

1946

2021



Rapid Needs Assessment in Kayah State

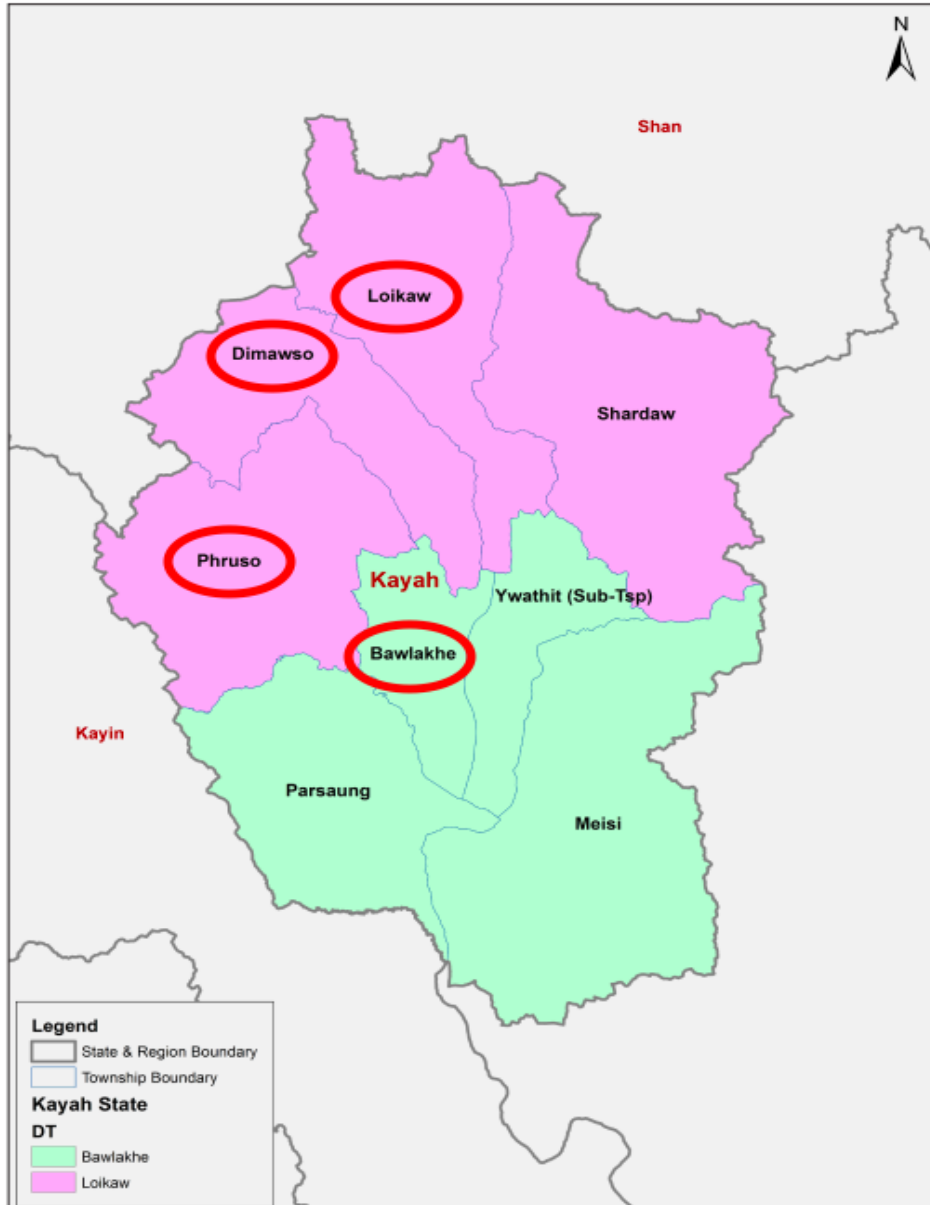
Key Findings

June 2021

unicef 
for every child



Background – Kayah State



Key Indicators

Total population: **330,815** (2019), **51.2%** are female

Children under 18: **130,010** (2019), **39.3%** of total population

% of children living below poverty line (2017): **38.2%**

Total number of households: **66,836** (2019)

Recent Conflict Situation

- Major clashes and fighting in Kayah State (May 2010).
- Civilians from the affected townships fled into nearby villages, forests, farms or other townships where community members provided support for the displaced people.
- Among the 4 townships where the assessment was conducted, Demoso and Phruso Townships have been the most affected by clashes.
- Insecurity is hampering access by humanitarian partners.

Rapid Needs Assessment: Objective and Methodology

- **Objective:** Generate evidence on the impact of the COVID-19, military takeover and recent conflict on household level basic needs, particularly children and women.
- **Multi-dimensional approach:** covering Health, Nutrition, Education, WASH, Child and Social Protection.
- **Evidence** enables UNICEF to provide humanitarian assistance and advocate, coordinate on humanitarian response.
- **Data collection** was deployed between 30th May – 1st June 2021.
- **200 respondents** (156 respondents, accounting for 78%, had children under 18 in their families) sampled from the four most affected townships, namely Bawlakhe, Demoso, Loikaw and Phruso.
- Questionnaire designed by UNICEF, deployed using KoBoToolbox and survey conducted by UNICEF Partner Mekong Economics.

Challenges

- Extremely short time-frame, particularly given the challenging location & the sample size of 200 respondents.
- Given the seriousness of the situation, difficult to find respondents who were able to talk to enumerators.
- Due to severely limited internet access, no enumerator training online; training conducted over phone in small groups (2-3 enumerators township).
- Limited mobile network and internet in select townships, including Phruso and Bawlakhe.

Limitations

- Sample was not randomly selected. List of respondents was compiled from different sources and snow-balled.
- Given the rapid nature of these surveys, it's not possible to 1) ask lots of questions, 2) ask any sensitive questions, 3) ask open-ended questions for detailed qualitative insight and 4) conduct more rigorous analysis.

General Information of Respondents and Families

156 out of 200 families
have children under 18

351 children under 18
(175 girls)

258 children (74%)
aged 6 and over

52% of respondents
are female

Majority of respondents
aged 24-49 (72%)

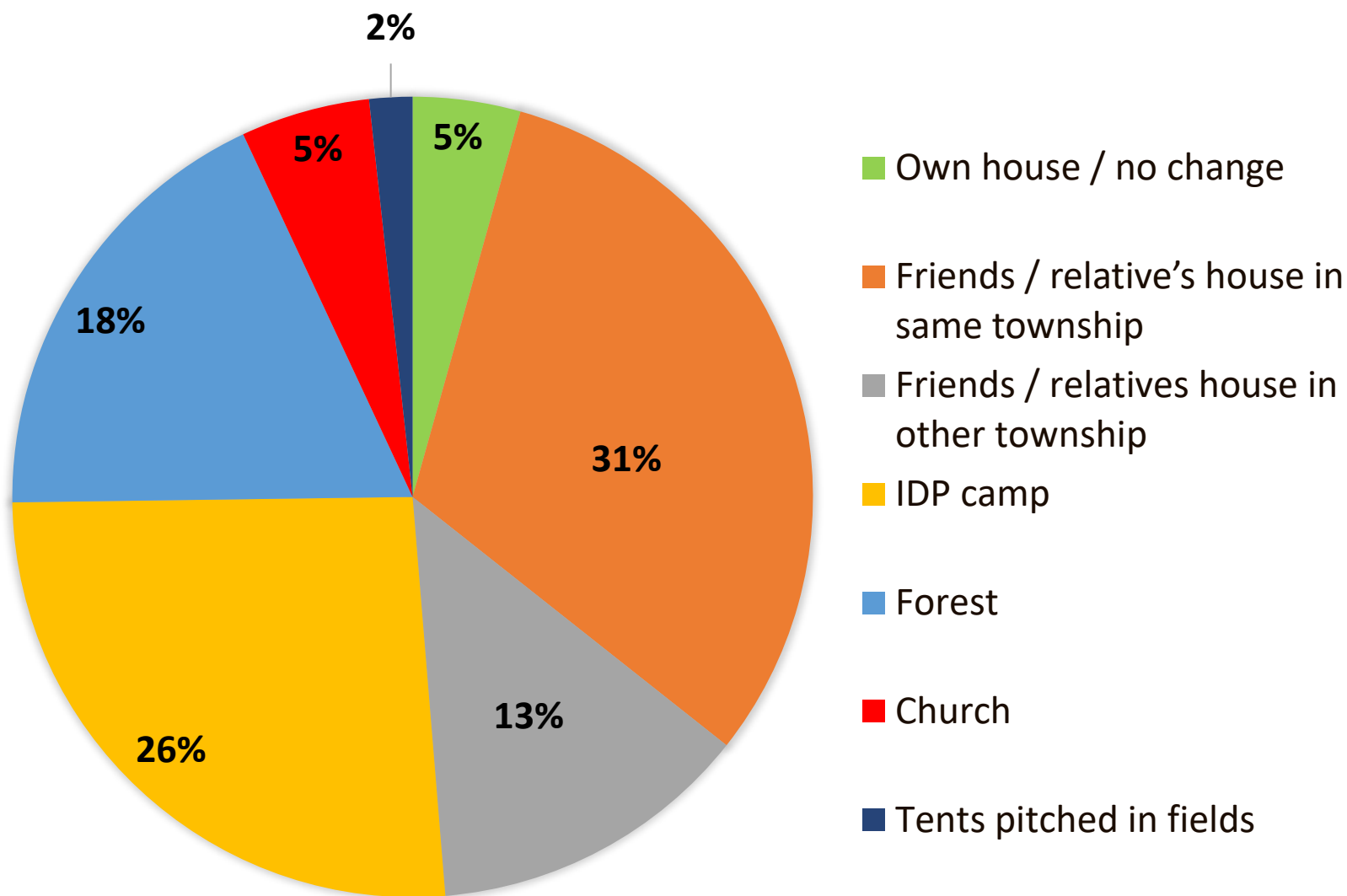
Average family size
was just under 6 –
consistent across all 4
townships

Change of Location

115 respondents (58 per cent) indicated the change of their families' location since the 1st of May 2021.

Nearly 90% of respondents changed their families' location over the last one week (i.e., week beginning 24th of May 2021).

Current Living Location

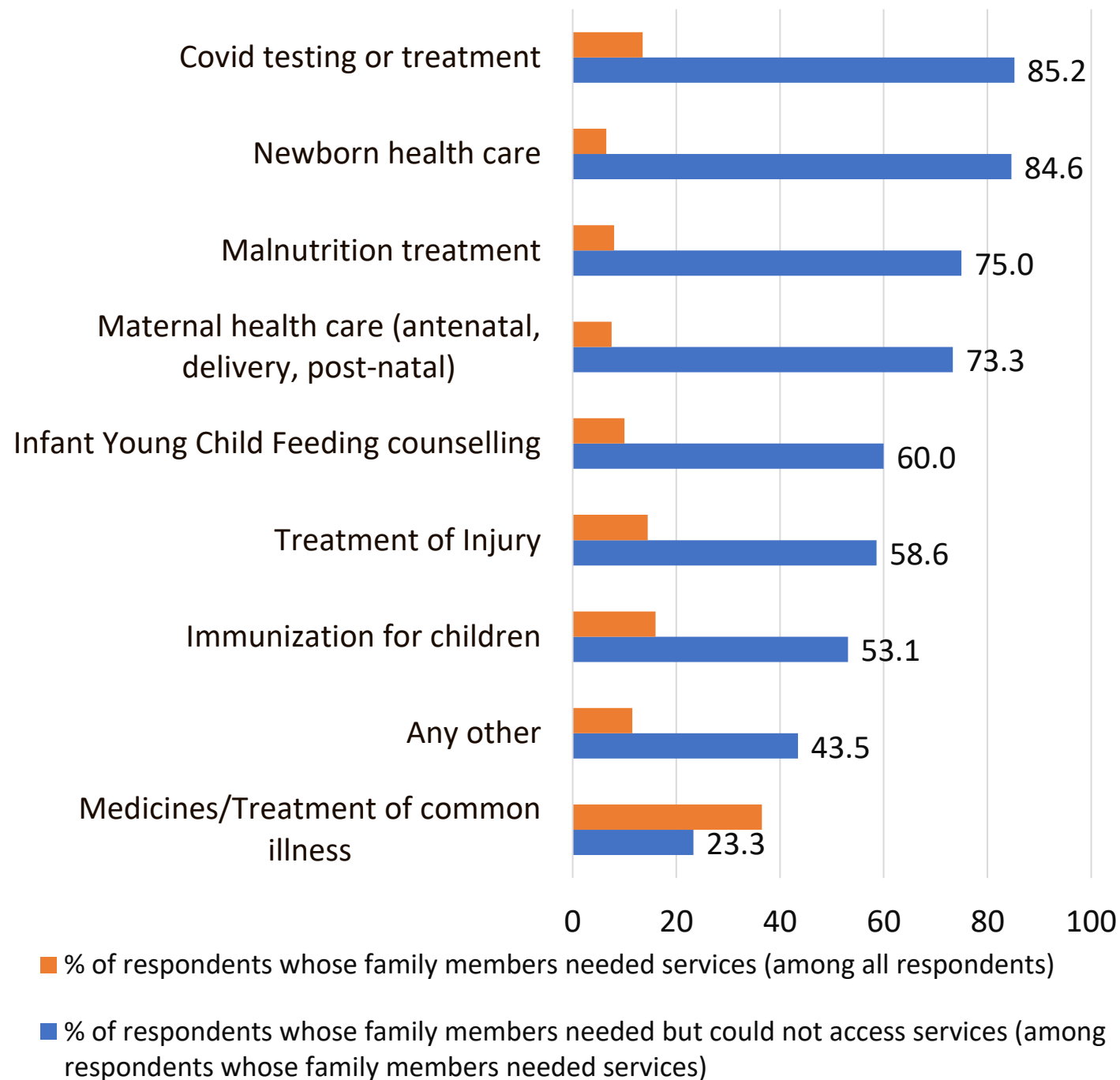




Access to Health Services

Evidence of barriers in access to health services for those who need them

- Only 15 per cent of people who needed Covid-19 testing or treatment were able to access
- Restricted access for maternal and newborn related services, and child-related health and nutrition services
- Only half of the children who needed immunization received it, increasing risks of preventable disease
- Highest needs is the medicines/treatment of common illness



