

IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF

CASH FOR WORK AND ASSETS REHABILITATION COMPONENT

The Enhanced Rural Resilience in Yemen
(ERRY) Joint Programme
March 2019



This programme is funded by the European Union



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Resilient nations.

1. BACKGROUND OF THE ENHANCED RURAL RESILIENCE PROGRAMME IN YEMEN (ERRY)

1. The Enhanced Rural Resilience in Yemen Programme (ERRY) is a three-year (2016-2019) joint programme funded by the European Union and implemented FAO, ILO, UNDP and WFP, to enhance the resilience and self-reliance of crisis-affected rural communities in Abyan, Hajjah, Hudaydah, and Lahj Governorates of Yemen.
2. The overall objective of the programme is to reduce vulnerability and enhance the resilience of crisis-affected rural communities through creation of economic opportunities and access to sustainable basic services. This objective will be achieved through a complementary approach building on participating agencies' comparative advantages.
3. WFP, FAO, UNDP and ILO have identified four complementary core building blocks to promote resilience in Yemen that must be addressed comprehensively to achieve communities' resilience. Accordingly, the following represent the complementary expected results (Outcomes):
 - Expected Result 1: Community livelihoods and productive assets are improved to strengthen resilience;
 - Expected Result 2: Vulnerable communities benefit from solar energy for sustainable livelihoods opportunities and enhanced social services;
 - Expected Result 3: Informal networks promote social cohesion through community dialogue and conflict resolution mechanisms;
 - Expected Result 4: Community based institutions and local authorities have enhanced capacities to respond to priority needs of communities;
4. For implementation of the ERRY joint programme a coordinated resilience approach to reduce vulnerabilities and contribute to improved levels of community stability in targeted areas, local governance and reduced competition over scarce resources through the introduction of renewable energy have been outlined and adopted. To monitor the progress and impact of ERRY a multi-Dimensional Impact Assessment Matrix was agreed upon by the four UN agencies to address different components of ERRY, allocating the scope and tasks per each agency, defining the methodology for data collection while set the time frame/schedule for implementation in the designated governorates. Accordingly, the following key output areas will represent the main components of ERRY expected to be achieved:

Output 1.1: Community livelihoods and productive assets are improved to strengthen resilience and economic self-reliance.

Output 1.2: Communities benefit from improved and more sustainable livelihoods opportunities through better access to solar energy;

Output 1.3: Informal networks promote social cohesion through community dialogue and delivery of services

Output 2.1: Functions, financing and capacity of local authorities enabled to deliver improved basic services and respond to public priorities;

Output 2.2: Increased capacity of local actors and strengthened partnership of private sector to enhance collective actions, aid delivery and economic recovery;

5. Given inadequacies in formal/informal, public/private systems of support as well as the protracted challenges that have marked Yemen over time and in the past four years of conflict, Yemeni must rely principally on their own resilience to protect their lives and livelihoods. Therefore, the implementation of the ERRY joint approach



have been tailored geographically, to livelihoods systems, to institutional context and implementation partners' mandates and capacities, taking into account the operational realities of Yemen.

2. WFP FOCUS

WFP role galvanizes around the first key result area, which is improving livelihoods opportunities and food security in the targeted rural communities. Many households lost their source of income due to the destruction of their assets, the collapse of the local economy and the decrease in agricultural production. To support individuals, households and communities, WFP implements food assistance for assets (also known as cash for work) to provide income for food and rehabilitate communal assets.

3. OBJECTIVES of THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

The objectives of the impact assessment are:

1. To assess the effectiveness of the project & the impact of assets on livelihoods of direct and indirect beneficiaries;
2. To assess the food security level of targeted beneficiaries and measure the economic and social impact on communities; and
3. To assess the level of participation of the community members in the design of the activities.

4. IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY:

WFP carried out the impact assessment independently from other agencies with focus on the outcomes or changes in household food security and livelihoods. The assessment is conditioned by the external vulnerability context in which these households operate, the shocks, trends and seasonality to which they are exposed; so, it is imperative to understand the resources available during the intervention and the coping strategies that households made use of. In that respect, the data collected, and the analysis thereof will focus on three main indicators at the outcome level:

- A. The food consumption score: to examine if the targeted households managed to improve their food consumption level against the baseline (before the intervention). The baseline represents food consumption levels of overall beneficiaries receiving general assistance in targeted governorates and not ERRY beneficiaries specifically.
- B. The coping strategy index: will envisage both the consumption-based mechanisms as well as the livelihood strategies used by beneficiaries to overcome food security challenges.
- C. The assessment also attempted to measure the functionality of the assets and their benefits to community members.

The impact assessment also investigates gender cross-cutting indicators such as the decision making inside the household and the gender representativeness of the Assets Management Committees.

Data collection planning, tools and implementation:

The current impact assessment relied on previous baseline conducted by the ERRY under the consortium as well as secondary data from the program implementation supplied by the WFP Resilience and Livelihood Unit in Yemen. While the baseline study indicated food to be on the top of the list for beneficiaries needs, the primary data was collected with or by other agencies in the consortium with focus on capacity and vulnerability analysis to outline local priorities in addressing vulnerabilities. For that reason, specific indicators on WFP food security indicators were not collected at that time. To resolve this issue, the comparison in this report relies on food security data from other food security monitoring systems conducted around the same time or before the commencement of the ERRY, in the same governorates.

Due to the prevailing insecurity in Yemen and the time needed to conduct field work, the WFP Office decided to undertake the assessment through remote calls utilizing the expertise of the call center in Amman, which has the capacity to implement such interviews with high efficiency and effectiveness as been demonstrated in the mVAM surveys and the monthly M&E surveys. The Resilience and Livelihood concurrently supported the assessment through review of secondary data including the operational



records of project implementation, liaison with other agencies on the progress of other ERRY components, sharing the impact assessment matrix as well as outlining the ERRY objectives of assessment.

WFP Yemen in Amman contacted the company managing the call center, a sample was extracted, and a questionnaire was developed by the team in Amman in close consultation with main M&E Unit in Sanaa. The training to the call-center staff and testing of the questionnaire were provided by the M&E team in Amman and the company started to conduct the calls to the beneficiaries as per the sample.

The survey's target was to interview 400 participants (heads of households). Due to the small number of sampling units, the call center had to call all the beneficiaries in the sampling frame, however managed to reach ultimately 192 households representing 48% of the planned target.

The results in terms of those who responded indicated a concern over a small ratio of female compared to males' beneficiaries. While women low participation in all activities is a common phenomenon in Yemen humanitarian assistance, there is likely a greater opportunity to target females through conditional transfers opposed to unconditional transfers. Most participants originate from the rural areas or setting and that is by default as ERRY geographical targeting is dedicated to rural populations.

ERRY Feb 2019		Percentage
Gender HH (%)	Male	98%
	Female	2%
Gender Respondent (%)	Male	95%
	Female	5%
Setting	Urban	5%
	Rural	95%

TABLE 1-BREAKDOWN OF RESPONDENTS BY GENDER

5. SYNTHESIS of FINDINGS

5.1.1. The key outputs of the ERRY since its start in October 2016 included the following:

Key achievements include:

- **About 20,500 vulnerable individuals** (represent 3,426 HHs) have been selected, most vulnerable people, to receive cash incentives on monthly basis for their participation in the community assets creation.
- **100 km** of feeder roads connecting villages to markets and other social services were maintained;
- **129 water points** varied between wells, water gateways, water harvesting tanks, irrigation canals, etc. were rehabilitated/built.
- **54 activities in the agricultural** and grazing lands reclamation, as around 22ha of agricultural and grazing lands have been reclaimed by removing the harmful bushes and trees and building protective for the natural pastures.
- **6 education activities** building new classes and school latrines.
- **63 sites** were built varied between Sanitation Network and latrines.
- **5 solid waste piles** were cleaned.

