



**CARE Afghanistan**

**Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)**

**Post-Distribution Monitoring Report**

November 2021

Prepared by: Program Quality Unit (PQ)

## Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	3
Assessment findings:.....	3
Household Information and Types of Respondents .....	4
Beneficiary selection Criteria .....	5
<b>Cash distribution process</b> .....	7
<b>Feedback and complaint mechanism</b> .....	8
<b>Expenditure/use of cash and impact</b> .....	8
Decision making .....	9
<b>Conclusion</b> .....	11

## Introduction

CARE implement an emergency funding funded by Humanitarian Response in Afghanistan ERPF –CARE International to respond to urgent humanitarian crisis including drought, displacement, conflict and COVID through provision of MPCA and NFI. CARE distributed cash to **522** households of which 75% were female-headed, in Kabul and in Kandahar. The activity directly assisted around 3660 people in the two provinces of Kabul and Kandahar. The distribution was done directly to the registered beneficiaries from CARE’s team female and male staff. The distribution went on smoothly without any interruptions.

CARE conducted a need assessment prior to provide cash assistance in the target areas to identify most vulnerable female headed households and disabled male headed household for this assistance.

In second week of November 2021, CARE’s Program Quality Unit (PQ) conducted a Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) – on a randomly selected beneficiary to ascertain area including but limited to cash receipt, cash utilization, decision level for cash expenditure and assess monitoring and accountability measures – satisfaction levels from the response.

The process used mixed approaches/method for the PDM assessment – in –person and remotely through telephone calls by both female and male staff which helped understand the level of appropriateness, effectiveness and impact of the cash assistance on their livelihood during the current crises. The assessment also focused to what extent the assistance was reached to the most deserved, vulnerable beneficiaries as pre-defined criteria.

The survey questions corresponding to the objective were developed and converted into Kobo Application to be completed on a Tablet and computer, and an orientation session was conducted for male & female program quality staff, who were assigned for data collection of the assessment. Participants were asked a number of questions related to several categories aimed at gauging the utility of the assistance (cash) provided, any protection issues, level of satisfaction, selection and distribution process, impact and the level of accountability that was ensured.

Separate sampling size were developed for Kabul and Kandahar caseload to ensure representative following global thumbnail for sampling – using 95% and 5% CL and MoE respectively. As such, 84 recipients (57% female) were sampled in Kabul followed 50 recipients (13 female) were sampled for this PDM.

## Assessment findings:

The assessment reached 125 individual (84 in Kabul and 41 in Kabul) and collected required information as detailed below.

## Household Information and Types of Respondents

The respondents of the assessment were both male and female who were registered and received the cash assistance in the target districts of Kabul and Kandahar provinces. Number of respondents were selected from the list of assisted BNF to ensure reflections are representative across the target locations. Respondent were selected from each target provincial districts and selected respondents were identified using systematic random selection from the available list of the respondents.

Out of the total respondents, 69 (55%) were female and 56 (45%) were male both in Kabul and Kandahar provinces.

Out of the sample size, 91% (113 respondents) were head of their family (61 % in Kabul and 30% in Kandahar) and they are prime responsible for their income and livelihood of their family, while the remaining were the family members.

