

Assessment Report of Conflict Affected Communities Residing in Lower Dir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan



Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability Unit
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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

BHU	Basic Health Unit
Cm	Centimeter
CNIC	Computerized National Identity Card
HH	Household
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCH	Mother and Child Health
MEAC	Monitoring Evaluation and Accountability Coordinator
MNCH	Mother Newborn and Child Health
MUAC	Middle Upper Arm Circumference
NFIs	Non-Food Items
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PA	Provincially Administered
PKR	Pakistani Rupee
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SBA	Skilled Birth Attendant
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
UC	Union Council

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Executive Summary

Lower Dir District is administratively divided into 2 Tehsils¹ and 37 Union Councils²; it is home to over a million people. Lower Dir borders the Districts of Bajaur, Upper Dir, and Swat as well as Malakand Agency. The areas accessed were directly affected by operations against militants, and currently these areas are serving as transit and host areas for Bajaur IDPs due to the continuing operation in FATA. **The average household size of conflict-affected families in Lower Dir was found to be 7 persons. Of the 150 conflict-affected families surveyed, 79 percent moved to adjacent areas during the height of the conflict, while 21 percent never left.**

Livelihoods and Income Generation

The average monthly household income is approximately PKR 9,300 (US\$112)³, with 51 percent of respondents stating “casual labor” as their main source of income. However, in 25 percent of families, the main income contributor remained out of work in the two months preceding the survey (March and April 2010). Nearly 88 percent of households reported that they have no cash savings. Similarly, 56 percent of households have outstanding loans. Before the crisis, households’ average debt burden was PKR 23,400 (US\$282), while **after the crisis, the average debt burden was over 63,600 PKR (US\$766) – this is more than 2½ times the pre-crisis debt burden.**

Education

Seventy-three percent of children ages 4-18 years are attending school – 80 percent of boys and 66 percent of girls are attending school. **Nearly 19 percent of households stated that they have a child who has started working and not attending school since the crisis.** The most frequently cited reasons for children not attending school were that schools are not available, teachers are not available, and school expenses are unbearable. However, if schools were made accessible, parents reported that 77 percent of out-of-school children would be allowed to go to school.

Child Protection

With respect to children’s recreational facilities, 48 percent reported that there are no designated places for children to play, and 47 percent shared that group activities for children are not available. **Worryingly, 30 percent of mothers said that physical punishment of children has increased since the crisis started.** Forty percent of mothers reported a change in children’s normal behavior, with sleeping badly and aggressive behavior as the top changes observed.

Vulnerable Groups

Overall, **16 percent of households are supporting an orphan, disabled person, or person with a chronic illness.** Nine percent of women said that physical punishment of women has increased since the crisis started. (Although this question was asked to women separately, by female enumerators, the actual figure could still be higher than reported due to fear of shame or reprisal.)

Shelter

Most surveyed households own their own home (72 percent), while only 9 percent rent their homes, with an average rent of 1700 PKR per month (US\$20). **The extent of damage to the surveyed**

¹ A tehsil is the second-lowest tier of local government in Pakistan; each tehsil is part of a larger district. Each tehsil is subdivided into a number of union councils.

² A union council is the first level of government administration in Pakistan. Each union council includes 8-15 villages and an average population of about 15,000-25,000.

³ US\$1 = PKR 83, rate used throughout report.

houses is very low, with only 4 percent of houses badly damaged and 14 percent suffering partial damage; 82 percent of households reported no damage to their homes during the crisis.

Land and Livestock

The study determined that 54 percent of respondents own land (6.31 kanals⁴ on average), while 68 percent of families reported they own livestock such as cattle, sheep, and poultry birds. In terms of agriculture and livestock services and inputs, overall access is low, with access to fruit saplings (28 percent) and livestock vaccines (25 percent) the most limited.

Food Security

Most families purchase food items, though some families also borrow food items. Of the 150 households surveyed, only 4 percent have no food stock available. For those who do have food stock, 53 percent have enough for one week, while the rest have more than one week food stock available. **Mothers shared that infants less than six months were breastfed on average 6 times a day** (this is lower than the frequently recommended minimum of 8 times per day), while 44 percent of mothers reported feeding infants less than six months old food other than breast milk.

Nutrition

The assessment team measured the Middle Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) of 114 children. According to these MUAC readings, approximately 1 percent of children are suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition which is considered to be within the normal to poor range, 6 percent are suffering from Moderate Acute Malnutrition, and **over 42 percent are at risk of becoming malnourished**. This means that if any of these children suffer from a severe infection or disease, there is a high chance that they could become malnourished.

Health

The study shows that, in 71 percent of households, women and children do utilize health facilities; health centers such as BHUs and RHCs are the most commonly used. For children less than 2 years old, 79 percent of respondents stated that they have received vaccinations, and 73 percent of these households do have vaccination cards. Since the crisis began, two children have died (one boy and one girl under one year of age). Overall, 46 percent of deliveries were conducted in a health facility. Of the 9 pregnant women reported, 5 women (56 percent) were receiving antenatal care.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

According to the assessment, 40 percent of families use pipe water lines, while 38 percent have protected wells and 18 percent fetch water from ponds, rivers, or canals; 4 percent use unprotected wells. Overall, 63 percent of households use latrines, and a small portion of these are pit latrines. Open defecation is common – in 16 percent of families, both genders defecate in open fields, while in 21 percent of families, only the men do. In terms of hand washing, only 24 percent use water and soap after defecation, and none of the households reported using water and soap before eating.

Overall needs

When asked openly about their immediate needs, women prioritized food, NFIs, drinking water and latrines. The immediate needs prioritized by men were latrines, drinking water, cash grants, water channels and NFIs.

⁴ 1 kanal = 1/8 acre or approximately 500 square meters.

1. Background

Lower Dir District is administratively divided into two *tehsils* and 37 Union Councils; it is home to over a million people. Lower Dir borders the Districts of Bajaur, Upper Dir, and Swat as well as Malakand Agency. The insecurity triggered by the conflict led to large population movement within the country, and people mainly moved to other settled areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (formerly North West Frontier Province). Many areas of Lower Dir were either directly affected by operations, or served as transit and host areas; Lower Dir is currently serving as a transit and host areas for Bajaur IDPs due to the ongoing military operation in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). The main sources of income in Lower Dir are remittances from inhabitants working in the Middle East, agriculture, livestock, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), handicrafts, and transportation related work or business.

2. Objectives of Study

The core objectives of the assessment were:

- To gather primary data and information on the general socioeconomic conditions of conflict-affected communities in the District of Lower Dir
- To determine the most critical needs of conflict-affected communities in order to identify potential program areas and designs for humanitarian and early recovery interventions

3. Methodology

3.1 Sample Size

Save the Children assessed 300 households in Lower Dir – 150 of these households were displaced from other areas, while 150 households were conflict-affected residents. This report details information on the 150 conflict-affected residents. Although the reduced number of households surveyed does reduce the statistical significance of the results, the division of the Lower Dir assessment was considered necessary because displaced families and conflict-affected residents likely have very different needs and socioeconomic conditions. Thus, the sample size for Lower Dir is 150 households of conflict-affected residents.

3.2 Sampling Strategy

The assessment team surveyed five Union Councils, with three villages surveyed per Union Council (totaling 15 villages). Ten families were surveyed in each village – these households were selected randomly.

3.3 Data Collection

The primary data for the assessment was collected through a structured household-level questionnaire, with respondents mainly being household heads and key female household members. However, the male and female “overall needs” questions were left open-ended in order to accurately gather the returnee’s actual opinions.

3.4 Field Work

The fieldwork was completed in six days. Eight data enumerators (four male and four female) conducted the fieldwork, with supervision from Save the Children's Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability Coordinator (MEAC). Local data enumerators were hired for this purpose and trained for two days (one day for an orientation session and one day for in-house piloting of the questionnaire) by Save the Children's MEAC. During the assessment, enumerators split into pairs, with one male and one female member per team. Women interviewed female household members and men interviewed male household members. Male household members were asked about the general household information, water and sanitation, livelihoods, housing, and education, and overall needs. Female household members were asked about the food security, vulnerable groups, nutrition, health and reproductive health, and overall needs. While the division of these questions may have affected the overall survey results, this method allowed the survey team to complete a large number of household surveys in a short time, and it required less time from the conflict affected households. This method also facilitated greater participation of female household members.

