UGX 180,000/= and I also bought the goat at UGX 130,000/=. This goat is in its gestation period and am expecting 2 kids from my goat any time soon”.*

“Am very happy with the cash transfers, it has really helped me a lot. Today, my life has changed. I feel privileged to say that currently I don’t experience any food shortages. I get my three meals a day. I feed my family in the morning, afternoon and evening”.

-Story by Miriam Egau, WFP/Mbarara Sub-Office – August 26th, 2016-

Recommendations

R-1: Gradually scale-up cash transfers where appropriate and feasible [All settlements]

- Analysis showed that cash transfers were being utilized by households for their intended purpose, to improve household food consumption. Findings therefore suggest that cash transfers are effective in improving household food consumption and may be considered as an option in all settlements, subject to a feasibility study.
- Discussions with beneficiaries indicated a preference for the cash transfer modality in the settlements, especially in Rwamwanja. It is therefore recommended to expedite the process of registration for beneficiaries in the settlements.
- However, some in-kind food beneficiaries indicated satisfaction with the in-kind food transfer modality and thus a reluctance to change to cash transfers – especially among women in Koboko. Beneficiaries electing to remain on in-kind food assistance should be encouraged to continue providing feedback to strengthen in-kind assistance.
- Overall findings suggest that majority of traders are satisfied with performance of their businesses, and are able to meet increased demand for the products, albeit with some constraints. Findings are thus in favor of continued scale up of cash transfers in the settlements with continuous monitoring.

R-2: Scale-up nutrition sensitization for all beneficiary categories [All settlements]

- There is need to scale up sensitization of both food and cash beneficiaries on good dietary habits.
- Findings showed that cash beneficiaries in Kyangwali did not achieve equal levels of food consumption as their counterparts in other settlements. There is need to scale up nutrition education in this settlement, targeting both food and cash beneficiaries as well as closely monitor the markets in the settlement to ensure they are functioning and responding to the increased demand.
- Observations and informant interviews suggested that nutrition messaging delivered at distribution points is not effective as beneficiaries are pre-occupied with getting their rations and travelling back home, hence need for an alternative model/forum to deliver nutrition messages.

R-3: Conduct a Cost of Diet study in the refugee settlements [Kyangwali]

- Findings showed that despite having the second highest monthly food expenditure, cash beneficiaries in Kyangwali were not able to attain similar levels of food consumption as their counterparts in other settlements.
- Furthermore, some beneficiaries cited food price increases as the biggest shock to food security in the 30 days before the survey. It is therefore recommended that further information be collected related to market capacity, functioning and access; as well as investigate the minimum cost of nutritious diet to ensure the transfer value can cover household nutrition needs.

R-4: Conduct further investigation on health issues in the settlements to guide on appropriate interventions [Kyangwali, Kyaka II]

- Food and Cash beneficiaries alike mentioned sickness/disease as the greatest shock to Food Security (52% & 56% respectively) – particularly in Kyangwali and Kyaka II settlements.
- A key reason for borrowing among both Food and Cash beneficiaries was to cover health expenses (32% and 30% respectively), particularly so in Kyangwali (Food –50%, Cash –51%).

- Discussions with beneficiaries indicated that a key benefit for cash transfers was the utility of cash for medical expenses.

R-5: Continuously update food/cash logs and review distribution procedures at FDPs to further minimize safety incidents during distribution [Rwamwanja]

- Majority of beneficiaries that indicated having experienced safety issues said these occurred at the WFP programme site
- Across both forms of assistance, the most consistently raised challenges were regarding names missing off distribution lists.

R-6: Strengthen complaint and feedback mechanisms and improve sensitization of beneficiaries on roles and responsibilities of all related mechanisms (WFP, cooperating partners and community food committees)

- Beneficiaries report that they rarely receive feedback or witness improvements arising from complaints submitted.

R-7: Strengthen partnership with development partners to provide education on household budget management and how to communicate and negotiate within the household on cash [Koboko, Kyaka //]

- Cash beneficiary households are more likely to incur debt with the primary reasons being to buy food and cover health expenses.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Food assistance in refugee settlements

Uganda currently hosts over 665,000 refugees, of which approximately 90% (608,278) are currently receiving food assistance from the World Food Programme (WFP). The remaining 30% either live out of the settlements or have been phased-off food assistance (non-beneficiaries) as per inter-agency targeting criteria. According to this criteria, newly arrived refugees receive full aid rations for three years after which it is reduced to 50% and they are phased-off after 5 years as they are expected to be self-reliant. However, individuals categorized as Extremely Vulnerable⁴ receive full aid rations throughout their stay in the settlements.

WFP Food assistance modalities

Cash & food are two modalities WFP uses in providing assistance to the refugees. Inclusion of cash transfers in WFP Uganda's programming is based on a 2013 agreement among WFP, UNHCR & Office of the Prime Minister that cash transfers were appropriate & should be implemented on a pilot basis.

A fundamental aspect of cash programming in Uganda is that the choice of whether to enroll for cash or remain on food is voluntary. Moreover, once households enroll for cash, they have the possibility to change back to food if circumstances and/or preferences so change.

Cash transfers were first implemented in three refugee settlements (Rhino camp, Adjumani and Kiryandongo) in May 2014 and were scaled up to four other settlements (Rwamwanja, Kyaka II, Kyangwali and Koboko) starting November 2015. This report focuses on the latter four settlements and is a follow up to the June 2015 feasibility study⁵ aimed at monitoring, Food Security outcomes among newly enrolled cash beneficiaries.

Table 3: Cash caseload in focus settlements as at August 2016

Refugee settlement	Number of Households	Number of Beneficiaries
Koboko	520	2,880
Kyangwali	1,838	7,629
Rwamwanja	4,835	20,488
Kyaka II	3,578	12,299
Total	10,771	43,296

⁴ Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVIs) comprise of unaccompanied minors, the disabled, elderly persons at risk, persons unable to access food due to chronic illness and dependent children under 18 in an EVI headed household

⁵ See Assessment of the Feasibility of Cash Transfer in selected refugee settlements in Uganda, AME, June 2015

A review of food and cash rations

The food and cash transfer rations are as shown in **Table 4** below. The cash transfer value is determined as a product of the quantity of the in-kind basket and the average prevailing prices over a time period **Table 5**.

In order to ensure that cash beneficiaries are able to consistently afford amounts of food similar to the in-kind food basket, food prices are regularly monitored in the refugee settlements to inform determination of the transfer value

Table 4: In-kind and cash based transfers to beneficiaries

In-Kind	Ration Entitlement	In-Kind Ration (Kg per person per month)						Cash ration (UGX per person per month)
		Cereals (Grains)	Cereals (Meal)	Pulses	Veg Oil	CSB	Salt	
EVI	100%	0	11.7	2.1	0.9	1.5	0.15	36,000
New Caseload	100%	12	0	2.4	0.9	1.5	0.15	28,000
Asylum Seekers	100%	0	11.7	2.1	0.9	1.5	0.15	-
Old Caseload	50%	6.0	0	1.2	0.3	1.5	0.15	15,000

Table 5: Table showing a sample calculation of the transfer value for full ration (new caseload – 100%) beneficiaries

In-kind basket	A: Entitlement (Kg per person per month)	B: Average price per Kg (2016)	A*B: Cash transfer value (UgX)
Cereal	12	1,027	12,326
Beans (Nambale)	2.4	2,565	6,155
Veg. Oil	0.9	5,515	4,963
Millet flour	1.5	2,881	4,321
Salt	0.15	1,241	186
TOTAL			27,953

Distinction between cash and food beneficiaries

Not all refugees are eligible for cash. Only refugees that had arrived in 2013 or earlier and all EVIs were previously eligible for cash, meaning cash beneficiaries had on average stayed longer in the settlements. This has a bearing on the livelihood activities undertaken by the two groups as longer stay is associated with higher degree of self-reliance. Additionally, since the cash beneficiaries have been in Uganda longer and have had more time to settle in and potentially invest more in their land, it may be possible that duration of stay may play a contributing factor to how well each group is doing.

3.0 OBJECTIVES & METHODOLOGY

Objectives

The study objectives were two-fold:

- i) To compare food and cash beneficiaries against a set of Food Security indicators⁶ with the view to determine the effectiveness of the food and cash transfer modalities in the attainment of optimal Food Security outcomes among refugee households. In particular, the study sought to compare the following:
 - Income & expenditure patterns;
 - Food consumption patterns;
 - Coping strategies;
 - The role (s) of women & men.
- ii) To understand the business environment for traders within the settlements.

Scope of the study

The study focused on food and cash beneficiary households⁷ in Koboko, Kyangwali, Kyaka II and Rwamwanja settlements.

Study design and sampling procedures

A cross-sectional survey design was used with representative samples drawn at settlement level (**Table 4**). In each settlement, the sample was distributed across villages/blocks/zones using probability proportional to size. A list of food and cash beneficiaries was obtained per settlement (and village/block/zone) and systematic random sampling used to identify respondents.

Table 6: Sample Distribution

Settlement	Number of Households		Total
	Food assistance	Cash assistance	
Kyangwali	365	351	716
Kyaka II	310	382	691
Rwamwanja	432	378	394
Koboko	180	214	810
Total	1287	1324	2611

For the qualitative module, local leaders in the settlements mobilized beneficiaries to participate in focus group discussions based on a list of randomly selected participants with uniform characteristics (e.g. men receiving in-kind food assistance). A minimum of six focus groups were conducted in each settlement.