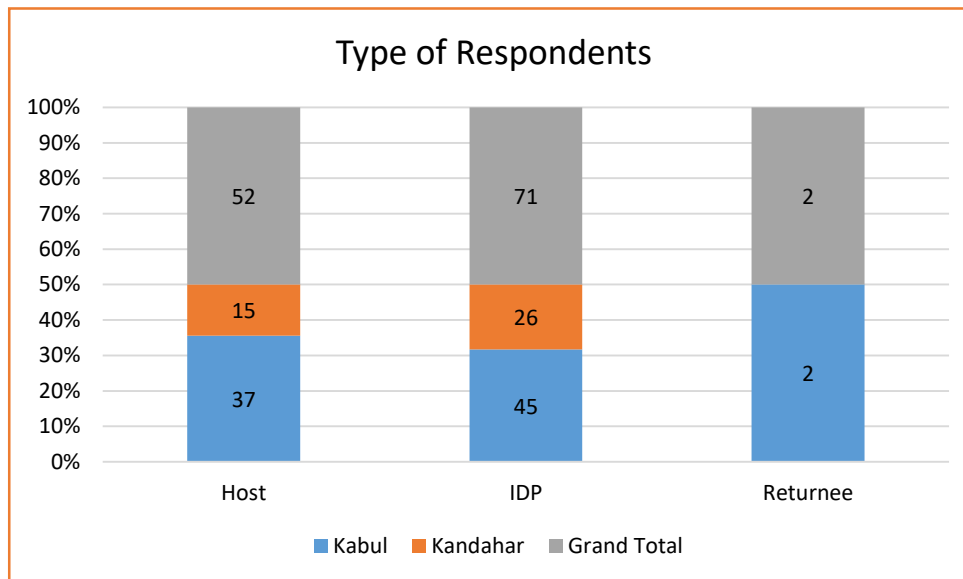
*Table 1 Family Headed*

Province	Option	Respondent	Percentage
Kabul	Yes	76	61%
	No	8	6%
Kandahar	Yes	37	30%
	No	4	3%
<b>Total</b>		<b>125</b>	<b>100%</b>

Among the respondents, out 125 respondents 41 (33%) respondents in Kabul and 20 (16%) respondents in Kandahar were having physical impairment (disabled).

The below table shows the type of household who were provided with cash assistance in both provinces. From the total sample size in Kabul, 45 HHs (54%) were IDPs and respectively 37 HHs (44%) were vulnerable host communities. While, out of the total sample size for Kandahar, 26 HHs (63%) were IDPs family and the remaining families were the vulnerable host communities.

Chart 1 Type of Respondents



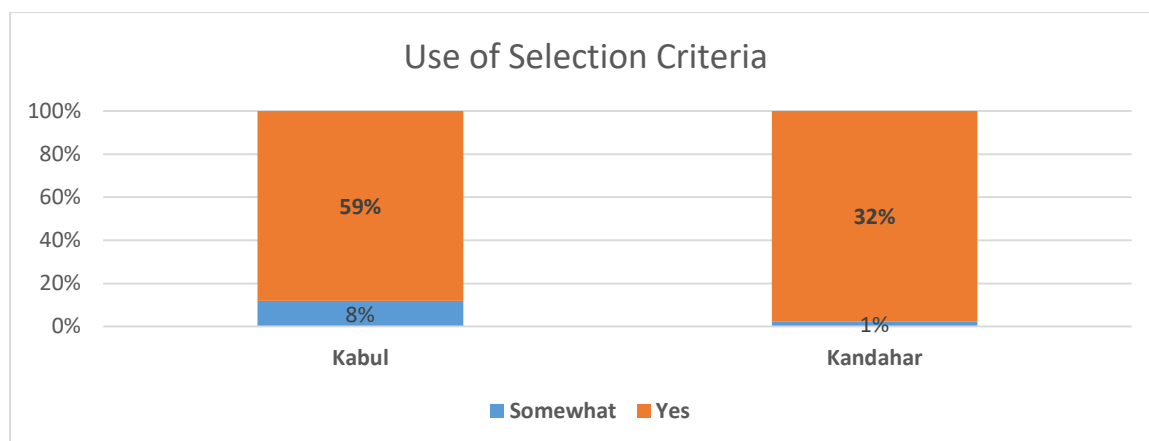
### Beneficiary selection Criteria

The program and program quality team before to identify and register most vulnerable household requiring urgent humanitarian assistance in form of MPCA, the below selection and eligibility criteria agreed and steeped:

- ✓ Female headed household with no other adult male to support or no dependent to support
- ✓ Child headed/elderly headed household (orphans)
- ✓ Disabled headed/disabled member household with income less than ANF 6500/month
- ✓ Excessive number of female children or family with more than 7 members with less than income above
- ✓ Household with poor asset holdings or households residing with or hosting other household.
- ✓ IDP Households living in open, emergency or makeshift shelter
- ✓ Households relying only on borrowing, begging or zakat or those relying on irregular casual labour by one member
- ✓ Individuals requiring protection assistance

With regard to the use of criteria for selection of participants, 91% of the respondents answer the question, and confirm that they understood the selection criteria; and they indicated that the selection process was transparent. While, 9% of the respondents answer the question, and confirm that they somewhat understood the use and selection of BNF criteria for the assistance.