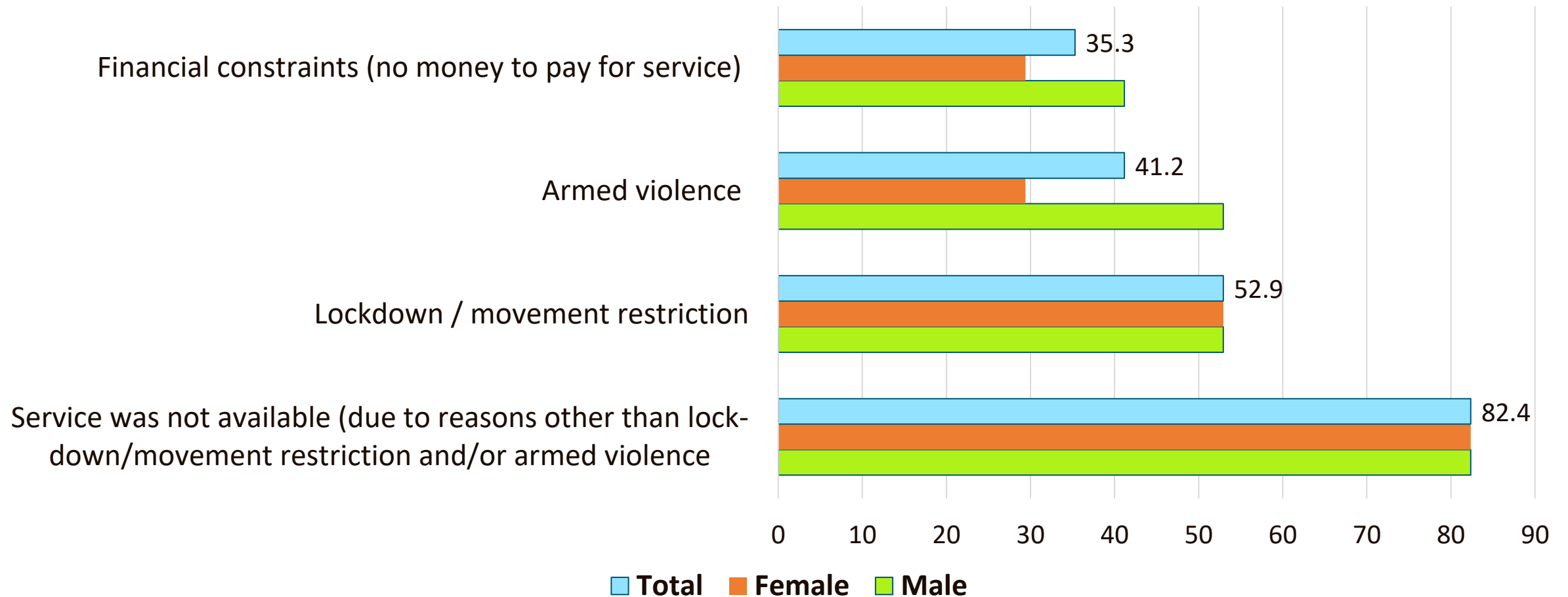
“I have an 11-month-old baby (Girl) and she got her latest vaccination in March 2021. Almost all Basic Health Staff (BHS) from the health centres in our local area have joined the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) against the military takeover, therefore, she (the baby) hasn’t had another appointment to receive her next immunisation shot. I, as a mother, am worried that she will not receive the full dose of the vaccine in this current situation,”

[Phruso Township]

Barriers to accessing health services (n=34)

Main barriers to accessing health services were service unavailability not due to lockdown/movement restrictions or armed violence

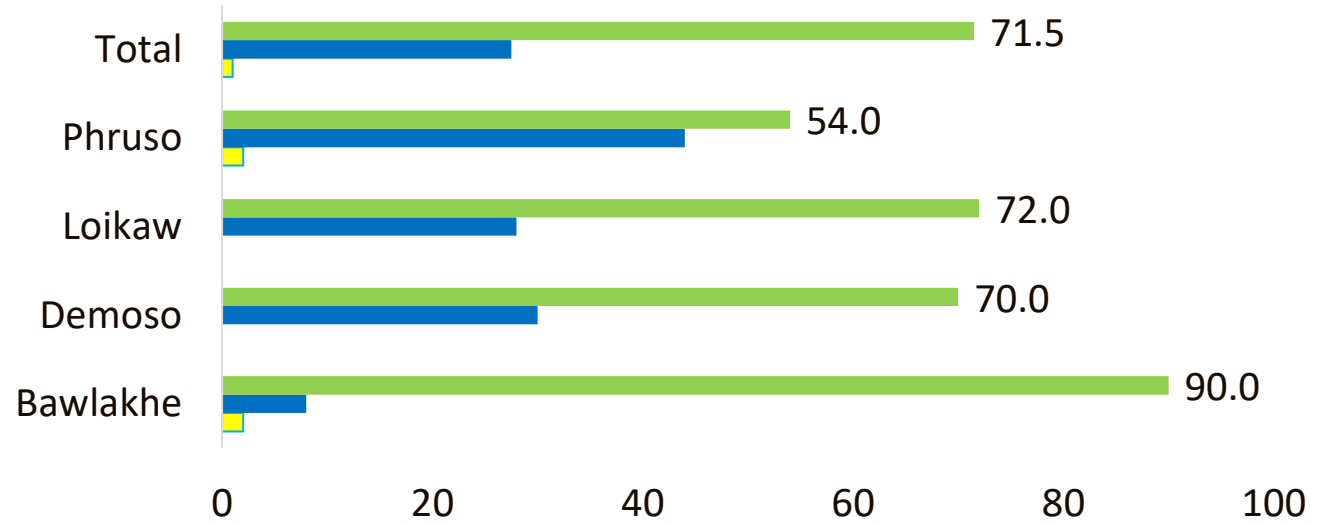
By sex of respondents (unit: %)



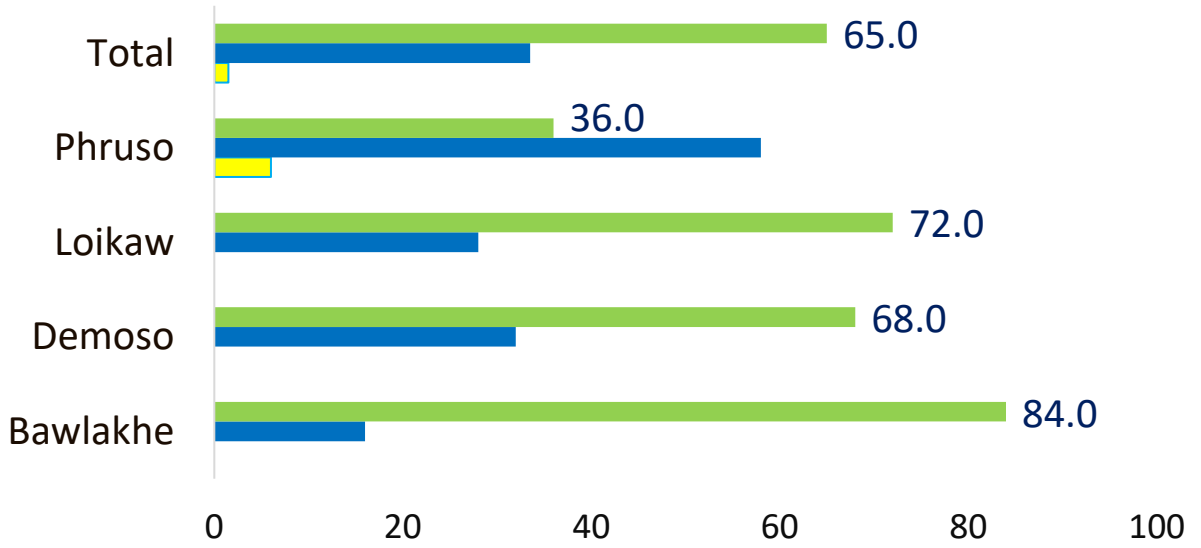
Food Security and Nutrition



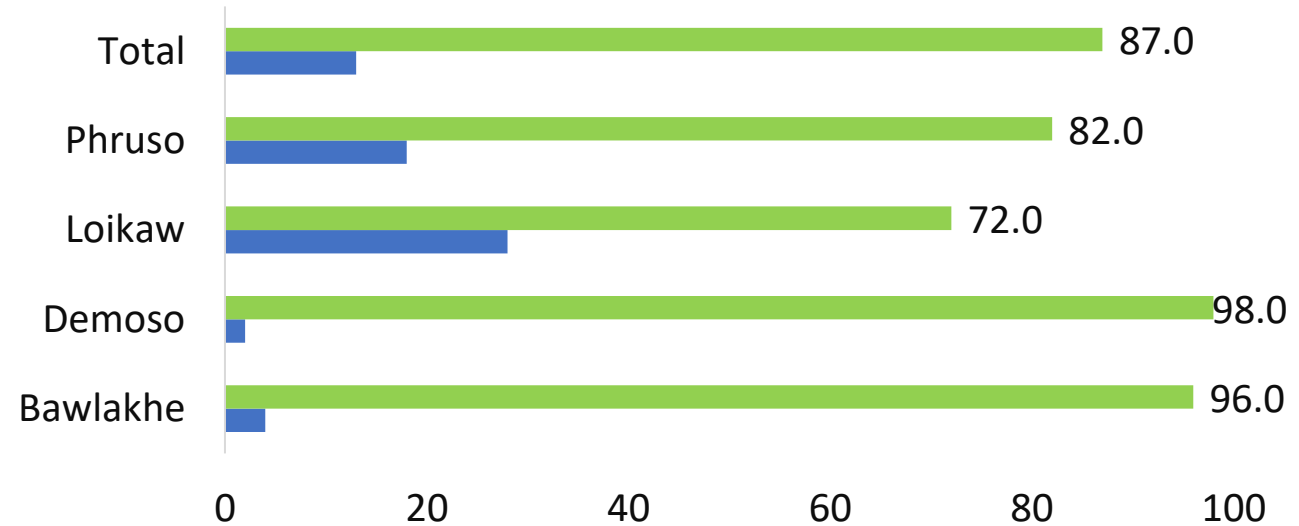
Large proportion of respondents indicated big increase in prices for all 3 essential items (rice, cooking oil and fuel), a trend that seemed to be happening with COVID-19, but exacerbated in the last one month



■ Big increase in price of cooking oil
■ Slightly increase in price of cooking oil
■ No change in price of cooking oil



■ Big increase in price of rice
■ Slightly increase in price of rice
■ No change in price of rice