⁶ The assessment was conducted 8 months after the initiation of cash transfers. Being that improvements in nutrition are expected to take longer to manifest, anthropometric and IYCF indicators were not assessed.

⁷ Non-beneficiaries were not included in this study given that some of the focus settlements only had either food or cash beneficiaries.

Discussions with men & women, food & cash beneficiaries were kept separate at all times to allow for free discussions.

Data collection

A household questionnaire was administered through face-to-face interviews at each household with the household head or adult member present.

Focus groups were the primary method for qualitative data collection. Each focus group comprised of 6-10 participants of the homogenous characteristics. Each Focus group was conducted based on a pre-determined structure for consistency.

Data analysis

Statistical analysis was conducted using various tools including SPSS v.18 and MS Excel 2013. Food security indicators were computed based on syntax that is available on WFP's Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping website (vam.wfp.org). Focus group discussions were transcribed in the field and content analysis used thereafter.

PART 1: HOUSEHOLD LEVEL FINDINGS

Demographics

Nationality of respondents

Across the four settlements, the predominant nationality was Congolese with only a few from South Sudan, Burundi and Rwanda as shown in **Figure 3**.

Education level of respondents

Across the settlements, about two in every five household heads (41%) had never been to school, while roughly similar proportion of household heads had only been to primary school. This finding is similar to that in previous Food Security and Nutrition Assessment reports in refugee areas. No clear linkages or correlations could be seen between education level of household head and choice of assistance;

- In Kyangwali, household heads without formal education were more likely to enroll for cash compared to their educated counterparts;
- In Rwamwanja and Koboko, household heads without formal education were less likely to enroll for cash compared to their educated counterparts;
- In Kyaka II, there were no observable differences in this pattern (**Figure 4**).

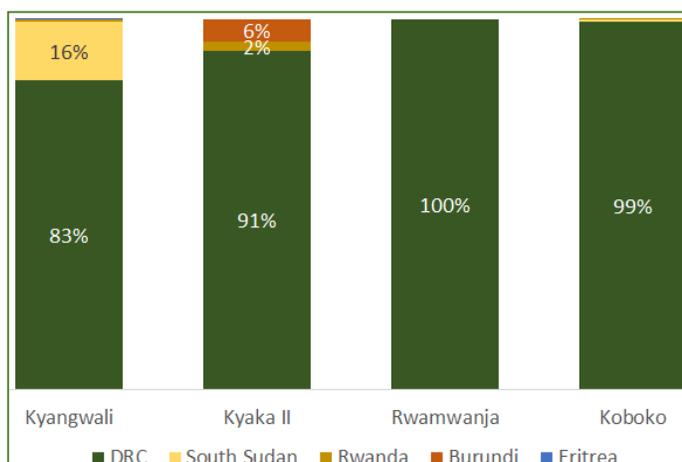


Figure 3: Respondent country of origin

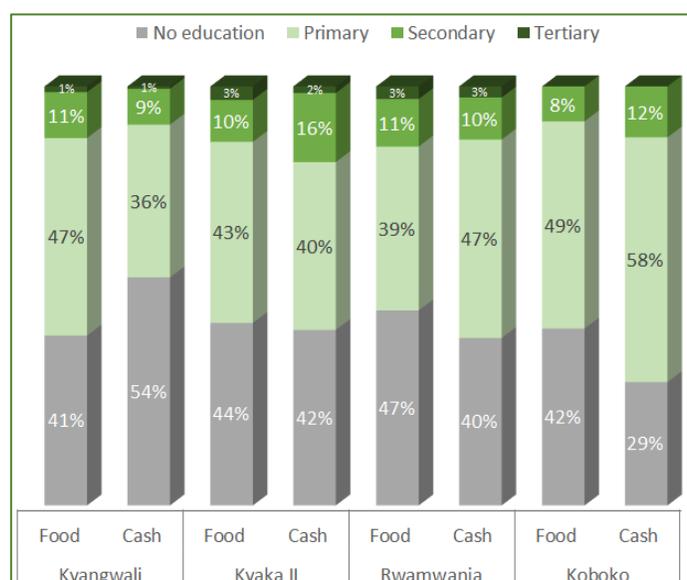


Figure 4: Household head education level

Household size

Findings on household size preference to transfer modality vary depending on settlement location. In the South West settlements households with larger family sizes are more likely to enroll in cash, while in the West Nile settlements smaller households were likely to enroll in cash transfers (Figure 5).

The fact that households in the South West refugee settlements have higher agricultural productivity might be a factor. Such households meet some of their food needs from agriculture, therefore a higher preference for cash is seen as they opt for cash to meet other food needs and also key non-food expenses.

Female Headed Households

About 45% of households visited were female headed, with the highest percentage in Koboko (61%) and the lowest in Rwamwanja (32%).

Analysis showed that in Kyangwali and Kyaka II settlements, male and female headed households were equally likely to enroll for cash (Figure 6).

This is a positive finding indicating that there are no barriers to choice of assistance modality among both male and female household heads.

Physical status of the household head

Approximately one-in-every five households (20%) was headed by a disabled, chronically ill or elderly person. The highest percentage of this was observed in Koboko (23%) and the lowest in Kyangwali (16%).

Analysis suggests that household heads that are either disabled, chronically ill or elderly are more likely to enroll for cash compared to their able bodied counterparts (Figure 7). This is probably because these households incur above average medical expenses, making cash transfers even more relevant for them. This was confirmed

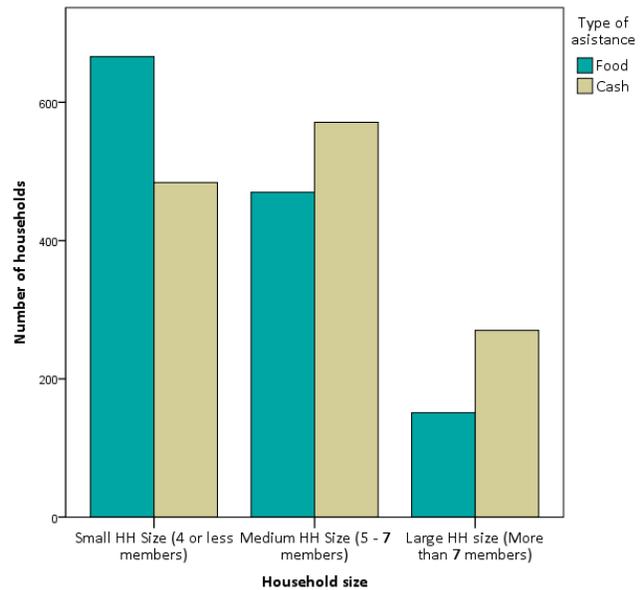


Figure 5: Household sizes for food and cash beneficiary households

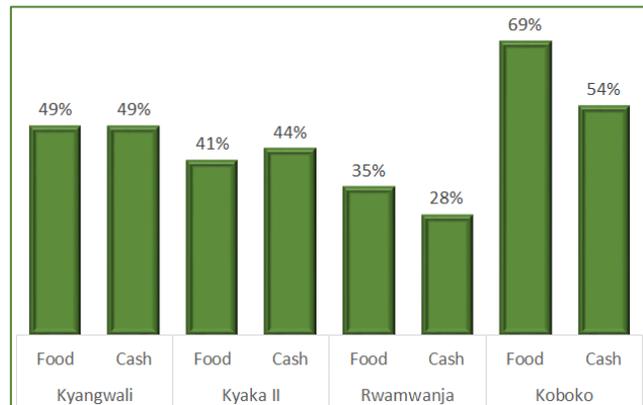


Figure 6: Female Headed Households

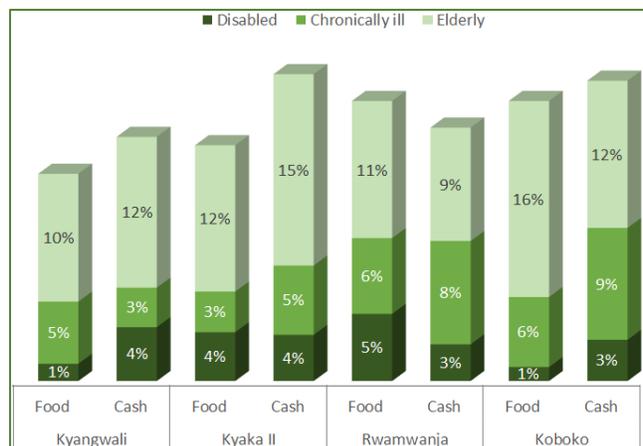


Figure 7: Disabled, chronically ill and elderly household heads

during discussions with beneficiaries who indicated that they use some of the money received for medical expenses.

Household asset & livestock ownership

Household Assets

Across the settlements, beneficiaries were found to own an average of five household assets⁸. Asset ownership was generally higher among cash beneficiaries compared to food beneficiaries; up to 70% of food beneficiaries owned only five assets or less, compared to 60% among cash beneficiaries.