3.5 Data Analysis

The main unit of analysis for the study is a household. Data was entered and analyzed in SPSS using descriptive statistics, frequencies and cross tabs. Data cleaning was performed using frequency cross tabs and through manual review of questionnaires.

3.6 Limitations of the Study

The sampled villages were purposely selected, focusing on villages with a high concentration of returnees; this compromises the randomness of selected households. Therefore, study findings should be used cautiously in terms of generalizing for all communities in Lower Dir. In addition, since men answered some questions and women answered others, this likely affected some of the results. Despite these limitations, the study findings do provide a good snapshot of the situation of conflict-affected residents in Lower Dir.

Due to security reasons, the survey team could not visit Tehsil Lal Qila, as planned – during the assessment period. Search operations were being conducted by the army and they did not allow the teams to visit the Medan area.

4. Study Results

4.1 Basic information

4.1.1 Household and family composition

The average household size of conflict-affected families of Lower Dir is reported to be 7. The average age of household heads is 42 years; 98 percent of household heads are male while 2 percent are female. Family sizes appear in the interval categories in Figure 1 (*following page*) – 62 percent of families containing seven or fewer family members, while 38 percent include 8 or more family members.

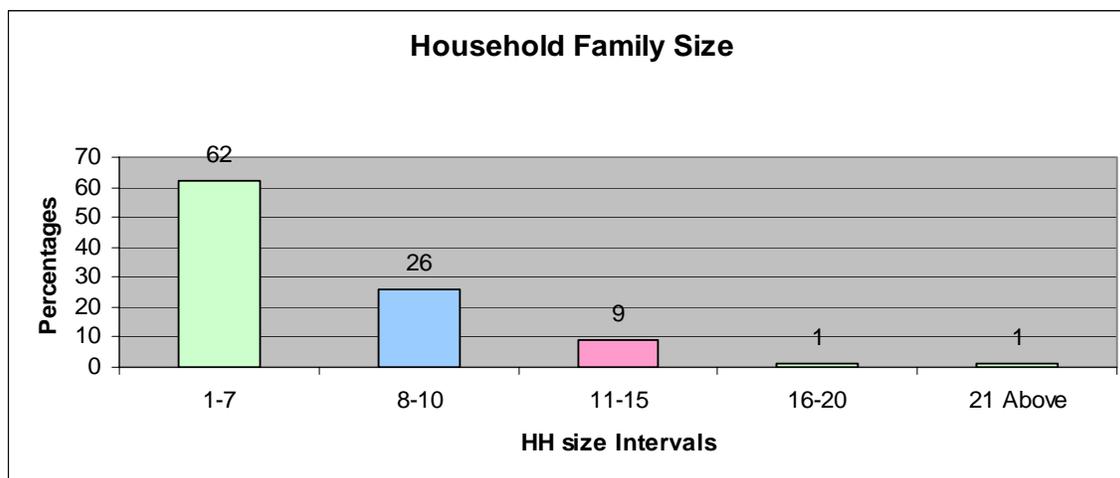


Figure 1: Household Family Size

Overall, men compose 52 percent of the total family members while women compose 48 percent (this implies a higher survival rate for men). The same approximate proportion is reflected among all the surveyed age groups. (See Figure 2 below)

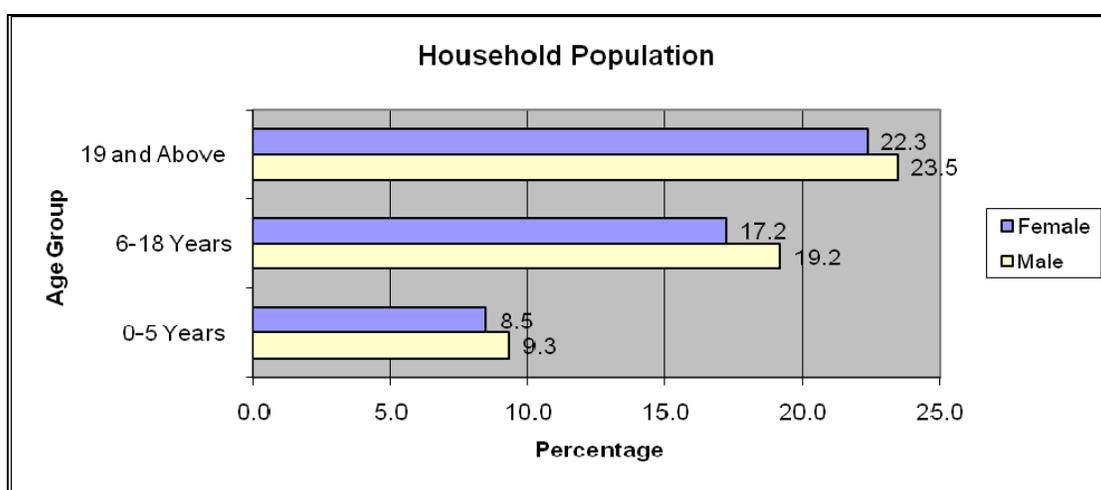


Figure 2: Household Population

4.1.2 Area of residence during displacement and time of stay

During the height of the conflict in Lower Dir, 79 percent of the surveyed families moved to adjacent areas such as UC Chakdara and other areas of Malakand, District Mardan, or District Charsadda, while 21 percent remained in Lower Dir during the conflict. (See Table 1 below)

District/UC Name	No. of Families	Percentage	Time Displaced (Months)
Not displaced	32	21	0
Districts Charsadda & Mardan	20	13	7
District Lower Dir (Chakdara UC)	83	55	2 – 7
Malakand	15	11	2 – 5

Table 1: Place and Time of Displacement during Conflict

4.1.3 Main sources of drinking water

According to the assessment, 40 percent of households use drinking water from piped water lines, while 38 percent use protected wells and 18 percent fetch water from ponds, rivers, or canals. (See Figure 3 below.) Enumerators did not, however, physically verify the protected well water sources. A number of households stated that they faced problems with piped water lines in that they only provided water twice a week on average, which is obviously not sufficient for fulfilling their consumption and household needs.

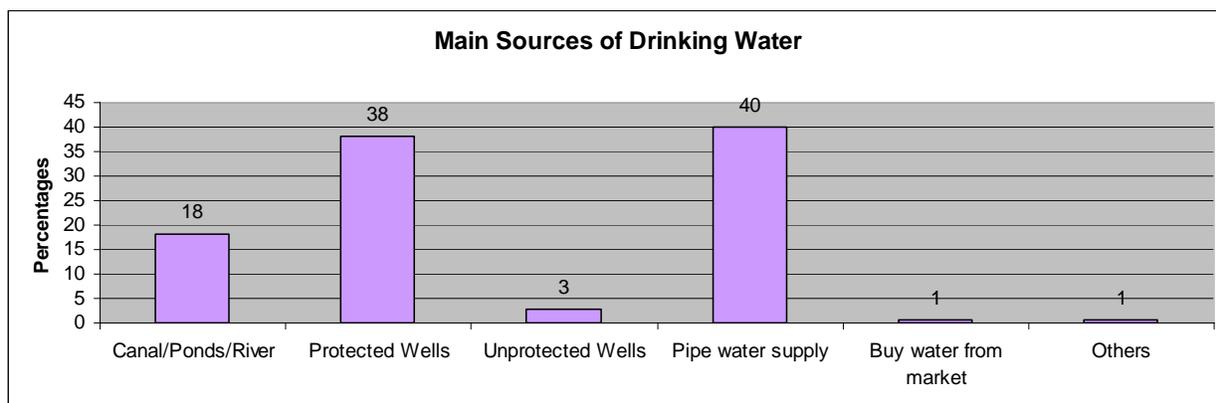


Figure 3 : Main Sources of Drinking Water

Time required to fetch water from wells and ponds is detailed in the table below – 78 percent of households can reach their main water source in less than 10 minutes. Only 5 percent of households needed to spend more than half an hour to fetch water.