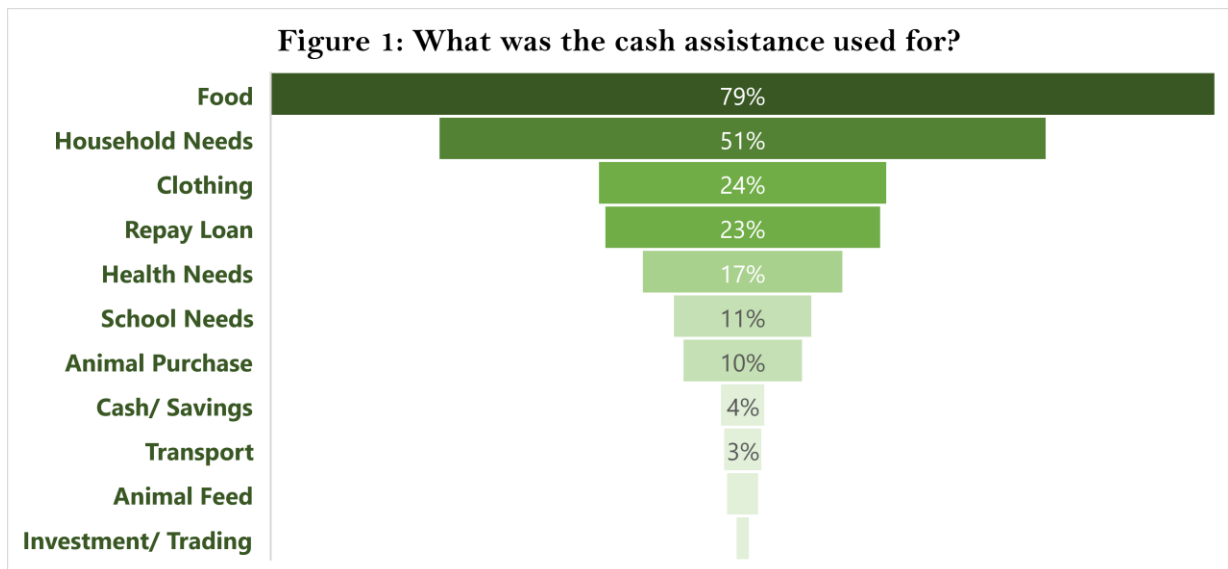


- **20 activities** of women handicrafts have been established.
- **2 workshops** have been built for women to practice productive handicrafts to diversify their livelihoods and income sources.



5.1.2. Utilization of the Cash Assistance

The survey examined the utilization of cash assistance by beneficiaries. Most of respondents indicated utilizing the cash to cover their food needs (79%). Utilization of cash for general household needs was reported by 51% of the beneficiaries. Other needs included; clothing, loans, health, and livestock. This indicates that the selection criteria of the beneficiaries are accurate and that most of them had urgent food needs.



On the other hand, measuring the outcomes of the ERRY at January 2018 disclosed the following:

5.2. Functionality of Assets

The survey inquired about whether the established or rehabilitated assets were still functional or not. 88% of the respondents indicated that those assets built or rehabilitated are still functional; 11% confuted the functionality of assets while 1% did not know if those assets are functional or not (Table 2). Though the results in common confirms high functionality of assets built, further probing attempted to understand, for those disproving the functionality of assets what were the reasons or factors that rendered these assets not functional or accessible (Table 3).

TABLE 2-FUNCTIONALITY OF ASSETS BY GOVERNORATE	
Are the assets/ facilities still functional?	



		No	Yes	Not sure	Total	
Governorate	Abyan	Count	2	15	0	17
		% within Governorate	11.8%	88.2%	0.0%	100.0%
	Hajja	Count	17	112	2	131
		% within Governorate	13.0%	85.5%	1.5%	100.0%
	Lahj	Count	2	42	0	44
		% within Governorate	4.5%	95.5%	0.0%	100.0%
Total	Count	21	169	2	192	
	% within Governorate	10.9%	88.0%	1.0%	100.0%	

TABLE (3) REASON FOR ASSETS NOT FUNCTIONAL: NOT UTILIZING THE ASSETS	RATIO
Natural Factors	38%
CP stopped working on the asset before finalizing	14%
The asset needs water	14%
The asset is still under construction	10%
Other	10%
Does not know the reason	14%

5.3. Benefits from FFA Resource Transfers and Assets Created:

Beneficiaries were asked about the changes in their livelihood with emphasis on household income and individual skills. More than two-thirds or 69% of participants confirmed an increase in their household income. On the other hand, 55% of the respondents confirmed that they had acquired new skills. While this is an acceptable improvement, the skills acquired by the beneficiaries need to be marketable.