The five most commonly owned assets were hoes, pangas, mattresses, chairs and cell phones, with similar trends between food and cash beneficiaries.

Household asset ownership being a proxy for household wealth, findings suggest that cash beneficiaries are better off.

Livestock ownership

Across the settlements, an average of 42% of households owned some livestock. However, the majority of households had negligible holding of livestock (<0.5TLU)⁹. Analysis showed that cash beneficiary households across the settlements were significantly more likely to own any livestock compared to their food beneficiary counterparts (**Figure 8**). This trend was particularly pronounced in Rwamwanja settlement.

Discussions with beneficiaries indicated that cash transfers were utilized by some to purchase livestock, especially goats and poultry. This is a positive trend, suggesting the potential for cash transfers to enhance self-reliance among refugees through acquisition of productive and other assets. Sensitization messages need to nonetheless be designed to ensure that such purchases of expensive assets do not compromise household food consumption in the short to medium term.

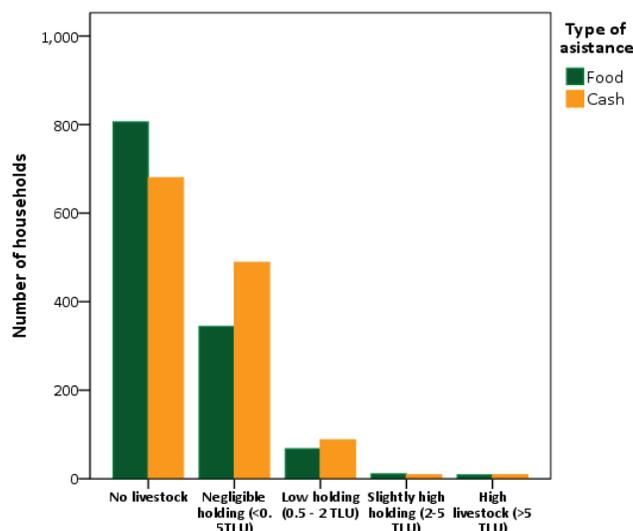


Figure 8: Livestock ownership among food and cash beneficiaries

⁸ A total of 21 household assets were enumerated in the survey viz. Bed, Table, Chair, Mattress, Radio, Cellphone, Sewing machine, Bicycle, Car, Motorcycle, Television, Axe, Panga, Hoe, Ox plough, Water tank, Seed store, Food store, Beehives, Watering Cans, Bucket/ irrigation equipment.

⁹ The TLU (Total Livestock Units) is a weighted sum of different livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, etc.) owned by a household. TLU 0.5-0.7 is equivalent to a household owning a cow or 5-7 sheep/goats/pigs or 70 birds.

Food Availability

Access to agricultural land

Overall, 86% of households reported having access to agricultural land, with the highest percentage of these in Koboko (98%) and the lowest in Kyangwali (77%). There was no significant difference in the level of access to land between food and cash beneficiaries in Kyaka II, Rwamwanja & Koboko.

Household food stocks

The majority (79%) of households reported having food stocks, especially so in Koboko (95%) and less so in Kyangwali (70%). Across the settlements, cash beneficiary households were less likely to have food stocks compared to their food beneficiary counterparts (**Table 7**) as would be expected.

It was however interesting to note that despite having lower food stocks, cash beneficiaries expected them to last longer than food beneficiary households – except in Rwamwanja. This is probably because cash beneficiaries, besides having stocks from own production, also supplement with purchases from the market.

Table 7: Households with food stocks and expected duration

		Have food stocks	Days stocks expected to last
Food		81%	13
Cash		73%	15
Kyangwali	Food	72%	19
	Cash	64%	21
Kyaka II	Food	78%	12
	Cash	68%	18
Rwamwanja	Food	85%	11
	Cash	75%	10
Koboko	Food	98%	11
	Cash	93%	12

Source of food stocks

Expectedly, the majority (64%) of food beneficiaries derived their food stocks from food assistance,

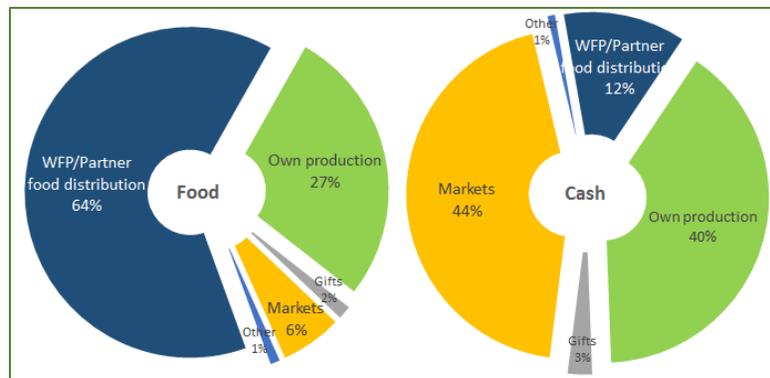


Figure 9: Source of food stocks

complemented by own production (27%). On the other hand, most cash beneficiary households derived their food stocks from markets and own production. It was interesting to note that more cash beneficiary households depended on own production for food stocks (40%) compared to food beneficiaries (27%).

Food Access

Income earners

On average, about 86% of households across the settlements had at least one income earner, highest in Kyaka II (98%) and lowest in Kyangwali (73%).

Further comparisons between food and cash beneficiaries indicated no significant differences among households (**Figure 10**).

Main income sources

Household economic activities were essentially the same across settlements and across Food and Cash beneficiaries with the main income sources indicated as:

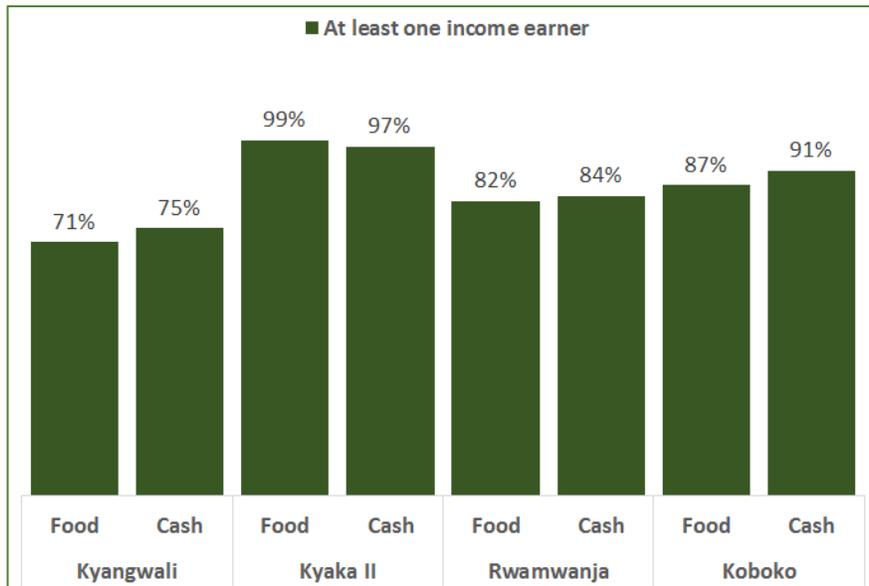


Figure 10: Household Income Earners

- **Food beneficiaries:** *[Sale of] food assistance*¹⁰ – 41%; *Food crop sales* – 25%; *Agricultural wage labor* – 24%; *others* – 10%.
- **Cash beneficiaries:** *Cash assistance* – 37%; *Food crop sales* – 26%; *Agricultural wage labor* – 25%; *others* – 12%.

¹⁰ Some in-kind food beneficiaries sell in-kind food in order to get income to buy other foods according to their tastes and preferences.

Household debt

More than half (53%) of households reported having debt, markedly higher in Koboko (73%) and lower in Kyangwali (39%). Analysis showed that across the four settlements, prevalence of debt was higher among cash beneficiaries compared to food beneficiaries as shown in **Figure 11**. Similarly, while the average amount of debt was UgX 66,000 across the settlements, cash beneficiaries had markedly higher amounts of debt (UgX 73,000) compared to food beneficiaries (UgX 52,000).

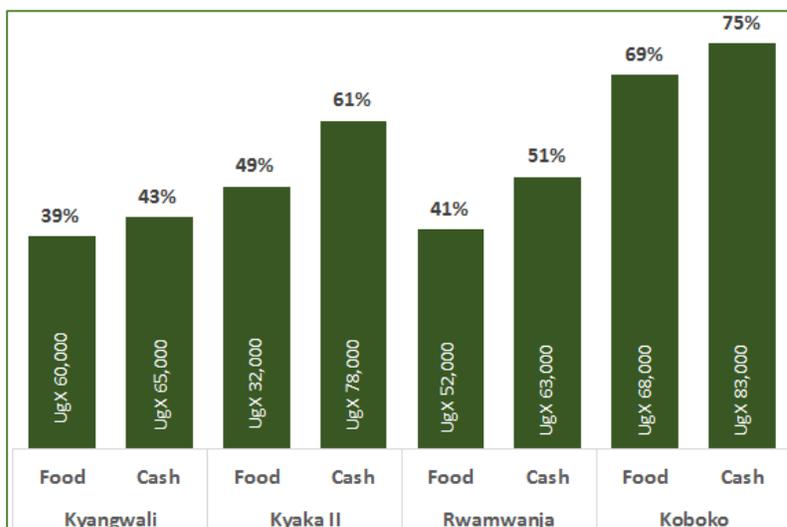


Figure 11: Prevalence of debt

Discussions with beneficiaries suggested that enrolling for cash increases the credit worthiness of households allowing more of them to borrow. In addition, the higher dependence on markets for food requires continuous purchase of items that may prompt borrowing whenever cash at hand reduces.