Chart 2 Selection of Criteria



The below table present the selection criteria for BNF, out of the total sample size, 84% of the respondents confirmed that the selection process was fair, 7% of the respondents stated somewhat fair and respectively 6% of the respondents mentioned that the selection process was not fair. By being unfair, they referred to strict selection criteria which caused reaching limited number of families who really needed this assistance. They further recommend to expand target per community so that all eligible households reached.

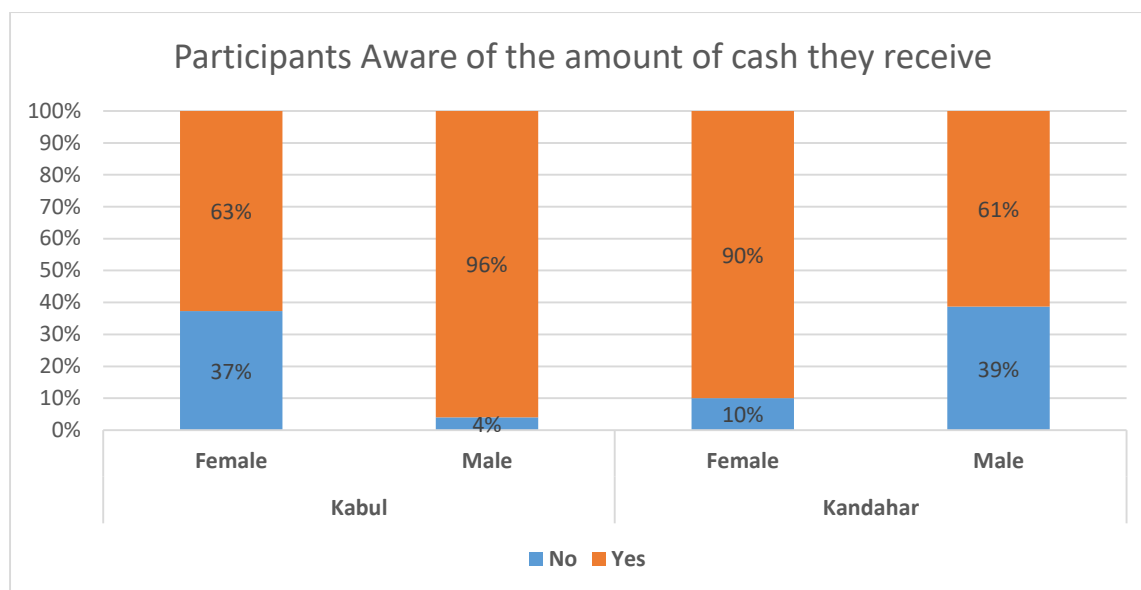
Table 2 Beneficiaries selection Criteria

Province	Sex	Don't Know	Fair	Not fair	Somewhat fair	Grand Total
Kabul	Female	7%	68%	12%	14%	100%
	Male	0%	100%	0%	0%	100%
Kabul Total		5%	77%	8%	10%	100%
Kandahar	Female	0%	90%	0%	10%	100%
	Male	0%	100%	0%	0%	100%
Kandahar Total		0%	98%	0%	2%	100%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>3%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Furthermore, all the participants confirmed that they were not face any security issue while, travel to the cash distribution site and back to their residential areas.

The below chart # 3 illustrates that; 71% of the total participants were stated they are aware of paying cash, while, 29% participants declared that they don't aware of cash amount that they will receive. Meanwhile, 100% of participants confirmed that they did not pay or exchange that they are being selected for cash assistance to any entity or staff.