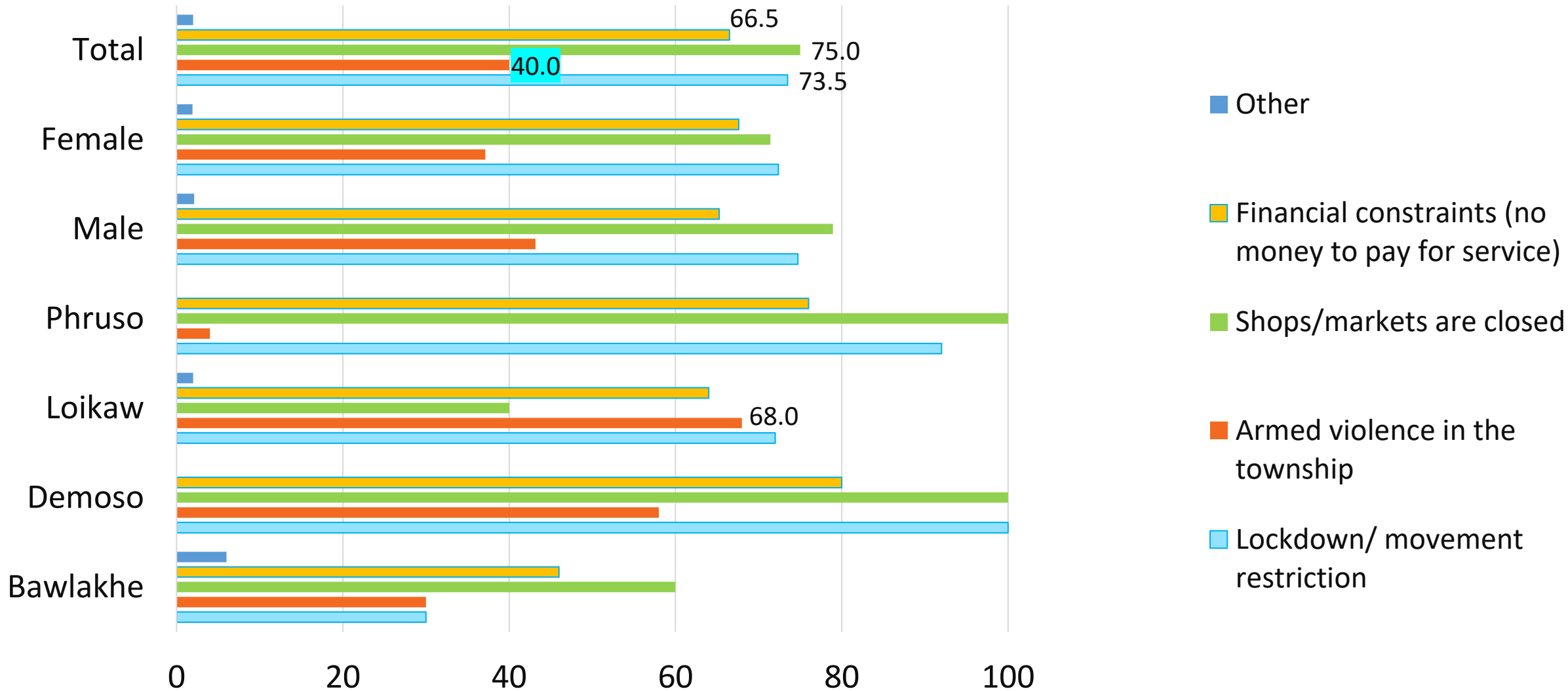


■ Big increase in price of fuel
■ Slightly increase in price of fuel

Closed shops, markets and Lock-down/movement restriction are most common challenge

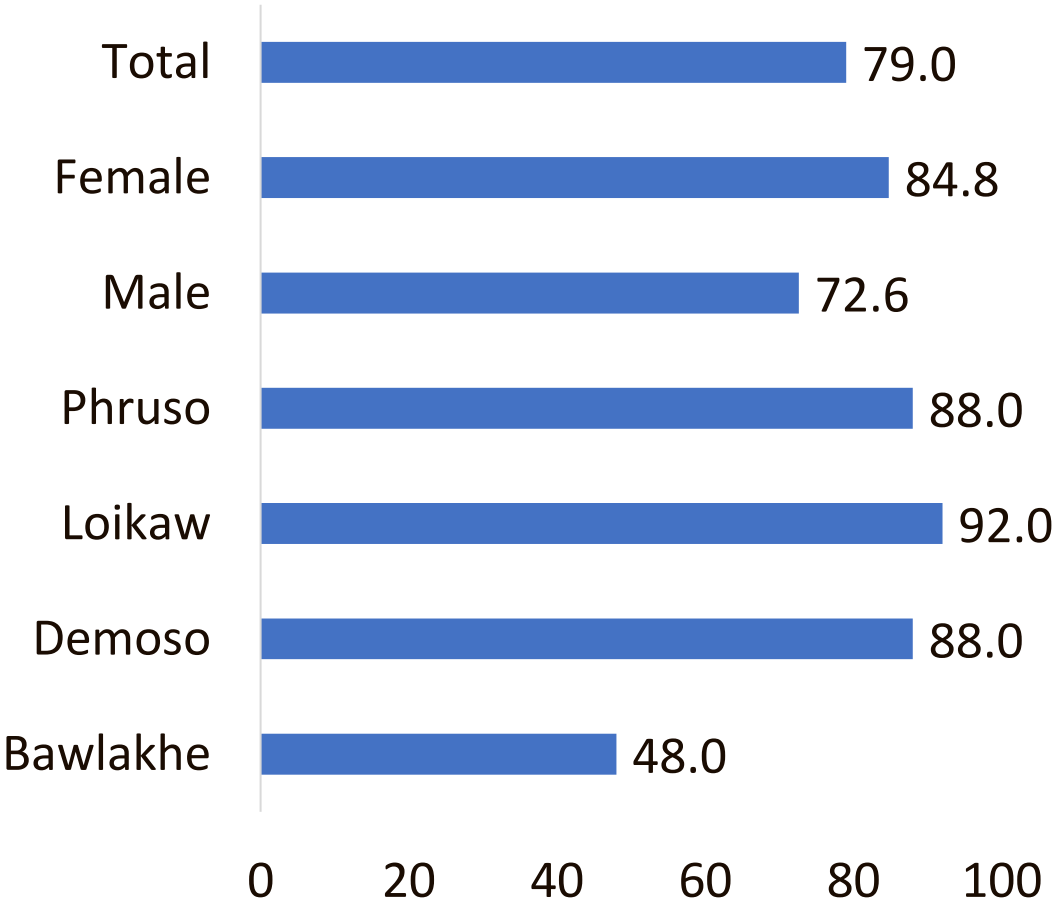
68% of respondents in Loikaw indicated armed conflict as main barrier to getting food

Challenges faced in getting food (%), by township and sex of respondents

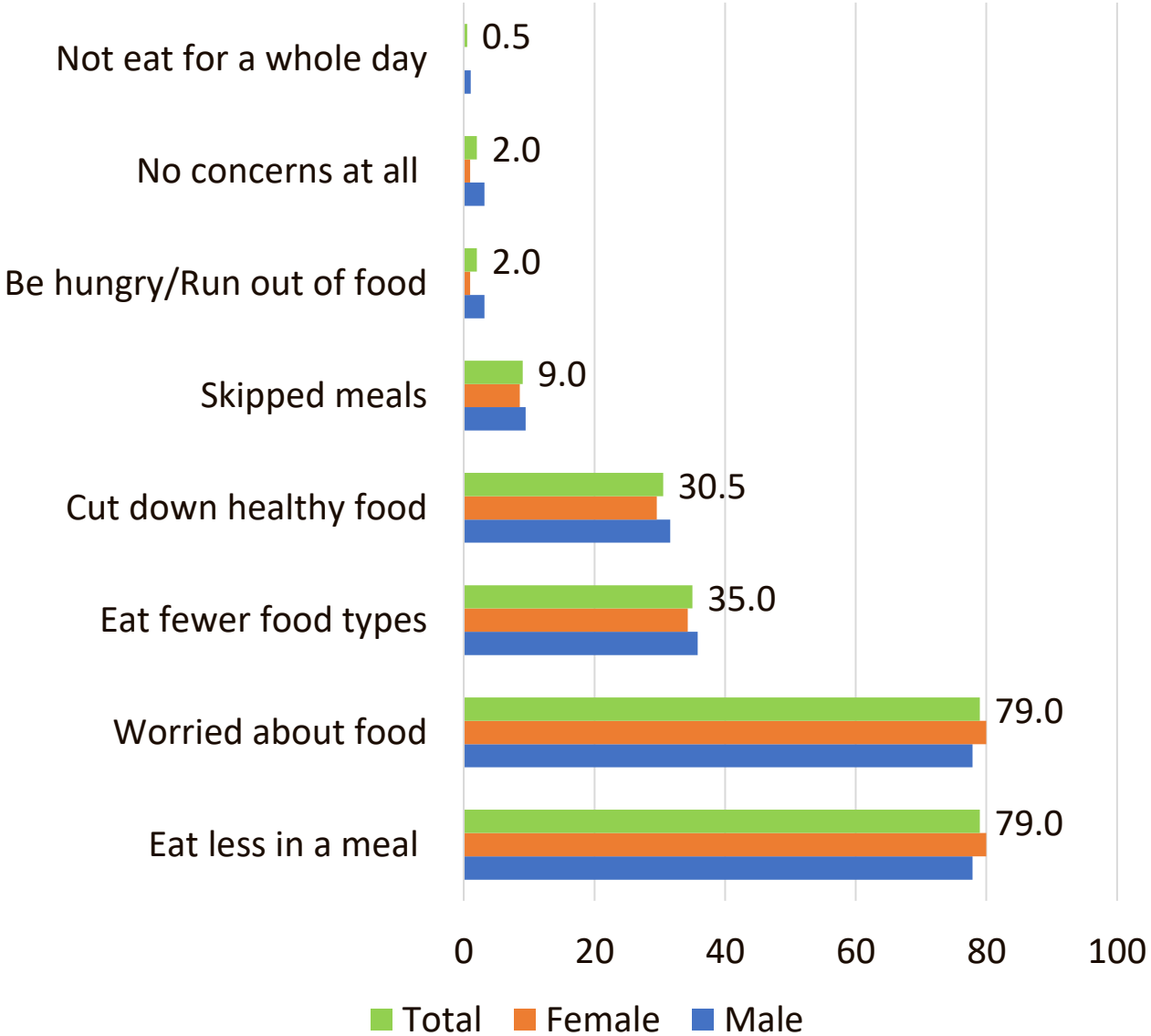


Food Consumption

% of respondents expressing concerns over not having enough to eat in the next week



Current challenges in fulfilling food requirements by sex of respondents (%)

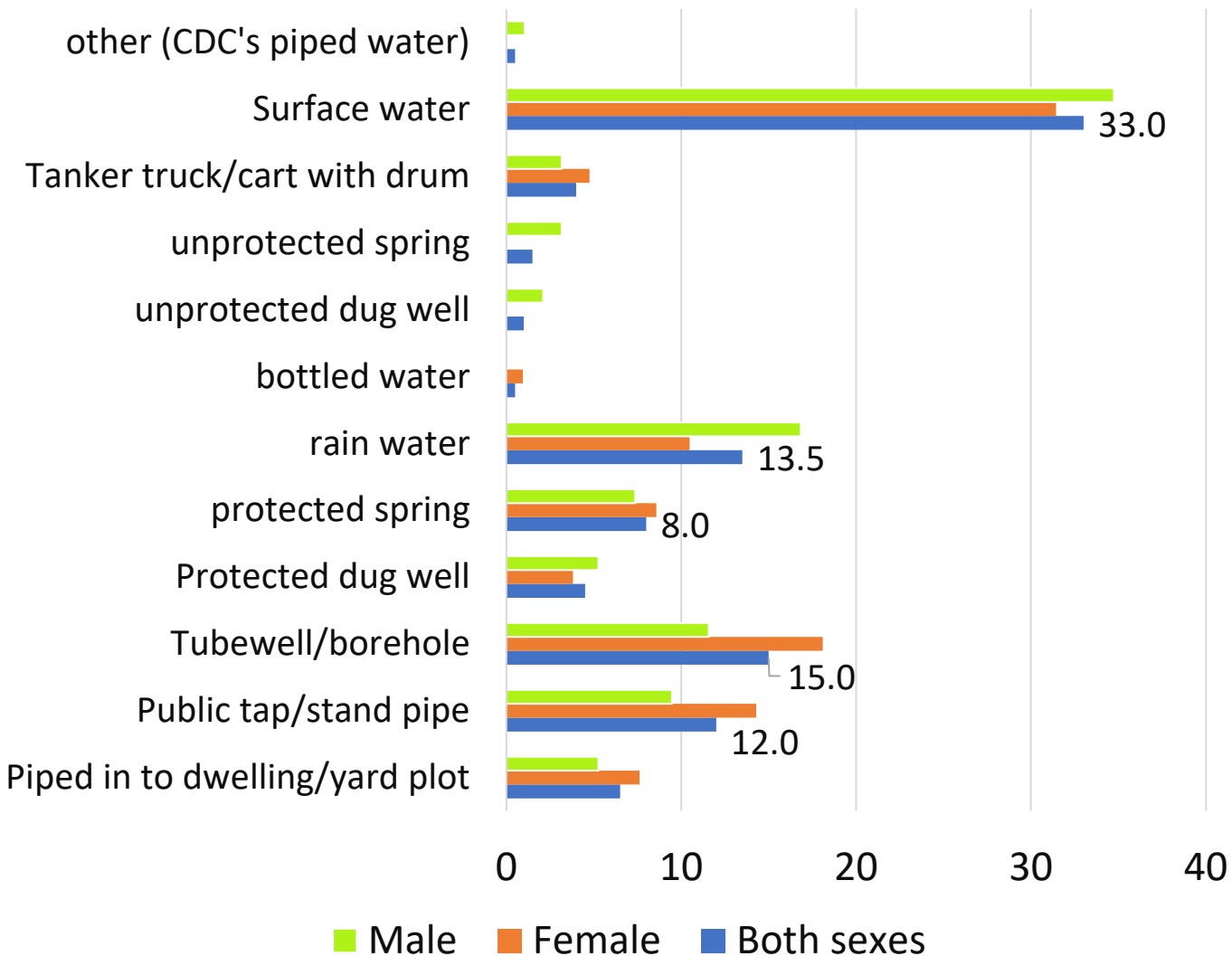


Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



Access to Water

Primary Sources of Drinking Water by Sex of Respondents (%)

