

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Study Report on Food Selling

Study conducted by:

Centre of Excellence for Rural Development

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27-A, Syed Jamal-ud-Din Afghani Road, University Town Peshawar. Tel: 091-5851801
Fax: 091-5851802 E-mail: info@cerdpakistan.org, www.cerdpakistan.org

Study on Food Selling

1. Introduction:

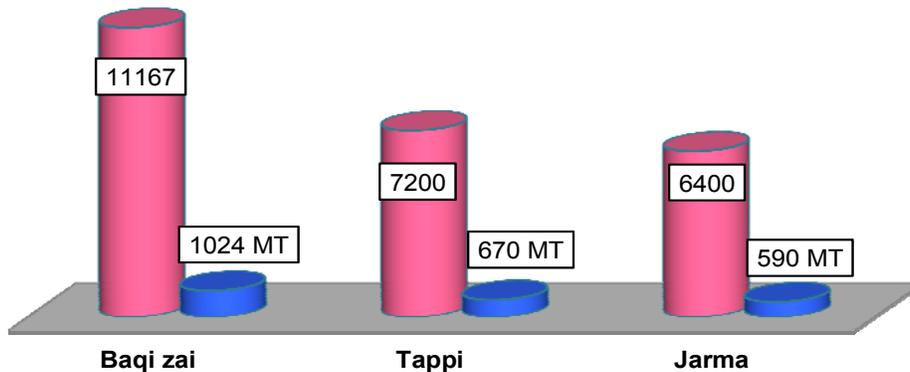
The United Nations World Food Programme is the United Nations (UNWFP) frontline Agency in the fight against global hunger. In emergencies UNWFP gets food to where it is needed, saving the lives of victims of war, civil conflict and natural disasters. Center of Excellence for Rural Development (CERD) has been an active partner of UNWFP in distribution of food assistance to the IDPs and returnees of conflict affected areas since 2009. In 2010 food security interventions were extended to district Kohat for conflict affected population of Orakzai and Kurram Agencies. Through these interventions CERD provided food assistance to about 28,000 displaced families affected by conflict.

Under General Food Distribution project, Center of Excellence for Rural Development (CERD) with the support of UNWFP has established three (03) humanitarian hubs in district Kohat and Togh Sarai camp district Hangu (one each at Baqizai-Kohat-4, Jarma-Kohat-2 and Tappi-Kohat-1 & Togh Sarai camp point). All registered IDP families from Orakzai, Kurram and South Waziristan Agency are entitled to receive food assistance from humanitarian hubs at district Kohat and Togh Sarai camp Hangu. The main purpose of the project is to mitigate the negative effects of the conflict on the vulnerable people in or close to the conflict areas. More specifically, the project aims to save lives and avert hunger of conflict-affected IDPs in camps and in the host communities, prevent malnutrition among infants, young children and pregnant and lactating women affected by armed conflict. The following table is showing hub-wise caseload in district Kohat.

S. No	Hub Location	Average caseload	Average MT Food
1	Kohat-1	7200	660
2	Togh Sarai camp Hangu	1100	100
3	Kohat-2 Jarma	6400	586
4	Kohat-4 Baqi zai	11200	1020

Graph 01

No. of families receiving monthly food ration from Kohat food hubs



2. Purpose of the food selling study:

Centre of Excellence for Rural Development (CERD) is managing three humanitarian hubs at district Kohat including Togh Sarai camp in Hangu. CERD is always committed to take positive initiatives for the better facilitation of the IDPs and to achieve the project objectives “Enhancing food and nutrition security & rebuilding social cohesion” in the target area. In this regard, a study on food selling was designed and conducted through participatory method of carrying out Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with the IDP community.

The main purpose of this assignment was to find out reasons behind food aid selling in district Kohat. CERD conducted a detailed study at all the three Humanitarian Hubs. A data collection tool (FGD questionnaire) was developed covering basic information about; IDP family back ground, source of income before and after displacement, their expenditure level before and after displacement, housing status, food commodities its scale, quality and the challenges they are facing while receiving food.

The study findings will help in evolving a strategy to minimize food aid selling and will contribute to policy making on regional level based on factual responses of the target community and recommendations by the food aid distribution agency.