Time to Fetch Water	
Time (in Minutes)	Percentage
Less than 10	78
11 to 30	17
More than 30	5

Table 2: Time to Fetch Water

4.1.4 Facilities for defecation

In 52 percent of households surveyed, both genders use flush latrines, while 8 percent use communal pit latrines and 3 percent have household pit latrines. However open defecation is common – in 27 percent of households, both genders defecate in open fields, while in 21 percent of households, only the men practice open defecation. (See Figure 5 on following page)

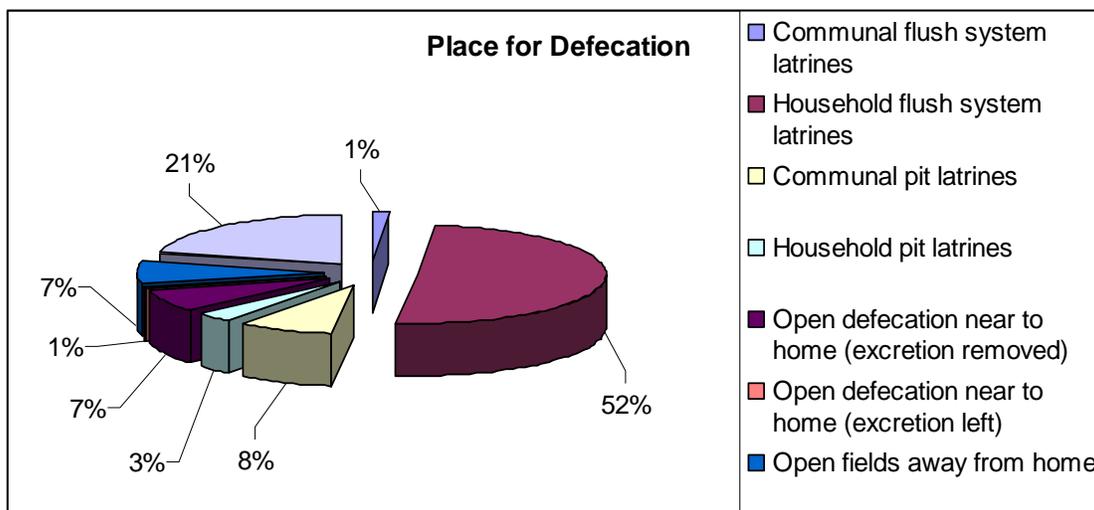


Figure 4: Place for Defecation

4.1.5 Use of Water and Soap

With respect to hand washing, 24 percent use both water and soap after defecation, 74 percent households use only water after defecation, and 2 percent neither use water nor soap.

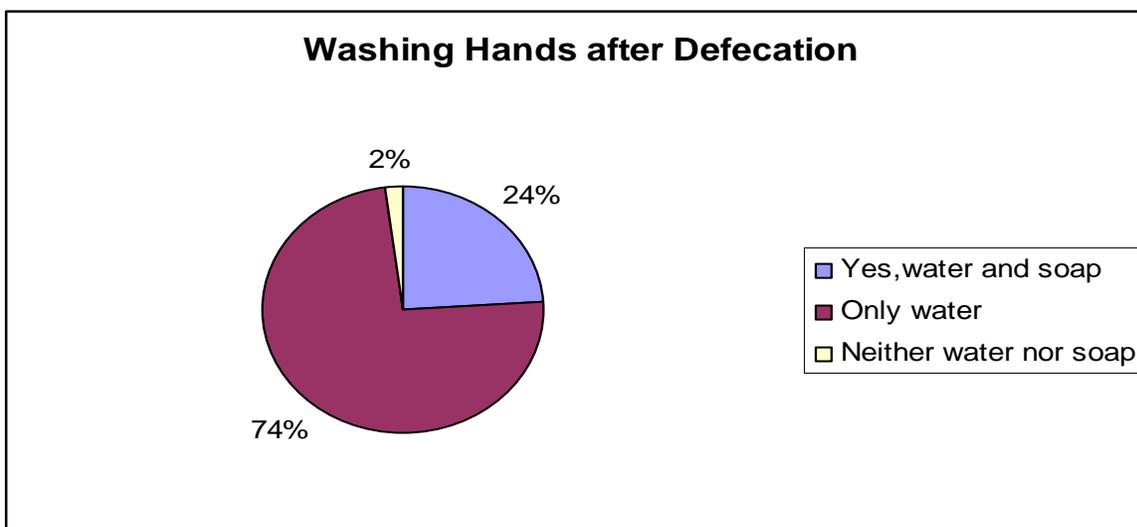


Figure 5: Washing Hands after Defecation

In terms of hand washing before meals, no households reported that they wash their hands with soap and water. The vast majority – 97 percent – use only water and the remaining 3 percent use neither water nor soap before eating.

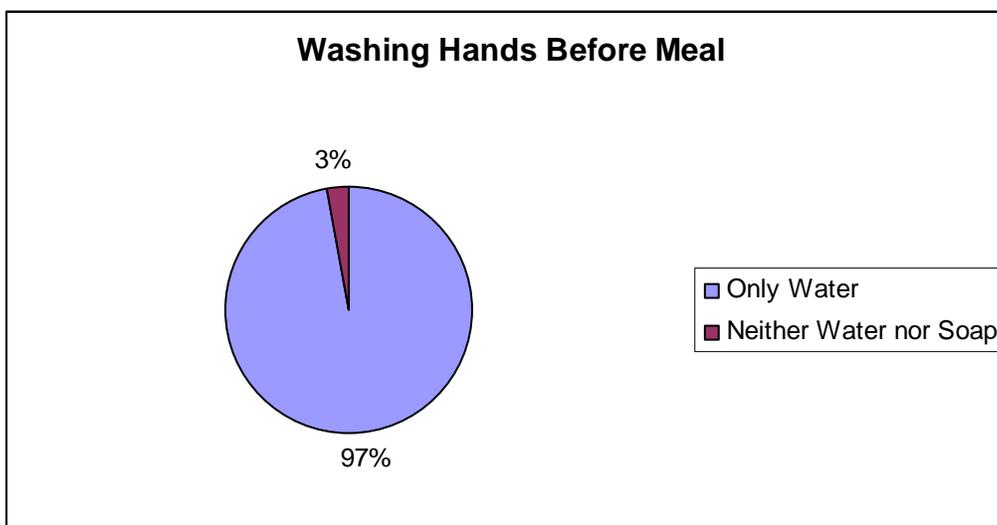


Figure 6: Washing Hands before Meals

4.2 Livelihoods/Agriculture

4.2.1 Household Earning Members

Of the 150 households surveyed, 92 percent of households include an adult male earning member, while only a little over 1 percent include an adult female earning member. It is important to note that over 7 percent of households include a boy under age 18 who is earning money, while about 1 percent of households include a girl who is earning money.

Earning Members of Household Percentage			
Age Vs Gender	Male	Female	Total
6-18 years	7.3	1.2	8.5
18 and above	92.0	1.3	93.3

Table 3: Earning Members of HH

4.2.2 Occupation of Main Contributor

The average monthly household income is approximately PKR 9,300 (US\$112)⁵, with 51 percent of respondents stating “casual labor” is their main source of income. The second most prevalent reported occupation of the main contributor is “self employed,” with 19 percent. Government employees comprise 13 percent of the main contributors, and the remaining 17 percent include a variety of occupations, i.e. agriculture, livestock, remittances and private sector employees. *(See Figure 7 on next page)*

⁵ US\$1 = PKR 83, rate used throughout report.