Delivery of key messages to beneficiaries on how to manage their cash rations on a monthly basis might be useful.

Main reasons for debt

While the prevalence and level of debt was higher among cash beneficiaries, analysis showed that the main reasons for borrowing among both cash and food beneficiary households were essentially the same, with the main ones being to cover health expenses and to buy food (**Figure 12**).

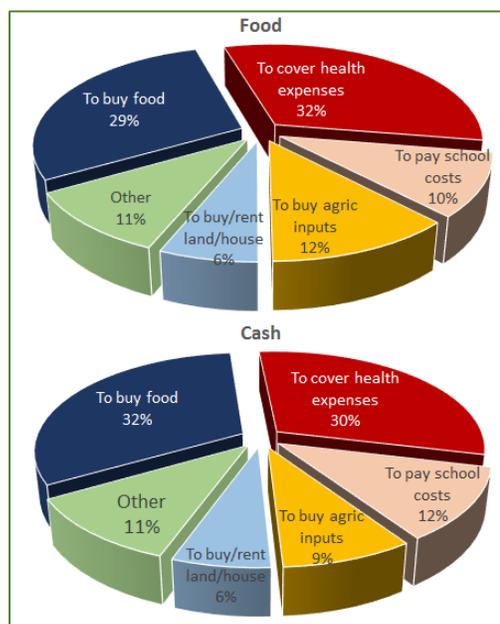


Figure 12: Main reasons for debt

Household Expenditure Profile

As expected, findings showed that cash beneficiaries across the settlements had higher food and non-food expenditure. In particular, average household food expenditure among cash beneficiaries was higher among cash beneficiaries for all food categories¹¹ as shown in **Figure 14**. Discussions with beneficiaries indeed indicated that beneficiaries were devoting the greater proportion of money received to purchase food commodities for the household, sometimes through bulk purchases of cereals and pulses. Moreover,

¹¹ The comparison takes into account what is consumed by beneficiaries that is not purchased, making it possible to compare food and cash beneficiaries

beneficiaries cited the ability to buy nutritious foods like eggs, milk and meat for their children as one of the key benefits of cash transfers.

As further illustrated in **Figure 13**, there were clear patterns in expenditures on each of these commodities. With regard to meat, a key source of animal protein and hem iron for children, expenditures were especially higher among cash beneficiaries, particularly in Kyaka II and Rwamwanja settlements where 44% and 68% of beneficiaries, respectively, spend more than UgX 32,000¹² on meat per month.

Findings demonstrate utility of cash for better household diets and well-being, with potential positive impact on child nutrition status. There is however need to establish the cost of a minimum nutritious diet for households in the settlements to ensure the transfer value is adequate.

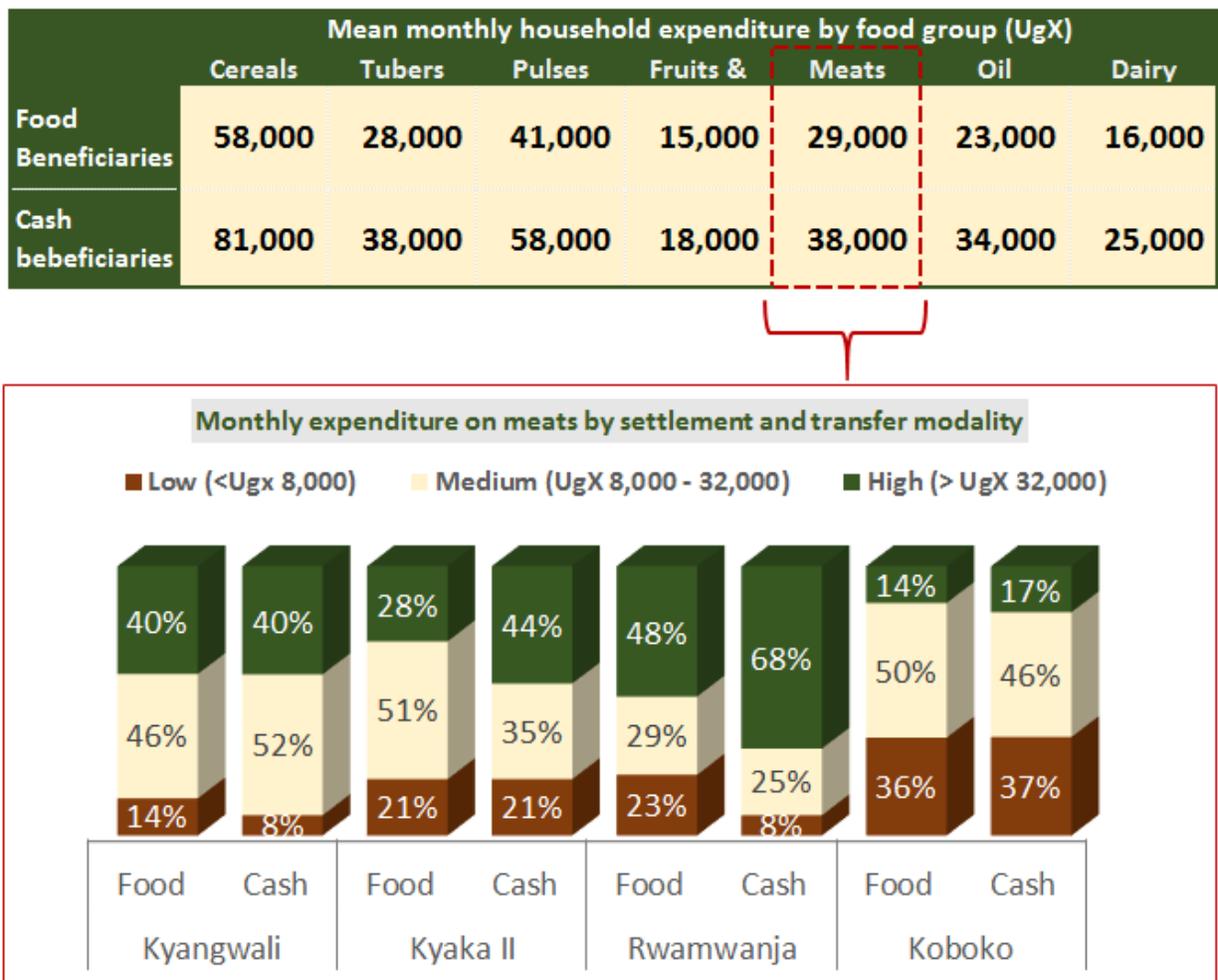


Figure 13: Household food expenditure patterns

¹² Classification is based on the average cost of a Kg of beef in the settlements (UgX 8,000). Thus households with medium expenditure on meat purchase between 1 – 4 Kg of beef a month.

Utilization

Household Food Consumption Patterns

Analysis showed that cash beneficiaries in Rwamwanja, Kyaka II and Koboko had slightly higher food consumption scores compared to food beneficiaries¹³. Similarly, household dietary diversity was slightly higher among cash beneficiaries compared to food beneficiaries in these settlements (**Figure 14**). This further grounds previous findings on higher household food expenditure, indicating that cash transfers are having a positive impact on household food consumption and, potentially, nutrition outcomes as well.

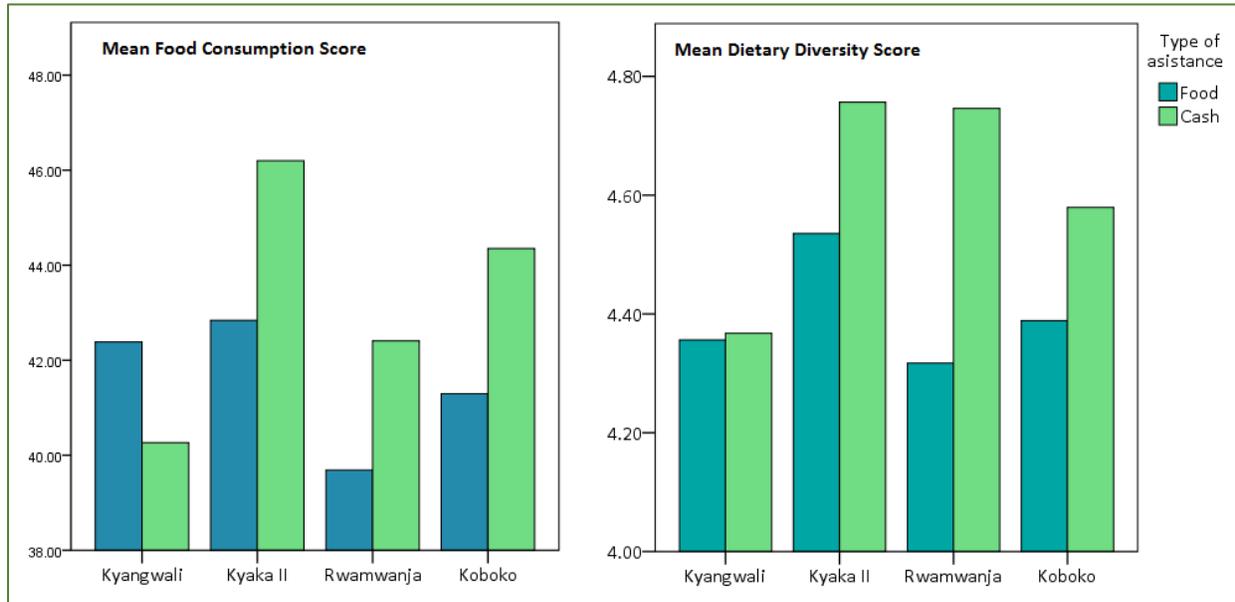


Figure 14: Food consumption patterns

¹³ See Annex 2 for statistical tables

Further analysis showed that the key differences between food and cash beneficiaries lay in the consumption of selected food groups as shown in **Table 8** below. Cash beneficiary households were slightly more likely to consume vegetables, fruits, meats, and dairy products on a weekly basis.