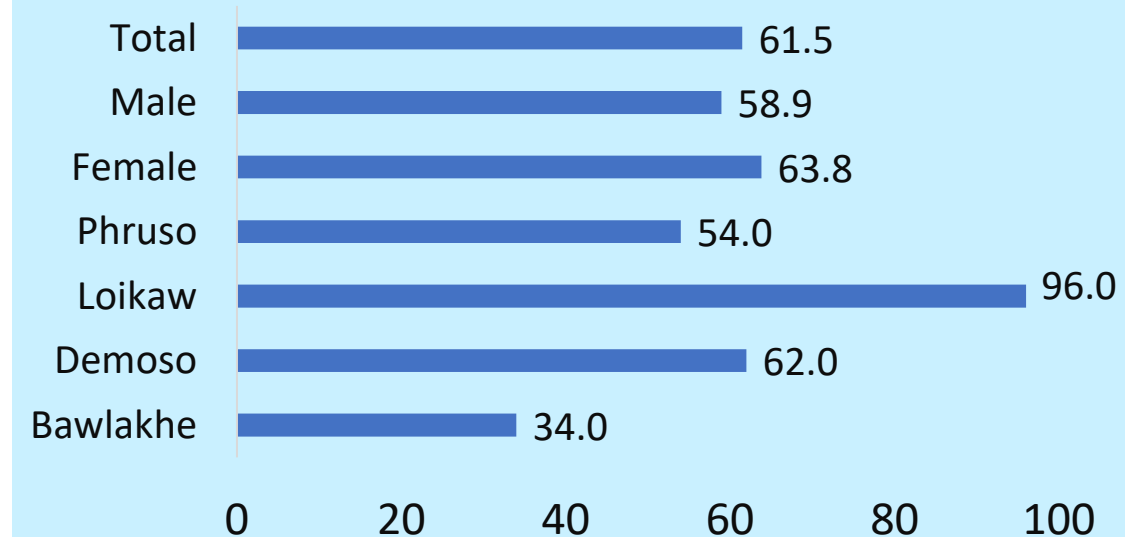


19% of families do not have sufficient drinking water

21.5% of families do not have sufficient water for cooking, washing and for latrine use

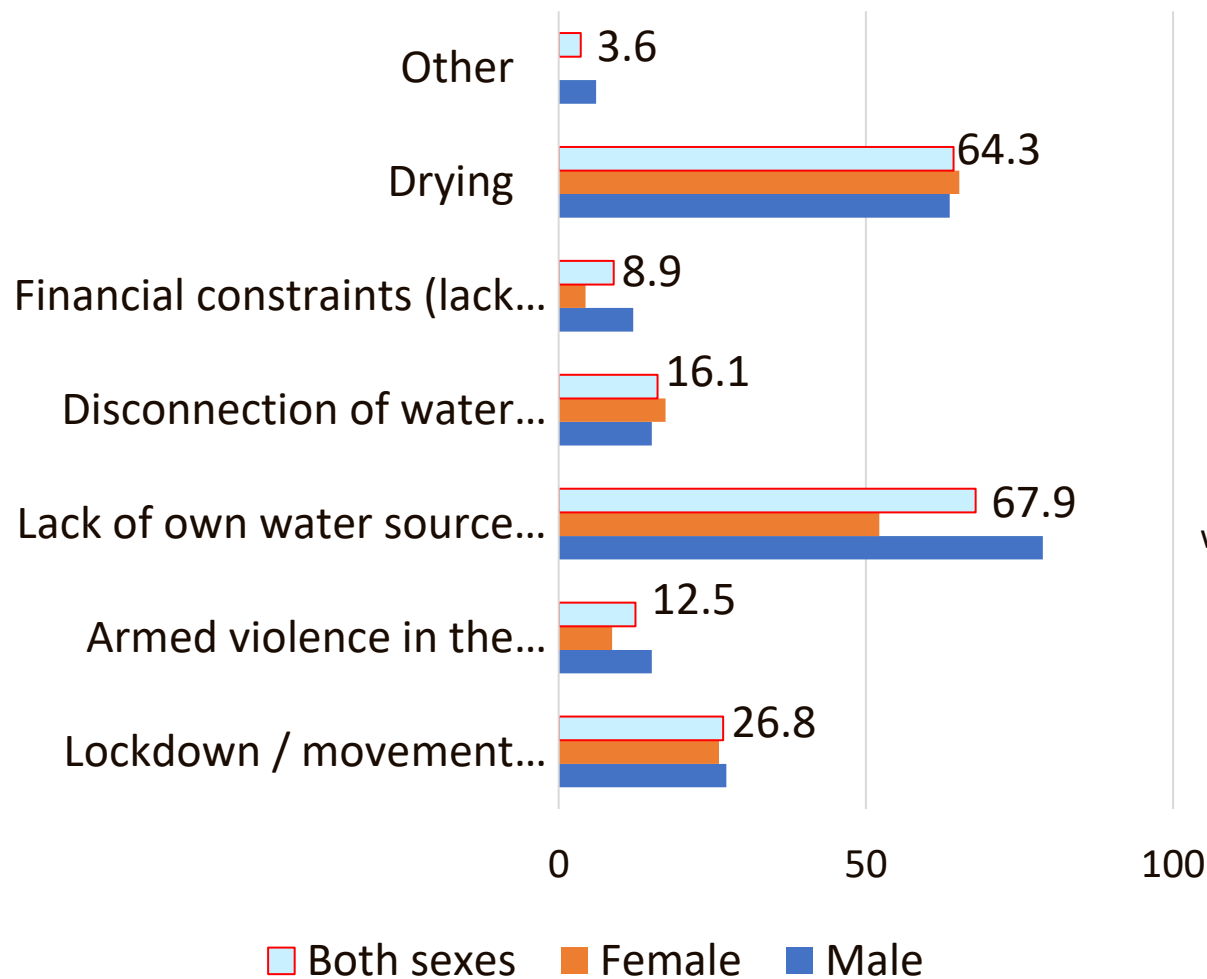
38.5% of families do not have access to improved water sources

% of families accessing improved water sources by township and sex of respondents

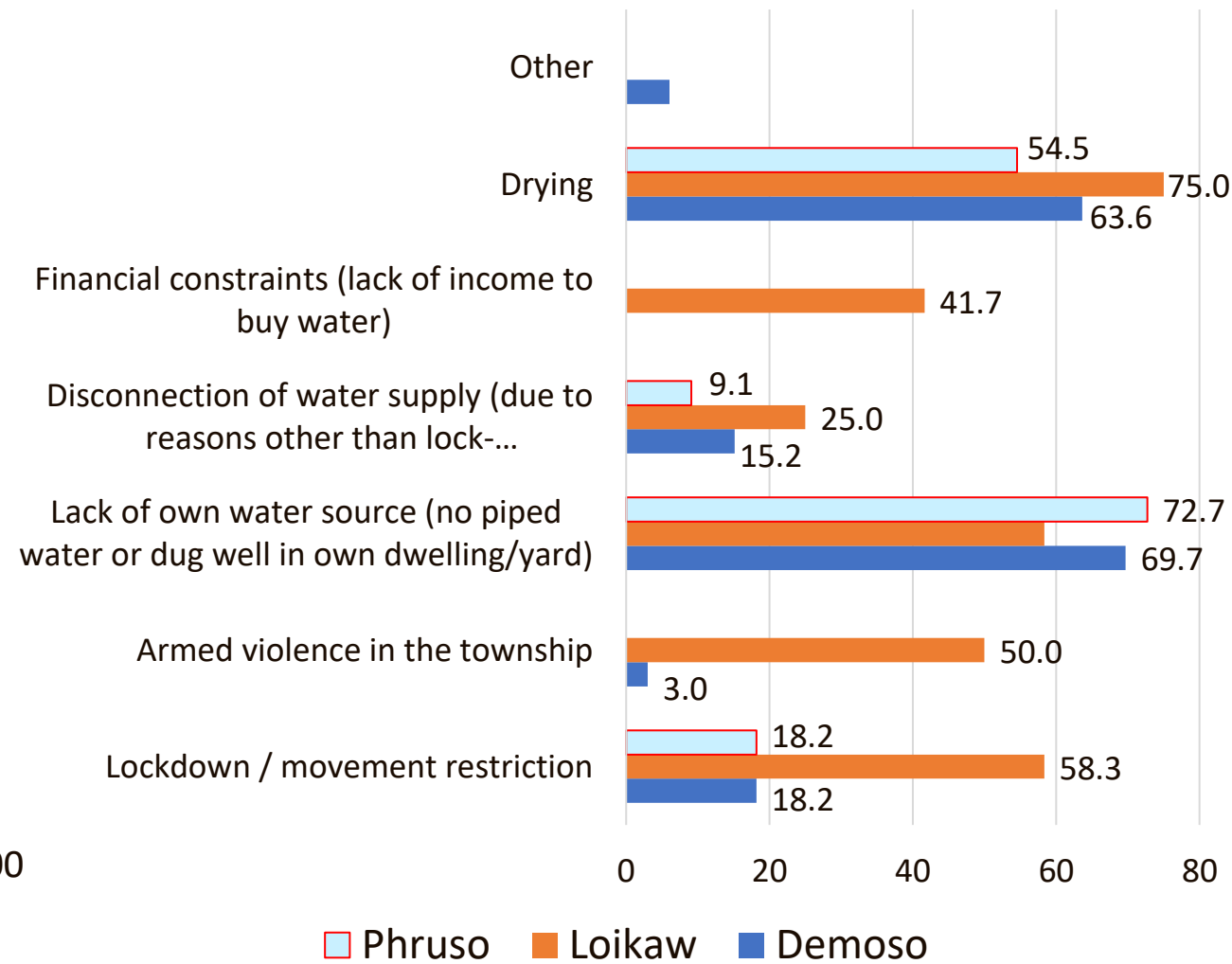


66% of families in Demoso encountered difficulty in accessing the water supply or disruption of water services in the last one month

Reasons for water access difficulty by sex of respondents (%)