Chart 3 Percipients aware from the cash they receive



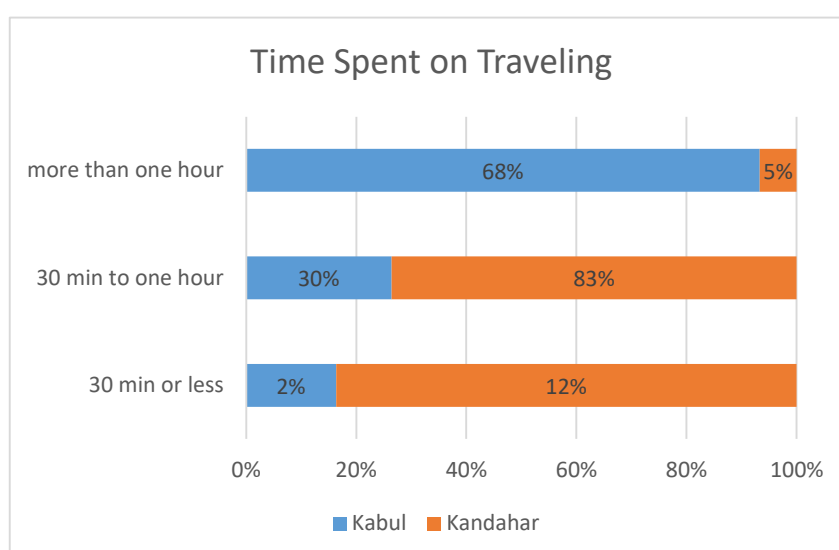
### Cash distribution process

Cash distribution was done in locations where it was deemed safe for both the beneficiaries; and staff conducting the cash distribution. So distribution centers for cash in Kabul were CARE Warehouse, and in Kandahar in a safe place determined by the provincial team.

With consideration of time spent to reach the distribution point. 47% of the total respondents spent between 30 minutes to one hour to travel to the cash distribution site and 47.4% spent more than one hour to travel to the distribution center. It should also be noted that most of the participants were traveled in groups and the time of travel included the waiting time for their peers. Meanwhile, all the participants said that they did not face any problem/issue after receiving their cash as well as during traveling to their homes.

Concerning the date and time for the distribution process, 98% of the respondents confirmed that the date, time, and location of the distribution were well communicated.

Regarding the staff behavior during the distribution process



Chart# 4. Travel time to distribution point

100% of beneficiaries reported being satisfied with the overall process and staff behavior (84% were very satisfied and 16% satisfied).

### Feedback and complaint mechanism

During the distribution process, CARE printed the hotline numbers in the distribution places and the participants were orientated on the procedure a the gendered accountability officer was present to receive beneficiaries' concerns and suggestions. The PDM participant knew how to make and raise their complaint but since they had a problem with access phone to contact the hotline introduced, more than 66% of the respondents indicated that they were complaint and feedback mechanism and well aware of the use and make a call. While 24% of the respondents mentioned they didn't now how to use the complaint mechanism and/or had to access to phone personally. Additionally, 10% said they don't remember the numbers. Out of the 66% of respondents who confirmed the complain mechanism was in place, 98% of the respondents indicated that the mechanism was accessible.

### Expenditure/use of cash and impact

CARE distributed equivalent exchange rates of USD 179 into AFN. The amount in local currents was determined during the distribution time suggested by CARE finance.

Out of the total respondents, 90.40% stated that they spent All the cash so far, while 9.6% of the respondents mentioned that they spent half of the cash so far.

Regarding the utilization, 96% of the participants indicated that they purchased food items that were most important for them, while 61% of participants spend the cash on health and respectively 39% respondents highlighted that they spent the majority of the cash on house rent.

Table 3: Utilization of Cash

Items	Grant total	Ranking
Food	96%	1st
Health	61%	2nd
House Rent	39%	3rd
Debt Payment	35%	4th
Utilities (fuel, Electricity)	19%	5th
Blanket/clothes	14%	6th
NFI	10%	7th
Shelter Repair	2%	8th
Education	2%	9th
Save	0%	10th



## Decision making

In family dynamics, decision-making has been critical especially when it comes to the use and control of cash. The greater proportion of the respondents in Kabul (54%) indicated that women (wives) made most of the decisions on how to use the received cash. While in Kandahar the greater proportion of the respondents (63%) stated Husband/male members made the decision. This can be attributed to the roles that women have in providing food for their families and deciding what needs to prioritize. While 29% in Kabul and 15% in Kandahar respondents said, the decisions were made jointly by both husband and wife. The below illustrate the decision-making power on the spending of cash.