Furthermore, 40% of beneficiaries said they utilized the built assets every day during the past month, while 5% utilized the assets between 21 and 29 times, 11% between 11 and 20 times and 26% between 1 and 10 times. Only 19% of interviewed beneficiaries said they did not use the asset in the past month.

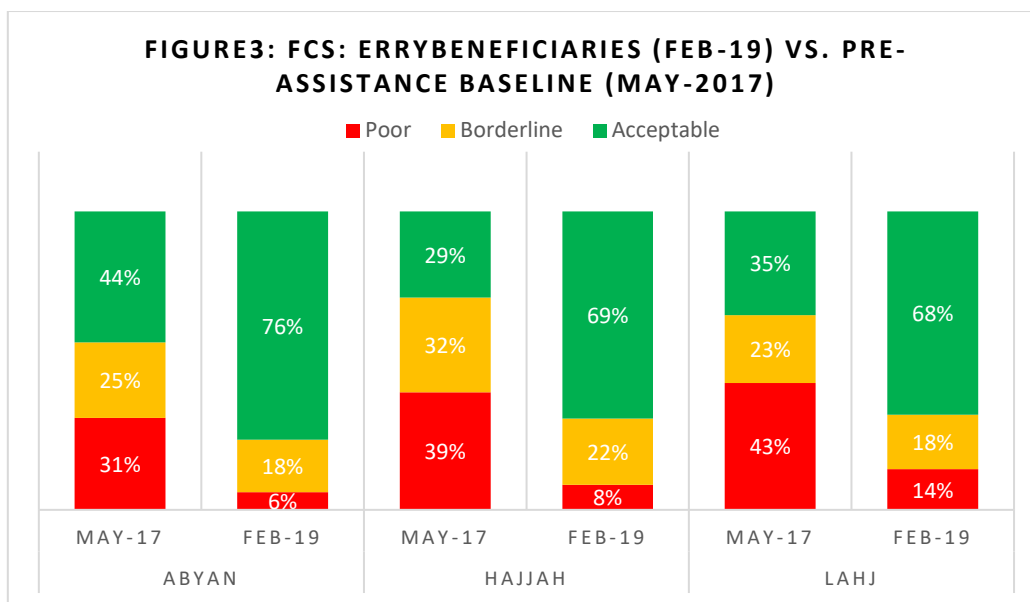
5.4. Food Consumption Score (FCS)¹

The survey showed that, overall 70% of the interviewed beneficiaries had an acceptable food consumption score, 21% at borderline and 9% poor food consumption score. When the Food consumption Score is depicted by Governorate, beneficiaries in Abyan Governorate are better off in terms of acceptable food consumption whilst the highest poor consumption scores are identified in Lahj Governorate.

Comparing the food consumption score against a proxy pre-assistance baseline (source: mVam May 2017) ERRY beneficiaries across the three governorates reported consistently higher acceptable FCS in February 2019 than the pre-assistance baseline conducted in May 2017. However, with the caveat that such comparison is been made to the general population living in the three governorates.

¹ The FCS aggregates household-level data on the diversity and frequency of food groups consumed over the previous seven days, which is then weighted according to the relative nutritional value of the consumed food groups. For instance, food groups containing nutritionally-dense foods, such as animal products, are given greater weight than those containing less nutritionally dense foods, such as tubers. Based on this score, a household's food consumption can be further classified into one of three categories: poor, borderline, or acceptable. The food consumption score is a proxy indicator of household caloric availability.