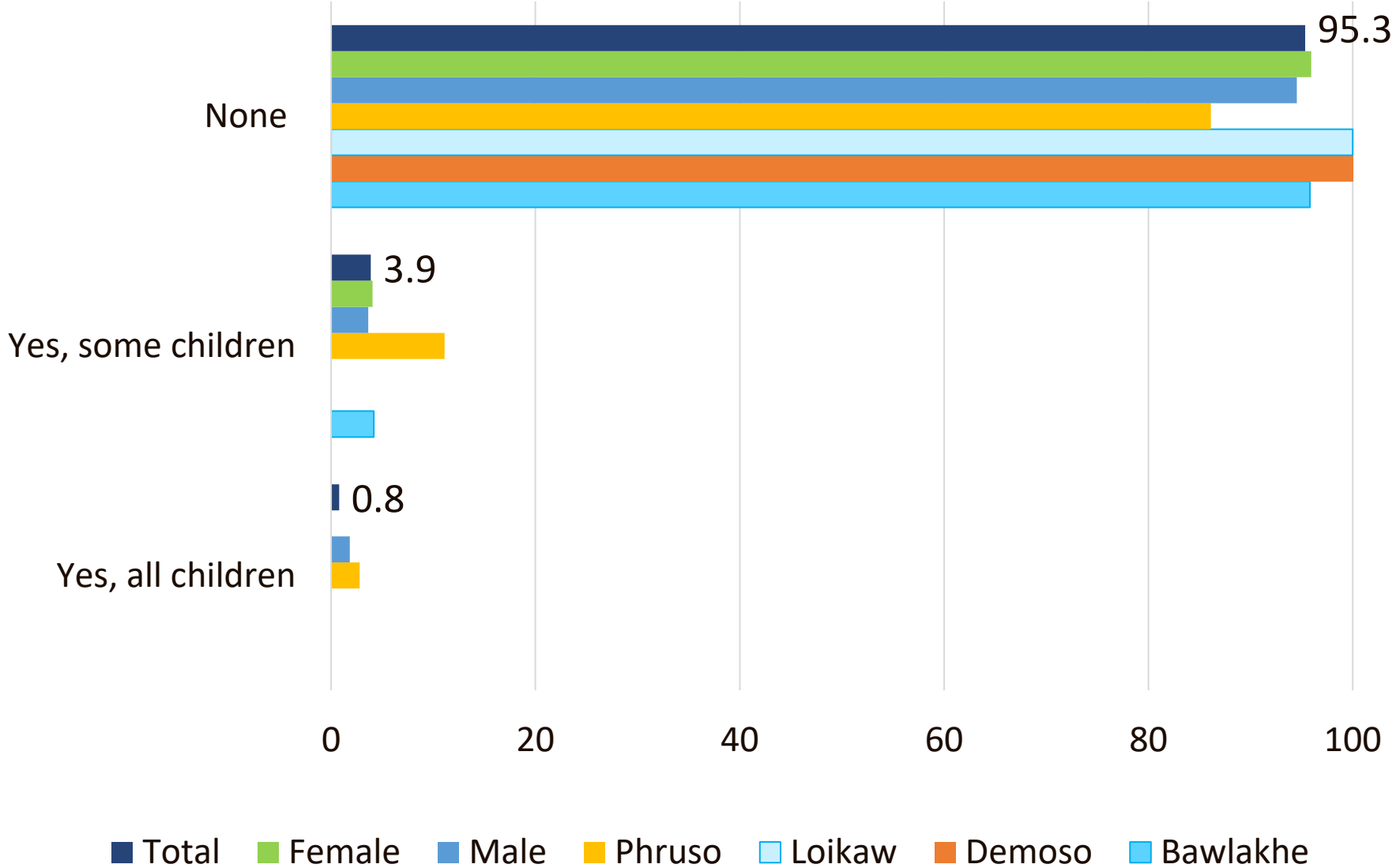
Reasons for water access difficulty by township (%)



A photograph of a classroom scene. In the foreground, a woman, likely a teacher, is focused on writing in a notebook with a pink pen. She is wearing a blue patterned garment. Behind her, a group of young children, mostly boys, are sitting on a blue patterned mat on the floor. They are dressed in school uniforms, including blue and white shirts and dark jackets. The children are looking in various directions, some towards the camera and others towards the teacher. The background shows more children and a dark wall, suggesting an indoor classroom setting.

Education: Alternative Learning Modalities

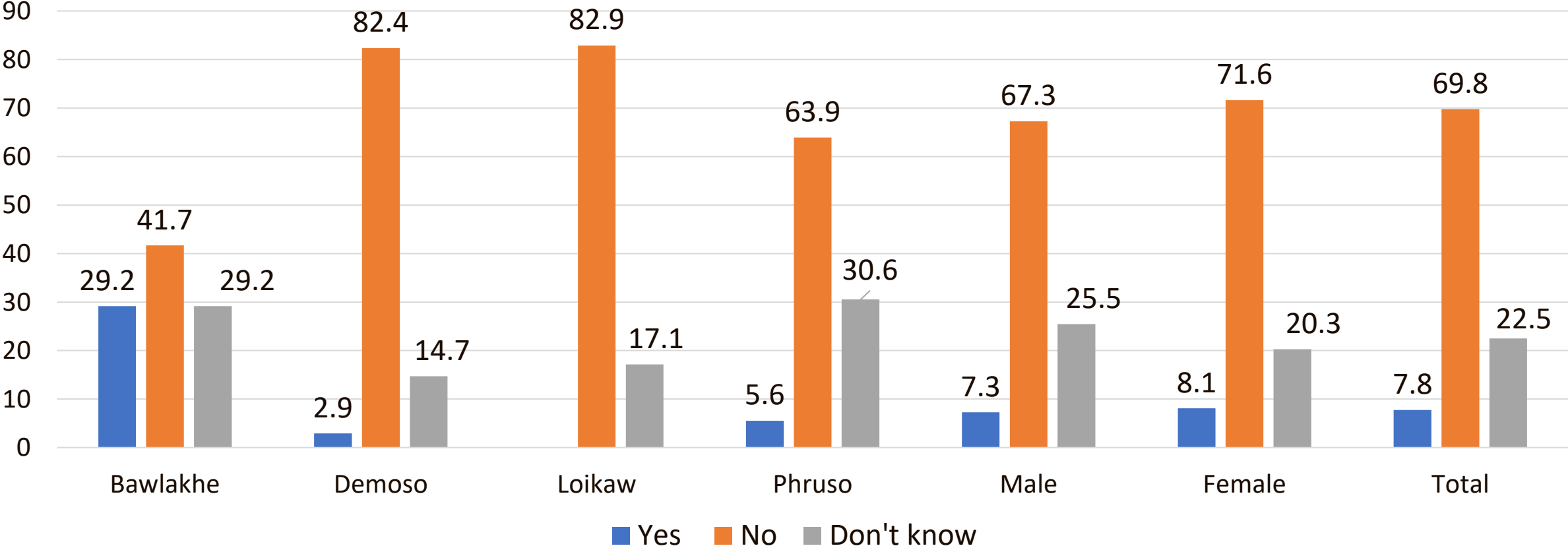
Access to Alternative Learning Modalities of children aged 6 and over by township and sex of respondents (%)



Only 6 out of 129 families with children aged 6 and over indicated that their children are accessing alternative learning modalities.

Few families are planning to send children to school in June. 69.8% are sure they will not, and 22.5% are unsure.

Planning to send children to school in June 2021 (%) by township and sex of respondents

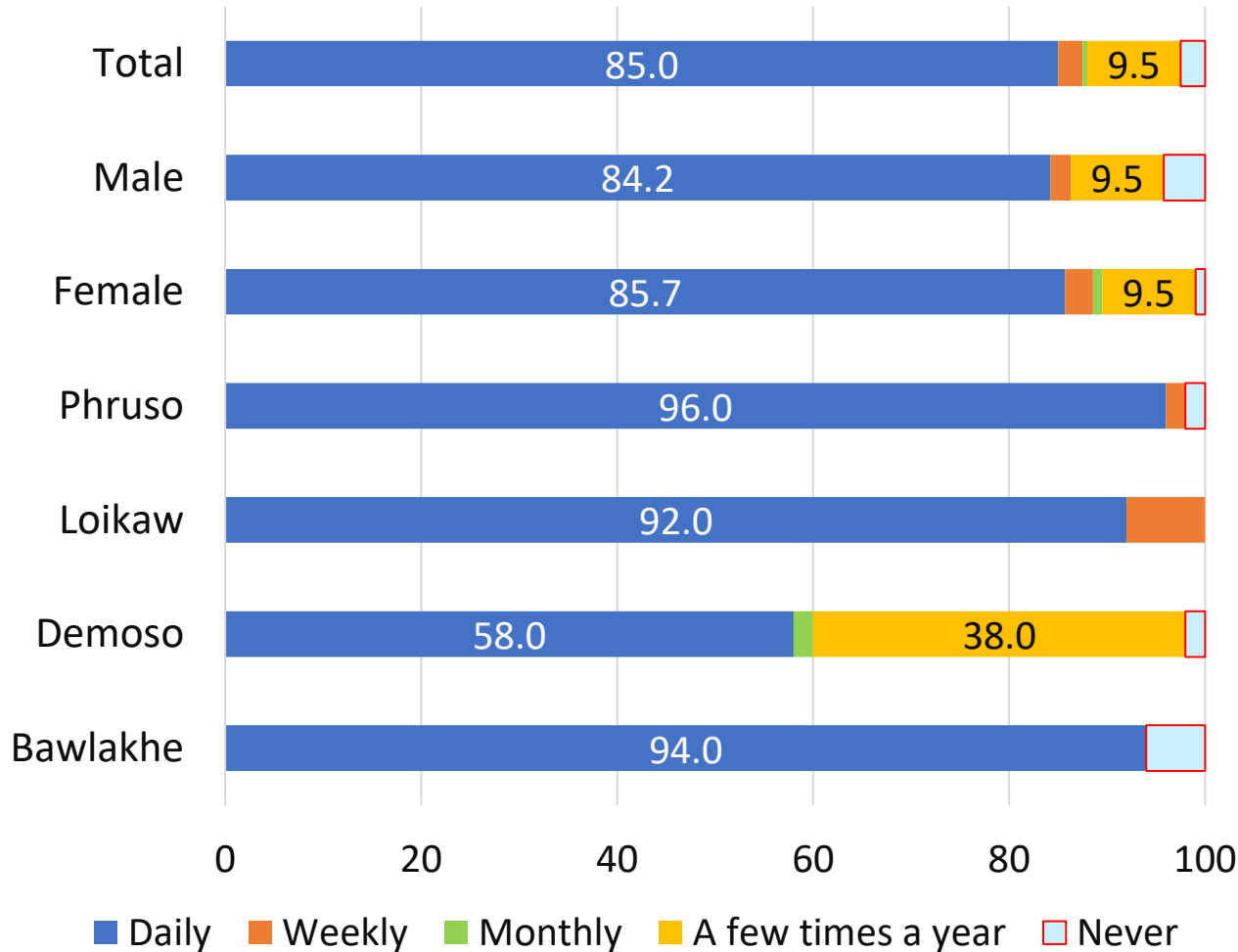


Mental Health

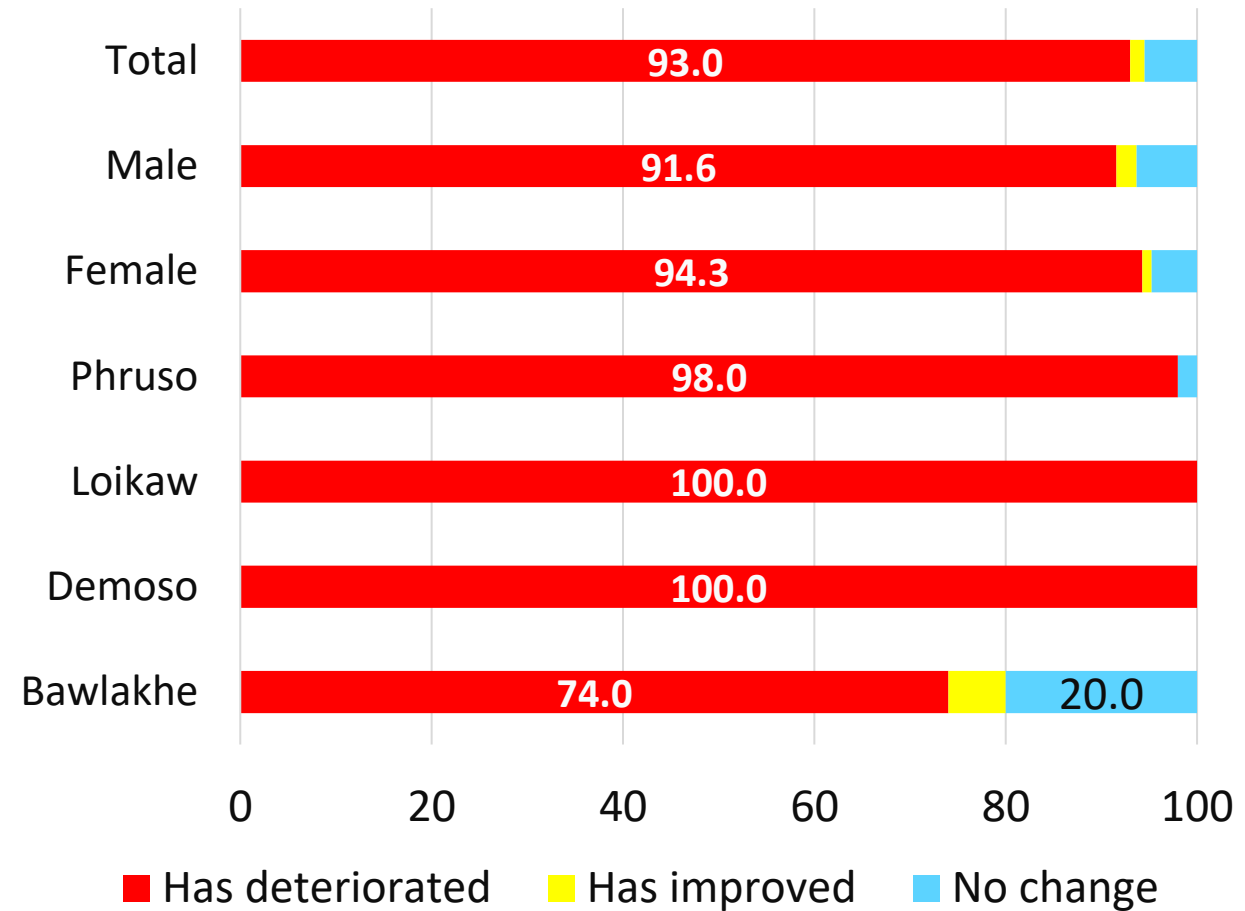


People are suffering from depression and anxiety, including children.