3. Methodology:

A standardized questionnaire was used to gather data during Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with beneficiaries including male and female at all hubs. The participants were selected on the basis of area of residence, source of income and of different age groups. The target group for FGDs was IDP families involved in food selling who were interviewed in detail during FGDs, with the sample size of 150 participants representing 150 households. The participants openly discussed their views regarding food distribution and its importance that how the food aid minimize their daily expenditure. Details on the FGDs conducted are stated in the table below;

FGD Theme	No. FGD	Gender	No. of Participants	Location
Reasons of Food Selling according to IDPs involved in food selling	1	Male	22	Kohat-1
	2	Female	20	Kohat-1
	3	Male	25	Kohat-2
	4	Female	15	Kohat-2
	5	Female	13	Kohat-2
	6	Male	20	Kohat-4
	7	Female	17	Kohat-4
	8	Female	18	Kohat-4
Total			150	03 Hubs



Pictorial view of Focus Group Discussions at Food Hubs in district Kohat

4. Findings of the Study/FGDs:

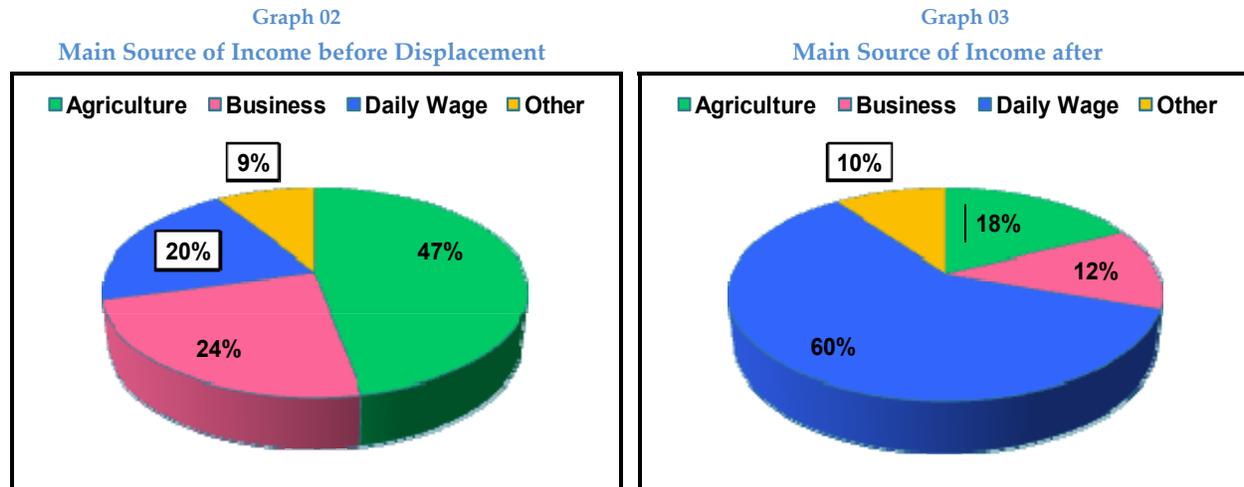
Following are the main findings of the study conducted in district Kohat:

a. Main source of income:

According to the FGDs, before displacement about 47% IDPs had their own lands in the area of origin, male and female both used to work in the fields and most of their earnings were from agriculture. Similarly 20% were daily wagers, 24% run their own business and 09% were dependent on other sources of livelihood. After displacement, 60% of the IDPs have become daily wagers because they have lost their lands, livestock etc. Before displacement they were living in their own houses in a joint family system while after displacement they are mostly living in rented houses and they have to pay monthly rent along with other utility bills from their limited income. The following table shows area-wise average rent paid by the IDP families in district Kohat.

Area	House status	Average rent per month
Collage Town, Beletang, Chekar Mela, Tapaai etc	03 Rooms House	4000
	05 Rooms House	7000

The graphs below depicting responses of IDPs related to their source of income before and after displacement:



b. Average family size before & after displacement:

In group discussions it was revealed that average family size according to IDPs is 09.