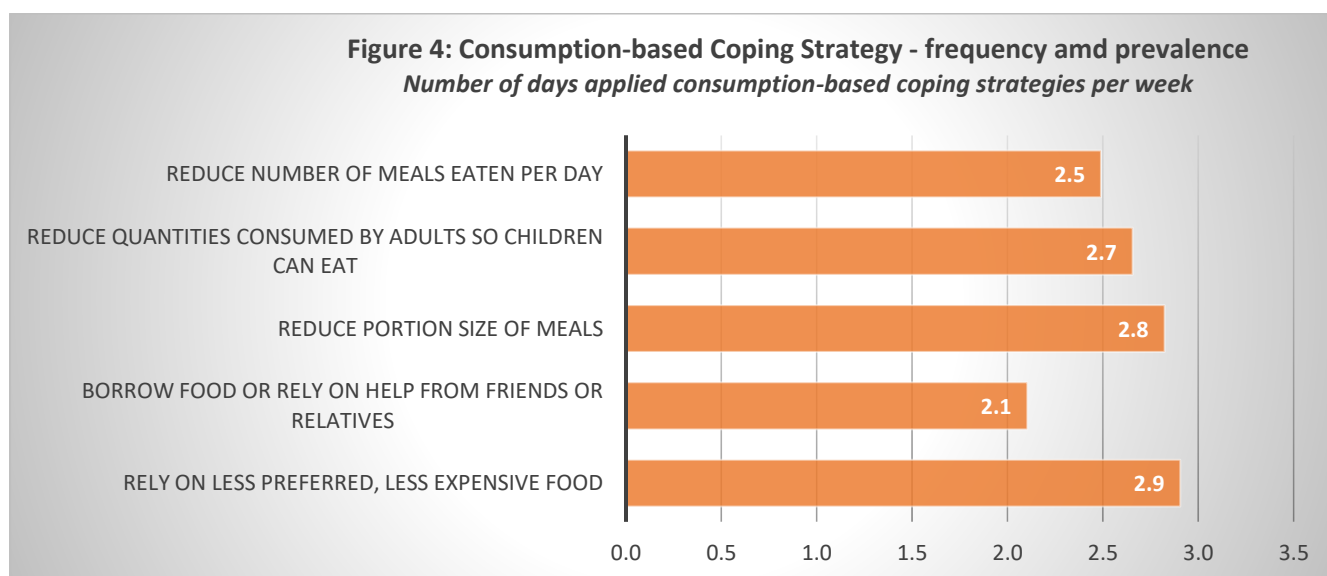




5.5. Coping Strategy Index:

The **Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)**, also called CSI food, is used to assess the level of stress faced by a household due to food shortages. It is measured by combining the frequency and severity of the food consumption-based strategies households are engaging in. It is calculated using the five standard strategies² using a 7-day recall period.

For the ERRY assessment it was not possible to get comparison of the rCSI against May 2017 as it is not feasible to compare the strategies taken by households during different seasonality. Also, there are no accepted thresholds to classify households into “low”, “medium” or “high” coping levels as the likelihood of adopting and reporting the use of coping strategies can be culturally sensitive. The findings from the ERRY is provided in below chart; the average computed multiplied by the universal severity weight will sum up to 20.4. The maximum possible score is 56.