Table 8: Weekly consumption by food group

Food groups		Mean number of days consumed per week
Main staples <i>(e.g. Maize, potatoes, cassava)</i>	Food	6.0
	Cash	5.9
Pulses <i>(e.g. beans, groundnuts, peas)</i>	Food	5.4
	Cash	5.2
Vegetables*	Food	4.8
	Cash	5.3
Fruits*	Food	0.5
	Cash	0.6
Meat* <i>(Including fish, eggs, poultry)</i>	Food	0.9
	Cash	1.2
Milk/dairy products*	Food	0.3
	Cash	0.4
Sugar*	Food	1.3
	Cash	1.7
Oil	Food	4.9
	Cash	4.9

Stability

Main shocks to household food security

The main shocks to household food security among both food and cash beneficiaries were essentially alike, with sickness of a household member or bread winner cited as the most common shock by more than half of beneficiaries as shown in **Figure 15**.

The fact that sickness of a household member was the most frequently mentioned shock suggests a health issue in the settlements, especially in Kyangwali and Kyaka II settlements. This is probably why a high percentage of beneficiaries reported borrowing money, and utilizing cash transfers, to cover medical expenses. This is a drawback to household Food Security and necessitates for further investigation to establish the health problem in these settlements.

Food consumption coping strategies

The average food consumption coping strategy index (RCSI)¹⁴ across the settlements was 15, with the highest levels found in Koboko (27) – suggesting higher levels of stress, compared to RCSI of 10 in Kyangwali.

Analysis showed no significant difference in the level of application of food consumption coping strategies (RCSI) between food and cash beneficiaries. However, there were peculiarities at settlement level with regard to use of individual coping strategies as shown in **Table 9**.

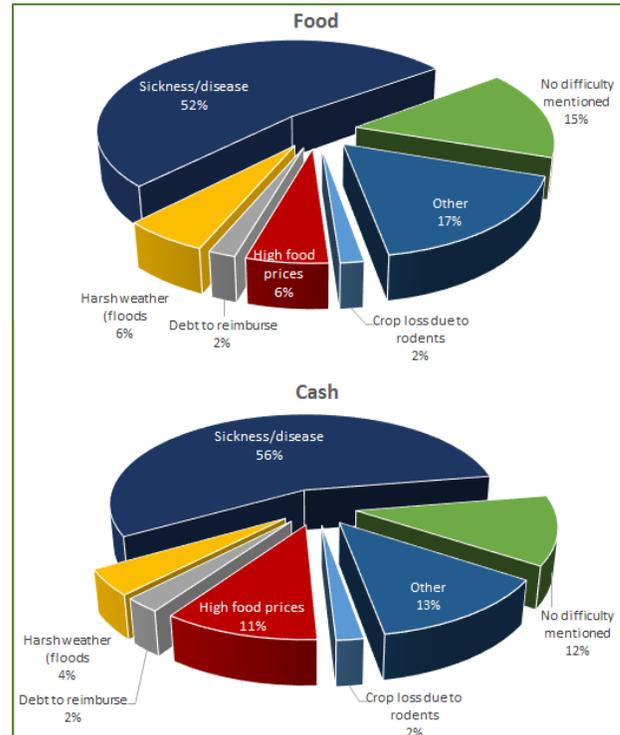


Figure 15: Main shocks faced by households

¹⁴ The Food Consumption (or 'Reduced') Coping Strategy Index (RCSI) measures the behaviours adopted by households when they have difficulties covering their food needs. It is calculated using standard food consumption-based strategies (reliance on less preferred, less expensive food; borrowing food or relying on help from friends/relatives; reduction in the number of meals eaten per day; reduction in portion size of meals; and reduction in the quantities of food consumed by adults/mothers for young children) and severity weighting.

Table 9: Application of food consumption coping strategies

Settlement	Observation
Kyangwali	Food beneficiary households significantly more likely to reduce portion sizes of meals
Kyaka II	Food beneficiary households significantly more likely to borrow food or rely on help from neighbors
Rwamwanja	Cash beneficiary households significantly more likely to consume less preferred/less expensive food Cash beneficiary households significantly more likely to reduce quantities consumed by adults/mothers for young children
Koboko	No significant difference between food and cash beneficiaries in application of food consumption coping strategies

Livelihoods coping

There were observable and significant differences in application of livelihood coping strategies¹⁵ with cash beneficiaries more likely to apply livelihood coping strategies compared to food beneficiaries (Figure 16).

The most commonly applied stress coping strategies were borrowing of money and spending of savings, while the most common crisis coping strategies were the consumption of seed stock.

The most common emergency coping mechanism was begging, reported by 30% and 28% among food and cash beneficiaries respectively. This was particularly the case in Kyaka II with 54% of food beneficiaries that begged compared to 39% among cash beneficiaries.

Sensitization of cash beneficiaries on financial management may be necessary in order to prevent them from getting into a vicious debt cycle that could potentially erode gains in food security.

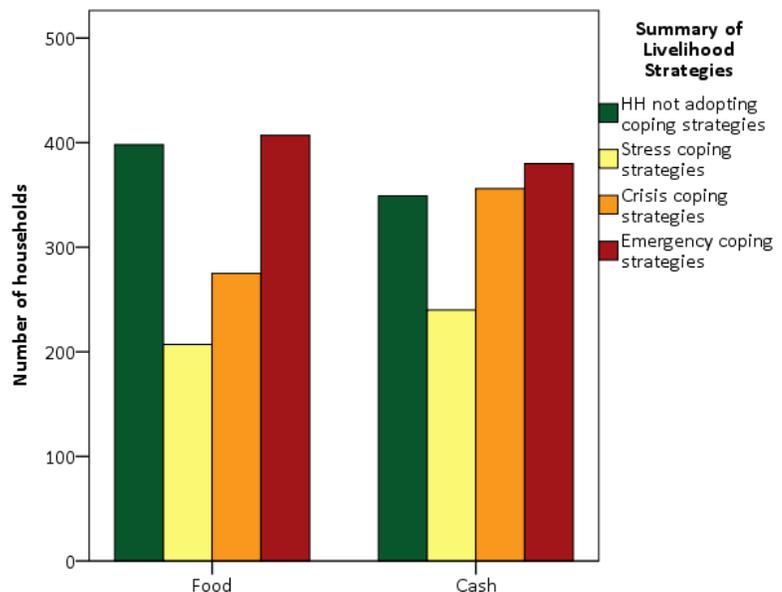


Figure 16: Number of households adopting various livelihood coping strategies

¹⁵ Livelihoods based coping strategies reflect longer term coping capacity of households. The various strategies applied by households can be categorized as stress, crisis or emergency coping strategies depending on the severity weights. Stress coping strategies indicate reduced ability to deal with future shocks due to a current reduction in resources or increase in debts. They include borrowing money, spending savings, selling household goods or animals. Crisis coping strategies, such as selling productive assets, reduction of essential non-food expenditure, and consumption of seed stock directly reduce future productivity, including human capital formation. Emergency coping strategies, such as selling one's house or land, engaging in illegal income activities, and begging also affect future productivity, but are more difficult to reverse or more dramatic in nature.

Safety & Security of beneficiaries

Safety problems

The majority of respondents, both food and cash beneficiaries, indicated no safety/security concerns faced by them across the settlements (**Table 10**). This finding was corroborated during discussions with beneficiaries who similarly indicated that safety/security concerns related to food and cash assistance were to a negligible extent.

Table 10: Households that experienced Safety/Security problems

	Safety problems			
	No		Yes	
	No. of households	%	No. of households	%
Kyangwali	670	97.1%	20	2.9%
Kyaka II	682	98.6%	10	1.4%
Rwamwanja	777	95.9%	33	4.1%
Koboko	346	98.0%	7	2.0%

Where safety incidents occur

The majority of safety problems reportedly occurred at the WFP programme site and, to a smaller extent, going to/from the programme site. As shown in **Figure 17**, this was most observed among food beneficiaries in Kyangwali, and Food/Cash beneficiaries in Rwamwanja.