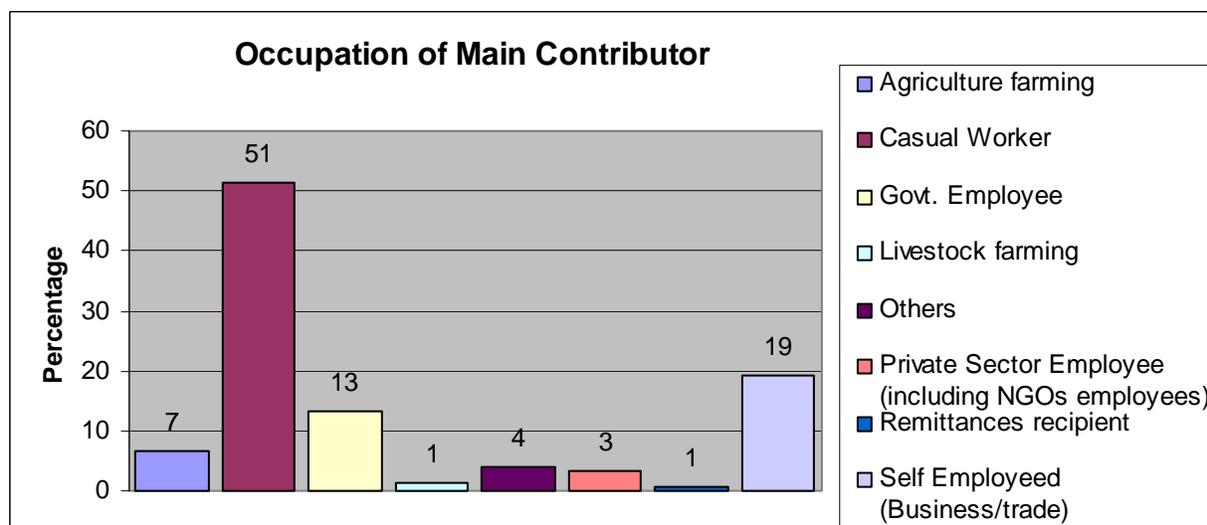


Figure 7: Occupation of main contributor

4.2.3 Household cash income and expenses

Respondents were asked about their last two months of income (March and April 2010). There was not a large variation between the two months income – the average reported income for March was 9617 PKR (US\$116) and for April 9761 PKR (US\$118). However, in 25 percent of families, the main income contributor remained out of work in both March and April.

As Table 4 (*below*) shows, farming comprises 22 percent of the main income sources.

Main Source of Income	
Income sources	Percentage
Off-farm	78
On-farm	22

Table 4: Main income sources

In order to meet their household expenses, 61 percent of households use their own income sources, including casual labor, government and non-government jobs. It is important to note that 33 percent of households are meeting their expenses through loans, and 5 percent are receiving support or remittances from friends and relatives. (*See Figure 8 on next page*)

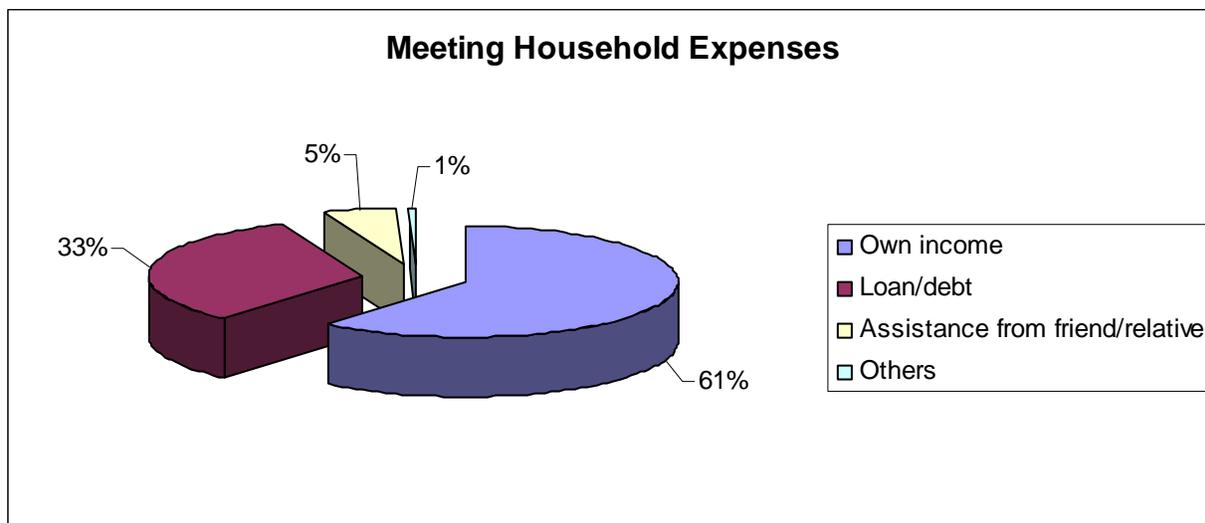


Figure 8: Household Expenses

In terms of the conflict’s effect on respondents’ main income sources, 73 percent stated that their income sources have been partially damaged, while 16 percent reported that they had been badly or completely damaged. Only 11 percent reported no damage to their income sources. A detailed breakdown of the main categories of damage is shown in Figure 9 (below).

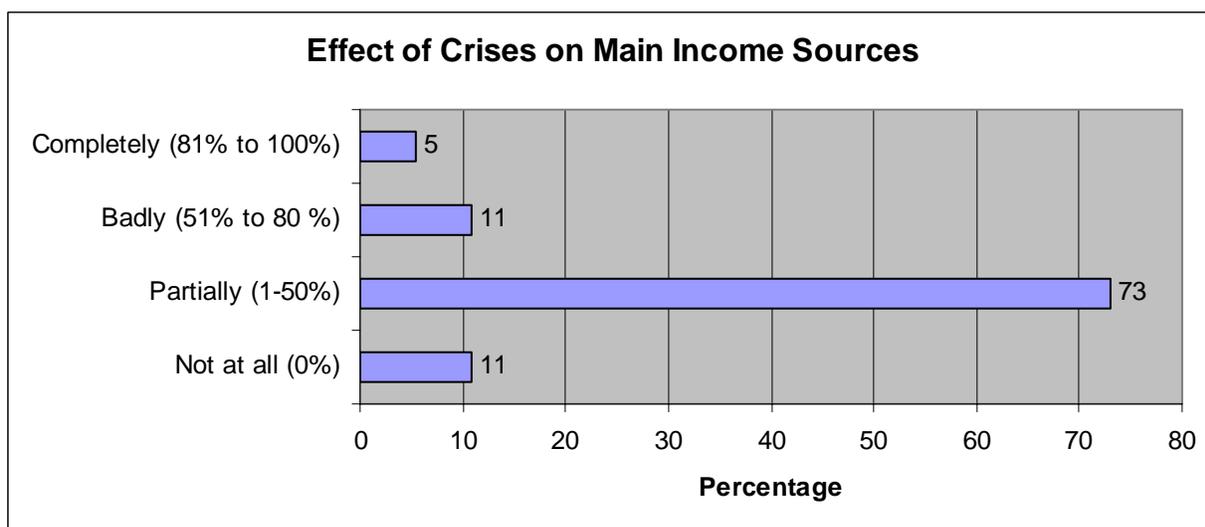


Figure 9: Effect of Crises on Main Income Sources

Nearly 88 percent of households reported that they have no cash savings. Similarly, 56 percent of households have outstanding loans. Before the crisis, households’ average debt burden was PKR 23,400 (US\$282), while after the crisis, the average debt burden was over 63,600 PKR (US\$766) – this is more than 2½ times the pre-crisis debt burden. The main sources of loans were relatives (52 percent), whereas 39 percent of households obtained loans from friends, and 2 percent took out loans from banks. (See Table 5 on next page)

Main Source of Loans	
Sources	Percentage
Relatives	52
Friends	39
Commercial Bank	2
Others	7

Table 5: Sources of Loans

4.2.4 Land and Livestock Ownership

The study determined that 54 percent of respondents own land (6.31 kanals on average), while 46 percent do not own any land. Regarding livestock possession, 68 percent of families reported they own livestock such as cattle, sheep, and chickens, whereas 32 percent do not own any livestock. Figure 10 (*below*) shows that livestock ownership is more common than land ownership.