How often the respondents feel very anxious, nervous, sad or worried by township and sex of respondents (%)

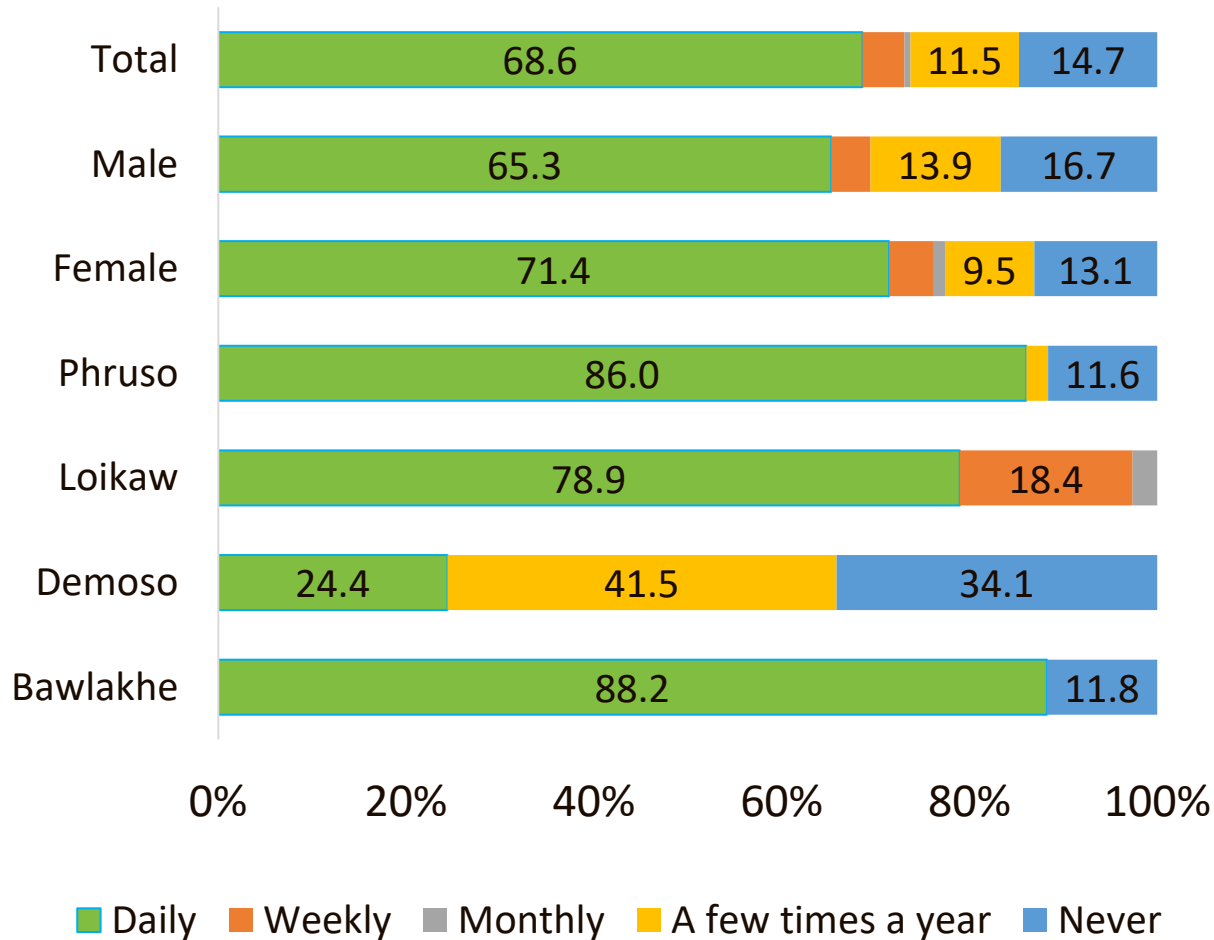


Changes in respondents feeling anxious, nervous, sad or worried compared to last one month by township and sex of respondents (%)

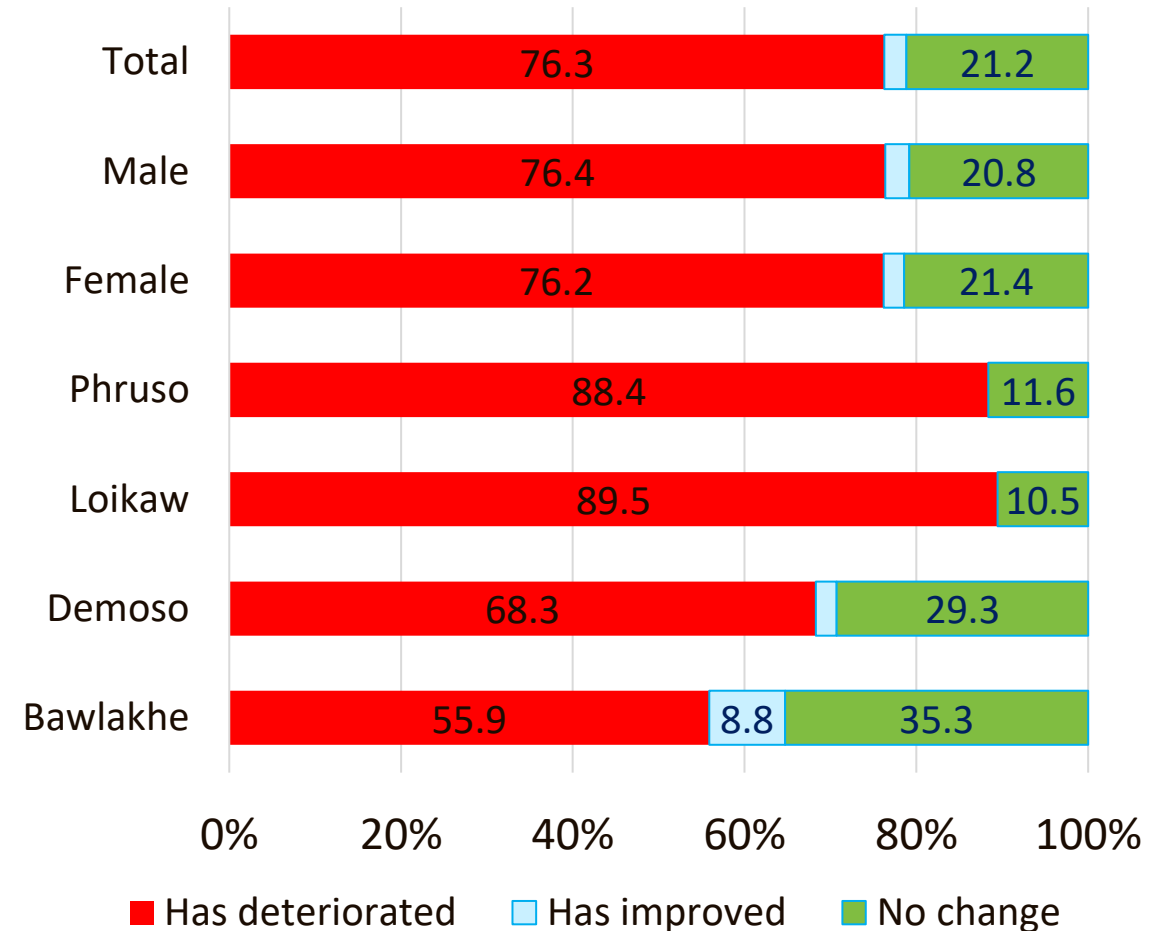


Children's feeling becomes more anxious, nervous, sad or worried compared to last one month

How often children in the respondents' families feel very anxious, nervous, sad or worried, by township and sex of respondents (%)



Changes in children feeling anxious, nervous, sad or worried compared to last one month, by township and sex of respondents (%)



Family Income and Assistance

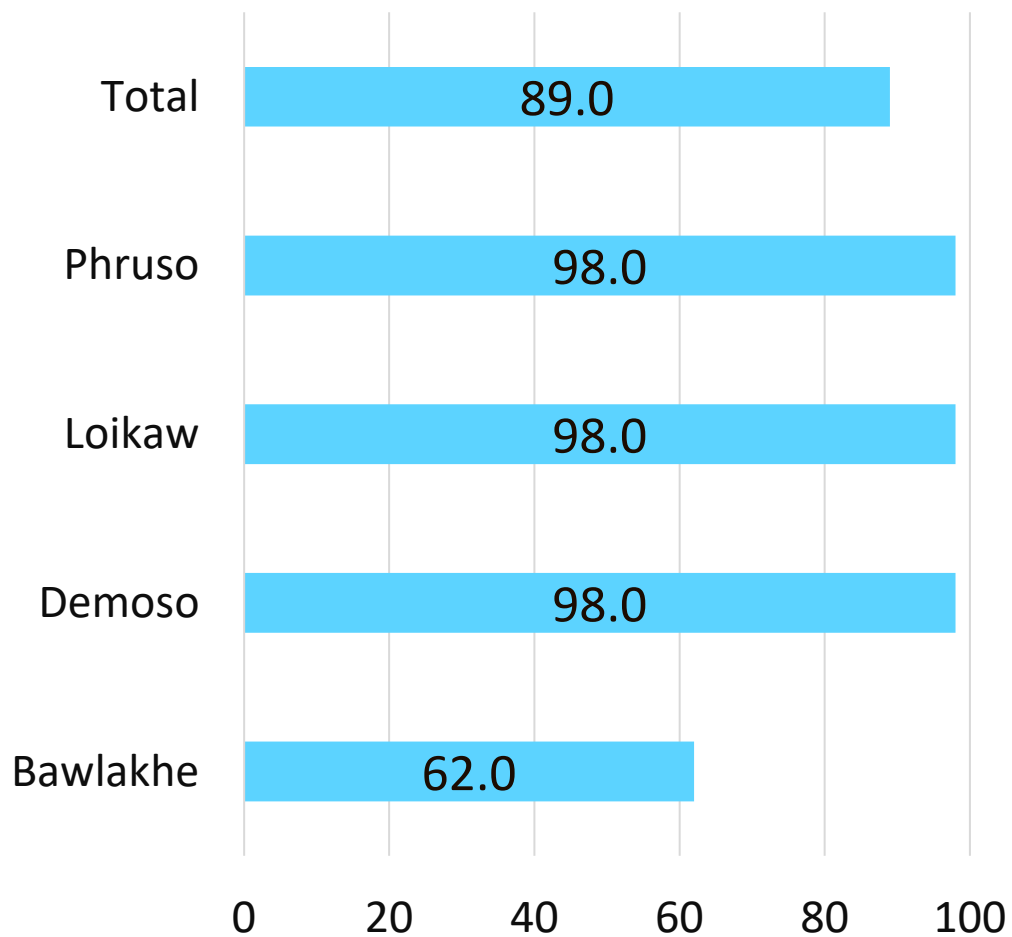


*Volunteers donating lunch at an IDP camp in Demoso Township
— Photo by Mekona Economics*