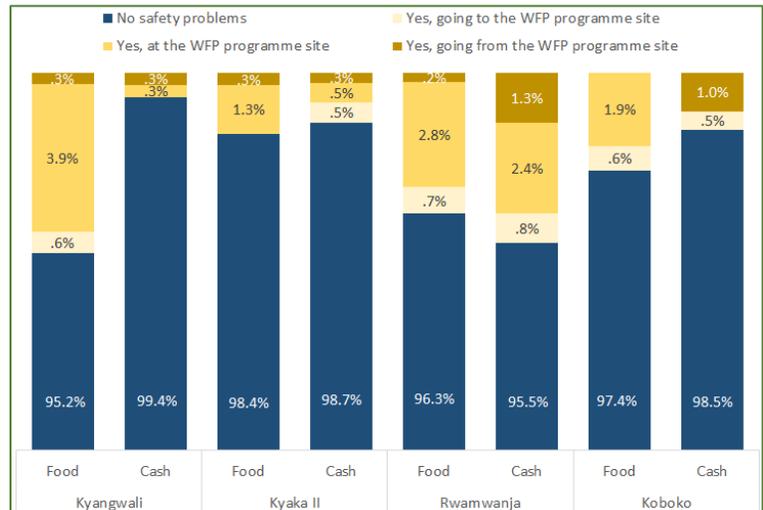


Figure 17: Prevalence of safety incidents by settlement

Nature of safety incidents

The number of incidents reported was generally higher among food beneficiaries compared to cash beneficiaries. As shown in **Figure 18**, the most common incident among both food and cash beneficiaries was related to Theft.

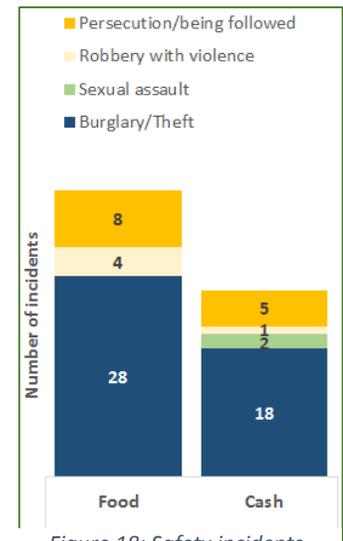


Figure 18: Safety incidents

Who is affected

Findings show that females are more likely to be victims of any safety/security incidents regardless of the transfer modality as shown in **Figure 19**.

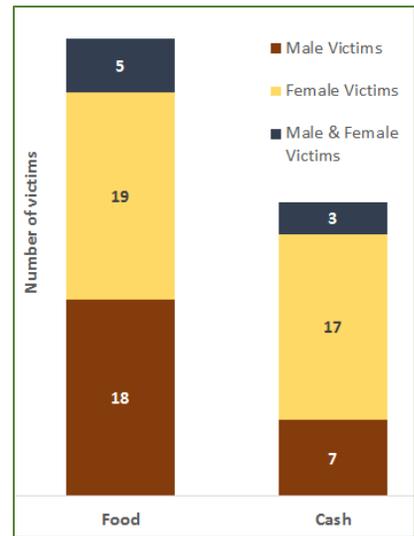


Figure 19: Gender of victims by transfer modality

PART 2: TRADER LEVEL FINDINGS

Trader characteristics

- The survey reached a total of 154 traders across the 4 settlements, of which approximately 90% were either the actual owners or their spouses.
- Across the settlements, business owners were mostly male except in Rwamwanja where up to 55% of business owners were female (**Figure 20**).
- Among the businesses visited, majority (72%) were started less than 3 years ago, particularly so in Kyangwali (85%) and Rwamwanja (98%) suggesting favourable business environment with possibilities for business start-up among beneficiaries.
- Majority of the businesses (82%) open daily (5-7 days a week), indicating continued access to food commodities by beneficiaries
- Majority of traders interviewed indicated they were aware of WFP's cash transfer programme in their settlements with variations at settlement level; all traders interviewed in Kyaka II and Rwamwanja settlements were aware of cash transfers, compared to 79% in Kyangwali and 90% in Koboko. There is need to target traders in these settlements with key information messages to enable them plan for their businesses accordingly.

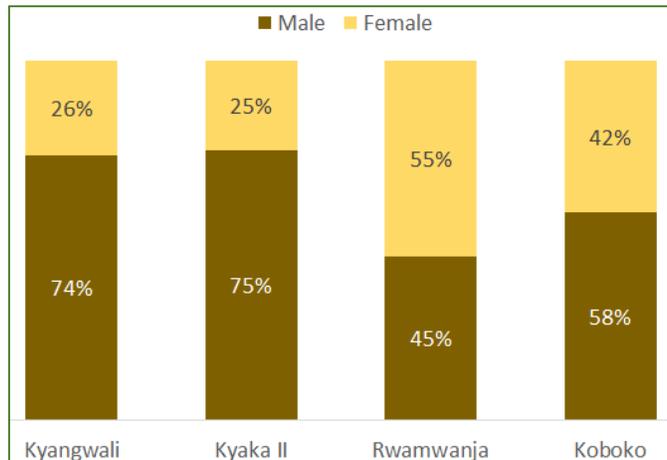


Figure 20: Gender of business owner

Trader response to changes in demand

Among the traders interviewed, more than two-thirds across the settlements reported having noticed an increase in demand for their products in the last six months. This corresponds with the observed higher expenditure on food and non-food items among cash beneficiaries.

Among traders that noticed an increase in demand, the most common actions taken in response to increased demand were:

- ✓ Introduction of new commodities (73%)
- ✓ Working longer hours (63%)
- ✓ Found new suppliers (57%)

The finding that majority of traders have diversified on their commodities is positive, suggesting that cash beneficiaries have an even wider choice, including on the varieties of food.

However, some traders mentioned not having made any changes despite having noticed increase in demand. Primary reasons for this were either that current capacity of the business was still enough – especially in Kyangwali, or that there wasn't enough capital to make required changes – especially in Rwamwanja. This implies that the traders lack access to capital to re-supply, potentially affecting market

response capacity in case of surges in demand. It therefore calls for gradual scale up of cash transfers in the settlements.

Business performance in the settlements

Approximately 64% of traders interviewed expressed satisfaction with the performance of their businesses in the last six months. Among these traders, the most frequently mentioned indicators of successful performance were i) Increased profit (96%); ii) More clients (92%); and Higher turnover (77%).

Trader challenges

When asked about challenges faced in the previous month, the two most commonly mentioned challenges by traders were:

- i) Higher prices of products due to increased demand;
- ii) Increased borrowing by clients

These findings suggest that suppliers of goods and services to the settlements might be hiking prices, which could potentially also affect consumer prices¹⁶. Also, the increased borrowing by clients might contribute to the traders' inability to re-stock and therefore provide products in a timely manner.

Findings further suggest the importance to conduct budget management trainings at household level, and to scale up cash transfers gradually to allow the establishment of the commodity supply system in the settlements.

¹⁶ For further information on food prices and markets, please refer to the AME monthly market monitor and the refugee food price monitor.

PART 3: GENDER AND PROTECTION ASSESSMENT

Introduction

To supplement the quantitative survey, focus group discussions were facilitated¹⁷ to gain in-depth understanding of the gender and protection issues related to cash vs in-kind support. Focus group discussions provide an opportunity for WFP to better understand how men, women and persons of diversity experience the support provided. The capture and use of beneficiary feedback enables WFP to strengthen humanitarian support in the most appropriate, effective and sustainable method.

This assessment should be read in conjunction with the November 2015 Gender and Protection Assessment of Cash and in-kind assistance. The 2015 assessment was undertaken by WFP, UNHCR and OPM to evaluate and respond to protection issues related to the introduction of cash based transfer (CBT) across refugee settlements in Uganda. The focus of this follow-up assessment is to monitor any changes in protection and gender.

Key findings

- ❖ Cash beneficiaries reported greater satisfaction with assistance across all indicators
- ❖ Cash beneficiaries were particularly satisfied with the greater flexibility and autonomy in decision making resulting from cash assistance – this greatly contributes to dignity of beneficiaries
- ❖ A number of in-kind beneficiaries reported a preference to remaining with in-kind assistance (comfort in the knowing food will be arriving each month) indicating the importance of providing both options to beneficiaries
- ❖ In-Kind beneficiaries continue to raise grievances regarding portion, variety and difficulty of transporting food received
- ❖ Impact of cash on safety and relationships between refugee households and/or host communities is not reported as negatively affected by cash assistance
- ❖ There is a need to strengthen access to and visibility of WFP and the complaint and feedback mechanisms

Recommendations

1. Strengthen complaint and feedback mechanisms and improve sensitization of beneficiaries on roles and responsibilities of all food related mechanisms (WFP, cooperating partners and community food committees)

¹⁷ AME was supported by Tigest Sendaba, Gender and Protection Advisor WFP Uganda Country Office

2. Review, strengthen and reform the EVI mechanism to accurately capture EVIs and to clarify ambiguity with PSN
3. Strengthen partnerships with development partners to improve gender equality through empowerment of women *and* men
4. Strengthen partnership with development partners to provide education on household budget management and how to communicate and negotiate within the household on cash

Methodology

A total of 28 Focus Group Discussions, capturing the views of about 240 beneficiaries were undertaken. The groups were separated between male and female beneficiaries and again, between cash and in-kind beneficiaries. Discussions were held in Rwamwanja, Kyaka II, Kyangwali and Koboko.