Beneficiaires receiving their monthly ration at Kohat-01 Hub

c. Average family income before & after displacement:

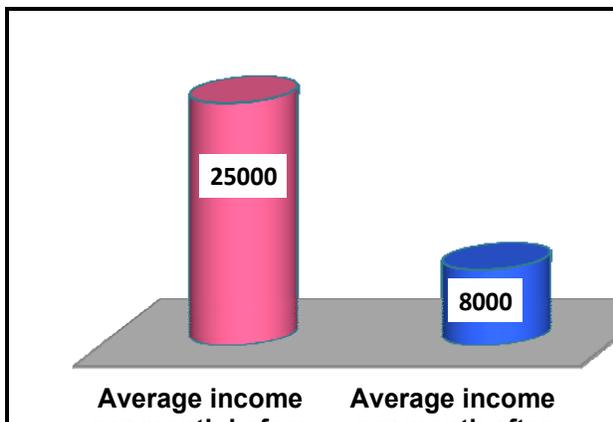
During FGD sessions the IDPs expressed that the main source of their income was Agriculture and their average income was Rs. 25000 per month. After displacement now most of the IDPs work on daily wage. So their average income after displacement has trickled down to Rs. 8000 per month, decreased by 68%. According to IDPs after displacement their income is very low and currently they are living a more challenging life. Average family income (per month) before and after displacement is shown in the graph below;

d. Average monthly expenditure:

According to the IDPs, before displacement, their expenditure was very low in comparison to their income level because in their place of origin they did not have to pay rent for their houses and utility bills etc. Thus their monthly average expenditure was Rs. 12000 per month and in some cases even less than this. After displacement, their expenses increased, as they have to pay house rent, gas & electricity bills, school fees etc. Average monthly expenditure calculated after displacement is Rs. 17000 per month, increased by 42%. Average monthly expenditure before and after displacement is shown in the graph below;

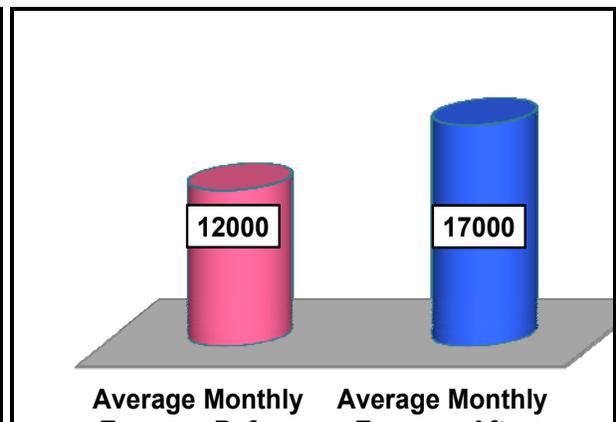
Graph 04

Average Income before & after Displacement



Graph 05

Average Expenditure before & after Displacement

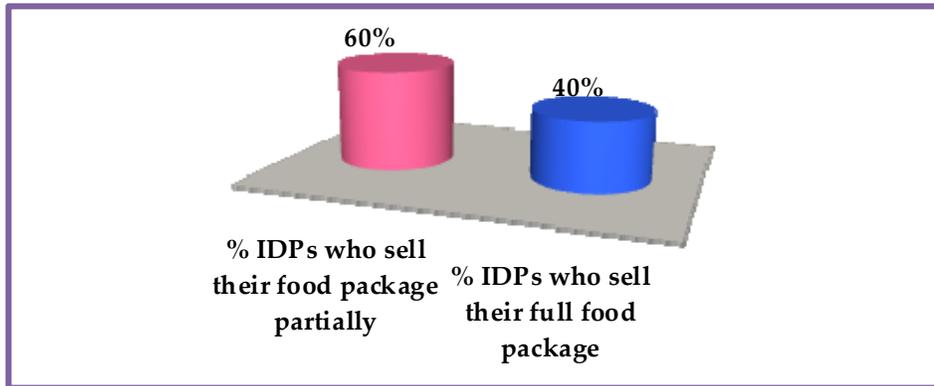


e. Food selling ratios:

According to the FGD findings, about 60% male & female respondents said that they sell their food package partially i.e. some of the commodities for different reasons, including financial reasons as they have to pay rent for their houses, pay electricity, water and Sui gas bills and school fees of their children. IDPs also said that they have to manage transportation cost/expenses in case they come from far areas and districts other than Kohat to receive food assistance. Whereas 40% IDPs said that they usually sell out their full basket. *(These percentages are calculated from the total respondents interviewed who are involved in food selling)*