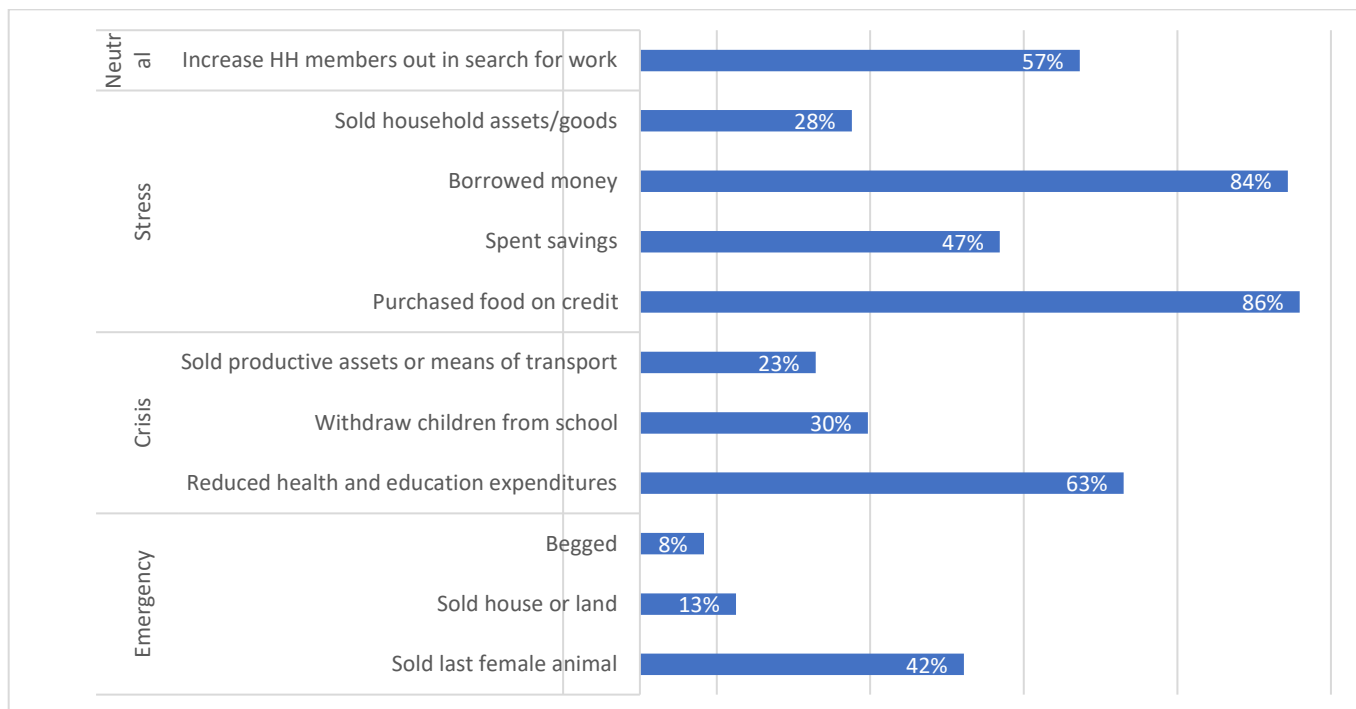
² Rely on less preferred and less expensive food (1) - Borrow food or rely on help from relatives or friend (2), Limit portion size at meals (1), restrict consumption of adults for small children to eat (3) and reduce number of meals eaten in a day (1).



rCSI measures behavioural strategies that people apply when they cannot access enough food or when they foresee a decrease in food security. A higher score indicates a higher stress level. Vice versa a lower score means that the households is less stressed.

5.6. Livelihood based coping strategy:

Most of interviewed participants (90%) reported using stress coping strategies during the past 30 days, while 76% used crises strategies and 52% used emergency strategies. As the intervention is in an emergency context, it is well-understood that the assets may not be able to boost this index highly. While the food consumption score and rCSI are proxies for the current food security situation and encompasses only food-related behaviours (e.g. reducing number/portion of meals), livelihood-based coping strategies help to assess longer-term household coping and productive capacities and their future impact on food access.



5.7. Gender Cross-Cutting into the ERRY

5.7.1. Decision-making within the Households

Out of the surveyed beneficiaries, the results showed that decisions are made jointly between men and women within 60% of the respondents. Around 38% of the respondents indicated that men are the decision makers. Whereas, 2% of the households’ decisions were made by females. Although this may be the case, it is in line with Yemen’s social structure, whereby men are mostly the decision-makers within households. Nevertheless, the fact that 60% of the households’ indicated joint decision-making gives a positive insight into the willingness of involving women within the decision-making process.