The framework of analysis utilized in the November 2015 assessment was again the framework utilized for this follow-up. This has provided continuity in protection knowledge related to CBT.

Framework of Analysis

Dignity: In order to determine the impact of cash and in-kind assistance on refugee's dignity, the assessment reviewed beneficiaries' overall appreciation of the two transfer modalities, the benefits and disadvantages of cash and in-kind assistance in general and their impact on distribution structures, refugees' ability to consume preferred food items, meeting refugees' preferences and respecting their culture, as well as perceived self-worth associated with the two transfer modalities.

Safety: The assessment reviewed beneficiaries' perception of safety en route to/from and at the cash/food distribution sites and markets. In addition, the assessment examined whether the introduction of cash had an impact on general safety and security concerns of refugees.

Access to assistance: The assessment evaluated the level of refugees' ability to equitably and meaningfully access cash and in-kind assistance, especially for the most vulnerable groups.

Gender / intra-household dynamics: The impact of cash and in-kind assistance on intra-household dynamics between various family members was examined as well as on female and male decision-making over the use of cash and in-kind assistance. Gender / intra-household dynamics:

The impact of cash and in-kind assistance on intra-household dynamics between various family members was examined as well as on female and male decision-making over the use of cash and in-kind assistance.

Social Cohesion: The assessment reviewed the impact of cash and in-kind assistance on the dynamics between different beneficiary groups as well as the relationship between the refugees and the host communities.

Accountability to Affected Populations: Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) is an approach that helps improve the quality of humanitarian services delivery through transparent and relevant information provision and two way communication, consultation with and participation of beneficiaries throughout the project cycle, and the provision of venues for receiving and managing complaints and feedback. The assessment reviewed how well these principles were integrated throughout the project cycle of both cash and in-kind assistance programmes.

Source

Comparative Gender and Protection Assessment of the cash and in-kind assistance to Ugandan refugee settlements; November 2015; OPM Republic of Uganda, UNHCR, WFP.

Overall Findings

1. Dignity

Cash assistance beneficiaries continue to report high satisfaction with cash-based assistance. Beneficiaries consistently reported the following as benefits of cash assistance:

- Greater agency and flexibility over what food was purchased and consumed
- Ability to purchase maize instead of red sorghum (main cereal in WFP food baskets)
- Greater household food security resulting from ability to self-manage cash to last longer throughout the month
- Ability to purchase essential non-food items with the most common being school items for children, medical supplies, sanitary items and farming tools
- Cash distributions are reported as being more reliable (dates and times of distribution do not alter greatly) and also faster than food distribution

Self-determination and control over household food consumption are both integral to the dignity of refugees. The feedback from cash beneficiaries, summarized above, highlights greater opportunities to control and make decisions, indicating that cash assistance is having a positive contribution to the dignity of beneficiaries.

Food beneficiaries continue to report high levels of dissatisfaction with the support provided – exacerbated by the recent ration reductions. Grievances on the lack of food variety and the ongoing provision of red sorghum were consistently raised. They also continue to raise dissatisfaction with late distribution hours, unreliability of date of food distribution, difficulty transporting food after collection and lack of consistency of oil. EVI's also reported challenges in transporting food-baskets from distribution points and requested additional support in the form of home-deliveries or financial aid to pay for transportation.

However, despite the reported challenges of in-kind assistance, some beneficiaries voiced a preference to remain with this assistance modality. Beneficiaries who wanted to change to cash assistance listed a desire for greater flexibility of food variety as the main benefit of changing to cash. Beneficiaries wishing to remain on food assistance listed regularity and predictability of food aid as a comfort and were hesitant to alter from that. In addition, they also listed perceptions that cash can be easily misused to purchase alcohol as a concern. The opportunity to select between the two modalities of assistance is a strong protection practice and should remain, even if cash-assistance is scaled up.

One issue of concern reported is the alleged practice by security guards at cash distribution points requesting and accepting cash to avoid queuing. This was consistently reported as a common and well known practice by cash beneficiaries. This matter has been raised to WFP for urgent action to ensure that the practice is mitigated and eliminated.

2. Safety

Majority of beneficiaries reported satisfaction with safety in the settlements. Whilst all the beneficiaries reported challenges with opportunistic petty crime and theft, they do not believe that this is targeted to aid beneficiaries or timed with cash and food distributions.

Cash beneficiaries in particular reported high levels of safety as compared to food beneficiaries who raised issues with distribution systems as a challenge. Examples of safety challenges included crowded distribution points, lack of shelter from sun and rain and tensions during splitting of food rations into household entitlements. Some beneficiaries also reported having to travel home late in the day and at nighttime due to late distribution of food.

The cash distribution process appears to provide greater safety than in-kind assistance. Issues of safety raised by in-kind beneficiaries need attention and should be addressed by WFP and implementing partners.

3. Access to assistance

There appeared to be no significant difference in the experience of cash or in-kind beneficiaries in regards to access to assistance. Across both forms of assistance, the most consistently raised challenges were regarding names missing off distribution lists. In all instances raised, beneficiaries reported receiving adequate support from WFP and cooperating partners in ensuring that monthly entitlements were still provided but the constant experience of not being on the distribution list was listed as a significant stress by beneficiaries.

Additionally, both groups raised challenges with not being able to collect entitlements for others who may not be able to travel to the collection point due to health, EVI status or other barriers. In this regard, it is evident that there is a need to do further sensitization with beneficiaries on the process to nominate a delegate for collection and the reasons as to why it is not possible to collect entitlements without being an officially recorded delegate.

EVI on cash assistance reported greater satisfaction with the form of assistance compared to in-kind recipients. This is largely due to the challenges faced by EVIs with transporting food home after collection. EVIs report having to pay for transport due to inability to carry food and requested program modifications to mitigate this access barrier – for example, cash to pay for transport or delivery of food items to a location of greater proximity to households.

4. Gender / Intra-Household dynamics

There appear to be no significant stresses or changes to intra-household dynamics as a result of cash or in-kind assistance. Women continue to be the primary food manager with responsibility to collect, safeguard and prepare food. Both male and female cash beneficiaries reported an increase in women's decision making compared to in-kind recipients. Women in the focus group discussions see this as an extension of their pre-existing responsibilities to ensure household food availability.

Neither men nor women reported any increase in gender based, or domestic, violence as a result of the cash assistance or the related increase in women's decision making. It is likely that this is largely due to women's protective practice of supplying men with funds to use for personal needs and, more commonly, the rapid spend of cash on food which eliminates the possibility of having to split the cash for non-food personal use. Both practices are strong coping mechanisms by women to reduce violence in the household.

Men did, however, raise frustrations at what they perceive to be changes to household power dynamics with women exercising greater decision making with cash. It is evident from discussions with men, and

women, that there is a need to strengthen sensitization and education of men on gender equality and empower men to be greater change agents.

Additionally, both men and women reported a lack of knowledge on how to communicate and negotiate effectively, and conflict free, within the household on cash. A suggestion raised by beneficiaries was additional support and skills in this regard.

5. Social cohesion

Beneficiaries report no noticeable changes in the relationships between refugee households since the introduction of cash assistance. Rather, the spirit of sharing resources, both cash and food, continues to be reported amongst households as a supportive ongoing practice.

In regards to relationships between refugees and host communities, similarly, there are no changes or challenges reported. Cash beneficiaries reported that relationships have actually improved as they are now able to purchase more from local markets. In-kind beneficiaries reported that they can at times receive payment for working on local farms when the need arises.

The scope of this follow-up assessment did not include engagement with host communities. This would be a valuable inclusion into future assessments to better capture any changes in social cohesion.

6. Accountability to affected populations

Across both cash and in-kind beneficiaries, there was a lack of confidence in the complaints and feedback mechanism. The majority of beneficiaries currently submit complaints to OPM or to their community leaders but all lamented that they rarely receive feedback or witness improvements arising from complaints. Beneficiaries also voiced that they submit complaints to Samaritans Purse but this seems to be largely only in regards to distribution lists. On this, they voiced frustration that there are no witnessed improvements on the distribution lists as this continues to be a recurring problem.

Beneficiaries were not aware of the role of WFP beyond the suppliers of food, nor did they know how to get in direct contact with WFP. The relationship between WFP and implementing partners was not known thus limiting the option of WFP as an alternative complaint and feedback mechanism should the need arise. Additionally, beneficiaries reported that they are regularly consulted by development agencies, including the UN, but rarely receive feedback nor do they have clarity on the specific roles and mandates of each agency.

It is evident that there is a need to strengthen the complaint and feedback mechanism as well as to raise the visibility and knowledge of WFP's role, responsibilities and capacity to support beneficiaries with grievances. There is also a need to strengthen the role of the community food committee as a component of the complaints and feedback mechanism for both beneficiaries and WFP.

There was also significant confusion between the nuanced differences of PSN and EVI with beneficiaries interchangeably using the terms. Beneficiaries displayed and reported a lack of knowledge of the eligibility criterion for EVI classification. They also additionally reported that there were many amongst the community that satisfied the EVI criterion who were not on the register. The challenges of the EVI framework and complaints and feedback mechanism were also reported in the November 2015 report and are currently being reviewed by WFP.