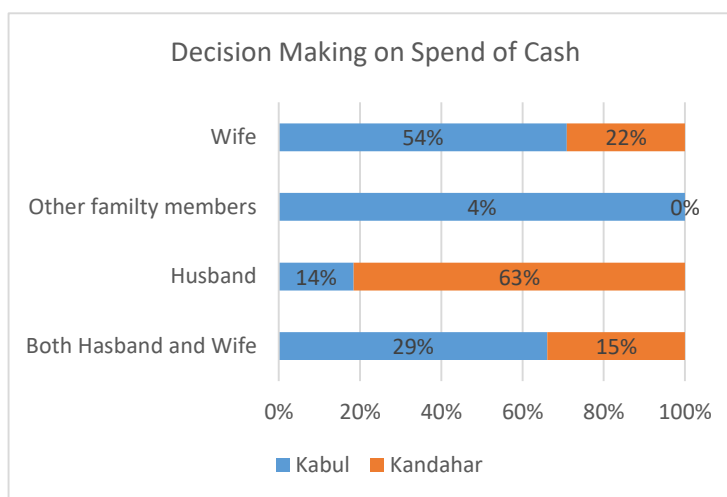


Chart #5 Cash expenditure – decision making

As per the result of the PDM, 72% of the respondents indicated that the cash they received was highly improved their ability to meet their food needs and bring some positive changes in their life and most of the BNF stated that due to the current crises in Afghanistan that most of the people lost their jobs and incomes, the cash assistance that CARE provided was very helpful and people really in need of such assistance, while, 28% of the respondents stated that somewhat improved their ability to meet their food needs given the increased food price of the local market and limited access to cash. while, 18.87 % of the respondents indicated that the cash they received highly improved their ability to meet their food needs and bring some positive changes in their life. Such as improve purchasing power regarding the food consumption, and treatment of sickness.

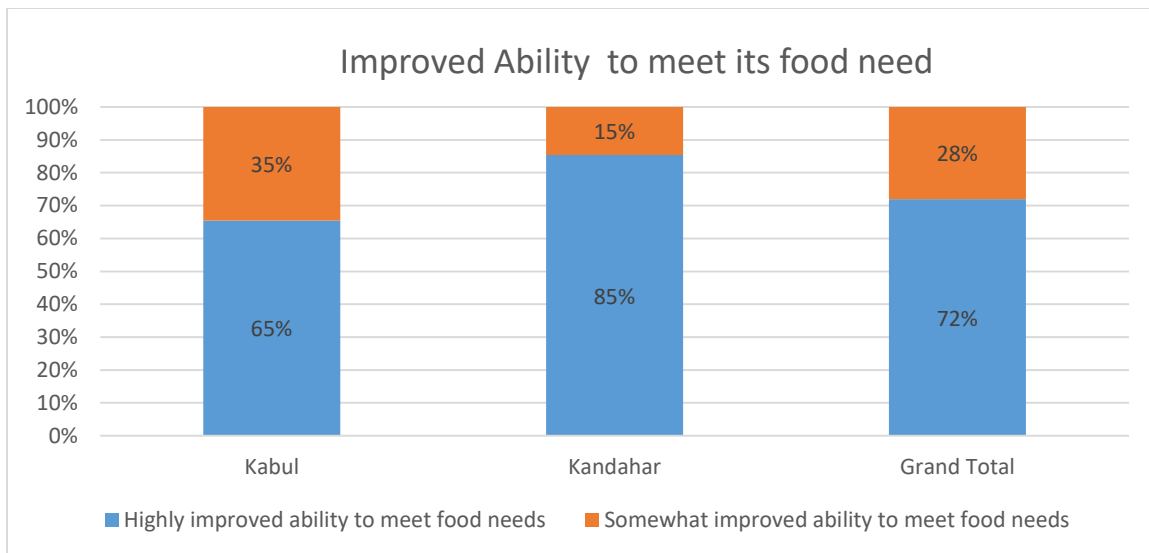


Chart #6. Food needs addressing

Additionally, the question is answered by 100% of the respondents regarding the improvement of wellbeing; out of which, 81% of the respondents said, their life is improved a lot, while, 19% of the respondents indicated that their life is improved little because the cash amount was not enough due to the high price of the market.