Graph 06

Food Selling Ratios

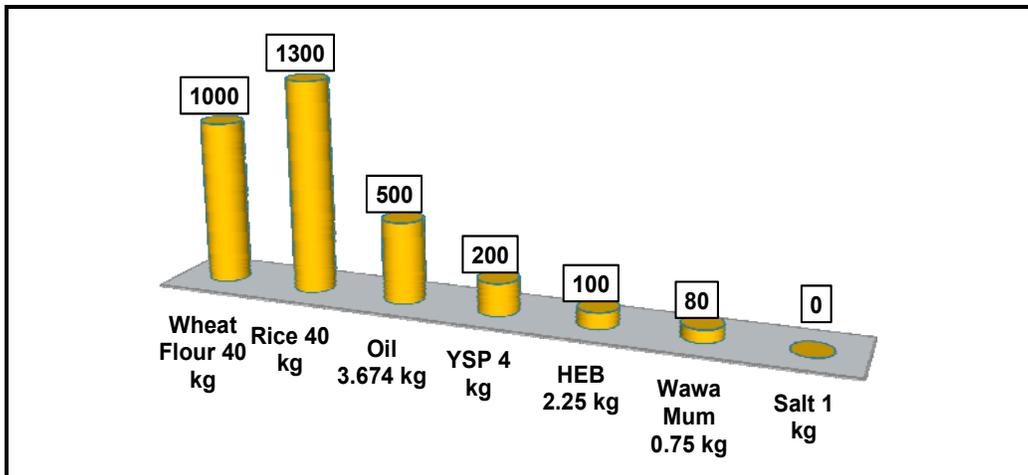


f. Food commodity value/price:

As per the findings of the study, the respondents quoted average prices they get from selling different food commodities. Average prices of these food commodities are shown in the graph below;

Graph 07

Food Commodities Rates/Prices

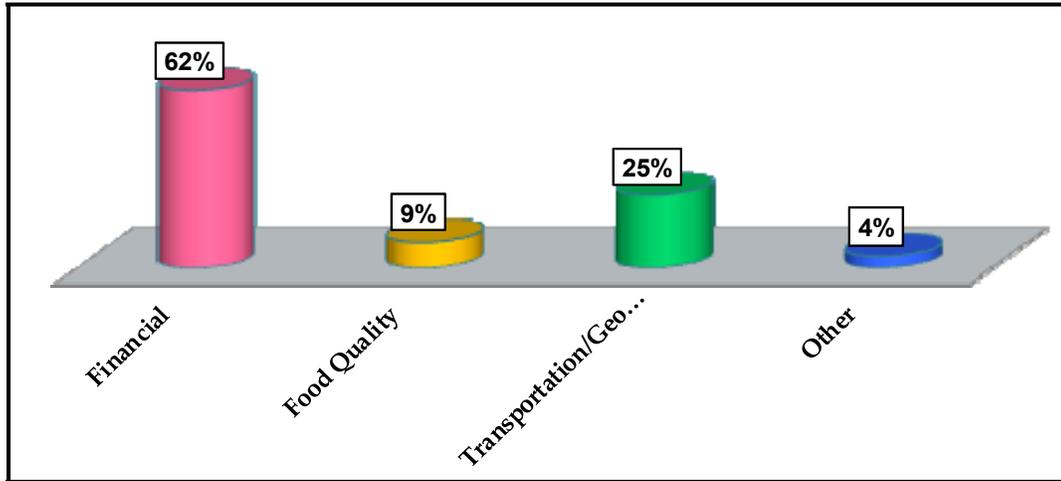


5. Reasons behind Food selling:

According to the findings of FGDs, the IDPs sell their food packages due to different reasons including financial, food quality and taste related issues, high transportation costs etc. The study also revealed that after displacement, a large number of IDPs who were registered in district Kohat were later on settled in other districts like Peshawar, Charsadda, Hangu and Tall in search of affordable shelter and for seeking job opportunities. These IDPs use to come to Kohat for their monthly ration thus results in high transportation costs for moving their food package to their place of residence. While a small number has gone back to slightly safer areas of their respective Agencies. According to the study findings, following are the major reasons behind food selling;