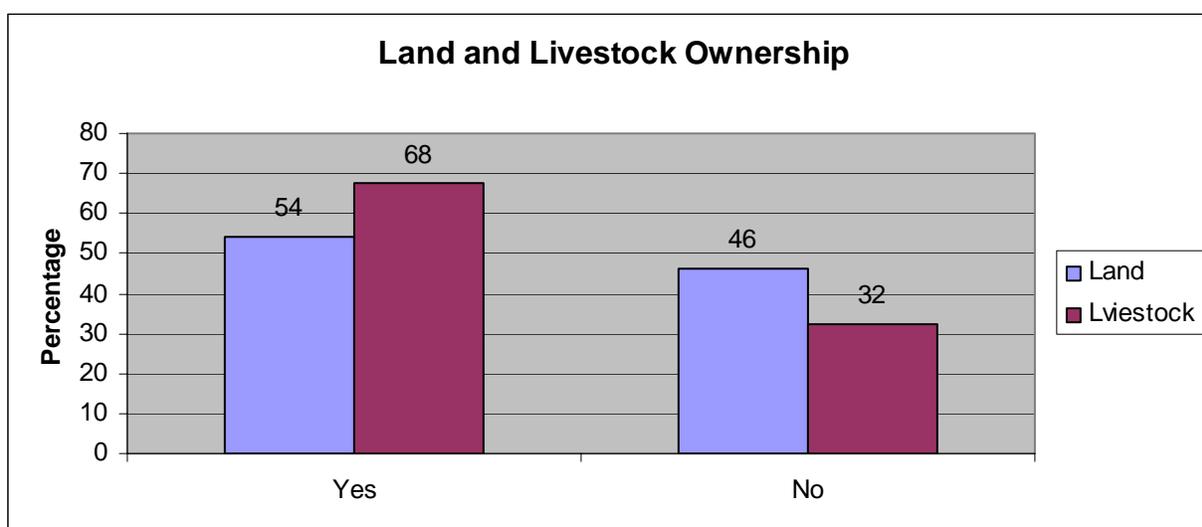


Figure 10: Land and Livestock Ownership

In terms of agriculture and livestock services and inputs, overall access is low, with access to fertilizers (39 percent) and livestock and agriculture extension workers (38 and 37 percent) relatively higher, and access to fruit saplings (28 percent) and livestock vaccines (25 percent) the most limited. (*See Table 6 below*)

Agriculture and Livestock Services and Inputs		
	Yes	No
Quality Seeds	33	67
Fertilizers	39	61
Fruit Saplings	28	72
Agriculture Extension Worker	37	63
Livestock Vaccine	25	75
Livestock Extension Worker	38	62

Table 6: Access to agriculture and livestock inputs and services

4.3 Shelter

Regarding home construction, 55 percent of households reside in mud cottages, 10 percent reside in semi-mud houses, and 35 percent live in houses made of brick or cement. Most surveyed households own their own home (72 percent), while only 9 percent rented their homes, with an average rent of 1700 PKR per month (US\$20). A detailed breakdown of housing ownership status is shown in Figure 11 (*below*).

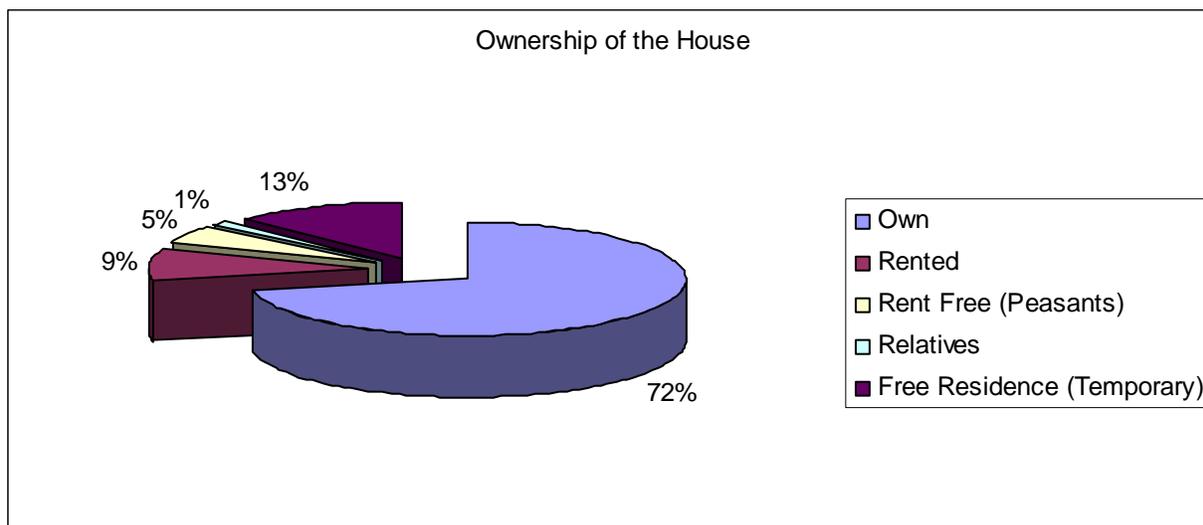


Figure 11: Ownership of the House

The extent of damage to the surveyed houses is very low, with only 4 percent of houses being badly damaged and 14 percent of houses suffering partial damage; 82 percent of households reported no damage to their homes during the crisis.

4.4 Education

4.4.1 Children and School Attendance

According to the assessment, 73 percent of the total reported school-age children attend school. Table 7 (*below*) shows the gender breakdown of school-attending children. Boys age 10-18 have the highest rate of reported attendance (86 percent) while girls age 4-7 years claim the lowest rate of attendance (62 percent).

Total Children and School Going Children Statistics		
Age Group	Children attending school (# and %)	Children not attending school (# and %)
Boys (4-9Years)	78 (70%)	33 (30%)
Girls (4-9Years)	66 (62%)	40 (38%)
Boys (10-18Years)	139 (86%)	23 (14%)
Girls (10-18Years)	87 (69%)	40 (31%)
Total children and school going children statistics	370 (73%)	136 (27%)

Table 7: Children and School Going Children

Nearly 19 percent of households stated that they have a child who has started working and not attending school since the crisis; within the 150 households surveyed, there are 61 children who are working and not attending school. The most frequently cited reasons for children not attending school were that that schools are not available, teachers are not available, and school expenses are unbearable.

Top Three Reasons for not Attending School			
Reasons	1st Reason	2nd Reason	3rd Reason
School is not available	23	2	1
Teachers not available	7	15	1
School expenses unbearable	3	6	25
Insecurity	3	10	2
Others	1	0	3
Children have to work	0	3	1
Schools are occupied	0	0	1

Table 8: Reasons for Children Not Attending School

If schools were made accessible, parents reported that 77 percent of out-of-school children would be allowed to go to school. (See Table 9 below)

Number of children who would be allowed to go to school if schools were made accessible		
Age Group	No. of Boys	No. of Girls
4 - 9 years	19	24
10 - 18 years	21	41

Table 9: Accessibility to school

Parents ranked stationery, text books, and school uniforms as their top needs for school children (See tables 10 below)

School Supplies Needed for School Children			
Reasons	Top 1st Need	Top 2nd Need	Top 3rd Need
Stationery	33	12	13
Text Books	13	5	5
School Uniform	13	25	21
School Bags	9	17	5
School Shoes	3	11	23

Table 10: School Children Needs

4.5 Food Security

4.5.1 Weekly Food Consumption Patterns

On average, conflict-affected families are consuming wheat products over six days a week, whereas rice and potatoes are consumed around four days per week, and milk and milk products, pulses and vegetables are consumed three days a week on average. Fruit, meat, and fish, are only consumed about twice a week. (See Table 11 below)