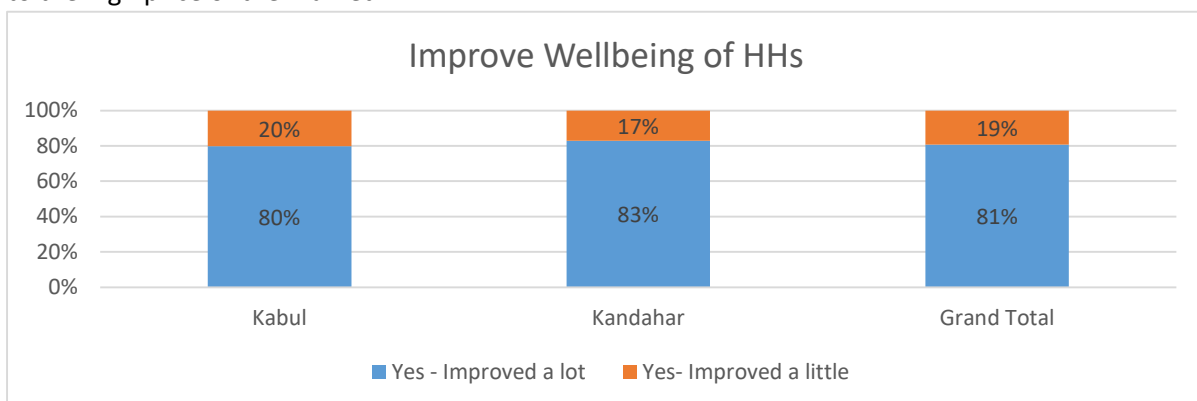


Chart #7: improved well-being

Further more, the below chart present the findings from the assessment, that 82% of the total respondents indicated that while they received the cash, they less likely to marray their daughter ealry, while the remaning 18% of the respondents mentioned that the will likely to marry their daughter ealry due to poverty and low income.