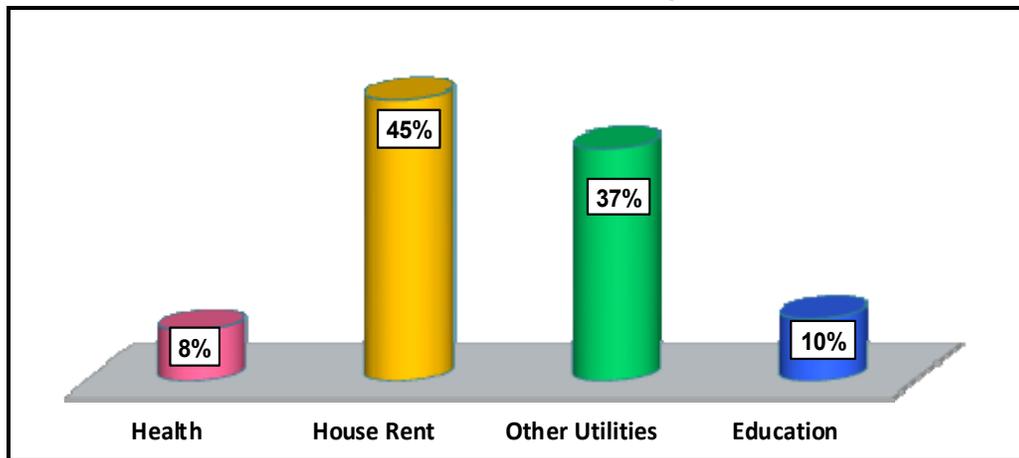
- High transportation costs to IDPs hosting areas other than District Kohat. The calculated amount of transportation and other expenses is approximately PKR 1000 to 1500 per package in the case of families coming from other districts.
- Quality of some of the food commodities is not as per desired level of the communities e.g. Wheat flour and rice. So the community used to sell the UNWFP provided wheat flour in order to buy their desired fine flour from the local market or sell rice to buy wheat flour.
- Same size of food package/ration scale for both small and large families is also one factor behind food selling e.g. beneficiaries having small family size (2-4) sell their food package to meet their needs other than food.
- During discussions IDPs told that they sell their food for some other financial reasons as they have to pay house rent, gas, water & electricity bills, and to avail health facilities (buy medicines, medical treatment). They mentioned that their children are studying in private schools and colleges as the government institution are already overcrowded, while they have no other source to pay for the education of their children so they sell food package to meet the education expenses of their children.
- In the discussion IDPs also mentioned that they live in a joint family and receive more than one food basket, though it is not surplus from their food needs but still they sell some food items to purchase other food of their choice and need such as sugar, black tea from local market and also for other needs of the family like medicines, cloths etc. Despite of having large extended joint families & being collecting more than one ration they have to purchase daily utility items such as tea, sugar etc by selling some of the food commodities from UNWFP provided food package.
- There is a misperception among the IDPs about some food commodities like Acha mum & high energy biscuits (HEB) to have negative nutritional ingredients harmful for their health. This misconception also leads to selling of these food commodities. The following graphs showing different reasons of food selling with ratios:

Graph 08
Reasons behind Food selling



The graph above shows that 62% respondents sold their food due to financial reasons, 09 respondent due to low quality of some of the food items, 25 respondents due to high transportation costs and 04 respondents due to some other reasons. The following graph illustrates breakdown of food selling due to financial reasons;

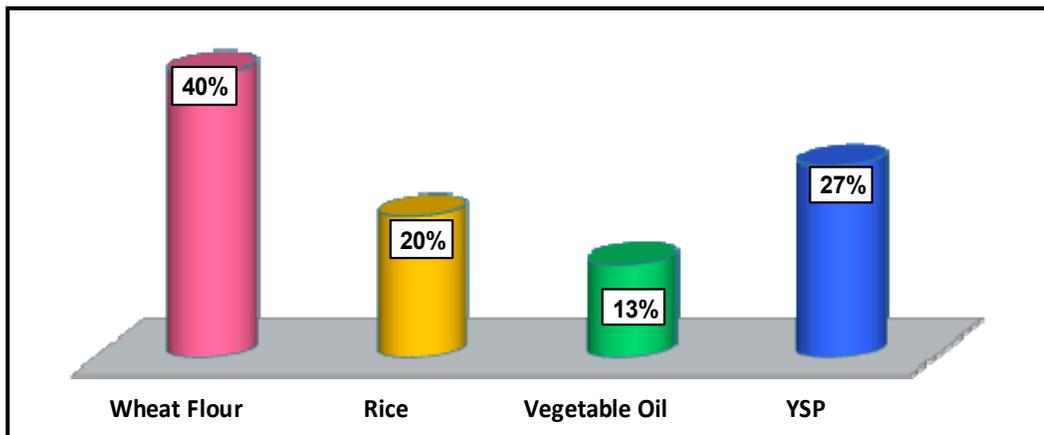
Graph 09
Main Reasons of food selling



As shown in the graph above, the breakdown of food selling due to financial reasons indicates that 8% IDPs avail health services with the amount they get from selling their food items, 45% pay their house rents, 37% other utilities and 10% spend that money on education of their children.