Food Items	No. of Days Eaten in a Week, Mode (Mean)
Wheat Products	7 (6.3)
Rice	7 (4.23)
Maize	1 (1.58)
Potatoes	4 (3.68)
Fish/Meat	1 (1.88)
Pulses/Lentils/Beans	3 (3.31)
Vegetables	2 (3.03)
Fresh Fruits	2 (1.99)
Milk/Milk Products	7 (3)

Table 11: Food intake Mode (Mean)

Most families purchase food items, though some families also borrow food items. Cases of producing their own food, exchanging labor for food, receiving food as gifts, or receiving food from aid agencies are rare. (See Table 12 below)

Food Items	Purchase	Borrow	Own Production	Exchange Labor for Food	Gift (food) from Family	Food Aid (agencies)
Wheat	75	22		2		1
Rice	75	21	1	1	1	3
Maize	91	9				
Potatoes	80	19	1			
Fish/meat	80	19		1		
Pulses/lentils	77	21	1		2	
Vegetables	78	22	1			
Fresh Fruits	75	20	3		2	
Milk/Milk Products	80	19	1			

Table 12: Main Sources of Food items

4.5.2 Availability of Food Stock in Households

Of the 150 households surveyed, 4 percent have no food stock available. For those who do have food stock, 53 percent have enough for one week, 21 percent have food stock for two weeks, 19 percent have food stock for three weeks, 3 percent have one month or more of food stock available (see Figure 12 on next page).

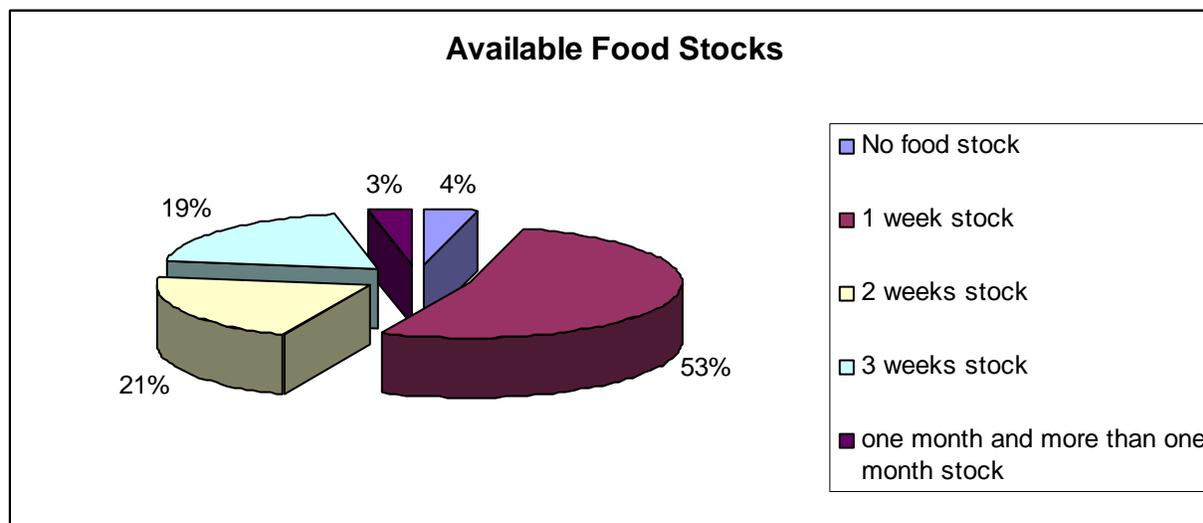


Figure 12: Available Food Stock

4.5.3 Number of meals eaten by household members

Mothers shared that infants less than six months were breastfed on average 6 times a day; 44 percent of mothers reported feeding infants less than six months old food other than breast milk. Children are eating four meals per day on average, while adults are eating three meals a day (*see below table*).

Average Meals Taken by Family Members	Median (Mean)
Infants < 6 months, Frequency of Breastfeeding	6 (5.85)
Children (6 to 24 months) Frequency of Breastfeeding/other milk feed	4 (4.03)
Number of meals of Children (2-18 years)	4 (3.58)
Number of meals of Adults (above 18 years)	3 (2.84)

Table 13: Average Meal taken by HH

4.6 Presence of Vulnerable Groups among the Households

4.6.1 Vulnerable Groups of Children

Overall, 16 percent of households are supporting an orphan, disabled person, or person with a chronic illness. (*See Table 14 for details on vulnerable children*)

Number of Children in Vulnerable Groups		
Vulnerable Groups	Boys	Girls
Children who lost both parents (orphans)	6	3
Children who lost one of their parents	6	9
Mentally and physically disabled children	4	3

Table 14: Vulnerable Children

4.6.2 Vulnerable Groups of Adults

In the 150 households surveyed, there are 12 reported vulnerable adults with physical or mental disabilities, and 7 adults with chronic illnesses (See Table 15).

Number of Vulnerable Adults		
Vulnerable Groups	Male	Female
Mentally & physically disabled	4	8
Persons with Chronic illness	4	3

Table 15: Vulnerable Adults

4.6.3 Violence against Women

Nine percent of women said that physical punishment of women has increased since the crisis started. Although this question was asked to women separately, by female enumerators, the actual figure could still be higher than reported due to women's fear of shame or reprisal.

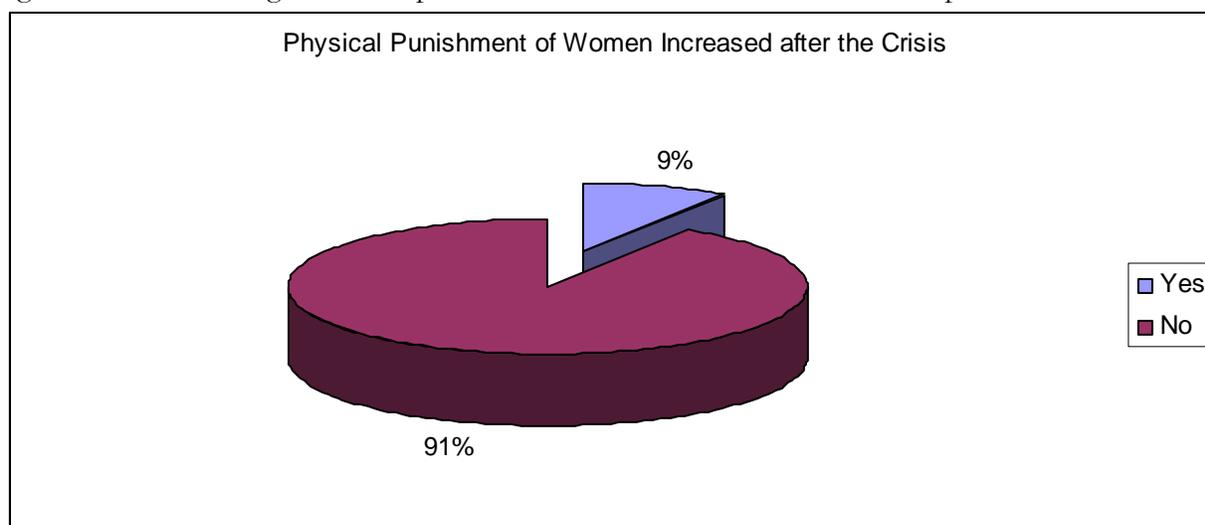


Figure 13: Reported Increase in Physical Punishment of Women

4.7 Child Protection

4.7.1 Issues Related to Children

With respect to children's recreational facilities, 52 percent reported that there are designated places for children to play, and 53 percent shared that group activities for children are available.

Distressingly, 30 percent of mothers said that physical punishment of children has increased since the crisis started – this is notably higher than the percentage of mothers who reported an increase in violence towards women.