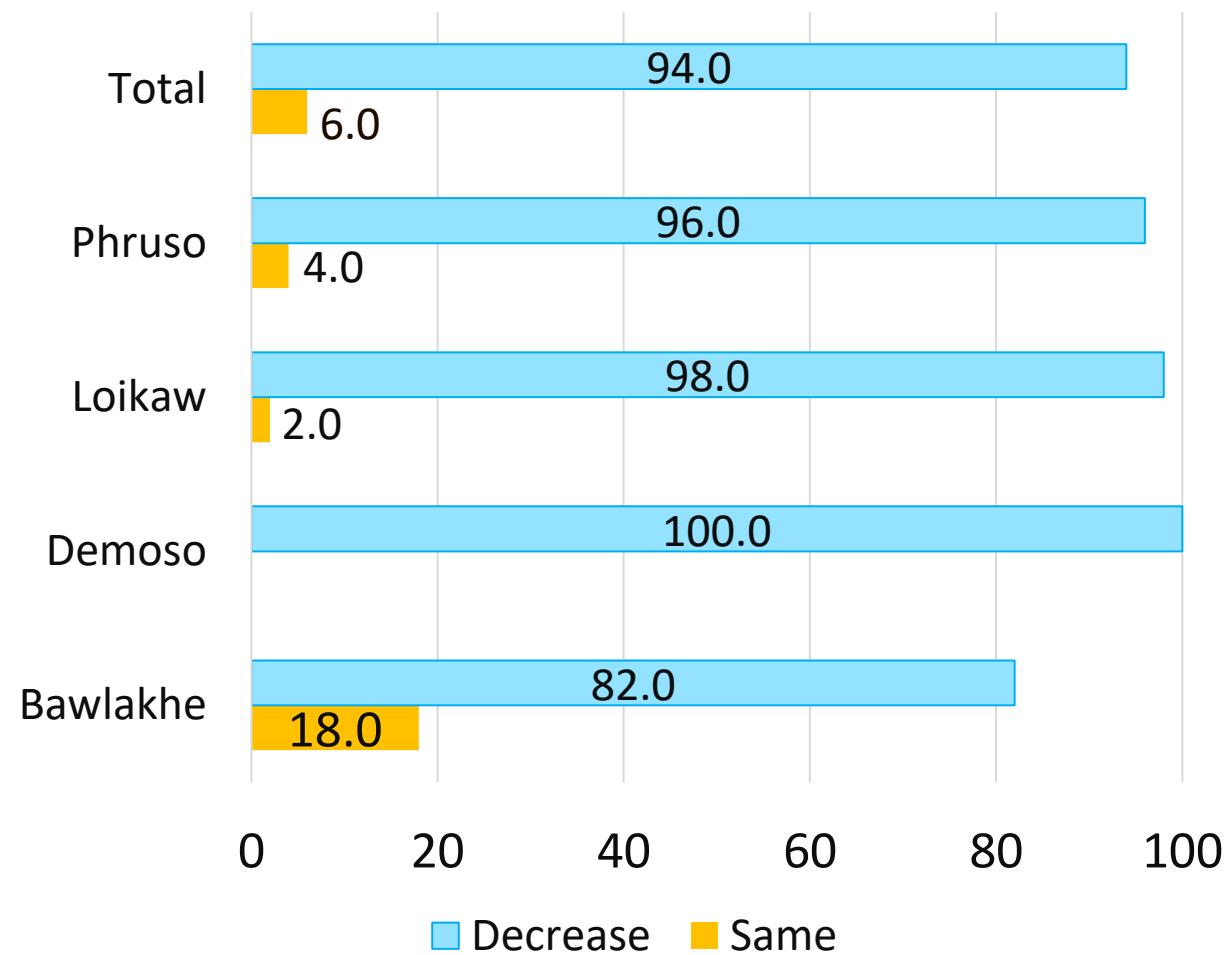
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Almost all of families have no income at present and the situation worsens compared to the last one month.

% of families with no income at present by township



Family's income changed compared to last one month, by township (%)

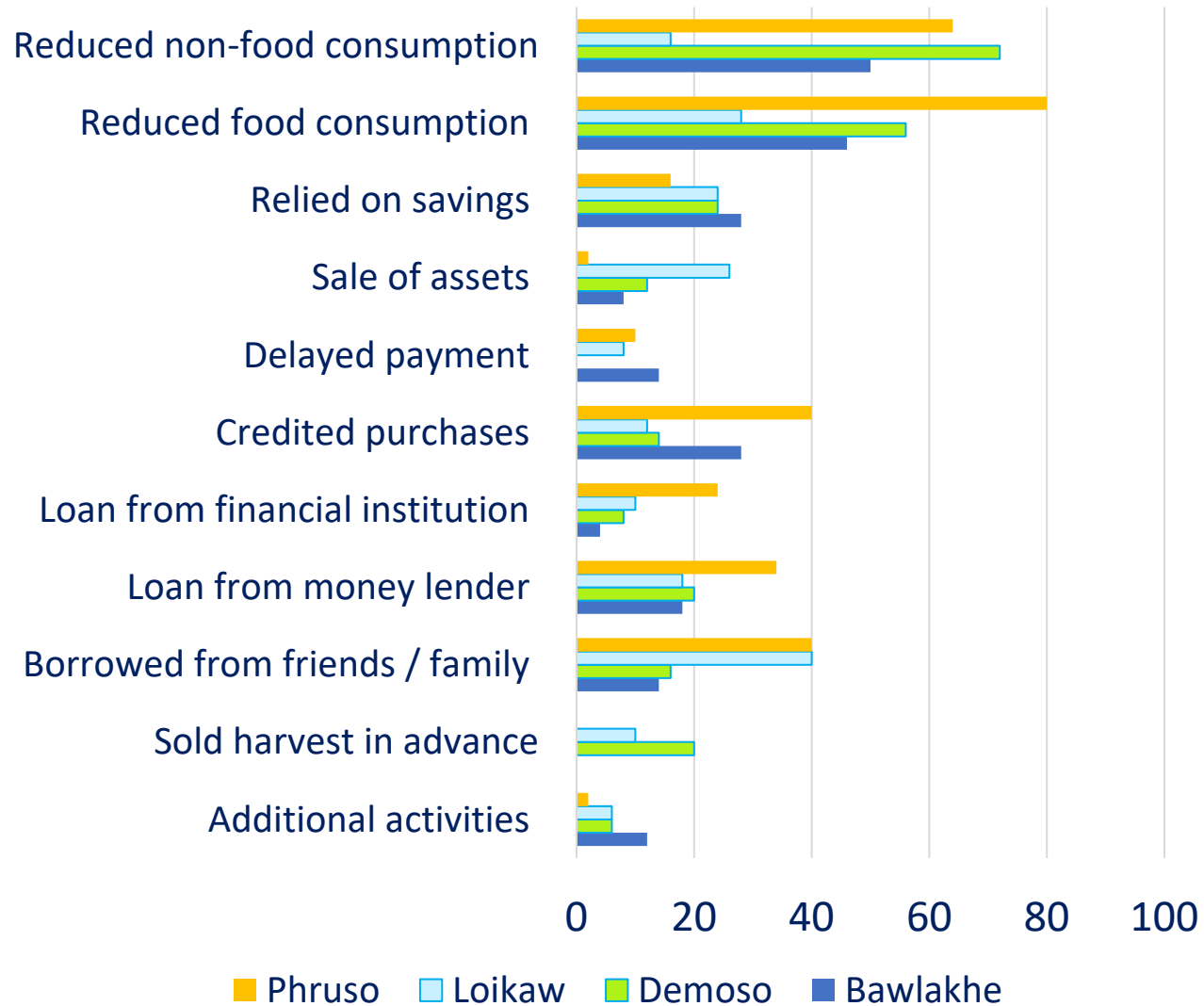


Coping Strategies

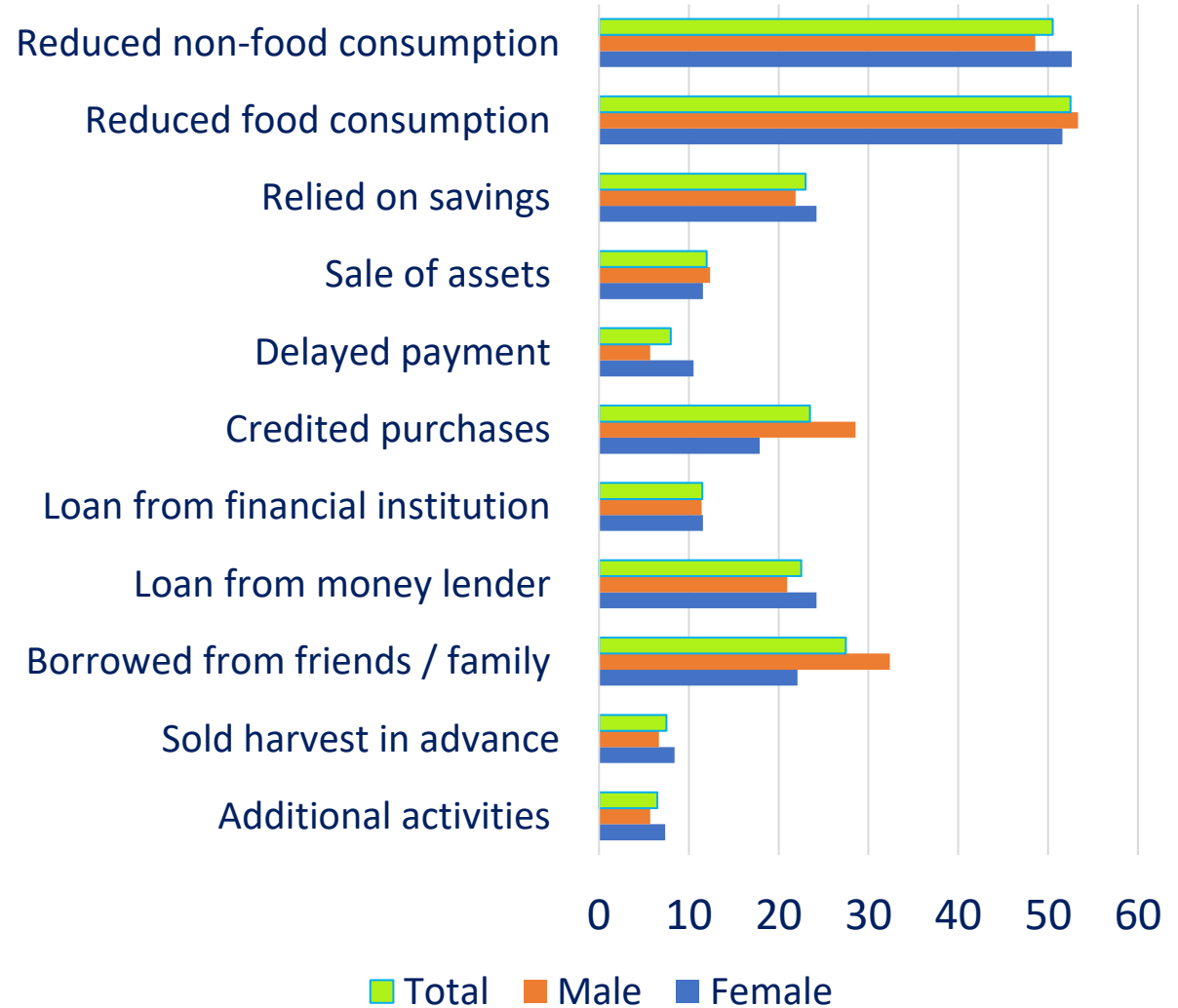


Reduced food and non-food consumption are 2 most common coping strategies of families

Coping Strategies, by township (%)



Coping Strategies, by Sex of Respondents (%)