Food items and their selling trends due to quality issues are shown in the graph below:

Graph 10
Selling trends due to quality issues



The graph above is showing that 40% of the interviewed IDPs sold their wheat flour due to low quality (as per their response), 20% sold rice, 13% vegetable oil while 27% sold YSP due to the issue of low quality or taste.

6. Feedback and suggestions from participants:

- The respondents suggested that quantity of food package should be provided on the basis of family size i.e. if the family size is large then they should receive additional food items.
- The quality of some of the food commodities should be improved as according to the respondents, quality of some of the food commodities is not as per their desired level or taste e.g. Wheat flour and Rice. So they used to sell the UNWFP provided wheat flour in order to buy their desired fine flour from the local market or sell rice to buy wheat flour or sell oil due to taste issue.
- The IDPs residing in districts Hangu, Tall etc suggested establishing of food distribution points in their areas so as to resolve their issue of high transportation cost which is PKR 1000 to 1500 per package.
- Job opportunities should be created for IDPs in hosting areas.
- They recommended that the elders of the community must be involved in the planning and designing phase of the food program to minimize intensity of different issues like food selling.
- They suggested for including black tea and sugar in the monthly ration.

7. Challenges:

- The participants were reluctant to share their views about the selling issue, at first they were afraid to respond to the FGD questions and feared that WFP may stop food assistance if they confessed to be involved in food selling. Later on they were mobilized that this study was being conducted to identify the reasons behind food selling and improve the planning and process of food aid distribution.

8. Recommendations:

- Agriculture was the main source of income of IDPs in their place of origin, and as after displacement they have no skills to earn. Therefore to enhance their livelihood they should be provided life skills based trainings.
- In order to minimize their transportation cost their food package should be shifted to the nearest food distribution point to their place of residence or establish an additional point wherever appropriate.
- Proper health facilities should be provided to off camp IDPs.
- UNWFP provide specific food items to IDPs on regular basis which may not fulfill their balanced diet requirement as per their desires. In order to provide them balanced diet other food items like black tea, sugar etc should be included in the current food basket.
- Local community elders (Jirgah or Shura) should be nominated on tribe basis that can play vital role to minimize the food selling issue. Besides regular mobilization and counseling campaigns should be conducted to minimize the issue.
- It is suggested that government and other service providers should support IDPs for their children's education. Because huge number of children are out of school and parents cannot afford the expenses on their children education.

9. Conclusion:

In the light of the above mentioned study findings, it is concluded that before displacement, about **75%** of IDPs were dependent on their Agriculture land, livestock and local business, but now after displacement **60%** have become daily wagers. Their income level has reduced by **68%** and their expenses increased by **42%** as these IDPs are now living in rented houses with an extra burden of high utility bills, health and education related expenses etc. It was revealed during study that **60%** of the respondents sell their food package partially while **40%** sell their full package either to satisfy their needs other than food or due to other reasons including financial, food quality issues, high transportation cost etc. The financial reasons are on the higher side i.e. **62%** sell their food due to financial constraints which include 45% for house rent, 37% for other utilities (gas, electricity bills etc), 10% for meeting the education expenses of their children and 8% for availing health services. Similarly total **9%** of the respondents sell their food items due to quality related issues including 40% sell wheat flour due to low quality (as per their response), 20% sell rice, 27% sell YSP while 13% sell vegetable oil due to the issue of low quality or taste. Furthermore total **25%** sell their food due to high transportation costs to their areas of residence, the transportation cost along with other expenses ranges from PKR 1000 to 2000 in the case of families coming from districts other than Kohat to collect their food package. The rest **4%** sell their food due to other reasons like beneficiaries having small family size (2-4), for purchasing other food items of their choice (black tea, sugar etc), and to meet their needs other than food (cloths, shoes etc).