Child Protection		
Child protection issues	Yes	No
Designated places for children's play	52	48
Physical punishment of children in HH increased	30	70

Child Protection		
Child protection issues	Yes	No
Change in normal practices of HH children during crisis	40	60
Child been targeted for violence or arrest during crisis	3	97
Child started paid work during crisis	22	78
Children started using drugs during crisis	5	95
Group activities available to children	53	47

Table 16 : Child Protection Issues

Forty percent of mothers reported a change in children’s normal behavior. Families reported sleeping badly and aggressive behavior as the top changes observed in children.

Behavior Change in Children During the Crises		
	Top 1st Rank	Top 2nd Rank
Sleeping badly	40	3
Aggressive behavior	38	16
Less social	19	9
Changed eating practices	2	72

Table 17: Behavior Change in Children during the Crises

4.8 Nutrition

To assess the nutritional status of the conflict-affected communities, the Middle Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) of children was measured, taking into consideration their age (children must be between 6- 59 months) and height (between 65 – 110 cm). MUAC measurements were obtained from 114 children. According to the MUAC readings, approximately 1 percent of children are suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition, 6 percent are suffering from Moderate Acute Malnutrition, and over 42 percent are at risk of becoming malnourished. *(See figure 14 below)*

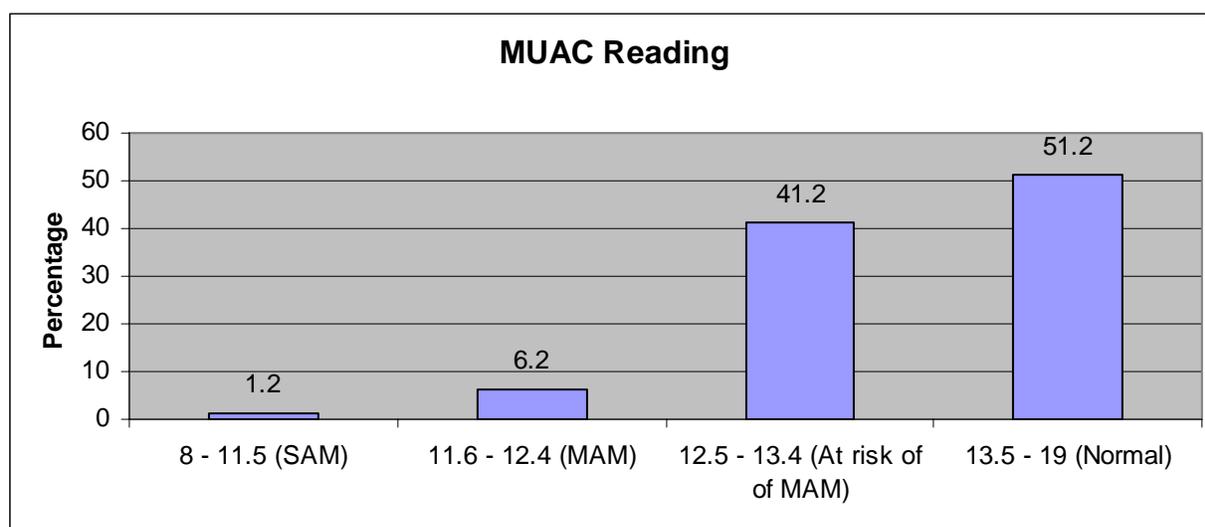


Figure 14 : Children MUAC Reading

4.9 Health

4.9.1 Access to Health Facilities

The study shows that in 71 percent of households, women and children utilize health facilities, while in 29 percent of households, women and children are not availing health services. Health centers such as BHUs and RHCs are the most commonly used health facilities (41 percent) while private clinics are also frequently used (35 percent). However, the conditions in these facilities are generally poor due to unavailability of doctors, health staff, and medicines.

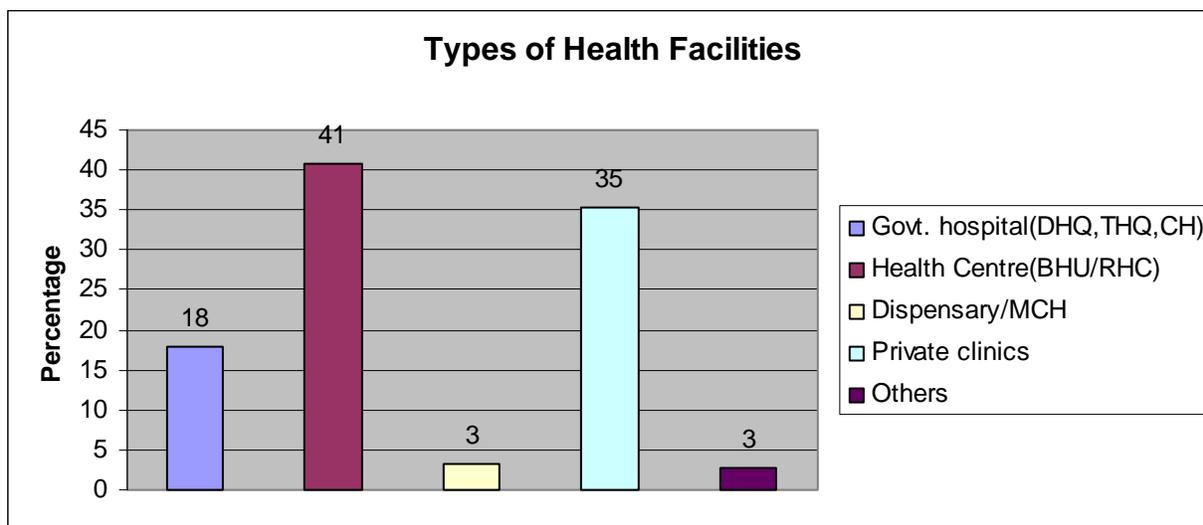


Figure 15: Types of Health Facilities

According to the respondents, 48 percent of households have access to health facilities within 5 km of their home. Only 5 percent of households do not know where a health facility is, and 6 percent have to travel more than 16 kilometers to reach the nearest health facility.

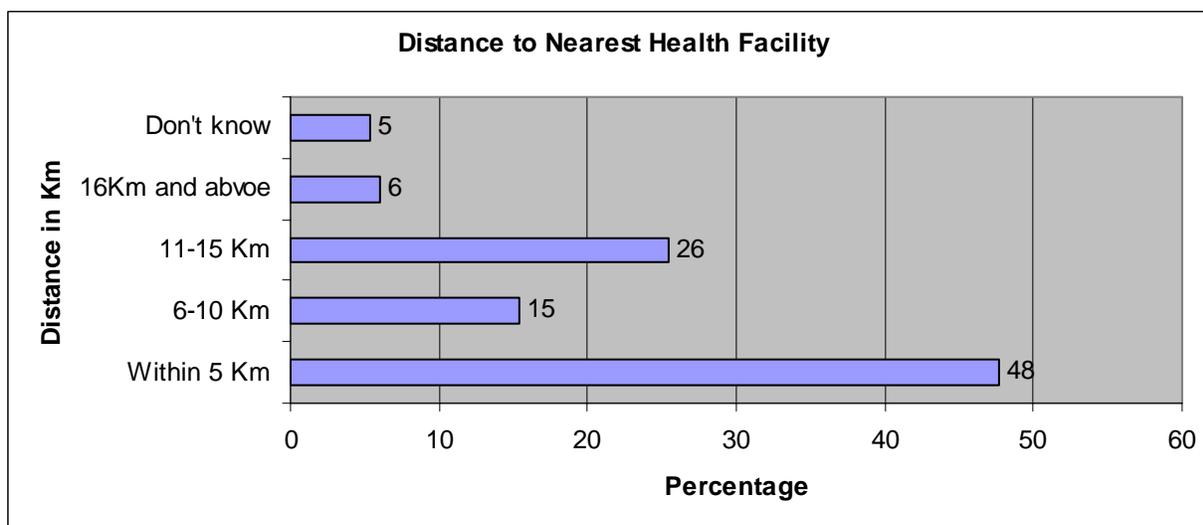


Figure 16: Distance to Nearest Health Facility

4.9.2 Medicines Availability status

The assessment results reveal that nearly 97 percent of households buy medicines, while only 3 percent are receiving free medicines either from NGOs or from the government.