Decision-maker	Ratio
Both (Males & Females)	60%
Males	38%



Females	2%
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FIGURE 3- DECISION-MAKING INDIVIDUALS WITHIN HOUSEHOLDS

5.7.2. Management committee role in selection of the community representation in the projects

The Management committees used community-based participatory planning (CBPP) in the targeting and selection of beneficiaries. Out of the surveyed respondents, 95% stated that they felt represented by the Management committees. On the other hand, 5% of the beneficiaries felt that the MCs did not represent them. Some of the reasons for that included:

- ✓ The MC selected some beneficiaries who already have income sources (employees for example).
- ✓ The MC selected some beneficiaries from their families or acquaintances.
- ✓ Worst off households are not registered.

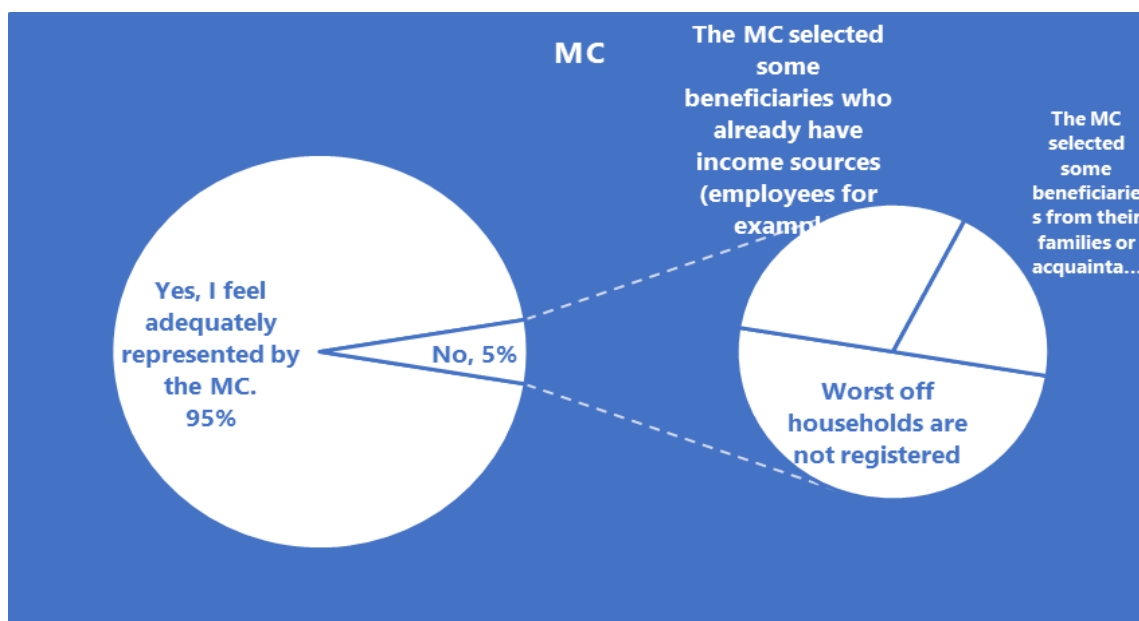


FIGURE 4-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

6. Conclusion Remarks and Recommendations:

1. The coverage of ERRY and livelihood activities has been narrowed to only four governorates and limited communities. With the plan to scale up assistance in Yemen, using zoning to spatially prioritize affected areas according to level of vulnerability and the coverage of needs by other UN agencies should continue. Refining this zoning according to operational strategies and WFP institutional priorities such as adding nutrition components to all livelihood will be highly recommended.
2. Stemming from a combined goal of the ERRY and in order to mainstream the joint programming, it is recommended to implement the activities and do the resources transfer through multi-purpose cash intervention. WFP being the pioneer in bio-metric registration and implementation of CBT transfer might take the lead agency for targeting and distribution of payments to the beneficiaries.
3. Indicators in the log frame should be revised for the next term to be aligned with the most updated WFP corporate indicators. All livelihood frameworks where WFP is taking a stake should be accompanied with food security and nutrition indicators as appropriate, during both baselines and outcomes assessments.
4. Closer consortium collaboration and coordination in targeting the same beneficiaries.
5. Establishment of early-warning systems, preparedness, and Safety Nets.
6. Whenever possible, skills acquired through FFA should strive to be marketable.



7. Increasing WFP's visibility.