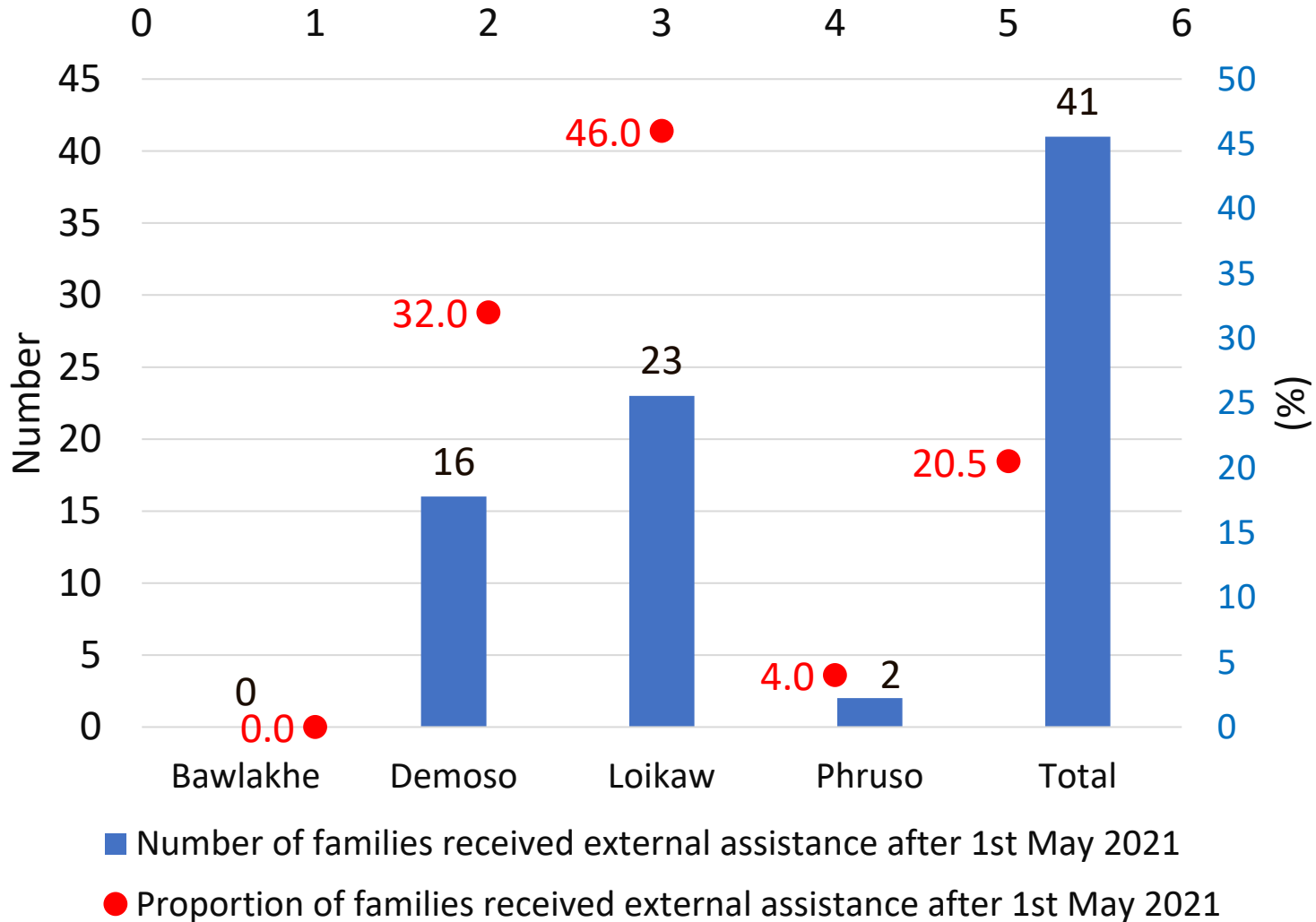
Needs and Assistance



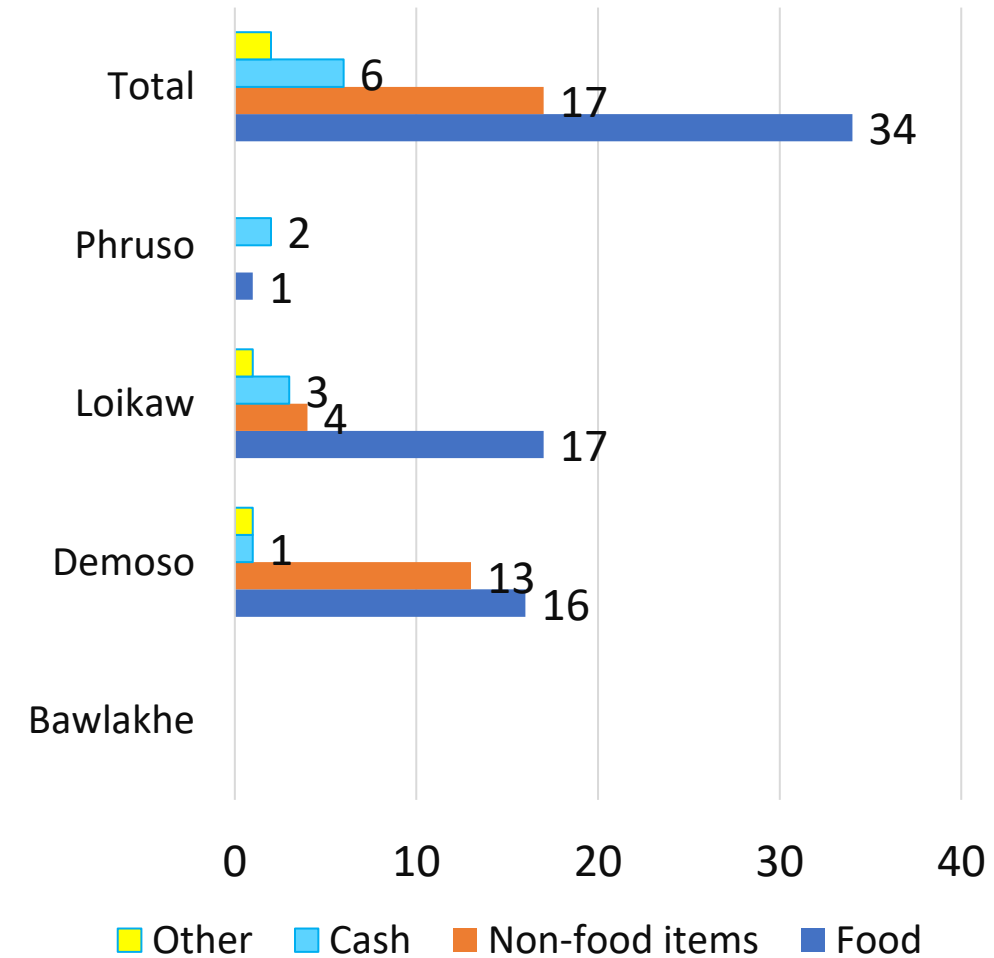
Only 20.5% of respondents' families have received external assistance since May 2021

82.9% receiving food, 41.5% receiving non-food items and 16.4% receiving cash

Number and proportion of families received external assistance after 1st May 2021

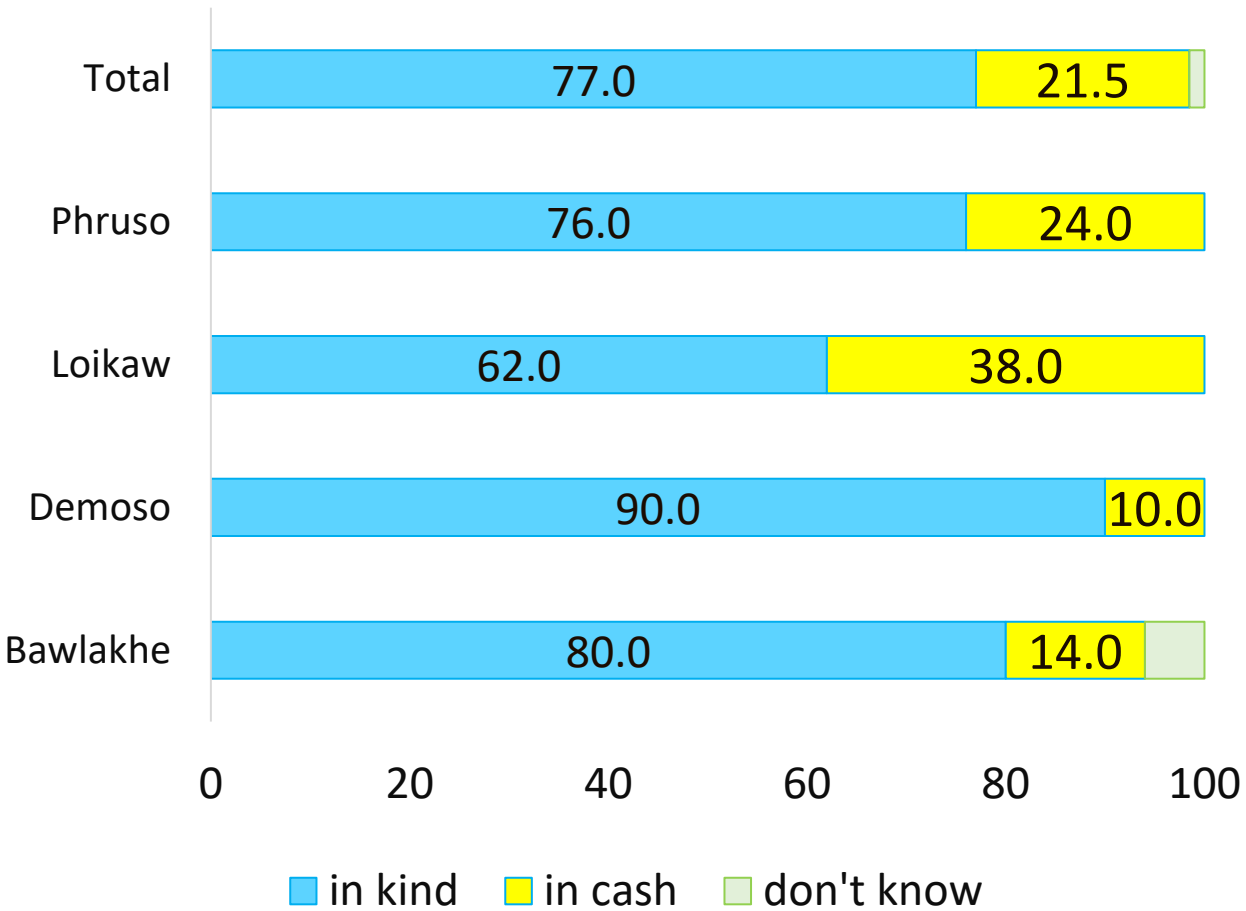


Number and type of external assistance received by families after the 1st of May 2021 by township

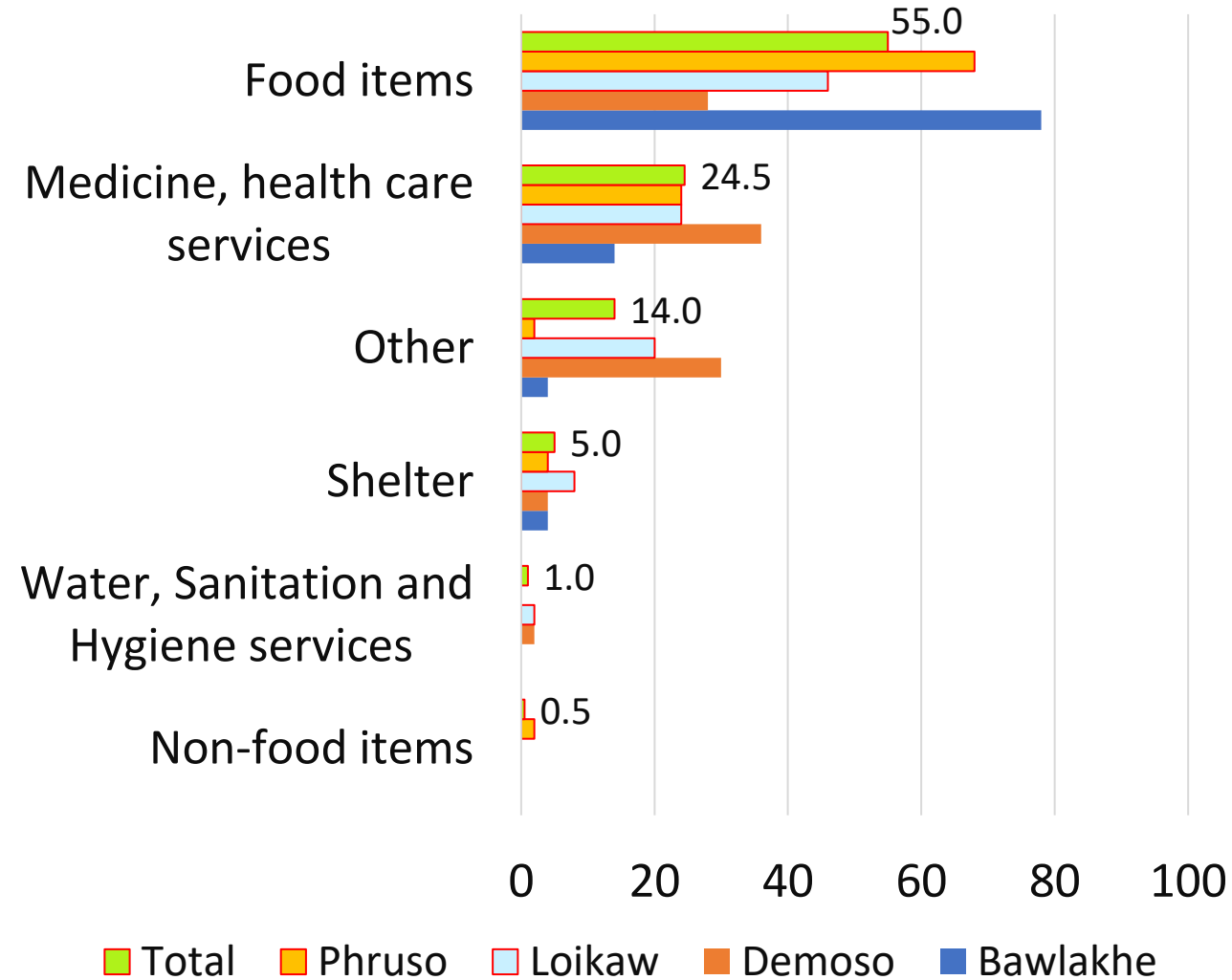


Food items is the most essential needs of most of surveyed townships while the needs for medicine and health care services ranks the second

Most preferred modality assistance in the current situation by township (%)



Most essential needs of families at present by township (%)



KEY MESSAGES

Clear deterioration of the situation in the past month

Armed conflict is among the main reasons behind barriers to accessing health services, food and water

Families have had to opt for serious coping mechanisms, including reduction of food and non-food consumption, which undermining the well-being of children

People are suffering from depression and anxiety, including children

Loss and decrease of family's income is a critical concern for almost all respondents

Children continue losing out of education and learning

1946 2021



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