Medicines Obtained	
	Percentage
Bought	97
Received free	3

Table 18: Method of Obtaining Medicines

4.9.3 Children Vaccination

For children less than 2 years old, 94 percent of respondents stated that their children have received vaccinations, while 6 percent of respondents said that their children have not received vaccinations. Vaccination cards were checked by the survey teams, which verified that 73 percent of households that reported vaccinations do have a vaccination card, while 27 percent do not have the vaccination card with them.

Figure 17 (*below*) depicts the kinds of vaccinations reported – the vast majority of households (94 percent) have received both measles injections and polio drops (for children under five years).

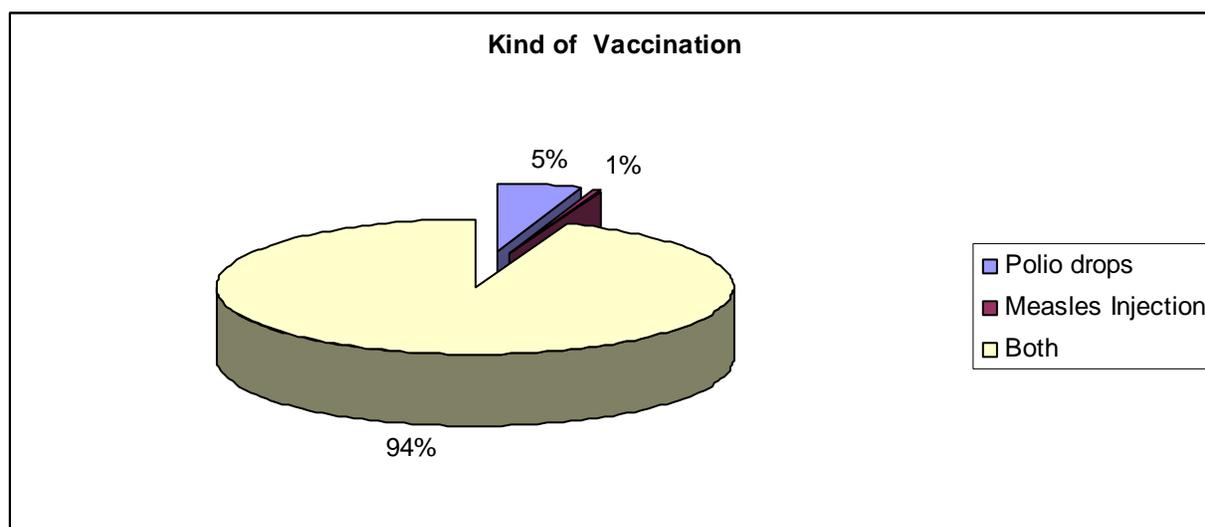


Figure 17: Kinds of Vaccination

4.9.4 Mortality and Fertility of Household

Regarding deaths and births in families since the crisis began, 2 children have died (1 boy and 1 girl under one year of age). Regarding deliveries, 54 percent (13 out of 24) took place at home, and 46 percent (11 out of 24) took place in a health centre.

Birth Status of Children	Boys	Girls	Total
Birth at Home	11 (85%)	2 (15%)	13 (54%)
Birth at Health Centre	8 (72%)	3 (27%)	11 (46%)

Table 19: Children Birth Status

4.9.5 Women's Reproductive Health

In terms of reproductive health, of the 9 pregnant women reported, 5 (56 percent) were receiving antenatal care. Of the 9 women who have delivered since their return, 78 percent (7 out of 9) were assisted by a skilled birth attendant (SBA).

	Numbers
Pregnant Women	9
Women who have Delivered	9
Women Receiving Antenatal Care	5 (56%)
Number of Women attended by SBA	7 (78%)

Table 20: Women Reproductive Status

Overall Needs (as reported by women)

When asked openly about their immediate needs, women prioritized food, NFIs, drinking water and latrines. (See Table 21 below)

Overall Needs as Reported by Women (Percentage of HHs)			
Needs	1st prioritized need	2nd prioritized need	3rd prioritized need
Food	45	15	13
NFIs	25	59	56
Water	11	7	2
Latrines	7	6	1
Shelter-Own House	6	1	3
Embroidery	1	1	5
Health Facility	1	4	4
Cash grant	1	0	2
School	1	0	1
Employment	1	0	0
Water Channels\Repair of Water Channels	1	2	1
Electricity	1	1	0
Gas	1	3	3
Livestock	0	1	10

Table 21: Women's Prioritized Needs

Overall Needs (as reported by men)

The immediate needs prioritized by men were latrines, drinking water, cash grants, water channels and NFIs. (See table 22 below)

Overall Needs as Reported by Men (Percentage of HHs)			
Reasons	1st prioritized need	2nd prioritized need	3rd prioritized need
Latrines	19	16	10
Water	15	12	9
Cash grant	13	5	7
Water channels\Repair of water channels	11	10	4
NFIs	10	16	18
School	8	3	5
CFS	5	5	1
Road	5	3	12
Food	3	7	6
Health Facility	3	9	7
Embroidery	2	3	7
Electricity	1	5	1
Pathways	1	1	1
Shelter-Own House	1	1	1
Employment	1	3	5
Livestock	1	3	3
Treatment of disable	1	0	0
Gas	0	0	3
Small Enterprise	0	1	0

Table 22: Male Overall Needs

5. Recommendations

- There is a significant need for early recovery interventions in the conflict-affected areas, as evidenced by the findings in this assessment (and backed by the repeated appeals of the surveyed households);
- Humanitarian agencies should raise awareness on safe hygiene practices, particularly hand washing with soap and water, and the importance of clean drinking water.
- Employment and livelihoods are presently the fundamental concerns for most conflict-affected families in Lower Dir. Cash grant support would help quickly restore assets, and other cash-based initiatives would help families generate income and revitalize small businesses. Interventions should also focus on small farmers, landless families, and casual laborers (both returnees and stayees). As agriculture and livestock appears to be either primary or secondary sources of livelihood for a considerable proportion of conflict-affected families, provision of agricultural and livestock services should be prioritized in order to keep existing livelihood patterns intact.

- **The need for latrines could be addressed by involving communities in latrine construction through cash-for-work projects which will not only involve them in constructive activities but will also reduce their stress and encourage hygienic practices.**
- Widespread poverty, and the region's isolated location, have significantly delayed the recovery process in many parts of the district, in particular those areas that were severely affected by the conflict. Thus, it is recommended that interventions prioritize Maidan⁶, Adenzai and Janddool Union Councils.
- Health infrastructure is intact in most of the areas surveyed. However, the quality of services provided is low. Existing public health facilities in the district do not have enough medical staff, medicines or equipment to provide adequate health services. In most instances, health service delivery is affected by unavailability or irregular attendance of government staff.
- The analysis shows that education services are inadequate (and under-funded). In addition, cultural and social factors often restrict girls from advancing in their education. Humanitarian agencies must emphasize support for improving educational services in the region. There is a need to introduce educational programs that allow out-of-school children, particularly those who left school after conflict, to return to school. Community mobilization, focusing on raising awareness on the importance of education, should be an essential part of such interventions.
- Child protection issues require urgent attention. Child labor as well as increase in physical punishment of children and women needs to be addressed through programs targeting the family, the community, government and other supporting agencies. **To achieve this,** teachers, parents, and School Management Committees (SMCs) must be trained on alternative disciplining techniques in order to minimize punishment on children. Furthermore, parents and community members need to be trained on good parenting skills and techniques.
- The surveyed households voiced immediate needs for food, NFIs, drinking water, latrines, cash grants and water channels. Humanitarian agencies should seriously consider these interventions when planning early recovery programs in Lower Dir.

⁶ The name Maidan is used as a whole for these seven UCs, including 5 UCs of Tehsil Lalqila and 2 UCs of Tehsil Balambat.