ANNEX

Annex 1: Explaining the Food Security index

A food security index was calculated, at household level, as an average of the scores obtained from the Food Consumption, Food Expenditure, and livelihood coping indicators. Each household was then assigned to a Food Security Index group viz. Food Secure, Marginally Food Secure, Moderately Food Insecure, and Severely Food Insecure.

The food security index is based on an algorithm which combines, at the household level, the results for each of the reported food security indicators (Food Consumption Score, Food Expenditure Share, and Livelihood Coping Strategies).

Converting food security indicators into a 4-point scale

A central stage of the methodology involves converting the outcomes of each of the 3 indicators into a standard 4-point classification scale. The 4-point scale assigns a score (1-4) to each category. Once all the indicators have been converted to the 4-point scale, the **overall food security classification** for a household can be calculated as below and as shown in **Table 14-1**:

1. The ‘summary indicator of Current Status’ was taken to be the equivalent of the Food Consumption Score (i.e. the 4-point scale scores) in the **Current Status** domain (CS).
2. Calculate the ‘summary indicator of Coping Capacity’ by averaging the household’s scores (i.e. the 4-point scale scores) for the Food Expenditure Share and the Livelihood Coping Strategy Index in the **Coping Capacity** domain (CC).
3. Average these results together: $(CS+CC)/2$.
4. Round to the nearest whole number (this will always fall between 1 and 4). This number represents the household’s overall food security outcome.
5. The resulting Food Security Index is categorized as shown in **Table 14-2**.

Table 04-0-1: Calculation of the Food Security Index

	Current status (CS)	Coping Capacity (CC)		Formula	Final Food security outcome for household	Overall food security classification
	Household Food consumption group*	Food Expenditure Share category**	Livelihood Coping Strategy Categories ***			
Example indicator score	3	1	4	$CS = 3$ $CC = (1+4)/2 = 2.5$	$(3+2.5)/2 = 2.75$; Round off to 3	Moderately Food Insecure

*Acceptable, Borderline or Poor; ** Food Secure, Marginally Food Secure, Moderately Food Insecure or Severely Food Insecure;

*** No coping, Stress coping, crisis coping or Emergency coping.

Table 04-0-2: Overall Food Security Classification categories

	Food Secure	Marginally Food Secure	Moderately Food Insecure	Severely Food Insecure
Food Security Index	Able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical coping strategies	Has minimally adequate food consumption without engaging in irreversible coping strategies; unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures	Has significant food consumption gaps, OR marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with irreversible coping strategies	Has extreme food consumption gaps, OR has extreme loss of livelihood assets that will lead to food consumption gaps, or worse.

Annex 2: Statistical tests

Household Food Expenditure

		Independent Samples Test									
		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	Lower	Upper	
cerealsF_cerealscost	Equal variances assumed	16.748	.000	-6.394	2287	.000	-22897.97247	3581.18367	-29920.68013	-15875.26481	
	Equal variances not assumed			-6.400	2064.986	.000	-22897.97247	3577.52968	-29913.91406	-15882.03087	
tubersF_tuberscost	Equal variances assumed	18.314	.000	-3.895	1659	.000	-9210.44485	2364.86766	-13848.88433	-4572.00537	
	Equal variances not assumed			-4.139	1458.904	.000	-9210.44485	2225.29920	-13575.57257	-4845.31714	
pulsesF_pulsescost	Equal variances assumed	19.507	.000	-6.937	2371	.000	-17284.41262	2491.66361	-22170.47782	-12398.34743	
	Equal variances not assumed			-6.977	2128.540	.000	-17284.41262	2477.45402	-22142.89597	-12425.92928	
fruegF_fruegcost	Equal variances assumed	2.414	.121	-3.244	1282	.001	-2856.54355	880.60527	-4584.12919	-1128.95791	
	Equal variances not assumed			-3.284	1280.722	.001	-2856.54355	869.70841	-4562.75316	-1150.33393	
proteinF_meatscost	Equal variances assumed	12.403	.000	-3.322	782	.001	-8472.95174	2550.39776	-13479.38816	-3466.51531	
	Equal variances not assumed			-3.477	726.305	.001	-8472.95174	2436.65815	-13256.68567	-3689.21781	
oilF_oilcost	Equal variances assumed	66.176	.000	-7.653	2072	.000	-11425.40696	1492.96069	-14353.26643	-8497.54748	
	Equal variances not assumed			-7.726	1987.907	.000	-11425.40696	1478.88446	-14325.73313	-8525.08079	
dairyF_dairycost	Equal variances assumed	4.066	.045	-1.495	206	.136	-9717.19959	6497.85385	-22528.02171	3093.62252	
	Equal variances not assumed			-1.572	146.337	.118	-9717.19959	6181.58037	-21933.90398	2499.50480	
saltF_saltcost	Equal variances assumed	1.220	.269	-1.519	2176	.129	-1071.96739	705.51302	-2455.51707	311.58230	
	Equal variances not assumed			-1.518	2145.669	.129	-1071.96739	706.03226	-2456.54622	312.61144	
teaF_teacost	Equal variances assumed	1.063	.303	.500	625	.617	688.40355	1376.60886	-2014.93530	3391.74240	
	Equal variances not assumed			.468	402.818	.640	688.40355	1470.99603	-2203.38431	3580.19141	
HH food expenditure over month	Equal variances assumed	20.688	.000	-9.335	2595	.000	-61908.23280	6632.13022	-74913.03485	-48903.43075	
	Equal variances not assumed			-9.398	2369.124	.000	-61908.23280	6587.23037	-74825.56638	-48990.89923	
HH nonfood short term expenditures over month	Equal variances assumed	25.698	.000	-5.329	2546	.000	-8574.12116	1609.09081	-11729.38120	-5418.86113	
	Equal variances not assumed			-5.377	2380.681	.000	-8574.12116	1594.72053	-11701.30586	-5446.93647	
HH nonfood long term expenditure	Equal variances assumed	22.357	.000	-5.888	2391	.000	-97196.68809	16508.02941	-129568.21807	-64825.15811	
	Equal variances not assumed			-6.037	1975.063	.000	-97196.68809	16100.46312	-128772.36604	-65621.01014	
household food expenditure share	Equal variances assumed	35.901	.000	2.175	2590	.030	2.23766	1.02860	.22069	4.25463	
	Equal variances not assumed			2.169	2499.690	.030	2.23766	1.03189	.21422	4.26110	

Food Consumption Score (FCS) and Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)

Type of assistance2		N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean					
FCS_1	Food	1287	41.4371	13.60120	.37913					
	Cash	1325	43.2472	15.26392	.41933					
HDDS	Food	1287	4.3908	1.12321	.03131					
	Cash	1325	4.6219	1.15608	.03176					

Independent Samples Test										
		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
FCS_1	Equal variances assumed	15.875	.000	-3.197	2610	.001	-1.81011	.56626	-2.92047	-.69975
	Equal variances not assumed			-3.202	2590.885	.001	-1.81011	.56531	-2.91862	-.70160
HDDS	Equal variances assumed	1.580	.209	-5.179	2610	.000	-.23106	.04462	-.31854	-.14357
	Equal variances not assumed			-5.181	2610.000	.000	-.23106	.04460	-.31851	-.14360

Household consumption of different food groups

Independent Samples Test										
		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
FC_main_staple_days	Equal variances assumed	3.239	.072	1.055	2610	.291	.07520	.07127	-.06455	.21495
	Equal variances not assumed			1.056	2609.966	.291	.07520	.07124	-.06450	.21490
FC_pulses_days	Equal variances assumed	5.499	.019	1.866	2610	.062	.15147	.08120	-.00774	.31069
	Equal variances not assumed			1.866	2609.963	.062	.15147	.08116	-.00767	.31061
FC_vegetable_days	Equal variances assumed	48.669	.000	-5.255	2610	.000	-.50706	.09648	-.69624	-.31787
	Equal variances not assumed			-5.247	2559.597	.000	-.50706	.09664	-.69655	-.31756
FC_fruit_days	Equal variances assumed	22.536	.000	-3.245	2610	.001	-.16656	.05133	-.26721	-.06591
	Equal variances not assumed			-3.251	2586.841	.001	-.16656	.05124	-.26703	-.06609
FC_meat_days	Equal variances assumed	30.105	.000	-4.298	2610	.000	-.26010	.06051	-.37875	-.14144
	Equal variances not assumed			-4.305	2590.892	.000	-.26010	.06041	-.37856	-.14164
FC_milk_dairy_days	Equal variances assumed	20.039	.000	-2.454	2610	.014	-.12898	.05256	-.23204	-.02592
	Equal variances not assumed			-2.460	2564.591	.014	-.12898	.05243	-.23180	-.02616
FC_sugar_days	Equal variances assumed	43.762	.000	-4.343	2610	.000	-.42563	.09800	-.61780	-.23345
	Equal variances not assumed			-4.350	2590.485	.000	-.42563	.09784	-.61747	-.23378
FC_oil_days	Equal variances assumed	.694	.405	.560	2610	.575	.05560	.09920	-.13891	.25011
	Equal variances not assumed			.560	2604.169	.575	.05560	.09922	-.13897	.25016