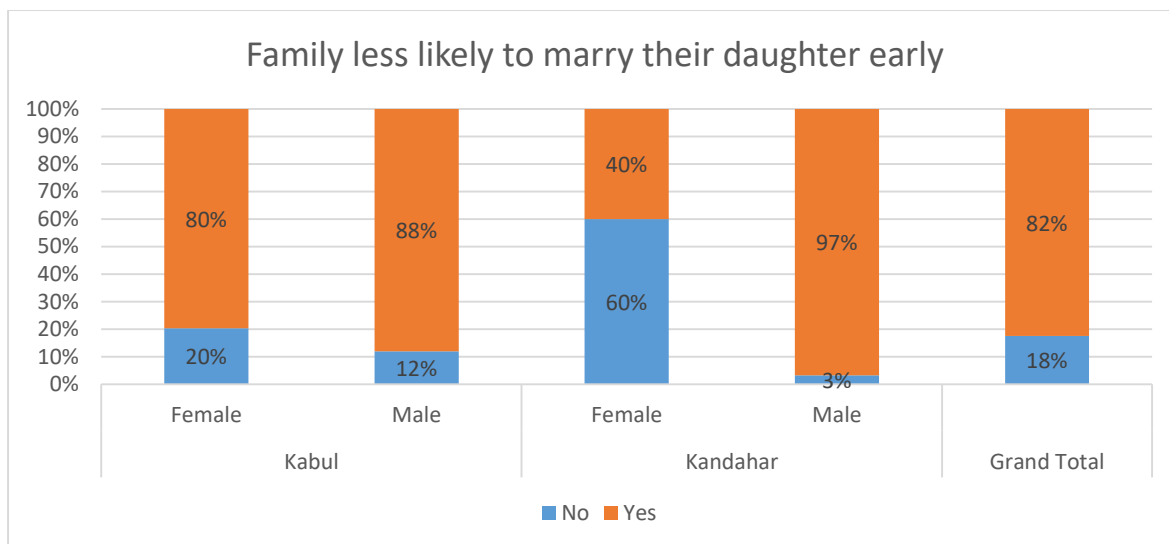


Chart #8. Child Protection

Considering the current crises in Afghanistan, child labour is increasing due to poverty, schools close and the availability of social services decreases. In addition to that vulnerable population groups such as those working in the informal economy and daily labour will suffer most from the economic downturn, increased informality and unemployment, the general fall in living standards, health shocks and insufficient social protection systems, among other pressures. Overall, in times of crisis, child labour become a coping mechanism for money families. The below chart presents the findings from the assessment, that fortunately, 92% of the respondents indicated that the family who received the cash will less likely to send their children to work, while 8% of the family stated that they will likely send their children for work, due to the low income, poverty and they are the only members of the family who earn income.

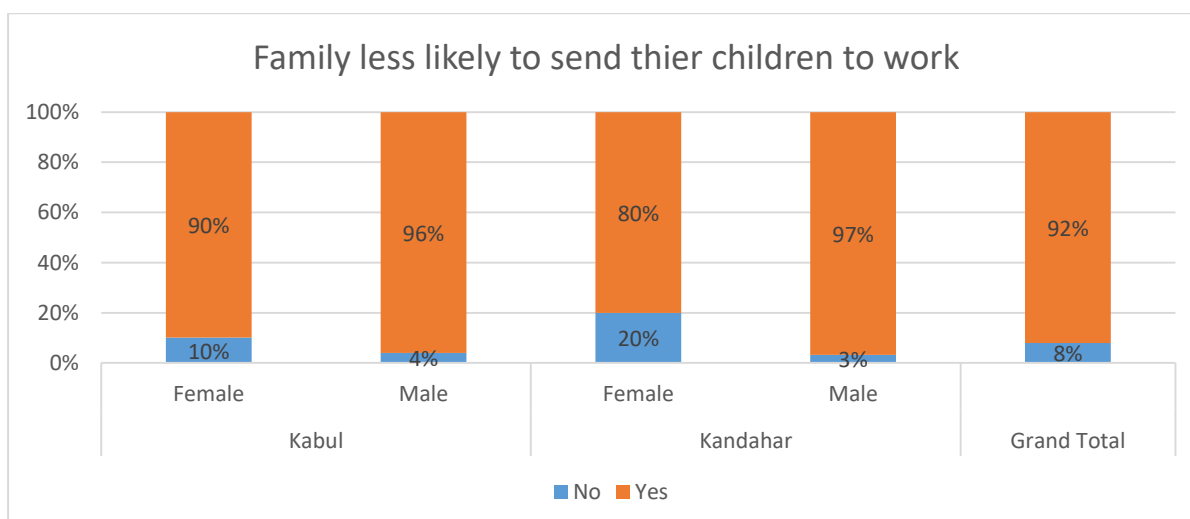


Chart #Child Labor

## Conclusion

The findings showed that there was clear evidence, and 84% of the respondents declared that the MPCA distributed to the most vulnerable people assisted who met the criteria. Due to the current crisis – Drought, conflict, internal displacement, and limited access to cash/bank and COVID-19 pandemic, there is limited access to income generation resources for communities to their basic food needs. 96% of the households prioritized to purchase food followed by 61% (multiple response) reporting they use the cash to address health issues their family members. Additionally, the cash which was received was also used for paying house rent and to buy goods and basic services needed by the households. This meant that the MPCA in the hands of the most marginalized household generated multiple positive outcomes. The outcomes balanced among meeting the immediate needs, 72% of the respondent illustrated their life improved and increase their ability to purchase their basic need, and 81% of the respondents indicated that their well-Bing improved through the received cash assistance. Meanwhile, households exhibited highly rational decision making, and each of the types of spending choices improved household welfare in some way.

Participants were also fully aware of the cash distribution process and were duly informed about the cash distribution processes and the cash amounts which were received. The cash was also distributed in time and during the time they needed the cash most due to poverty and unstable economy situation of the HHs. As the preparation work was done thoroughly before the cash distribution day, the beneficiaries did not spend much time at the distribution center.

In addition to that 82% of the HHs who received the assistance stated that they will less likely to marry their daughter early, and furthermore, 92% of the HHs stated that they will less likely to send their child to work for income generation.